

EECE 5550  
Mobile Robotics

# Lecture 5: Fundamentals of Computer Vision

Derya Aksaray

Assistant Professor

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Northeastern  
University

# Plan of the day

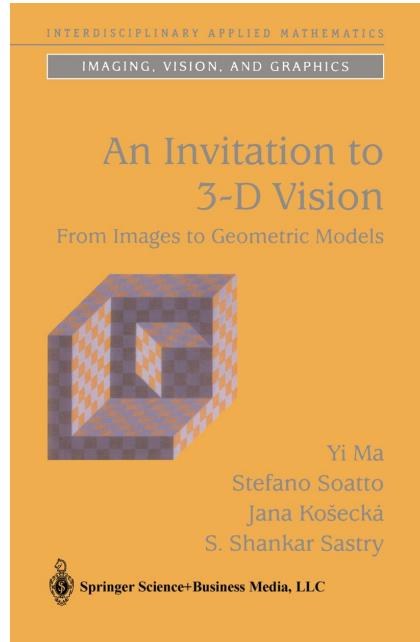
## Camera models

- Image formation
- Pinhole projection model
- Homogeneous coordinates

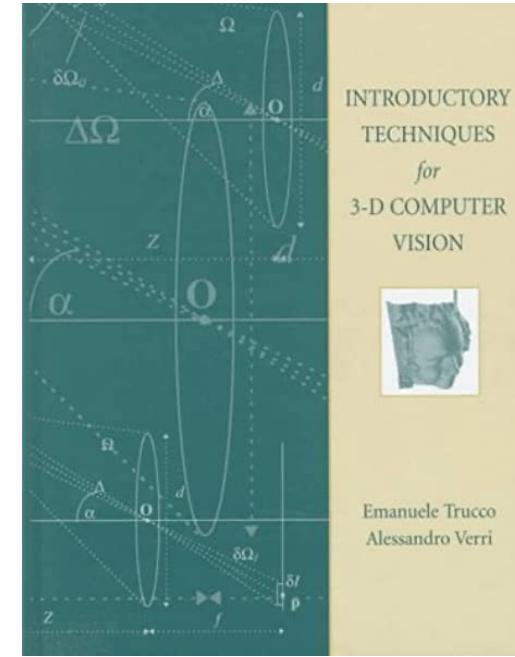
## Feature extraction

- Noise filtering
- Edge detection
- Corner detection
- April Tags

# References



## Chapter 3



## Chapters 3 & 4

[http://graphics.cs.cmu.edu/courses/15-463/lectures/lecture\\_03.pdf](http://graphics.cs.cmu.edu/courses/15-463/lectures/lecture_03.pdf)

# Representation of images

In the context of computer vision, an **image** is a **2D brightness array**.

In other words, an **image** is a **map  $I$**  defined on a compact region  $\Omega$  of a 2D surface and taking values in the positive real numbers.

$$I: \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+; \quad (x, y) \rightarrow I(x, y)$$

- **E.g.,**  $\Omega$  is a rectangular image sensor in the cameras.

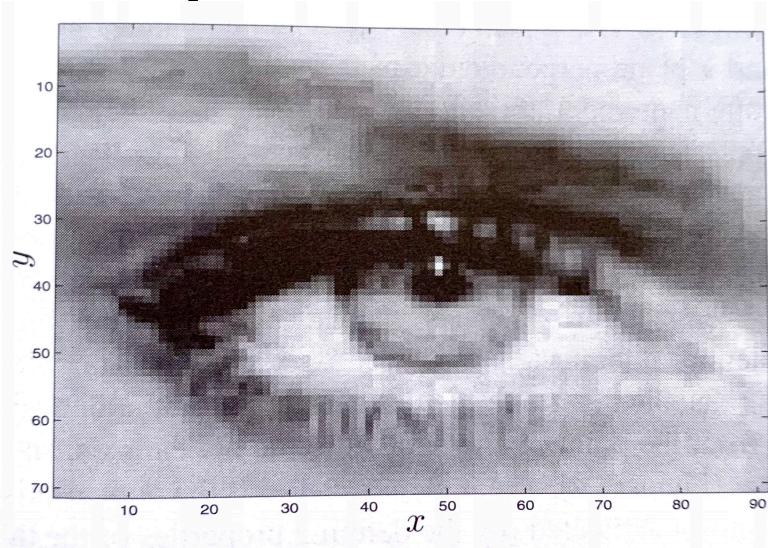
In the case of a digital image, both the domain  $\Omega$  and the range  $\mathbb{R}_+$  are discretized.

- **E.g.,**  $\Omega = [1,640] \times [1,480] \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  and  $\mathbb{R}_+$  is approximated by an interval of integers  $[0,255] \subset \mathbb{Z}_+$
- 0 – complete absence of light (black)
- 255 – complete saturation of light (white)

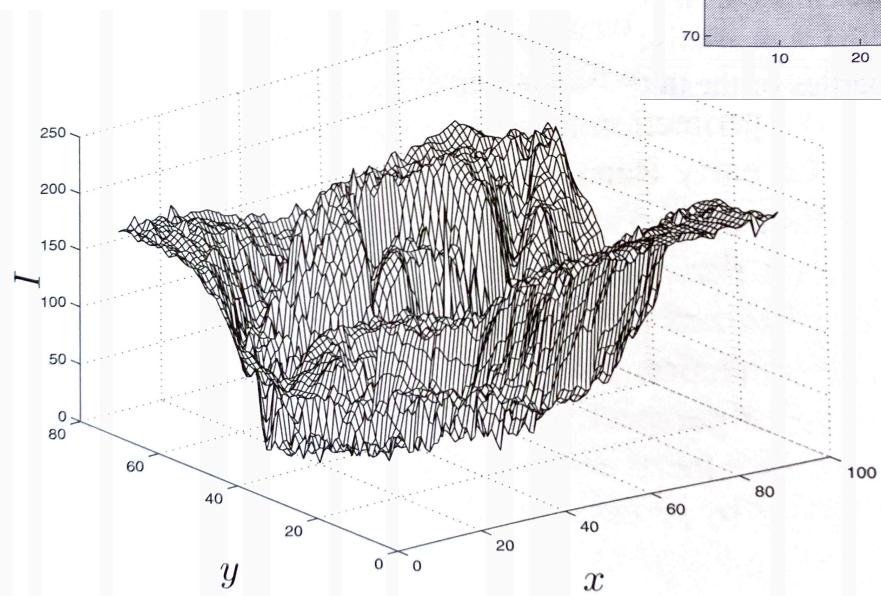
Color	Red number	Green number	Blue number
red	255	0	0
purple	255	0	255
yellow	255	255	0
dark yellow	100	100	0
white	255	255	255
black	0	0	0

# Example: Image representations

An **image  $I$**  represented by a **picture**, **2D surface**, and **3D matrix** of integers



- At any point  $(x, y)$ , the value of  $I(x, y)$  is called the **image intensity** or **brightness** or **irradiance**.
- Its **unit** is power per unit area ( $\text{W/m}^2$ ).



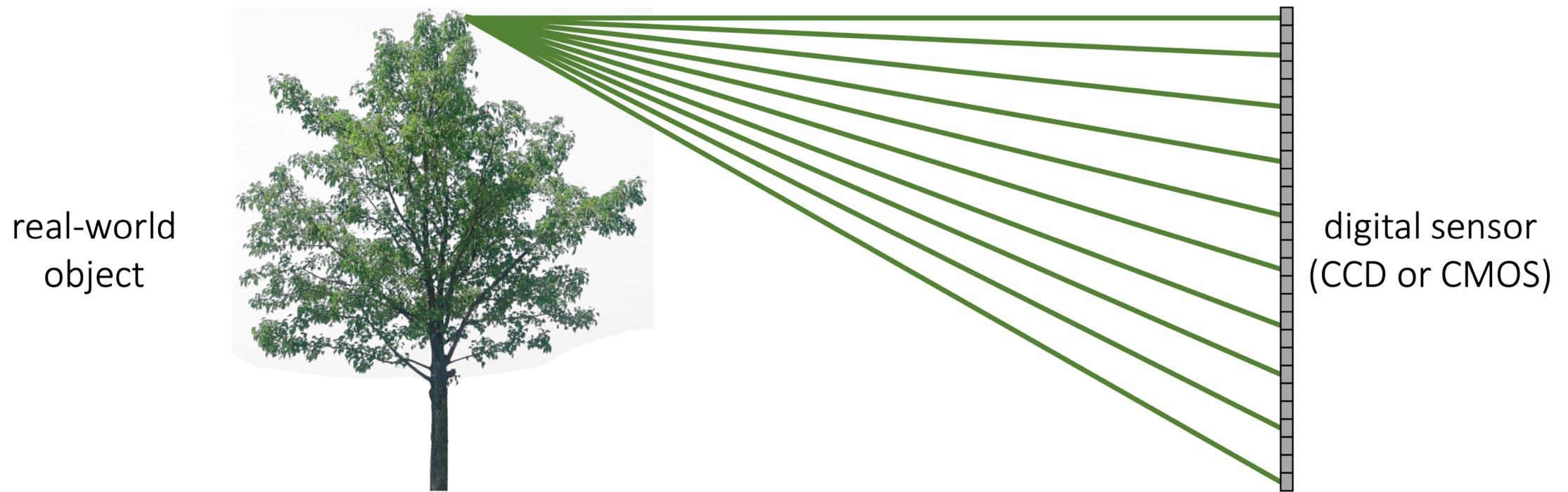
188	186	188	187	168	130	101	99	110	113	112	107	117	140	153	153	156	158	156	153
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175	176	176	163	145	131	120	118	125	125	123	124	139	142	155	158	158	155	148	
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176	183	181	153	122	115	113	106	105	109	123	132	131	131	140	151	157	149	156	159
180	181	177	147	115	110	111	107	107	105	120	132	133	133	141	150	154	148	155	157
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180	172	168	140	114	114	118	113	112	107	119	128	130	134	146	157	162	153	153	148
186	176	171	142	114	114	116	110	108	104	116	125	128	134	148	161	165	159	157	149
185	178	171	138	109	110	114	110	109	97	110	121	127	136	150	160	163	158	156	150

