

# **Code Explanation Breakdown**

#### You said:



```
Explain this code line by line:
"import numpy as np
import cv2 as cv
import argparse
parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(description='This sample demonstrates Lucas-Kanade Optical
Flow calculation. \
                         The example file can be downloaded from: \
https://www.bogotobogo.com/python/OpenCV_Python/images/mean_shift_tracking/slow_traffic_small.
parser.add argument('image', type=str, help='path to image file')
args = parser.parse_args()
cap = cv.VideoCapture(args.image)
# params for ShiTomasi corner detection
feature_params = dict( maxCorners = 100,
            qualityLevel = 0.3,
            minDistance = 7,
            blockSize = 7)
# Parameters for lucas kanade optical flow
lk_params = dict( winSize = (15, 15),
         maxLevel = 2,
         criteria = (cv.TERM CRITERIA EPS | cv.TERM CRITERIA COUNT, 10, 0.03))
# Create some random colors
color = np.random.randint(0, 255, (100, 3))
# Take first frame and find corners in it
ret, old frame = cap.read()
old_gray = cv.cvtColor(old_frame, cv.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
p0 = cv.goodFeaturesToTrack(old_gray, mask = None, **feature_params)
# Create a mask image for drawing purposes
mask = np.zeros_like(old_frame)
while(1):
  ret, frame = cap.read()
  if not ret:
    print('No frames grabbed!')
    break
  frame_gray = cv.cvtColor(frame, cv.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
  # calculate optical flow
  p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(old_gray, frame_gray, p0, None, **lk_params)
  # Select good points
  if p1 is not None:
    good_new = p1[st==1]
    qood_old = p0[st==1]
  # draw the tracks
  for i, (new, old) in enumerate(zip(good_new, good_old)):
```



```
a, b = new.ravel()
    c, d = old.ravel()
    mask = cv.line(mask, (int(a), int(b)), (int(c), int(d)), color[i].tolist(), 2)
    frame = cv.circle(frame, (int(a), int(b)), 5, color[i].tolist(), -1)
img = cv.add(frame, mask)
    cv.imshow('frame', img)
    k = cv.waitKey(30) & 0xff
if k == 27:
    break
# Now update the previous frame and previous points
    old_gray = frame_gray.copy()
    p0 = good_new.reshape(-1, 1, 2)
cv.destroyAllWindows()"
```

#### **ChatGPT said:**



Let's break down this code line by line:

### **Importing Libraries**

```
import numpy as np
import cv2 as cv
import argparse
```

- `import numpy as np`: Imports the `numpy` library and renames it to `np` for easier usage. `numpy` is used for numerical operations in Python, particularly with arrays.
- `import cv2 as cv`: Imports the `cv2` module (OpenCV) and renames it to `cv`. OpenCV is an open-source library for computer vision tasks.
- `import argparse`: Imports the `argparse` module, which is used to handle command-line arguments.

### **Argument Parsing**

• `parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(...)`: Creates an argument parser object with a description explaining that the script demonstrates Lucas-Kanade Optical Flow calculation.



- `parser.add\_argument('image', type=str, help='path to image file')`: Adds a required command-line argument `image`, which is expected to be a string representing the path to the video file.
- `args = parser.parse\_args()`: Parses the command-line arguments and stores them in the `args` object.

### **Video Capture Initialization**

```
python

cap = cv.VideoCapture(args.image)
```

• `cap = cv.VideoCapture(args.image)`: Initializes video capture using the file path provided by the `image` argument.

#### **Shi-Tomasi Corner Detection Parameters**

- `feature\_params = dict(...)`: Defines parameters for the Shi-Tomasi corner detection algorithm:
  - `maxCorners`: Maximum number of corners to detect.
  - `qualityLevel`: Minimum quality of corners to retain.
  - `minDistance`: Minimum distance between detected corners.
  - o `blockSize`: Size of the block considered for corner detection.

# **Lucas-Kanade Optical Flow Parameters**

- `lk\_params = dict(...)`: Defines parameters for the Lucas-Kanade optical flow algorithm:
  - `winSize`: Size of the search window at each pyramid level.
  - `maxLevel`: Maximum number of pyramid levels.
  - `criteria`: Termination criteria of the iterative search algorithm (either maximum iteration count or minimum error).

