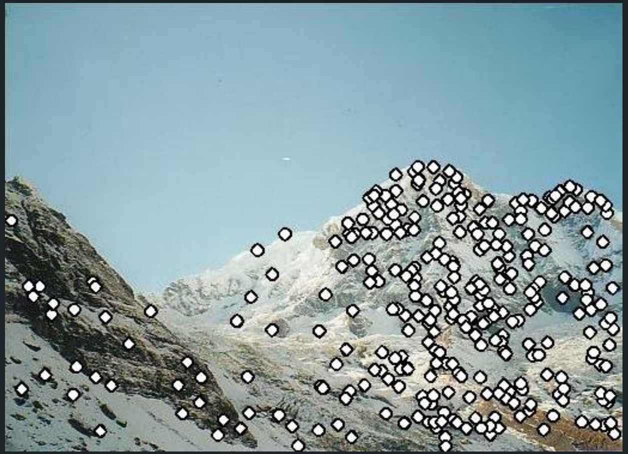
INTEREST POINTS AND CORNERS

Interest Points/Features are characteristics which can be used to uniquely identify an image/part of an image.

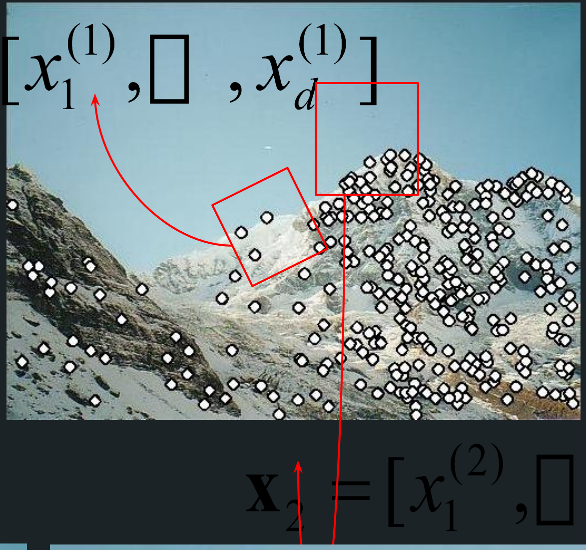
Outline

1) Detection: Identify the interest points



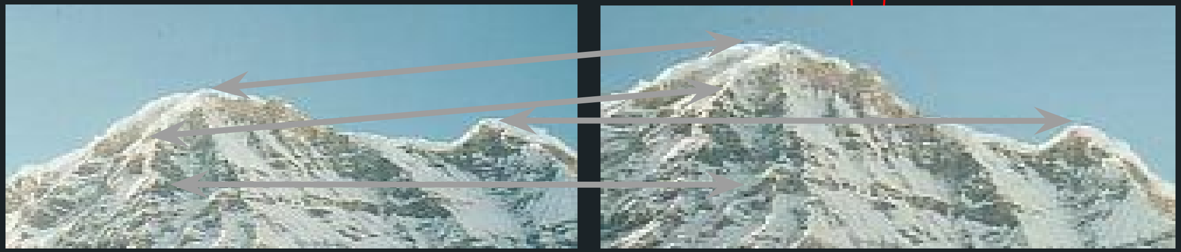
2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = [x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_d^{(1)}]$$



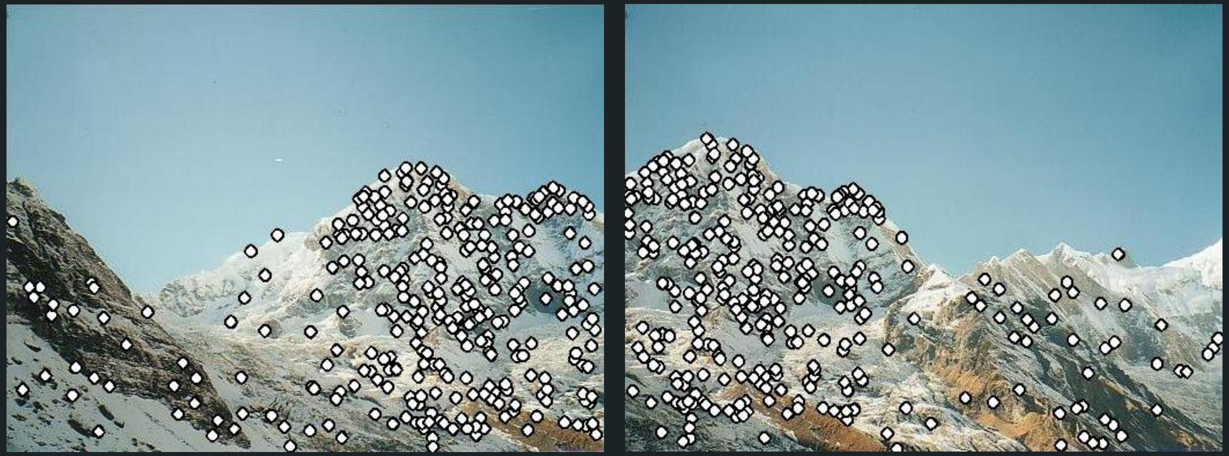
$$\mathbf{x}_2 = [x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_d^{(2)}]$$

