Multi-View Geometry - I
Camera Modeling and Calibration

RRC Summer School 2025

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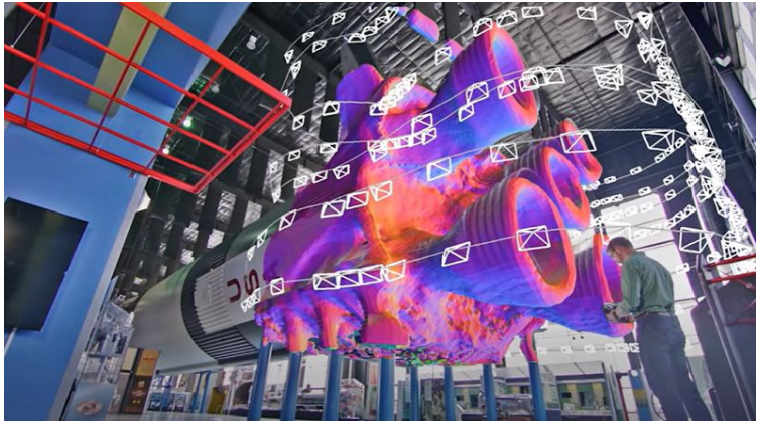
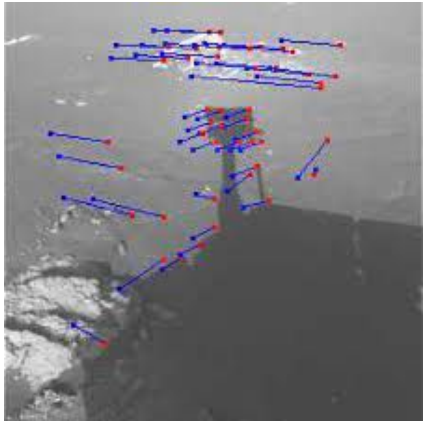


[Skydio's 3D Scan Autonomous Drone Inspection]



[Visual Odometry on Mars!]

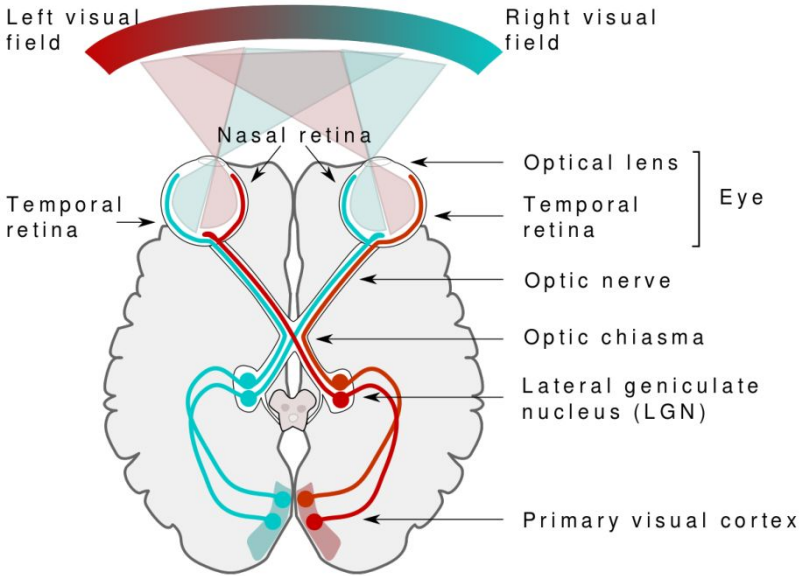
[Oreo AR Box Demo]

[Decoupled Human and Camera Pose Estimation]

[Language Embedded Radiance Fields]

Why Vision ?

- Most powerful sense - half of primate cerebral cortex is devoted to visual processing - data-rates upto ~3GB/s
- Vision evolved multiple times - stumped Darwin!
- Extract meaning, both geometric, semantic, from light (nothing travels faster!)
- J. Malik's 3R's - Reorganization (segmentation), Recognition, and Reconstruction



Aside: Beyond conventional cameras ?

