

DESIGNING A HIGH-THROUGHPUT PIPELINE FOR DIGITIZING PINNED INSECTS

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The background of the slide is a grayscale aerial photograph of a city. The image shows a dense network of streets, several large industrial or agricultural facilities with circular storage tanks, and a winding river or canal system. The overall tone is dark and grainy.

THE PROBLEM

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?

- Overview
 - Collections
 - Size
 - Goals
- Role of computation
- Overwhelming variety
- Complexity of imaging problem
- Need for speed



THE COLLECTION

Overview in Round Numbers

- 4.5 million insects
 - As small as a millimeter
 - As large as 500 mm
- 15 thousand drawers
 - Filled with standard unit trays
- 1.6 seconds per specimen on average
 - 1 year, 2000 hours



Row 50
COLEOPTERA: Polyphaga

Staphyliniformia
Staphylinidae
Staphylinidae
Trigoniinae
Apticinae
Scaphidiinae
Pestinae
Oscininae
Oxytelinae
Taphrocerinae (Dermestidae)
Cerylonidae
Trogidae

September 50-1



Box 50
COLEOPTERA: Polyphaga

Staphylinidae
Staphylinidae
Staphylinidae
Trigoniinae
Apticinae
Scaphidiinae
Pestinae
Oscininae
Oxytelinae
Taphrocerinae (Dermestidae)
Cerylonidae
Trogidae

September 50-1





RECONNAISSANCE

- How many insects per drawer?
- How are they organized?
- What is the range of insect sizes?
- How many labels per pin?
- Handwritten or typed?
- How close are labels to one another? ... to the insect body?
- How often are there additional labels in unit trays?

To understand:

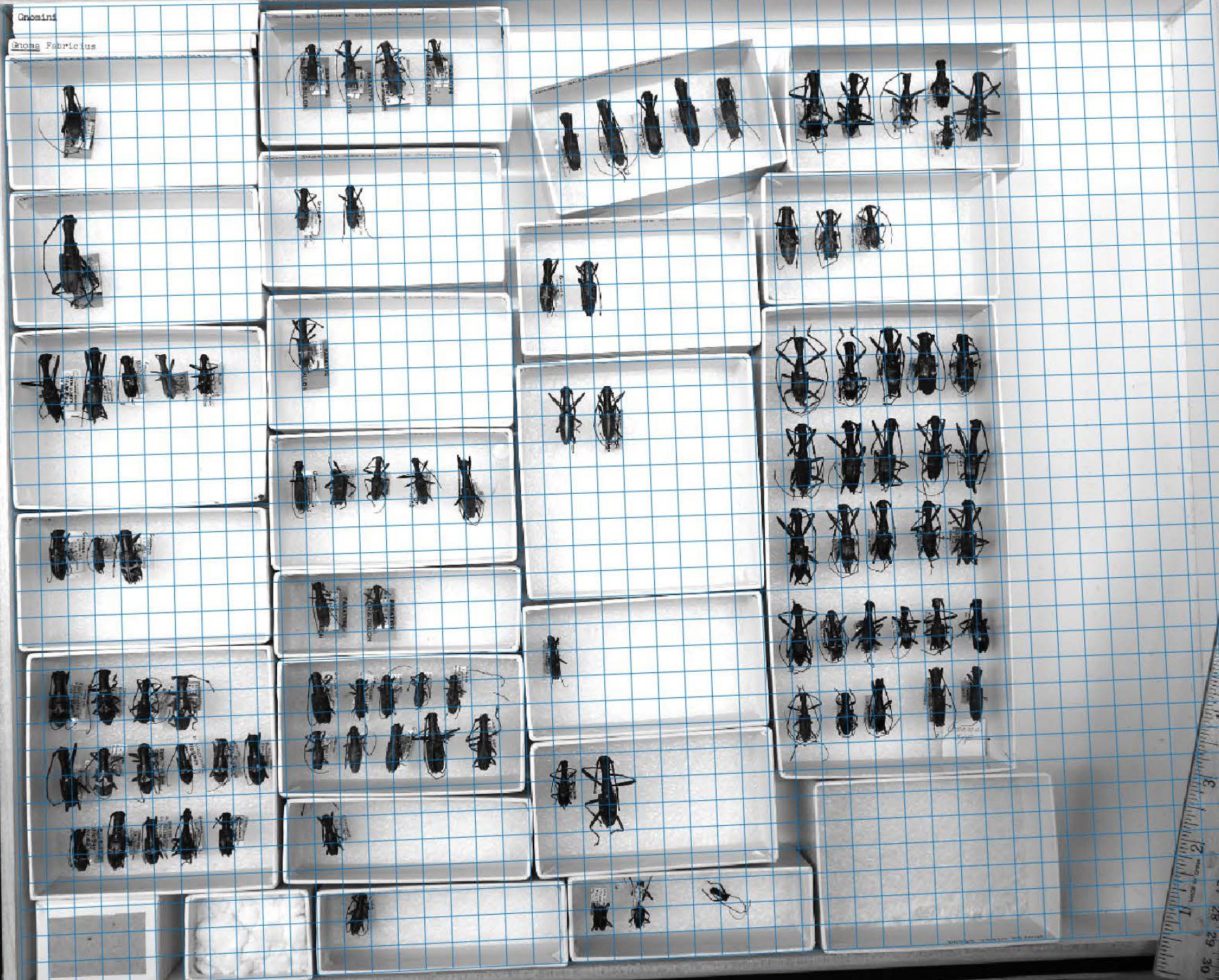
- Sample volume requirements for instrument design
- Handling needs
- Project priorities

OVERWHELMING VARIETY



Gromint

Gnoma Fabricius







2. Berick

Dig. OSLER
THE v. WANKA

Eutin

J. J. Linn.

Umeå. Wien

Umeå. Wien

Palaeartic Coll.

Brandenburg

Umeå

T. Berick

W. v. Wanka







NEED FOR SPEED



RELATED WORKS

AUTOMATION: DIGITARIUM.FI

Pinned insect imaging and label digitization



“Using the insect line two operators can image in one working day about 500 pinned insects and their labels.”

Tegelberg, Riitta, Tero Mononen, and Hannu Saarenmaa. "High-performance digitization of natural history collections: Automated imaging lines for herbarium and insect specimens." *Taxon* 63.6 (2014): 1307-1313.



Nguyen, Chuong V., et al. "Capturing natural-colour 3D models of insects for species discovery and diagnostics." *PLoS one* 9.4 (2014): e94346.

