

Geometric Total Variation for Image Vectorization, Zooming and ~~Pixel Art~~ Depixelizing Pixel Art

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Work initially presented during the
Asian Conference on Pattern Recognition 2019



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Context and Motivation

Variational formulation of Image Structuration

Vectorized contour regularization

Zoomed image with smooth spline contours

Experiments

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Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Image zooming x16

Image Vectorization

Pixel Art Depixelizing

input



raster x16



vector image



raster x16

output



[Roussos-Maragios]



[Potrace]



[Kopf, Lischinsky]

Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Image zooming x16

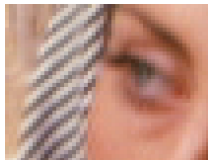
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raster x16



vector image

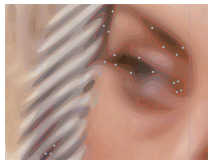


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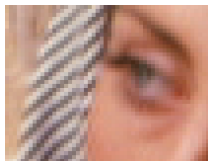
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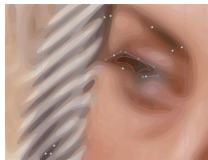


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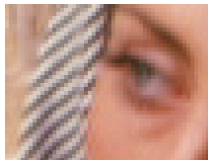
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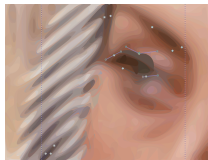


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Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Method	Photo	Quant. image	Math. model	Sample	Min-max
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Image zooming \Rightarrow non editable raster image					
Interpolation	fair	smooth	C^k fcts	yes	yes/no
Reprojection	good	bad	variational	no	no
CNN	good	bad	learning	no	no

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levelsets	fair/bad	good	contour	no	yes
Delaunay	fair/bad	good	geometry	no	yes

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Our approach: raster + vector image

Geom. TV	good	good	variational	yes	yes
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A Geometric Total Variation I

- ▶ **Idea**: find linear structures in image before zooming/vectorizing
- ▶ **Total Variation (TV)**: classical energy for image restoration, inpainting
- ▶ Continuous TV: image/function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$, some norm $\|\cdot\|_K$

$$TV(f) := \int_{\Omega} \|\nabla f(x)\|_K dx, \quad (\text{or by duality})$$

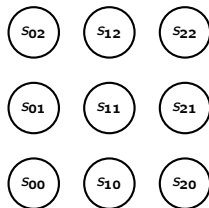
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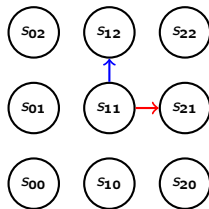
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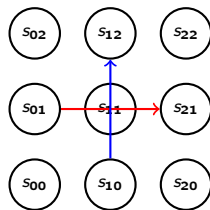
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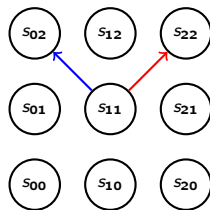
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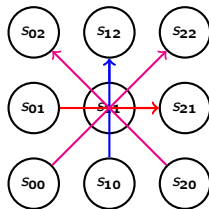
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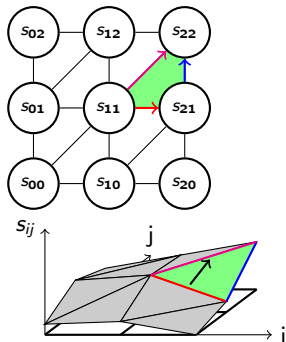


A Geometric Total Variation II

► $\mathcal{T}(\Omega)$: Set of triangulation of $\Omega \cap \mathbb{Z}^2$

► $\widehat{\text{grad}}$ per triangle:

$$\widehat{\text{grad}} s(\mathbf{pqr}) := s(\mathbf{p})(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{q})^\perp + s(\mathbf{q})(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{r})^\perp + s(\mathbf{r})(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p})^\perp.$$



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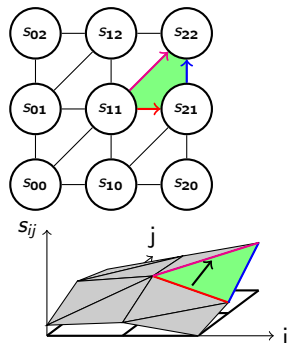
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$$\text{GTV}(T, s) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{pqr} \in T} \left\| \widehat{\text{grad}} s(\mathbf{pqr}) \right\|_K$$