3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views



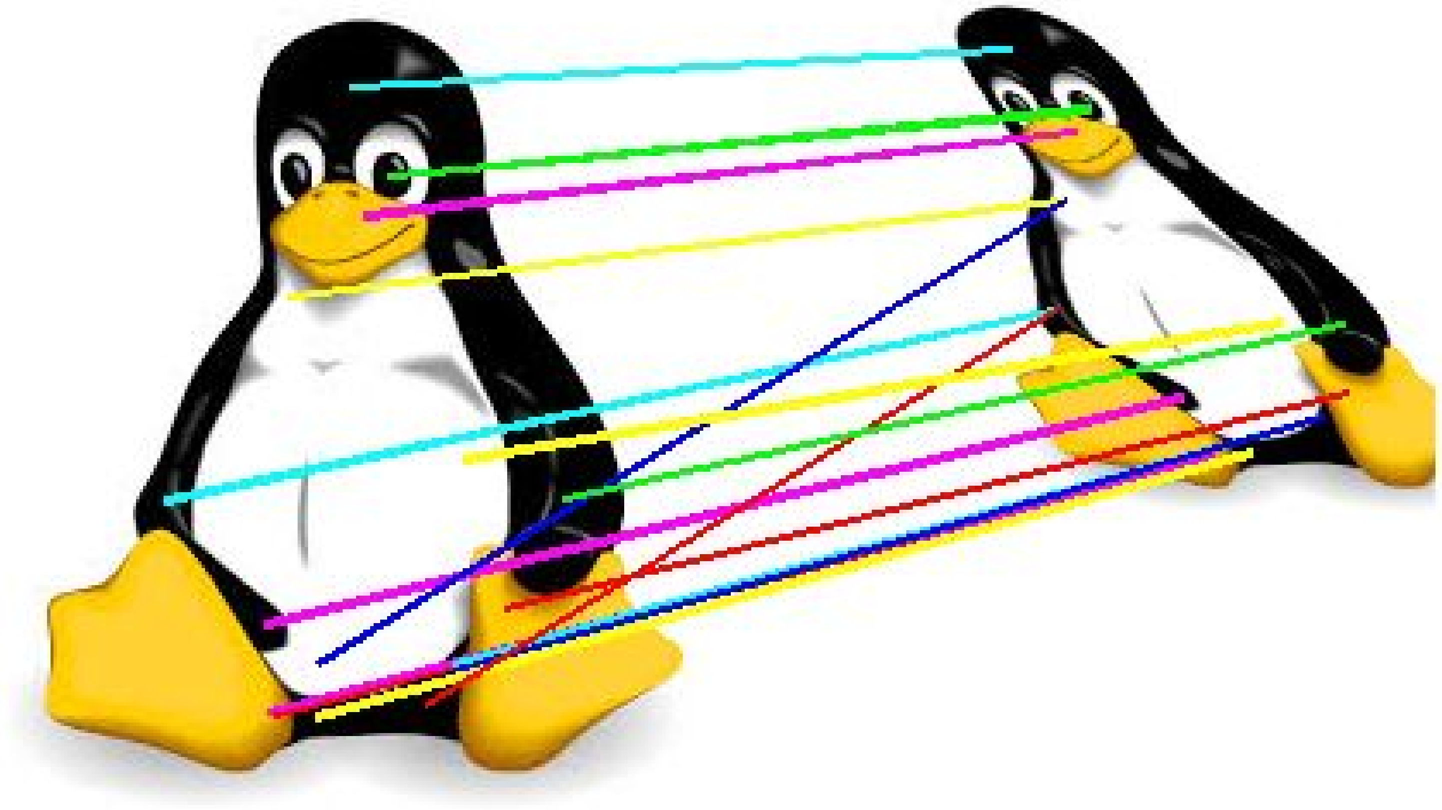
Kristen Grauman

Characteristics of good features



- Repeatability
  - The same feature can be found in several images despite geometric and photometric transformations
- Saliency
  - Each feature is distinctive
- Compactness and efficiency
  - Many fewer features than image pixels
- Locality
  - A feature occupies a relatively small area of the image; robust to clutter and occlusion

Feature matches between images

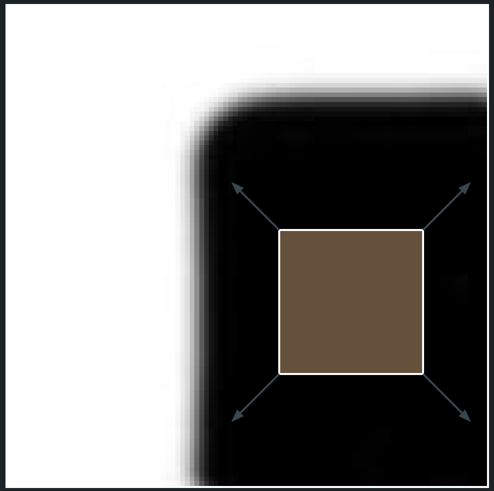


DIFFERENT METHODS OF FEATURE MATCHING

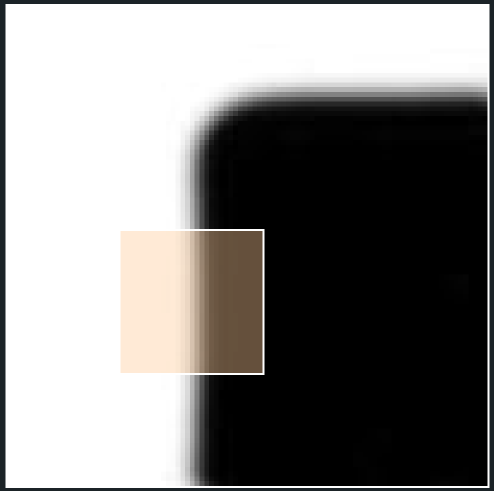
- Laplacian, DoG
- Harris-/Hessian-Laplace
- Harris-/Hessian-Affine
- SURF
- SIFT
- FAST
- HoG
- Haar
- MSER……and so on

Corner Detection: Basic Idea

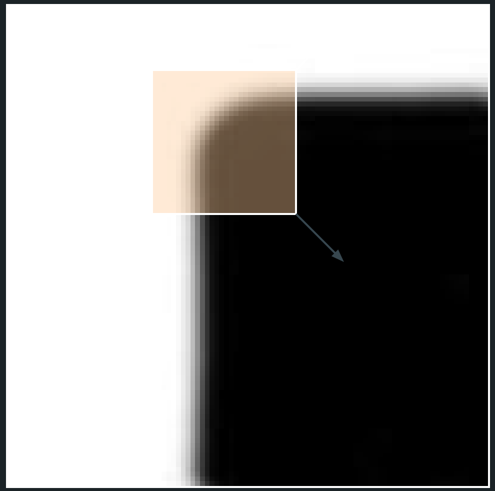
- We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window
- Shifting a window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity



"flat" region:
no change in all directions



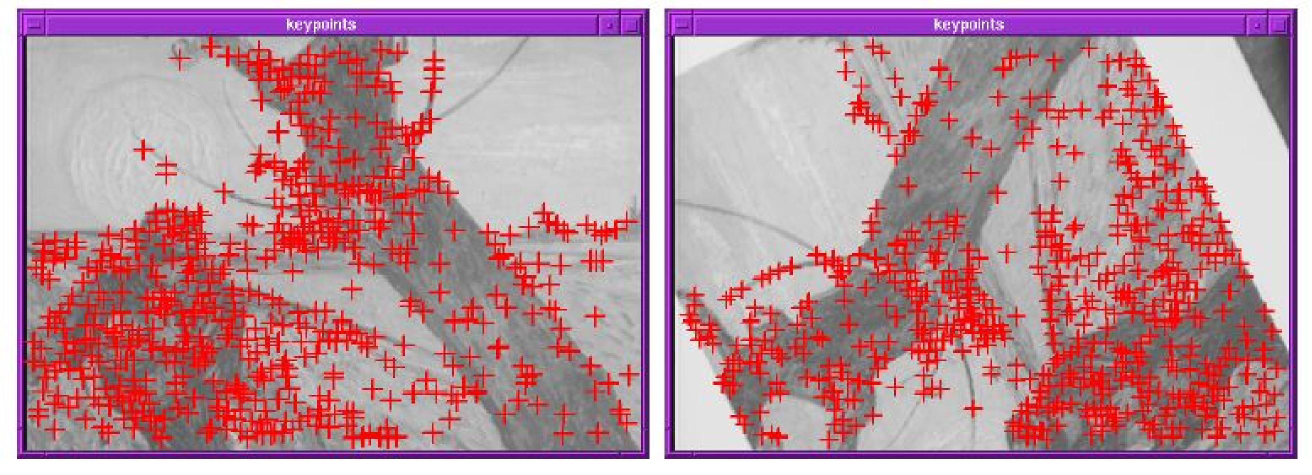
"edge":
no change along the edge direction



"corner":
significant change in all directions

Source: A. Efros

Finding Corners

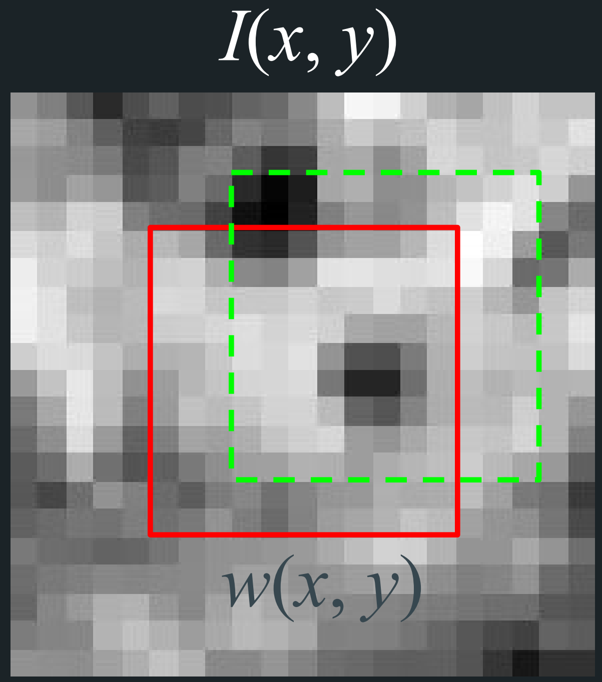


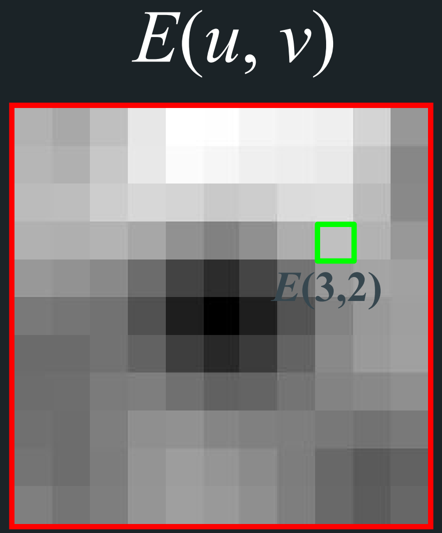
- Key property: in the region around a corner, image gradient has two or more dominant directions
- Corners are repeatable and distinctive