\*Sub-sampled

# Bare-sensor imaging

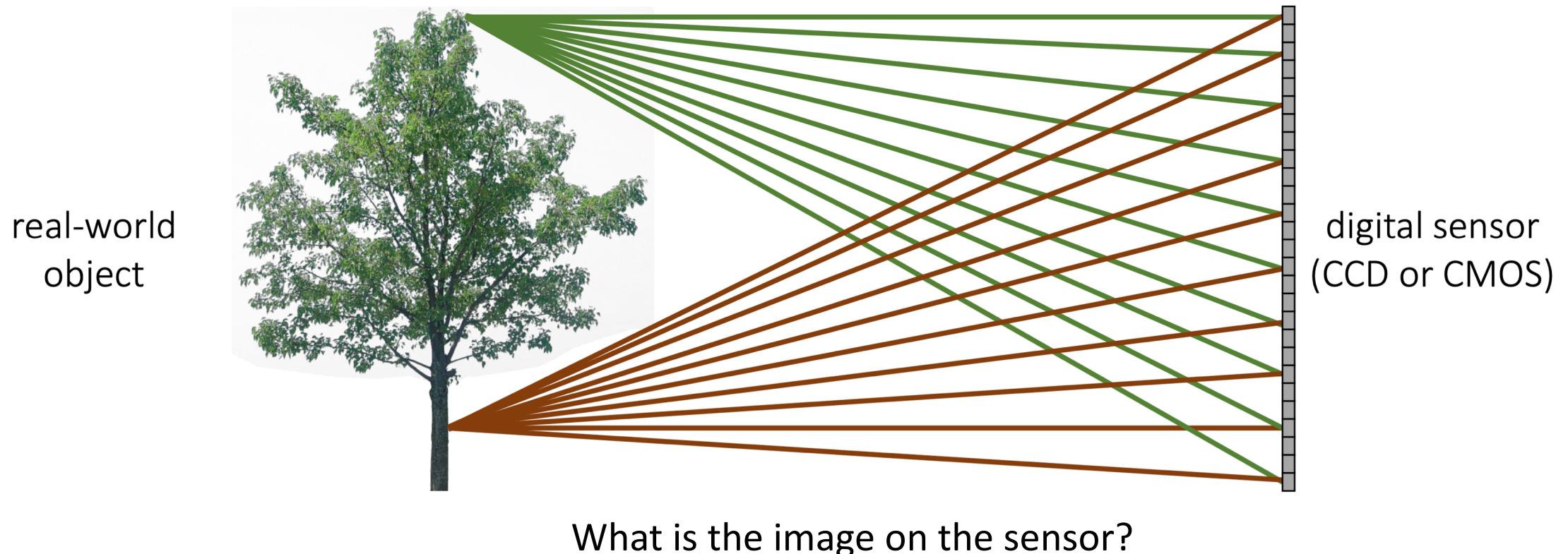


# Bare-sensor imaging



# Bare-sensor imaging

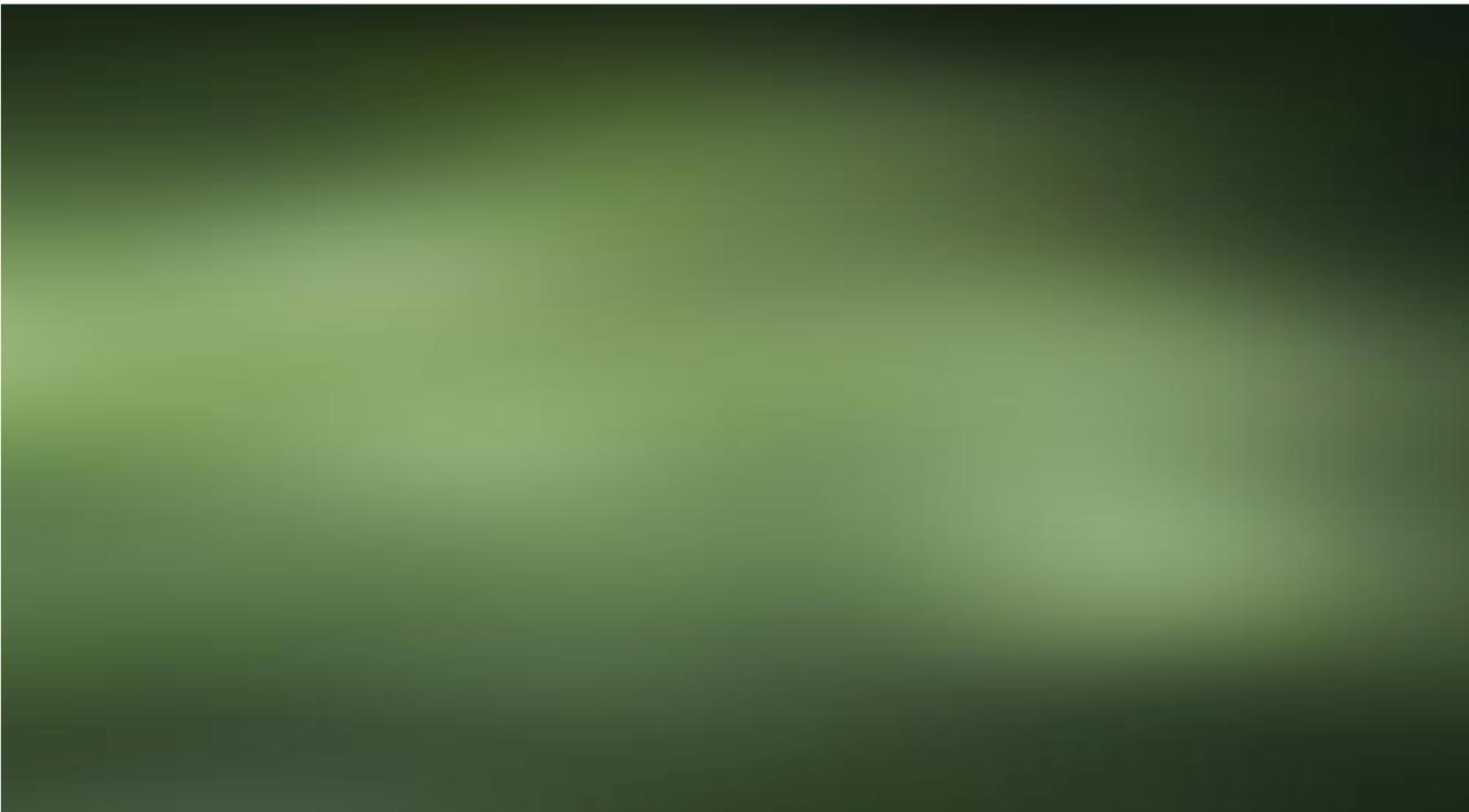
All scene points contribute to all sensor pixels.



What is the image on the sensor?

# Bare-sensor imaging

The image on the sensor.

