Computer Vision – Lecture 20

Motion and Optical Flow

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Bastian Leibe
RWTH Aachen
http://www.vision.rwth-aachen.de

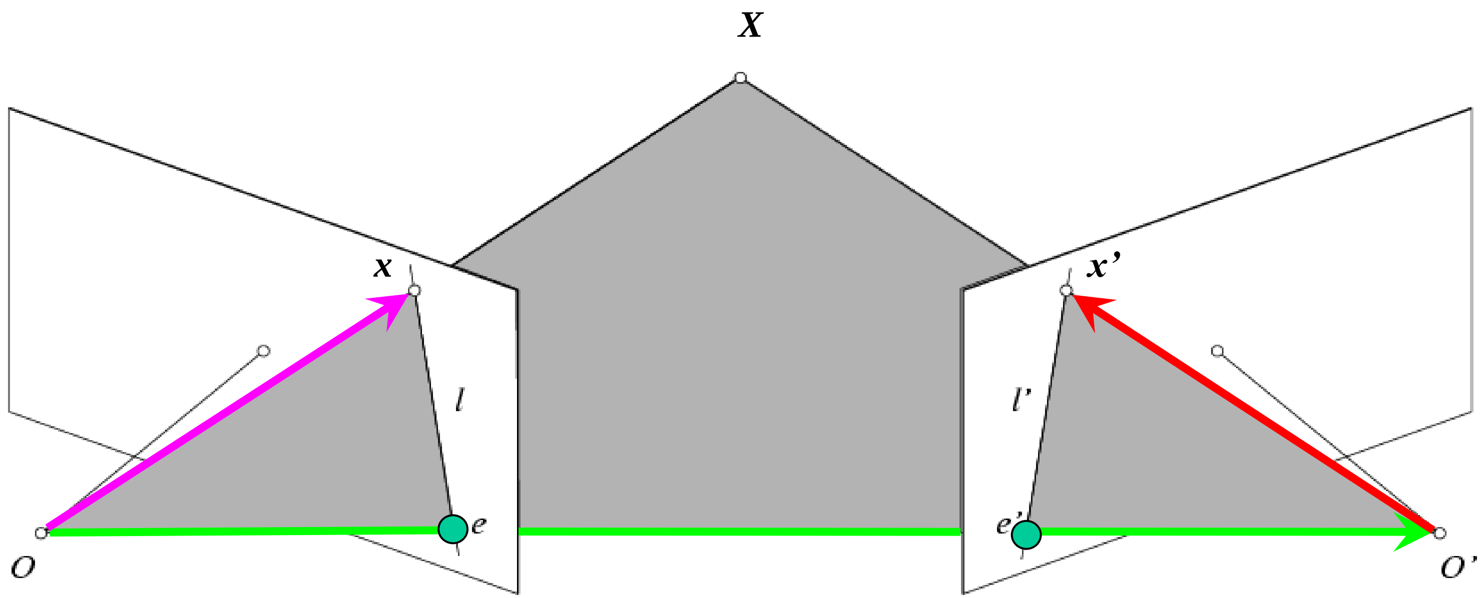
leibe@vision.rwth-aachen.de

Many slides adapted from K. Grauman, S. Seitz, R. Szeliski, M. Pollefeys, S. Lazebnik

Course Outline

- Image Processing Basics
- Segmentation & Grouping
- Object Recognition
- Local Features & Matching
- Object Categorization
- 3D Reconstruction
  - Epipolar Geometry and Stereo Basics
  - Camera calibration & Uncalibrated Reconstruction
  - Active Stereo
- Motion
  - Motion and Optical Flow
- 3D Reconstruction (Reprise)
  - Structure-from-Motion

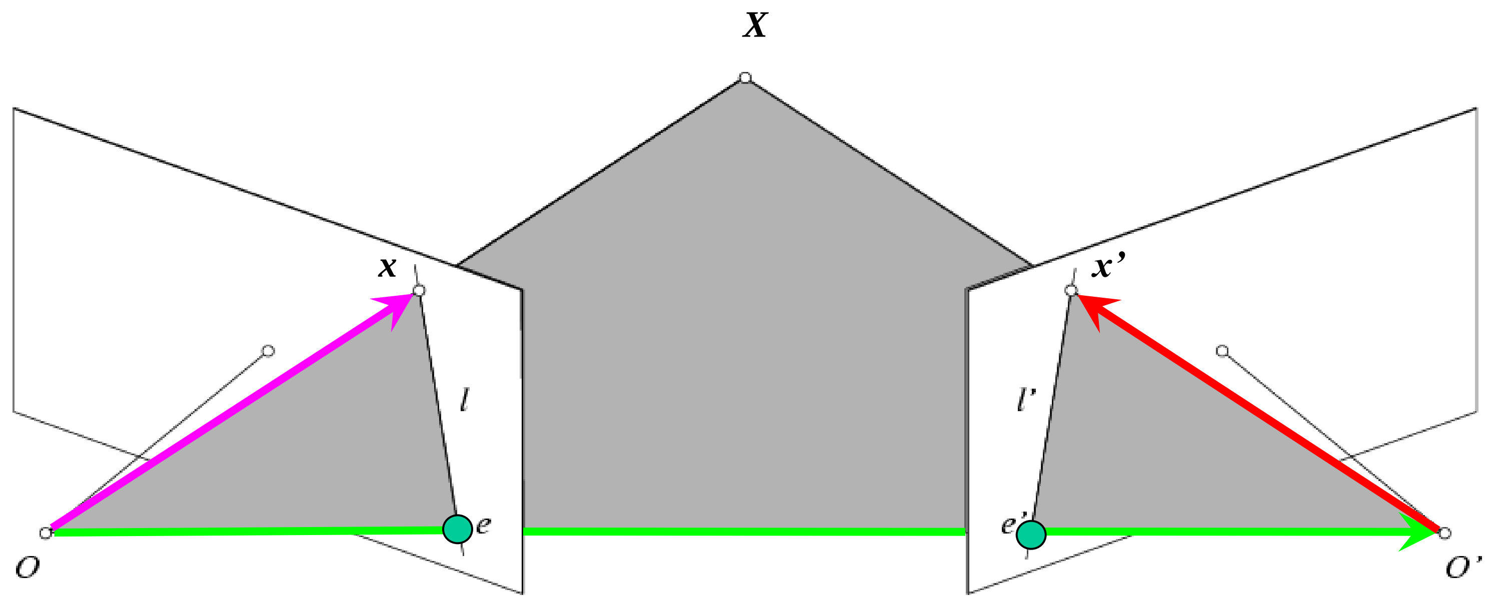
Recap: Epipolar Geometry – Calibrated Case



$$x \cdot [t \times (Rx')] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x^T E x' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad E = [t_\times]R$$

Essential Matrix
(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

Recap: Epipolar Geometry - Uncalibrated Case



$$\hat{x}^T E \hat{x}' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x^T F x' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad F = K^{-T} E K'^{-1}$$

$$x = K \hat{x}$$

$$x' = K' \hat{x}'$$

Fundamental Matrix
(Faugeras and Luong, 1992)

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Recap: The Eight-Point Algorithm

$\boldsymbol{x} = (\boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{v}, 1)^T, \quad \boldsymbol{x'} = (\boldsymbol{u'}, \boldsymbol{v'}, 1)^T$

$$(u, v, 1)\begin{pmatrix} F_{11} & F_{12} & F_{13} \\ F_{21} & F_{22} & F_{23} \\ F_{31} & F_{32} & F_{33} \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [u'u, u'v, u', uv', vv', v', u, v, 1]\begin{bmatrix} F_{11} \\ F_{12} \\ F_{13} \\ F_{21} \\ F_{22} \\ F_{23} \\ F_{31} \\ F_{32} \\ F_{33} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
u'_1u_1 & u'_1v_1 & u'_1 & u_1v'_1 & v_1v'_1 & v'_1 & u_1 & v_1 & 1 \\
u'_2u_2 & u'_2v_2 & u'_2 & u_2v'_2 & v_2v'_2 & v'_2 & u_2 & v_2 & 1 \\
u'_3u_3 & u'_3v_3 & u'_3 & u_3v'_3 & v_3v'_3 & v'_3 & u_3 & v_3 & 1 \\
u'_4u_4 & u'_4v_4 & u'_4 & u_4v'_4 & v_4v'_4 & v'_4 & u_4 & v_4 & 1 \\
u'_5u_5 & u'_5v_5 & u'_5 & u_5v'_5 & v_5v'_5 & v'_5 & u_5 & v_5 & 1 \\
u'_6u_6 & u'_6v_6 & u'_6 & u_6v'_6 & v_6v'_6 & v'_6 & u_6 & v_6 & 1 \\
u'_7u_7 & u'_7v_7 & u'_7 & u_7v'_7 & v_7v'_7 & v'_7 & u_7 & v_7 & 1 \\
u'_8u_8 & u'_8v_8 & u'_8 & u_8v'_8 & v_8v'_8 & v'_8 & u_8 & v_8 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix} F_{11} \\ F_{12} \\ F_{13} \\ F_{21} \\ F_{22} \\ F_{23} \\ F_{31} \\ F_{32} \\ F_{33} \end{bmatrix}
=
\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{Af} = \mathbf{0}$$

Solve using… SVD!

This minimizes:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i^T F x_i')^2$$

Recap: Normalized Eight-Point Algorithm

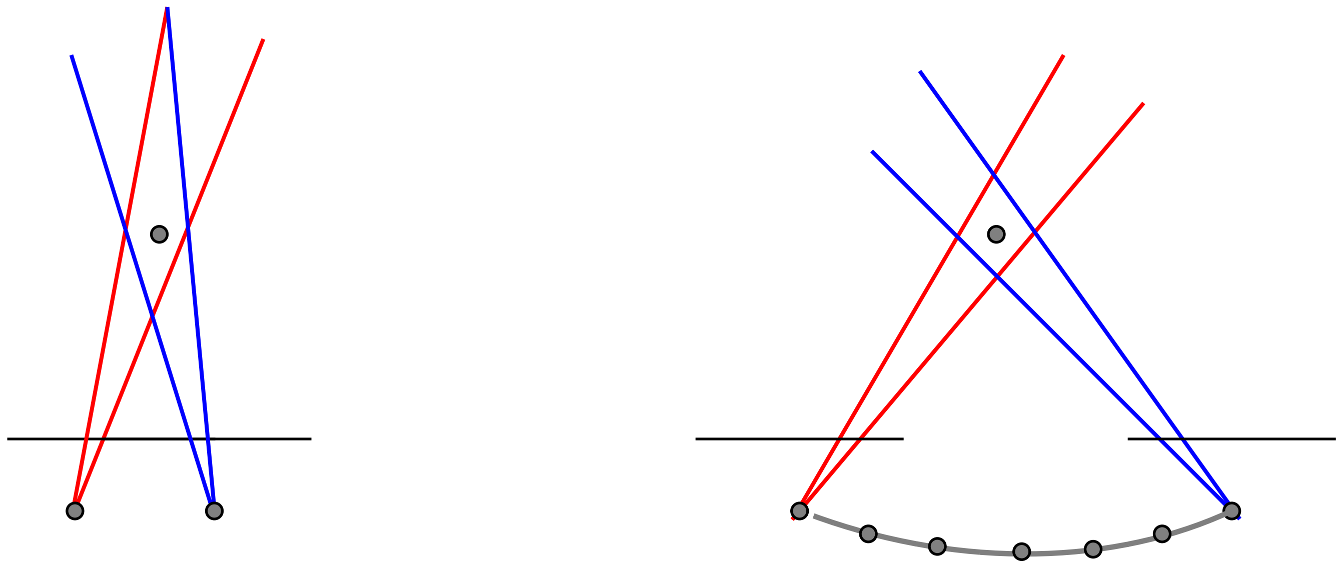
1. Center the image data at the origin, and scale it so the mean squared distance between the origin and the data points is 2 pixels.
2. Use the eight-point algorithm to compute F from the normalized points.
3. Enforce the rank-2 constraint using SVD.

$$F \overset{\text{SVD}}{=} \boldsymbol{UDV}^T = \boldsymbol{U}\begin{bmatrix} d_{11} & & \\ & d_{22} & \\ & & d_{33} \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & \cdots & v_{13} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{31} & \cdots & v_{33} \end{bmatrix}^T$$

Set d_{33} to zero and reconstruct F

4. Transform fundamental matrix back to original units: if T and T' are the normalizing transformations in the two images, than the fundamental matrix in original coordinates is $T^T F T'$.