Corner Detection: Mathematics

Change in appearance of window $w(x,y)$
for the shift $[u,v]$:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$



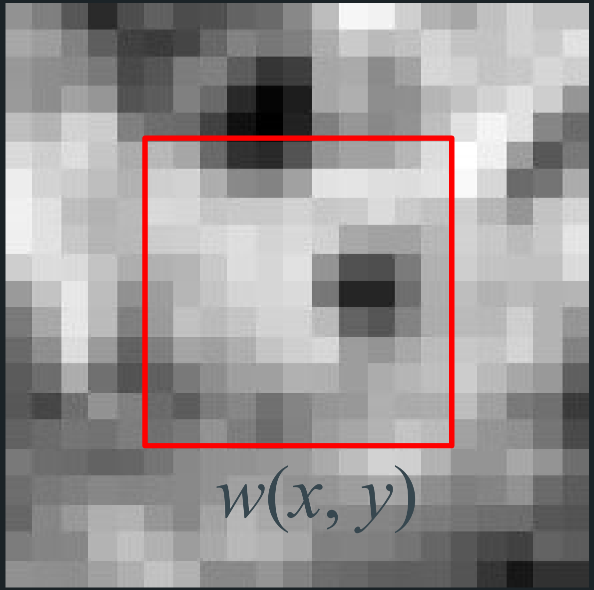


Corner Detection: Mathematics

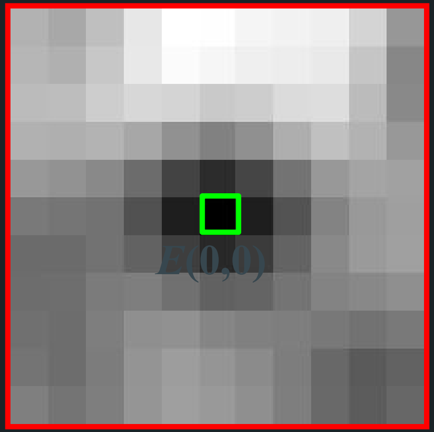
Change in appearance of window $w(x,y)$
for the shift $[u,v]$:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

$I(x, y)$



$E(u, v)$



Corner Detection: Mathematics

Change in appearance of window $w(x,y)$
for the shift $[u,v]$:

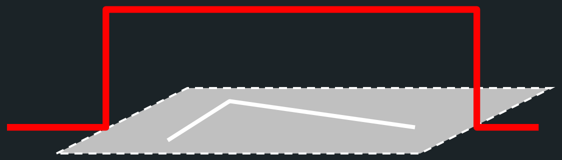
$$E(u,v)=\sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v)-I(x,y)\right]^2$$

Window function

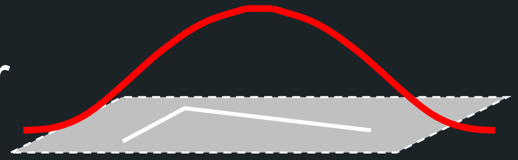
Shifted intensity

Intensity

Window function $w(x,y) =$



or



1 in window, 0 outside

Gaussian

Source: R. Szeliski

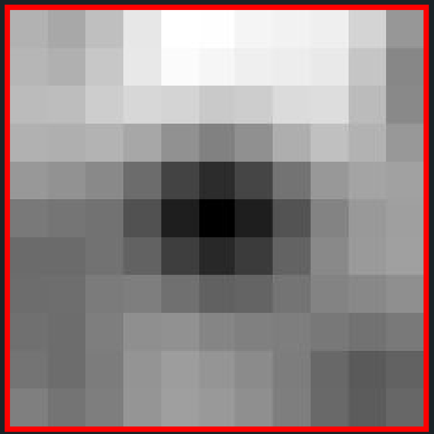
Corner Detection: Mathematics

Change in appearance of window $w(x,y)$ for the shift $[u,v]$:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

$E(u, v)$



Corner Detection: Mathematics

Change in appearance of window $w(x,y)$
for the shift $[u,v]$:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

Local quadratic approximation of $E(u,v)$ in the neighborhood of (0,0) is given by the *second-order Taylor expansion*:

$$E(u,v) \approx E(0,0) + [u \quad v]\begin{bmatrix} E_u(0,0) \\ E_v(0,0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2}[u \quad v]\begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0,0) & E_{uv}(0,0) \\ E_{uv}(0,0) & E_{vv}(0,0) \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

Corner Detection: Mathematics

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

Second-order Taylor expansion of *E*(*u*,*v*) about (0,0):

$$E(u,v) \approx E(0,0) + [u \;\; v]\begin{bmatrix} E_u(0,0) \\ E_v(0,0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2}[u \;\; v]\begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0,0) & E_{uv}(0,0) \\ E_{uv}(0,0) & E_{vv}(0,0) \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_u(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right] I_x(x+u,y+v)$$

$$E_{uu}(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y) I_x(x+u,y+v) I_x(x+u,y+v)$$
$$+ \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right] I_{xx}(x+u,y+v)$$

$$E_{uv}(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y) I_y(x+u,y+v) I_x(x+u,y+v)$$
$$+ \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right] I_{xy}(x+u,y+v)$$

Corner Detection: Mathematics

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

Second-order Taylor expansion of *E*(*u*,*v*) about (0,0):

$$E(u,v) \approx E(0,0) + [u \;\; v]\begin{bmatrix} E_u(0,0) \\ E_v(0,0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2}[u \;\; v]\begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0,0) & E_{uv}(0,0) \\ E_{uv}(0,0) & E_{vv}(0,0) \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E(0,0) = 0$$

$$E_u(0,0) = 0$$

$$E_v(0,0) = 0$$

$$E_{uu}(0,0) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_x(x,y)$$

$$E_{vv}(0,0) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_y(x,y)I_y(x,y)$$

$$E_{uv}(0,0) = \sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_y(x,y)$$

Corner Detection: Mathematics

$$E(u,v)=\sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v)-I(x,y)\right]^2$$

Second-order Taylor expansion of $E(u,v)$ about (0,0):

$$E(u,v)\approx[u \;\; v]\begin{bmatrix}\sum_{x,y} w(x,y)I_x^2(x,y) & \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_y(x,y)\\ \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_y(x,y) & \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)I_y^2(x,y)\end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix}u\\ v\end{bmatrix}$$

$$E(0,0)=0$$

$$E_u(0,0)=0$$

$$E_v(0,0)=0$$

$$E_{uu}(0,0)=\sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_x(x,y)$$

$$E_{vv}(0,0)=\sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_y(x,y)I_y(x,y)$$

$$E_{uv}(0,0)=\sum_{x,y} 2w(x,y)I_x(x,y)I_y(x,y)$$

Corner Detection: Mathematics

The quadratic approximation simplifies to

$$E(u,v) \approx [u \;\; v] \; M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

where M is a *second moment matrix* computed from image derivatives:

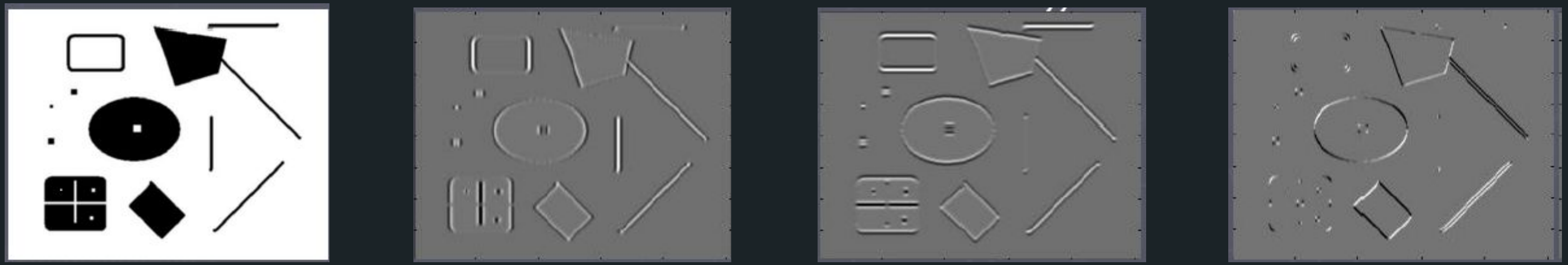
$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

Corners as distinctive interest points

$$M = \sum w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x I_x & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}$$

2 x 2 matrix of image derivatives (averaged in neighborhood of a point).



