Computer Vision – Lecture 8

Local Features

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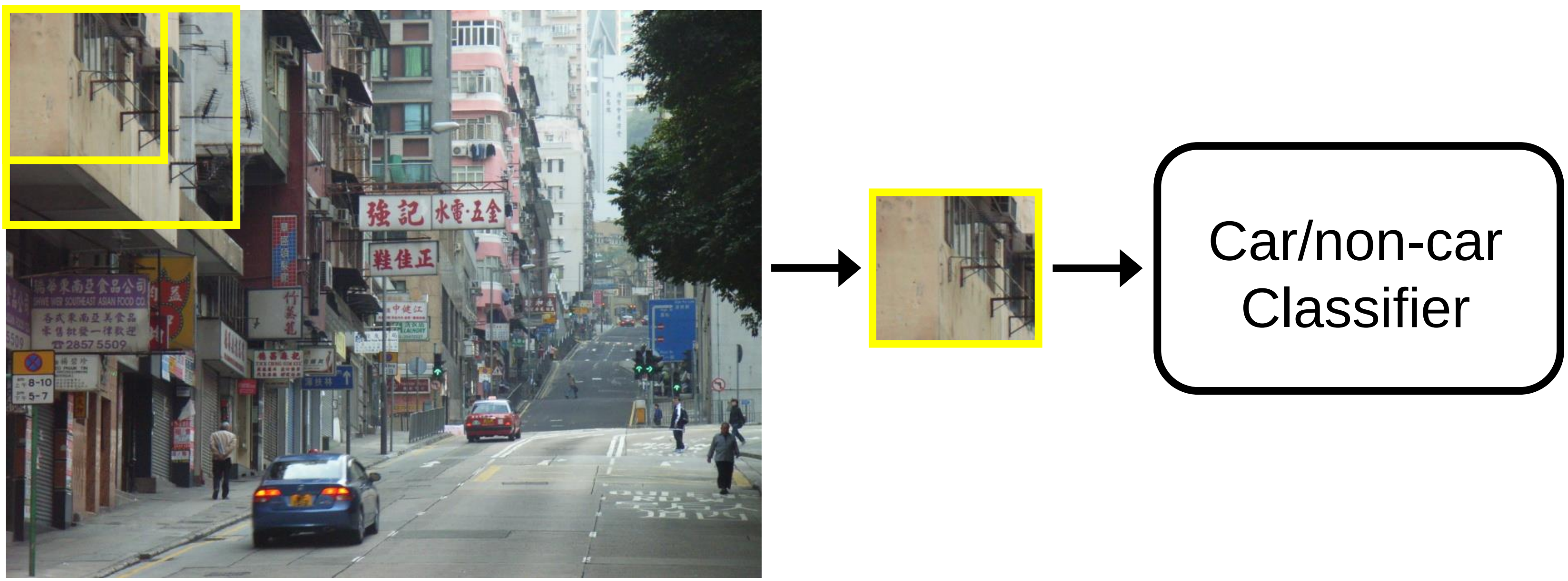
Course Outline

- Image Processing Basics
- Segmentation & Grouping
- Object Recognition & Categorization
  - Sliding Window based Object Detection
- Local Features & Matching
  - Local Features – Detection and Description
  - Recognition with Local Features
- Deep Learning
- 3D Reconstruction

Recap: Sliding-Window Object Detection

- If object may be in a cluttered scene, slide a window around looking for it.

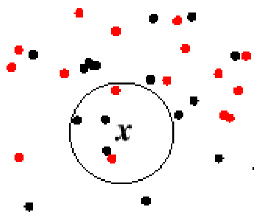


- Essentially, this is a brute-force approach with many local decisions.

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

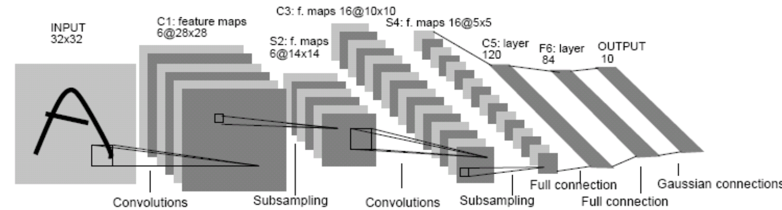
Classifier Construction: Many Choices…

Nearest Neighbor



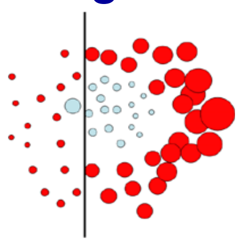
Berg, Berg, Malik 2005,
Chum, Zisserman 2007,
Boiman, Shechtman, Irani 2008, …

Neural networks



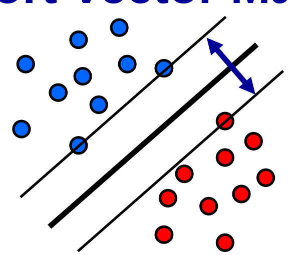
LeCun, Bottou, Bengio, Haffner 1998
Rowley, Baluja, Kanade 1998
…

Boosting



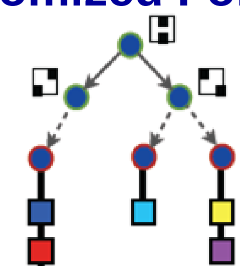
Viola, Jones 2001,
Torralba et al. 2004,
Opelt et al. 2006,
Benenson 2012, …

Support Vector Machines



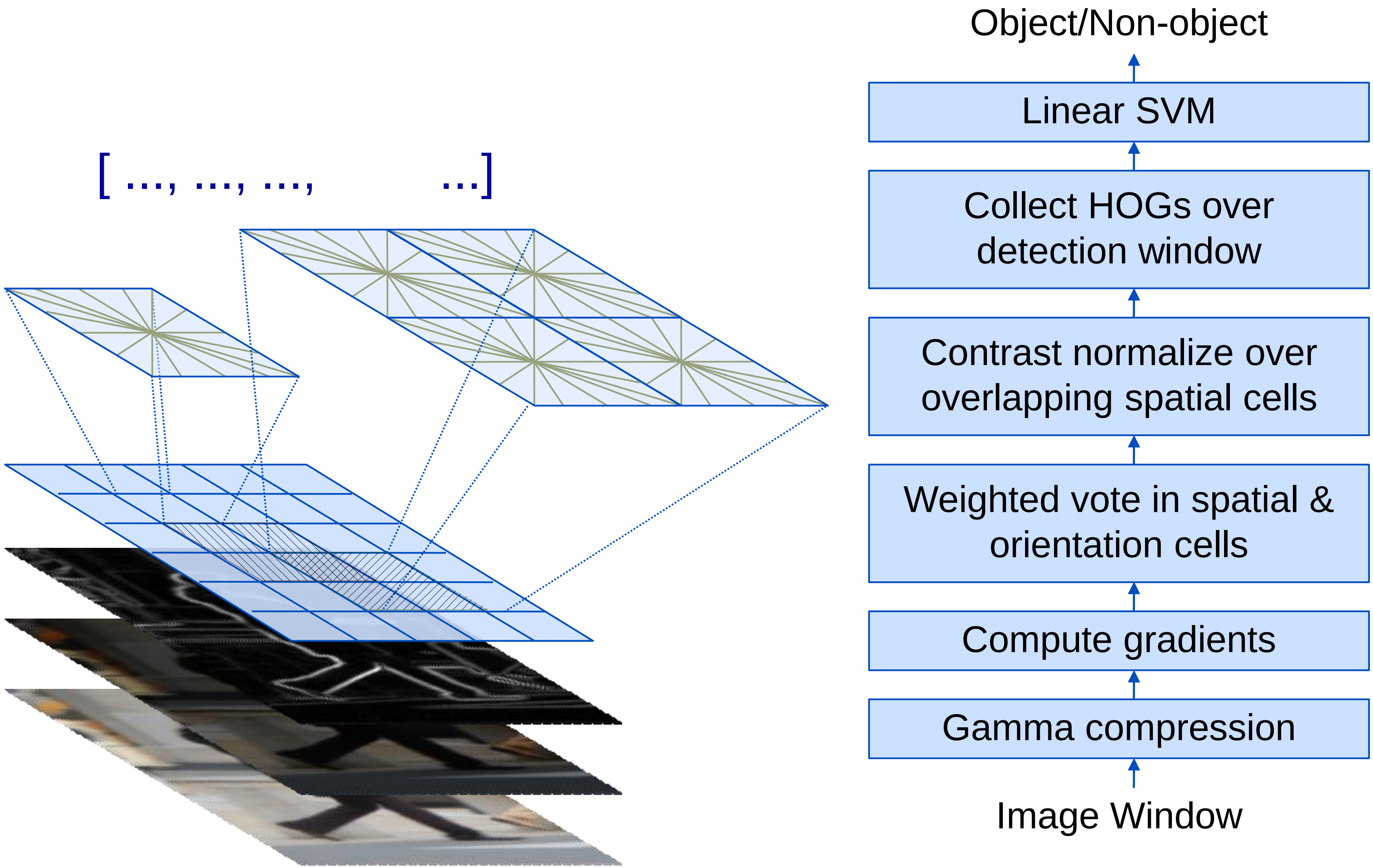
Vapnik, Schölkopf 1995,
Papageorgiou, Poggio ‘01,
Dalal, Triggs 2005,
Vedaldi, Zisserman 2012

Randomized Forests



Amit, Geman 1997,
Breiman 2001,
Lepetit, Fua 2006,
Gall, Lempitsky 2009,…

Recap: HOG Descriptor Processing Chain



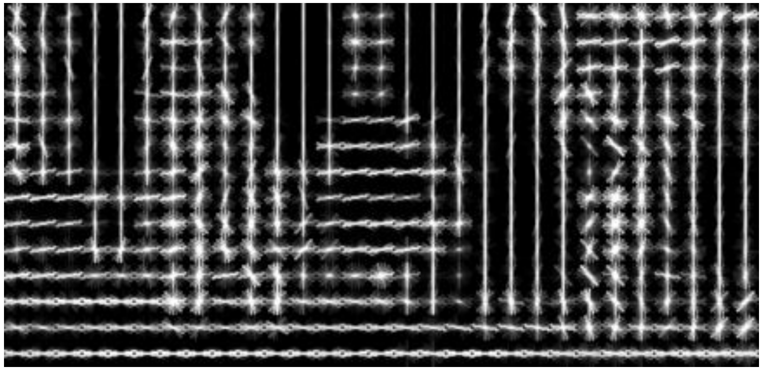
Slide credit: Navneet Dalal

Recap: Pedestrian Detection with HOG

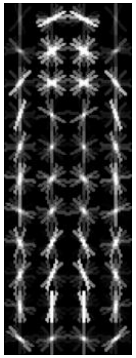
- Train a pedestrian template using a linear SVM
- At test time, convolve feature map with learned template $\mathbf{w}$
  - Linear SVM classification function

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x} + b$$

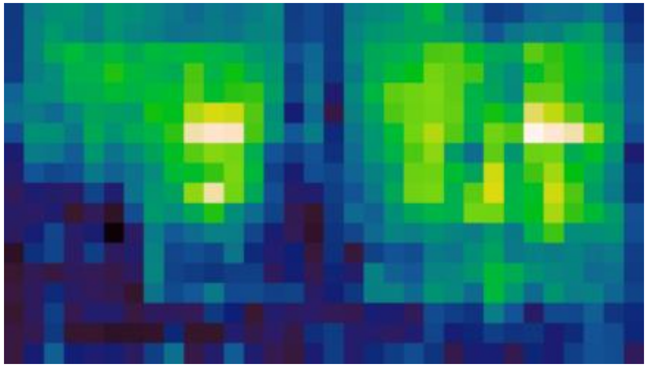
HOG feature map
$\mathbf{x}$



Template
$\mathbf{w}$



Detector response map
$y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathrm{b}$

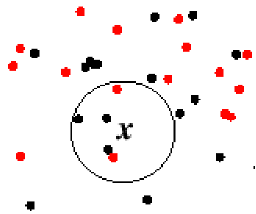


N. Dalal and B. Triggs, [Histograms of Oriented Gradients for Human Detection](), CVPR 2005

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

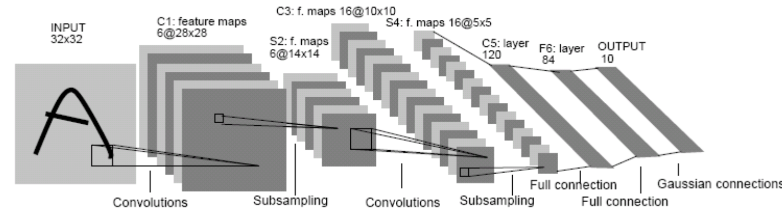
Classifier Construction: Many Choices…

Nearest Neighbor



Shakhnarovich, Viola, Darrell 2003
Berg, Berg, Malik 2005,
Boiman, Shechtman, Irani 2008, …

Neural networks



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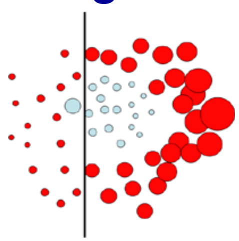
Boosting



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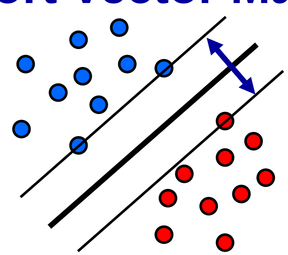
Support Vector Machines



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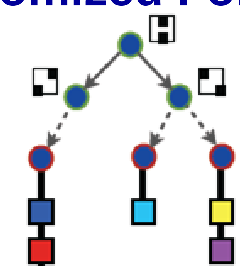
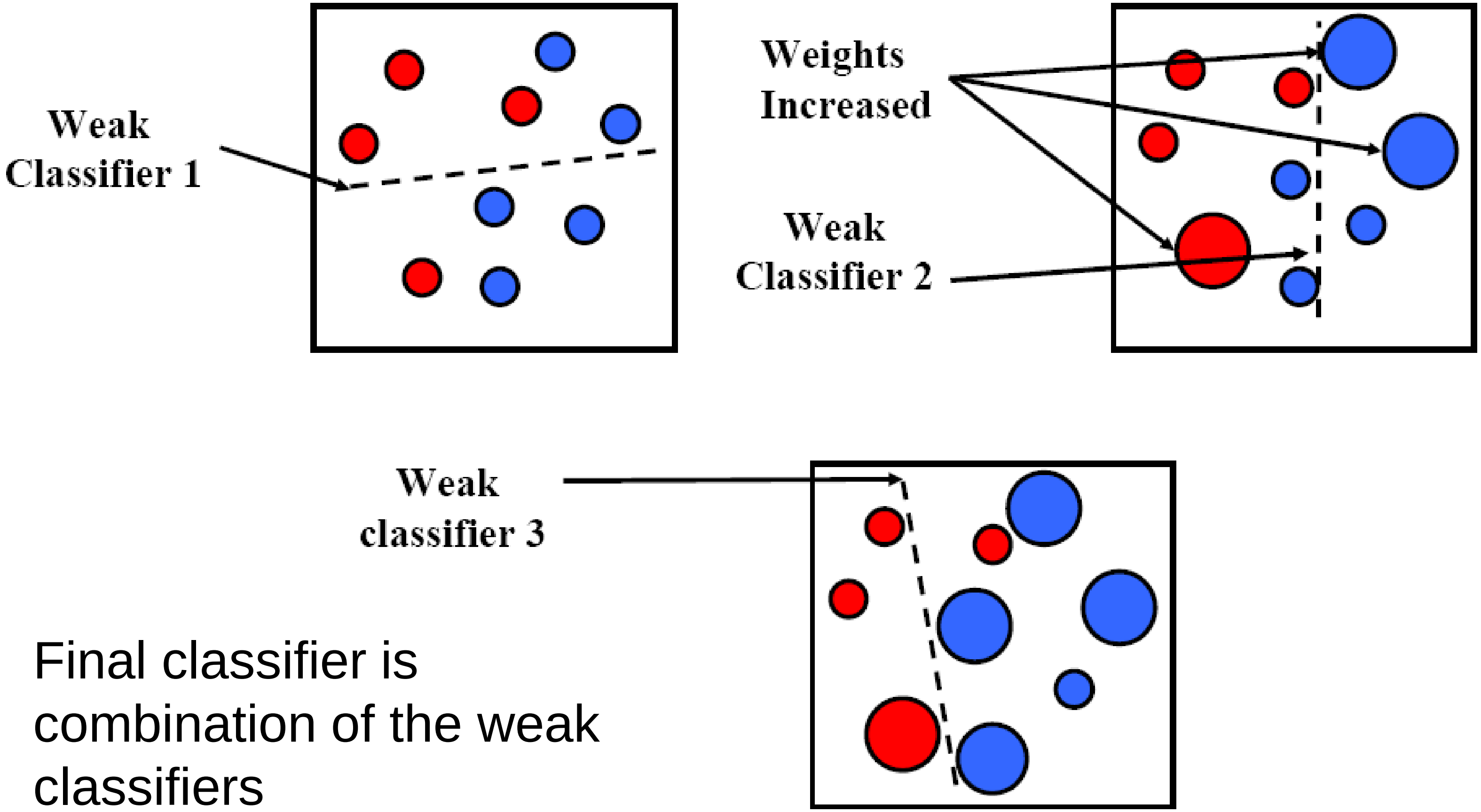


Amit, Geman 1997,
Breiman 2001,
Lepetit, Fua 2006,
Gall, Lempitsky 2009,…

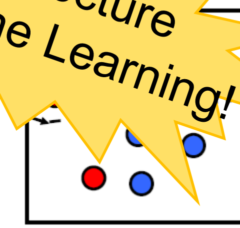
Recap: AdaBoost



Final classifier is combination of the weak classifiers

AdaBoost: Detailed Training Algorith

see lecture
Machine Learning!



$\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_n\}$

1. Initialization: Set $w_n^{(1)} = \frac{1}{N}$ for $n = 1,\ldots,N$.
2. For $m = 1,\ldots,M$ iterations
   a) Train a new weak classifier $h_m(\mathbf{x})$ using the current weighting coefficients $\mathbf{W}^{(m)}$ by minimizing the weighted error function

   $$J_m = \sum_{n=1}^{N} w_n^{(m)} I(h_m(\mathbf{x}_n) \neq t_n) \qquad I(A) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } A \text{ is true} \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

   b) Estimate the weighted error of this classifier on $\mathbf{X}$:

   $$\epsilon_m = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} w_n^{(m)} I(h_m(\mathbf{x}_n) \neq t_n)}{\sum_{n=1}^{N} w_n^{(m)}}$$

   c) Calculate a weighting coefficient for $h_m(\mathbf{x})$:

   $$\alpha_m = \ln\left\{\frac{1-\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_m}\right\}$$

   d) Update the weighting coefficients:

   $$w_n^{(m+1)} = w_n^{(m)} \exp\{\alpha_m I(h_m(\mathbf{x}_n) \neq t_n)\}$$

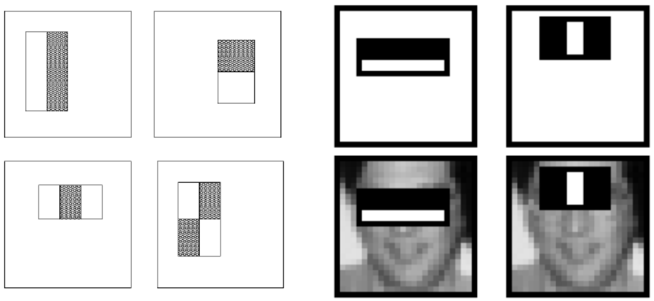
Example: Face Detection

- Frontal faces are a good example of a class where global appearance models + a sliding window detection approach fit well:
  - Regular 2D structure
  - Center of face almost shaped like a “patch”/window

- Now we’ll take AdaBoost and see how the Viola-Jones face detector works

Feature extraction

"Rectangular" filters

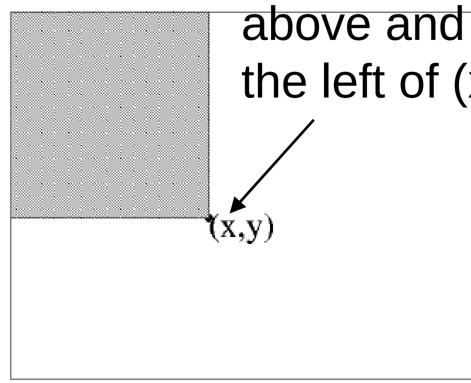


Feature output is difference between adjacent regions

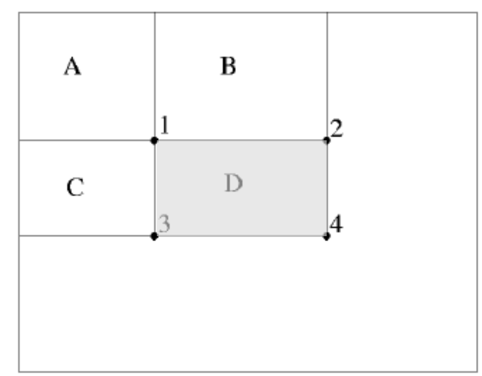
Efficiently computable with integral image: any sum can be computed in constant time

Avoid scaling images → scale features directly for same cost

Value at (x,y) is sum of pixels above and to the left of (x,y)



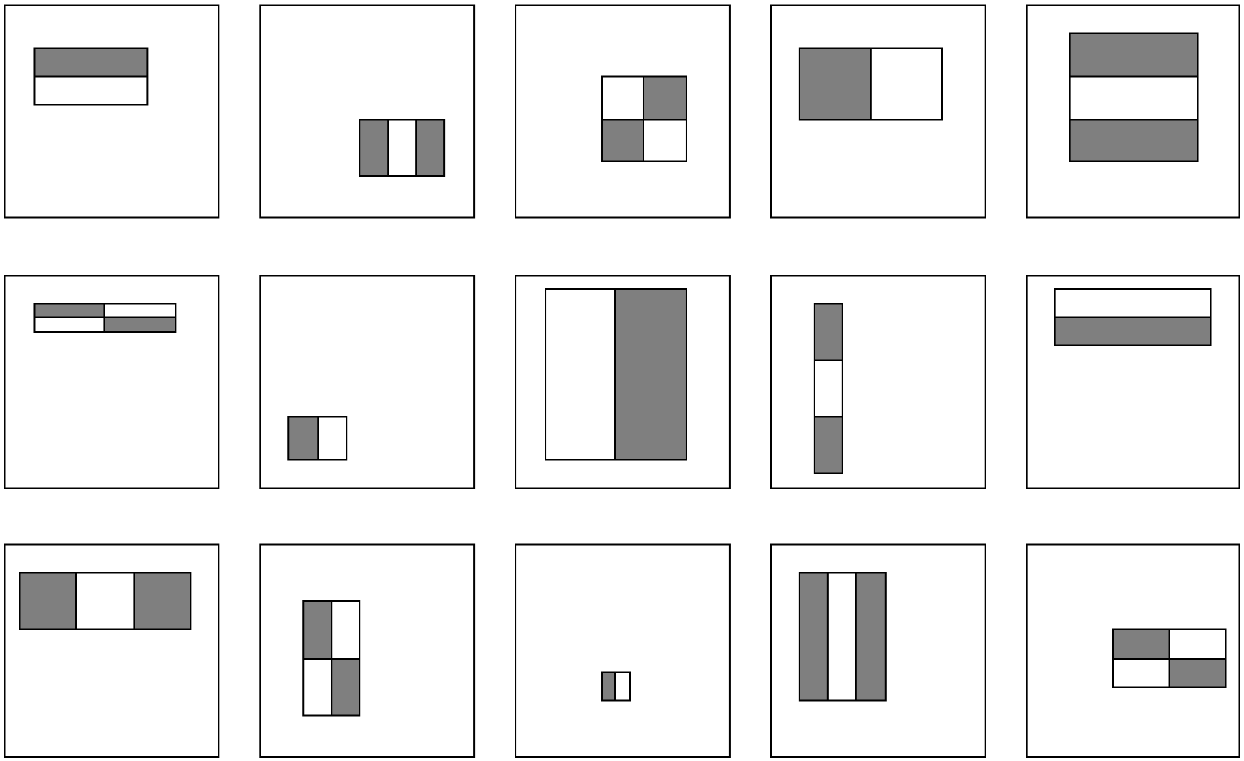
Integral image



$$
\begin{aligned}
D &= 1 + 4 - (2 + 3) \\
&= A + (A + B + C + D) - (A + C + A + B) \\
&= D
\end{aligned}
$$

[Viola & Jones, CVPR 2001]

Large Library of Features



Considering all possible filter parameters: position, scale, and type:

180,000+ possible features associated with each 24 x 24 window

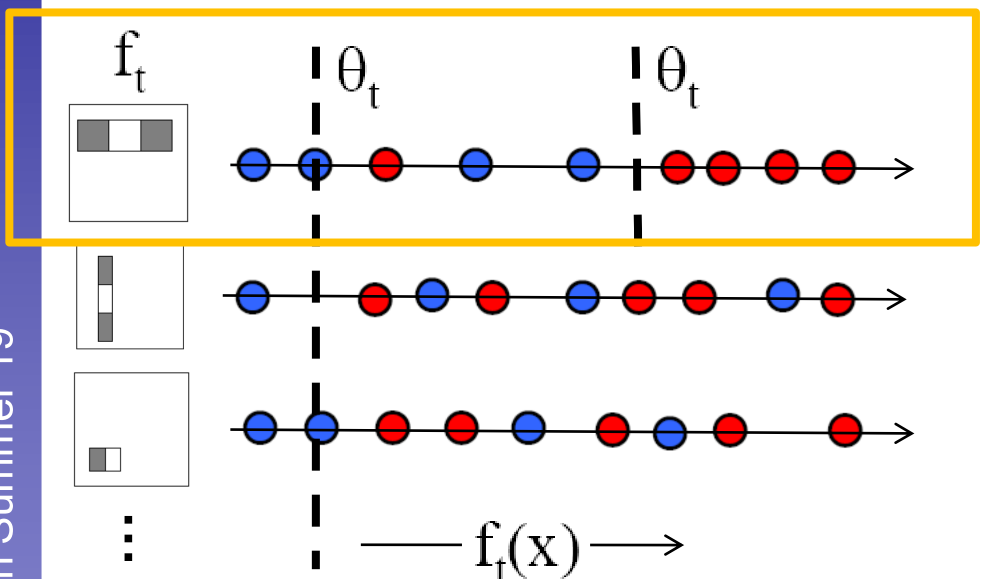
Use AdaBoost both to select the informative features and to form the classifier

Weak classifier: feature output > θ?

