

Week 3: Logical operations and Images

MCDB-BCHM 4312-5312

Learning goals

- Logical operations
 - Comparison operators
 - Logical indexing
- Images
 - Reading and displaying images in MATLAB
 - How image data is visualized
 - Numerical data types
 - Brightness and contrast adjustments
- Measuring the radius of circular objects in an image
 - Interactively using `imdistline`
 - Converting from pixels to physical units
 - Finding circular objects using the circular Hough transform

Logical operations in MATLAB

- Logical data can only have two possible values

true or false

Example:

```
>> 10 < 2
```

List of logical operators

Operator	Description
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
==	Is equal to
~	Not (flips true to false and vice versa)
~==	Not equal to

Which of the following statements are false?

Operator	Description
>	Greater than
>=	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
==	Is equal to
~	Not (flips true to false and vice versa)
~=	Not equal to

a) $5 \geq 1$

b) $5 \geq 5$

c) $10 \sim 5$

d) $\sim(10 == 10)$

e) $\sim(5 \sim 10)$

Using a logical comparison on a matrix

```
>> A = [1 2; 3 4];
```

```
>> A > 2
```

```
ans =
```

```
2x2 logical array
```

```
0 0
```

```
1 1
```

Number of elements matching a condition

- The function `nnz` (**N**umber of **N**on-**Z**eros) gives the number of true elements in a logical array
- Use this function to count how many elements satisfy a logical comparison

- Example:

```
>> A = [1 2; 3 4];
```

```
>> nnz(A > 2)
```

Logical indexing

You can index elements using a logical array

```
>> A = [1 2 3 4 5 6]
```

Use logical comparison to see which elements are less than 4

```
>> k = A < 4
```

```
k =
```

```
1×6 logical array
```

```
1 1 1 0 0 0
```

Use the logical array as an index

```
>> A(k)
```

```
ans =
```

```
1 2 3
```

A more concise form:

```
>> A(A < 4)
```

There will be an example of using this in your homework

Images

Reading and displaying images

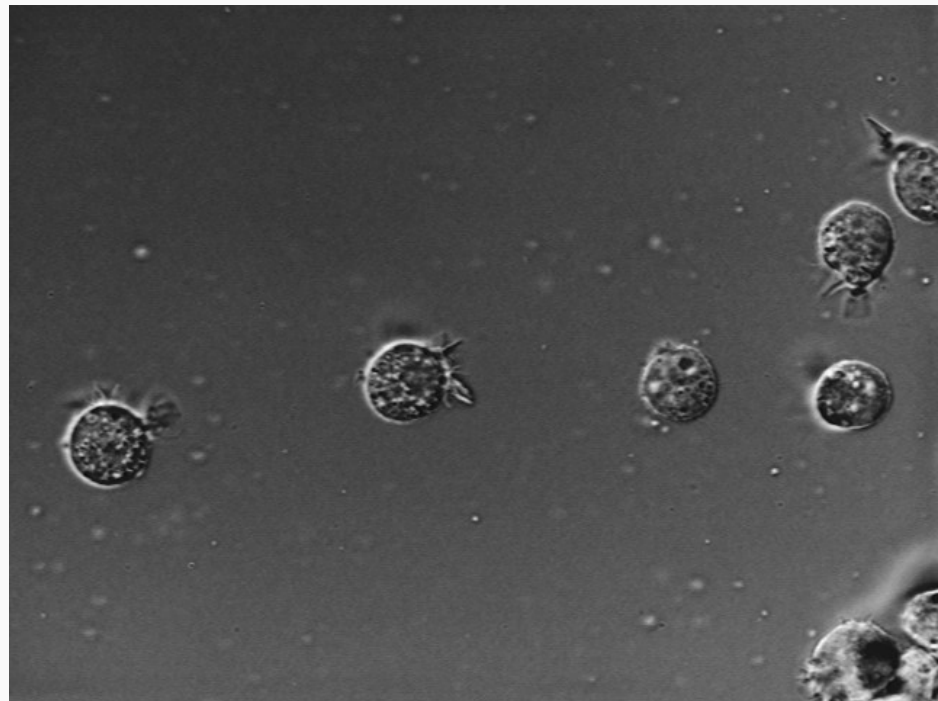
Use `imread` to load image data into a variable

```
>> I = imread('AT3_1m4_01.tif');
```

Demo image that ships with MATLAB

Display the image

```
>> imshow(I)
```



Can use data tips tool to get (x, y) location and intensity (index) of pixel

Reading and displaying images



Can use data tips tool to get:

- [x, y] - location
- Index – Pixel value (i.e. intensity)
- [R, G, B] – Displayed color value

Image data is proportional to intensity

- **RAW** image data is the intensity of light arriving at the camera



- Higher pixel values = more light detected by camera pixel
- Orientation of image matches matrix

How are numbers transformed into a picture?

- Images are visual reconstructions of intensity data
- MATLAB takes this data and draws colored squares when displaying the image
- 1 matrix element = 1 tiny square





Which of the following statements correspond to the pixel with the (x, y) coordinates shown above?

a) $I(182, 337)$

b) $I(337, 182)$

Are pixels actually little squares?

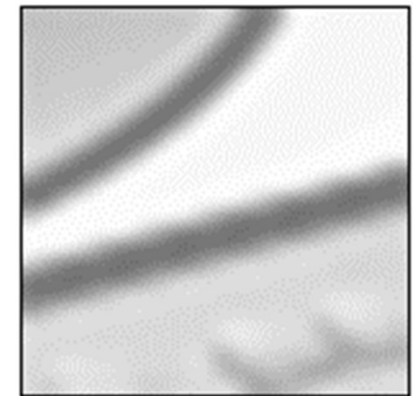
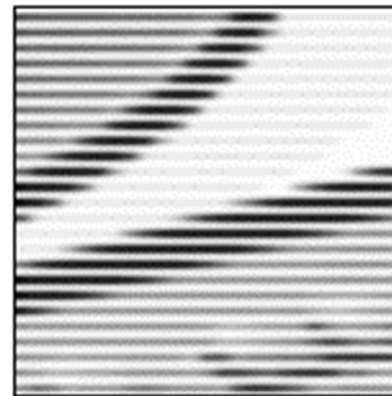
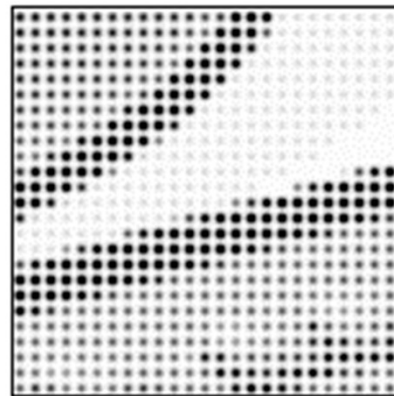
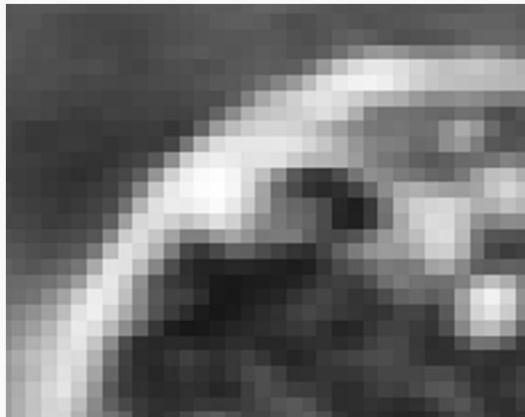
NO!

