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Intelligent Control Systems

## Visual Tracking (1)

— Direct Pixel-Intensity-based Methods —

**Shingo Kagami**

**Graduate School of Information Sciences,**

**Tohoku University**

**swk(at)ic.is.tohoku.ac.jp**

**<http://www.ic.is.tohoku.ac.jp/ja/swk/>**

# Agenda

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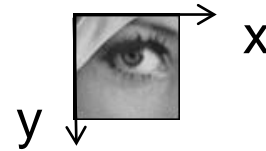
- Template Matching by Brute-force Search
- Template Matching by Gradient-based Search
- Optical Flow Computation
- Lucas-Kanade method for General Warps

# Visual Tracking

input image



template image  $T_{x,y}$



Matching Problem:

Find the **area with the best similarity** to the template

Matching is often called "tracking" when it is sequentially done with time

- Evaluate a **similarity measure** or a **dissimilarity measure** for every possible position

# Detection vs Tracking

Matching problem is called *detection* when:

Target object is found out of the entire image without relying on knowledge in previous frames

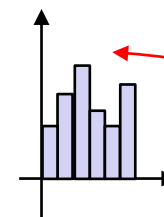
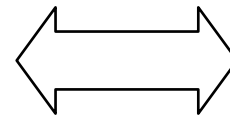
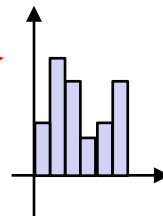
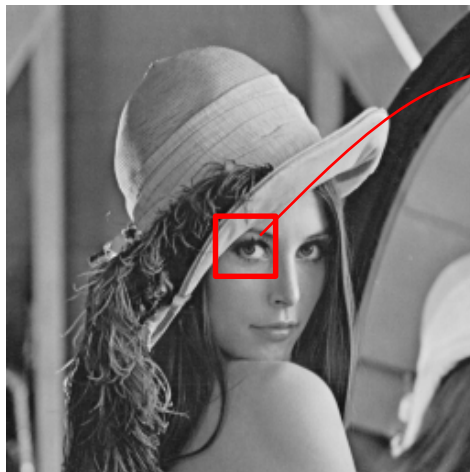
- If we detect the target object every frame, it can be regarded as a kind of tracking (Tracking by Detection)
- However, detection is usually computationally demanding

Hence, when real-time tracking is needed, we usually try to utilize our knowledge in previous frames; Once failed, we fall back to detection

# Feature-based Methods vs Direct Methods

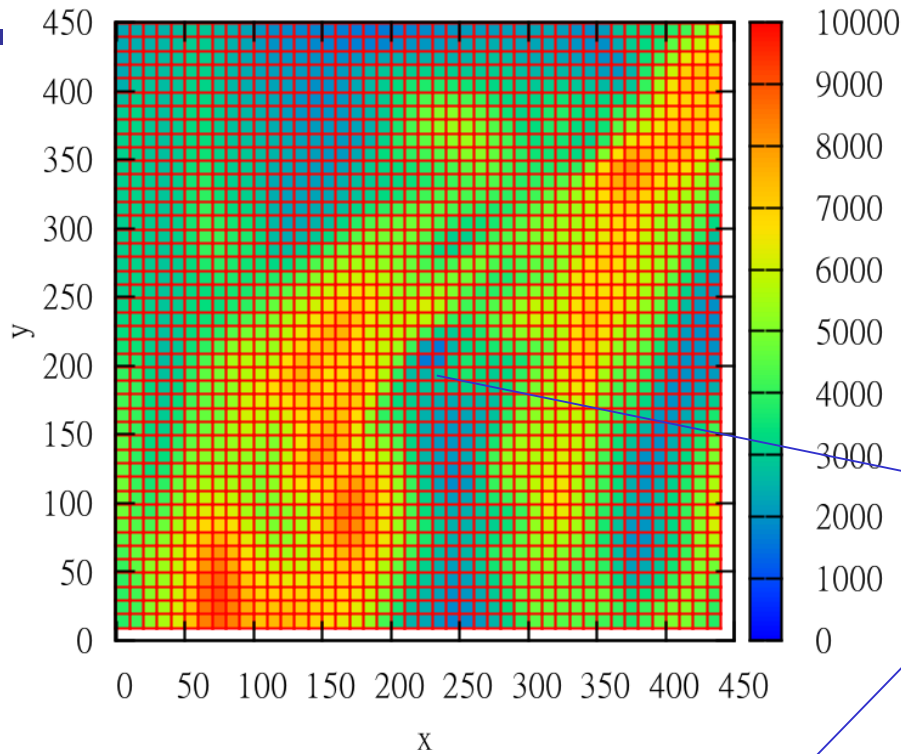


direct comparison of  
pixel values

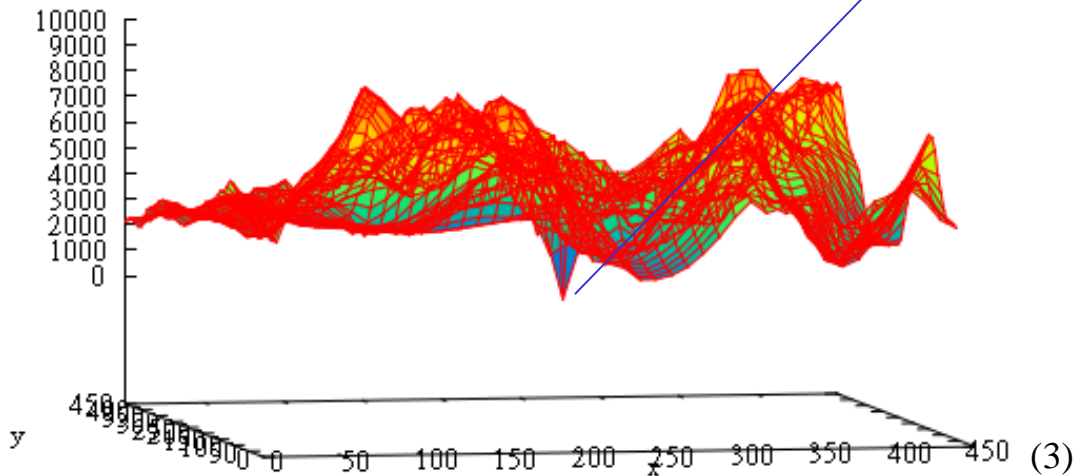


comparison of feature values  
computed from images (e.g.  
histograms, edge positions, ...)