[Viola & Jones, CVPR 2001]

AdaBoost for Feature+Classifier Selection

- Want to select the single rectangle feature and threshold that best separates positive (faces) and negative (non-faces) training examples, in terms of *weighted* error.



Outputs of a possible rectangle feature on faces and non-faces.

Resulting weak classifier:

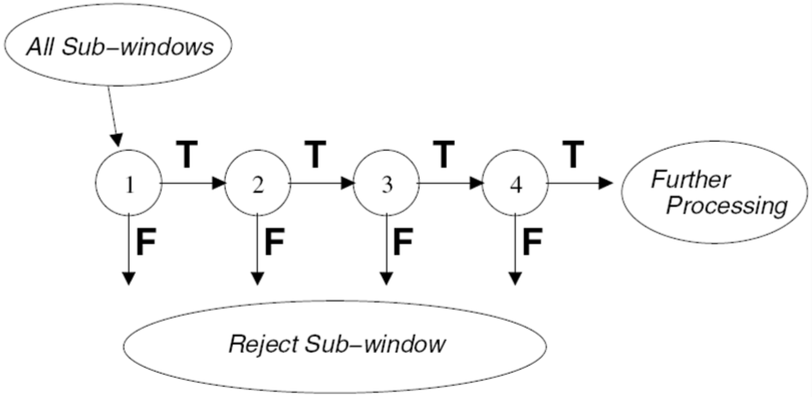
$$h_t(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } f_t(x) > \theta_t \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

For next round, reweight the examples according to errors, choose another filter/threshold combo.

[Viola & Jones, CVPR 2001]

Cascading Classifiers for Detection

- Even if the filters are fast to compute, each new image has a lot of possible windows to search.
- For efficiency, apply less accurate but faster classifiers first to immediately discard windows that clearly appear to be negative; e.g.,

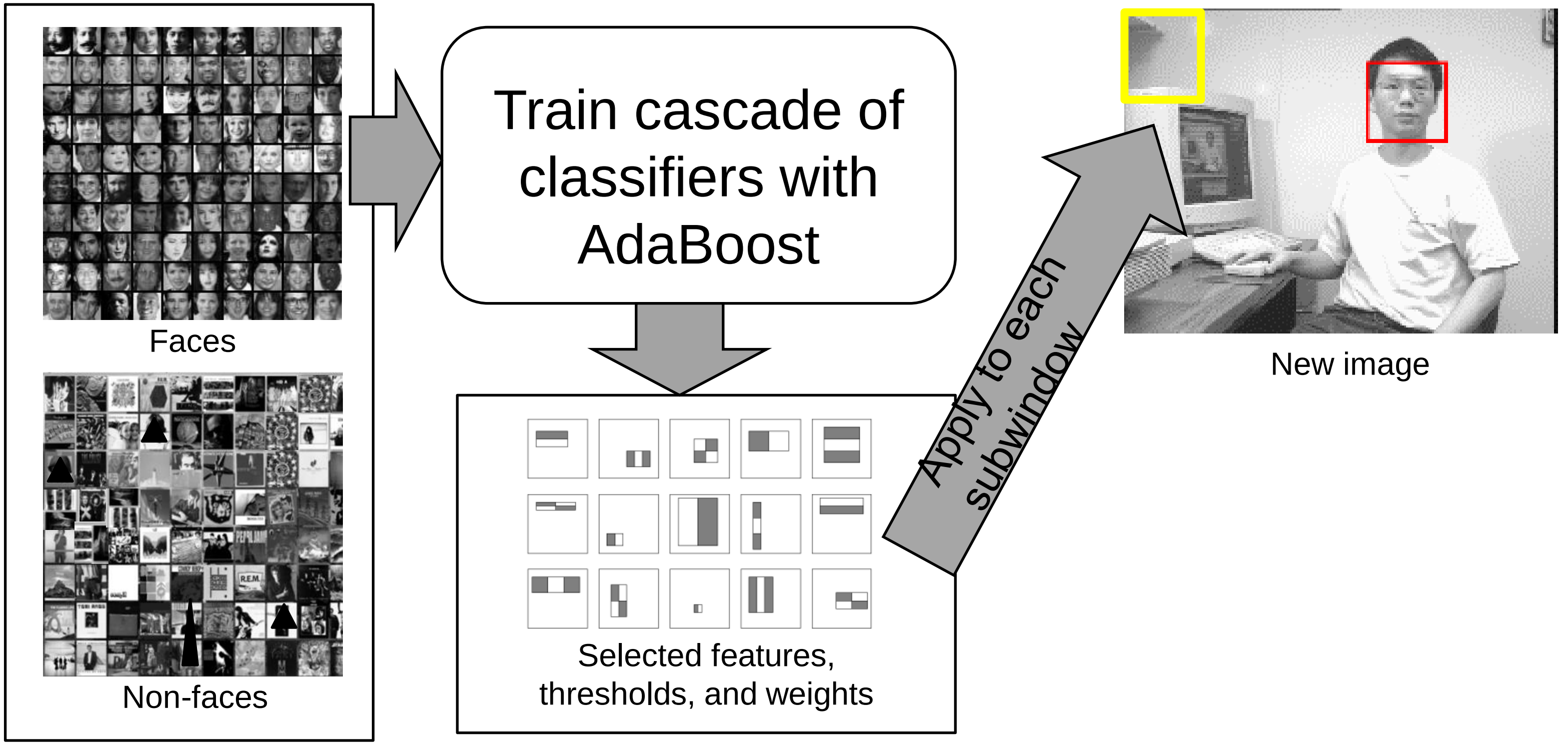


  - Filter for promising regions with an initial inexpensive classifier
  - Build a chain of classifiers, choosing cheap ones with low false negative rates early in the chain

[Fleuret & Geman, IJCV 2001]
[Rowley et al., PAMI 1998]
[Viola & Jones, CVPR 2001]

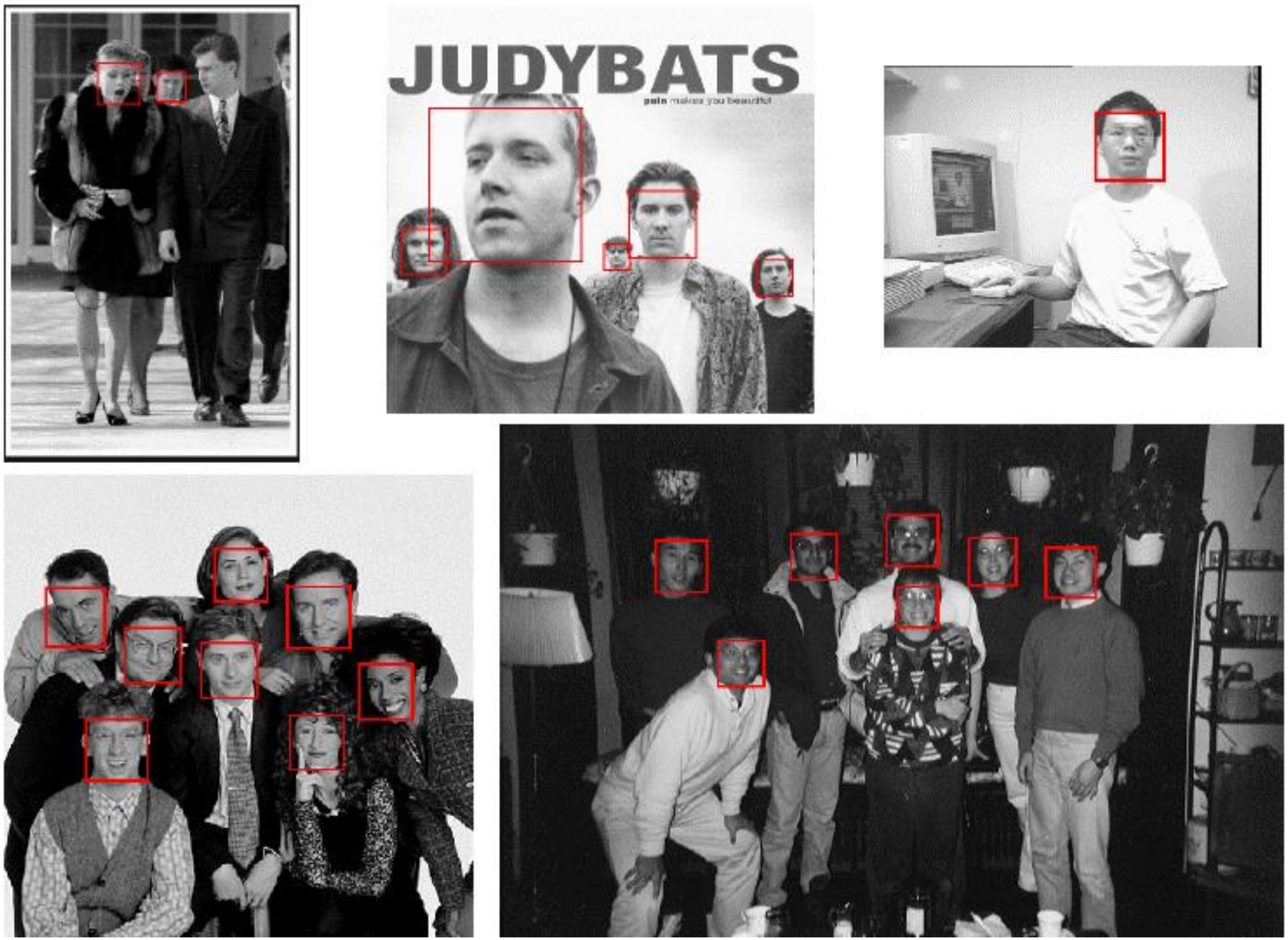
Figure from Viola & Jones CVPR

Recap: Viola-Jones Face Detector

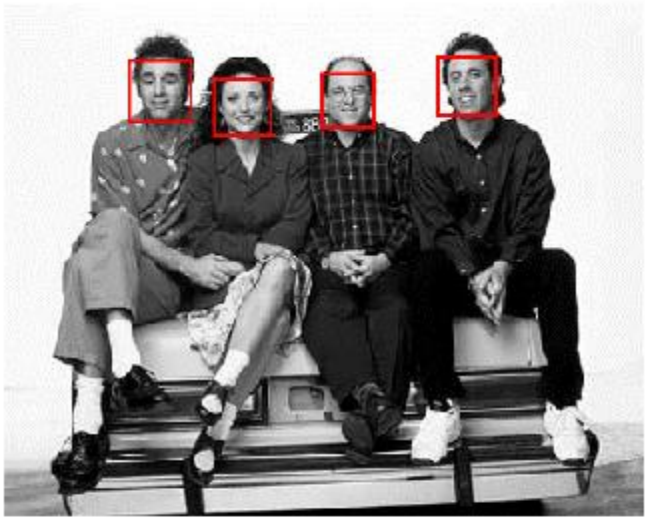


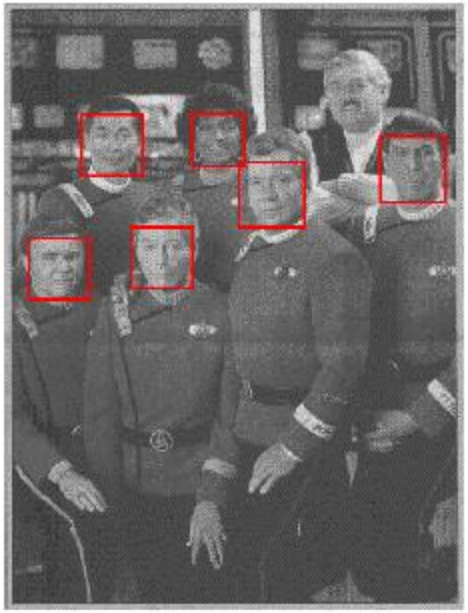
- Train with 5K positives, 350M negatives
- Real-time detector using 38 layer cascade
- 6061 features in final layer
- [Implementation available in OpenCV: http://sourceforge.net/projects/opencvlibrary/]

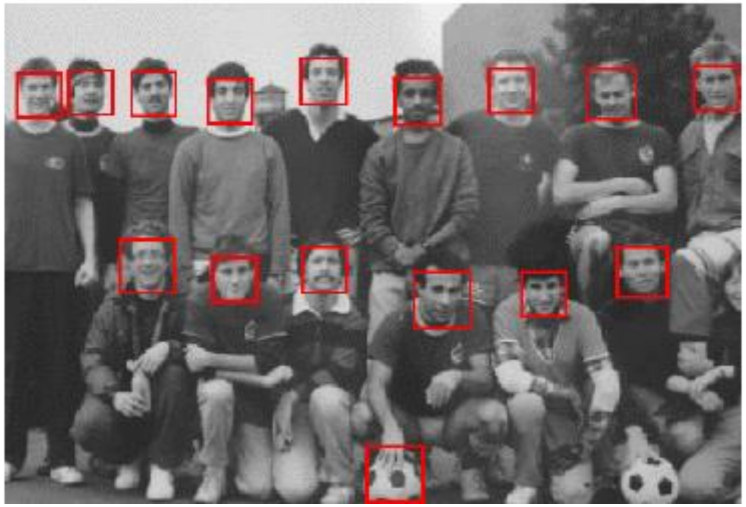
Viola-Jones Face Detector: Results

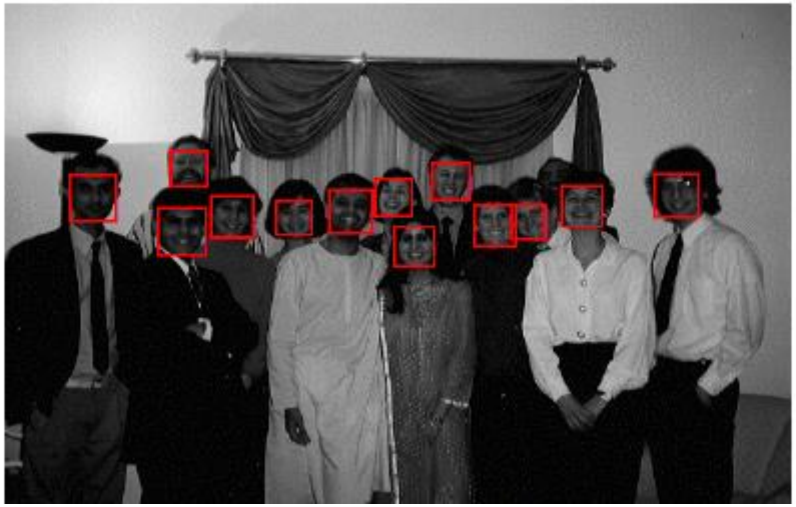


Viola-Jones Face Detector: Results









You Can Try It At Home…

- The Viola & Jones detector was a huge success
  - First real-time face detector available
  - Many derivative works and improvements

- C++ implementation available in OpenCV [Lienhart, 2002]
  - http://sourceforge.net/projects/opencvlibrary/
- Matlab wrappers for OpenCV code available, e.g. here
  - http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/19912

P. Viola, M. Jones, Robust Real-Time Face Detection, IJCV, Vol. 57(2), 2004

Limitations: Changing Aspect Ratios

- Sliding window requires fixed window size
  - Basis for learning efficient cascade classifier

- How to deal with changing aspect ratios?
  - Fixed window size

  $\Rightarrow$ Wastes training dimensions

  - Adapted window size

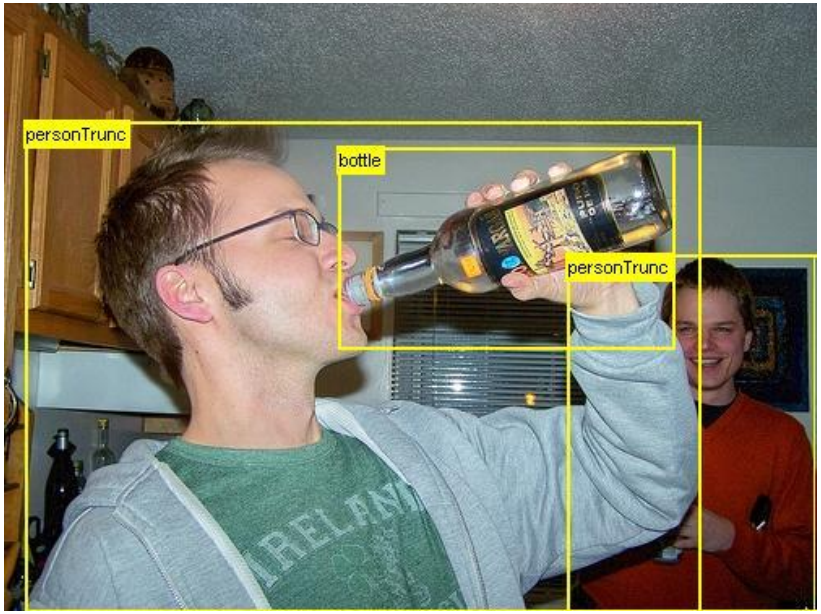
  $\Rightarrow$ Difficult to share features

  - "Squashed" views [Dalal&Triggs]

  $\Rightarrow$ Need to squash test image, too

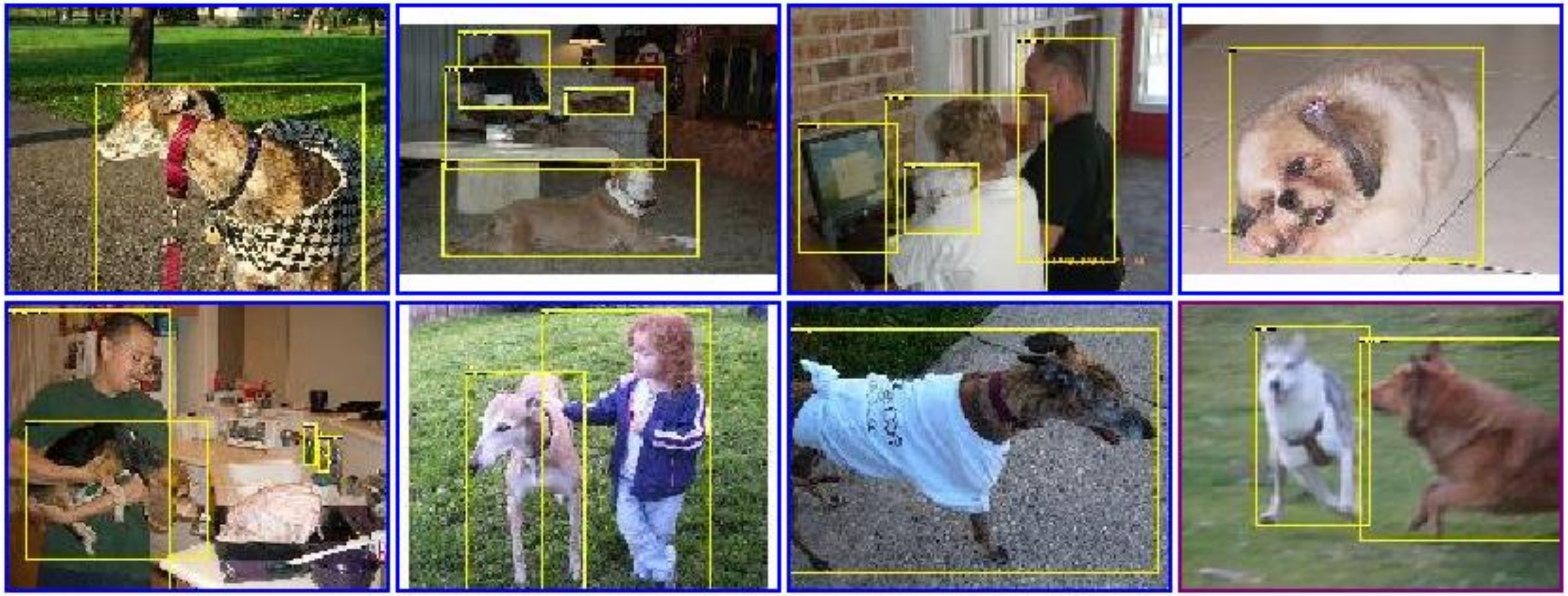
Limitations (continued)

- Not all objects are "box" shaped



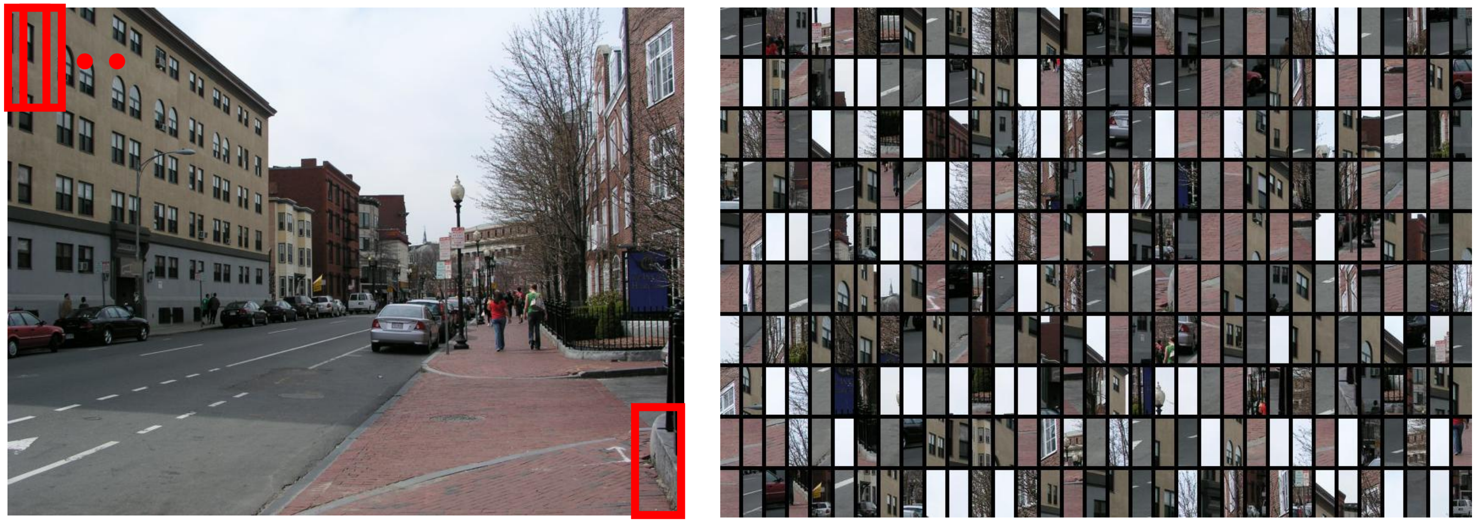
Limitations (continued)

