

# Computer Vision

CS-E4850, 5 study credits

Lecturer: Juho Kannala

# Lecture 11: Two-view geometry & stereo vision

- **Two-view geometry** (a.k.a. epipolar geometry) describes the geometric constraints between two views
- **Stereo vision** is the principle of using two views to measure depths of scene points

**Acknowledgement:** many slides from Svetlana Lazebnik, Steve Seitz, Yuri Boykov, Noah Snavely, and others (detailed credits on individual slides)

# Reading

- Szeliski's book, Section 7.2 and Chapter 11 in 1<sup>st</sup> edition

and/or

- Hartley & Zisserman book, Chapters 9-12

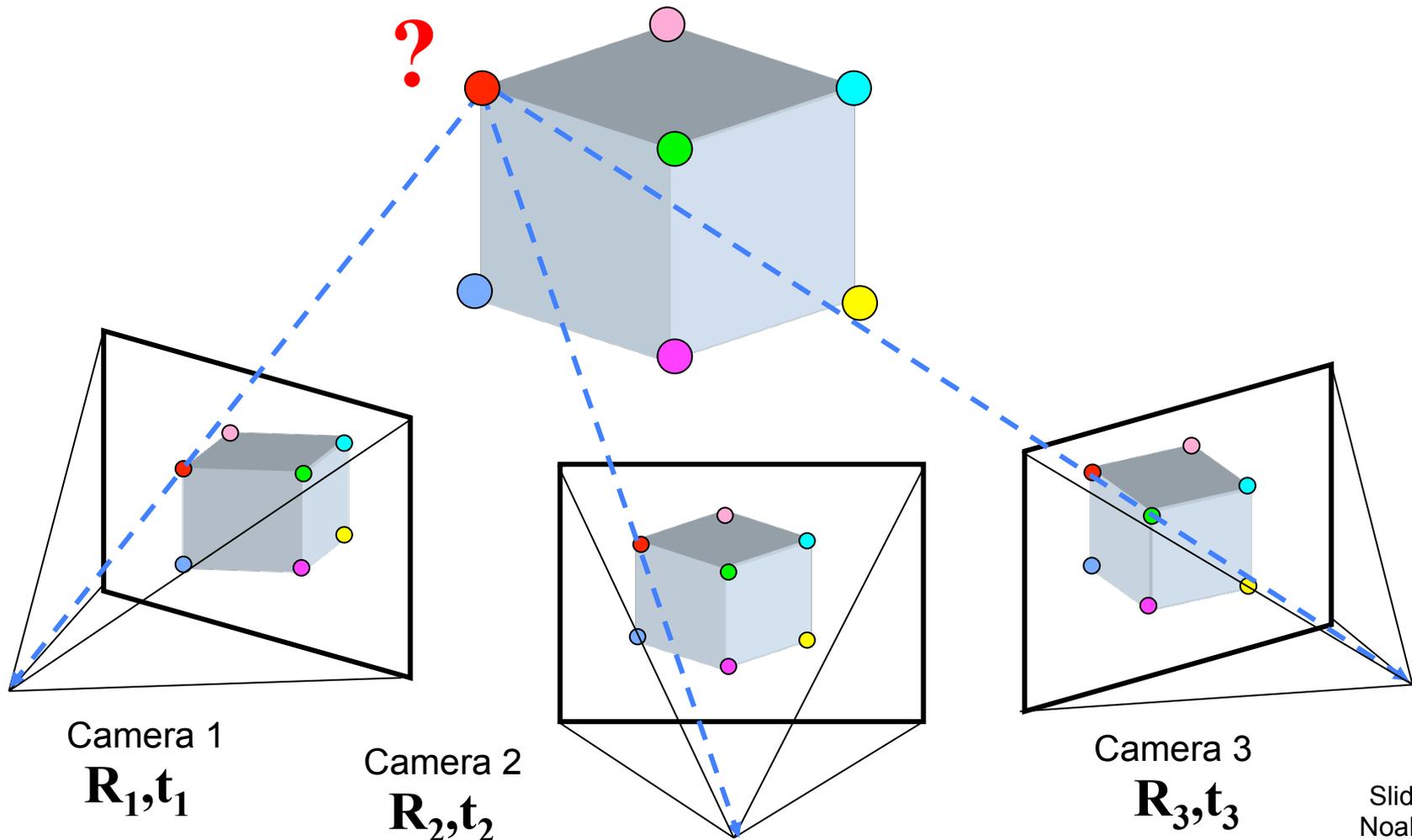
# Multi-view geometry

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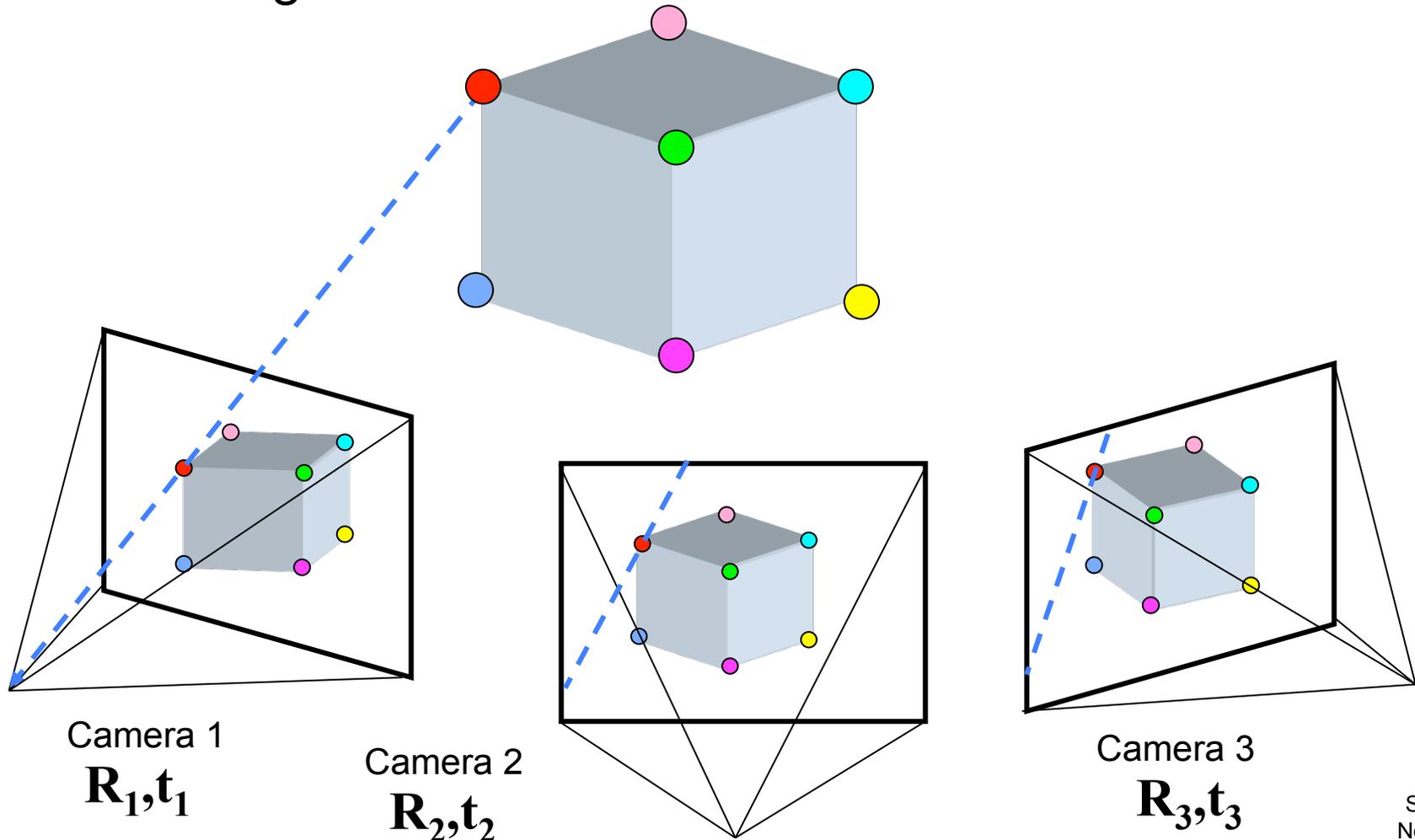
# Multi-view geometry problems

- **Structure:** Given projections of the same 3D point in two or more images, compute the 3D coordinates of that point



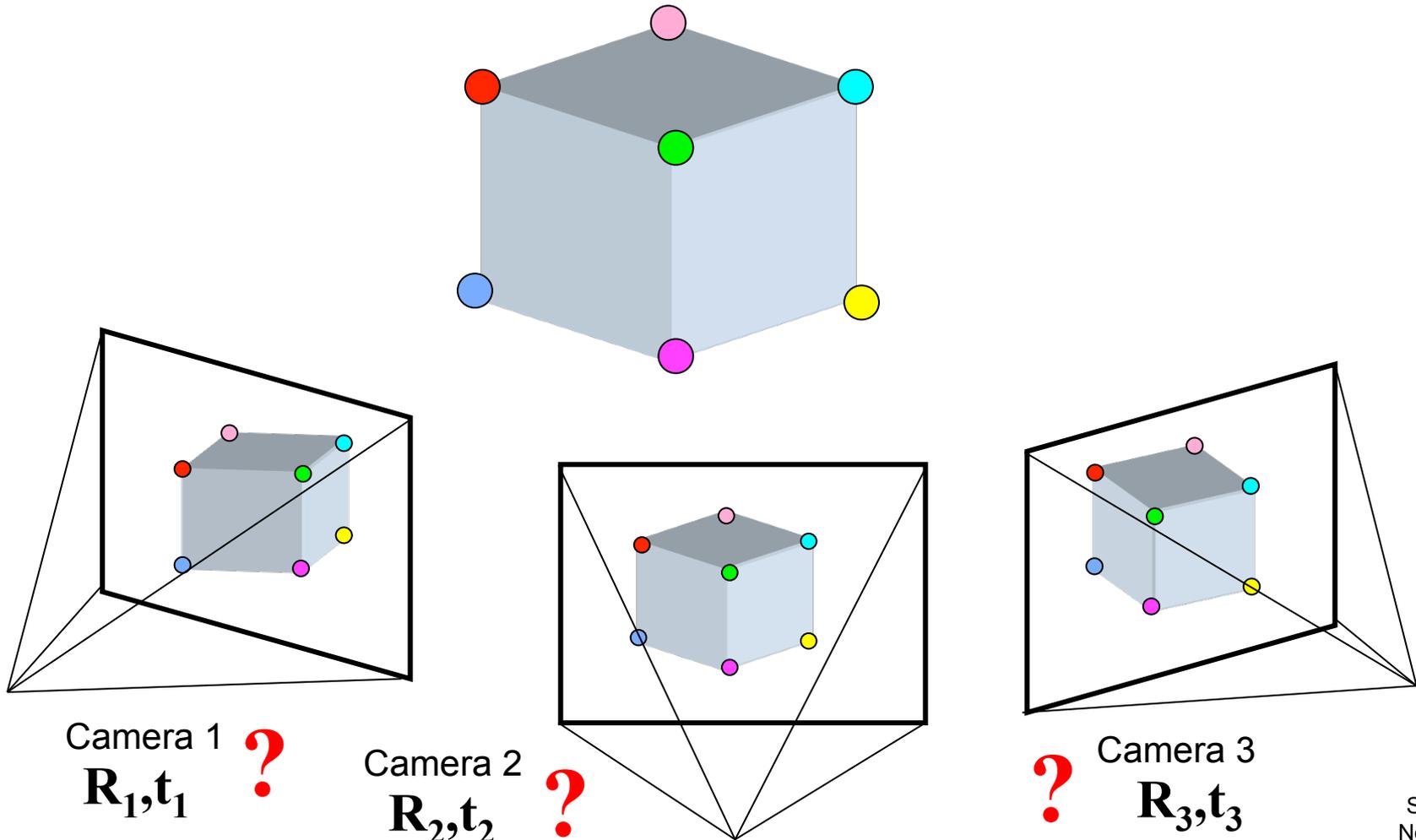
# Multi-view geometry problems

- **Stereo correspondence:** Given a point in one of the images, where could its corresponding points be in the other images?



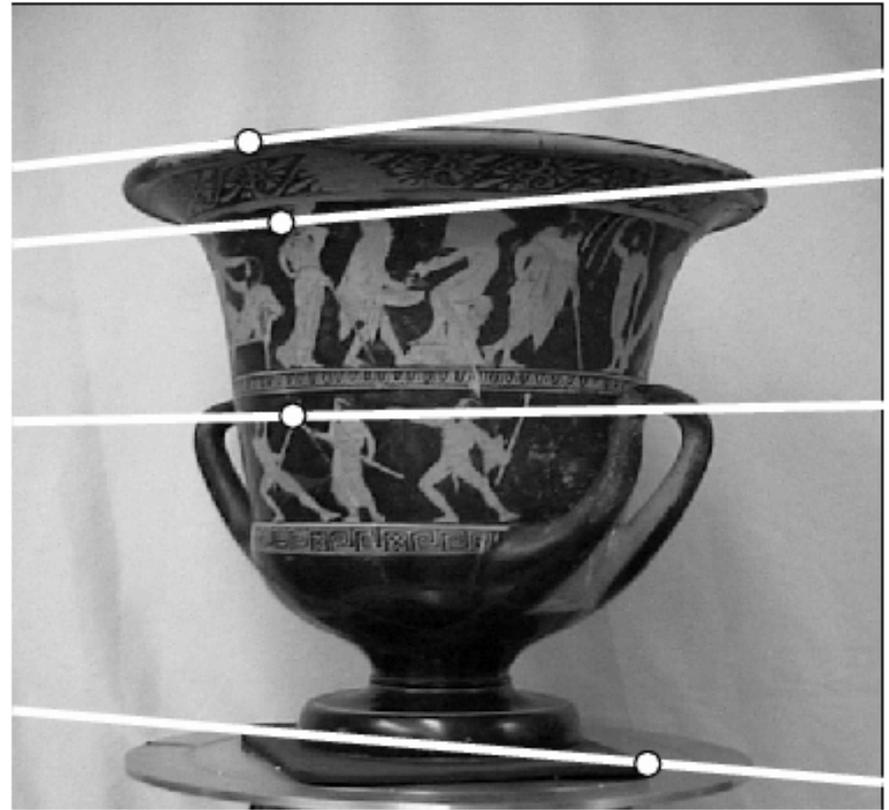
# Multi-view geometry problems

- **Motion:** Given a set of corresponding points in two or more images, compute the camera parameters

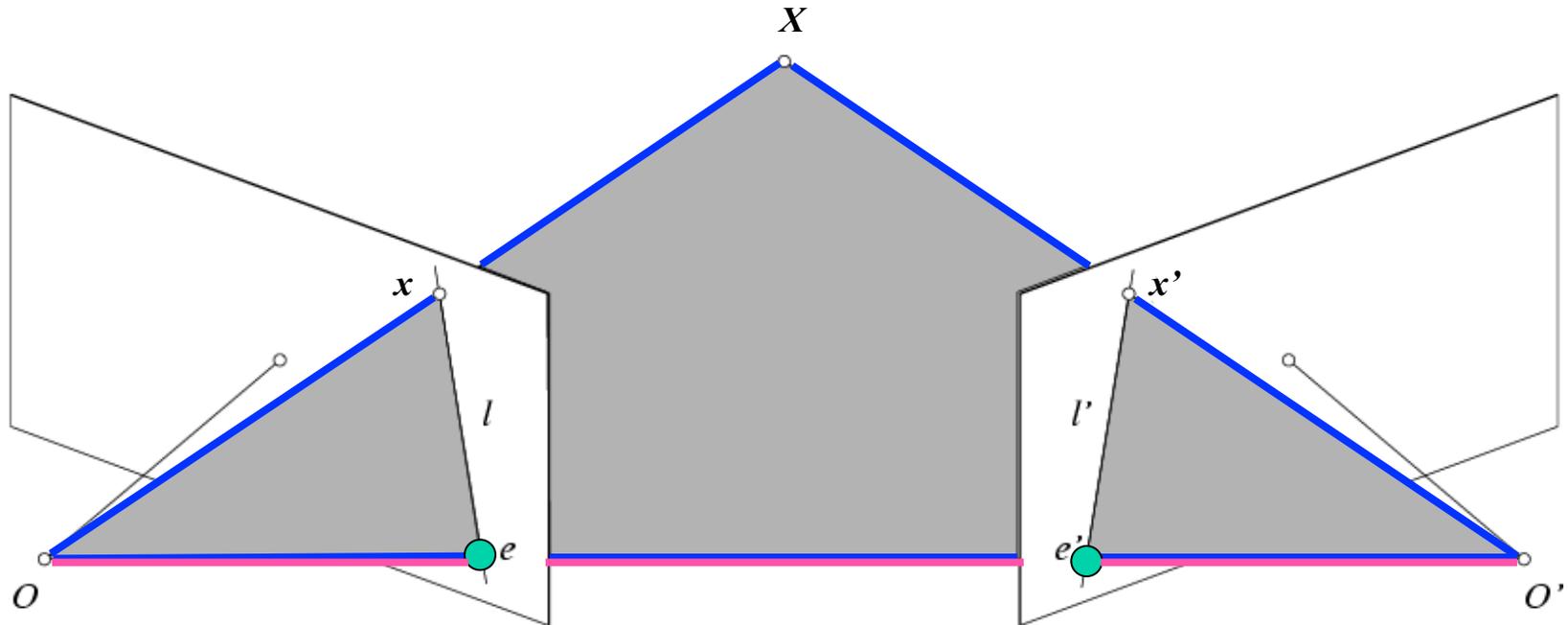


# Two-view geometry

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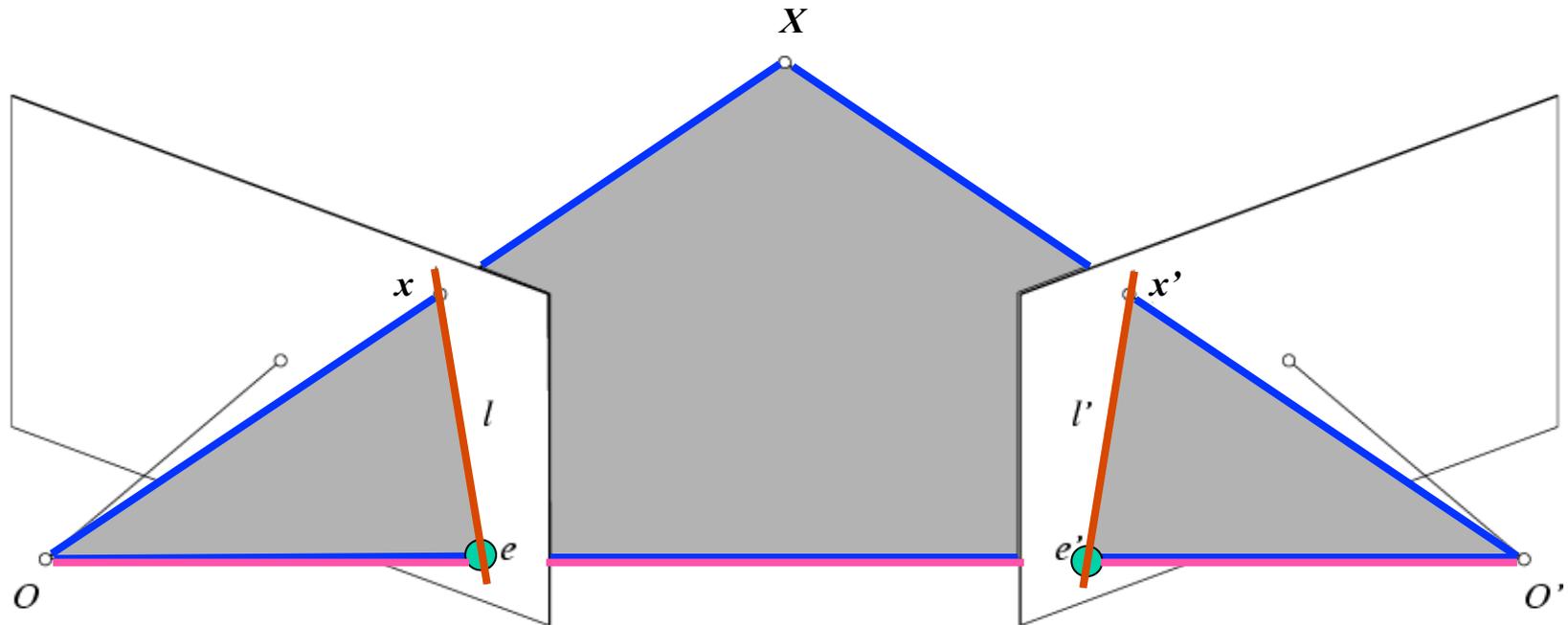


# Epipolar geometry



- **Baseline** – line connecting the two camera centers
- **Epipolar Plane** – plane containing baseline (1D family)
- **Epipoles**  
 = intersections of baseline with image planes  
 = projections of the other camera center  
 = vanishing points of the motion direction

