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Vision-based navigation

Simon Lacroix

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Vision-based navigation

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Where do I come from?

Robotics at LAAS/CNRS, Toulouse, France

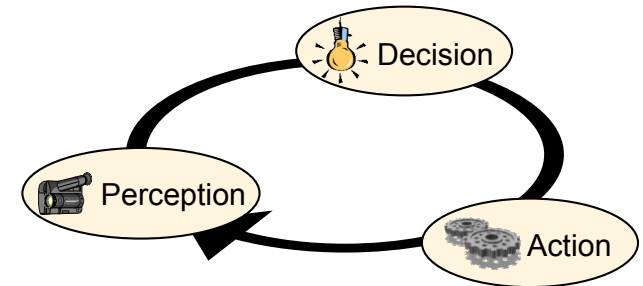
- Research topics

- Perception, planning and decision-making, control
- Plus: control architecture, interactions, ambient intelligence systems, learning

- Research domains

- Cognitive and interactive Robotics
- Aerial and Terrestrial Field Robotics
- Human and anthropomorphic motion
- Bio-informatics, Molecular motion

- Considered applications: Planetary exploration, Service and personal robotics, virtual worlds and animation, biochemistry, embedded systems, transport, driver assistance, defense, civil safety



A keyword: **autonomy**

3 research groups :

12 full time researchers

10 university researchers

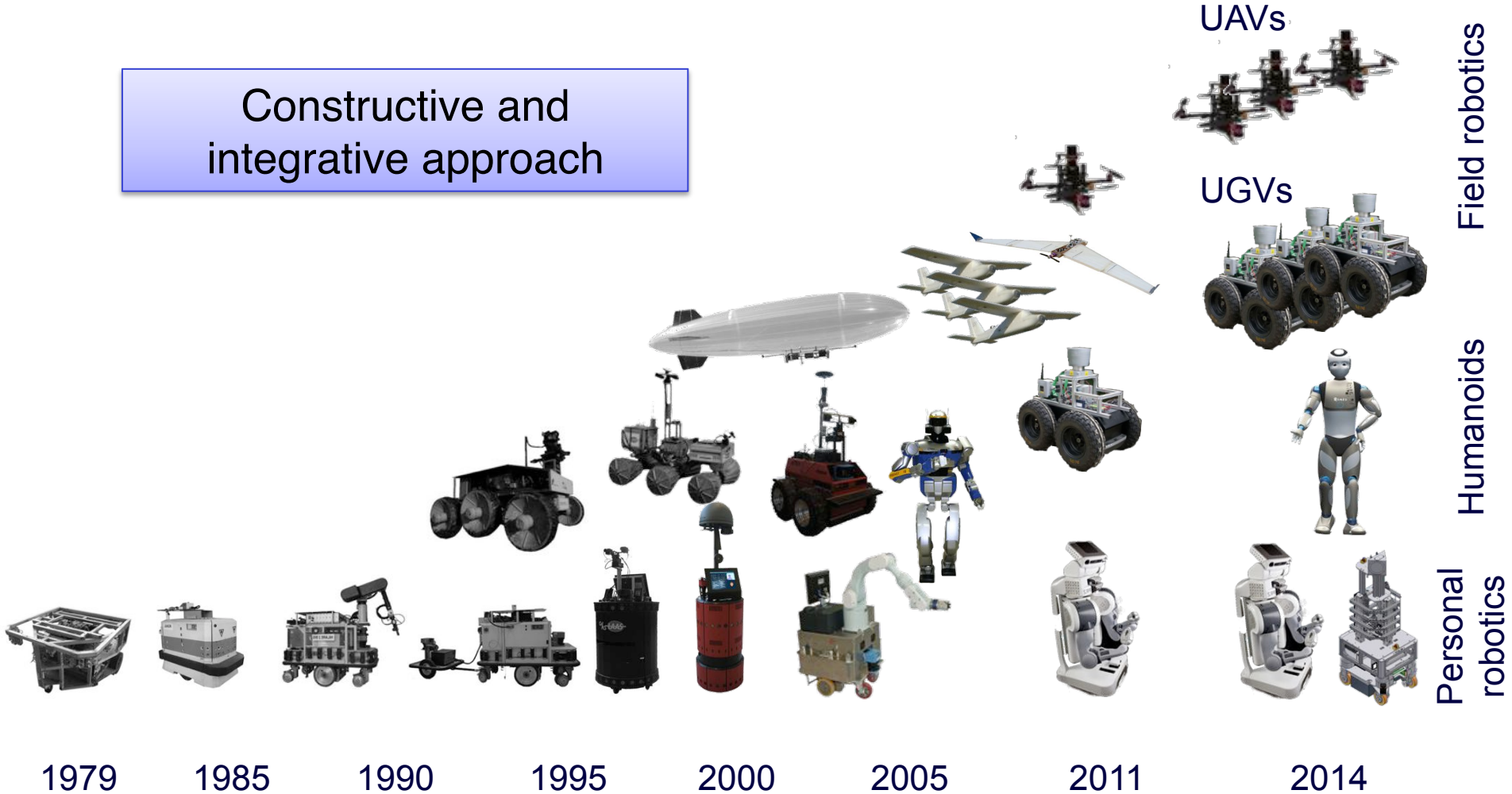
4 visitors

50 PhD students

10 post-docs

Robots @ LAAS

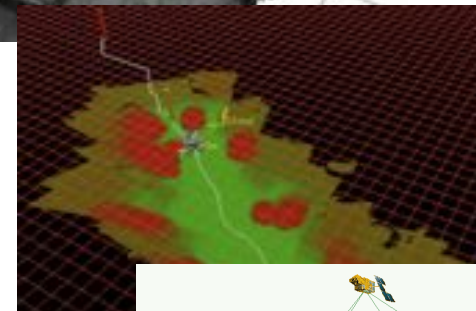
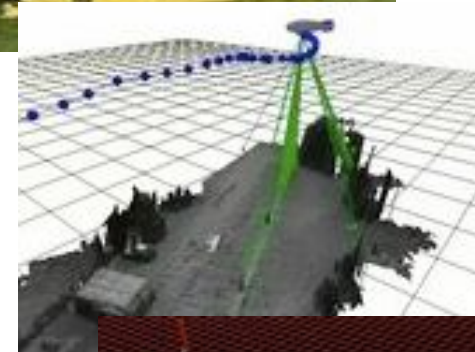
Constructive and integrative approach



Open source software tools: www.openrobots.org

What am I working on? Field robotics

- Environment perception and modeling
- Localization and SLAM
- Autonomous rover navigation
- Multi-Robot cooperation

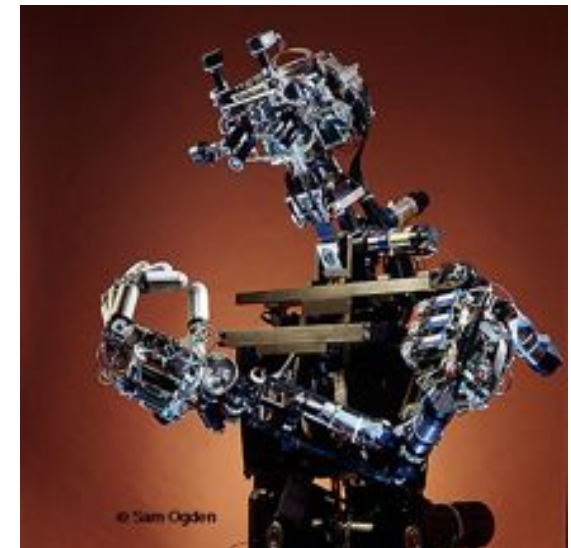
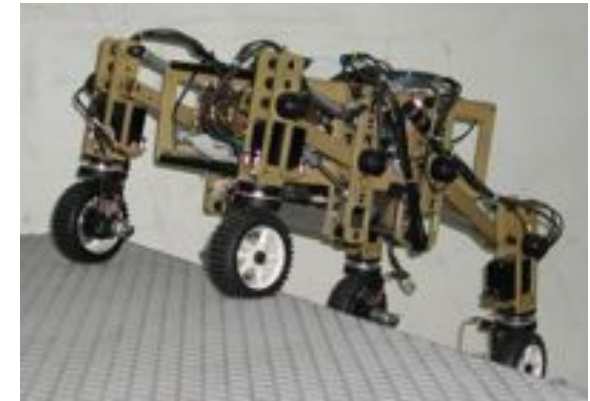
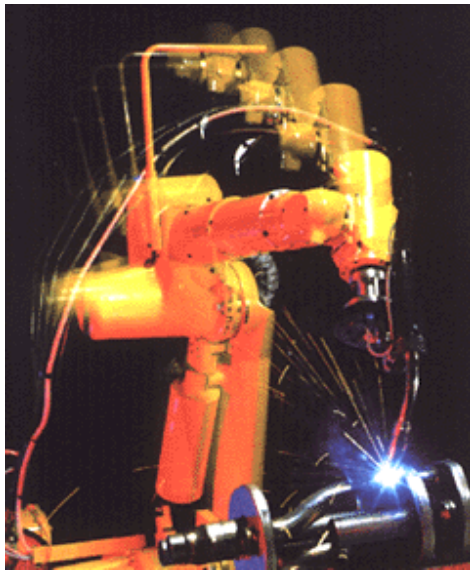


Robotics

“From automatic control to autonomous control”

In laboratories

Industrial



Robotics

“From automatic control to autonomous control”



Robots everywhere

Robotics

“From automatic control to autonomous control”

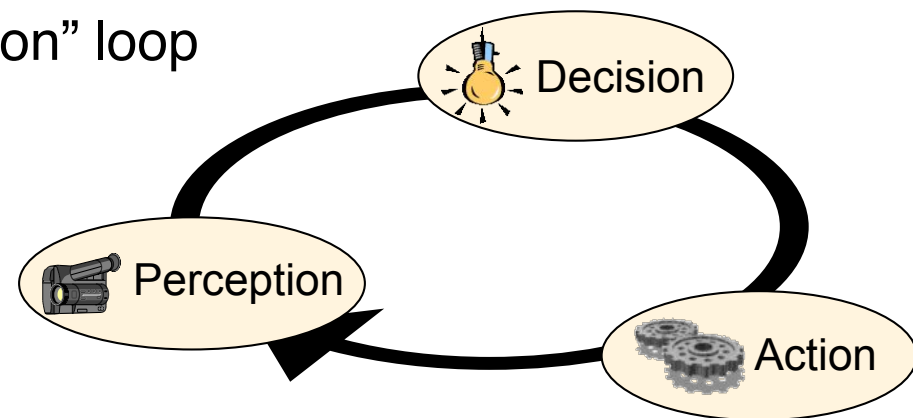
- Automatic control :
 - Well defined task (“*regulate variable*”, “*follow trajectory*”...)
 - “Direct” link between (simple) perception and action

- Autonomous control :
 - More general task (“*reach position*”, “*monitor area* ”...)
 - Calls for *decisional processes*

⇒ “perception / Decision / Action” loop

Plus :

- Processes *integration*
- Learning
- Interaction with humans
- Interactions with other robots
- ...

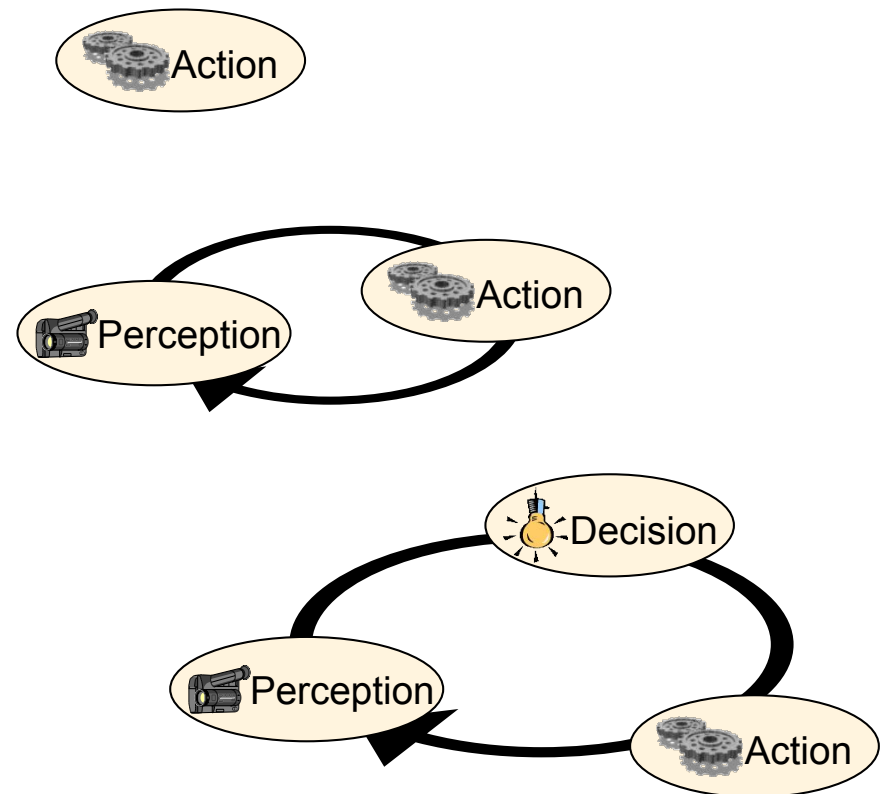


Robotics

“From automatic control to autonomous control”

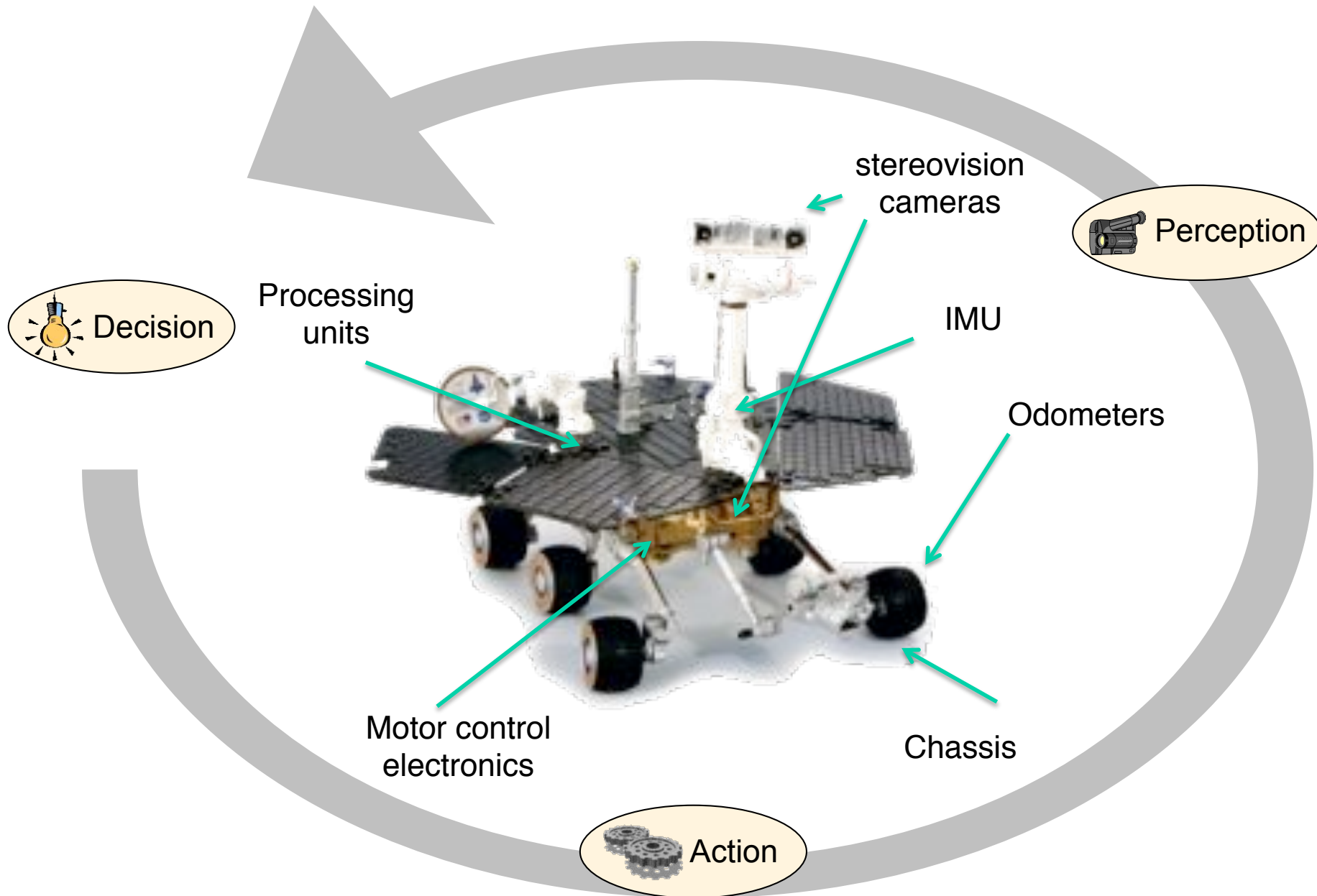
E.g. for a drone:

- Regulate heading / speed / altitude
- Follow a list ordered waypoints
- Follow a geometric trajectory
- Follow a road
- Follow a target
- Survey an area while avoiding threats and obstacles



“Decision”: notion of deliberation, planning, prediction and evaluation of the outcomes of an action

Anatomy of a robot



Anatomy of a robot

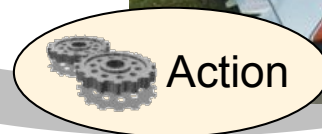
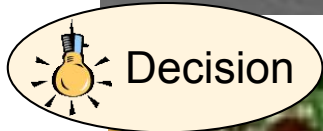


Illustration: autonomous navigation

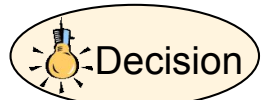
nav•i•ga•tion |,navi'gā sh ən|

noun

1 the process or activity of accurately ascertaining one's position and planning and following a route.



detect obstacles, traversable areas, localize the robot



avoid obstacles, find trajectories, itineraries

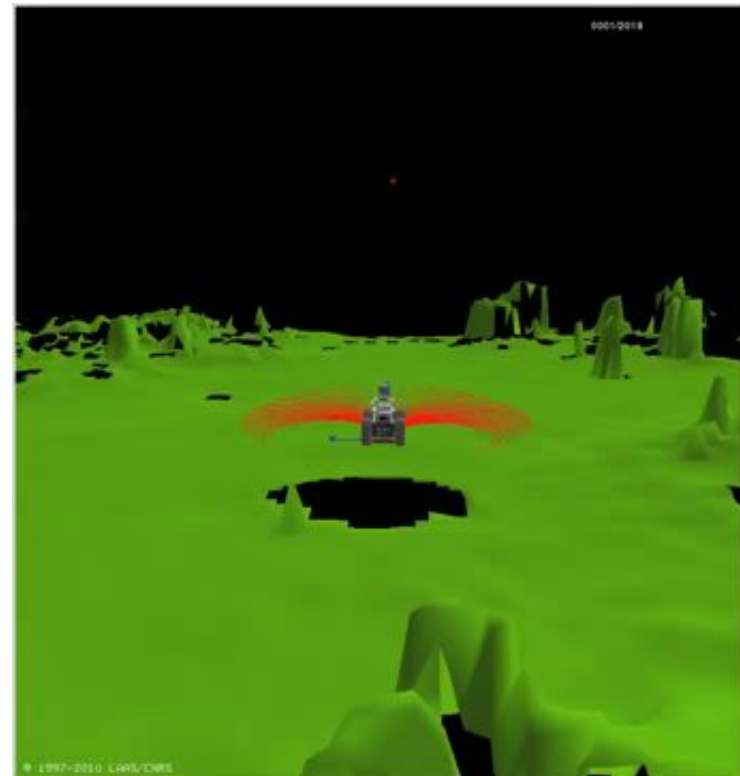
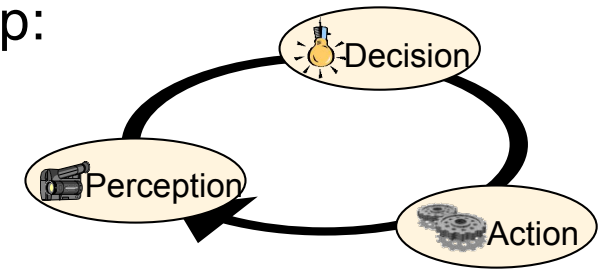


ensure the execution of the planned motions

An elementary decision: AGV obstacle avoidance

Simple instance of a perception / decision / action loop:

- Gathering data on the environment
- Structuring the data into a *model*
- *Planning* the trajectory to find the “optimal” one
- Executing the trajectory



Perception in robotics

Perception :

« Acquisition and representation of information on the environment and the robot itself »

Proprioceptive and exteroceptive sensors:

pro•pri•o•cep•tive |,prōprēə'septiv|

adjective Physiology

relating to stimuli that are produced and perceived within an organism, esp. those connected with the position and movement of the body. Compare with **EXTEROCEPTIVE** and **INTEROCEPTIVE** .

ex•ter•o•cep•tive |,ekstərō'septiv|

adjective Physiology

relating to stimuli that are external to an organism. Compare with **INTEROCEPTIVE** .

Why is localization so important?



Why is localization so important *in robotics?*

Localization is required to:

- Ensure the spatial consistency of the built environment models
- Ensure the achievement of the missions, most often defined in localization terms (“goto [goal]”, “explore / monitor [area]”, ...)
- Ensure the proper execution of paths / trajectories
- Ensure the lowest level (locomotion) controls

But... what localization?

Essential questions to answer:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. With which precision? | From <i>cm</i> to <i>meters</i> |
| 2. In which frame? | Absolute vs. local |
| 3. At which frequency? | From <i>kHz</i> to “sometimes” |
| 4. <i>Integrity</i> of the solution? | |
| 5. <i>Disponibility</i> of the solution? | |

cm accuracy,
> 100 *Hz*,
local frame

- Ensure the lowest level (locomotion) controls
- Ensure the proper execution of paths / trajectories
- Ensure the spatial consistency of the built models

~*m* accuracy,
“sometimes”,
global frame

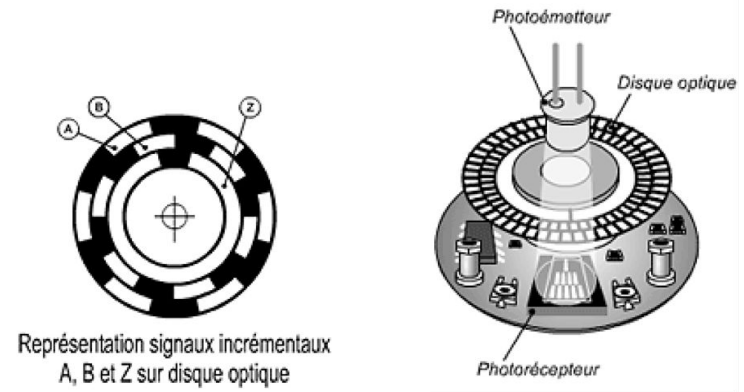
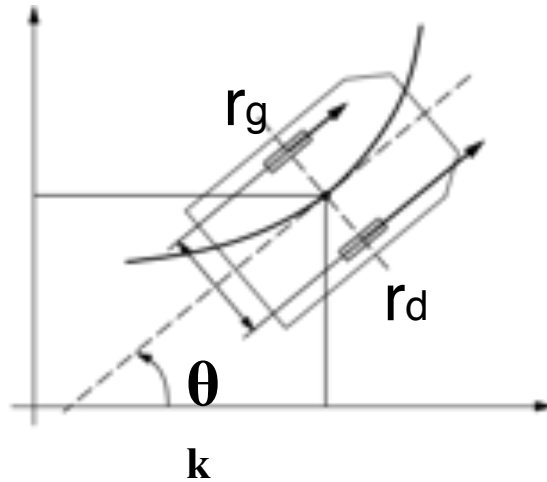
- Ensure the achievement of the missions, most often defined in localization terms (“goto [goal]”, “explore / monitor [area]”, ...)

Outline

- Autonomous robots
- On the importance of localization
- **Localization using dead-reckoning approaches**

Odometry

- Odometry: estimation of (x, y, θ) by integration of elementary motions

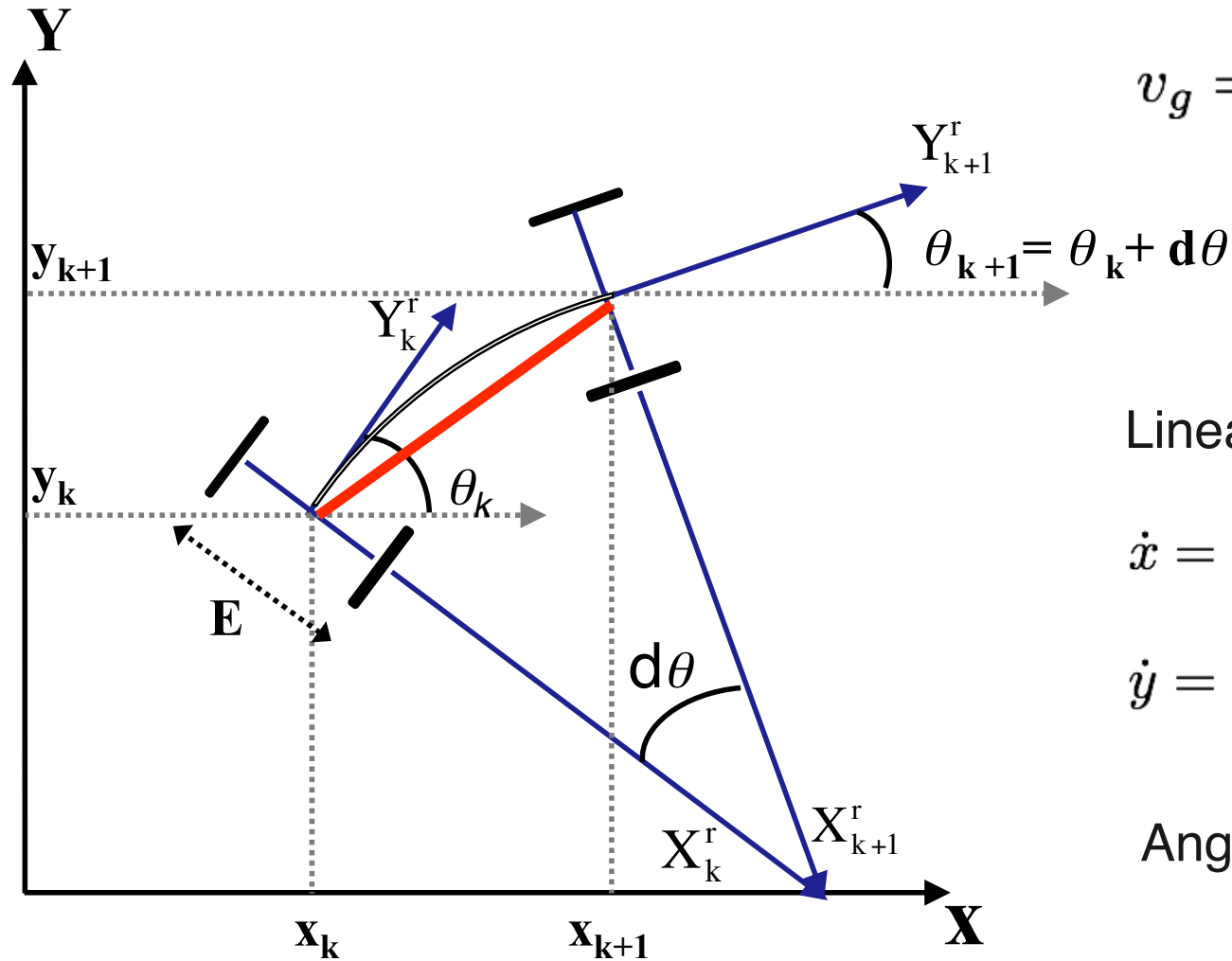


Wheel rotation encoders

Odometry

Linear wheel speeds:

$$v_g = r_g \frac{dq_g}{dt} \quad v_d = r_d \frac{dq_d}{dt}$$



Linear speed:

$$\dot{x} = \frac{1}{2}(v_g + v_d)\cos\left(\theta_k + \frac{d\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\dot{y} = \frac{1}{2}(v_g + v_d)\sin\left(\theta_k + \frac{d\theta}{2}\right)$$

Angular speed:

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{v_g - v_d}{E}$$

Odometry

- Example: linear motion



- Measured distance: $d_1 = \hat{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_1$

- Error model:
$$E(\tilde{d}_1) = \mu_1$$
$$\text{Var}(\tilde{d}_1) = \sigma_1^2$$

