

Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

Thomas C. M. Lee

`tlee@sta.cuhk.edu.hk, tlee@stat.colostate.edu`

Chinese University of Hong Kong & Colorado State University

Joint work with **Alex Young** and the SaFeDe Solar Imaging Group

Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal

Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- Solution - two stages:
 1. Detection (pretty much done)

Outline

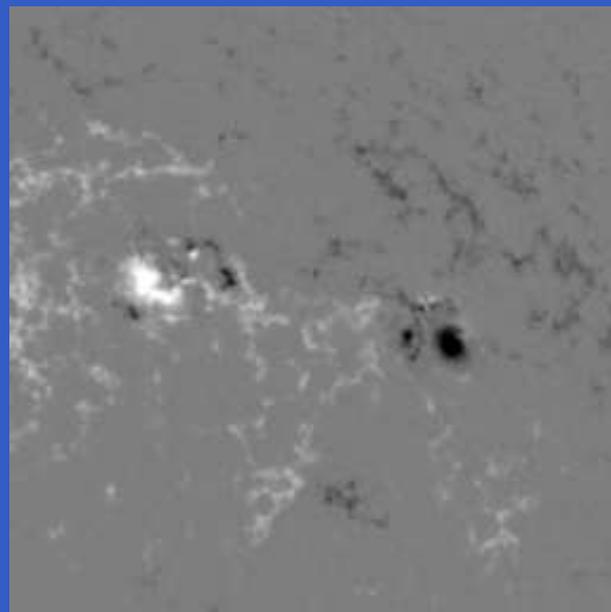
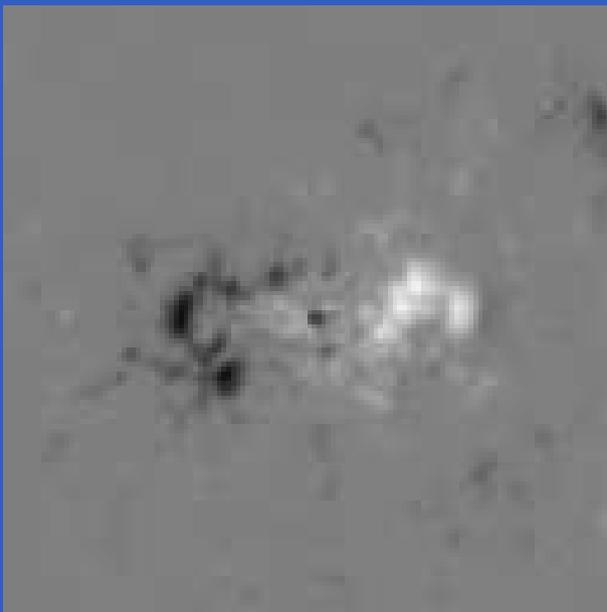
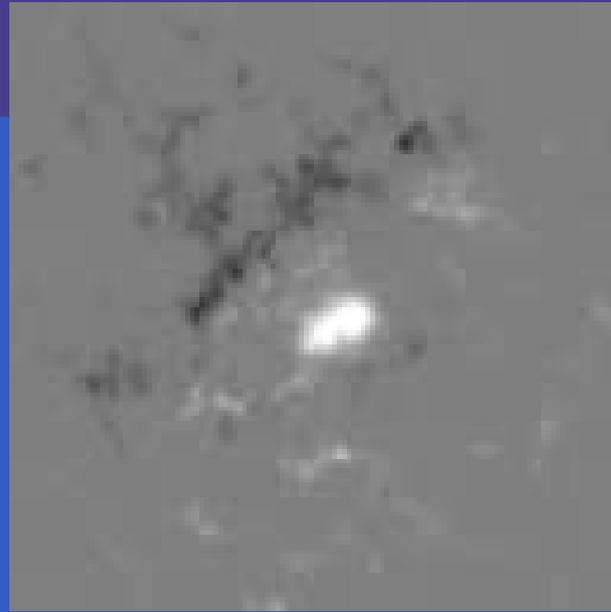
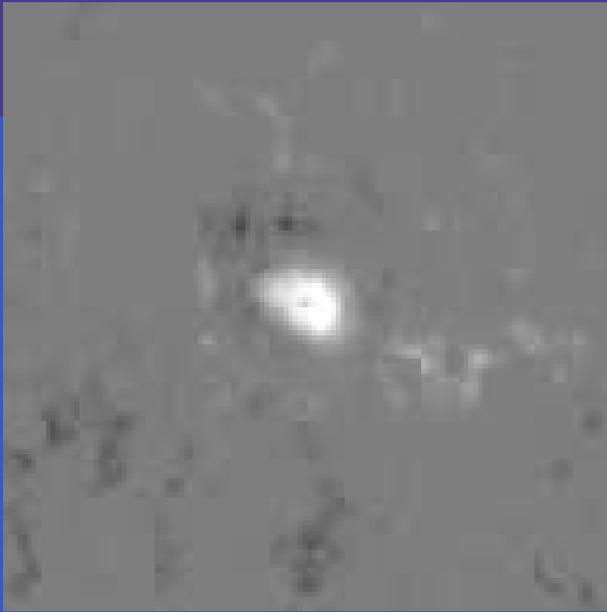
Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- Solution - two stages:
 1. Detection (pretty much done)
 2. Classification (in progress)
 - spatial complexity measure
 - separating line

Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- Solution - two stages:
 1. Detection (pretty much done)
 2. Classification (in progress)
 - spatial complexity measure
 - separating line
- Future Work



Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots

Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares

Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:

Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:
 1. α : a unipolar sunspot group

Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:
 1. α : a unipolar sunspot group
 2. β : have both positive and negative polarities, with a simple and distinct division separating them

Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:
 1. α : a unipolar sunspot group
 2. β : have both positive and negative polarities, with a simple and distinct division separating them
 3. $\beta\gamma$: no single, simple, continuous line can be drawn between the positive and negative spots

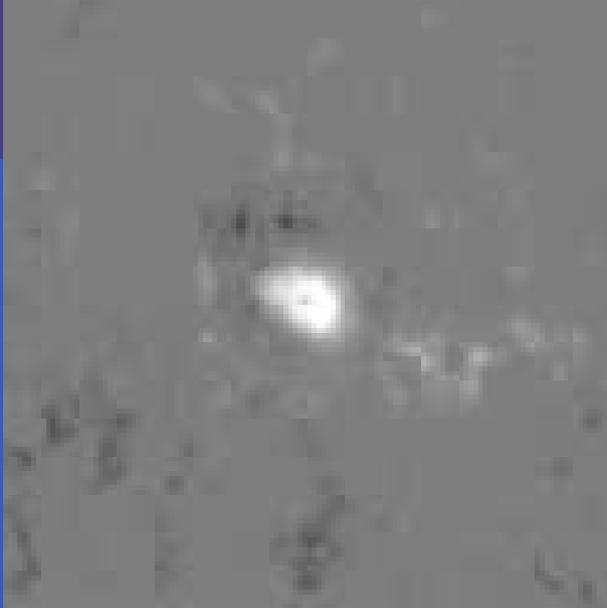
Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:
 1. α : a unipolar sunspot group
 2. β : have both positive and negative polarities, with a simple and distinct division separating them
 3. $\beta\gamma$: no single, simple, continuous line can be drawn between the positive and negative spots
 4. $\beta\gamma\delta$:

