

# The Scale of a Texture and its Application to Segmentation \*

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## Abstract

*This paper examines the issue of scale in modeling texture for the purpose of segmentation. We propose a scale descriptor for texture and an energy minimization model to find the scale of a given texture at each location. For each pixel, we use the intensity distribution in a local patch around that pixel to determine the smallest size of the domain that can be used to generate neighboring patches. The energy functional we propose to minimize is comprised of three terms: The first is the dissimilarity measure using the Wasserstein distance or Kullback-Leibler divergence between neighboring patch distributions; the second maximizes the entropy of the local patch, and the third penalizes larger size at equal fidelity. Our experiments show the proposed scale model successfully captures the intrinsic scale of texture at each location. We also apply our scale descriptor for improving texture segmentation based on histogram matching [15].*

## 1. Introduction

A “texture” is a region of the image that exhibits stationary – or cyclostationary – statistics of some sort. If one were to compute the histogram in a region around each pixel, there would be some function of this histogram that is either constant (in practice slowly-varying) or periodic as we move the pixel within the texture. Because the local statistics are pooled from a region around each pixel, a fundamental question in the definition, design, or classification of texture is the area of this region, or “scale”. Some statistics are only stationary when computed at a certain scale, but not at larger and/or smaller scales. The “right” scale thus defines the texture and plays an important role, recognized early in the pioneering work of Julesz [10, 11], with many subsequent attempts to define “elementary texture elements”.

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Textures are important in the analysis of images, as they provide a mid-level representation that is robust to the actual realization (pixel values) [8, 6, 18, 21], so that “segments” of the image that have a consistent texture can be used as “tokens” [14, 16, 22]; this is also important in image modeling, compression and synthesis [27, 7, 17]. An arsenal of different analytical tools has been brought to bear in the analysis of textures, from statistical models to filtering methods, to geometric approaches. Zhu et al. [27] model texture as a Markov random field (MRF), or equivalently the Gibbs distribution. Efros and Leung [7] observe that textures range in between regular (repeating) and stochastic (without explicit textels) and many synthesis methods often fail in preserving the geometric structures. Their synthesis method is based on a statistical non-parametric model that preserves spatial locality. Inspired by Julesz, Zhu et al. and Wu et al. [25, 23] take a mathematical approach and identify a texture by an equivalence class of statistical features. They later connect this idea with MRF texture models by a minimax entropy scheme [26].

In this work, we address the issue of scale in textures head-on. As Zhu et al. [24] point out, the basic texture element, also referred to as “texton” in the MRF literature and considered a fundamental token for pre-attentive visual perception [11], remains a vague concept in need of a better formalization. We provide a characterization of scale that is not restricted to simple statistics, but instead – in a generative framework – we see it as the generator, or “seed,” of a texture using any generative model. Rather than texture modeling and classification, therefore, we focus our attention entirely on determining the size a texton in a given image.

The scale descriptor in this work corresponds to the texton size or texture scale. Many previous works define scale in relation to certain diffusion operators or filters. Lindeberg [12] associates scale with the size of intensity gradient and uses the Gaussian kernel to examine the local scale at each pixel. Brox and Weickert [3] and Strong et al. [20] define scale based on the region size a pixel belongs to. They observe that under the total variation regularization, the inten-

sity change in a pixel is inversely proportional to the region size. In [3], scale is defined as the time taken for a feature to disappear under the TV flow and is applied to accomplish difficult texture segmentation. In [20], scale is the inverse of the intensity change under the TV denoising model [19]. SIFT [13] describes local features in an image by taking the difference of blurred images that are obtained by convolving with Gaussian filters with different variances. These definitions of scale do not take into account the neighborhood statistics so that they cannot provide an intrinsic texture scale that measure the smallest repetitive pattern locally. For regular (or repeated) textures, scale is the size of the smallest image patch that generates a texture by repeating the patch side by side. Wolf et al. [22] use a patch matching criterion to find texture edges and then incorporate it into a region-based active contour model for texture segmentation. Their texture map is successful for segmentation but does not reveal any sign of the correct texton size. For stochastic textures, the spatial relation may not be found and thus may not be obtained by simply stitching textons together. Instead, we take a non-parametric approach and use the entire distribution of the patch to find a texton’s size.

