

Interest Points and Corners

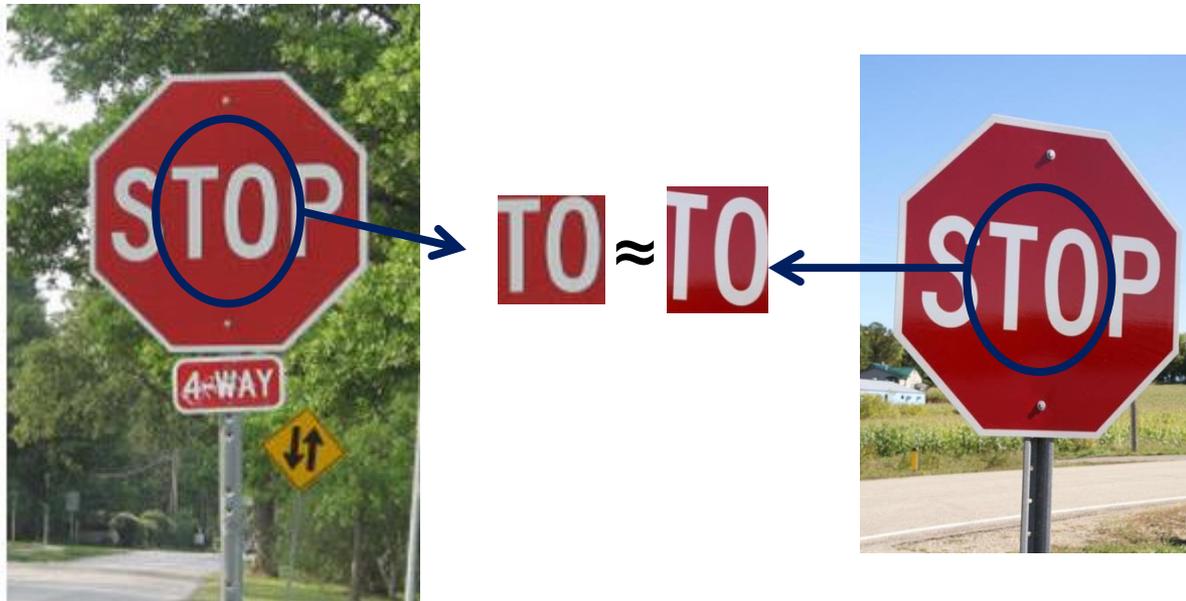
Read Szeliski 4.1

Computer Vision

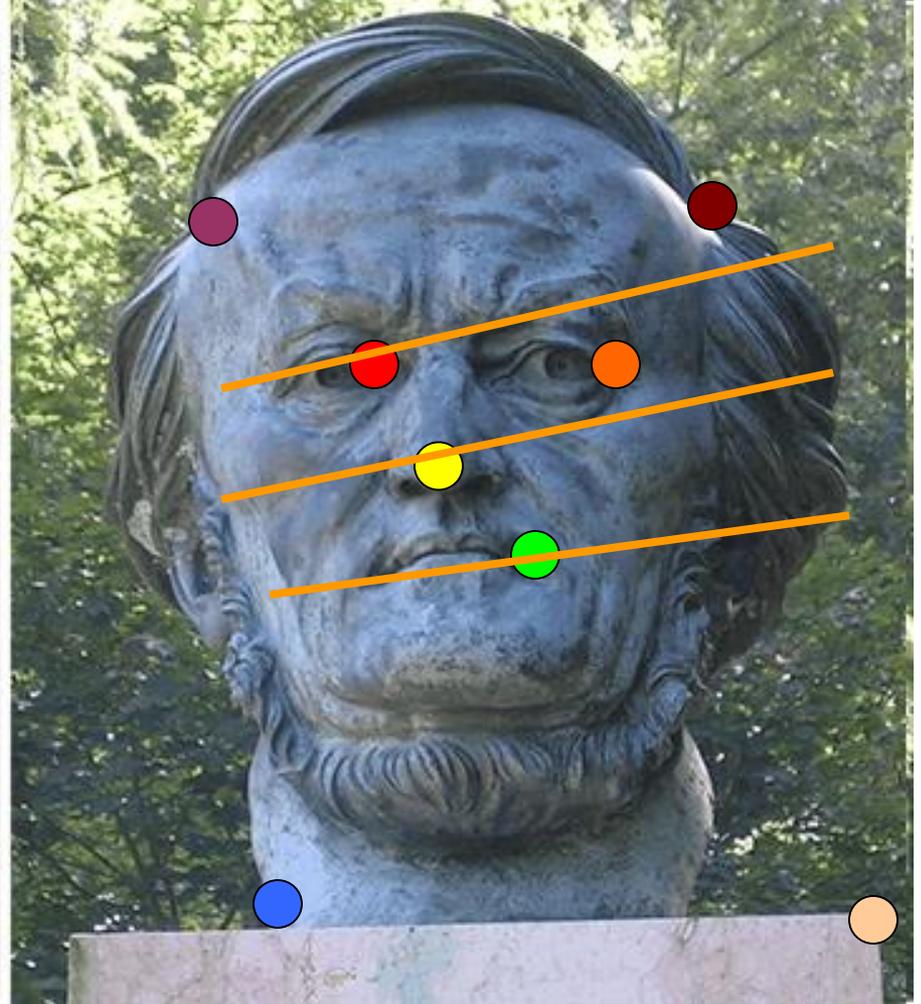
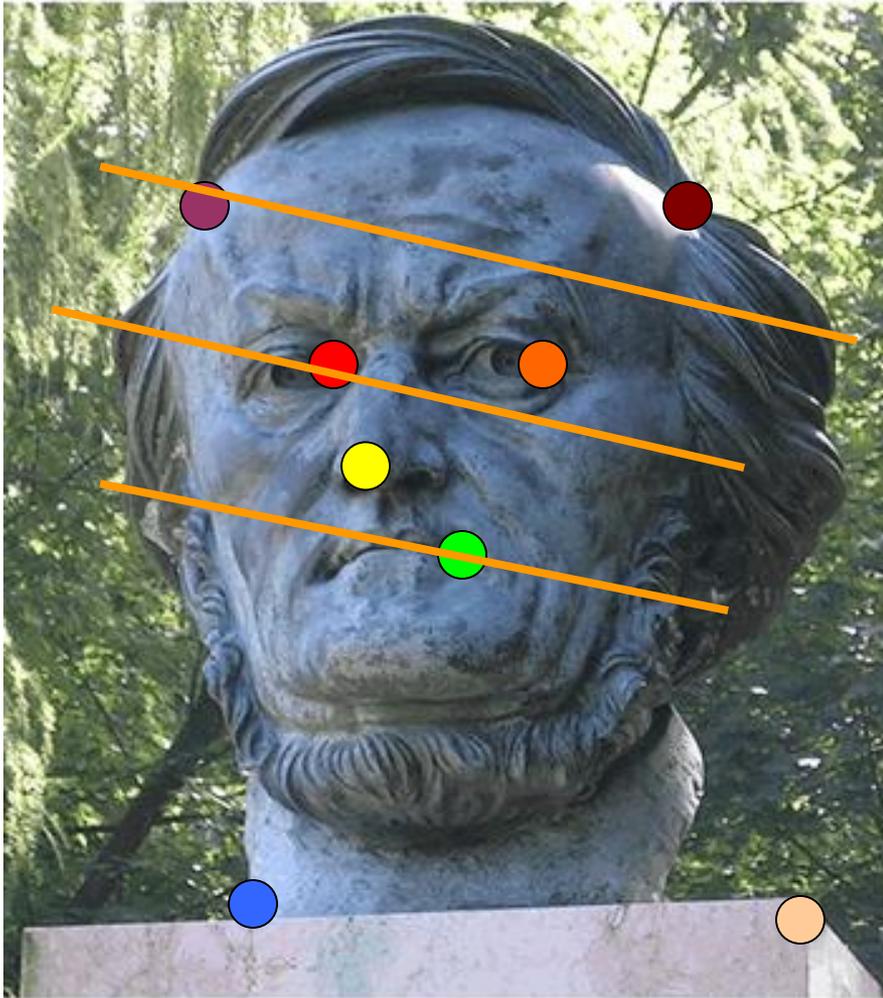
James Hays

Correspondence across views

- Correspondence: matching points, patches, edges, or regions across images



Example: estimating “fundamental matrix” that corresponds two views



Example: structure from motion



Applications

- Feature points are used for:
 - Image alignment
 - 3D reconstruction
 - Motion tracking
 - Robot navigation
 - Indexing and database retrieval
 - Object recognition

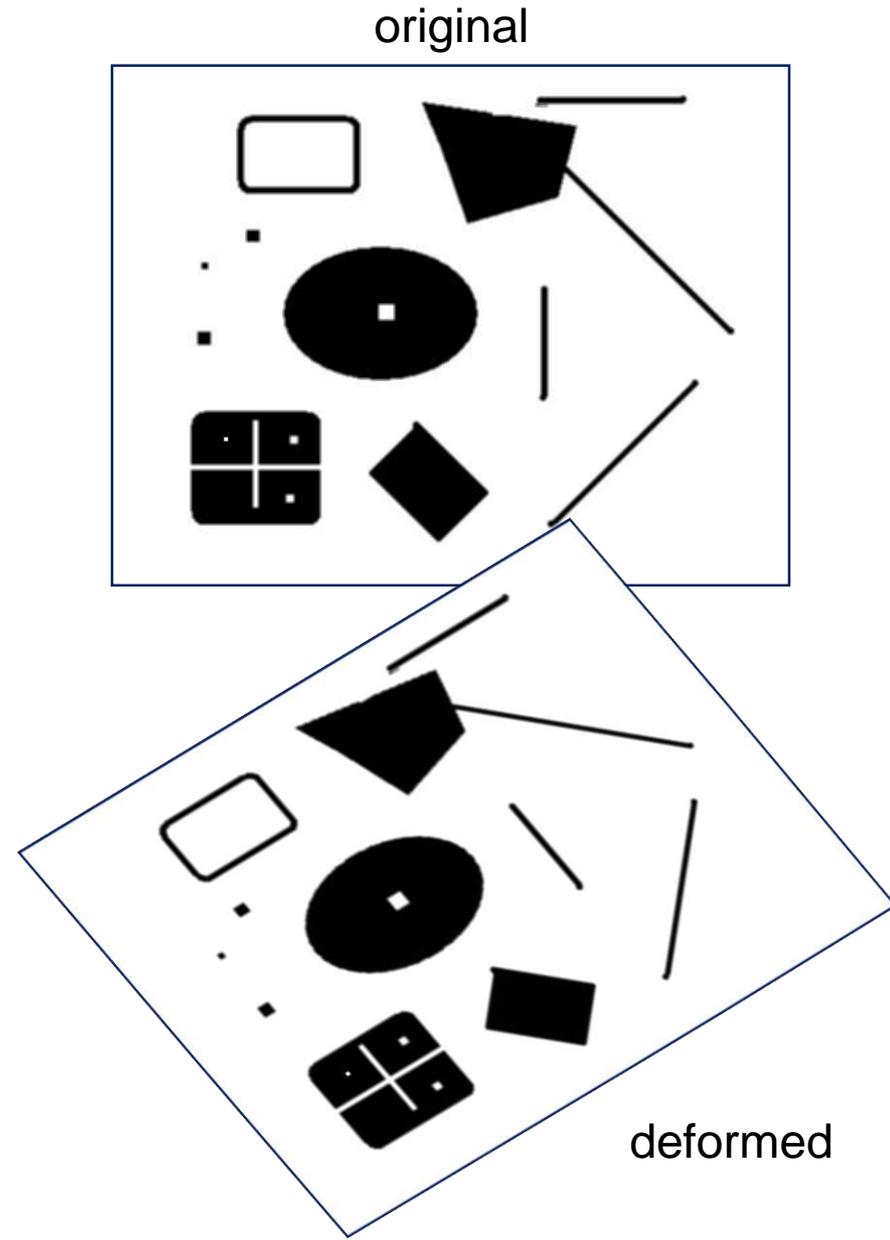


This class: interest points (continued) and local features

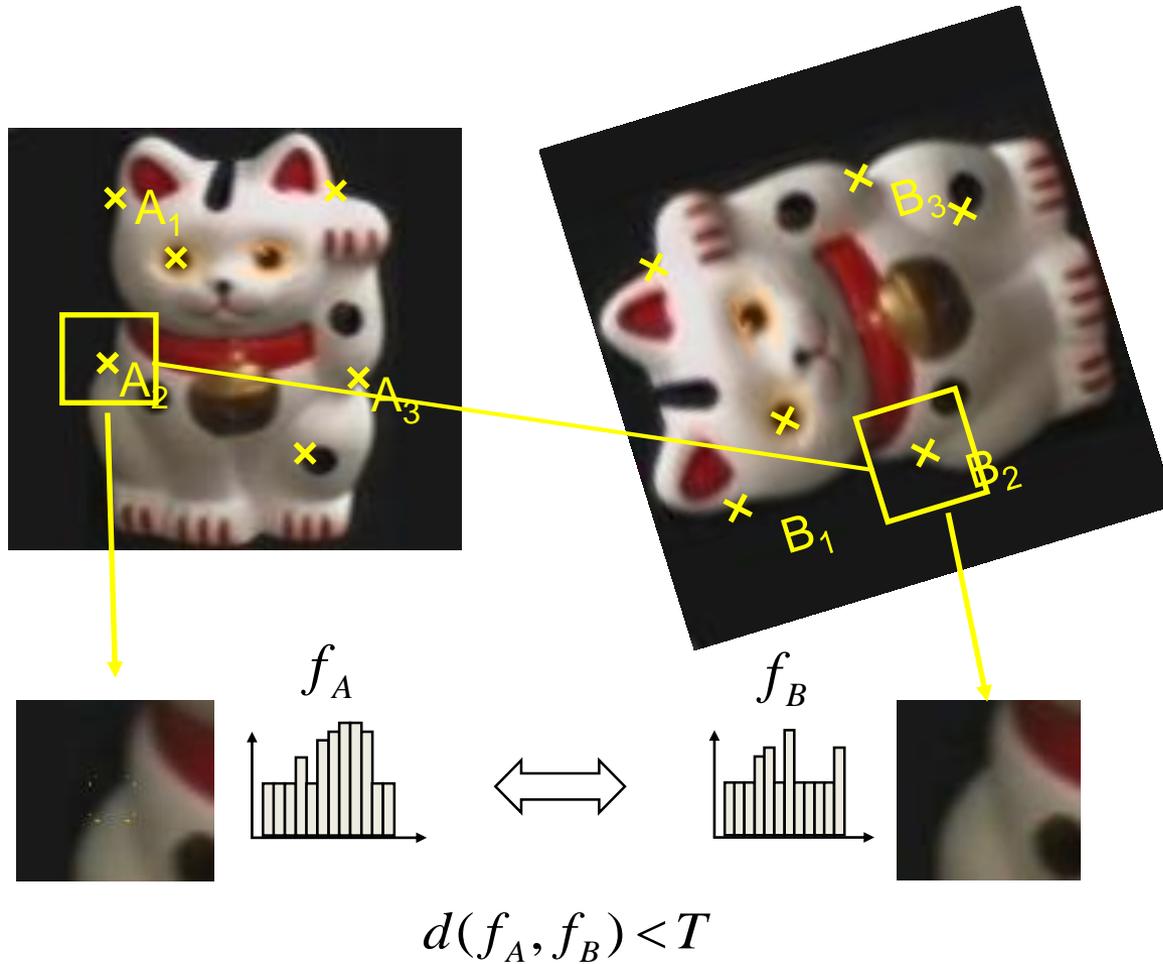
- Note: “interest points” = “keypoints”, also sometimes called “features”

This class: interest points

- Suppose you have to click on some point, go away and come back after I deform the image, and click on the same points again.
 - Which points would you choose?