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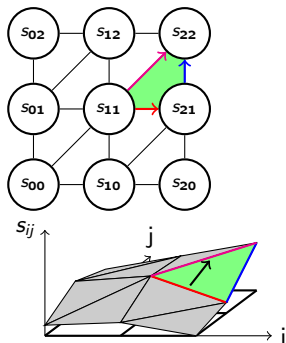
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- Minimizing $\text{GTV}(T, s)$ for $T \in \mathcal{T}(\Omega)$
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 $f(x, y) = s(x, y)$ on lattice points (for all components R,G,B).



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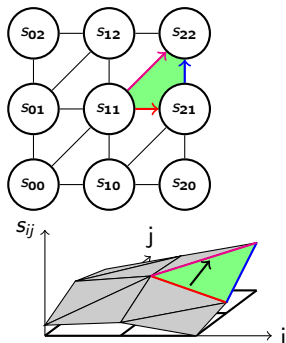
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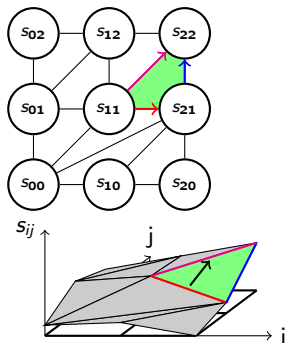
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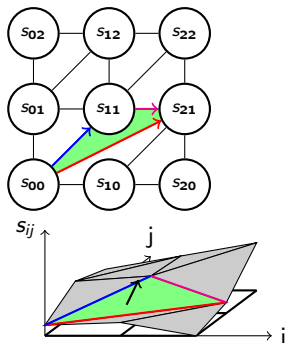
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Example of GTV

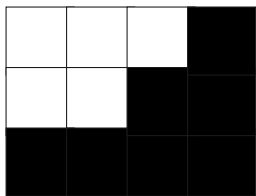
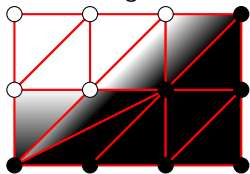
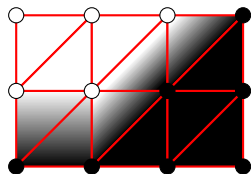


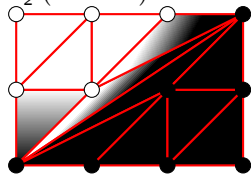
image s



$$\frac{1}{2} (1 + \sqrt{5} + 2\sqrt{2}) \approx 3.032$$



$$\frac{1}{2} (2 + 3\sqrt{2}) \approx 3.121$$



$$\frac{1}{2} (1 + \sqrt{13} + \sqrt{2}) \approx 3.010$$

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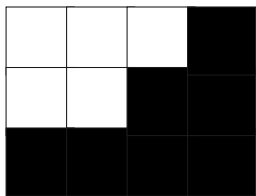
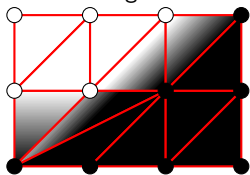
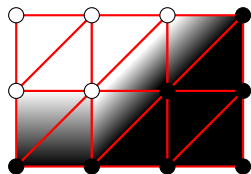


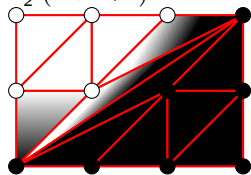
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- ▶ Optimal triangulations for GTV align with digital straight lines

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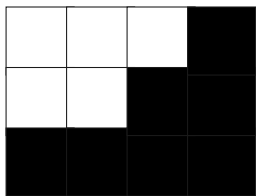
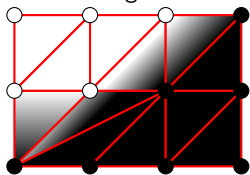
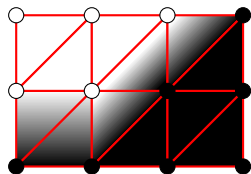