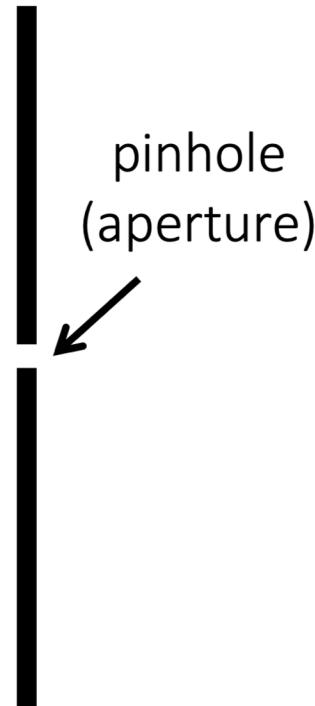


# Pin-hole imaging

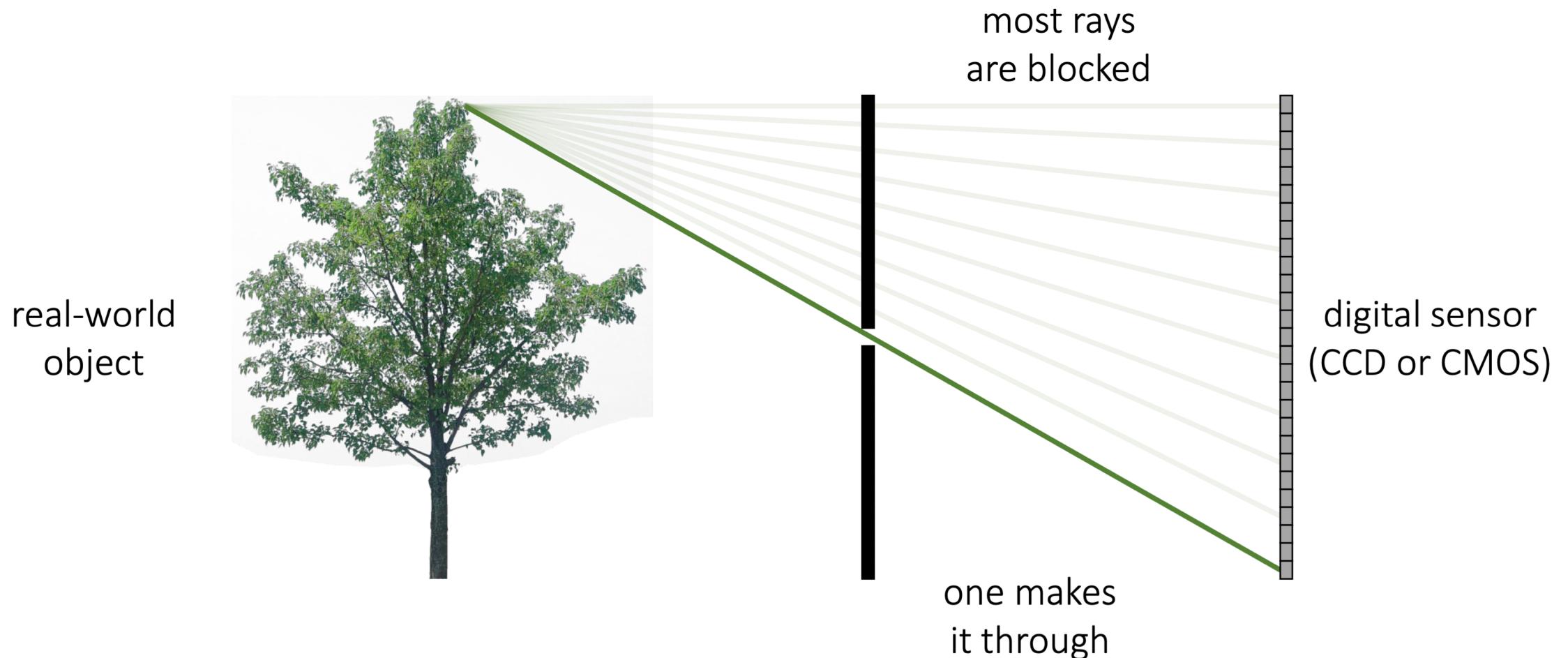
real-world  
object



barrier (diaphragm)



# Pin-hole imaging



# Pin-hole imaging

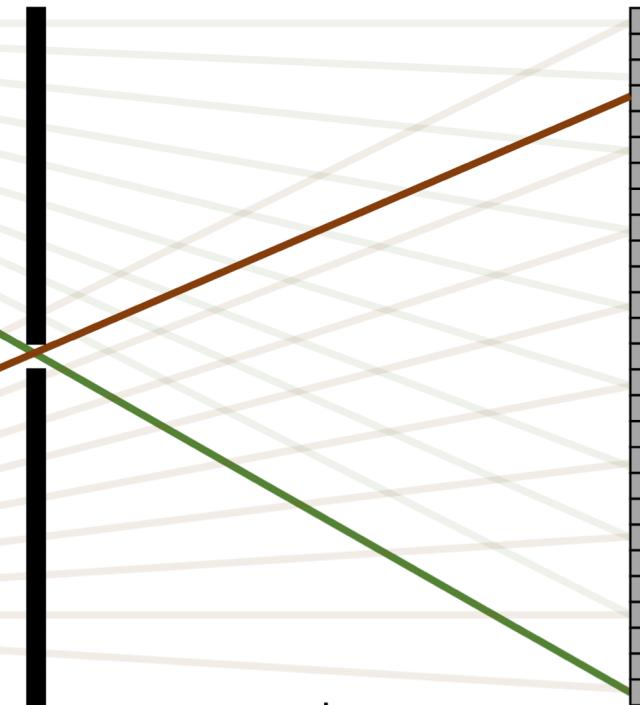
Each scene point contributes to only one sensor pixel.

real-world  
object



What is the image on the sensor?

most rays  
are blocked



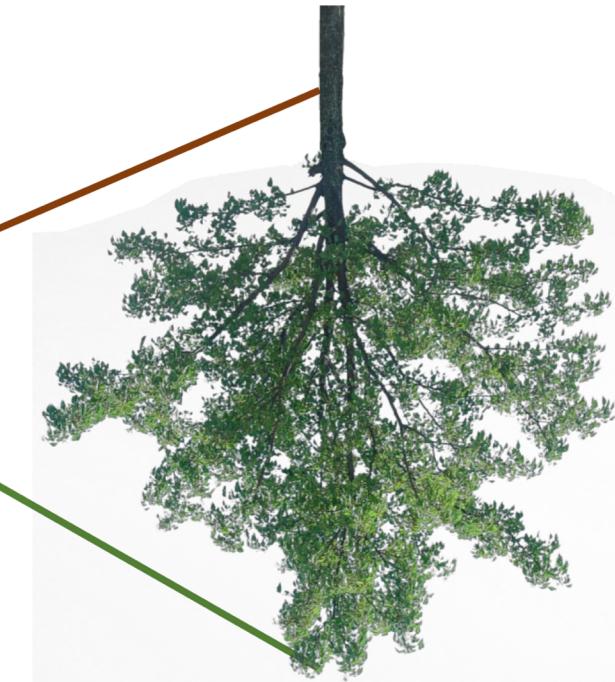
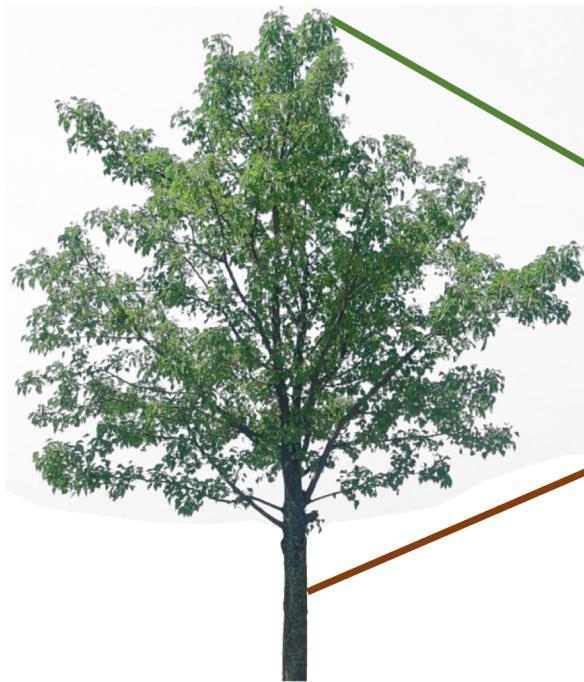
one makes  
it through

digital sensor  
(CCD or CMOS)

# Pin-hole imaging

The image on the sensor.

real-world  
object



copy of real-world object  
(inverted and scaled)

# The camera obscura

Earliest existent written record - Chinese philosopher Mozi (470-390 BC)

Aristotle (384-322 BC), Euclid (323-283 BC)

Arab mathematician and astronomer Alhazen (965-1039)

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

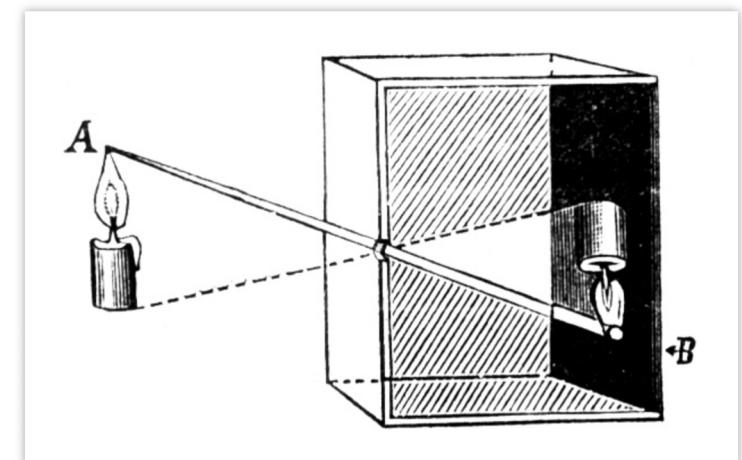
Discussed the phenomena

Described the principles of optics

Studied perspective and created real paintings

Image is inverted.

Depth of the room (box) is the effective focal length.