# Direct Methods Illustrated



Minimum point of dissimilarity measure  
(In this example, sum of squared difference of pixel intensities)



# Examples of Evaluation Functions

$$d_{\mathbf{SSD}}(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (T_{i,j} - I_{x+i,y+j})^2$$

: sum of squared differences  
→ min

$$d_{\mathbf{SAD}}(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} |T_{i,j} - I_{x+i,y+j}|$$

: sum of absolute differences  
→ min

$$C(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} T_{i,j} I_{x+i,y+j}$$

: cross correlation  
→ max

$$C_{\mathbf{n}}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (T_{i,j} - \bar{T})(I_{x+i,y+j} - \bar{I}_{x,y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (T_{i,j} - \bar{T})^2 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (I_{x+i,y+j} - \bar{I}_{x,y})^2}}$$

: normalized cross correlation  
→ max

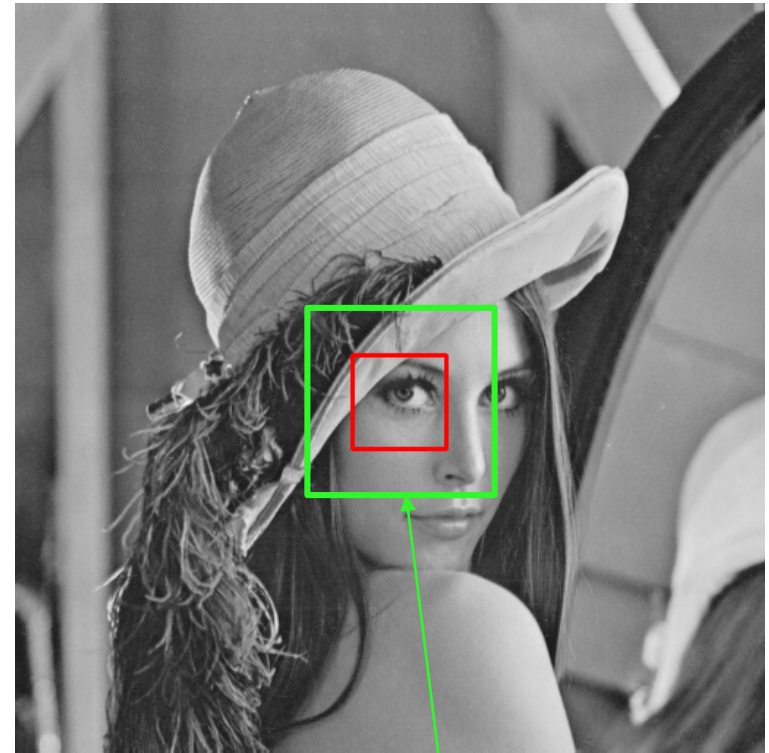
average

For Detection:  
search area is set to the  
entire image

For Tracking:  
search area is set at  
around the position in the  
previous frame (or a  
position predicted from  
previous frames)

→ [03\\_template\\_match\\_2d.py](#)

input image



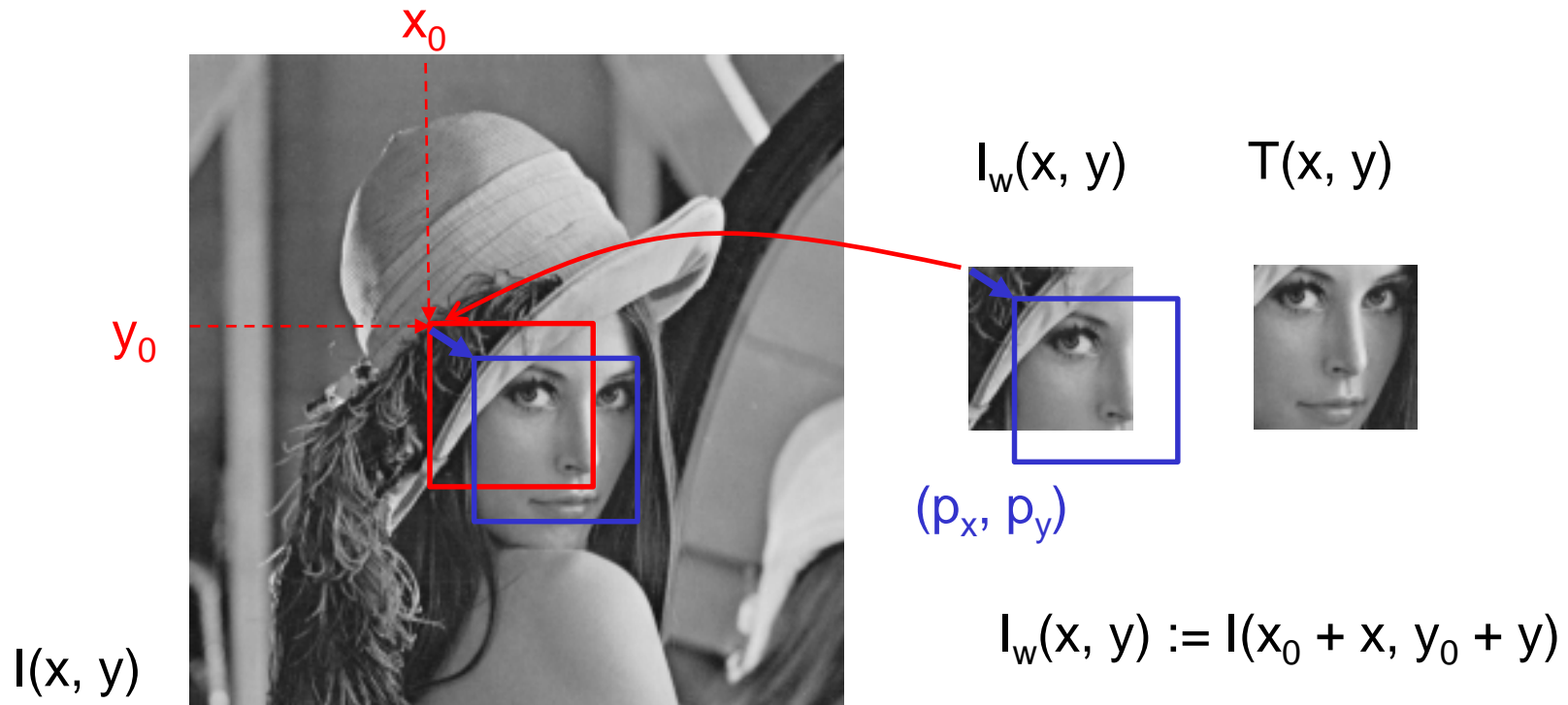
search area

template image





# Gradient-based Optimization



Instead of brute force search for the minimum, let us consider application of Gauss-Newton optimization method to

$$E(p_x, p_y) = \sum_{m,n} \{I_w(p_x + m, p_y + n) - T(m, n)\}^2$$

# Lucas-Kanade Method (forward algorithm)

1<sup>st</sup> order approximation is applied and partial derivatives are equated to 0:

$$\begin{aligned} E(p_x, p_y) &\simeq \sum_{m,n} \left\{ I_w(m, n) + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y - T(m, n) \right\}^2 \\ &= \sum_{m,n} \left\{ e(m, n) + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y \right\}^2 \rightarrow \min_{p_x, p_y} \\ \frac{\partial E}{\partial p_x} &= 2 \sum_{m,n} \left\{ e(m, n) + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y \right\} \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}(m, n) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial E}{\partial p_y} &= 2 \sum_{m,n} \left\{ e(m, n) + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y \right\} \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}(m, n) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