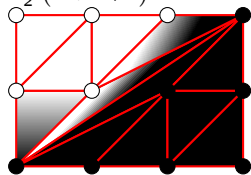
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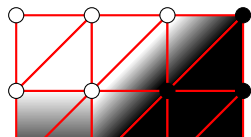
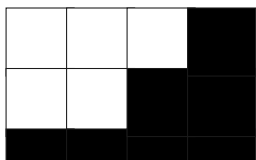
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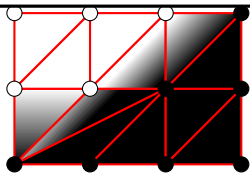
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- ▶ GTV structures the image along strong gradients / linear features

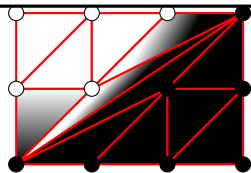
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Optimal triangulation is a **vectorized** representation of image s .



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Optimization algorithm for GTV

Greedy randomized optimization algorithm

Start Image s , trivial triangulation T of $\text{Domain}(s)$

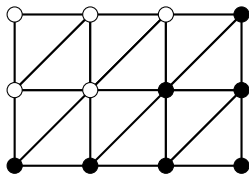
Process by rounds edges that may decrease GTV are queued

Greedy optimization flip an edge of T if it decreases energy $\text{GTV}(T, s)$
or

Randomized if it does not change $\text{GTV}(T, s)$ with a probability $\frac{1}{2}$

Update arcs surrounding a flip are queued for next round

Stop when no *decreasing* flip occurred in last round



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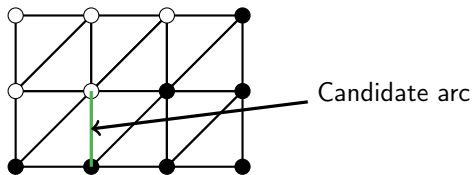
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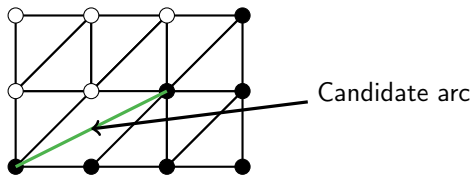
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Greedy randomized optimization algorithm

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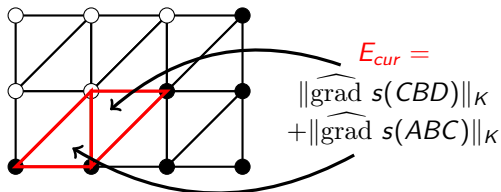
Process by rounds edges that may decrease GTV are queued

Greedy optimization flip an edge of T if it decreases energy $\text{GTV}(T, s)$
or

Randomized if it does not change $\text{GTV}(T, s)$ with a probability $\frac{1}{2}$

Update arcs surrounding a flip are queued for next round

Stop when no *decreasing* flip occurred in last round



Optimization algorithm for GTV

Greedy randomized optimization algorithm

Start Image s , trivial triangulation T of $\text{Domain}(s)$

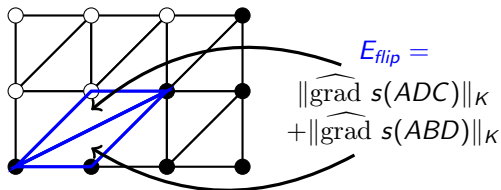
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Optimization algorithm for GTV

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Start Image s , trivial triangulation T of $\text{Domain}(s)$

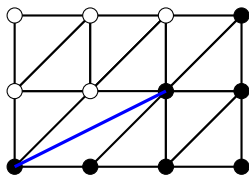
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Update arcs surrounding a flip are queued for next round

Stop when no *decreasing* flip occurred in last round



Flip arc since

$$E_{flip} < E_{cur}$$

Optimization algorithm for GTV

Greedy randomized optimization algorithm

Start Image s , trivial triangulation T of $\text{Domain}(s)$

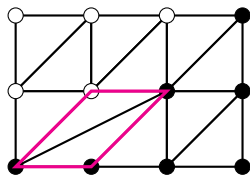
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or

Randomized if it does not change $\text{GTV}(T, s)$ with a probability $\frac{1}{2}$

