#### **Depth Estimation from Stereo**

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Course Website: http://webpages.uncc.edu/jfan/itcs5152.html

## Review: Perspective Projection



$$x' = f'\frac{x}{z}$$
$$y' = f'\frac{y}{z}$$

## Human visual pathway



### Human eye

#### Rough analogy with human visual system:



Pupil/Iris – control amount of light passing through lens

Retina - contains sensor cells, where image is formed

Fovea – highest concentration of cones

# Human stereopsis: disparity



From Bruce and Green, Visual Perception, Physiology, Psychology and Ecology Human eyes **fixate** on point in space – rotate so that corresponding images form in centers of fovea.

# Human stereopsis: disparity



**Disparity** occurs when eyes fixate on one object; others appear at different visual angles

From Bruce and Green, Visual Perception, Physiology, Psychology and Ecology

## **Depth from Convergence**



Human performance: up to 6-8 feet

# Depth from binocular disparity



Sign and magnitude of 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 = -







### **Stereo Constraints**



# A Simple Stereo System







#### Geometry for a simple stereo system

• Assume parallel optical axes, known camera parameters (i.e., calibrated cameras). What is expression for Z?



Similar triangles  $(p_l, P, p_r)$  and  $(O_l, P, O_r)$ :

$$\frac{T - x_l + x_r}{Z - f} = \frac{T}{Z}$$

$$Z = f \frac{T}{x_l - x_r}$$
disparity

#### **Perspective projection**





#### **Perspective projection**







S. Birchfield, Clemson Univ., ECE 847, http://www.ces.clemson.edu/~stb/ece847

#### Standard stereo geometry



- disparity is inversely proportional to depth
- stereo vision is less useful for distant objects

M. Pollefeys, http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256fall03/



### **Rectified geometry**



disparity

S. Birchfield, Clemson Univ., ECE 847, http://www.ces.clemson.edu/~stb/ece847

depth

baseline

#### Matching space





S. Birchfield, Clemson Univ., ECE 847, http://www.ces.clemson.edu/~stb/ece847

### **Depth from disparity**



input image (1 of 2)



depth map [Szeliski & Kang '95]

Ζ



3D rendering



$$disparity = x - x' = \frac{baseline * f}{z}$$

# **Depth from disparity**

image I(x,y)

#### Disparity map D(x,y)

image l´(x´,y´)



#### (x',y')=(x+D(x,y), y)

So if we could find the **corresponding points** in two images, we could **estimate relative depth**...

### Choosing the stereo baseline





Large Baseline



- What's the optimal baseline?
  - Too small: large depth error
  - Too large: difficult search problem



Slides by Kristen Grauman





**Basic Principle: Triangulation** 

- Gives reconstruction as intersection of two rays
- Requires
  - calibration
  - point correspondence

# Stereo correspondence

- Determine Pixel Correspondence
  - Pairs of points that correspond to same scene point



#### **Epipolar Constraint**

 Reduces correspondence problem to 1D search along conjugate epipolar lines

### **Stereo image rectification**



### **Stereo image rectification**

- Image Reprojection
  - reproject image planes onto common plane parallel to line between optical centers
  - a homography (3x3 transform) applied to both input images
  - pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation
  - C. Loop and Z. Zhang. <u>Computing Rectifying Homographies for</u> <u>Stereo Vision</u>. IEEE Conf. Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 1999.

# Stereo matching algorithms

- Match Pixels in Conjugate Epipolar Lines
  - Assume brightness constancy
  - This is a tough problem
  - Numerous approaches
    - A good survey and evaluation: http://www.middlebury.edu/stereo/

# Your basic stereo algorithm



For each epipolar line

For each pixel in the left image

- compare with every pixel on same epipolar line in right image
- pick pixel with minimum match cost

Improvement: match windows

- This should look familar...
- Can use Lukas-Kanade or discrete search (latter more common)

### Window size



W = 3

W = 20

#### Effect of window size

- Smaller window
  - +
  - •

+

- Larger window

### **Stereo results**

- Data from University of Tsukuba
- Similar results on other images without ground truth





Scene

Ground truth

#### **Results with window search**



Window-based matching (best window size) Ground truth
### Better methods exist...



State of the art method Boykov et al., <u>Fast Approximate Energy Minimization via Graph Cuts</u>, International Conference on Computer Vision, September 1999. Ground truth

### **Binocular stereo matching**

### **Binocular rectified stereo**



### **Disparity function**











# Matching a pixel

- Pixel's value is not unique
  - Only 256 values but ~100,000 pixels!
  - Also, noise affects value
- Solution: use more than one pixel
- Assume neighbors have similar disparity
  - Correlation window around pixel



– Can use any similarity measure

### **Block matching**





- compute best disparity for each pixel
- store result in disparity map

disparity map

### Block matching (cont.)



### **Block matching**



Function disparity\_map = BlockMatch1(img\_left, img\_right; min\_disp, max\_disp)
for y = 0 to height-1
for x = 0 to width-1
ghat = infinity
for d = min\_disp to max\_disp
g = 0
for j = -w to w
for i = -w to w
g = g + dissimilarity(img\_left(x+i, y+j), img\_right(x+i-d, y+j))
if g < ghat,
ghat = g
dhat = d
disparity\_map(x, y) = dhat</pre>

#### 5 nested for loops!!!!!

### **Block matching**



#### **5 nested for loops!!!!!**

# Eliminating redundant computations







#### for same disparity, overlapping windows recompute the same dissimilarities for many pixels

### Block matching: another view

- Alternatively,
  - precompute  $\Delta(x,y,d) = dissim(I_L(x,y), I_R(x-d,y))$ for all x, y, d
  - then for each (x,y) select the best d



### More efficient block matching

```
Function dbar = ComputeDbar(img_left, img_right; min_disp, max_disp)
for d=min_disp:max_disp,
    // compare pixels
    for y=0:height-1,
        for x=0:width-1,
            dbar(x, y, d) = dissimilarity(img_left(x, y), img_right(x-d, y)
            // convolve with 2D box filter to sum over window
        tmp = convolve dbar(:, :, d) with 1D kernel [1 ... 1]
        dbar(:, :, d) = convolve tmp with 1D kernel [1 ... 1]^T } separable
Function disparity_map = BlockMatch2(img_left, img_right; min_disp, max_disp)
```

```
dbar = ComputeDbar(img_left, img_right; min_disp, max_disp)
for y=0:height-1,
for x=0:width-1,
disparity_map(x, y) = arg min of dbar(x, y, :)
```

### Key idea: Summation over window is convolution with box filter, which is separable (only 3 nested for loops!!!) Running sum improves efficiency even more

### More efficient block matching

BLOCKMATCH2 $(I_L, I_R, d_{\min}, d_{\max})$  $\Delta \leftarrow \text{COMPUTESUMMEDDISSIMILARITIES}(I_L, I_R, d_{\min}, d_{\max})$ 2 for  $(x, y) \in I_L$  do  $d_L(x,y) \leftarrow \arg\min_d \Delta(x,y,d)$ 3 return  $d_L$ 4 COMPUTESUMMEDDISSIMILARITIES  $(I_L, I_R, d_{\min}, d_{\max})$ for  $d \leftarrow d_{\min}$  to  $d_{\max}$  do for  $(x, y) \in I_L$  do 23  $\Delta(x, y, d) \leftarrow dissim(I_L(x, y), I_R(x - d, y))$  $\Delta(:,:,d) \leftarrow \text{Convolve}(\Delta(:,:,d), \mathbf{1}_{\psi \times w})$ 4 return  $\Delta$ 5separable

### Key idea: Summation over window is convolution with box filter, which is separable (only 3 nested for loops!!!) Running sum improves efficiency even more

Compare intensities pixel-by-pixel



### **Dissimilarity measures**

Sum of Square Differences

$$SSD = \iint_{W} \left[ I'(x, y) - I(x, y) \right]^2 dxdy$$

*Note:* SAD is fast approximation (replace square with absolute value)

M. Pollefeys, http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256fall03/

Compare intensities pixel-by-pixel



### **Dissimilarity measures**

If energy does not change much, then minimizing SSD equals maximizing cross-correlation

Compare intensities pixel-by-pixel



### Similarity measures

Zero-mean Normalized Cross Correlation

$$NCC = \frac{N(I', I)}{\sqrt{N(I', I')N(I, I)}}$$

$$N(A,B) = \iint_{W} \left(A(x,y) - \overline{A}\right) \left(B(x,y) - \overline{B}\right) dx dy$$

M. Pollefeys, http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256fall03/

### **Dissimilarity measures**

#### Most common:

$$D(\mathbf{x}_L, \mathbf{x}_R) = [I_L(x_L, y_L) - I_R(x_R, y_R)]^2 \quad \text{SSD}$$
$$D(\mathbf{x}_L, \mathbf{x}_R) = |I_L(x_L, y_L) - I_R(x_R, y_R)| \quad \text{SAD}$$
$$D(\mathbf{x}_L, \mathbf{x}_R) = -I_L(x_L, y_L)I_R(x_R, y_R) \quad \text{cross correlation}$$

#### **Connection between SSD and cross correlation:**

$$D(\mathbf{x}_{L}, \mathbf{x}_{R}) = [I_{L}(x_{L}, y_{L}) - I_{R}(x_{R}, y_{R})]^{2}$$
  
=  $[I_{L}(x_{L}, y_{L})]^{2} + [I_{R}(x_{R}, y_{R})]^{2} - 2I_{L}(x_{L}, y_{L})I_{R}(x_{R}, y_{R})$   
 $\propto -I_{L}(x_{L}, y_{L})I_{R}(x_{R}, y_{R})$ 

#### Also normalized correlation, rank, census, sampling-insensitive ...

Compare intensities pixel-by-pixel



### Similarity measures

Census

$$C_{I}(i,j) = (I(x+i,y+j) > I(x,y))$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline 125 & 126 & 125 \\ \hline 127 & 128 & 130 \\ \hline 129 & 132 & 135 \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \hline 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \hline 000011111 \\ \hline 001y \text{ compare bit signature} \\ using XOR, SAD, or Hamming distance (all equivalent) \end{array}$$

(Real-time chip from TZYX based on Census)

M. Pollefeys, http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256fall03/



**Our dissimilarity measure:**  $d(x_L, x_R) = \min\{\overline{d}(x_L, x_R), \overline{d}(x_R, x_L)\}$ 

#### [Birchfield & Tomasi 1998]

### **Dissimilarity Measure Theorems**

Given: An interval A such that  $[x_L - \frac{1}{2}, x_L + \frac{1}{2}] \subseteq A$ , and  $[x_R - \frac{1}{2}, x_R + \frac{1}{2}] \subseteq A$ 

Theorem 1:

If 
$$|x_L - x_R| \le \frac{1}{2}$$
, then  $d(x_L, x_R) = 0$   
(when A is convex or concave)

**Theorem 2:** 

$$|x_{L} - x_{R}| \le \frac{1}{2} \text{ iff } d(x_{L}, x_{R}) = 0$$
(when A is linear)

[Birchfield & Tomasi 1998]

# Aggregation window sizes

Small windows

- disparities similar
- more ambiguities
- accurate when correct

Large windows

- larger disp. variation
- more discriminant
- often more robust
- use shiftable windows to deal with discontinuities



14x14

7x7

#### (Illustration from Pascal Fua)



# If pixel matches do not agree in both directions, then unreliable

### Left-right consistency check



### Conceptually,

dm\_L = BlockMatch(img\_left, img\_right; 0, max\_disp)
dm\_R = BlockMatch(img\_right, img\_left; -max\_disp, 0)
for y=0:height-1,
for x=0:width-1,
 if dm\_L(x, y) != - dm\_R(x - dm\_L(x, y), y)
 dm\_L(x, y) = NOT\_MATCHED

### Left-right consistency check



#### because $x_L = x_R + disparity$

# Left-right consistency check



#### Actually,

```
Function disparity_map = BlockMatchWithRightLeftCheck(img_left, img_right; max_disp)

△ = ComputeDbar(img_left, img_right; 0, max_disp)

for y=0:height-1,

for x=0:width-1,

// find left answer

d_left = arg min( △(x,y,0), △(x,y,1), ..., △(x,y,max_disp) )

d_right = arg min( △(x-d_left,y,0), △(x-d_left+1,y,1), ..., △(x-d_left+max_disp,y,max_disp))

disp_map(x,y) = (d_left == d_right) ? d_left : NOT_MATCHED
```

# With left-right check

#### inefficient:

BLOCKMATCHWITHLEFTRIGHTCHECK1 $(I_L, I_R, d_{max})$ 

1  $d_L \leftarrow \text{BLOCKMATCH2}(I_L, I_R, 0, d_{\max})$ 2  $d_R \leftarrow \text{BLOCKMATCH2}(I_R, I_L, -d_{\max}, 0)$ 3 for  $(x, y) \in I_L$  do 4 if  $d_L(x, y) \neq -d_R(x - d_L(x, y), y)$  then 5  $d_L(x, y) \leftarrow \text{NOT-MATCHED}$ 6 return  $d_L$ 

#### more efficient:

BLOCKMATCHWITHLEFTRIGHTCHECK2 $(I_L, I_R, d_{max})$  $\Delta \leftarrow \text{COMPUTESUMMEDDISSIMILARITIES}(I_L, I_R, 0, d_{\text{max}})$ 1 2for  $(x, y) \in I_L$  do 3  $\delta_L \leftarrow \arg\min\{\Delta(x, y, 0), \Delta(x, y, 1), \dots, \Delta(x, y, d_{\max})\}$  $\delta_R \leftarrow \arg\min\{\Delta(x-\delta_L, y, 0), \Delta(x-\delta_L+1, y, 1), \dots, \Delta(x-\delta_L+d_{\max}, y, d_{\max})\}$ 4 5if  $\delta_L == \delta_R$  then 6  $d_L(x,y) \leftarrow \delta_L$ 7 else  $d_L(x, y) \leftarrow \text{NOT-MATCHED}$ 8 9 return  $d_L$ 

### **Results: correlation**



left



#### disparity map



#### with left-right consistency check

### Constraints

- Epipolar match must lie on epipolar line
- Piecewise constancy neighboring pixels should usually have same disparity
- Piecewise continuity neighboring pixels should usually have similar disparity
- Disparity impose allowable range of disparities (Panum's fusional area)
- Disparity gradient restricts slope of disparity
- Figural continuity disparity of edges across scanlines
- Uniqueness each pixel has no more than one match (violated by windows and mirrors)
- Ordering disparity function is monotonic (precludes thin poles)

### Stereo constraints



#### When are these violated?



#### (Related to ordering constraint)

### Violation of ordering constraint



### **Disparity gradient**

 $x_C = \frac{1}{2} \left( x_L + x_R \right)$  - Cyclopean coordinate

 $x_1$  in  $I_L$  matches  $x'_1$  in  $I_R$ :  $d_1 = x_1 - x'_1$  $x_2$  in  $I_L$  matches  $x'_2$  in  $I_R$ :  $d_2 = x_2 - x'_2$ 

disparity gradient:  $\left| \frac{\partial d}{\partial x_c} \right| = \frac{d_2 - d_1}{\frac{1}{2} \left( x_2 + x'_2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left( x_1 + x'_1 \right)} = \frac{2(d_2 - d_1)}{x_2 + x'_2 - x_1 - x'_1}$ 



### Disparity gradient constraint











 $\left|\frac{\partial d}{\partial x_c}\right| \le 2$ 

(human visual system imposes this)

(same as ordering constraint)

### Figural continuity constraint





right

left

[University of Tsukuba]

# **Epipolar Geometry**
# **Camera parameters**



**Extrinsic** parameters: Camera frame 1  $\leftarrow \rightarrow$  Camera frame 2

Intrinsic parameters: Image coordinates relative to camera  $\leftarrow \rightarrow$  Pixel coordinates

- *Extrinsic* params: rotation matrix and translation vector
- Intrinsic params: focal length, pixel sizes (mm), image center point, radial distortion parameters

We'll assume for now that these parameters are given and fixed.

# **Camera calibration**

• From world coordinate to image coordinate



#### General case, with calibrated cameras

• The two cameras need not have parallel optical axes.



#### **Stereo correspondence constraints**



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

#### **Stereo correspondence constraints**



#### **Epipolar constraint**



Geometry of two views constrains where the corresponding pixel for some image point in the first view must occur in the second view.

 It must be on the line carved out by a plane connecting the world point and optical centers.

# **Epipolar Geometry**



http://www.ai.sri.com/~luong/research/Meta3DViewer/EpipolarGeo.html

# **Epipolar Geometry: terms**

- **Baseline**: line joining the camera centers
- **Epipole**: point of intersection of baseline with image plane
- Epipolar plane: plane containing baseline and world point
- Epipolar line: intersection of epipolar plane with the image plane
- All epipolar lines intersect at the epipole
- An epipolar plane intersects the left and right image planes in epipolar lines

#### Why is the epipolar constraint useful?

# **Epipolar Constraint**



This is useful because it reduces the correspondence problem to a 1D search along an epipolar line.

Image from Andrew Zisserman

## Example



### What do the epipolar lines look like?



O<sub>l</sub> ● O<sub>r</sub>

2.

1

#### **Example: converging cameras**





Figure from Hartley & Zisserman

#### **Example: parallel cameras**



Where are the epipoles?





Figure from Hartley & Zisserman

#### Stereo geometry, with calibrated cameras



Main idea

#### Stereo geometry, with calibrated cameras



If the stereo rig is calibrated, we know :

how to **rotate** and **translate** camera reference frame 1 to get to camera reference frame 2.

Rotation: 3 x 3 matrix **R**; translation: 3 vector **T**.

#### Stereo geometry, with calibrated cameras



If the stereo rig is calibrated, we know :

how to **rotate** and **translate** camera reference frame 1 to get to camera reference frame 2.  $\mathbf{X'}_{c} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{X}_{c} + \mathbf{T}$ 

#### An aside: cross product

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \vec{c} \qquad \qquad \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} = 0 \\ \vec{b} \cdot \vec{c} = 0$$

Vector cross product takes two vectors and returns a third vector that's perpendicular to both inputs.

So here, c is perpendicular to both a and b, which means the dot product = 0.

## From geometry to algebra



## Another aside: Matrix form of cross product

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{c} \qquad \vec{a} \cdot \vec{c} = \mathbf{0}$$

Can be expressed as a matrix multiplication.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_x \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = [a_x]\vec{b}$$

## From geometry to algebra



### **Essential matrix**



**E** is called the **essential matrix**, and it relates corresponding image points between both cameras, given the rotation and translation.

If we observe a point in one image, its position in other image is constrained to lie on line defined by above.

Note: these points are in camera coordinate systems.

#### **Essential matrix example: parallel cameras**





 $\mathbf{p'}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}$ 

For the parallel cameras, image of any point must lie on same horizontal line in each image plane.

#### image I(x,y)

#### Disparity map D(x,y)

#### image l'(x',y')



(x', y') = (x + D(x, y), y)

What about when cameras' optical axes are not parallel?

# Stereo image rectification

In practice, it is convenient if image scanlines (rows) are the epipolar lines.

reproject image planes onto a common plane parallel to the line between optical centers

pixel motion is horizontal after this transformation two homographies (3x3 transforms), one for each input image reprojection

Slide credit: Li Zhang

# Stereo image rectification:







Source: Alyosha Efros

## **Feature-Based Matching**

# **Correlation Approach**



For Each point (x<sub>I</sub>, y<sub>I</sub>) in the left image, define a window centered at the point

# **Correlation Approach**



 ... search its corresponding point within a search region in the right image

# **Correlation Approach**



... the disparity (dx, dy) is the displacement when the correlation is maximum

## Comparing Windows





Maximize 
$$C_{fg} = \sum_{[i,j] \in R} f(i,j)g(i,j)$$
 Cross correlation

# Feature-based correspondence

- Features most commonly used:
  - Corners
    - Similarity measured in terms of:
      - surrounding gray values (SSD, Cross-correlation)
      - location
  - Edges, Lines
    - Similarity measured in terms of:
      - orientation
      - contrast
      - coordinates of edge or line's midpoint
      - length of line

# **Feature-based Approach**



#### Ban Enorgeach feature in the left image...

# **Feature-based Approach**



Search in the right image... the disparity (dx, dy) is
Barther displacement when the similarity measure is maximum

# **Correspondence Difficulties**

- Why is the correspondence problem difficult?
  - Some points in each image will have no corresponding points in the other image.
    - (1) the cameras might have different fields of view.

(2) due to occlusion.

 A stereo system must be able to determine the image parts that should not be matched.

## **Structure Light**

## Active stereo with structured







Li Zhang's one-shot stereo



- Project "structured" light patterns onto the object
  - simplifies the correspondence problem
### Active stereo with structured light



## Laser scanning





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

#### Portable 3D laser scanner (this one by Minolta)





#### Laser scanned models



The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.

### Laser scanned models



The Digital Michelangelo Project, Levoy et al.



Goal: Determine transparency, radiance of points in V

#### **Discrete Formulation: Voxel Coloring**



**Goal:** Assign RGBA values to voxels in V *photo-consistent* with images

# **Complexity and Computability**



## **Stereo vision**



Two cameras, simultaneous views

Single moving camera and static scene