

# Epipolar Geometry and Stereo Vision

Computer Vision

CS 543 / ECE 549

University of Illinois

Derek Hoiem

# HW 3 is back

## Stats

- HW1: mean= 93, quartile= 91, median= 97
- HW2: mean= 89, quartile= 86, median= 96
- HW3: mean= 94, quartile= 89, median= 99

## Summary

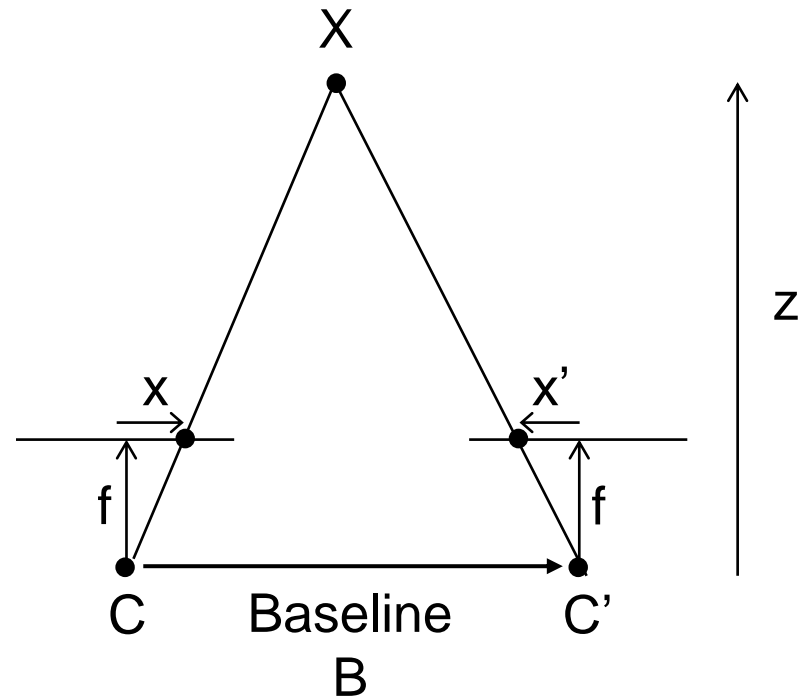
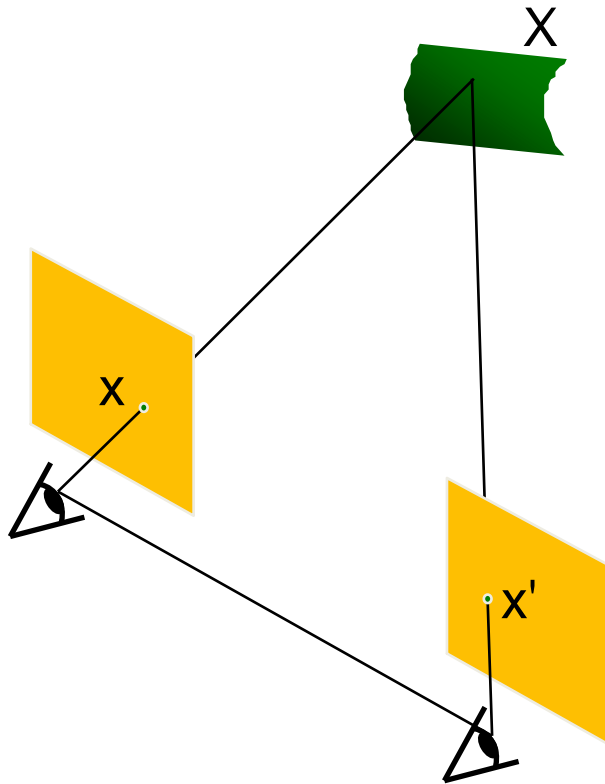
- Most homeworks were basically correct
- Problem 1b:  $u_2$ ,  $v_2$  need to account for scale and orientation
- Problem 1c: main causes of error were perspective and multiple objects
- Problem 3: some extra credit possible
- Problem 4: sometimes wanted more detail

# This class: Two-View Geometry

- Epipolar geometry
  - Relates cameras from two views
- Stereo depth estimation
  - Recover depth from two images

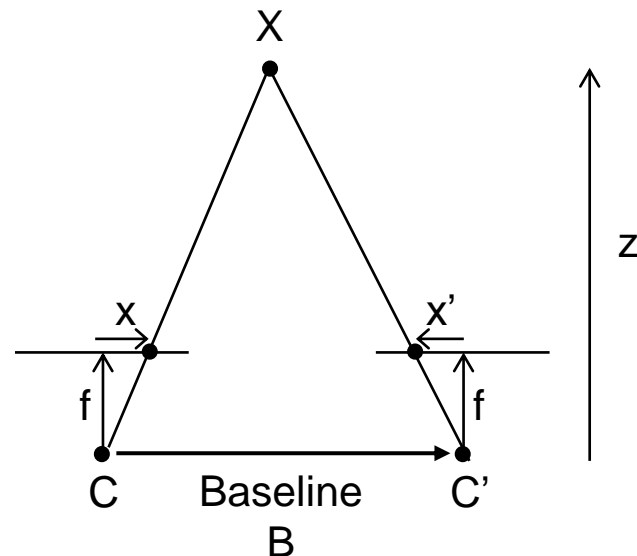
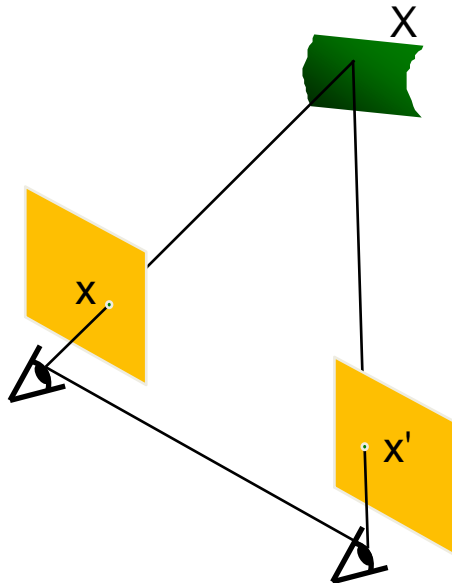
# Depth from Stereo

- Goal: recover depth by finding image coordinate  $x'$  that corresponds to  $x$



# Depth from Stereo

- Goal: recover depth by finding image coordinate  $x'$  that corresponds to  $x$
- Problems
  - Calibration: How do we recover the relation of the cameras (if not already known)?
  - Correspondence: How do we search for the matching point  $x'$ ?

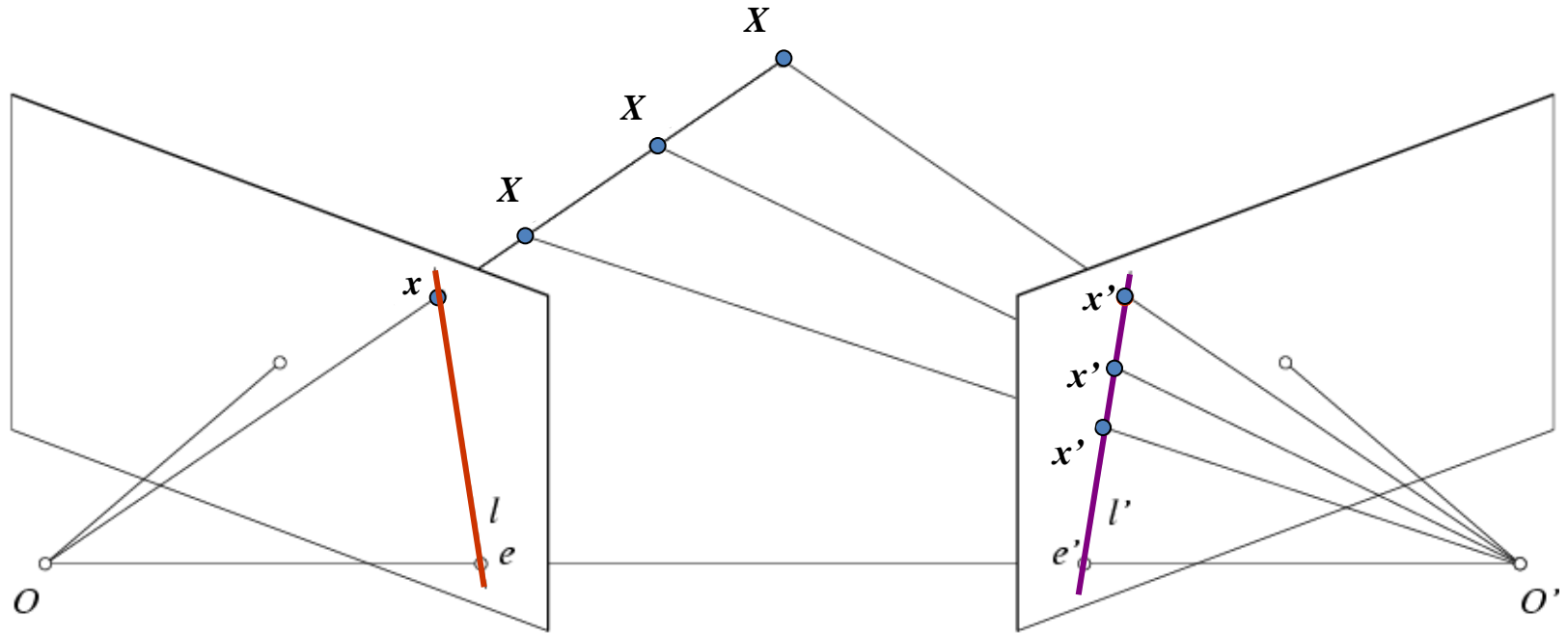


# Correspondence Problem



- We have two images taken from cameras at different positions
- How do we match a point in the first image to a point in the second? What constraints do we have?

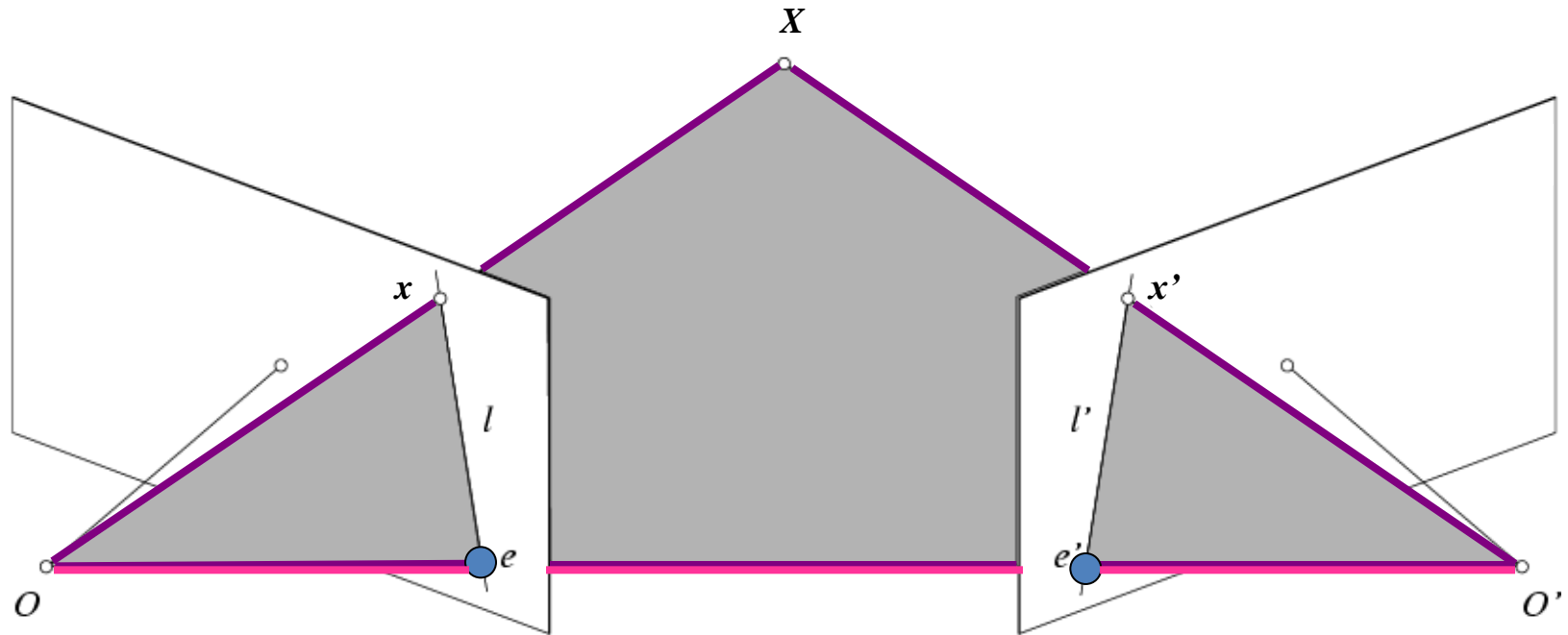
## Key idea: Epipolar constraint



Potential matches for  $x$  have to lie on the corresponding line  $l'$ .

Potential matches for  $x'$  have to lie on the corresponding line  $l$ .

