

# Reminder - Image Transformations

---

image filtering: change **range** of image

$$g(x) = T(f(x))$$

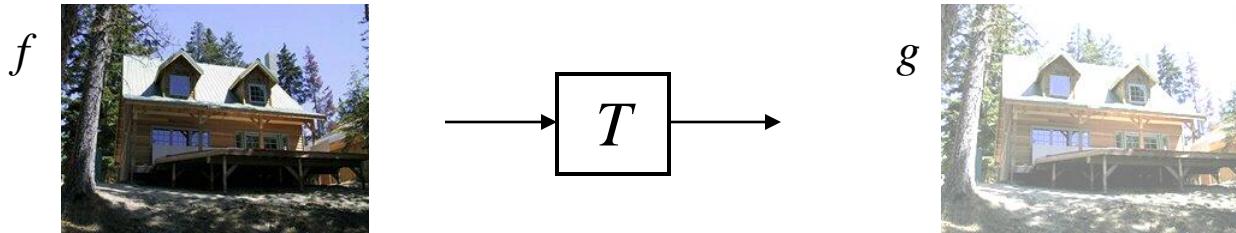
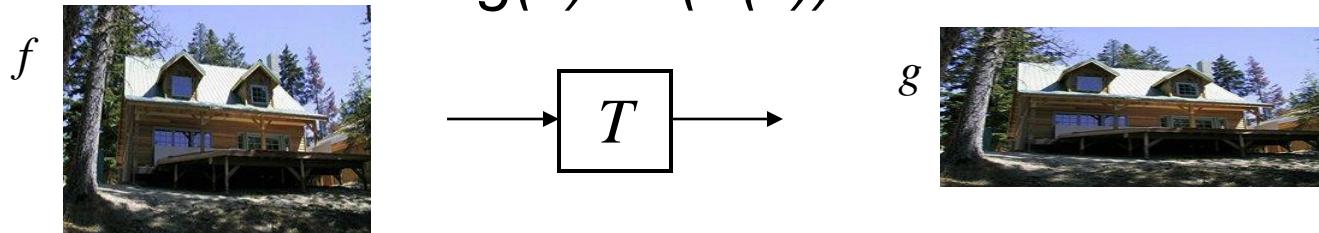


image warping: change **domain** of image

$$g(x) = f(T(x))$$



# Reminder - Parametric (global) warping

---

Examples of parametric warps:



translation



rotation



aspect



affine



perspective



cylindrical

# Image Retargeting



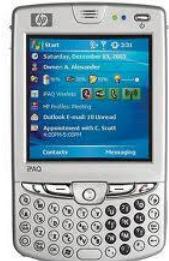
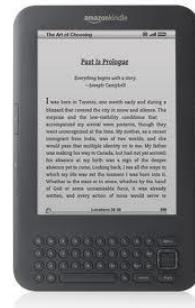
cs129: Computational Photography  
James Hays, Brown, Fall 2012



# Hollywood argues retargeting

- **Widescreen vs letterbox video**

# Display Devices



# Content Retargeting

The screenshot shows the BBC News mobile website on a desktop browser. The top navigation bar includes links for News, Sport, Weather, Travel, TV, Radio, More, and a search bar. A "TOP NEWS STORY" box features a video thumbnail and the headline "Tunisia leaders quit ruling party". Below this are several news sections: "News" (Duvalier taken to court in Haiti), "Sport" (Live - Tuesday football about 2 hours ago), "Business" (Market Data for Tuesday, Jan 18, 2011), "Sci & Environment" (India aims for tidal power first), and "Entertainment" (King's Speech leads Bafta field). A "Spotlight" box highlights "Silicon Valley insider" Michael S Malone. The "World Service" section lists news in 32 languages, and the "TV Channels" section lists various BBC channels.

PC

The screenshot shows the same BBC News mobile website as above, but viewed on a smaller iPhone screen. The layout is adapted for mobile, with the "BBC News" logo at the top. It includes a "BBC News" sidebar with links to "China's Hu arrives for US visit", "Duvalier taken to court in Haiti", and "Tunisia leaders quit ruling party". Other sections like "BBC Sport", "BBC World Service", "Weather", "Languages", and "From BBC Mobile UK" are also visible on the right side of the screen.

iPhone

# Page Layout

Screenshot of the Wikipedia "Page layout" article viewed in Mozilla Firefox.

The page shows the following content:

- Page layout** (Article)
- Page layout** (Discussion)
- Read**, **Edit**, **View history**, **Search**
- Log in / create account**

**Page layout** is the part of graphic design that deals in the arrangement and style treatment of elements (content) on a page.

**Contents [hide]**

- 1 History and development
- 2 Grids versus templates
- 3 Front-end versus back-end
- 4 See also

**History and development**

Beginning from early illuminated pages in hand-copied books of the Middle Ages and proceeding down to intricate modern magazine and catalog layouts, proper page design has long been a consideration in printed material. With print media, elements usually consist of type (text), images (pictures), and occasionally place-holder graphics for elements that are not printed with ink such as die/laser cutting, foil stamping or blind embossing.

Since the advent of personal computing, page layout skills have expanded to electronic media as well as print media. The electronic page is better known as a graphical user interface (GUI) when interactive elements are included. Page layout for interactive media overlaps with (and is often called) interface design. This usually includes interactive elements and multimedia in addition to text and still images. Interactivity takes page layout skills from planning attraction and eye flow to the next level of planning user experience in collaboration with software engineers and creative directors [citation needed].

A page layout may be designed in a rough paper and pencil sketch before producing, or produced during the design process to the final form. Both design and production may be achieved using hand tools or page layout software. Producing a web page may require knowledge of markup languages along with WYSIWYG editors to compensate for incompatibility between platforms. Special considerations must be made for how the layout of an HTML page will change (reflow) when resized by the end-user. Cascading style sheets are often required to keep the page layout consistent between web browsers.

**Grids versus templates**

Grids and templates are page layout design patterns used in advertising campaigns and multiple-page publications, including websites.

**Image:** Consumer magazine sponsored advertisements and covers rely heavily on professional page layout skills to compete for visual attention.

Done

# Simple Media Retargeting Operators

Letterboxing



# Content-aware Retargeting Operators

Content-aware



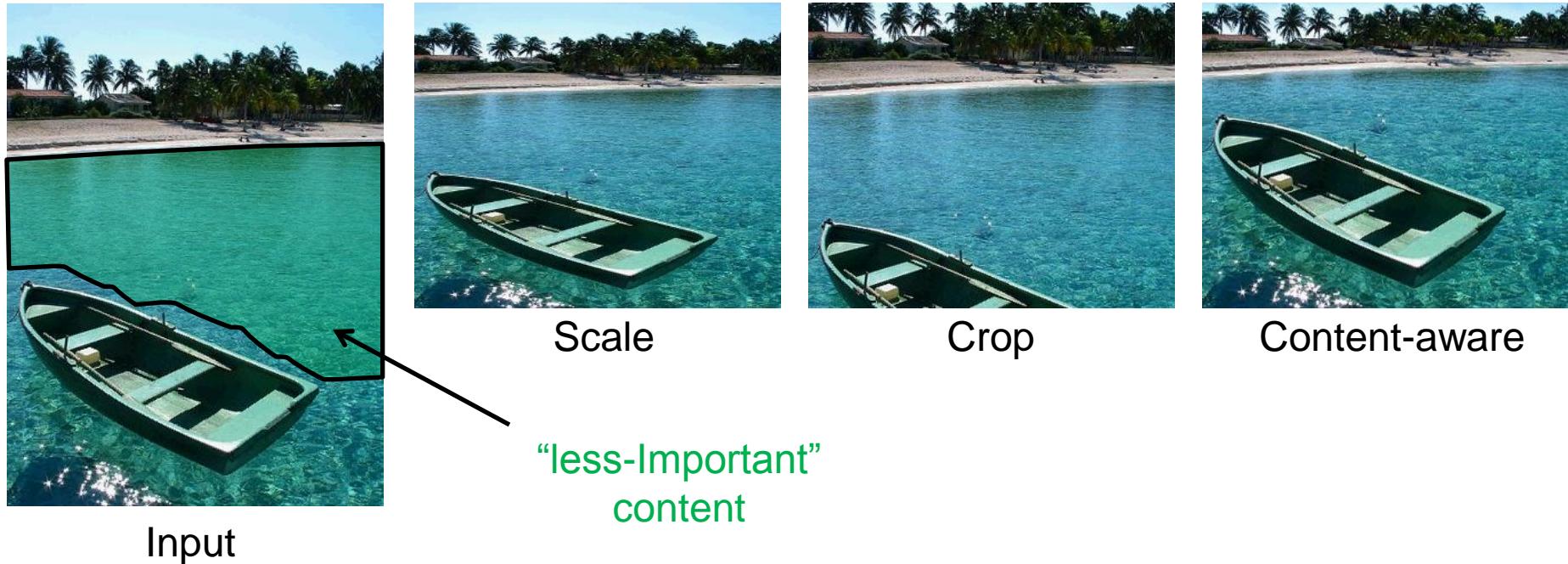
"Important" content



Content-oblivious



# Content-aware Retargeting



# Image Retargeting

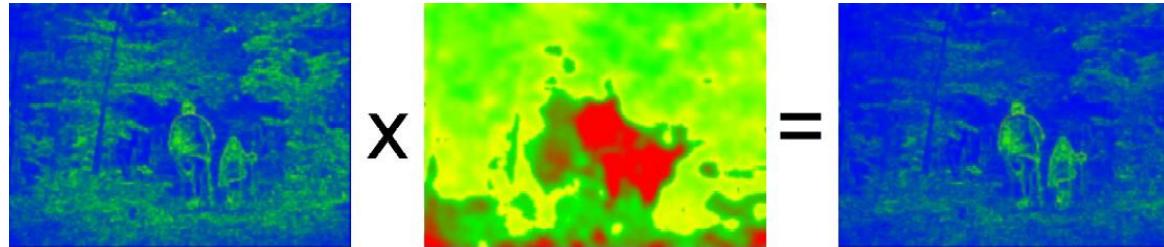
- **Problem statement:**
  - Input Image  $I$   $n \times m$ , and new size  $n' \times m'$
  - Output Image  $I'$  of size  $n' \times m'$  which will be “good representative” of the original image  $I$
- **To date, no agreed definition, or measure, as to what a good representative is in this context!**

# Image/Video Retargeting

- In large, we would expect:
  1. Adhere to the **geometric constraints** (display/aspect ratio)
  2. Preserve the **important content** and **structures**
  3. **Limit artifacts**
  4. Perhaps a new representation that will support different sizes?
- **Very Ill-posed!**
  - How do we define important? Is there a universal ground truth?
  - Would different viewers think the same about a retargeted image?
  - What about artistic impression in the original content?

# Importance (Saliency) Measures

- A function  $S: p \rightarrow [0,1]$



Wang et al. 2008

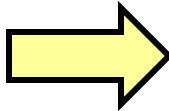
- More sophisticated: attention models, eye tracking (gazing studies), face detectors, ...



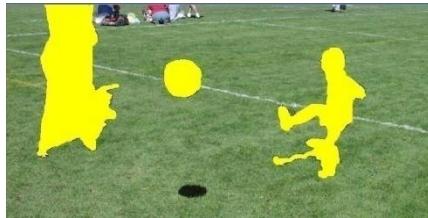
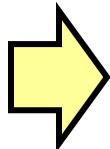
Judd et al. ICCV09 *Learning to predict where people look*

# General Retargeting Framework

1. Define an energy function  $E(\mathbf{I})$  (interest, importance, saliency)



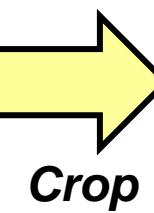
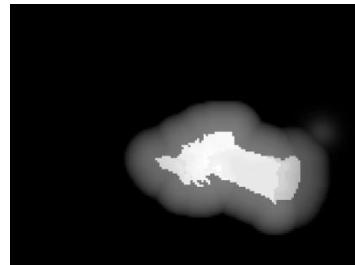
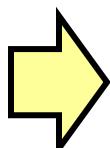
2. Use some operator(s) to change the image  $\mathbf{I}$



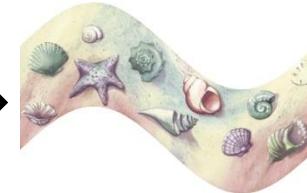
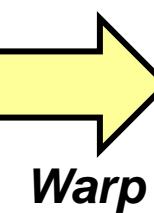
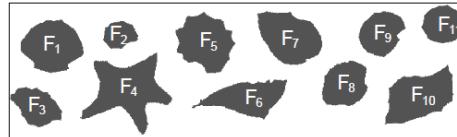
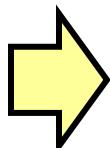
*Recompose*



Setlur et al.  
[2005]



Santella et  
al. [2005]



Gal et al.  
[2006]

# Previous Retargeting Approaches

- Optimal Cropping Window



- For videos: “Pan and scan”