For instance:

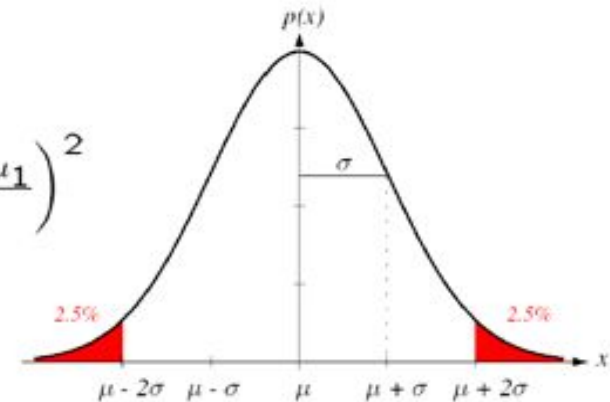
$$\mu_1 = 0$$
$$\sigma_1 = 0.1 \cdot \hat{d}_1$$

Odometry

Gaussian error model:

$$\tilde{d}_1 \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$$

$$p(\tilde{d}_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_1} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\tilde{d}_1 - \mu_1}{\sigma_1}\right)^2}$$



(this is a *model*)

$$Pr \left\{ |\tilde{d}_1 - \mu_1| \leq \sigma_1 \right\} \simeq 0.68$$

$$Pr \left\{ |\tilde{d}_1 - \mu_1| \leq 2\sigma_1 \right\} \simeq 0.95$$

$$Pr \left\{ |\tilde{d}_1 - \mu_1| \leq 3\sigma_1 \right\} \simeq 0.997$$

Odometry error model :

$$d_1 = \hat{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_1$$

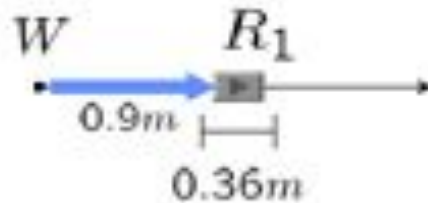
$$\tilde{d}_1 \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$$

$$\mu_1 = 0$$

$$\sigma_1 = 0.1 \cdot \hat{d}_1$$

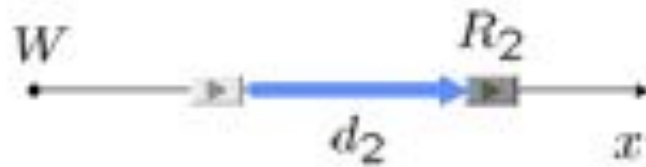
Odometry

- Example: move 0.9m



$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_{WR_1} &= \hat{d}_1 \\ &= 0.9m \\ \sigma_{x_{WR_1}} &= 0.09m\end{aligned}$$

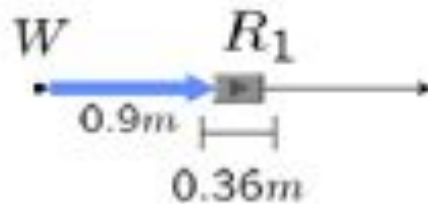
- Robot moves again 0.85m: $\hat{d}_2 = 0.85m$



$$\begin{aligned}x_{WR_2} &= \hat{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_1 + \hat{d}_2 + \tilde{d}_2 \\ E(\tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_2) &= \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0 \\ \text{Var}(\tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_2) &= \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 \\ &= 0.1^2 (\tilde{d}_1^2 + \tilde{d}_2^2)\end{aligned}$$

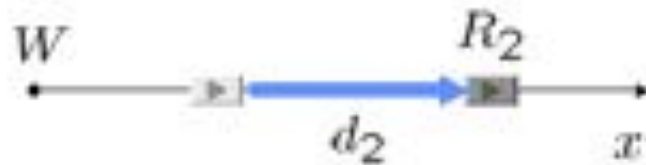
Odometry

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$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_{WR_1} &= \hat{d}_1 \\ &= 0.9m \\ \sigma_{x_{WR_1}} &= 0.09m\end{aligned}$$

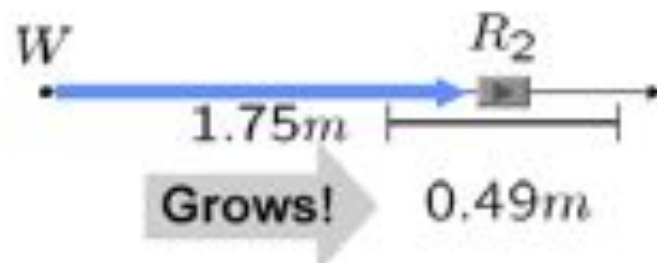
- Robot moves again 0.85m: $\hat{d}_2 = 0.85m$



$$x_{WR_2} = \tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_2 + \tilde{d}_2$$

$$\begin{aligned}E(\tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_2) &= \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0 \\ \text{Var}(\tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_2) &= \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 \\ &= 0.1^2 (\tilde{d}_1^2 + \tilde{d}_2^2)\end{aligned}$$

- New estimation:

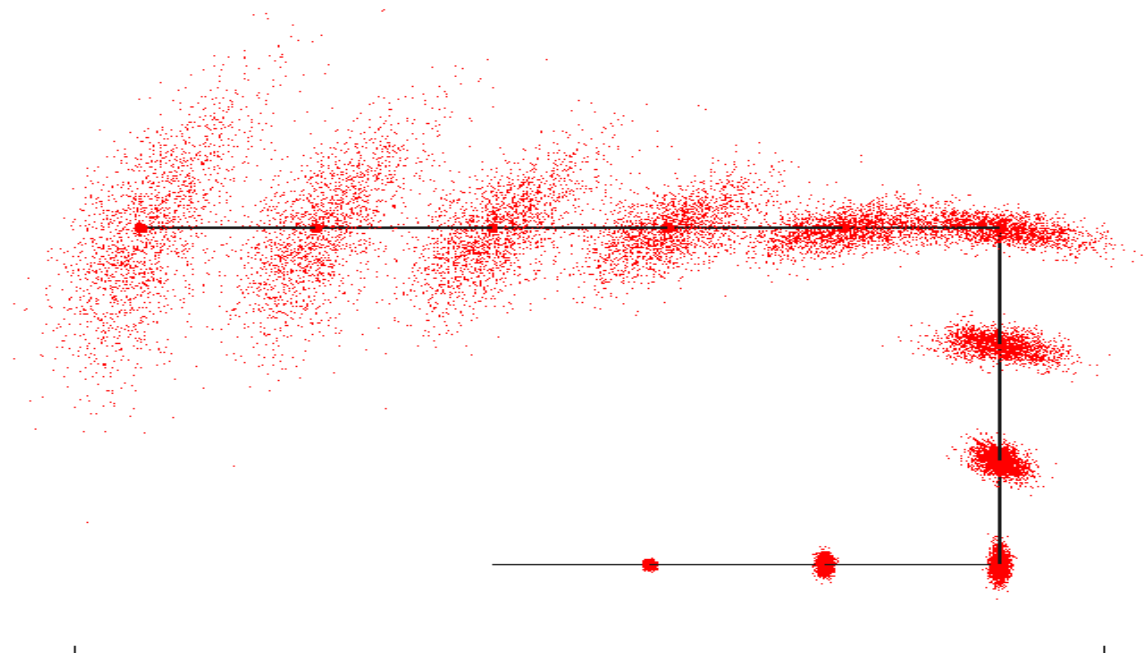


$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}_{WR_2} &= 1.75m \\ \sigma_{x_{WR_2}} &\simeq 0.12m\end{aligned}$$

Odometry

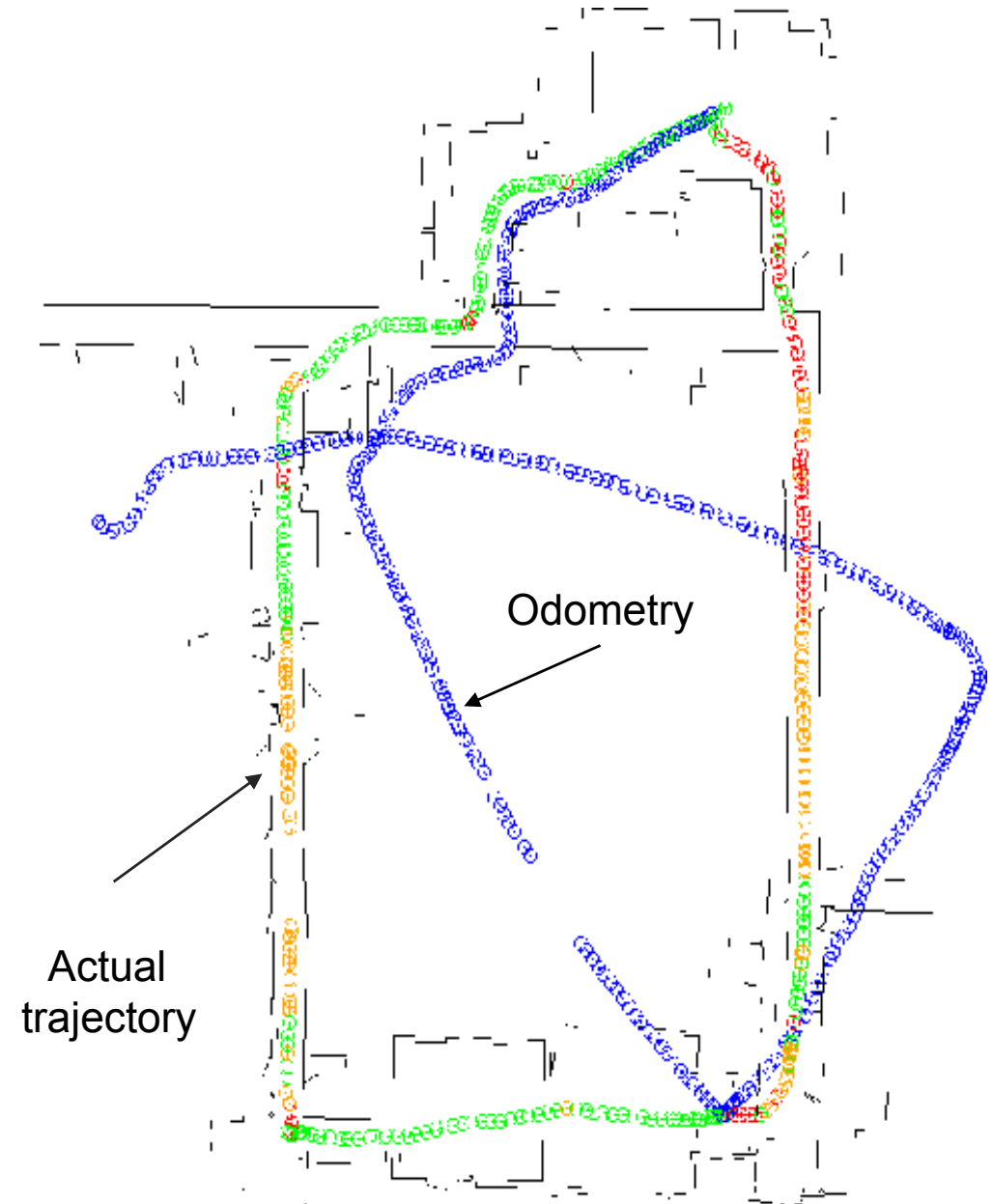
Now angular rotations come into play

Monte-Carlo simulation:



Odometry: illustration

- With an indoor robot



Localization solutions in robotics

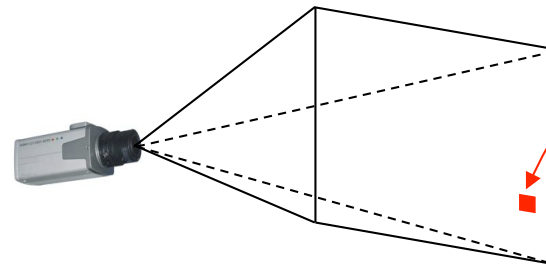
- Odometry
- Similarly, motion / accelerations sensors (inertial navigation)

Inherently drifts over time and distances, subject to slippages and skids

➔ Develop solutions relying on the robot exteroceptive sensors

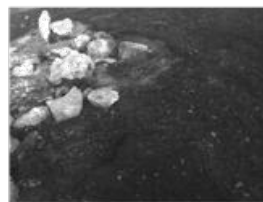
A few words on vision

- Cameras : low cost, light and power-saving
- Perceive data
 - In a volume
 - Very far
 - Very precisely



1024 x 1024 pixels
60° x 60° FOV
↓
0.06° pixel resolution
(1.0 cm at 10.0 m)

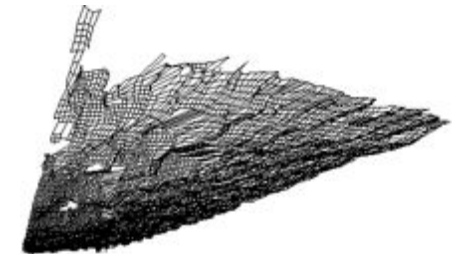
- Stereovision
 - 2 cameras provide depth



⊕



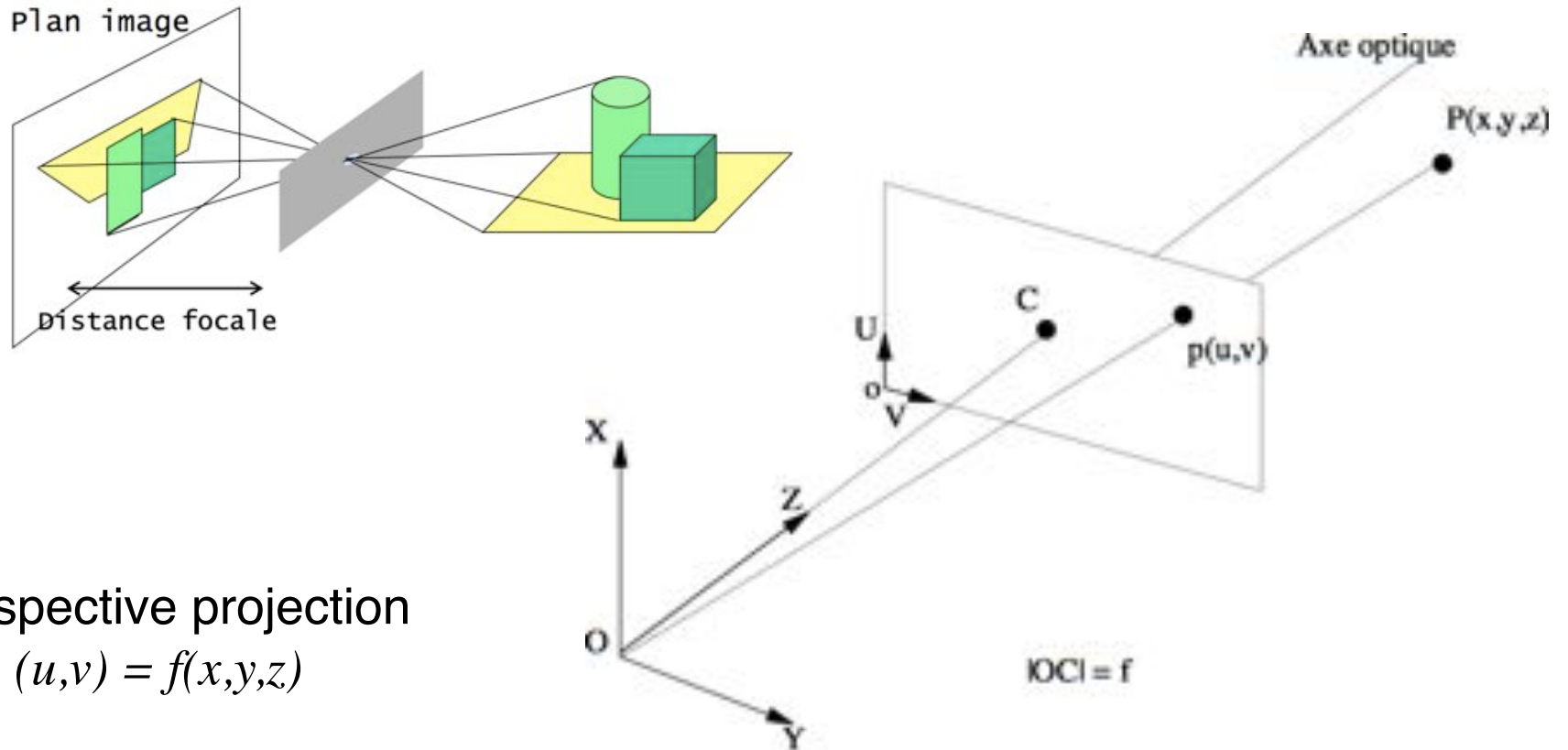
⇒



- Images carry a vast amount of information
- A vast know-how exists in the computer vision community

Camera geometric model

- Pinhole model



Perspective projection

$$(u,v) = f(x,y,z)$$

$$u = k_u f x / z + u_0$$

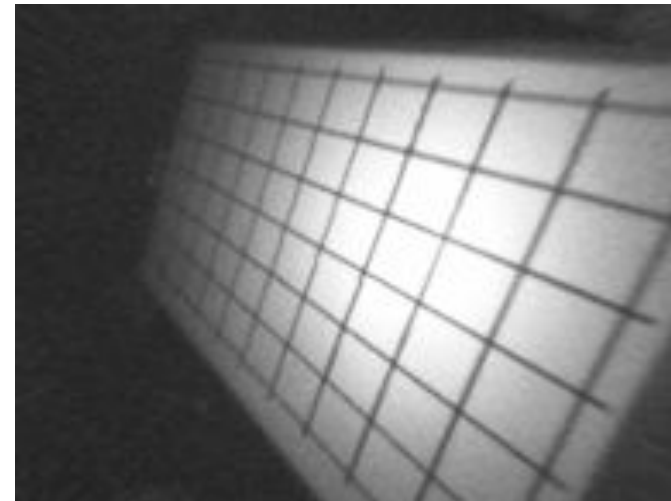
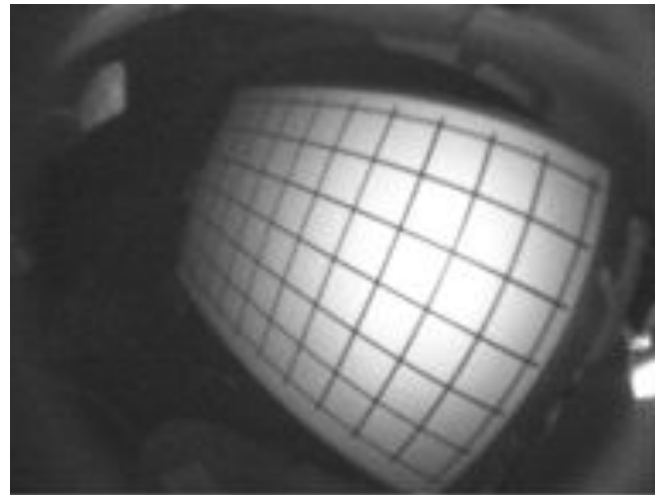
$$v = k_v f y / z + v_0$$

$$p = I_c P$$

I_c : camera intrinsic matrix

Camera geometric model

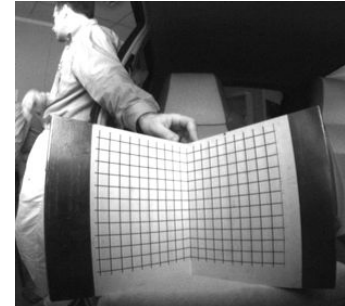
(But the real world is more complex)



Camera calibration

- Principle
 1. Acquisition of images of a known calibration pattern
 2. Extraction of the pattern features
 3. Association between extracted features and pattern features
 4. Use of a minimization technique to estimate the projection parameters

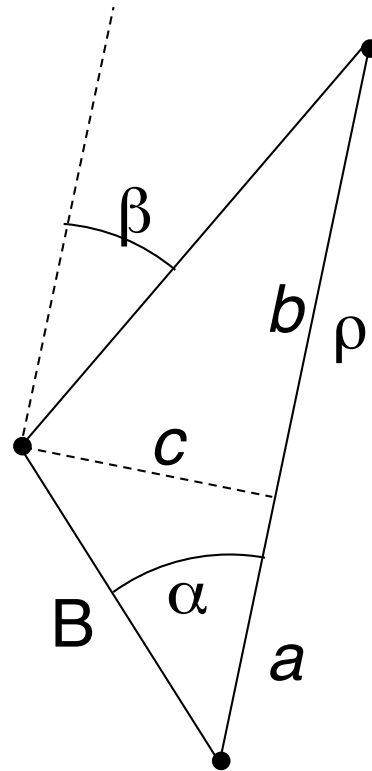
Classic
calibration
patterns



Well known techniques, available softwares on line (e.g. Matlab calibration toolbox, openCV library)

3D data from vision

- Triangulation



$$\rho = B \sin \alpha (1/\operatorname{tg} \beta + 1/\operatorname{tg} \alpha)$$

3D data from vision

- Triangulation

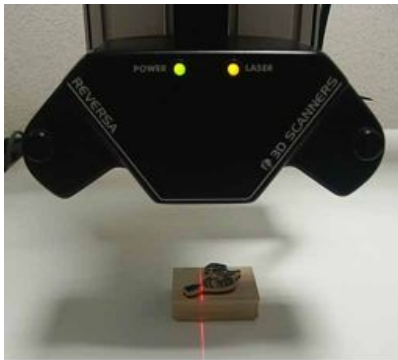


Figure 3 : Triangulation laser

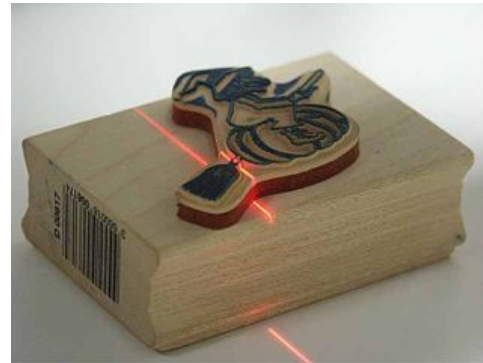


Figure 4 : Zoom sur l'objet

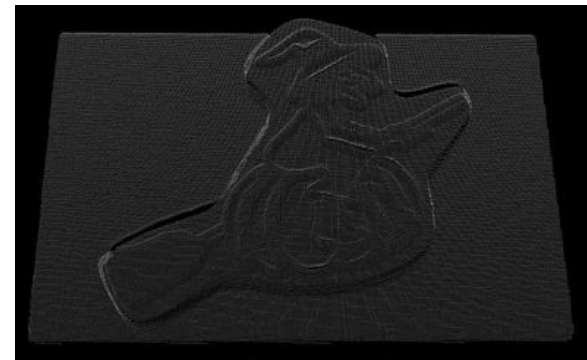
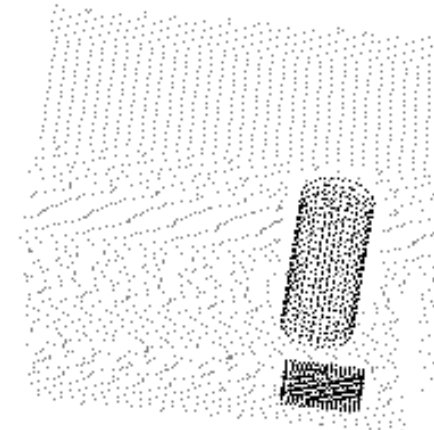
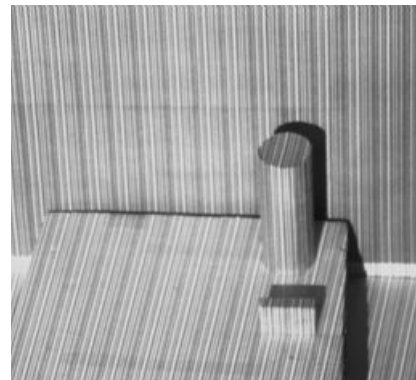
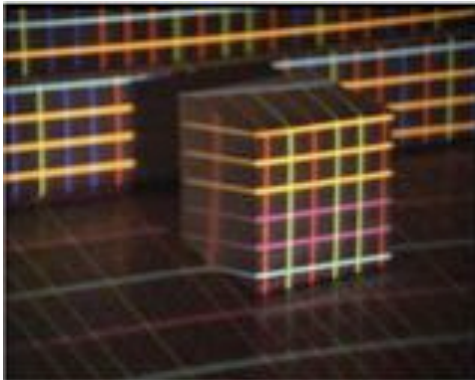


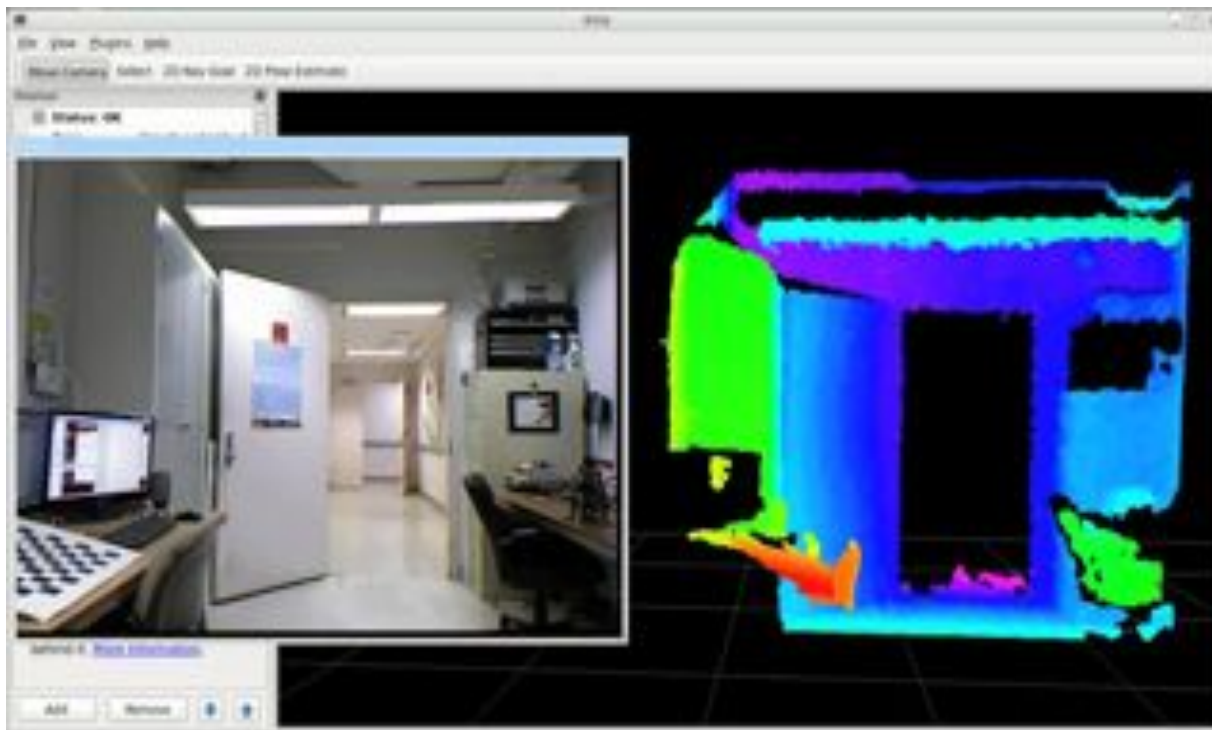
Figure 6 : Nuage de points



The precision depends on the baseline

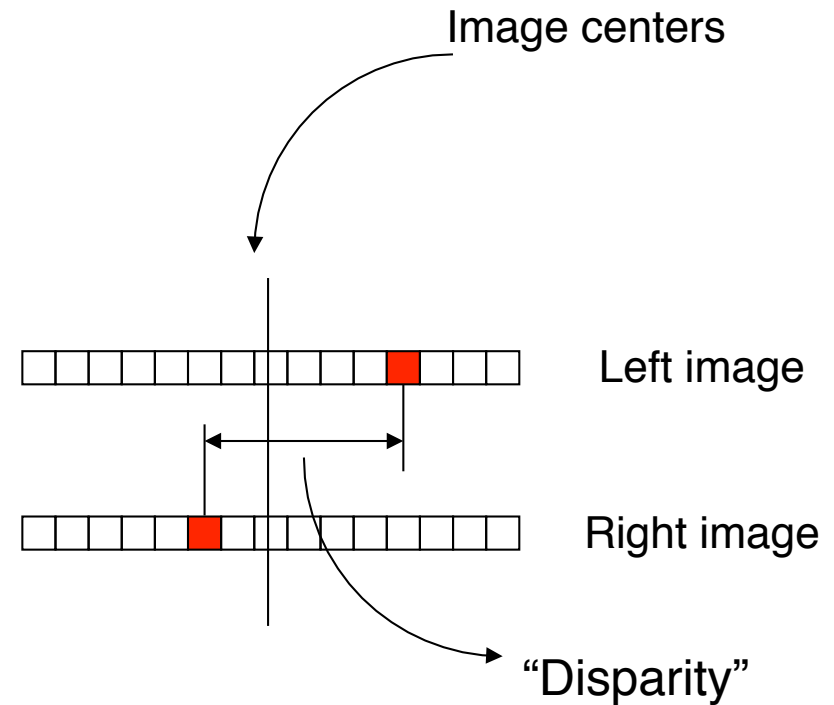
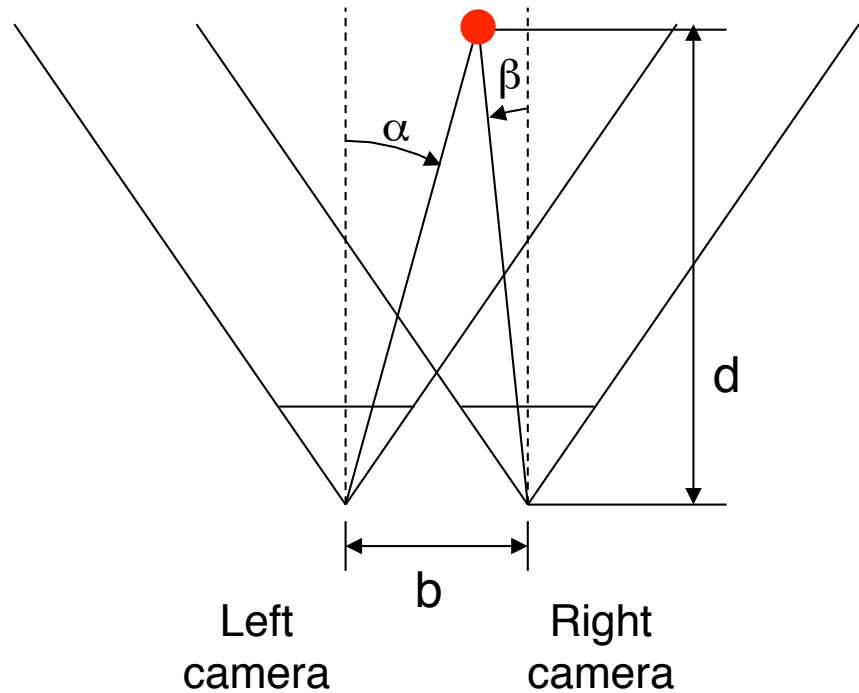
3D data from vision

