



# Optical Flow Ib

Guido Gerig

CS 6320, Spring 2012

(credits: slides modified from Marc Pollefeys  
UNC Chapel Hill, Comp 256, and from K.H. Shafique,  
UCSF, CAP5415, and from S. Narasimhan, CMU)



# Materials

- Gary Bradski & Sebastian Thrun, Stanford CS223  
<http://robots.stanford.edu/cs223b/index.html>
- S. Narasimhan, CMU: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/academic/class/15385-s06/lectures/ppts/lec-16.ppt>
- M. Pollefeys, ETH Zurich/UNC Chapel Hill:  
<http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256/vision10.ppt>
- K.H. Shafique, UCSF: <http://www.cs.ucf.edu/courses/cap6411/cap5415/>
  - Lecture 18 (March 25, 2003), Slides: [PDF](#) / [PPT](#)
- Jepson, Toronto:  
<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/pub/jepson/teaching/vision/2503/opticalFlow.pdf>
- Original paper Horn&Schunck 1981:  
<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/faculty/beau/CS9645/PAPERS/Horn-Schunck.pdf>
- MIT AI Memo Horn& Schunck 1980:  
<http://people.csail.mit.edu/bkph/AIM/AIM-572.pdf>
- Bahadir K. Gunturk, EE 7730 Image Analysis II
- Some slides and illustrations from L. Van Gool, T. Darell, B. Horn, Y. Weiss, P. Anandan, M. Black, K. Toyama



# Optical Flow

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization
- **Lucas-Kanade**
- Coarse-to-fine
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow



# Lucas & Kanade

- Assume single velocity for all pixels within a patch.
- Integrate over a patch.

- Similar to line fitting we have seen

- Define an energy functional

- Take derivatives equate it to 0
    - Rearrange and construct an observation matrix

$$E = \sum (uI_x + vI_y + I_t)^2$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u} = \sum 2I_x(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial v} = \sum 2I_y(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$



# Lucas & Kanade

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u} = \sum 2I_x(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\sum uI_x^2 + \sum vI_xI_y + \sum I_xI_t = 0$$

$$u \sum I_x^2 + v \sum I_xI_y = -\sum I_xI_t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_xI_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -\sum I_xI_t$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial v} = \sum 2I_y(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\sum uI_xI_y + \sum vI_y^2 + \sum I_yI_t = 0$$

$$u \sum I_xI_y + v \sum I_y^2 = -\sum I_yI_t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -\sum I_yI_t$$

$$\overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_xI_y \\ \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}}^A \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}}^u = \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_xI_t \\ -\sum I_yI_t \end{bmatrix}}^B$$



# Lucas & Kanade

$$Au = B \quad A^{-1}Au = A^{-1}B \quad Iu = A^{-1}B \quad u = A^{-1}B$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sum I_x^2 \sum I_y^2 - (\sum I_x I_y)^2} \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_y^2 & -\sum I_x I_y \\ -\sum I_x I_y & \sum I_x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$



# Lucas-Kanade: Integrate over a Patch

Assume a single velocity for all pixels within an image patch

$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x, y \in \Omega} \left( I_x(x, y)u + I_y(x, y)v + I_t \right)^2$$
$$\frac{dE(u, v)}{du} = \sum 2I_x(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) = 0$$

Solve with:

$$\frac{dE(u, v)}{dv} = \sum 2I_y(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{pmatrix}$$

On the LHS: sum of the 2x2 outer product  
tensor of the gradient vector

$$\left( \sum \nabla I \nabla I^T \right) \vec{U} = - \sum \nabla I I_t$$



## Lucas-Kanade: Singularities and the Aperture Problem

$$\text{Let } M = \sum (\nabla I)(\nabla I)^T \quad \text{and} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

- Algorithm: At each pixel compute  $U$  by solving  $MU=b$
- $M$  is singular if all gradient vectors point in the same direction
  - e.g., along an edge
  - of course, trivially singular if the summation is over a single pixel
  - i.e., only *normal flow* is available (aperture problem)
- Corners and textured areas are OK





# Discussion

- Horn-Schunck: Add smoothness constraint.

$$\int_D (\nabla I \cdot \vec{v} + I_t)^2 + \lambda^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] dx dy$$

- Lucas-Kanade: Provide constraint by minimizing over local neighborhood:

$$\sum_{x,y \in \Omega} W^2(x,y) [\nabla I(x,y,t) \cdot \vec{v} + I_t(x,y,t)]^2$$

- Horn-Schunck and Lucas-Kanade optical methods work only for small motion.
- If object moves faster, the brightness changes rapidly, derivative masks fail to estimate spatiotemporal derivatives.
- Pyramids can be used to compute large optical flow vectors.