Still done manually in the movie industry



Liu and Gleicher, **Video Retargeting: Automating Pan and Scan (2006)**

# Cropping



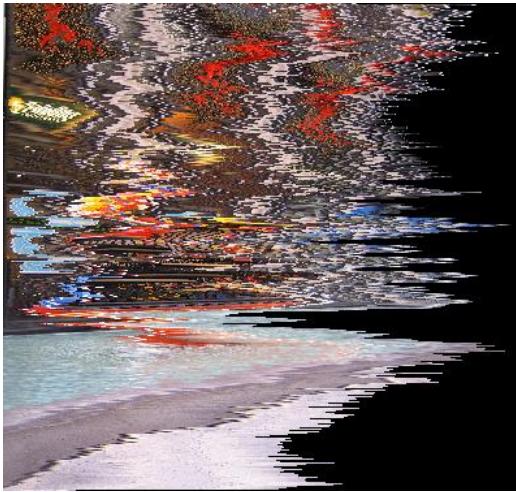
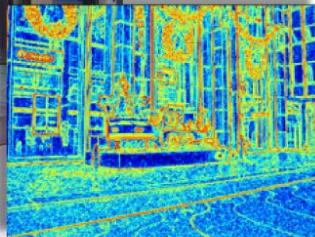
# Seam Carving

- Assume  $m \times n \rightarrow m \times n'$ ,  $n' < n$  (summarization)
- Basic Idea: remove unimportant pixels from the image
  - Unimportant = pixels with less “energy”

$$E_1(\mathbf{I}) = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{I} \right| + \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{I} \right|.$$

- Intuition for gradient-based energy:
  - Preserve strong contours
  - Human vision more sensitive to edges – so try remove content from smoother areas
  - Simple, enough for producing some nice results
  - See their paper for more measures they have used

# Pixel Removal



Optimal



Least-energy pixels  
(per row)



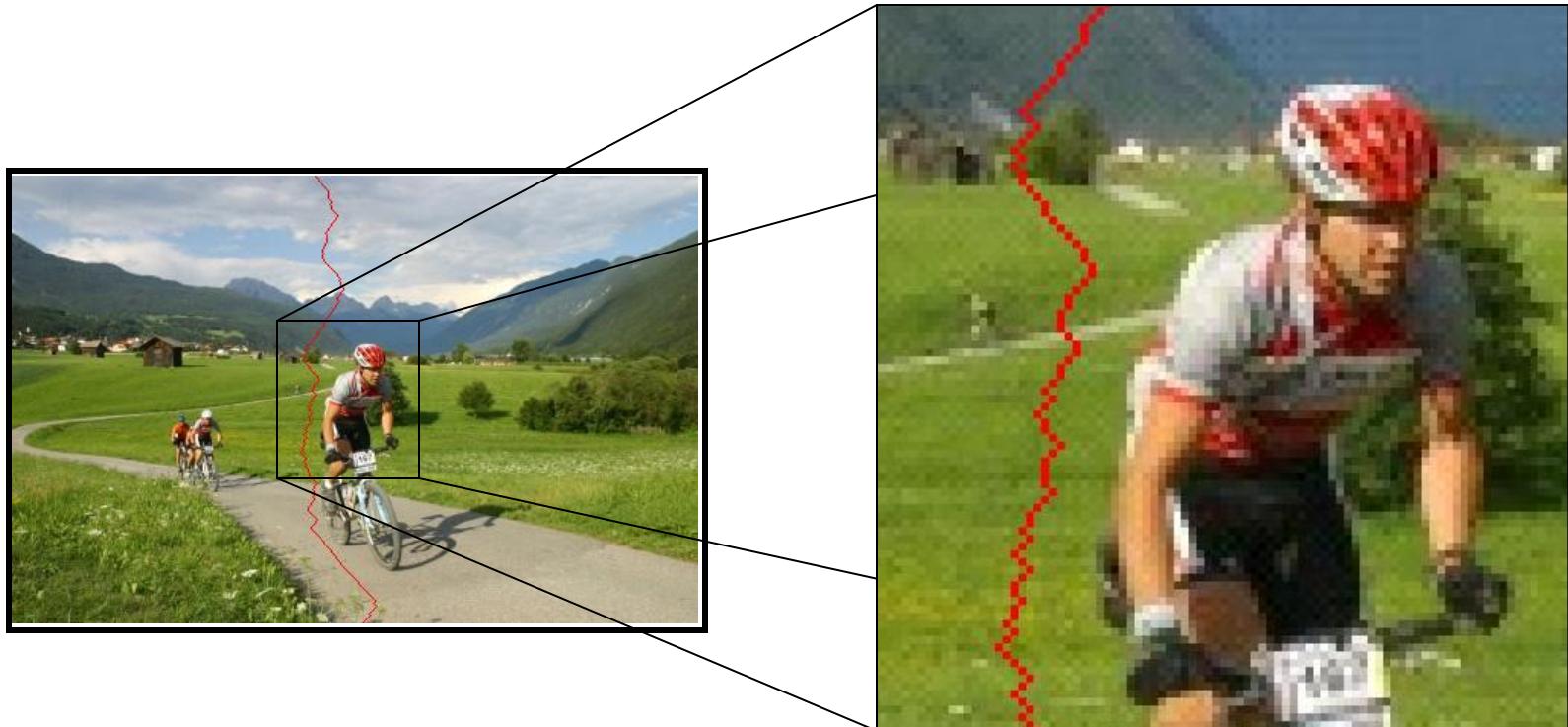
Least-energy columns

# A Seam

- A connected path of pixels from top to bottom (or left to right). Exactly one in each row

$$\mathbf{s}^x = \{s_i^x\}_{i=1}^n = \{(x(i), i)\}_{i=1}^n, \text{ s.t. } \forall i, |x(i) - x(i-1)| \leq 1$$

$$\mathbf{s}^y = \{s_j^y\}_{j=1}^m = \{(j, y(j))\}_{j=1}^m, \text{ s.t. } \forall j, |y(j) - y(j-1)| \leq 1$$



# Seams in Images

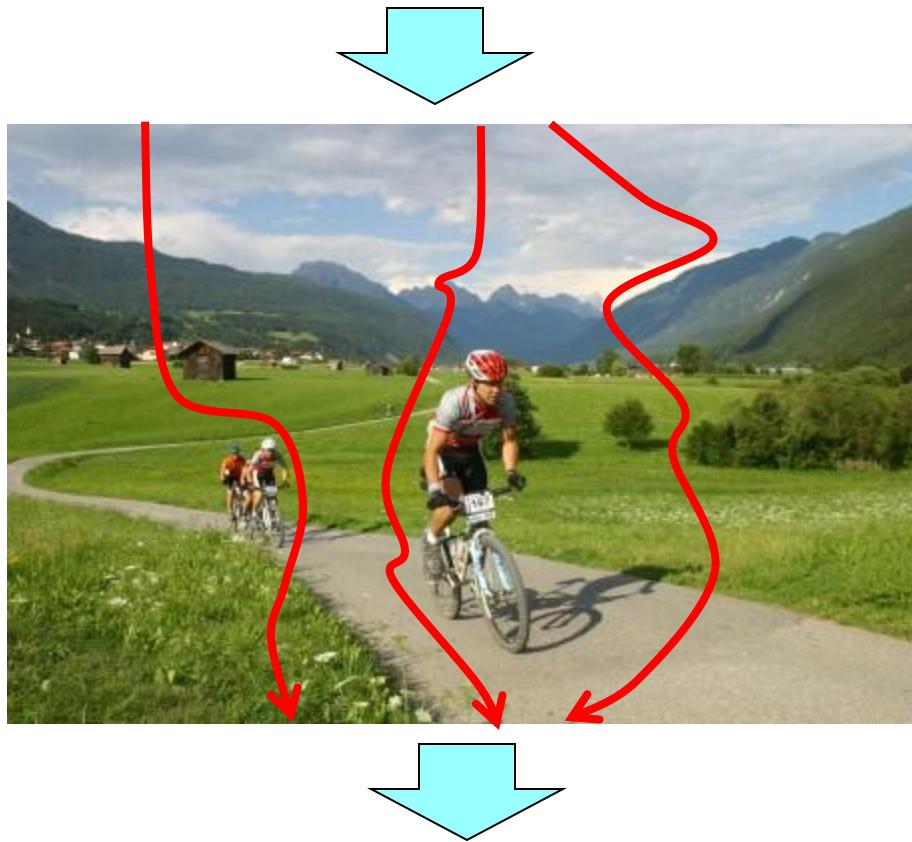
- Efros & Freeman [2001] – Texture synthesis
- Kwatra et al. [2003] – Image and video synthesis
- Agarwala et al. [2004] – Digital Photomontage
- Perez et
- Jia et al.
- Rother e
- Wang and Cohen [2006] – simultaneous matting and compositing

*Mostly used for composition of  
two (or more) images or patches...*

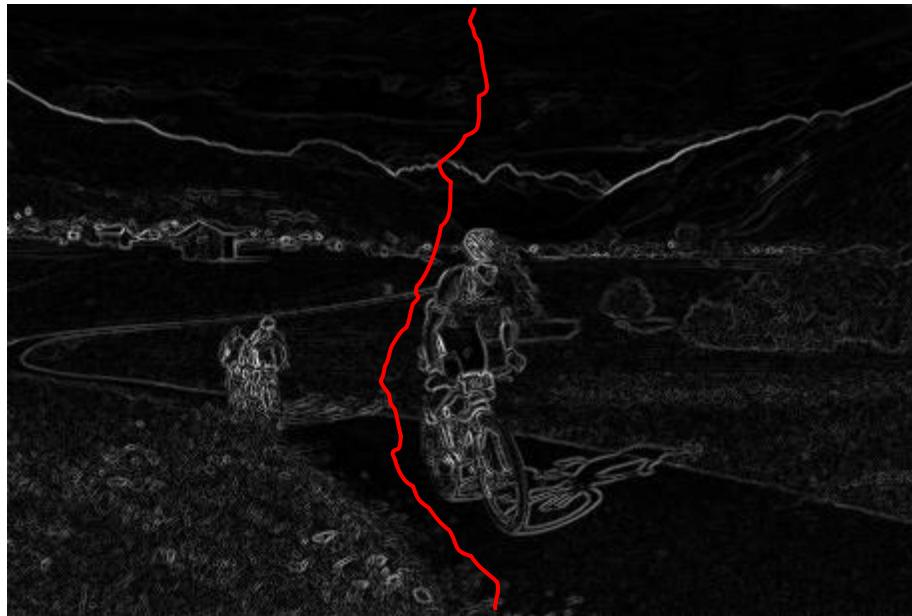


Agarwala et al., *Interactive Digital Photomontage*

# Finding the Seam?



# The Optimal Seam



$$E(\mathbf{I}) = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{I} \right| + \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{I} \right| \rightarrow s^* = \arg \min_s E(s)$$

# The Optimal Seam

- The recursion relation

$$\mathbf{M}(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min \{\mathbf{M}(i - 1, j - 1), \mathbf{M}(i - 1, j), \mathbf{M}(i - 1, j + 1)\}$$

- Can be solved efficiently using dynamic programming in  $O(s \cdot n \cdot m)$   
( $s=3$  in the original algorithm)

# Dynamic Programming

- **Invariant property:**

- $M(i,j)$  = minimal cost of a seam going through  $(i,j)$  (satisfying the seam properties)

5	8	12	3
9	2	3	9
7	3	4	2
4	5	7	8

A 4x4 grid of numbers representing costs for a seam. The grid is as follows:

5	8	12	3
9	2	3	9
7	3	4	2
4	5	7	8

Red arrows point to the value 2 in the second row, second column. This indicates that the minimum cost of a seam passing through this cell is 2.

