

# Introduction to 2D and 3D Projective Geometry

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# Points and Lines in $\mathcal{P}^2$

- Points represented by:  $\mathbf{x} = [x \ y \ 1]^T$ .
- Consider the line equation:  $ax + by + c = 0$ .
- $[a \ b \ c] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = 0$ , where  $\mathbf{l} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$
- Lines are represented by 3-vectors, just like points. Overall scale is unimportant.

- $$\mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = 0$$

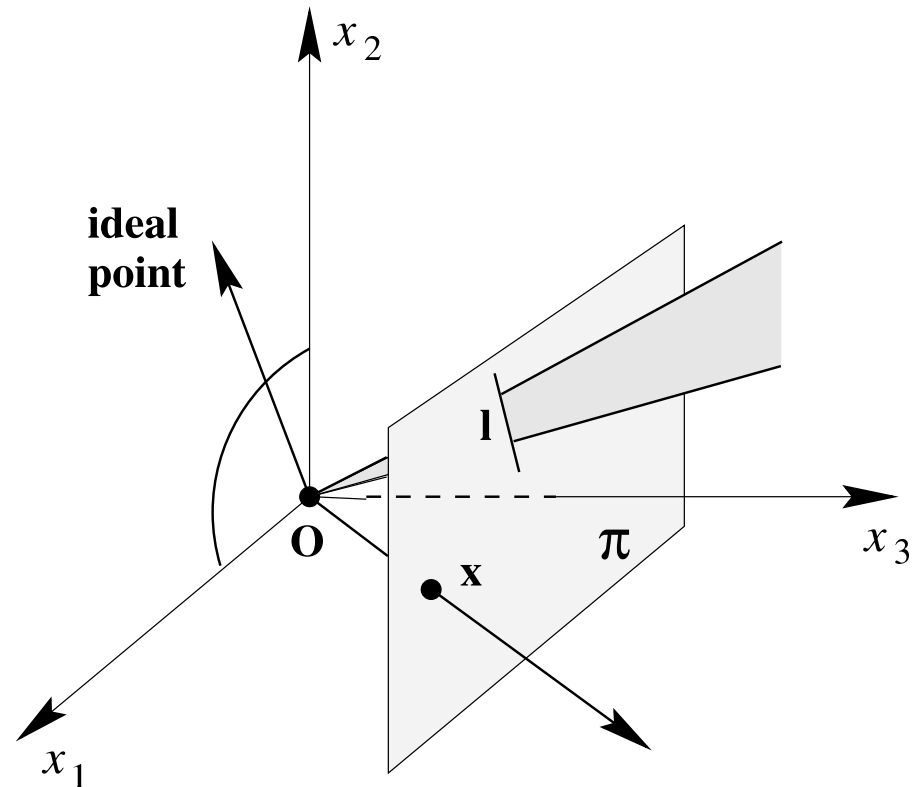
Describes all points  $\mathbf{x}$  incident on line  $\mathbf{l}$   
Or all lines  $\mathbf{l}$  passing through point  $\mathbf{x}$ .

# Points at Infinity

- $\mathbf{x} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3]^T$  represents  $(x_1/x_3, x_2/x_3)$ .  
What happens when  $x_3 \rightarrow 0$ ?
- Becomes **point at infinity** or **ideal point** or **vanishing point** in the direction  $(x_1, x_2)$
- Points at infinity can be handled like any other in projective geometry.
- $[a \ b \ 0]^T$  are all points at infinity on the plane.  
They together form a line at infinity.
- What is its representation?  $\mathbf{l}_\infty = [0 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ .

# View of Projective Representation

- $[x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3]^T$  represent rays from origin in a 3-space.
- Any cross section perpendicular to the  $x_3$  axis can describe the plane.
- Ideal points are rays on the  $x_3 = 0$  plane.
- Lines are planes passing through the origin.
- Line at infinity  $l_\infty$  corresponds to  $x_3 = 0$



# Line Joining 2 Points

- Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  be the points. We have:  $\mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{y} = 0$ .
- Long route: Equation is:  $y = y_1 + (x - x_1) \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ .
- Or:  $(y_2 - y_1)x - (x_2 - x_1)y + (x_2y_1 - x_1y_2) = 0$
- Line  $\mathbf{l} = [(y_2 - y_1) \quad -(x_2 - x_1) \quad (x_2y_1 - x_1y_2)]^T$ .

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- Line  $\mathbf{l} = [(y_2 - y_1) \quad -(x_2 - x_1) \quad (x_2y_1 - x_1y_2)]^T$ .
- Considering them as vectors in 3-space, we want to find a vector  $\mathbf{L}$  orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$ .
- The cross-product  $\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y}$  is a solution. Thus,  $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y}$ .
- $\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y} = [(y_2 - y_1) \quad -(x_2 - x_1) \quad (x_2y_1 - x_1y_2)]^T$ .