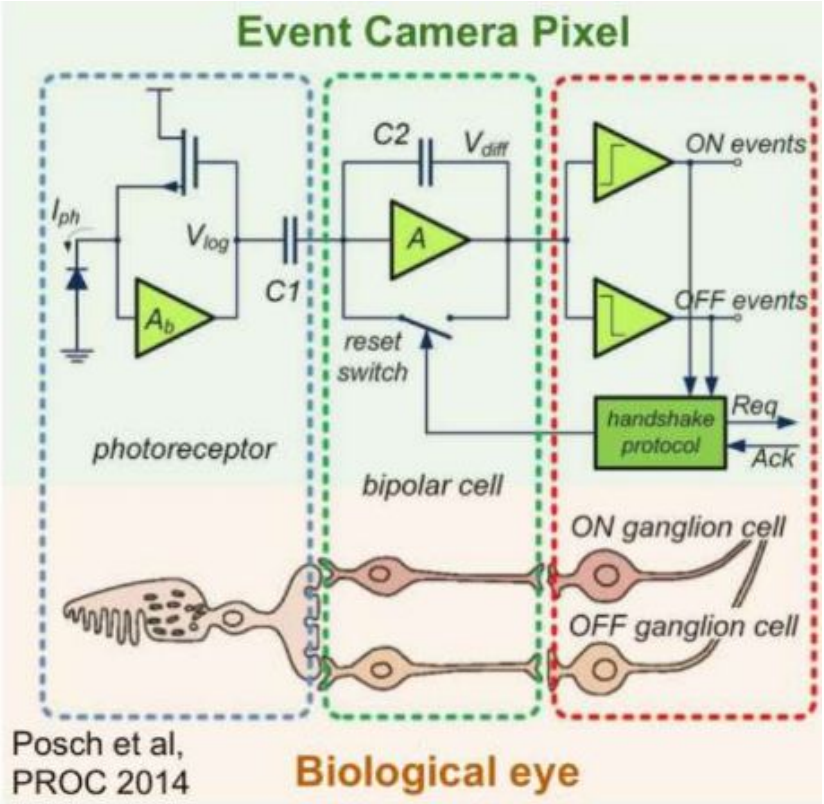
Bandwidth-Latency tradeoff

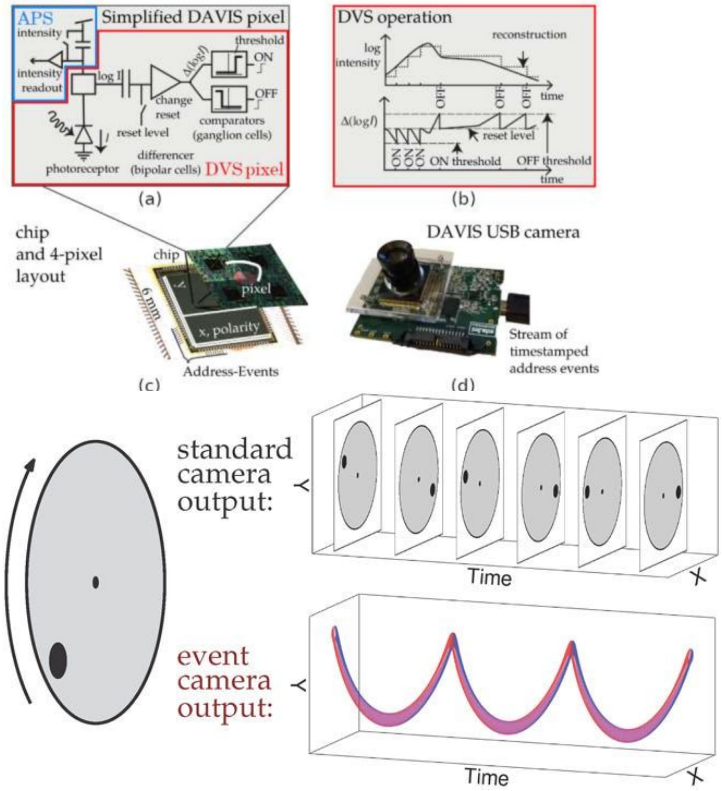
Motion blur

Dynamic Range

Traditional cameras oversample and undersample at the same time

Aside: Event Cameras solve these!

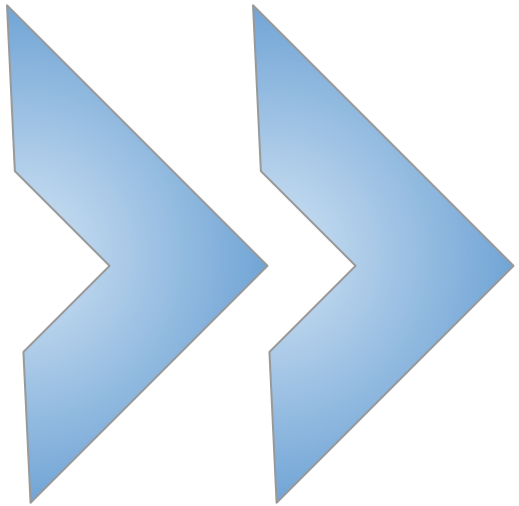




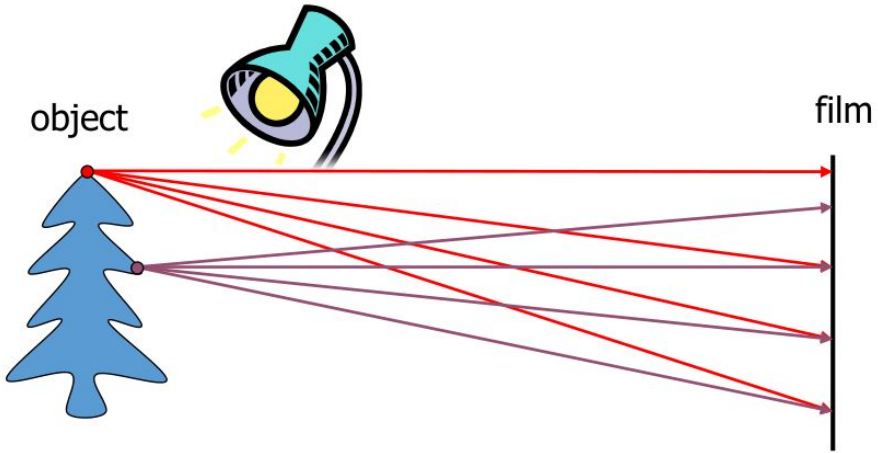
Lecture Objectives

- Camera Modeling
  - Geometric Image Formation and Pinhole Camera
  - Transformations and Projective Geometry
  - General Camera Equation
- Camera Calibration
  - Direct Linear Transform
  - Anatomy of the Projection Matrix (M)

Camera Modeling

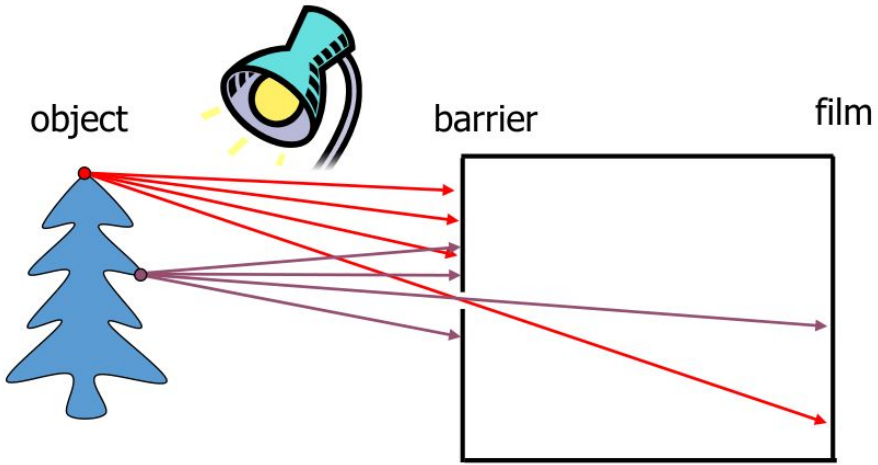


Geometric Image Formation



Would this work ?
What would the resulting image look like ?