Overview of Keypoint Matching



1. Find a set of distinctive keypoints

2. Define a region around each keypoint

3. Compute a local descriptor from the normalized region

4. Match local descriptors

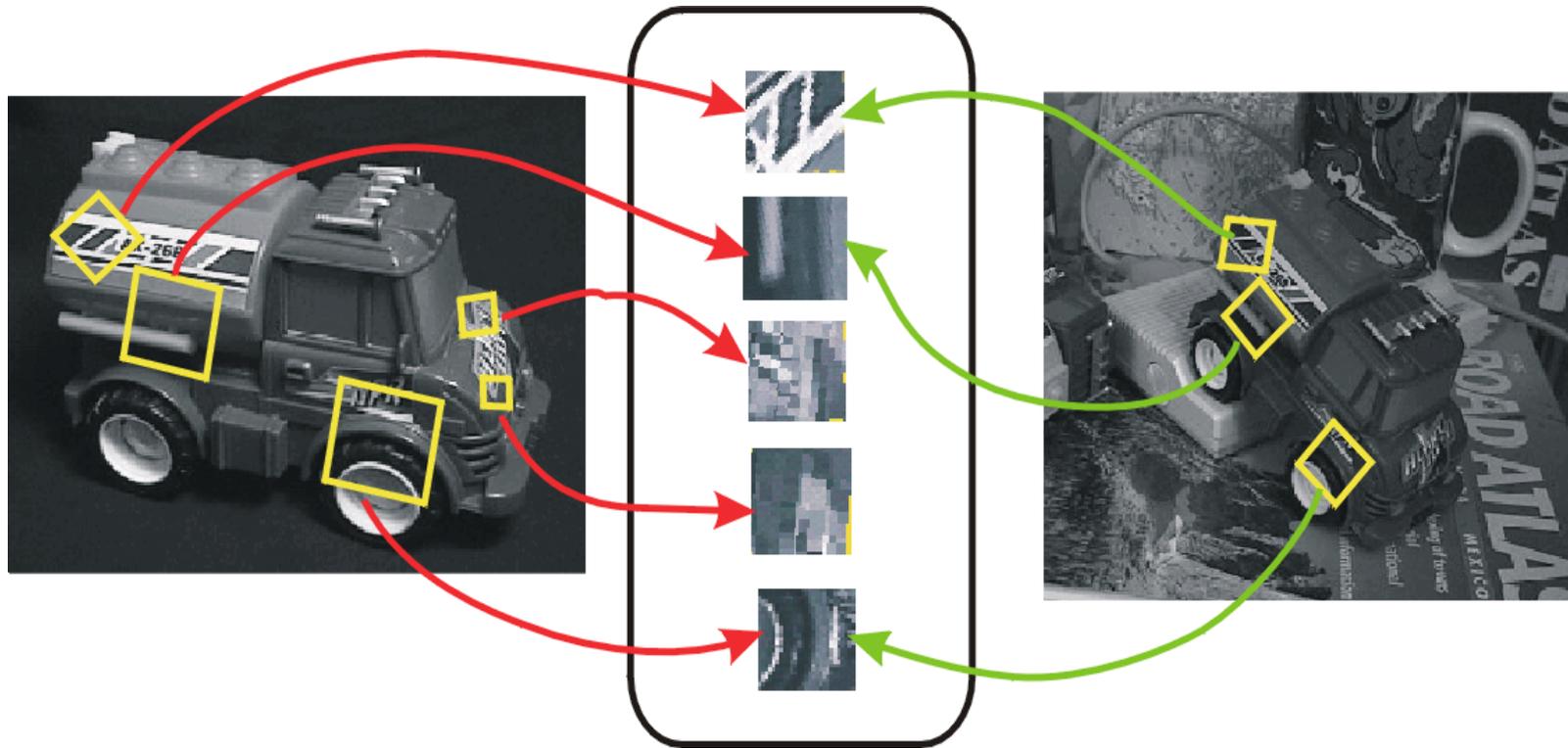
Goals for Keypoints



Detect points that are *repeatable* and *distinctive*

Invariant Local Features

Image content is transformed into local feature coordinates that are invariant to translation, rotation, scale, and other imaging parameters



Features Descriptors

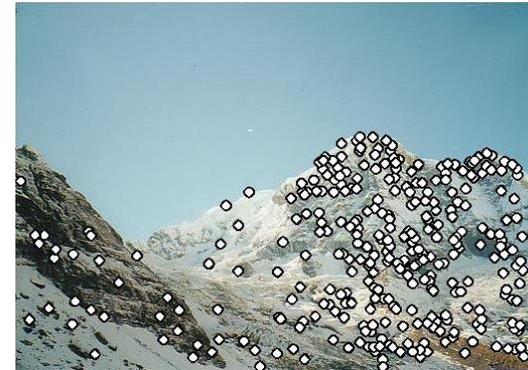
Why extract features?

- Motivation: panorama stitching
 - We have two images – how do we combine them?



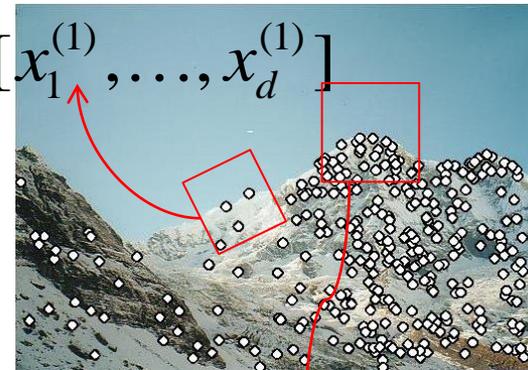
Local features: main components

1) Detection: Identify the interest points



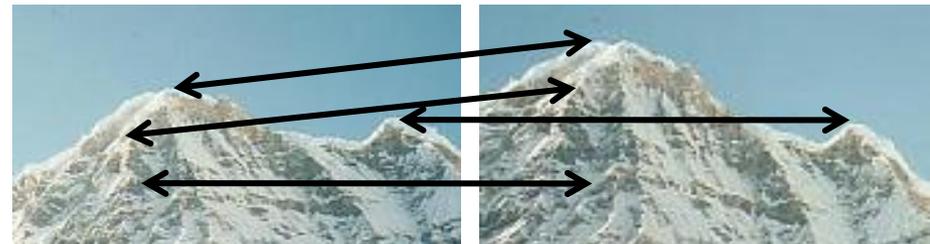
2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = [x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_d^{(1)}]$$

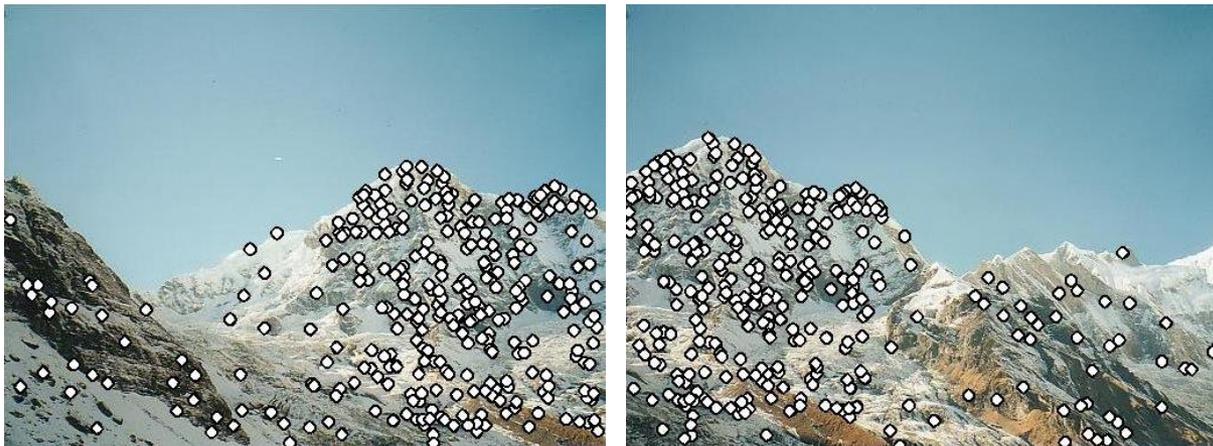


$$\mathbf{x}_2 = [x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_d^{(2)}]$$

3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views



Characteristics of good features



- **Repeatability**
 - The same feature can be found in several images despite geometric and photometric transformations
- **Saliency**
 - Each feature is distinctive
- **Compactness and efficiency**
 - Many fewer features than image pixels
- **Locality**
 - A feature occupies a relatively small area of the image; robust to clutter and occlusion

Goal: interest operator repeatability

- We want to detect (at least some of) the same points in both images.

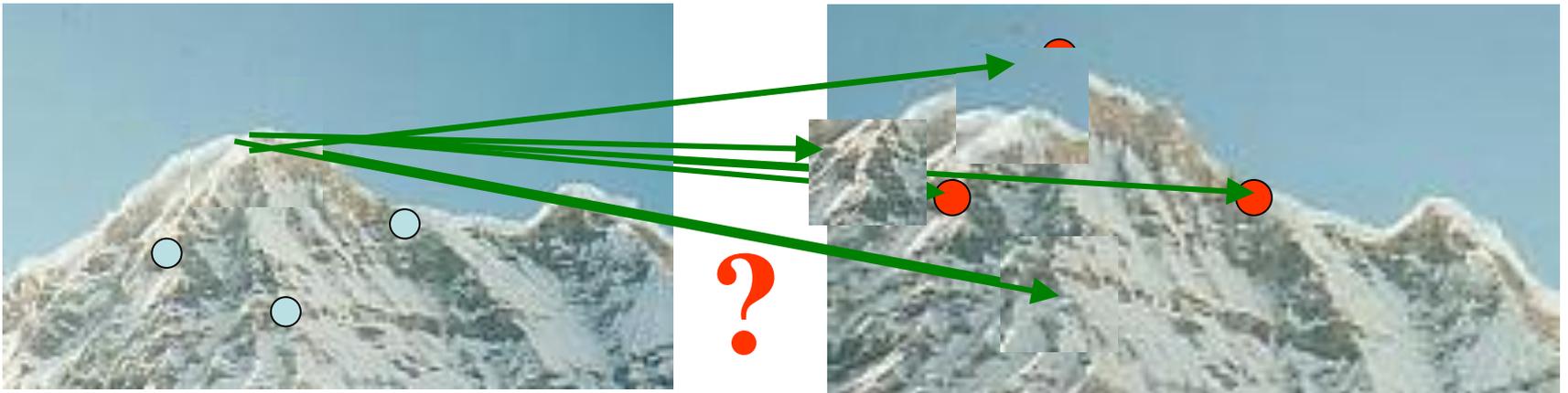


No chance to find true matches!

- Yet we have to be able to run the detection procedure *independently* per image.

Goal: descriptor distinctiveness

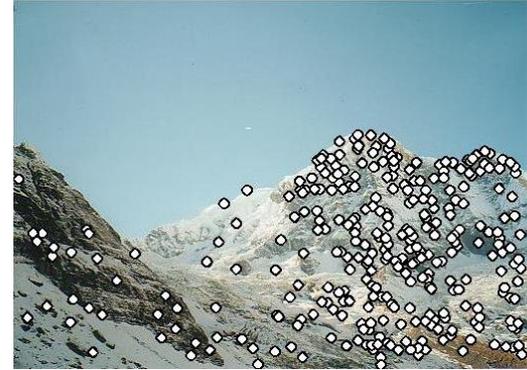
- We want to be able to reliably determine which point goes with which.



- Must provide some invariance to geometric and photometric differences between the two views.

Local features: main components

- 1) Detection: Identify the interest points
- 2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.
- 3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views



Many Existing Detectors Available

Hessian & Harris

Laplacian, DoG

Harris-/Hessian-Laplace

Harris-/Hessian-Affine

EBR and IBR

MSER

Salient Regions

Others...

