

MATLAB File Help: GraphCut  
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## GraphCut

Performing Graph Cut energy minimization operations on a 2D grid.

### Usage:

```
[gch ...] = GraphCut(mode, ...);
```

### Inputs:

- mode: a string specifying mode of operation. See details below.

### Output:

- gch: A handle to the constructed graph. Handle this handle with care and don't forget to close it in the end!

### Possible modes:

- 'open': Create a new graph object  

```
[gch] = GraphCut('open', DataCost, SmoothnessCost);
```

  

```
[gch] = GraphCut('open', DataCost, SmoothnessCost, vC, hC);
```

  

```
[gch] = GraphCut('open', DataCost, SmoothnessCost, SparseSmoothness);
```

### Inputs:

- DataCost a height by width by num\_labels matrix where  $D_c(r,c,l)$  equals the cost for assigning label  $l$  to pixel at  $(r,c)$ . Note that the graph dimensions, and the number of labels are deduced from the size of the DataCost matrix. When using SparseSmoothness  $D_c$  is of  $(L) \times (P)$  where  $L$  is the number of labels and  $P$  is the number of nodes/pixels in the graph.
- SmoothnessCost a #labels by #labels matrix where  $S_c(l1, l2)$  is the cost of assigning neighboring pixels with label  $l1$  and label  $l2$ . This cost is spatially invariant
- vC, hC: optional arrays defining spatially varying smoothness cost. Single precision arrays of size width\*height. The smoothness cost is computed using:  

$$V_{pq}(l1, l2) = V(l1, l2) * w_{pq}$$
 where  $V$  is the SmoothnessCost matrix  
 $w_{pq}$  is spatially varying parameter:  
 if  $p=(r,c)$  and  $q=(r+1,c)$  then  $w_{pq} = vCue(r,c)$   
 if  $p=(r,c)$  and  $q=(r,c+1)$  then  $w_{pq} = hCue(r,c)$   
 (therefore in practice the last column of vC and the last row of hC are not used).
- SparseSmoothness: a sparse matrix defining both the graph structure (might be other than grid) and the spatially varying smoothness term. Must be real positive sparse matrix of size num\_pixels by num\_pixels, each non zero entry  $(i,j)$  defines a link between pixels  $i$  and  $j$  with  $w_{pq} = \text{SparseSmoothness}(i,j)$ .
- 'set': Set labels  

```
[gch] = GraphCut('set', gch, labels)
```

### Inputs:

- labels: a width by height array containing a label per pixel. Array should be the same size of the grid with values  $[0..\text{num\_labels}]$ .

- 'get': Get current labeling

```
[gch labels] = GraphCut('get', gch)
```

### Outputs:

- labels: a height by width array, containing a label per pixel. note that labels values are in range  $[0..\text{num\_labels}-1]$ .

- 'energy': Get current values of energy terms  
`[gch se de] = GraphCut('energy', gch)`  
`[gch e] = GraphCut('energy', gch)`

Outputs:

- se: Smoothness energy term.
- de: Data energy term.
- e = se + de

- 'expand': Perform labels expansion  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('expand', gch)`  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('expand', gch, iter)`  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('expand', gch, [], label)`  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('expand', gch, [], label, indices)`

When no inputs are provided, GraphCut performs expansion steps until it converges.

Inputs:

- iter: a double scalar, the maximum number of expand iterations to perform.
- label: scalar denoting the label for which to perform expand step (labels are `[0..num_labels-1]`).
- indices: array of linear indices of pixels for which expand step is computed.

Outputs:

- labels: a width\*height array of type int32, containing a label per pixel. note that labels values must be in range `[0..num_labels-1]`.

- 'swap': Perform alpha - beta swappings  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('swap', gch)`  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('swap', gch, iter)`  
`[gch labels] = GraphCut('swap', gch, label1, label2)`

When no inputs are provided, GraphCut performs alpha - beta swaps steps until it converges.

Inputs:

- iter: a double scalar, the maximum number of swap iterations to perform.
- label1, label2: int32 scalars denoting two labels for swap step.

Outputs:

- labels: a width\*height array of type int32, containing a label per pixel. note that labels values must be in range `[0..num_labels-1]`.

- 'truncate': truncating (or not) violating expansion terms (see Rother et al. Digital Tapestry, CVPR2005)  
`[gch truncate_flag] = GraphCut('truncate', gch, truncate_flag);`

When no truncate\_flag is provided the function returns the current state of truncation

Inputs:

- truncate\_flag: set truncate\_flag to this state

Outputs:

- truncate\_flag: current state (after modification if applicable)

- 'close': Close the graph and release allocated resources.  
`[gch] = GraphCut('close', gch);`

This wrapper for Matlab was written by Shai Bagon (shai.bagon@weizmann.ac.il).  
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The core cpp application was written by Olga Veksler  
(available from <http://www.csd.uwo.ca/faculty/olga/code.html>):

- [1] Efficient Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts  
Yuri Boykov, Olga Veksler, Ramin Zabih,  
IEEE transactions on PAMI, vol. 20, no. 12, p. 1222-1239, November  
2001.
- [2] What Energy Functions can be Minimized via Graph Cuts?  
Vladimir Kolmogorov and Ramin Zabih.  
IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence  
(PAMI), vol. 26, no. 2,  
February 2004, pp. 147-159.
- [3] An Experimental Comparison of Min-Cut/Max-Flow Algorithms  
for Energy Minimization in Vision.  
Yuri Boykov and Vladimir Kolmogorov.  
In IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence  
(PAMI),  
vol. 26, no. 9, September 2004, pp. 1124-1137.
- [4] Matlab Wrapper for Graph Cut.  
Shai Bagon.  
in [www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~bagon](http://www.wisdom.weizmann.ac.il/~bagon), December 2006.

This software can be used only for research purposes, you should cite ALL of  
the aforementioned papers in any resulting publication.  
If you wish to use this software (or the algorithms described in the  
aforementioned paper)  
for commercial purposes, you should be aware that there is a US patent:

R. Zabih, Y. Boykov, O. Veksler,  
"System and method for fast approximate energy minimization via  
graph cuts ",  
United States Patent 6,744,923, June 1, 2004

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