# Examples

● Line through  $(5, 2), (3, 2)$ : 
$$\begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 5 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

That is the line  $y = 2$ .

- Ideal point of line  $[0 \ 1 \ -2]^T$  is  $[1 \ 0 \ 0]^T$ , same as that of  $[0 \ 1 \ k]^T$  for any  $k$ .
- Line joining  $[3 \ 4 \ 0]^T$  and  $[2 \ 3 \ 0]^T$  is:  $[0 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ , or  $l_\infty$ .

# Point of Intersection of 2 Lines

- Two lines  $l, m$  intersect in a point with  $l^T \mathbf{x} = m^T \mathbf{x} = 0$ .
- $\mathbf{x} = l \times m$ .
- $y = -(a_1x + c_1)/b_1$ . And,  $a_2x - b_2(a_1x + c_1)/b_1 + c_2 = 0$ .
- $x = (b_2c_1 - b_1c_2)/(a_2b_1 - a_1b_2)$ .  
 $y = (a_1c_2 - a_2c_1)/(a_2b_1 - a_1b_2)$ .
- $\mathbf{x} = [(b_2c_1 - b_1c_2) \quad (a_1c_2 - a_2c_1) \quad (a_2b_1 - a_1b_2)]^T = l \times m$
- Duality at work: points and lines are interchangeable



# Examples

● Intersection of  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ : 
$$\begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Same as  $(1, 2)$ .

● Intersection of  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$ : 
$$\begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

● Ideal point of line  $\mathbf{l} = [a \ b \ c]^T$  is  $[b \ -a \ 0]^T = \mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{l}_\infty$ , the intersection of  $\mathbf{l}$  with line at infinity!

# Conics: Second Order Entities

- General quadratic entity:  
 $ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f = 0.$
- Rewrite using homogeneous coordinates as:  
 $ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dxw + eyw + fw^2 = 0.$
- Rewrite as:  $[x \ y \ w] \begin{bmatrix} a & b/2 & d/2 \\ b/2 & c & e/2 \\ d/2 & e/2 & f \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ w \end{bmatrix} = 0$
- A symmetric  $C$  represents a conic:  $\mathbf{x}^T C \mathbf{x} = 0$ .  
Covers circle, ellipse, parabola, hyperbola, etc.
- Degenerate conics include line ( $a = b = c = 0$ ) and two lines when  $C = \mathbf{l}\mathbf{m}^T + \mathbf{m}\mathbf{l}^T$ .

# Properties of Conics

- $Cx$  gives the tangent line to the conic at  $x$ .

A point  $x$  on the conic is on line  $l = Cx$  as  $x^T (Cx) = 0$ . If  $l$  intersects the conic in another point  $y$ ,  $y^T Cy = 0$  due to the conic and  $(Cx)^T y = x^T Cy = 0$  due to line. Thus,  $Cy$  is a line joining  $x$  and  $y$ . That is  $Cy = Cx$  or  $x = y$