By solving the following equation, motion vector  $(p_x, p_y)$  is obtained

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum \left(\frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x}\right)^2 & \sum \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y} \\ \sum \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y} & \sum \left(\frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y}\right)^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \sum \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial x} e \\ \sum \frac{\partial I_w}{\partial y} e \end{pmatrix}$$

- $(p_x, p_y)$  is only approximately obtained because of the 1<sup>st</sup> order Taylor approximation. We usually need to iteratively run the above process by updating

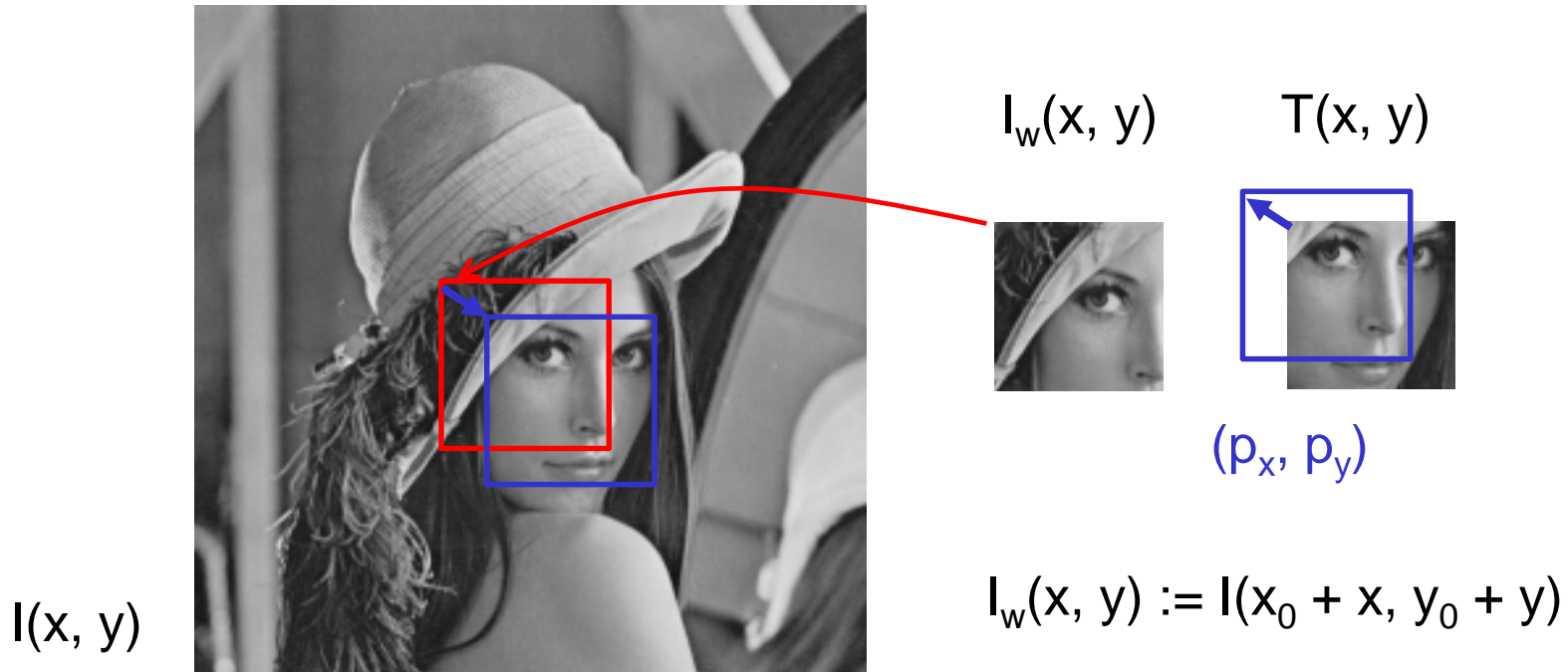
$$x_0 := x_0 + p_x$$

$$y_0 := y_0 + p_y$$

and obtaining  $I_w(x, y) := I(x_0 + x, y_0 + y)$  with new  $(x_0, y_0)$

- Because  $I_w$  changes, the derivatives and their products must be recomputed for each iteration

# Inverse Algorithm



The recomputation of derivatives and their products can be avoided by exchanging the role of  $T$  and  $I_w$

$$\tilde{E}(p_x, p_y) = \sum_{m, n} \{T(p_x + m, p_y + n) - I_w(m, n)\}^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{E}(p_x, p_y) &\simeq \sum_{m,n} \left\{ T(m, n) + \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y - I_w(m, n) \right\}^2 \\ &= \sum_{m,n} \left\{ -e(m, n) + \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}(m, n)p_x + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}(m, n)p_y \right\}^2 \rightarrow \min_{p_x, p_y}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum (\frac{\partial T}{\partial x})^2 & \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} & \sum (\frac{\partial T}{\partial y})^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} e \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} e \end{pmatrix}$$

After solving  $(p_x, p_y)$ , redefine  $I_w()$  by updating as

$$x_0 := x_0 - p_x$$

$$y_0 := y_0 - p_y$$

and resample  $I_w(x, y)$  with the new  $(x_0, y_0)$

→ [03\\_lucas\\_kanade\\_2d.py](#)

# Application to Optical Flow Computation

Distribution of the motion vectors over the image is called **optical flow**

- Sometimes the terms “motion vector” and “optical flow” are used interchangeably (depending on the context)



