Optical Flow

EECS 442 – David Fouhey

Fall 2019, University of Michigan

http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fouhey/teaching/EECS442_F19/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3QrhdfLCO8

Optical Flow

Idea first introduced by psychologist JJ Gibson in ~1940s to describe how to perceive opportunities for motion

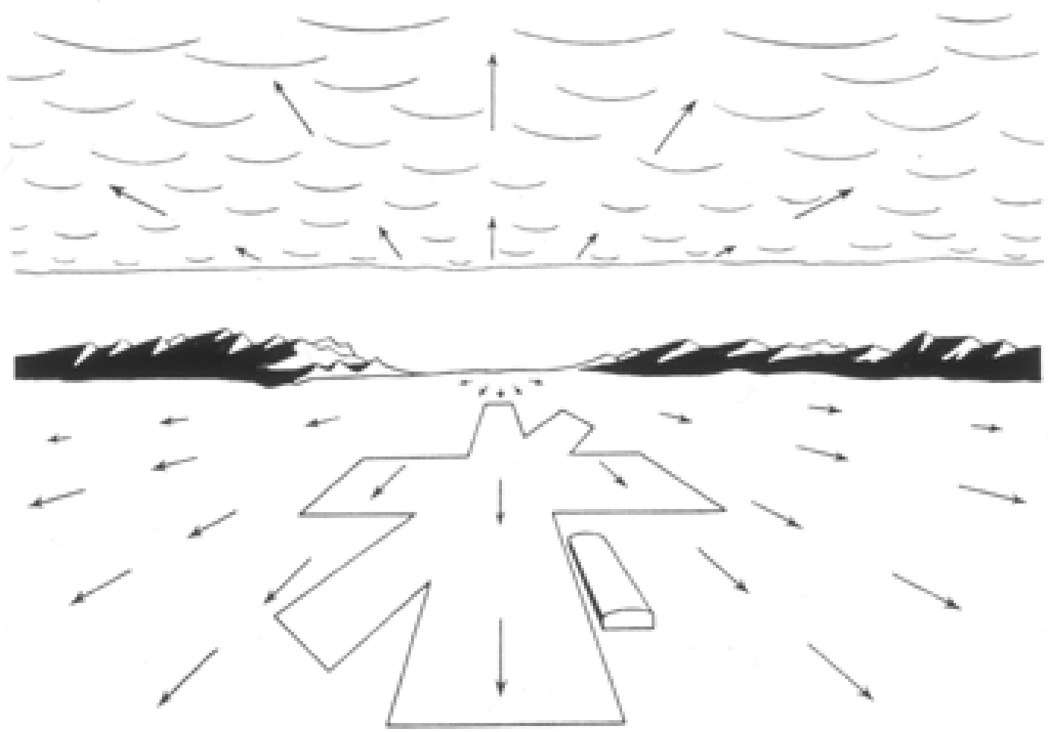
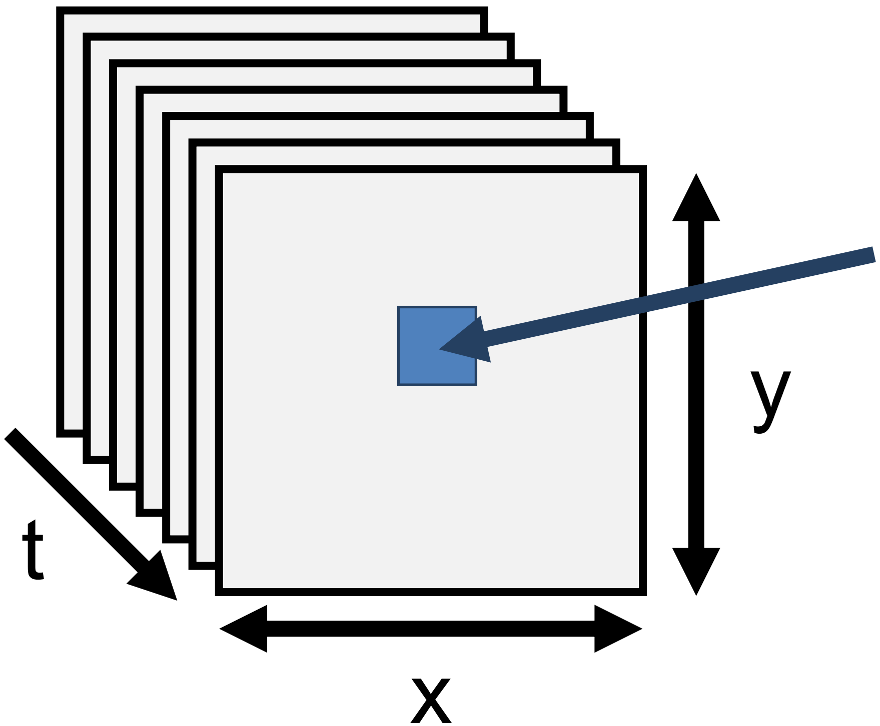


Image Credit: Gibson

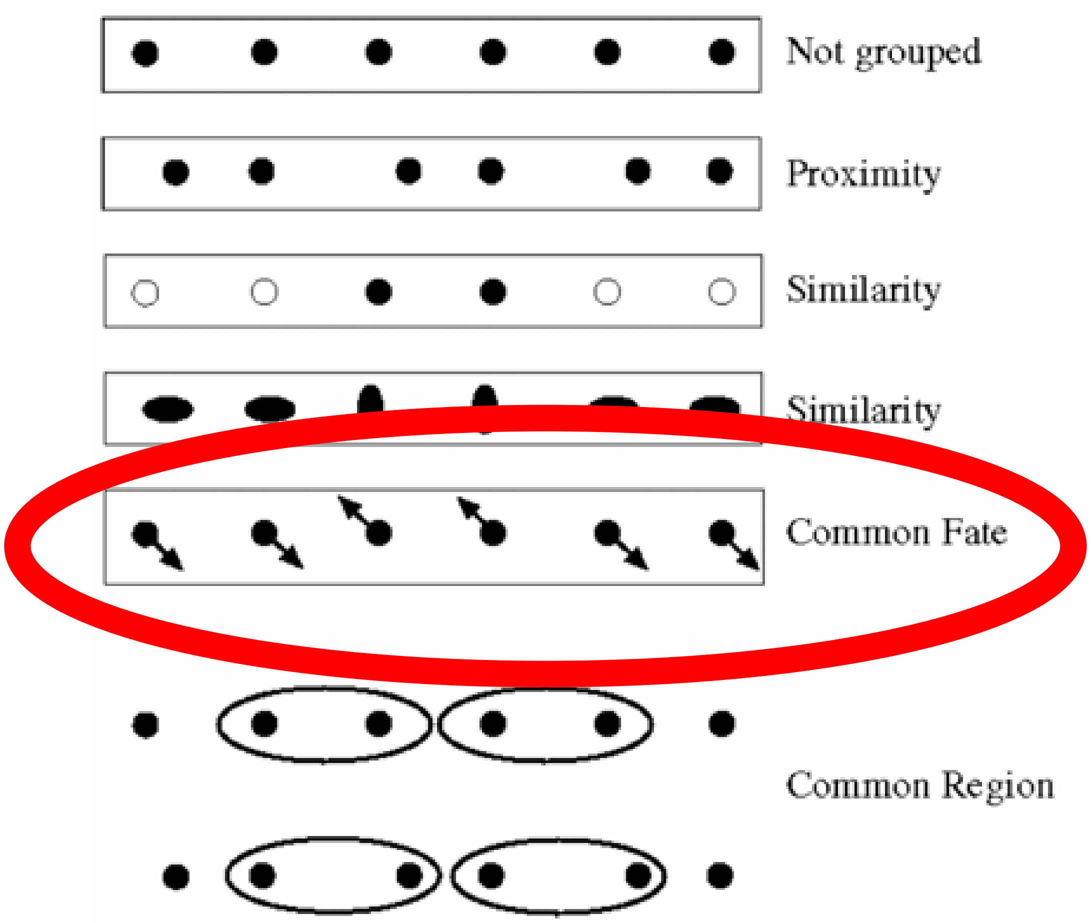
Video

Video: sequence of frames over time
Image is function of space (x,y) and time t
(and channel c)



I(x,y,c,t)
x,y – location
c – channel
t – time

Motion Perception

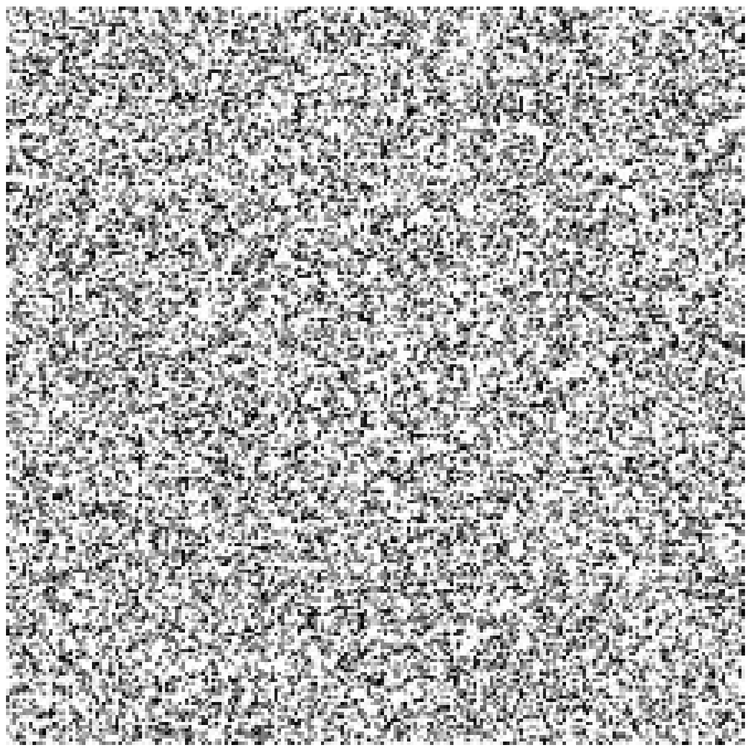


Gestalt psychology
Max Wertheimer
1880-1943

Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik

Motion and perceptual organization

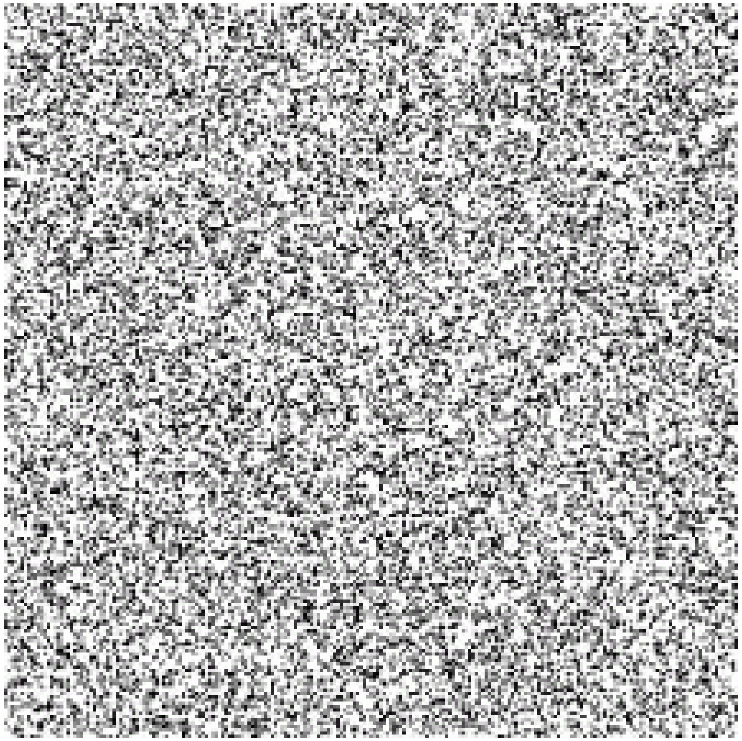
Sometimes motion is the only cue



Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik, but idea of random dot sterogram is due to B. Julesz

Motion and perceptual organization

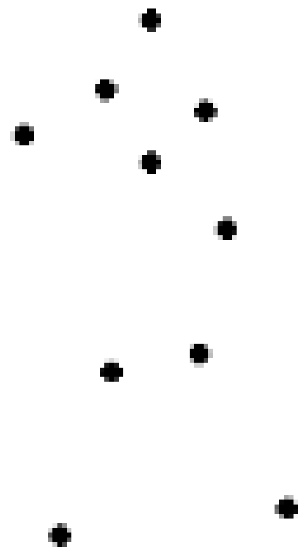
Sometimes motion is the only cue



Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik, but idea of random dot sterogram is due to B. Julesz

Motion and perceptual organization

Even impoverished motion data can create a strong percept



Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik

Motion and perceptual organization

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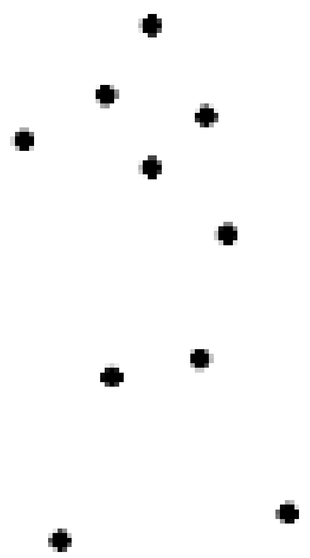


Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik

Motion and perceptual organization

Even impoverished motion data can create a strong percept

Fritz Heider & Marianne Simmel. 1944

Animation from:

Heider, F. & Simmel, M. (1944).

An experimental study of apparent behavior.

