



# Lecture 9 & 10: Stereo Vision

Professor Fei-Fei Li  
Stanford Vision Lab

# What we will learn today?

- Introduction to stereo vision
- Epipolar geometry: a gentle intro
- Parallel images
- Image rectification
- Solving the correspondence problem
- Active stereo vision system

## Reading:

[HZ] Chapters: 4, 9, 11

[FP] Chapters: 10

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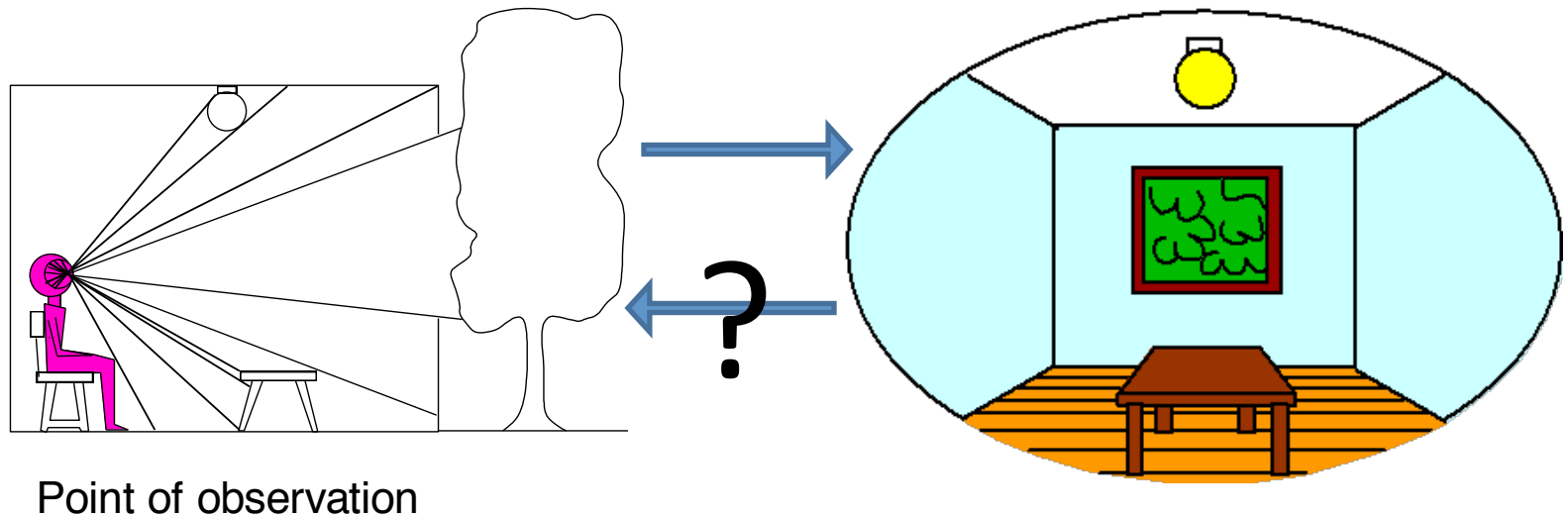
[FP] Chapters: 10

# Recovering 3D from Images

- How can we automatically compute 3D geometry from images?
  - What cues in the image provide 3D information?

*Real 3D world*

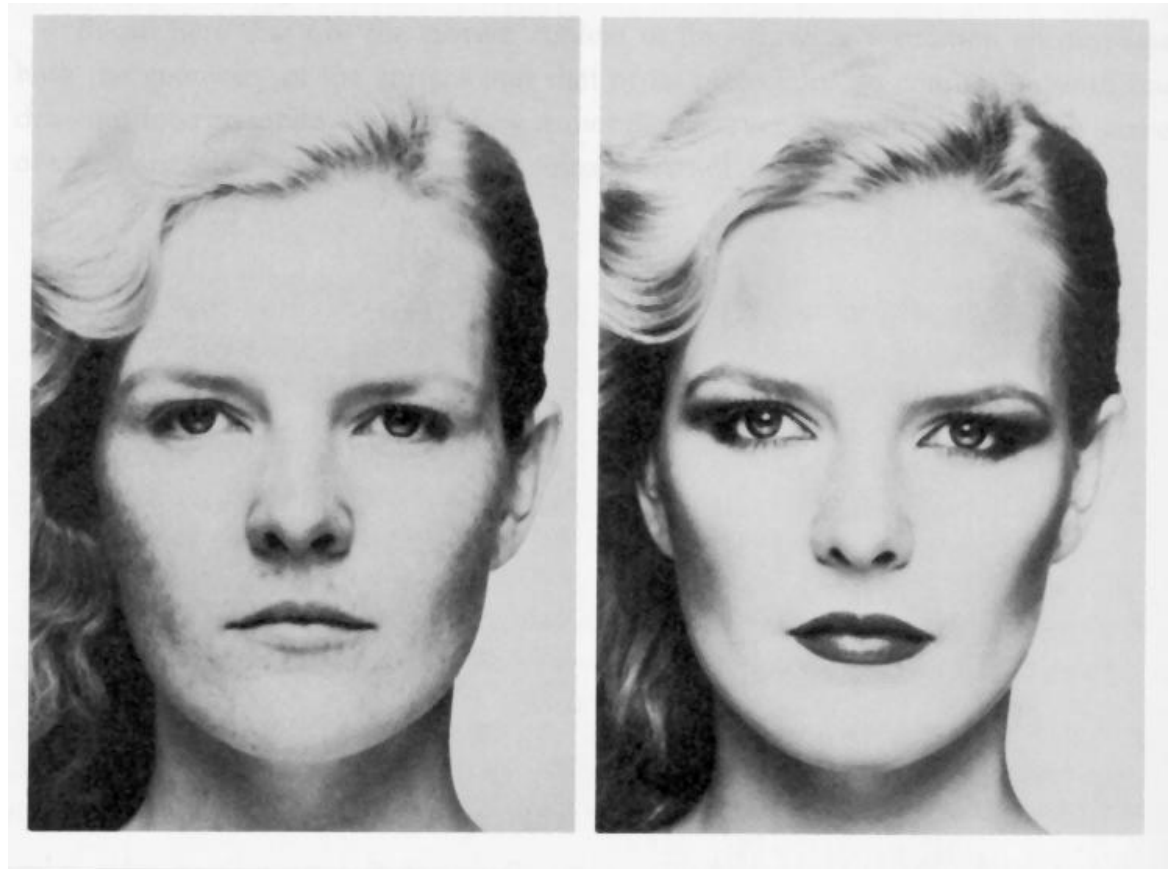
*2D image*



# Visual Cues for 3D

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- Shading



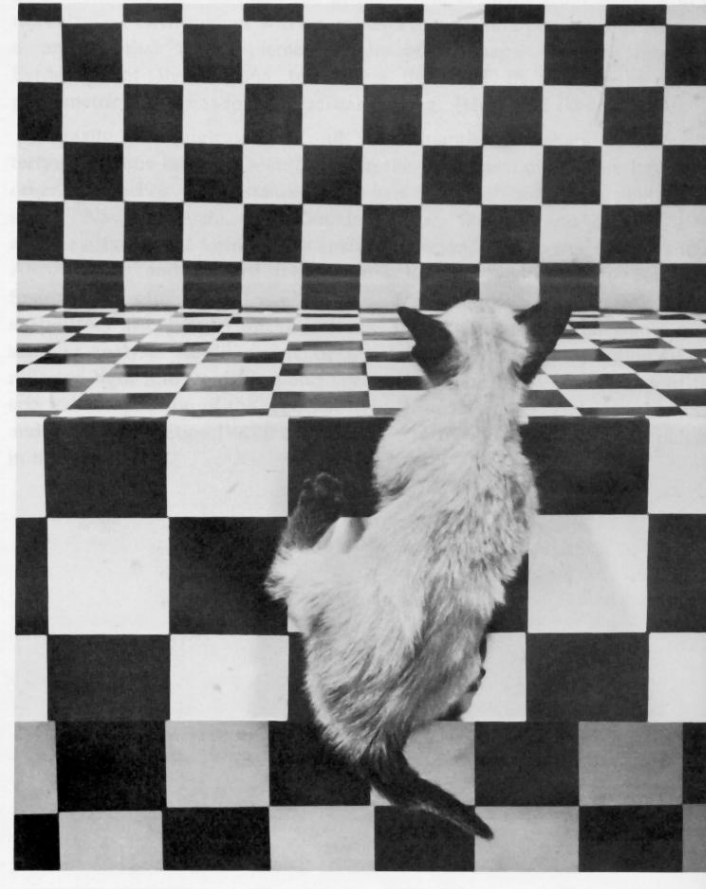
**Merle Norman Cosmetics, Los Angeles**

Slide credit: J. Hayes

# Visual Cues for 3D

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- Shading
- Texture



*The Visual Cliff, by William Vandivert, 1960*

# Visual Cues for 3D

- Shading
- Texture
- Focus



*From The Art of Photography, Canon*

# Visual Cues for 3D

---

- Shading
- Texture
- Focus
  
- Motion



Slide credit: J. Hayes



# Visual Cues for 3D

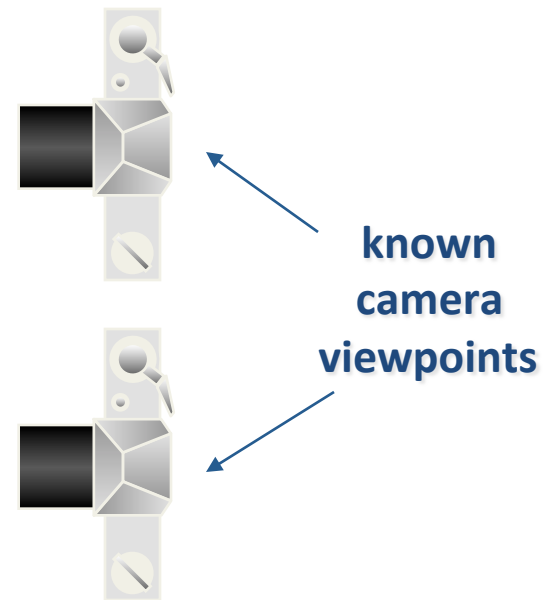
---

- Shading
  - Texture
  - Focus
  - Motion
- Others:
    - Highlights
    - Shadows
    - Silhouettes
    - Inter-reflections
    - Symmetry
    - Light Polarization
    - ...
- Shape From X
- X = shading, texture, focus, motion, ...
  - We'll focus on the motion cue

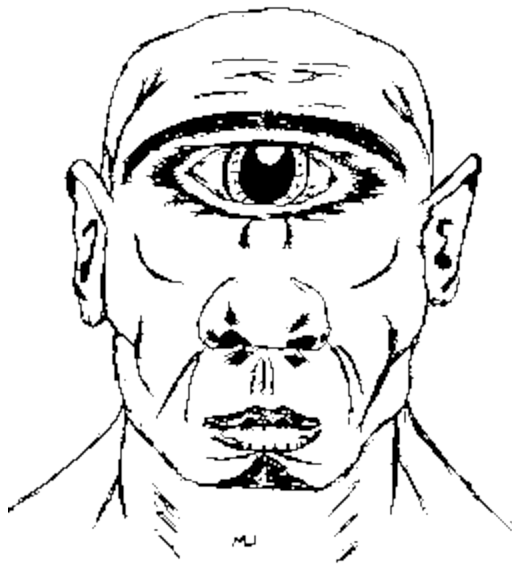
# Stereo Reconstruction

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- The Stereo Problem
  - Shape from two (or more) images
  - Biological motivation



# Why do we have two eyes?



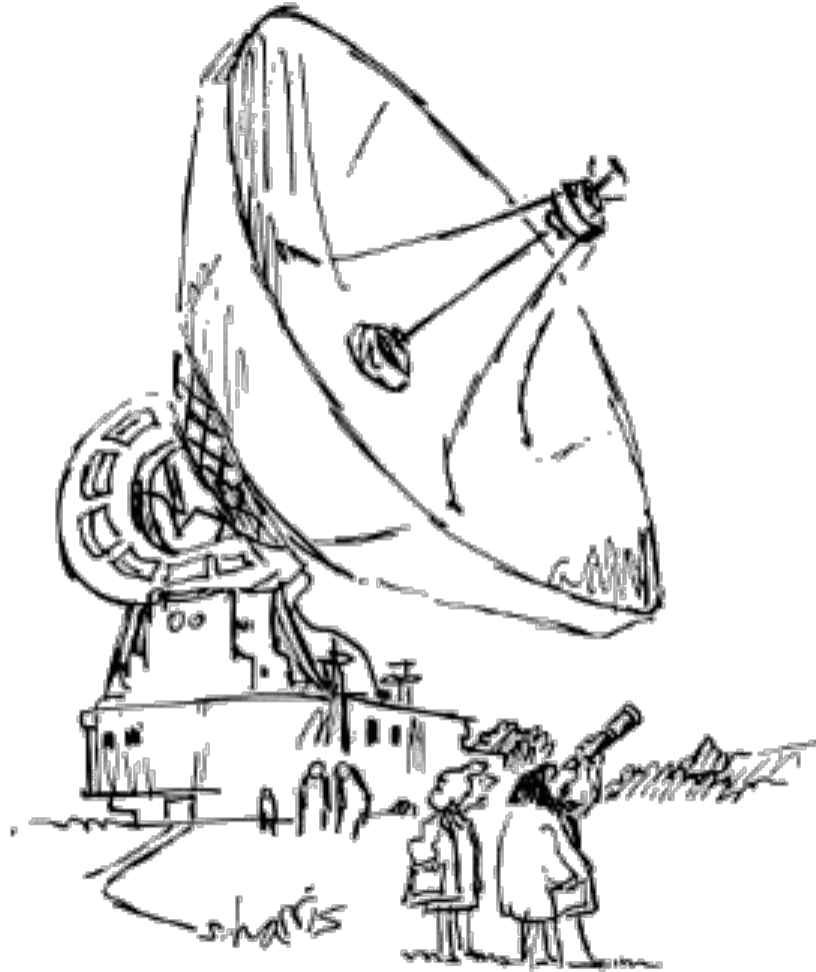
**Cyclope**

vs.



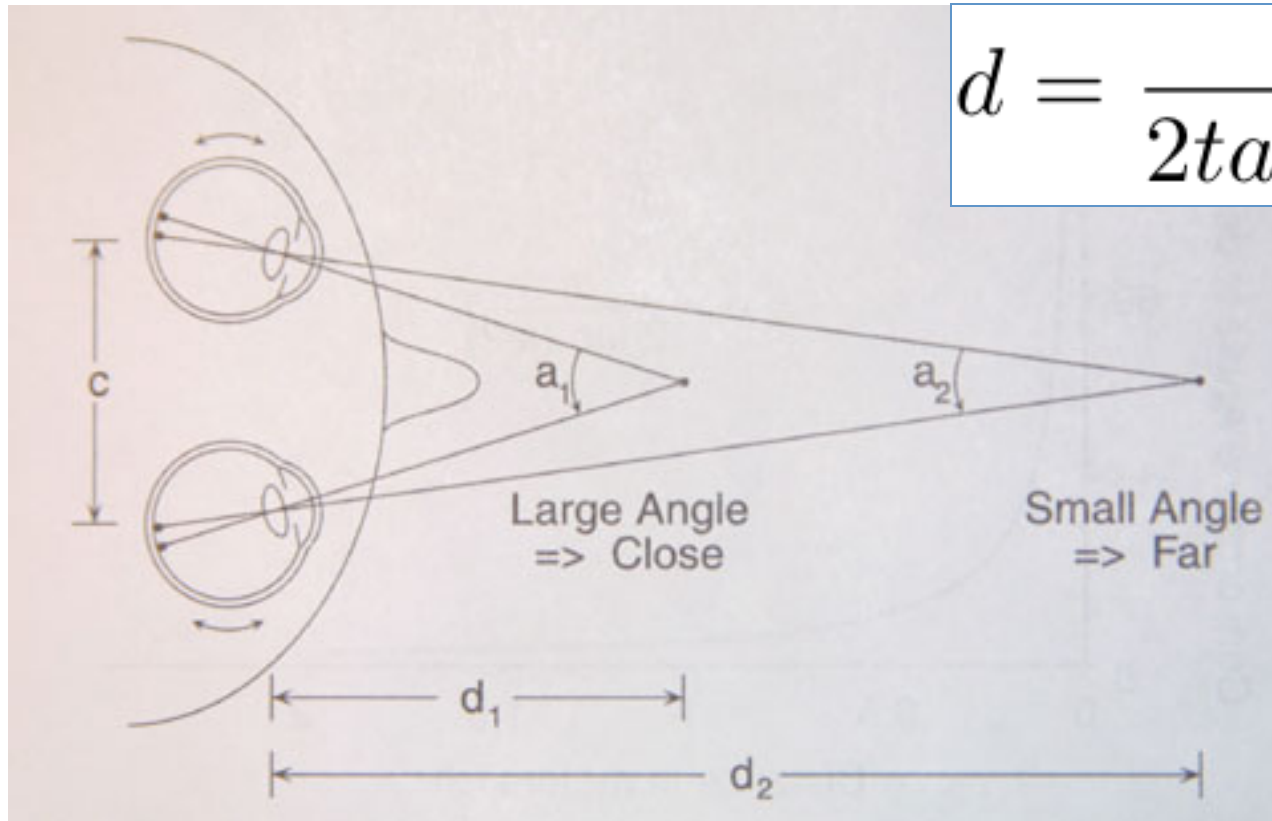
**Odysseus**

# 1. Two is better than one



"Just checking."