# Optical Flow Constraint

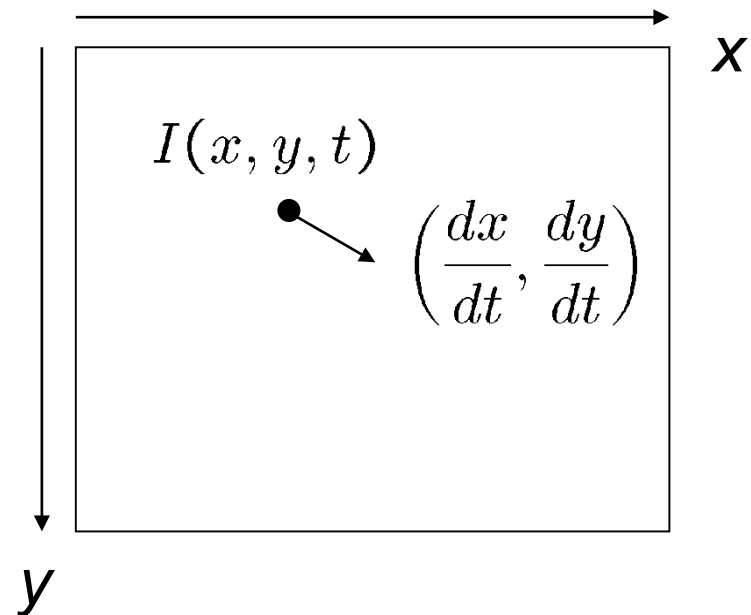
Assuming that the intensity of the tracked point is constant and ignoring 2nd order or higher terms,

$$\begin{aligned} I(x, y, t) &= I(x + dx, y + dy, t + dt) \\ &= I(x, y, t) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = 0$$

This single equation is not enough to determine the two components  $\left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right)$

[Horn and Schunck 1981]



# Interpretation of the Constraint

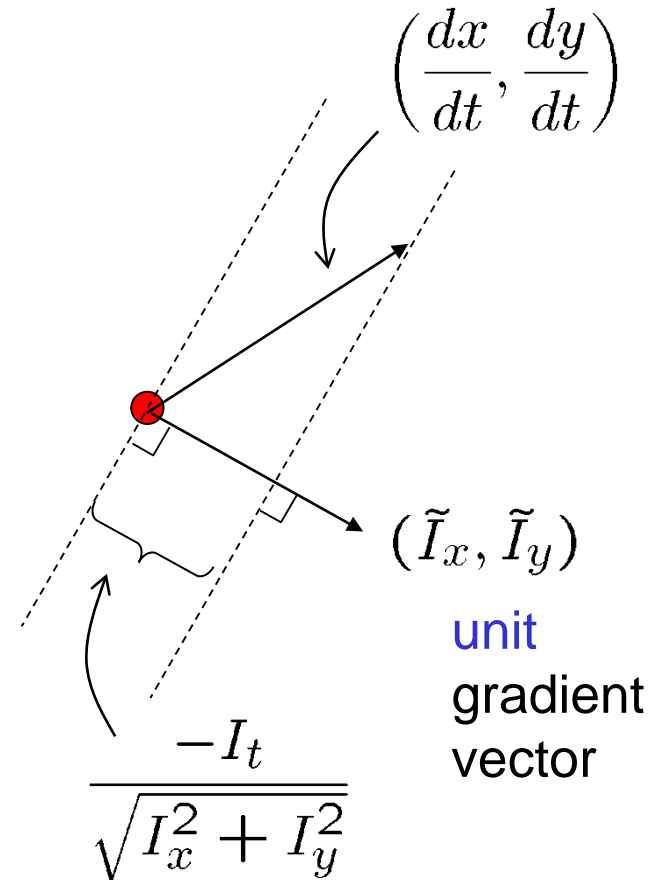
With  $\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} = I_x$ ,  $\frac{\partial I}{\partial y} = I_y$ ,  $\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = I_t$

$$(I_x, I_y) \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right)^T = -I_t$$

$$(\tilde{I}_x, \tilde{I}_y) \left( \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right)^T = \frac{-I_t}{\sqrt{I_x^2 + I_y^2}}$$

where  $(\tilde{I}_x, \tilde{I}_y)$  is a unit vector parallel to  $(I_x, I_y)$

Only the component in the direction of the gradient vector is determined (aperture problem)



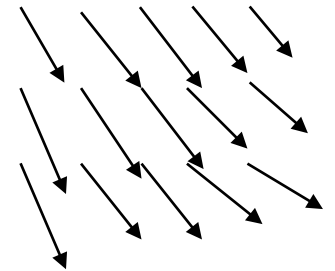


# Additional Assumptions

Thus we cannot determine the optical flow from  $I_x$ ,  $I_y$  and  $I_t$ .  
Additional assumptions are needed.

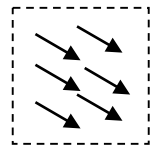
ex1) Optical flow changes smoothly in space

- [Horn and Schunck 1981]