[Beaudet '78], [Harris '88]

[Lindeberg '98], [Lowe 1999]

[Mikolajczyk & Schmid '01]

[Mikolajczyk & Schmid '04]

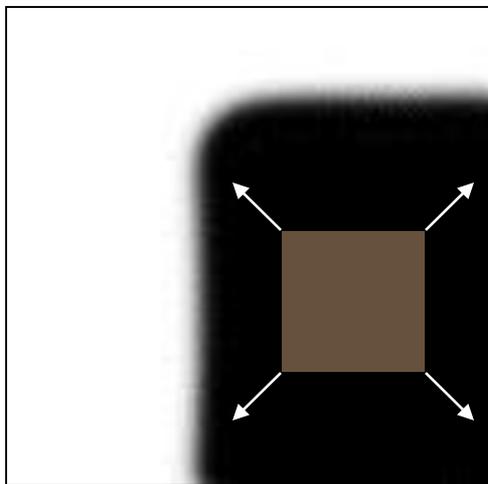
[Tuytelaars & Van Gool '04]

[Matas '02]

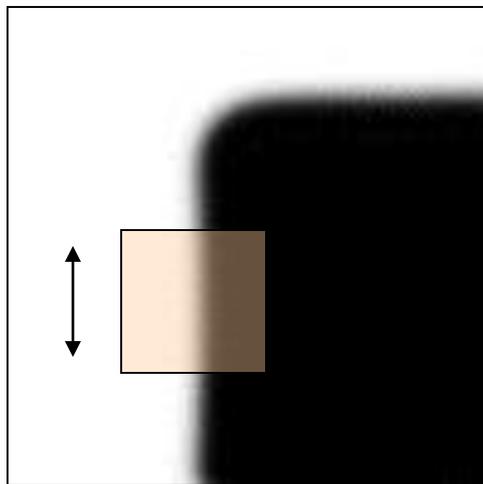
[Kadir & Brady '01]

Corner Detection: Basic Idea

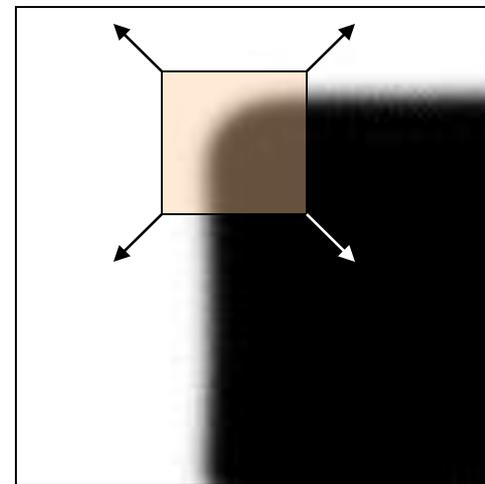
- We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window
- Shifting a window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity



“flat” region:
no change in
all directions



“edge”:
no change
along the edge
direction

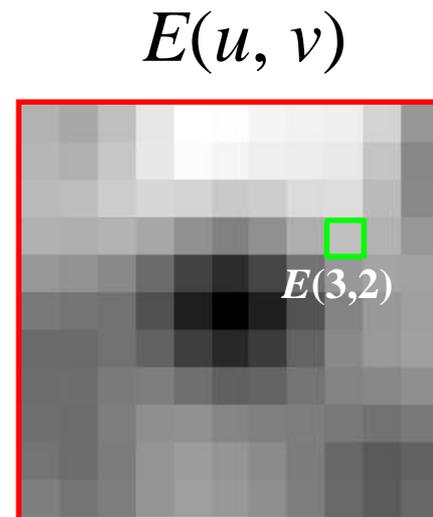
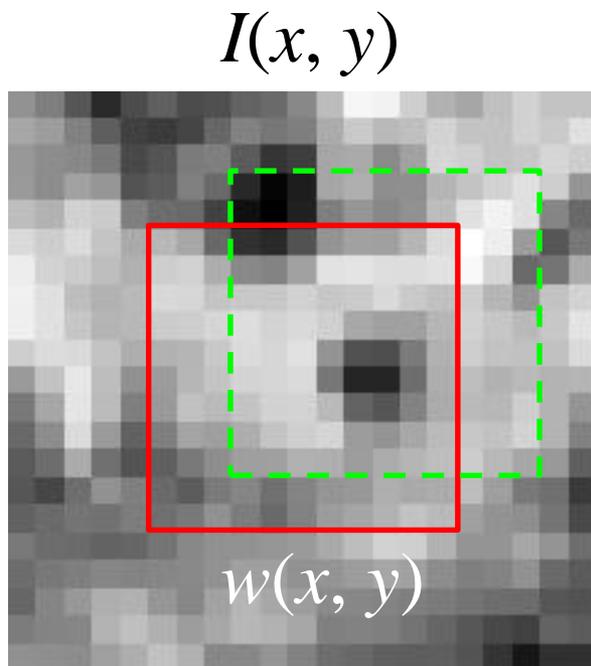


“corner”:
significant
change in all
directions

Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

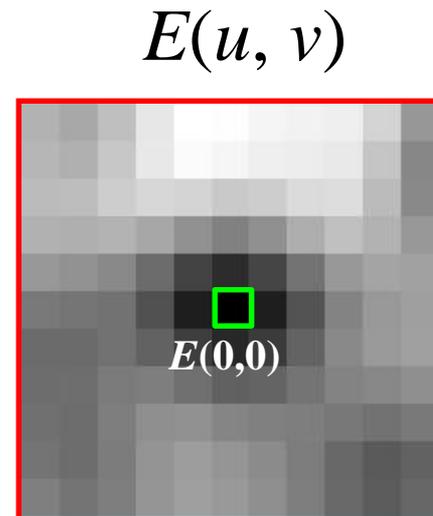
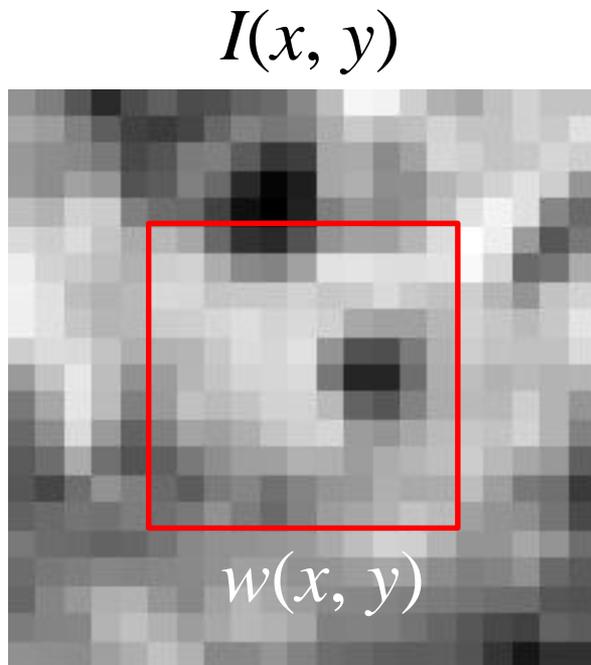
$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x, y) [I(x+u, y+v) - I(x, y)]^2$$



Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

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



Corner Detection: Mathematics

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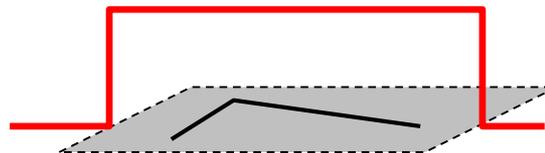
$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) [I(x+u, y+v) - I(x, y)]^2$$

Window
function

Shifted
intensity

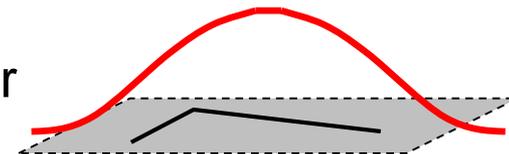
Intensity

Window function $w(x,y) =$



1 in window, 0 outside

or



Gaussian

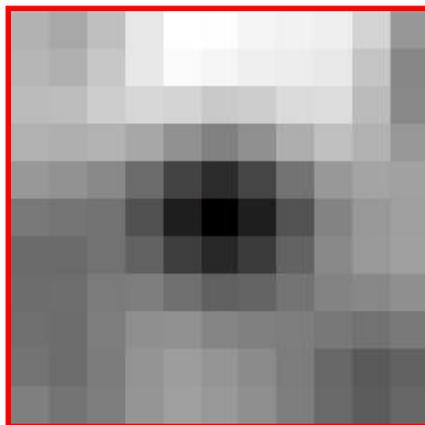
Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

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

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

$E(u, v)$



Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

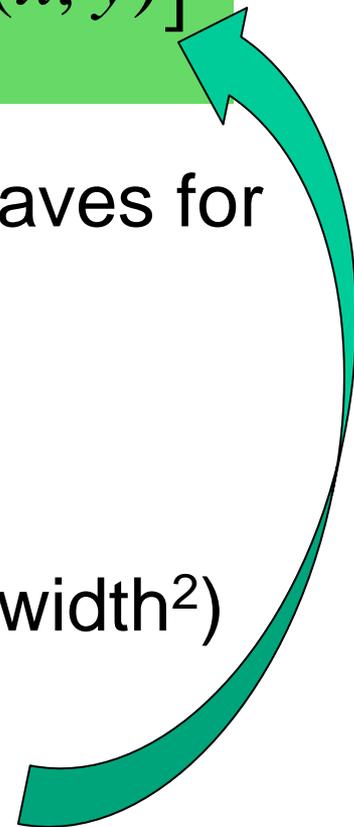
$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x,y} w(x, y) [I(x+u, y+v) - I(x, y)]^2$$

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

But this is very slow to compute naively.

$O(\text{window_width}^2 * \text{shift_range}^2 * \text{image_width}^2)$

$O(11^2 * 11^2 * 600^2) = 5.2$ billion of these
14.6 thousand per pixel in your image



Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

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

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

Recall Taylor series expansion. A function f can be approximated at point a as

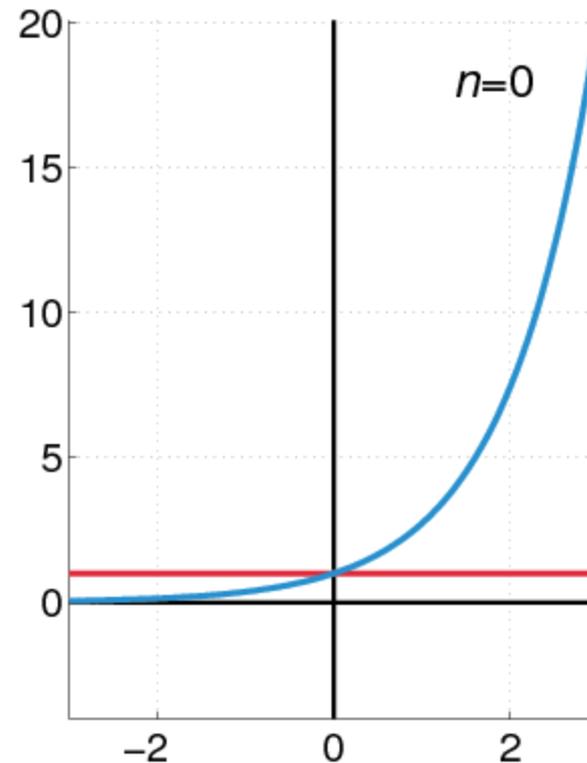
$$f(a) + \frac{f'(a)}{1!}(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

Recall: Taylor series expansion

A function f can be approximated as

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

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



Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

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

We want to find out how this function behaves for small shifts

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

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

Corner Detection: Mathematics

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

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

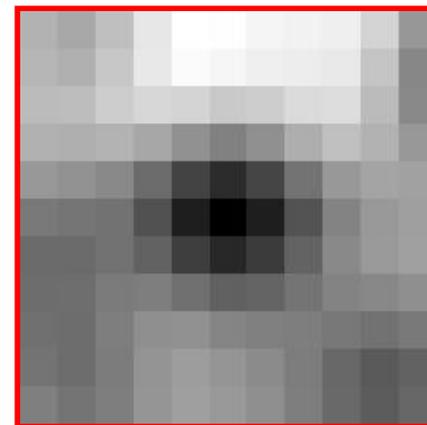


Always 0



First
derivative
is 0

$E(u,v)$



Corner Detection: Mathematics

The quadratic approximation simplifies to

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

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

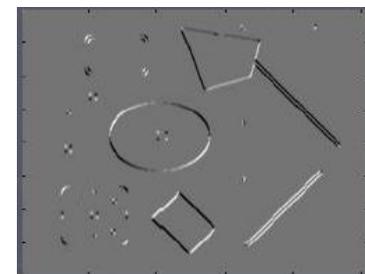
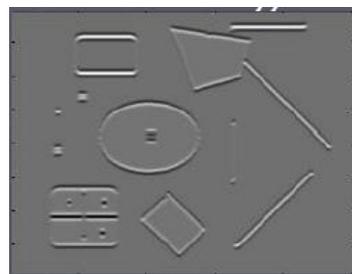
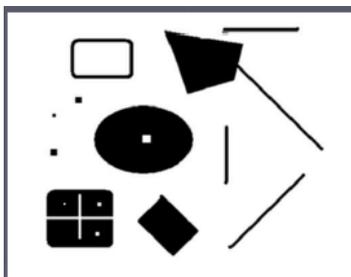
$$M = \sum_{x,y} w(x, y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

Corners as distinctive interest points

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

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



Notation:

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

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

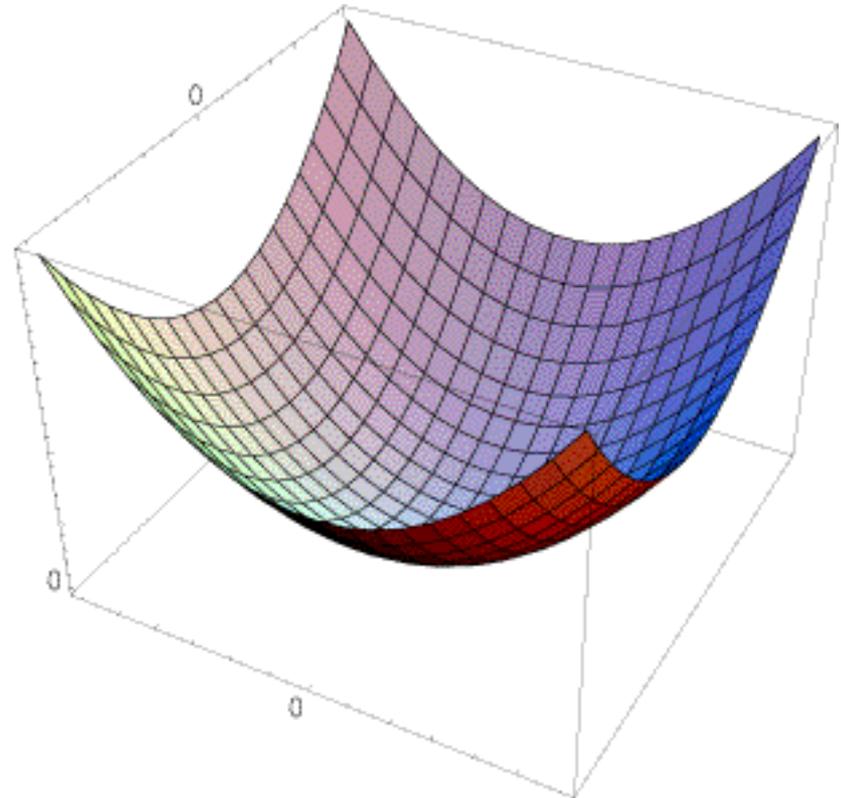
$$I_x I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$$

Interpreting the second moment matrix

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

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

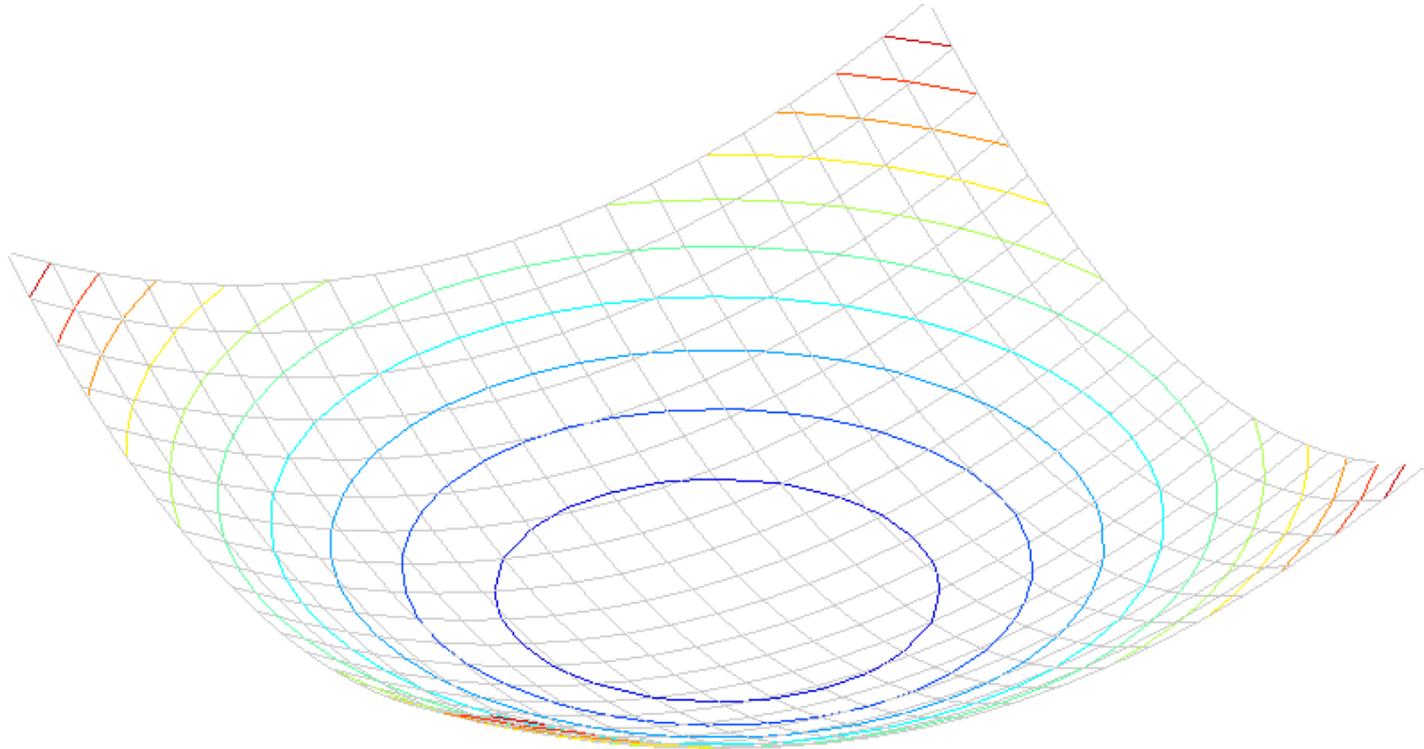
$$M = \sum_{x, y} w(x, y) \begin{bmatrix} I_x^2 & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



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.



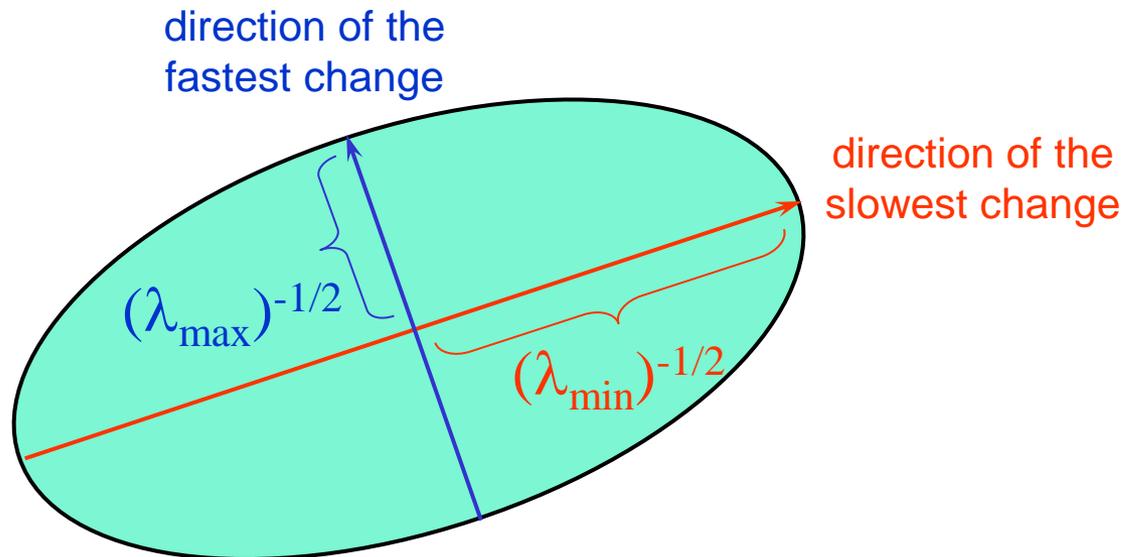
Interpreting the second moment matrix

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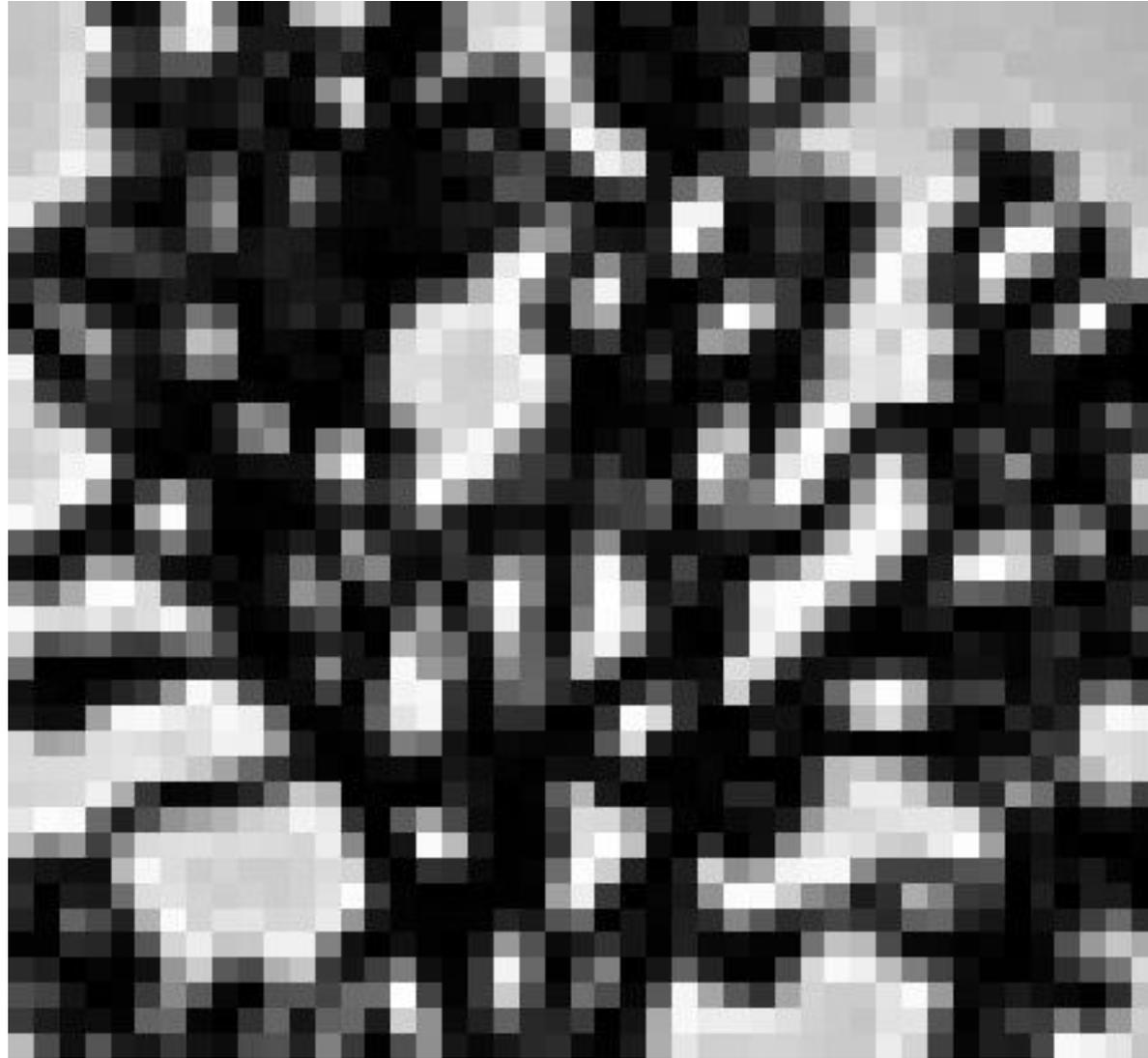
This is the equation of an ellipse.

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

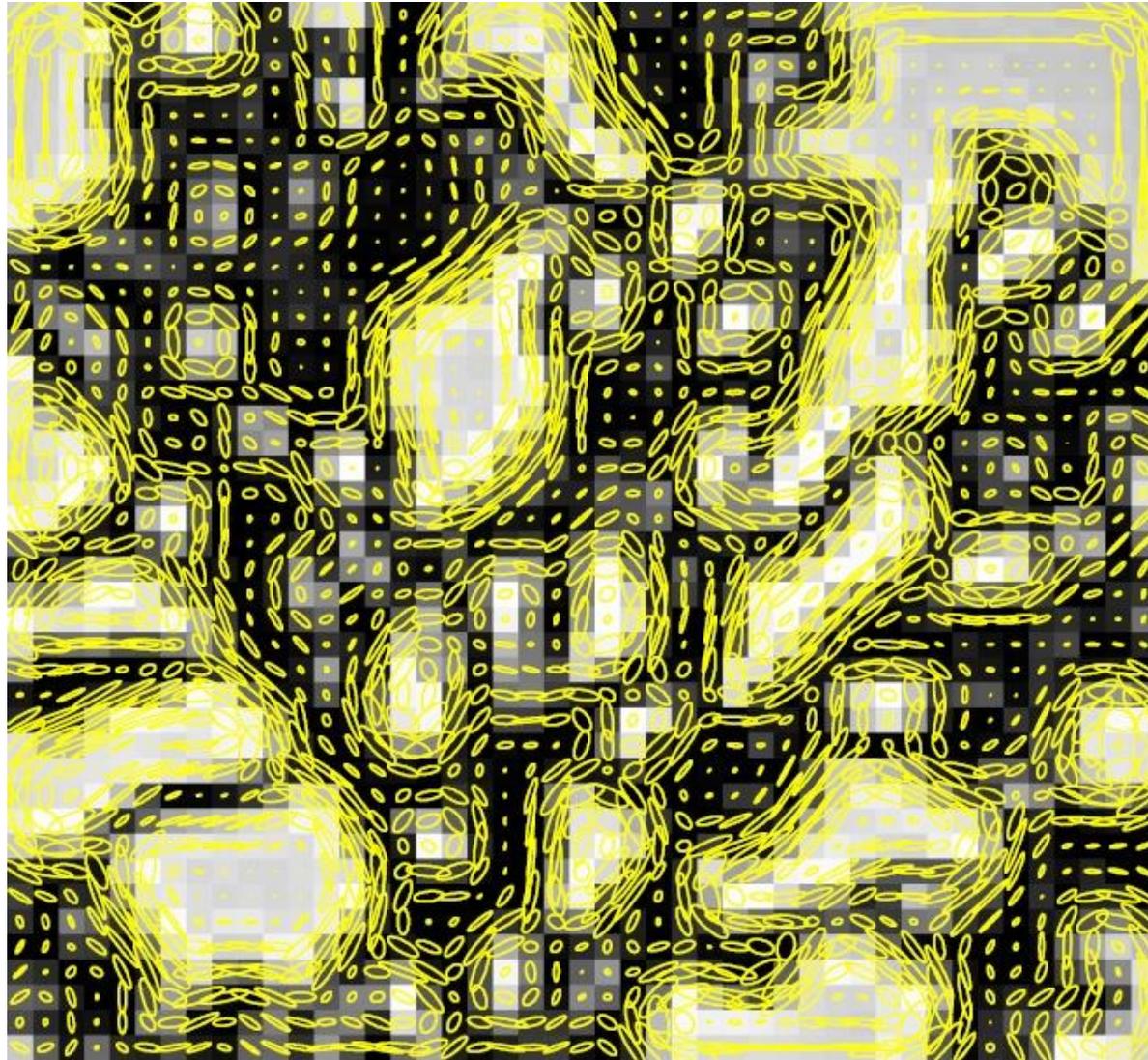
The axis lengths of the ellipse are determined by the eigenvalues and the orientation is determined by R