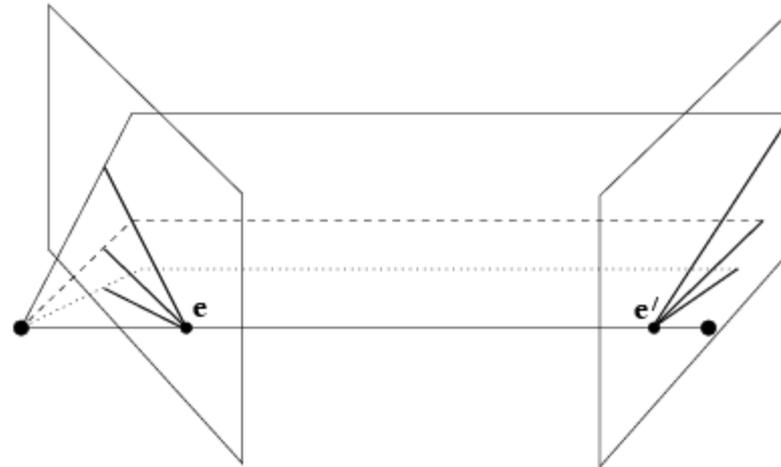
# Epipolar geometry



- **Baseline** – line connecting the two camera centers
- **Epipolar Plane** – plane containing baseline (1D family)
- **Epipoles**  
 = intersections of baseline with image planes  
 = projections of the other camera center  
 = vanishing points of the motion direction
- **Epipolar Lines** - intersections of epipolar plane with image planes (always come in corresponding pairs)

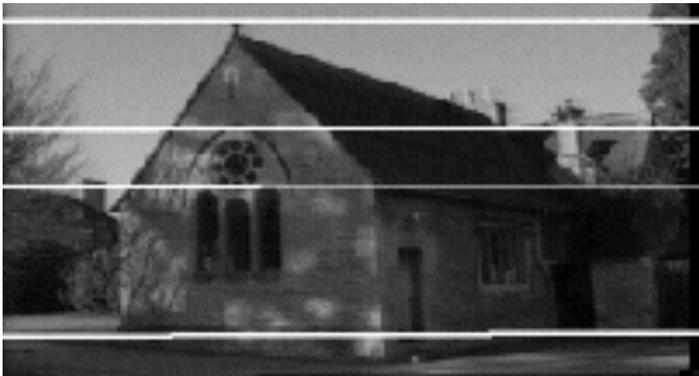
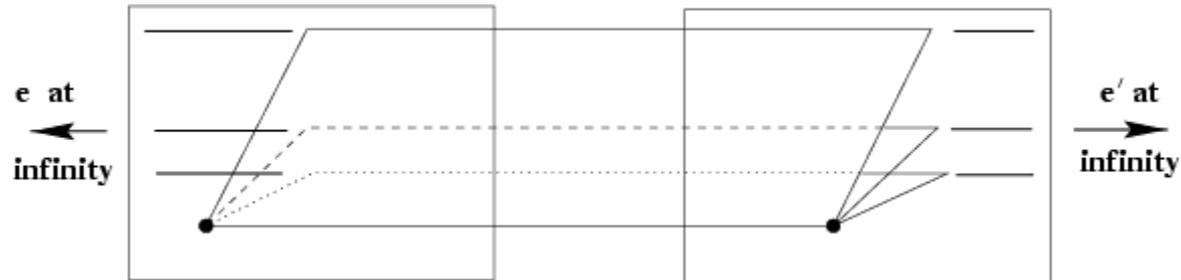
# Example: Converging cameras

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# Example: Motion parallel to image plane

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# Example: Motion perpendicular to image plane

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# Example: Motion perpendicular to image plane

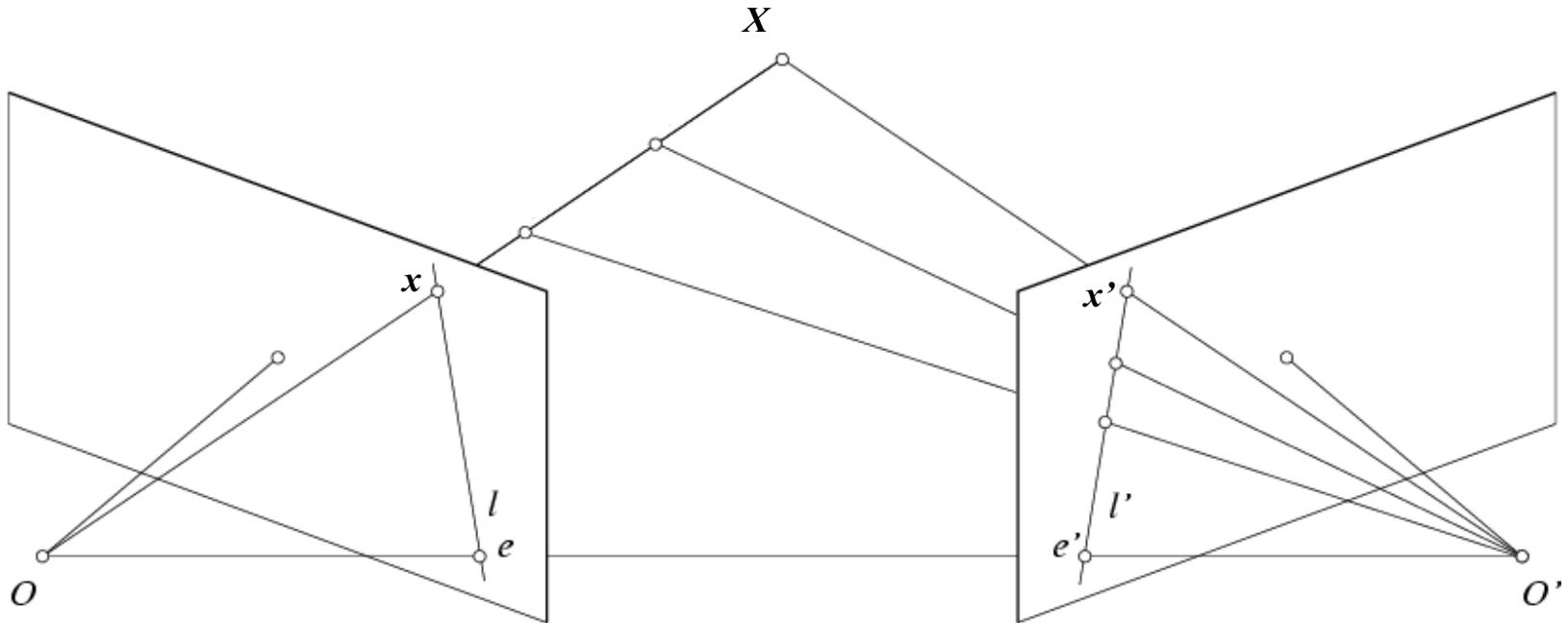
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- Points move along lines radiating from the epipole: “focus of expansion”
- Epipole is the principal point

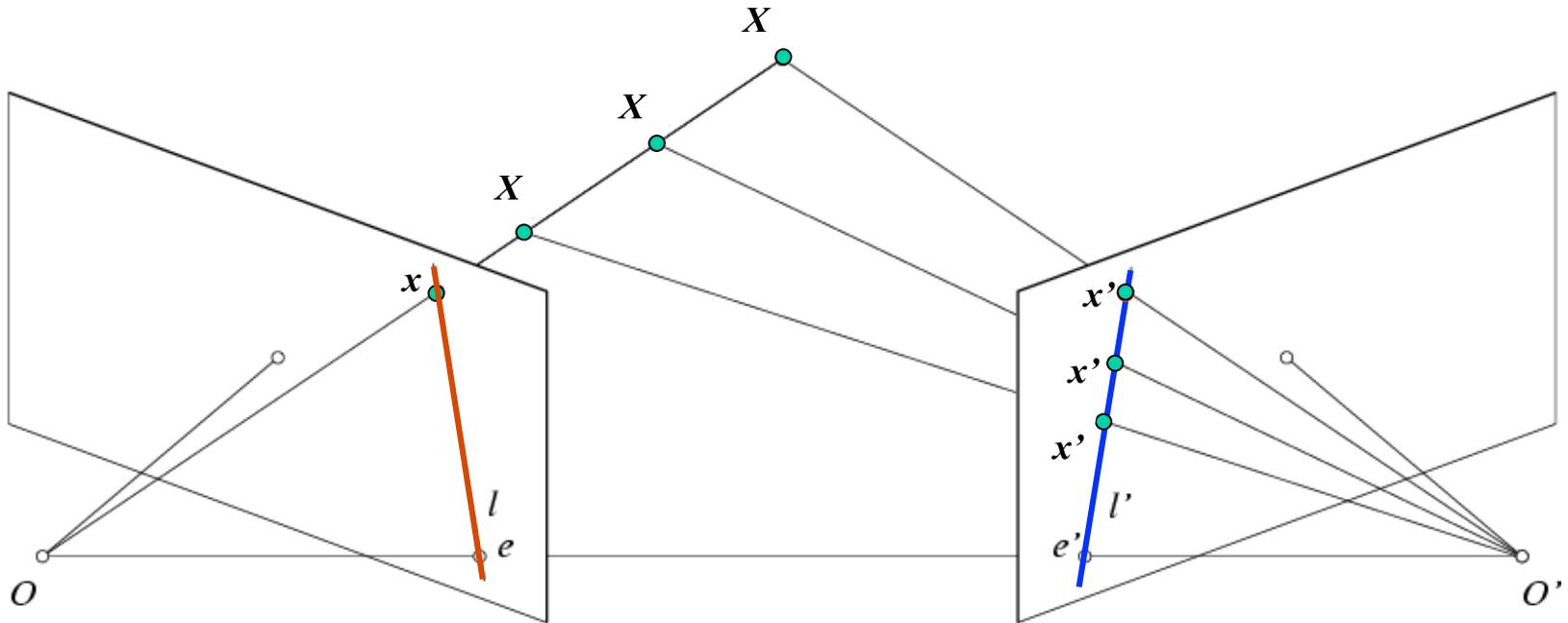
# Epipolar constraint

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- If we observe a point  $x$  in one image, where can the corresponding point  $x'$  be in the other image?

# Epipolar constraint



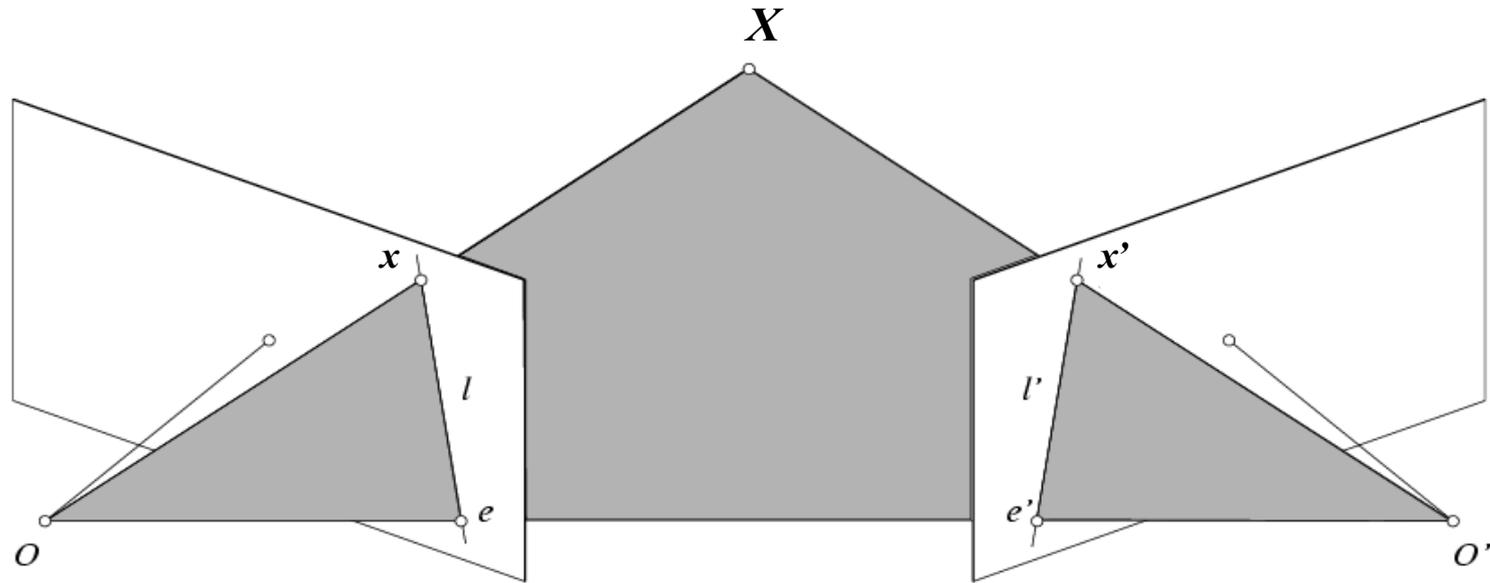
- Potential matches for  $\mathbf{x}$  have to lie on the corresponding epipolar line  $l'$ .
- Potential matches for  $\mathbf{x}'$  have to lie on the corresponding epipolar line  $l$ .

# Epipolar constraint example

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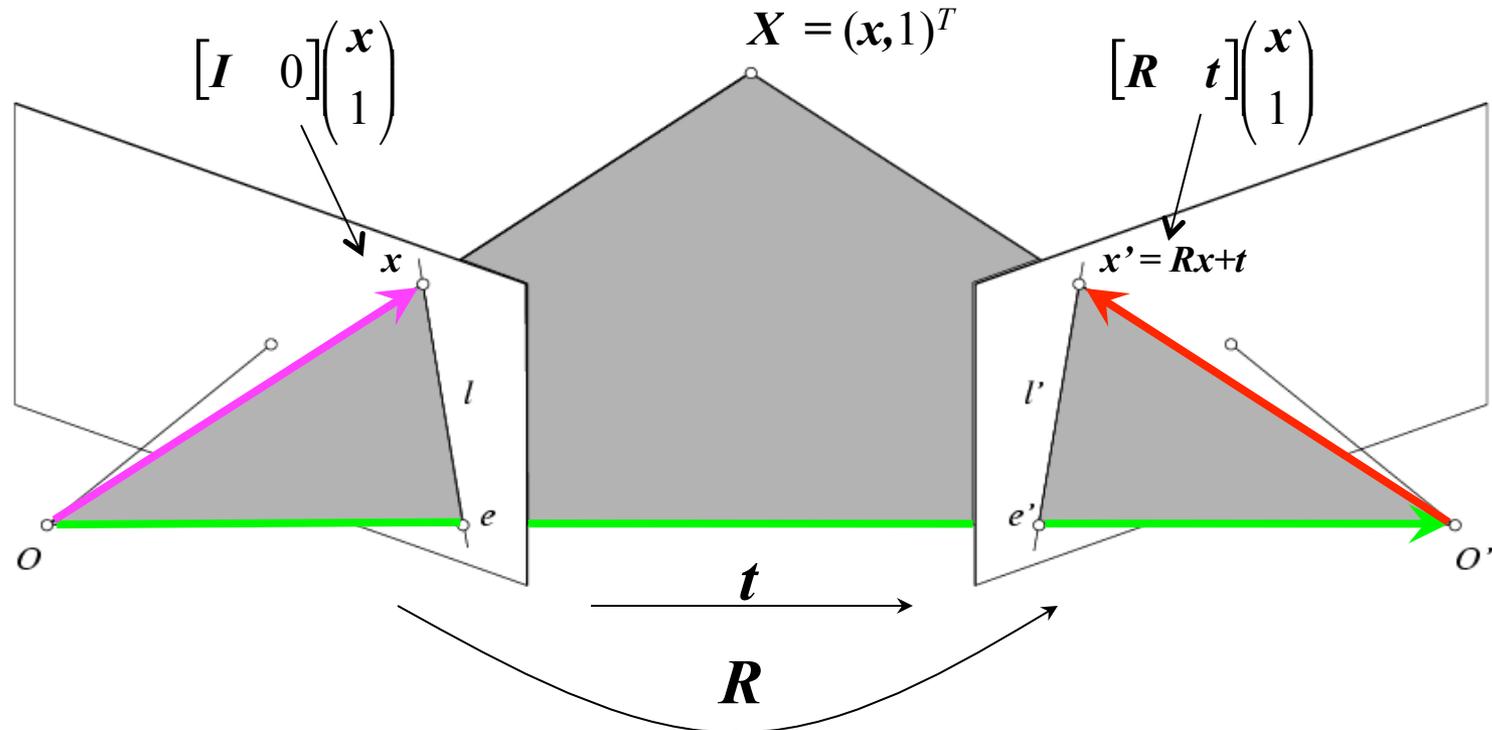
# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



- Intrinsic and extrinsic parameters of the cameras are known, world coordinate system is set to that of the first camera
- Then the projection matrices are given by  $K[I \mid \mathbf{0}]$  and  $K'[R \mid t]$
- We can multiply the projection matrices (and the image points) by the inverse of the calibration matrices to get *normalized* image coordinates:

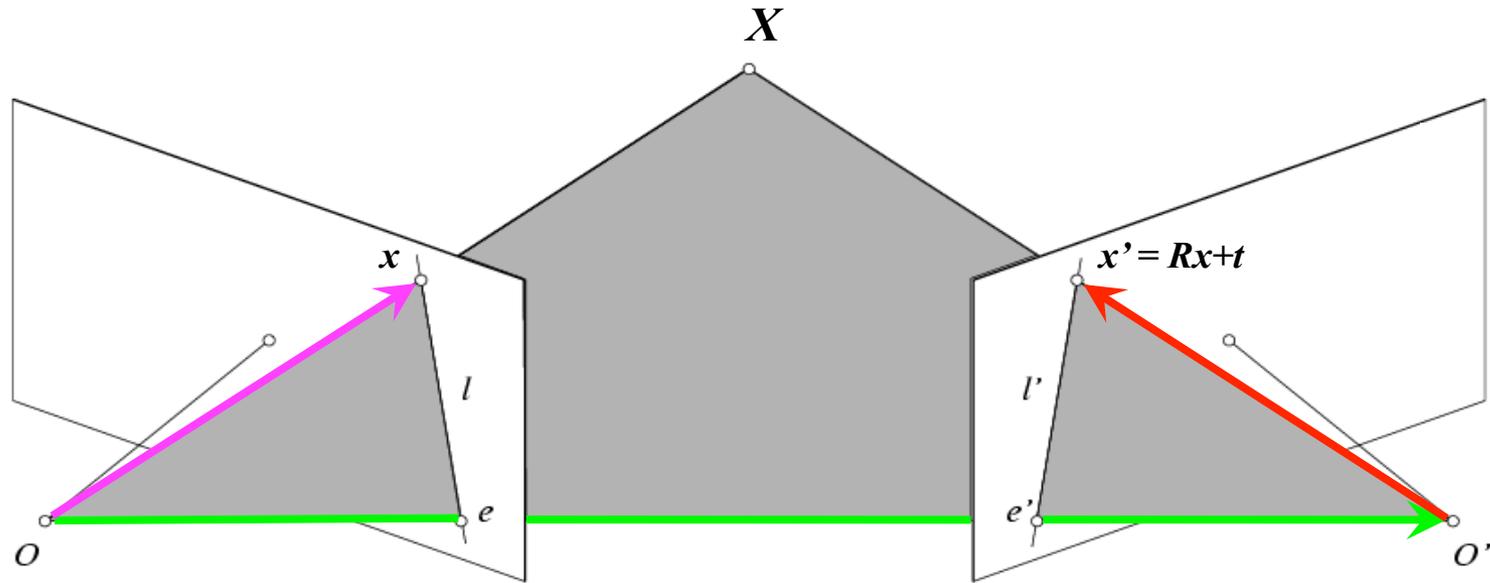
$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{norm}} = K^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{\text{pixel}} = [I \mid \mathbf{0}] X, \quad \mathbf{x}'_{\text{norm}} = K'^{-1} \mathbf{x}'_{\text{pixel}} = [R \mid t] X$$

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



The vectors  $Rx$ ,  $t$ , and  $x'$  are coplanar

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

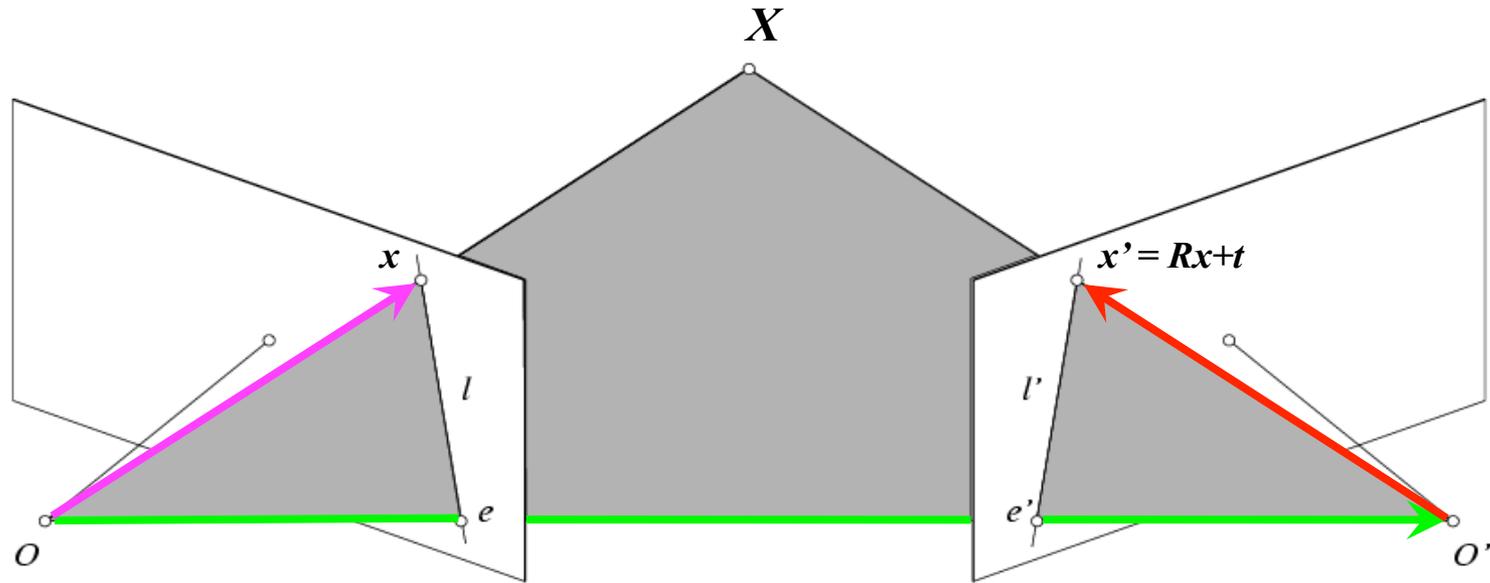


$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot [\mathbf{t} \times (R\mathbf{x})] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T [\mathbf{t}_x] R\mathbf{x} = 0$$

$$\text{Recall: } \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_\times] \mathbf{b}$$

