

3. `find_3d_points.py`: The goal is to find a 3D point  $\mathbf{X} = (X, Y, Z, W)$  minimizes the reconstruction error defined as

$$\epsilon^2 = \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2.$$

We define  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2)^T$  as the given coordinates of two 2D points in the two images. The vector  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = (\hat{x}_1, \hat{y}_1, \hat{x}_2, \hat{y}_2)^T$  represents the projections of  $\mathbf{X}$  onto each of the two images. The 2D projections in homogenous coordinates are given by the respective camera matrices  $P_i$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = P_i \mathbf{X}.$$

In inhomogenous coordinates,

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{i[2]} / \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{i3} = \frac{P_{i[2]} \mathbf{X}}{P_{i3} \mathbf{X}}.$$

Here,  $A_{[2]}$  refers to the first two rows of a matrix  $A$  (notation borrowed from Python). For each image  $i$ , we are essentially solving for

$$0 = \frac{P_{i[2]} \mathbf{X}}{P_{i3} \mathbf{X}} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i.$$

This is equivalent to solving for

$$P_{i[2]} \mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i P_{i3} \mathbf{X} = (P_{i[2]} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i \otimes P_{i3}) \mathbf{X} \equiv A_i \mathbf{X} = 0.$$

We can stack  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  for each of the two matrices to get

$$A = (A_1^T, A_2^T)^T$$

and solve for

$$A \mathbf{X} = 0.$$

The (approximate) solution to this homogenous equation can be found by SVD.  $\mathbf{X}$  will be the right singular vector corresponding to the smallest singular value of  $A$ . Note that the error for image  $i$  will in fact be

$$\frac{A_i \mathbf{X}}{P_{i3} \mathbf{X}}$$

and not

$$A_i \mathbf{X}.$$

Therefore, the errors of the two images will not be weighted equally. As the equations to be minimized are manifestly non-linear, it would be fairly difficult to exactly minimize the total error, weighted equally.