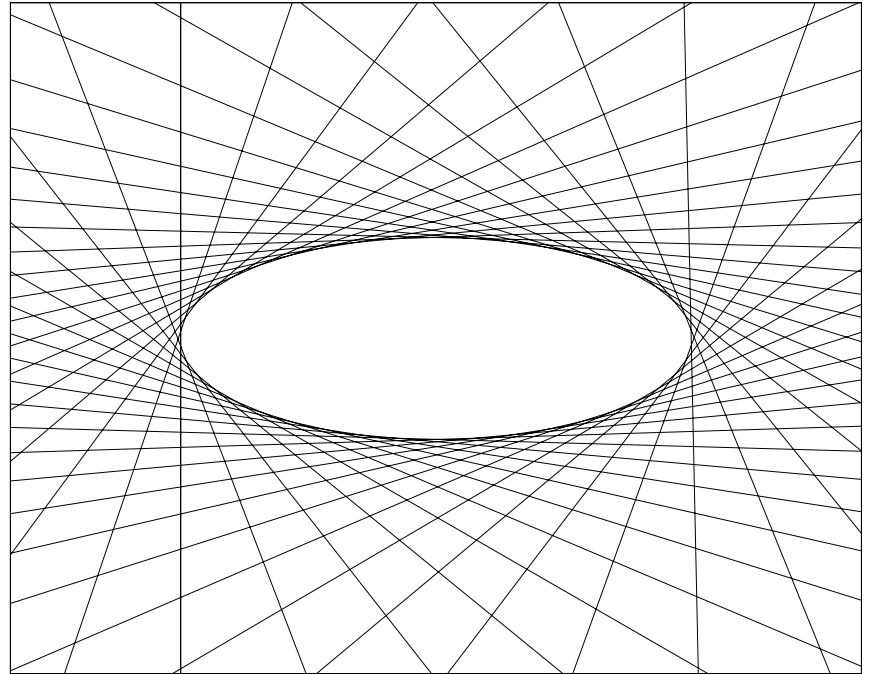
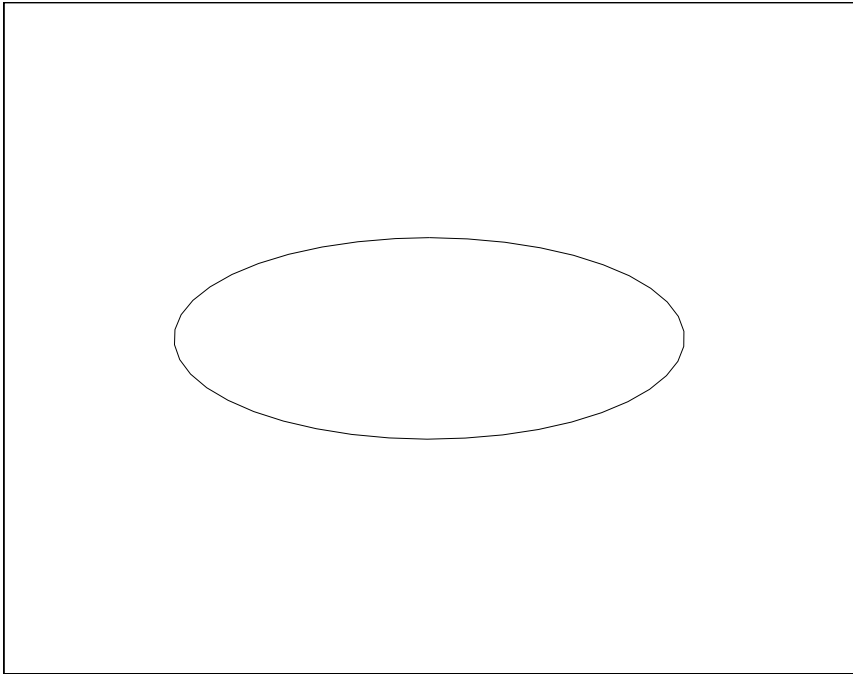
- Dual conic: conic defined by its tangent lines. Given by  $l^T C^* l = 0$ . Generally, the adjoint matrix  $C^*$  or inverse  $C^{-1}$  will work.

- Point of tangency of  $l$  and  $C$  is given  $C^{-T} l = C^{-1} l$  due to symmetry.

Since  $l^T C^{-1} l = 0$ , the point  $x = C^{-1}l$  is on line  $l$ . It is also on the conic as:

$$x^T Cx = (C^{-1}l)^T C (C^{-1}l) = l^T C^{-T} (CC^{-1}) l = l^T C^{-1} l = 0$$

# Point and Line Conics



# Projective Transformations

- A general non-singular  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $H$  transforms points to other points. Overall scale of  $H$  is unimportant.
- $\mathbf{x}' = H \mathbf{x}$  gives the transformed point.
- $\mathbf{l}' = H^{-T} \mathbf{l}$  gives the transformed line.
- $\mathbf{C}' = H^{-T} \mathbf{C} H^{-1}$  is the transformed conic.
- $\mathbf{C}^{*'} = H \mathbf{C}^* H^T$  is the transformed dual conic.
- Linearity is preserved.  $p', q', r'$  collinear if  $p, q, r$  are. In fact, that is the basic definition of the basic **projectivity** transformation.
- Such a transformation is called:  
**collineation, homography, projective transformation.**

# Isometric Transformation

- Transformations of the form, with  $\delta = \pm 1$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \delta \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & a \\ \delta \sin \theta & \cos \theta & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Includes rotations, translations, reflections.
- Called *Euclidean* and *rigid* transformations.
- Preserves distance measurements, angles, parallelism, etc.

