

# Multi-view Geometry



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CS280 Spring 25

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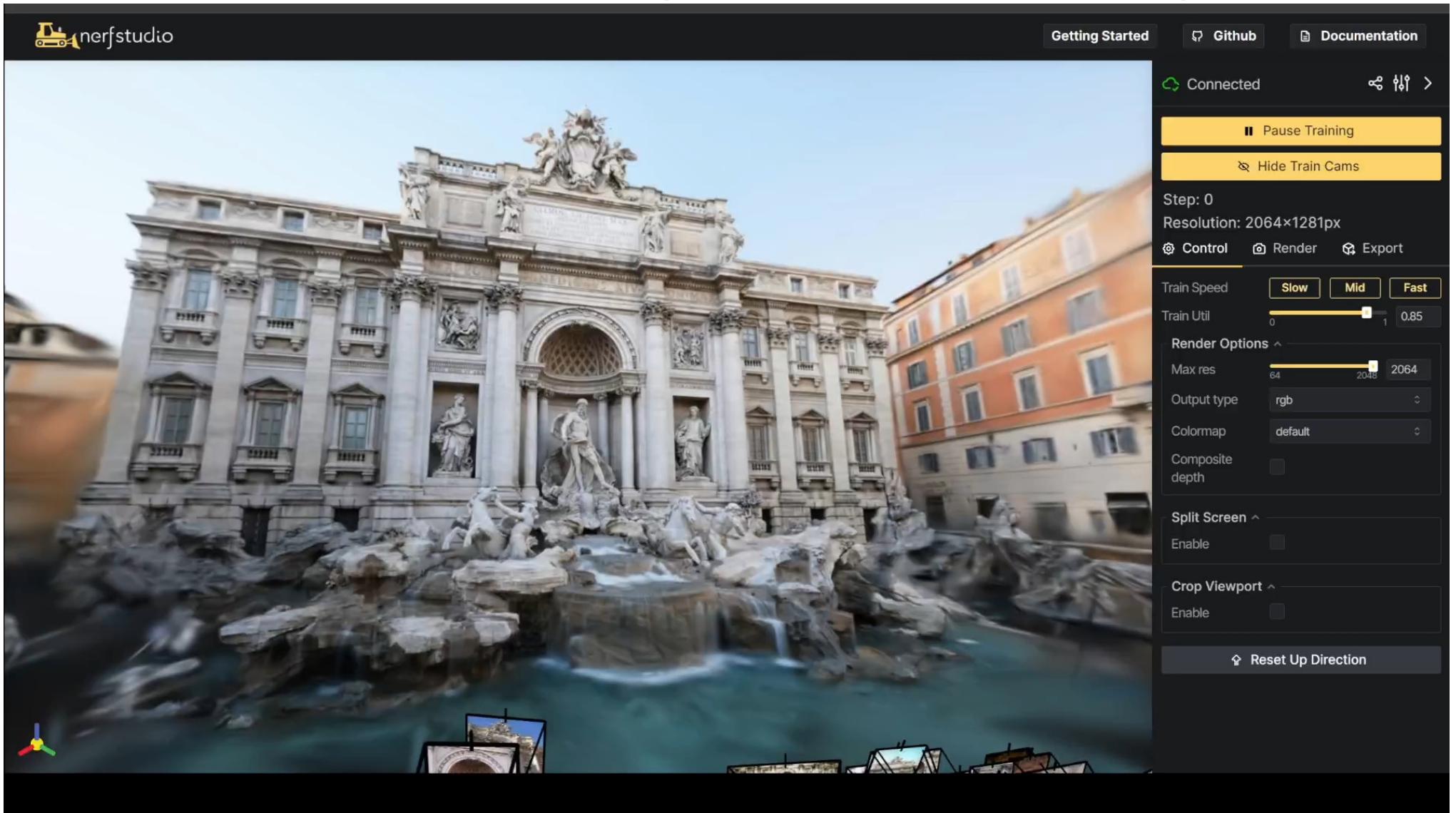
# So far

- Calibration
  - Unknown: Camera K, {R, T}
  - Known: 3D geometry and 2D correspondences
- Refining Calibrated cameras
  - Minimize Reprojection loss
  - PnP: Solve for {R, T} with known 3D and 2D points
- Triangulation
  - Unknown: 3D points
  - Known: Camera, 2D correspondences
  - Special case: parallel optical axis

# Now

- General camera
- **Don't know camera AND 3D shape**

# Application: Reconstructing Internet Images



# Problem Statement

- General camera
- Unknown: camera and 3D shape
- Known: N Correspondences
- **Goal:** Solve for camera and the depth of those points

# How?

- Define the relationship between cameras and points → “Epipolar Geometry”
- Get camera from points using Epipolar Geometry
- Solve for depth via triangulation
- Refine everything, aka “Bundle Adjustment”

Structure from Motion (SfM)

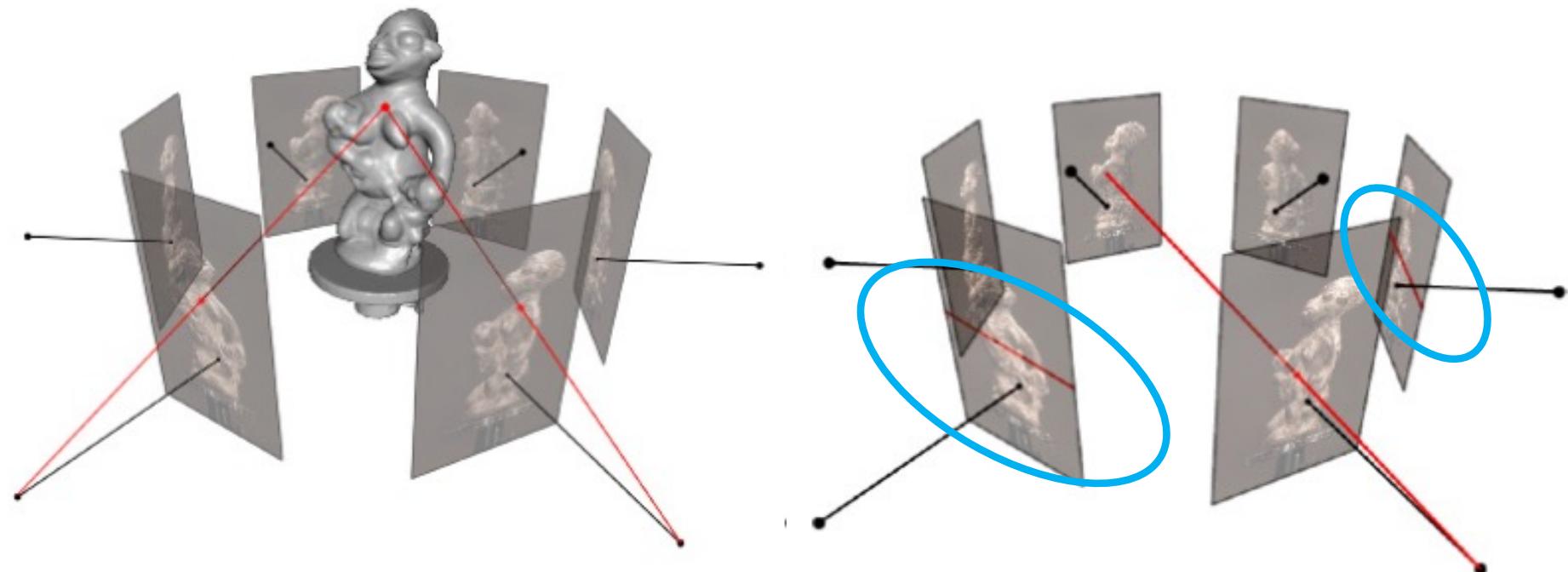
Simultaenous Localization and Mapping SLAM  
(online version)