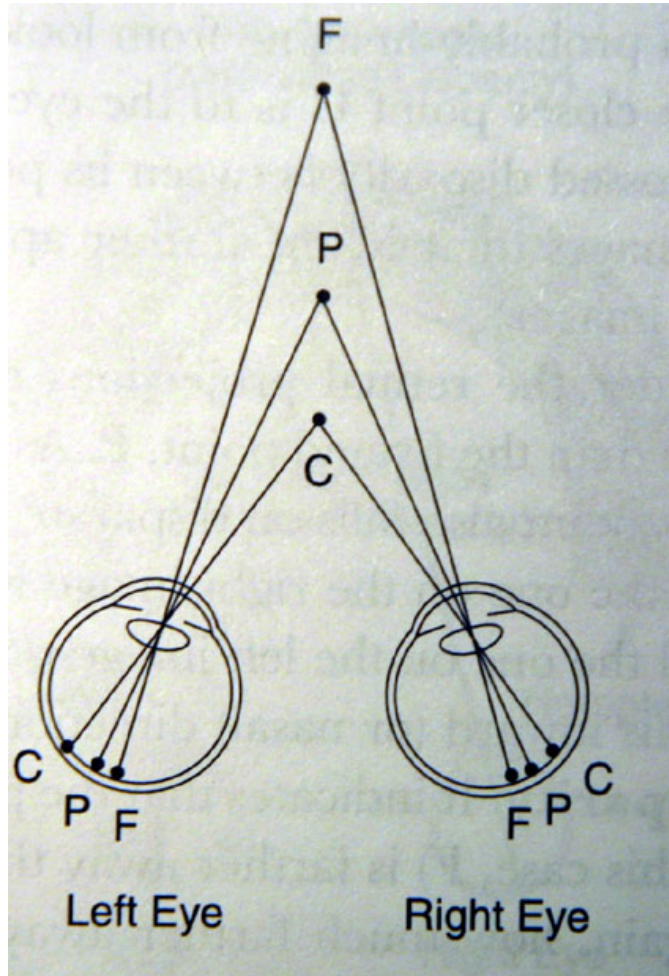
## 2. Depth from Convergence



$$d = \frac{c}{2 \tan(a/2)}$$

*Human performance: up to 6-8 feet*

### 3. Depth from binocular disparity



*P: converging point*

*C: object nearer  
projects to the  
outside of the P,  
disparity = +*

*F: object farther  
projects to the  
inside of the P,  
disparity = -*

*Sign and magnitude of disparity*

# What we will learn today?

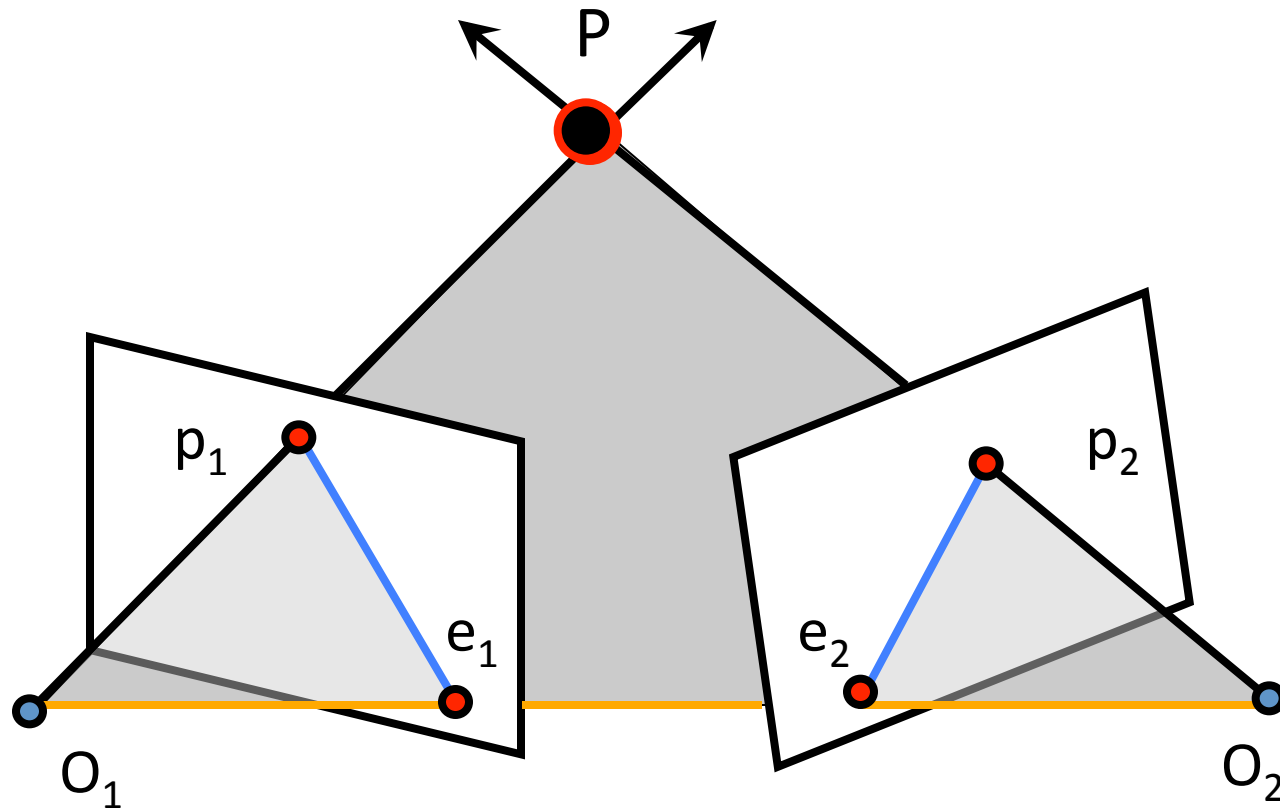
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# Epipolar geometry

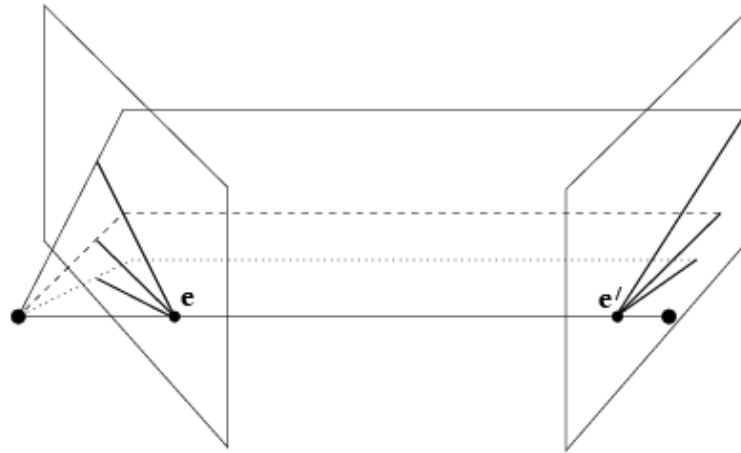


- Epipolar Plane
- Baseline
- Epipolar Lines

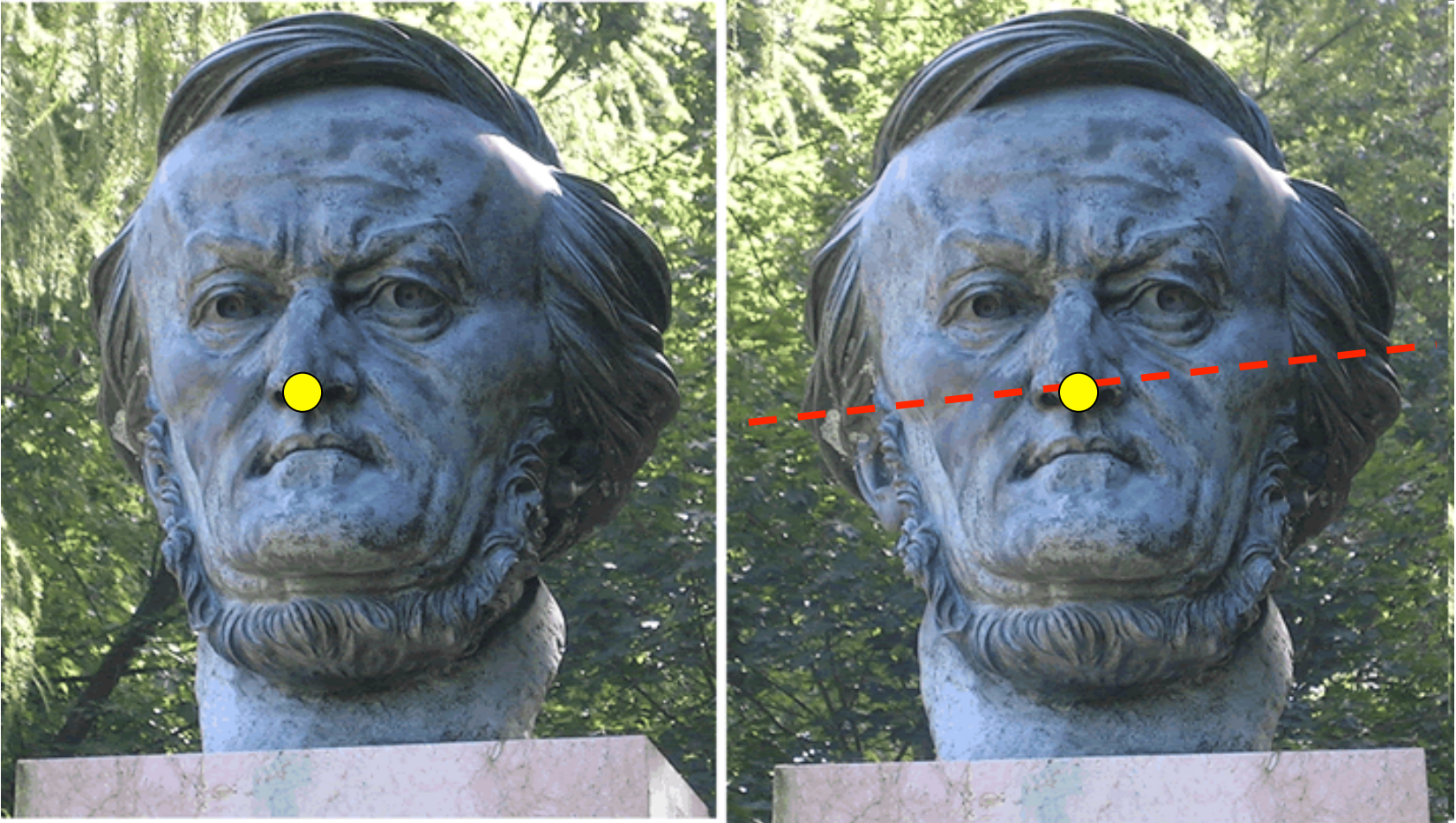
- Epipoles  $e_1, e_2$ 
  - = intersections of baseline with image planes
  - = projections of the other camera center
  - = vanishing points of camera motion direction



# Example: Converging image planes

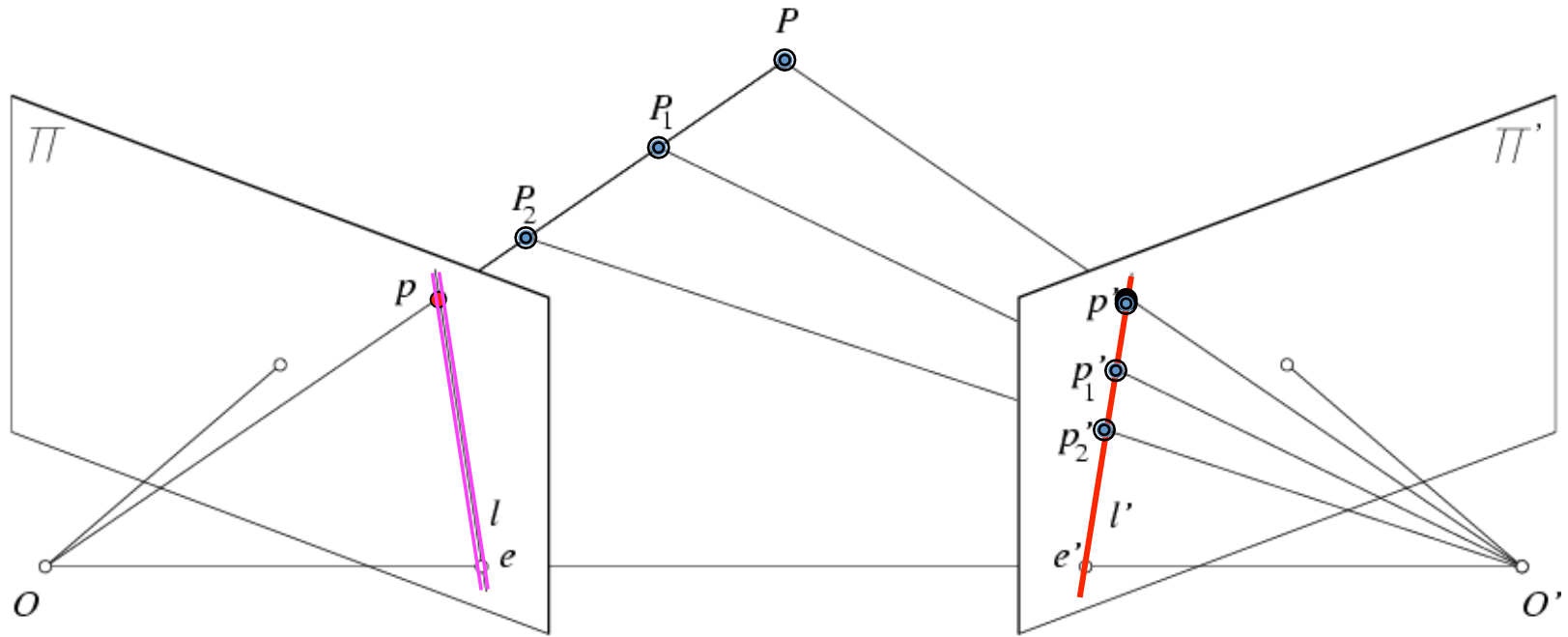


# Epipolar Constraint



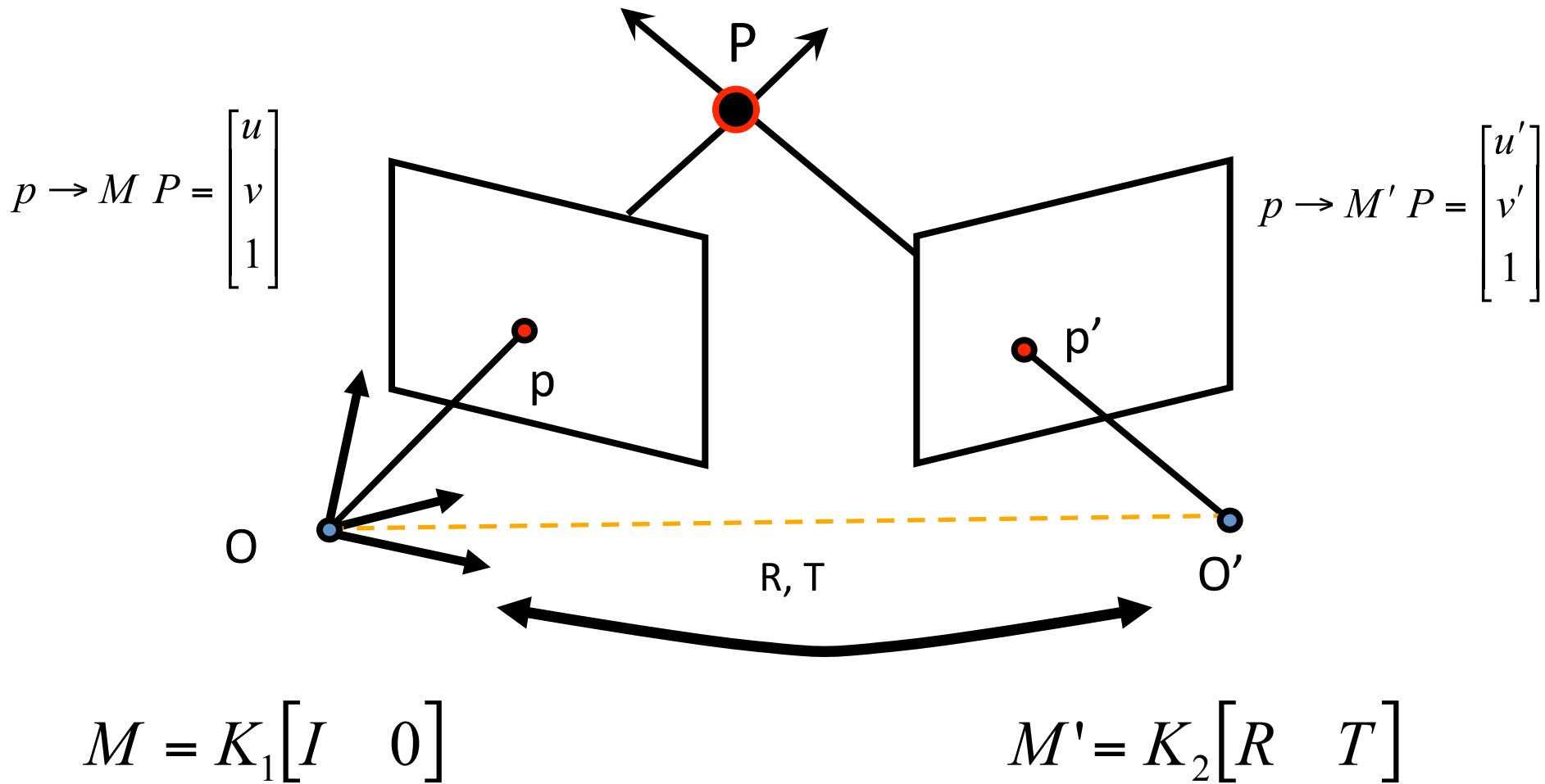
- Two views of the same object
- Suppose I know the camera positions and camera matrices
- Given a point on left image, how can I find the corresponding point on right image?

# Epipolar Constraint

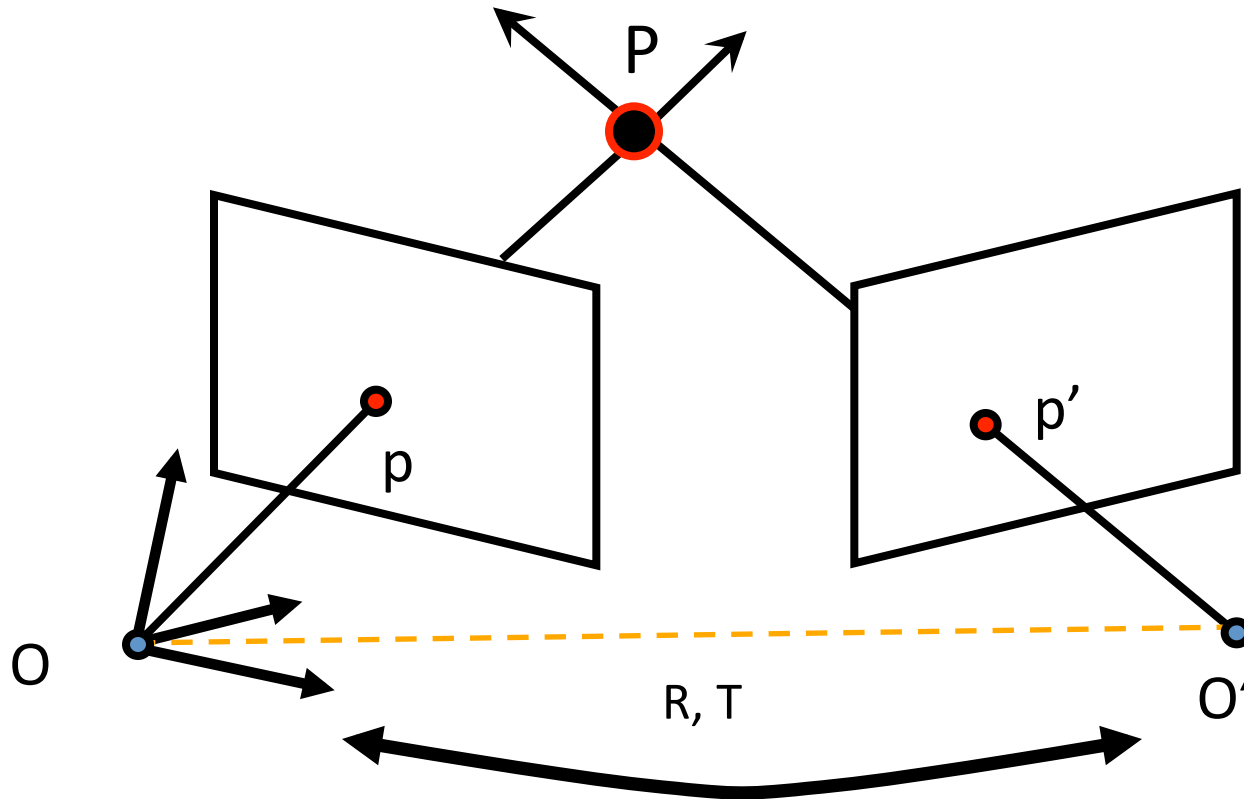


- Potential matches for  $p$  have to lie on the corresponding epipolar line  $l'$ .
- Potential matches for  $p'$  have to lie on the corresponding epipolar line  $l$ .