- Non-rigid, deformable objects not captured well with representations assuming a fixed 2D structure; or must assume fixed viewpoint
- Objects with less-regular textures not captured well with holistic appearance-based descriptions



Limitations (continued)

- If considering windows in isolation, context is lost



Sliding window

Detector's view

Figure credit: Derek Hoiem

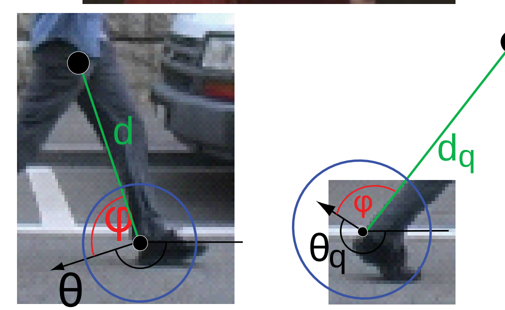
Topics of This Lecture

- Local Invariant Features
  - Motivation
  - Requirements, Invariances
- Keypoint Localization
  - Harris detector
  - Hessian detector
- Scale Invariant Region Selection
  - Automatic scale selection
  - Laplacian-of-Gaussian detector
  - Difference-of-Gaussian detector
  - Combinations
- Local Descriptors
  - Orientation normalization
  - SIFT

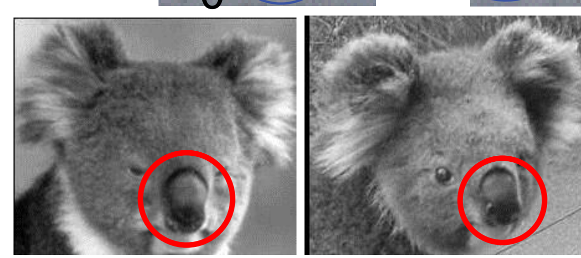
Motivation

- Global representations have major limitations
- Instead, describe and match only local regions
- Increased robustness to
  - Occlusions

  - Articulation

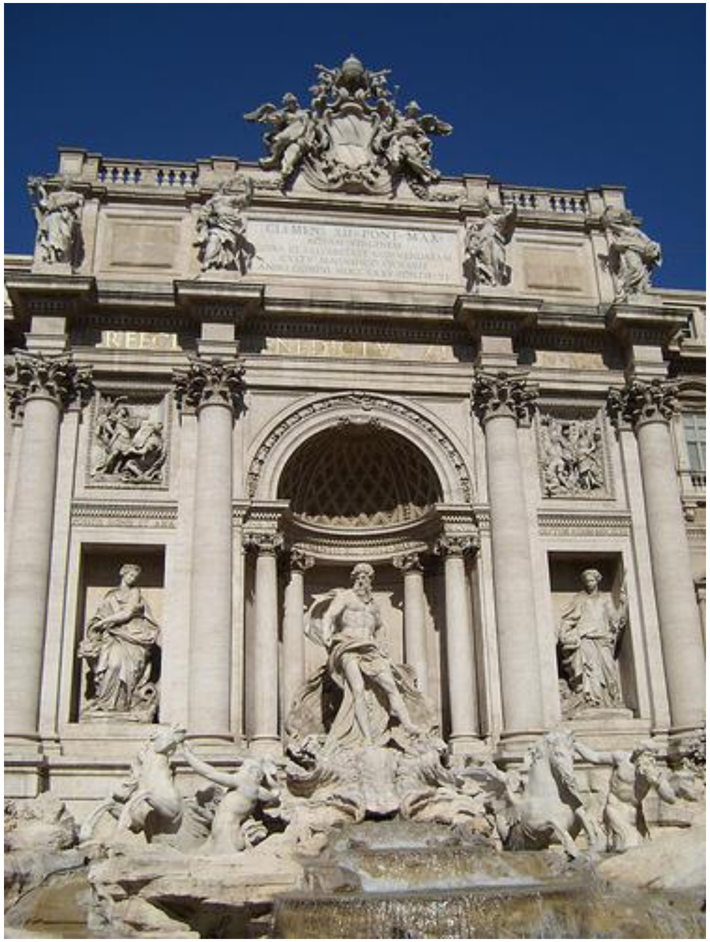


  - Intra-category variations



Application: Image Matching

by Diva Sian



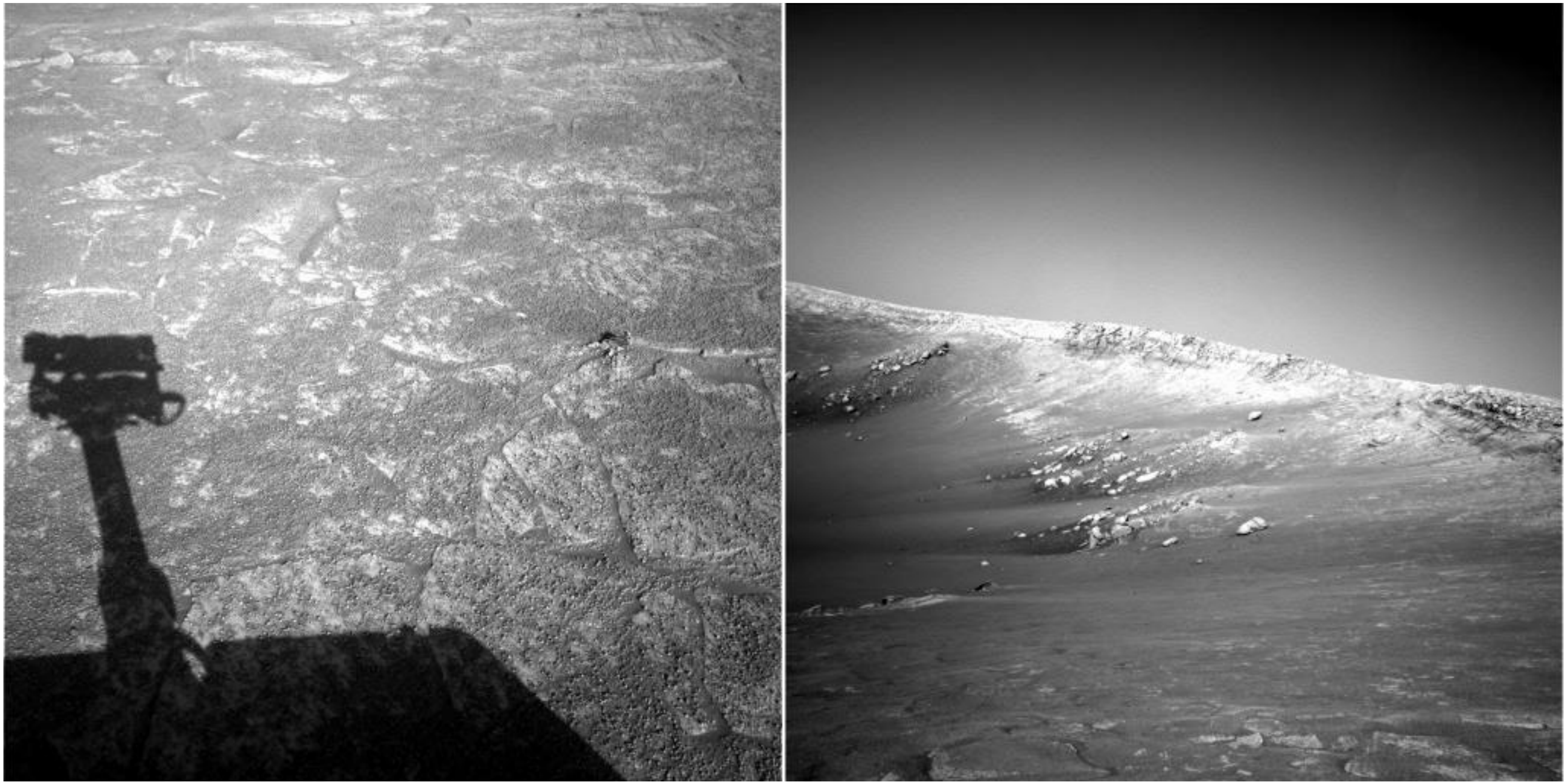
by swashford

Harder Case

by Diva Sian

by scgbt

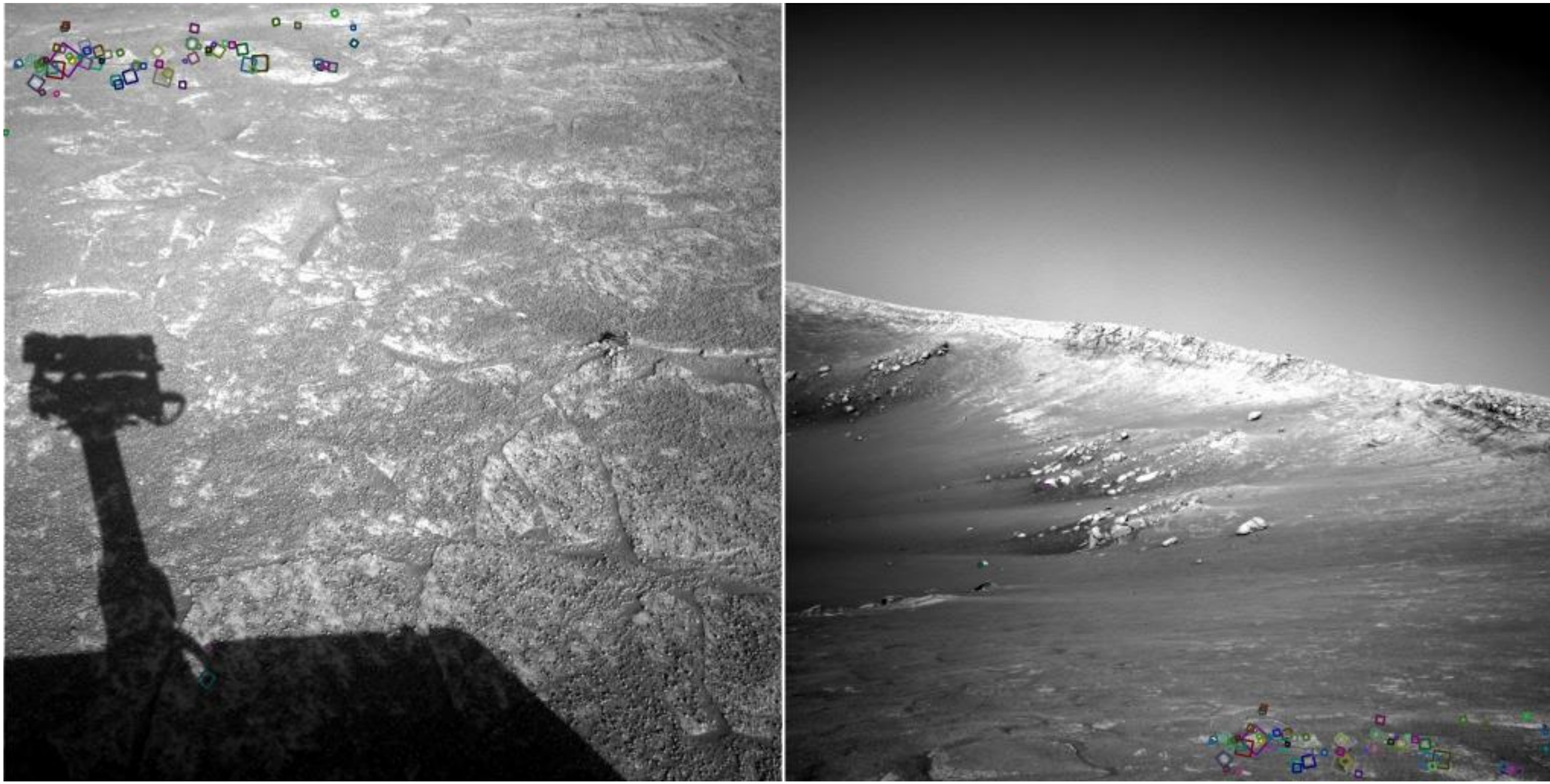
Harder Still?



NASA Mars Rover images

Slide credit: Noah Snavely

Answer Below (Look for Tiny Colored Squares)

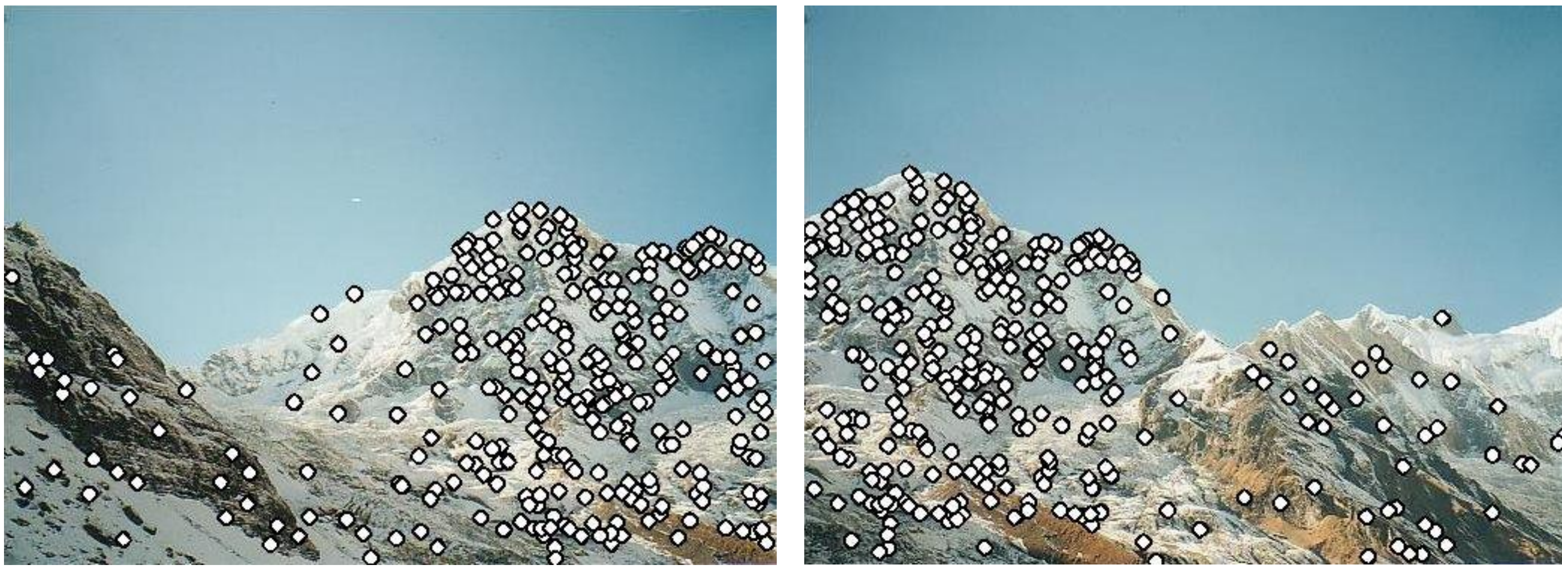


NASA Mars Rover images
with SIFT feature matches

Application: Image Stitching

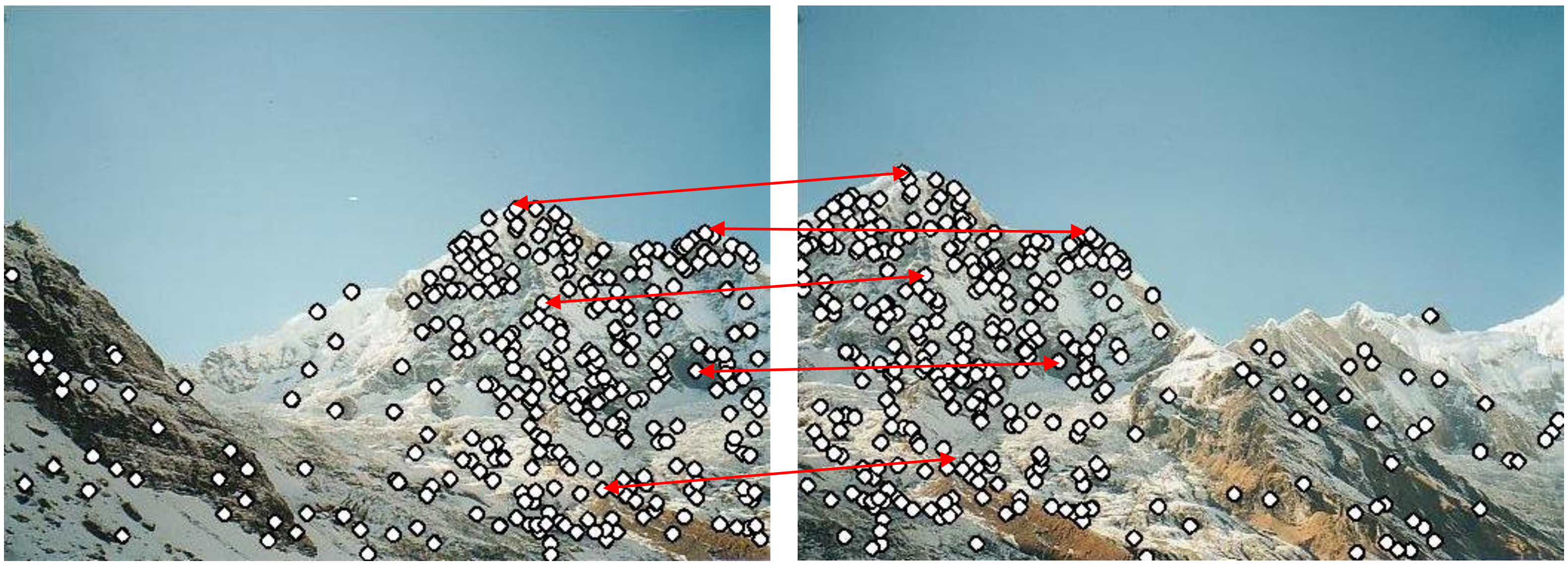
Slide credit: Darya Frolova, Denis Simakov

Application: Image Stitching



- Procedure:
  - Detect feature points in both images

Application: Image Stitching



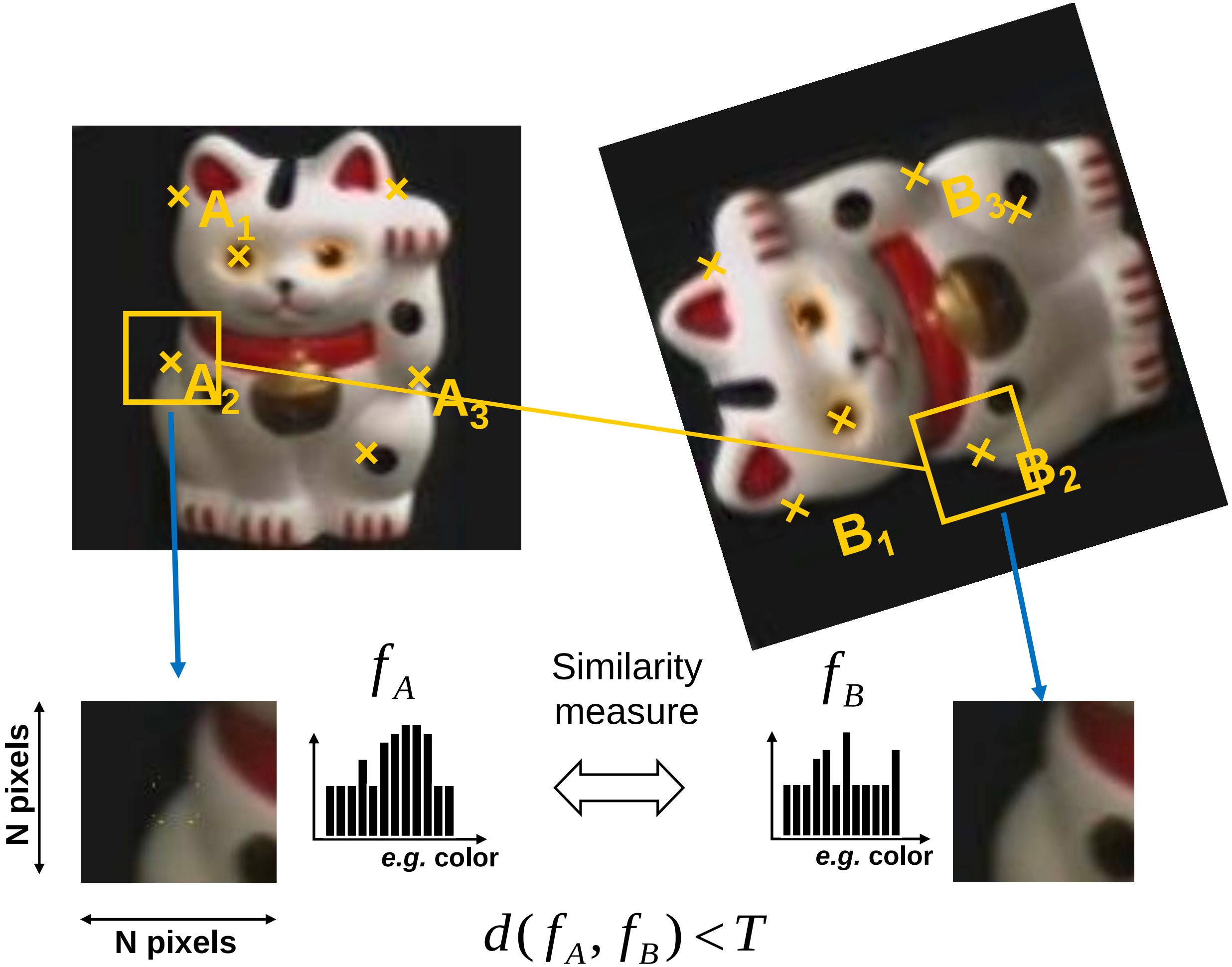
- Procedure:
  - Detect feature points in both images
  - Find corresponding pairs

Application: Image Stitching

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

Slide credit: Darya Frolova, Denis Simakov

General Approach



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

Common Requirements

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

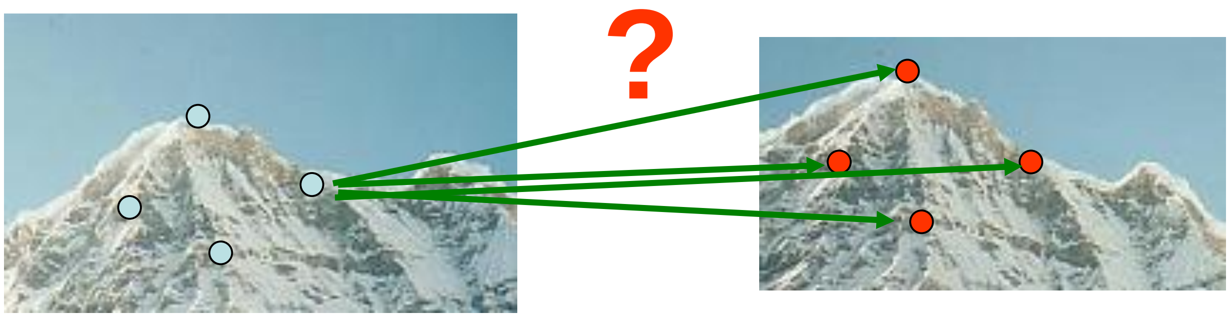
No chance to match!

