

Computer Vision - Lecture 11

Local Features

03.12.2015

Bastian Leibe
RWTH Aachen
<http://www.vision.rwth-aachen.de>

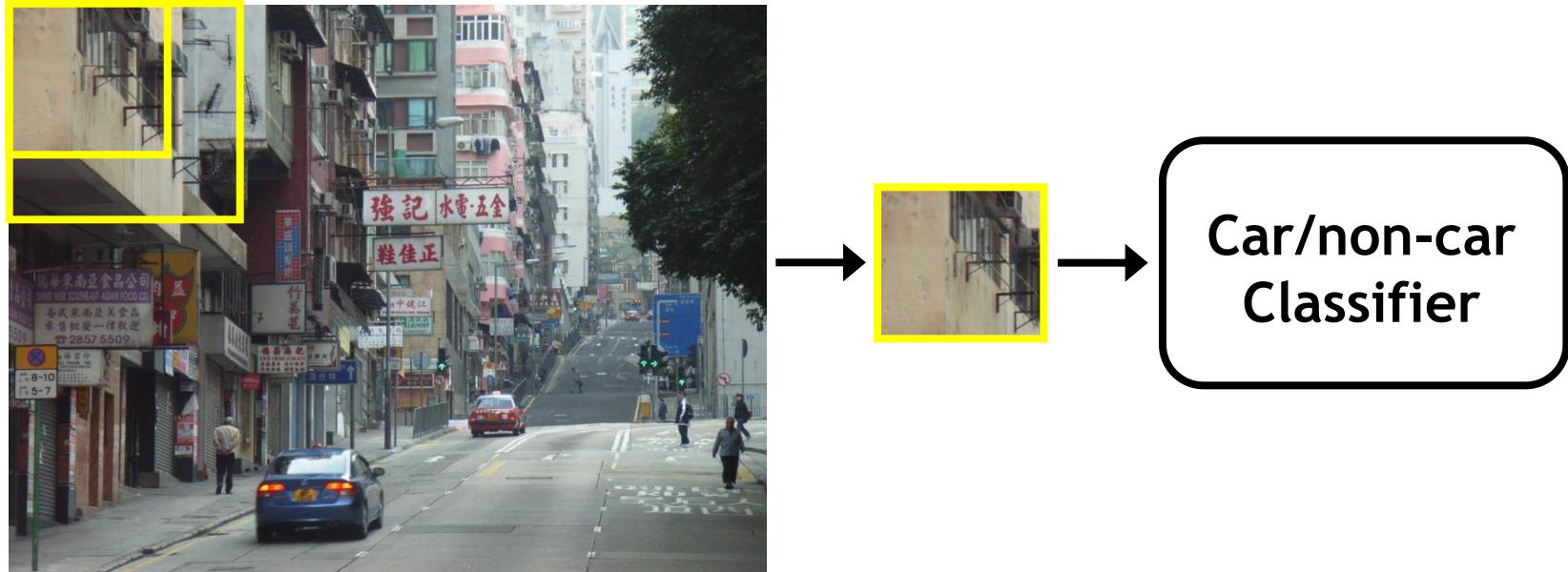
leibe@vision.rwth-aachen.de

Course Outline

- **Image Processing Basics**
- **Segmentation & Grouping**
- **Object Recognition & Categorization I**
 - Global Representations
 - Sliding Window based Object Detection
- **Local Features & Matching**
 - Local Features - Detection and Description
 - Recognition with Local Features
- **Object Categorization II**
 - Part based Approaches
 - Deep Learning Approaches
- **3D Reconstruction**
- **Motion and Tracking**

Recap: Sliding-Window Object Detection

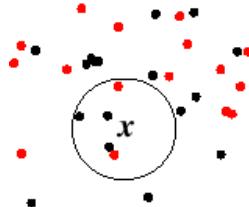
- If object may be in a cluttered scene, slide a window around looking for it.



- Essentially, this is a brute-force approach with many local decisions.

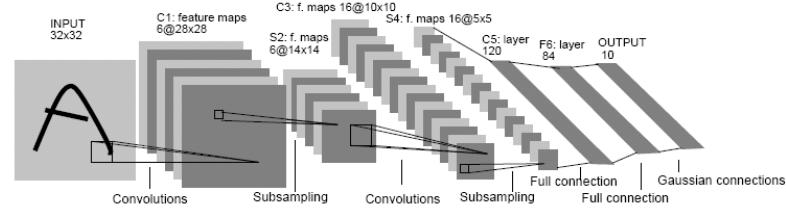
Classifier Construction: Many Choices...

Nearest Neighbor



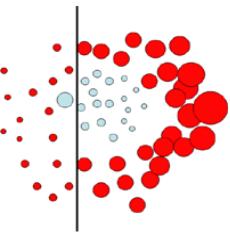
Shakhnarovich, Viola, Darrell 2003
Berg, Berg, Malik 2005,
Boiman, Shechtman, Irani 2008, ...

Neural networks



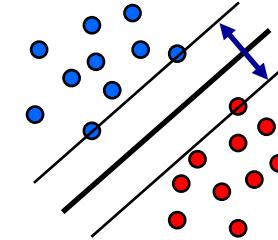
LeCun, Bottou, Bengio, Haffner 1998
Rowley, Baluja, Kanade 1998
...

Boosting



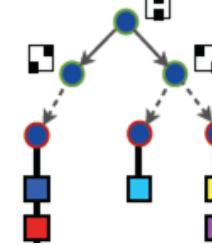
Viola, Jones 2001,
Torralba et al. 2004,
Opelt et al. 2006,
Benenson 2012, ...

Support Vector Machines



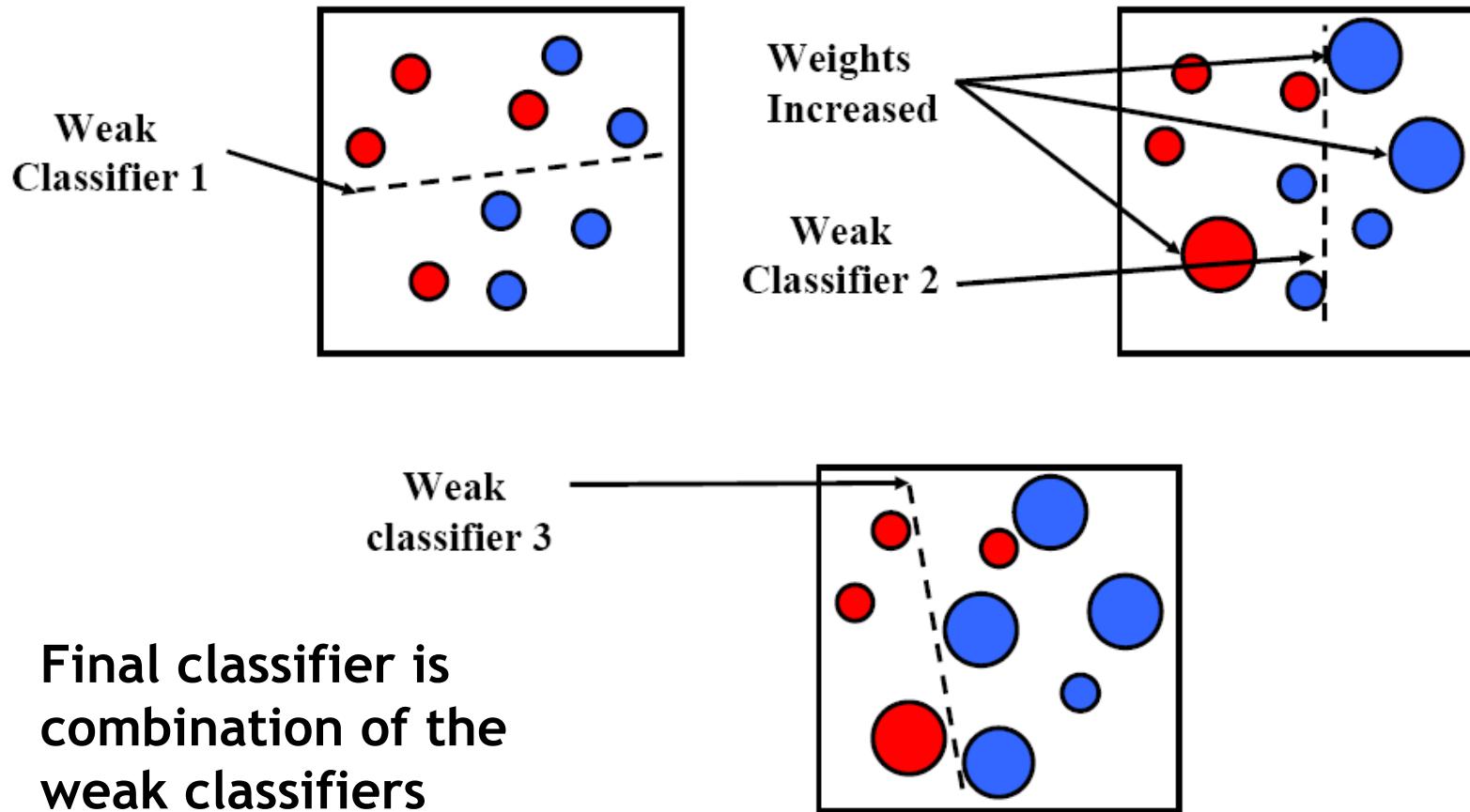
Vapnik, Schölkopf 1995,
Papageorgiou, Poggio '01,
Dalal, Triggs 2005,
Vedaldi, Zisserman 2012

Randomized Forests



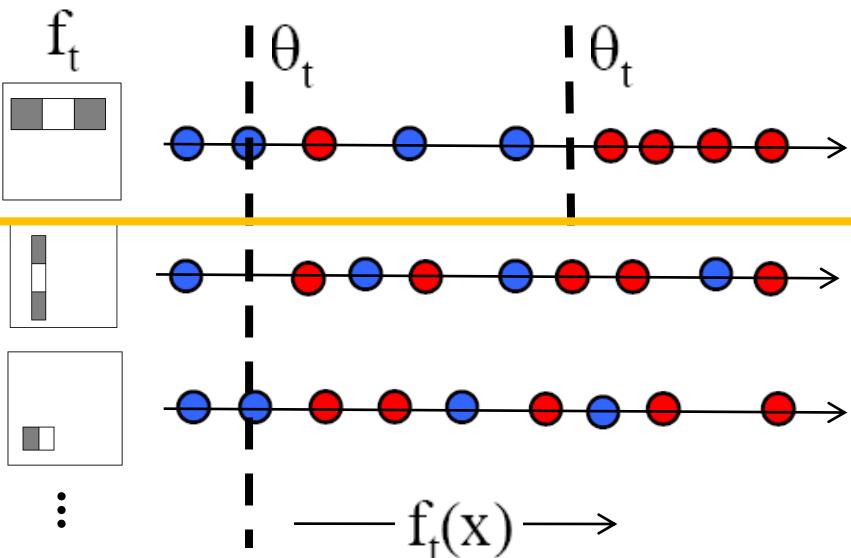
Amit, Geman 1997,
Breiman 2001,
Lepetit, Fua 2006,
Gall, Lempitsky 2009, ...

Recap: AdaBoost



Recap: AdaBoost Feature+Classifier Selection

- Want to select the single rectangle feature and threshold that best separates **positive** (faces) and **negative** (non-faces) training examples, in terms of **weighted** error.



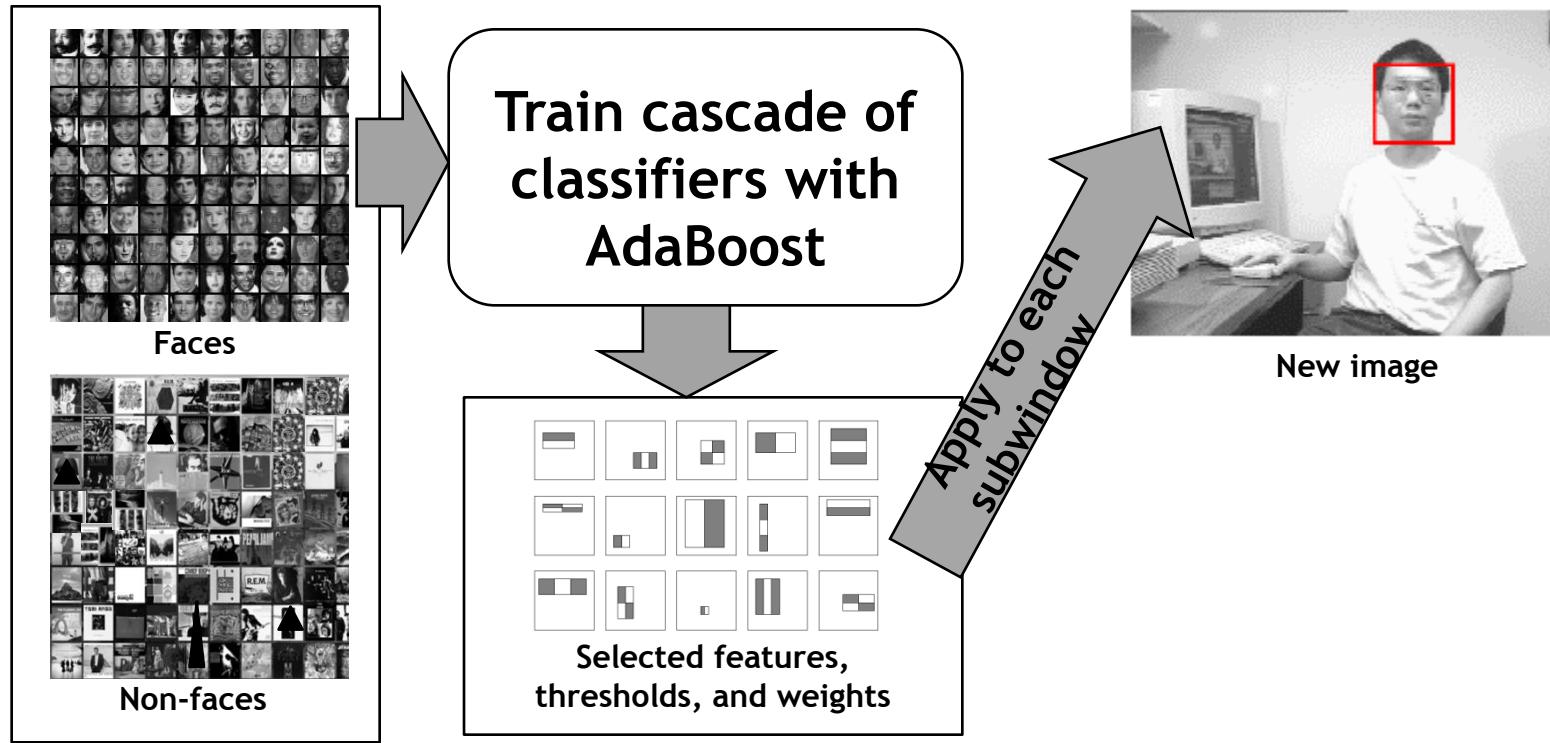
Outputs of a possible rectangle feature on faces and non-faces.

Resulting weak classifier:


$$h_t(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } f_t(x) > \theta_t \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

For next round, reweight the examples according to errors, choose another filter/threshold combo.

Recap: Viola-Jones Face Detector



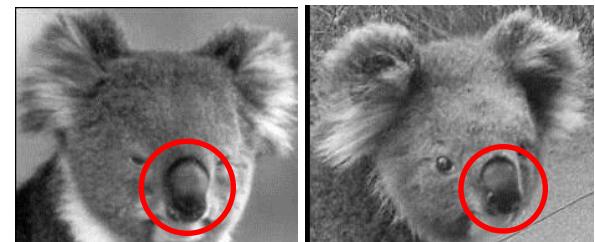
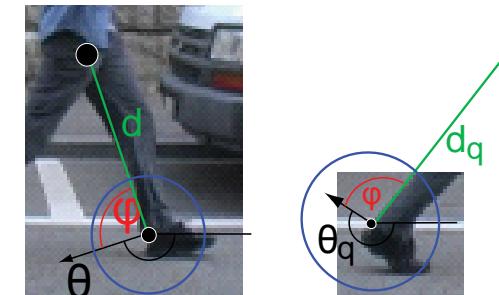
- Train with 5K positives, 350M negatives
- Real-time detector using 38 layer cascade
- 6061 features in final layer
- [Implementation available in OpenCV:
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/opencvlibrary/>]

Topics of This Lecture

- **Local Invariant Features**
 - Motivation
 - Requirements, Invariances
- **Keypoint Localization**
 - Harris detector
 - Hessian detector
- **Scale Invariant Region Selection**
 - Automatic scale selection
 - Laplacian-of-Gaussian detector
 - Difference-of-Gaussian detector
 - Combinations
- **Local Descriptors**
 - Orientation normalization
 - SIFT

Motivation

- Global representations have major limitations
- Instead, describe and match only local regions
- Increased robustness to
 - Occlusions
 - Articulation
 - Intra-category variations



Application: Image Matching



by [Diva Sian](#)



by [swashford](#)