# The pinhole camera model



barrier (diaphragm)

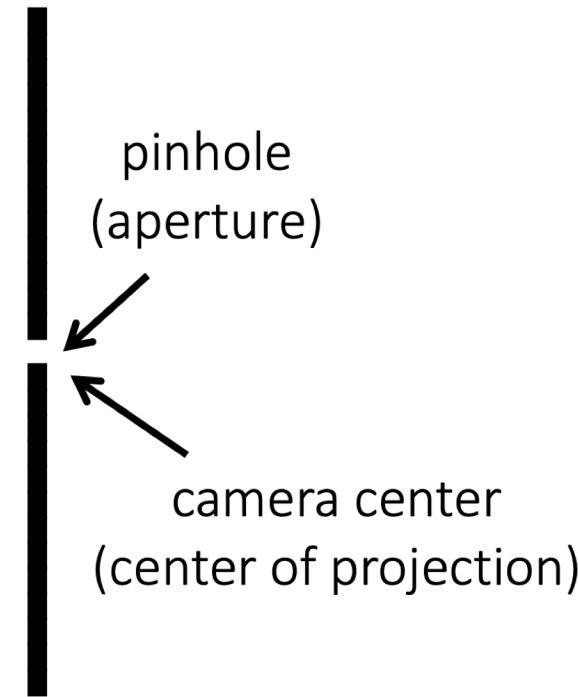


image plane

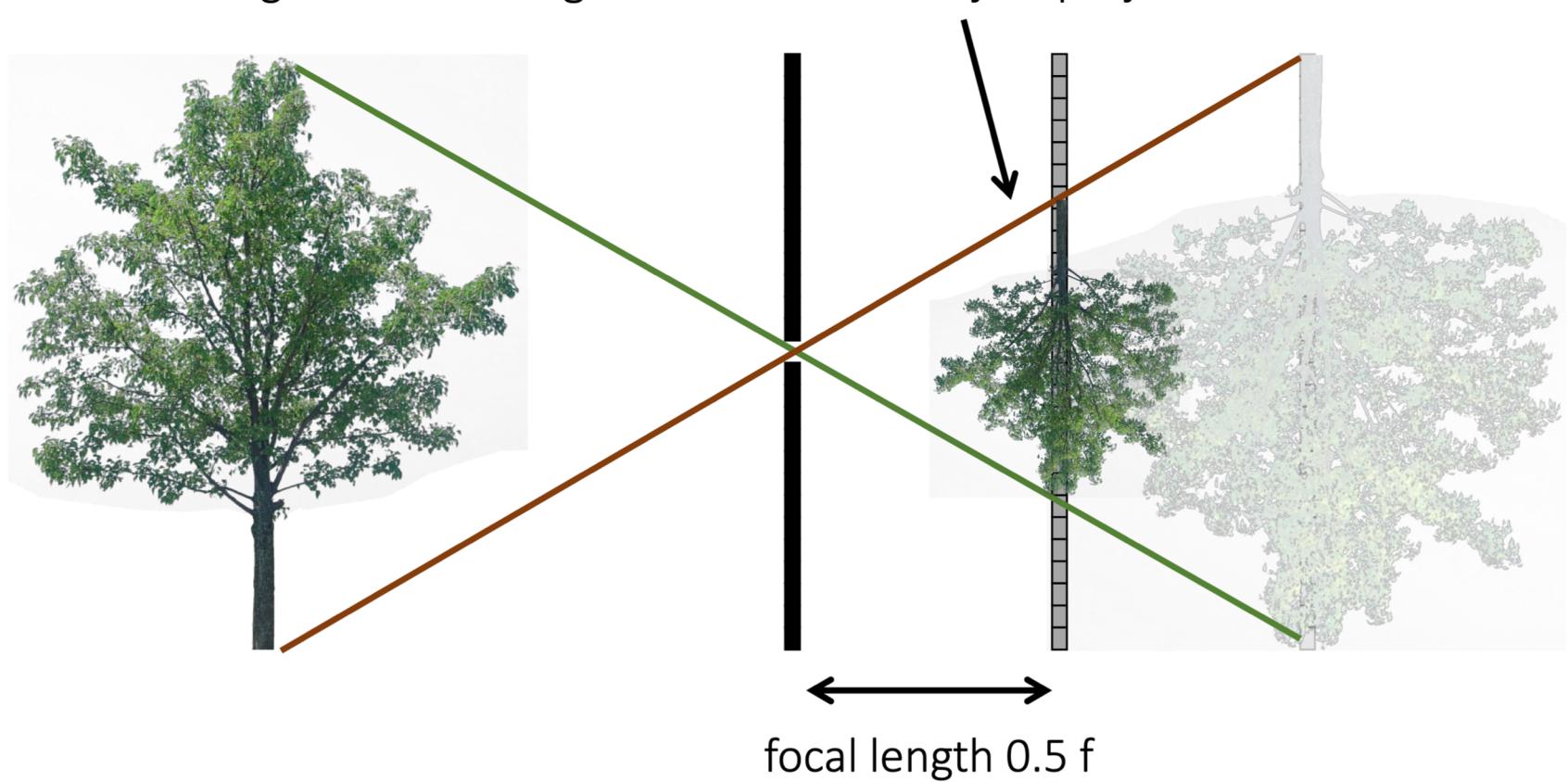
digital sensor  
(CCD or CMOS)

# The pinhole camera model

What happens as we change the focal length?

real-world  
object

object projection is half the size

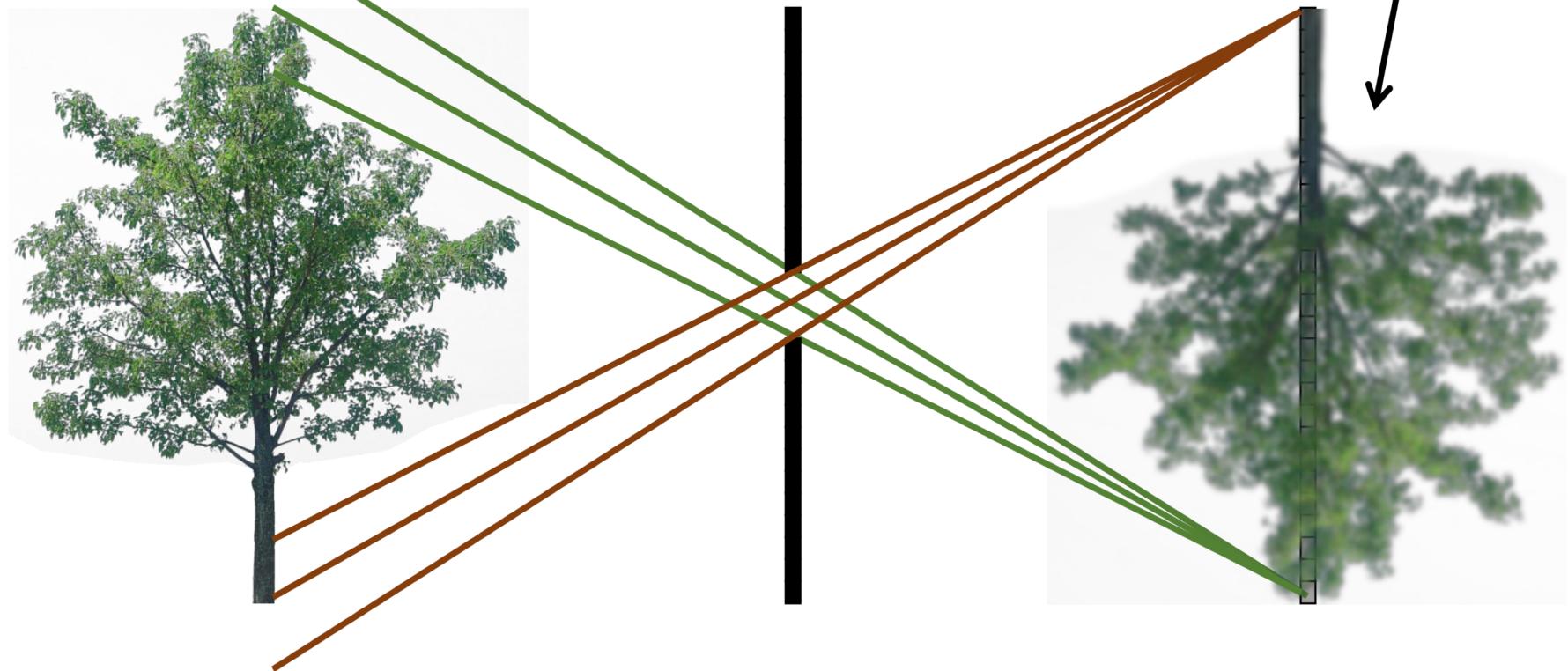
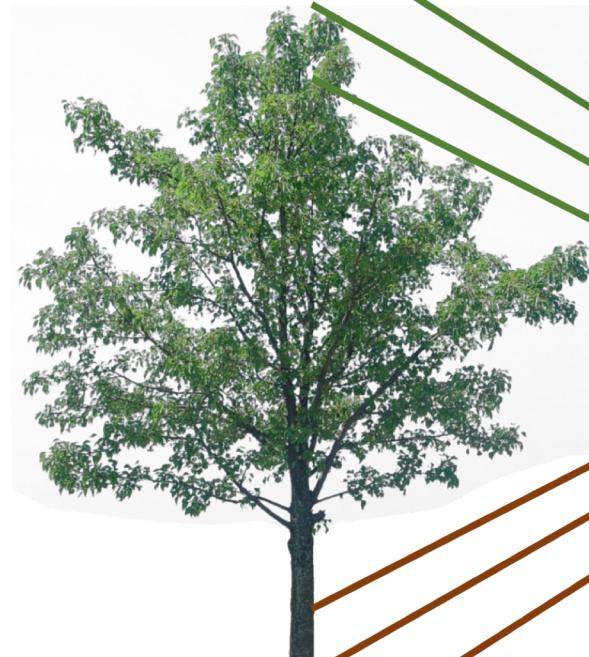