- Autumn 2010 : Kinect



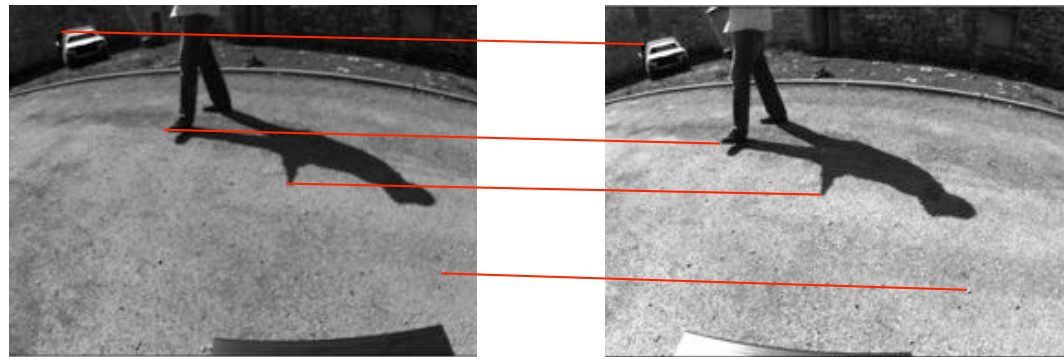
3D data from vision

- Stereovision = triangulation

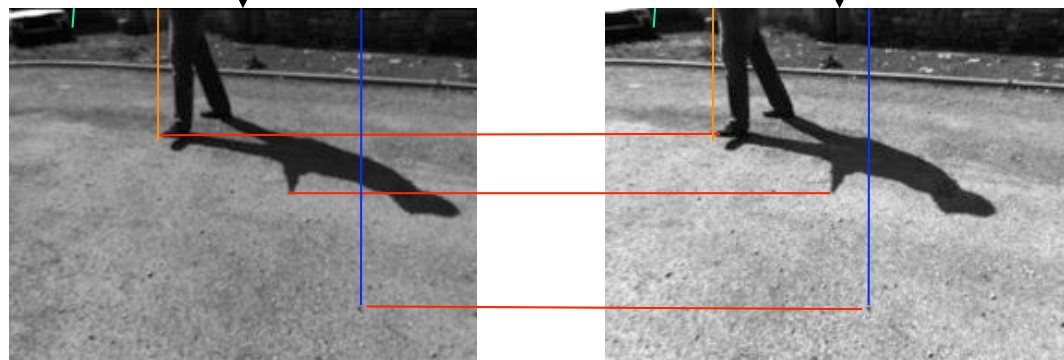


2 angles, 1 distance :
$$d = \frac{b}{\tan(\alpha) + \tan(\beta)}$$

Dense stereovision



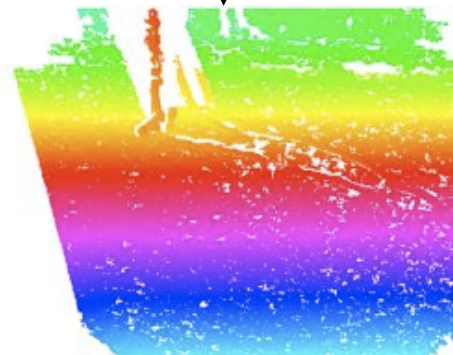
0. Image pair acquisition



Calibration data

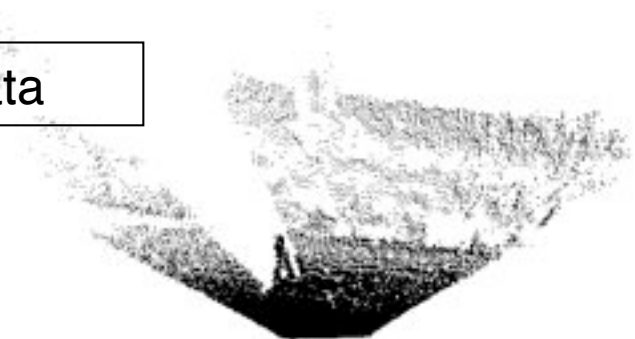
1. Image rectification

2. Pixel matching process



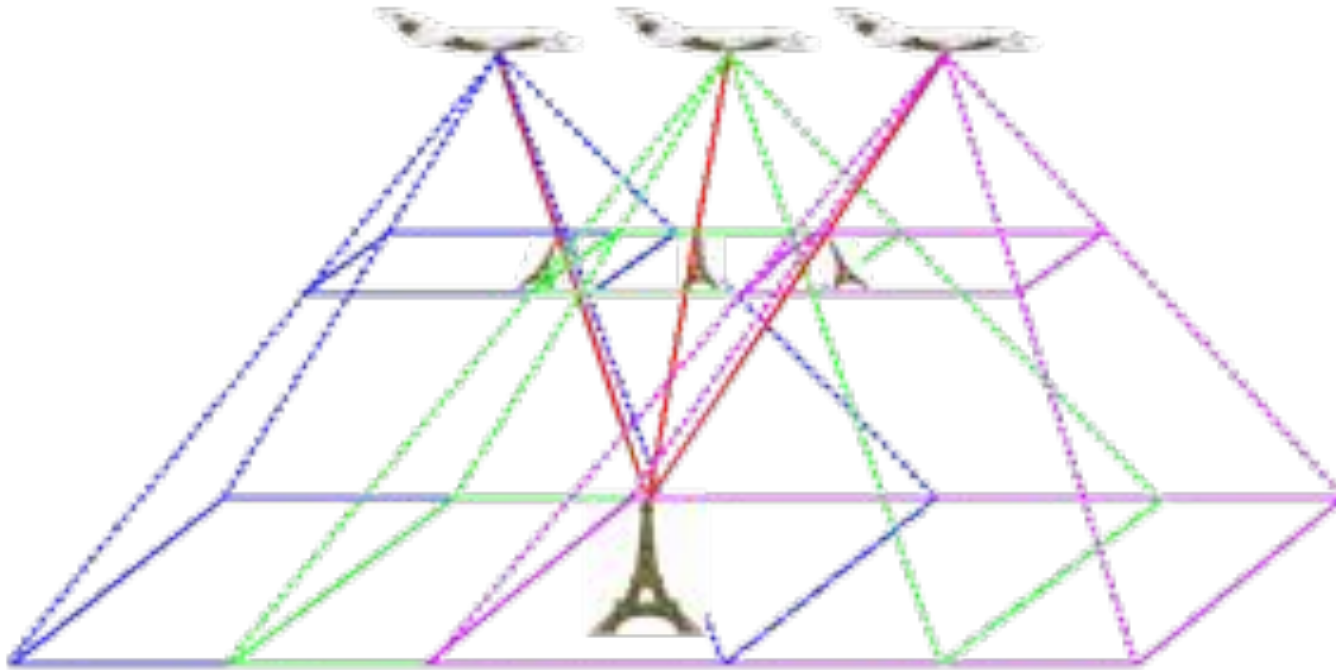
Calibration data

3. 3D reconstruction



Single camera stereovision (« Structure from Motion »)

- One moving camera



Additional difficulty: estimation of the motion parameters

(« structure and motion from motion », « SLAM »)

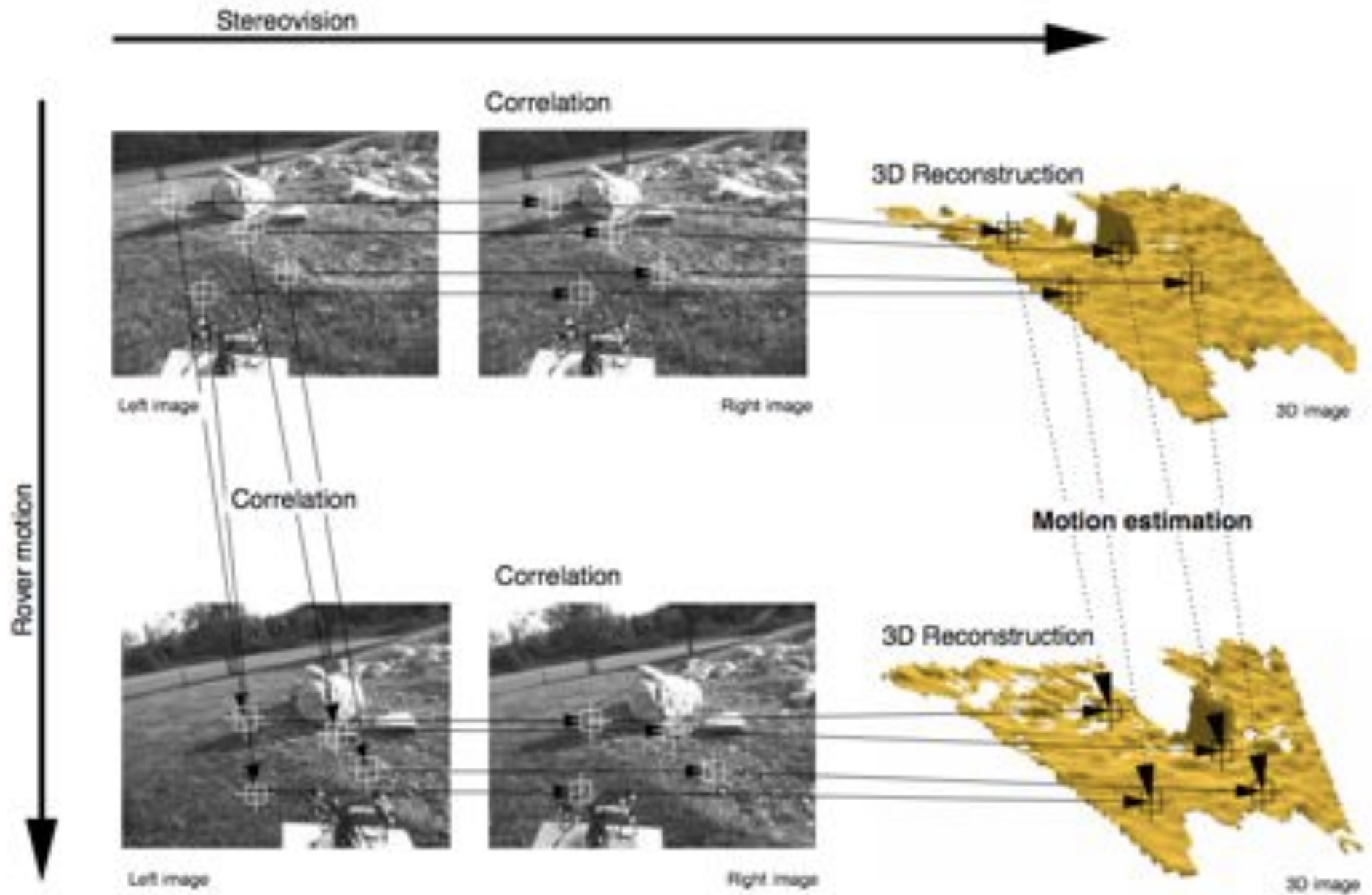
Localization solutions in robotics

- Odometry
- Similarly, motion / accelerations sensors (inertial navigation)

Inherently drifts over time and distances, subject to slippages and skids

➔ Develop solutions relying on the robot exteroceptive sensors

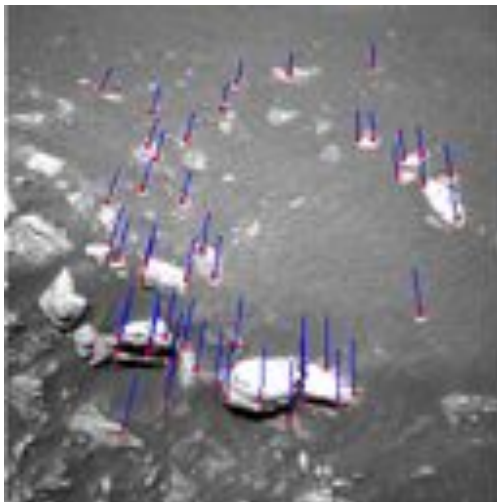
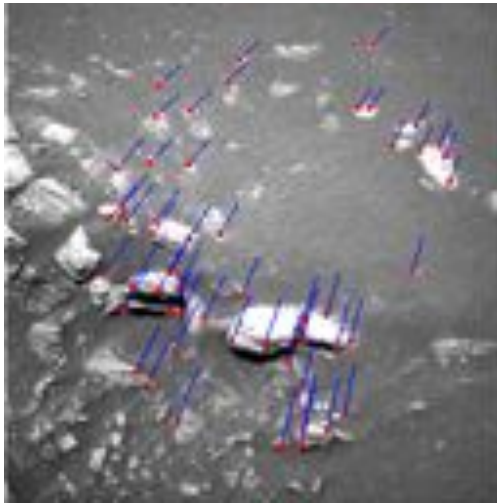
Visual odometry: principle



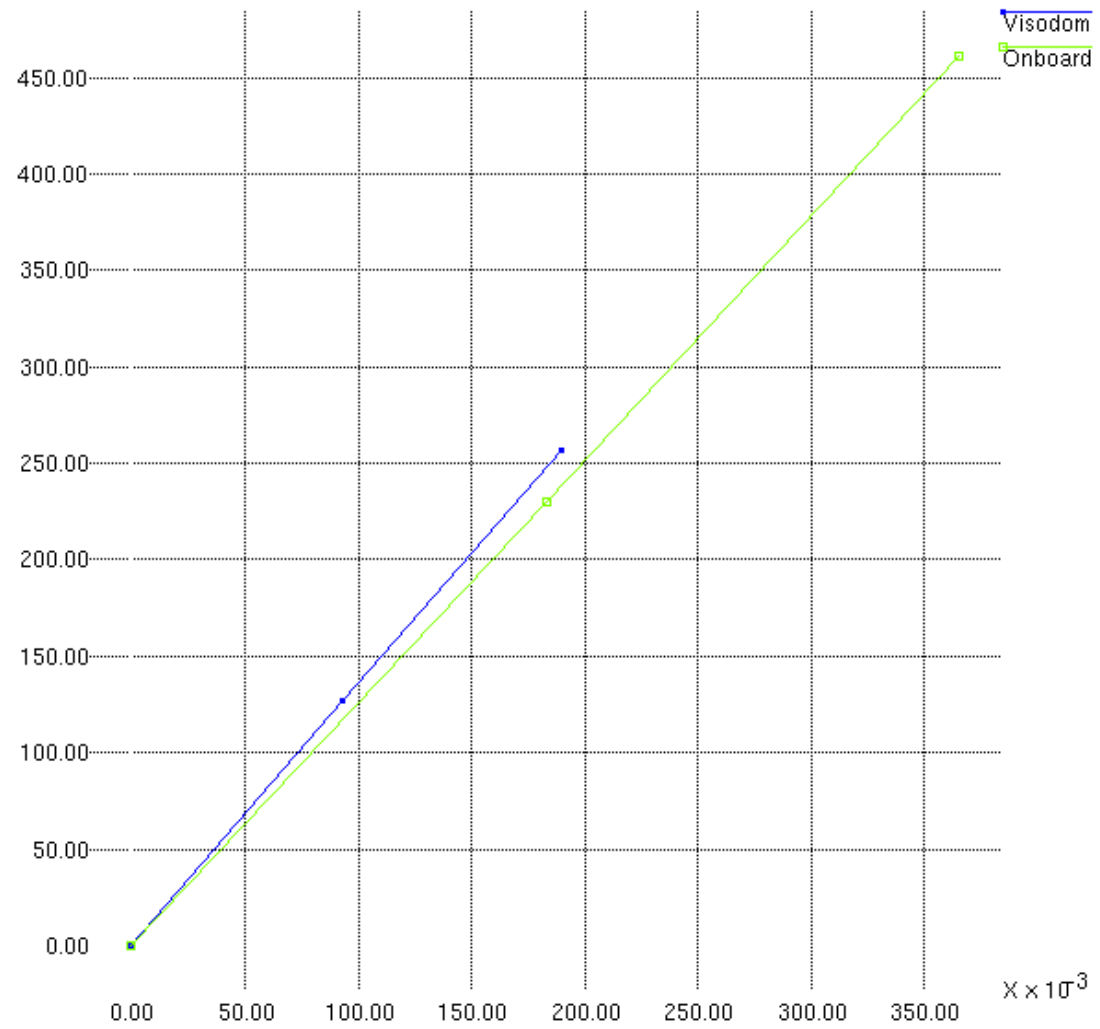
(speed X2)

Visual odometry: results

- Applied on the Mars Exploration Rovers



X Graph



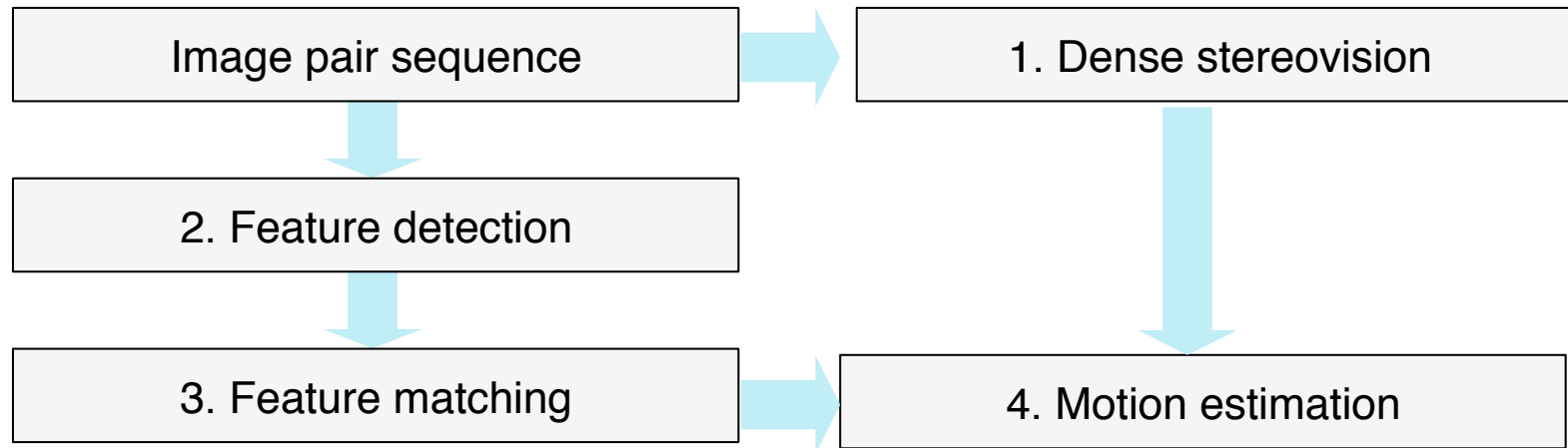
50 % slip

Visual odometry: benefits

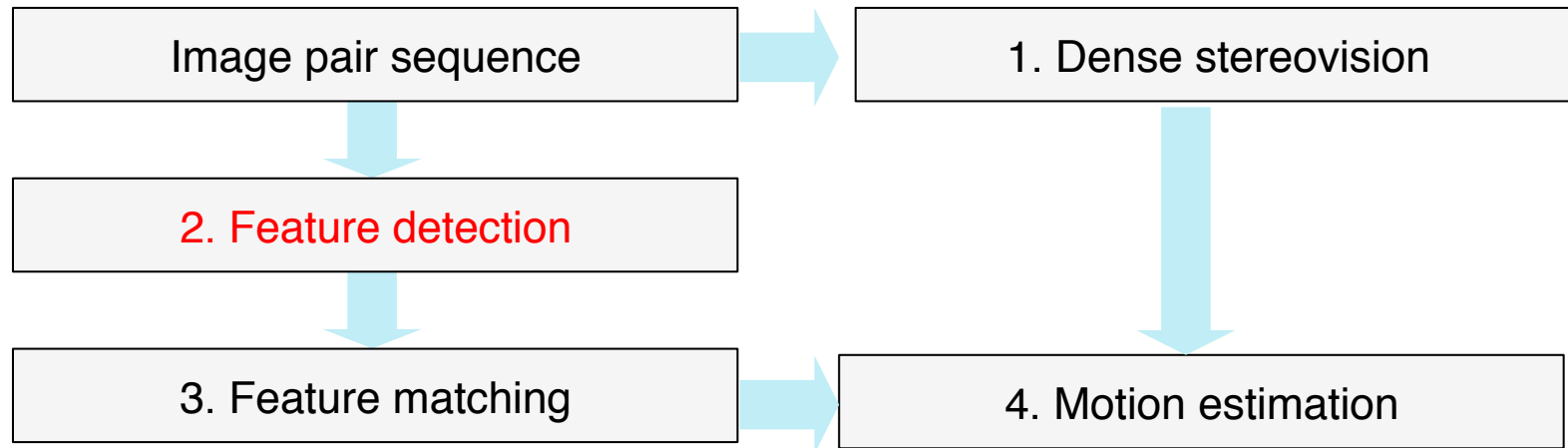
- Contrary to wheel odometry, VO is not affected by wheel slip in uneven terrain or other adverse conditions.
- More accurate trajectory estimates compared to wheel odometry (relative position error 0.1% – 2%)
- In GPS-denied environments (*e.g.* underwater, planetary or indoor), VO has utmost importance



Visual odometry: implied functions

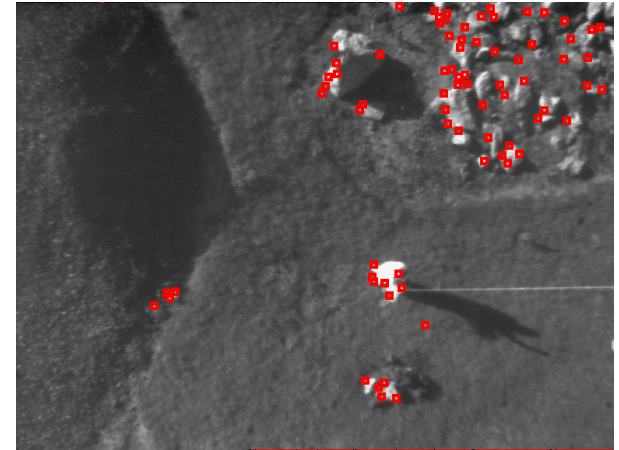


Visual odometry: implied functions



Interest points

Harris interest points: sharp peaks of the autocorrelation function



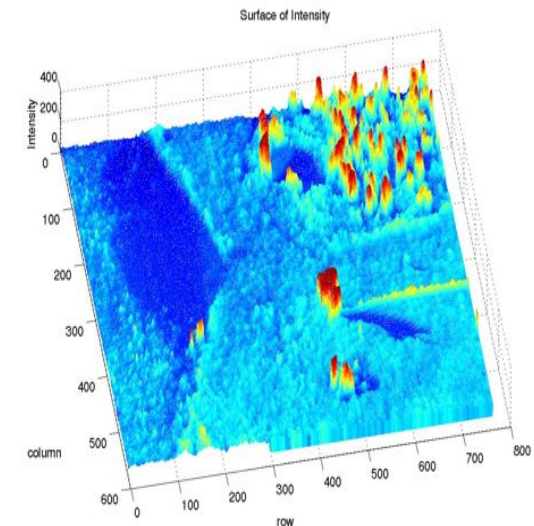
Auto-correlation matrix:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\sigma}) \otimes \begin{pmatrix} I_u(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma)^2 & I_u(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma)I_v(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) \\ I_u(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma)I_v(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) & I_v(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_u(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) = s G_u(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) * I(\mathbf{x}),$$

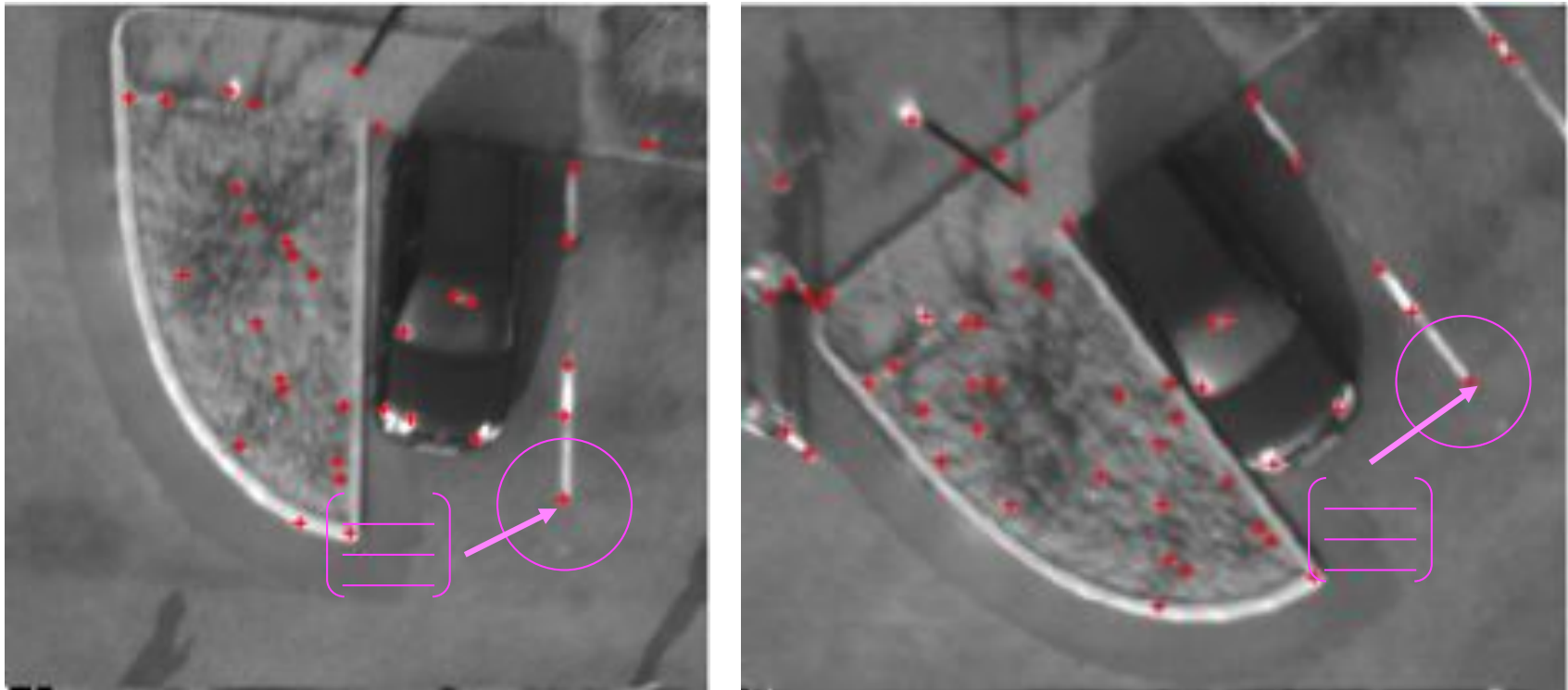
$$I_v(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) = s G_v(\mathbf{x}, s\sigma) * I(\mathbf{x})$$