- Pixels are the measurement of intensity at a point in space

Dots

Lines

Gaussian function
("blurry dot")



Most common is to display as squares

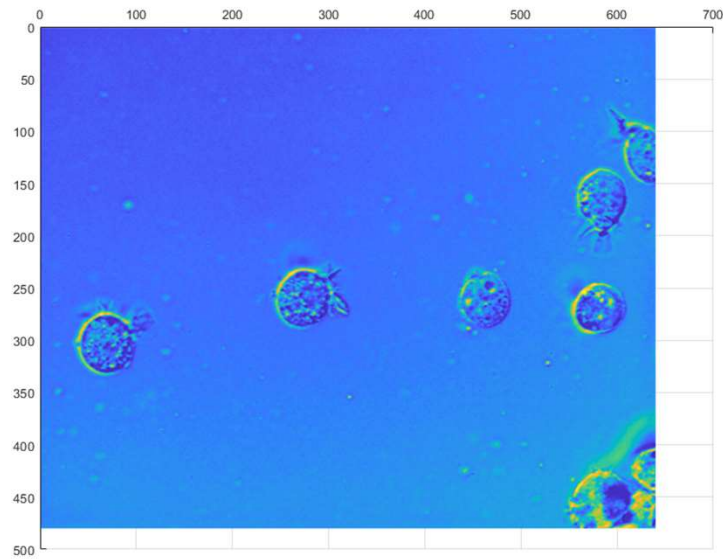
But other drawing methods exist

A pixel is not a little square by Alvy Ray Smith

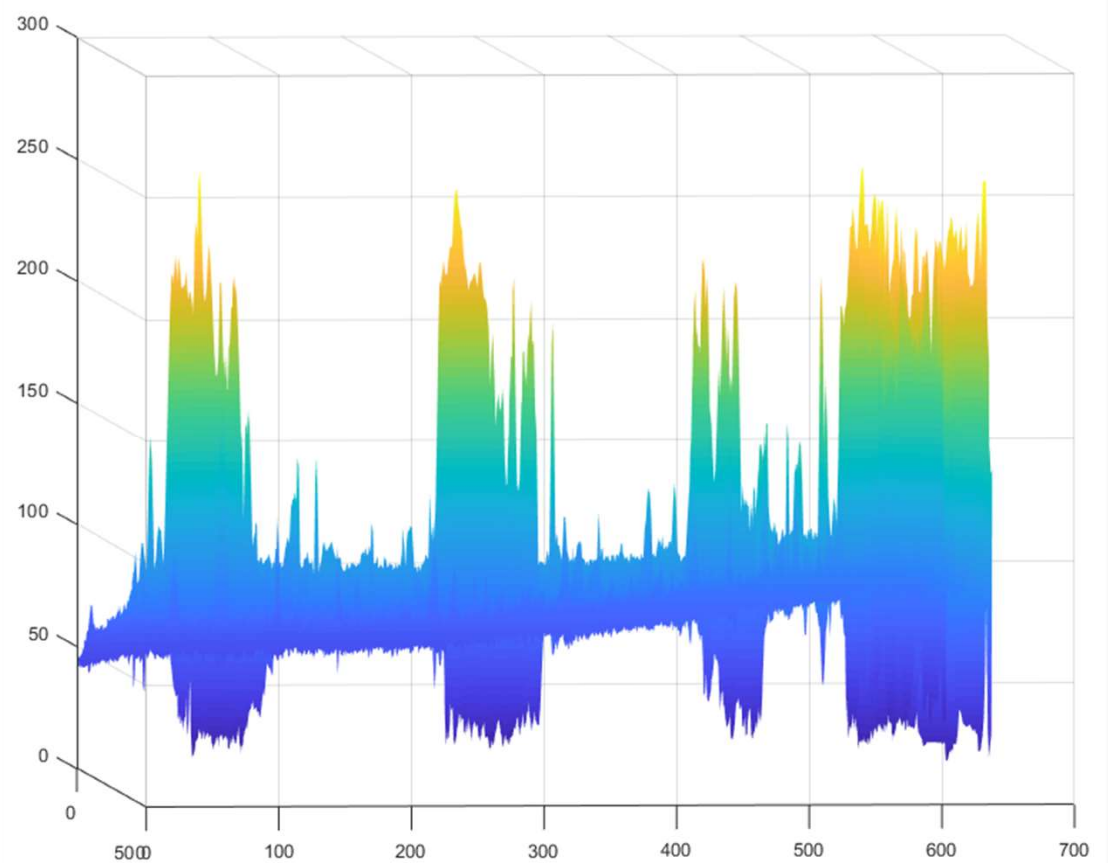
Image credit: Wikipedia

Images can also be plotted as 3D surfaces

```
>> surf(I)  
>> shading interp
```



We'll see this again in Lecture 5



Changing how bright images appear

```
>> I = imread('mri.tif');  
>> imshow(I)
```

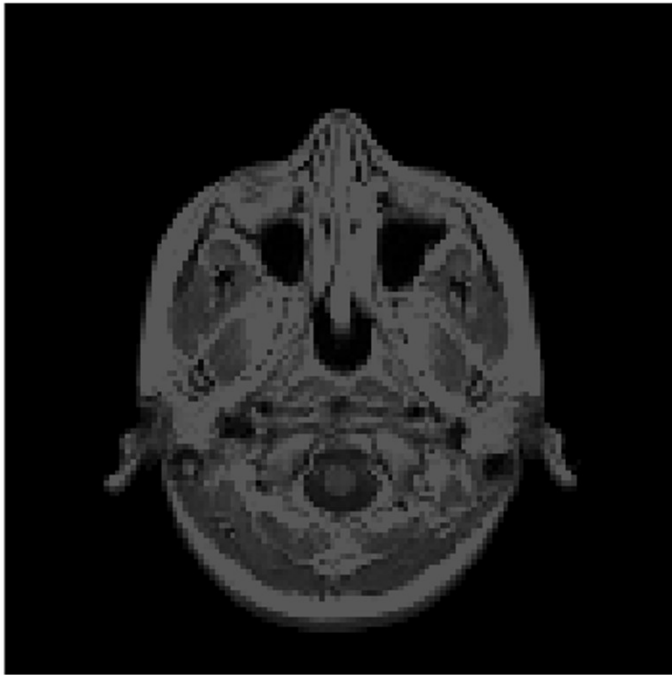


Image looks dark... why?