Harder Case

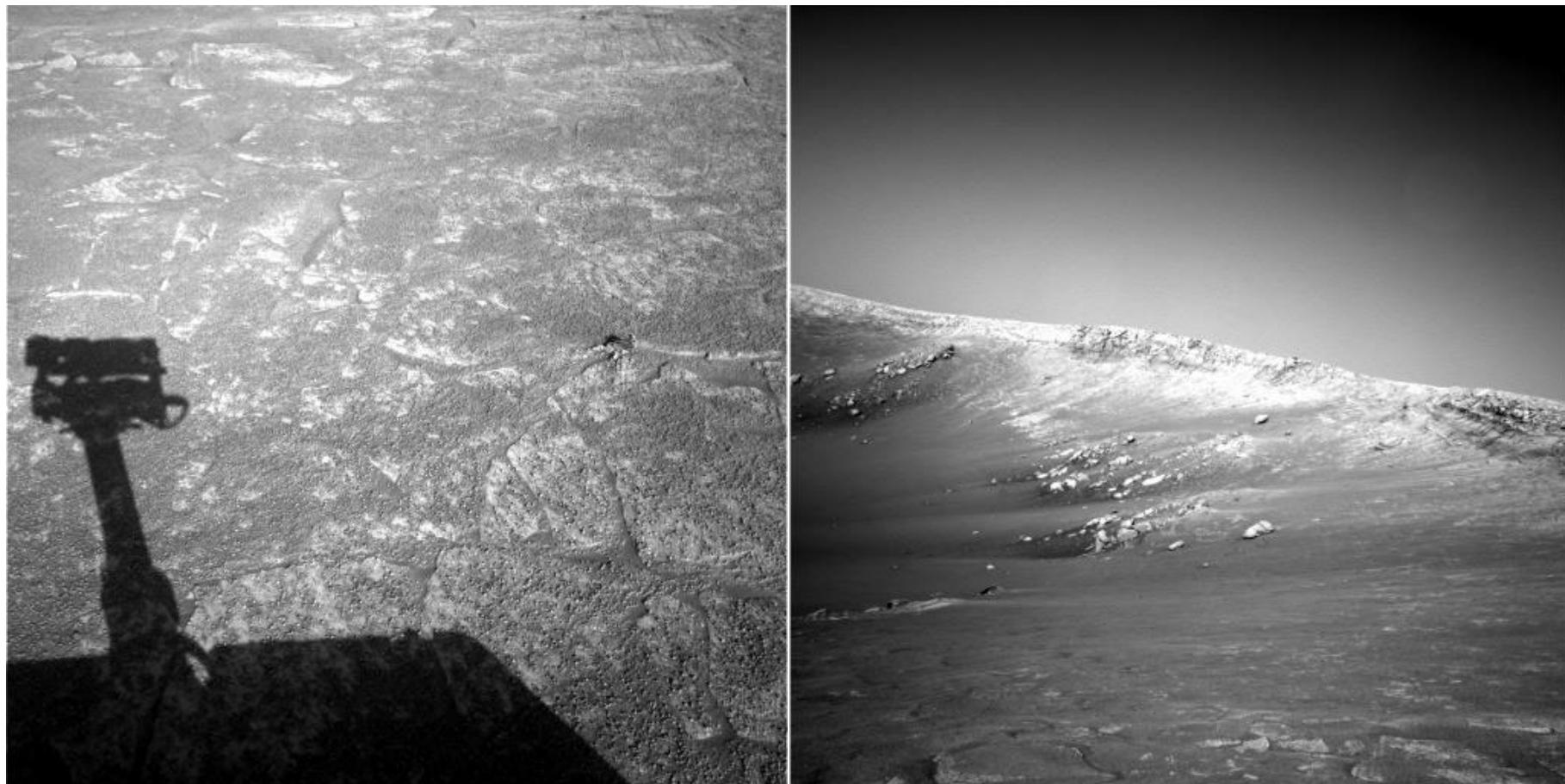


by Diva Sian



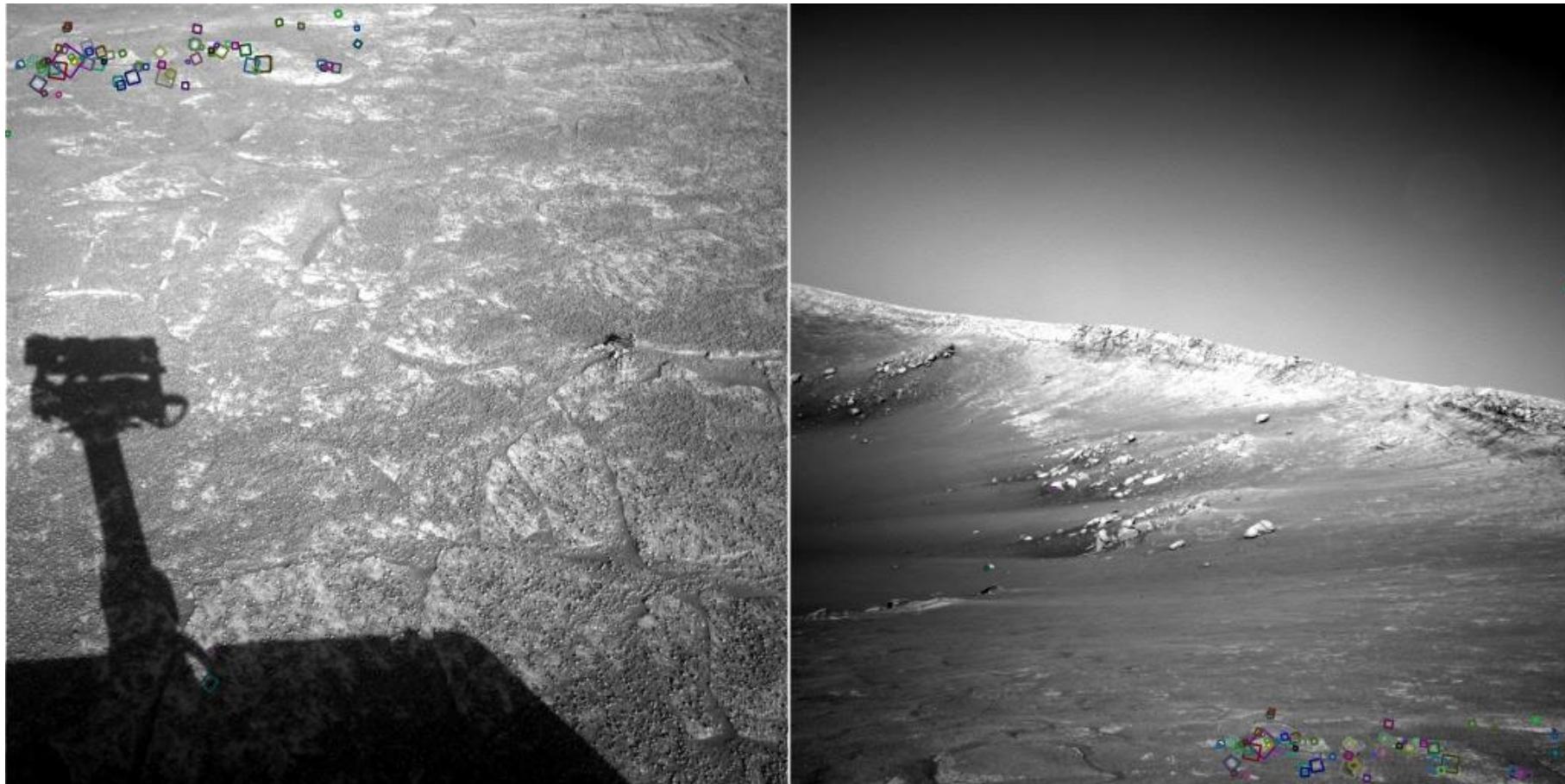
by scgbt

Harder Still?



NASA Mars Rover images

Answer Below (Look for tiny colored squares)



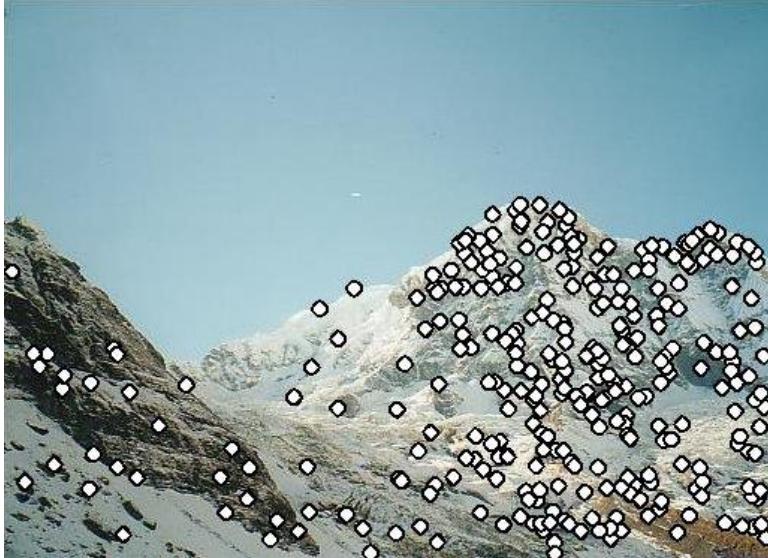
NASA Mars Rover images
with SIFT feature matches
(Figure by Noah Snavely)

B. Leibe

Application: Image Stitching

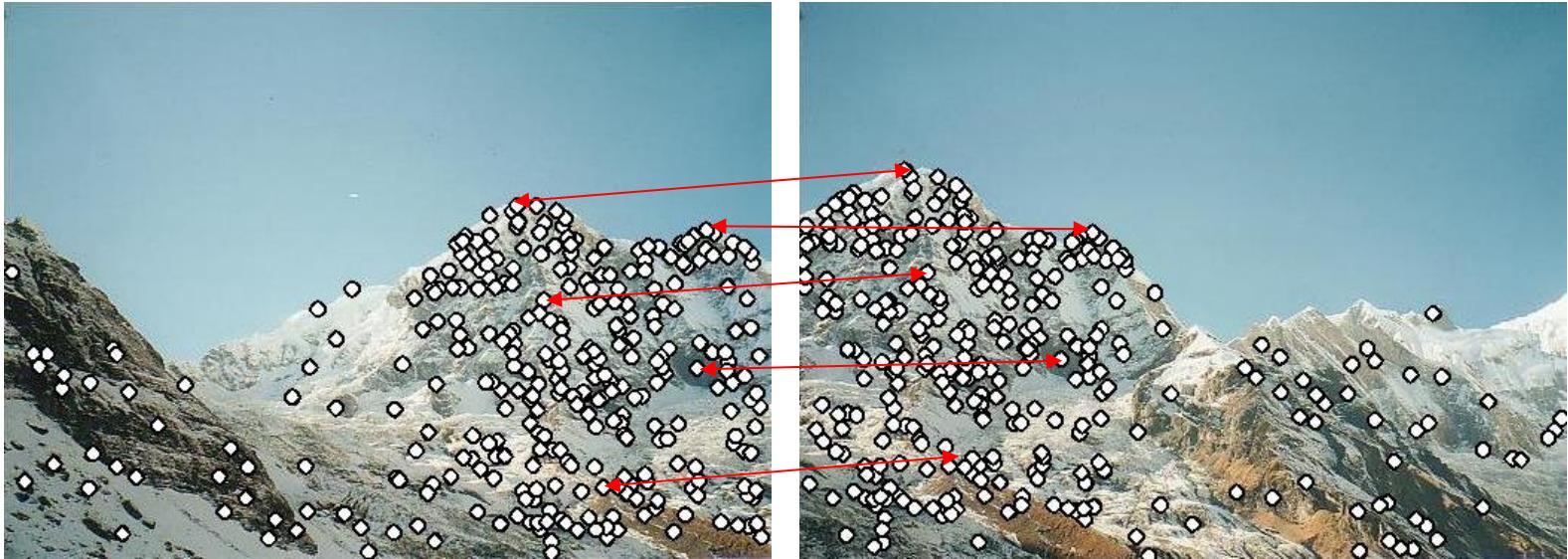


Application: Image Stitching



- **Procedure:**
 - Detect feature points in both images

Application: Image Stitching



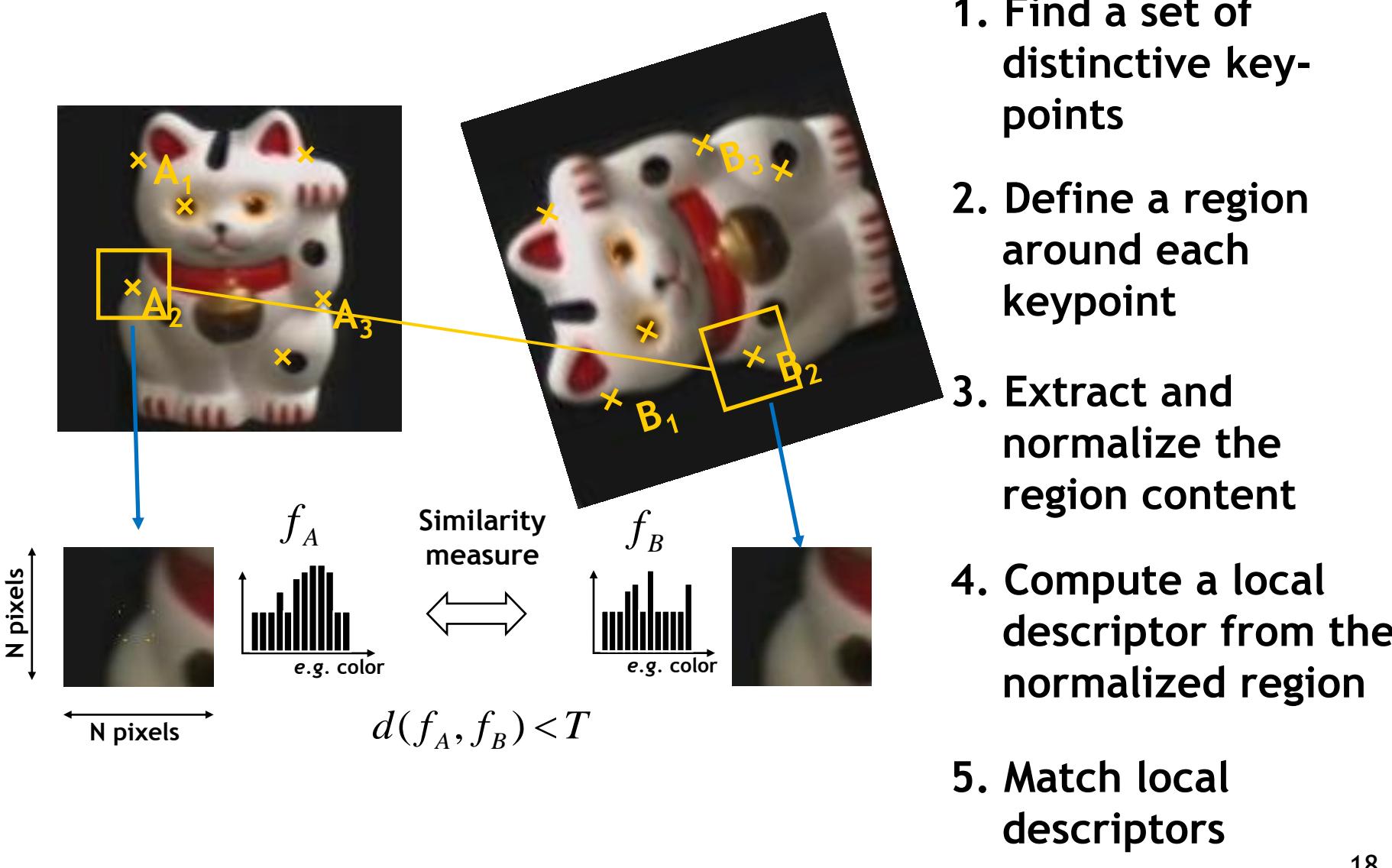
- **Procedure:**
 - Detect feature points in both images
 - Find corresponding pairs

Application: Image Stitching



- **Procedure:**
 - Detect feature points in both images
 - Find corresponding pairs
 - Use these pairs to align the images

General Approach



Common Requirements

- Problem 1:
 - Detect the same point *independently* in both images

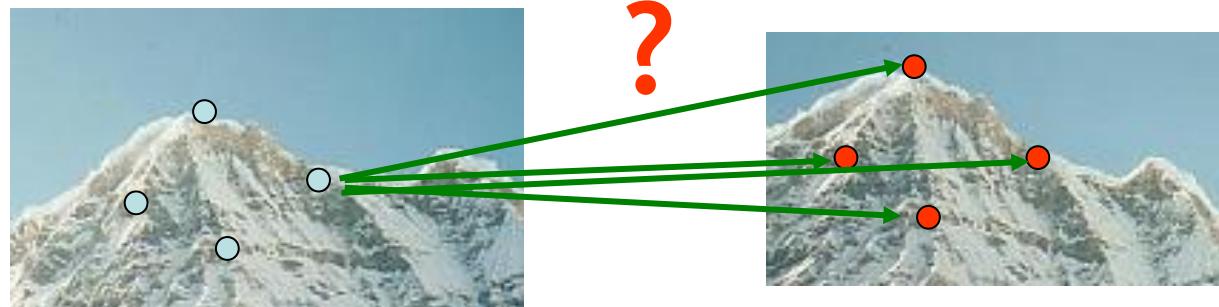


No chance to match!

We need a repeatable detector!

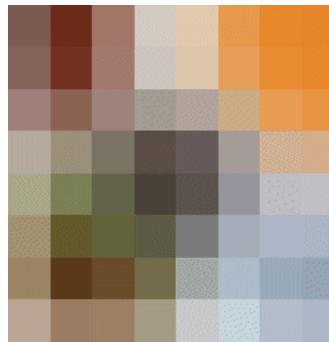
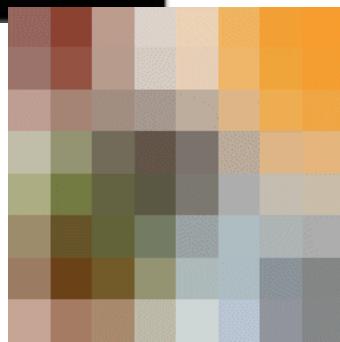
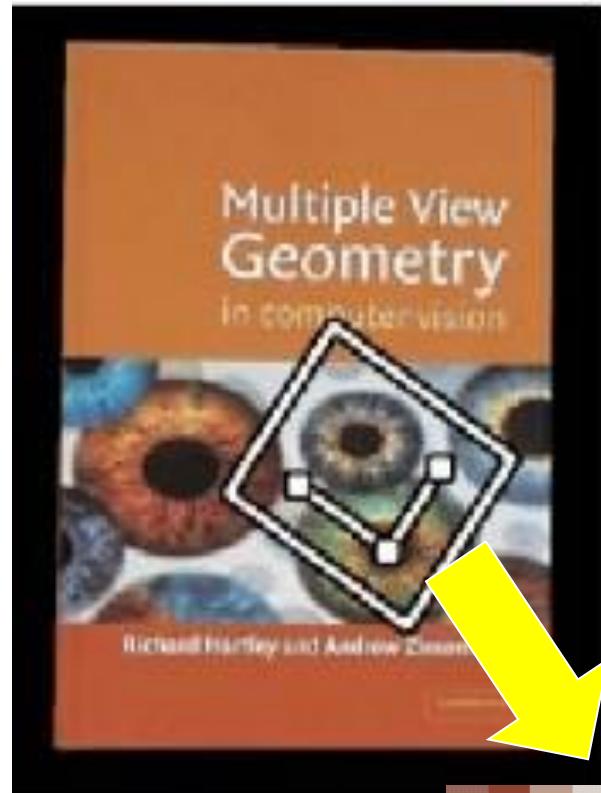
Common Requirements

- Problem 1:
 - Detect the same point *independently* in both images
- Problem 2:
 - For each point correctly recognize the corresponding one



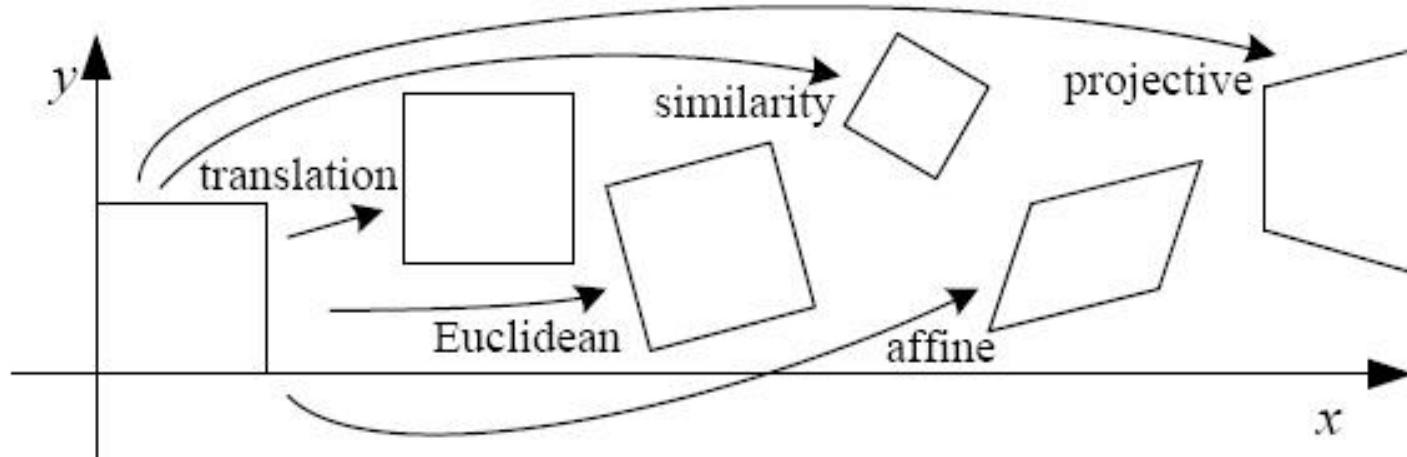
We need a reliable and distinctive descriptor!