# The pinhole camera model

*Reducing the size of aperture has also a limit due to the diffraction effects (limiting resolution) and the reduced amount of light.*

What happens as we change the pinhole diameter?

real-world object



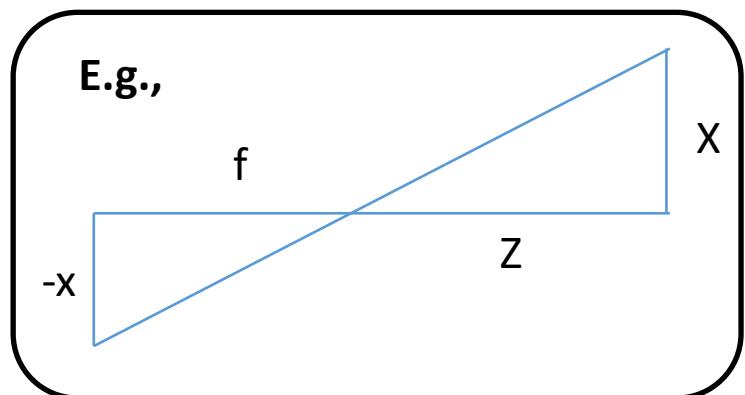
object projection becomes blurrier

# Accidental pinhole camera



# Pinhole camera model

From similar triangles,

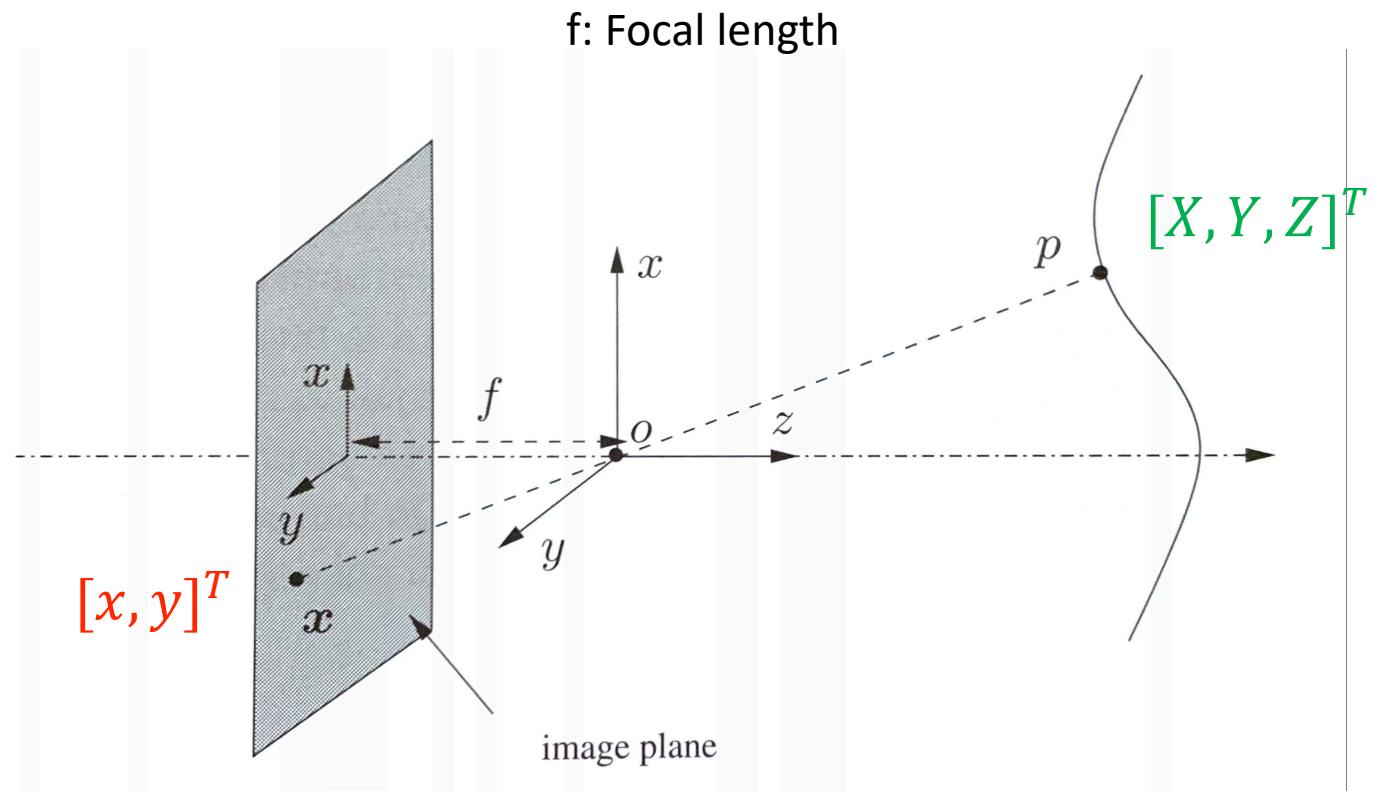


$$\frac{-x}{X} = \frac{f}{Z}$$

$$\frac{-y}{Y} = \frac{f}{Z}$$

$$x = -f \frac{X}{Z}$$

$$y = -f \frac{Y}{Z}$$



Perspective projection

# Perspective projection

$$x = -f \frac{X}{Z}$$

$$y = -f \frac{Y}{Z}$$



$$(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, -y)$$



Flipping the image

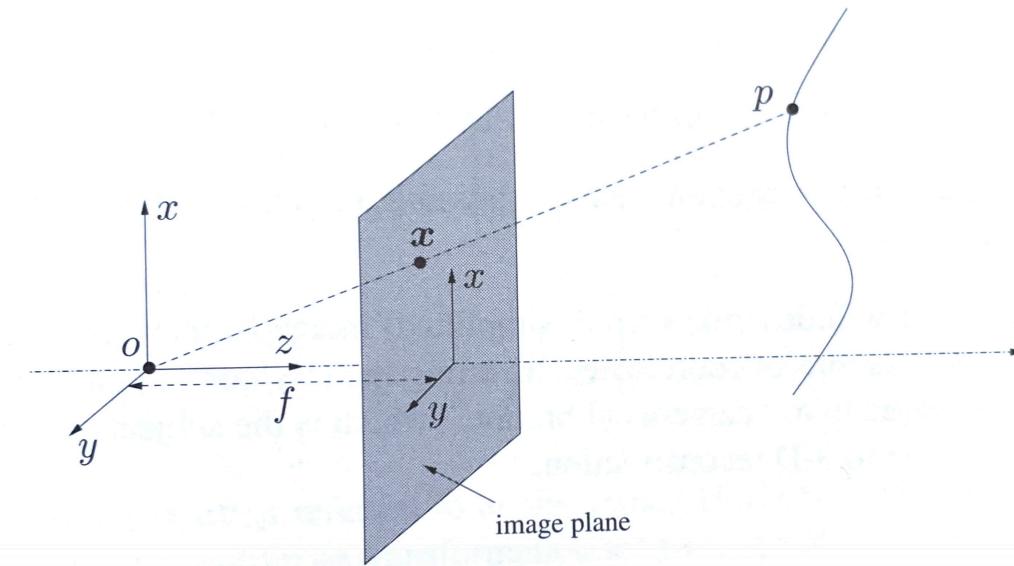
- This will be equivalent to placing the image plane  $\{z = -f\}$  in front of the optical center  $\{z = +f\}$ .

$$x = f \frac{X}{Z}$$

$$y = f \frac{Y}{Z}$$

The point  $x$  on the image plane can also be written in homogenous coordinates as:

$$[f \frac{X}{Z}, f \frac{Y}{Z}, 1]^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$$



# An ideal perspective camera

Consider a **generic point  $p$** , with coordinates  $\mathbf{X}_0 = [X_0, Y_0, Z_0]^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$  relative to the **world ref. frame**.

The same point relative to the **camera frame** is  $\mathbf{X} = [X, Y, Z]^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , which is given by a rigid body transformation  $g = (R, T)$  of  $\mathbf{X}_0$ :

$$\mathbf{X} = R\mathbf{X}_0 + \mathbf{T}$$

Recall

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \frac{f}{z} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \end{bmatrix} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad z \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that

$$\begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{K_f} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\Pi_0};$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R & T \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{K_f \Pi_0}_{\mathbf{K}_f} \begin{bmatrix} R & T \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$Z$  (depth of  $p$ ) is usually unknown, so write it as an arbitrary positive scalar  $\lambda$  (usually  $\lambda = 1$ )

# From camera frame to pixel coordinates

The previous derivation is based on the [camera frame](#) centered at the [optical center](#) with one axis aligned with the optical axis.

