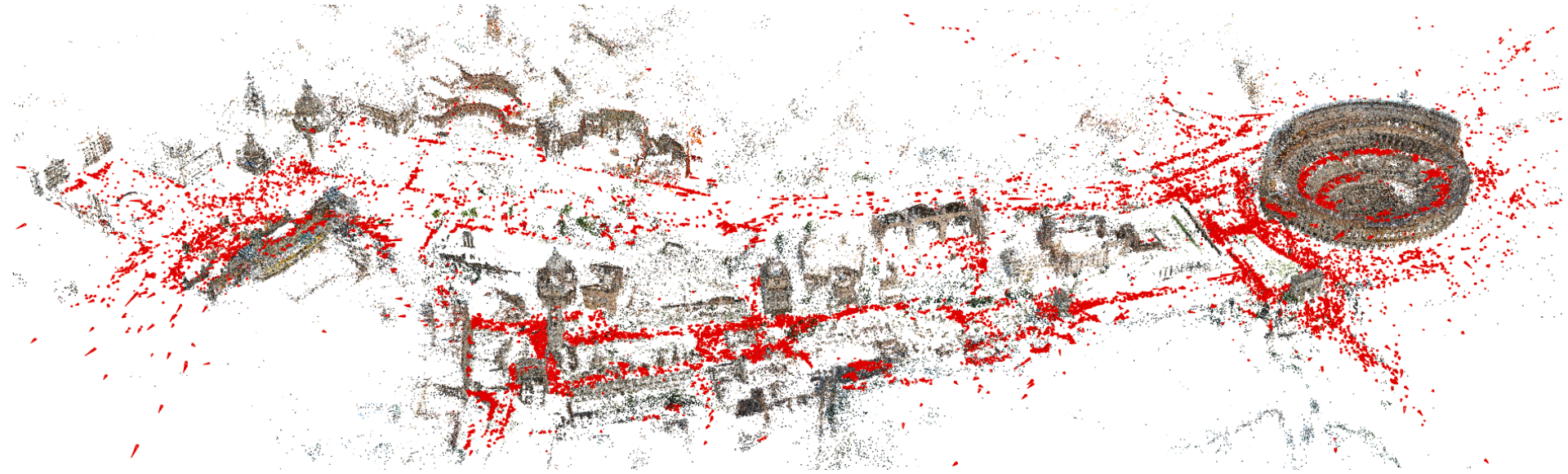


# 3D Vision: Epipolar Geometry



A lot of slides  
borrowed from  
Noah Snavely +  
Shree Nayar's YT  
series: First  
principals of  
Computer Vision

CS194: Intro to Computer Vision and Comp. Photo  
Angjoo Kanazawa, UC Berkeley, Fall 2021

# More cool things with 3D



3D photo



AR

# Recap: Camera Model

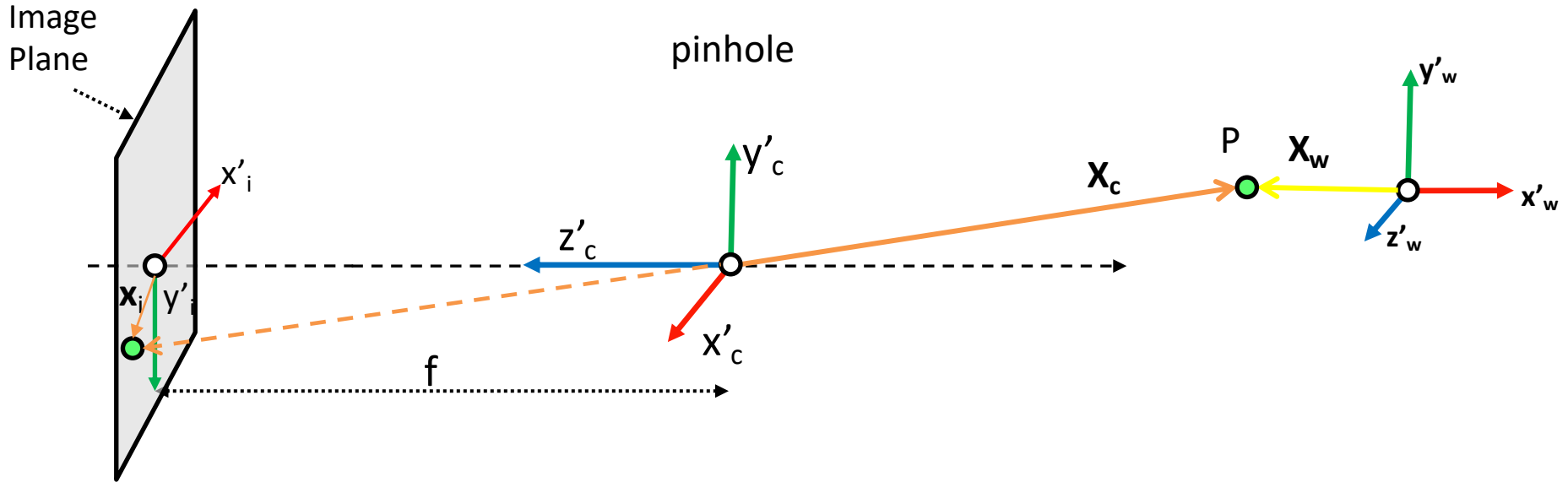


Image Coordinates

Camera Coordinates

World Coordinates

$$\mathbf{X}_i = \begin{bmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \end{bmatrix} \quad \xleftarrow{\text{Perspective Projection}} \quad \mathbf{X}_c = \begin{bmatrix} x_c \\ y_c \\ z_c \end{bmatrix} \quad \xleftarrow{\text{Coordinate Transformation}} \quad \mathbf{X}_w = \begin{bmatrix} x_w \\ y_w \\ z_w \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} f_x & 0 & o_x & 0 \\ 0 & f_y & o_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

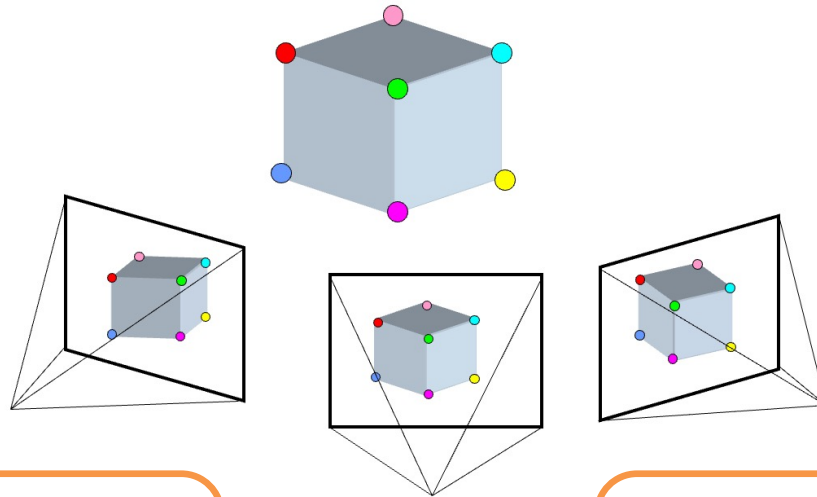
**Intrinsics**

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_{3 \times 3} & \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}_{1 \times 3} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Extrinsics**

# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D

3D Points  
(Structure)



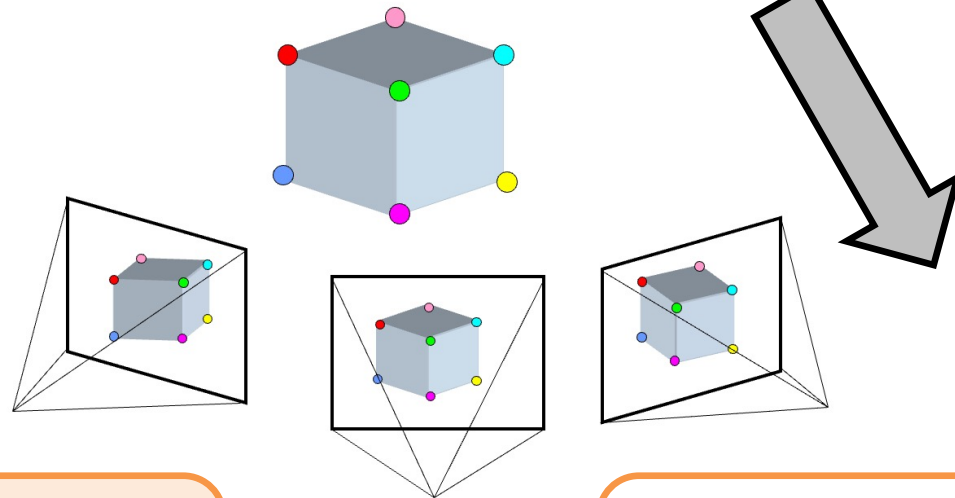
Correspondences

Camera  
(Motion)



# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D

3D Points  
(Structure)

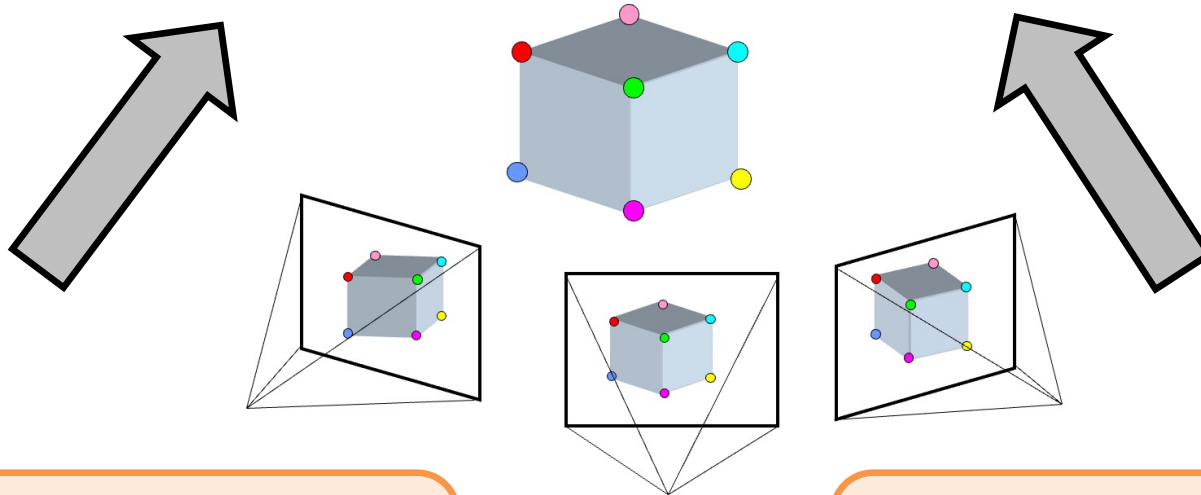


Correspondences

Camera  
(Motion)

# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D

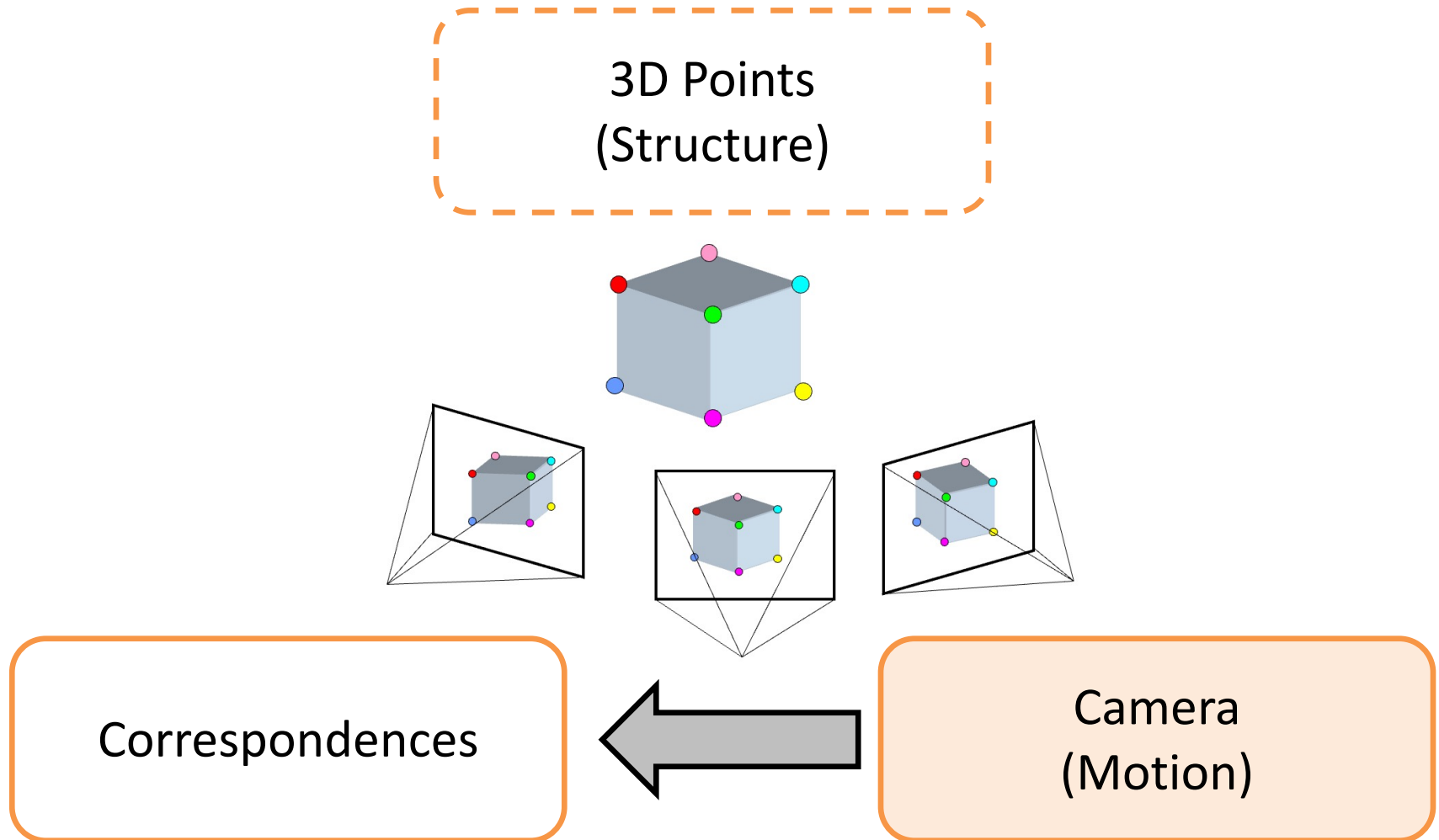
3D Points  
(Structure)