Invariance: Geometric Transformations



B. Leibe

Levels of Geometric Invariance



Requirements

- Region extraction needs to be **repeatable and accurate**
 - **Invariant** to translation, rotation, scale changes
 - **Robust** or **covariant** to out-of-plane (\approx affine) transformations
 - **Robust** to lighting variations, noise, blur, quantization
- **Locality**: Features are local, therefore robust to occlusion and clutter.
- **Quantity**: We need a sufficient number of regions to cover the object.
- **Distinctiveness**: The regions should contain “interesting” structure.
- **Efficiency**: Close to real-time performance.

Many Existing Detectors Available

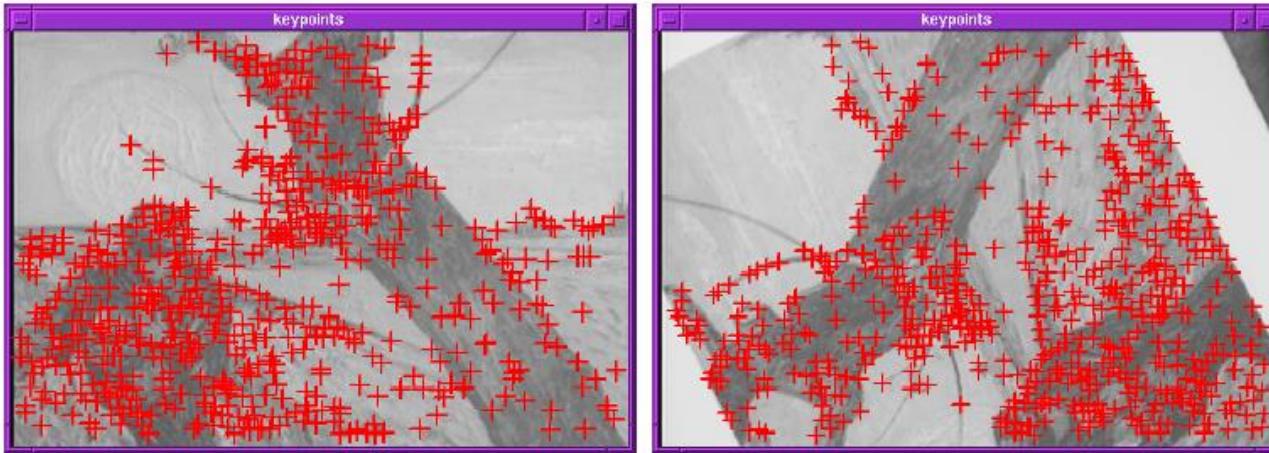
- Hessian & Harris [Beaudet '78], [Harris '88]
- Laplacian, DoG [Lindeberg '98], [Lowe '99]
- Harris-/Hessian-Laplace [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01]
- Harris-/Hessian-Affine [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '04]
- EBR and IBR [Tuytelaars & Van Gool '04]
- MSER [Matas '02]
- Salient Regions [Kadir & Brady '01]
- Others...
- *Those detectors have become a basic building block for many recent applications in Computer Vision.*

Keypoint Localization



- Goals:
 - Repeatable detection
 - Precise localization
 - Interesting content
- ⇒ *Look for two-dimensional signal changes*

Finding Corners

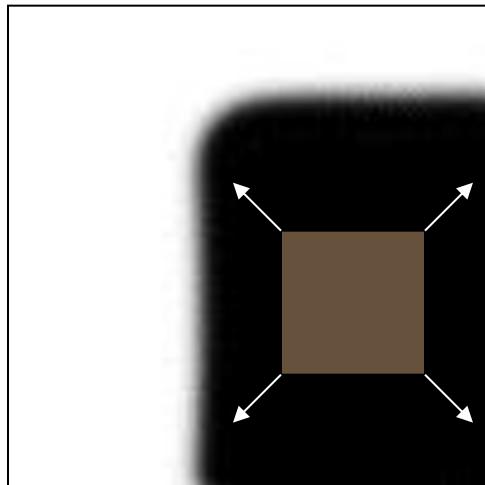


- Key property:
 - In the region around a corner, image gradient has two or more dominant directions
- Corners are *repeatable* and *distinctive*

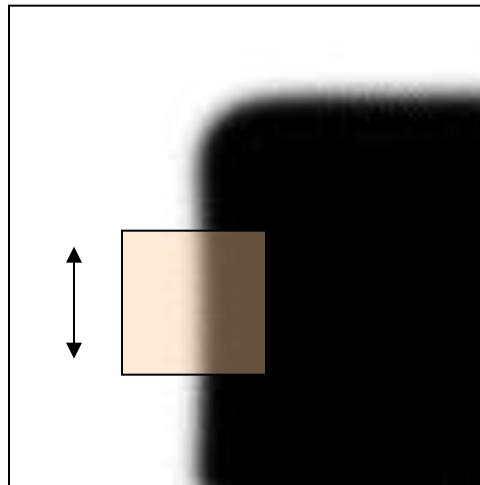
C.Harris and M.Stephens. "[A Combined Corner and Edge Detector.](#)"
Proceedings of the 4th Alvey Vision Conference, 1988.

Corners as Distinctive Interest Points

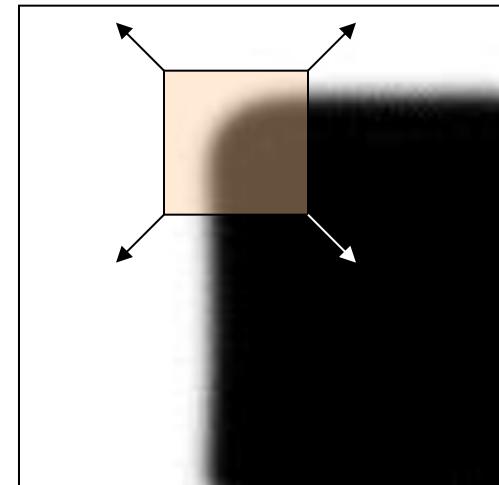
- Design criteria
 - We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window (*locality*)
 - Shifting the window in *any direction* should give a *large change* in intensity (*good localization*)



“flat” region:
no change in all
directions



“edge”:
no change along
the edge direction

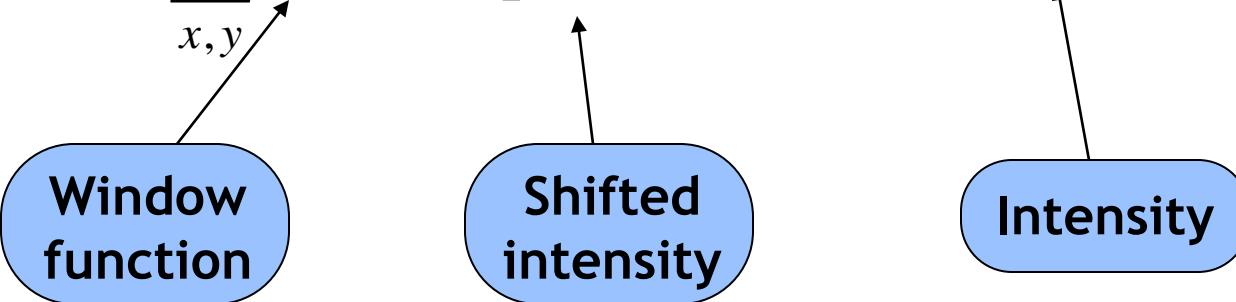


“corner”:
significant change
in all directions

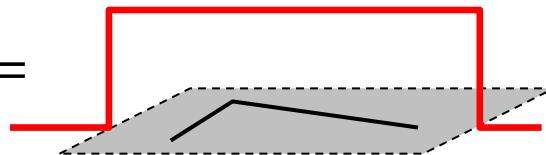
Harris Detector Formulation

- Change of intensity for the shift $[u, v]$:

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

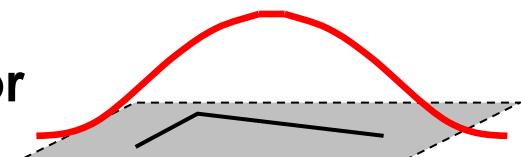


Window function $w(x, y) =$



1 in window, 0 outside

or



Gaussian

Harris Detector Formulation

- This measure of change can be approximated by:

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

where M is a 2×2 matrix computed from image derivatives:

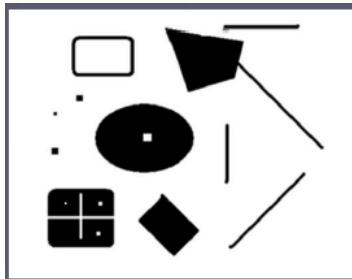
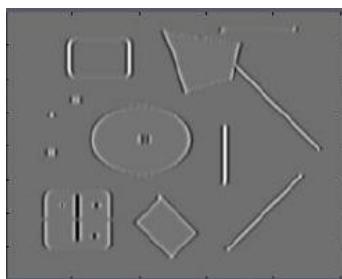
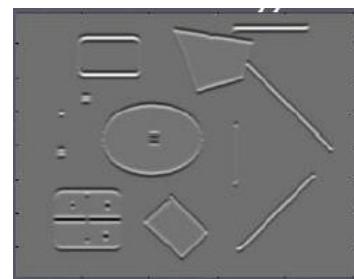
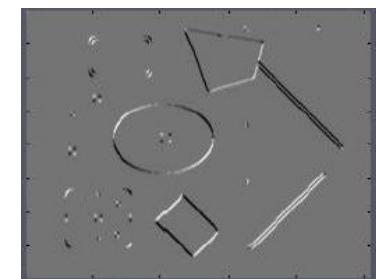
$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x, y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

↑
Sum over image region - the area we are checking for corner

 Gradient with respect to x , times gradient with respect to y

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix} [I_x \ I_y]$$

Harris Detector Formulation

Image I  I_x  I_y  $I_x I_y$

where M is a 2×2 matrix computed from image derivatives:

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

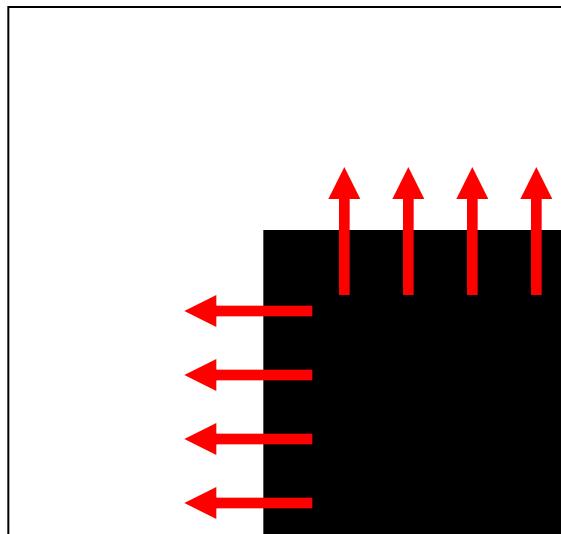
↑
Sum over image region - the area we are checking for corner

Gradient with respect to x , times gradient with respect to y

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix} [I_x \ I_y]$$

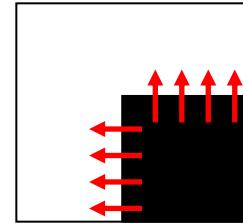
What Does This Matrix Reveal?

- First, let's consider an axis-aligned corner:



What Does This Matrix Reveal?

- First, let's consider an axis-aligned corner:



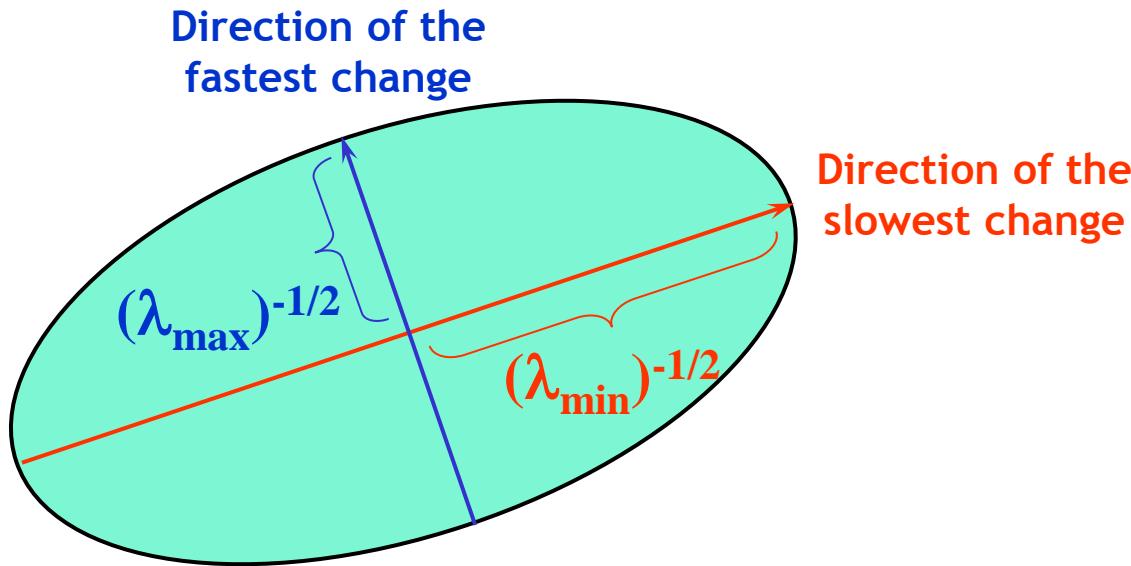
$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- This means:
 - Dominant gradient directions align with x or y axis
 - If either λ is close to 0, then this is not a corner, so look for locations where both are large.
- What if we have a corner that is not aligned with the image axes?

General Case

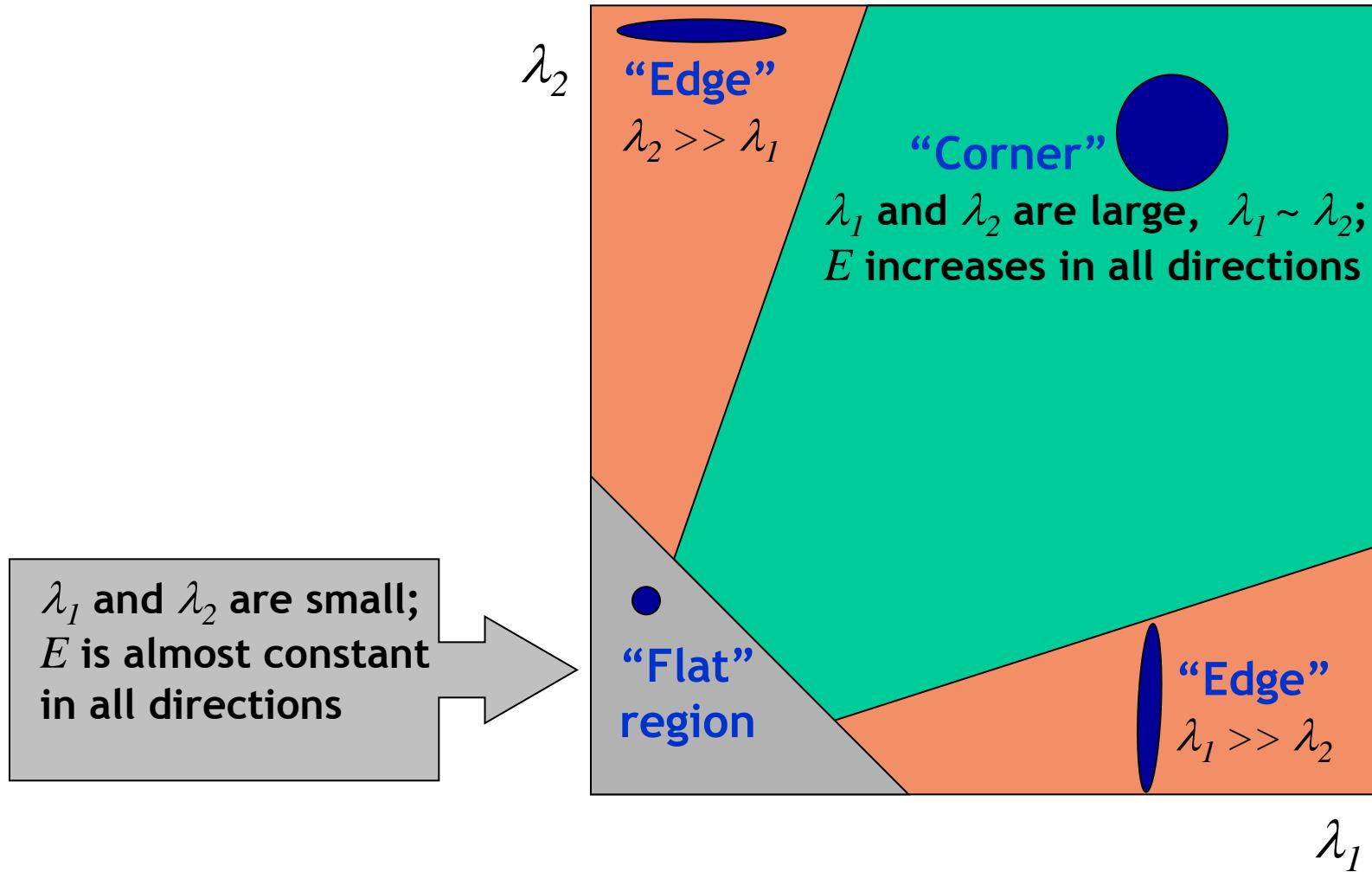
- Since M is symmetric, we have
$$M = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

(Eigenvalue decomposition)
- We can visualize M as an ellipse with axis lengths determined by the eigenvalues and orientation determined by R