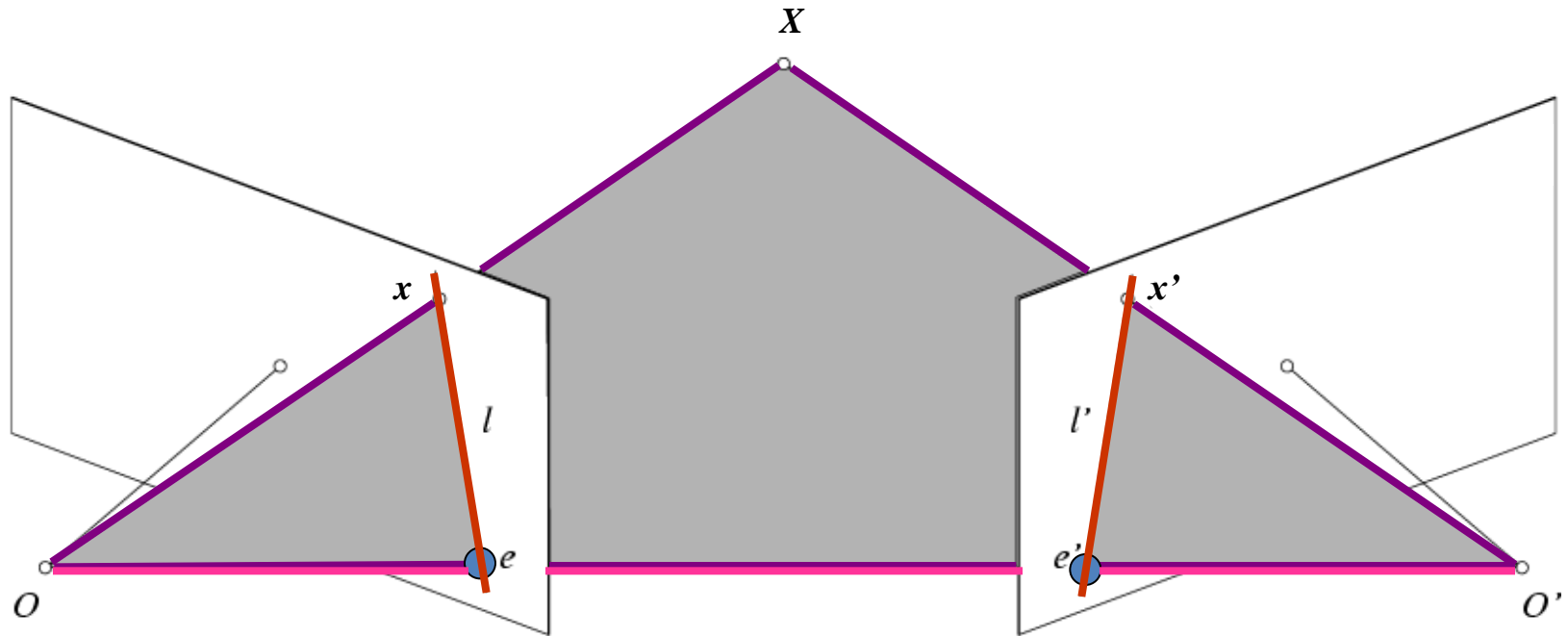
# Epipolar geometry: notation



- **Baseline** – line connecting the two camera centers
- **Epipolar Plane** – plane containing baseline (1D family)
- **Epipoles**
  - = intersections of baseline with image planes
  - = projections of the other camera center

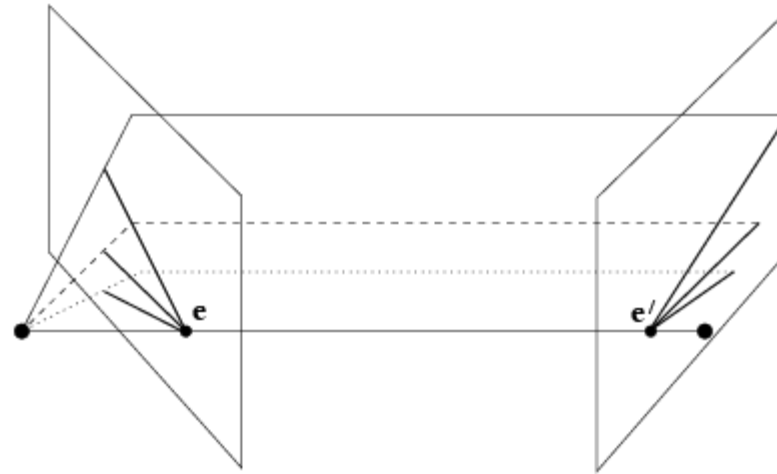


# Epipolar geometry: notation

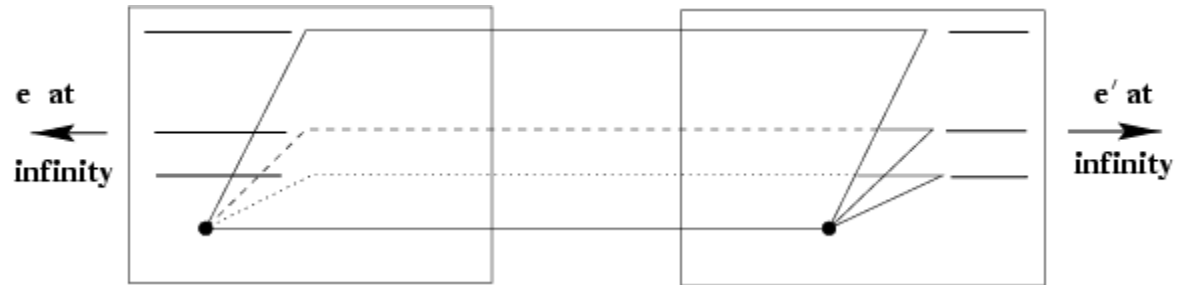


- **Baseline** – line connecting the two camera centers
- **Epipolar Plane** – plane containing baseline (1D family)
- **Epipoles**  
= intersections of baseline with image planes  
= projections of the other camera center
- **Epipolar Lines** - intersections of epipolar plane with image planes (always come in corresponding pairs)

# Example: Converging cameras



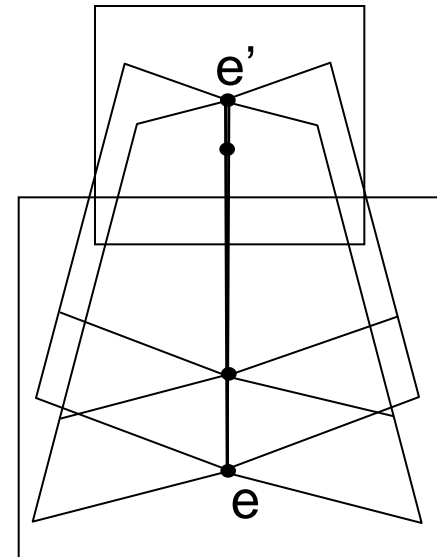
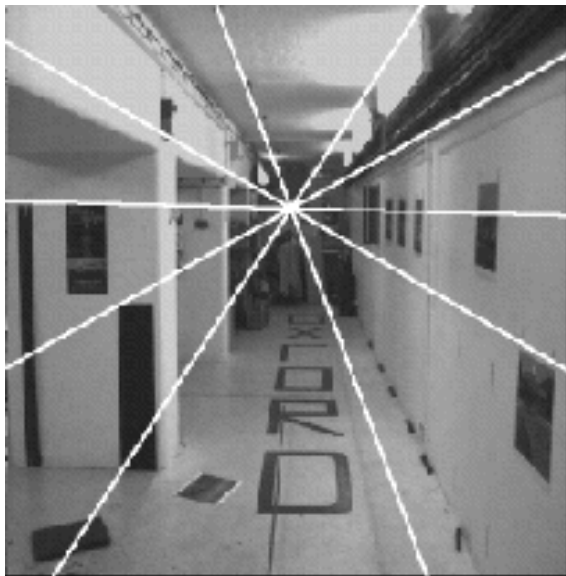
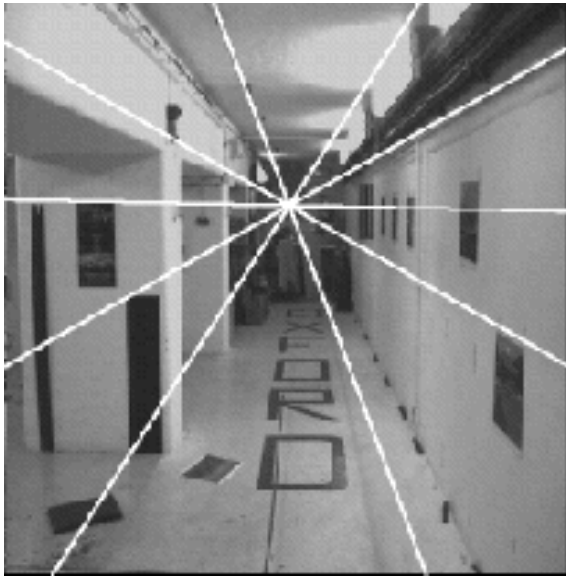
# Example: Motion parallel to image plane



# Example: Forward motion

What would the epipolar lines look like if the camera moves directly forward?

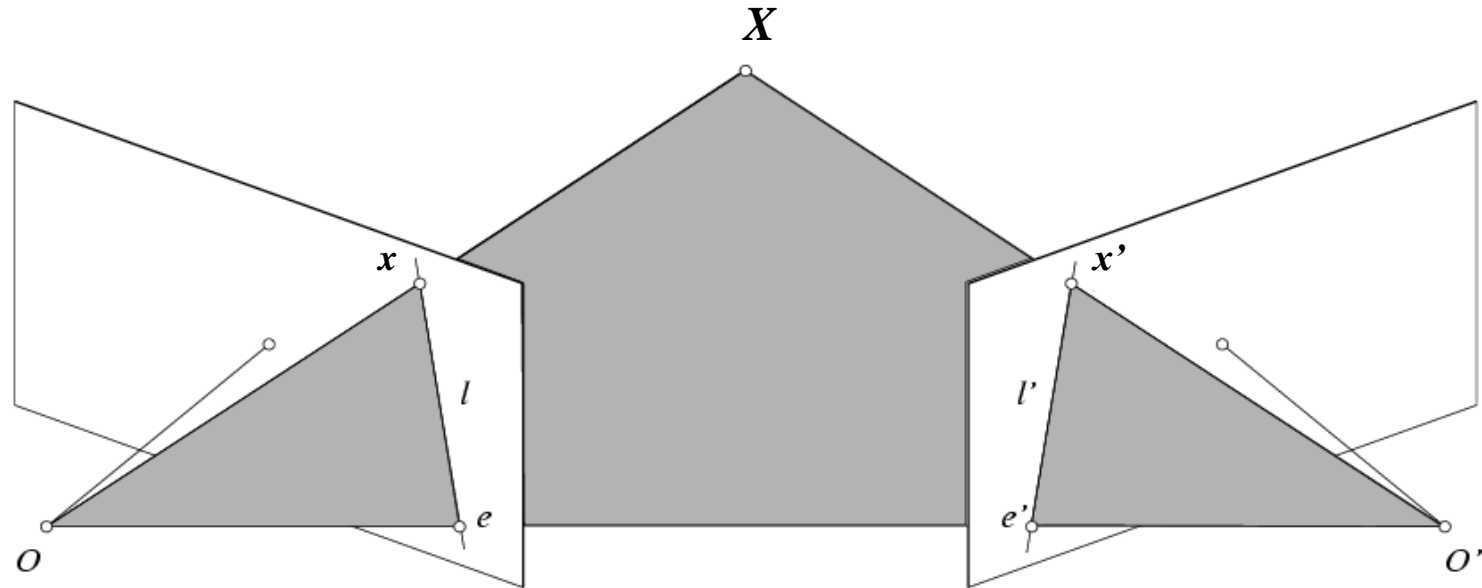
# Example: Forward motion



Epipole has same coordinates in both images.

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

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



Suppose that we know the intrinsic and extrinsic parameters of the cameras. Then we can...

