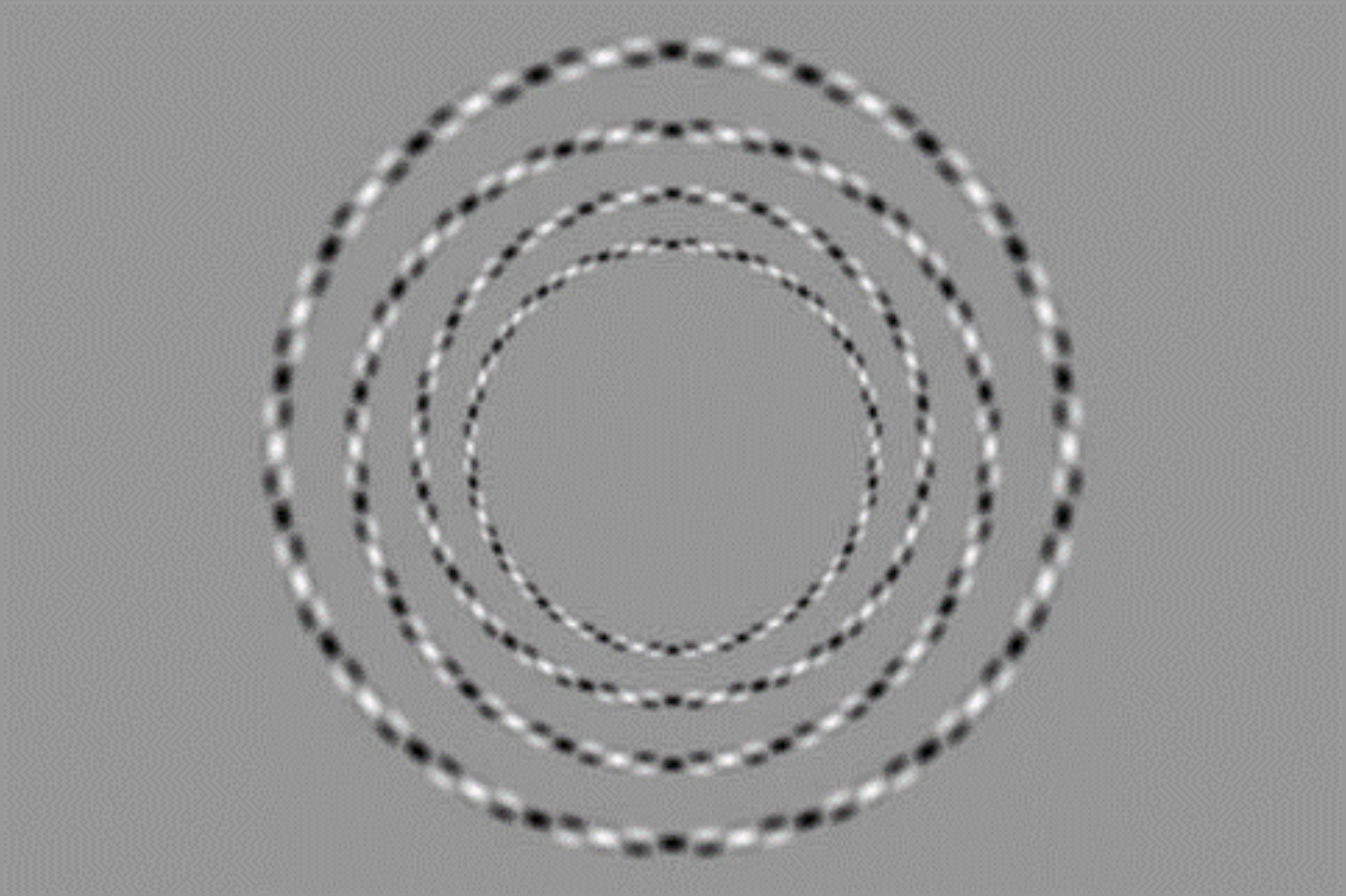
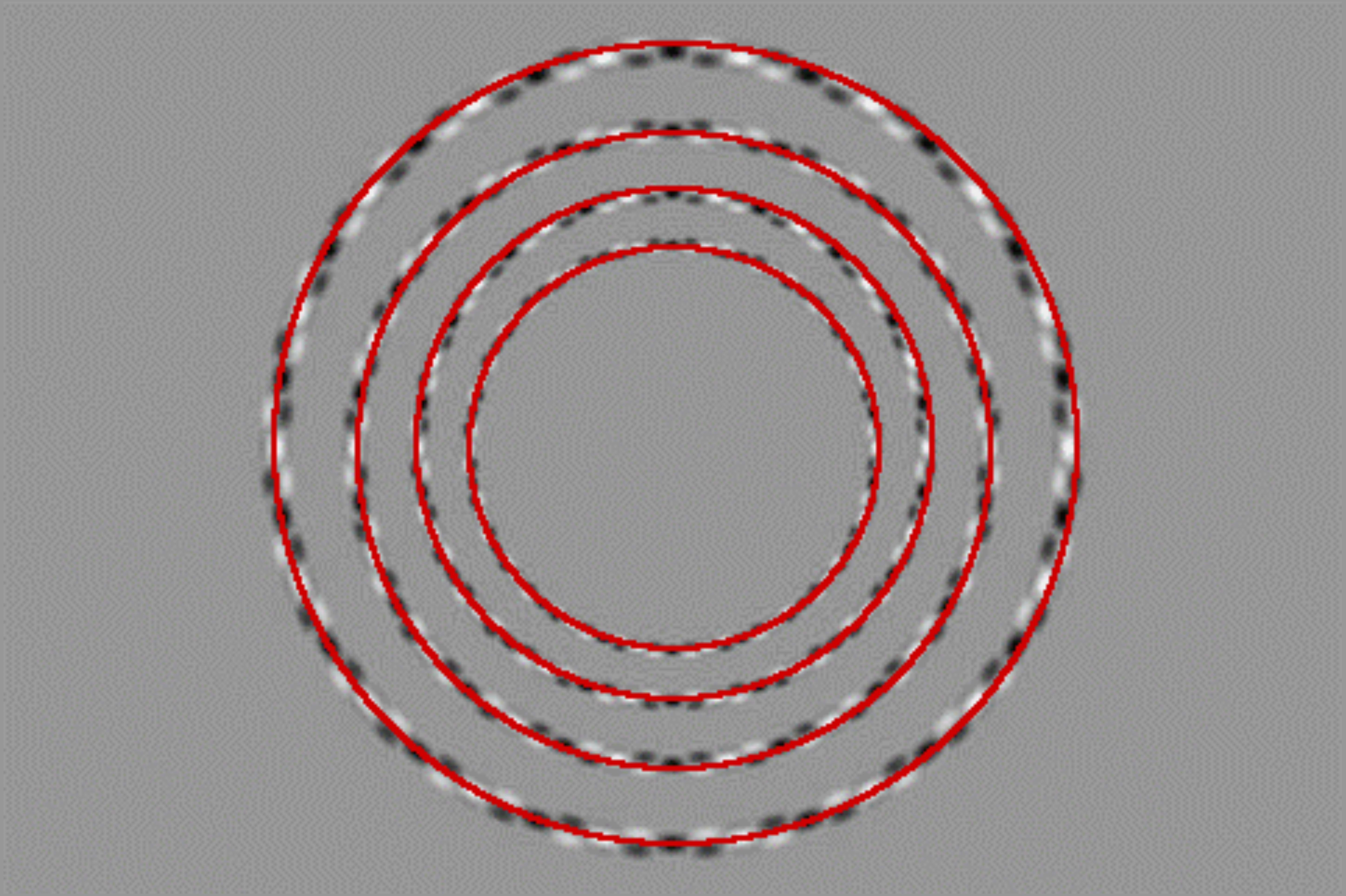




COMPUTER VISION AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY

FEATURE DETECTION

CONTENTS TODAY

- Feature detection
- Harris Corners
- Scale-space, scale invariant.
- DoG
- Lab4

Slides based on those of James Hays which are taken from
Rick Szeliski, Svetlana Lazebnik, Derek Hoiem and Grauman&Leibe 2008 AAAI Tutorial

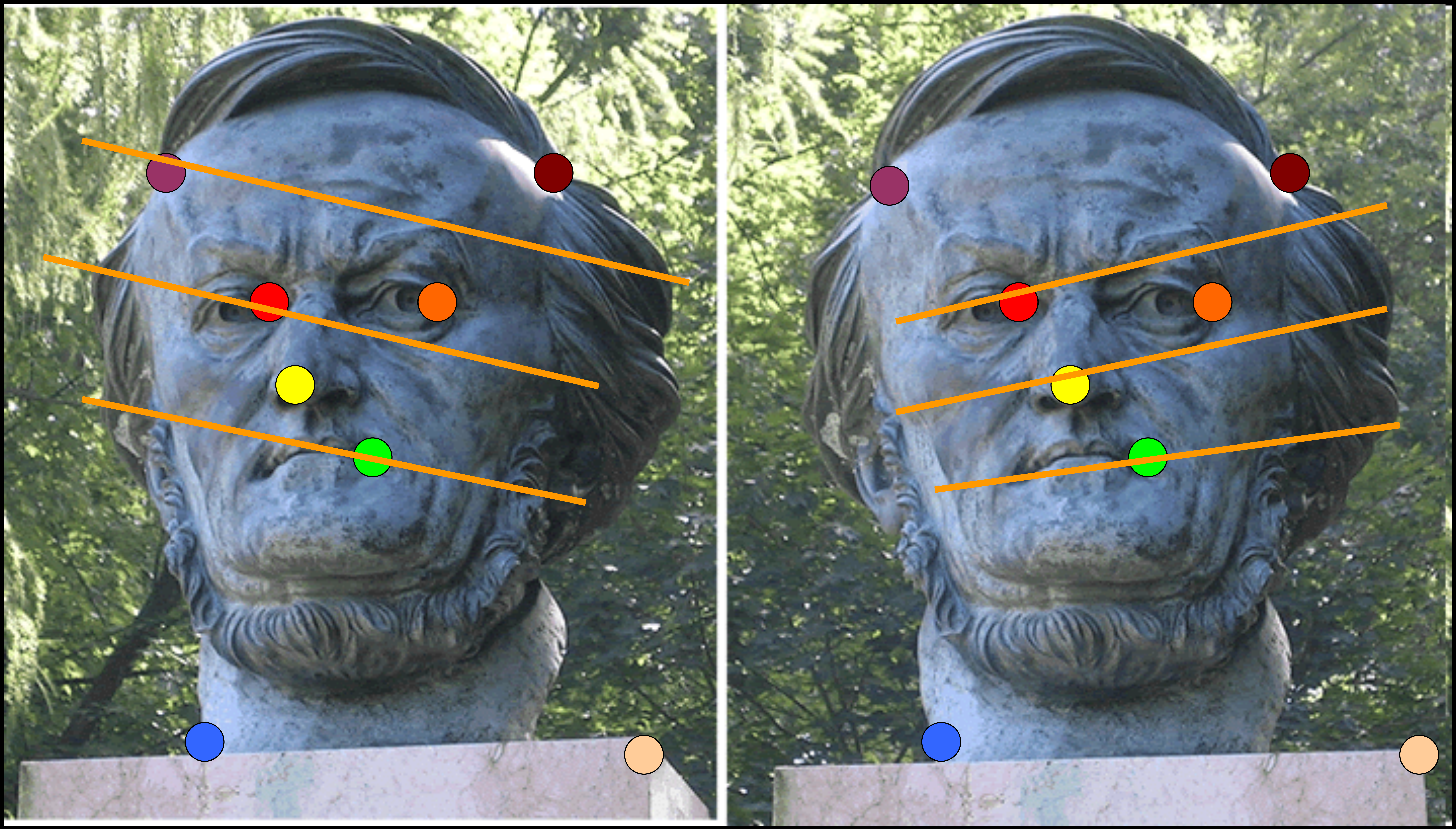
LET’S RECAP…

FEATURES

CORRESPONDENCE ACROSS VIEWS

- Correspondence: matching points, patches, edges, or regions across images

EXAMPLE: ESTIMATING “FUNDAMENTAL MATRIX” THAT CORRESPONDS TWO VIEWS



Slide from Silvio Savarese

APPLICATIONS

- Feature points are used for:
  - Image alignment
  - 3D reconstruction
  - Motion tracking
  - Robot navigation
  - Indexing and database retrieval
  - Object recognition

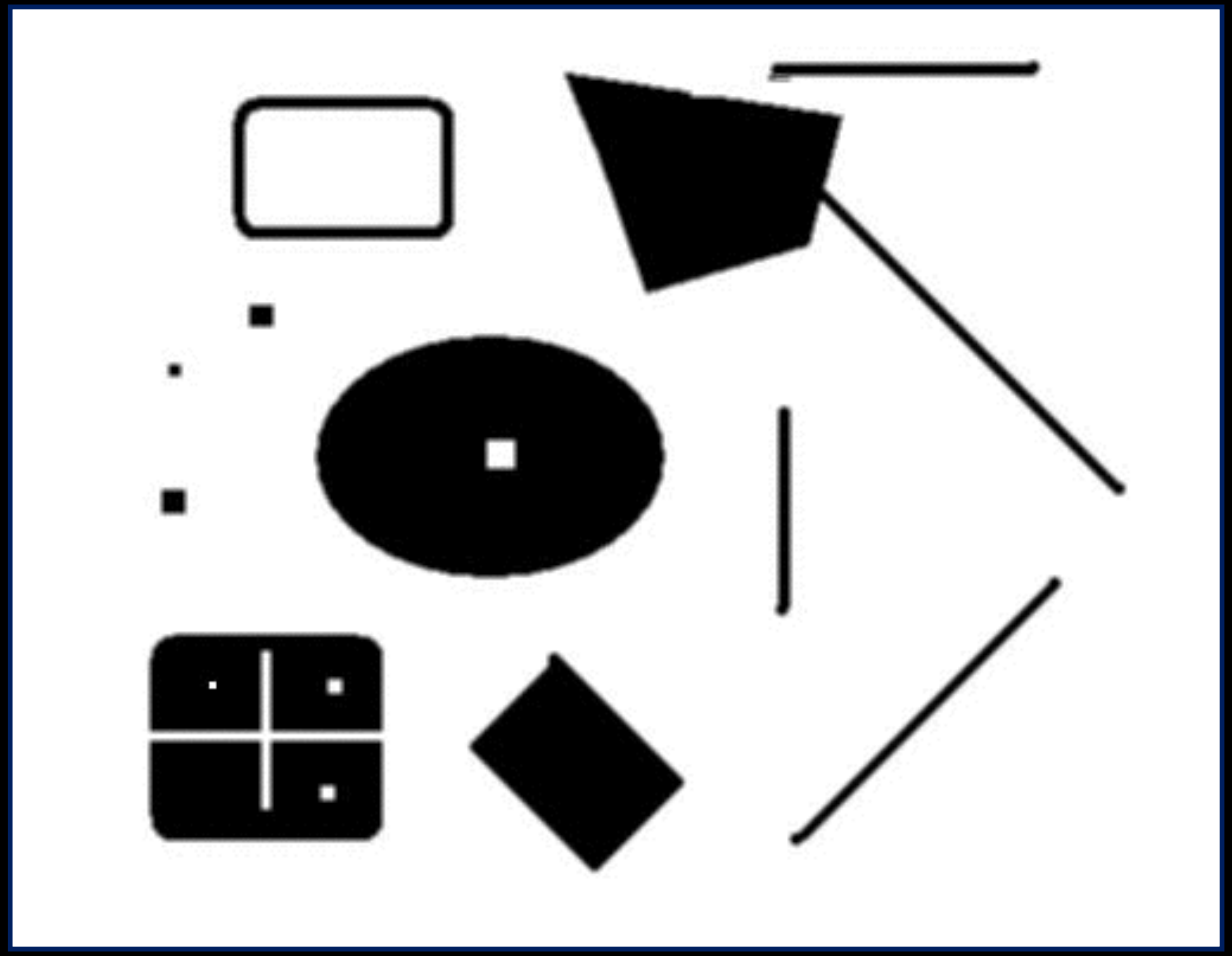
THIS CLASS: INTEREST POINTS AND LOCAL FEATURES

- Note: “interest points” = “keypoints”, also sometimes called “features”
- Edges and lines are also features
- Different applications need different types of features
  - Features with different properties

THIS CLASS: INTEREST POINTS

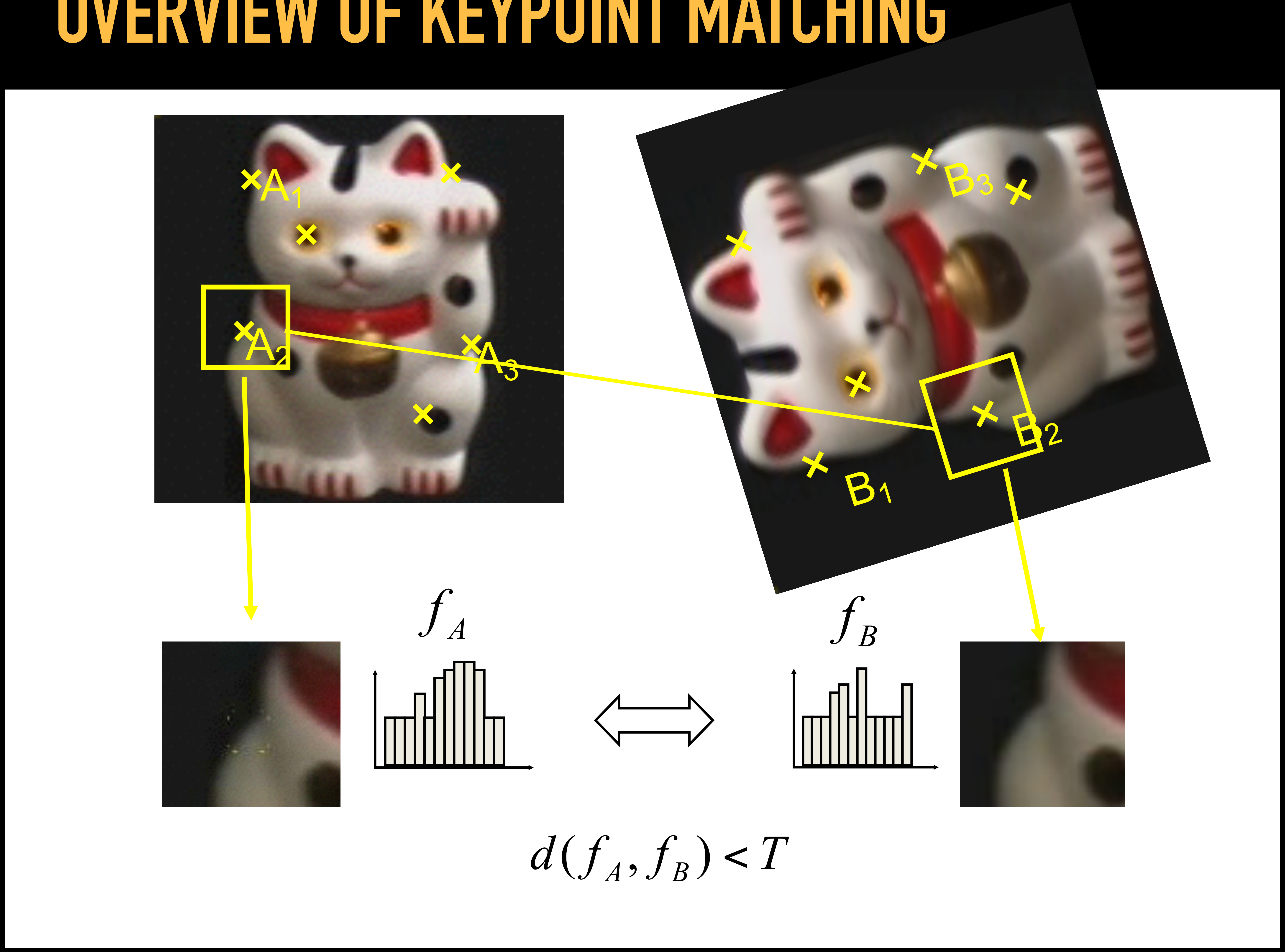
- Suppose you have to click on some point, go away and come back after I deform the image, and click on the same points again.
  - Which points would you choose?

ORIGINAL



DEFORMED

OVERVIEW OF KEYPOINT MATCHING



K. GRAUMAN, B. LEIBE

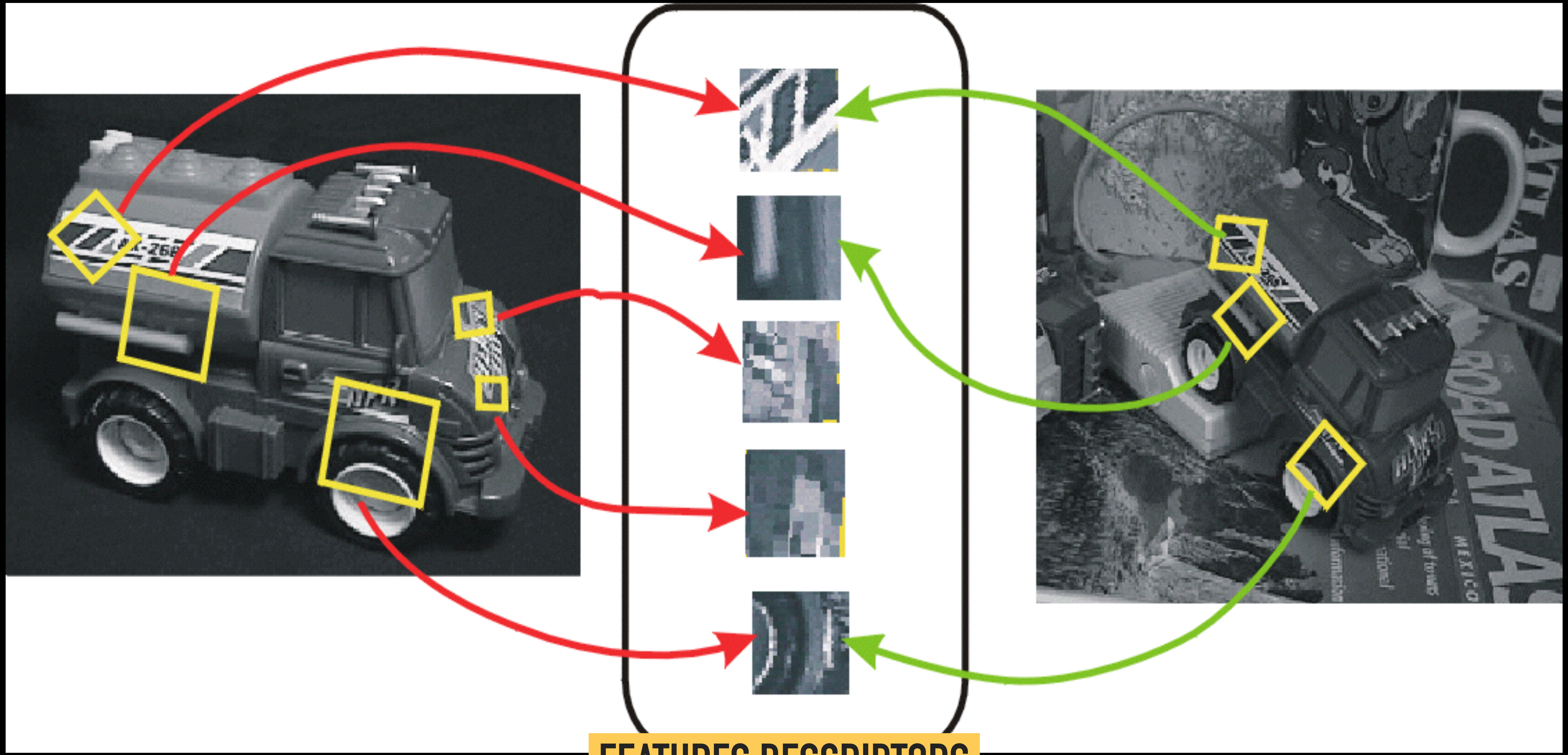
1. Find a set of distinctive key-points
2. Define a region around each keypoint
3. Compute a local descriptor from the normalized region
4. Match local descriptors

GOALS FOR KEYPOINTS

Detect points that are *repeatable* and *distinctive*

INVARIANT LOCAL FEATURES

- Image content is transformed into local feature coordinates that are invariant to translation, rotation, scale, and other imaging parameters



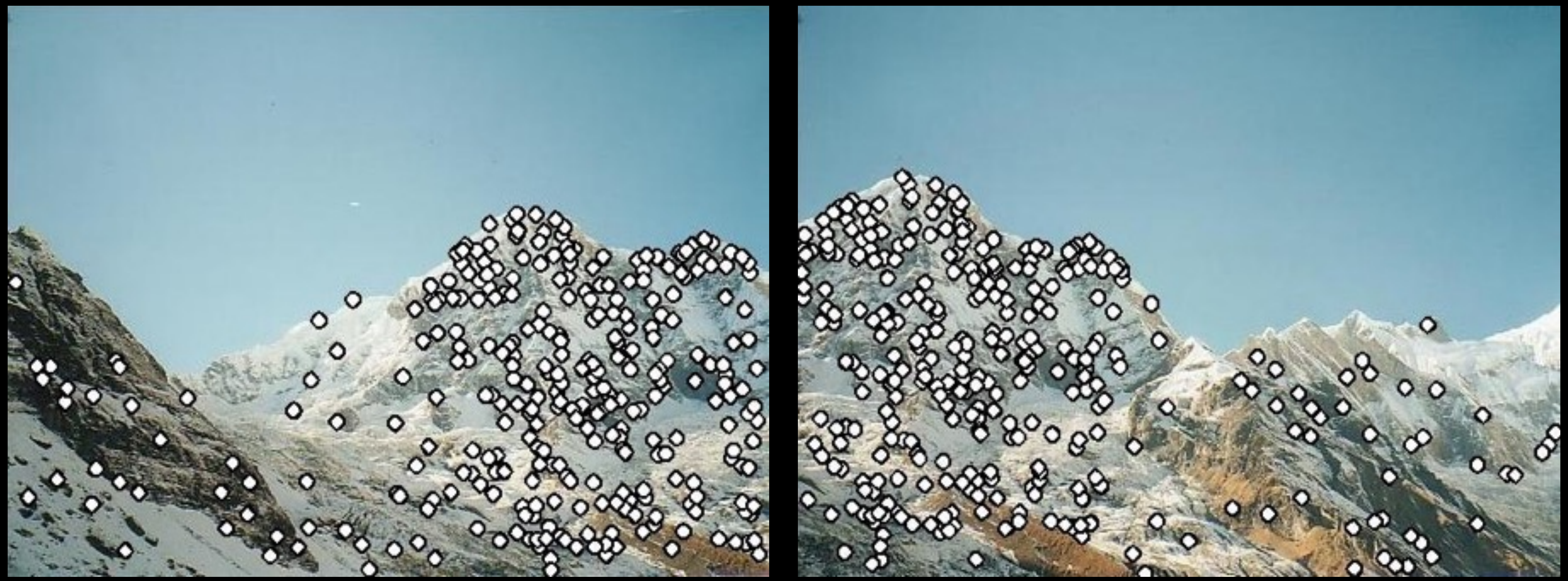
FEATURES DESCRIPTORS

WHY EXTRACT FEATURES?

