



# Optical Flow I

Guido Gerig

CS 6643, Spring 2017

(credits: Marc Pollefeys UNC Chapel Hill, Comp 256 / K.H. Shafique, UCSF, CAP5415 / S. Narasimhan, CMU / Bahadir K. Gunturk, EE 7730 / Bradski&Thrun, Stanford CS223)



# Materials

- Gary Bradski & Sebastian Thrun, Stanford CS223  
<http://robots.stanford.edu/cs223b/index.html>
- S. Narasimhan, CMU: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/academic/class/15385-s06/lectures/ppts/lec-16.ppt>
- M. Pollefeys, ETH Zurich/UNC Chapel Hill:  
<http://www.cs.unc.edu/Research/vision/comp256/vision10.ppt>
- K.H. Shafique, UCSF: <http://www.cs.ucf.edu/courses/cap6411/cap5415/>
  - Lecture 18 (March 25, 2003), Slides: [PDF](#) / [PPT](#)
- Jepson, Toronto:  
<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/pub/jepson/teaching/vision/2503/opticalFlow.pdf>
- Original paper Horn&Schunck 1981:  
<http://www.csd.uwo.ca/faculty/beau/CS9645/PAPERS/Horn-Schunck.pdf>
- MIT AI Memo Horn& Schunck 1980:  
<http://people.csail.mit.edu/bkph/AIM/AIM-572.pdf>
- Bahadir K. Gunturk, EE 7730 Image Analysis II
- Some slides and illustrations from L. Van Gool, T. Darell, B. Horn, Y. Weiss, P. Anandan, M. Black, K. Toyama



# Optical Flow and Motion

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- We are interested in finding the movement of scene objects from time-varying images (videos).
- Lots of uses
  - Motion detection
  - Track objects
  - Correct for camera jitter (stabilization)
  - Align images (mosaics)
  - 3D shape reconstruction
  - Special effects
  - Games: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JILkkom6tWw>
  - User Interfaces: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3gT52sHDI4>
  - Video compression



# Tracking – Rigid Objects

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# Tracking – Non-rigid Objects

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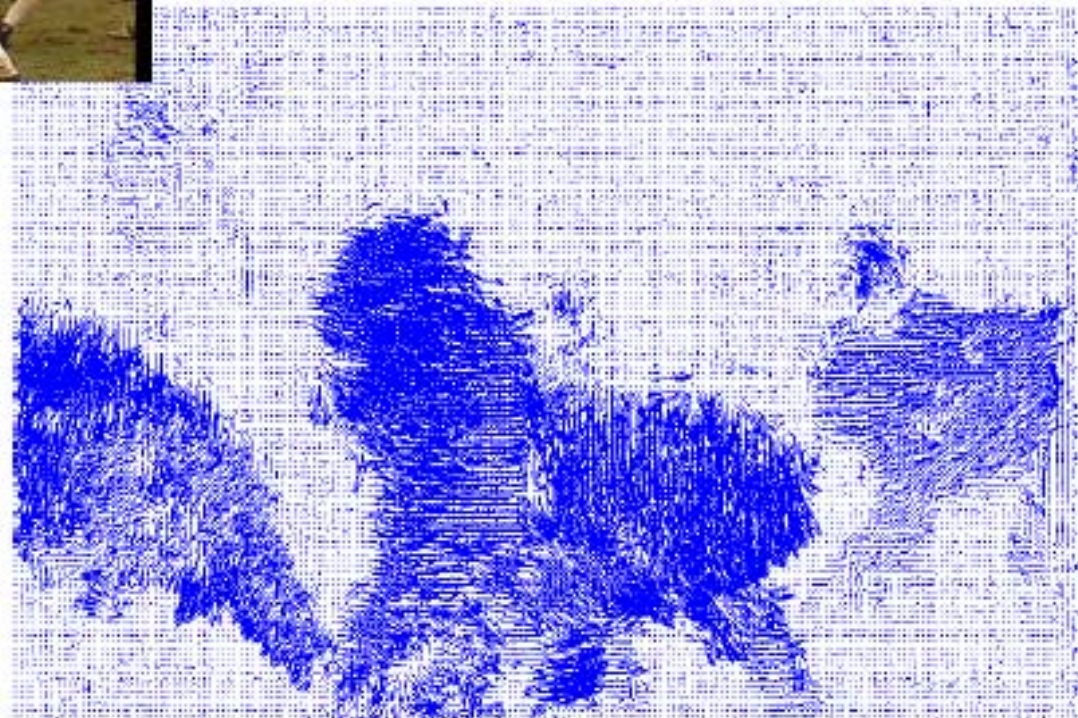


(Comaniciu et al, Siemens)





# Tracking – Non-rigid Objects



Alper Yilmaz, Fall 2005 UCF

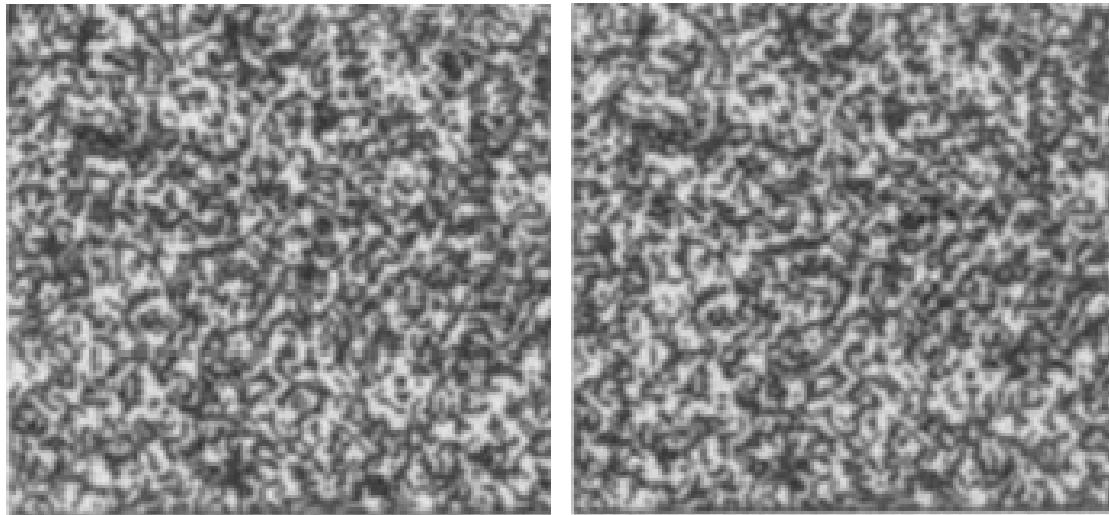


# Optical Flow: Where do pixels move to?





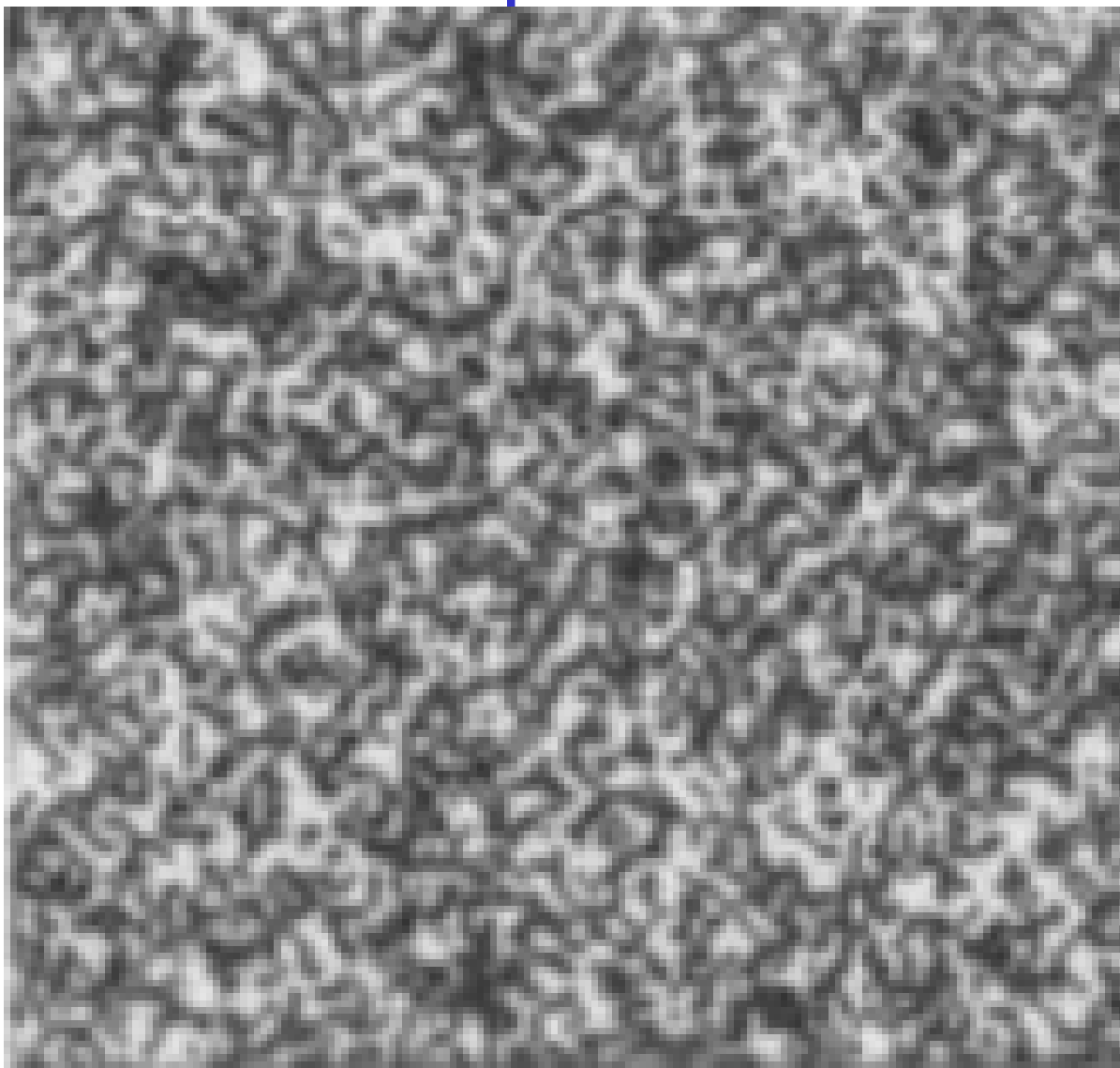
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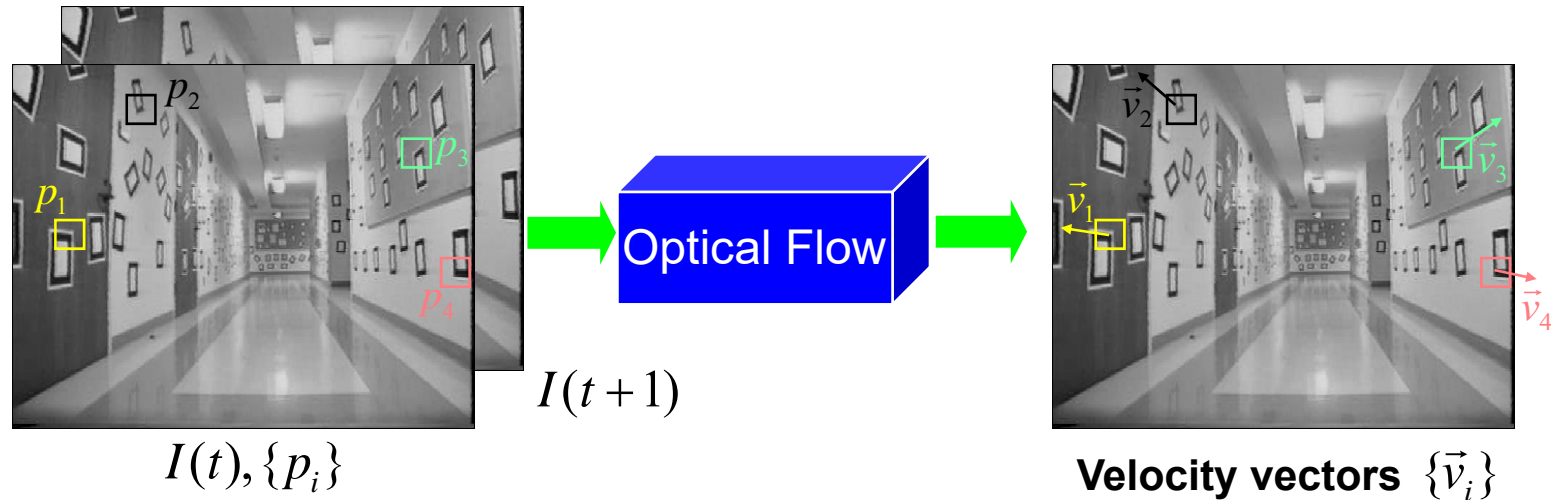




# Optical Flow: Where do pixels move to?



# What is Optical Flow (OF)?



**Optical flow** is the relation of the motion field:

- the 2D projection of the physical movement of points relative to the observer to 2D displacement of pixel patches on the image plane.

**Common assumption:**

The appearance of the image patches do not change (brightness constancy)

$$I(p_i, t) = I(p_i + \vec{v}_i, t + 1)$$

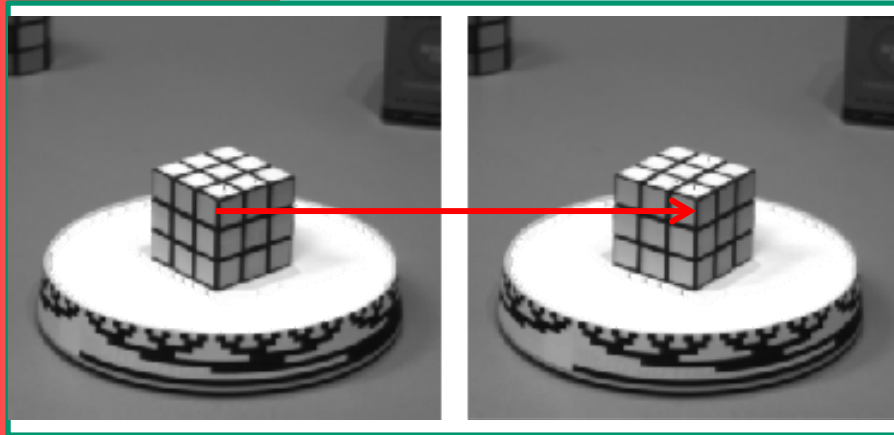
Note: more elaborate tracking models can be adopted if more frames are process all at once



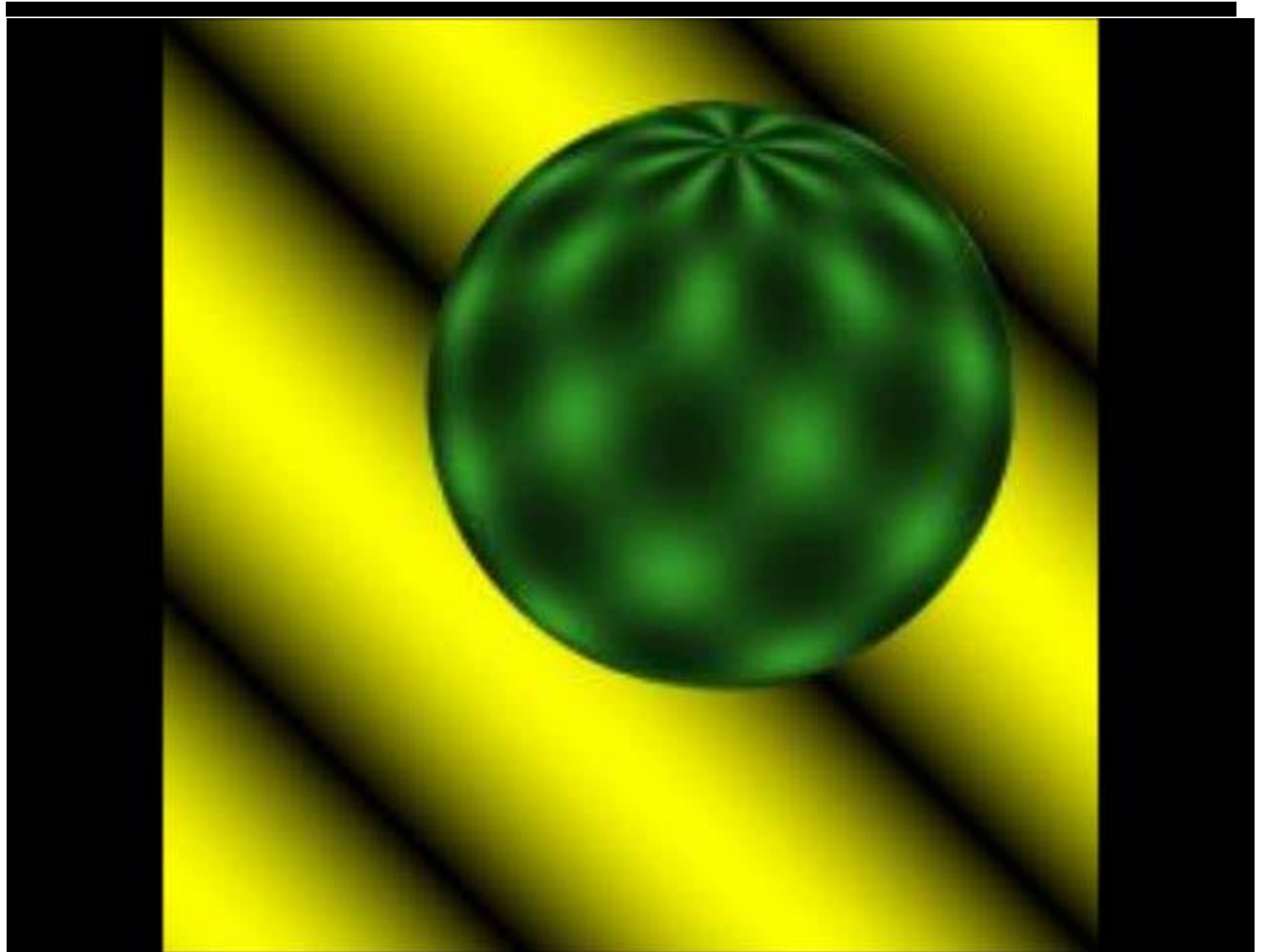
# Optical Flow: Correspondence

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Basic question: Which Pixel went where?