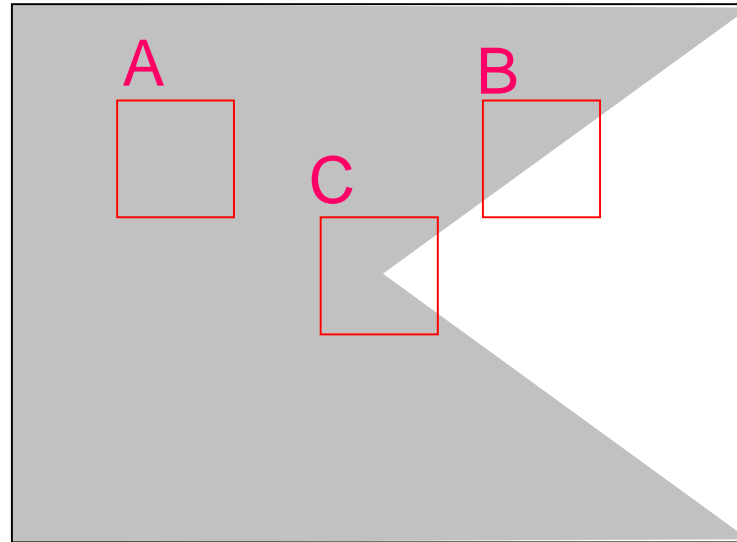


ex2) Optical flow is **constant within a small neighborhood** of a point

- Hence the problem comes down to tracking of small blocks



# What is Good Point to Track

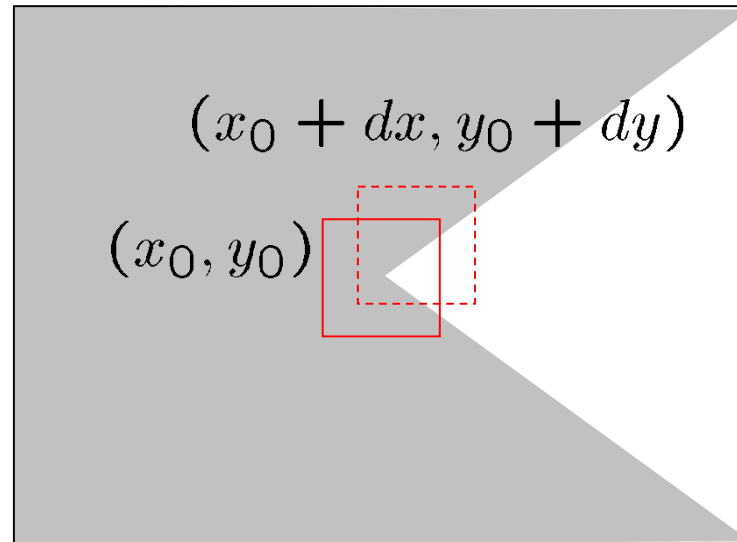


Recall that we aggregate many flows within a small block to obtain enough constraints

A: Block with constant intensity is not suitable (0 constraint)

B: Block including only edges with the same direction is also not suitable (essentially 1 constraint)

**How to find a block like C?**



Consider two blocks

- around a point of interest  $(x_0, y_0)$
- around the point  $(x_0 + dx, y_0 + dy)$

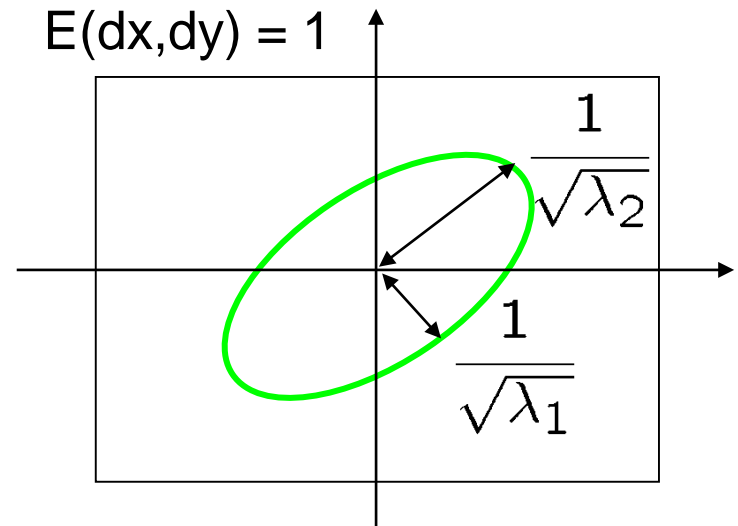
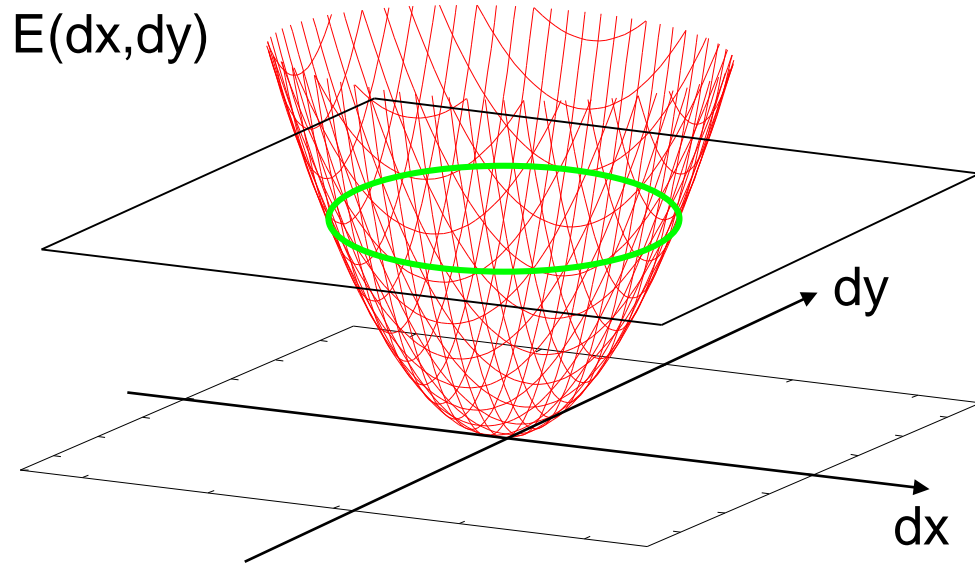
These two blocks should not resemble each other for any choice of  $(dx, dy)$

Let's measure how they do not resemble by SSD

$$E(dx, dy) \equiv \sum_{u,v} \{I(x_0 + dx + u, y_0 + dy + v) - I(x_0 + u, y_0 + v)\}^2$$

With 1<sup>st</sup> order Taylor expansion,

$$\begin{aligned} E(dx, dy) &= \sum_{u,v} \{I_x(x_0 + u, y_0 + v)dx + I_y(x_0 + u, y_0 + v)dy\}^2 \\ &= \sum I_x^2 dx^2 + 2 \sum I_x I_y dx dy + \sum I_y^2 dy^2 \\ &= (dx, dy) \begin{pmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (dx, dy) H \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$



Let us consider an equation  $E(dx, dy) = (dx, dy)H \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{pmatrix} = 1$

- This is an ellipse in  $(dx, dy)$  plane. This ellipse should be as small as possible and should be close to true circle.  
i.e.: Eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  of  $H$  should be large enough and close to each other.
- Compatible with numerical stability in solving Lucas-Kanade.

# (Notes just in case you forget linear algebra)

$$(dx, dy)H \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

Because  $H$  is symmetric,  $H$  can be diagonalized by an orthonormal matrix  $P$  (i.e.  $P^{-1} = P^T$ ) so that  $P^T H P = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$

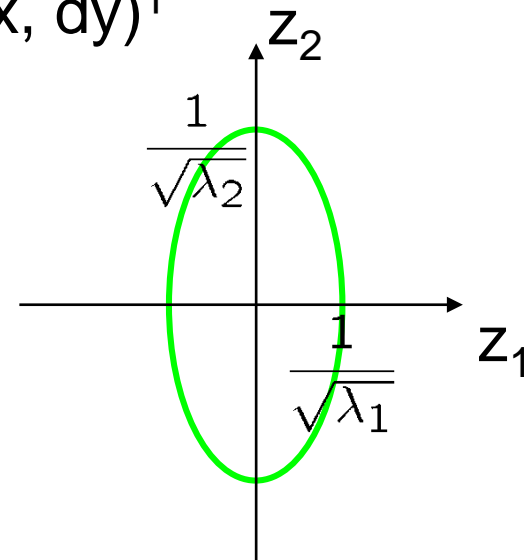
$$(dx, dy)P \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} P^T \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