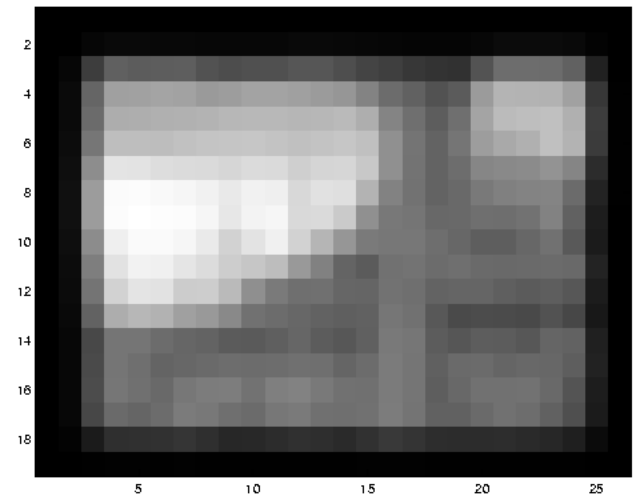
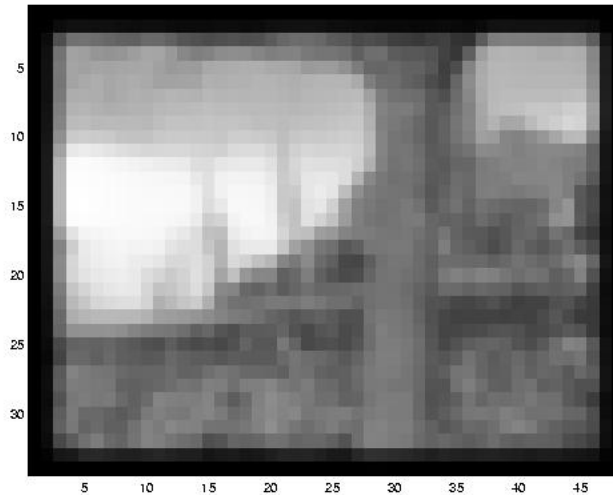
# Iterative Refinement

- Estimate velocity at each pixel using one iteration of Lucas and Kanade estimation
- Warp one image toward the other using the estimated flow field  
*(easier said than done)*
- Refine estimate by repeating the process



# Reduce the Resolution!

---





# Optical Flow

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization
- Lucas-Kanade
- **Coarse-to-fine**
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow



# Limits of the (local) gradient method

1. Fails when intensity structure within window is poor
2. Fails when the displacement is large (typical operating range is motion of 1 pixel per iteration!)
  - *Linearization of brightness is suitable only for small displacements*

Also, brightness is not strictly constant in images

- *actually less problematic than it appears, since we can pre-filter images to make them look similar*



