



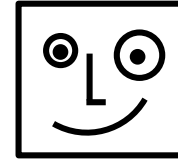
# Advanced CV methods

## Tracking patches

Matej Kristan

Laboratorij za Umetne Vizualne Spoznavne Sisteme,  
Fakulteta za računalništvo in informatiko,  
Univerza v Ljubljani

# Consider motion of patches of pixels



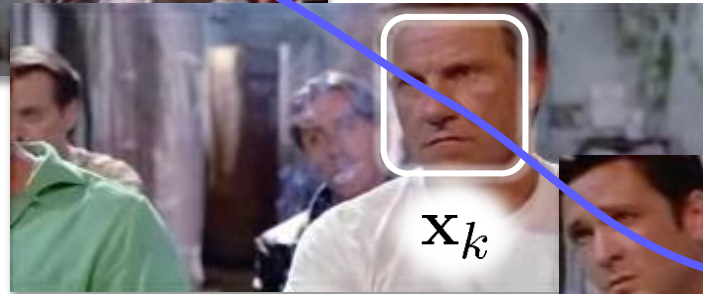
Select a region of interest  
in the first frame.



Assuming the **object will not move by too much** in consecutive frames, **re-localize** the object (target) in each frame.



k-1



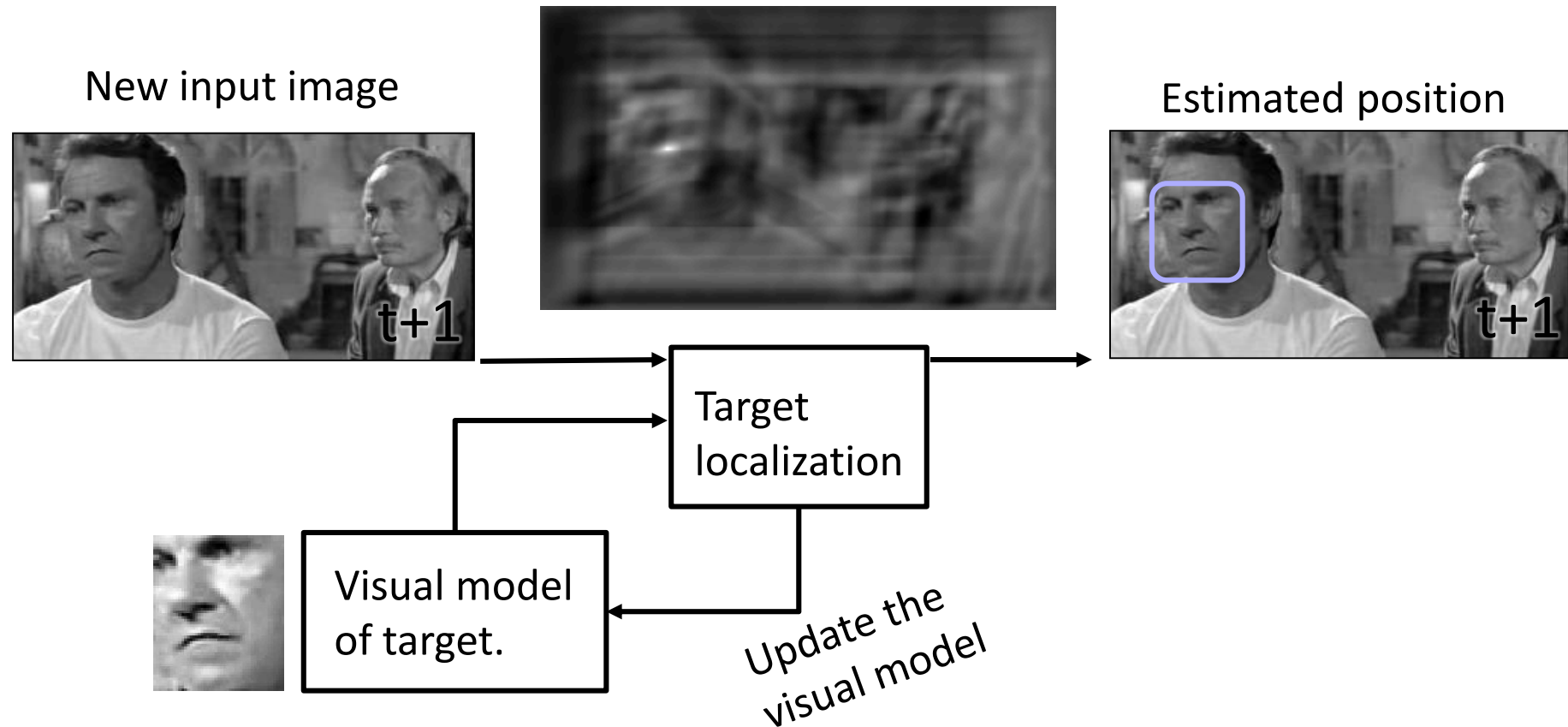
k



k+1

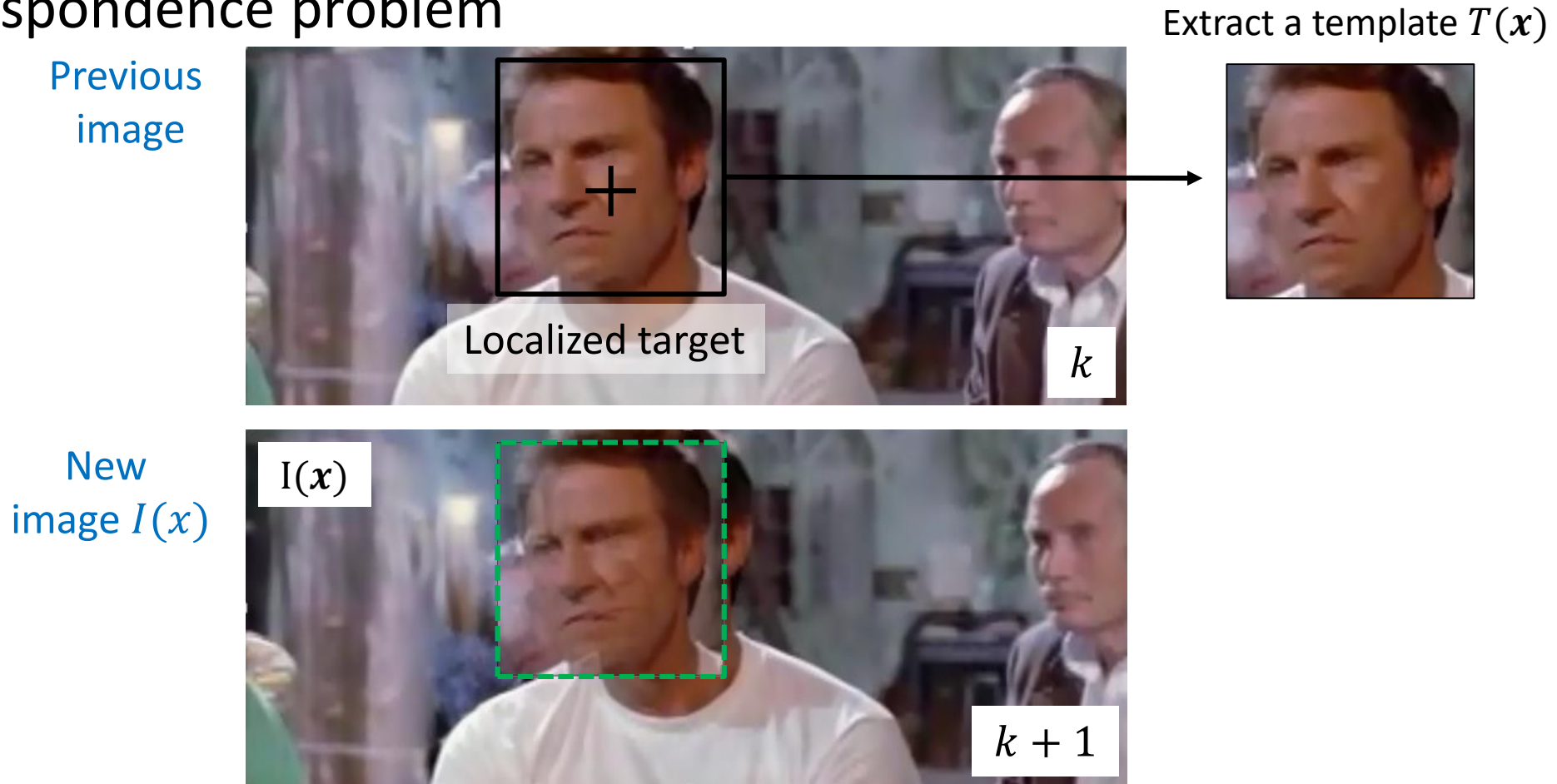
# A high-level view of tracking

- Assume some **model** of the target (e.g., template)
- Assume **estimated position** in the previous time-step



# Target localization

- Correspondence problem

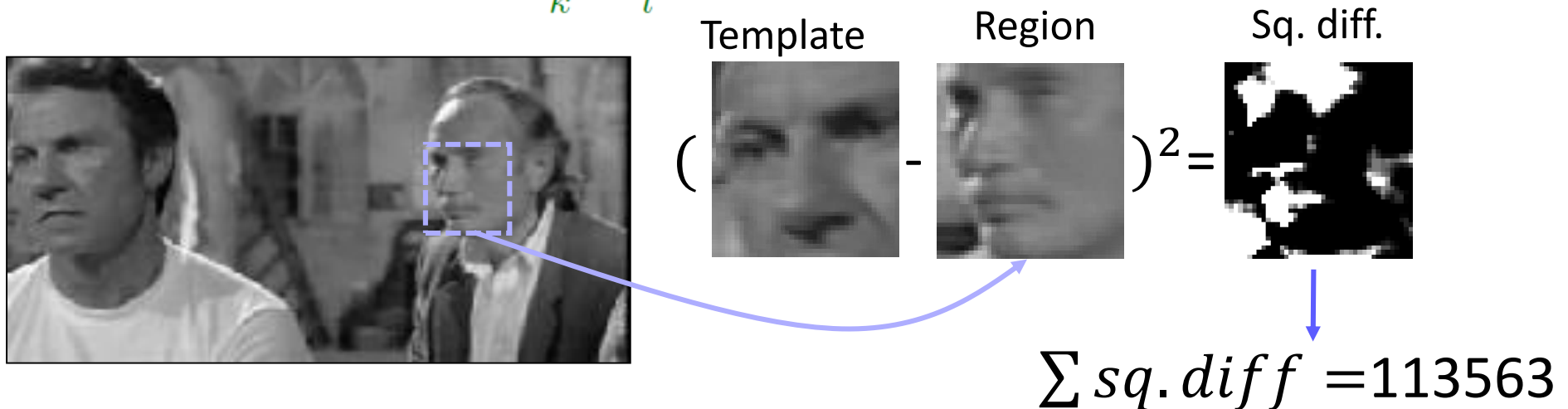


The goal is to align a template image  $T(x)$  to an input image  $I(x)$ .  
How to **measure the quality of the alignment**?

