



# Master in Computer Vision *Barcelona*

Module: 3D Vision

Lecture 3: 3D projective geometry and transformations.  
Camera models

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# Outline

## 1. Projective geometry and transformations in 3D:

- A little bit of motivation.
- The 3D projective space and transformations in 3D.

## 2. Camera models.

## Remember:



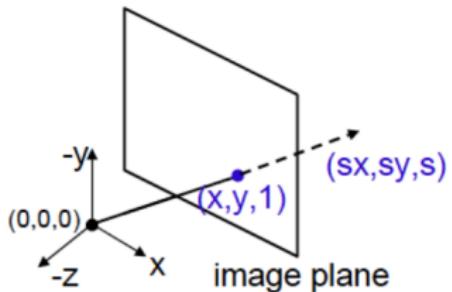
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## Remember: why projective geometry?

- The image capture of the camera is described with a linear transformation.
- The intersection of two lines and the line that passes through two points is a linear operation.
- Points at infinity have a natural representation.
- 2D projective geometry:

### The projective plane

A point in the image is a ray in the projective space.



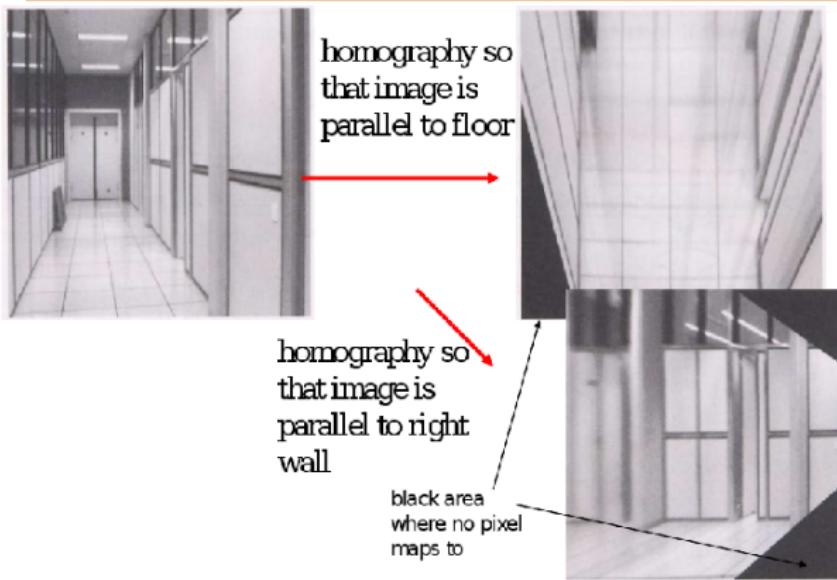
Each point  $(x,y)$  on the (image) plane is represented by a ray  $(sx, sy, s)$ , the **visual ray**, **visual direction** or **view direction**.

All points on the ray are equivalent:  $(x,y,1) \equiv (sx, sy, s)$

## Remember: 2D projective geometry

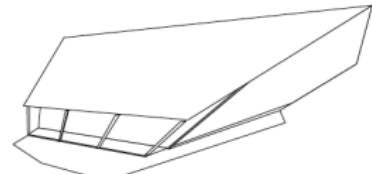
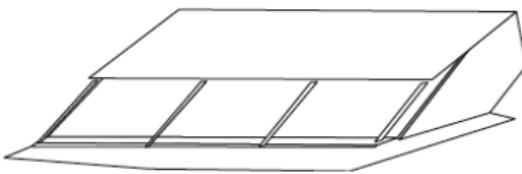
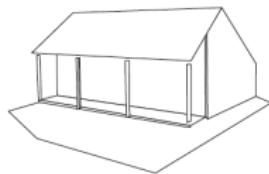
We have seen that it allows, e.g., to remove the projective distortion of flat objects and build image mosaics.

### Image warping with homographies



# 3D Projective geometry and transformations

Now, 3D projective geometry: It models the camera projection and allows the 3D reconstruction, the calibration and auto-calibration.