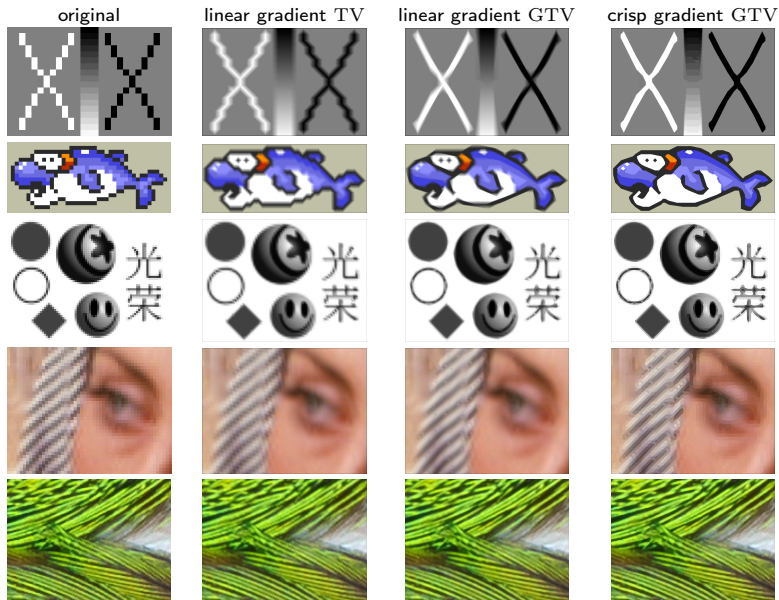
Update arcs surrounding a flip are queued for next round

Stop when no *decreasing* flip occurred in last round



Put nearby arcs in queue

Results of GTV: rasterized at $\times 16$



Geometric Total Variation for Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Context and Motivation

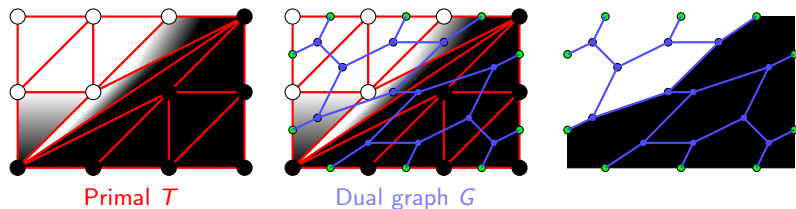
Variational formulation of Image Structuration

Vectorized contour regularization

Zoomed image with smooth spline contours

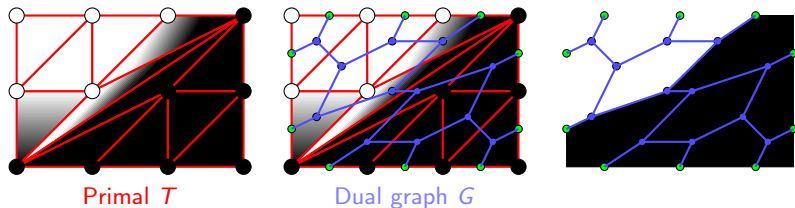
Experiments

Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

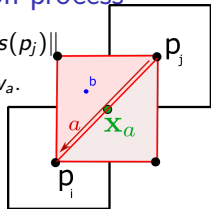
Contour extraction and regularization



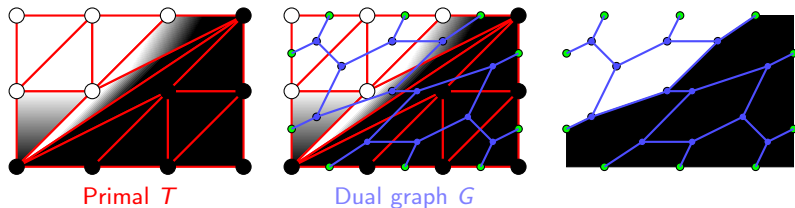
- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .



Contour extraction and regularization



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- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

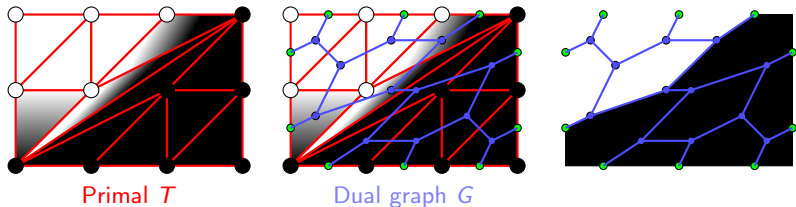
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- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence



iteration 0

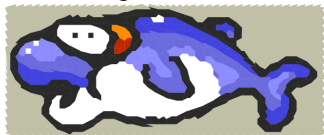
Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

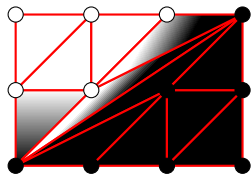
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- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence

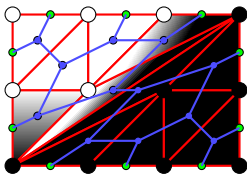


iteration 1

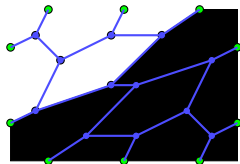
Contour extraction and regularization



Primal T



Dual graph G



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

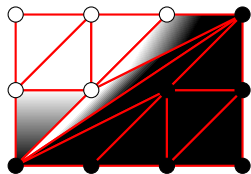
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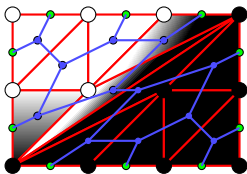


iteration 2

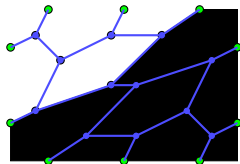
Contour extraction and regularization



Primal T



Dual graph G



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

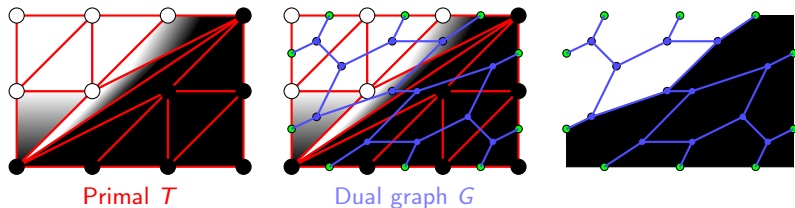
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence



iteration 3

Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

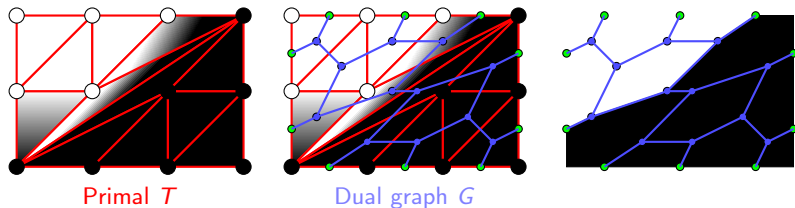
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence



iteration 4

Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

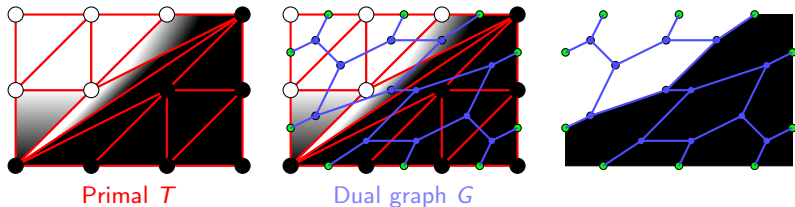
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence



iteration 5

Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

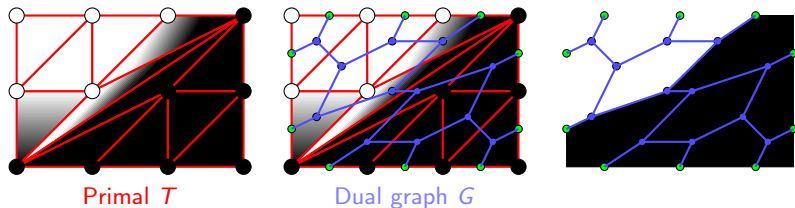
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence



iteration 6

Contour extraction and regularization



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

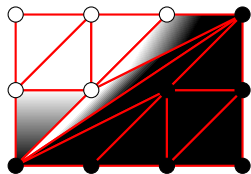
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
- ▶ 10 iterations for convergence