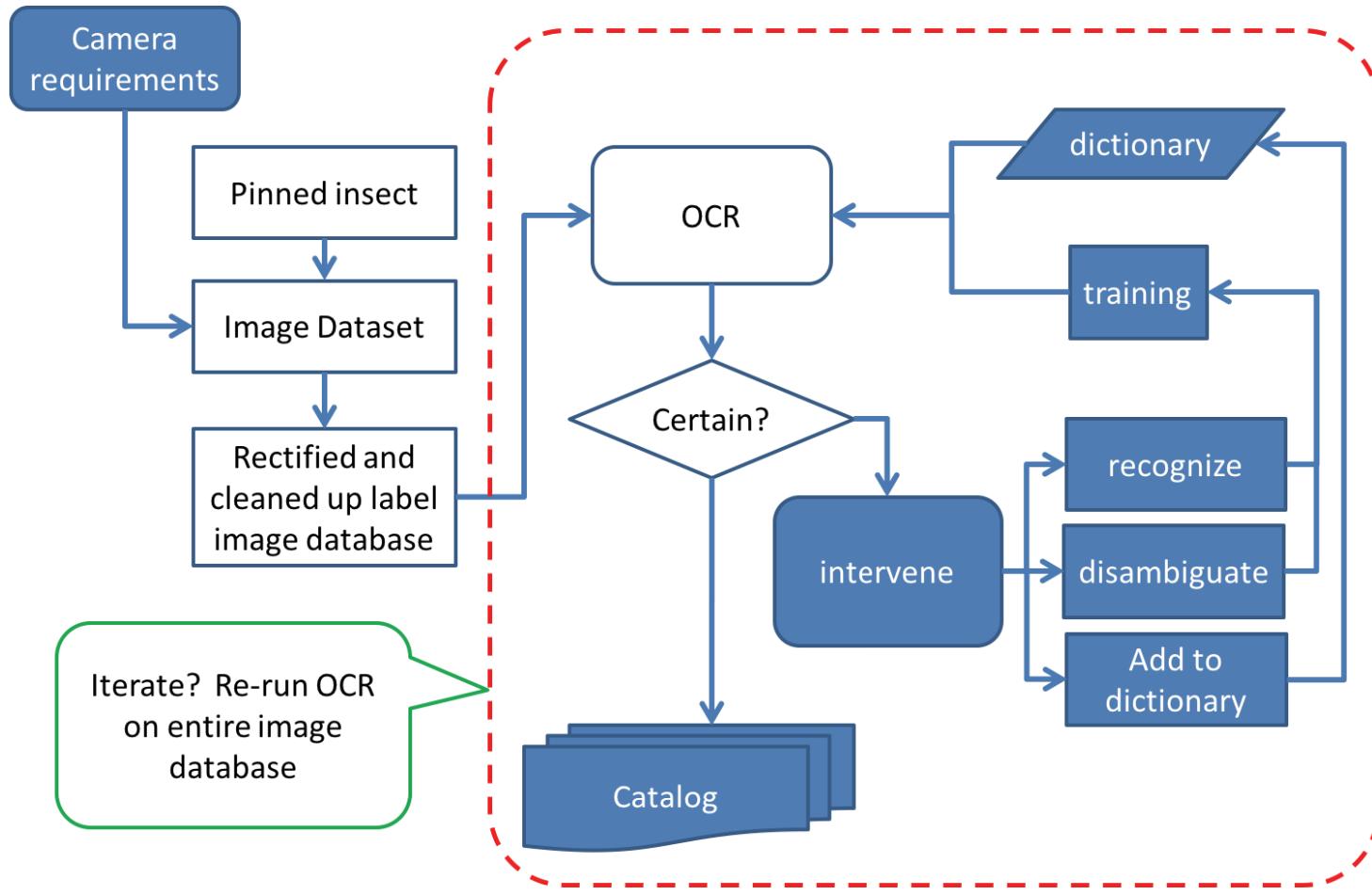
OUR APPROACH

CHARACTERIZE THE APPROACH

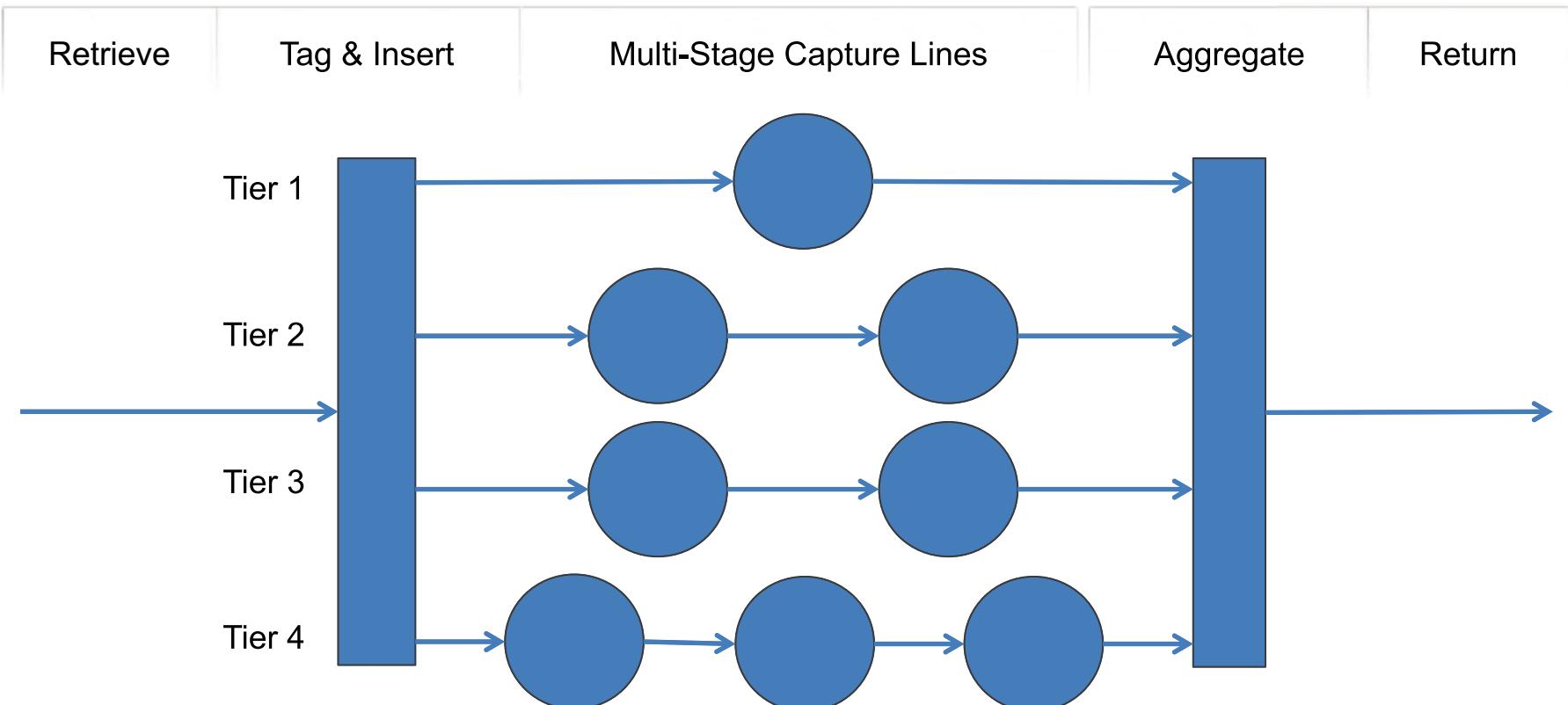
- Curatorial priorities
 - Tag each object with unique identifying code
 - Capture imagery for label data: full coverage
 - Capture reference imagery for object
- Practical priorities
 - Speed
 - One pass
 - 3D model data
- Assumptions
 - Computing and data space essentially free
 - Data can be reanalyzed at will
 - Few critical computing functions are required during collection, among them are QA, tracking, support for loading and unloading samples, error handling, data capture