# Epipolar Constraint



# Epipolar Constraint



$$M = K_1 \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

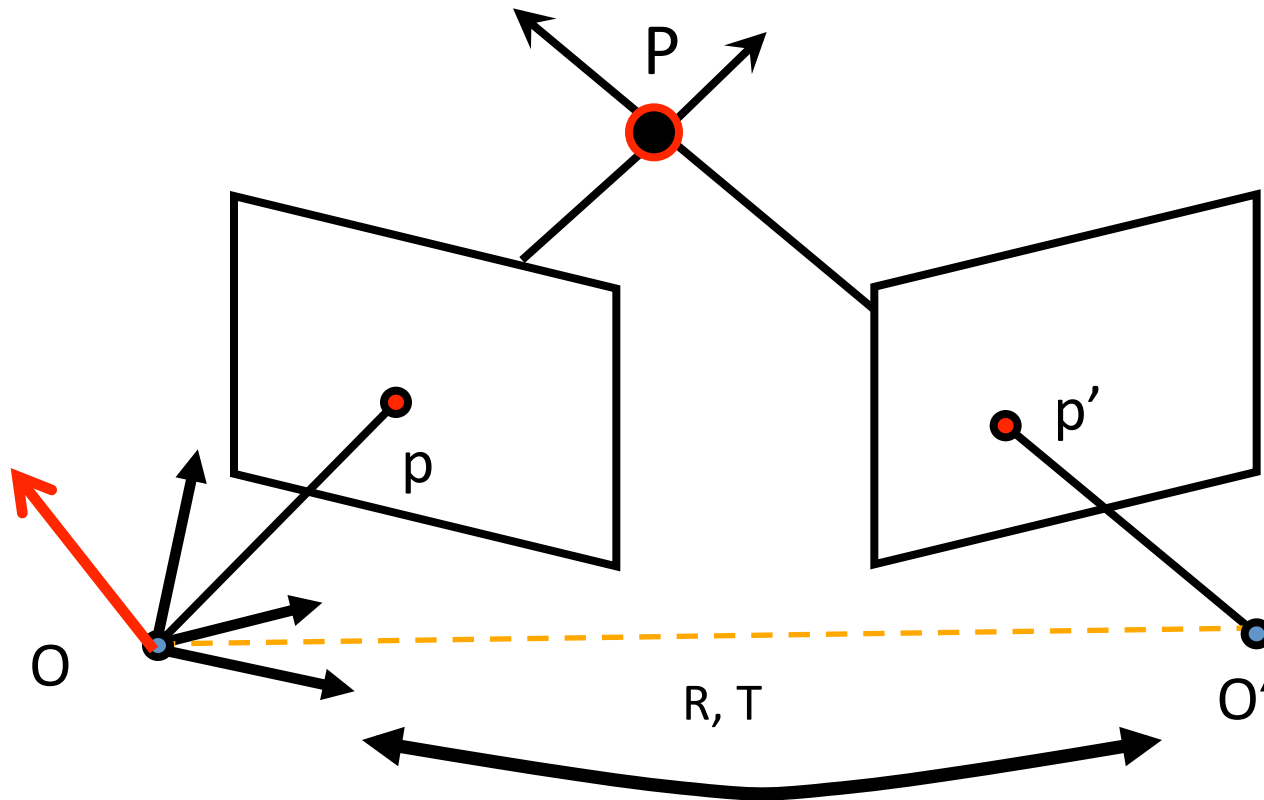
$K_1$  and  $K_2$  are known  
(calibrated cameras)

$$M' = K_2 \begin{bmatrix} R & T \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M' = \begin{bmatrix} R & T \end{bmatrix}$$

# Epipolar Constraint



$$T \times (R p')$$

Perpendicular to epipolar plane

$$p^T \cdot [T \times (R p')] = 0$$

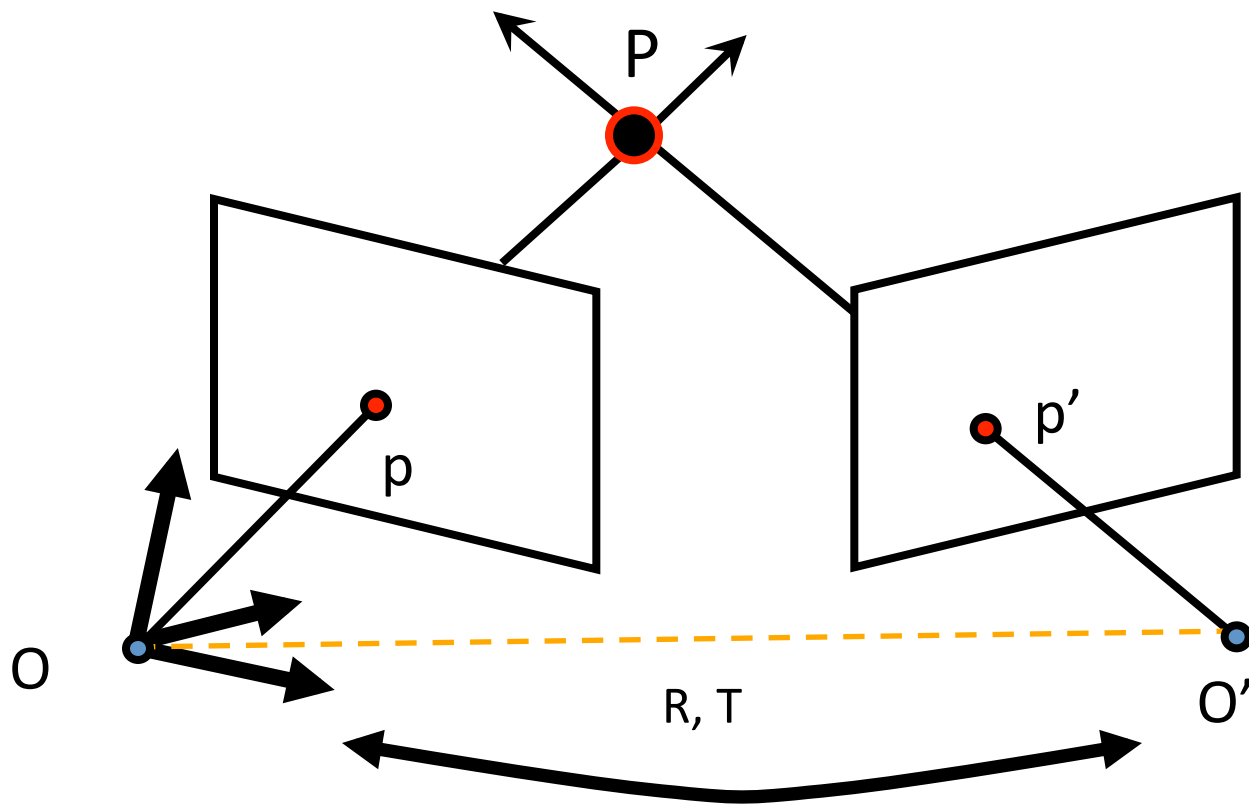
# Cross product as matrix multiplication

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_\times] \mathbf{b}$$

“skew symmetric matrix”



# Epipolar Constraint



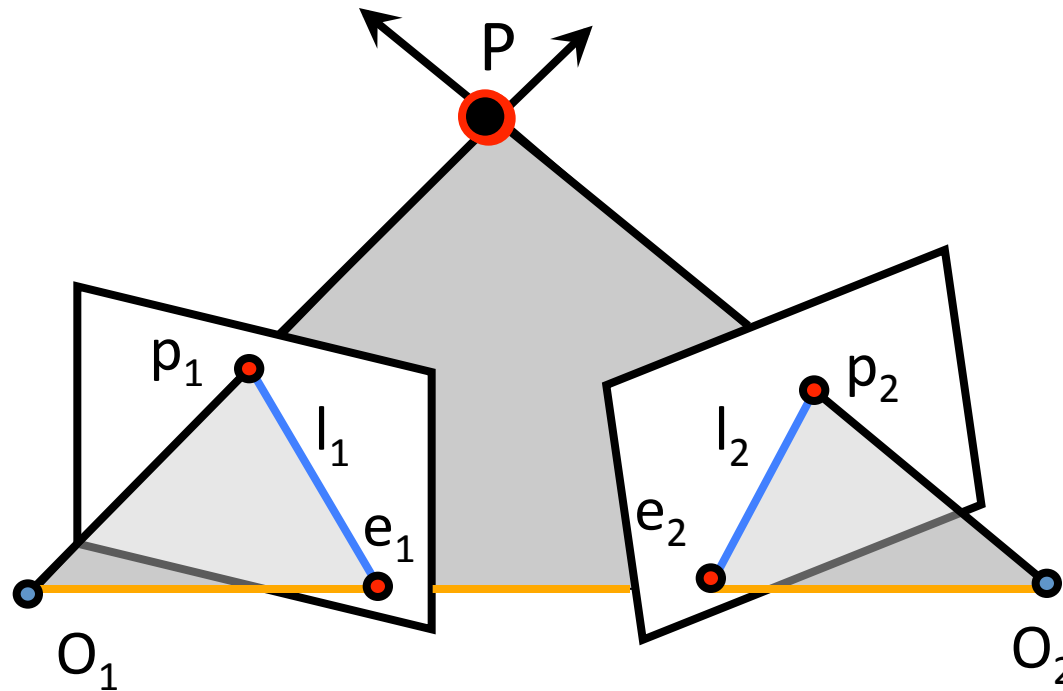
$$p^T \cdot [T \times (R p')] = 0 \rightarrow p^T \cdot [T_{\times}] \cdot R p' = 0$$

(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

$E$  = essential matrix



# Epipolar Constraint



- $E p_2$  is the epipolar line associated with  $p_2$  ( $l_1 = E p_2$ )
- $E^T p_1$  is the epipolar line associated with  $p_1$  ( $l_2 = E^T p_1$ )
- $E$  is singular (rank two)
- $E e_2 = 0$  and  $E^T e_1 = 0$
- $E$  is 3x3 matrix; 5 DOF

# What we will learn today?

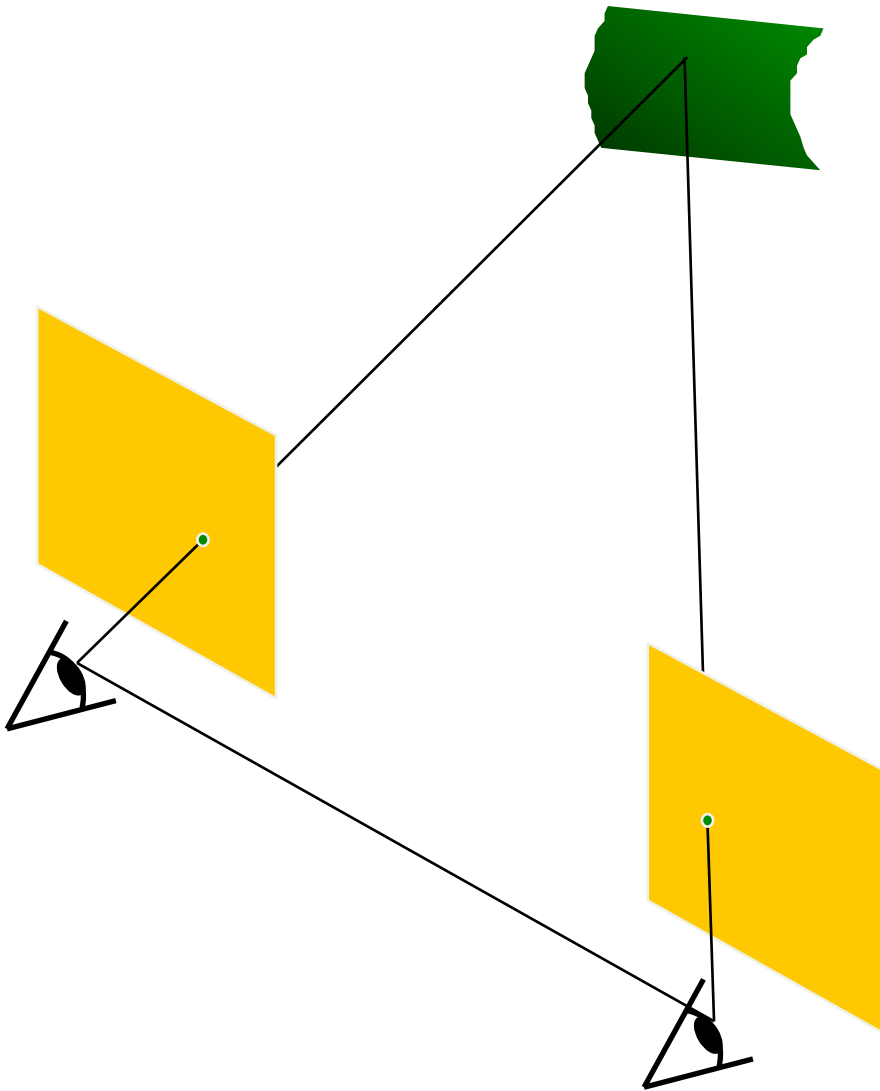
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- **Parallel images**
- Image rectification
- Solving the correspondence problem
- Active stereo vision system

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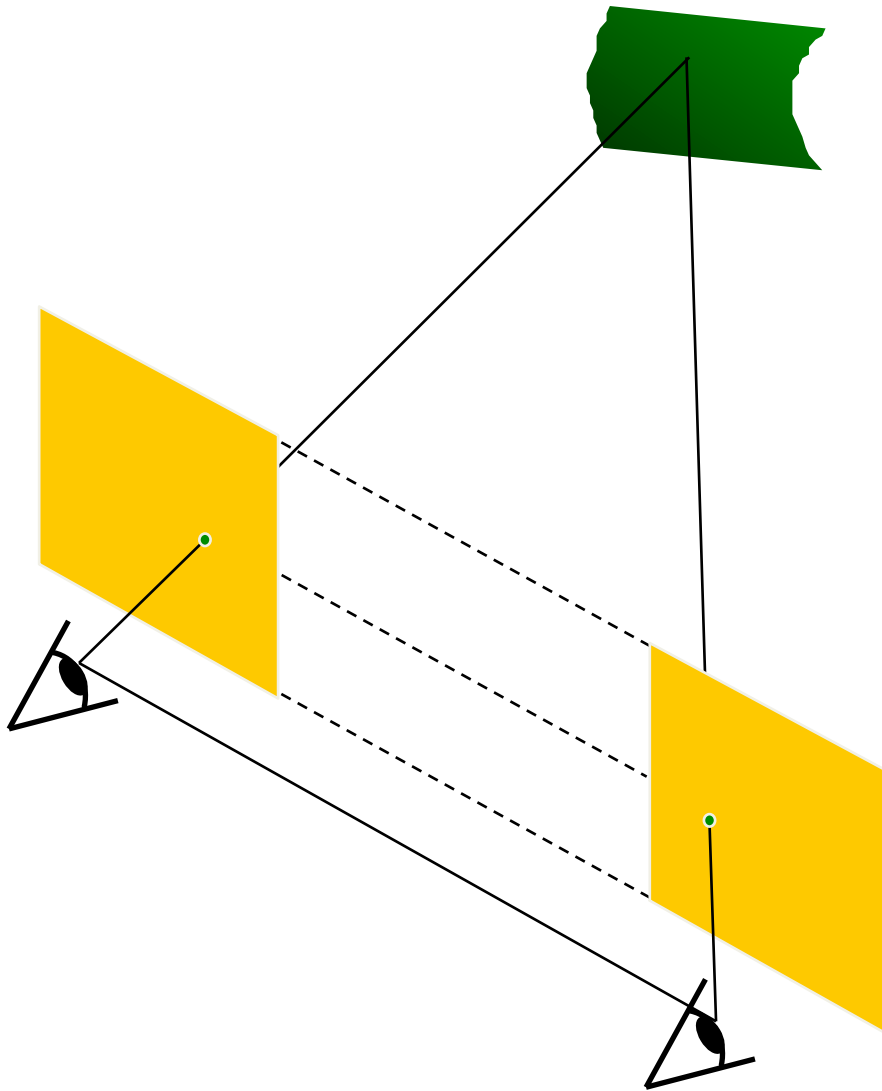
[FP] Chapters: 10

# Simplest Case: Parallel images



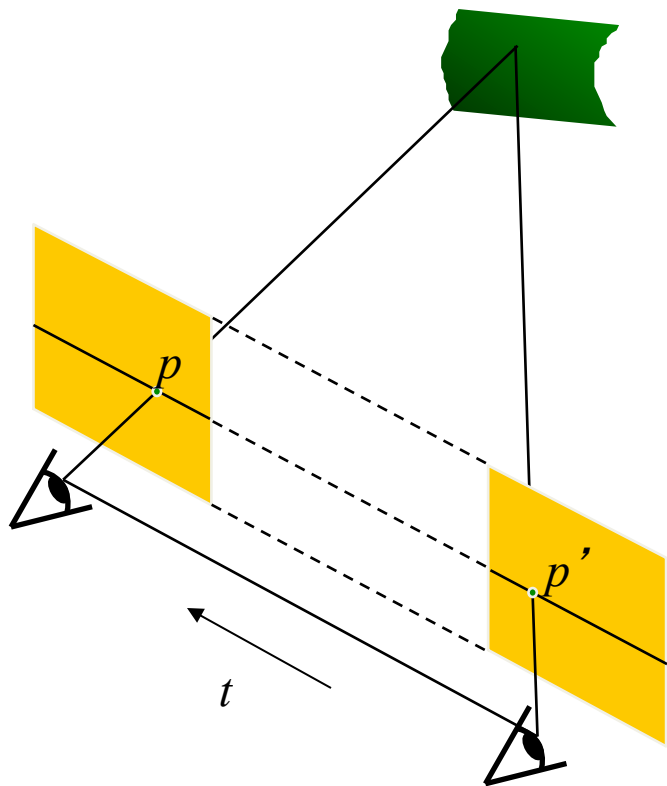
- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same

# Simplest Case: Parallel images



- Image planes of cameras are parallel to each other and to the baseline
- Camera centers are at same height
- Focal lengths are the same
- Then, epipolar lines fall along the horizontal scan lines of the images

# Essential matrix for parallel images



Epipolar constraint:

$$R = I \quad t = (T, 0, 0)$$

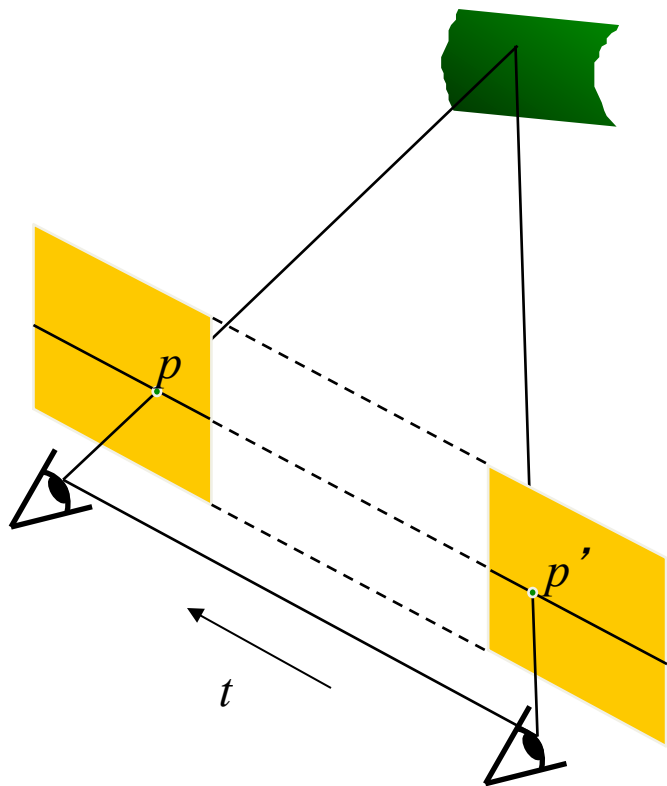
$$p^T E p' = 0, \quad E = [t_x]R$$

$$E = [t_x]R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reminder: skew symmetric matrix

$$[a_x] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Essential matrix for parallel images



Epipolar constraint:

$$R = I \quad t = (T, 0, 0)$$

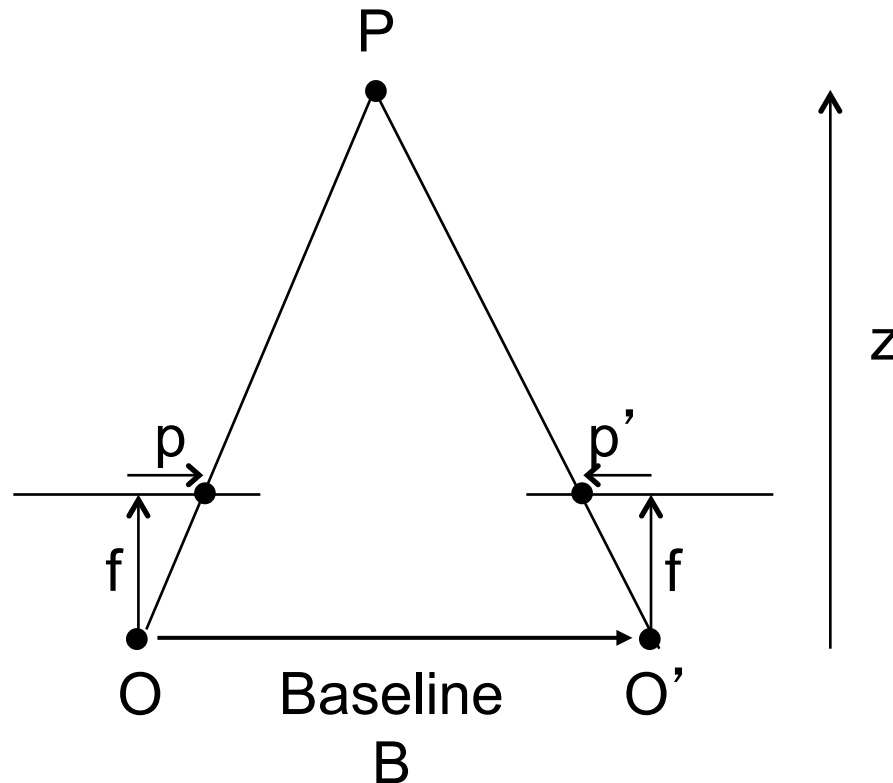
$$p^T E p' = 0, \quad E = [t_x]R$$

$$E = [t_x]R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(u \quad v \quad 1) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -T \\ 0 & T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (u \quad v \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -T \\ Tv' \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad Tv = Tv'$$

The y-coordinates of corresponding points are the same!