For stationary textures, the intrinsic scale is the size of the smallest domain where the distribution is close to that of any other domain of the same size within the texture. Because in practice the statistics may not be strictly stationary, but slowly-varying instead, in practice we look for the smallest local patch whose probability density function (pdf) is similar to the one computed on its neighboring local patches (which we later call “neighboring patch” for short).

We introduce an intrinsic scale in modeling of texture and use it to improve segmentation models. The intrinsic scale is not uniform across the image domain. This is in contrast to many schemes for texture segmentation where local pdfs are compared, for instance using the Wasserstein distance [15], but they are computed on a local domain the size of which is fixed throughout the image. If the selected size is smaller than the texton, these schemes over-segment the texture; if it is too large, the segmentation may not be accurate because local patches cross over texture boundaries. Not only is the texton size not constant across regions, it may even vary within a texture region, albeit slowly. We believe that by automatically finding the intrinsic scale, histogram-based segmentation will improve its performance. Additionally, the scale can also be added into the data term to distinguish two textons with the same pdf but different scales. Huang et al. [9] also use scale as feature for segmentation. They use a pdf of a local patch to find a best natural scale of textons. However, our model is different in two ways. The first is that our scale finds the intrinsic scale of a texture which is obtained by the size of texton whereas their scale gives a local feature for segmentation but is not necessarily the size of a texton that is

a basic element of texture. The second is that our segmentation model is a convex minimization problem in a variational framework, in which initialization can be arbitrary, whereas they use a probabilistic model that requires proper initializations along with a feature given by filter response.

## 2. Texture Scale

### 2.1. Notations

Let  $I : \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be an observed gray-scale image. Define the local patch  $\mathcal{R}_{x,r}$  around the pixel point  $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \Omega$  with size  $r$  (“radius” in analogy to circles) by:

$$\mathcal{R}_{x,r} = \{z \in \Omega \mid \max_{1,2}\{|x_1 - z_1|, |x_2 - z_2|\} < r\}. \quad (1)$$

Define the neighboring patch of the local patch by:

$$\mathcal{N}_{x,r} = \mathcal{R}_{x,3r} \setminus \mathcal{R}_{x,r}. \quad (2)$$

The local histogram,  $h_{\mathcal{R}}(y)$ , on  $\mathcal{R}$  counts the number of pixels whose intensity is  $y \in [0, 1]$ :

$$h_{\mathcal{R}}(y) = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \delta(y - I(x)) dx, \quad (3)$$

where  $\delta$  is Dirac’s Delta. The probability density function (or normalized histogram),  $P_{\mathcal{R}}$ , on  $\mathcal{R}$  is the probability of a pixel having value  $y \in [0, 1]$ :

$$P_{\mathcal{R}}(y) = \frac{\int_{\mathcal{R}} \delta(y - I(x)) dx}{\int_{\mathcal{R}} dx}. \quad (4)$$

In this paper, histograms are normalized. The cumulative distribution function,  $F_{\mathcal{R}}$ , describes the probability of a pixel having value less than  $y$ , for all  $y \in [0, 1]$ :

$$F_{\mathcal{R}}(y) = \int_0^y P_{\mathcal{R}}(t) dt. \quad (5)$$

The Wasserstein distance with exponent 1 between two probability density functions  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  is:

$$D_W(P_1, P_2) = \int_0^1 |F_1(y) - F_2(y)| dy, \quad (6)$$

where  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are the corresponding cumulative distribution functions. The Kullback-Leibler divergence  $D_{KL}$  from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$  is:

$$D_{KL}(P_1 || P_2) = \int_0^1 P_1(y) \log \frac{P_1(y)}{P_2(y)} dy. \quad (7)$$

The entropy of  $P$  is:

$$H(P) = - \int_0^1 P(y) \log P(y) dy. \quad (8)$$

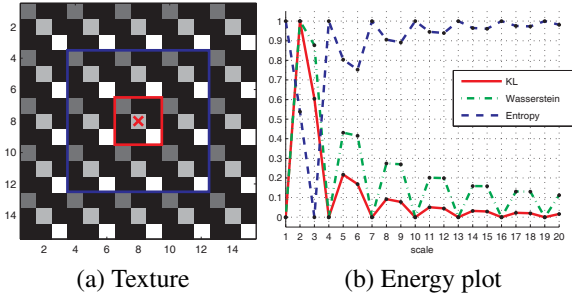


Figure 1. Synthetic texture example: (a) Local patch at ‘X’ (inside the red box) and neighboring patch (between red and blue). (b) Energy vs. patch size. Red: histogram difference using the Kullback-Leibler divergence. Green: histogram difference using the Wasserstein distance. Blue: entropy of the local patch histogram

