Local Invariant Features

This is a compilation of slides by:

Darya Frolova, Denis Simakov, The Weizmann Institute of Science Jiri Matas, Martin Urban Center for Machine Percpetion Prague Matthew Brown, David Lowe, University of British Columbia

Building a Panorama



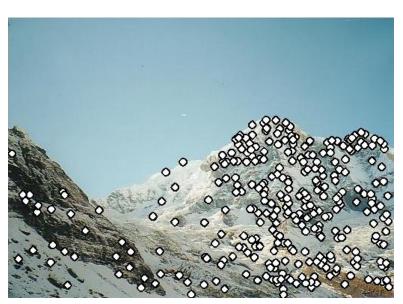
How do we build panorama?

• We need to match (align) images



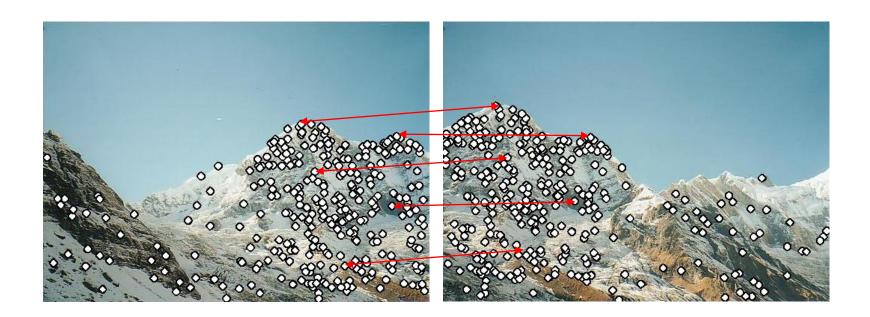


Detect feature points in both images





- Detect feature points in both images
- •Find corresponding pairs



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



• Problem 1:

Detect the same point independently in both images



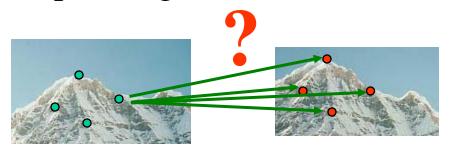


no chance to match!

We need a repeatable detector

• Problem 2:

 For each point correctly recognize the corresponding one



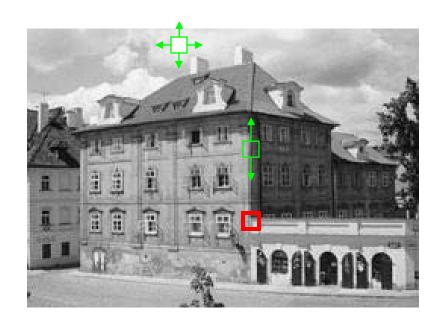
We need a reliable and distinctive descriptor

More motivation...

- Feature points are used also for:
 - Image alignment (homography, fundamental matrix)
 - 3D reconstruction
 - Motion tracking
 - Object recognition
 - Indexing and database retrieval
 - Robot navigation
 - ... other

Selecting Good Features

- What's a "good feature"?
 - Satisfies brightness constancy
 - Has sufficient texture variation
 - Does not have too much texture variation
 - Corresponds to a "real" surface patch
 - Does not deform too much over time



undistinguished patches:



distinguished patches:

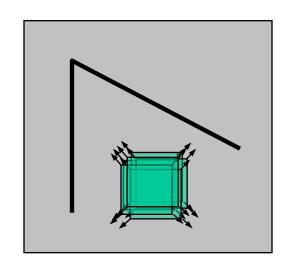


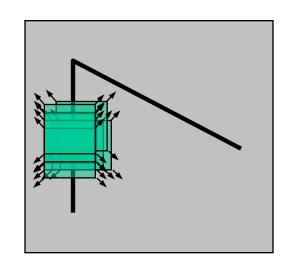
"Corner" ("interest point") detector detects points with distinguished neighbourhood(*) well suited for matching verification.

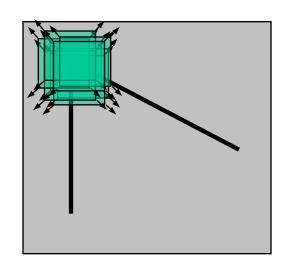
Detectors

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Harris Detector: Basic Idea







"flat" region: no change in all directions

"edge":
no change along
the edge direction

"corner": significant change in all directions

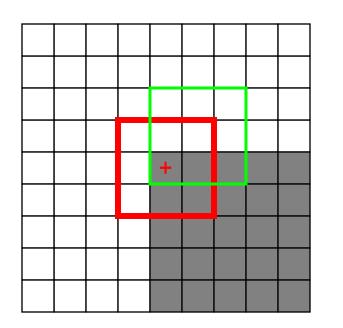
- We should easily recognize the point by looking through a small window
- Shifting a window in *any direction* should give *a large change* in intensity

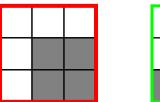
Harris detector

Based on the idea of auto-correlation

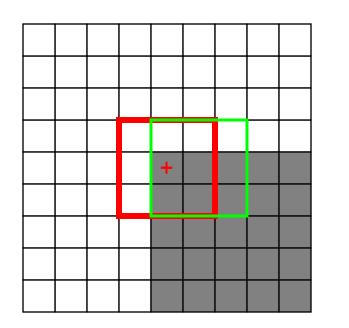


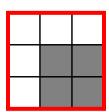
Important difference in all directions => interest point