# SfM Steps

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# Epipolar Geometry

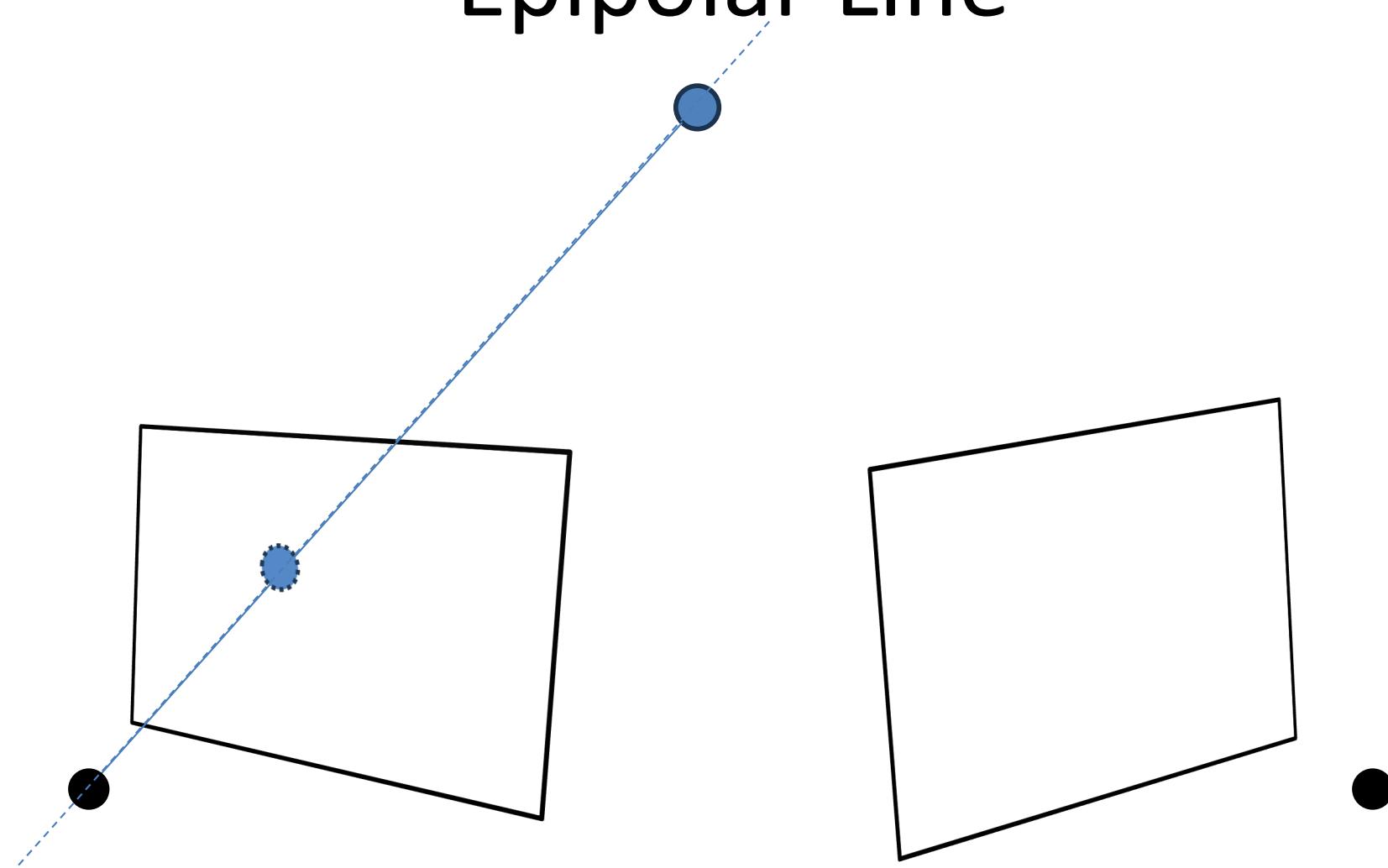
## Intuitive Picture



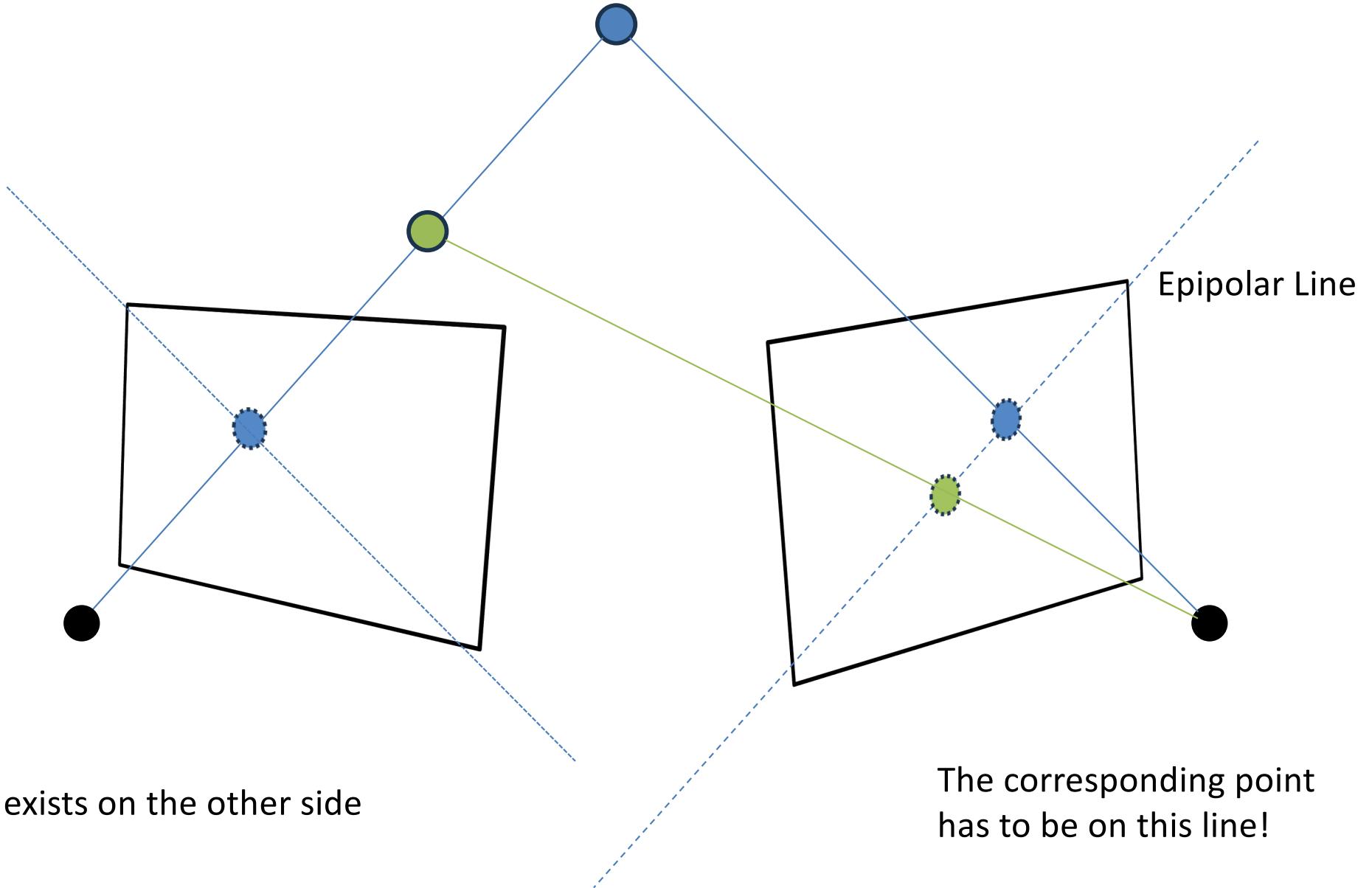
Figures by Carlos Hernandez

If you get confused with the following math,  
look at this picture again, it just describes this.

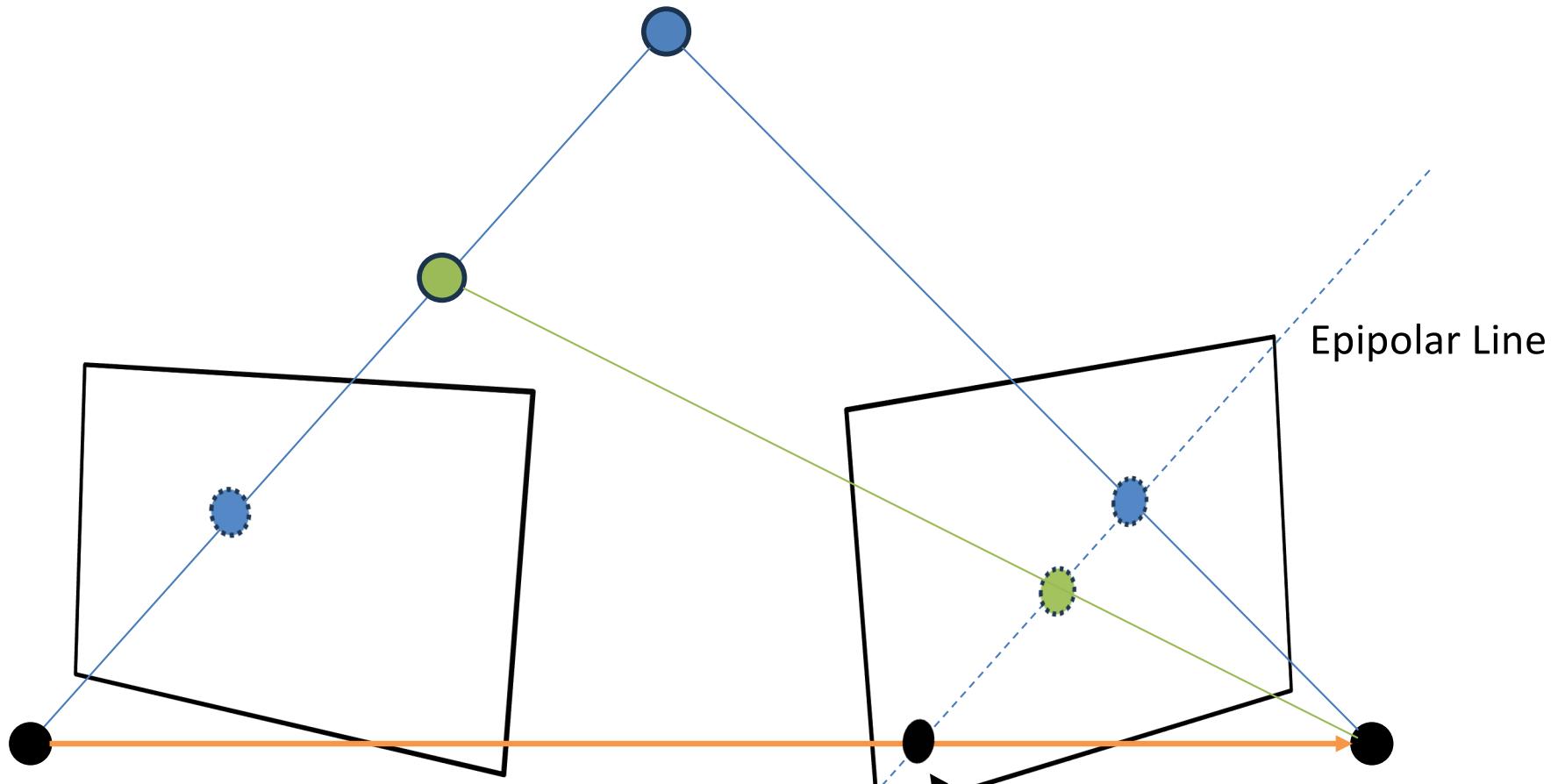
# Epipolar Line



# Epipolar Line



# Epipole



= intersections of baseline with image planes

= projections of the other camera center

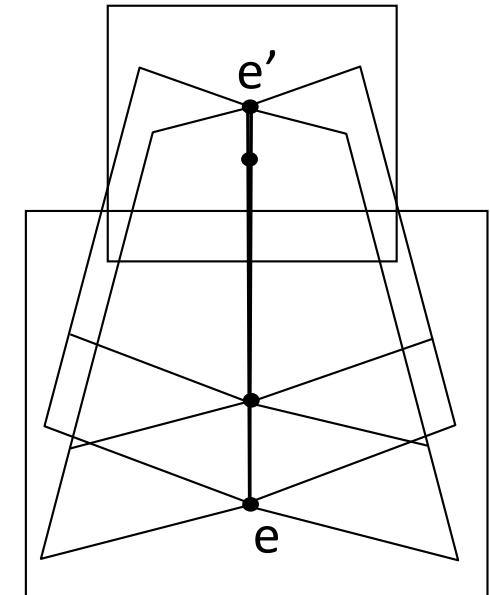
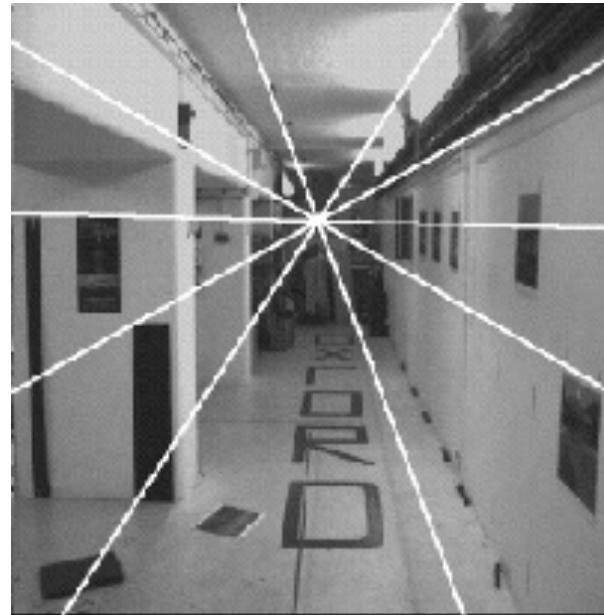
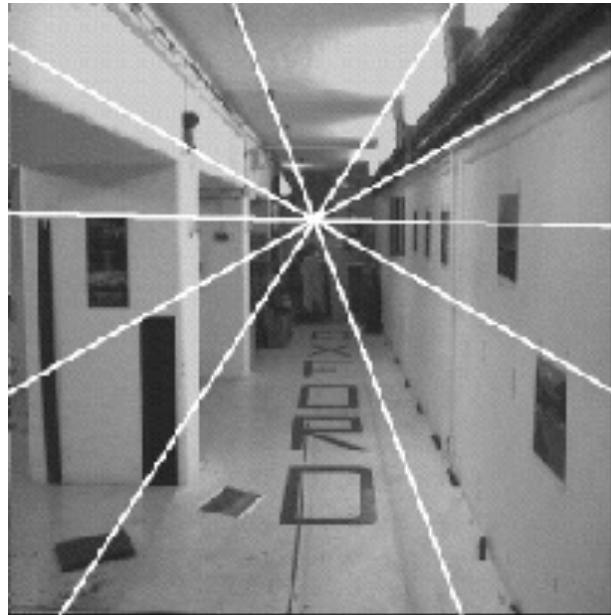
= vanishing points of the baseline