The vectors  $R\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are coplanar

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



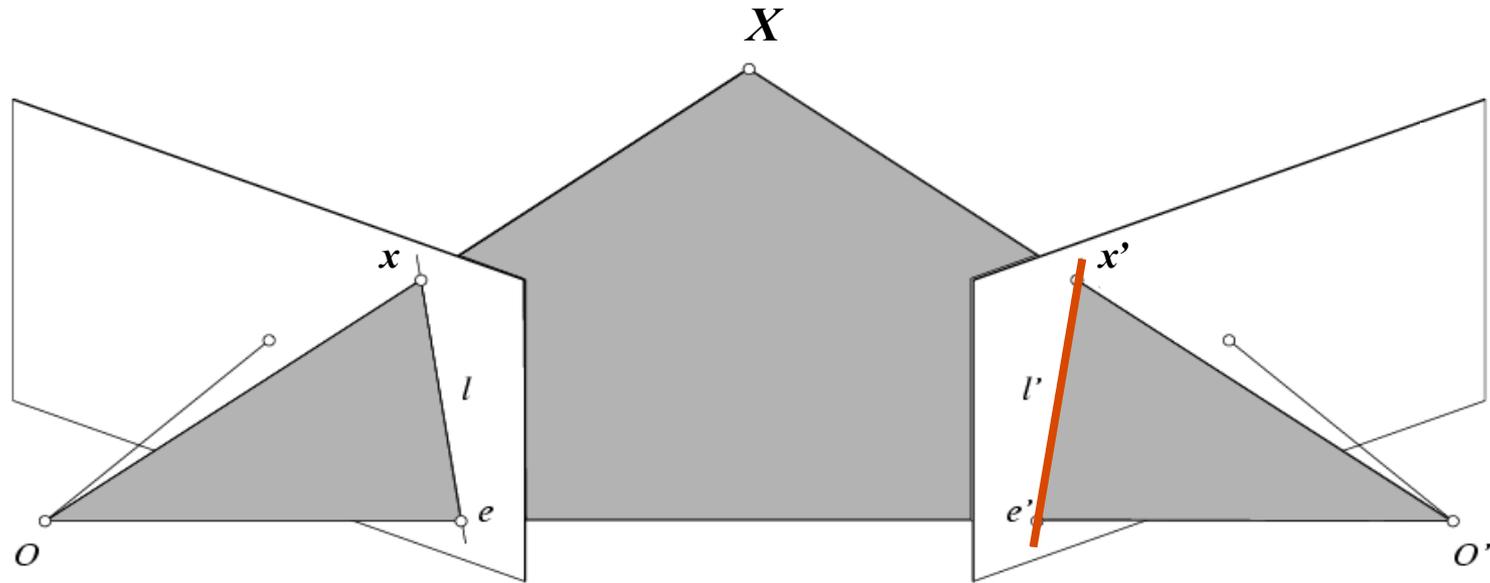
$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot [\mathbf{t} \times (R\mathbf{x})] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T [\mathbf{t}_x] R\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T E \mathbf{x} = 0$$



**Essential Matrix**  
(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

The vectors  $R\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are coplanar

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

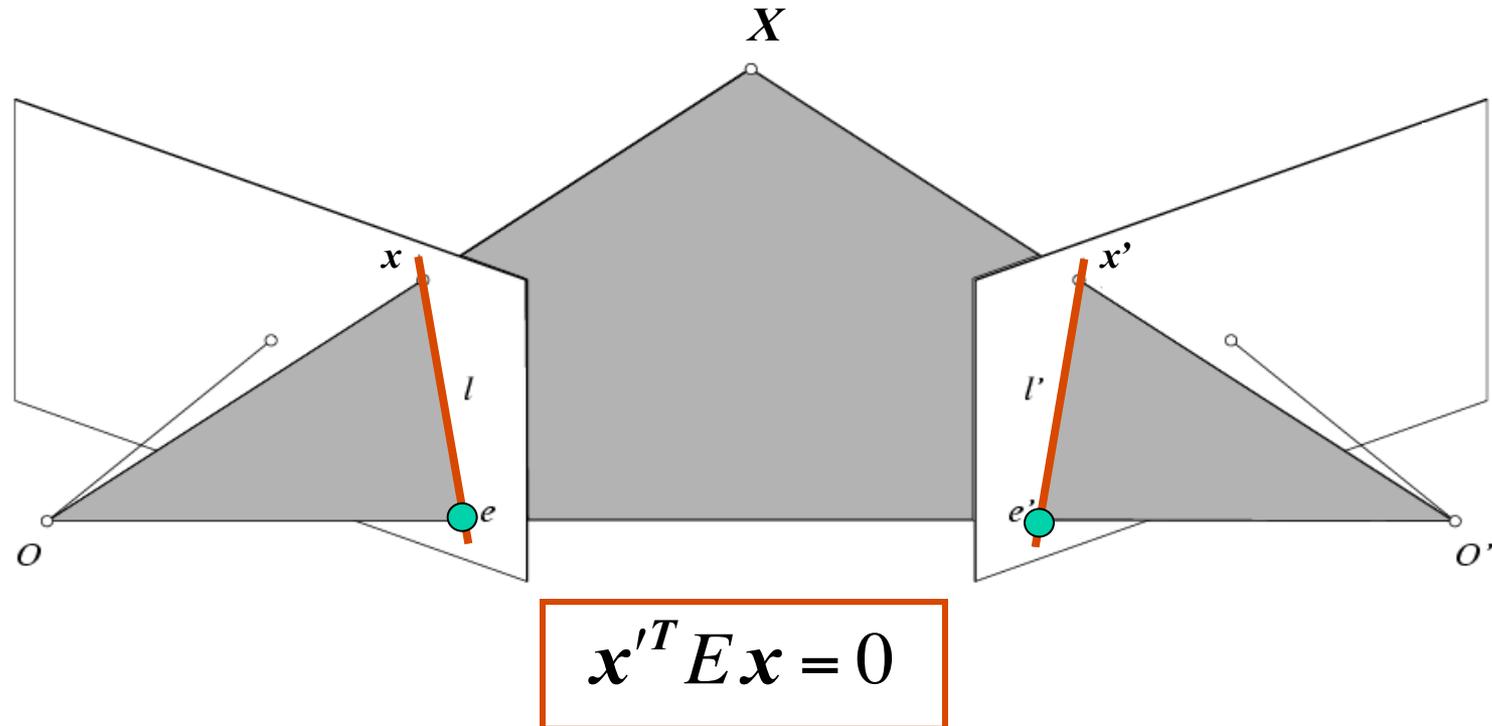


$$\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x} = 0$$

- $\mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}$  ( $l' = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$ )
  - Recall: a line is given by  $ax + by + c = 0$  or

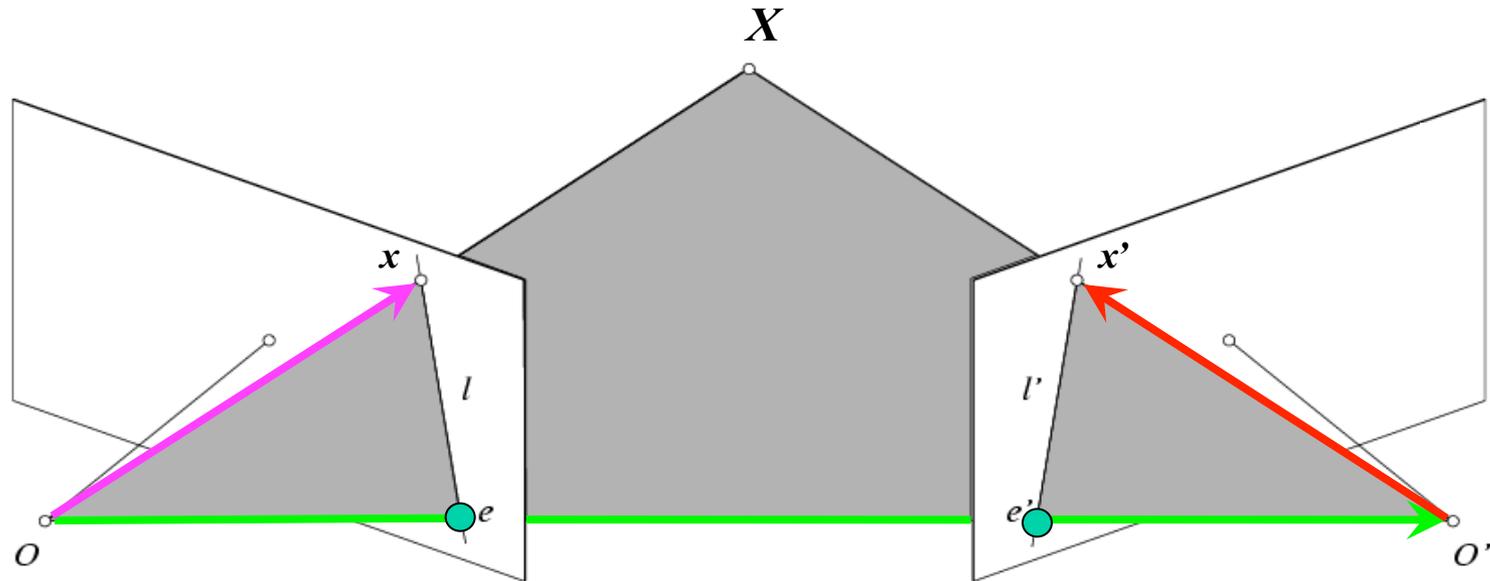
$$\mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{l} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



- $E x$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x$  ( $l' = E x$ )
- $E^T x'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x'$  ( $l = E^T x'$ )
- $E e = 0$  and  $E^T e' = 0$
- $E$  is singular (rank two)
- $E$  has five degrees of freedom

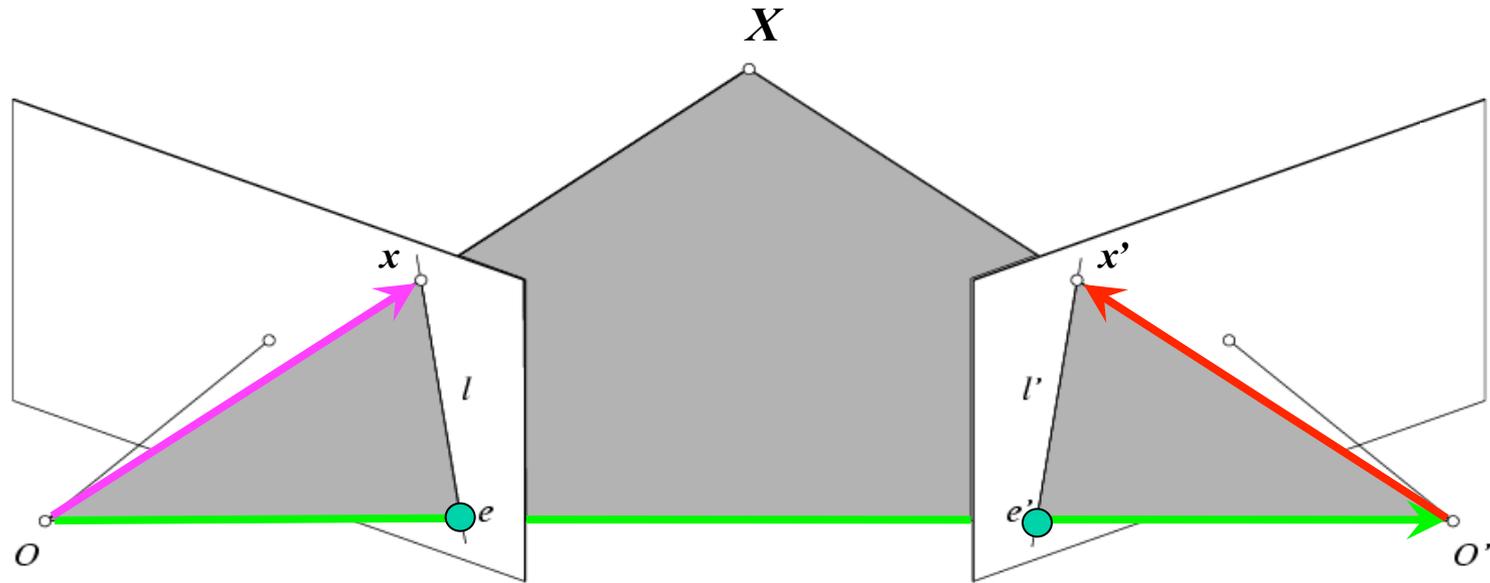
# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case



- The calibration matrices  $\mathbf{K}$  and  $\mathbf{K}'$  of the two cameras are unknown
- We can write the epipolar constraint in terms of *unknown* normalized coordinates:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}'^T \mathbf{E} \hat{\mathbf{x}} = 0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{K}'^{-1} \mathbf{x}'$$

# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case



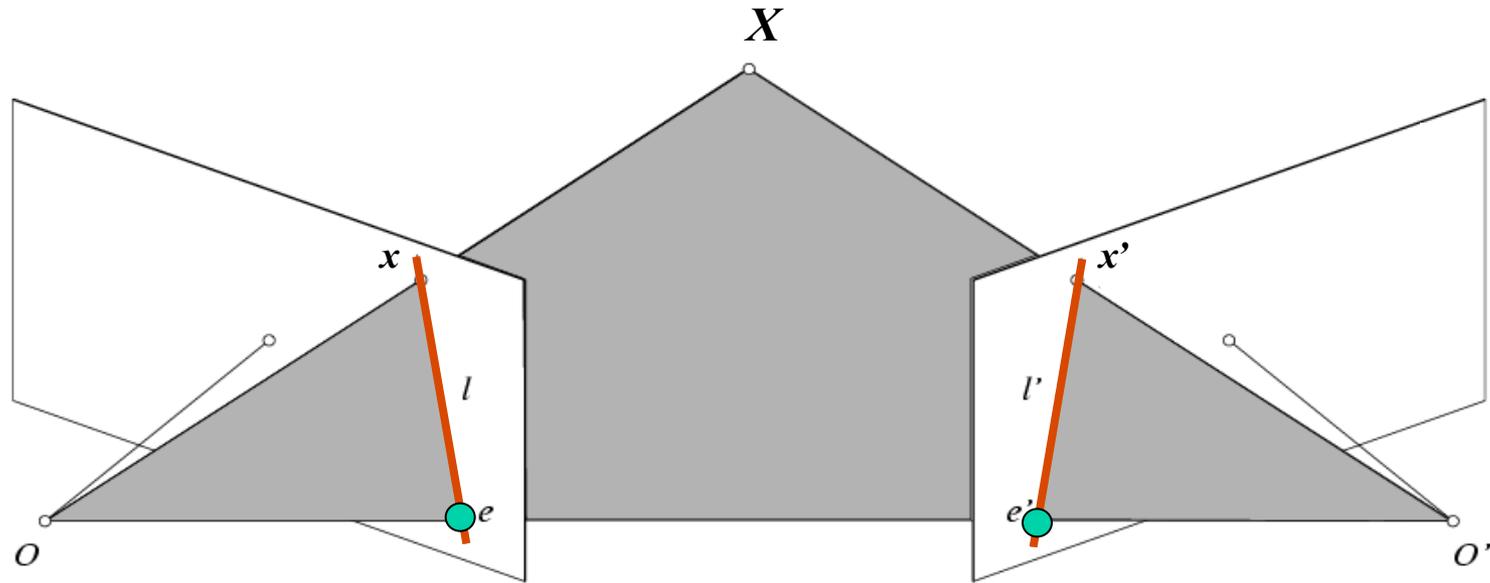
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}'^T \mathbf{E} \hat{\mathbf{x}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{K}^{-1}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{K}'^{-1} \mathbf{x}'$$

**Fundamental Matrix**  
(Faugeras and Luong, 1992)

# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case



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

- $\mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}$  ( $l' = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$ )
- $\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{x}'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}'$  ( $l = \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{x}'$ )
- $\mathbf{F} \mathbf{e} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{e}' = 0$
- $\mathbf{F}$  is singular (rank two)
- $\mathbf{F}$  has *seven* degrees of freedom

# Estimating the fundamental matrix

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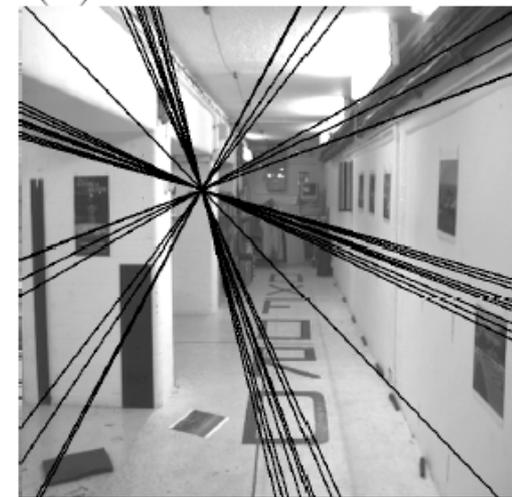
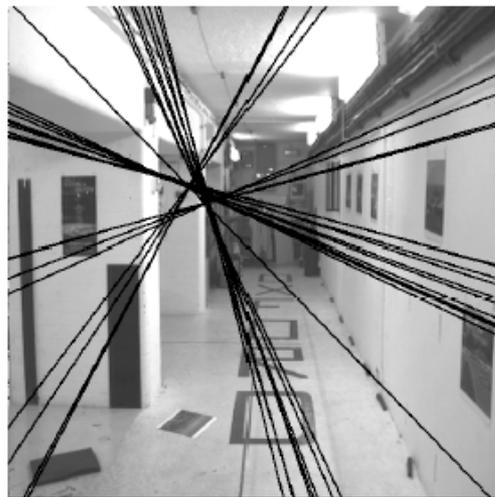
# The eight-point algorithm

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

$$\begin{bmatrix} u' & v' & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} u'u & u'v & u' & v'u & v'v & v' & u & v & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{13} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \\ f_{23} \\ f_{31} \\ f_{32} \\ f_{33} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

Solve homogeneous linear system using eight or more matches

Enforce rank-2 constraint (take SVD of  $\mathbf{F}$  and throw out the smallest singular value)



# Problem with eight-point algorithm

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$$\begin{bmatrix} u'u & u'v & u' & v'u & v'v & v' & u & v \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{13} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \\ f_{23} \\ f_{31} \\ f_{32} \end{bmatrix} = -1$$

# Problem with eight-point algorithm

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|           |           |        |           |           |        |        |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| 250906.36 | 183269.57 | 921.81 | 200931.10 | 146766.13 | 738.21 | 272.19 | 198.81 |
| 2692.28   | 131633.03 | 176.27 | 6196.73   | 302975.59 | 405.71 | 15.27  | 746.79 |
| 416374.23 | 871684.30 | 935.47 | 408110.89 | 854384.92 | 916.90 | 445.10 | 931.81 |
| 191183.60 | 171759.40 | 410.27 | 416435.62 | 374125.90 | 893.65 | 465.99 | 418.65 |
| 48988.86  | 30401.76  | 57.89  | 298604.57 | 185309.58 | 352.87 | 846.22 | 525.15 |
| 164786.04 | 546559.67 | 813.17 | 1998.37   | 6628.15   | 9.86   | 202.65 | 672.14 |
| 116407.01 | 2727.75   | 138.89 | 169941.27 | 3982.21   | 202.77 | 838.12 | 19.64  |
| 135384.58 | 75411.13  | 198.72 | 411350.03 | 229127.78 | 603.79 | 681.28 | 379.48 |

$$\begin{bmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{13} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \\ f_{23} \\ f_{31} \\ f_{32} \end{bmatrix} = -1$$

Poor numerical conditioning

Can be fixed by rescaling the data

# The normalized eight-point algorithm

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(Hartley, 1995)

- 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
- Use the eight-point algorithm to compute  $\mathbf{F}$  from the normalized points
- Enforce the rank-2 constraint (for example, take SVD of  $\mathbf{F}$  and throw out the smallest singular value)
- Transform fundamental matrix back to original units: if  $\mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{T}'$  are the normalizing transformations in the two images, then the fundamental matrix in original coordinates is  $\mathbf{T}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{T}$