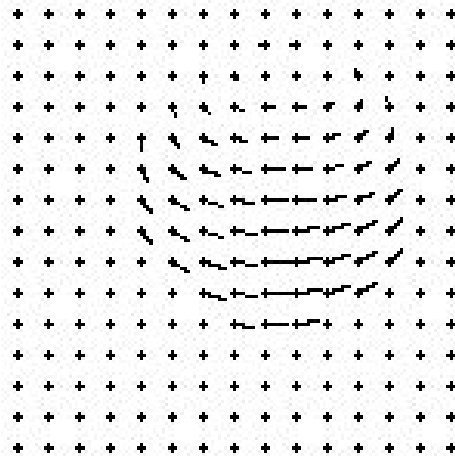
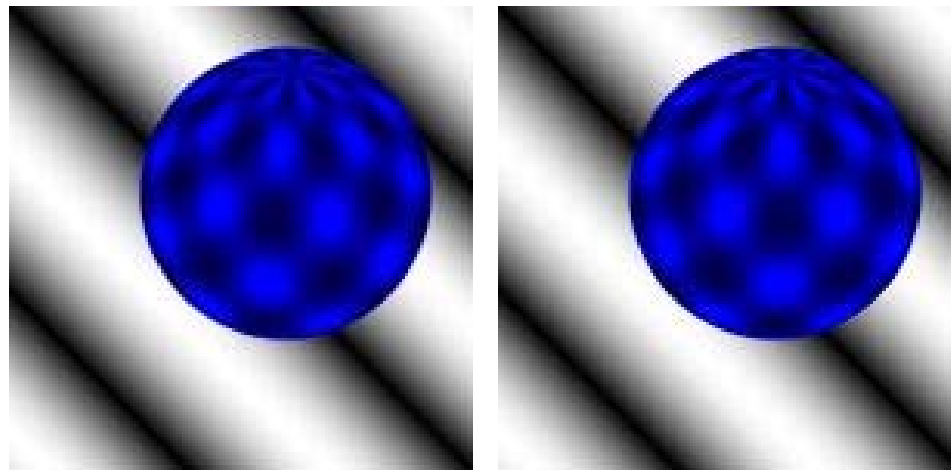


# Structure from Motion?



# Optical Flow is NOT 3D motion field

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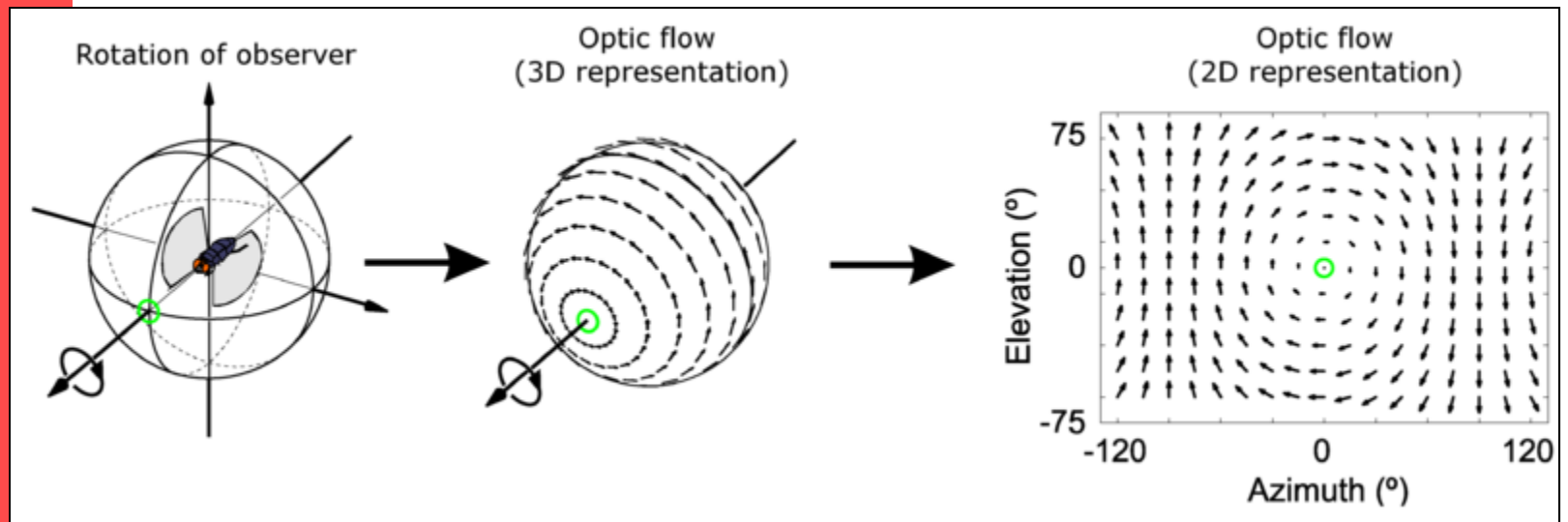


Optical flow: Pixel  
motion field as  
observed in image.

<http://of-eval.sourceforge.net/>



# Optical Flow is NOT 3D motion field



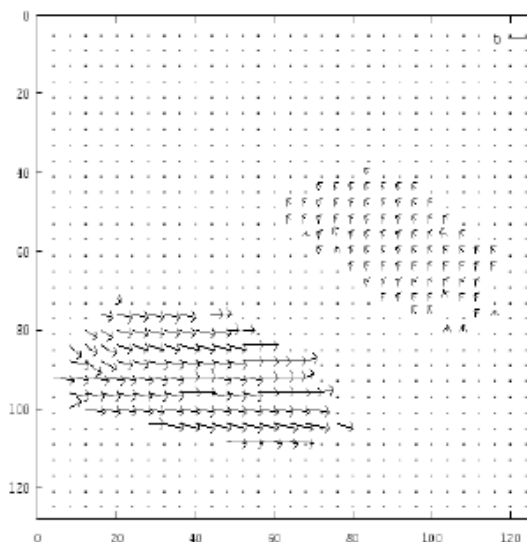
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Opticfloweg.png>



## Definition of optical flow

**OPTICAL FLOW = apparent motion of brightness patterns**

Ideally, the optical flow is the projection of the three-dimensional velocity vectors on the image





# Optical Flow - Agenda

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization
- Lucas-Kanade
- Coarse-to-fine
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow

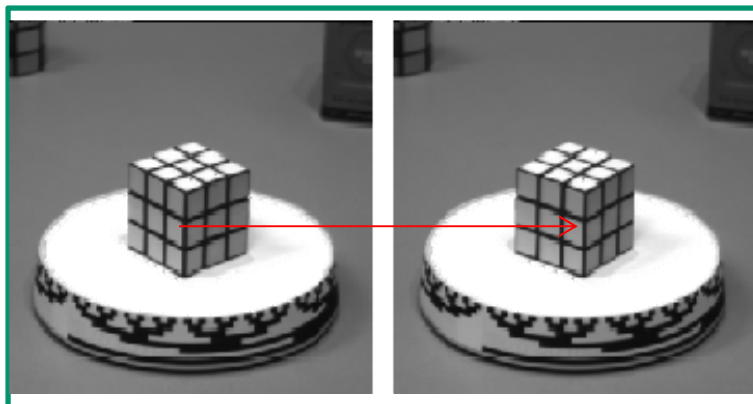


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# Start with an Equation: Brightness Constancy



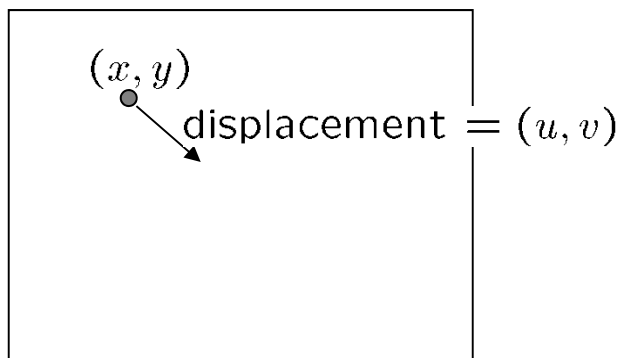
Time:  $t$

Time:  $t + dt$

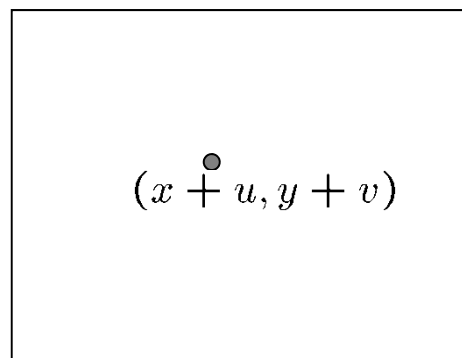
Point moves (small), but its  
brightness remains constant:

$$I_{t_1}(x, y) = I_{t_2}(x + u, y + v)$$

$$I = \text{constant} \rightarrow \frac{dI}{dt} = 0$$



$I_1$



$I_2$





## Mathematical formulation (1D)

$I(x(t), t)$  = brightness at  $(x)$  at time  $t$

*Brightness constancy assumption (shift of location but brightness stays same):*

$$I\left(x + \frac{dx}{dt} \delta t, t + \delta t\right) = I(x, y, t)$$

*Optical flow constraint equation (chain rule):*

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} = 0$$

# Optical Flow: 1D Case

Brightness Constancy Assumption:

$$f(t) \equiv I(x(t), t) = I(x(t + dt), t + dt)$$

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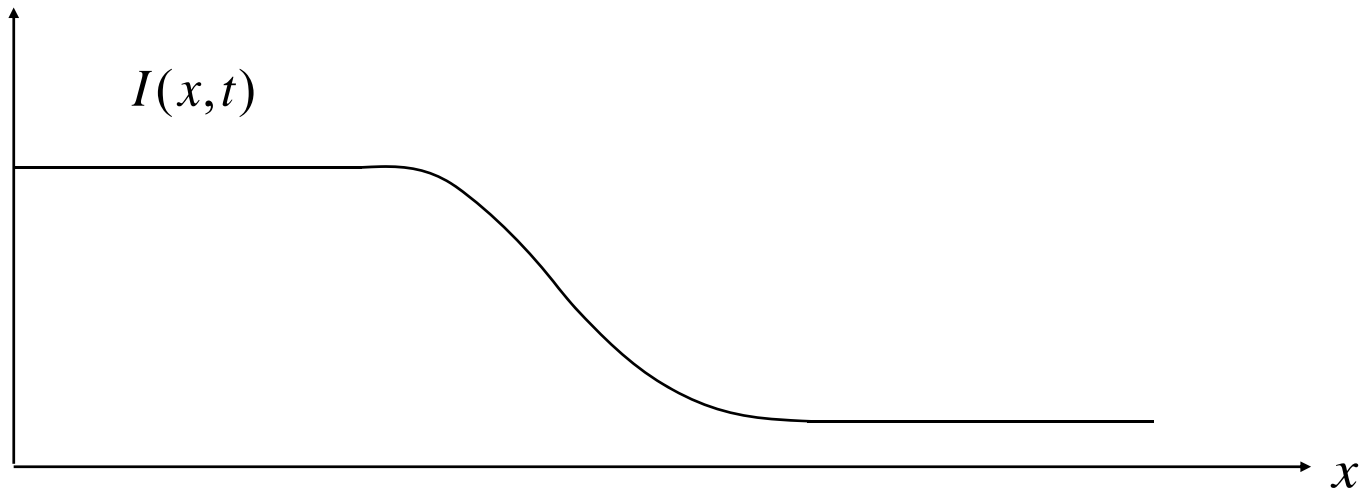
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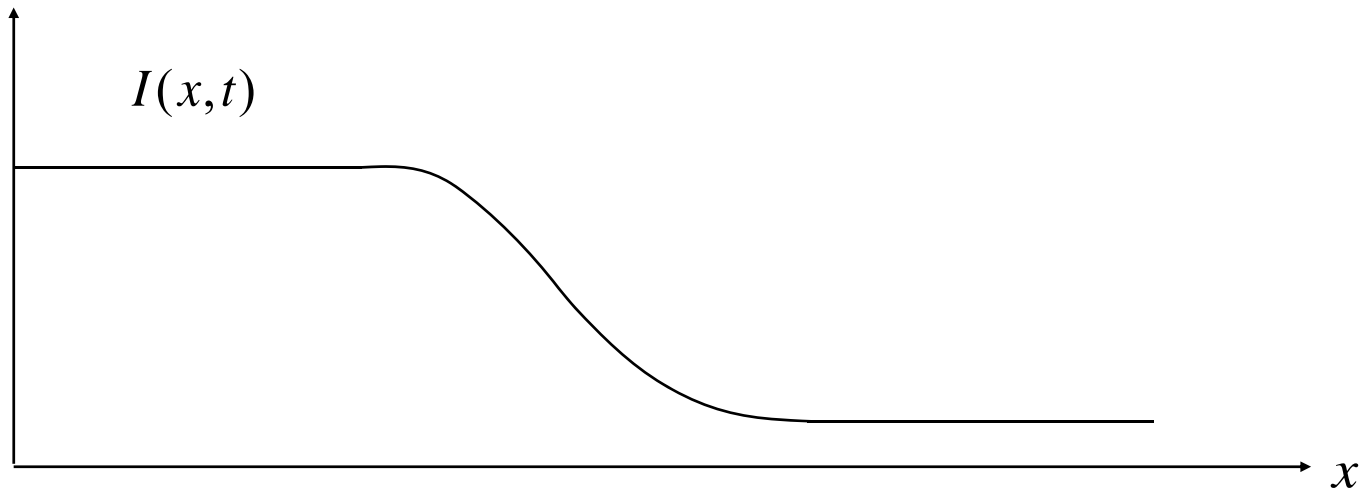
$$I_x \quad v \quad I_t$$

$$\Rightarrow v = - \frac{I_t}{I_x}$$

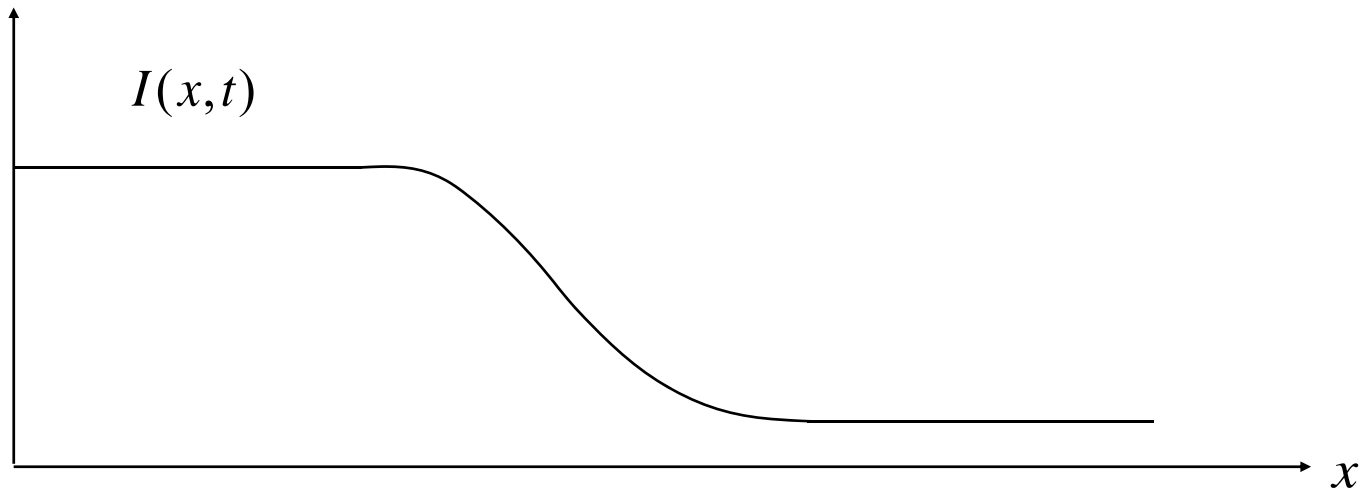
# Tracking in the 1D case:



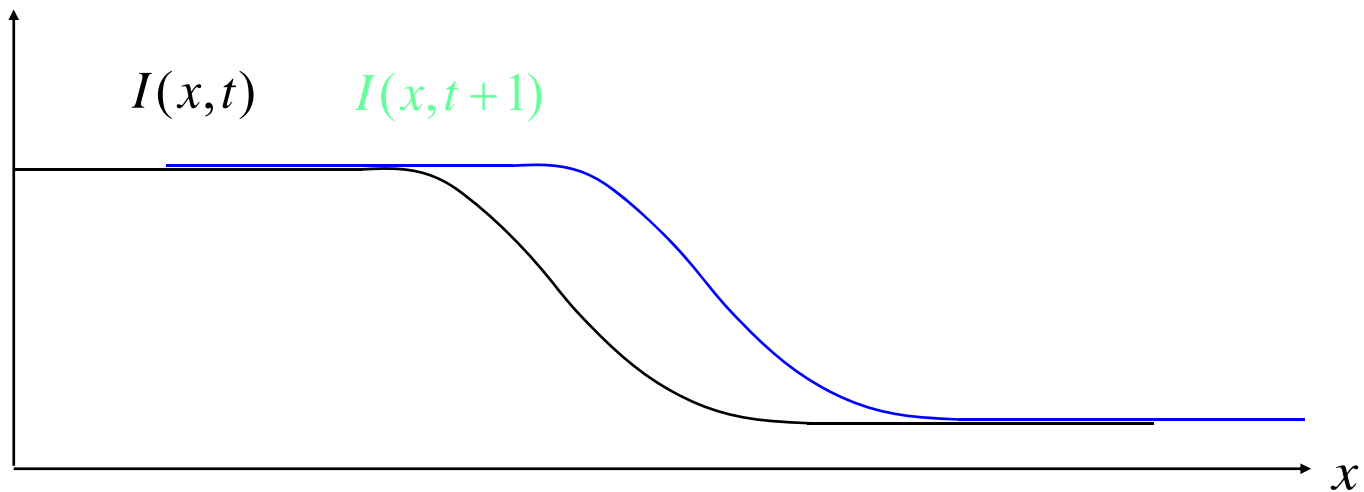
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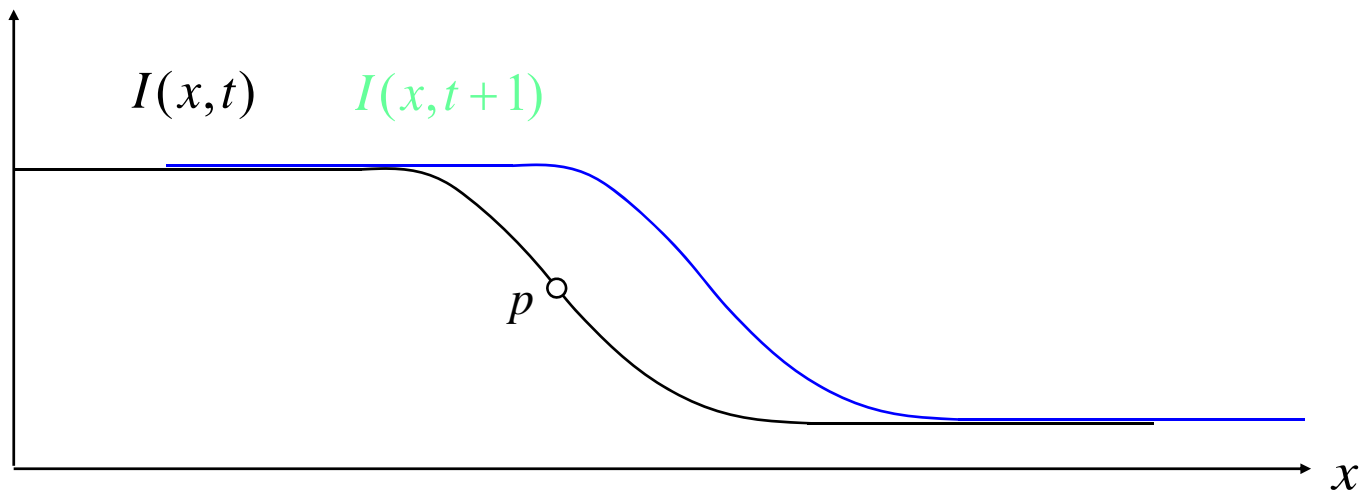
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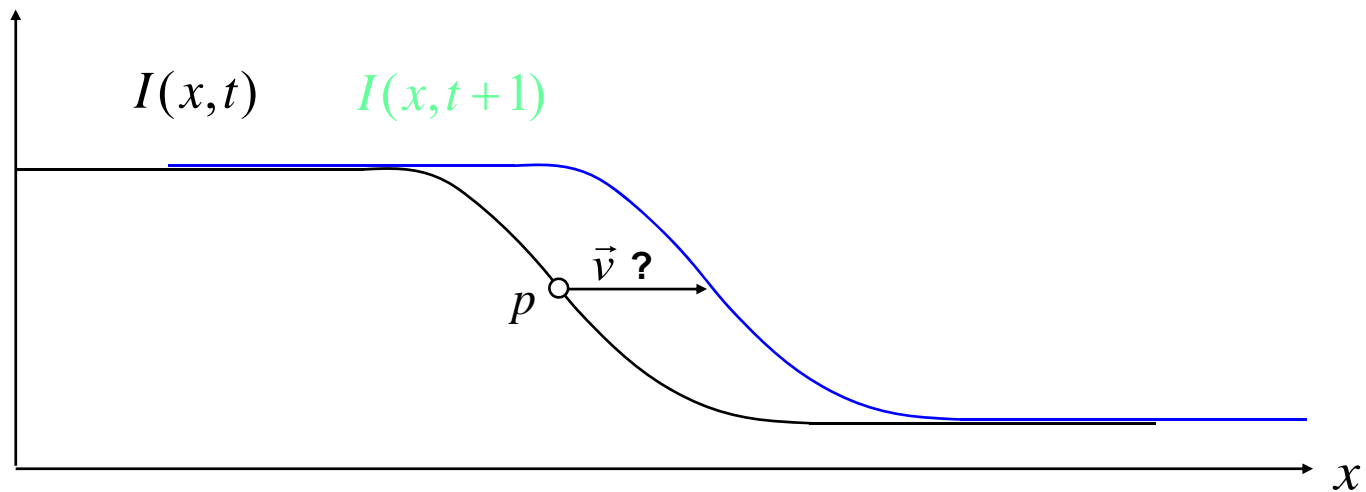
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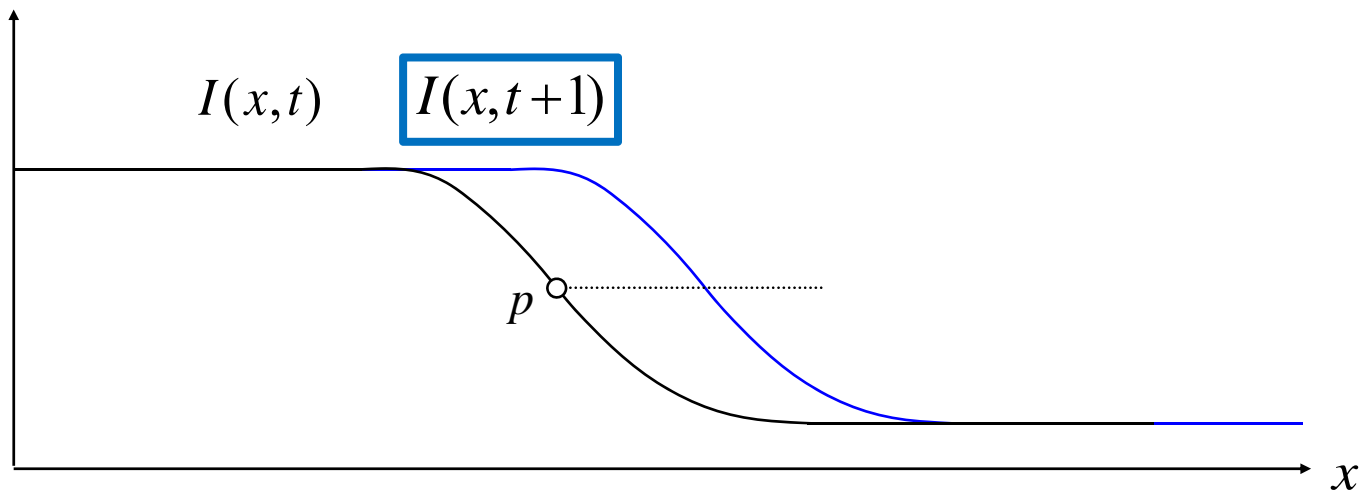
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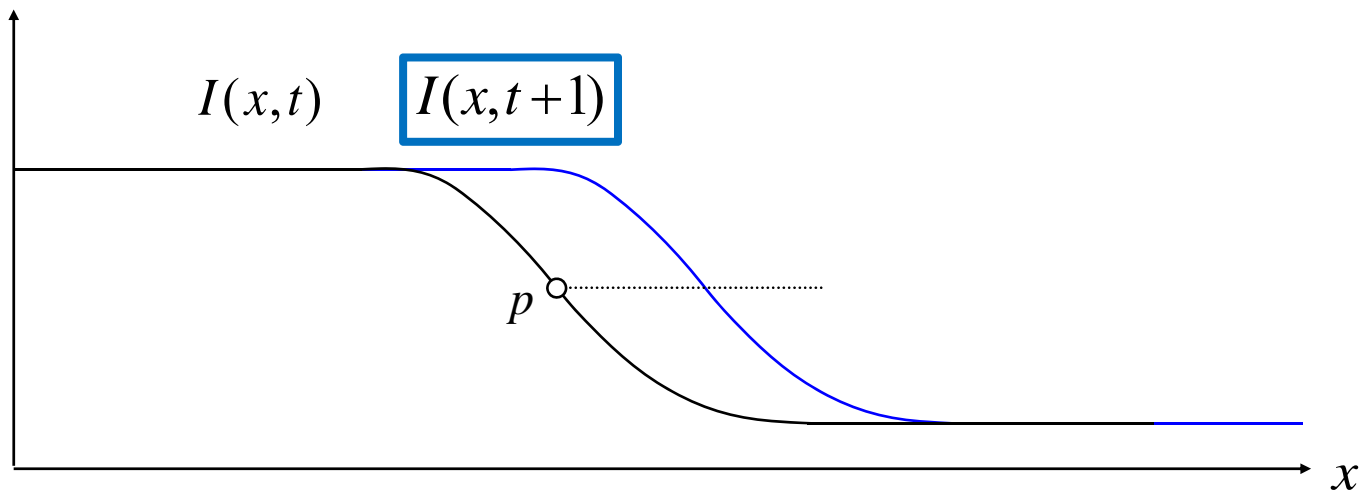


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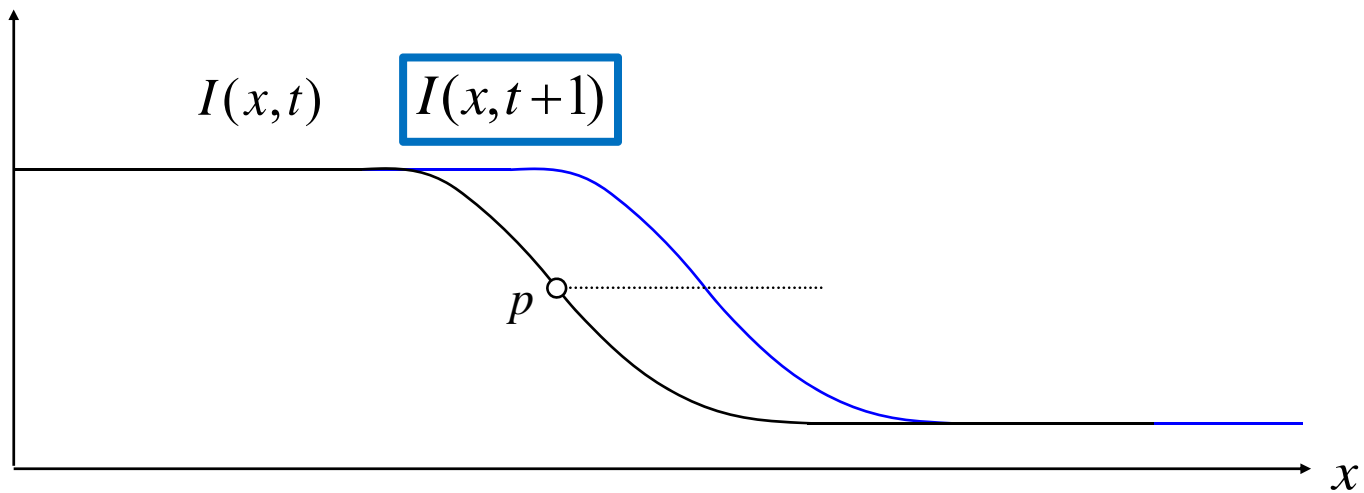