# Similarity measure

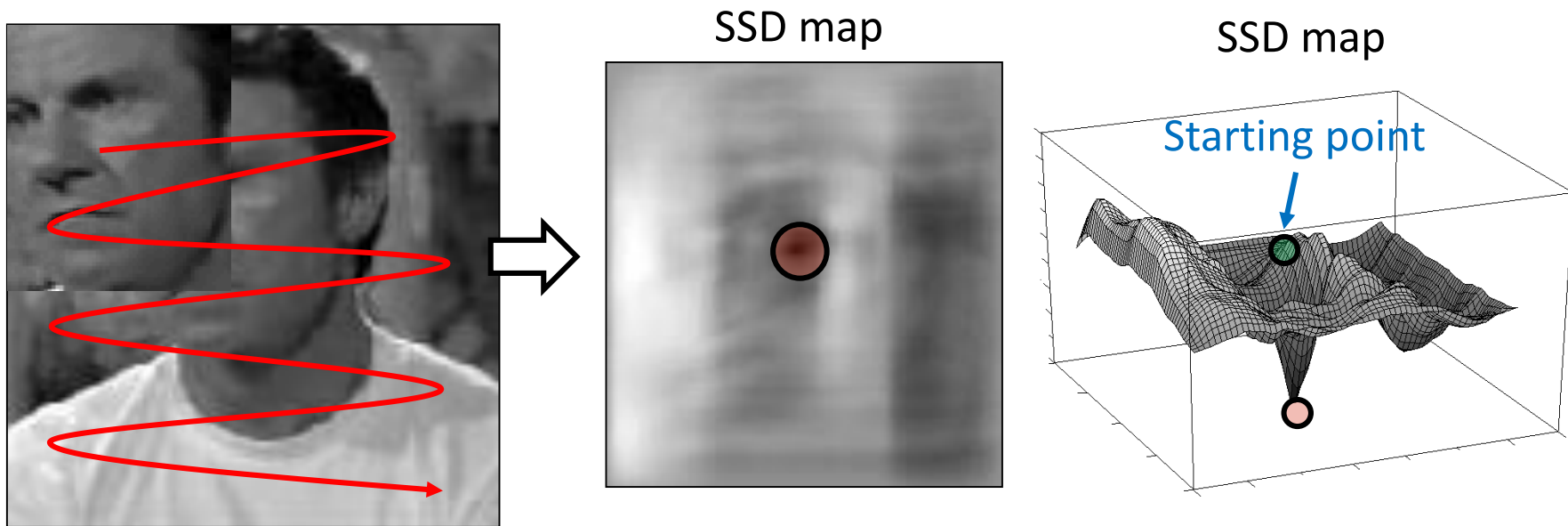
- Quantify the similarity between the visual model and the target region
- Straight-forward: compare pixel intensities
- “Sum of squared differences” (SSD)

$$ssd(x, y) = \sum_k \sum_l (T(k, l) - I(x + k, y + l))^2$$



# Naïve localization

- Greedy approach: calculate the SSD for all displacements and select the point where similarity is maximal – the distance is the smallest!



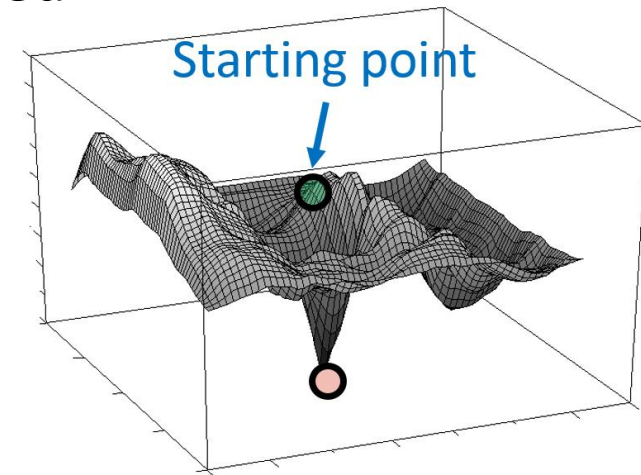
But usually we can assume our starting position is “close” to the right one!

# Can we do better?

- How would we find the bottom of a valley?



1. Decide which way is up/down
2. Move downward by some step
3. Continue until the bottom is reached

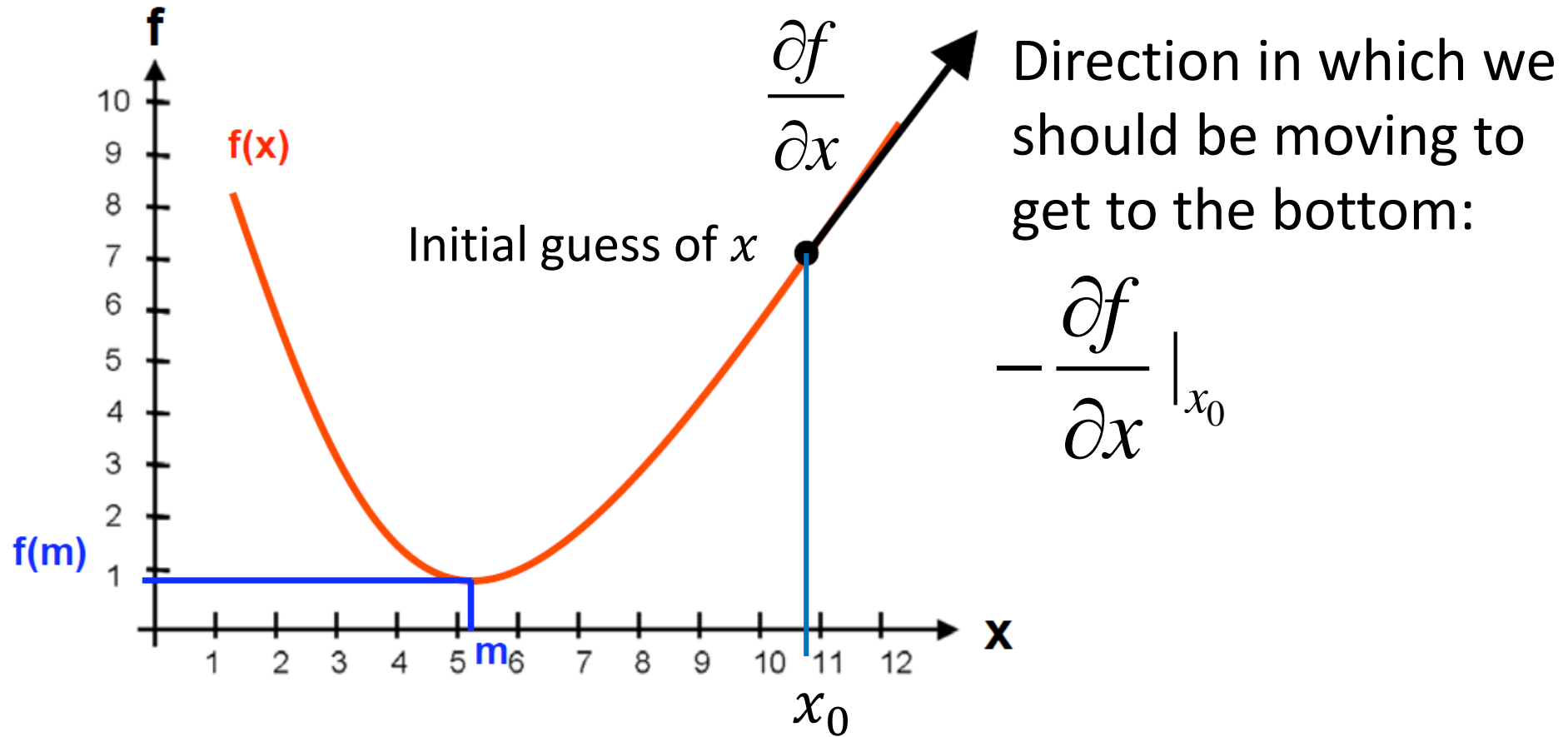


Mathematically: Known as "the Gradient descent"



# Gradient descent

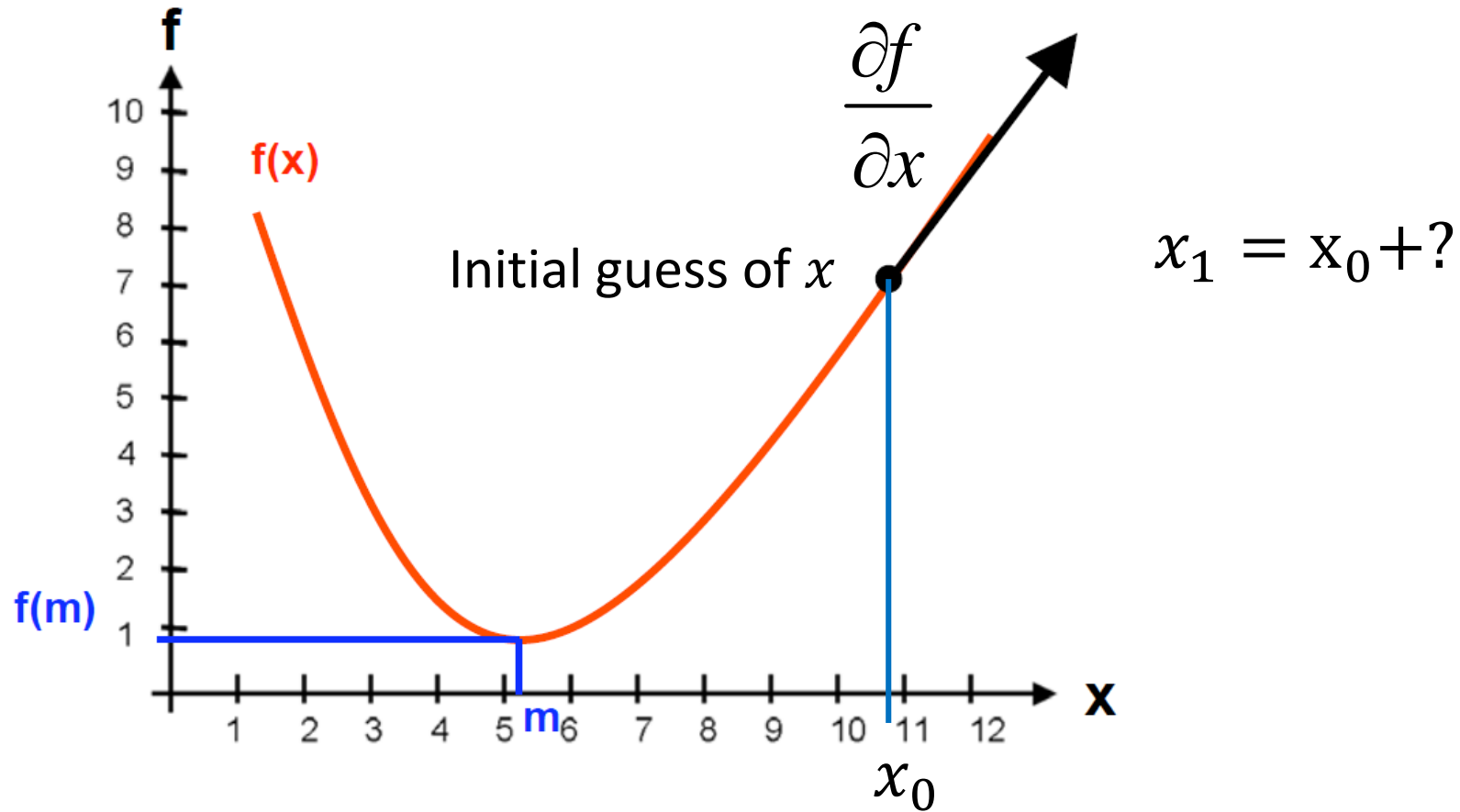
- Gradient points toward *increase* of  $f$ .





