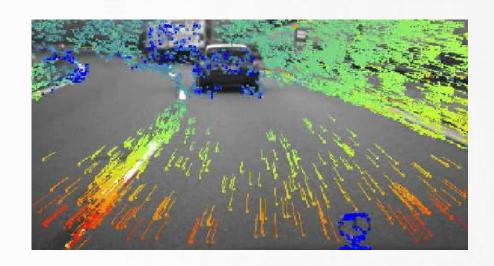


HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

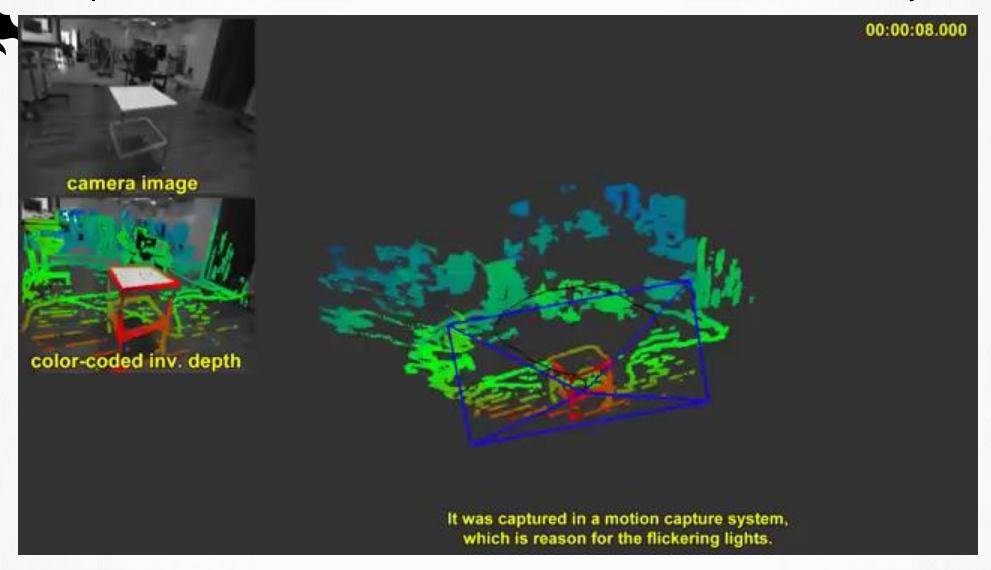


TODAY'S LECTURE: OPTICAL FLOW

- Szeliski 8.4
- Feature tracking (this we have looked at before)
 - Extracting and matching features (corners, SIFT descriptors, ...)
 - Tracking them over two or more frames
 - Applications: object tracking, structure from motion (SFM)
 - Performs well when motion is relatively small
- Optical flow recovers image motion at each pixel from spatiotemporal image brightness variations



optical flow used for motion estimation in visual odometry







Problem Definition

Given two consecutive image frames, estimate the motion of each pixel

Assumptions

Brightness constancy

Small motion

Slide credits: Kris Kitani





$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_1) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_1) \\ I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_2) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -\begin{bmatrix} I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_1) \\ I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \quad \mathbf{min} \\ \boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{v} \sum_{ij} \left\{ E_d(i,j) + \lambda E_s(i,j) \right\}$$

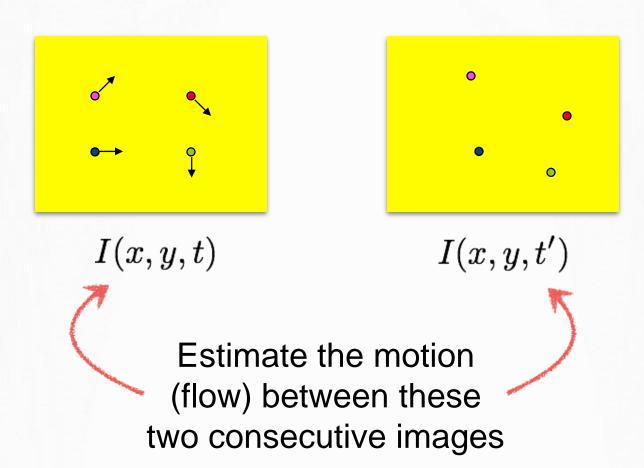
$$\min_{oldsymbol{u},oldsymbol{v}} \sum_{ij} \left\{ E_d(i,j) + \lambda E_s(i,j)
ight\}$$

Constant Flow (Lucas- Kanade) Horn-Schunck

Optical Flow



OPTICAL FLOW (PROBLEM DEFINITION)







Color Constancy

(Brightness constancy for intensity images)

Implication: allows for pixel to pixel comparison (not image features)

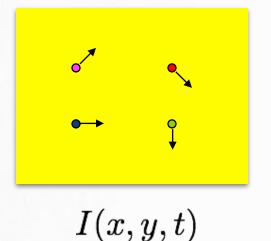
Small Motion

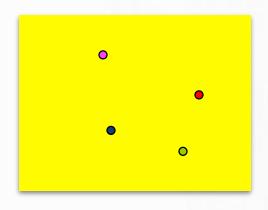
(pixels only move a little bit)