Practical Considerations



Small Baseline

Large Baseline

1. **Role of the baseline**
   - Small baseline: large depth error
   - Large baseline: difficult search problem

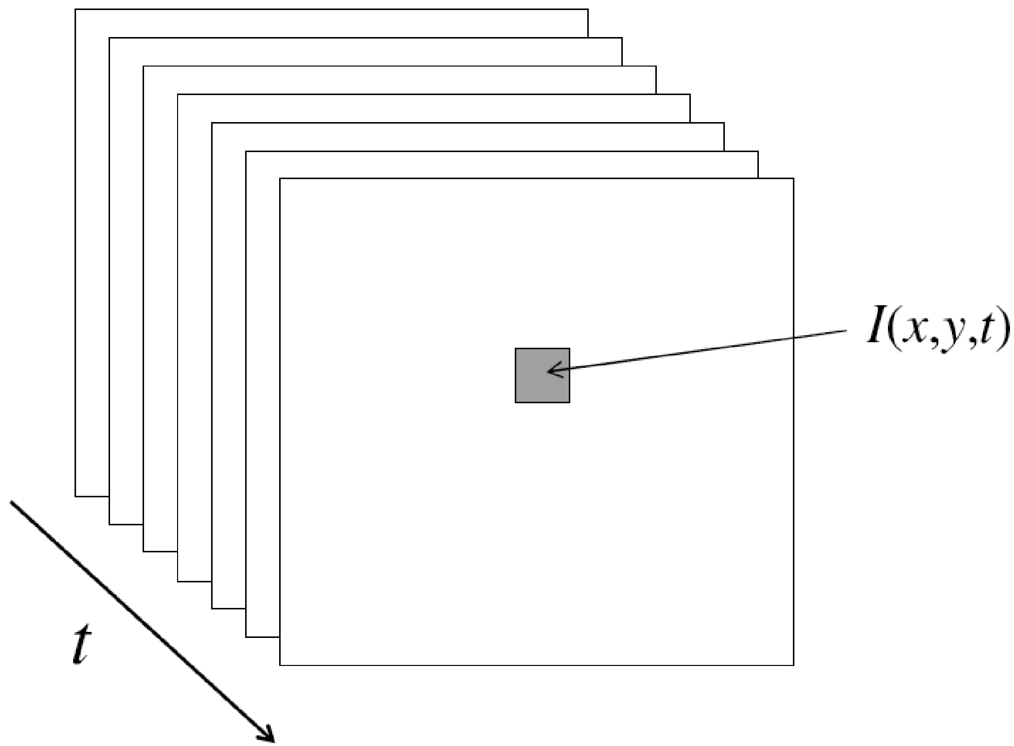
- **Solution**
  - Track features between frames until baseline is sufficient.

Topics of This Lecture

- Introduction to Motion
  - Applications, uses
- Motion Field
  - Derivation
- Optical Flow
  - Brightness constancy constraint
  - Aperture problem
  - Lucas-Kanade flow
  - Iterative refinement
  - Global parametric motion
  - Coarse-to-fine estimation
  - Motion segmentation
- KLT Feature Tracking

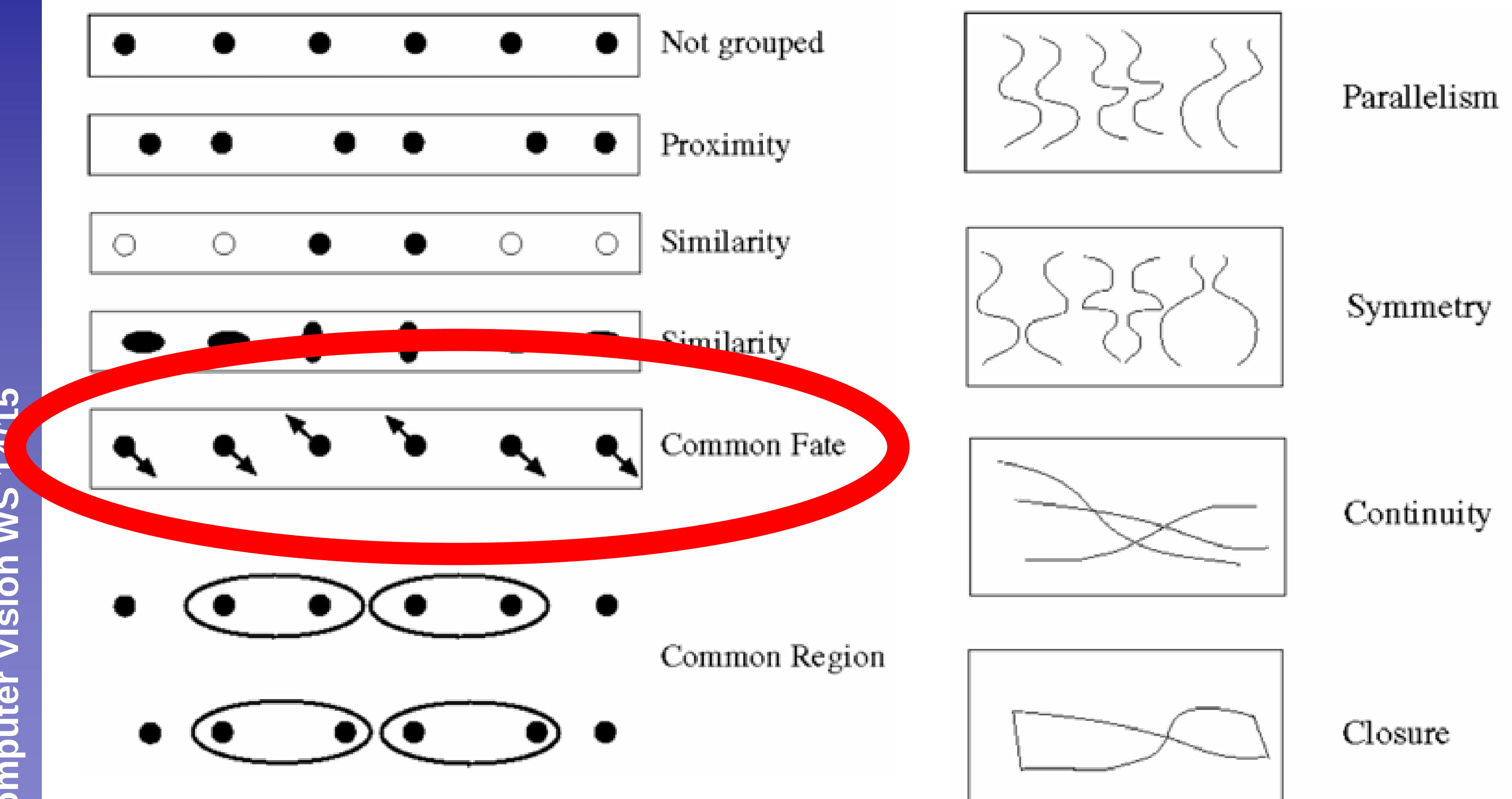
Video

- A video is a sequence of frames captured over time
- Now our image data is a function of space (x, y) and time (t)



Motion and Perceptual Organization

- Sometimes, motion is the only cue…



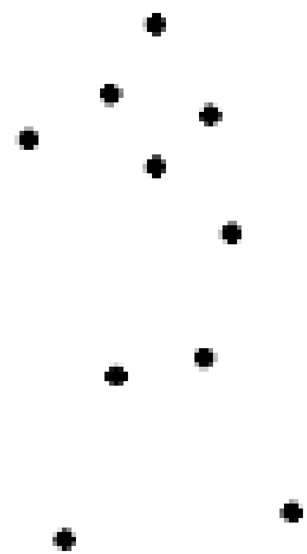
Motion and Perceptual Organization

- **Sometimes, motion is foremost cue**

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

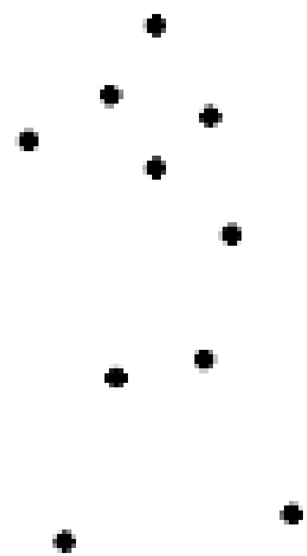
Motion and Perceptual Organization

- Even “impoverished” motion data can evoke a strong percept



Motion and Perceptual Organization

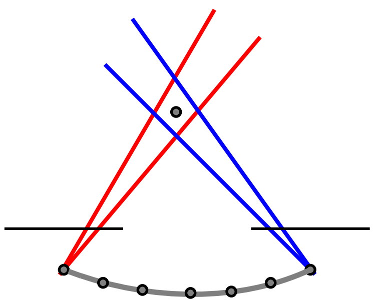
- Even “impoverished” motion data can evoke a strong percept



Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Uses of Motion

- Estimating 3D structure
  - Directly from optic flow
  - Indirectly to create correspondences for SfM



- Segmenting objects based on motion cues
- Learning dynamical models
- Recognizing events and activities
- Improving video quality (motion stabilization)

Motion Estimation Techniques

- Direct methods
  - Directly recover image motion at each pixel from spatio-temporal image brightness variations
  - Dense motion fields, but sensitive to appearance variations
  - Suitable for video and when image motion is small
- Feature-based methods
  - Extract visual features (corners, textured areas) and track them over multiple frames
  - Sparse motion fields, but more robust tracking
  - Suitable when image motion is large (10s of pixels)