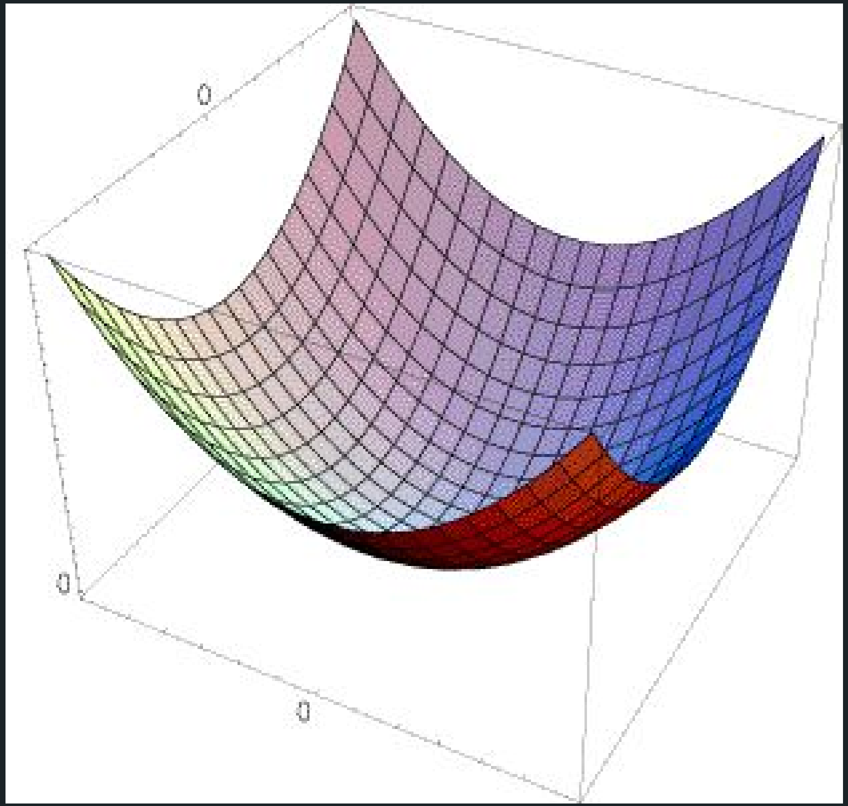
Notation: $I_x \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$ $I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$ $I_x I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$

Interpreting the second moment matrix

The surface *E*(*u*,*v*) is locally approximated by a quadratic form. Let’s try to understand its shape.

$$E(u,v) \approx [u \;\; v] \; M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Interpreting the second moment matrix

First, consider the axis-aligned case
(gradients are either horizontal or vertical)

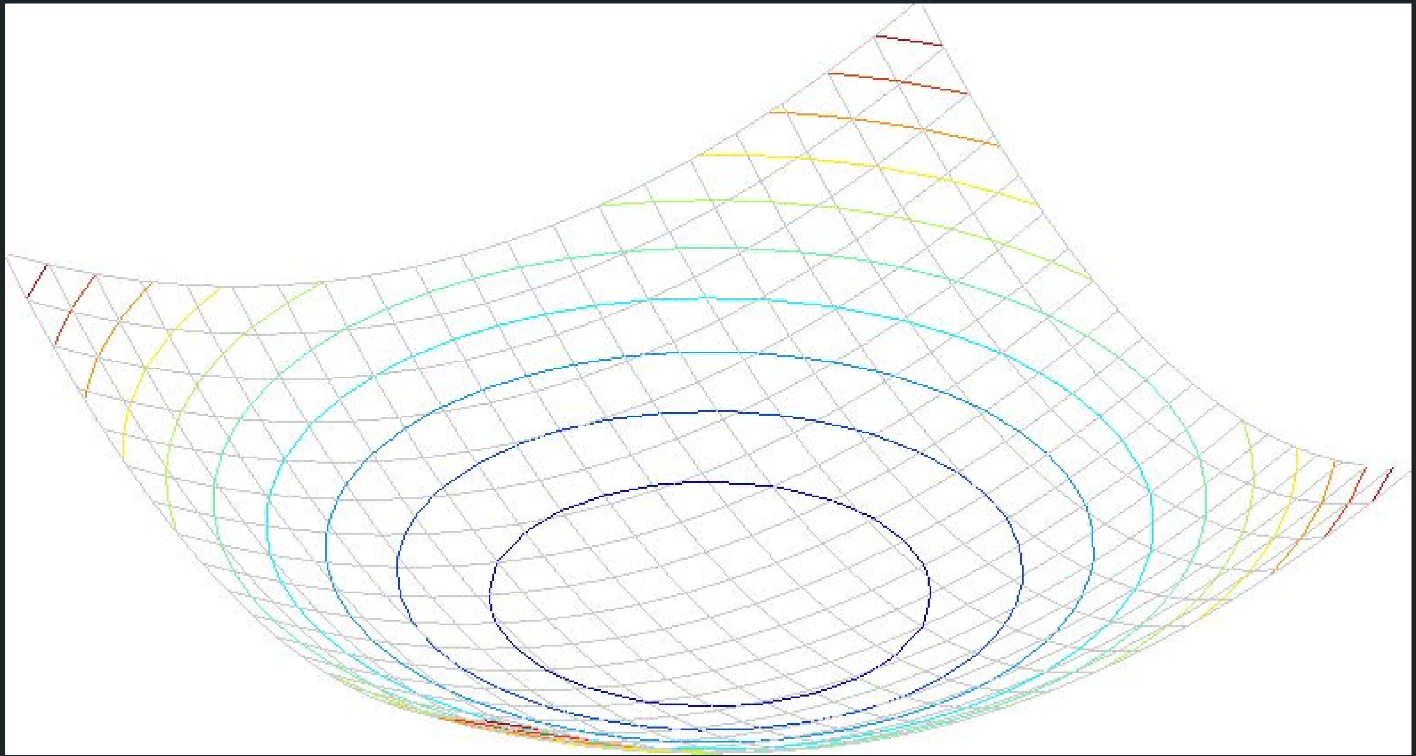
$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

If either λ is close to 0, then this is **not** a corner, so
look for locations where both are large.

Interpreting the second moment matrix

Consider a horizontal "slice" of $E(u, v)$: $\begin{bmatrix} u & v \end{bmatrix} M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \text{const}$

This is the equation of an ellipse.



