Local features: detection and description

May 9th, 2019

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UC Davis

Today

- Local invariant features
  - Detection of interest points
    - (Harris corner detection)
    - Scale invariant blob detection: LoG
  - Description of local patches
    - SIFT: Histograms of oriented gradients

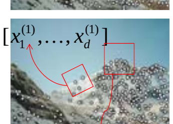
2

Local features: main components

1) Detection: Identify the interest points

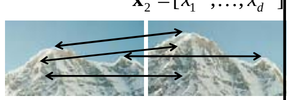
2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = [x_1^{(1)}, \ldots, x_d^{(1)}]$$



$$\mathbf{x}_2 = [x_1^{(2)}, \ldots, x_d^{(2)}]$$

3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views



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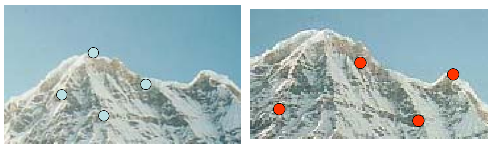
3

Goal: interest operator repeatability

- We want to detect (at least some of) the same points in both images.



No chance to find true matches!

- Yet we have to be able to run the detection procedure *independently* per image.

4

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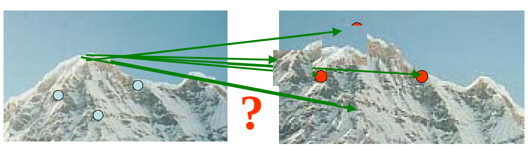
Goal: descriptor distinctiveness

- We want to be able to reliably determine which point goes with which.



- Must provide some invariance to geometric and photometric differences between the two views.

5

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Local features: main components

1) Detection: Identify the interest points

2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views

6

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Recall: Corners as distinctive interest points

$$M = \sum \begin{bmatrix} I_x I_x & I_x I_y \\ I_x I_y & I_y I_y \end{bmatrix}$$

2 x 2 matrix of image derivatives (averaged in neighborhood of a point).

Notation: $I_x \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$ $\quad I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$ $\quad I_x I_y \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}\frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$

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7

Recall: Corners as distinctive interest points

Since *M* is symmetric, we have $M = X \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} X^T$

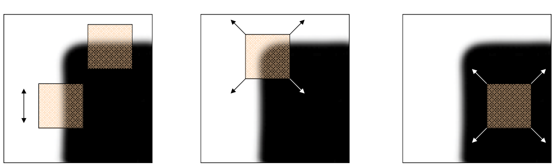
(Eigenvalue decomposition)

$$Mx_i = \lambda_i x_i$$

The *eigenvalues* of *M* reveal the amount of intensity change in the two principal orthogonal gradient directions in the window.

8

Recall: Corners as distinctive interest points



"edge": $\lambda_1 >> \lambda_2$ $\quad \lambda_2 >> \lambda_1$

"corner": λ_1 and λ_2 are large, $\lambda_1 \sim \lambda_2$;

"flat" region: λ_1 and λ_2 are small;

One way to score the cornerness: $f = \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$

9

Harris corner detector

1) Compute M matrix for image window surrounding each pixel to get its *cornerness* score.
2) Find points with large corner response (f > threshold)
3) Take the points of local maxima, i.e., perform non-maximum suppression

10

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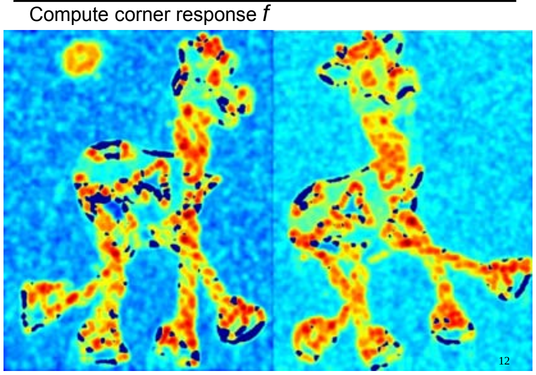
Harris Detector: Steps