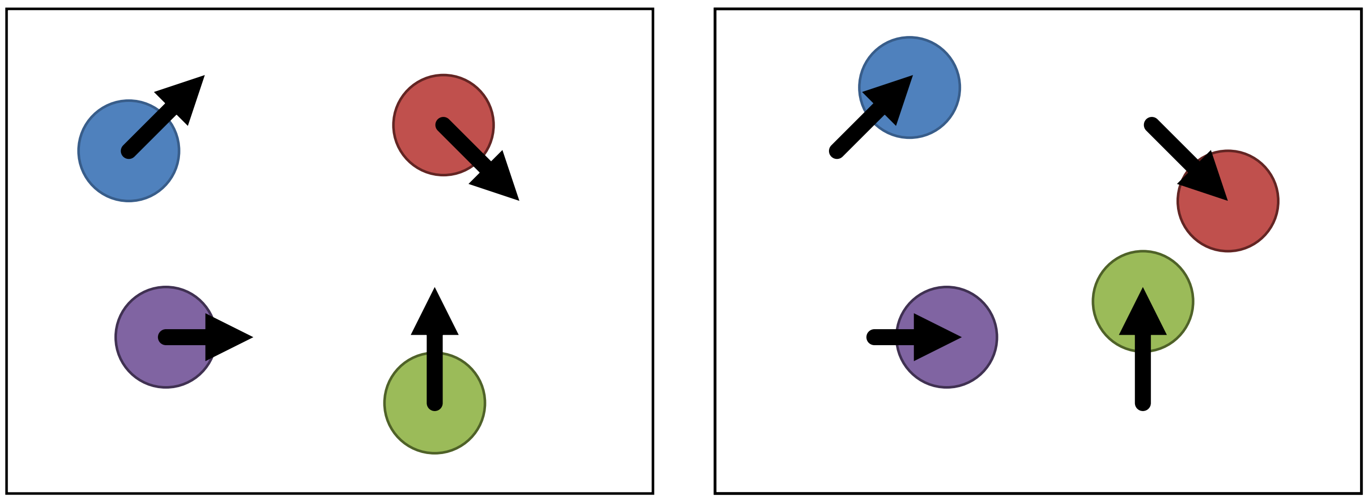
American Journal of Psychology, 57, 243-259.

Courtesy of:

Department of Psychology

University of Kansas, Lawrence

Problem Definition: Optical Flow

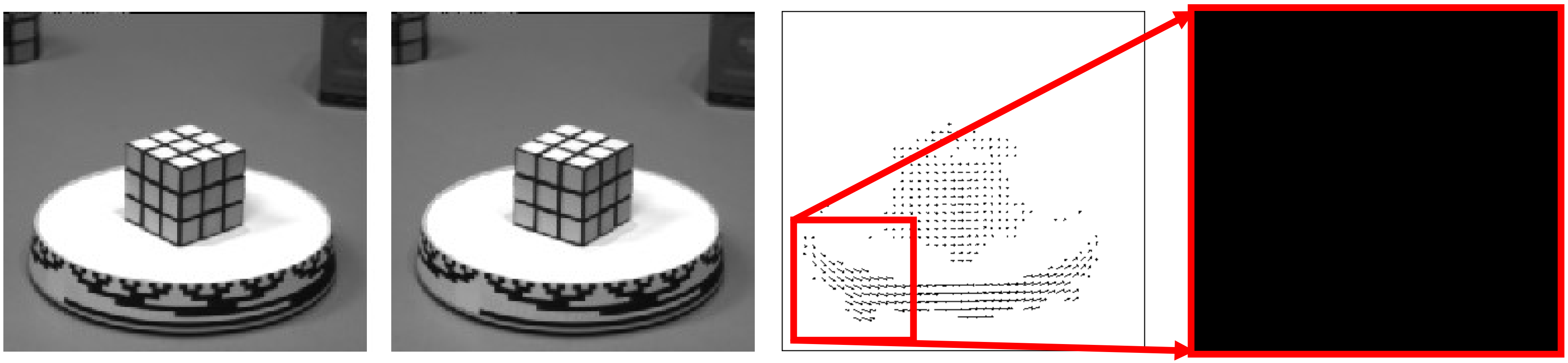


I(x,y,t) I(x,y,t+1)

Want to estimate pixel motion from image I(x,y,t) to image I(x,y,t+1)

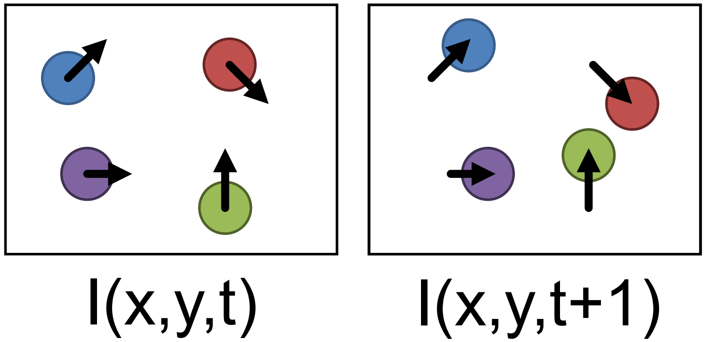
Optical flow

Optical flow is the *apparent* motion of objects



Will start by estimating motion of each pixel separately
Then will consider motion of entire image

Optical Flow

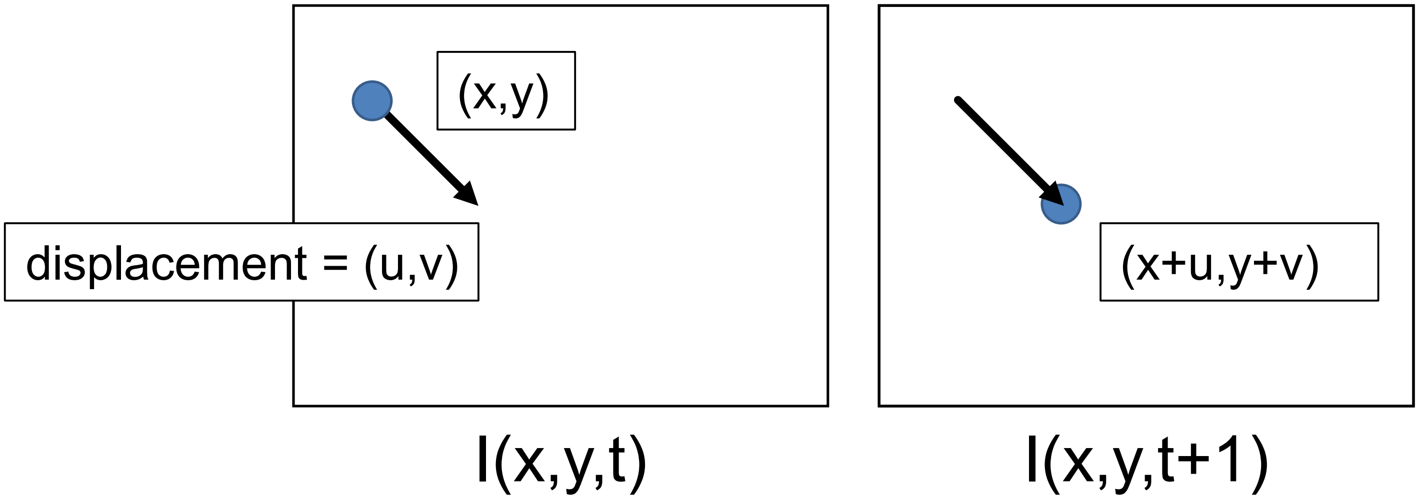


Solve correspondence problem: given pixel at time t, find **nearby** pixels of the **same color** at time t+1

Key assumptions:

- **Color/brightness constancy**: point at time t looks same at time t+1
- **Small motion**: points do not move very far

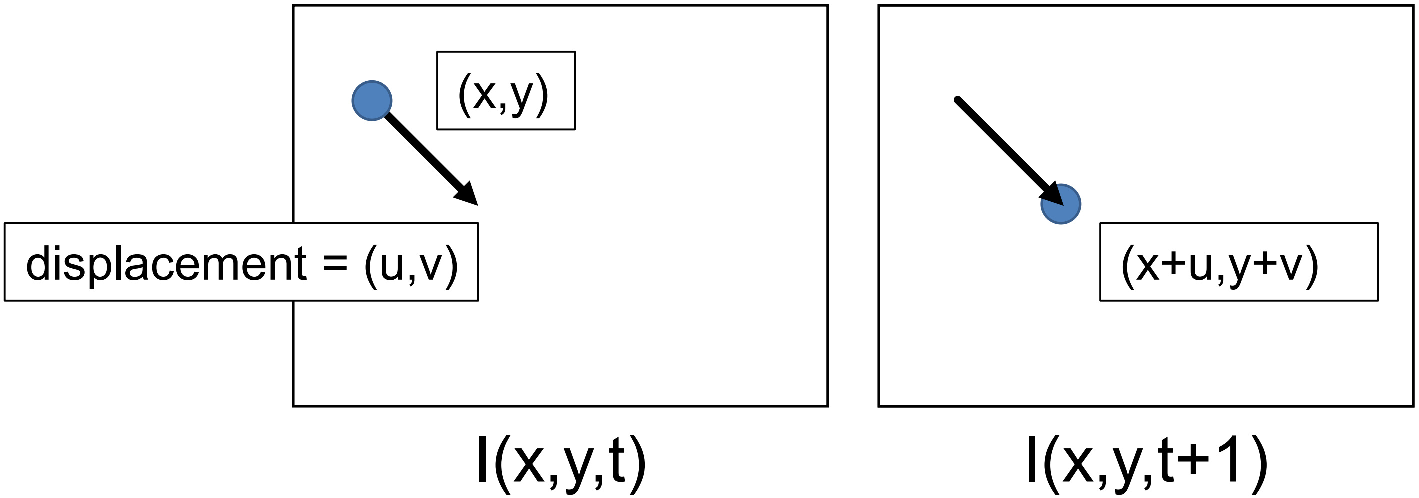
Optical Flow



Brightness constancy: $I(x, y, t) = I(x + u, y + v, t + 1)$

Wrong way to do things: brute force match

Optical Flow



Brightness constancy:

$$I(x, y, t) = I(x + u, y + v, t + 1)$$

Recall Taylor Expansion:

$$I(x + u, y + v, t) = I(x, y, t) + I_x u + I_y v + \cdots$$

Optical Flow Equation

$$I(x+u, y+v, t+1) = I(x, y, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\approx I(x+u, y+v, t+1) - I(x, y, t) \\ &= I(x, y, t+1) + I_x u + I_y v - I(x, y, t) \\ &= \underbrace{I(x, y, t+1) - I(x, y, t)} + I_x u + I_y v \end{aligned}$$

Taylor Expansion

If you had to guess, what would you call this?

Adapted from S. Lazebnik slides

Optical Flow Equation

$$I(x+u, y+v, t+1) = I(x, y, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\approx I(x+u, y+v, t+1) - I(x, y, t) \\ &= I(x, y, t+1) + I_x u + I_y v - I(x, y, t) \\ &= I(x, y, t+1) - I(x, y, t) + I_x u + I_y v \\ &= I_t + I_x u + I_y v \\ &= I_t + \nabla I \cdot [u, v] \end{aligned}$$

Taylor Expansion

When is this approximation exact?

[u,v] = [0,0]

When is it bad?

u or v big.

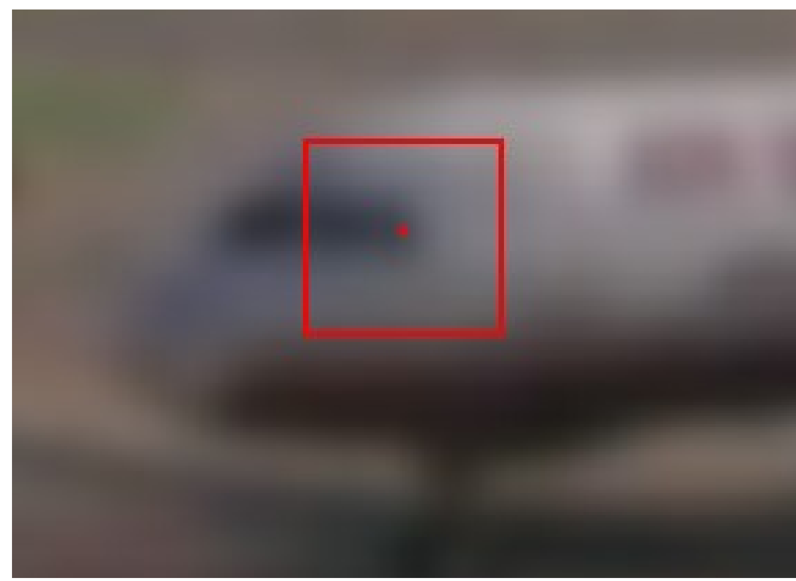
Adapted from S. Lazebnik slides

Optical Flow Equation

Brightness constancy equation

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

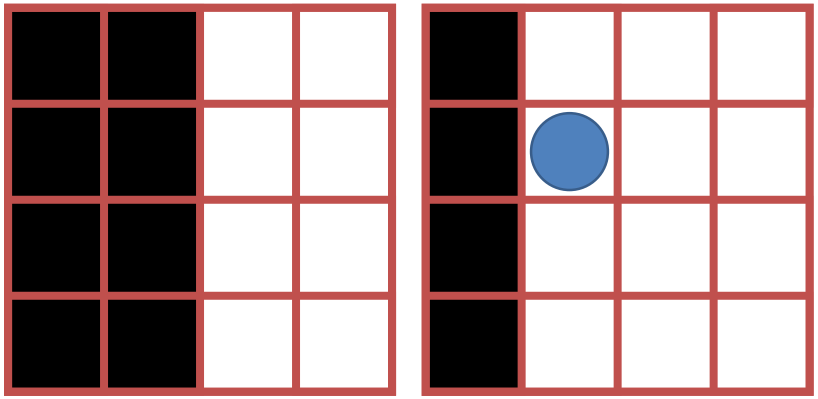
What do static image gradients have to do with motion estimation?