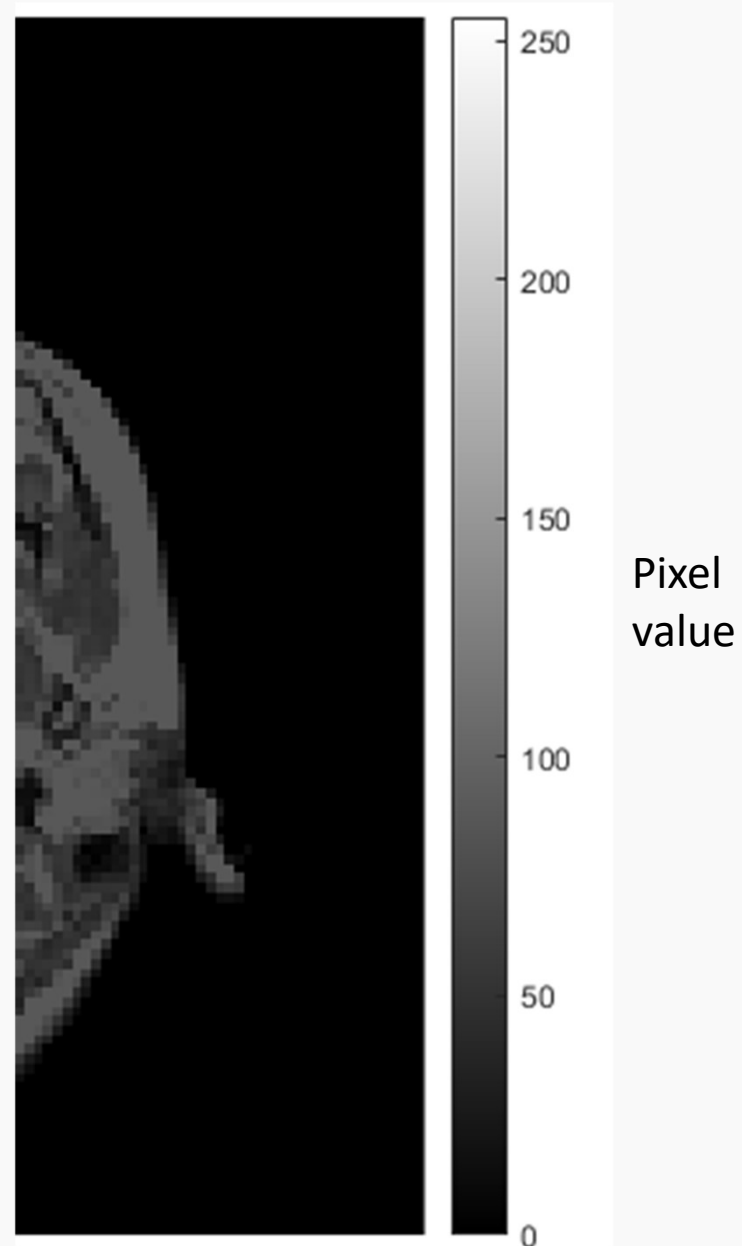
What is the highest pixel value in the image?

The colorbar

```
>> colorbar
```

Shows which color is used to represent which pixel value

Important to show when displaying quantitative data



Numerical data classes

- The colorbar is scaled depending on the data type or "class" of the image
- You can check the class of a variable in the Workspace
- Image data are typically unsigned integers (uint8 or uint16)
- The number after uint tells you the bit depth

Example of unsigned integer

`uint8` means 8-bit integer

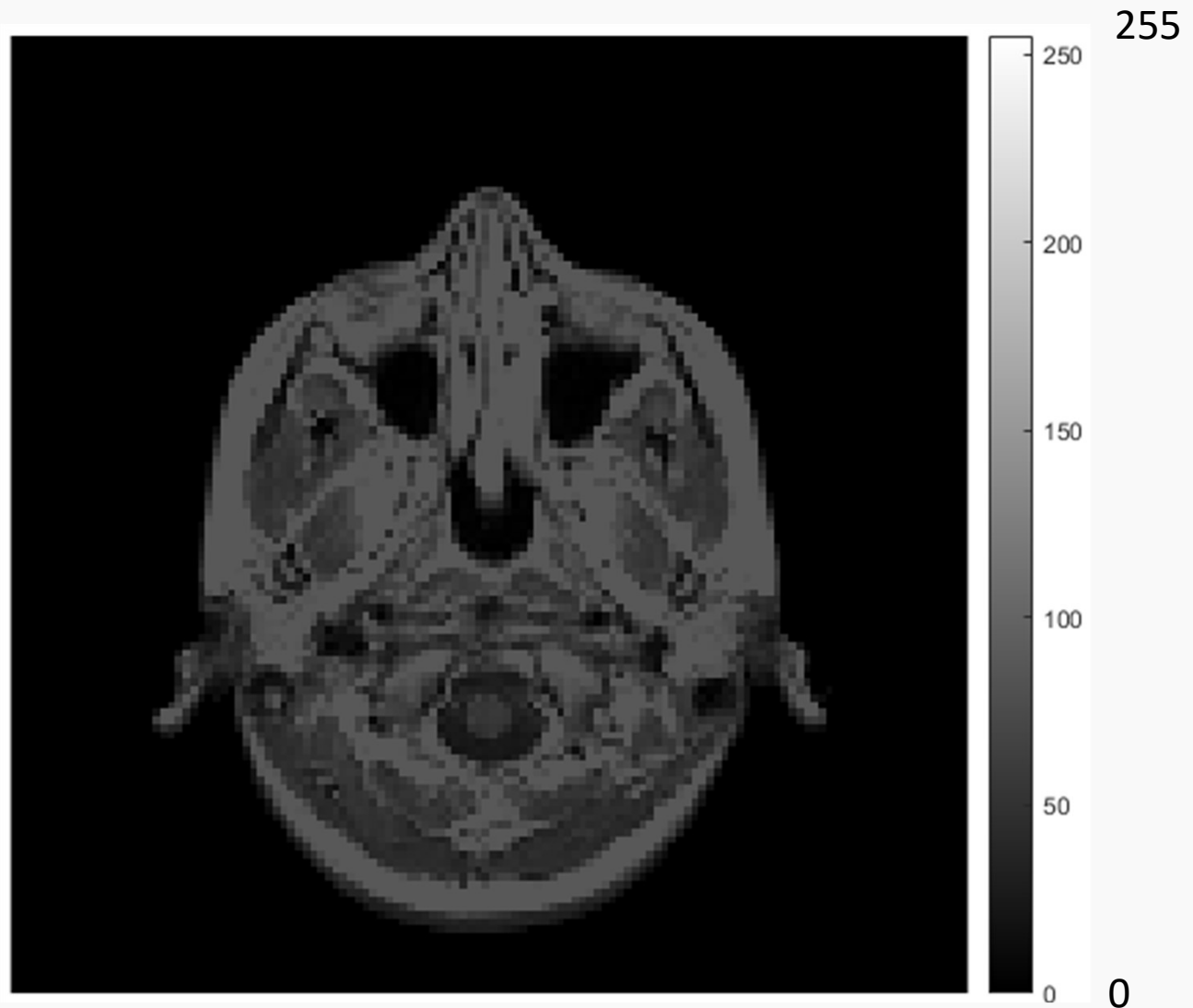
Numbers go from $0 \rightarrow (2^8 - 1) = 0 \rightarrow 255$