11

Harris Detector: Steps

Compute corner response f



12

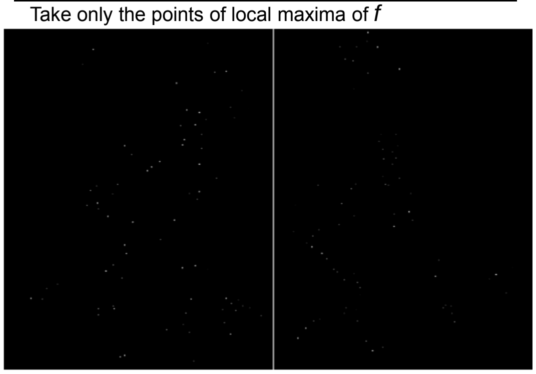
Harris Detector: Steps

Find points with large corner response: f > threshold

13

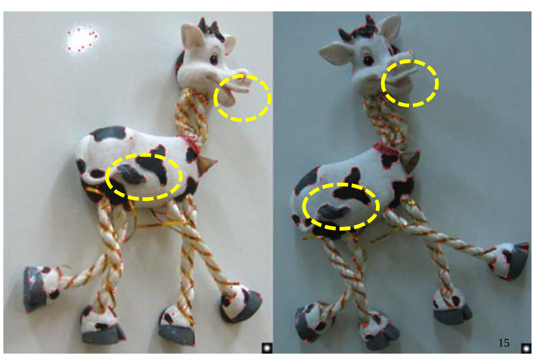
Harris Detector: Steps

Take only the points of local maxima of f



14

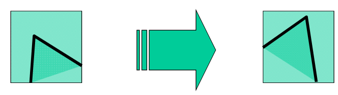
Harris Detector: Steps



15

Properties of the Harris corner detector

Rotation invariant? Yes

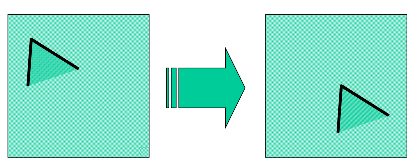


16

Properties of the Harris corner detector

Rotation invariant? Yes

Translation invariant? Yes



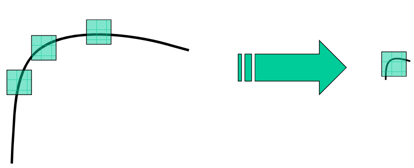
17

Properties of the Harris corner detector

Rotation invariant? Yes

Translation invariant? Yes

Scale invariant? No



All points will be classified as edges

Corner !

18

Scale invariant interest points

How can we independently select interest points in each image, such that the detections are repeatable across different scales?

19

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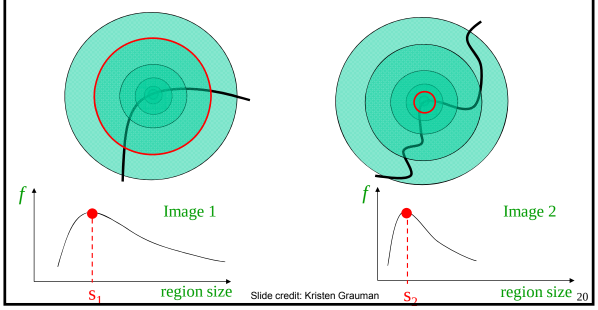
Automatic scale selection

Intuition:

- Find scale that gives local maxima of some function *f* in both position and scale.



Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

20

What can be the “signature” function?