Principal curvatures defined by the two eigen values of the matrix λ_1, λ_2
(s: scale of the detection)



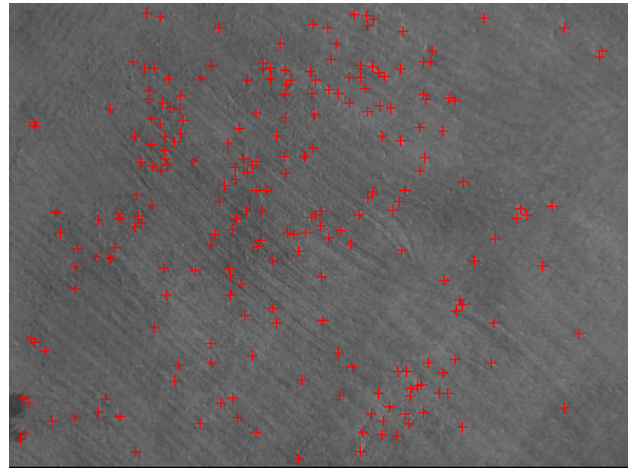
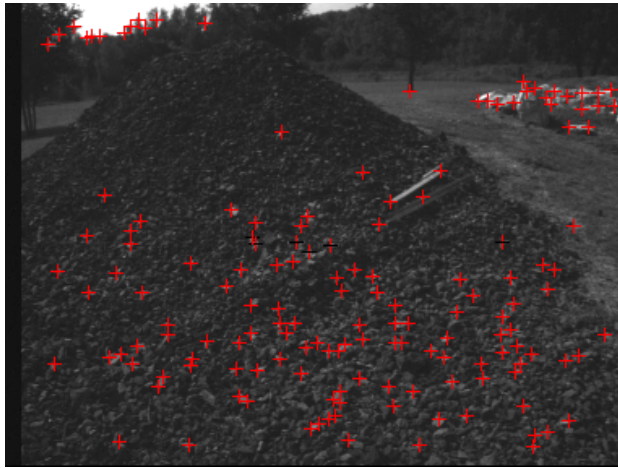
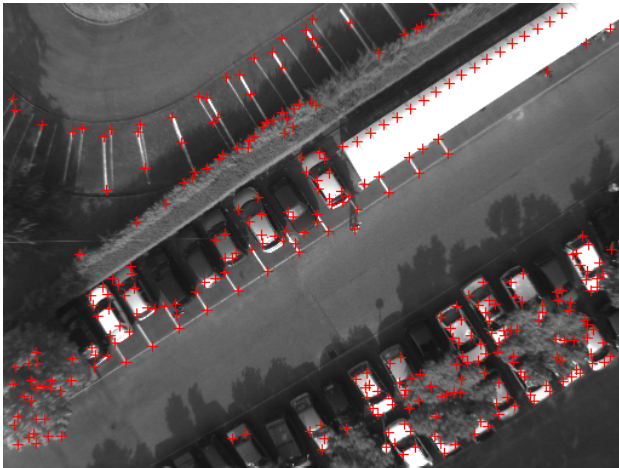
Interest points

- Local gray value invariants [Harris 88][Schmid 97] : local description vector invariant to rotation



Find matches with the similarity measure of *descriptors*

Harris interest points

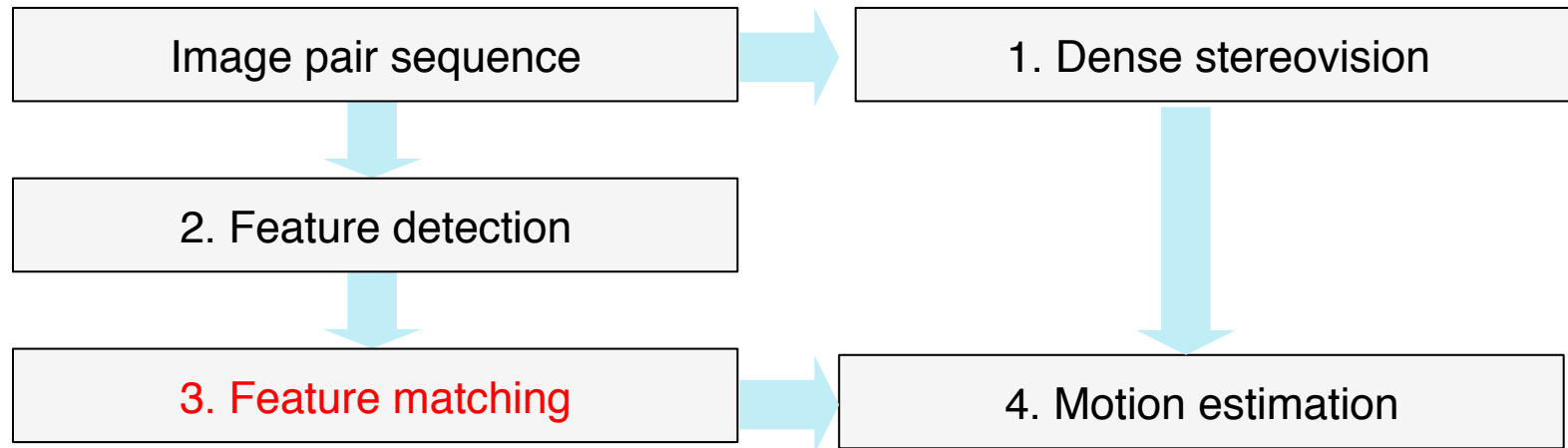


Interest points

- Numerous interest points definition available
 - Scale invariant interest points (“SIFT”, [Lowe99])
 - Speeded-up robust features (“SURF”, [Bay 2006])
 - Binary Robust Independent Elementary Features (“BRIEF”, [Calonder 2010])
 - ...

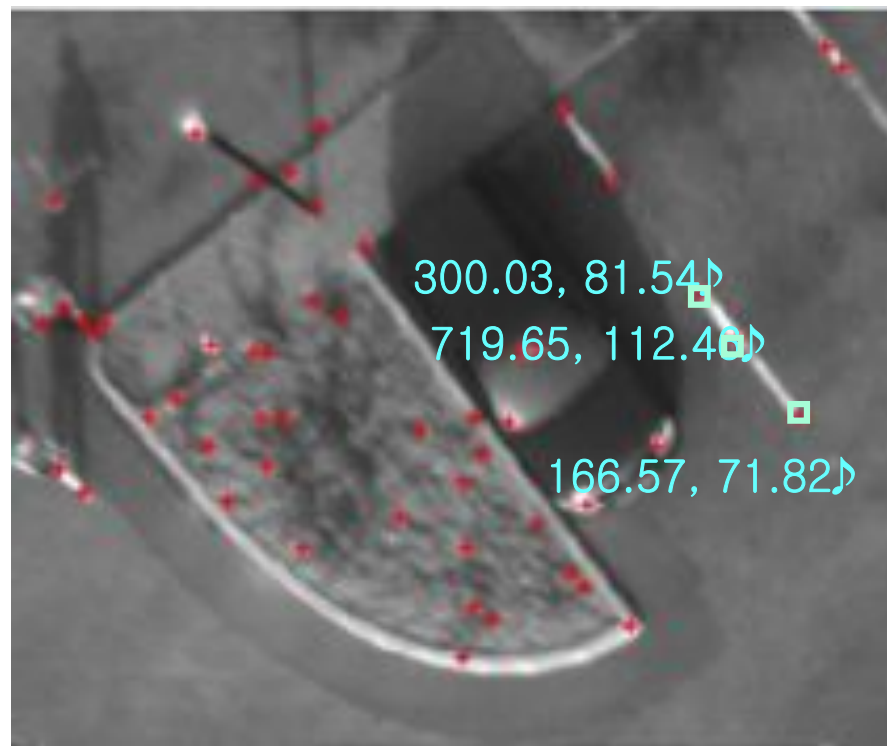
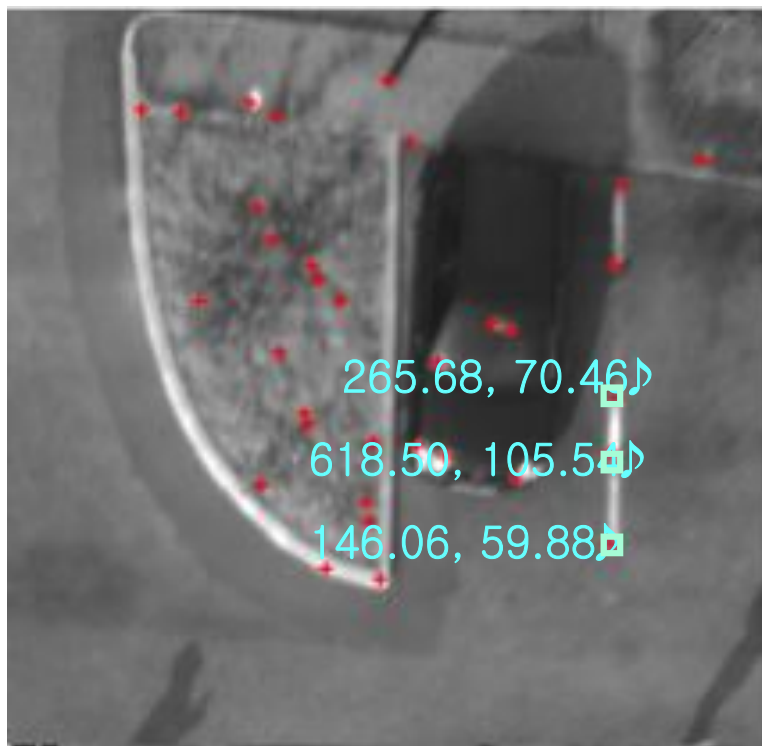
➔ The choice depends on the considered problem context

Visual odometry: implied functions



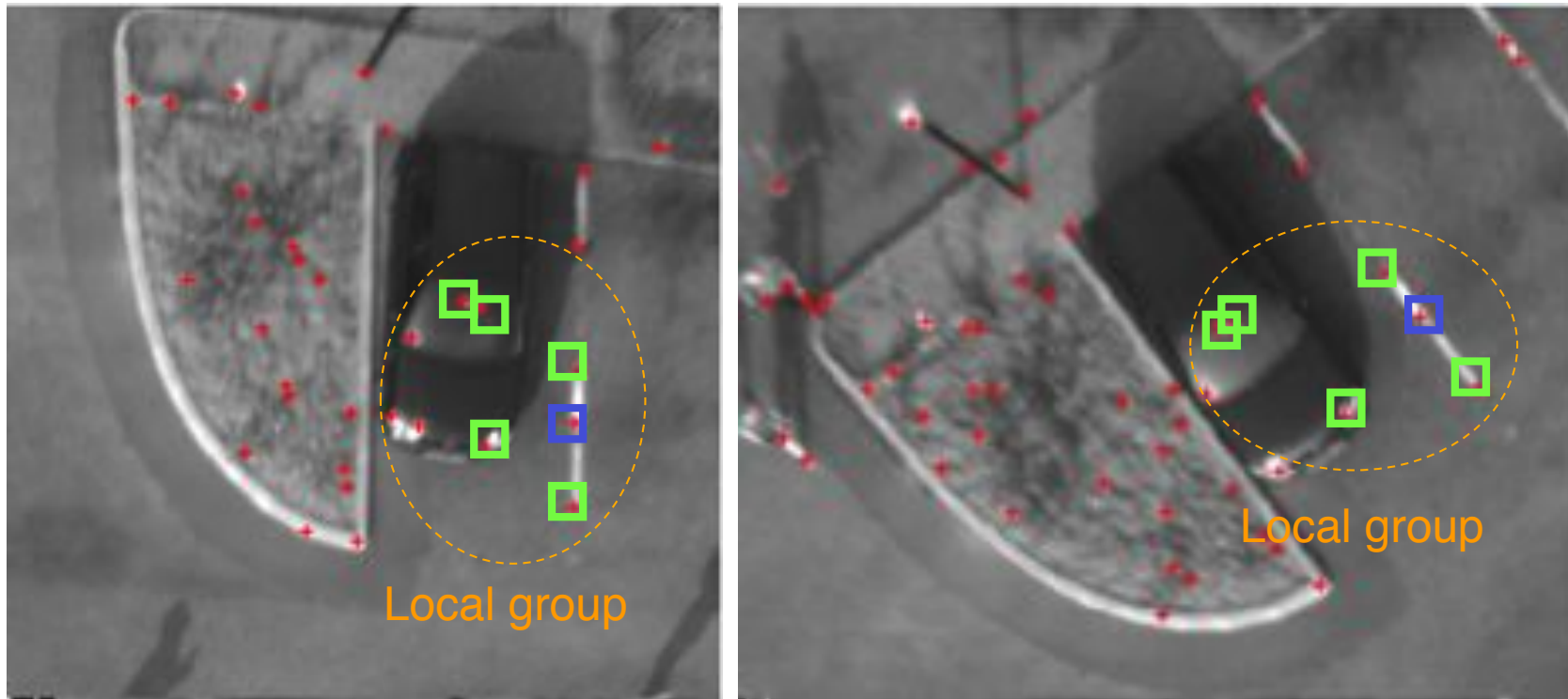
Interest points matching : principle

- If a generated match is correct,
 - Similar principal curvatures
 - *Applied to matching candidate selection*



Interest points matching : principle

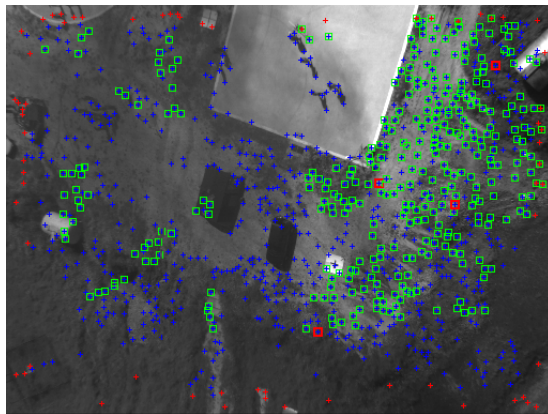
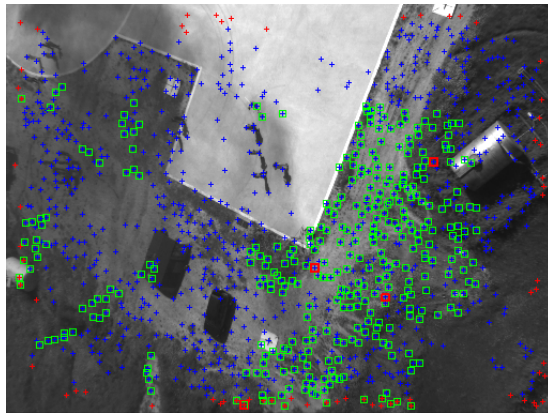
- If a generated match is correct,
 - In the vicinity of the match, neighbor matches must exist
 - *Local group matching : consideration a local region of image*



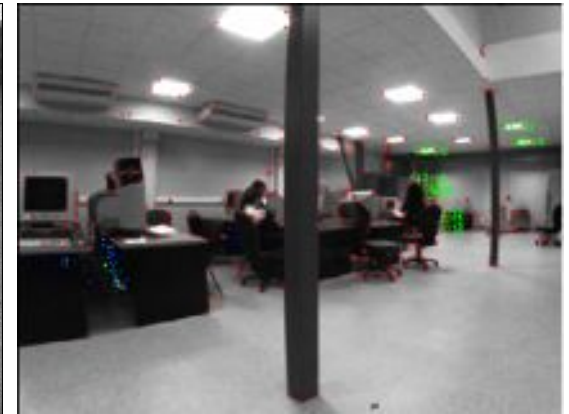
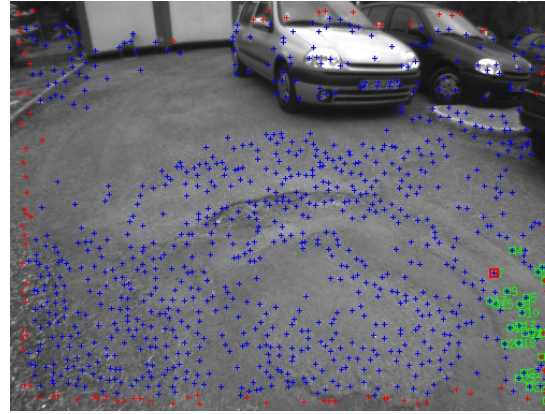
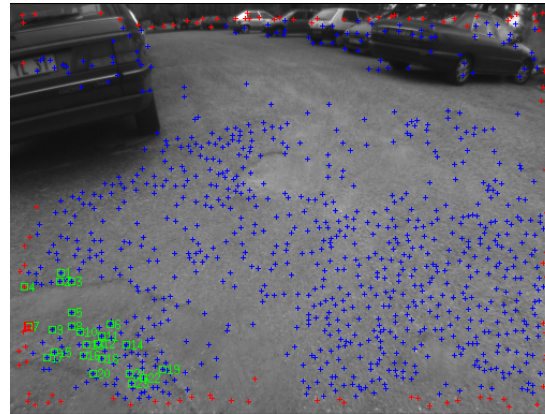
□: pivot □: members

Some matching results♪

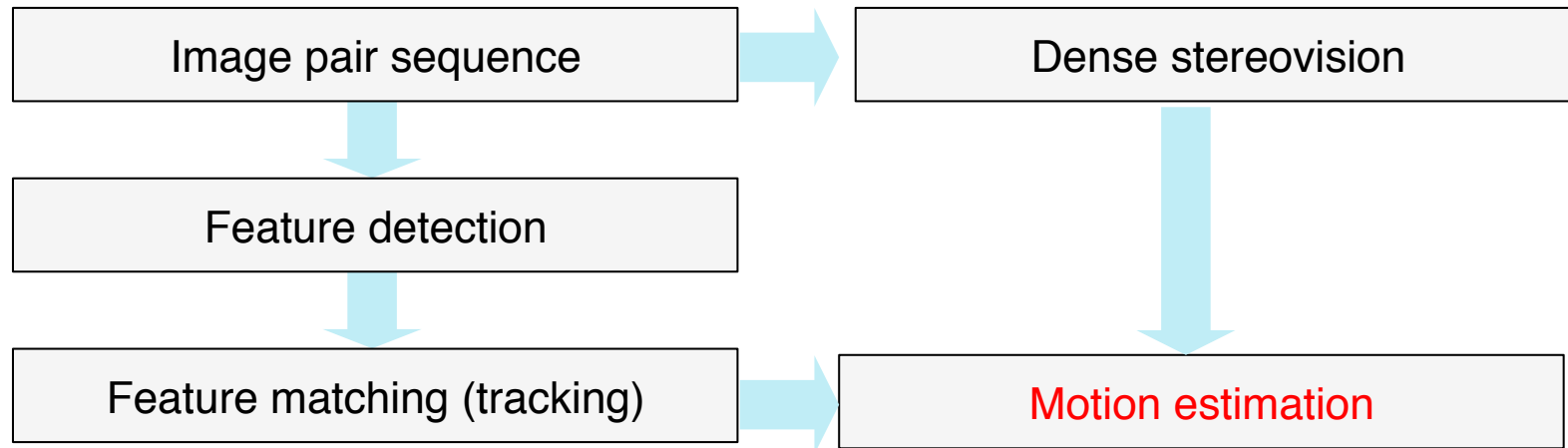
Consecutive frames



Small overlap

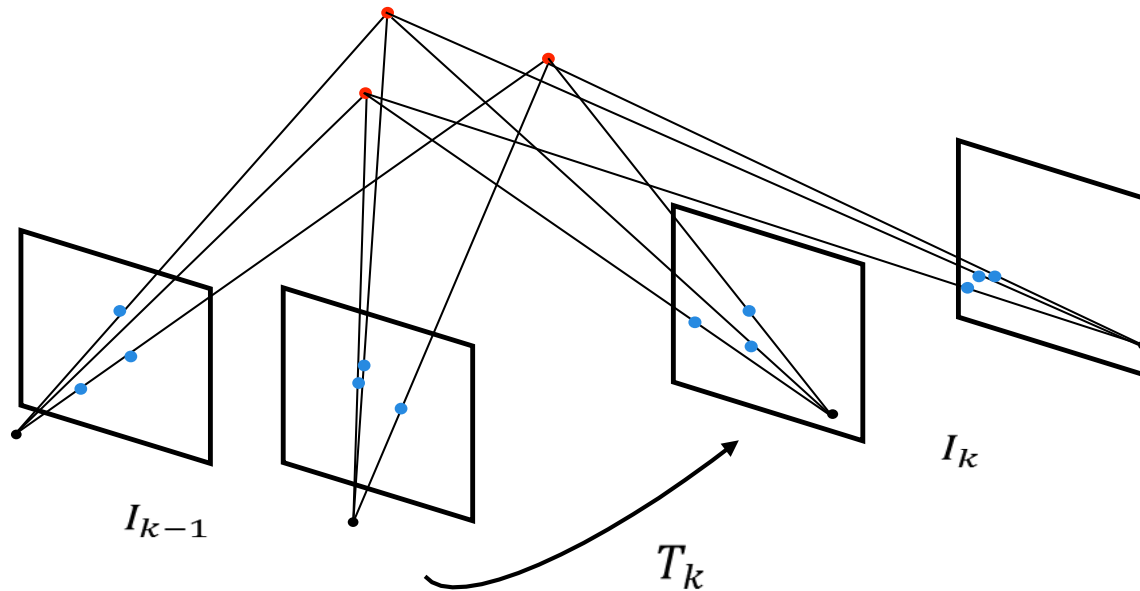


Visual odometry: implied functions



Motion estimation: problem statement

- Given two set of matched 3D points



- Find the 3D transformation T_k that minimizes the point distances

$$T_k = \begin{bmatrix} R_{k,k-1} & t_{k,k-1} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \arg \min_{T_k} \sum_i \|\tilde{X}_k^i - T_k \tilde{X}_{k-1}^i\|$$

Motion estimation: least square minimization

- Given two set of matched 3D points $\{p_i\}, \{p'_i\}$
- The coordinates of matching points are linked by:

$$p'_i = R.p_i + T + N_i$$

Where N_i denotes some noise

- Least square estimation: find the 3D transform (R,T) that minimizes:

$$\Sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \|p'_i - (R.p_i + T)\|^2$$

Motion estimation: least square minimization

- Assuming a zero-mean noise on the points coordinates, the barycenter of the transformed first set and the second set should be equal:

$$p' = p''$$

where
$$p = \frac{1}{N} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N p_i \quad ; \quad p' = \frac{1}{N} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N p'_i \quad ; \quad p'' = \frac{1}{N} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{R} \cdot p_i + \hat{T}$$

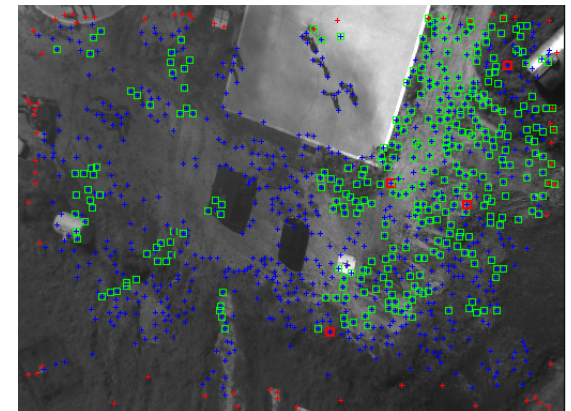
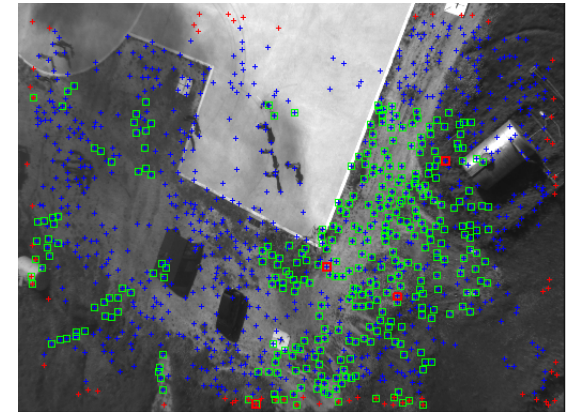
- Changing the coordinates: $q_i = p_i - p \quad ; \quad q'_i = p'_i - p'$

then we have
$$\Sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \|q'_i - R \cdot q_i\|^2$$

- Find R that minimizes Σ^2 (least square minimization)
- Estimate T as
$$\hat{T} = p' - \hat{R} \cdot p$$

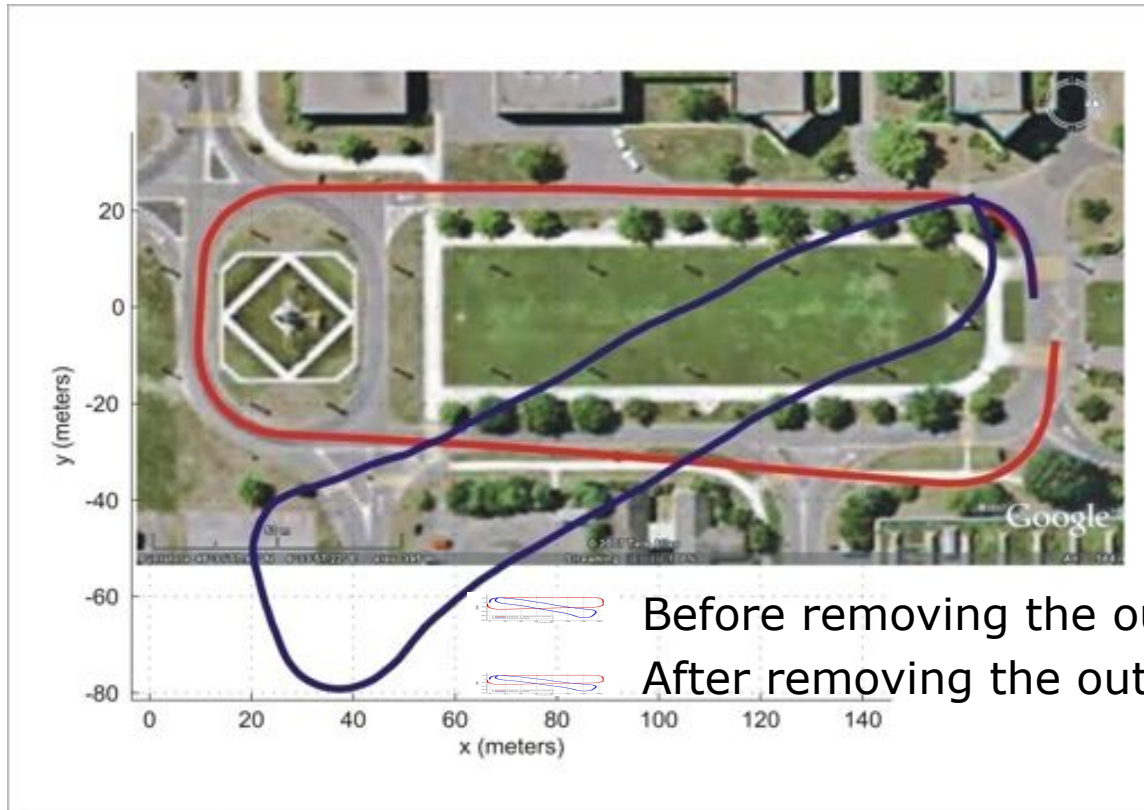
Robust estimation

- Matched points are usually contaminated by wrong data associations (= “outliers”)
- Possible causes of outliers are
 - image noise
 - occlusions
 - blur,
 - changes in view point and illumination for which the feature detector or descriptor does not account for
- For the camera motion to be estimated accurately, outliers *must* be removed
- This is the task of *robust estimation*



- “RANSAC” (“Random Sample Consensus”) [Fishler & Bolles, 1981] has been established as the standard method for motion estimation in the presence of outliers

Results / Robust estimation



- › Error at the loop closure: 6.5 m
- › Error in orientation: 5 deg
- › Trajectory length: 400 m