Positive numbers only

No decimal places

Default scaling using imshow

uint8 image



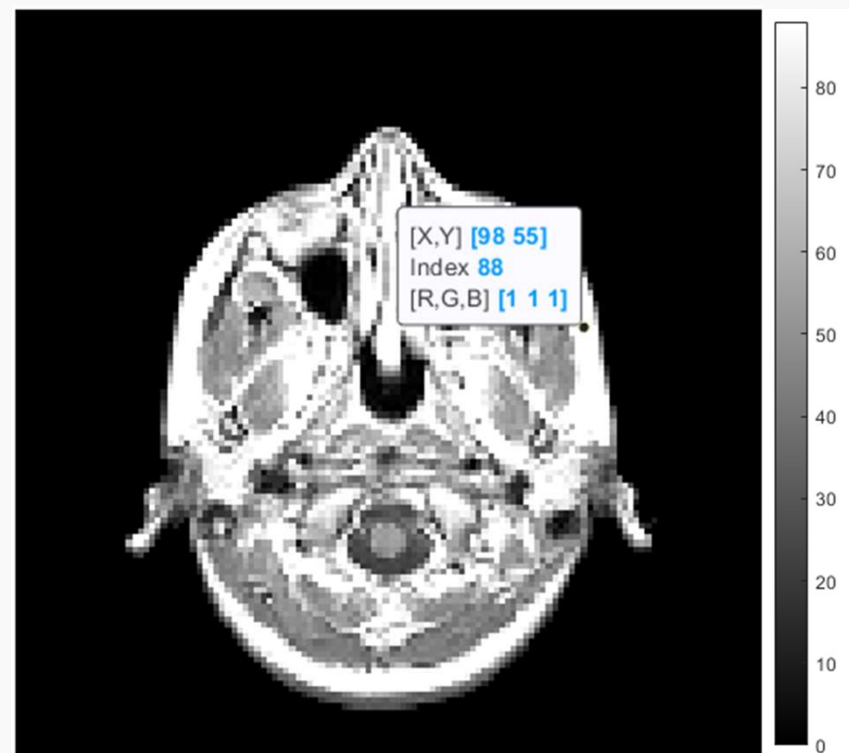
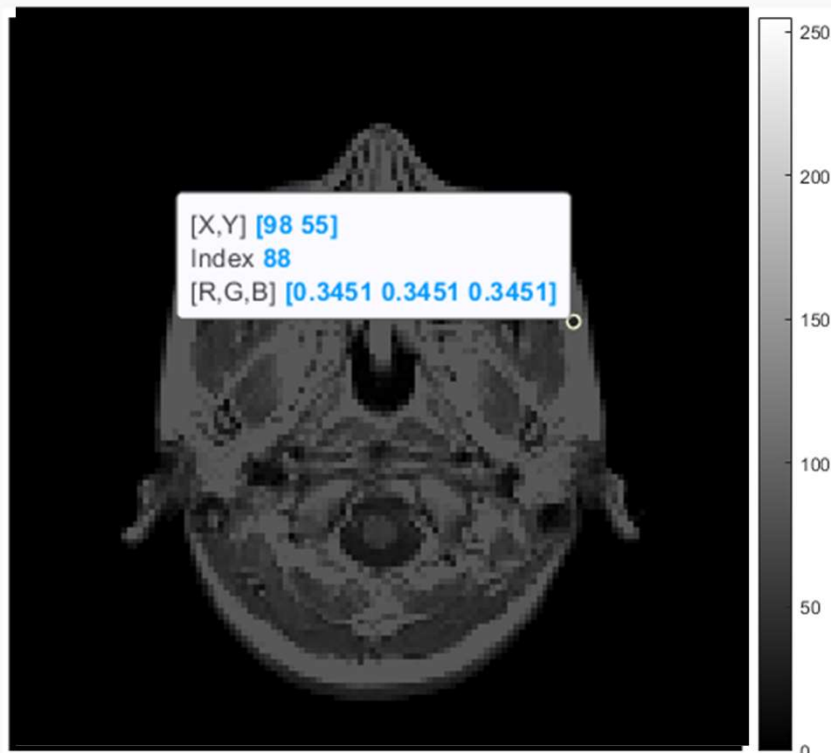
Changing the displayed color scale

```
imshow(image, [low, high])
```

```
>> imshow(I, [0, 88])
```

```
>> colorbar
```

**Original intensity values
have not been changed**

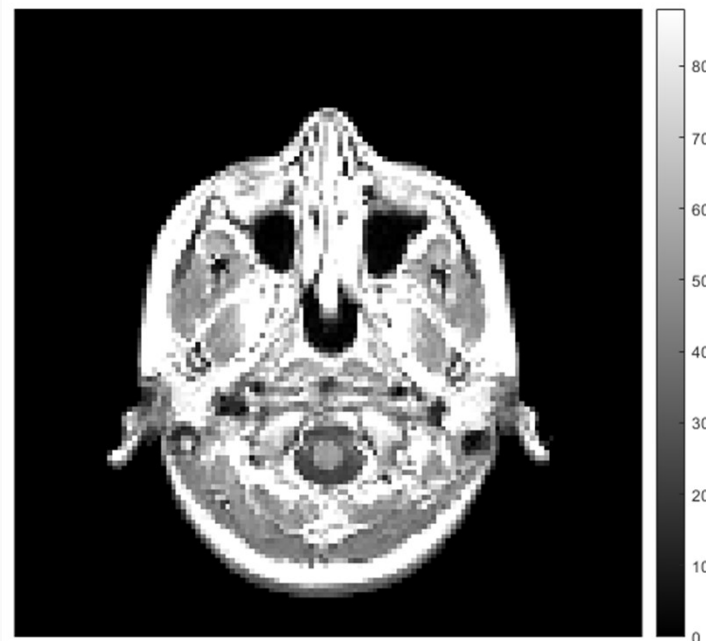


Automatic display scaling

`imshow(I, [])`
— Empty matrix

is equivalent to

`imshow(I, [min(I(:)), max(I(:))])`



**TIP: You might need this
for your homework**

The double class

- One other common number format is the double (short for "double-precision") – 64-bits
- Unlike unsigned integers, double can have decimal places and negative numbers
- double is the default data class for numbers in MATLAB
- To convert from unsigned integers to double

```
Idbl = double(I)
```


Default scaling for double

`imshow(I)`

What is the default color bar scale for double?

- a) $-1e32$ to $+1e32$
- b) `min(image)` to `max(image)`
- c) 0 to 1
- d) 0 to `max(image)`

Default scaling for double

```
imshow(image)
```

What is the default color bar scale for double?

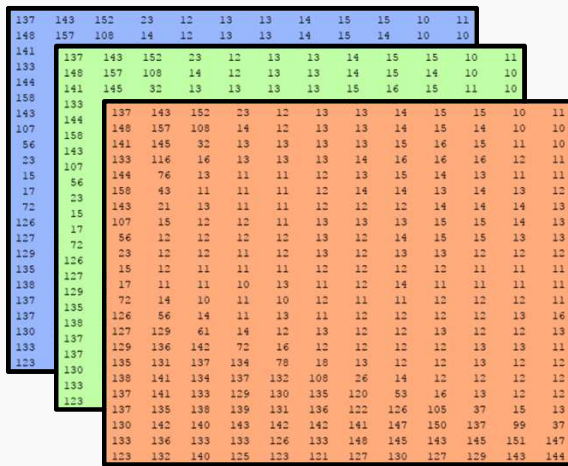
- a) $-1e32$ to $+1e32$
- b) `min(image)` to `max(image)`
- c) 0 to 1**
- d) 0 to `max(image)`

What about color images?

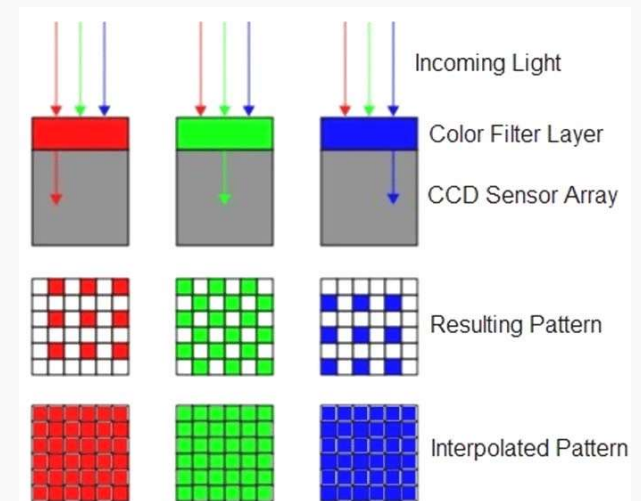
```
>> rgb = imread('tissue.png');
```

What is the size of the image?

The 3rd dimension is color



Color cameras



Order: Red, Green, Blue

aka RGB images

Which of these commands retrieves the BLUE channel?