3D Transformations

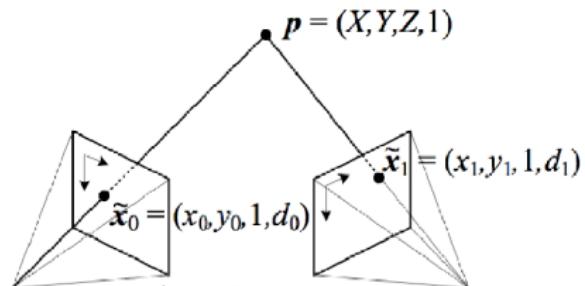
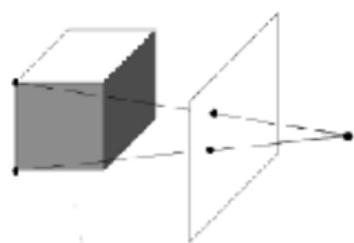
# 3D projective geometry and transformations

Why is 3D projective geometry useful?

Motivation (and movie trailer): **Projective camera**

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{im}} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{X}_w.$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_w \in \mathbb{P}^3$  represents the coordinates of a point in the world coordinate frame,  $\mathbf{x}_{\text{im}} \in \mathbb{P}^2$  are image coordinates, and  $\mathbf{P}$  is the  $(3 \times 4)$  **projective matrix** or **camera matrix** (see later in this notes).

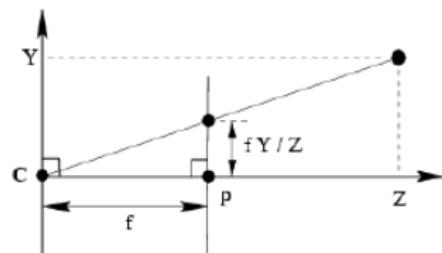
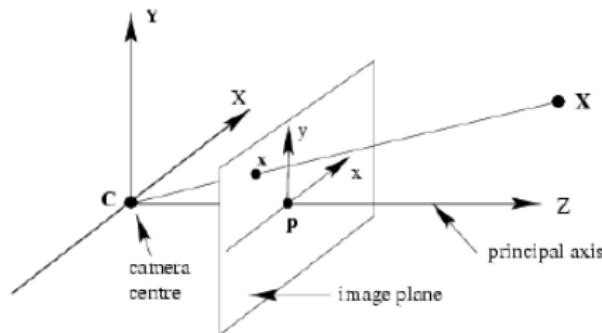


Basic example: Pinhole camera

# 3D projective geometry and transformations

Why is 3D projective geometry useful? Example: Pinhole camera

We will see:



Written in projective coordinates of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  and  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , it is a **linear map**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} fX \\ fY \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Central projection in homogeneous coordinates.*

# 3D projective geometry

- We will study the geometric properties and objects of the 3D projective space, denoted by  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Many of the concepts are generalizations of the 2D projective space, the projective plane  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .
- For instance, the points of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  increase the 3D Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^3$  by adding a set of ideal points, which are on a plane at infinity  $\Pi_\infty$  (analogous to  $\ell_\infty$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ ;  $\mathbb{P}^2$  was constructed by adding to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  the points on  $\ell_\infty$ ).
- The parallel lines and now also the parallel planes meet at  $\Pi_\infty$ .
- The points are represented in homogeneous coordinates which increase in one component the cartesian coordinates in 3D.
- On the other hand, there appear new properties thanks to the new dimension that is added.

# 3D projective space

- Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^3$  :  $(X, Y, Z)^T$  cartesian coordinates (inhomogeneous).
- Projective space  $\mathbb{P}^3$  :  $\mathbf{X} = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T$  homogeneous coordinates (or projective), except the point  $(0, 0, 0, 0)^T$ .  
If  $x_4 \neq 0$ ,  $\mathbf{X}$  represents the point  $(X, Y, Z)^T = (\frac{x_1}{x_4}, \frac{x_2}{x_4}, \frac{x_3}{x_4})^T$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .
- Notation:  
 $P^3 := \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T \in \mathbb{R}^4 : x_4 \neq 0\} \cup \Pi_0(\mathbb{R}^4) = \mathbb{R}^4 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0, 0)\}$ ,  
where  $\Pi_0(\mathbb{R}^4) = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, 0)^T : (x_1, x_2, x_3)^T \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}\}$ .  
We say that  $P^3 = \{\text{clasic points}\} \cup \{\text{ideal points (at infinity)}\}$ .
- Given  $\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}' \in P^3$ , we define the equivalence relation  
$$\mathbf{X} \equiv \mathbf{X}' \text{ if there exists } \lambda \neq 0 \text{ such that } \mathbf{X} = \lambda \mathbf{X}'.$$
- We define  $\mathbb{P}^3 = P^3 / \equiv$  and we call it the 3D projective space.  
(compare with the projective plane  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .)