Implication: linearization of the brightness constancy constraint









I(x,y,t')

Look for nearby pixels with the same color

(small motion)

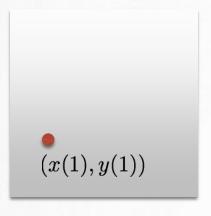
(color constancy)

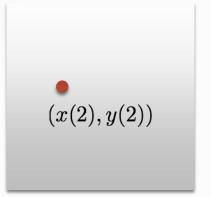


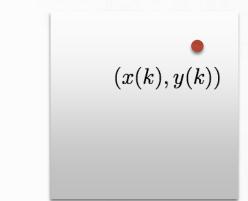
BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY



Scene point moving through image sequence



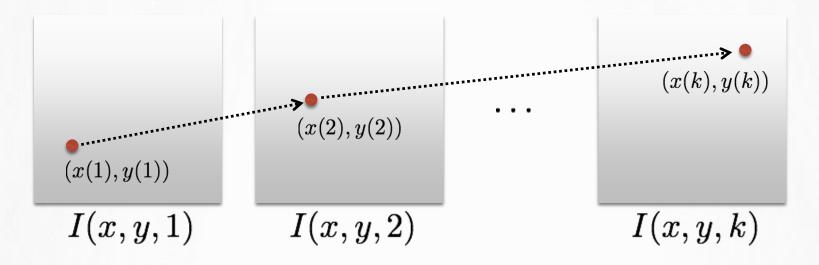






BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY

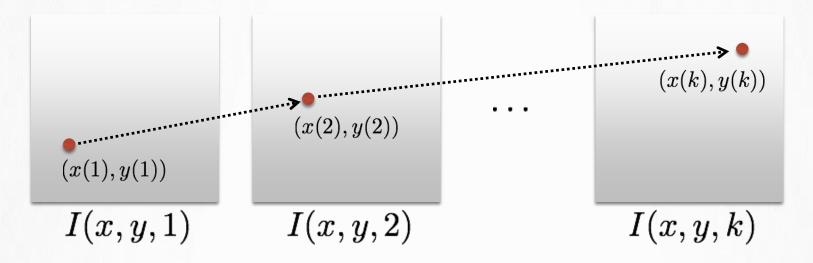
Scene point moving through image sequence





BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY

Scene point moving through image sequence



Assumption: Brightness of the point will remain the same

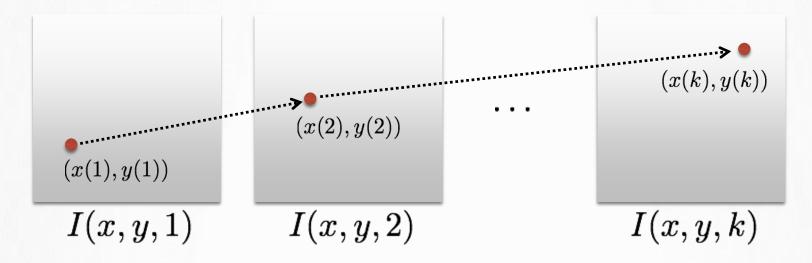




BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY



Scene point moving through image sequence

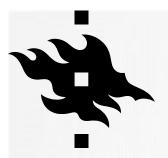


Assumption: Brightness of the point will remain the same

$$I(x(t), y(t), t) = C$$

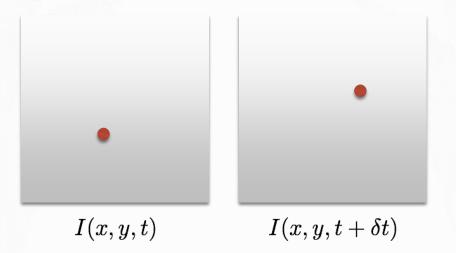
constant





SMALL MOTION



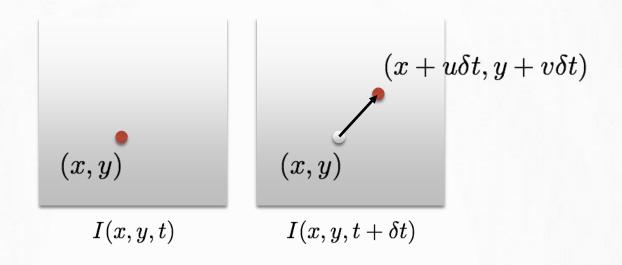








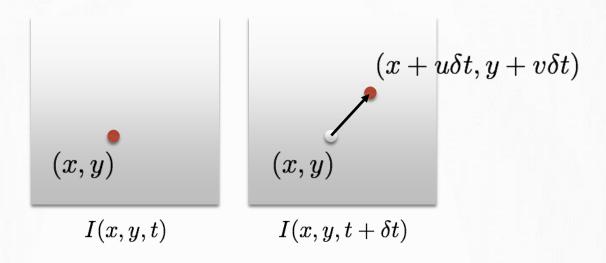
SMALL MOTION





SMALL MOTION





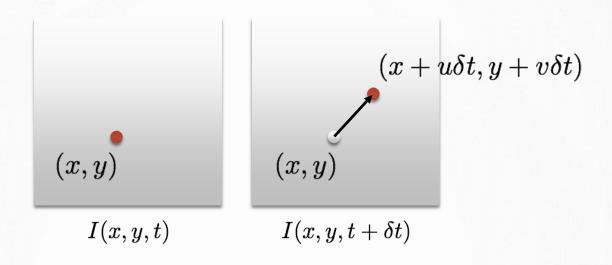
Optical flow (velocities): (u,v)