- Motivation: panorama stitching
    - We have two images – how do we combine them?

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD FEATURES

- Repeatability
  - The same feature can be found in several images despite geometric and photometric transformations
- Saliency
  - Each feature is distinctive
- Compactness and efficiency
  - Many fewer features than image pixels



- Locality
  - A feature occupies a relatively small area of the image; robust to clutter and occlusion

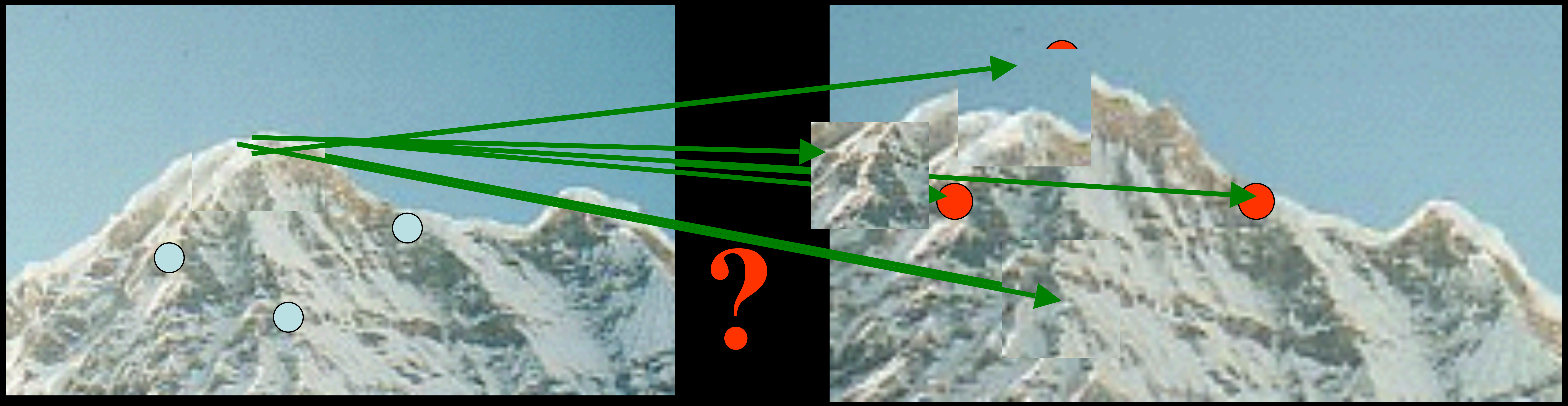
GOAL: INTEREST OPERATOR REPEATABILITY

We want to detect (at least some of) the same points in both images.

Yet we have to be able to run the detection procedure independently per image.

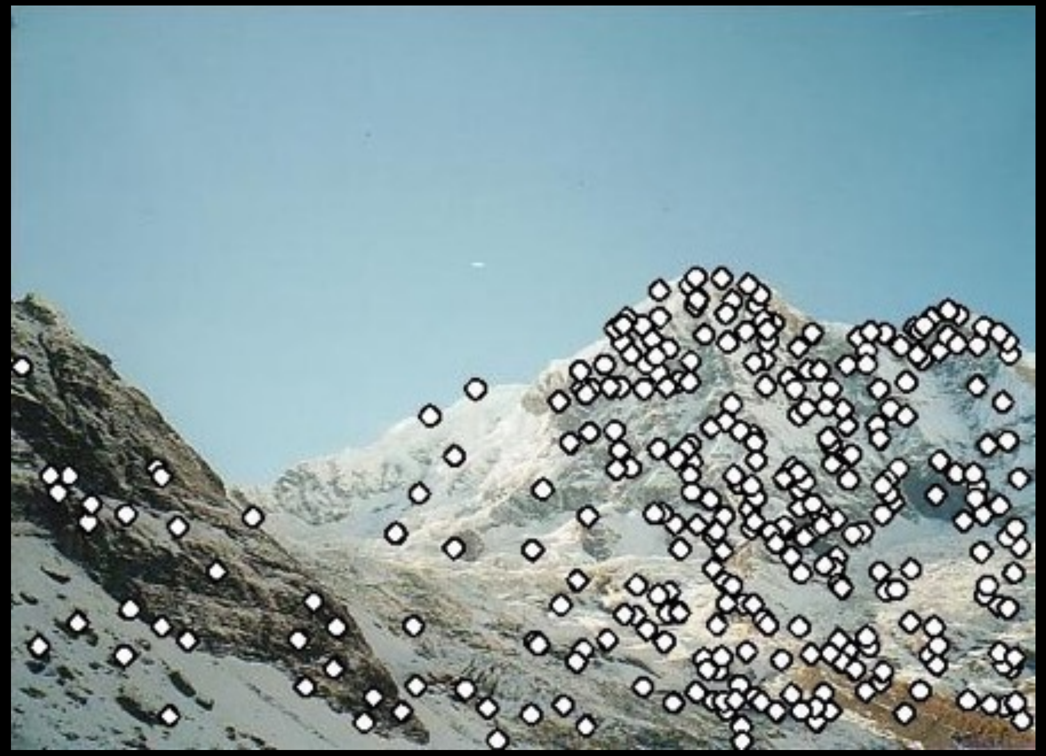
GOAL: DESCRIPTOR DISTINCTIVENESS

We want to be able to reliably determine which point goes with which.



Must provide some invariance to geometric and photometric differences between the two views.

LOCAL FEATURES: MAIN COMPONENTS



- Detection: Identify the interest points

- Description:Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

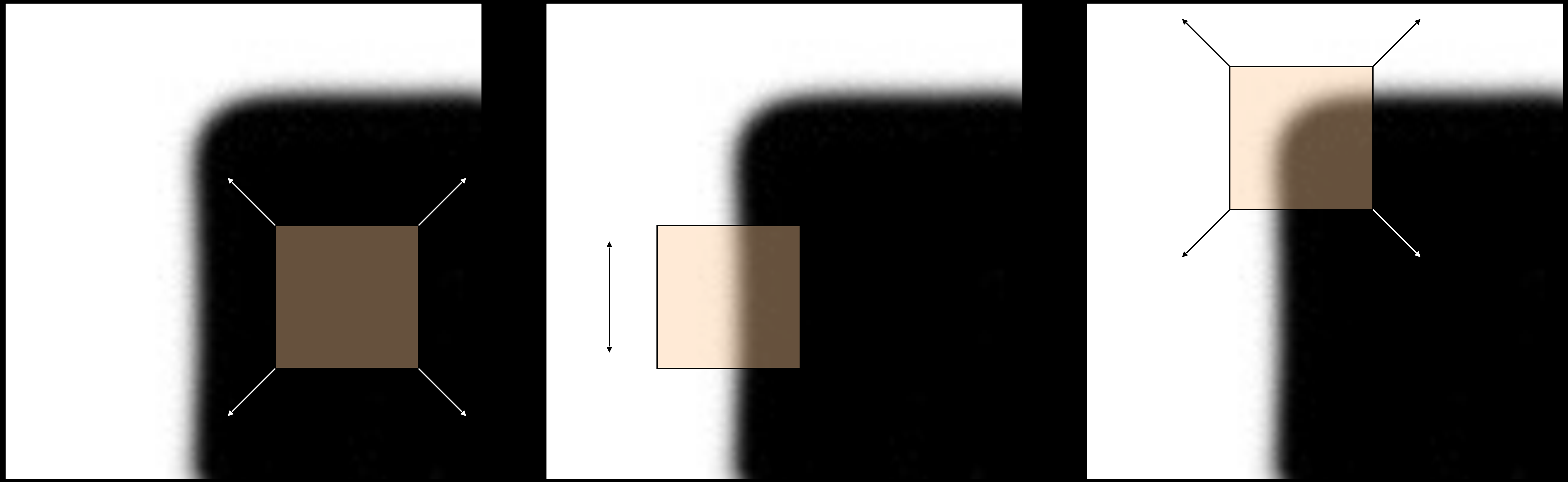
- Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views

MANY EXISTING DETECTORS AVAILABLE

- Hessian & Harris [Beaudet '78], [Harris '88]
- Laplacian, DoG [Lindeberg '98], [Lowe 1999]
- Harris-/Hessian-Laplace [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01]
- Harris-/Hessian-Affine [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '04]
- EBR and IBR [Tuytelaars & Van Gool '04]
- MSER [Matas '02]
- Salient Regions [Kadir & Brady '01]
- Others…

CORNER DETECTION: BASIC IDEA

- We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window
- Shifting a window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity



"FLAT" REGION:
NO CHANGE IN ALL DIRECTIONS

"EDGE":
NO CHANGE ALONG THE EDGE DIRECTION

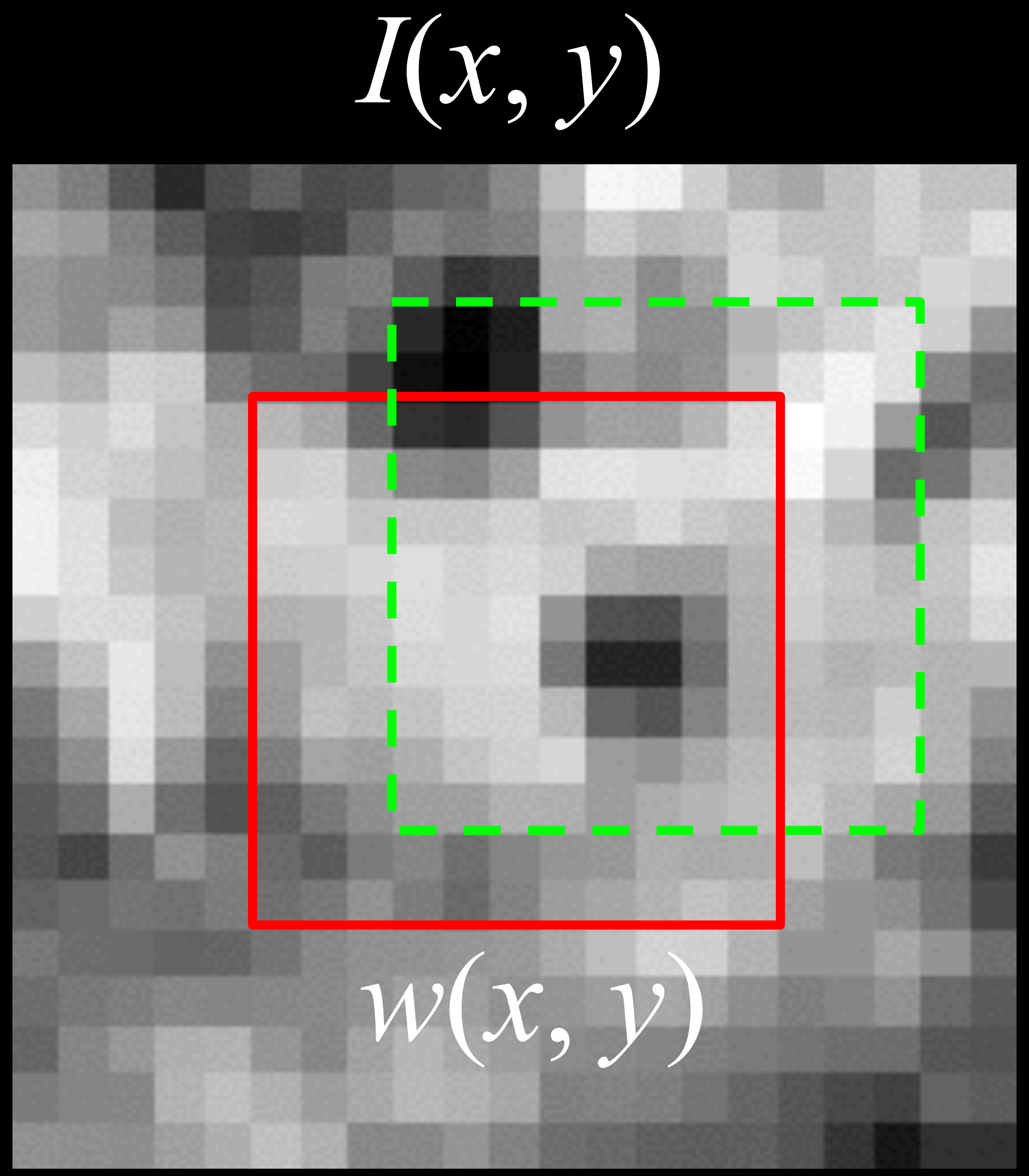
"CORNER":
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ALL DIRECTIONS

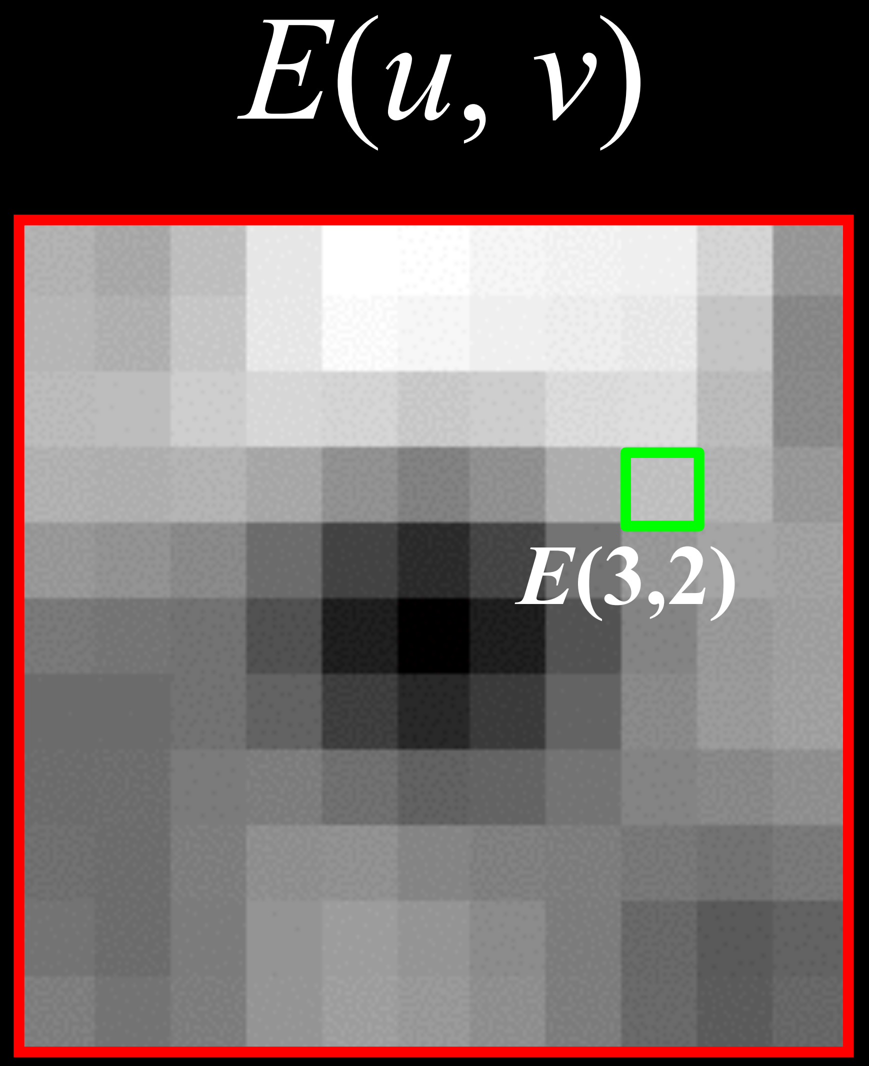
Source: A. Efros

CORNER DETECTION: MATHEMATICS

- Change in appearance of window w(x,y) for the shift [u,v]:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$





CORNER DETECTION: MATHEMATICS

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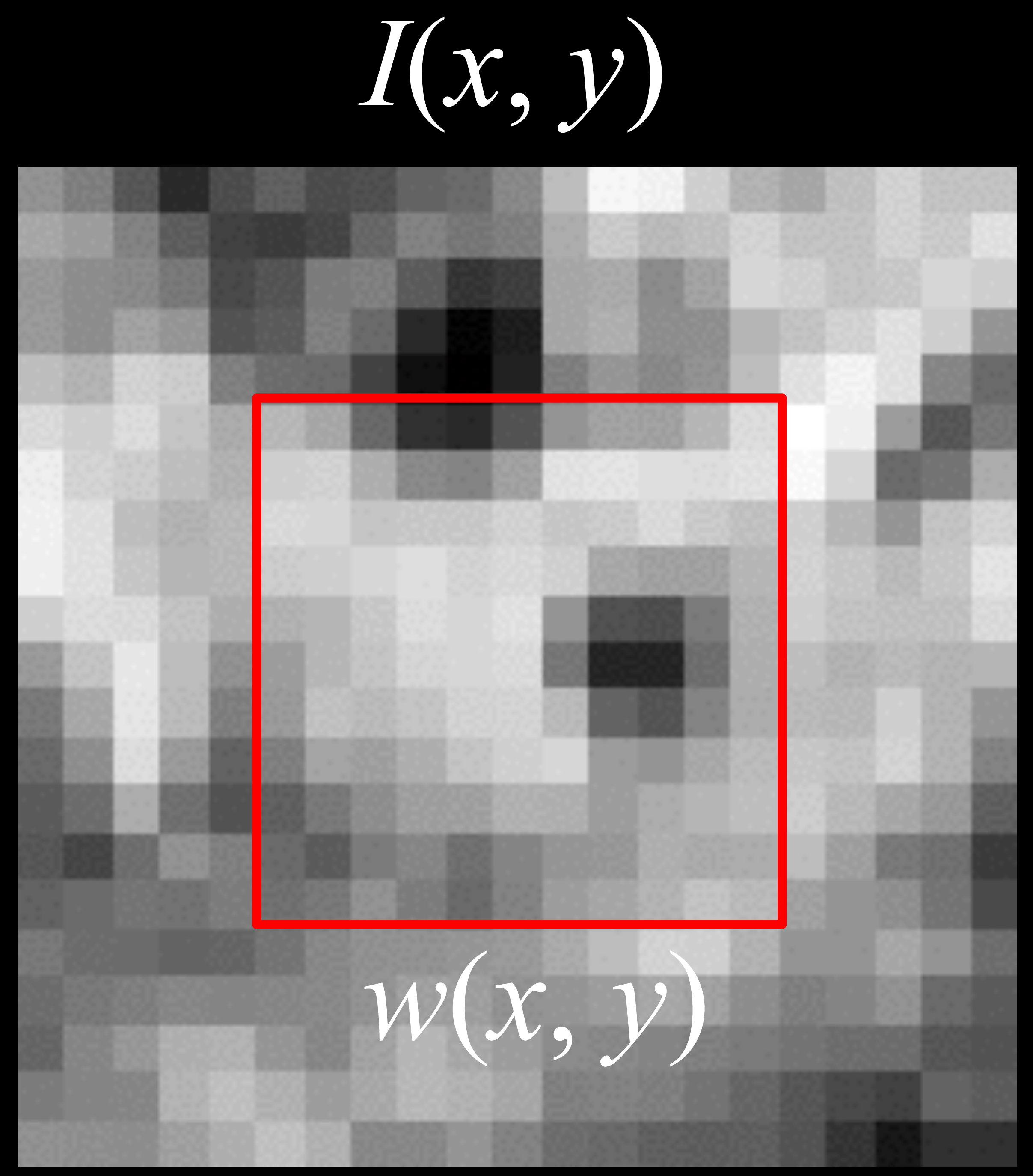
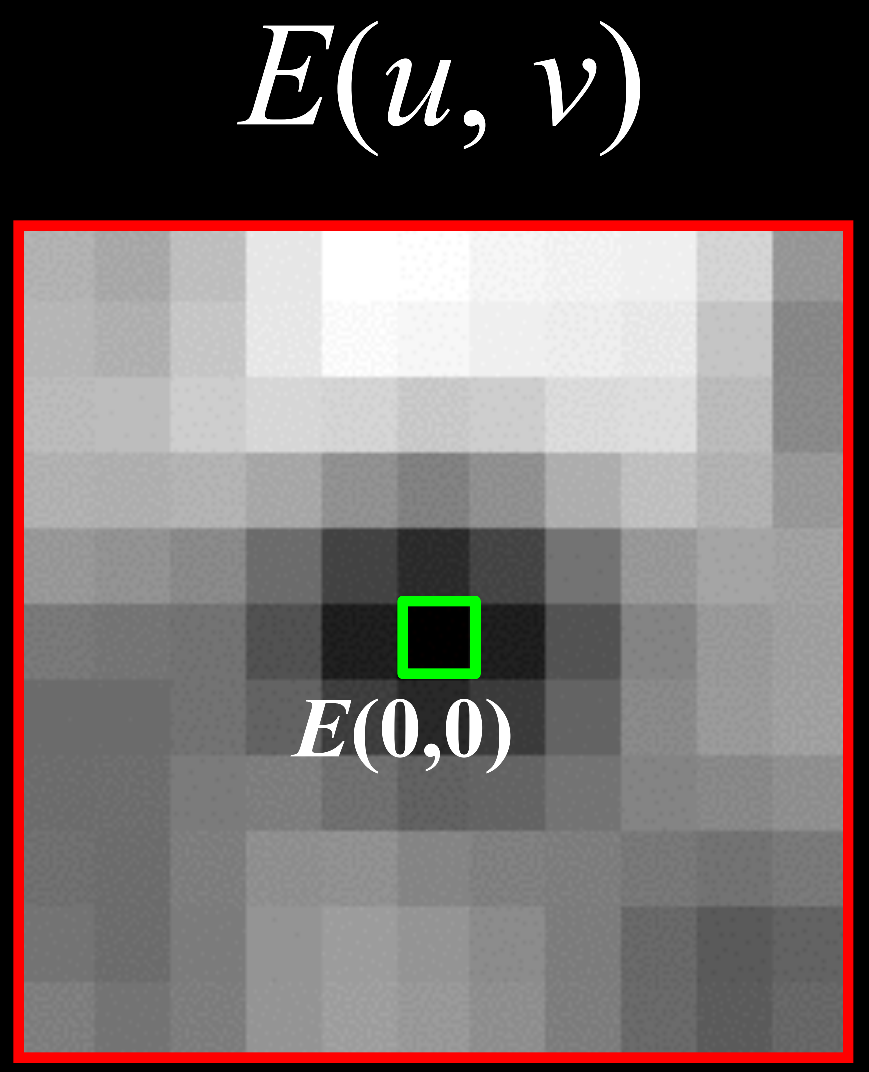