Viewed in a new coordinate system  $\mathbf{z} = P^T (dx, dy)^T$

$$\mathbf{z}^T \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = 1$$

Or, equivalently

$$\lambda_1 z_1^2 + \lambda_2 z_2^2 = 1$$



# Feature Point Detector

## Harris operator

[Harris and Stephens 1988]

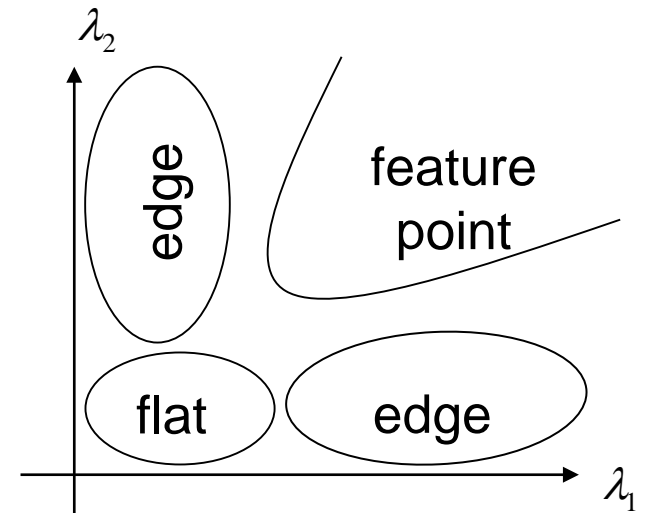
$$\det H - k(\operatorname{tr} H)^2$$
$$= \lambda_1 \lambda_2 - k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2$$

## Good Features to Track

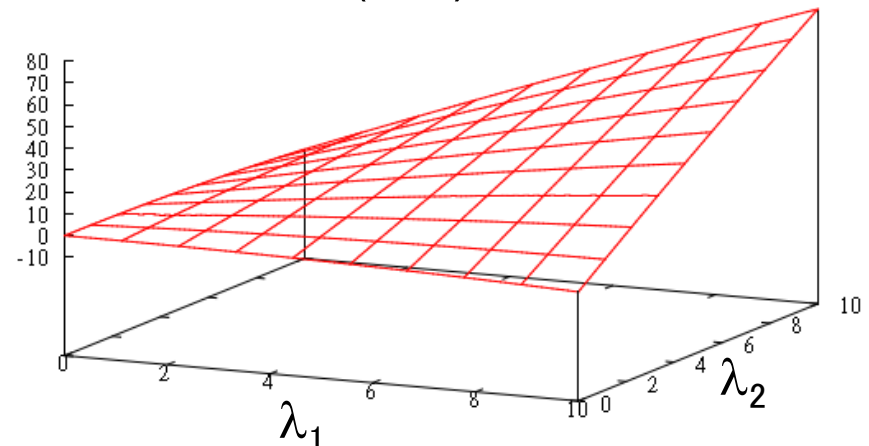
[Tomasi and Kanade 1991]

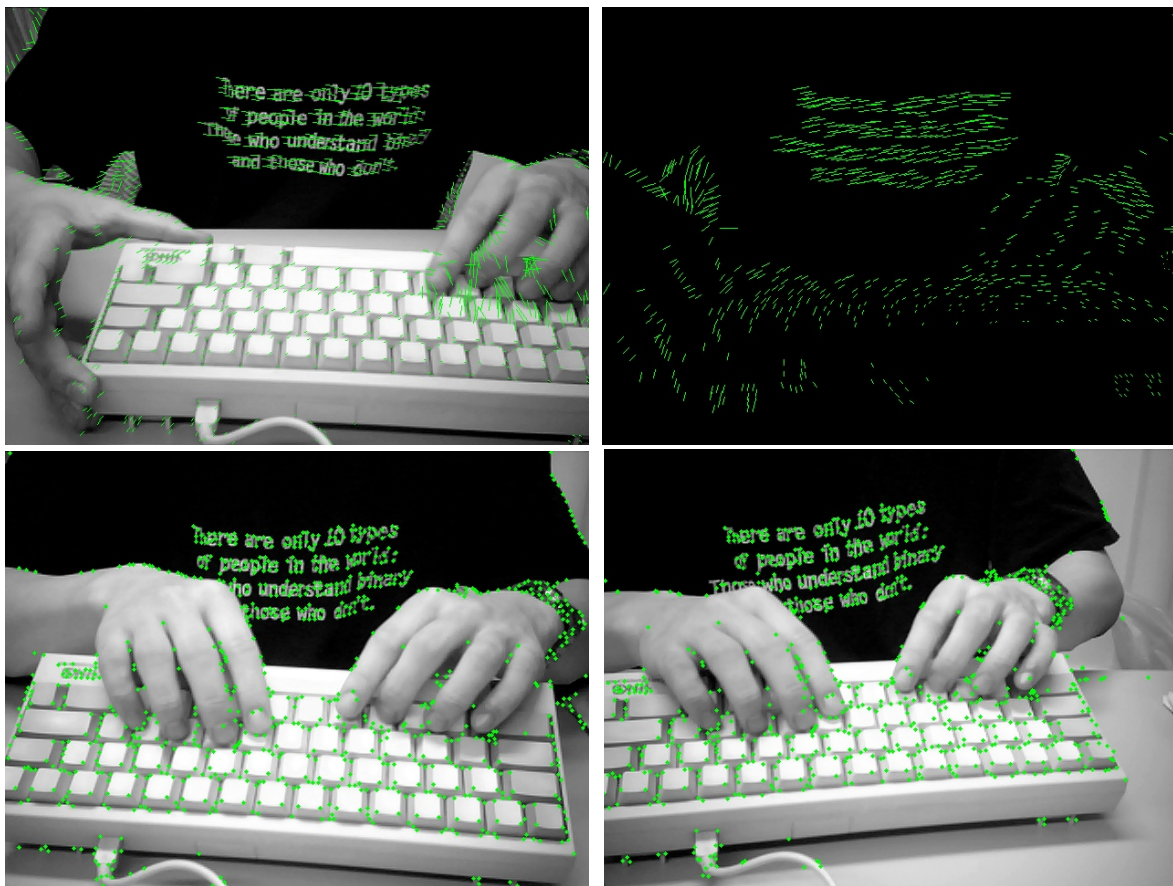
$$\min(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$$

