

# Lab 7

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## AR Markers

This lecture is part of the RACECAR-MN introductory robotics course.  
You can visit the course webpage at [mitll-racecar-mn.readthedocs.io](https://mitll-racecar-mn.readthedocs.io).



# Objectives

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**Main Objective:** Combine your previous lab solutions to complete the time trial racecourse

## Learning Objectives

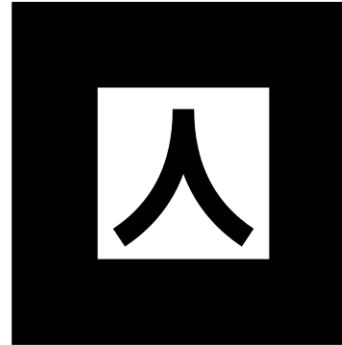
- Identify the location, orientation, and id of AR markers in a color image
- Make decisions based on information provided by AR markers

# AR Markers

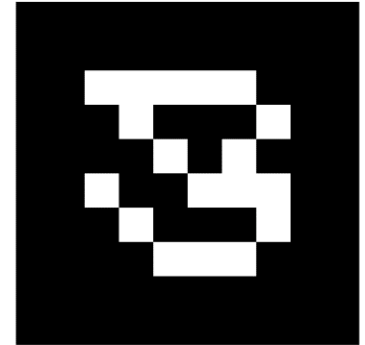
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- **Fiducial markers** used for augmented reality
- Common characteristics:
  - **high contrast**
  - **bi-tonal**
  - **square**
  - **bordered**