# The Epipole



Photo by Frank Dellaert

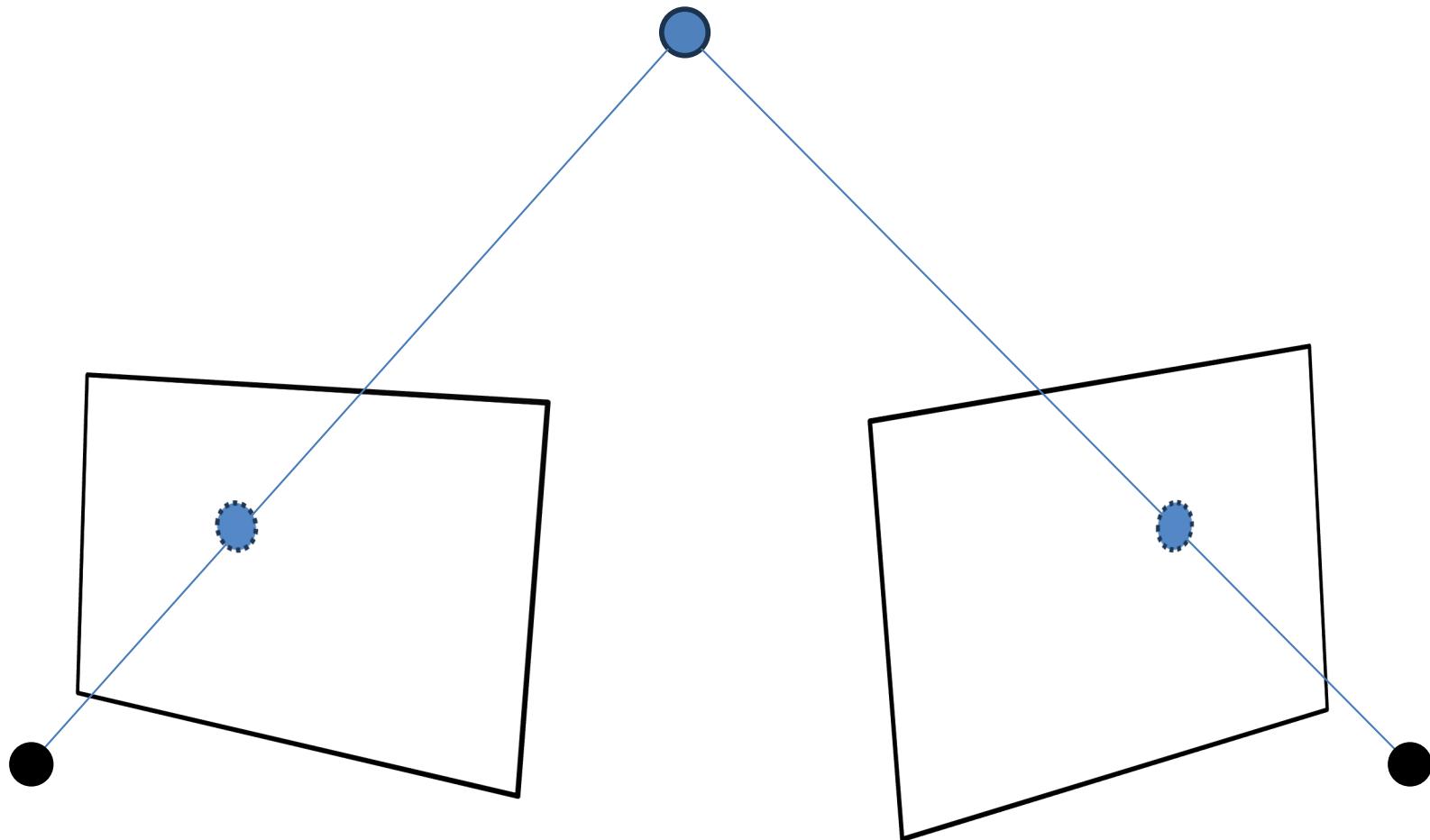
# Example: forward motion



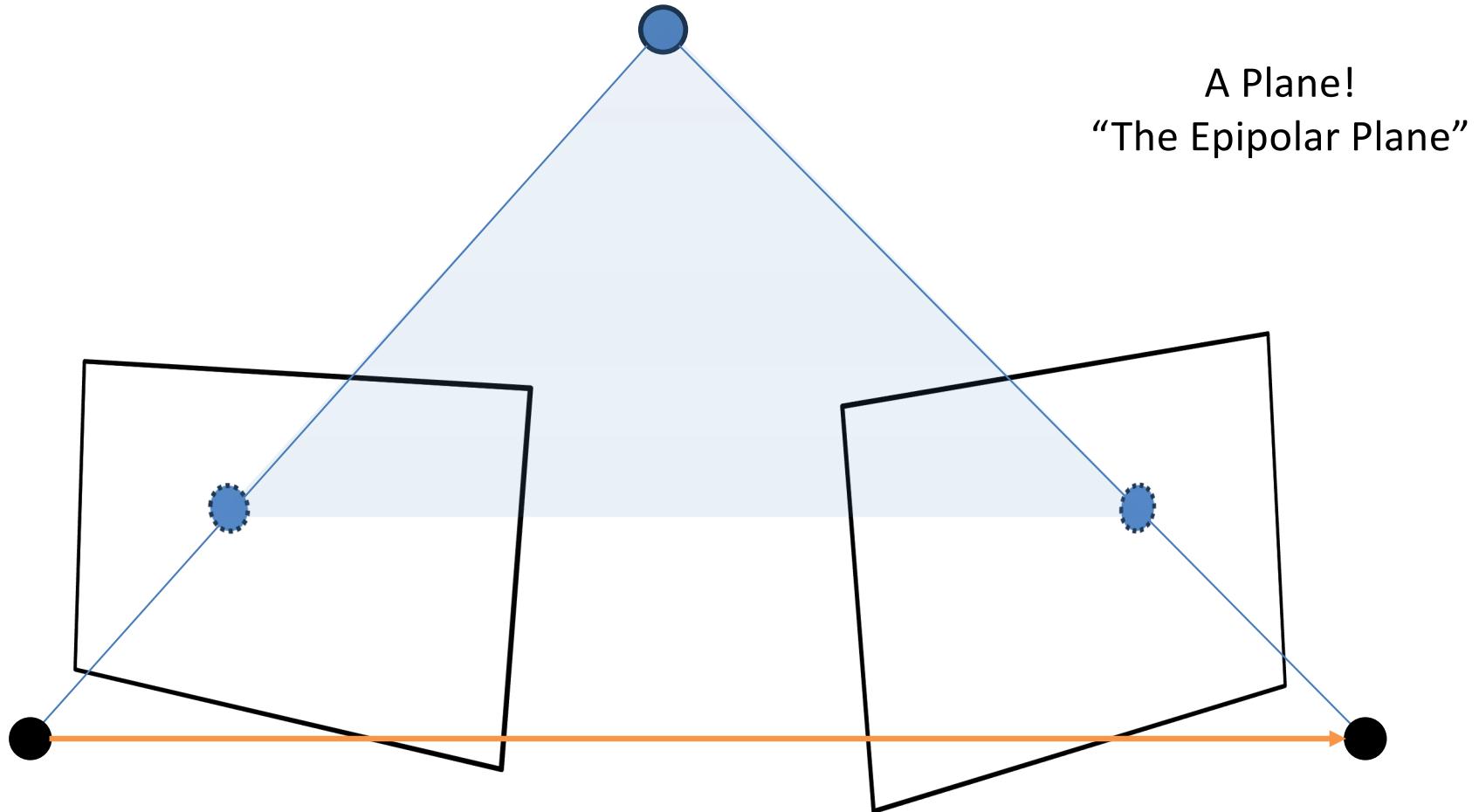
Epipole has same coordinates in both images.

Points move along lines radiating from  $e$ : “Focus of expansion”

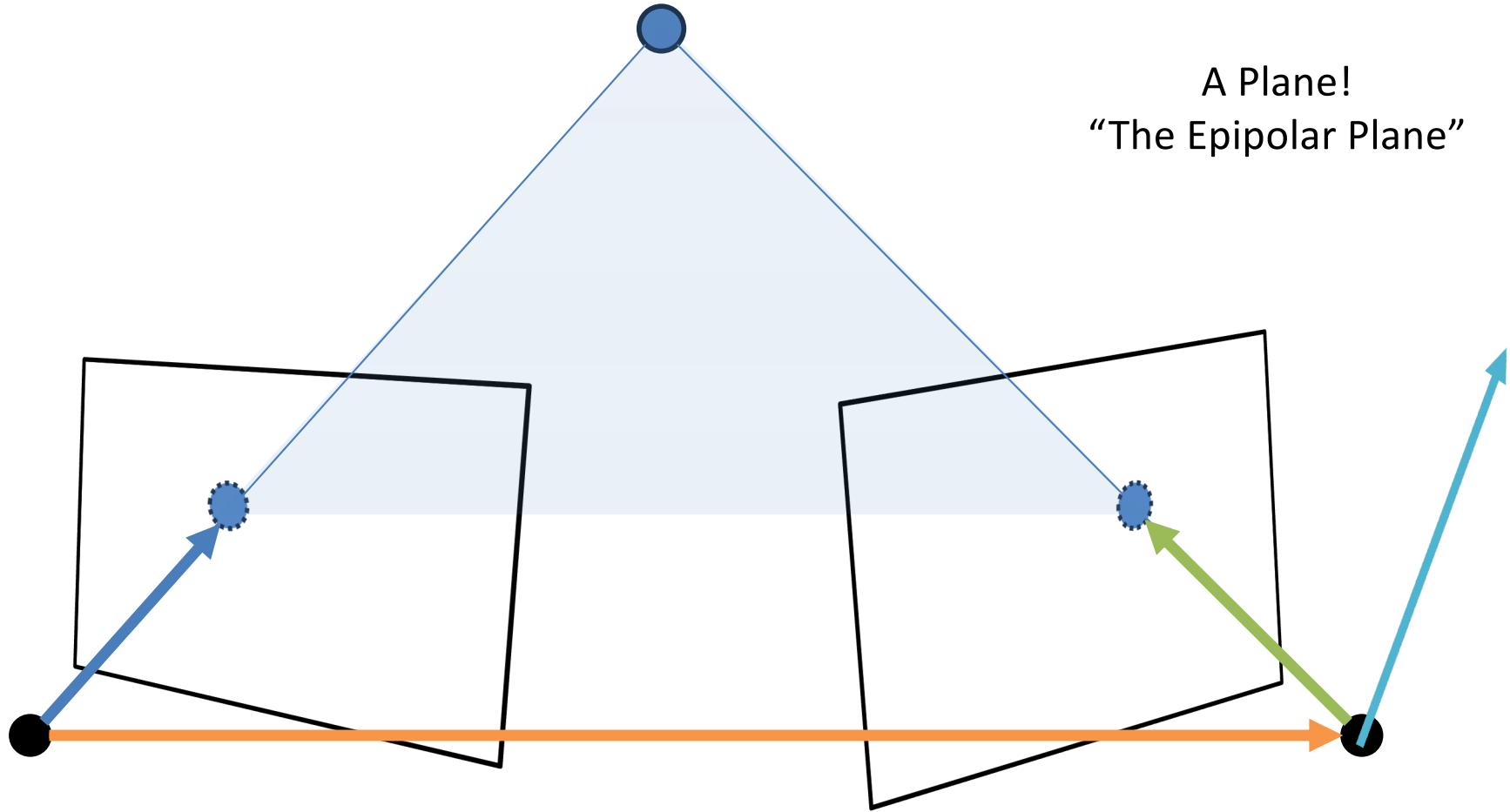
# What is the relationship?



# What is the relationship?



# What can you say?

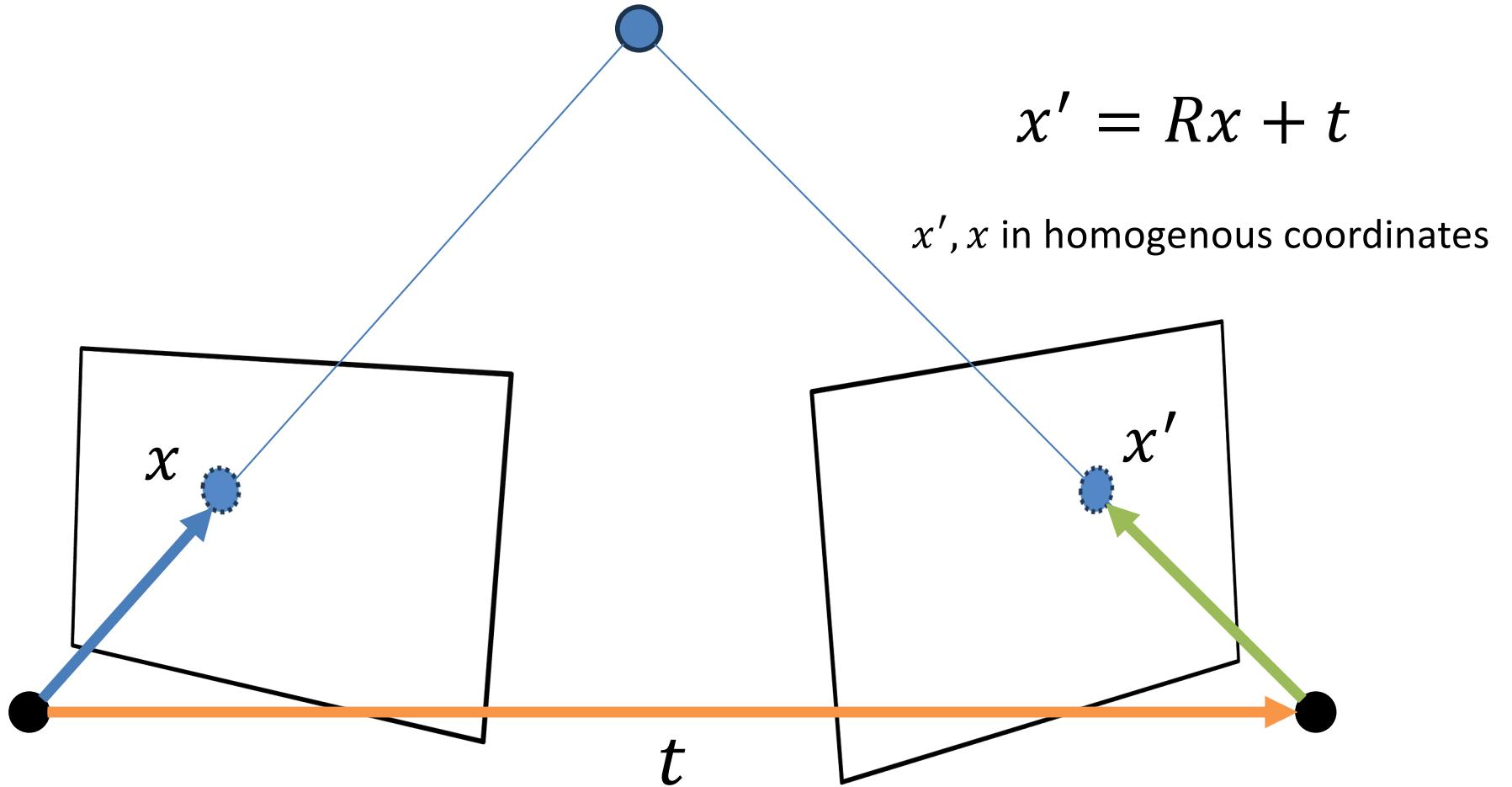


Now we are going to use this relationship to solve for camera R, t!!  
Then, using the camera, the depth of the corresponding points