# Nonlinear estimation

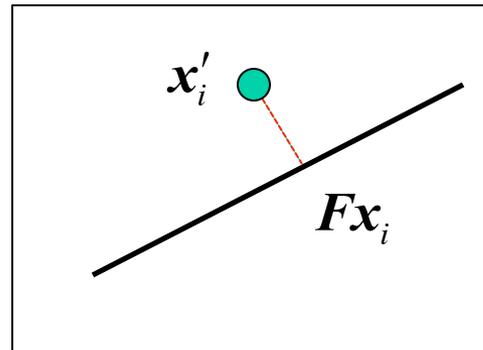
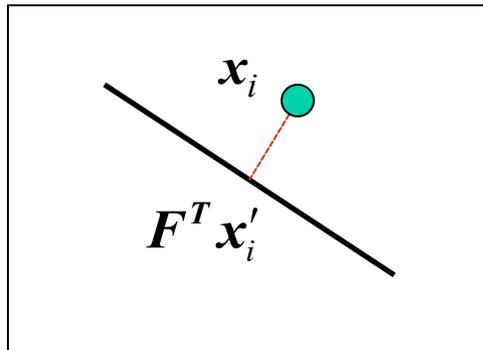
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- Linear estimation minimizes the sum of squared *algebraic* distances between points  $\mathbf{x}'_i$  and epipolar lines  $\mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}_i$  (or points  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and epipolar lines  $\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{x}'_i$ ):

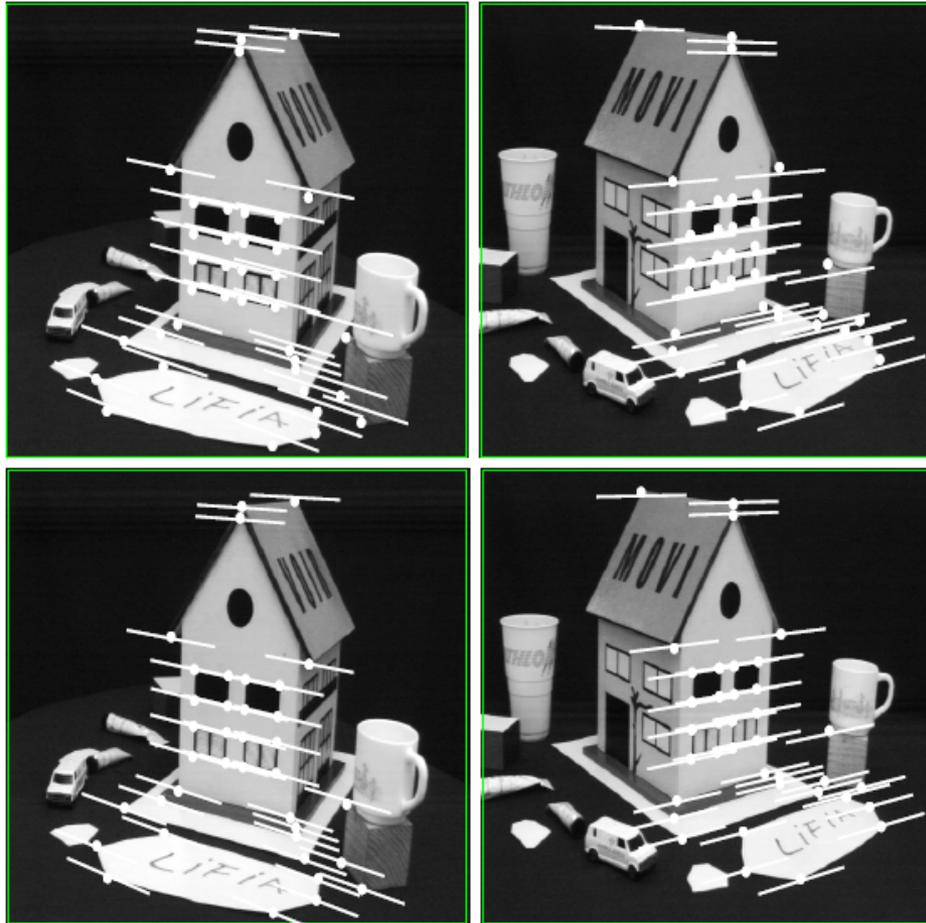
$$\sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{x}'_i{}^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}_i)^2$$

- Nonlinear approach: minimize sum of squared *geometric* distances

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \left[ d^2(\mathbf{x}'_i, \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}_i) + d^2(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{x}'_i) \right]$$



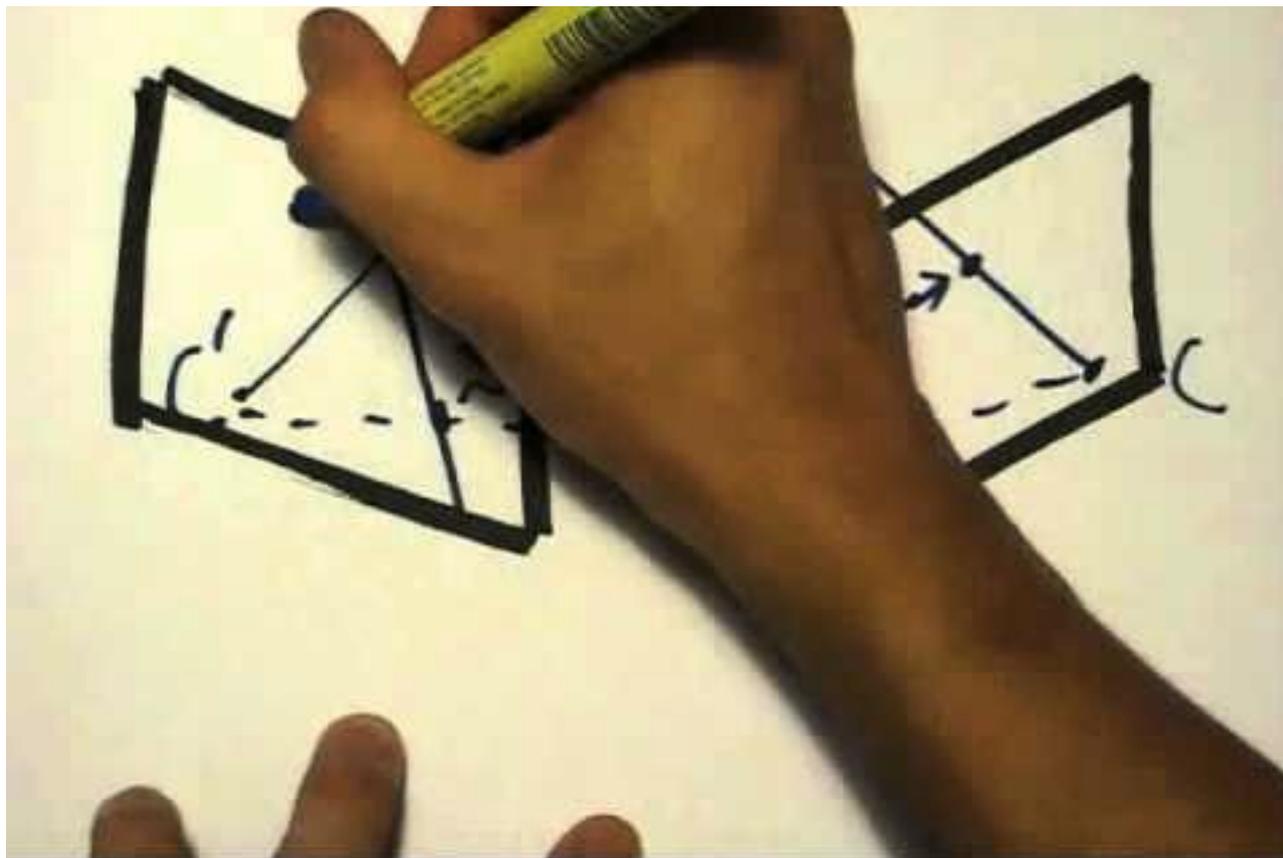
# Comparison of estimation algorithms



|             | 8-point     | Normalized 8-point | Nonlinear least squares |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Av. Dist. 1 | 2.33 pixels | 0.92 pixel         | 0.86 pixel              |
| Av. Dist. 2 | 2.18 pixels | 0.85 pixel         | 0.80 pixel              |

# The Fundamental Matrix Song

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<http://danielwedge.com/fmatrix/>

# From epipolar geometry to camera calibration

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- Estimating the fundamental matrix is known as “weak calibration”
- If we know the calibration matrices of the two cameras, we can estimate the essential matrix:  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{K}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{K}$
- The essential matrix gives us the relative rotation and translation between the cameras, or their extrinsic parameters

# Stereo

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Many slides adapted from Steve Seitz

# Binocular stereo

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- Given a calibrated binocular stereo pair, fuse it to produce a depth image

image 1



image 2



Dense depth map



# Binocular stereo

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- Given a calibrated binocular stereo pair, fuse it to produce a depth image

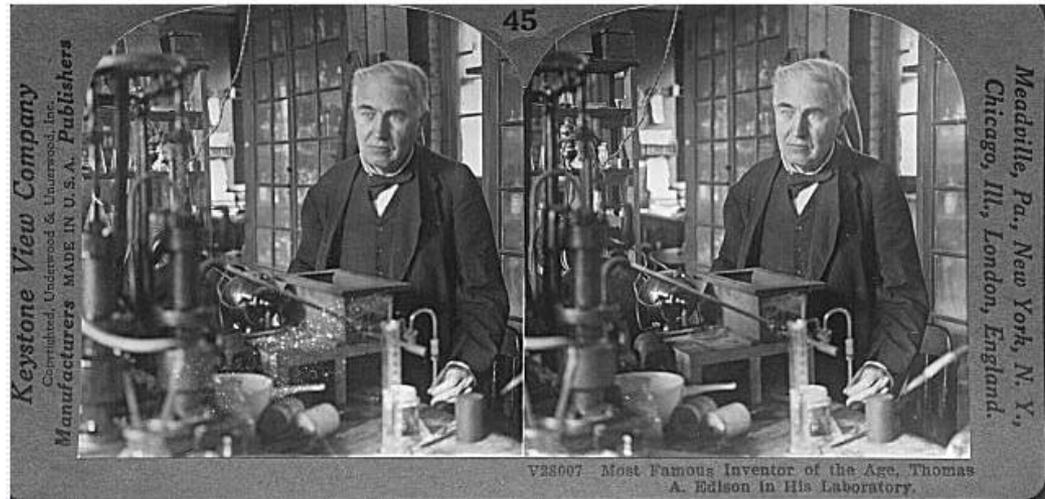


Where does the depth information come from?

# Binocular stereo

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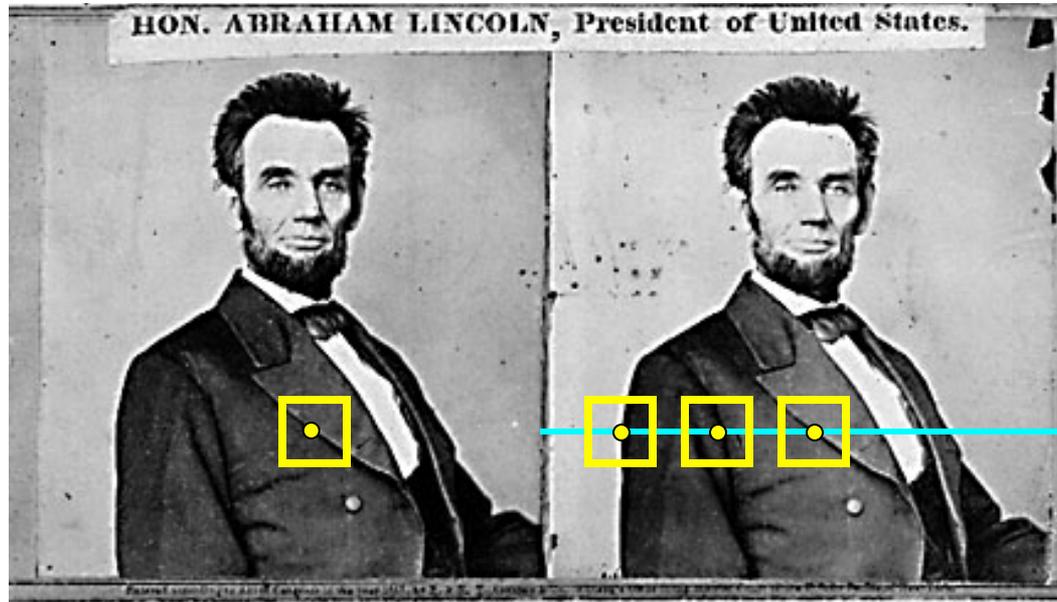
- Given a calibrated binocular stereo pair, fuse it to produce a depth image
  - Humans can do it



Stereograms: Invented by Sir Charles Wheatstone, 1838

# Basic stereo matching algorithm

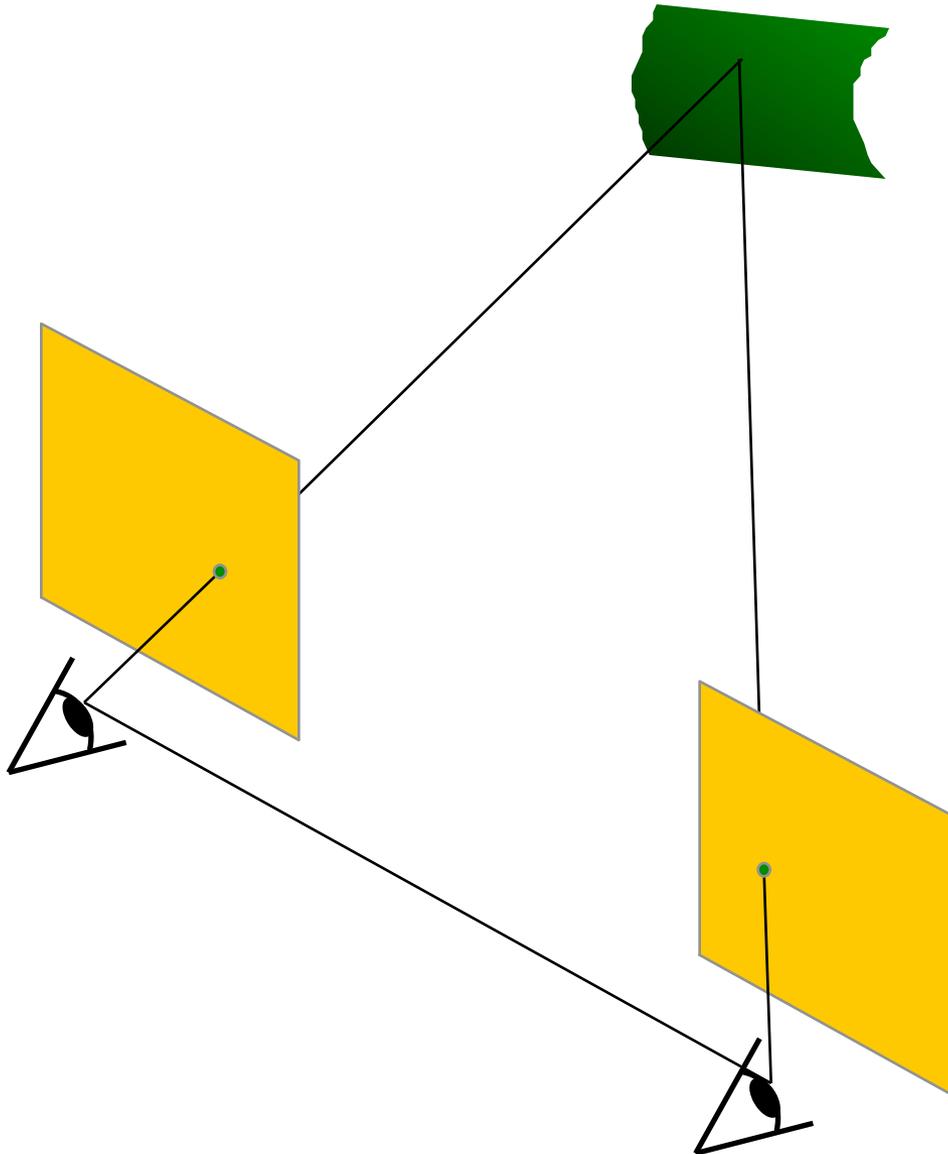
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- For each pixel in the first image
  - Find corresponding epipolar line in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the epipolar line and pick the best match
  - Triangulate the matches to get depth information
- Simplest case: epipolar lines are corresponding scanlines
  - When does this happen?

# Simplest Case: Parallel images

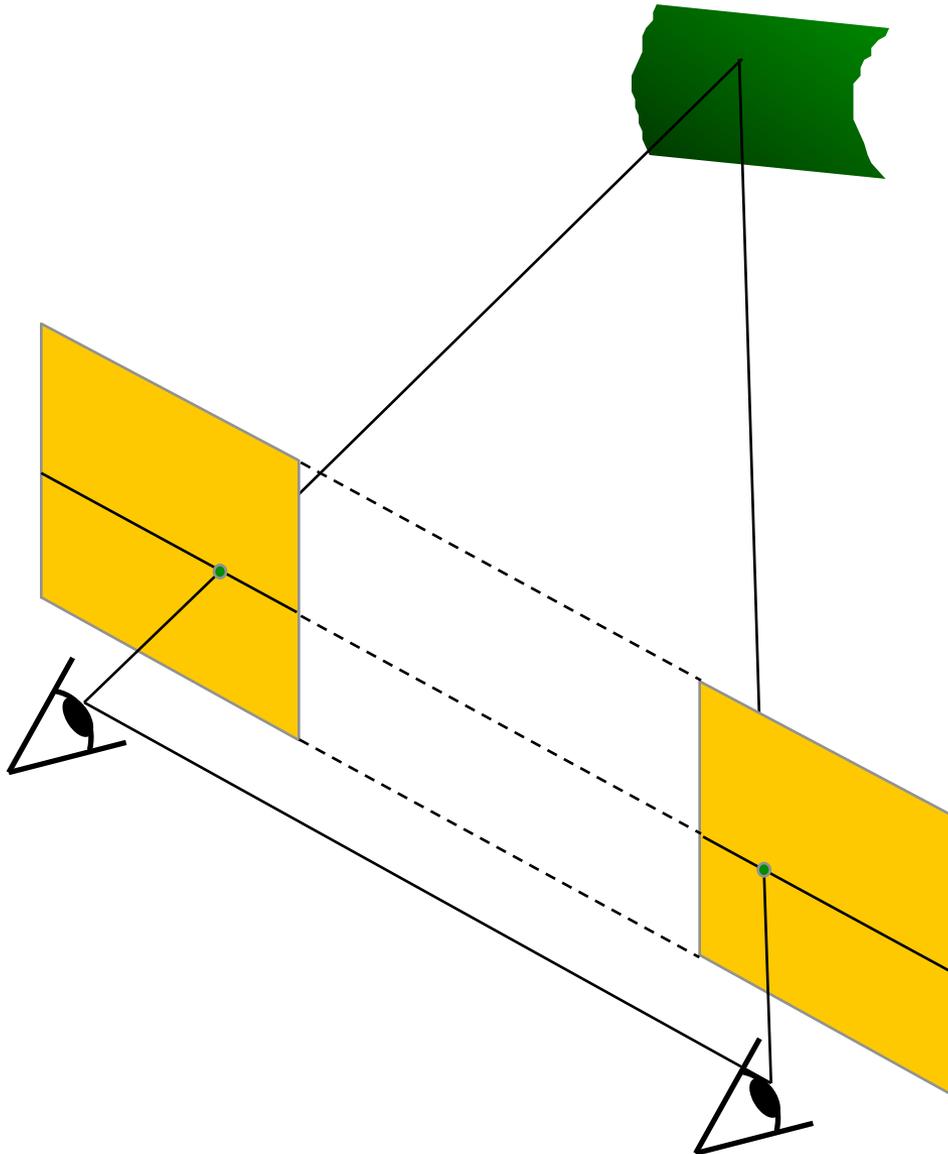
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- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same

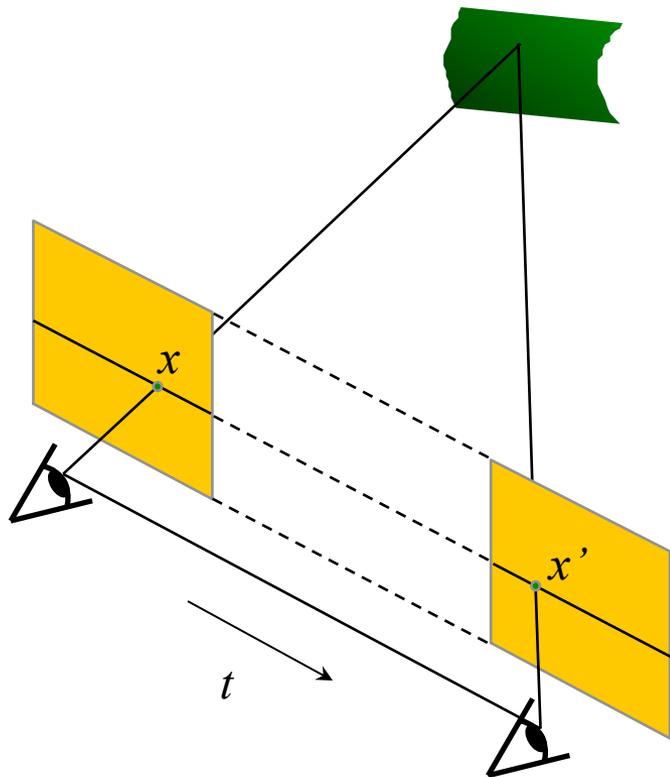
# Simplest Case: Parallel images

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- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same
- Then epipolar lines fall along the horizontal scan lines of the images

# Essential matrix for parallel images



Epipolar constraint:

$$\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x} = 0, \quad \mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{t}_\times] \mathbf{R}$$

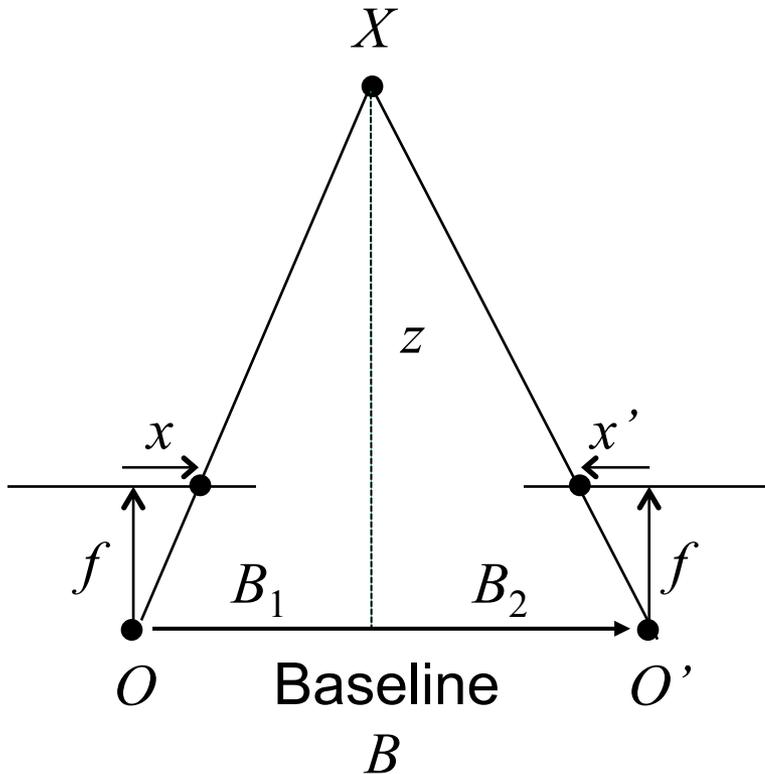
$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I} \quad \mathbf{t} = (T, 0, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{t}_\times] \mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u' & v' & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad \begin{pmatrix} u' & v' & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -T \\ Tv \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad Tv' = Tv$$

The y-coordinates of corresponding points are the same!