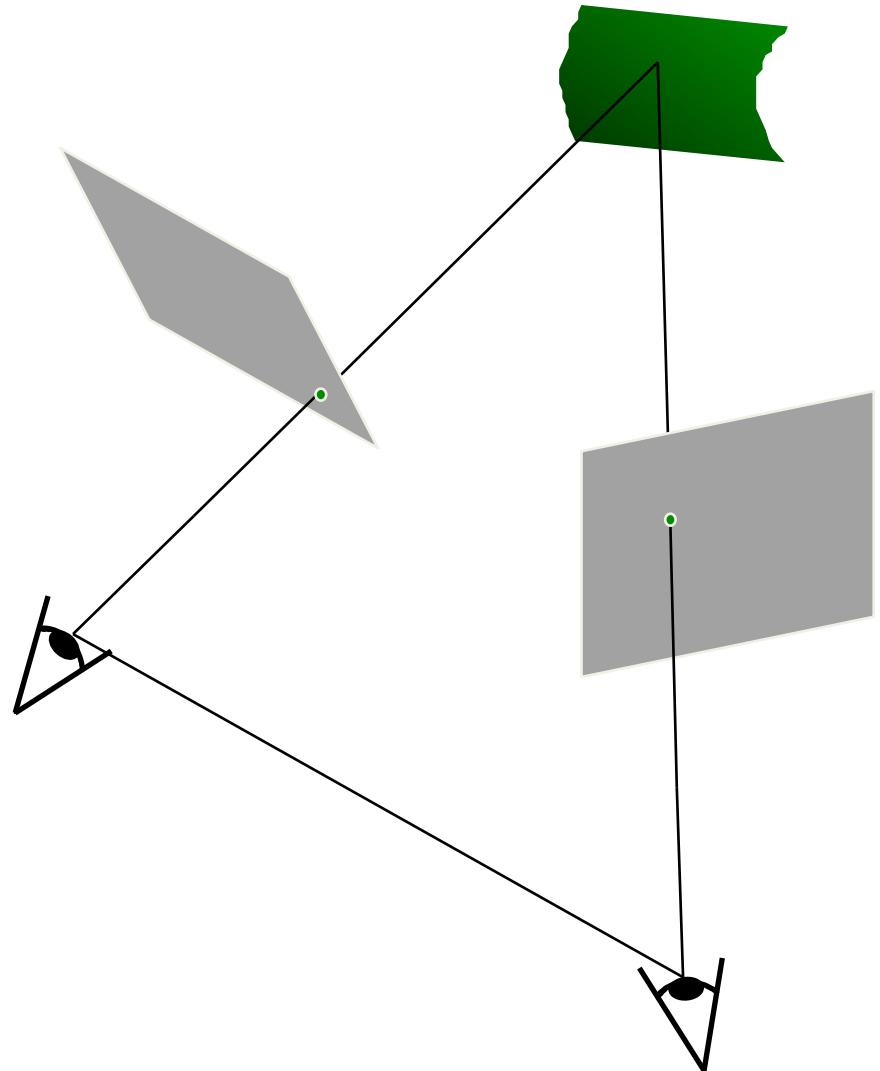
# Triangulation -- depth from disparity



$$\text{disparity} = u - u' = \frac{B \cdot f}{z}$$

Disparity is inversely proportional to depth!

# Stereo image rectification



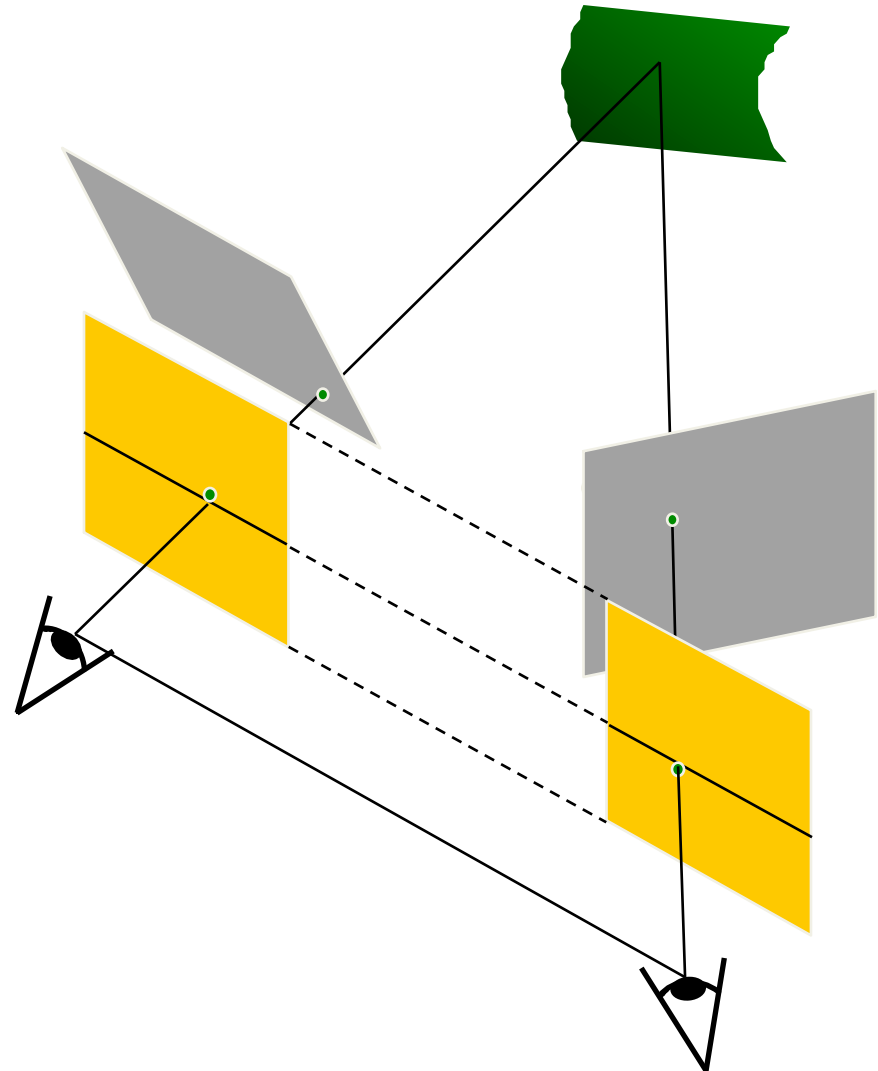
Slide credit: J. Hayes



# Stereo image rectification

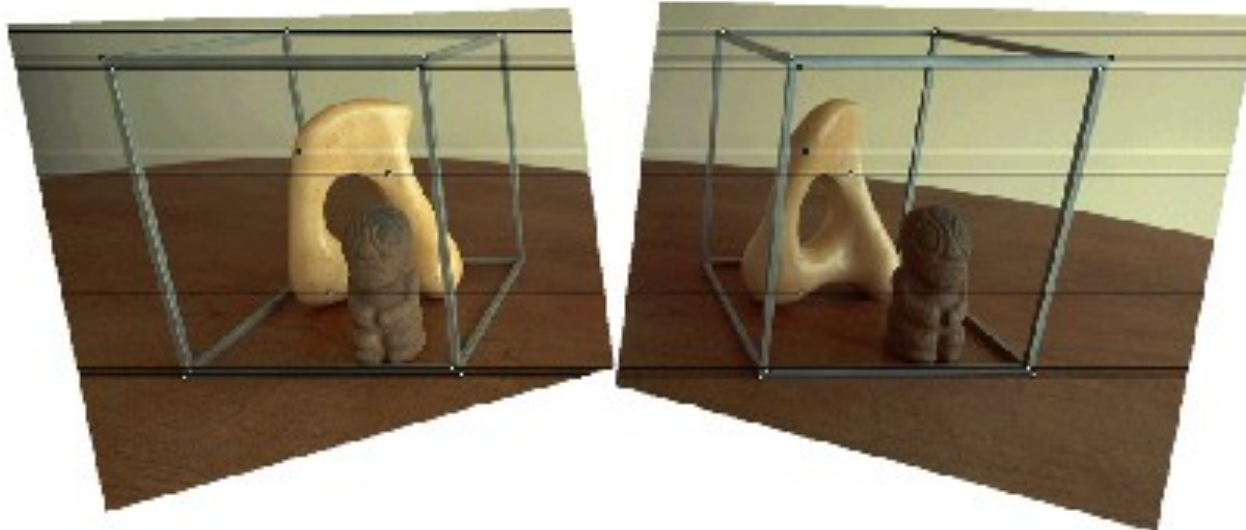
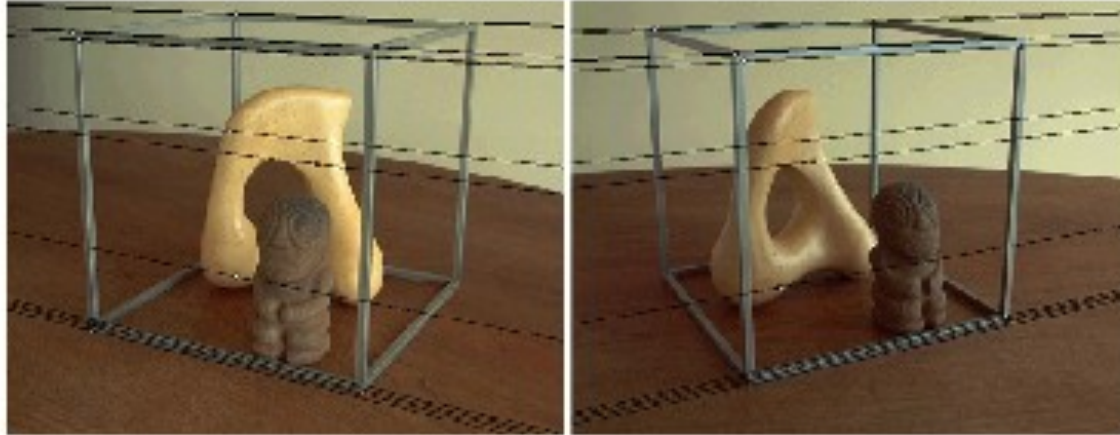
Algorithm:

- Re-project image planes onto a common plane parallel to the line between optical centers
- Pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation
- Two transformation matrices, one for each input image reprojection



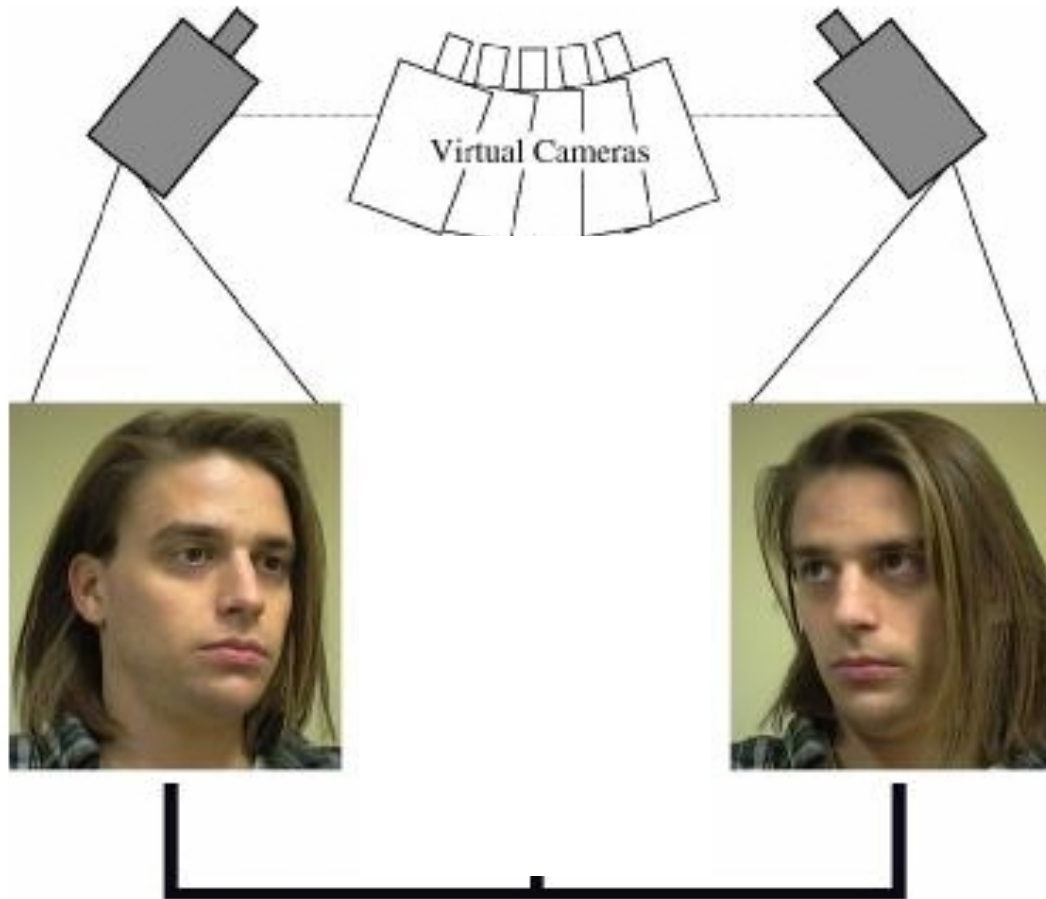
- C. Loop and Z. Zhang.  
[Computing Rectifying Homographies for Stereo Vision](#). IEEE Conf. Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 1999.

# Rectification example

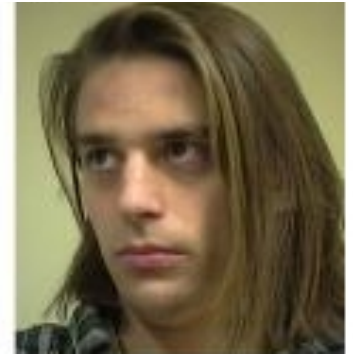
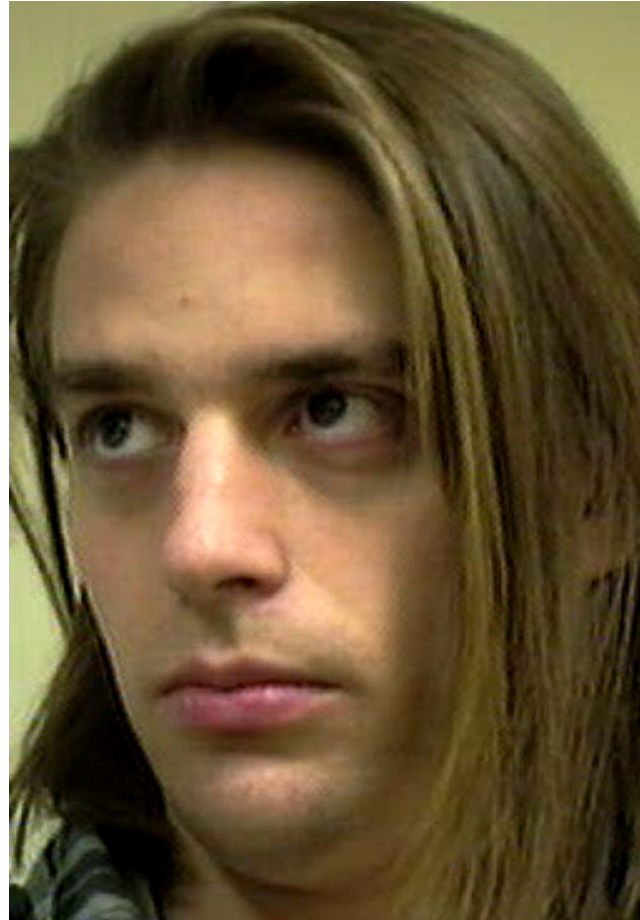
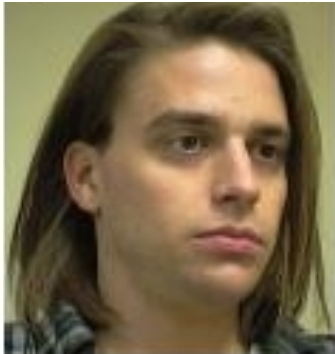


# Application: view morphing

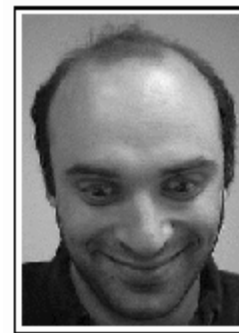
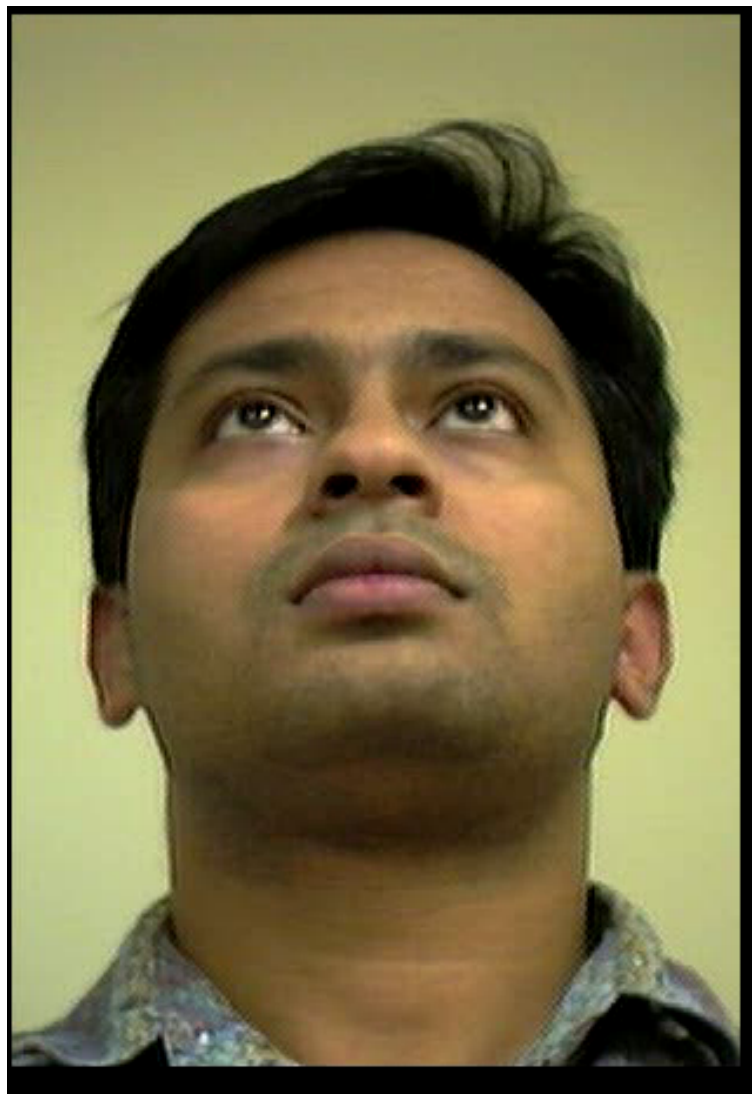
S. M. Seitz and C. R. Dyer, *Proc. SIGGRAPH 96*, 1996, 21-30