## 2.2. Description of the scale model

Our proposed scale descriptor is derived by energy minimization of the following model:

$$\inf_r D(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}, P_{\mathcal{N}_{x,r}}) - \alpha H(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}) + \beta r(x), \quad (9)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive design parameters. In the first term,  $D$  is an appropriate measure of the dissimilarity between two probability distributions; for example, we use both the Wasserstein distance  $D_W$  and the Kullback-Leibler divergence  $D_{KL}$  in this paper. The first term of this energy functional measures the difference between the pdf on the local patch and the pdf on the neighboring patch. Minimizing the difference finds a size whose local patch satisfies the histogram matching criterion. The second term maximizes the entropy of  $P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}$ , the complexity of the histogram on the local patch. This term avoids selecting homogeneous patches as textons despite their small difference in the pdf with their neighborhood. The third term penalizes the size  $r$  to find the smallest one among all the ones that satisfy the criterion. To understand the proposed model, we show a synthetic texture example and plot the first and second terms versus the patch size  $r$ , at the indicated pixels. Fig.1 (a) shows a local patch (in red) around pixel ‘X’ and a neighboring patch (in between the blue and red curves). In (b), we look at how the first and second terms of (9) change with respect to  $r$ . The green and red curves are the first terms with the Wasserstein distance and Kullback-Leibler divergence, respectively. The blue curve is the entropy of the histogram on the local patch, whose maxima (patch being most complex) appear periodically when  $r$  is a multiple of the texton size. Minima (satisfy histogram matching criterion) appear periodically at multiples of  $r$ . Therefore, the correct scale should be the smallest one among all arguments of the minimum. In this example, the texton size is 1, or a  $3 \times 3$  patch.

The entropy term is redundant in this example but is necessary in general when there are homogeneous areas within the texton.

Fig.2 is an example consisting of two synthetic textures, on which we select two pixels (A, B and C, D), one closer to the texture edge than the other. From the energy plots, we see that the entropy increases rapidly with the patch size as soon as the patch begins to overlap both texture regions. Therefore, measuring the complexity of a local patch histogram alone is not sufficient to find the scale. The distance between the histograms on the local patch and neighboring patch also increases rapidly as the local patch begins to overlap both textures, indicating the correct texton size has already been passed. This shows an appropriateness of using the histogram matching criterion.

The proposed model (9) finds the local scale of a texture. However, it may not be accurate at locations near texture edges, due to the nature of patches. Fig.3 (a) marks three locations, one at the left texture, one near the texture edge, and one on the right texture. The histogram differences by both Wasserstein distance in (c) and Kullback-Leibler divergence in (d) attain local minima periodically because both local and neighboring patches are almost symmetric about the texture edge when the patch size is large. Therefore, histogram comparison must be modified in order to find the correct scale especially for the pixels in the vicinity of the boundary of different textures. We propose the following modification of model (9):

$$\inf_r D^*(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}, P_{\mathcal{N}_{x,r}}) - \alpha H(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}) + \beta r(x) \quad (10)$$

and

$$D^*(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}, P_{\mathcal{N}_{x,r}}) = \min_i D(P_{\mathcal{R}_{x,r}}, P_{\mathcal{N}_{x,r,i}}), \quad (11)$$

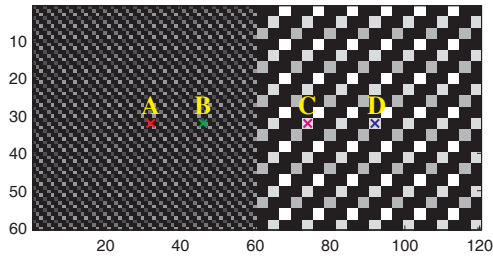
and  $\mathcal{N}_{x,r,i}$  is a sub-neighboring patch within  $\mathcal{N}_{x,r}$  whose size is  $r$ . For computational efficiency, 8 sub-neighboring patches are pre-defined as follows:

$$\{\mathcal{R}_{(x_1+2r, x_2+2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1, x_2+2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1-2r, x_2+2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1-2r, x_2), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1-2r, x_2-2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1, x_2-2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1+2r, x_2-2r), r}, \mathcal{R}_{(x_1+2r, x_2), r}\}.$$