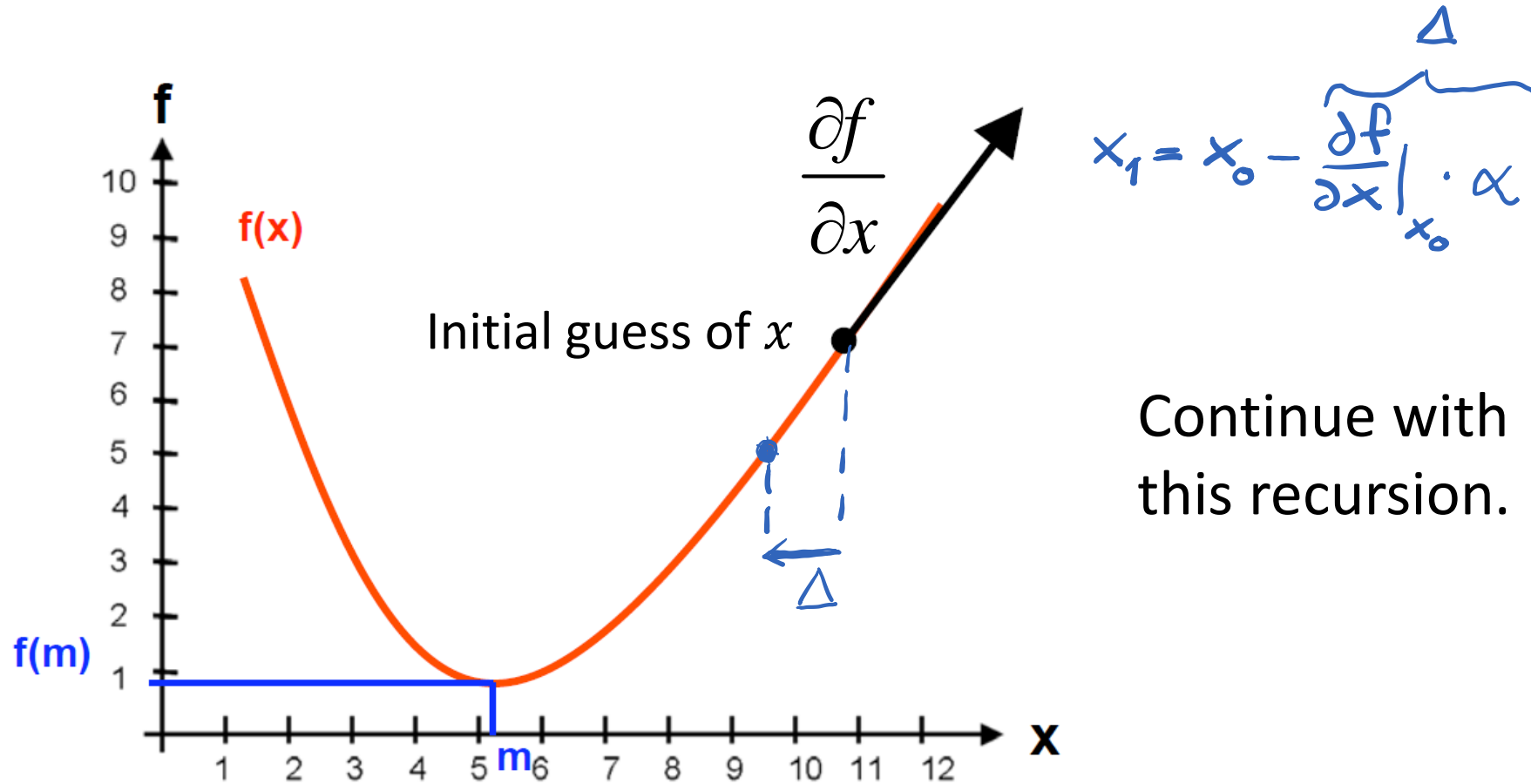
# Gradient descent

- Move in the opposite direction of the gradient



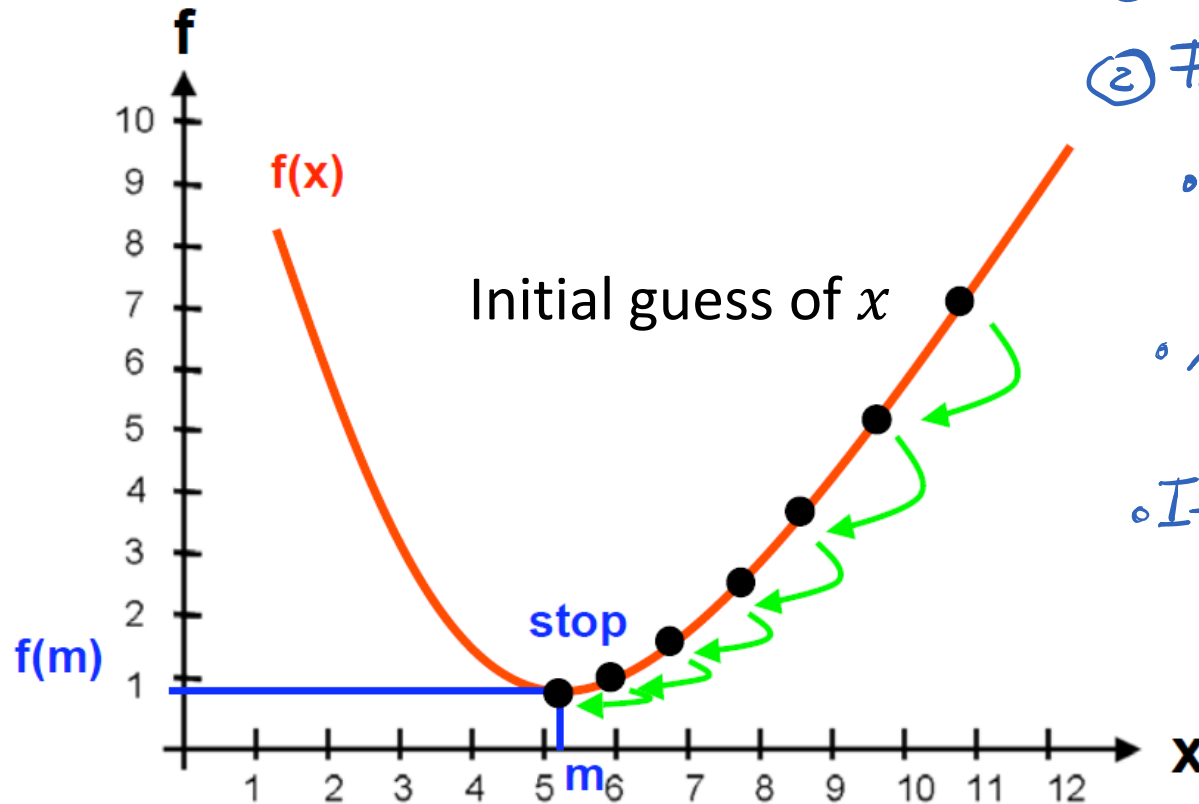
# Gradient descent

- Move in the opposite direction of the gradient



# Gradient descent

- A simple recursive algorithm



① Start at some  $x_0$

② For  $k=1:\infty$

- $\Delta_k = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \big|_{x_{k-1}} \cdot \alpha$

- $x_k = x_{k-1} + \Delta_k$

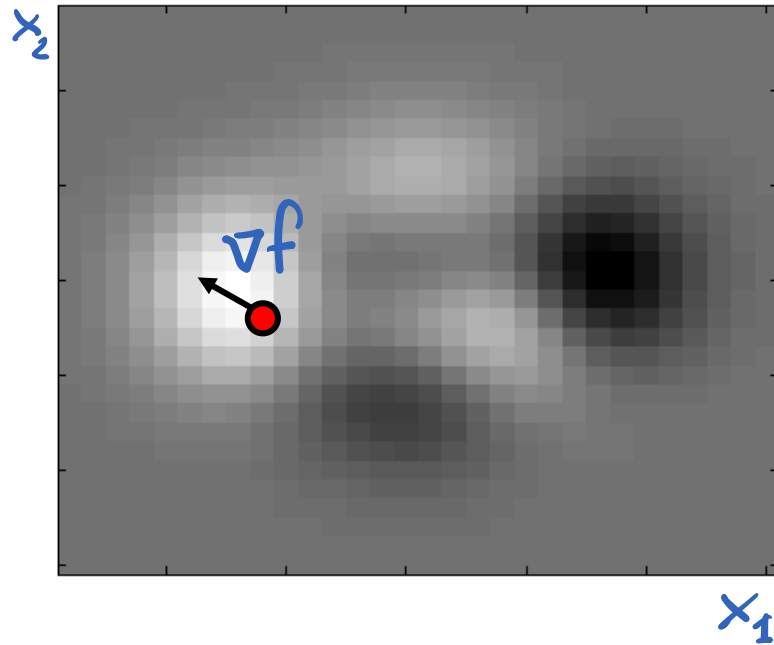
- If  $|f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})| < \epsilon$   
exit loop