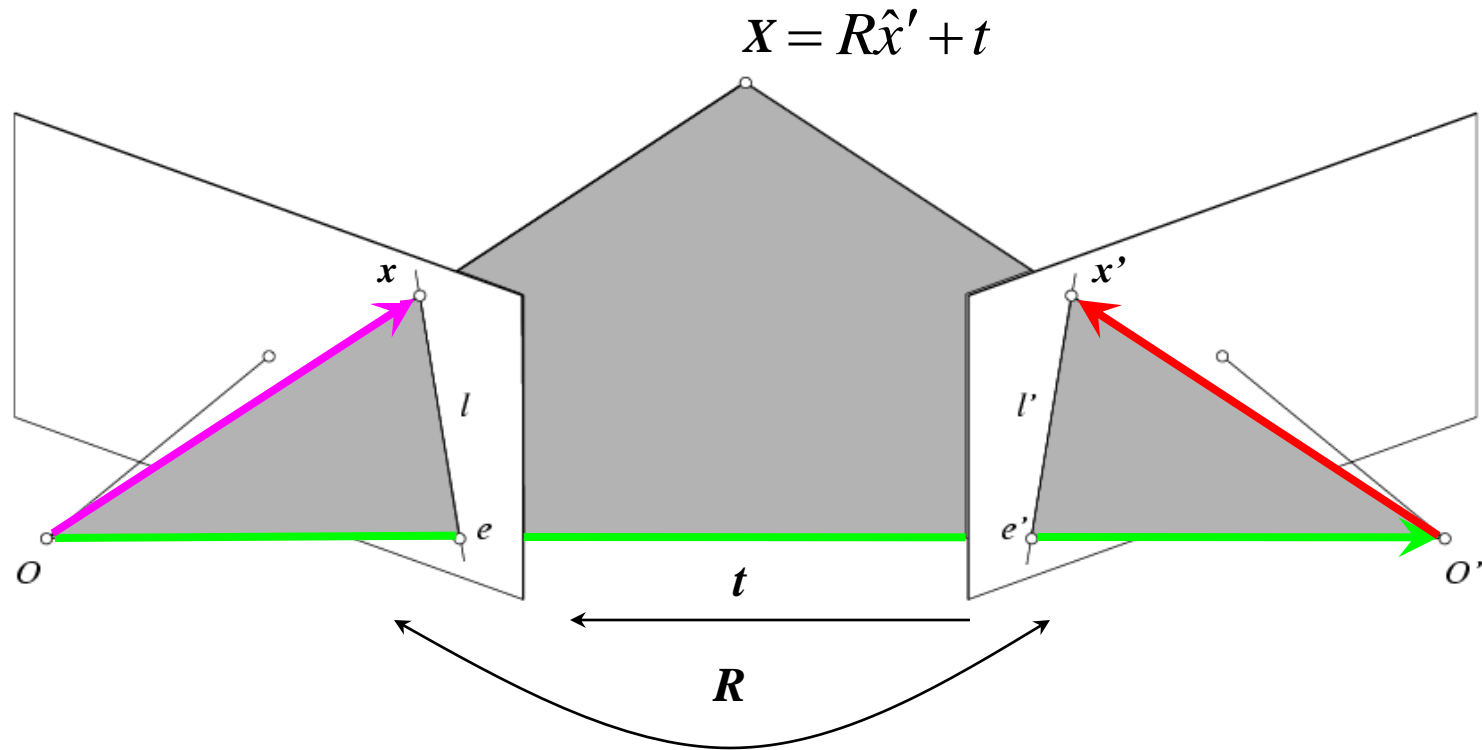
1. Convert to normalized coordinates by pre-multiplying all points with the inverse of the calibration matrix
2. Set the first camera's coordinate system as world coordinates and define  $R$  and  $t$  that map from  $X'$  to  $X$

Here,  $\mathbf{x}$  is in homogeneous coordinates but  $\mathbf{X}$  is in inhomogeneous coordinates

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

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{X}' + \mathbf{t}$$

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

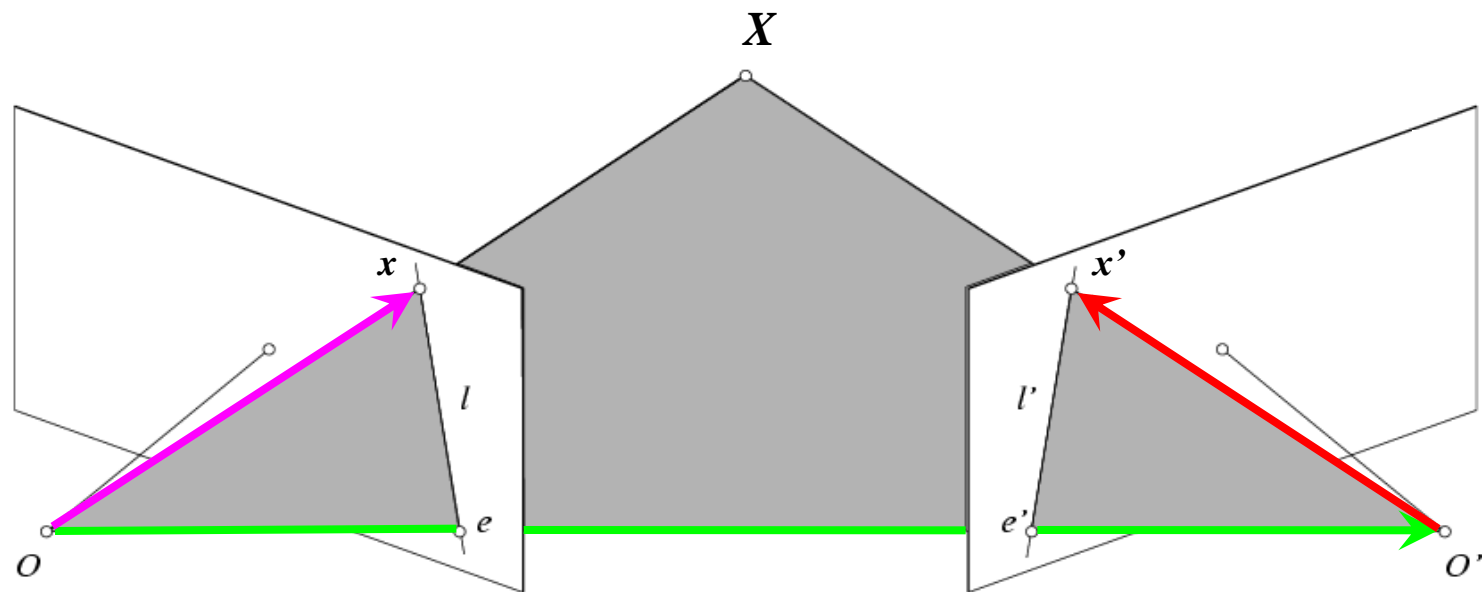


$$\hat{x} = K^{-1}x = X \quad \hat{x}' = K'^{-1}x' = X'$$

$$X = RX' + t$$

The vectors  $\hat{x}$ ,  $t$ , and  $R\hat{x}'$  are coplanar

# Essential matrix



$$\hat{x} \cdot [t \times (R\hat{x}')] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{x}^T E \hat{x}' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad E = t \times R$$

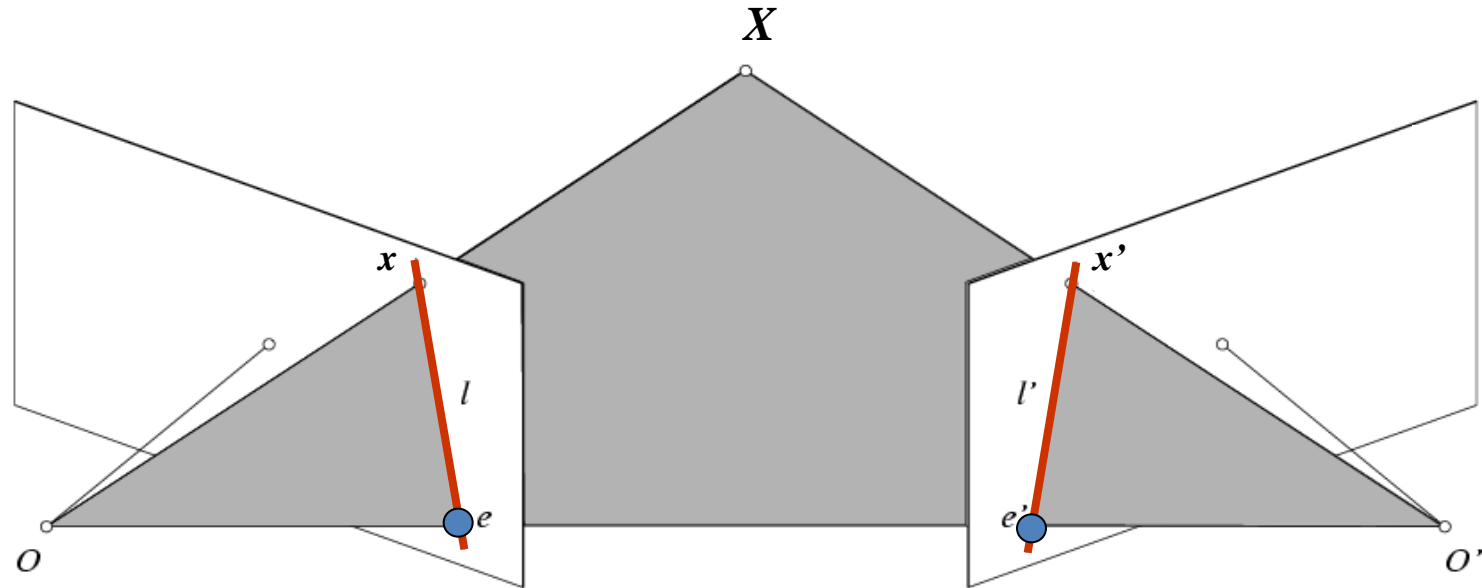


**Essential Matrix**  
(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

The vectors  $\hat{x}$ ,  $t$ , and  $R\hat{x}'$  are coplanar



# Properties of the Essential matrix

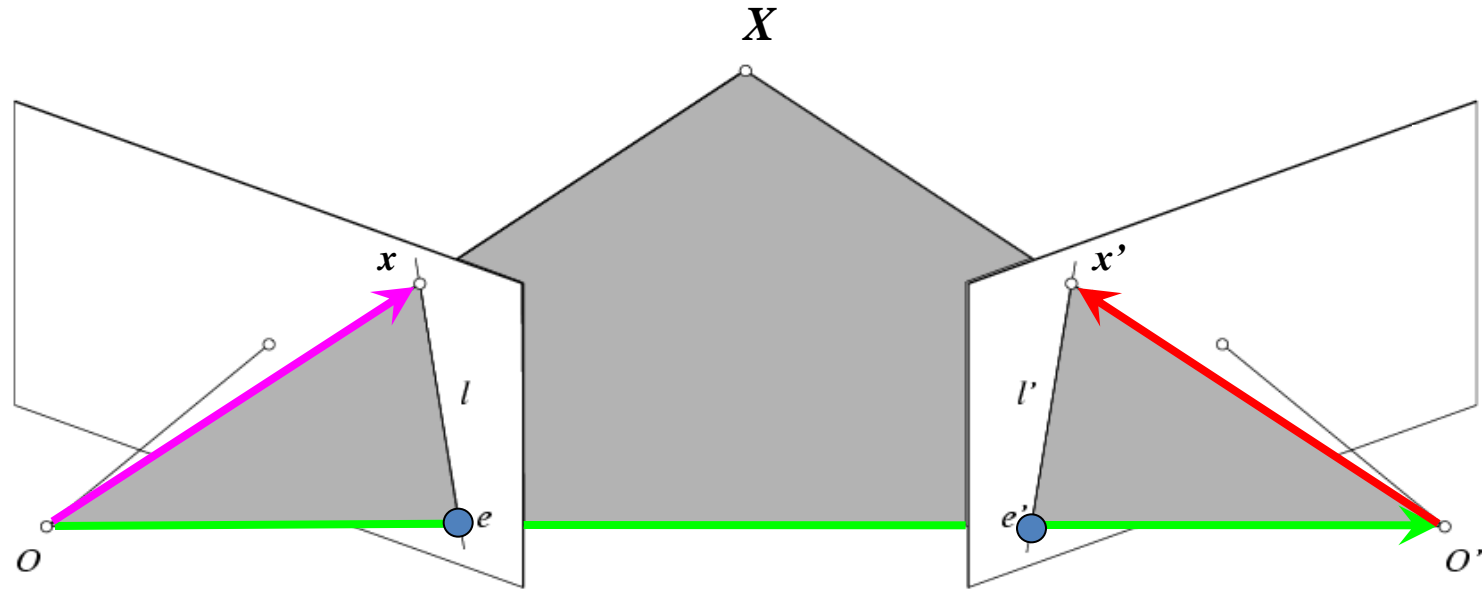


$$\hat{x} \cdot [t \times (R\hat{x}')] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{x}^T E \hat{x}' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad E = t \times R$$

Drop  $\wedge$  below to simplify notation

- $E x'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x'$  ( $l = E x'$ )
- $E^T x$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x$  ( $l' = E^T x$ )
- $E e' = 0$  and  $E^T e = 0$
- $E$  is singular (rank two)
- $E$  has five degrees of freedom
  - (3 for  $R$ , 2 for  $t$  because it's up to a scale)

# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case

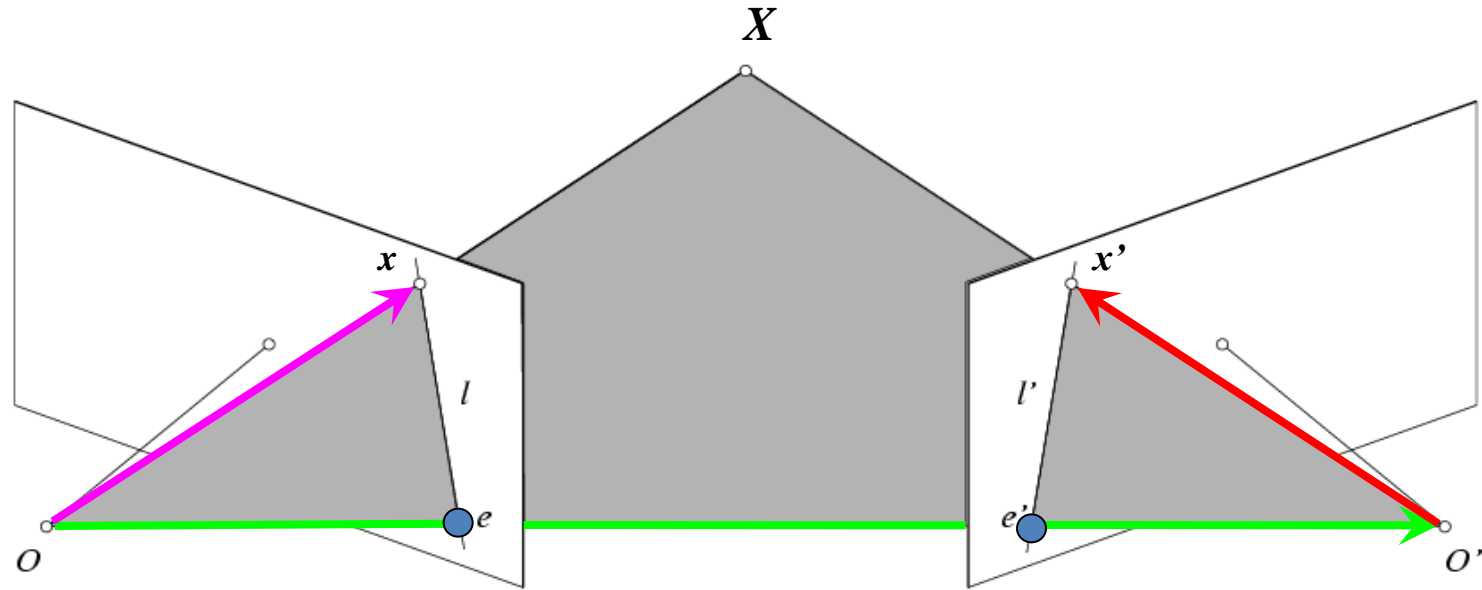


- If we don't know  $K$  and  $K'$ , then we can write the epipolar constraint in terms of *unknown* normalized coordinates:

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

$$x = K \hat{x}, \quad x' = K' \hat{x}'$$

# The Fundamental Matrix



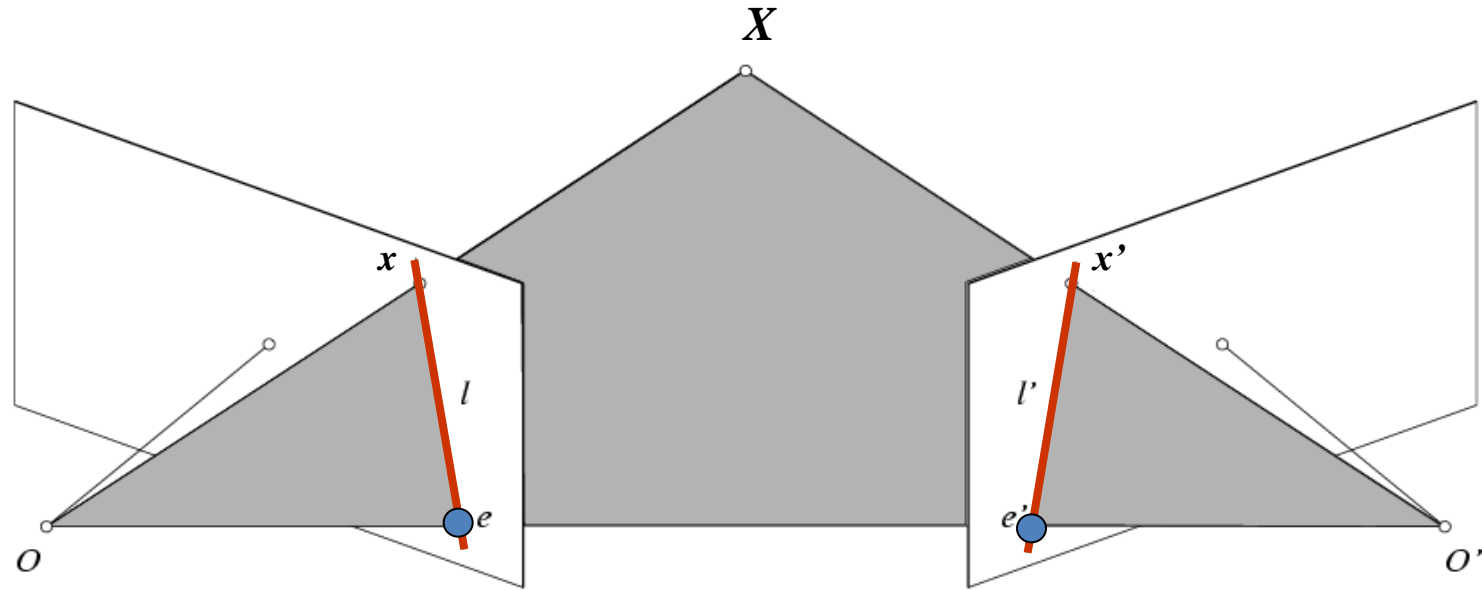
$$\hat{x}^T E \hat{x}' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x^T F x' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad F = K^{-T} E K'^{-1}$$

$$x = K \hat{x}$$

$$x' = K' \hat{x}'$$

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

# Properties of the Fundamental matrix



$$x^T F x' = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad F = K^{-T} E K'^{-1}$$

- $F x'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x'$  ( $l = F x'$ )
- $F^T x$  is the epipolar line associated with  $x$  ( $l' = F^T x$ )
- $F e' = 0$  and  $F^T e = 0$
- $F$  is singular (rank two):  $\det(F)=0$
- $F$  has seven degrees of freedom

# Estimating the Fundamental Matrix

- 8-point algorithm
  - Least squares solution using SVD on equations from 8 pairs of correspondences
  - Enforce  $\det(F)=0$  constraint using SVD on  $F$
- 7-point algorithm
  - Use least squares to solve for null space (two vectors) using SVD and 7 pairs of correspondences
  - Solve for linear combination of null space vectors that satisfies  $\det(F)=0$
- Minimize reprojection error
  - Non-linear least squares

# 8-point algorithm

1. Solve a system of homogeneous linear equations

a. Write down the system of equations

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

$$x'x f_{11} + x'y f_{12} + x' f_{13} + y'x f_{21} + y'y f_{22} + y' f_{23} + x f_{31} + y f_{32} + f_{33} = 0$$

$$A\mathbf{f} = \begin{bmatrix} x'_1x_1 & x'_1y_1 & x'_1 & y'_1x_1 & y'_1y_1 & y'_1 & x_1 & y_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x'_nx_n & x'_ny_n & x'_n & y'_nx_n & y'_ny_n & y'_n & x_n & y_n & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{13} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \\ f_{23} \\ f_{31} \\ f_{32} \\ f_{33} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

# 8-point algorithm

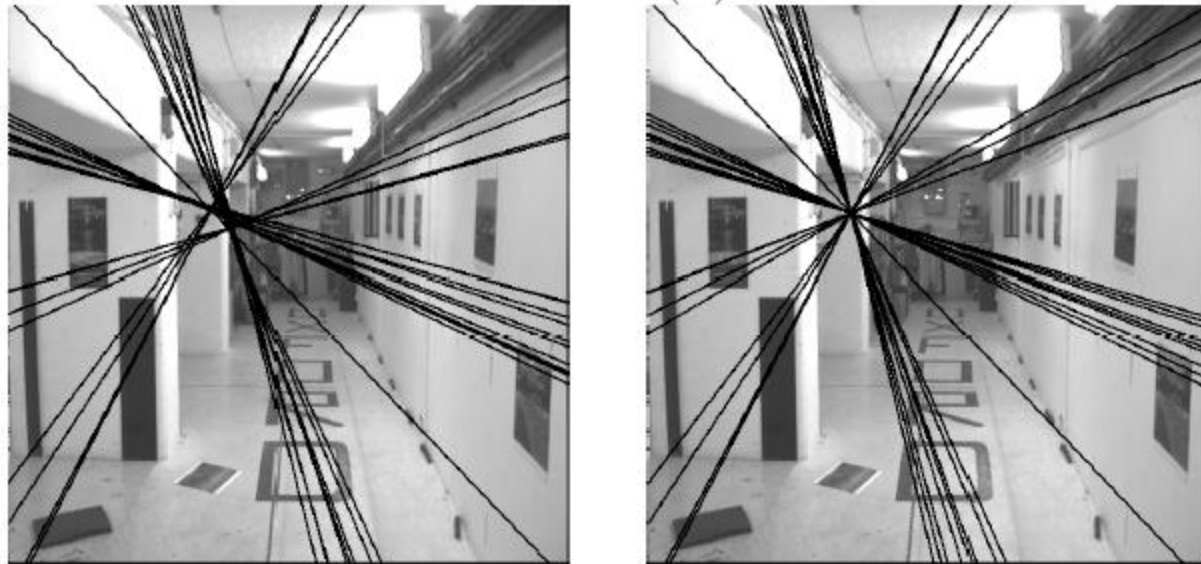
1. Solve a system of homogeneous linear equations
  - a. Write down the system of equations
  - b. Solve  $\mathbf{f}$  from  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}=\mathbf{0}$  using SVD

Matlab:

```
[U, S, V] = svd(A);  
f = V(:, end);  
F = reshape(f, [3 3])';
```

# Need to enforce singularity constraint

Fundamental matrix has rank 2 :  $\det(F) = 0$ .



**Left :** Uncorrected  $F$  – epipolar lines are not coincident.

**Right :** Epipolar lines from corrected  $F$ .



# 8-point algorithm

1. Solve a system of homogeneous linear equations

a. Write down the system of equations

b. Solve  $\mathbf{f}$  from  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}=\mathbf{0}$  using SVD

Matlab:

```
[U, S, V] = svd(A);  
f = V(:, end);  
F = reshape(f, [3 3])';
```

2. Resolve  $\det(\mathbf{F}) = 0$  constraint by SVD

Matlab:

```
[U, S, V] = svd(F);  
S(3,3) = 0;  
F = U*S*V';
```

# 8-point algorithm

1. Solve a system of homogeneous linear equations
  - a. Write down the system of equations
  - b. Solve  $\mathbf{f}$  from  $A\mathbf{f}=\mathbf{0}$  using SVD
2. Resolve  $\det(F) = 0$  constraint by SVD

Notes:

- Use RANSAC to deal with outliers (sample 8 points)
- Solve in normalized coordinates
  - mean=0
  - RMS distance = (1,1,1)
  - just like with estimating the homography for stitching

# Comparison of homography estimation and the 8-point algorithm

Assume we have matched points  $x \leftrightarrow x'$  with outliers

**Homography (No Translation)**

**Fundamental Matrix (Translation)**

# Comparison of homography estimation and the 8-point algorithm

Assume we have matched points  $\mathbf{x} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'$  with outliers

## Homography (No Translation)

- Correspondence Relation

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

1. Normalize image coordinates

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{x} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{T}'\mathbf{x}'$$

2. RANSAC with 4 points

3. De-normalize:  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{T}'^{-1}\tilde{\mathbf{H}}\mathbf{T}$

## Fundamental Matrix (Translation)

# Comparison of homography estimation and the 8-point algorithm

Assume we have matched points  $\mathbf{x} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'$  with outliers

## Homography (No Translation)

- Correspondence Relation

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}' \times \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

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## Fundamental Matrix (Translation)

- Correspondence Relation

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

1. Normalize image coordinates

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{x} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{T}'\mathbf{x}'$$

2. RANSAC with 8 points

3. Enforce  $\det(\tilde{\mathbf{F}}) = 0$  by SVD

4. De-normalize:  $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{T}'^{-1}\tilde{\mathbf{F}}\mathbf{T}$

# 7-point algorithm

## Computation of $F$ from 7 point correspondences

- (i) Form the  $7 \times 9$  set of equations  $A\mathbf{f} = 0$ .
- (ii) System has a 2-dimensional solution set.
- (iii) General solution (use SVD) has form

$$\mathbf{f} = \lambda \mathbf{f}_0 + \mu \mathbf{f}_1$$

- (iv) In matrix terms

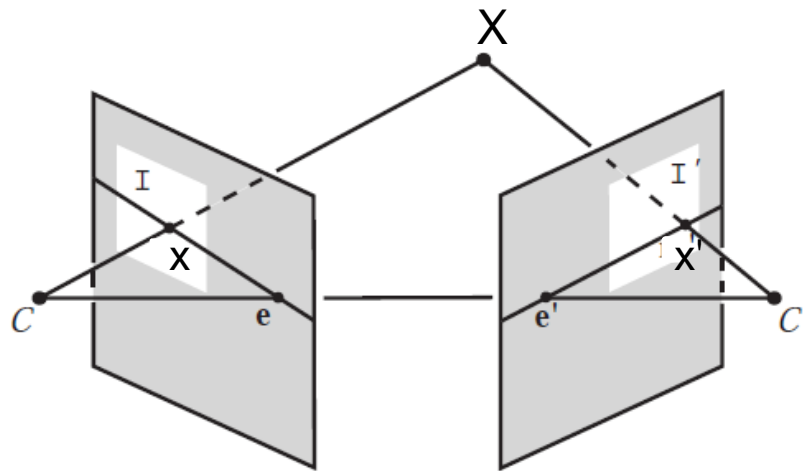
$$F = \lambda F_0 + \mu F_1$$

- (v) Condition  $\det F = 0$  gives cubic equation in  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ .
- (vi) Either one or three real solutions for ratio  $\lambda : \mu$ .