Correspondences

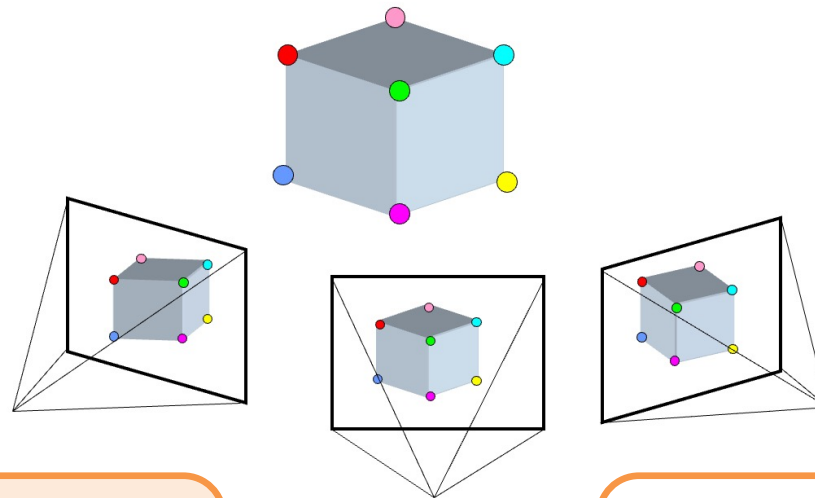
Camera  
(Motion)

# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D



# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D

3D Points  
(Structure)



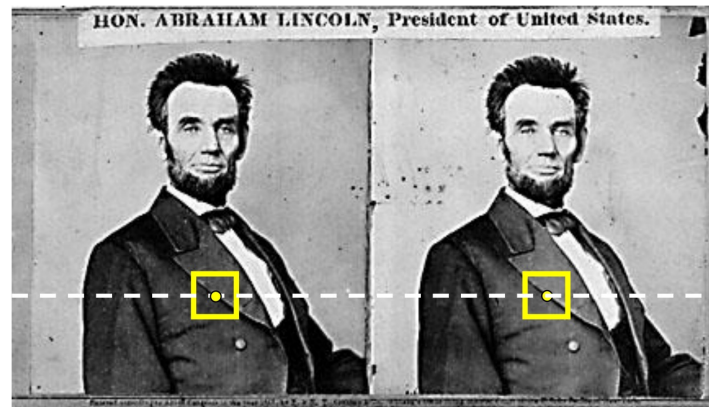
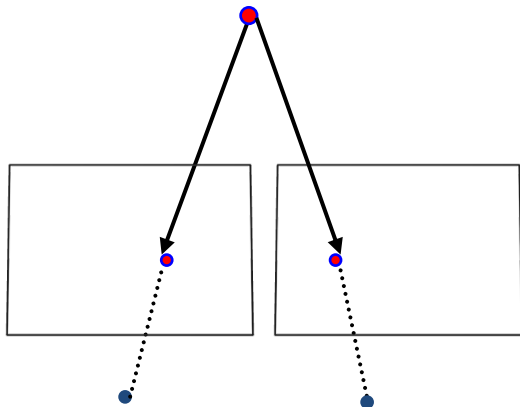
Correspondences

Camera  
(Motion)

# Recap

We covered:

- How to estimate the camera parameters
  - “Calibration”
  - Solve for intrinsics & extrinsics
- With a simple stereo, correspondences lie on horizontal lines
- depth is inversely proportional to disparity (how much the pixel moves)





# What Depth Map provides

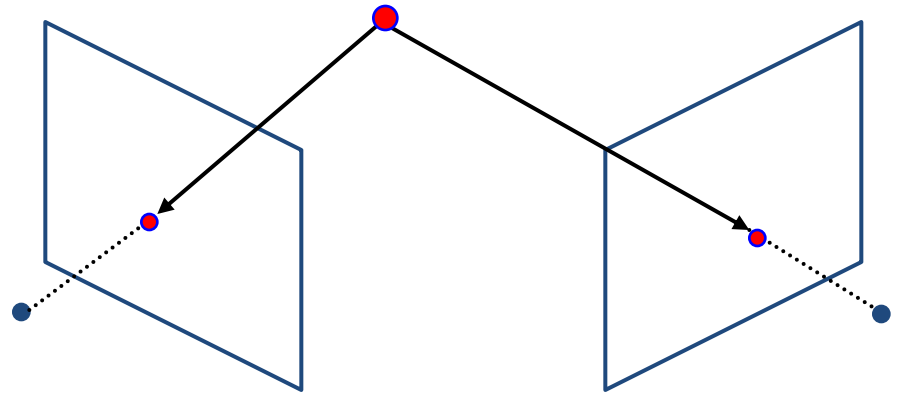
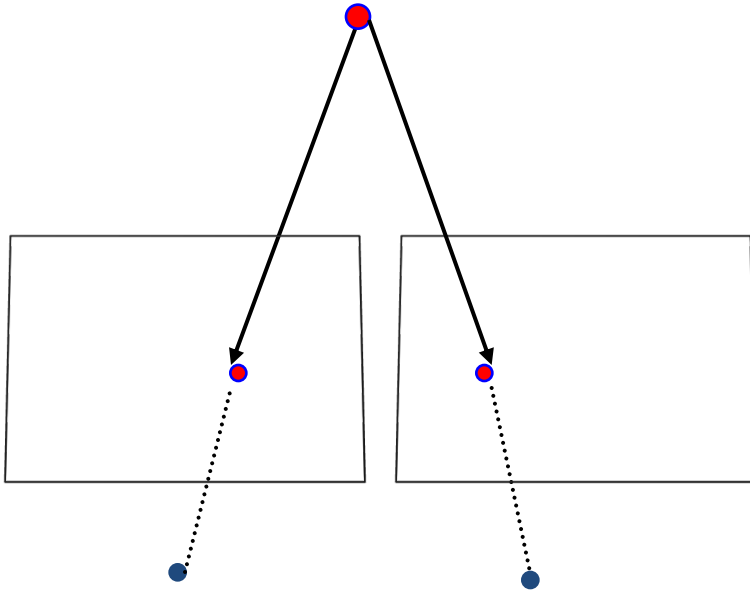
warping the pixel based on its depth as you change the views



Monocular Depth Prediction [Ranftl et al. PAMI'20]

# Next: General case

- The two cameras need not have parallel optical axes.
- Assume cameras are calibrated

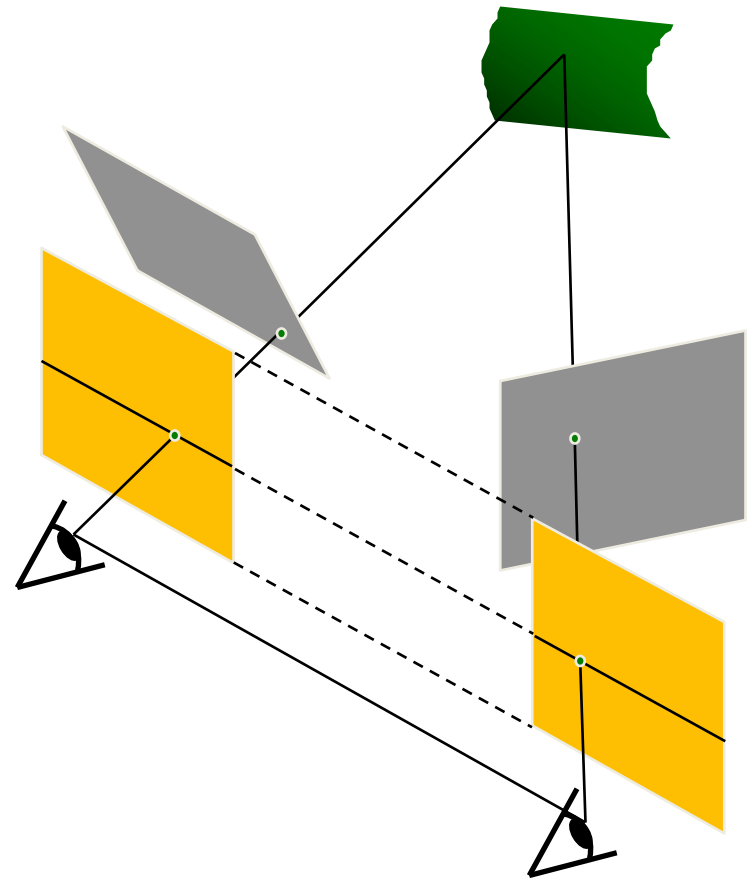


Same hammer:

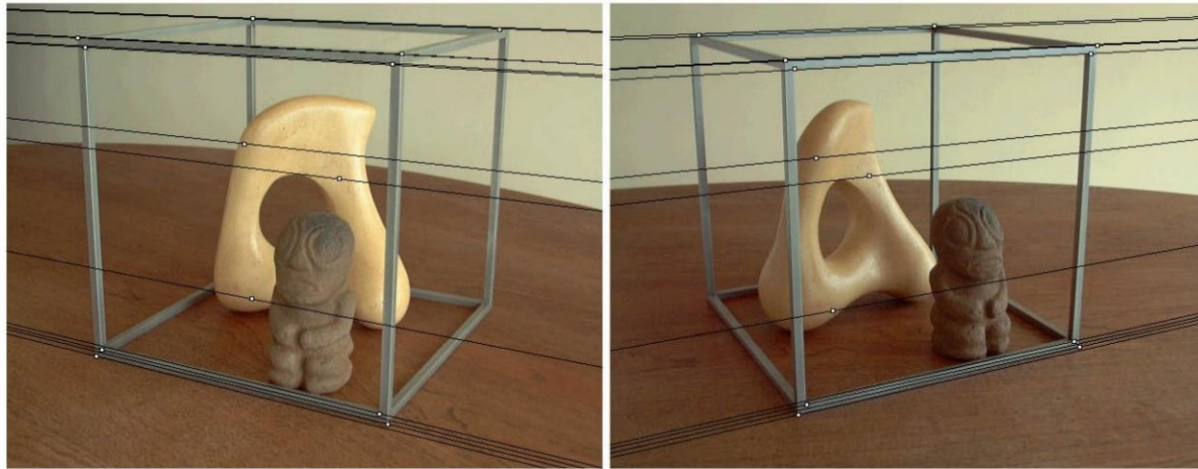
Find the correspondences, then solve for structure

# Option 1: Rectify via homography

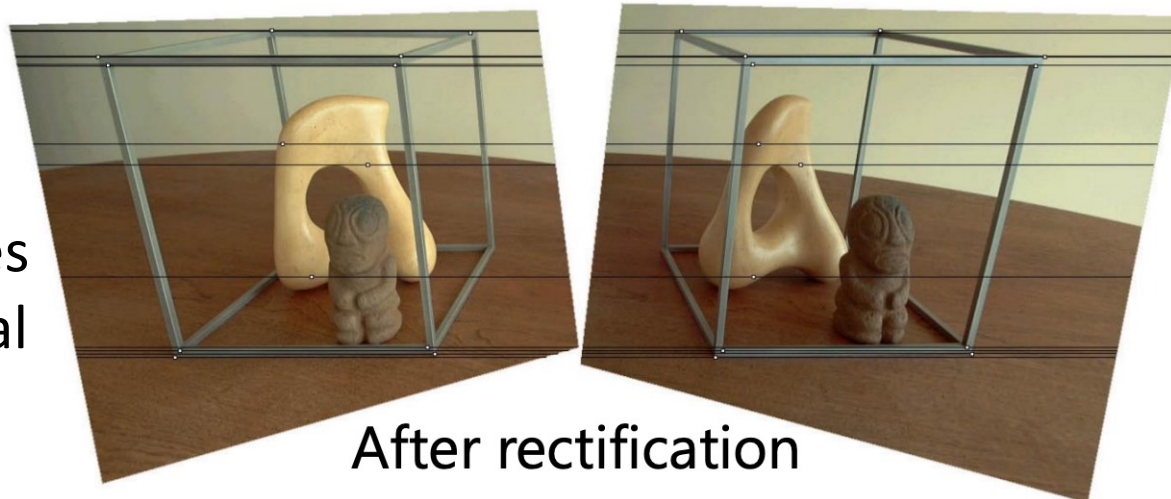
- reproject image planes onto a common plane
  - plane parallel to the line between optical centers
- pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation
- Two homographies, one for each input image reprojection
  - C. Loop and Z. Zhang. [Computing Rectifying Homographies for Stereo Vision](#). CVPR 1999.



# Option 1: Rectify via homography



Original stereo pair



After rectification

Then find  
correspondences  
on the horizontal  
scan line

General case, known camera, find depth:

## Option 2

1. Find correspondences
2. Triangulate



# General case, known camera, find depth:

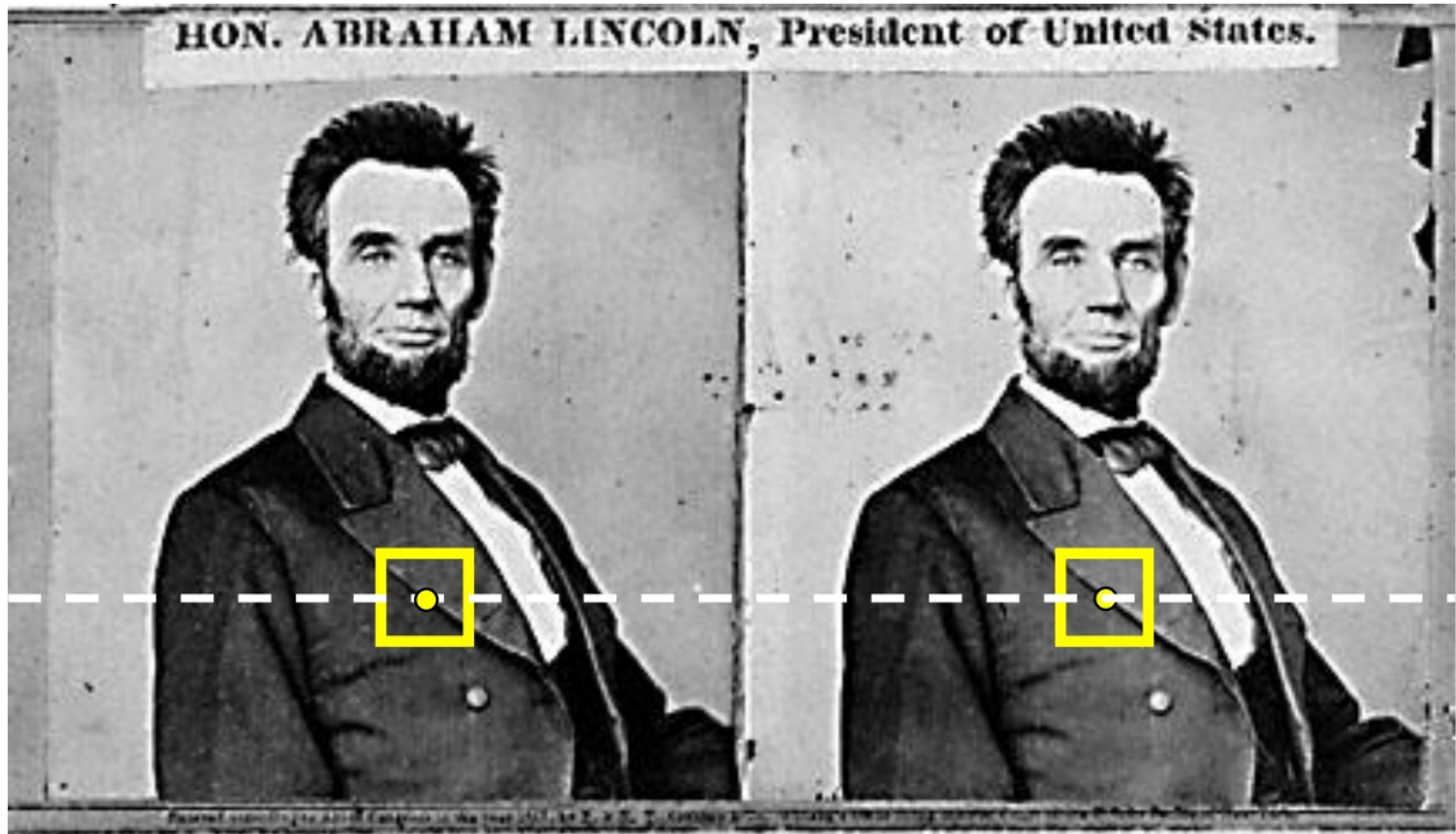
## Option 2

- 1. Find correspondences**
2. Triangulate

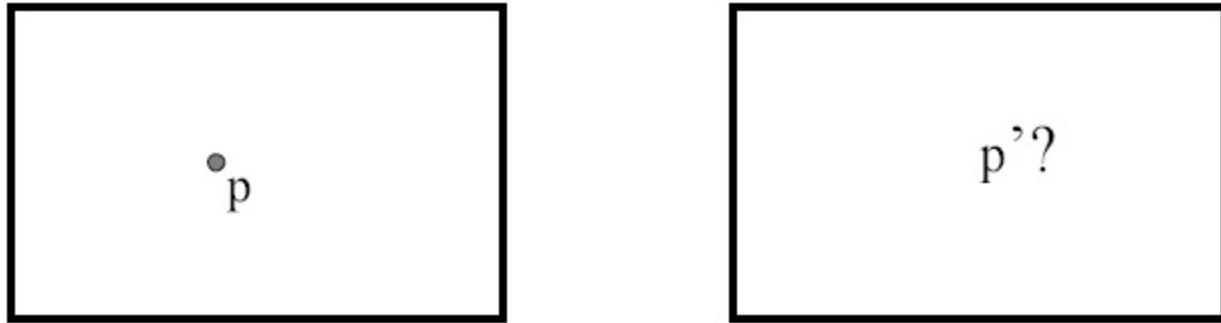
Can we restrict the search space again to 1D?

What is the relationship between the camera + the corresponding points?

# Where do epipolar lines come from?

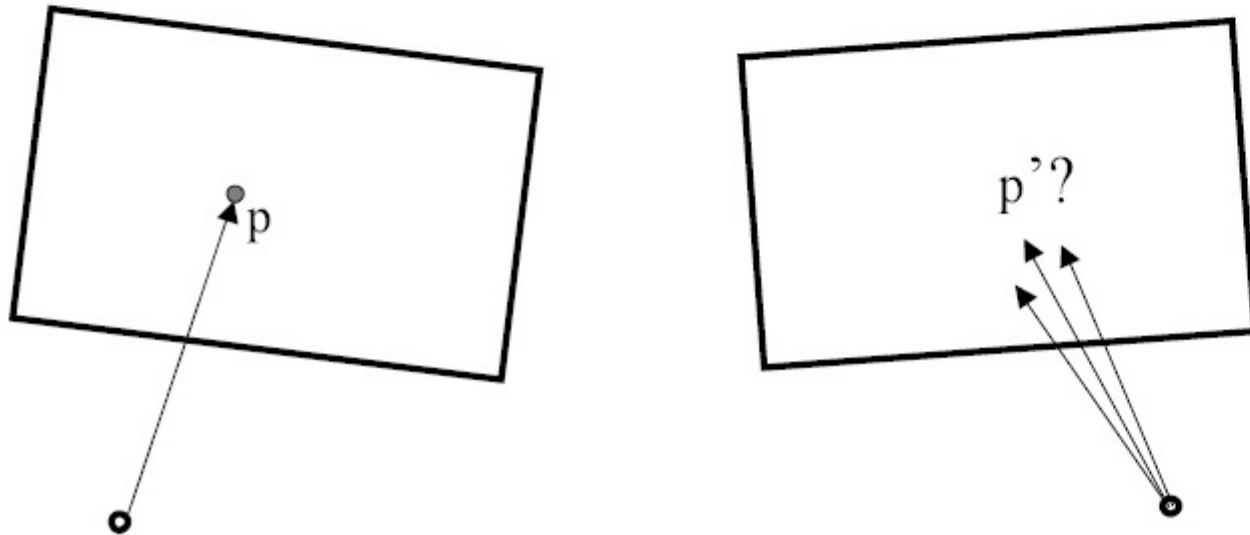


# Stereo correspondence constraints



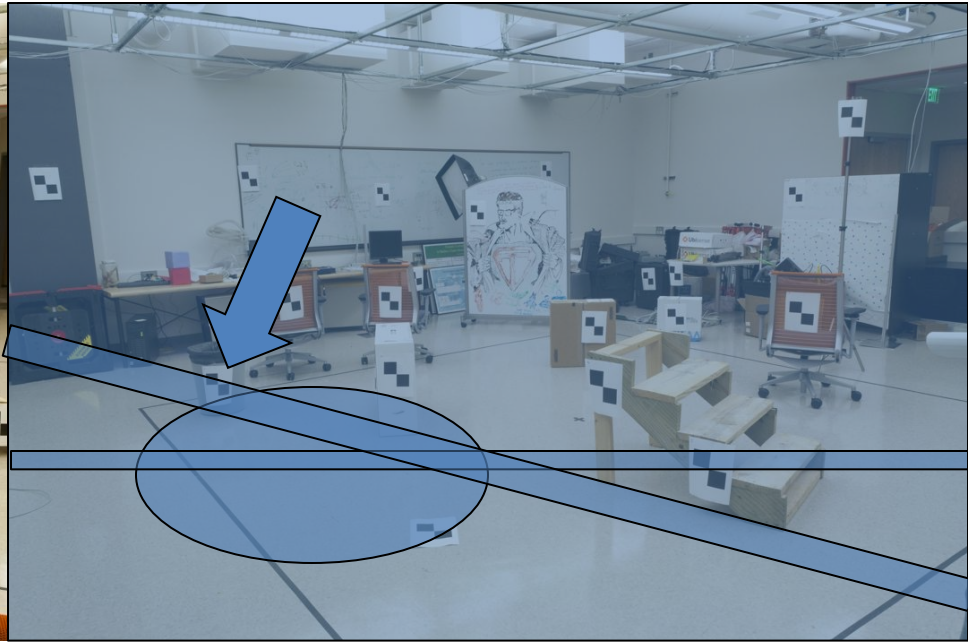
- Given  $p$  in left image, where can corresponding point  $p'$  be?

# Stereo correspondence constraints



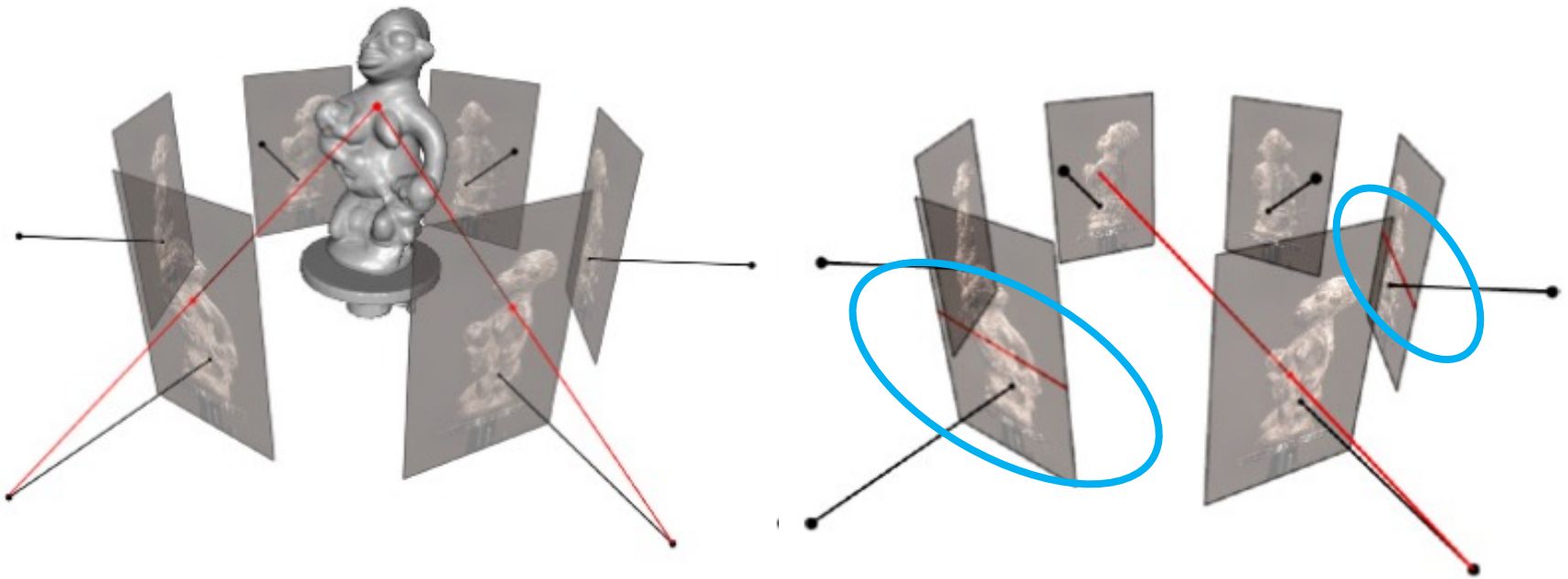
- Given  $p$  in left image, where can corresponding point  $p'$  be?