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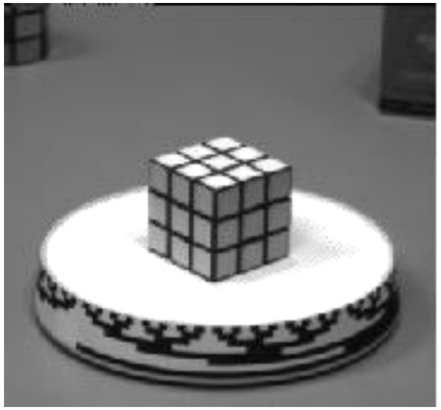
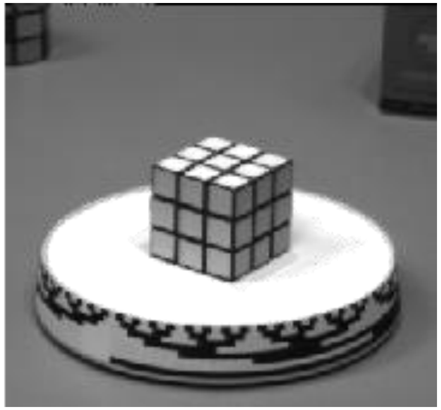
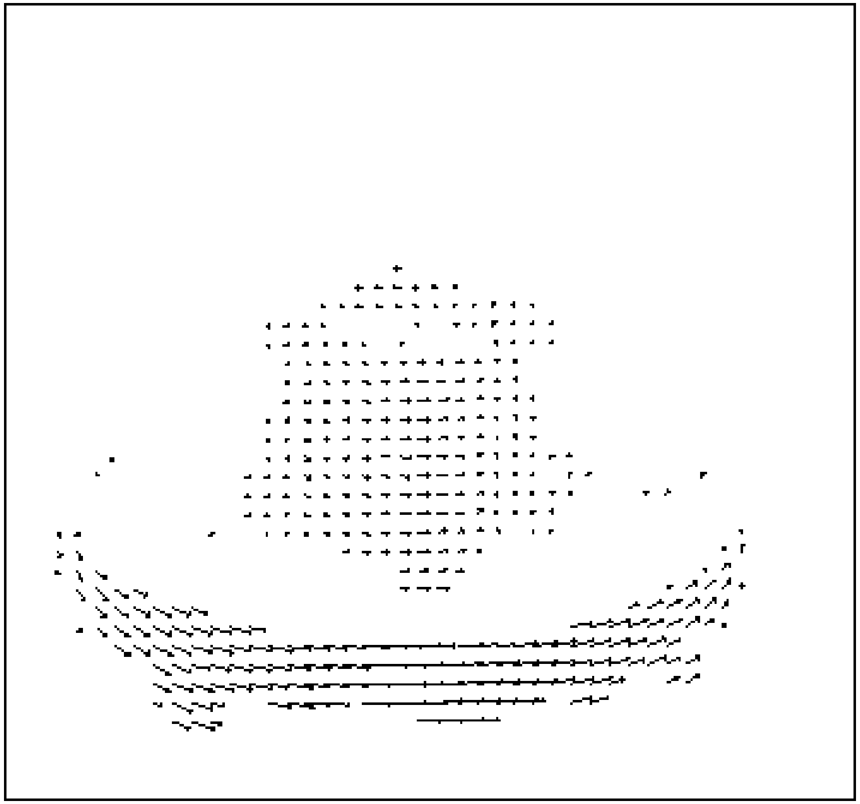
Motion Field

- The motion field is the projection of the 3D scene motion into the image

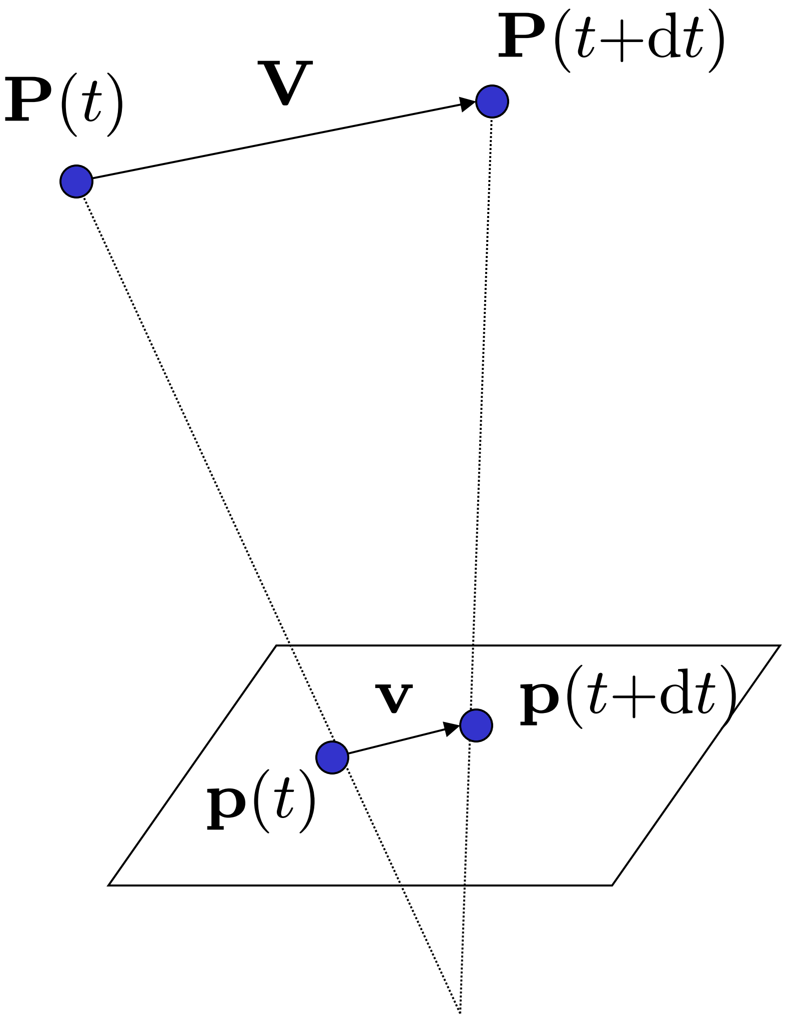






Motion Field and Parallax

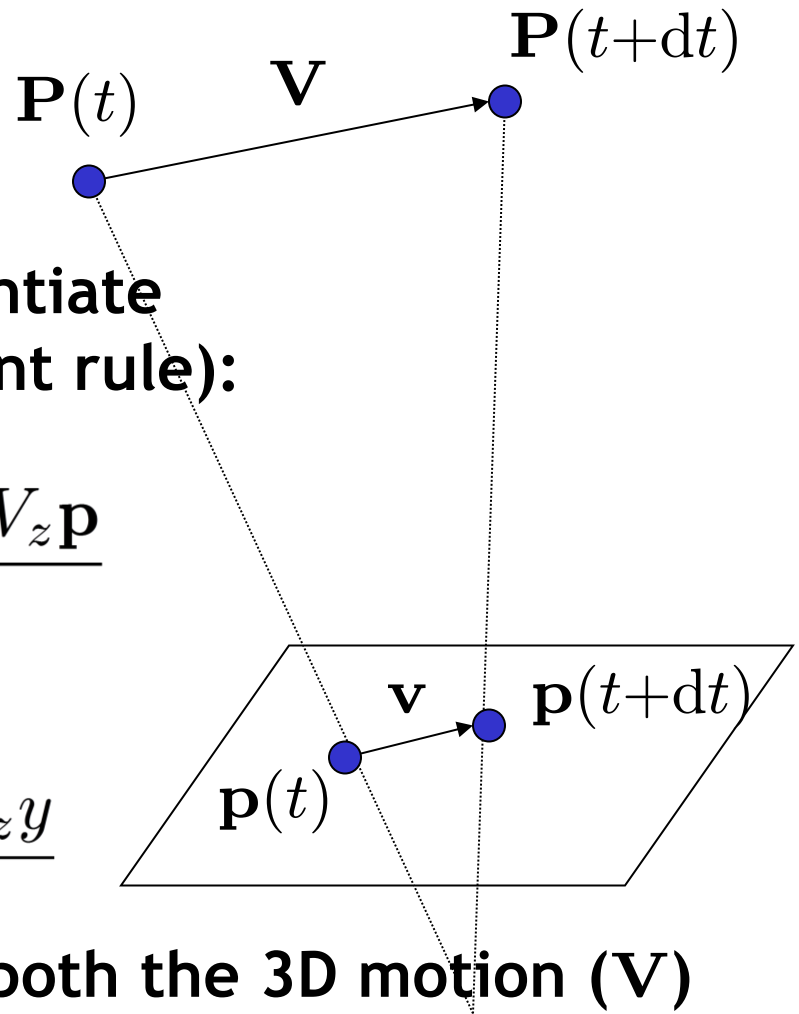
- $\mathbf{P}(t)$ is a moving 3D point
- Velocity of 3D scene point: $\mathbf{V} = \mathrm{d}\mathbf{P}/\mathrm{d}t$
- $\mathbf{p}(t) = (\mathbf{x}(t),\mathbf{y}(t))$ is the projection of $\mathbf{P}$ in the image.
- Apparent velocity $\mathbf{v}$ in the image: given by components $v_x = \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}/\mathrm{d}t$ and $v_y = \mathrm{d}\mathbf{y}/\mathrm{d}t$
- These components are known as the *motion field* of the image.



Motion Field and Parallax

Quotient rule:
$(f/g)' = (g\, f' - g' f)/g^2$

$$\mathbf{V} = [V_x, V_y, V_z] \qquad \mathbf{p} = f\frac{\mathbf{P}}{Z}$$



To find image velocity $\mathbf{v}$, differentiate $\mathbf{p}$ with respect to t (using quotient rule):

$$\mathbf{v} = f\frac{Z\mathbf{V} - V_z\mathbf{P}}{Z^2} = \frac{f\mathbf{V} - V_z\mathbf{p}}{Z}$$

$$v_x = \frac{fV_x - V_z x}{Z} \qquad v_y = \frac{fV_y - V_z y}{Z}$$

- **Image motion is a function of both the 3D motion ($\mathbf{V}$) and the depth of the 3D point (Z).**

Motion Field and Parallax

- **Pure translation: $\mathbf{V}$ is constant everywhere**

$$v_x = \frac{fV_x - V_z x}{Z} \qquad \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{Z}(\mathbf{v}_0 - V_z \mathbf{p}),$$

$$v_y = \frac{fV_y - V_z y}{Z} \qquad \mathbf{v}_0 = (fV_x, fV_y)$$

Motion Field and Parallax

- Pure translation: $\mathbf{V}$ is constant everywhere

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{Z}(\mathbf{v}_0 - V_z\mathbf{p}),$$

$$\mathbf{v}_0 = (fV_x, fV_y)$$

- V_z is nonzero:
  - Every motion vector points toward (or away from) $\mathbf{v}_0$, the vanishing point of the translation direction.

Motion Field and Parallax

- Pure translation: $\mathbf{V}$ is constant everywhere

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{Z}(\mathbf{v}_0 - V_z \mathbf{p}),$$

$$\mathbf{v}_0 = (fV_x, fV_y)$$

- V_z is nonzero:
  - Every motion vector points toward (or away from) $\mathbf{v}_0$, the vanishing point of the translation direction.
- V_z is zero:
  - Motion is parallel to the image plane, all the motion vectors are parallel.
- The length of the motion vectors is inversely proportional to the depth Z.

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- Optical Flow
  - Brightness constancy constraint
  - Aperture problem
  - Lucas-Kanade flow
  - Iterative refinement
  - Global parametric motion
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  - Motion segmentation
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Optical Flow

- Definition: optical flow is the *apparent* motion of brightness patterns in the image.
- Ideally, optical flow would be the same as the motion field.
- Have to be careful: apparent motion can be caused by lighting changes without any actual motion.
  - Think of a uniform rotating sphere under fixed lighting vs. a stationary sphere under moving illumination.

