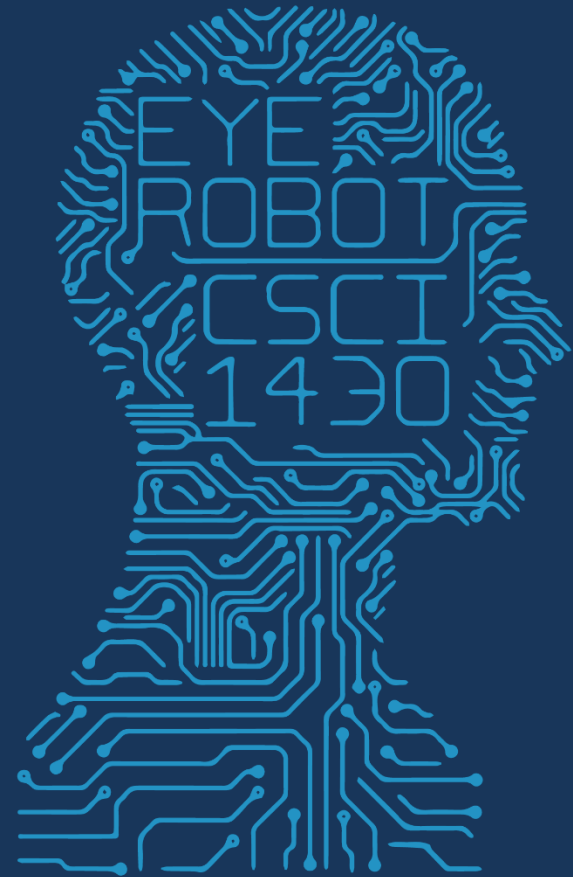




1950

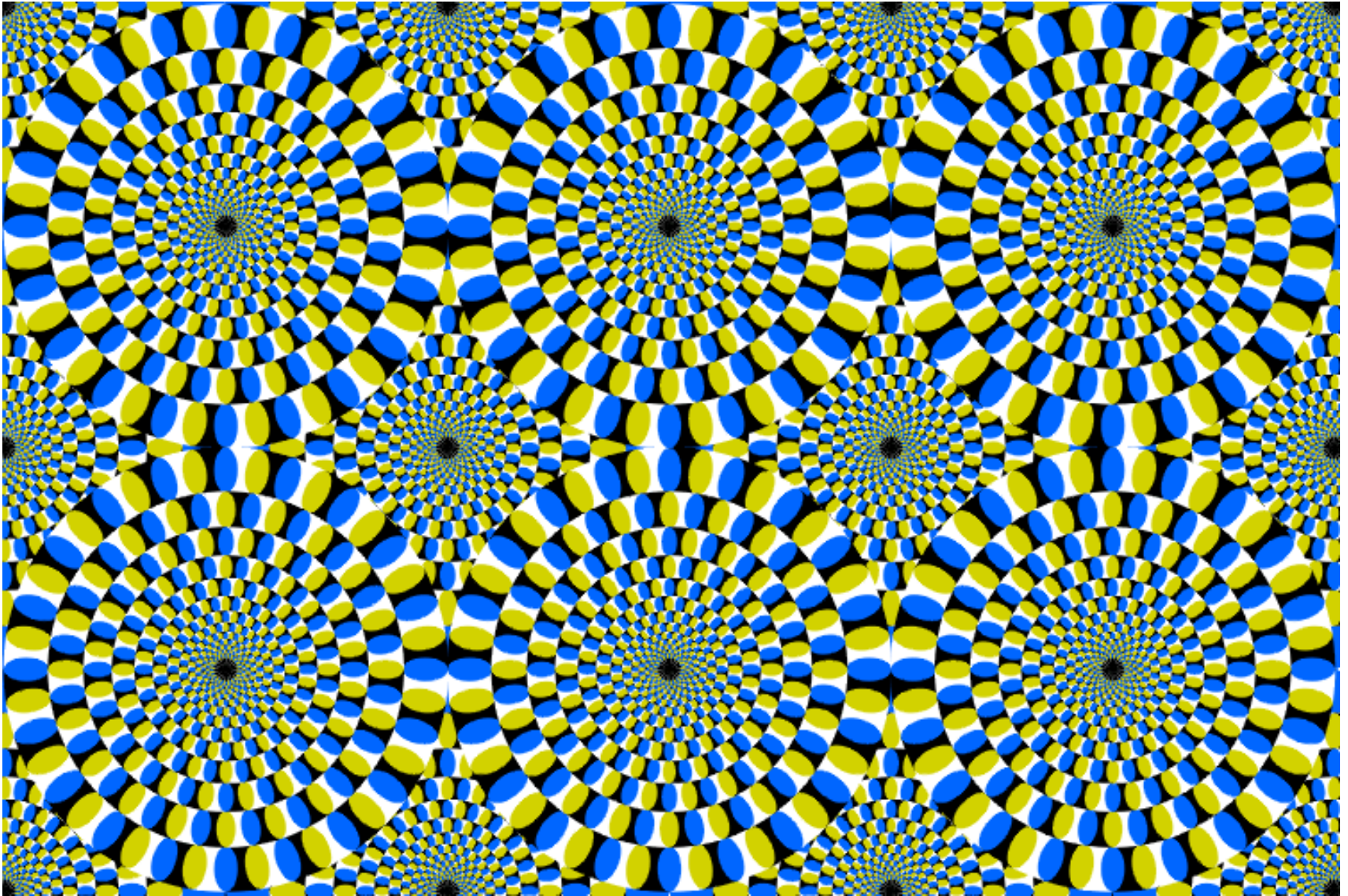
FUTURE VISION



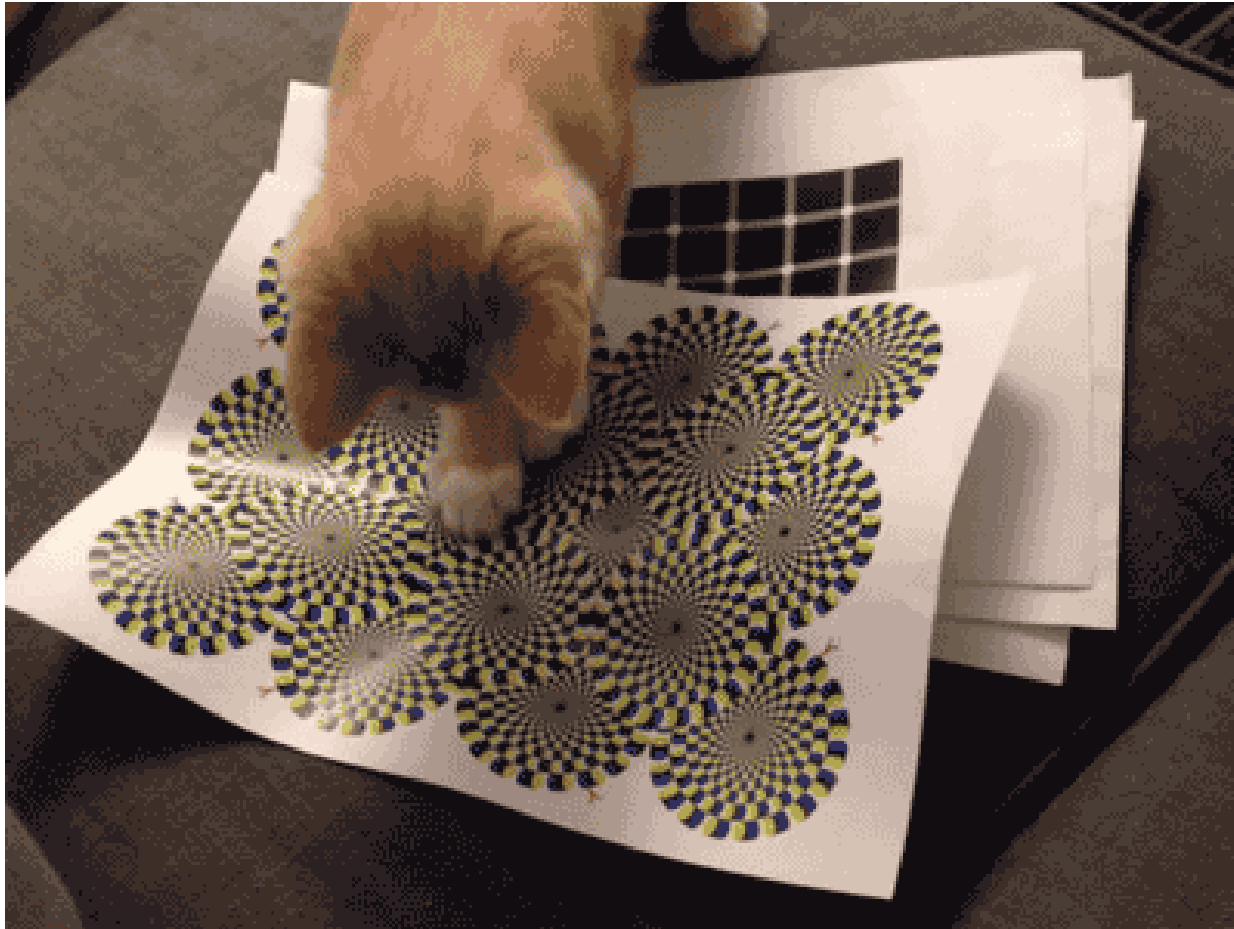
2017 MWF 1PM 368

COMPUTER VISION

# Peripheral drift illusion



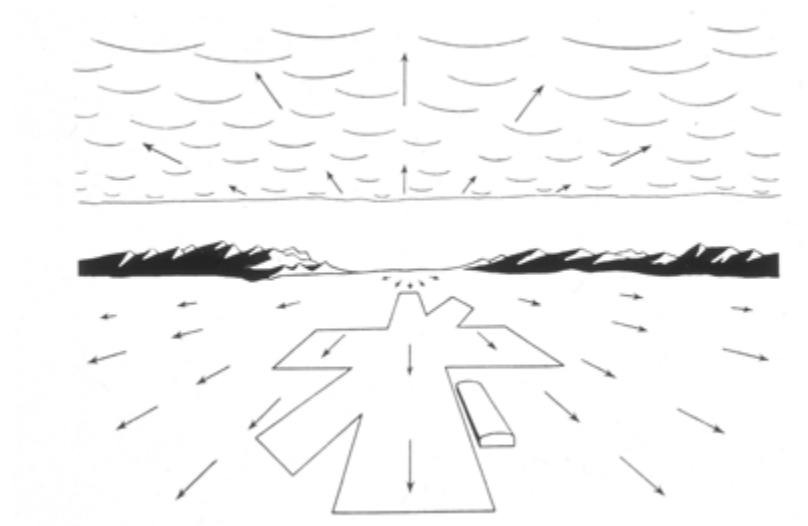
# Does it work on other animals?