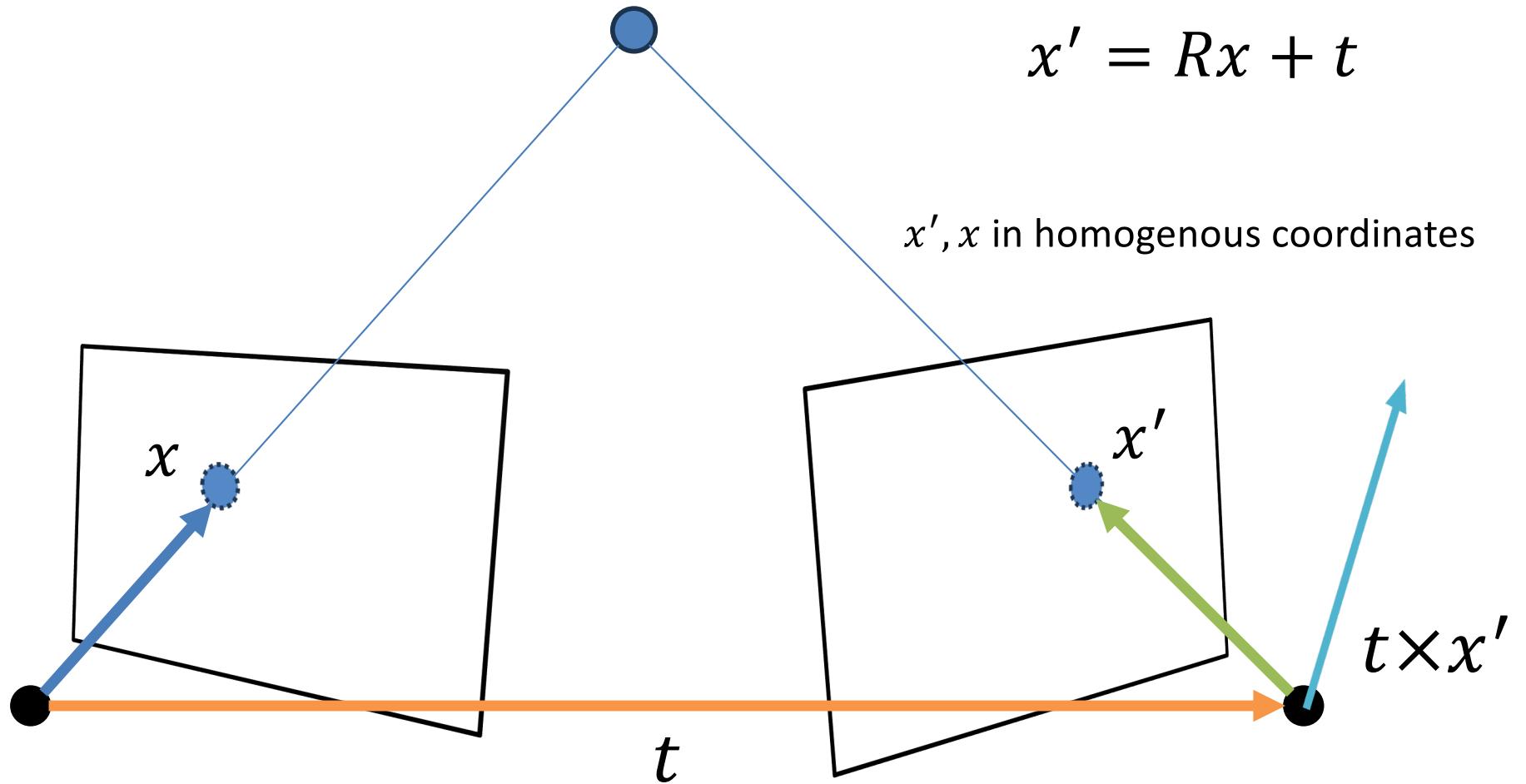
# SfM Steps

- Define the relationship between cameras and points → “Epipolar Geometry”
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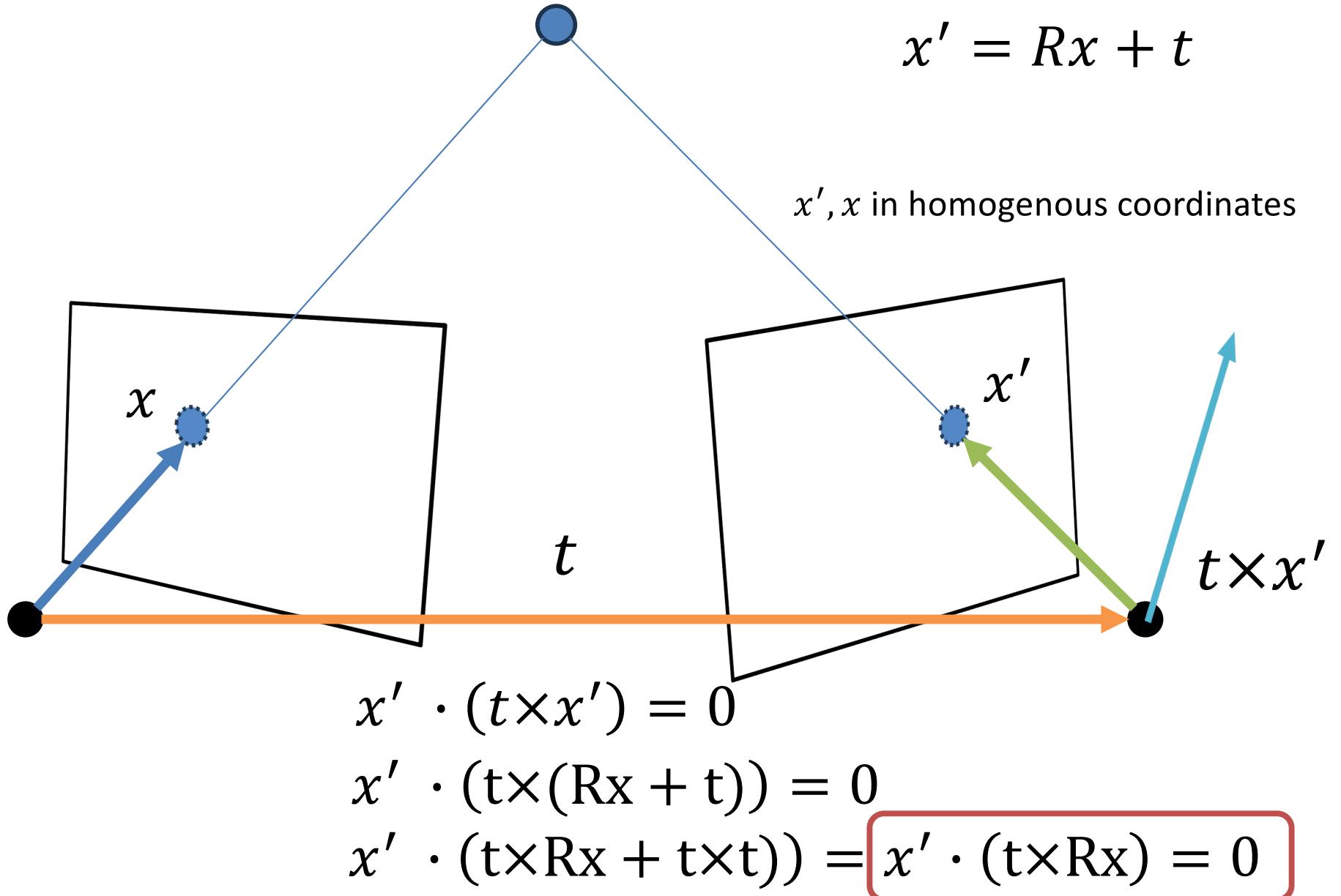
# Lets define the plane



# Lets define the plane



# Equation of plane



# Equation of plane

Recall:  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_x] \mathbf{b}$

$$x' = Rx + t$$
$$x' \cdot (t \times Rx) = 0$$
$$x'^T [t_x] Rx = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad x'^T E x = 0$$

$E$

**Essential Matrix**  
(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case

---

- We normalized the coordinates

$$x = K^{-1}\hat{x} \quad x' = K'^{-1}\hat{x}'$$

$$\hat{x} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\hat{x}$  is the image coordinates

- But in the *uncalibrated* case,  $K$  and  $K'$  are unknown!
- We can write the epipolar constraint in terms of *unknown* normalized coordinates:

$$x'^T E x = 0$$

$$(K'^{-1}\hat{x}')^T E (K^{-1}\hat{x}) = 0$$

$$\hat{x}'^T \underbrace{K'^{-T} E (K^{-1}\hat{x})}_{\hat{x}'^T F \hat{x}} = 0$$

$$F = K'^{-T} E K^{-1}$$

$$\hat{x}'^T F \hat{x} = 0$$

**Fundamental Matrix**  
(Faugeras and Luong, 1992)

Coplanarity of 3-vectors implies triple product is zero

$v_1, v_2, v_3$  are coplanar  $\Rightarrow$

$$v_1 \cdot (v_2 \wedge v_3) = 0$$

$$v_1^T \hat{v}_2 v_3 = 0$$

# Now we can solve for E

- Same as DLT

# Longuet-Higgins 8 point algorithm

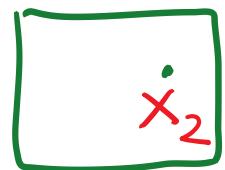
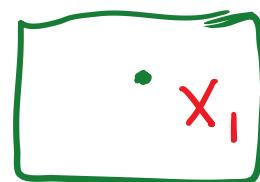
(1981)

- Find  $n (\geq 8)$  corresponding points in the 2 views
- Estimate the  $E$  matrix ( $= \hat{T}R$ ) from these point correspondences.
- Extract  $(R, t)$ .
- Recover depth by triangulation.

$$E \rightarrow \gamma E$$

Given projections  $x_1, x_2$

$$\underbrace{x_2^T E}_{[E_{11}, E_{12}, E_{13}; E_{21}, E_{22}, E_{23}; E_{31}, E_{32}, E_{33}]} \underbrace{x_1}_{} = 0$$



measured in each camera's coordinates

Each point gives a linear equation for entries of  $E$

# Essential matrix can be decomposed

- $E = T_x R$

- $$\begin{bmatrix} e_{11} & e_{12} & e_{13} \\ e_{21} & e_{22} & e_{23} \\ e_{31} & e_{32} & e_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -t_z & t_y \\ t_z & 0 & -t_x \\ -t_y & t_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \\ r_{31} & r_{32} & r_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

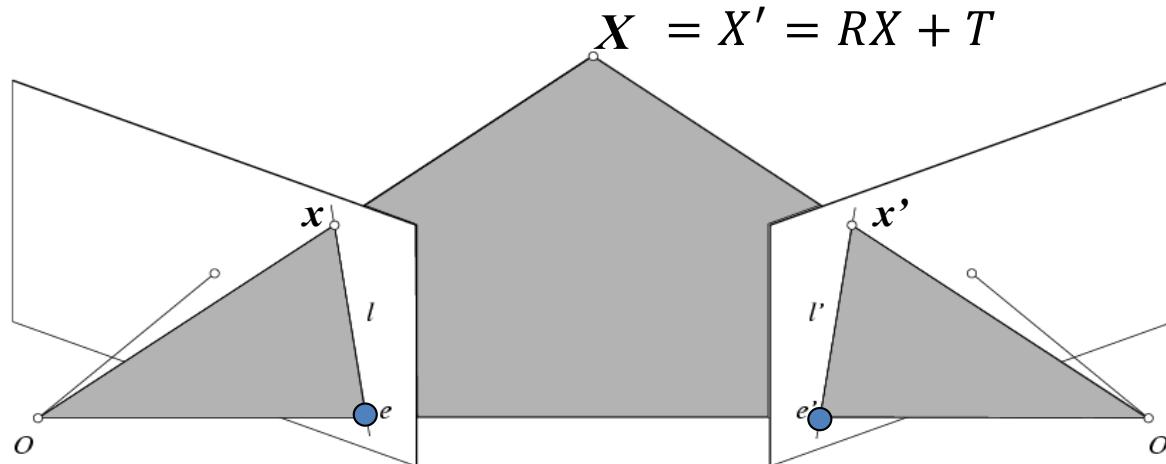
Given that  $T_x$  is a **Skew-Symmetric** matrix ( $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$ ) and  $R$  is an **Orthonormal** matrix, it is possible to "decouple"  $T_x$  and  $R$  from their product using "**Singular Value Decomposition**".

# SfM Steps

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# Depth by triangulation

- We know about the camera,  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and  $[R \ t]$ :



And know the corresponding points:  $x \leftrightarrow x'$

$$x = K \boxed{X}$$

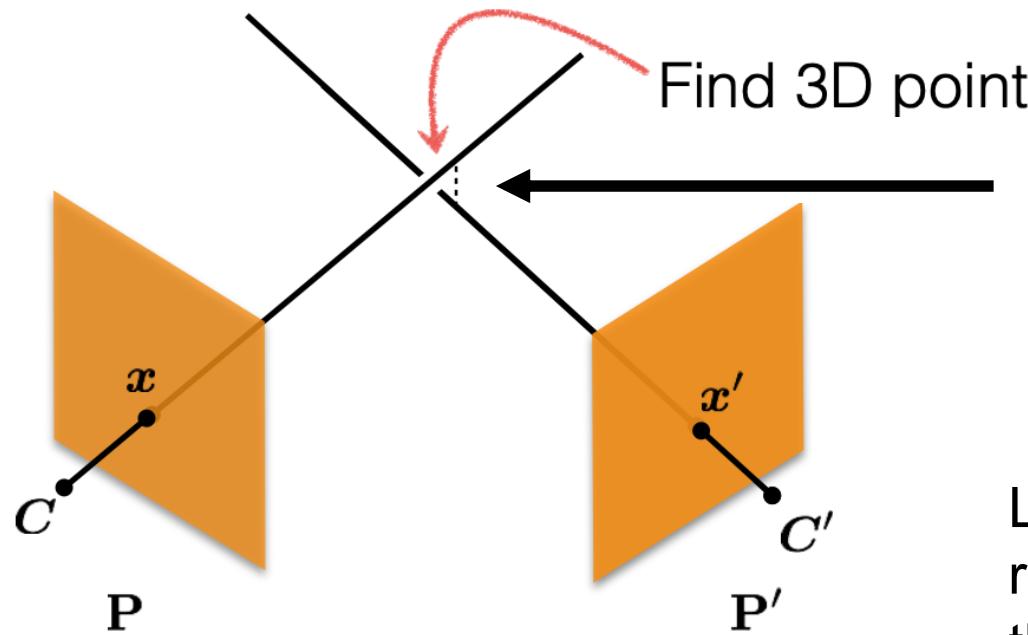
$$\begin{aligned} x' &= K' X' \\ &= K' (R X + T) \end{aligned}$$

How many unknowns +  
how many equations do  
we have?

only unknowns!