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Apparent Motion ≠ Motion Field

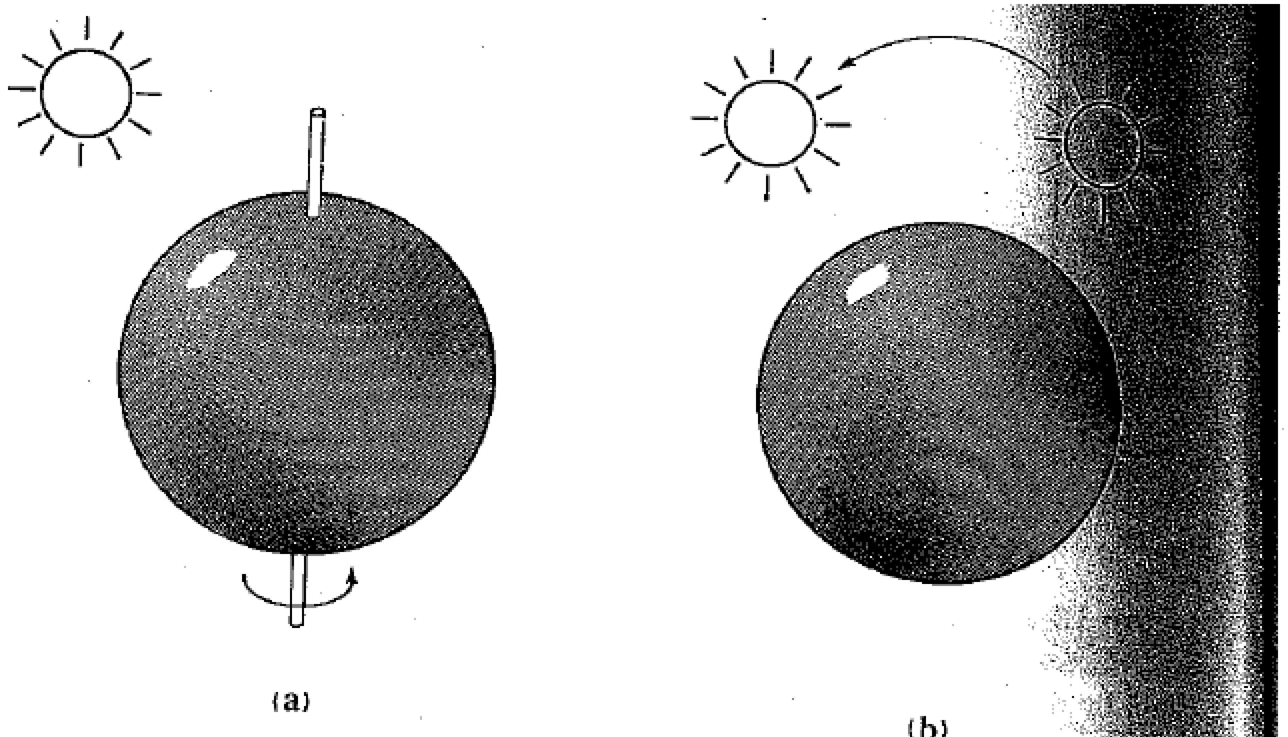
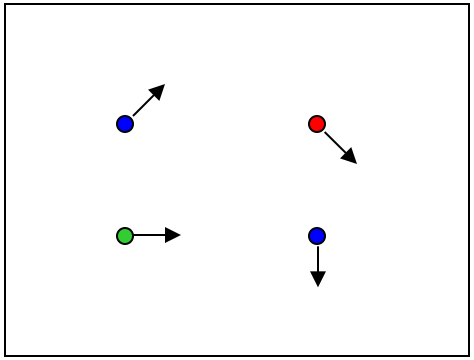
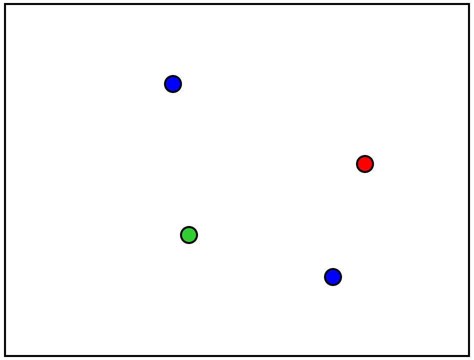


Figure 12-2. The optical flow is not always equal to the motion field. In (a) a smooth sphere is rotating under constant illumination—the image does not change, yet the motion field is nonzero. In (b) a fixed sphere is illuminated by a moving source—the shading in the image changes, yet the motion field is zero.

Estimating Optical Flow



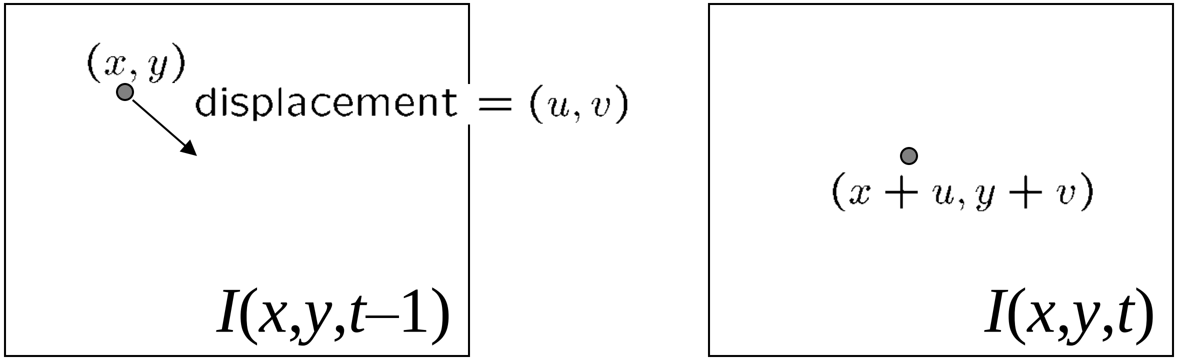
$I(x,y,t\!-\!1)$



$I(x,y,t)$

- **Given two subsequent frames, estimate the apparent motion field $u(x,y)$ and $v(x,y)$ between them.**
- **Key assumptions**
  - **Brightness constancy: projection of the same point looks the same in every frame.**
  - **Small motion: points do not move very far.**
  - **Spatial coherence: points move like their neighbors.**

The Brightness Constancy Constraint



- **Brightness Constancy Equation:**

$$I(x, y, t-1) = I(x + u(x, y), y + v(x, y), t)$$

- **Linearizing the right hand side using Taylor expansion:**

$$I(x, y, t-1) \approx I(x, y, t) + I_x \cdot u(x, y) + I_y \cdot v(x, y)$$

- **Hence,** $I_x \cdot u + I_y \cdot v + I_t \approx 0$

Spatial derivatives

Temporal derivative

The Brightness Constancy Constraint

$$I_x \cdot u + I_y \cdot v + I_t = 0$$

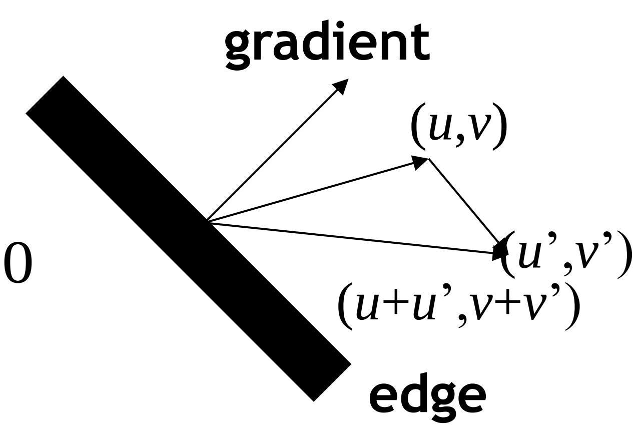
- **How many equations and unknowns per pixel?**
  - One equation, two unknowns

- **Intuitively, what does this constraint mean?**

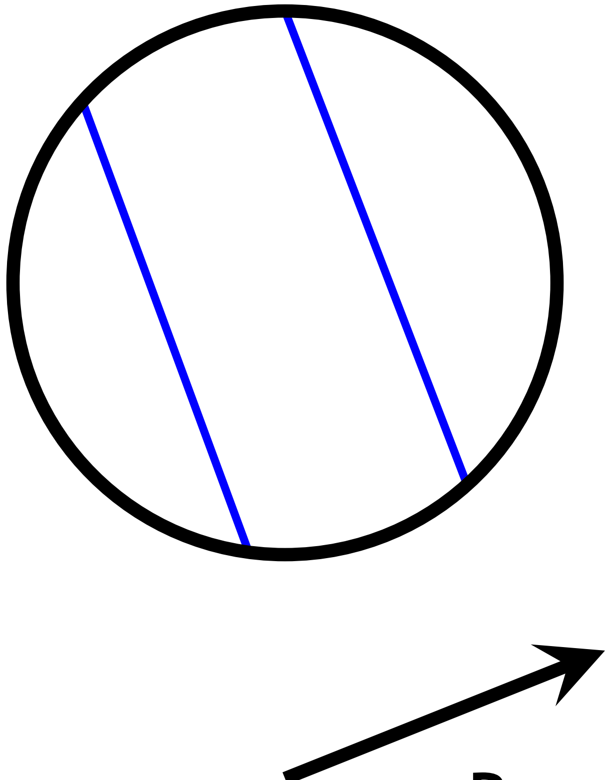
$$\nabla I \cdot (u, v) + I_t = 0$$

- **The component of the flow perpendicular to the gradient (i.e., parallel to the edge) is unknown**

If (u,v) satisfies the equation,
so does $(u+u', v+v')$ if $\nabla I \cdot (u', v') = 0$

