

PDEs in Image Processing

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Abstract

Before the synthesis of partial differential equations into image processing, images were treated as groups of individual pixels and edited pixel by pixel. In Modern Day image processing, which is a very new area of applied mathematics, images are considered to be continuous functions, and are convoluted with other functions to process them. In two dimensions, the process of denoising, or blurring, happens when the image function is convoluted with the Gaussian function and used to solve the heat equation. In three dimensions, we use the Perona-Malik model to treat our picture. In both cases, solutions to the partial differential equations involve numerical analysis, a tool which will be used to demonstrate how denoising works through real-life example.

Summary

We first introduce an image as a continuous function.

$$f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} r(x, y) \\ g(x, y) \\ b(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$$

2D: We use the convolution of the image function and the Gaussian function,

$$(G_\sigma * u_0)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} G_\sigma(x - y) u_0(y) dy$$

to solve the diffusion partial differential equation.

$$\partial_t u(x, t) = \nabla \cdot (C(u, x, t) \nabla u(x, t))$$

3D: We use the Perona-Malik model.

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \nabla \cdot (c(|\nabla u|^2) \nabla u) & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, +\infty) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 & \text{in } \partial\Omega \times (0, +\infty) \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

References

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