CORNER DETECTION: MATHEMATICS

- Change in appearance of window w(x,y) for the shift [u,v]:

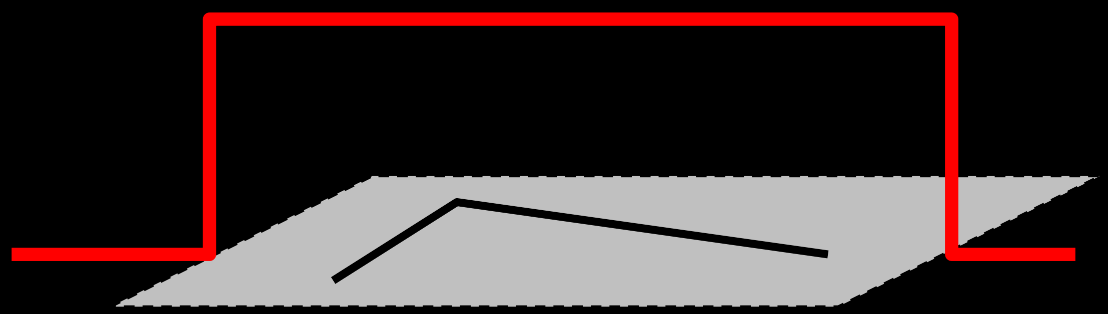
$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

Window function

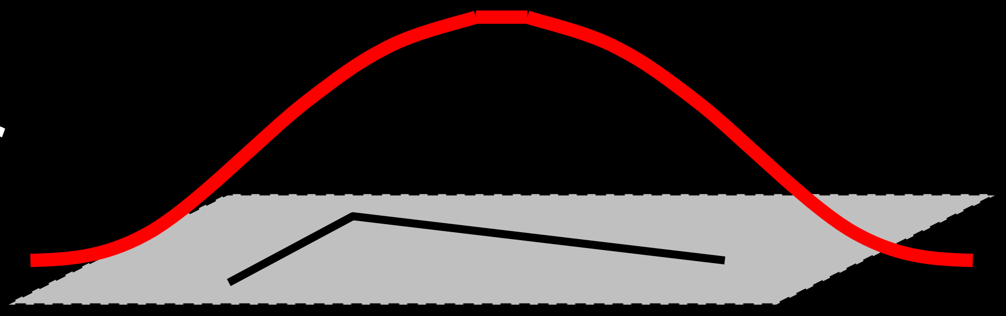
Shifted intensity

Intensity

Window function $w(x,y) =$



or



1 in window, 0 outside

Gaussian

Source: R. Szeliski

CORNER DETECTION: MATHEMATICS

- Change in appearance of window w(x,y) for the shift [u,v]:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

But this is very slow to compute naively.
O(window_width^2 * shift_range^2 * image_width^2)

O(11^2 * 11^2 * 600^2) = 5.2 billion of these
14.6 thousand per pixel in your image

CORNER DETECTION: MATHEMATICS

- Change in appearance of window w(x,y) for the shift [u,v]:

$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y)\left[I(x+u,y+v) - I(x,y)\right]^2$$

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

Recall Taylor series expansion. A function f can be approximated at point a as

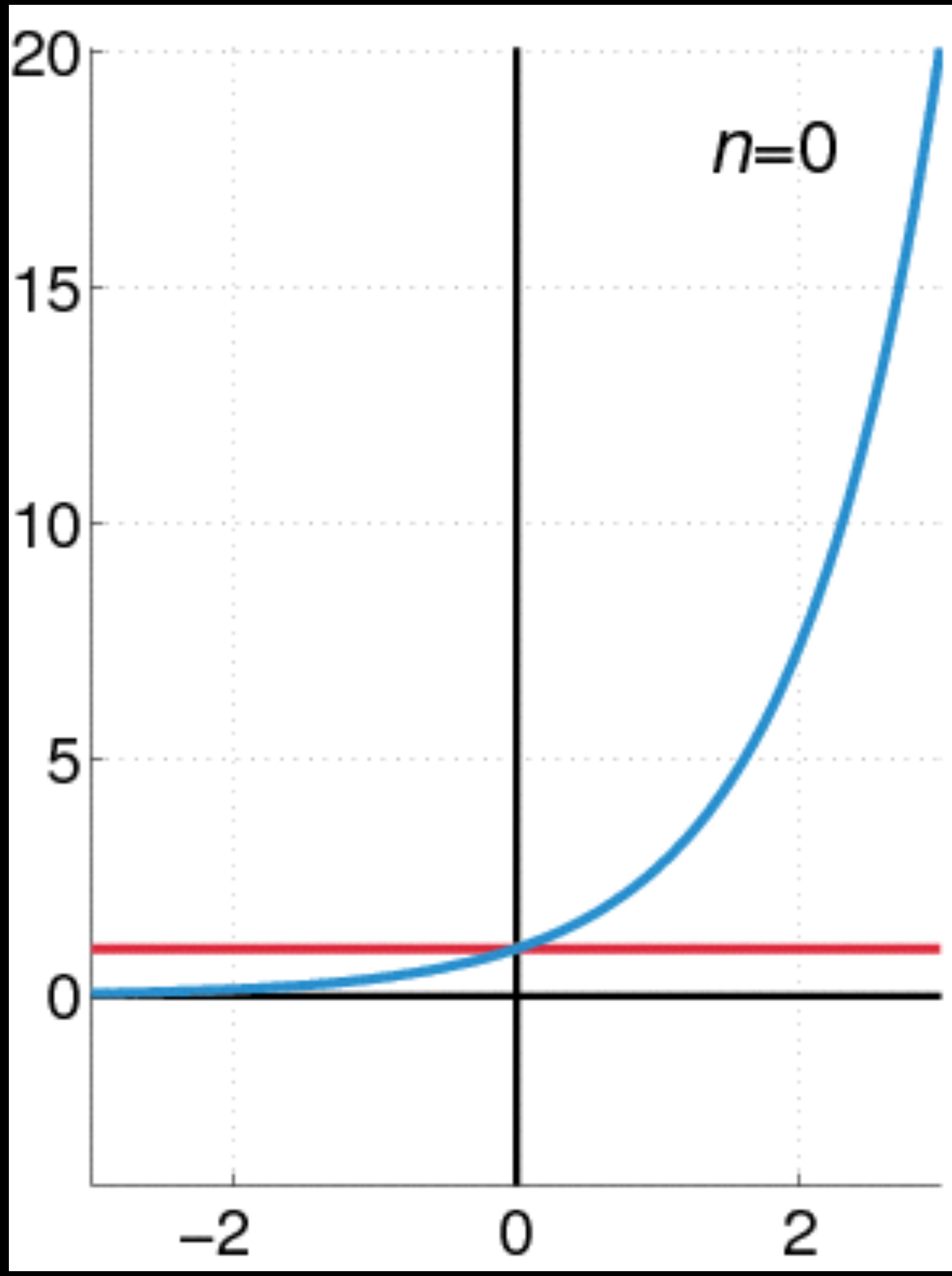
$$f(a) + \frac{f'(a)}{1!}(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \cdots.$$

RECALL: TAYLOR SERIES EXPANSION

A FUNCTION F CAN BE APPROXIMATED AS

$$f(a)+\frac{f'(a)}{1!}(x-a)+\frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2+\frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3+\cdots.$$

APPROXIMATION OF
$F(X) = E^X$
CENTERED AT F(0)



HARRIS CORNER MATH

Taylor Series expansion of I:

$$I(x+u, y+v) = I(x, y) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}u + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}v + \text{higher order terms}$$

If the motion (u,v) is small, then first order approx is good

$$I(x+u, y+v) \approx I(x, y) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}u + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}v$$

$$\approx I(x, y) + [I_x \ I_y] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

shorthand: $I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$

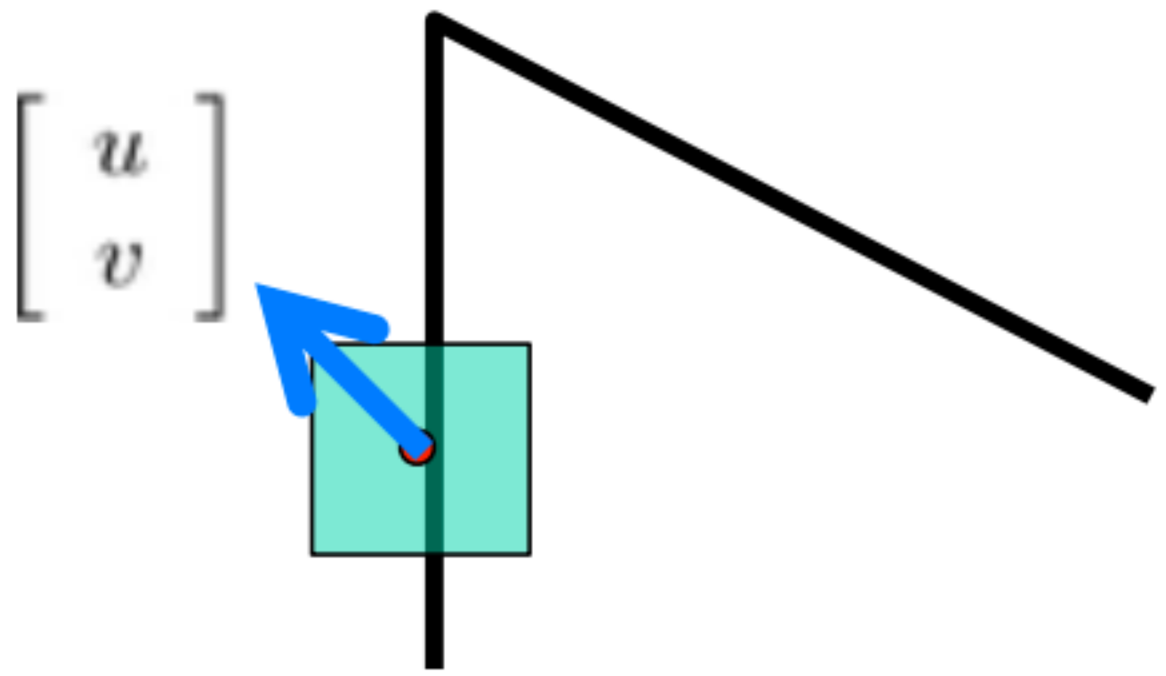
HARRIS CORNER MATH

$$
\begin{aligned}
E(u,v) &= \sum_{(x,y)\in W} [I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)]^2 \\
&\approx \sum_{(x,y)\in W} \left[I(x,y) + [I_x \; I_y] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} - I(x,y)\right]^2 \\
&\approx \sum_{(x,y)\in W} \left[[I_x \; I_y] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}\right]^2
\end{aligned}
$$

HARRIS CORNER MATH

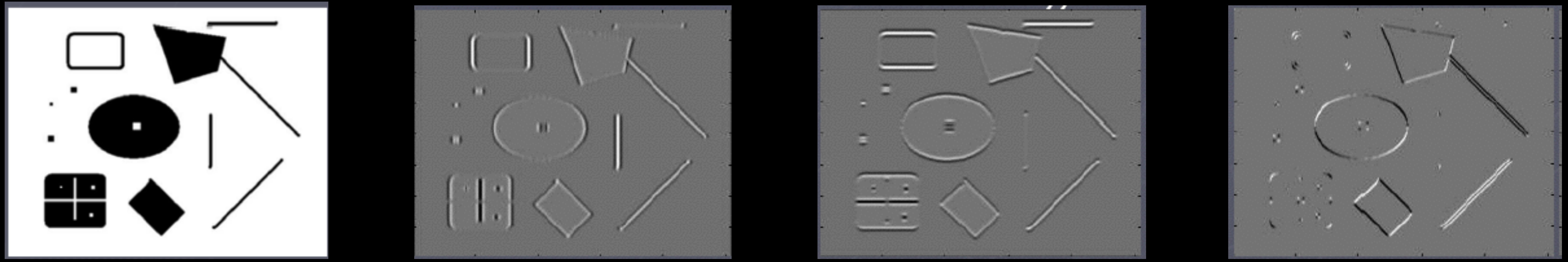
This can be rewritten:

$$E(u,v) = [u\ v]\underbrace{\left(\sum_{(x,y)\in W} \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_xI_y \\ I_yI_x & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}\right)}_{H}\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$



$$M = \sum w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x I_x & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}$$

2 x 2 matrix of image derivatives (averaged in neighborhood of a point).



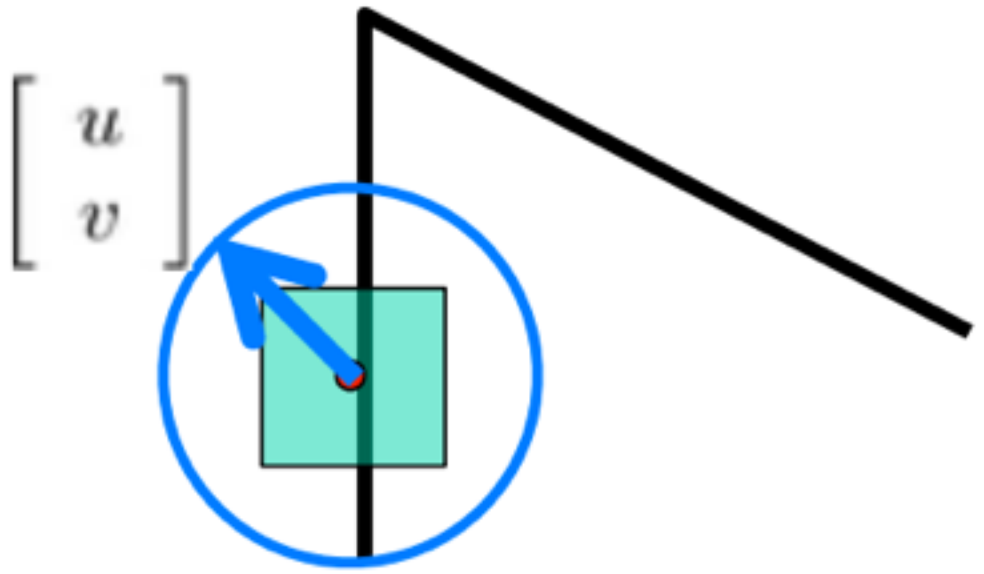
NOTATION:

$$I_x \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \qquad I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \qquad I_x I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

HARRIS CORNER MATH

This can be rewritten:

$$E(u,v) = [u\ v] \underbrace{\left(\sum_{(x,y)\in W} \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_y I_x & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \right)}_{H} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$



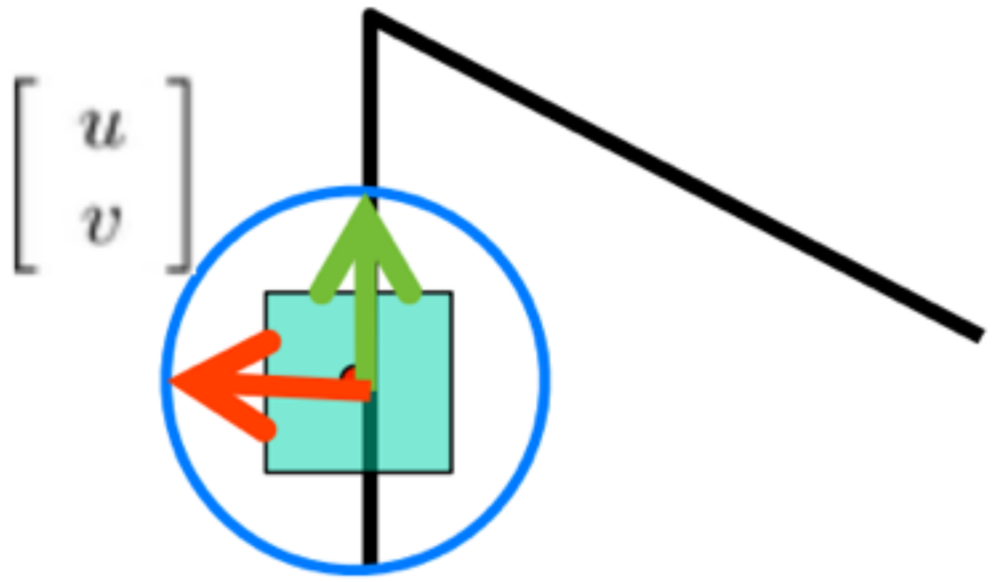
Which [u v] maximizes E(u,v)?

Which [u v] minimizes E(u,v)?

HARRIS CORNER MATH

This can be rewritten:

$$E(u,v) = [u\ v] \underbrace{\left(\sum_{(x,y)\in W} \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_y I_x & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \right)}_{H} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$



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HARRIS CORNER MATH

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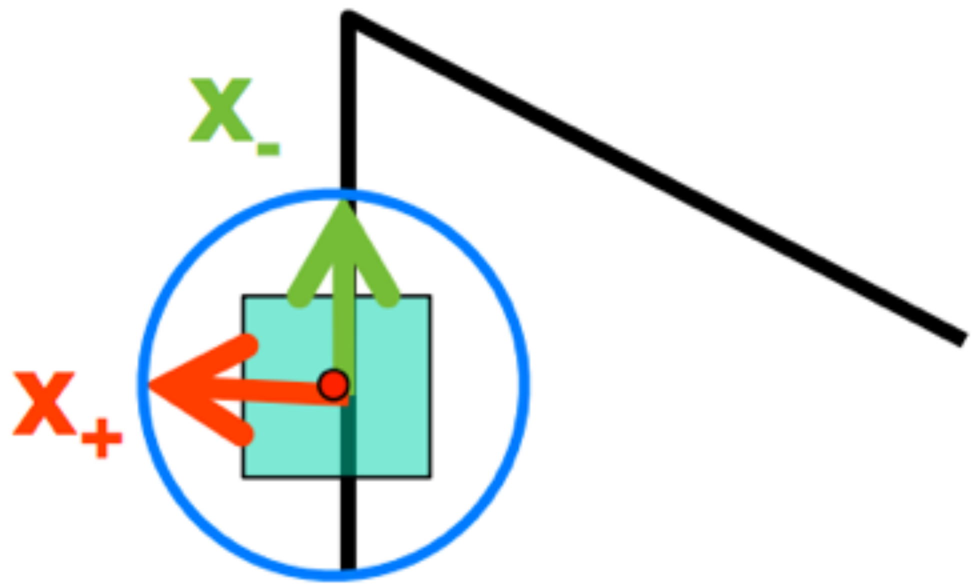


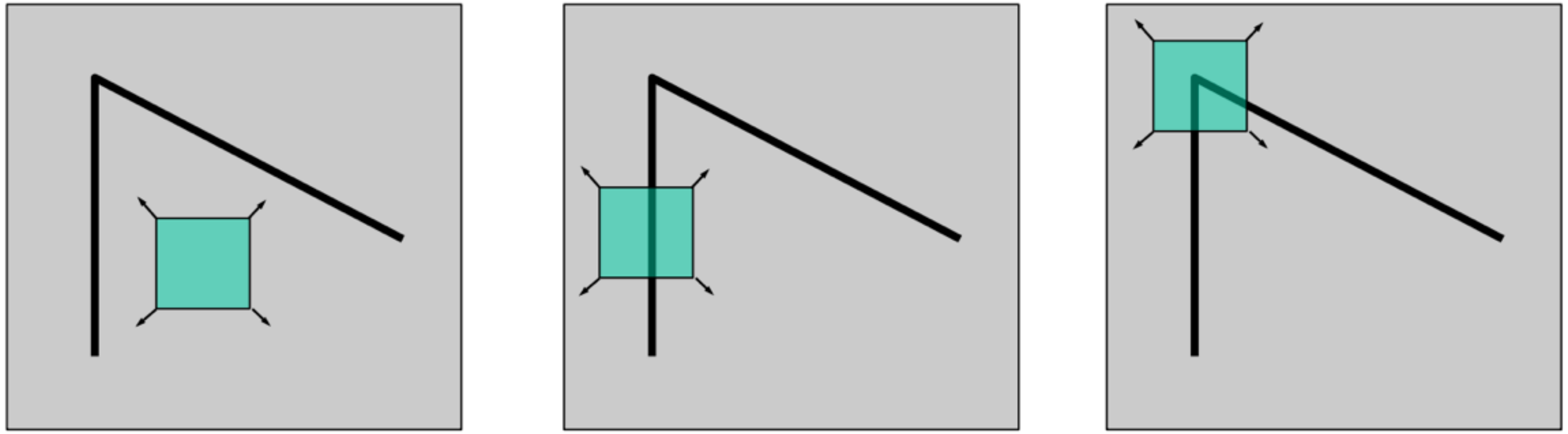
Eigenvector x_+ with the largest eigen value?

Eigenvector x_- with the smallest eigen value?