# Computer Vision

## *Motion and Optical Flow*

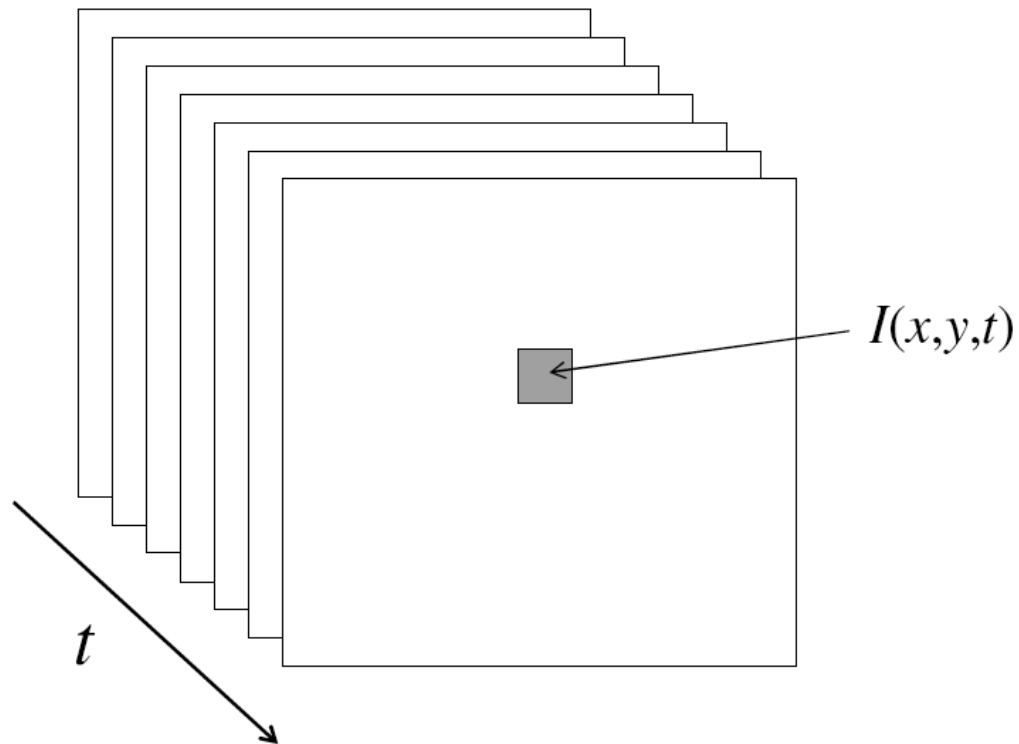
---



Many slides adapted from J. Hays, S. Seitz, R. Szeliski, M. Pollefeys, K. Grauman and others...

# Video

- A video is a sequence of frames captured over time
- Now our image data is a function of space (x, y) and time (t)



# Motion Applications: Segmentation of video

- Background subtraction
- Shot boundary detection
- Motion segmentation
  - Segment the video into multiple coherently moving objects

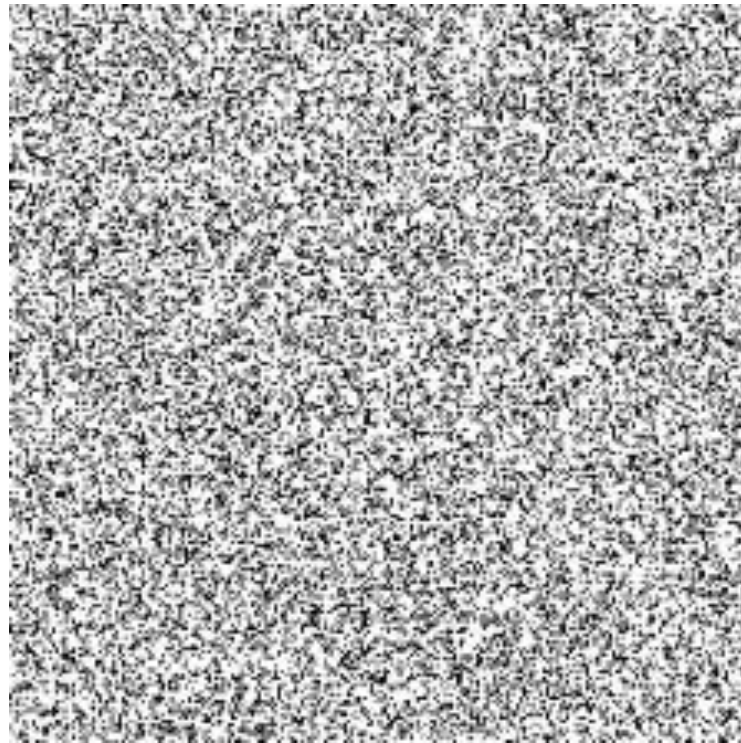


© HENNIE LACOCK/CATERS NEWS AGENCY



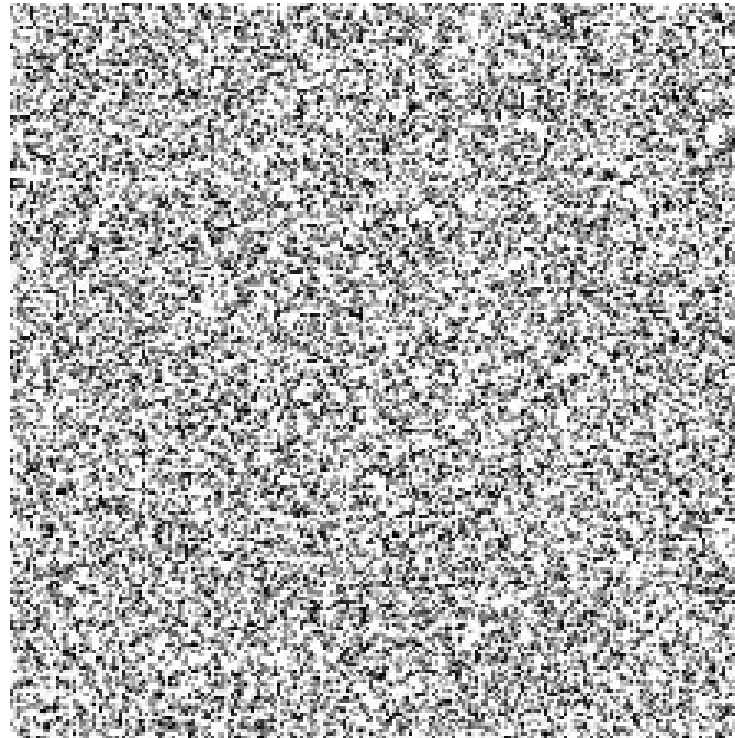
# Motion and perceptual organization

- Sometimes, motion is the only cue



# Motion and perceptual organization

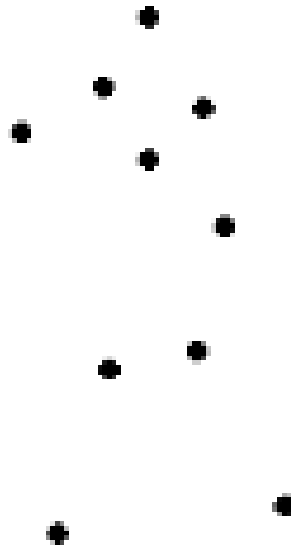
- Sometimes, motion is the only cue





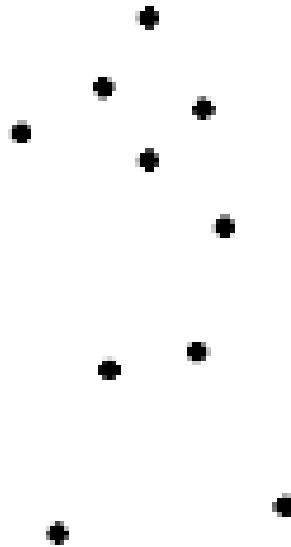
# Motion and perceptual organization

- Even “impoverished” motion data can evoke a strong percept



# Motion and perceptual organization

- Even “impoverished” motion data can evoke a strong percept

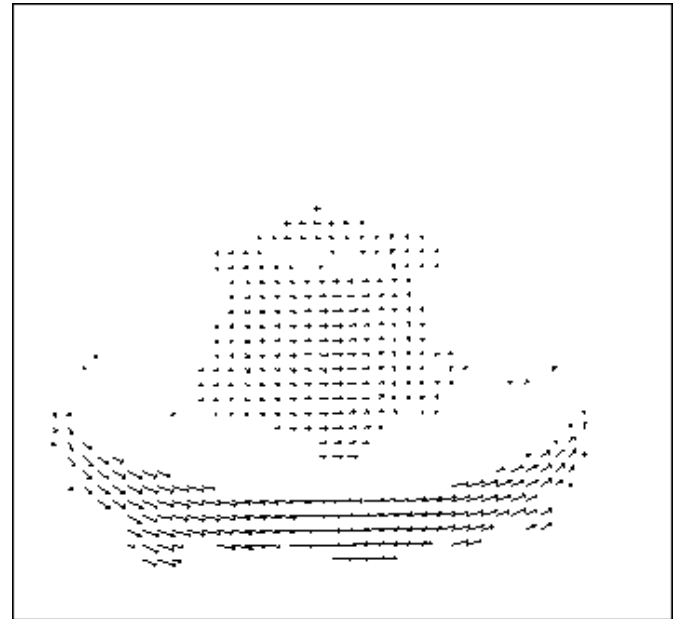
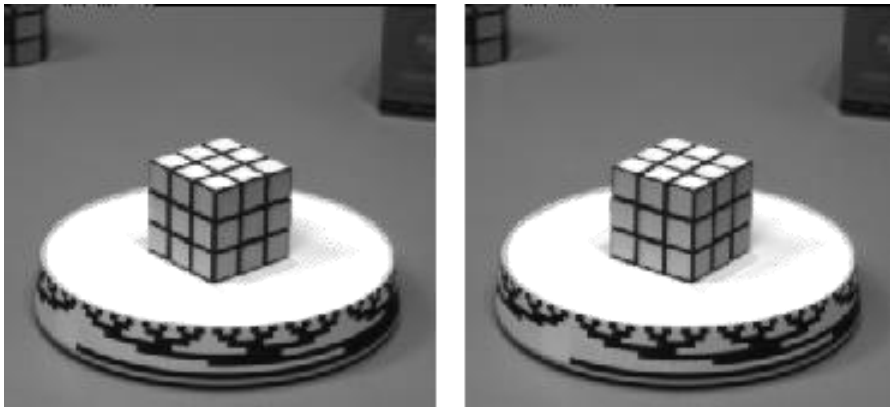