21

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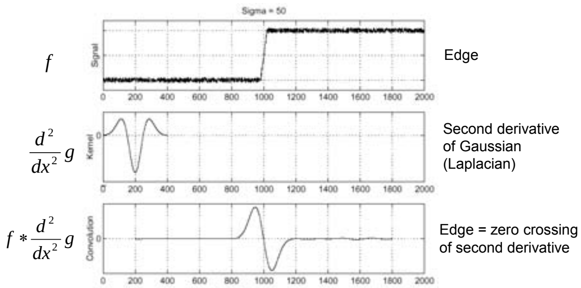
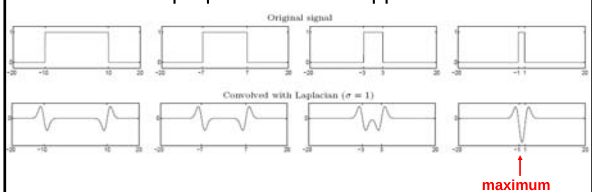
Recall: Edge detection



22
Source: S. Seitz

From edges to blobs

- Edge = ripple
- Blob = superposition of two ripples

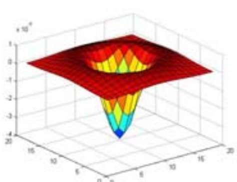


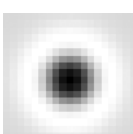
Spatial selection: the **magnitude** of the Laplacian response will achieve a maximum at the center of the blob, provided the scale of the Laplacian is "matched" to the scale of the blob

23
Slide credit: Lana Lazebnik

Blob detection in 2D

Laplacian of Gaussian: Circularly symmetric operator for blob detection in 2D



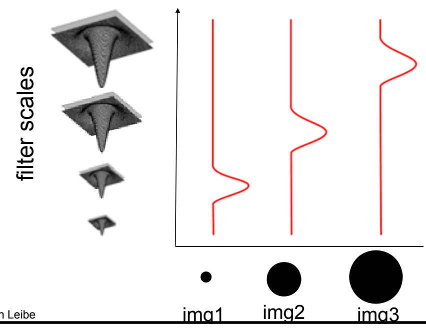


$$\nabla^2 g = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2}$$

24

Blob detection in 2D: scale selection

Laplacian-of-Gaussian = “blob” detector $\nabla^2 g = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2}$

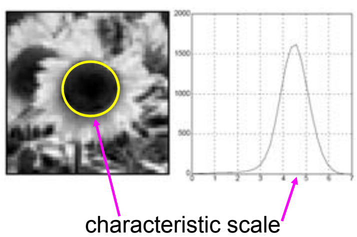


Bastian Leibe

25

Blob detection in 2D

We define the *characteristic scale* as the scale that produces peak of Laplacian response