# Dynamic Programming

$$\mathbf{M}(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min(\mathbf{M}(i-1, j-1), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j+1))$$

5	8	12	3
9	2+5	3	9
7	3	4	2
4	5	7	8

# Dynamic Programming

$$\mathbf{M}(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min(\mathbf{M}(i-1, j-1), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j+1))$$

5	8	12	3
9	7	3+3	9
7	3	4	2
4	5	7	8

# Dynamic Programming

$$\mathbf{M}(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min(\mathbf{M}(i-1, j-1), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j+1))$$

5	8	12	3
9	7	6	12
14	9	10	8
14	14	15	8+8

# Searching for Minimum

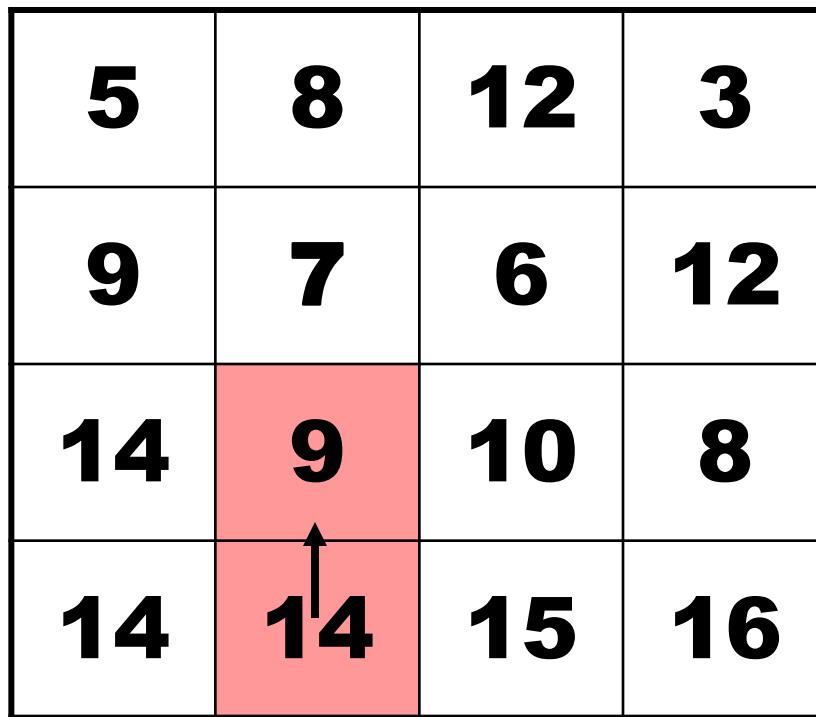
- Backtrack (can store choices along the path, but do not have to)

5	8	12	3
9	7	6	12
14	9	10	8
14	14	15	16

↑

# Backtracking the Seam

5	8	12	3
9	7	6	12
14	9	10	8
14	14	15	16



The diagram shows a 4x4 grid of numbers. The values are as follows:

- Row 1: 5, 8, 12, 3
- Row 2: 9, 7, 6, 12
- Row 3: 14, 9, 10, 8
- Row 4: 14, 14, 15, 16

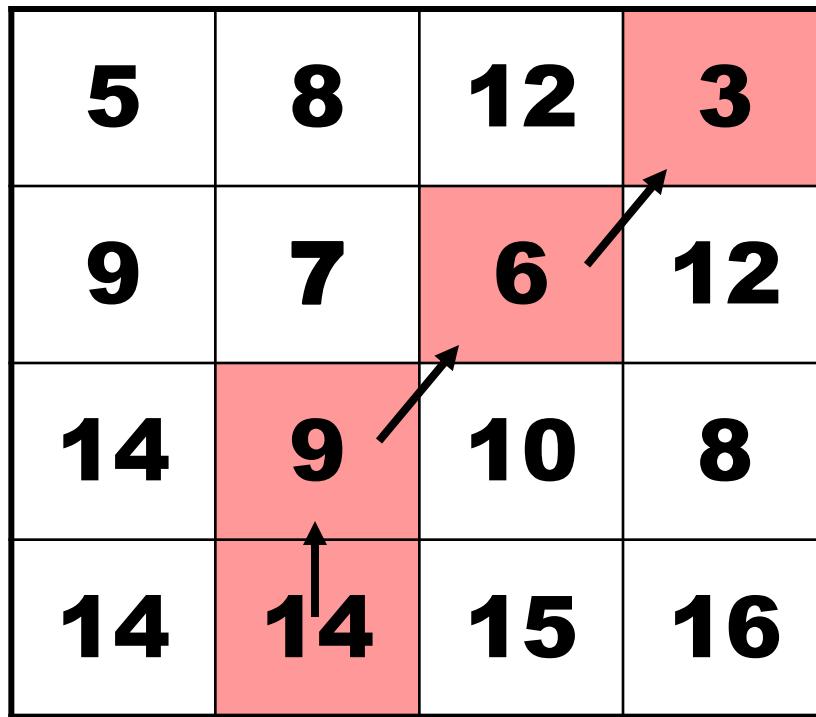
The bottom-left cell (14) has a red background. An arrow points from the value 14 in the bottom-left cell to the value 9 in the second row, third column.

# Backtracking the Seam

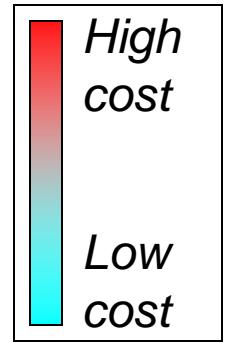
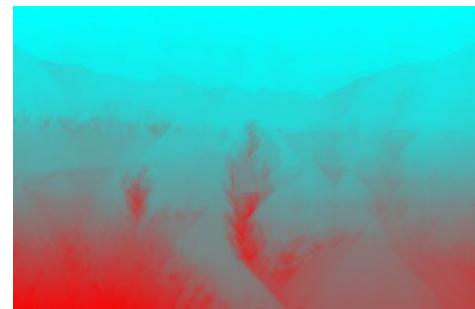
5	8	12	3
9	7	6	12
14	9	10	8
14	14	15	16

A 4x4 grid of numbers. The numbers are: Row 1: 5, 8, 12, 3; Row 2: 9, 7, 6, 12; Row 3: 14, 9, 10, 8; Row 4: 14, 14, 15, 16. The cell (3, 2) contains the value 9. The cell (3, 3) contains the value 10. The cell (4, 2) contains the value 14. The cell (4, 3) contains the value 15. The cell (4, 4) contains the value 16. The cell (2, 3) contains the value 6 and is highlighted with a pink background. An arrow points from the value 9 in cell (3, 2) up to the value 6 in cell (2, 3).

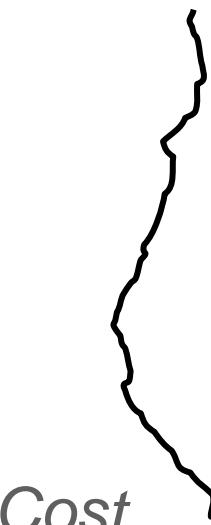
# Backtracking the Seam



# H & V Cost Maps



*Horizontal Cost*



*Vertical Cost*

# Seam Carving



# The Seam-Carving Algorithm

**SEAM-CARVING(im,n') // size(im) = mxn**

- 1. Do (n-n') times**
  - 2.1.  $E \leftarrow$  Compute energy map on im
  - 2.2.  $s \leftarrow$  Find optimal seam in E
  - 2.3.  $im \leftarrow$  Remove s from im
- 2. Return im**

- **For vertical resize: transpose the image**
- **Running time:**
  - 2.1  $O(mn)$
  - 2.2  $O(mn)$
  - 2.3  $O(mn)$

$\rightarrow O(dmn)$     $d=n-n'$

# Changing Aspect Ratio



# Changing Aspect Ratio



*Original*



*Seam Carving*



*Scaling*

# Changing Aspect ratio



*Cropping*



*Seams*



*Scaling*

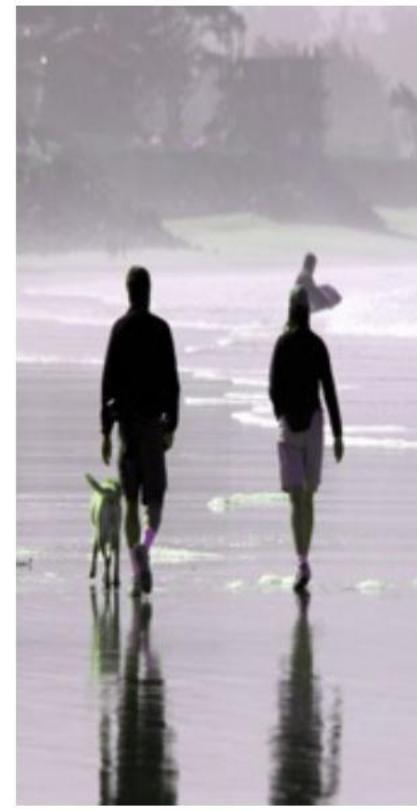
# Changing Aspect Ratio



**Original**



**Retarget**



*Scaling*

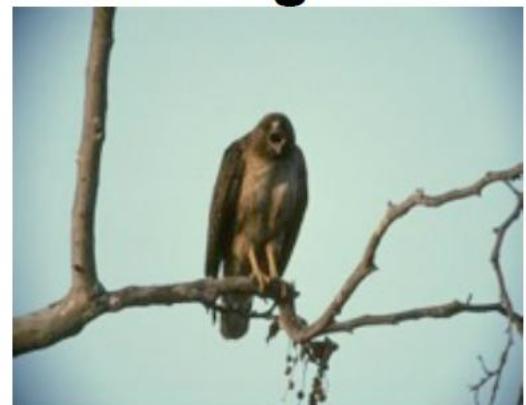
# Changing Aspect Ratio



**Original**



**Retarget**



*Scaling*

# Seam Carving in the Gradient Domain



# Start of lecture 2 – complete aside

<http://www.retronaut.co/2011/10/the-invisible-mother-1800s/>

# Questions?

- Q: Will the result be the same if the image is flipped upside down?
- A: Yes (up to numerical stability)
  
- Q: Can we improve the running time?
- A: Yes. by factor (account for locality of operations)

# A Local Operator



# Questions?

- Q: Will the result be the same if the image is flipped upside down?
- A: Yes (up to numerical stability)
  
- Q: Can we improve the running time?
- A: By factor (local operations)
  
- Q: What happens to the overall energy in the image during seam carving?

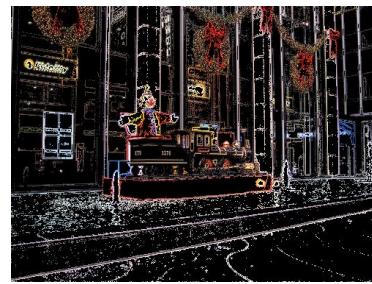
# Preserved Energy



*Energy*



10%



30%



40%



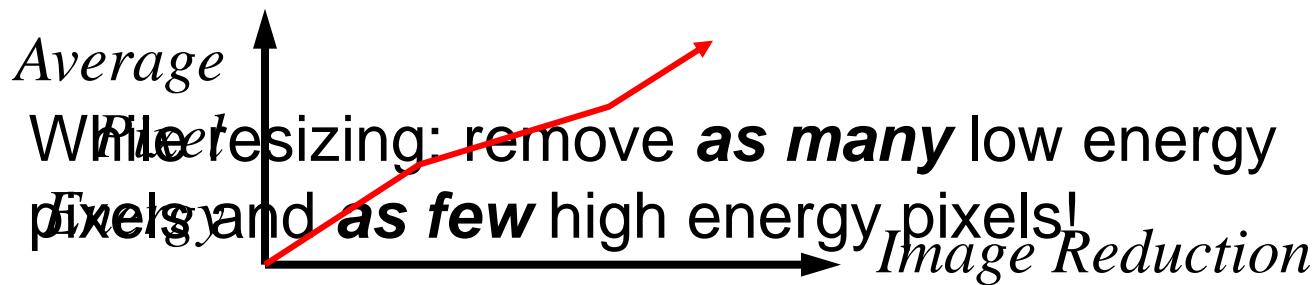
75%

While resizing: remove **as many** low energy pixels and **as few** high energy pixels!

# Preserved Energy

If we measure the average energy of pixels in the image after applying a resizing operator...

...the average should increase!