# Similarity Transformations

- Transformations of the form for nonzero  $s$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} s \cos \theta & -s \sin \theta & a \\ s \sin \theta & s \cos \theta & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Includes rotations, translations, uniform scaling
- Preserves angles, parallelism, ratio of distances, ratio of areas, circular points **I**, **J**
- 4 degrees of freedom; needs 2 point matches to estimate
- Geometric structure that is defined upto an unknown similarity transformation is called **metric structure**

# Affine Transformations

- Transformations of the form: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
- Includes rotations, translations, nonuniform scaling, shearing, etc.
- Preserves parallelism, ratio of lengths of parallel lines, ratio of areas, centroid,  $\mathbf{l}_\infty$
- 6 degrees of freedom; needs 3 point matches
- Points at infinity map to other points at infinity

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Projective Transformation

- Any general matrix  $\mathbf{H}$ , a general transformation.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{v}^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{H}_P \mathbf{H}_A \mathbf{H}_S = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ \mathbf{v}^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{K}$  is upper triangular with determinant 1

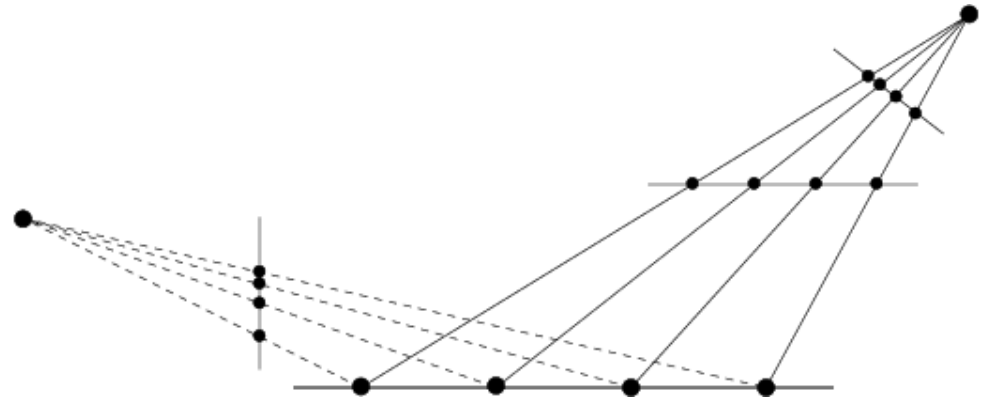
- Finite points can map to ideal points and vice versa.
- The impact of even slight projectivity is serious and non-intuitive. Yet, it models a pin-hole camera.
- Doesn't preserve parallelism, lengths, angles, or ratios of lengths. But, preserves cross-ratios.
- 8 degrees of freedom; needs 4 point matches

# Cross-Ratios on a Line

Consider 4 points

$X_i, i = 1 \dots 4$  on a line  
and its different  
projections  $x_i$

Cross ratio of 4 points  
defined as:

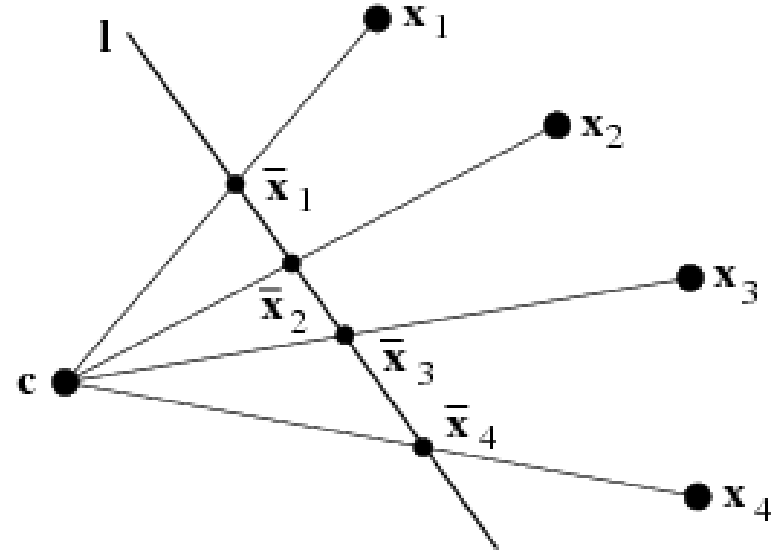
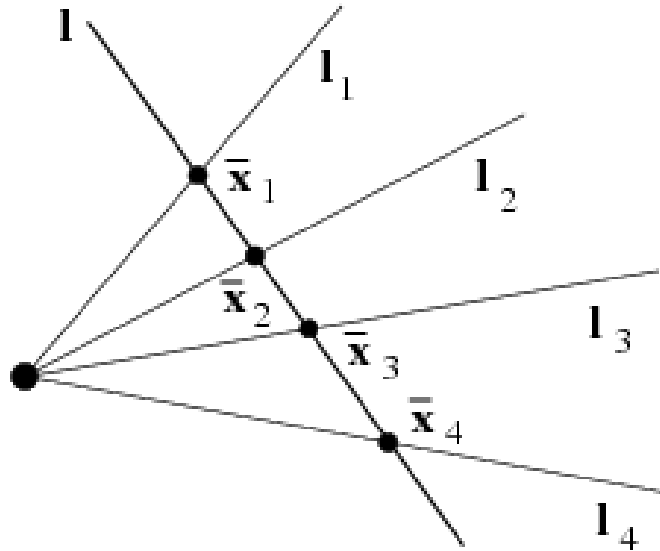


$$\text{Cross}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{|x_1 x_2| |x_3 x_4|}{|x_1 x_3| |x_2 x_4|}, \quad \text{with } |xy| = \det \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \\ x_2 & y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$|xy|$  is the 1D signed distance along the line.