ITERATIVE REFINEMENT

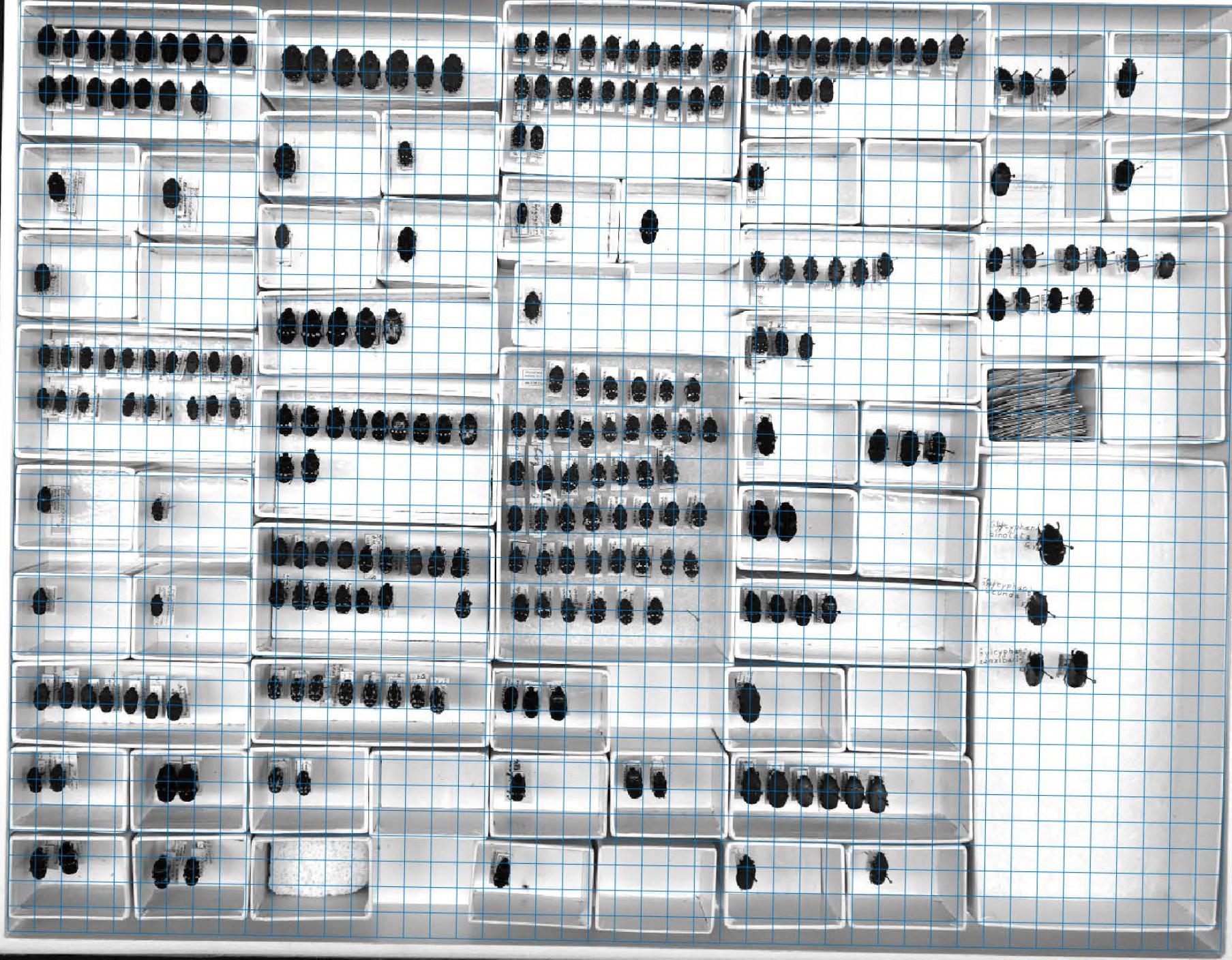
more data, better dictionaries, more time, better algorithms



PARALLEL PIPELINE DESIGN



- Time requirements
- Parallelism
- Interface between Human and Computer activities