Faster (need fewer points) and could be more robust (fewer points), but also need to check for degenerate cases

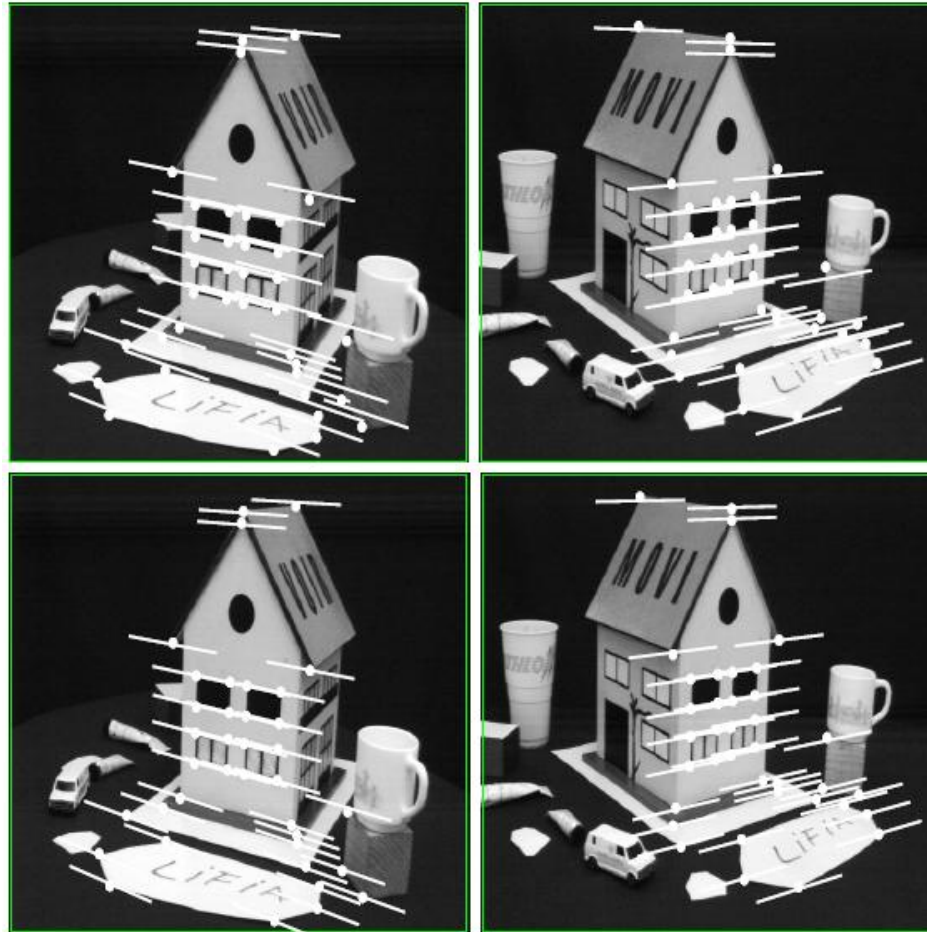
# “Gold standard” algorithm

- Use 8-point algorithm to get initial value of  $F$
- Use  $F$  to solve for  $P$  and  $P'$  (discussed later)
- Jointly solve for 3d points  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$  that minimize the squared re-projection error



See Algorithm 11.2 and Algorithm 11.3 in HZ (pages 284-285) for details

# Comparison of estimation algorithms



	8-point	Normalized 8-point	Nonlinear least squares
Av. Dist. 1	2.33 pixels	0.92 pixel	0.86 pixel
Av. Dist. 2	2.18 pixels	0.85 pixel	0.80 pixel



We can get projection matrices  $P$  and  $P'$  up to a projective ambiguity

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = \begin{bmatrix} \overset{\text{K'*rotation}}{\downarrow} [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \overset{\text{K'*translation}}{\swarrow} \mathbf{F} \mid \mathbf{e}' \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{e}'^T \mathbf{F} = 0$$

See HZ p. 255-256

Code:

```
function P = vgg_P_from_F(F)
[U,S,V] = svd(F);
e = U(:,3);
P = [-vgg_contreps(e)*F e];
```

# From epipolar geometry to camera calibration

- Estimating the fundamental matrix is known as “weak calibration”
- If we know the calibration matrices of the two cameras, we can estimate the essential matrix:  $E = K^T F K'$
- The essential matrix gives us the relative rotation and translation between the cameras, or their extrinsic parameters

# Moving on to stereo...

Fuse a calibrated binocular stereo pair to produce a depth image

image 1



image 2

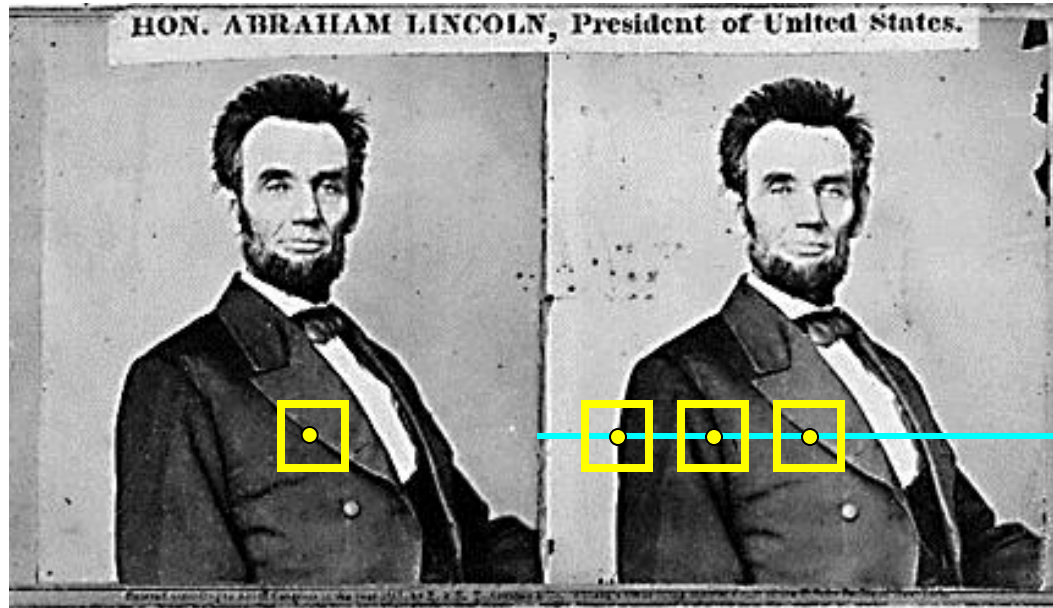


Dense depth map



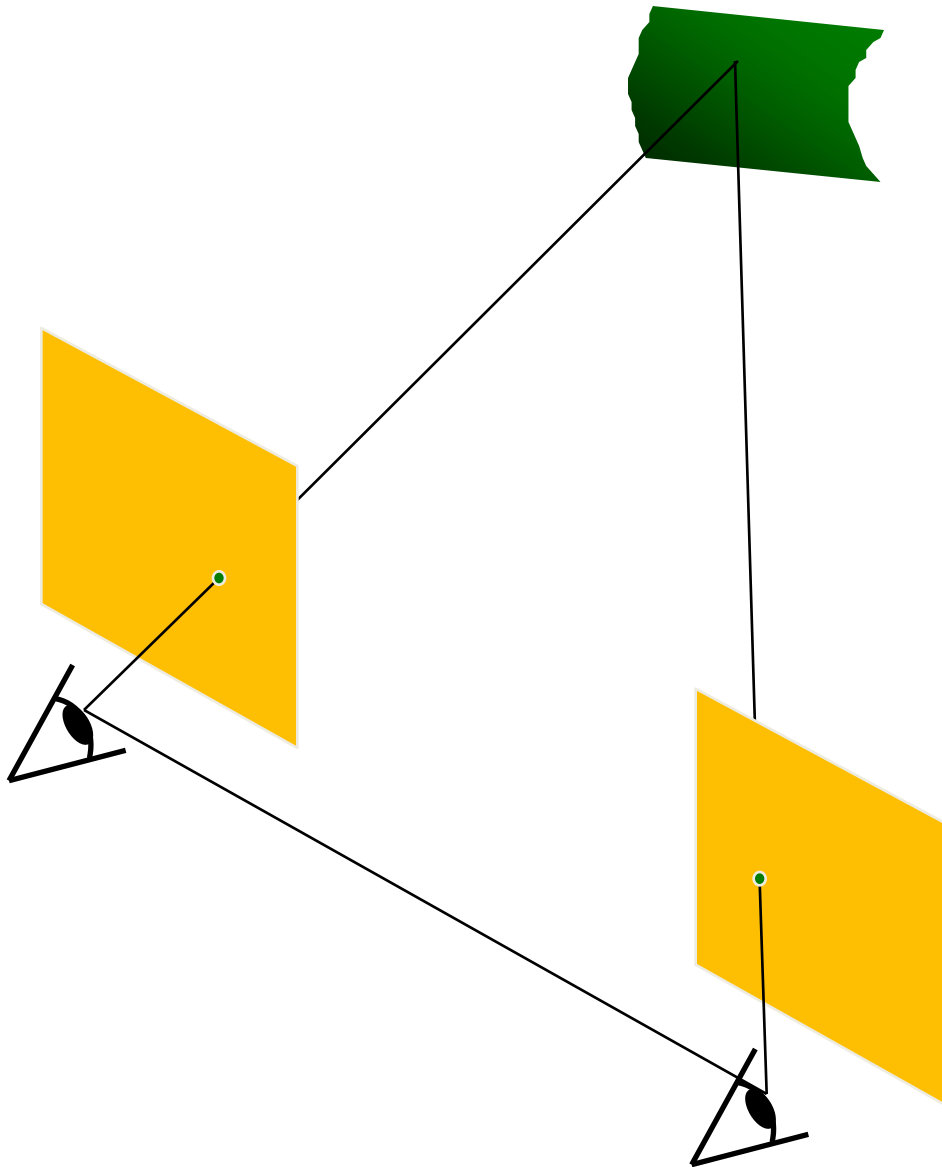
Many of these slides adapted from  
Steve Seitz and Lana Lazebnik

# Basic stereo matching algorithm



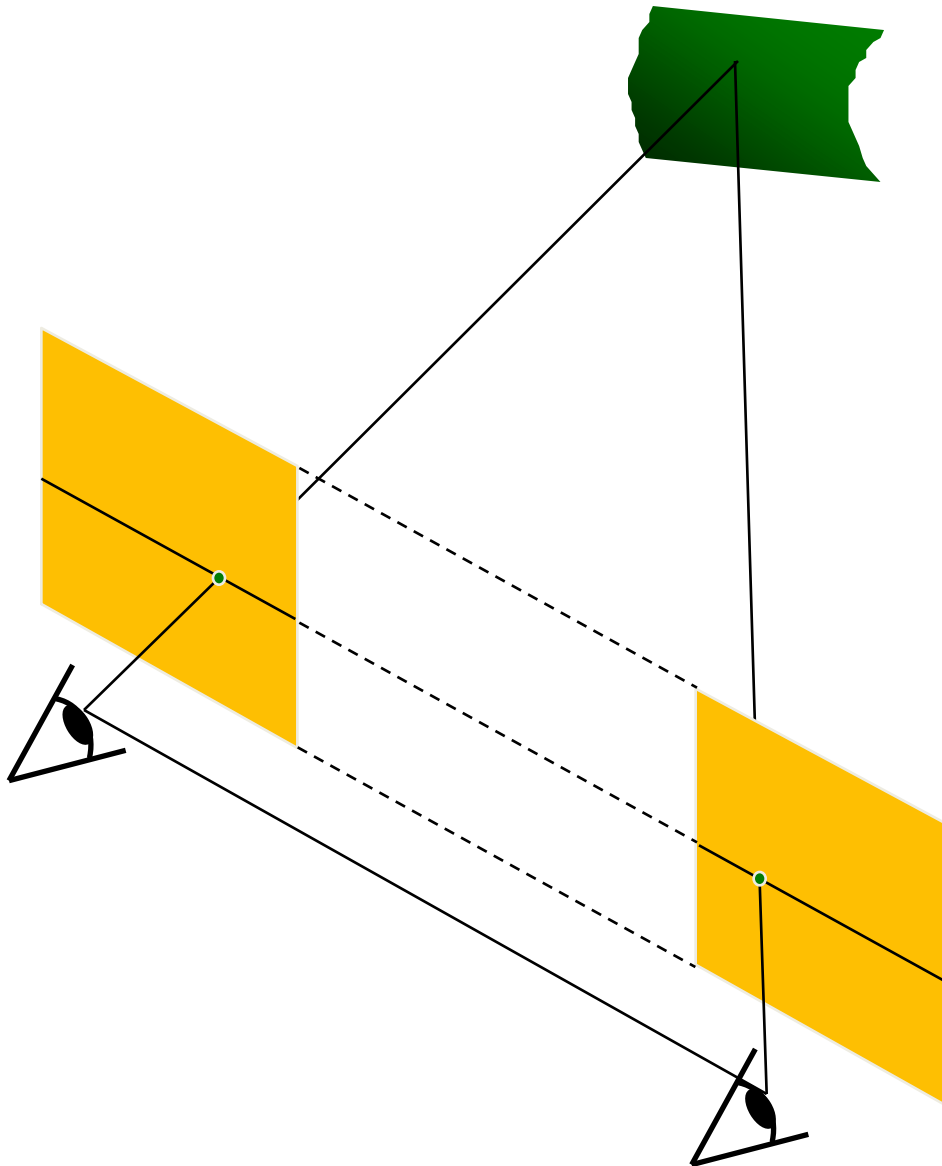
- For each pixel in the first image
  - Find corresponding epipolar line in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the epipolar line and pick the best match
  - Triangulate the matches to get depth information
- Simplest case: epipolar lines are scanlines
  - When does this happen?