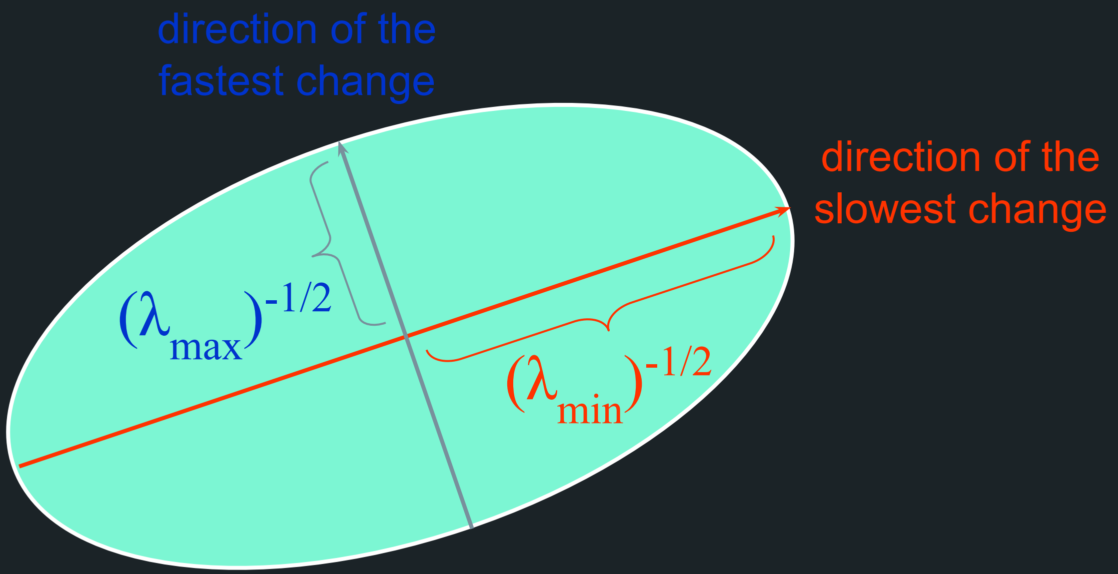
Interpreting the second moment matrix

Consider a horizontal "slice" of $E(u, v)$: $$\begin{bmatrix} u & v \end{bmatrix} M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \text{const}$$

This is the equation of an ellipse.

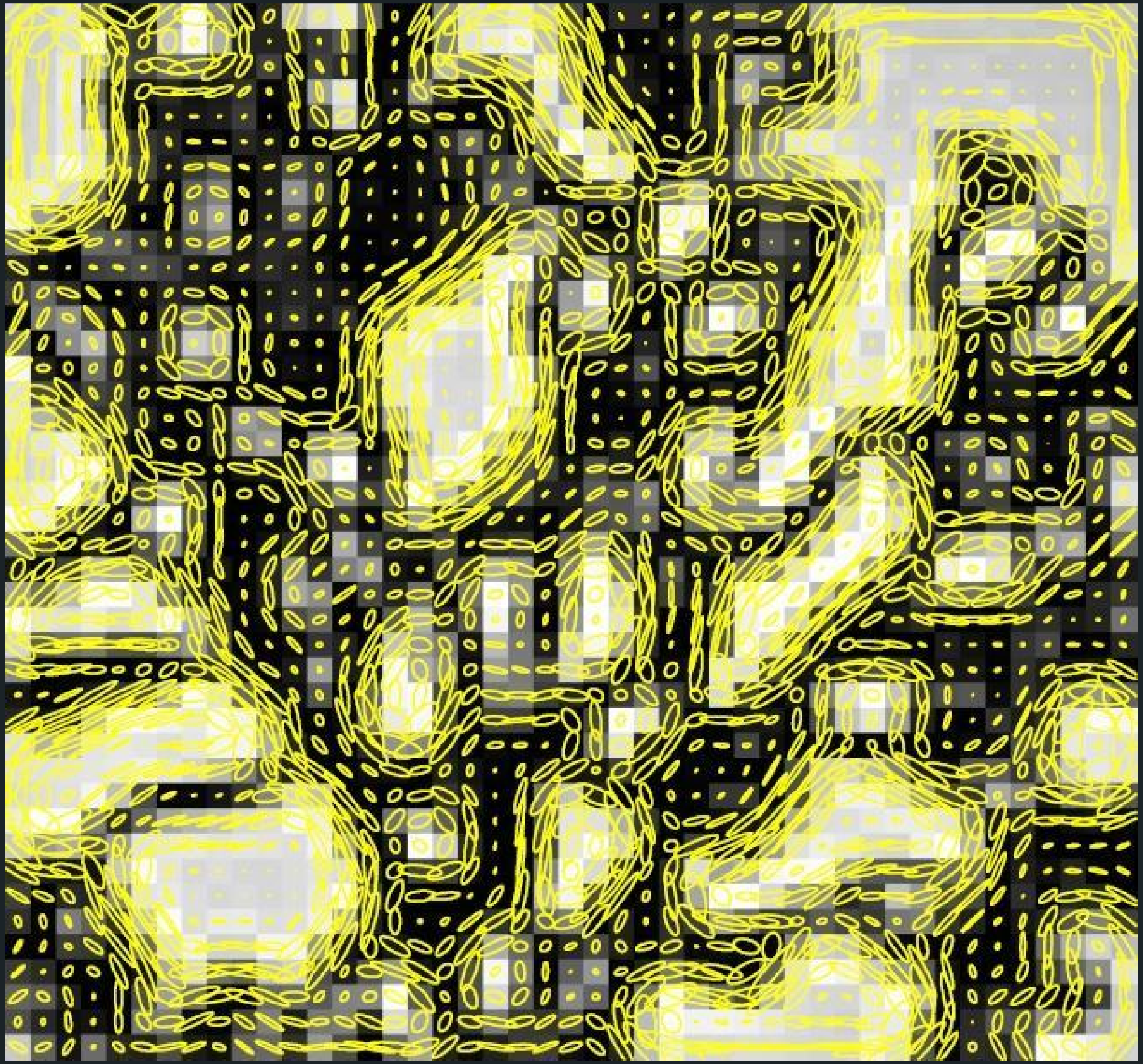
Diagonalization of M: $$M = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

The axis lengths of the ellipse are determined by the eigenvalues and the orientation is determined by *R*



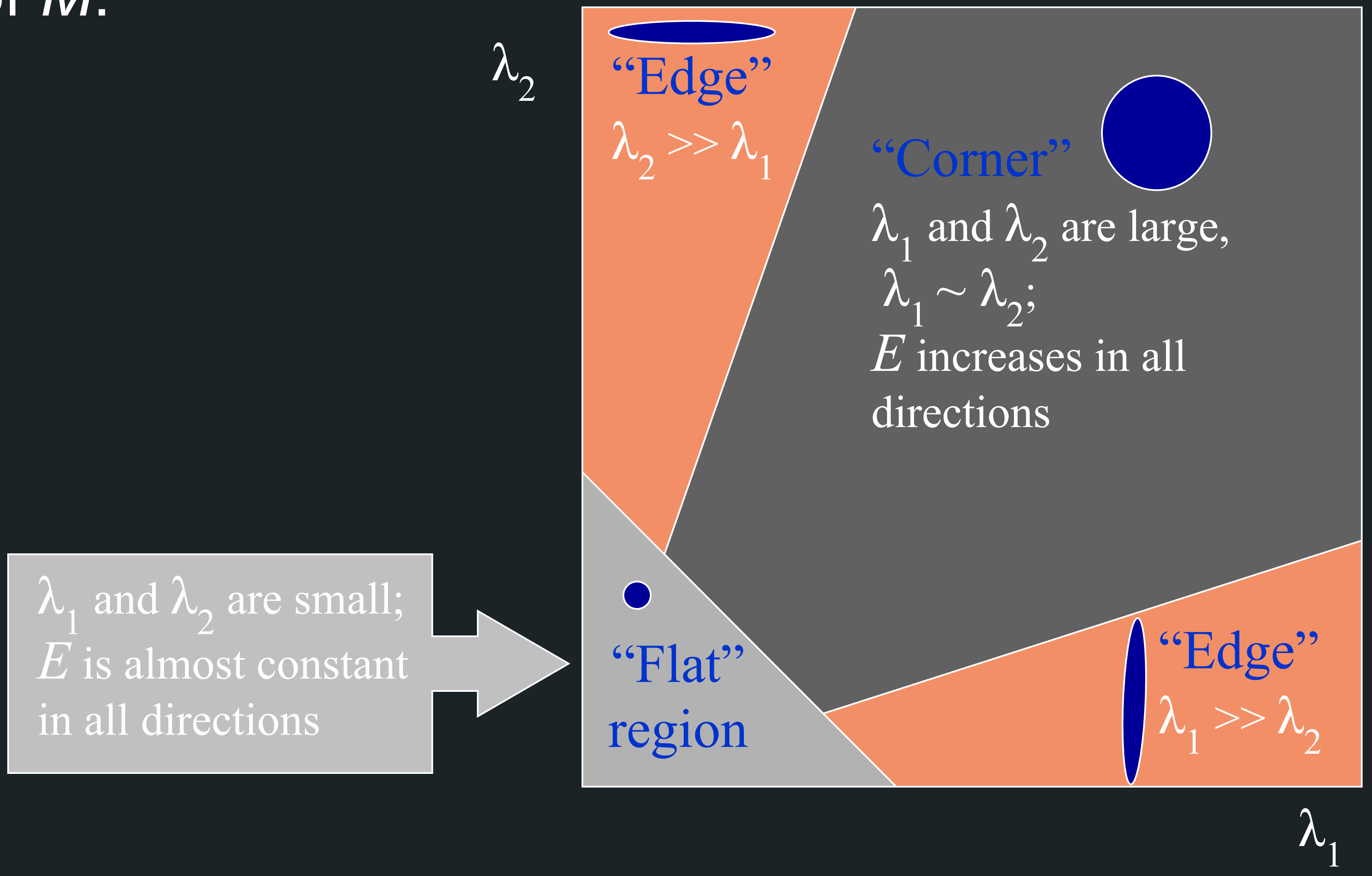
Visualization of second moment matrices

Visualization of second moment matrices



Interpreting the eigenvalues

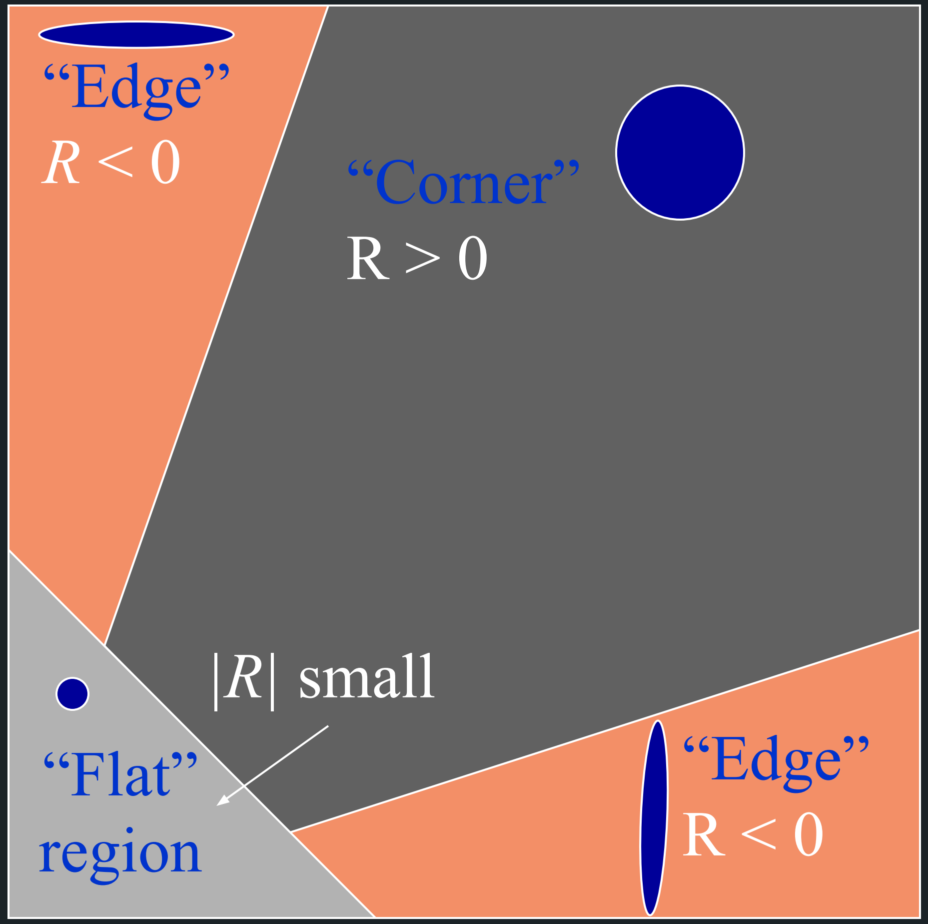
Classification of image points using eigenvalues of *M*:



Corner response function

$$R = \det(M) - \alpha \,\mathrm{trace}(M)^2 = \lambda_1\lambda_2 - \alpha(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2$$

α: constant (0.04 to 0.06)

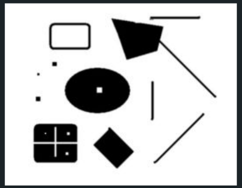


Harris corner detector

1) Compute *M* matrix for each image window to get their *cornerness* scores.
2) Find points whose surrounding window gave large corner response (*f*> threshold)
3) Take the points of local maxima, i.e., perform non-maximum suppression

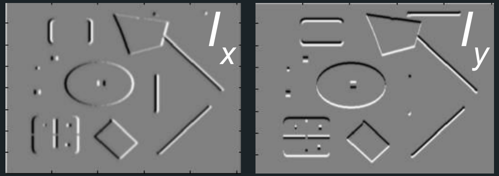
Harris Detector [Harris88]

- Second moment matrix

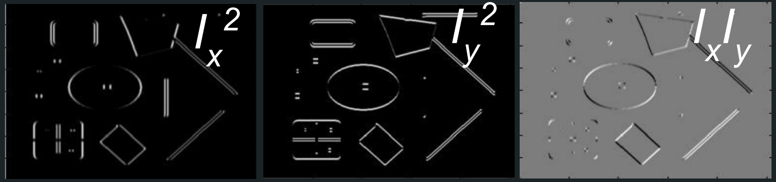


$$\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D) = g(\sigma_I) * \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2(\sigma_D) & I_x I_y(\sigma_D) \\ I_x I_y(\sigma_D) & I_y^2(\sigma_D) \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Image derivatives (optionally, blur first)



2. Square of derivatives



$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$
$$\operatorname{trace} M = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$$

3. Gaussian filter $g(\sigma_I)$

4. Cornerness function – both eigenvalues are strong

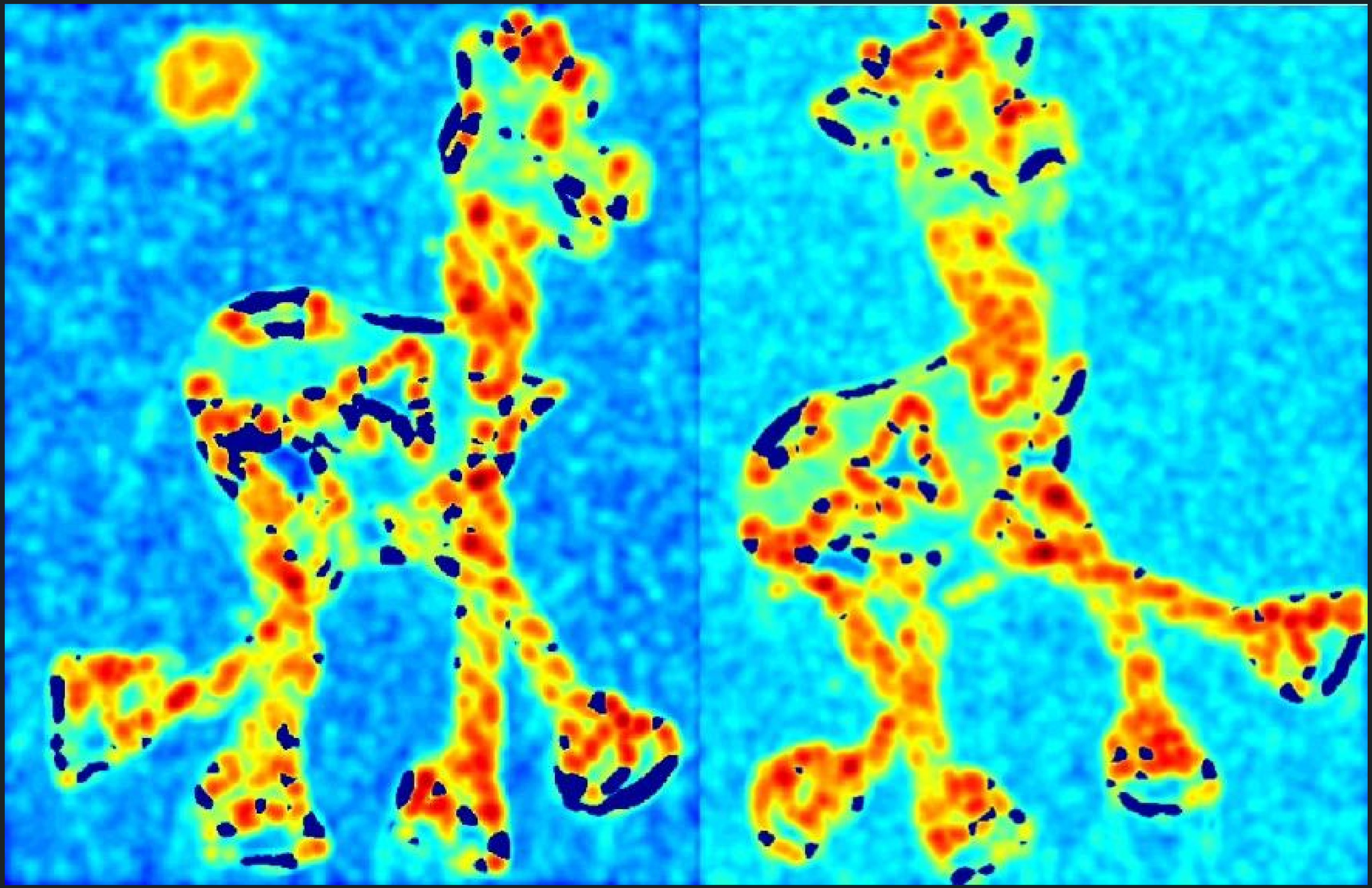
$$har = \det[\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D)] - \alpha[\operatorname{trace}(\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D))^2] =$$
$$g(I_x^2)g(I_y^2) - [g(I_x I_y)]^2 - \alpha[g(I_x^2) + g(I_y^2)]^2$$

5. Non-maxima suppression

Harris Detector: Steps

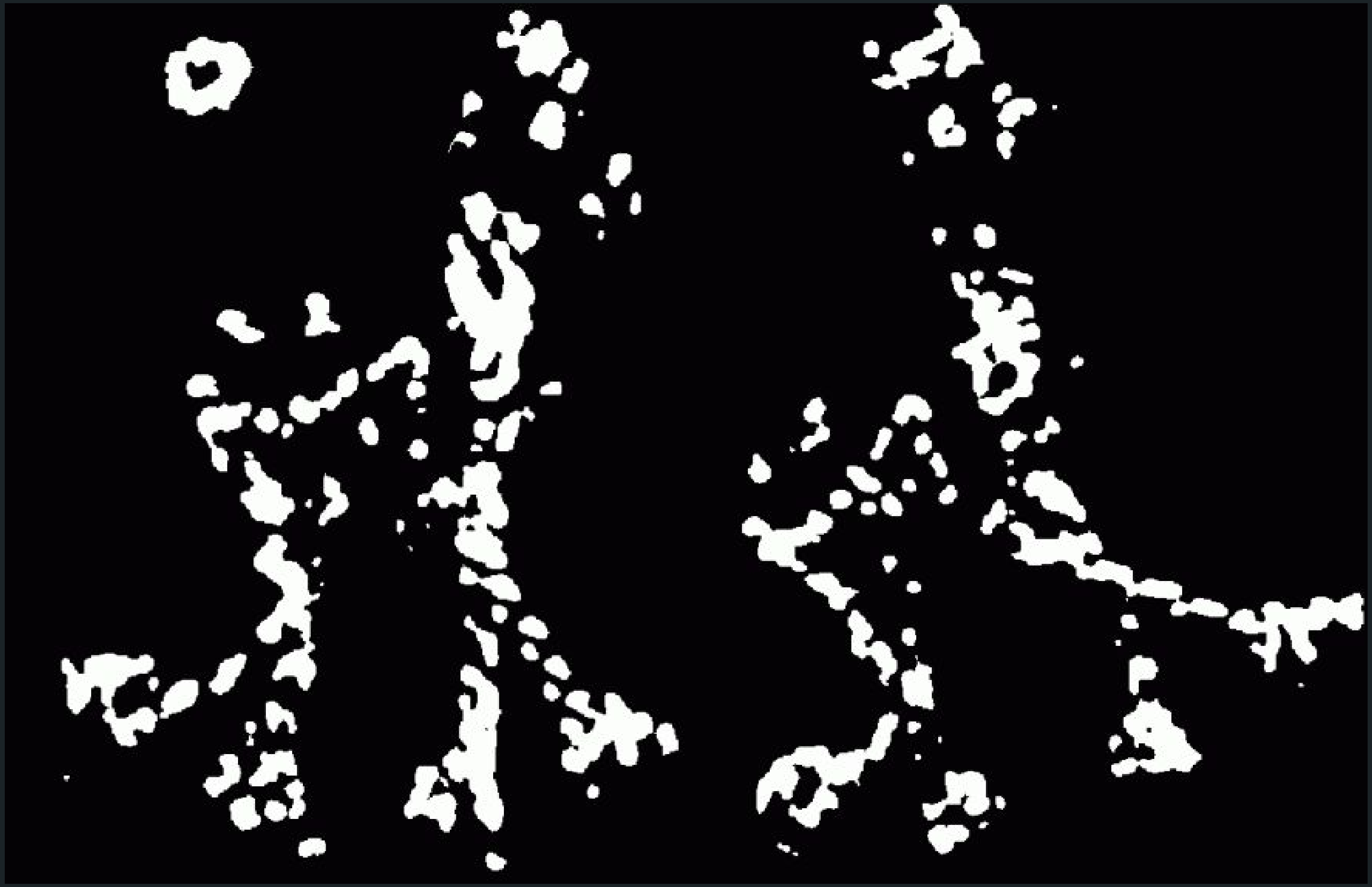
Harris Detector: Steps

Compute corner response R



Harris Detector: Steps

Find points with large corner response: R>threshold



Harris Detector: Steps

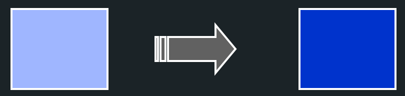
Take only the points of local maxima of R

Harris Detector: Steps

Invariance and covariance

- We want corner locations to be *invariant* to photometric transformations and *covariant* to geometric transformations
  - **Invariance:** image is transformed and corner locations do not change
  - **Covariance:** if we have two transformed versions of the same image, features should be detected in corresponding locations

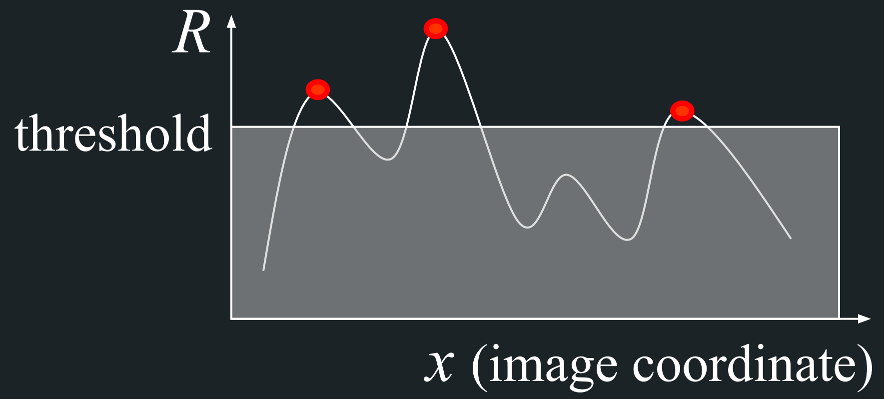
Affine intensity change

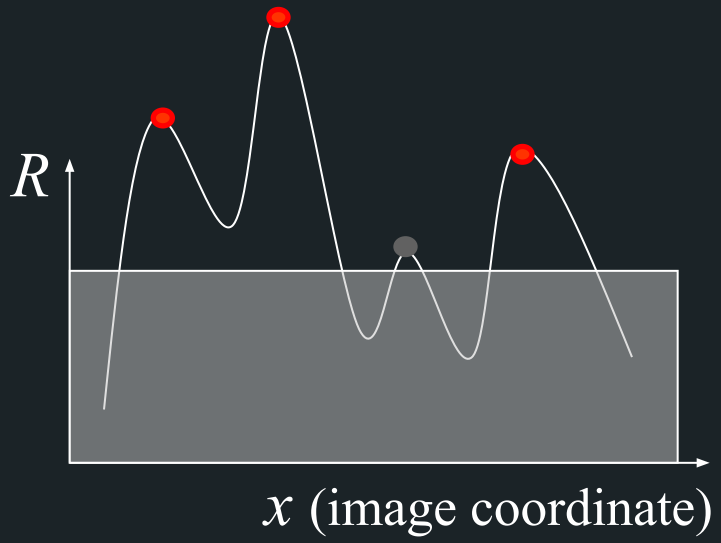


$$I \rightarrow a\,I + b$$

- Only derivatives are used => invariance to intensity shift $I \rightarrow I + b$

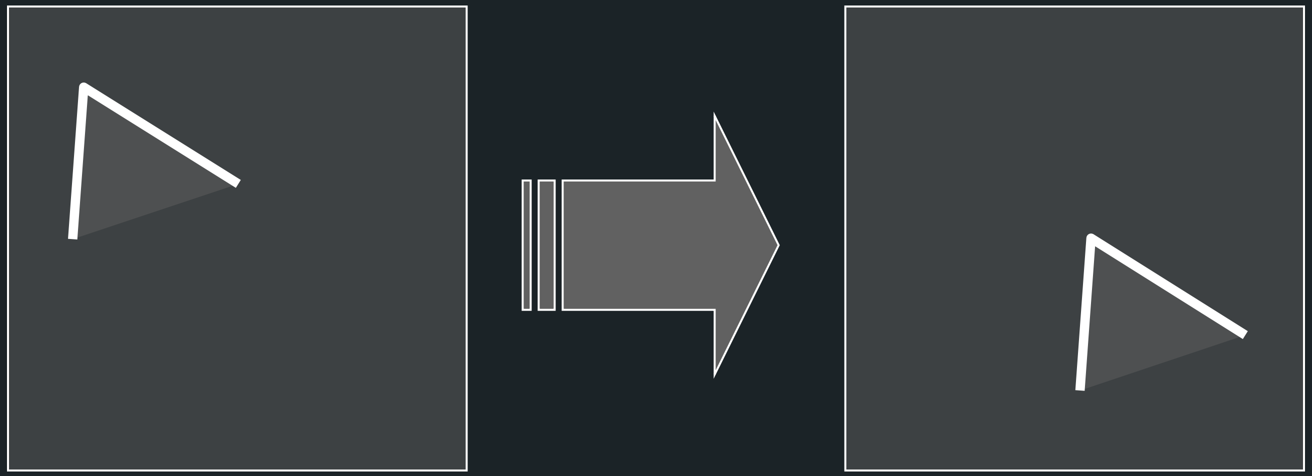
- Intensity scaling: $I \rightarrow a\,I$





Partially invariant to affine intensity change

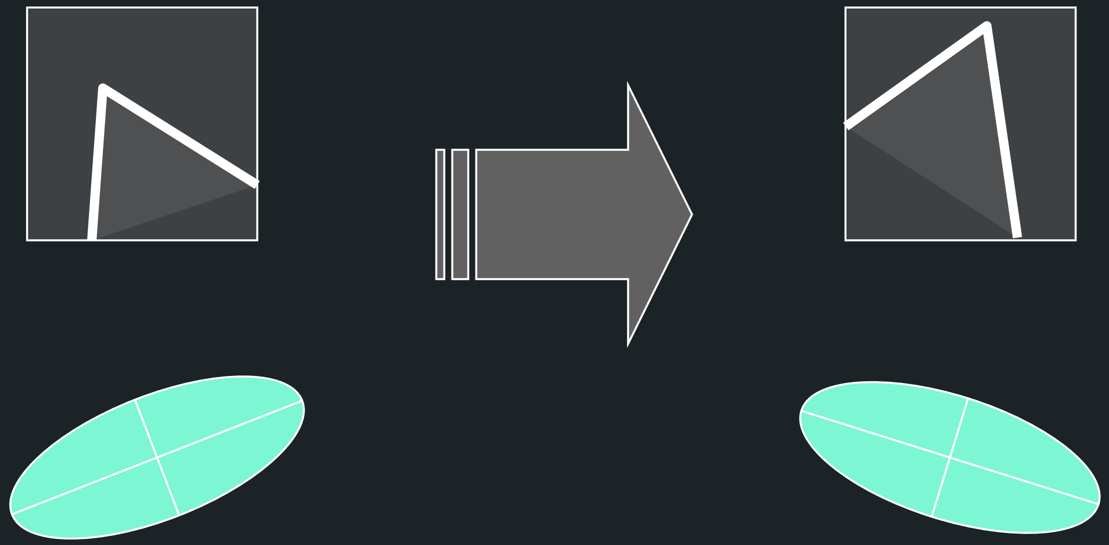
Image translation



- Derivatives and window function are shift-invariant

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. translation

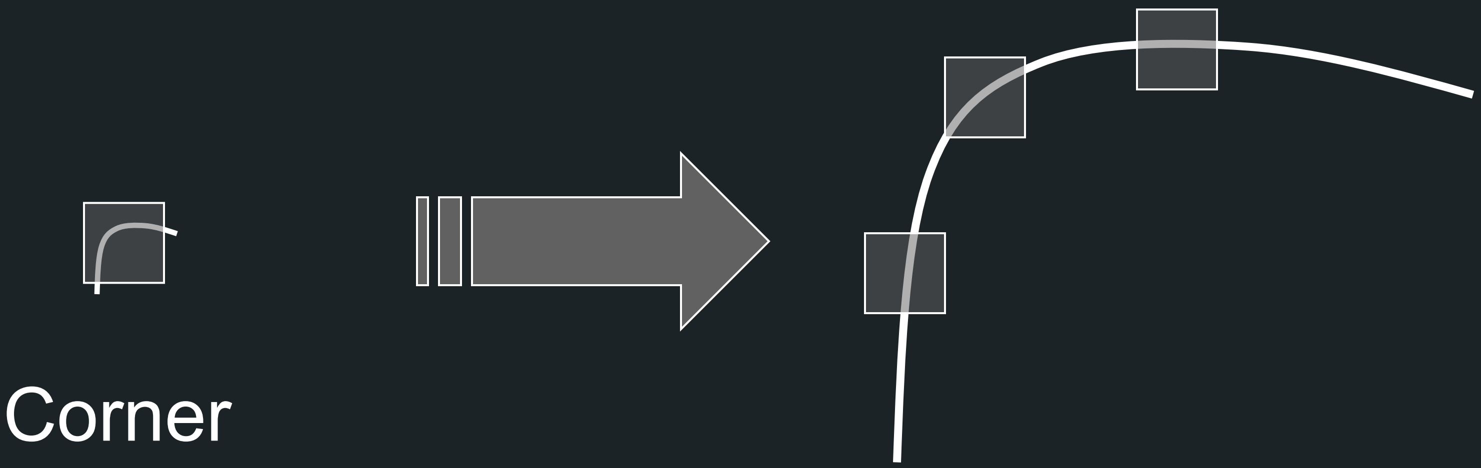
Image rotation



Second moment ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. rotation

Scaling



All points will be classified as edges

Corner location is not covariant to scaling!