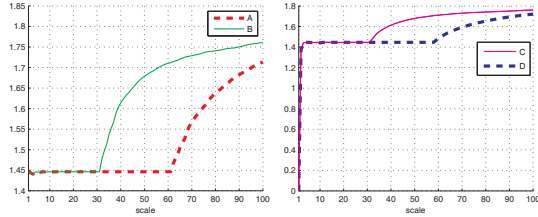
Numerically, the proposed models are solved in the discrete setting, instead of the standard PDE method that derives the Euler-Lagrange equations of the energy functionals (9) and (10), followed by steepest descent. This is because  $r$  is a discrete variable. Moreover, as also seen in the energy plots, the proposed model has many local minima, thus the steepest descent method does not find a global minimum.

## 3. Texture Segmentation

In this section, we utilize scale and propose an unsupervised texture segmentation model. Our model is adapted

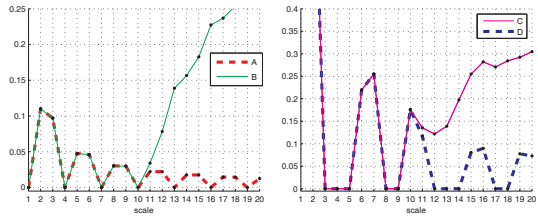


(a) Two textures



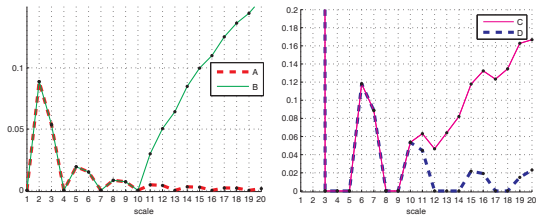
(b) Entropy

(c) Entropy



(d) Wasserstein

(e) Wasserstein

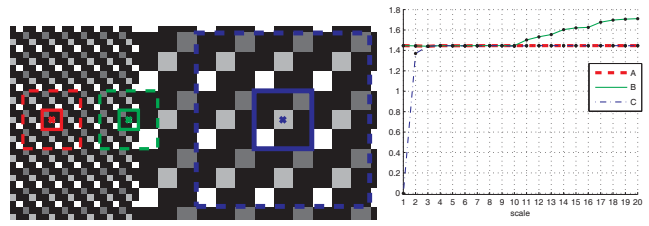


(f) KL divergence

(g) KL divergence

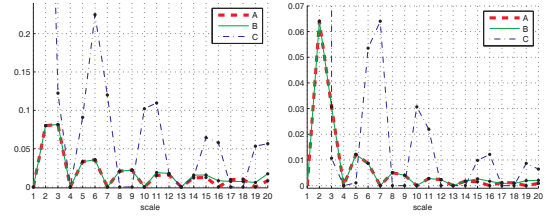
Figure 2. Image consisting of two synthetic textures. (a) Mark two locations A, B on the left texture and two locations C, D on the right. (b) Entropy vs. size of local patch at A and B. (c) Entropy vs. size of local patch at C and D. (d) Histogram difference vs. size with Kullback-Leibler divergence at A and B. (e) Histogram difference vs. size with Kullback-Leibler divergence at C and D. (f) Histogram difference vs. size with Wasserstein distance at A and B. (g) Histogram difference vs. size with Wasserstein distance at C and D

from the histogram based segmentation [15], a two-phase nonparametric region-based active contour that uses local histograms as image features. The model partitions the image domain into two regions so that the local histograms within each region are homogeneous. In [15], the local histograms have a uniform patch size and we propose to use an adaptive scale. In addition, we use scale as an image feature in the segmentation model. We give an example to show that scale plays an important role. Fig.4 (a) is an image con-



(a) Location B at texture edge

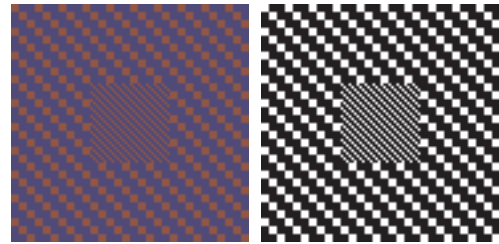
(b) Entropy



(c) Wasserstein

(d) KL divergence

Figure 3. Image consisting of two synthetic textures. (a) Mark three locations A on the left texture, B near the texture edge and B on the right. (b) Entropy vs. size of local patch at each location. (c) Histogram difference vs. size with Kullback-Leibler divergence at each location. (d) Histogram difference vs. size with Kullback-Leibler divergence at each location.