Visualization of second moment matrices

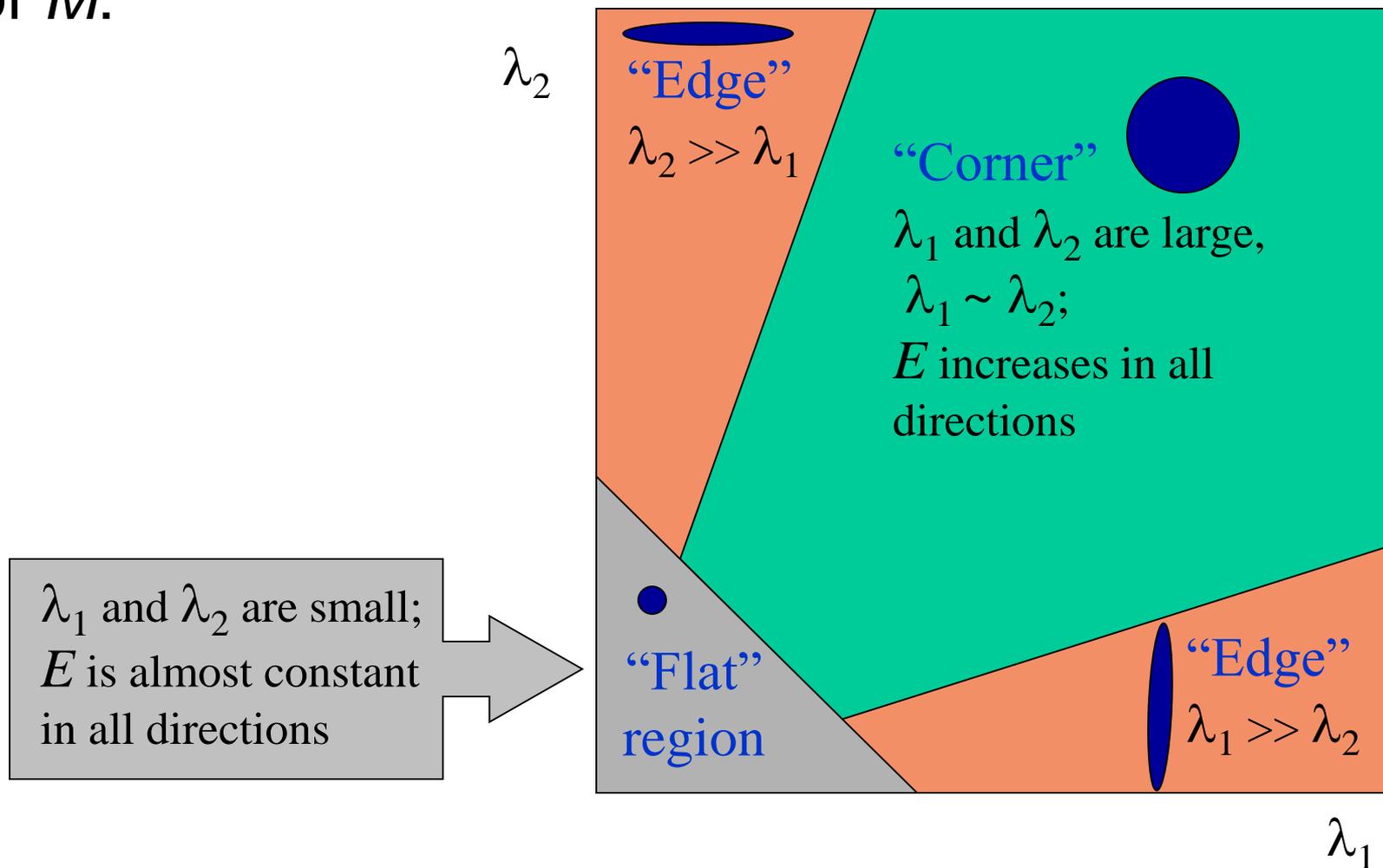


Visualization of second moment matrices



Interpreting the eigenvalues

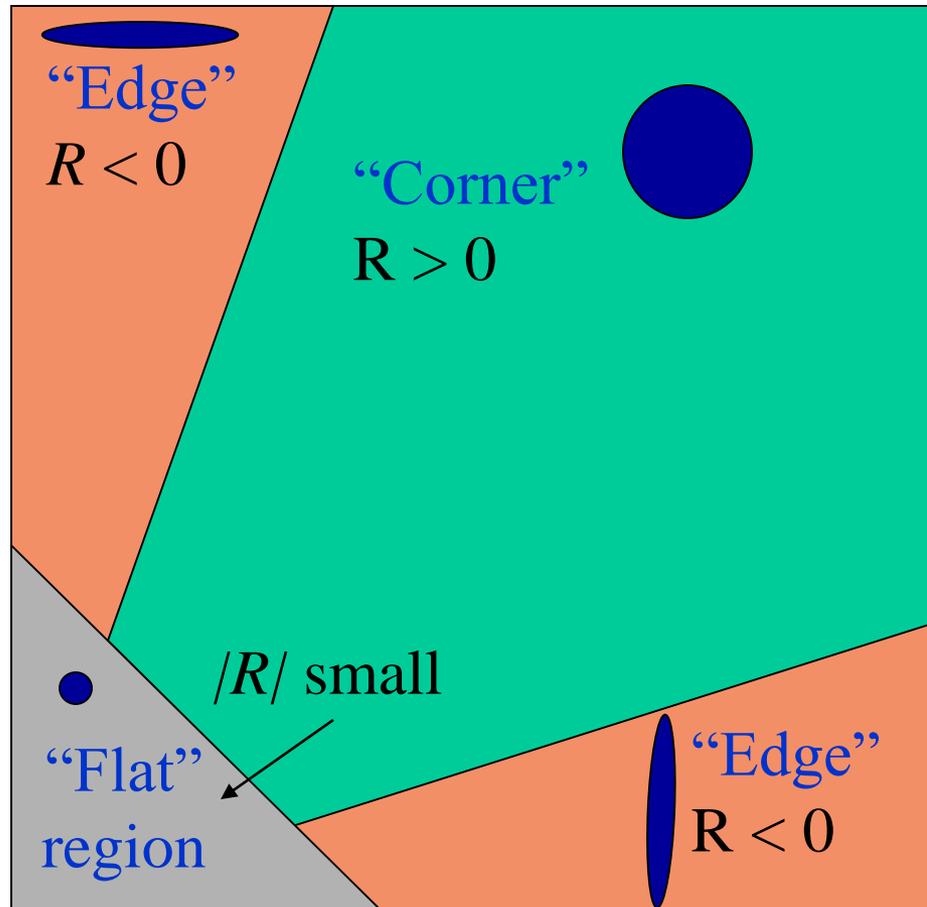
Classification of image points using eigenvalues of M :



Corner response function

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

α : constant (0.04 to 0.06)



Harris corner detector

- 1) Compute M matrix for each image window to get their *cornerness* scores.
- 2) Find points whose surrounding window gave large corner response ($f >$ threshold)
- 3) Take the points of local maxima, i.e., perform non-maximum suppression

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

Harris Detector [Harris88]

- Second moment matrix

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

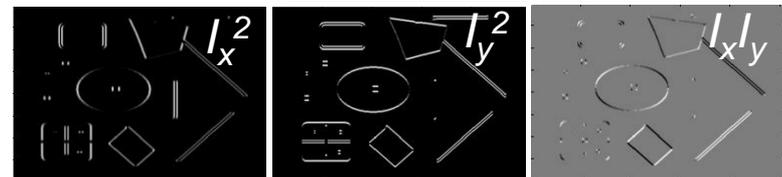
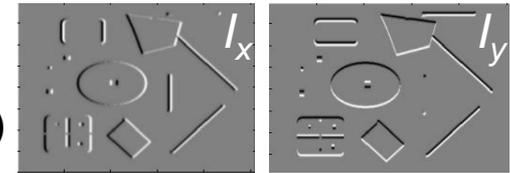
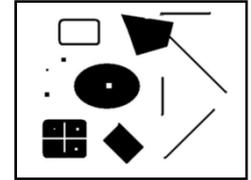
$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$

$$\text{trace } M = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$$

2. Square of derivatives

3. Gaussian filter $g(\sigma_I)$

1. Image derivatives
(optionally, blur first)

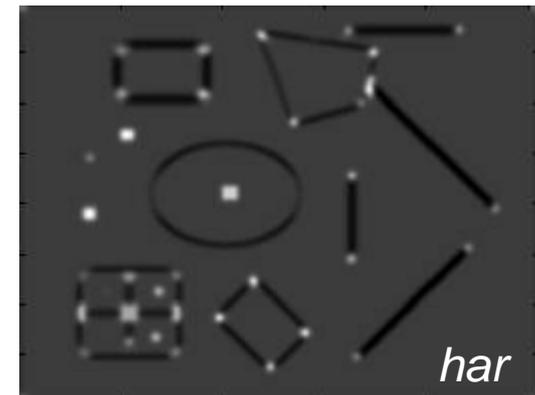


4. Cornerness function – both eigenvalues are strong

$$har = \det[\mu(\sigma_I, \sigma_D)] - \alpha[\text{trace}(\mu(\sigma_I, \sigma_D))]^2 =$$