# Where do we need to search?



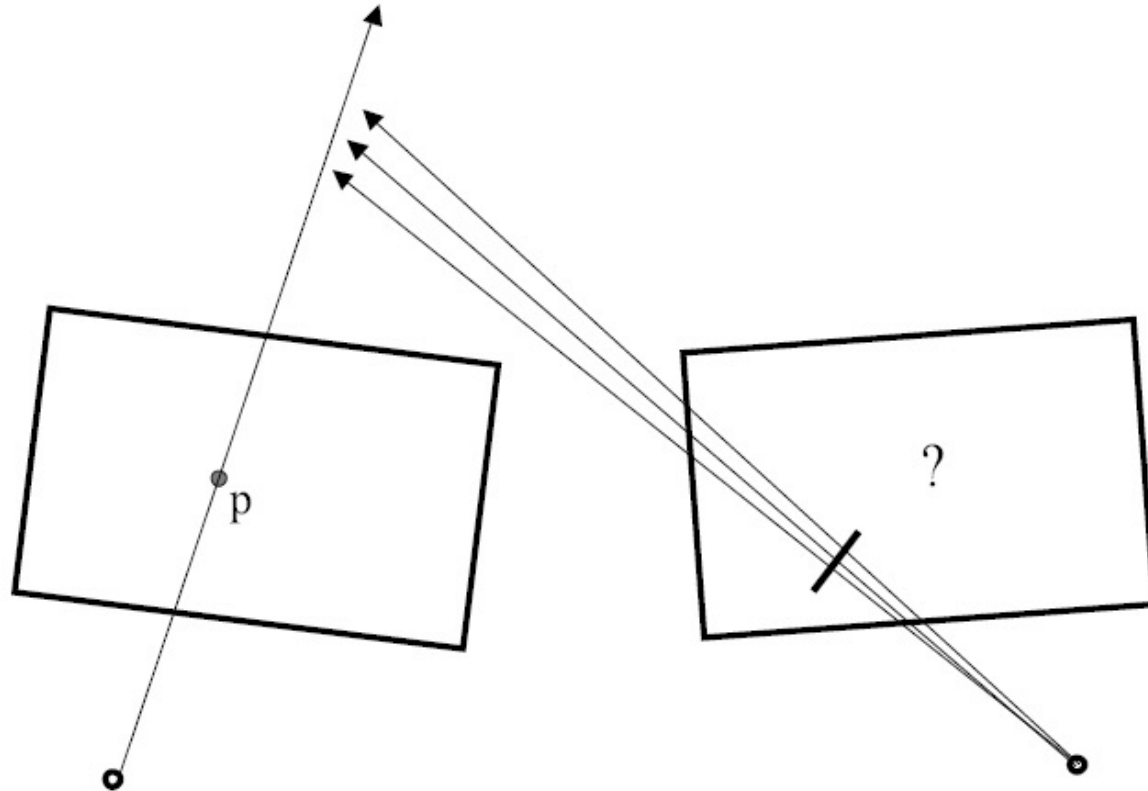


# Epipolar Geometry

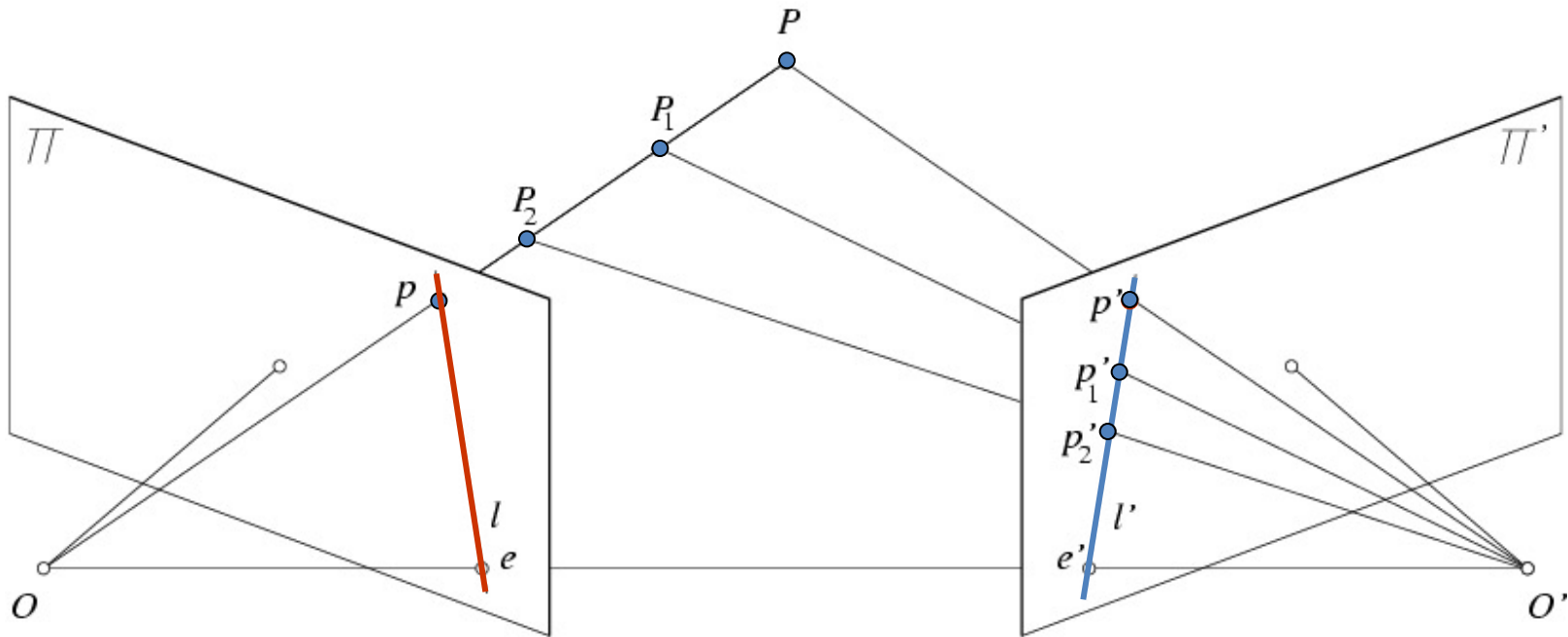


Figures by Carlos Hernandez

# Stereo correspondence constraints

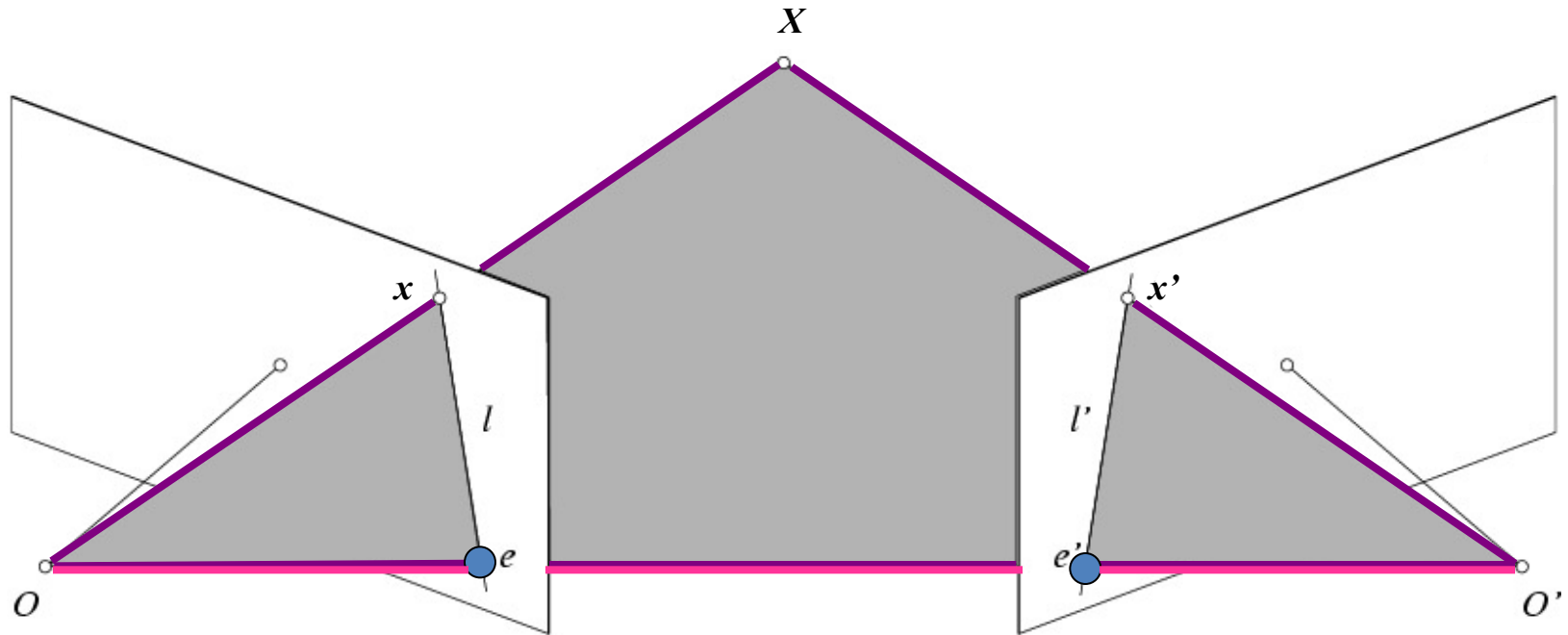


# Epipolar constraint



- 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 geometry



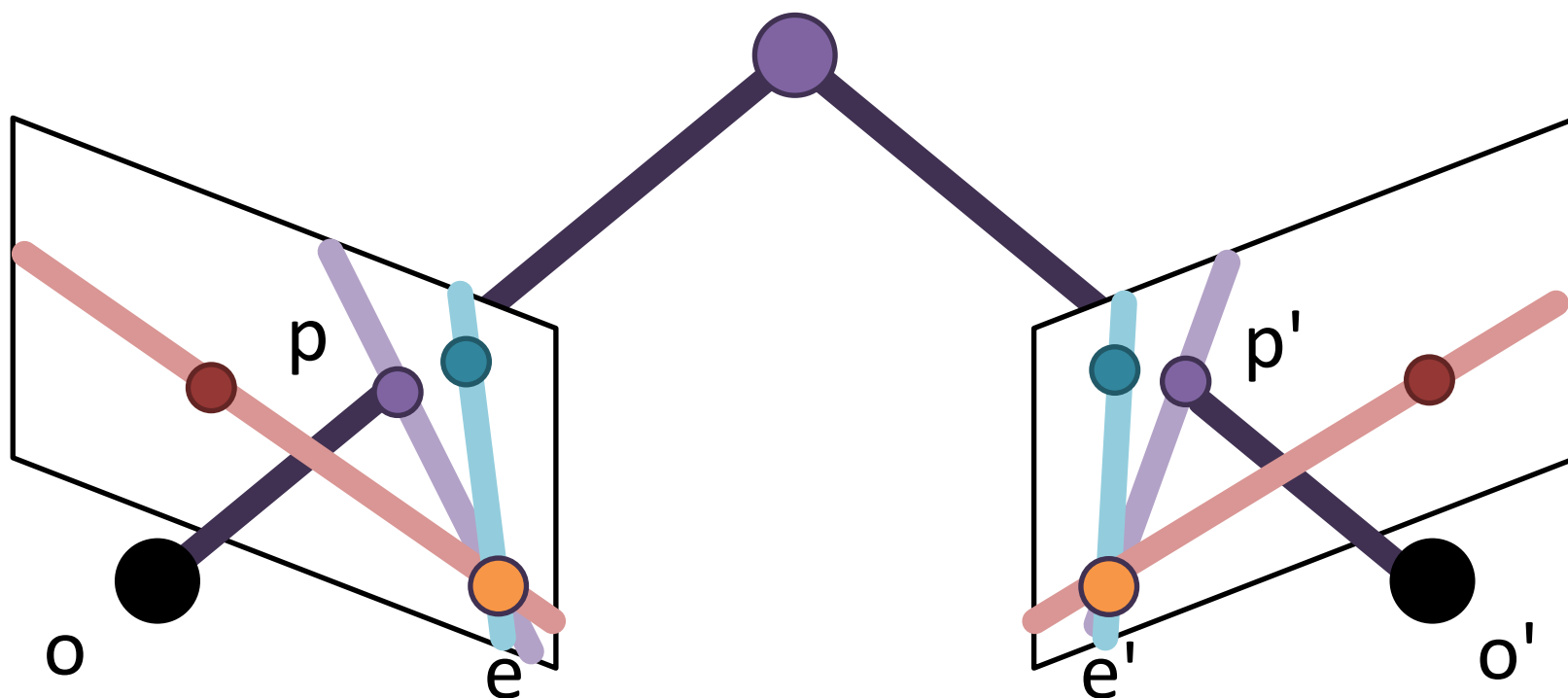
- **Baseline** – line connecting the two camera centers
- **Epipolar Plane** – plane containing baseline (1D family)
- **Epipoles**  
= intersections of baseline with image planes  
= projections of the other camera center

# The Epipole



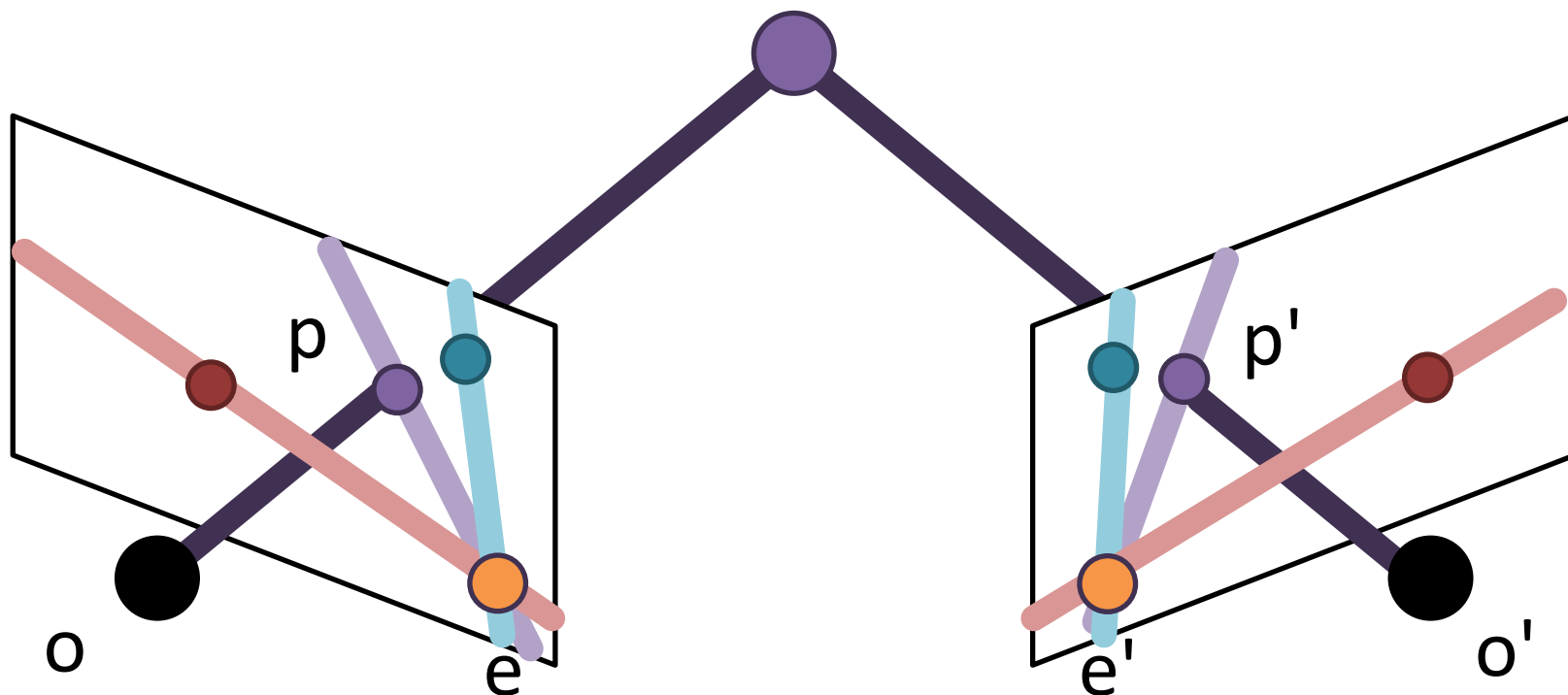
Photo by Frank Dellaert

# Example: Converging Cameras



Epipoles finite, maybe in image; epipolar lines converge

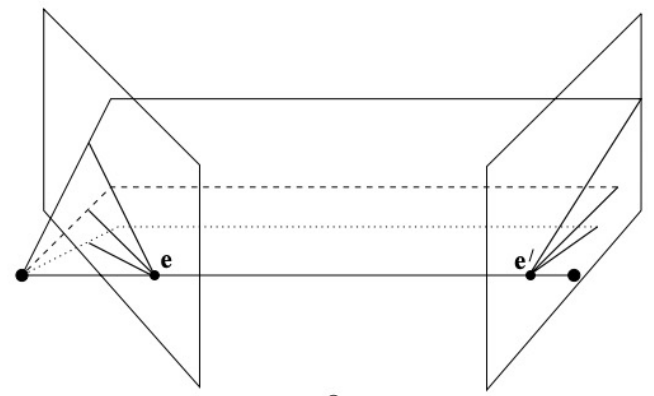
# Example: Converging Cameras



Epipolar lines come in pairs:  
given a point  $p$ , we can construct the epipolar line for  $p'$ .

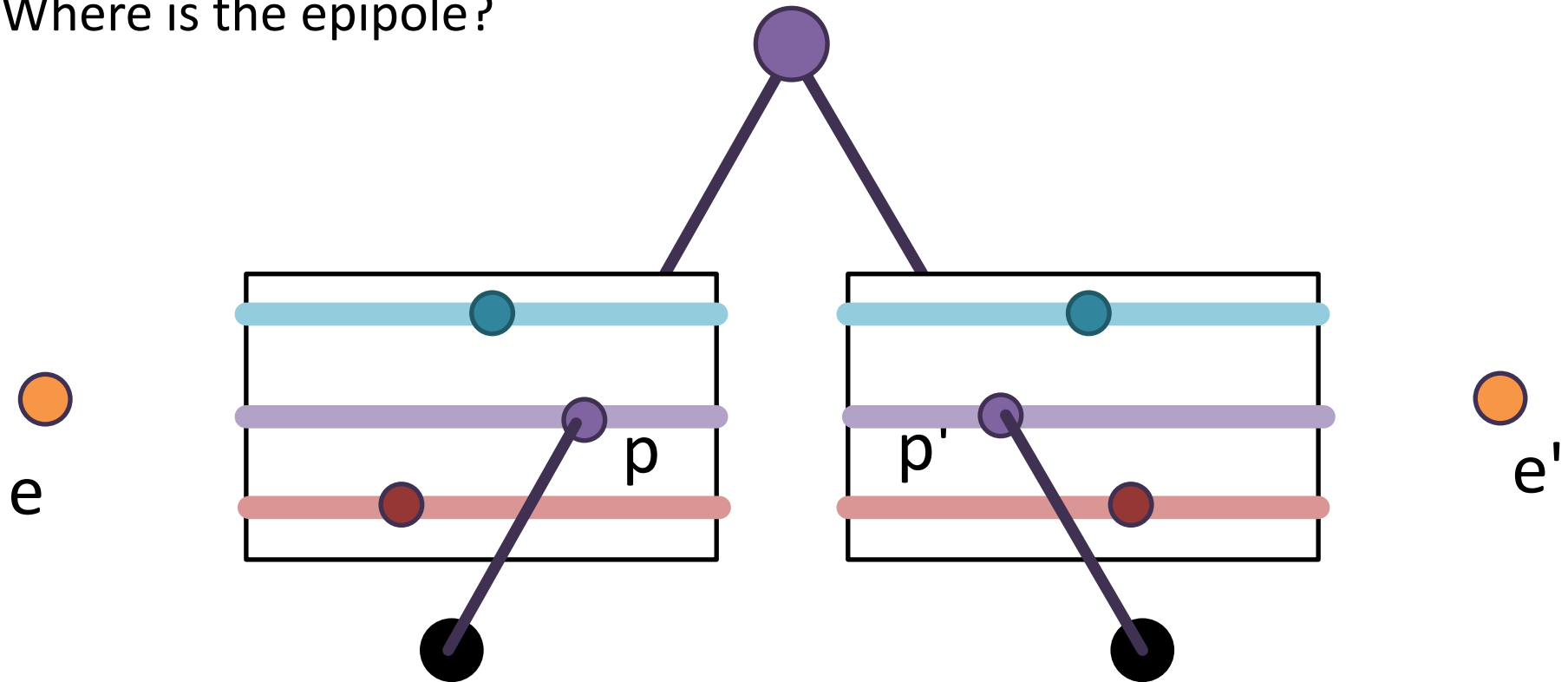


# Example 1: Converging Cameras



# Example: Parallel to Image Plane

Where is the epipole?