Displacement: $(\delta x, \delta y) = (u\delta t, v\delta t)$



SMALL MOTION





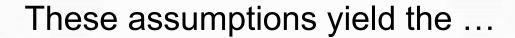
Optical flow (velocities): (u,v) Displacement: $(\delta x,\delta y)=(u\delta t,v\delta t)$

For a <u>really small space-time step</u>...

$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

... the brightness between two consecutive image frames is the same







Brightness Constancy Equation

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}\frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = 0$$

total derivative partial derivative

Equation is not obvious. Where does this come from?



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

For small space-time step, brightness of a point is the same



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

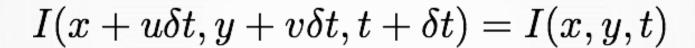
For small space-time step, brightness of a point is the same



Insight:

If the time step is really small, we can *linearize* the intensity function







$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$I(x,y,t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = I(x,y,t) \quad \text{assuming small motion}$$



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

(First order approximation, two variables)

$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

partial derivative

$$I(x,y,t)+rac{\partial I}{\partial x}\delta x+rac{\partial I}{\partial y}\delta y+rac{\partial I}{\partial t}\delta t=I(x,y,t)$$
 assuming small motion

cancel terms



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$I(x,y,t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = I(x,y,t) \quad \text{assuming small motion}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = 0 \quad \text{cancel terms}$$



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$I(x,y,t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = I(x,y,t) \quad \text{assuming small motion}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = 0 \quad \text{divide by } \delta t \\ \text{take limit } \delta t \to 0$$



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$



$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$I(x,y,t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \delta t = I(x,y,t) \quad \text{assuming small motion}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}\delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}\delta t = 0 \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{divide by } \delta t \\ \text{take limit } \delta t \to 0 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}\frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = 0$$



$$I(x + u\delta t, y + v\delta t, t + \delta t) = I(x, y, t)$$

(First order approximation, two variables)

$$f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + f_x(a,b)(x-a) - f_y(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$I(x,y,t)+rac{\partial I}{\partial x}\delta x+rac{\partial I}{\partial y}\delta y+rac{\partial I}{\partial t}\delta t=I(x,y,t)$$
 assuming small motion

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\delta x + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}\delta y + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}\delta t = 0 \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{divide by } \delta t \\ \text{take limit } \delta t \to 0 \end{array}$$

$$rac{\partial I}{\partial x}rac{dx}{dt}+rac{\partial I}{\partial y}rac{dy}{dt}+rac{\partial I}{\partial t}=0$$
 Brightness Constancy Equation

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI





$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}\frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$I_{m{x}} u + I_{m{y}} v + I_{m{t}} = 0$$
 (x-flow) (y-flow)

shorthand notation

$$\nabla I^{\top} \boldsymbol{v} + I_t = 0$$

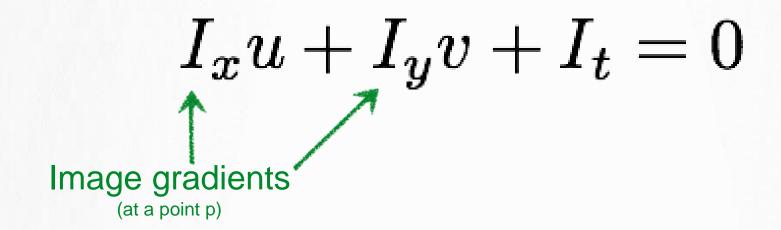
(1 x 2) (2 x 1)