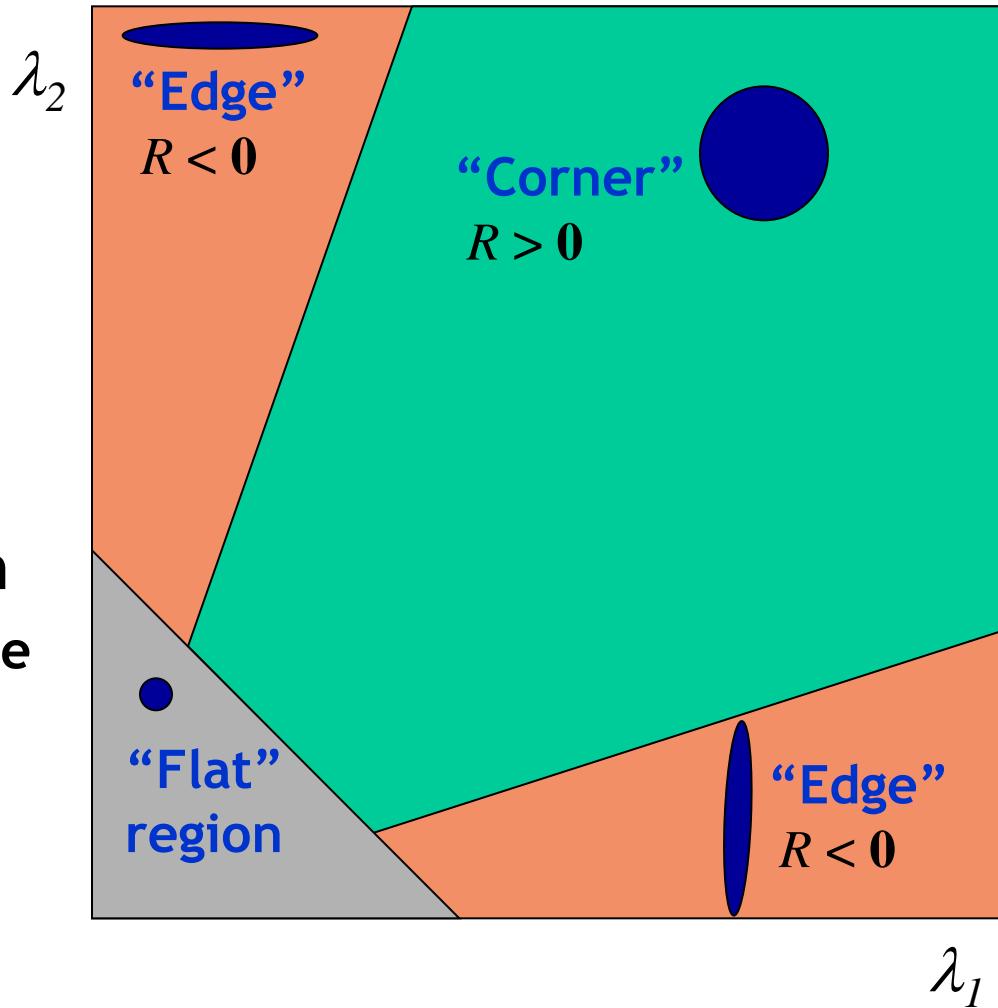
Interpreting the Eigenvalues

- Classification of image points using eigenvalues of M :



Corner Response Function

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



- **Fast approximation**
 - Avoid computing the eigenvalues
 - α : constant (0.04 to 0.06)

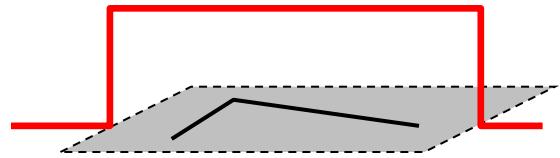
Window Function $w(x,y)$

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

- Option 1: uniform window

- Sum over square window

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



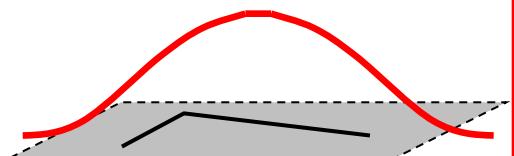
1 in window, 0 outside

- Problem: not rotation invariant

- Option 2: Smooth with Gaussian

- Gaussian already performs weighted sum

$$M = g(\sigma) * \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Gaussian

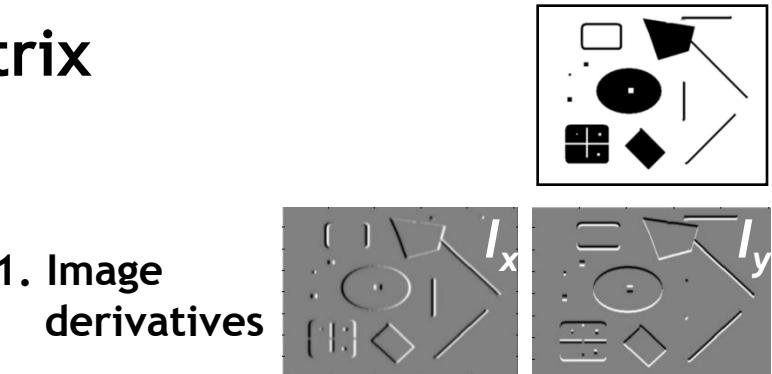
- Result is rotation invariant

Summary: Harris Detector [Harris88]

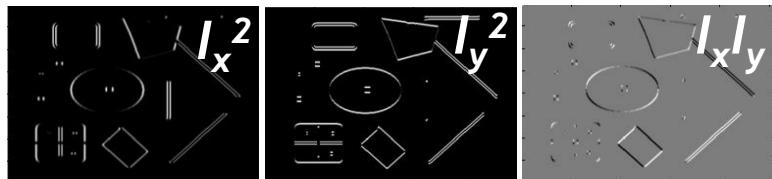
- Compute second moment matrix (autocorrelation matrix)

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

1. Image derivatives



2. Square of derivatives



3. Gaussian filter $g(\sigma_I)$



4. Cornerness function - two strong eigenvalues

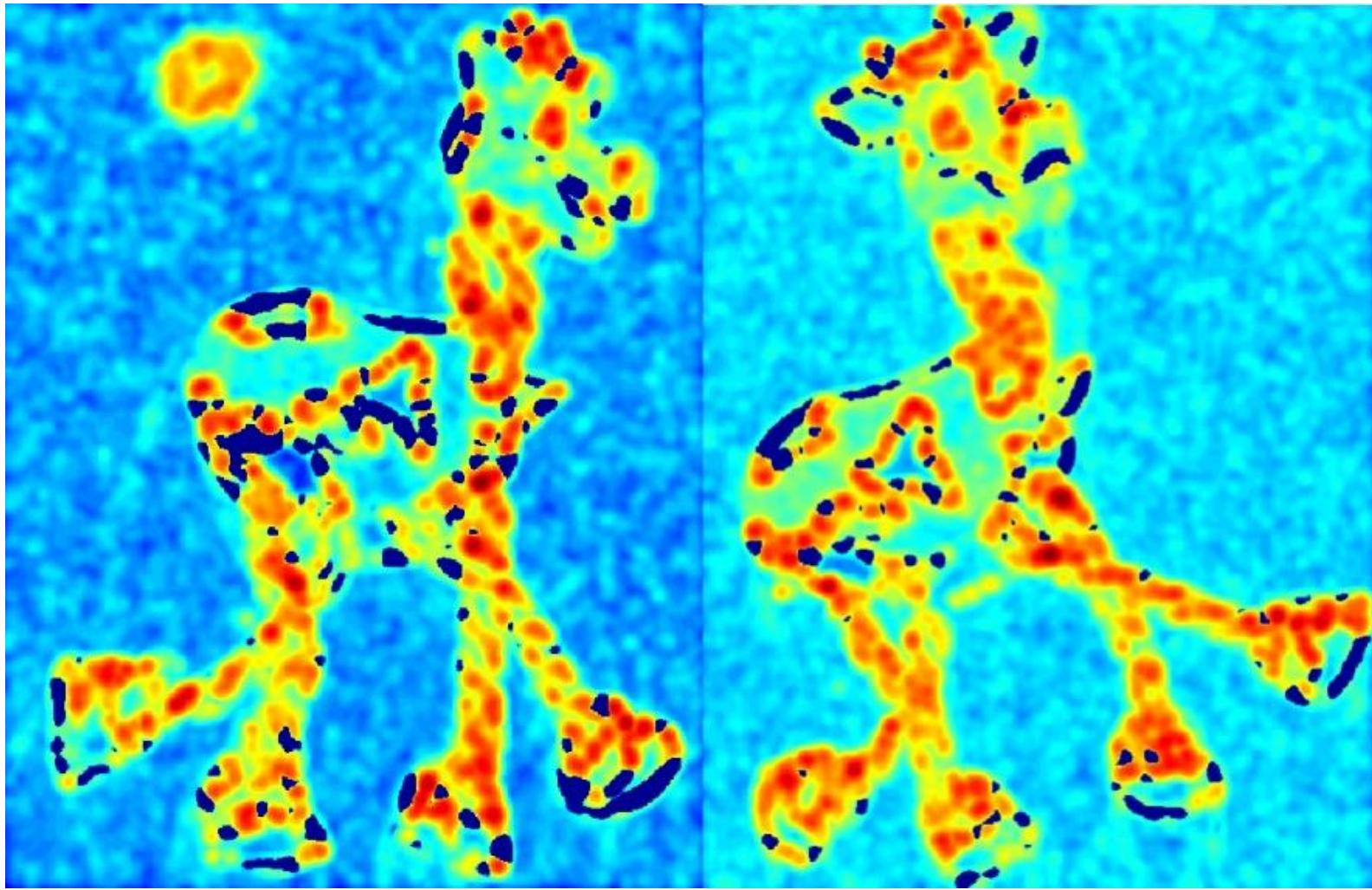
$$\begin{aligned} R &= \det[M(\sigma_I, \sigma_D)] - \alpha[\text{trace}(M(\sigma_I, \sigma_D))]^2 \\ &= g(I_x^2)g(I_y^2) - [g(I_x I_y)]^2 - \alpha[g(I_x^2) + g(I_y^2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

5. Perform non-maximum suppression

Harris Detector: Workflow

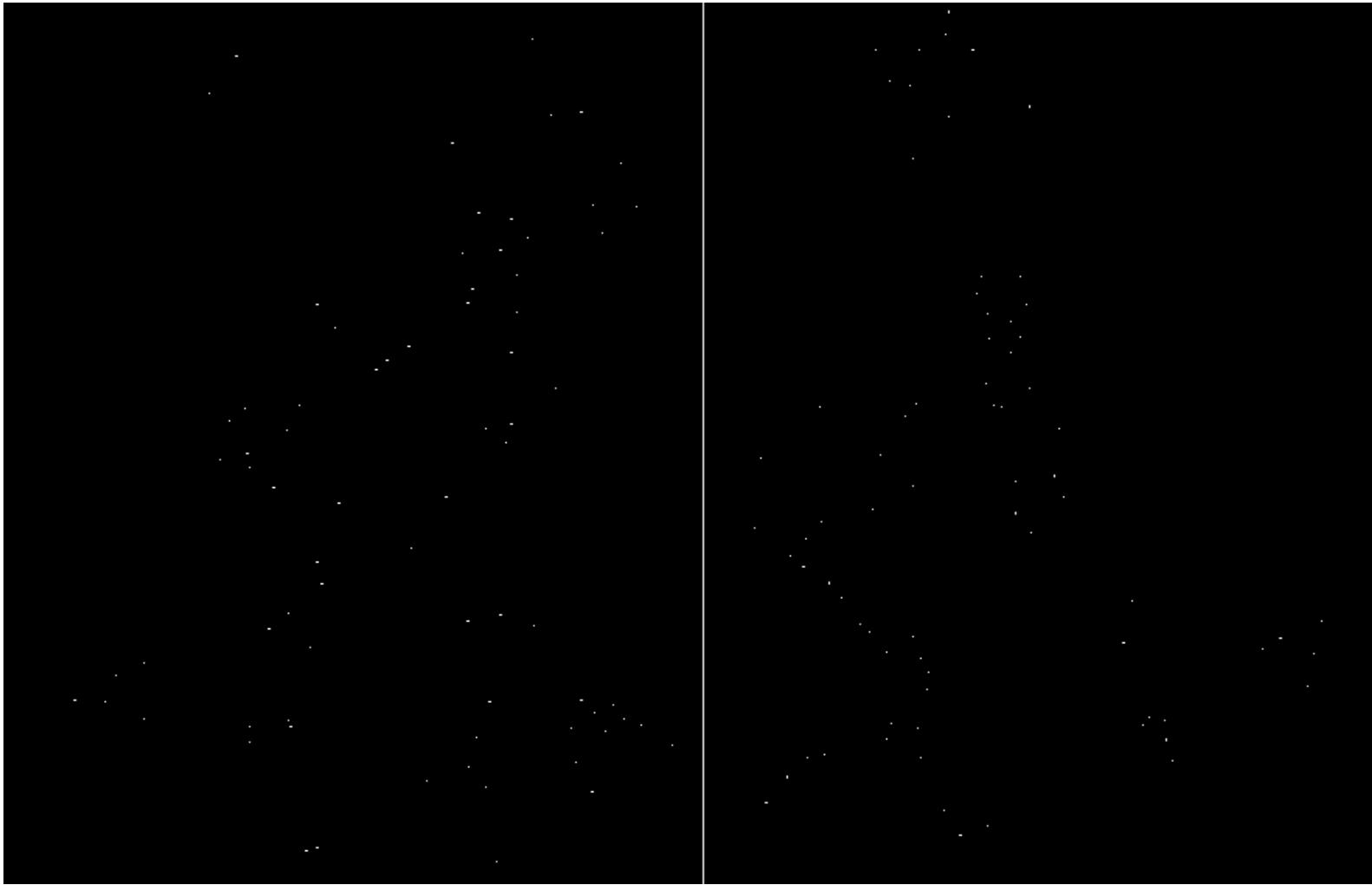


Harris Detector: Workflow



- Compute corner responses R

Harris Detector: Workflow



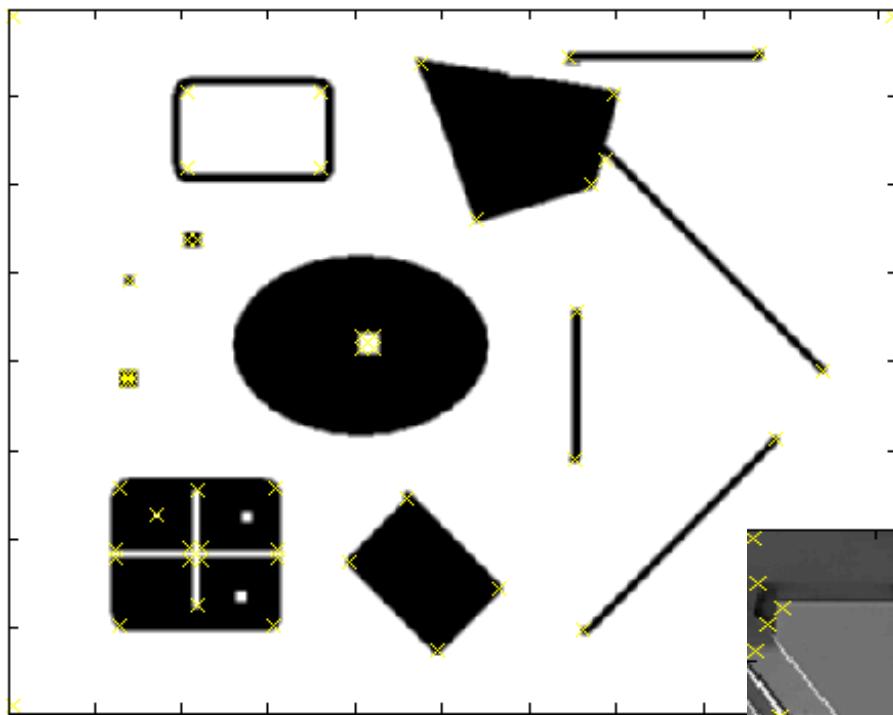
- Take only the local maxima of R , where $R > \text{threshold}$.

Harris Detector: Workflow

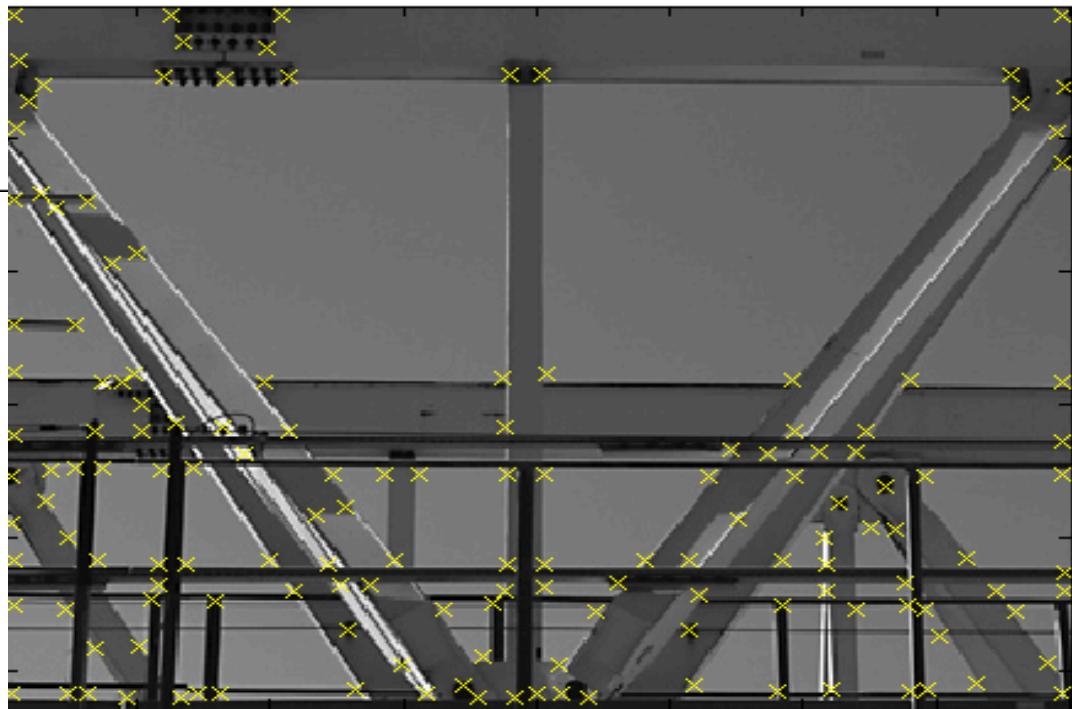


- Resulting Harris points

Harris Detector - Responses [Harris88]



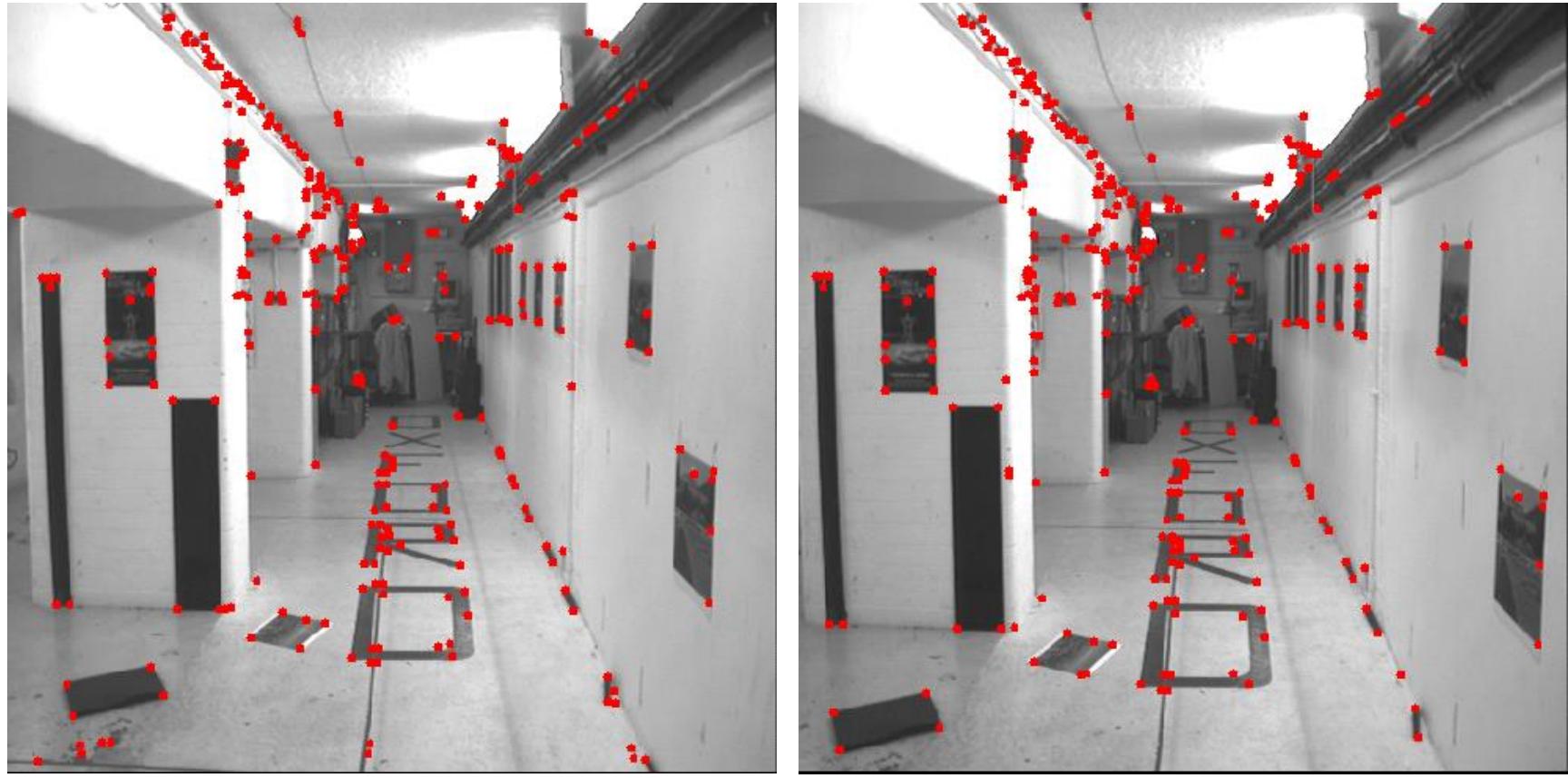
Effect: A very precise corner detector.