### **Random Colors for Drawing**

```
python

color = np.random.randint(0, 255, (100, 3))
```

• `color = np.random.randint(0, 255, (100, 3))`: Generates an array of 100 random colors, each represented as an RGB triplet.

# Reading the First Frame and Detecting Initial Corners

```
ret, old_frame = cap.read()
old_gray = cv.cvtColor(old_frame, cv.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
p0 = cv.goodFeaturesToTrack(old_gray, mask = None, **feature_params)
```

- `ret, old\_frame = cap.read()`: Reads the first frame from the video. `ret` is a boolean indicating if the frame was read successfully, and `old\_frame` contains the frame.
- `old\_gray = cv.cvtColor(old\_frame, cv.COLOR\_BGR2GRAY)`: Converts the frame to grayscale.
- `p0 = cv.goodFeaturesToTrack(old\_gray, mask = None, \*\*feature\_params)`: Detects good features to track in the grayscale frame using Shi-Tomasi corner detection.

### **Mask Initialization**

```
python

mask = np.zeros_like(old_frame)
```

• `mask = np.zeros\_like(old\_frame)`: Creates a mask (an image) of zeros (black) with the same size as the original frame. This will be used for drawing the tracks of the moving points.

# **Main Loop**

```
while(1):
    ret, frame = cap.read()
    if not ret:
        print('No frames grabbed!')
        break
    frame_gray = cv.cvtColor(frame, cv.COLOR_BGR2GRAY)
```

- `while(1):`: Starts an infinite loop to process each frame of the video.
- `ret, frame = cap.read()`: Reads the next frame from the video.
- `if not ret: ... break`: If no frame is captured (`ret` is `False`), the loop breaks.
- `frame\_gray = cv.cvtColor(frame, cv.COLOR\_BGR2GRAY)`: Converts the current frame to grayscale.

# **Optical Flow Calculation**



```
python

pl, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(old_gray, frame_gray, p0, None, **lk_params)
```

- `p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(...)`: Calculates the optical flow between the previous frame (`old\_gray`) and the current frame (`frame\_gray`).
  - `p1`: New positions of tracked points.
  - o `st`: Status array indicating whether a point was successfully tracked.
  - o `err`: Array of errors for each tracked point.

# **Selecting Good Points**

```
if pl is not None:
    good_new = pl[st==1]
    good_old = p0[st==1]
```

- `if pl is not None: `: Checks if new points (`pl`) were found.
- `good\_new = p1[st==1]`: Selects the points from `p1` that were successfully tracked (where `st` equals 1).
- `good old = p0[st==1]`: Corresponding old points from the previous frame.

# **Drawing the Tracks**

```
for i, (new, old) in enumerate(zip(good_new, good_old)):
    a, b = new.ravel()
    c, d = old.ravel()
    mask = cv.line(mask, (int(a), int(b)), (int(c), int(d)), color[i].tolist(), 2)
    frame = cv.circle(frame, (int(a), int(b)), 5, color[i].tolist(), -1)
img = cv.add(frame, mask)
cv.imshow('frame', img)
```

- `for i, (new, old) in enumerate(zip(good\_new, good\_old)): `: Loops through each pair of new and old points.
- `a, b = new.ravel()`: Flattens the `new` point to extract the coordinates.
- `c, d = old.ravel()`: Flattens the `old` point to extract the coordinates.
- `mask = cv.line(mask, (int(a), int(b)), (int(c), int(d)), color[i].tolist(), 2)`: Draws a line on the mask from the old point to the new point.
- `frame = cv.circle(frame, (int(a), int(b)), 5, color[i].tolist(), -1)`: Draws a circle at the new point on the frame.
- `img = cv.add(frame, mask)`: Combines the frame with the mask to create the final image showing the tracked points and their paths.
- `cv.imshow('frame', img)`: Displays the frame with the tracking overlay.