In practice, the measurements of the captured image by a digital camera are obtained in terms of [pixels  \$\(i, j\)\$](#)  with the [origin](#) of the image coordinate frame in the [upper-left corner](#) of the image.

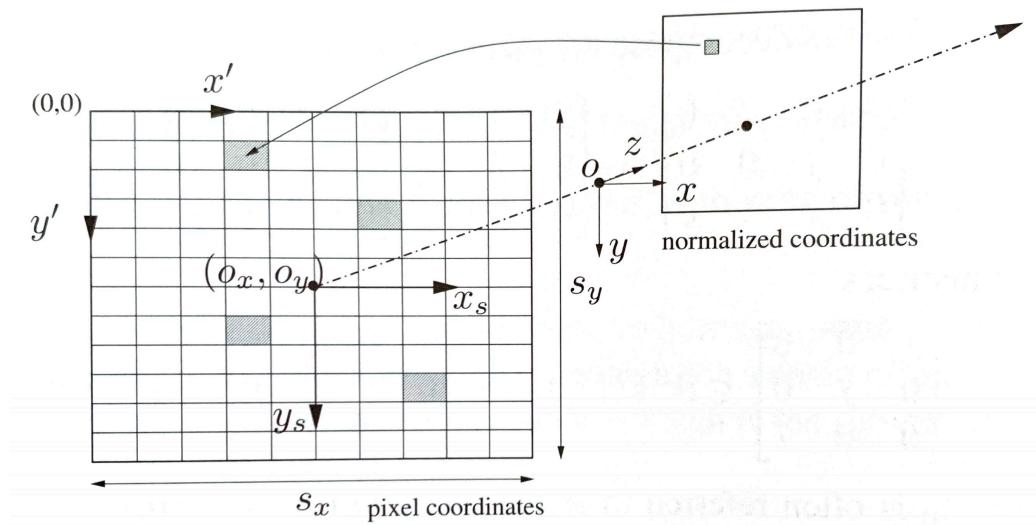
We need to specify the relationship between the camera frame and pixel coordinates.

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_s \\ y_s \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 \\ 0 & s_y \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Scaling matrix depending on the size of the pixel}} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Scaling matrix depending on the size of the pixel

$$x' = x_s + o_x$$
$$y' = y_s + o_y$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 & o_x \\ 0 & s_y & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



# From camera frame to pixel coordinates

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 & o_x \\ 0 & s_y & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

In general, the scaling matrix can be considered as  $\begin{bmatrix} s_x & s_\theta \\ 0 & s_y \end{bmatrix}$  where  $s_\theta$  is the skew factor.

Recall:

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

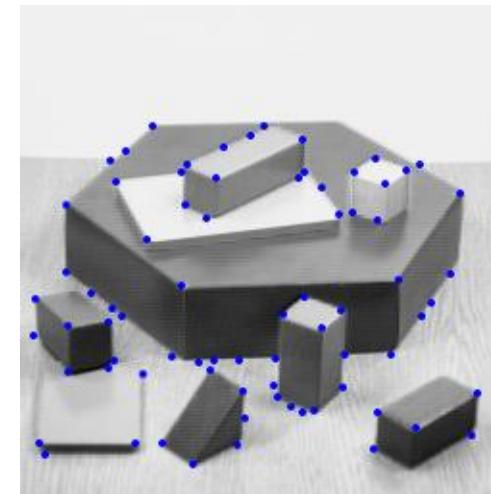
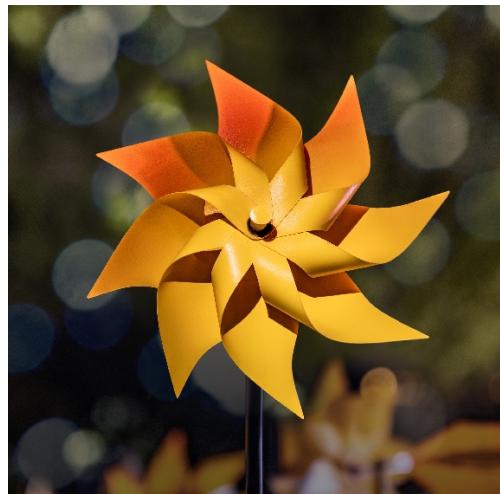
Intrinsic parameter matrix  
Calibration matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} s_x & s_\theta & o_x \\ 0 & s_y & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} fs_x & fs_\theta & o_x \\ 0 & fs_y & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} fs_x & fs_\theta & o_x \\ 0 & fs_y & o_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R & T \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_0 \\ Y_0 \\ Z_0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

# Image Features

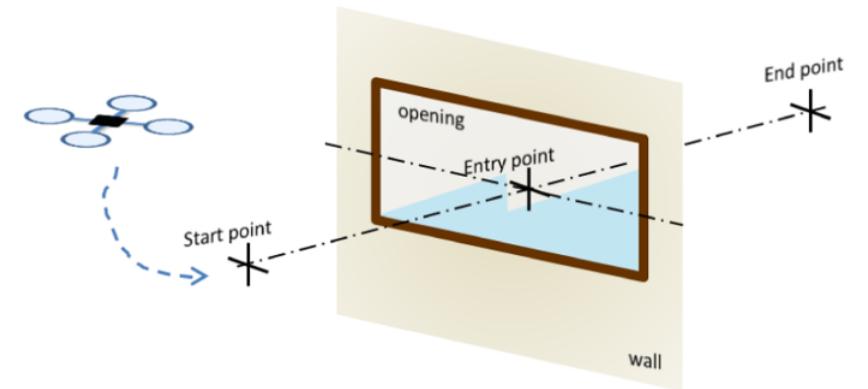
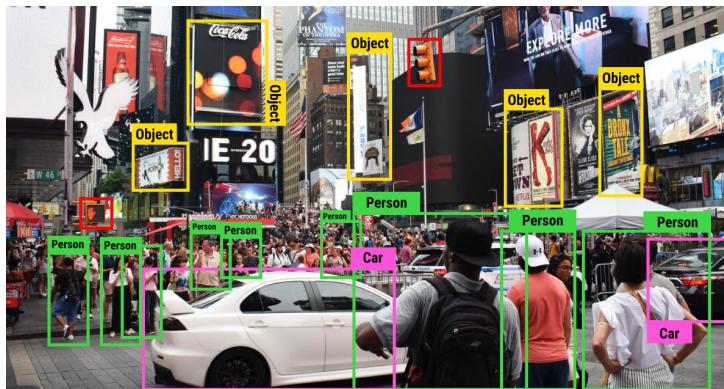
Image feature is a part of the image with some special properties.  
used to capture “interesting” elements of the scene.

**Examples:** edges, corners, lines...



# Uses of Image Features

Image features are used in many applications such as object recognition, visual tracking, pose estimation, 3D reconstruction, vision-based control/navigation, ...



# Image Noise

Image is often corrupted by **noise** during acquisition/transmission.

- sources: low light, quantization, transmission errors, ...
- can be **additive** or multiplicative

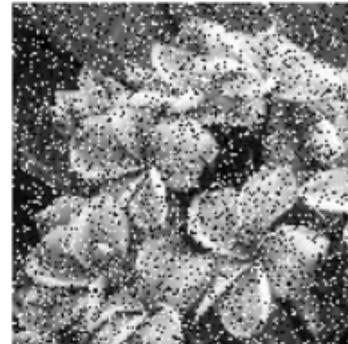
Additive noise models:  $I_n(x, y) = I(x, y) + N(x, y)$

- $N(x, y)$  is a random signal

Original image



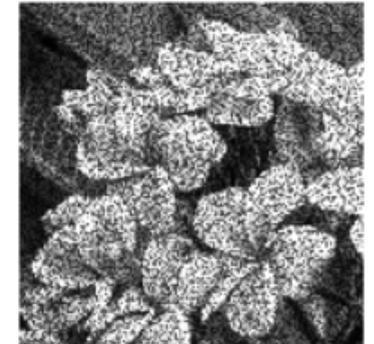
Salt and Pepper noise



Gaussian noise



Speckle noise



# Noise filtering

- **Goal:** Recovering  $I(x, y)$  from a given noisy image  $I_n(x, y)$ .
- An estimated image  $\hat{I}(x, y)$  is obtained by using a linear (e.g., mean, Gaussian) or non-linear (e.g., median) filter on  $I_n(x, y)$ .
- Value of  $\hat{I}(x, y)$  is obtained as a local function on  $I_n(x, y)$



Reference Image



Noisy Image



Denoised Image

# Noise filtering

Linear filters: local weighted averaging.