# Straight-forward in n-D

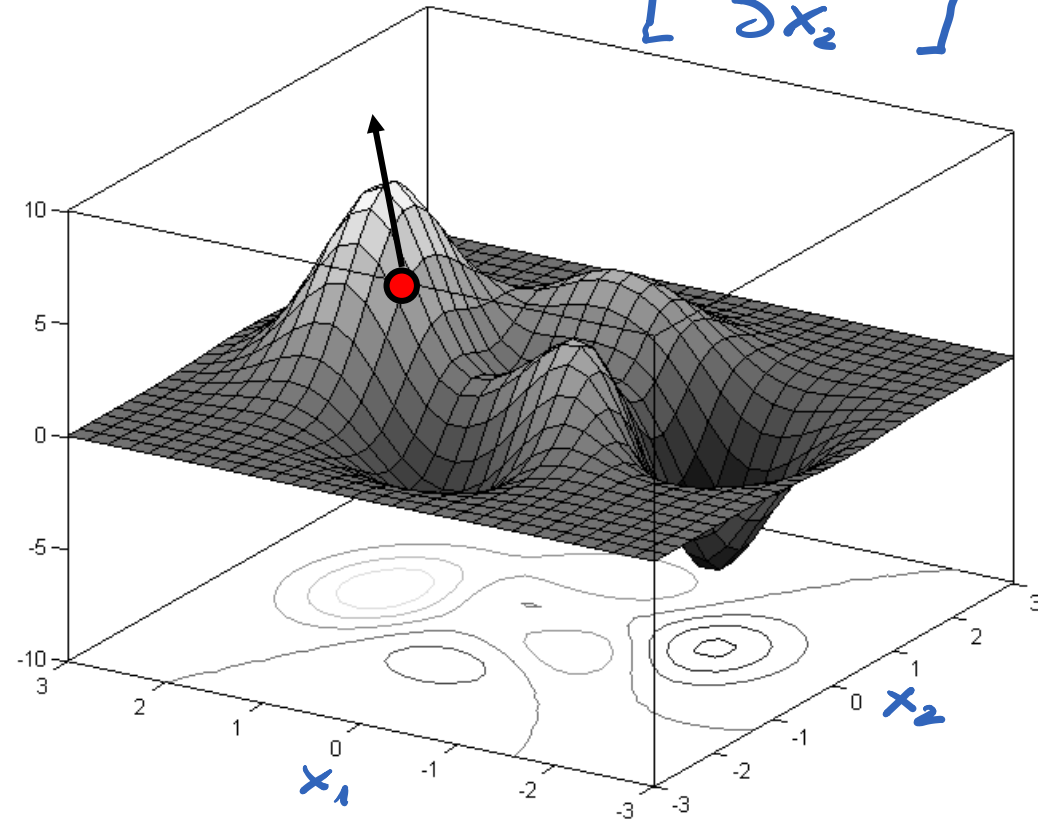
- A 2D example

$$\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2]^T$$

$$\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix}$$



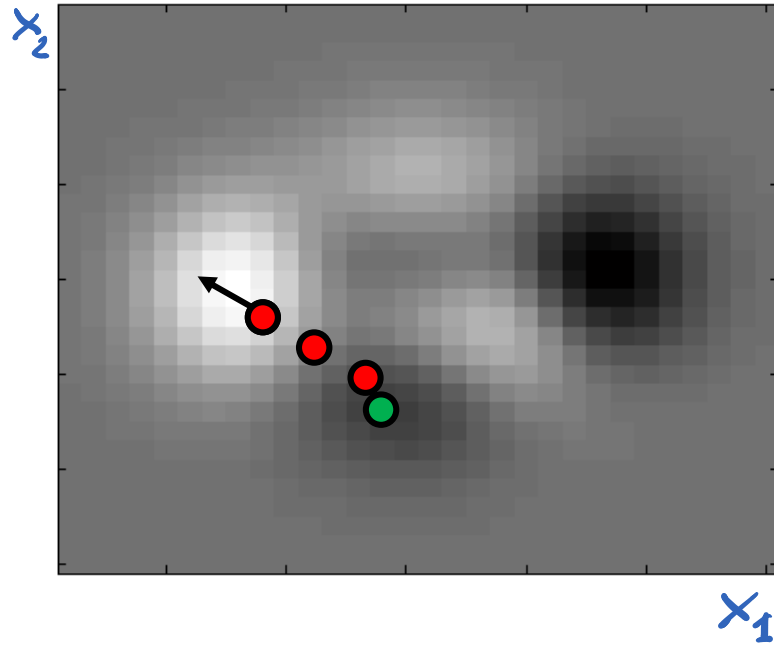
2D similarity map



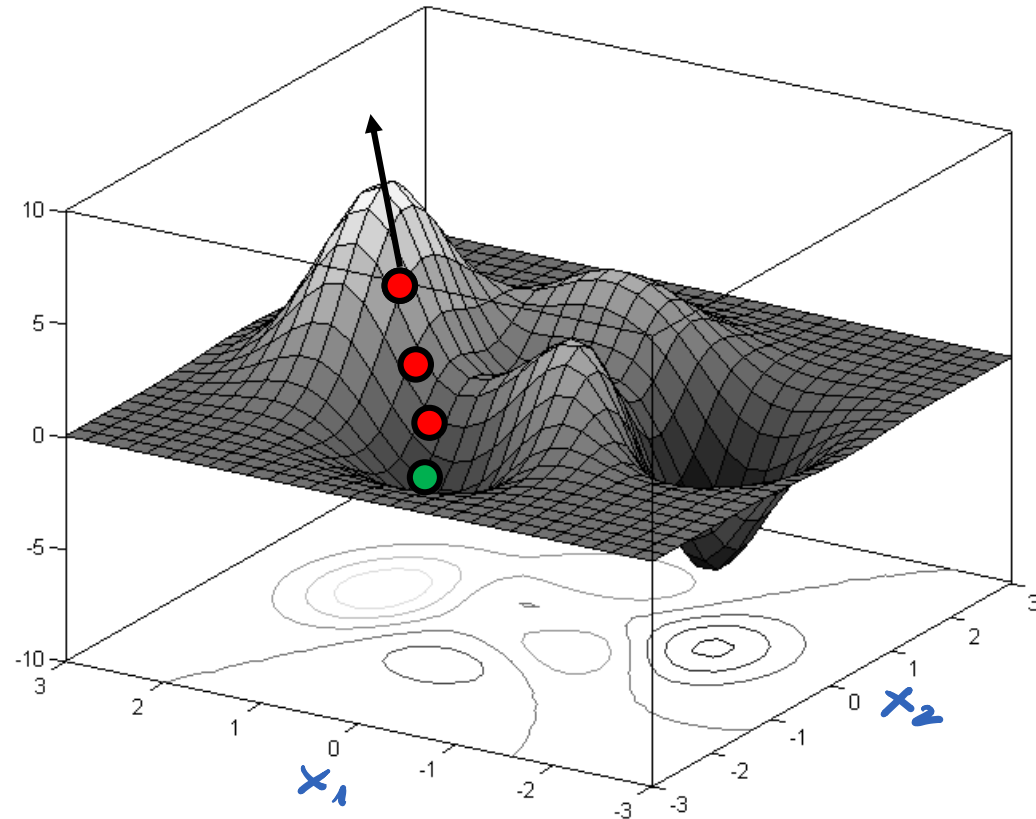
Visualize as a 3D surface

# Straight-forward in n-D

- Initialize  $\mathbf{x}_0$
- Iterate:  $\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{x}_{k-1} - \alpha \nabla f|_{\mathbf{x}_{k-1}}$



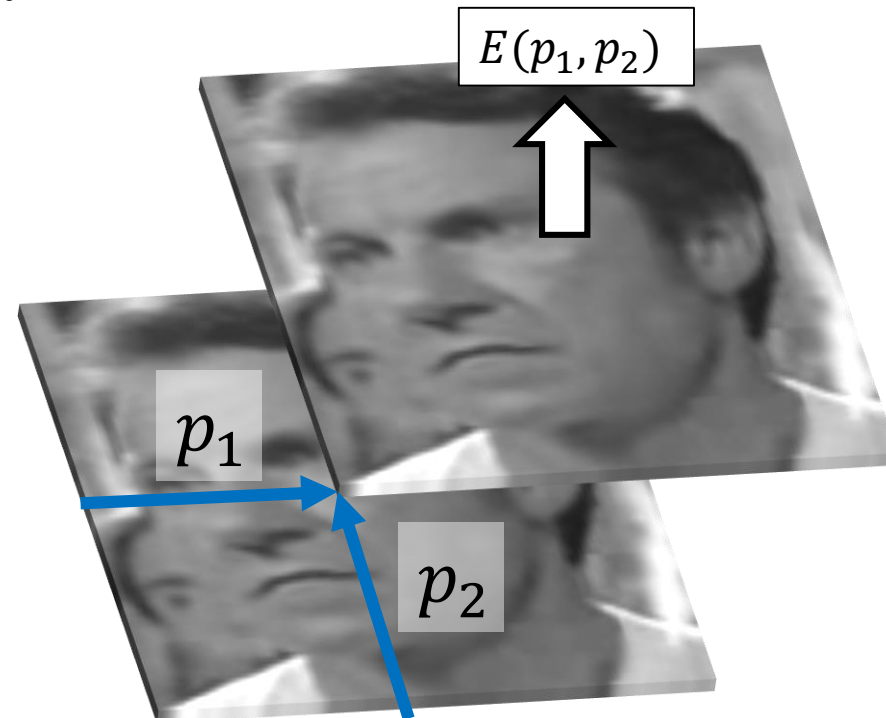
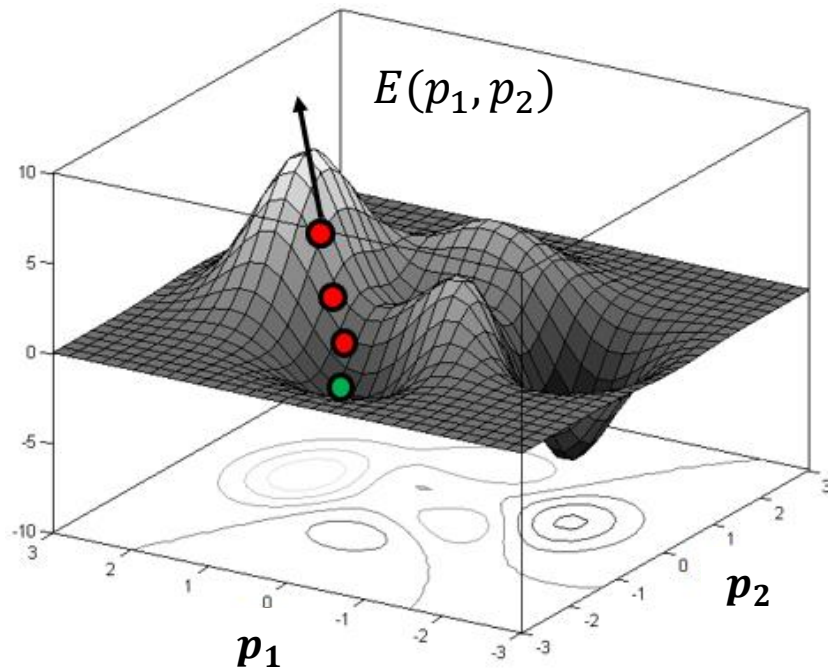
2D similarity map



Visualize as a 3D surface

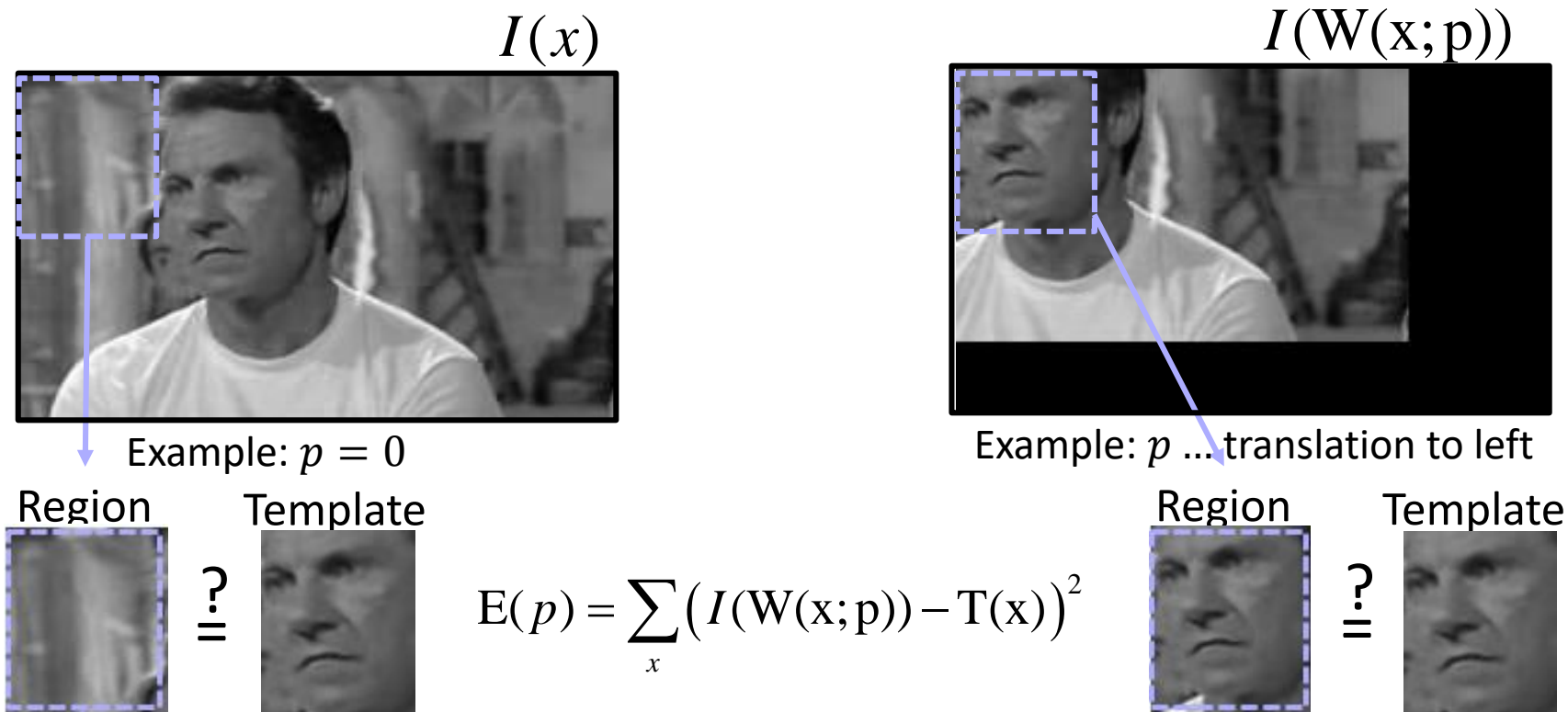
# The tools we've got so far

- We know how to **minimize a cost function**  $E(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$ , w.r.t.  $\mathbf{p}$ , where  $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N]^T$  are parameters of our model.
- We know how to **compute**  $E(p_1, p_2)$ .



# Displacement models

- Introduce a **warp function**  $W(\mathbf{x})$  that warps image onto a template – we can think about the warp as a transformation model  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  that takes coordinate  $\mathbf{x}$  and transforms it according to parameters  $\mathbf{p}$ .





# Displacement models

---

- Simple example:  
Translation to left-up in  $x$  by 5 and  $y$  by 10.