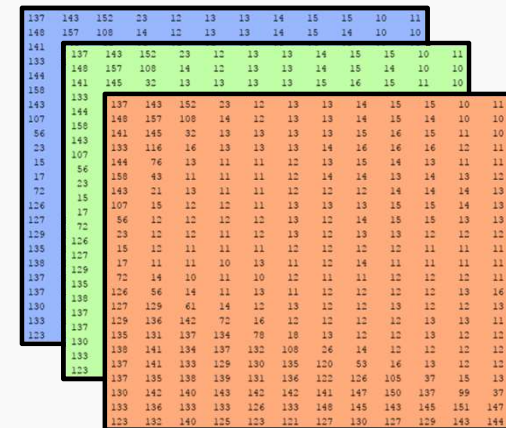
```
>> rgb = imread('tissue.png');
```

a) `blue = rgb(:, :, 1)`

b) `blue = rgb(3, :, :)`

c) `blue = rgb(:, :, 3)`

d) `blue = rgb(:, 3)`



Just an extension of matrix indexing

`rgb(row, column, color)`

Does light change wavelengths when mixing?

For example:

Red photon (650 nm) + blue photon (400 nm)
= magenta photon (500 nm)

a) Yes

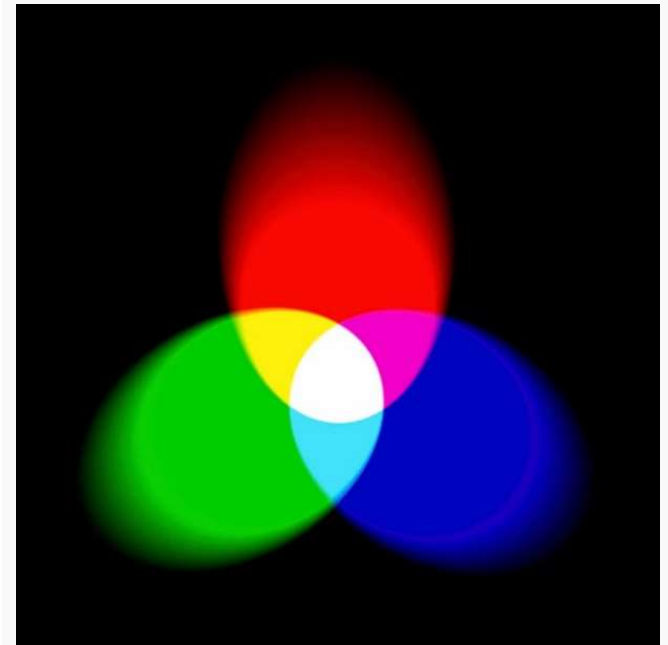
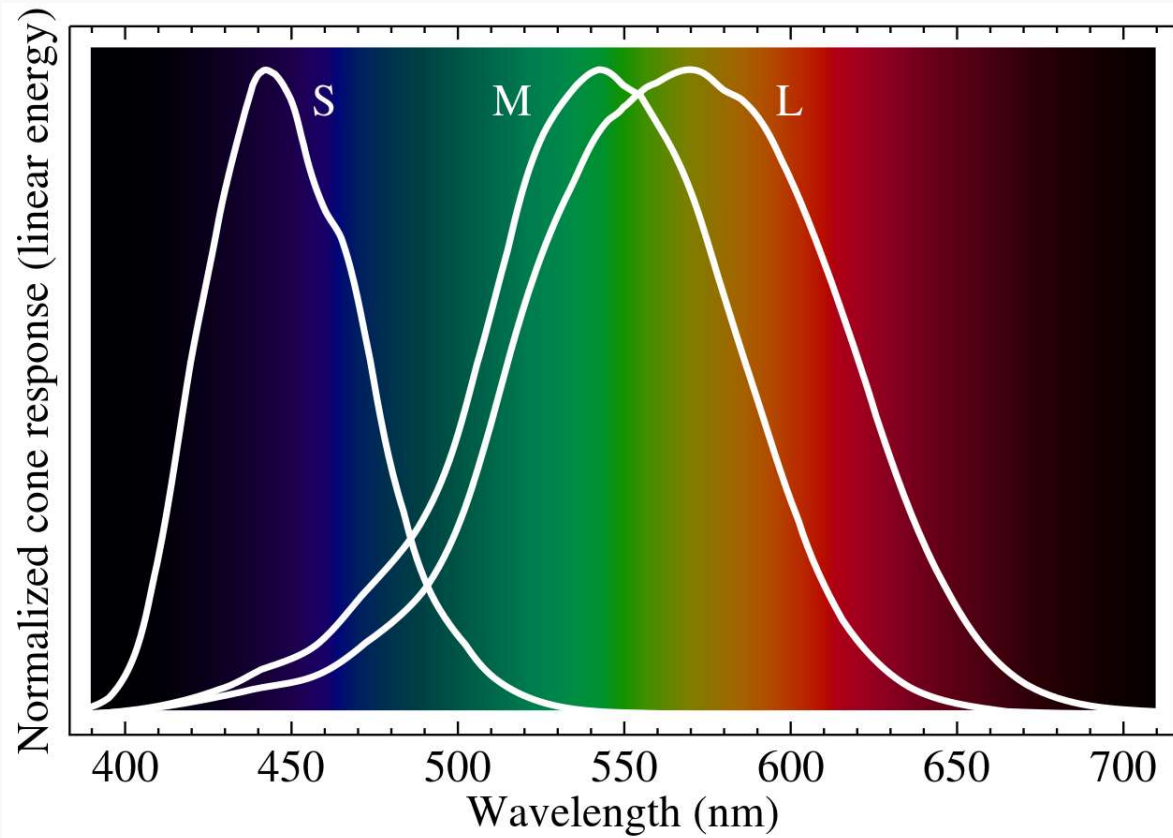
b) No



Ibn al-Haytham

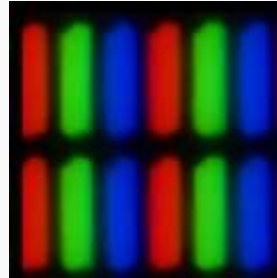
Vision happens in the brain

How humans perceive color



The pixel value in each color plane

- Each monitor pixel is made up of three elements



- The pixel value in each color plane tells the computer how bright each display element should be



Red = 100%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%



Red = 50%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%



Red = 3%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%

Try this at home

```
>> rgbImg = zeros(50, 50, 3)
>> rgbImg(:, :, 1) = 0.5;
>> imshow(rgbImg)
```

The pixel value in each color plane

- The scale of the pixel value depends on the **data type** of the images



Red = 100%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%



Red = 50%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%



Red = 3%
Green = 0%
Blue = 0%

double

[1, 0, 0]

[0.5, 0, 0]

