



# SIFT

16-385 Computer Vision (Kris Kitani)  
**Carnegie Mellon University**





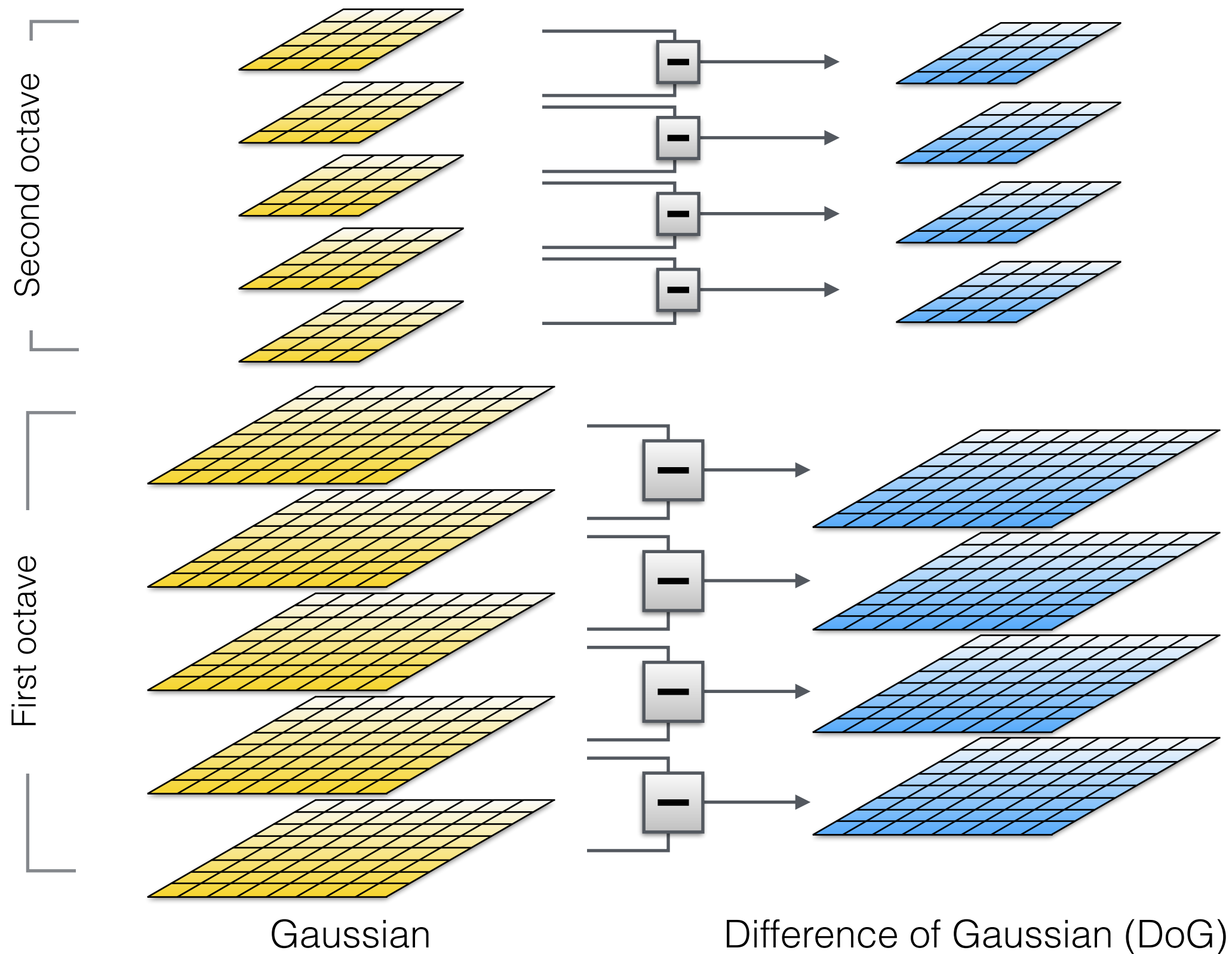
# SIFT

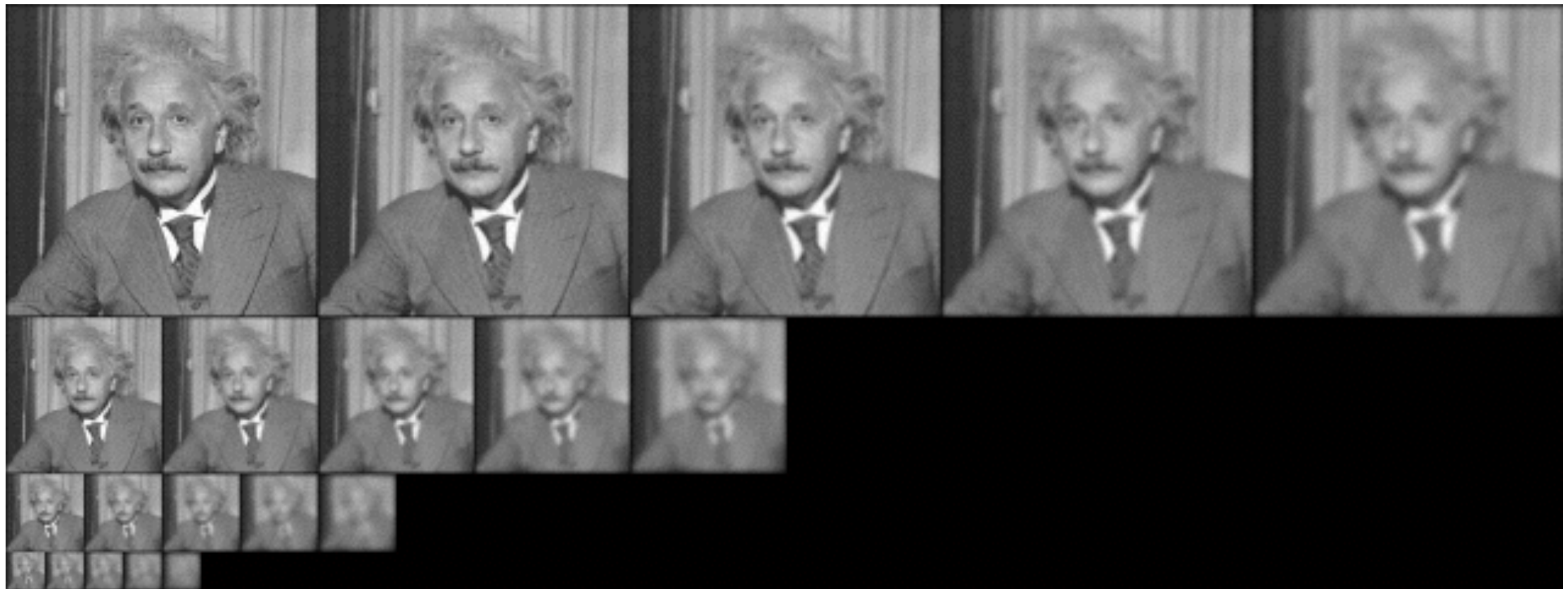
(Scale Invariant Feature Transform)