Geometric Image Formation

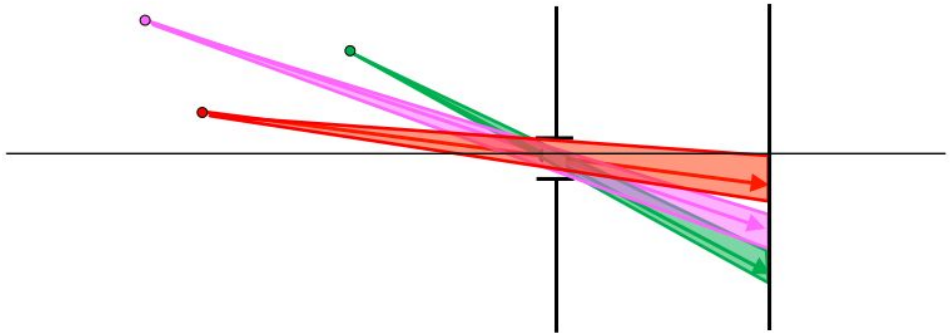


Placing a barrier helps - opening called aperture

Pinhole Cameras in the Wild

Virupaksha Temple, Hampi - has a lot of other mathematical features, such as fractals. Maybe pinhole camera was not accidental ?

Geometric Image Formation

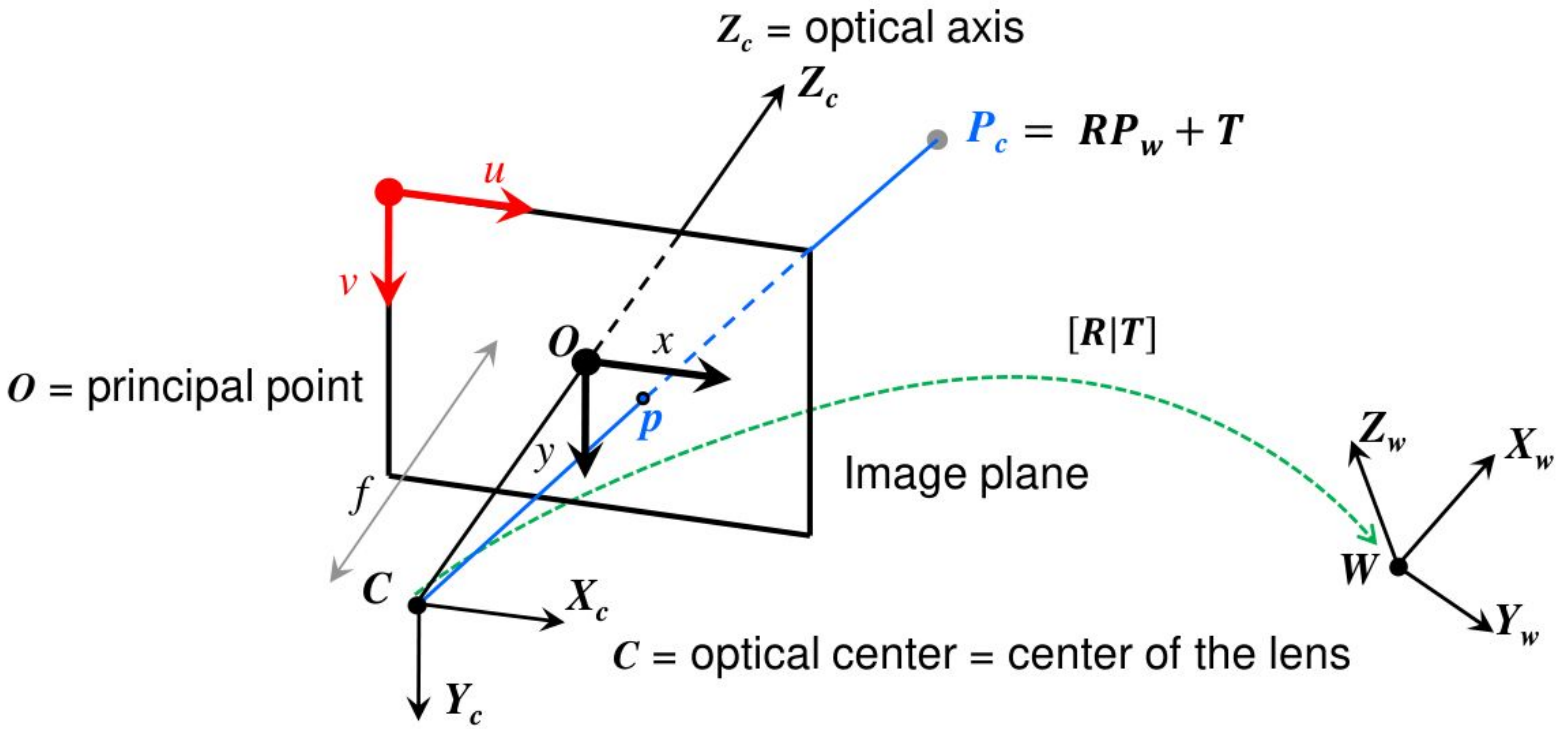


Ideally, we need just one ray to hit each point on the film. Why not just make it as small as possible ?