We need a repeatable detector!

Slide credit: Darya Frolova, Denis Simakov

Common Requirements

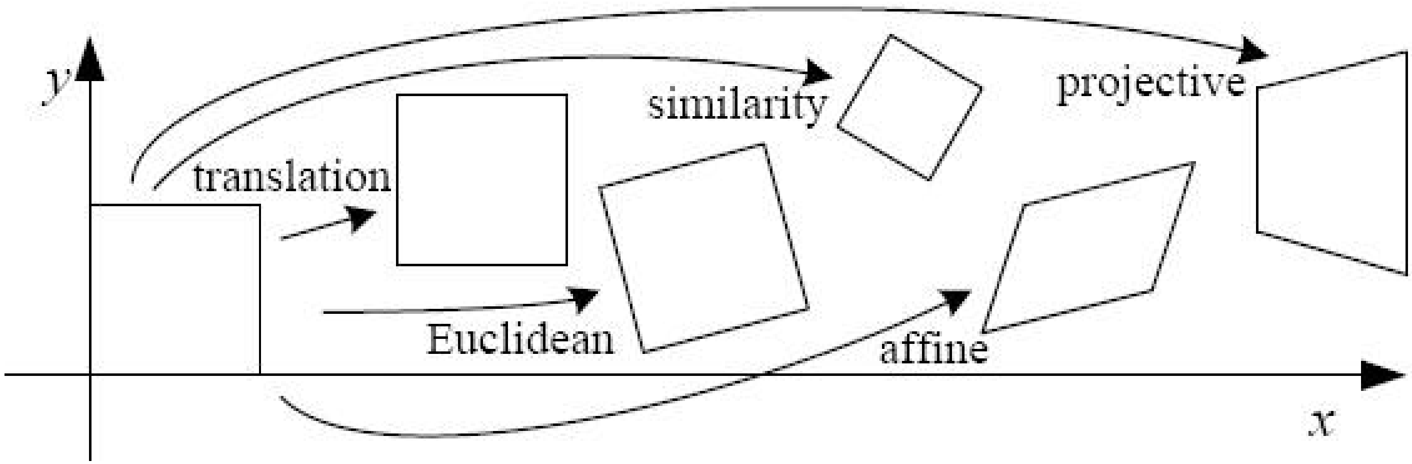
- Problem 1:
  - Detect the same point *independently* in both images
- Problem 2:
  - For each point correctly recognize the corresponding one



We need a reliable and distinctive descriptor!

Invariance: Geometric Transformations

Levels of Geometric Invariance



Requirements

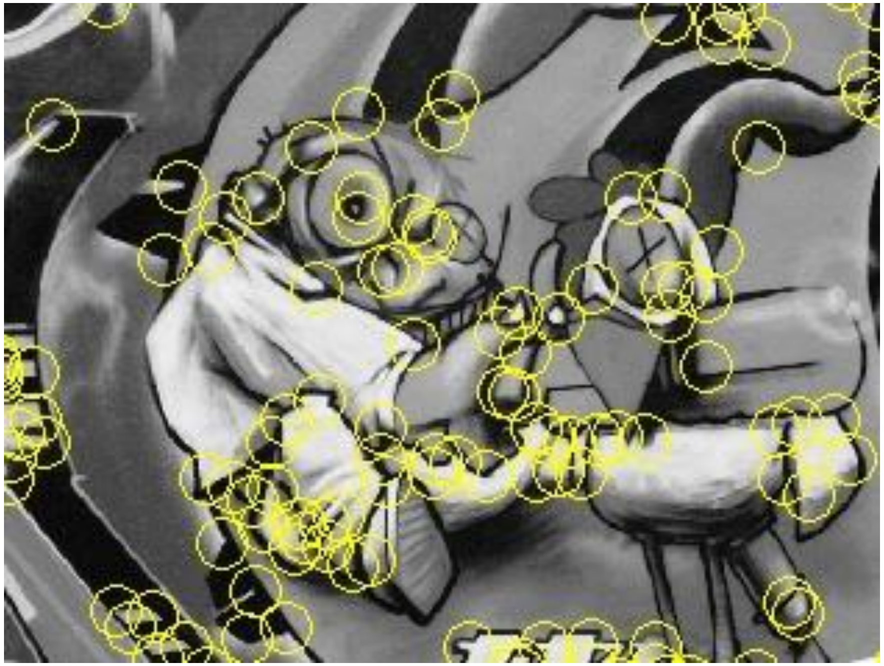
- Region extraction needs to be repeatable and accurate
  - Invariant to translation, rotation, scale changes
  - Robust or covariant to out-of-plane (≈affine) transformations
  - Robust to lighting variations, noise, blur, quantization
- Locality: Features are local, therefore robust to occlusion and clutter.
- Quantity: We need a sufficient number of regions to cover the object.
- Distinctiveness: The regions should contain "interesting" structure.
- Efficiency: Close to real-time performance.

Many Existing Detectors Available

- Hessian & Harris [Beaudet '78], [Harris '88]
- Laplacian, DoG [Lindeberg '98], [Lowe '99]
- Harris-/Hessian-Laplace [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01]
- Harris-/Hessian-Affine [Mikolajczyk & Schmid '04]
- EBR and IBR [Tuytelaars & Van Gool '04]
- MSER [Matas '02]
- Salient Regions [Kadir & Brady '01]
- Others…

- *Those detectors have become a basic building block for many applications in Computer Vision.*

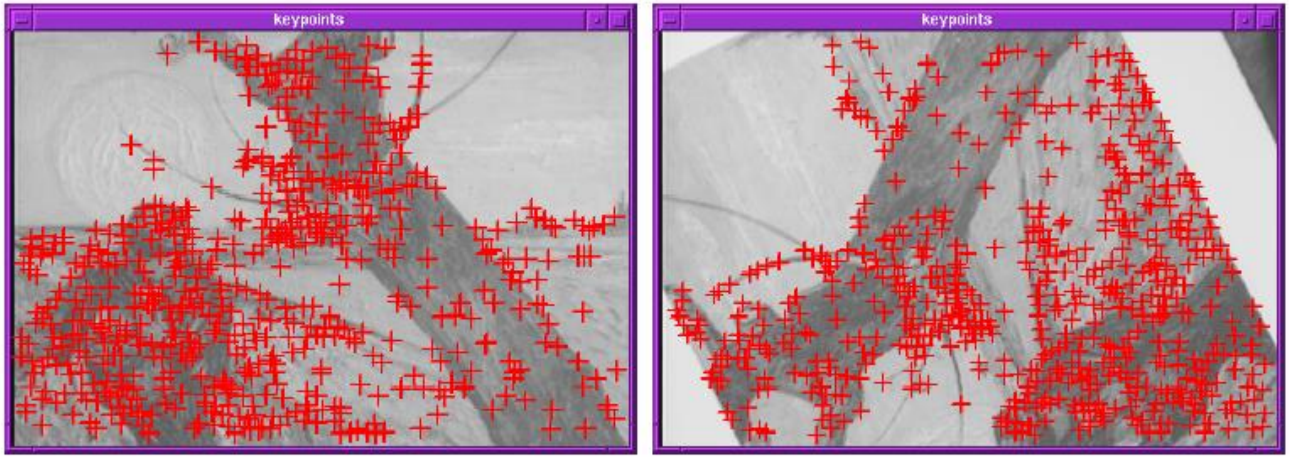
Keypoint Localization



- Goals:
  - Repeatable detection
  - Precise localization
  - Interesting content

$\Rightarrow$ *Look for two-dimensional signal changes*

Finding Corners

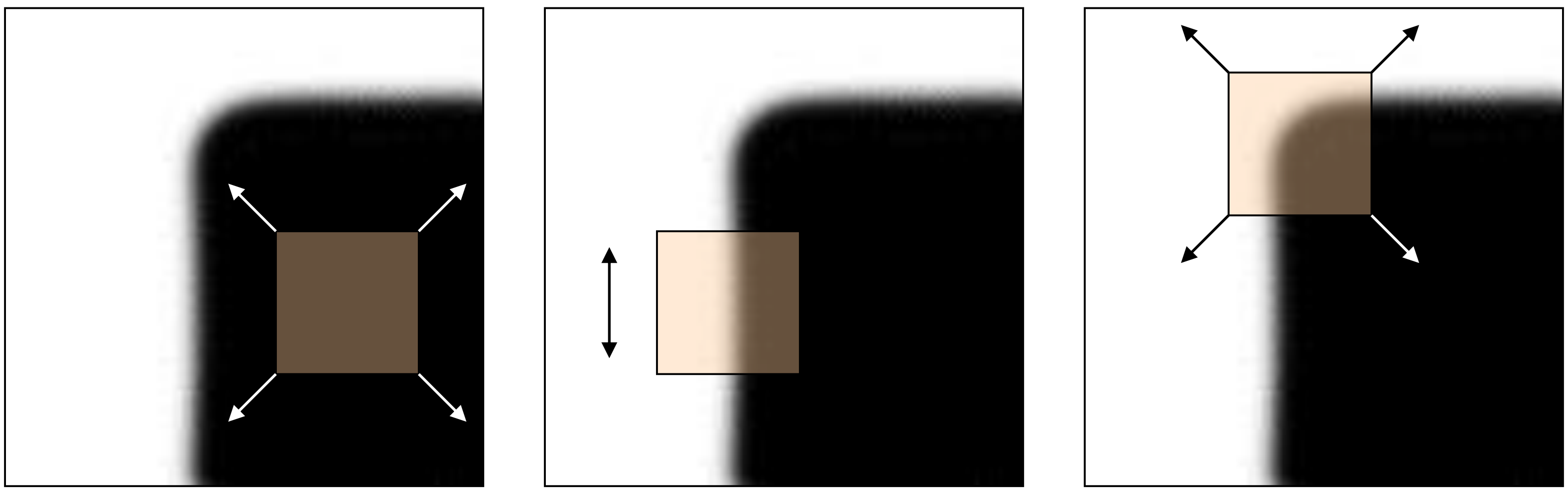


- Key property:
  - In the region around a corner, image gradient has two or more dominant directions
- Corners are *repeatable* and *distinctive*

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

Corners as Distinctive Interest Points

- Design criteria
  - We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window (*locality*)
  - Shifting the window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity (*good localization*)

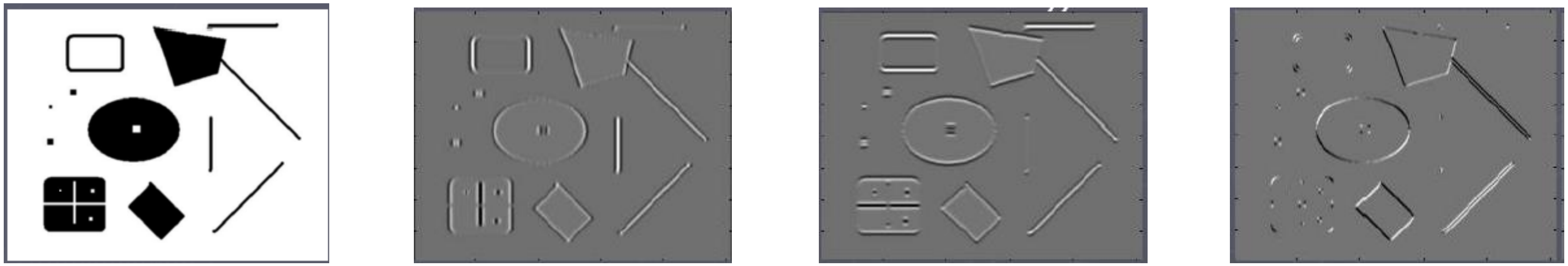


“flat” region:
no change in all directions

“edge”:
no change along the edge direction

“corner”:
significant change in all directions

Harris Detector Formulation



- Start from the second-moment matrix M :

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

Gradient with respect to x, times gradient with respect to y

Sum over image region – the area we are checking for corner

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_xI_x & \sum I_xI_y \\ \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_yI_y \end{bmatrix} = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix} [I_x \ I_y]$$

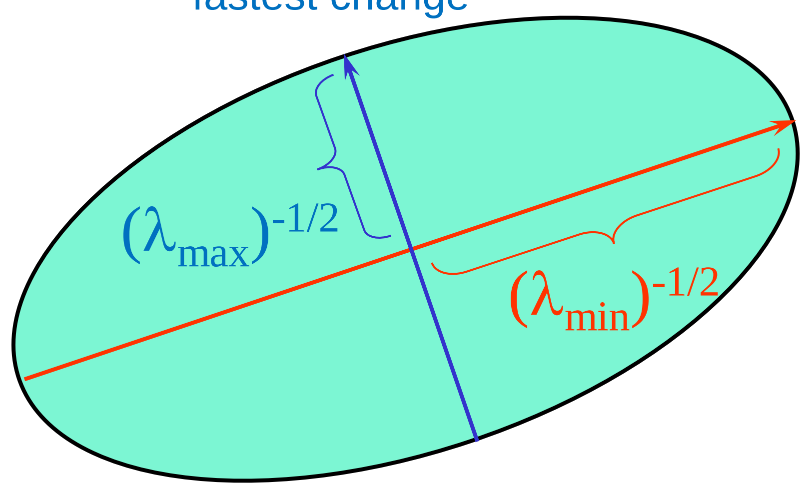
Slide credit: Rick Szeliski

What Does This Matrix Reveal?

- Since M is symmetric, we have $$M = R^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} R$$

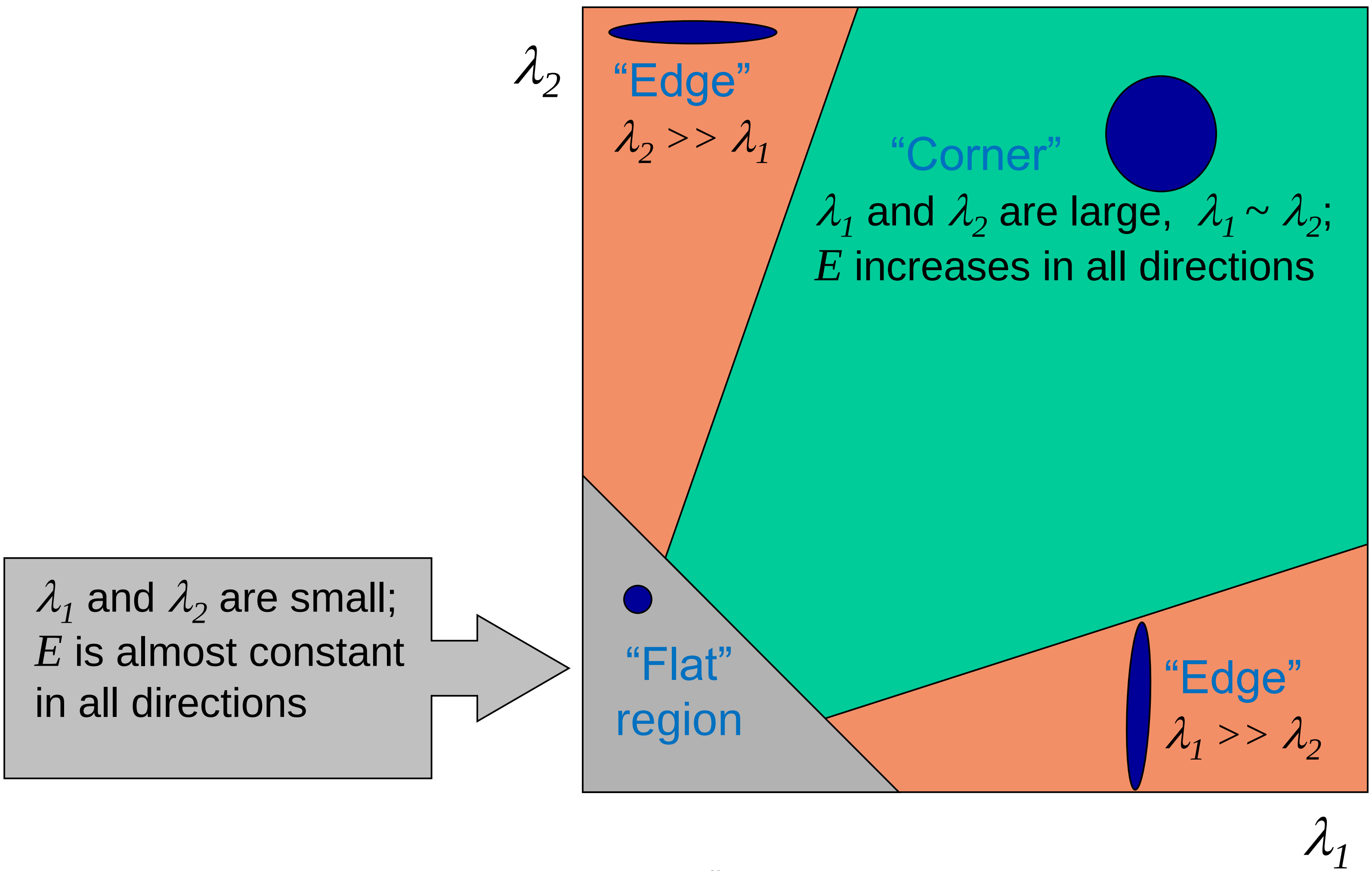
(Eigenvalue decomposition)

- We can visualize M as an ellipse with axis lengths determined by the eigenvalues and orientation determined by R



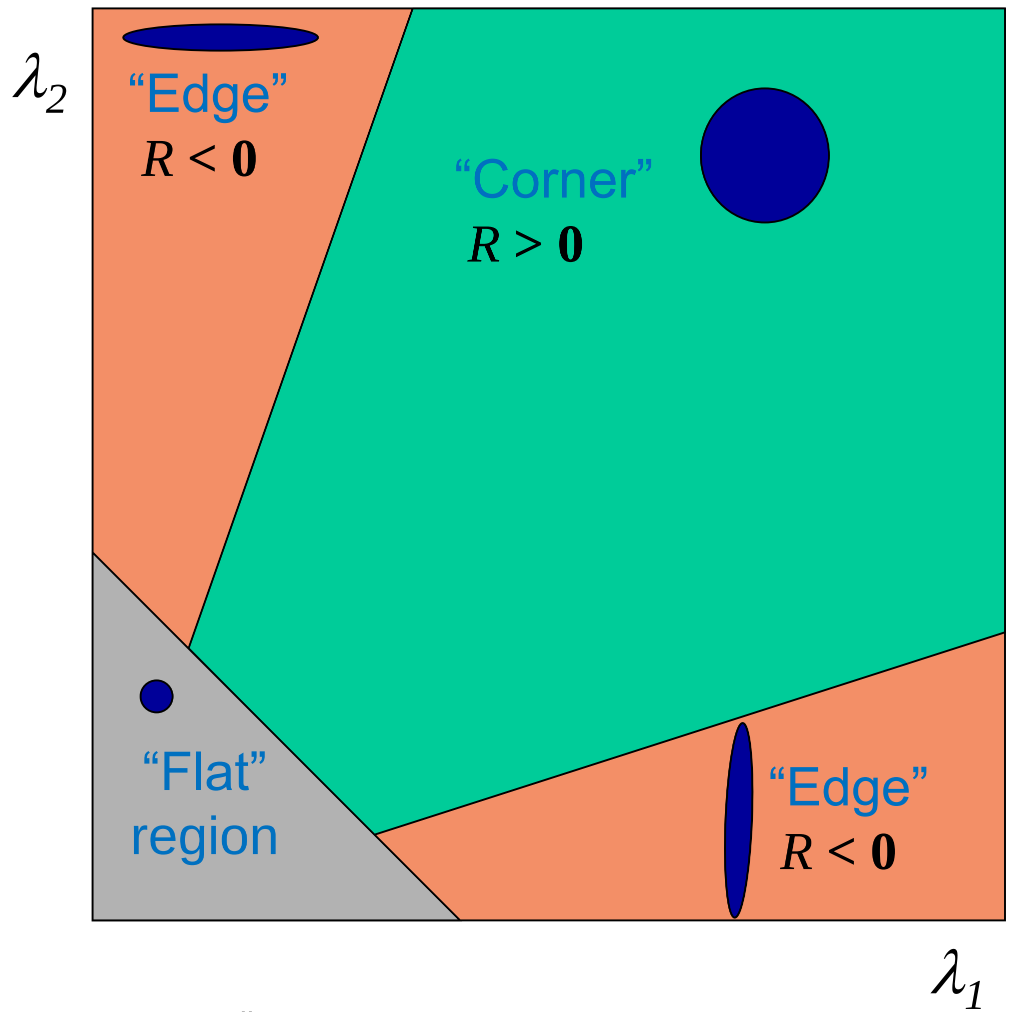
Interpreting the Eigenvalues

- Classification of image points using eigenvalues of M:



Corner Response Function

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



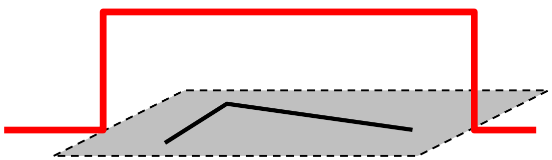
- Fast approximation
  - Avoid computing the eigenvalues
  - α: constant (0.04 to 0.06)

Window Function $w(x,y)$

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

- Option 1: uniform window
  - Sum over square window

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

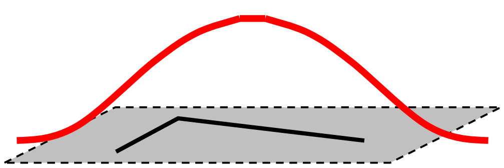


1 in window, 0 outside

  - Problem: not rotation invariant

- Option 2: Smooth with Gaussian
  - Gaussian already performs weighted sum

$$M = g(\sigma) * \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

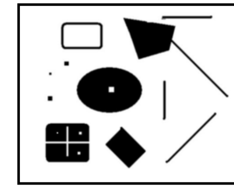


Gaussian

  - Result is rotation invariant

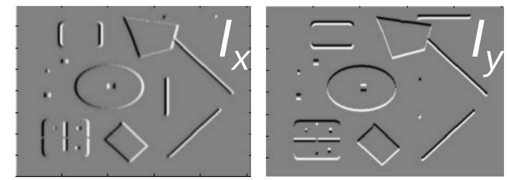
Summary: Harris Detector [Harris88]

- Compute second moment matrix (autocorrelation matrix)

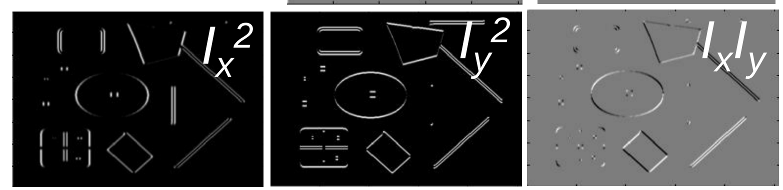


$$M(\sigma_I,\sigma_D)=g(\sigma_I)*\begin{bmatrix} I_x^2(\sigma_D) & I_xI_y(\sigma_D) \\ I_xI_y(\sigma_D) & I_y^2(\sigma_D)\end{bmatrix}$$

