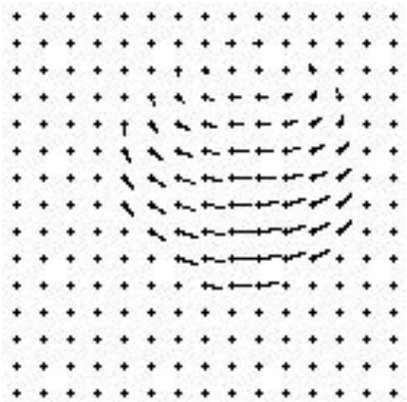
3D Reconstruction with Computer Vision
Meeting 21: Video and Tracking Redux

CS 378 Fall 2014, UT Austin, Bryan Klingner, 6 November

On the train to Kyoto

Motion and tracking

Tracking objects, video analysis, low level motion

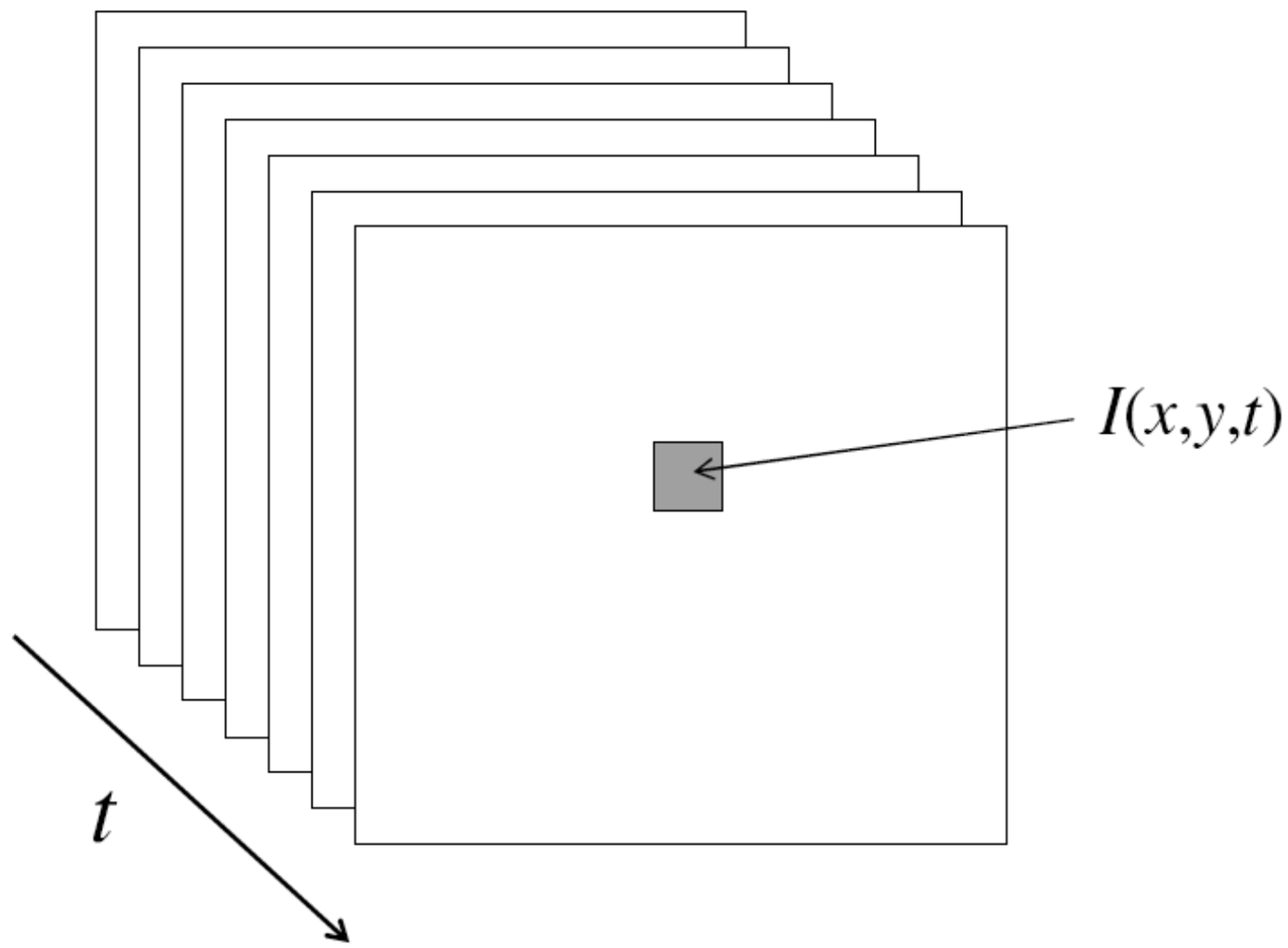


Tomas Izo

Slides by Steve Seitz, Kristen Grauman, others

Video

- A video is a sequence of frames captured over time
- Now our image data is a function of space (x, y) and time (t)

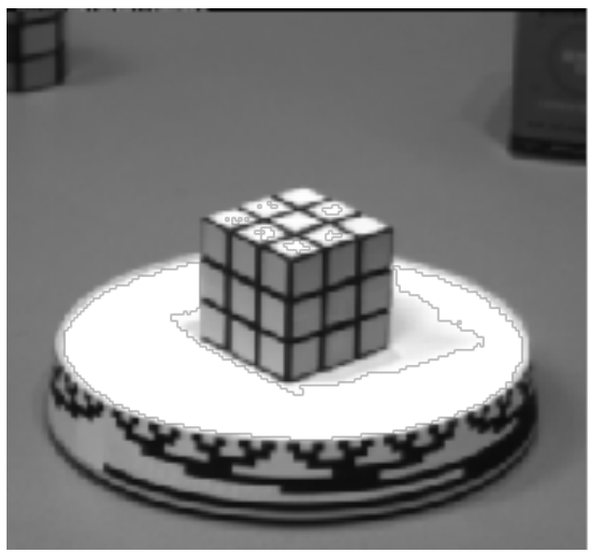


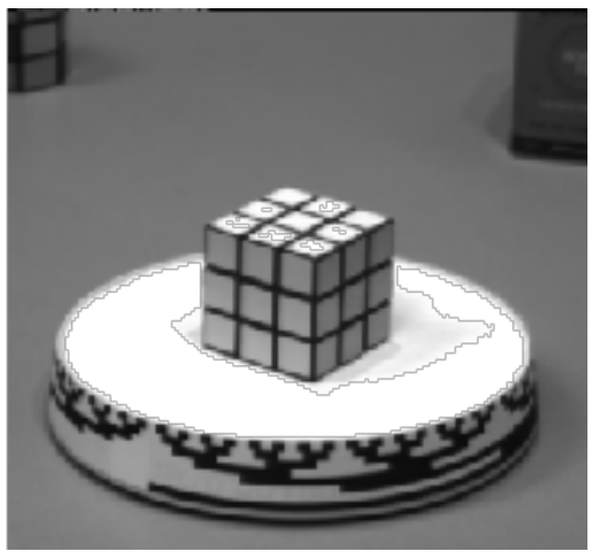
Uses of motion

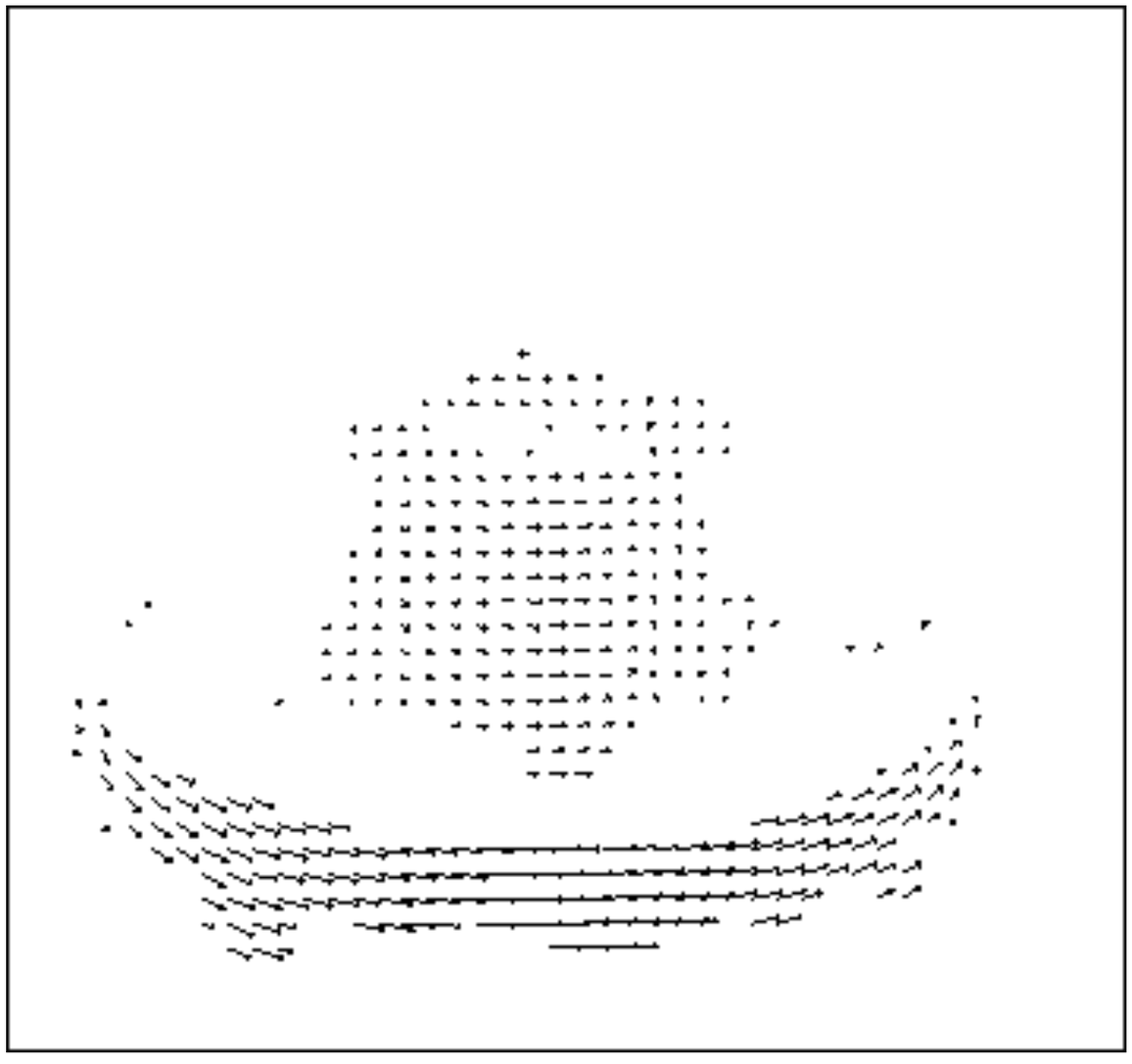
- Estimating 3D structure
- Segmenting objects based on motion cues
- Learning dynamical models
- Recognizing events and activities
- Improving video quality (motion stabilization)