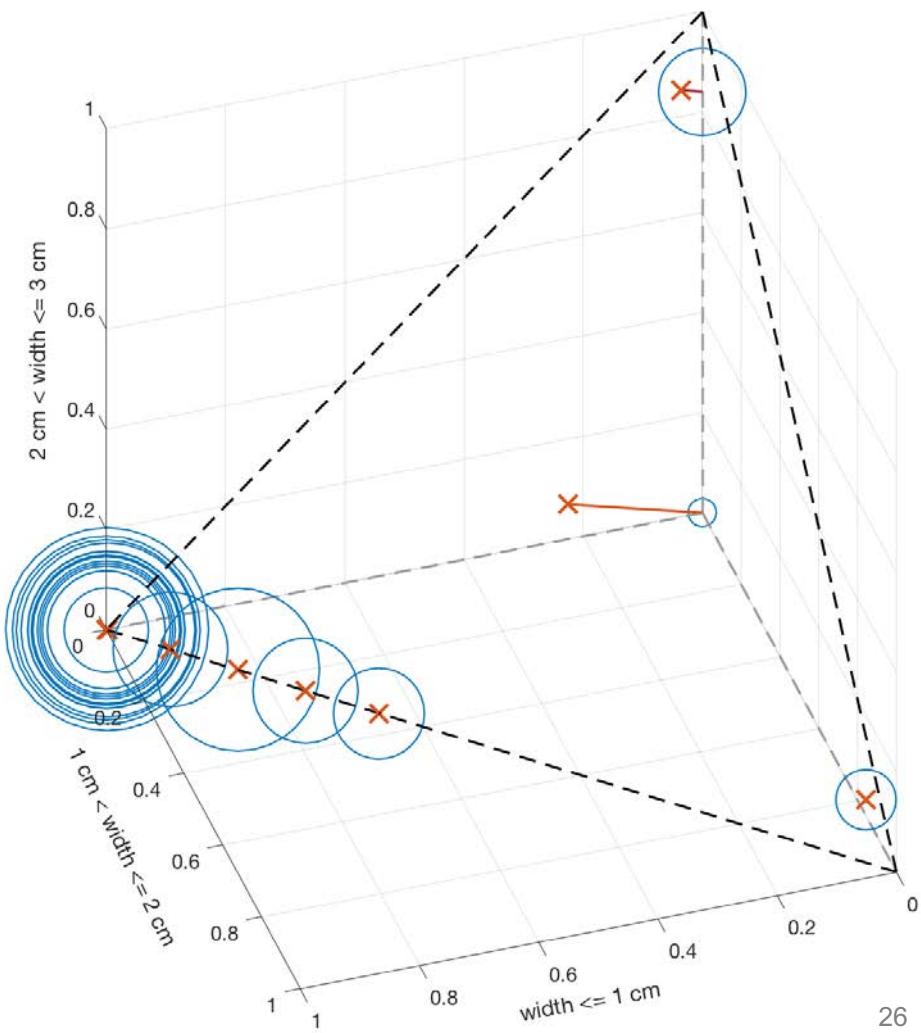
MANUAL TABULATION OF BUG SIZES IN A RANDOM SAMPLING OF THE DRAWERS

21 drawers out of the 15 thousand in the collection

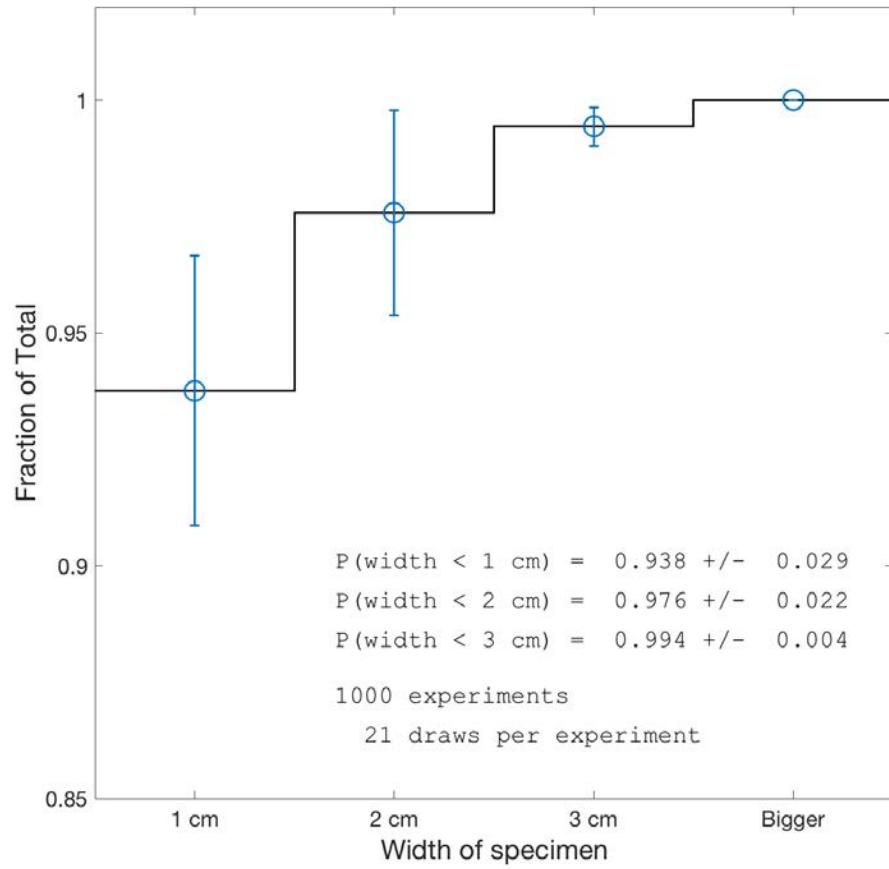
| Drawer Index | Image Number | WIDTH | | | | LENGTH | | | | N_BUGS |
|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|--------|
| | | (0,1] cm | (1,2] cm | (2,3] cm | (3,inf) cm | (0,1] cm | (1,2] cm | (2,3] cm | (3,inf) cm | |
| 1 | 00952 | 268 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 268 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 268 |
| 2 | 00958 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| 3 | 00968 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 33 | 0 | 100 |
| 4 | 00990 | 303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 303 |
| 5 | 01033 | 170 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 140 | 6 | 14 | 185 |
| 6 | 01051 | 1 | 46 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 51 |
| 7 | 01070 | 424 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 378 | 42 | 5 | 0 | 425 |
| 8 | 01086 | 311 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 158 | 192 | 23 | 0 | 373 |
| 9 | 01127 | 195 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 173 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 195 |
| 10 | 01149 | 577 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 532 | 45 | 0 | 1 | 578 |
| 11 | 01188 | 317 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 310 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 317 |
| 12 | 01221 | 231 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 178 | 0 | 0 | 231 |
| 13 | 01264 | 495 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 412 | 83 | 0 | 0 | 495 |
| 14 | 01290 | 249 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 249 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 249 |
| 15 | 01312 | 116 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 35 | 21 | 39 | 155 |
| 16 | 01333 | 76 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 56 | 10 | 116 |
| 17 | 01353 | 196 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 169 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 196 |
| 18 | 01363 | 345 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 345 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 345 |
| 19 | 01375 | 349 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 349 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 349 |
| 20 | 01395 | 455 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 455 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 455 |
| 21 | 01436 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 17 | 0 | 74 | 32 | 1 | 107 |
| | | 5178 | 203 | 94 | 29 | 4239 | 962 | 177 | 126 | 5504 |
| | | 0.941 | 0.037 | 0.017 | 0.005 | 0.770 | 0.175 | 0.032 | 0.023 | |

PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

From drawers to bugs



Tier: 1 2 3 4



ESTIMATING THE SIZE DISTRIBUTION

Why does it matter?