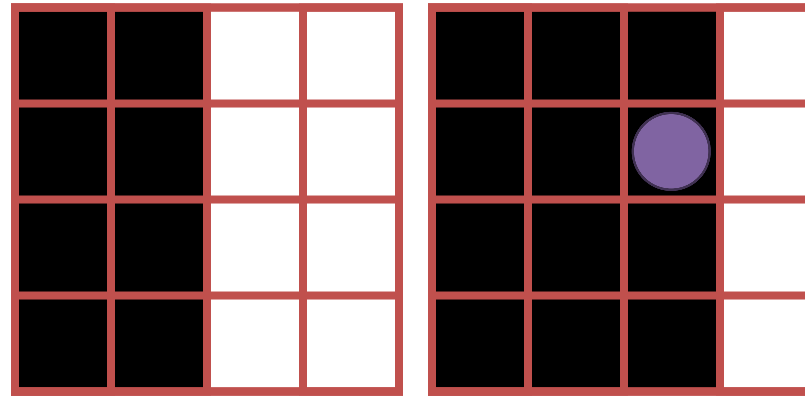
Slide Credit: S. Lazebnik

Brightness Constancy Example

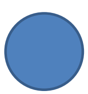
$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$



t t+1



t t+1

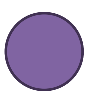
@ 

It = 1-0 = 1

Iy = 0

Ix = 1-0 = 1

What's u?

@ 

It = 0-1 = -1

Iy = 0

Ix = 1-0 = 1

What's u?

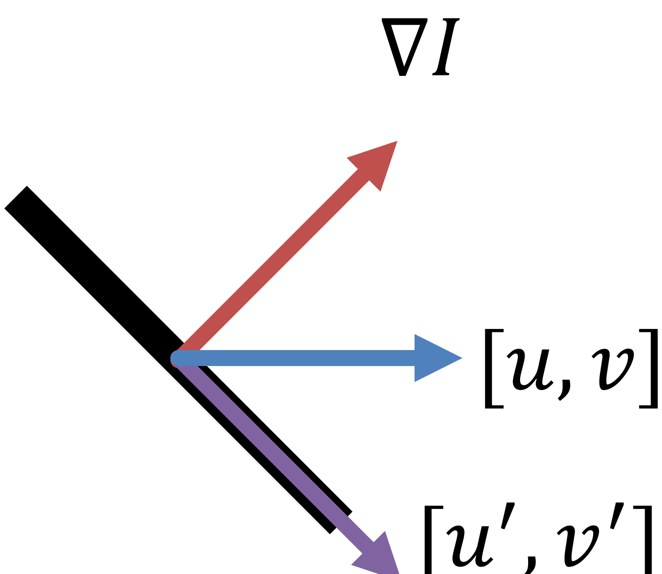
Optical Flow Equation

Have: $I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$ $\quad I_t + \nabla I \cdot [u, v] = 0$

How many equations and unknowns per pixel?

1 (single equation), 2 (u and v)

One nasty problem:



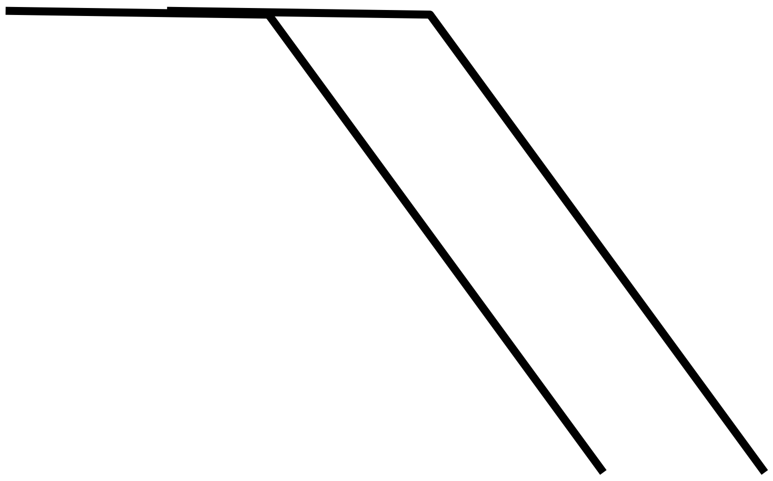
Suppose $\nabla I^T [u', v'] = 0$

$\mathrm{I_t} + \nabla I^T [u + u', v + v'] = 0$

Can only identify the motion along gradient and **not** motion perpendicular to it

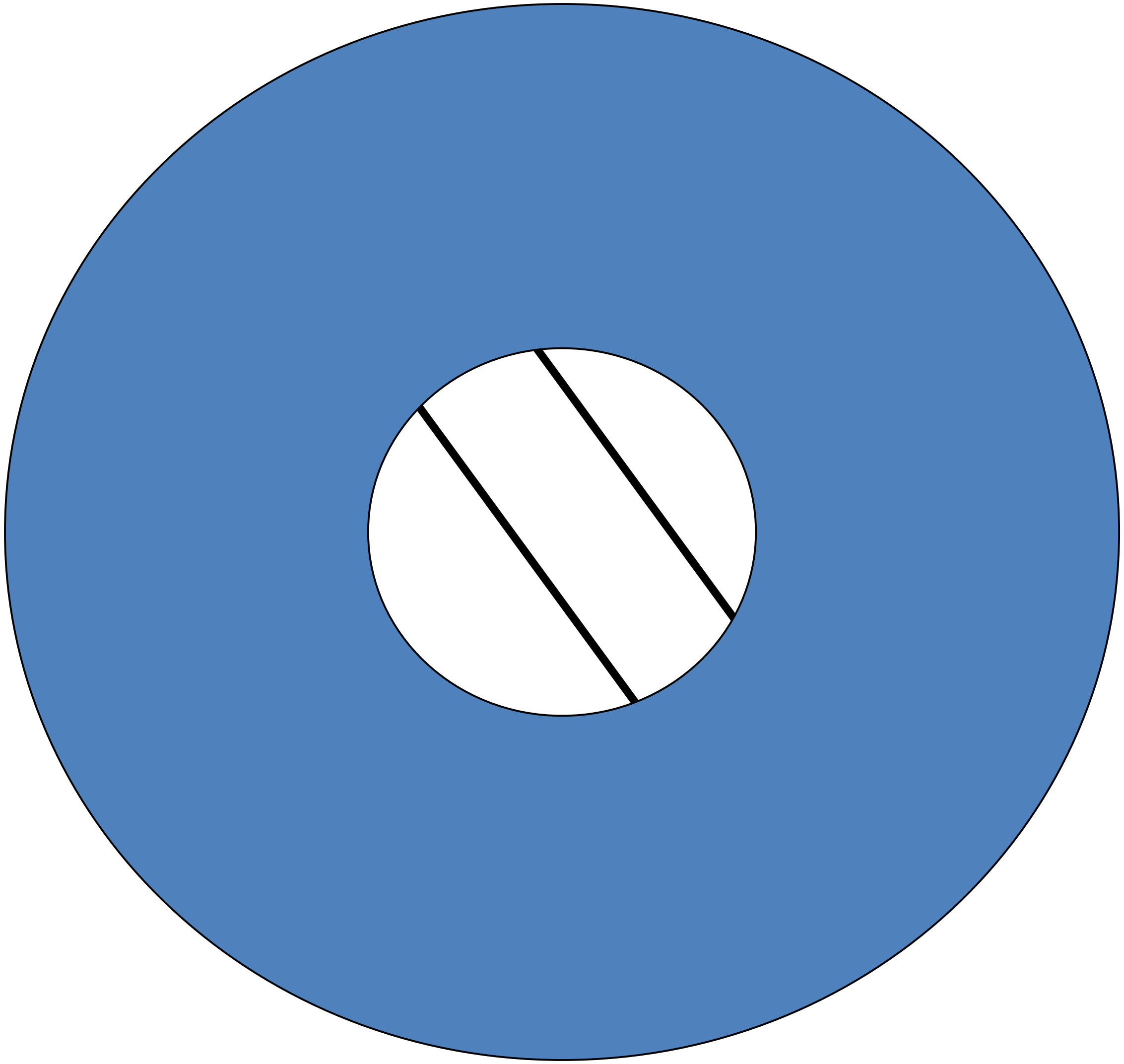
Adapted from S. Lazebnik slides

Aperture problem



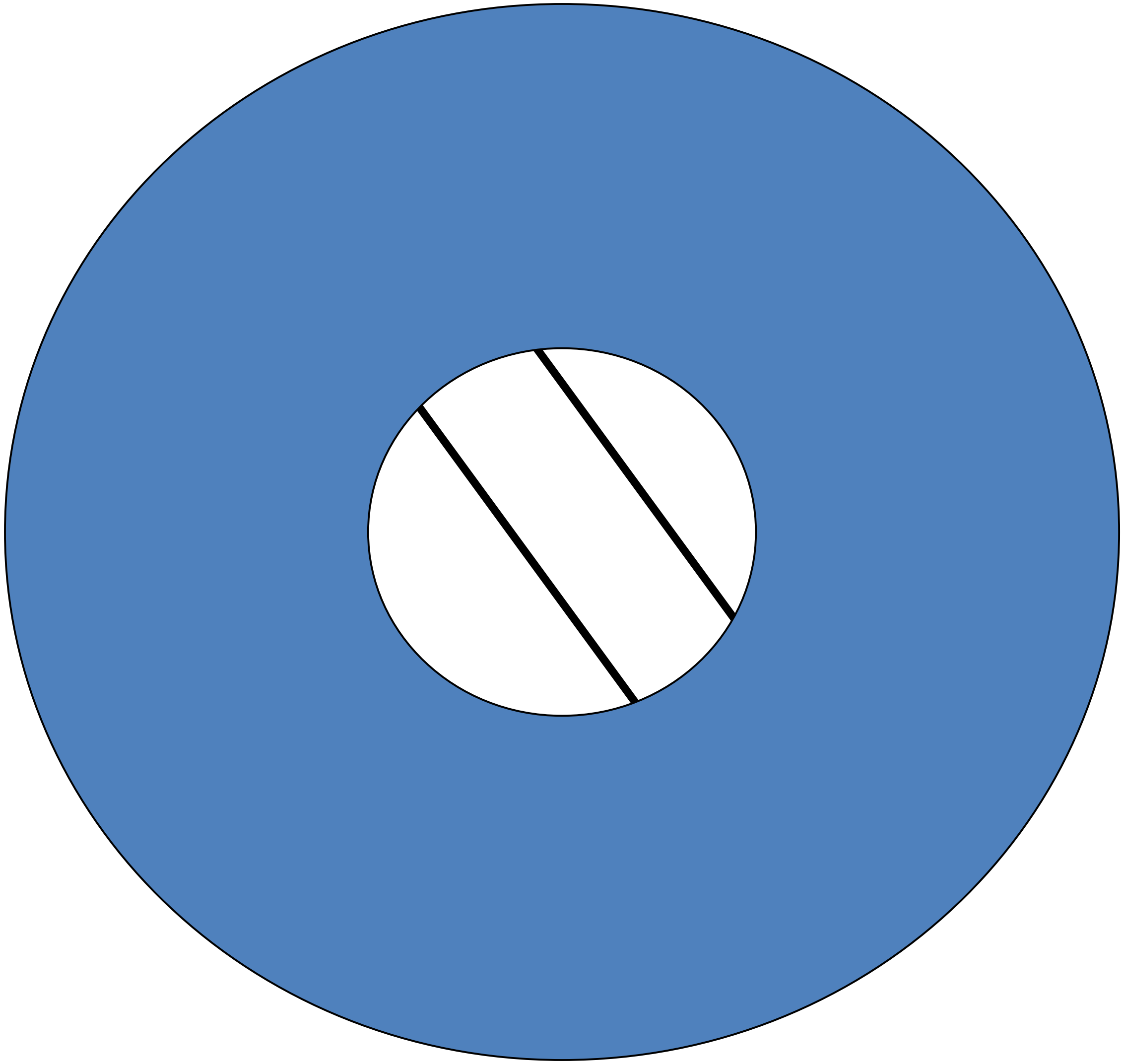
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Aperture problem