Homogeneous scale factors cancel each other. Hence  
cross-ratio is preserved under **any** projective transformation  
and can be measured in any projection.

# Concurrent Lines



- For 4 concurrent co-planar lines, cross ratio of 4 points  $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_3, \bar{x}_4$  measured on any line is constant.
- For 4 coplanar points and given a projection centre in the plane,  $\text{Cross}(\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_3, \bar{x}_4)$  on any line is constant.

# Invariants for Different Types

Property	Euclidean	Similarity	Affine	Projective
Length				
Angle				
Length ratio				
Area ratio				
Parallelism				
Centroid				
Ratio of len ratio				
Collinearity				

# Invariants for Different Types

Property	Euclidean	Similarity	Affine	Projective
Length	Yes	No	No	No
Angle	Yes	Yes	No	No
Length ratio	Yes	Yes	No	No
Area ratio	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parallelism	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Centroid	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ratio of len ratio	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Collinearity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

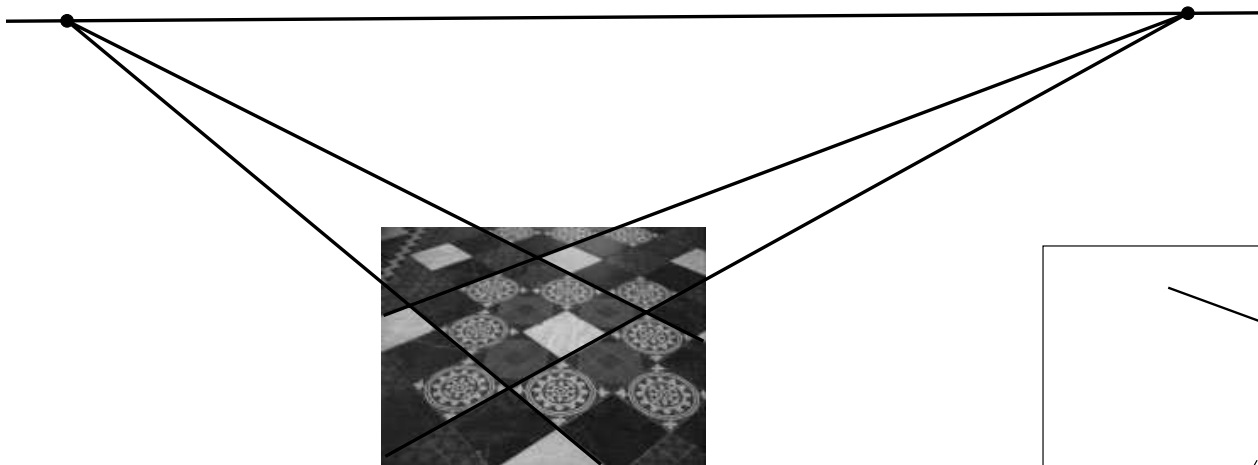
# Line at Infinity

- Affinity maps  $l_\infty$  to itself. Conversely, any transformation that does it is an affine one
- General projectivity can map  $l_\infty$  to a finite line and vice versa
- A circle intersects  $l_\infty$  at **circular points**. Canonical (Euclidean) circle is:  $x^2 + y^2 + dxw + eyw + fw^2 = 0$ .
- Points on  $l_\infty$  have  $w = 0$ . Thus,  $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ .
- Circular points are given canonically by:

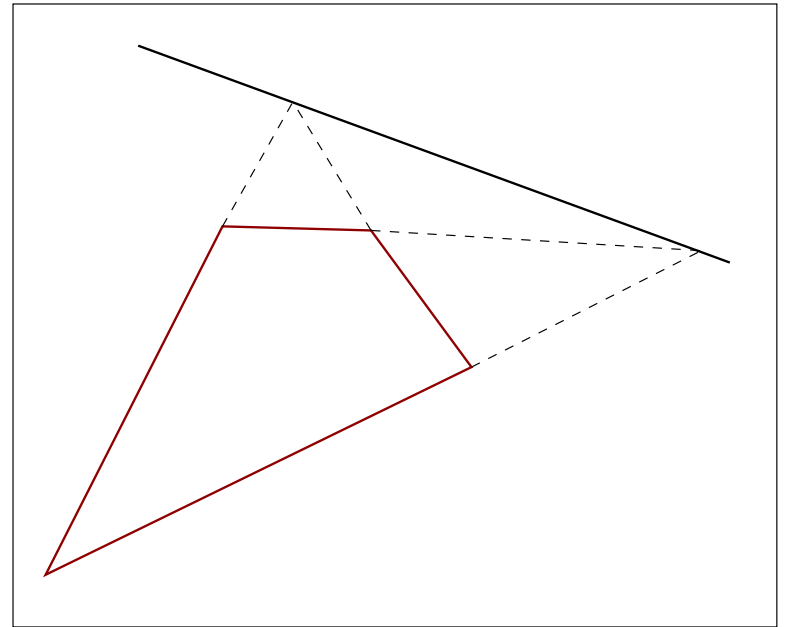
$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad J = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Finding Line at Infinity

Line at infinity can be found in the image from 2 sets of parallel lines.



Rectangle imaged as:



# Affine Structure from Images

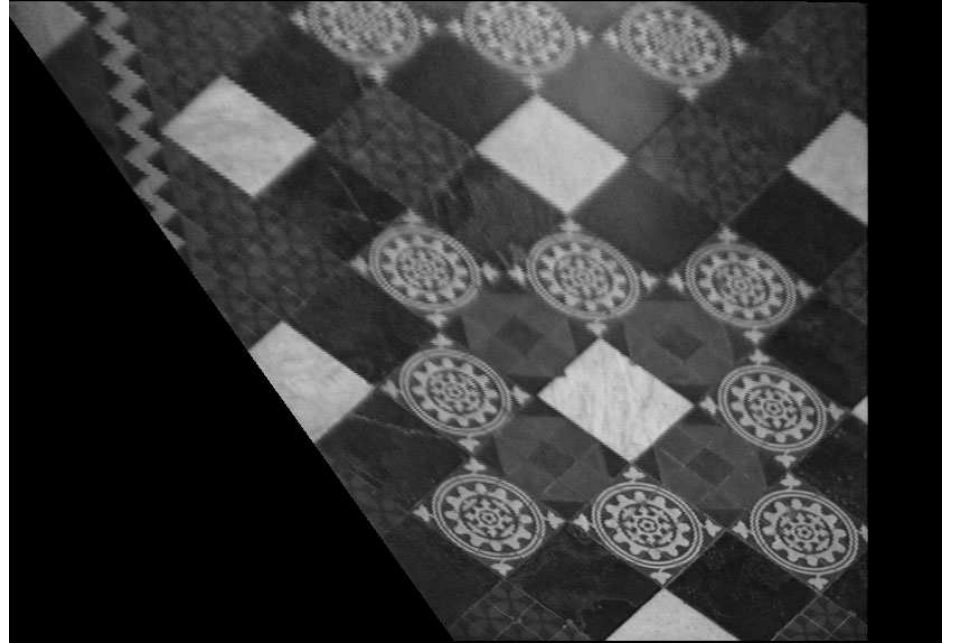
- Affine structure gives parallelism, ratio of areas, centroid, etc., and can be the basis of many decisions.
- Find  $l_\infty$  in image using parallel lines.
- Apply a transformation  $H$  that maps the line to  $[0 \ 0 \ 1]^T$

● Any  $H = H_A$   $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ l_1 & l_2 & l_3 \end{bmatrix}$  sends  $\begin{bmatrix} l_1 \\ l_2 \\ l_3 \end{bmatrix}$  to  $[0 \ 0 \ 1]^T$  as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ l_1 & l_2 & l_3 \end{bmatrix}^{-T} \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \\ l_2 \\ l_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} l_3 & 0 & -l_1 \\ 0 & l_3 & -l_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l_1 \\ l_2 \\ l_3 \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Affine Rectification



Parallel lines are parallel, but right angles are not right angles.

# Circular Points & Similarity

- Circular points are fixed under similarity

$$\begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = s(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Conversely, any transformation that fixes circular points is a similarity.
- Thus, a transformation  $H$  that sends the circular points to their canonical form  $I$  and  $J$  leaves only a similarity transformation.

# Dual Conic to Circular Points

- $C_{\infty}^* = \mathbf{I}\mathbf{J}^T + \mathbf{J}\mathbf{I}^T$  is a dual conic defined by the circular points. It is fixed under similarity also.