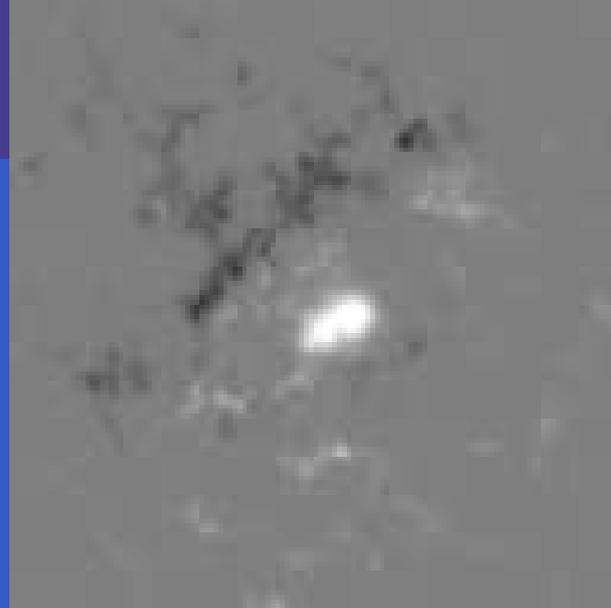
Goal

- Goal: to automatically detect and classify sunspots
- Why? to predict where, when and strength of solar flares
- there are 4 major types:
 1. α : a unipolar sunspot group
 2. β : have both positive and negative polarities, with a simple and distinct division separating them
 3. $\beta\gamma$: no single, simple, continuous line can be drawn between the positive and negative spots
 4. $\beta\gamma\delta$: very complex...

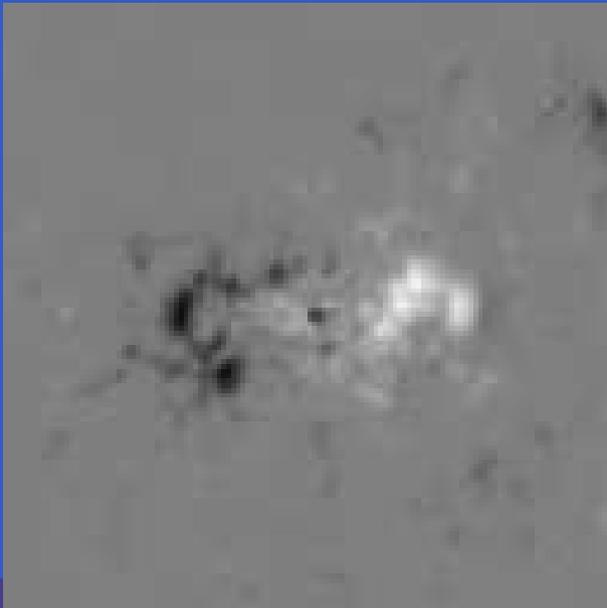
α



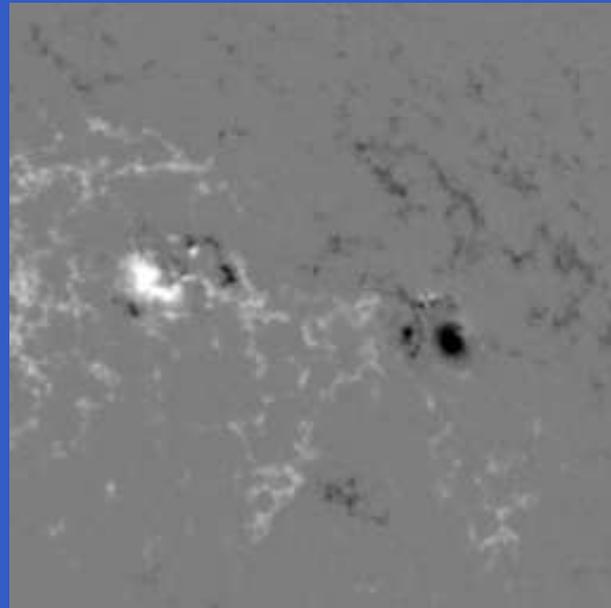
β



$\beta\gamma$



$\beta\gamma\delta$



Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- **Solution - two stages:**
 1. Detection (pretty much done)
 2. Classification (in progress)
 - spatial complexity measure
 - separating line
- Future Work

Our Approach

- two main stages: detection and classification

Our Approach

- two main stages: detection and classification
- detection: quite simple (thanks to high image quality)

Our Approach

- two main stages: detection and classification
- detection: quite simple (thanks to high image quality)
- classification
 1. compute a large set of numerical summaries from the image and feed them into a “blackbox” classifier (e.g., boosting etc)

Our Approach

- two main stages: detection and classification
- detection: quite simple (thanks to high image quality)
- classification
 1. compute a large set of numerical summaries from the image and feed them into a “blackbox” classifier (e.g., boosting etc)
 2. extract a (smaller) set meaningful features and use these features to obtain a hopefully interpretable classification scheme

Our Approach

- two main stages: detection and classification
- detection: quite simple (thanks to high image quality)
- classification
 1. compute a large set of numerical summaries from the image and feed them into a “blackbox” classifier (e.g., boosting etc)
 2. extract a (smaller) set meaningful features and use these features to obtain a hopefully interpretable classification scheme
- we will do 2

Our Approach (cont)

- problem-specific modular approach:

Our Approach (cont)

- problem-specific modular approach:
break the original problem into a series of sub-problems

Our Approach (cont)

- problem-specific modular approach:
break the original problem into a series of sub-problems
and use simple techniques to solve such sub-problems

Our Approach (cont)