1. Image derivatives



2. Square of derivatives



3. Gaussian filter $g(\sigma_I)$

4. Cornerness function – two strong eigenvalues

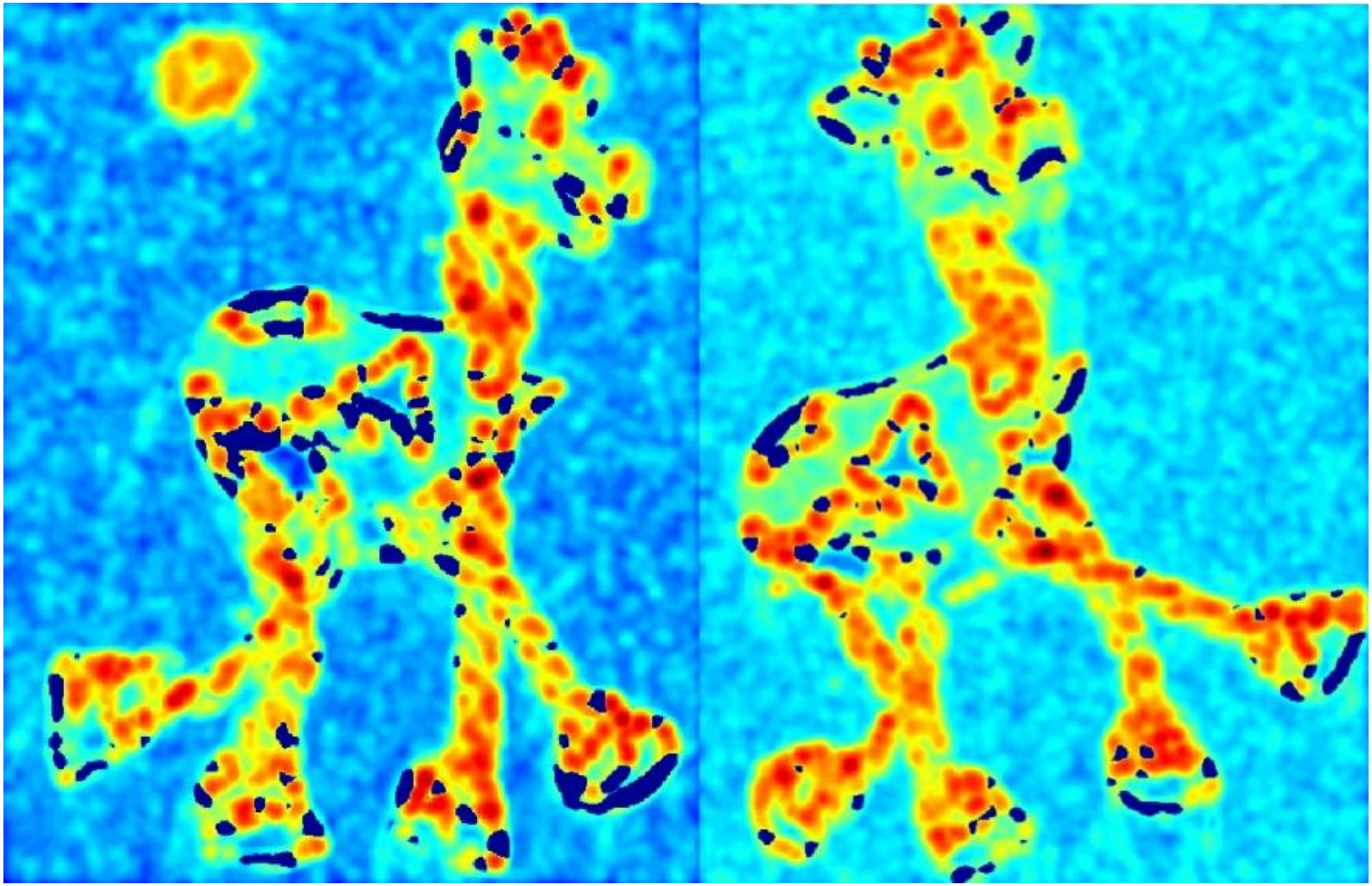
$$R=\det[M(\sigma_I,\sigma_D)]-\alpha[\operatorname{trace}(M(\sigma_I,\sigma_D))]^2$$
$$=g(I_x^2)g(I_y^2)-[g(I_xI_y)]^2-\alpha[g(I_x^2)+g(I_y^2)]^2$$

5. Perform non-maximum suppression

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Harris Detector: Workflow

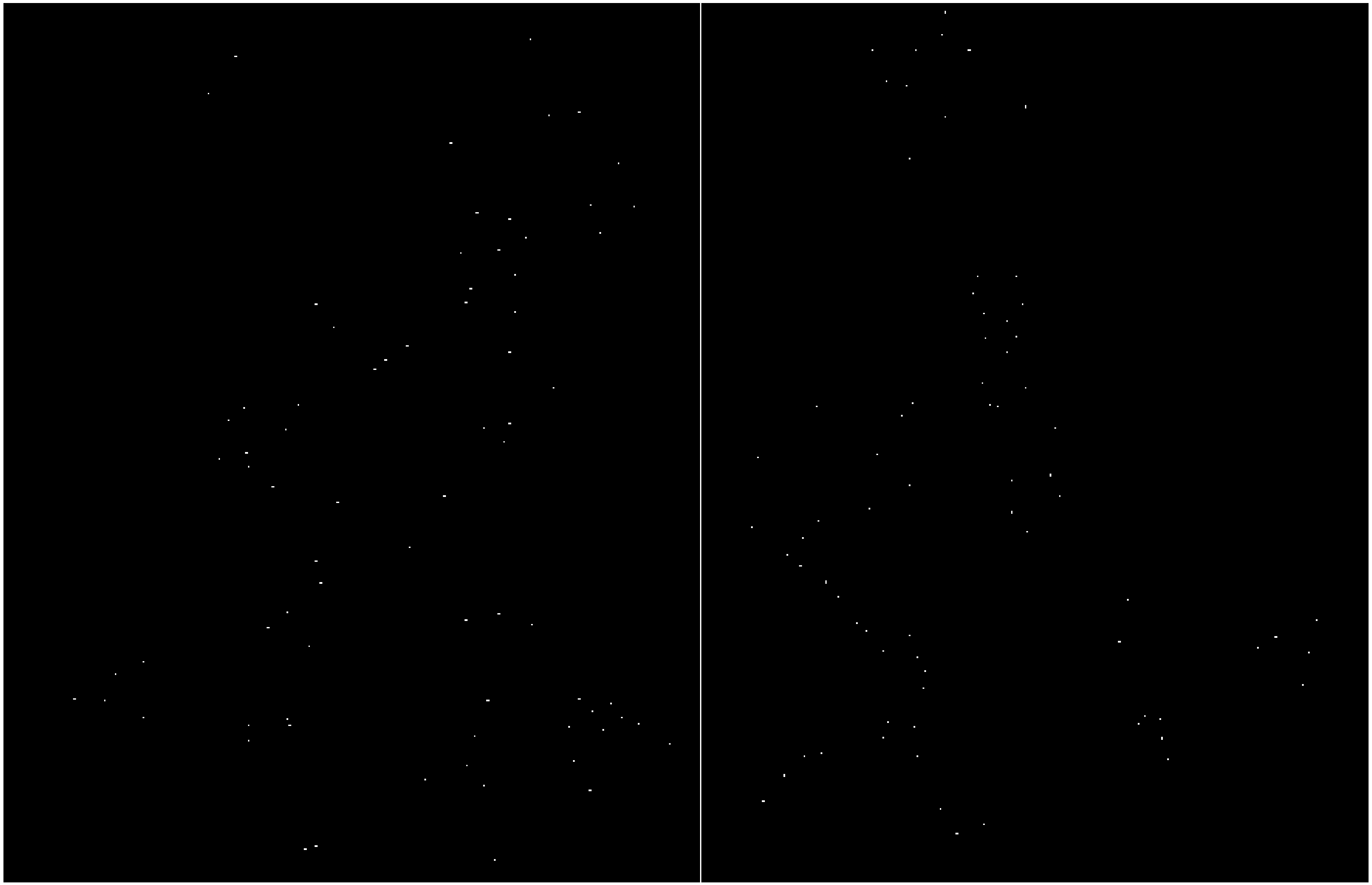
Harris Detector: Workflow



- Compute corner responses R

Slide adapted from Darya Frolova, Denis Simakov

Harris Detector: Workflow

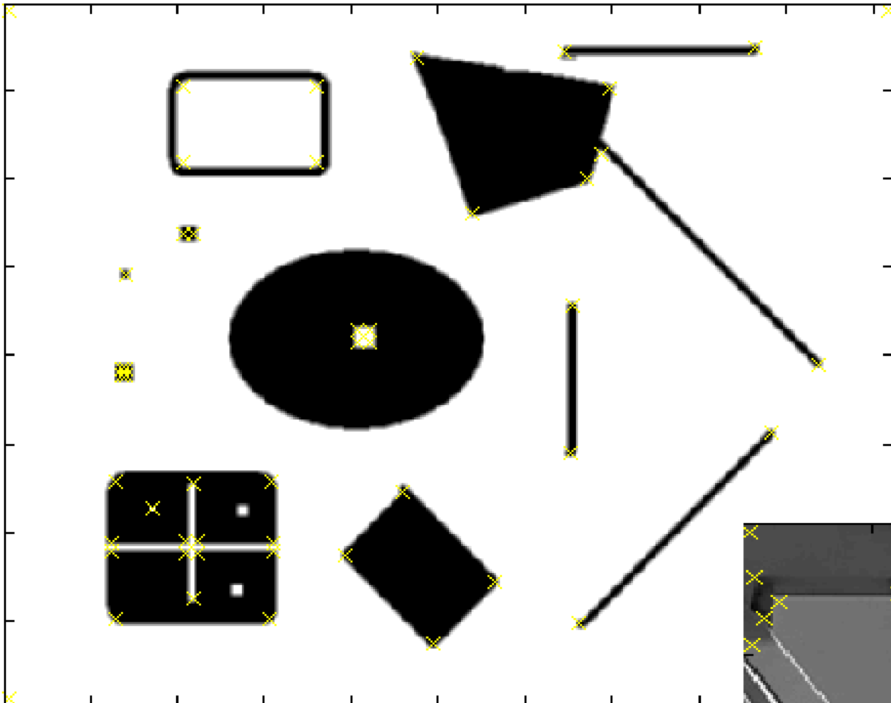


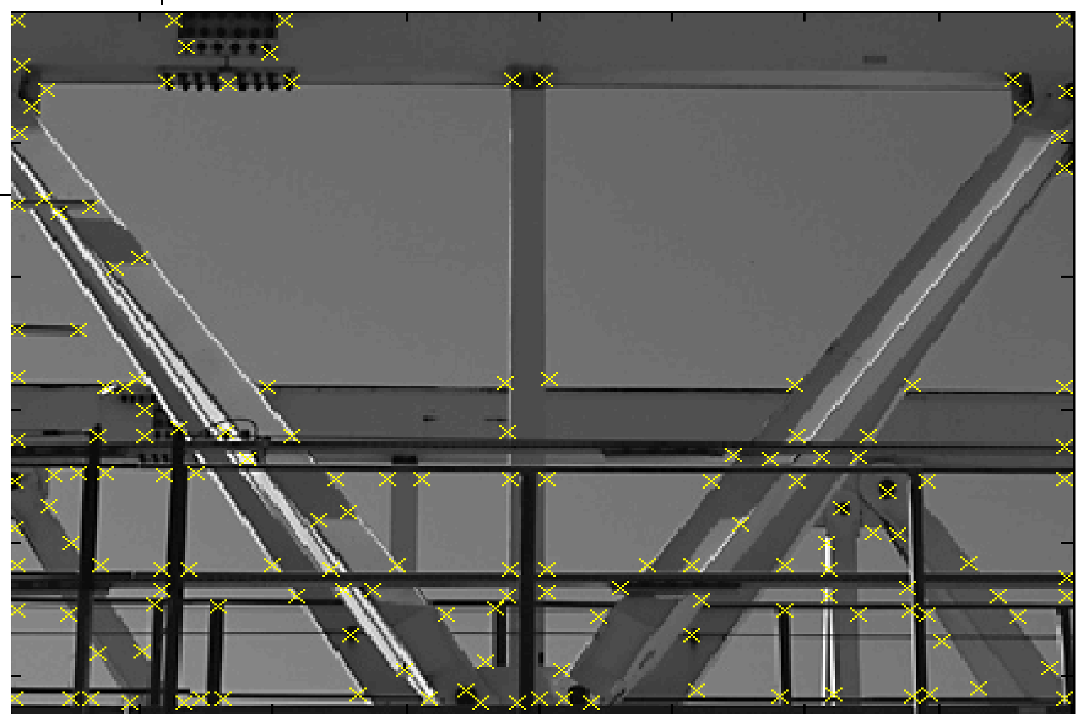
- Take only the local maxima of R, where R > threshold.

Harris Detector: Workflow

- Resulting Harris points

Harris Detector – Responses [Harris88]

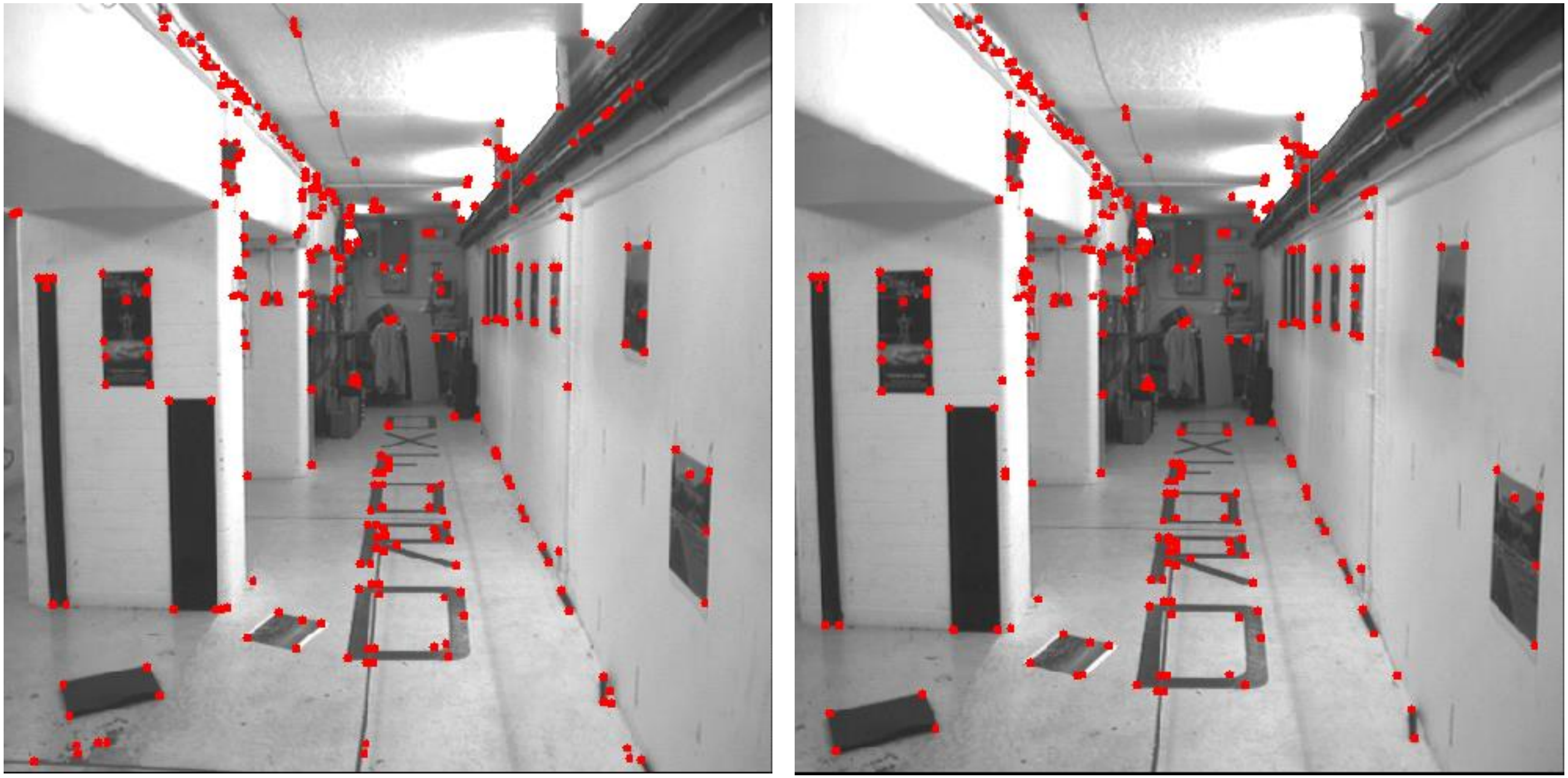




Effect: A very precise corner detector.

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Harris Detector – Responses [Harris88]

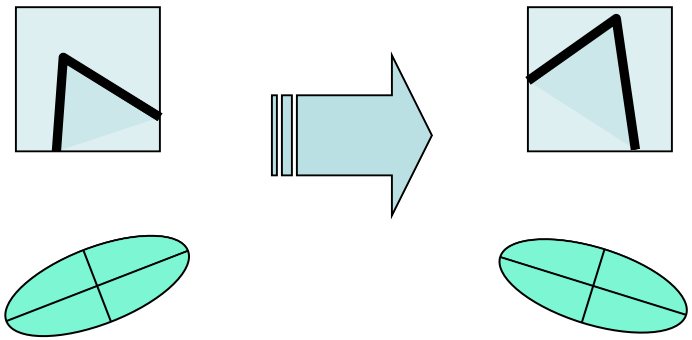


- Results are well suited for finding stereo correspondences

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Harris Detector: Properties

- Rotation invariance?

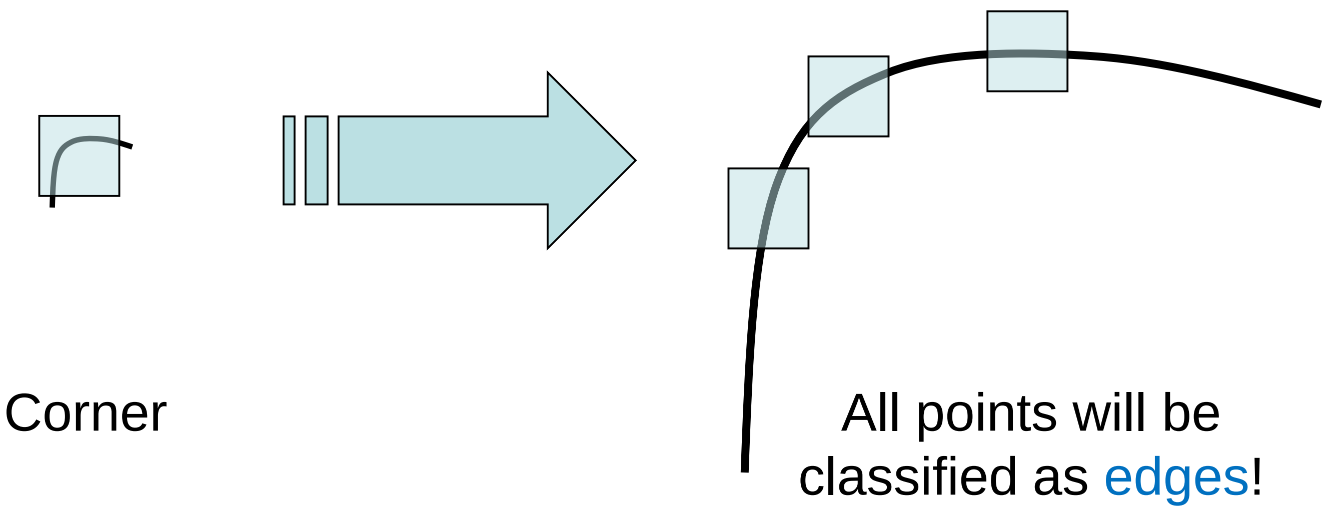


Ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

Corner response R is invariant to image rotation

Harris Detector: Properties

- Rotation invariance
- Scale invariance?



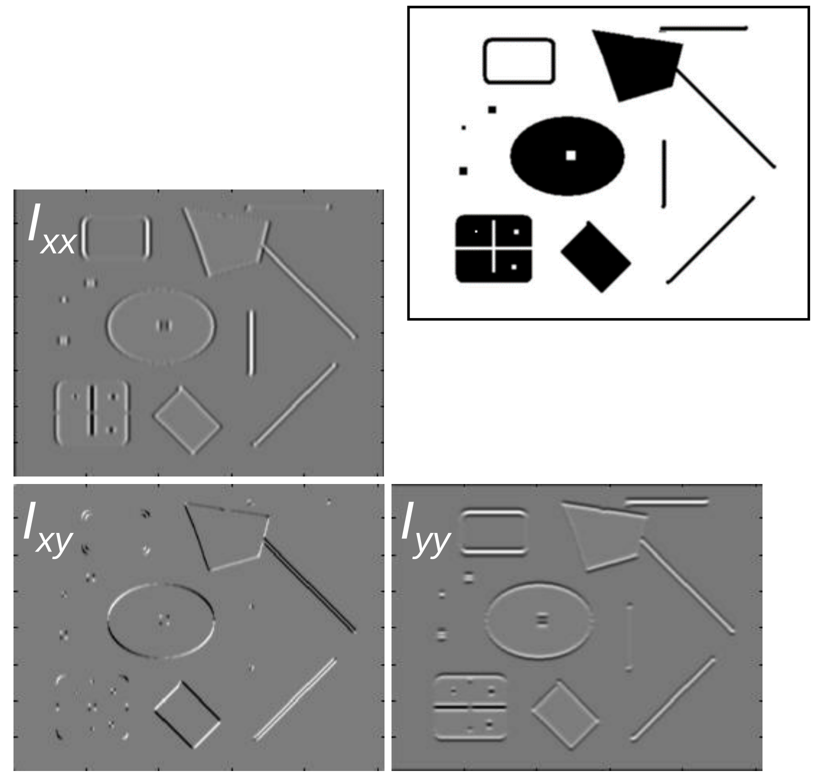
Not invariant to image scale!

Hessian Detector [Beaudet78]

- Hessian determinant

$$Hessian(I) = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} \\ I_{xy} & I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: these are 2nd derivatives!