vector form

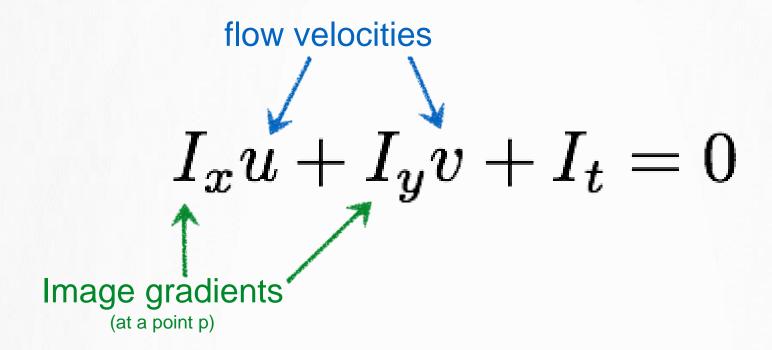


$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$



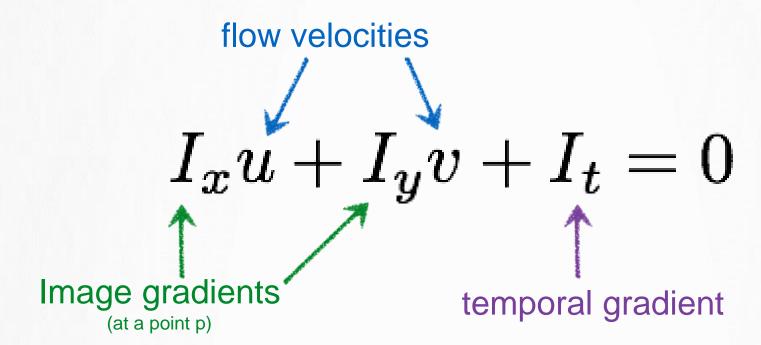














$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative



$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter

. . .



$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

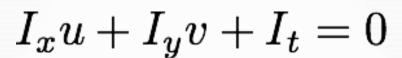
Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter

. . .

$$I_t = \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

temporal derivative







$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter

...

$$I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

temporal derivative

frame differencing







 1
 1
 1
 1
 1

 1
 1
 1
 1
 1

 1
 10
 10
 10
 10

 1
 10
 10
 10
 10

 1
 10
 10
 10
 10

 1
 10
 10
 10
 10

$$t+1$$

$$I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	တ	တ	တ	9
0	9	0	0	0
0	9	0	0	0
0	9	0	0	0

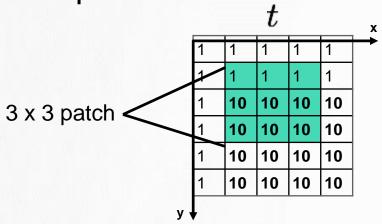
(example of a forward difference)



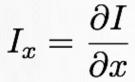
Example:







	t	_ '		
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	10	10	10
1	1	10	10	10
1	1	10	10	10



					X
- 1	0	0	0		
-	0	0	0	-	
	9	0	0		
-	9	0	0	-	
-	9	0	0	-	
-	9	0	0	-	
ļ					

$$I_y = rac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

						_
		-	-	-	-	
	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	9	9	9	9	
	-	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	
	-	-	-	-	-	
уν	,					

$$I_t = \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

_						
	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	
I	0	9	9	9	9	
	0	တ	0	0	0	
	0	9	0	0	0	
I	0	9	0	0	0	





$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

How do you compute ...

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

 $u=rac{dx}{dt} \quad v=rac{dy}{dt}$ optical flow

 $I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$ temporal derivative

Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter

. . .

How do you compute this?

frame differencing



$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

How do you compute ...

$$I_x = rac{\partial I}{\partial x} \ I_y = rac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter $u=rac{dx}{dt} \quad v=rac{dy}{dt}$ optical flow

We need to solve for this! (this is the unknown in the optical flow problem)

 $I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$ temporal derivative

frame differencing



$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$



How do you compute ...

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

spatial derivative

Forward difference Sobel filter Scharr filter $u=rac{dx}{dt} \quad v=rac{dy}{dt}$ optical flow

(u,v) Solution lies on a line

Cannot be found uniquely with a single constraint

$$I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

temporal derivative

frame differencing

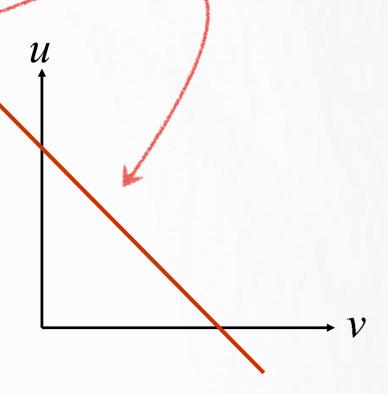




Solution lies on a straight line

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

many combinations of u and v will satisfy the equality



The solution cannot be determined uniquely with a single constraint (a single pixel)

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

$$I_x = rac{\partial I}{\partial x} \ I_y = rac{\partial I}{\partial y} igg|$$

spatial derivative

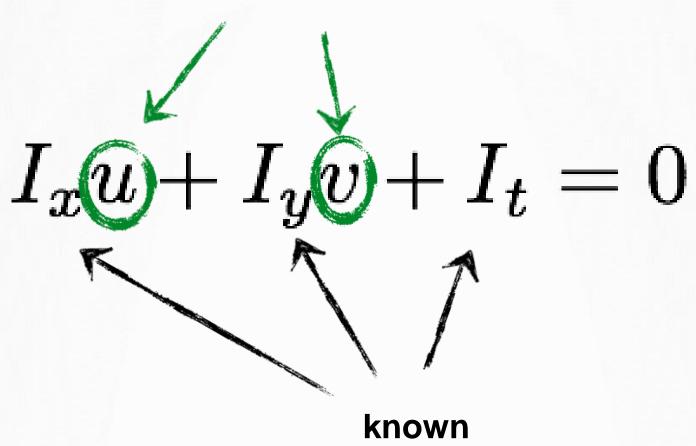
$$u=rac{dx}{dt} \quad v=rac{dy}{dt}$$
 optical flow

$$I_t = rac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$
 temporal derivative

How can we use the brightness constancy equation to estimate the optical flow?