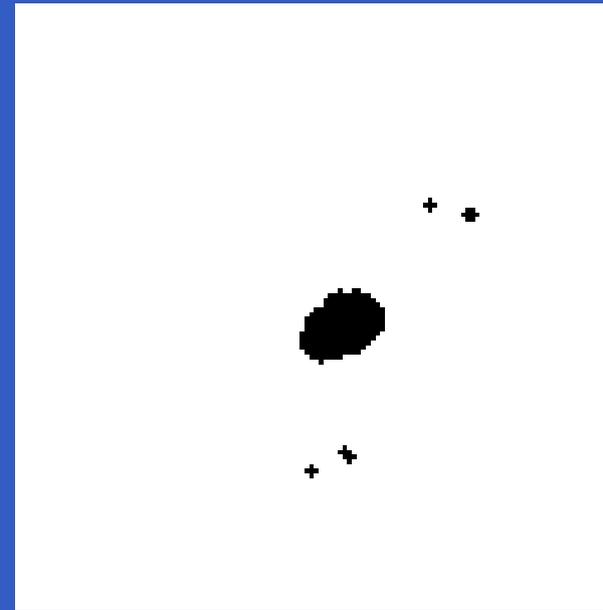
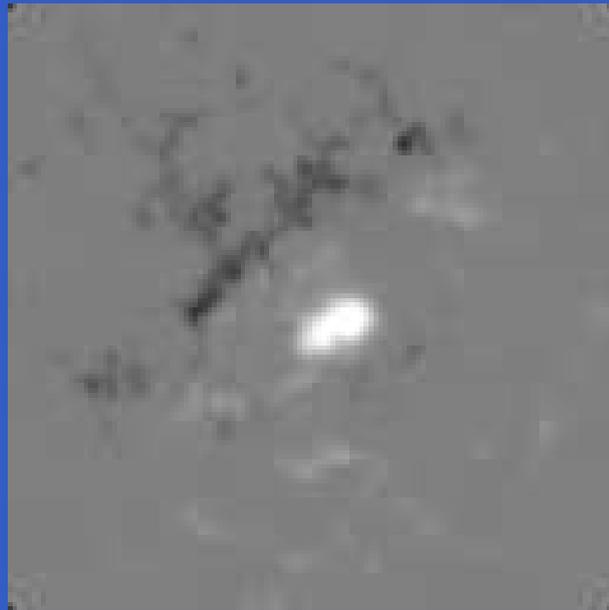
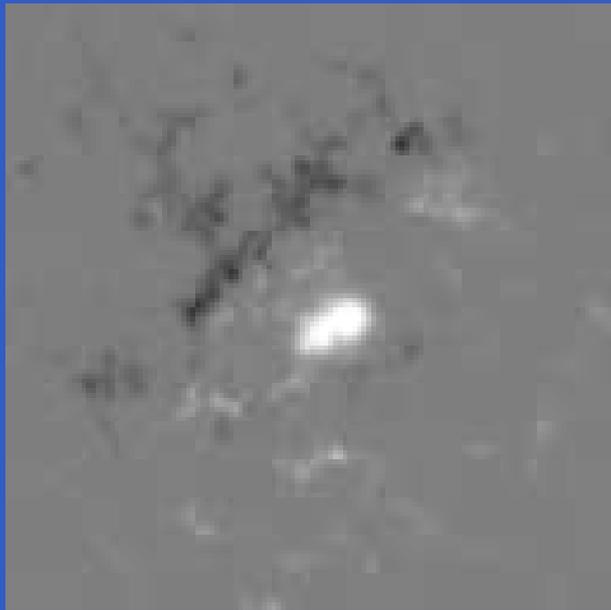
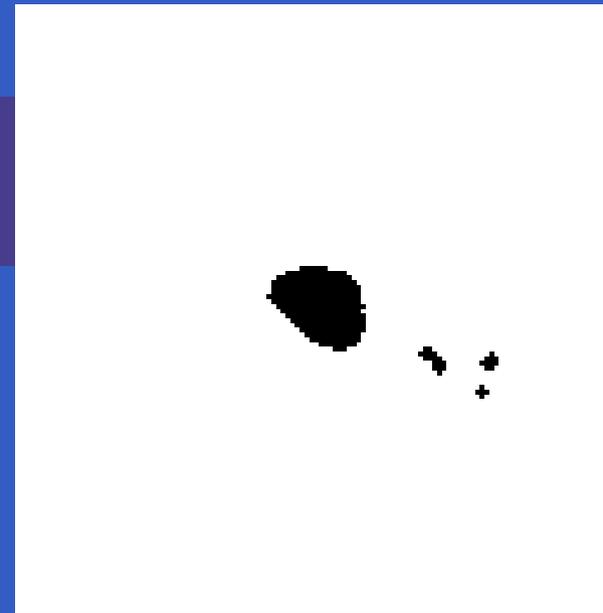
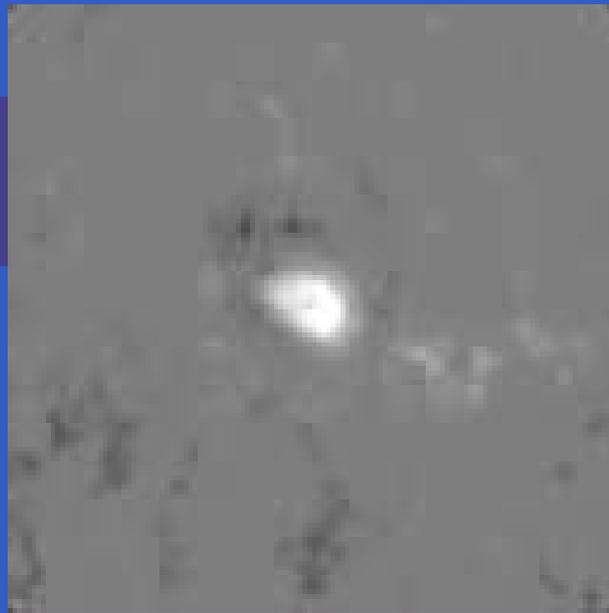
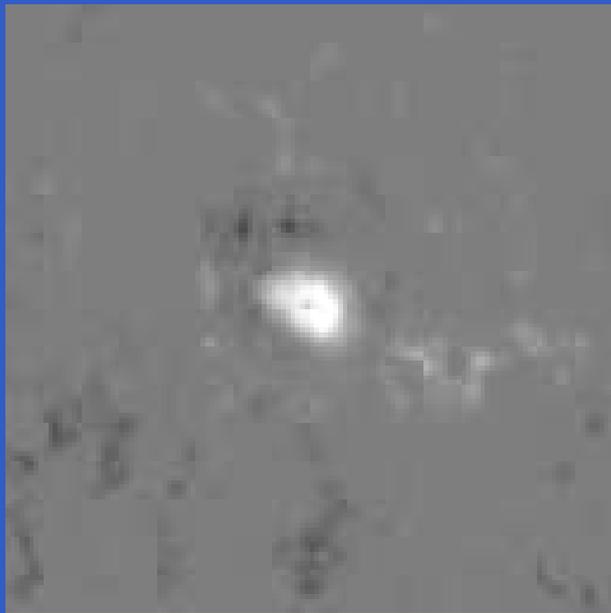
- problem-specific modular approach:
break the original problem into a series of sub-problems
and use simple techniques to solve such sub-problems
- detection for white sunspots
 1. cleaning: use a **morphological opening** operation
(minimum filtering followed by a maximum filtering)

Our Approach (cont)

- problem-specific modular approach:
break the original problem into a series of sub-problems
and use simple techniques to solve such sub-problems
- detection for white sunspots
 1. cleaning: use a **morphological opening** operation
(minimum filtering followed by a maximum filtering)
 2. thresholding: keep pixels that have greyvalues
larger than " $\bar{x} + 2s$ "

Our Approach (cont)