Motion field

- The motion field is the projection of the 3D scene motion into the image

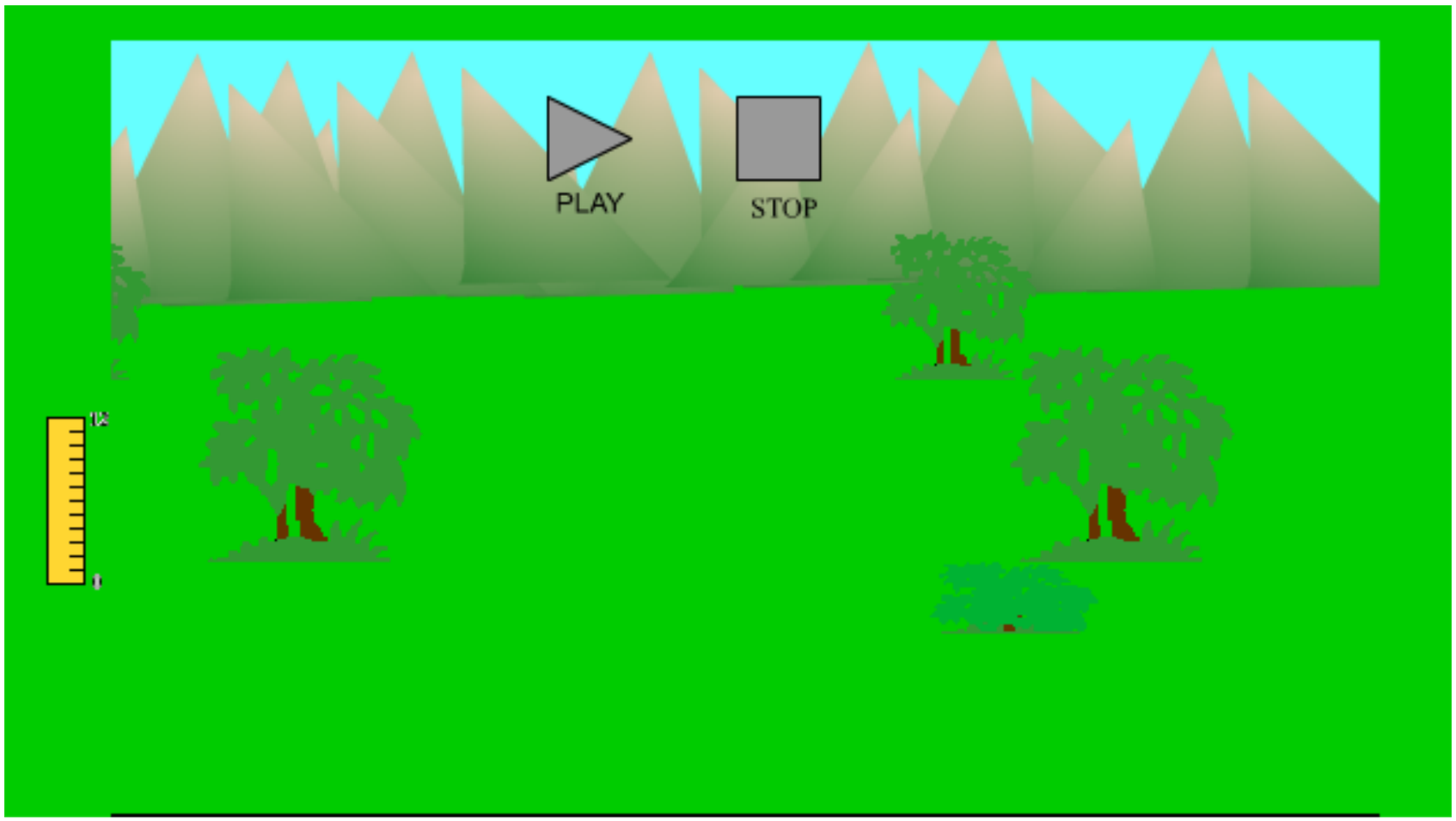






Motion parallax

http://psych.hanover.edu/KRANTZ/MotionParallax/MotionParallax.html



Motion field + camera motion

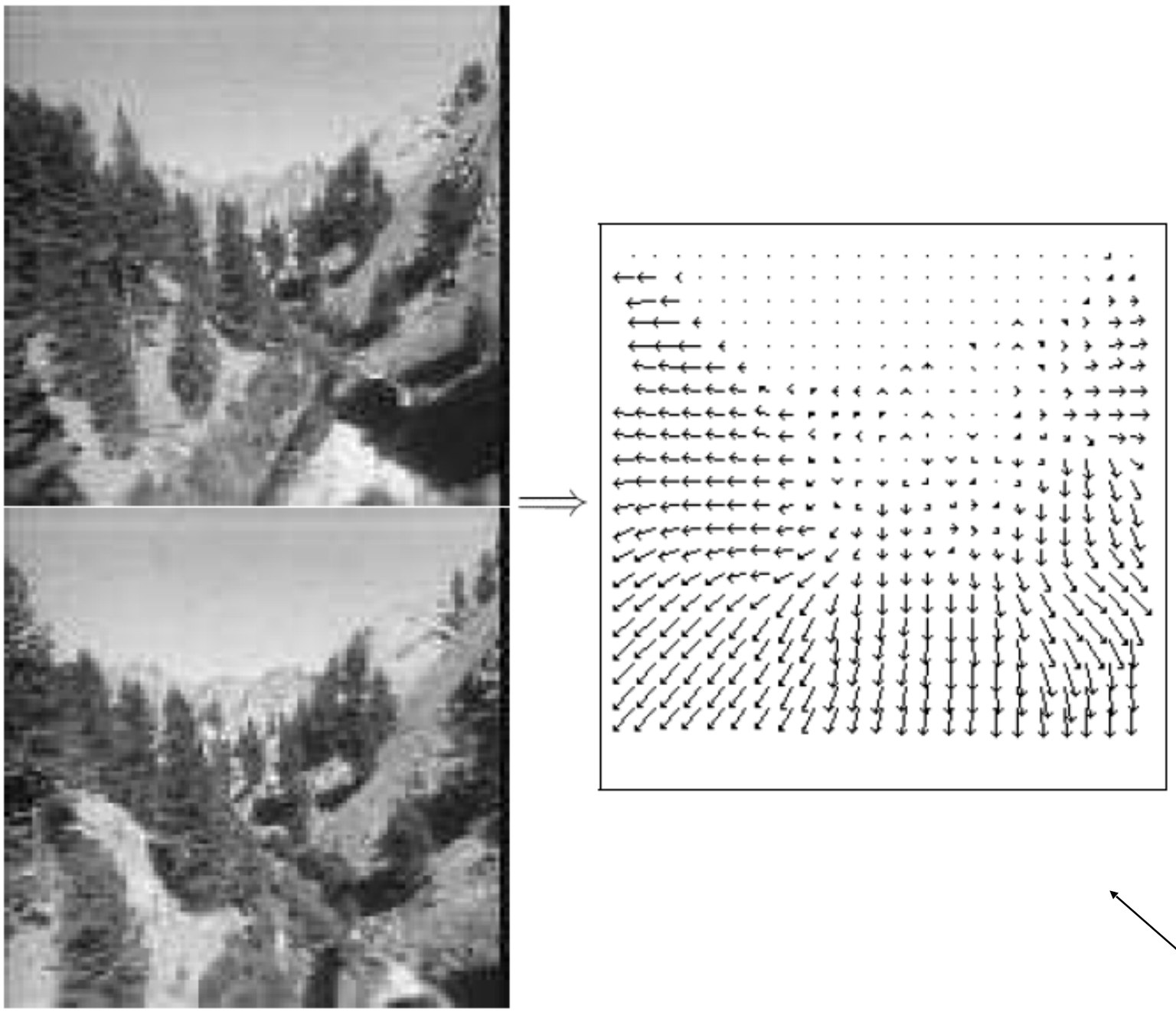


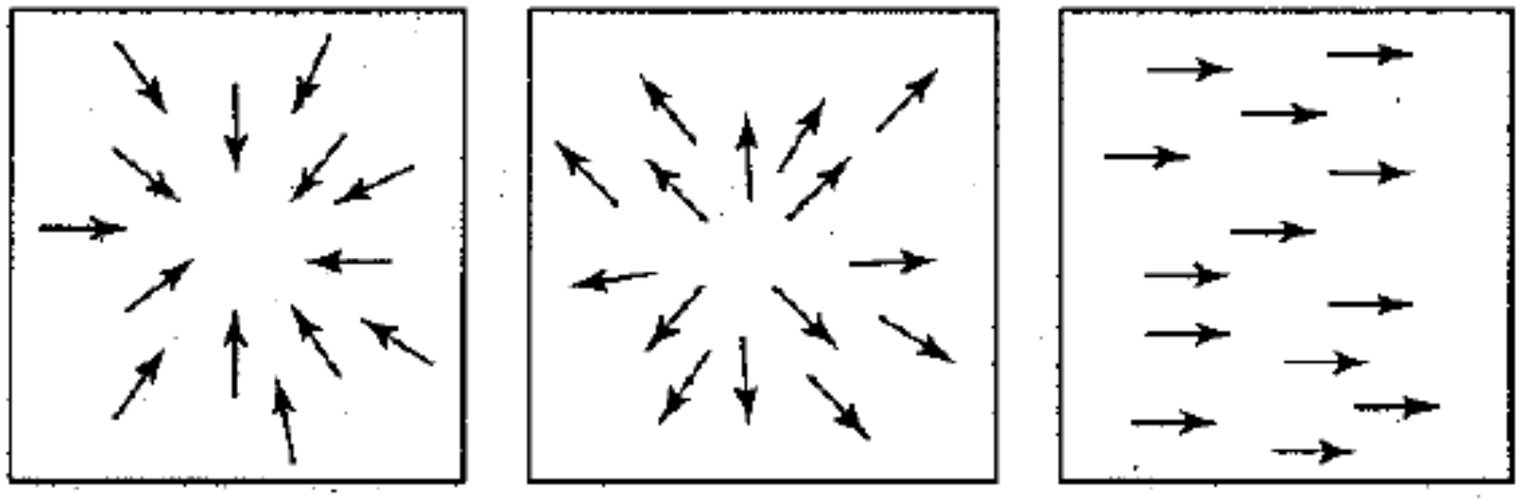
Figure 1.2: Two images taken from a helicopter flying through a canyon and the computed optical flow field.

Figure from Michael Black, Ph.D. Thesis

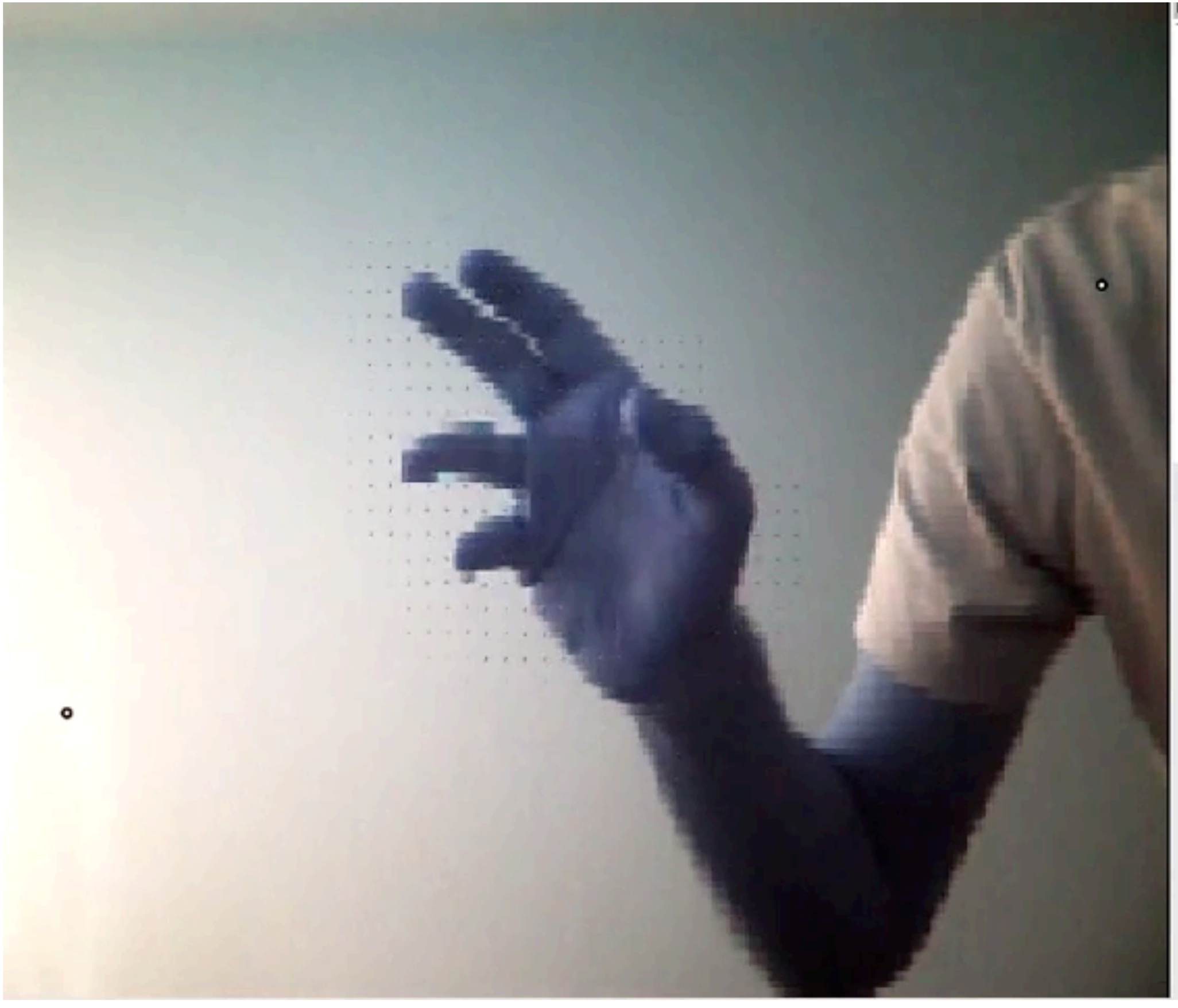
Length of flow vectors inversely proportional to depth Z of 3d point