Harris Detector - Responses [Harris88]



Harris Detector - Responses [Harris88]

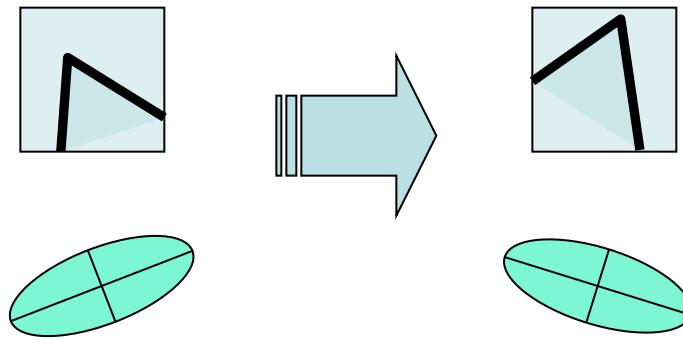


- Results are well suited for finding stereo correspondences



Harris Detector: Properties

- Rotation invariance?

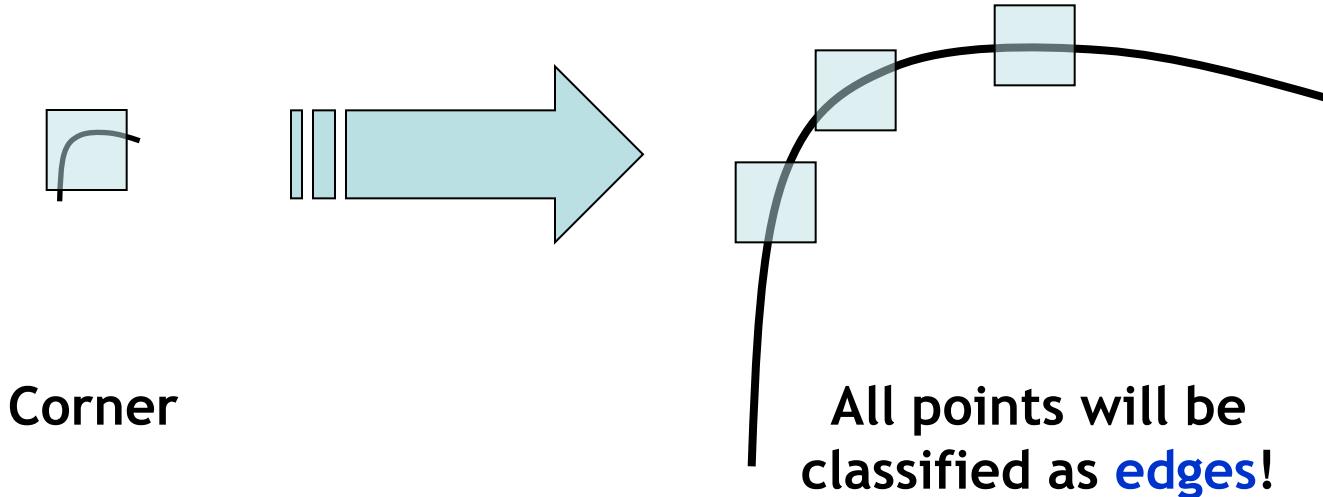


Ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e.
eigenvalues) remains the same

Corner response R is invariant to image rotation

Harris Detector: Properties

- Rotation invariance
- Scale invariance?



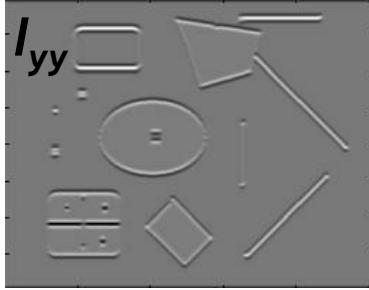
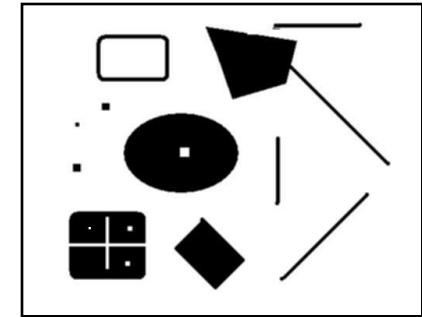
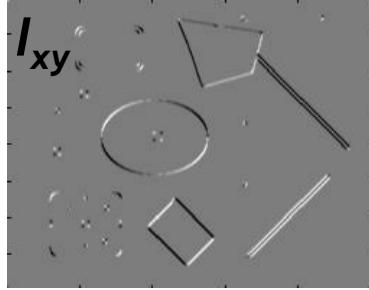
Not invariant to image scale!

Hessian Detector [Beaudet78]

- Hessian determinant

$$\text{Hessian}(I) = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} \\ I_{xy} & I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: these are 2nd derivatives!

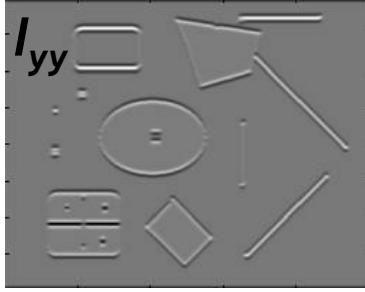
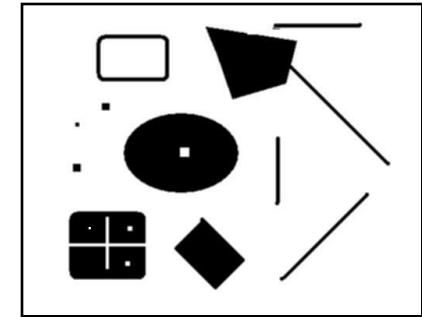
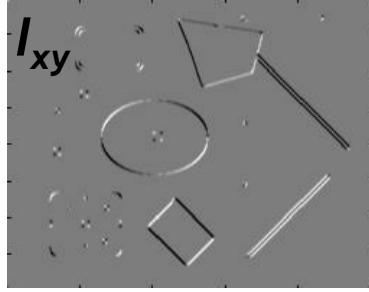


Intuition: Search for strong derivatives in two orthogonal directions

Hessian Detector [Beaudet78]

- Hessian determinant

$$\text{Hessian}(I) = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} \\ I_{xy} & I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

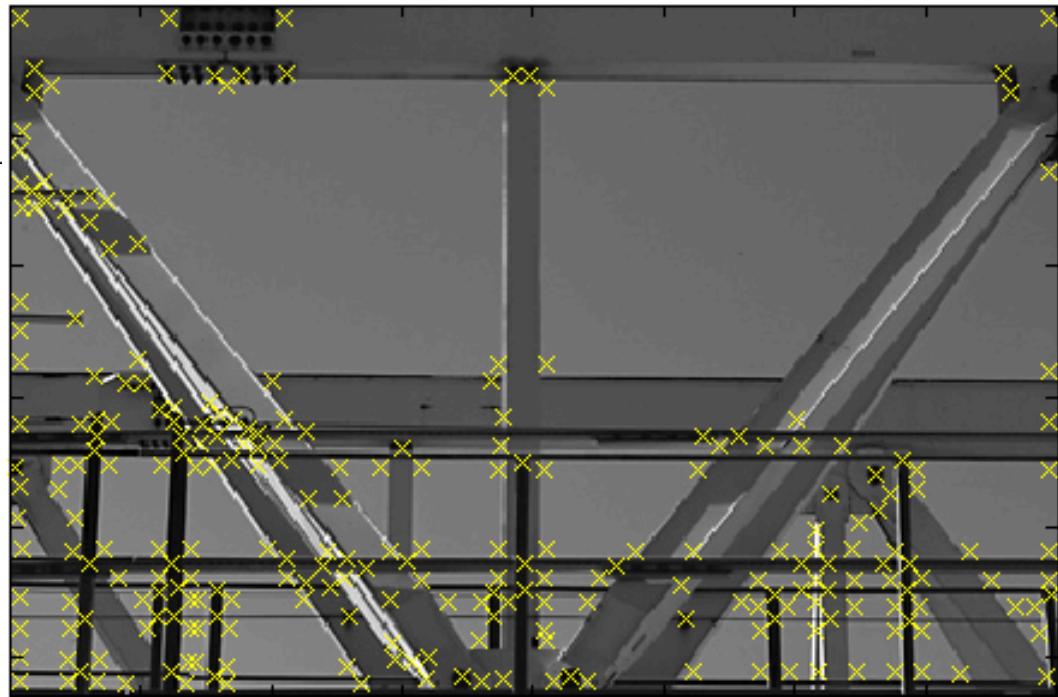
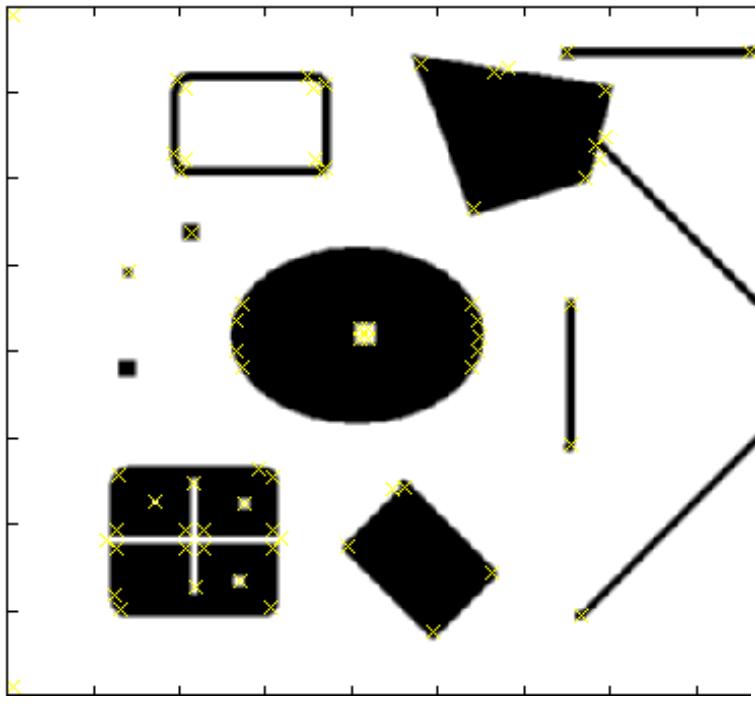


$$\det(\text{Hessian}(I)) = I_{xx}I_{yy} - (I_{xy})^2$$

In Matlab:

$$I_{xx}.*I_{yy} - (I_{xy})^2$$

Hessian Detector - Responses [Beaudet78]



Effect: Responses mainly on corners and strongly textured areas.

Hessian Detector - Responses [Beaudet78]



Topics of This Lecture

- Local Invariant Features
 - Motivation
 - Requirements, Invariances
- Keypoint Localization
 - Harris detector
 - Hessian detector
- Scale Invariant Region Selection
 - Automatic scale selection
 - Laplacian-of-Gaussian detector
 - Difference-of-Gaussian detector
 - Combinations
- Local Descriptors
 - Orientation normalization
 - SIFT

From Points to Regions...

- The Harris and Hessian operators define interest points.

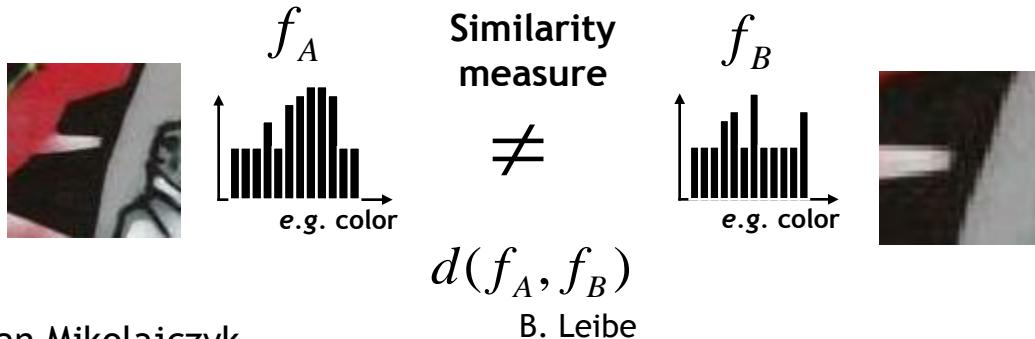
- Precise localization
 - High repeatability



- In order to compare those points, we need to compute a descriptor over a region.
 - How can we define such a region in a scale invariant manner?
- *I.e. how can we detect scale invariant interest regions?*

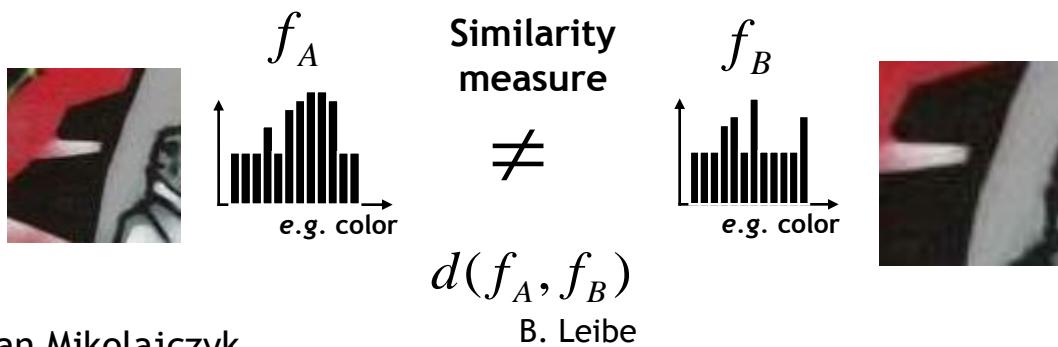
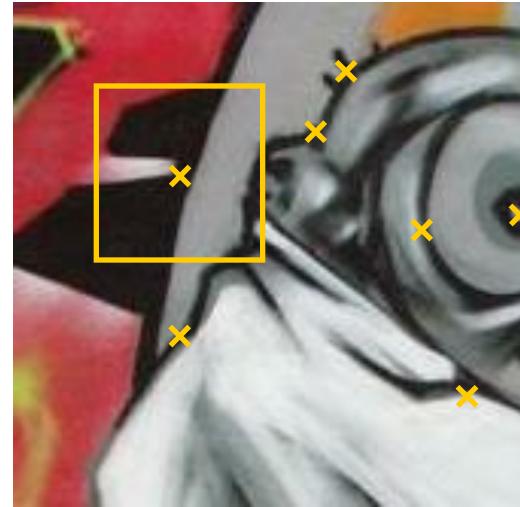
Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

- Multi-scale procedure
 - Compare descriptors while varying the patch size



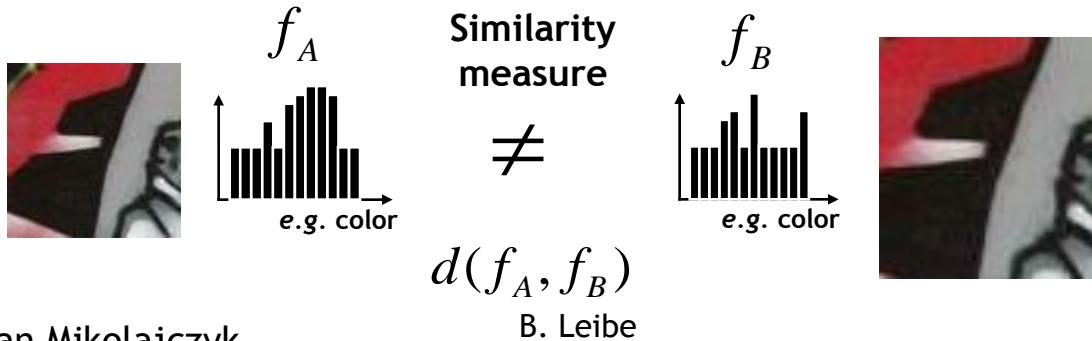
Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

- Multi-scale procedure
 - Compare descriptors while varying the patch size



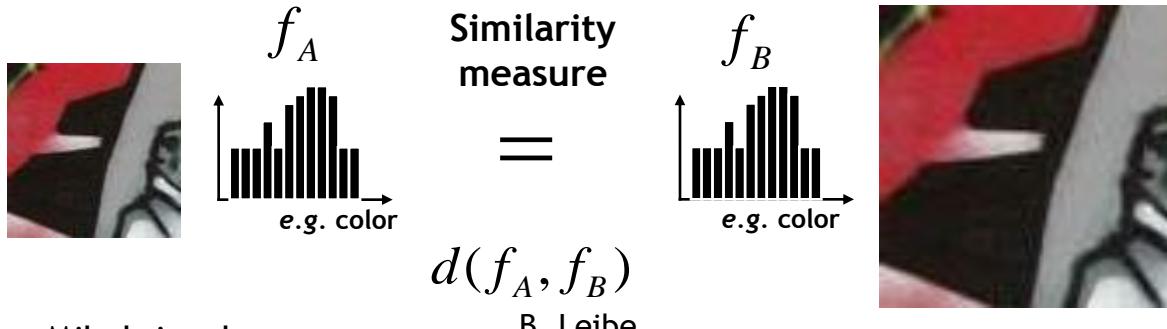
Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

- Multi-scale procedure
 - Compare descriptors while varying the patch size



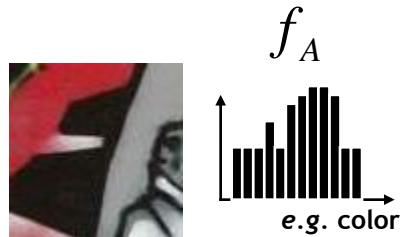
Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