$$g(I_x^2)g(I_y^2) - [g(I_x I_y)]^2 - \alpha[g(I_x^2) + g(I_y^2)]^2$$

5. Non-maxima suppression

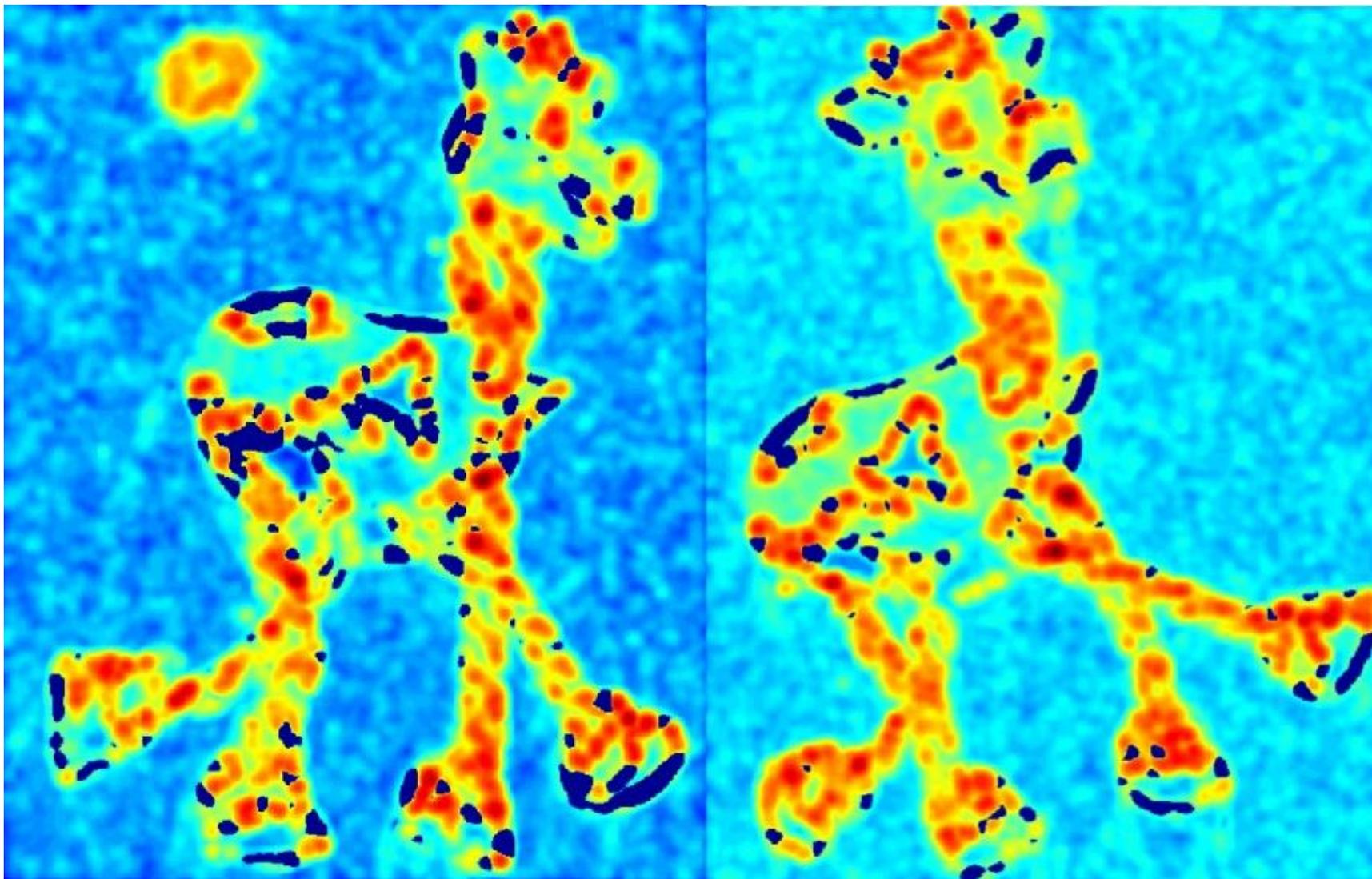


Harris Detector: Steps



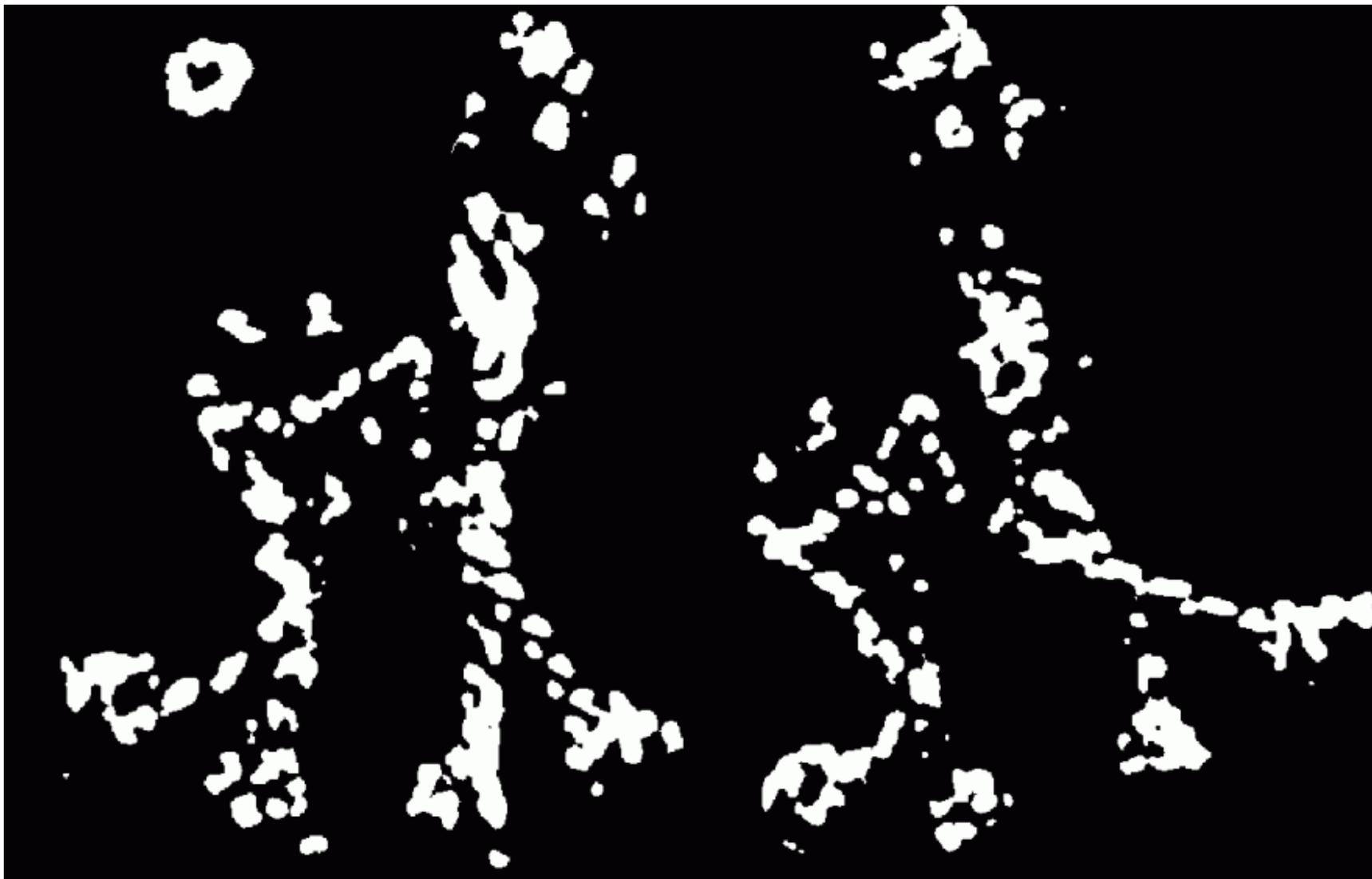
Harris Detector: Steps

Compute corner response R



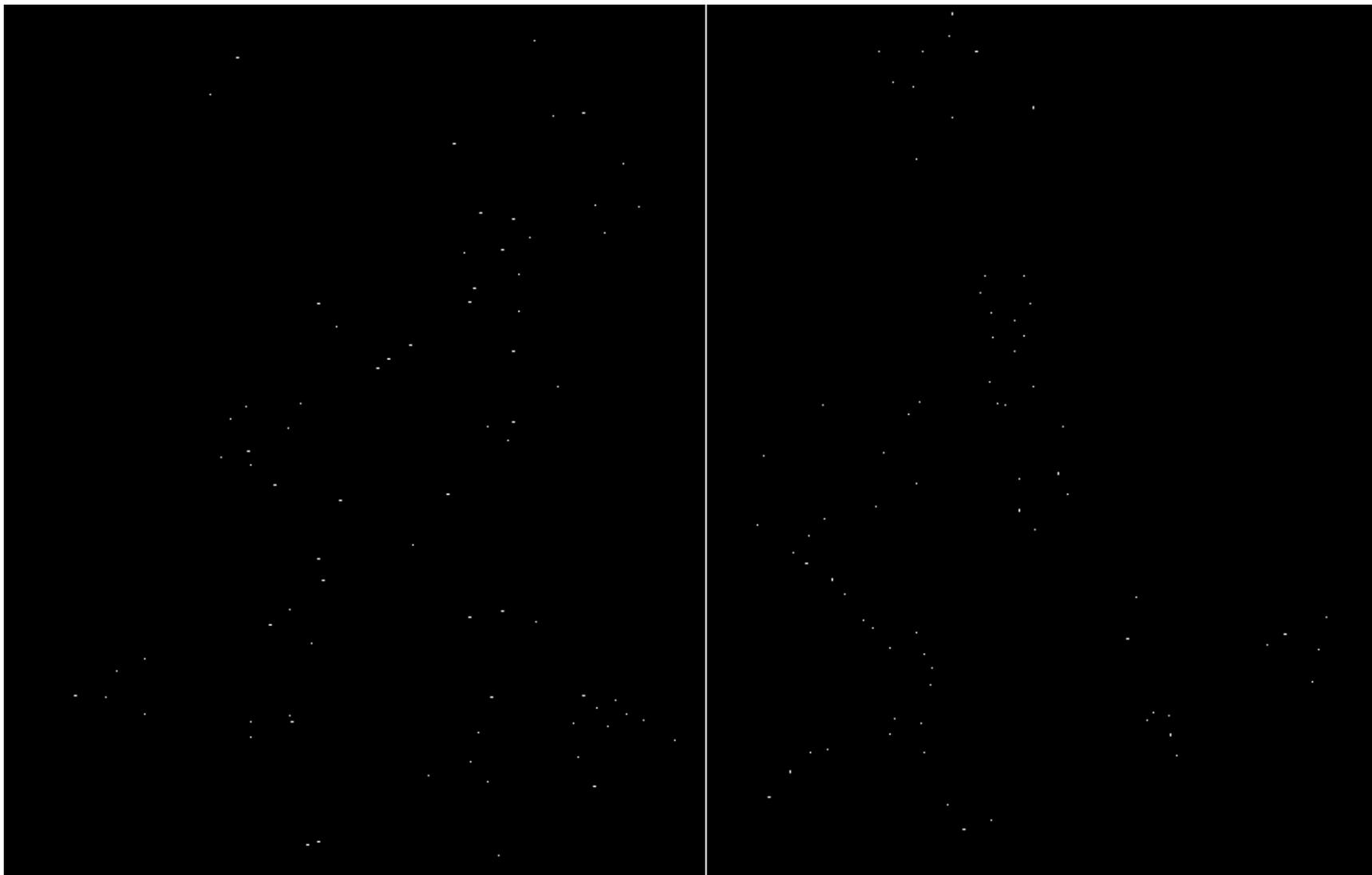
Harris Detector: Steps

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



Harris Detector: Steps

Take only the points of local maxima of R



Harris Detector: Steps

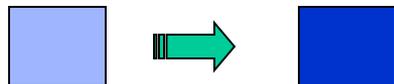


Invariance and covariance

- We want corner locations to be *invariant* to photometric transformations and *covariant* to geometric transformations
 - **Invariance:** image is transformed and corner locations do not change
 - **Covariance:** if we have two transformed versions of the same image, features should be detected in corresponding locations

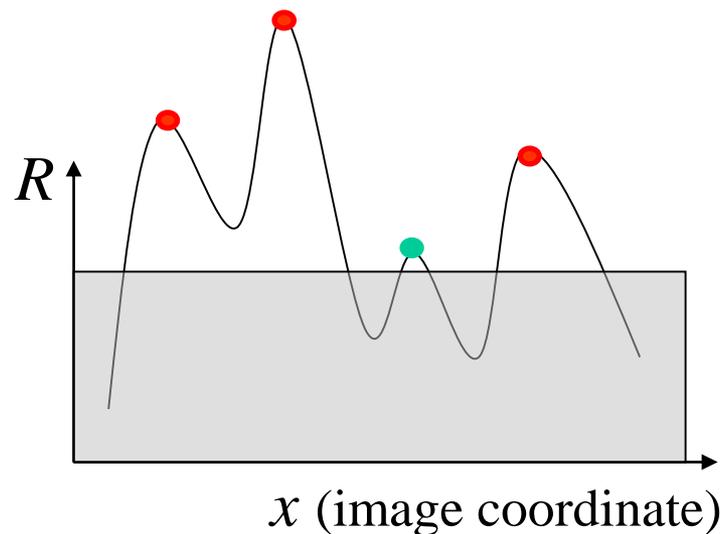
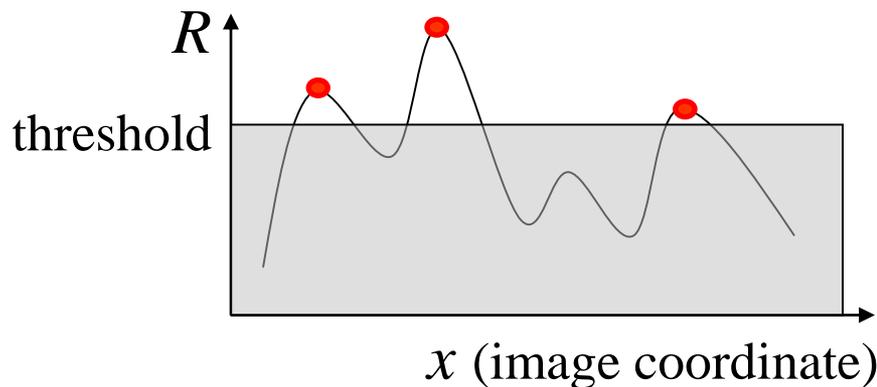


Affine intensity change



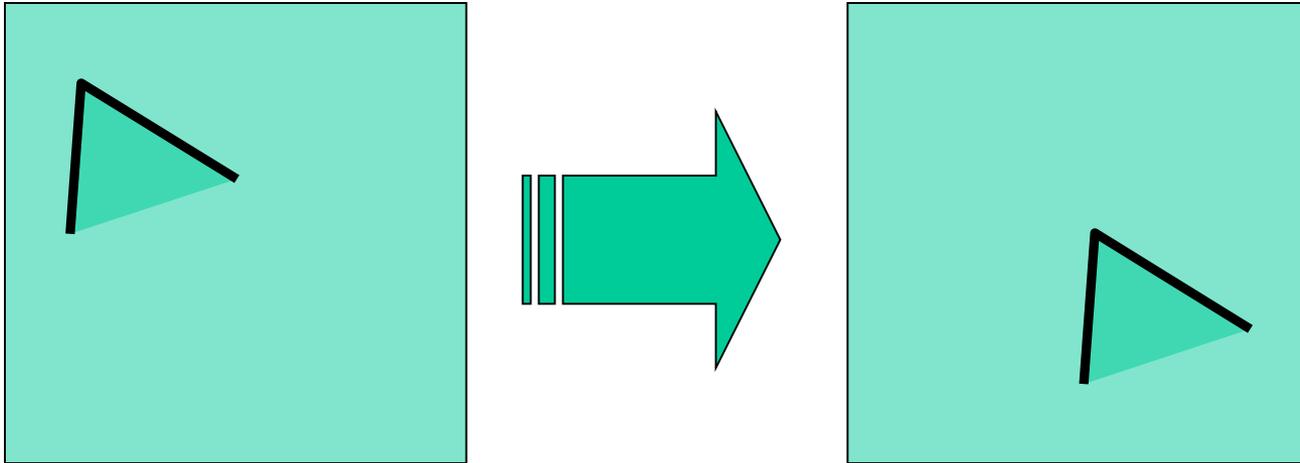
$$I \rightarrow aI + b$$

- Only derivatives are used => invariance to intensity shift $I \rightarrow I + b$
- Intensity scaling: $I \rightarrow aI$