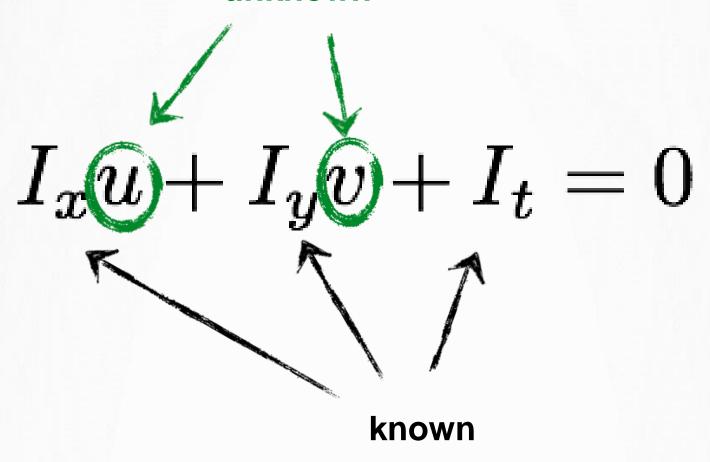
HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO We need at least ____ equations to solve for 2 unknowns.
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Slide credits: Kris Kitani



unknown







Horn-Schunck Optical Flow (1981)

Lucas-Kanade Optical Flow (1981)

brightness constancy

small motion

method of differences

'smooth' flow

(flow can vary from pixel to pixel)

'constant' flow

(flow is constant for all pixels)

global method (dense)

local method (sparse)



CONSTANT FLOW: LUCAS-KANADE OPTICAL FLOW





Where do we get more equations (constraints)?

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

Assume that the surrounding patch (say 5x5) has 'constant flow'



Flow is locally smooth

Neighboring pixels have same displacement

Using a 5 x 5 image patch, gives us equations



Flow is locally smooth

Neighboring pixels have same displacement



$$I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_1)u + I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_1)v = -I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_1)$$

$$I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_2)u + I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_2)v = -I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_2)$$

:

F

$$I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25})u + I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25})v = -I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25})$$



Flow is locally smooth

Neighboring pixels have same displacement

Using a 5 x 5 image patch, gives us 25 equations

$$\left[egin{array}{ccc} I_x(oldsymbol{p}_1) & I_y(oldsymbol{p}_1) \ I_x(oldsymbol{p}_2) & I_y(oldsymbol{p}_2) \ dots & dots \ I_x(oldsymbol{p}_{25}) & I_y(oldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{array}
ight] \left[egin{array}{ccc} u \ v \end{array}
ight] = - \left[egin{array}{ccc} I_t(oldsymbol{p}_1) \ I_t(oldsymbol{p}_2) \ dots \ I_t(oldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{array}
ight]$$

Matrix form





Flow is locally smooth

Neighboring pixels have same displacement

Using a 5 x 5 image patch, gives us 25 equations

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_1) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_1) \\ I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_2) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) & I_y(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_1) \\ I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\boldsymbol{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_{{\scriptscriptstyle 25 \, imes \, 2}}$$

$$oldsymbol{x}_{\scriptscriptstyle{2 imes1}}$$

$$oldsymbol{b}_{25 imes1}$$



Least squares approximation

$$\hat{x} = rg \min_{x} ||Ax - b||^2$$
 is equivalent to solving $A^{ op} A \hat{x} = A^{ op} b$





Least squares approximation

$$\hat{x} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{x} ||Ax - b||^2 \text{ is equivalent to solving } A^\top A \hat{x} = A^\top b$$

To obtain the least squares solution solve:

$$A^{ op}A$$
 \hat{x} $A^{ op}b$ $egin{bmatrix} \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_xI_x & \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_xI_y \ \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_yI_x & \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_yI_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_xI_t \ \sum\limits_{p\in P}I_yI_t \end{bmatrix}$

where the summation is over each pixel p in patch P

$$x = (A^{\mathsf{T}}A)^{-1}A^{\mathsf{T}}b$$



Least squares approximation

$$\hat{x} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{x} ||Ax - b||^2 \text{ is equivalent to solving } A^\top A \hat{x} = A^\top b$$

To obtain the least squares solution solve:

where the summation is over each pixel p in patch P



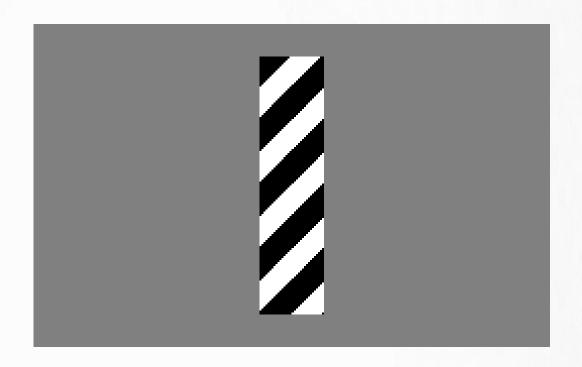
You want to compute optical flow.
What happens if the image patch contains only a line?