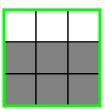


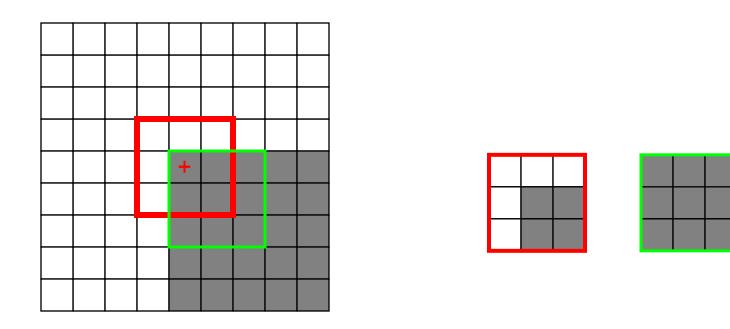


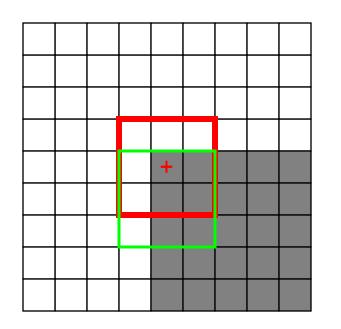


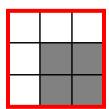


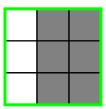


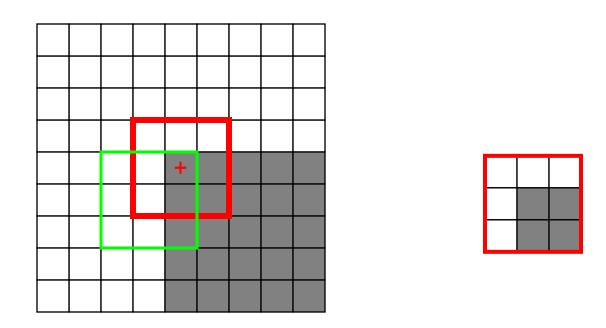


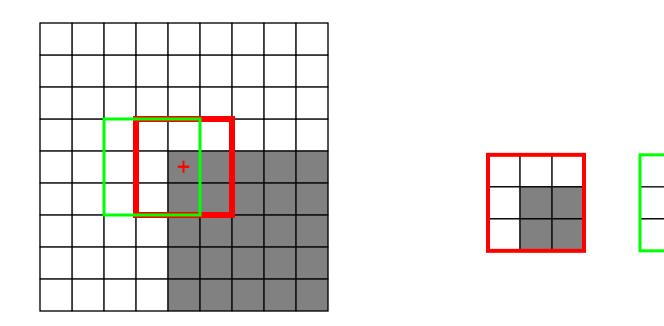


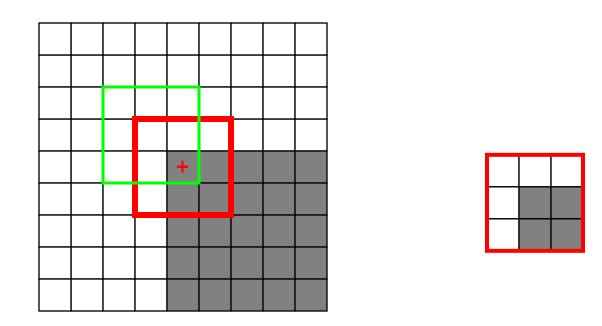


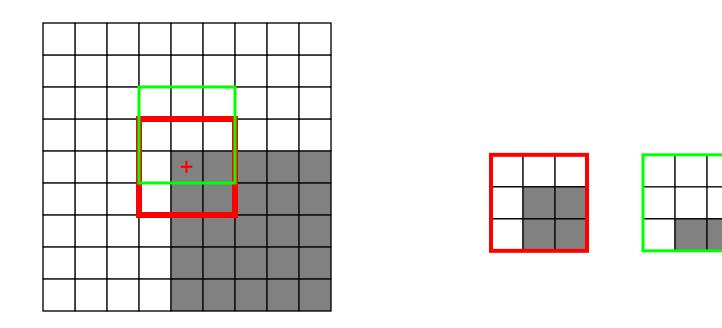












Harris detection

- Auto-correlation matrix
 - captures the structure of the local neighborhood
 - measure based on eigenvalues of this matrix
 - 2 strong eigenvalues => interest point
 - 1 strong eigenvalue => contour
 - 0 eigenvalue => uniform region

- Interest point detection
 - threshold on the eigenvalues
 - local maximum for localization

Harris detector

Auto-correlation function for a point (x,y) and a shift $(\Delta x, \Delta y)$

$$f(x,y) = \sum_{(x_k,y_k) \in W} (I(x_k,y_k) - I(x_k + \Delta x, y_k + \Delta y))^2$$

Discrete shifts can be avoided with the auto-correlation matrix

with
$$I(x_k + \Delta x, y_k + \Delta y) = I(x_k, y_k) + (I_x(x_k, y_k) - I_y(x_k, y_k)) \begin{pmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta y \end{pmatrix}$$

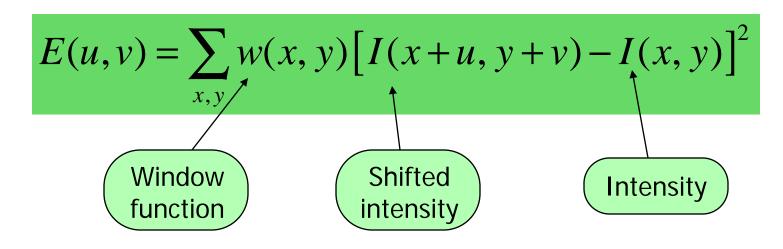
$$f(x,y) = \sum_{(x_k,y_k)\in W} \left(I_x(x_k,y_k) \quad I_y(x_k,y_k) \begin{pmatrix} \Delta x \\ \Delta y \end{pmatrix} \right)^2$$

Harris detector

$$= (\Delta x \quad \Delta y) \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{(x_k, y_k) \in W} (I_x(x_k, y_k))^2 & \sum_{(x_k, y_k) \in W} I_x(x_k, y_k) I_y(x_k, y_k) \\ \sum_{(x_k, y_k) \in W} (I_x(x_k, y_k))^2 & \sum_{(x_k, y_k) \in W} (I_y(x_k, y_k))^2 \end{bmatrix} \Delta x$$

Auto-correlation matrix

Window-averaged change of intensity for the shift [u,v]:



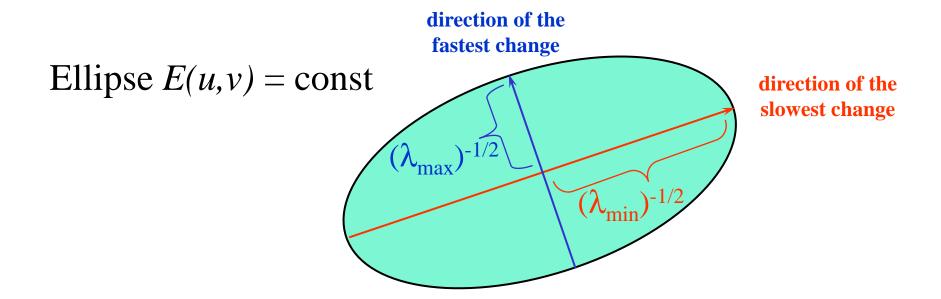
Window function
$$w(x,y) = 0$$

1 in window, 0 outside Gaussian

Intensity change in shifting window: eigenvalue analysis

$$E(u,v) \cong \begin{bmatrix} u,v \end{bmatrix} \quad M \quad \begin{bmatrix} u\\v \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2$$
 – eigenvalues of M



Expanding E(u,v) in a 2^{nd} order Taylor series expansion, we have, for small shifts [u,v], a *bilinear* approximation:

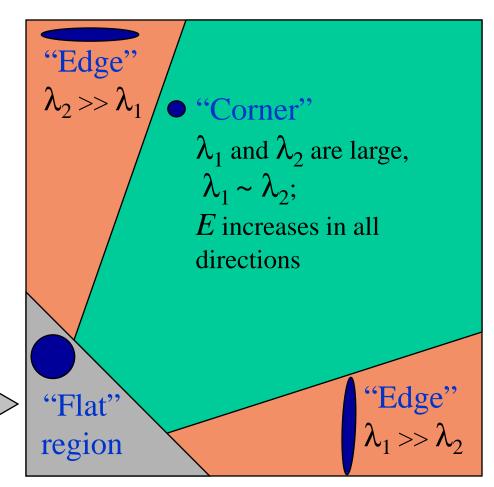
$$E(u,v) \cong \begin{bmatrix} u,v \end{bmatrix} \quad M \quad \begin{bmatrix} u\\v \end{bmatrix}$$

where M is a 2×2 matrix computed from image derivatives:

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

Classification of image points using eigenvalues of *M*:

 λ_1 and λ_2 are small; E is almost constant in all directions



Measure of corner response:

$$R = \det M - k \left(\operatorname{trace} M \right)^2$$

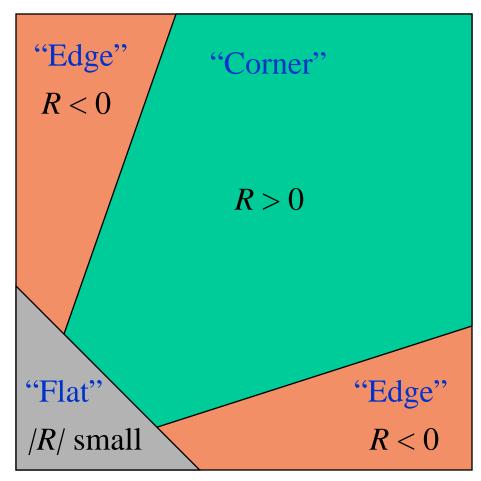
$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$

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

(k - empirical constant, k = 0.04-0.06)

 λ_{2}

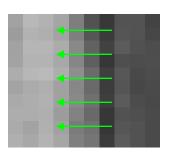
- *R* depends only on eigenvalues of M
- *R* is large for a corner
- *R* is negative with large magnitude for an edge
- |R| is small for a flat region

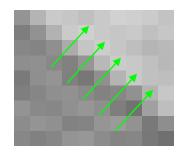


Corner Detection: Basic principle

undistinguished patches:







distinguished patches:

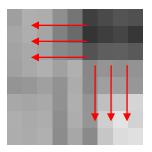


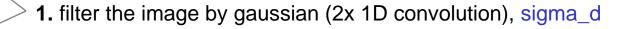
Image gradients $\nabla I(x,y)$ of undist. patches are (0,0) or have only one principle component.

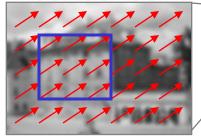
Image gradients $\nabla I(x,y)$ of dist. patches have two principle components.

$$\Rightarrow$$
 rank $\left(\sum \nabla I(x,y) * \nabla I(x,y)^{\top}\right) = 2$

Algorithm (R. Harris, 1988)





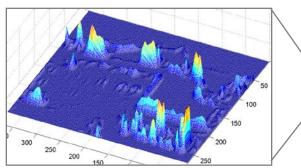


2. compute the intensity gradients $\nabla I(x,y)$, (2x 1D conv.)



- compute auto-correlation matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum \nabla I(x, y) * \nabla I(x, y) \top$$

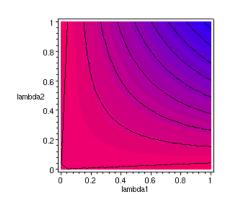


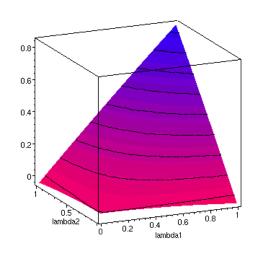
- and evaluate the response function R(A): R(A) >> 0 for rank(A)=2, $R(A) \rightarrow 0$ for rank(A)<2





Corner Detection: Algorithm (R. Harris, 1988)





Harris response function R(A):

$$R(\mathbf{A}) = \det(\mathbf{A}) - k^* \operatorname{trace}^2(\mathbf{A})$$
,

[lamda1, lambda2] = eig(A)

Corner Detection: Algorithm (R. Harris, 1988)

Algorithm properties:

- + "invariant" to 2D image shift and rotation
- + invariant to shift in illumination
- + "invariant" to small view point changes
- + low numerical complexity
- not invariant to larger scale changes
- not completely invariant to high contrast changes
- not invariant to bigger view point changes



Example of detected points

Corner Detection: Algorithm (R. Harris, 1988)





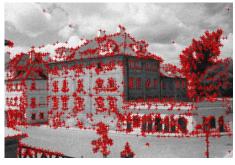
Corner Detection: Harris points versus sigma_d and sigma_i