HARRIS CORNER MATH

Local measure of feature uniqueness

- E(u,v) = amount of change when you shift the window by (u,v)



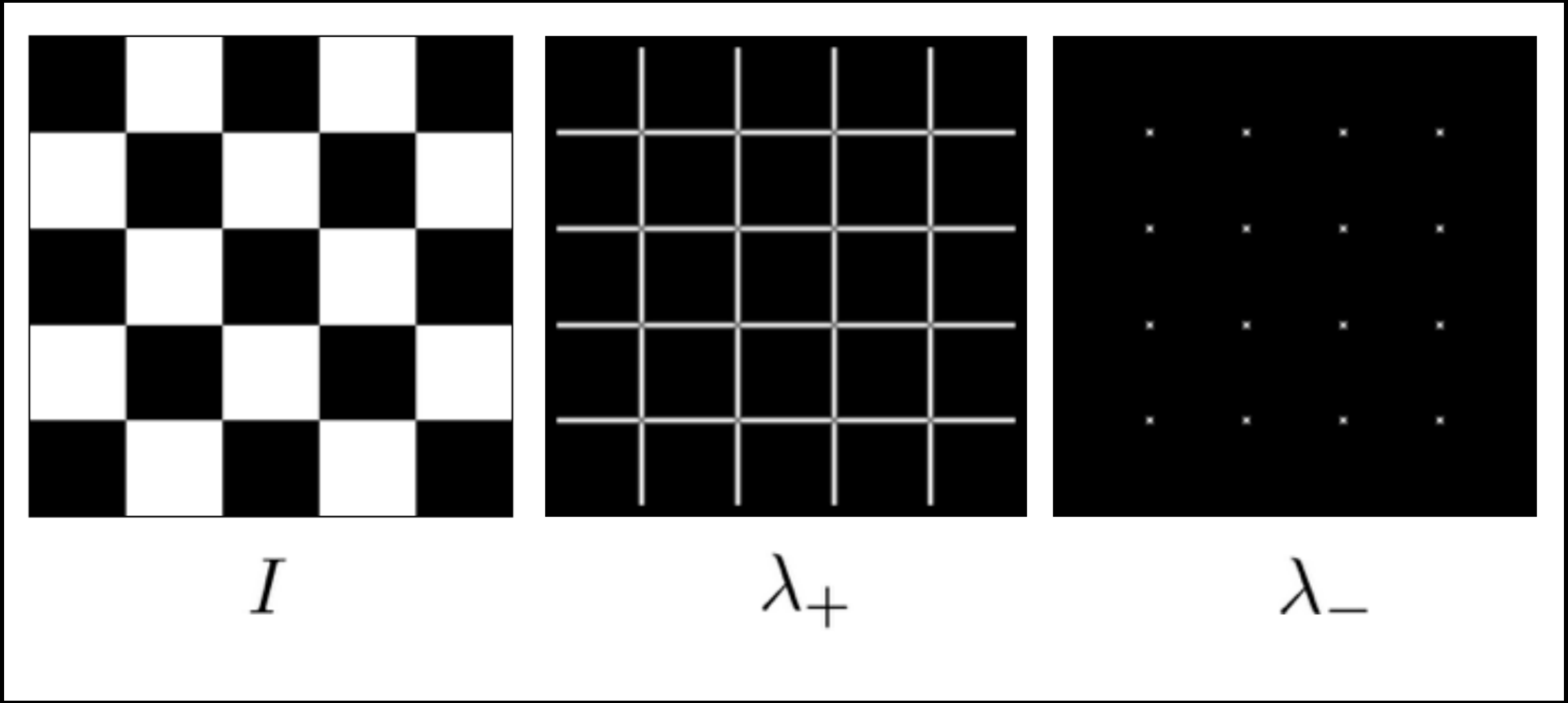
E(u,v) is small for **all** shifts

E(u,v) is small for **some** shifts

E(u,v) is small for **no** shifts

We want $\min_{(u,v)} E(u,v)$ to be large

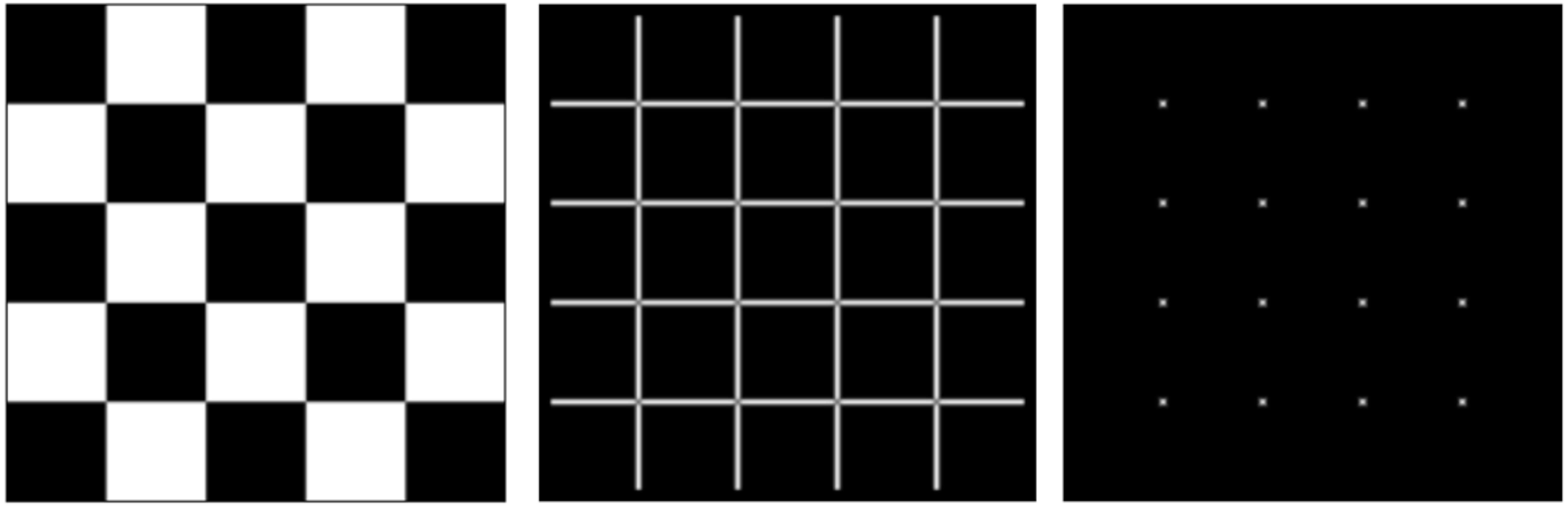
HARRIS CORNER MATH



HARRIS CORNER MATH

Here's what you do

- Compute the gradient at each point in the image
- Create the ***H*** matrix from the entries in the gradient
- Compute the eigenvalues.
- Find points with large response (λ_- > threshold)
- Choose those points where λ_- is a local maximum as features



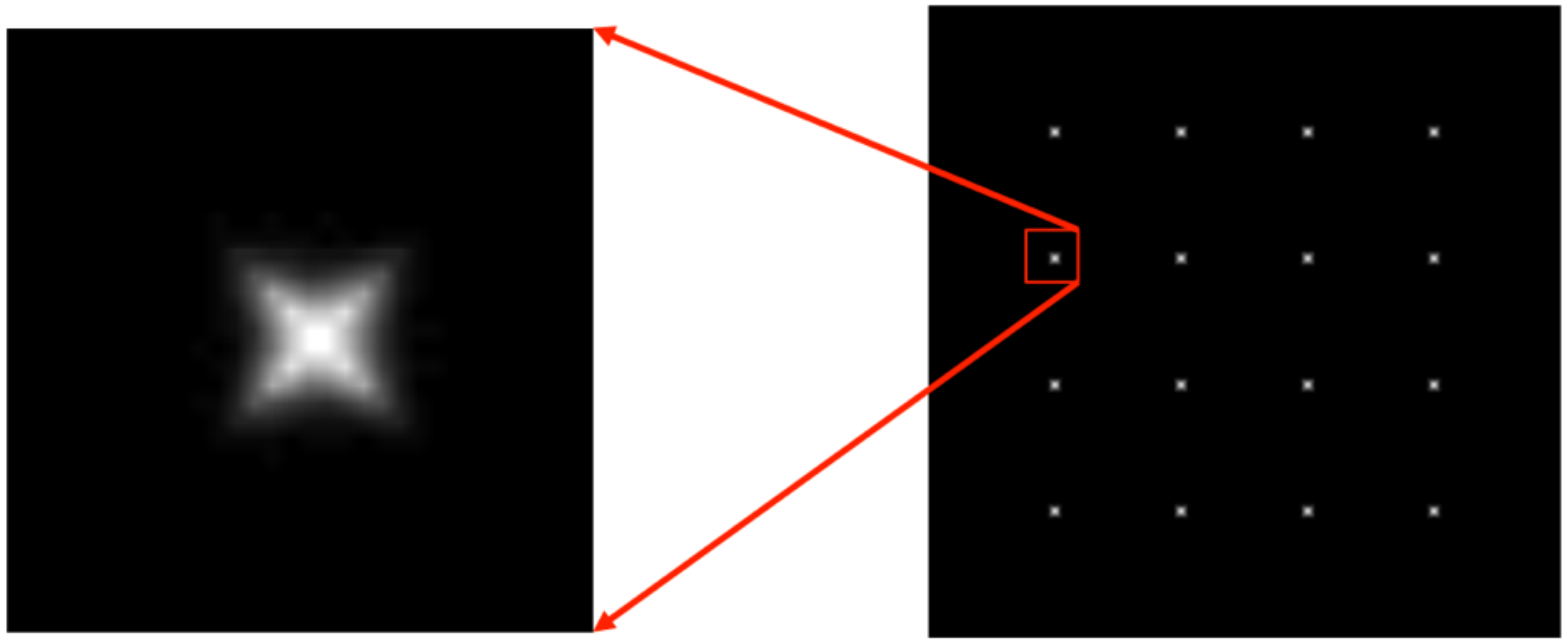
I λ_+ λ_-

HARRIS CORNER MATH

Here’s what you do

- Compute the gradient at each point in the image
- Create the ***H*** matrix from the entries in the gradient
- Compute the eigenvalues.
- Find points with large response (λ_- > threshold)
- Choose those points where λ_- is a local maximum as features

Called “non-local max suppression”



λ_-

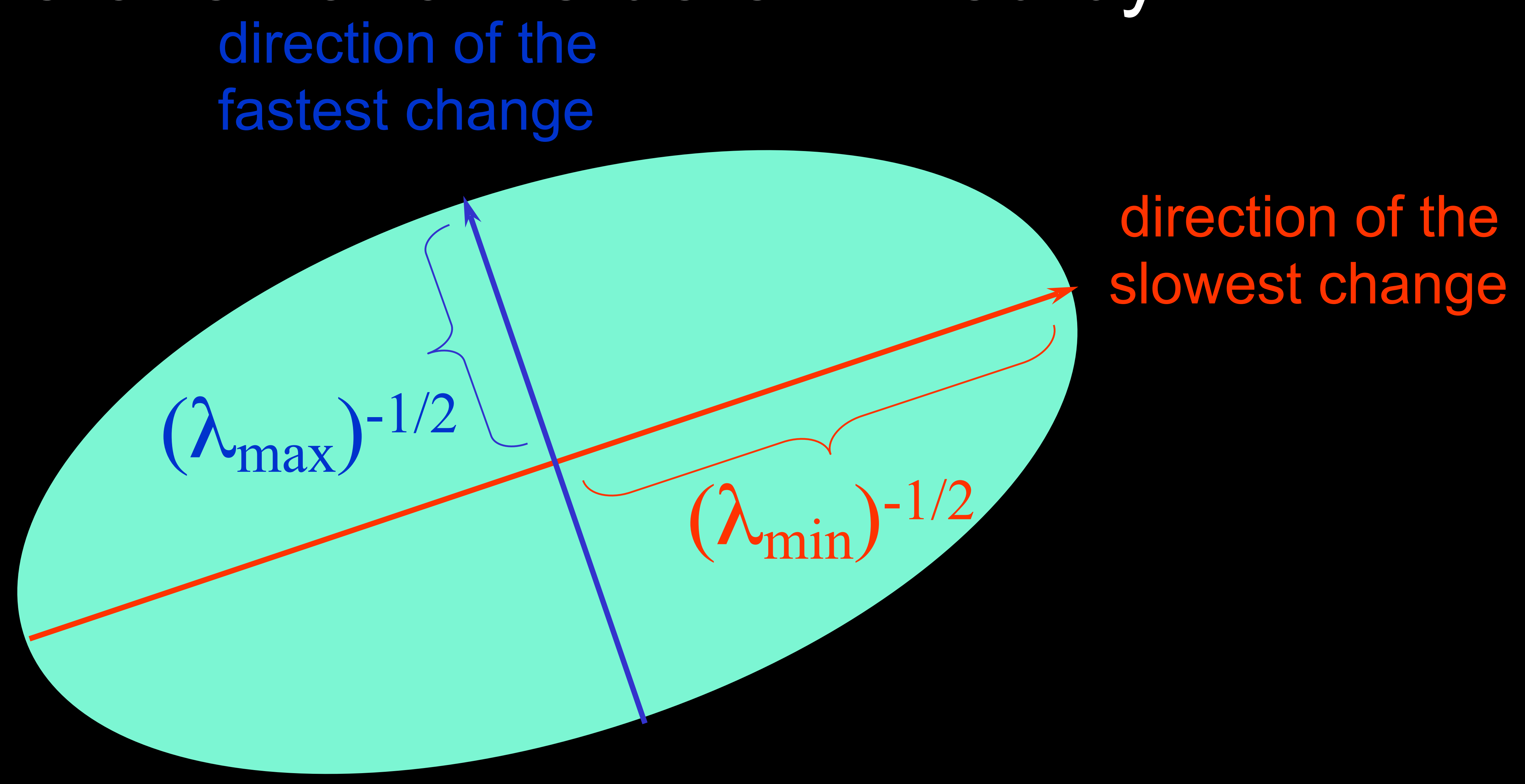
INTERPRETING THE SECOND MOMENT MATRIX

Consider a horizontal "slice" of *E*(*u*, *v*): $[u \;\; v] \; M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \text{const}$

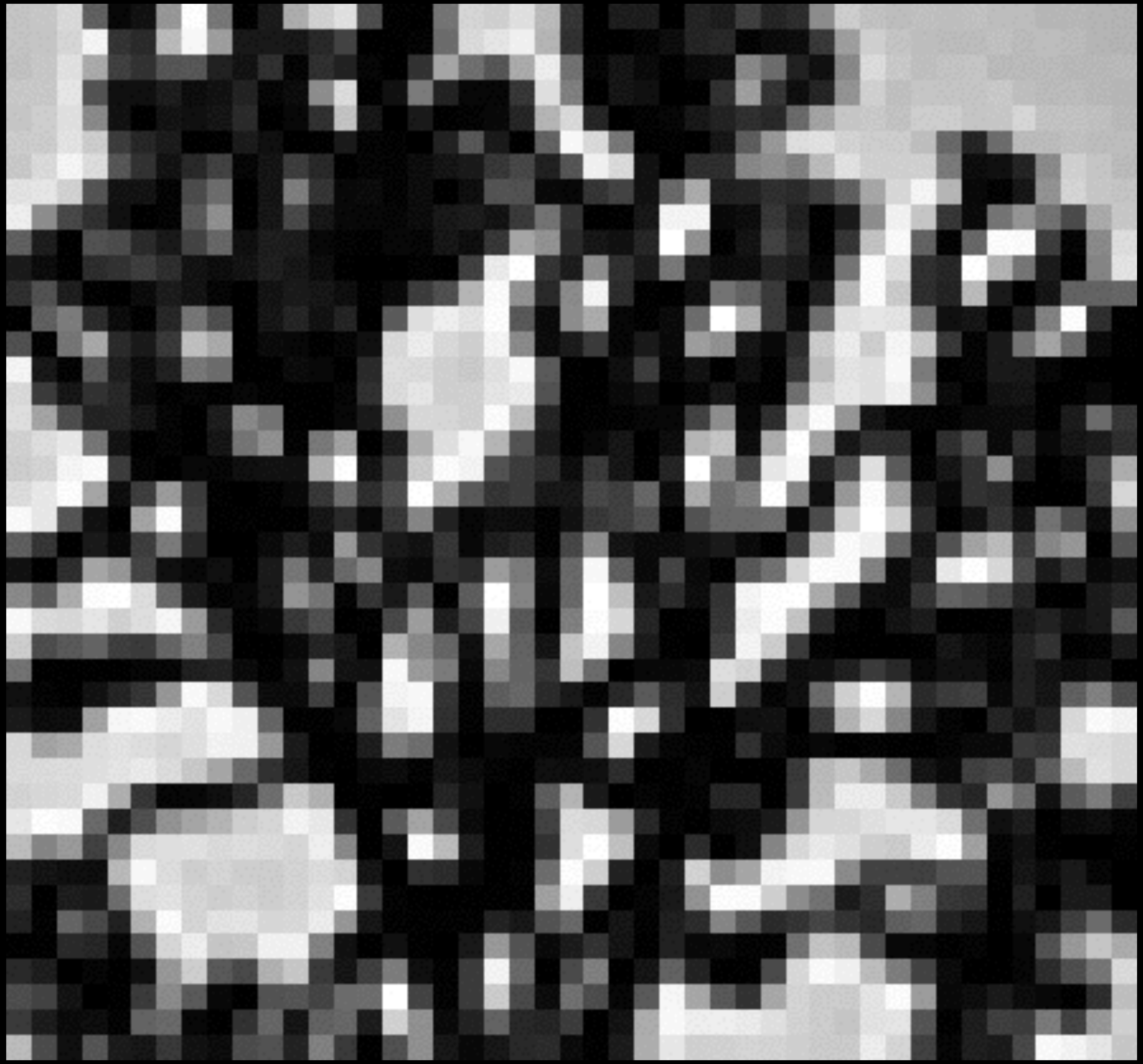
This is the equation of an ellipse.

Diagonalization of M: $M = R^{-1}\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$

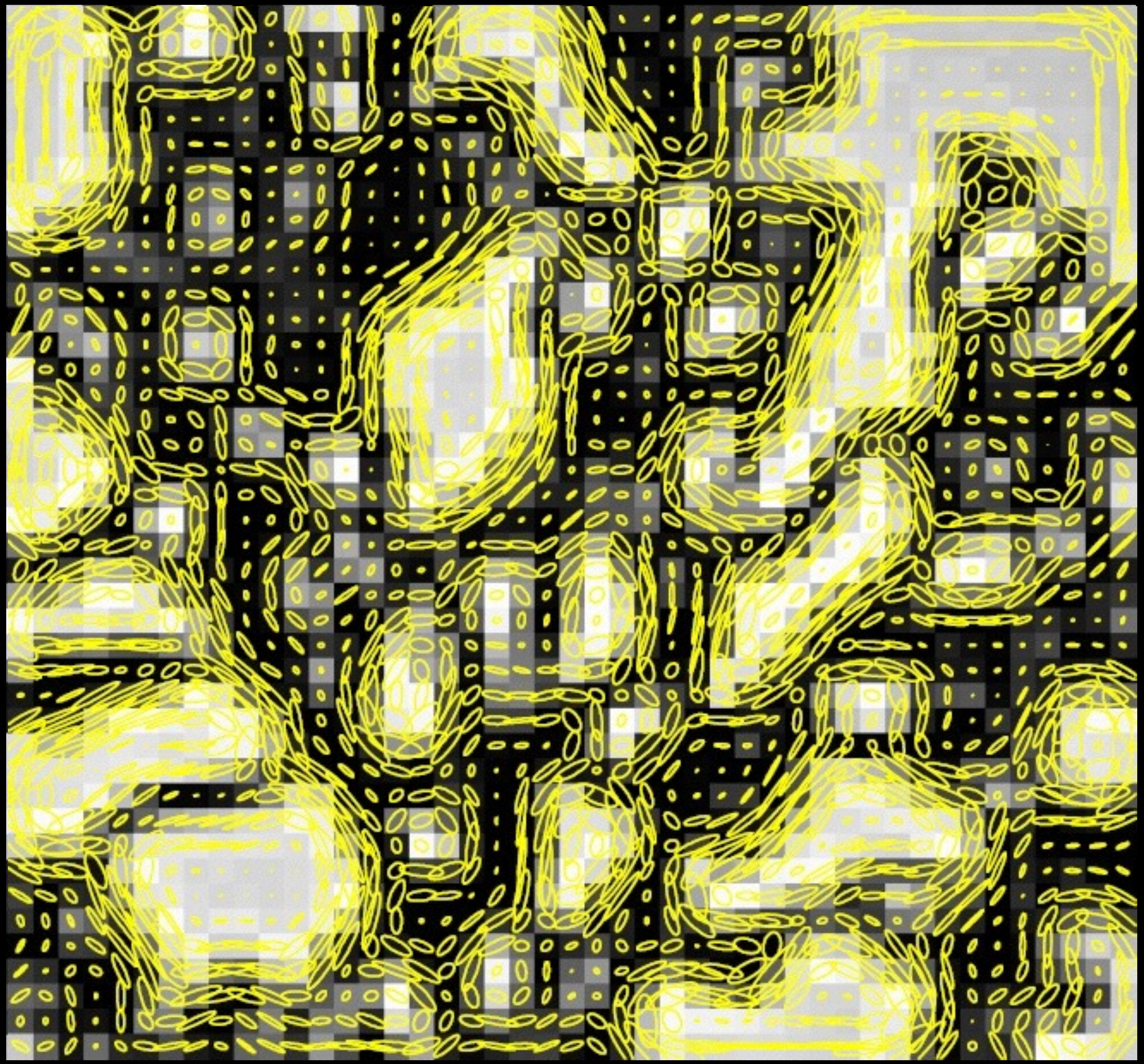
The axis lengths of the ellipse are determined by the eigenvalues and the orientation is determined by *R*



VISUALIZATION OF SECOND MOMENT MATRICES

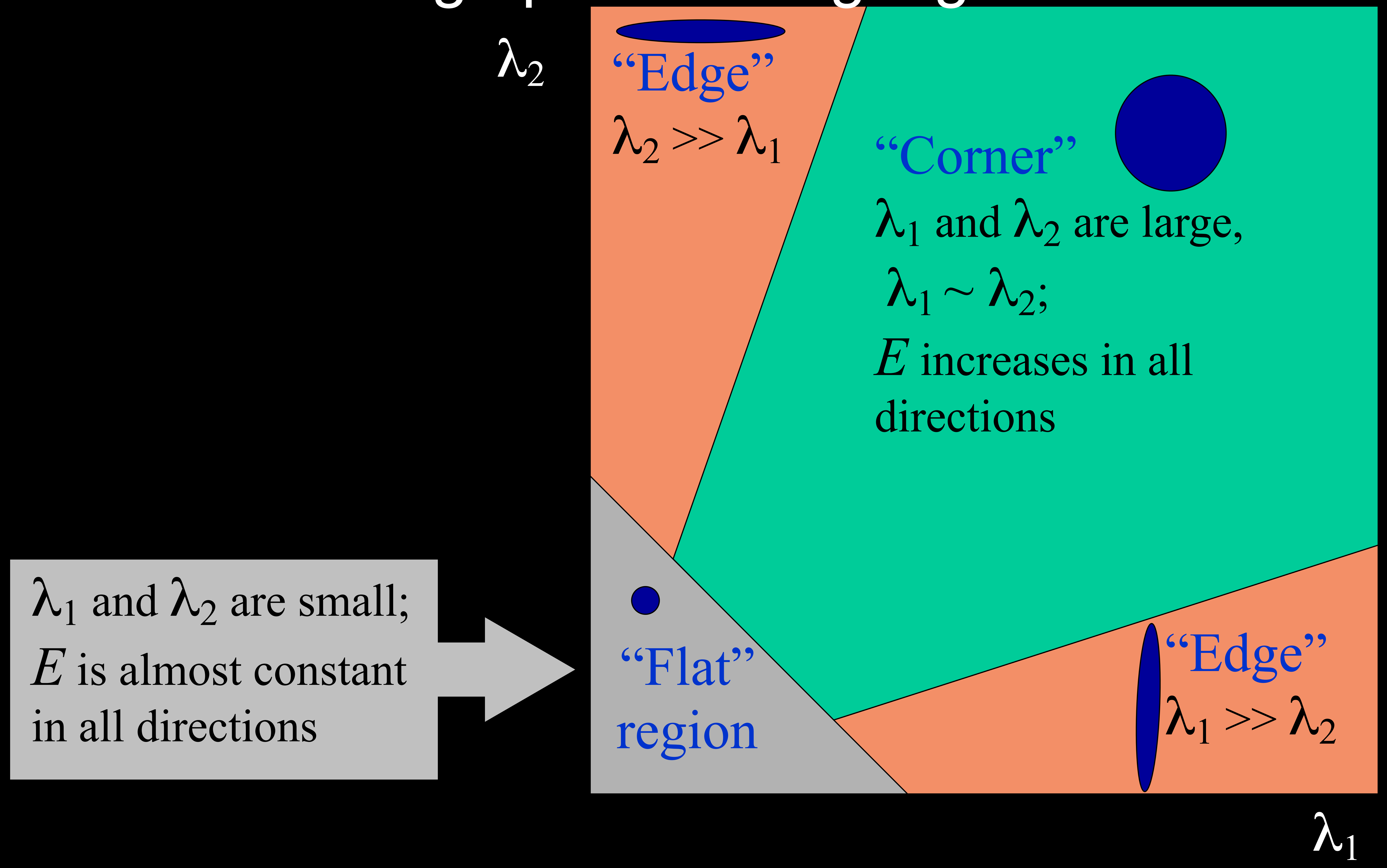


VISUALIZATION OF SECOND MOMENT MATRICES



INTERPRETING THE EIGENVALUES

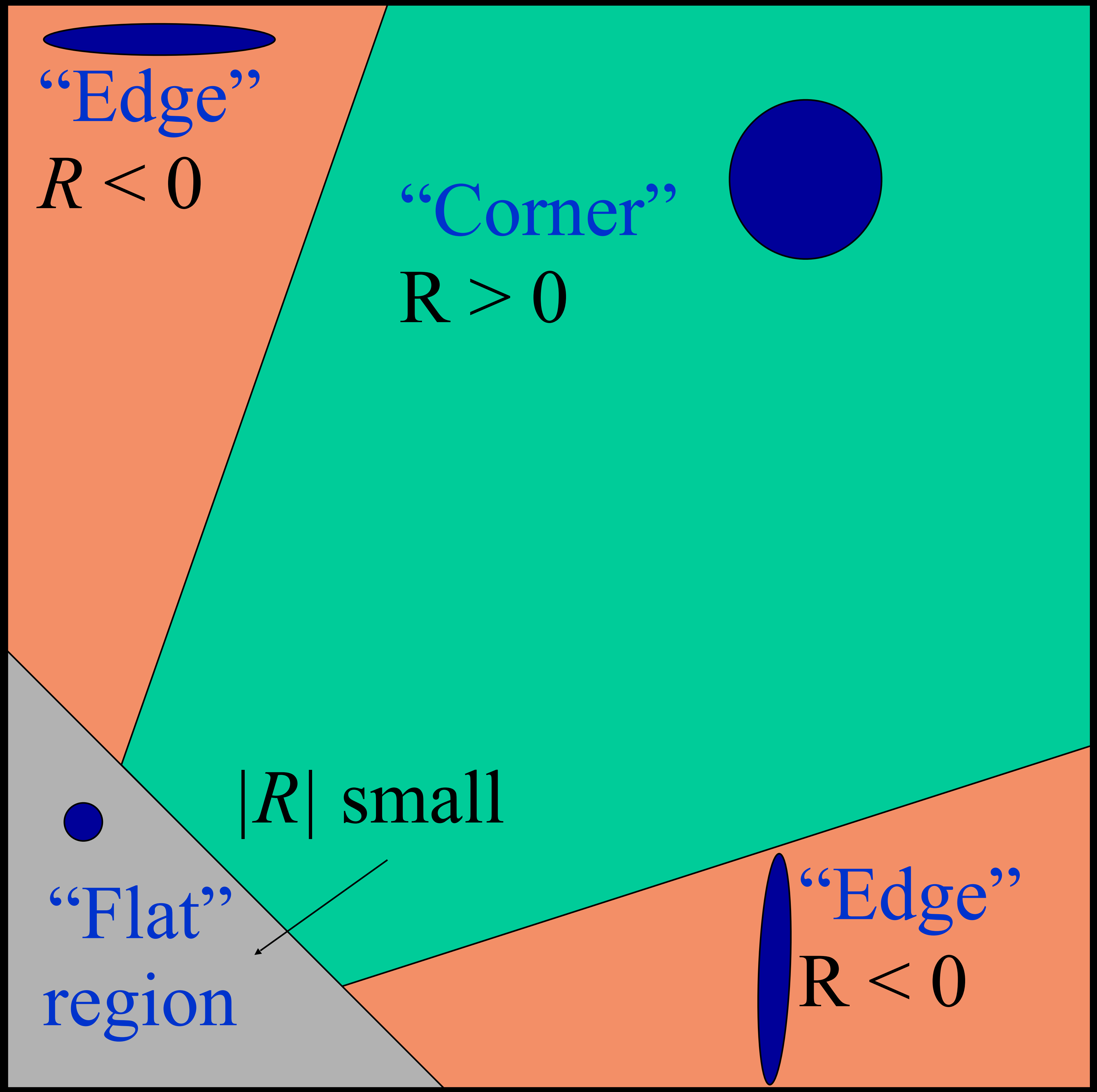
Classification of image points using eigenvalues of *M*:



CORNER RESPONSE FUNCTION

$$R = \det(M) - \alpha\ \mathrm{trace}(M)^2 = \lambda_1\lambda_2 - \alpha(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2$$

α: constant (0.04 to 0.06)



HARRIS CORNER DETECTOR

1) Compute *M* matrix for each image window to get their *cornerness* scores.