BARBER'S POLE ILLUSION





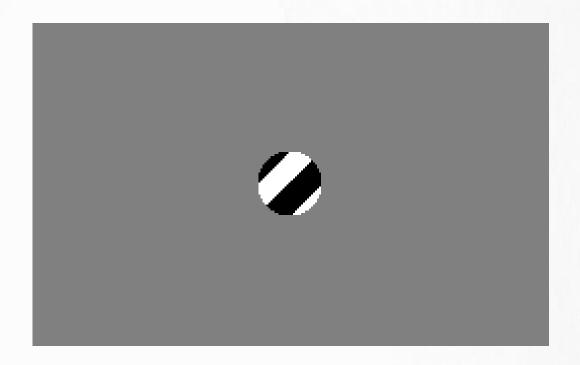




BARBER'S POLE ILLUSION

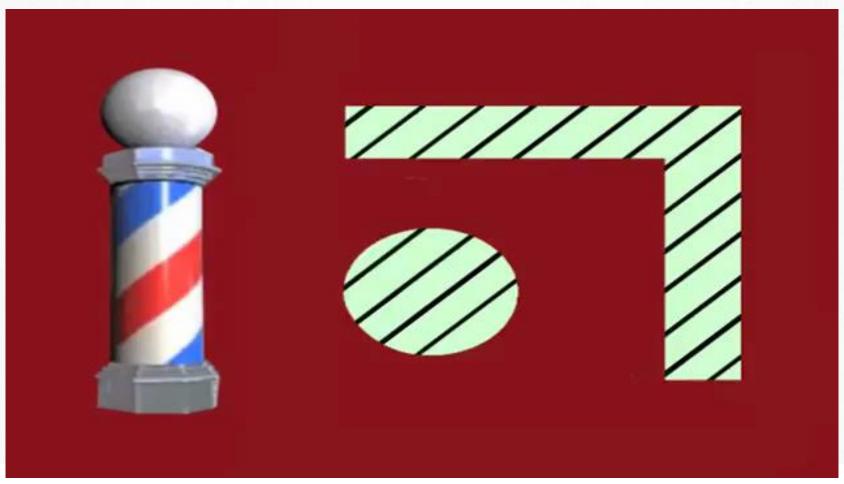






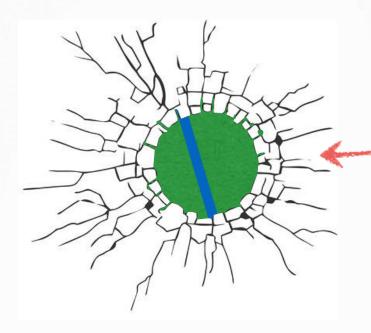


BARBER'S POLE ILLUSION





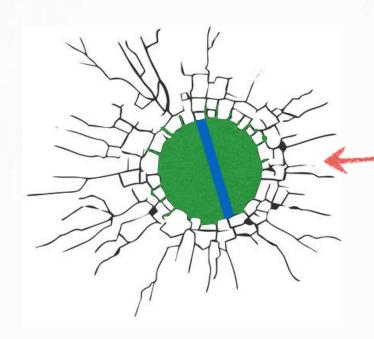




small visible image patch

In which direction is the line moving?

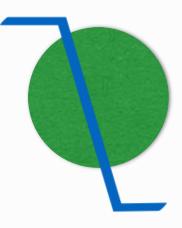




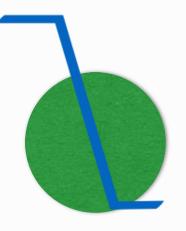
small visible image patch

In which direction is the line moving?