- In canonical or Euclidean frame,  $C_{\infty}^* = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

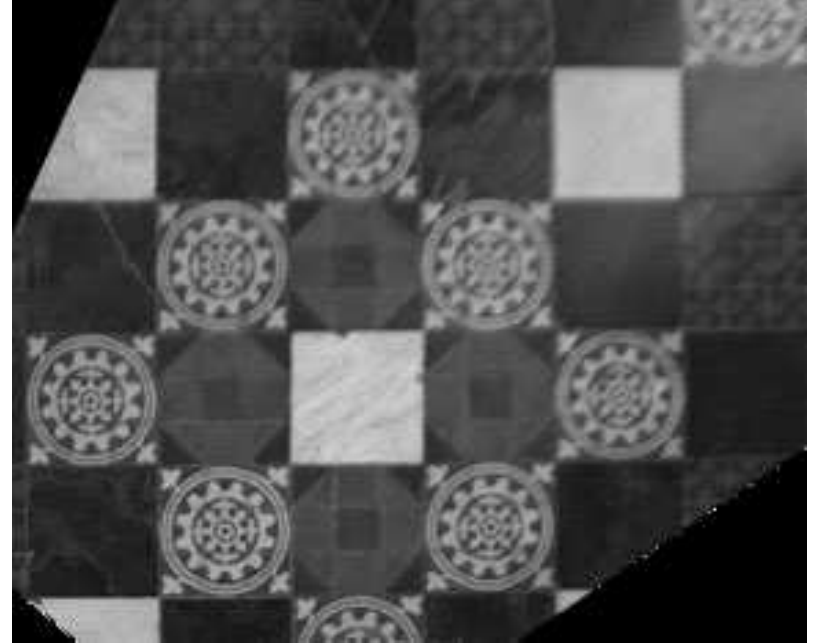
- We can see

$$\begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R}^T & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{t}^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} C_{\infty}^* \begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0} & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \equiv C_{\infty}^*$$

# Metric Structure from Images

- Identify circular points in the image.
- This can be done by finding a world circle in the image as a conic, finding the  $l_\infty$  in the image and finding their intersection
- Map one circular point to  $I$  and the other to  $J$ . The transformation  $H$  that does it metric rectifies the image.
- $l_\infty$  gives affine structure, the circle gives metric structure.
- Can be done using 2 non-parallel orthogonal line pairs instead of a circle or 5 orthogonal line pairs from projective!

# Metric Rectification



# Angles in Projective Space

- Angle between Euclidean lines  $l$  and  $m$  is given by  $\cos \theta = l \cdot m$
- Analog in projective space involves  $C_{\infty}^*$ .

$$\cos \theta = \frac{l^T C_{\infty}^* m}{\sqrt{l^T C_{\infty}^* l} \sqrt{m^T C_{\infty}^* m}}$$

is invariant in projective transformations!

- $\cos \theta = 0$  if  $l$  and  $m$  are othogonal.

# 3D Projective Geometry

- Points represented using 4-vectors  $\mathbf{X} = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]^T$
- Planes also represented by 4-vectors, such that  $\pi^T \mathbf{X} = 0$  is the plane equation.
- Lines represented using two 4-vectors: line joining two points or intersection of two planes.
- Quadrics are general order-2 surfaces:  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{X} = 0$
- Lines have points at infinity. Points at infinity on a plane lie on the line at infinity for it. All points/lines at infinity lie on the **plane at infinity** denoted by  $\pi_\infty$

# Hierarchy of Transformations

- Plane at infinity  $\pi_\infty$  is **fixed** for, and only for, **affine** transformations.
- The **absolute conic**  $\Omega_\infty$  on  $\pi_\infty$  is the intersection of all spheres with  $\pi_\infty$ . In canonical coordinates,  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 0 = x_4$ . Thus,  $\Omega_\infty = \mathbf{I}$  on  $\pi_\infty$ .
- **Absolute dual quadric**  $Q_\infty^*$  is defined using planes. Planes enveloping it meet  $\pi_\infty$  in lines that are tangent to  $\Omega_\infty$ . It is given in Euclidean/canonical coords as
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0}^T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
- $Q_\infty^*$  and  $\Omega_\infty$  are **fixed** under **similarity** transformations.