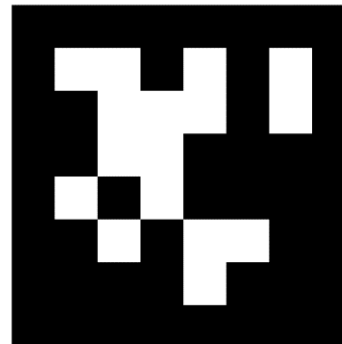
1. ARToolKit



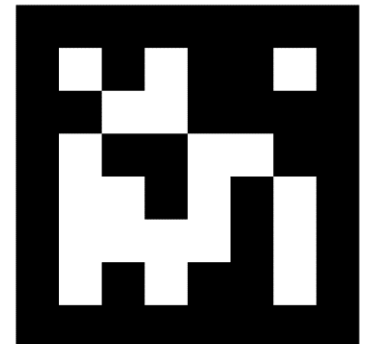
2. ARTag



3. AprilTag



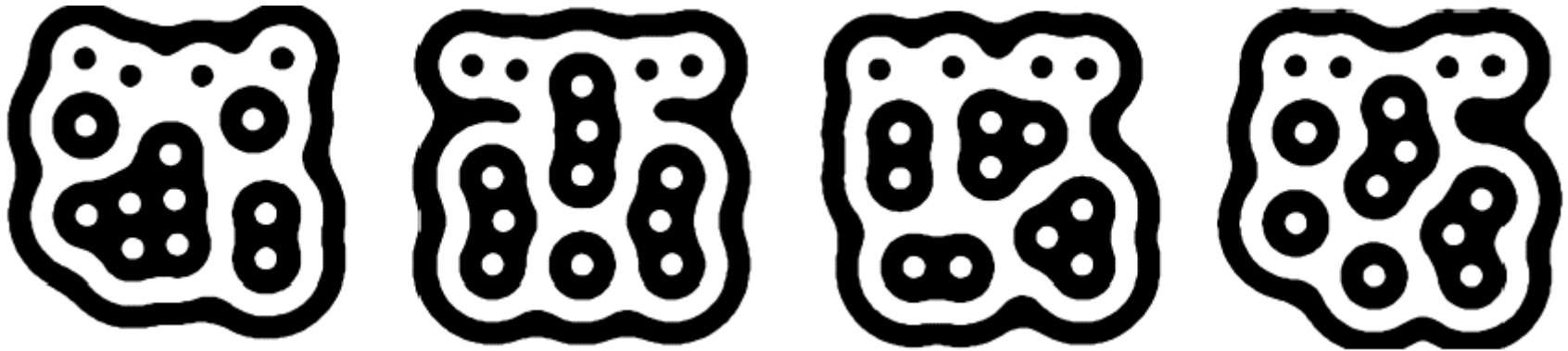
4. ArUco



# AR Markers - Outliers

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- ReacTIVision



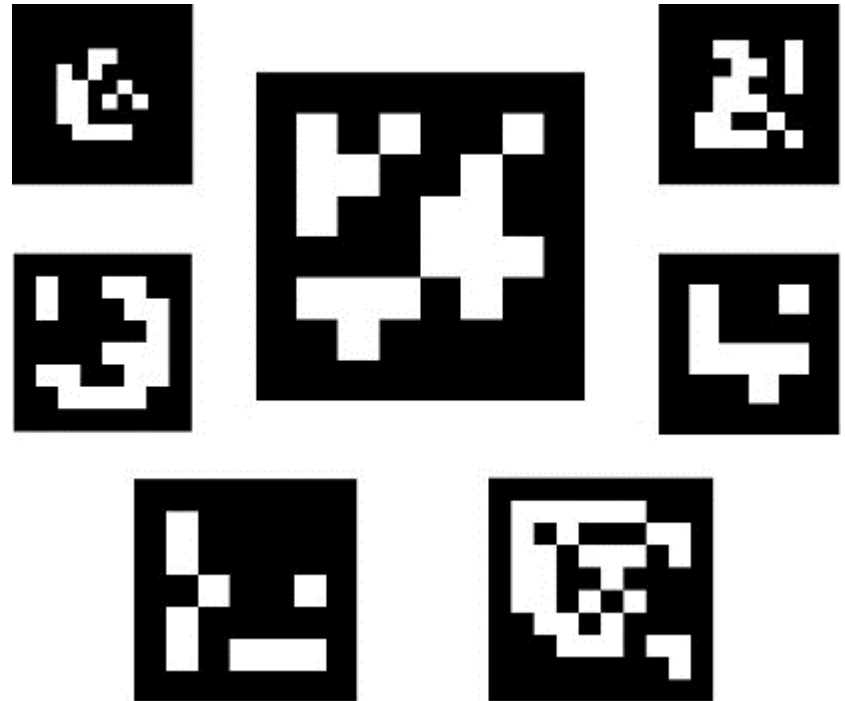
- ARToolKit



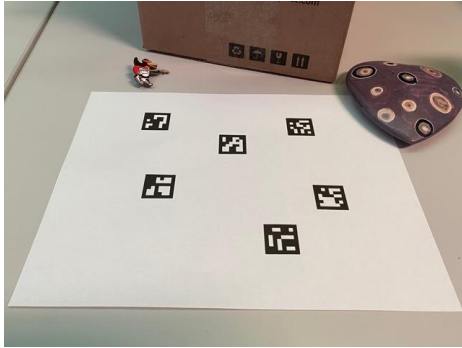
# ArUco OpenCV

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- Border of black with a binary encoding in the center
- Checks orientation
- Marker id is not determined by binary coding in the marker but the index in a defined dictionary



# ArUco OpenCV



Original image

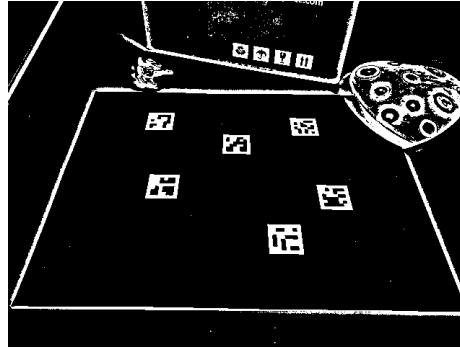
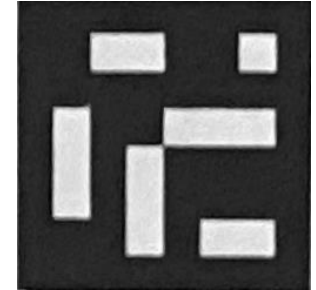