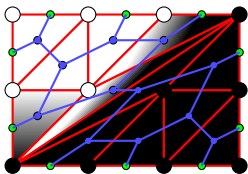


iteration 7

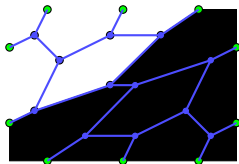
Contour extraction and regularization



Primal T



Dual graph G



- ▶ Contours are in-between pixels \Rightarrow Dual graph G of T
- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

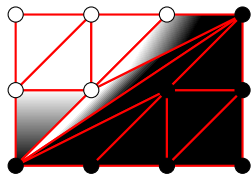
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

- ▶ Dissimilarity weights on arcs $a = (p_i, p_j) : w_a = \|s(p_i) - s(p_j)\|$
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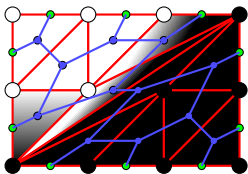


iteration 8

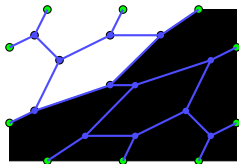
Contour extraction and regularization



Primal T



Dual graph G



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- ▶ One pixel per dual face \Rightarrow One color per dual face

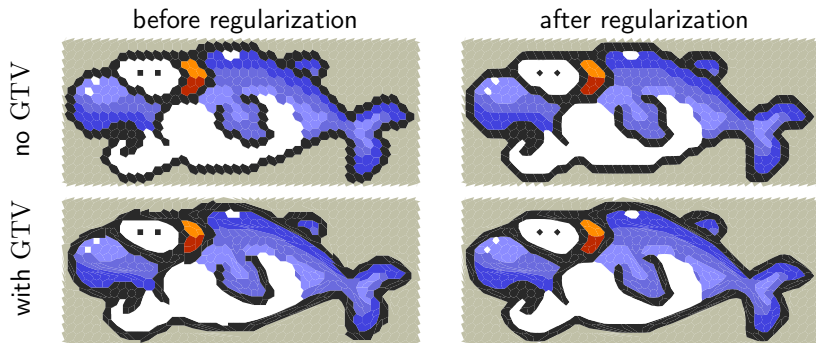
Dual graph improved by a variational regularization process

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- ▶ Barycenters b_i are made closer to arcs of T with strong w_a .
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iteration 9

Importance of both GTV and contour regularization



Geometric Total Variation for Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Context and Motivation

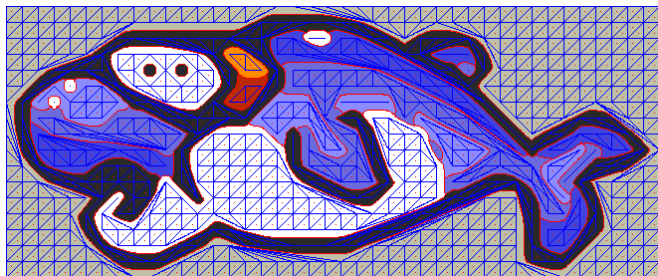
Variational formulation of Image Structuration

Vectorized contour regularization

Zoomed image with smooth spline contours

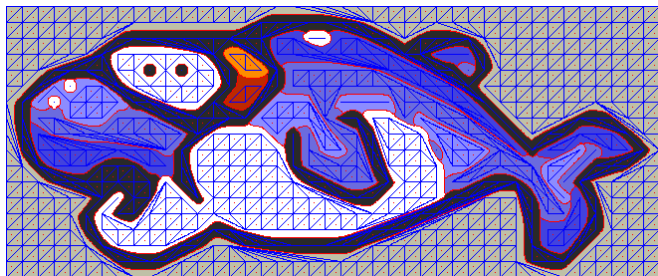
Experiments

Raster approach to spline contours



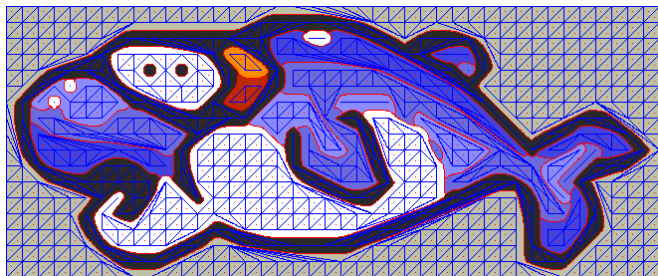
1. Draw a **similarity graph** S along arcs with weight $w_a = 0$