SIFT describes both a **detector** and **descriptor**

1. Multi-scale extrema detection
2. Keypoint localization
3. Orientation assignment
4. Keypoint descriptor

# 1. Multi-scale extrema detection





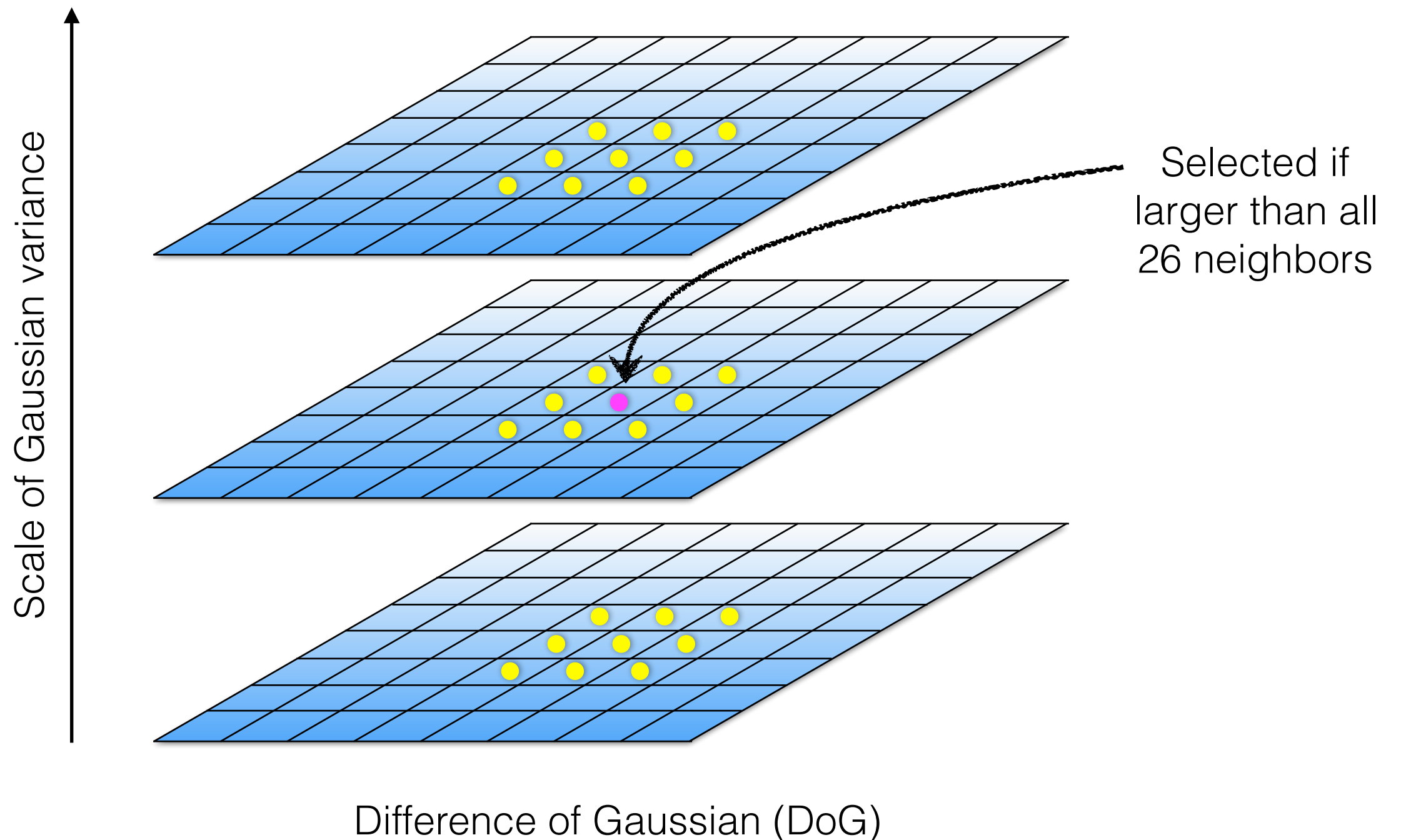
Gaussian



Laplacian



# Scale-space extrema



## 2. Keypoint localization

2nd order Taylor series approximation of DoG scale-space

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \{x, y, \sigma\}$$

Take the derivative and solve for extrema

$$\mathbf{x}_m = - \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2}^{-1} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