(a) Texture

(b) Intensity



(c) Scale 1

(d) Scale 4

Figure 4. (a) Image consisting of two synthetic textures with the same histogram but different scales. (b) Segmentation by using intensity [5]. (c) Histogram based segmentation with scale  $r = 1$ . (d) Histogram based segmentation with scale  $r = 4$ .

sisting of two textures with the same histogram but different scales. The segmentation result in (b) is by the two-phase piecewise constant active contour model [5], indicated by the intensities black and white. The partition is within textures and does not distinguish textures, because two textures have the same intensity mean. In (c), we show the parti-

tion using histogram-based segmentation model with global scale  $r = 1$ . The partition captures the inner texture but also includes partial outer texture, because the scale is too small for the outer region. In (d), the global scale  $r = 4$  is large enough and two textures are considered the same because they have the same histogram. To distinguish them, scale has to be added as an image feature in the segmentation model.

Our proposed model uses scale for characterizing histograms and also as an image feature, as shown in the following:

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} & \min_{0 \leq u \leq 1, P_1, P_2, r_1, r_2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| \\ & + \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_1 D_W(P_1, P_{x,r(x)}) + \lambda_2 (r_1 - r(x))^2] u(x) dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_1 D_W(P_2, P_{x,r(x)}) + \lambda_2 (r_2 - r(x))^2] (1 - u(x)) dx, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are positive parameters. Minimizing this energy functional separates the image domain into two so that the local histograms within each region are homogeneous and the scale intensities are homogeneous within each region. The first term penalizes the total length of the object boundary. The second and third are fidelity terms. The partition can be obtained by the following thresholding:  $\Omega = \{u \leq 0.5\} \cup \{u > 0.5\}$ .  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the optimal histograms in each region;  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are the approximated scale constants in each region.

The minimization of (12) can be approximated by a three-step scheme, using the methods in [15] and [2]. First, we fix  $u$ ,  $r_1$ , and  $r_2$  and minimize with respect to  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . The optimality conditions yield

$$\int u(x) \frac{F_1(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)}{|F_1(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)|} dx = 0$$

and

$$\int [1 - u(x)] \frac{F_2(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)}{|F_2(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)|} dx = 0,$$

respectively, for each  $0 \leq y \leq L$ . Therefore,

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} F_1(y) &= \text{weighted median of } F_{x,r(x)}(y) \\ &\text{with weight } u(x), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} F_2(y) &= \text{weighted median of } F_{x,r(x)}(y) \\ &\text{with weight } (1 - u(x)). \end{aligned}$$

Second, fixing  $u$ ,  $F_1$ , and  $F_2$  and minimizing with respect to  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  gives