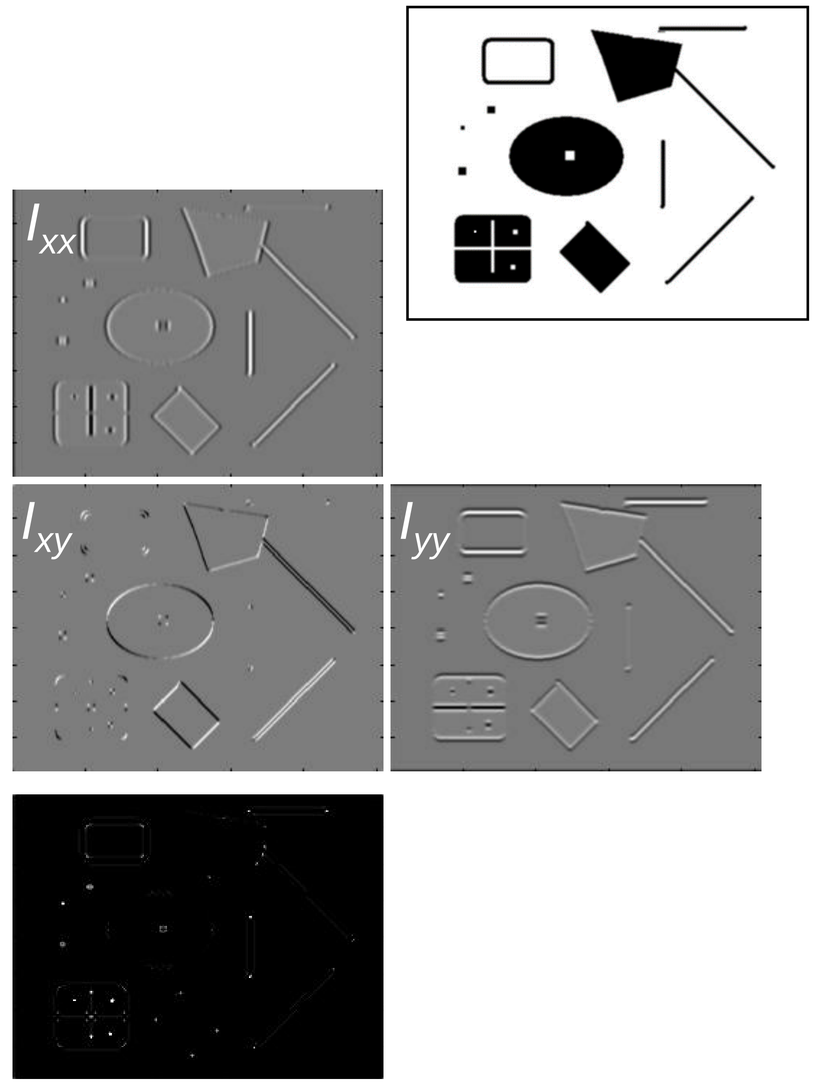


Intuition: Search for strong derivatives in two orthogonal directions

Hessian Detector [Beaudet78]

- Hessian determinant

$$Hessian(I) = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & I_{xy} \\ I_{xy} & I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

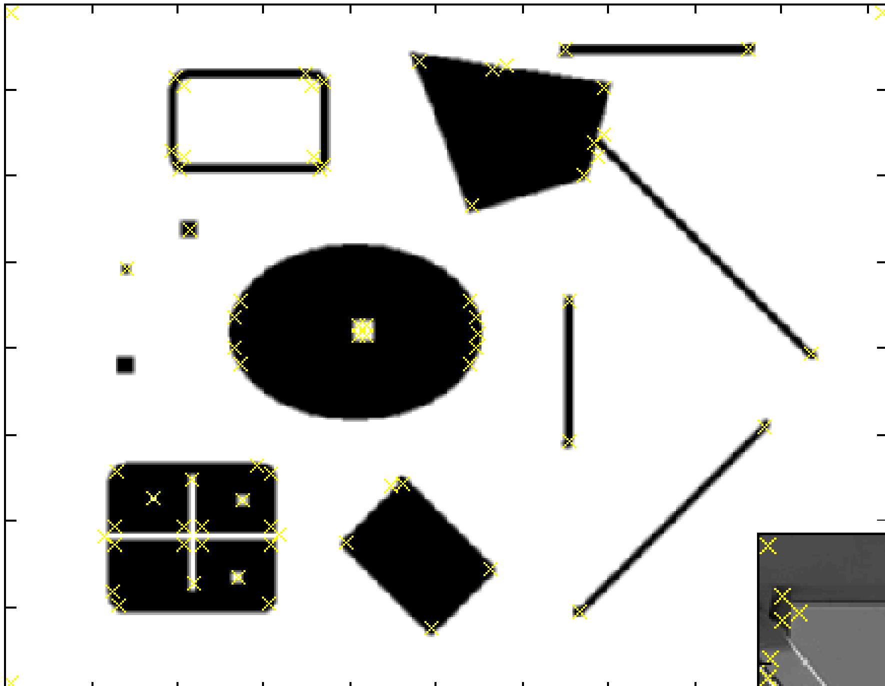


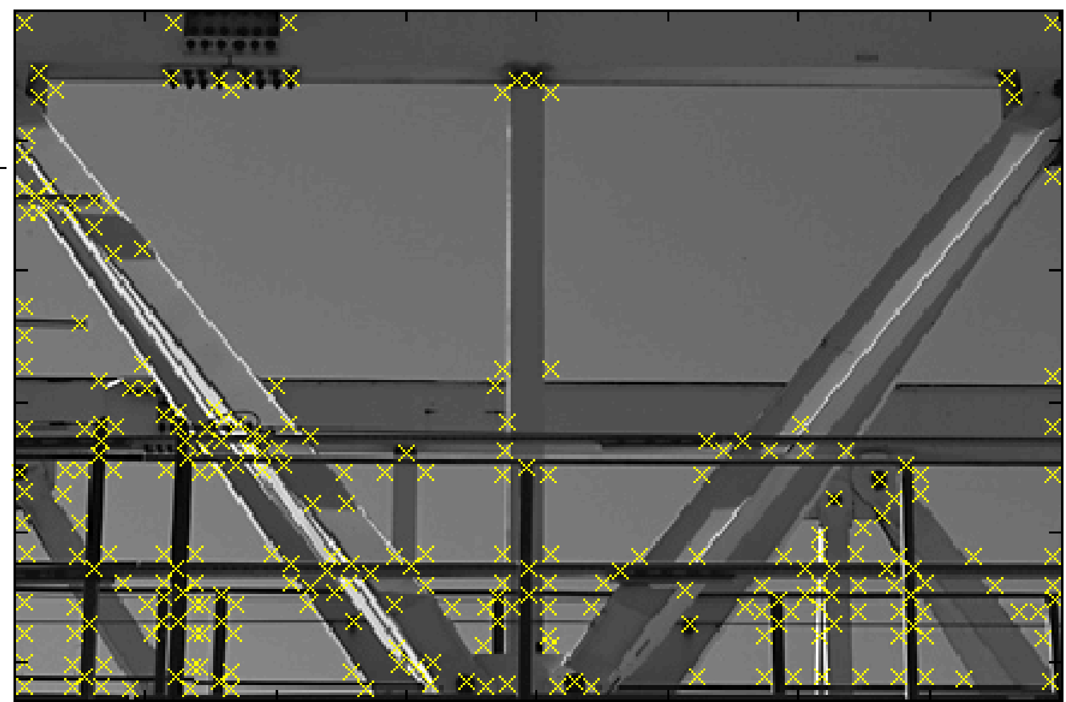
$$\det(Hessian(I)) = I_{xx} I_{yy} - I_{xy}^2$$

In Matlab:

$$I_{xx} .* I_{yy} - (I_{xy})\wedge 2$$

Hessian Detector – Responses [Beaudet78]





Effect: Responses mainly on corners and strongly textured areas.

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Topics of This Lecture

- Local Invariant Features
  - Motivation
  - Requirements, Invariances
- Keypoint Localization
  - Harris detector
  - Hessian detector
- Scale Invariant Region Selection
  - Automatic scale selection
  - Laplacian-of-Gaussian detector
  - Difference-of-Gaussian detector
  - Combinations
- Local Descriptors
  - Orientation normalization
  - SIFT

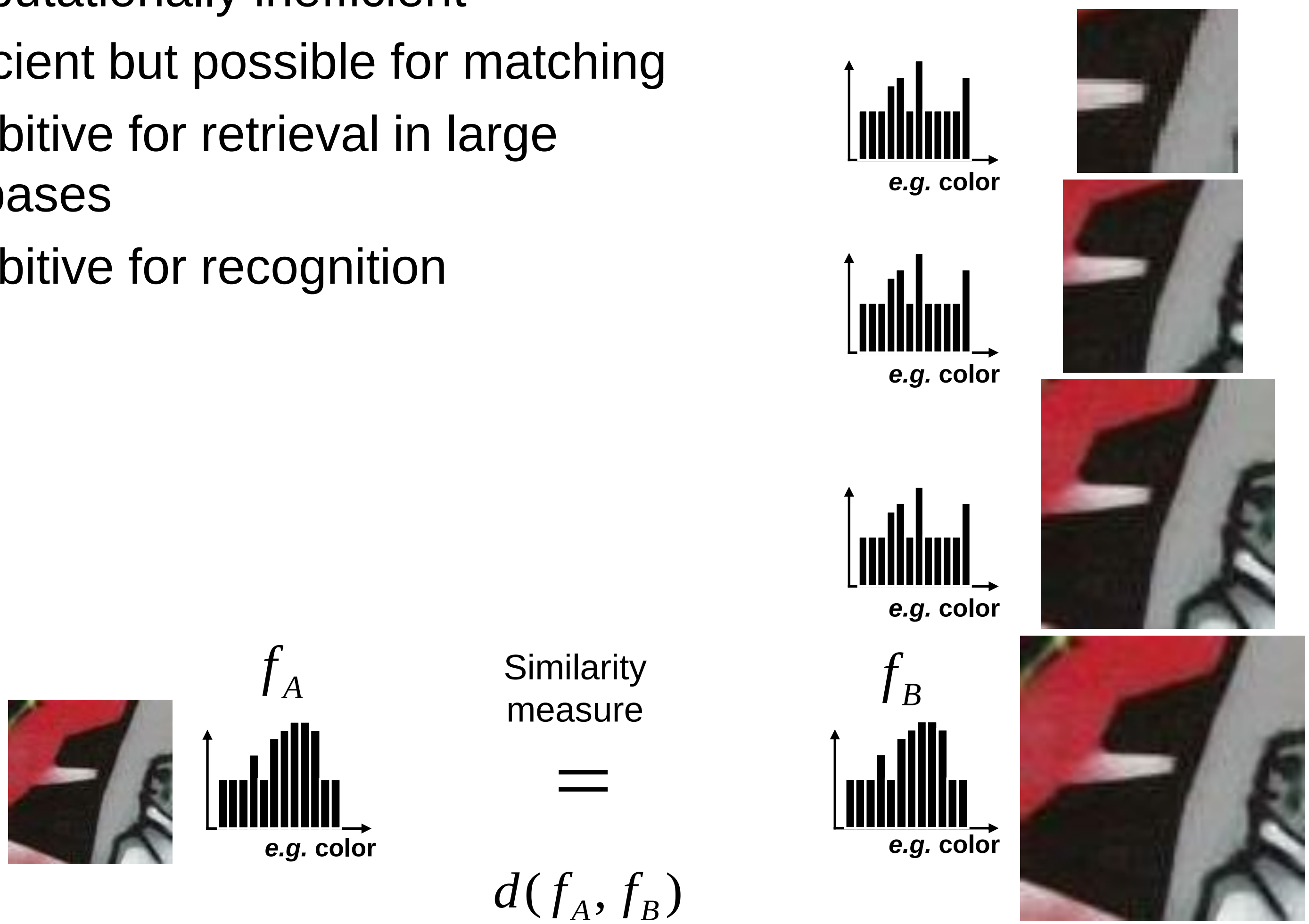
From Points to Regions…

- The Harris and Hessian operators define interest points.
  - Precise localization
  - High repeatability

- In order to compare those points, we need to compute a descriptor over a region.
  - How can we define such a region in a scale invariant manner?
- *I.e. how can we detect scale invariant interest regions?*

Naïve Approach: Exhaustive Search

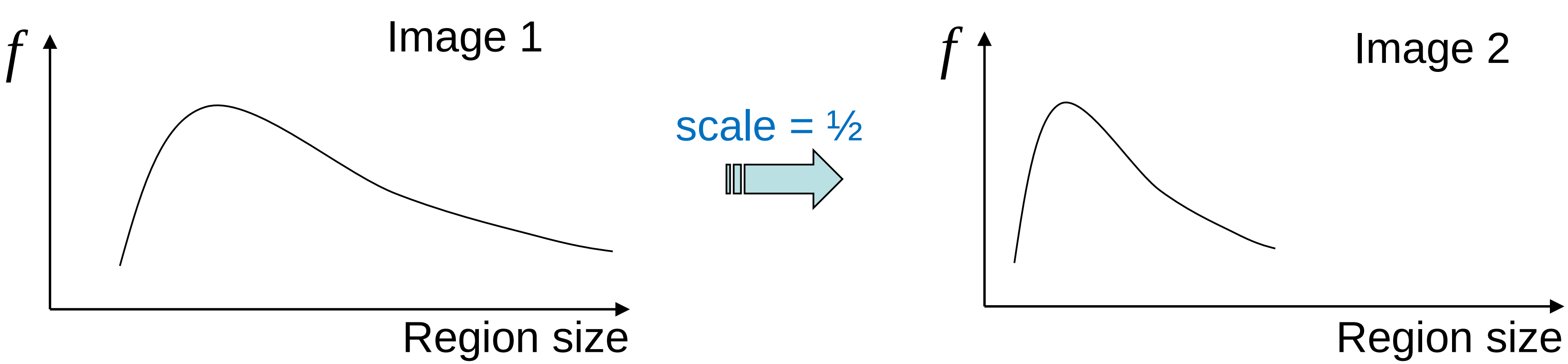
- Comparing descriptors while varying the patch size
  - Computationally inefficient
  - Inefficient but possible for matching
  - Prohibitive for retrieval in large databases
  - Prohibitive for recognition



Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Automatic Scale Selection

- Solution:
  - Design a signature function on the region that is "scale invariant" (*the same for corresponding regions, even if they are at different scales*)
  - For a point in one image, we can consider it as a function of region size (patch width)

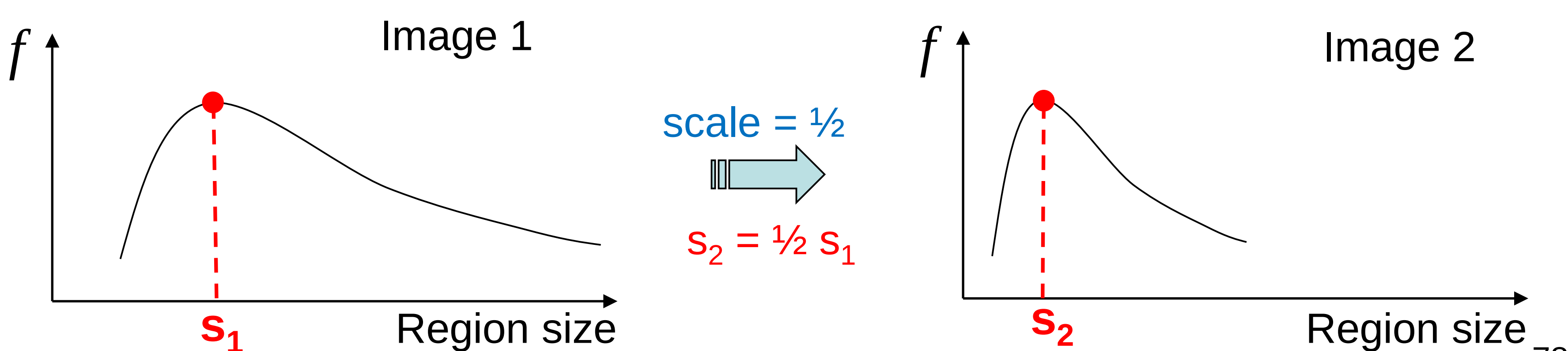


Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

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.

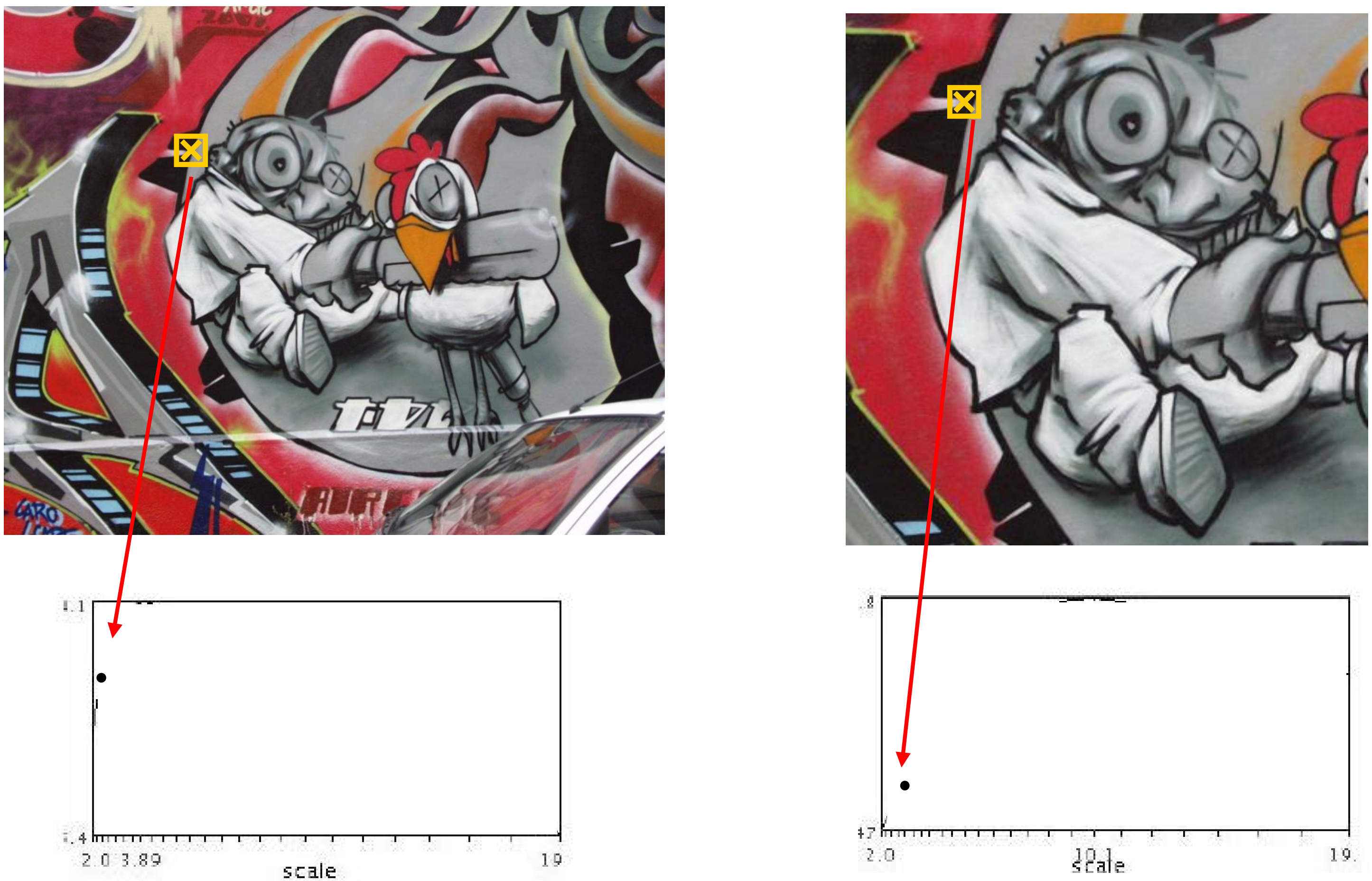
Important: this scale invariant region size is found in each image independently!



Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



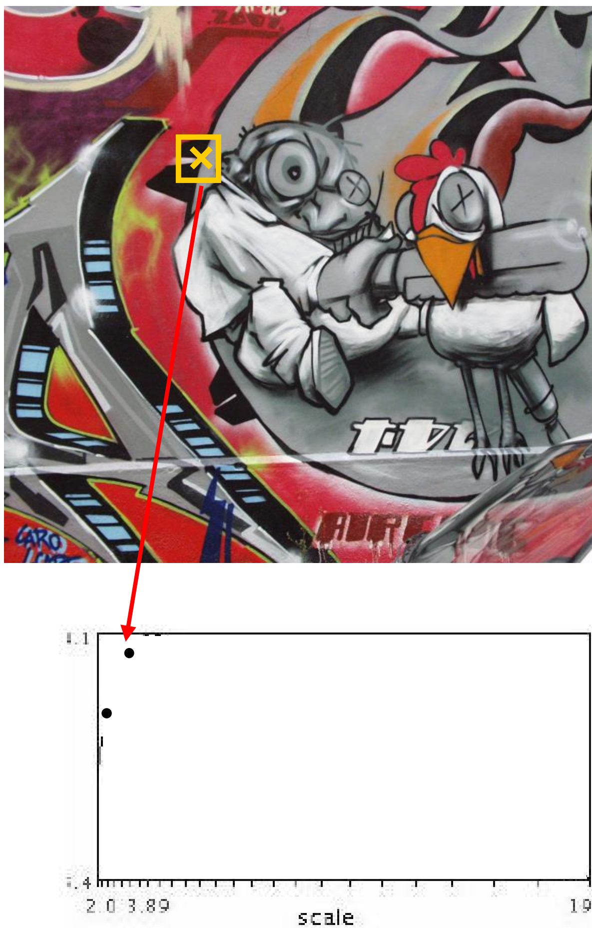
$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x, \sigma))$

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

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



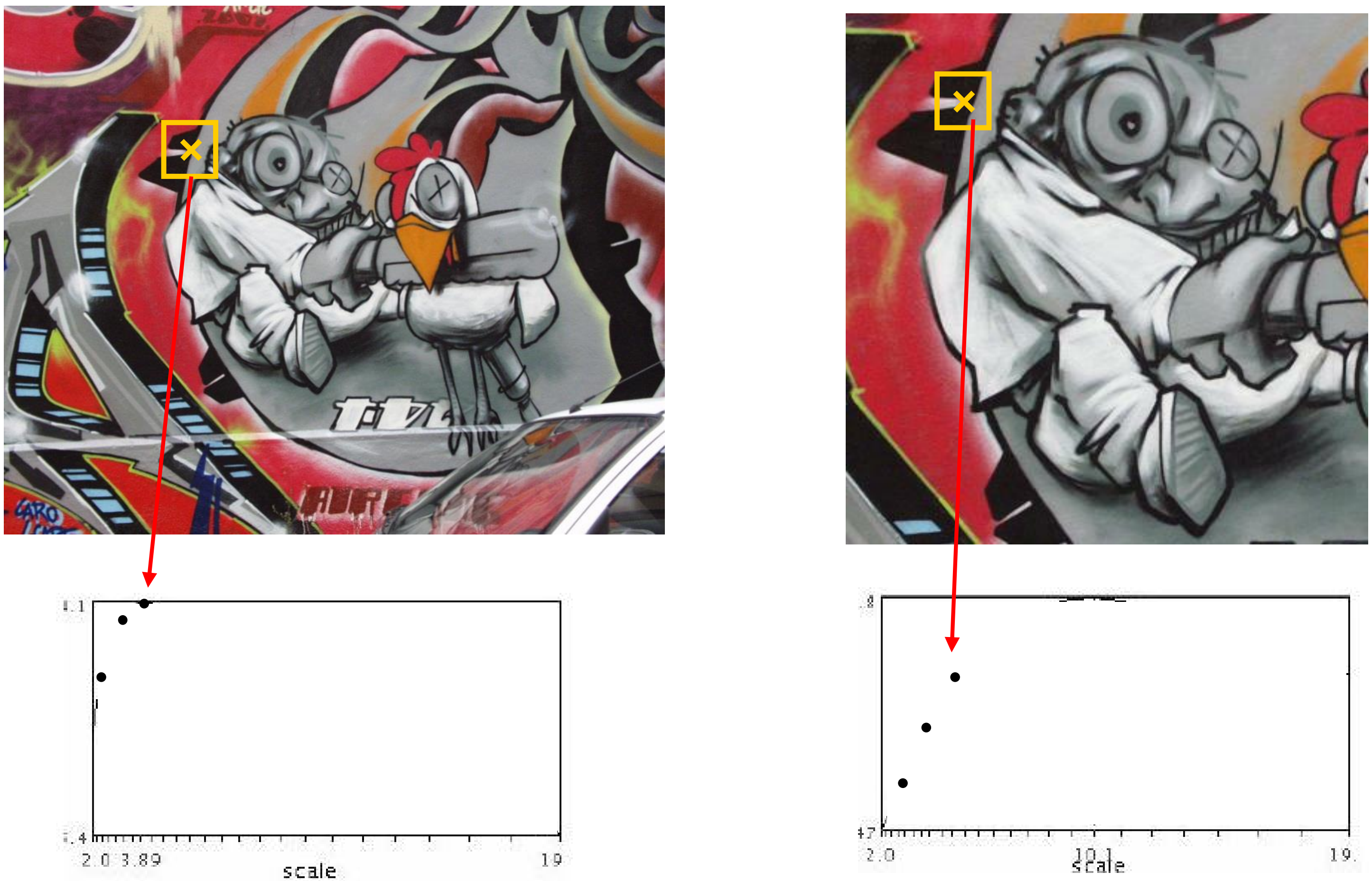
$$f(I_{i_1\ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$$

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

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



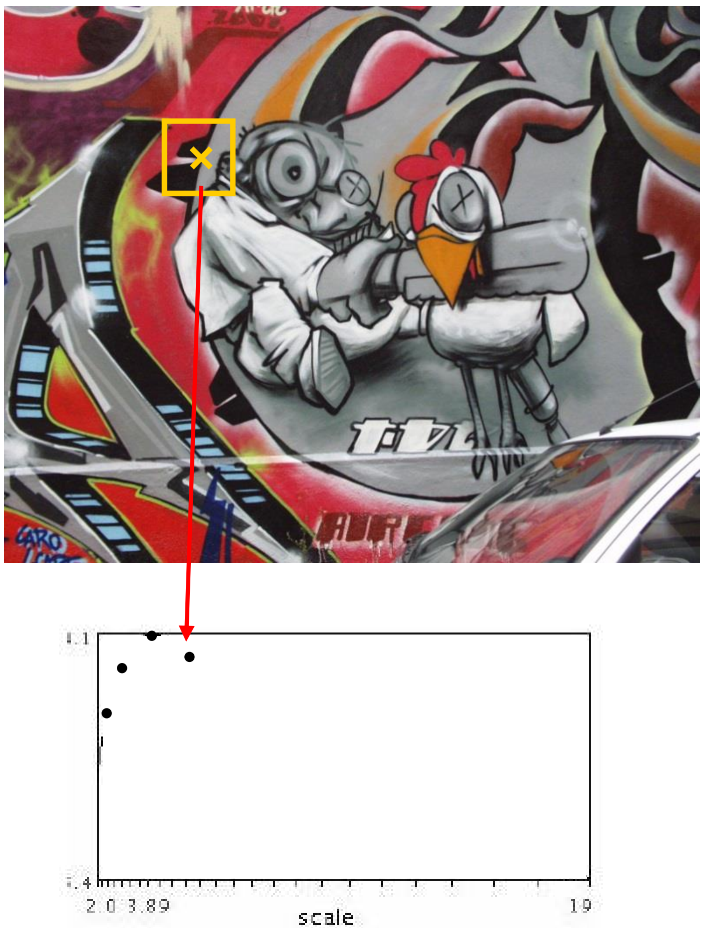
$$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$$