Partially invariant to affine intensity change

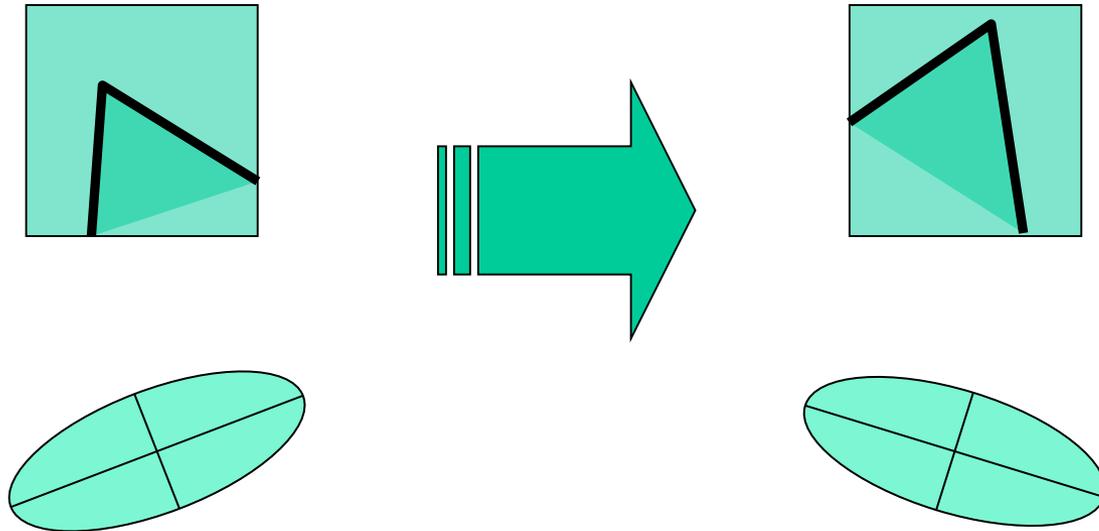
Image translation



- Derivatives and window function are shift-invariant

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. translation

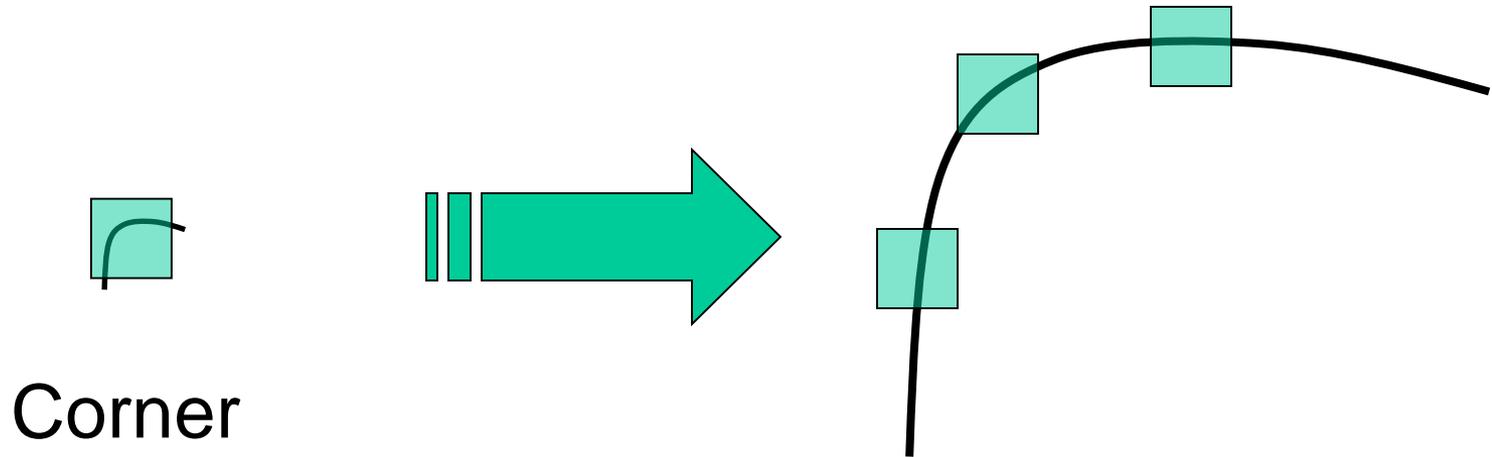
Image rotation



Second moment ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

Corner location is covariant w.r.t. rotation

Scaling



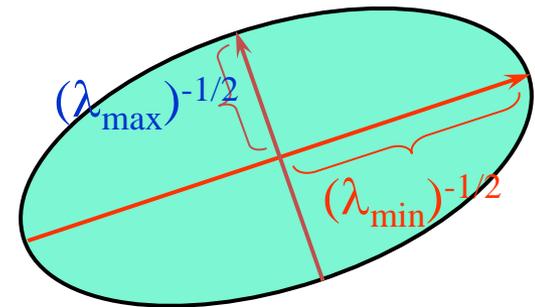
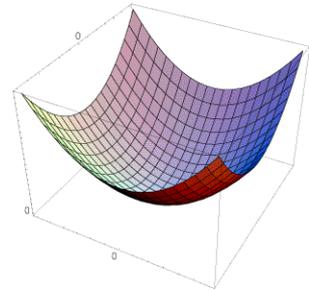
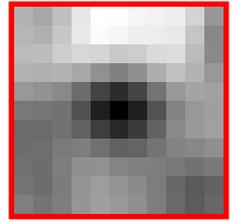
All points will
be classified
as **edges**

Corner location is not covariant to scaling!

Review: Harris corner detector

- Approximate distinctiveness by local auto-correlation.
- Approximate local auto-correlation by second moment matrix
- Quantify distinctiveness (or cornerness) as function of the eigenvalues of the second moment matrix.
- But we don't actually need to compute the eigenvalues by using the determinant and trace of the second moment matrix.

$E(u, v)$



So far: can localize in x-y, but not scale



Automatic Scale Selection

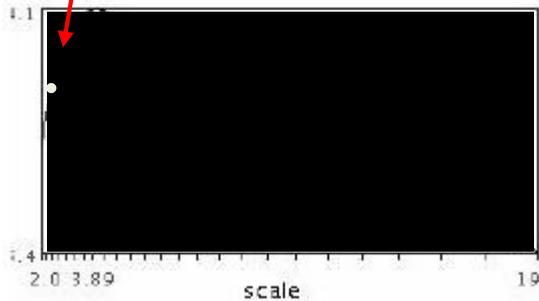


$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma)) = f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma'))$$

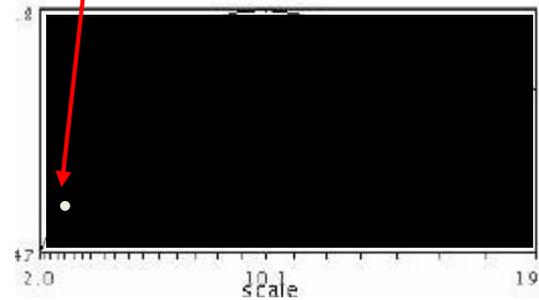
How to find corresponding patch sizes?

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



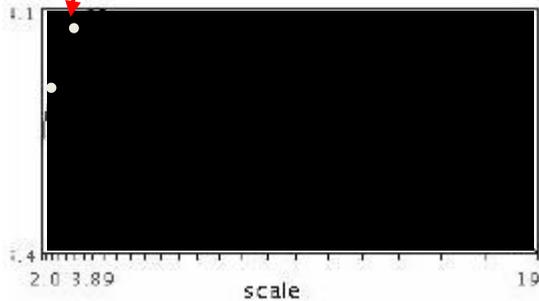
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



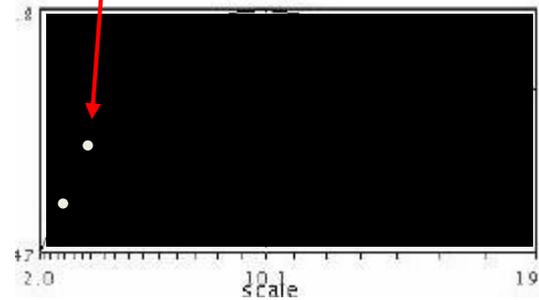
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



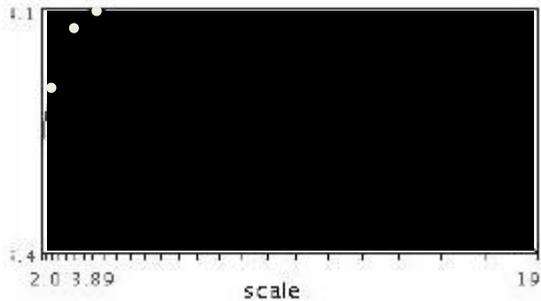
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



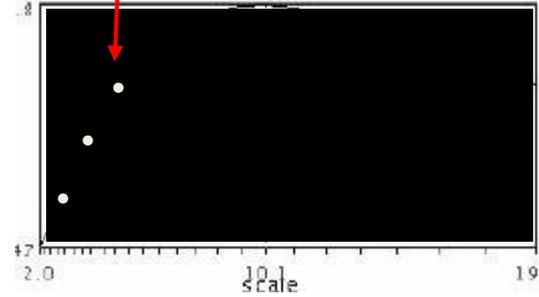
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



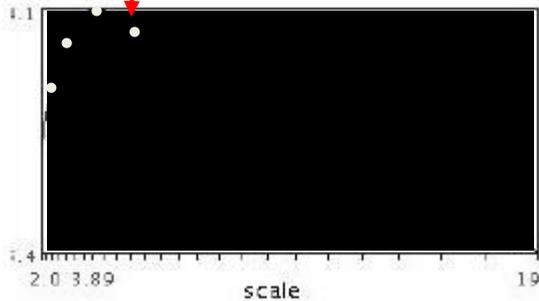
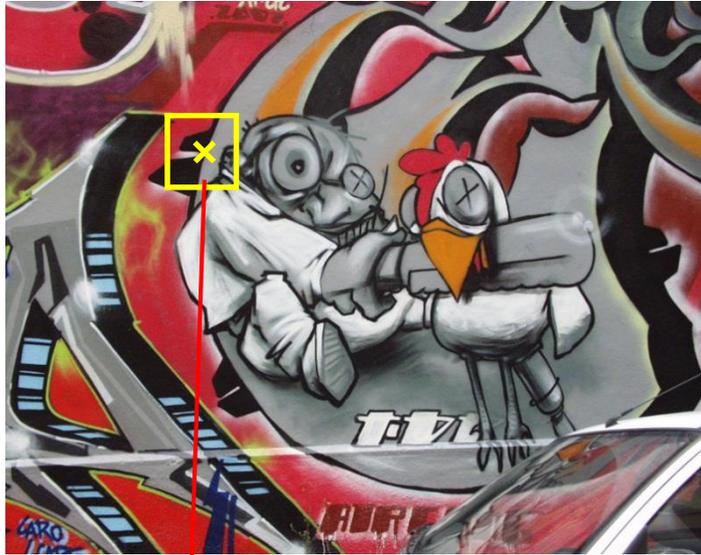
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



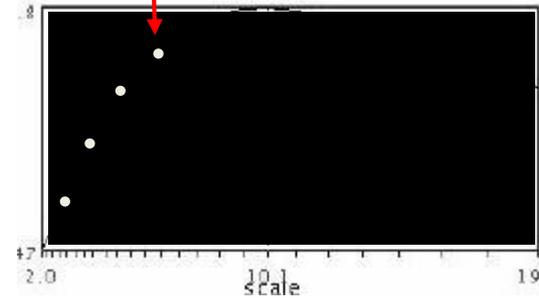
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



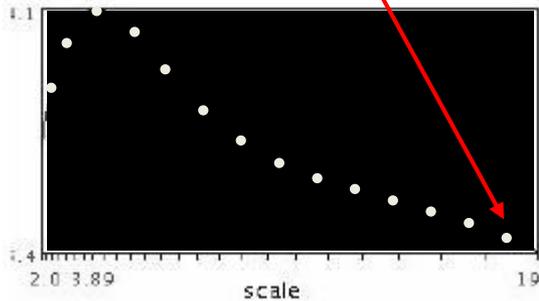
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



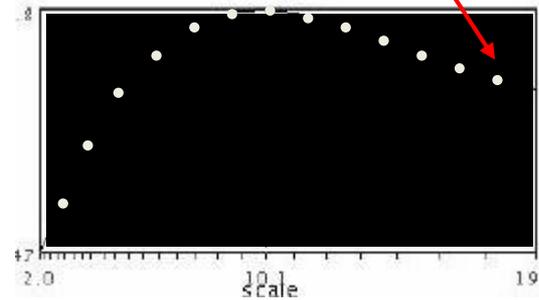
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



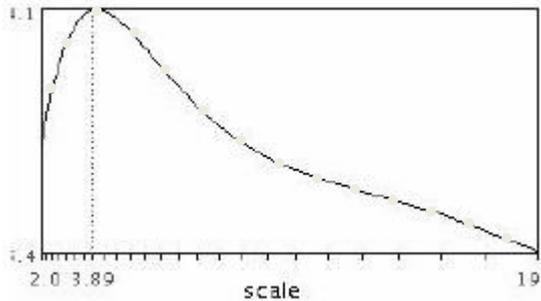
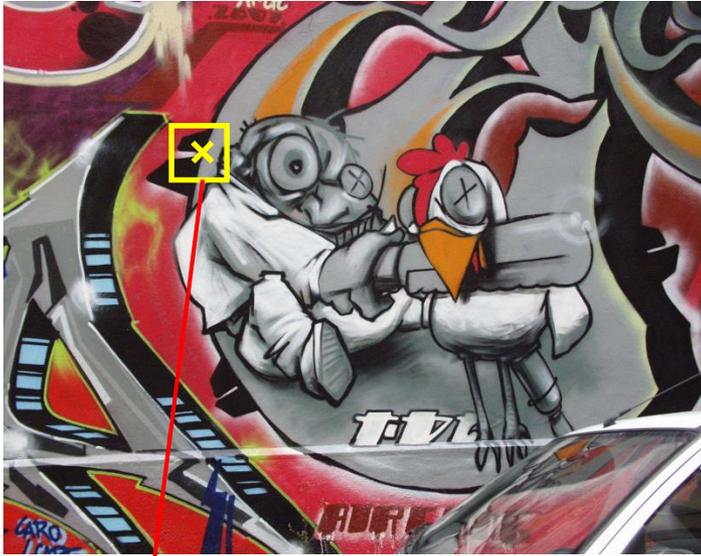
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



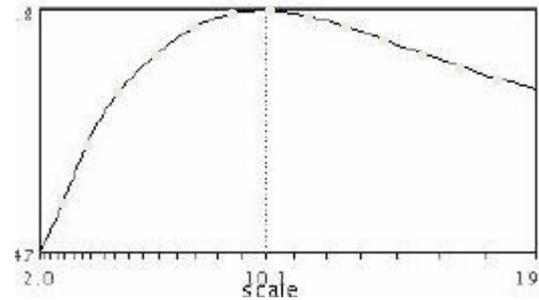
$$f(I_{i_1 \dots i_m}(x', \sigma))$$

Automatic Scale Selection

- Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)