points closer to the camera move more quickly across the image plane

Motion field + camera motion



Zoom out **Zoom in** **Pan right to left**


Main
Appe...
Move...
Colors
Video
- Camera Input Options
Switch camera input
render motion fx
render video
flipH
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58
173
State
grid
particle speed
threads
particle force
particle contour
optical flow
contour field

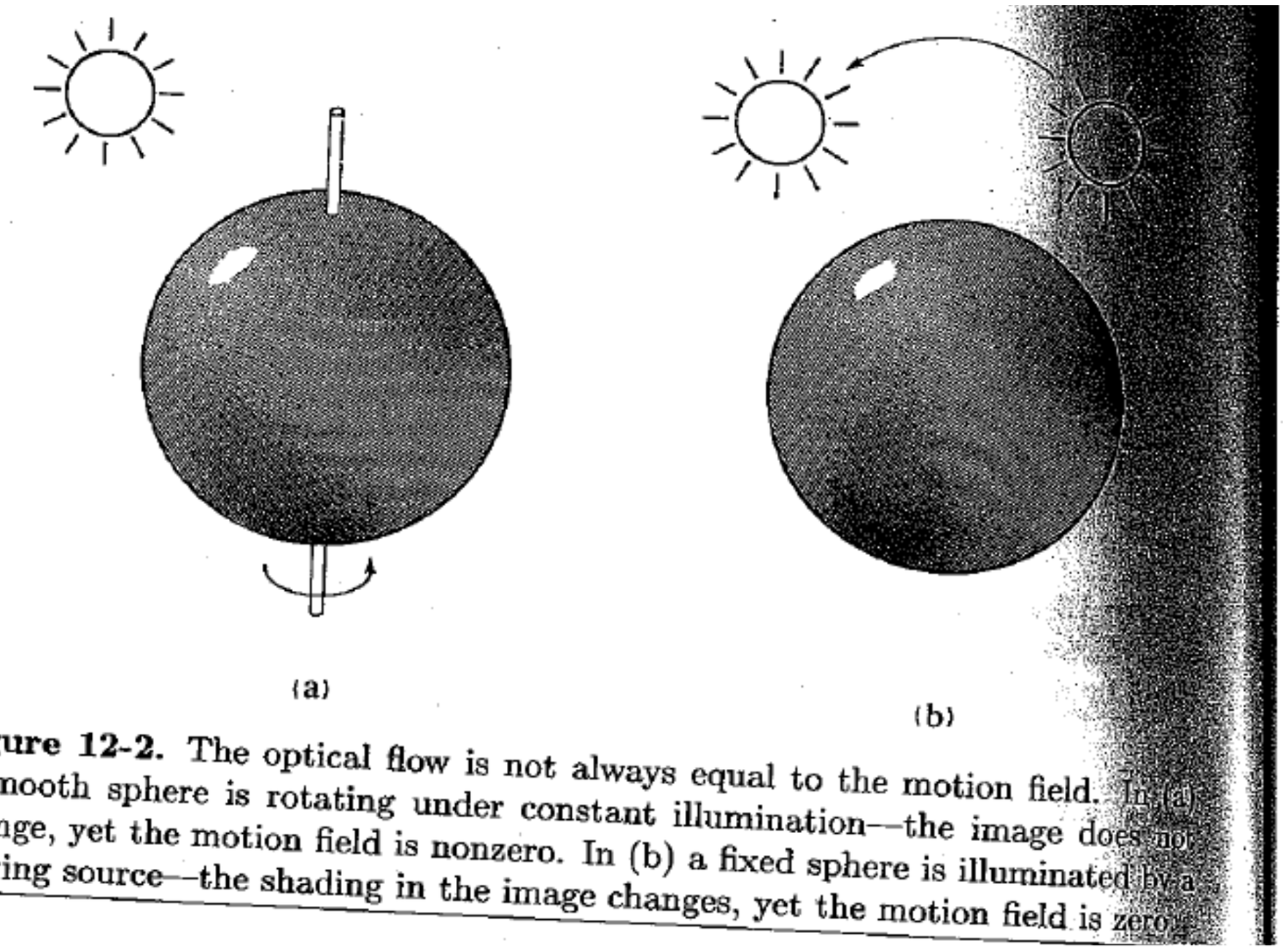
Motion estimation techniques

- Direct methods
  - Directly recover image motion at each pixel from spatio-temporal image brightness variations
  - Dense motion fields, but sensitive to appearance variations
  - Suitable for video and when image motion is small
- Feature-based methods
  - Extract visual features (corners, textured areas) and track them over multiple frames
  - Sparse motion fields, but more robust tracking
  - Suitable when image motion is large (10s of pixels)

Optical flow

- Definition: optical flow is the ***apparent*** motion of brightness patterns in the image
- Ideally, optical flow would be the same as the motion field
- Have to be careful: apparent motion can be caused by lighting changes without any actual motion

Apparent motion != motion field

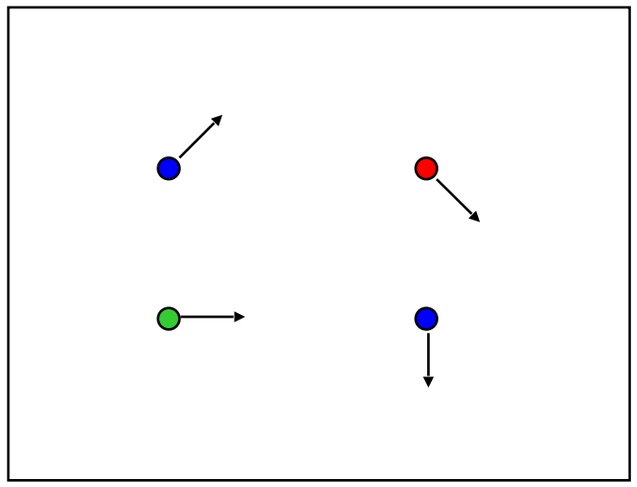


(a) (b)

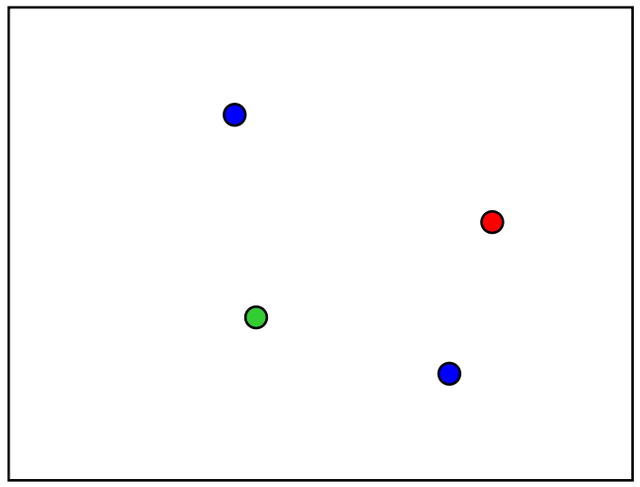
Figure 12-2. The optical flow is not always equal to the motion field. In (a) a smooth sphere is rotating under constant illumination—the image does not change, yet the motion field is nonzero. In (b) a fixed sphere is illuminated by a moving source—the shading in the image changes, yet the motion field is zero.

Figure from Horn book

Problem definition: optical flow



$H(x, y)$



$I(x, y)$

How to estimate pixel motion from image H to image I?

- Solve pixel correspondence problem
  - given a pixel in H, look for nearby pixels of the same color in I

Key assumptions

- **color constancy**: a point in H looks the same in I
  - For grayscale images, this is **brightness constancy**
- **small motion**: points do not move very far