Epipoles *infinitely* far away, epipolar lines parallel

# Example: Forward Motion



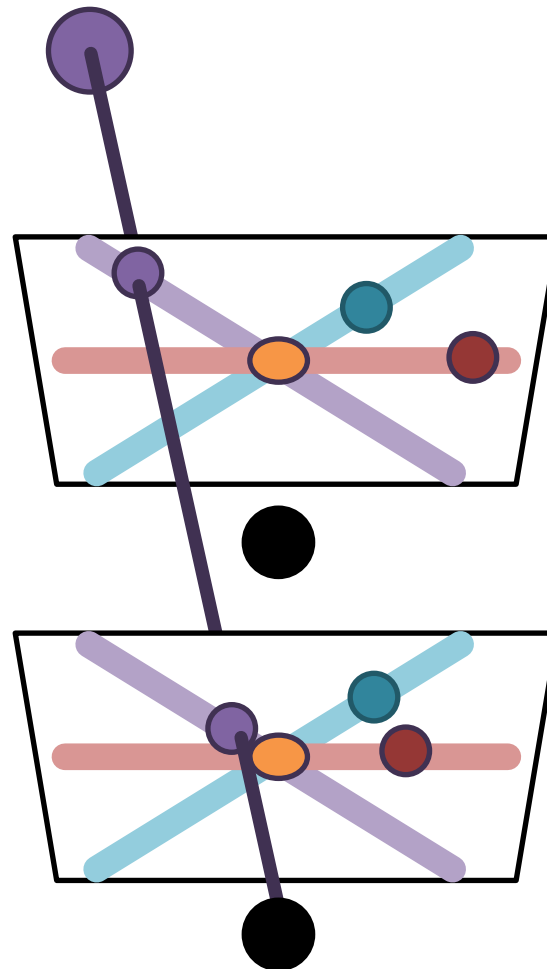
# Example: Forward Motion



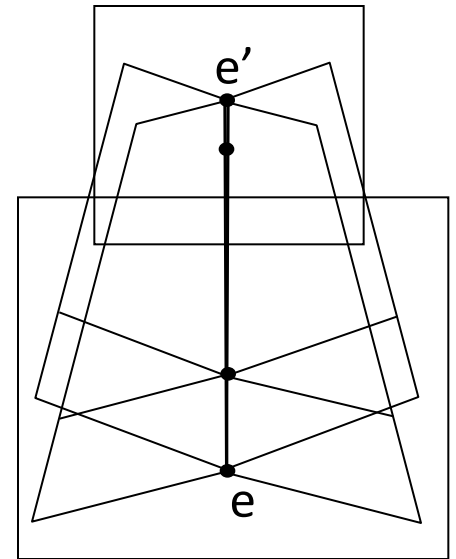
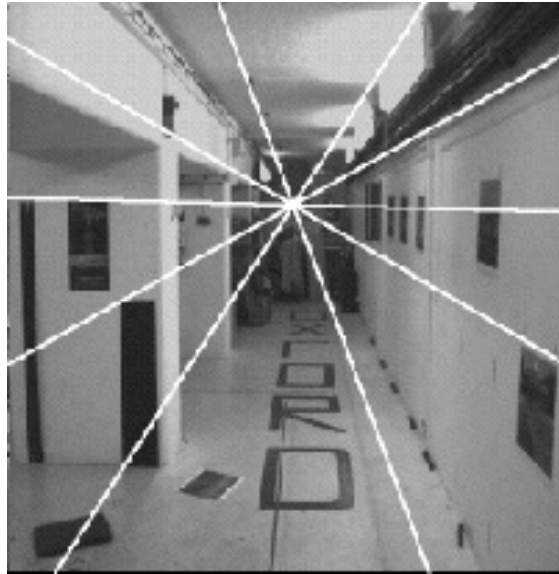
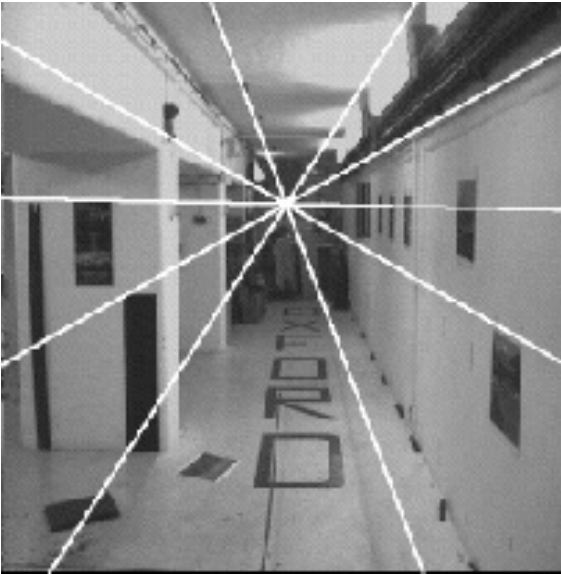
# Example: Forward Motion

Epipole is focus of expansion / principal point of the camera.

Epipolar lines go out from principal point



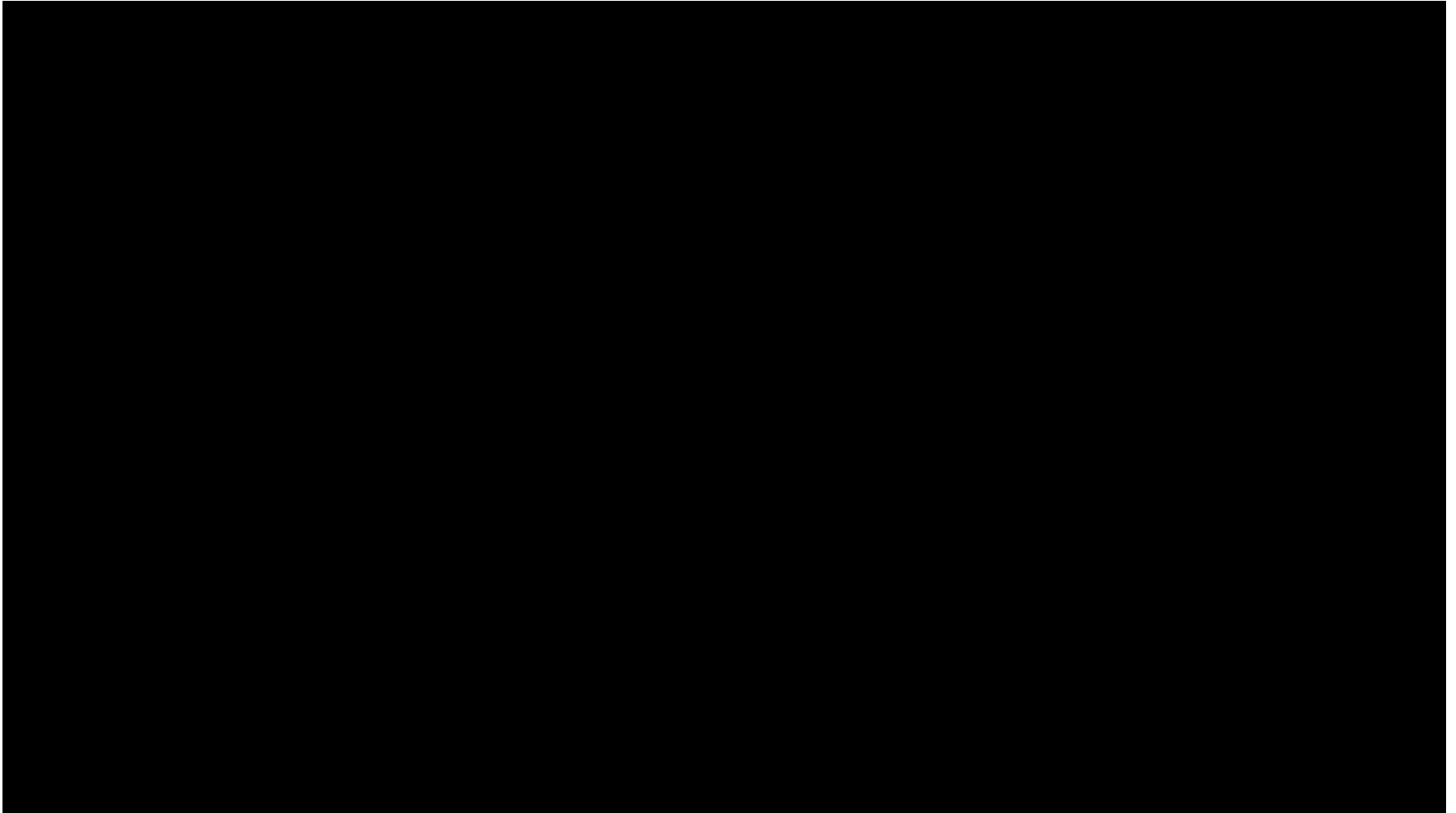
# Example: forward motion



Epipole has same coordinates in both images.

Points move along lines radiating from  $e$ : “Focus of expansion”

# Motion perpendicular to image plane



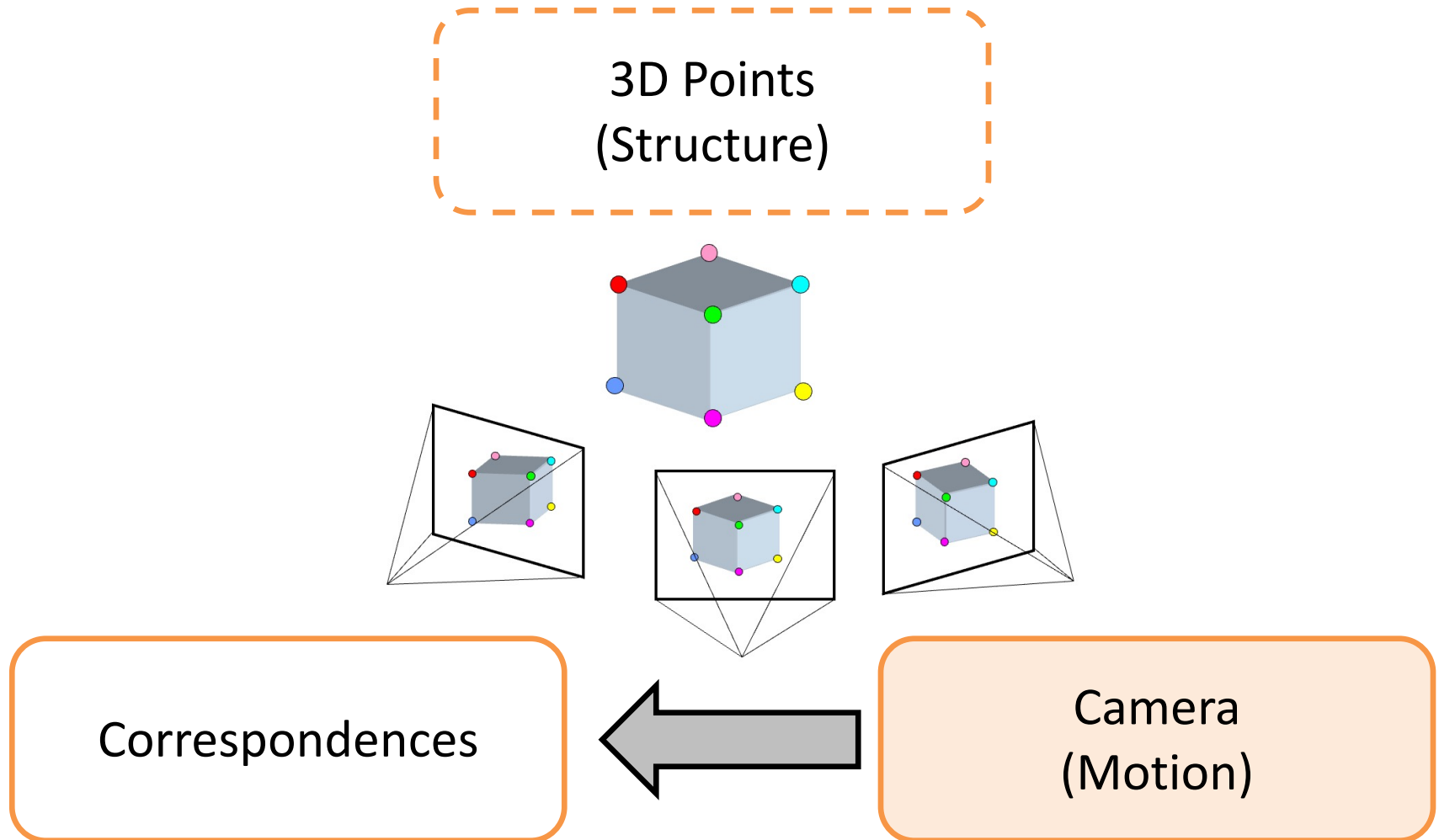
<http://vimeo.com/48425421>



# Where were we?

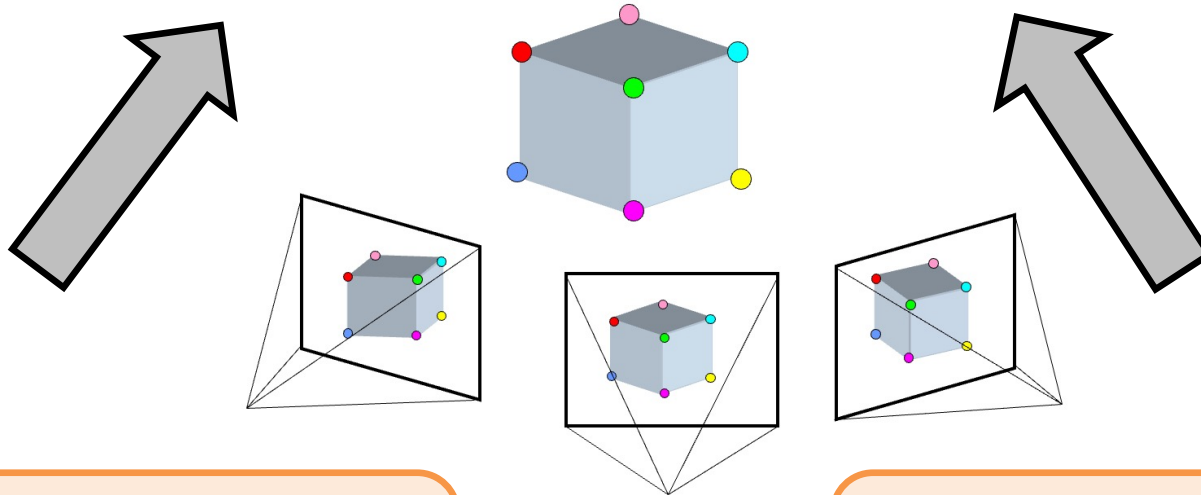
- Why is this relevant?
- Assume camera is calibrated
- Goal: 3D reconstruction of corresponding points in the image

# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D



# Big picture: 3 key components in 3D

3D Points  
(Structure)



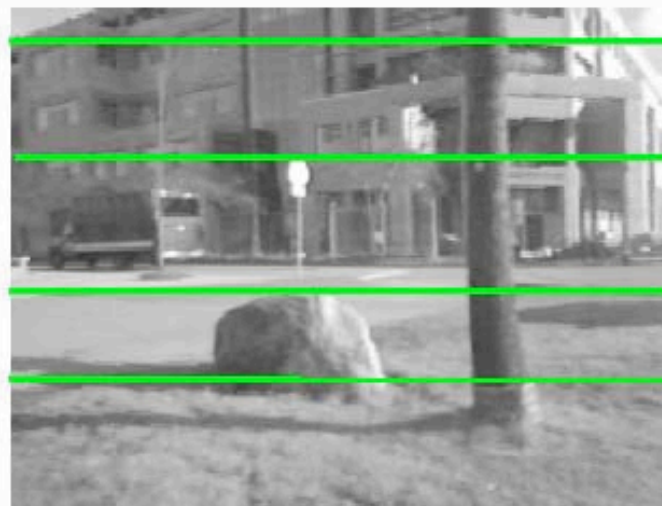
Correspondences

Camera  
(Motion)

# Epipolar Geometry

- If I want to do stereo, I want to find a corresponding pixel for each pixel in the image:
- Naïve search:
  - For each pixel, search every other pixel
- With epipolar geometry:
  - For each pixel, search along each line (1D search)!

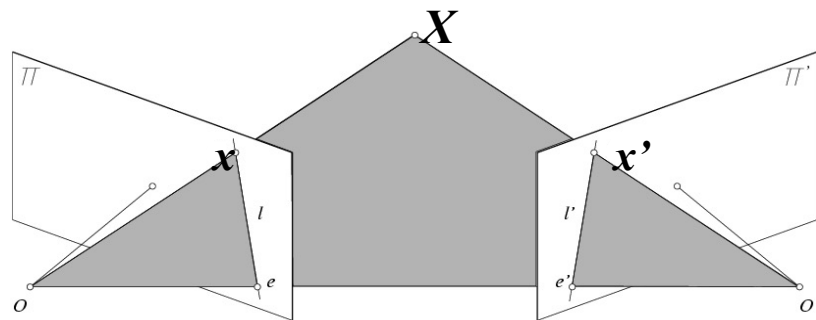
# Epipolar constraint example



How do we compute the Epipolar line?

# Step 0: Normalized image coordinates

---



$$x = K[R \ t]X$$

$$K^{-1}x = [R \ t]X$$

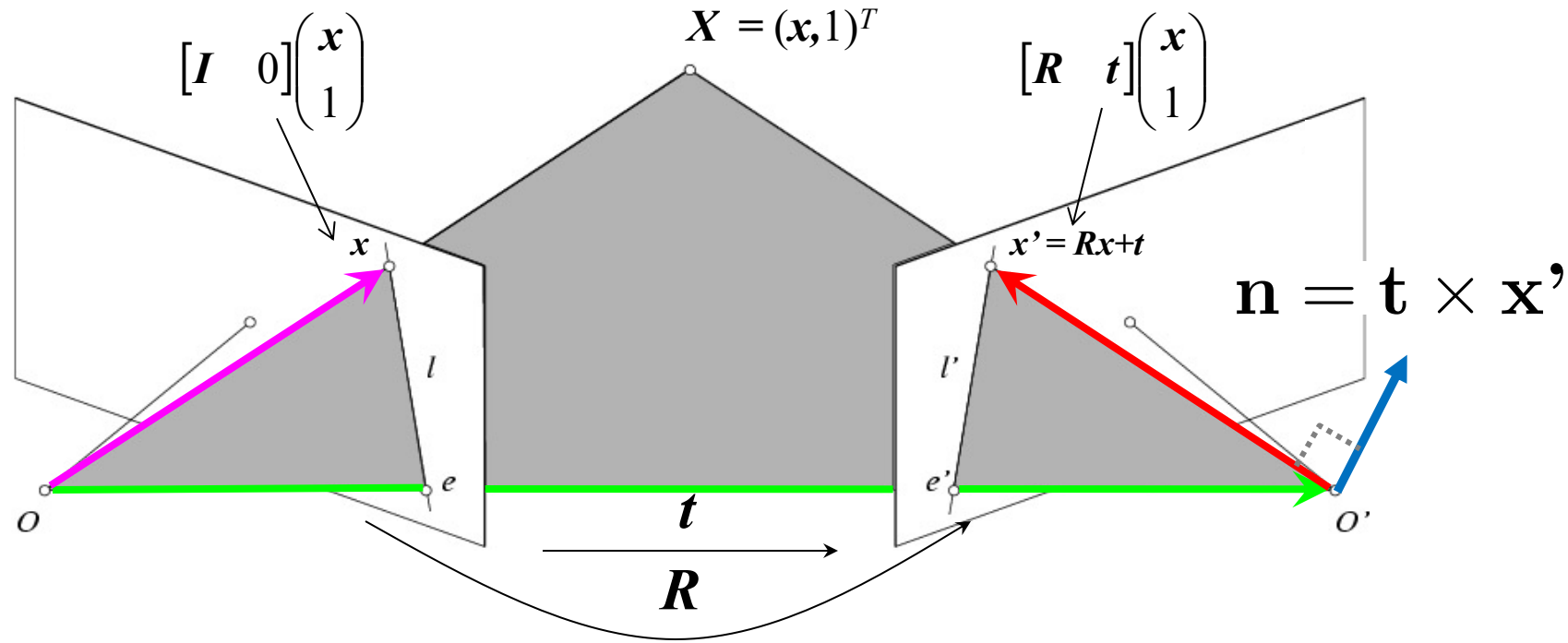
- Let's factor out the effect of K
- Since we know the intrinsics K, apply its inverse to x
- This is called the *normalized* image coordinates. It may be thought of as a set of points with K = Identity

$$\mathbf{x}_{\text{norm}} = \mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_{\text{pixel}} = [\mathbf{I} \ 0]X, \quad \mathbf{x}'_{\text{norm}} = \mathbf{K}'^{-1}\mathbf{x}'_{\text{pixel}} = [\mathbf{R} \ t]X$$

- Assume that the points are normalized from here on



# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



The vectors  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are coplanar

What can you say about their relationships, given  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{x}'$  ?

$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot (\mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{x}') = 0$$

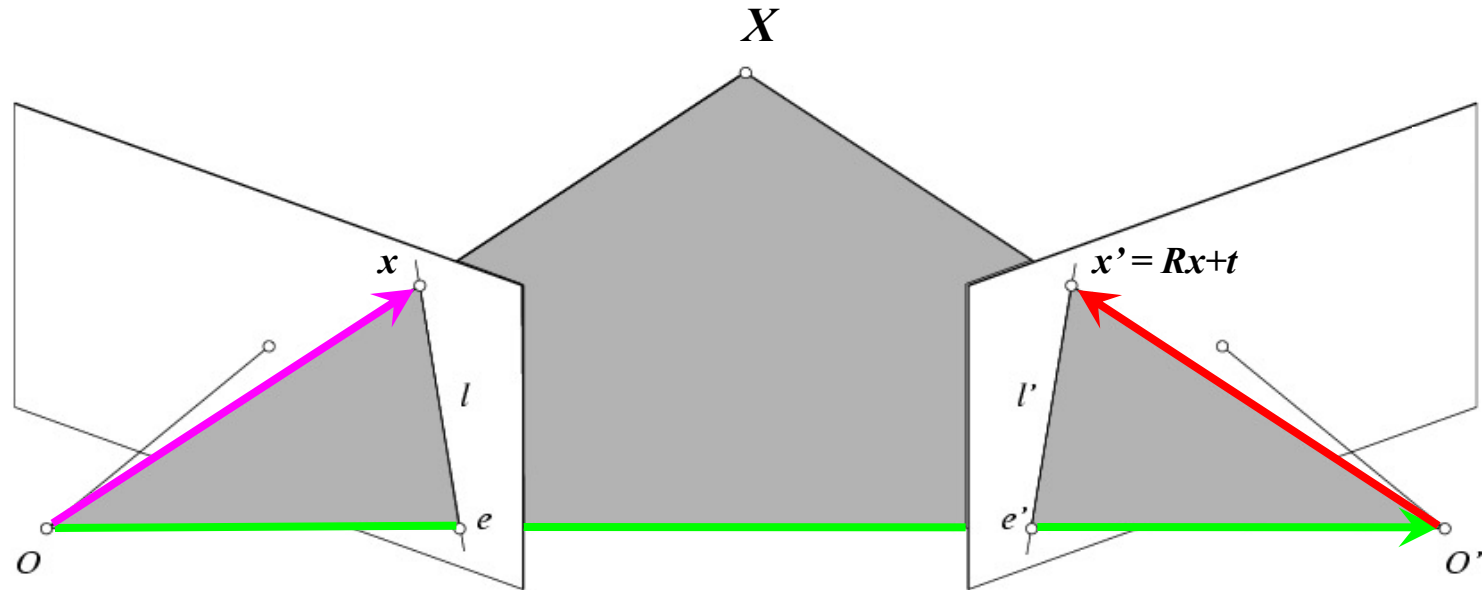
$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot (\mathbf{t} \times (R\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{t})) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot (\mathbf{t} \times R\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{t} \times \mathbf{t}) = 0$$

0

$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot (\mathbf{t} \times R\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

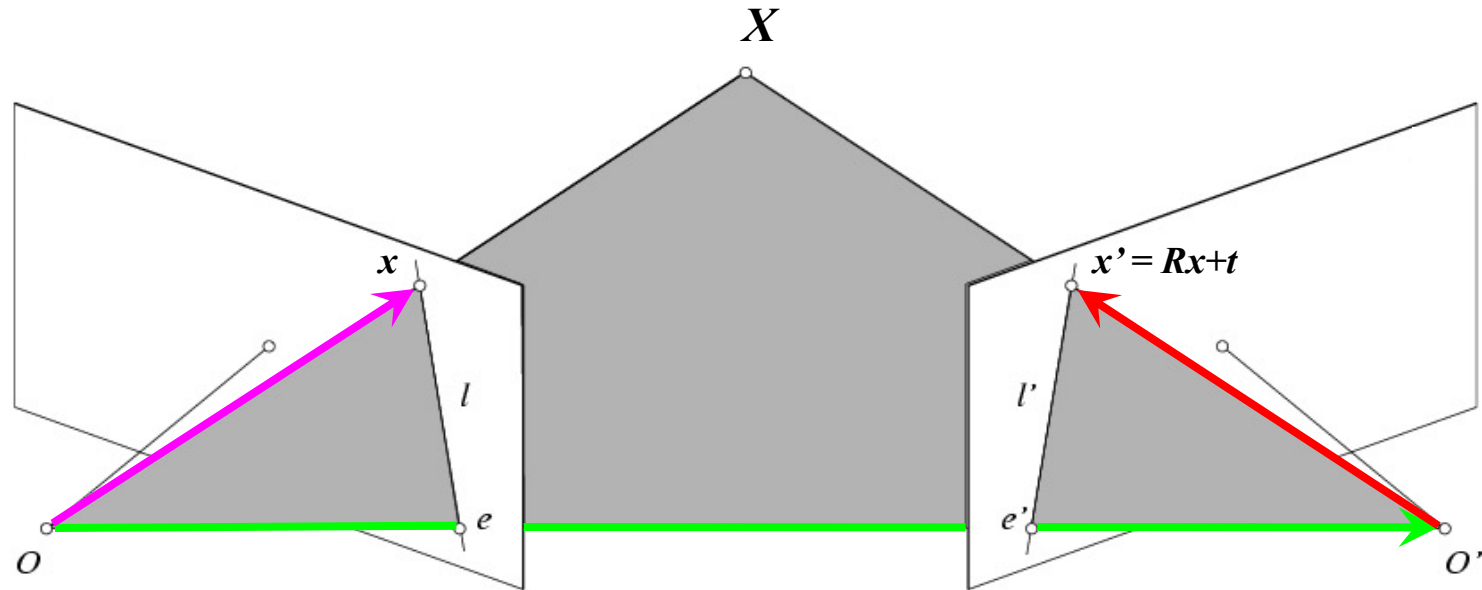


$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot [\mathbf{t} \times (R\mathbf{x})] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T [\mathbf{t}_\times] R\mathbf{x} = 0$$

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

The vectors  $R\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are coplanar

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case



$$\mathbf{x}' \cdot [\mathbf{t} \times (R\mathbf{x})] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T \underbrace{[\mathbf{t}_x] R}_{E} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}'^T E \mathbf{x} = 0$$