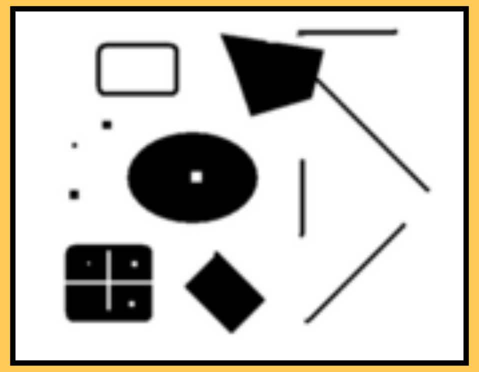
2) Find points whose surrounding window gave large corner response (*f* > threshold)

3) Take the points of local maxima, i.e., perform non-maximum suppression

C.Harris and M.Stephens. "A Combined Corner and Edge Detector." *Proceedings of the 4th Alvey Vision Conference*: pages 147—151, 1988.

Harris Detector [Harris88]

- Second moment matrix

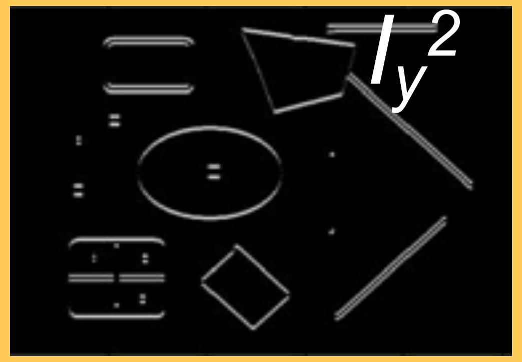


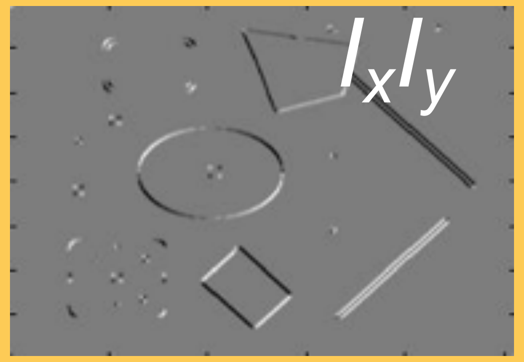
$$\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D) = g(\sigma_I) * \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2(\sigma_D) & I_x I_y(\sigma_D) \\ I_x I_y(\sigma_D) & I_y^2(\sigma_D) \end{bmatrix}$$

1. Image derivatives (optionally, blur first)

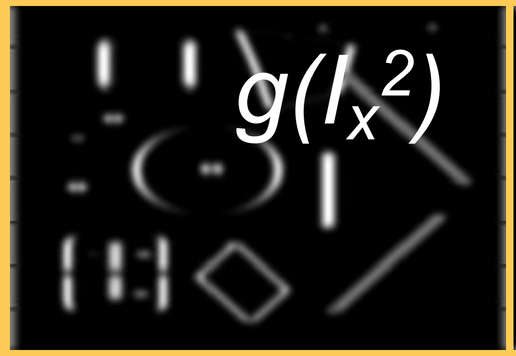
$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$
$$\operatorname{trace} M = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$$

2. Square of derivatives



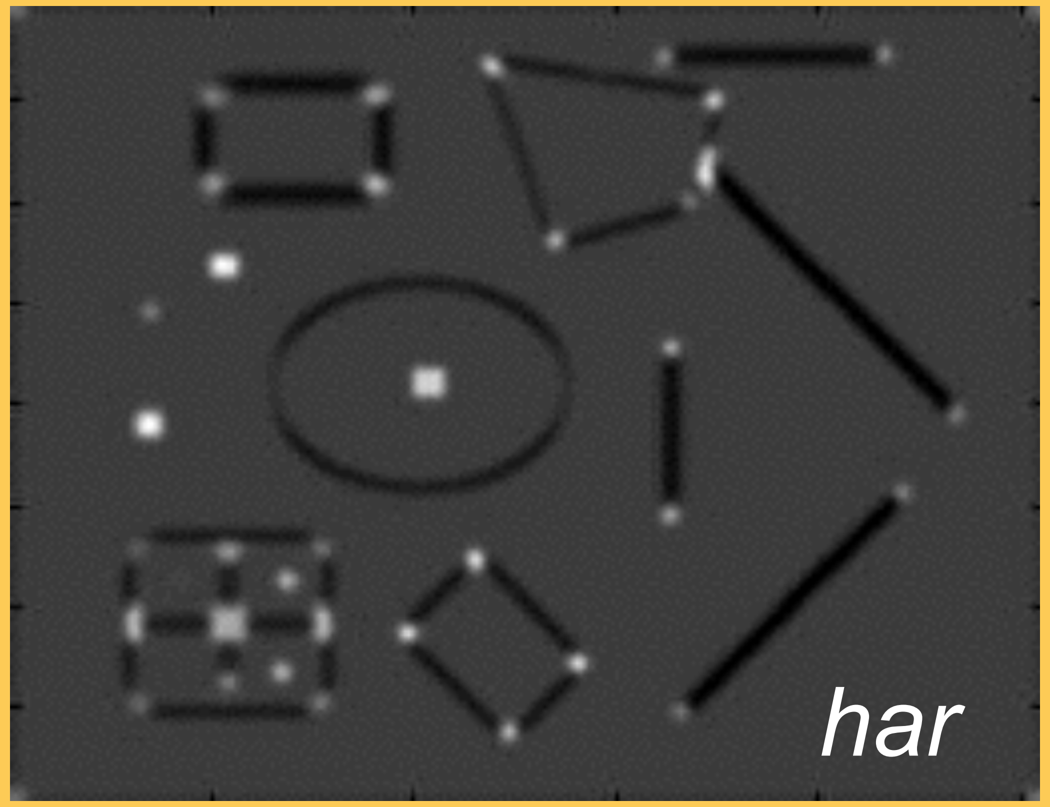


3. Gaussian filter $g(\sigma_I)$



4. Cornerness function – both eigenvalues are strong

$$har = \det[\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D)] - \alpha[\operatorname{trace}(\mu(\sigma_I,\sigma_D))^2] =$$
$$g(I_x^2)g(I_y^2) - [g(I_x I_y)]^2 - \alpha[g(I_x^2) + g(I_y^2)]^2$$

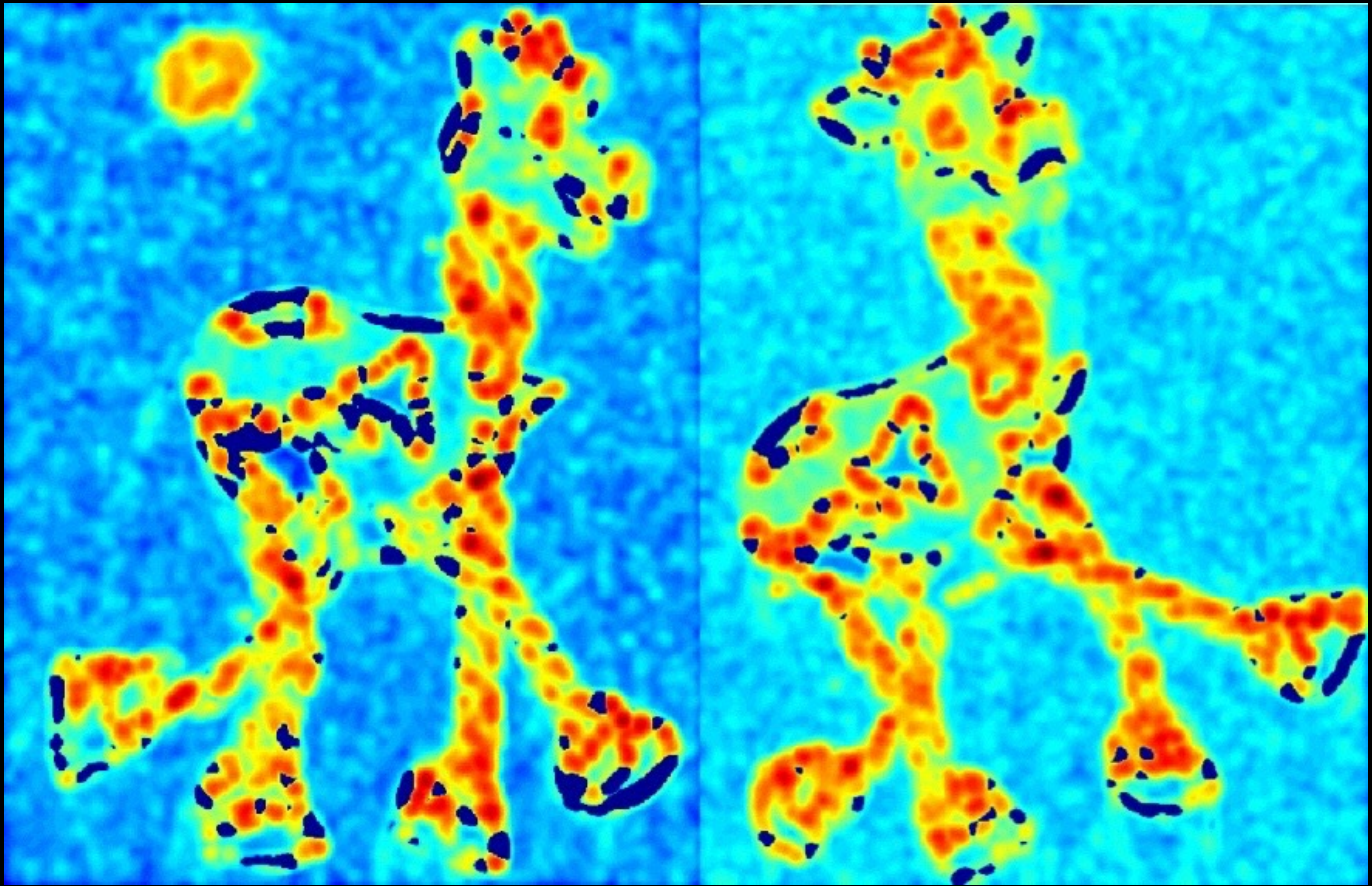


5. Non-maxima suppression

HARRIS DETECTOR: STEPS

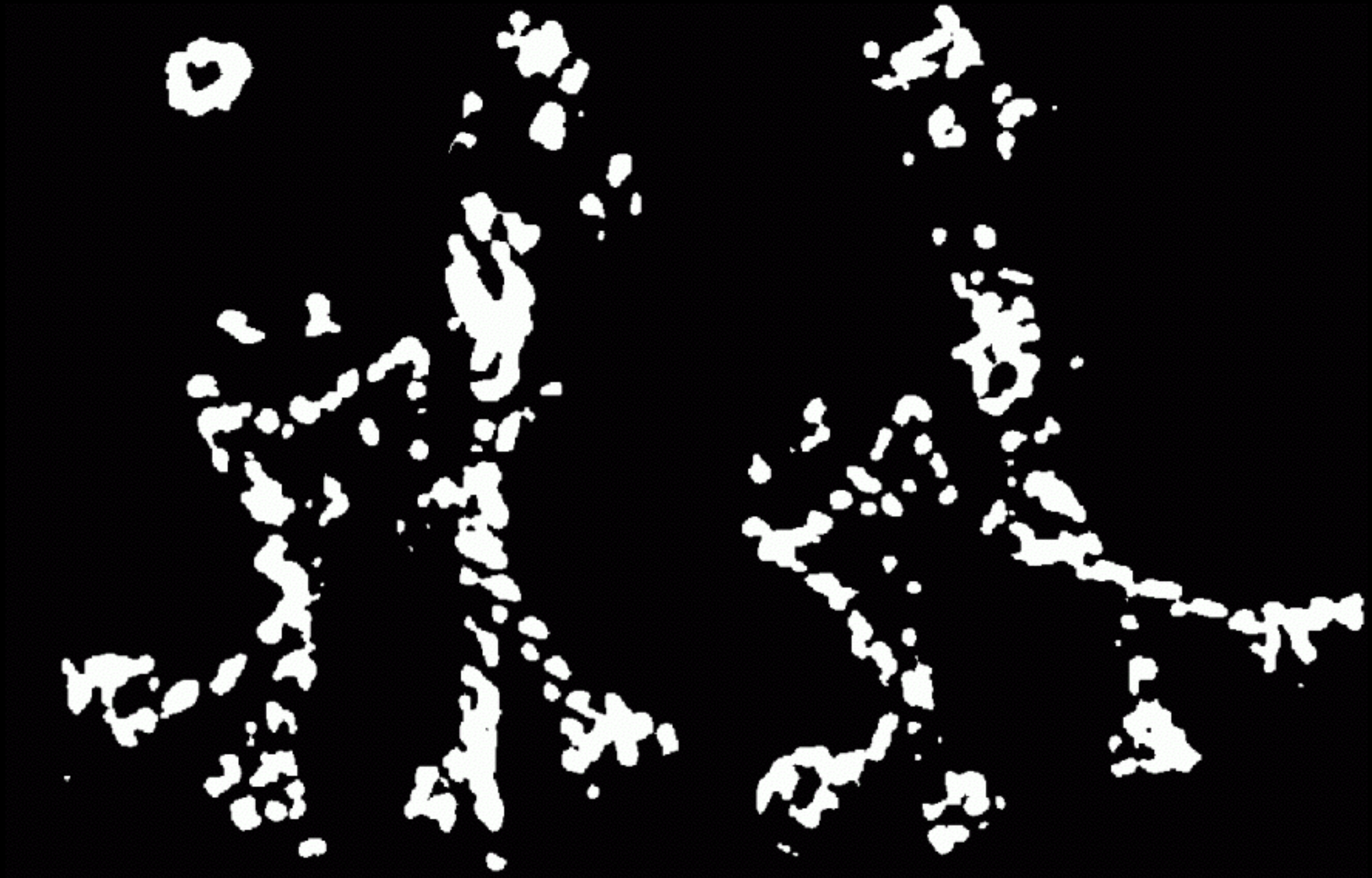
HARRIS DETECTOR: STEPS

Compute corner response R



HARRIS DETECTOR: STEPS

Find points with large corner response: R>threshold



HARRIS DETECTOR: STEPS

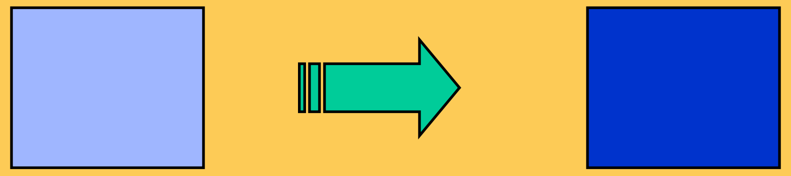
Take only the points of local maxima of R

HARRIS DETECTOR: STEPS

INVARIANCE AND COVARIANCE

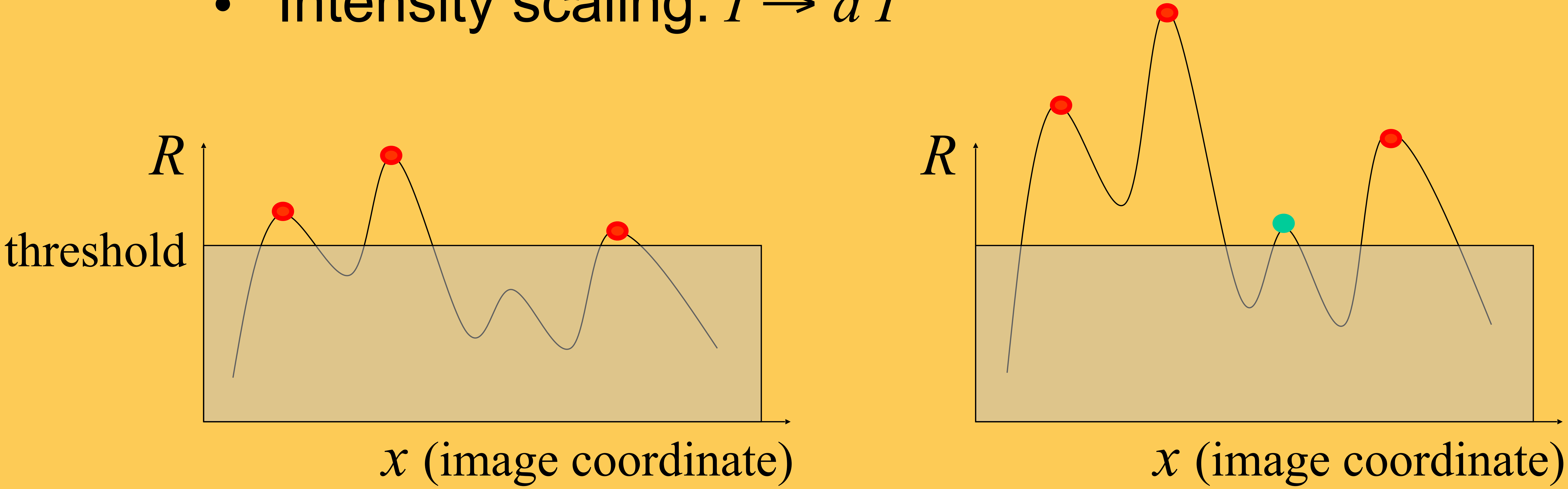
- We want corner locations to be *invariant* to photometric transformations and *covariant* to geometric transformations
  - **Invariance:** image is transformed and corner locations do not change
  - **Covariance:** if we have two transformed versions of the same image, features should be detected in corresponding locations

AFFINE INTENSITY CHANGE



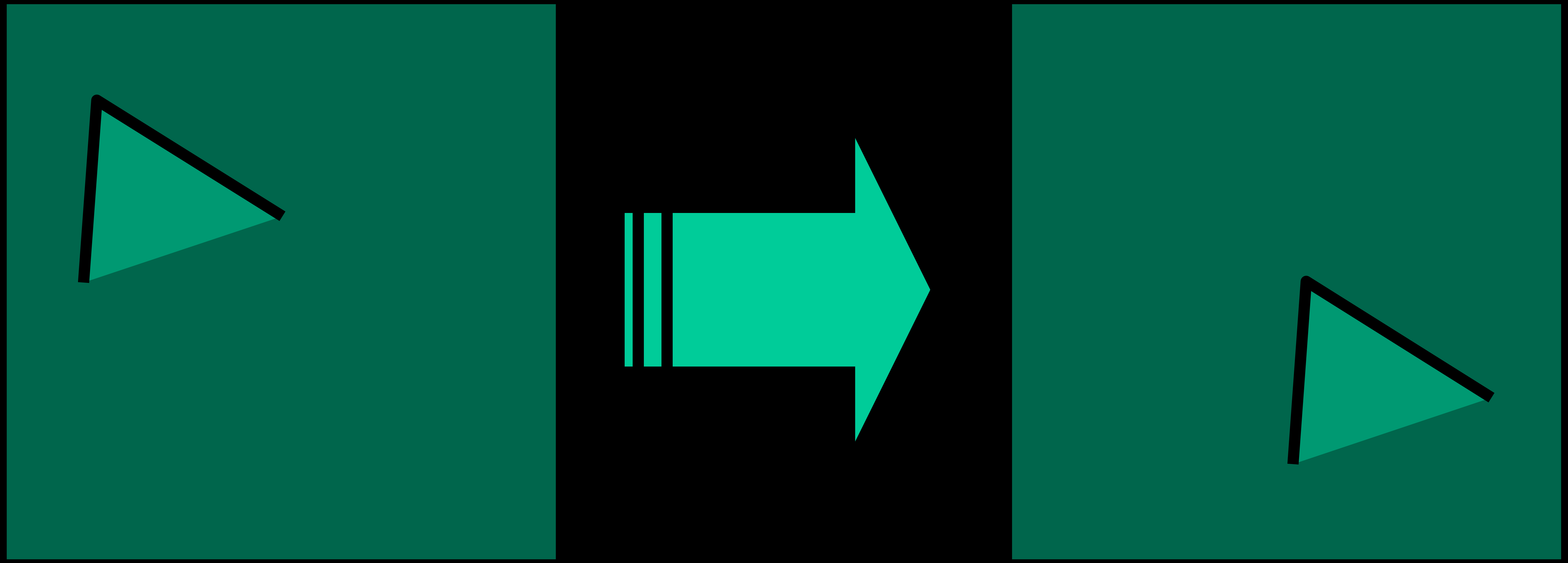
$$I \rightarrow a\,I + b$$

- Only derivatives are used => invariance to intensity shift $I \rightarrow I + b$
- Intensity scaling: $I \rightarrow a\,I$