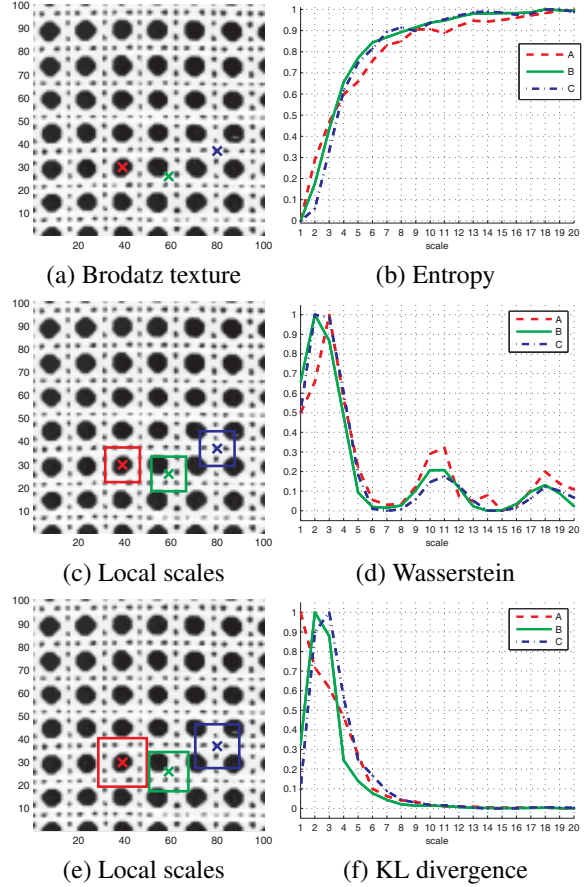


Figure 5. Brodatz texture image. (a) Mark three locations A, B, and C. (b) Entropy vs. size of local patch at A, B, and C. (c) Selected scales by our proposed model using Wasserstein distance at A, B, and C. (d) Histogram difference vs. size with Wasserstein distance at A, B, and C. (e) Selected scales by proposed model using Kullback-Leibler divergence at A, B, and C. (f) Histogram difference vs. size with Wasserstein distance at A, B, and C. (g) Histogram difference vs. size with Kullback-Leibler divergence at A, B, and C.

$$(15) \quad r_1 = \int_{\Omega} r(x)u(x)dx / \int_{\Omega} u(x)dx,$$

and

$$(16) \quad r_2 = \int_{\Omega} r(x)(1 - u(x))dx / \int_{\Omega} (1 - u(x))dx.$$

Third, fixing  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ , minimization in  $u$  can be solved efficiently by using the methods in [4] and [2]. The regularization term and the data terms in (12) can be decoupled by adding a new variable  $v$  in a convex term:

$$\min_{u, 0 \leq v \leq 1} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x)| dx + \frac{1}{2\theta} \int_{\Omega} (u(x) - v(x))^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} f(x)v(x) dx, \quad (17)$$

where  $f(x) = \lambda_1 \int_0^L |F_1(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)| - |F_2(y) - F_{x,r(x)}(y)| dy + \lambda_2 [(r_1 - r(x))^2 - (r_2 - r(x))^2]$ , and  $\theta$  is a scalar parameter that is sufficiently small.

The convex minimization problem (17) can be solved the following coupled problems, alternately:

$$\min_u \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x)| + \frac{1}{2\theta} (u(x) - v(x))^2 dx \quad (18)$$

and

$$\min_{0 \leq v \leq 1} \frac{1}{2\theta} \int_{\Omega} (u(x) - v(x))^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} f(x)v(x) dx. \quad (19)$$

Equation (18) can be solved efficiently by the Chambolle's method [4], based on the dual formulation of the total variation norm,  $\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x)| dx = \sup \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u \operatorname{div} p \, dx \mid p \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^2) : |p(x)| \leq 1, \forall x \in \Omega \right\}$ . The solution is

$$u(x) = v(x) - \theta \operatorname{div} p(x), \quad (20)$$

where  $p$  solves the equation  $\nabla(\theta \operatorname{div} p - v) - |\nabla(\theta \operatorname{div} p - v)|p = 0$ , which is solved by a fixed point method,

$$p^{n+1} = \frac{p^n + \delta t \nabla(\operatorname{div} p^n - v/\theta)}{1 + \delta t |(\operatorname{div} p^n - v/\theta)|}. \quad (21)$$

The solution of (19) is [2]:

$$v(x) = \max\{\min\{u(x) - \theta f(x), 1\}, 0\}. \quad (22)$$

The minimization scheme iterates (13), (14), (15), (16), (21), (20), and (22) alternately, until convergence. The discretization of  $\operatorname{div}$  and  $\nabla$  are the same as described in [4, 2].