# Preserved Energy



Average  
Pixel  
Energy

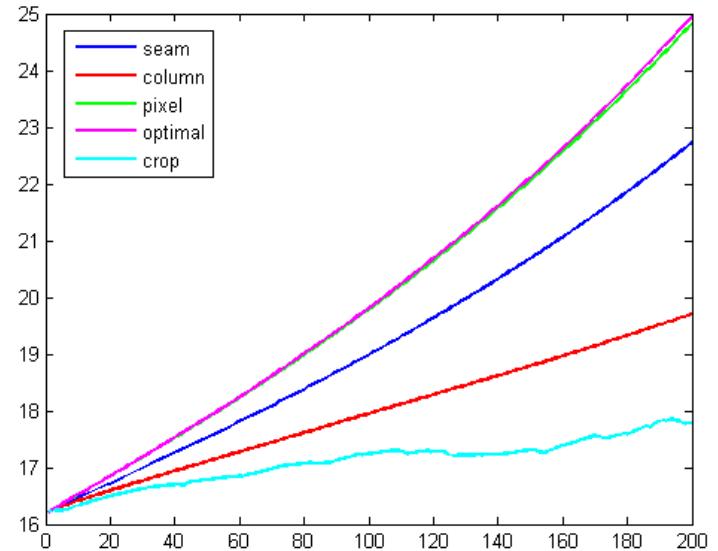


Image Reduction →



**crop**

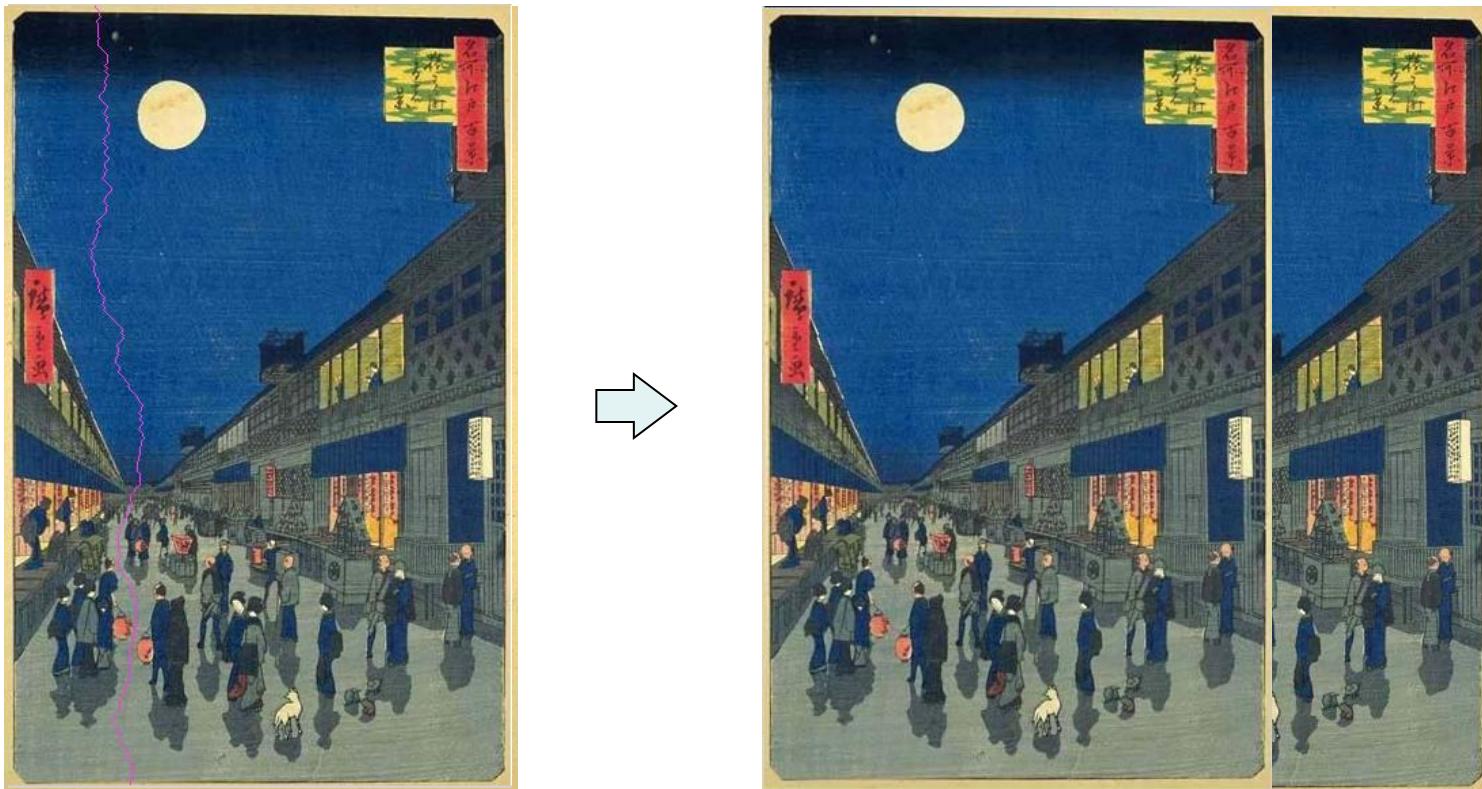
**column**

**seam**

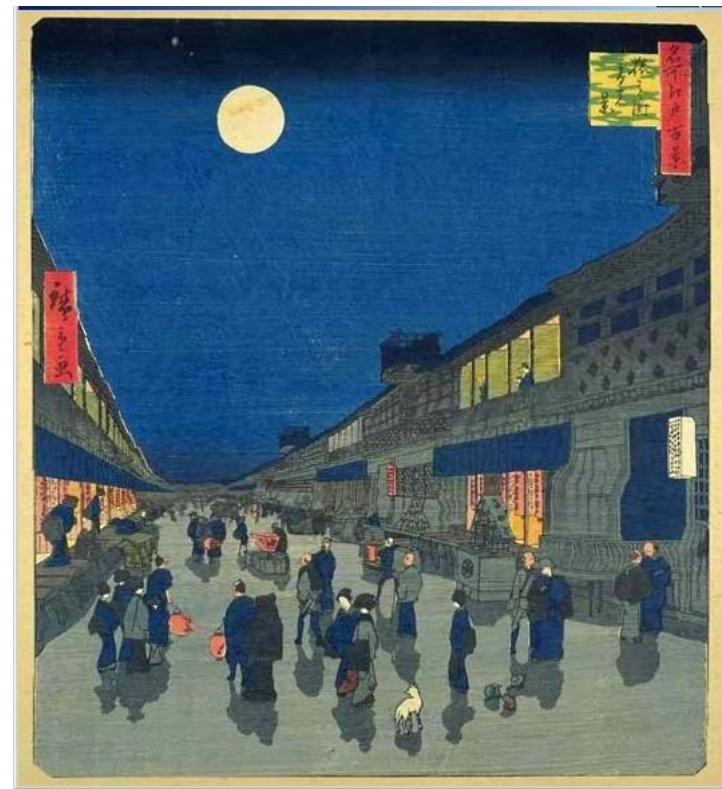
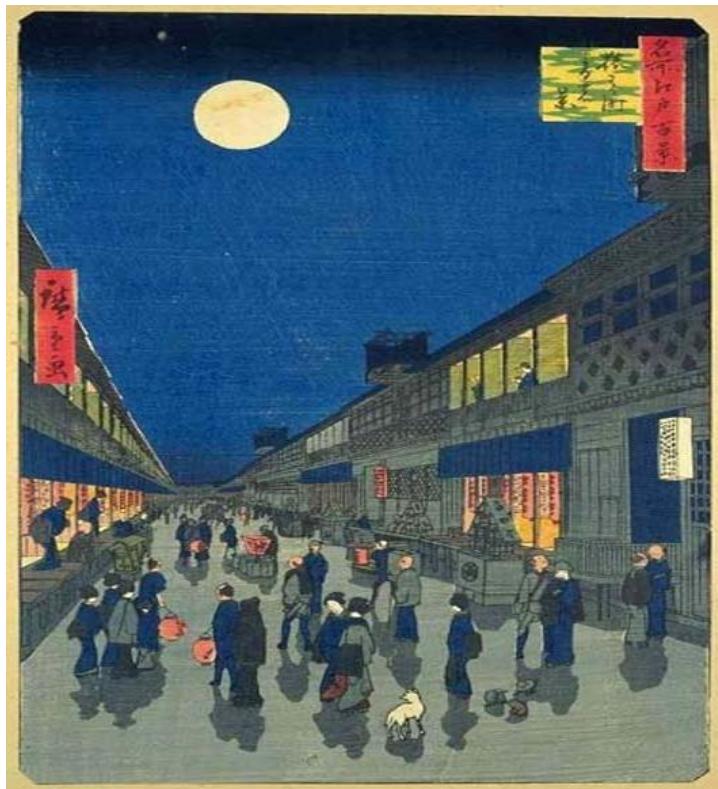
**pixel**

**optimal**

# Image Expansion (Synthesis)

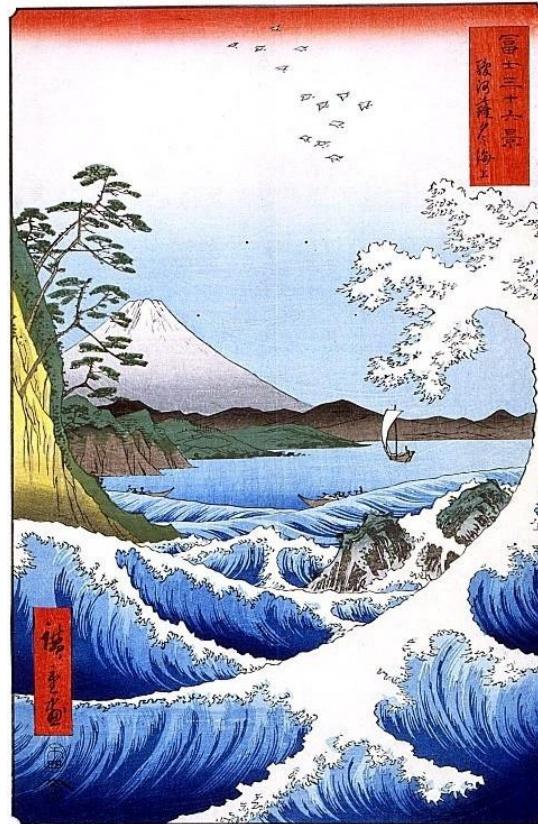


# Image Expansion – take 2



Scaling

# Enlarged or Reduced?



# Combined Insert and Remove



*Insert & remove seams*

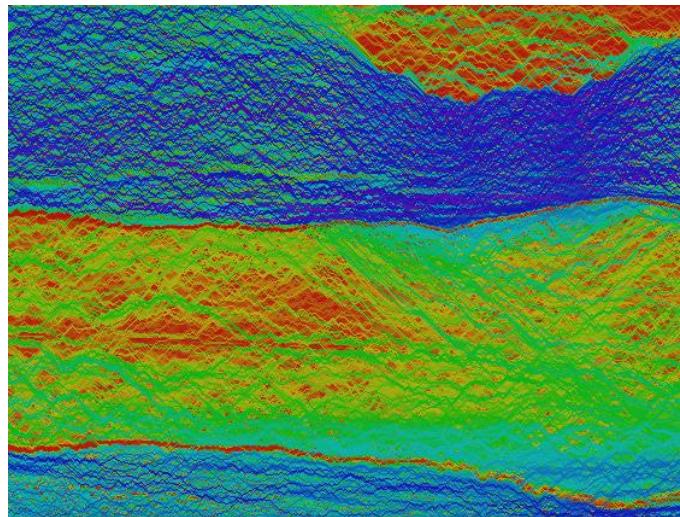
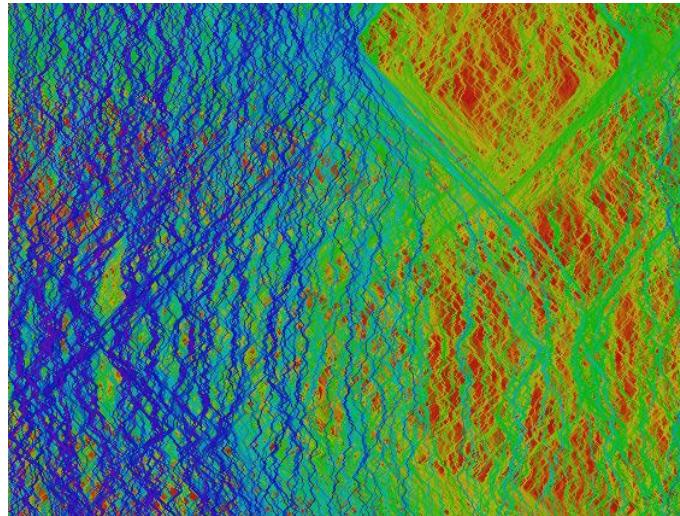
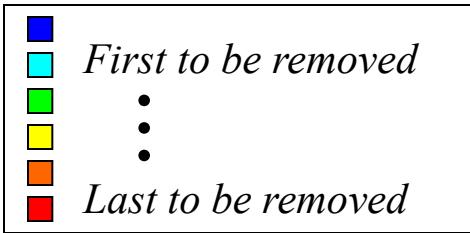


*Scaling*

# Multi-Size Images

- We can create a new representation of an image that will allow adapting it to different sizes!
  1. Precompute all seams once
  2. Realtime resizing / transmit with content

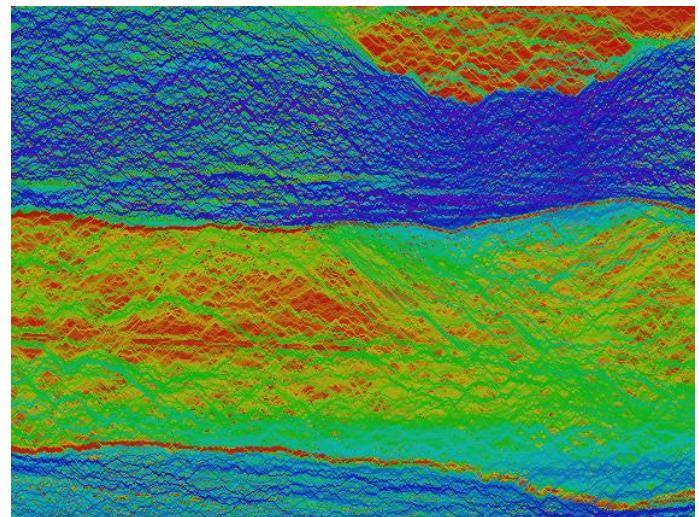
# Multi-Size Images



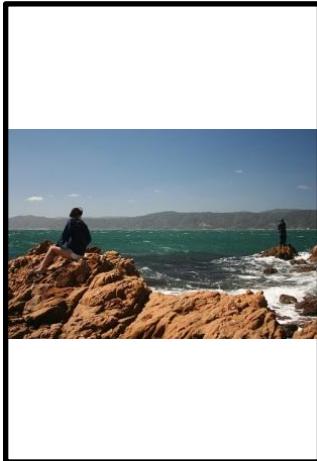
# Multi-Size Image Representation



+



# Multi-Size Image Representation



# Auxiliary Energy

- Recall our seam equation

$$\mathbf{M}(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min \{\mathbf{M}(i-1, j-1), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j), \mathbf{M}(i-1, j+1)\}$$