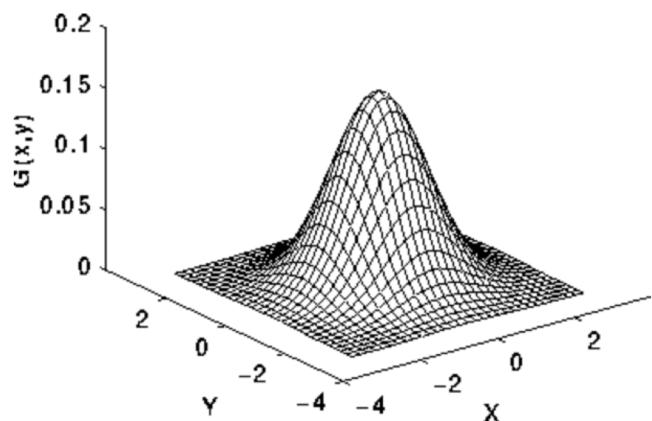
$$\text{Mean: } \begin{matrix} 1/9 & 1/9 & 1/9 \\ 1/9 & 1/9 & 1/9 \\ 1/9 & 1/9 & 1/9 \end{matrix}$$

188	186	188	187	168	130	101	99	110	113	112	107	117	140	153	153	156	158	156	153
189	189	188	181	163	135	109	104	113	113	110	109	117	134	147	152	156	163	160	156
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185	178	171	138	109	110	114	110	109	97	110	121	127	136	150	160	163	158	156	150

# Noise filtering

**Linear filters:** local weighted averaging.

Gaussian smoothing



$$G(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$\frac{1}{273}$$

1	4	7	4	1
4	16	26	16	4
7	26	41	26	7
4	16	26	16	4
1	4	7	4	1

Discrete approximation to Gaussian  
function with  $\sigma=1.0$

188 186 188 187 168 130 101 99 110 113 112 107 117 140 153 153 156 158 156 153  
189 189 188 181 163 135 109 104 113 113 110 109 117 134 147 152 156 163 160 156  
190 190 188 176 159 139 115 106 114 123 114 111 119 130 141 154 165 160 156 151  
190 188 188 175 158 139 114 103 113 126 112 113 127 133 137 151 165 156 152 145  
191 185 189 177 158 138 110 99 112 119 107 115 137 140 135 144 157 163 158 150  
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176 183 181 153 122 115 113 106 105 109 123 132 131 131 140 151 157 149 156 159  
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181 174 170 141 113 111 115 112 113 105 119 130 132 134 144 153 156 148 152 151  
180 172 168 140 114 114 118 113 112 107 119 128 130 134 146 157 162 153 153 148  
186 176 171 142 114 114 116 110 108 104 116 125 128 134 148 161 165 159 157 149  
185 178 171 138 109 110 114 110 109 97 110 121 127 136 150 160 163 158 156 150

How to pick  $\sigma$ ?

- Too small – too little smoothing
- Too large – too much smoothing (blur)

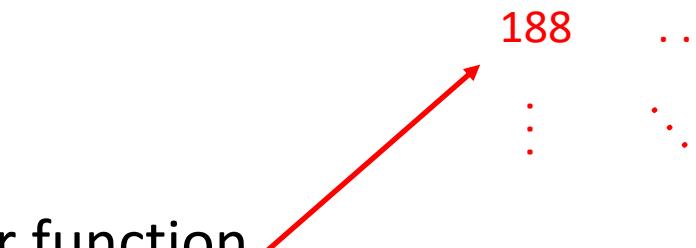
How to pick the mask size?

- Odd number close to  $5\sigma$

# Noise filtering

**Nonlinear filters:** local non-linear function

e.g., Median with 3x3 mask



188	186	0	187	168	130	101	99	110	113	112	107	117	140	153	153	156	158	156	153
189	189	188	181	163	135	109	104	113	113	110	109	117	134	147	152	156	163	160	156
190	190	188	176	159	139	115	106	114	123	114	111	119	130	141	154	165	160	156	151
190	188	188	175	158	139	114	103	113	126	112	113	127	133	137	151	165	156	152	145
191	185	189	177	158	138	110	99	112	119	107	115	137	140	135	144	157	163	158	150
193	183	178	164	148	134	118	112	119	117	118	106	122	139	140	152	154	160	155	147
185	181	178	165	149	135	121	116	124	120	122	109	123	139	141	154	156	159	154	147
175	176	176	163	145	131	120	118	125	123	125	112	124	139	142	155	158	158	155	148
170	170	172	159	137	123	116	114	119	122	126	113	123	137	141	156	158	159	157	150
171	171	173	157	131	119	116	113	114	118	125	113	122	135	140	155	156	160	160	152
174	175	176	156	128	120	121	118	113	112	123	114	122	135	141	155	155	158	159	152
176	174	174	151	123	119	126	121	112	108	122	115	123	137	143	156	155	152	155	150
175	169	168	144	117	117	127	122	109	106	122	116	125	139	145	158	156	147	152	148
179	179	180	155	127	121	118	109	107	113	125	133	130	129	139	153	161	148	155	157
176	183	181	153	122	115	113	106	105	109	123	132	131	131	140	151	157	149	156	159
180	181	177	147	115	110	111	107	107	105	120	132	133	133	141	150	154	148	155	157
181	174	170	141	113	111	115	112	113	105	119	130	132	134	144	153	156	148	152	151
180	172	168	140	114	114	118	113	112	107	119	128	130	134	146	157	162	153	153	148
186	176	171	142	114	114	116	110	108	104	116	125	128	134	148	161	165	159	157	149
185	178	171	138	109	110	114	110	109	97	110	121	127	136	150	160	163	158	156	150

# Edge detection

**Edges:** Pixels where  $I(x, y)$  undergoes a sharp variation.

**Problem:** Given a noisy image  $I_n(x, y)$ , find the edges in  $I(x, y)$ .

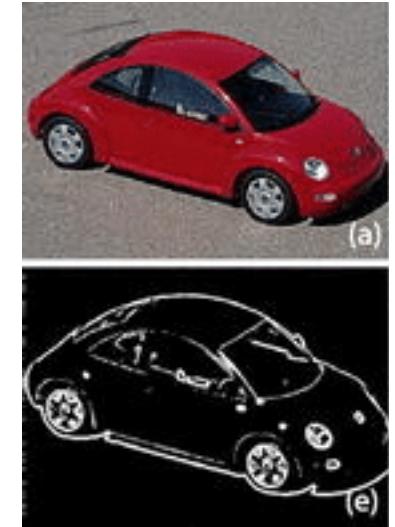
Algorithms: Canny, Sobel, ...

Main steps:

- Noise filtering
- Finding the locations where the magnitude of the gradient is high

Look at the gradient (intensity change)  
in x and y directions

12	90	89	86	87	82
10	12	88	85	83	84
9	15	12	84	84	88
12	14	10	82	88	89
11	17	16	12	88	90
10	16	15	17	89	88



# Edge detection

**Edges:** Pixels where  $I(x, y)$  undergoes a sharp variation.

**Problem:** Given a noisy image  $I_n(x, y)$ , find the edges in  $I(x, y)$ .

Algorithms: Canny, Sobel, ...

Main steps:

- Noise filtering
- Finding the locations where the magnitude of the gradient is high

-1	0	+1
-2	0	+2
-1	0	+1

x dir.

+1	+2	+1
0	0	0
-1	-2	-1

y dir.

188 186 188 187 168 130 101 99 110 113 112 107 117 140 153 153 156 158 156 153  
189 189 188 181 163 135 109 104 113 113 110 109 117 134 147 152 156 163 160 156  
190 190 188 176 159 139 115 106 114 123 114 111 119 130 141 154 165 160 156 151  
190 188 188 175 158 139 114 103 113 126 112 113 127 133 137 151 165 156 152 145  
191 185 189 177 158 138 110 99 112 119 107 115 137 140 135 144 157 163 158 150  
193 183 178 164 148 134 118 112 119 117 118 106 122 139 140 152 154 160 155 147  
185 181 178 165 149 135 121 116 124 120 122 109 123 139 141 154 156 159 154 147  
175 176 176 163 145 131 120 118 125 123 125 112 124 139 142 155 158 158 155 148  
170 170 172 159 137 123 116 114 119 122 126 113 123 137 141 156 158 159 157 150  
171 171 173 157 131 119 116 113 114 118 125 113 122 135 140 155 156 160 160 152  
174 175 176 156 128 120 121 118 113 112 123 114 122 135 141 155 155 158 159 152  
176 174 174 151 123 119 126 121 112 108 122 115 123 137 143 156 155 152 155 150  
175 169 168 144 117 117 127 122 109 106 122 116 125 139 145 158 156 147 152 148  
179 179 180 155 127 121 118 109 107 113 125 133 130 129 139 153 161 148 155 157  
176 183 183 153 122 115 113 106 105 109 123 132 131 131 140 151 157 149 156 159  
180 181 177 147 115 110 111 107 107 105 120 132 133 133 141 150 154 148 155 157  
181 174 170 141 113 111 115 112 113 105 119 130 132 134 144 153 156 148 152 151  
180 172 168 140 114 114 118 113 112 107 119 128 130 134 146 157 162 153 153 148  
186 176 171 142 114 114 116 110 108 104 116 125 128 134 148 161 165 159 157 149  
185 178 171 138 109 110 114 110 109 97 110 121 127 136 150 160 163 158 156 150