- “Size” as a stand-in for “difficulty” to enable clustering objects into tiers
- Feeds pipeline design
- Informs R&D development priorities
- Some implications provided by the analysis:

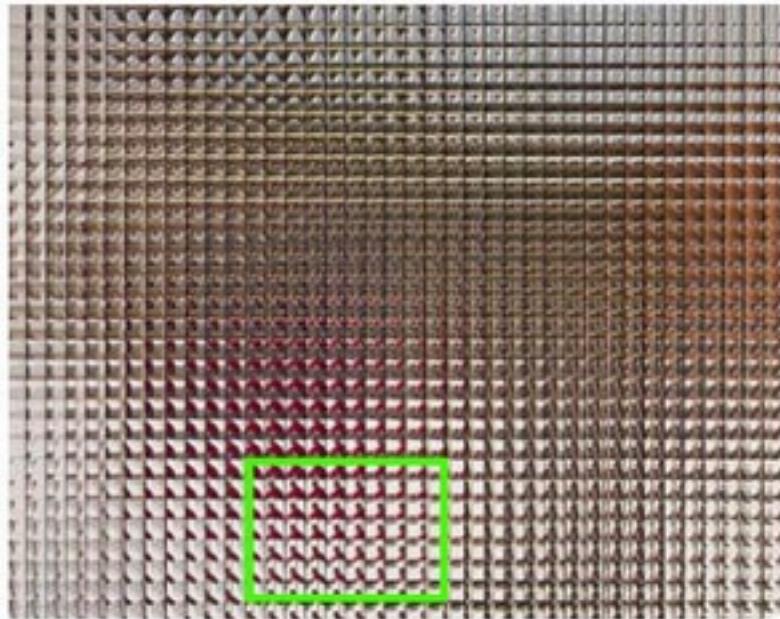
| Category | Fraction | Sigma | Number of specimens in category – out of 4.5 million | | Time budget per specimen (seconds) – assume 1 year | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------|--|----------|--|----------|--------|
| | | | Smallest | Largest | Most lenient | Tightest | Mean |
| Tier 1 (< 1 cm) | 0.938 | 0.028 | 4.1E+6 | 4.3E+6 | 1.76 | 1.66 | 1.71 |
| Tier 2 (< 2 cm) | 0.038 | 0.018 | 90.0E+3 | 252.0E+3 | 80.00 | 28.57 | 42.11 |
| Tier 3 (< 3 cm) | 0.018 | 0.017 | 4.5E+3 | 157.5E+3 | 1,600.00 | 45.71 | 88.89 |
| Tier 4 (bigger) | 0.006 | 0.004 | 9.0E+3 | 45.0E+3 | 800.00 | 160.00 | 266.67 |

MODULAR CAMERA HEAD DESIGN

PLENOPTIC CAMERAS

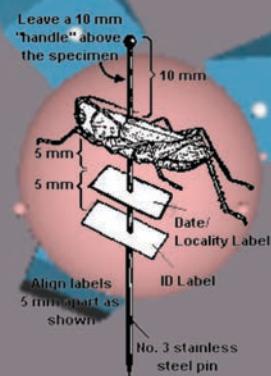
Light field camera = fine grain multi-view camera

- 2 apertures enables stereoscopic 3D
- Light field camera provides large array of fine grain apertures
- Array of light field cameras provides 4π angular coverage of sample volume



3.000 Separation
3.500 Radius
7.188 Latitude
22.500 Twist
55.312 Phase

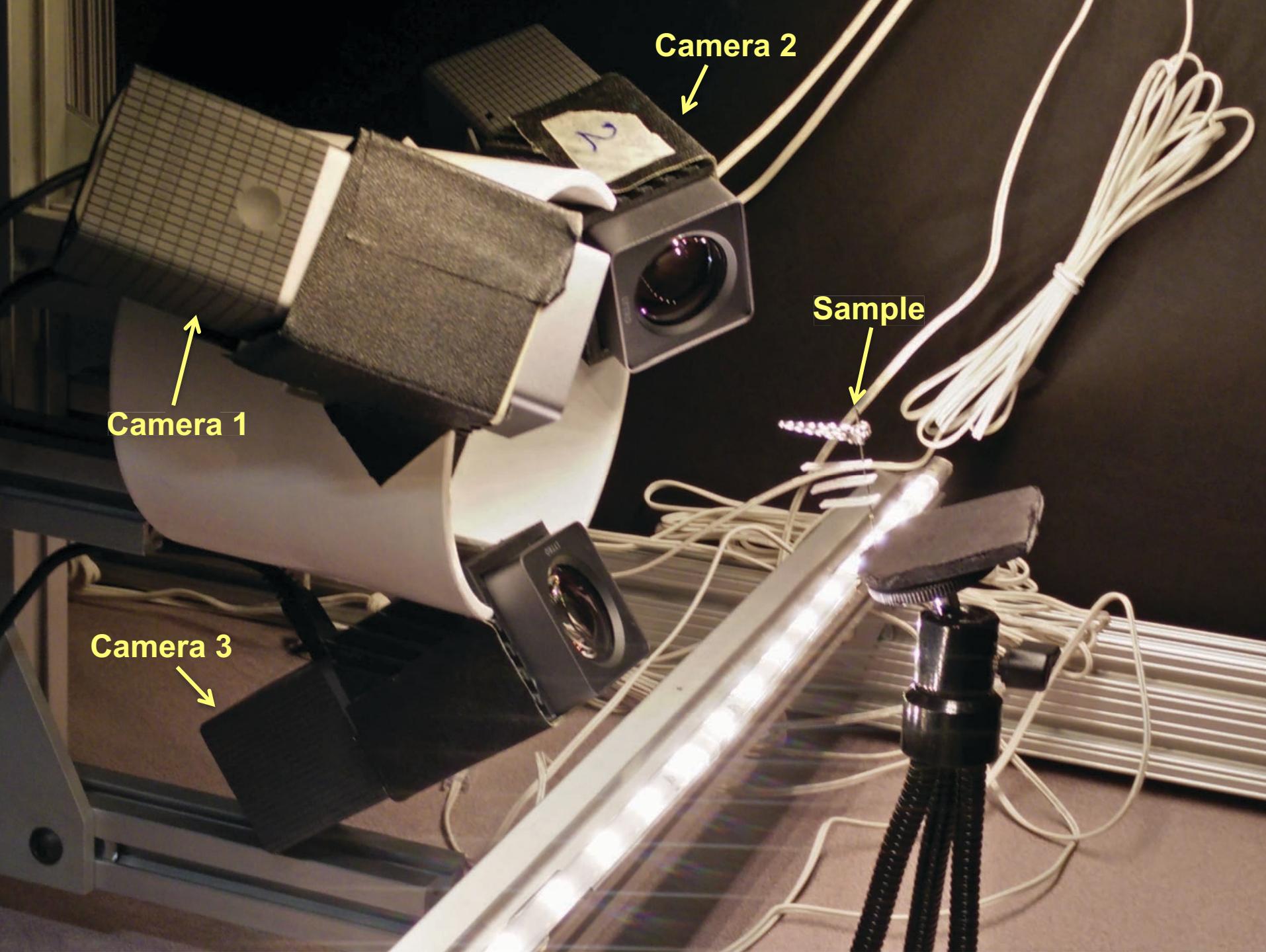
Cameras
Mesh
Tetrahedron
Bug
Rotate
Only 9