Solve by least squares

# Triangulation Issue: Noise



$\mathbf{X}$  s.t.

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{X}, \quad \mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{P}'\mathbf{X}$$

Least squares get you to a reasonable solution but it's not the actual geometric error (it's how far away the solution is from  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = 0$ )

In practice with noise, you do non-linear least squares, or **“bundle adjustment” against reprojection loss**

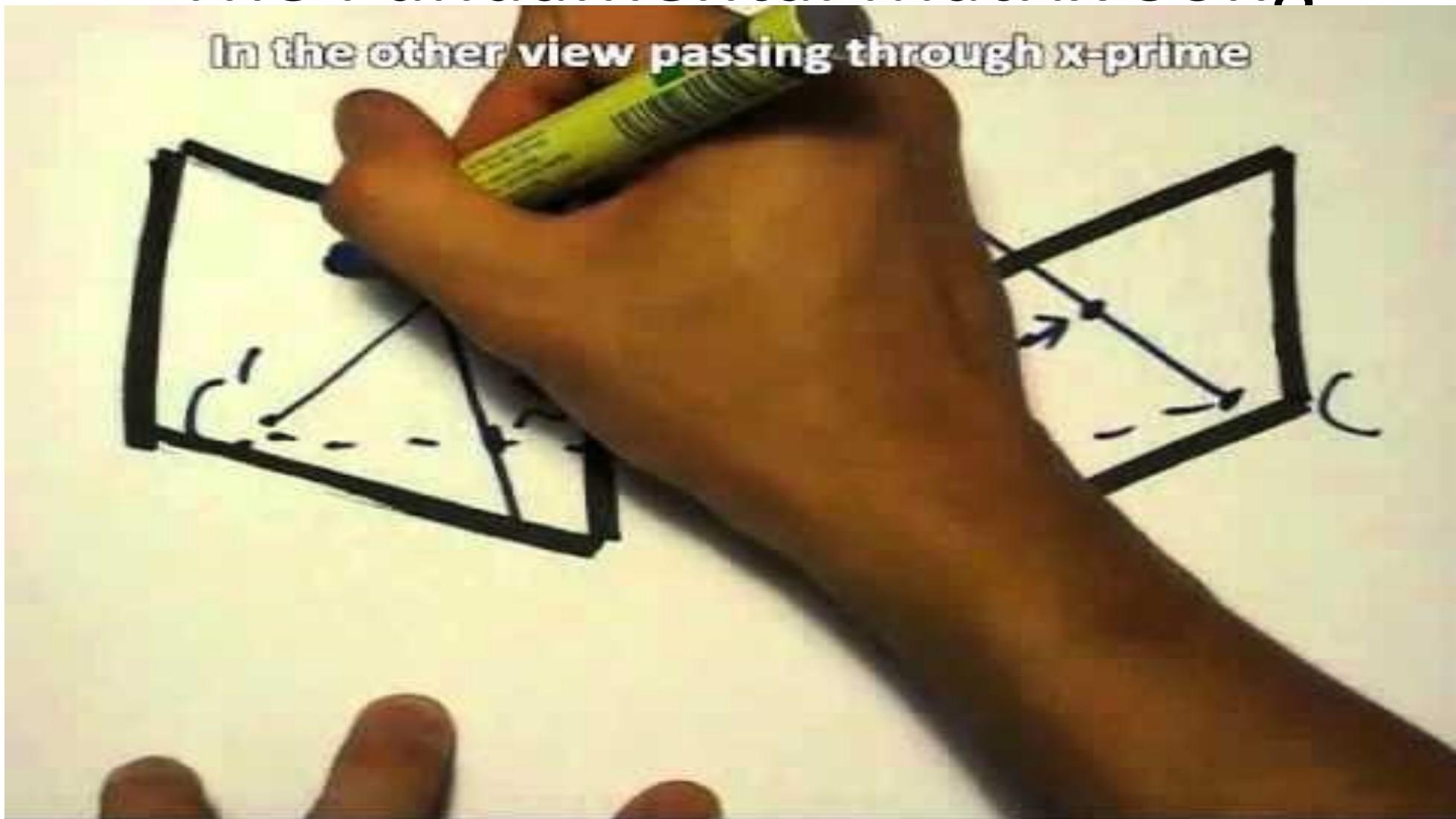
# The approach

- The basic module is recovering 3D structure from 2 views with relative orientation ( $R, t$ ) of cameras unknown. This has several steps:
  - Finding  $n$  **corresponding** points in the 2 views, i.e. image points which are the projections of the **same** point in the scene.
  - Estimate the  $E$  matrix ( $= \hat{T}R$ ) from these point correspondences.
  - Extract  $(R, t)$ .
  - Recover depth by triangulation.
- The outer loop combines information from all the cameras in a global coordinate system. Note that not all points will be seen by all cameras. This process is a nonlinear least squares optimization, called **bundle adjustment**. The error that is minimized is the **re-projection error**.
- For example, the 3D reconstruction of the Colosseum in Rome was based on 2 K images, and 800 K points.

# Summary

- The basic module of recovering 3D structure from 2 views with relative orientation ( $R, t$ ) of cameras unknown can be implemented using the Longuet-Higgins 8 point algorithm.
- The outer loop combines information from all the cameras in a global coordinate system using **bundle adjustment**. The error that is minimized is the **re-projection error**. The big idea is that given the guessed 3d positions of a point, one can predict image plane 2d positions in any camera where it is visible. We wish to minimize the squared error between this predicted position and the actual position, summed over all cameras and over all points.
- Lots of engineering has gone into making these approaches work. Read Szeliski's book, Chapter 7, for more.

# The Fundamental Matrix Song



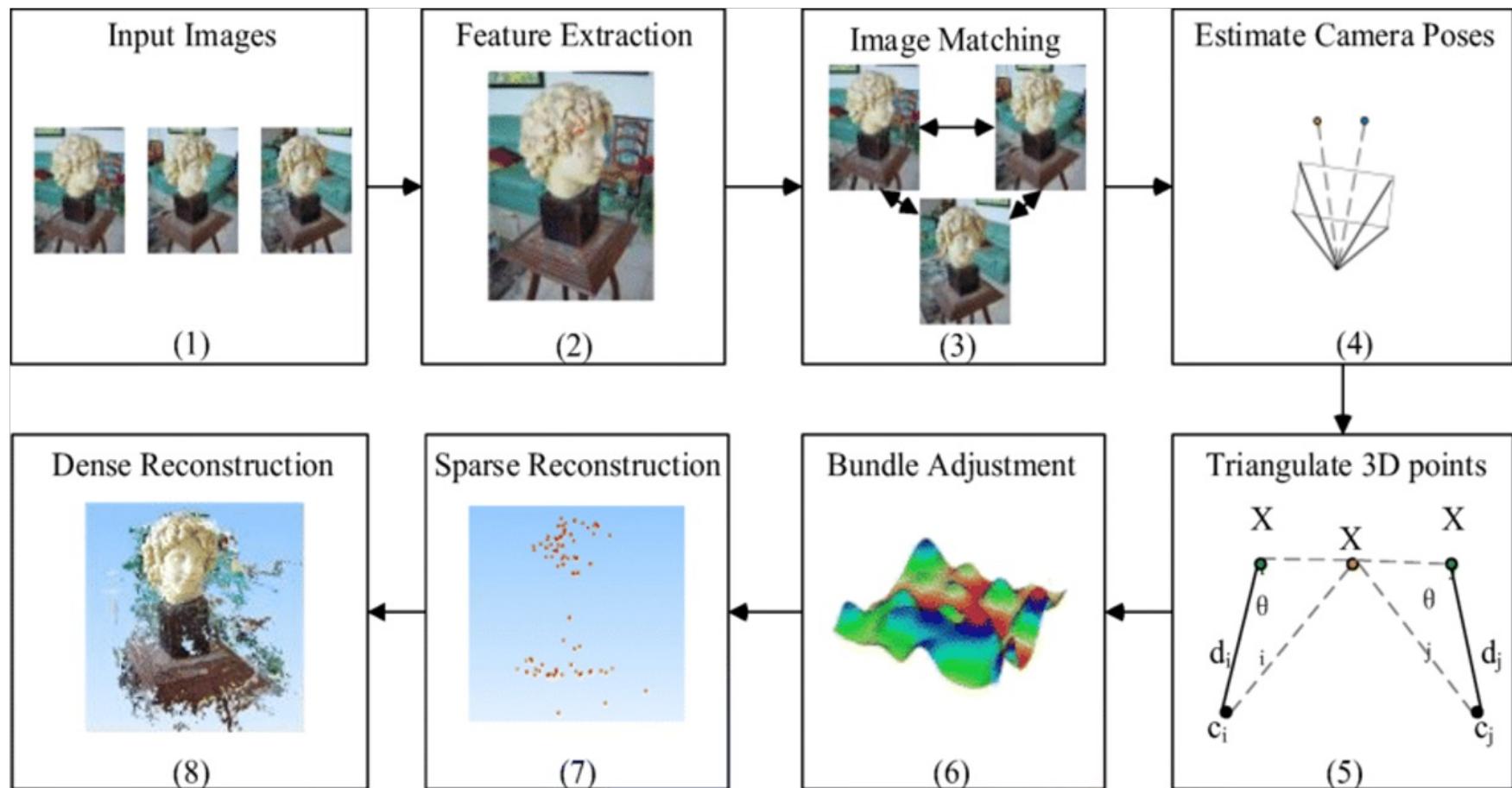
<http://danielwedge.com/fmatrix/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=8&v=DgGV3I82NTk&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=DgGV3I82NTk&feature=emb_title)