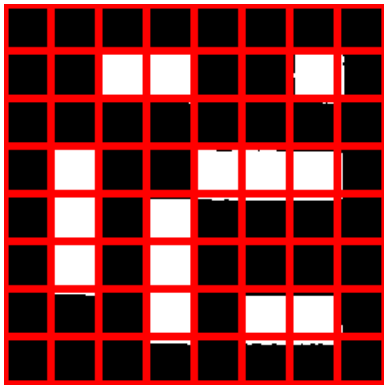
Image with threshold



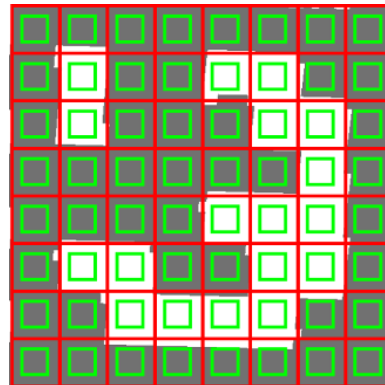
Marker candidate



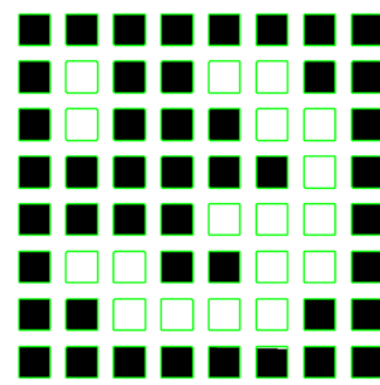
Removed perspective



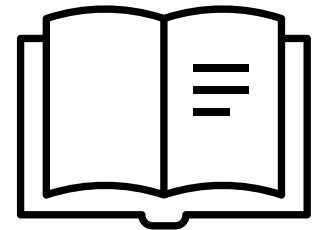
Applied grid



Cell margin



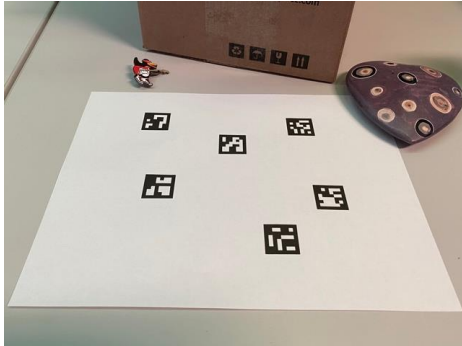
Final sampling margin



Dictionary lookup

# ArUco OpenCV

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Original image

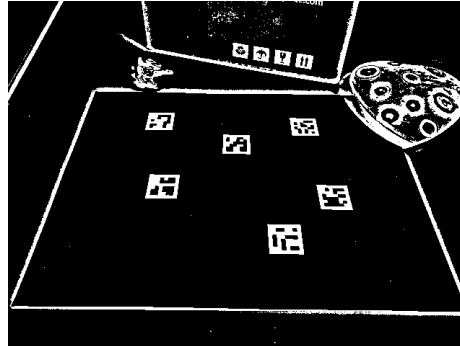
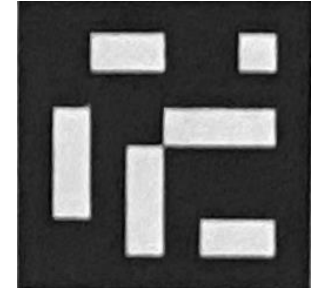


Image with threshold



Marker  
candidate



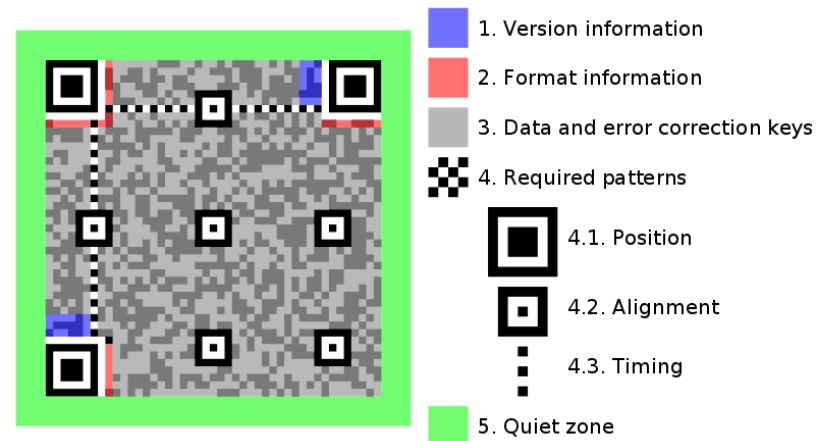
Removed  
perspective



# Information Gained

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- **ArUco Markers** encode
  - Corner location
  - Marker id (dictionary index)
- **QR Codes** encode
  - Binary data





# QR vs AR



Group activity

- QR codes have all the common characteristics of AR markers but are commonly used to direct to a URL
- What major differences are there between QR codes and AR markers like ArUco markers?
- Why would a QR code be a bad AR marker?