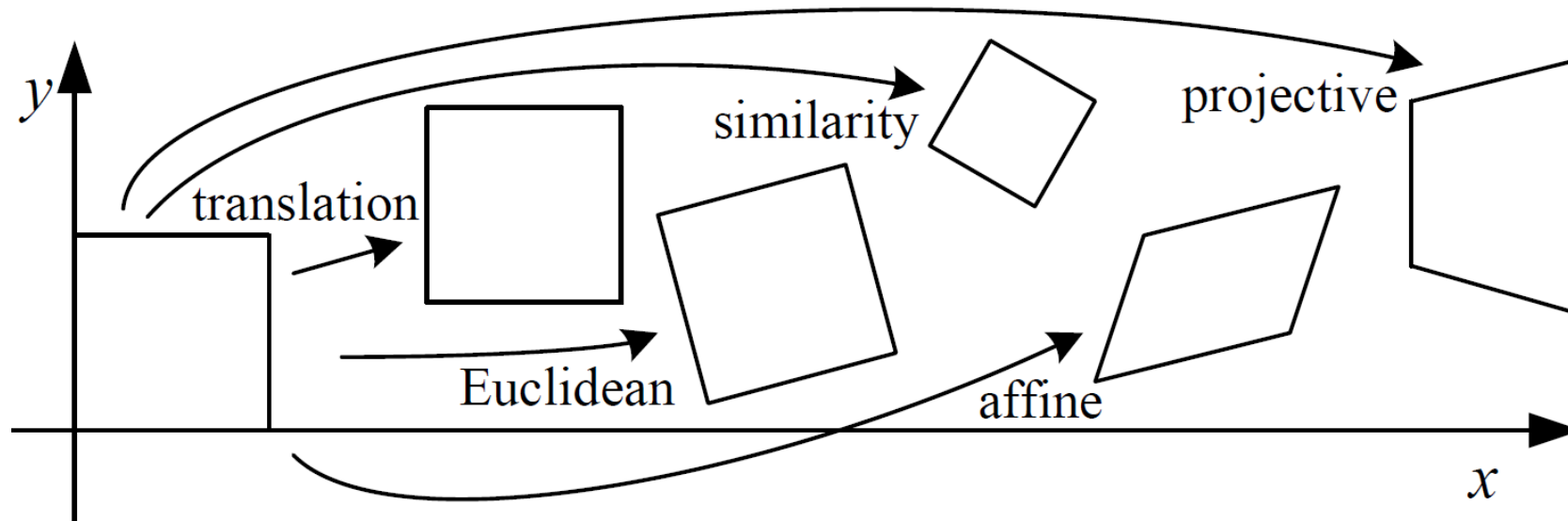
Warped image



Original image

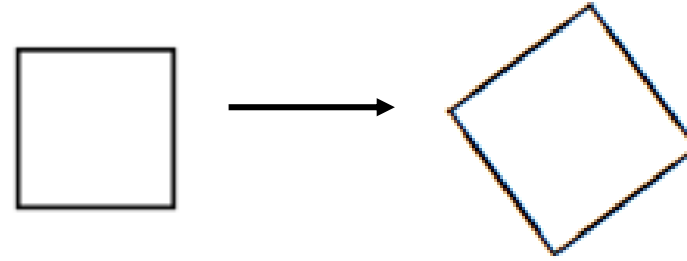
# Displacement models

- Popular parametric 2D transformations



# Displacement models

- Rigid body motion
  - Rotate, translate



$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x \cos p_1 - y \sin p_1 + p_2 \\y' &= x \sin p_1 + y \cos p_1 + p_3\end{aligned}\quad p = [p_1, p_2, p_3]^T$$

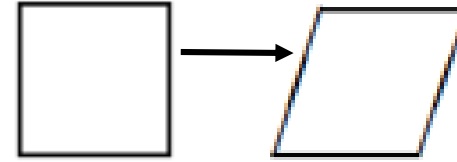
- Compact matrix notation for  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$ :

$$W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \cos p_1 - y \sin p_1 + p_2 \\ x \sin p_1 + y \cos p_1 + p_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(p_1) & -\sin(p_1) & p_2 \\ \sin(p_1) & \cos(p_1) & p_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Displacement models

---

- Affine motion
  - Rotation, translation, scale, shear



$$x' = p_1x + p_2y + p_3$$

$$y' = p_4x + p_5y + p_6$$

$$p = [p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6]^T$$

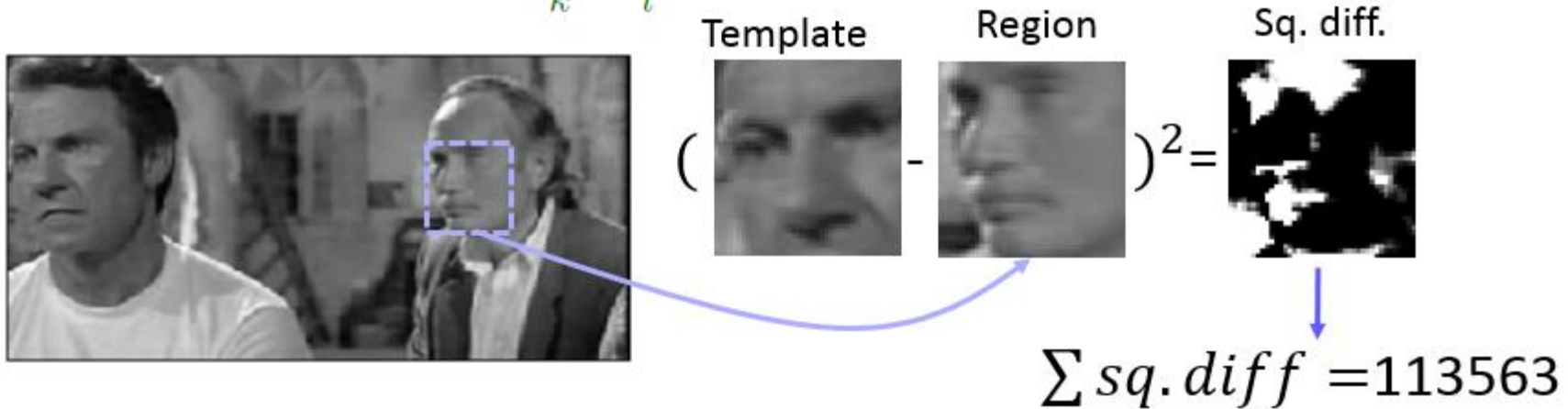
- Compact matrix notation for  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$ :

$$W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p_1x + p_2y + p_3 \\ p_4x + p_5y + p_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ p_4 & p_5 & p_6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Previously at ACVM...

- Tracking as patch registration

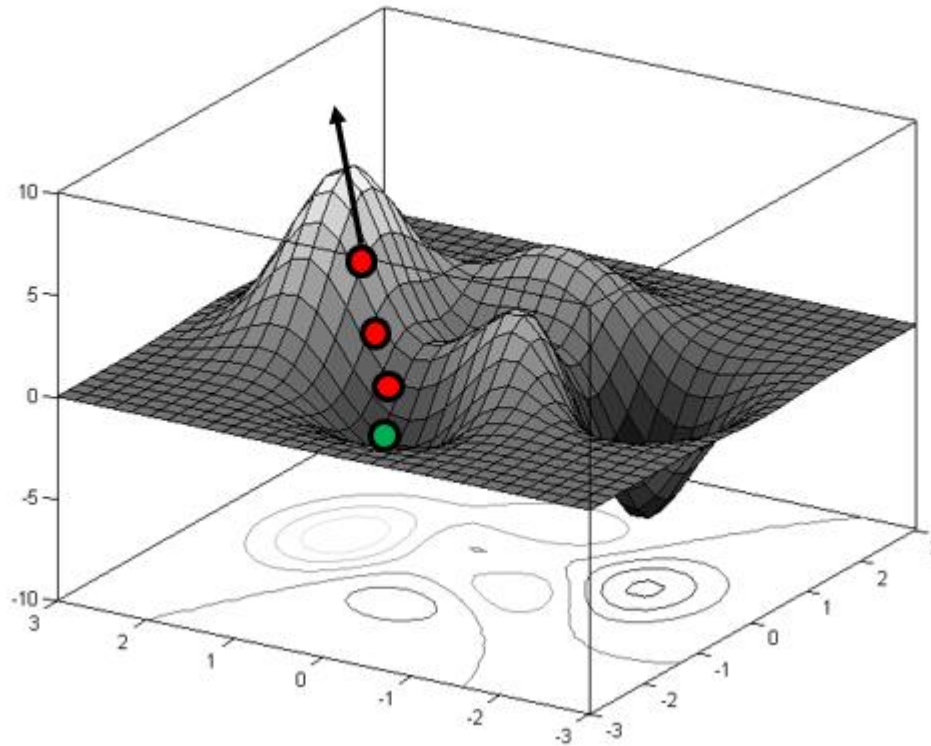
$$ssd(x, y) = \sum_k \sum_l (T(k, l) - I(x + k, y + l))^2$$



- Find displacement that minimizes dissimilarity function.

# Previously at ACVM...

- Gradient descent



① Start at some  $x_0$

② For  $k=1:\infty$

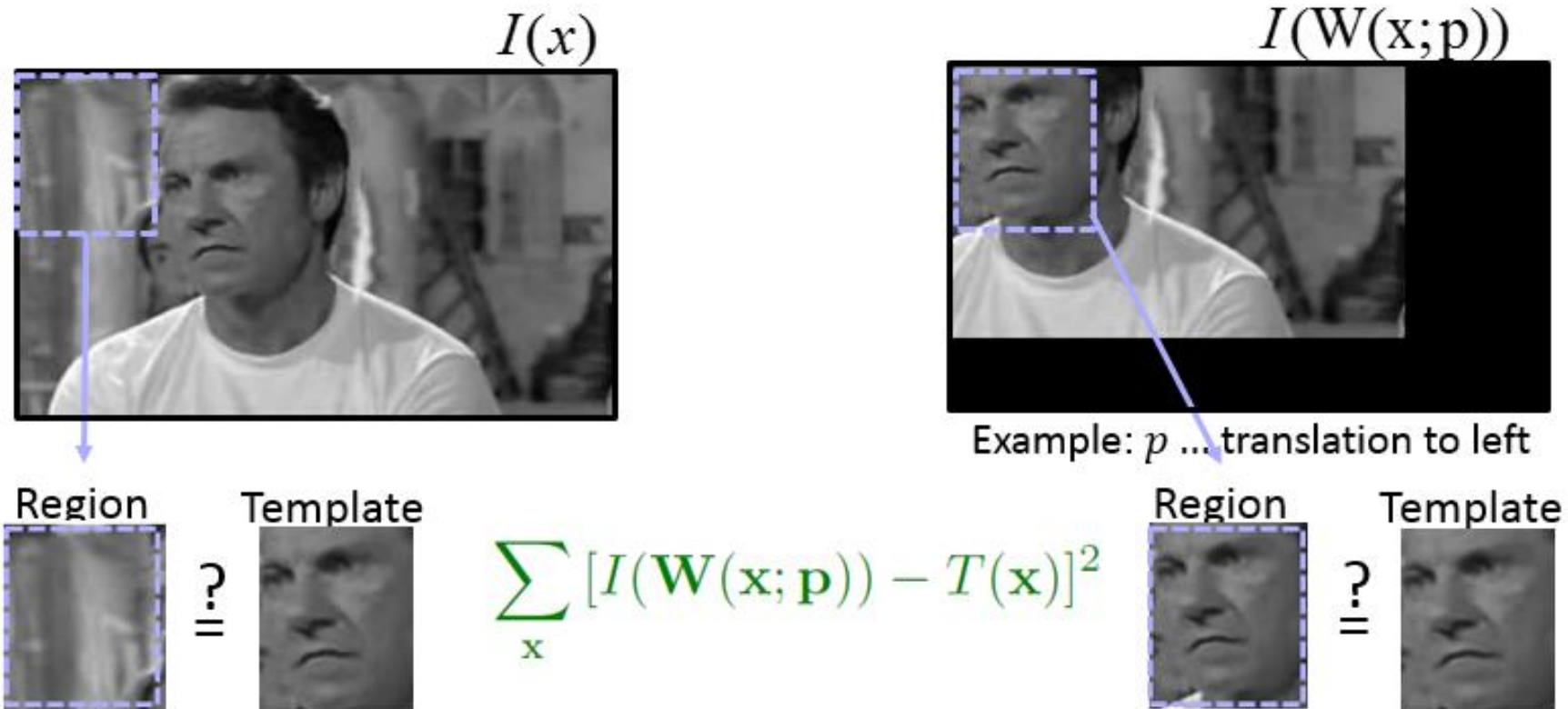
$$\bullet \Delta_k = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_{k-1}} \cdot \alpha$$

$$\bullet x_k = x_{k-1} + \Delta_k$$

• If  $|f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})| < \epsilon$   
exit loop

# Previously at ACVM...

- Warp function  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$


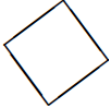


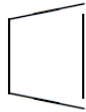


- Find parameters  $\mathbf{p}$  that minimize dissimilarity function.



# How many free parameters?

- Degrees of freedom DoF (dim. of  $\mathbf{p}$ )

Transformation	Matrix	# DoF	Preserves	Icon
translation	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	2	orientation	
rigid (Euclidean)	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	3	lengths	
similarity	$\begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	4	angles	
affine	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	6	parallelism	
projective	$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{H}} \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$	8	straight lines	

Richard Szeliski: [Computer Vision – algorithms and applications](#) (Section 2.1.2)

# Tracking as gradient ascent/descent

---

- Lucas-Kanade tracker
- Initially published in 1981 as an image registration method<sup>1</sup>.
- Improved many times, most importantly by Carlo Tomasi<sup>2</sup>.
- Also part of the OpenCV library.
- Single algorithm and results published in a premium journal<sup>3</sup>.
- Our derivations will follow<sup>3</sup>
  - See Section 2 in that paper.
  - If you're interested: *See other Sections for improvements of LK and the results obtained by these.*

<sup>1</sup> Lucas and Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. ICAI, 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Shi and Tomasi. Good features to track. CVPR, 1994.