# Depth from disparity



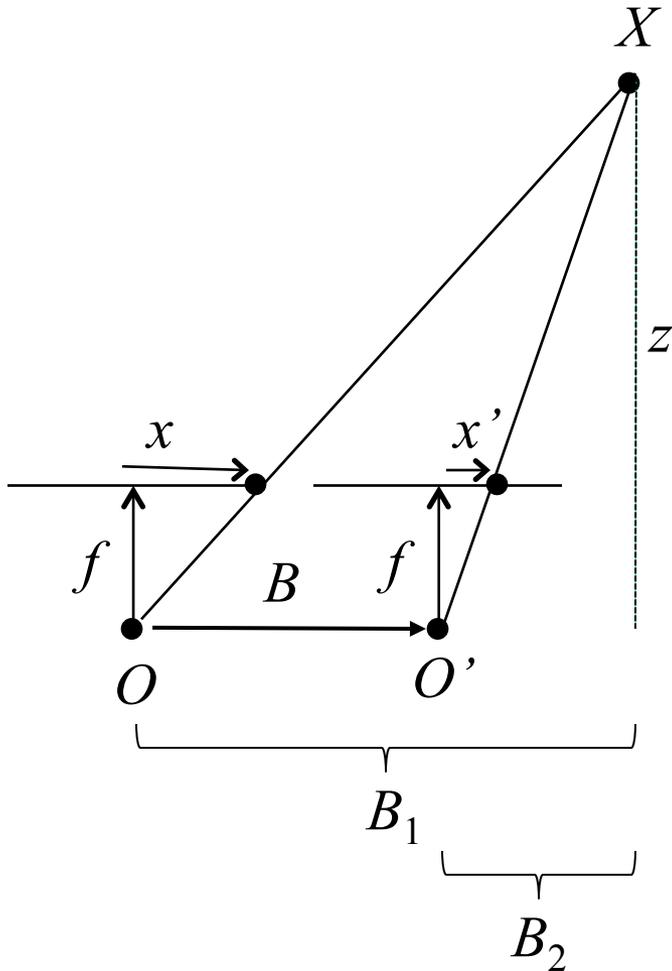
$$\frac{x}{f} = \frac{B_1}{z} \quad \frac{-x'}{f} = \frac{B_2}{z}$$

$$\frac{x - x'}{f} = \frac{B_1 + B_2}{z}$$

$$\text{disparity} = x - x' = \frac{B \cdot f}{z}$$

Disparity is inversely proportional to depth!

# Depth from disparity

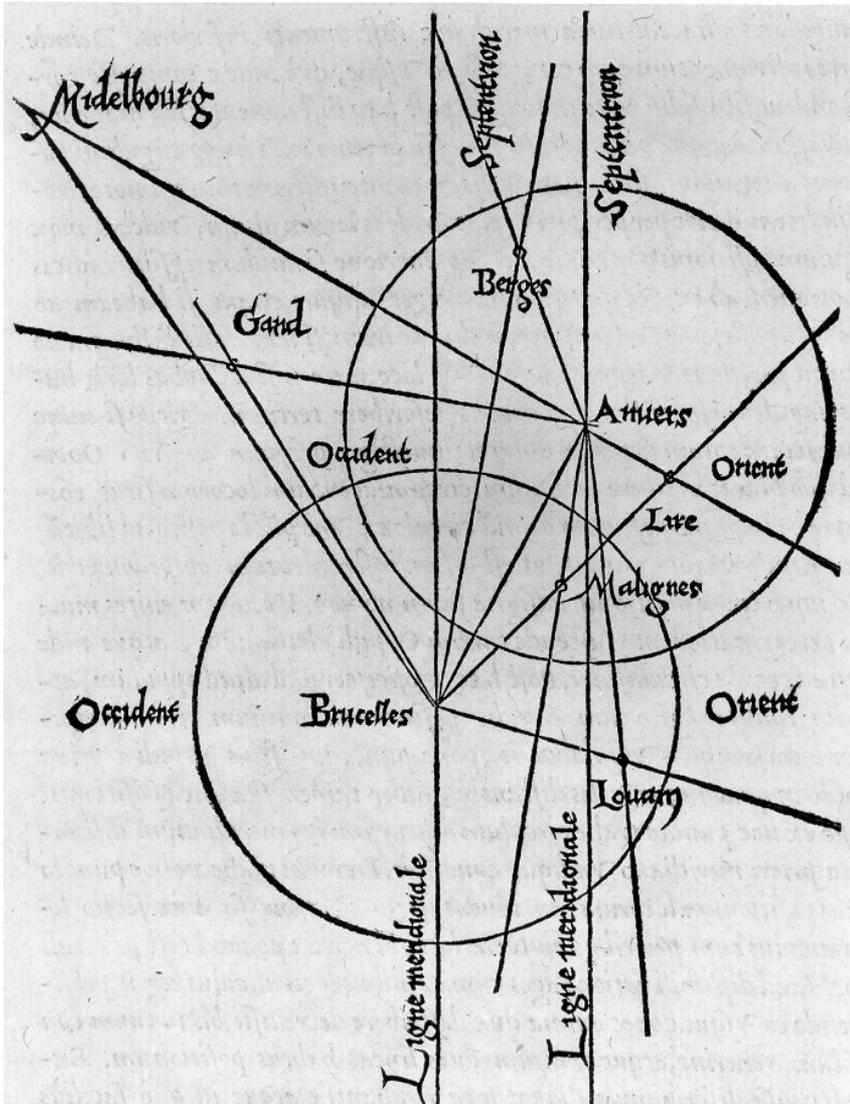


$$\frac{x}{f} = \frac{B_1}{z} \quad \frac{x'}{f} = \frac{B_2}{z}$$

$$\frac{x - x'}{f} = \frac{B_1 - B_2}{z}$$

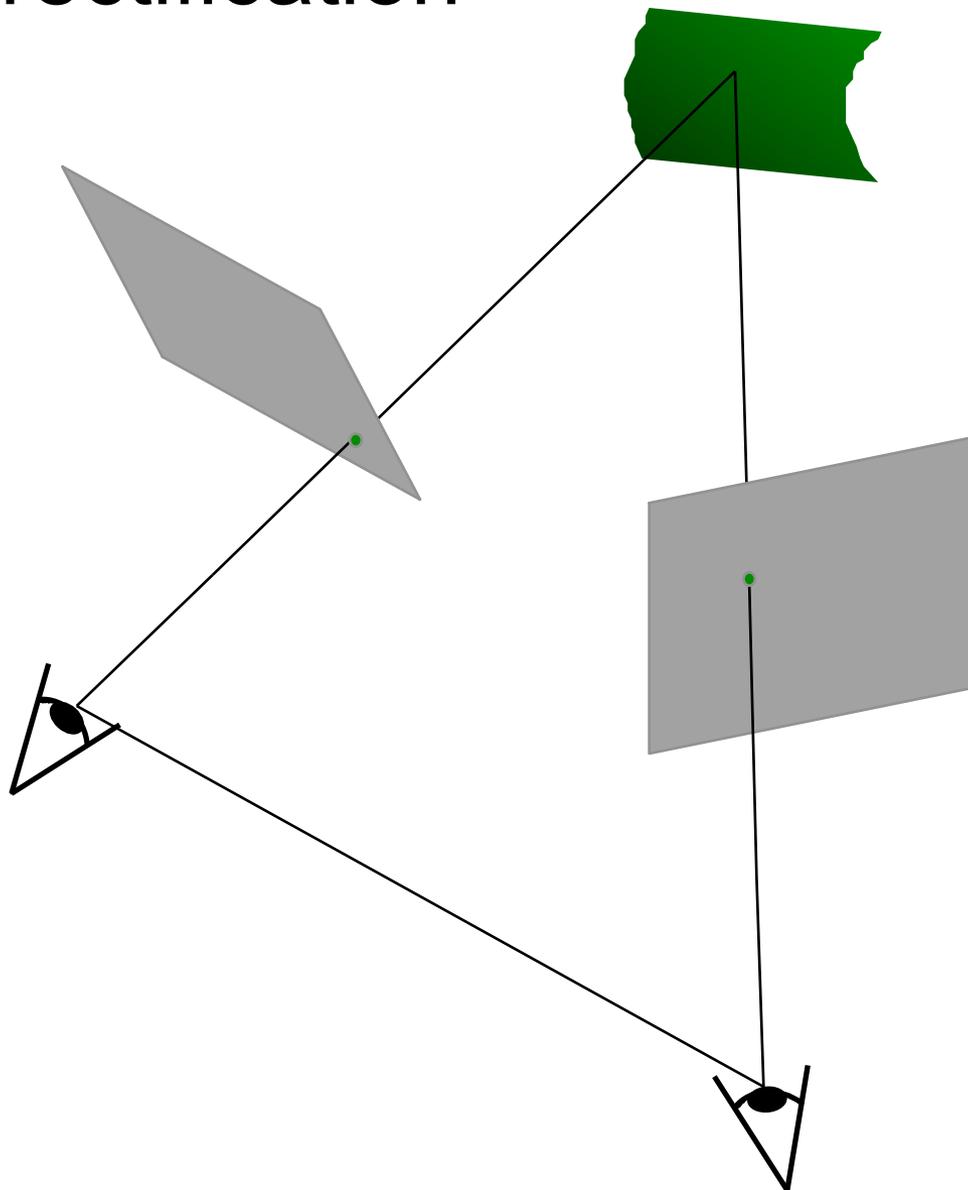
$$\text{disparity} = x - x' = \frac{B \cdot f}{z}$$

# Triangulation: History

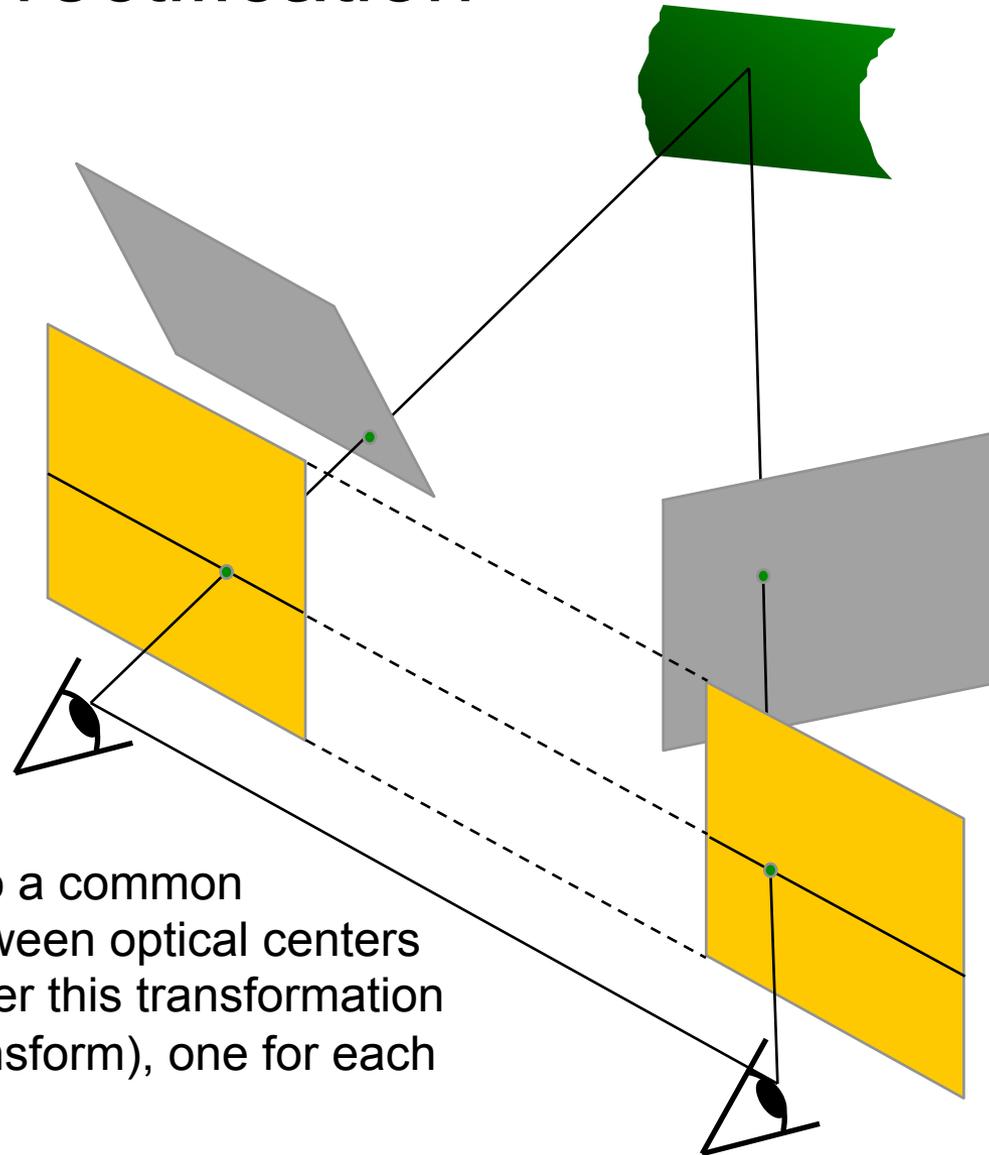


From [Wikipedia](#): Gemma Frisius's 1533 diagram introducing the idea of triangulation into the science of surveying. Having established a baseline, e.g. the cities of Brussels and Antwerp, the location of other cities, e.g. Middelburg, Ghent etc., can be found by taking a compass direction from each end of the baseline, and plotting where the two directions cross. This was only a theoretical presentation of the concept — due to topographical restrictions, it is impossible to see Middelburg from either Brussels or Antwerp. Nevertheless, the figure soon became well known all across Europe.

# Stereo image rectification



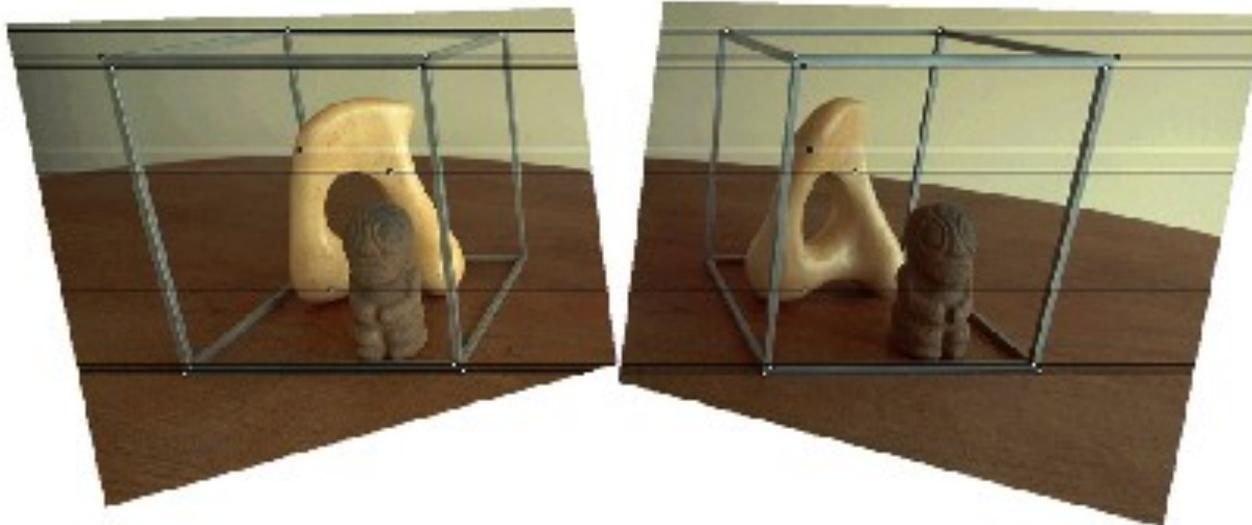
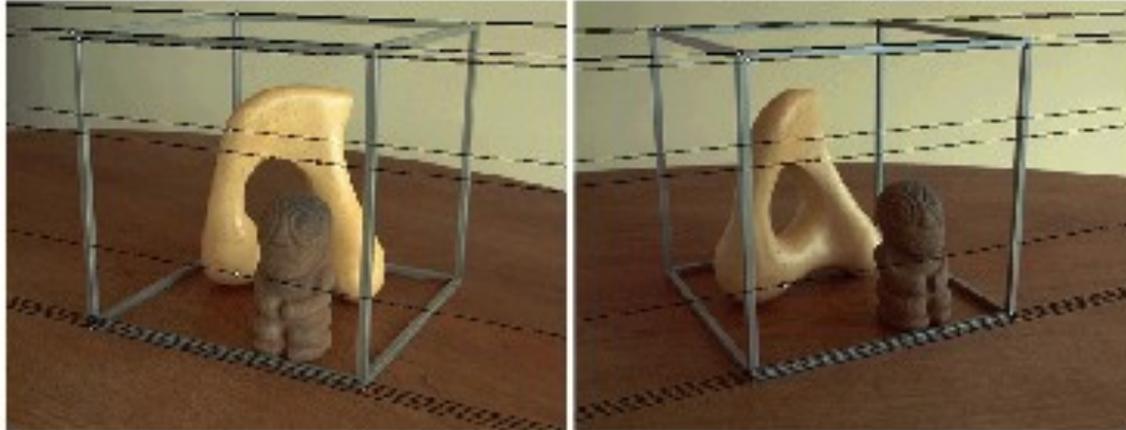
# Stereo image rectification