Additional tests to retain only strong features

# 3. Orientation assignment

For a keypoint, **L** is the **Gaussian-smoothed** image with the closest scale,

$$m(x, y) = \sqrt{\underbrace{(L(x+1, y) - L(x-1, y))^2}_{\text{x-derivative}} + \underbrace{(L(x, y+1) - L(x, y-1))^2}_{\text{y-derivative}}}$$

$$\theta(x, y) = \tan^{-1}((L(x, y+1) - L(x, y-1)) / (L(x+1, y) - L(x-1, y)))$$

Detection process returns

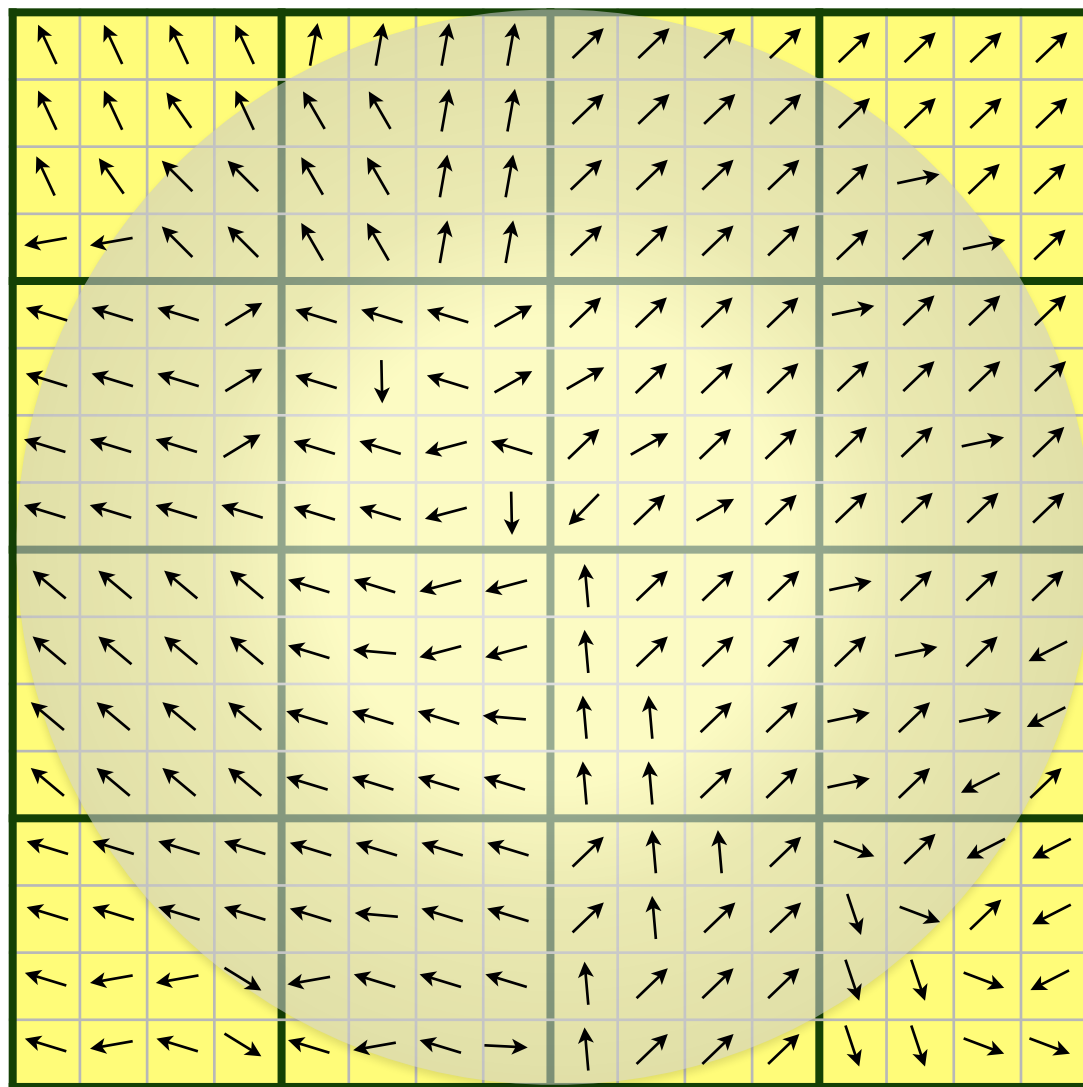
$$\{x, y, \sigma, \theta\}$$

location   scale   orientation

# 4. Keypoint descriptor

## Image Gradients

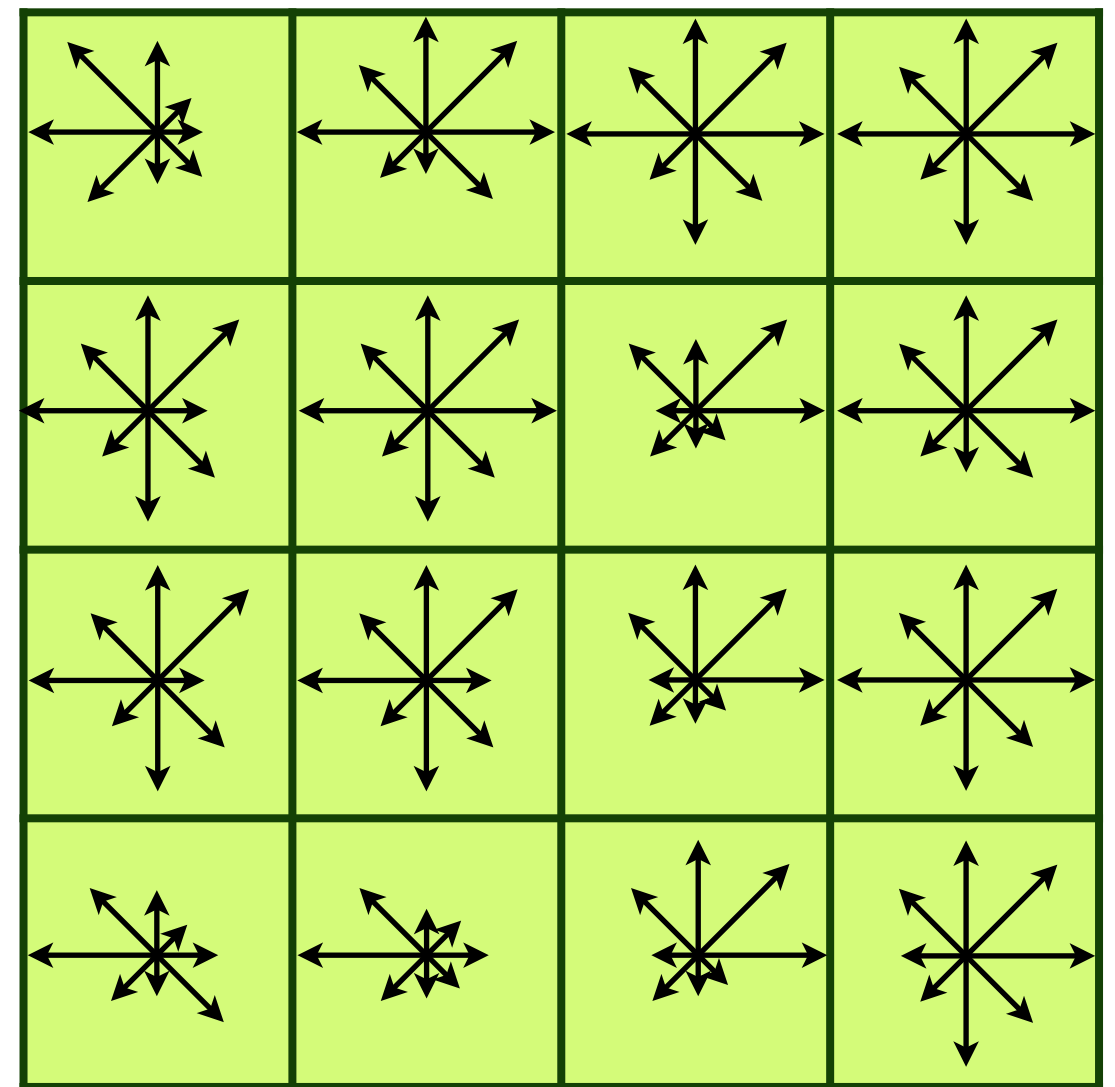
(4 x 4 pixel per cell, 4 x 4 cells)