Partially invariant to affine intensity change

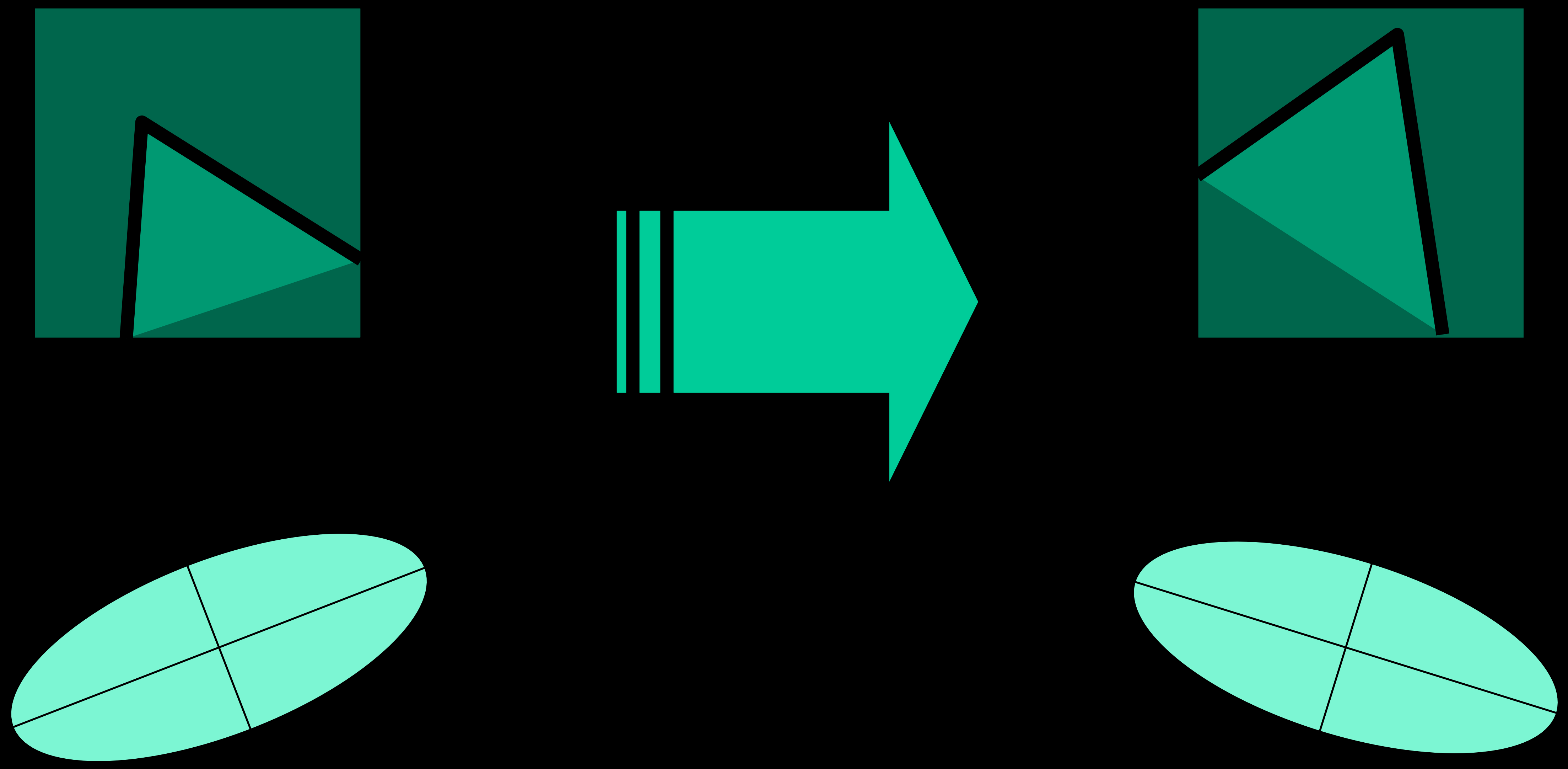
IMAGE TRANSLATION



- Derivatives and window function are shift-invariant

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. translation

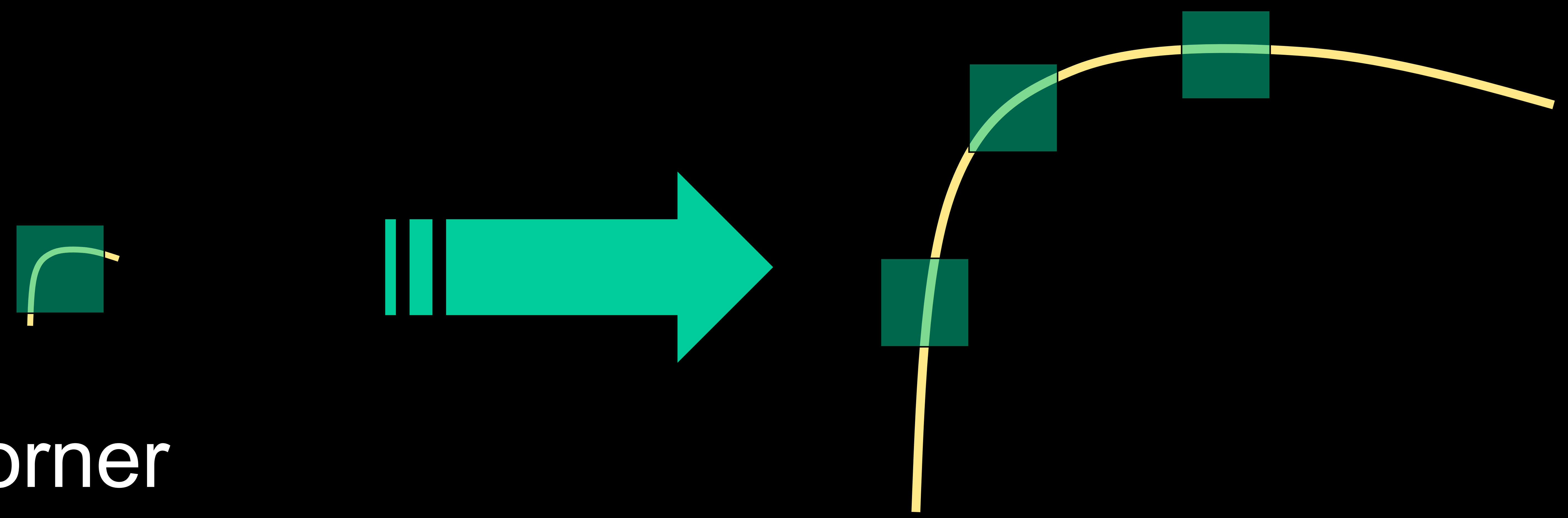
IMAGE ROTATION



Second moment ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. rotation

SCALING



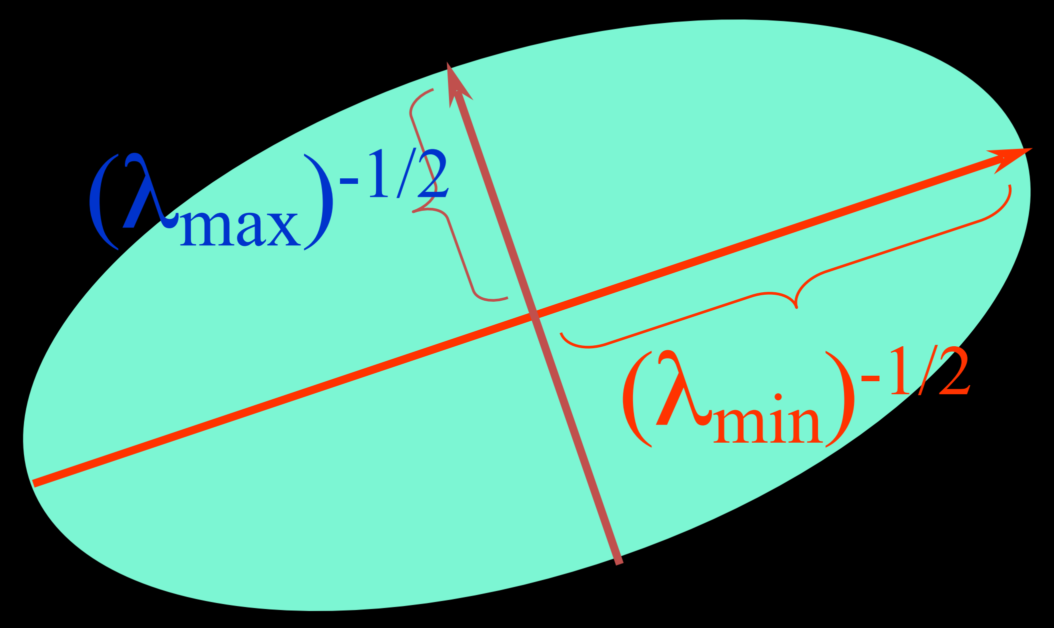
Corner

All points will be classified as edges

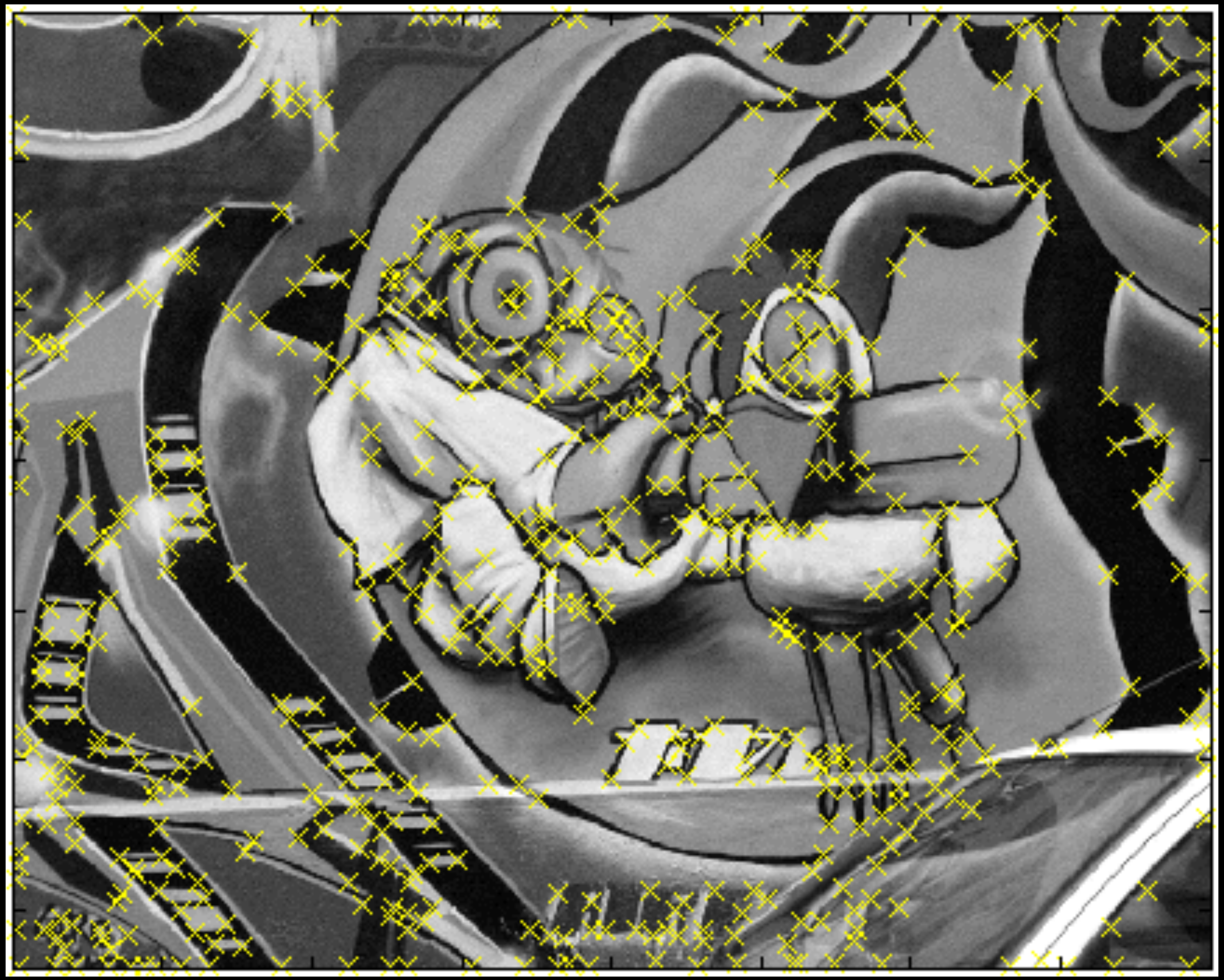
Corner location is not covariant to scaling!

REVIEW: HARRIS CORNER DETECTOR

- Approximate distinctiveness by local auto-correlation.
- Approximate local auto-correlation by second moment matrix
- Quantify distinctiveness (or cornerness) as function of the eigenvalues of the second moment matrix.
- But we don't actually need to compute the eigenvalues by using the determinant and trace of the second moment matrix.



SO FAR: CAN LOCALIZE IN X-Y, BUT NOT SCALE



AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION

$$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma)) = f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$$

How to find corresponding patch sizes?

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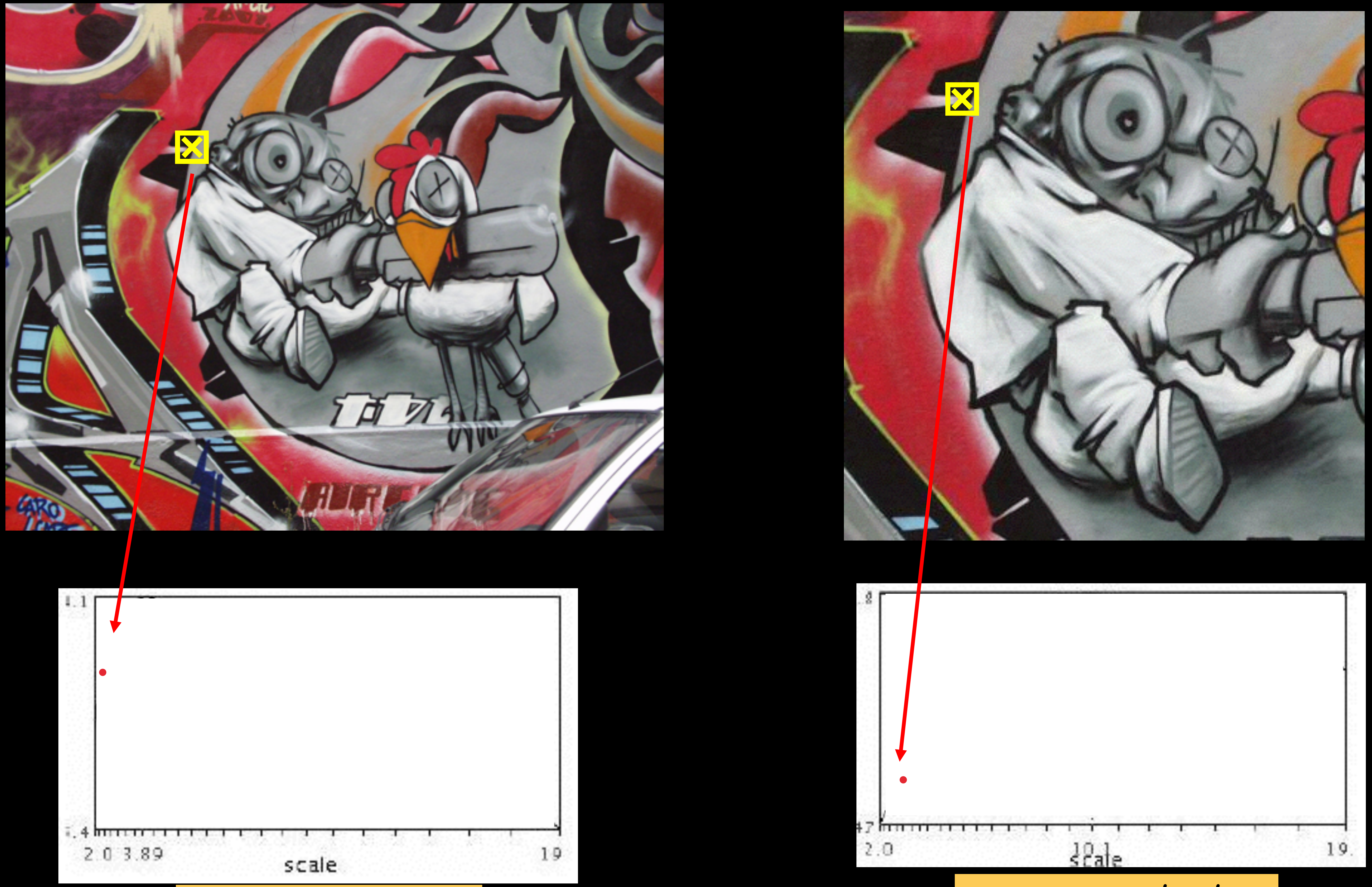
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$ $\quad$ $f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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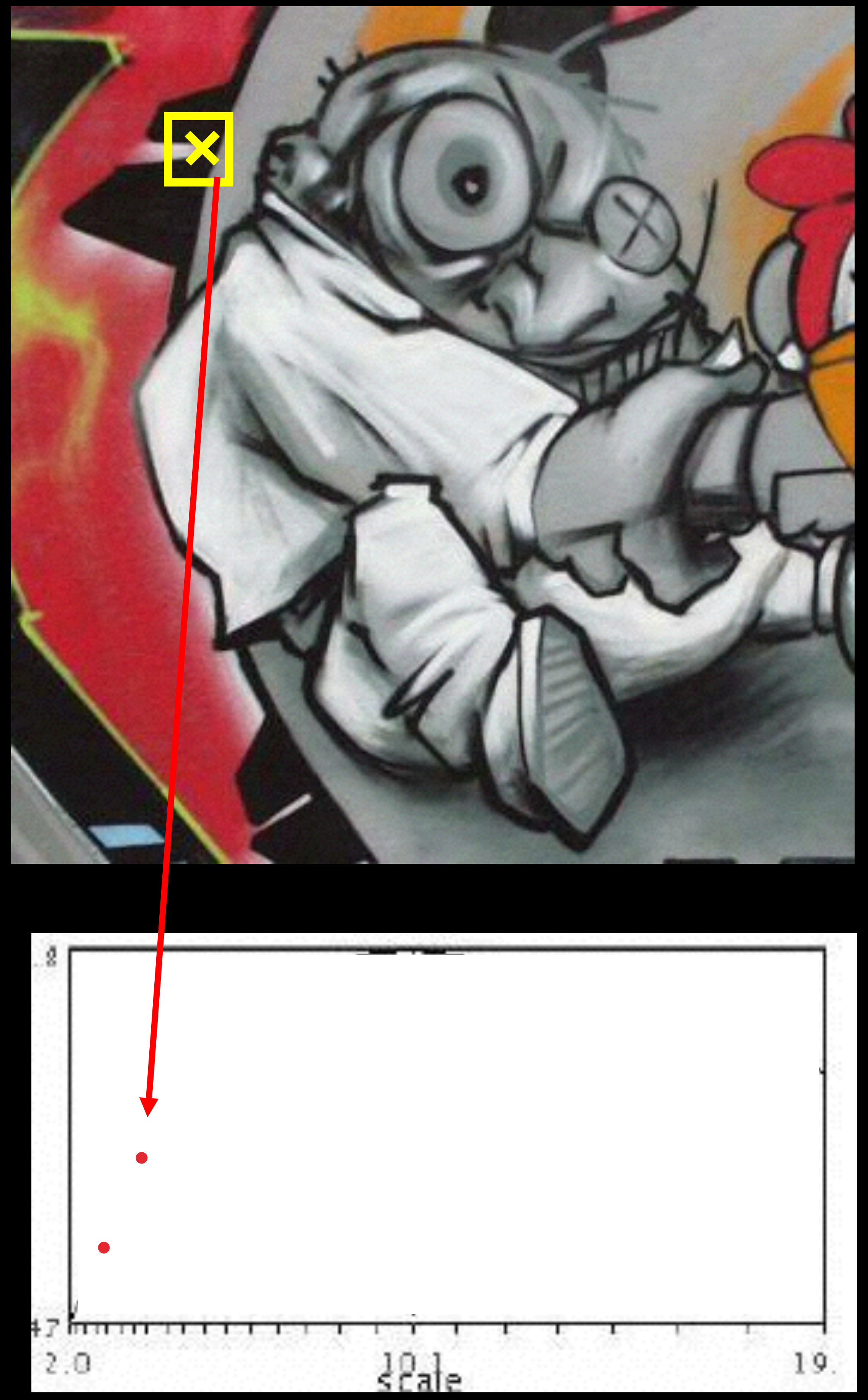
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION

$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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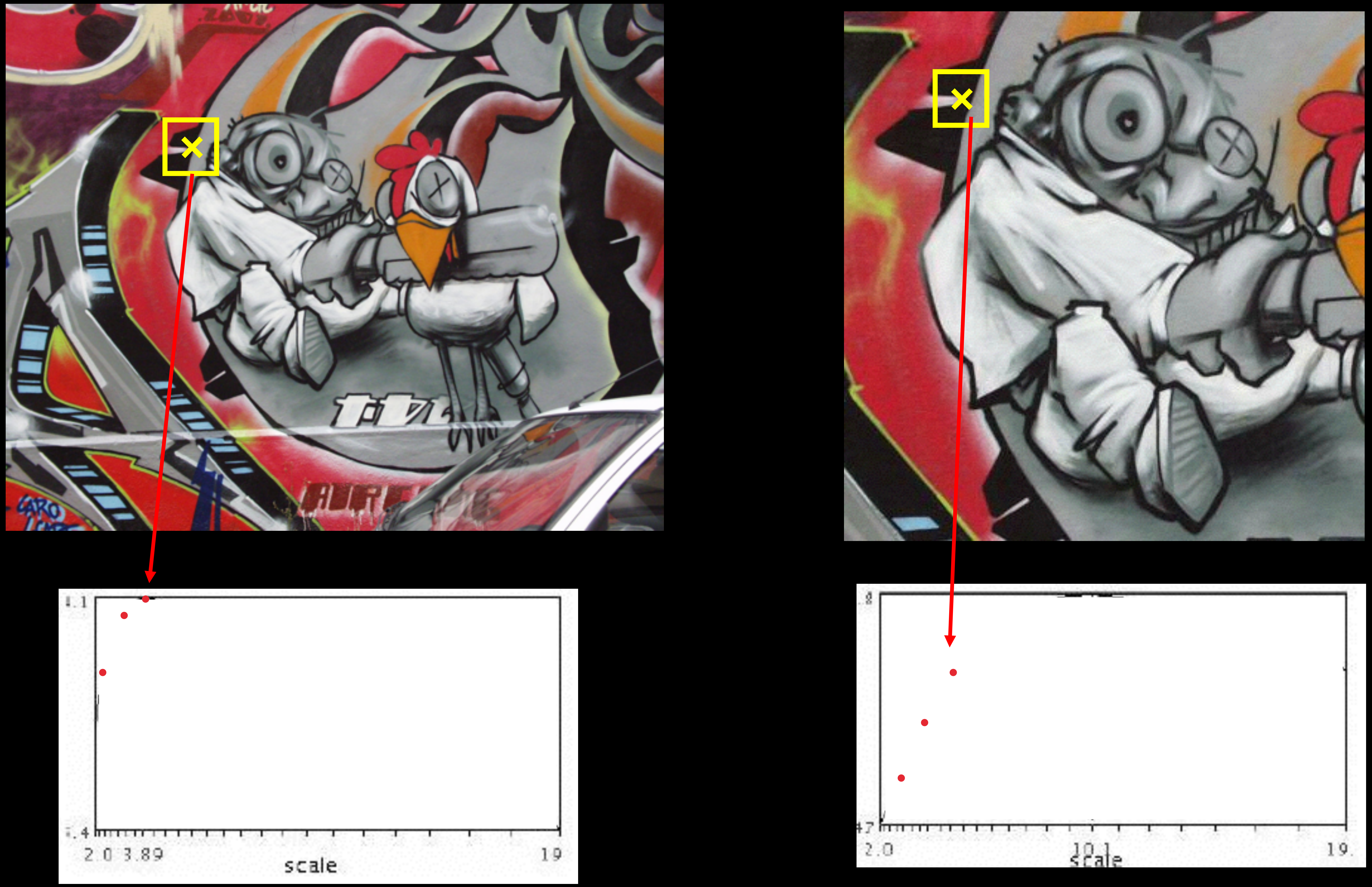
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$