26

Slide credit: Lana Lazebnik

Example

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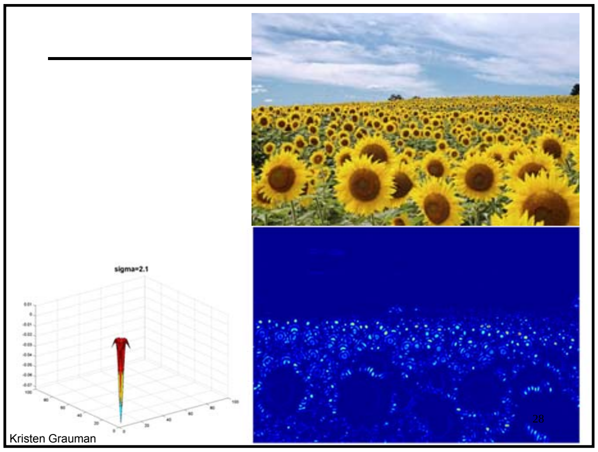
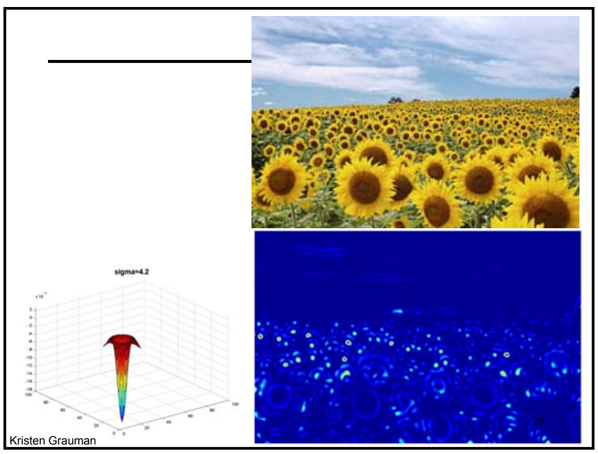
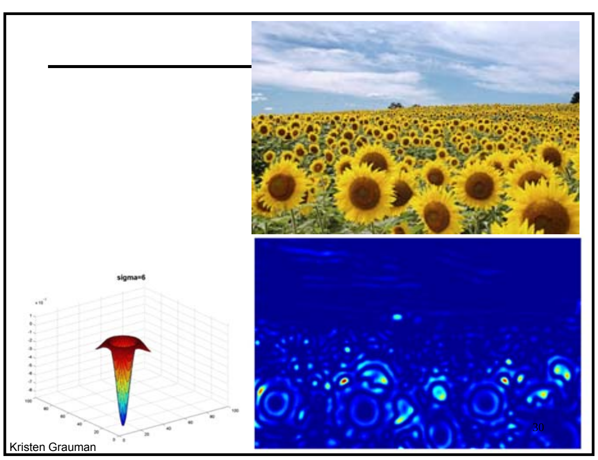
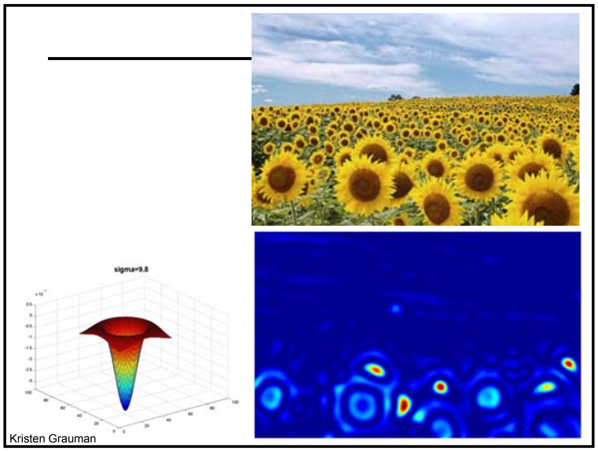
27


sigma=2.1
Kristen Grauman


sigma=4.2
Kristen Grauman


sigma=6
Kristen Grauman


sigma=9.8
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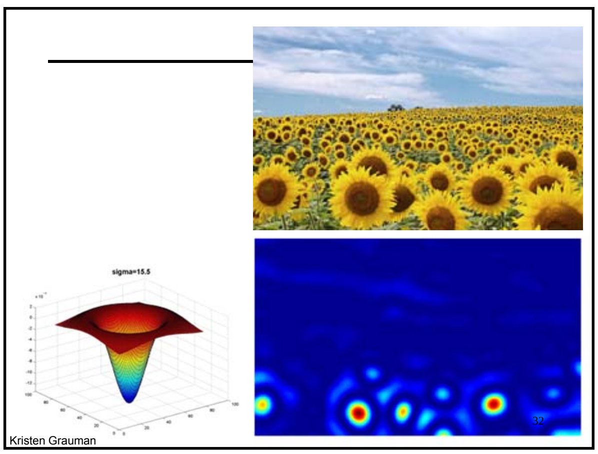
sigma=15.5
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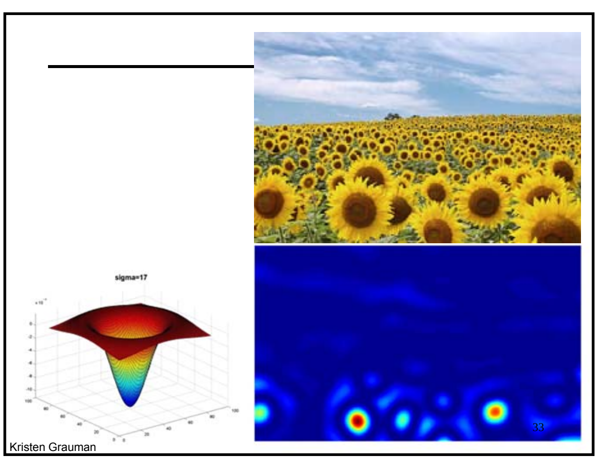
32