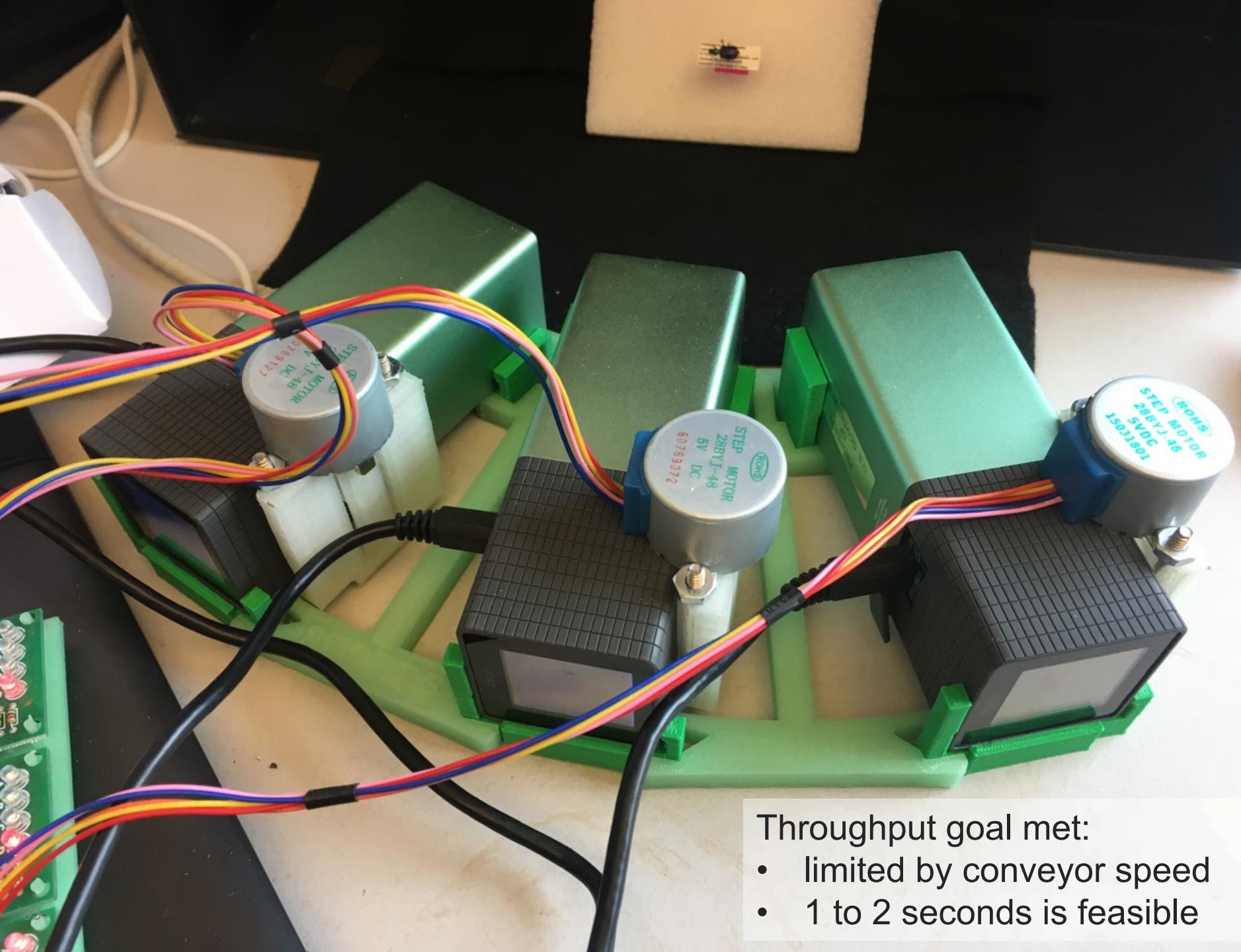


2.895 8° 6.674

The Benson
Date: 12/10/2017
Time: 10:45 AM
Subject: Caves
Location: Caves
Depth: 100 ft
Temperature: 68°F
Humidity: 75%
Barometric Pressure: 30.02 inHg
Wind Speed: 0 mph
Wind Direction: N
Precipitation: 0.00 in
Cloud Cover: 20%
Interactions: None
Observations: None