# Calibrated Camera

- Internal matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  is known. In camera's Euclidean frame, a point  $\mathbf{x}$  maps to a line  $\lambda \mathbf{d}$  where  $\mathbf{d}$  is the direction.
- Then,  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{d}$  upto scale. Or  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}$ .
- Given  $\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2$  corresponding to points  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$ , the angle between the rays is:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{x}_1^T \mathbf{K}^{-T} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_2}{\sqrt{\mathbf{x}_1^T (\mathbf{K} \mathbf{K}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{x}_1} \sqrt{\mathbf{x}_2^T (\mathbf{K} \mathbf{K}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{x}_2}}$$

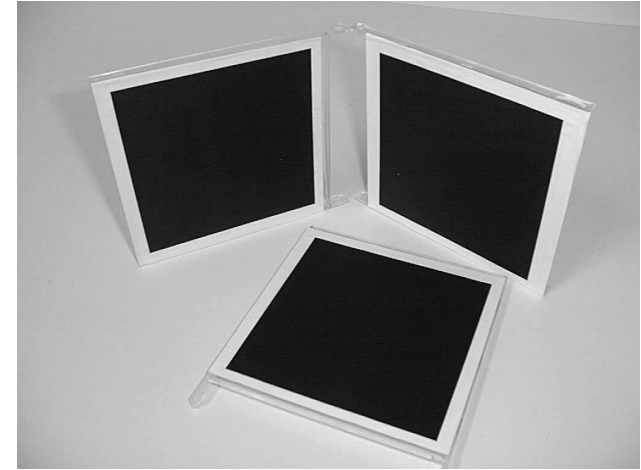
- An image line  $\mathbf{l}$  defines a world plane in camera's Euclidean frame given by  $\mathbf{n} = [(\mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{l})^T \ 0]^T$ .

(Image points  $\mathbf{x}$  on  $\mathbf{l}$  project to directions  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}$ . Points on the plane are  $[\mathbf{d}^T \ w]^T$ . The plane through origin  $[\mathbf{n}^T \ 0]^T$  contains these points if  $\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{d} = 0$  or  $\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x} = 0$ . Since  $\mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = 0$ , this is true if  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{K}^T \mathbf{l}$ )

# Image of the Absolute Conic

- A camera projects points  $[\mathbf{d} \ 0]^T$  on  $\pi_\infty$  to  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{KRd}$ . Thus,  $\mathbf{KR}$  is the homography from  $\pi_\infty$  to the image.
- Image of the Absolute Conic (IAC) is given by:  
 $\omega = (\mathbf{KK}^T)^{-1} = \mathbf{K}^{-T}\mathbf{K}^{-1}$ . Dual-IAC is:  $\omega^* = \mathbf{KK}^T$   
 $\omega = \mathbf{H}^{-T}\Omega_\infty\mathbf{H}^{-1} = (\mathbf{KR})^{-T}\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{KR})^{-1} = \mathbf{K}^{-T}\mathbf{RR}^{-1}\mathbf{K}^{-1}$  as  $\Omega_\infty = \mathbf{I}$  on  $\pi_\infty$ .
- Properties of IAC  $\omega$ 
  - $\omega$  depends only on  $\mathbf{K}$  and not on  $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}$ .
  - Angle between two rays:  $\cos \theta = \mathbf{x}_1^T \omega \mathbf{x}_2 / (\dots)$
  - Two rays are orthogonal iff  $\mathbf{x}_1^T \omega \mathbf{x}_2 = 0$ .
  - We can calibrate the camera given  $\omega$ , using Cholesky factorization.
  - Circular points of all planes lie on  $\Omega_\infty$  and are imaged onto intersection of plane's  $\mathbf{l}_\infty$  and  $\omega$

# Camera Calibration Using IAC



- Consider 3 non-parallel planes with squares. Assume the corners are  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1)$ ,  $(1, 1)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ .
- Compute homography  $\mathbf{H}$  for each plane to the image plane.
- Imaged circular points  $\mathbf{h}_1 \pm i\mathbf{h}_2$  are on  $\omega$ ; hence  $\mathbf{x}^T \omega \mathbf{x} = 0$
- Two equations from each plane (real/imaginary parts):  $\mathbf{h}_1^T \omega \mathbf{h}_2 = 0$  and  $\mathbf{h}_1^T \omega \mathbf{h}_1 = \mathbf{h}_2^T \omega \mathbf{h}_2$ . The conic  $\omega$  has 5 dof. We need 5 equations and hence 3 planes.
- Factorize  $\omega = (\mathbf{K}\mathbf{K}^T)^{-1}$  to get  $\mathbf{K}$ .
- Image line  $\omega \mathbf{x}$  corresponds to a world plane orthogonal to ray of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

Line  $\omega \mathbf{x}$  is tangent to  $\omega$  at  $\mathbf{x}$ . If  $\mathbf{y}$  is a point on the line,  $\mathbf{y}^T \omega \mathbf{x} = 0$ , or rays of  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$  are orthogonal. Since this is true for any  $\mathbf{y}$ , the plane of  $\omega \mathbf{x}$  is orthogonal to the ray of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

# Thank You!

P J Narayanan

Many figures are from the book  
**Multiview Geometry in Computer Vision**  
by **Richard Hartley and Andrew Zisserman**