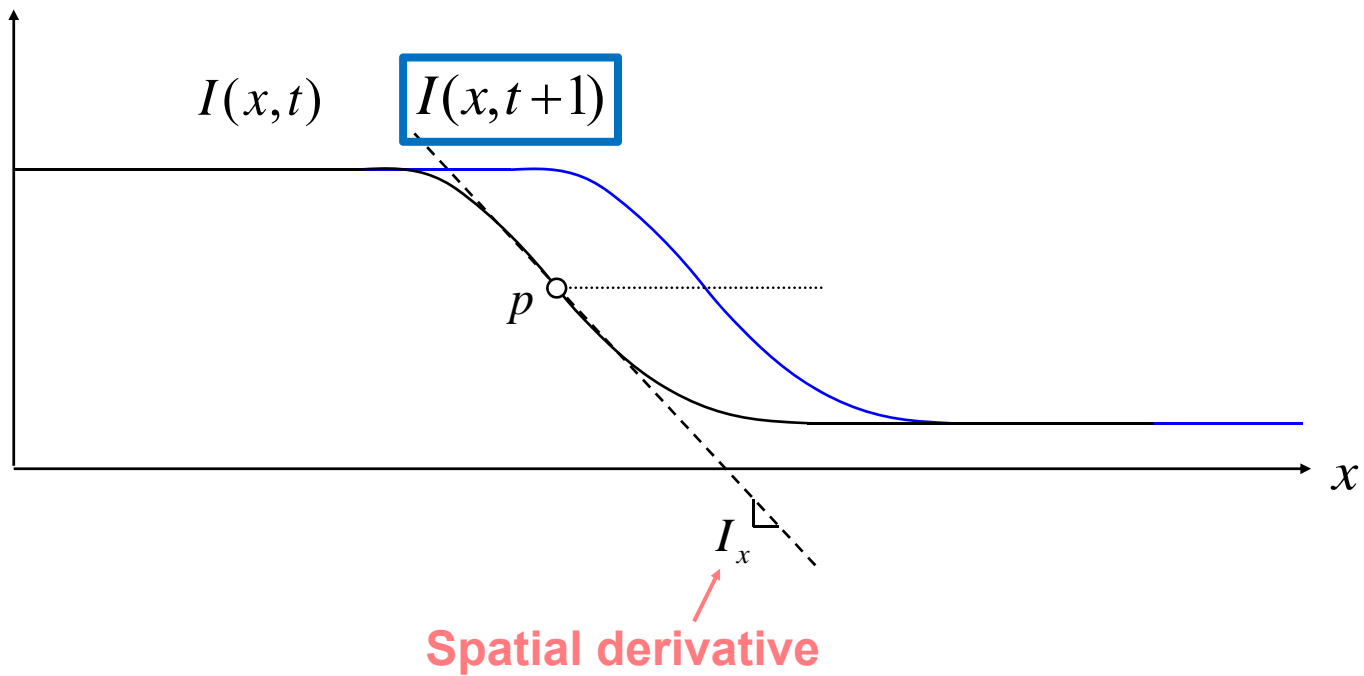
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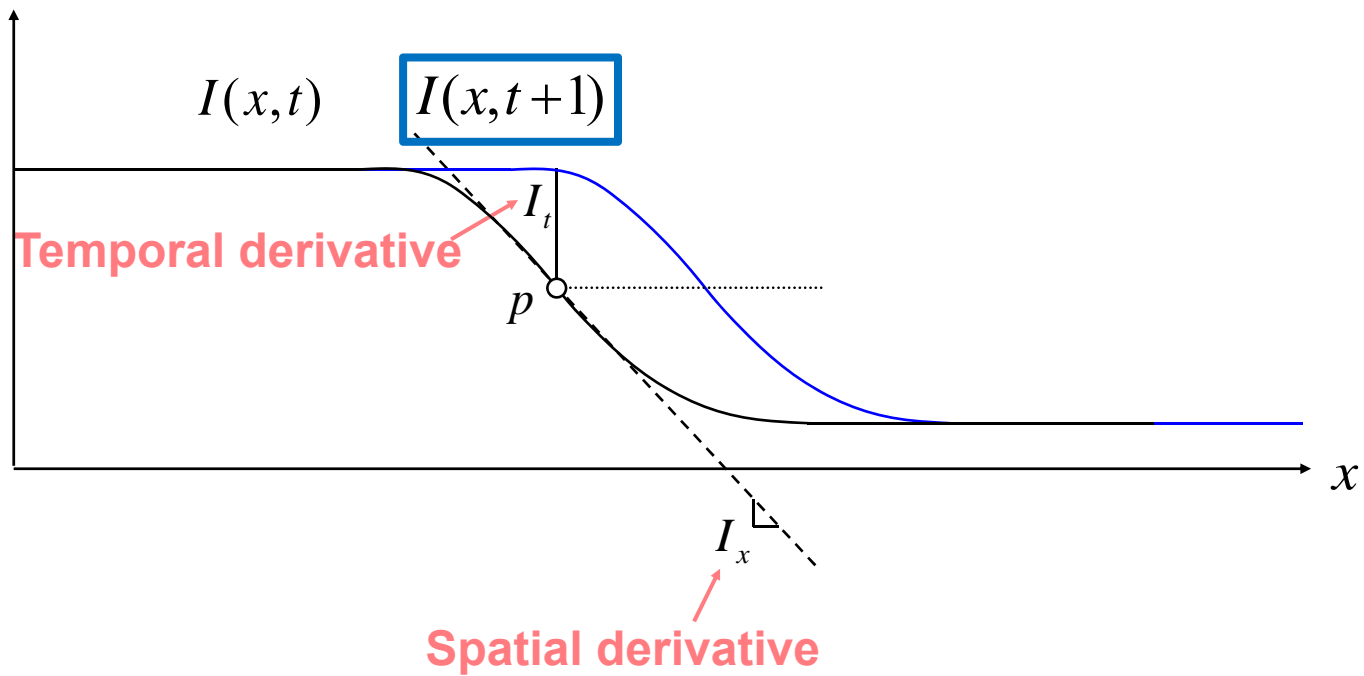
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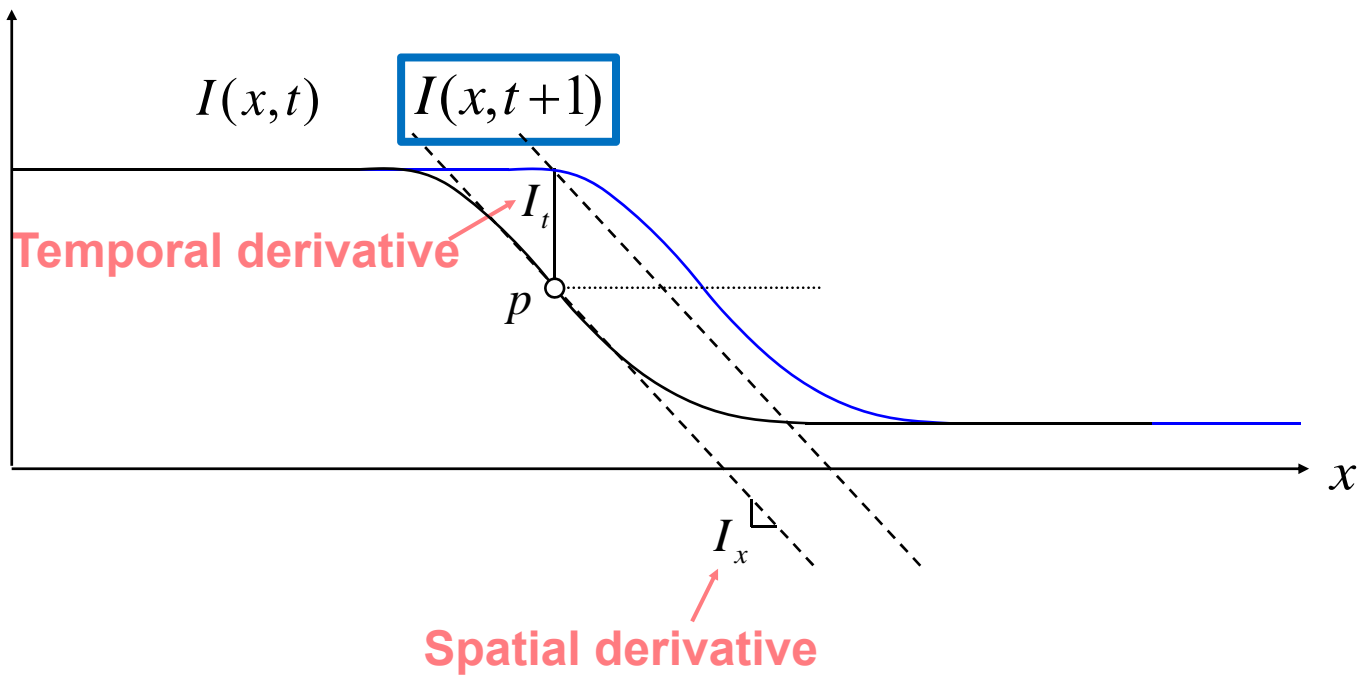
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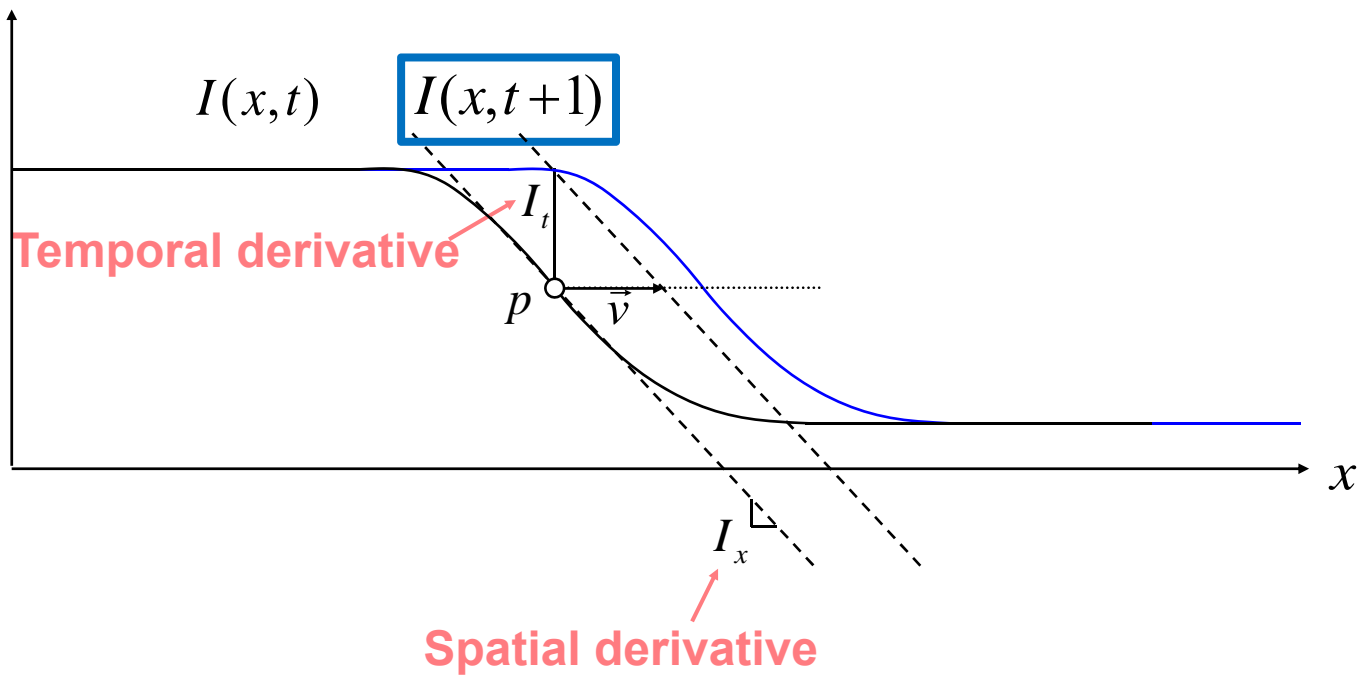
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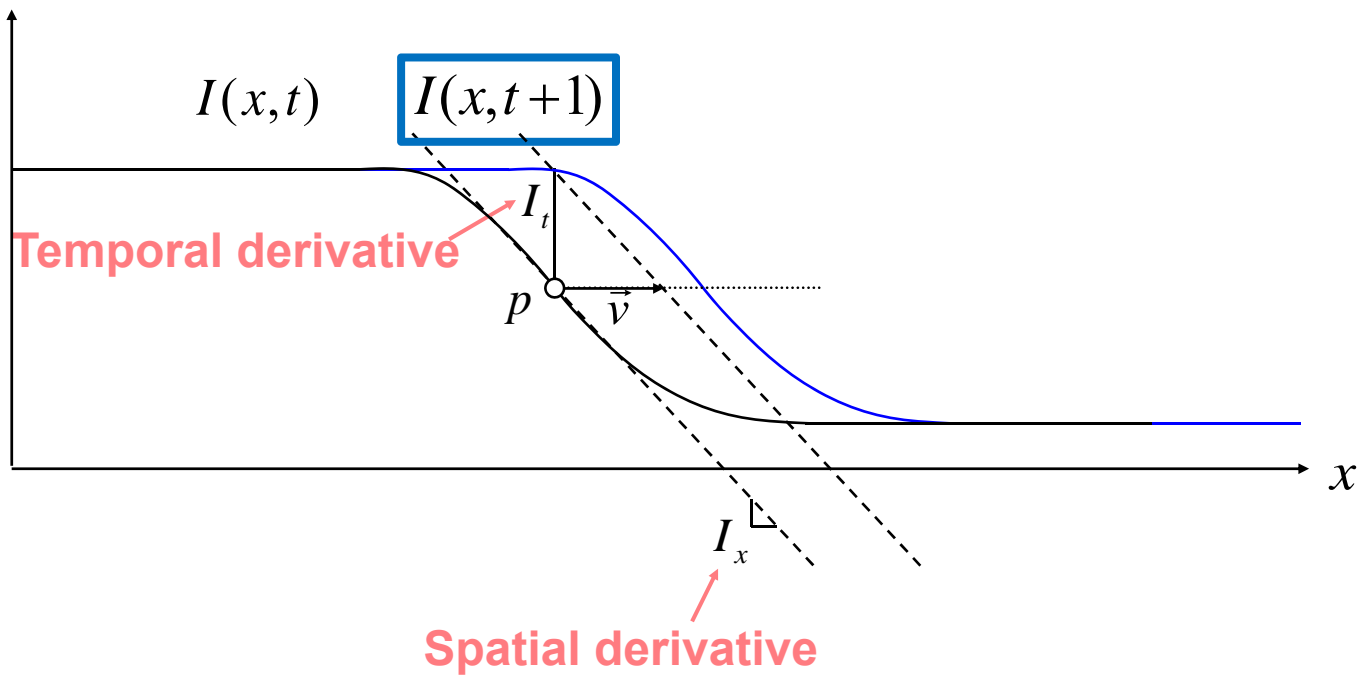
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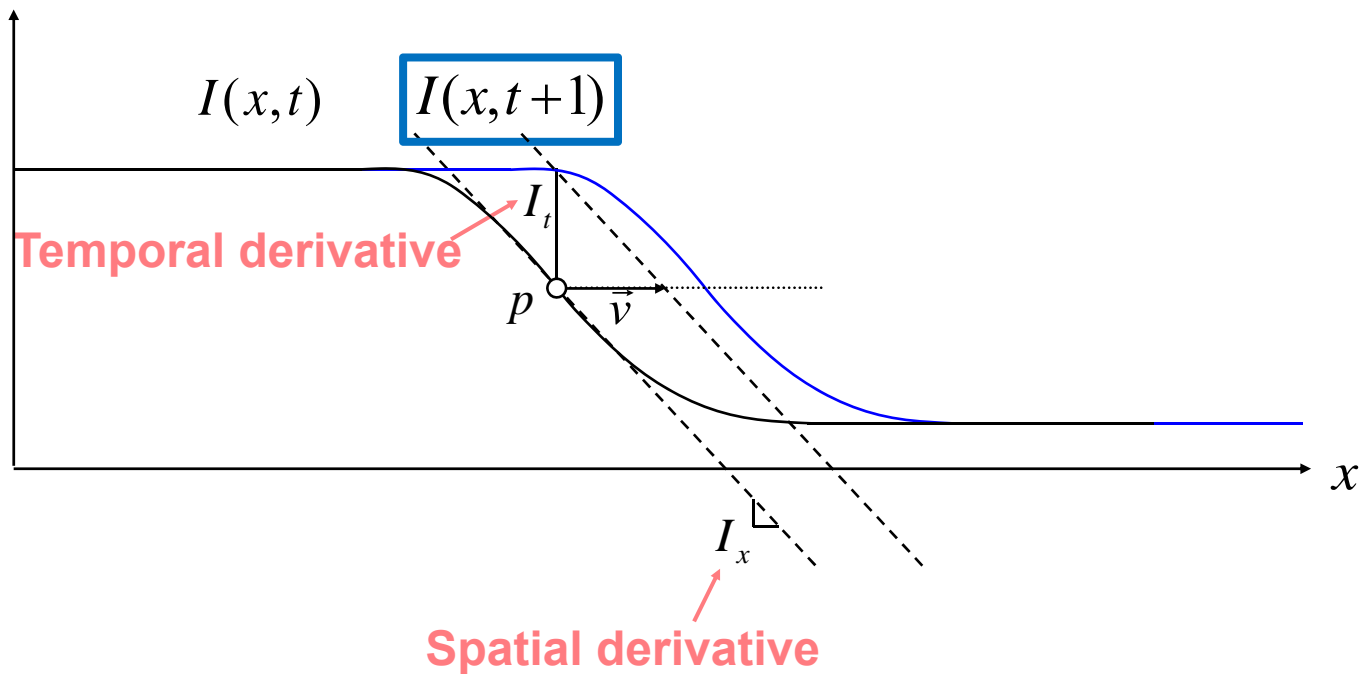
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$$I_x = \left. \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \right|_t$$

$$I_t = \left. \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \right|_{x=p}$$