# 3D projective space

## Points at $\infty$

Homogeneous points  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, 0)$  represent points at infinity (ideal points).

They form a plane:  $x_4 = 0$  (the plane at infinity  $\Pi_\infty$ ).

Equation:  $\langle (0, 0, 0, 1)^T, (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T \rangle = 0$ ,

or  $(0, 0, 0, 1)(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T = 0$ ,

or  $\Pi_\infty^T \mathbf{X} = 0$ , where  $\Pi_\infty = (0, 0, 0, 1)^T$ .

# 3D projective space

## Planes in $\mathbb{P}^3$

A plane in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  can be written as

$$\pi_1x_1 + \pi_2x_2 + \pi_3x_3 + \pi_4x_4 = 0,$$

or in short as

$$\boldsymbol{\Pi}^T \mathbf{X} = 0,$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\Pi} = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \pi_4)^T$ .

The first three coordinates of  $\boldsymbol{\Pi}$  correspond to the normal  $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  of Euclidean geometry.

Using inhomogeneous coordinates we can write  $\mathbf{X} = (\tilde{\mathbf{X}}, 1)^T$  where  $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\Pi} = (\mathbf{n}, d)^T$  with  $\|\mathbf{n}\| = 1$  and  $d = \text{distance to the origin}$ , and we may write the plane equation as

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{X}} + d = 0.$$

# 3D projective space

Some facts:

- Three different points determine a unique plane.
- Two different planes intersect in a unique line.
- Three different planes determine a unique point.

Note that they are analogous results to the ones for points and lines in the projective plane  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . For instance, for the last one, the point  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{P}^3$  intersection of three planes  $\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3$  is given by the null space of

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Pi_1^T \\ \Pi_2^T \\ \Pi_3^T \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{0},$$

which is the analogous of the equation for the point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{P}^2$  intersection of two lines  $\ell_1, \ell_2$ .

# Quadratics and dual quadratics

- A quadric is a surface of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  given by the equation

$$\mathbf{X}^T Q \mathbf{X} = 0, \quad \text{where } Q \text{ is a symmetric } 4 \times 4 \text{ matrix.}$$

It is the analogous object to a conic in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Many of the properties of quadratics follow directly from those of conics.

- Degrees of freedom  $= 9 = 10 - 1$  = the 10 parameters of a symmetric  $4 \times 4$  matrix minus one for the scale factor.
- The plane  $\Pi = Q\mathbf{X}$  is called the **polar plane** of  $\mathbf{X}$  with respect to  $Q$ .  
If  $\mathbf{X}$  is in the quadric  $Q$ , then the plane  $\Pi = Q\mathbf{X}$  is tangent to the quadric at  $\mathbf{X}$ .  
If  $\mathbf{X}$  is not on  $Q$  and  $Q$  is non-singular, the polar plane  $\Pi = Q\mathbf{X}$  is defined by the points of contact with  $Q$  of the cone of rays through  $\mathbf{X}$  tangent to  $Q$ .
- Dual quadric: The dual of a quadric is also a quadric.

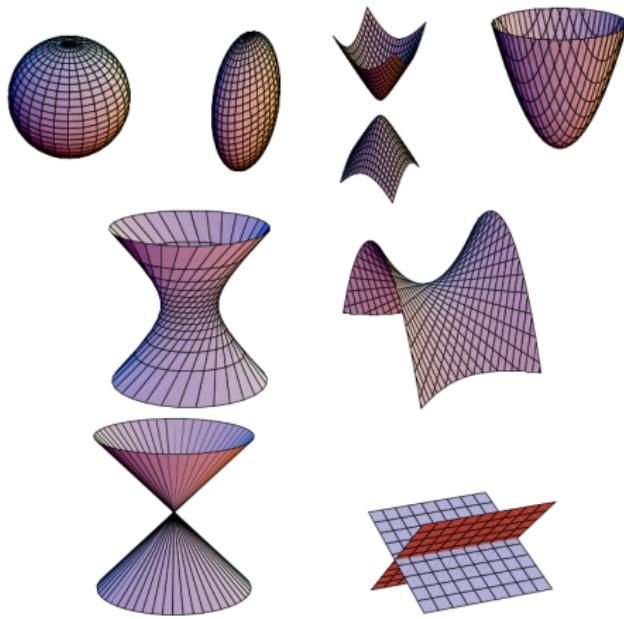
A dual quadric  $Q^*$  is an equation on planes: the tangent planes  $\Pi$  to the point quadric  $Q$  satisfy

$$\Pi^T Q^* \Pi = 0,$$

where  $Q^* = Q^{-1}$  if  $Q$  is invertible, and = adjoint of  $Q$ , if  $Q$  is singular.