sigma=17
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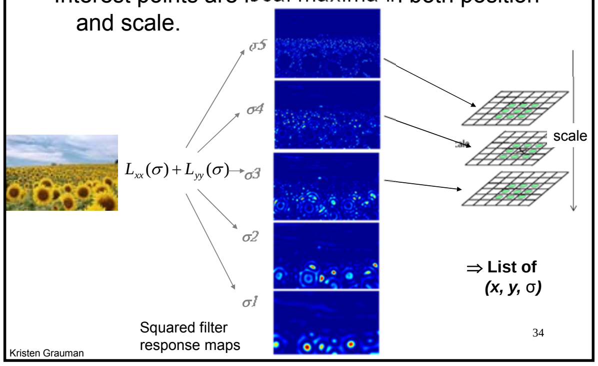
33

Scale invariant interest points

Interest points are local maxima in both position and scale.



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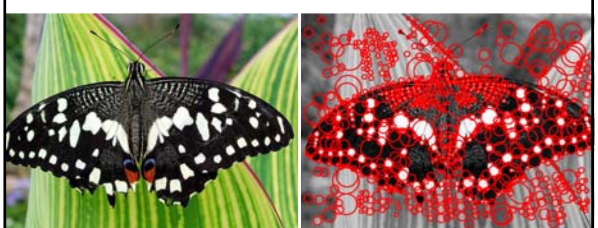
34

Scale-space blob detector: Example



35

Image credit: Lana Lazebnik

Technical detail

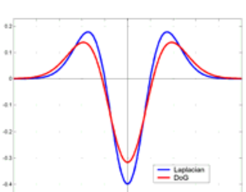
We can approximate the Laplacian with a difference of Gaussians; more efficient to implement.

$$L = \sigma^2 \left(G_{xx}(x,y,\sigma) + G_{yy}(x,y,\sigma) \right)$$

(Laplacian)

$$DoG = G(x,y,k\sigma) - G(x,y,\sigma)$$

(Difference of Gaussians)



36

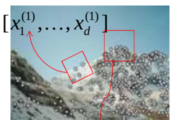
Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Local features: main components

1) Detection: Identify the interest points

2) Description: Extract vector feature descriptor surrounding each interest point.

$\mathbf{x}_1 = [x_1^{(1)}, \ldots, x_d^{(1)}]$



$\mathbf{x}_2 = [x_1^{(2)}, \ldots, x_d^{(2)}]$

3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views

37

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

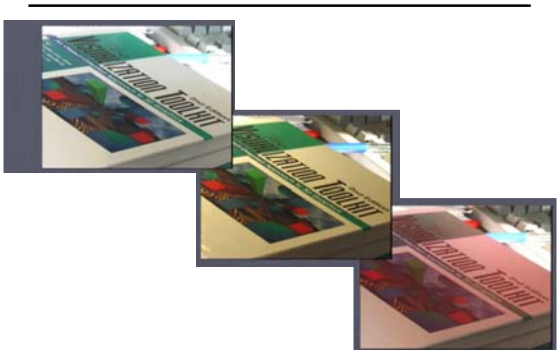
Geometric transformations

e.g. scale, translation, rotation

38

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

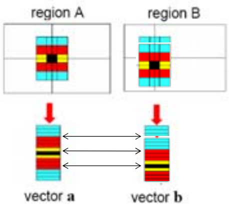
Photometric transformations



39

Figure from T. Tuytelaars ECCV 2006 tutorial

Raw patches as local descriptors



The simplest way to describe the neighborhood around an interest point is to write down the list of intensities to form a feature vector.

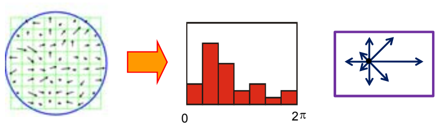
But this is very sensitive to even small shifts, rotations.