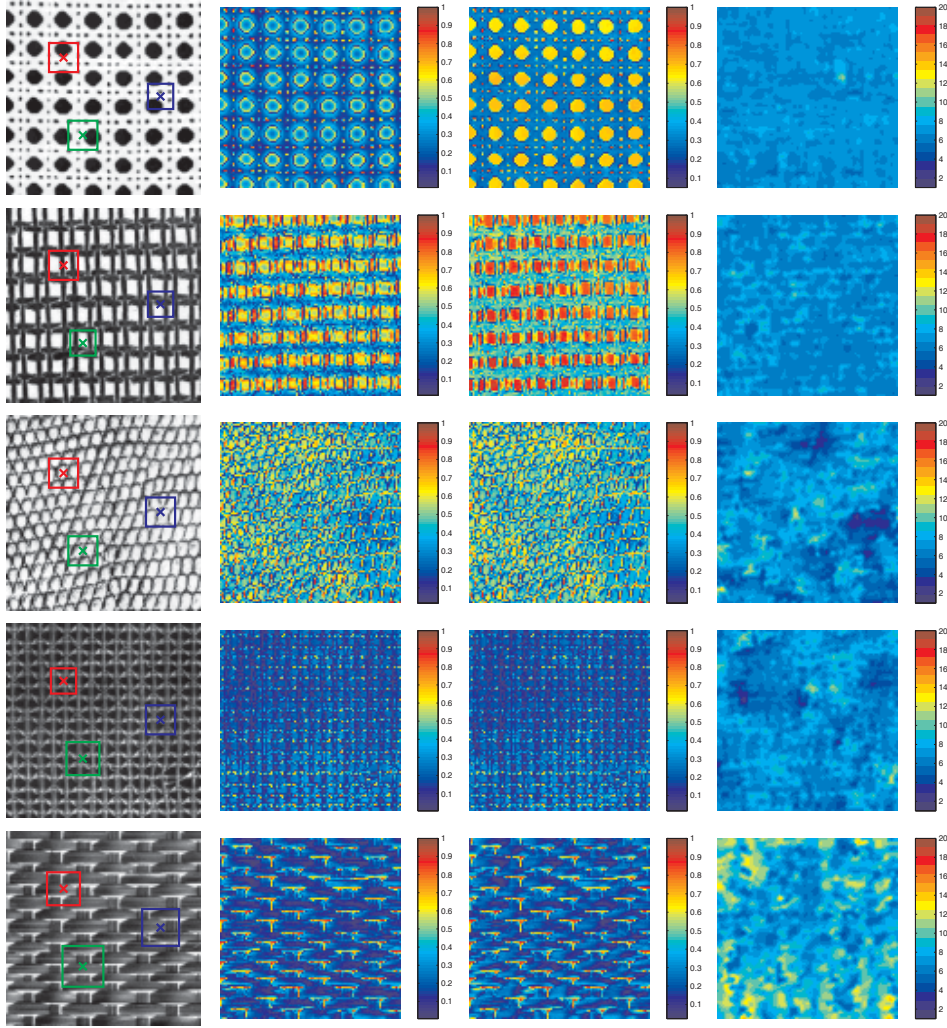
## 4. Experiments

We first show experimental results of the proposed scale model on several Brodatz textures. Fig.5(a) shows three arbitrarily chosen pixels on a Brodatz texture. In (b), the curve of entropy versus patch size at each indicated pixel is increasing and does not have a global maximum as patch size continues to increase. The histograms gain complexity as the patch size increases and there is no clear sign of the correct scale according to these curves, which emphasizes that entropy alone is not enough to find the scale.

On the contrary, in (d), we see that the histogram difference (using the Wasserstein distance) versus patch size obtains a global minimum and the texture size can be clearly identified at the first minimum from the left, away from  $r = 0$ . In (c), the scale at each indicated pixel by the proposed model with the Wasserstein distance is accurate. In (f), the histogram difference versus patch size plot shows that the Kullback-Leibler divergence captures the characteristics to some extent but not as well as the Wasserstein distance. The selected scale shown in (e) is roughly correct. The reason of the Wasserstein distance outperforming the Kullback-Leibler divergence in this experiment is that the Wasserstein distance overcomes the deficiency of pointwise metrics, as addressed in [15].

Fig.6 shows five Brodatz textures in column (a) and their scale maps by Tikhonov flow [12] in column (b), by TV flow [1, 3] in column (c), and by the proposed model in column (d). We use our own implementation of [1, 3, 12] in this experiment. The scale maps for these textures are expected to be homogeneous and only our model captures this characteristic. The parameters are  $\alpha = 0.001$  and  $\beta = 0.1$  in (9) for all five textures. We show in column (a) the scales obtained by our model at three arbitrarily selected locations which are accurate and agree with visual perception. In the first row, the scale map by Tikhonov flow highlights the edge of circles because the scale is associated with intensity gradients. The scale map by TV flow (d) highlights the circle regions since the scale is proportional to the size of a homogeneous region. Neither of the previous scale descriptors compute the size of the texture. We also apply the proposed scale model to several natural images from the Berkeley Segmentation Dataset as shown in the following.