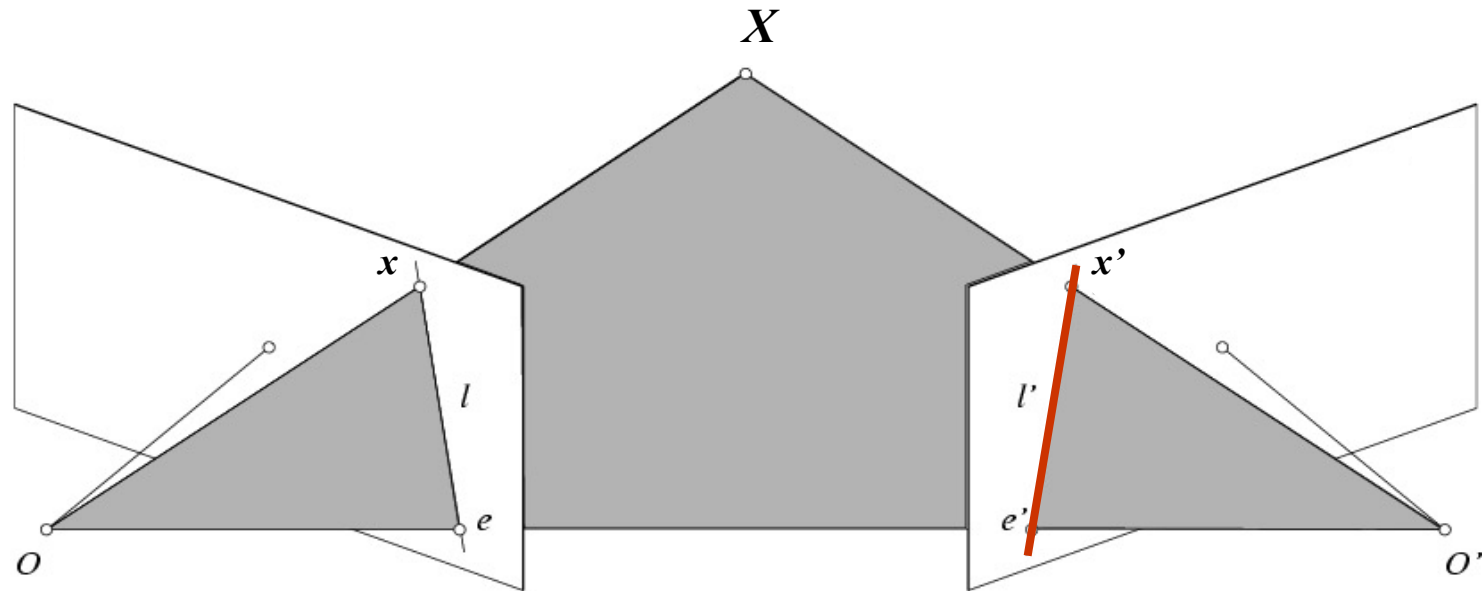
Recall:  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_\times] \mathbf{b}$

**Essential Matrix**  
(Longuet-Higgins, 1981)

The vectors  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ , and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are coplanar

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

---



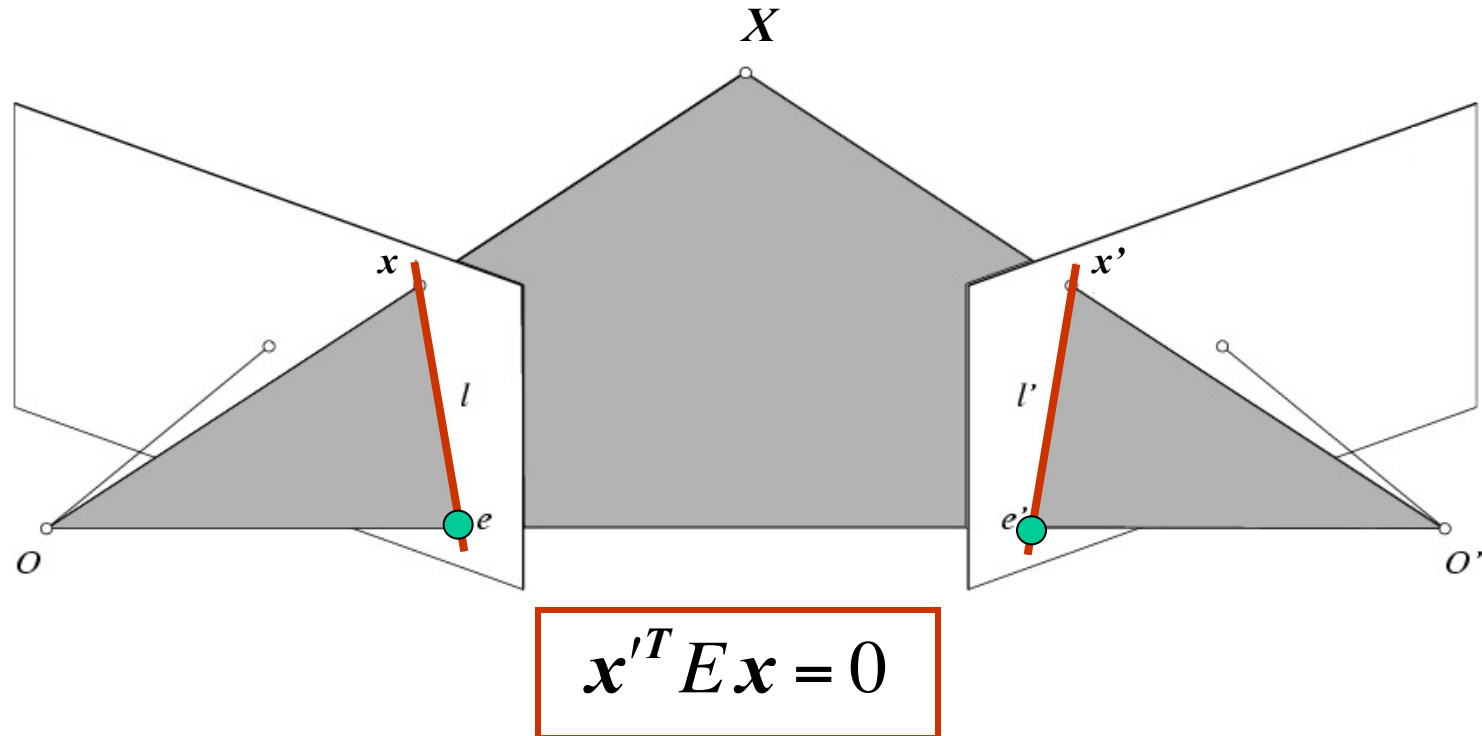
$$\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x} = 0$$

- $\mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}$  ( $\mathbf{l}' = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$ )
  - Recall: a line is given by  $ax + by + c = 0$  or

$$\mathbf{l}^T \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{l} = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Epipolar constraint: Calibrated case

---



- $\mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}$  ( $\mathbf{l}' = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{x}$ )
- $\mathbf{E}^T \mathbf{x}'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\mathbf{x}'$  ( $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{E}^T \mathbf{x}'$ )
- $\mathbf{E} \mathbf{e} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{E}^T \mathbf{e}' = 0$
- $\mathbf{E}$  is singular (rank two)
- $\mathbf{E}$  has five degrees of freedom

# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case

---

- Recall that we normalized the coordinates

$$x = K^{-1} \hat{x} \quad x' = K'^{-1} \hat{x}' \quad \hat{x} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\hat{x}$  is the image coordinates

- But in the *uncalibrated* case,  $K$  and  $K'$  are unknown!
- We can write the epipolar constraint in terms of *unknown* normalized coordinates:

$$x'^T E x = 0$$

$$(K'^{-1} \hat{x}')^T E (K^{-1} \hat{x}) = 0$$

$$\hat{x}'^T \underbrace{K'^{-T} E K^{-1}} \hat{x} = 0$$

$$\hat{x}'^T F \hat{x} = 0$$

$$F = K'^{-T} E K^{-1}$$

**Fundamental Matrix**  
(Faugeras and Luong, 1992)

# Essential vs Fundamental matrix

---

What is the difference??

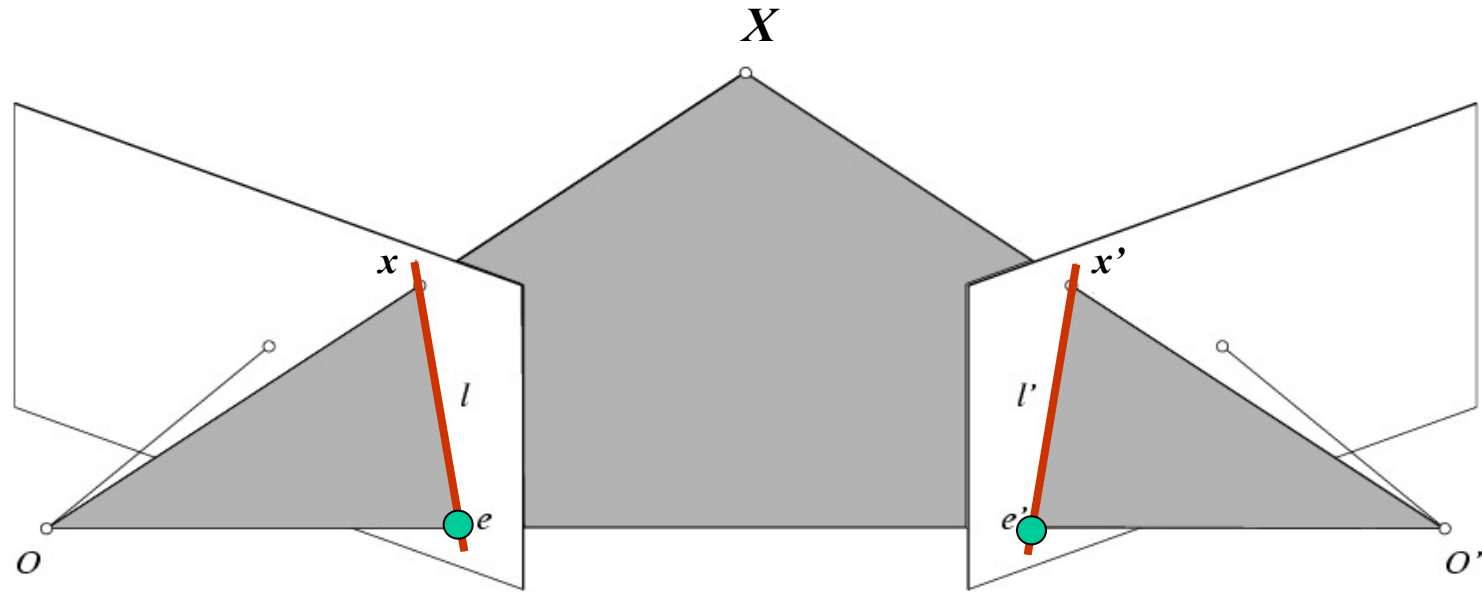
$$x'^T E x = 0$$

$$\hat{x}'^T F \hat{x} = 0$$

$$F = K'^{-T} E K^{-1}$$



# Epipolar constraint: Uncalibrated case



$$x'^T E x = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \hat{x}'^T F \hat{x} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad F = K'^{-T} E K^{-1}$$

- $F \hat{x}$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\hat{x}$  ( $l' = F \hat{x}$ )
- $F^T \hat{x}'$  is the epipolar line associated with  $\hat{x}'$  ( $l = F^T \hat{x}'$ )
- $F e = 0$  and  $F^T e' = 0$
- $F$  is singular (rank two)
- $F$  has *seven* degrees of freedom

# Where are we?

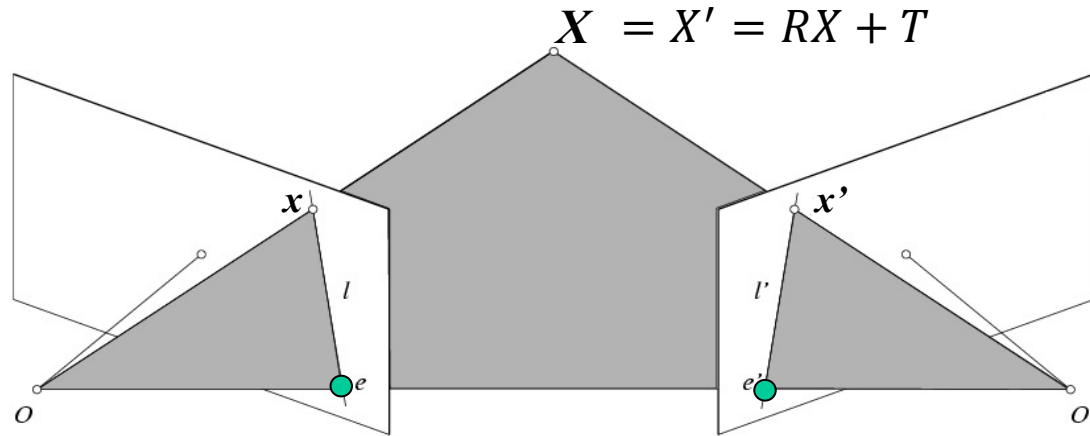
---

Recall we're trying to get the 3D points of corresponding images, with calibrated cameras (known  $K$  and  $R$ ,  $T$ )

1. Solve for correspondences using epipolar constraints from known camera (1D search)
2. Triangulate to get depth!

# Finally: computing depth by triangulation

We know about the camera,  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  and  $[R \ t]$ :



and that these are corresponding points:  $x \leftrightarrow x'$

$$x = KX \quad x' = K'X' \\ = K'(RX + T)$$

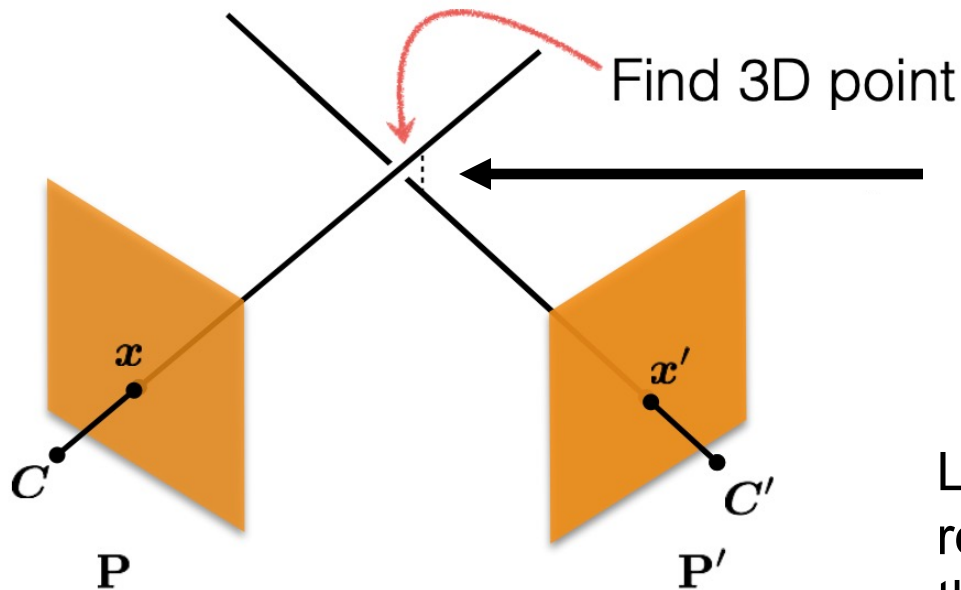
How many unknowns  
+ how many equations  
do we have?

only unknowns!