$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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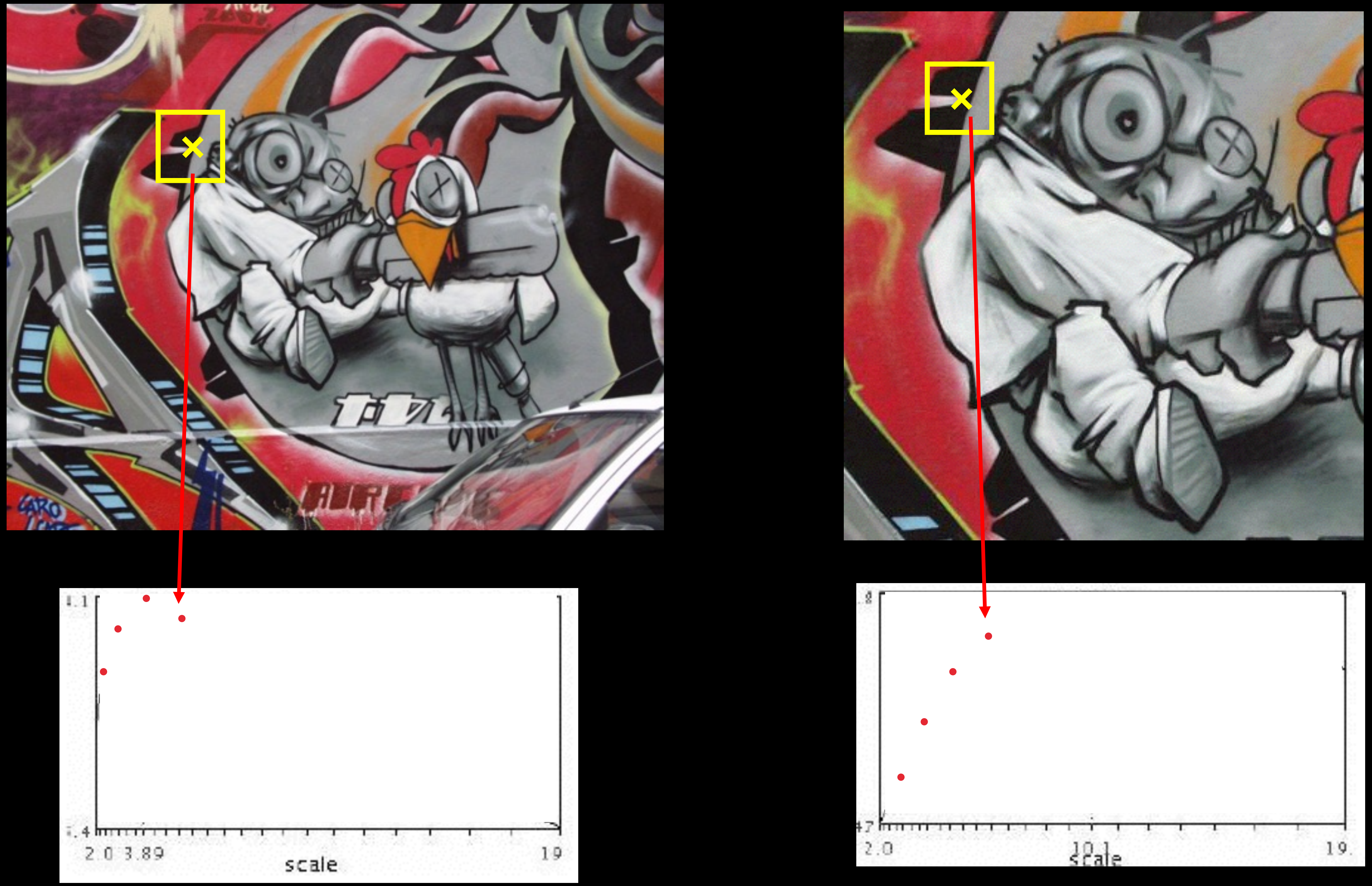
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$

$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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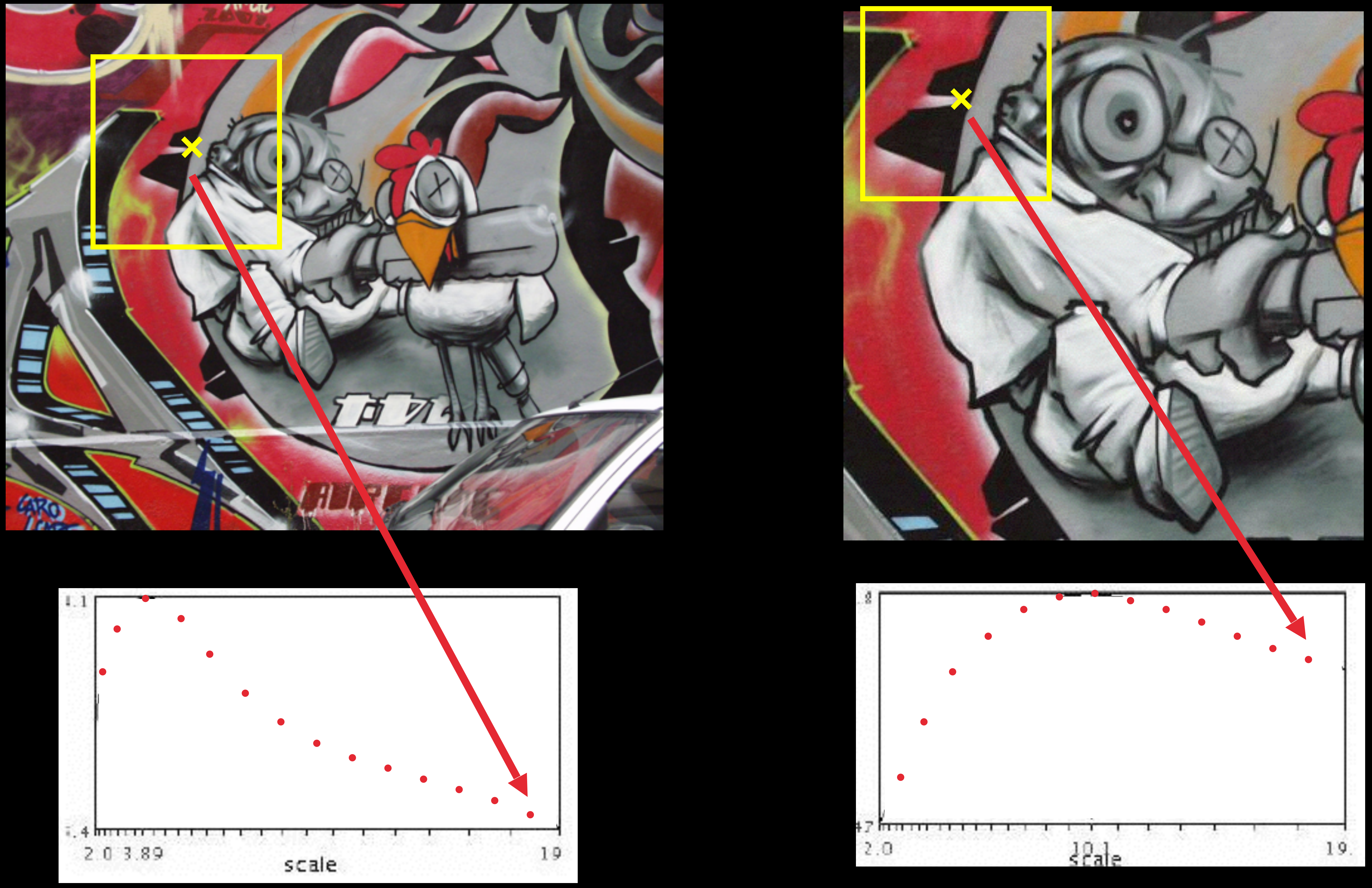
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$

$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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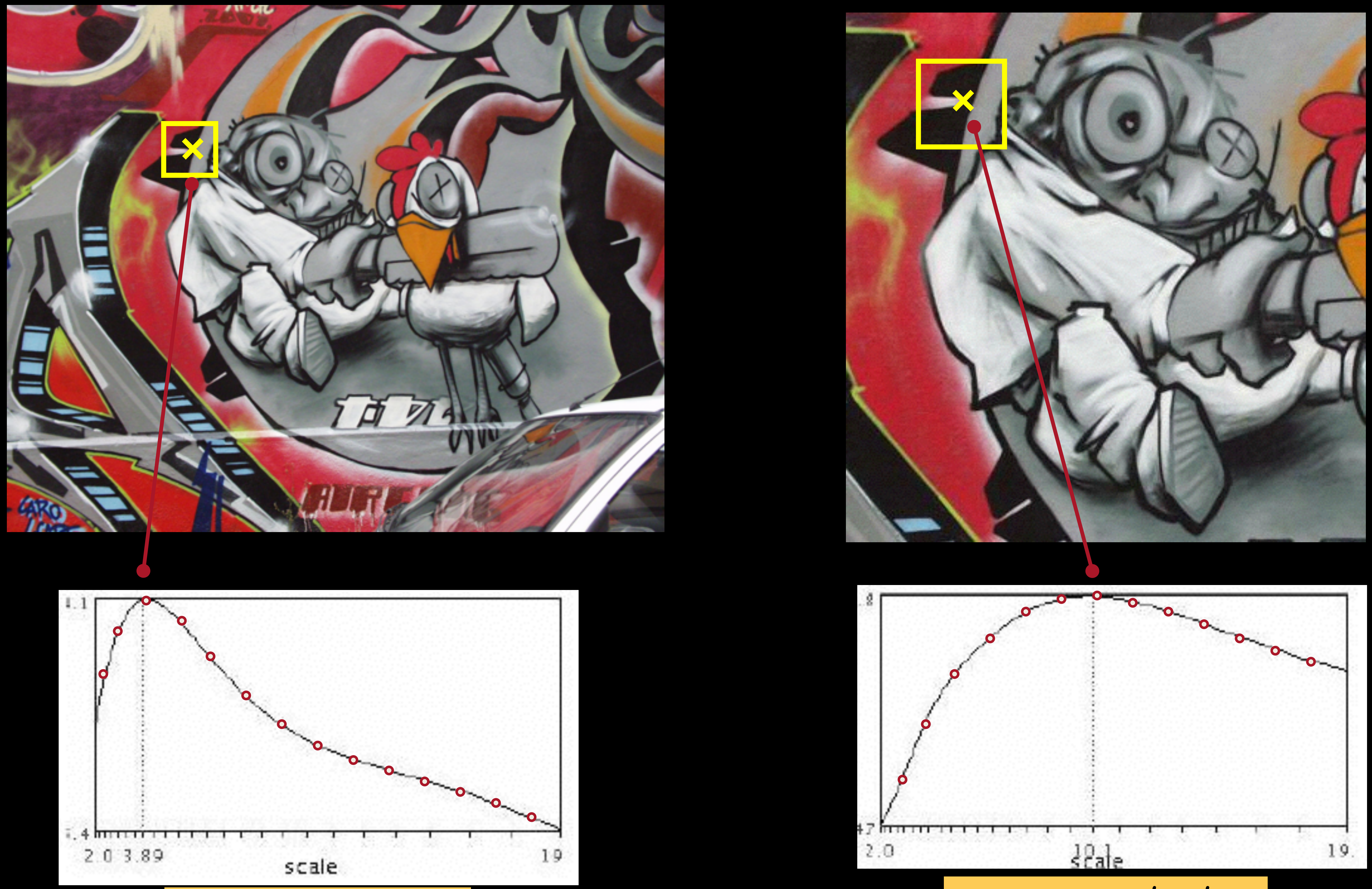
AUTOMATIC SCALE SELECTION

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$

$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$

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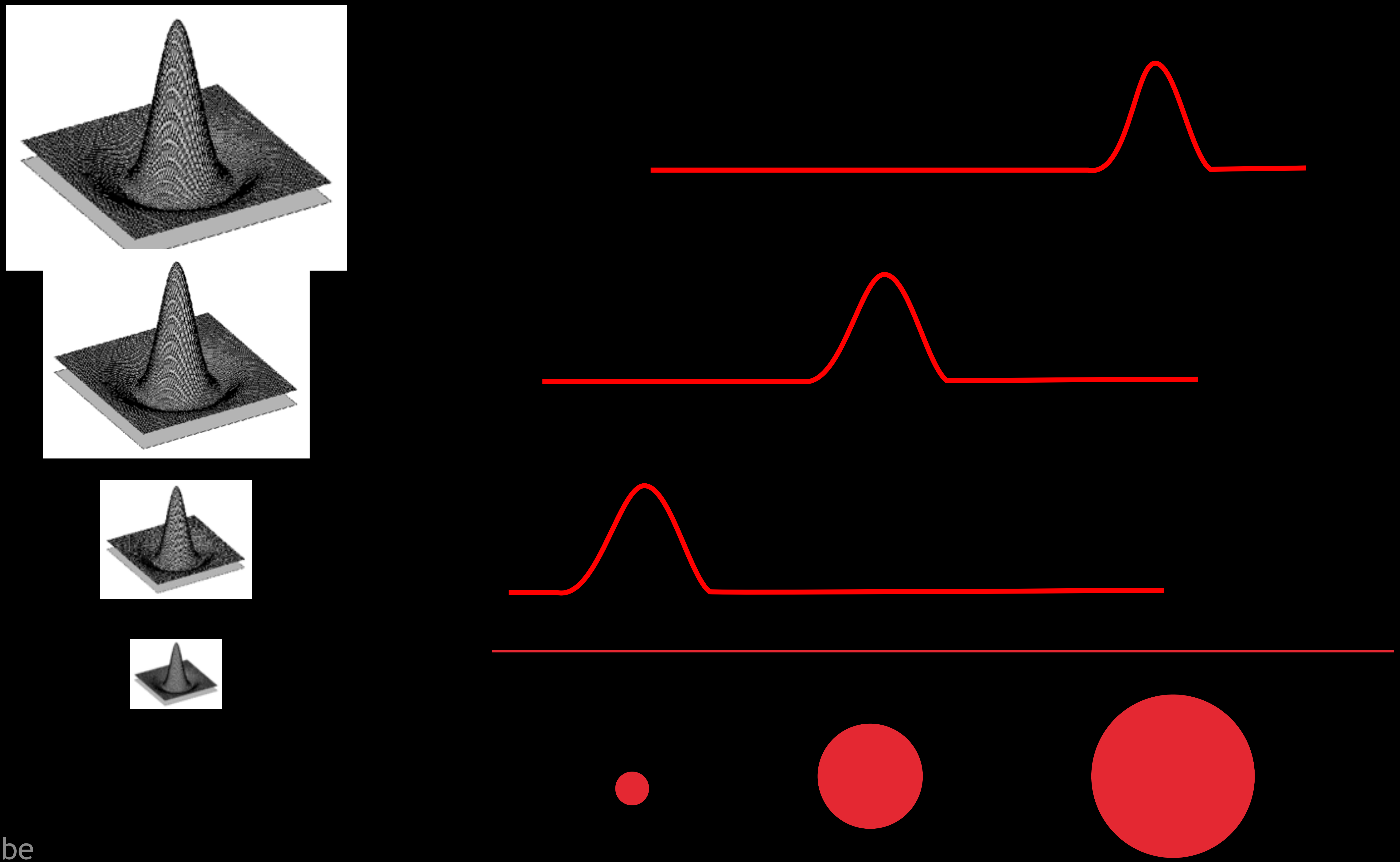
WHAT IS A USEFUL SIGNATURE FUNCTION?

- Laplacian-of-Gaussian = “blob” detector



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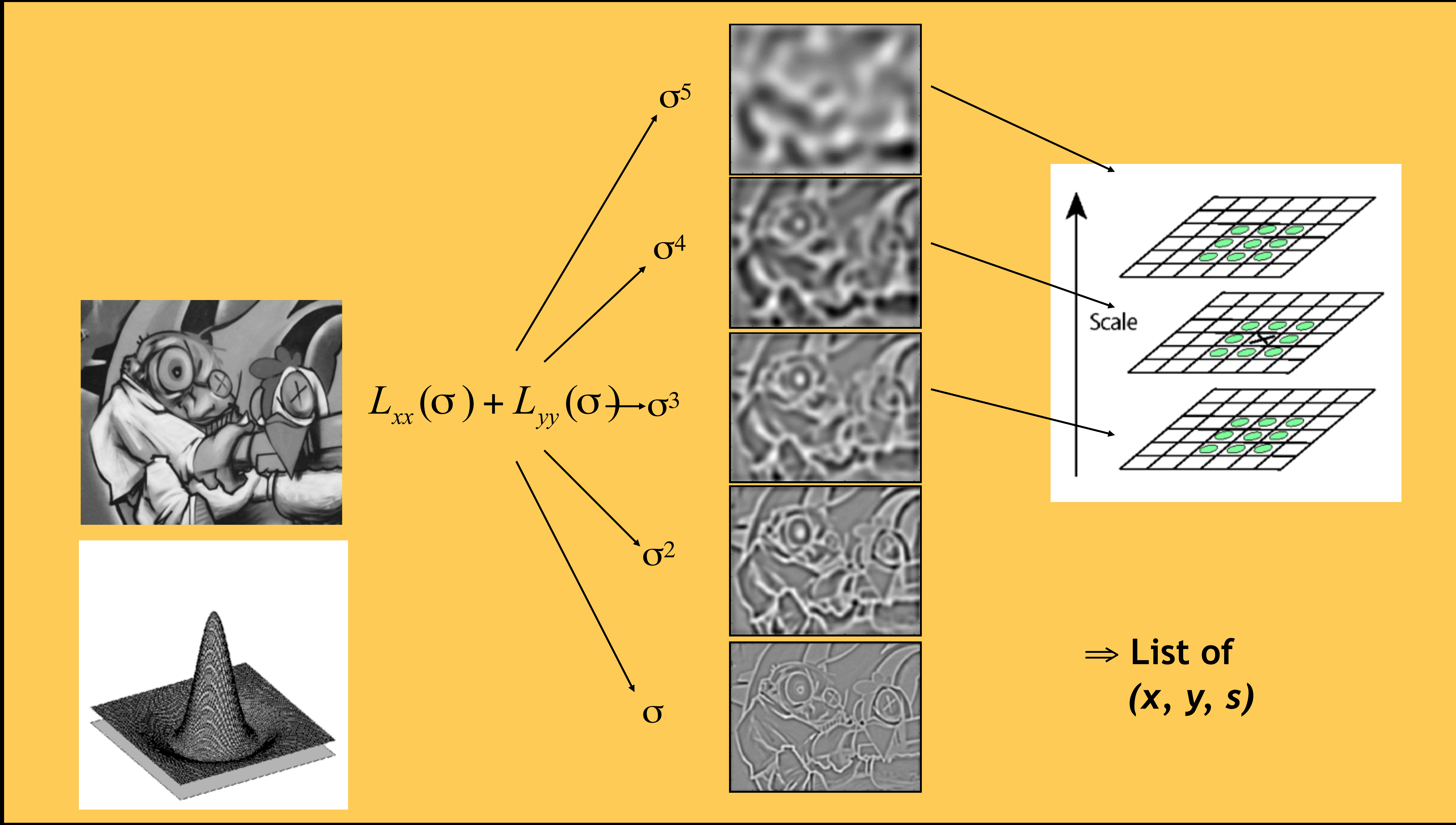
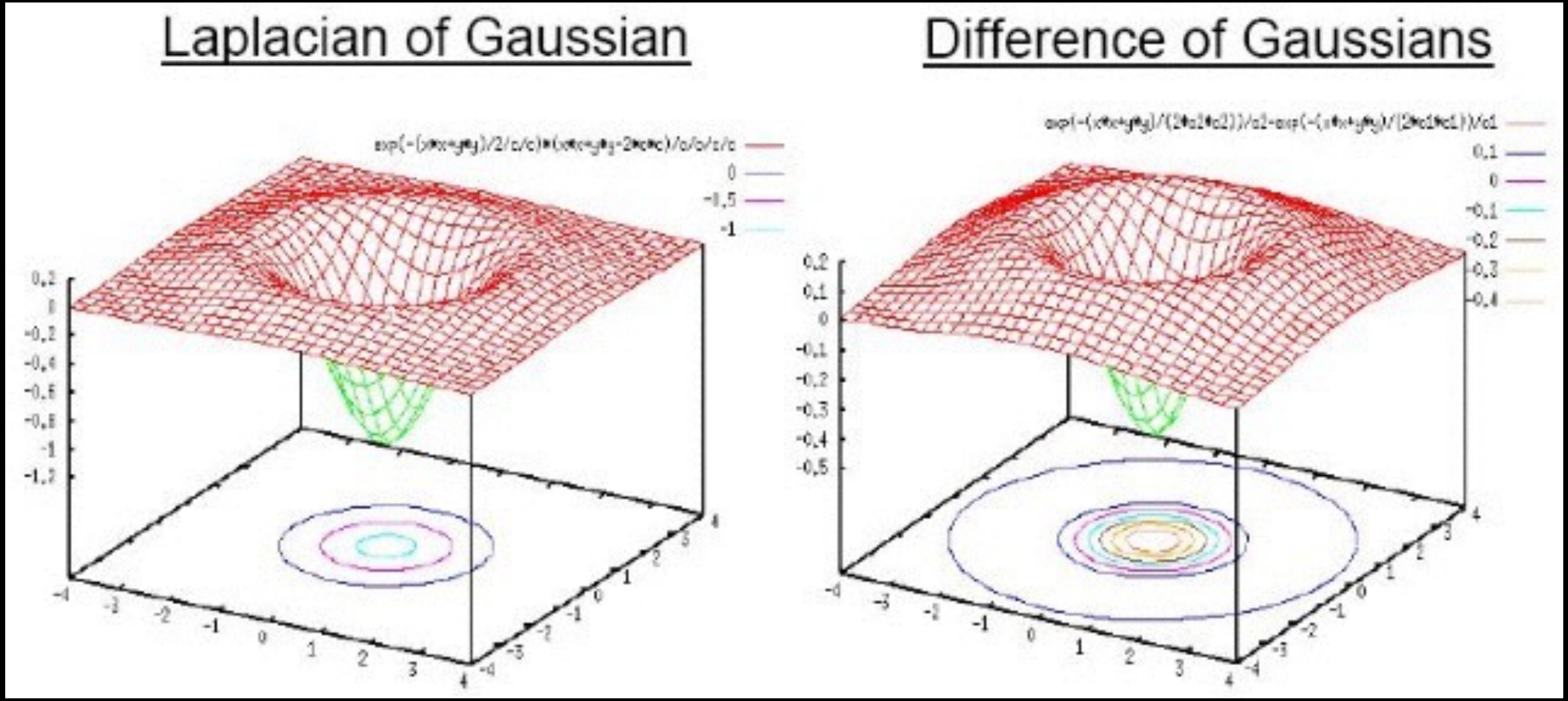
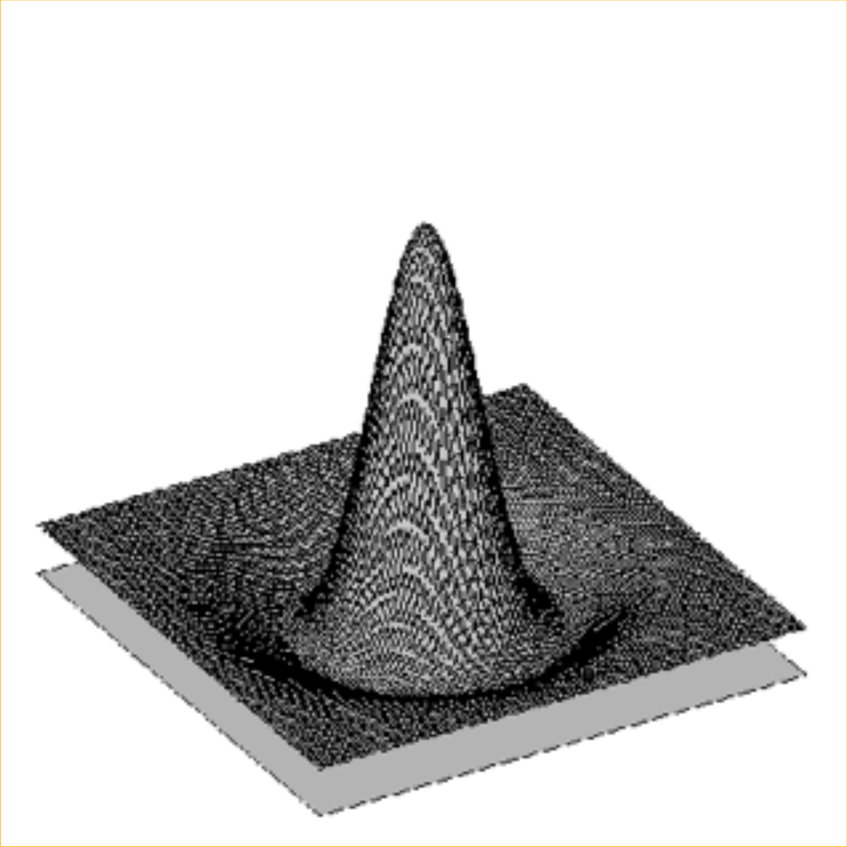
FIND LOCAL MAXIMA IN POSITION–SCALE SPACE