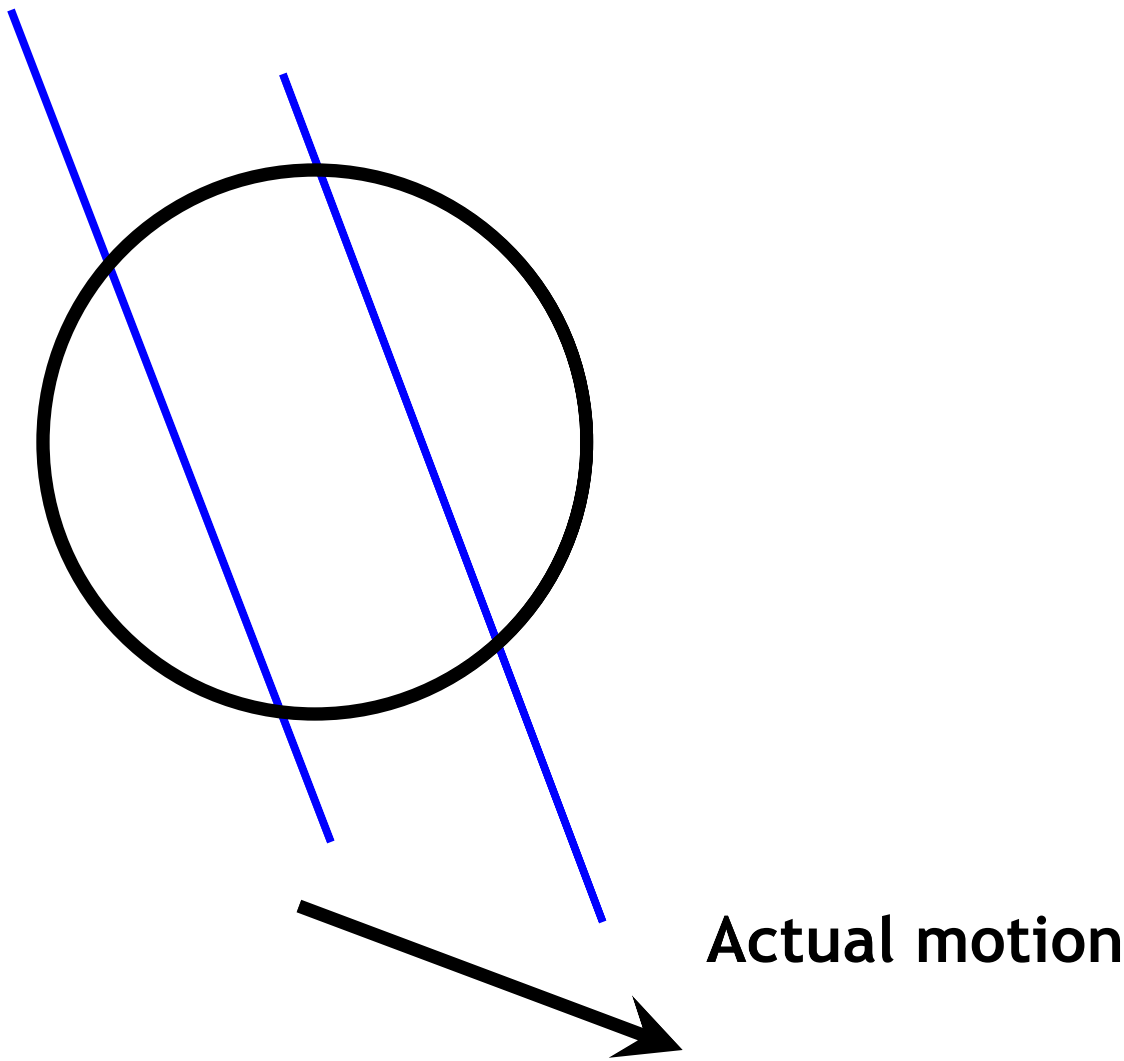


The Aperture Problem

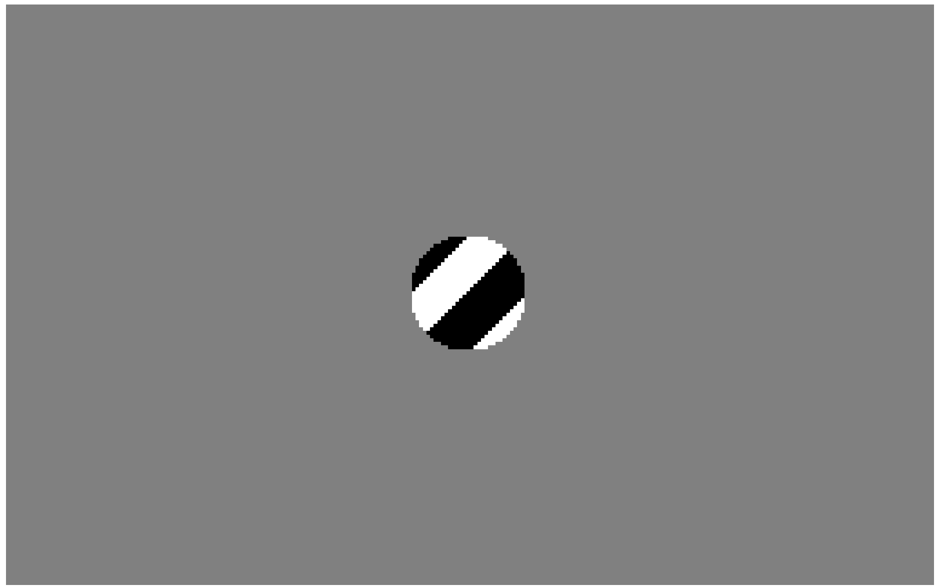


Perceived motion

The Aperture Problem

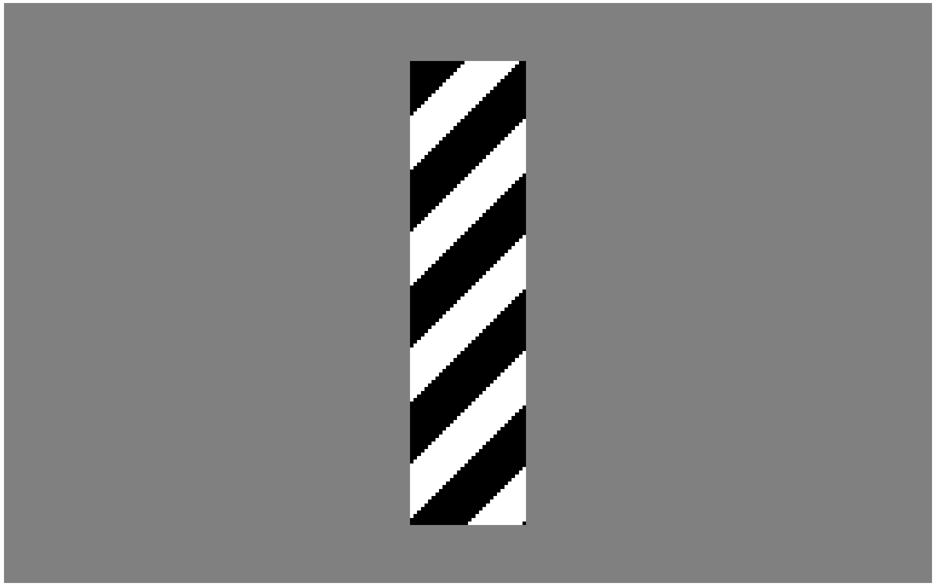


The Barber Pole Illusion



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion

The Barber Pole Illusion



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion

The Barber Pole Illusion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion

Solving the Aperture Problem

- How to get more equations for a pixel?
- Spatial coherence constraint: pretend the pixel's neighbors have the same (u,v)
  - If we use a 5x5 window, that gives us 25 equations per pixel

$$0 = I_t(\mathbf{p_i}) + \nabla I(\mathbf{p_i}) \cdot [u \;\; v]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p}_1) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_2) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25}) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix}$$

B. Lucas and T. Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. In *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 674-679, 1981.

Solving the Aperture Problem

- **Least squares problem:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p}_1) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_2) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25}) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \qquad \underset{25\text{x}2}{A} \;\; \underset{2\text{x}1}{d} = \underset{25\text{x}1}{b}$$

- **Minimum least squares solution given by solution of**

$$\underset{2\text{x}2}{(A^T A)} \;\; \underset{2\text{x}1}{d} = \underset{2\text{x}1}{A^T b}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T A} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T b}$$

(The summations are over all pixels in the $K \times K$ window)

Conditions for Solvability

- Optimal (u, v) satisfies Lucas-Kanade equation

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T A} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T b}$$

- **When is this solvable?**
  - $A^T A$ should be invertible.
  - $A^T A$ entries should not be too small (noise).
  - $A^T A$ should be well-conditioned.

Eigenvectors of $A^T A$

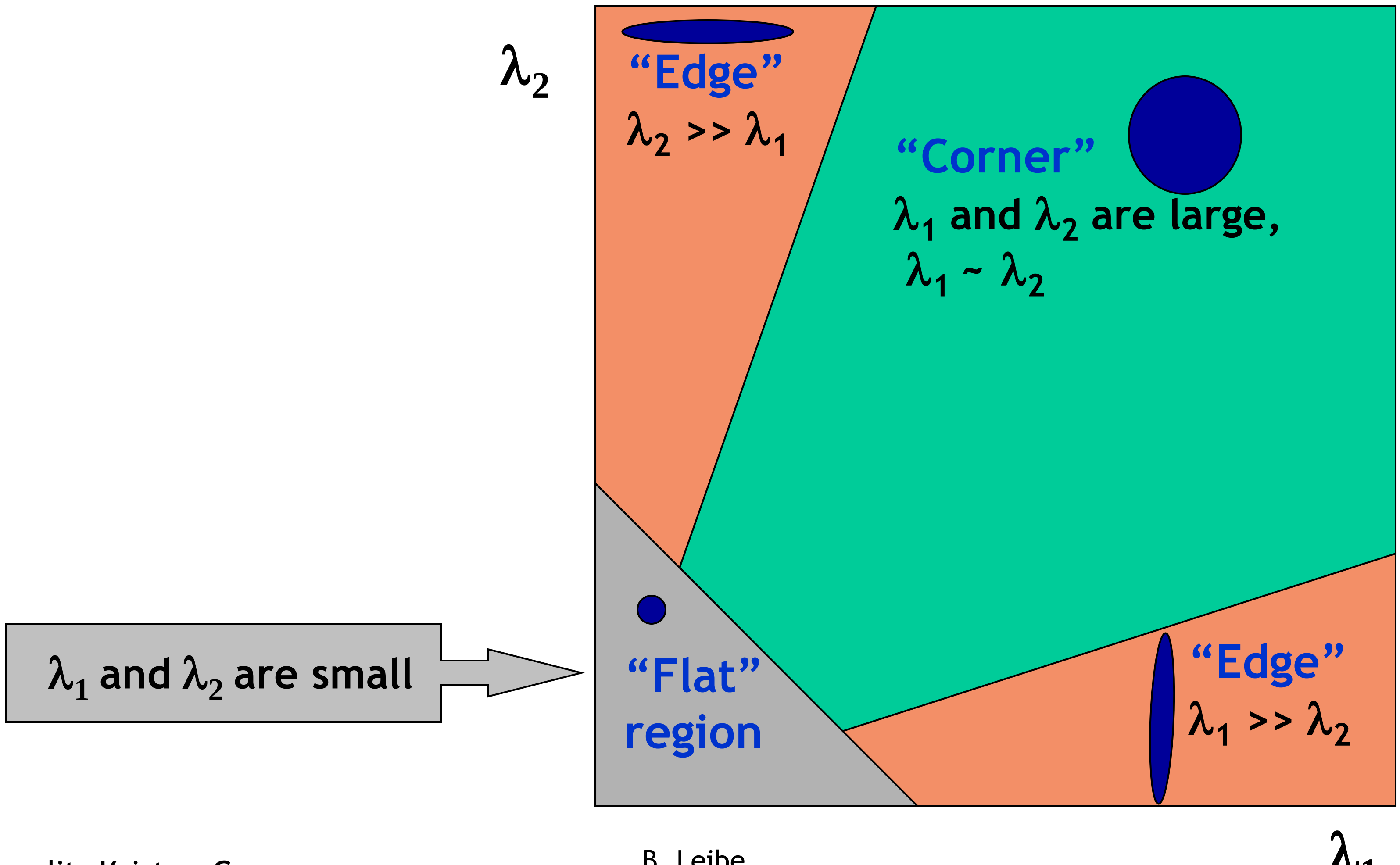
$$A^T A = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix} [I_x \ I_y] = \sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- **Haven't we seen an equation like this before?**
- **Recall the Harris corner detector: $M = A^T A$ is the second moment matrix.**
- **The eigenvectors and eigenvalues of M relate to edge direction and magnitude.**
  - **The eigenvector associated with the larger eigenvalue points in the direction of fastest intensity change.**
  - **The other eigenvector is orthogonal to it.**

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Interpreting the Eigenvalues

- Classification of image points using eigenvalues of the second moment matrix:



Edge

$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- Gradients very large or very small
- Large λ_1 , small λ_2

Low-Texture Region

$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- Gradients have small magnitude
- Small λ_1 , small λ_2

High-Texture Region

$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- Gradients are different, large magnitude
- Large λ_1, large λ_2

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Per-Pixel Estimation Procedure

- Let $M = \sum (\nabla I)(\nabla I)^T$ and $b = \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$
- Algorithm: At each pixel compute U by solving $MU = b$
- M is singular if all gradient vectors point in the same direction
  - E.g., along an edge
  - Trivially singular if the summation is over a single pixel or if there is no texture
  - I.e., only normal flow is available (aperture problem)
- Corners and textured areas are OK