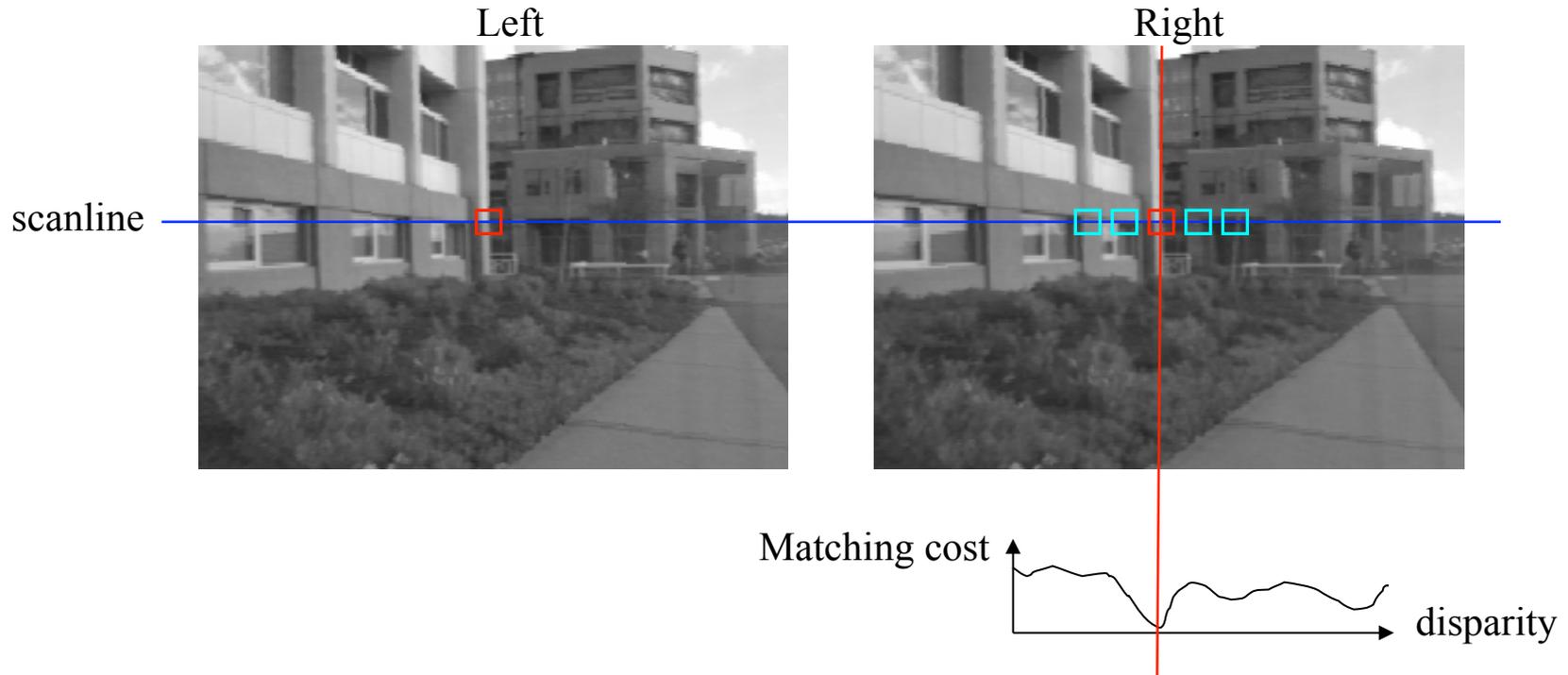
- Reproject image planes onto a common plane parallel to the line between optical centers
- Pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation
- Two homographies (3x3 transform), one for each input image reprojection

# Rectification example

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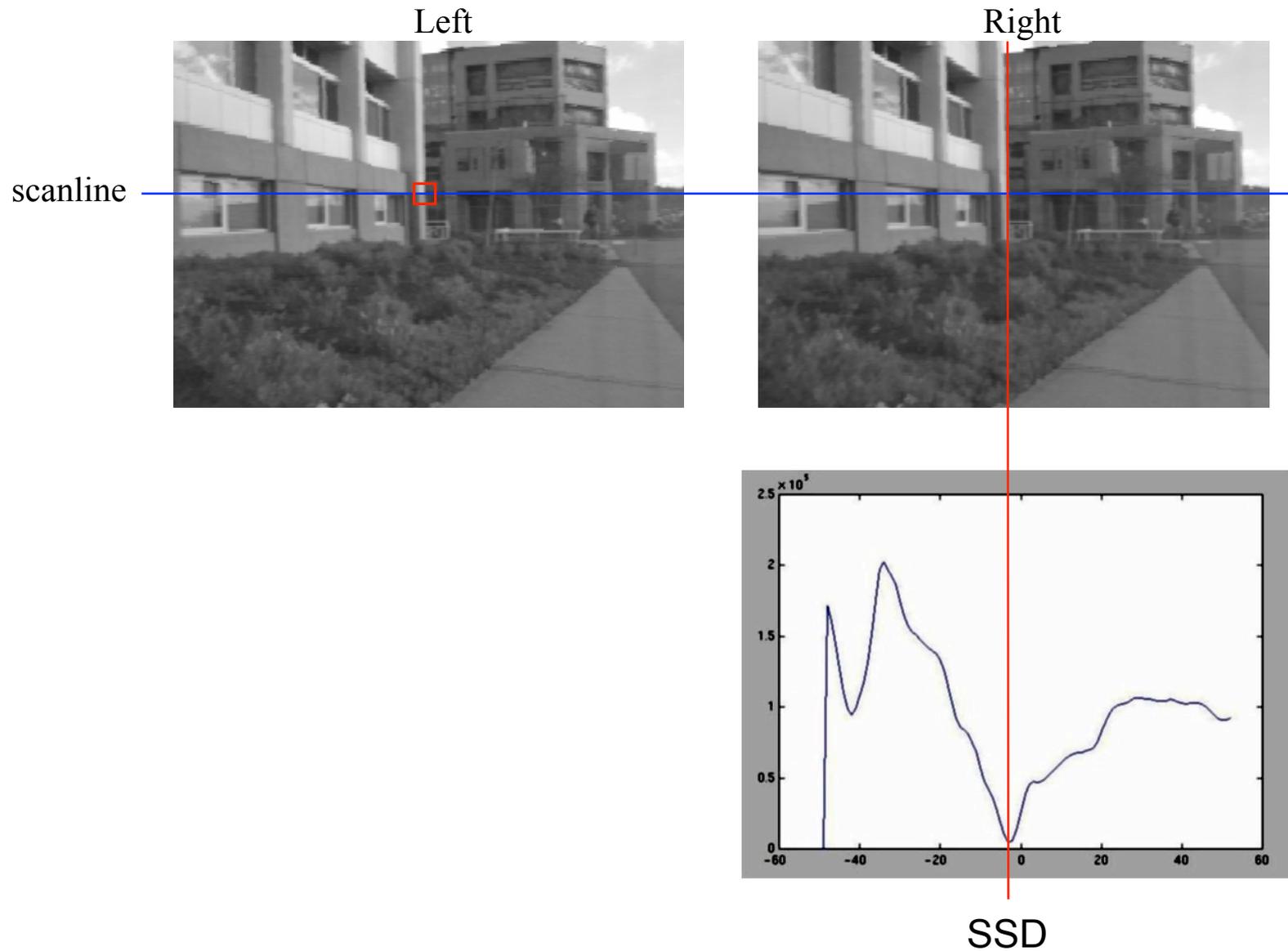


# Correspondence search

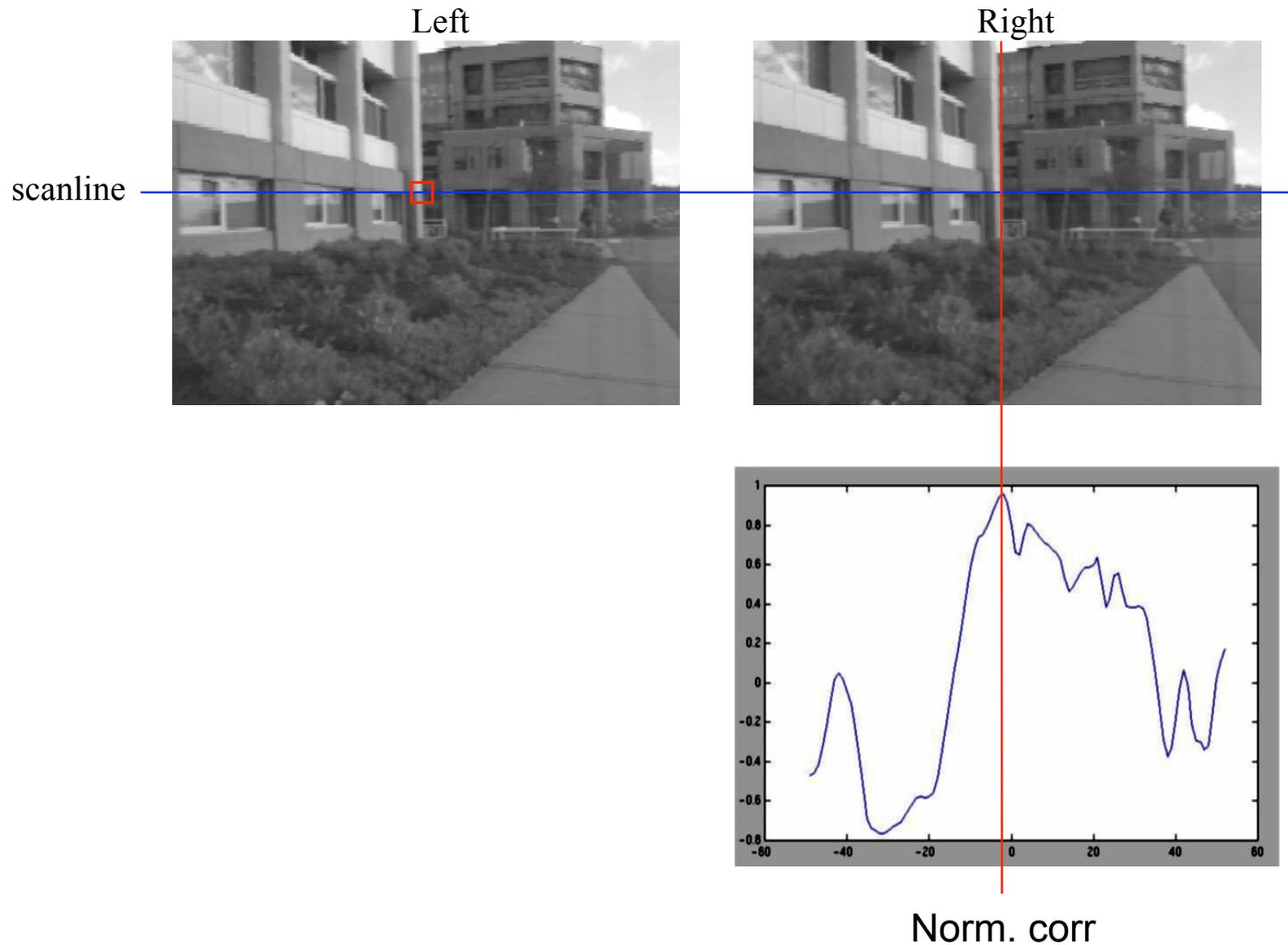


- Slide a window along the right scanline and compare contents of that window with the reference window in the left image
- Matching cost: SSD or normalized correlation

# Correspondence search

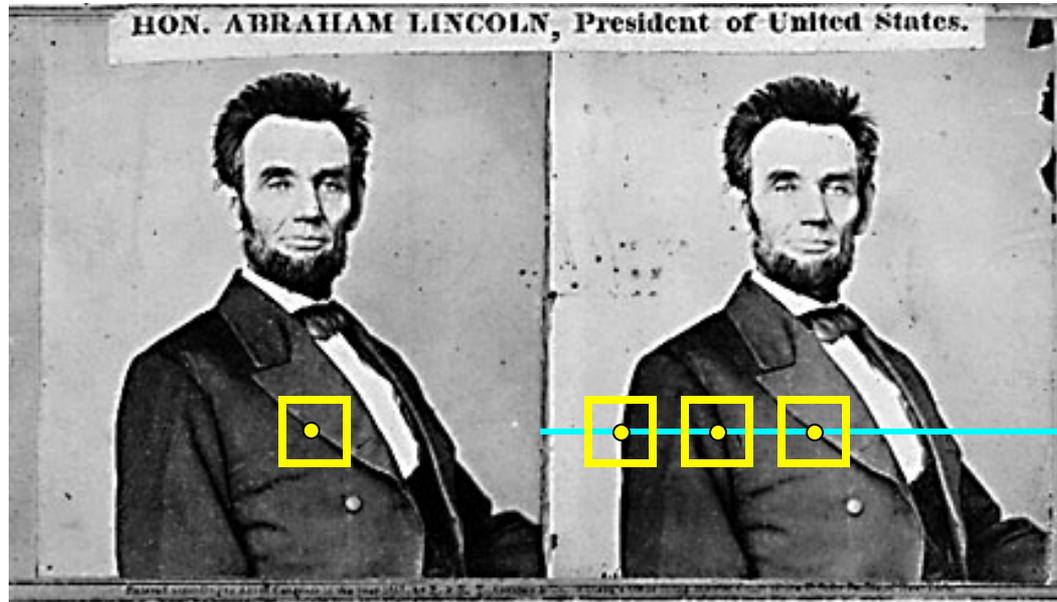


# Correspondence search



# Basic stereo matching algorithm

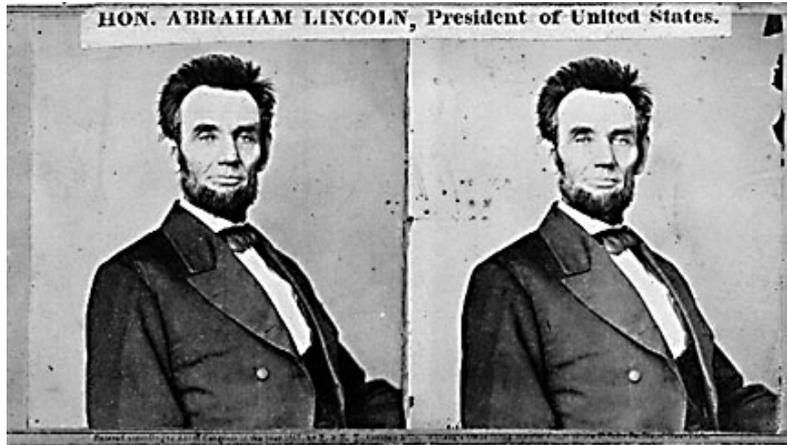
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- If necessary, rectify the two stereo images to transform epipolar lines into scanlines
- For each pixel  $x$  in the first image
  - Find corresponding epipolar scanline in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the scanline and pick the best match  $x'$
  - Compute disparity  $x-x'$  and set  $\text{depth}(x) = B \cdot f / (x-x')$

# Failures of correspondence search

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Textureless surfaces



Occlusions, repetition



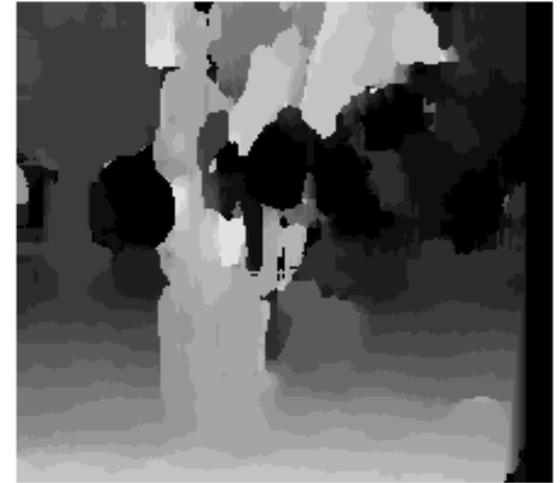
Non-Lambertian surfaces, specularities

# Effect of window size

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$W = 3$



$W = 20$

- Smaller window
  - + More detail
  - More noise
- Larger window
  - + Smoother disparity maps
  - Less detail

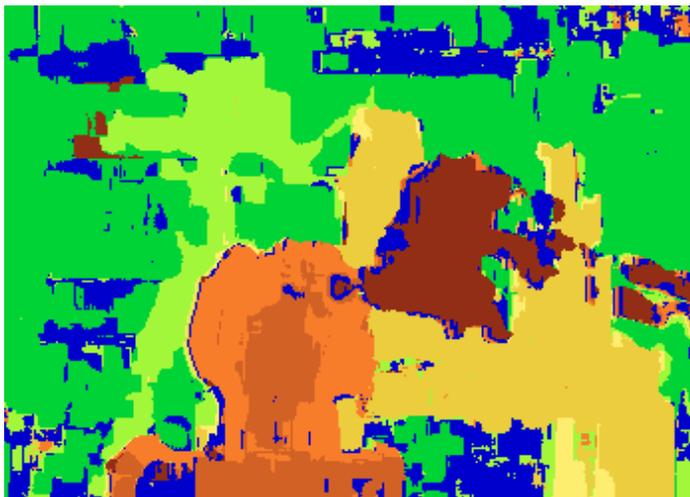
# Results with window search

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Data



Window-based matching



Ground truth

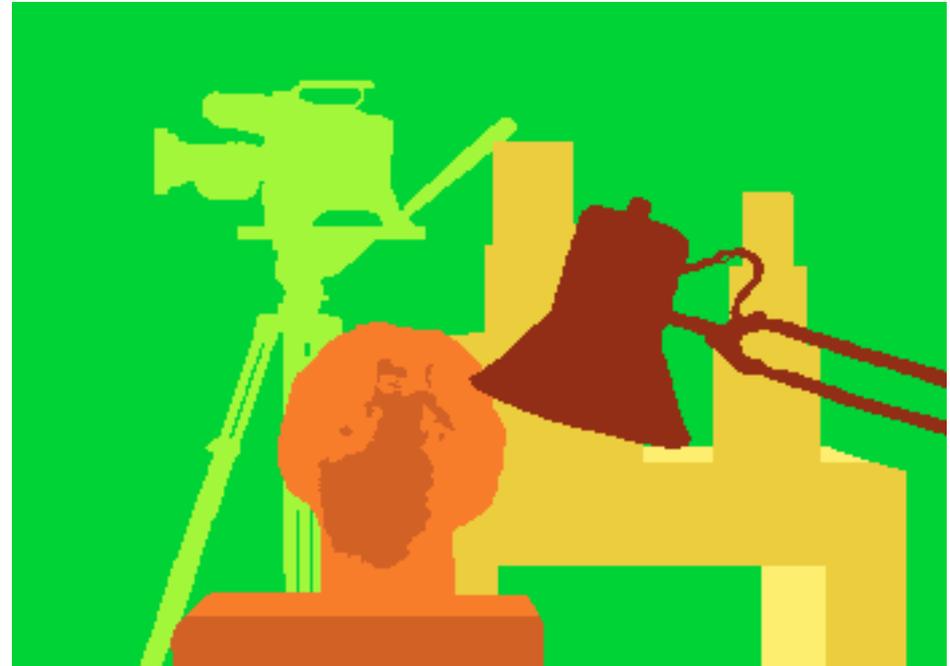


# Better methods exist...

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Graph cuts



Ground truth

Y. Boykov, O. Veksler, and R. Zabih,  
[Fast Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts](#), PAMI 2001

For the latest and greatest: <http://www.middlebury.edu/stereo/>

# How can we improve window-based matching?

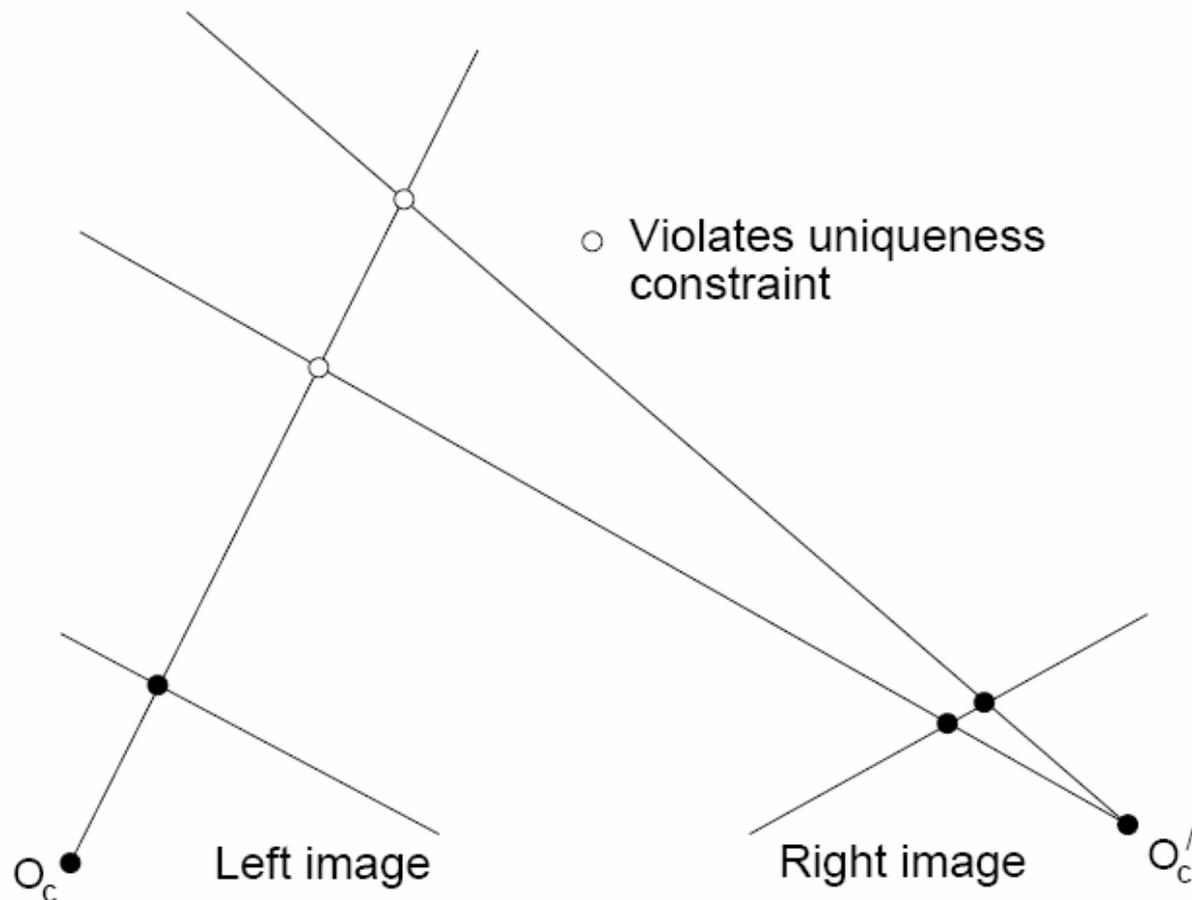
---

- The similarity constraint is **local** (each reference window is matched independently)
- Need to enforce **non-local** correspondence constraints