# Breaking the Loop



```
k = cv.waitKey(30) & 0xff
if k == 27:
    break
```

• `k = cv.waitKey(30) & 0xff`: Waits for 30 milliseconds for a key press. If `Esc` (ASCII code 27) is pressed, the loop breaks.

### **Updating for the Next Iteration**

```
python

old_gray = frame_gray.copy()
p0 = good_new.reshape(-1, 1, 2)
```

- `old\_gray = frame\_gray.copy()`: Updates the previous frame to the current grayscale frame.
- `p0 = good\_new.reshape(-1, 1, 2)`: Reshapes and updates the previous points to the new points for the next iteration.

### Cleanup

```
python

cv.destroyAllWindows()
```

• `cv.destroyAllWindows()`: Closes all OpenCV windows when the loop ends.

#### You said:



"qualityLevel" What quality are u talking about?

#### **ChatGPT said:**



In the context of the Shi-Tomasi corner detection algorithm, the `qualityLevel` parameter is used to set the minimum quality threshold for the detected corners (or keypoints). This "quality" refers to a measure of how strong or prominent a corner is in the image, based on the corner response function.

#### **How It Works:**

• The Shi-Tomasi method, like the Harris corner detection method, computes a score (or "cornerness") for each pixel in the image, indicating how likely it is to be a corner.



• The `qualityLevel` parameter is a multiplier of the maximum corner response found in the image. Only corners with a score higher than `qualityLevel \* max(response)` will be retained.

# **Example:**

- If `qualityLevel` is set to `0.01`, only corners with a corner response greater than 1% of the maximum response will be kept.
- If it's set to `0.3`, then only corners with a response greater than 30% of the maximum response will be retained.

### **Practical Impact:**

- **Higher `qualityLevel` (e.g., 0.5 or 0.8):** Results in fewer but stronger corners, as only the most prominent corners are selected.
- Lower `qualityLevel` (e.g., 0.01 or 0.1): Results in more corners being detected, including weaker ones, which might be more sensitive to noise.

In summary, the `qualityLevel` parameter controls the threshold for how "good" or "strong" a detected corner needs to be to be kept in the final list of detected corners.

#### You said:



"pyramid level" explain this also

#### **ChatGPT said:**



In the context of optical flow calculation, particularly in algorithms like the Lucas-Kanade method, the concept of a **"pyramid level"** refers to a technique known as an **image pyramid**. This technique is used to handle motion estimation (like optical flow) across different scales, improving the algorithm's robustness and accuracy, especially for handling larger displacements.

# **Image Pyramid Overview:**

An image pyramid is a collection of images, each of which is a downsampled version of the original image. The pyramid is constructed by repeatedly reducing the resolution of the image (usually by a factor of 2) until a sufficiently small image is obtained.

### Levels in the Pyramid:

- **Level 0**: The original image (highest resolution).
- **Level 1**: The image downsampled by a factor of 2 (e.g., every 2x2 block of pixels in the original image is averaged into a single pixel).
- Level 2: The image downsampled again, typically by another factor of 2 from Level 1.
- ..

This continues until a predefined minimum size is reached.



### Why Use Pyramid Levels in Optical Flow?

When estimating optical flow (the motion of features between frames), small displacements between frames can be accurately captured at the original resolution. However, larger displacements might cause the algorithm to miss the correct correspondence between points. By using an image pyramid:

- 1. **Coarse-to-Fine Strategy**: The algorithm starts by estimating motion at the coarsest (smallest) level of the pyramid, where the image resolution is low. This level captures larger movements but in a general way.
- 2. **Refinement**: The motion estimates are then refined progressively as the algorithm moves to higher-resolution levels of the pyramid. At each level, the optical flow is adjusted based on the finer details available at that resolution.

### **Example in the Code:**

- `maxLevel = 2`: Indicates that the algorithm will use an image pyramid with 3 levels:
  - Level 0 (original image)
  - Level 1 (image downsampled by a factor of 2)
  - Level 2 (image downsampled by a factor of 4)

The optical flow is first calculated on the coarsest level (Level 2), and the results are used to guide the calculations on the finer levels (Level 1 and Level 0).