# Results



# Revisiting the Small Motion Assumption

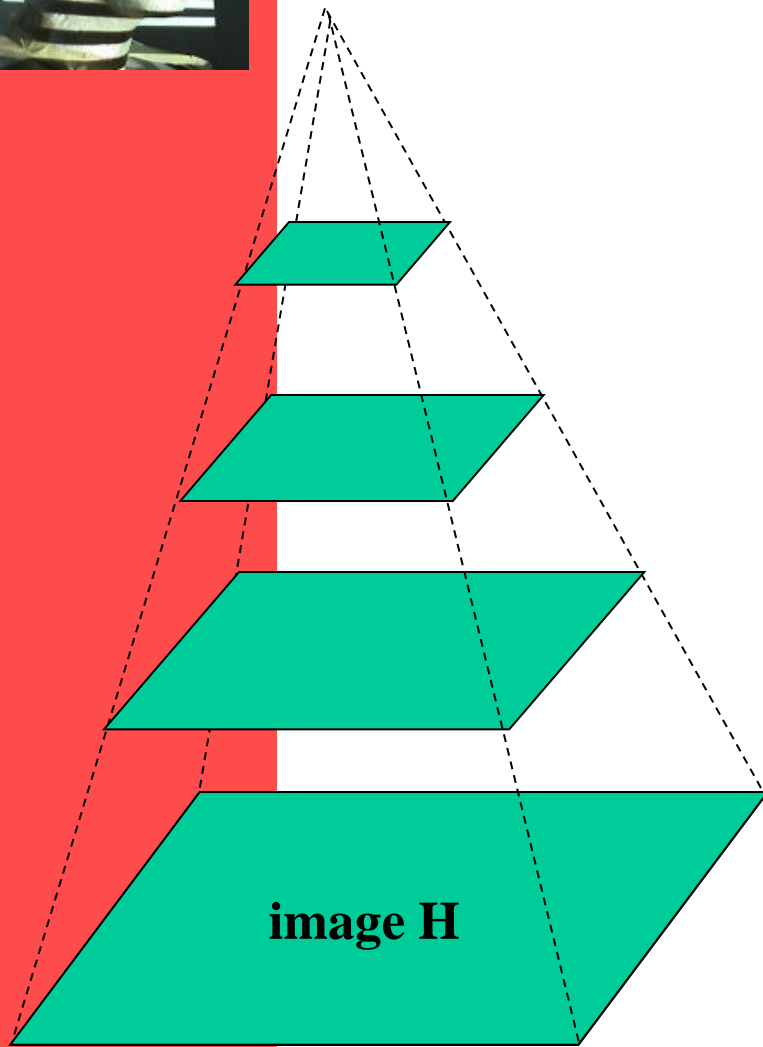
---



- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel (2<sup>nd</sup> order terms dominate)
  - How might we solve this problem?



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation



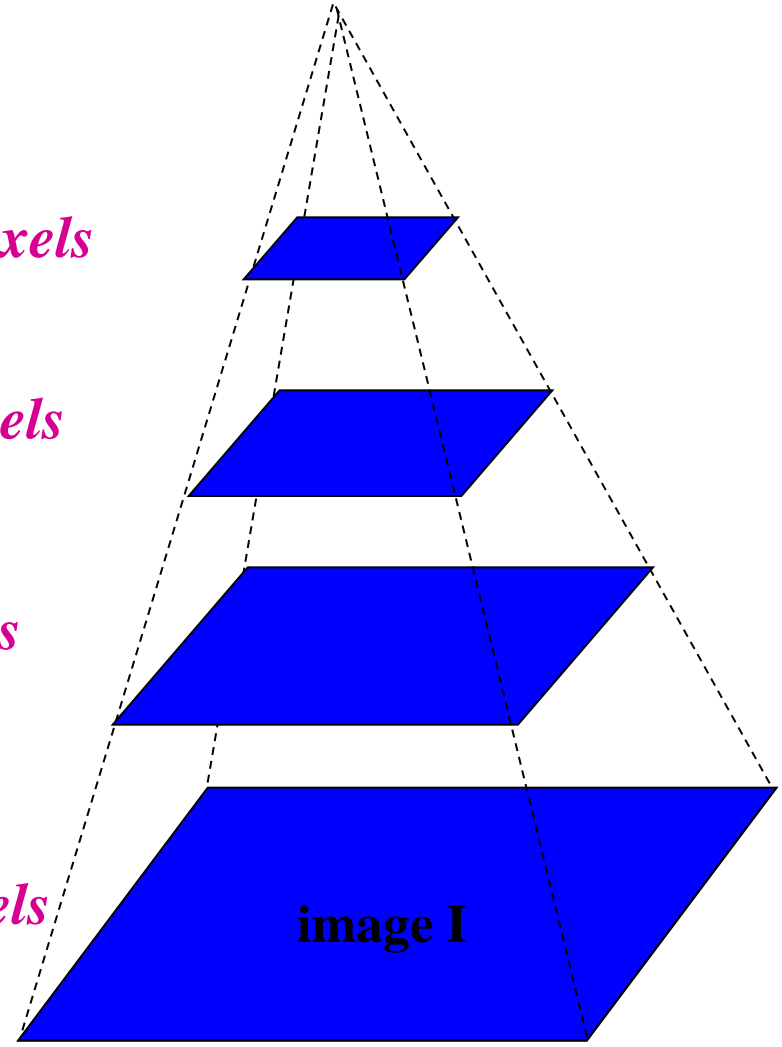
**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