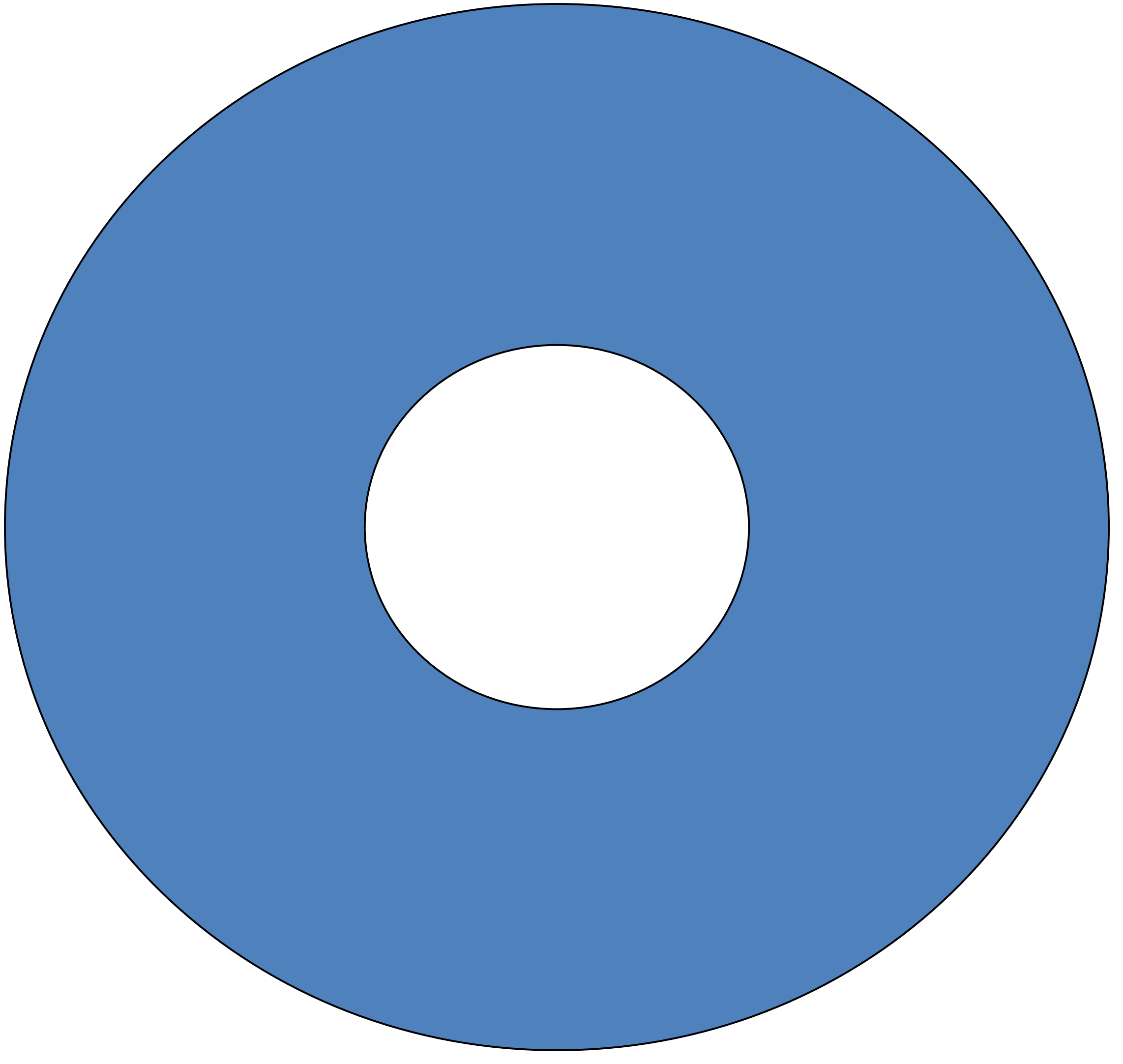
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Aperture problem

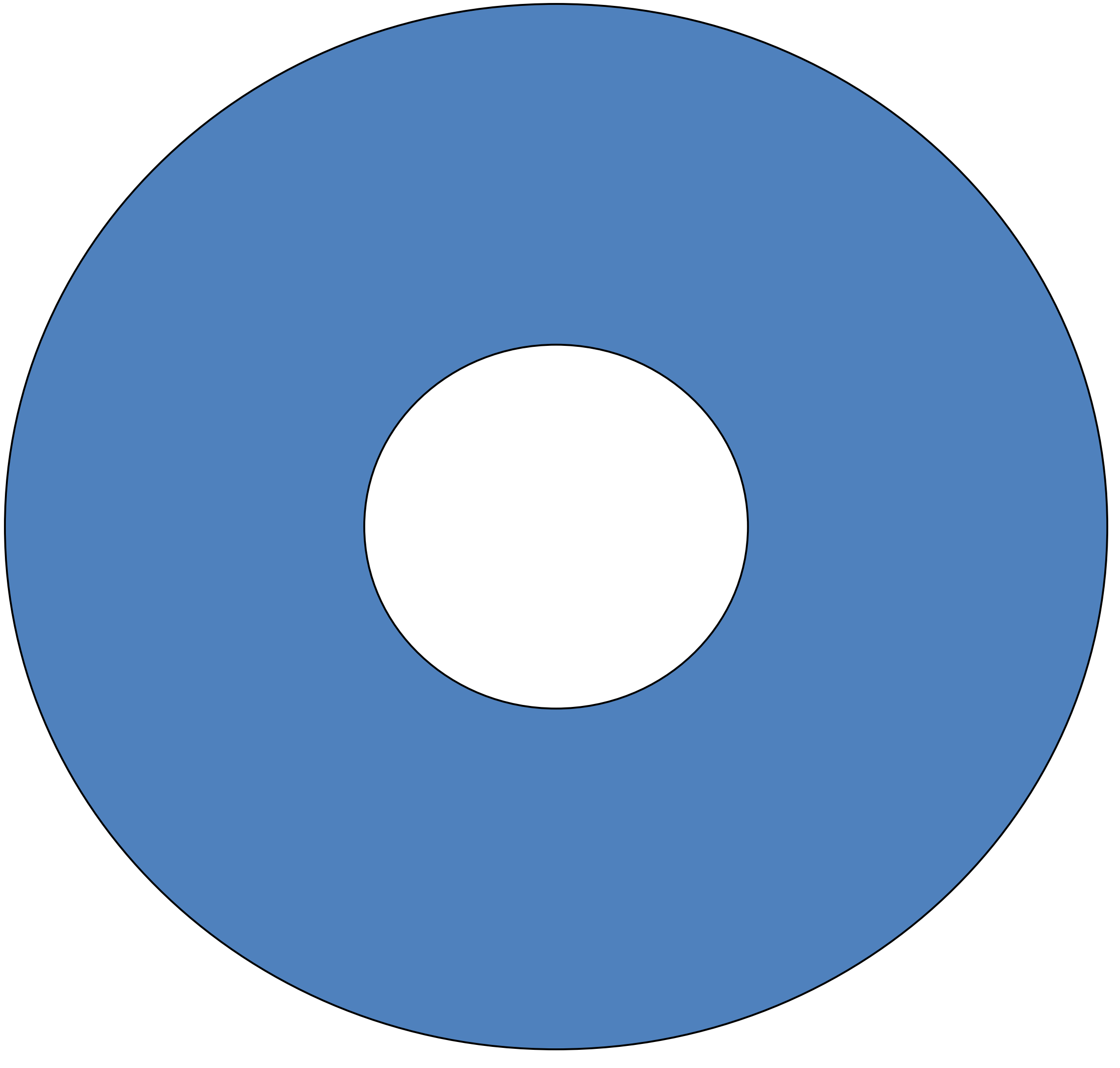


Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Other Invisible Flow



Other Invisible Flow



Solving Ambiguity – Lucas Kanade

2 unknowns [u,v], 1 eqn per pixel

How do we get more equations?

Assume *spatial coherence*: pixel's neighbors have *move together* / have same [u,v]

5x5 window gives 25 new equations

$$I_t + I_x u + I_y v = 0$$

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

B. Lucas and T. Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. In *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 674–679, 1981.

Solving for [u,v]

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(p_1) & I_y(p_1) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(p_{25}) & I_y(p_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(p_1) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(p_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \qquad \underset{25x2}{\boldsymbol{A}} \; \underset{2x1}{\boldsymbol{d}} = \underset{25x1}{\boldsymbol{b}}$$

What's the solution?

$$(\boldsymbol{A}^T\boldsymbol{A})\boldsymbol{d} = \boldsymbol{A}^T\boldsymbol{b} \quad \rightarrow \quad \boldsymbol{d} = (\boldsymbol{A}^T\boldsymbol{A})^{-1}\boldsymbol{A}^T\boldsymbol{b}$$

Intuitively, need to solve (sum over pixels in window)

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

Adapted from S. Lazebnik slides

Solving for [u,v]

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

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

What does this remind you of?

Harris corner detection!

When can we find [u,v]?

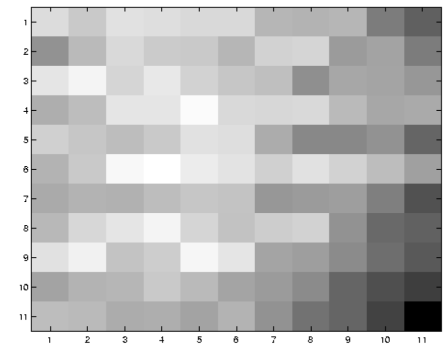
$A^T A$ invertible: precisely equal brightness isn't

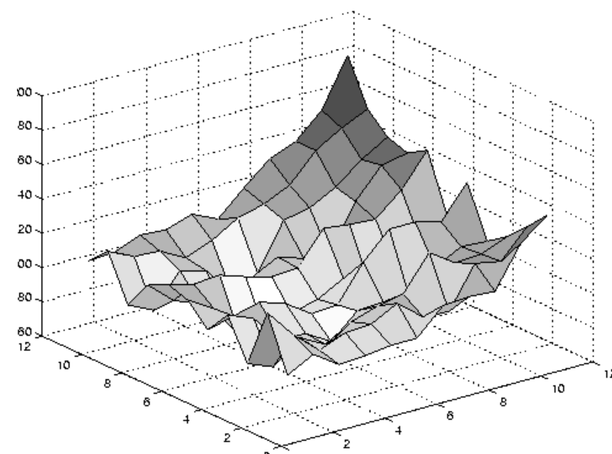
$A^T A$ not too small: noise + equal brightness

$A^T A$ well-conditioned: $|\lambda_1|/|\lambda_2|$ not large (edge)

Adapted from S. Lazebnik slides

Low texture region





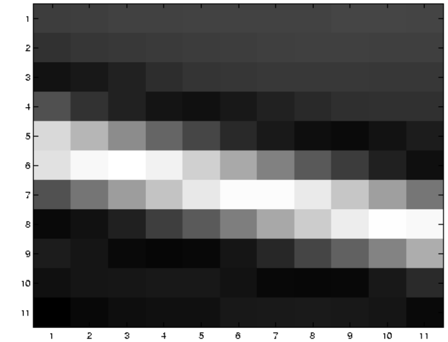
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

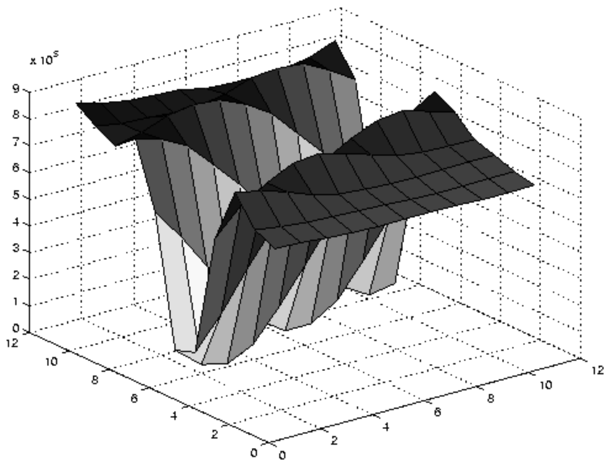
– gradients have small magnitude

– small λ_1, small λ_2

Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Edge





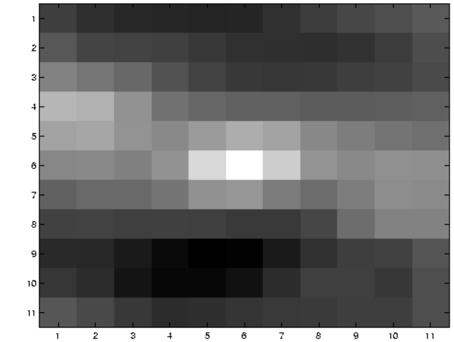
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