[0.03, 0, 0]

uint8

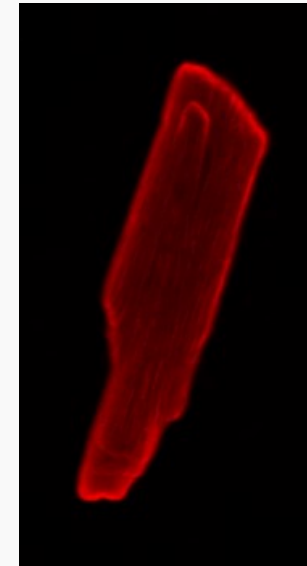
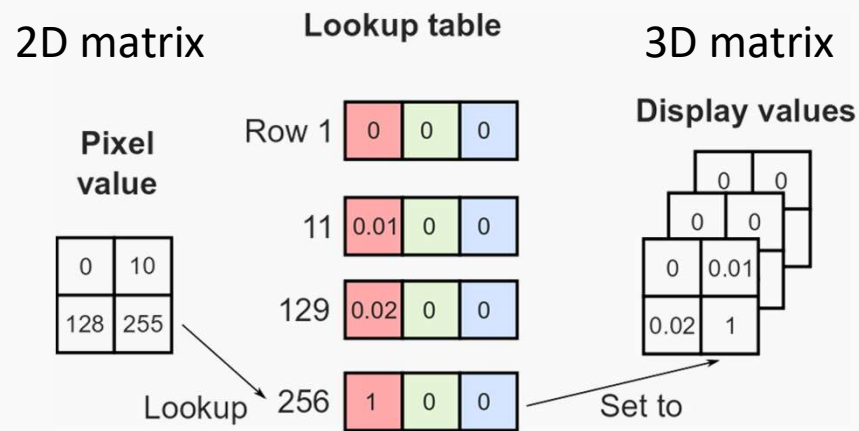
[255, 0, 0]

[127, 0, 0]

[8, 0, 0]

False color images

- Microscope cameras are just CCD arrays
- Color microscope images are usually **false colored**
- The imaging software converts the original 2D matrix to a 3D matrix

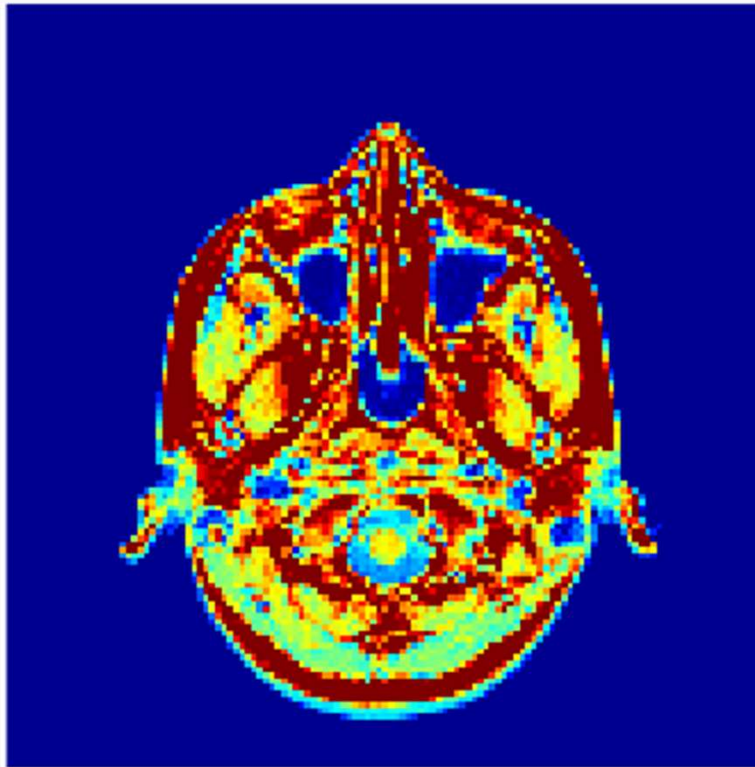


Changing the displayed color map

- You can change the color map of displayed greyscale images

```
>> imshow(I, [])
```

```
>> colormap('jet')
```



Summary

- Using `imread` and `imshow`
- Image data is measured intensity
- Images are reconstructions of the intensity data
- Color in microscope images are (generally) false

Questions?

Image analysis

- Image analysis is the process of extracting quantitative information from images



- Count the number of coins
- Measure the diameter of the coins

Workflow



1. Load image and display
2. Identify the coins
3. Measure the diameter
4. Count the total value of coins (in homework)

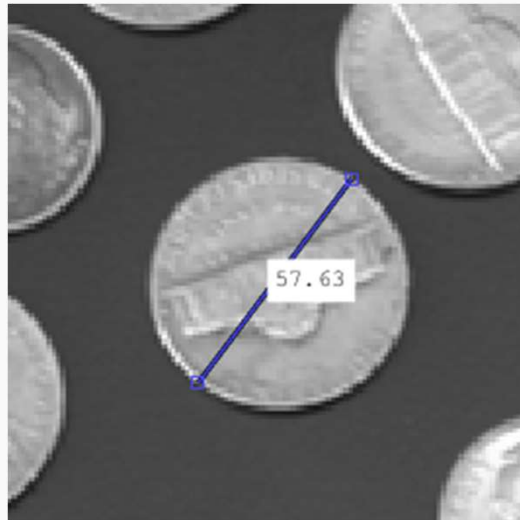
Step 1:

Read in and display the image 'coins.png'

Measuring the distance between two points

1. Display the image and make sure that the figure is selected (MATLAB keeps track of the last active figure)
2. Use `imdistline` to measure the diameter of a coin in pixels (you might find it easier if you maximize the figure window)

A manual approach – useful for getting quick estimates and for sanity checks



Converting from pixels to microns

- `imdistline` displays distance in pixels
- For this image, each pixel represents a length 0.368 mm

$$\text{Length(mm)} = \text{Length(pixels)} \times \frac{\text{mm}}{\text{pixels}}$$



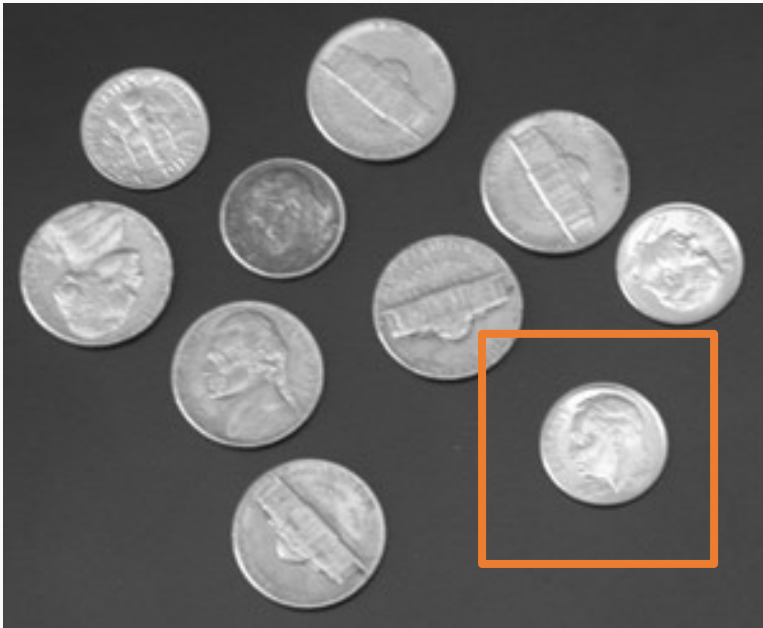
```
>> diam_in_mm = 57.63 * 0.368
```

Practice: Measure the diameter of a dime

- According to the US Treasury, the diameter of a dime should be

17.91 mm

What did you get?