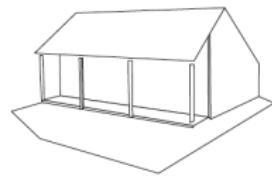
# Quadratics

Some examples:

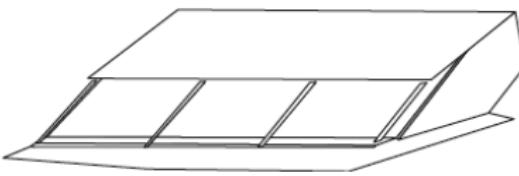


(we refer to [Hartley Zisserman 2004], 3.2.4, for details)

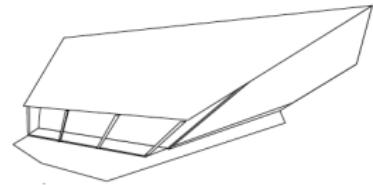
# 3D Projective Transformations



Similarity



Affine



Projective

# 3D Projective Transformations

A projective transformation (also called homography) of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is given by a non-singular  $4 \times 4$  matrix  $H$ .

If  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{X}'$  are homogeneous coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , it can be written as

$$\mathbf{X}' = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} & h_{14} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} & h_{24} \\ h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} & h_{34} \\ h_{41} & h_{42} & h_{43} & h_{44} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}.$$

In short,

$$\mathbf{X}' = H\mathbf{X}.$$

**Degrees of freedom:** 15 ( $\rightarrow 4 \times 4$  elements - 1 multiplicative factor).

As in the case of planar projective transformations, lines are mapped to lines, it preserves incidence relations such as the intersection point of a line with a plane, and order of contact.

# Isometry

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{X}'$  be homogeneous coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ .

$$\mathbf{X}' = \mathcal{H}_e \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} R & \vec{t} \\ \vec{0}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}.$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_e$  is a  $4 \times 4$  matrix,

$R$  is a rotation  $3 \times 3$  matrix (orthogonal matrix) and

$\vec{t}$  is a  $3 \times 1$  translation vector.

**Degrees of freedom:** 6

→ 3 for the rotation angles + 3 for the translation coefficients

**Invariants:** lengths, angles.

Remark: Isometries are transformations of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that preserve the Euclidean distance; i.e.,  $\|\mathcal{T}\vec{X} - \mathcal{T}\vec{Y}\|_2 = \|\vec{X} - \vec{Y}\|_2$  for all  $\vec{X}, \vec{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . An isometry  $\mathcal{T} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is  $\mathcal{T}\vec{X} = R\vec{X} + \vec{t}$ . In homogeneous coordinates,  $\mathbf{X}' = \mathcal{H}_e \mathbf{X}$ , where  $\mathbf{X} = (\vec{X}, 1)$ .

# Rotation matrix in 3D

The **rotation matrix  $R$**  is represented by three rotation matrices that represent rotations about the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axis:

$$R = R_z(\alpha)R_y(\theta)R_x(\phi)$$

$$R_x(\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ 0 & \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_y(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_z(\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha & 0 \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Similarity

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{X}'$  be homogeneous coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ .

$$\mathbf{X}' = \mathcal{H}_s \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} sR & \vec{t} \\ \vec{0}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}.$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_e$  is a  $4 \times 4$  matrix,

$s$  is an isotropic scaling factor,

$R$  is a rotation  $3 \times 3$  matrix (orthogonal matrix) and

$\vec{t}$  is a translation vector.

**Degrees of freedom:** 7

→ 3 for the rotation angles + 3 for the translation coefficients

+ 1 for scaling factor

**Invariants:** angles, ratios, the absolute conic  $\Omega_\infty$ .

Remark: Similarities are matrices that represent changes of coordinates from Euclidean to Euclidean frames (modulo scalings).