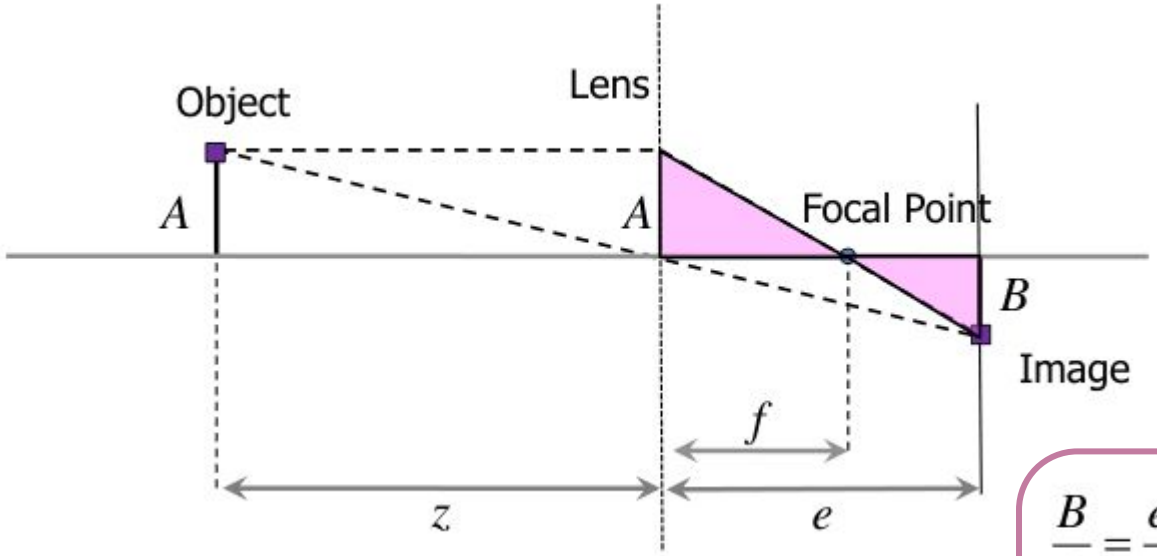
Geometric Image Formation

- Less light, therefore image too dim - need to compensate with exposure (what's the tradeoff ?)
- Diffraction effects

Pinhole Camera Model



Perspective Projection 1/4 - Camera Frame to Image Plane



Any object point satisfying this is in focus

Similar triangles ->

$$\frac{B}{A} = \frac{e}{z}$$

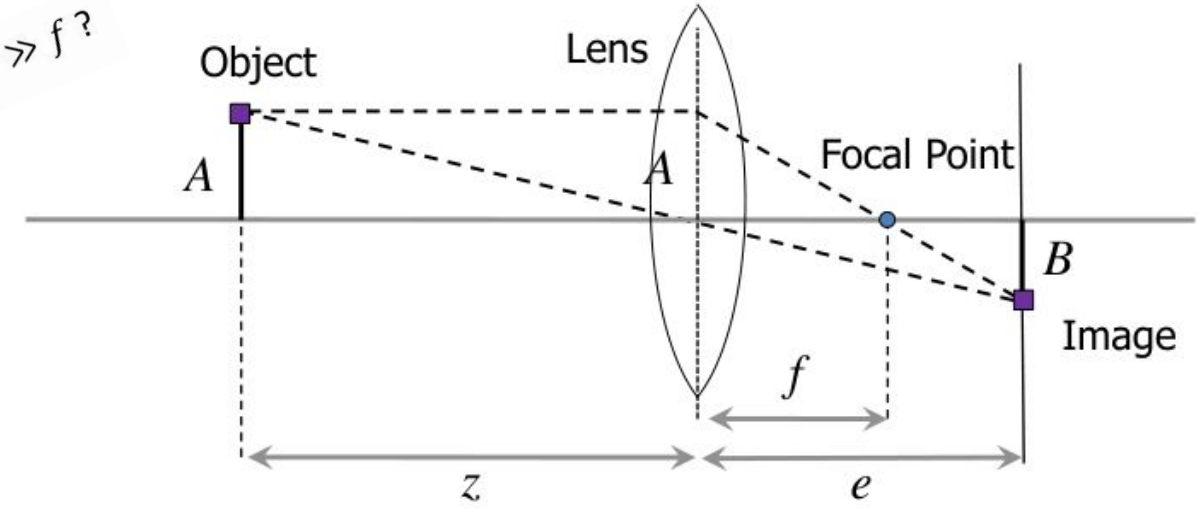
$$\frac{B}{A} = \frac{e-f}{f} = \frac{e}{f} - 1$$

Thin lens equation

$$\frac{e}{f} - 1 = \frac{e}{z}$$

Perspective Projection 1/4 - Camera Frame to Image Plane

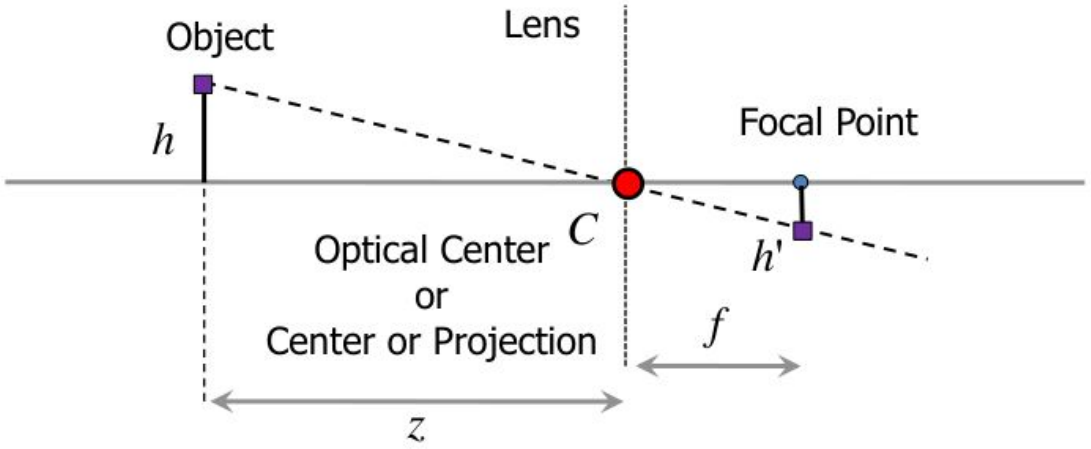
What happens if $z \gg f$?



$$\frac{1}{f} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{z}}_{\cong 0} - \frac{1}{e} \quad \Rightarrow \frac{1}{f} \approx \frac{1}{e} \Rightarrow f \approx e$$

Perspective Projection 1/4 - Camera Frame to Image Plane

What happens if $z \gg f$?