Before removing the outliers
After removing the outliers

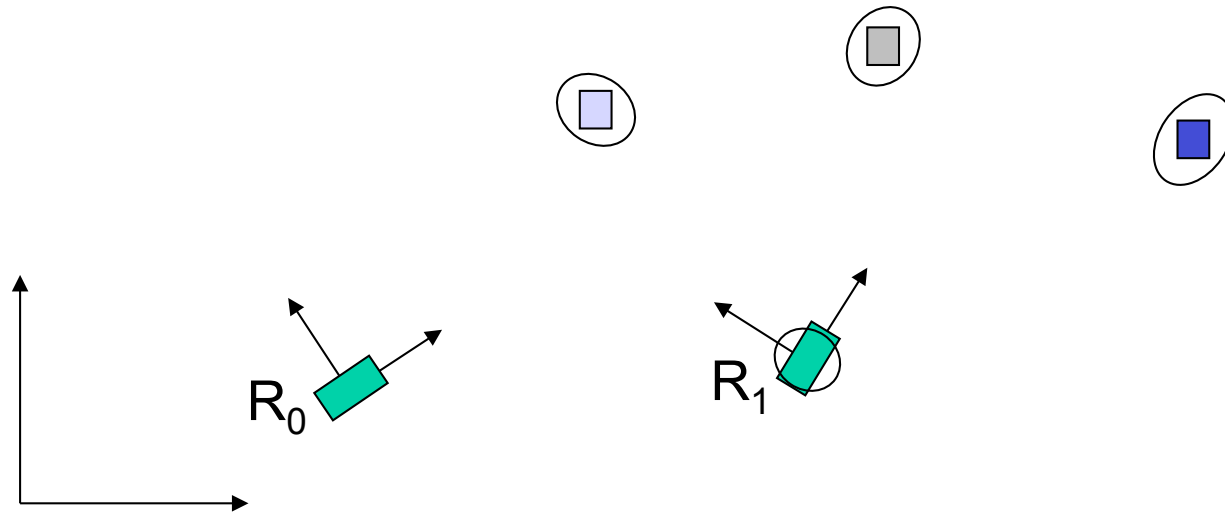
Localization solutions in robotics

- Odometry
- Similarly, motion / accelerations sensors (inertial navigation)
 - Inherently drifts over time and distances, subject to slippages and skids
 - ➔ Develop solutions relying on the robot exteroceptive sensors
- Visual odometry: akin to dead reckoning
 - Inherently drifts over time and distances
 - ➔ Develop solutions relying on the robot exteroceptive sensors that memorizes stable environment features (SLAM)

SLAM

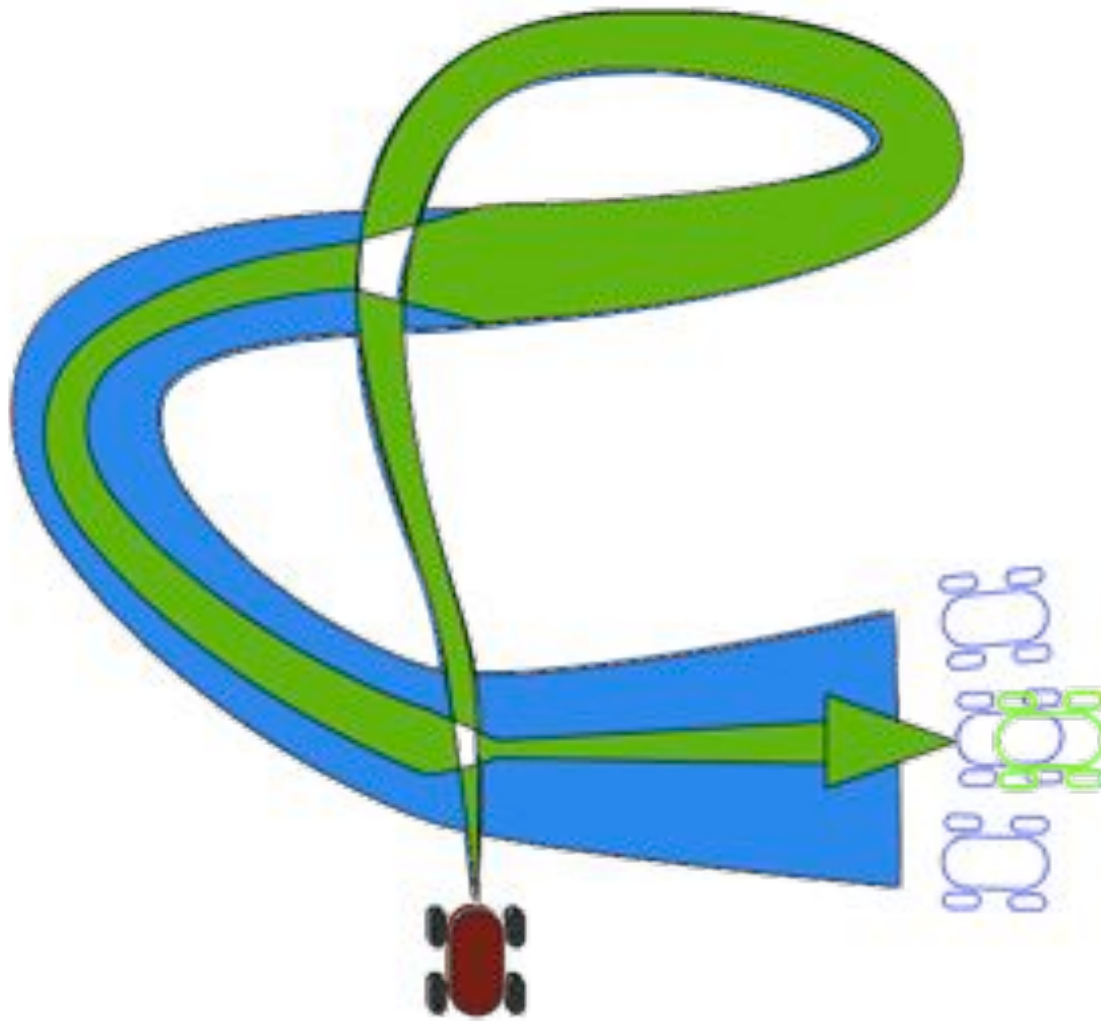
Simultaneous Localisation And Mapping

Principle of SLAM



- Landmark detection
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions
 - Of the robot motions
- Observation associations
- Estimation: refinement of the landmark and robot positions

Principle of SLAM



(parenthesis: 2D Lidars)



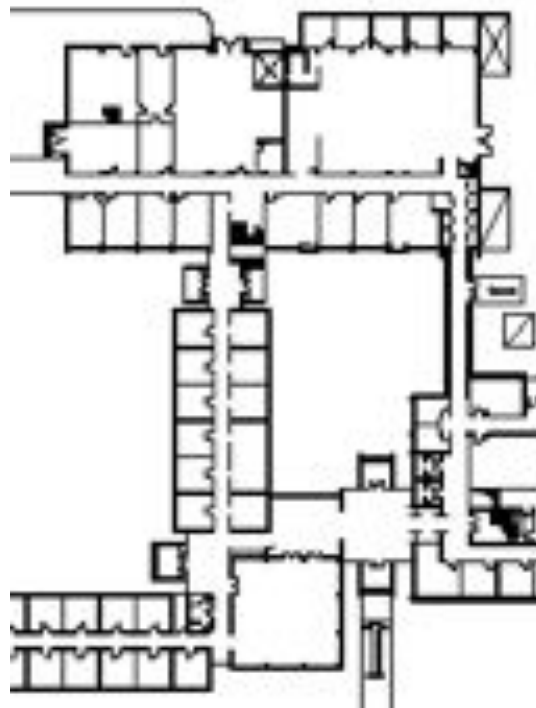
- Telemetry (« measuring distances »)

Laser («Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation »)

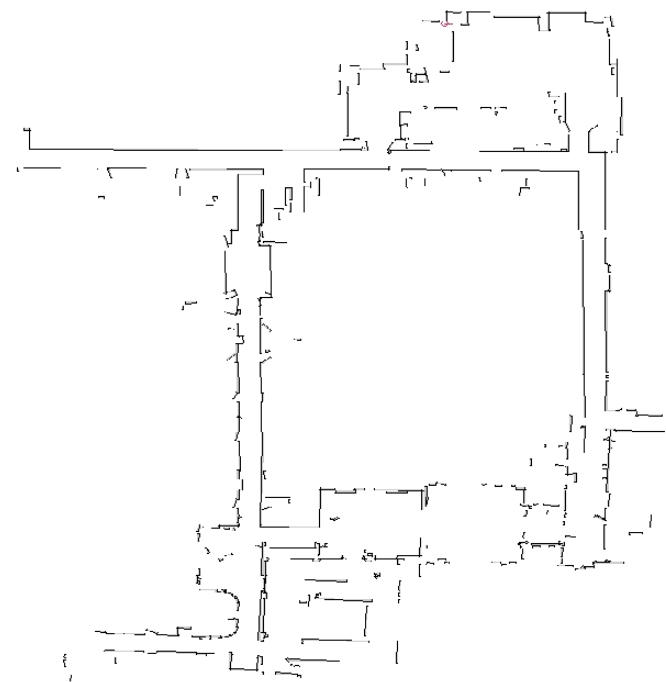
Time of flight of phase shift measures

→ LIDAR (« Light Detection And Ranging »)

In the plane:



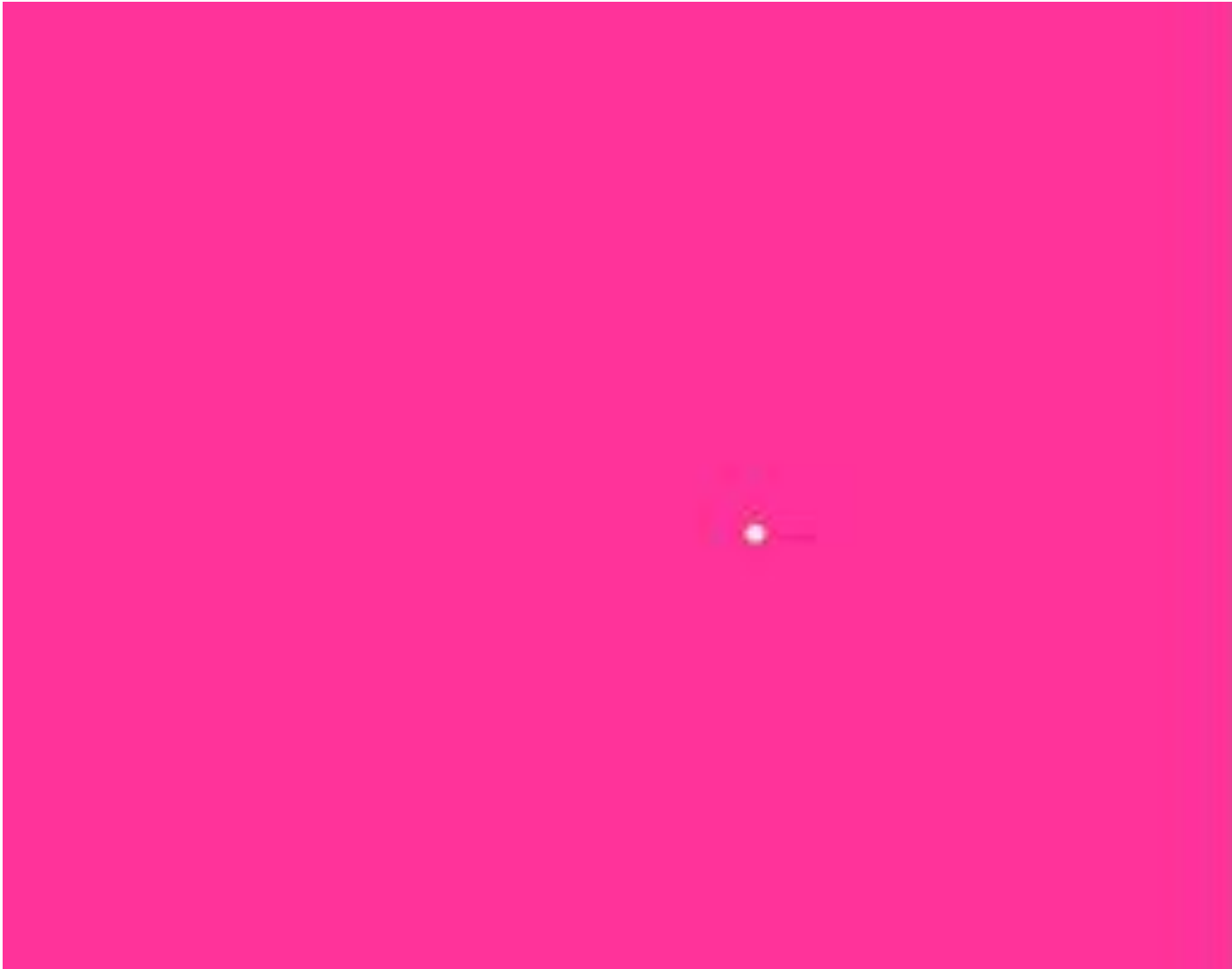
Building map



Perceived map

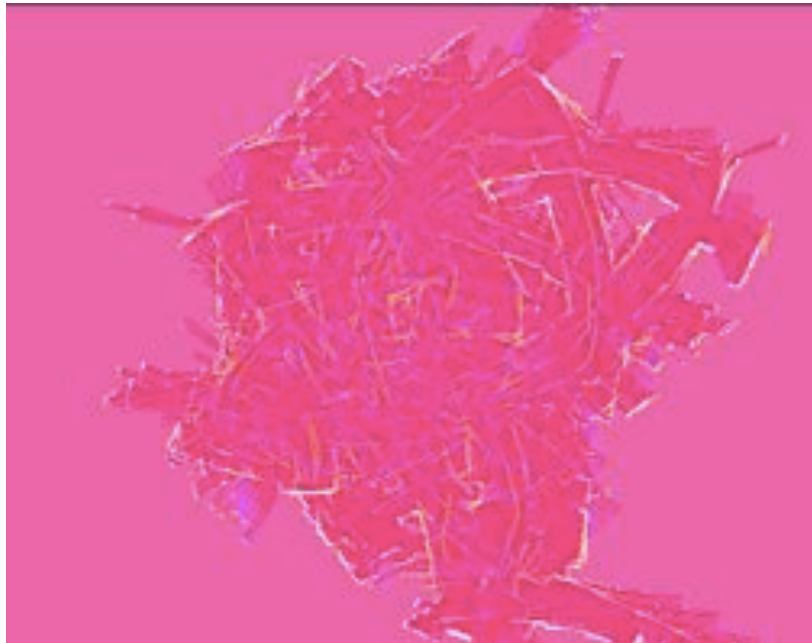
SLAM : illustration

Occupancy grid: on a flat plane, with odometry and “2D” LRF (S. Thrun)



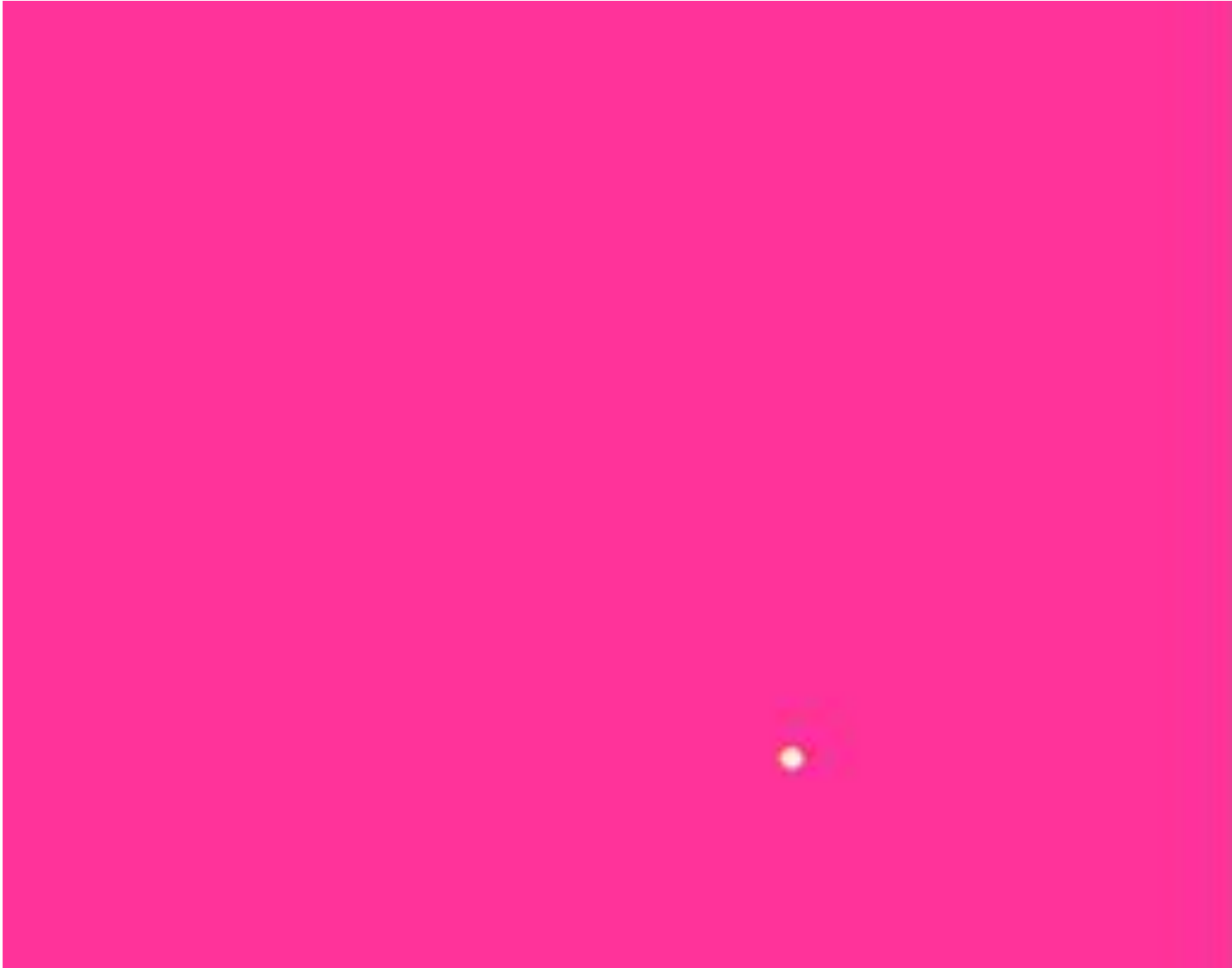
SLAM : illustration

Occupancy grid: on a flat plane, with odometry and “2D” LRF (S. Thrun)



SLAM : illustration

Occupancy grid: on a flat plane, with odometry, a “2D” LRF and SLAM (S. Thrun)



SLAM : illustration

Occupancy grid: on a flat plane, with odometry, a “2D” LRF and SLAM (S. Thrun)



SLAM must reads

There are tons of papers on SLAM...

At least, read those:

Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping (SLAM):
Part I The Essential Algorithms

Hugh Durrant-Whyte, *Fellow, IEEE*, and Tim Bailey

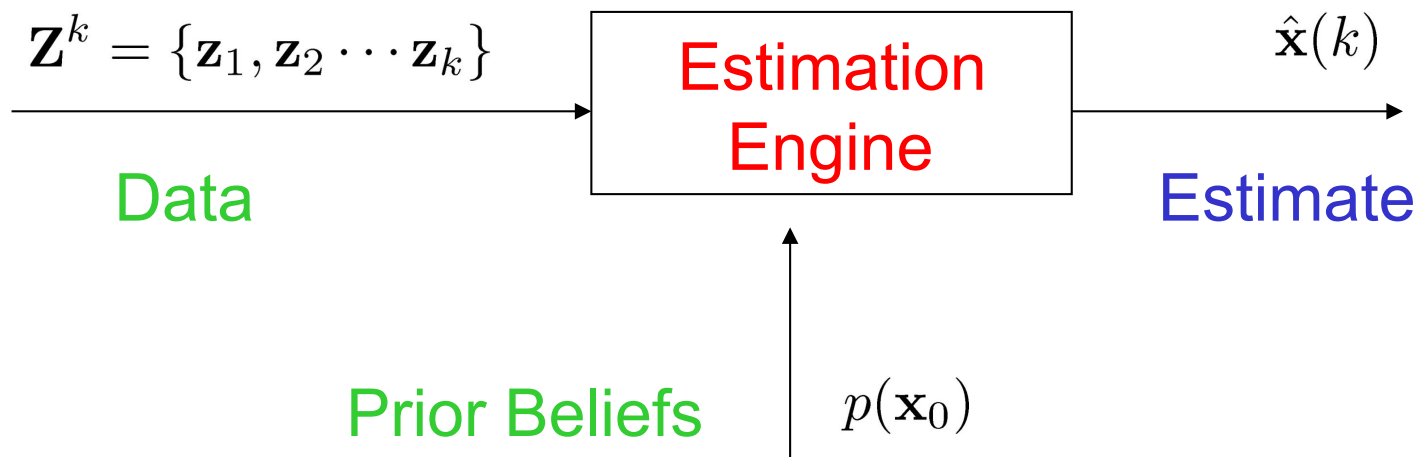
Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping (SLAM):
Part II State of the Art

Tim Bailey and Hugh Durrant-Whyte

(in *Robotics and Automation Magazine*,
Vol 13, Num 2/3, 2006)

Basics on estimation

“Estimation is the process by which we infer the value of a quantity of interest, \mathbf{x} , by processing data that is in some way dependent on \mathbf{x} .”



Basics on estimation

Maximum A Posteriori estimation:

Sensor model $p(z/x)$: “Given x , the probability of the sensor measurement being within 1m is....”

$$\underbrace{p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})}_{\text{posterior}} = \frac{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{z})}$$
$$\propto \underbrace{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})}_{\text{Likelihood}} \times \underbrace{p(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{prior}}$$

Given an observation \mathbf{z} , a likelihood function $p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$ and a prior distribution on \mathbf{x} , $p(\mathbf{x})$, the **maximum a posteriori estimator - MAP** finds the value of \mathbf{x} which maximises the posterior distribution $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})$

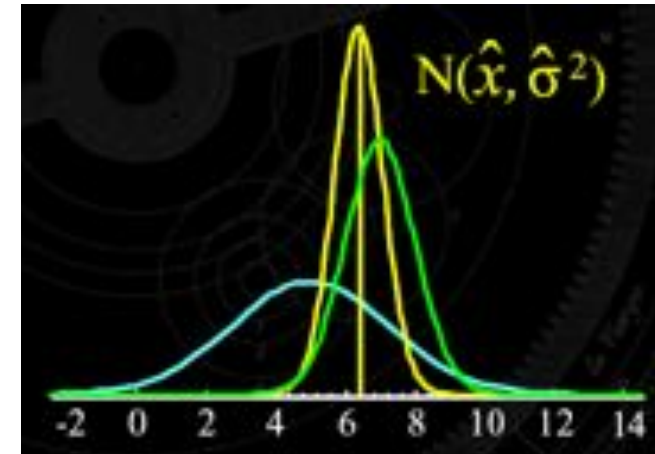
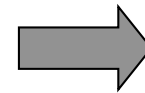
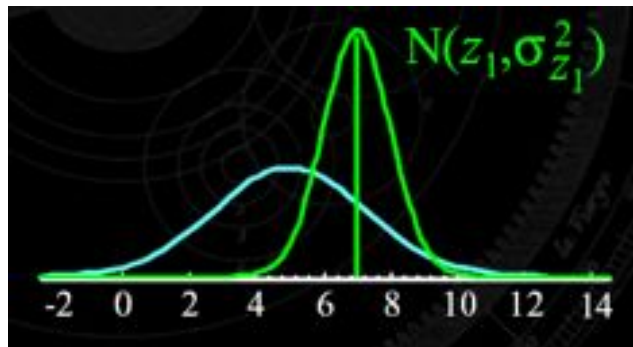
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{map} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})p(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1)$$

Basics on estimation

Example of MAP estimation

With normal prior and likelihood

$$z_2, \sigma_{z_2}^2$$
$$\hat{x}_2 = \dots?$$
$$\hat{\sigma}_2^2 = \dots?$$



$$\hat{x}_2 = \hat{x}_1 + K_2 (z_2 - \hat{x}_1)$$
$$K_2 = \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_{z_2}^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_2^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_{z_2}^2}$$

Basics on estimation

Recursive Bayesian estimation

$\mathbf{Z}^k = \{\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2 \cdots \mathbf{z}_k\}$ Sequence of data (measurements)

We want conditional mean (mmse) of x given \mathbf{Z}^k

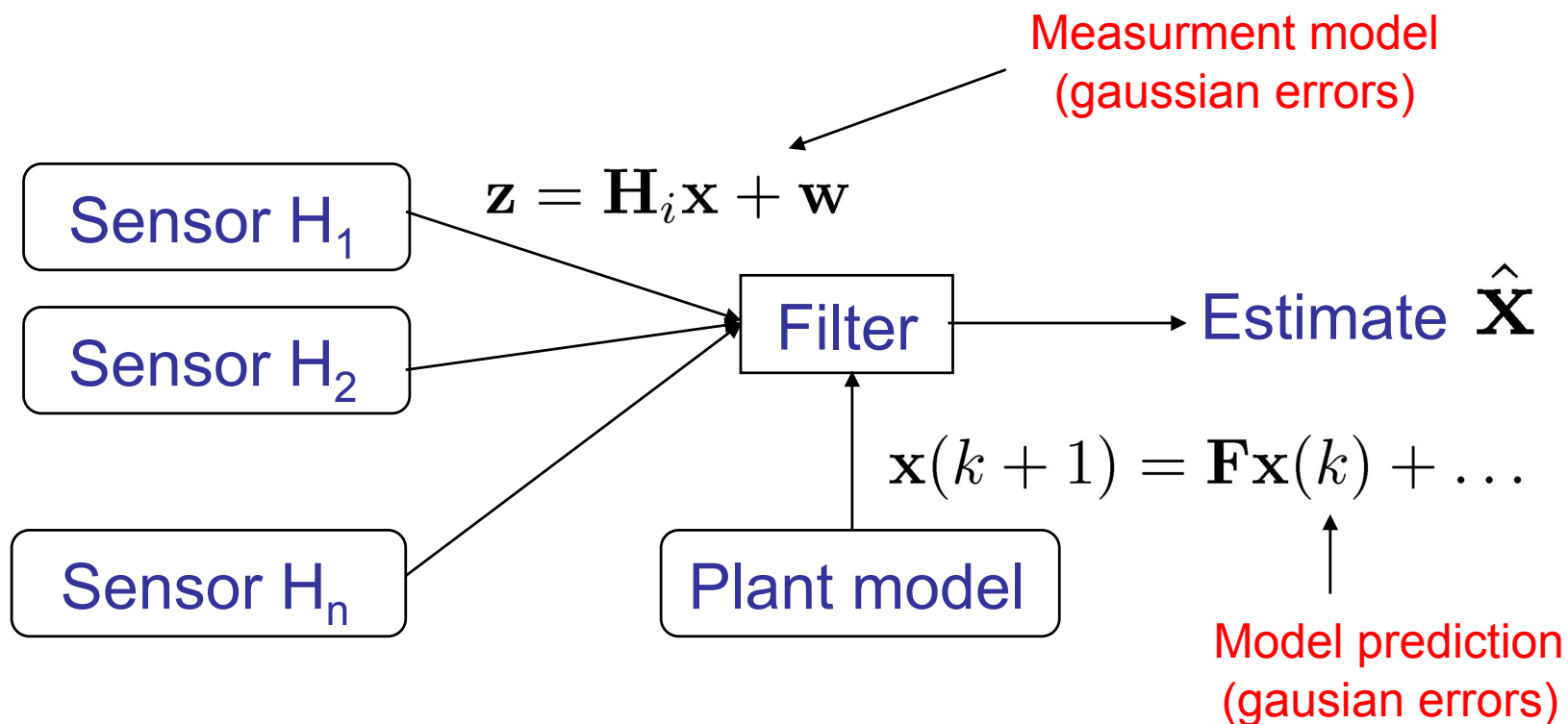
Can we iteratively calculate this – *i.e.* every time
a new measurement comes in, update our estimate?