- Multi-scale procedure
 - Compare descriptors while varying the patch size



Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

- Comparing descriptors while varying the patch size
 - Computationally inefficient
 - Inefficient but possible for matching
 - Prohibitive for retrieval in large databases
 - Prohibitive for recognition

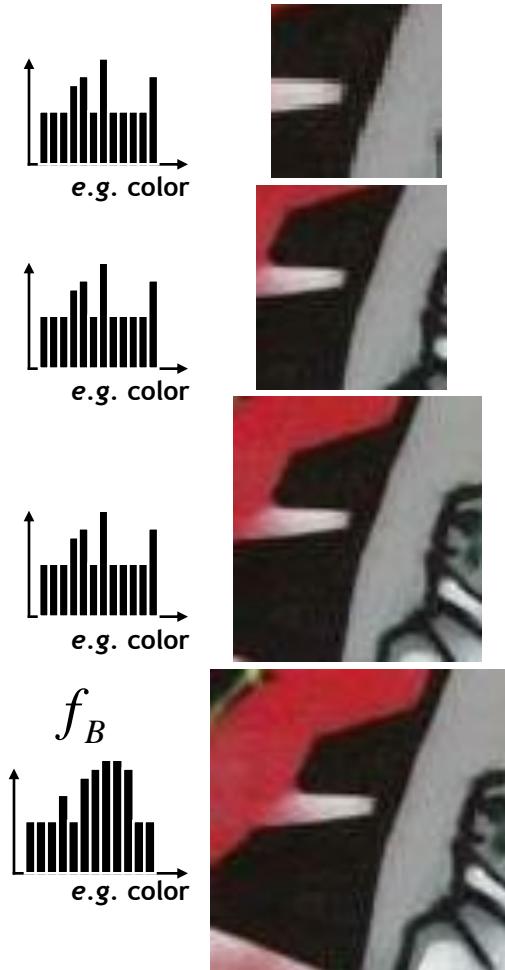


Similarity
measure

=

$$d(f_A, f_B)$$

B. Leibe



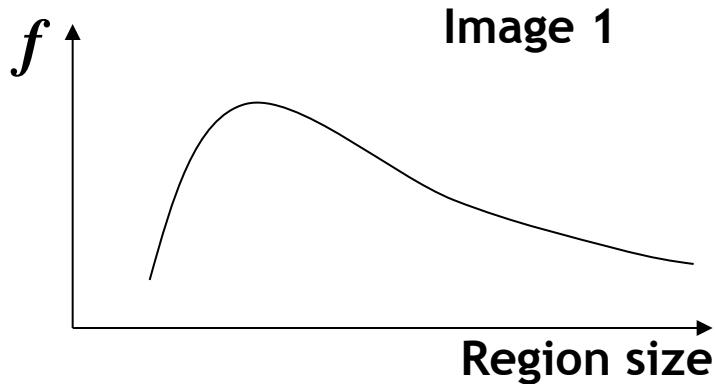
Automatic Scale Selection

- **Solution:**

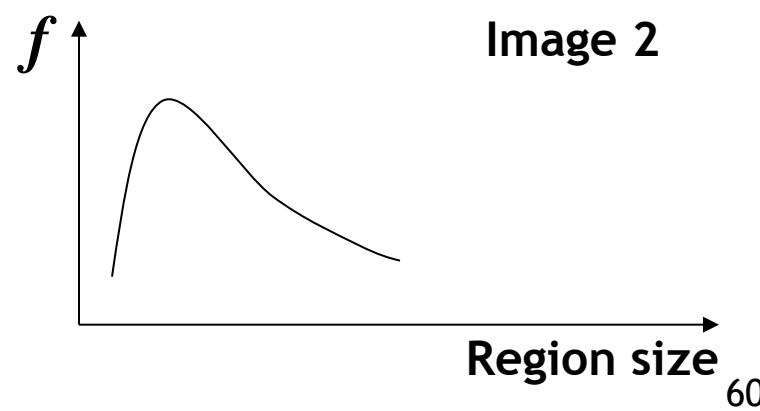
- Design a function on the region, which is “scale invariant”
(the same for corresponding regions, even if they are at different scales)

Example: average intensity. For corresponding regions (even of different sizes) it will be the same.

- For a point in one image, we can consider it as a function of region size (patch width)



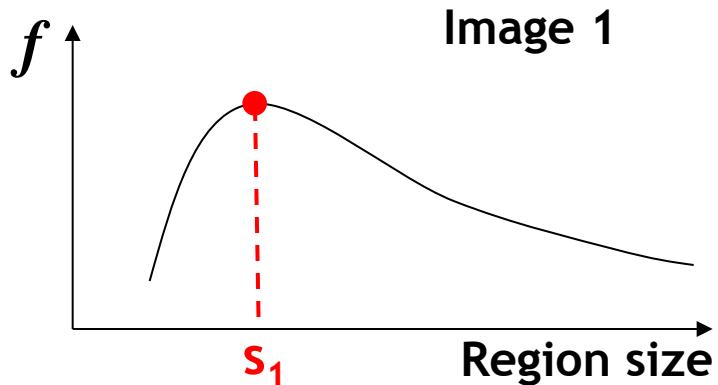
scale = $\frac{1}{2}$
➡



Automatic Scale Selection

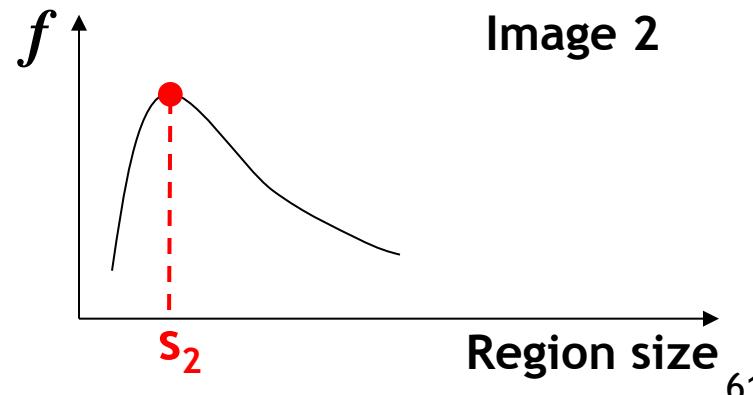
- Common approach:
 - Take a local maximum of this function.
 - Observation: region size for which the maximum is achieved should be *invariant* to image scale.

Important: this scale invariant region size is found in each image independently!



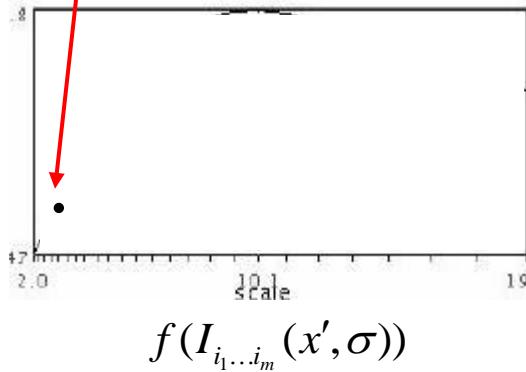
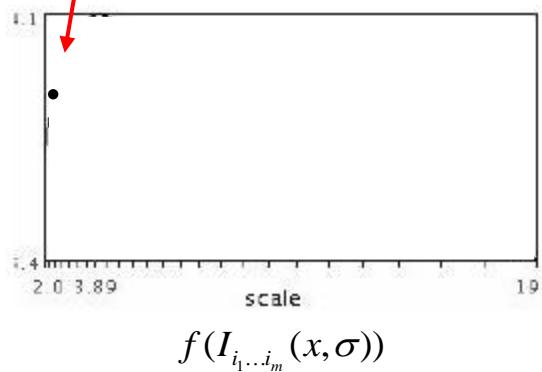
$$\text{scale} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$s_2 = \frac{1}{2} s_1$$



Automatic Scale Selection

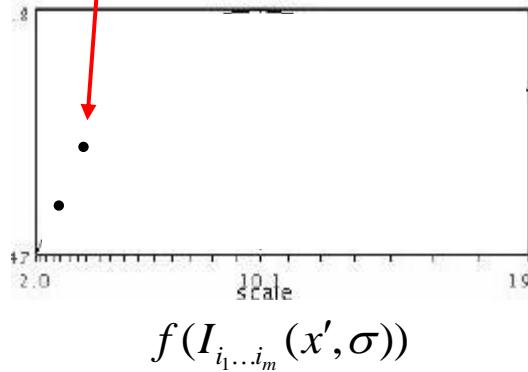
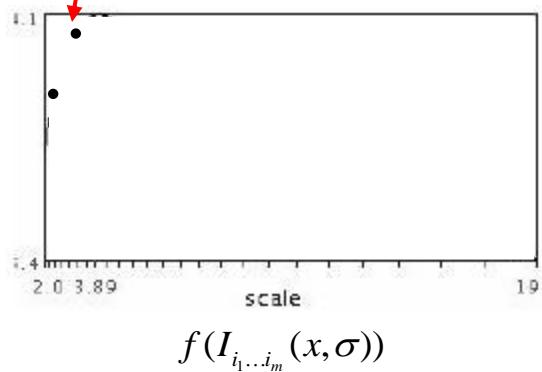
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



B. Leibe

Automatic Scale Selection

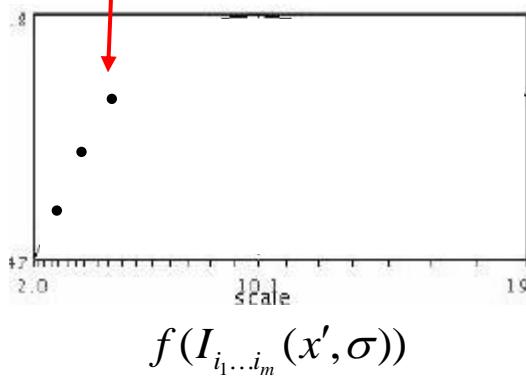
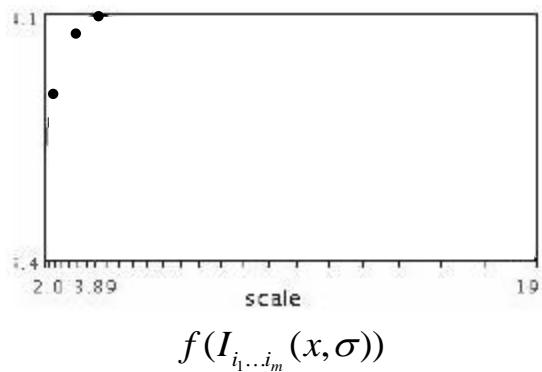
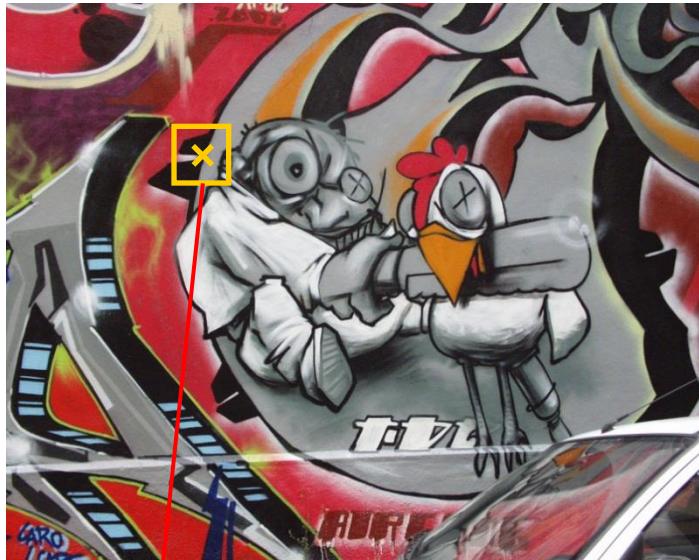
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



B. Leibe

Automatic Scale Selection

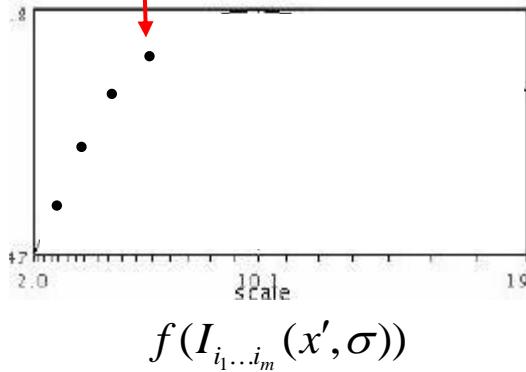
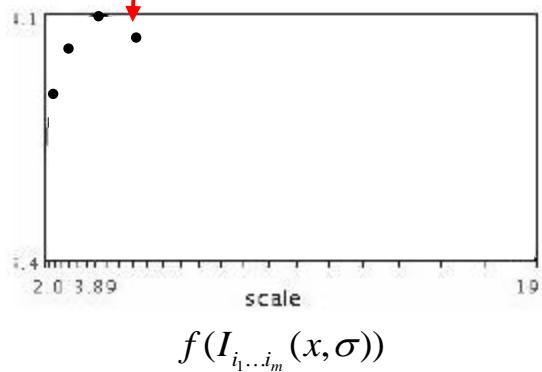
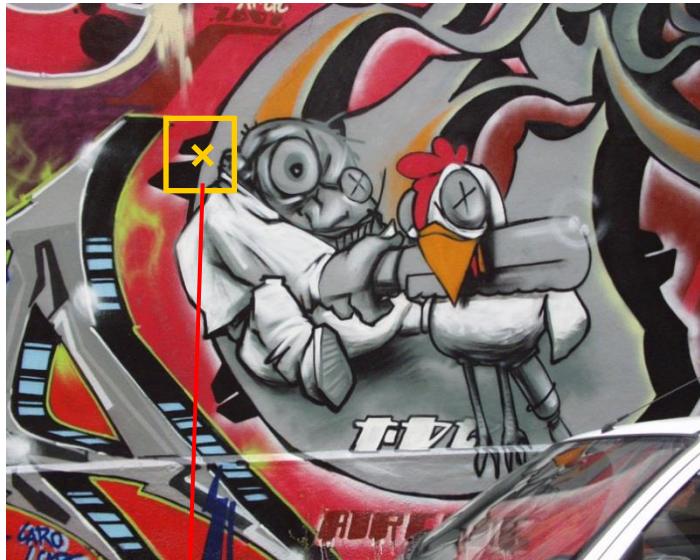
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



B. Leibe

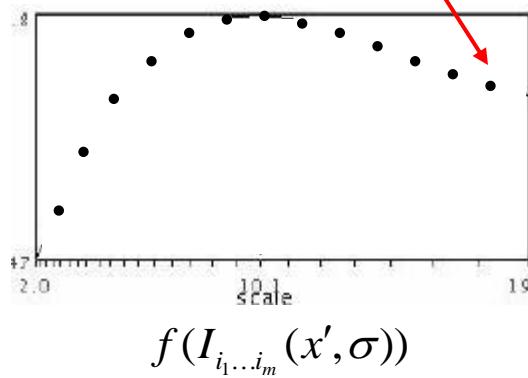
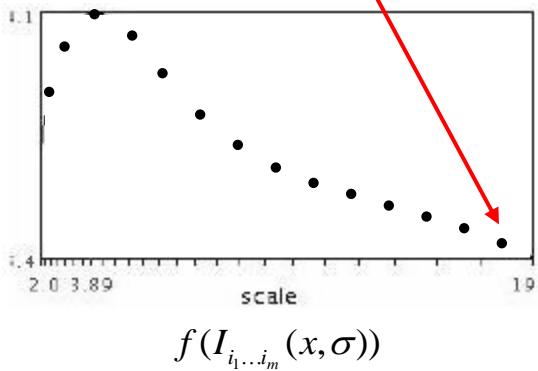
Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



Automatic Scale Selection

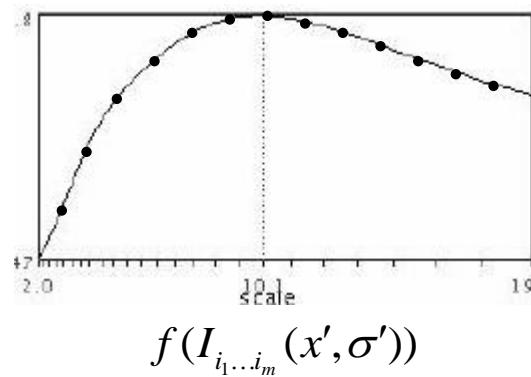
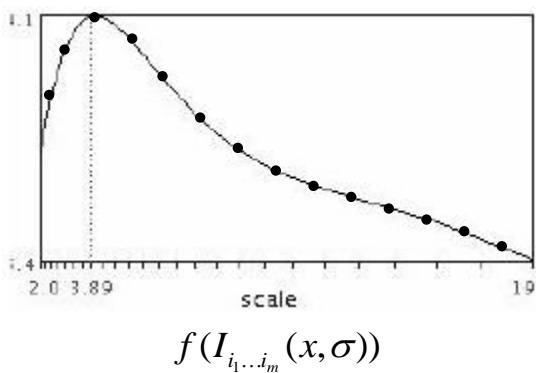
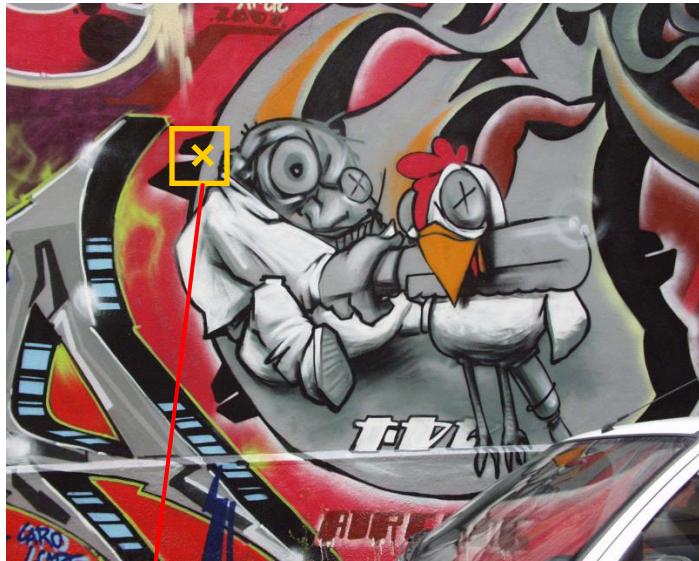
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



B. Leibe

Automatic Scale Selection

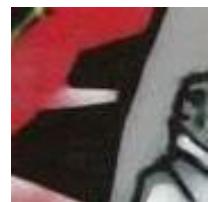
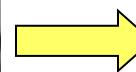
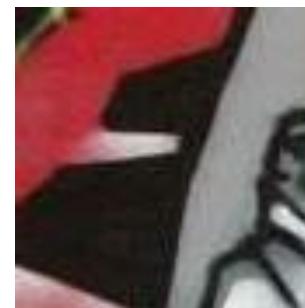
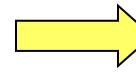
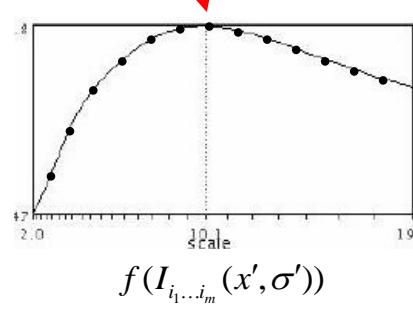
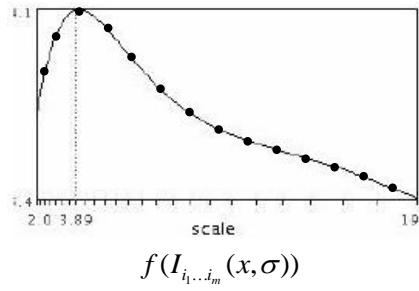
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