# With face detector



# With User Constraints



# Object Removal



# Object Removal



Input

Retargeted

Pigeon Removed

Girl Removed

# Limitations

## Content



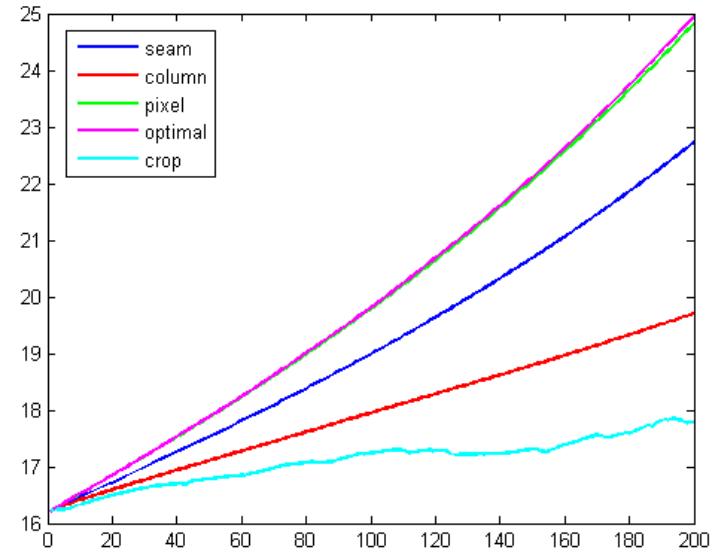
## Structure



# Preserved Energy - Revisited



*Average  
Pixel  
Energy*



*Image Reduction* →



**crop**

**column**

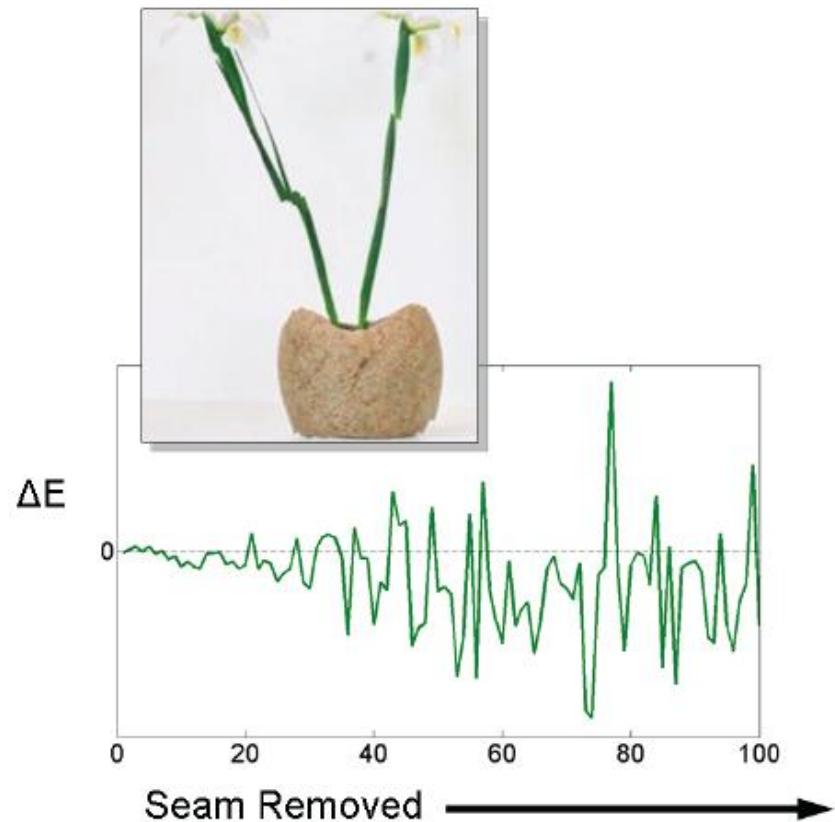
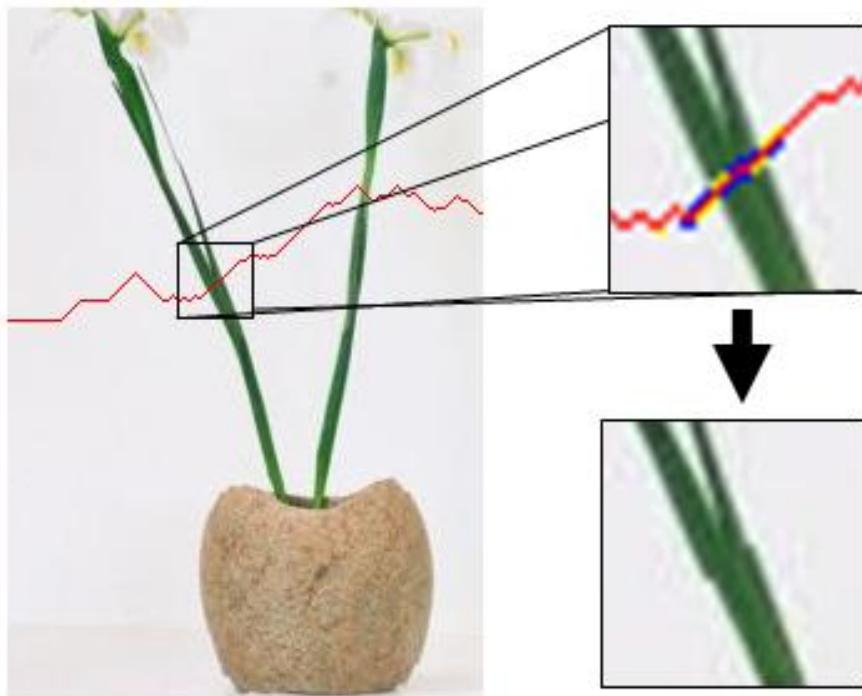
Michael Rubinstein — MIT CSAIL — [mrub@mit.edu](mailto:mrub@mit.edu)

**seam**

**pixel**

**optimal**

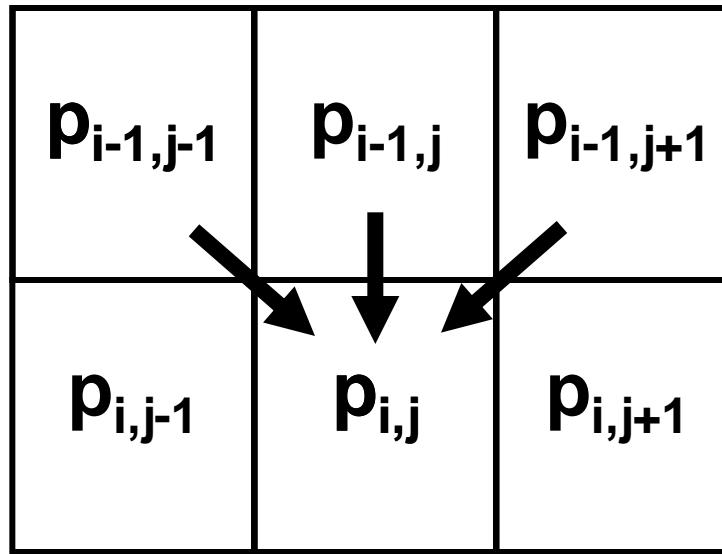
# Inserted Energy



# Minimize Inserted Energy

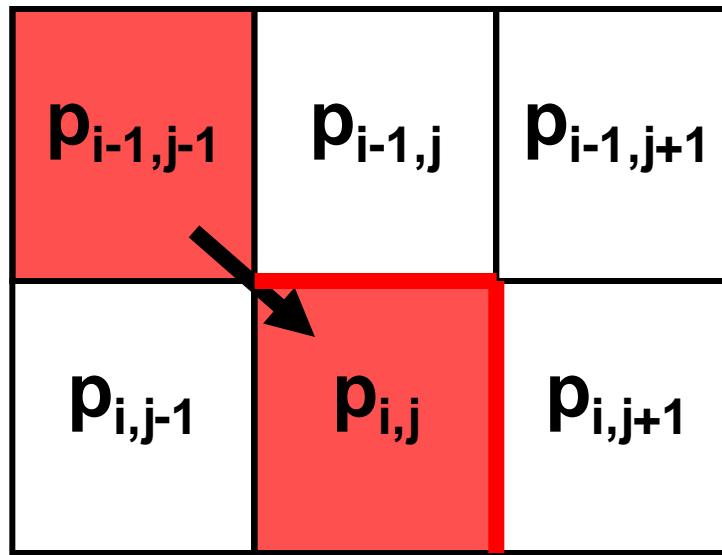
- Instead of removing the seam of least energy, remove the seam that *inserts the least energy* to the image !

# Tracking Inserted Energy



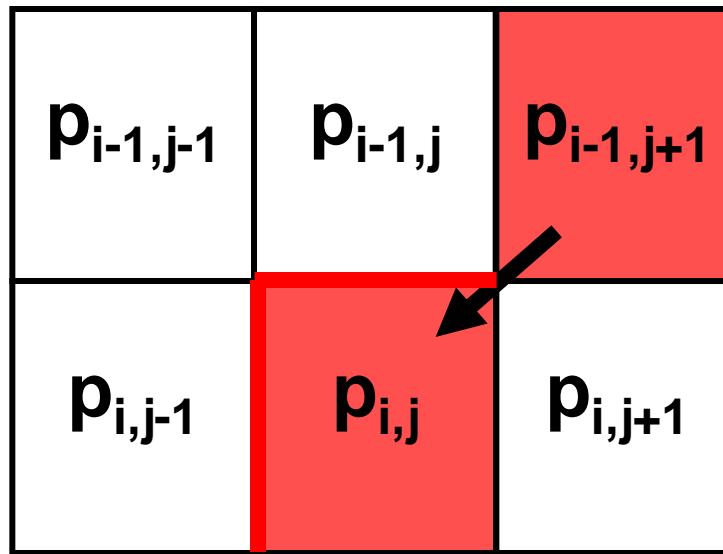
- Three possibilities when removing pixel  $P_{i,j}$

# Pixel $P_{i,j}$ : Left Seam



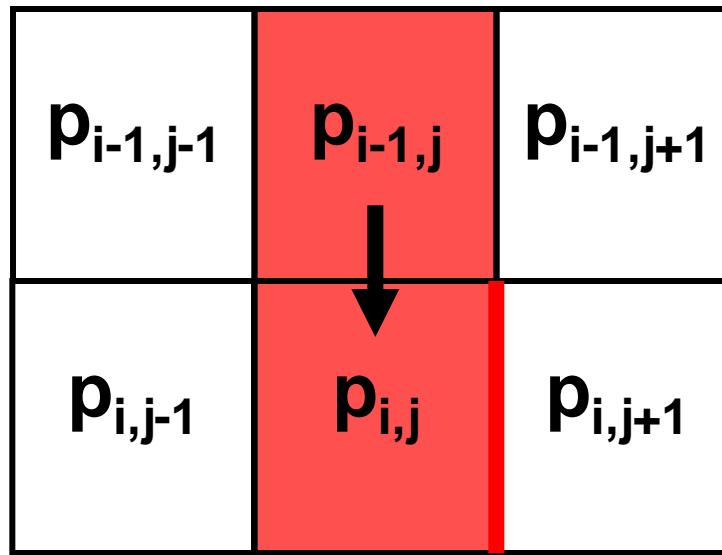
$$C_L(i, j) = |I(i, j + 1) - I(i, j - 1)| + |I(i - 1, j) - I(i, j - 1)|$$