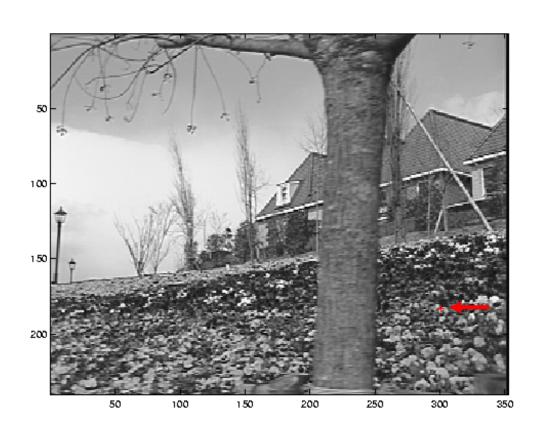


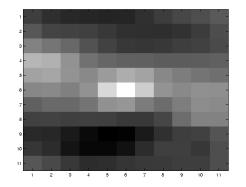


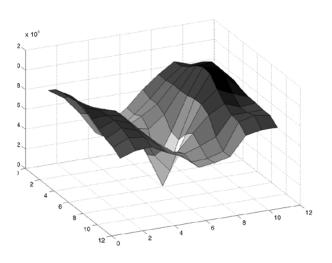




Selecting Good Features

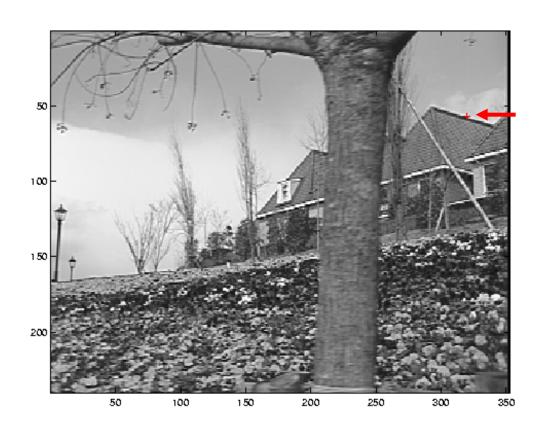


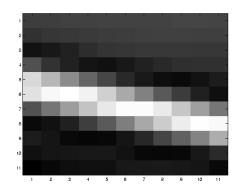


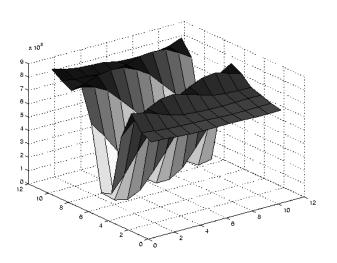


 λ_1 and λ_2 are large

Selecting Good Features



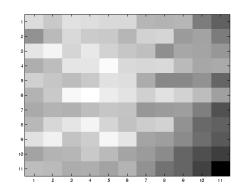


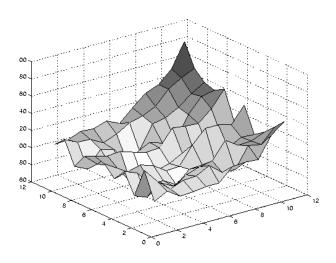


large λ_1 , small λ_2

Selecting Good Features







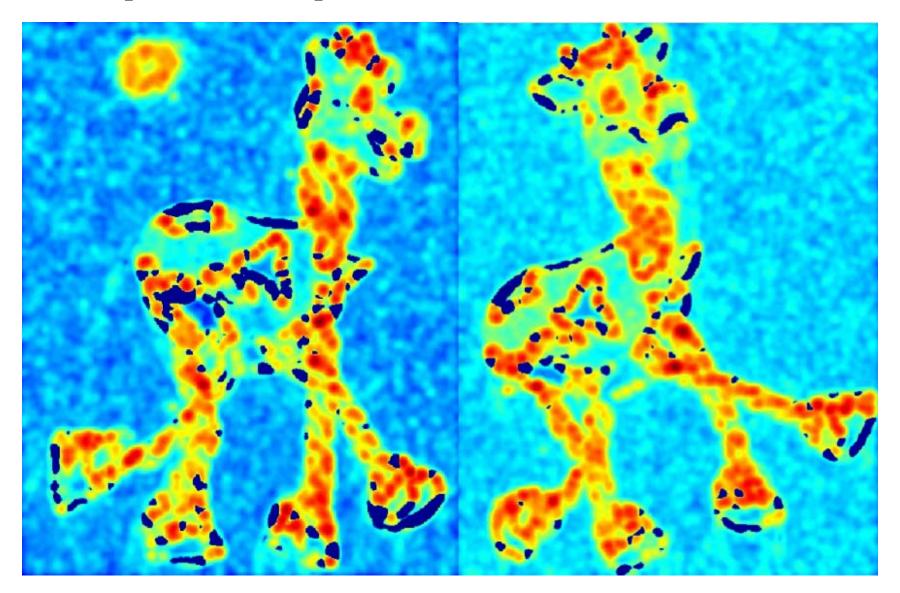
small λ_1 , small λ_2

Harris Detector

- The Algorithm:
 - Find points with large corner response function R (R > threshold)
 - Take the points of local maxima of *R*



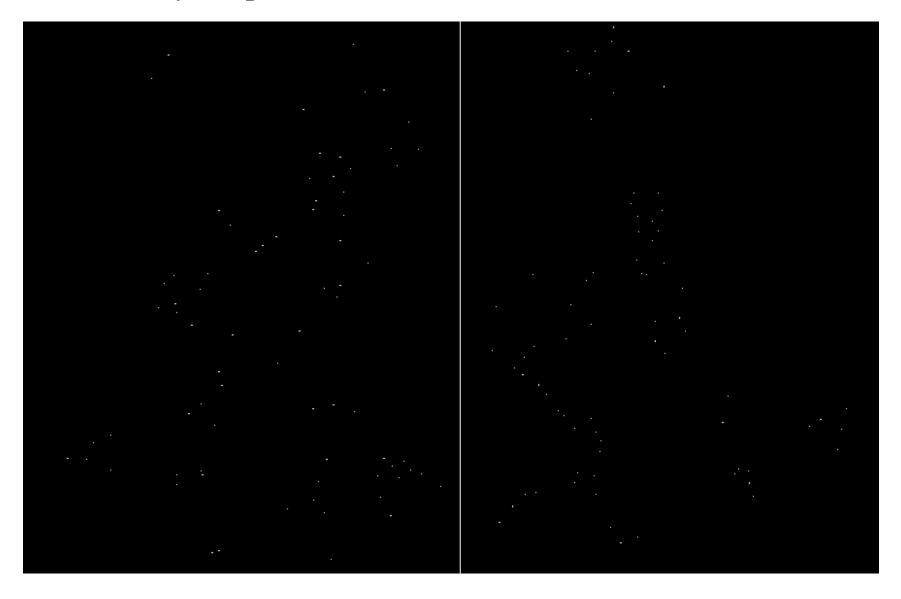
Compute corner response R



Find points with large corner response: *R*>threshold



Take only the points of local maxima of R





Harris Detector: Summary

• Average intensity change in direction [u, v] can be expressed as a bilinear form:

$$E(u,v) \cong \begin{bmatrix} u,v \end{bmatrix} \quad M \quad \begin{bmatrix} u\\v \end{bmatrix}$$

• Describe a point in terms of eigenvalues of M: measure of corner response

$$R = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 - k \left(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \right)^2$$

• A good (corner) point should have a *large intensity change* in *all directions*, i.e. *R* should be large positive

Corner Detection: Application

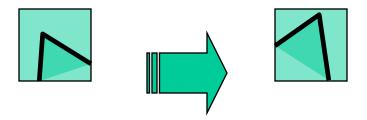
Algorithm:

- Corner detection
- 2. Tentative correspondences
 - by comparing similarity of the corner neighb. in the searching window (e.g. cross-correlation)
- 3. Camera motion geometry estimation (e.g. by RANSAC)
 - finds the motion geometry and consistent correspondences
- 4. 3D reconstruction
 - triangulation, bundle adjustment

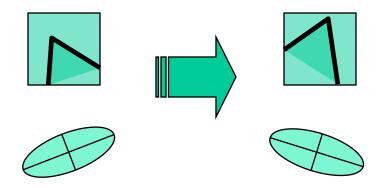
Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

• Rotation invariance?



Rotation invariance



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

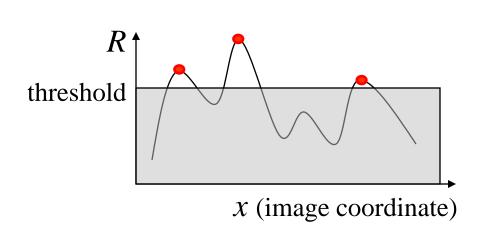
Corner response R is invariant to image rotation

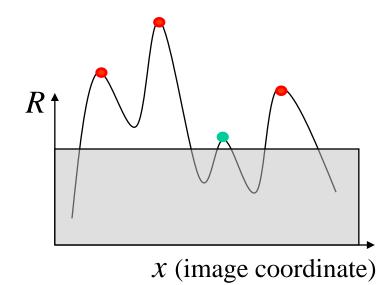
• Invariance to image intensity change?

• Partial invariance to additive and multiplicative intensity changes

✓ Only derivatives are used => invariance to intensity shift $I \rightarrow I + b$

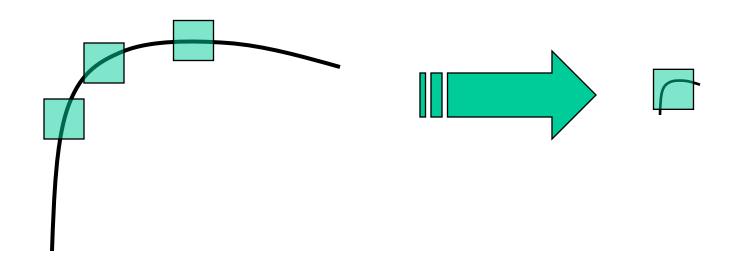
✓ Intensity scale: $I \rightarrow a I$





• Invariant to image scale?

• Not invariant to *image scale*!



All points will be classified as edges

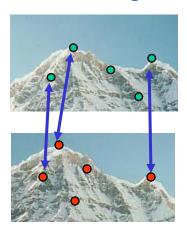
Corner!