# Similarity

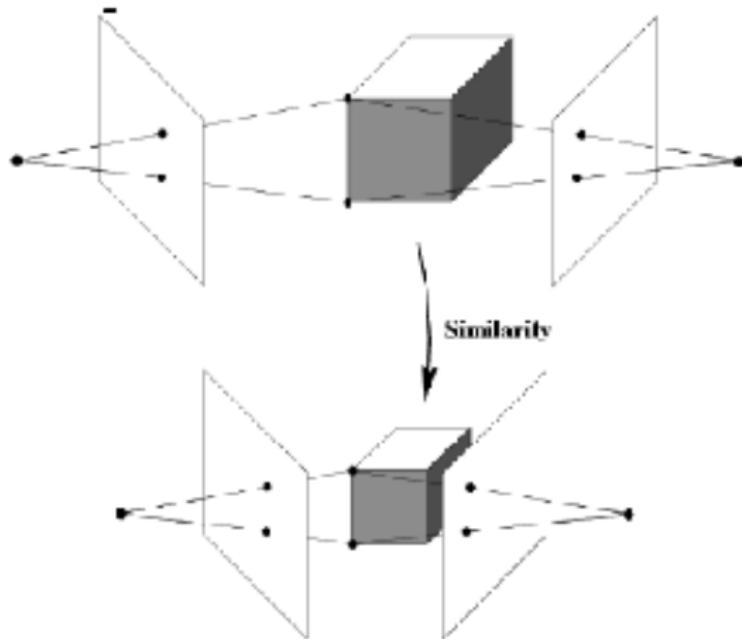


Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# Affine transformation

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{X}'$  be homogeneous coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ .

$$\mathbf{X}' = H_a \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} A & \vec{t} \\ \vec{0}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}.$$

where  $A$  is a non-singular  $3 \times 3$  matrix ,  
 $\vec{t}$  is a translation vector.

**Degrees of freedom:** 12

→ 9 for  $A$  + 3 for the translation coefficients

**Invariants:** parallelism, ratio of two volumes, the plane at infinity  $\Pi_\infty$ .

# Projective transformation

Let  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{X}'$  be homogeneous coordinates in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ .

$$\mathbf{X}' = \mathcal{H}_p \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} A & \vec{t} \\ \vec{v}^T & v \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}.$$

where  $\mathcal{H}_p$  is a homography

$$\mathcal{H}_p = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & h_{13} & h_{14} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} & h_{24} \\ h_{31} & h_{32} & h_{33} & h_{34} \\ h_{41} & h_{42} & h_{43} & h_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Degrees of freedom:** 15

→  $4 \times 4$  elements - 1 multiplicative factor

**Invariants:** concurrency, collinearity, order of contact, cross ratio.

# Projective transformation

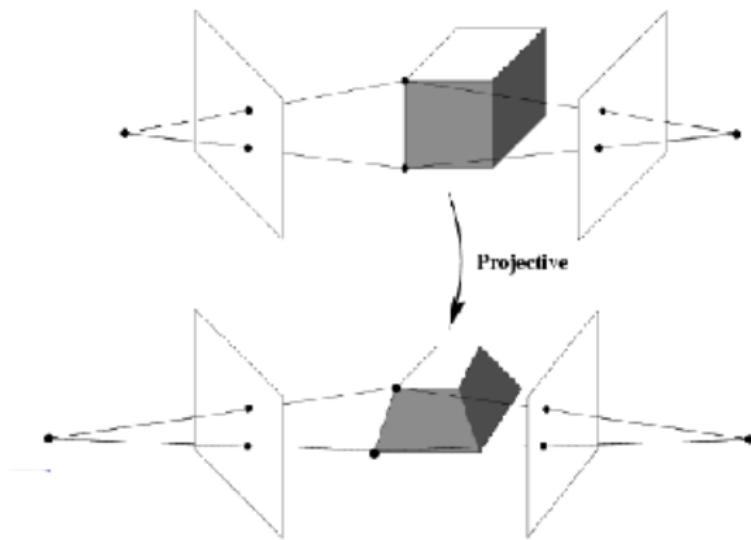
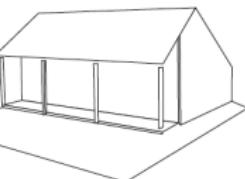
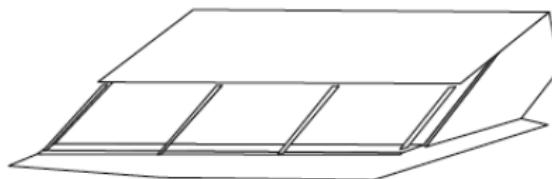


Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

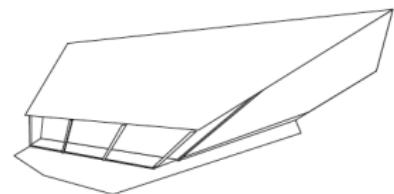
# 3D projective transformations



Similarity



Affine



Projective

# Hierarchy of 3D transformations

Group	Matrix	Distortion	Invariant properties
Projective 15 dof	$\begin{bmatrix} A & t \\ v^T & v \end{bmatrix}$		Intersection and tangency of surfaces in contact. Sign of Gaussian curvature.
Affine 12 dof	$\begin{bmatrix} A & t \\ 0^T & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		Parallelism of planes, volume ratios, centroids. The plane at infinity, $\pi_\infty$ , (see section 3.5).
Similarity 7 dof	$\begin{bmatrix} sR & t \\ 0^T & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		The absolute conic, $\Omega_\infty$ , (see section 3.6).
Euclidean 6 dof	$\begin{bmatrix} R & t \\ 0^T & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		Volume.

Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# 3D Projective Transformations

Law of transformations of geometric objects by a 3D homography:

Projective transformation of points:  $\mathbf{X}' = H\mathbf{X}$

Projective transformation of planes:  $\boldsymbol{\Pi}' = H^{-T}\boldsymbol{\Pi}$

Projective transformation of quadrics:  $\mathbf{Q}' = H^{-T}QH^{-1}$

Projective transformation of dual quadrics:  $\mathbf{Q}^*{}' = HQ^*H^T$

## Some more comments on the plane at infinity in $\mathbb{P}^3$

- The plane at infinity has the canonical position  $\Pi_\infty = (0, 0, 0, 1)^T$  in affine 3-space.  
(analogous to  $\ell_\infty = (0, 0, 1)^T$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ )
- It contains the points (and directions) at infinity  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, 0)^T$ .
- $\Pi_\infty$  enables the identification of affine properties such as parallelism:
  - ▶ Two planes are parallel if and only if they intersect at a line in  $\Pi_\infty$ .
  - ▶ Two lines are parallel (also, a line is parallel to a plane), if they intersect at a point in  $\Pi_\infty$ .
- In  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , any pair of planes intersect in a line. When the planes are parallel, they intersect in a line at  $\Pi_\infty$ .
- **Result:** The plane at infinity,  $\Pi_\infty$ , is a fixed plane under the projective transformation  $H$  if, and only if  $H$  is an affinity.

That is: The plane  $\Pi_\infty$  is a fixed plane (doesn't vary) when we do an affine transformation.

On the other hand, a projective transformation do move  $\Pi_\infty$ .

## Some more comments on the plane at infinity in $\mathbb{P}^3$

This is why

**$\Pi_\infty$  will play an important role in the autocalibration of a camera**  
(in the same way that  $\ell_\infty$  allowed to remove projective distortion).

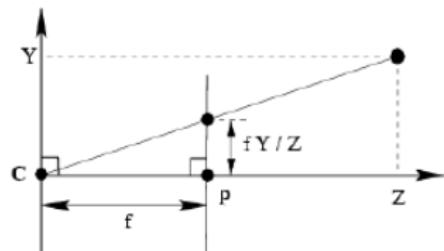
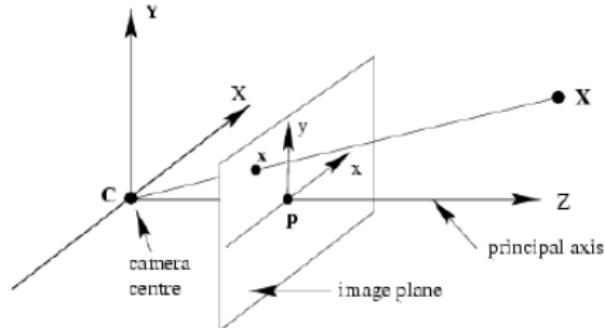
**$\Pi_\infty$  allows to remove the projective distortion in a 3D reconstruction from  $N$  cameras** and therefore allows to identify parallel lines.

When we transform a 3D reconstruction with a transformation fixing the plane at infinity to  $(0, 0, 0, 1)^T$ , **the 3D reconstruction is related to the 3D scene by an affine transformation**.