Fig.7 shows the scale maps of the given images and compares the histogram based segmentation model [15] and the proposed model. Column (a) shows the given natural images. Columns (b), (c), and (d) are the segmentation results by [15] with global scale  $r = 4, 16$ , and  $32$ , respectively. In the top row, in (b) with  $r = 4$ , the segmentation selects within the cheetah patterns at some locations because the global scale is too small for those locations. In (c) (with  $r = 16$ ) and in (d) (with  $r = 32$ ), segmentation does not partition within the cheetah patterns but does not fall on the boundary accurately. This is because the global scale is too large, resulting in many patches crossing over both regions. The scale maps in (e) describe correctly each object region by a homogeneous scale and each background region by another homogeneous scale. The results in (f) by the proposed model with scale improve the segmentation results significantly. Computational time for measuring scale and performing segmentation is less than five minutes in total for  $1024 \times 1024$  images.



(a) Brodatz textures (b) Tikhonov scale map (c) TV scale map (d) Proposed scale map

Figure 6. Comparison of scale maps with other methods on Brodatz texture images. (a) Brodatz texture images with patches with texton scales obtained by our model at arbitrarily selected pixels. (b) Scale map by Tikhonov flow. (c) Scale map by TV flow. (d) Scale map by the proposed model with  $\alpha = 0.001$  and  $\beta = 0.1$ .

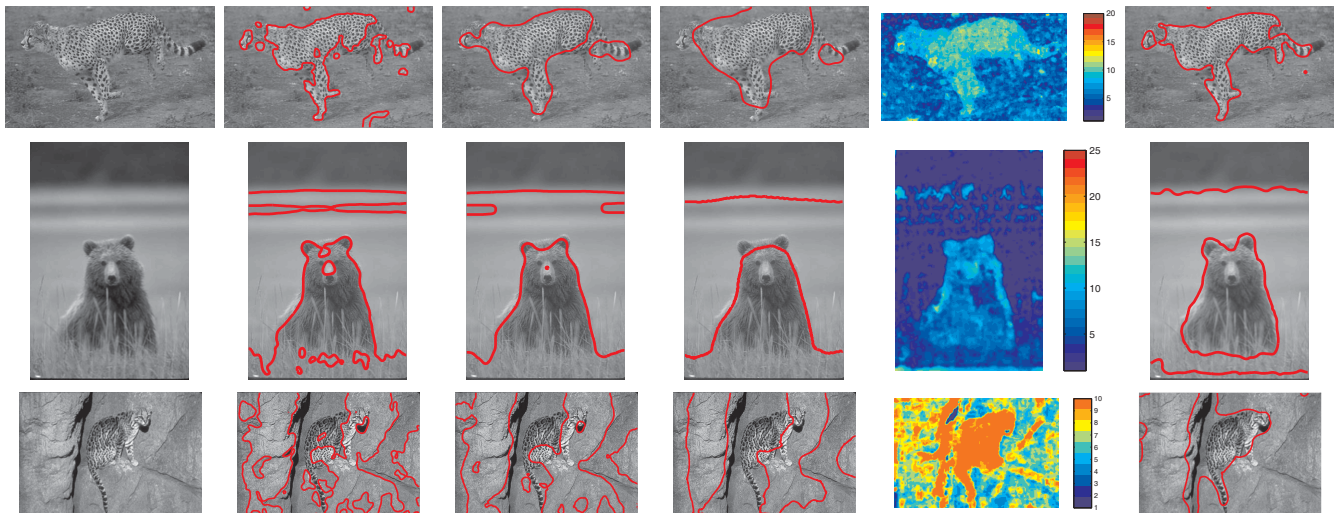
## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

In this work, we define a scale descriptor associated with texture. We propose a nonparametric model that seeks the scale by matching histograms in a self-repeating manner. The proposed energy functional consists of three terms. The first finds a size that satisfies a histogram matching criterion that compares the local patch with the neighboring patch. The second maximizes the complexity of a patch to avoid choosing the wrong size when there are homogeneous regions within a texton. The third penalizes the size because the texton is the smallest element that generates a texture. We show that these three terms are not redundant. We also propose a modified model suited for finding the scale near texture edges. Furthermore, we use scale as an image fea-

ture and also use it for characterizing local histograms in the proposed segmentation model. Our segmentation results on several natural images show an improvement over approaches that rely on a fixed scale.

## References

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(a) Image (b) Scale 4 (c) Scale 16 (d) Scale 32 (e) Scale map (f) Proposed model

Figure 7. (a) Image. (b) Segmentation with global scale  $r = 4$ . (c) Segmentation with global scale  $r = 16$ . (d) Segmentation with global scale  $r = 32$ . (e) Scale map by the proposed model. (f) Segmentation by proposed model.

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