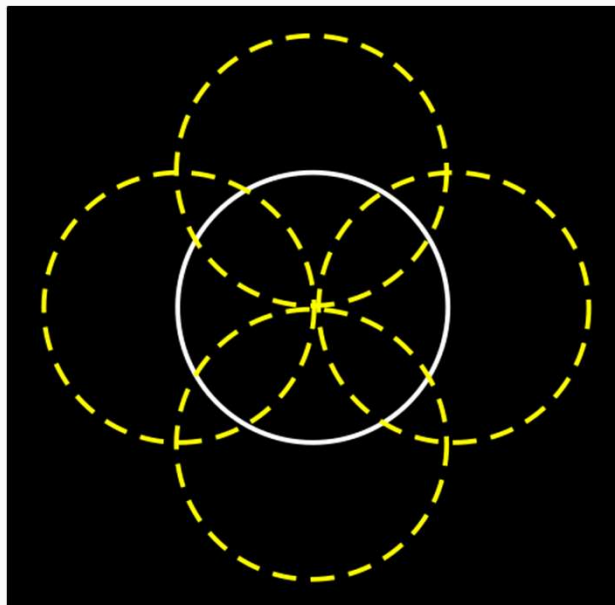
Px size = 0.368 mm

Computationally detecting and counting circular objects

- Detecting circular objects can be achieved using the **circular Hough transform (CHT)**

Basic principle:

If you draw circles around the edge of a circle, the point where the drawn circles intersect will be the center of the original circle



Steps in the Circular Hough Transform

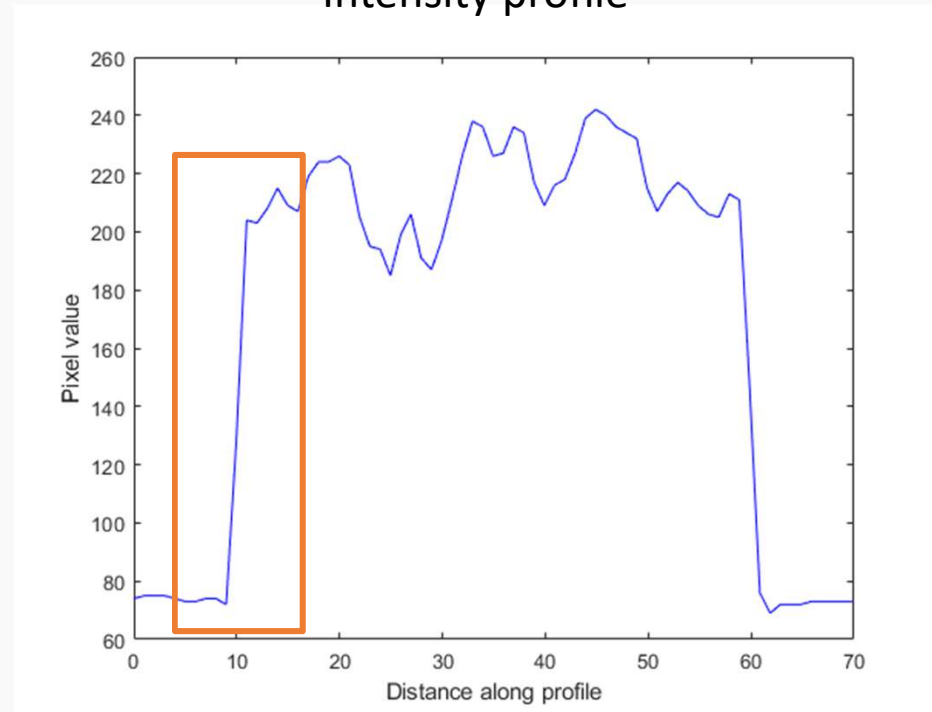
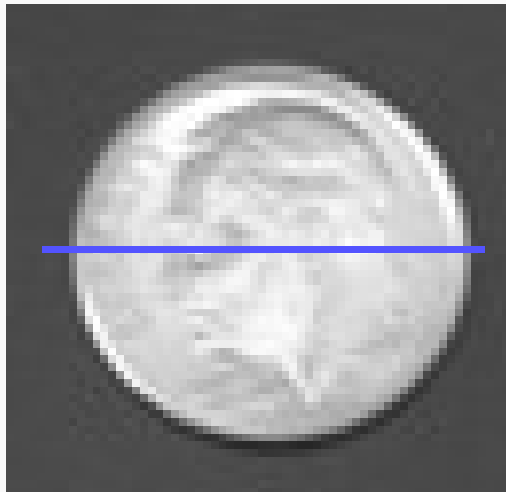
1. Find the edges of objects in an image

You don't need to know how to program the algorithm, but you do need to know conceptually how it works, and its advantages and disadvantages

How are edges defined?