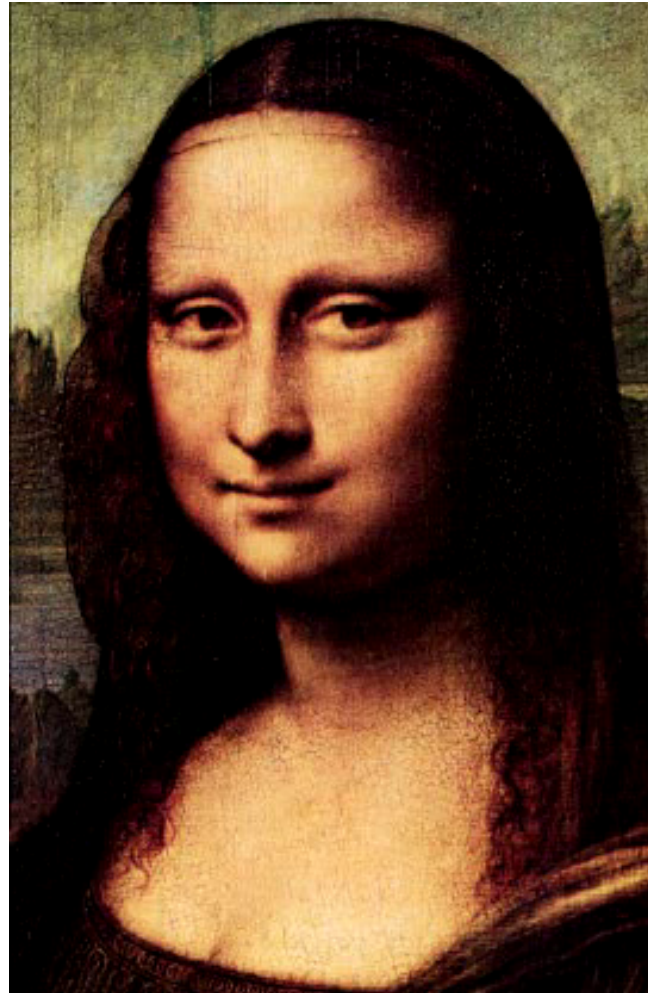
# Application: view morphing



# Application: view morphing

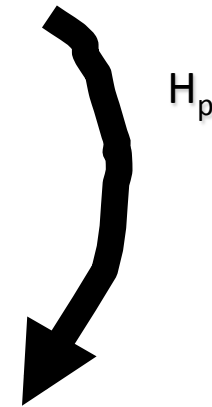


# Application: view morphing



# Removing perspective distortion

(rectification)



# What we will learn today?

- Introduction to stereo vision
- Epipolar geometry: a gentle intro
- Parallel images
- **Image rectification**
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## Reading:

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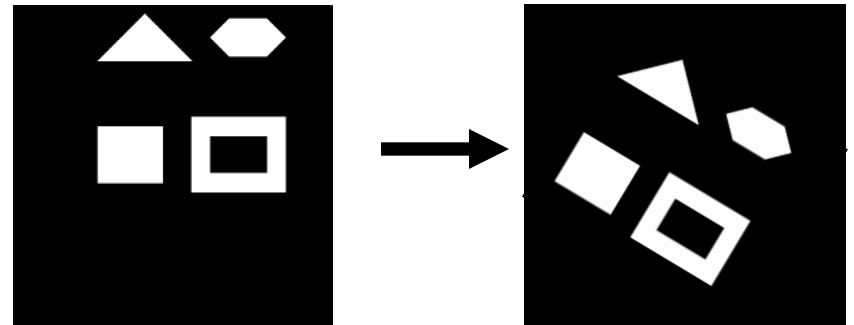


# Reminder: transformations in 2D

Special case  
from lecture 2  
(planar rotation  
& translation)

$$\begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = H_e \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- 3 DOF
- Preserve distance (areas)
- Regulate motion of rigid object

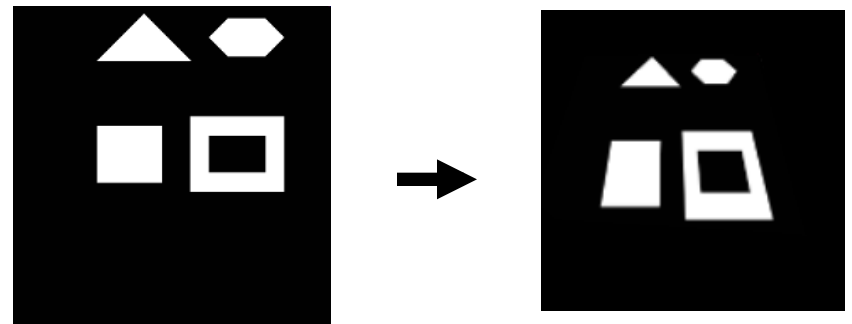


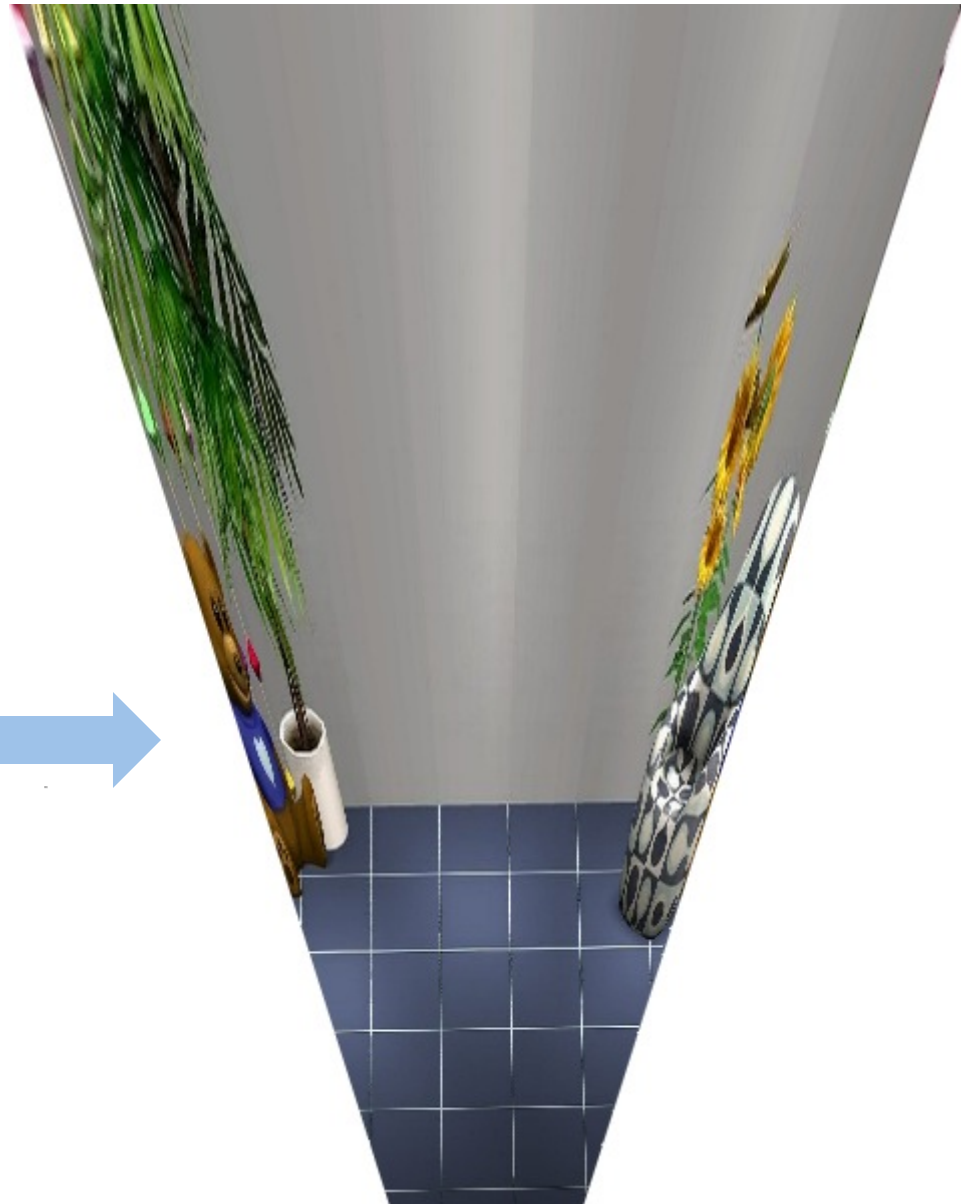
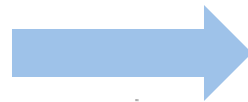
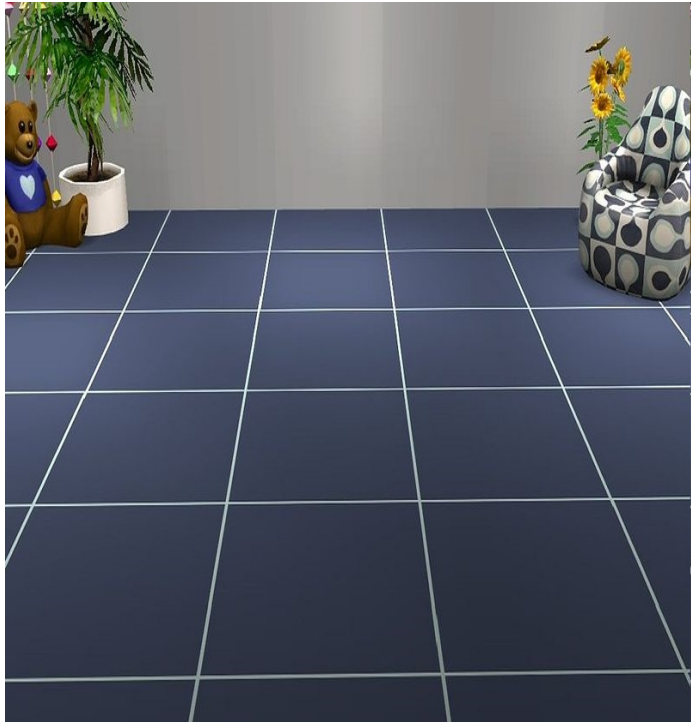
# Reminder: transformations in 2D

**Generic case**  
(rotation in 3D, scale  
& translation)

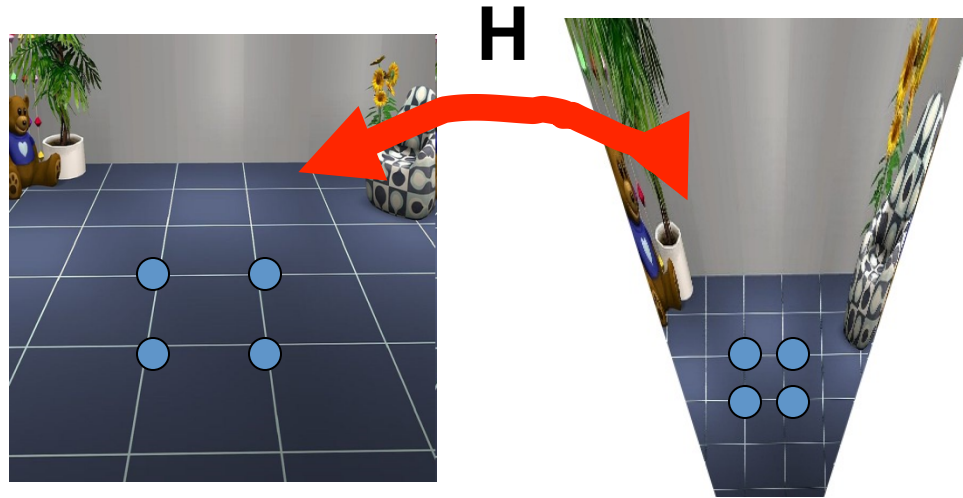
$$\begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \\ a_7 & a_8 & a_9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = H \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- 8 DOF
- Preserve colinearity





# Computing H

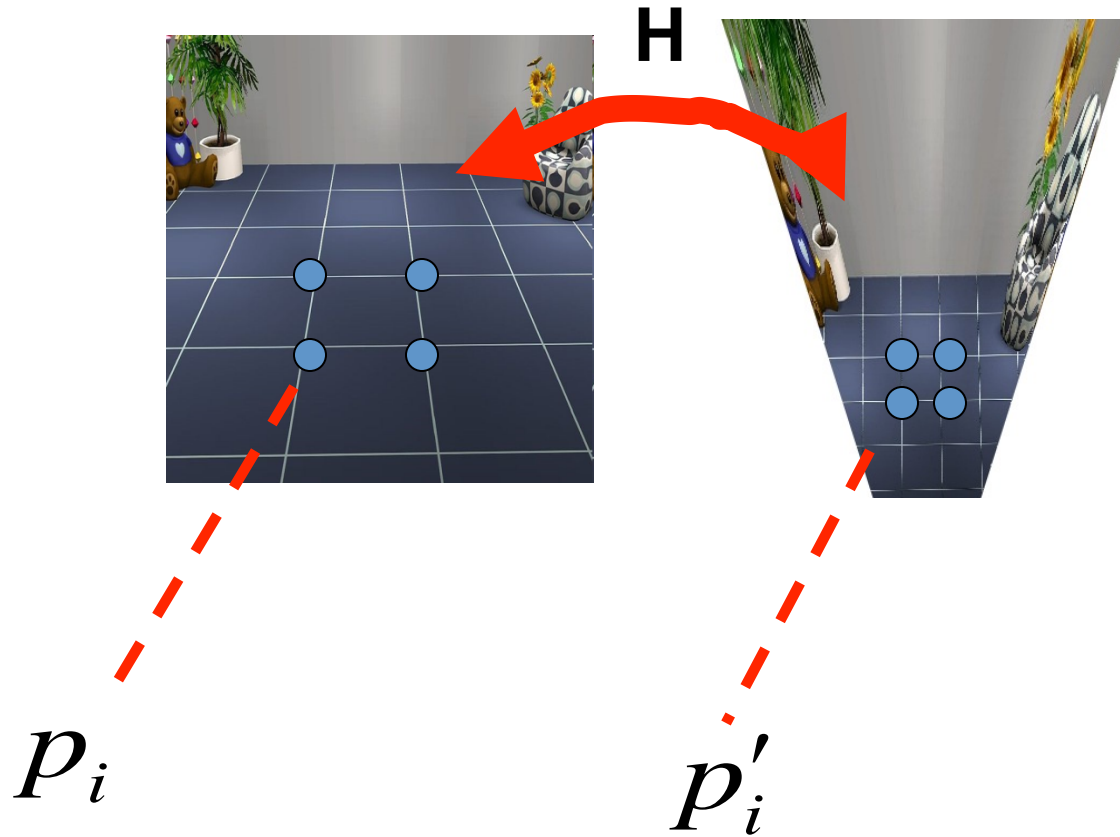


- 8 DOF
- how many points do I need to estimate H?

At least 4 points! (8 equations)

- There are several algorithms...

# DLT algorithm (Direct Linear Transformation)



$$p'_i = H p_i$$

# DLT algorithm (direct Linear Transformation)

$$p'_i \times H p_i = 0 \longrightarrow \underbrace{A_i}_{\text{Function of measurements } [2 \times 9]} \overbrace{\mathbf{h}}^{\text{Unknown } [9 \times 1]} = 0$$

$H = \begin{bmatrix} h_1 & h_2 & h_3 \\ h_4 & h_5 & h_6 \\ h_7 & h_8 & h_9 \end{bmatrix}$   $\mathbf{h} = \begin{bmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ \vdots \\ h_9 \end{bmatrix}$   $9 \times 1$

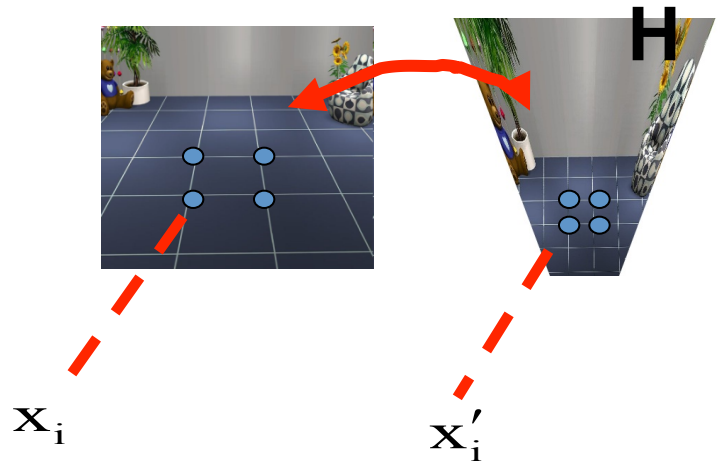
$\downarrow$

2 independent equations

# DLT algorithm (direct Linear Transformation)

$$A_{2 \times 9} \mathbf{h}_{9 \times 1} = \mathbf{0}$$

$A_i$  and  $\mathbf{h}$  are highlighted with red boxes in the original image.



$$\begin{cases} A_1 \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0} \\ A_2 \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots \\ A_N \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases} \rightarrow A_{2N \times 9} \mathbf{h}_{9 \times 1} = \mathbf{0}$$

Over determined Homogenous system

# DLT algorithm (direct Linear Transformation)

How to solve  $\mathbf{A}_{2N \times 9} \mathbf{h}_{9 \times 1} = \mathbf{0}$  ?

Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)!



# DLT algorithm (direct Linear Transformation)

How to solve  $A_{2N \times 9} \mathbf{h}_{9 \times 1} = \mathbf{0}$  ?

Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)!



$$U_{2n \times 9} \Sigma_{9 \times 9} V^T_{9 \times 9}$$

Last column of  $V$  gives  $\mathbf{h}$ !  $\rightarrow H$ !

Why? See pag 593 of AZ

# DLT algorithm (direct Linear Transformation)

How to solve  $A_{2N \times 9} \mathbf{h}_{9 \times 1} = \mathbf{0}$  ?

```
[U,D,V] = svd(A,0);  
x = V(:,end);
```

# Clarification about SVM

$$P_{m \times n} = U_{m \times n} D_{n \times n} V_{n \times n}^T$$

Has  $n$  orthogonal columns

Orthogonal matrix

- This is one of the possible SVD decompositions
- This is typically used for efficiency
- The classic SVD is actually:

$$P_{m \times n} = U_{m \times m} D_{m \times n} V_{n \times n}^T$$

orthogonal

Orthogonal

# What we will learn today?

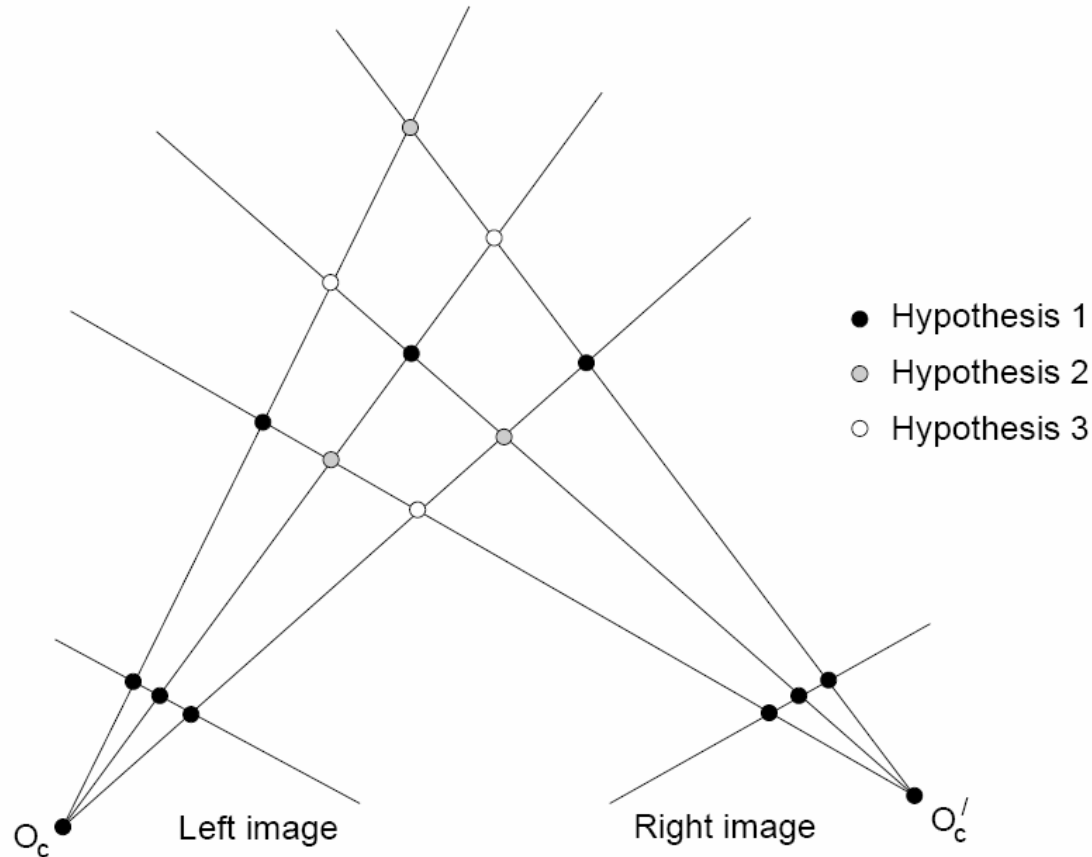
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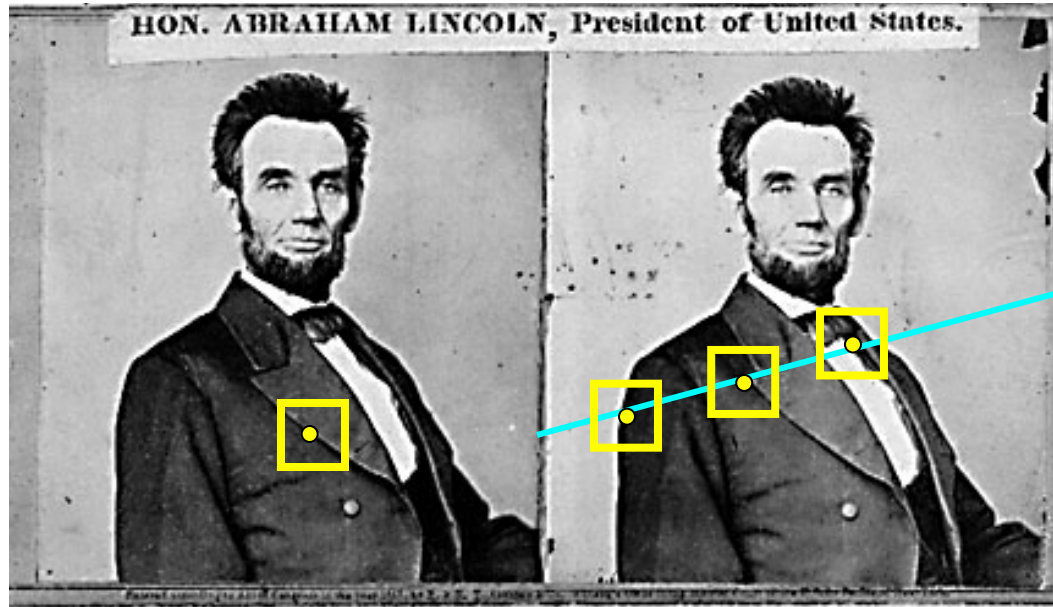
[FP] Chapters: 10

# Stereo matching: solving the correspondence problem



- Multiple matching hypotheses satisfy the epipolar constraint, but which one is correct?