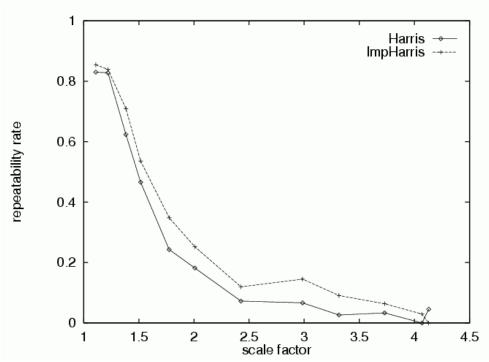
• Quality of Harris detector for different scale

changes

Repeatability rate:

correspondences # possible correspondences





Contents

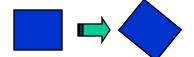
- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

We want to:

detect the same interest points regardless of image changes

Models of Image Change

- Geometry
 - Rotation



Similarity (rotation + uniform scale)



- Affine (scale dependent on direction)
 valid for: orthographic camera, locally planar object
- Photometry
 - Affine intensity change $(I \rightarrow a I + b)$

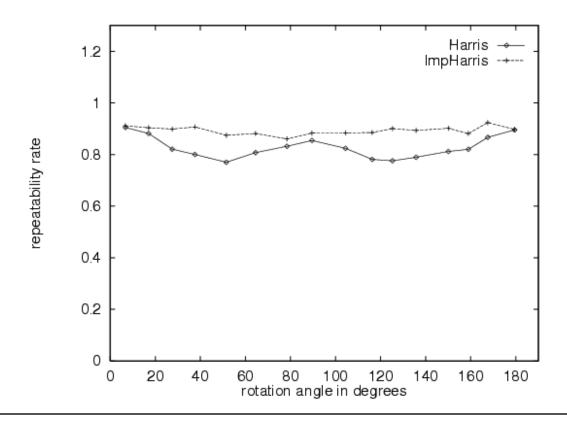


Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Rotation Invariant Detection

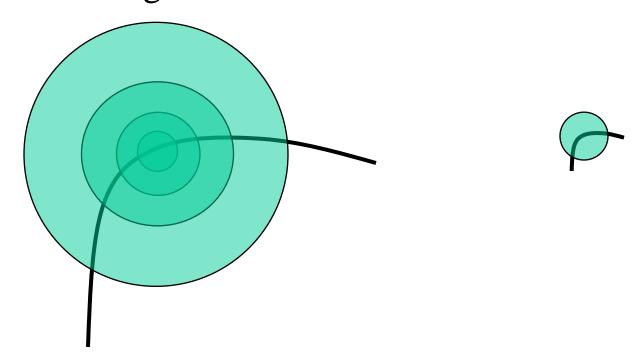
Harris Corner Detector



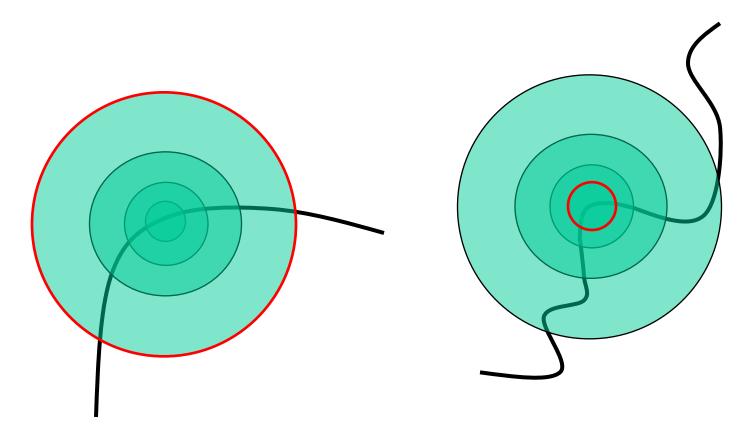
Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

- Consider regions (e.g. circles) of different sizes around a point
- Regions of corresponding sizes will look the same in both images



• The problem: how do we choose corresponding circles *independently* in each image?

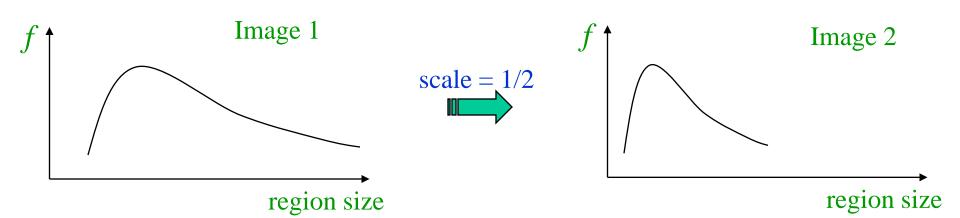


• Solution:

 Design a function on the region (circle), which is "scale invariant" (the same for corresponding regions, even if they are at different scales)

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

 For a point in one image, we can consider it as a function of region size (circle radius)

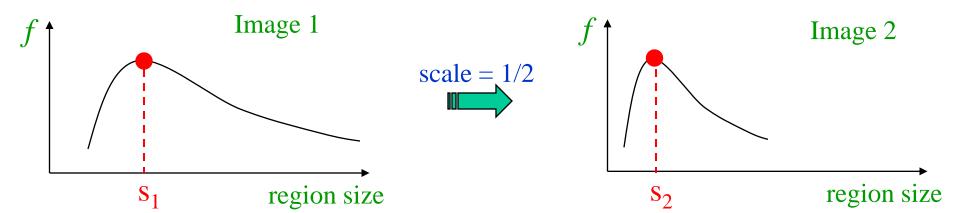


Common approach:

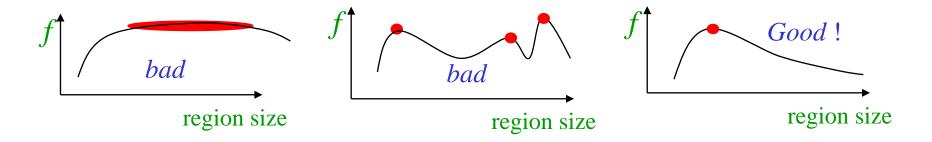
Take a local maximum of this function

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!



• A "good" function for scale detection: has one stable sharp peak



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

• Functions for determining scale f = Kernel * Image

$$f = Kernel * Image$$

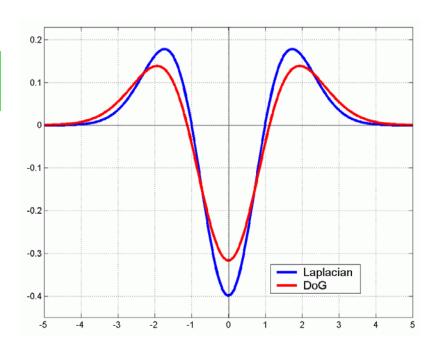
Kernels:

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

Do
$$G = G(x, y, k\sigma) - G(x, y, \sigma)$$
(Difference of Gaussians)

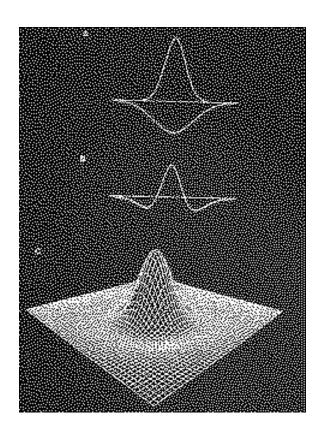
where Gaussian

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



Note: both kernels are invariant to scale and rotation

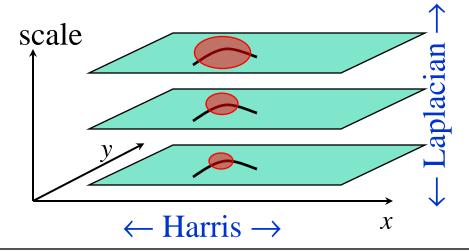
• Compare to human vision: eye's response



Harris-Laplacian¹

Find local maximum of:

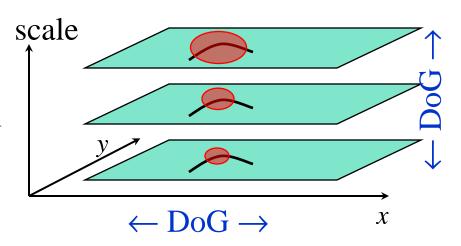
- Harris corner detector in space (image coordinates)
- Laplacian in scale



• SIFT (Lowe)²

Find local maximum of:

Difference of Gaussians in space and scale



¹ K.Mikolajczyk, C.Schmid. "Indexing Based on Scale Invariant Interest Points". ICCV 2001

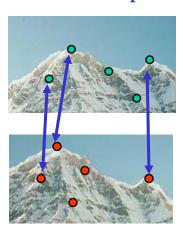
²D.Lowe. "Distinctive Image Features from Scale-Invariant Keypoints". Accepted to IJCV 2004

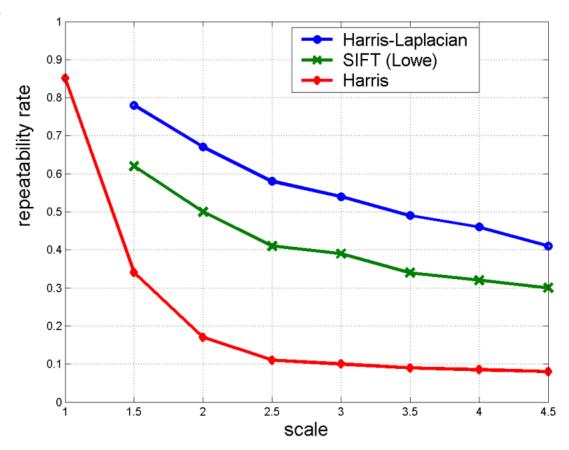
Experimental evaluation of detectors

w.r.t. scale change

Repeatability rate:

correspondences # possible correspondences





Scale Invariant Detection: Summary

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

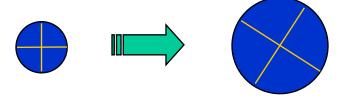
Methods:

- 1. Harris-Laplacian [Mikolajczyk, Schmid]: maximize Laplacian over scale, Harris' measure of corner response over the image
- 2. SIFT [Lowe]: maximize Difference of Gaussians over scale and space

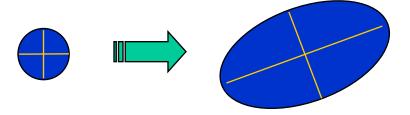
Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

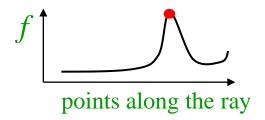
Above we considered:
 Similarity transform (rotation + uniform scale)



Now we go on to:
 Affine transform (rotation + non-uniform scale)



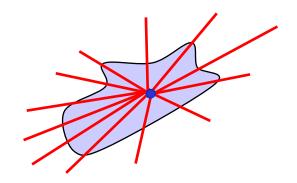
- Take a local intensity extremum as initial point
- Go along every ray starting from this point and stop when extremum of function f is reached



$$f(t) = \frac{\left| I(t) - I_0 \right|}{\frac{1}{t} \int_{0}^{t} \left| I(t) - I_0 \right| dt}$$

• We will obtain approximately corresponding regions

Remark: we search for scale in every direction

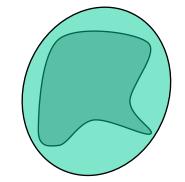


- The regions found may not exactly correspond, so we approximate them with ellipses
- Geometric Moments:

$$m_{pq} = \int_{\square^2} x^p y^q f(x, y) dx dy$$

Fact: moments m_{pq} uniquely determine the function f

Taking f to be the characteristic function of a region (1 inside, 0 outside), moments of orders up to 2 allow to approximate the region by an ellipse

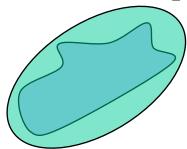


This ellipse will have the same moments of orders up to 2 as the original region

• Covariance matrix of region points defines an ellipse:



$$q = Ap$$



$$p^T \Sigma_1^{-1} p = 1$$

$$q^T \Sigma_2^{-1} q = 1$$

$$\Sigma_1 = \langle pp^T \rangle_{\text{region 1}}$$

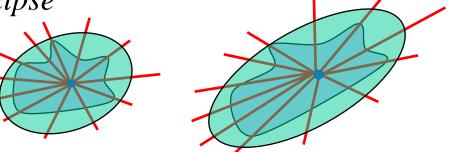
$$\Sigma_2 = \left\langle qq^T \right\rangle_{\text{region 2}}$$

(
$$p = [x, y]^T$$
 is relative
to the center of mass)

$$\Sigma_2 = A\Sigma_1 A^T$$

Ellipses, computed for corresponding regions, also correspond!

- Algorithm summary (detection of affine invariant region):
 - Start from a *local intensity extremum* point
 - Go in every direction until the point of extremum of some function f
 - Curve connecting the points is the region boundary
 - Compute geometric moments of orders up to 2 for this region
 - Replace the region with *ellipse*



- Maximally Stable Extremal Regions
 - Threshold image intensities: $I > I_0$
 - Extract connected components ("Extremal Regions")
 - Find a threshold when an extremal region is "Maximally Stable",
 i.e. *local minimum* of the relative growth of its square
 - Approximate a region with an *ellipse*



Affine Invariant Detection: Summary

- Under affine transformation, we do not know in advance shapes of the corresponding regions
- Ellipse given by geometric covariance matrix of a region robustly approximates this region
- For corresponding regions ellipses also correspond

Methods:

- 1. Search for extremum along rays [Tuytelaars, Van Gool]:
- 2. Maximally Stable Extremal Regions [Matas et.al.]

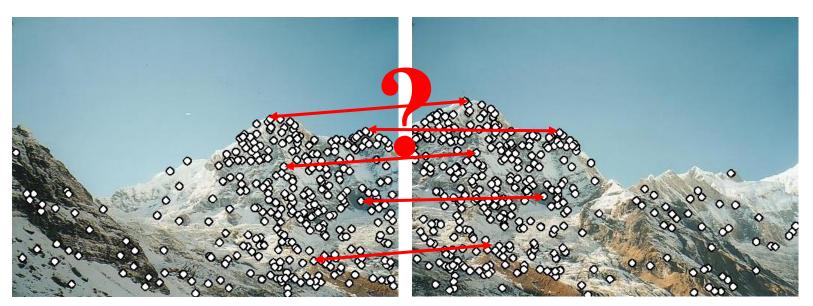
Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Point Descriptors

- We know how to detect points
- Next question:

How to match them?