These “good” points for tracking and/or matching are called **feature point**, **interest point**, **keypoint** and so on.



$$\det H - k(\operatorname{tr} H)^2$$





- Lucas-Kanade method applied to “Good-features-to-track” points is often called KLT (Kanade-Lucas-Tomasi) tracker



# Other Feature Point Detectors

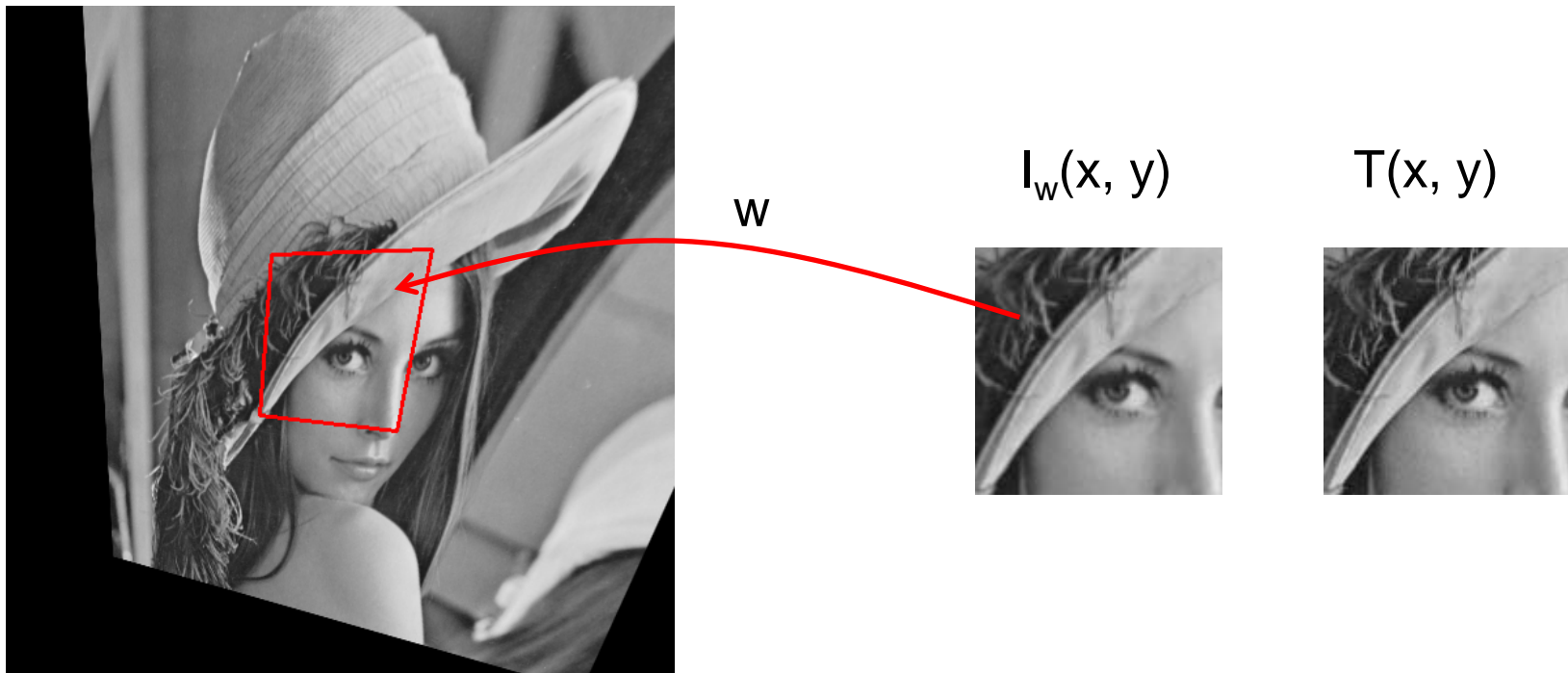
## SIFT detector [Lowe 2004]

- Build a Gaussian scale space and apply (an approximate) Laplacian operator in each scale
- Detect extrema of the results (i.e. strongest responses among their neighbor in space as well as in scale)
- Eliminate edge responses
- (Often followed by encoding of edge orientation histogram in the neighborhood into a fixed-size vector, called a feature point descriptor, which can be compared with each other by Euclidean distance)

## FAST detector [Rosten et al. 2010]

- Heuristics based on pixel values along a surrounding circle
- Optimized for speed and quality by machine learning approach

# Generalization to Different Warps



What kind of modifications are needed?

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right)^2 & \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} & \sum \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial y}\right)^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} e \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} e \end{pmatrix}$$

# 2 DoF Lucas-Kanade Revisited

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x}\right)^2 & \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} & \sum \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial y}\right)^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} e \\ \sum \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} e \end{pmatrix}$$

$$J^T J \begin{pmatrix} p_x \\ p_y \end{pmatrix} = -J^T e$$

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial y} \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \quad e = \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

Jacobian matrix

error vector

1<sup>st</sup> pixel  
2<sup>nd</sup> pixel  
...

$$J^T J$$

(Gauss-Newton approximation of)  
Hessian matrix

# Warps and Their Parametrizations

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & t_x \\ 0 & 1 & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{p} = [t_x, t_y]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & t_x \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{p} = [t_x, t_y, \theta]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ p_4 & 1 + p_5 & p_6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 + p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ p_4 & 1 + p_5 & p_6 \\ p_7 & p_8 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

For convenience, we usually define the parameters such that  $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$  corresponds to identity warp

# Warp Functions and Their Derivatives

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & t_x \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & t_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{w}_p \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta + t_x \\ x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta + t_y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w}_p \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) \right|_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -y \\ 0 & 1 & x \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 + p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \\ p_4 & 1 + p_5 & p_6 \\ p_7 & p_8 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{w}_p \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(1 + p_1)x + p_2y + p_3}{p_7x + p_8y + 1} \\ \frac{p_4x + (1 + p_5)y + p_6}{p_7x + p_8y + 1} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w}_p \left( \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} x & y & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -x^2 & -xy \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & x & y & 1 & -xy & -y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Inverse “Additive” Algorithm

Warp the input image with parameter  $p_0$  to obtain  $I_w$

$$\tilde{E}(\mathbf{p}) \simeq \sum_{m,n} \left\{ -e(m,n) + \sum_k \frac{\partial T}{\partial p_k}(m,n) \cdot p_k \right\}^2 \rightarrow \min_{\mathbf{p}}$$

$$J^T J \mathbf{p} = J^T \mathbf{e}$$

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial p_1} & \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial p_2} & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial p_1} & \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial p_2} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \left( \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{p},1}}{\partial p_1} & \left( \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial T_1}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{p},1}}{\partial p_2} & \cdots \\ \left( \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{p},2}}{\partial p_1} & \left( \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial T_2}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}_{\mathbf{p},2}}{\partial p_2} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

1<sup>st</sup> pixel  
2<sup>nd</sup> pixel  
...