# Basic stereo matching algorithm



- For each pixel in the first image
  - Find corresponding epipolar line in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the epipolar line and pick the best match
  - Triangulate the matches to get depth information
- Simplest case: epipolar lines are scanlines
  - When does this happen?

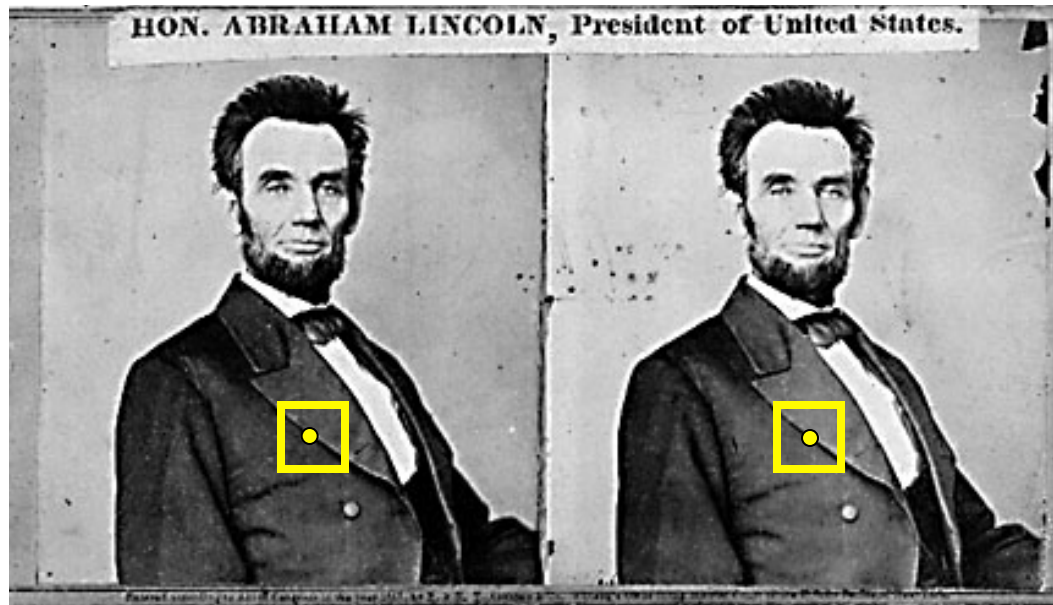
# Basic stereo matching algorithm



- If necessary, rectify the two stereo images to transform epipolar lines into scanlines
- For each pixel  $x$  in the first image
  - Find **corresponding** epipolar scanline in the right image
  - Examine all pixels on the scanline and pick the best match  $x'$
  - Compute disparity  $x-x'$  and set  $\text{depth}(x) = 1/(x-x')$

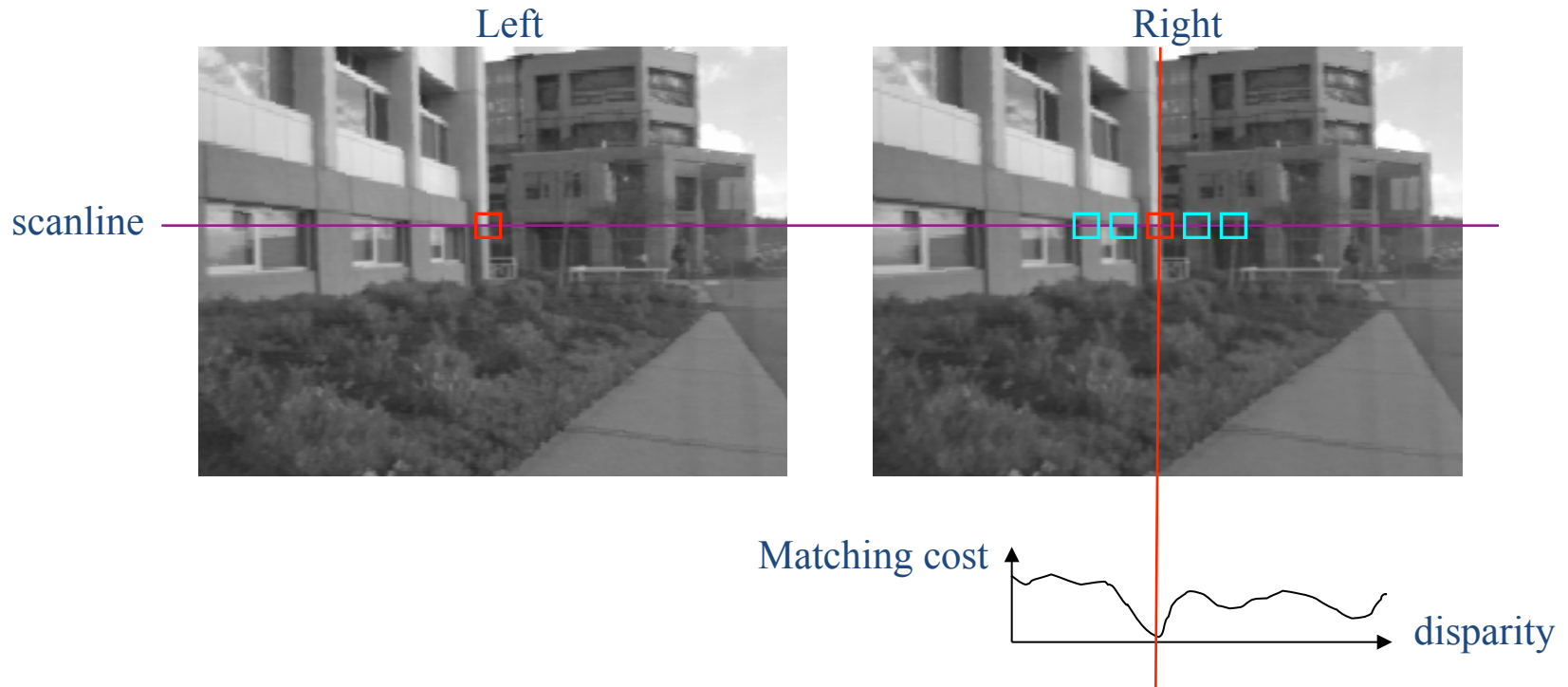
# Correspondence problem

- Let's make some assumptions to simplify the matching problem
  - The baseline is relatively small (compared to the depth of scene points)
  - Then most scene points are visible in both views
  - Also, matching regions are similar in appearance



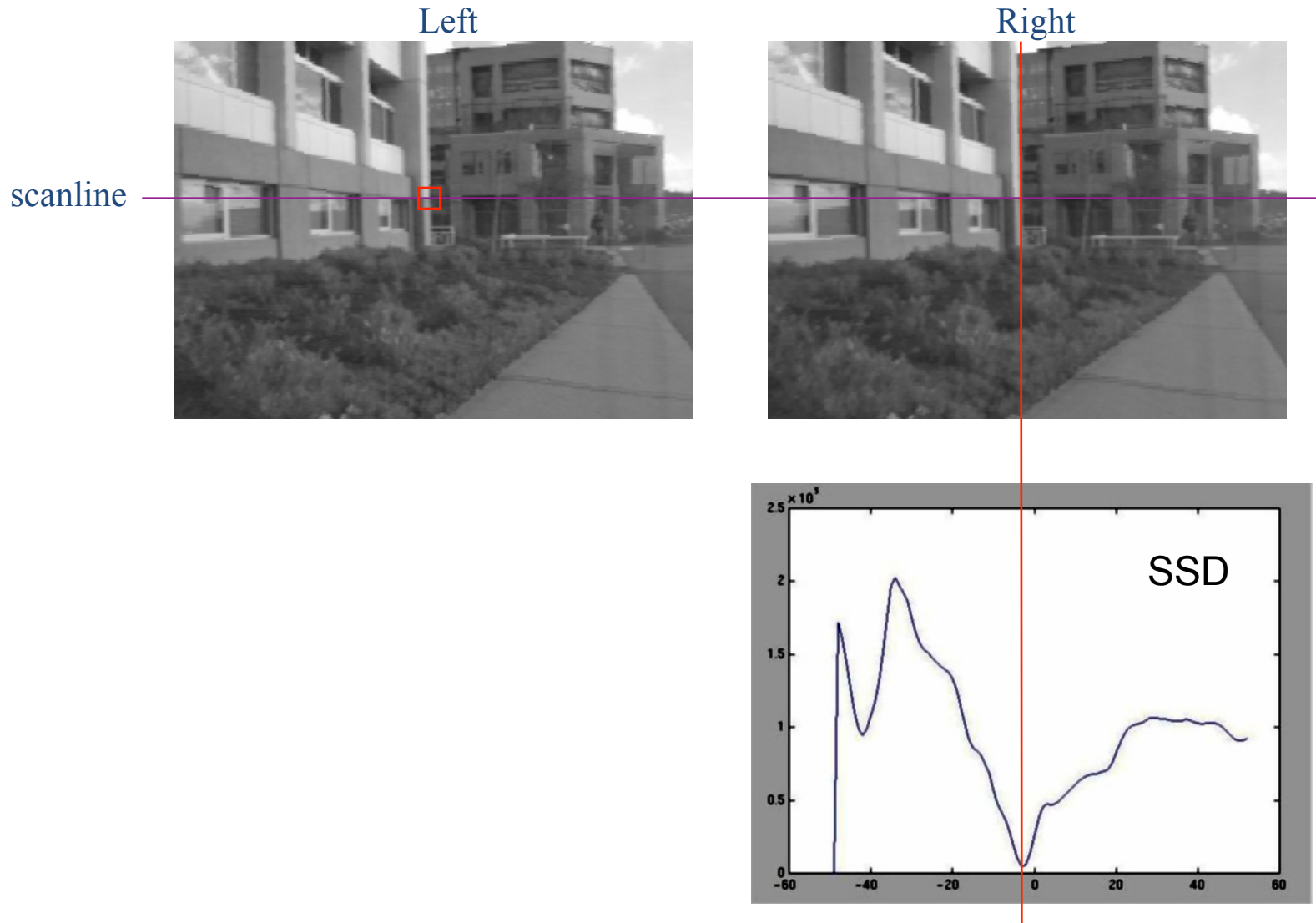


# Correspondence search with similarity constraint

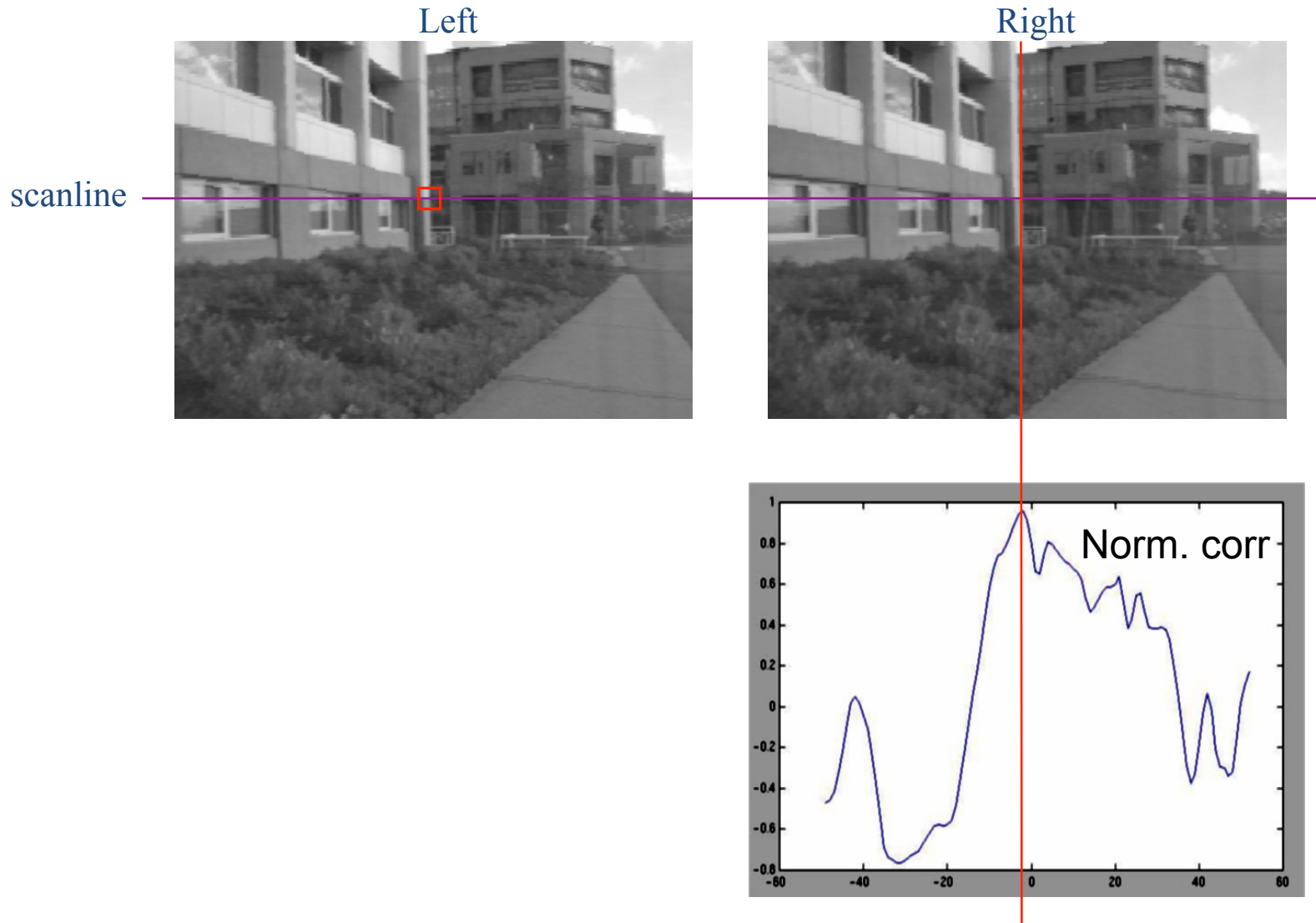


- Slide a window along the right scanline and compare contents of that window with the reference window in the left image
- Matching cost: SSD or normalized correlation

# Correspondence search with similarity constraint



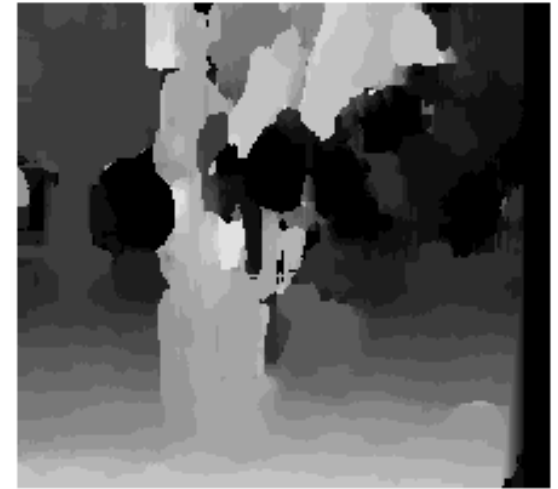
# Correspondence search with similarity constraint



# Effect of window size



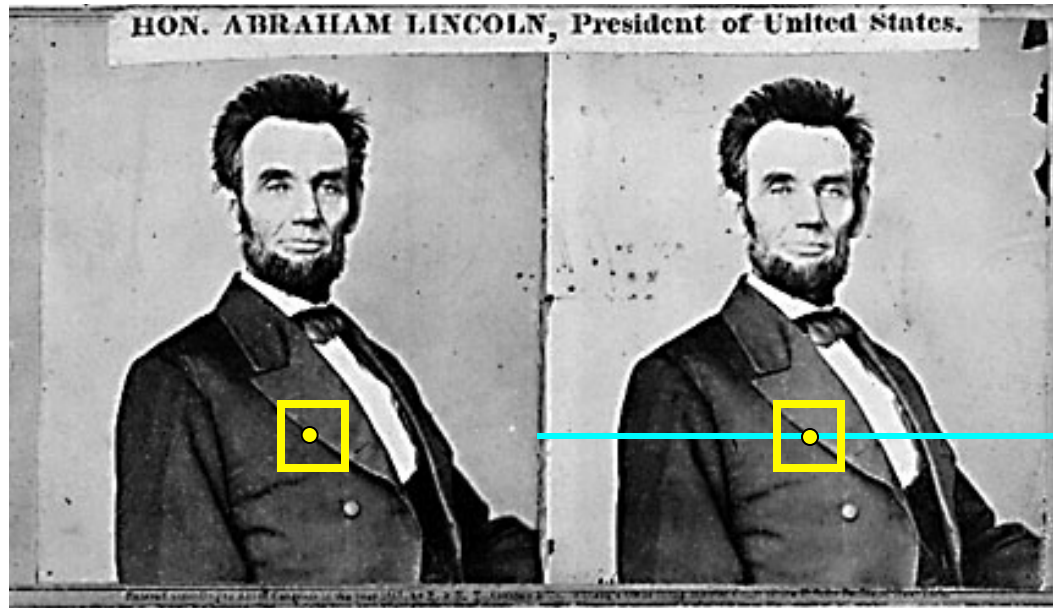
$W = 3$



$W = 20$

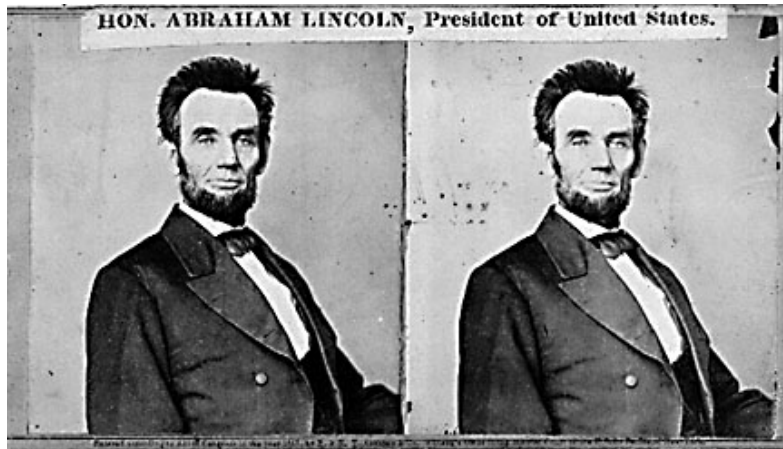
- Smaller window
  - + More detail
  - More noise
- Larger window
  - + Smoother disparity maps
  - Less detail

# The similarity constraint



- Corresponding regions in two images should be similar in appearance
- ...and non-corresponding regions should be different
- When will the similarity constraint fail?