# Simplest Case: Parallel images



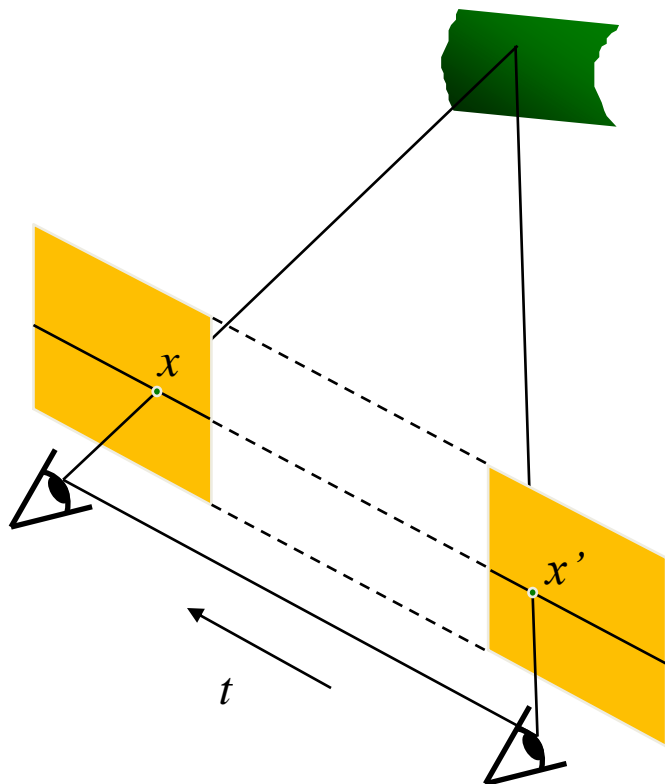
- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same

# Simplest Case: Parallel images



- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same
- Then, epipolar lines fall along the horizontal scan lines of the images

# Simplest Case: Parallel images



Epipolar constraint:

$$x^T E x' = 0, \quad E = t \times R$$

$$R = I \quad t = (T, 0, 0)$$

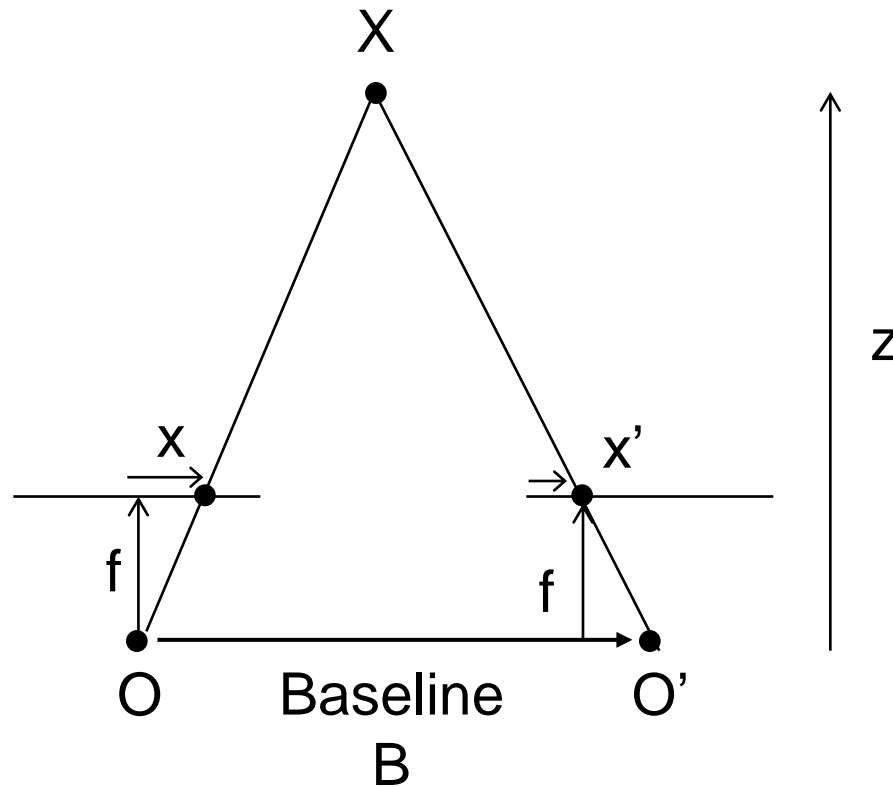
$$E = t \times R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(u \quad v \quad 1) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (u \quad v \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -T \\ Tv' \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad Tv = Tv'$$

The y-coordinates of corresponding points are the same

# Depth from disparity

$$\frac{x - x'}{O - O'} = \frac{f}{z}$$

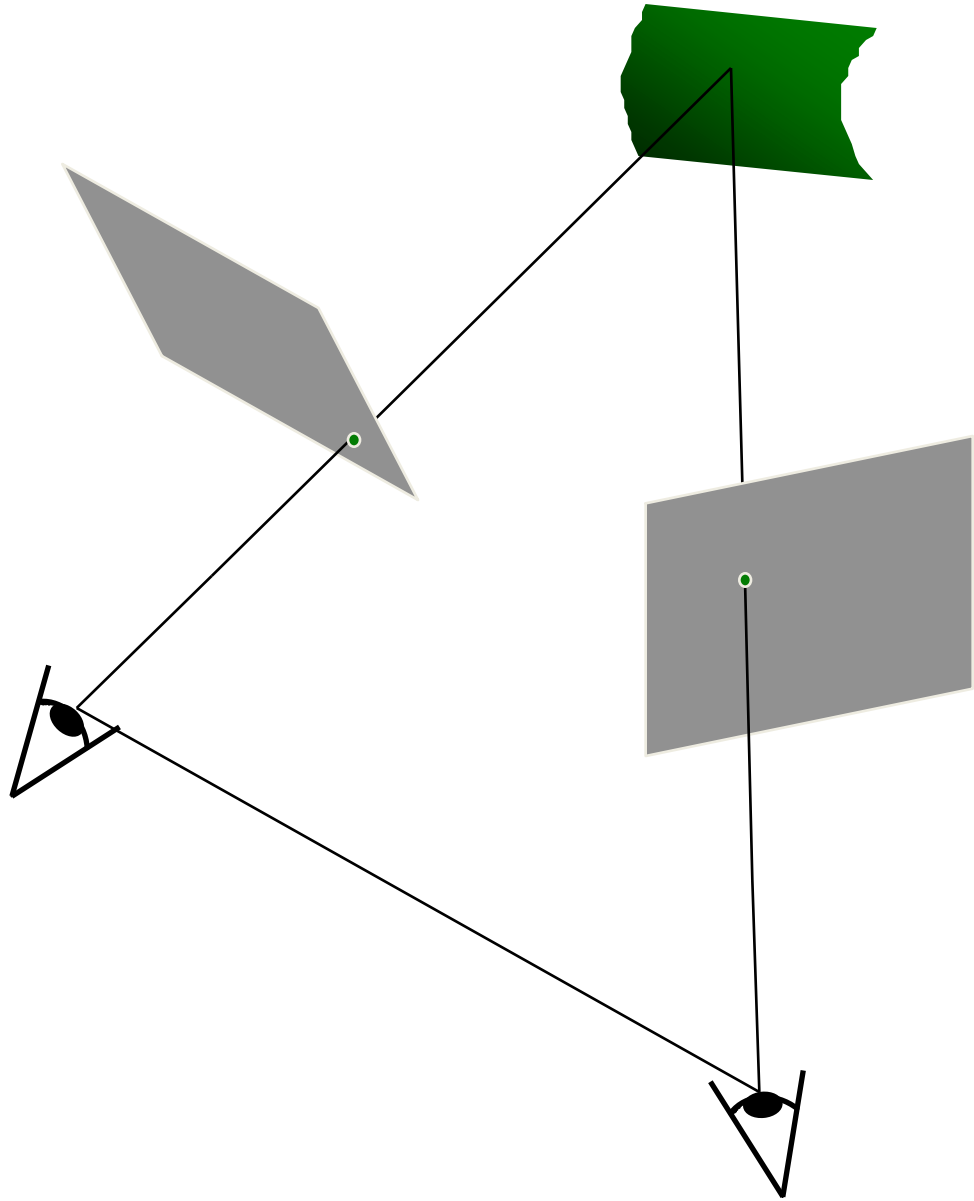


$$\text{disparity} = x - x' = \frac{B \cdot f}{z}$$

Disparity is inversely proportional to depth.