# Camera models

- 1.- The pinhole camera model
  - 1.1- From world in the camera system to infinite resolution image
  - 1.2- From world to world in camera system
- 2.- Camera CCD
- 3.- Finite projective camera
- 4.- Cameras at infinity

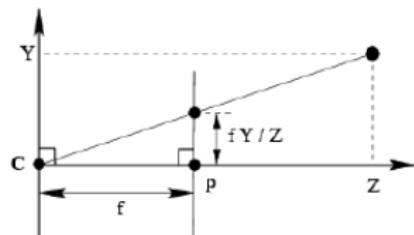
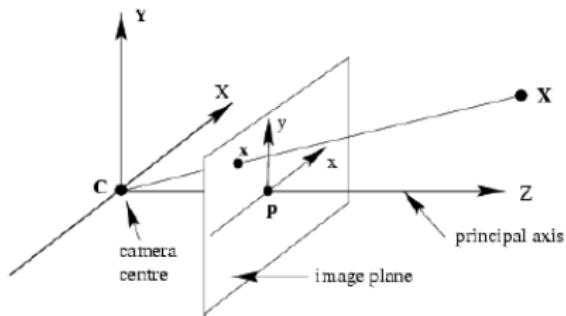
# 1. The pinhole camera model



Assuming that the optic is perfect and the camera realizes a central projection from the world to the image plane, consider a reference frame where its origin is the center of projection and the image plane is given by  $Z = f$  where  $f$  is the focal length of the camera. A point  $(X, Y, Z)^T$  in the world is mapped to the point  $(fX/Z, fY/Z, f)^T$  in the image plane. This gives a map from  $\mathbb{R}^3$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  written as:

$$(X, Y, Z)^T \rightarrow (fX/Z, fY/Z)^T.$$

# Pinhole camera



## Camera anatomy:

**Camera centre (or optical centre):** the centre of projection.

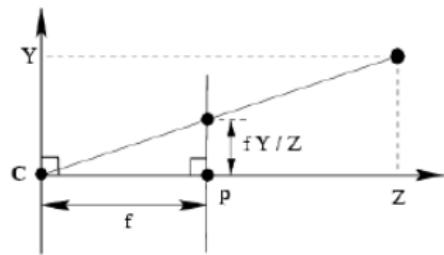
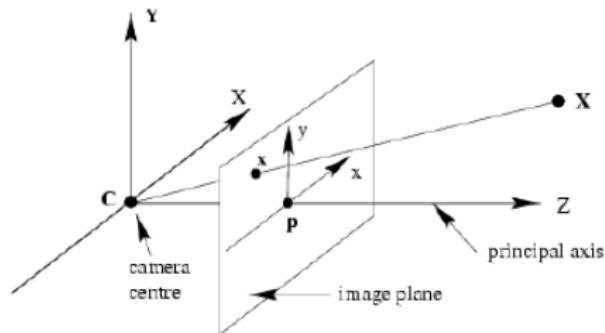
**Principal axis (or principal ray):** the line from the camera centre perpendicular to the **image plane**.

**Principal point P:** where the principal axis meets the image plane.

**Principal plane:** the plane through the camera centre parallel to the image plane.

Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# Pinhole camera



$$(X, Y, Z)^T \rightarrow (fX/Z, fY/Z)^T.$$

Notice that this map is non-linear in  $(X, Y, Z)$ . It will be linear if we write it in projective coordinates of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  and  $\mathbb{P}^2$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} fX \\ fY \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Image and camera coordinate systems

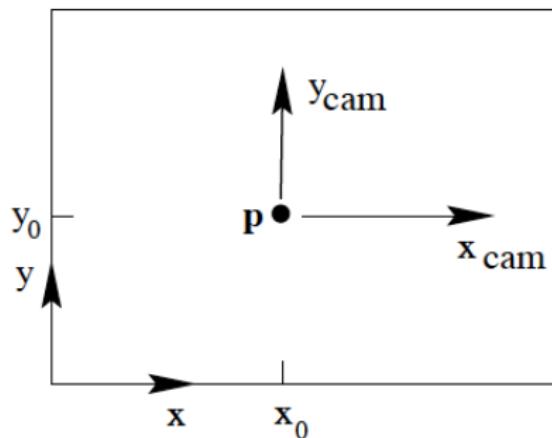


Fig. 6.2. Image ( $x, y$ ) and camera ( $x_{cam}, y_{cam}$ ) coordinate systems.

Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# Transformation between the world and camera reference systems

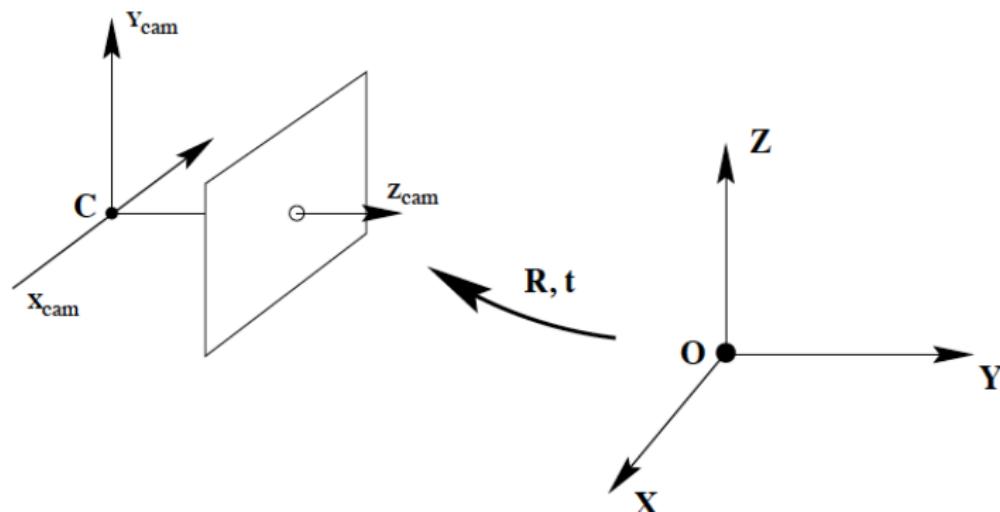


Fig. 6.3. The Euclidean transformation between the world and camera coordinate frames.

Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# Affine camera

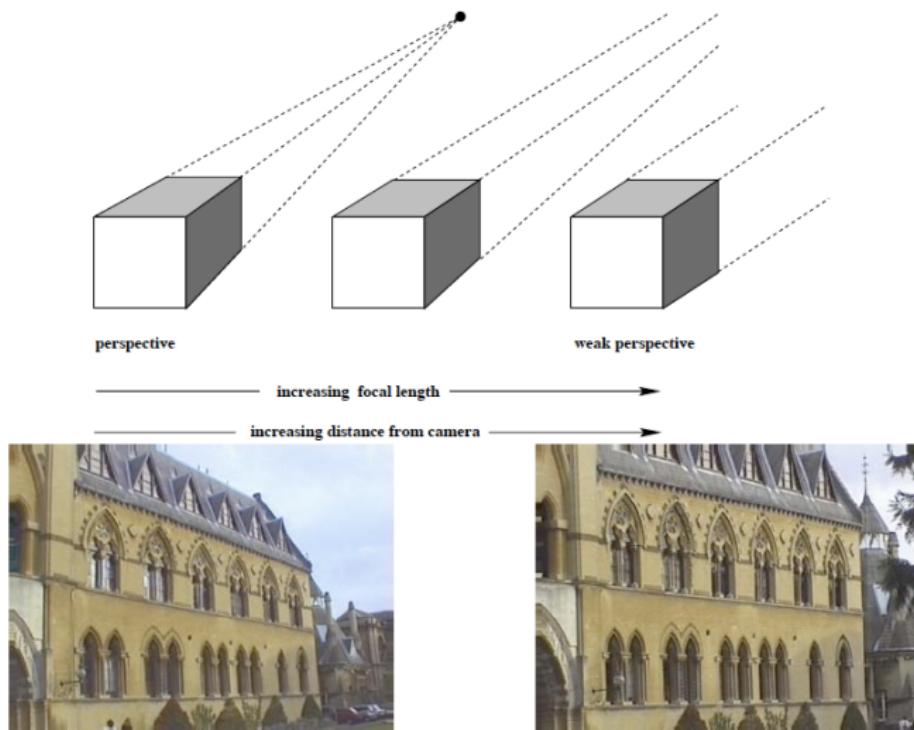


Image source: [Hartley Zisserman 2004]

# References

[Hartley and Zisserman 2004] R.I. Hartley and A. Zisserman, Multiple View Geometry in Computer Vision, Cambridge University Press, 2004.