Raster approach to spline contours



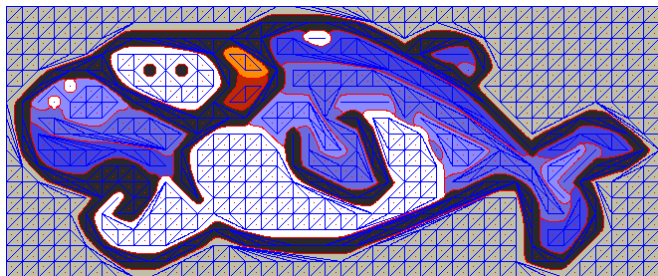
1. Draw a **similarity graph** S along arcs with weight $w_a = 0$
2. Point x_a are intersection of arc a with regularized contour

Raster approach to spline contours



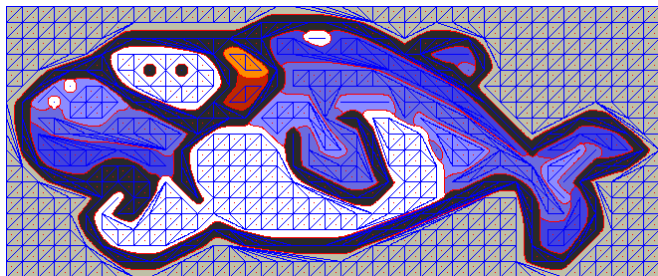
1. Draw a **similarity graph** S along arcs with weight $w_a = 0$
2. Point x_a are intersection of arc a with regularized contour
3. Draw a **contour graph** C with Bezier curves between dissimilar x in each triangle

Raster approach to spline contours



1. Draw a **similarity graph** S along arcs with weight $w_a = 0$
2. Point x_a are intersection of arc a with regularized contour
3. Draw a **contour graph** C with Bezier curves between dissimilar x in each triangle
4. Voronoi maps for S and C : each pixel p has closest point on S and C

Raster approach to spline contours



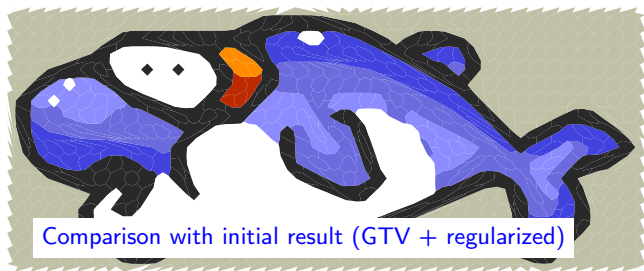
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2. Point x_a are intersection of arc a with regularized contour
3. Draw a **contour graph** C with Bezier curves between dissimilar x in each triangle
4. Voronoi maps for S and C : each pixel p has closest point on S and C
5. Interpolation between S and C : $\text{color}(\text{pixel } p) = \text{mix color closest points on } S \text{ and } C$, according to distances and some stiffness parameter β .

Raster approach to spline contours



1. Draw a **similarity graph** S along arcs with weight $w_a = 0$
2. Point x_a are intersection of arc a with regularized contour
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6. Colors on original pixels are kept !

Raster approach to spline contours



1. Draw a **similarity graph** S alongs arcs with weight $w_a = 0$
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Geometric Total Variation for Image Vectorization, Zooming and Pixel Art Depixelizing