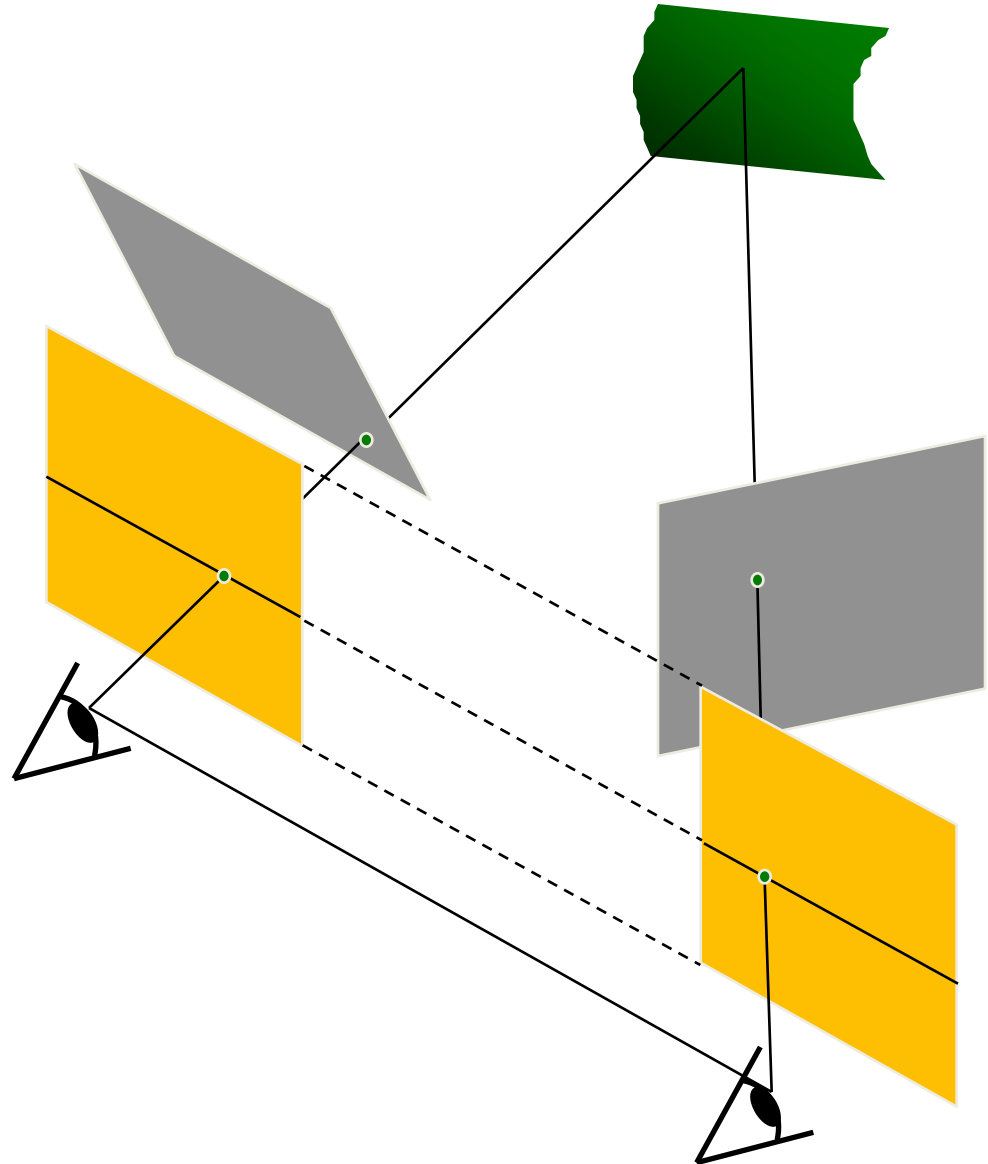


# Stereo image rectification



# Stereo image rectification

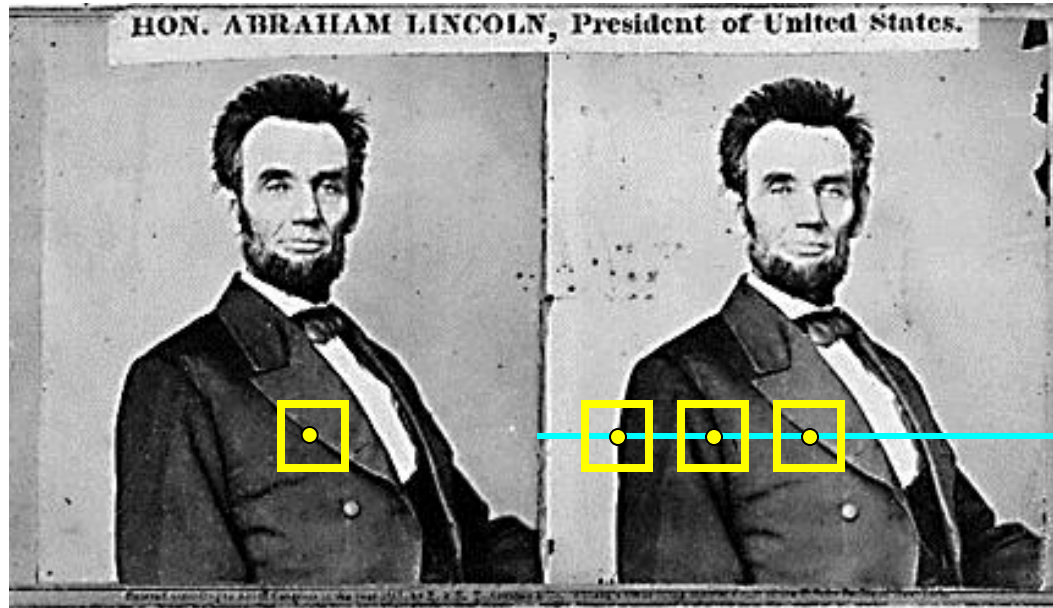
- Reproject image planes onto a common plane parallel to the line between camera centers
  - Pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation
  - Two homographies (3x3 transform), one for each input image reprojection
- C. Loop and Z. Zhang. [Computing Rectifying Homographies for Stereo Vision](#). IEEE Conf. Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 1999.



# Rectification example

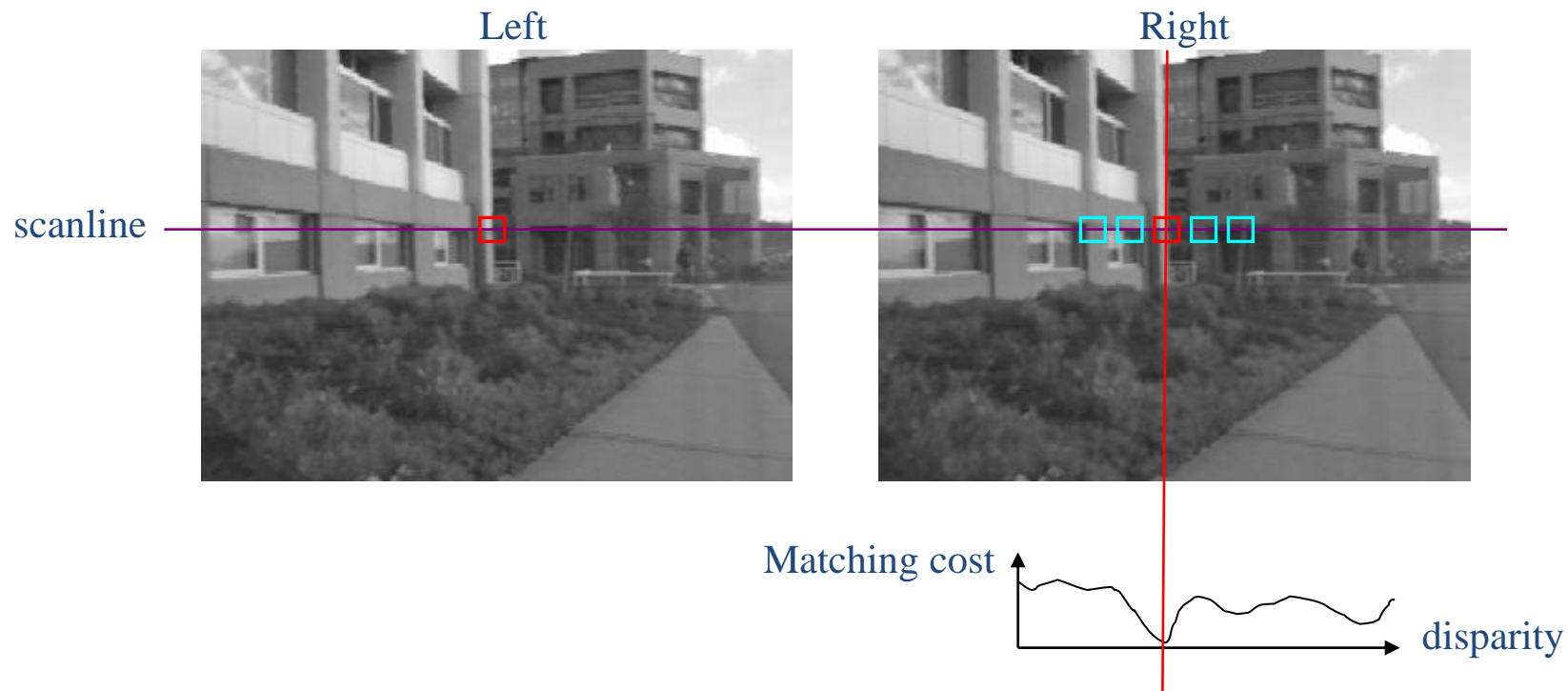


# Basic stereo matching algorithm



- If necessary, rectify the two stereo images to transform epipolar lines into scanlines
- For each pixel  $x$  in the first image
  - Find corresponding epipolar scanline in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the scanline and pick the best match  $x'$
  - Compute disparity  $x - x'$  and set  $\text{depth}(x) = fB/(x - x')$

# Correspondence search



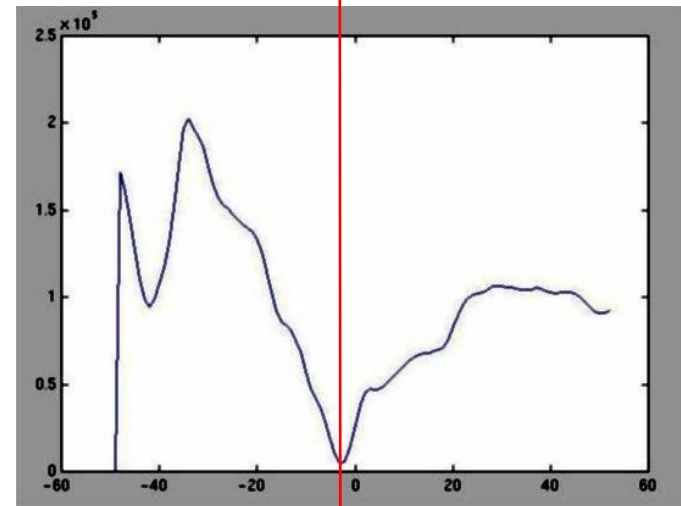
- Slide a window along the right scanline and compare contents of that window with the reference window in the left image
- Matching cost: SSD or normalized correlation

# Correspondence search

Left

Right

scanline



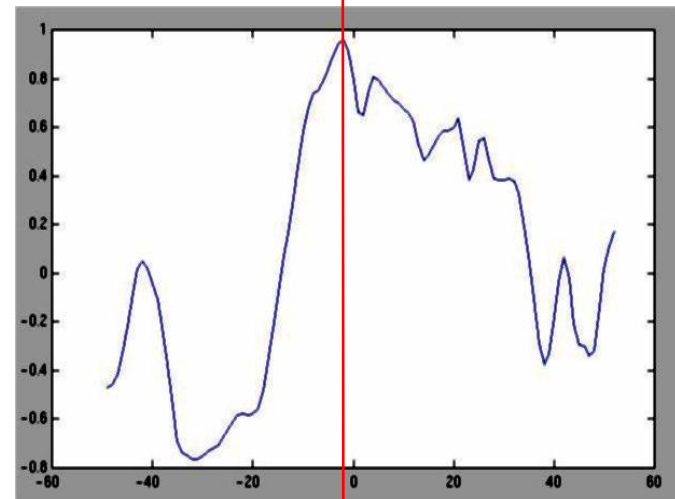
SSD

# Correspondence search

Left

Right

scanline

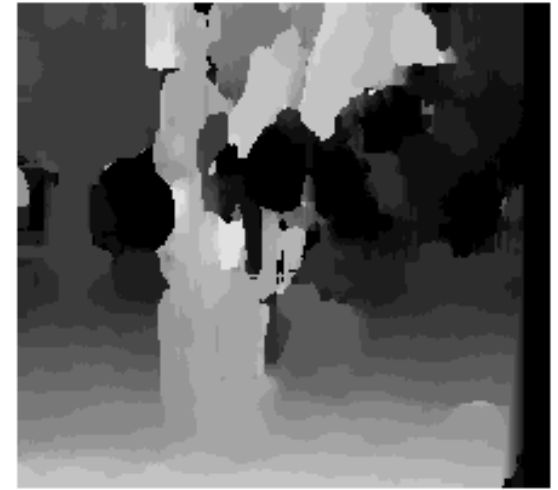


Norm. corr

# Effect of window size



$W = 3$

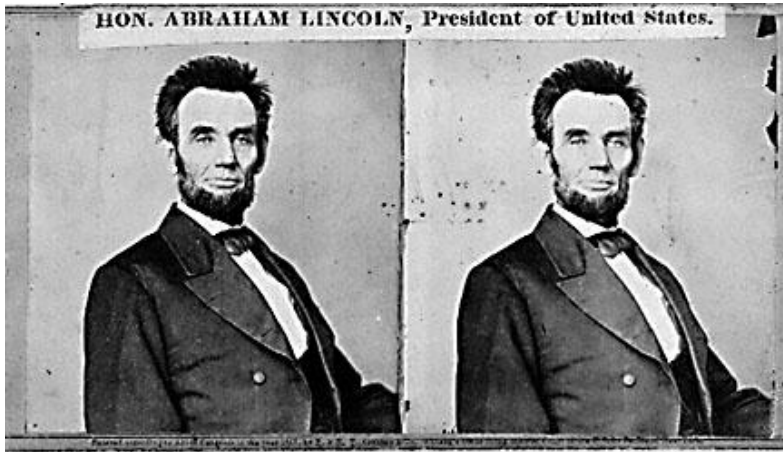


$W = 20$

- Smaller window
  - + More detail
  - More noise
- Larger window
  - + Smoother disparity maps
  - Less detail