*$u=1.25$  pixels*

*$u=2.5$  pixels*

*$u=5$  pixels*

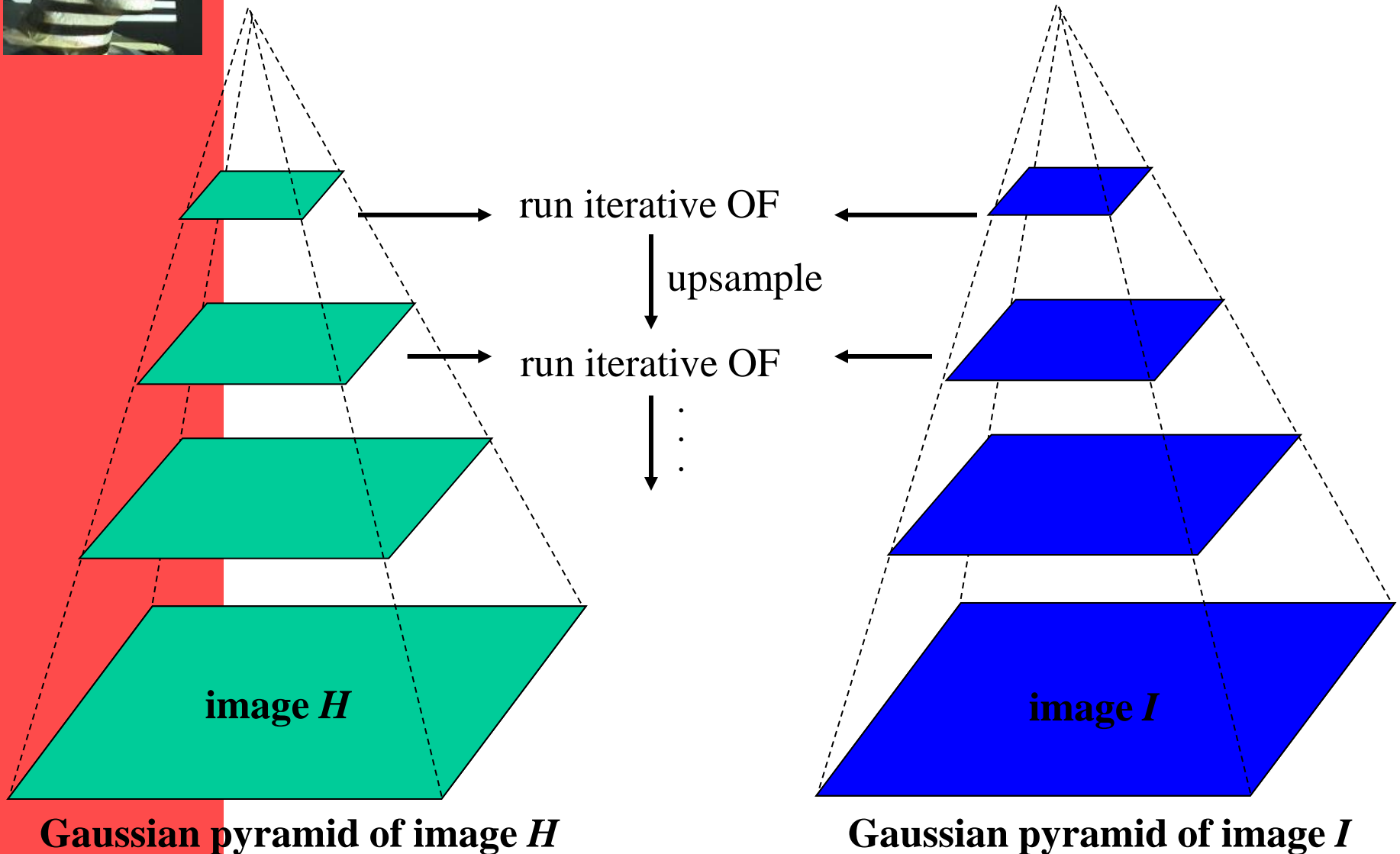
*$u=10$  pixels*