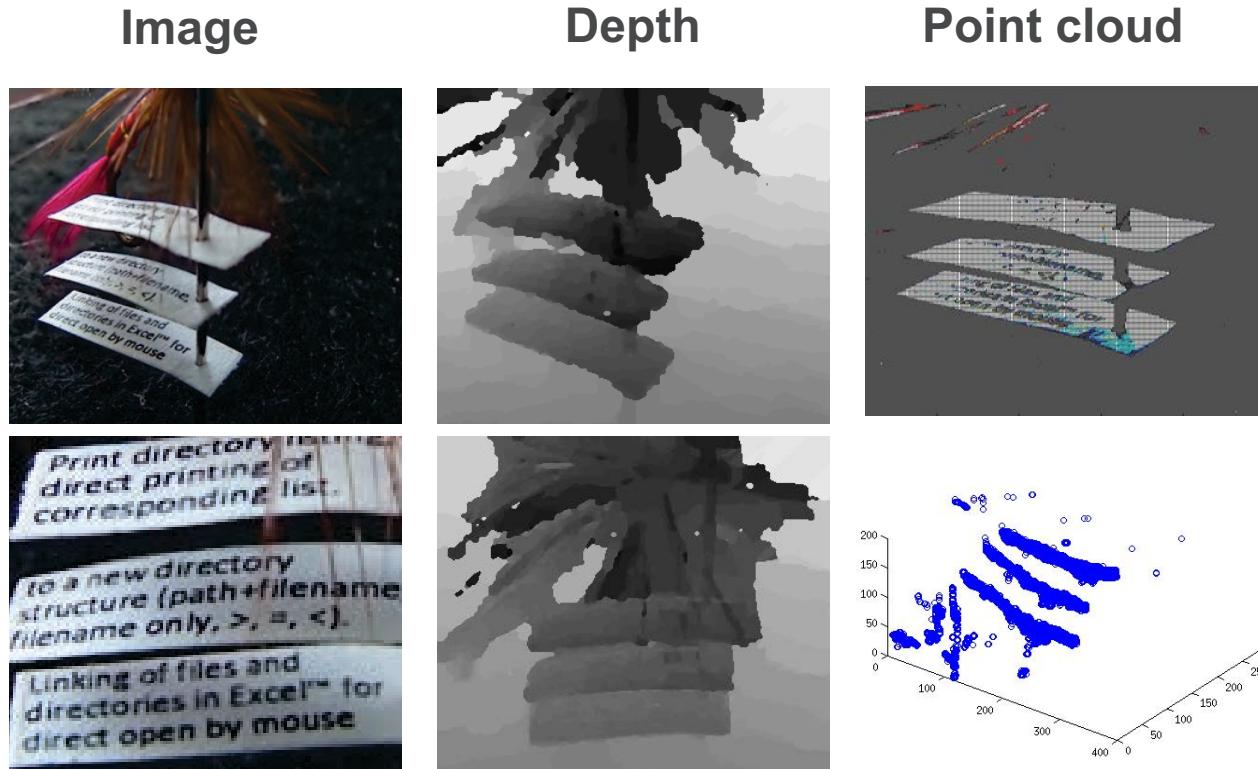
Throughput goal met:

- limited by conveyor speed
- 1 to 2 seconds is feasible

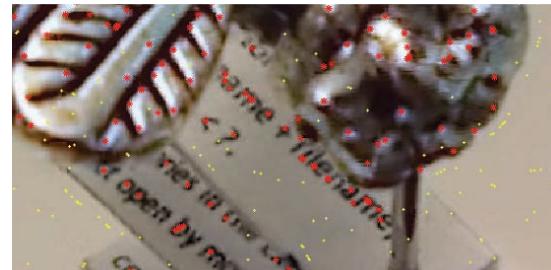
ANALYZING THE IMAGES

DEPTH FROM LIGHT FIELD

- RGB-D obtained from light field data
 - Identify labels (3D segmentation)
 - Infinite focus reconstruction



DEPTH FROM MULTI-POSE RIG

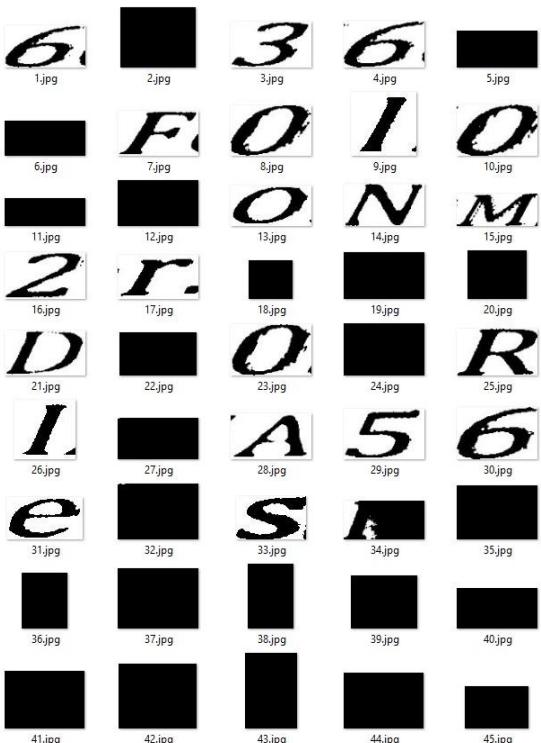


- Feature detection
- Matching
- Bundle adjustment
- Sparse reconstruction
- Dense reconstruction