Key idea: “one mans posterior is another’s prior”

Basics on estimation

Kalman filter

Recursive process: estimate the system state from uncertain observations (measures) and an uncertain system model



Actual underlying state: \mathbf{x}

Basics on estimation

Kalman filter: things to know

- A recursive process
- Asynchronous
- Prediction / update structure
- Prediction increases covariances
- Update decreases covariances
- Essential importance of correlations

Mapping and Localisation

- With perfect localisation:

Given the robot position \mathbf{x}_v , and a sensor model $p(\mathbf{Z}^k | \mathbf{M}, \mathbf{x}_v)$

compute the map \mathbf{M} : $p(\mathbf{M} | \mathbf{x}_v, \mathbf{Z}^k)$

→ Mapping problem « solved » (proper management of the sensors uncertainties)

- With a perfect known map

Given a feature map \mathbf{M} , and a sensor model $p(\mathbf{Z}^k | \mathbf{M}, \mathbf{x}_v)$

compute the robot position \mathbf{x}_v : $p(\mathbf{x}_v | \mathbf{M}, \mathbf{Z}^k)$

→ Localisation problem « solved » (proper matching of sensor data and the map)

Mapping and Localisation

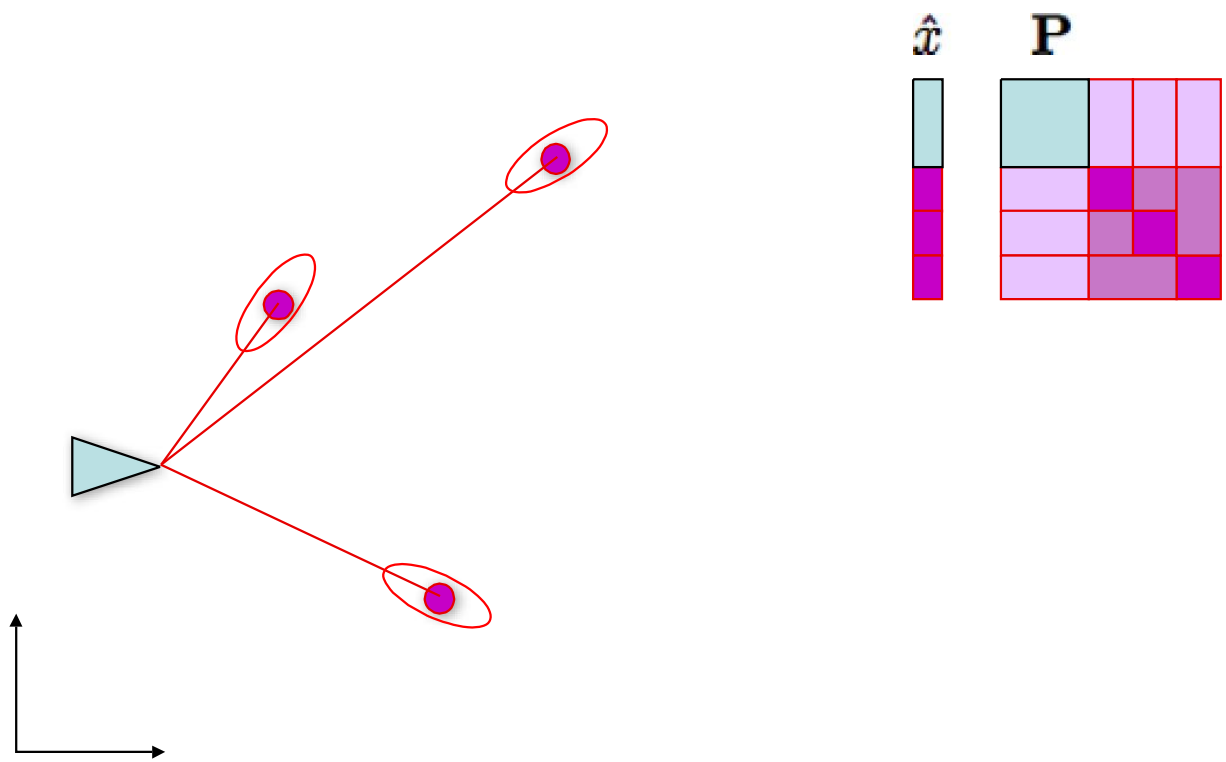
- Without perfect localisation, nor perfect map ?
⇒ Simultaneous localisation and mapping (SLAM)

Given the robot controls u_k and the sensor readings z_k , compute the map M and the robot position $x_v : p(M, x_v | u_k, z_k)$

SLAM: outline

- Simultaneous localisation and mapping
 - Problem presentation
 - Basics on estimation
 - EKF SLAM

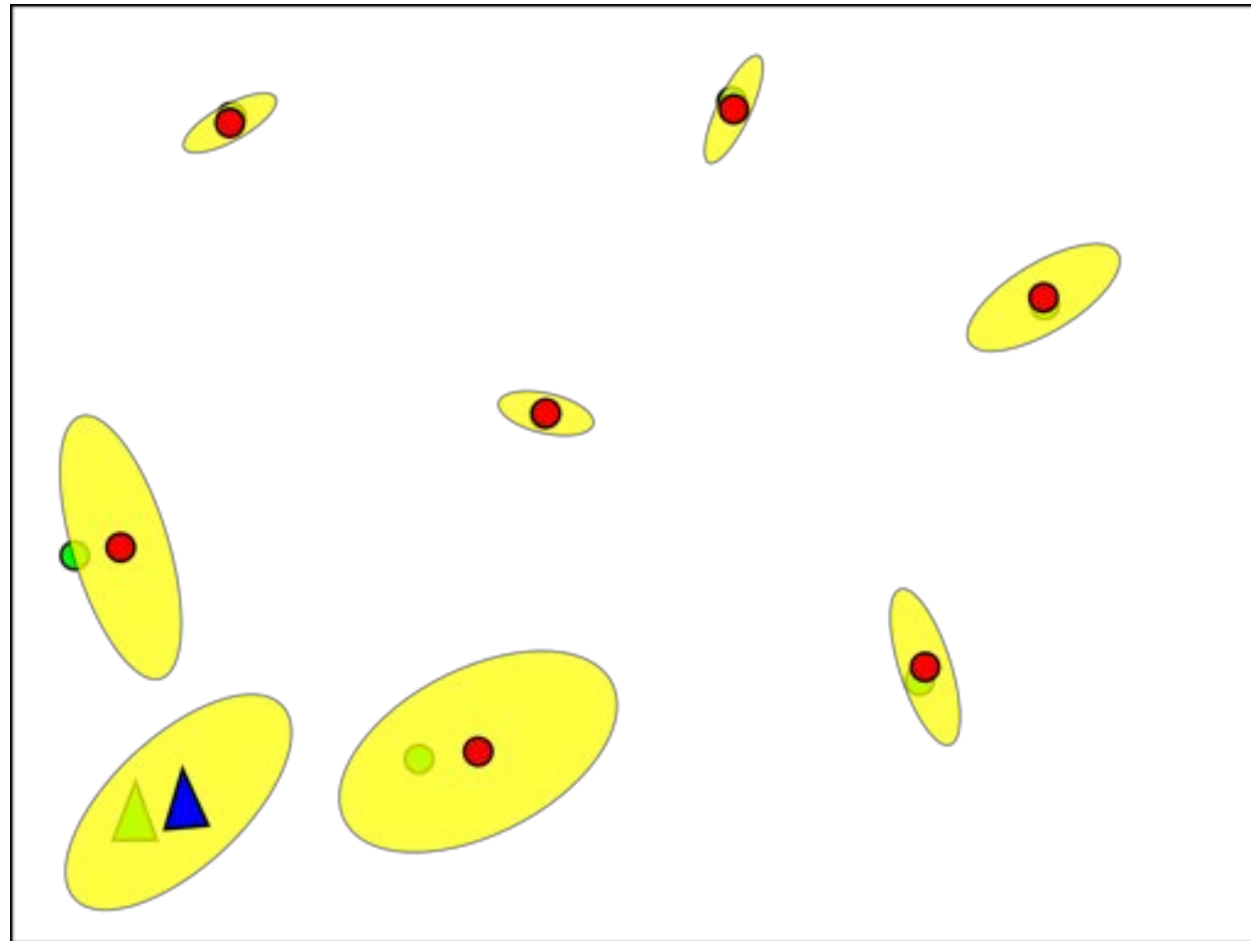
SLAM: EKF-based solution



SLAM: EKF-based solution

Importance of the correlations

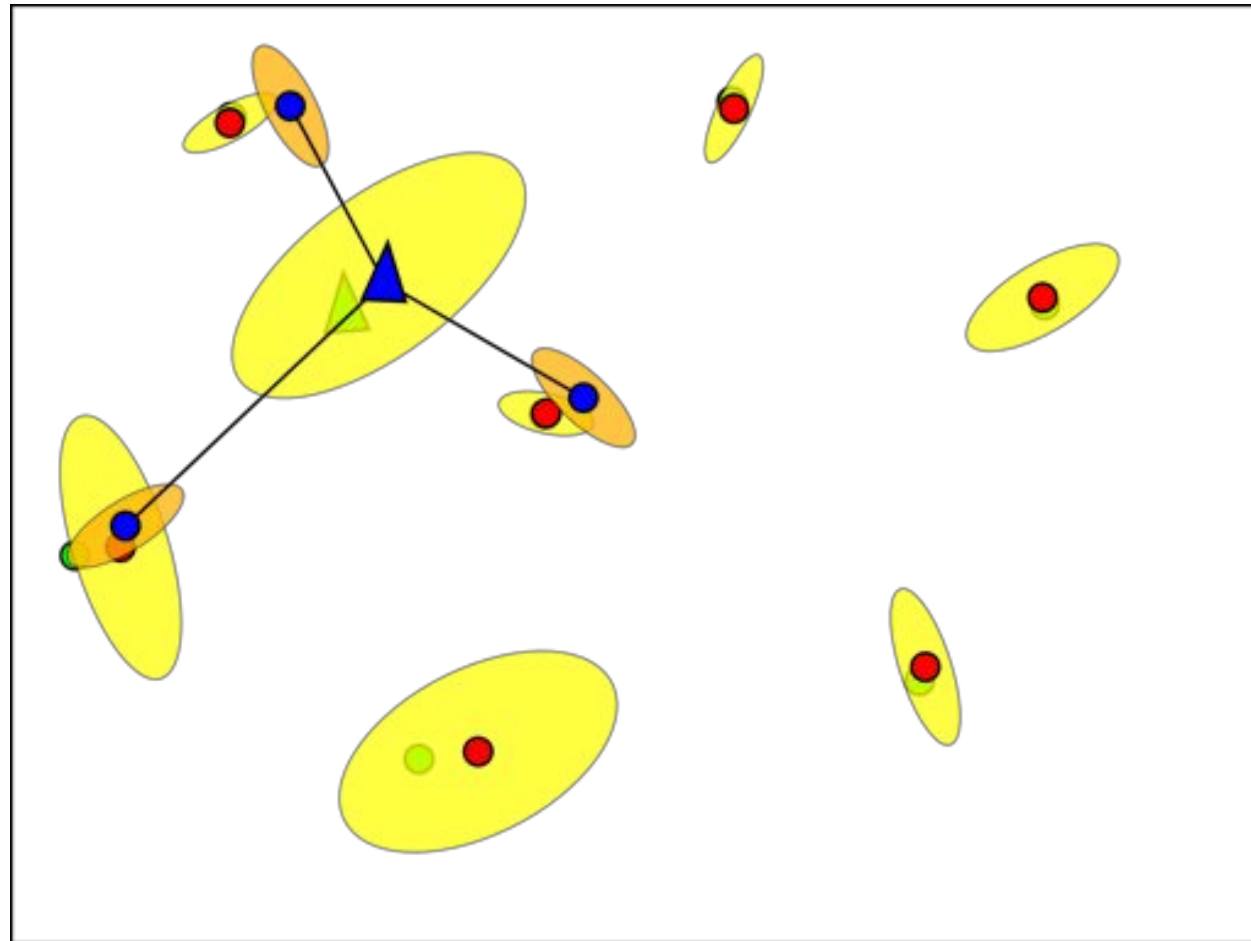
$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{vv} & \mathbf{P}_{vm} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vm}^T & \mathbf{P}_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$



SLAM: EKF-based solution

Importance of the correlations

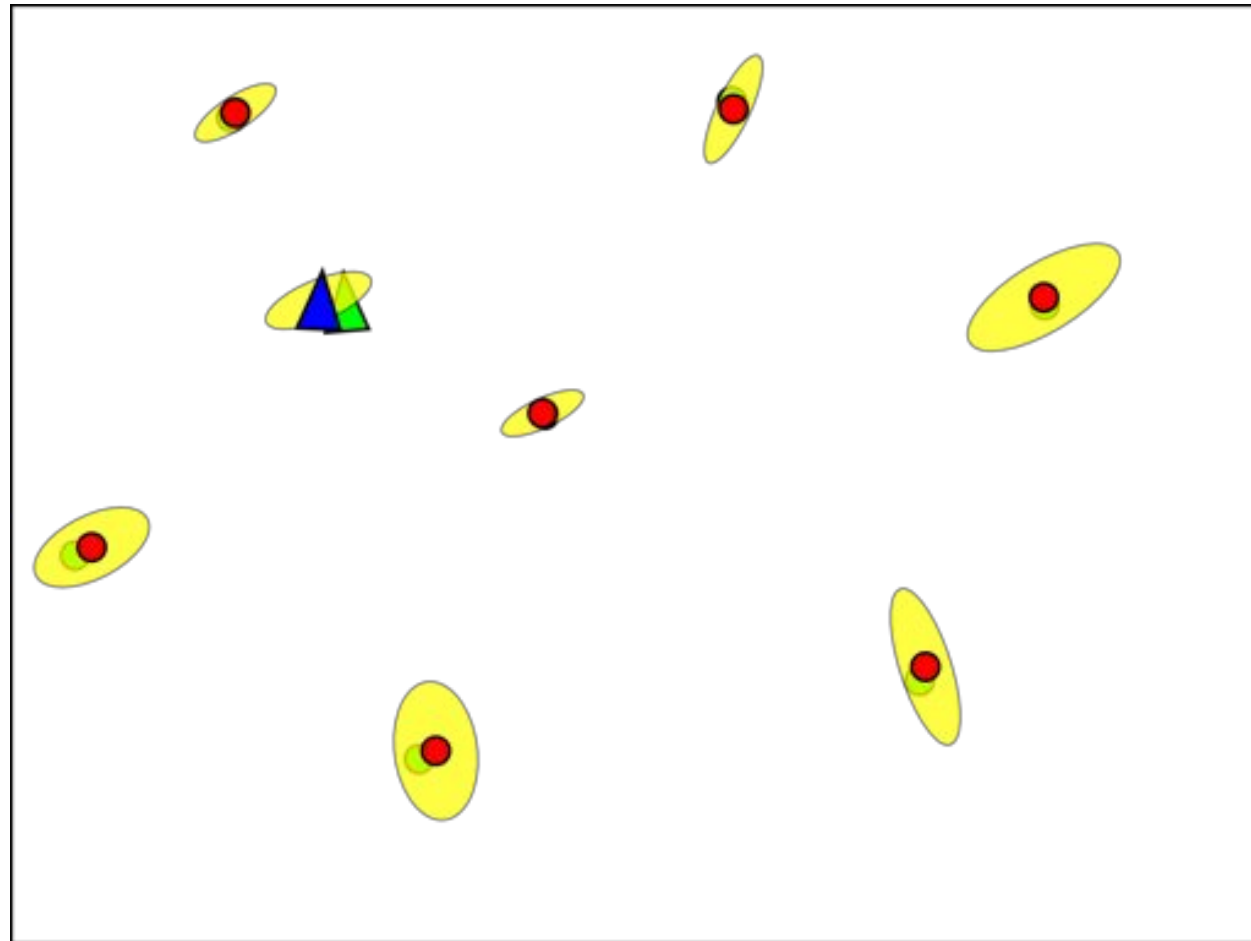
$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{vv} & \mathbf{P}_{vm} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vm}^T & \mathbf{P}_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$



SLAM: EKF-based solution

Importance of the correlations

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{vv} & \mathbf{P}_{vm} \\ \mathbf{P}_{vm}^T & \mathbf{P}_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$



Kalman filter for SLAM

Classic implementation
(e.g. vehicle position tracking)

System state: $x(k)$, with variance P_x

System model:
 $x(k+1) = f(x(k), u(k+1)) + v(k+1)$

Control input

Observation model:
 $z(k) = h(x(k)) + w(k)$

noise

Prediction (static features) :

SLAM implementation

System state:

$x(k) = [x_p, m_1, \dots, m_N]$, with $x_p = [\phi, \theta, \psi, t_x, t_y, t_z]$
 and $m_i = [x_i, y_i, z_i]$

$$P(k) = \begin{bmatrix} P_{pp}(k) & P_{pm}(k) \\ P_{pm}(k) & P_{mm}(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

System model:

$$x(k+1) = f(x(k), u(k+1)) + v(k+1)$$

Observation model:

$$z(k) = h(x(k)) + w(k)$$

Motion estimation

noise

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_v(k+1) \\ \mathbf{x}_{f,1}(k) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{f,n}(k) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_v(k) \oplus \mathbf{u}(k) \\ \mathbf{x}_{f,1}(k) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{f,n}(k) \end{bmatrix}$$

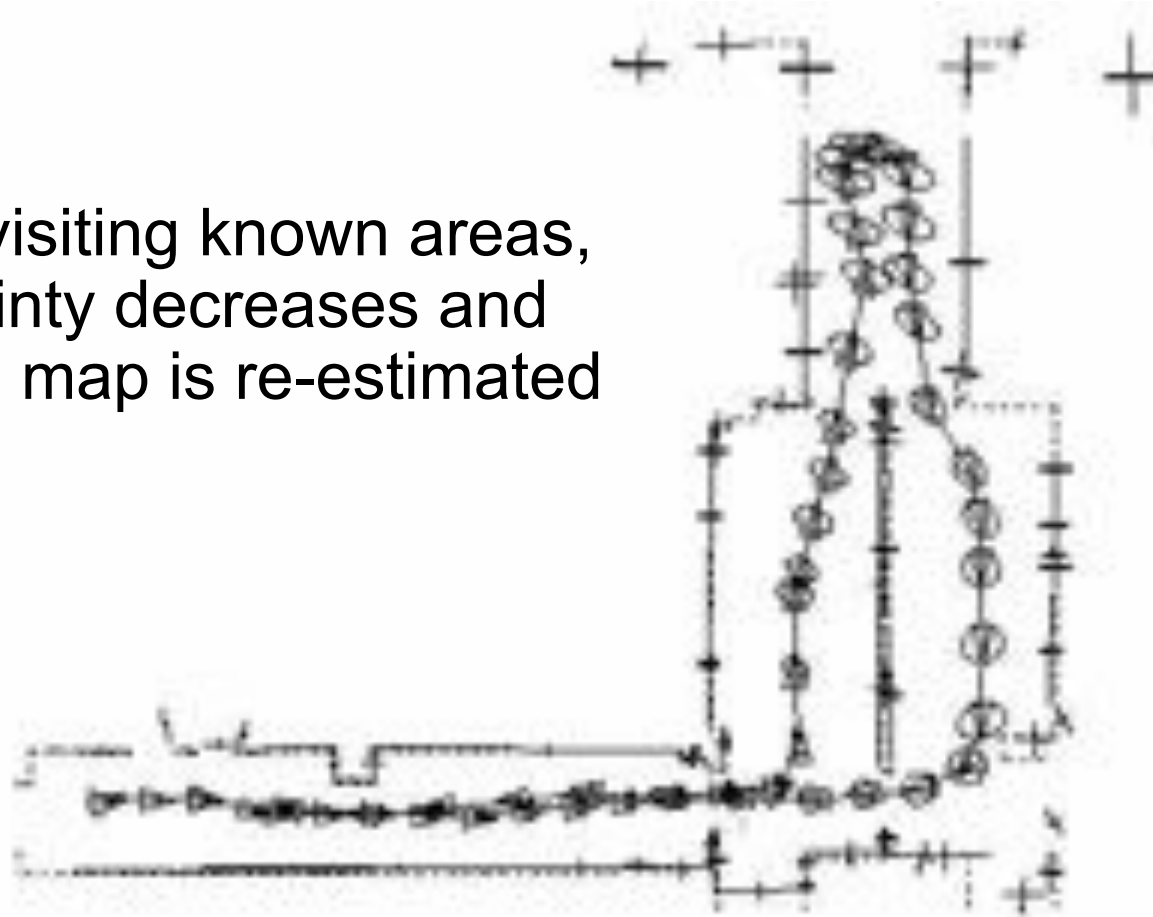
Kalman filter for SLAM

When exploring new areas,
uncertainty grows



Kalman filter for SLAM

When revisiting known areas, uncertainty decreases and the whole map is re-estimated



SLAM: outline

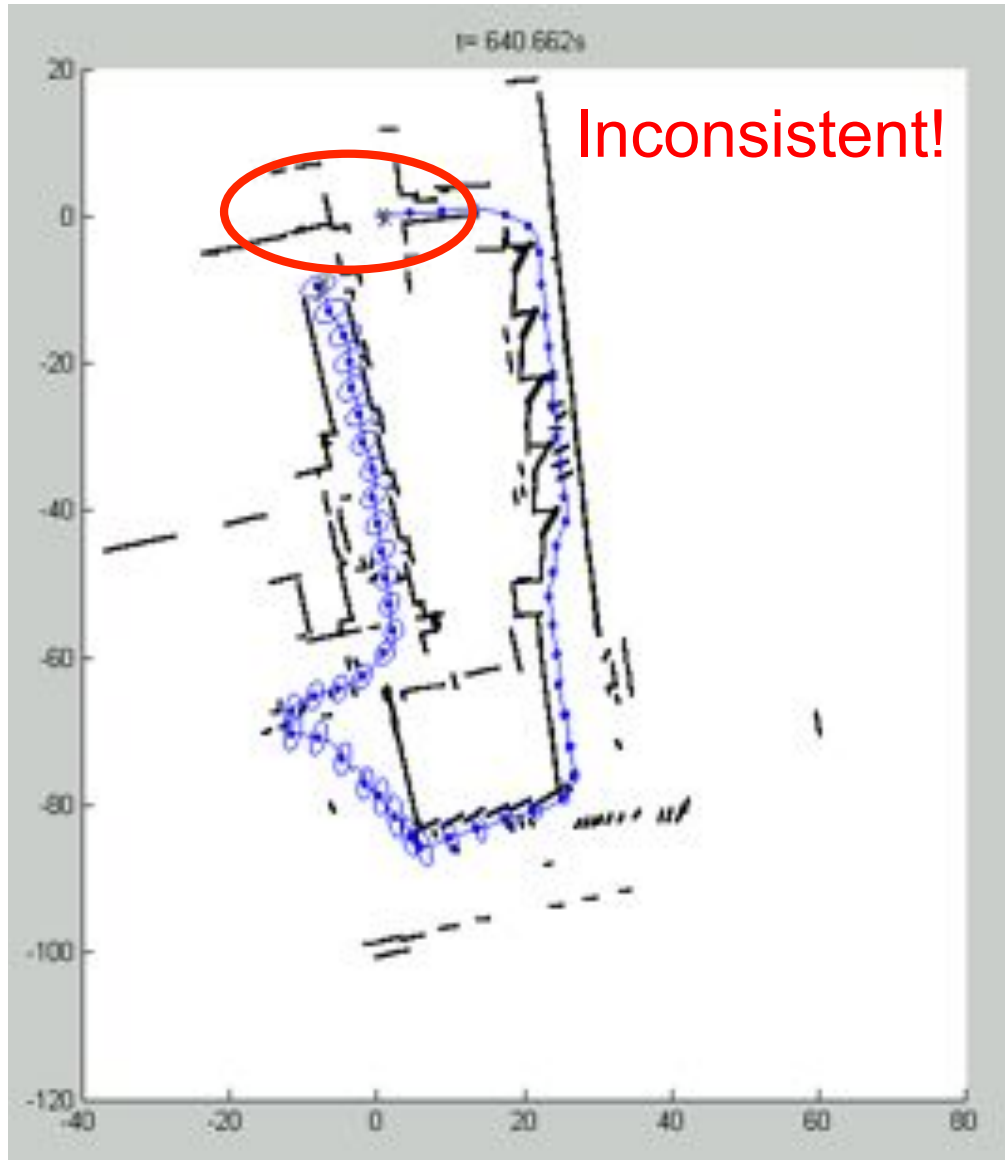
- Simultaneous localisation and mapping
 - Problem presentation
 - Basics on estimation
 - EKF SLAM
 - Main issues

EKF-SLAM Issues

1. Algorithmic complexity: $O(n^2)$

EKF-SLAM Issues

2. Non-linearities yield inconsistency



Inconsistent!

Standard data association cannot close a 250m loop

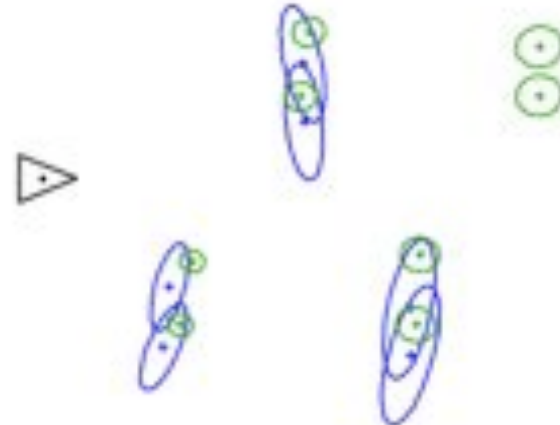
Computational complexity was not a problem here!

EKF-SLAM Issues

3. Data associations

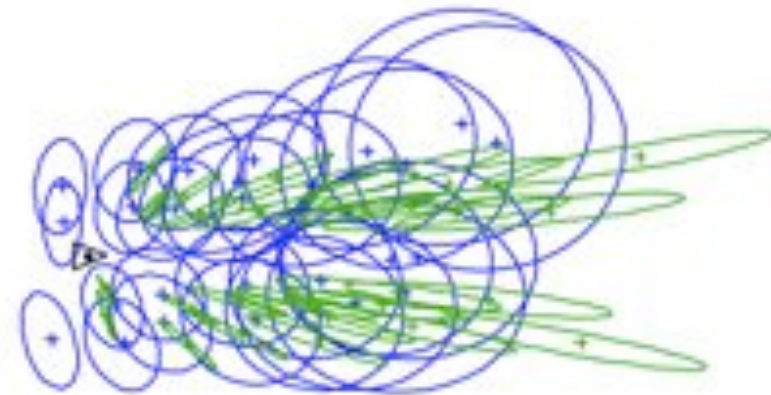
Within the estimation framework:

Measurements
Predicted features



Within the estimation framework ?

Measurements
Predicted features

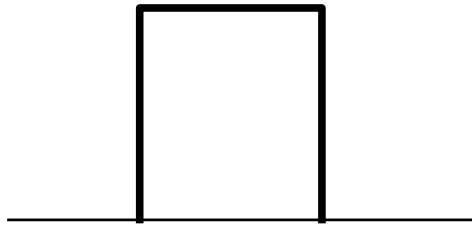


SLAM : other estimation approaches

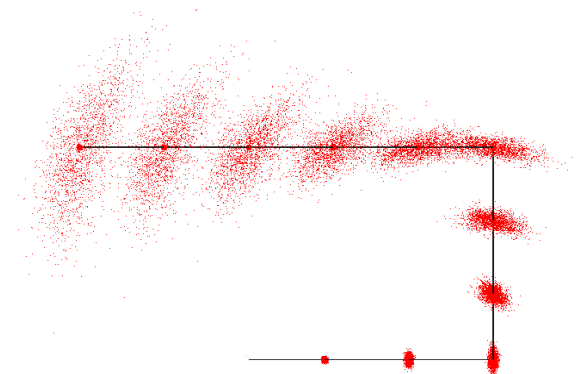
Stochastic approaches :



Kalman / information



Ensemblist



Particles

Global minimization approaches (e.g. bundle adjustment, scan matching)

SLAM: outline

- Simultaneous localisation and mapping
 - Problem presentation
 - Basics on estimation
 - EKF SLAM
 - Main issues
- Vision-based SLAM

Beyond estimation

Functions required by any SLAM implementation :

- Landmark detection
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions
 - Of the robot motions
- Observation associations
- Refinement of the landmark and robot positions
- A perception process
- A perception process
- Control, signal processing...
- A perception process
- An estimation process

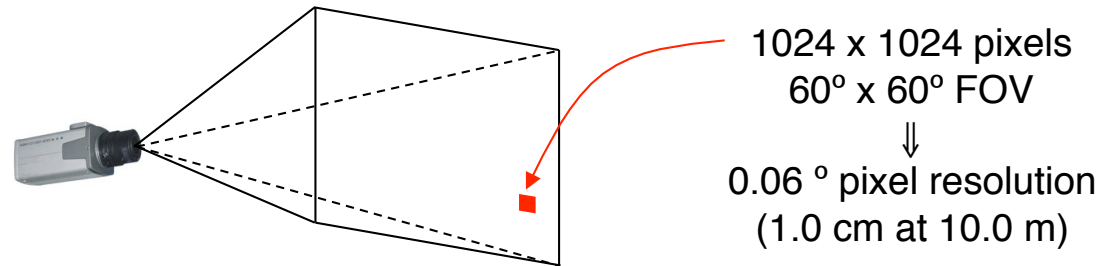
Use vision !