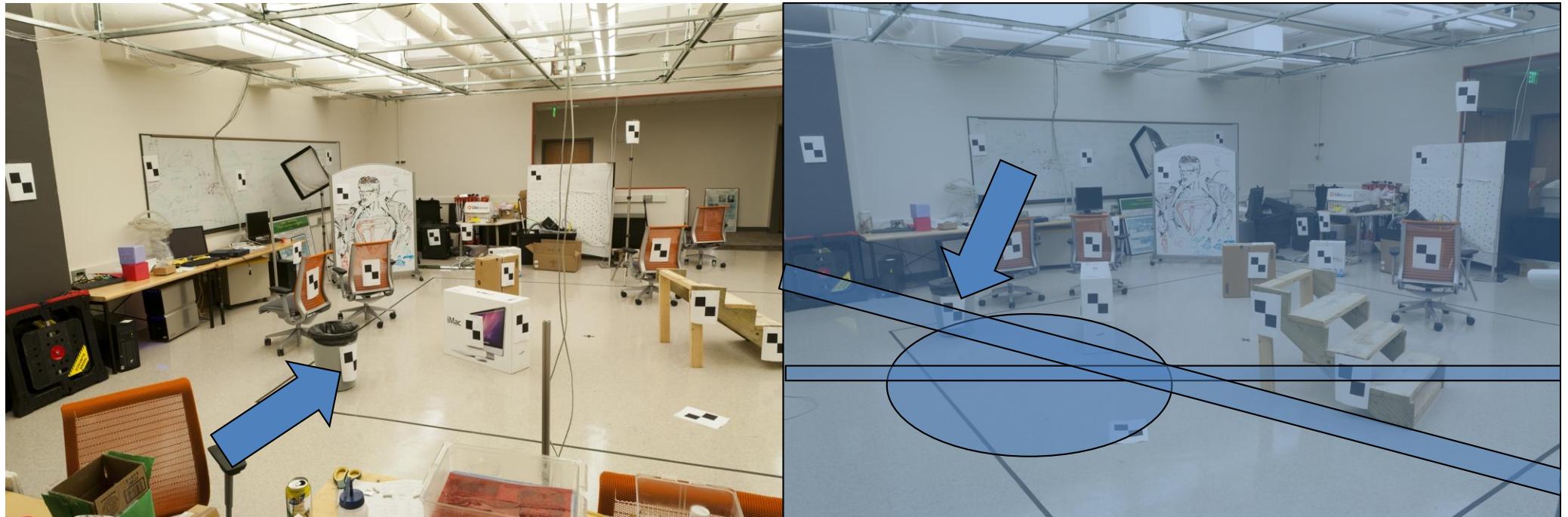
# Break

# In practice..

- Many images and lots of engineering



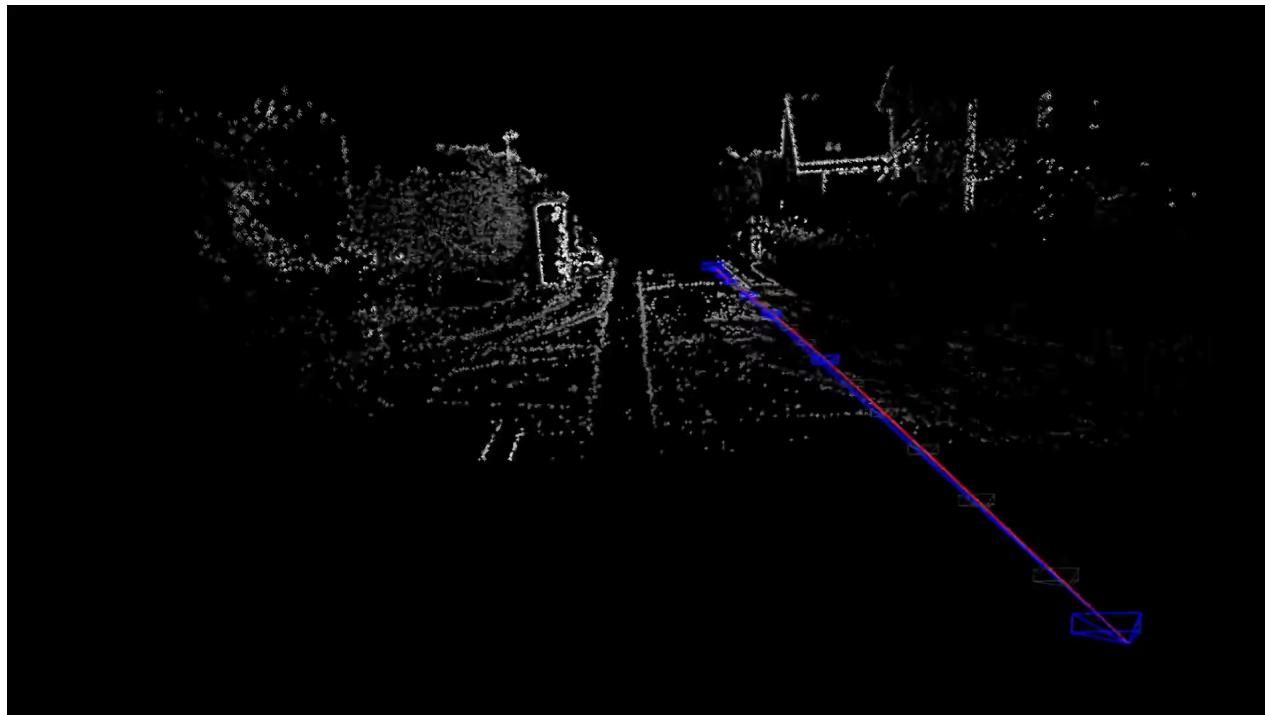
# Epipolar Geometry helps you search correspondences



Knowing camera helps you find the right corepondences, bc they have to be on the epipolar line.  
In practice you do RANSAC with Essential matrix (using current inliners)

# Visual Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (V-SLAM)

- Main differences with SfM:
  - Continuous visual input from sensor(s) over time
  - Gives rise to problems such as loop closure
  - Often the goal is to be online / real-time



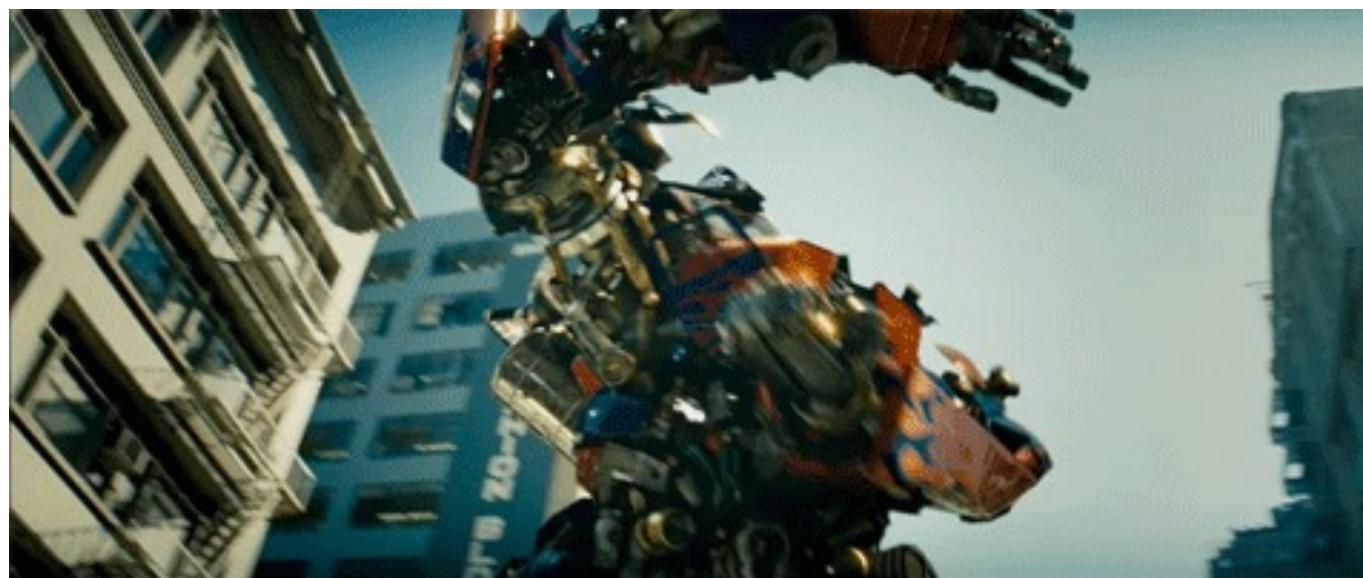
Video from Daniel Cremer's Lab

# Applications: Match Moving

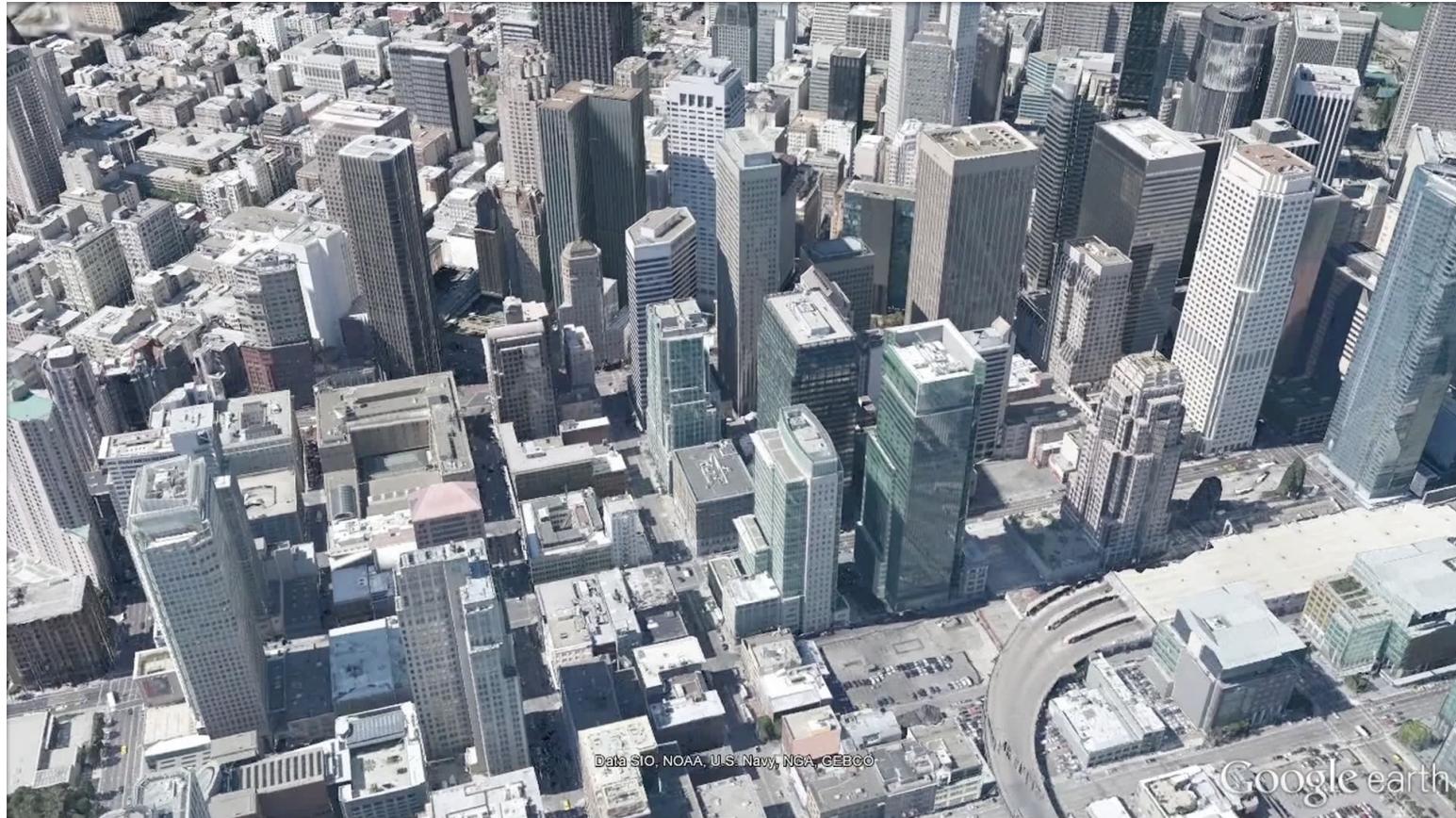
Or Motion tracking, solving for camera trajectory

Integral for visual effects (VFX)

Why?



# What if we want solid models?

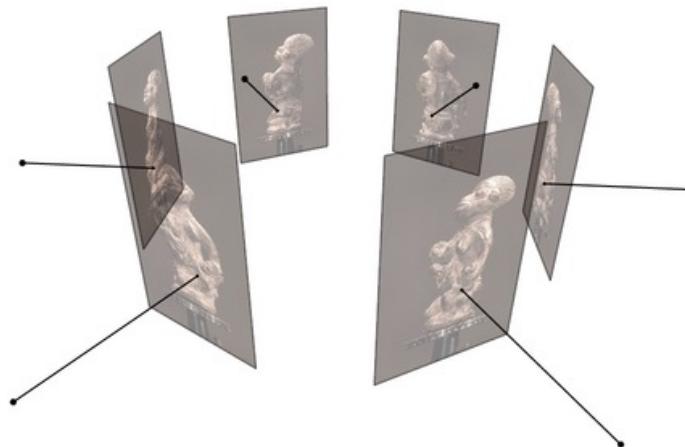


- Up until now we only have points

Slide credit: Noah Snavely

# Multi-view Stereo (Lots of calibrated images)

- Input: calibrated images from several viewpoints (known camera: intrinsics and extrinsics)
- Output: Dense 3D Model



Figures by Carlos Hernandez

Slide credit: Noah Snavely

In general, conducted in a controlled environment with multi-camera setup that are all calibrated