# Limitations of similarity constraint



Textureless surfaces



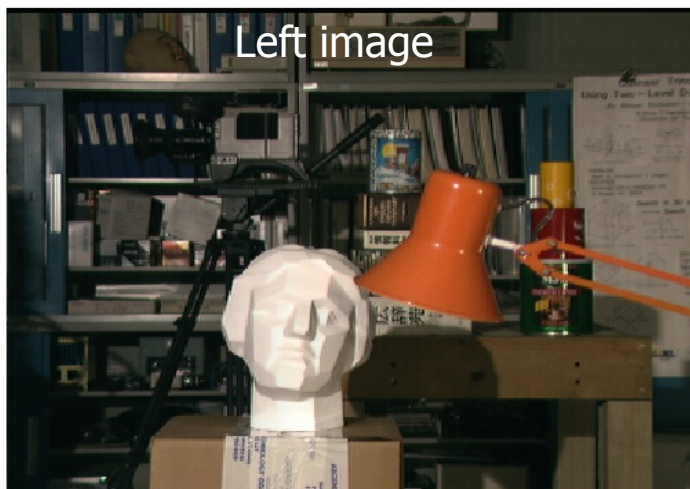
Occlusions, repetition



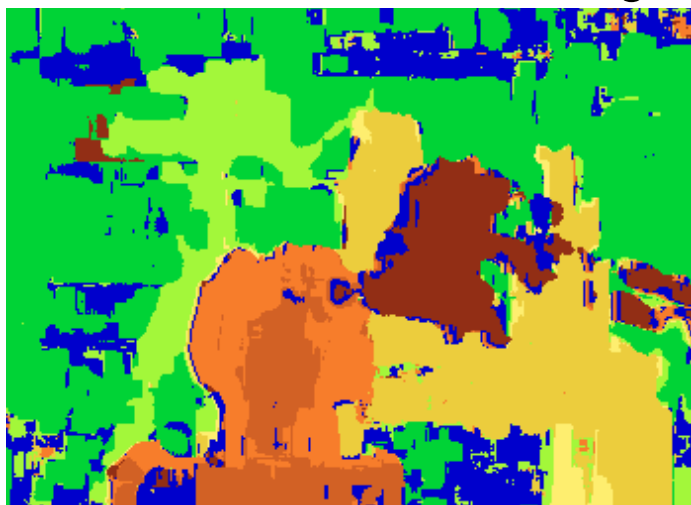
Specular surfaces



# Results with window search



Window-based matching



Ground truth



# Better methods exist... (CS231a)



Graph cuts

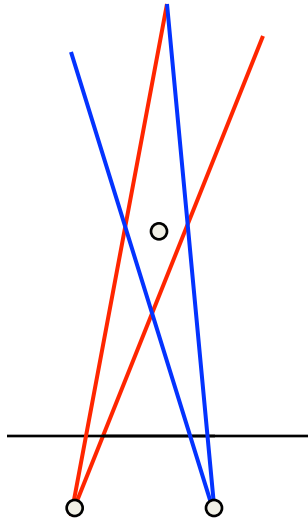


Ground truth

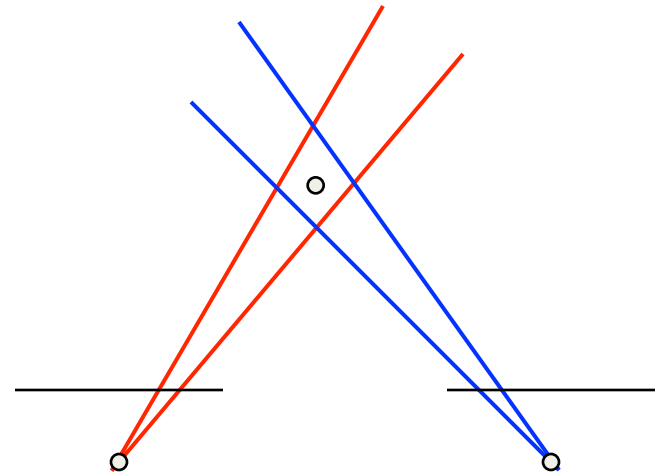
Y. Boykov, O. Veksler, and R. Zabih,  
[Fast Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts](#), PAMI 2001



# The role of the baseline



**Small Baseline**

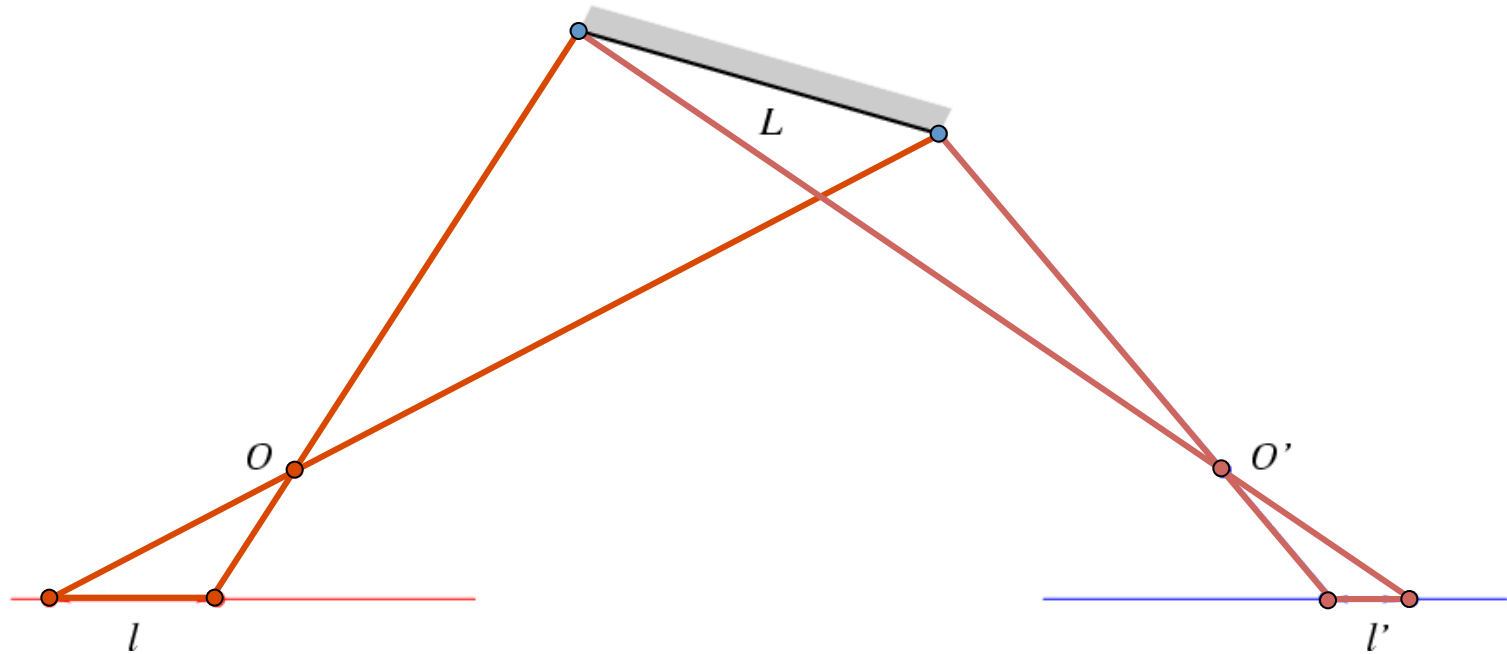


**Large Baseline**

- Small baseline: large depth error
- Large baseline: difficult search problem

Slide credit: S. Seitz

# Problem for wide baselines: Foreshortening



- Matching with fixed-size windows will fail!
- Possible solution: adaptively vary window size
- Another solution: *model-based stereo* (CS231a)

Slide credit: J. Hayes

# What we will learn today?

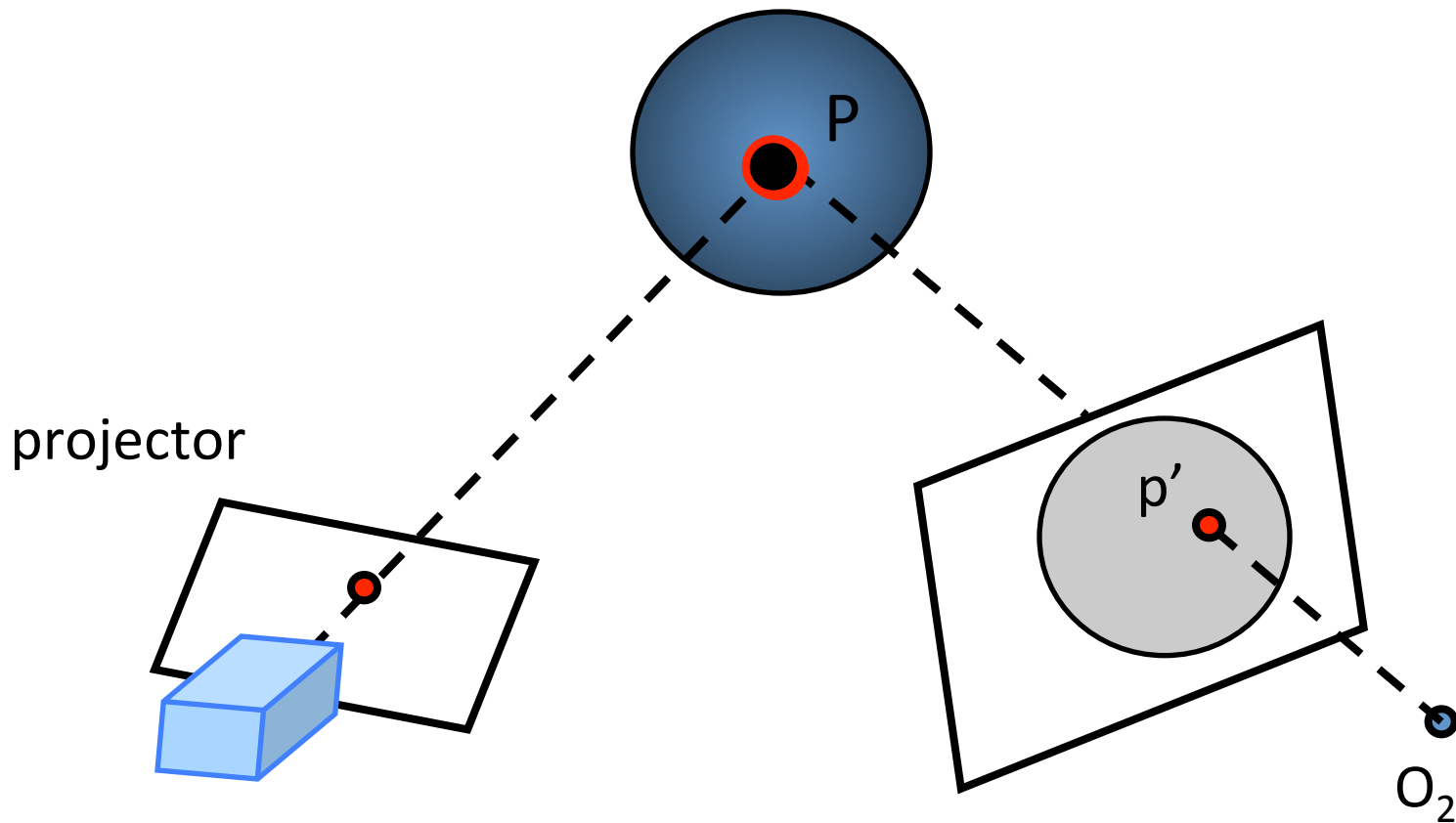
- Introduction to stereo vision
- Epipolar geometry: a gentle intro
- Parallel images
- Image rectification
- Solving the correspondence problem
- **Active stereo vision system**

## **Reading:**

[HZ] Chapters: 4, 9, 11

[FP] Chapters: 10

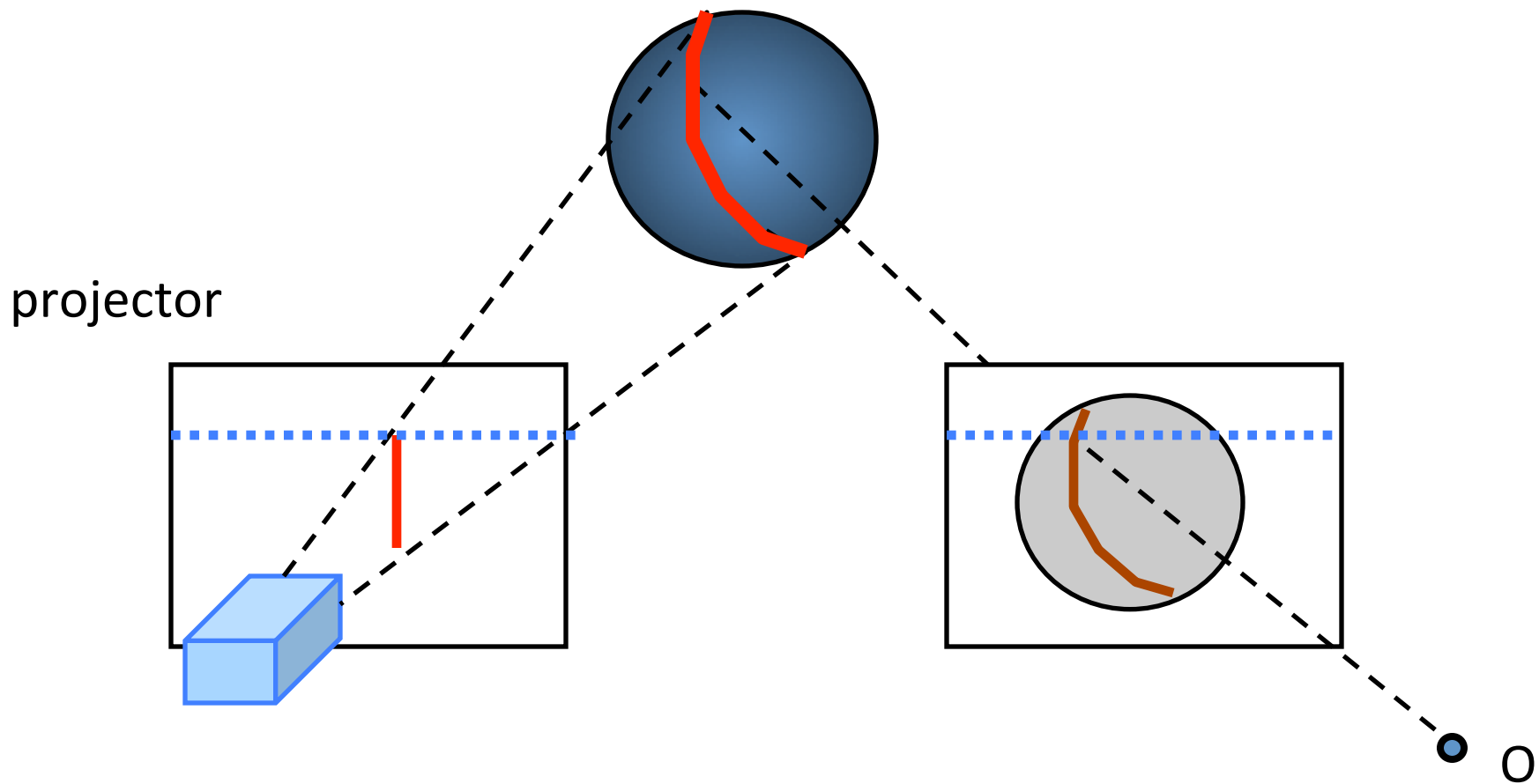
# Active stereo (point)



Replace one of the two cameras by a projector

- Single camera
- Projector geometry calibrated
- What's the advantage of having the projector? Correspondence problem solved!

# Active stereo (stripe)

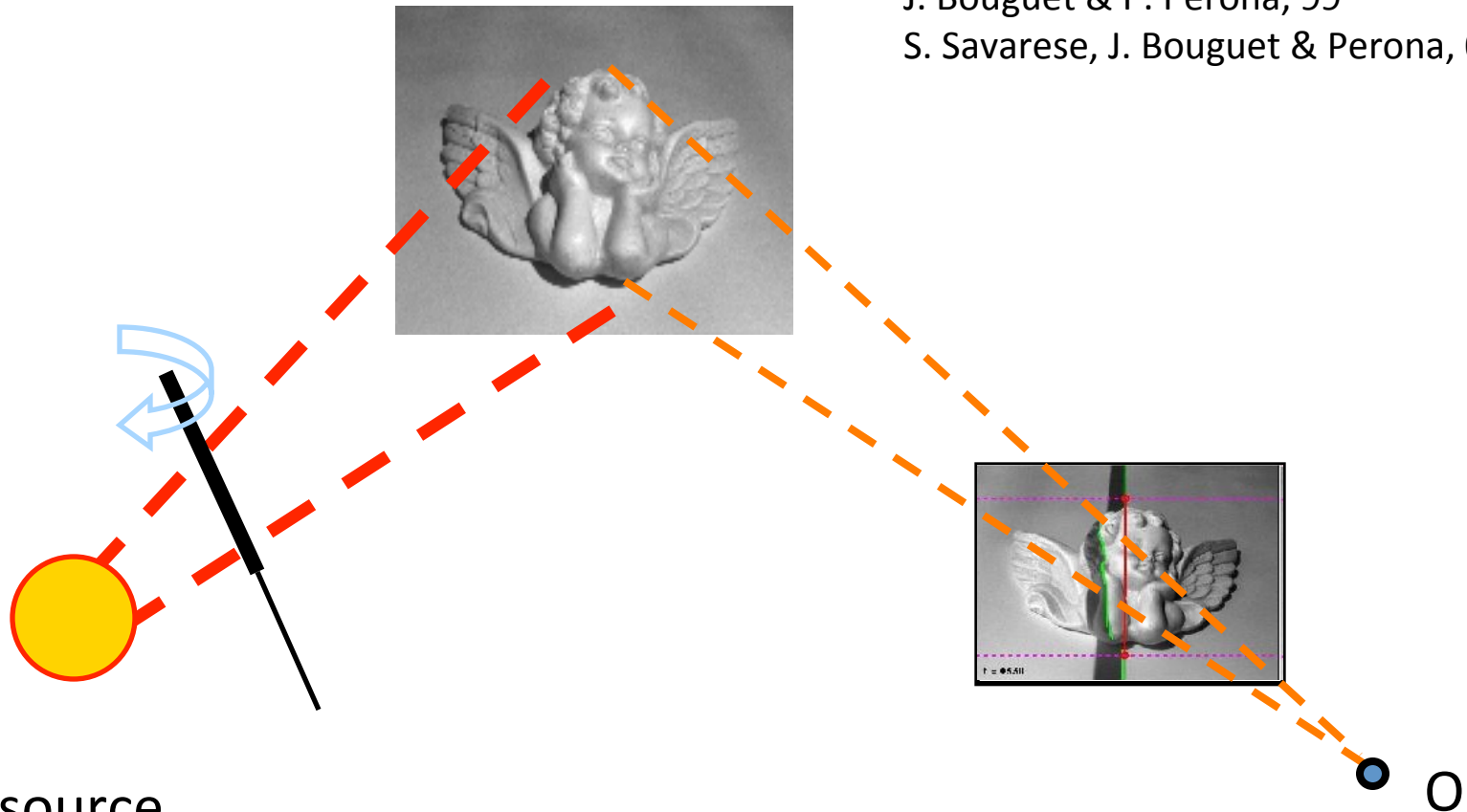


- Projector and camera are parallel
- Correspondence problem solved!