B. Leibe

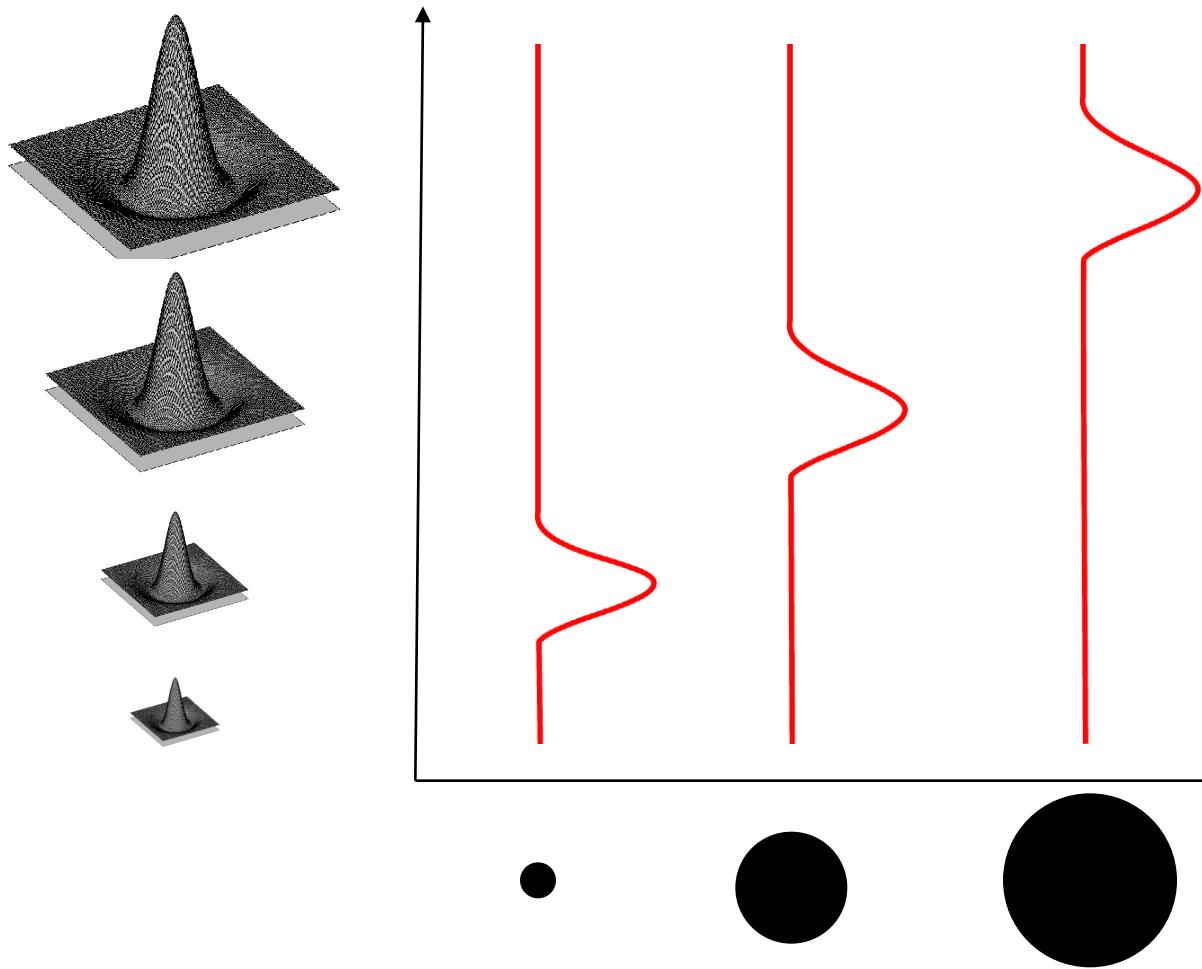
Automatic Scale Selection

- Normalize: Rescale to fixed size



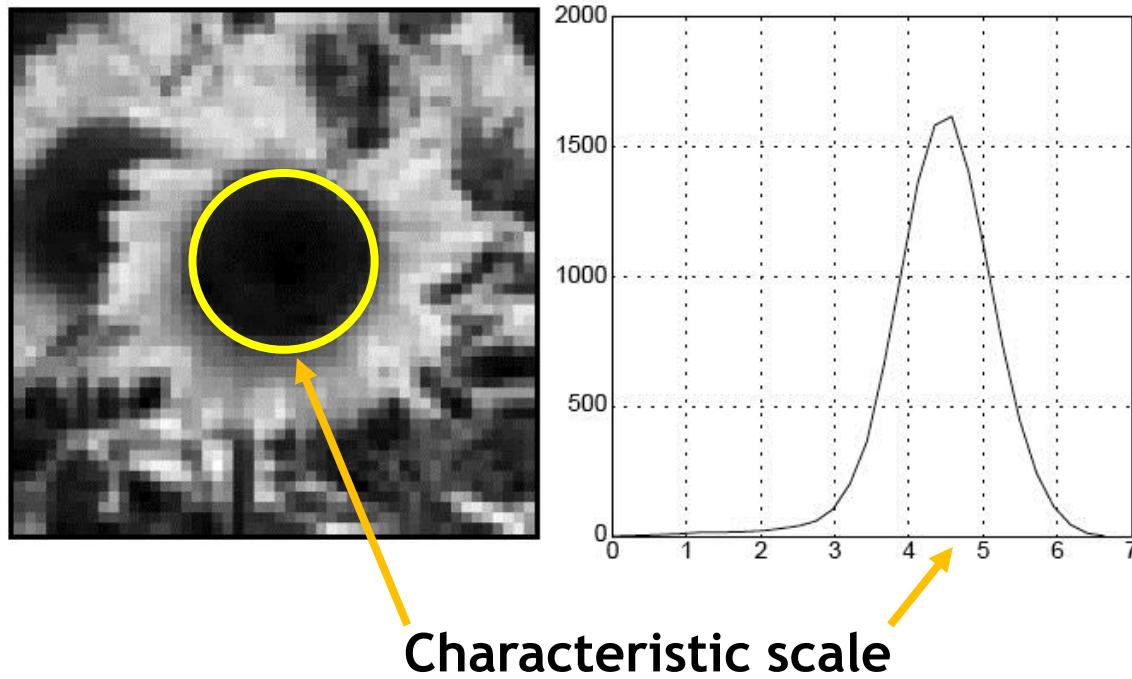
What Is A Useful Signature Function?

- Laplacian-of-Gaussian = “blob” detector



Characteristic Scale

- We define the *characteristic scale* as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response

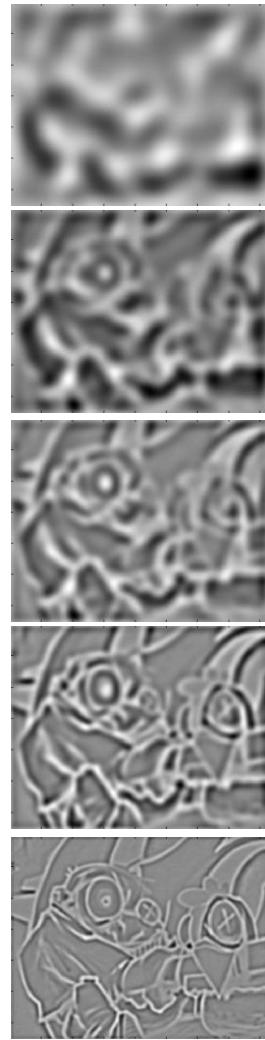
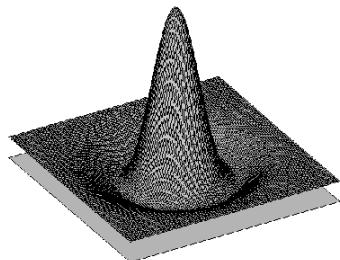
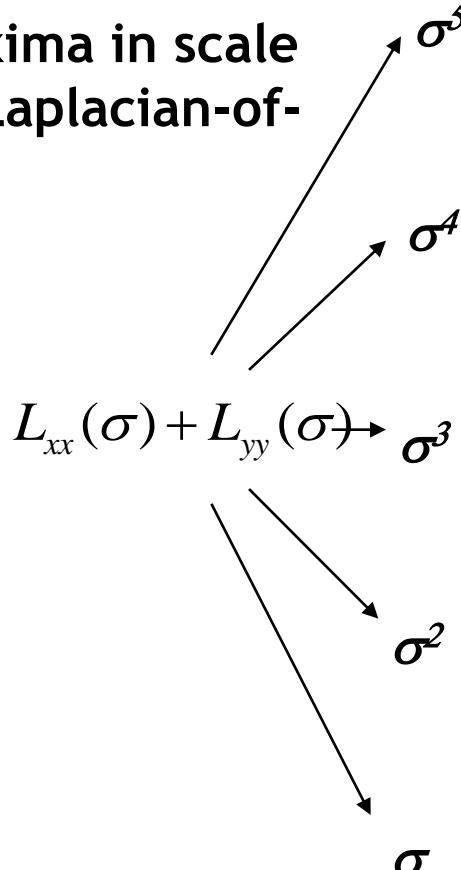


T. Lindeberg (1998). ["Feature detection with automatic scale selection."](#)
International Journal of Computer Vision 30 (2): pp 77--116.

Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

- Interest points:

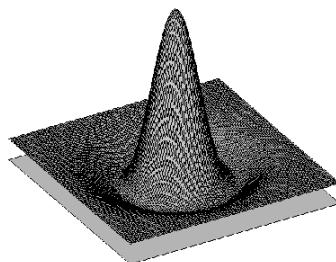
- Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian



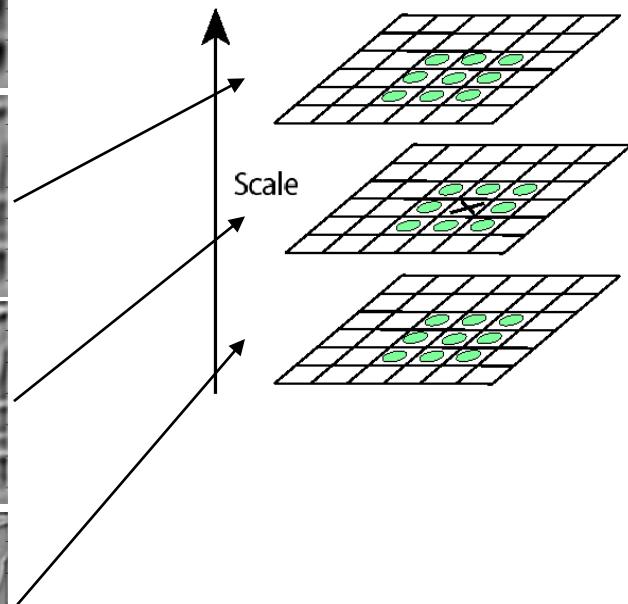
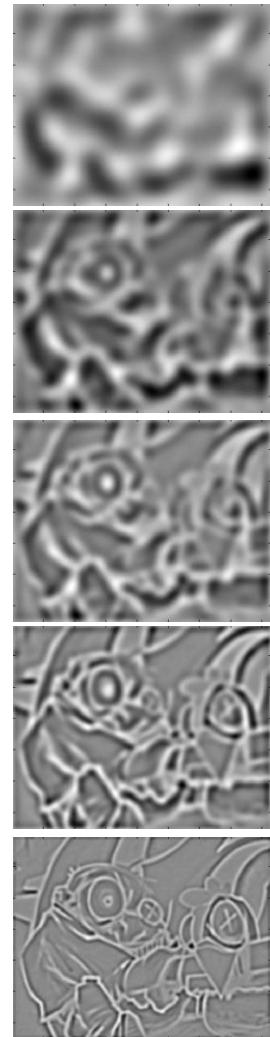
Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

- Interest points:

- Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian



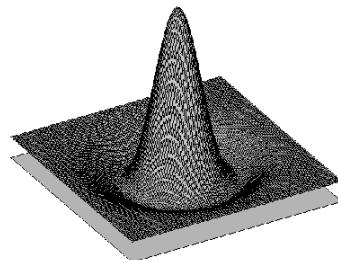
$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma) \rightarrow \sigma^3$$
$$\sigma^2$$
$$\sigma$$



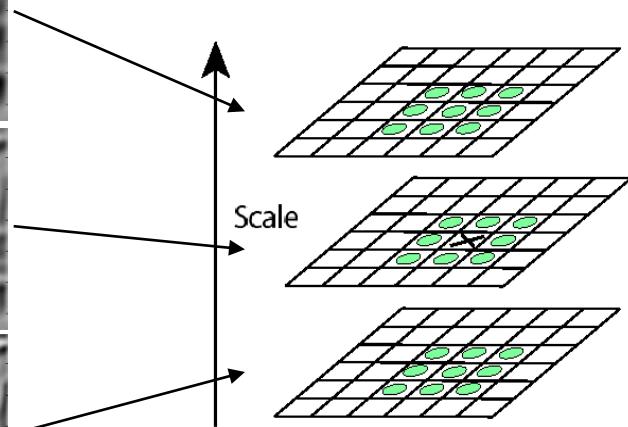
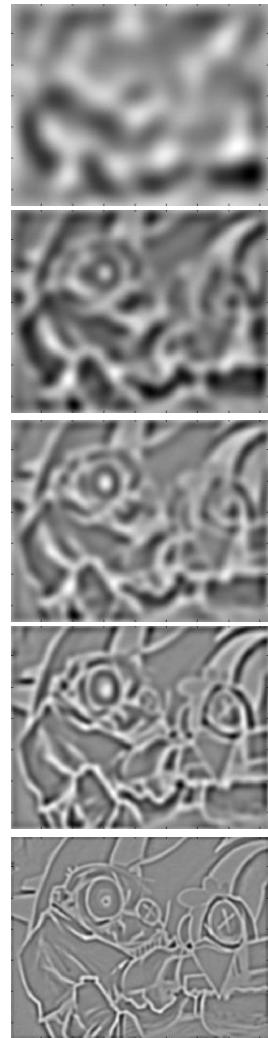
Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

- Interest points:

- Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian



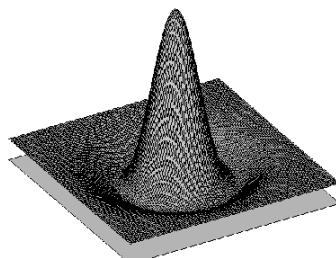
$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma) \rightarrow \sigma^3$$
$$\sigma^2$$
$$\sigma$$



Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

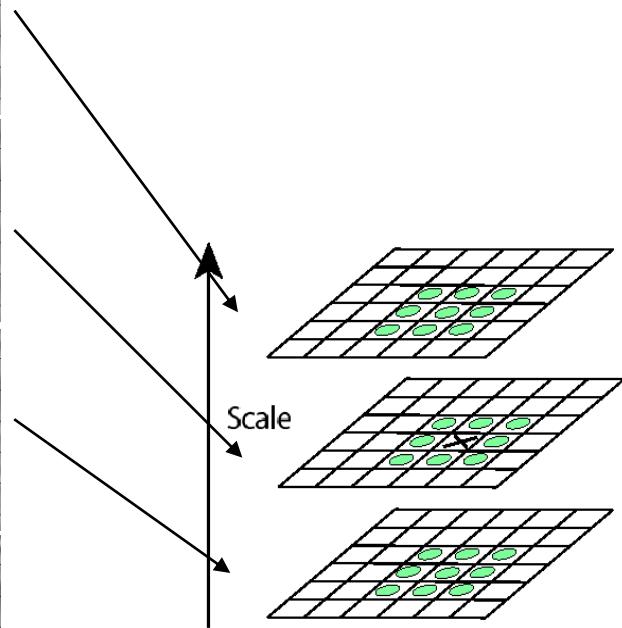
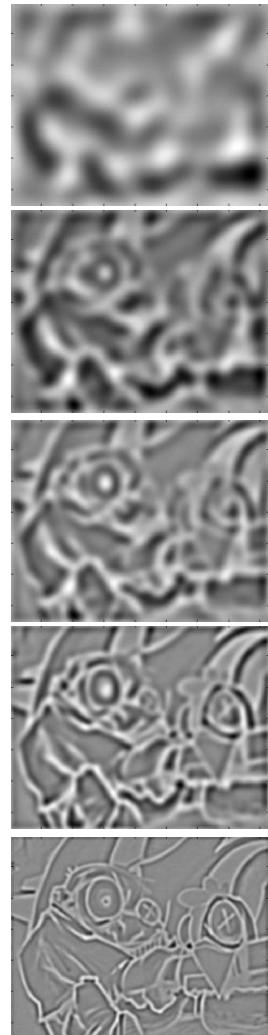
- Interest points:

- Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian



$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma) \rightarrow \sigma^3$$

σ^5
 σ^4
 σ^3
 σ^2
 σ



⇒ List of (x, y, σ)