# Pixel $P_{i,j}$ : Right Seam



$$C_R(i, j) = |I(i, j + 1) - I(i, j - 1)| + |I(i - 1, j) - I(i, j + 1)|$$

# Pixel $P_{i,j}$ : Vertical Seam



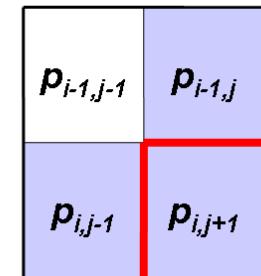
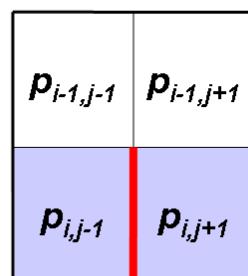
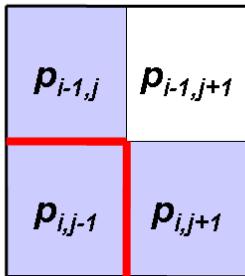
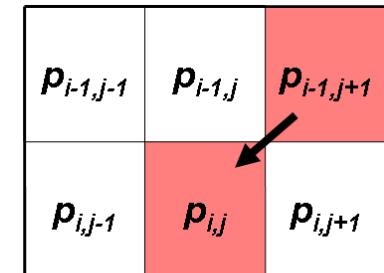
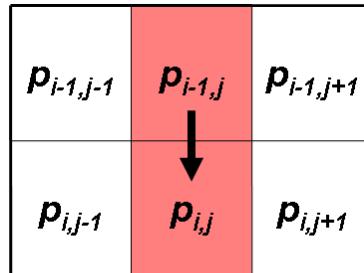
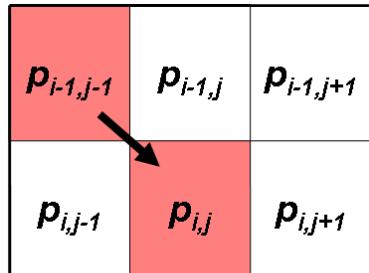
$$C_V(i, j) = |I(i, j + 1) - I(i, j - 1)|$$

# Old “Backward” Energy

$$M(i, j) = E(i, j) + \min \begin{cases} M(i - 1, j - 1) \\ M(i - 1, j) \\ M(i - 1, j + 1) \end{cases}$$

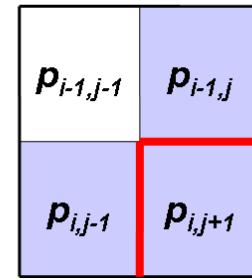
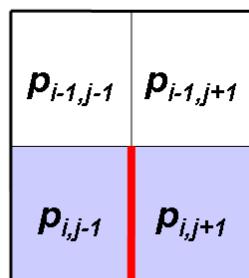
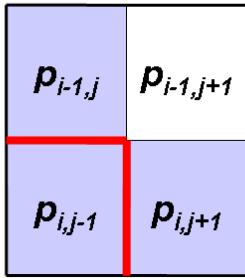
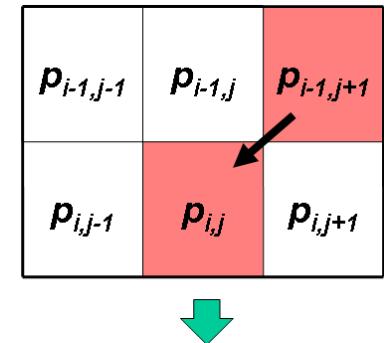
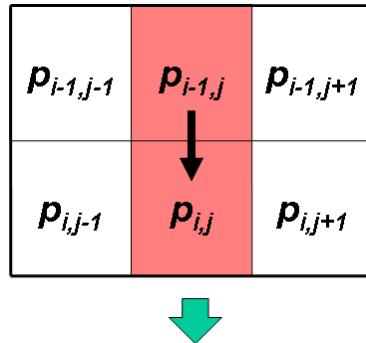
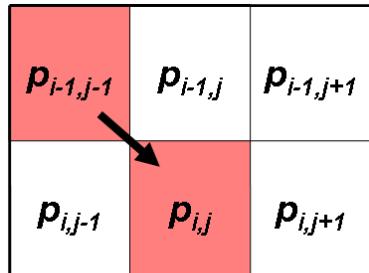
# New Forward Looking Energy

$$M(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} M(i - 1, j - 1) + C_L(i, j) \\ M(i - 1, j) + C_U(i, j), \\ M(i - 1, j + 1) + C_R(i, j) \end{cases}$$



# Adding “Pixel Energy”

$$M(i, j) = P(i, j) + \min \begin{cases} M(i - 1, j - 1) + C_L(i, j) \\ M(i - 1, j) + C_U(i, j), \\ M(i - 1, j + 1) + C_R(i, j) \end{cases}$$



# Results



Input



Backward

Forward

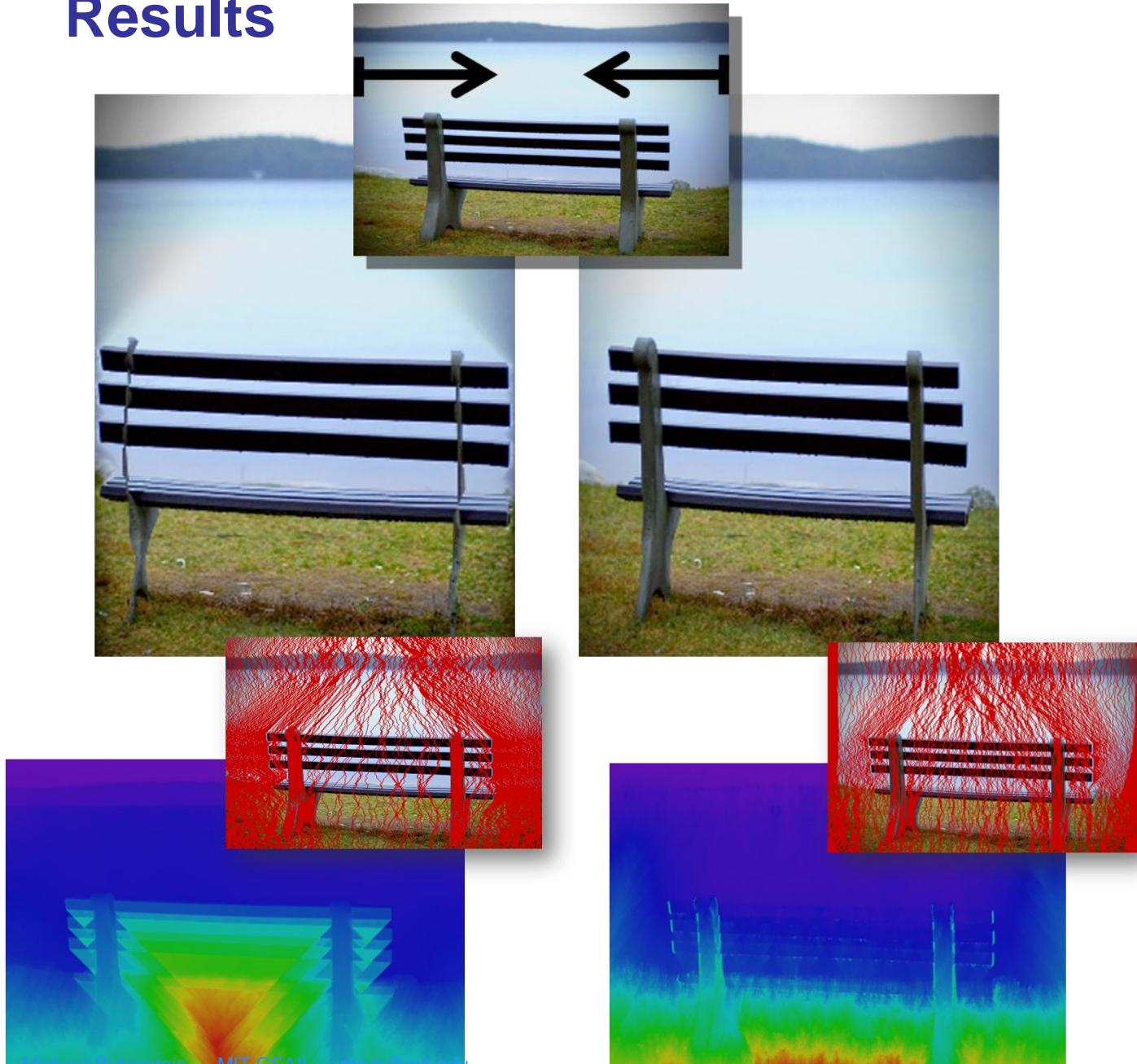


Input



Forward

# Results



# Backward vs. Forward

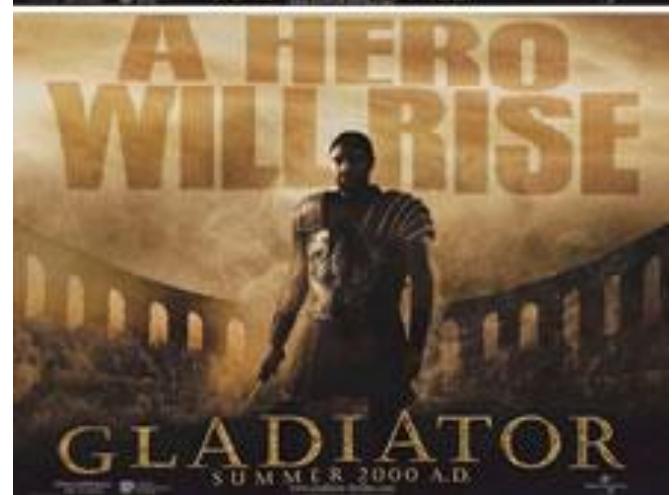
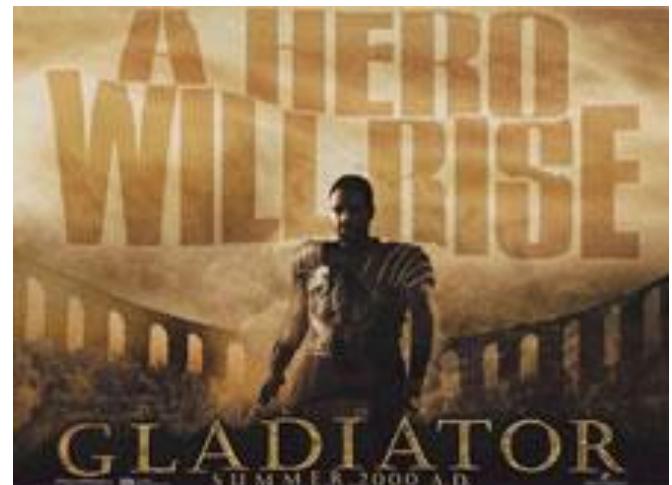


Backward



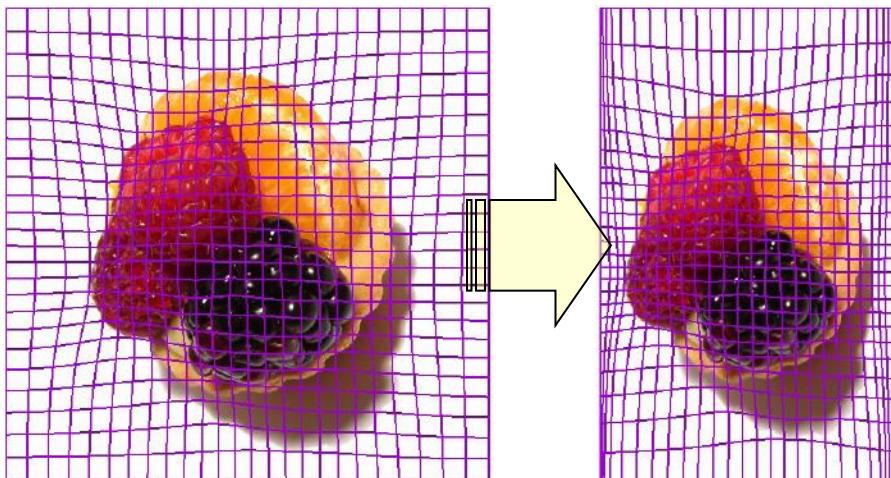
Forward

# Results



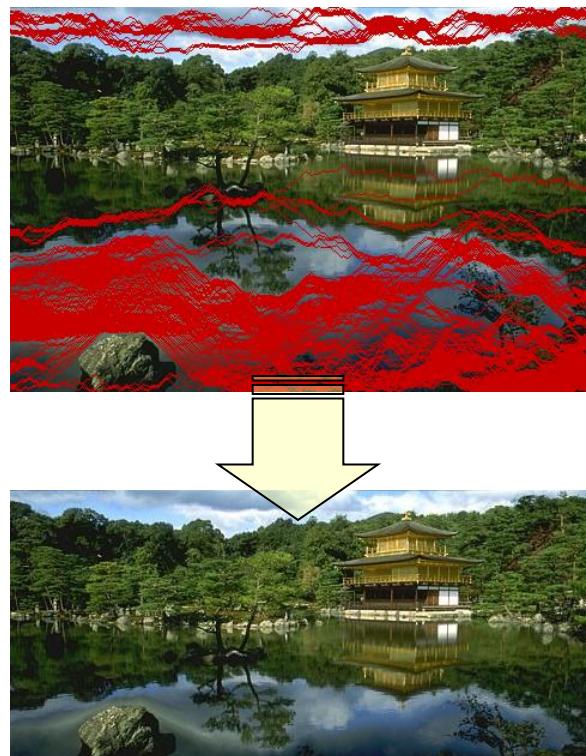
# Discrete vs. Continuous

[Wang et al 2008]



**Continuous**

[Avidan and Shamir 2007]