Iterative Refinement

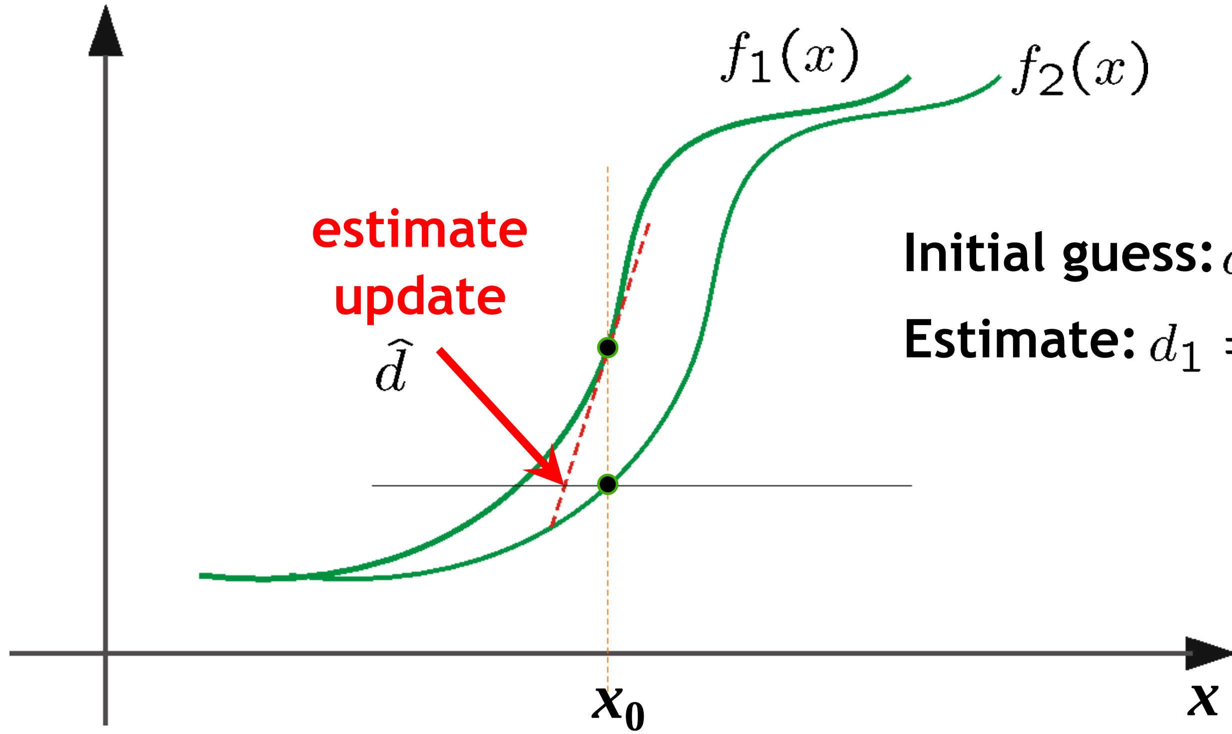
1. Estimate velocity at each pixel using one iteration of Lucas and Kanade estimation.

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T A} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T b}$$

2. Warp one image toward the other using the estimated flow field.
   - *(Easier said than done)*

3. Refine estimate by repeating the process.

Optical Flow: Iterative Refinement

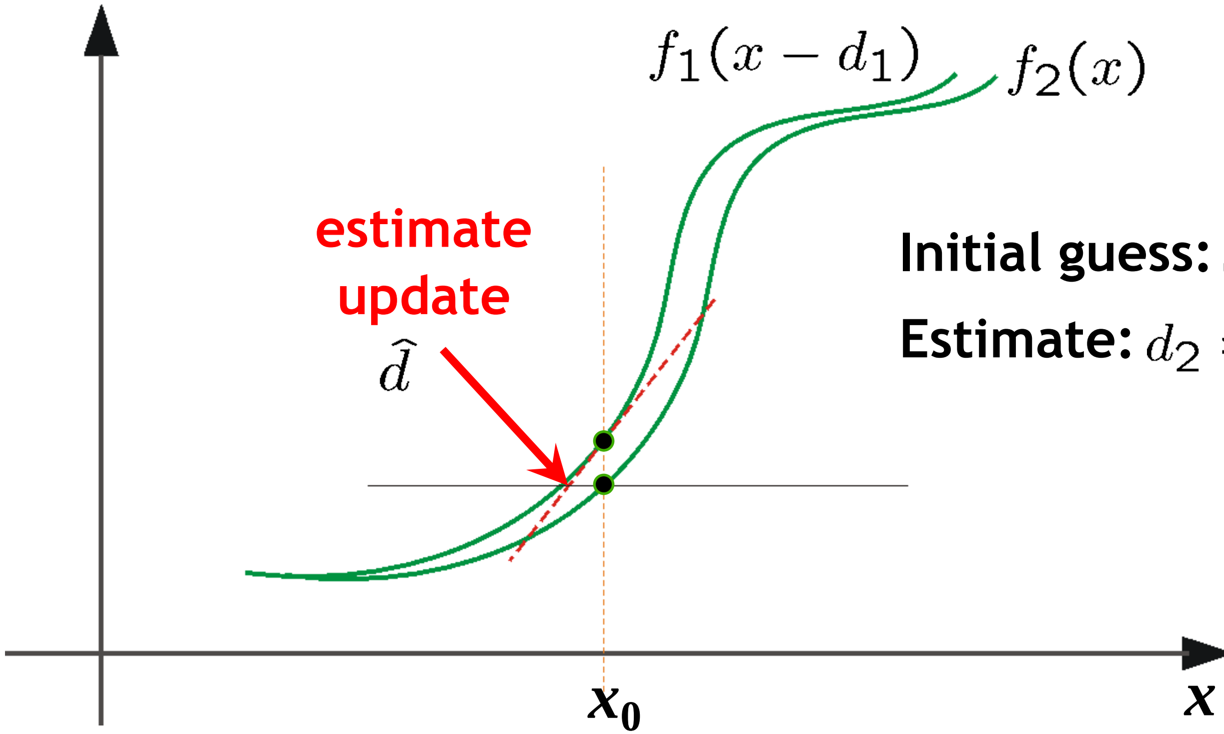


Initial guess: $d_0 = 0$

Estimate: $d_1 = d_0 + \hat{d}$

(using d for *displacement* here instead of *u*)

Optical Flow: Iterative Refinement

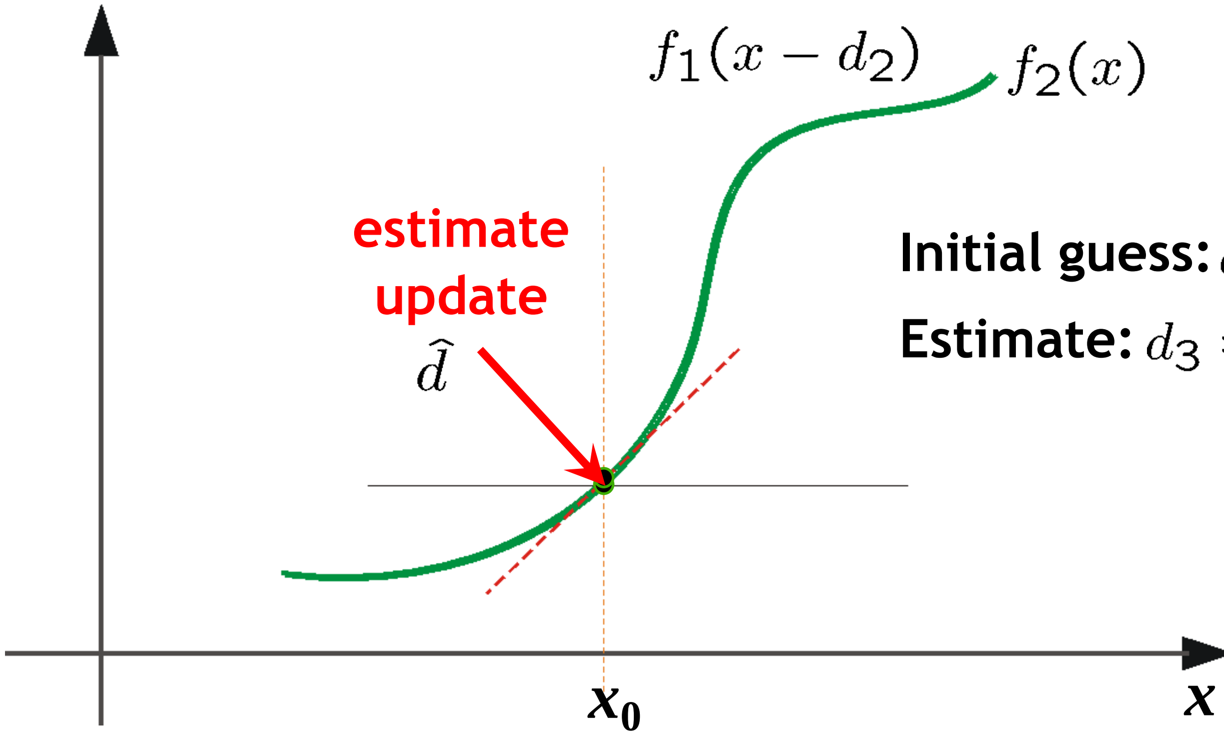


Initial guess: d_1

Estimate: $d_2 = d_1 + \hat{d}$

(using d for *displacement* here instead of *u*)

Optical Flow: Iterative Refinement

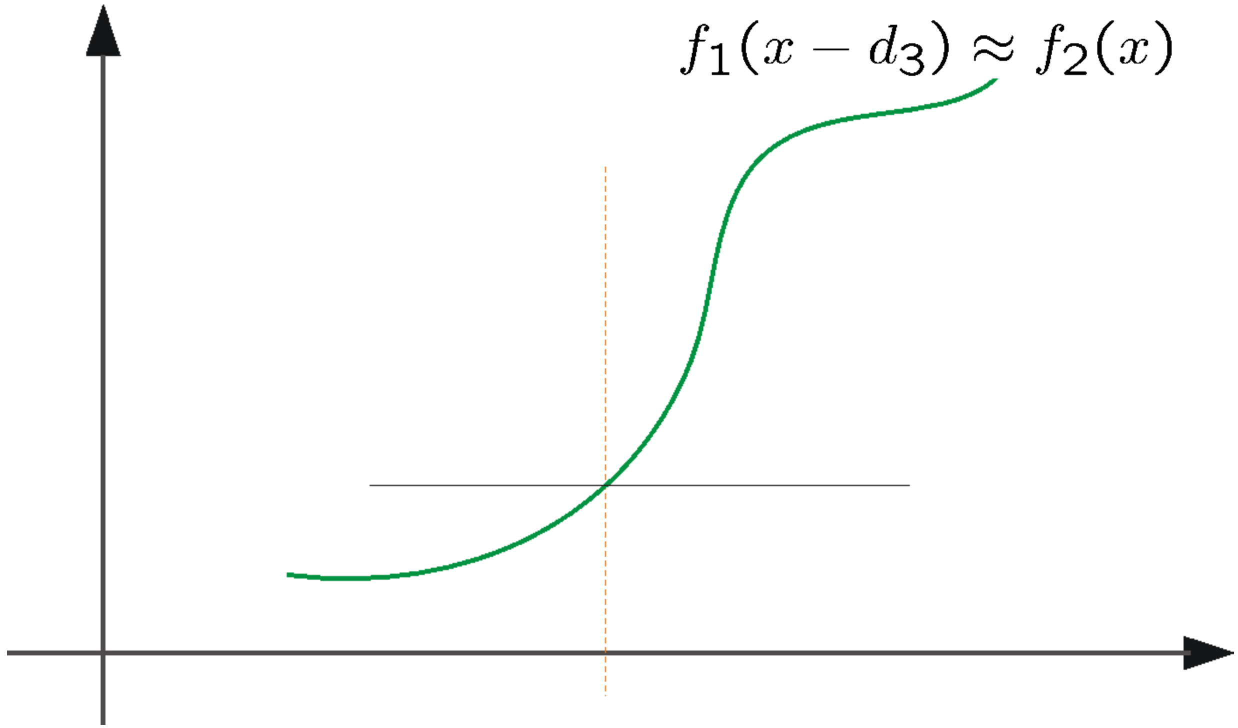


Initial guess: d_2

Estimate: $d_3 = d_2 + \hat{d}$

(using d for *displacement* here instead of *u*)