$$\vec{v} \approx -\frac{I_t}{I_x}$$

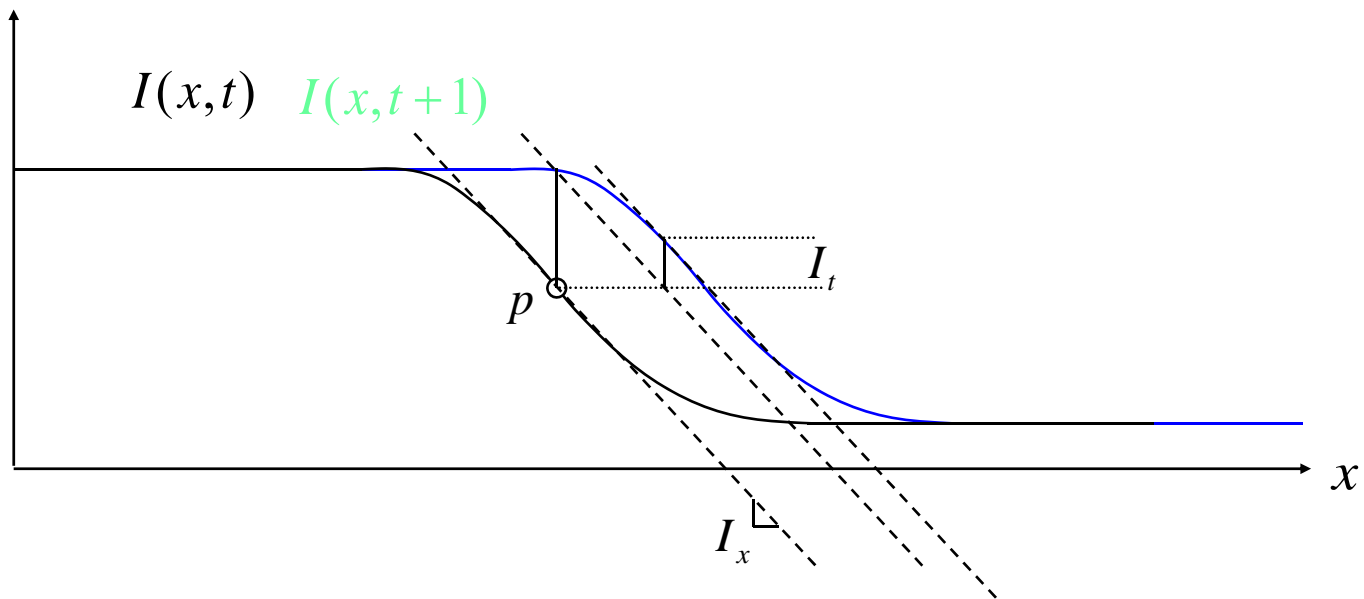
**Assumptions:**

- Brightness constancy
- Small motion



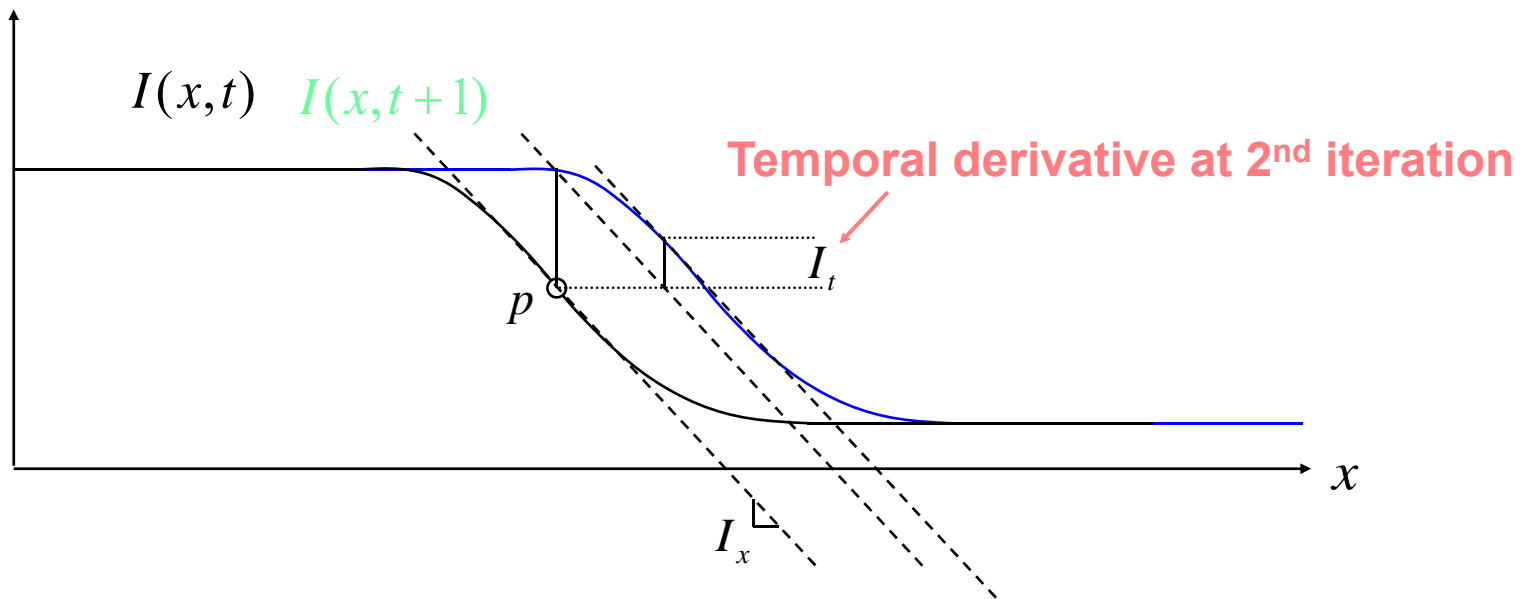
# Tracking in the 1D case:

Iterating helps refining the velocity vector



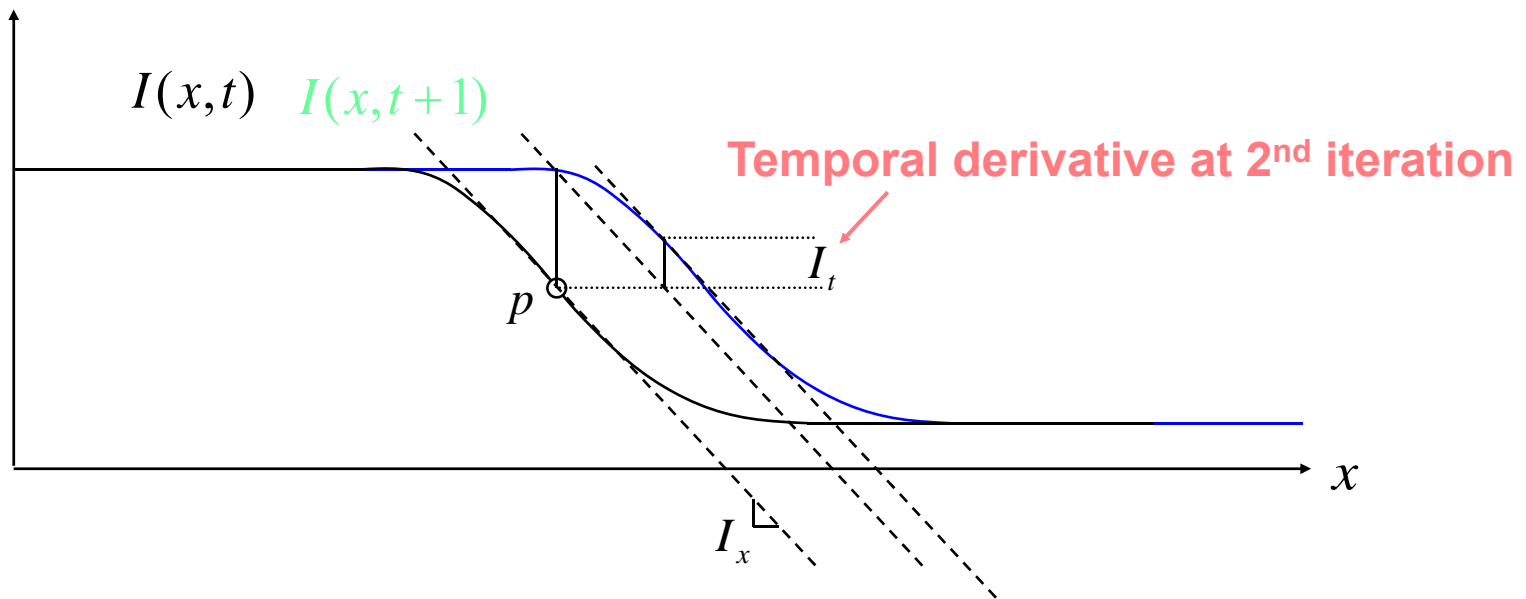
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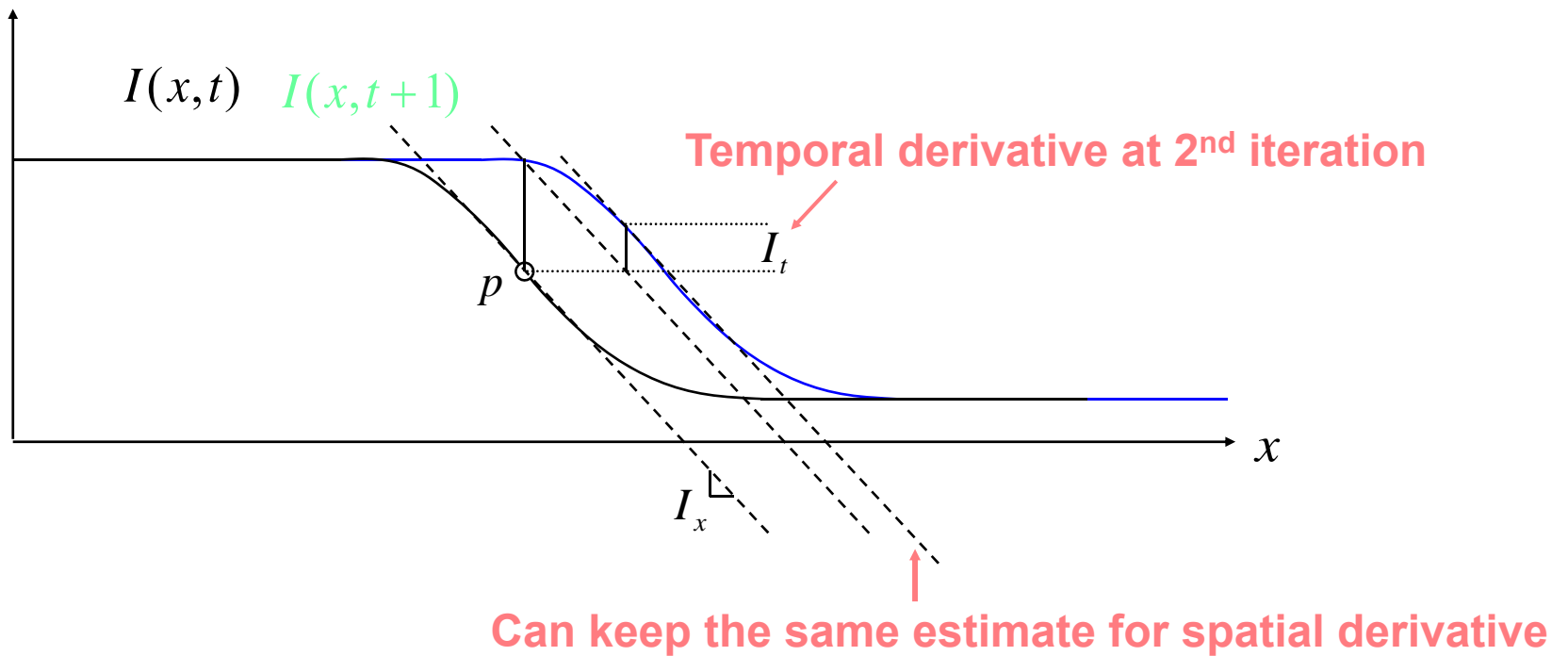
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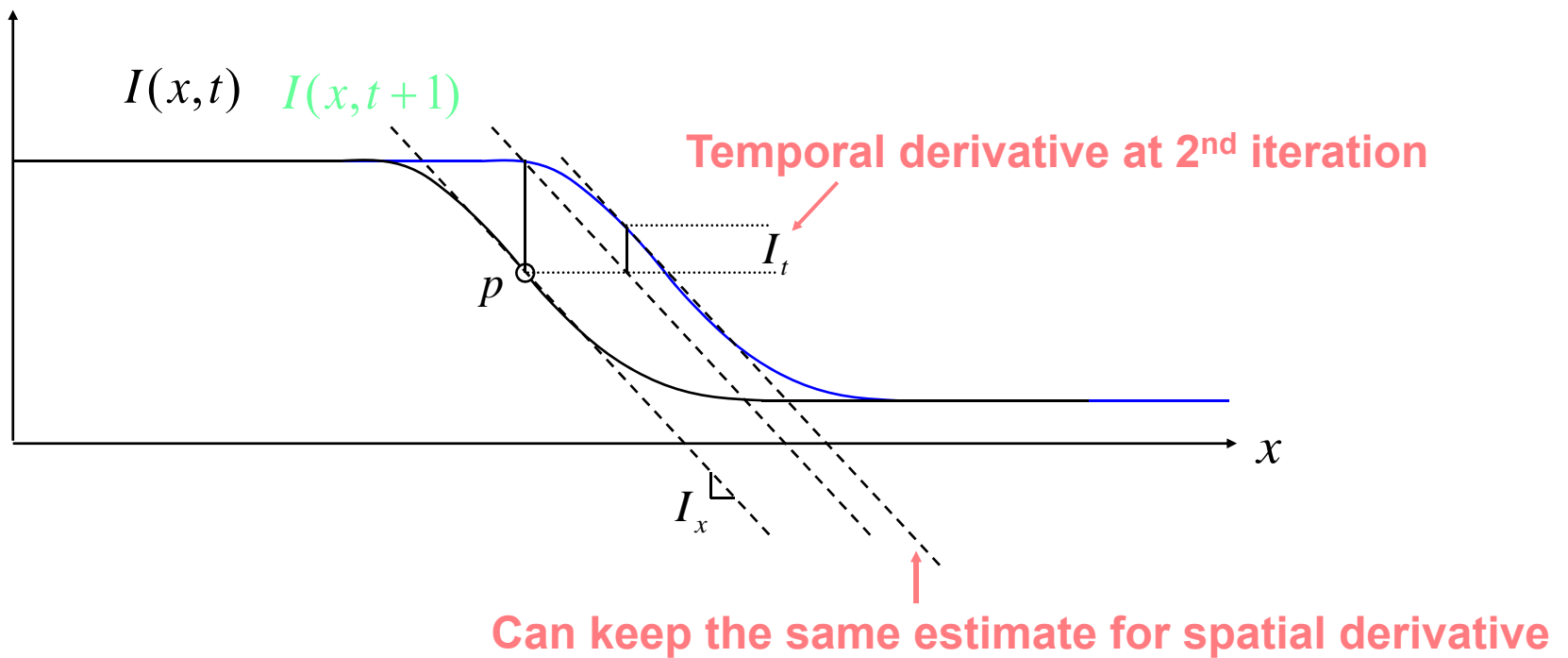
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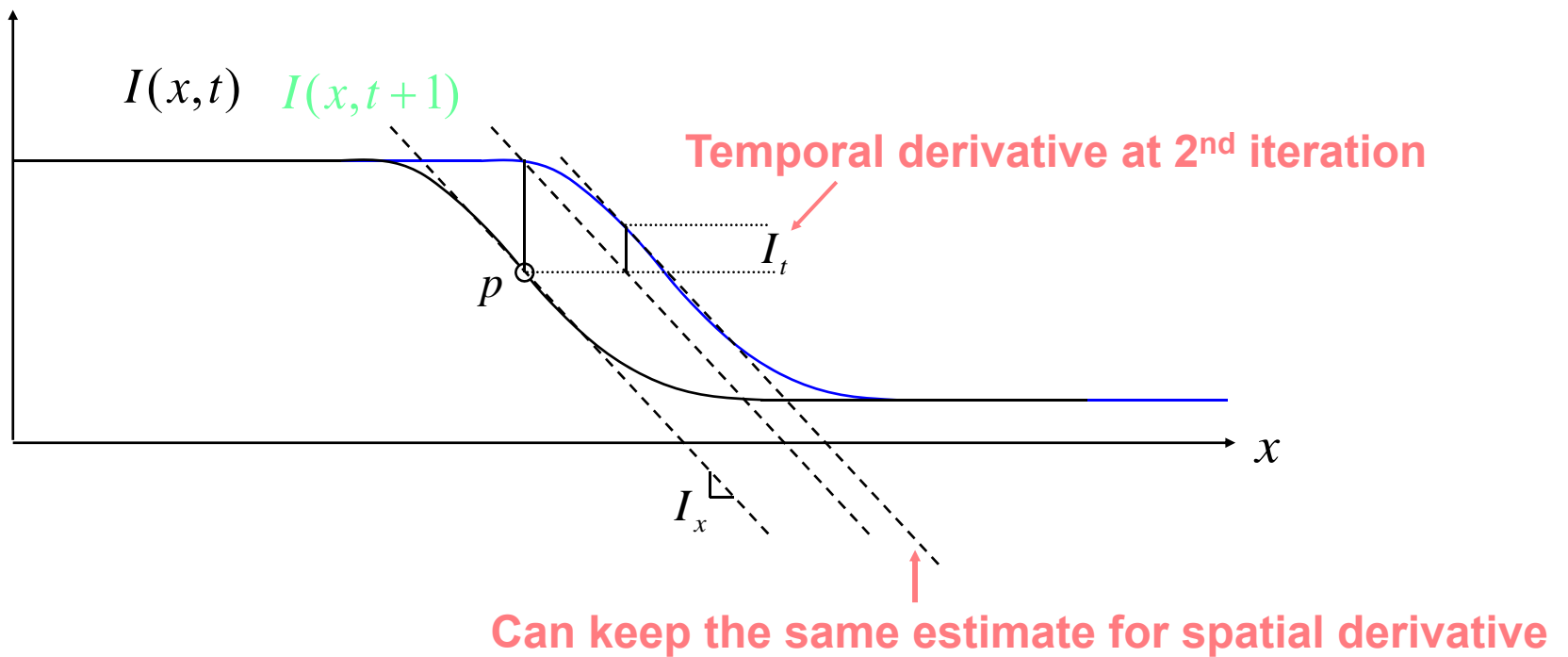
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$$\vec{v} \leftarrow \vec{v}_{previous} - \frac{I_t}{I_x}$$