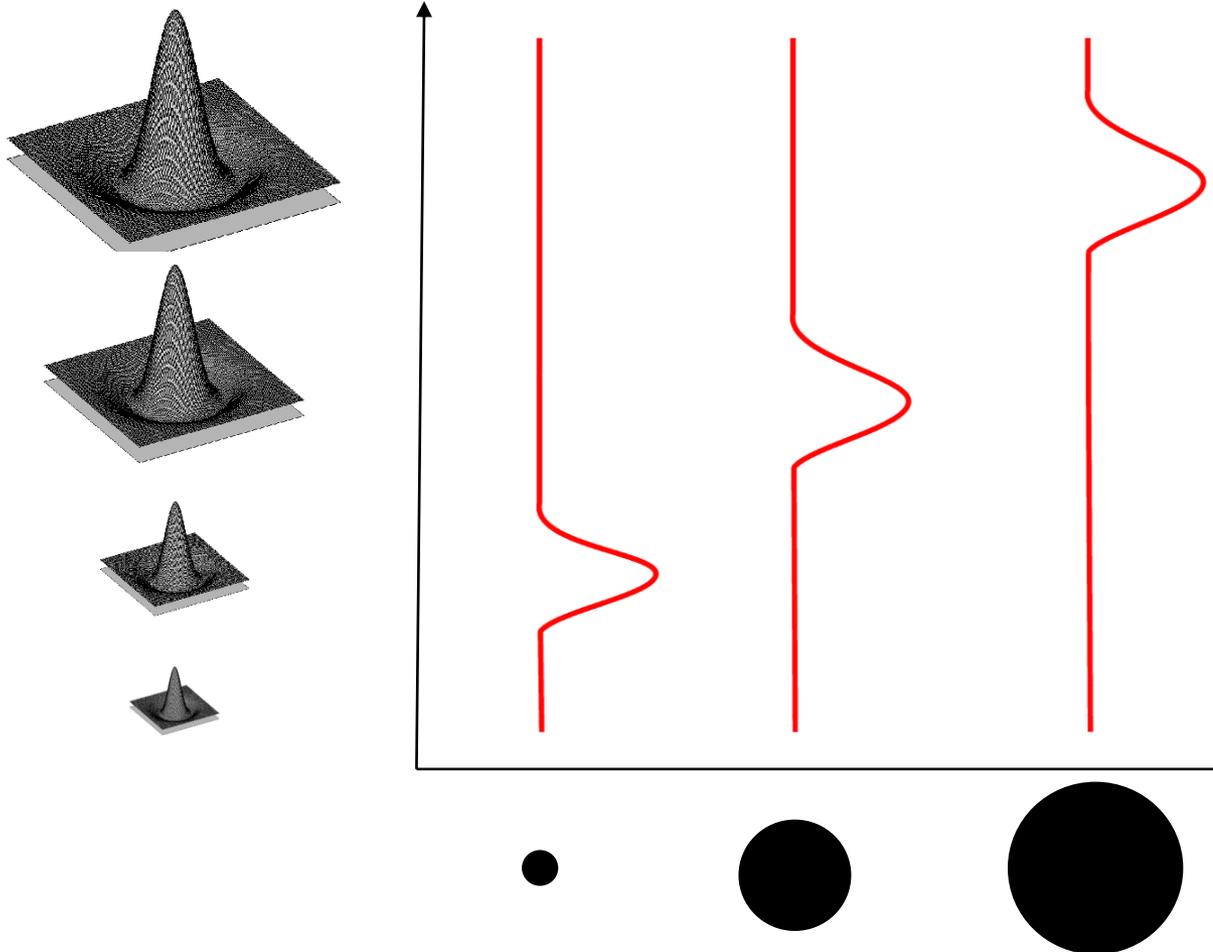
$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x, \sigma))$$



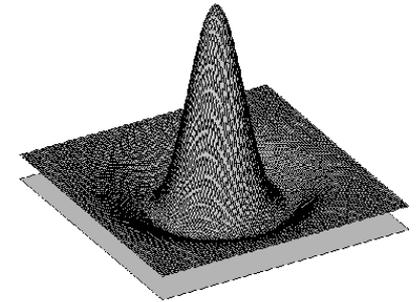
$$f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x', \sigma'))$$

What Is A Useful Signature Function?

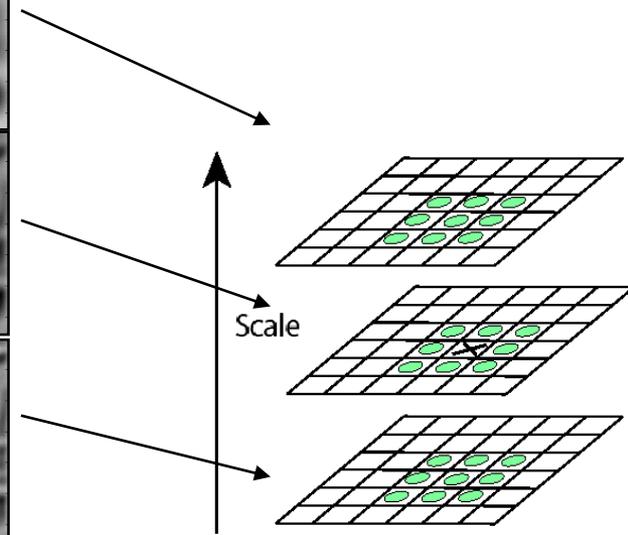
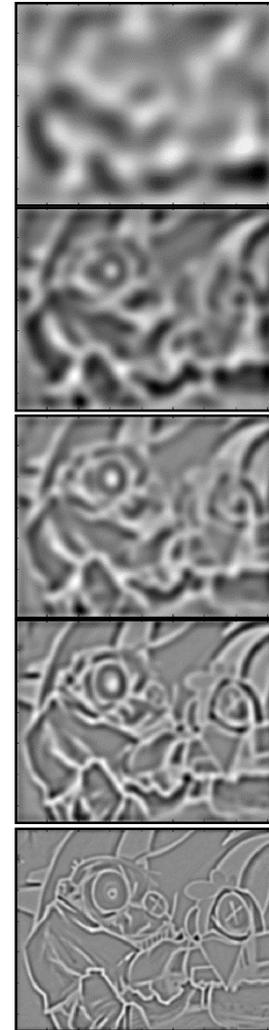
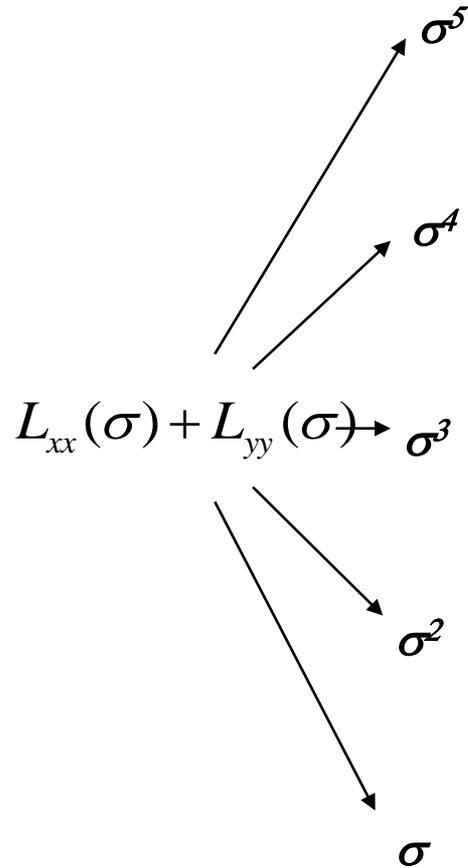
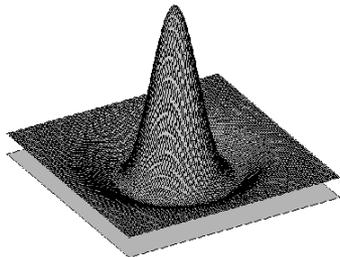
- Difference-of-Gaussian = “blob” detector



Difference-of-Gaussian (DoG)

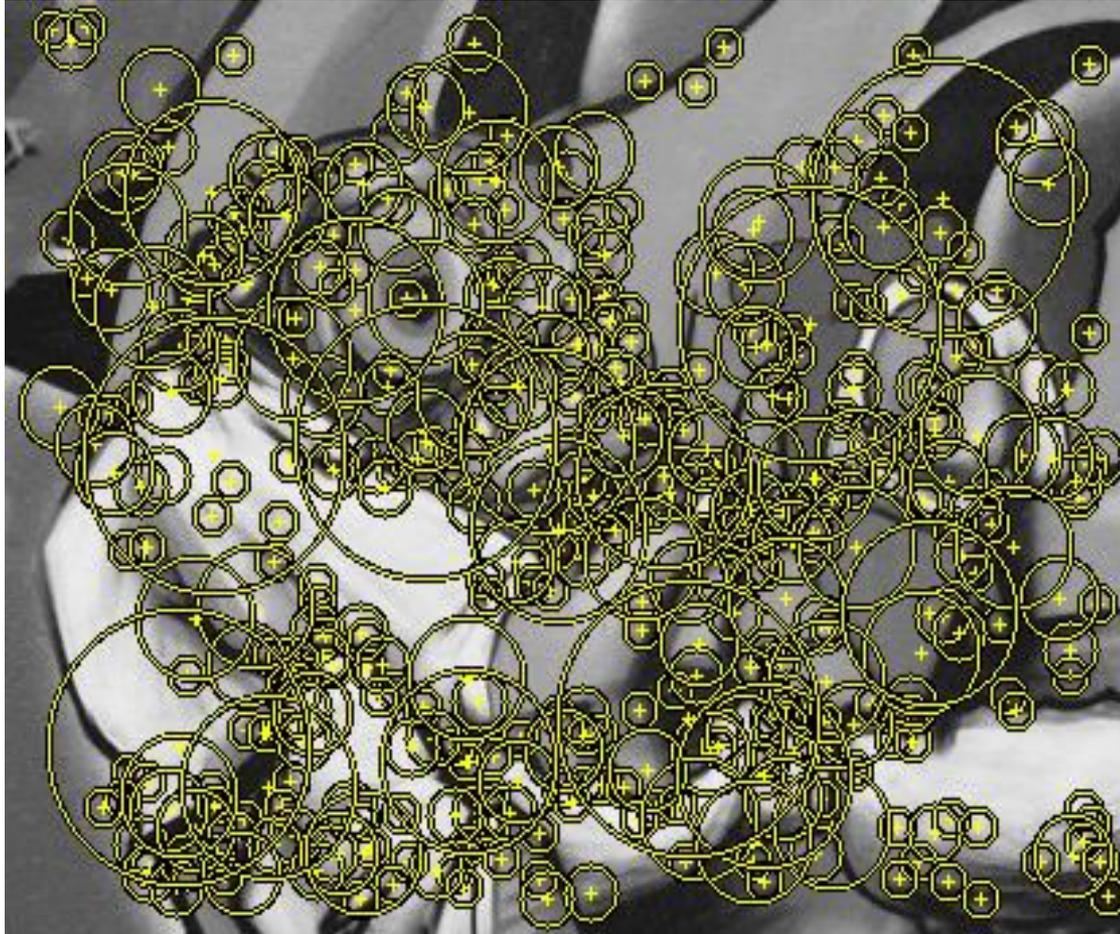


Find local maxima in position-scale space of Difference-of-Gaussian



\Rightarrow List of (x, y, s)

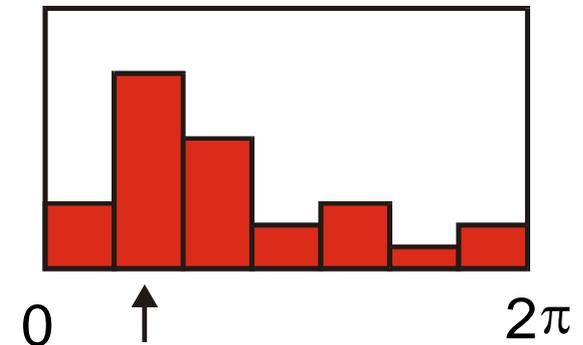
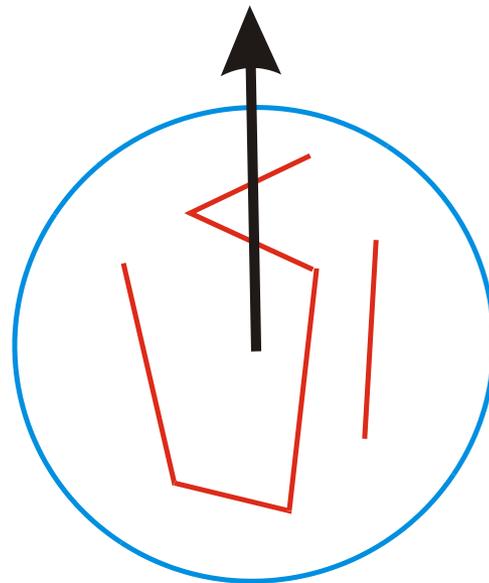
Results: Difference-of-Gaussian



Orientation Normalization

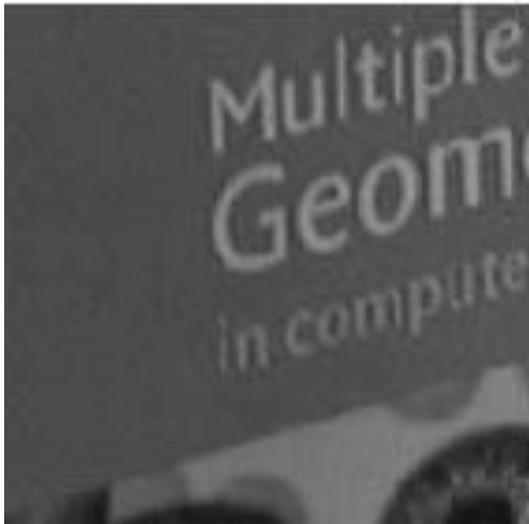
- Compute orientation histogram
- Select dominant orientation
- Normalize: rotate to fixed orientation

[Lowe, SIFT, 1999]



Maximally Stable Extremal Regions [Matas '02]

- Based on Watershed segmentation algorithm
- Select regions that stay stable over a large parameter range



Example Results: MSER