## Whistle in the Form of Female Figure 600 AD - 900 AD

X

≡ Details

Los Angeles County Museum of Art



Los Angeles County Museum of Art



Sculpture



Mexico

Share

Compare

Saved <sup>0</sup>

Discover

Google

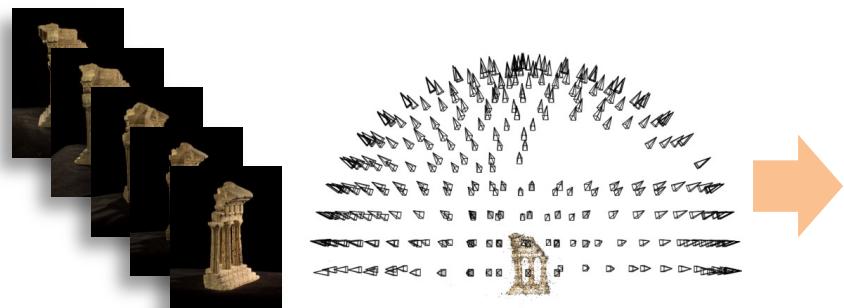
Slide credit: Noah Snavely

# Multi-view Stereo

**Problem formulation:** given several images of the same object or scene, compute a representation of its 3D shape



Binocular Stereo



Multi-view stereo

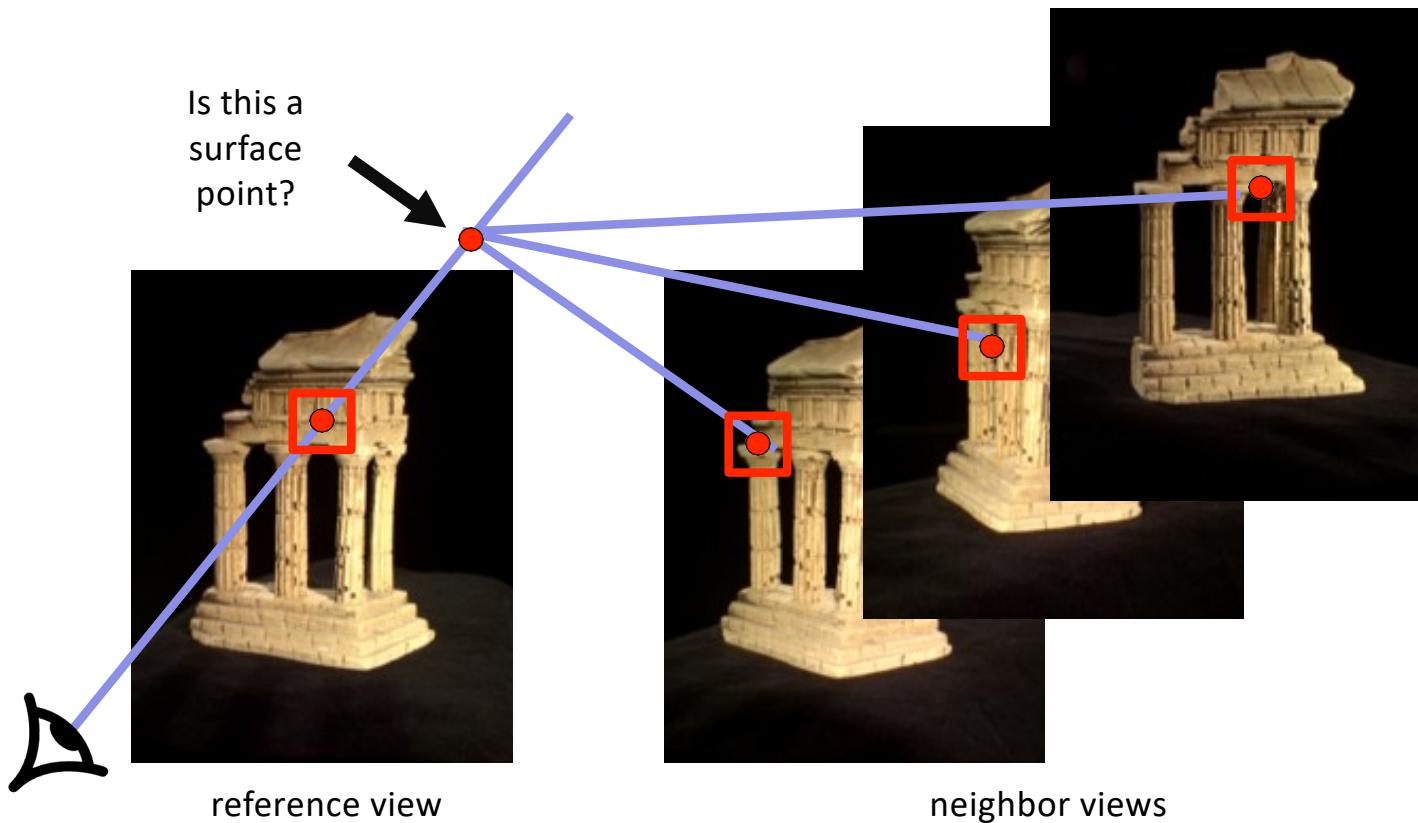


Slide credit: Noah Snavely

# Examples: Panoptic studio



# Multi-view stereo: Basic idea



Source: Y.  
Furukawa

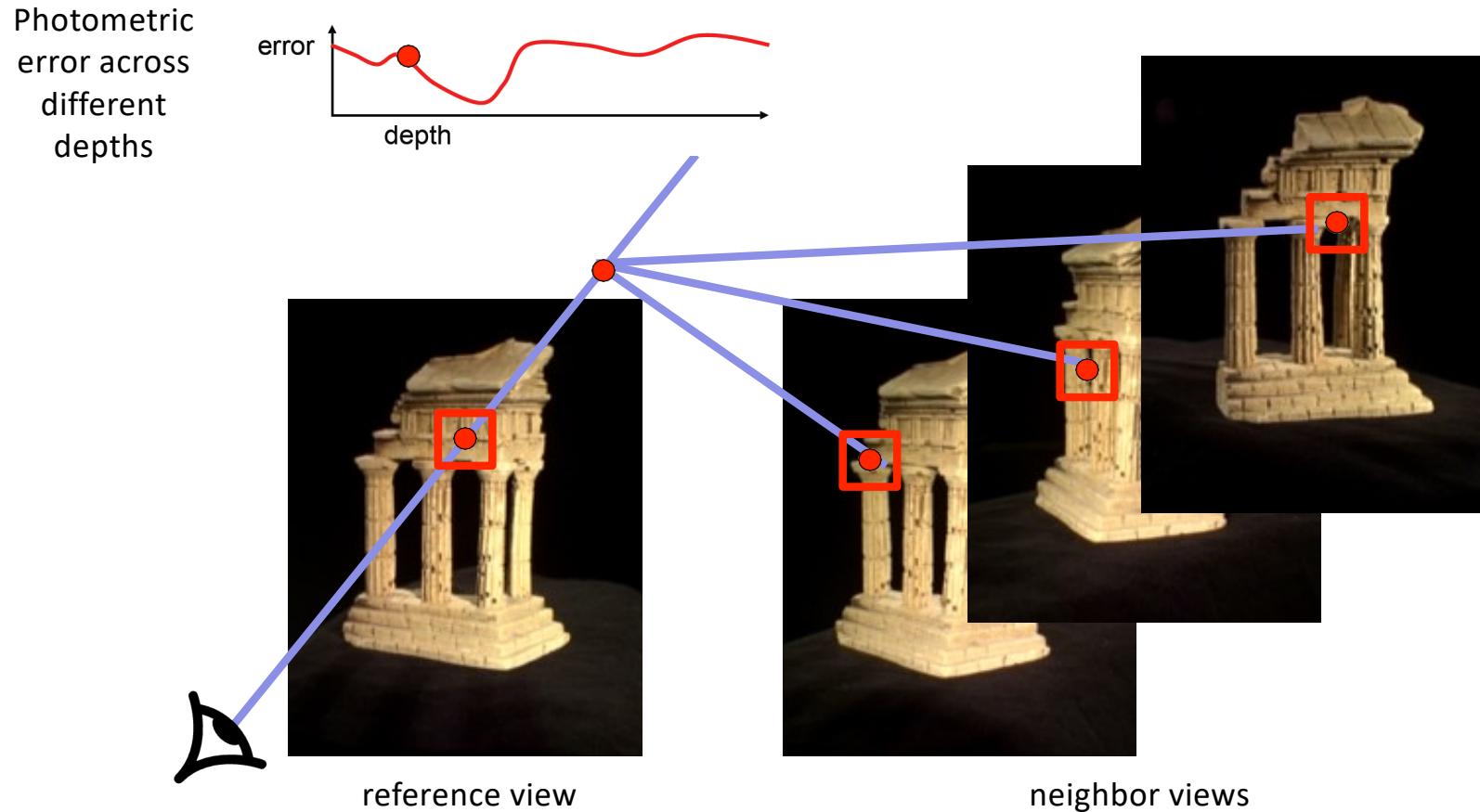
# Multi-view stereo: Basic idea

Evaluate the likelihood of geometry at a particular depth for a particular reference patch:



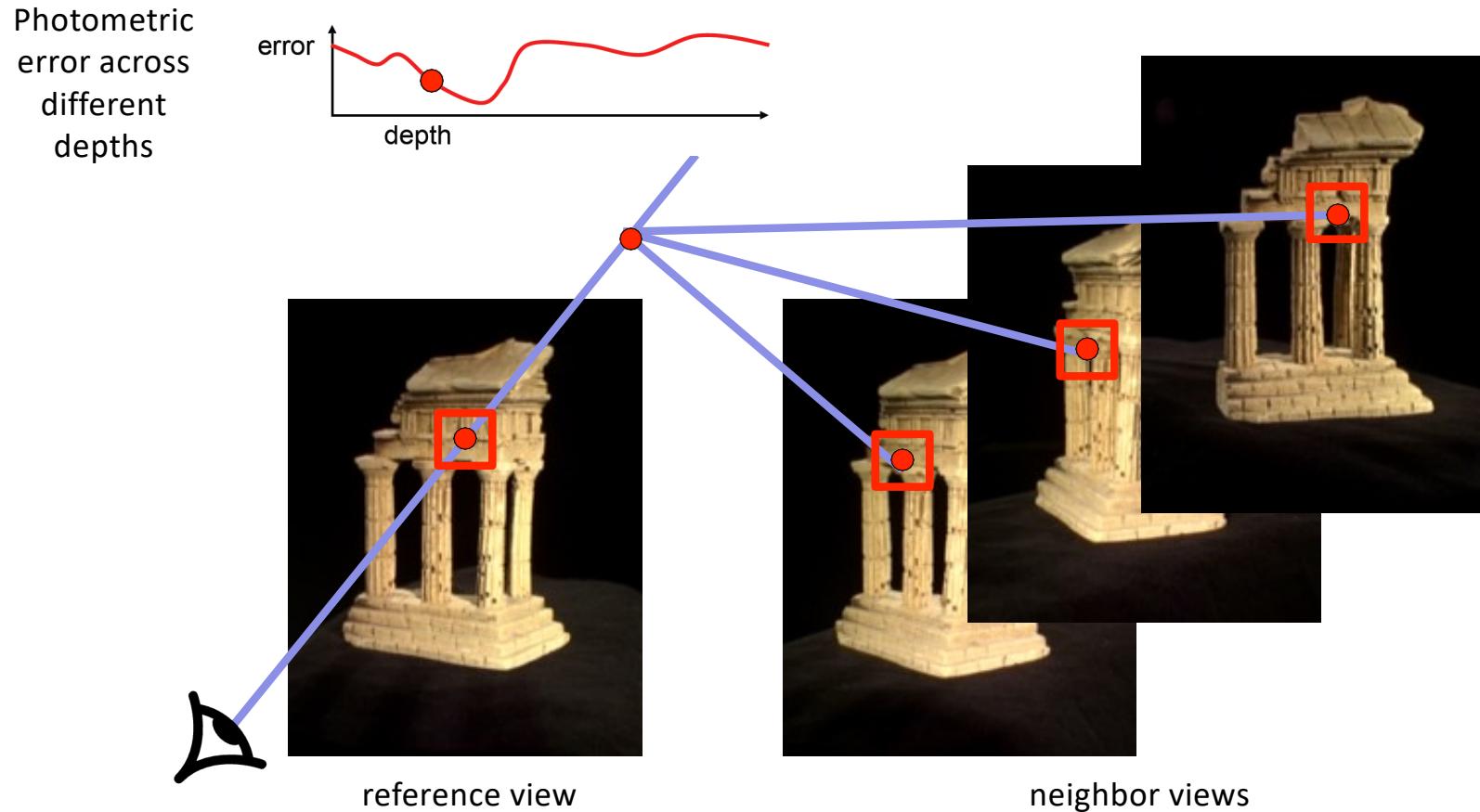
Source: Y.  
Furukawa

# Multi-view stereo: Basic idea



Source: Y.  
Furukawa

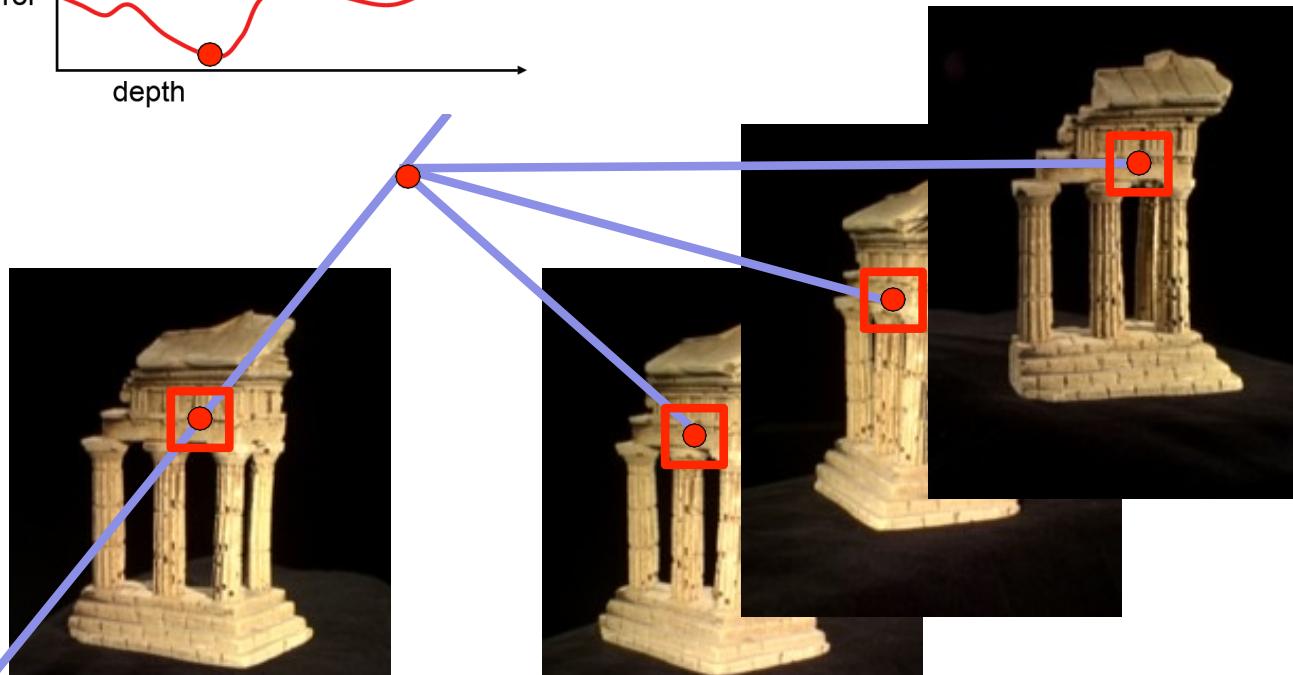
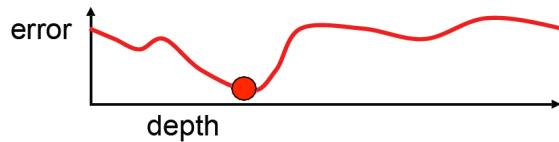
# Multi-view stereo: Basic idea



