

Introduce a separate stereo correspondence module with up-to-date algorithms

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- Link: The feature request
- Status: **Draft**
- Platforms: **All**
- Complexity: 1-2 man-weeks (or more, if OpenCL optimization is included)

Introduction and Rationale

The module `calib3d` from OpenCV 2.x and 3.x includes various functionality including stereo correspondence algorithms. At the same time, there is experimental stereo module in `opencv_contrib` that includes some new stereo correspondence algorithms or interesting modifications of existing algorithms. It makes sense to put this code into a dedicated module.

Proposed solution

Create a dedicated **stereo** module in the main repository with the best available (within the library) collection of stereo correspondence algorithms. Basically, these are **StereoBM** and **StereoSGBM** algorithms. StereoSGBM should at minimum include the 4-directional parallel version, may be 5-directional sequential versions, both pixel or feature-based. StereoBM should probably be just feature-based, because pixel-based is not very good.

The functionality may also include some API for stereo rectification, depth map to point cloud mapping etc. Potentially it may include multi-view depth estimation algorithms as well (something like DTAM).

Question: do we need to keep some (renamed) module in `opencv_contrib` for experimental stereo correspondence algorithms? Probably yes. Need some better than **xstereo** name.

Impact on existing code, compatibility

Overall, the external API will change slightly, if any (there will be **StereoMatcher** base class and the derivatives), but users will have to put some other include directives in their code (or keep using `#include "opencv2/opencv.hpp"`)

Possible alternatives

nothing really; we need to consolidate stereo correspondence code.

References

TBD