This is called the **optical flow** problem

Steve Seitz

Brightness constancy

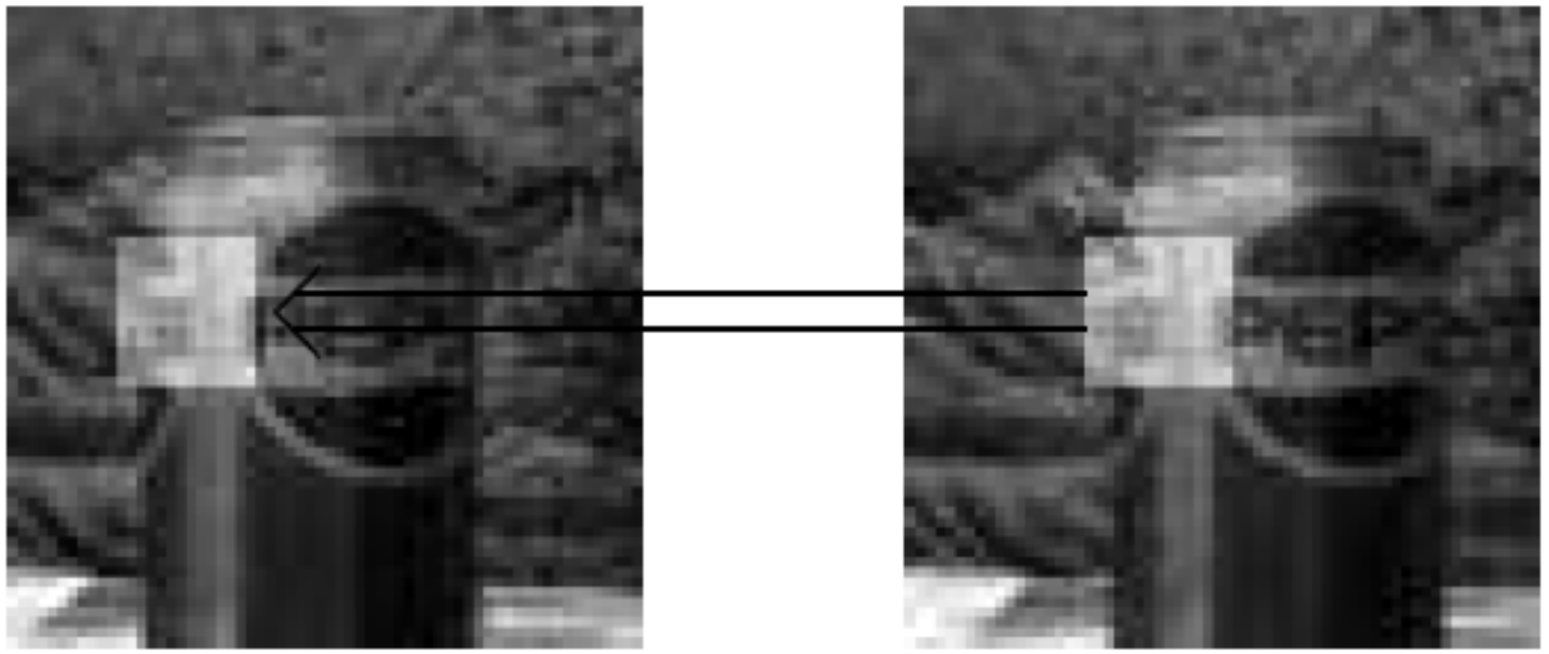
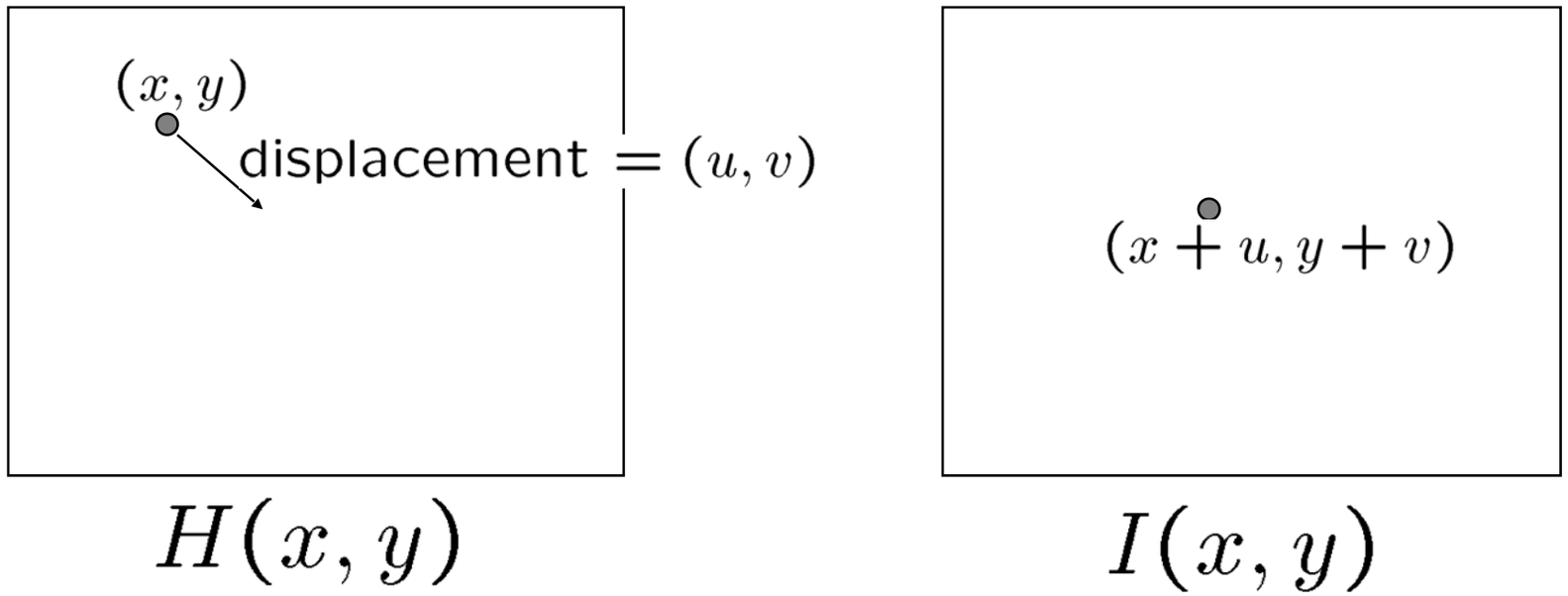


Figure 1.5: Data conservation assumption. The highlighted region in the right image looks roughly the same as the region in the left image, despite the fact that it has moved.

Figure by Michael Black

Optical flow constraints (grayscale images)



Let's look at these constraints more closely

- brightness constancy: Q: what's the equation?

$$H(x, y) = I(x + u, y + v)$$

- small motion:

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

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

Steve Seitz

Optical flow equation

Combining these two equations

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

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 &= I(x+u, y+v) - H(x,y) \\
&\approx I(x,y) + I_x u + I_y v - H(x,y) \\
&\approx (I(x,y) - H(x,y)) + I_x u + I_y v \\
&\approx I_t + I_x u + I_y v \\
&\approx I_t + \nabla I \cdot [u\ v]
\end{aligned}
$$

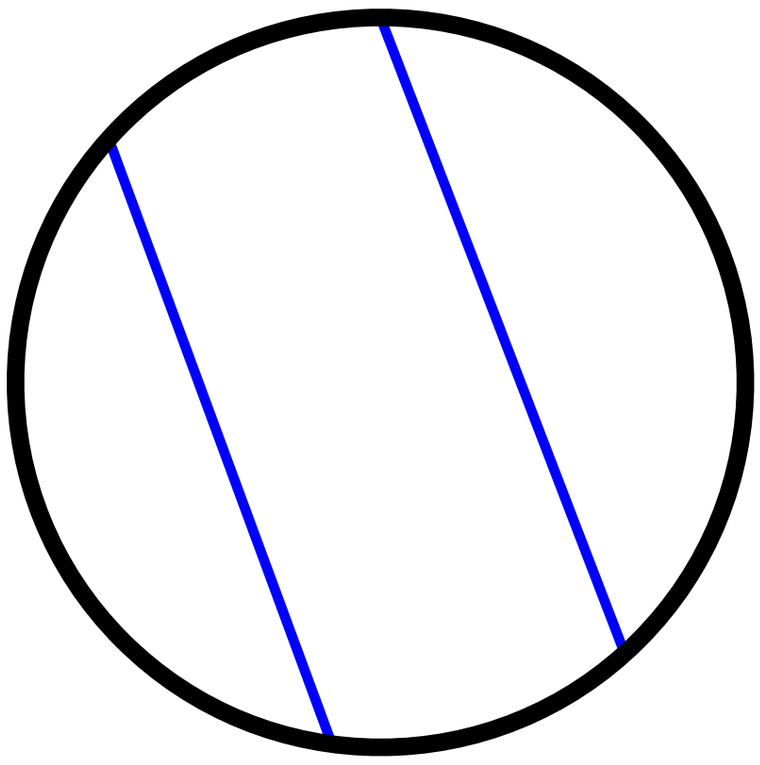
Optical flow equation

$$0 = I_t + \nabla I \cdot [u \ v]$$

Q: how many unknowns and equations per pixel?

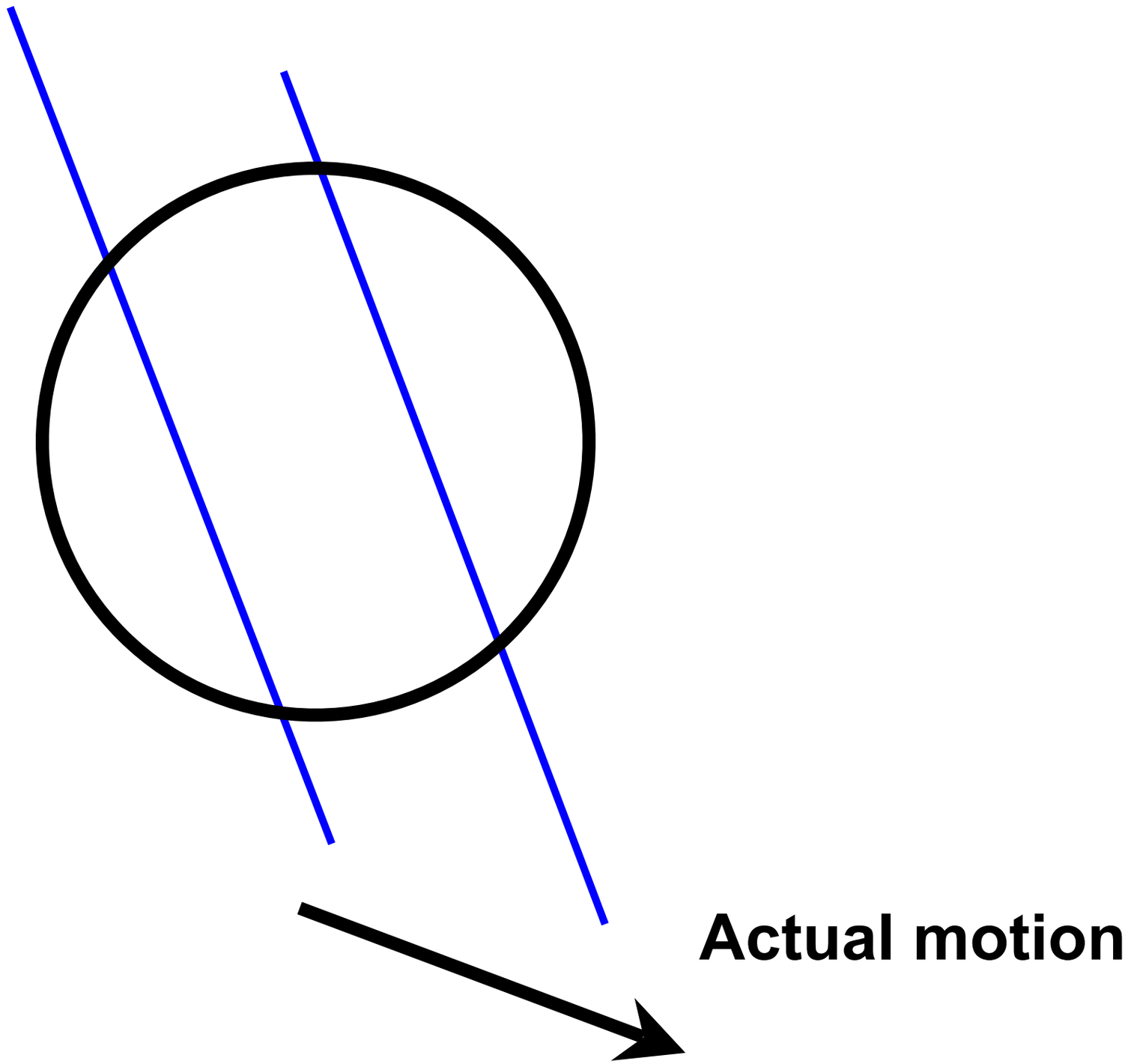
Intuitively, what does this ambiguity mean?