# Motion estimation techniques

- Feature-based methods
  - Extract visual features (corners, textured areas) and track them over multiple frames
  - Sparse motion fields, but more robust tracking
  - Suitable when image motion is large (10s of pixels)
- Direct, dense methods
  - Directly recover image motion at each pixel from spatio-temporal image brightness variations
  - Dense motion fields, but sensitive to appearance variations
  - Suitable for video and when image motion is small

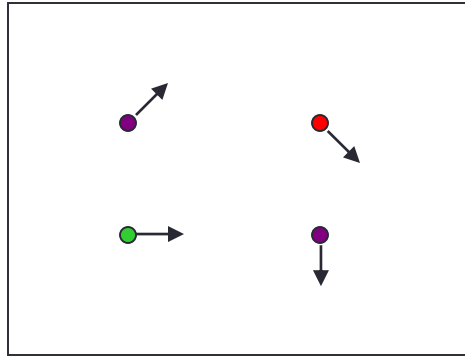
# Motion estimation: Optical flow

*Optic flow* is the **apparent** motion of objects or surfaces

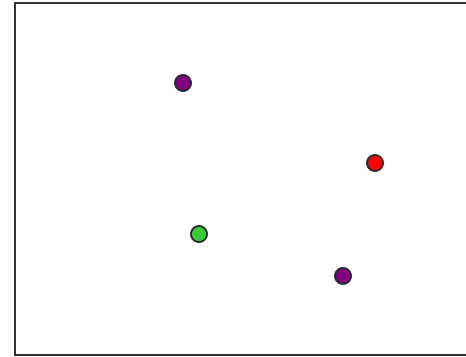


Will start by estimating motion of each pixel separately  
Then will consider motion of entire image

# Problem definition: optical flow



$I(x, y, t)$



$I(x, y, t + 1)$

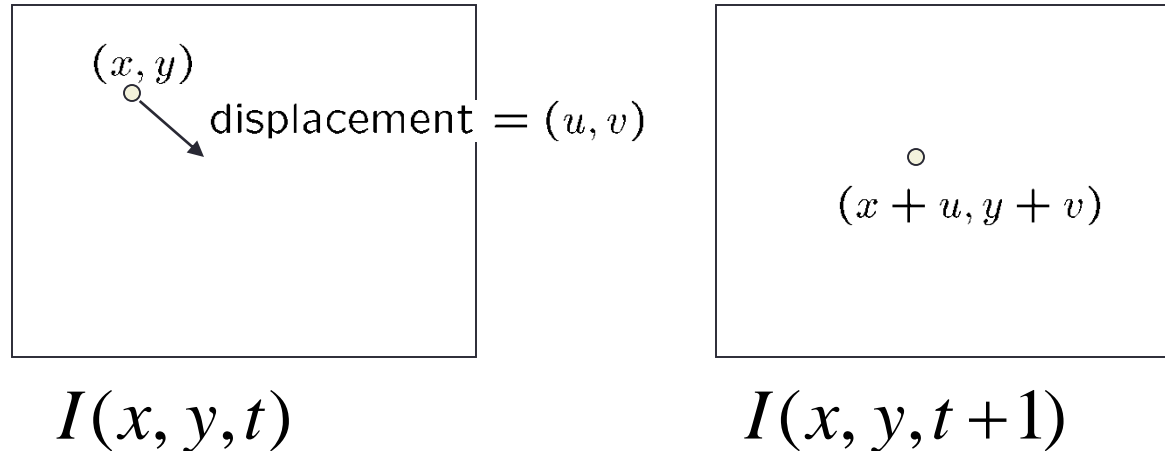
How to estimate pixel motion from image  $I(x, y, t)$  to  $I(x, y, t + 1)$  ?

- Solve pixel correspondence problem
  - Given a pixel in  $I(x, y, t)$ , look for nearby pixels of the same color in  $I(x, y, t + 1)$

## Key assumptions

- **Small motion:** Points do not move very far
- **Color constancy:** A point in  $I(x, y, t)$  looks the same in  $I(x, y, t + 1)$ 
  - For grayscale images, this is brightness constancy

# Optical flow constraints (grayscale images)



- Let's look at these constraints more closely

- Brightness constancy constraint (equation)

$$I(x, y, t) = I(x + u, y + v, t + 1)$$

- Small motion: ( $u$  and  $v$  are less than 1 pixel, or smooth)

Taylor series expansion of  $I$ :

$$\begin{aligned} I(x + u, y + v) &= I(x, y) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} u + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} v + [\text{higher order terms}] \\ &\approx I(x, y) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} u + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} v \end{aligned}$$



# Optical flow equation

- Combining these two equations

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= I(x + u, y + v, t + 1) - I(x, y, t) \\ &\approx I(x, y, t + 1) + I_x u + I_y v - I(x, y, t) \end{aligned}$$

(Short hand:  $I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$   
for  $t$  **or**  $t+1$ )

# Optical flow equation

- Combining these two equations

$$0 = I(x+u, y+v, t+1) - I(x, y, t)$$

$$\approx I(x, y, t+1) + I_x u + I_y v - I(x, y, t)$$

(Short hand:  $I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$   
for  $t$  **or**  $t+1$ )

$$\approx [I(x, y, t+1) - I(x, y, t)] + I_x u + I_y v$$

$$\approx I_t + I_x u + I_y v$$

$$\approx I_t + \nabla I \cdot \langle u, v \rangle$$

# Optical flow equation

- Combining these two equations

$$0 = I(x+u, y+v, t+1) - I(x, y, t)$$

$$\approx I(x, y, t+1) + I_x u + I_y v - I(x, y, t)$$

(Short hand:  $I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$   
for  $t$  or  $t+1$ )

$$\approx [I(x, y, t+1) - I(x, y, t)] + I_x u + I_y v$$

$$\approx I_t + I_x u + I_y v$$

$$\approx I_t + \nabla I \cdot \langle u, v \rangle$$

In the limit as  $u$  and  $v$  go to zero, this becomes exact

$$0 = I_t + \nabla I \cdot \langle u, v \rangle$$

*Brightness constancy constraint equation*

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

# How does this make sense?

*Brightness constancy constraint equation*

$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

What do the static image gradients  
have to do with motion estimation?



# The brightness constancy constraint

Can we use this equation to recover image motion  $(u, v)$  at each pixel?

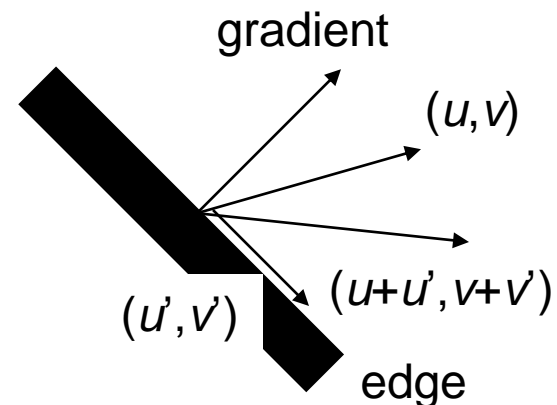
$$0 = I_t + \nabla I \cdot \langle u, v \rangle \quad \text{or} \quad I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

- How many equations and unknowns per pixel?
  - One equation (this is a scalar equation!), two unknowns  $(u, v)$

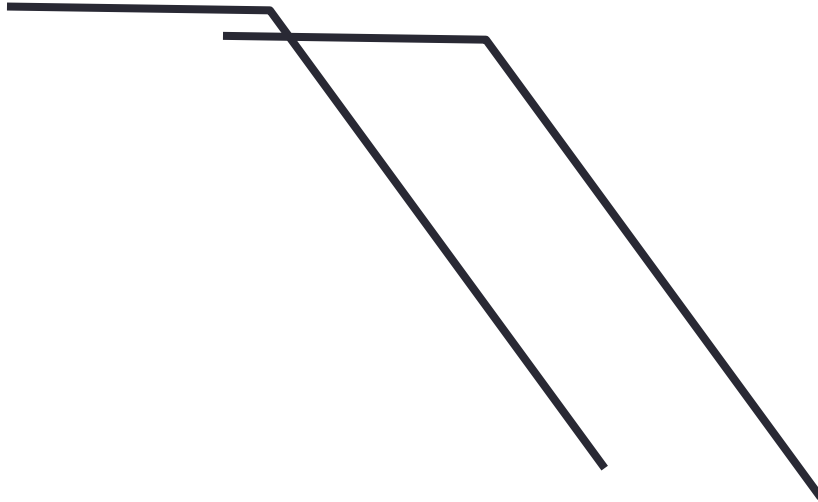
The component of the motion perpendicular to the gradient (i.e., parallel to the edge) cannot be measured

If  $(u, v)$  satisfies the equation,  
so does  $(u+u', v+v')$  if

$$\nabla I \cdot [u' \ v']^T = 0$$

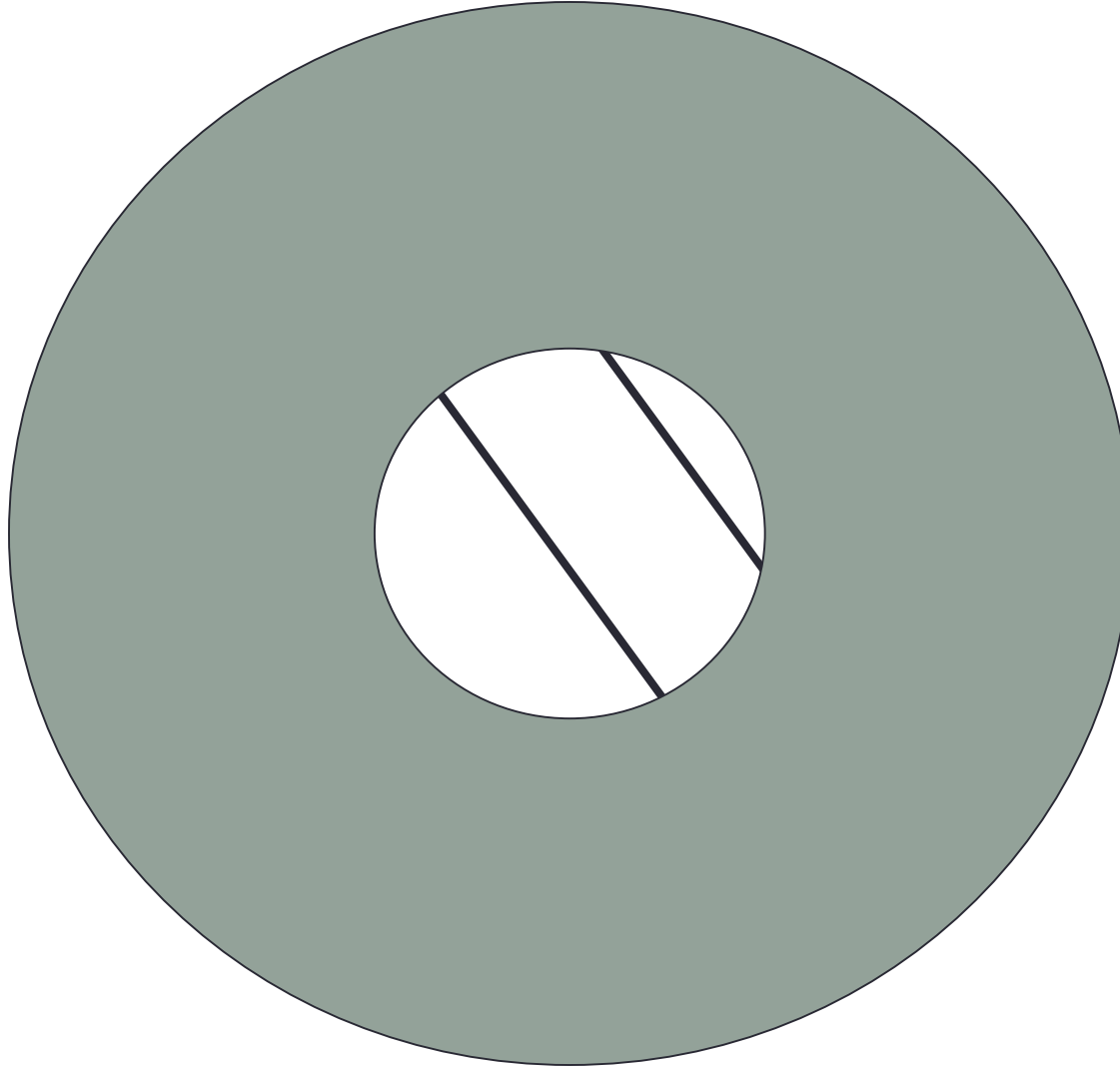


# Aperture problem

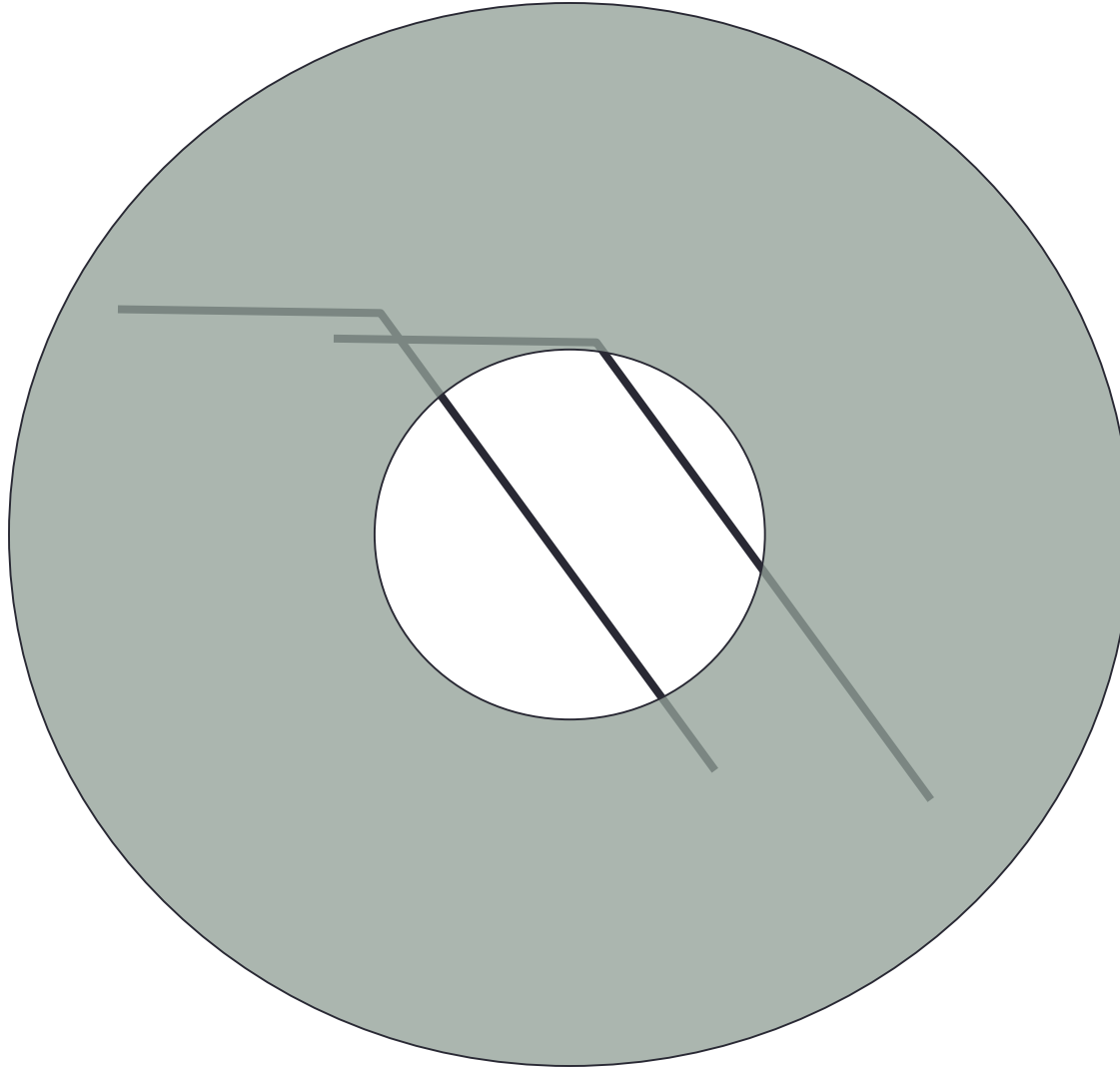




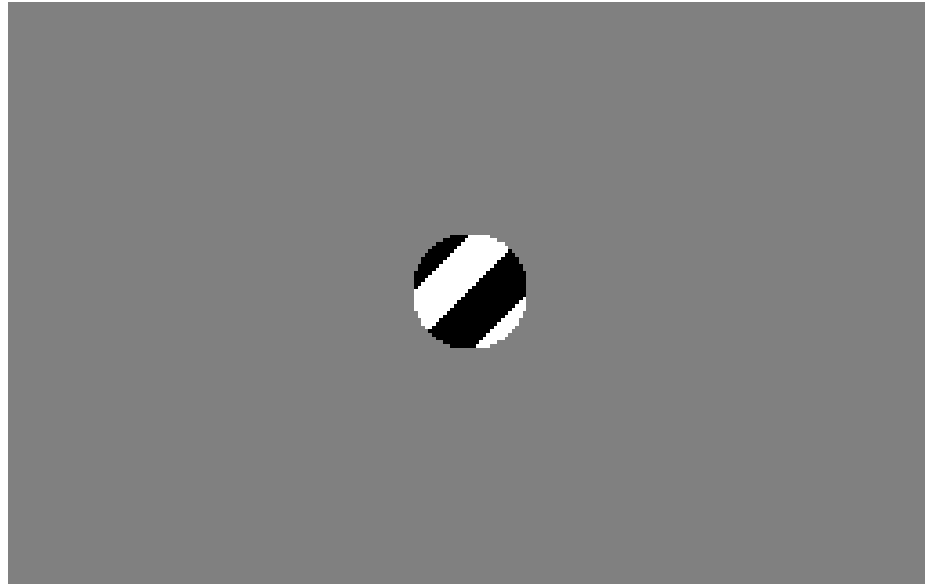
# Aperture problem



# Aperture problem

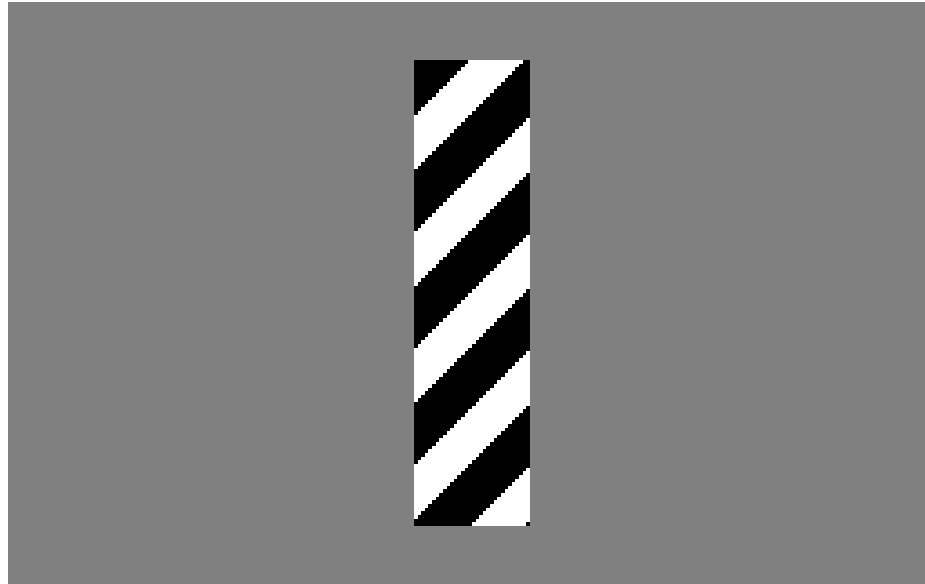


# The barber pole illusion



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole\\_illusion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion)

# The barber pole illusion



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole\\_illusion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barberpole_illusion)

# Solving the ambiguity...

B. Lucas and T. Kanade. An iterative image registration technique with an application to stereo vision. In *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 674–679, 1981.

- How to get more equations for a pixel?
- **Spatial coherence constraint**
- Assume the pixel's neighbors have the same (u,v)
  - If we use a 5x5 window, that gives us 25 equations per pixel

$$0 = I_t(\mathbf{p}_i) + \nabla I(\mathbf{p}_i) \cdot [u \ v]$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p}_1) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_2) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25}) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Solving the ambiguity...

- Least squares problem:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p}_1) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_2) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25}) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} A & d & = & b \\ 25 \times 2 & 2 \times 1 & & 25 \times 1 \end{matrix}$$



# Matching patches across images

- Overconstrained linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_x(\mathbf{p}_1) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_2) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ I_x(\mathbf{p}_{25}) & I_y(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} I_t(\mathbf{p}_1) \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_2) \\ \vdots \\ I_t(\mathbf{p}_{25}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} A & d = b \\ 25 \times 2 & 2 \times 1 & 25 \times 1 \end{matrix}$$

Least squares solution for  $d$  given by  $(A^T A) d = A^T b$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

$A^T A$   $A^T b$

The summations are over all pixels in the  $K \times K$  window

# Conditions for solvability

Optimal (u, v) satisfies Lucas-Kanade equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_x & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y I_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

$A^T A$   $A^T b$

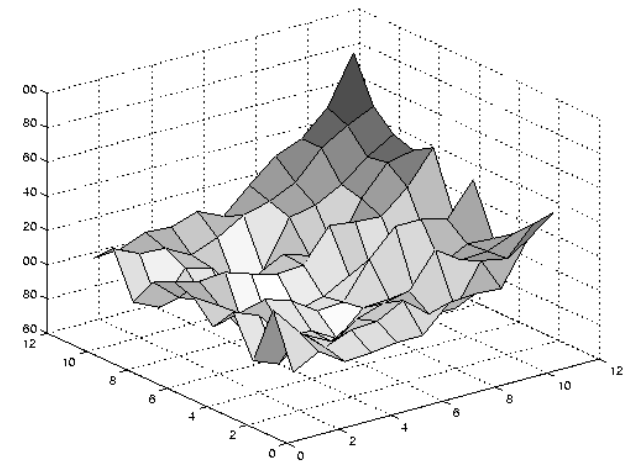
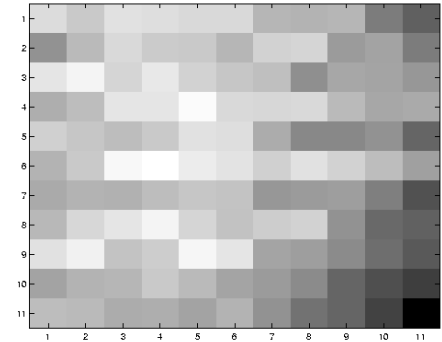
When is this solvable? I.e., what are good points to track?

- $A^T A$  should be invertible
- $A^T A$  should not be too small due to noise
  - eigenvalues  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  of  $A^T A$  should not be too small
- $A^T A$  should be well-conditioned
  - $\lambda_1 / \lambda_2$  should not be too large ( $\lambda_1$  = larger eigenvalue)

Does this remind you of anything?

Criteria for Harris corner detector

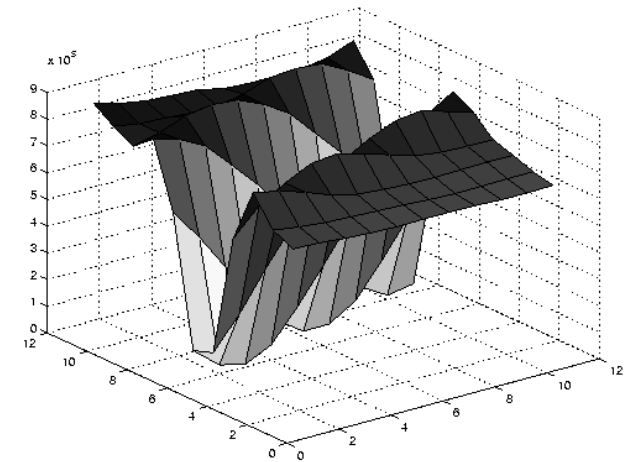
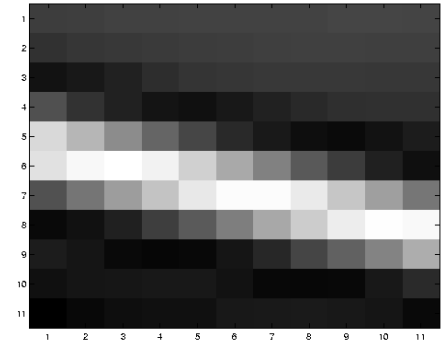
# Low texture region



$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- gradients have small magnitude
- small  $\lambda_1$ , small  $\lambda_2$

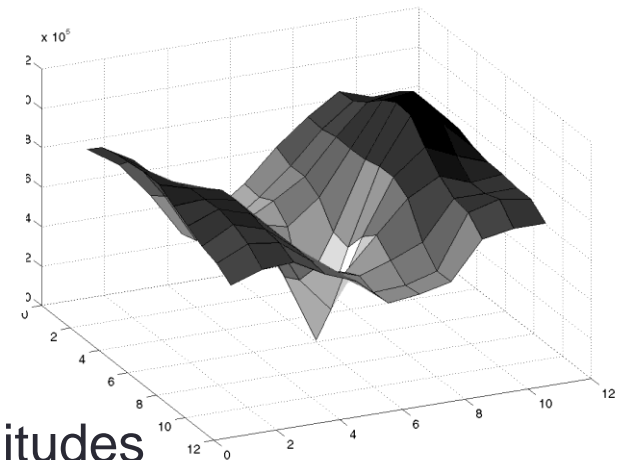
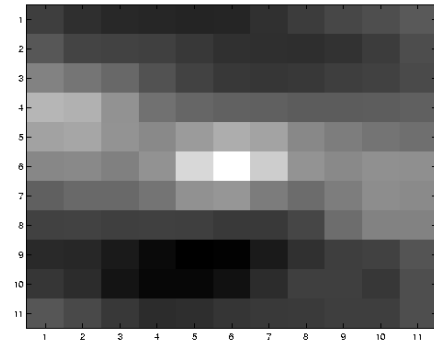
# Edge



$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- large gradients, all the same
- large  $\lambda_1$ , small  $\lambda_2$

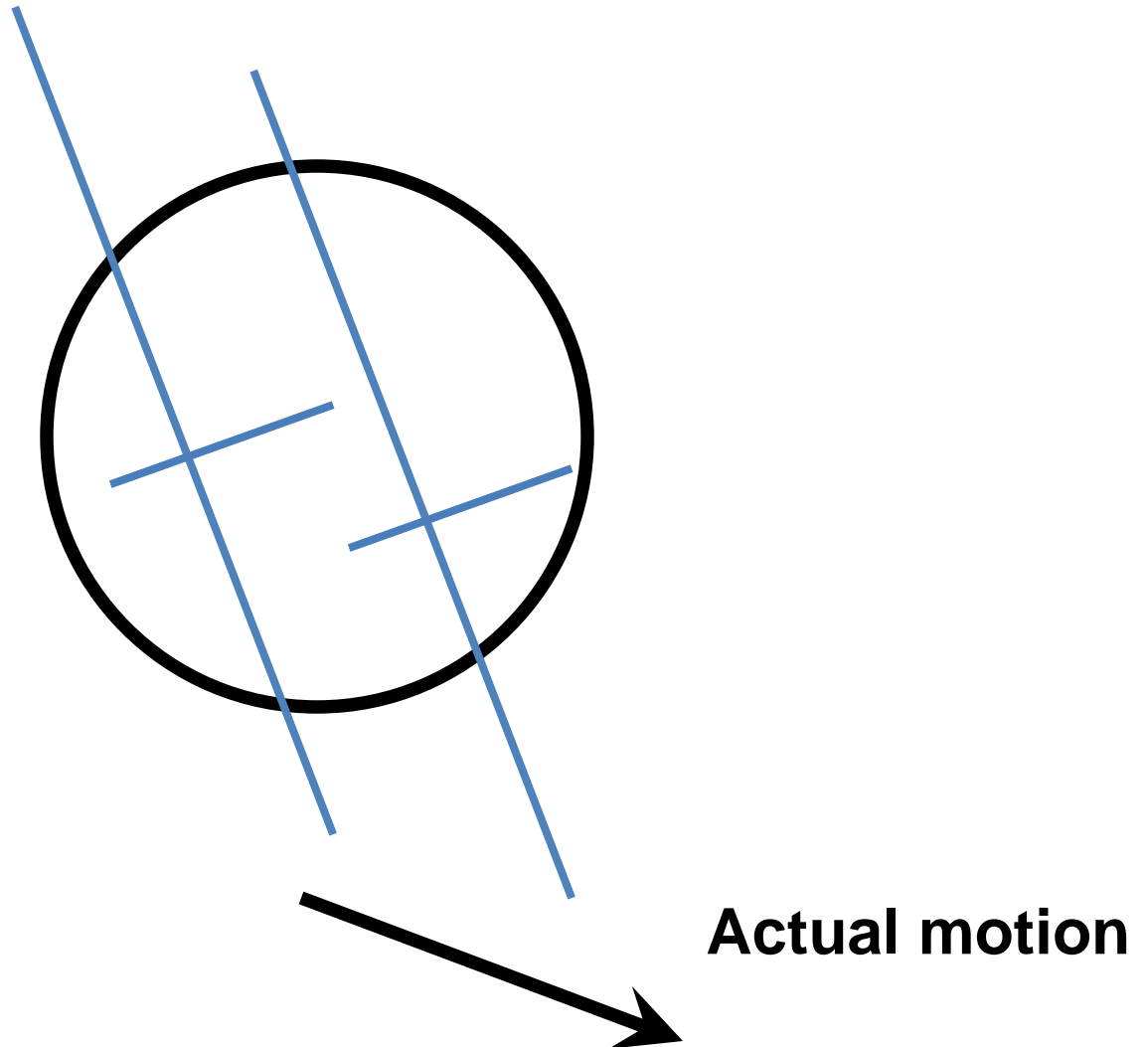
# High textured region



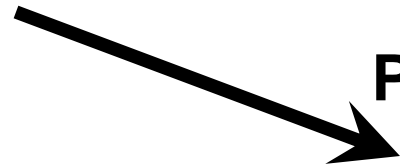
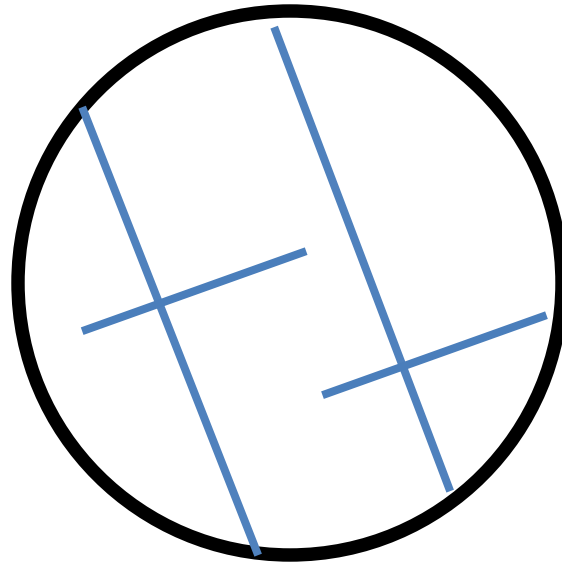
$$\sum \nabla I (\nabla I)^T$$

- gradients are different, large magnitudes
- large  $\lambda_1$ , large  $\lambda_2$

# The aperture problem resolved



# The aperture problem resolved



**Perceived motion**

# Errors in Lucas-Kanade

- A point does not move like its neighbors
  - Motion segmentation
- Brightness constancy does not hold
  - Do exhaustive neighborhood search with normalized correlation - tracking features – maybe SIFT – more later....
- The motion is large (larger than a pixel)
  1. Not-linear: Iterative refinement
  2. Local minima: coarse-to-fine estimation



# Revisiting the small motion assumption

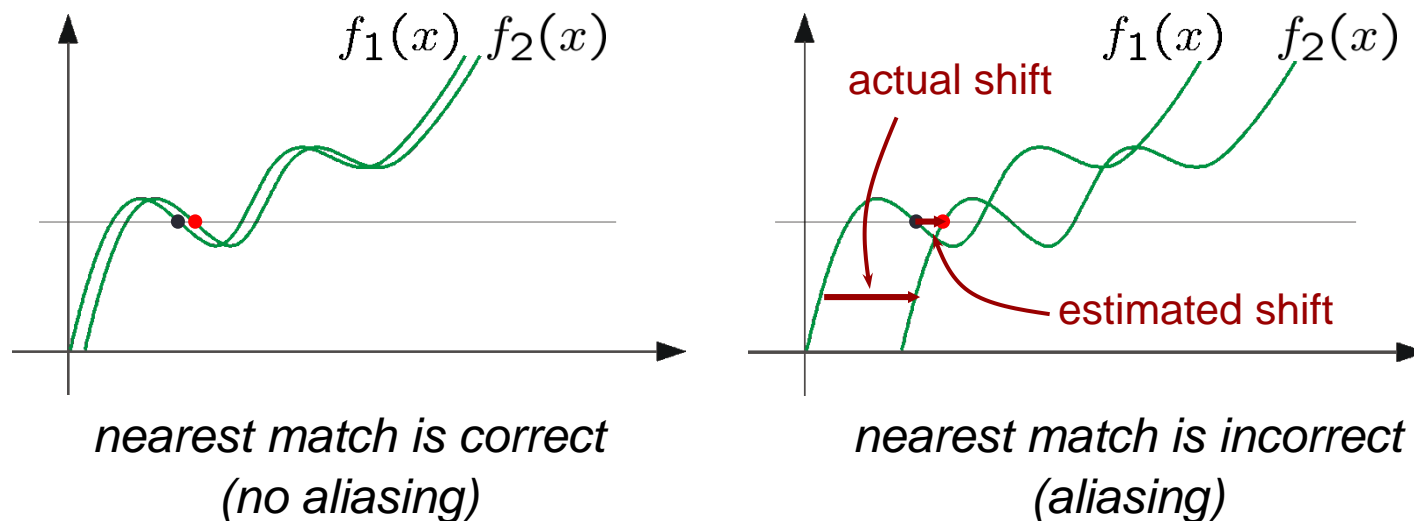


- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel
  - How might we solve this problem?

# Optical Flow: Aliasing

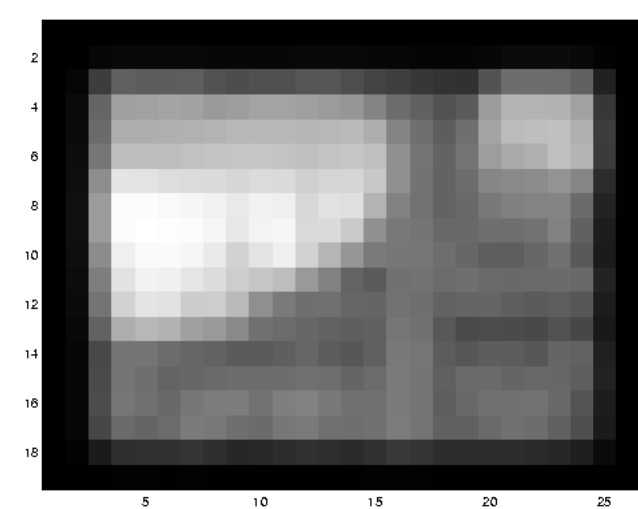
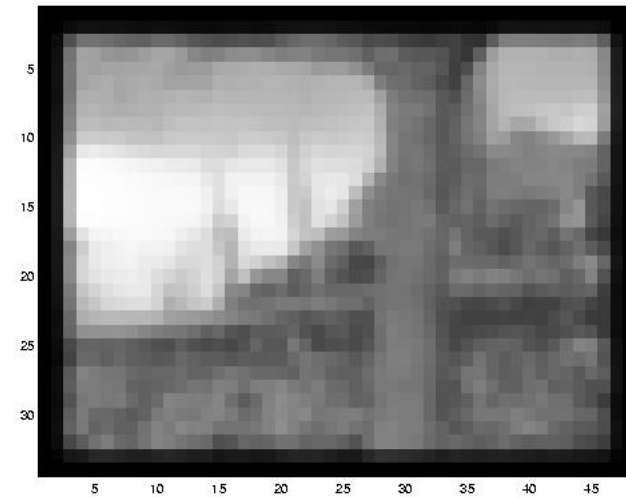
Temporal aliasing causes ambiguities in optical flow because images can have many pixels with the same intensity.

I.e., how do we know which 'correspondence' is correct?

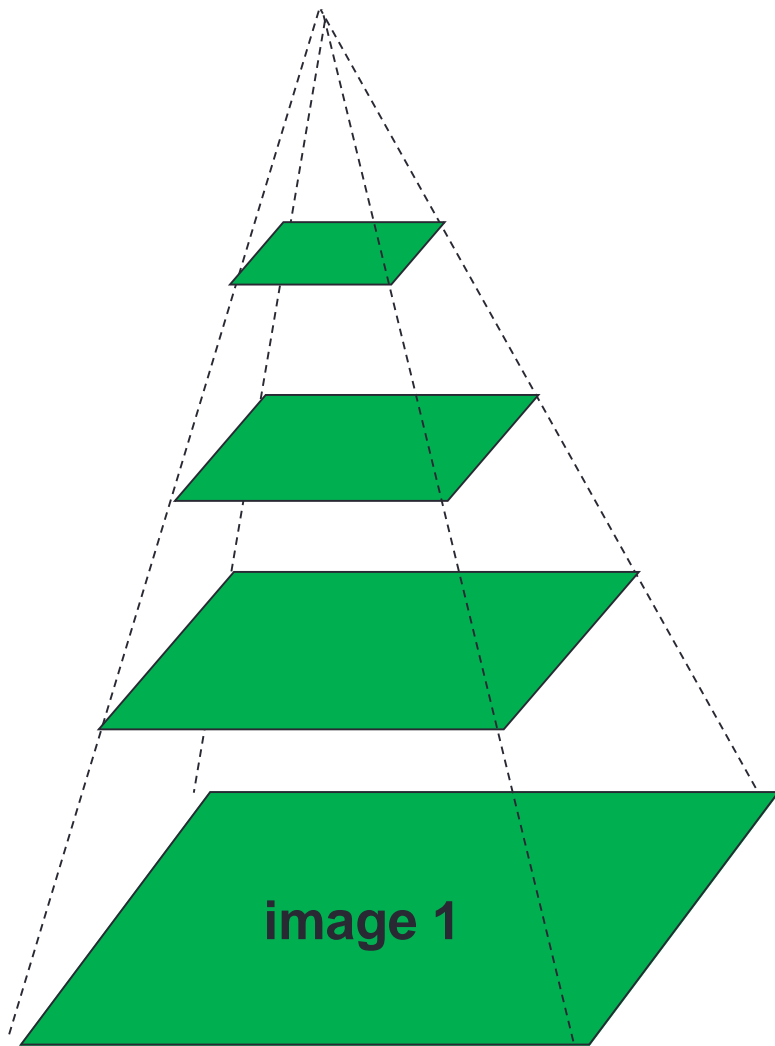


To overcome aliasing: coarse-to-fine estimation.

# Reduce the resolution!



# Coarse-to-fine optical flow estimation



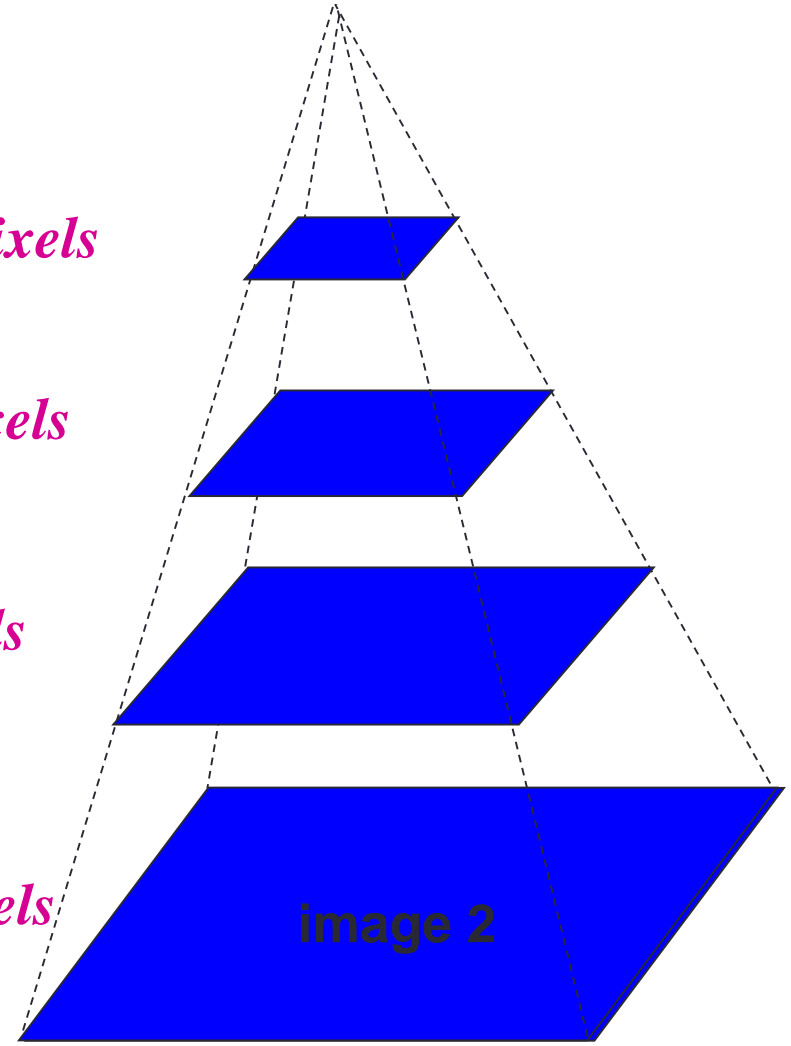
Gaussian pyramid of image 1

$u=1.25$  pixels

$u=2.5$  pixels

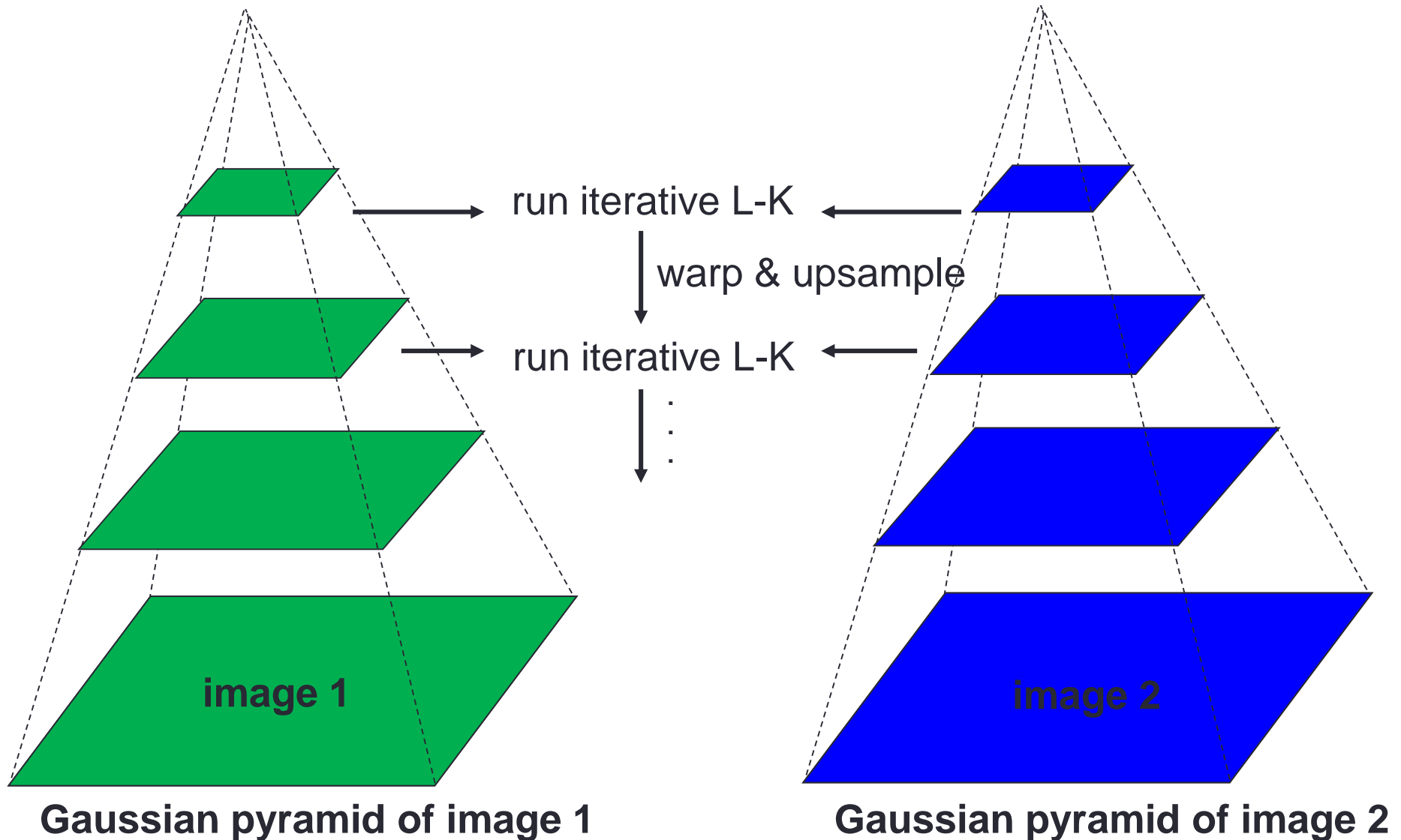
$u=5$  pixels

$u=10$  pixels



Gaussian pyramid of image 2

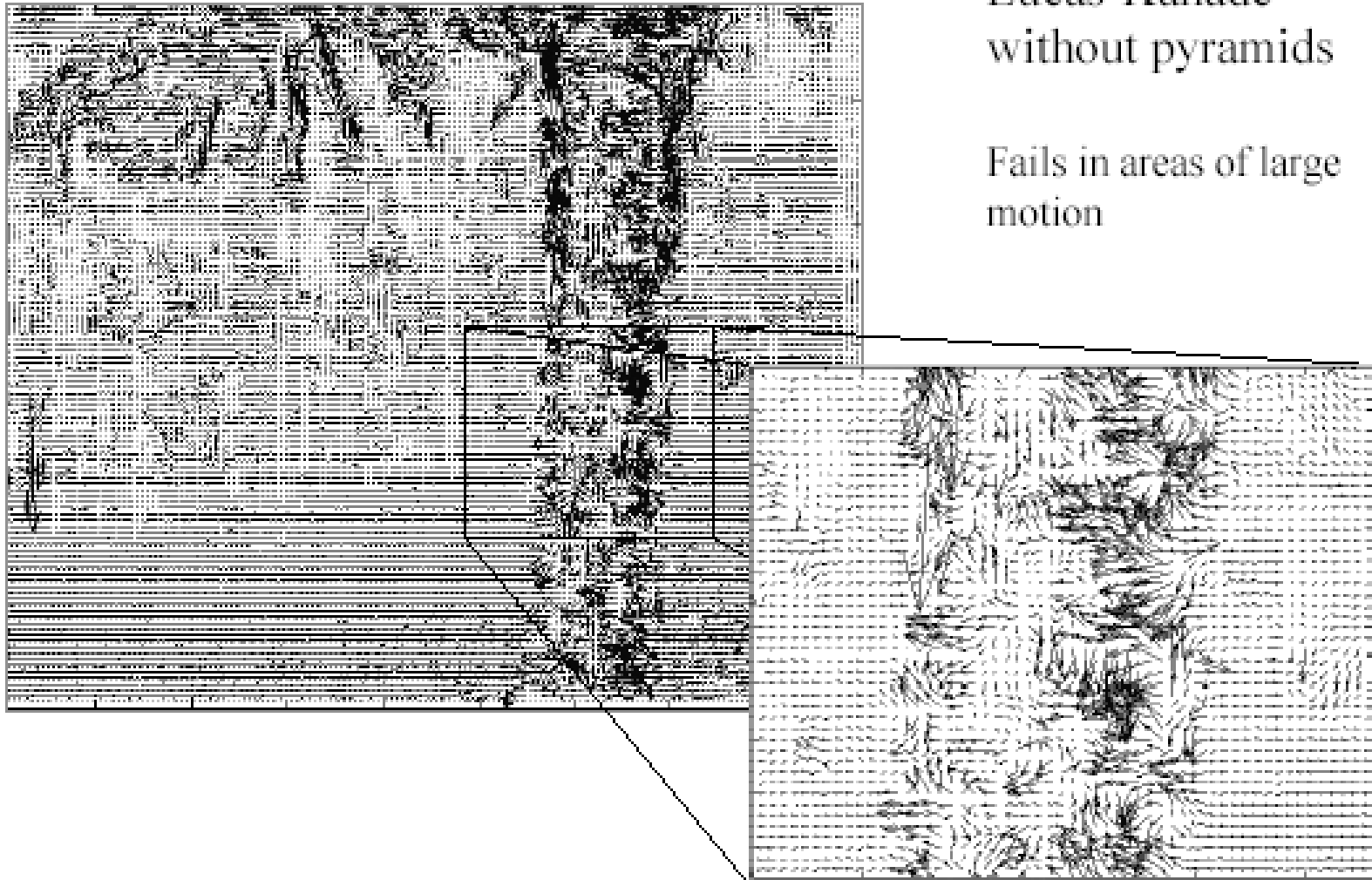
# Coarse-to-fine optical flow estimation



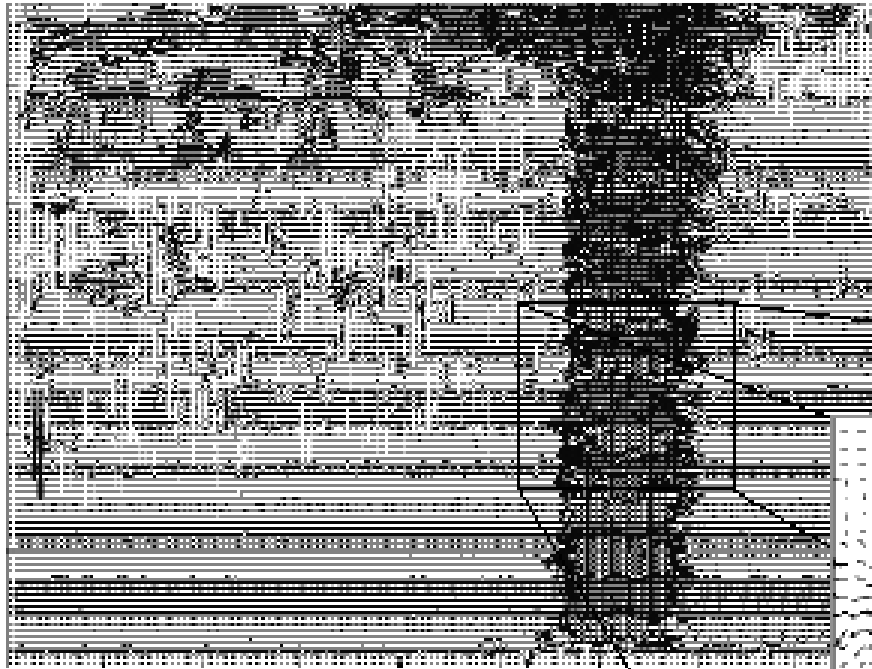
# Optical Flow Results

Lucas-Kanade  
without pyramids

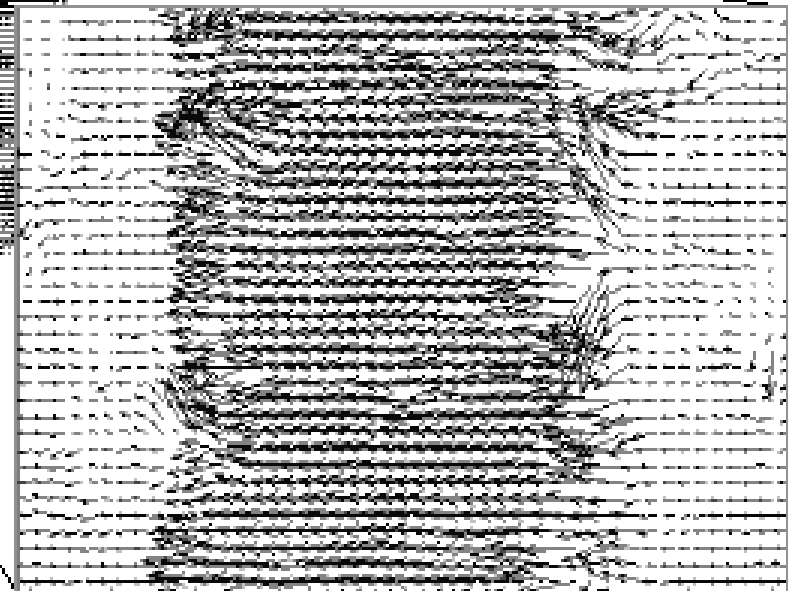
Fails in areas of large  
motion



# Optical Flow Results



Lucas-Kanade with Pyramids



# State-of-the-art optical flow, 2009

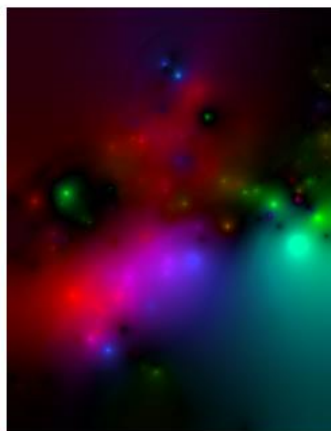
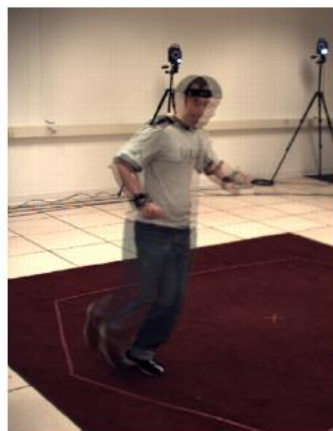
Start with something similar to Lucas-Kanade

+ gradient constancy

+ energy minimization with smoothing term

+ region matching

+ keypoint matching (long-range)



Region-based +Pixel-based +Keypoint-based

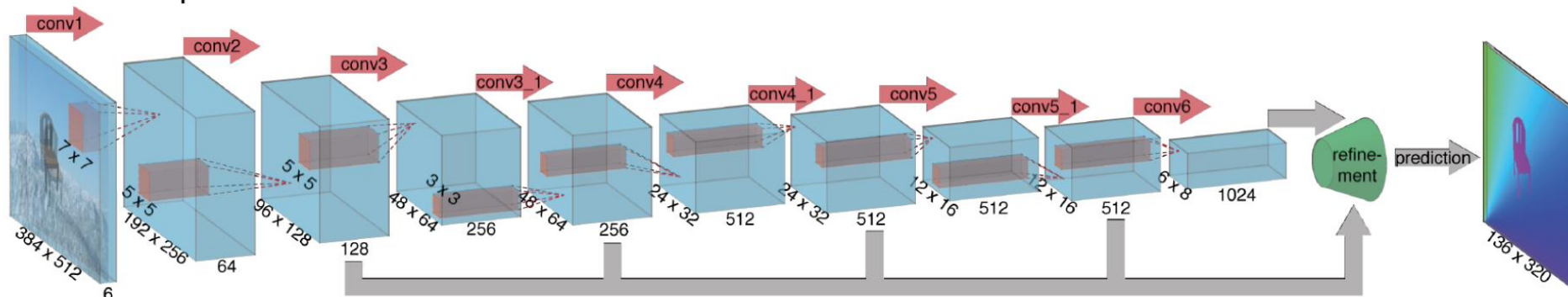
Large displacement optical flow, Brox et al., CVPR 2009



# State-of-the-art optical flow, 2015

Deep convolutional network which accepts a pair of input frames and upsamples the estimated flow back to input resolution. Very fast because of deep network, near the state-of-the-art in terms of end-point-error.

FlowNetSimple



# State-of-the-art optical flow, 2015

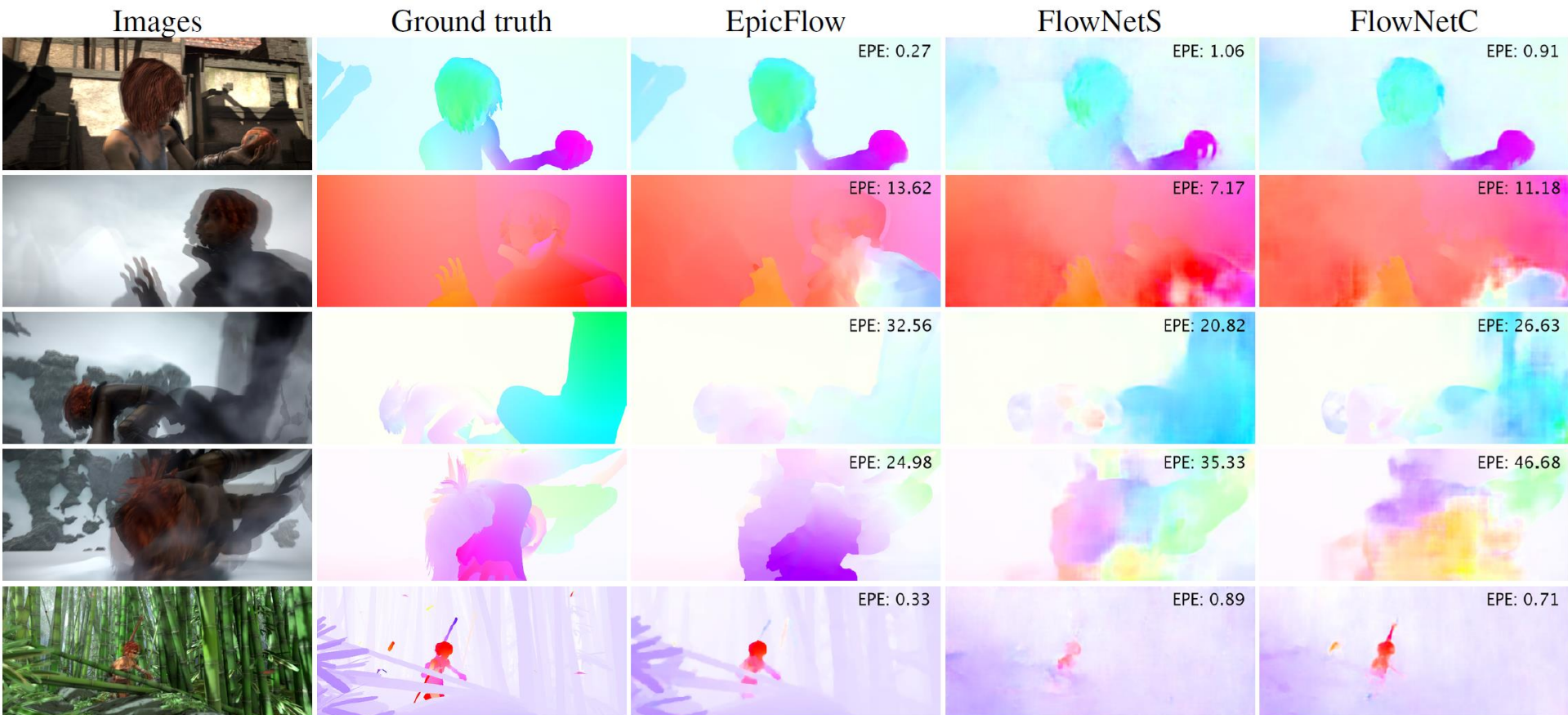
## Synthetic Training data



Fischer et al. 2015. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1504.06852>

# State-of-the-art optical flow, 2015

## Results on Sintel



Fischer et al. 2015. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1504.06852>

# Optical flow

- Definition: optical flow is the *apparent* motion of brightness patterns in the image
- Ideally, optical flow would be the same as the motion field
- Have to be careful: apparent motion can be caused by lighting changes without any actual motion
  - Think of a uniform rotating sphere under fixed lighting vs. a stationary sphere under moving illumination