Optical Flow: Iterative Refinement

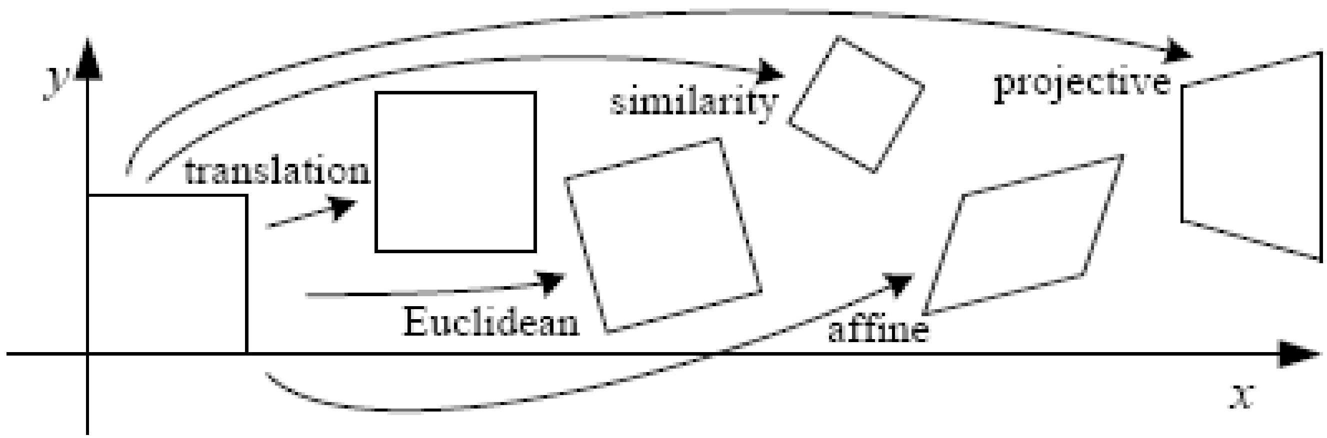


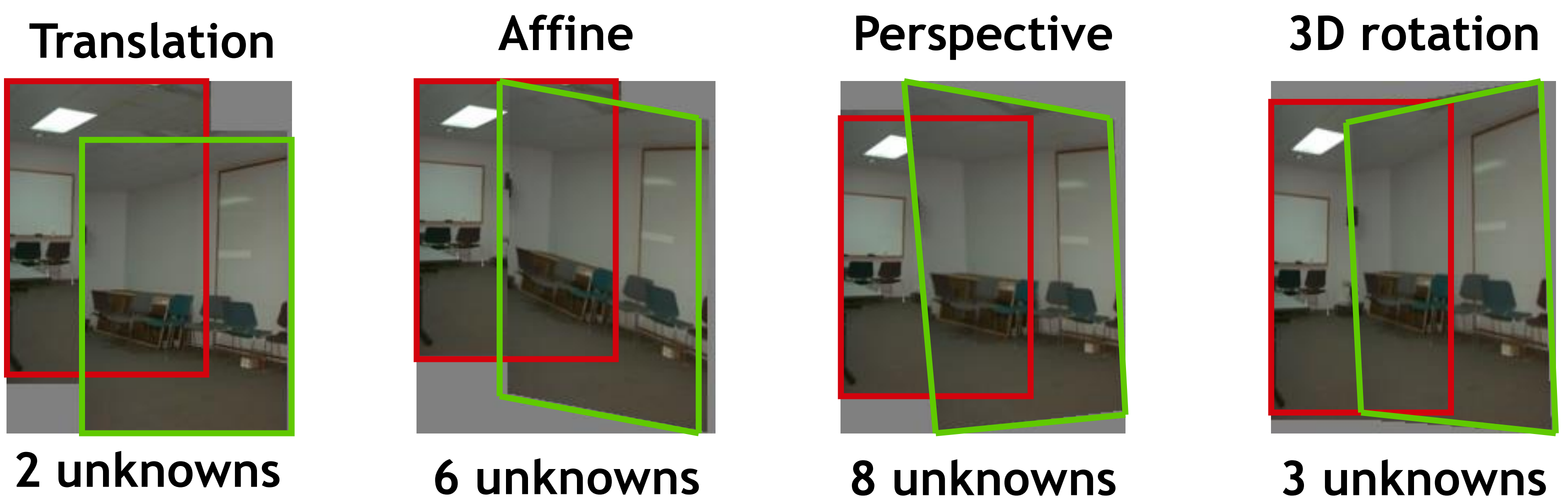
(using d for *displacement* here instead of *u*)

Optic Flow: Iterative Refinement

- **Some Implementation Issues:**
  - Warping is not easy (ensure that errors in warping are smaller than the estimate refinement).
  - Warp one image, take derivatives of the other so you don't need to re-compute the gradient after each iteration.
  - Often useful to low-pass filter the images before motion estimation (for better derivative estimation, and linear approximations to image intensity).

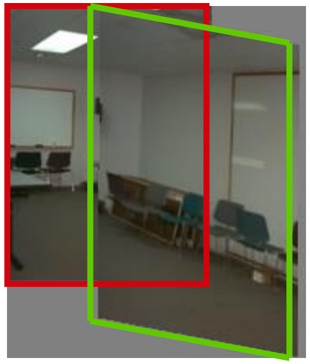
Extension: Global Parametric Motion Models





Slide credit: Steve Seitz

Example: Affine Motion



$$u(x, y) = a_1 + a_2 x + a_3 y$$

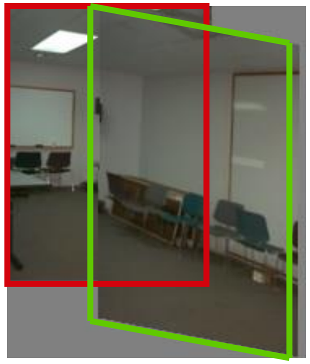
$$v(x, y) = a_4 + a_5 x + a_6 y$$

- **Substituting into the brightness constancy equation:**

$$\boxed{I_x \cdot u + I_y \cdot v + I_t \approx 0}$$

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

Example: Affine Motion



$$u(x,y) = a_1 + a_2 x + a_3 y$$

$$v(x,y) = a_4 + a_5 x + a_6 y$$

- **Substituting into the brightness constancy equation:**

$$\boxed{I_x(a_1 + a_2 x + a_3 y) + I_y(a_4 + a_5 x + a_6 y) + I_t \approx 0}$$

- **Each pixel provides 1 linear constraint in 6 unknowns.**

- **Least squares minimization:**

$$\boxed{Err(\vec{a}) = \sum \left[I_x(a_1 + a_2 x + a_3 y) + I_y(a_4 + a_5 x + a_6 y) + I_t \right]^2}$$

Problem Cases in Lucas-Kanade

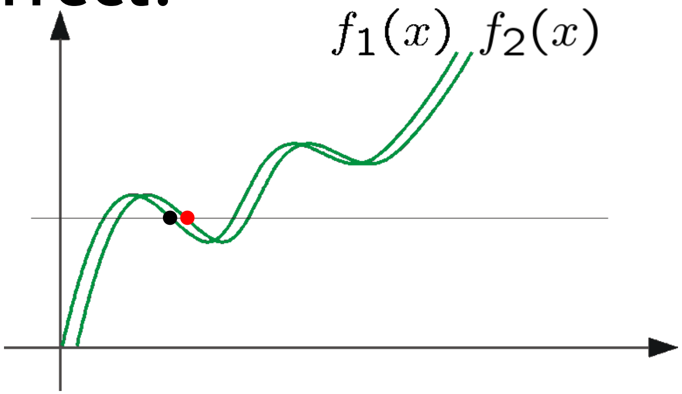
- The motion is large (larger than a pixel)
  - Iterative refinement, coarse-to-fine estimation
- A point does not move like its neighbors
  - Motion segmentation
- Brightness constancy does not hold
  - Do exhaustive neighborhood search with normalized correlation.

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

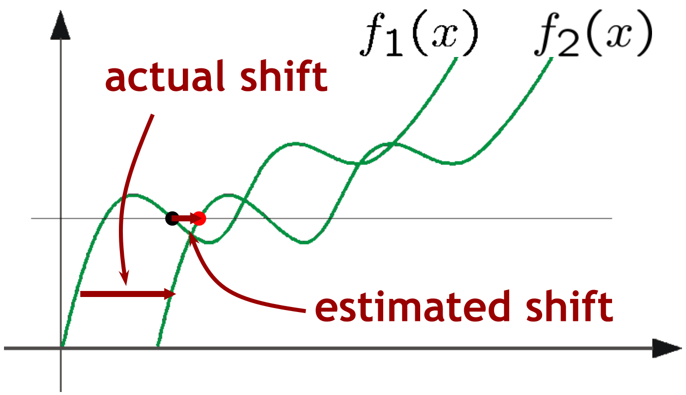
Dealing with Large Motions

Temporal Aliasing

- Temporal aliasing causes ambiguities in optical flow because images can have many pixels with the same intensity.
- I.e., how do we know which 'correspondence' is correct?