Gaussian weighting  
(sigma = half width)

## SIFT descriptor

(16 cells x 8 directions = 128 dims)

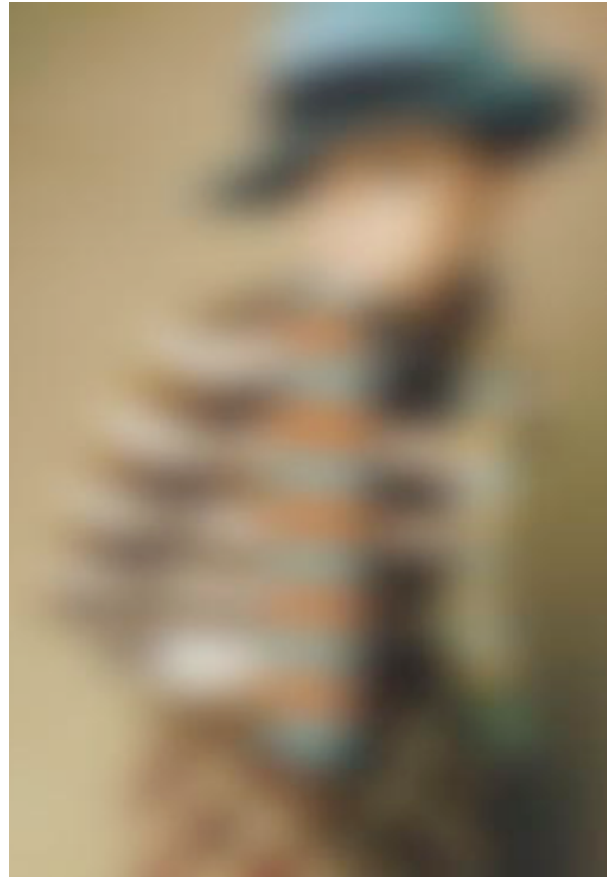




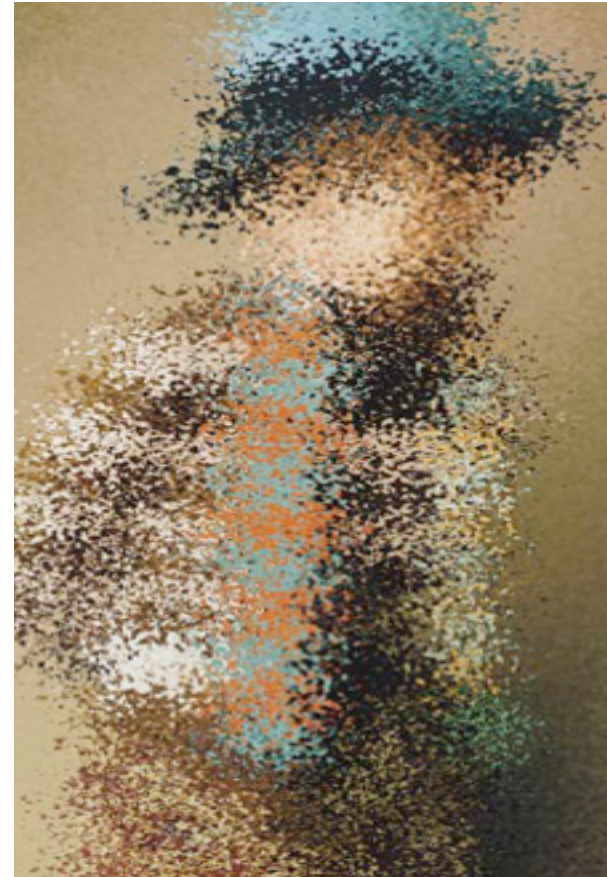
Discriminative power



Raw pixels



Sampled



Locally orderless



Global histogram

Generalization power