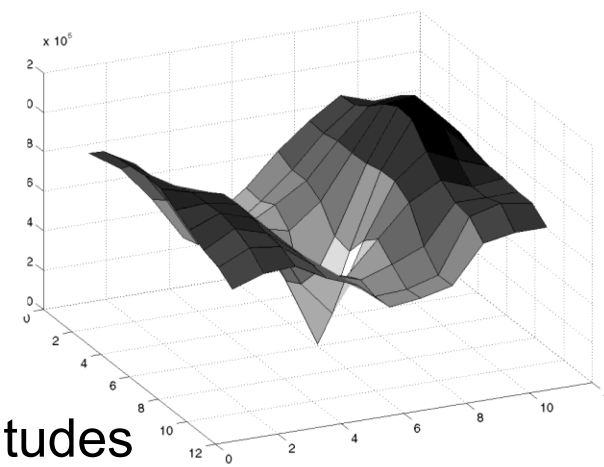
– large gradients, all the same

– large λ_1, small λ_2

Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

High texture region





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

– gradients are different, large magnitudes

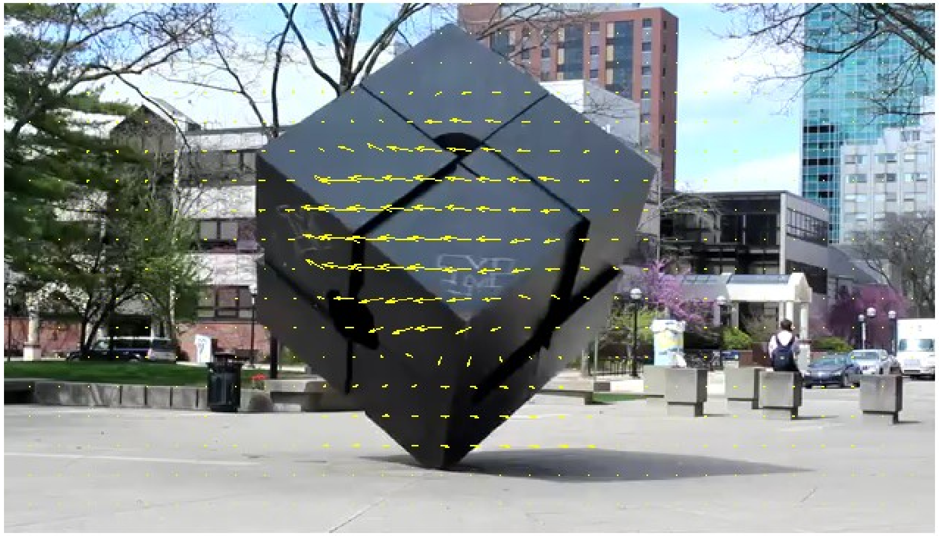
– large λ_1, large λ_2

Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Lucas-Kanade flow example

Input frames

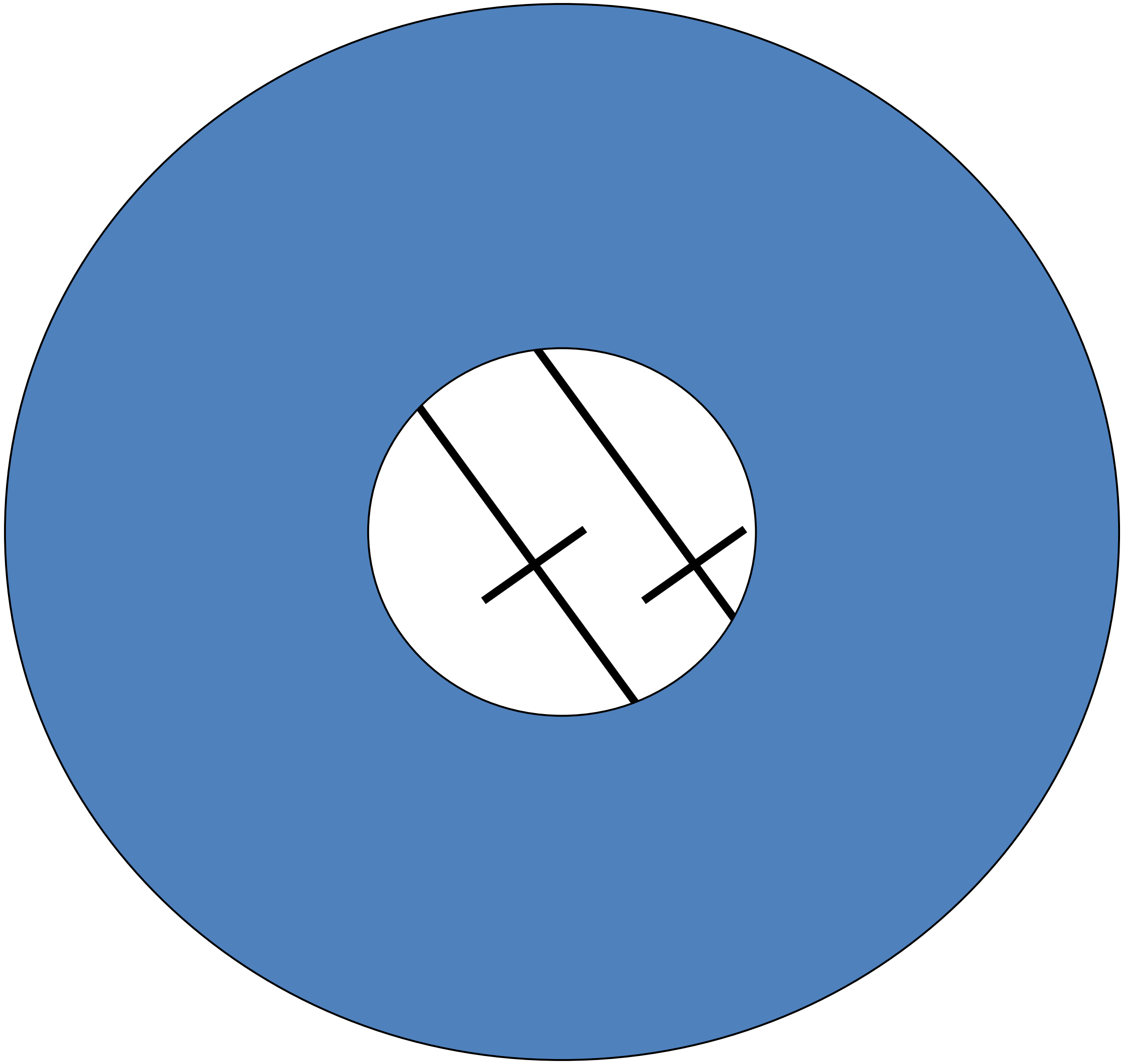
Output



Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

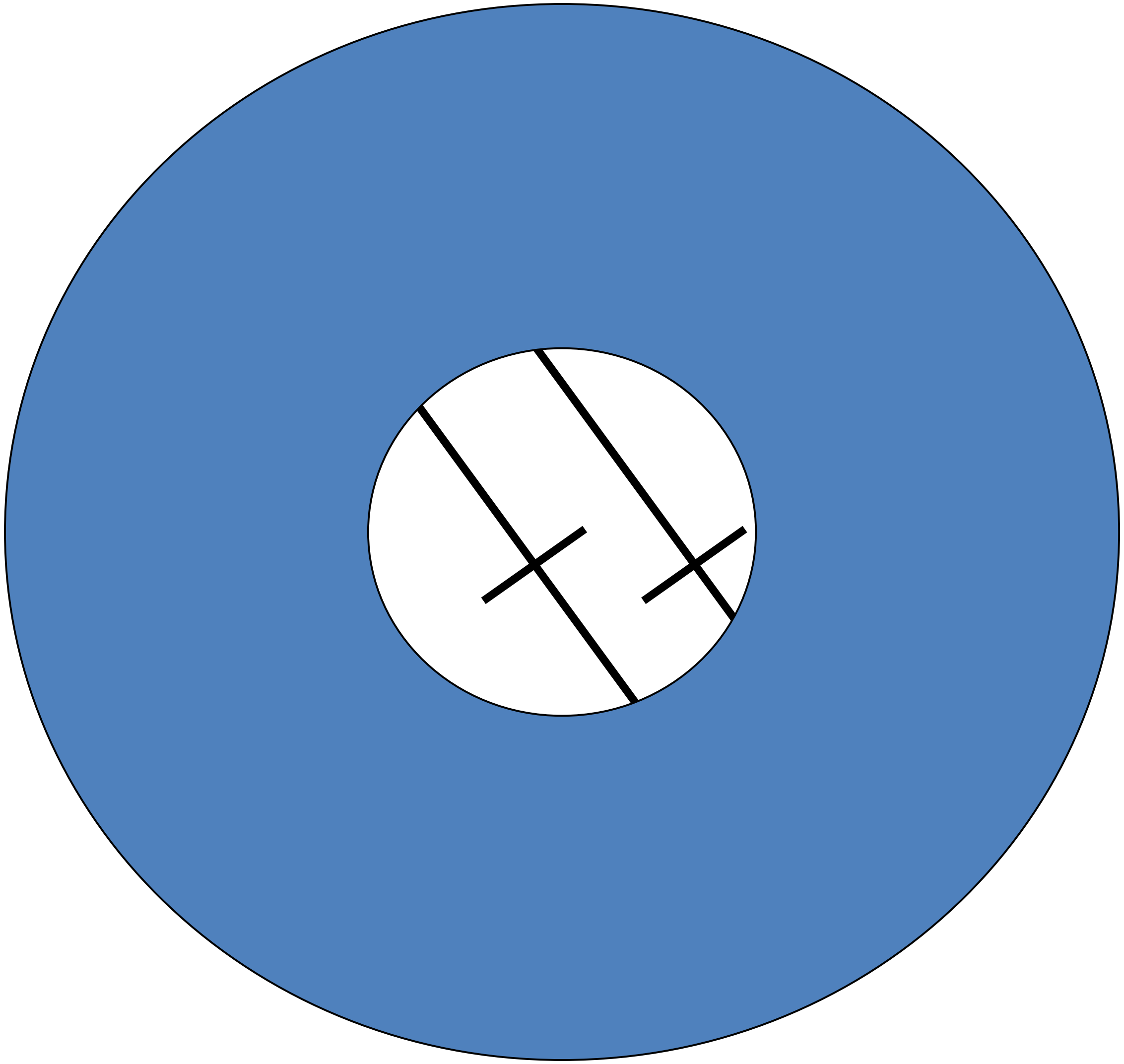
Source: [MATLAB Central File Exchange]

Aperture problem Take 2



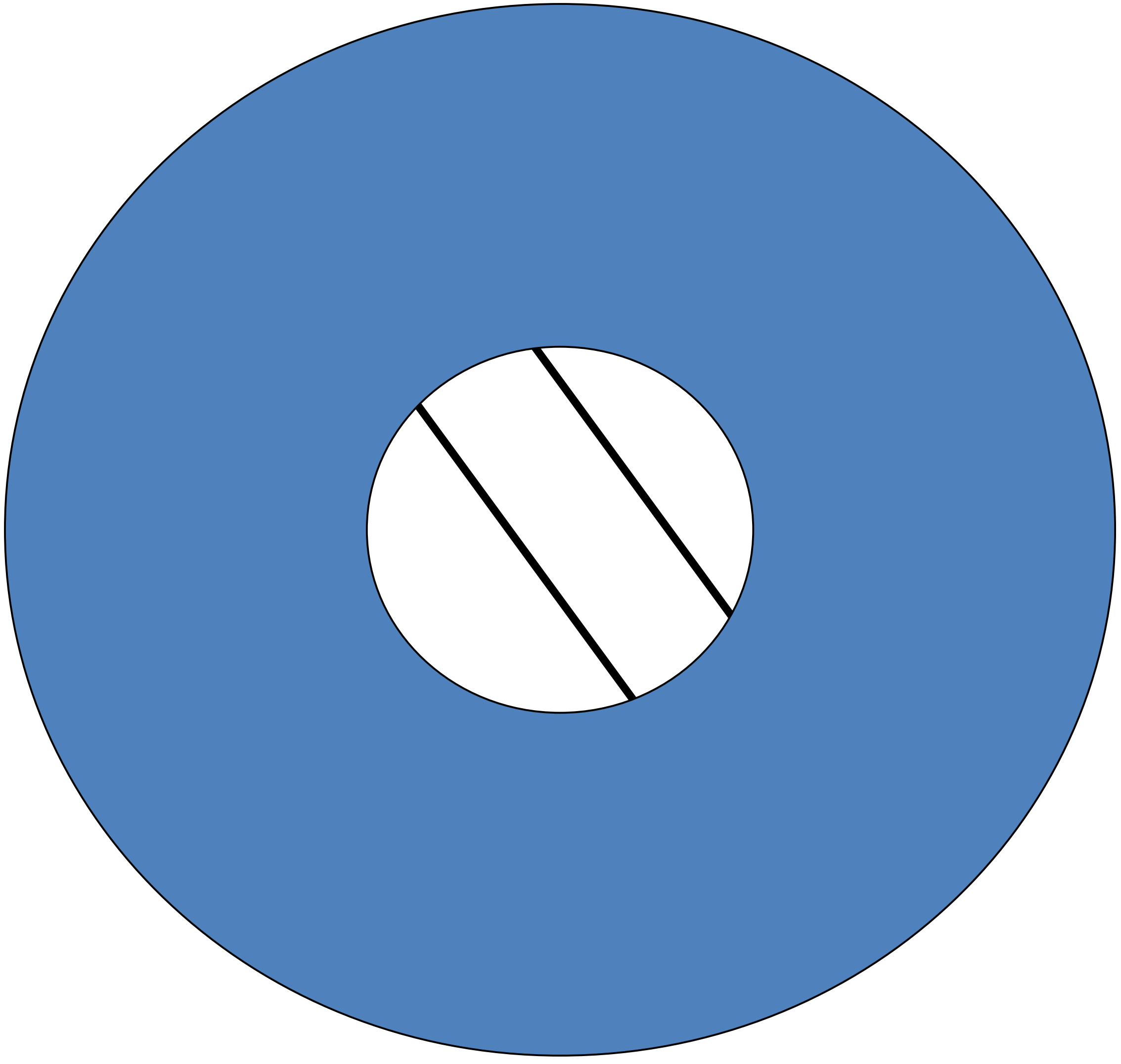
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Aperture problem Take 2



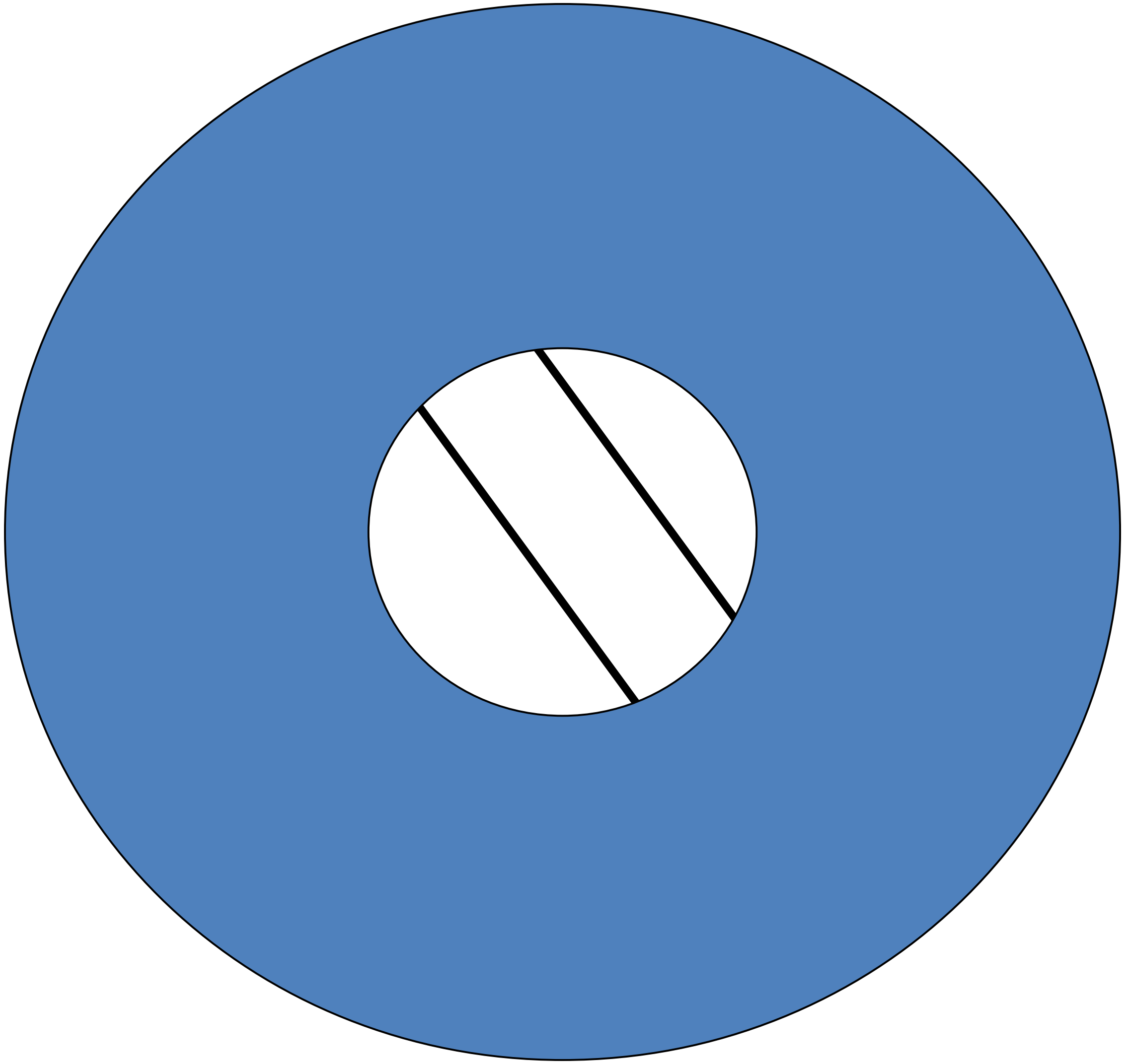
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

For Comparison



Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

For Comparison



Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

So How Does This Fail?