Micro UAVs

- Cameras : low cost, light and power-saving

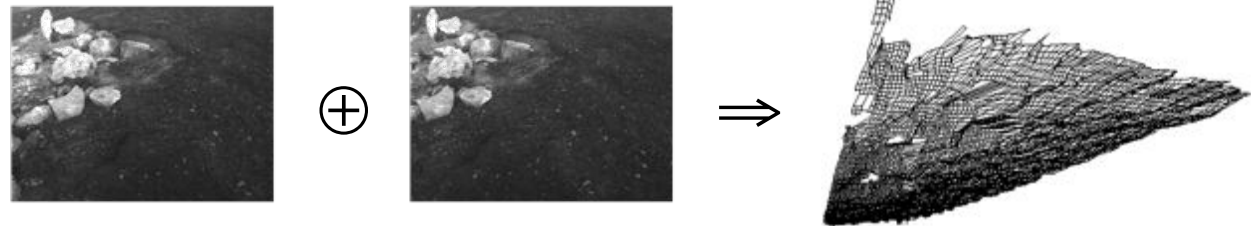


- Perceive data
 - In a volume
 - Very far
 - Very precisely



- Loss of depth is (almost) not anymore a difficulty

- Stereovision
 - 2 cameras provide depth



- Images carry a vast amount of information
- A vast know-how exists in the computer vision community

SLAM : what kind of landmarks ?

A good landmark:

- Should be *discriminant* (easy to associate)
- Should be invariant wrt. the viewpoint
- Its position (or part of it) should be observable — with an associated *error model*

Some point features have these properties:

- Harris features
- SIFT features

Stereovision SLAM

- Landmark detection → Vision : interest points
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions → Stereovision
 - Of the robot motions → Visual motion estimation
- Observation associations → Interest points matching
- Refinement of the landmark and robot positions → Extended Kalman filter

Landmark observation : stereovision

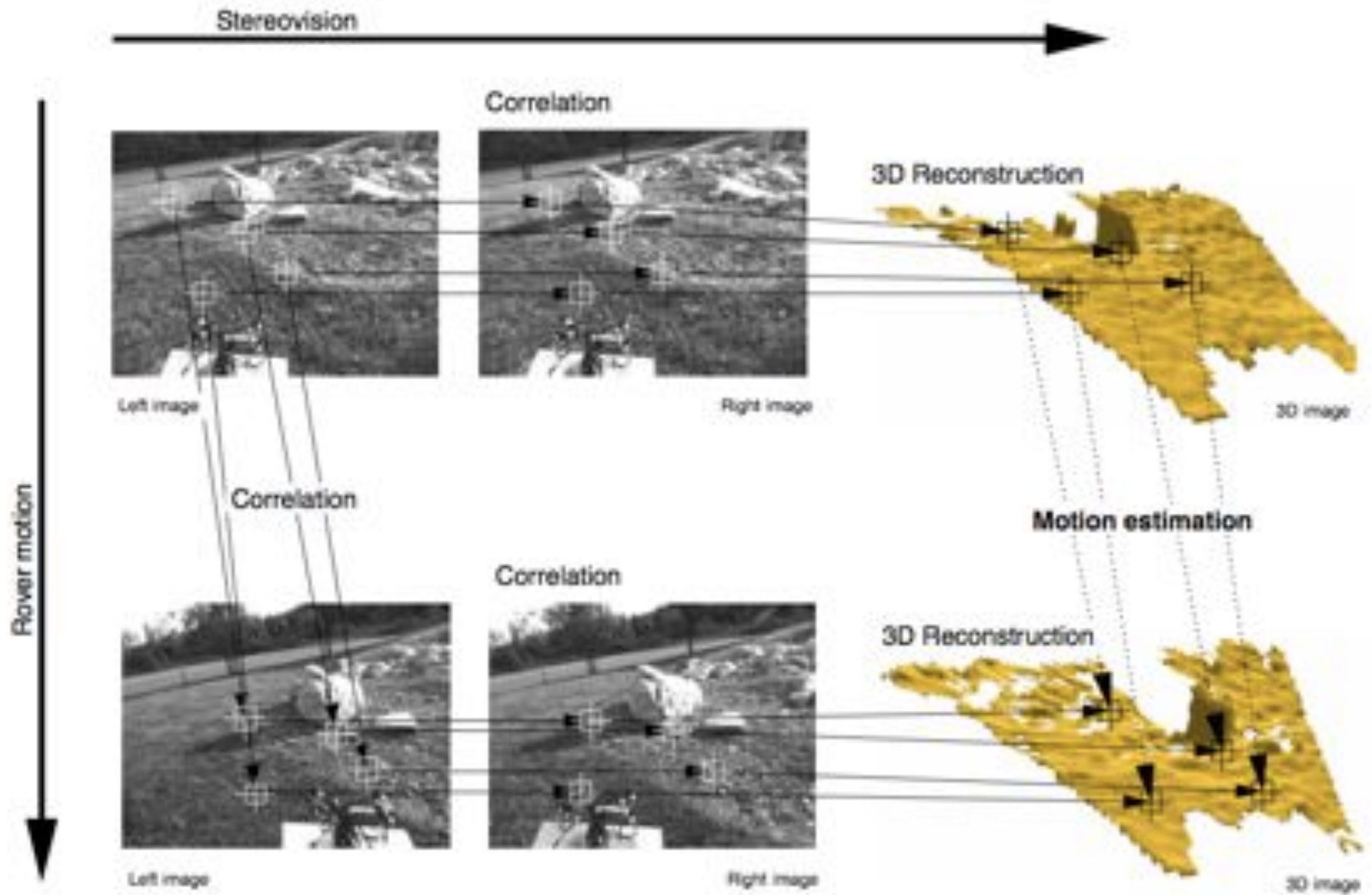
Dense
stereovision

or

IP matching
applied on stereo
frames (even
easier)



Visual odometry: principle

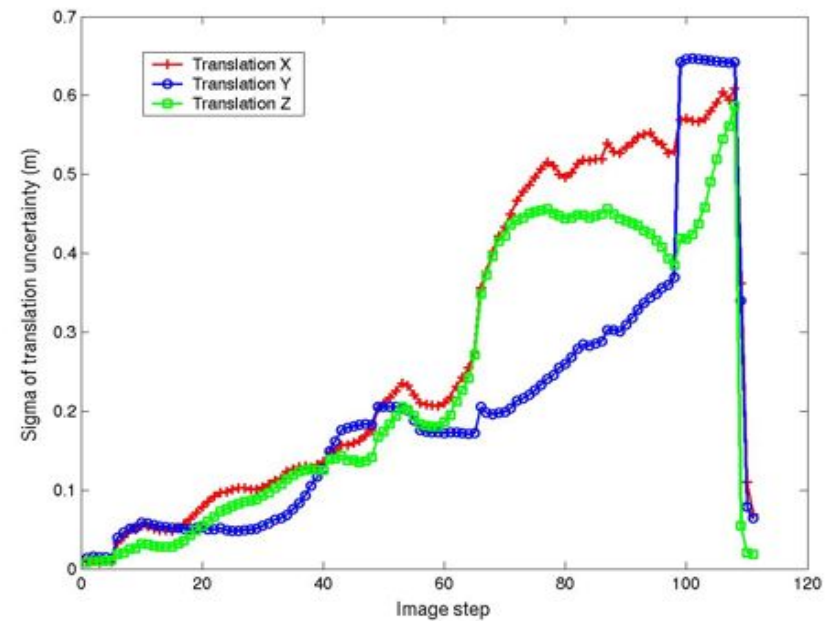
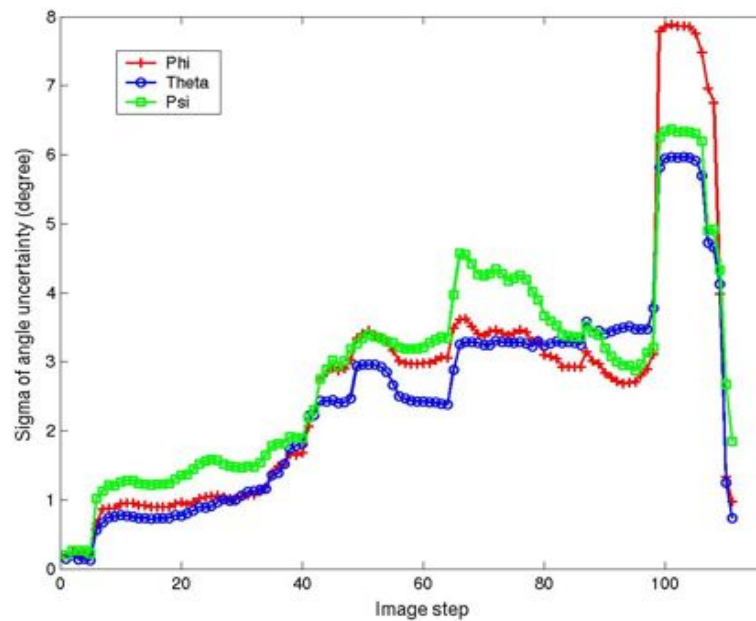
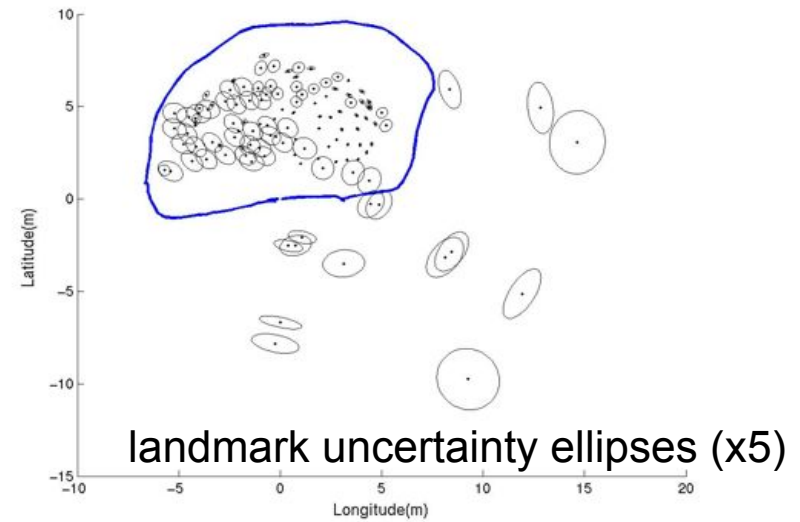


Stereovision SLAM

- Landmark detection → Vision : interest points \Leftarrow OK
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions → Stereovision \Leftarrow OK
 - Of the robot motions → Visual motion estimation \Leftarrow OK
- Observation associations → Interest points matching \Leftarrow OK
- Refinement of the landmark and robot positions → Extended Kalman filter \Leftarrow OK

On a ground rover

- 110 stereo pairs processed, 60m loop



On a ground rover

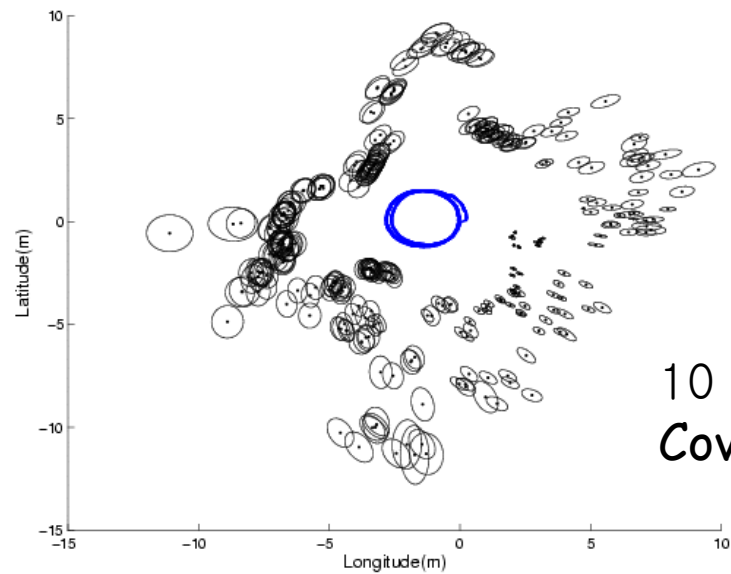
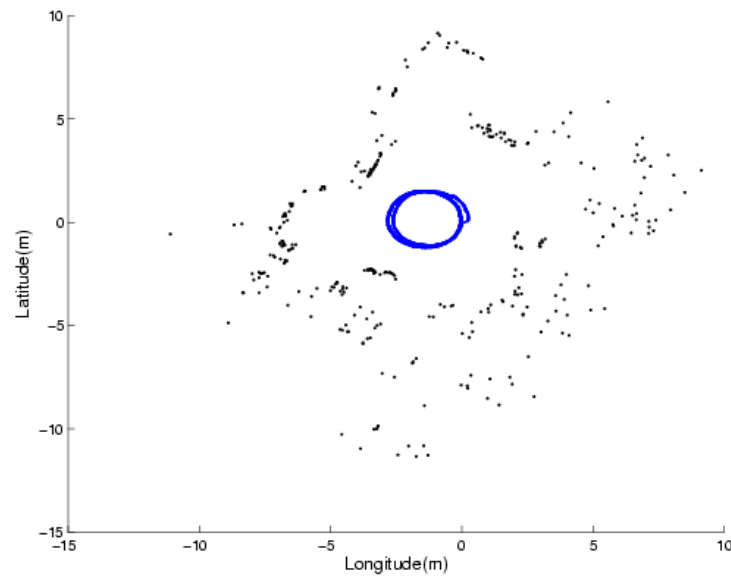
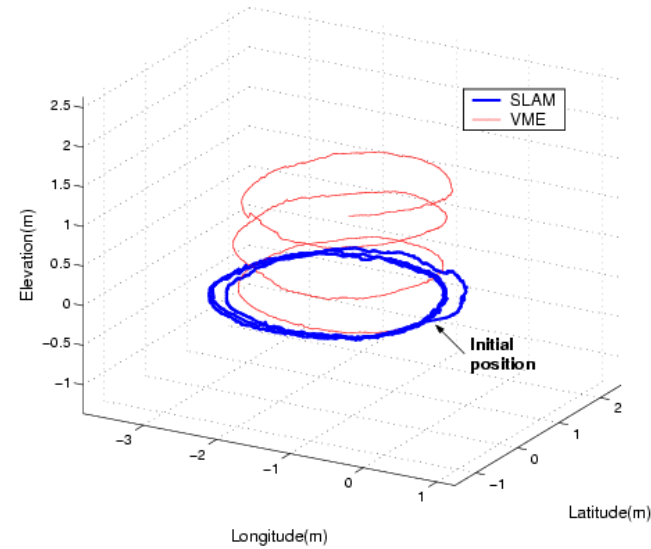
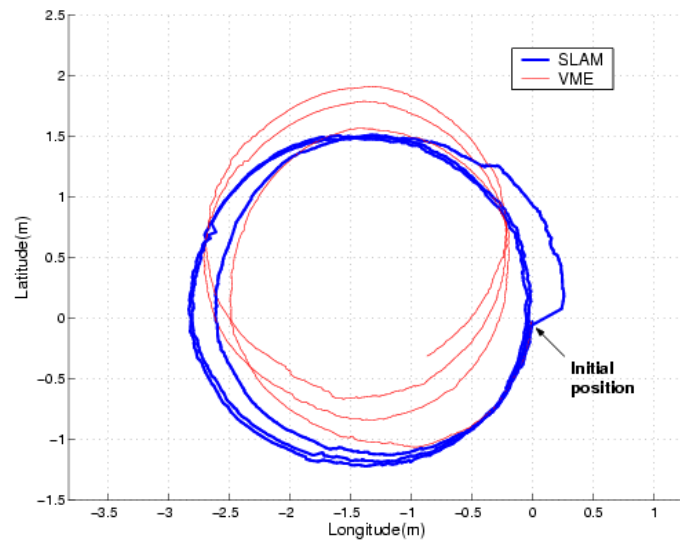


- 110 stereo pairs processed, 60m loop

	Frame 1/100 Reference	Reference Std. Dev.	VME result	VME Abs.error	SLAM result	SLAM Std. Dev.	SLAM Abs. error
Θ	0.52°	0.31°	2.75°	2.23°	0.88°	0.98°	0.36 °
Φ	0.36°	0.25°	-0.11°	0.47°	0.72°	0.74°	0.36 °
Ψ	-0.14°	0.16°	1.89°	2.03°	1.24°	1.84°	1.38°
t_x	-0.012 m	0.010 m	0.057m	0.069 m	-0.077 m	0.069 m	0.065 m
t_y	-0.243 m	0.019 m	-1.018 m	0.775 m	-0.284 m	0.064 m	0.041 m
t_z	0.019m	0.015 m	0.144m	0.125 m	0.018m	0.019 m	0.001 m

In indoor environments

- About 30 m long trajectory, 1300 stereo image pairs

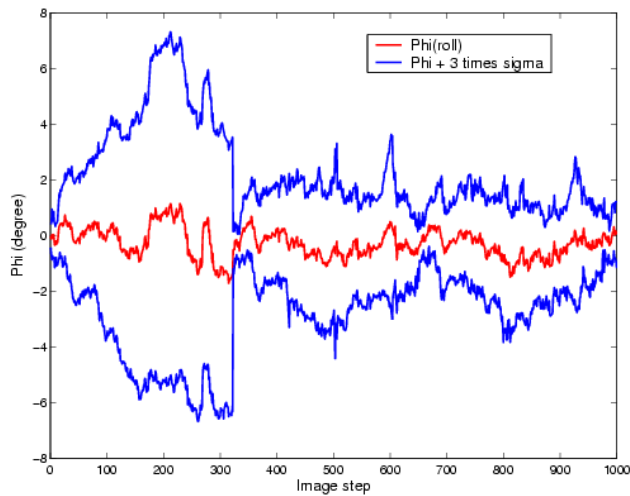
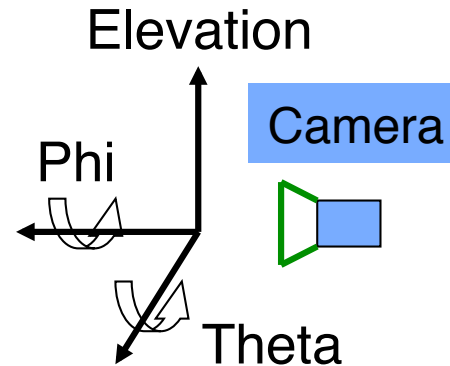


10 times
Cov. ellipse

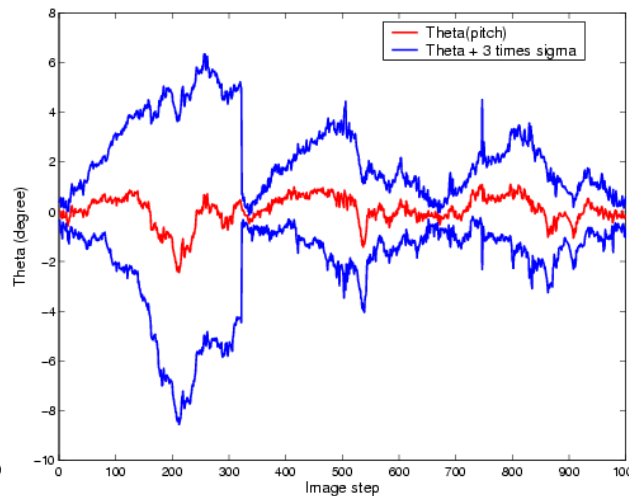
In indoor environments

- About 30 m long trajectory, 1300 stereo image pairs

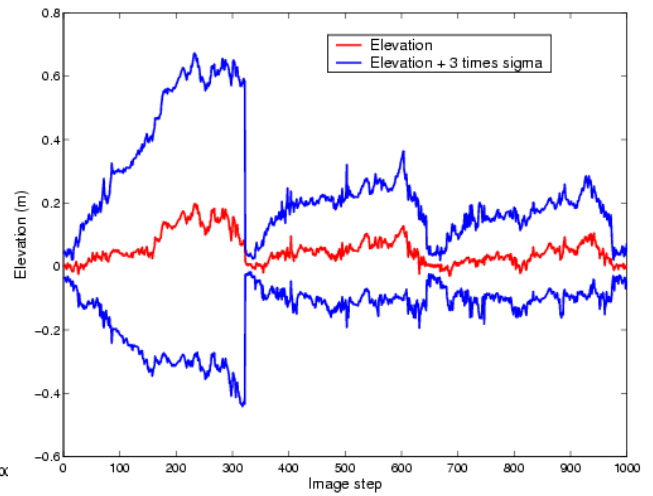
Two rotation angles (**Phi**, **Theta**) and **Elevation** must be zero



Phi



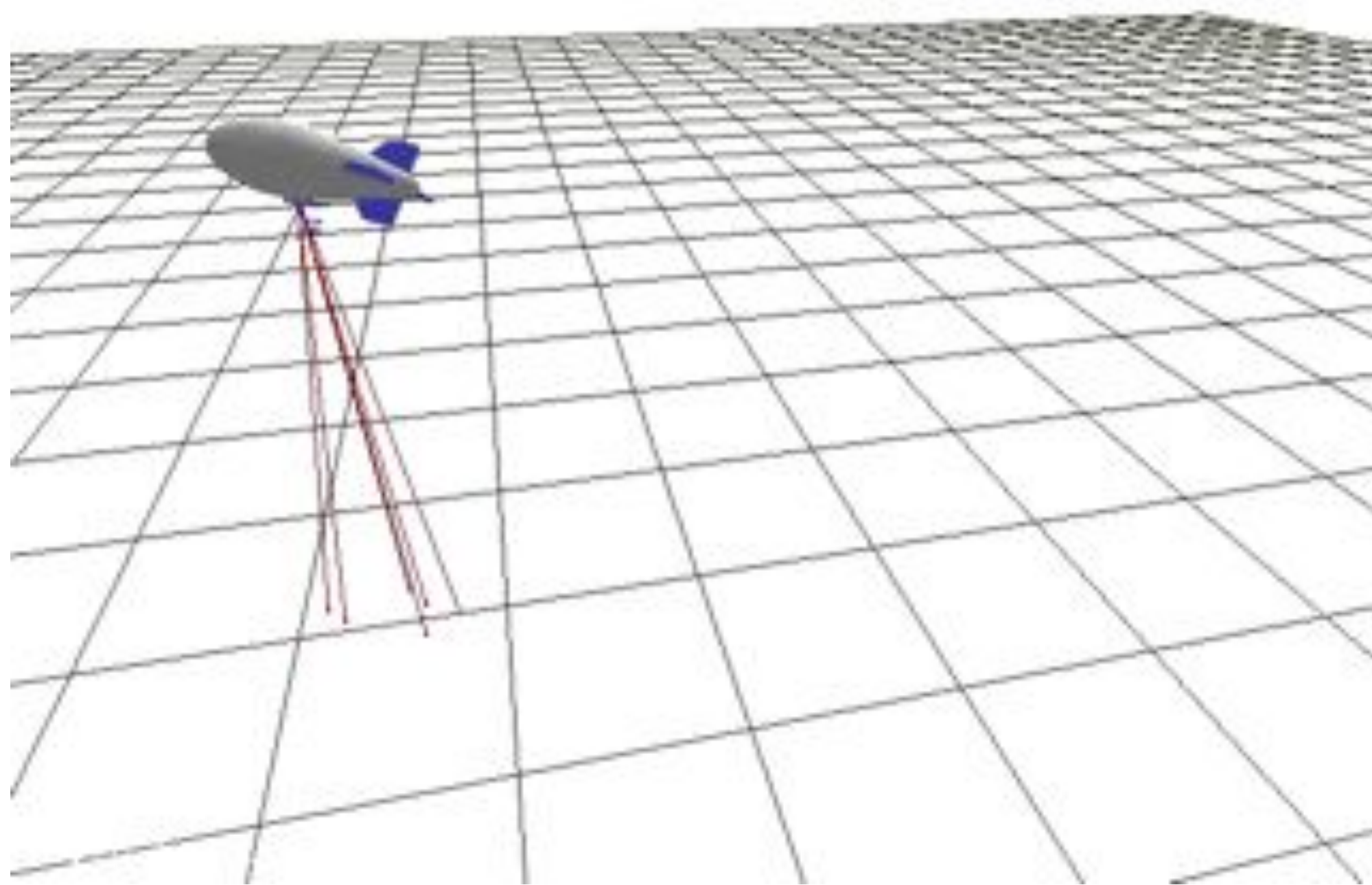
Theta



Elevation

With a blimp





SLAM: outline

- Simultaneous localisation and mapping
 - Problem presentation
 - Basics on estimation
 - EKF SLAM
 - Main issues
- Vision-based SLAM
 - SLAM with stereovision
 - SLAM with monocular imagery

SLAM with monocular vision

Micro UAVs



Smartphones, wearable devices



SLAM with monocular vision

Prediction: any information on the robot motion

Landmarks:

- interest points = 3D (x,y,z) points



Application of the « usual » SLAM steps:

- Landmark detection
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions
 - Of the robot motions
- Observation associations
- Estimation: refinement of the landmark and robot positions

Partial observations!
(« bearings-only »)

But why is it particularly difficult?