LoG Detector: Workflow

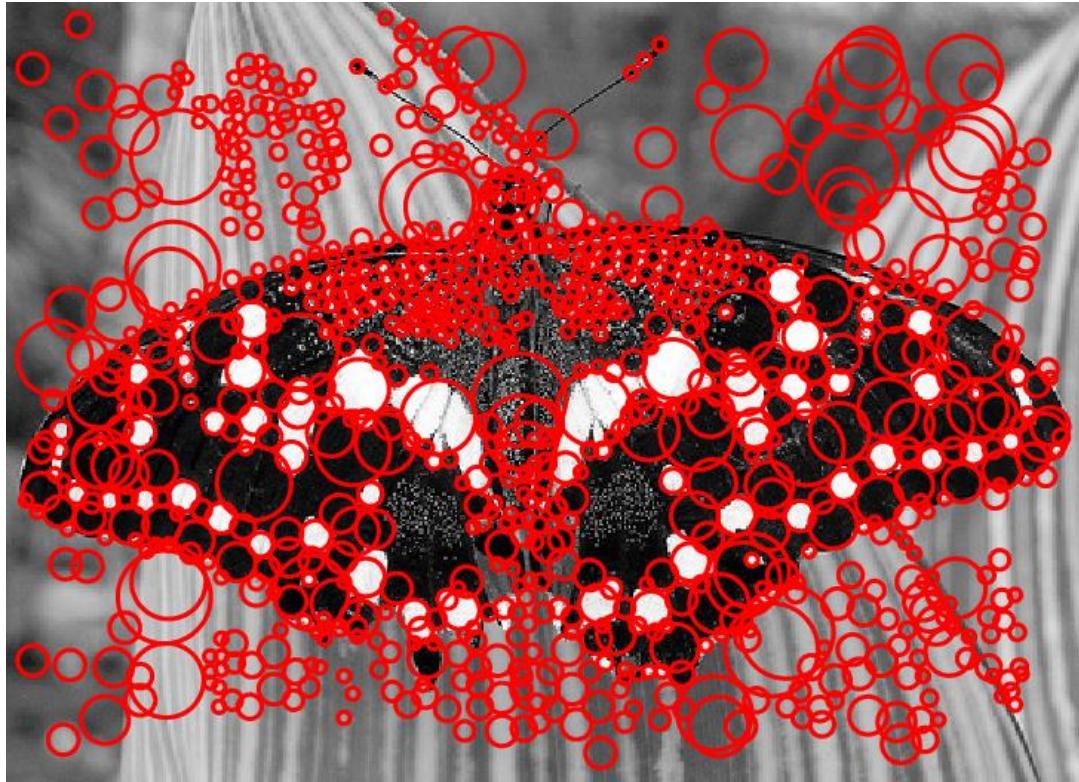


LoG Detector: Workflow



$\sigma = 11.9912$

LoG Detector: Workflow



Technical Detail

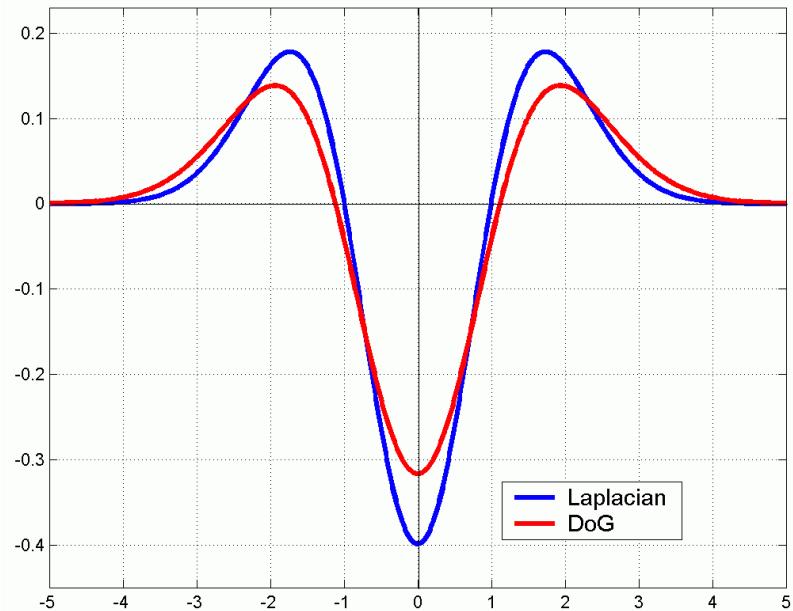
- We can efficiently approximate the Laplacian with a difference of Gaussians:

$$L = \sigma^2 \left(G_{xx}(x, y, \sigma) + G_{yy}(x, y, \sigma) \right)$$

(Laplacian)

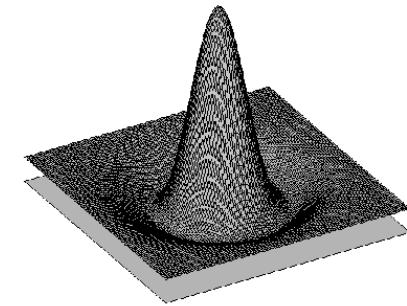
$$DoG = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma)$$

(Difference of Gaussians)



Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG)

- Difference of Gaussians as approximation of the LoG
 - This is used e.g. in Lowe's SIFT pipeline for feature detection.
- Advantages
 - No need to compute 2nd derivatives
 - Gaussians are computed anyway, e.g. in a Gaussian pyramid.



-

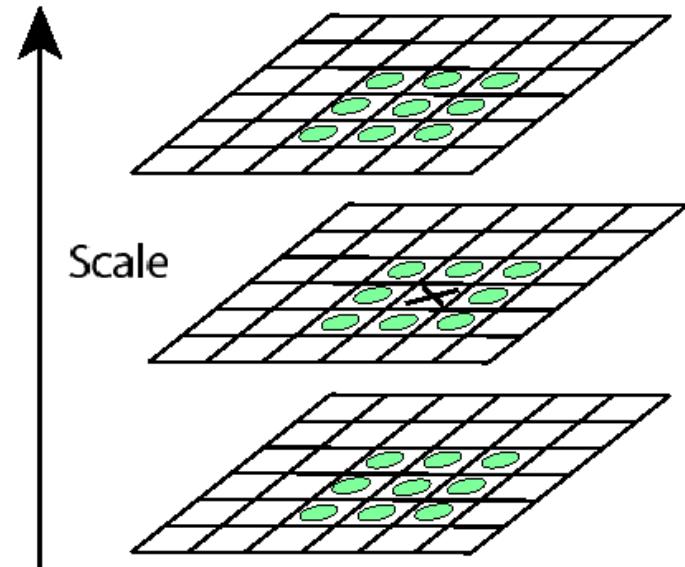


=



Key point localization with DoG

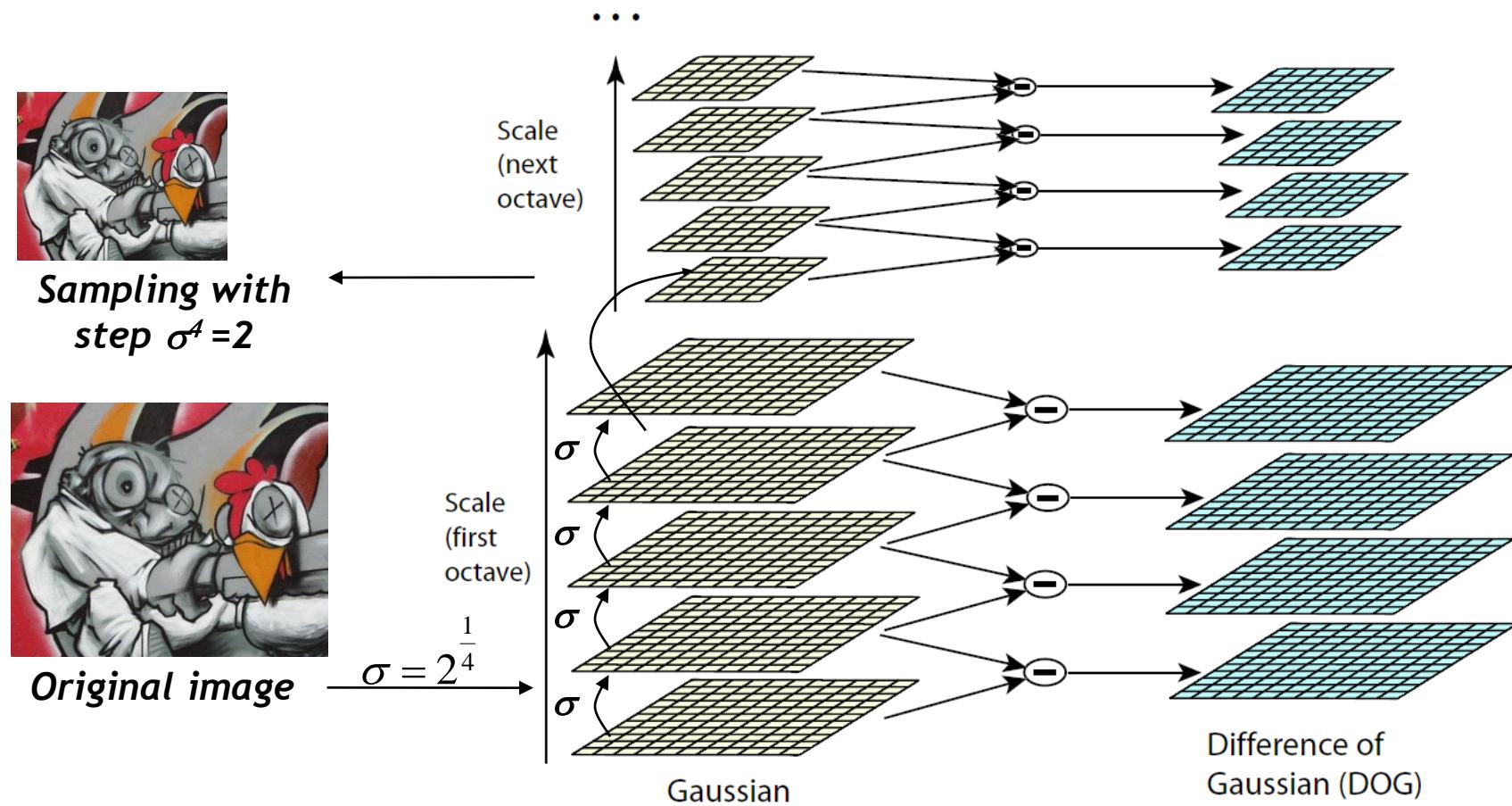
- Detect maxima of difference-of-Gaussian (DoG) in scale space
- Then reject points with low contrast (threshold)
- Eliminate edge responses



Candidate keypoints:
list of (x, y, σ)

DoG - Efficient Computation

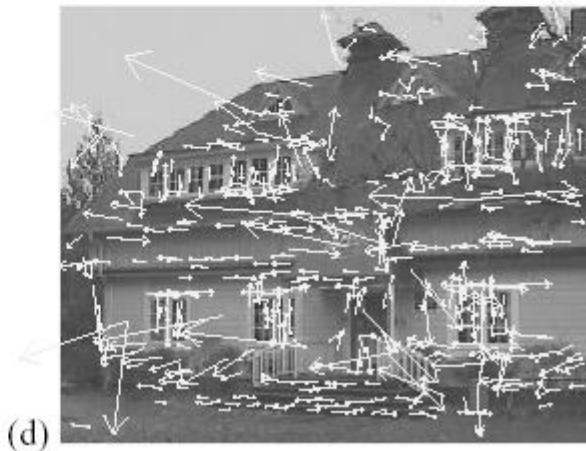
- Computation in Gaussian scale pyramid



Results: Lowe's DoG



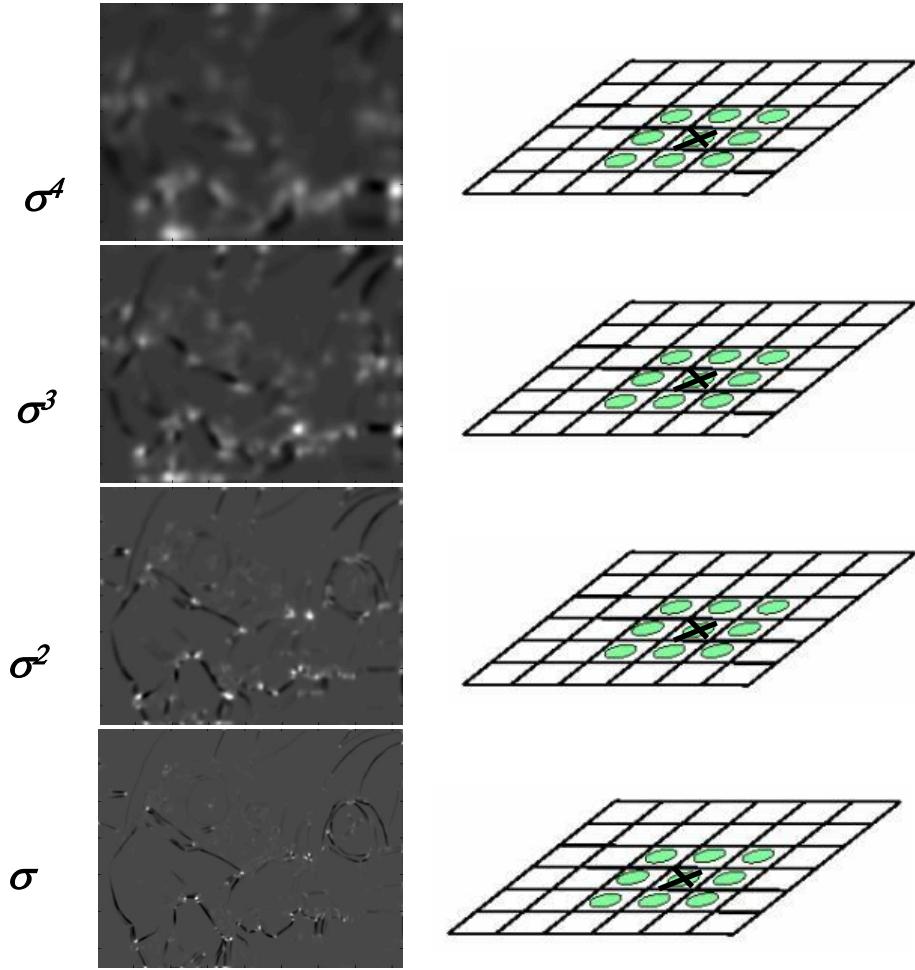
Example of Keypoint Detection



- (a) 233x189 image
- (b) 832 DoG extrema
- (c) 729 left after peak value threshold
- (d) 536 left after testing ratio of principle curvatures (removing edge responses)

Harris-Laplace [Mikolajczyk '01]

1. Initialization: Multiscale Harris corner detection



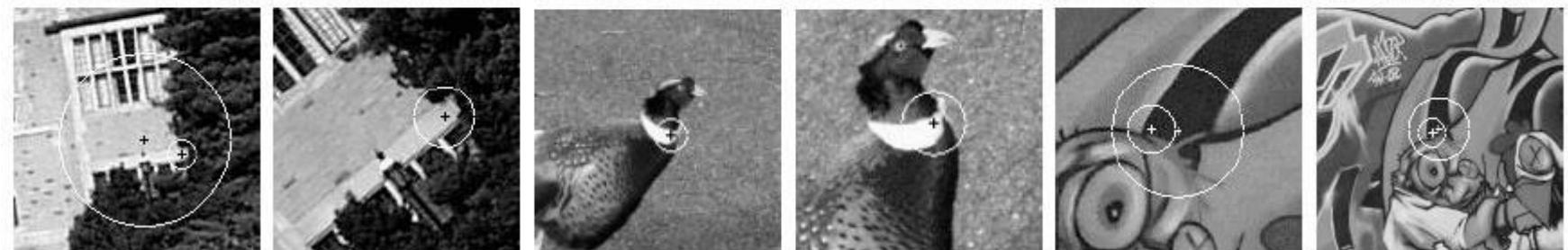
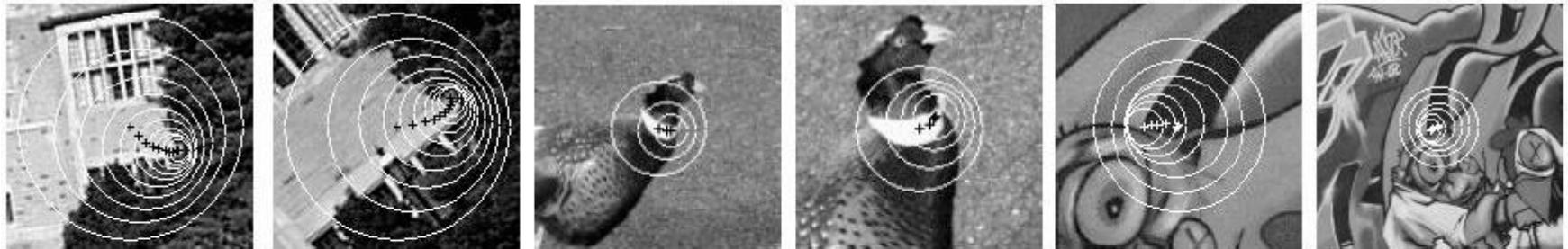
Computing Harris function

Detecting local maxima 84

Harris-Laplace [Mikolajczyk '01]

1. Initialization: Multiscale Harris corner detection
2. Scale selection based on Laplacian
(same procedure with Hessian \Rightarrow Hessian-Laplace)

Harris points



Harris-Laplace points

Summary: Scale Invariant Detection

- **Given:** Two images of the same scene with a large *scale difference* between them.
- **Goal:** Find *the same* interest points *independently* in each image.
- **Solution:** Search for *maxima* of suitable functions in *scale* and in *space* (over the image).
- Two strategies
 - Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)
 - Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG) as a fast approximation
 - *These can be used either on their own, or in combinations with single-scale keypoint detectors (Harris, Hessian).*

You Can Try It At Home...

- For most local feature detectors, executables are available online:
- <http://robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine>
- <http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~lowe/keypoints/>
- <http://www.vision.ee.ethz.ch/~surf>
- <http://homes.esat.kuleuven.be/~ncorneli/gpusurf/>

Affine Covariant Features



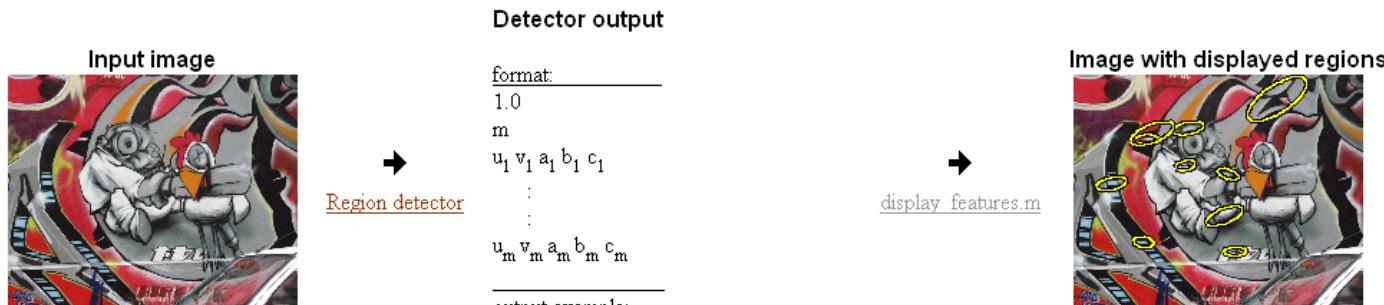
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN

RINRIA
RHÔNE ALPES



Collaborative work between the Visual Geometry Group, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Inria Rhône-Alpes and the Center for Machine Perception.

Affine Covariant Region Detectors



Parameters defining an affine region

u, v, a, b, c in $a(x-u)(x-u) + 2b(x-u)(y-v) + c(y-v)(y-v) = 1$
with $(0,0)$ at image top left corner

Code

- provided by the authors, see [publications](#) for details and links to authors web sites.

Linux binaries

[Harris-Affine & Hessian-Affine](#)

[MSER](#) - Maximally stable extremal regions (also Windows)

[IBR](#) - Intensity extrema based detector

[EBR](#) - Edge based detector

[Salient](#) region detector

Example of use

```
prompt>./h_affine.ln -haraff -i img1.ppm -o img1.haraff -thres 1000 matlab>> d
```

```
prompt>./h_affine.ln -hesaff -i img1.ppm -o img1.hesaff -thres 500 matlab>> d
```

```
prompt>./mser.ln -t 2 -es 2 -i img1.ppm -o img1.mser matlab>> d
```

```
prompt>./ibr.ln img1.ppm img1.ibr -scalefactor 1.0 matlab>> d
```

```
prompt> ./ebr.ln img1.ppm img1.ebr matlab>> d
```

```
prompt>./salient.ln img1.ppm img1.sal matlab>> d
```

Displaying results

References and Further Reading

- Read David Lowe's SIFT paper
 - D. Lowe,
Distinctive image features from scale-invariant keypoints,
IJCV 60(2), pp. 91-110, 2004
- Good survey paper on Int. Pt. detectors and descriptors
 - T. Tuytelaars, K. Mikolajczyk, Local Invariant Feature Detectors: A Survey, Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp 177-280, 2008.
- Try the example code, binaries, and Matlab wrappers
 - Good starting point: Oxford interest point page
<http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine/detectors.html#binaries>