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

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



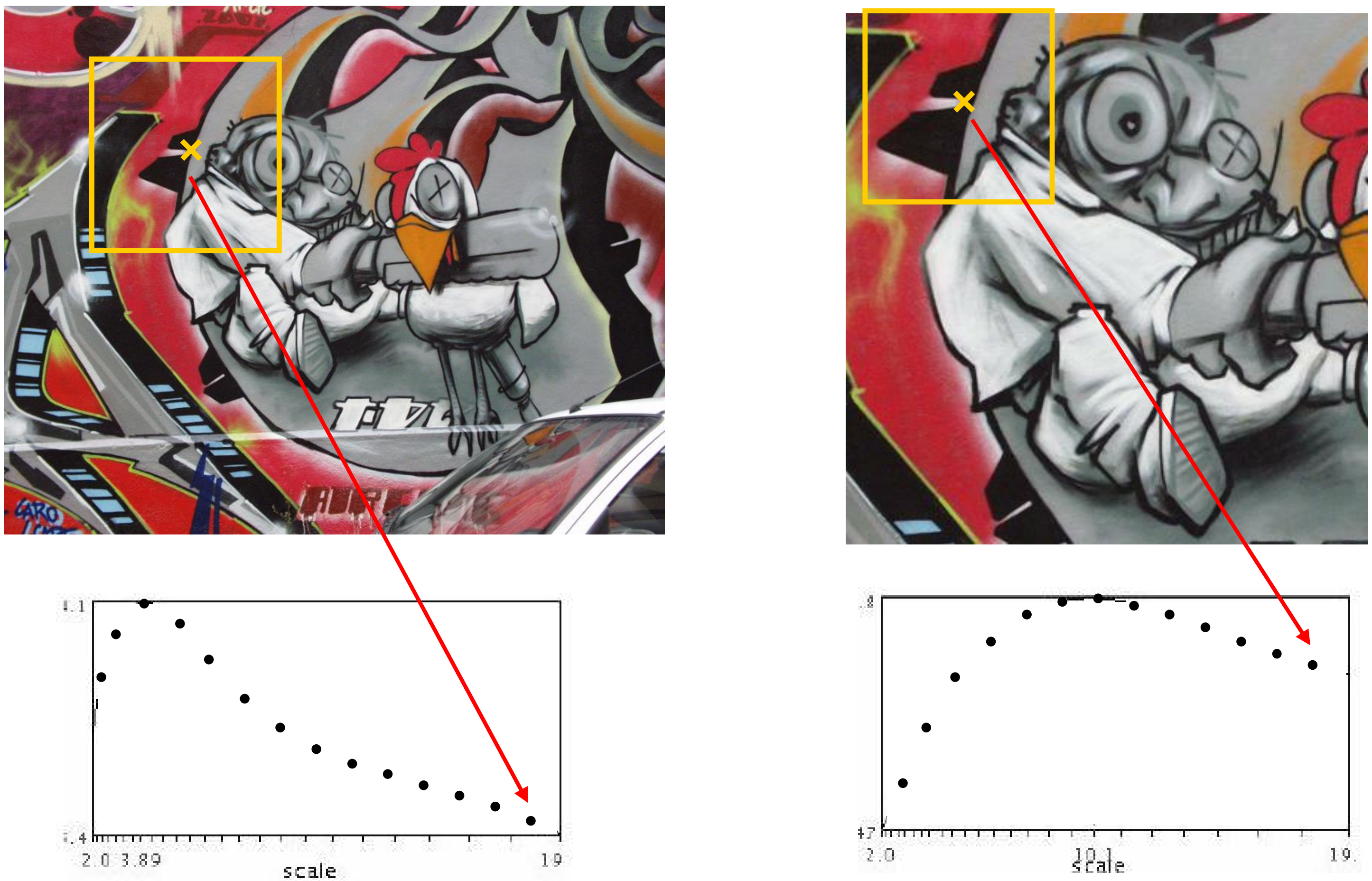
$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x,\sigma))$

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

Slide credit: Krystian Mikolajczyk

Automatic Scale Selection

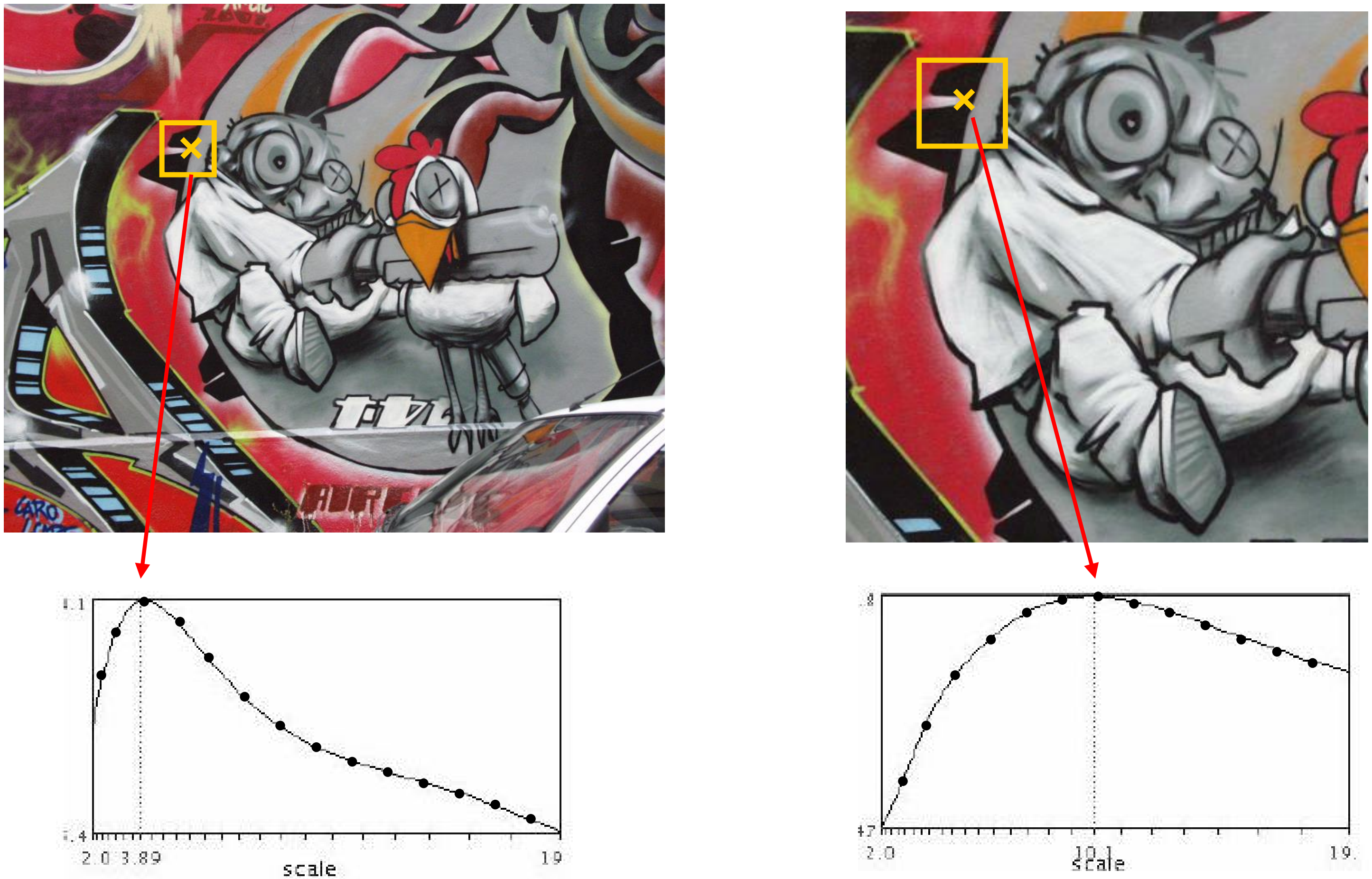
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



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

Automatic Scale Selection

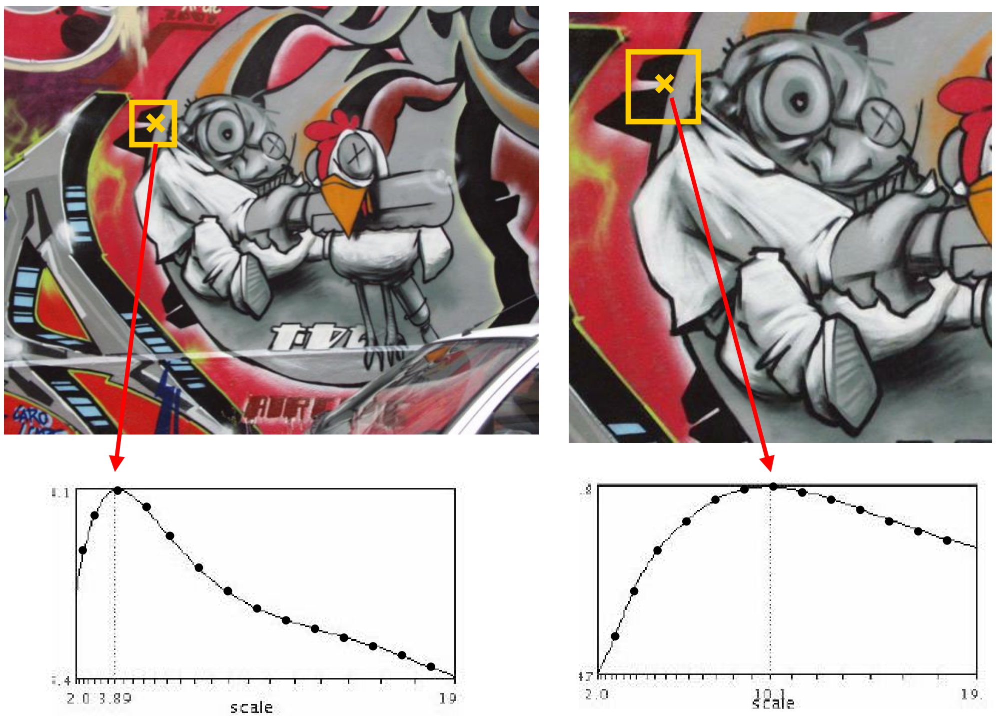
- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



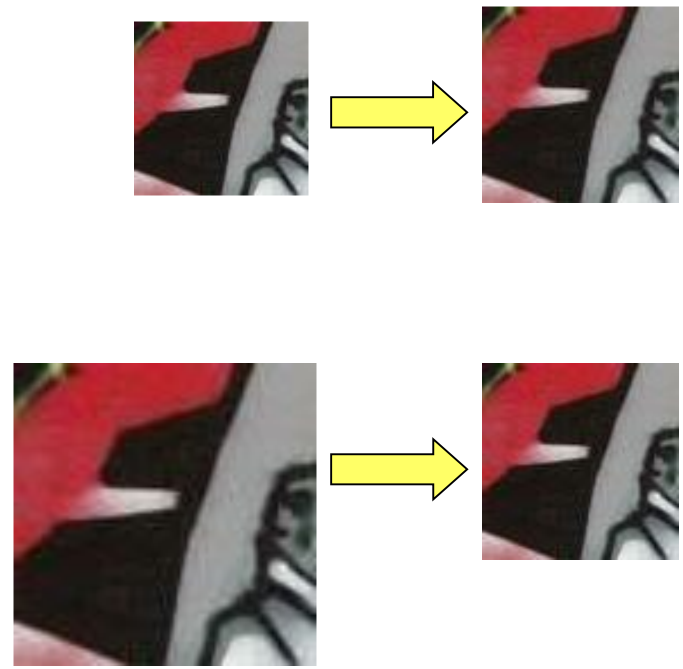
$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x, \sigma))$ $f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x', \sigma'))$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Normalize: Rescale to fixed size

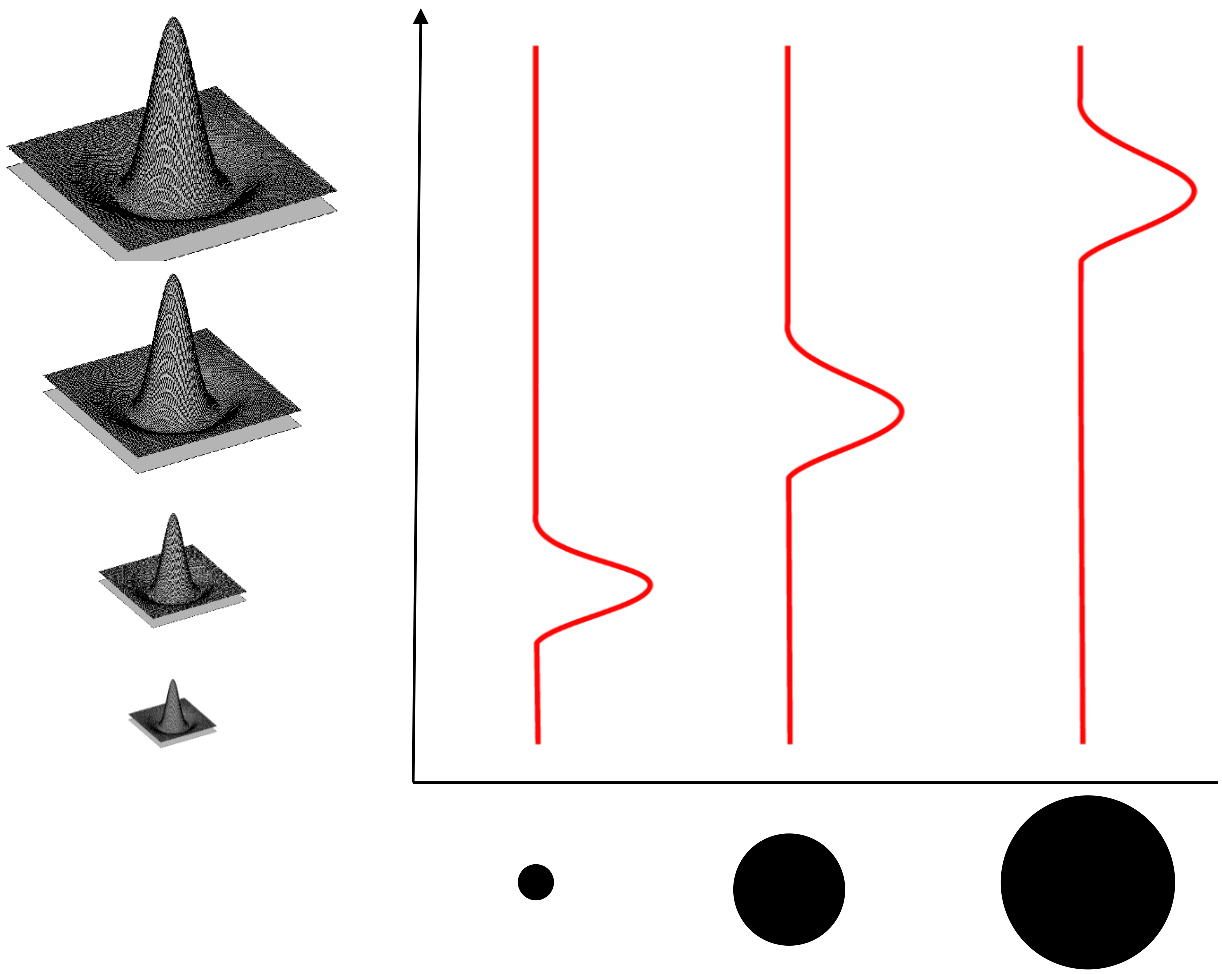


$f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x,\sigma))$ $\quad$ $f(I_{i_1 \ldots i_m}(x',\sigma'))$



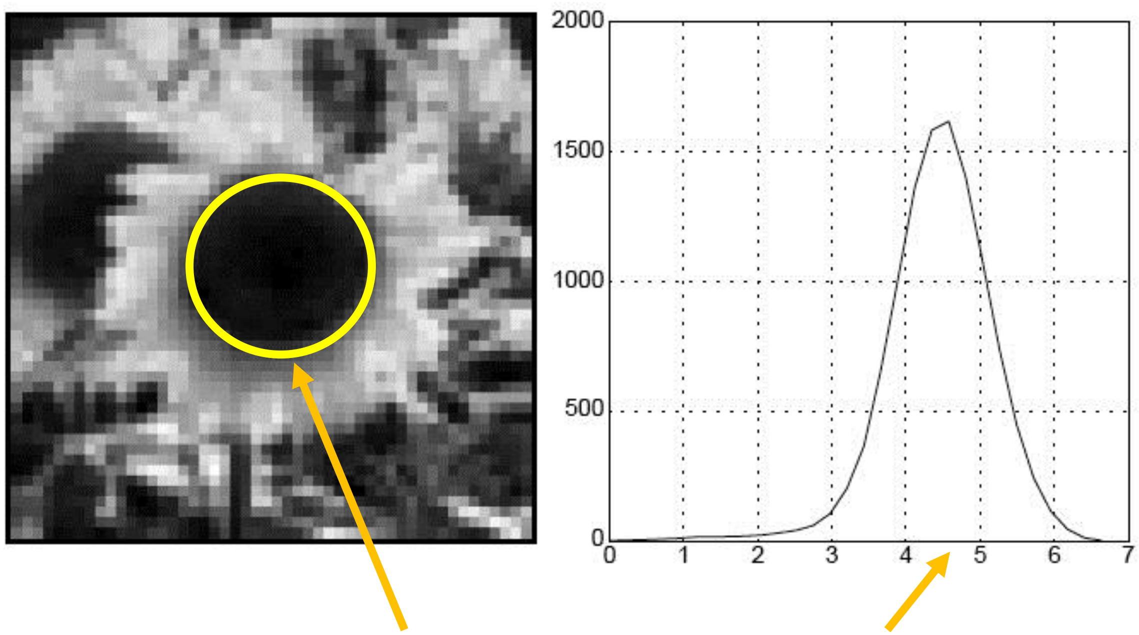
What Is A Useful Signature Function?

- Laplacian-of-Gaussian = "blob" detector



Characteristic Scale

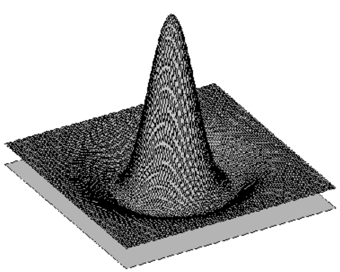
- We define the *characteristic scale* as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response



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

Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

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



$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma)$$

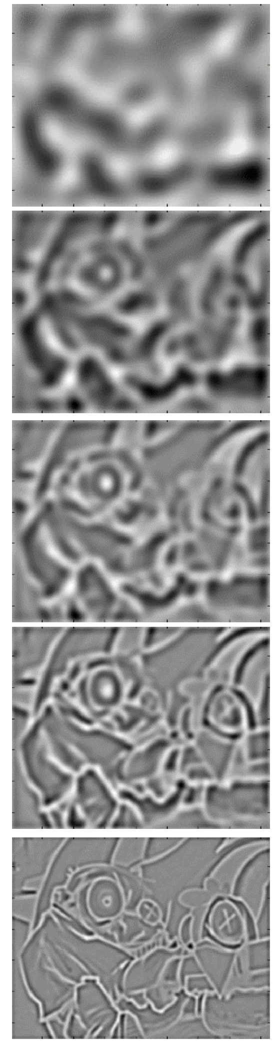
σ^5

σ^4

σ^3

σ^2

σ



Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

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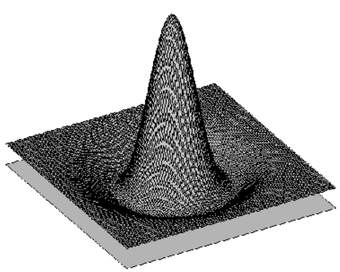
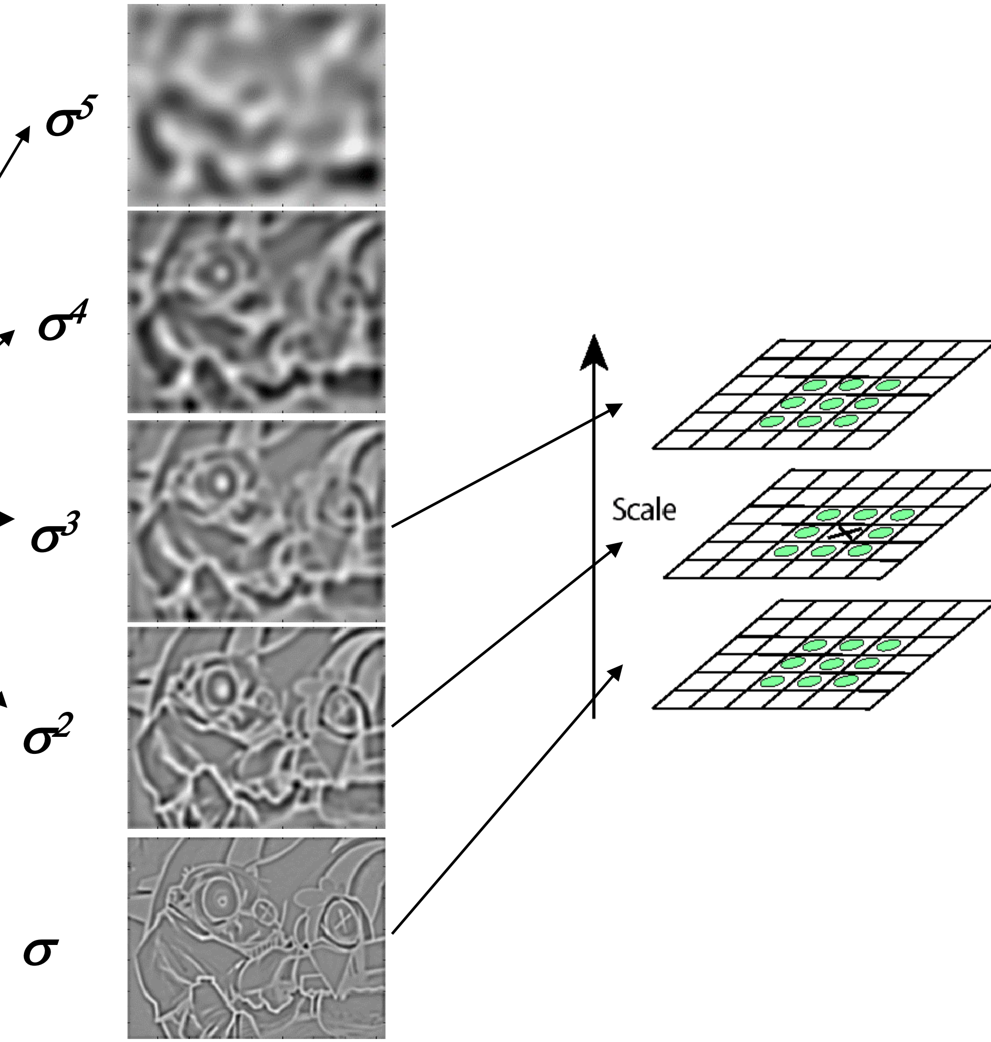