Context and Motivation

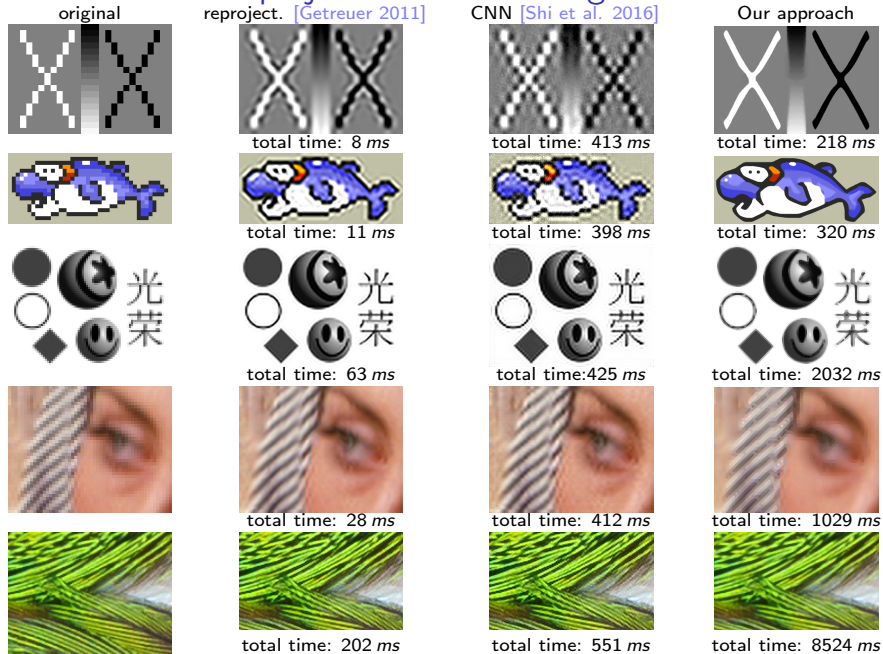
Variational formulation of Image Structuration

Vectorized contour regularization

Zoomed image with smooth spline contours

Experiments

Zoomed $\times 16$ vs reprojection and learning methods



Other comparisons

Depixelizing [Kopf, Lischinsky]



time: ≈ 500 ms



time: ≈ 500 ms

vector magic [vectorMagic10]

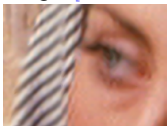


time: ≈ 2000 ms



time: ≈ 2000 ms

Roussos-Maragos [Roussos-Maragios]



total time : 503 ms



time: ≈ 5000 ms

Hq4x [Stepin]



total time : 158 ms

Hq4x(Hq4x) [Stepin]



total time: 152 ms

Hq4x [Stepin]



total time : 142 ms

Hq4x(Hq4x) [Stepin]



total time: 320 ms

Pixel art / quantified images



Play yourself: online demonstrators

- ▶ Our code with GitHub Repository:

<https://github.com/kerautret/GTVimageVect>

- ▶ Our online demonstration :

<https://ipolcore.ipol.im/demo/clientApp/demo.html?id=280>

Play yourself: online demonstrators

- ▶ Our code with GitHub Repository:

<https://github.com/kerautret/GTVimageVect>

- ▶ Our online demonstration :

<https://ipolcore.ipol.im/demo/clientApp/demo.html?id=280>

- ▶ Other demonstrations of compared works can be reproduced online:

- ▶ Convolutional Neural Network for Subpixel Super-Resolution [Shi et al. 2016] :
<https://ipolcore.ipol.im/demo/clientApp/demo.html?id=77777000078>
- ▶ Super resolution with HQx Algorithm [Stepin] :
<https://ipolcore.ipol.im/demo/clientApp/demo.html?id=77777000079>
- ▶ Image Interpolation with Geometric Contour Stencils [Getreuer 2011] :
http://demo.ipol.im/demo/g_interpolation_geometric_contour_stencils
- ▶ Vector-valued image interpolation by an anisotropic diffusion-projection PDE [Roussos-Maragios] :
http://demo.ipol.im/demo/g_roussos_diffusion_interpolation
- ▶ [Vector Magic Inc] : <http://vectormagic.com>.
- ▶ Depixelizing [Kopf, Lischinsky] and Potrace [Potrace] through Inkscape:
<https://inkscape.org/>

Conclusion

- ▶ A sound variational model for image zooming, image vectorization and pixel art depixelizing
- ▶ Reproducible research, online demos
- ▶ Future works include: quantitative error analysis, improved energy model, GPU implementation for real-time

Visit <https://github.com/kerautret/GTVimageVect> !

Conclusion

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- ▶ Reproducible research, online demos
- ▶ Future works include: quantitative error analysis, improved energy model, GPU implementation for real-time

Visit <https://github.com/kerautret/GTVimageVect> !

**Thank you for your attention !
Any questions ?**

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