Bearing-only SLAM

Generic SLAM

- Landmark detection
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions
 - Of the robot motions
- Observation associations
- Refinement of the landmark and robot positions

Stereovision SLAM

- Vision : interest points
 - Stereovision
 - Visual motion estimation
- Interest points matching
- Extended Kalman filter

Bearing-only SLAM

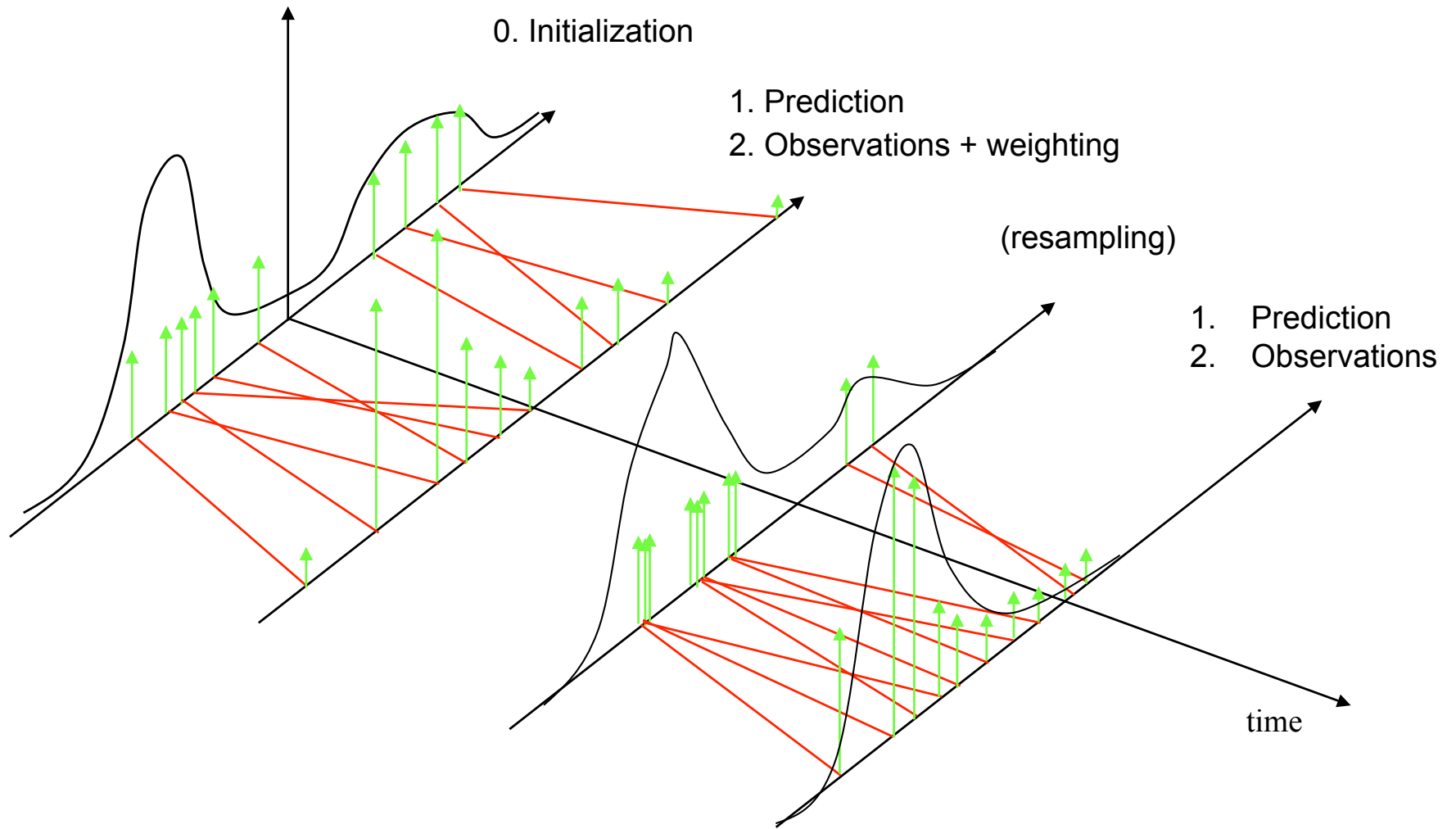
Generic SLAM

- Landmark detection
- Relative observations (measures)
 - Of the landmark positions
 - Of the robot motions
- Observation associations
- Refinement of the landmark and robot positions

Monocular SLAM

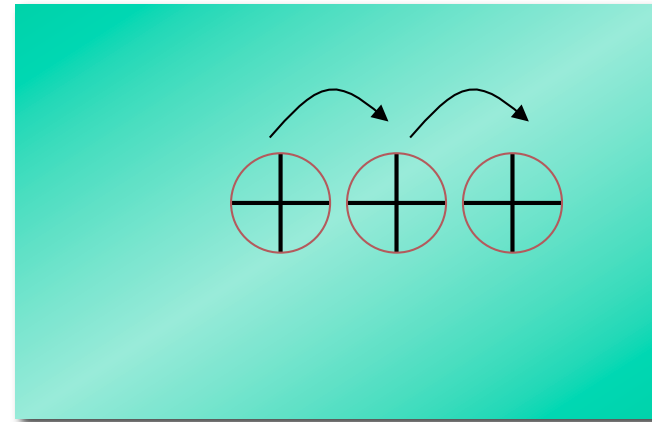
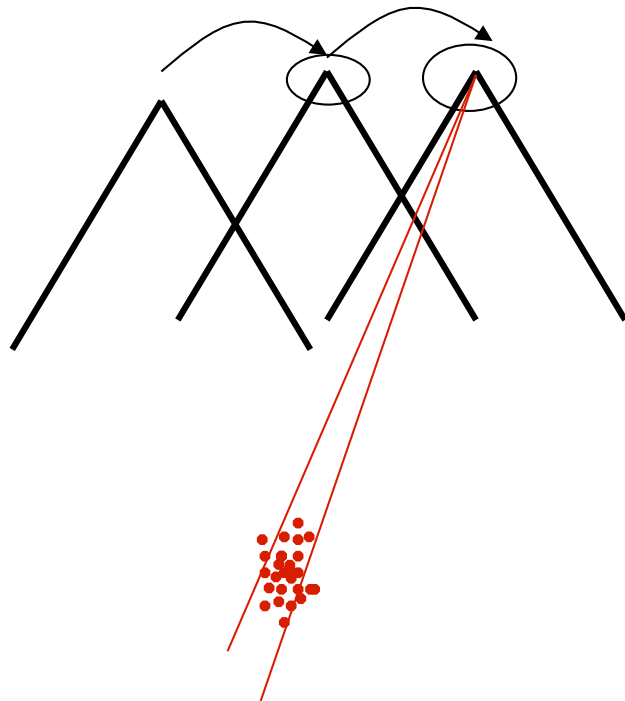
- Vision : interest points
 - « Multi-view stereovision »
 - INS, Motion model...
- Interest points matching
- Extended Kalman filter

(Particle filtering)



Bearing-only SLAM: landmark initialisation

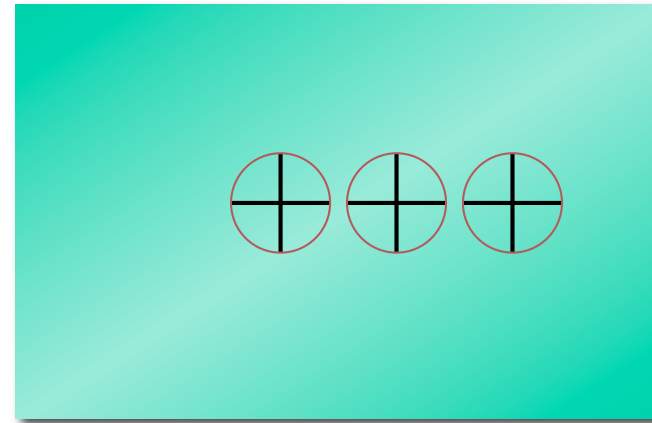
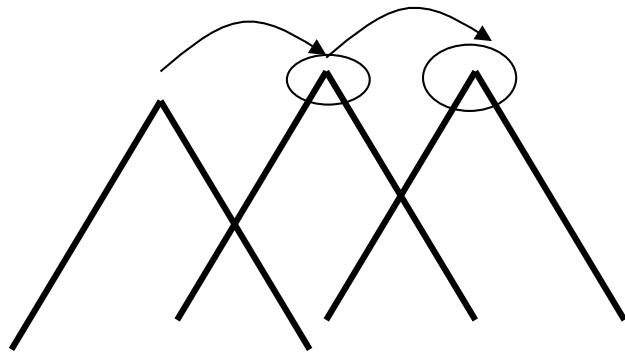
« Initialisation filter » \approx particle filter



One interest point
matched in the image

Bearing-only SLAM: landmark initialisation

« Initialisation filter » \approx particle filter



One interest point
matched in the image

Issues with this approach:

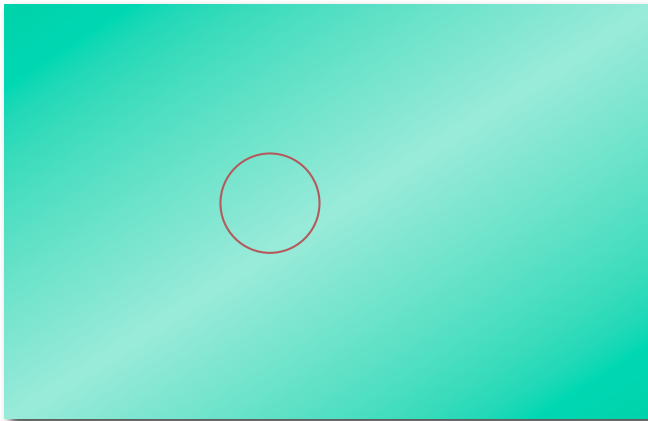
- Complexity
- Some landmarks remain non-observable
- Numerous observations are lost

Landmark initialisation

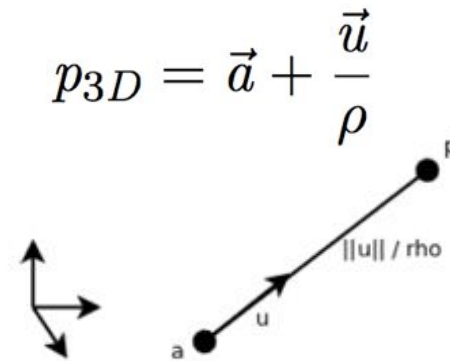
« Initialisation », 2nd approach: inverse depth parametrization

Solution established in 2006 [J. Montiel / A. Davison]:

- *Direct* initialization of a point the first time it is perceived
- Allows to consider points located at the infinite



One interest point in
the image



One landmark in the MAP

- Every detected landmark is directly and immediatly observable

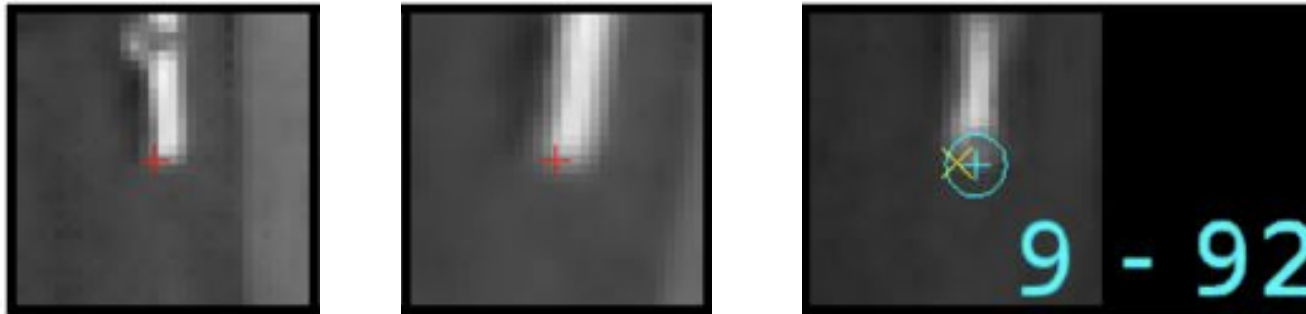
A closer look at the motion prediction

Constant velocity model

$$\text{Robot state: } \mathcal{R} = (\mathbf{p} \ \mathbf{q} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{w})^T$$

$$\text{Prediction: } \mathbf{p}^+ = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{v}.dt \quad \mathbf{q}^+ = \mathbf{q} * \mathbf{w}.dt \quad \mathbf{v}^+ = \mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{w}^+ = \mathbf{w}$$

Allows to focus the data association step:



1. Start with a descriptor of the landmark (e.g. appearance at first observation)
2. Apply affine transformation to predict the current appearance
3. Search the landmark inside the observation uncertainty ellipse

A closer look at the motion prediction

Constant velocity model

$$\text{Robot state: } \mathcal{R} = (\mathbf{p} \ \mathbf{q} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{w})^T$$

$$\text{Prediction: } \mathbf{p}^+ = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{v}.dt \quad \mathbf{q}^+ = \mathbf{q} * \mathbf{w}.dt \quad \mathbf{v}^+ = \mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{w}^+ = \mathbf{w}$$

- simple (no additional sensor required)
- not precise
 - bad linearization points
 - large search areas
 - difficulty to track very high motion dynamics
- no scale factor estimate possible

A closer look at the motion prediction

Constant acceleration model

$$\text{Robot state: } \mathcal{R} = (\mathbf{p} \ \mathbf{q} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{w} \ \mathbf{v}_a \ \mathbf{w}_a)^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Prediction: } \quad \mathbf{v}^+ &= \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v}_a \cdot dt \\ \mathbf{w}^+ &= \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{w}_a \cdot dt \\ \mathbf{v}_a^+ &= \mathbf{v}_a \\ \mathbf{w}_a^+ &= \mathbf{w}_a \end{aligned}$$

- simple (no additional sensor required)
- not very precise
 - bad linearization points
 - large search areas
- no scale factor estimate possible

A closer look at the motion prediction

Using an inertial measurement unit

Robot state: $\mathcal{R} = (\mathbf{p} \ \mathbf{q} \ \mathbf{v} \ \mathbf{a}_b \ \mathbf{w}_b \ \mathbf{g})^T$

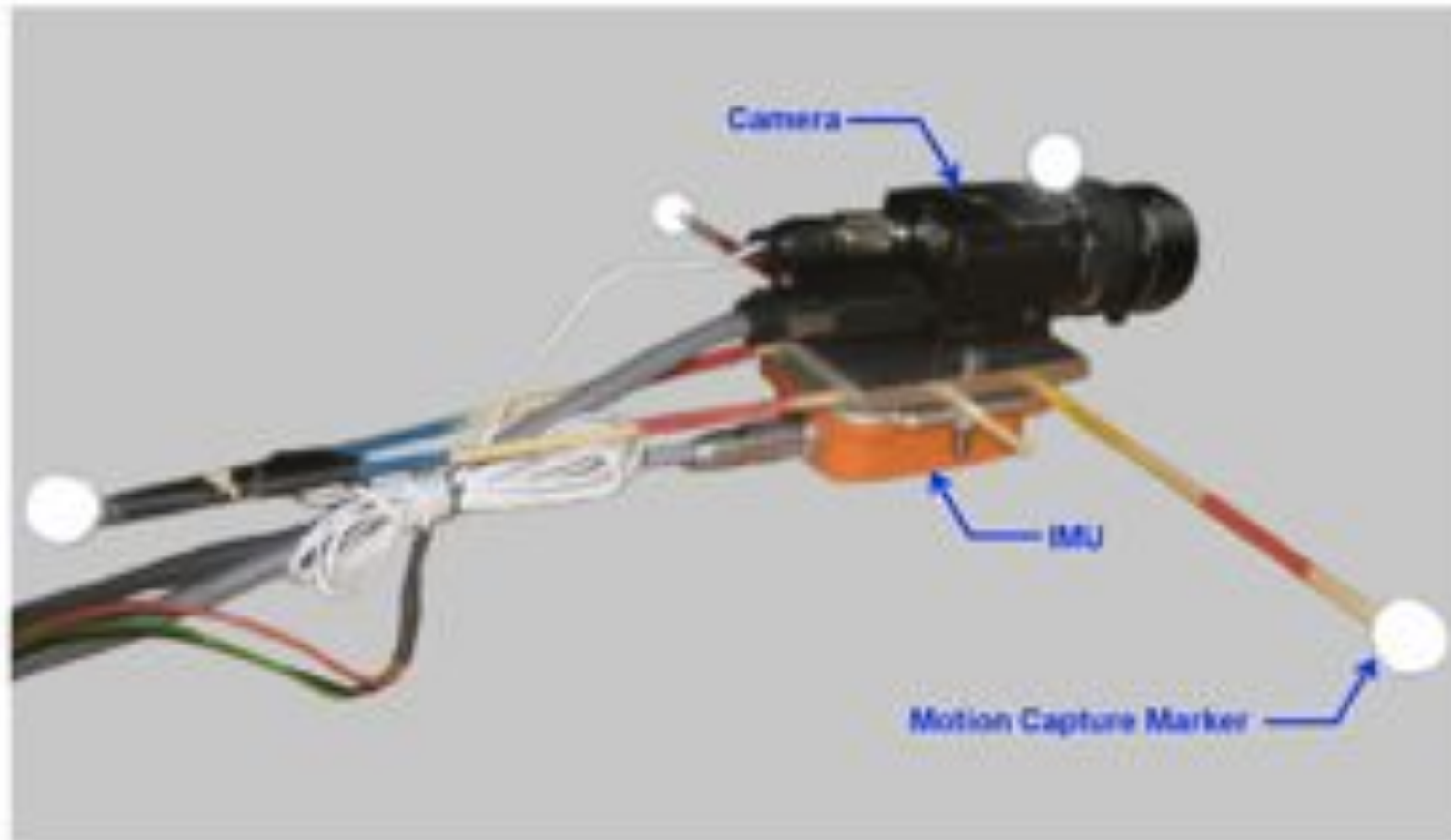
Prediction:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{p}^+ &= \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{v} \cdot dt \\ \mathbf{q}^+ &= \mathbf{q} \otimes v2q((\mathbf{w}_m - \mathbf{w}_b) \cdot dt) \\ \mathbf{v}^+ &= \mathbf{v} + (q2R(\mathbf{q}) \cdot (\mathbf{a}_m - \mathbf{a}_b) + \mathbf{g}) \cdot dt \\ \mathbf{a}_b^+ &= \mathbf{a}_b \\ \mathbf{w}_b^+ &= \mathbf{w}_b \\ \mathbf{g}^+ &= \mathbf{g}\end{aligned}$$

- additional sensor required
- precise
 - good linearization points
 - small search areas
 - possibility to track very high motion dynamics
- scale factor estimate possible

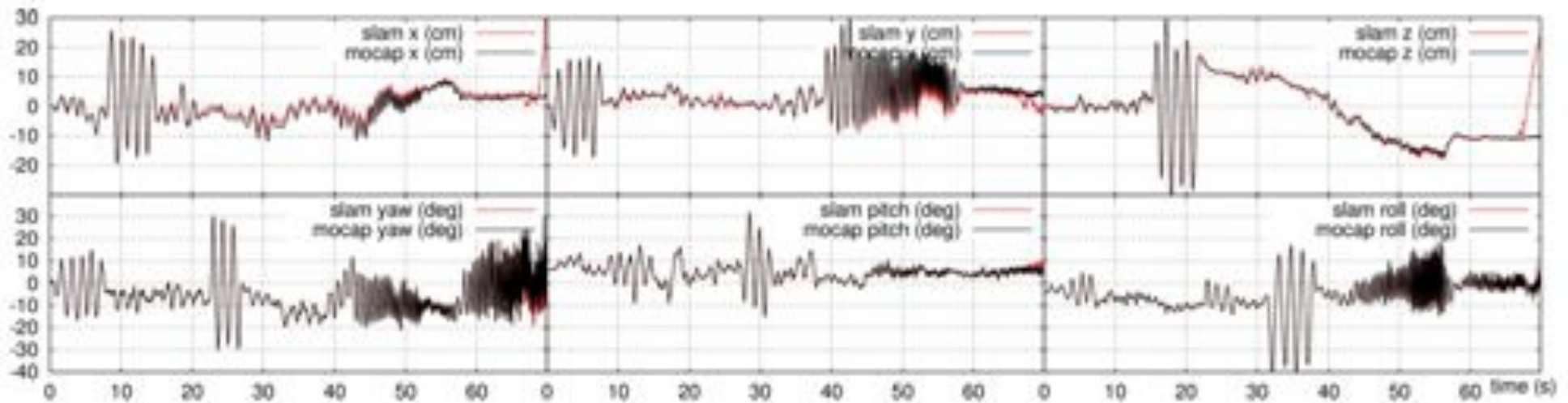
A closer look at the motion prediction

Using an inertial measurement unit: results



A closer look at the motion prediction

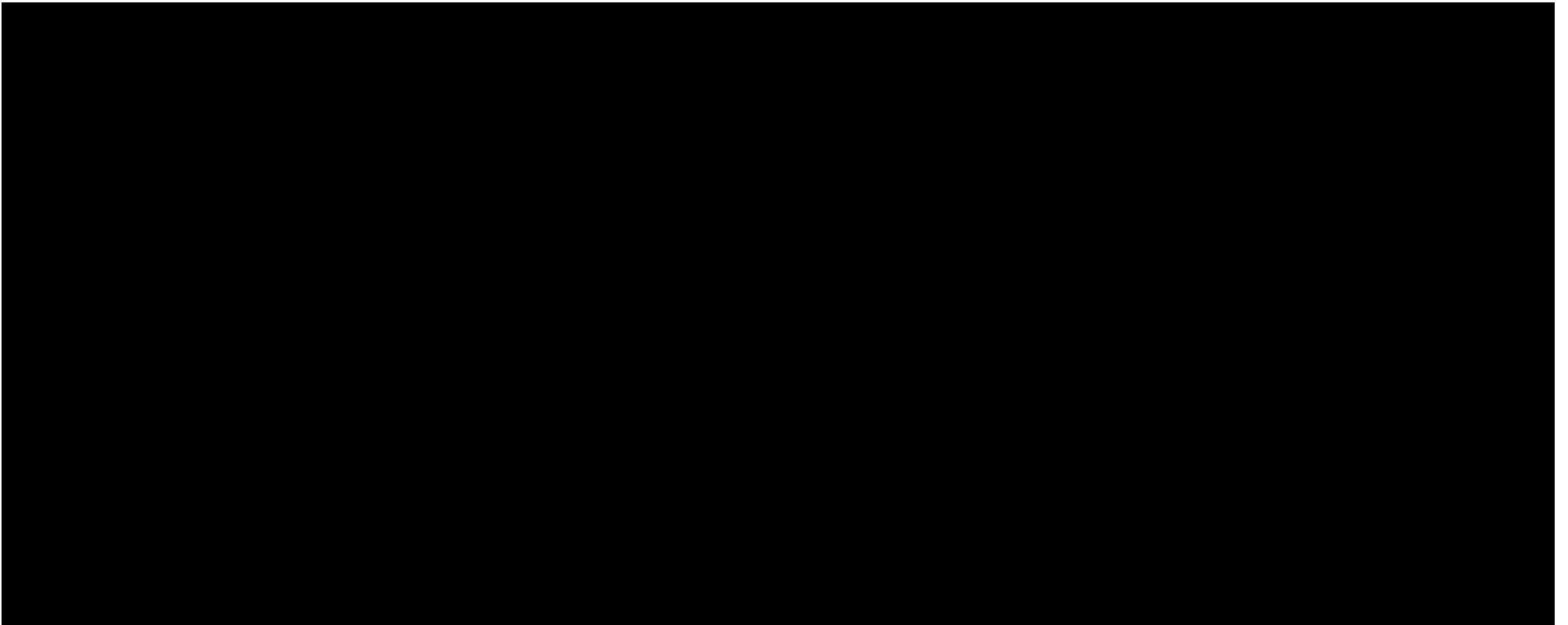
Using an inertial measurement unit: results



Estimated trajectory of the 6 position parameters

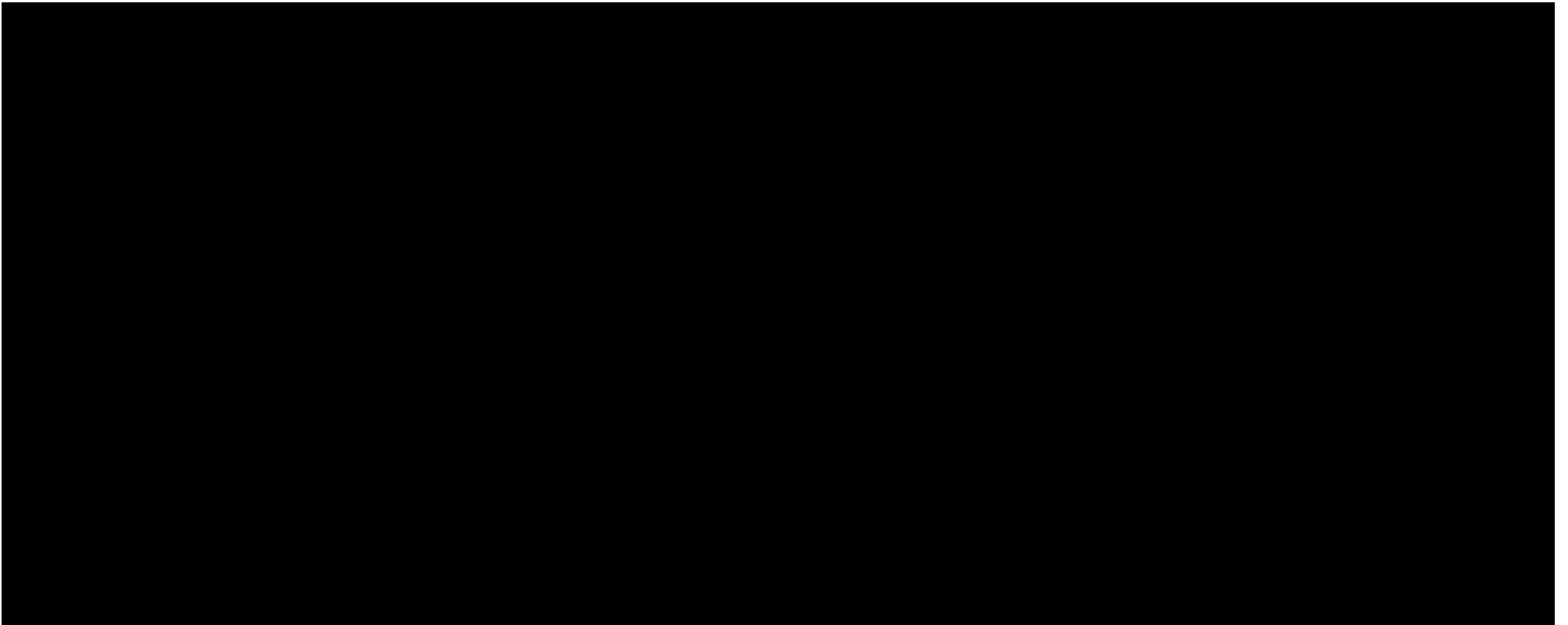
A closer look at the motion prediction

Using an inertial measurement unit: results



A closer look at the motion prediction

Using an inertial measurement unit: results



A closer look at the motion prediction

Using an inertial measurement unit: summary

- An additional proprioceptive sensor can help if :
 - high frequency
 - not too noisy
- Can also be directly used in the prediction step if :
 - complete
 - never faulty

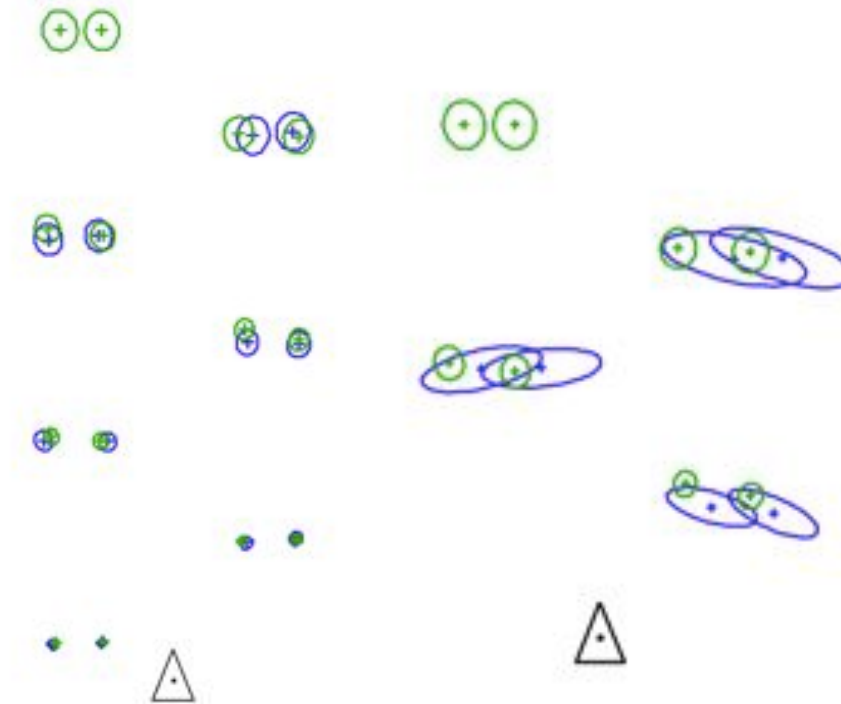
SLAM: outline

- Basics of simultaneous localisation and mapping
- SLAM with monocular vision
 - Solutions to the landmark initialisation problem
 - Importance of the motion prediction, introduction of an IMU
 - What about loop-closing?

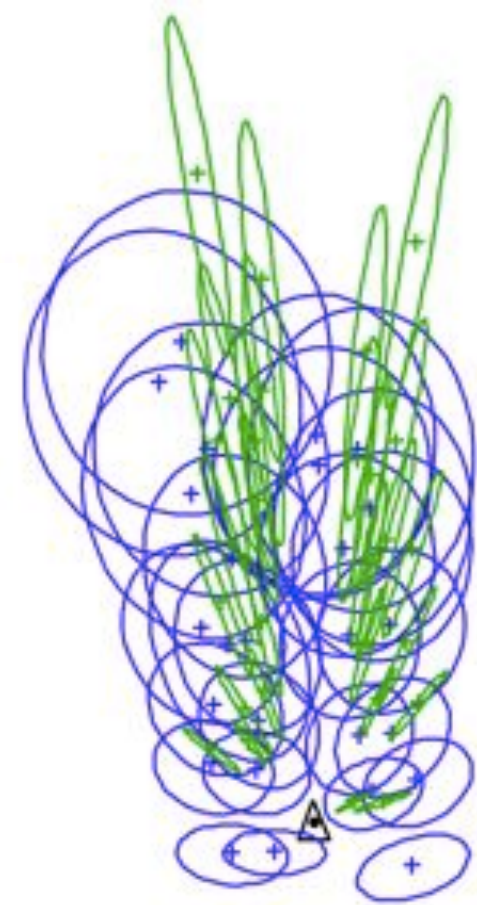
A closer look at data association

Data association relying on geometric information can become tricky...

Blue: predicted
(mapped) features
Green: observed
features



2 nearly consecutive cases



Large loop-closing
case

→ Better use landmark matching techniques

Overall summary

- Autonomous robots, on the importance of localization
- Localization using dead-reckoning approaches
- SLAM
 - Problem presentation
 - Basics on estimation
 - EKF SLAM
 - Main issues
- Vision-based SLAM
 - SLAM with stereovision
 - SLAM with monocular imagery
 - Solutions to the landmark initialisation problem
 - Illustrations
 - Importance of the motion prediction, introduction of an IMU
 - (Visual loop-closing detection)