Then, resample  $I_w$  by updating the parameters as  $p_0 := p_0 - \mathbf{p}$  ... Is this OK?

**This works for 2D translation, but not always for general warps**

$I(x, y)$



$I_w(x, y)$



$T(x, y)$

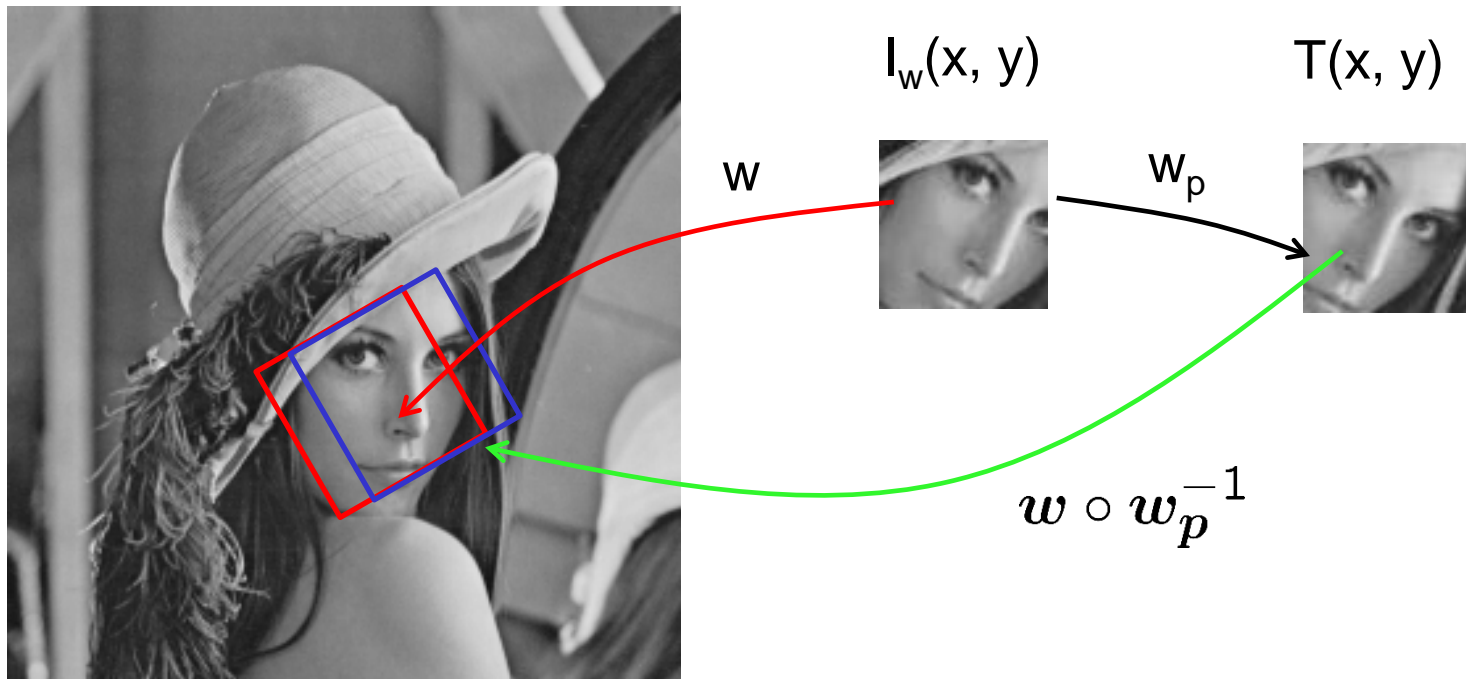


$$(p_x, p_y, p_\theta) = (-10, 0, 0)$$

Is it OK if we resample  $I_w$  at new position and orientation  
(+10, 0, 0)?  
=> Obviously no.

# Inverse Compositional Algorithm

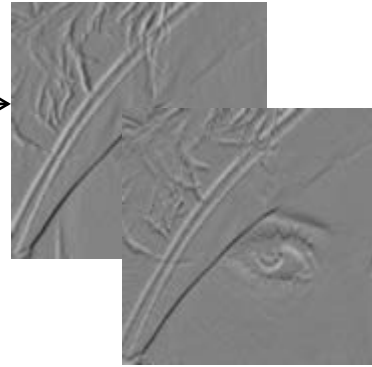
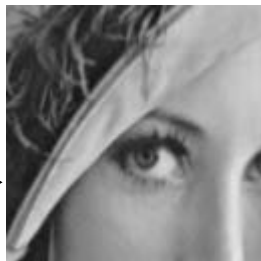
Instead of updating the warp parameters additively, the warp is compositionally updated [Baker & Matthews 2004]:  $w \leftarrow w \circ w_p^{-1}$



$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{E}(p) &= \sum_x \{T(w_p(x)) - I_w(x)\}^2 \\ &= \sum_x \{T(w_p(x)) - I(w(x))\}^2 \rightarrow \min_p\end{aligned}$$



template

warped  
input  
image

gradient images

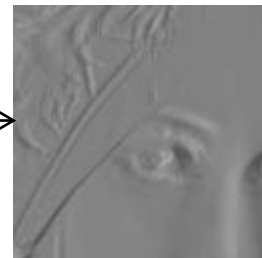
# pixels

$$\times \frac{\partial w_i}{\partial \mathbf{p}}$$

for each  
pixel  $i$  $J$ 

precomputed

# params

 $e_0$ 

$$J^T J \mathbf{p} = J^T \mathbf{e}_0$$

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} \circ \mathbf{w}_p^{-1}$$

# Other Choices of Optimization Methods

## Other optimization methods

- Levenberg-Marquardt method

$$(J^T J + \lambda I) \mathbf{p} = J^T \mathbf{e}_0$$

$I$  : identity matrix

$\lambda$  : scalar coefficient

(small  $\lambda$  : Gauss-Newton, large  $\lambda$  : steepest descent)

- Efficient Second-order Minimization method [Banhimane and Malis 2007]

$$(J^T J) \mathbf{p} = J^T \mathbf{e}_0, \quad J = (J_1 + J_2)/2$$

$J_1$ : derivative of template image w.r.t. param.

$J_2$ : derivative of current warped image w.r.t. param.

(Possible when parametrized with special care)

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