Point descriptor should be:

- 1. Invariant
- 2. Distinctive

Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Descriptors Invariant to Rotation

• Harris corner response measure: depends only on the eigenvalues of the matrix *M*

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

Descriptors Invariant to Rotation

• Image moments in polar coordinates

$$m_{kl} = \iint r^k e^{-i\theta l} I(r,\theta) dr d\theta$$

Rotation in polar coordinates is translation of the angle:

$$\theta \rightarrow \theta + \theta_0$$

This transformation changes only the phase of the moments, but not its magnitude

Rotation invariant descriptor consists of magnitudes of moments:



Matching is done by comparing vectors $[|m_{kl}|]_{k,l}$

Descriptors Invariant to Rotation

Find local orientation

Dominant direction of gradient





Compute image derivatives relative to this orientation

¹ K.Mikolajczyk, C.Schmid. "Indexing Based on Scale Invariant Interest Points". ICCV 2001

²D.Lowe. "Distinctive Image Features from Scale-Invariant Keypoints". Accepted to IJCV 2004

Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Descriptors Invariant to Scale

• Use the scale determined by detector to compute descriptor in a normalized frame

For example:

- moments integrated over an adapted window
- derivatives adapted to scale: sI_x

Contents

- Harris Corner Detector
 - Description
 - Analysis
- Detectors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant
- Descriptors
 - Rotation invariant
 - Scale invariant
 - Affine invariant

Affine Invariant Descriptors

Affine invariant color moments

$$m_{pq}^{abc} = \int_{region} x^p y^q R^a(x, y) G^b(x, y) B^c(x, y) d d y$$

Different combinations of these moments are fully affine invariant

Also invariant to affine transformation of intensity $I \rightarrow a I + b$

Affine Invariant Descriptors

Find affine normalized frame rotation

Compute rotational invariant descriptor in this normalized frame

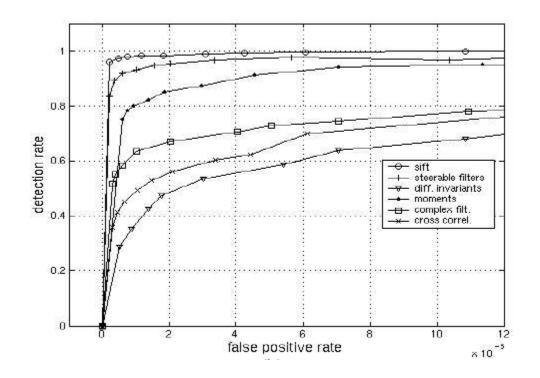
J.Matas et.al. "Rotational Invariants for Wide-baseline Stereo". Research Report of CMP, 2003

SIFT – Scale Invariant Feature Transform¹

• Empirically found² to show very good performance, invariant to *image rotation*, *scale*, *intensity change*, and to moderate *affine* transformations

Scale =
$$2.5$$

Rotation = 45^0



¹ D.Lowe. "Distinctive Image Features from Scale-Invariant Keypoints". Accepted to IJCV 2004 ² K.Mikolajczyk, C.Schmid. "A Performance Evaluation of Local Descriptors". CVPR 2003

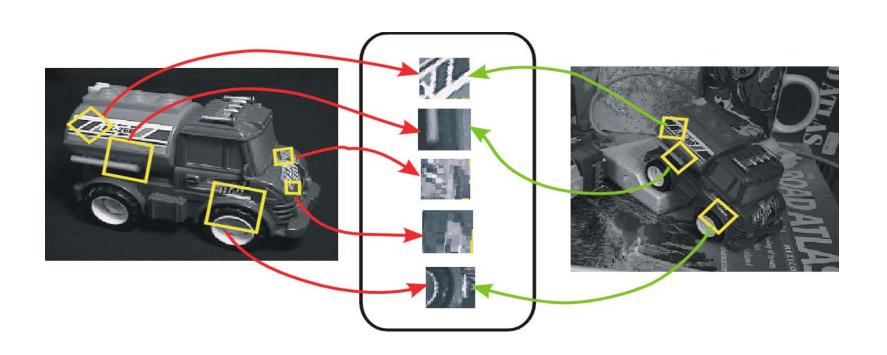
CVPR 2003 Tutorial

Recognition and Matching Based on Local Invariant Features

David Lowe
Computer Science Department
University of British Columbia

Invariant Local Features

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



SIFT Features

Advantages of invariant local features

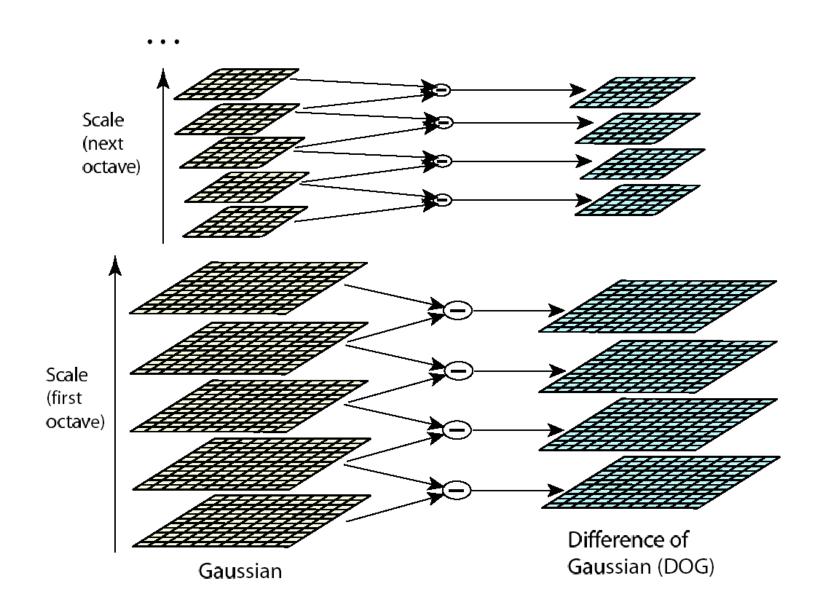
- Locality: features are local, so robust to occlusion and clutter (no prior segmentation)
- **Distinctiveness:** individual features can be matched to a large database of objects
- Quantity: many features can be generated for even small objects
- Efficiency: close to real-time performance
- Extensibility: can easily be extended to wide range of differing feature types, with each adding robustness

Scale invariance

Requires a method to repeatably select points in location and scale:

- The only reasonable scale-space kernel is a Gaussian (Koenderink, 1984; Lindeberg, 1994)
- An efficient choice is to detect peaks in the difference of Gaussian pyramid (Burt & Adelson, 1983; Crowley & Parker, 1984 but examining more scales)
- Difference-of-Gaussian with constant ratio of scales is a close approximation to Lindeberg's scale-normalized Laplacian (can be shown from the heat diffusion equation)

Scale space processed one octave at a time



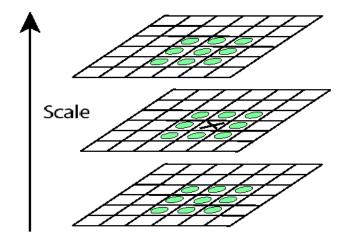
Key point localization

- Detect maxima and minima of difference-of-Gaussian in scale space
- Fit a quadratic to surrounding values for sub-pixel and sub-scale interpolation (Brown & Lowe, 2002)
- Taylor expansion around point:

$$D(\mathbf{x}) = D + \frac{\partial D}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^T \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x^T} \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2} \mathbf{x}$$

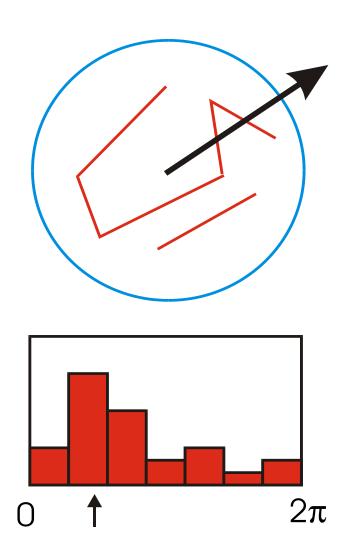
• Offset of extremum (use finite differences for derivatives):