Source: Y.  
Furukawa

# Multi-view stereo: Basic idea

Photometric  
error across  
different  
depths

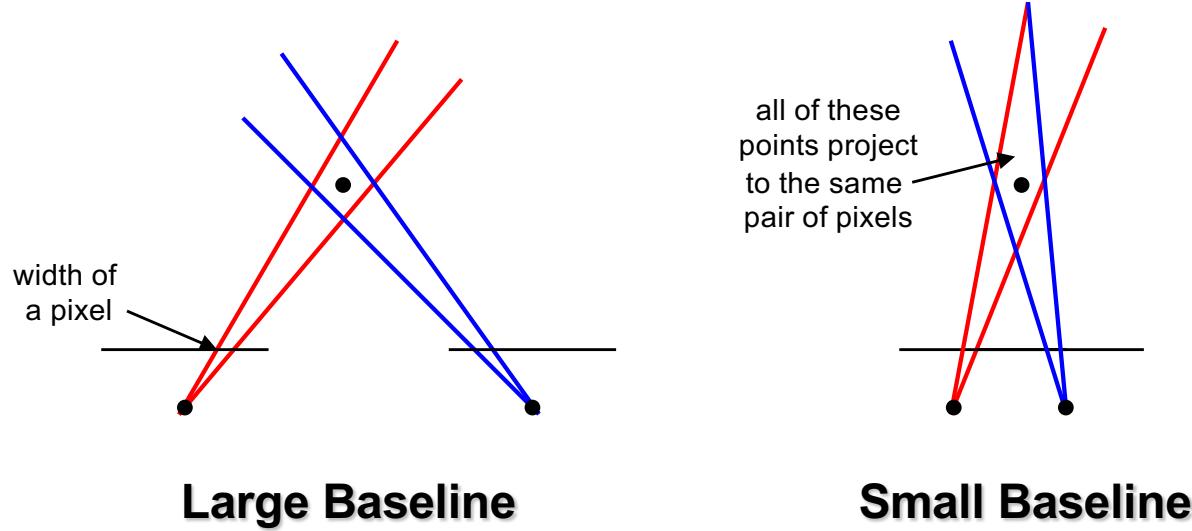


**In this manner, solve for a depth map  
over the whole reference view**

# Multi-view stereo: advantages

- Can match windows using more than 1 other image, giving a **stronger match signal**
- If you have lots of potential images, can **choose the best subset** of images to match per reference image
- Can reconstruct a depth map for each reference frame, and the merge into a **complete 3D model**

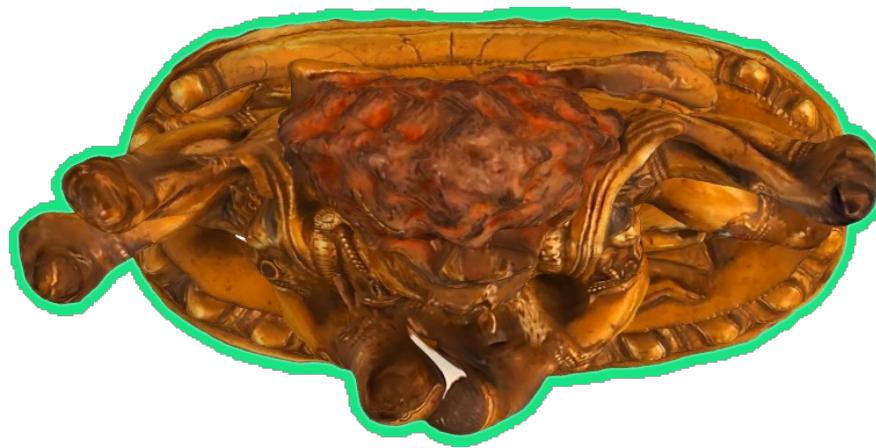
# Choosing the baseline

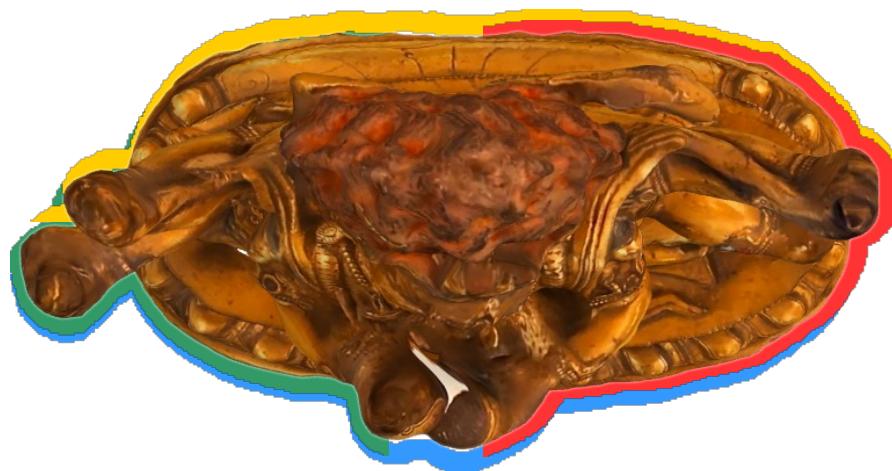


- What's the optimal baseline?
  - Too small: large depth error
  - Too large: difficult search problem

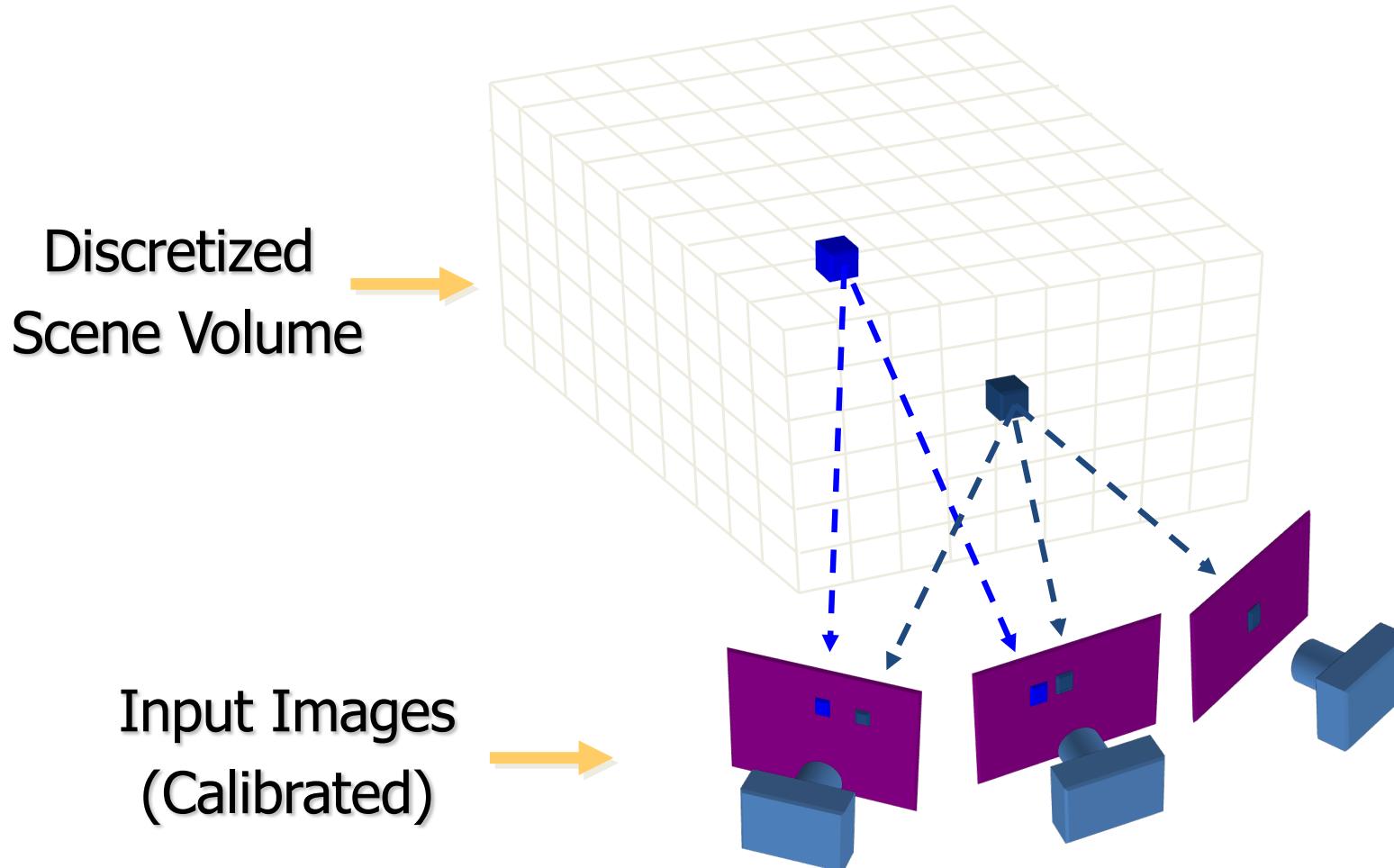
Slide credit: Noah Snavely





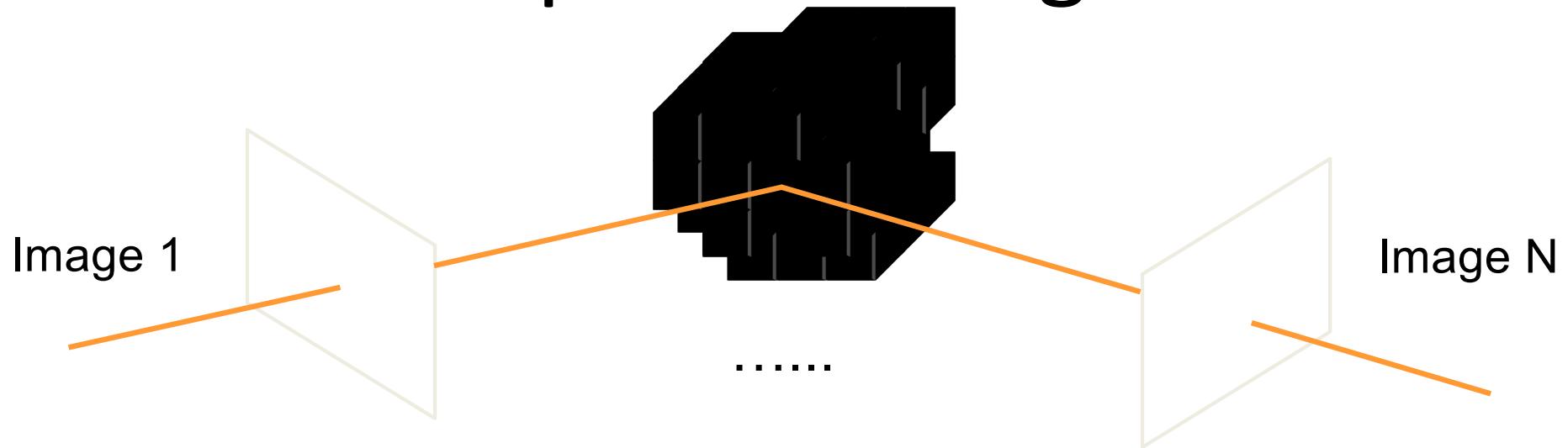


# Volumetric stereo



**Goal:** Assign RGB values to voxels in V  
*photo-consistent* with images

# Space Carving



- **Space Carving Algorithm**

- Initialize to a volume  $V$  containing the true scene
- Choose a voxel on the outside of the volume
- Project to visible input images
- Carve if not photo-consistent
- Repeat until convergence

# Space Carving Results



**Input Image (1 of 45)**



**Reconstruction**



**Reconstruction**



**Reconstruction**

Source: S. Seitz

# Space Carving Results



**Input Image  
(1 of 100)**



**Reconstruction**

Source: S. Seitz

# Tool for you: COLMAP

<https://github.com/colmap/colmap>

A general SfM + MVS pipeline