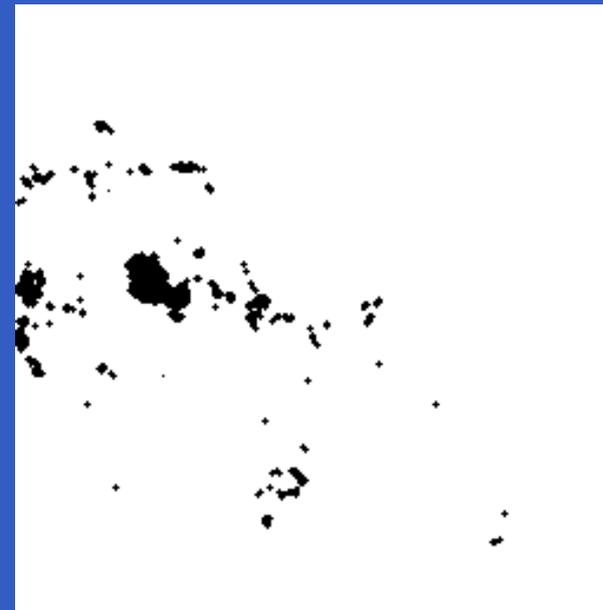
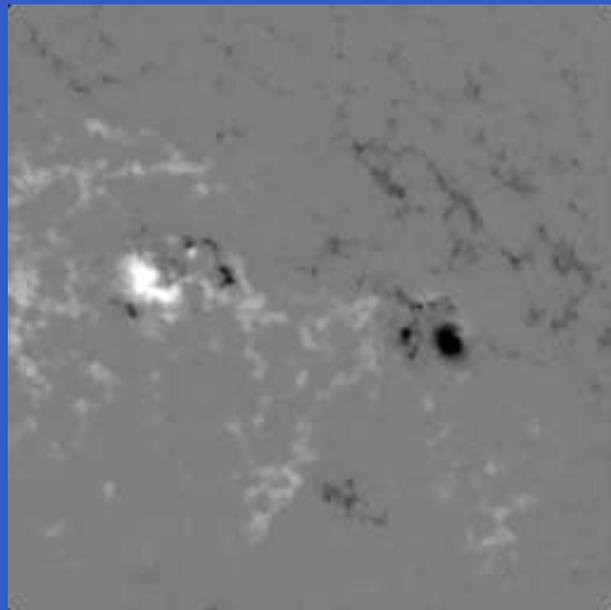
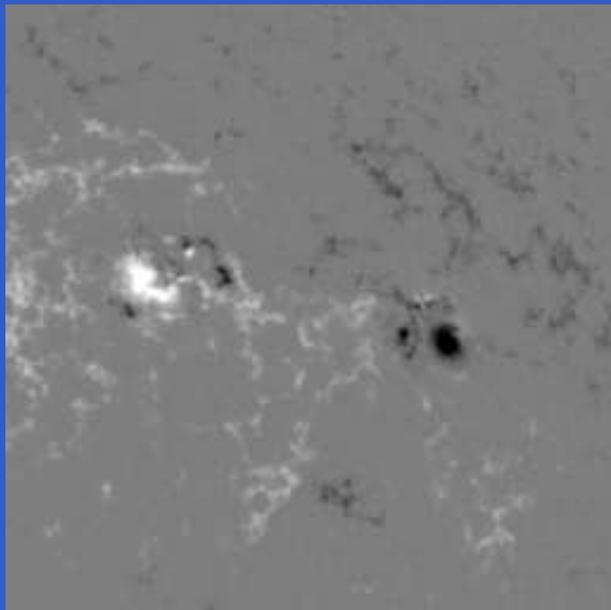
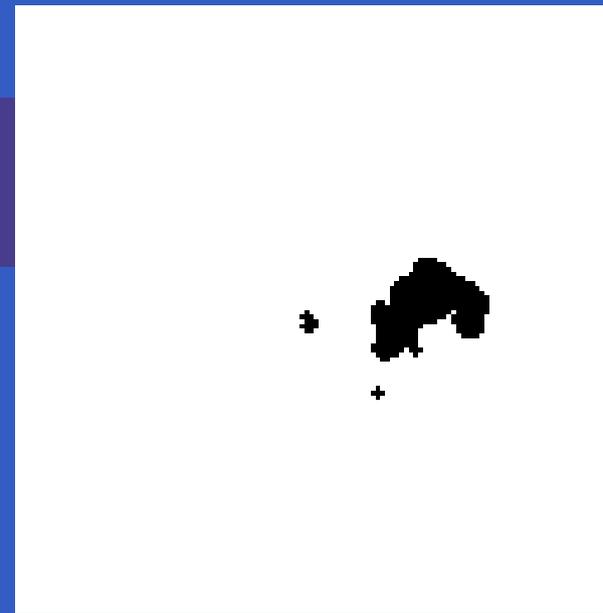
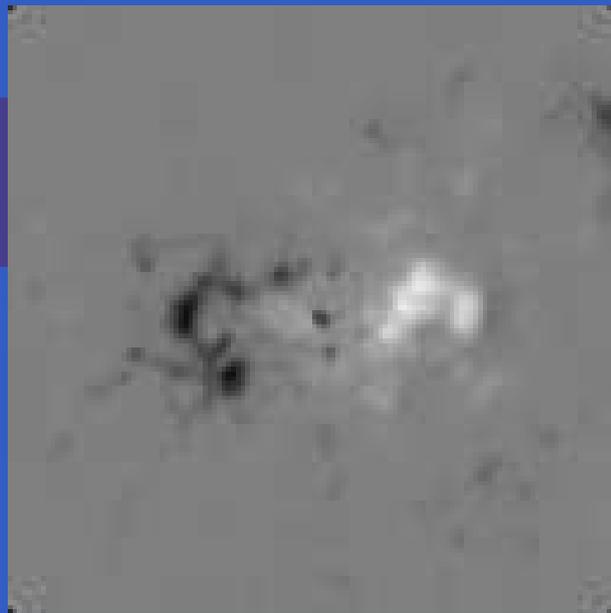
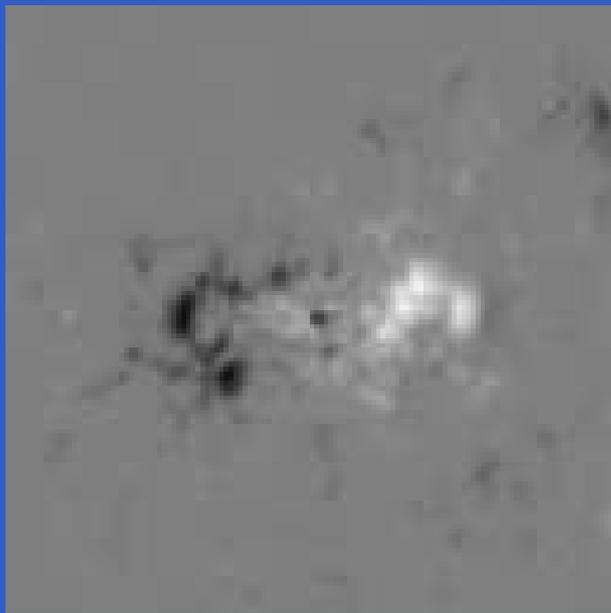
- problem-specific modular approach:
break the original problem into a series of sub-problems and use simple techniques to solve such sub-problems
- detection for white sunspots
 1. cleaning: use a **morphological opening** operation (minimum filtering followed by a maximum filtering)
 2. thresholding: keep pixels that have greyvalues larger than " $\bar{x} + 2s$ "
- black sunspots: apply the same steps to the negative of the image



original

cleaned

thresholded



original

cleaned

thresholded

Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- Solution - two stages:
 1. Detection (pretty much done)
 2. **Classification (in progress)**
 - spatial complexity measure
 - separating line
- Future Work

Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”

Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels

Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels
- β and $\beta\gamma$: key question - a simple and continuous line separating the two polarities?

Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels
- β and $\beta\gamma$: key question - a simple and continuous line separating the two polarities?
feature 2: obtain a separating line and calculate its “roughness” (not finished yet)

Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels
- β and $\beta\gamma$: key question - a simple and continuous line separating the two polarities?
feature 2: obtain a separating line and calculate its “roughness” (not finished yet)
- $\beta\gamma\delta$: white and black sunspots are scattered around the image

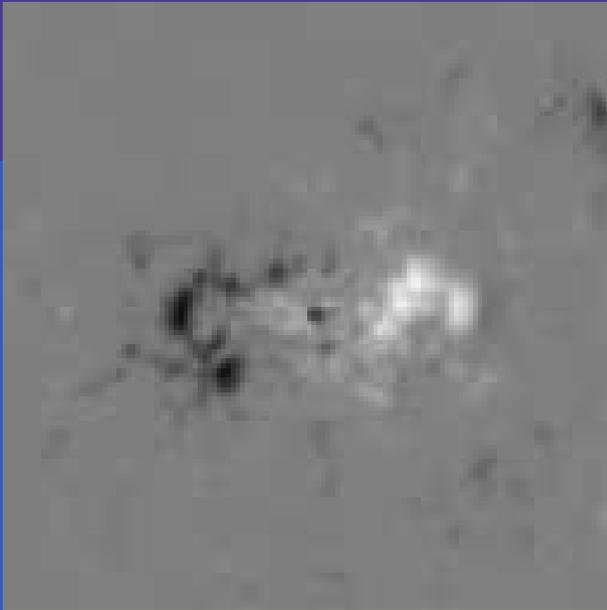
Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels
- β and $\beta\gamma$: key question - a simple and continuous line separating the two polarities?
feature 2: obtain a separating line and calculate its “roughness” (not finished yet)
- $\beta\gamma\delta$: white and black sunspots are scattered around the image
feature 3: a measure that quantify the “amount of scattering”

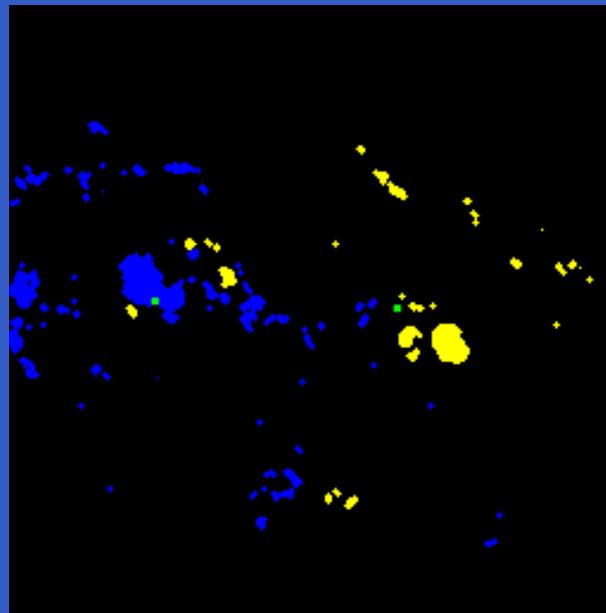
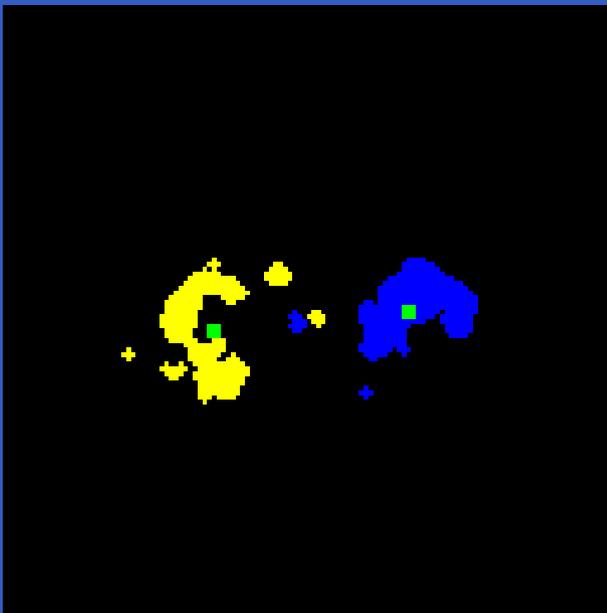
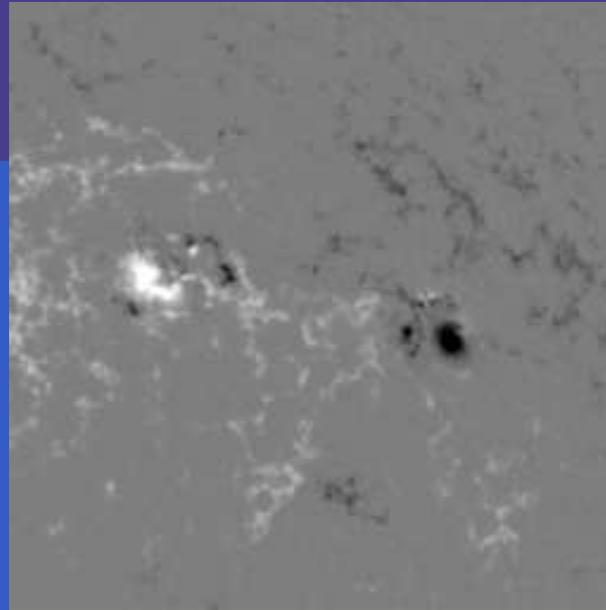
Feature Extraction for Classification

- recall: α is “a unipolar sunspot group”
feature 1: ratio of detected white pixels to black pixels
- β and $\beta\gamma$: key question - a simple and continuous line separating the two polarities?
feature 2: obtain a separating line and calculate its “roughness” (not finished yet)
- $\beta\gamma\delta$: white and black sunspots are scattered around the image
feature 3: a measure that quantify the “amount of scattering”
- we propose a new measure for **feature 3**

$\beta\gamma$



$\beta\gamma\delta$



Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels

Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels
- c : center of mass of W

Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels
- c : center of mass of W
- $L(w)$: distance (in terms of number of pixels) between c and $w \in W$

Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels
- c : center of mass of W
- $L(w)$: distance (in terms of number of pixels) between c and $w \in W$
- $l(w)$: number of white pixels between c and w

Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels
- c : center of mass of W
- $L(w)$: distance (in terms of number of pixels) between c and $w \in W$
- $l(w)$: number of white pixels between c and w
- our spatial complexity measure $A(W)$ is defined as

$$A(W) = 1 - \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{w \in W} \frac{l(w)}{L(w)}$$

Quantifying “Amount of Scattering”

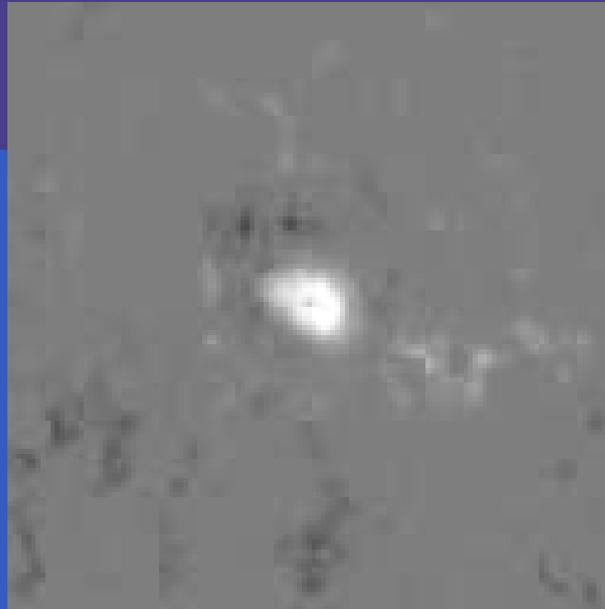
- W : be the set of all detect white sunspots pixels
- c : center of mass of W
- $L(w)$: distance (in terms of number of pixels) between c and $w \in W$
- $l(w)$: number of white pixels between c and w
- our spatial complexity measure $A(W)$ is defined as

$$A(W) = 1 - \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{w \in W} \frac{l(w)}{L(w)}$$

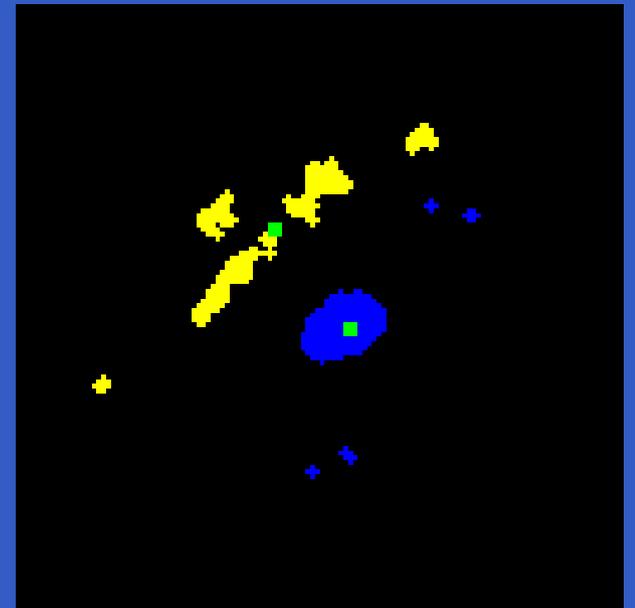
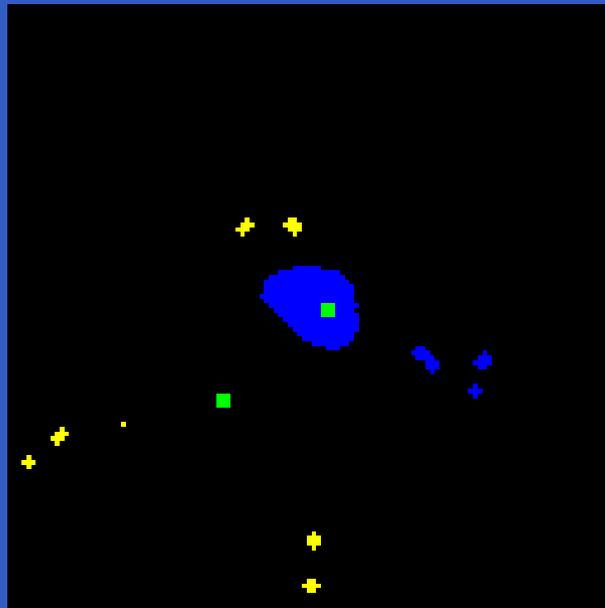
- similarly for black pixels: $A(B)$

α

β



$(\frac{|W|}{|B|}, A(W), A(B))$

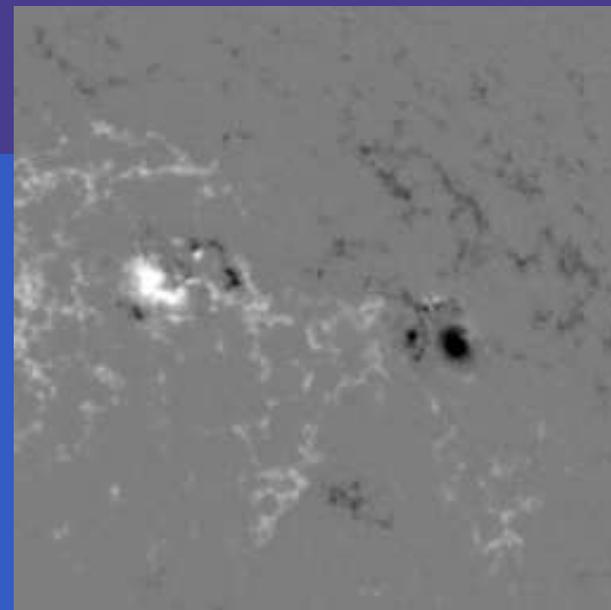
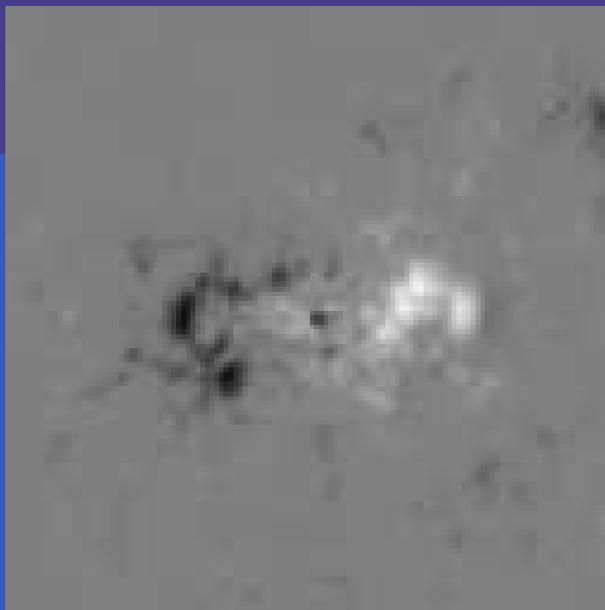


$(6.13, 0.07, 0.95)$

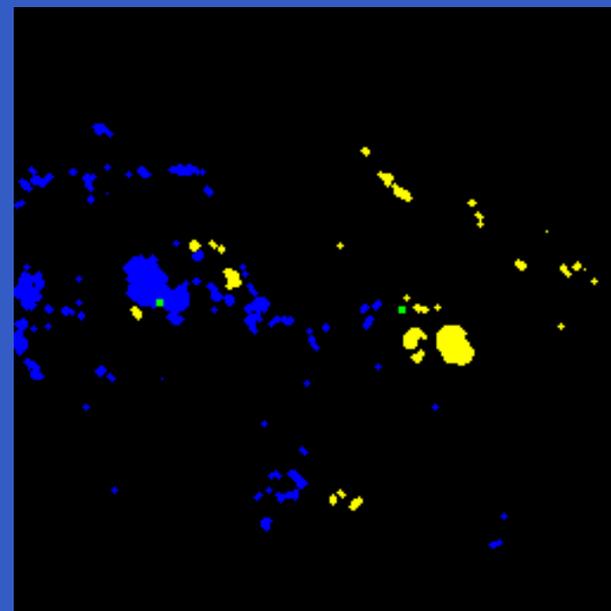
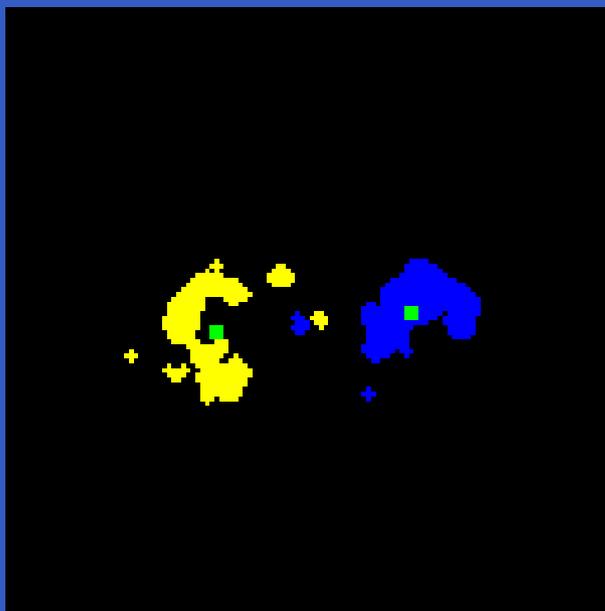
$(0.78, 0.08, 0.48)$

$\beta\gamma$

$\beta\gamma\delta$



$(\frac{|W|}{|B|}, A(W), A(B))$



$(1.10, 0.04, 0.53)$

$(2.50, 0.92, 0.52)$

Outline

Title: Automatic Detection and Classification of Sunspot Images

- Goal
- Solution - two stages:
 1. Detection (pretty much done)
 2. Classification (in progress)
 - spatial complexity measure
 - **separating line**
- Future Work

Separating Line

- how to draw?

Separating Line

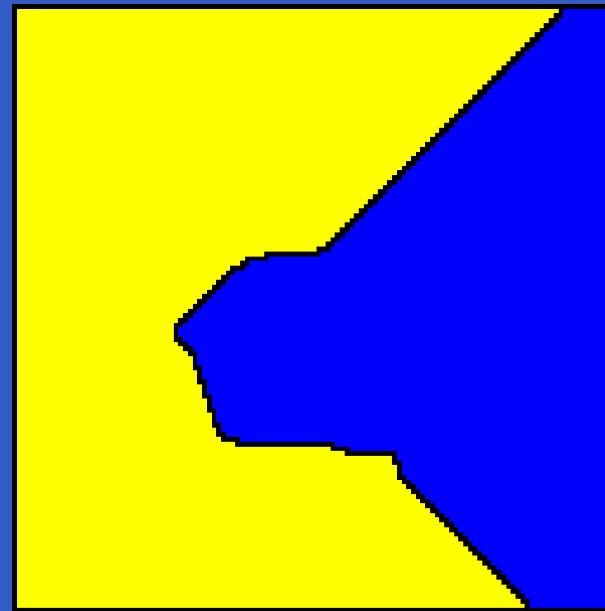
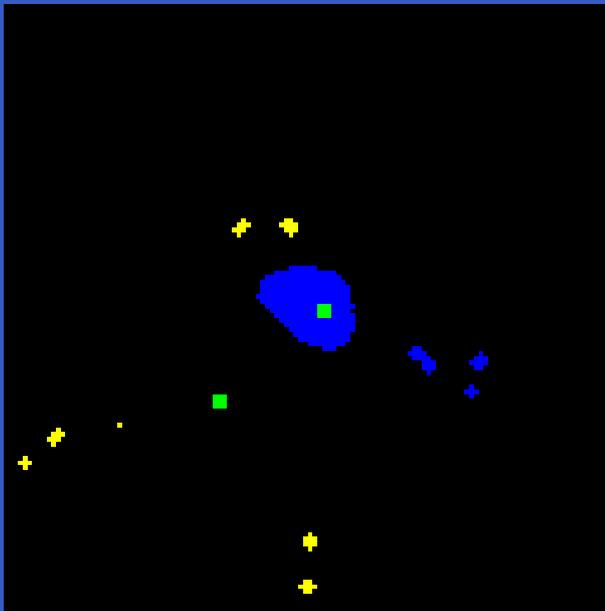
- how to draw?
- grow the white/black pixels until they meet

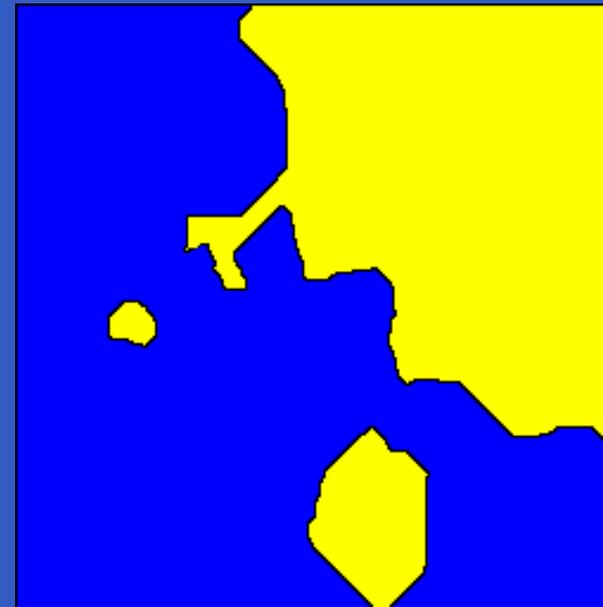
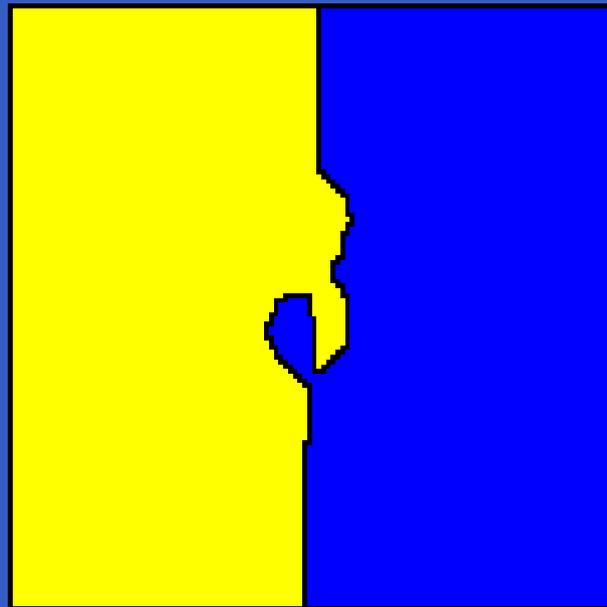
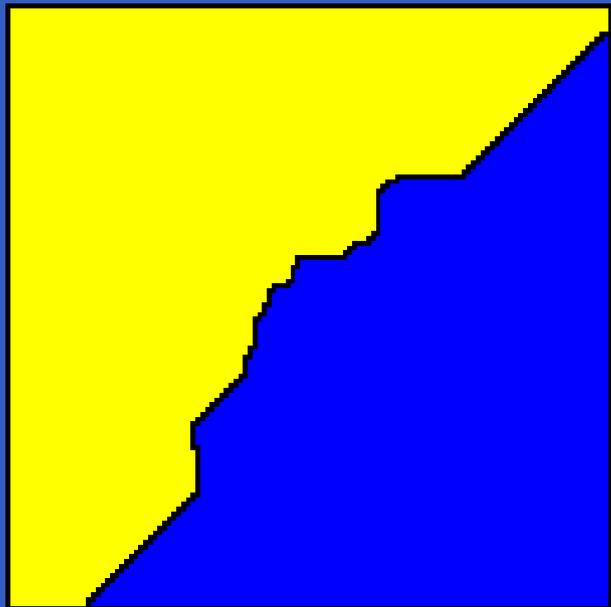
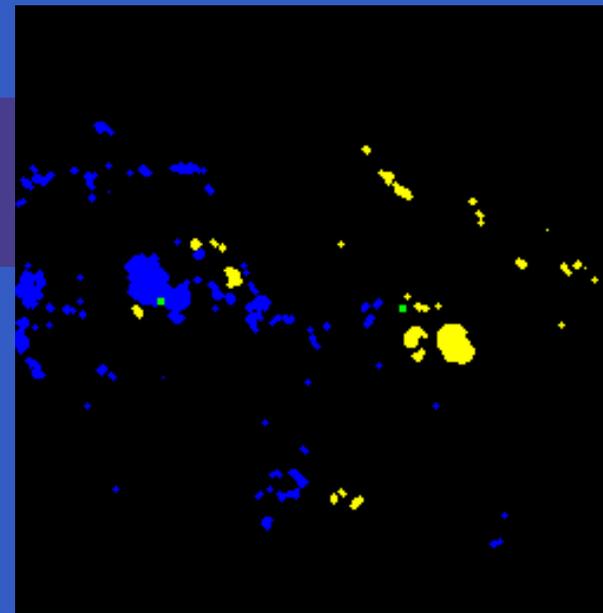
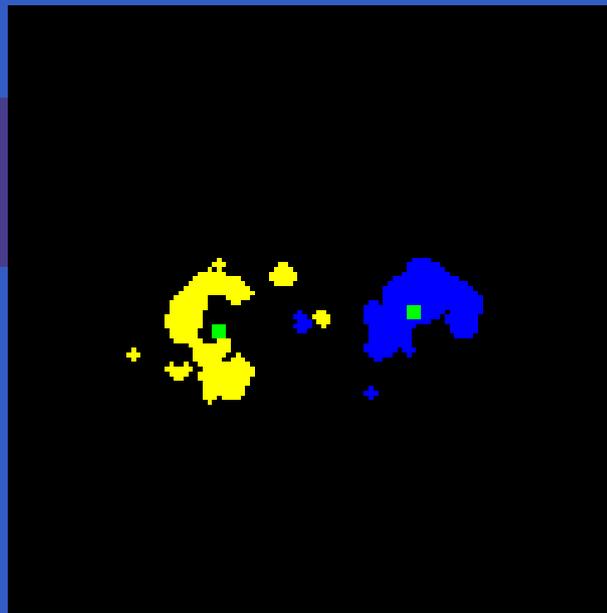
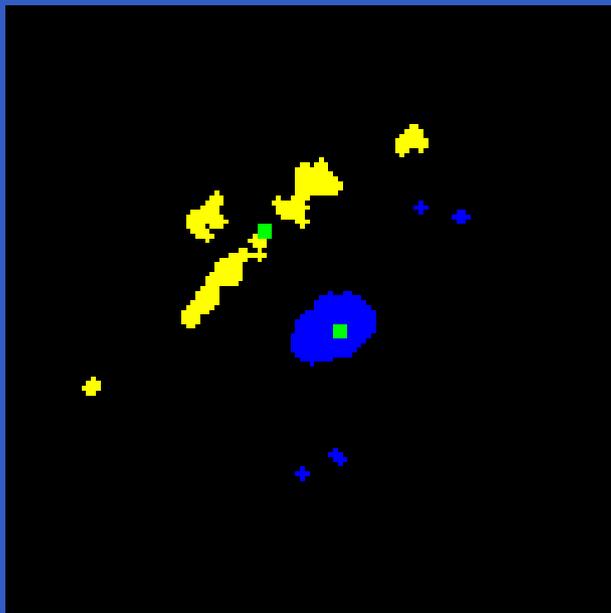
Separating Line

- how to draw?
- grow the white/black pixels until they meet
- like constructing a Voronoi tessellation with seeds

Separating Line

- how to draw?
- grow the white/black pixels until they meet
- like constructing a Voronoi tessellation with seeds





β

$\beta\gamma$

$\beta\gamma\delta$

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?
- fit a AR 2 model?

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?
- fit a AR 2 model?
- fractal?

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?
- fit a AR 2 model?
- fractal?
- we are in a **discretized** world

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?
- fit a AR 2 model?
- fractal?
- we are in a **discretized** world
- counting the number of corners, double turns etc...

“Roughness” of the Separating Line

- how to define?
- second derivative (normalized)?
- fit a AR 2 model?
- fractal?
- we are in a **discretized** world
- counting the number of corners, double turns etc...
- still experimenting with different ideas...

What's next?

- do some statistics:

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc
 - hopefully get a good classification scheme

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc
 - hopefully get a good classification scheme
 - (incorporate external information - white light data)

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc
 - hopefully get a good classification scheme
 - (incorporate external information - white light data)
- apply to time series of images

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc
 - hopefully get a good classification scheme
 - (incorporate external information - white light data)
- apply to time series of images
 - study the evolution of sunspots

What's next?

- do some statistics:
 - apply the above to a large number of training images
 - get good choices of thresholding values etc
 - hopefully get a good classification scheme
 - (incorporate external information - white light data)
- apply to time series of images
 - study the evolution of sunspots
 - need methods for target tracking

•
•
•

Thank You!