The aperture problem



Perceived motion

The aperture problem



The barber pole illusion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion

The barber pole illusion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion

Solving the aperture problem (grayscale image)

- How to get more equations for a pixel?
- **Spatial coherence constraint:** pretend the pixel's neighbors have the same (u,v)

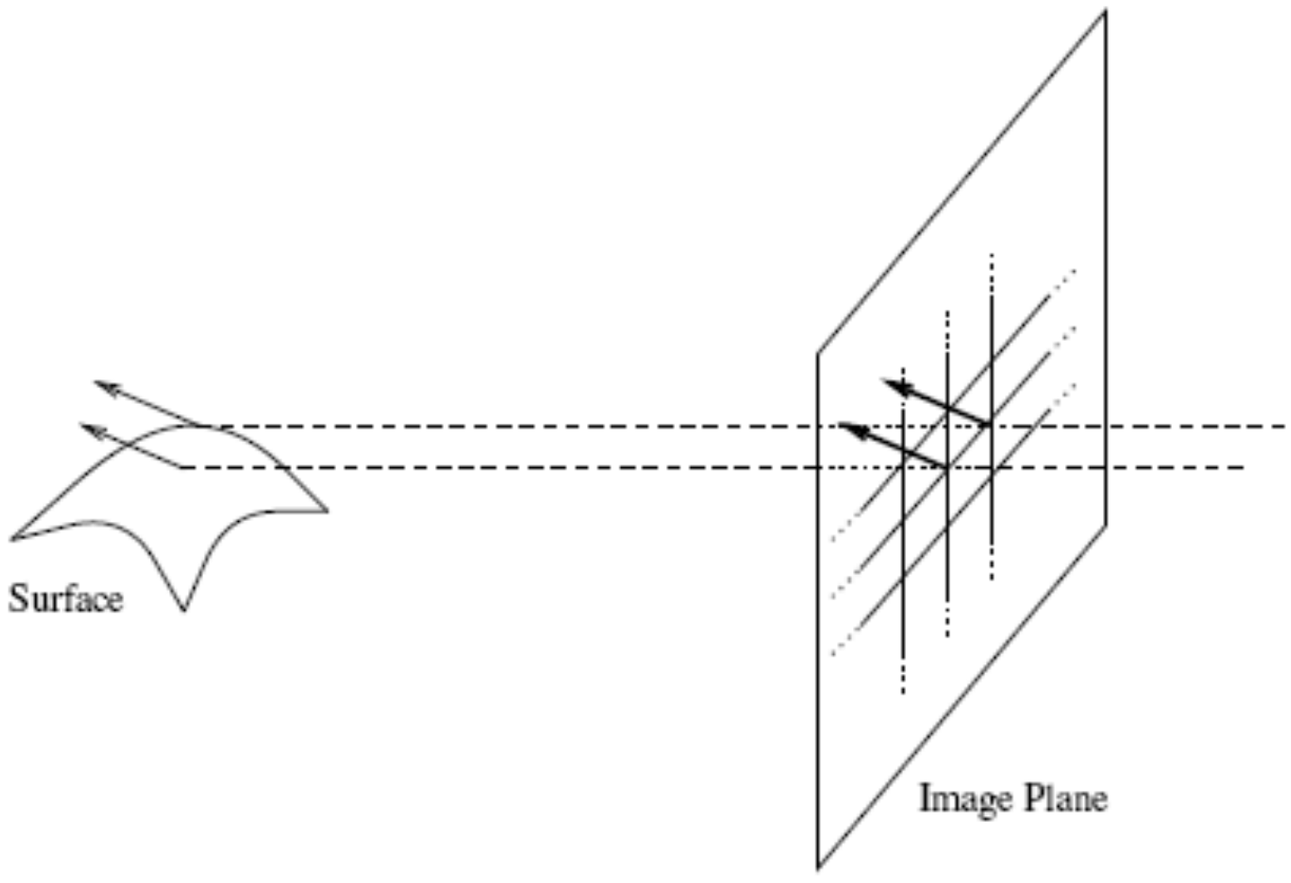


Figure 1.7: Spatial coherence assumption. Neighboring points in the image are assumed to belong to the same surface in the scene.

Figure by Michael Black

Solving the aperture problem (grayscale image)

- How to get more equations for a pixel?
- **Spatial coherence constraint:** pretend the pixel's neighbors have the same (u,v)
  - If we use a 5x5 window, that gives us 25 equations per pixel

$$0 = I_t(\mathbf{p_i}) + \nabla I(\mathbf{p_i}) \cdot [u \ v]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p_1}) & I_y(\mathbf{p_1}) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p_2}) & I_y(\mathbf{p_2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p_{25}}) & I_y(\mathbf{p_{25}}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p_1}) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p_2}) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p_{25}}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underset{25\text{x}2}{A} \quad \underset{2\text{x}1}{d} = \underset{25\text{x}1}{b}$$

Steve Seitz

Solving the aperture problem

Prob: we have more equations than unknowns

$$\underset{25\text{x}2}{A}\ \underset{2\text{x}1}{d} = \underset{25\text{x}1}{b} \longrightarrow \text{minimize } ||Ad - b||^2$$

Solution: solve least squares problem

- minimum least squares solution given by solution (in d) of:

$$\underset{2\text{x}2}{(A^T A)}\ \underset{2\text{x}1}{d} = \underset{2\text{x}1}{A^T b}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T A} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{-\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}}_{A^T b}$$

- The summations are over all pixels in the K x K window
- This technique was first proposed by Lucas & Kanade (1981)

Conditions for solvability

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

$A^T A$ $\qquad\qquad$ $A^T b$

When is this solvable?

- $\mathbf{A^T A}$ should be invertible
- $\mathbf{A^T A}$ should not be too small
  - eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 of $\mathbf{A^T A}$ should not be too small
- $\mathbf{A^T A}$ should be well-conditioned
  - λ_1 / λ_2 should not be too large (λ_1 = larger eigenvalue)

Slide by Steve Seitz, UW

Edge

– gradients very large or very small
– large λ_1, small λ_2

Low-texture region

– gradients have small magnitude
– small λ_1, small λ_2

High-texture region

– gradients are different, large magnitudes
– large λ_1, large λ_2


Main
Appe...
Move...
Colors
Video
- Camera Input Options
Switch camera input
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particle speed
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particle force
particle contour
optical flow
contour field

Using optical flow: recognizing facial expressions

Disgust

Sadness

happiness

fear

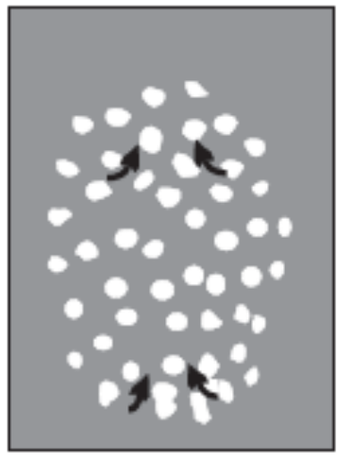
Anger

Surprise

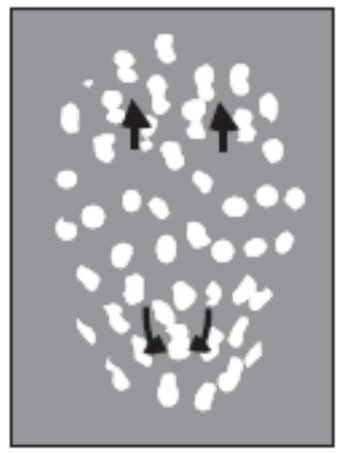
Recognizing Human Facial Expression (1994)

by Yaser Yacoob, Larry S. Davis

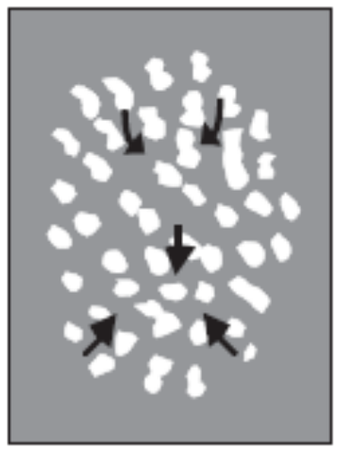
Happiness



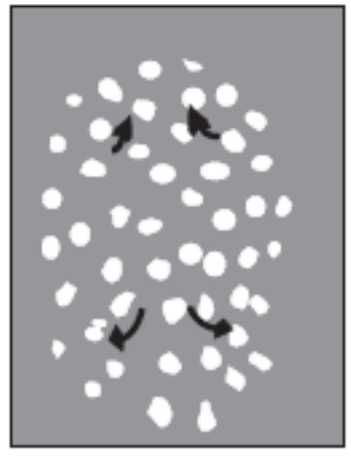
Sadness



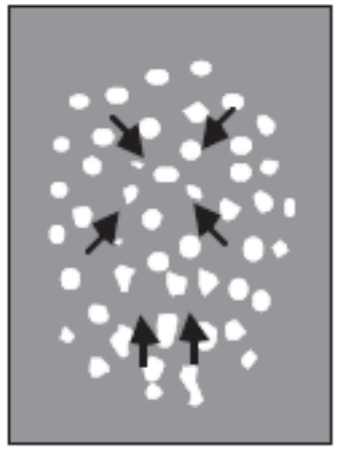
Surprise



Anger



Fear



Disgust

Applying optical flow: video stabilization

http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2012/05/video-stabilization-on-youtube.html

Applying optical flow: video stabilization

http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2012/05/video-stabilization-on-youtube.html

Applying optical flow: video stabilization

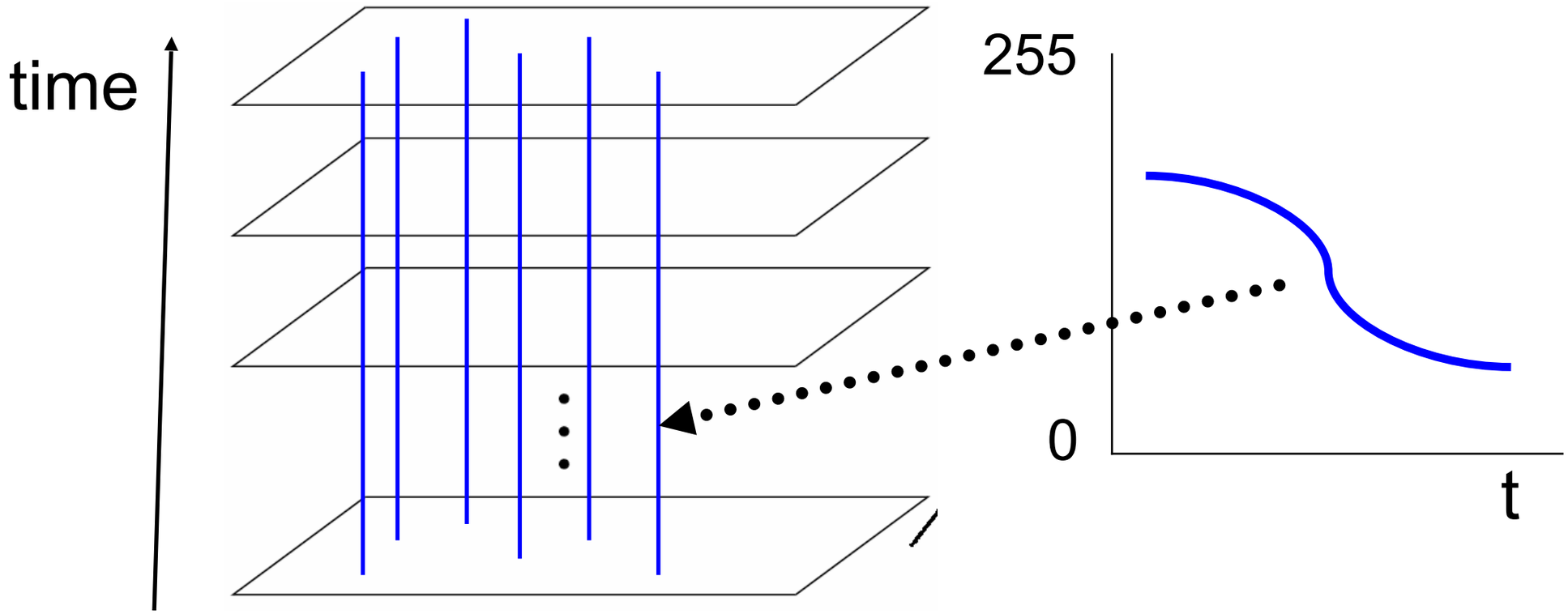
Motion vs. Stereo: Similarities

- Both involve solving
  - Correspondence: disparities, motion vectors
  - Reconstruction

Motion vs. Stereo: Differences

- **Motion**:
  - Uses velocity: consecutive frames must be close to get good approximate time derivative
  - 3d movement between camera and scene not necessarily single 3d rigid transformation
- **Whereas with stereo**:
  - Could have any disparity value
  - View pair separated by a single 3d transformation

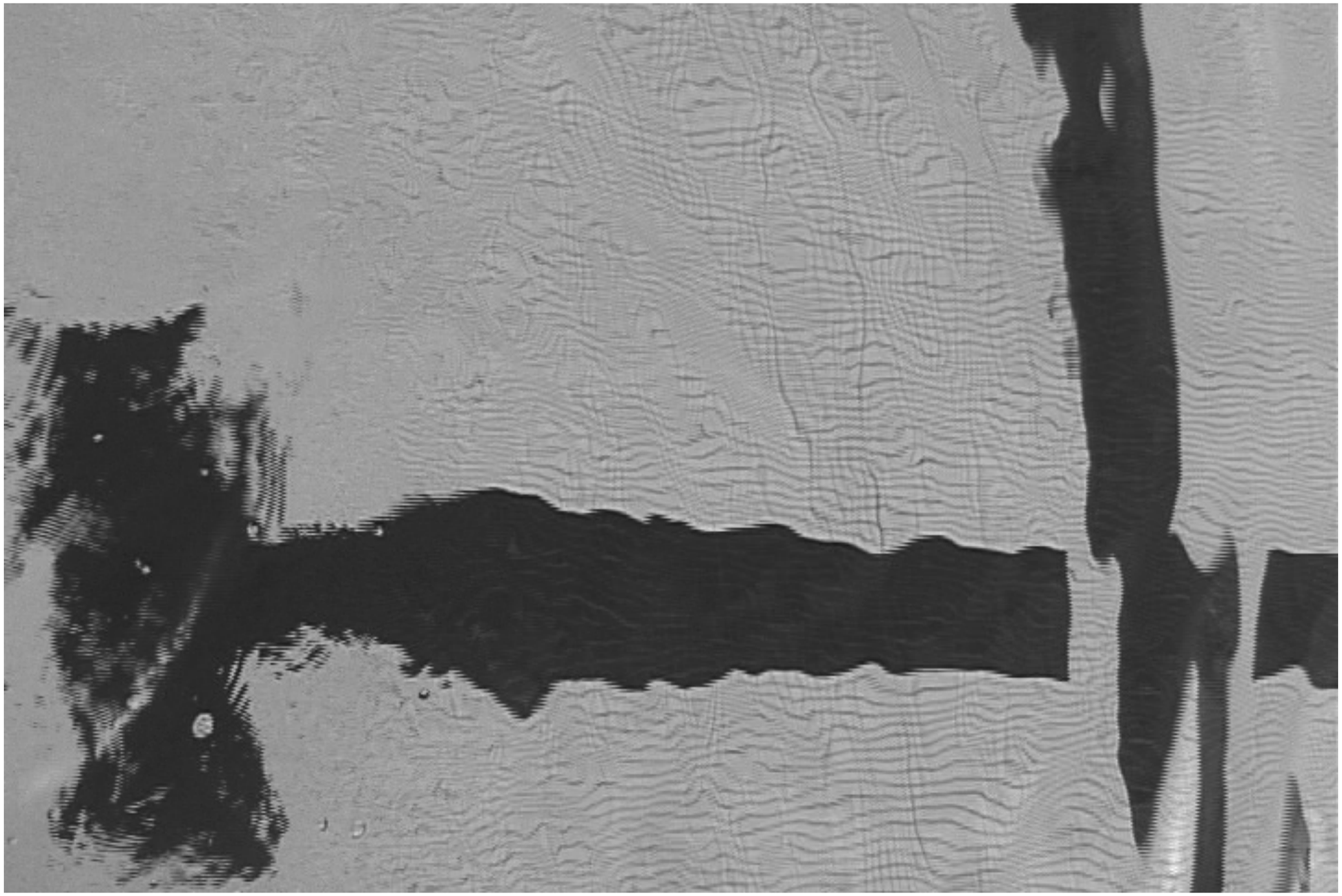
Video as an “Image Stack”



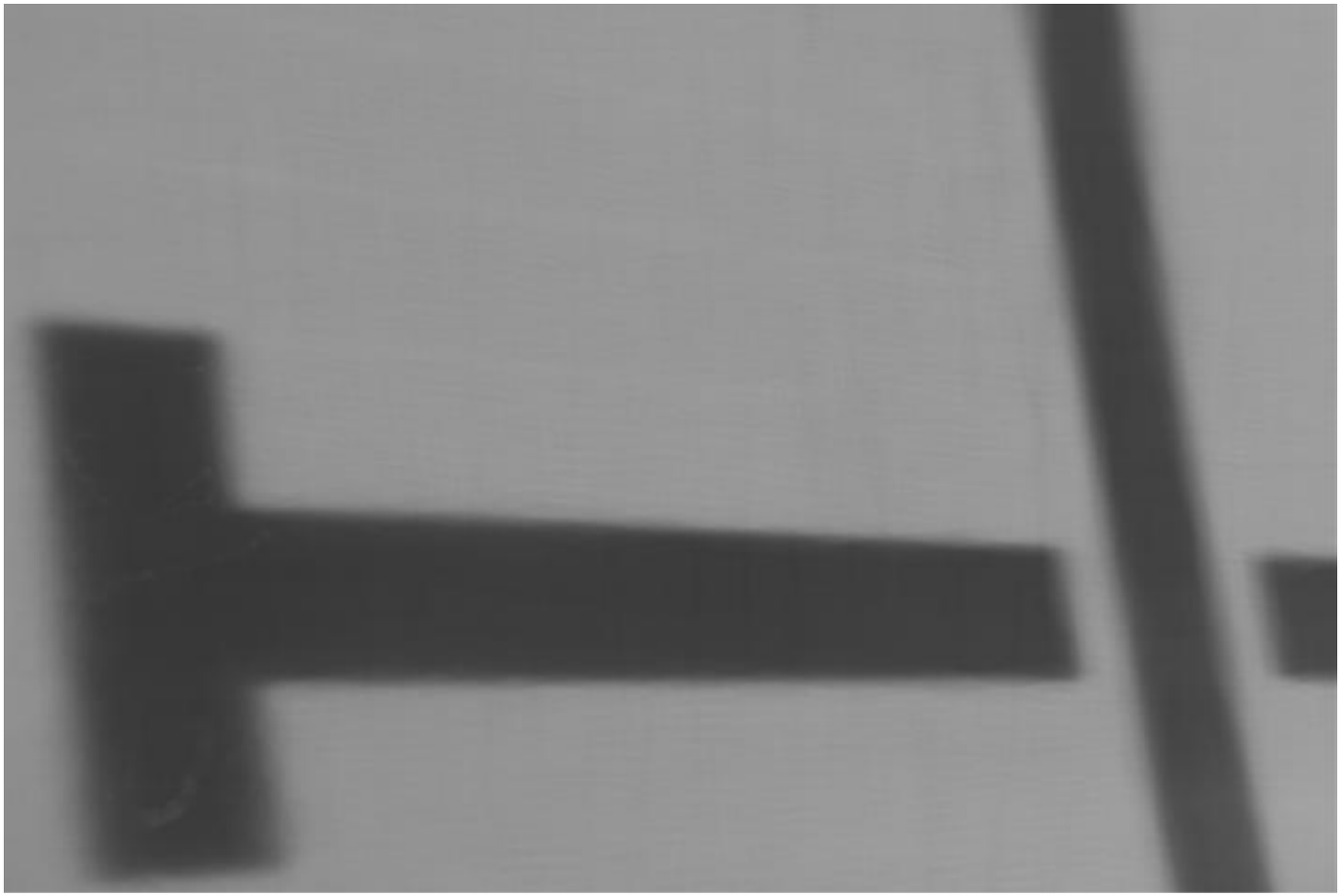
Can look at video data as a spatio-temporal volume

- If camera is stationary, each line through time corresponds to a single ray in space

Input Video



Average Image



Background Subtraction

- Given an image (mostly likely to be a video frame), we want to identify the **foreground objects** in that image!

$\Rightarrow$

Motivation

- In most cases, objects are of interest, not the scene.
- Makes our life easier: less processing costs, and less room for error.

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Background subtraction

- Simple techniques can do ok with static camera
- …But hard to do perfectly

- Widely used:
  - Traffic monitoring (counting vehicles, detecting & tracking vehicles, pedestrians),
  - Human action recognition (run, walk, jump, squat),
  - Human-computer interaction
  - Object tracking

Simple Approach

Image at time t:

$I(x, y, t)$

$\Downarrow$

$|$ $-$

Background at time t:

$B(x, y, t)$

$\Downarrow$

$| > Th$

1. Estimate the background for time t.
2. Subtract the estimated background from the input frame.
3. Apply a threshold, Th, to the absolute difference to get the **foreground mask**.

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Frame Differencing

- Background is estimated to be the previous frame.
  Background subtraction equation then becomes:

$$B(x, y, t) = I(x, y, t-1)$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$|I(x, y, t) - I(x, y, t-1)| > Th$$

- Depending on the object structure, speed, frame rate and global threshold, this approach may or may **not** be useful (usually **not**).

$|$  $-$  $| > Th$

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Frame Differencing

$Th = 25$

$Th = 50$

$Th = 100$

$Th = 200$

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Mean Filter

- In this case the background is the mean of the previous n frames:

$$B(x, y, t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} I(x, y, t - i)$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$|I(x, y, t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} I(x, y, t - i)| > Th$$

- For $n = 10$:

Estimated Background

Foreground Mask

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Median Filter

- Assuming that the background is more likely to appear in a scene, we can use the median of the previous n frames as the background model:

$$B(x, y, t) = median\{I(x, y, t - i)\}$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$|I(x, y, t) - median\{I(x, y, t - i)\}| > Th \text{ where}$$

$$i \in \{0, \ldots, n - 1\}.$$

- For $n = 10$:

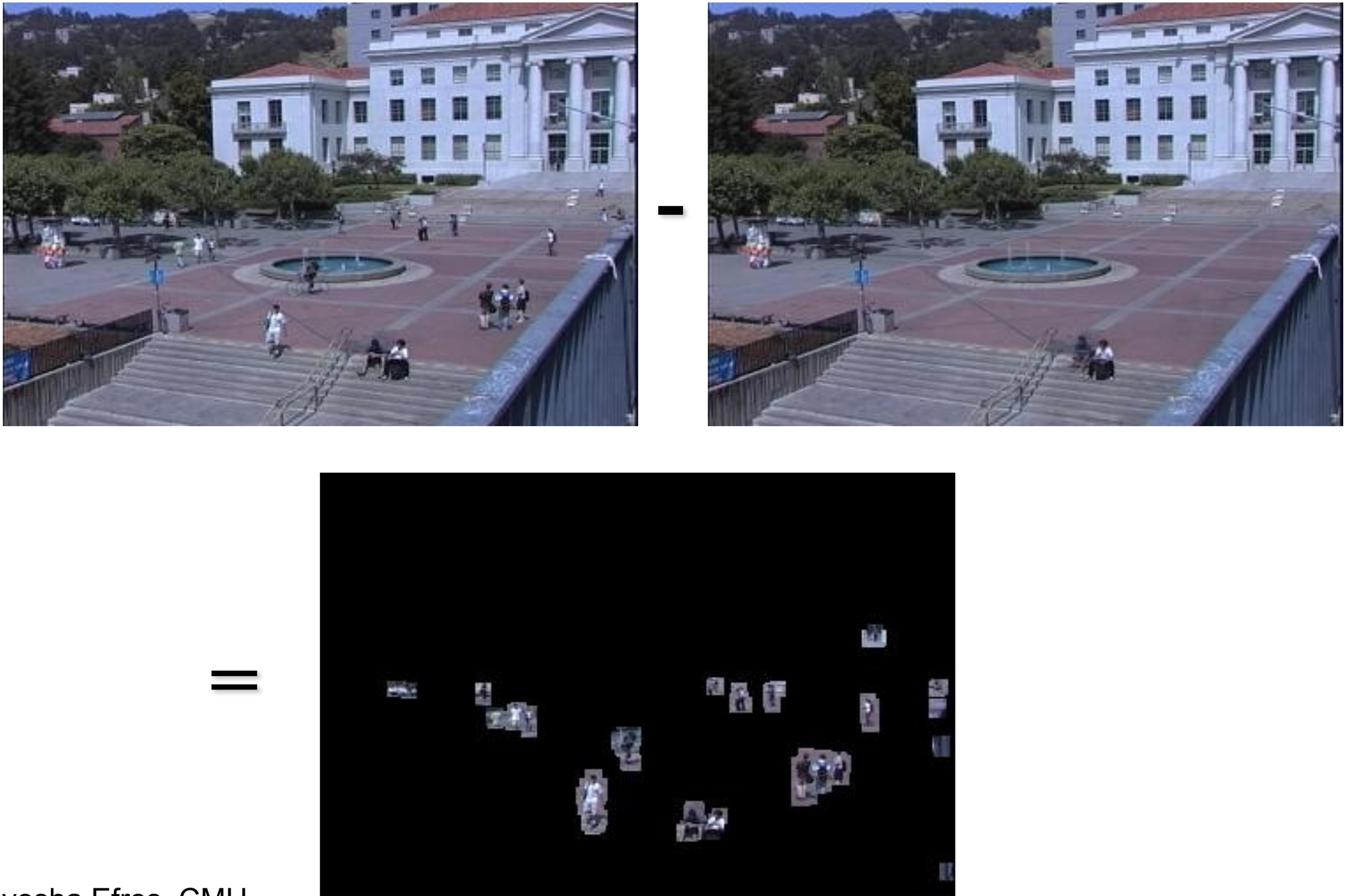
Estimated Background

Foreground Mask

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Average/Median Image

Background Subtraction



Alyosha Efros, CMU

Pros and cons

Advantages:

- Extremely easy to implement and use!
- All pretty fast.
- Corresponding background models need not be constant, they change over time.

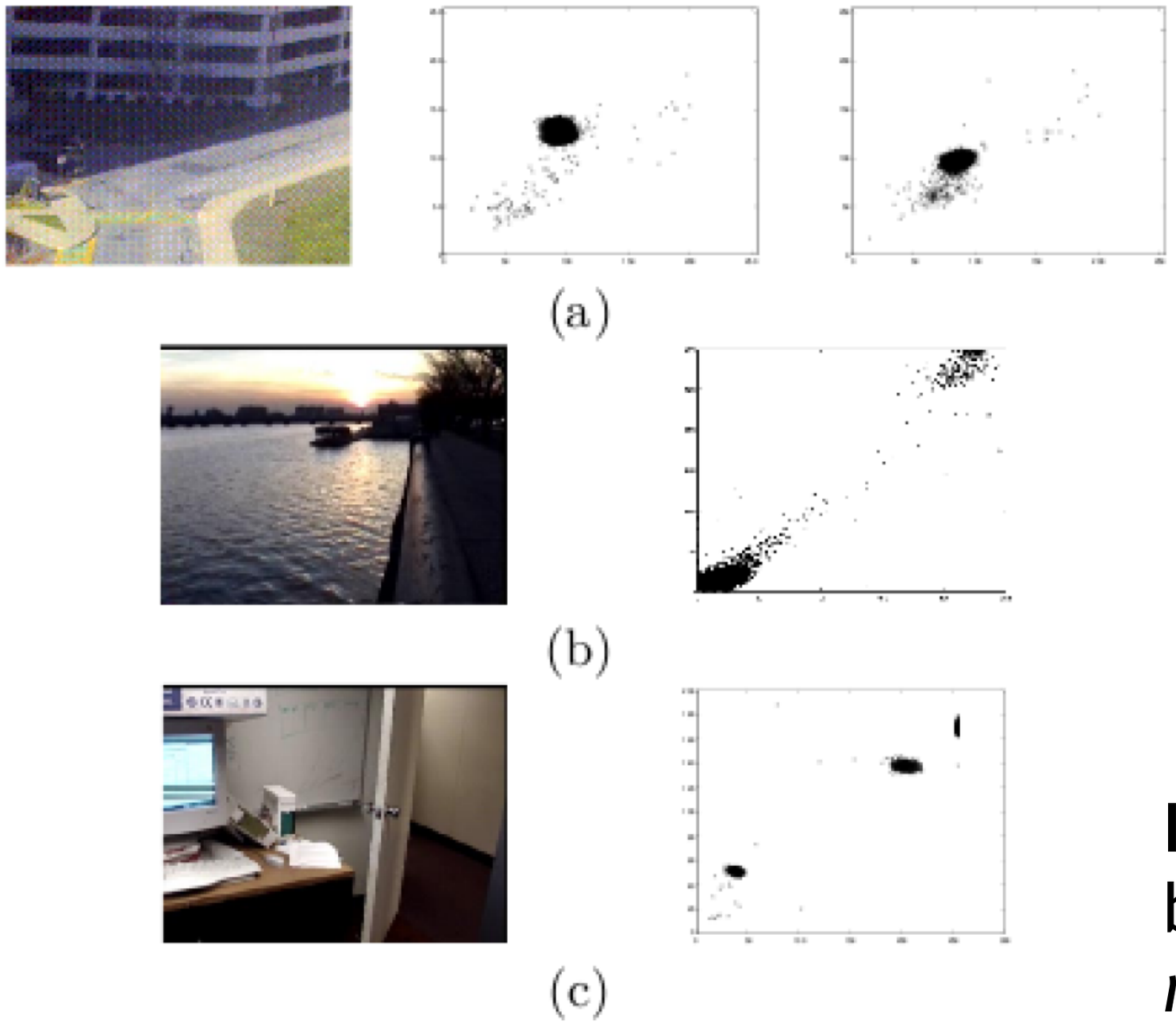
Disadvantages:

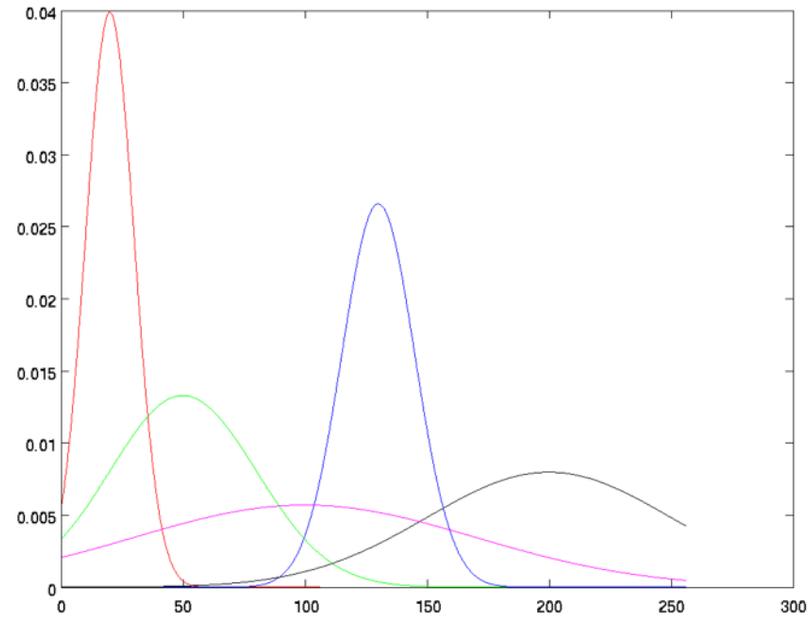
- Accuracy of frame differencing depends on object speed and frame rate
- Median background model: relatively high memory requirements.
- Setting global threshold Th…

When will this basic approach fail?

Slide credit: Birgi Tamersoy

Background mixture models





Idea: model each background pixel with a *mixture* of Gaussians; update its parameters over time.

Adaptive Background Mixture Models for Real-Time Tracking, Chris Stauer & W.E.L. Grimson

Background subtraction with **depth**

How can we select foreground pixels based on depth information?

Human activity in video

No universal terminology, but approximately:

- "**Actions**": atomic motion patterns -- often gesture-like, single clear-cut trajectory, single nameable behavior (e.g., sit, wave arms)

- "**Activity**": series or composition of actions (e.g., interactions between people)

- "**Event**": combination of activities or actions (e.g., a football game, a traffic accident)

Adapted from Venu Govindaraju

Motion Energy Images

$$E_\tau(x, y, t) = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\tau-1} D(x, y, t - i)$$

D(x,y,t): Binary image sequence indicating motion locations

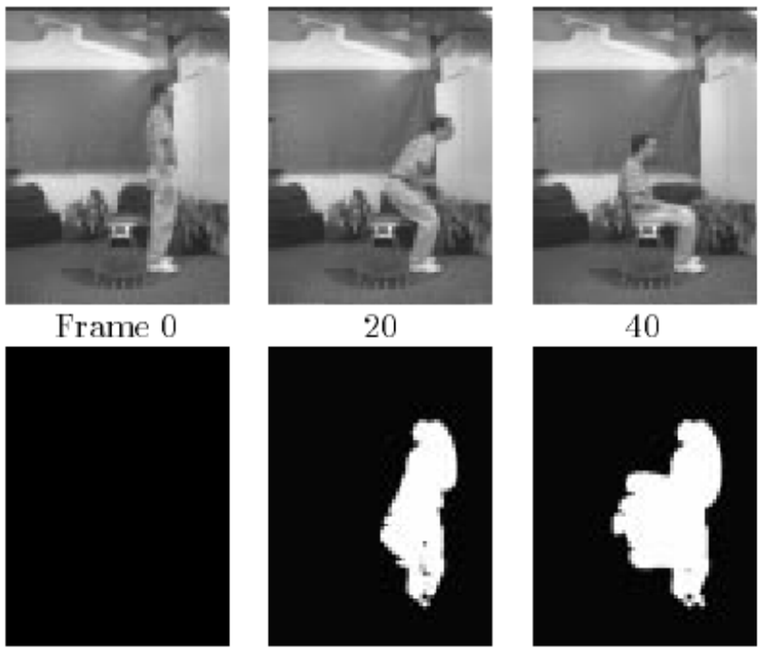


Figure 2: Example of someone sitting. Top row contains key frames; bottom row is cumulative motion images starting from Frame 0.

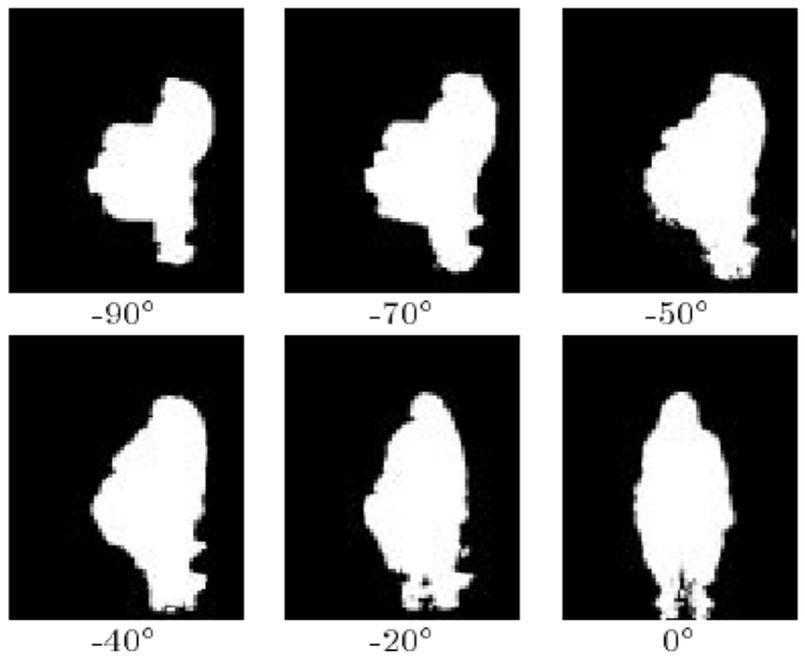
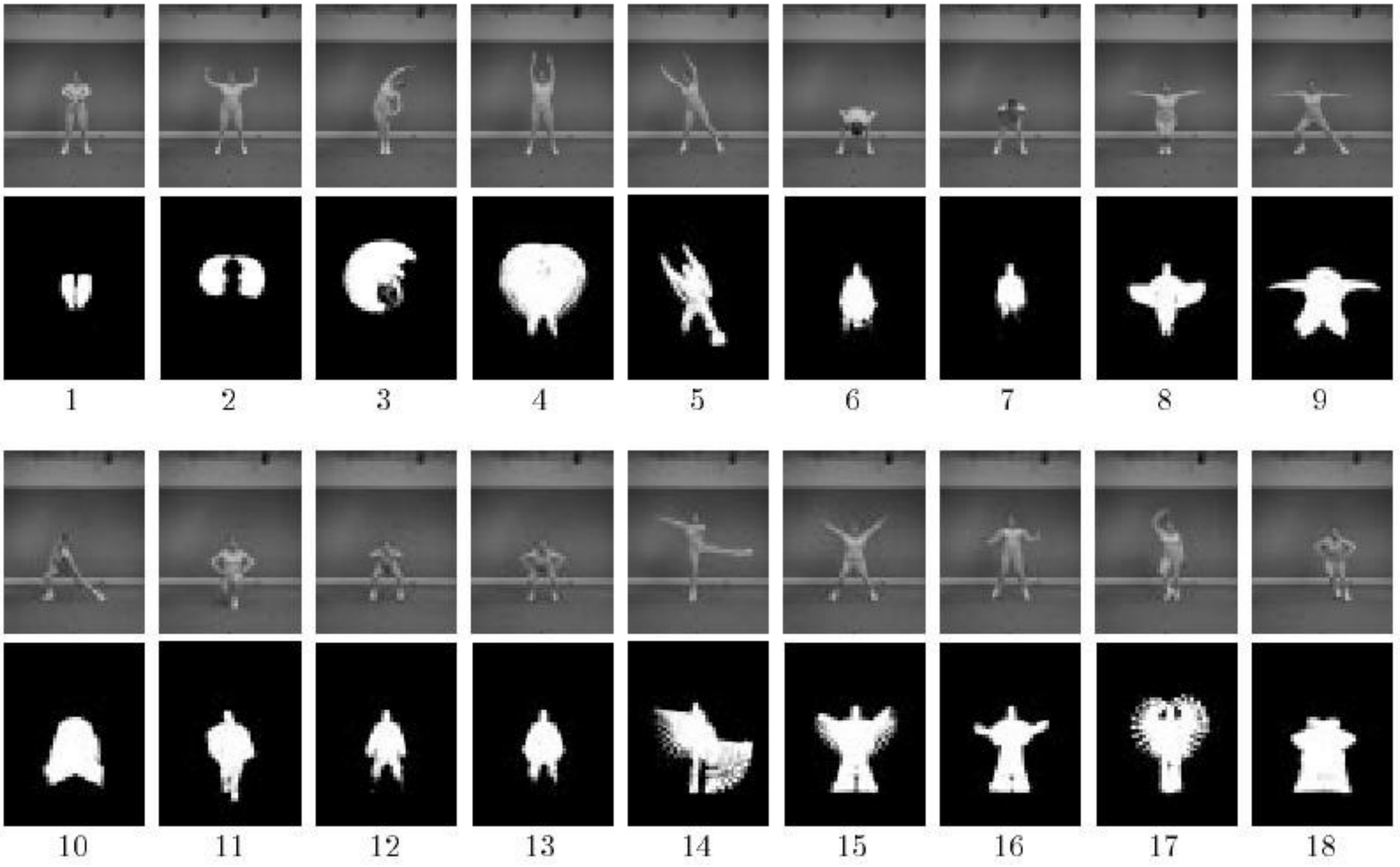


Figure 3: MEIs of sitting action over 90° viewing angle. The smooth change implies only a coarse sampling of viewing direction is necessary to recognize the action from all angles.

Davis & Bobick 1999: The Representation and Recognition of Action Using Temporal Templates

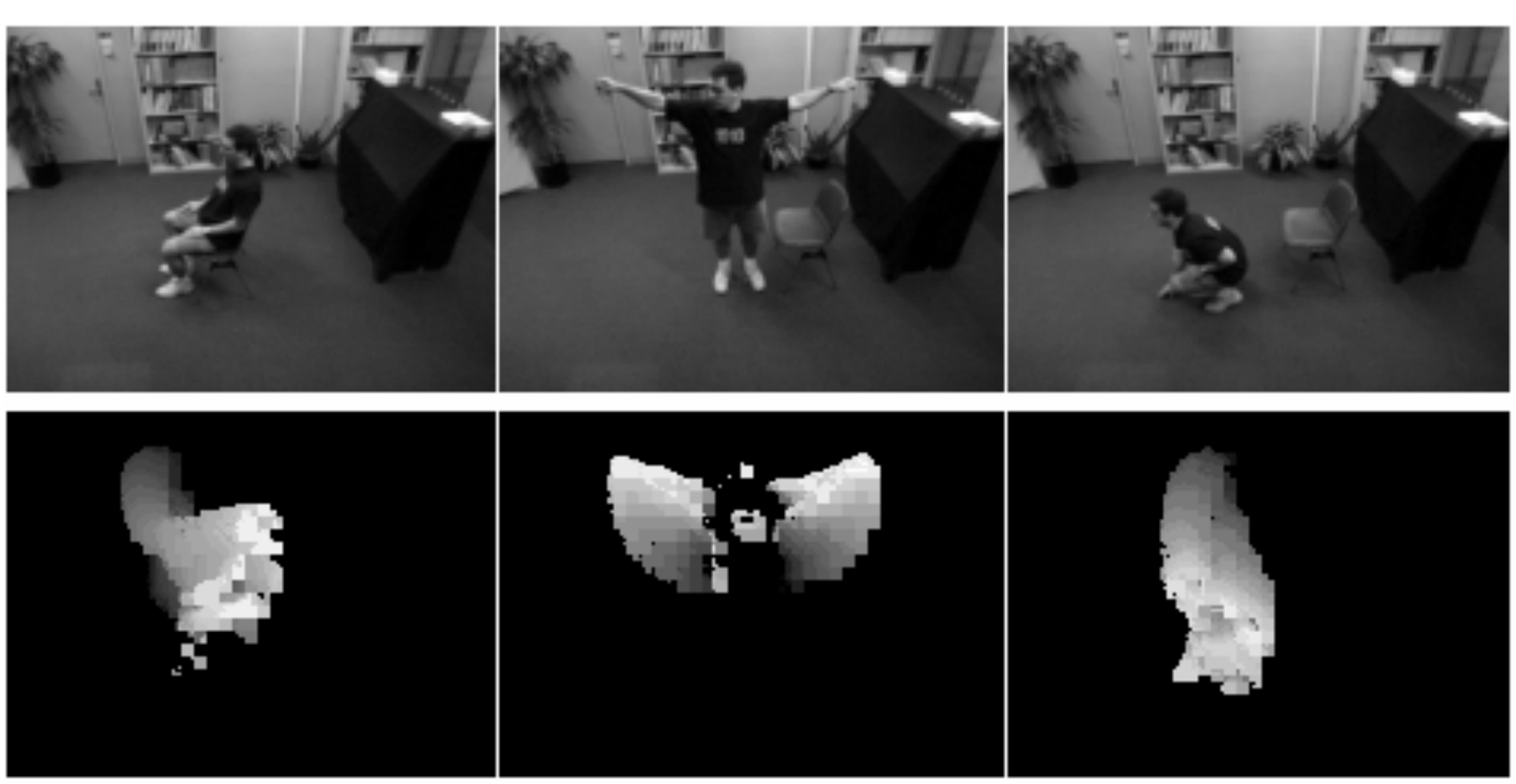
Motion Energy Images



Davis & Bobick 1999: The Representation and Recognition of Action Using Temporal Templates

Motion History Images

$$H_\tau(x,y,t) = \begin{cases} \tau & if\ D(x,y,t) = 1 \\ \max(0, H_\tau(x,y,t-1) - 1) & otherwise \end{cases}$$

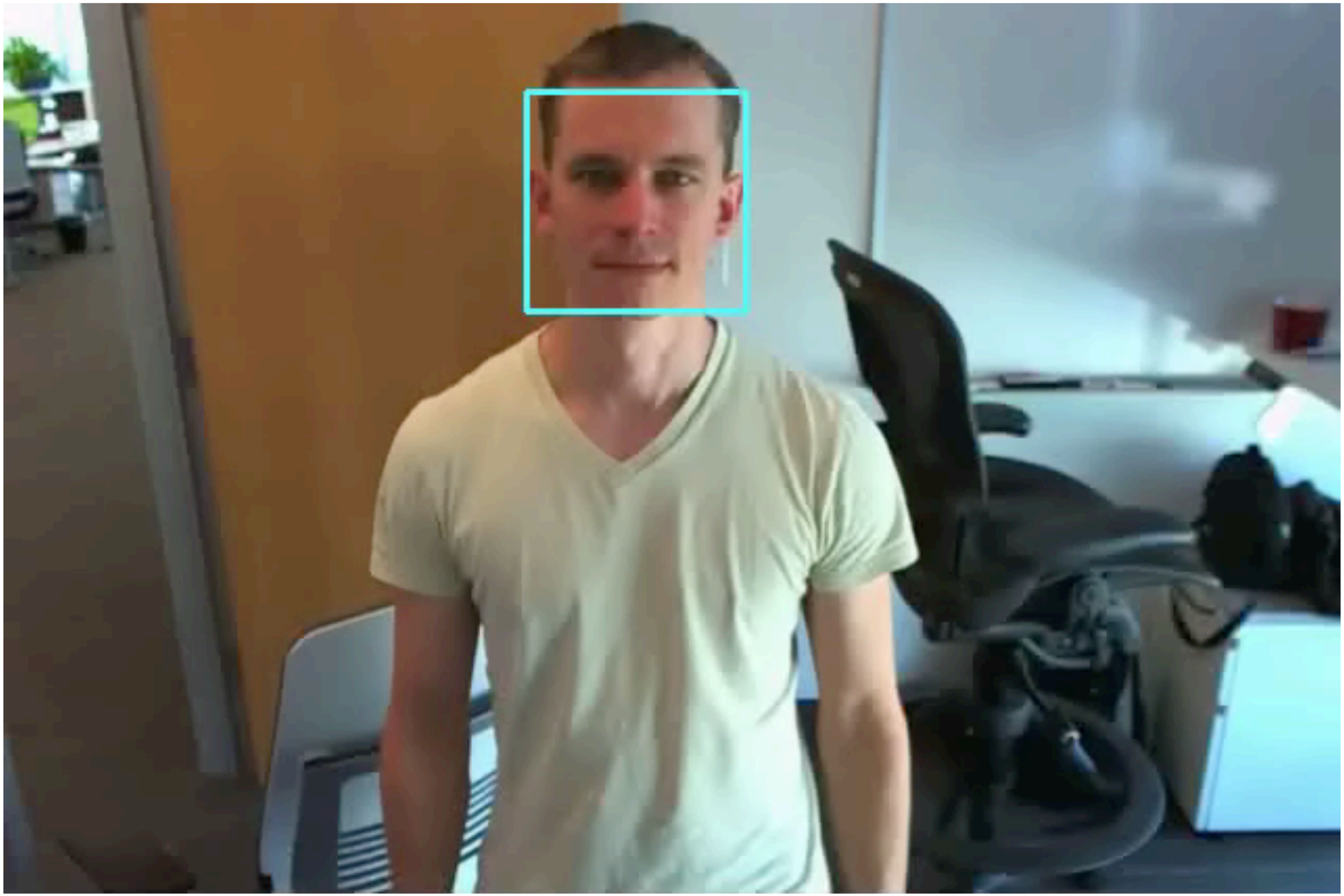


Davis & Bobick 1999: The Representation and Recognition of Action Using Temporal Templates

Summary

- **Background subtraction**:
  - Essential low-level processing tool to segment moving objects from static camera's video
- **Action recognition:**
  - Increasing attention to actions as motion and appearance patterns
  - For instrumented/constrained environments, relatively simple techniques allow effective gesture or action recognition

Project 3: Tracking



- **Code reviews due Friday, 7 November, 11:59pm**
- **Revisions due Tuesday, 11 November, 11:59pm**