# Active stereo (shadows)

J. Bouguet & P. Perona, 99

S. Savarese, J. Bouguet & Perona, 00



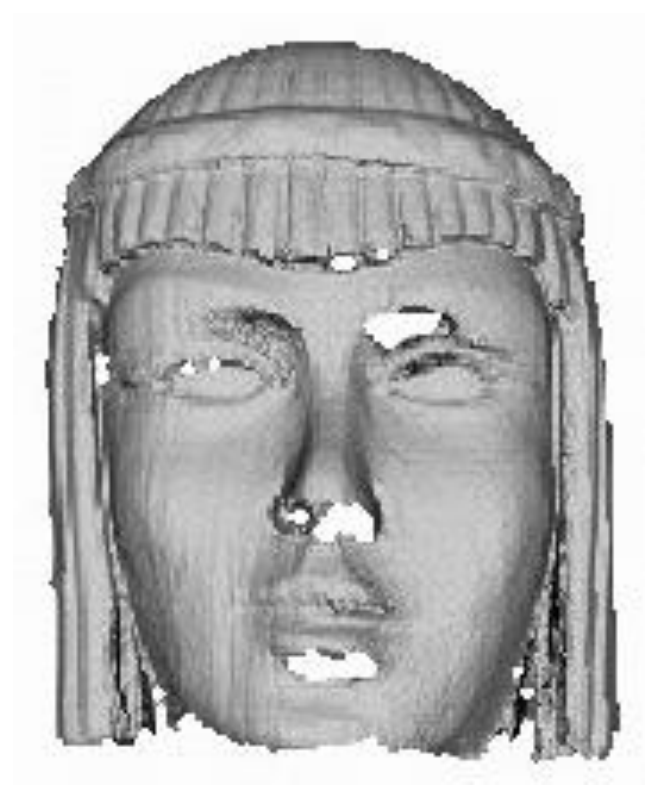
Light source

- 1 camera, 1 light source
- very cheap setup
- calibrated light source

# Active stereo (shadows)

J. Bouguet & P. Perona, 99

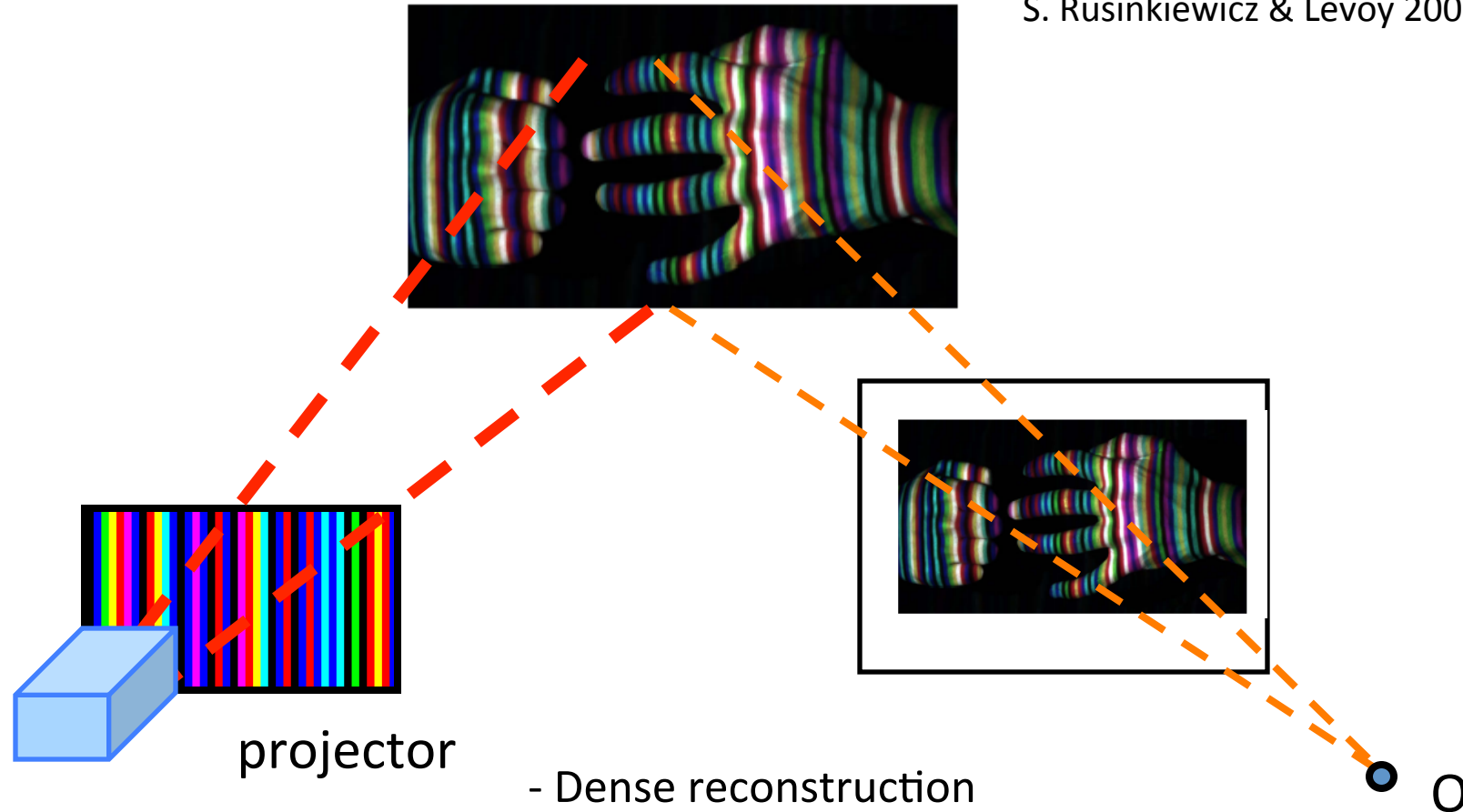
S. Savarese, J. Bouguet & Perona, 00



# Active stereo (color-coded stripes)

L. Zhang, B. Curless, and S. M. Seitz 2002

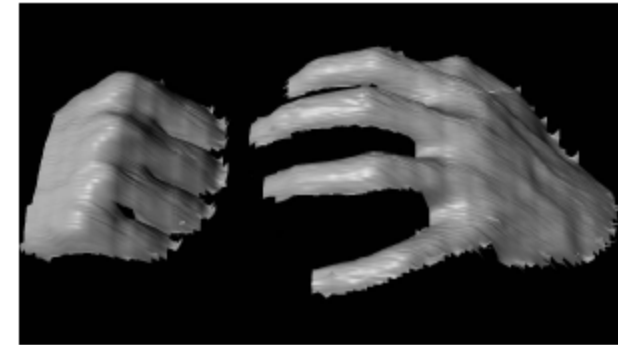
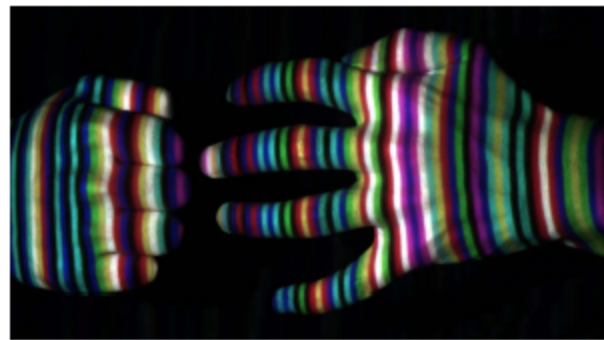
S. Rusinkiewicz & Levoy 2002



- Dense reconstruction
- Correspondence problem again
- Get around it by using color codes



# Active stereo (color-coded stripes)

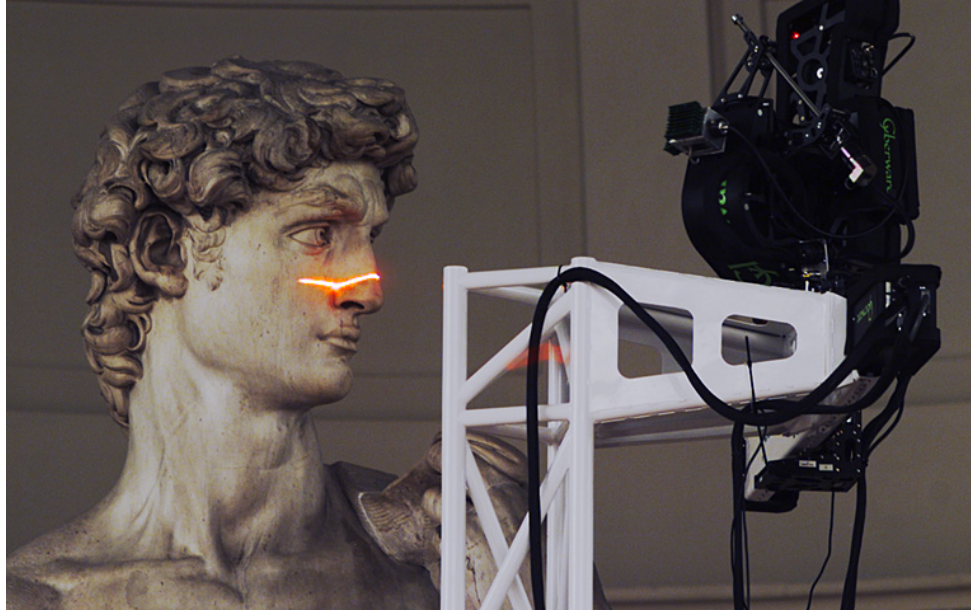


## Rapid shape acquisition: Projector + stereo cameras

L. Zhang, B. Curless, and S. M. Seitz. Rapid Shape Acquisition Using Color Structured Light and Multi-pass Dynamic Programming. *3DPVT 2002*



# Active stereo (stripe)



Digital Michelangelo Project  
<http://graphics.stanford.edu/projects/mich/>

- Optical triangulation
  - Project a single stripe of laser light
  - Scan it across the surface of the object
  - This is a very precise version of structured light scanning

# Laser scanned models



*The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.*

Slide credit: S. Seitz

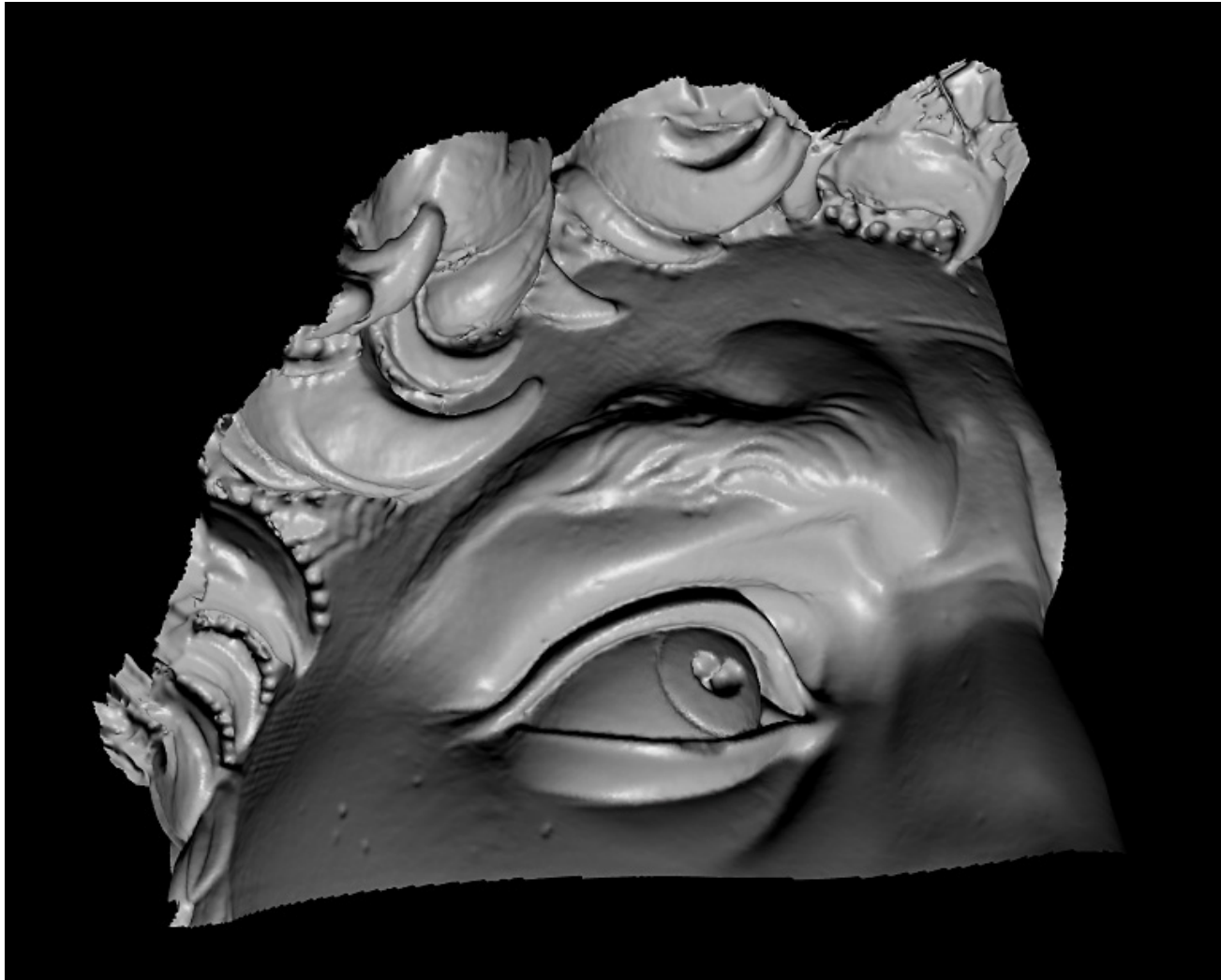
# Laser scanned models



*The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.*

Slide credit: S. Seitz

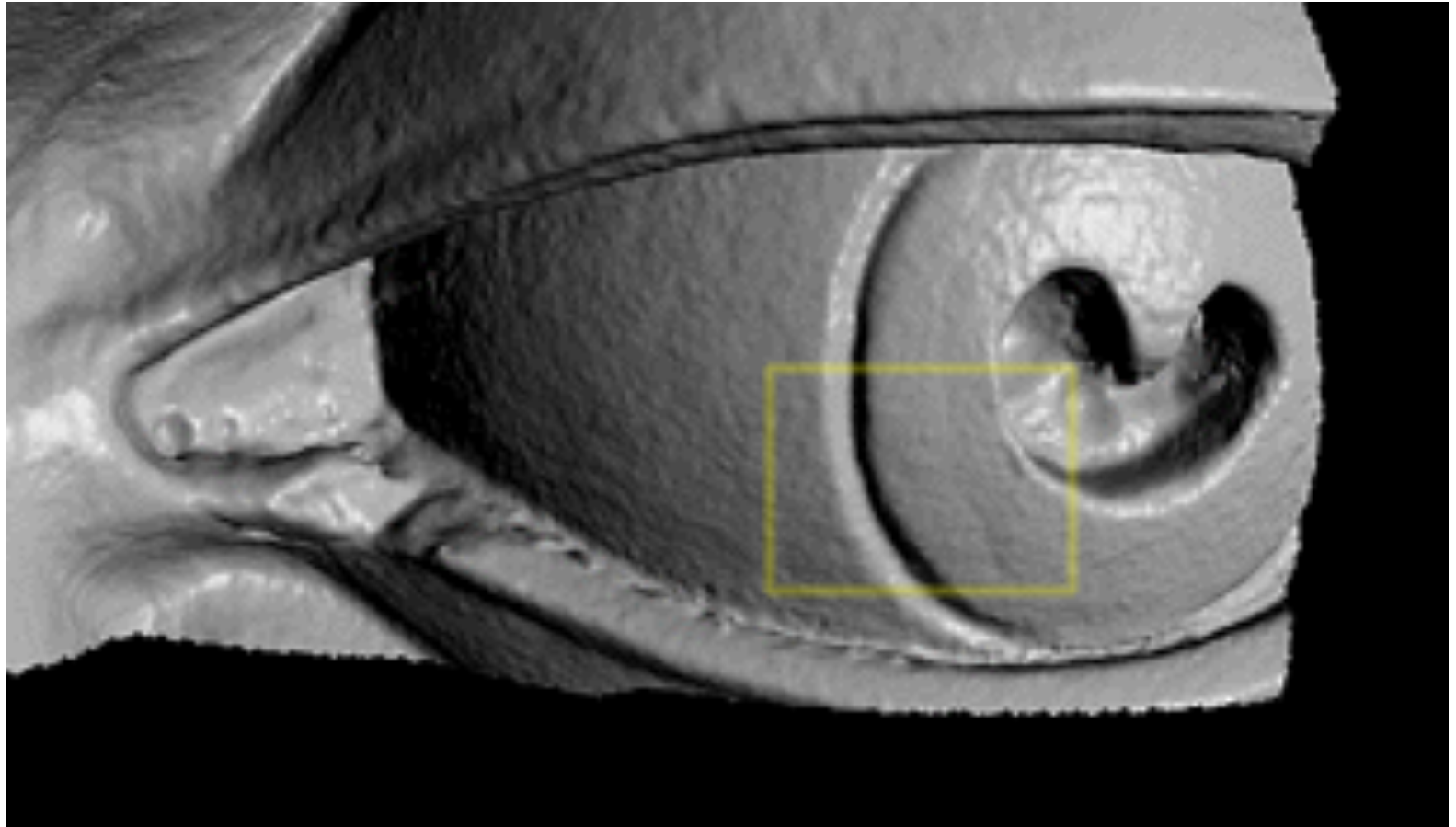
# Laser scanned models



*The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.*

Slide credit: S. Seitz

# Laser scanned models

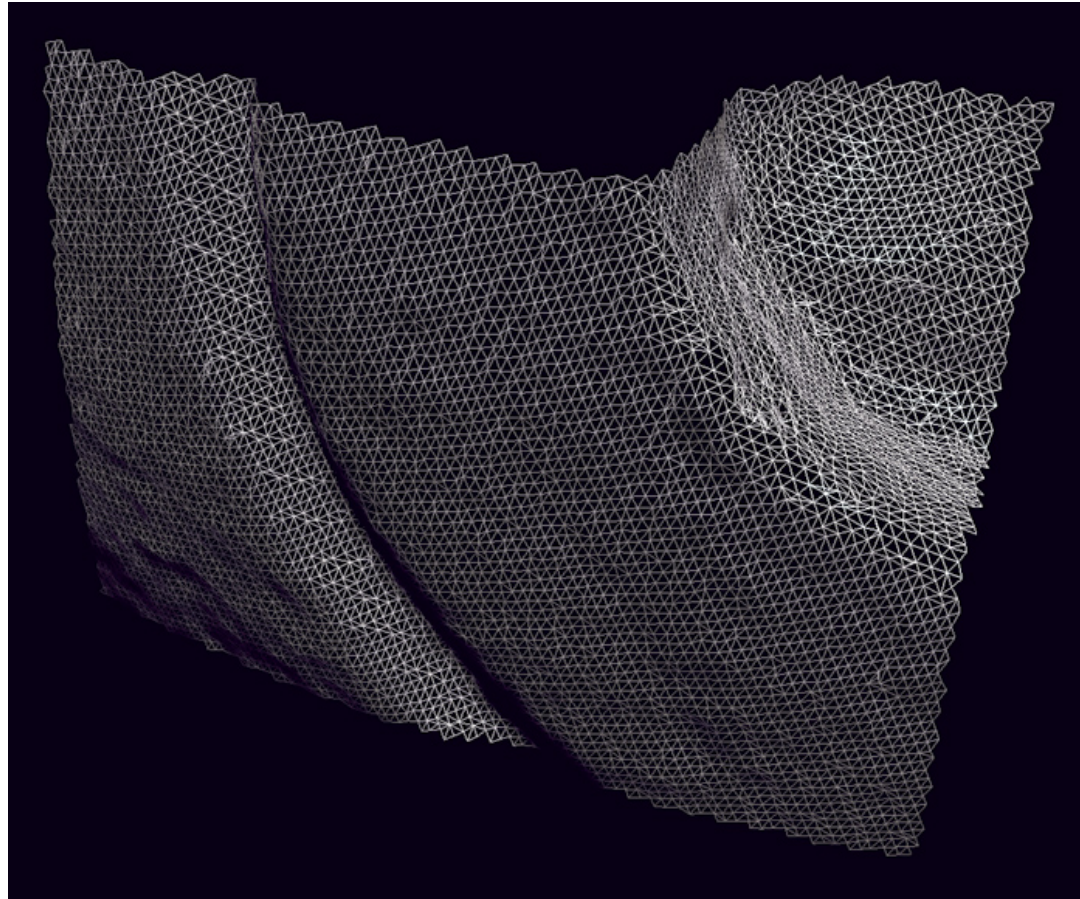


*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

Slide credit: S. Seitz

# Laser scanned models

1.0 mm resolution (56 million triangles)



*The Digital Michelangelo Project*, Levoy et al.

Slide credit: S. Seitz

# What we have learned today?

- Introduction to stereo vision
- Epipolar geometry: a gentle intro
- Parallel images
- Image rectification
- Solving the correspondence problem
- Active stereo vision system

## Reading:

[HZ] Chapters: 4, 9, 11

[FP] Chapters: 10