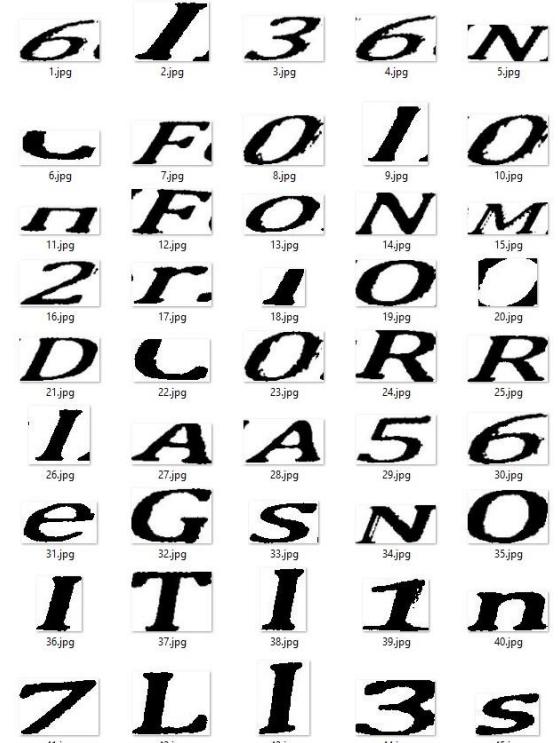
CHARACTER CLEANING



ORIGINAL TILE

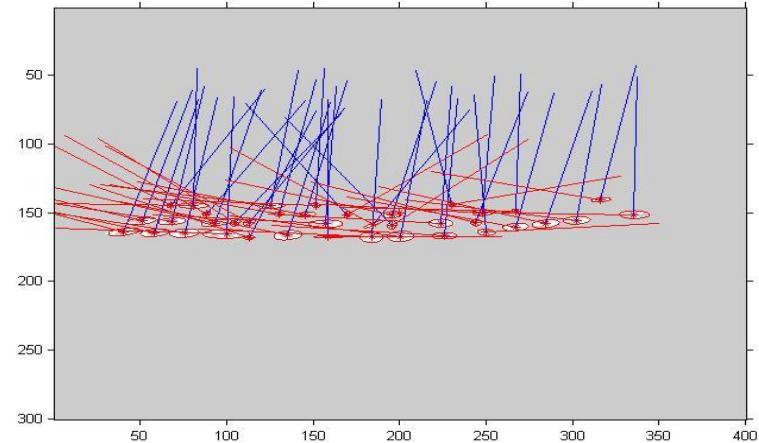
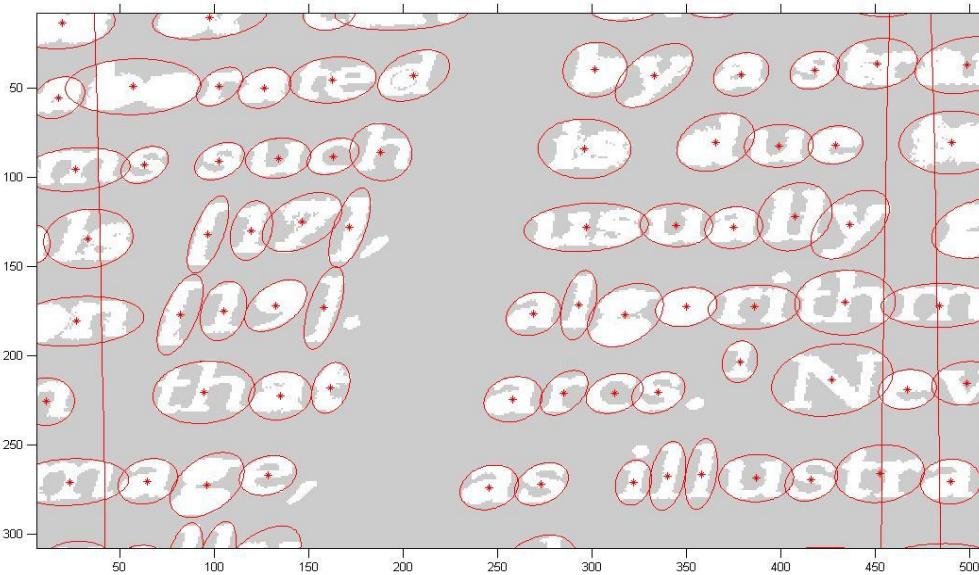


NOMINAL BINARIZATION



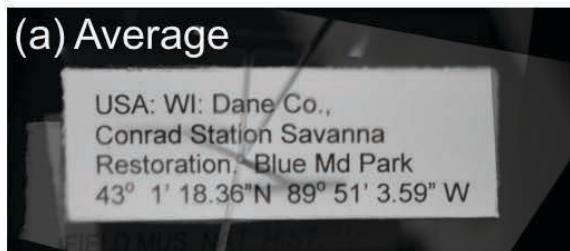
ADAPTIVE BINARIZATION

CHARACTER (BLOB) METHODS FOR ALIGNMENT, REGISTRATION, COMPOSITING



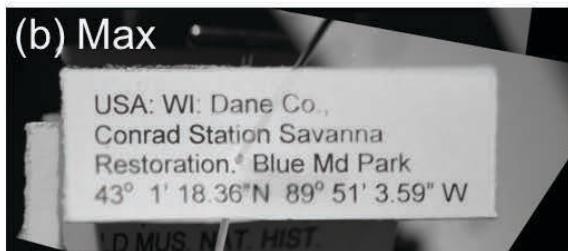
VIEW COMBINING

(a) Average



**USA: WI: Dane Co.,
Conrad Station Savanna
Restoration**^{ib}**N3**ue Md Park
43° 1' 18.36"N 89° 51' 3.59"
W

(b) Max



USA: WI: Dane Co.
Conrad Station Savanna
Restoration! Blue Md Park
43° 1' 18 36"N 89" 51' 3.59"
W

(c) Median



USA: WI: Dane Ca,
Conrad Station Savanna
Restoration.**431**ue Md Park
43° 1' 18.36"N 89° 51'
3.59"W

RECTIFICATION

that areas.¹ Nevertheless, the result is not completely satisfactory, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Many detected straight and small edge curves are false positives: Here comes the fundamental threshold problem again.

Burns et al. [3] introduced a linear-time line segment detection method with a key new idea. Their algorithm does not start with edge points, and actually ignores gradient magnitudes, using only gradient orientations. This algorithm was improved by Kahn et al. [15], [16]. The line segments given by this algorithm are well localized, but the threshold problem is still there. The foliage of the tree in Fig. 1 could be described as a texture, as an object, but certainly not as a set of line segments. The examination of these methods suggests that a selection criterion should be added as a final step.

There were some propositions of such criteria for classic methods. A good example is the Progress

algorithms that simultaneously detect line segments and arcs.¹ Nevertheless, the result is not completely satisfactory, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Many detected straight and small edge curves are false positives: Here comes the fundamental threshold problem again.

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es or can be used to detect line segments such as due to Etemadi [9]. This method is parameterless and usually gives accurate results. Also, it is one of the few algorithms that simultaneously detect line segments and arcs.¹ Nevertheless, the result is not completely satisfactory, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Many detected straight and small edge curves are false positives: Here comes the fundamental threshold problem again.

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RECTIFICATION



KANSAS: Douglas County
Lawrence, KS
25 October 2014, S. Hyderman, colr.
Jayhawk Blvd & Neismith
Aspirator at the base of trees

Points

KANSAS: Douglas County
Lawrence, KS
25 October 2014, S. Hyderman, colr.
Jayhawk Blvd & Neismith
Aspirator at the base of trees

Lines

KANSAS: Douglas County
Lawrence, KS
25 October 2014, S. Hyderman, colr.
Jayhawk Blvd & Neismith
Aspirator at the base of trees

Warped
Grid

KANSAS: Douglas County
Lawrence, KS
25 October 2014, S. Hyderman, colr.
Jayhawk Blvd & Neismith
Aspirator at the base of trees

Unwarp

IN CLOSING

SUMMARY

High throughput pipeline for digitizing large collections of objects

- Immediate goals: label images for transcription, 3D model of each specimen
 - Target time frame: 1 year of data collection
- Computing is deferred unless it is critical to reliable operation of the pipeline
 - High performance as necessary
 - Iterative analysis for dictionary building, algorithm devel. & optimization
- Developed new hardware platforms for rapid “snapshot” 3D capture
 - Light field plenoptic camera configuration allows single shot, no focusing
 - Multi-camera rig provides robust snapshot coverage of entire object
 - Able to meet Tier 1 capture time budget
- Parameters for parallel pipelined digitization workflow
 - Multi-tier process to handle range of contingencies
- Built up a suite of methods for offline analysis of imagery to enable automated label transcription
- Connections with the larger collection digitization community

THE TEAM

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- Nicola J. Ferrier, MCS

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- Nitin Agarwal, Research Aide 2016
- Juliana Kim, SULI 2015
- Joshua Koblich, SULI 2015
- Andi Zang, Research Aide 2014
- Bryan Dalle-Molle, SULI 2014
- Daniel Shiff, UC MS Practicum 2014

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- Rudiger Bieler, FMNH
- Crystal Maeir, FMNH

**THANK
YOU !**



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