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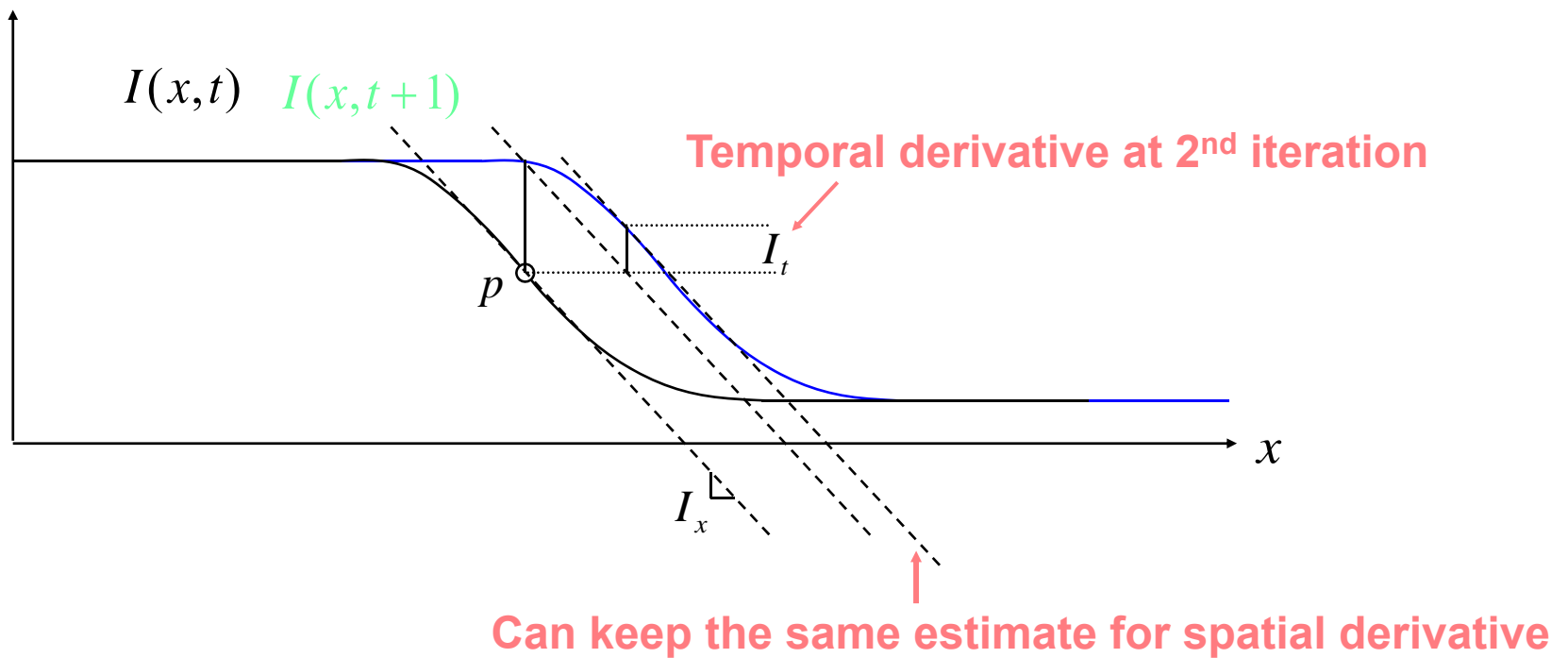
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Iterating helps refining the velocity vector



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Converges in about 5 iterations

# From 1D to 2D tracking

$$1\text{D: } \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Big|_t \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Big|_{x(t)} = 0$$



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$$2\text{D: } \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Big|_t \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \Big|_t \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Big|_{x(t)} = 0$$

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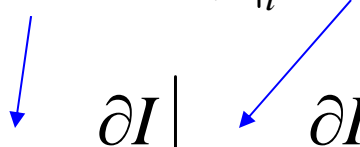
$$2\text{D: } \frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Big|_t \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \Big|_t \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Big|_{x(t)} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial I}{\partial x} \Big|_t u + \frac{\partial I}{\partial y} \Big|_t v + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \Big|_{x(t)} = 0$$


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Shoot! One equation, two velocity  $(u, v)$  unknowns...



## The aperture problem

$$u = \frac{dx}{dt}, \quad v = \frac{dy}{dt}$$

$$I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}, \quad I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}, \quad I_t = \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}$$

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

Horn and  
Schunck  
optical flow  
equation



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Horn and  
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1 equation in 2 unknowns



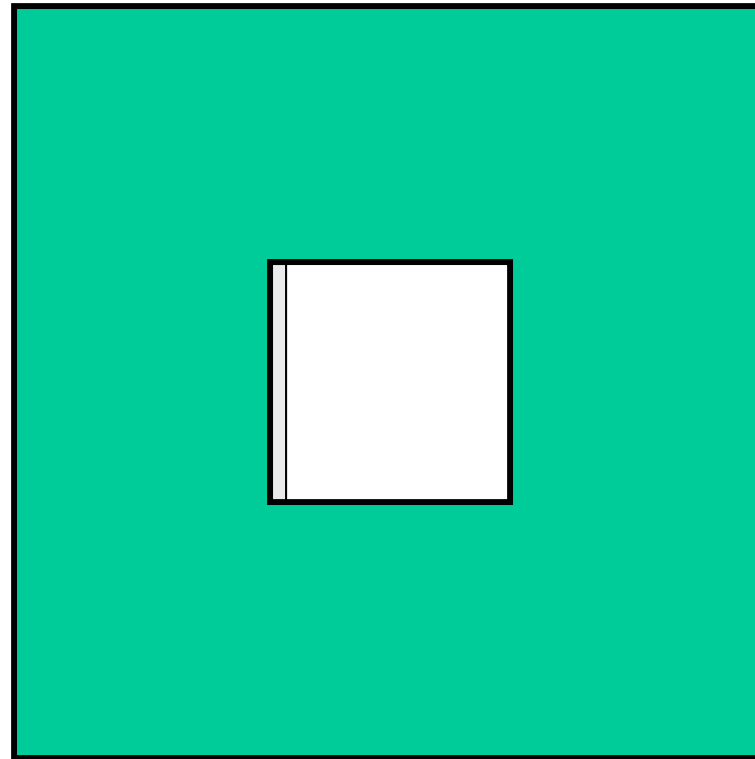


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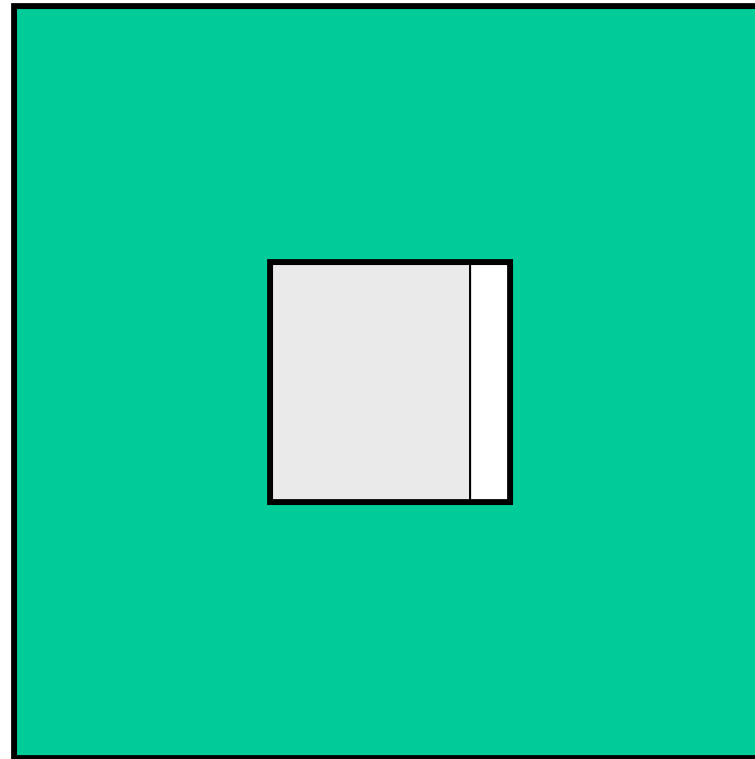
How does this show up visually?  
Known as the “Aperture Problem”



Gary Bradski & Sebastian Thrun, Stanford CS223  
<http://robots.stanford.edu/cs223b/index.html>



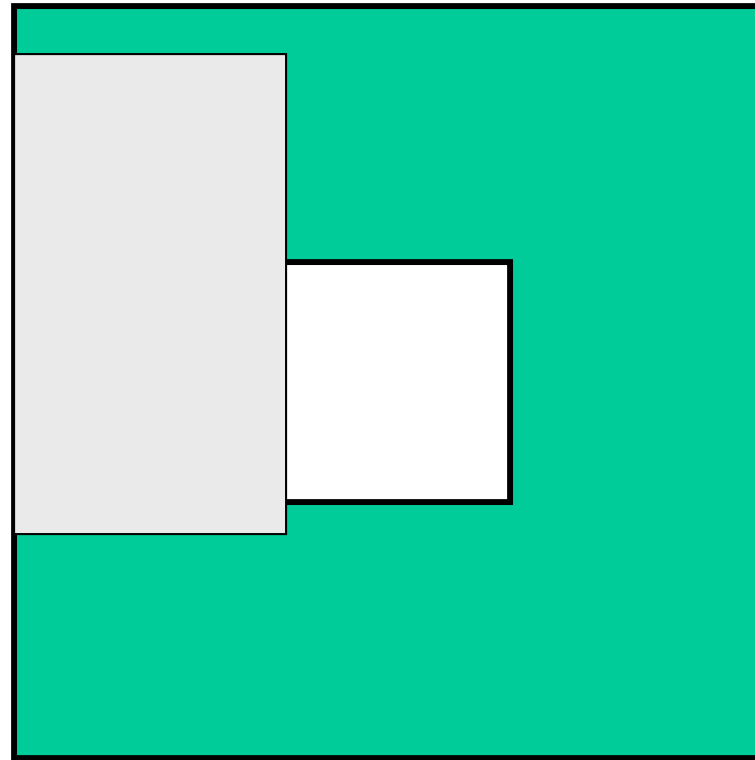
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# Aperture Problem Exposed



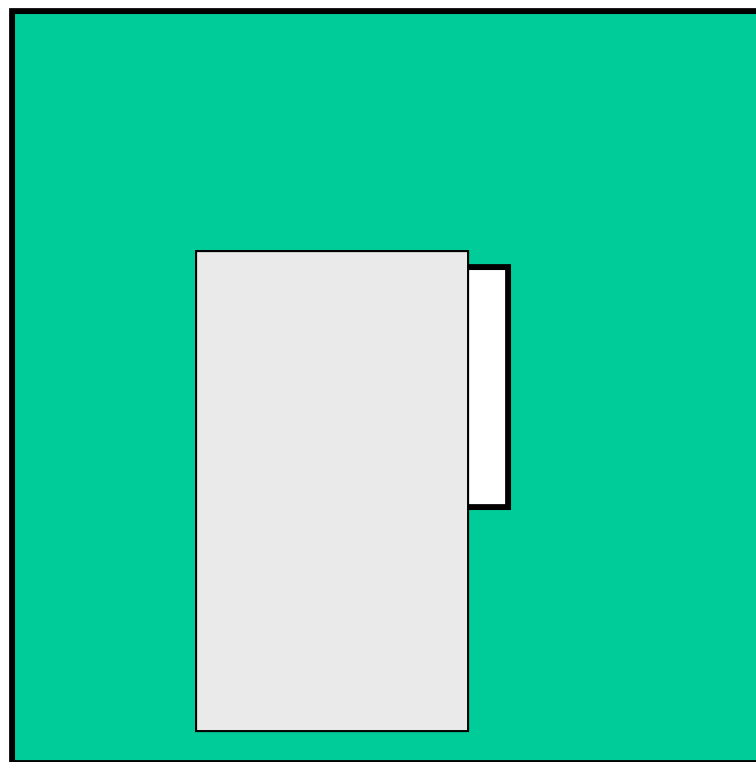
Motion along just an edge is ambiguous

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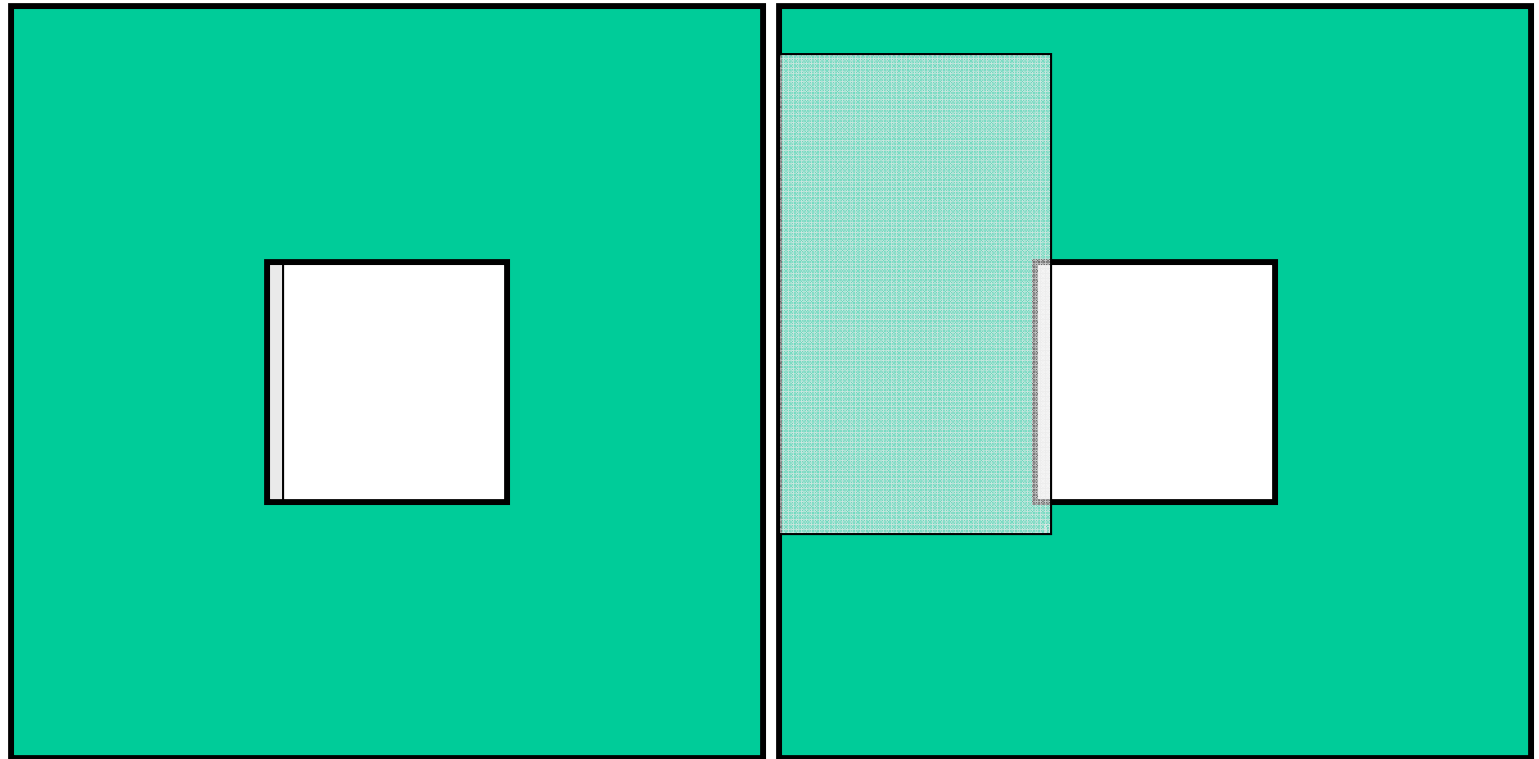
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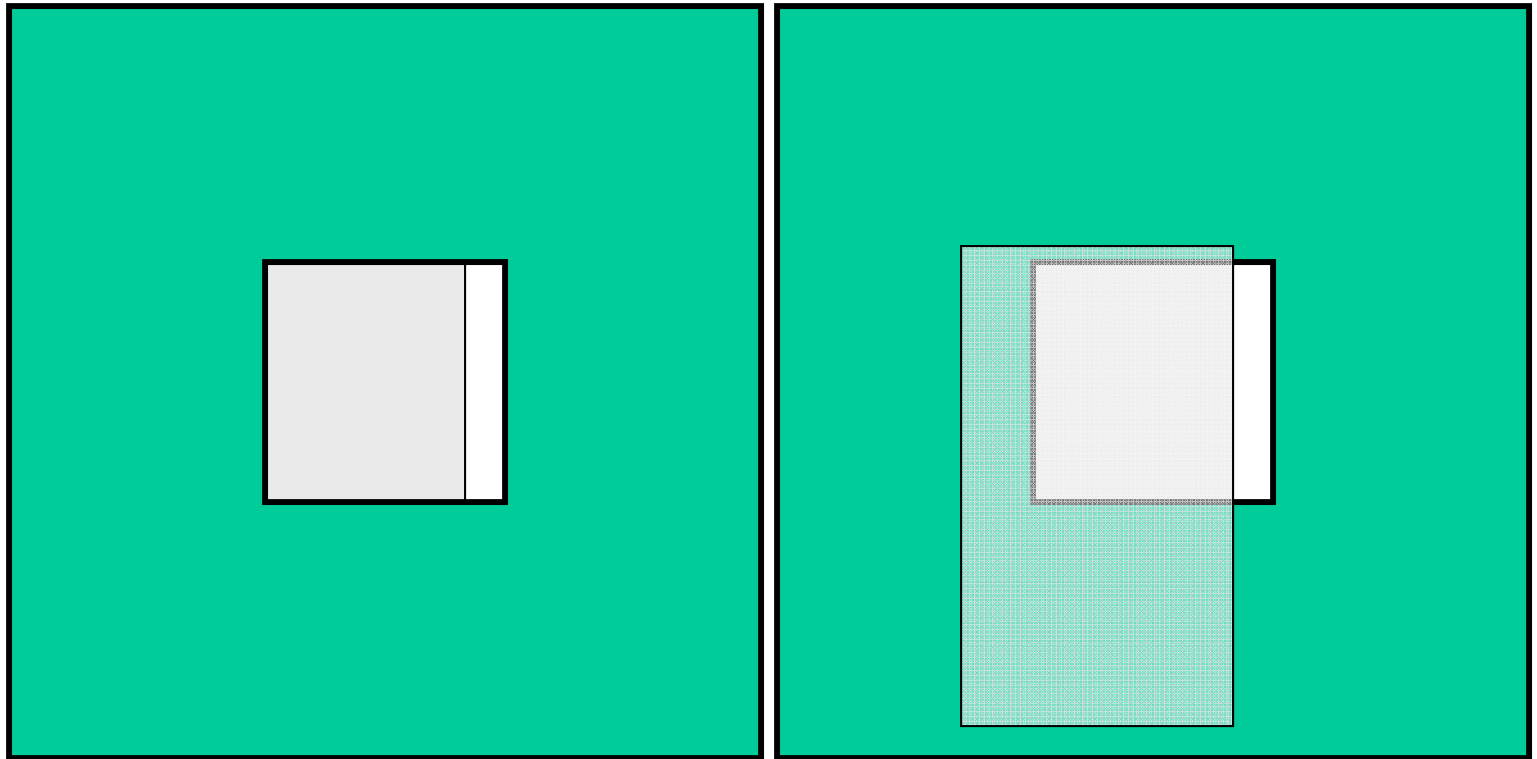
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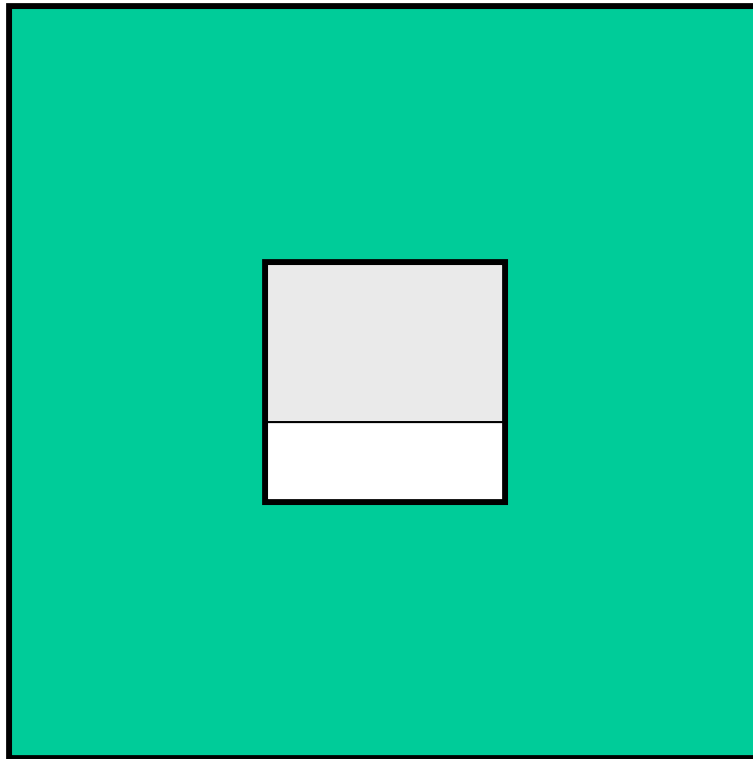
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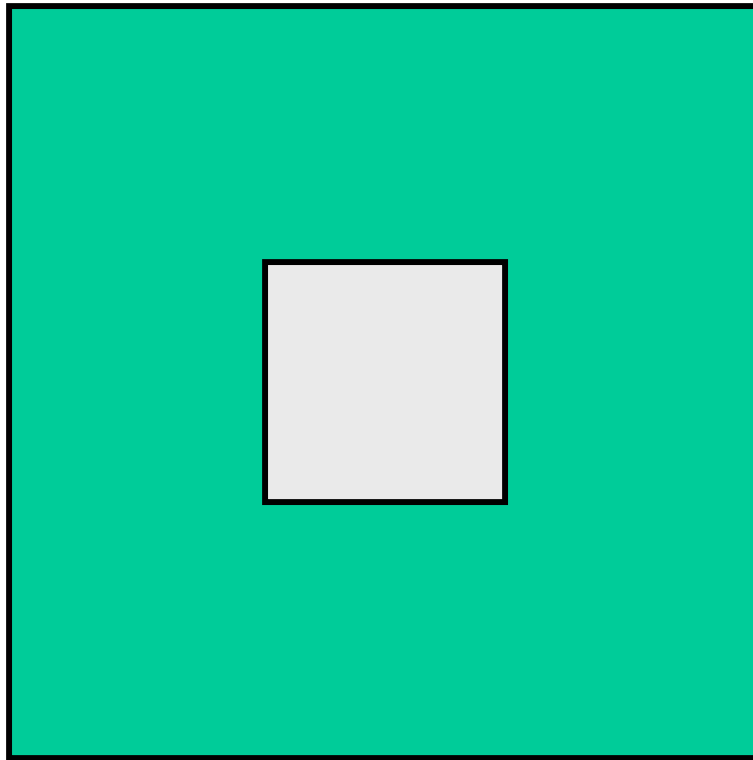