<sup>3</sup> Baker and Matthews. Lucas-Kanade 20 years on: A unifying framework. IJCV, 2004.

# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

---

- Task: Find the warp  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  parameterized by  $\mathbf{p}$ , that aligns the image  $I(\mathbf{x})$  with a template  $T(\mathbf{x})$ .
- For example, the warp could be a translation, i.e.,

$$W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} x + p_1 \\ y + p_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

but in general  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  can be arbitrary.

- Problem formulation – Find the parameter values of  $\mathbf{p}$  that minimize the image differences:

$$E(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \left( I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})) - T(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2$$

# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

---

$$E(p) = \sum_x \left( I(W(x; p)) - T(x) \right)^2$$

Finding minimum of  $E(\mathbf{p})$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{p}$  is a **nonlinear optimization problem**. The warp may be linear, but the pixel values are nonlinear.

We therefore **assume we have initial guess** of  $\mathbf{p}$  and search for the best increment  $\Delta\mathbf{p}$ .

$$E(p, \Delta p) = \sum_x \left( I(W(x; p + \Delta p)) - T(x) \right)^2$$

**Iterative solution** (think of gradient descent):

$$p \leftarrow p + \Delta p$$



# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

- Task: Find the best  $\Delta p$ :  $\Delta p = \arg \min_{\Delta p} E(p, \Delta p)$

$$E(p, \Delta p) = \sum_x \left( I(W(x; p + \Delta p)) - T(x) \right)^2$$

Would have been easy if  $E(p)$  was quadratic in  $\Delta p$ ...

- To simplify, linearize  $I(W(x; p + \Delta p))$  at  $p$ :

$$I(W(x; p + \Delta p)) \approx I(W(x; p)) + \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{dp} \Delta p$$

$$\nabla I = \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: This is a gradient image calculated and *warped* to a new image  $I(W(x; p))$ .

Jacobian

Note: In the paper of Baker&Mathews (Lucas-Kanade 20 years on...), the gradient is defined as the row vector, so the notation does not include transpose!

# Jacobians of displacement models

- Translation  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x} \\ \tilde{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + p_1 \\ y + p_2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\frac{dW(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})}{d\mathbf{p}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \tilde{x}}{\partial p_1} & \frac{\partial \tilde{x}}{\partial p_2} \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{y}}{\partial p_1} & \frac{\partial \tilde{y}}{\partial p_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J(W) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial p_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial p_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial p_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial p_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial p_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial p_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Affine  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} p_1 x + p_3 y + p_5 \\ p_2 x + p_4 y + p_6 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\frac{dW(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})}{d\mathbf{p}} = \quad ???$$

# Some pre-computed Jacobians

Transform	Matrix	Parameters $p$	Jacobian $J$
translation	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & t_x \\ 0 & 1 & t_y \end{bmatrix}$	$(t_x, t_y)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
Euclidean	$\begin{bmatrix} c_\theta & -s_\theta & t_x \\ s_\theta & c_\theta & t_y \end{bmatrix}$	$(t_x, t_y, \theta)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -s_\theta x - c_\theta y \\ 0 & 1 & c_\theta x - s_\theta y \end{bmatrix}$
similarity	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + a & -b & t_x \\ b & 1 + a & t_y \end{bmatrix}$	$(t_x, t_y, a, b)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & x & -y \\ 0 & 1 & y & x \end{bmatrix}$
affine	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + a_{00} & a_{01} & t_x \\ a_{10} & 1 + a_{11} & t_y \end{bmatrix}$	$(t_x, t_y, a_{00}, a_{01}, a_{10}, a_{11})$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & x & y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & x & y \end{bmatrix}$
projective	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + h_{00} & h_{01} & h_{02} \\ h_{10} & 1 + h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{20} & h_{21} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$(h_{00}, h_{01}, \dots, h_{21})$	(see Section 6.1.3)

Richard Szeliski: [Computer Vision – algorithms and applications](#) (6.1.1.)



# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

---

- Recall the **original cost function**, i.e.,

$$E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta \mathbf{p}) = \sum_x \left( I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p} + \Delta \mathbf{p})) - T(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2$$

- Plugging the linearized term into the above eq. gives

$$E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta \mathbf{p}) \approx \sum_x \left( I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})) + \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \Delta \mathbf{p} - T(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2$$

- Observe that  $E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta \mathbf{p})$  is quadratic in  $\Delta \mathbf{p}$  which means that  **$E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta \mathbf{p})$  can be directly minimized** w.r.t.  $\Delta \mathbf{p}$ :

$$\frac{\partial E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta \mathbf{p})}{\partial \Delta \mathbf{p}} \equiv 0 \quad \Delta \mathbf{p} = ?$$

# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

---

Homework!

$$\frac{\partial E(p, \Delta p)}{\partial \Delta p} \equiv 0$$

$$\Delta p = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T [T(x) - I(W(x; p))]$$

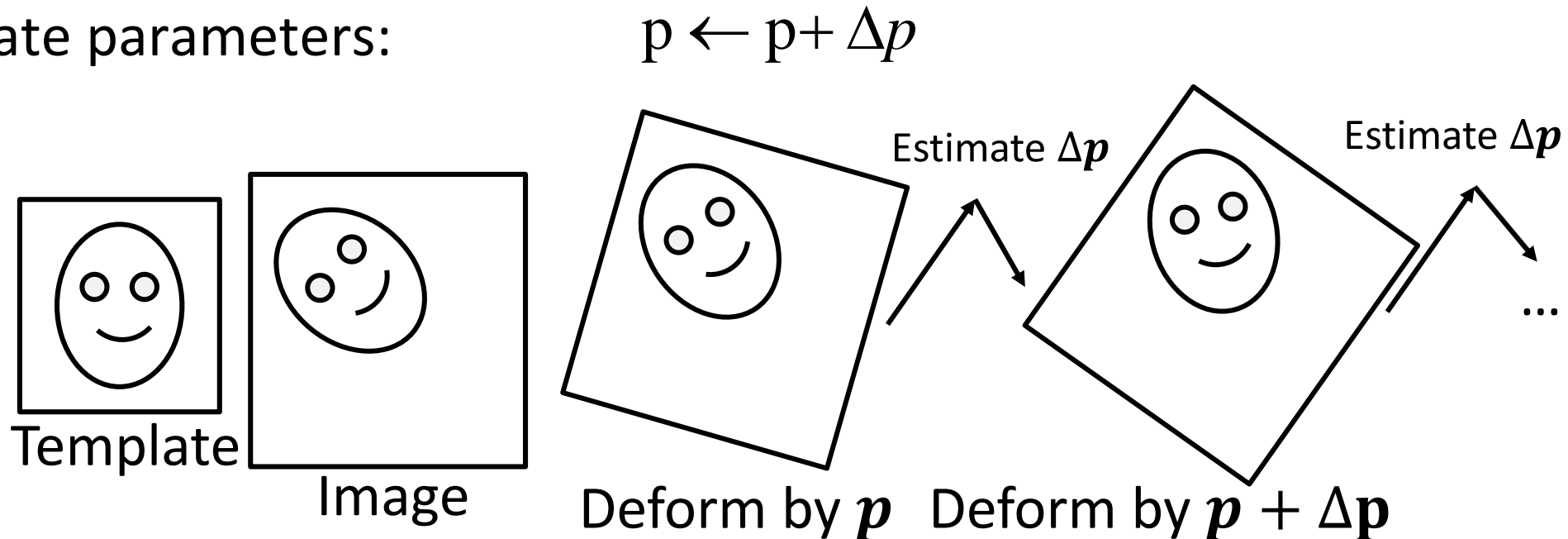
- Where ***H*** can be interpreted as a Gauss-Newton approximation of the Hessian

$$H = \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]$$

# Lucas-Kanade algorithm

Iterative solution (think of gradient descent):

- Guess initial parameters  $\mathbf{p}$ .
- Construct a linearized cost function  $E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta\mathbf{p})$  evaluated at  $\mathbf{p}$ .
- Minimize  $E(\mathbf{p}, \Delta\mathbf{p})$  w.r.t.  $\Delta\mathbf{p}$ .
- Update parameters:



# LK Implementation

---

Start with initial  $\mathbf{p}$  and iterate:

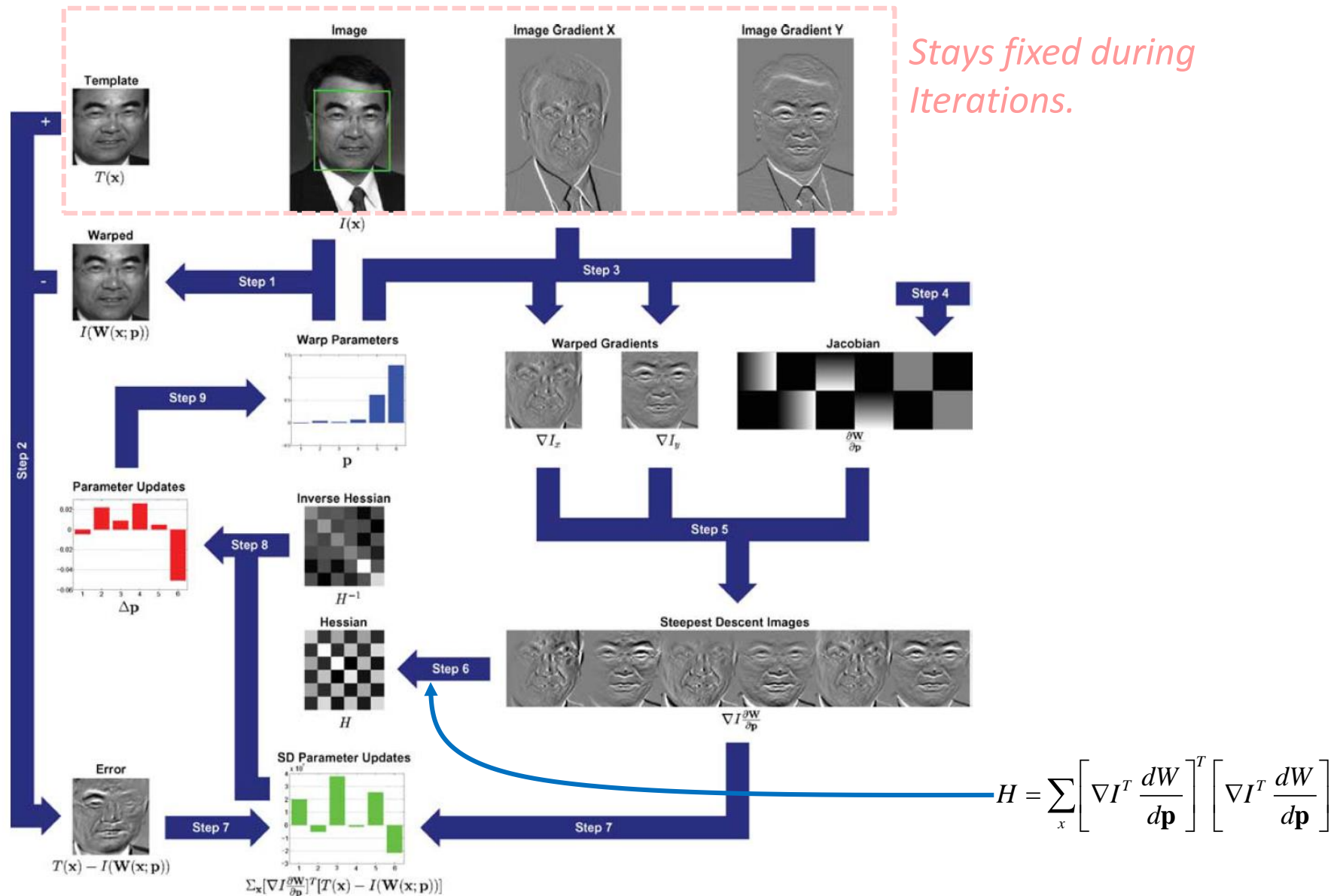
1. Warp image  $I(\mathbf{x})$  with  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  .
2. Warp the gradient image  $\nabla I(\mathbf{x})$  with  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  .
3. Evaluate the Jacobian  $\frac{\partial W}{\partial \mathbf{p}}$  at  $(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  and compute the steepest descent image  $\nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}}$  .
4. Compute the Hessian  $H = \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]$
5. Compute increment  $\Delta \mathbf{p} = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T [T(\mathbf{x}) - I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}))]$
6. Update parameters:  $\mathbf{p} \leftarrow \mathbf{p} + \Delta \mathbf{p}$