**Discrete**

# From Images to Videos

- **In general, video processing is a much (much!) harder problem**

## 1. Cardinality

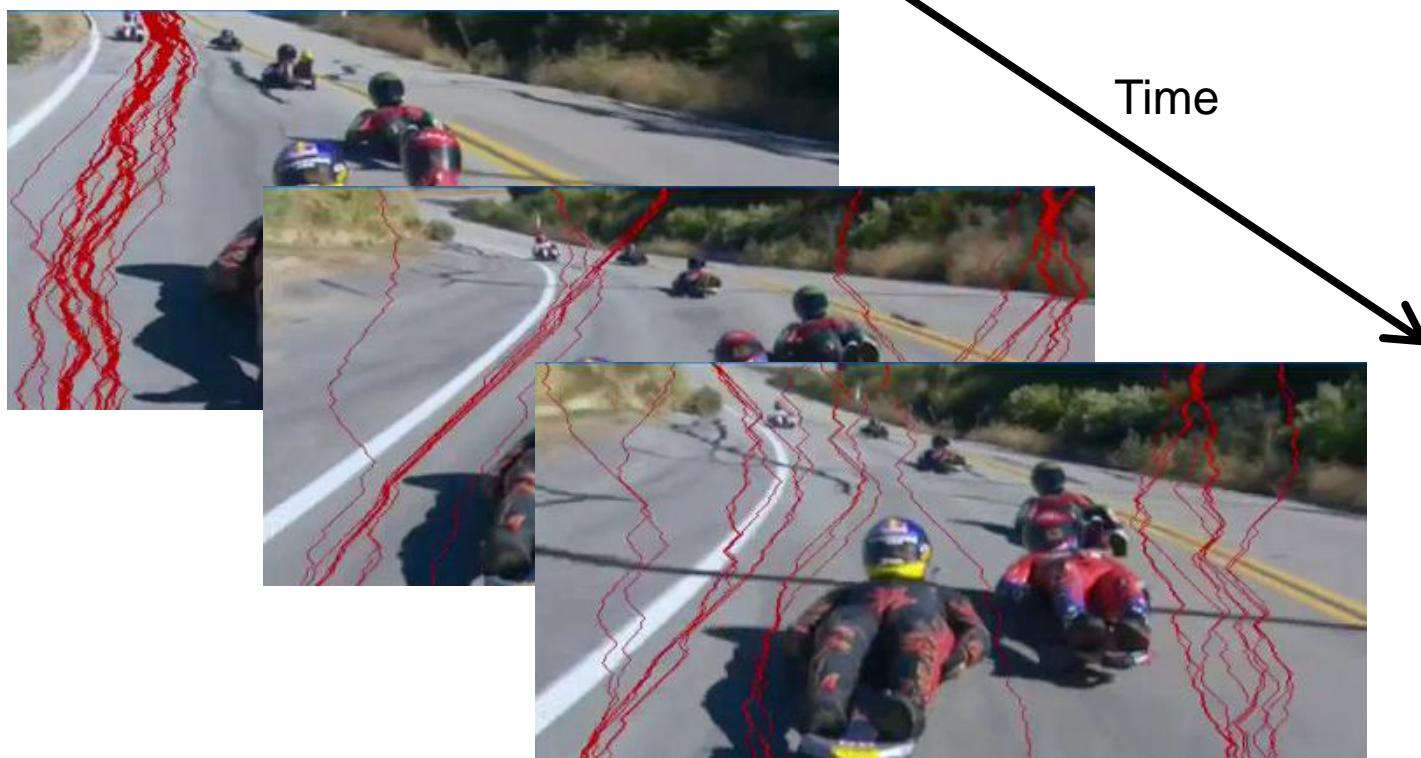
- Suppose 1min of video x 30 fps = 1800 frames
- Say your algorithm processes an image in 1 minute → **30 hours !!**

## 2. Dimensionality/algorithmic

- Temporal coherency: human visual system is highly sensitive to motion!

# Seam-Carving Video?

- Naive... frame by frame independently



# Frame-by-frame Seam-Carving

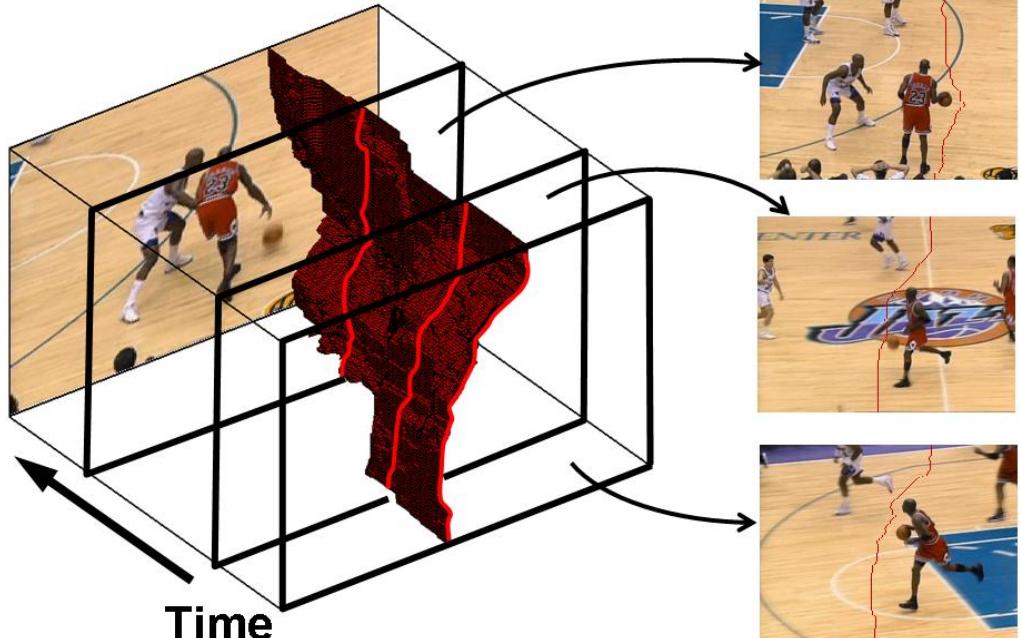
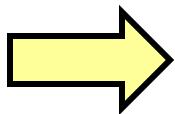


\*Representative seams

# From 2D to 3D



1D paths in images



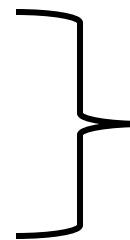
2D manifolds in video cubes

# Challenges

- **Dynamic Programming no longer applicable**
  - Reduction to min-cut graph problem

- **Cut must fulfill seam constraints**

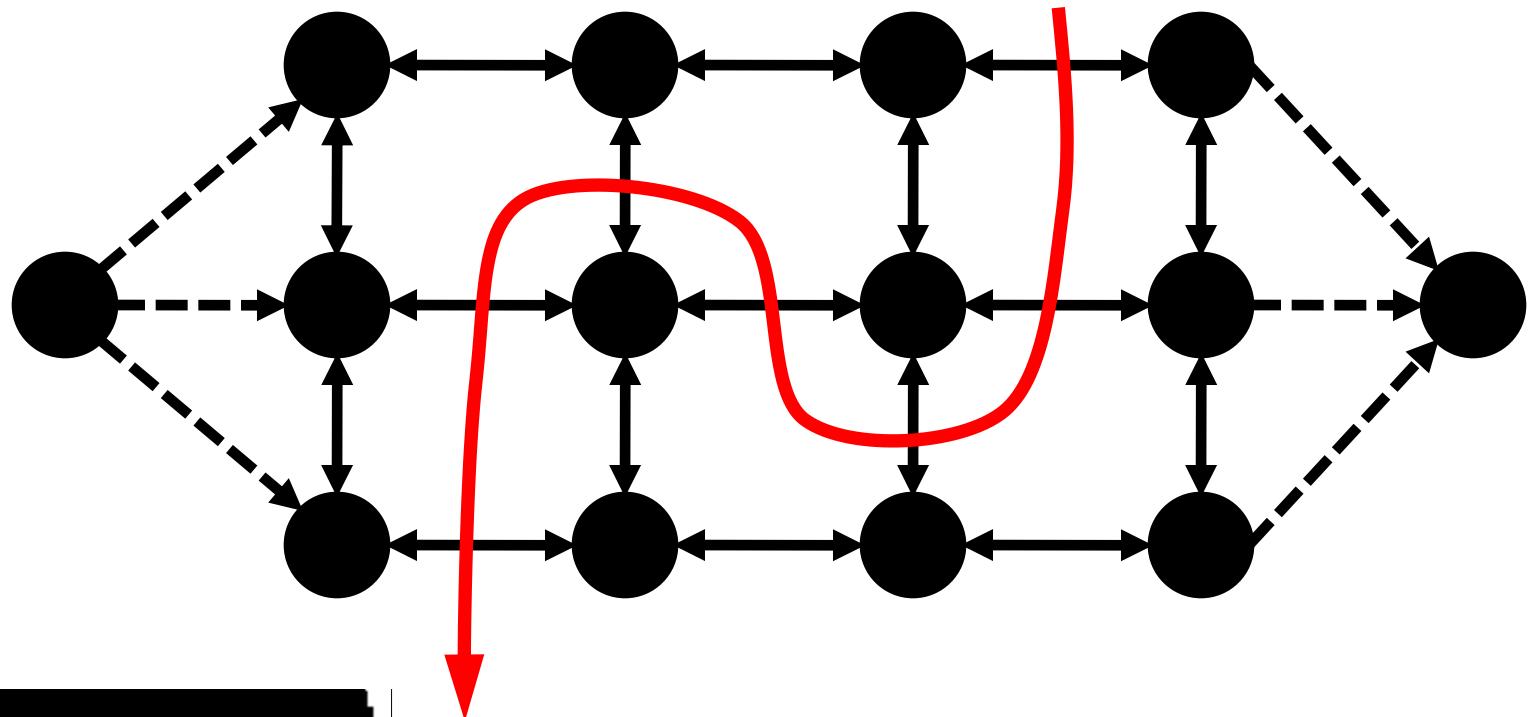
1. *Monotonic* (cut each row exactly once)
2. Connected



Cut should be a function!