# Non-local constraints

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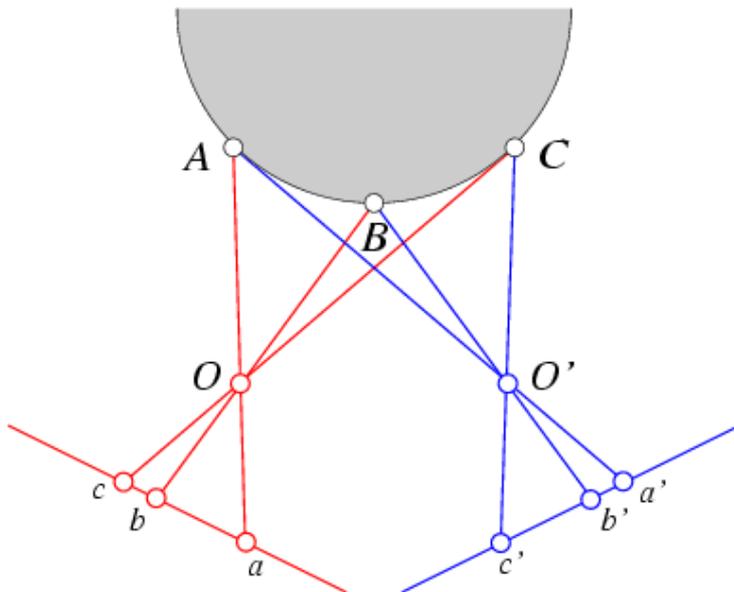
- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image



# Non-local constraints

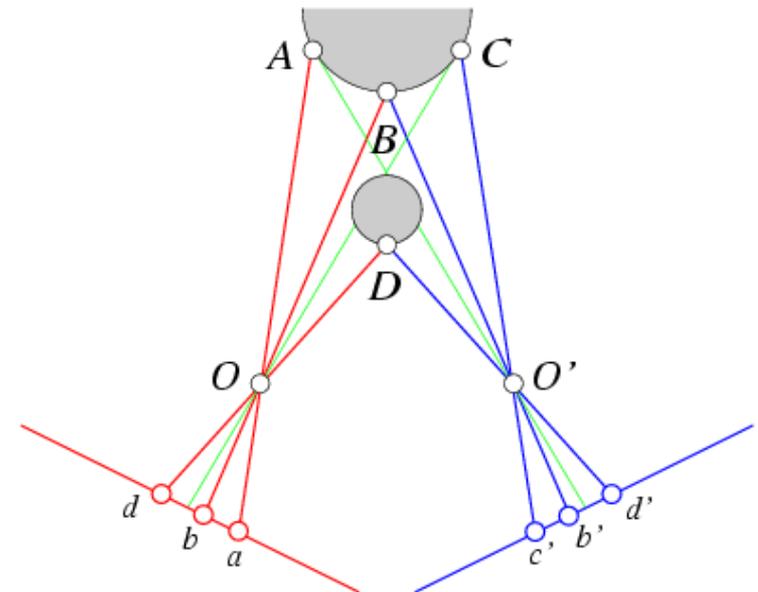
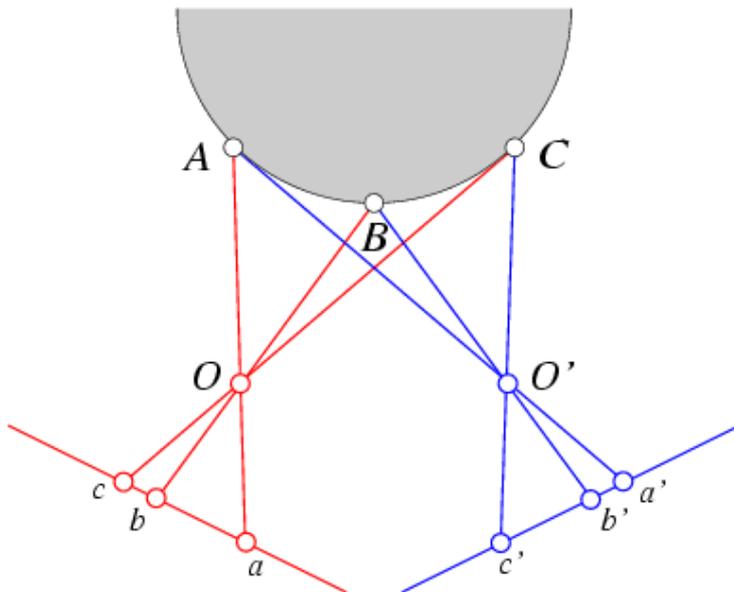
---

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image
- Ordering
  - Corresponding points should be in the same order in both views



# Non-local constraints

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image
- Ordering
  - Corresponding points should be in the same order in both views



Ordering constraint doesn't hold

# Non-local constraints

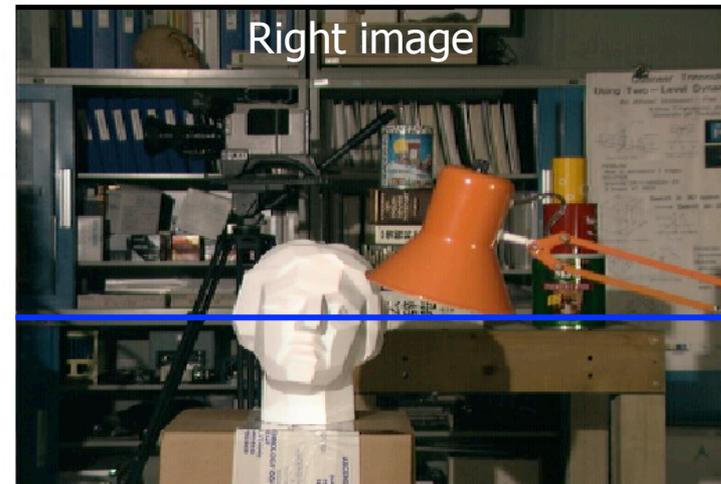
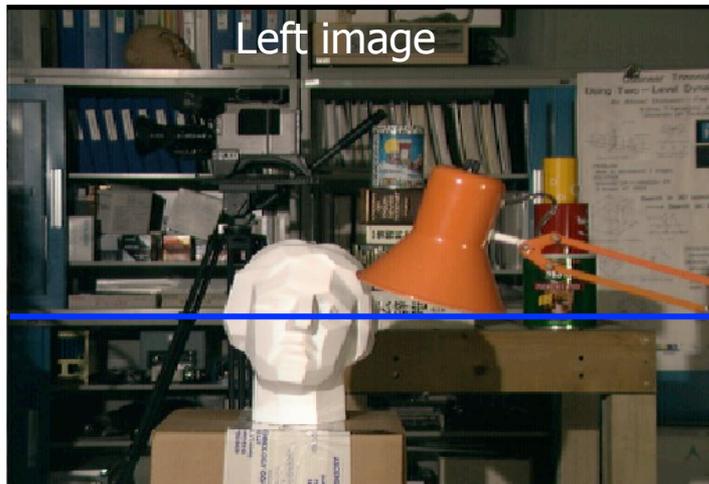
---

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image
- Ordering
  - Corresponding points should be in the same order in both views
- Smoothness
  - We expect disparity values to change slowly (for the most part)

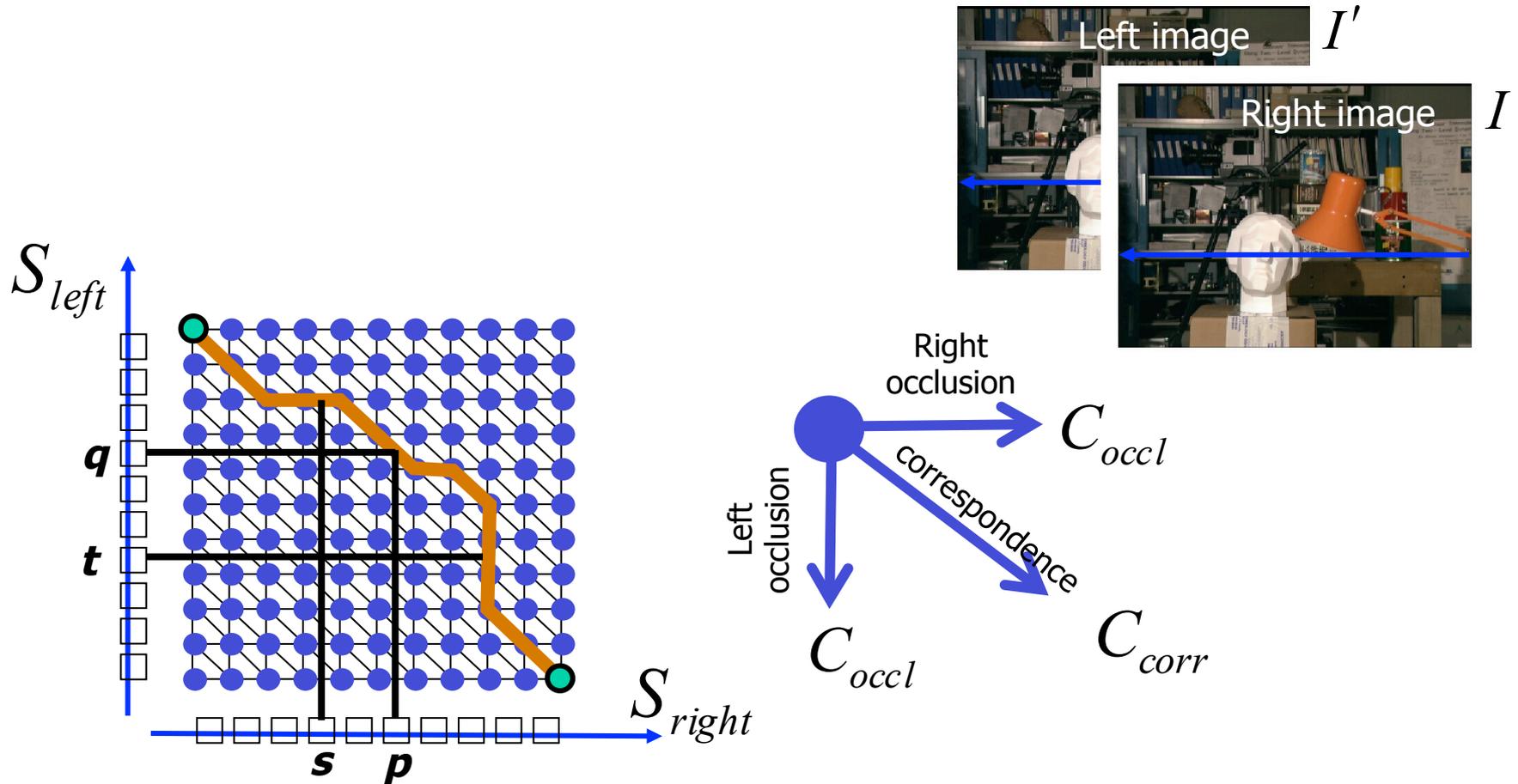
# Scanline stereo

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- Try to coherently match pixels on the entire scanline
- Different scanlines are still optimized independently



# “Shortest paths” for scan-line stereo

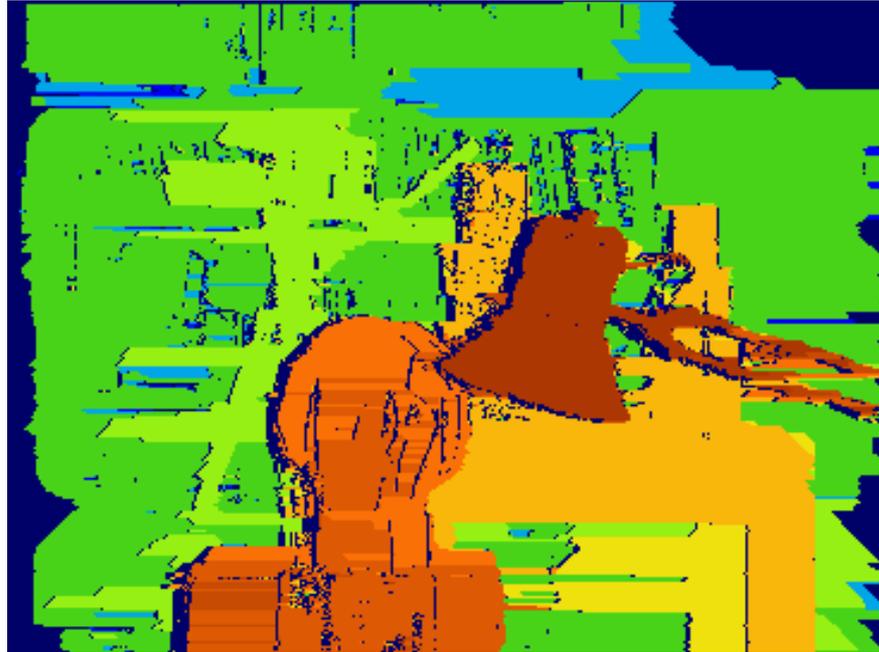


Can be implemented with dynamic programming  
 Ohta & Kanade '85, Cox et al. '96

# Coherent stereo on 2D grid

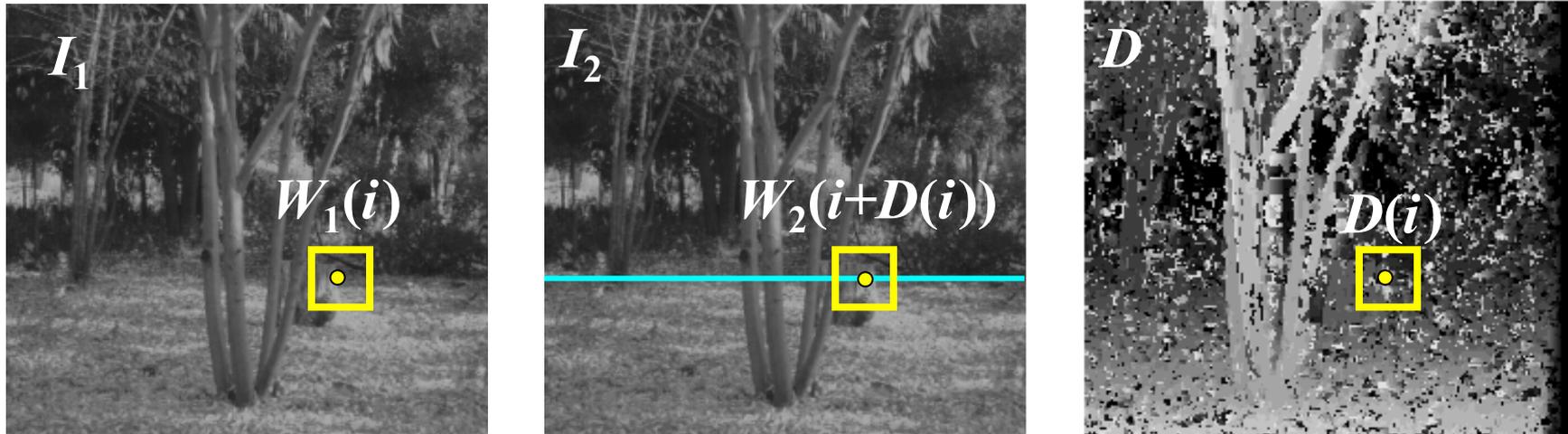
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- Scanline stereo generates streaking artifacts



- Can't use dynamic programming to find spatially coherent disparities/ correspondences on a 2D grid

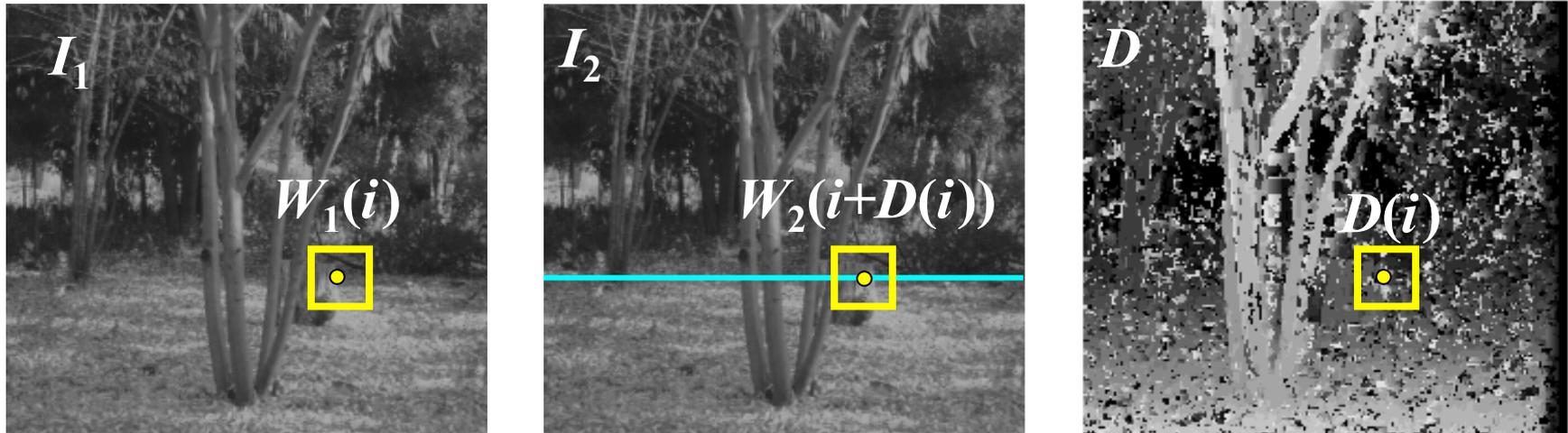
# Stereo matching as energy minimization



$$E(D) = \underbrace{\sum_i (W_1(i) - W_2(i + D(i)))^2}_{\text{data term}} + \lambda \underbrace{\sum_{\text{neighbors } i, j} \rho(D(i) - D(j))}_{\text{smoothness term}}$$

- Energy functions of this form can be minimized using *graph cuts*

# Stereo matching as energy minimization



- Probabilistic interpretation: we want to find a Maximum A Posteriori (MAP) estimate of disparity image  $D$ :

$$P(D | I_1, I_2) \propto P(I_1, I_2 | D)P(D)$$

$$-\log P(D | I_1, I_2) \propto -\log P(I_1, I_2 | D) - \log P(D)$$

$$E = E_{\text{data}}(I_1, I_2, D) + \lambda E_{\text{smooth}}(D)$$

# Stereo matching as energy minimization

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- Note: the above formulation does not treat the two images symmetrically, does not enforce uniqueness, and does not take occlusions into account
- It is possible to come up with an energy that does all these things, but it's a bit more complex
  - Defined over all possible sets of matches, not over all disparity maps with respect to the first image
  - Includes an *occlusion term*
  - The smoothness term looks different and more complicated

V. Kolmogorov and R. Zabih,

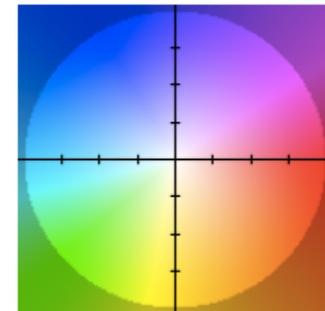
[Computing Visual Correspondence with Occlusions using Graph Cuts](#), ICCV 2001

# Optical flow estimation for stereo

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Source: <http://people.csail.mit.edu/celiu/OpticalFlow/>

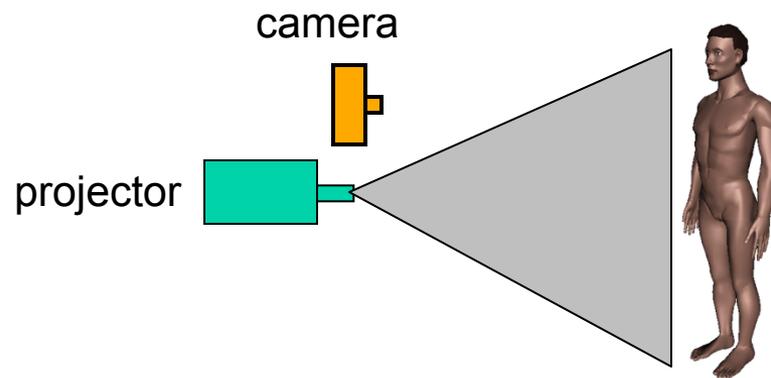


flow color coding

# Active stereo with structured light



- Project “structured” light patterns onto the object
  - Simplifies the correspondence problem
  - Allows us to use only one camera