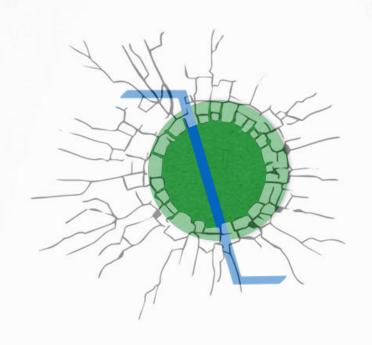




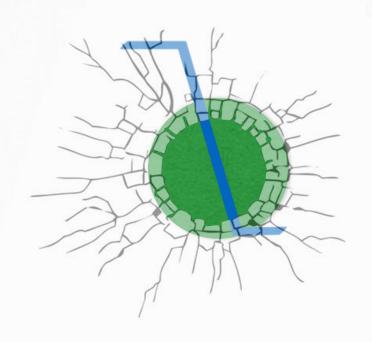






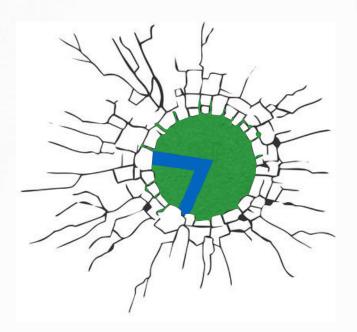






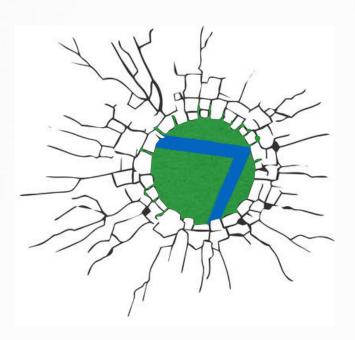






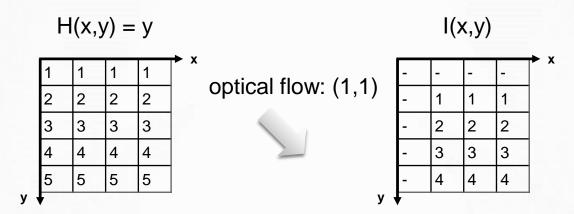
Want patches with different gradients to the avoid aperture problem





Want patches with different gradients to the avoid aperture problem





$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

Compute gradients

Solution:

$$I_x(3,3) = 0$$
 $I_y(3,3) = 1$
 $I_t(3,3) = I(3,3) - H(3,3) = -1$
 $v = 1$

We recover the v of the optical flow but not the u. *This is the aperture problem.*



HORN-SCHUNCK OPTICAL FLOW





Horn-Schunck Optical Flow (1981)

Lucas-Kanade Optical Flow (1981)

brightness constancy

small motion

method of differences

'smooth' flow

(flow can vary from pixel to pixel)

'constant' flow

(flow is constant for all pixels)

global method (dense)

local method (sparse)



most objects in the world are rigid or deform elastically moving together coherently

we expect optical flow fields to be smooth





Enforce brightness constancy

Enforce smooth flow field

to compute optical flow



Enforce brightness constancy

Enforce smooth flow field

to compute optical flow



ENFORCE BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

For every pixel,

$$\min_{u,v} \left[I_x u_{ij} + I_y v_{ij} + I_t \right]^2$$



ENFORCE BRIGHTNESS CONSTANCY

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

For every pixel,

$$\min_{u,v} \left[I_x u_{ij} + I_y v_{ij} + I_t \right]^2$$



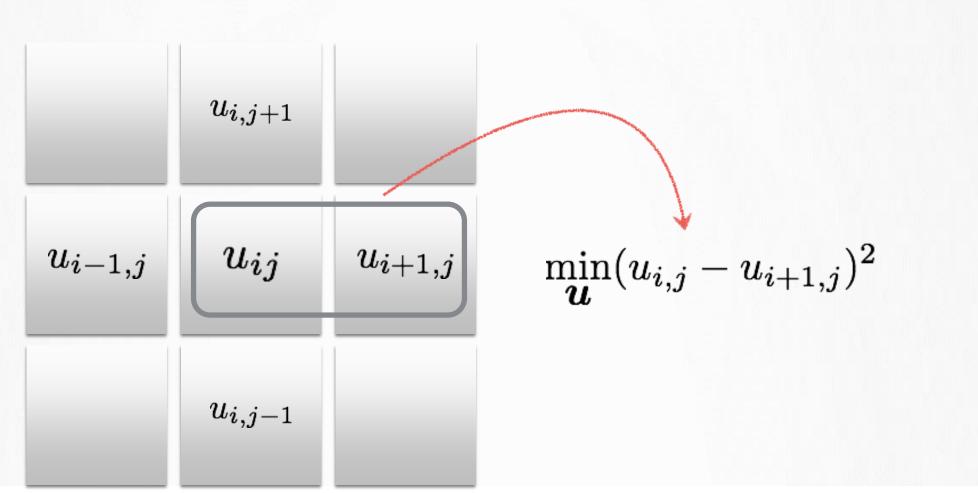
Enforce brightness constancy

Enforce smooth flow field

to compute optical flow



ENFORCE SMOOTH FLOW FIELD



F

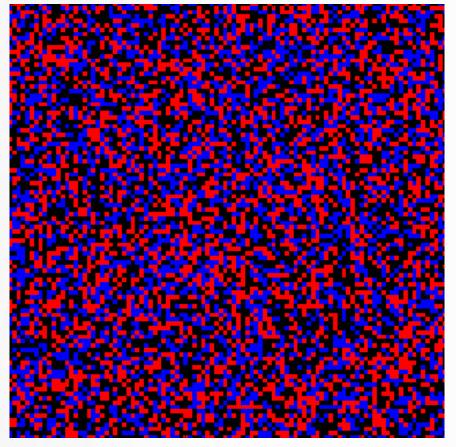
HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

u-component of flow



Which flow field optimizes the objective? $\min_{\boldsymbol{u}}(u_{i,j}-u_{i+1,j})^2$