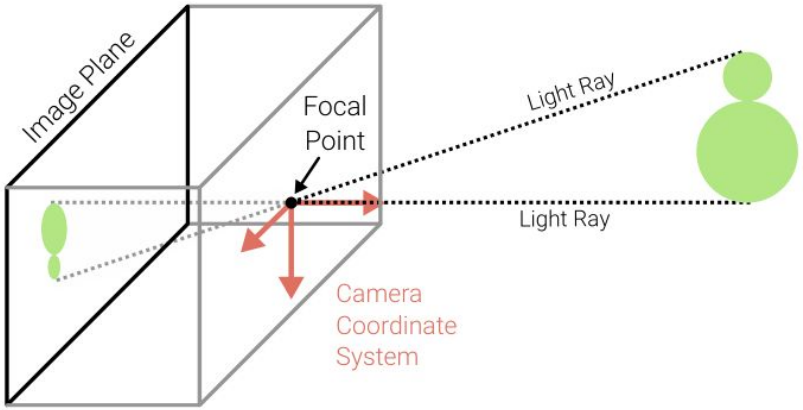


$$\frac{h'}{h} = \frac{f}{z} \Rightarrow h' = \frac{f}{z} h$$

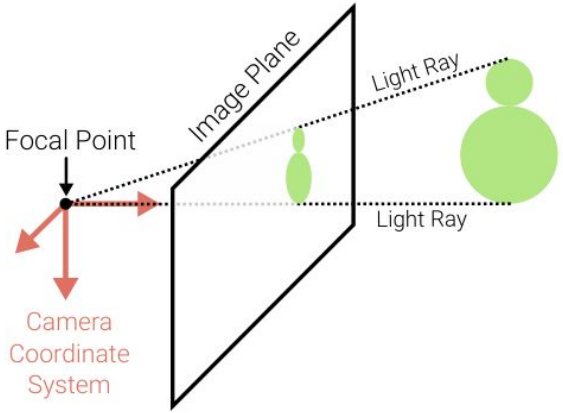
This dependence of the apparent size of an object on its depth (i.e. distance from the camera) is known as **perspective**

Pinhole Camera Model

Physical Camera Model



Mathematical Camera Model



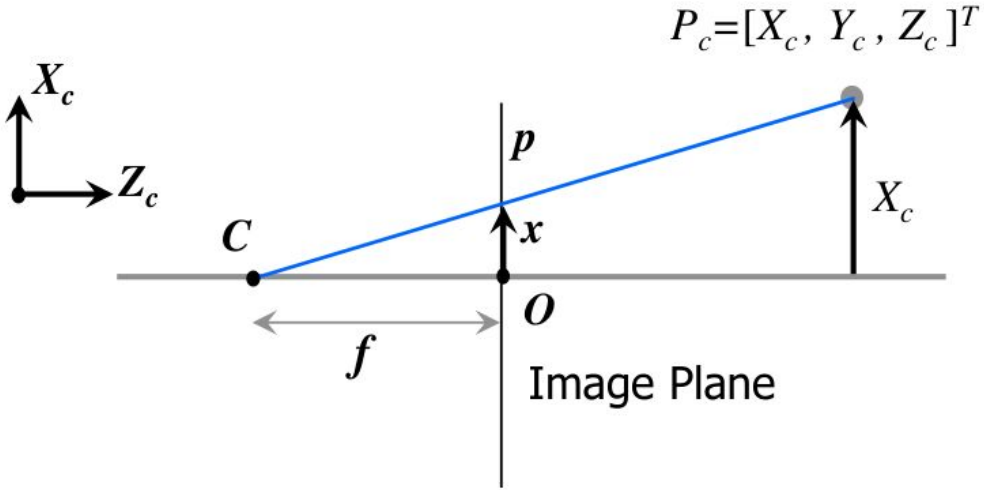
Both models are equivalent, with appropriate change of image coordinates

Perspective Projection 1/4 - Camera Frame to Image Plane

$P_c=[X_c, Y_c, Z_c]^T$ projects to $p = (x, y)$ onto the image plane

$$\frac{x}{f} = \frac{X_c}{Z_c} \Rightarrow x = \frac{fX_c}{Z_c}$$

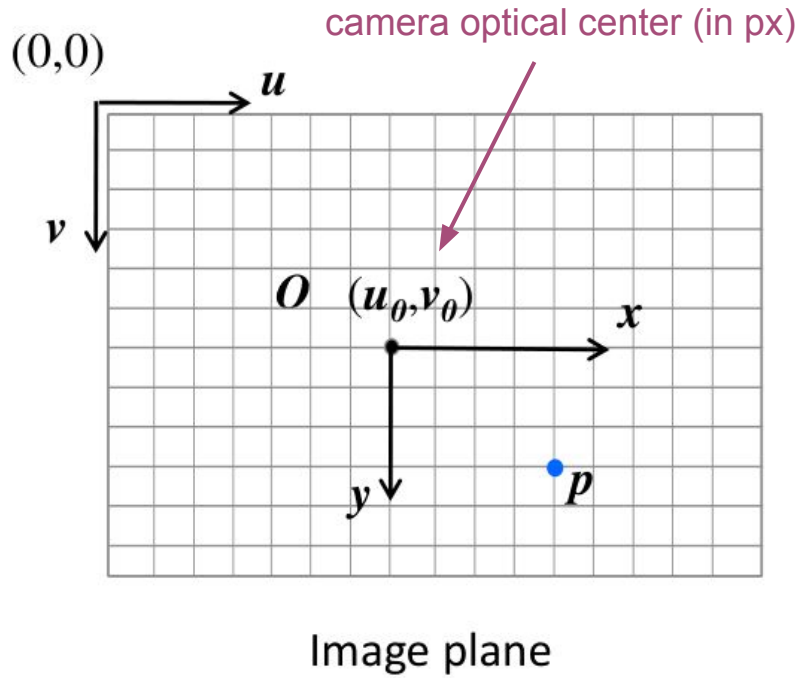
$$\frac{y}{f} = \frac{Y_c}{Z_c} \Rightarrow y = \frac{fY_c}{Z_c}$$



Perspective Projection 2/4 - Image Plane to Pixel Coords.

$$u = u_0 + k_u x \rightarrow u = u_0 + \frac{k_u f X_C}{Z_C}$$

$$v = v_0 + k_v y \rightarrow v = v_0 + \frac{k_v f Y_C}{Z_C}$$



Perspective Projection 3/4 - Mapping from 3D to 2D

- Homogeneous Coordinates to the rescue!