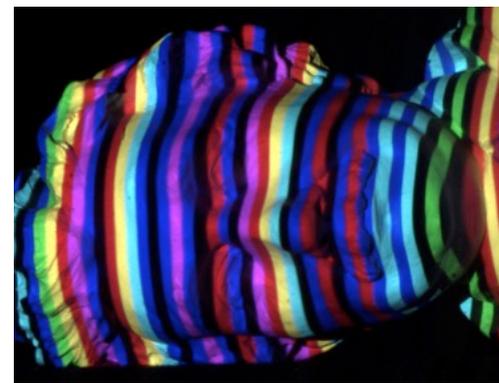
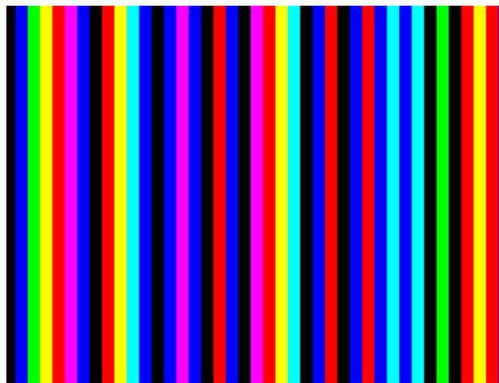
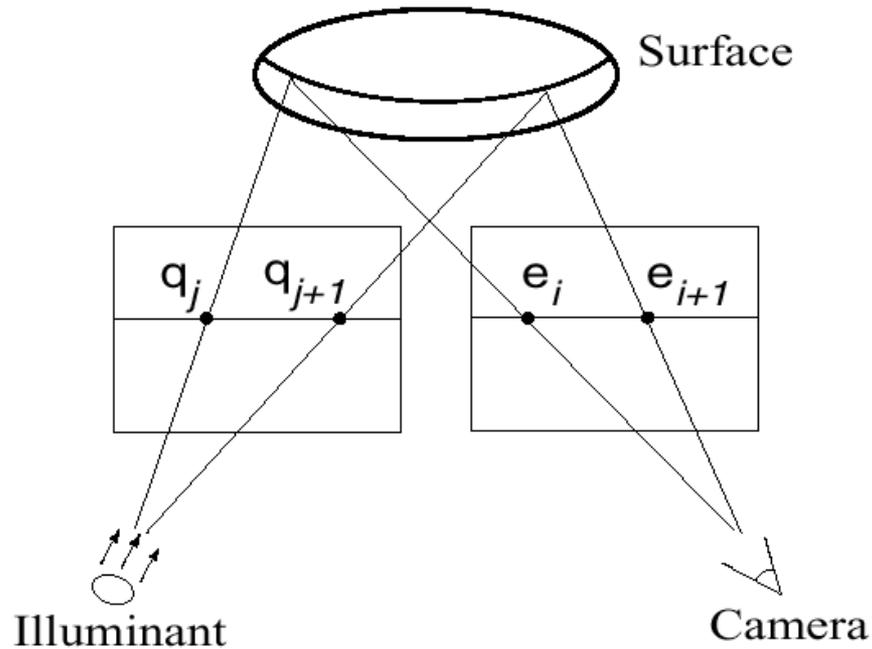


L. Zhang, B. Curless, and S. M. Seitz.

[Rapid Shape Acquisition Using Color Structured Light and Multi-pass Dynamic Programming.](#) 3DPVT 2002

# Active stereo with structured light

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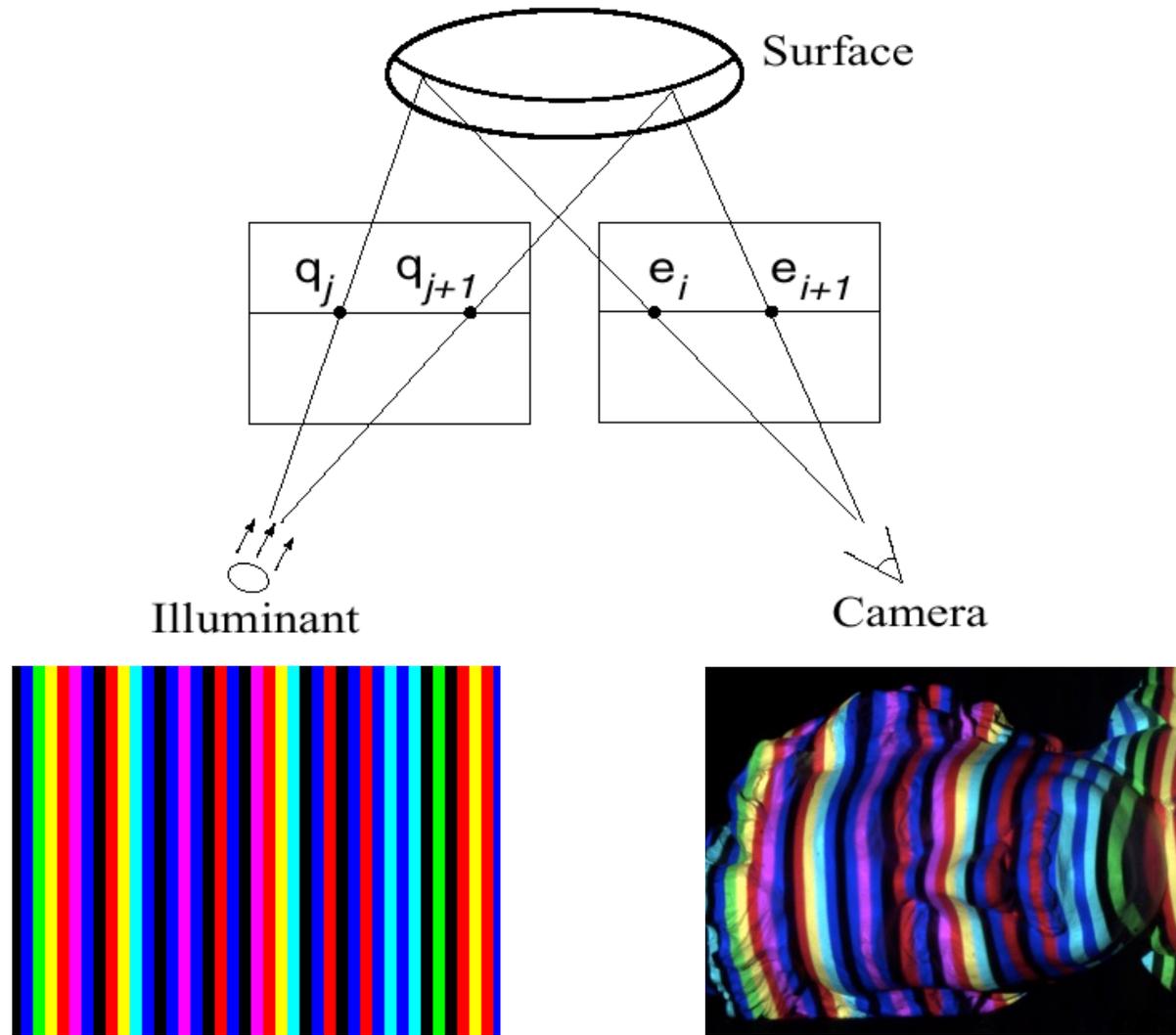


L. Zhang, B. Curless, and S. M. Seitz.

[Rapid Shape Acquisition Using Color Structured Light and Multi-pass Dynamic Programming.](#) *3DPVT 2002*

# Active stereo with structured light

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# Kinect: Structured infrared light

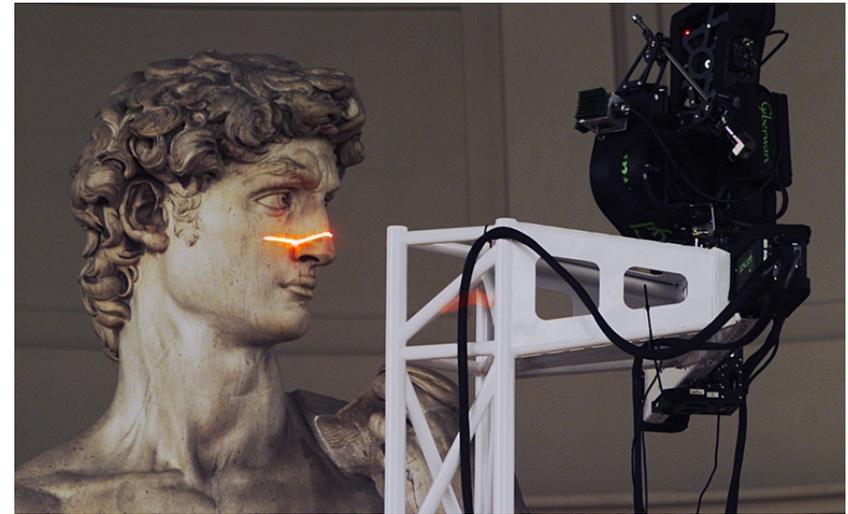
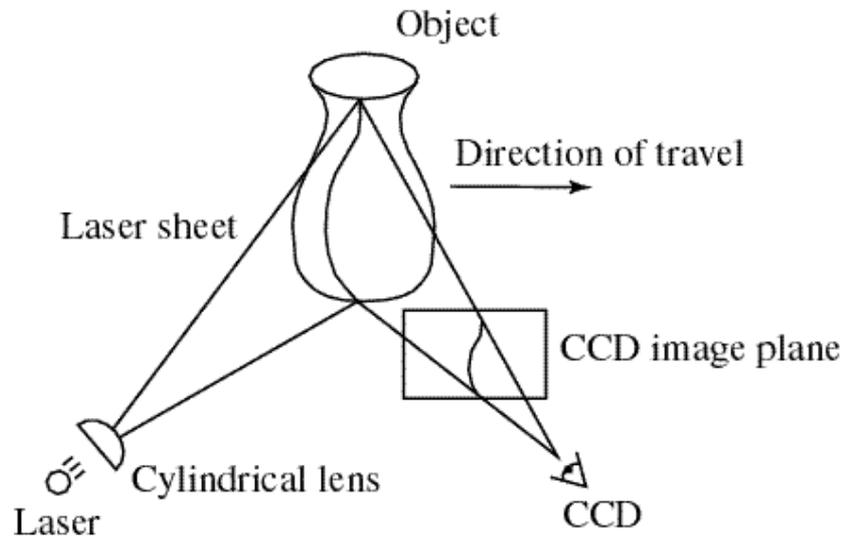
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<http://bbzippo.wordpress.com/2010/11/28/kinect-in-infrared/>

# Laser scanning

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Digital Michelangelo Project  
Levoy et al.

<http://graphics.stanford.edu/projects/mich/>

## Optical triangulation

- Project a single stripe of laser light
- Scan it across the surface of the object
- This is a very precise version of structured light scanning

# Laser scanned models

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*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

# Laser scanned models

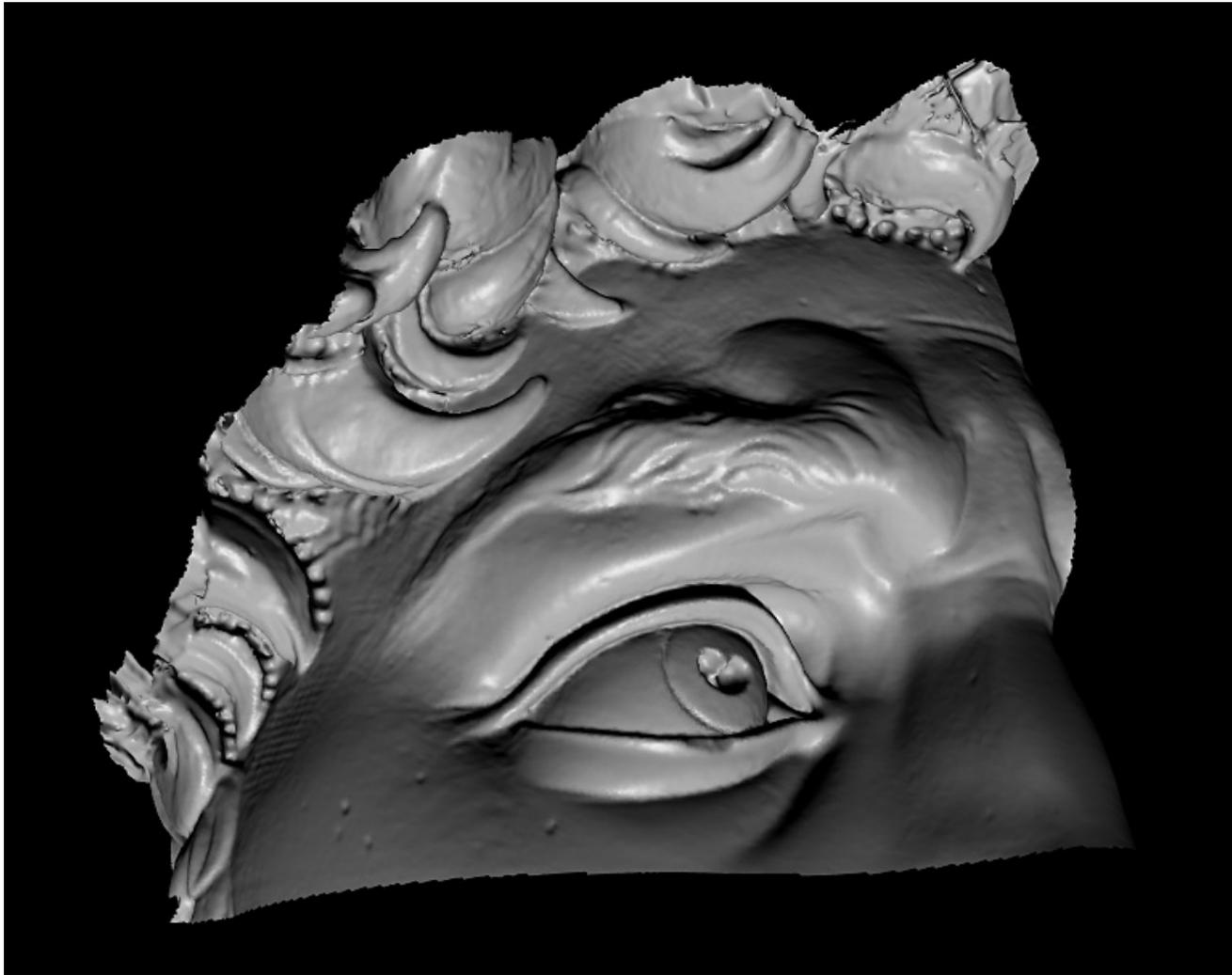
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*The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.*

# Laser scanned models

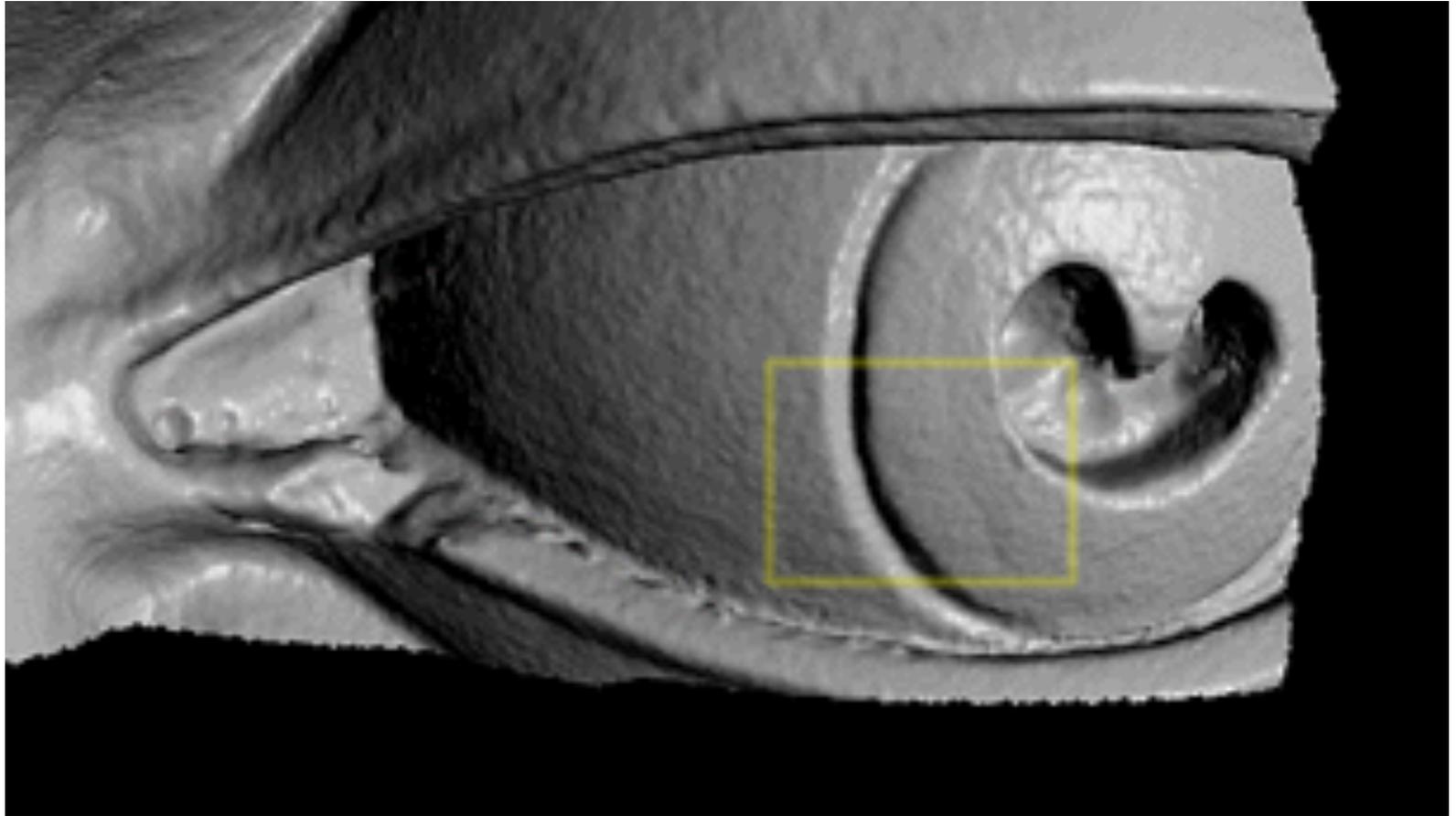
---



*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

# Laser scanned models

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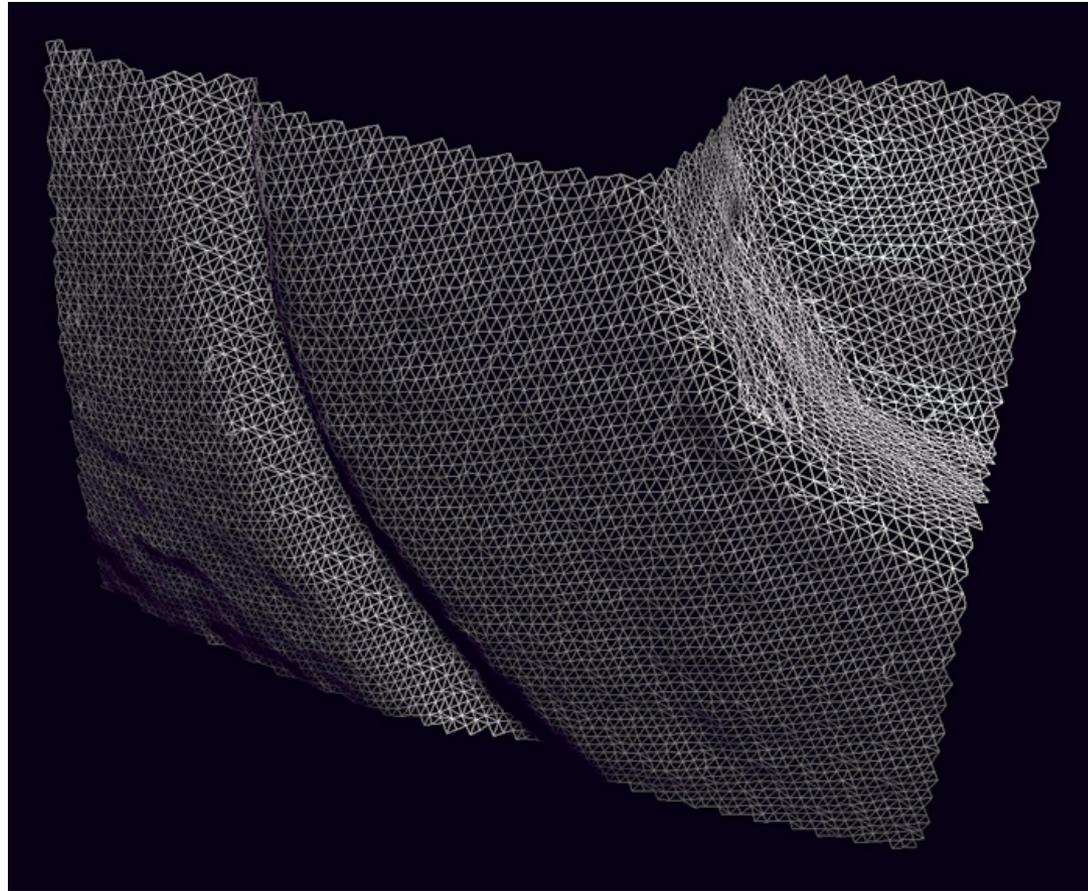


*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

# Laser scanned models

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1.0 mm resolution (56 million triangles)



*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

# Aligning range images

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- A single range scan is not sufficient to describe a complex surface
- Need techniques to register multiple range images



B. Curless and M. Levoy,  
[A Volumetric Method for Building Complex Models from Range Images](#), SIGGRAPH  
1996

# Aligning range images

---

- A single range scan is not sufficient to describe a complex surface
- Need techniques to register multiple range images

... which brings us to *multi-view stereo*