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**



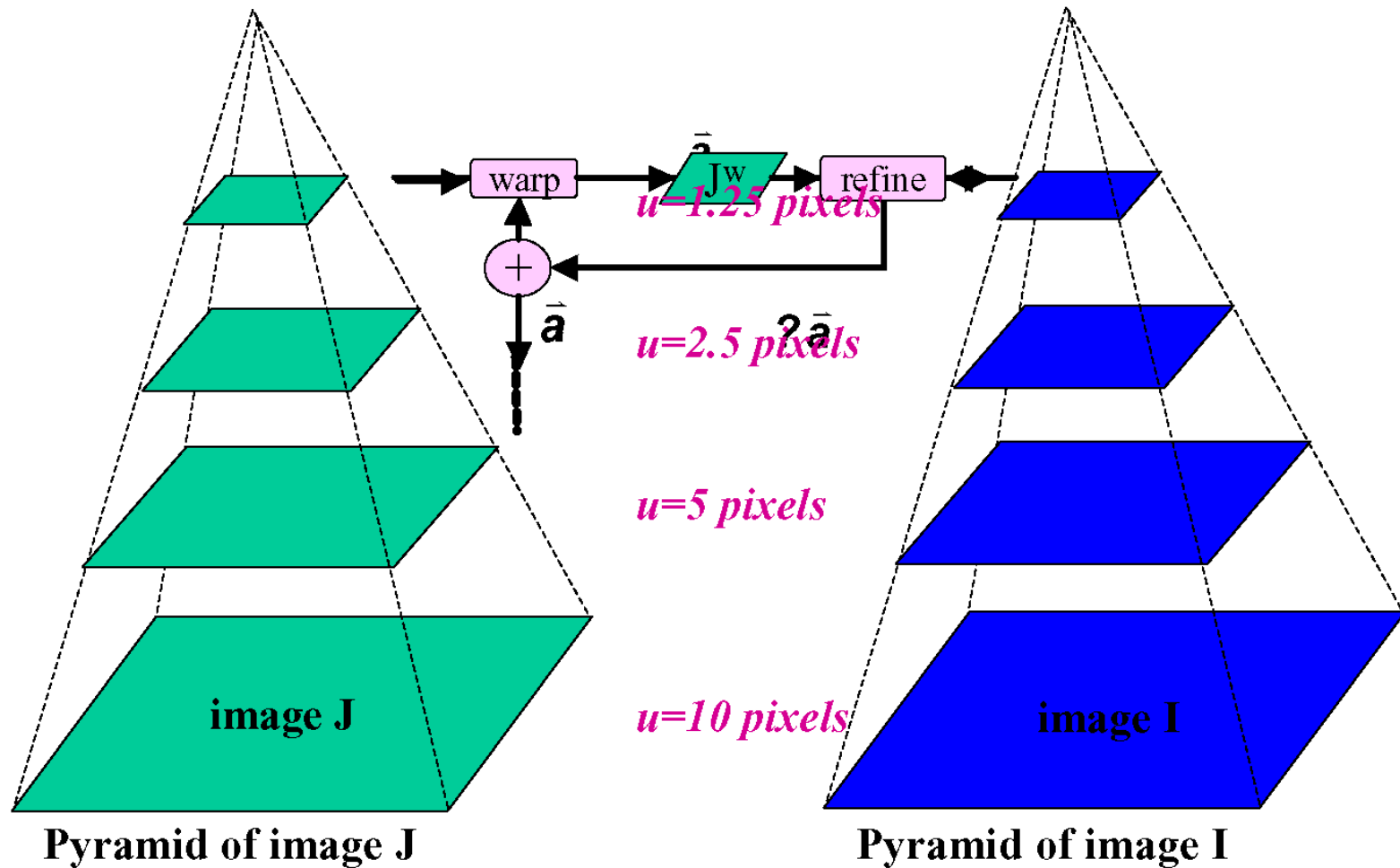
# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation



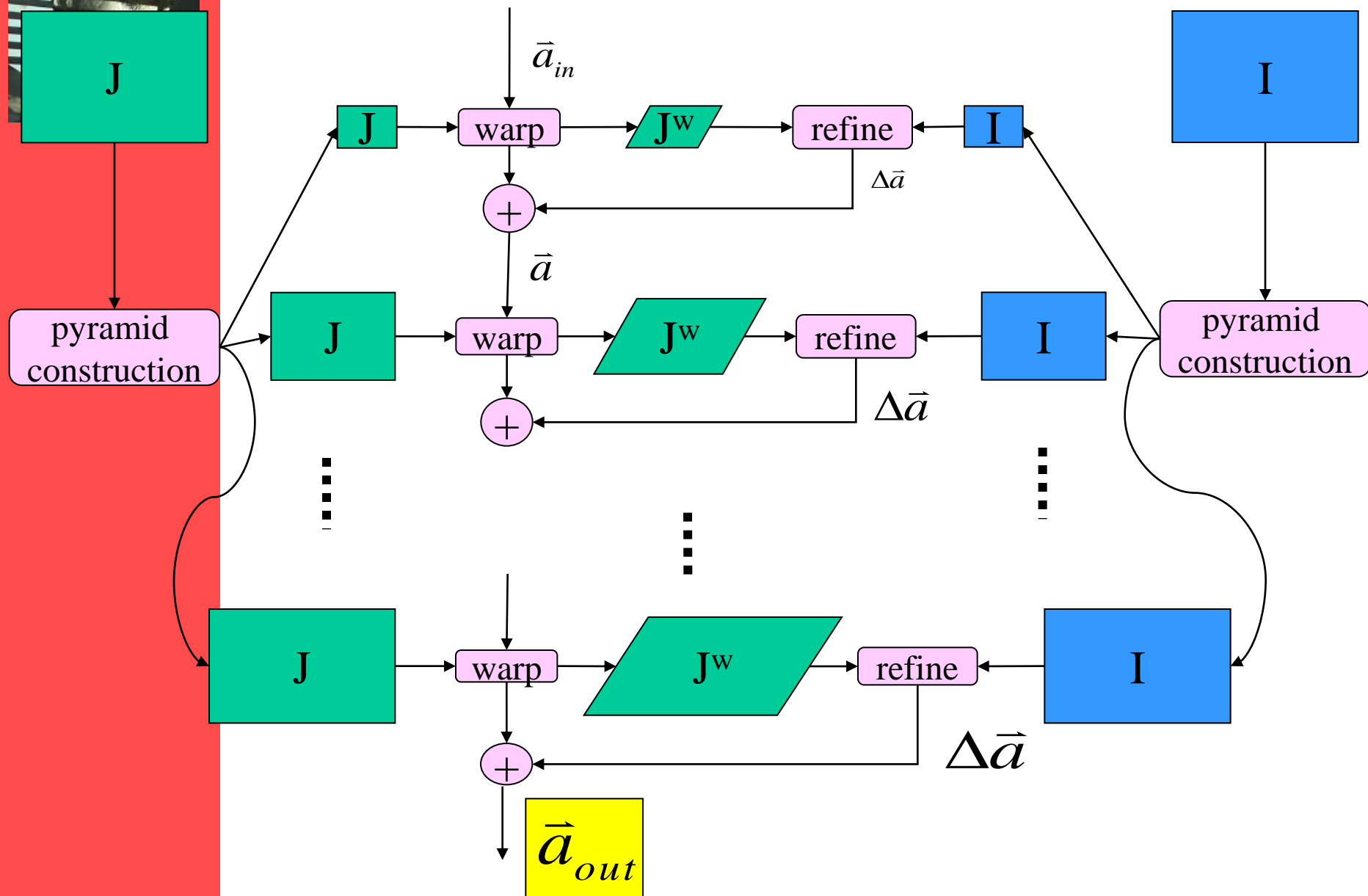


# Coarse-to-Fine Estimation

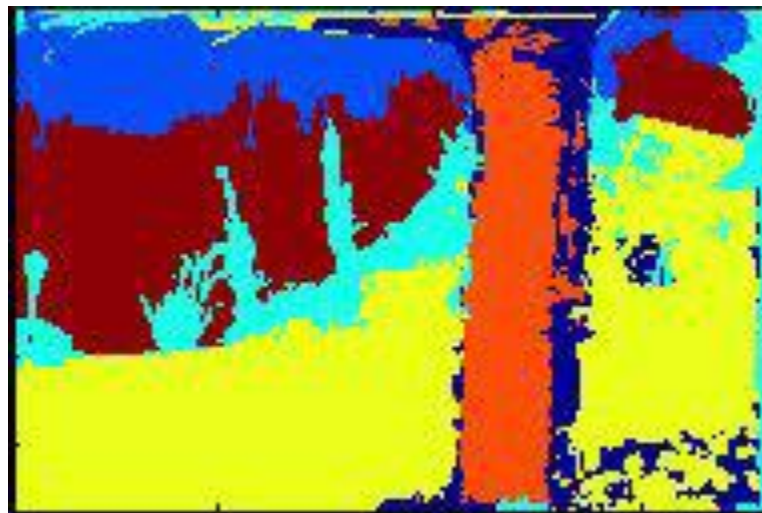
$$I_x \cdot u + I_y \cdot v + I_t \approx 0 \implies \text{small } u \text{ and } v \dots$$