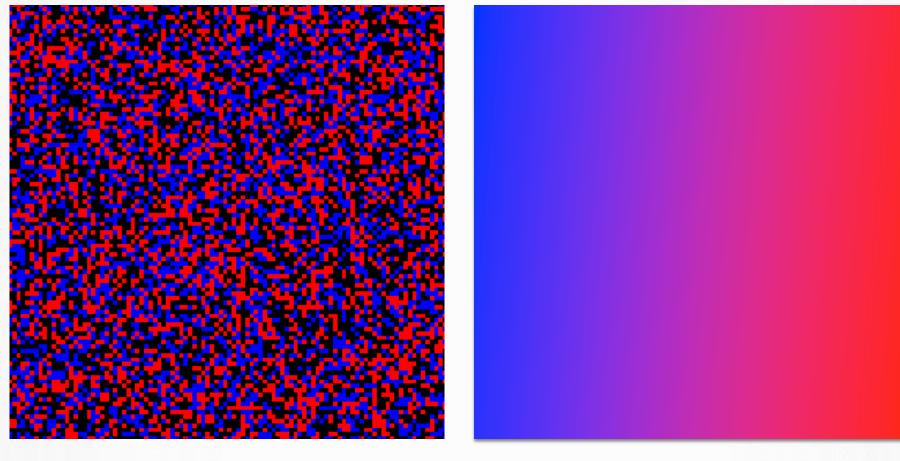




HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



Which flow field optimizes the objective? $\min_{m{u}}(u_{i,j}-u_{i+1,j})^2$



big small



Enforce brightness constancy

Enforce smooth flow field

to compute optical flow

HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

bringing it all together...



HORN-SCHUNCK OPTICAL FLOW



$$\min_{m{u},m{v}} \sum_{i,j} \left\{ E_s(i,j) + \lambda E_d(i,j)
ight\}$$



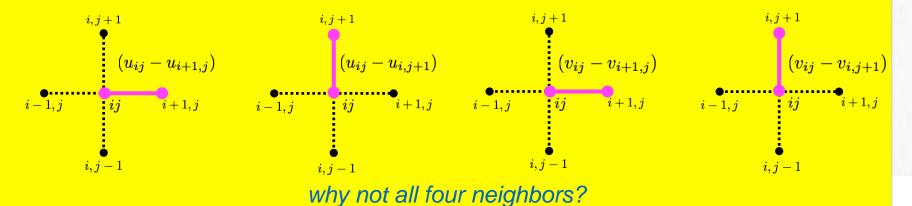


HS OPTICAL FLOW OBJECTIVE FUNCTION

Brightness constancy
$$E_d(i,j) = \left[I_x u_{ij} + I_y v_{ij} + I_t\right]^2$$

Smoothness

$$E_s(i,j) = \frac{1}{4} \left[(u_{ij} - u_{i+1,j})^2 + (u_{ij} - u_{i,j+1})^2 + (v_{ij} - v_{i+1,j})^2 + (v_{ij} - v_{i,j+1})^2 \right]$$



HELSINGIN YLIOPI

HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



HOW DO WE SOLVE THIS MINIMIZATION PROBLEM?

$$\min_{oldsymbol{u},oldsymbol{v}} \sum_{i,j} \left\{ E_s(i,j) + \lambda E_d(i,j) \right\}$$

Compute partial derivative, derive update equations (gradient decent!)



HORN-SCHUNCK OPTICAL FLOW ALGORITHM

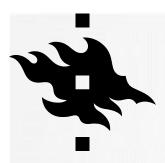
1. Precompute image gradients

$$I_y I_x$$

- 2. Precompute temporal gradients I_t
- 3. Initialize flow field $egin{aligned} & oldsymbol{u} = oldsymbol{0} \ & oldsymbol{v} = oldsymbol{0} \end{aligned}$
- 4. While not converged, compute flow field updates for each pixel:

$$\hat{u}_{kl} = \bar{u}_{kl} - rac{I_x \bar{u}_{kl} + I_y \bar{v}_{kl} + I_t}{\lambda^{-1} + I_x^2 + I_y^2} I_x \qquad \hat{v}_{kl} = \bar{v}_{kl} - rac{I_x \bar{u}_{kl} + I_y \bar{v}_{kl} + I_t}{\lambda^{-1} + I_x^2 + I_y^2} I_y$$

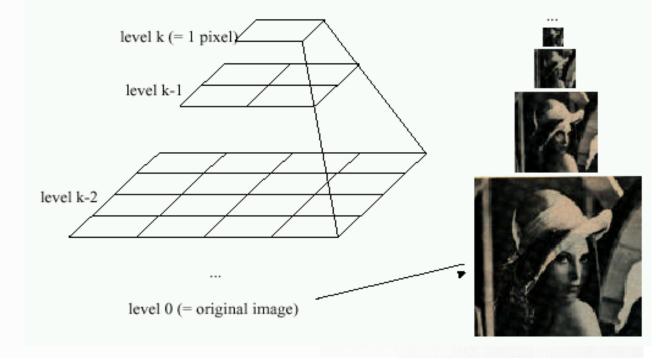




SMALL MOTION ASSUMPTION

- If motion is not small enough, image resolution has to be reduced => motion will be smaller in pixels
- Lecture 3: Gaussian Pyramids: "have all sorts of applications in computer vision"

Idea: Represent NxN image as a "pyramid" of 1x1, 2x2, 4x4,..., 2^kx2^k images (assuming N=2^k)





HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI