

# Keypoint Detection

# Image matching



by [Diva Sian](#)



by [swashford](#)

# Harder case



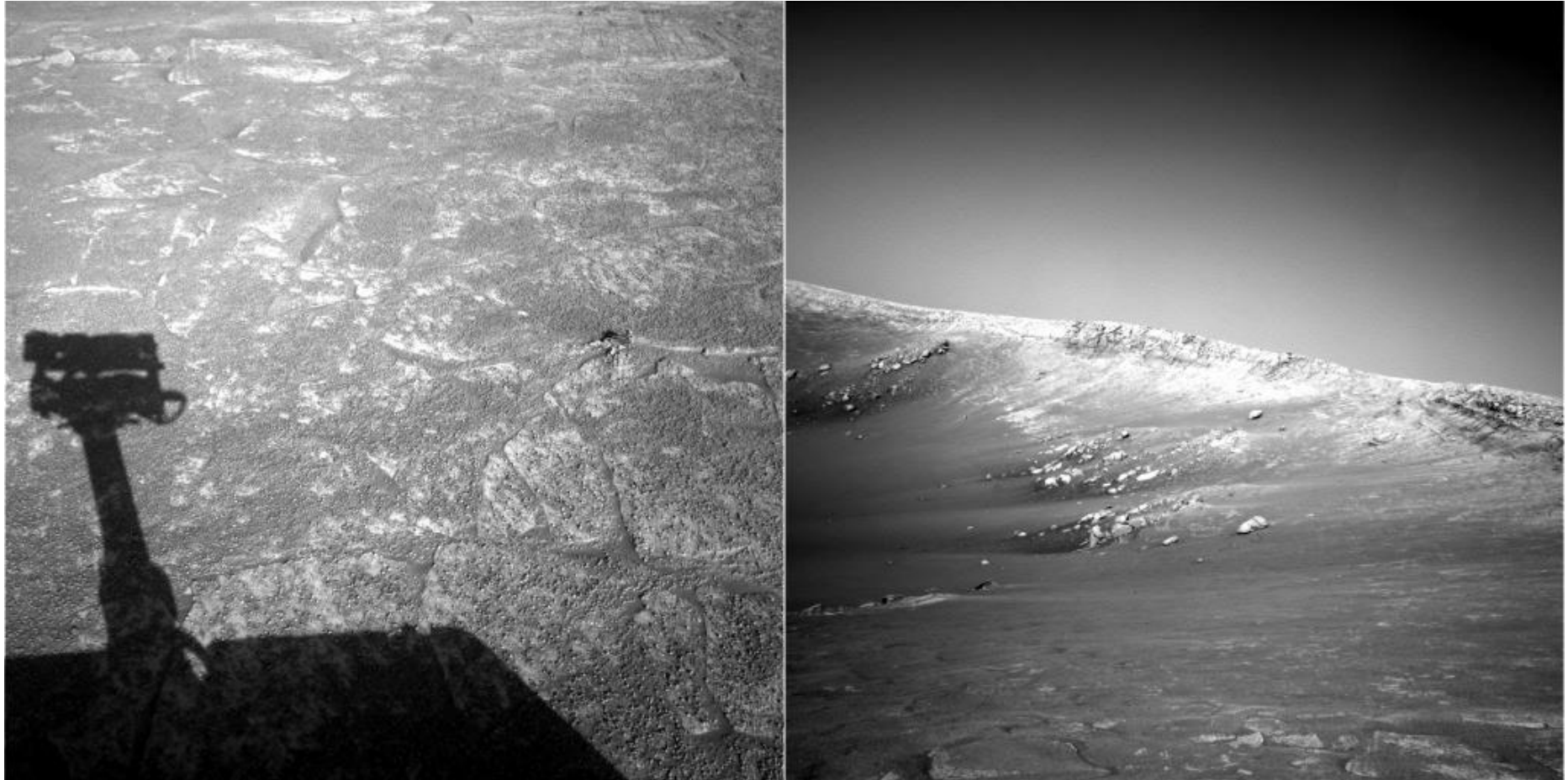
by [Diva Sian](#)



by [scgbt](#)

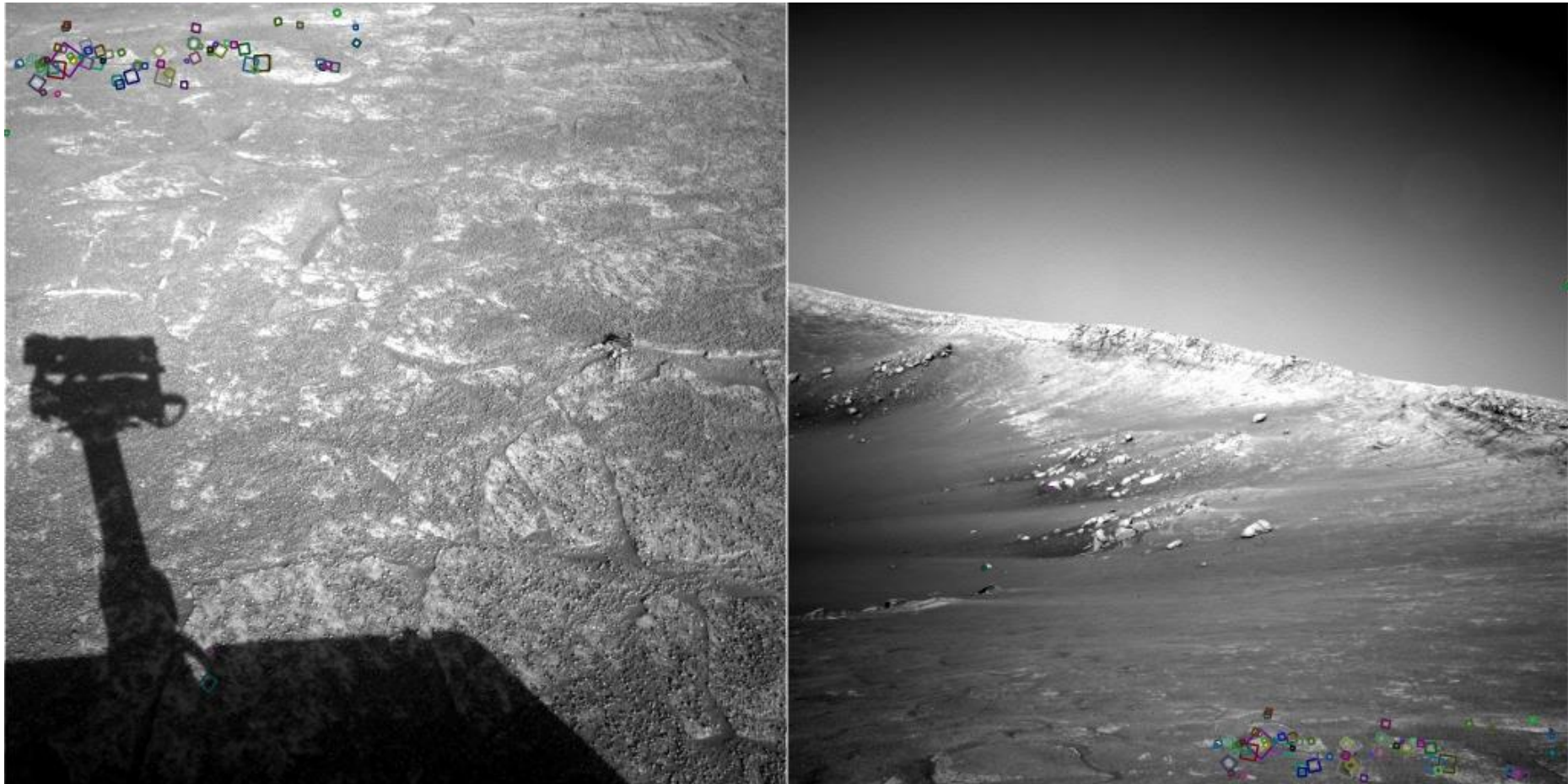


# Harder still?



NASA Mars Rover images

# Answer below (look for tiny colored squares...)



NASA Mars Rover images  
with SIFT feature matches  
Figure by Noah Snaveley

# Local features and alignment

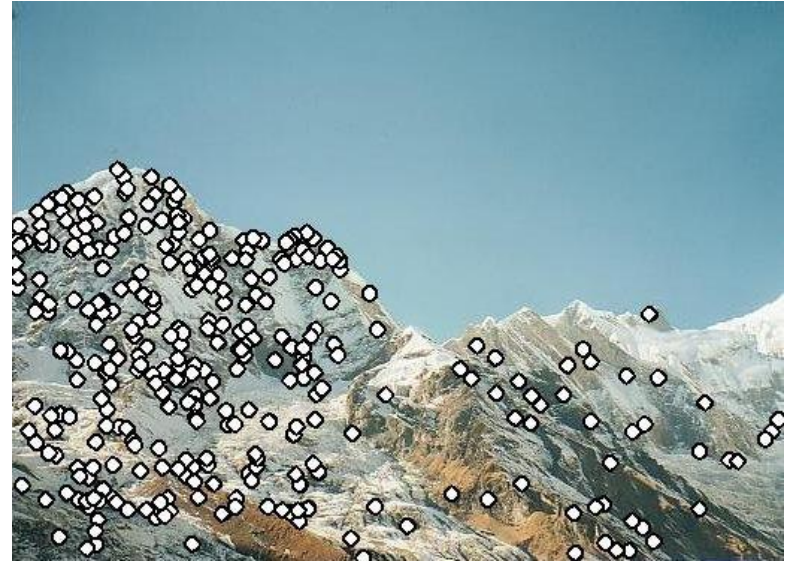
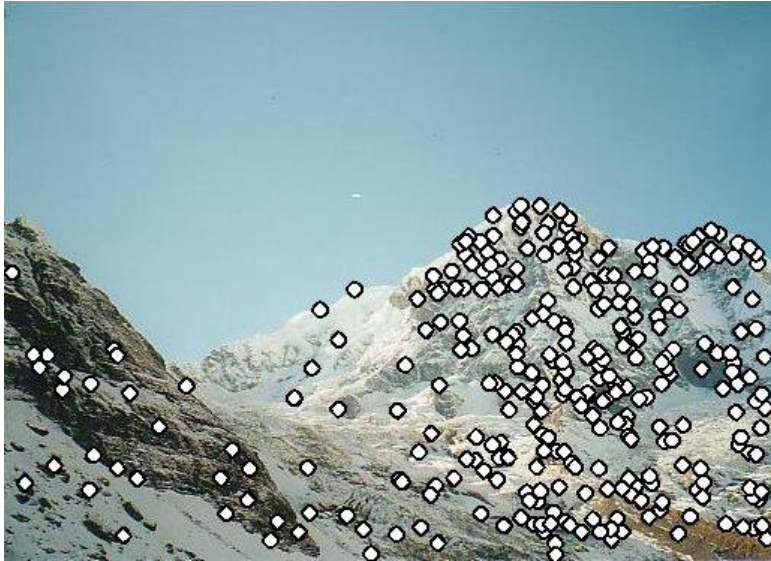


- We need to match (align) images
- Global methods sensitive to occlusion, lighting, parallax effects. So look for local features that match well.
- How would you do it by eye?



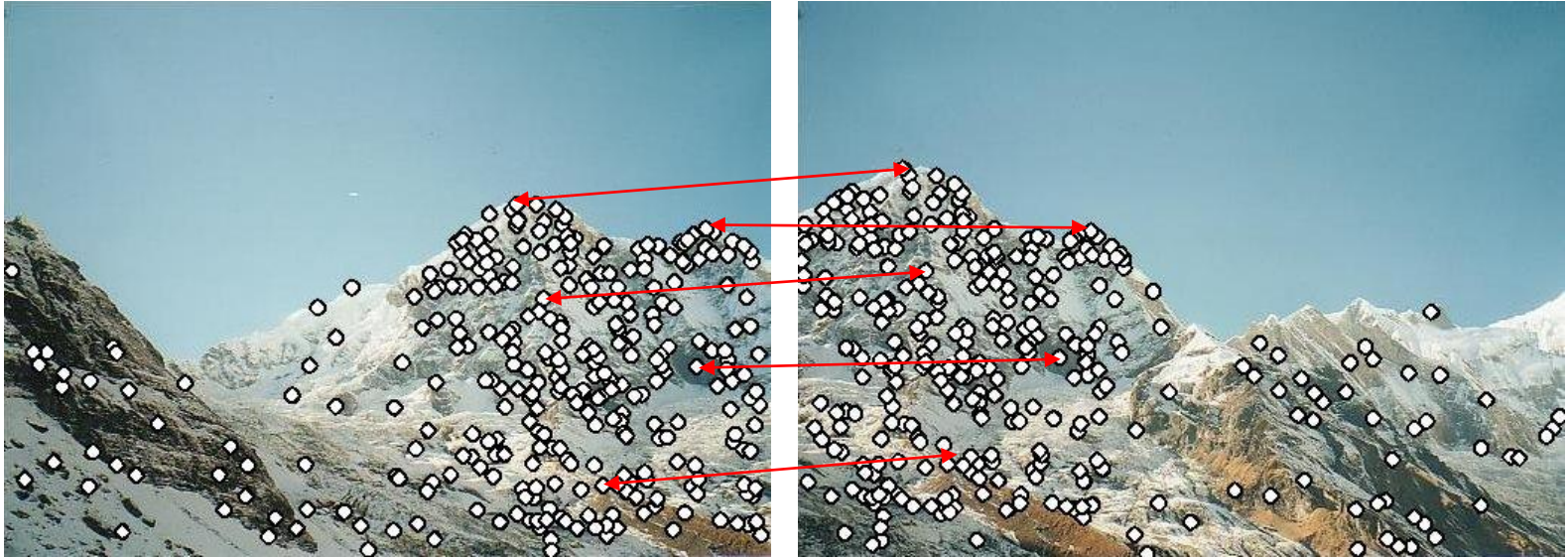
# Local features and alignment

- Detect feature points in both images



# Local features and alignment

- Detect feature points in both images
- Find corresponding pairs





# Local features and alignment

- Detect feature points in both images
- Find corresponding pairs
- Use these pairs to align images



# Local features and alignment

- Problem 1:
  - Detect the *same* point *independently* in both images



no chance to match!

We need a repeatable detector

# Local features and alignment

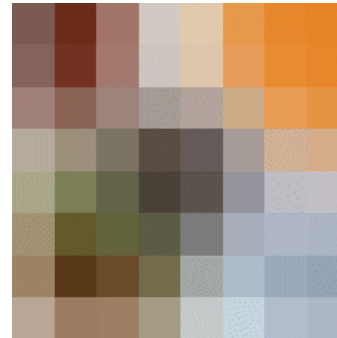
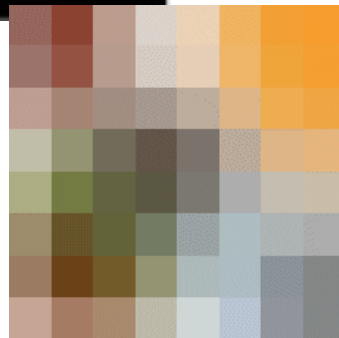
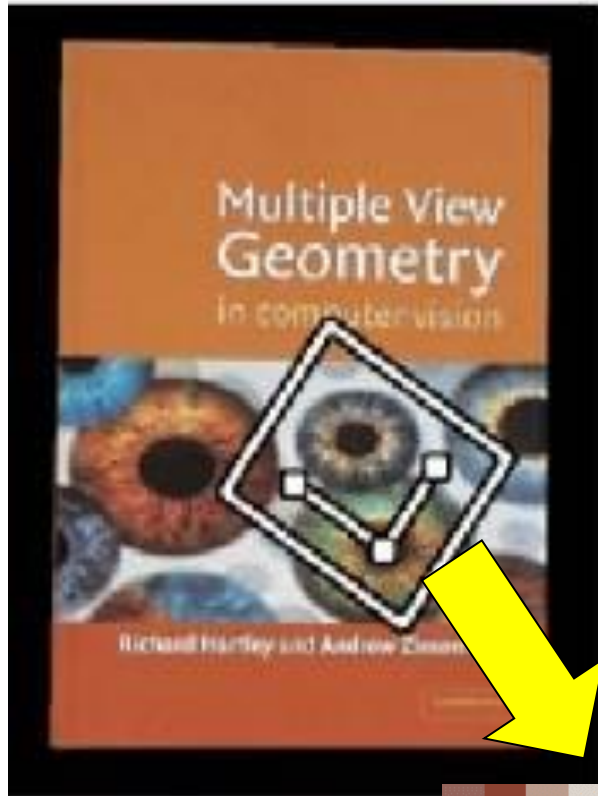
- Problem 2:
  - For each point correctly recognize the corresponding one



We need a reliable and distinctive **descriptor**



# Geometric transformations



# Photometric transformations



Figure from T. Tuytelaars ECCV 2006 tutorial

# And other nuisances...

- Noise
- Blur
- Compression artifacts
- ...



# Invariant local features

Subset of local feature types designed to be invariant to common geometric and photometric transformations.

Basic steps:

- 1) Detect distinctive interest points
- 2) Extract invariant descriptors

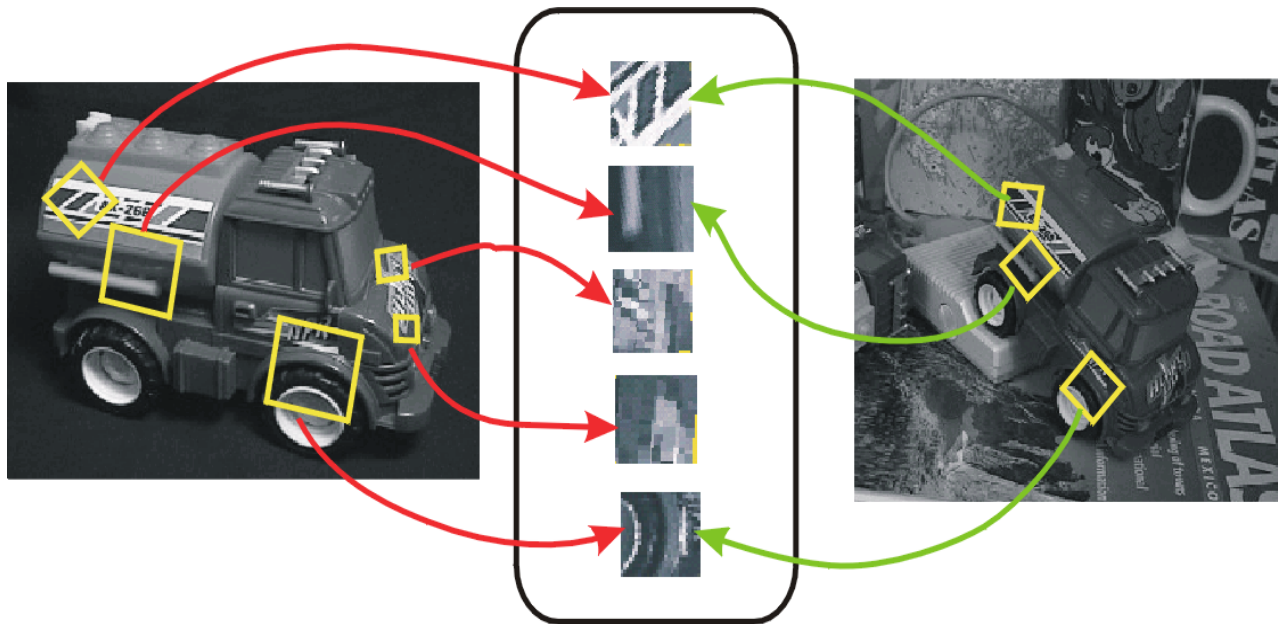


Figure: David Lowe

# Main questions

- Where will the interest points come from?
  - What are salient features that we'll *detect* in multiple views?
- How to *describe* a local region?
- How to establish *correspondences*, i.e., compute matches?

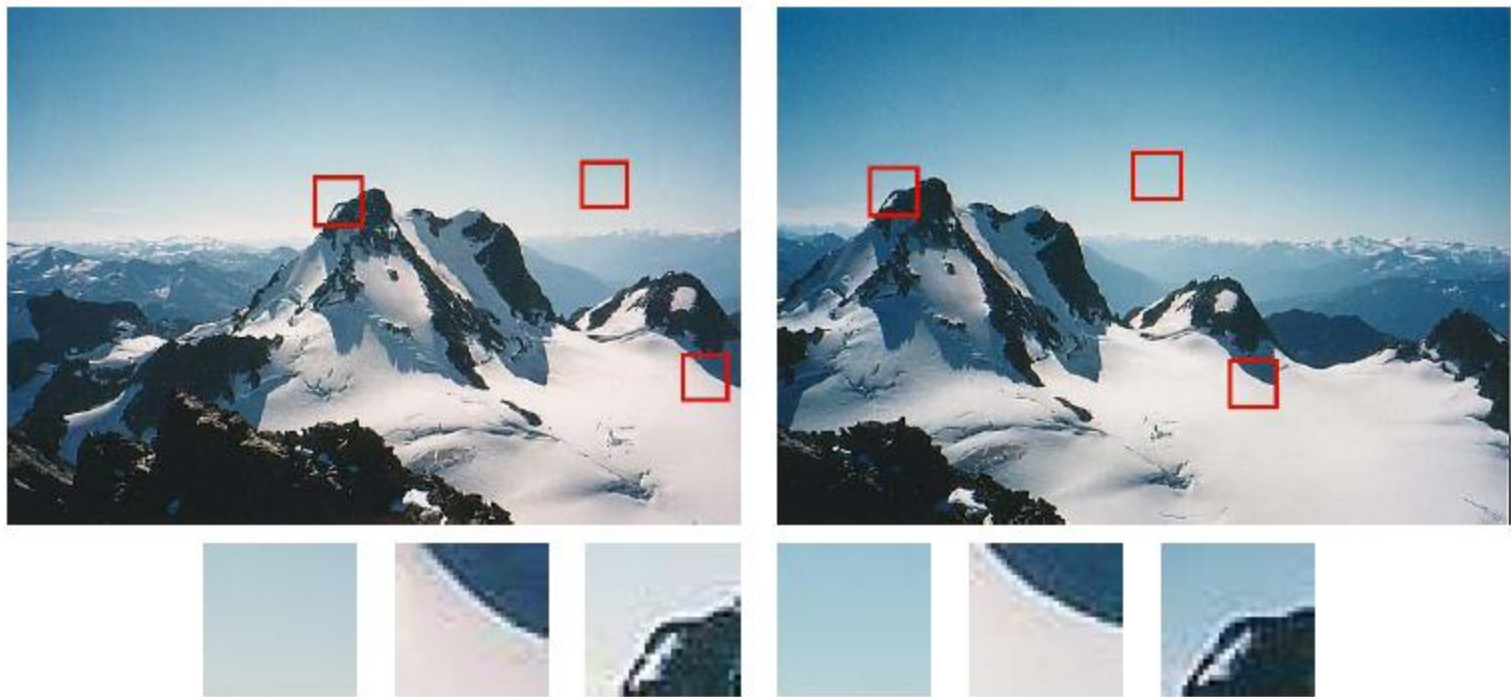
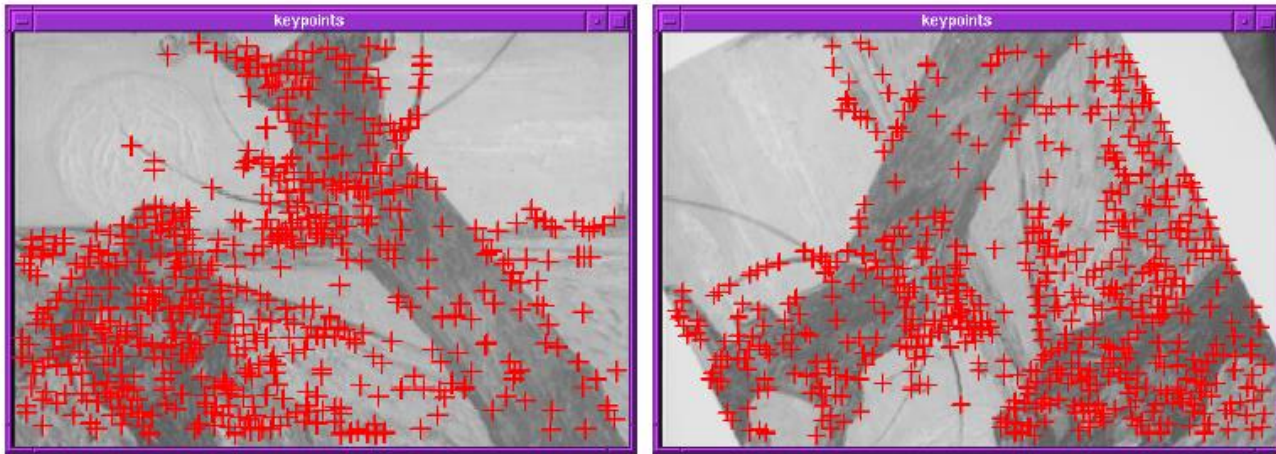


Figure 4.3: *Image pairs with extracted patches below. Notice how some patches can be localized or matched with higher accuracy than others.*



# Finding Corners

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Key property: in the region around a corner, image gradient has two or more dominant directions

Corners are repeatable and **distinctive**

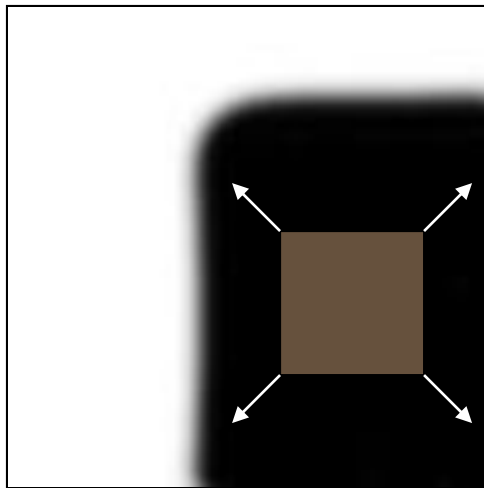
C.Harris and M.Stephens. ["A Combined Corner and Edge Detector."](#)  
*Proceedings of the 4th Alvey Vision Conference*: pages 147--151.

# Corners as distinctive interest points

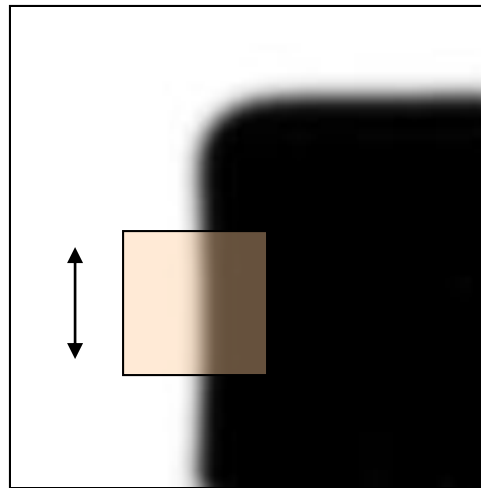
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We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window

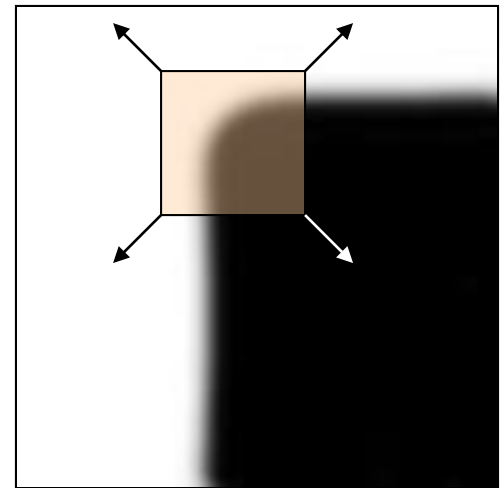
Shifting a window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity



“flat” region:  
no change in  
all directions



“edge”:  
no change  
along the edge  
direction



“corner”:  
significant  
change in all  
directions

# Harris Detector formulation

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Change of intensity for the shift  $[u, v]$ :

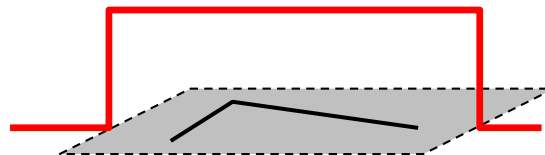
$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) [I(x + u, y + v) - I(x, y)]^2$$

Window  
function

Shifted  
intensity

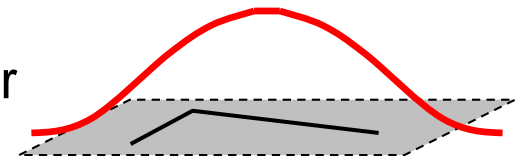
Intensity

Window function  $w(x, y) =$



1 in window, 0 outside

or

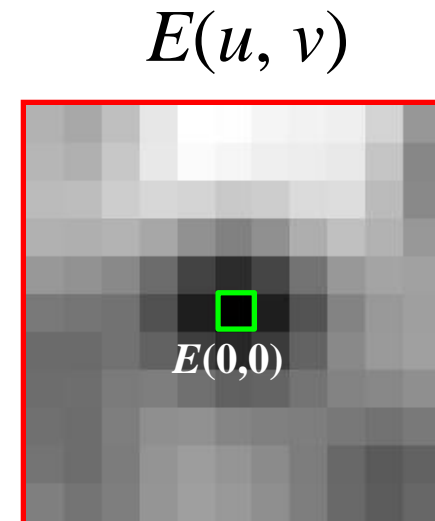
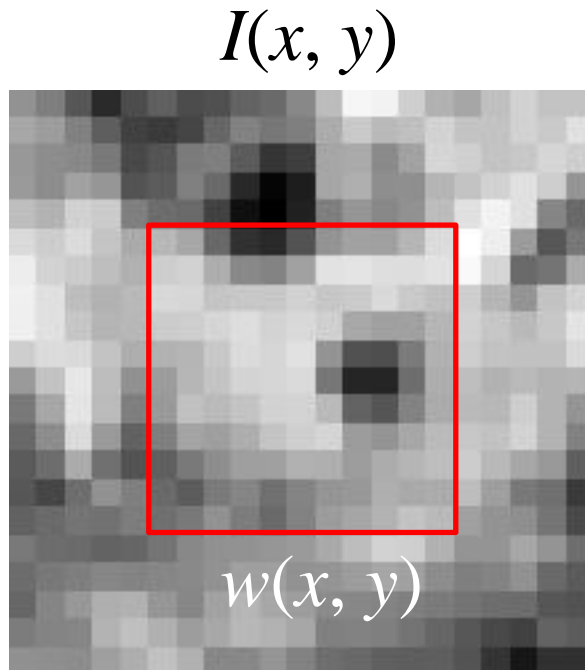


Gaussian

# Corner Detection by Auto-correlation

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

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

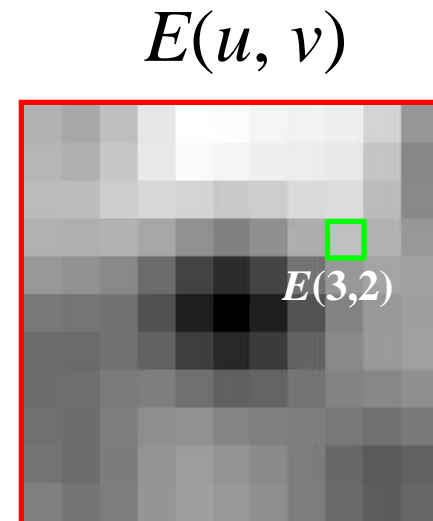
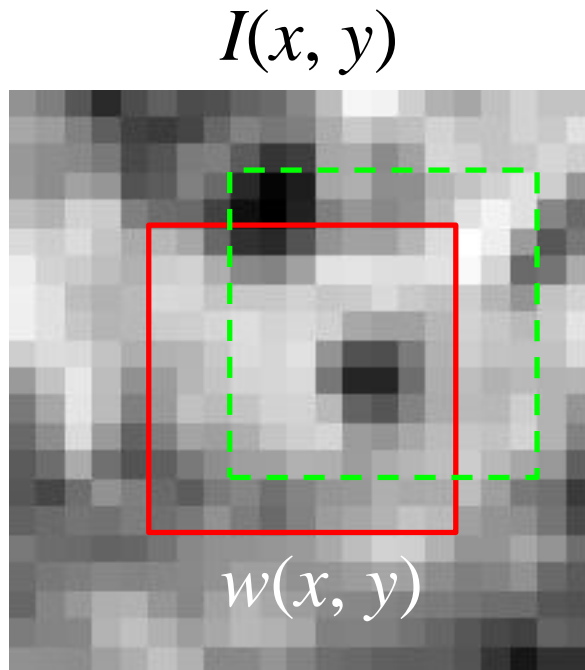




# Corner Detection by Auto-correlation

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

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



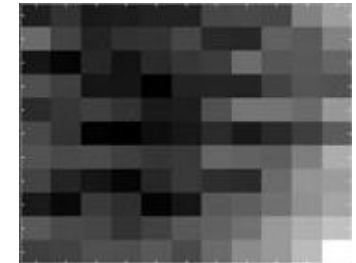
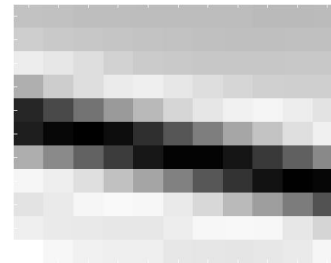
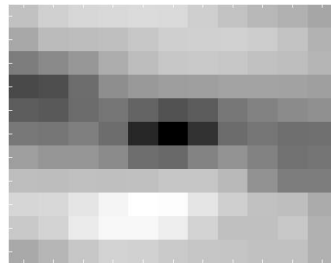
$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) [I(x + u, y + v) - I(x, y)]^2$$

Think-Pair-Share:

Correspond the three red crosses to (b,c,d).

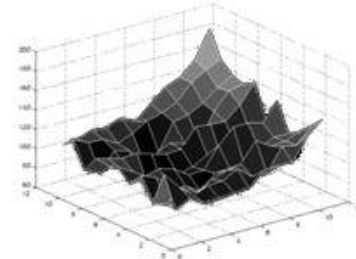
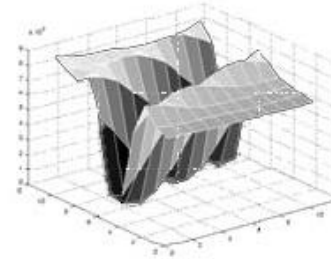
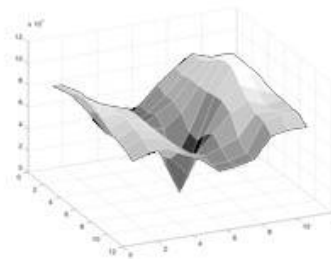


$E(u, v)$



$E(u, v)$

As a surface



# Corner Detection by Auto-correlation

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

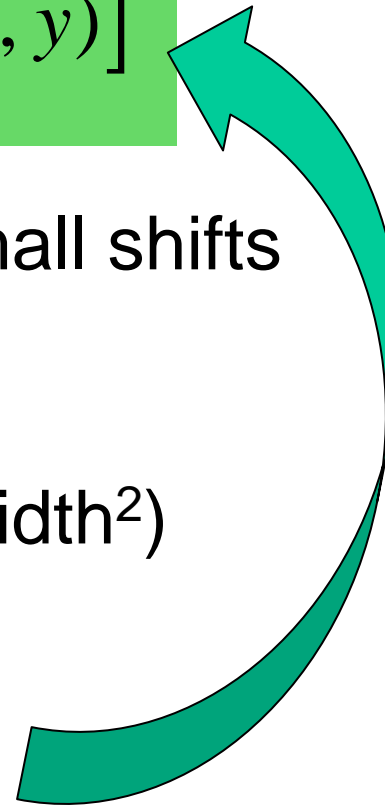
$$E(u,v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) [I(x+u, y+v) - I(x,y)]^2$$

We want to discover how E behaves for small shifts

But this is very slow to compute naively.

$O(\text{window\_width}^2 * \text{shift\_range}^2 * \text{image\_width}^2)$

$O(11^2 * 11^2 * 600^2) = 5.2 \text{ billion of these}$



# Corner Detection by Auto-correlation

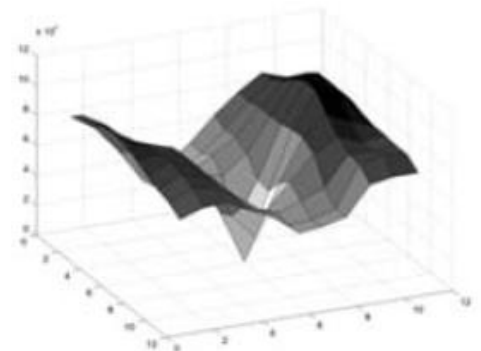
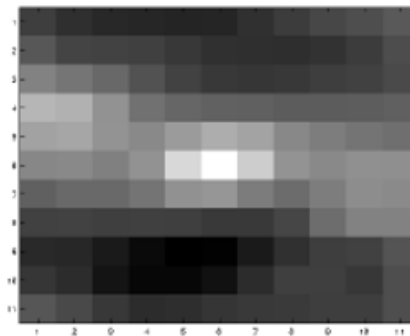
---

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

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

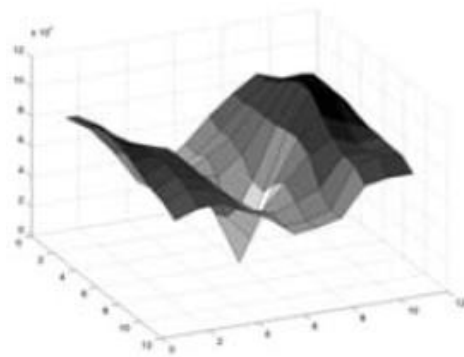
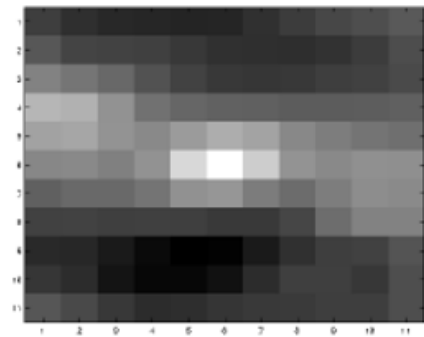
We want to discover how  $E$  behaves for small shifts

But we know the response in  $E$  that we are looking for – strong peak.

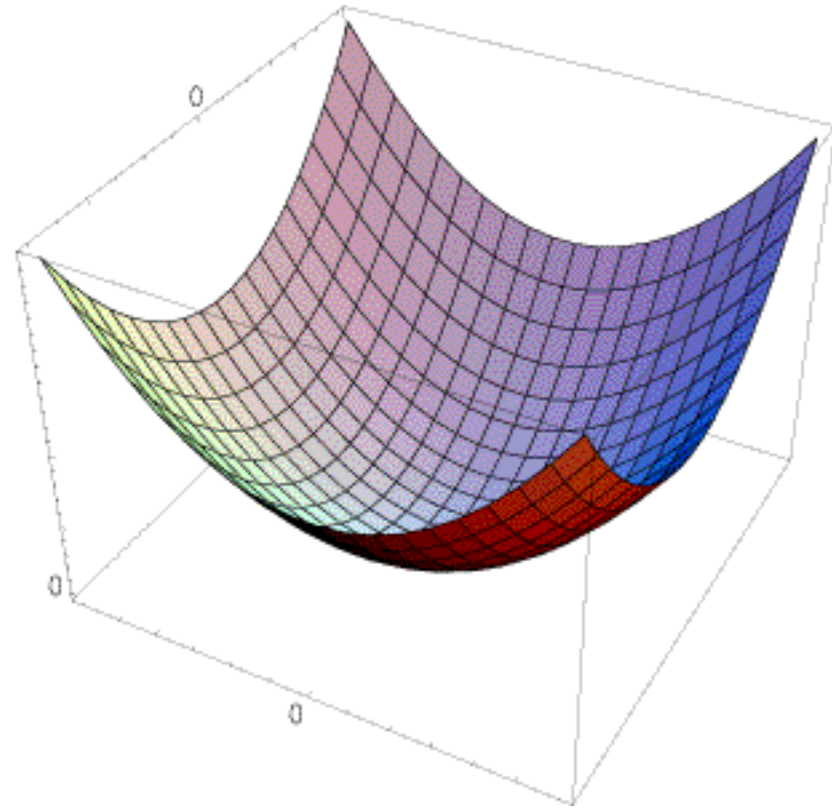




Can we just approximate  $E(u,v)$  locally by a quadratic surface?



$\approx$



# Recall: Taylor series expansion

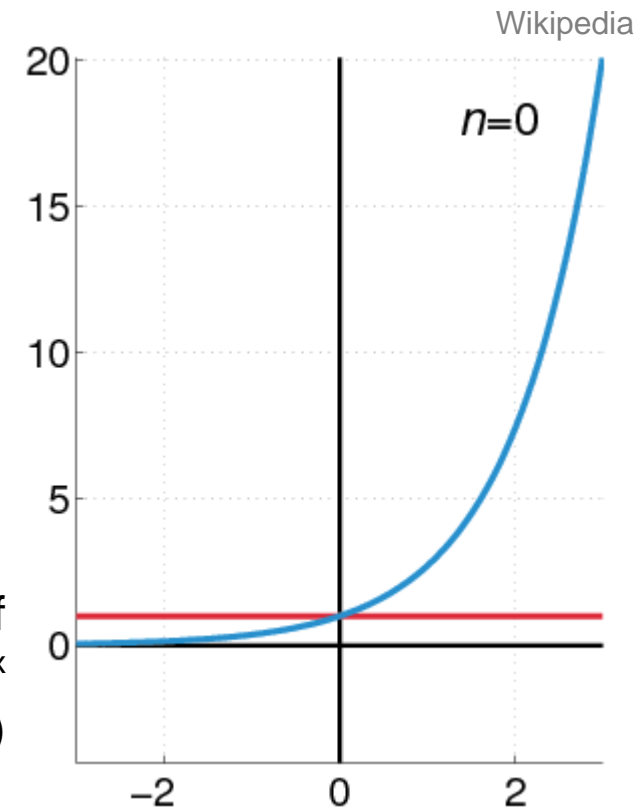
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A function  $f$  can be represented by an infinite series of its derivatives at a single point  $a$ :

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

As we care about window centered, we set  $a = 0$   
(MacLaurin series)

Approximation of  
 $f(x) = e^x$   
centered at  $f(0)$



---

Local quadratic approximation of  $E(u,v)$  in the neighborhood of  $(0,0)$  is given by the *second-order Taylor expansion*:

$$E(u,v) \approx E(0,0) + [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_u(0,0) \\ E_v(0,0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0,0) & E_{uv}(0,0) \\ E_{uv}(0,0) & E_{vv}(0,0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

Notation: partial derivative



---

Local quadratic approximation of  $E(u,v)$  in the neighborhood of  $(0,0)$  is given by the *second-order Taylor expansion*:

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Ignore function  
value; set to 0



Ignore first  
derivative,  
set to 0



Just look at  
shape of  
second  
derivative



# Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

Second-order Taylor expansion of  $E(u, v)$  about  $(0, 0)$ :

$$E(u, v) \approx E(0, 0) + [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_u(0, 0) \\ E_v(0, 0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0, 0) & E_{uv}(0, 0) \\ E_{uv}(0, 0) & E_{vv}(0, 0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_u(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) [I(x + u, y + v) - I(x, y)] I_x(x + u, y + v)$$

$$E_{uu}(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_x(x + u, y + v) I_x(x + u, y + v) \\ + \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) [I(x + u, y + v) - I(x, y)] I_{xx}(x + u, y + v)$$

$$E_{uv}(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_y(x + u, y + v) I_x(x + u, y + v) \\ + \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) [I(x + u, y + v) - I(x, y)] I_{xy}(x + u, y + v)$$

# Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

Second-order Taylor expansion of  $E(u, v)$  about  $(0, 0)$ :

$$E(u, v) \approx E(0, 0) + [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_u(0, 0) \\ E_v(0, 0) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0, 0) & E_{uv}(0, 0) \\ E_{uv}(0, 0) & E_{vv}(0, 0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_u(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_v(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_{uu}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_x(x, y)$$

$$E_{vv}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_y(x, y) I_y(x, y)$$

$$E_{uv}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_y(x, y)$$

# Corner Detection: Mathematics

---

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

Second-order Taylor expansion of  $E(u, v)$  about  $(0, 0)$ :

$$E(u, v) \approx \begin{bmatrix} u & v \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) I_x^2(x, y) & \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_y(x, y) \\ \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_y(x, y) & \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) I_y^2(x, y) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_u(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_v(0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_{uu}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_x(x, y)$$

$$E_{vv}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_y(x, y) I_y(x, y)$$

$$E_{uv}(0, 0) = \sum_{x, y} 2w(x, y) I_x(x, y) I_y(x, y)$$

# Corner Detection: Mathematics

---

The quadratic approximation simplifies to

$$E(u, v) \approx [u \ v] \begin{bmatrix} E_{uu}(0,0) & E_{uv}(0,0) \\ E_{uv}(0,0) & E_{vv}(0,0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E(u, v) \approx [u \ v] M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $M$  is a *second moment matrix* computed from image derivatives:

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x, y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix} [I_x \ I_y] = \sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

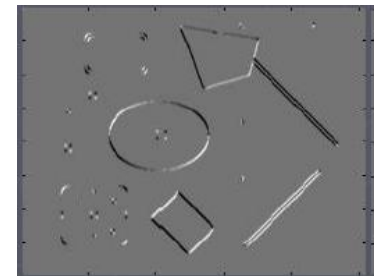
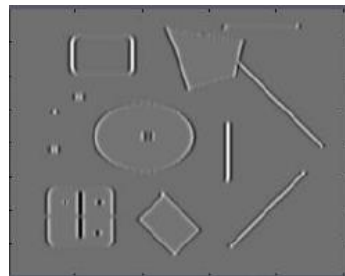
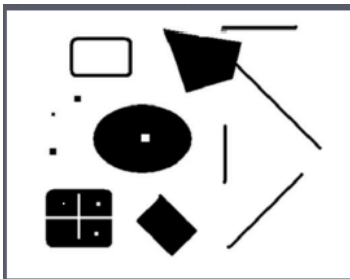


# Corners as distinctive interest points

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

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



Notation:

$$I_x \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$$

$$I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

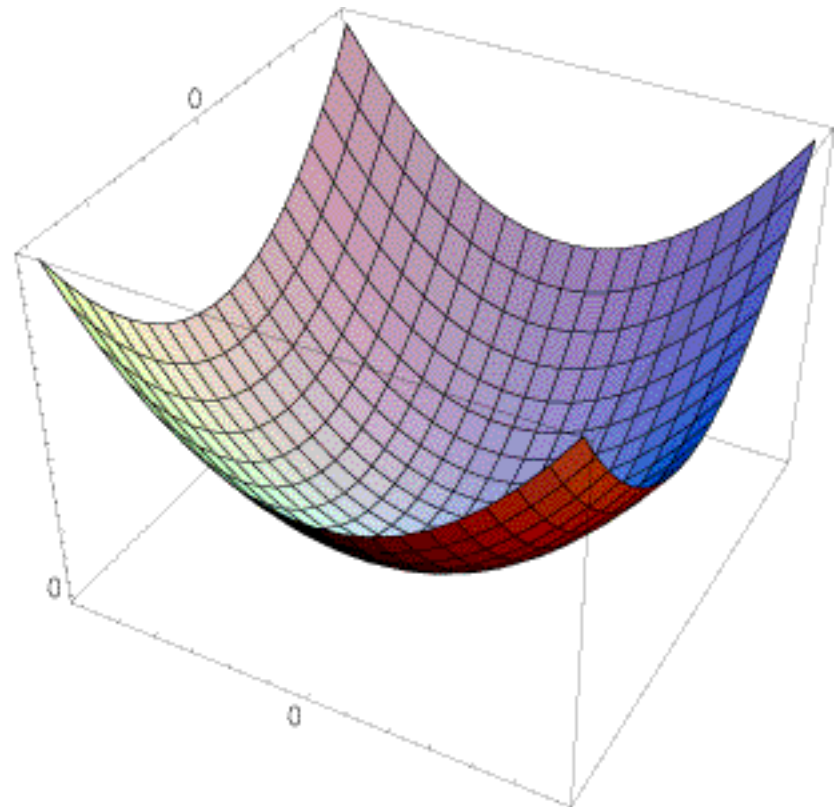
$$I_x I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

# Interpreting the second moment matrix

The surface  $E(u,v)$  is locally approximated by a quadratic form. Let's try to understand its shape.

$$E(u,v) \approx [u \ v] M \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

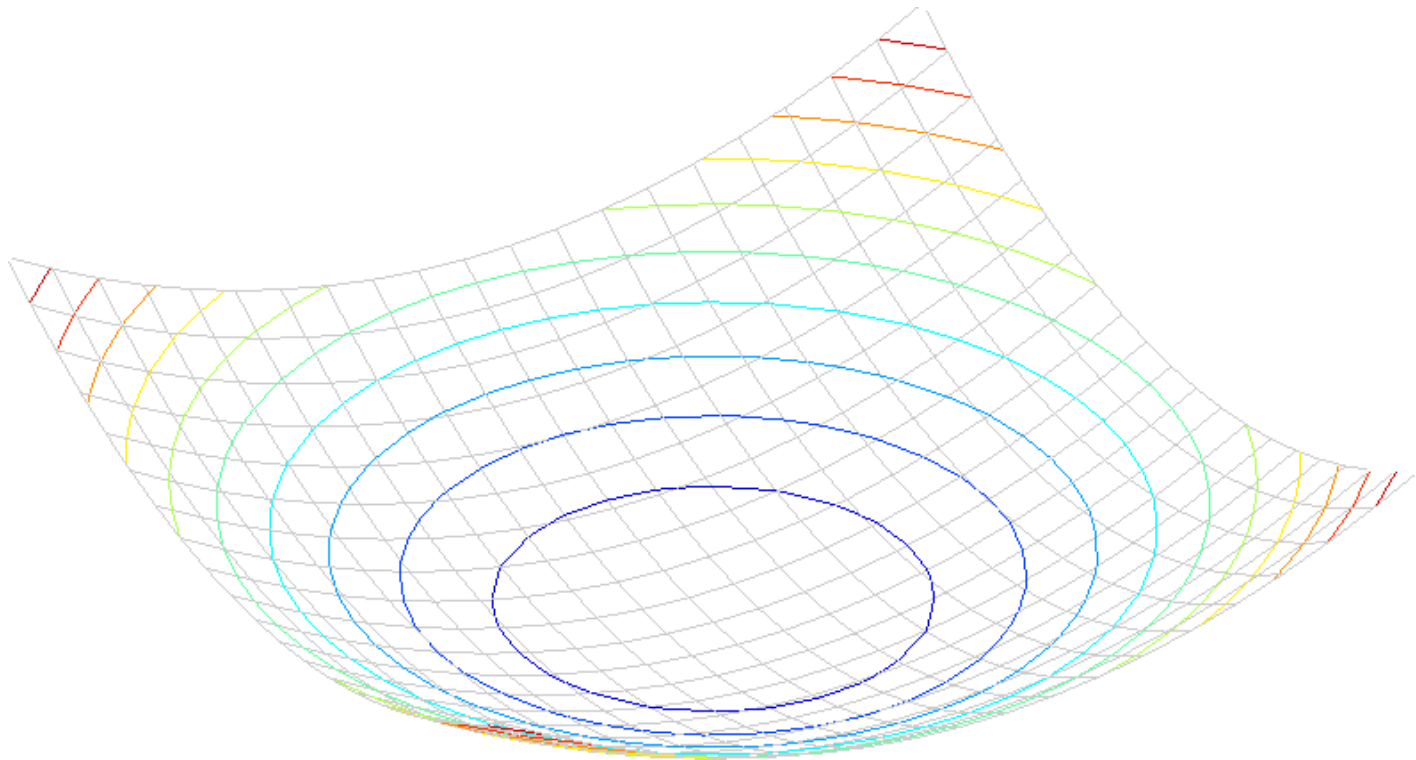


# Interpreting the second moment matrix

---

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.



# Interpreting the second moment matrix

---

First, consider the axis-aligned case  
(gradients are either horizontal or vertical)

$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x,y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

If either  $\lambda$  is close to 0, then this is **not** a corner, so  
look for locations where both are large.

# Interpreting the second moment matrix

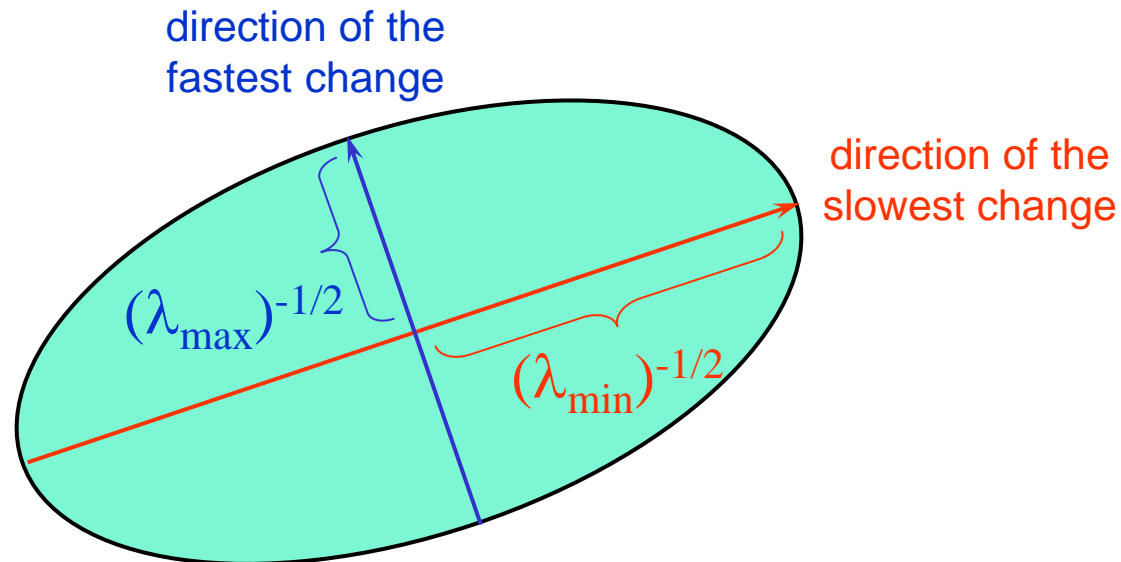
---

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

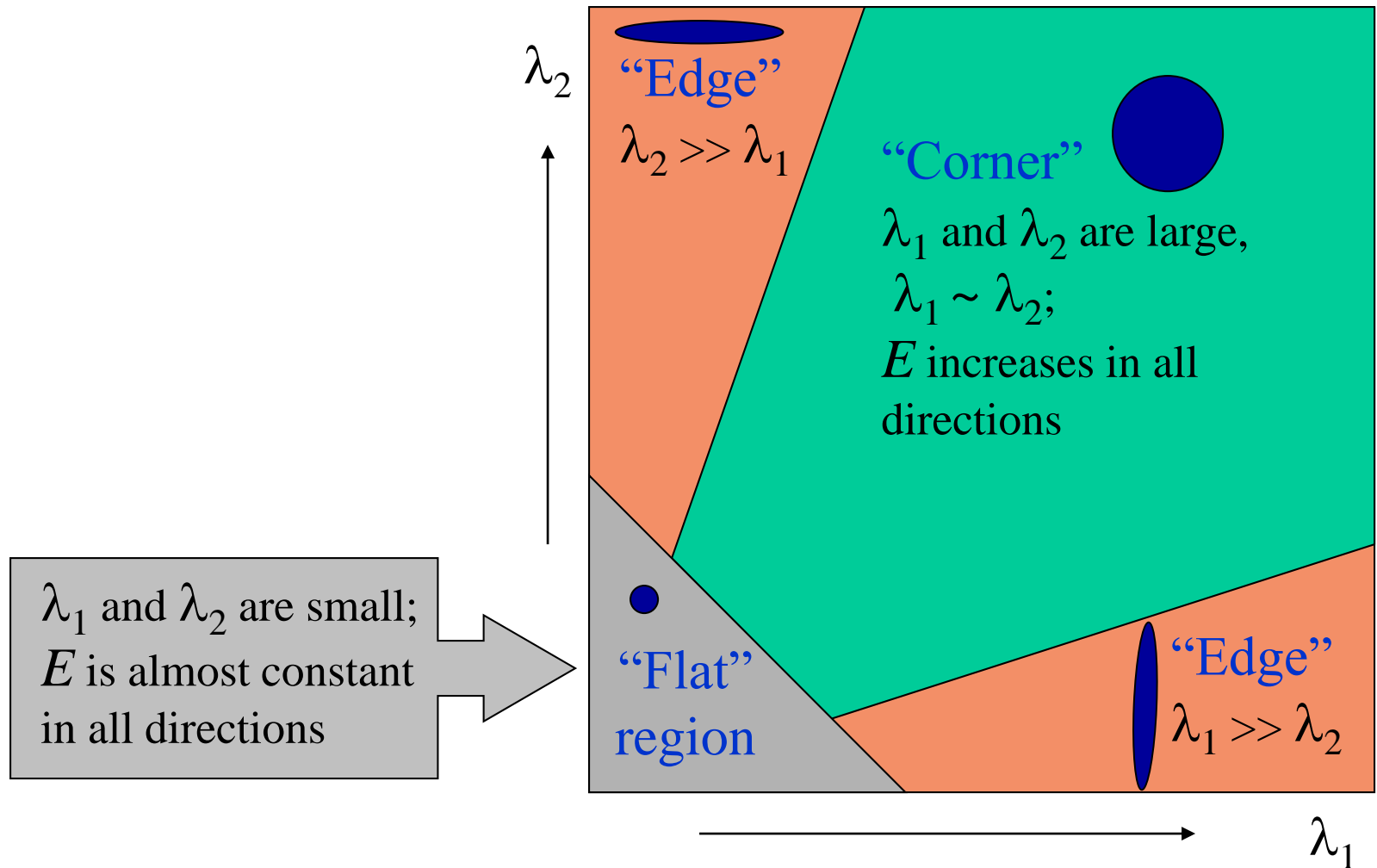
The axis lengths of the ellipse are determined by the eigenvalues, and the orientation is determined by a rotation matrix  $R$ .





# Classification of image points using eigenvalues of $M$

---



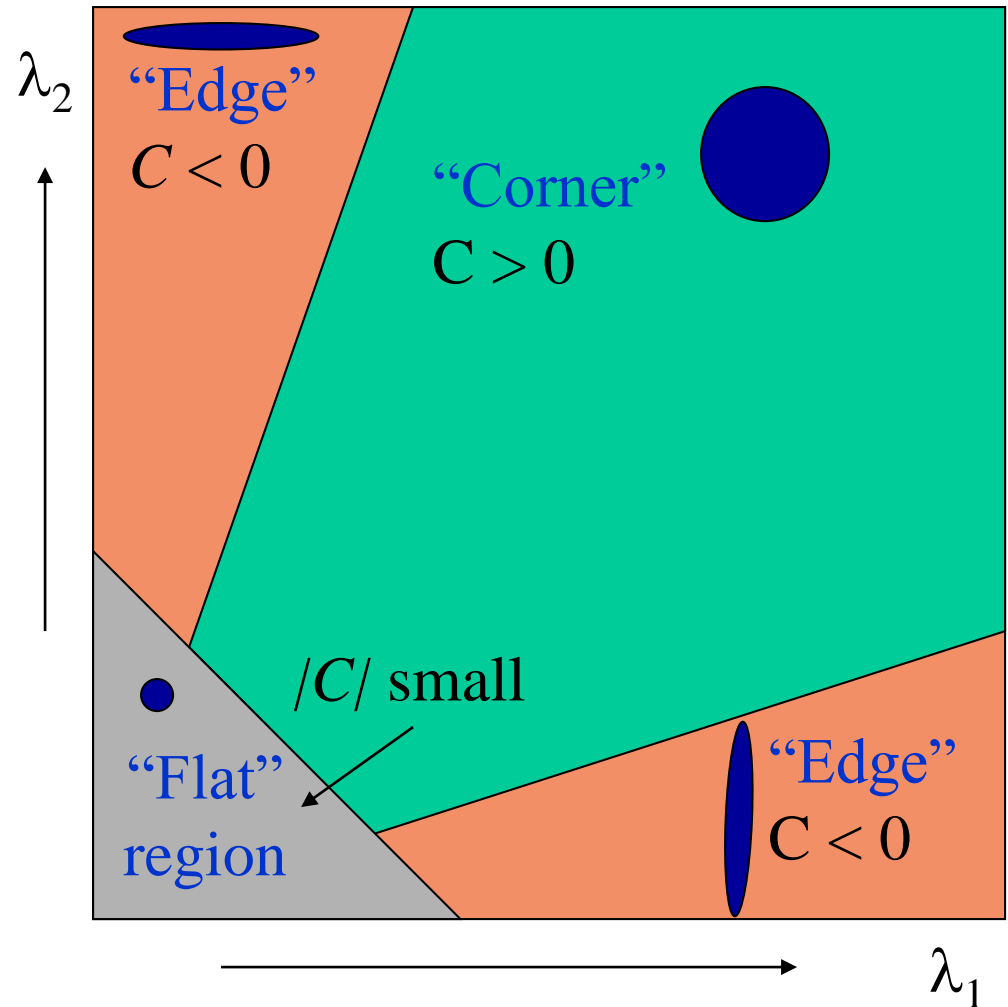
# Classification of image points using eigenvalues of $M$

---

Cornerness

$$C = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 - \alpha (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2$$

$\alpha$ : constant (0.04 to 0.06)



# Classification of image points using eigenvalues of $M$

## Cornerness

$$C = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 - \alpha (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2$$

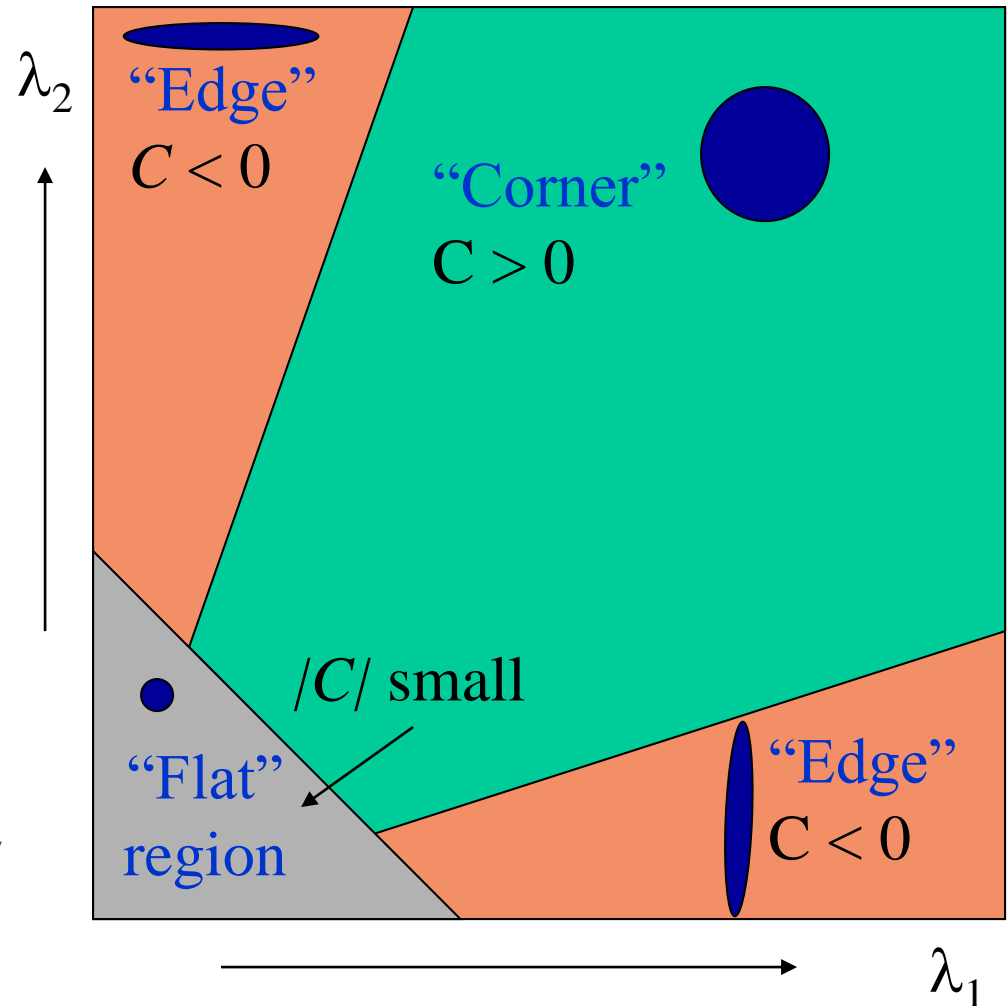
$\alpha$ : constant (0.04 to 0.06)

*Remember your linear algebra:*

Determinant:  $\det(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_n$ .

Trace:  $\text{tr}(A) = \sum_i \lambda_i$ .

$$C = \det(M) - \alpha \text{trace}(M)^2$$



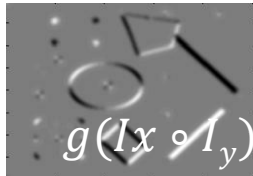
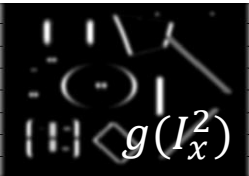
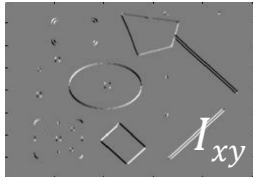
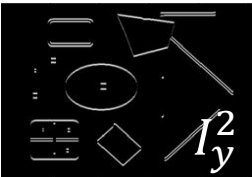
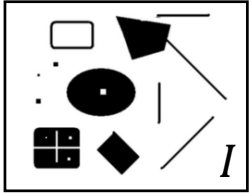
# Harris corner detector

---

- 1) Compute  $M$  matrix for each window to recover a *cornerness* score  $C$ .
  - Note: We can find  $M$  purely from the per-pixel image derivatives!
- 2) Threshold to find pixels which give large corner response ( $C > \text{threshold}$ ).
- 3) Find the local maxima pixels, i.e., suppress non-maxima.

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

# Harris Corner Detector [Harris88]



0. Input image

We want to compute  $M$  at each pixel.

1. Compute image derivatives (optionally, blur first).

2. Compute  $M$  components as squares of derivatives.

3. Gaussian filter  $g()$  with width  $\sigma$

4. Compute cornerness

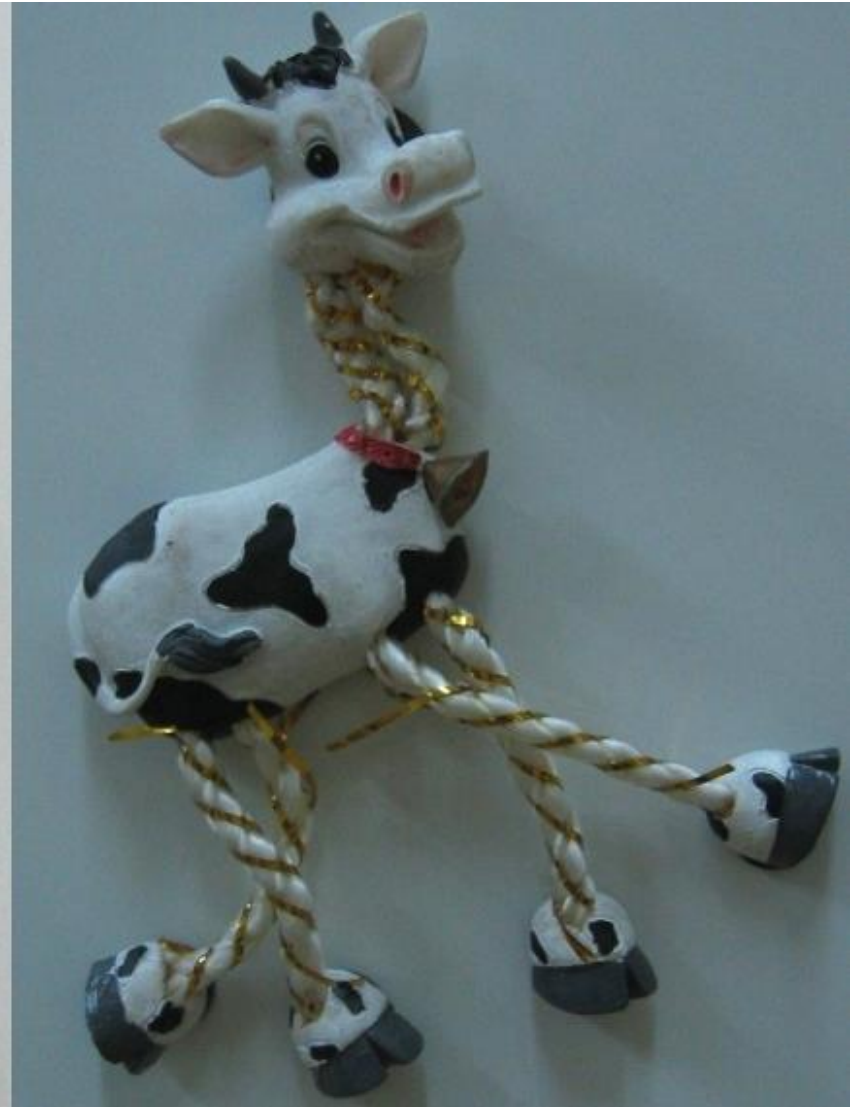
$$\begin{aligned} C &= \det(M) - \alpha \text{trace}(M)^2 \\ &= g(I_x^2) \circ g(I_y^2) - g(I_x \circ I_y)^2 \\ &\quad - \alpha [g(I_x^2) + g(I_y^2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

5. Threshold on  $C$  to pick high cornerness

6. Non-maxima suppression to pick peaks.

# Harris Detector: Steps

---

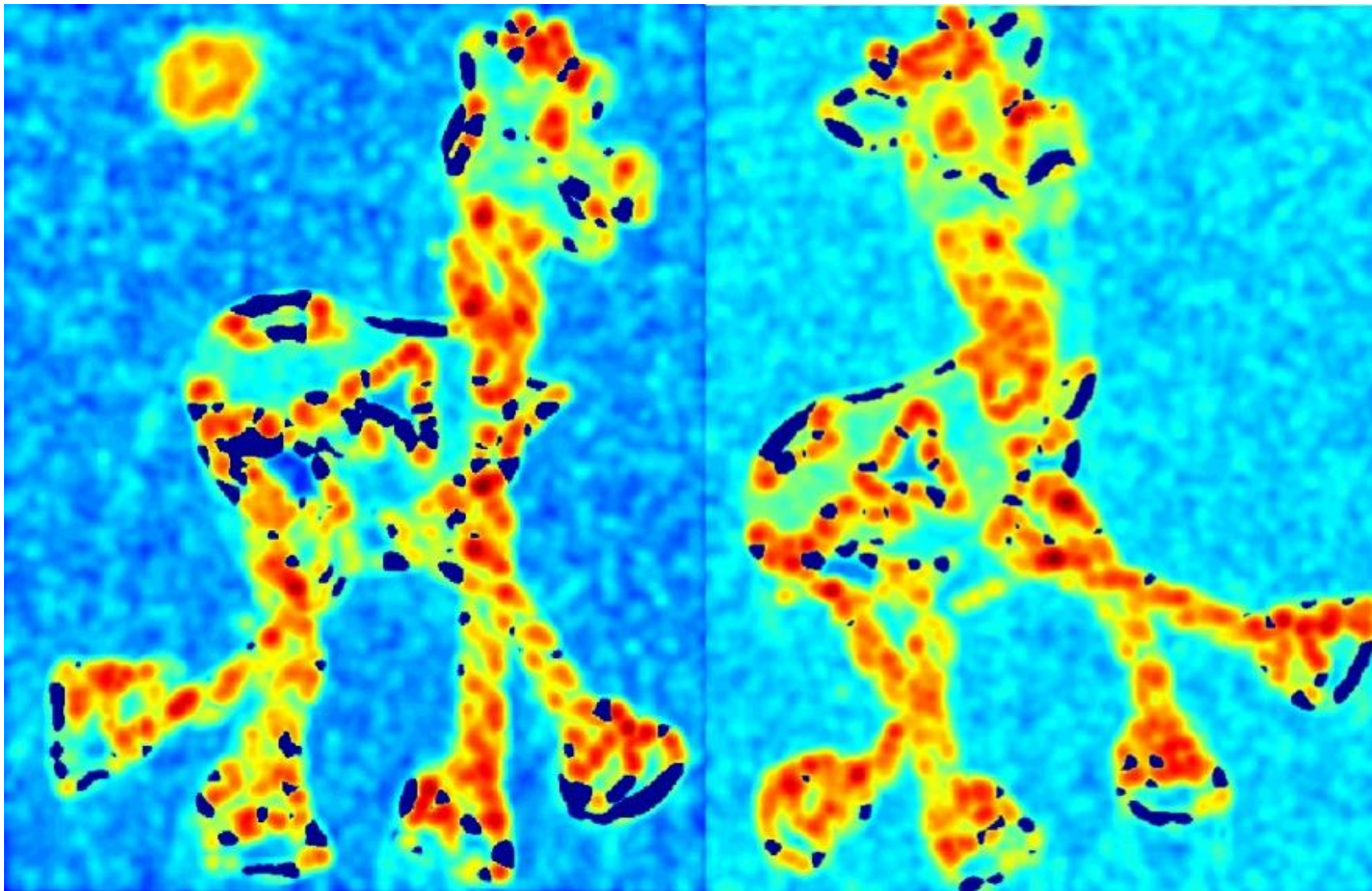




# Harris Detector: Steps

---

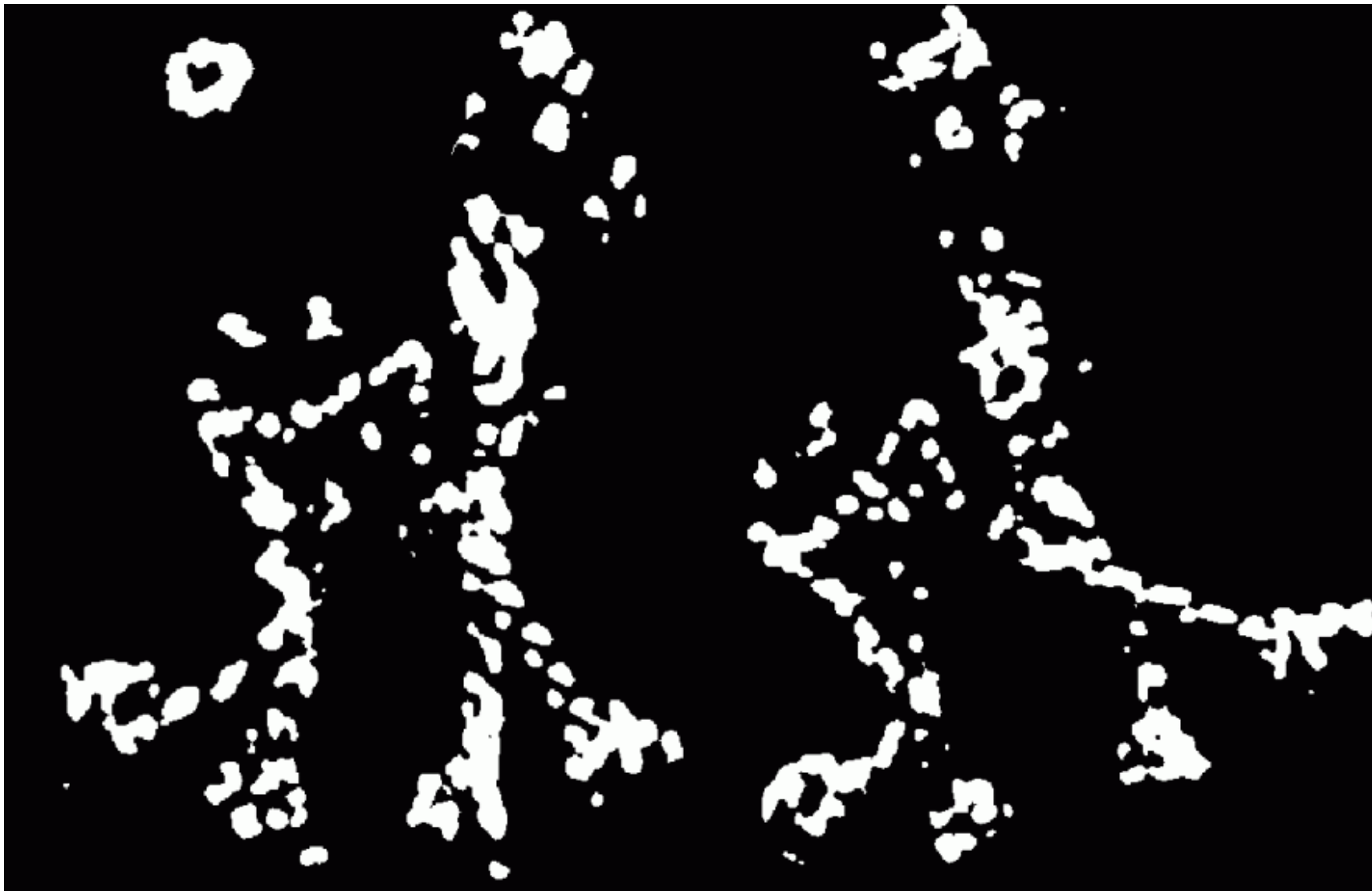
Compute corner response  $C$



# Harris Detector: Steps

---

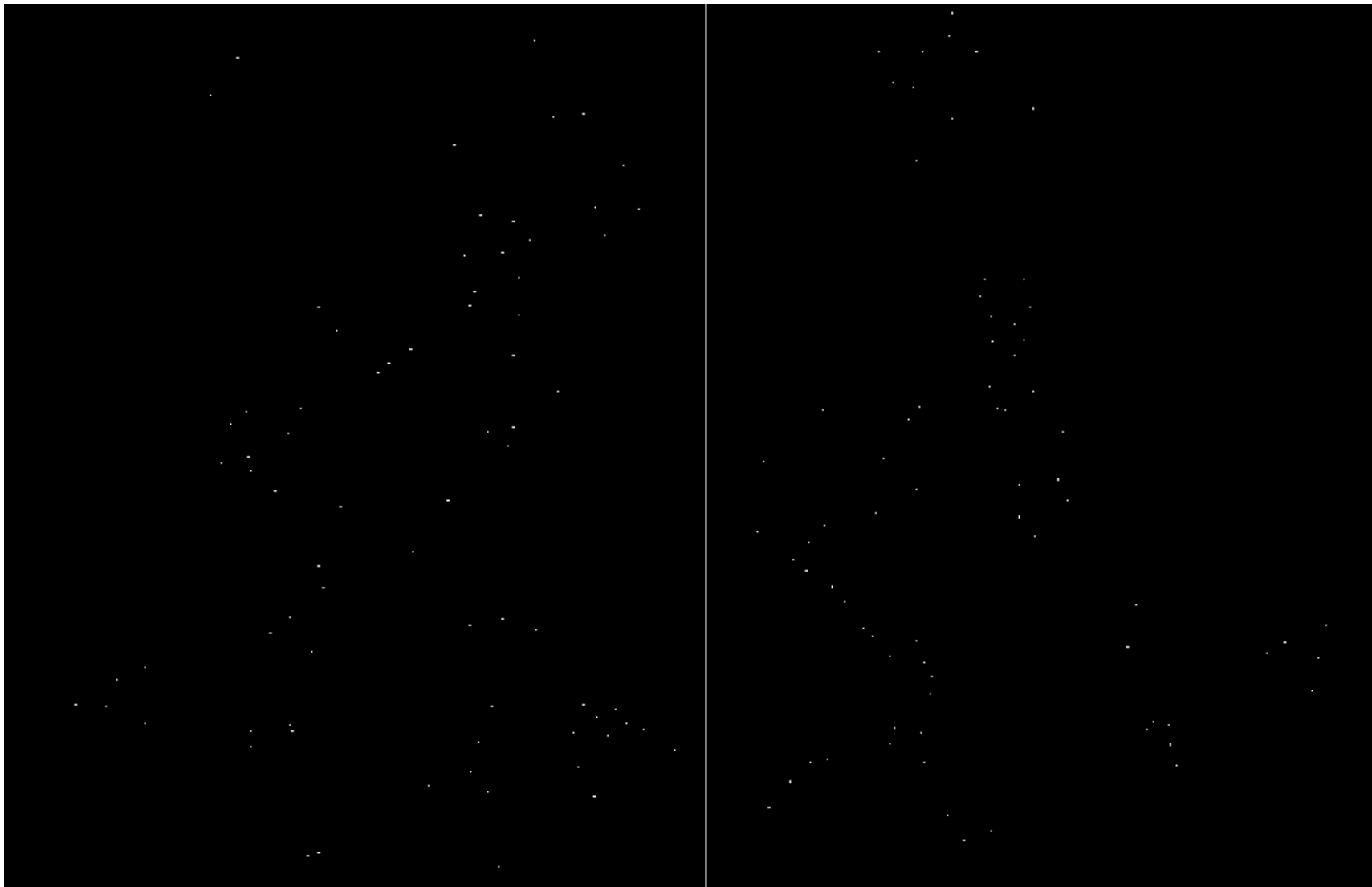
Find points with large corner response:  $C > \text{threshold}$



# Harris Detector: Steps

---

Take only the points of local maxima of  $\mathcal{C}$



# Harris Detector: Steps

---

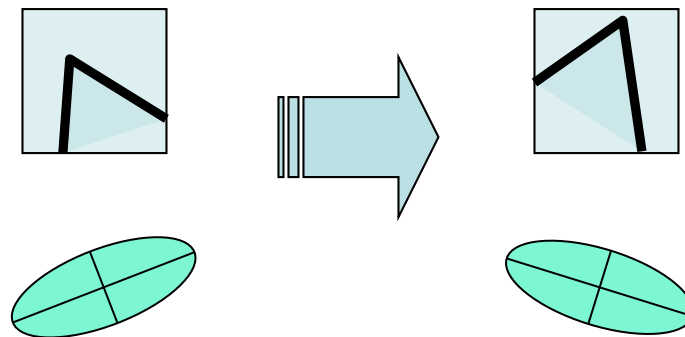


# Harris Detector: Properties

- Translation invariance?

# Harris Detector: Properties

- Translation invariance
- Rotation invariance?



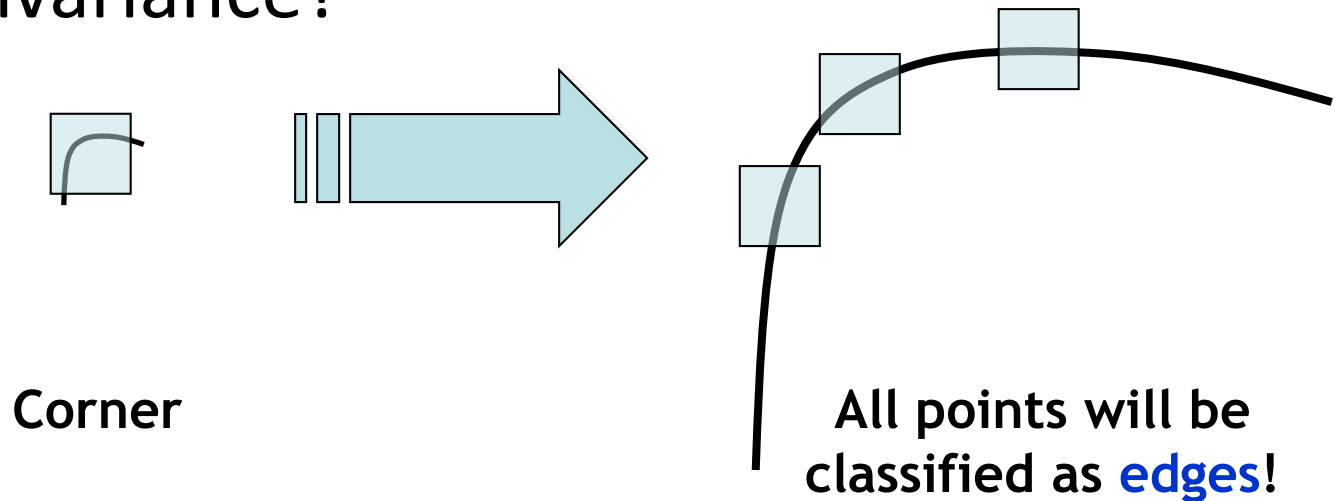
Ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

***Corner response  $\theta$  is invariant to image rotation***



# Harris Detector: Properties

- Translation invariance
- Rotation invariance
- Scale invariance?



**Not invariant to image scale!**

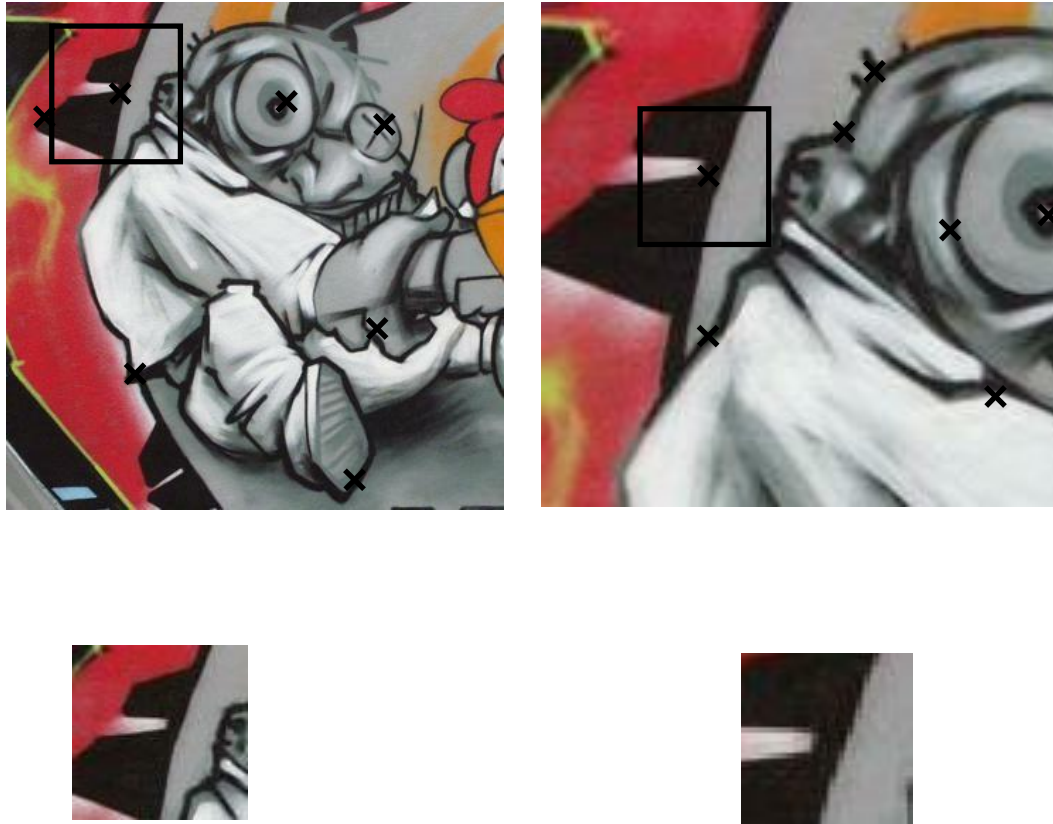
- How can we detect **scale invariant** interest points?

# How to cope with transformations?

- Exhaustive search
- Invariance
- Robustness

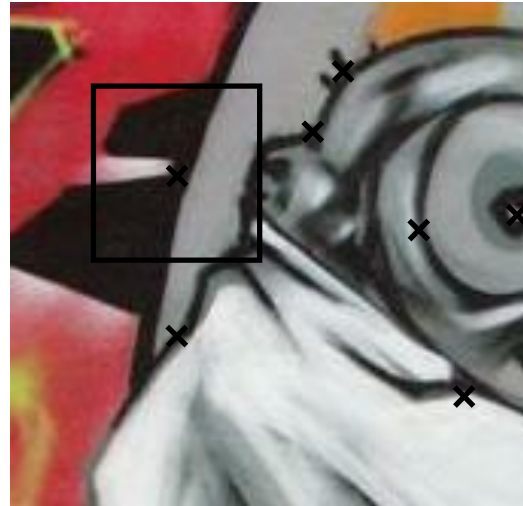
# Exhaustive search

- Multi-scale approach



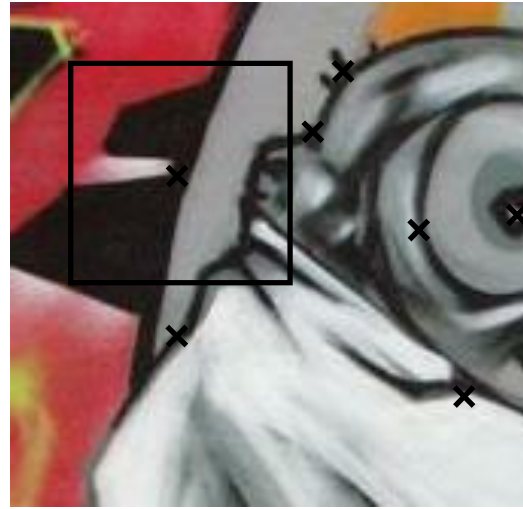
# Exhaustive search

- Multi-scale approach



# Exhaustive search

- Multi-scale approach





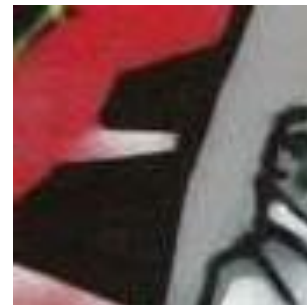
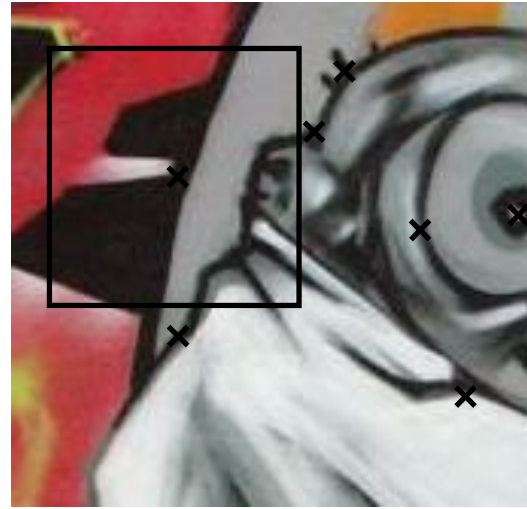
# Exhaustive search

- Multi-scale approach



# Invariance

- Extract patch from each image individually

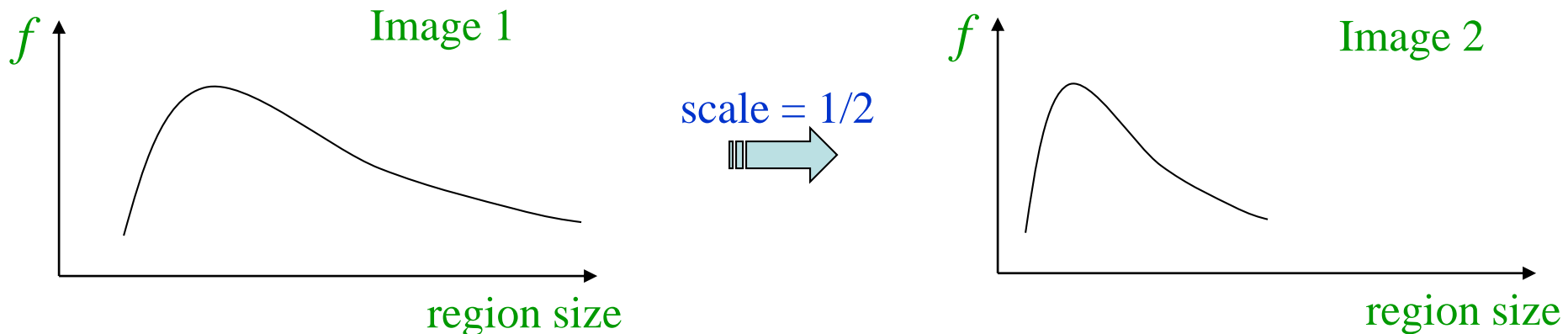


# Automatic scale selection

- Solution:
  - Design a function on the region, which is “scale invariant” (*the same for corresponding regions, even if they are at different scales*)

Example: average intensity. For corresponding regions (even of different sizes) it will be the same.

- For a point in one image, we can consider it as a function of region size (patch width)



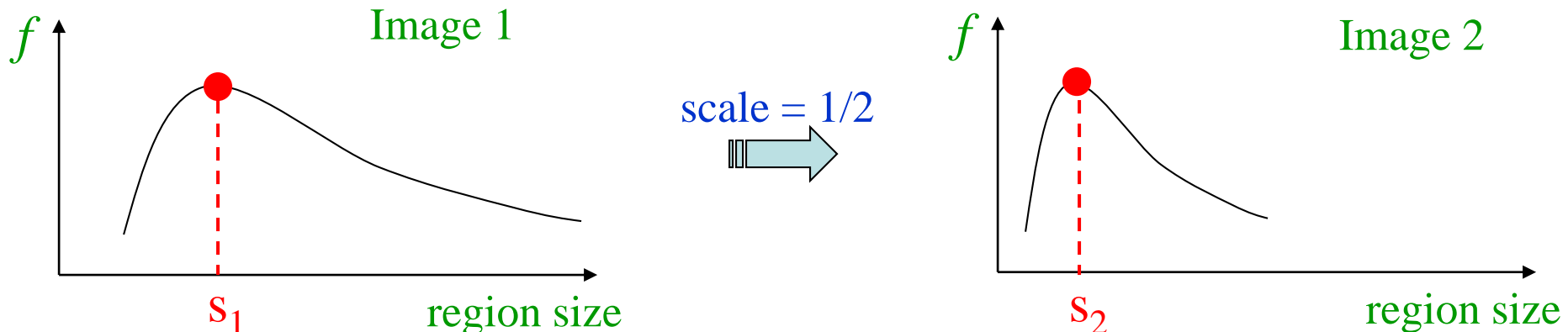
# Automatic scale selection

- Common approach:

Take a local maximum of this function

Observation: region size, for which the maximum is achieved, should be *invariant* to image scale.

Important: this scale invariant region size is found in each image **independently!**



# Automatic Scale Selection



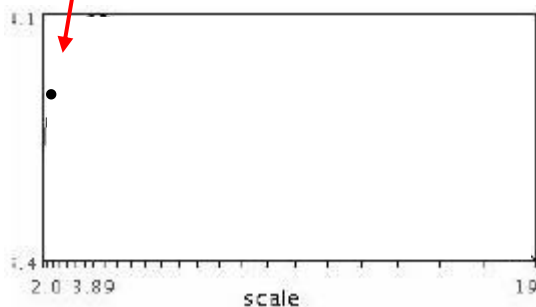
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma)) = f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma'))$$

Same operator responses if the patch contains the same image up to scale factor.

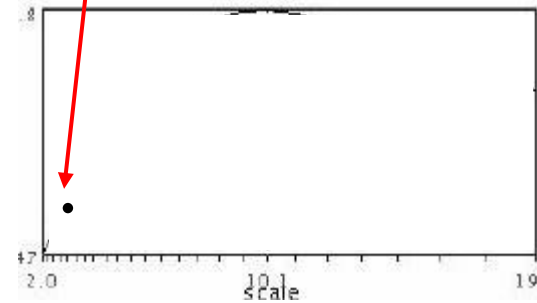


# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



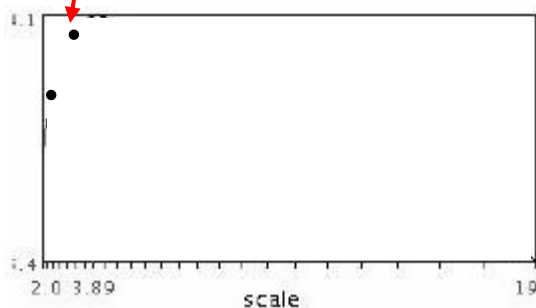
$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



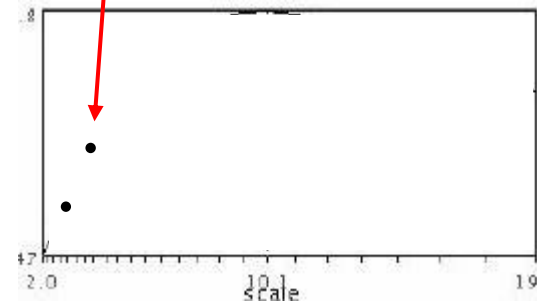
$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



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

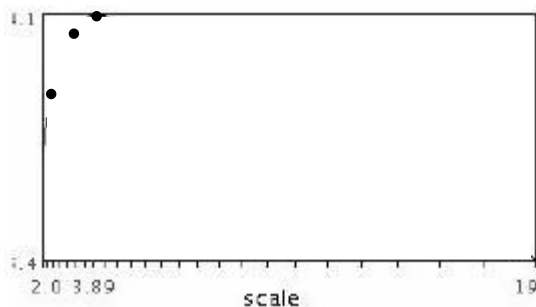


$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

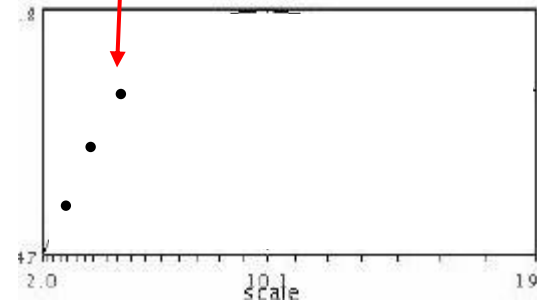


# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



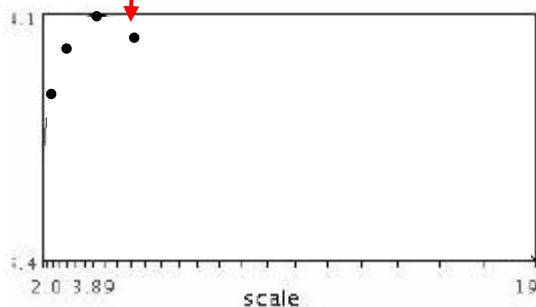
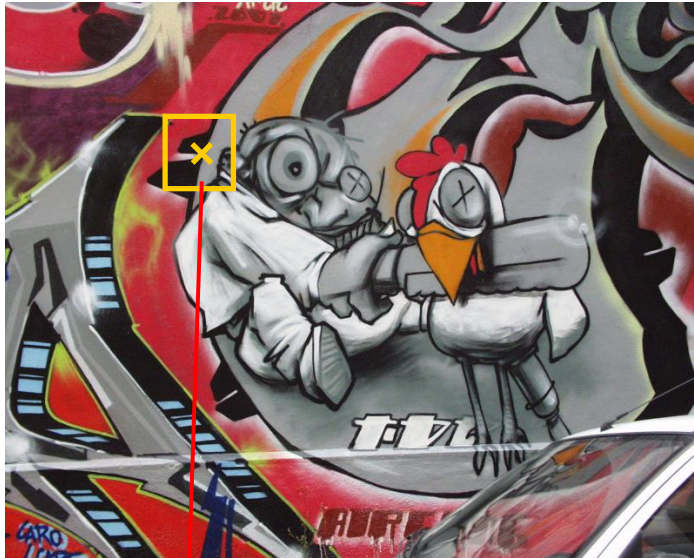
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



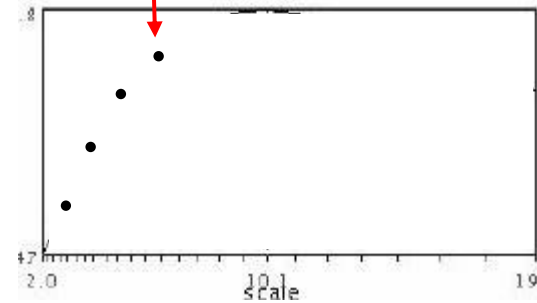
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



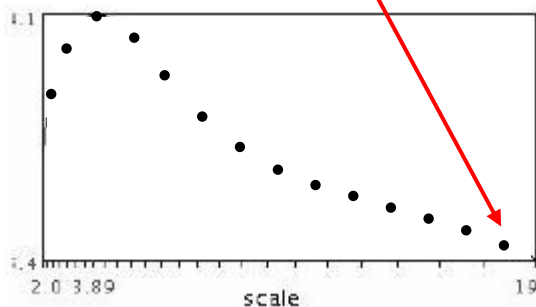
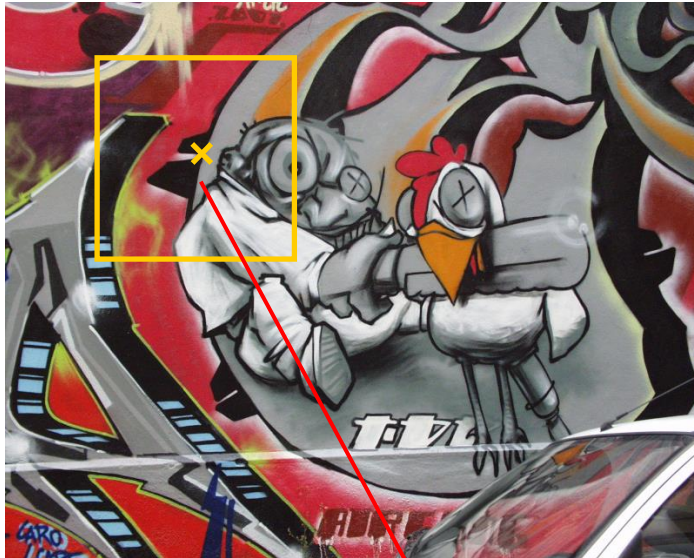
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



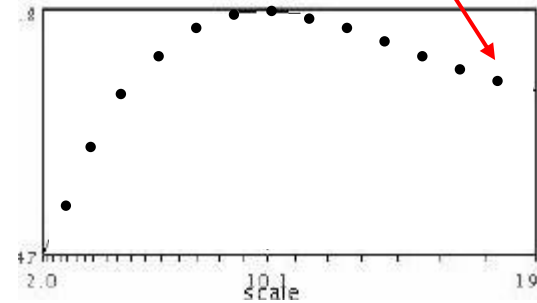
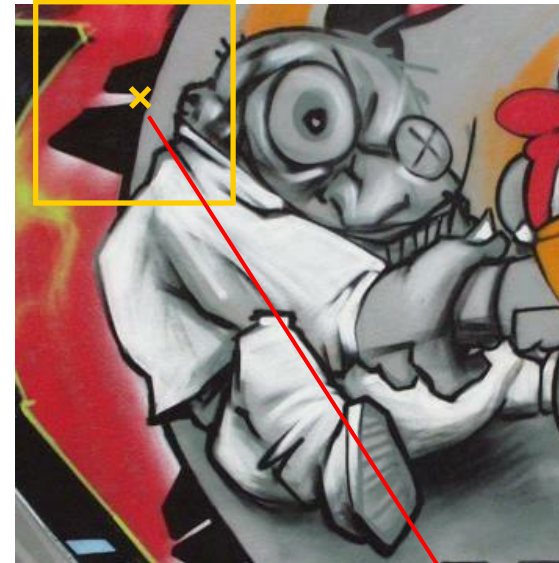
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



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

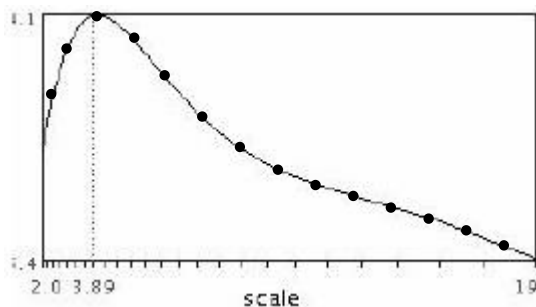


$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

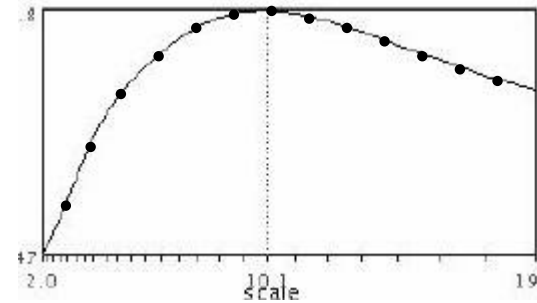


# Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



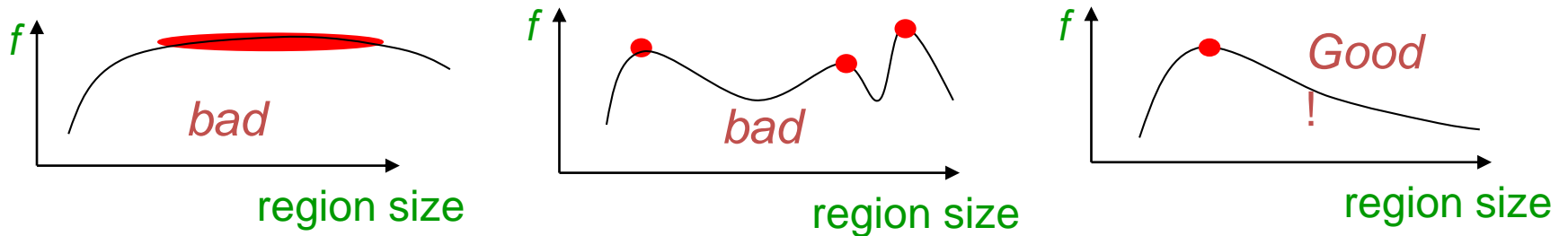
$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



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

# Scale Invariant Detection

- A “good” function for scale detection:  
has one stable sharp peak



- For usual images: a good function would be one which responds to contrast (sharp local intensity change)

# What Is A Useful Signature Function $f$ ?

- Functions for determining scale

$$f = \text{Kernel} * \text{Image}$$

Kernels:

$$L = \sigma^2 \left( G_{xx}(x, y, \sigma) + G_{yy}(x, y, \sigma) \right)$$

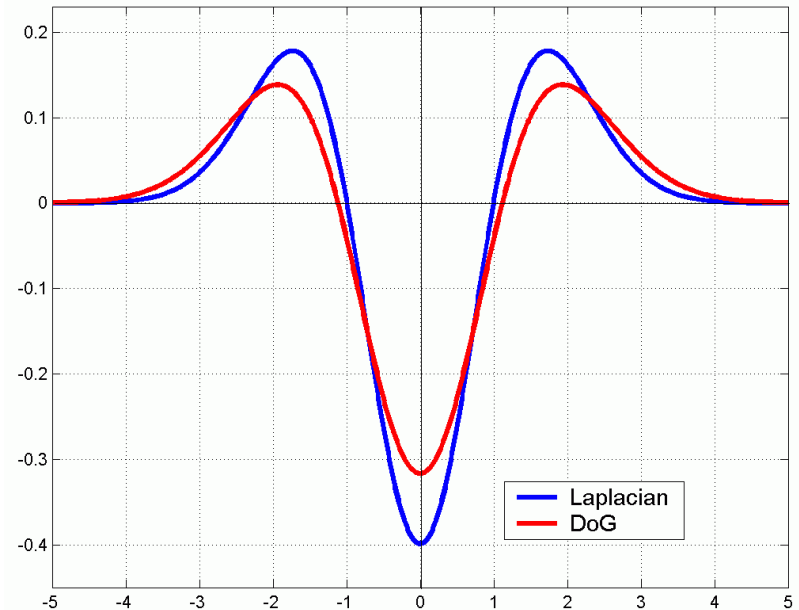
(Laplacian)

$$DoG = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma)$$

(Difference of Gaussians)

where Gaussian

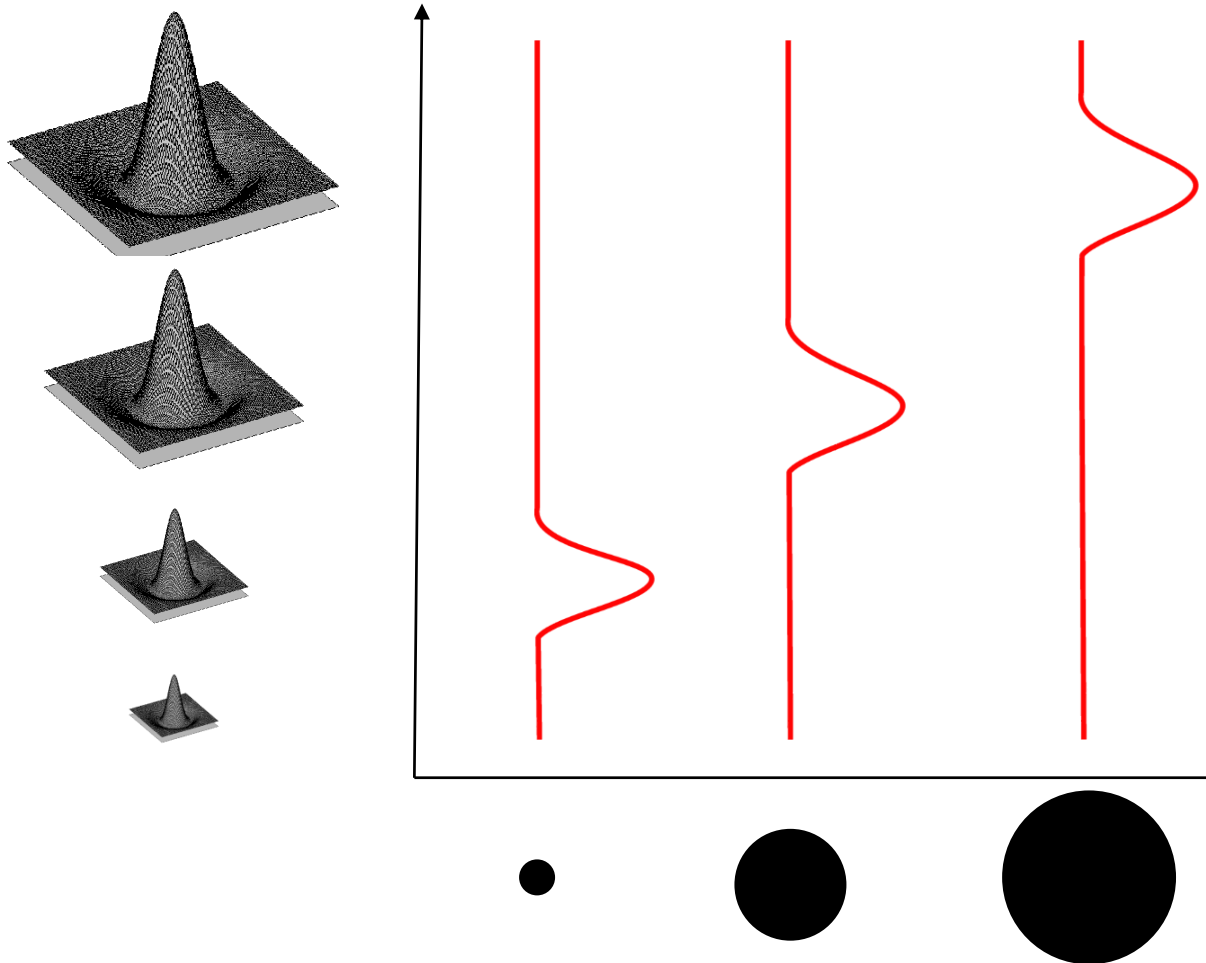
$$G(x, y, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



Note: both kernels are invariant to *scale* and *rotation*

# What Is A Useful Signature Function?

- Laplacian-of-Gaussian = “blob” detector

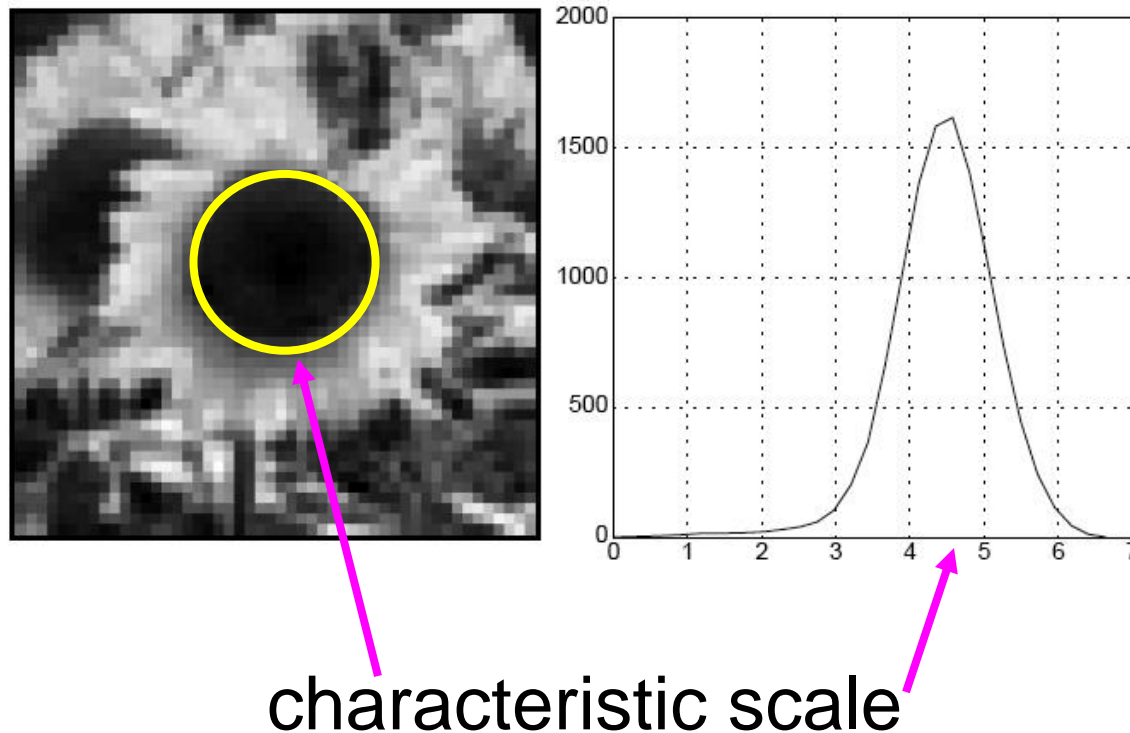




# Characteristic scale

---

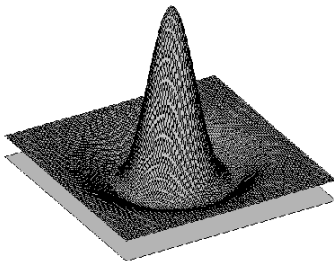
We define the *characteristic scale* as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response



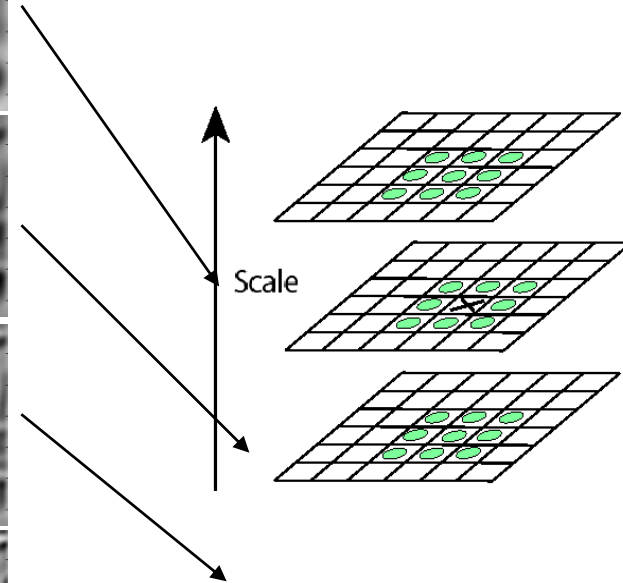
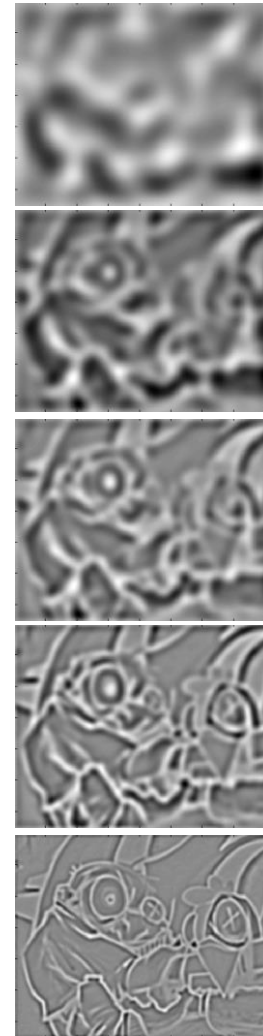
T. Lindeberg (1998). ["Feature detection with automatic scale selection."](#)  
*International Journal of Computer Vision* **30** (2): pp 77--116. Source: Lana Lazebnik

# Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

- Interest points:  
Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian



$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma) \rightarrow \begin{matrix} \nearrow \sigma^5 \\ \nearrow \sigma^4 \\ \rightarrow \sigma^3 \\ \searrow \sigma^2 \\ \searrow \sigma \end{matrix}$$



$\Rightarrow$  List of  
 $(x, y, \sigma)$

# Scale-space blob detector: Example

---



# Scale-space blob detector: Example

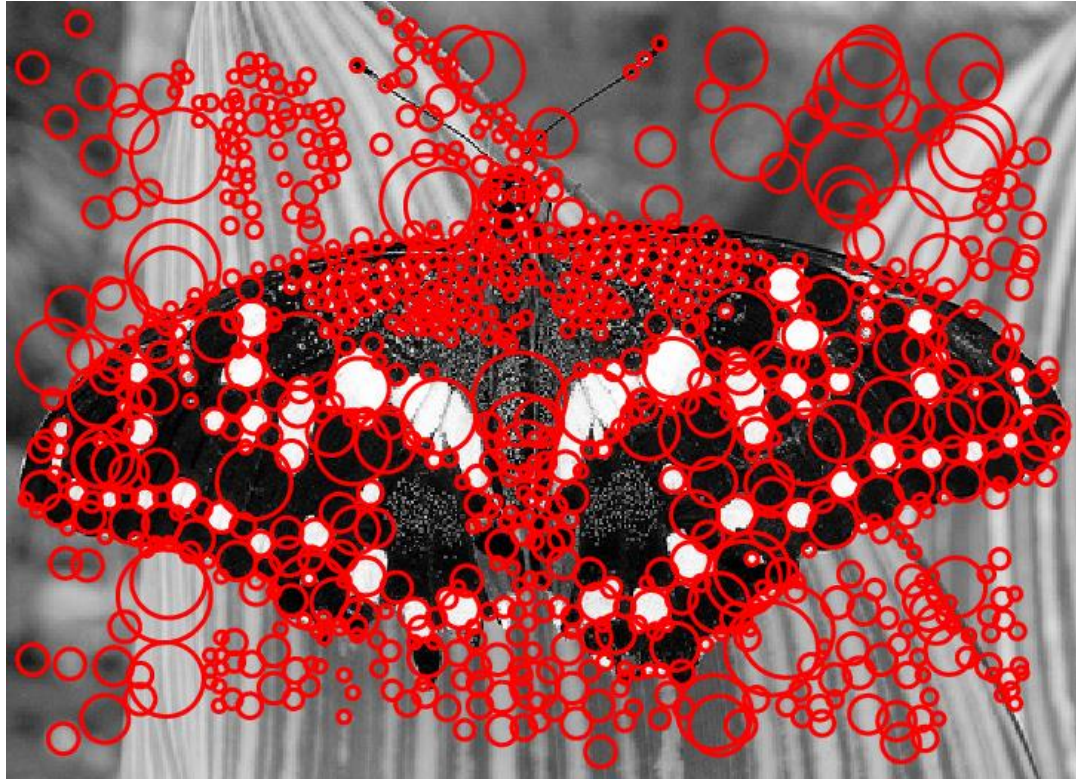
---



sigma = 11.9912

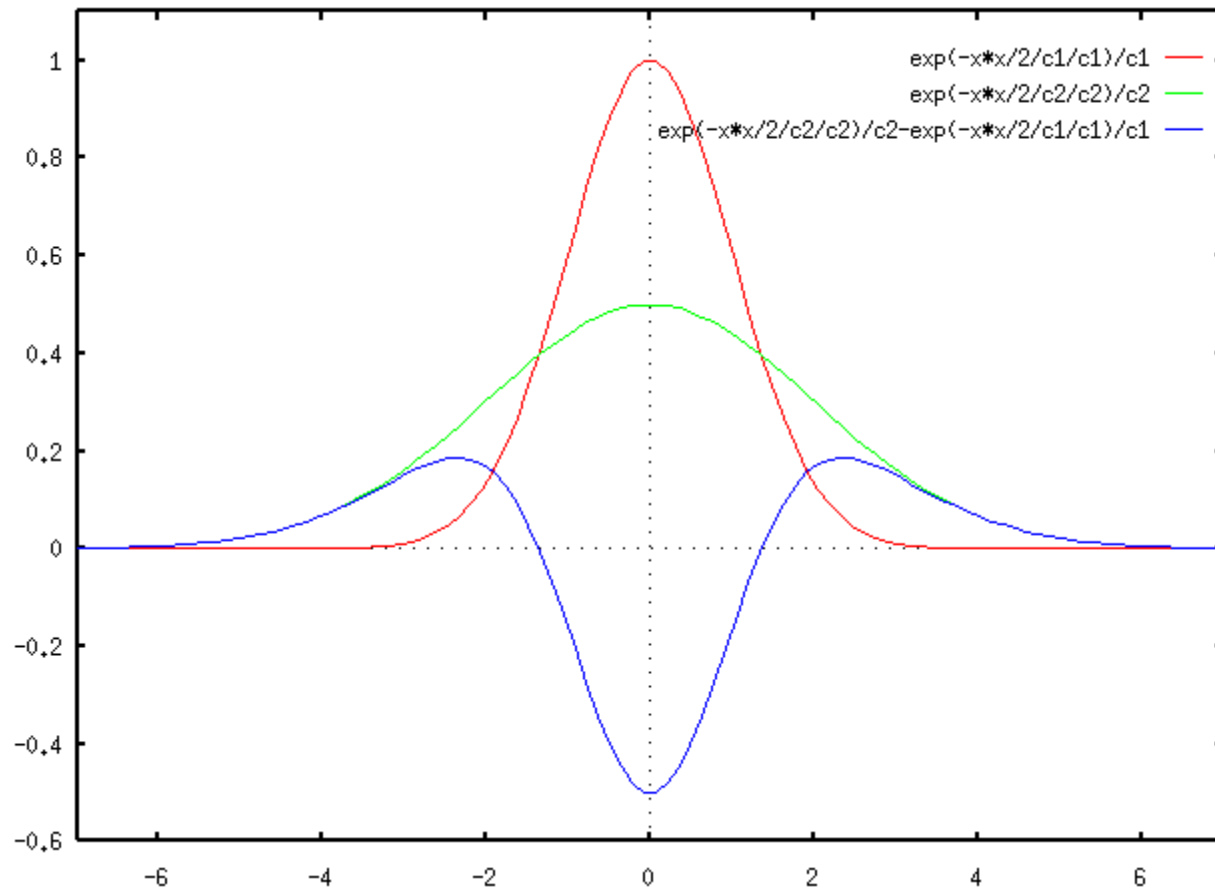
# Scale-space blob detector: Example

---



# Alternative approach

Approximate LoG with Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG).

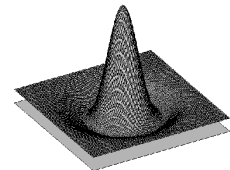




# Alternative approach

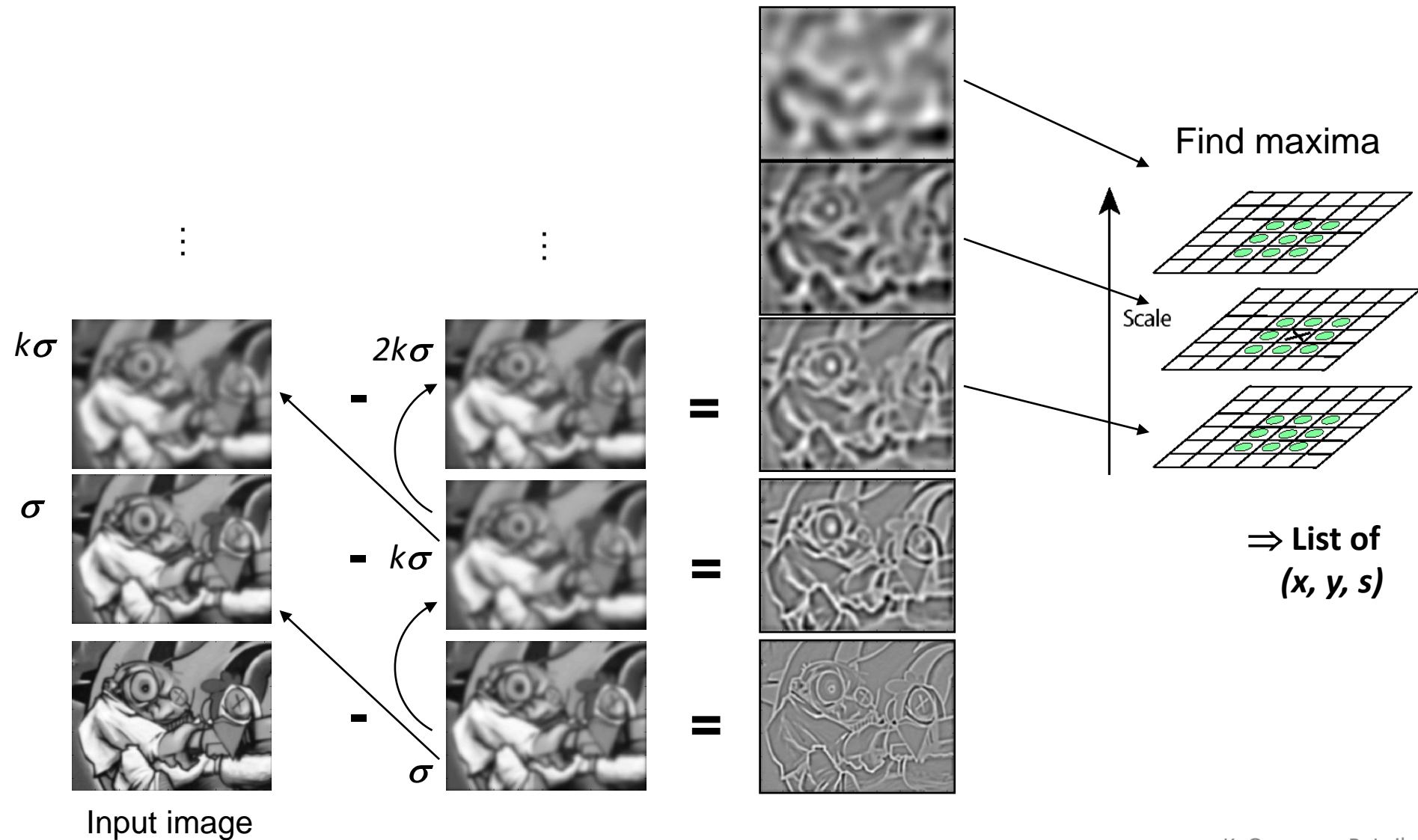
Approximate LoG with Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG).

1. Blur image with  $\sigma$  Gaussian kernel
2. Blur image with  $k\sigma$  Gaussian kernel
3. Subtract 2. from 1.

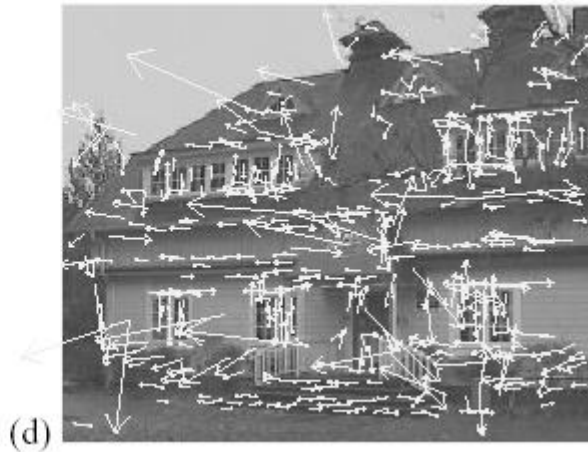




# Find local maxima in position-scale space of DoG



# Example of keypoint detection



- (a) 233x189 image
- (b) 832 DOG extrema
- (c) 729 left after peak value threshold
- (d) 536 left after testing ratio of principle curvatures (removing edge responses)

# Scale Invariant Detection: Summary

- **Given:** two images of the same scene with a large *scale difference* between them
- **Goal:** find *the same* interest points *independently* in each image
- **Solution:** search for *maxima* of suitable functions in *scale* and in *space* (over the image)