# Failures of correspondence search



Textureless surfaces



Occlusions, repetition



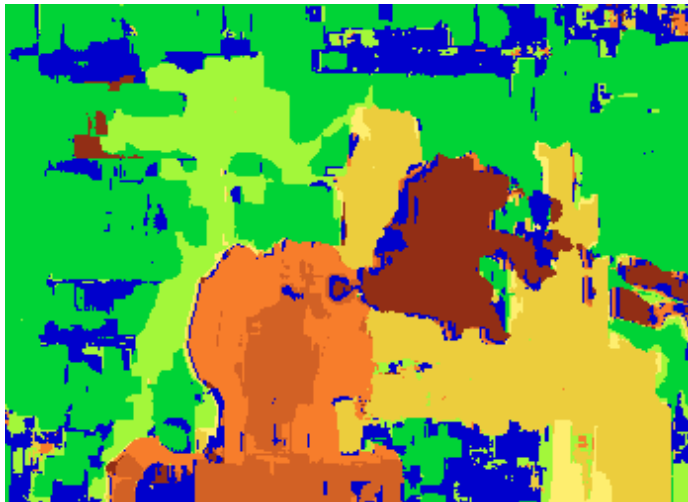
Non-Lambertian surfaces, specularities

# Results with window search

Data



Window-based matching



Ground truth

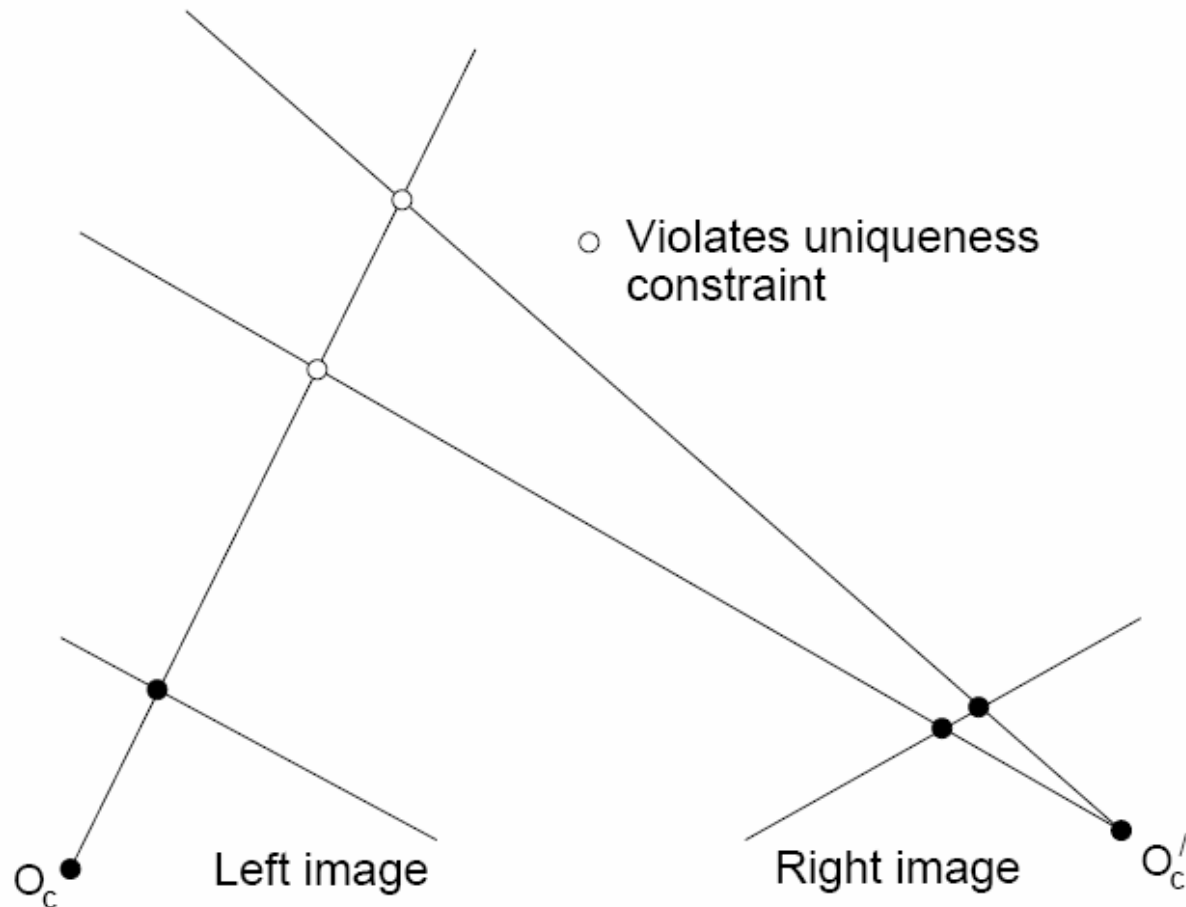


# How can we improve window-based matching?

- So far, matches are independent for each point
- What constraints or priors can we add?

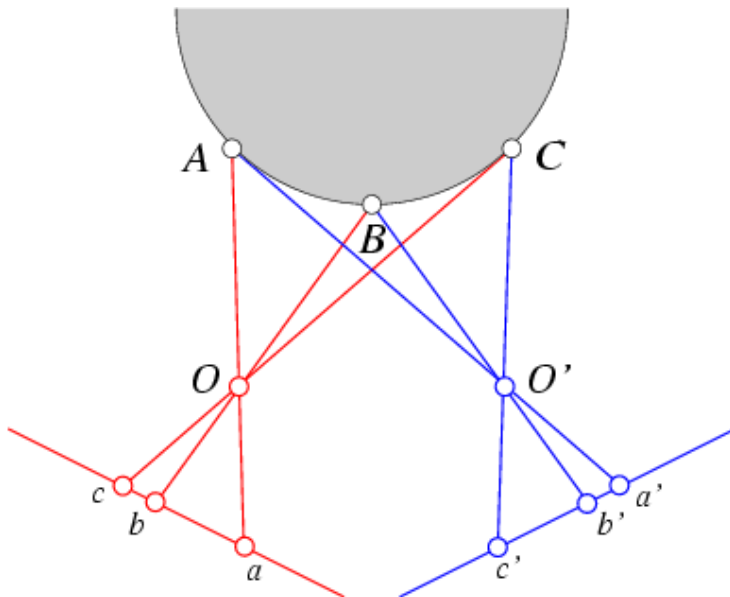
# Stereo constraints/priors

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image



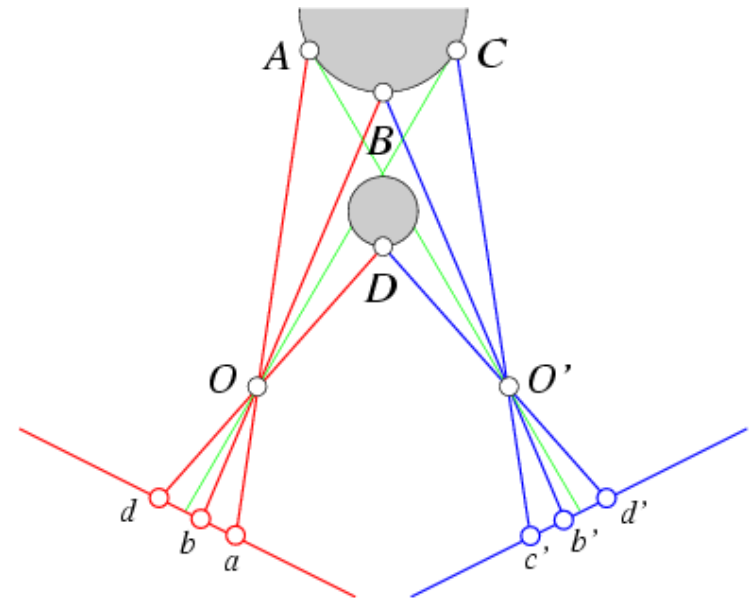
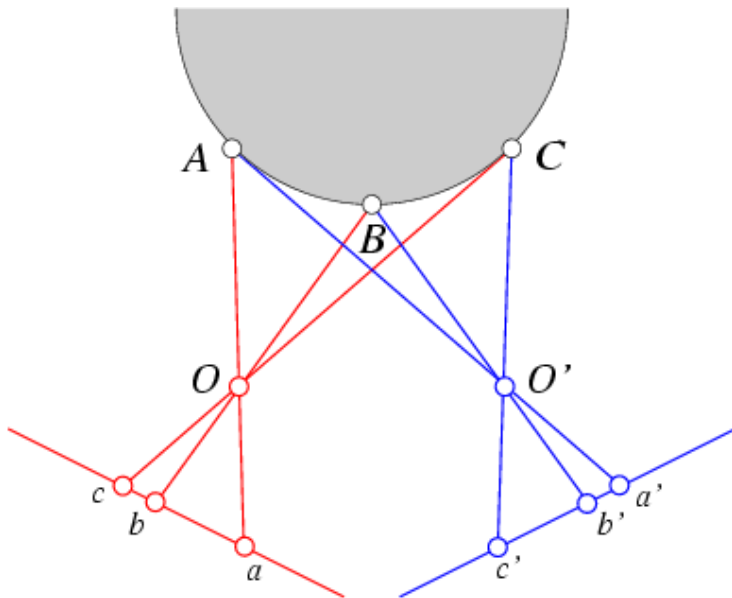
# Stereo constraints/priors

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image
- Ordering
  - Corresponding points should be in the same order in both views



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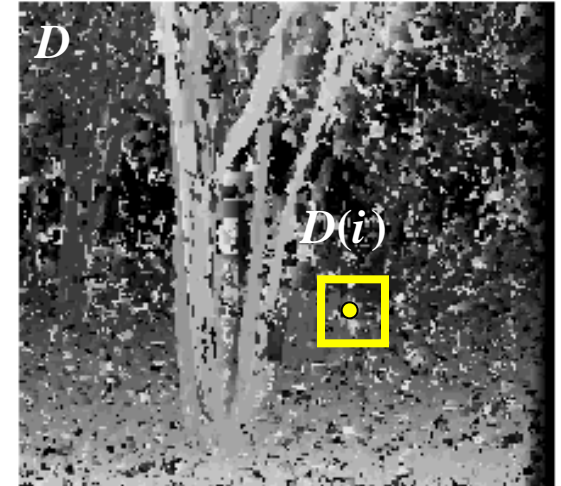
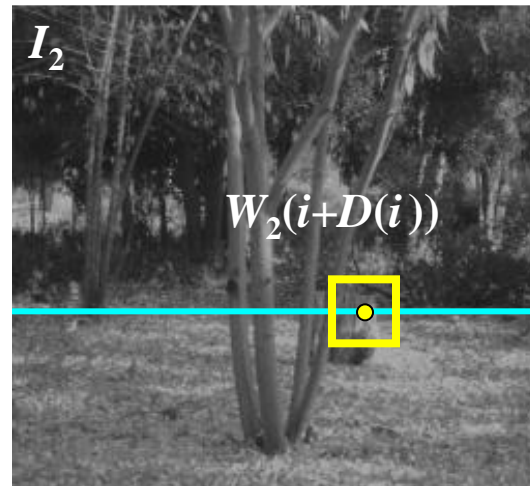
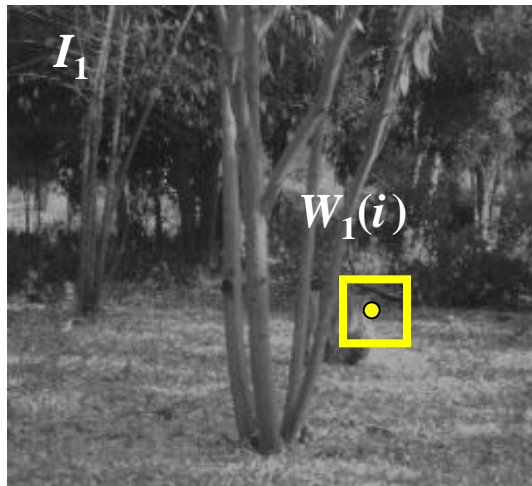


Ordering constraint doesn't hold

# Priors and constraints

- Uniqueness
  - For any point in one image, there should be at most one matching point in the other image
- Ordering
  - Corresponding points should be in the same order in both views
- Smoothness
  - We expect disparity values to change slowly (for the most part)

# Stereo matching as energy minimization



$$E = E_{\text{data}}(D; I_1, I_2) + \beta E_{\text{smooth}}(D)$$

$$E_{\text{data}} = \sum_i (W_1(i) - W_2(i + D(i)))^2 \quad E_{\text{smooth}} = \sum_{\text{neighbors } i, j} \|D(i) - D(j)\|^2$$

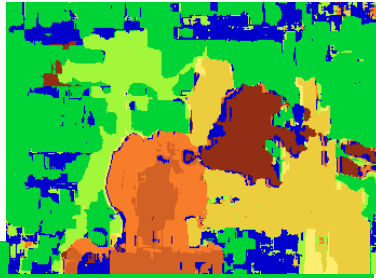
- Energy functions of this form can be minimized using *graph cuts*

Y. Boykov, O. Veksler, and R. Zabih, [Fast Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts](#), PAMI 2001



Many of these constraints can be encoded in an energy function and solved using graph cuts

Before



Graph cuts



Ground truth

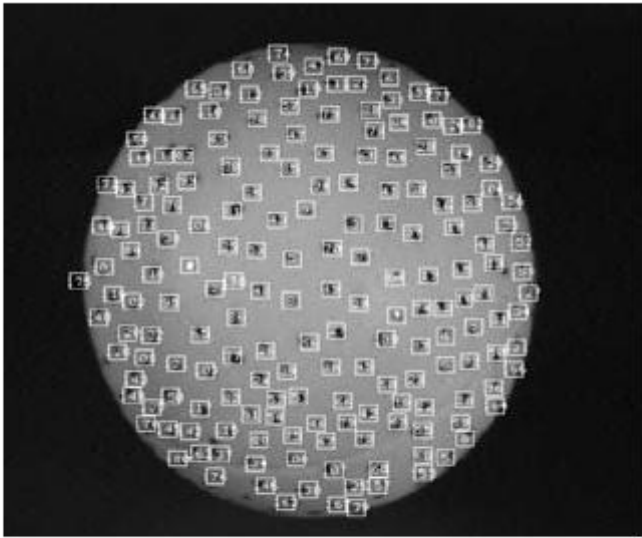
Y. Boykov, O. Veksler, and R. Zabih, [Fast Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts](#), PAMI 2001

For the latest and greatest: <http://www.middlebury.edu/stereo/>

# Summary

- Epipolar geometry
  - Epipoles are intersection of baseline with image planes
  - Matching point in second image is on a line passing through its epipole
  - Fundamental matrix maps from a point in one image to a line (its epipolar line) in the other
  - Can solve for  $F$  given corresponding points (e.g., interest points)
  - Can recover canonical camera matrices from  $F$  (with projective ambiguity)
- Stereo depth estimation
  - Estimate disparity by finding corresponding points along scanlines
  - Depth is inverse to disparity

# Next class: structure from motion



(a)



(b)



(c)