$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma)$$



Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

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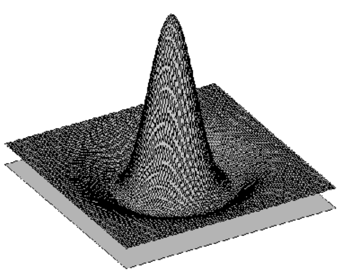
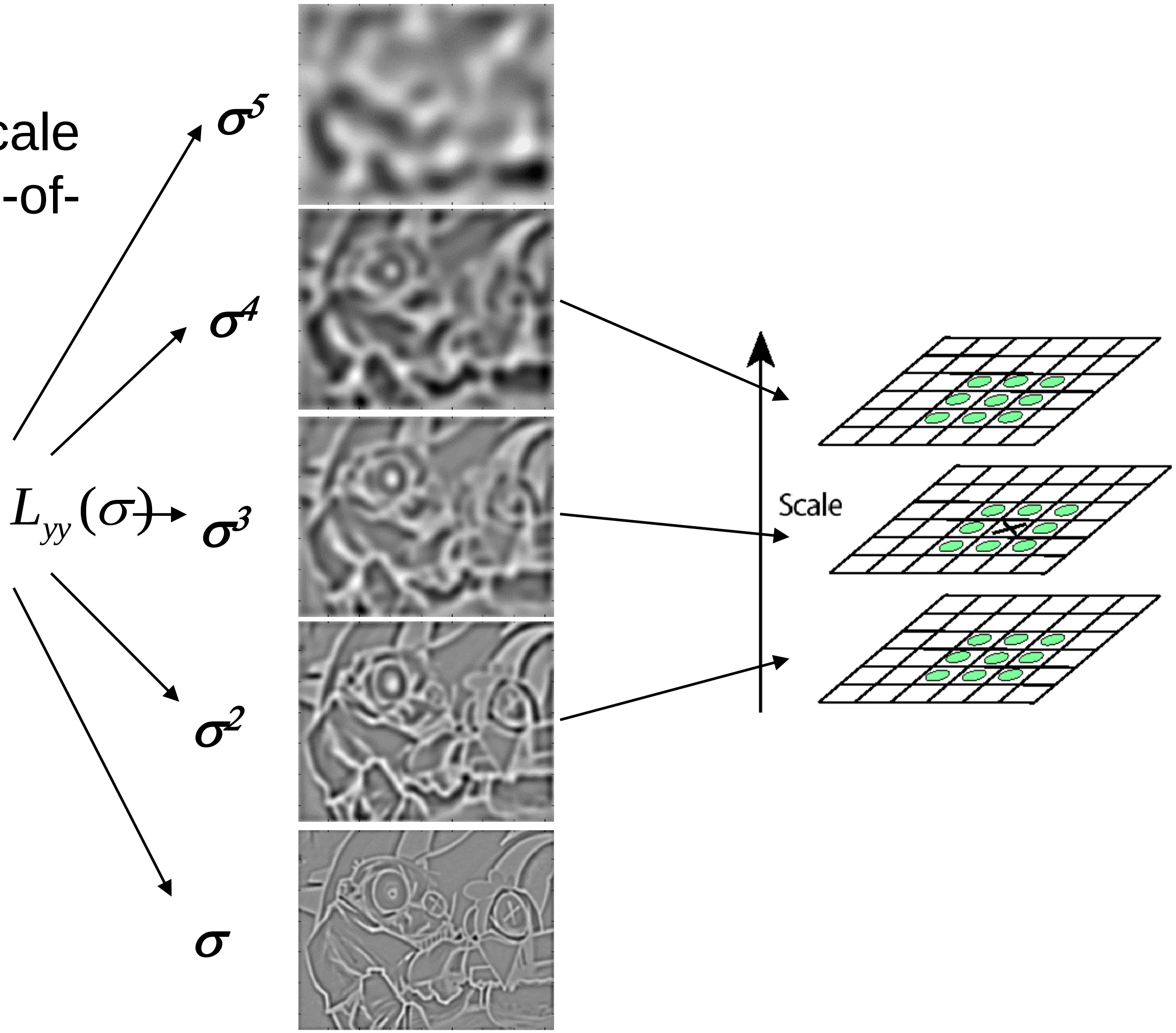


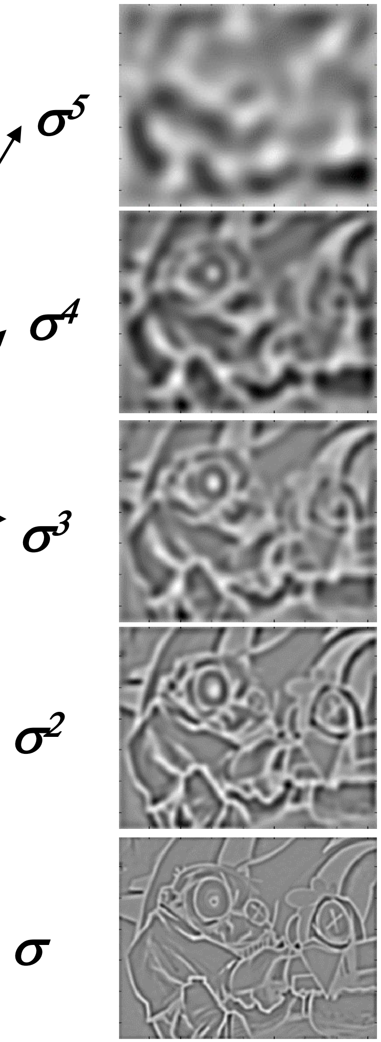
$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma)$$

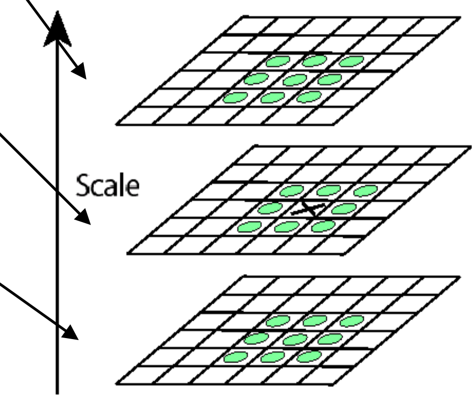


Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)

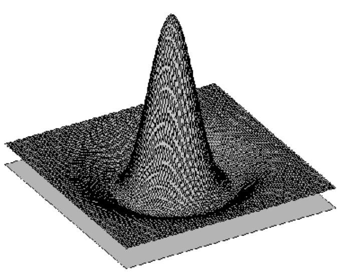
- Interest points:
  - Local maxima in scale space of Laplacian-of-Gaussian

$$L_{xx}(\sigma) + L_{yy}(\sigma)$$





$\Rightarrow$ List of (x, y, σ)



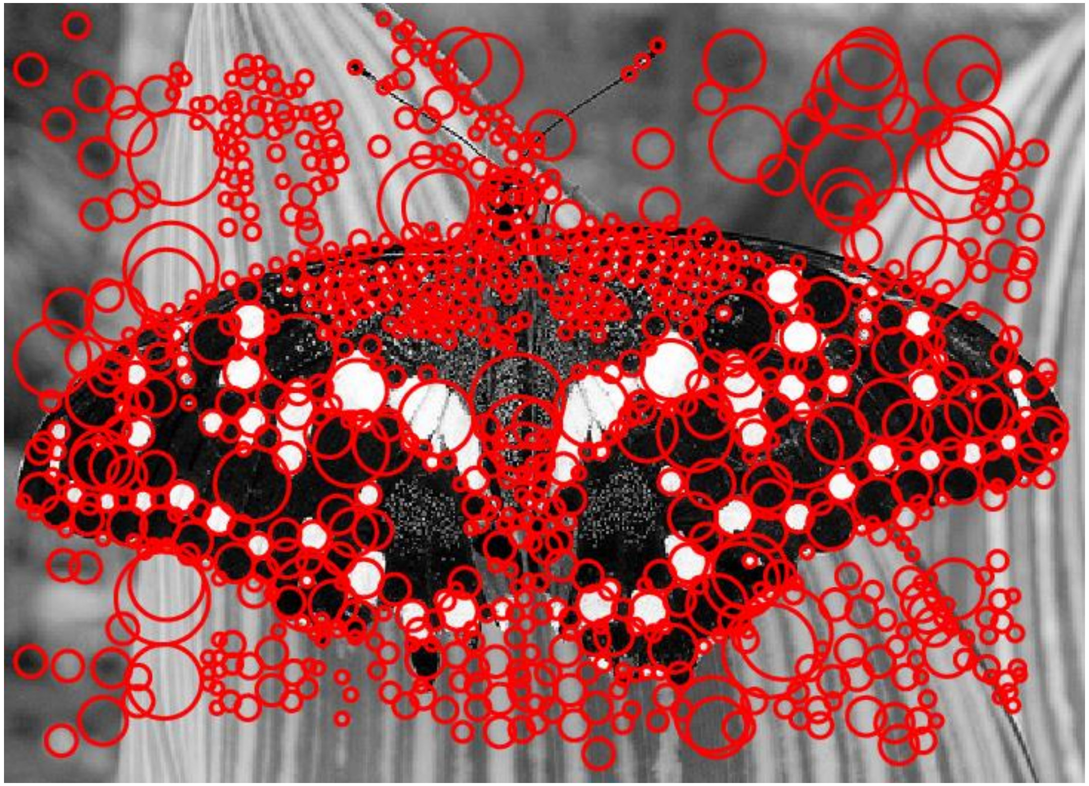
LoG Detector: Workflow

Slide credit: Svetlana Lazebnik

LoG Detector: Workflow

sigma = 11.9912

LoG Detector: Workflow



Technical Detail

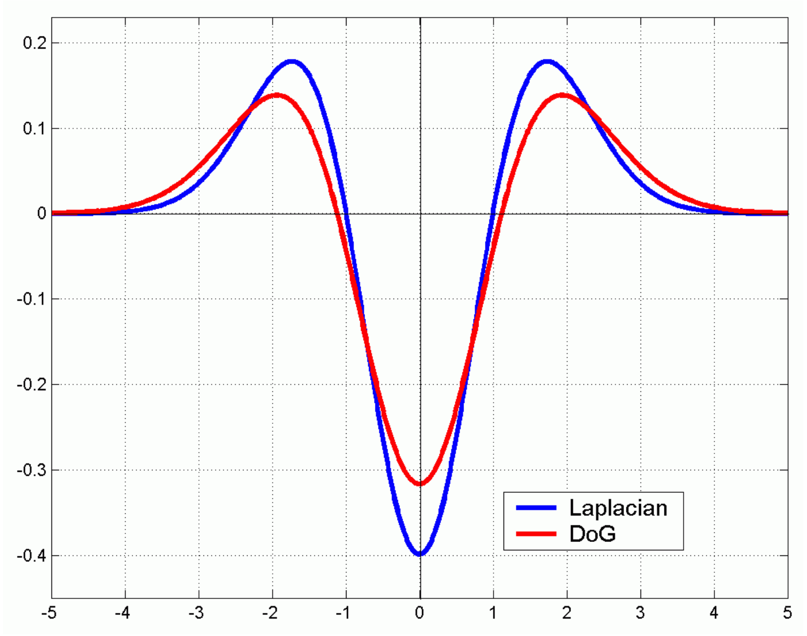
- We can efficiently approximate the Laplacian with a difference of Gaussians:

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

(Laplacian)

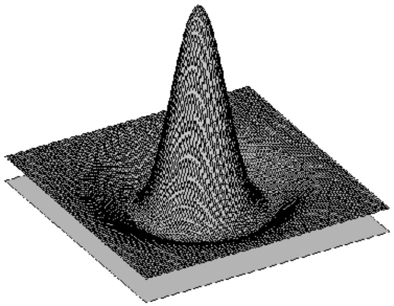
$$DoG = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma)$$

(Difference of Gaussians)



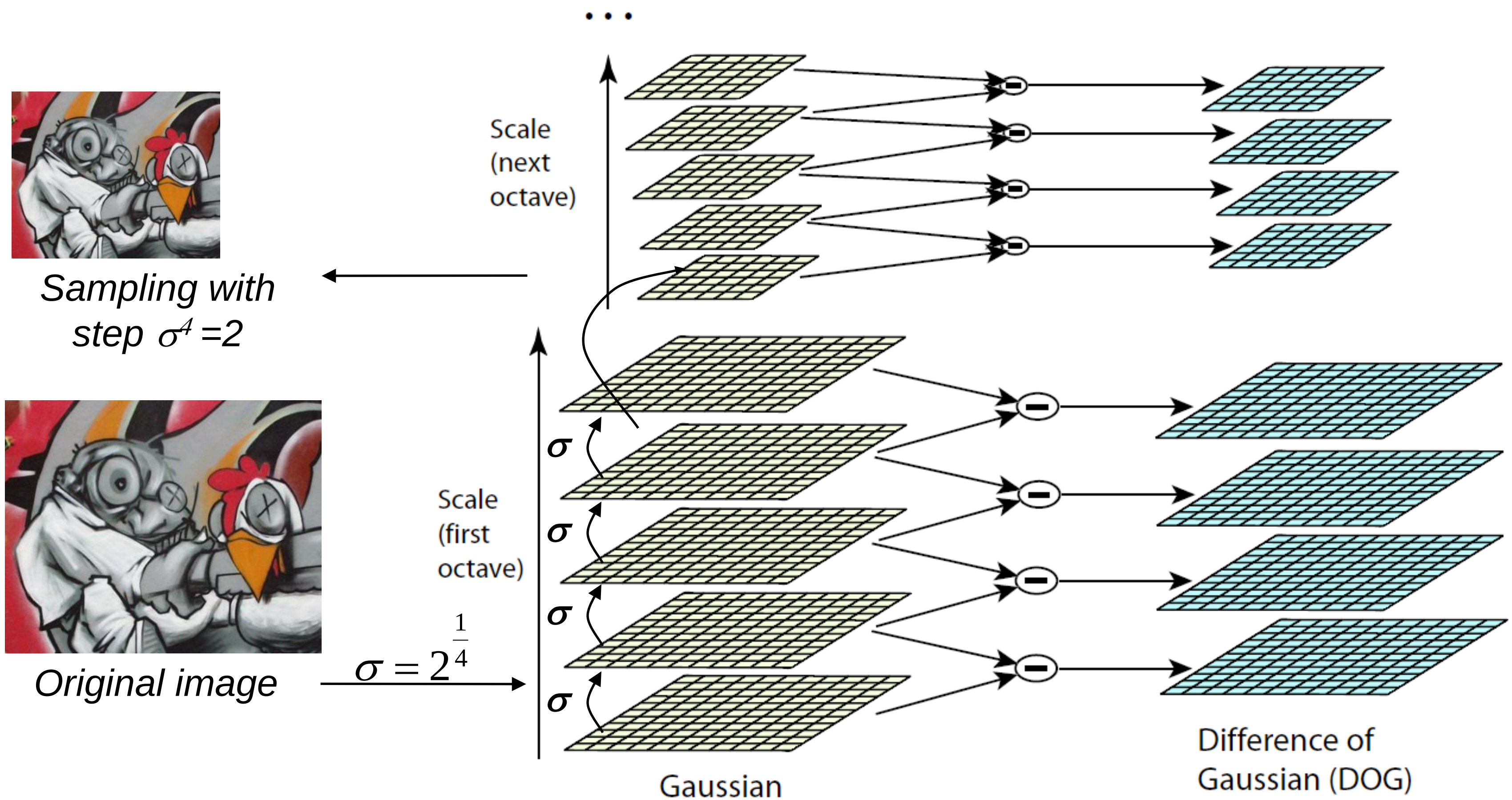
Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG)

- Difference of Gaussians as approximation of the LoG
  - This is used e.g. in Lowe's SIFT pipeline for feature detection.
- Advantages
  - No need to compute 2nd derivatives
  - Gaussians are computed anyway, e.g. in a Gaussian pyramid.



DoG – Efficient Computation

- Computation in Gaussian scale pyramid

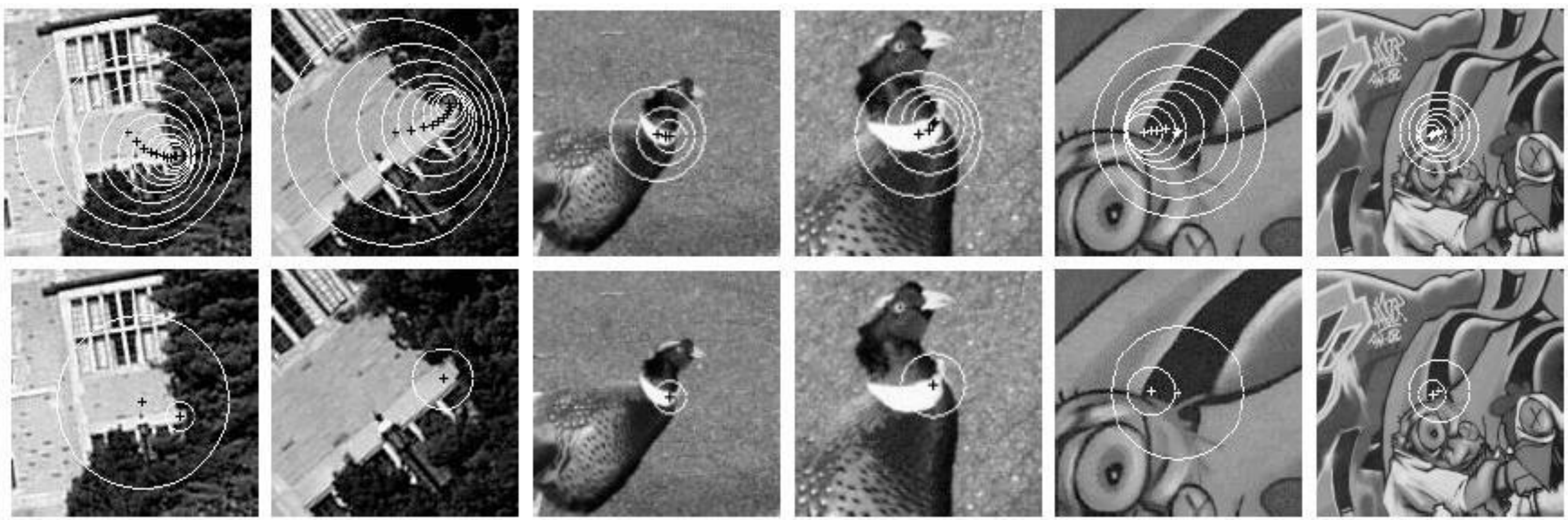


Results: Lowe's DoG

Harris-Laplace [Mikolajczyk '01]

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

Harris points



Harris-Laplace points

Summary: Scale Invariant Detection

- 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).

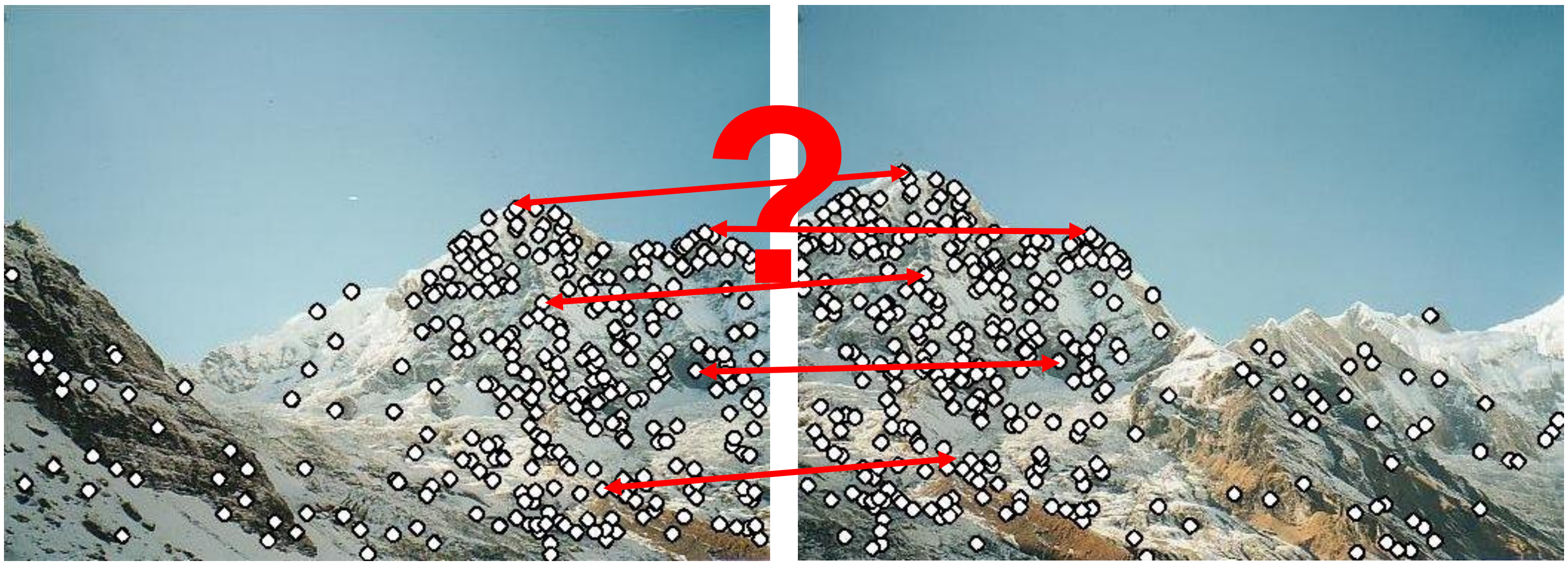
- Two strategies
  - Laplacian-of-Gaussian (LoG)
  - Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG) as a fast approximation

  - *These can be used either on their own, or in combinations with single-scale keypoint detectors (Harris, Hessian).*

Local Descriptors

- We know how to detect points
- Next question:

How to *describe* them for matching?



⇒ *Next lecture…*

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

You Can Try It At Home…

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

Affine Covariant Features

Collaborative work between: the Visual Geometry Group, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Inria Rhone-Alpes and the Center for Machine Perception.

Affine Covariant Region Detectors

Input image

→ Region detector

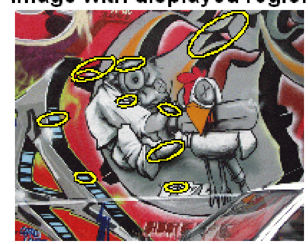
Detector output

format:
1.0
m
$u_1\ v_1\ a_1\ b_1\ c_1$
:
:
$u_m\ v_m\ a_m\ b_m\ c_m$

output example:
img1.haraff

→ display_features.m

Image with displayed regions



Parameters defining an affine region

`u,v,a,b,c` in `a(x-u)(x-u)+2b(x-u)(y-v)+c(y-v)(y-v)=1`
with `(0,0)` at image top left corner

Code

- provided by the authors, see publications for details and links to authors web sites.

Linux binaries	Example of use	Displaying r
Harris-Affine & Hessian-Affine	`prompt>./h_affine.ln -haraff -i img1.ppm -o img1.haraff -thres 1000`	`matlab>> d`
	`prompt>./h_affine.ln -hesaff -i img1.ppm -o img1.hesaff -thres 500`	`matlab>> d`
MSER - Maximaly stable extremal regions (also Windows)	`prompt>./mser.ln -t 2 -es 2 -i img1.ppm -o img1.mser`	`matlab>> d`
IBR - Intensity extrema based detector	`prompt>./ibr.ln img1.ppm img1.ibr -scalefactor 1.0`	`matlab>> d`
EBR - Edge based detector	`prompt> ./ebr.ln img1.ppm img1.ebr`	`matlab>> d`
Salient region detector	`prompt>./salient.ln img1.ppm img1.sal`	`matlab>> d`

http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine/detectors.html#binaries

References and Further Reading

- Read David Lowe's SIFT paper
  - D. Lowe,
    Distinctive image features from scale-invariant keypoints,
    IJCV 60(2), pp. 91-110, 2004

- Good survey paper on Int. Pt. detectors and descriptors
  - T. Tuytelaars, K. Mikolajczyk*, Local Invariant Feature Detectors: A Survey,* Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp 177-280, 2008.

- Try the example code, binaries, and Matlab wrappers
  - Good starting point: Oxford interest point page
    http://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/research/affine/detectors.html#binaries