# **Practical Impact:**

- **Handling Large Motions**: The pyramid approach allows the algorithm to handle larger motions between frames by first capturing the motion in a downsampled image and then refining it.
- **Increased Accuracy**: By refining the optical flow estimation across multiple levels, the algorithm can achieve a more accurate result, even in the presence of noise or varying motion scales.

In summary, "pyramid levels" refer to the different resolutions of an image used in an optical flow algorithm to ensure that motion is accurately tracked across different scales.

#### You said:



Explain this one "criteria = (cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_EPS | cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_COUNT, 10, 0.03))"

#### **ChatGPT said:**





The `criteria` parameter in the Lucas-Kanade optical flow method (and other iterative algorithms in OpenCV) is used to define the stopping conditions for the iterative process. This parameter controls when the algorithm should stop refining the results during the computation of optical flow.

# **Breaking Down the Code:**

```
python

criteria = (cv.TERM_CRITERIA_EPS | cv.TERM_CRITERIA_COUNT, 10, 0.03)
```

This `criteria` tuple has three components:

- 1. `cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_EPS | cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_COUNT`:
  - This part defines the type of stopping criteria used.
  - `cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_EPS`: The algorithm stops when a specified accuracy (epsilon) is reached. This means that when the change in the position of the tracked points is smaller than a threshold, the algorithm will stop iterating.
  - `cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_COUNT`: The algorithm stops after a specified number of iterations, regardless of whether the desired accuracy has been reached.
  - `cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_EPS | cv.TERM\_CRITERIA\_COUNT`: The vertical bar (`|`) is a bitwise OR
    operation that combines these two criteria. This means that the algorithm will stop if either
    the specified accuracy is achieved or the maximum number of iterations is reached,
    whichever comes first.
- 2. `10`:
  - This is the second element in the tuple, and it specifies the maximum number of iterations the algorithm should run. In this case, the algorithm will iterate at most 10 times
- 3. `0.03`:
  - This is the third element in the tuple, representing the **epsilon** value, which is the desired accuracy. Here, it indicates that the algorithm should stop if the movement between iterations is less than 0.03 pixels (or another appropriate unit depending on the context).

# **Summary of What This Does:**

The `criteria` parameter is a combination of conditions that determine when the iterative process in the Lucas-Kanade optical flow calculation should stop:

- The algorithm will stop if the movement of the tracked points becomes very small (less than 0.03 units), meaning that the solution has converged to a stable value.
- Alternatively, if the algorithm reaches 10 iterations without converging to the desired accuracy, it will stop anyway.

# Why Is This Important?

- **Efficiency**: It prevents the algorithm from running indefinitely by limiting the number of iterations.
- **Accuracy**: It ensures that the solution has reached a sufficient level of precision before stopping.
- **Balance**: By combining both criteria, it provides a balance between achieving accuracy and maintaining computational efficiency.



#### You said:



"p0 = cv.goodFeaturesToTrack(old\_gray, mask = None, \*\*feature\_params): Detects good features to track in the grayscale frame using Shi-Tomasi corner detection."

Explain

#### **ChatGPT said:**



The line of code:

```
python

p0 = cv.goodFeaturesToTrack(old_gray, mask=None, **feature_params)
```

is responsible for detecting and selecting good features (or points) to track in the grayscale image (`old\_gray`). This process is done using the Shi-Tomasi corner detection method, which is a variant of the Harris corner detector specifically designed to identify the most "trackable" points in an image.

# **Breaking Down the Code:**

#### 1. `cv.goodFeaturesToTrack`:

• This is an OpenCV function that implements the Shi-Tomasi method to find good features to track, typically corners or edges in the image. These features are ideal for tracking because they are distinct and can be easily recognized in subsequent frames.

#### 2. 'old gray':

- This is the input image where the good features are to be detected. In this context, `old\_gray` is a grayscale version of the original image (previously converted using `cv.cvtColor`).
- Working with grayscale images simplifies the computation and improves performance since color information is not necessary for corner detection.

#### 3. `mask=None`:

- The `mask` parameter allows you to specify a region of interest (ROI) within the image. Only the pixels in this mask will be considered for detecting features.
- Setting `mask=None` means that the entire image is used for feature detection.

#### 4. `\*\*feature\_params`:

- The `\*\*feature\_params` argument allows you to pass in additional parameters for the Shi-Tomasi corner detection via a dictionary.
- These parameters include:



- `maxCorners`: The maximum number of corners to detect. For example, if `maxCorners=100`, the function will return up to 100 of the strongest corners.
- `qualityLevel`: A parameter that determines the minimum accepted quality of the detected corners, as a fraction of the best corner's quality.
- `minDistance`: The minimum distance between detected corners. If two corners are too close, only the stronger one will be retained.
- `blockSize`: The size of the neighborhood considered for corner detection.

#### 5. `p0`:

- The output of the `cv.goodFeaturesToTrack` function is stored in `p0`.
- `p0` is a list of the coordinates of the detected points, typically shaped as an array of points with the form `(x, y)`, where each point is a corner detected in the image.

### **Example:**

Let's say you have a grayscale image of a scene with a checkerboard pattern. The checkerboard's corners are likely to be strong features because they have distinct intensity changes in both the horizontal and vertical directions. The `cv.goodFeaturesToTrack` function will detect these corners and store their coordinates in `p0`, which you can then use for tracking those points in subsequent frames of a video.

### **Summary:**

This line of code is crucial for initializing the points that will be tracked over time in an optical flow algorithm. The Shi-Tomasi method is used to find these points because it effectively identifies strong and easily trackable features in an image.

#### You said:



what do you mean by good features? and what do you mean by Shi-Tomasi corner detection method?

Answer in a short manner

#### **ChatGPT said:**



#### Memory updated

**Good features** are distinct, easily trackable points in an image, like corners or edges, that can be reliably followed across multiple frames in a video.

The **Shi-Tomasi corner detection method** is an algorithm that identifies these strong features by finding corners with high contrast in intensity, making them ideal for tracking in tasks like optical flow. It's a variant of the Harris corner detector but focuses on finding the most "trackable" points.

#### You said:





" p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(old\_gray, frame\_gray, p0, None, \*\*lk\_params) p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(...): Calculates the optical flow between the previous frame (old\_gray) and the current frame (frame\_gray).

p1: New positions of tracked points.

st: Status array indicating whether a point was successfully tracked.

err: Array of errors for each tracked point."

Elaborate

### **ChatGPT said:**



The line of code:

```
python

p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(old_gray, frame_gray, p0, None, **lk_params)
```

is used to calculate the optical flow between two consecutive frames in a video using the Lucas-Kanade method, enhanced with a pyramid approach. Here's a detailed explanation:

# **Breaking Down the Code:**

#### 1. `cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK`:

 This is an OpenCV function that implements the Lucas-Kanade method for optical flow calculation. It computes the motion of specific points (features) from one frame to the next, estimating where those points have moved.

### 2. `old\_gray`:

 This is the previous frame (grayscale) from which the optical flow is being calculated. It represents the image at time `t`.

#### 3. `frame gray`:

• This is the current frame (also in grayscale) to which the optical flow is being calculated. It represents the image at time `t+1`.

### 4. `p0`:

This is an array of the initial positions of the points (or features) detected in the `old\_gray` frame, which you want to track in the `frame\_gray` frame.

#### 5. `None`:

• This is where you could pass in a mask, but it's `None` here, meaning no mask is applied. All points are considered.

### 6. `\*\*lk\_params`:

These are the parameters for the Lucas-Kanade method, passed as a dictionary. They
typically include the window size (`winSize`), maximum pyramid levels (`maxLevel`), and
termination criteria (`criteria`) that control the iterative refinement of the flow.

### **Outputs:**

1. `p1`:

- This is an array of the new positions of the points from `p0` in the `frame\_gray` frame. It shows where each point in `p0` has moved in the new frame based on the optical flow calculation.
- 2. `st` (Status array):
  - This is a binary array where each element indicates whether a particular point was successfully tracked (1) or not (0). A point might not be tracked successfully due to factors like occlusion, motion blur, or if it moved out of the frame.
- 3. `err` (Error array):
  - This array contains the errors associated with the optical flow calculation for each point.
     The error typically represents the difference in pixel intensity between the original and the new position after applying the optical flow. Lower values indicate a more accurate tracking, while higher values suggest less confidence in the tracked position.

# **Example Scenario:**

Suppose you have a video of a moving object, and you detect certain features (like corners) in the first frame. In subsequent frames, you want to track where these features move.

- `p0` holds the positions of these features in the first frame (`old gray`).
- `p1` will give you the positions of these features in the next frame (`frame\_gray`).
- `st` tells you which of these features were successfully tracked.
- `err` tells you how accurate the tracking was for each feature.

### **Practical Use:**

- **Motion Tracking**: By calculating the optical flow, you can track the movement of objects across frames in a video.
- **Stabilization**: Optical flow can be used to stabilize shaky videos by compensating for camera movement.
- **Gesture Recognition**: Tracking hand or body movements using optical flow is a common application.

In summary, this line of code is key for determining how specific points in an image move from one frame to the next, allowing you to track motion effectively in a video sequence.

#### You said:



Elaborate each line in short

#### **ChatGPT said:**



Certainly! Here's a concise breakdown of each line:

1. \*\*`p1, st, err = cv.calcOpticalFlowPyrLK(old\_gray,





```
"for i, (new, old) in enumerate(zip(good_new, good_old)):
    a, b = new.ravel()
    c, d = old.ravel()
    mask = cv.line(mask, (int(a), int(b)), (int(c), int(d)), color[i].tolist(), 2)
    frame = cv.circle(frame, (int(a), int(b)), 5, color[i].tolist(), -1)
    img = cv.add(frame, mask)
    cv.imshow('frame', img)"
Elaborate each line in short
```

#### ChatGPT said:



Here's a concise breakdown of each line in the given code:

- 1. `for i, (new, old) in enumerate(zip(good\_new, good\_old)):`
  - Iterates over pairs of new and old points, where `good\_new` contains the updated positions of successfully tracked points and `good\_old` contains their original positions. `i` is the index for iteration.
- 2. `a, b = new.ravel()`
  - Flattens the new point's coordinates (`new`) from a 2D array to 1D and assigns the x and y coordinates to `a` and `b`, respectively.
- 3. `c, d = old.ravel()`
  - Flattens the old point's coordinates (`old`) from a 2D array to 1D and assigns the x and y coordinates to `c` and `d`, respectively.
- 4. `mask = cv.line(mask, (int(a), int(b)), (int(c), int(d)), color[i].tolist(), 2)`
  - Draws a line on the `mask` image from the old point `(c, d)` to the new point `(a, b)` using the `color[i]` for that particular point and a line thickness of 2 pixels.
- 5. `frame = cv.circle(frame, (int(a), int(b)), 5, color[i].tolist(), -1)`
  - Draws a filled circle on the `frame` at the new point `(a, b)` using the `color[i]` and a radius of 5 pixels. The `-1` indicates that the circle is filled.
- 6. `img = cv.add(frame, mask)`
  - Combines the `frame` (with the circles) and the `mask` (with the lines) into a single image
     `img` by adding them together.
- 7. `cv.imshow('frame', img)`
  - Displays the resulting image `img` in a window titled 'frame'. This image shows the motion
    of points from the previous frame to the current frame with lines and circles.

#### You said:



what does .ravel function does?

#### **ChatGPT said:**





The `.ravel()` function in Python, particularly when used with NumPy arrays, flattens a multi-dimensional array into a 1D array (a single row).

### **Example:**

### **Output:**

```
python
[1 2 3 4]
```

### In Context:

When you use `.ravel()` on a point in an image, like `(new.ravel())`, which typically might be a 2D array (e.g., `[[x, y]]`), it converts this to a 1D array (e.g., `[x, y]`). This makes it easier to work with individual coordinates.

In the code snippet you provided:

• `new.ravel()` converts the `new` point from a 2D array like `[[x, y]]` to a 1D array `[x, y]`, allowing you to directly access the x and y coordinates using `a, b = new.ravel()`.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.