# Coarse-to-Fine Estimation



# Video Segmentation



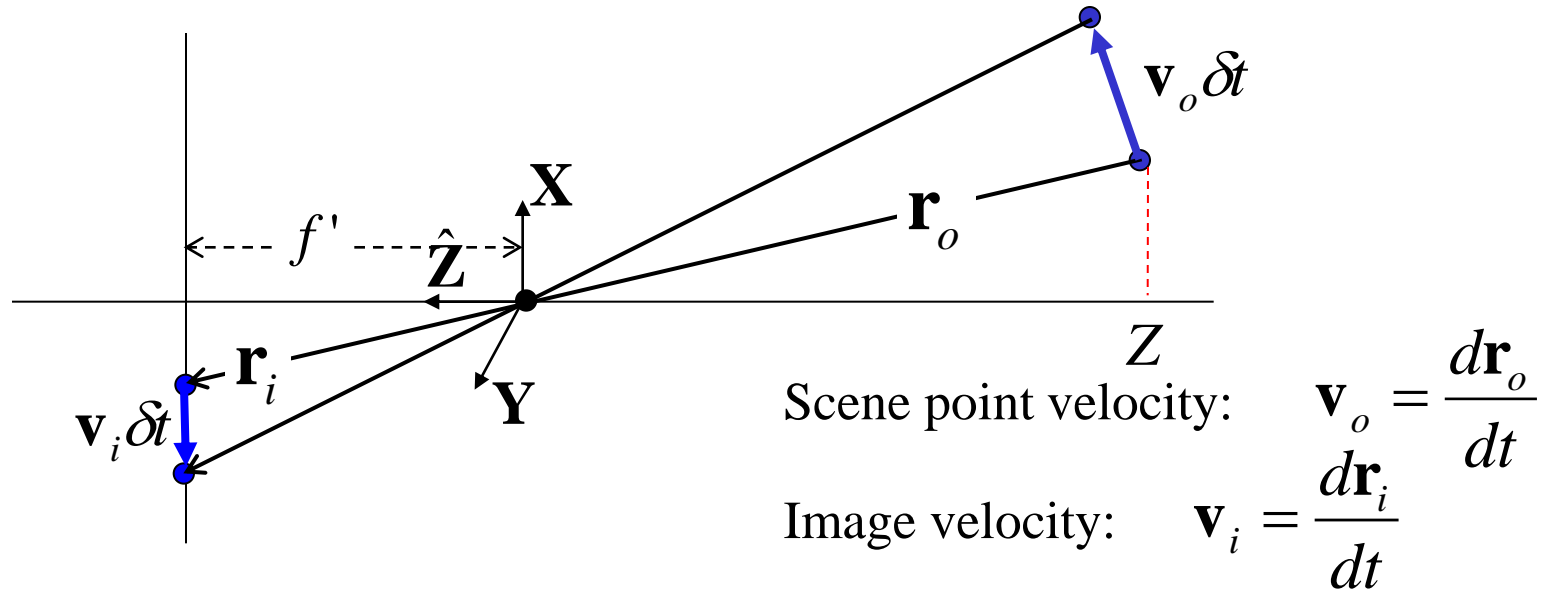


Next:  
Motion Field  
Structure from Motion



# Motion Field

- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



Perspective projection:  $\frac{1}{f'} \mathbf{r}_i = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Z}}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{Z}$

Motion field

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i}{dt} = f' \frac{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})\mathbf{v}_o - (\mathbf{v}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})\mathbf{r}_o}{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})^2} = f' \frac{(\mathbf{r}_o \times \mathbf{v}_o) \times \mathbf{Z}}{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})^2}$$