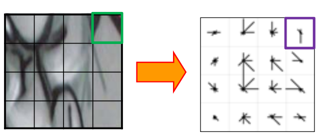
40

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

SIFT descriptor [Lowe 2004]

Use histograms to bin pixels within sub-patches according to their orientation.



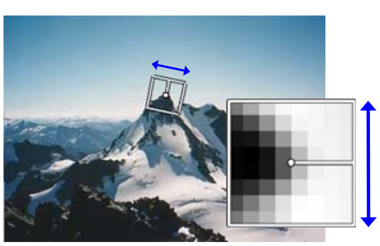


Why subpatches?
Why does SIFT have some illumination invariance?

41

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Making descriptor rotation invariant



- Rotate patch according to its dominant gradient orientation
- This puts the patches into a canonical orientation.

42

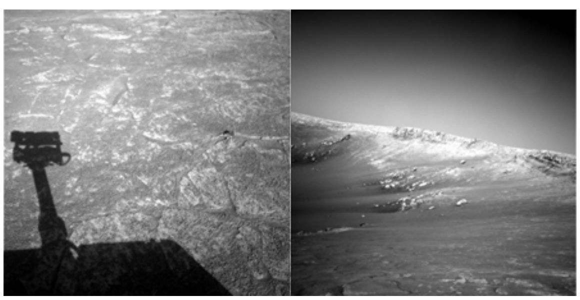
Image from Matthew Brown

SIFT descriptor [Lowe 2004]

- Robust matching technique
  - Can handle changes in viewpoint
    - Up to about 60 degree out of plane rotation
  - Can handle significant changes in illumination
    - Sometimes even day vs. night (below)
  - Fast and efficient—can run in real time
  - Lots of code available
    - http://people.csail.mit.edu/albert/ladypack/wiki/index.php/Known_implementations_of_SIFT

43
Steve Seitz

Example



NASA Mars Rover images

44

Example

NASA Mars Rover images
with SIFT feature matches
Figure by Noah Snavely

45

SIFT descriptor properties

Invariant to
- Scale
- Rotation

Partially invariant to
- Illumination changes
- Camera viewpoint
- Occlusion, clutter

46

Local features: main components

1) Detection: Identify the interest points
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3) Matching: Determine correspondence between descriptors in two views

47

Slide credit: Kristen Grauman

Matching local features

48

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Matching local features

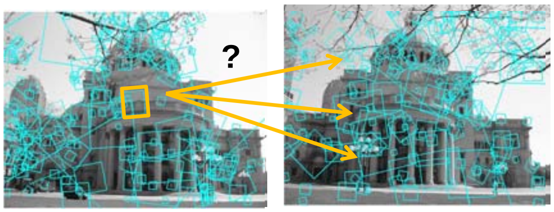

Image 1 Image 2

To generate **candidate matches**, find patches that have the most similar appearance (e.g., lowest SSD)

Simplest approach: compare them all, take the closest (or closest k, or within a thresholded distance)

49

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Ambiguous matches

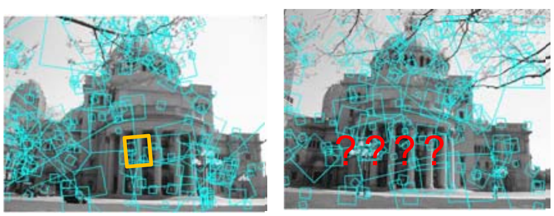

Image 1 Image 2

To add robustness to matching, can consider **ratio**: distance to best match / distance to second best match

If low, first match looks good.

If high, could be ambiguous match.

50

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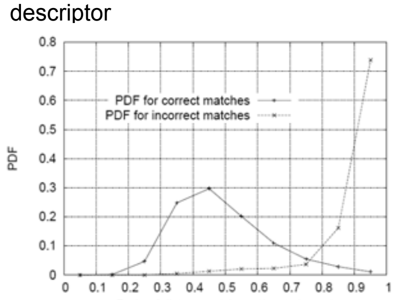
Matching SIFT Descriptors

Nearest neighbor (Euclidean distance)

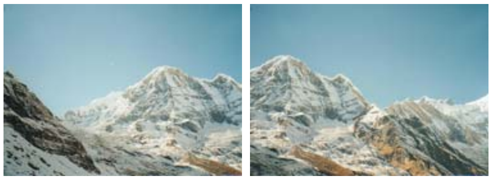
Threshold ratio of nearest to 2nd nearest descriptor



51

Lowe IJCV 2004

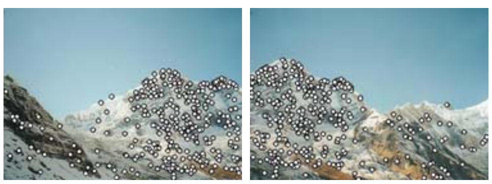
Recap: robust feature-based alignment



52

Source: L. Lazebnik

Recap: robust feature-based alignment

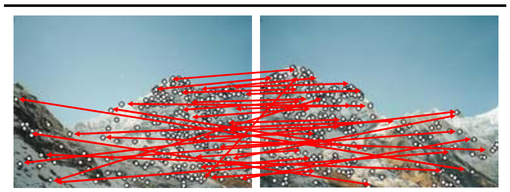


- Extract features

53

Source: L. Lazebnik

Recap: robust feature-based alignment

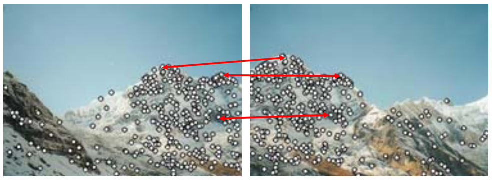


- Extract features
- Compute *putative matches*

54

Source: L. Lazebnik

Recap: robust feature-based alignment

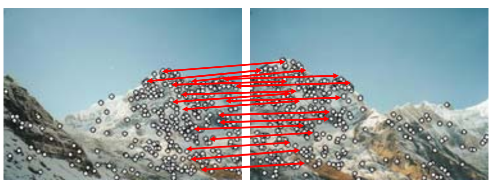


- Extract features
- Compute *putative matches*
- Loop:
  - *Hypothesize* transformation *T* (small group of putative matches that are related by *T*)

55

Source: L. Lazebnik

Recap: robust feature-based alignment



- Extract features
- Compute *putative matches*
- Loop:
  - *Hypothesize* transformation *T* (small group of putative matches that are related by *T*)
  - *Verify* transformation (search for other matches consistent with *T*)

56

Source: L. Lazebnik

Recap: robust feature-based alignment

- Extract features
- Compute *putative matches*
- Loop:
  - *Hypothesize* transformation *T* (small group of putative matches that are related by *T*)
  - *Verify* transformation (search for other matches consistent with *T*)

57

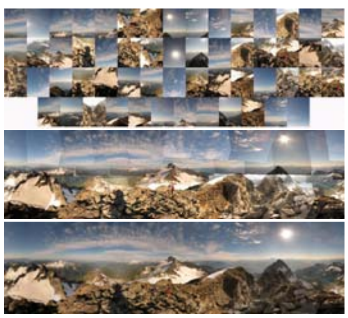
Source: L. Lazebnik

Applications of local invariant features

Wide baseline stereo
Motion tracking
Panoramas
3D reconstruction
Recognition (better for instance matching)
…

58

Automatic mosaicing



AutoStitch

59

Wide baseline stereo

[Image from T. Tuytelaars ECCV 2006 tutorial]

60

Recognition of specific objects, scenes

Schmid and Mohr 1997

Sivic and Zisserman, 2003

Rothganger et al. 2003

Lowe 2002

61

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Summary

Interest point detection

- Harris corner detector
- Laplacian of Gaussian, automatic scale selection

Invariant descriptors

- Rotation according to dominant gradient direction
- Histograms for robustness to small shifts and translations (SIFT descriptor)

62

Questions?

63