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \tilde{p} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{u} \\ \tilde{v} \\ \tilde{w} \end{bmatrix} = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_u & 0 & u_0 \\ 0 & \alpha_v & v_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_c \\ Y_c \\ Z_c \end{bmatrix}$$

K / Calibration matrix / Intrinsic Parameter Matrix

Note: In the past, it was common to assume a skew factor ($K_{12} \neq 0$) to account for sensor manufacturing errors. However, nowadays with updated build quality, it is safe to assume ($K_{12} = s = 0$)

Perspective Projection 4/4 - From World to Camera Frame

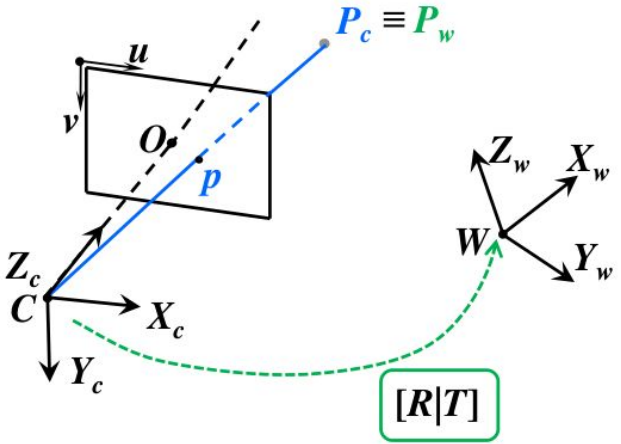
$$\begin{bmatrix} X_c \\ Y_c \\ Z_c \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} & t_1 \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} & t_2 \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} & t_3 \end{array}\right] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X_w \\ Y_w \\ Z_w \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} & \\ R & T \\ & \end{array}\right] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X_w \\ Y_w \\ Z_w \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Substituting this into our Perspective Projection Equation

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = K \begin{bmatrix} X_c \\ Y_c \\ Z_c \end{bmatrix}$$

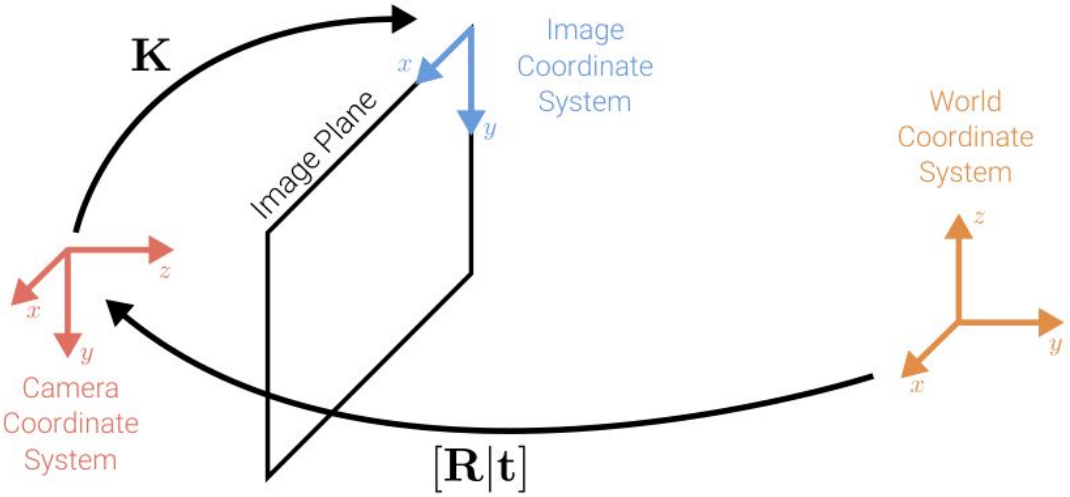
$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = K \left[R \mid T\right] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X_w \\ Y_w \\ Z_w \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Projection Matrix (M)



Extrinsic Parameters

Perspective Projection - Chaining Transformations



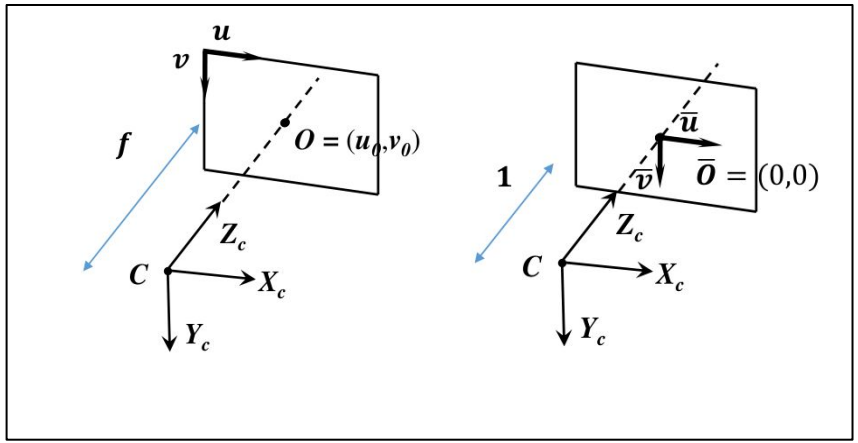
$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_c = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}^\top & 1 \end{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_w = \mathbf{K} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_w = \mathbf{P}\, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_w$$