- Point doesn't move like neighbors:
  - **Why would this happen?**
  - Figure out which points move together, then come back and fix.

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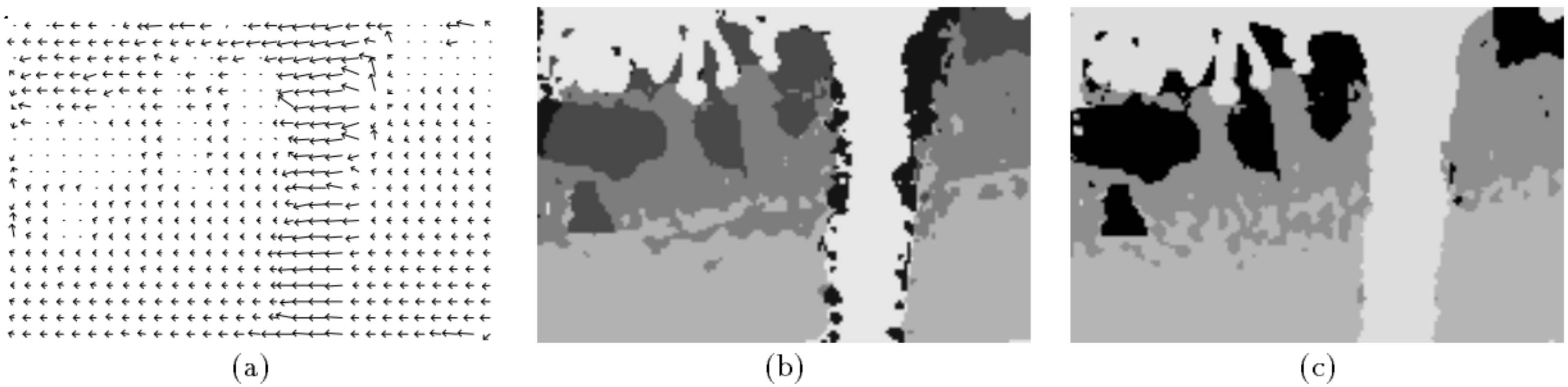


Figure 11: (a) The optic flow from multi-scale gradient method. (b) Segmentation obtained by clustering optic flow into affine motion regions. (c) Segmentation from consistency checking by image warping. Representing moving images with layers.

J. Wang and E. Adelson, Representing Moving Images with Layers, IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, 1994

So How Does This Fail?

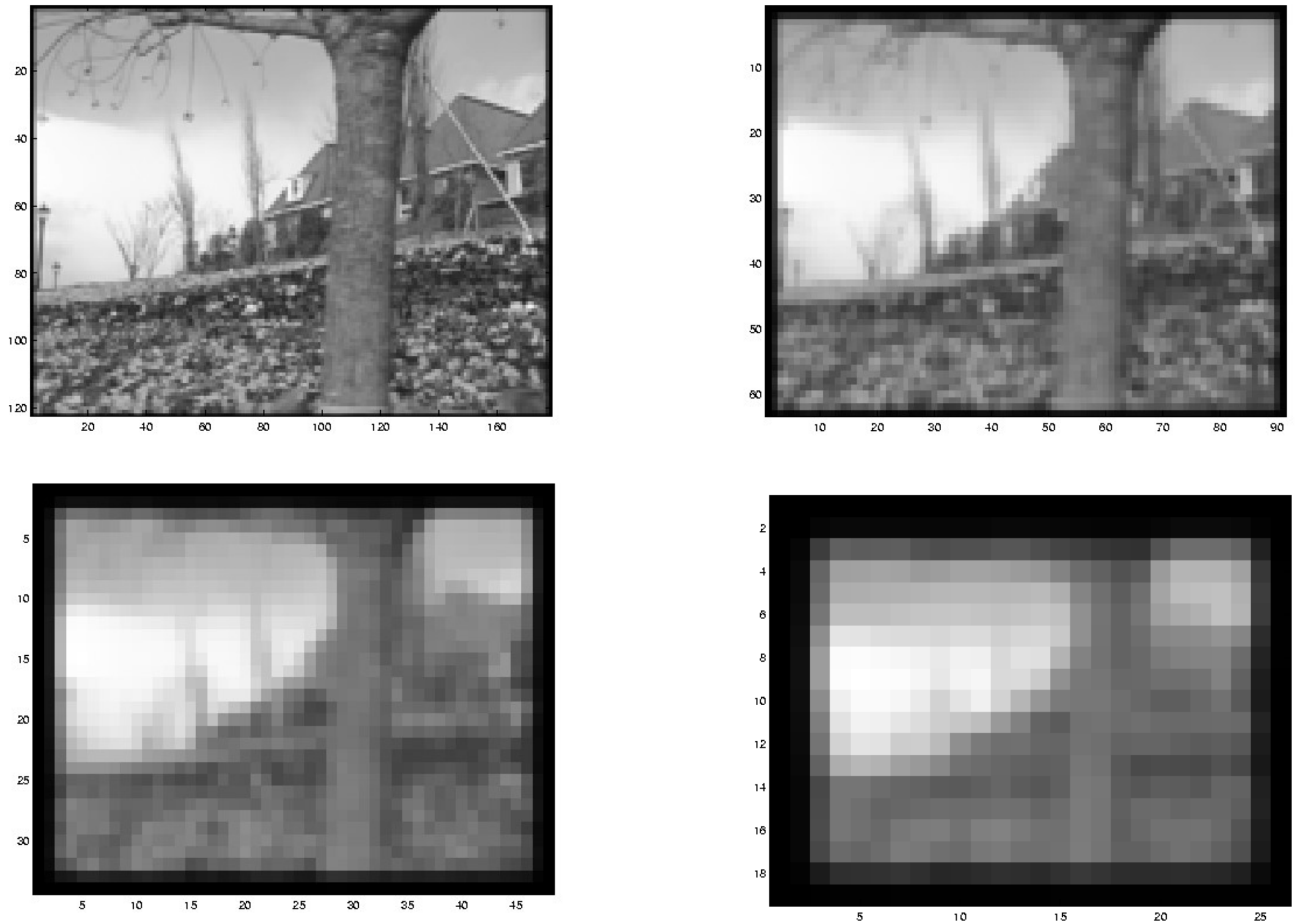
- Point doesn’t move like neighbors:
  - **Why would this happen?**
  - Figure out which points move together, then come back and fix.
- Brightness constancy isn’t true
  - **Why would this happen?**
  - Solution: other form of matching (e.g. SIFT)
- Taylor series is bad approximation
  - **Why would this happen?**
  - Solution: Make your pixels big

Revisiting small motions

- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel
  - How might we solve this problem?

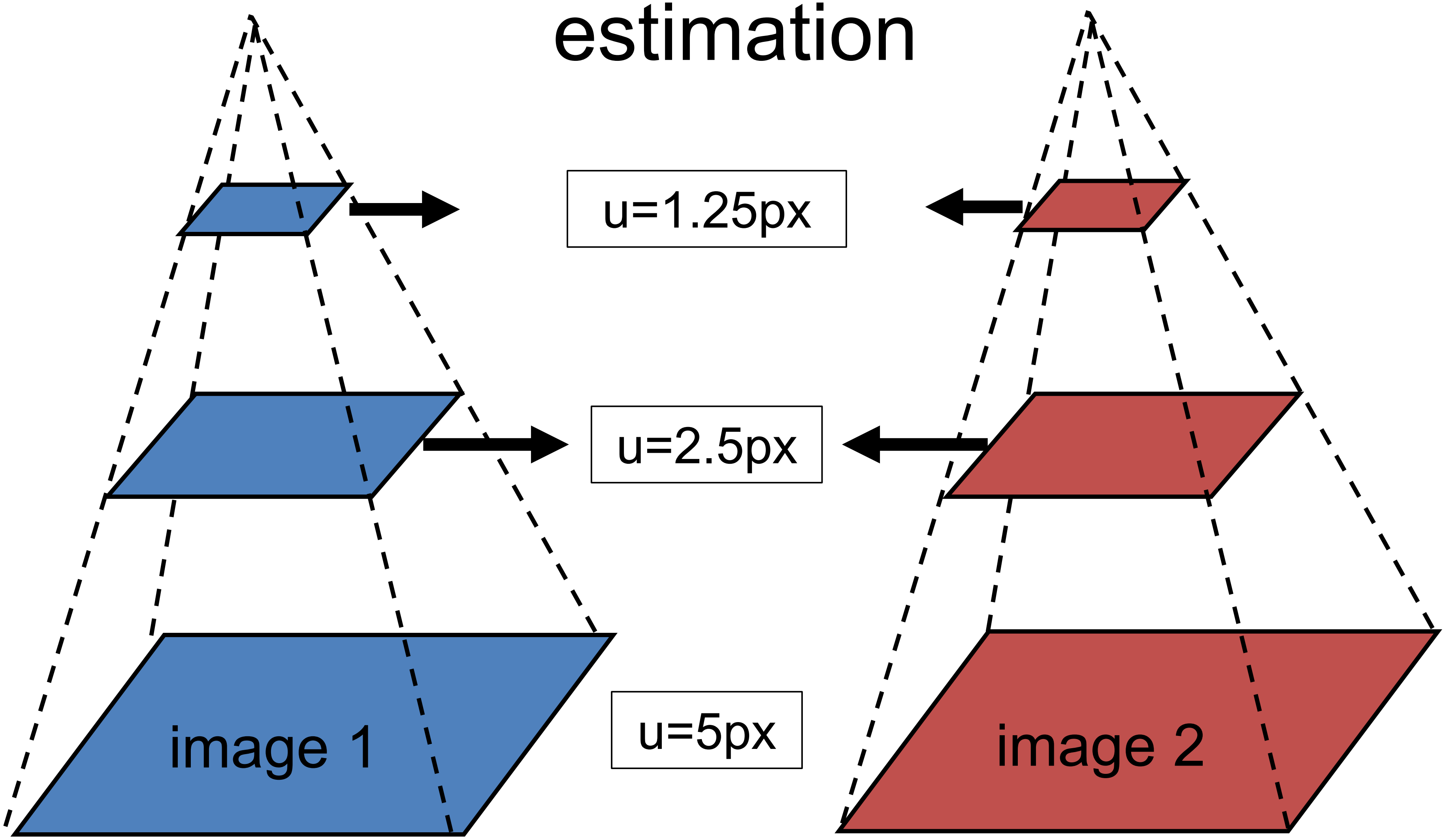
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Reduce the resolution!



Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

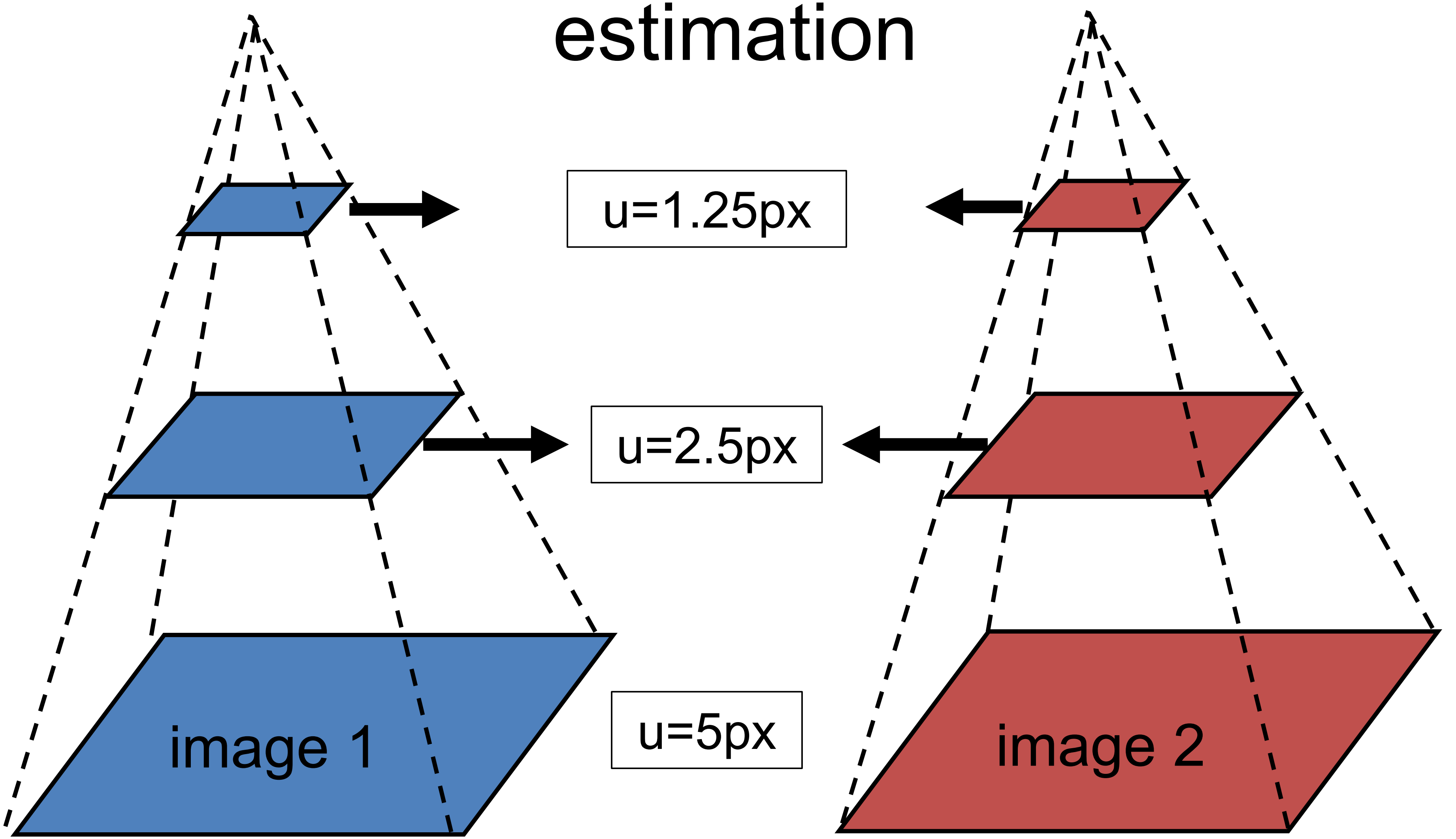
Coarse-to-fine optical flow estimation



Typically called Gaussian Pyramid

Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

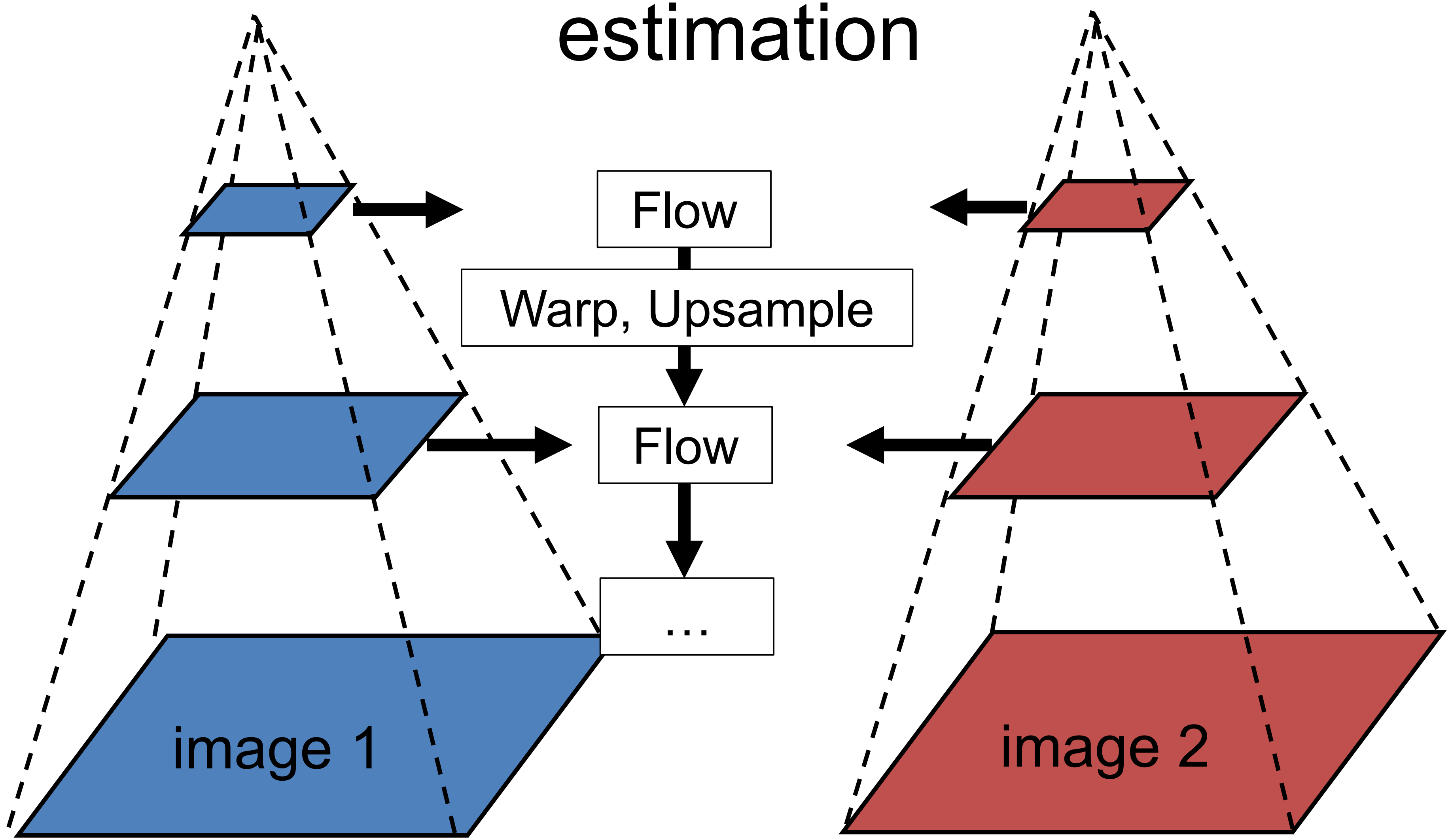
Coarse-to-fine optical flow estimation



Do we start at bottom or top to align?

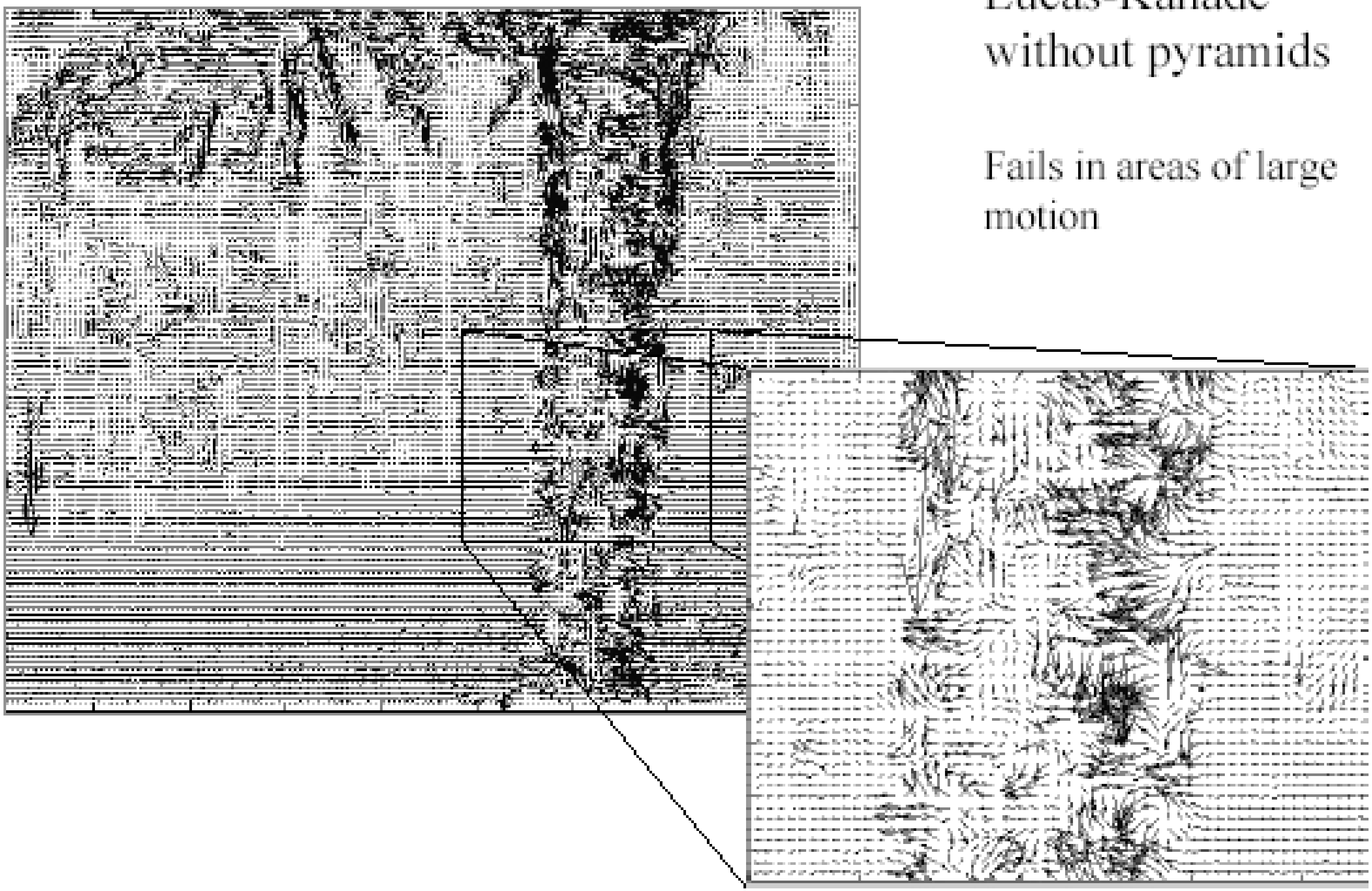
Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Coarse-to-fine optical flow estimation



Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Optical Flow Results

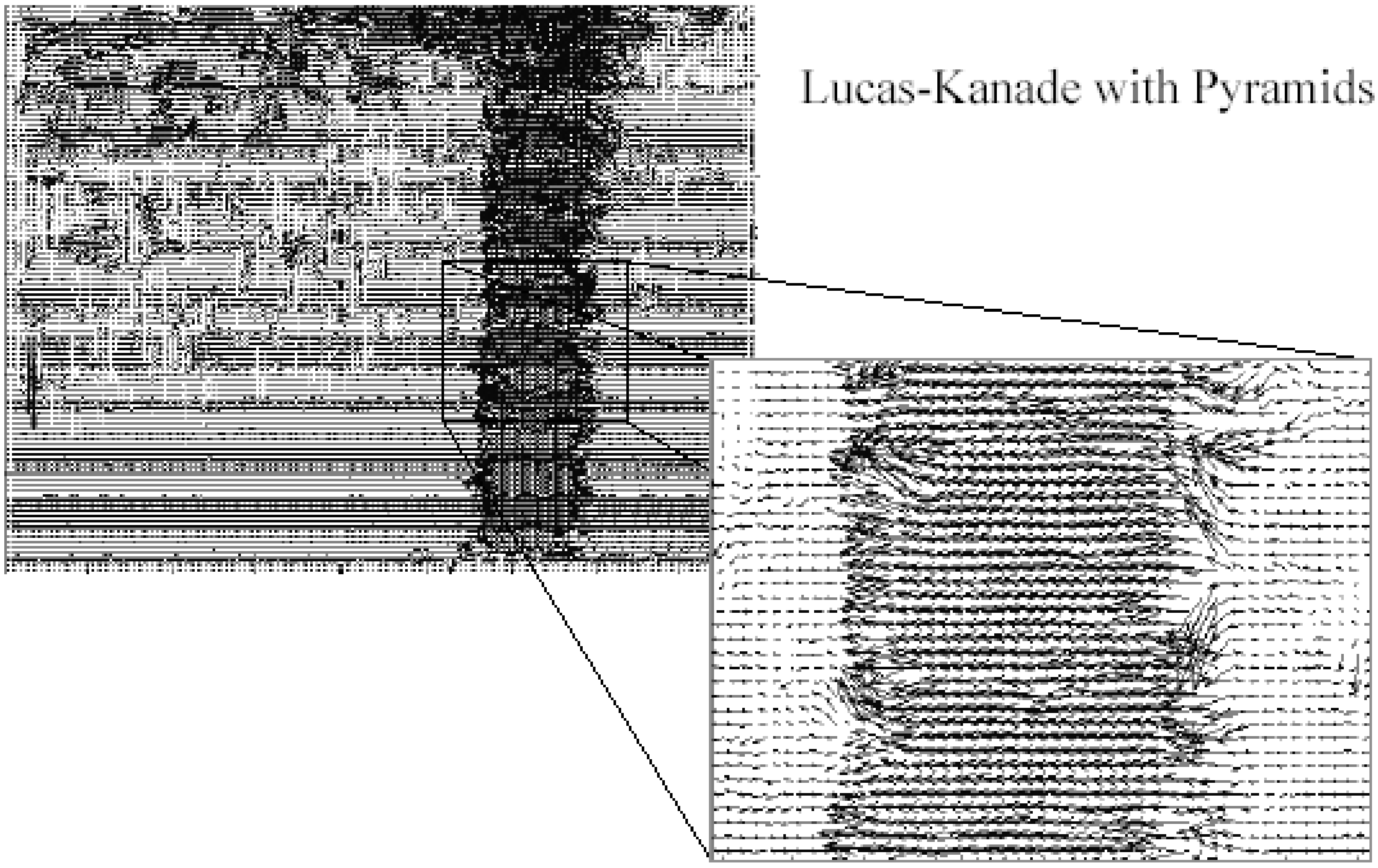


Lucas-Kanade without pyramids

Fails in areas of large motion

Slide credit: K. Hassan-Shafique

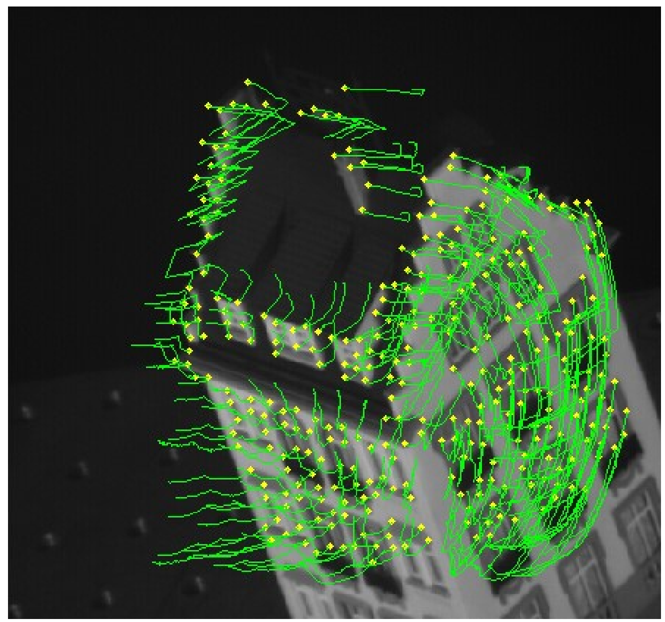
Optical Flow Results

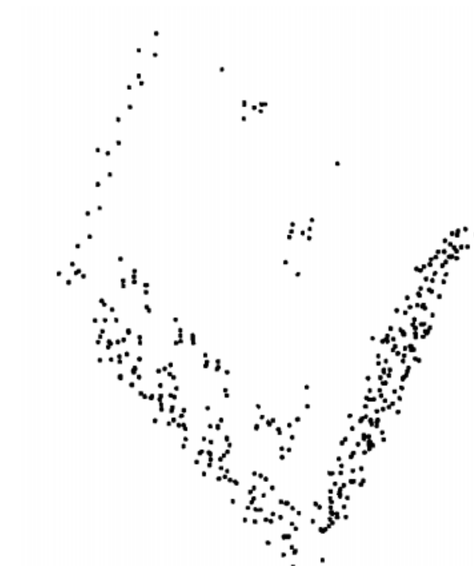


Slide credit: K. Hassan-Shafique

Applying This

- Would like tracks of where things move (e.g., for reconstruction)





C. Tomasi and T. Kanade. Shape and motion from image streams under orthography: A factorization method. *IJCV*, 9(2):137-154, November 1992.

Applying This

- Which features should we track?
    - Use eigenvalues of $A^T A$ to find corners
- Use flow to figure out [u,v] for each “track”
- Register points to first frame by affine warp

J. Shi and C. Tomasi. Good Features to Track. CVPR 1994.

Tracking example

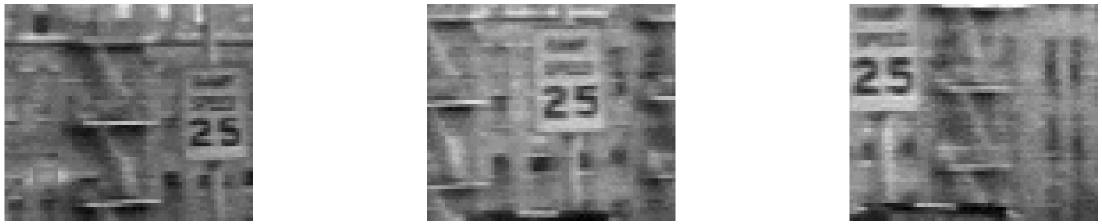


Figure 1: Three frame details from Woody Allen's *Manhattan*. The details are from the 1st, 11th, and 21st frames of a subsequence from the movie.

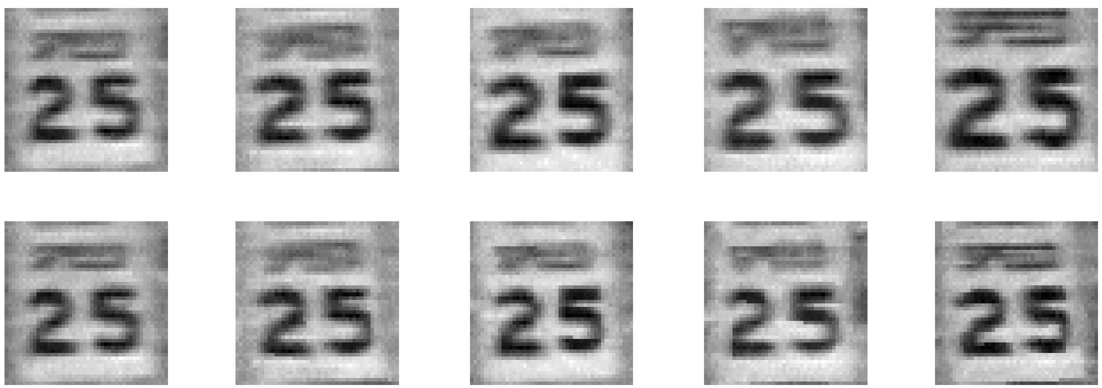


Figure 2: The traffic sign windows from frames 1,6,11,16,21 as tracked (top), and warped by the computed deformation matrices (bottom).

J. Shi and C. Tomasi. [Good Features to Track](). CVPR 1994.

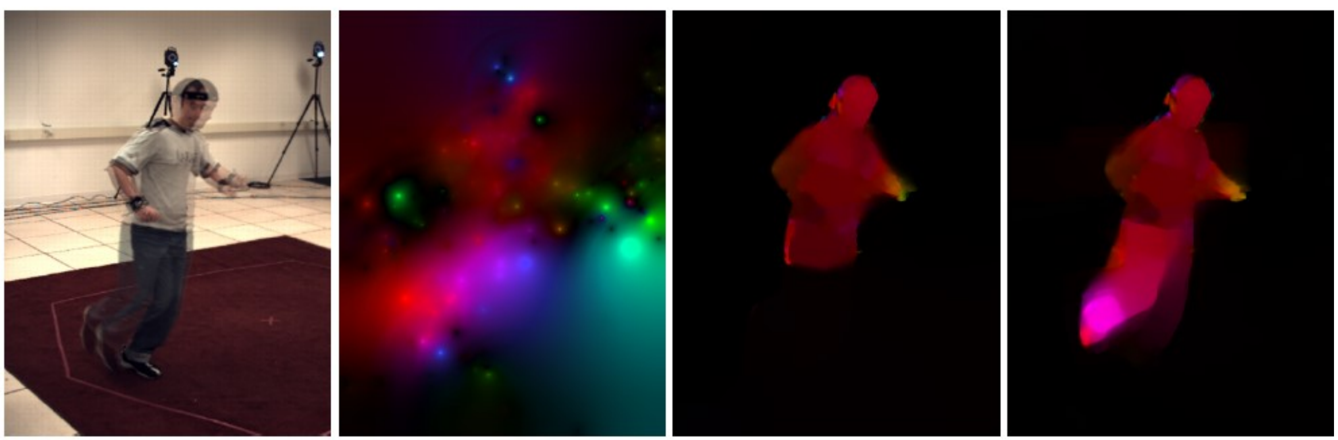
State-of-the-art optical flow, 2009

Start with something similar to Lucas-Kanade

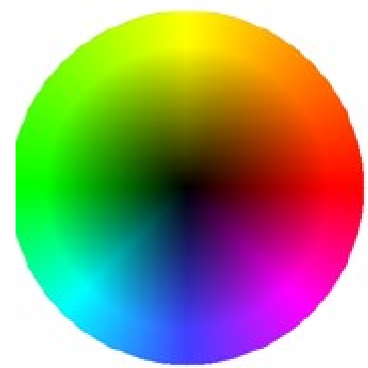
+ gradient constancy

+ energy minimization with smoothing term

+ region matching



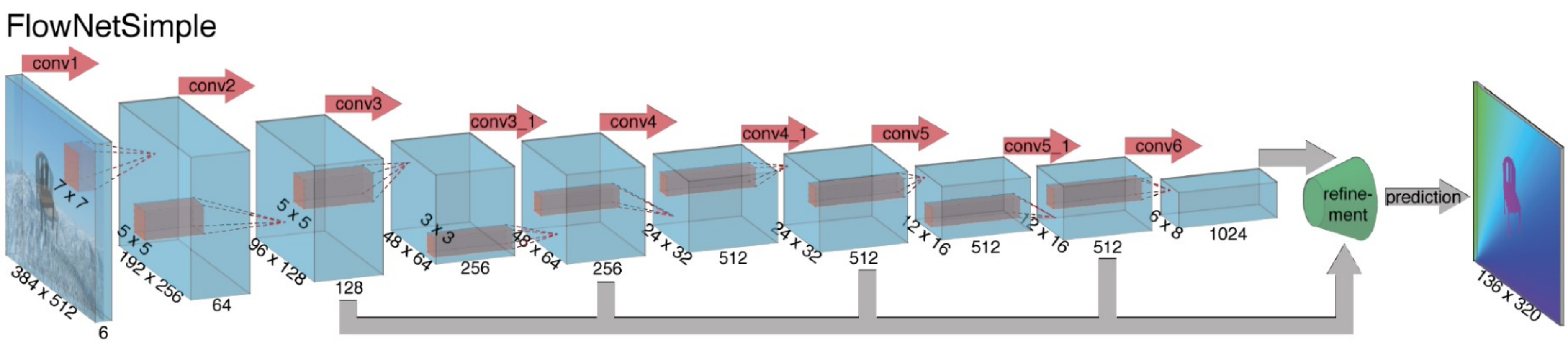
Region-based +Pixel-based +Keypoint-based



Large displacement optical flow, Brox et al., CVPR 2009

State-of-the-art optical flow

- Input: 6 channel input (RGB @ t, RGB @ t+1)
- Output: 2 channel input (u,v)
- Current best methods are learned



Fischer et al. 2015. https://arxiv.org/abs/1504.06852

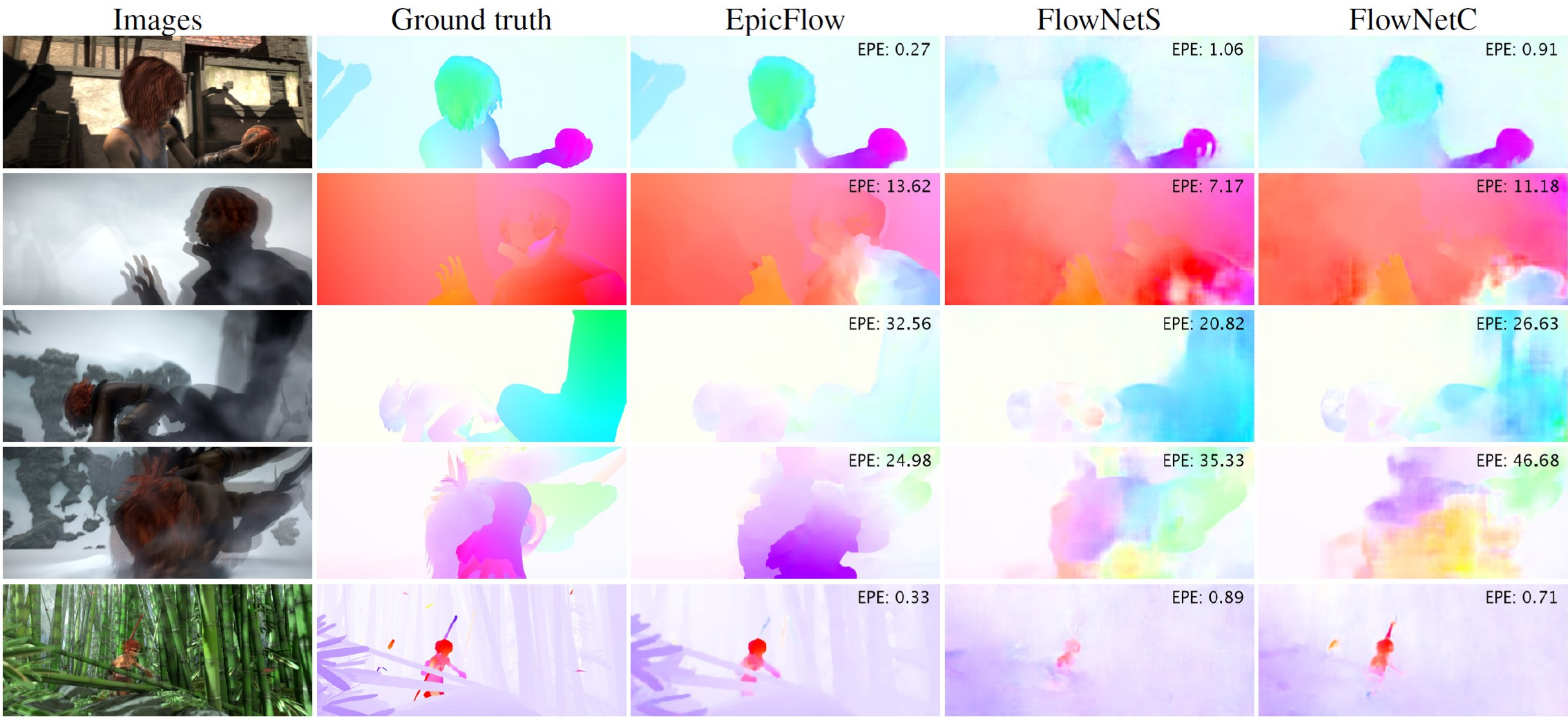
Training Data

Flying Chairs Dataset

Fischer et al. 2015. https://arxiv.org/abs/1504.06852

Deep Optical Flow

Results on Sintel (standard benchmark)



Fischer et al. 2015. https://arxiv.org/abs/1504.06852

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
  - Think of a uniform rotating sphere under fixed lighting vs. a stationary sphere under moving illumination

Slide credit: S. Lazebnik

Motion Magnification

Idea: take flow, magnify it

Example credit: C. Liu

Motion Magnification

Example credit: C. Liu

Motion Magnification

Example credit: C. Liu