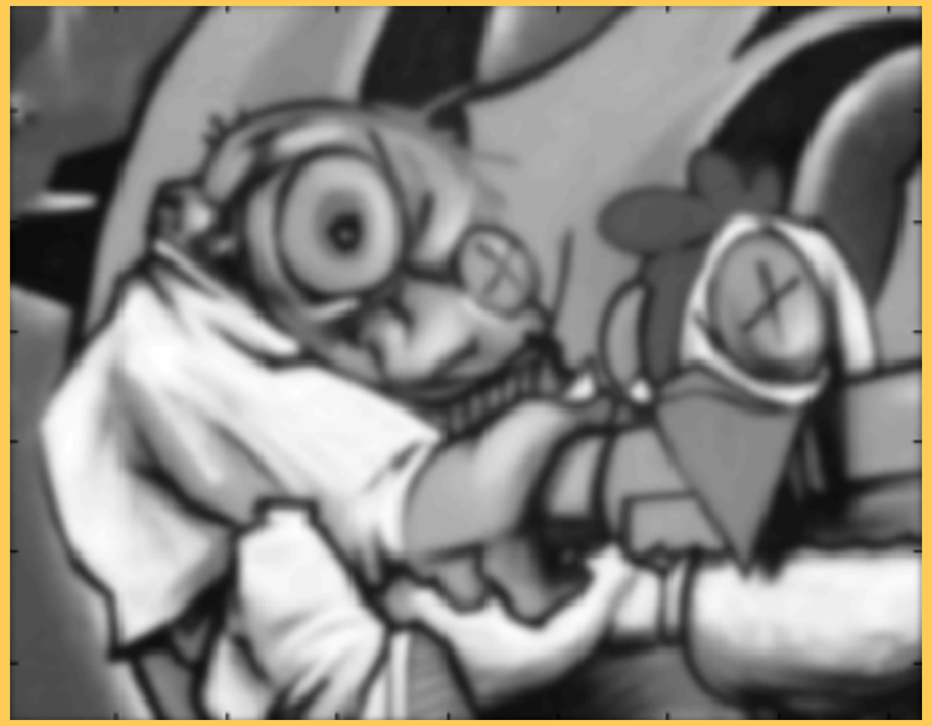


DIFFERENCE-OF-GAUSSIAN (DOG)



DIFFERENCE-OF-GAUSSIAN (DOG)





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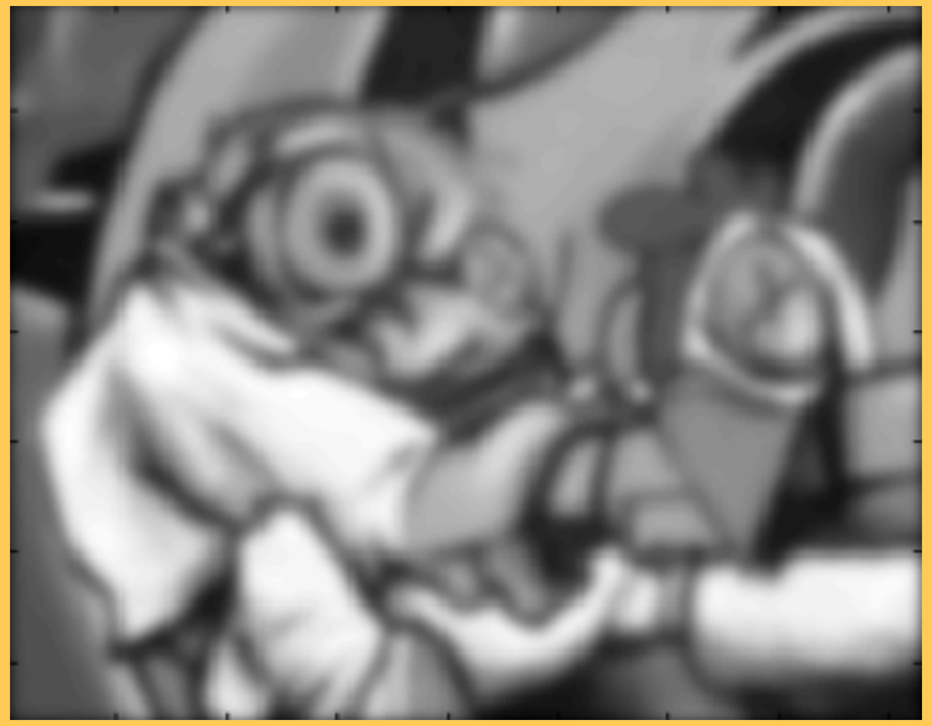

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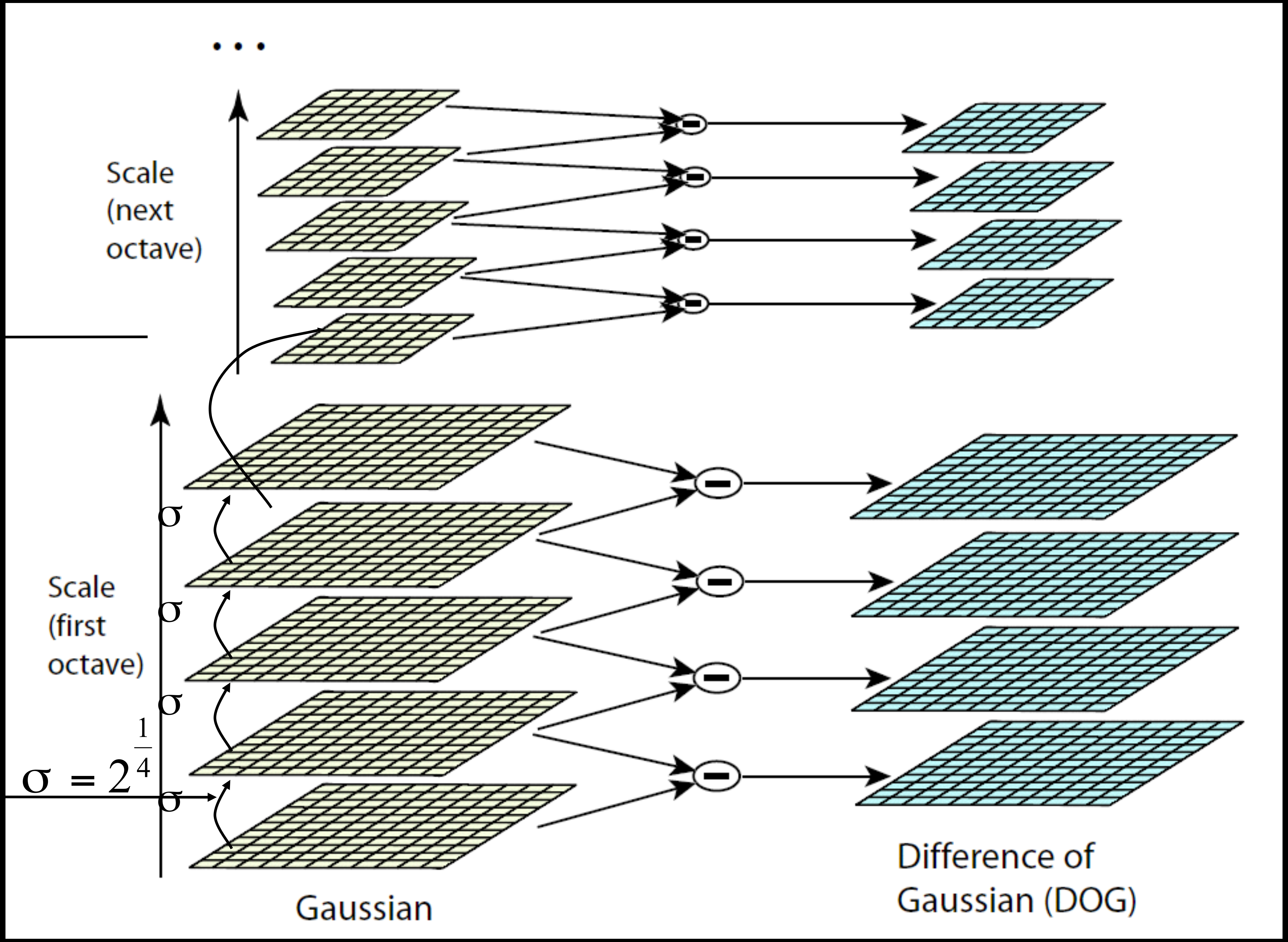
DOG – EFFICIENT COMPUTATION

- Computation in Gaussian scale pyramid



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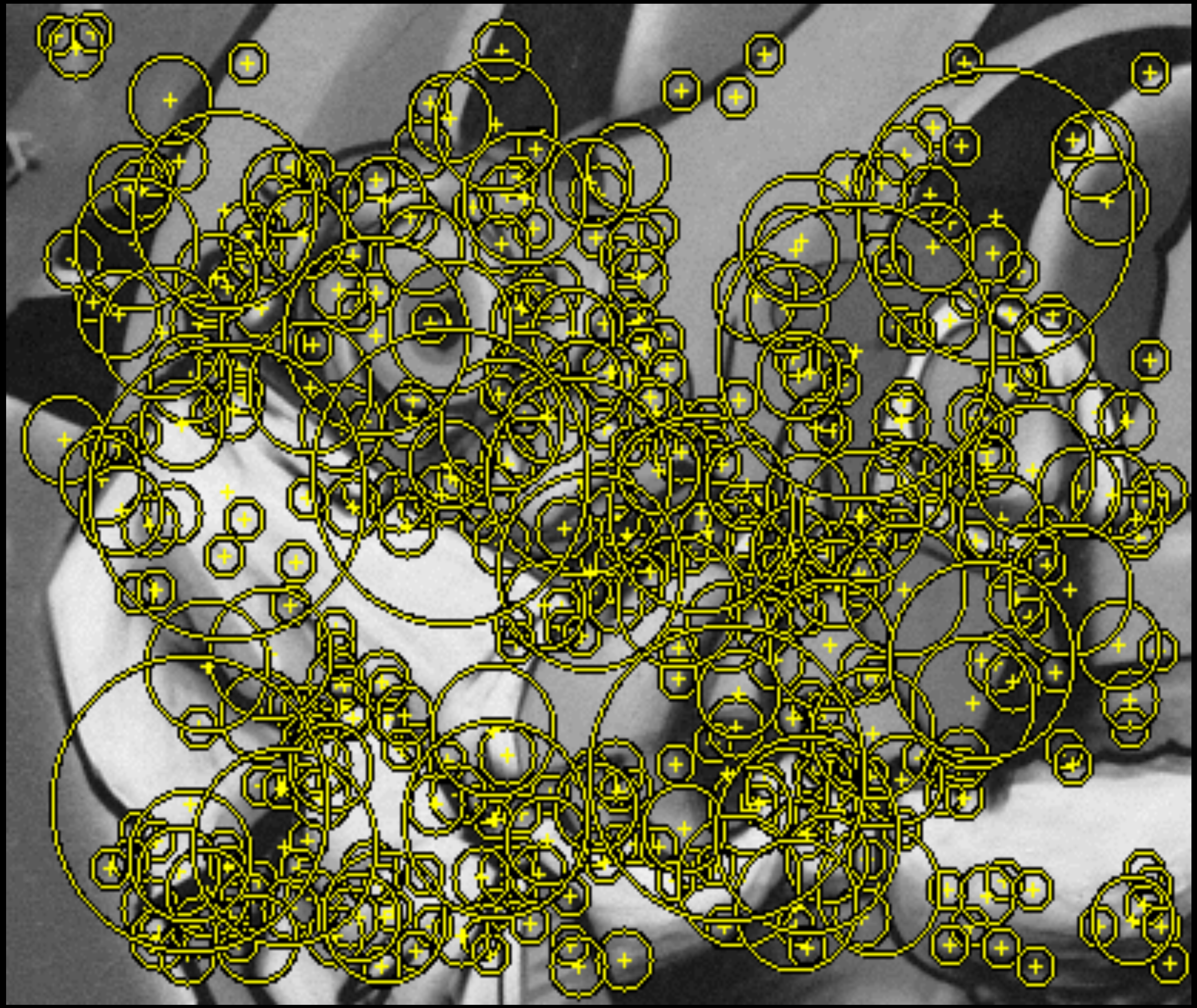
RESULTS: DIFFERENCE-OF-GAUSSIAN



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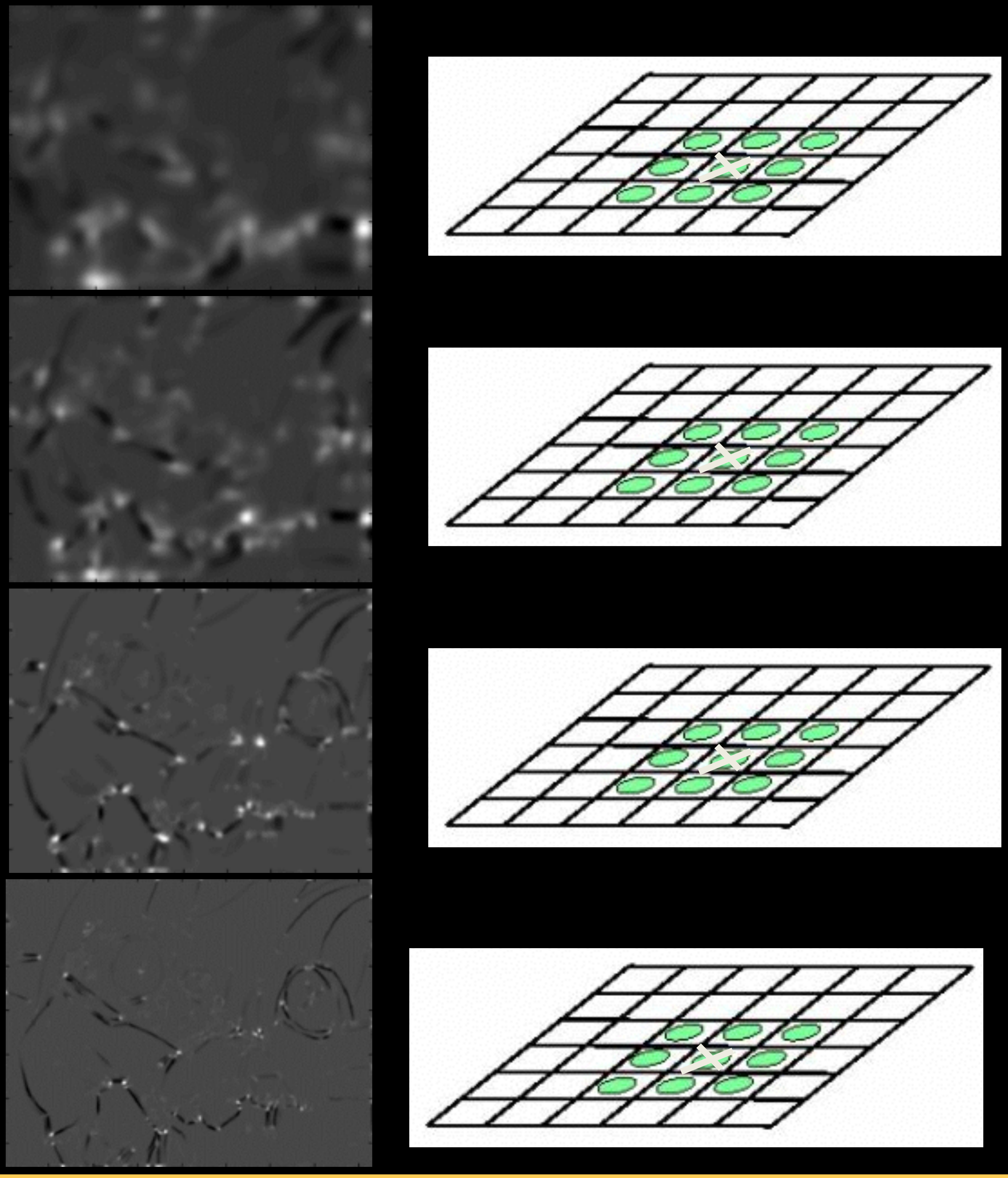
HARRIS-LAPLACE [MIKOLAJCZYK '01]

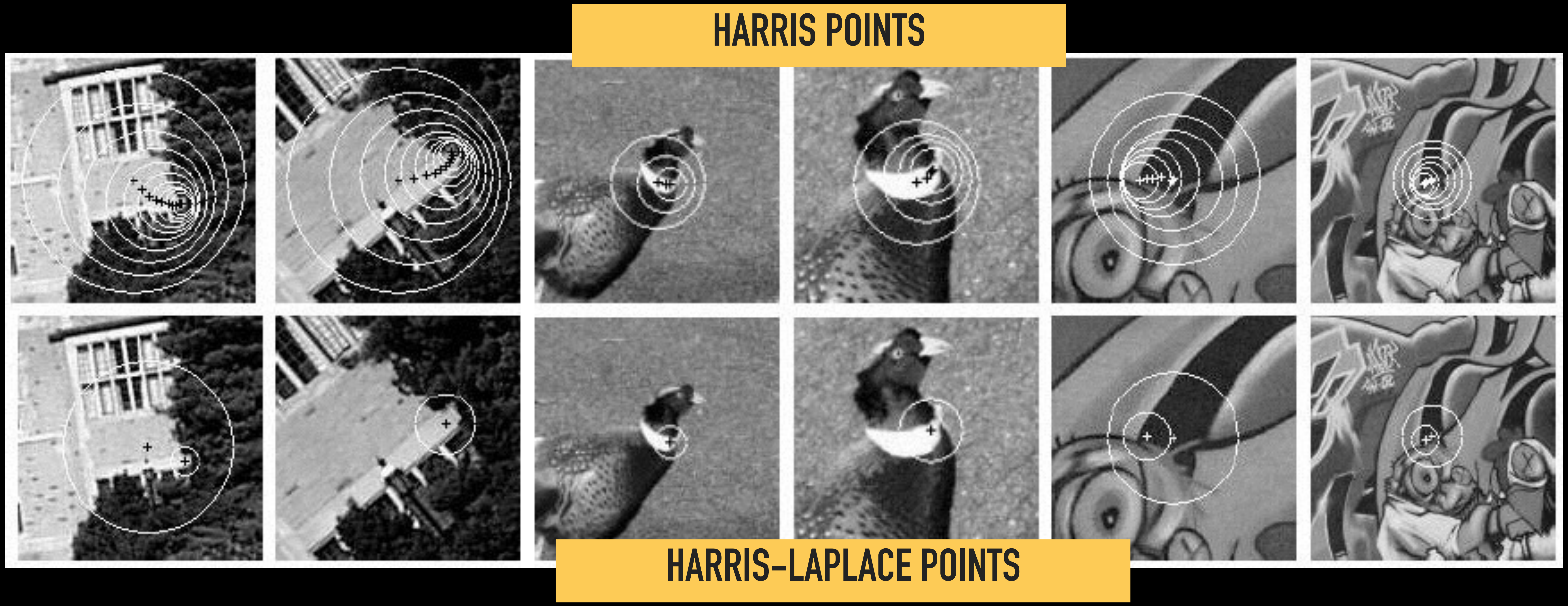
1. Initialization: Multiscale Harris corner detection



COMPUTING HARRIS FUNCTION DETECTING LOCAL MAXIMA

HARRIS-LAPLACE [MIKOLAJCZYK '01]

1. Initialization: Multiscale Harris corner detection
2. Scale selection based on Laplacian
   (same procedure with Hessian ⇒ Hessian-Laplace)



MAXIMALLY STABLE EXTREMAL REGIONS [MATAS '02]

- Based on Watershed segmentation algorithm
- Select regions that stay stable over a large parameter range

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TEXT

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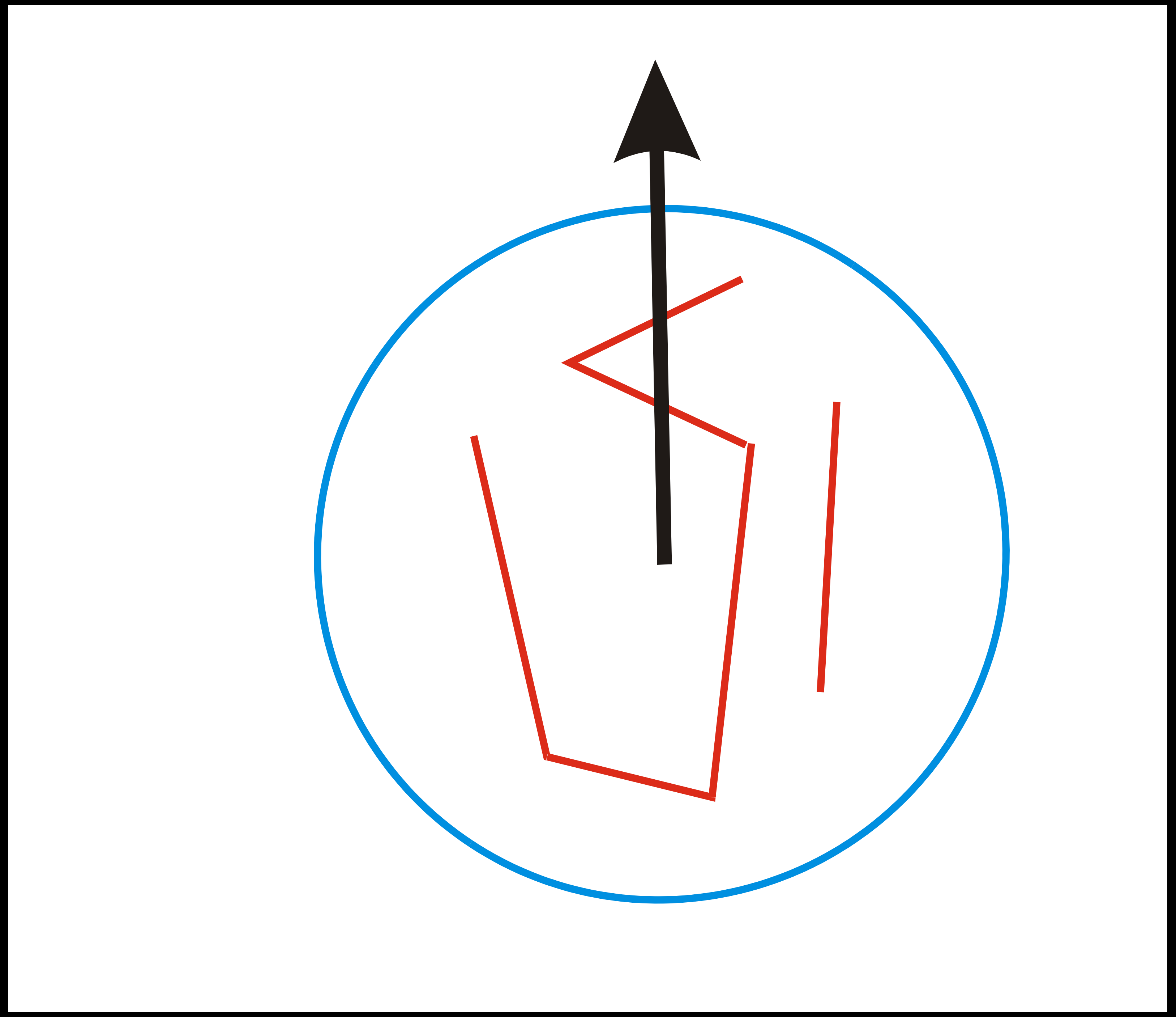
ORIENTATION NORMALIZATION

- Compute orientation histogram
- Select dominant orientation
- Normalize: rotate to fixed orientation

[LOWE, SIFT, 1999]



AVAILABLE AT A WEB SITE NEAR YOU…

- For most local feature detectors, executables are available online:
  - http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine
  - http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~lowe/keypoints/
  - http://www.vision.ee.ethz.ch/~surf