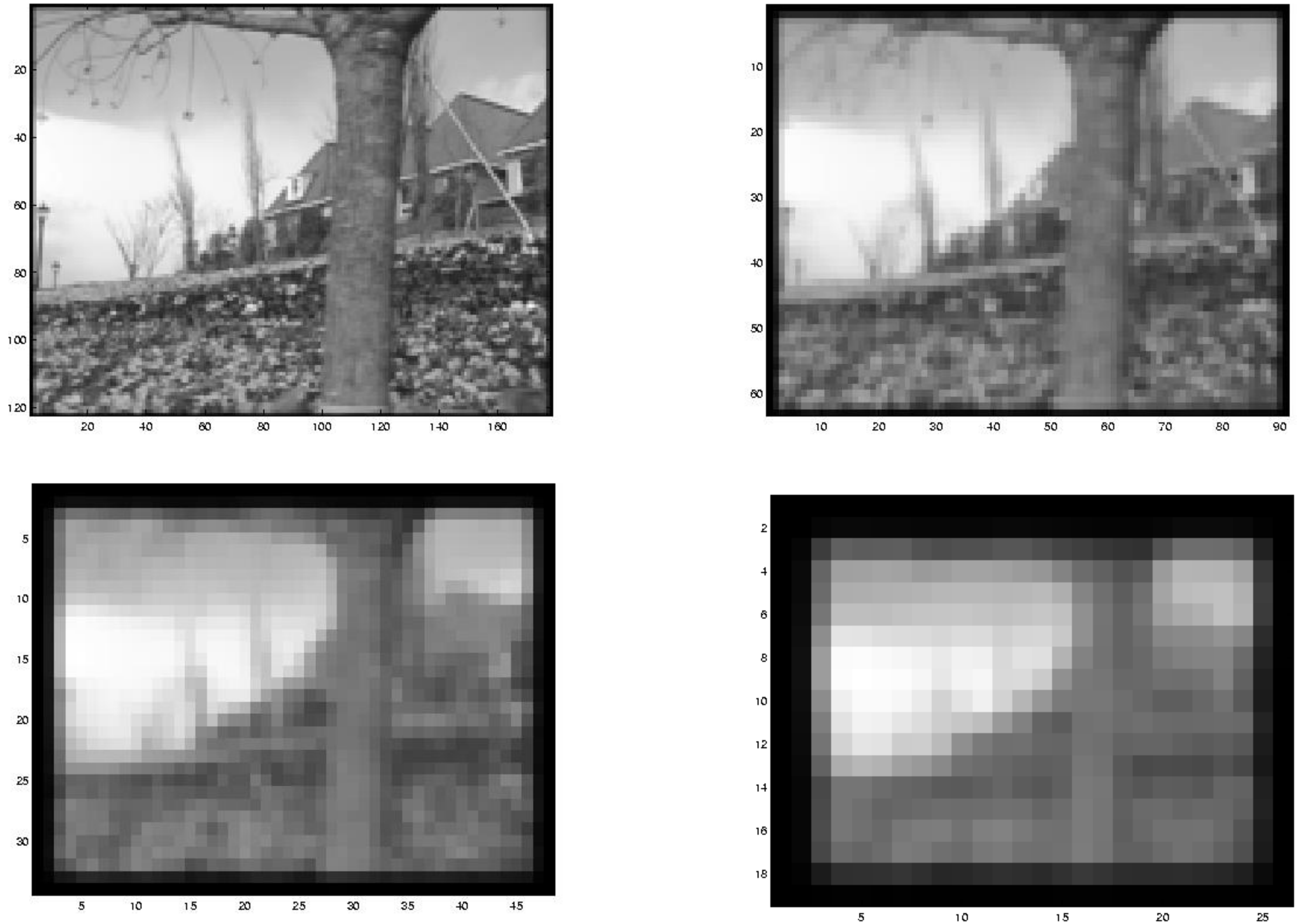
Nearest match is correct (no aliasing)



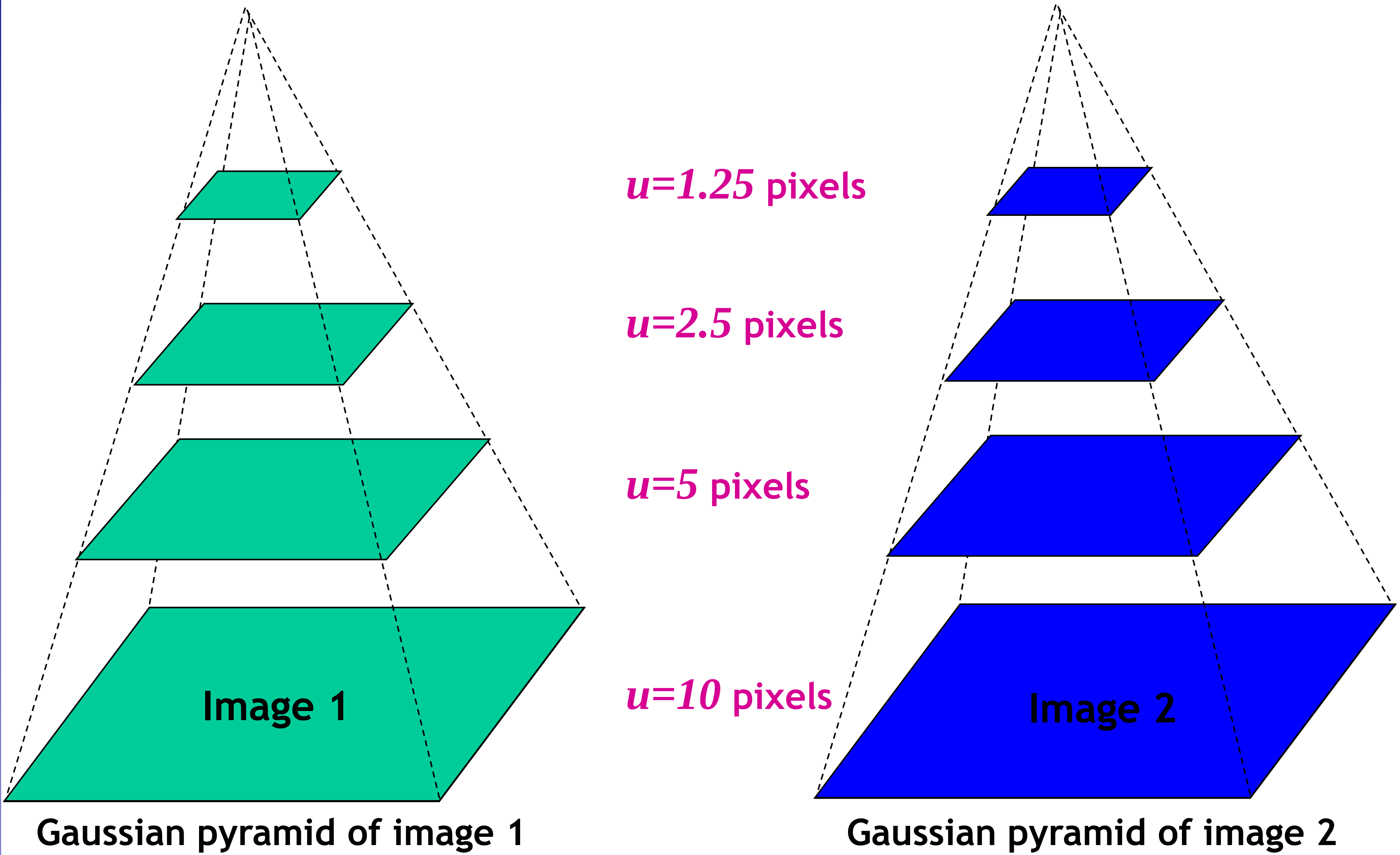
Nearest match is incorrect (aliasing)

- To overcome aliasing: coarse-to-fine estimation.

Idea: Reduce the Resolution!



Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation



Slide credit: Steve Seitz

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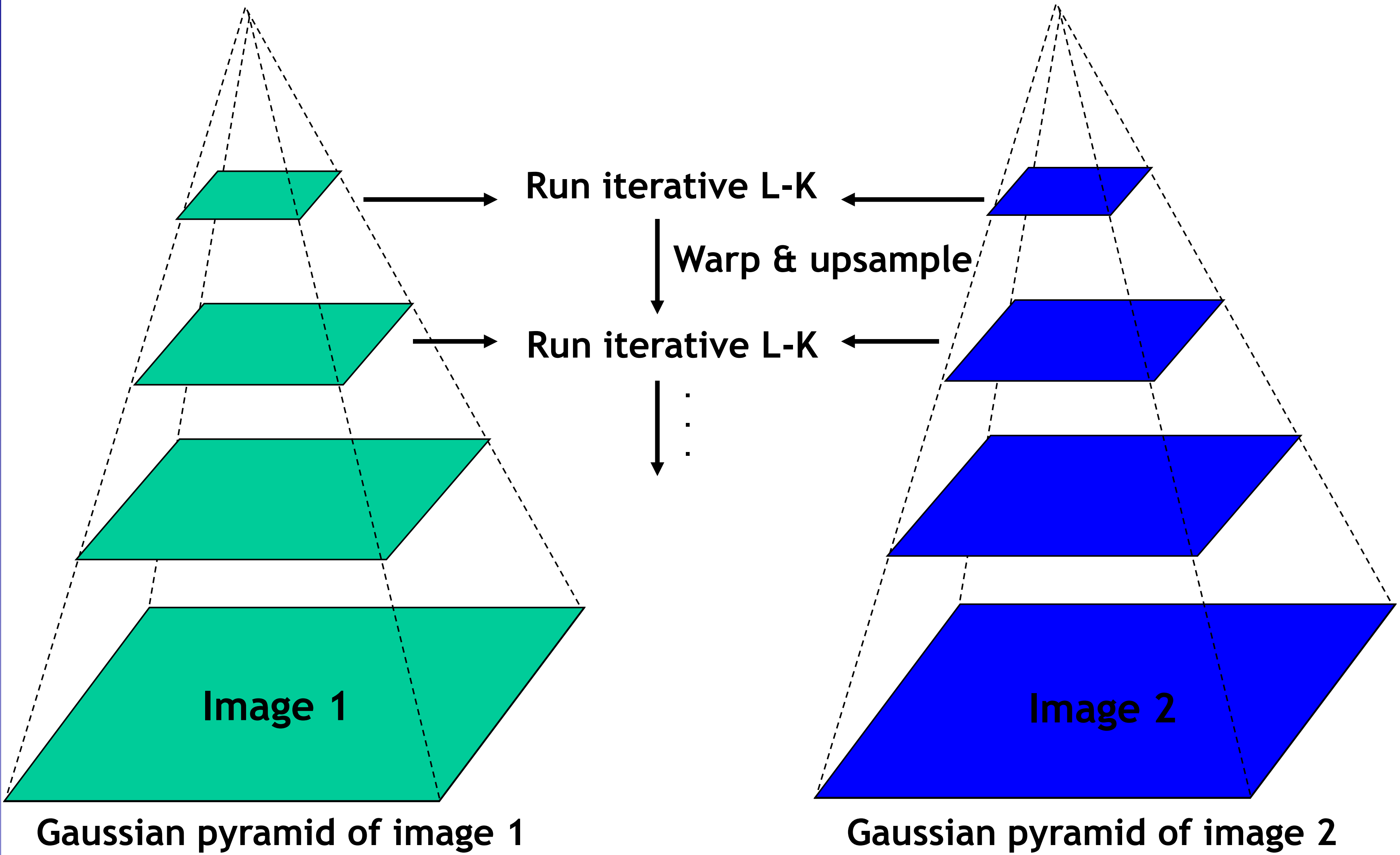
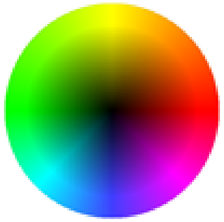
Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation



Dense Optical Flow

- Dense measurements can be obtained by adding smoothness constraints.



Color map

T. Brox, C. Bregler, J. Malik, Large displacement optical flow, *CVPR'09*, Miami, USA, June 2009.

Summary

- Motion field: 3D motions projected to 2D images; dependency on depth.
- Solving for motion with
  - Sparse feature matches
  - Dense optical flow
- Optical flow
  - Brightness constancy assumption
  - Aperture problem
  - Solution with spatial coherence assumption

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

References and Further Reading

- Here is the original paper by Lucas & Kanade
  - B. Lucas and T. Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. In *Proc. IJCAI*, pp. 674-679, 1981.

- And the original paper by Shi & Tomasi
  - J. Shi and C. Tomasi. Good Features to Track. CVPR 1994.

- Read the story how optical flow was used for special effects in a number of recent movies
  - http://www.fxguide.com/article333.html