Solve by least squares

# Triangulation Disclaimer: Noise

---



Ray's don't always intersect  
because of noise!!!

Least squares get you to a  
reasonable solution but it's not  
the actual geometric error (it's  
how far away the solution is from  
 $Ax = 0$ )

$X$  s.t.

$$x = PX, \quad x' = P'X$$

In practice with noise, you do  
non-linear least squares, or  
“bundle adjustment” (more than  
2 image case, next lecture..)

# Summary: Two-view, known camera

---

0. Calibrate the camera.

1. Find correspondences:

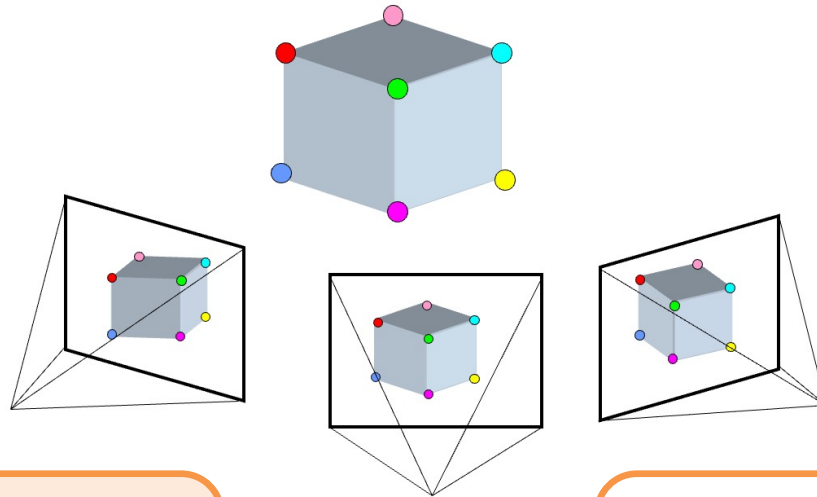
- Reduce this to 1D search with Epipolar Geometry!

2. Get depth:

- If simple stereo, disparity (difference of corresponding points) is inversely proportional to depth
- In the general case, triangulate.

# What if we don't know the camera?

3D Points  
(Structure)



Correspondences

Camera  
(Motion)

# What if we don't know the camera?

---

Assume we know the correspondences:

$\hat{x}'$  and  $\hat{x}$  in the image

$$\hat{x}'^T F \hat{x} = 0 \quad \hat{x} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u' & v' & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

How many correspondences do we need?

# Estimating the fundamental matrix

---





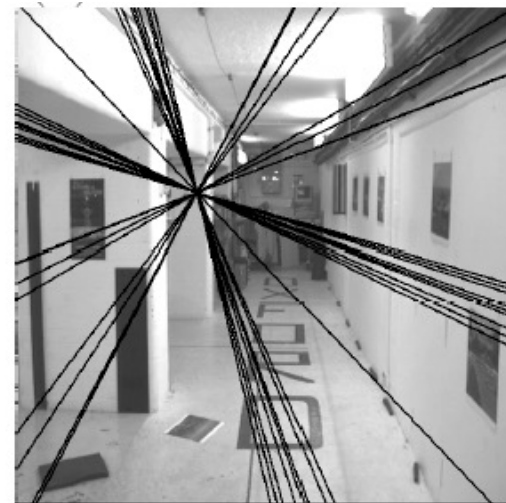
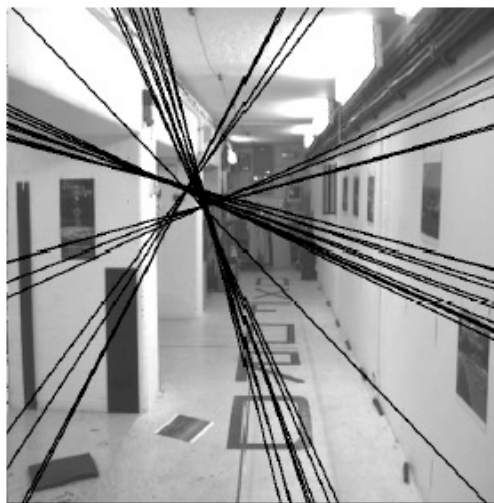
# The eight-point algorithm

$$\mathbf{x} = (u, v, 1)^T, \quad \mathbf{x}' = (u', v', 1)^T$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u' & v' & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} u'u & u'v & u' & v'u & v'v & v' & u & v & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} \\ f_{12} \\ f_{13} \\ f_{21} \\ f_{22} \\ f_{23} \\ f_{31} \\ f_{32} \\ f_{33} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

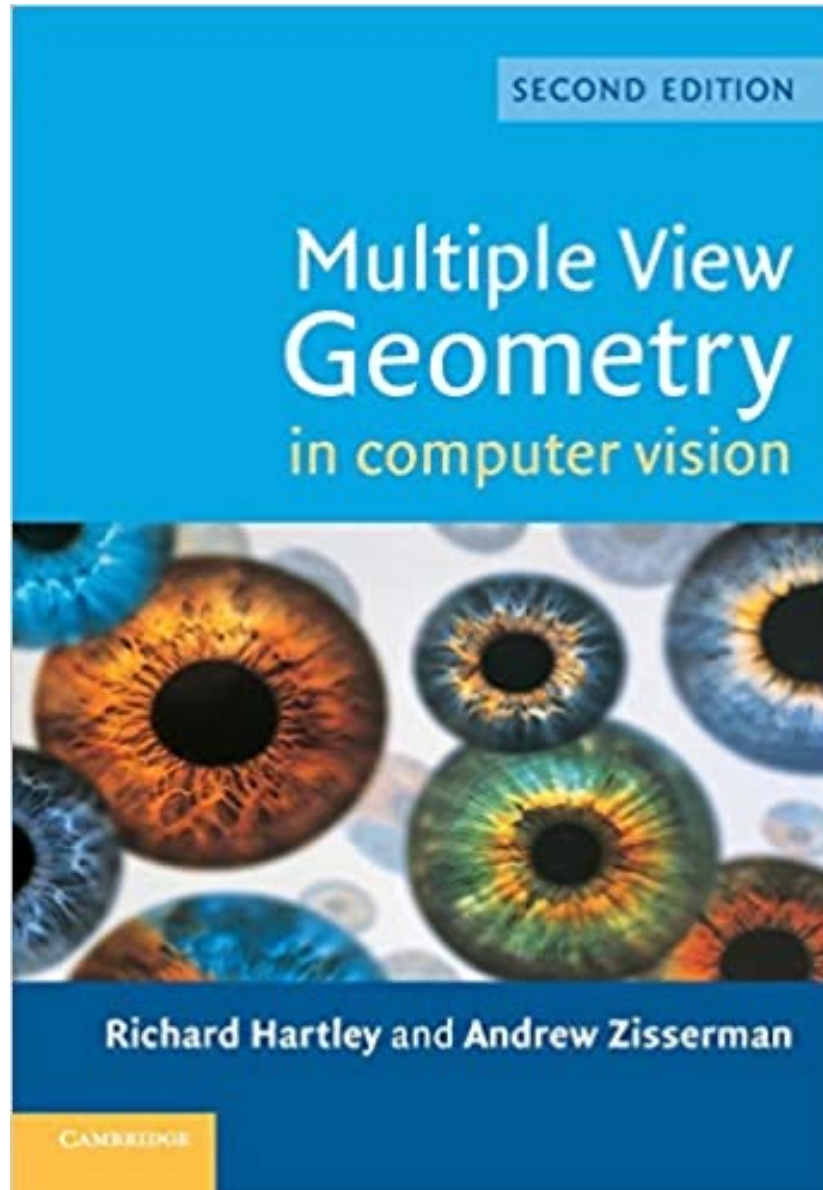
Solve homogeneous linear system using eight or more matches

Enforce rank-2 constraint (take SVD of  $\mathbf{F}$  and throw out the smallest singular value)



# The Bible by Hartley & Zisserman

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# The Fundamental Matrix Song

---

In the other view passing through  $x$ -prime



<http://danielwedge.com/fmatrix/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=8&v=DgGV3l82NTk&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=DgGV3l82NTk&feature=emb_title)

# What about more than two views?

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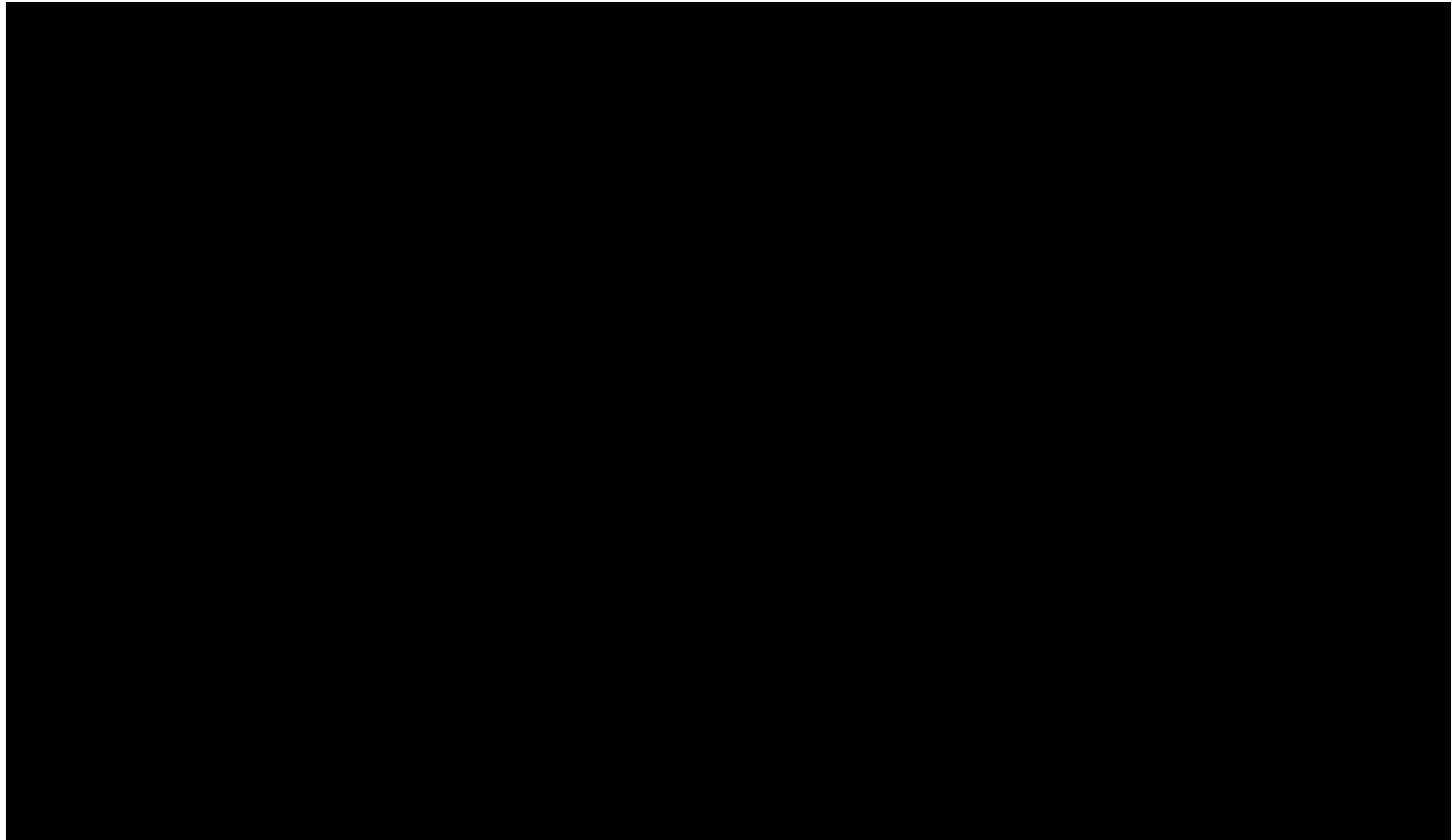
The geometry of three views is described by a  $3 \times 3 \times 3$  tensor called the *trifocal tensor*

The geometry of four views is described by a  $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3$  tensor called the *quadrifocal tensor*

After this it starts to get complicated...

# Next: Large-scale structure from motion

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Dubrovnik, Croatia. 4,619 images (out of an initial 57,845).

Total reconstruction time: 23 hours

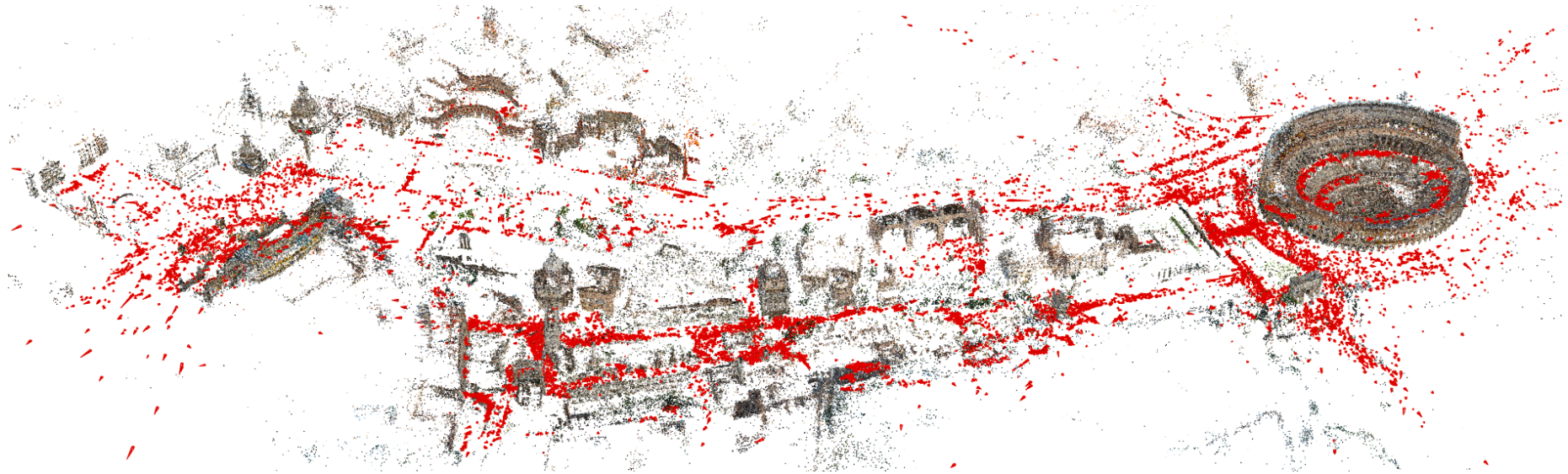
Number of cores: 352

Building Rome in a Day, Agarwal et al. ICCV 2009

Slide courtesy of Noah Snavely

# Large-scale structure from motion

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Result using COLMAP: Schönberger et al. CVPR '16