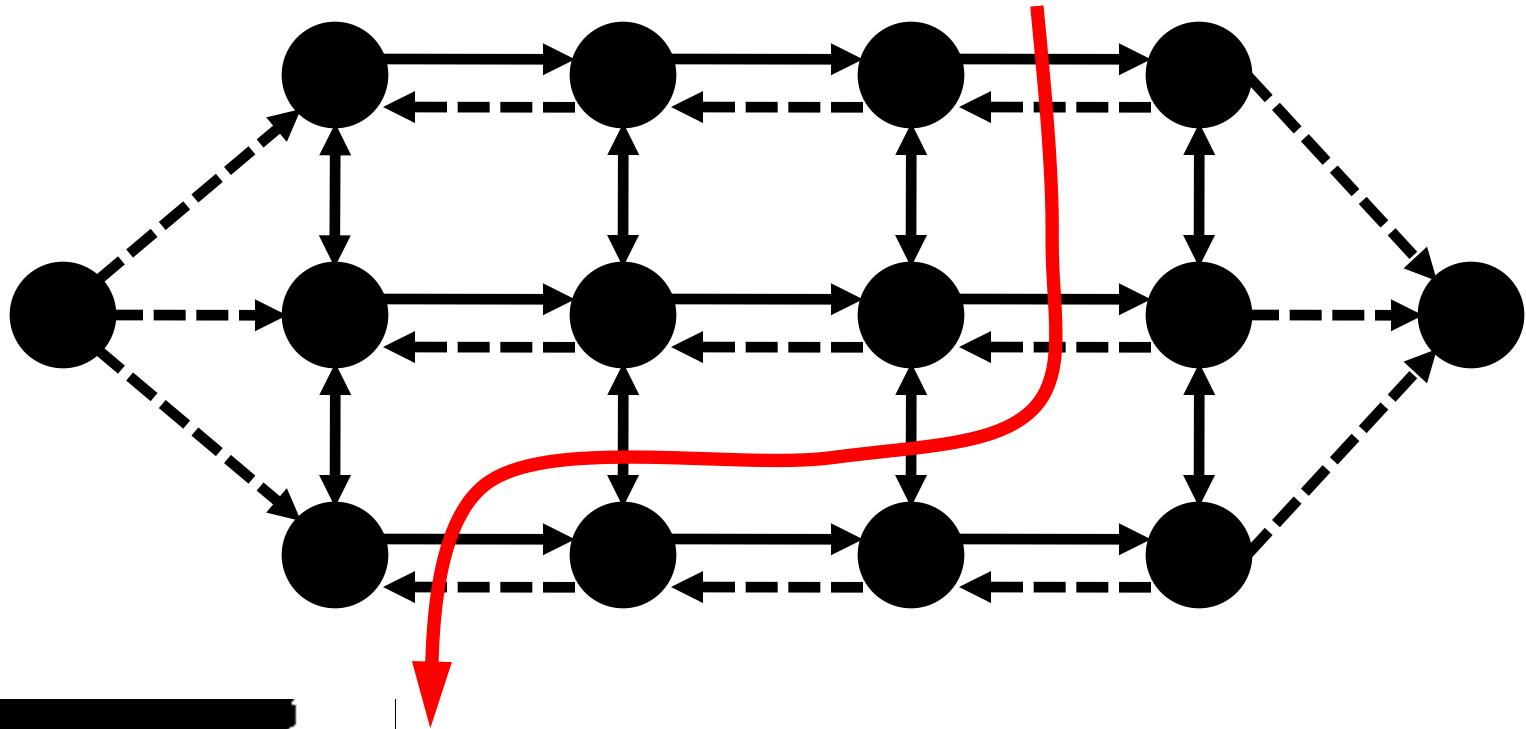


# Graph Construction



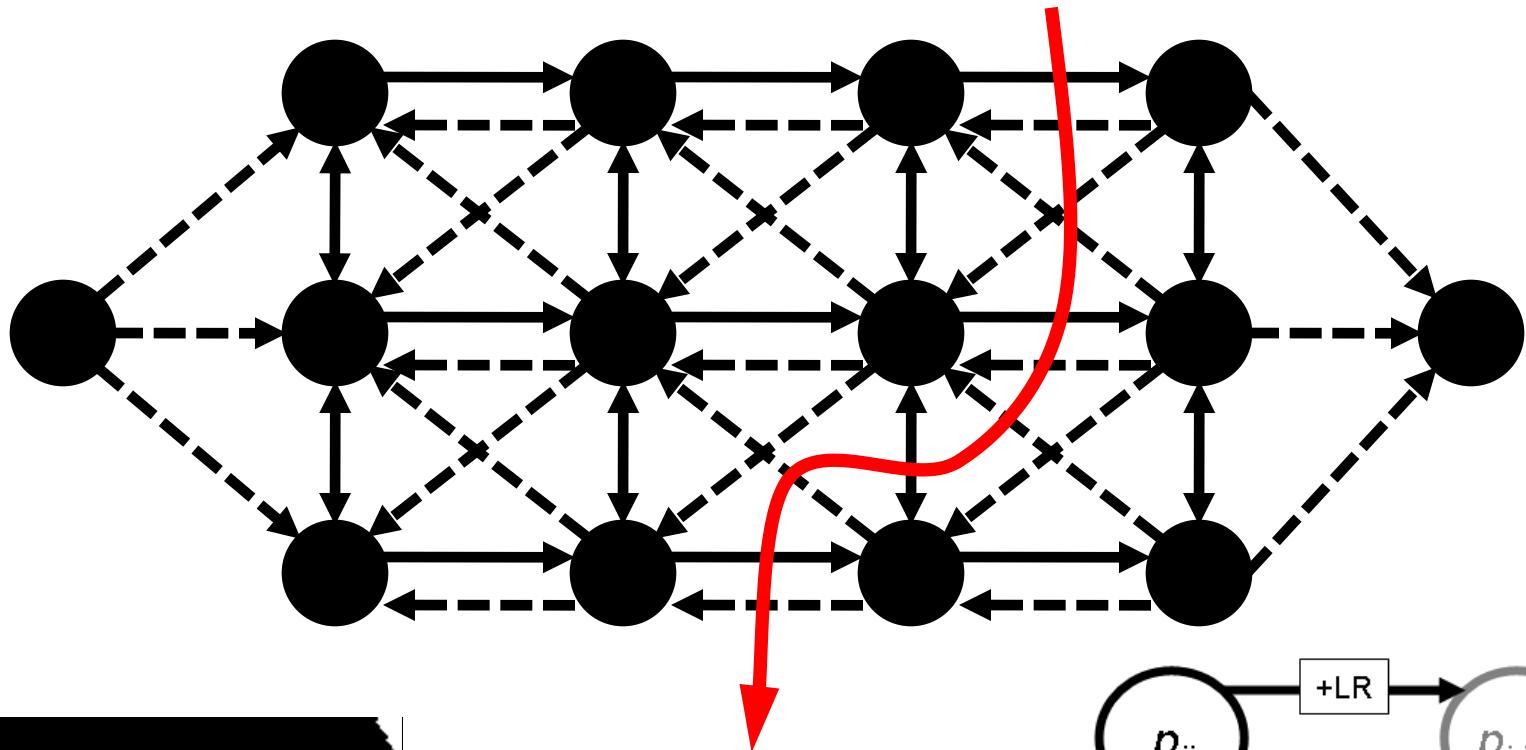
Not monotonic

# Graph Construction

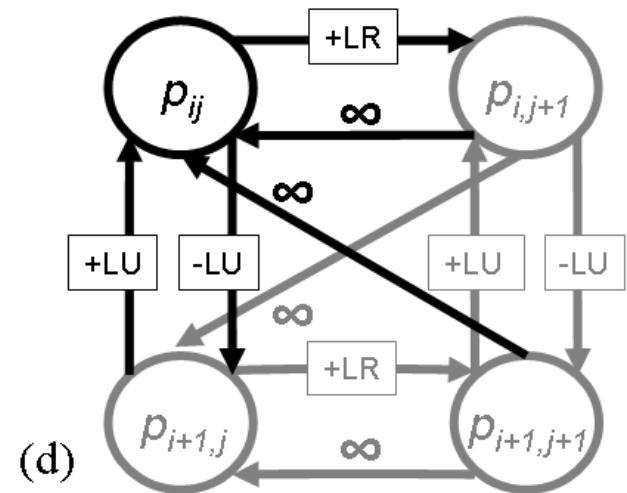


Monotonic, not connected

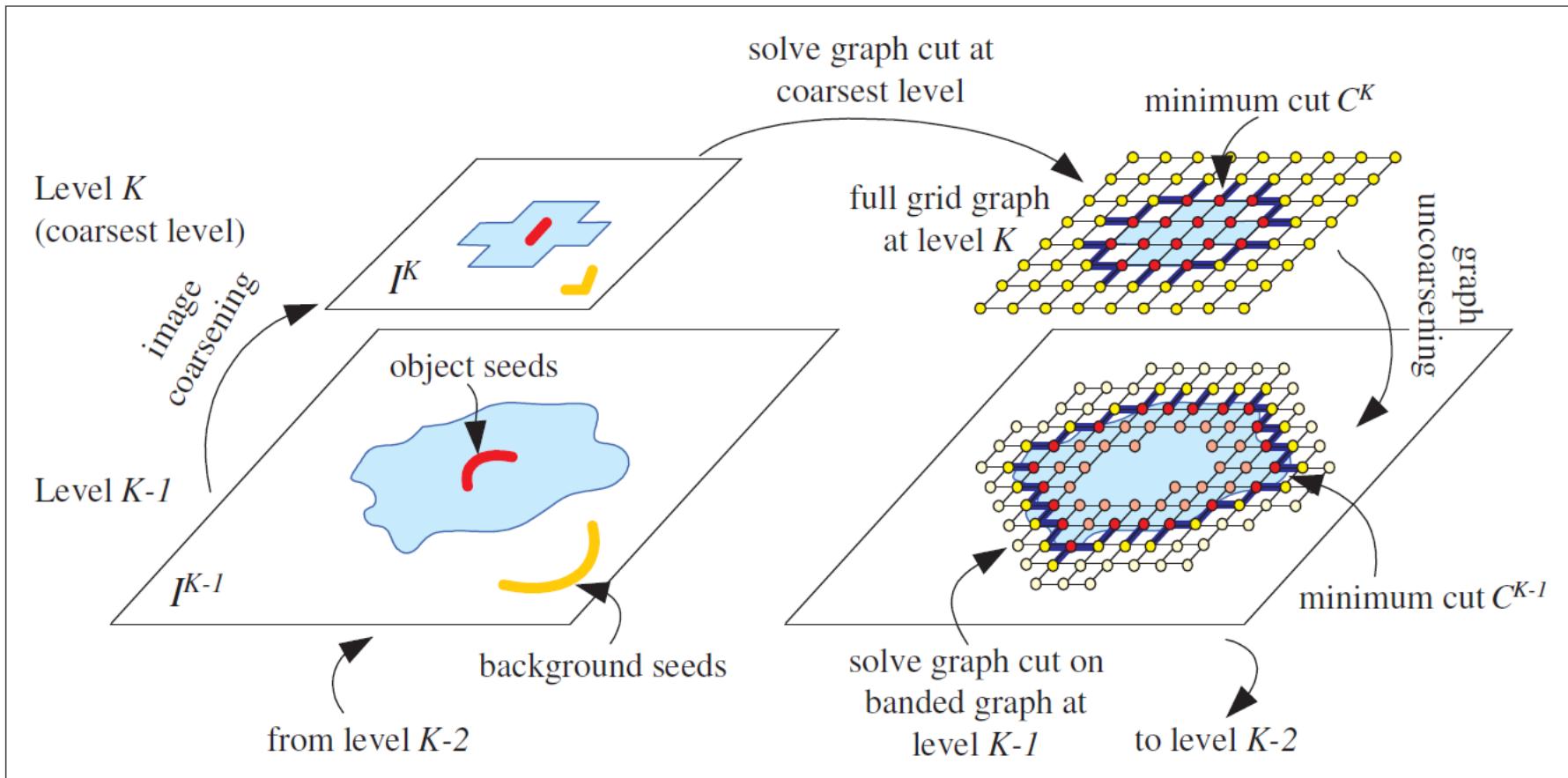
# Graph Construction



Backward  
Energy



# Multiresolution Graph Cut



**Figure 1. Multilevel banded graph cuts algorithm**

Lombaert et al. [2005]



# Video Retargeting Video

# References

## RetargetMe

A Benchmark for Image Retargeting

[Michael Rubinstein](#)  
MIT CSAIL

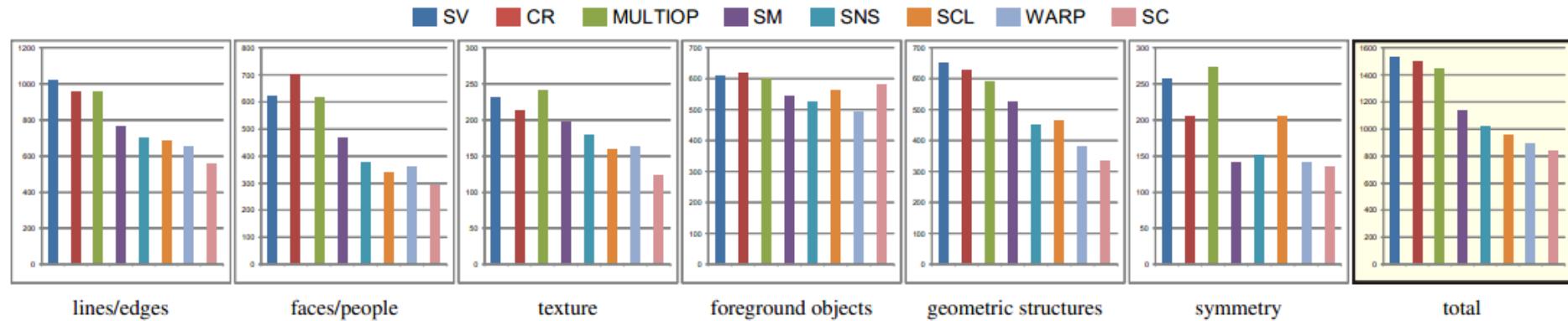
[Diego Gutierrez](#)  
Universidad de Zaragoza

[Olga Sorkine](#)  
New York University

[Ariel Shamir](#)  
The Interdisciplinary Center



# Does retargeting actually work?



**Figure 3:** The number of votes and total ranking (rightmost) of the eight methods per attribute, when the reference (original) image was shown. We notice that three operators, namely SV, MULTIOP and CR consistently rank better than the others.

- CR is cropping
- Michael Rubinstein, Diego Gutierrez, Olga Sorkine, Ariel Shamir  
A Comparative Study of Image Retargeting  
ACM Transactions on Graphics, Volume 29, Number 5 (Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia) 2010

# References

- **Seam Carving for Content-Aware Image Resizing – Avidan and Shamir 2007**
- **Content-driven Video Retargeting – Wolf et al. 2007**
- **Improved Seam Carving for Video Retargeting – Rubinstein et al. 2008**
- ***Optimized Scale-and-Stretch* for Image Resizing – Wang et al. 2008**
- **Summarizing Visual Data Using Bidirectional Similarity – Simakov et al. 2008**
- **Multi-operator Media Retargeting – Rubinstein et al. 2009**
- **Shift-Map Image Editing – Pritch et al. 2009**
- **Energy-Based Image Deformation – Karni et al. 2009**
- **Seam carving in Photoshop CS4:**  
[http://help.adobe.com/en\\_US/Photoshop/11.0/WS6F81C45F-2AC0-4685-8FFD-DBA374BF21CD.html](http://help.adobe.com/en_US/Photoshop/11.0/WS6F81C45F-2AC0-4685-8FFD-DBA374BF21CD.html)