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = -\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2}^{-1} \frac{\partial D}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$



Select canonical orientation

- Create histogram of local gradient directions computed at selected scale
- Assign canonical orientation at peak of smoothed histogram
- Each key specifies stable 2D coordinates (x, y, scale, orientation)



Example of keypoint detection

Threshold on value at DOG peak and on ratio of principle curvatures (Harris approach)

(d)





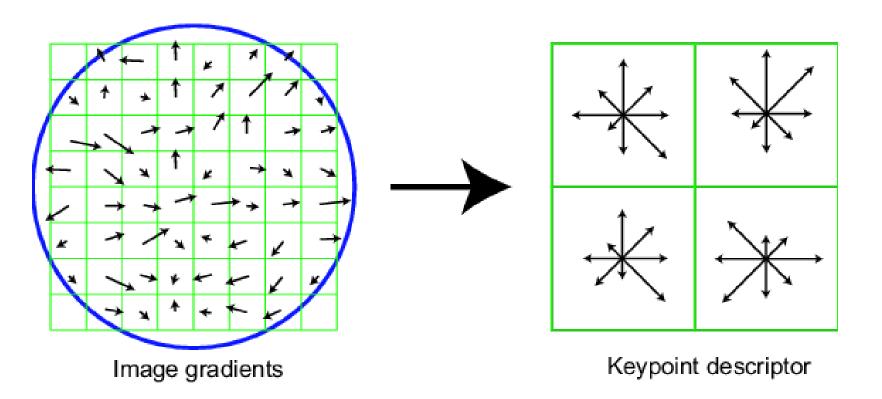
- (a) 233x189 image
- (b) 832 DOG extrema
- (c) 729 left after peak value threshold
- (d) 536 left after testing ratio of principle curvatures





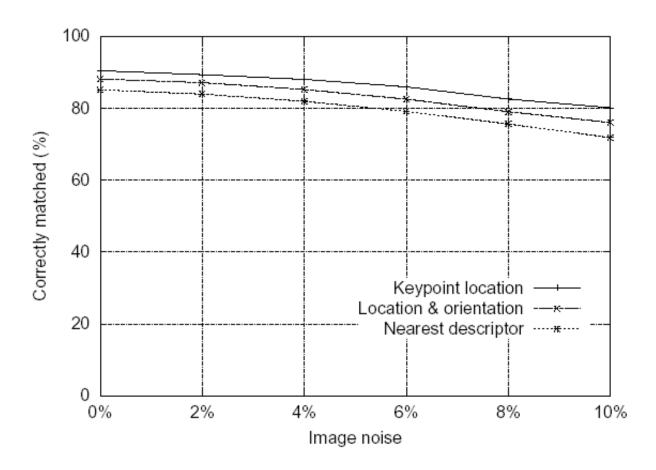
SIFT vector formation

- Thresholded image gradients are sampled over 16x16 array of locations in scale space
- Create array of orientation histograms
- 8 orientations x 4x4 histogram array = 128 dimensions



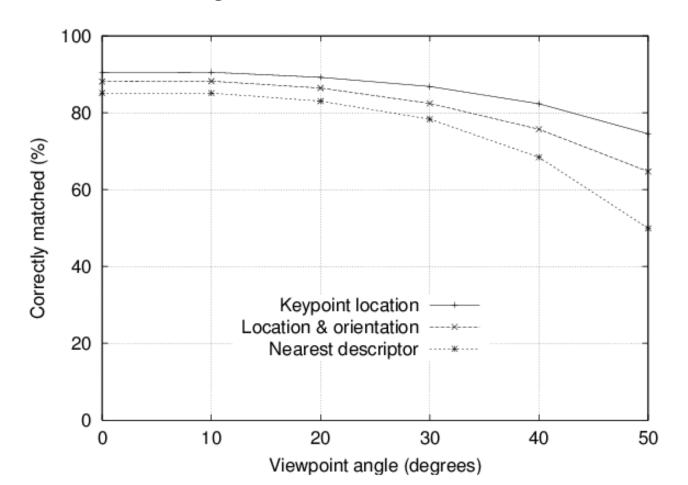
Feature stability to noise

- Match features after random change in image scale & orientation, with differing levels of image noise
- Find nearest neighbor in database of 30,000 features



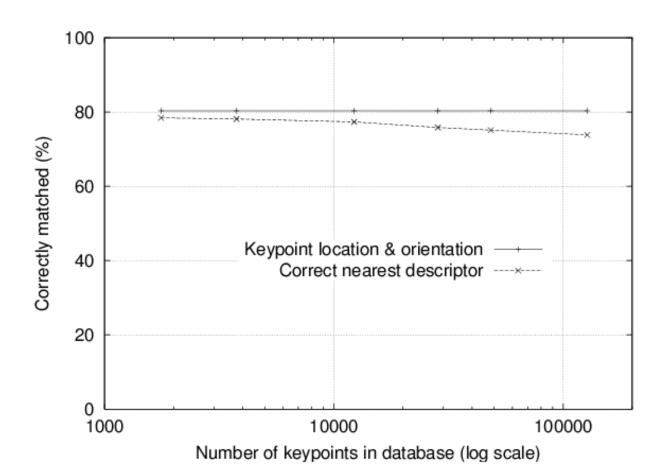
Feature stability to affine change

- Match features after random change in image scale & orientation, with 2% image noise, and affine distortion
- Find nearest neighbor in database of 30,000 features



Distinctiveness of features

- Vary size of database of features, with 30 degree affine change, 2% image noise
- Measure % correct for single nearest neighbor match





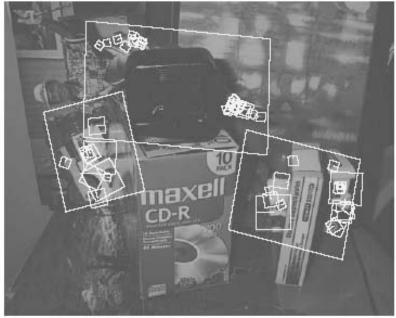




Figure 12: The training images for two objects are shown on the left. These can be recognized in a cluttered image with extensive occlusion, shown in the middle. The results of recognition are shown on the right. A parallelogram is drawn around each recognized object showing the boundaries of the original training image under the affi ne transformation solved for during recognition. Smaller squares indicate the keypoints that were used for recognition.



Figure 13: This example shows location recognition within a complex scene. The training images for locations are shown at the upper left and the 640x315 pixel test image taken from a different viewpoint is on the upper right. The recognized regions are shown on the lower image, with keypoints shown as squares and an outer parallelogram showing the boundaries of the training images under the affi ne transform used for recognition.

Talk Resume

- Stable (repeatable) feature points can be detected regardless of image changes
 - Scale: search for correct scale as maximum of appropriate function
 - Affine: approximate regions with *ellipses* (this operation is affine invariant)
- Invariant and distinctive descriptors can be computed
 - Invariant moments
 - Normalizing with respect to scale and affine transformation

Invariance to Intensity Change

Detectors

 mostly invariant to affine (linear) change in image intensity, because we are searching for maxima

Descriptors

- Some are based on derivatives => invariant to intensity shift
- Some are normalized to tolerate intensity scale
- Generic method: pre-normalize intensity of a region (eliminate shift and scale)