Until  $\Delta \mathbf{p} < \epsilon$

(For the sake of completeness – no need to learn by heart)

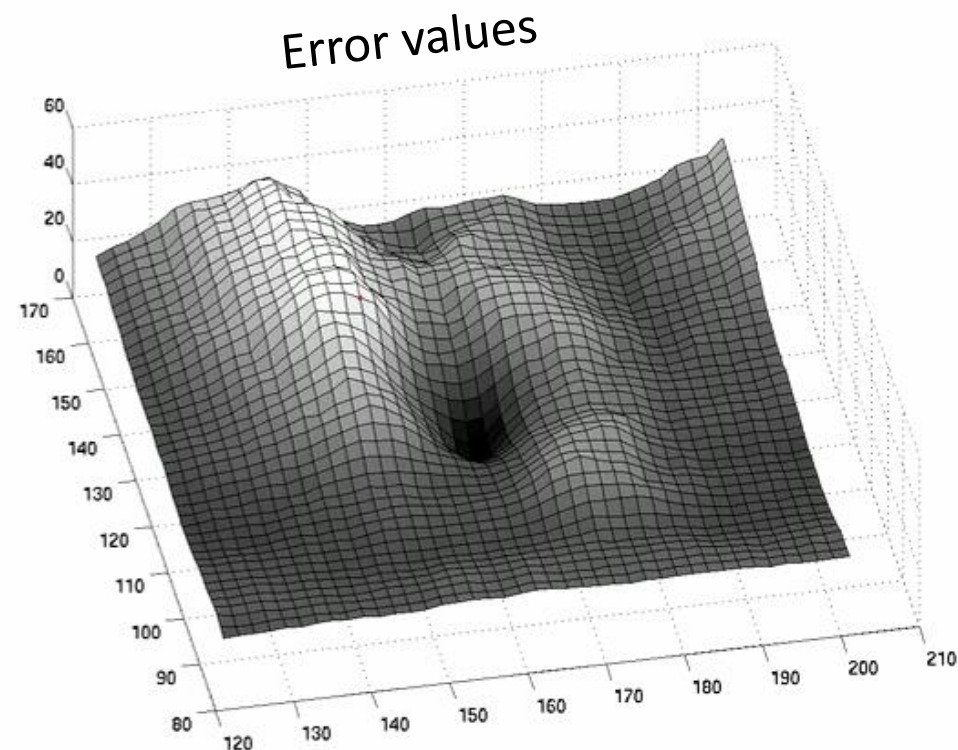
# LK Implementation

$$\Delta p = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{dp} \right]^T [T(x) - I(W(x; p))]$$



# Gradient descent visualization

- Assume that warp is translation only  $W(x;p) = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x} \\ \tilde{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + p_1 \\ y + p_2 \end{bmatrix}$



# Speeded up Lucas Kanade

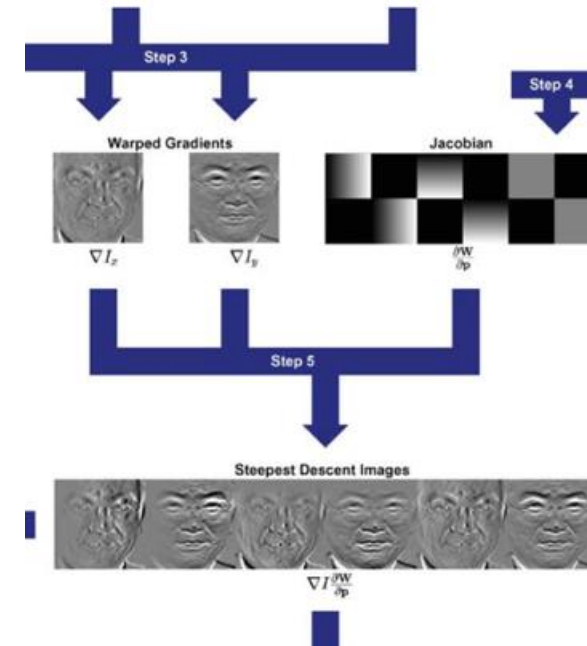
- The original LK, spends a lot of computation in warping the image and its derivatives.
- The paper<sup>1</sup> suggests a simplification.

Original:

$$E(\Delta p) = \sum_x \left( I(W(x; p + \Delta p)) - T(x) \right)^2$$

New:

$$E(\Delta p) = \sum_x \left( I(W(x; p)) - T(W(x; \Delta p)) \right)^2$$



*“The Inverse Compositional Algorithm” (see paper<sup>1</sup>, Section 3.2 for details of derivation)*

<sup>1</sup>Baker and Matthews. Lucas-Kanade 20 years on: A unifying framework. IJCV, 2004.



# Lucas-Kanade Inverse Compositional Algorithm

---

## Pre-compute (!!):

- Evaluate gradient  $\nabla T$  of template  $T(x)$ .
- Evaluate Jacobian  $dW/d\mathbf{p}$ .
- Compute steepest descent images  $\nabla T^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}}$ .
- Compute hessian  $H = \sum_x \left[ \nabla T^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T \left[ \nabla T^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]$

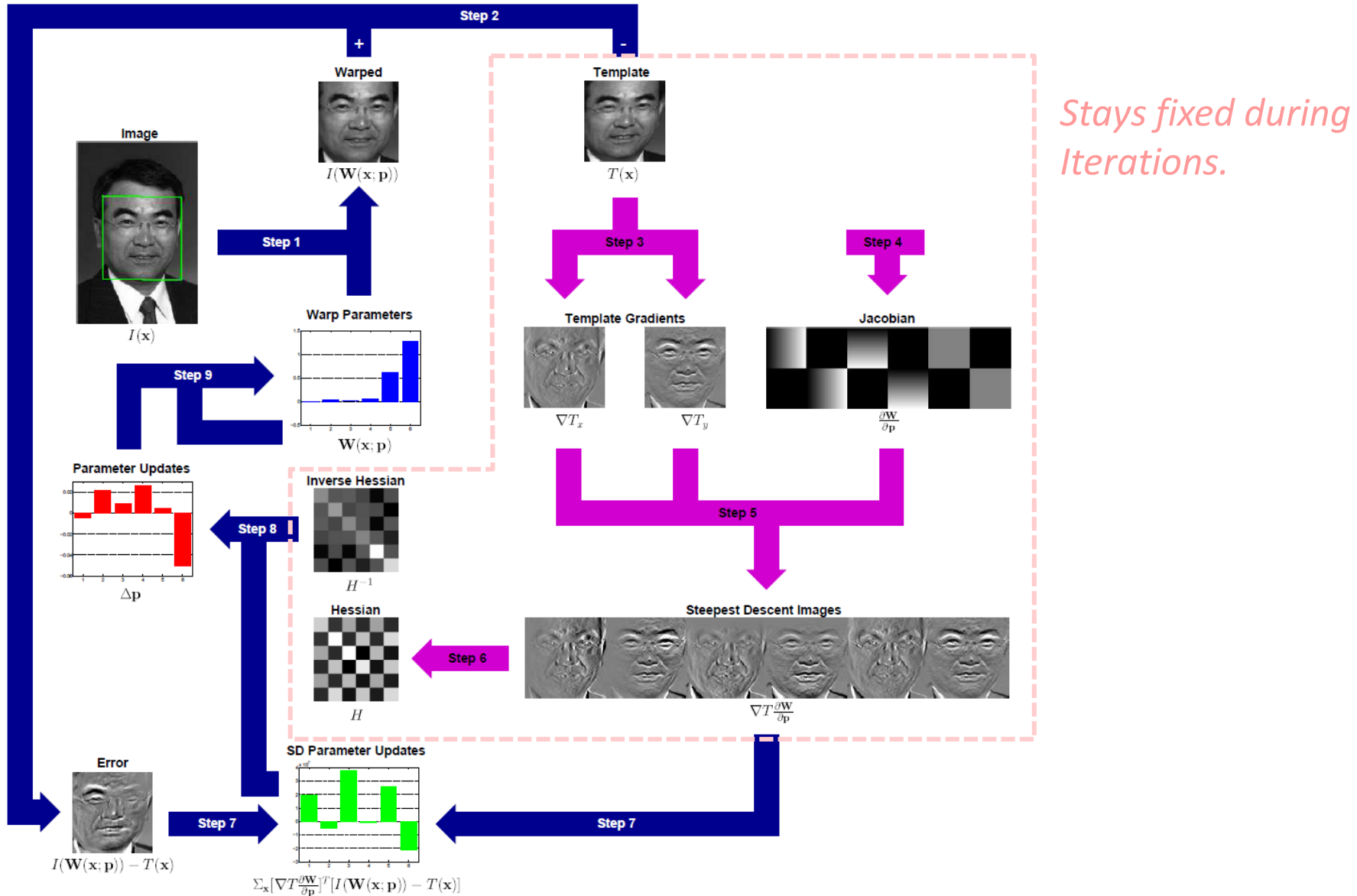
## Iterate:

1. Warp image  $I(\mathbf{x})$  with  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$
2. Compute steepest descent  $\sum_x \left[ \nabla T^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T [I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})) - T(\mathbf{x})]$
3. Compute increment  $\Delta \mathbf{p} = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla T^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T [I(W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})) - T(\mathbf{x})]$
4. Update parameters  $W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) \leftarrow W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) \circ W(\mathbf{x}; \Delta \mathbf{p})^{-1}$

(Just for the sake of completeness – no need to learn by heart)

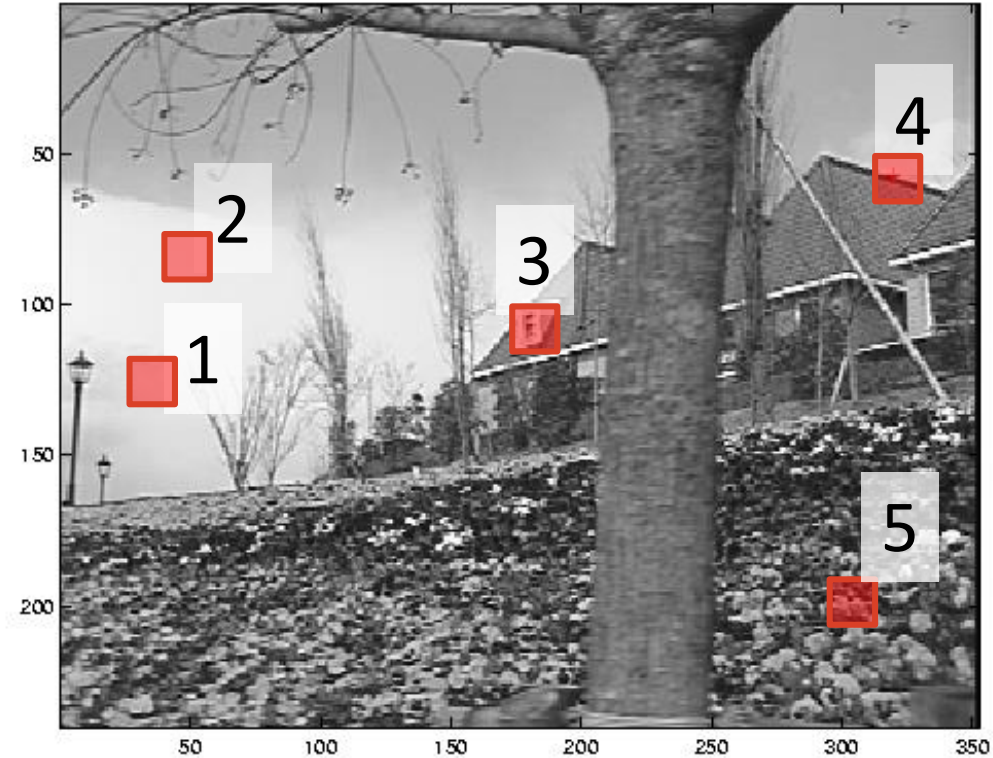
# Lucas Kanade ICA

$$\Delta p = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla T^T \frac{\partial W}{\partial p} \right]^T [I(W(x; p)) - T(x)]$$



# What are good features to track?

- Which patches (templates)  $T(x)$  should we consider?
- Remember this discussion at LK flow estimation?



# Let's look at the maths...

---

- Which patches (templates)  $T(x)$  should we consider?
- The ones for which we can solve the updates

$$\Delta p = H^{-1} \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T [T(x) - I(W(x; p))]$$

- Stability depends on whether the Hessian is invertible

$$H = \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]$$

# What are good features to track?

- Assume that the warp function is pure translation

$$W(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p}) = (x + p_1, y + p_2)$$

$$\frac{dW(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})}{d\mathbf{p}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H = \sum_x \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]^T \left[ \nabla I^T \frac{dW}{d\mathbf{p}} \right]$$

Note that the Jacobian  
is not necessarily constant in general,  
but for the translational motion  
it is constant!

- Then we can show that the  $\mathbf{H}$  is in fact

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_x I_x^2 & \sum_x I_x I_y \\ \sum_x I_x I_y & \sum_x I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is used in the Harris corner detector!

- Means that corners make good features to track.

Verify this by  
yourself.

# Tracking patches

Without checking similarity  
with the initial patch



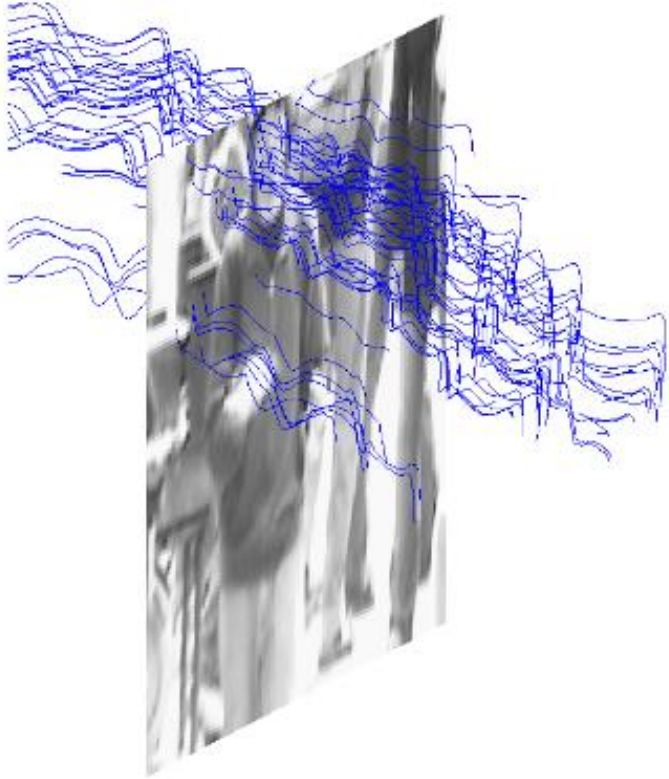
With checking similarity  
with the initial patch



Approach: remove a patch if similarity to  
initial template drops below a threshold.



# People counting by clustering KLT



Vincent Rabaud and Serge Belongie, Counting Crowded Moving Objects [[pdf](#)] [[poster](#)] [CVPR 2006](#), New York, NY.

# Tracking facial points by LK ICA



(a)



>200 frames per second



(c)



(d)



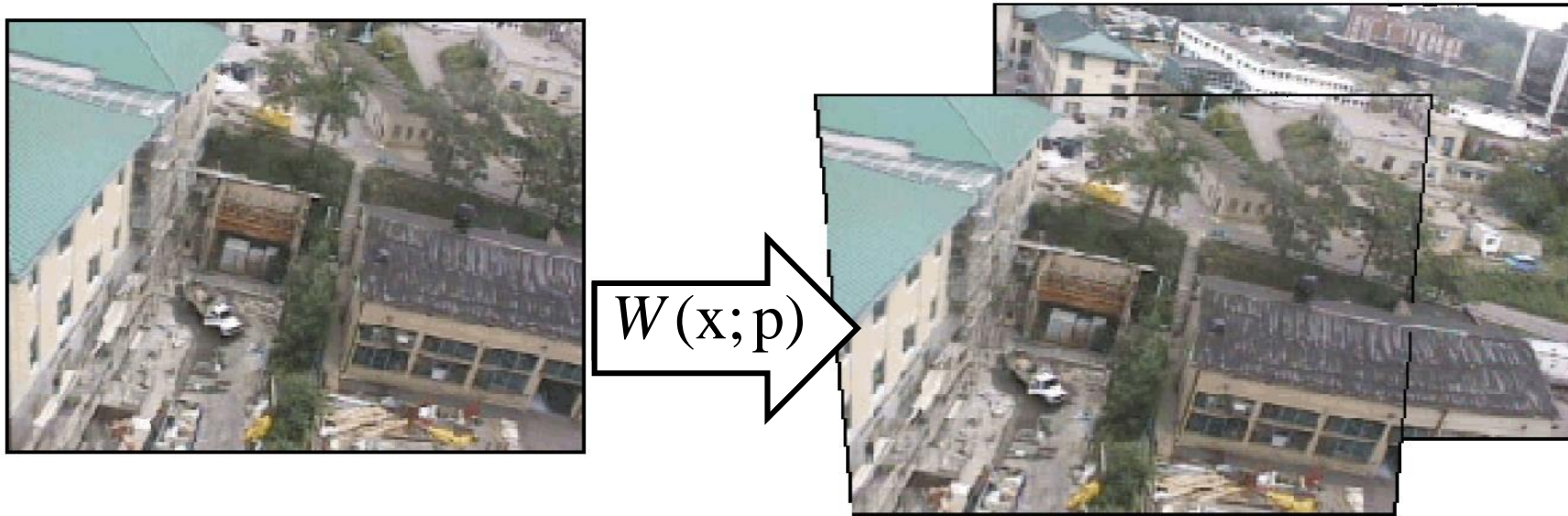
(f)

- [1] Iain Matthews and Simon Baker, "[Active Appearance Models Revisited](#)," International Journal of Computer Vision, Vol. 60, No. 2, 2004
- [2] Simon Baker, Iain Matthews, Jing Xiao, Ralph Gross, Takeo Kanade, and Takahiro Ishikawa, "[Real-Time Non-Rigid Driver Head Tracking for Driver Mental State Estimation](#)," 11th World Congress on Intelligent Transportation Systems, October, 2004.



# Motion stabilization and stitching

- LK can be used for **motion compensation**
- We can consider the entire image as template

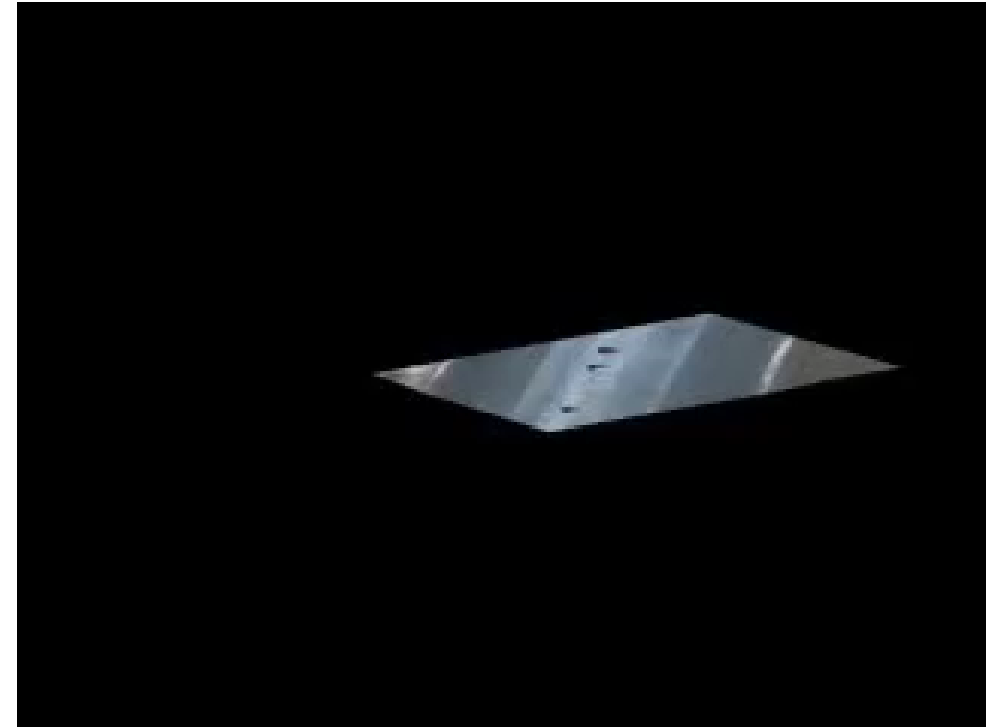
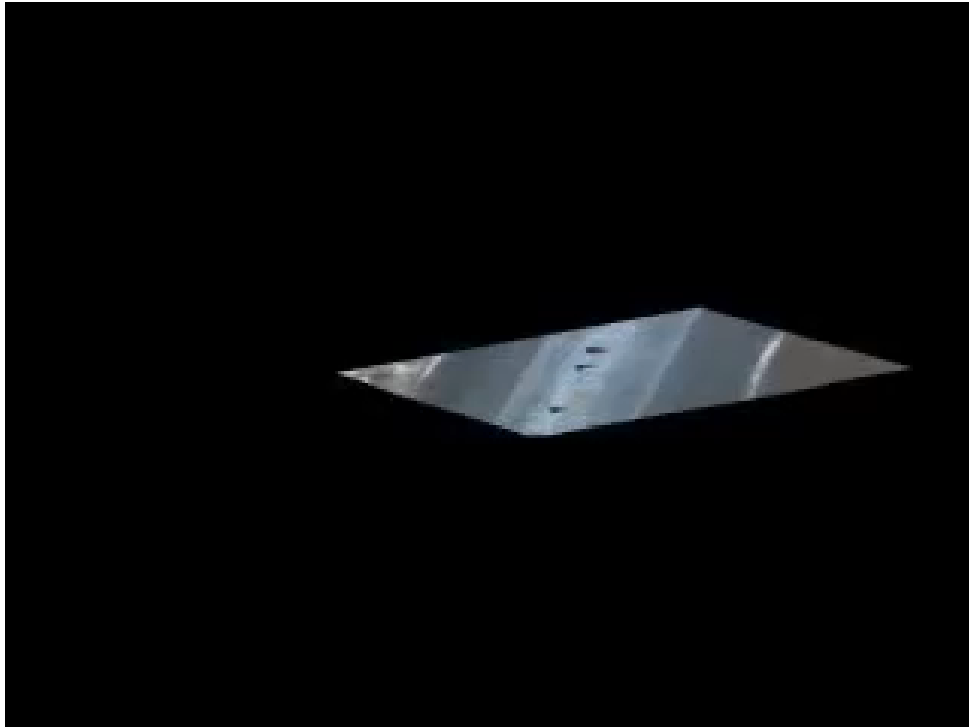


- Choose a **pseudo-perspective** transform for  $W(x;p)$   
(pseudo-perspective is approximation for perspective)

# Motion stabilization and stitching

---

- LK can be used for **motion compensation**
- We can consider the entire image as template



# Tracking by sparse flow

- Apply Lucas Kanade (pyramidal) to **estimate sparse flow**.
- **Fit a parametric model** to the flows, e.g., affine, by least squares or RANSAC.



$t$



$t+1$

For least squares and RANSAC, see Richard Zseliski:

[Computer Vision – algorithms and applications](#) (6.1.1-6.1.4)

# Tracking by a grid of flow vectors

- Apply a **grid of LK flows** and estimate **reliability** of each computed **flow vector**.



Tomas Vojir and Jiri Matas, "[The Enhanced Flock of Trackers](#)". *Registration and Recognition in Images and Videos - Studies in Computational Intelligence*, Springer 2014. ([bib](#))

# References on LK

---

Recommended read:

- Baker and Matthews. Lucas-Kanade 20 years on: A unifying framework. IJCV, 2004.
  - [At least the section on basic Lucas&Kanade optimization](#)

If you are interested in some milestone papers:

- Lucas and Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. ICAI, 1981.
- Shi and Tomasi. Good features to track. CVPR, 1994.