`improfile`

Intensity profile

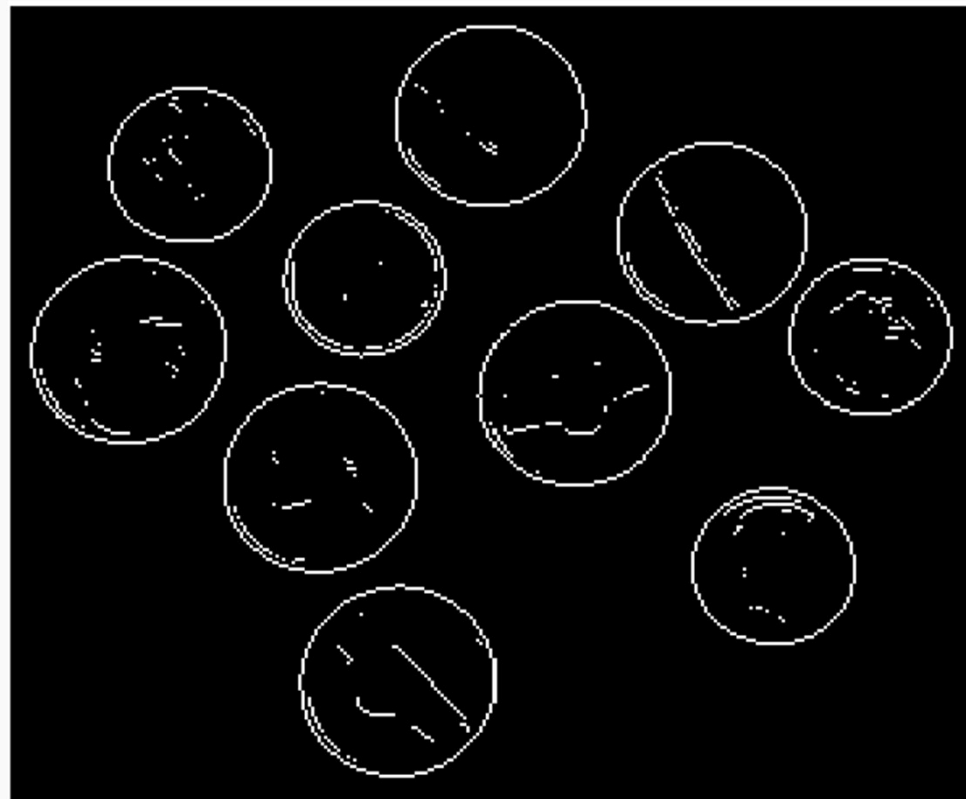


Edges of objects have steep changes in intensity

Example of detected edges

```
>> M = edge(I);  
>> imshow(M)
```

Sobel operator: Computes the difference between neighboring pixels



← Logical array

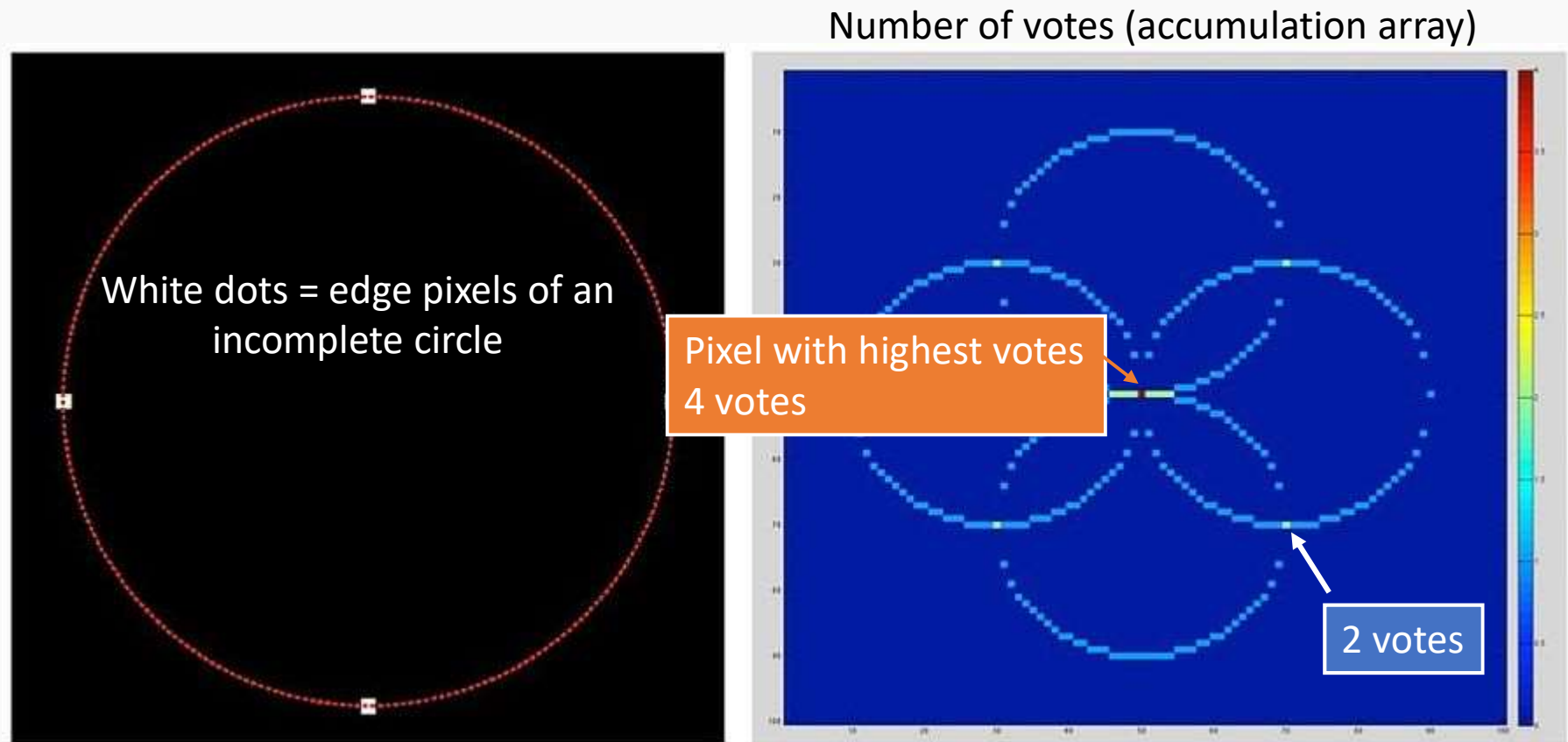
Steps in the Circular Hough Transform

1. Find the edges of objects in an image
2. Draw circles along each edge pixel found
3. Look for intercept point – usually set a threshold i.e. must have at least 4 overlapping circles

You don't need to know how to program the algorithm, but you do need to know conceptually how it works

Voting procedure for the Hough Transform

- A "vote" = number of times a line is drawn on a pixel



Applying the CHT in MATLAB

Syntax:

```
[centers, radii] = ...
```

```
    imfindcircles(image, [min_radius, max_radius])
```

Procedure:

1. Use `imdistanline` to estimate the diameter of the object in pixels
2. Run `imfindcircles` to find circles

Please save your code in a script – you will need it for Question 1 of the homework

Output of `imfindcircles`

`centers` = Each row is (x, y) position of circle

`radii` = Each row is radius of circle

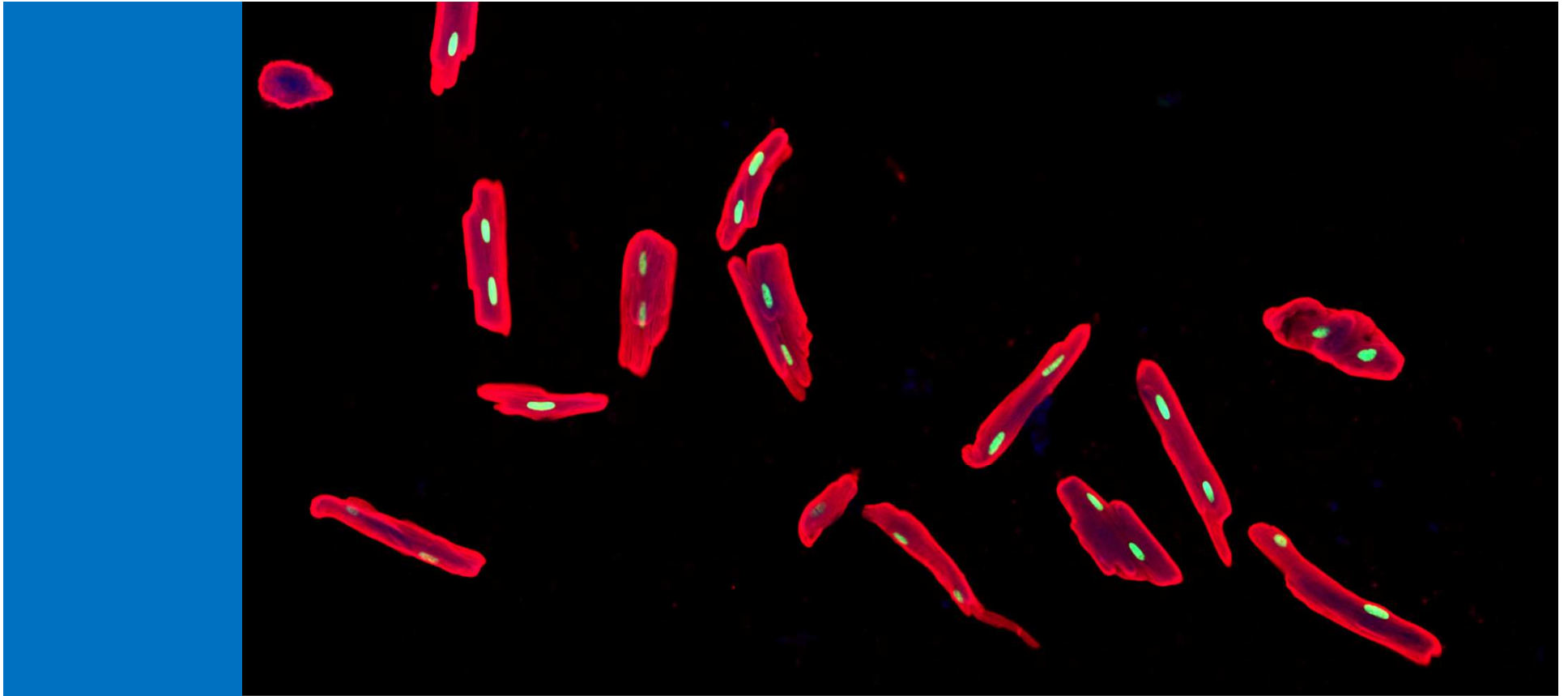
- How to check if the correct objects were found?

Show circles using the function `viscircles`

```
imshow(I)
viscircles(centers, radii)
```


Applications of the circular Hough transform

- Useful technique for detecting circular cells such as yeast cells and cell nuclei
- Homework will have you working on brightfield images of yeast



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