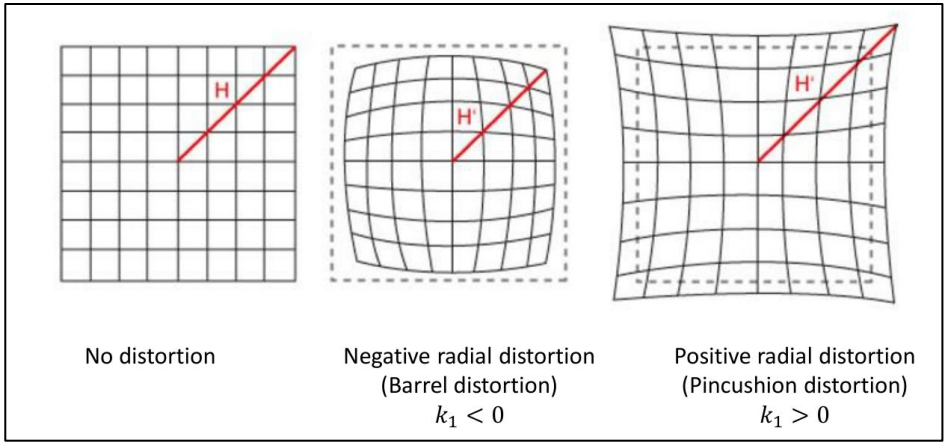
Intrinsics

Extrinsics

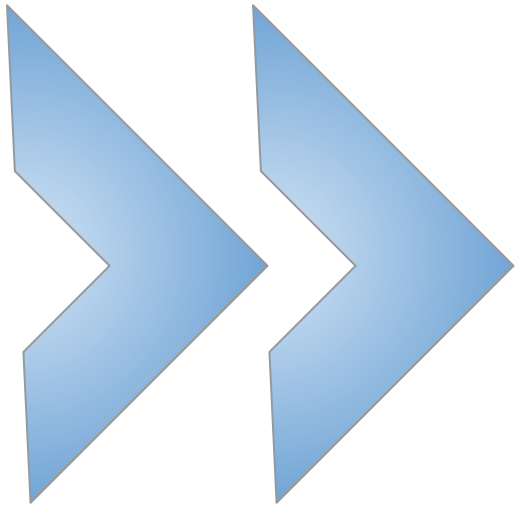
Geometric Image Formation - Self Study

- Normalized Image Coordinates
- Lens Distortion Models
  - Simple Quadratic Model of Radial Distortion





Camera Calibration



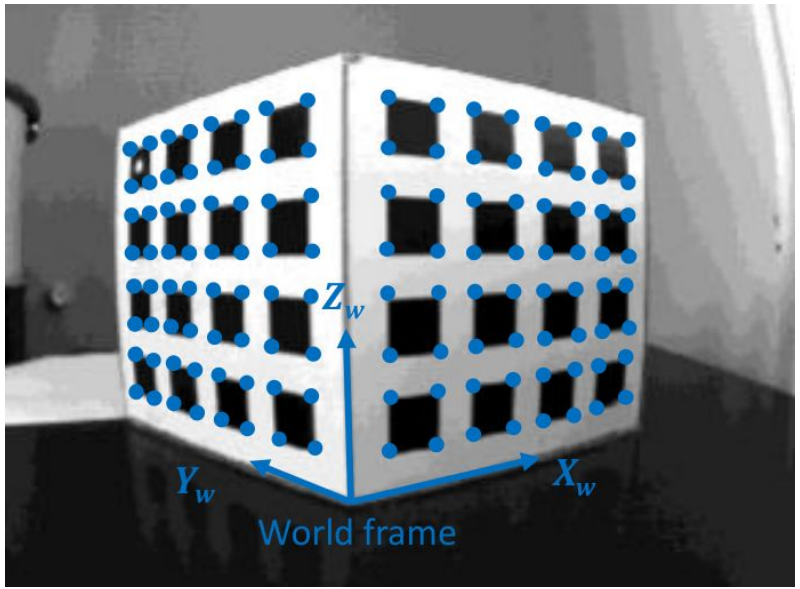
Camera Calibration

- What are we determining ? Intrinsic parameters (*K* plus lens distortion) and extrinsic parameters (*R, T*) - for now we'll neglect lens distortion
- *K, R, T* can be determined by applying the perspective projection equation to known 3D-2D point correspondences
- Mainstream Methods:
  - Tsai's Method: Uses 3D objects
  - Zhang's Method: Uses Planar Grids

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = K \begin{bmatrix} R \mid T \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X_w \\ Y_w \\ Z_w \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

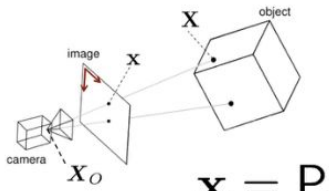
Tsai's Method: Calibration from 3D Objects

- Method proposed in 1987 by Tsai and consists of measuring the 3D position of $n \geq 6$ control points on a 3D calibration target and the 2D coordinates of their projection in the image.



Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

DLT simply refers to rewriting the projection equation as a **homogeneous linear equation** and solve it using standard techniques from linear algebra



$$\mathbf{x} = \mathrm{P}\mathbf{X}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathrm{K}R[I_3| - \boldsymbol{X}_O]\mathbf{X}$$

observed image point

c, s, m, x_H, y_H

3 rotations

3 translations

control point

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

- Each 3D point gives two observation equations, one for each image coordinate

$$x = \frac{p_{11}X + p_{12}Y + p_{13}Z + p_{14}}{p_{31}X + p_{32}Y + p_{33}Z + p_{34}}$$

$$y = \frac{p_{21}X + p_{22}Y + p_{23}Z + p_{24}}{p_{31}X + p_{32}Y + p_{33}Z + p_{34}}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_i = \underset{3\times4}{\mathsf{P}}\mathbf{X}_i = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & p_{13} & p_{14} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & p_{23} & p_{24} \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & p_{33} & p_{34} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_i$$

So what we can rewrite the equation as

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_i \\ v_i \\ w_i \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{x}_i = \mathsf{P}\mathbf{X}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^\mathsf{T} \\ \mathbf{B}^\mathsf{T} \\ \mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i \\ \mathbf{B}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i \\ \mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i \end{bmatrix}$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

$$x_i = \frac{\mathbf{A}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i}{\mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i} \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_i\,\mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{A}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i = 0$$

$$y_i = \frac{\mathbf{B}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i}{\mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i} \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_i\,\mathbf{C}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{B}^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{X}_i = 0$$

Leads to a system of equations, which is linear in parameters A, B, and C

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{A} \quad & +x_i\,\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{C} = 0 \\ -\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{B} \quad & +y_i\,\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{C} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

Rewriting

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{A} \quad & +x_i\,\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{C} = 0 \\ -\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{B} \quad & +y_i\,\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}\mathbf{C} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

as

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{a}_{x_i}^\mathsf{T}\boldsymbol{p} &= 0 \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{y_i}^\mathsf{T}\boldsymbol{p} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{p} &= (p_k) = \mathrm{vec}(\mathsf{P}^\mathsf{T}) \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{x_i}^\mathsf{T} &= (-\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T},\, \mathbf{0}^\mathsf{T},\, x_i\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}) \\ &= (-X_i,\, -Y_i,\, -Z_i,\, -1, 0,\, 0,\, 0,\, 0, x_iX_i,\, x_iY_i,\, x_iZ_i,\, x_i) \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{y_i}^\mathsf{T} &= (\mathbf{0}^\mathsf{T}, -\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T},\, y_i\mathbf{X}_i^\mathsf{T}) \\ &= (0,\, 0,\, 0,\, 0, -X_i,\, -Y_i,\, -Z_i,\, -1, y_iX_i,\, y_iY_i,\, y_iZ_i,\, y_i) \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

For each point, we have

$$\boldsymbol{a}_{x_i}^\top \boldsymbol{p} = 0$$
$$\boldsymbol{a}_{y_i}^\top \boldsymbol{p} = 0$$

stacking everything together

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{a}_{x_1}^\top \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{y_1}^\top \\ \cdots \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{x_i}^\top \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{y_i}^\top \\ \cdots \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{x_I}^\top \\ \boldsymbol{a}_{y_I}^\top \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{p} = \underset{2I\times 12}{\mathsf{M}} \underset{12\times 1}{\boldsymbol{p}} \overset{!}{=} 0$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

- How do we solve this **Ax=0 ?** (Hint: We're finding the null-space of A)

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

- How do we solve this **Ax=0 ?** (Hint: We're finding the null-space of A)
- We can apply Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) on M
- p is the singular vector belonging to singular value of 0
- Which corresponds to ?

$$\underset{2I\times 12}{\mathsf{M}} = \underset{2I\times 12}{U}\ \underset{12\times 12}{\mathsf{S}}\ \underset{12\times 12}{V^{\mathsf{T}}} = \sum_{i=1}^{12} s_i \boldsymbol{u}_i \boldsymbol{v}_i^{\mathsf{T}}$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

- How do we solve this **Ax=0 ?** (Hint: We're finding the null-space of A)
- We can apply Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) on M
- p is the singular vector belonging to singular value of 0
- Which corresponds to ?
- **Pick the last row of V^T**

$$\underset{2I\times 12}{\mathsf{M}} = \underset{2I\times 12}{U}\ \underset{12\times 12}{\mathsf{S}}\ \underset{12\times 12}{V^{\mathsf{T}}} = \sum_{i=1}^{12} s_i \boldsymbol{u}_i \boldsymbol{v}_i^{\mathsf{T}}$$

Applying the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) algorithm

- Reshaping 12x1 to 3x4

$$\boldsymbol{p} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} \\ \vdots \\ p_{34} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathrm{P} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & p_{13} & p_{14} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & p_{23} & p_{24} \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & p_{33} & p_{34} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Now, we need to arrive at K, X_0, and R
- Lets see a fun alternate method on the green-board first

Decomposition of P

- Structure of P_{3x4}

$$P = \left[KR \mid -KRX_0 \right] = \left[H \mid h \right]$$

- Projection Center

$$X_0 = -H^{-1}h$$

- Some things we know about H = KR
  - K is an upper triangular matrix
  - R is a rotation matrix
- Is there a matrix decomposition into a rotation matrix and a triangular one?

Decomposition of P

QR Decomposition of H^{-1} yields *R & K*

$$H^{-1} = (K\,R)^{-1} = R^{-1}\,K^{-1} = R^{T}\,K^{-1}$$

Q R

- H = KR is homogenous
- Therefore recovered K matrix is in homogenous form too
- Normalize as $K{:}K/K_{33}$

Anatomy of the Projection Matrix

- Any 3x4 P with a non-singular left submatrix represents a valid camera! It can be decomposed as shown in the previous slides as
  - A non-singular upper diagonal matrix K
  - An orthonormal matrix R and a vector C with their usual meanings!
- The 4-vector **C** with **PC=0** is the camera center
- Can you find the world origin just by looking at the projection matrix ?

Anatomy of the Projection Matrix

- Any 3x4 P with a nonsingular left submatrix represents a valid camera! It can be decomposed as shown in the previous slides as
  - A non-singular upper diagonal matrix K
  - An orthonormal matrix R and a vector C with their usual meanings!
- The 4-vector **C** with **PC=0** is the camera center
- Can you find the world origin just by looking at the projection matrix ?
  - [0, 0, 0] in homogeneous coordinates is the world origin
  - Thus $\mathbf{p}_4$ (last column of **P**) is the image of the world origin
  - $\mathbf{p}_4 = \mathbf{P}[0\ 0\ 0\ 1]^T$

More on Calibration in the upcoming session...

- Zhang’s Method - Complete Intrinsics and Extrinsics using Planar Grids
- Perspective N-Point (PnP) - Only Extrinsics using 2D-3D correspondences

- Doubts and Discussion on the `#module-4-multiview-geometry` channel

Resources

- Cyrill Stachniss' Mobile Sensing and Robotics 2 (2021) [Youtube]
  - Lectures 23-27: Camera Parameters and DLT
- Shree K Nayar's First Principles of Computer Vision [Youtube]
  - Image Formation Sub-Playlist [Youtube]
  - Camera Calibration Series [Youtube]
  - Fun fact: The first student who'd go on to do their PhD from IIIT-H went under Prof. Shree K Nayar
- Andreas Geiger's Computer Vision @ Tübingen [Youtube][Course Page]
  - Lecture 02: Image Formation [Slides]

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