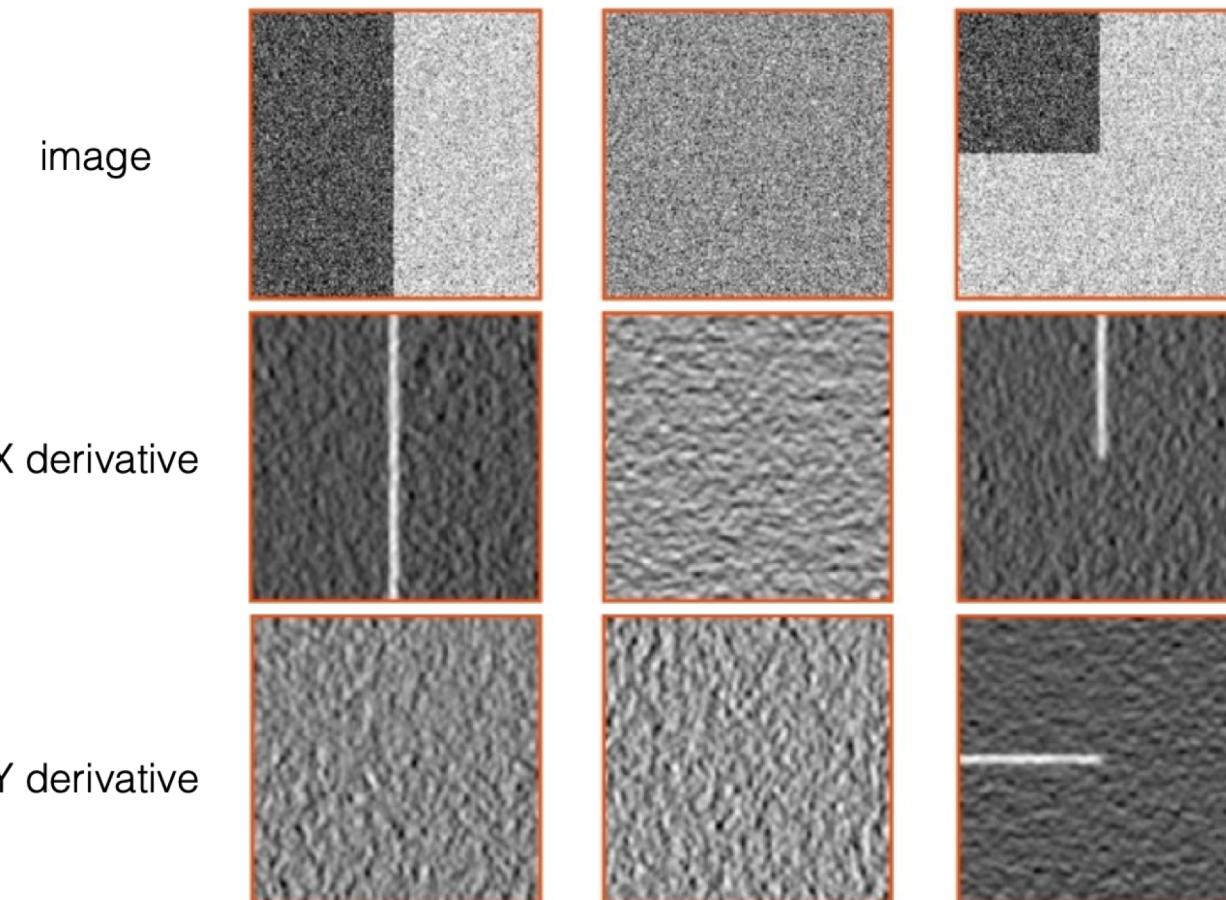


Compute  $\hat{I}_x(x, y)$  and  $\hat{I}_y(x, y)$

$$G(x, y) = \sqrt{\hat{I}_x(x, y)^2 + \hat{I}_y(x, y)^2}$$

Declare  $(x, y)$  is an edge if  $G(x, y) > \tau$

# Visualization of gradients



# Corner detection

Shifting a window in any direction should give a large change of intensity in at least 2 directions

Recall that we have computed  $\hat{I}_x(x, y)$  and  $\hat{I}_y(x, y)$ .

Now, compute

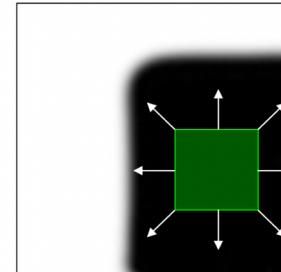
$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \sum \hat{I}_x^2 & \sum \hat{I}_x \hat{I}_y \\ \sum \hat{I}_x \hat{I}_y & \sum \hat{I}_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

\*sums are taken over a local neighborhood of  $(x, y)$

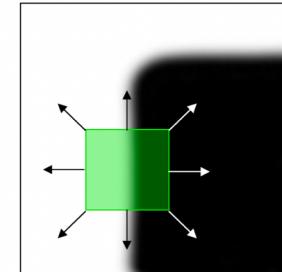
Since  $C$  is symmetric,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum \hat{I}_x^2 & \sum \hat{I}_x \hat{I}_y \\ \sum \hat{I}_x \hat{I}_y & \sum \hat{I}_y^2 \end{bmatrix} = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

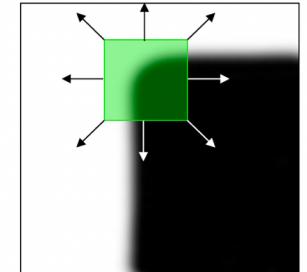
Look at the values of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$



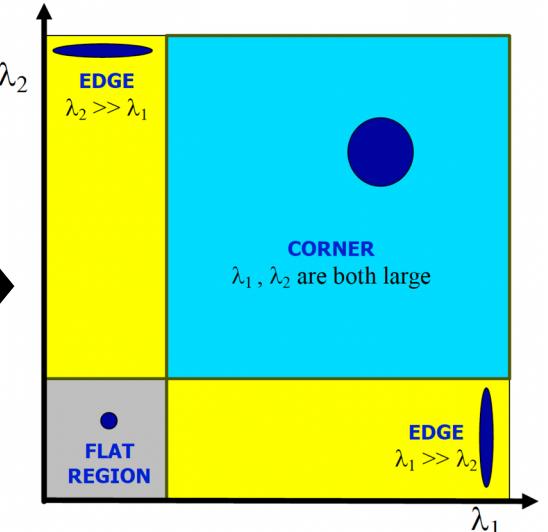
"flat" region:  
no intensity change



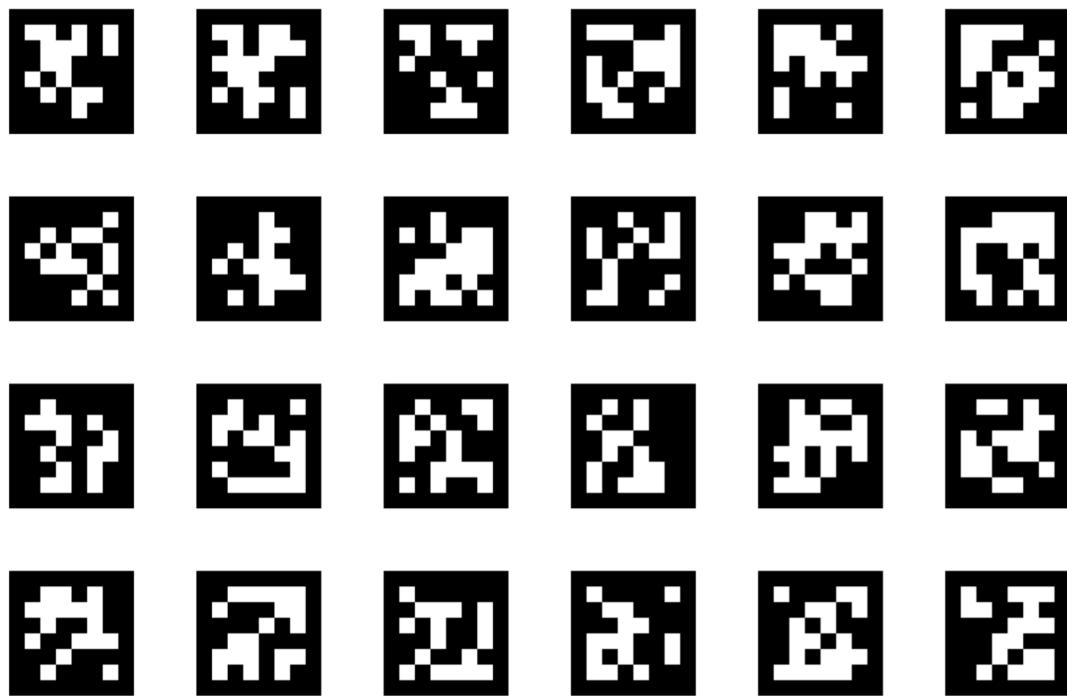
"edge":  
no change along the edge direction



"corner":  
significant change in at  
least 2 directions



# April tags



- April tags are visual aids which represent an id using a pattern in black and white.
- Tags having unique ids help in distinguishing objects and recognizing landmarks in the environment.



# April tags for localization