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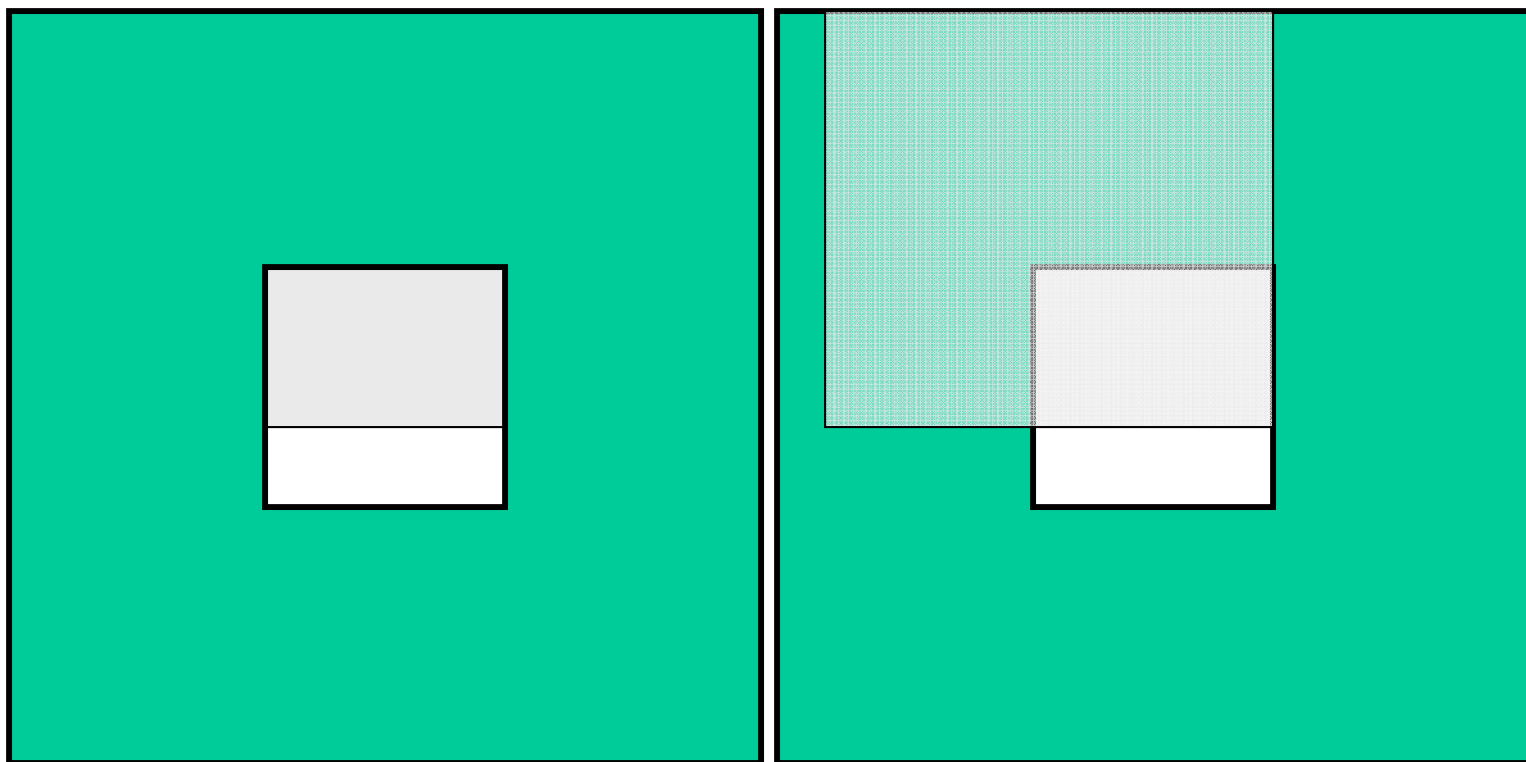
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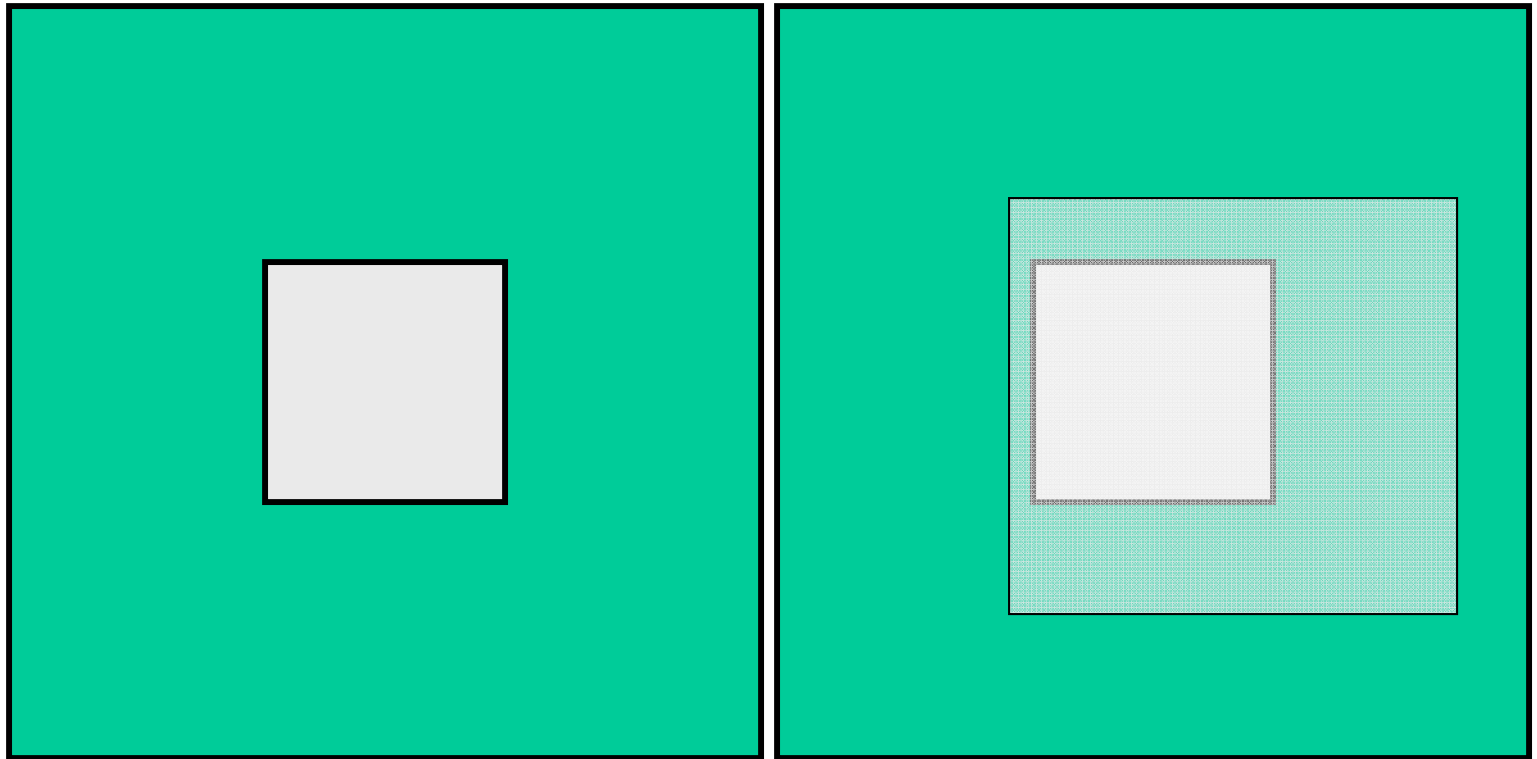
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Known as the “Aperture Problem”



Gary Bradski & Sebastian Thrun, Stanford CS223  
<http://robots.stanford.edu/cs223b/index.html>

# Optical Flow vs. Motion: Aperture Problem

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Barber shop pole:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmqQs613SbE>

# Optical Flow vs. Motion: Aperture Problem

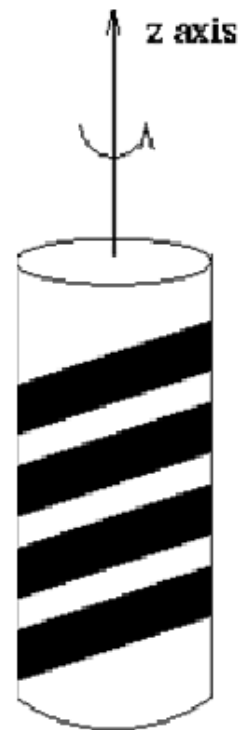
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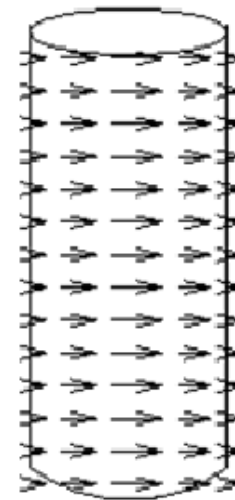
Barber shop pole:

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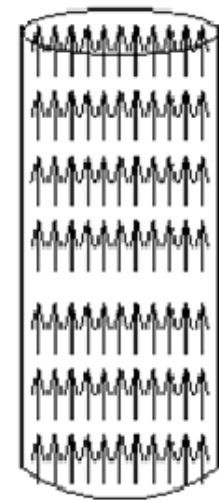
Barber pole illusion



Barber's pole



Motion field



Optical flow



Normal Flow  
What we can get ☹!!

Notation

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



$$\nabla I^T \mathbf{u} = -I_t$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} \quad \nabla I = \begin{bmatrix} I_x \\ I_y \end{bmatrix}$$

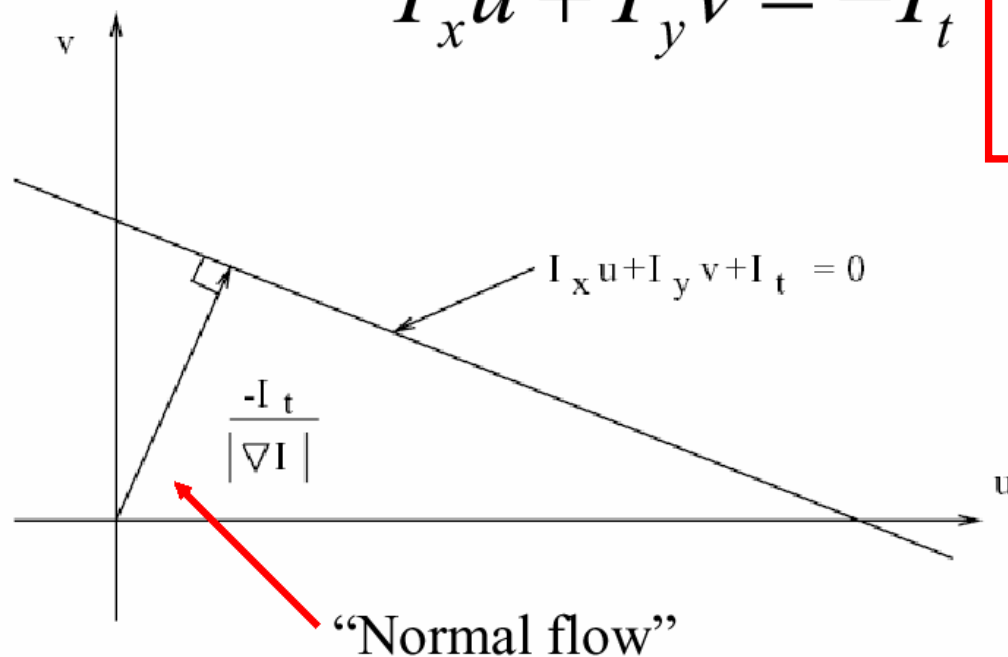


# Normal Flow

## What we can get ☹!!

At a single image pixel, we get a line:

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



### Notation

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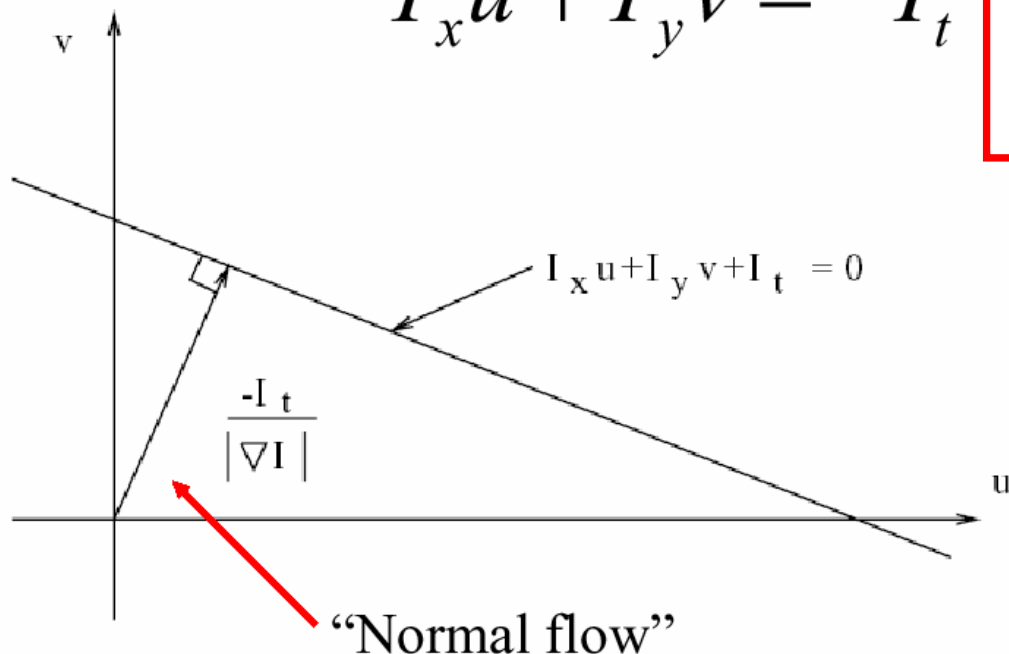


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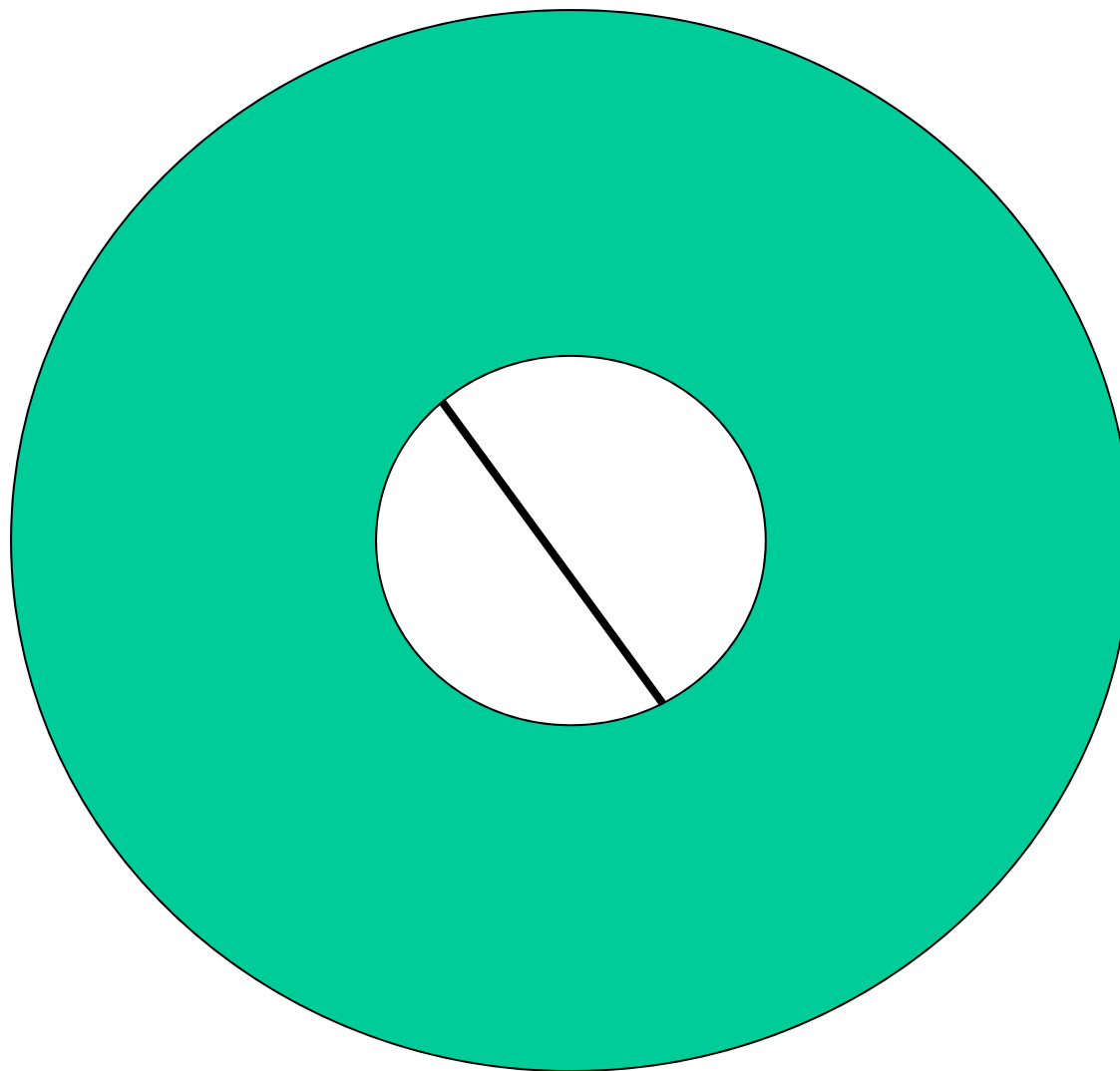
We get at most “Normal Flow” – with one point we can only detect movement perpendicular to the brightness gradient. Solution is to take a patch of pixels around the pixel of interest.





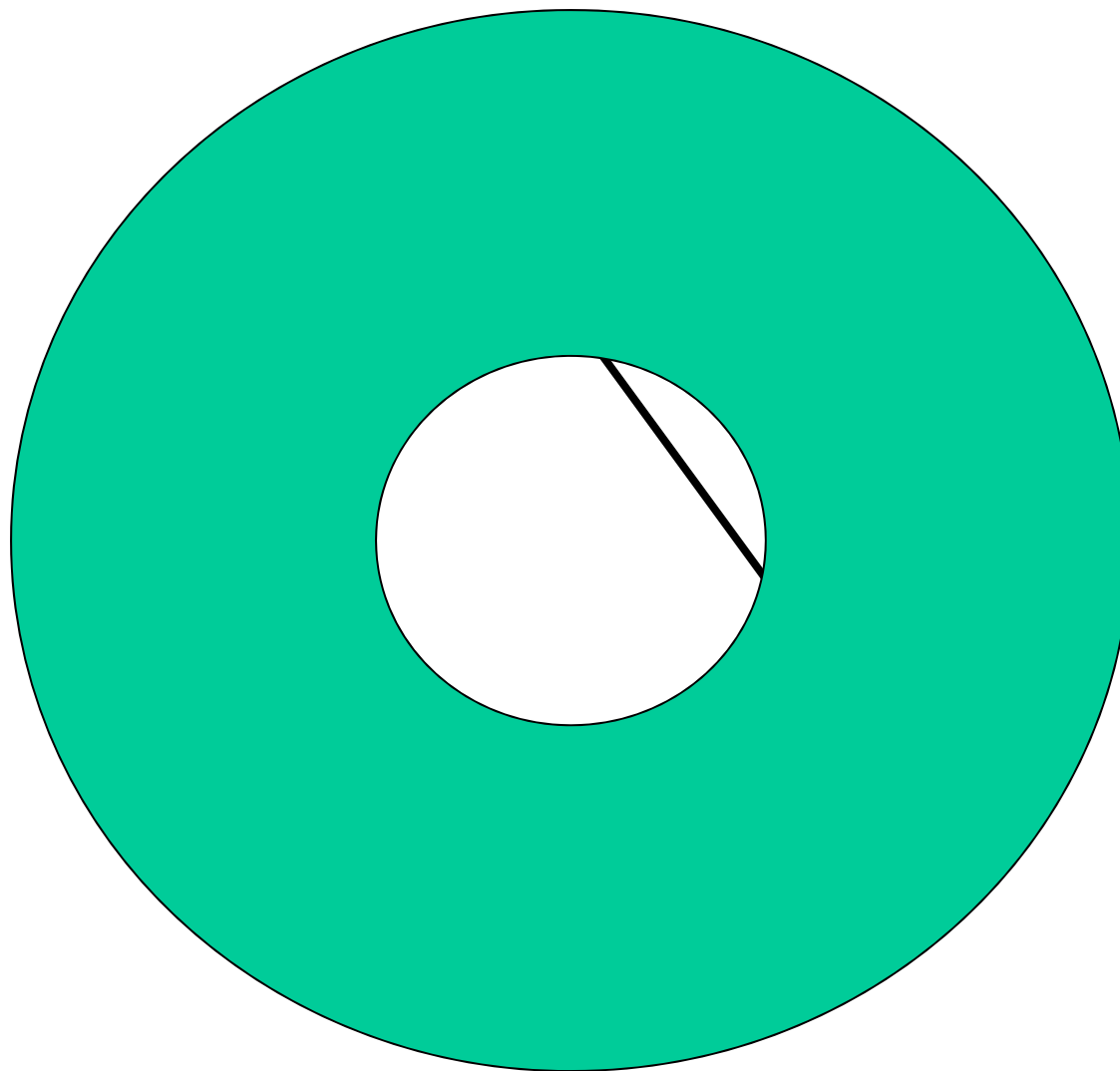
## Recall: Aperture Problem

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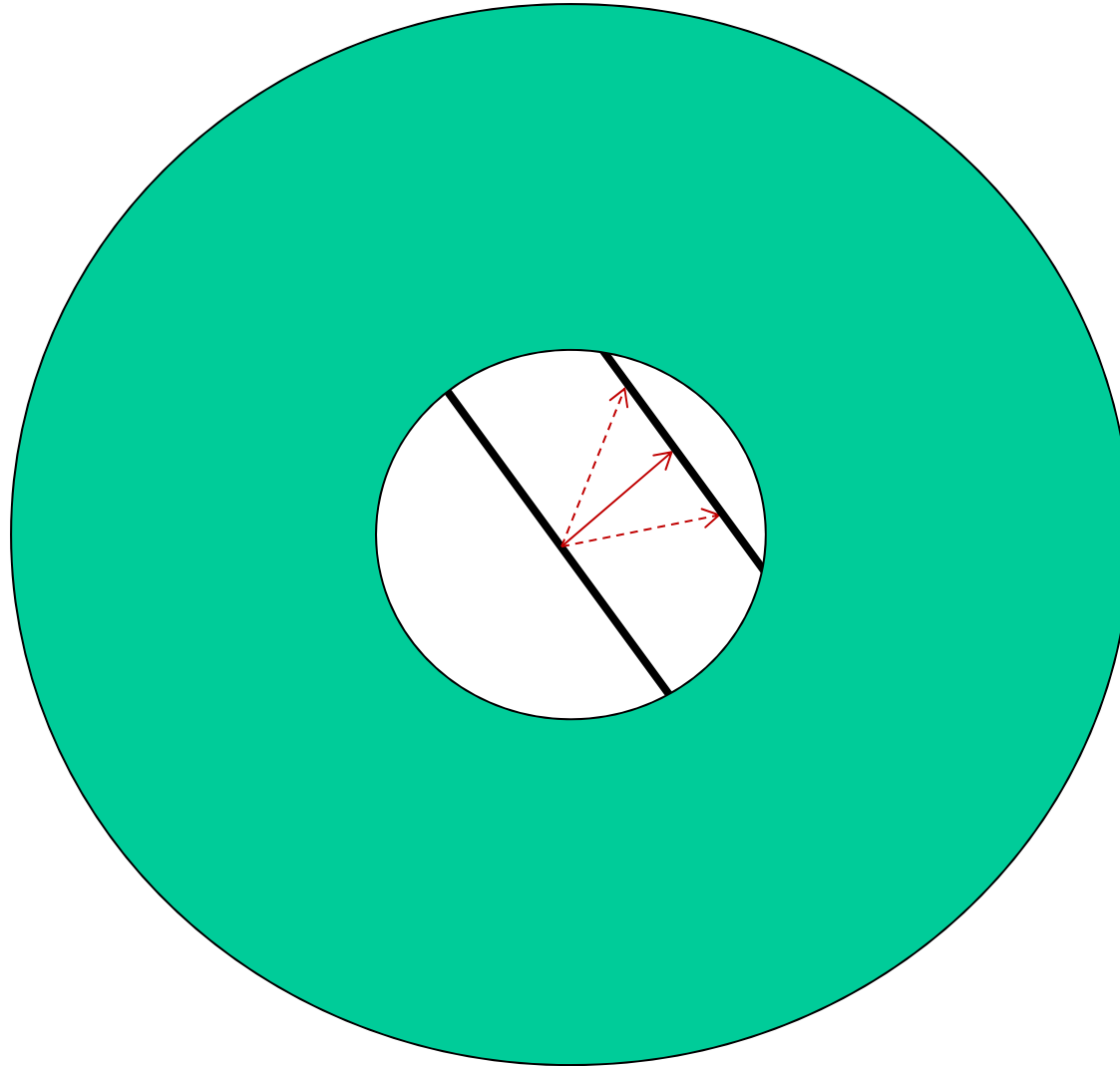


# Recall: Aperture Problem



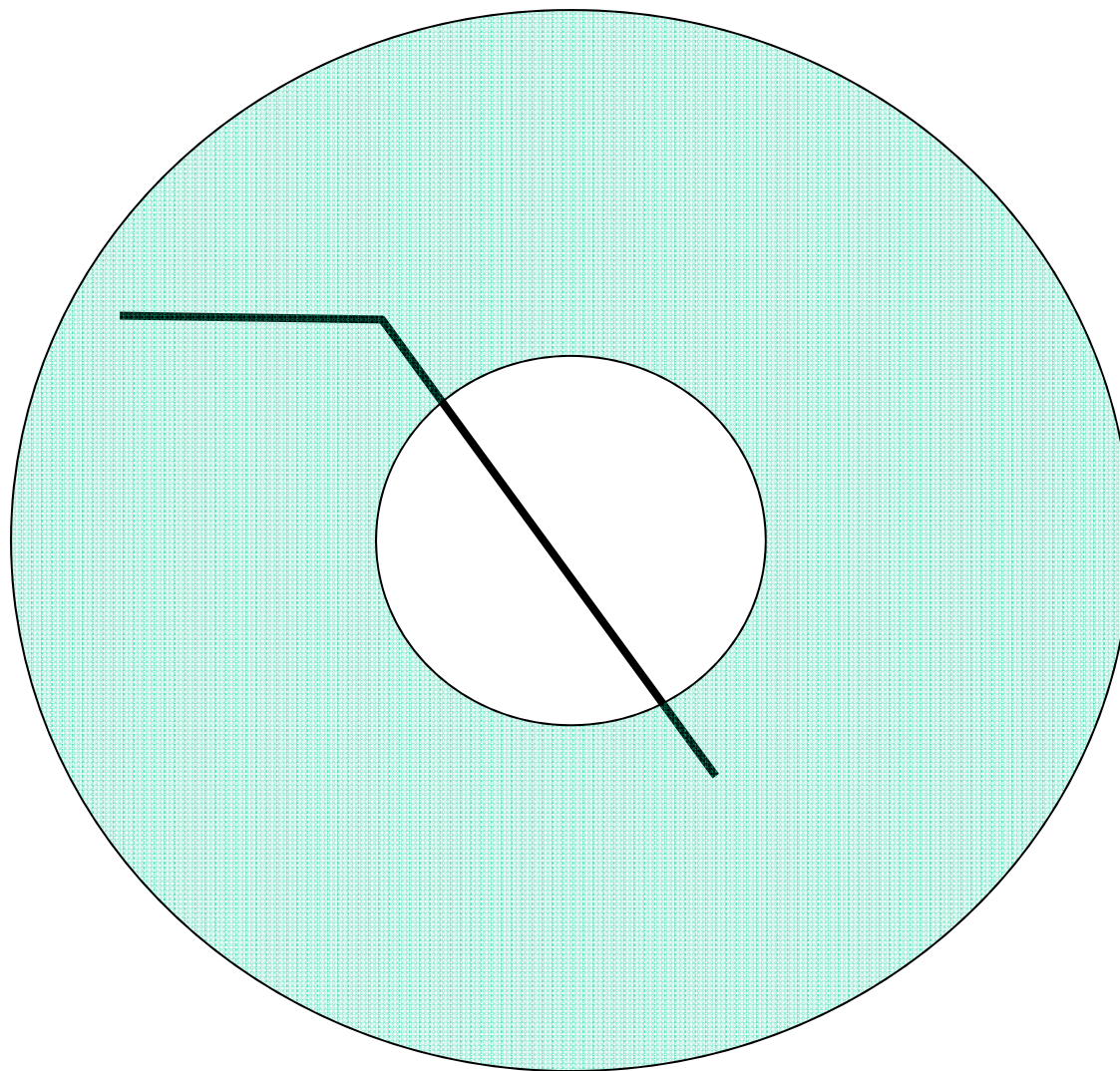


# Recall: Aperture Problem



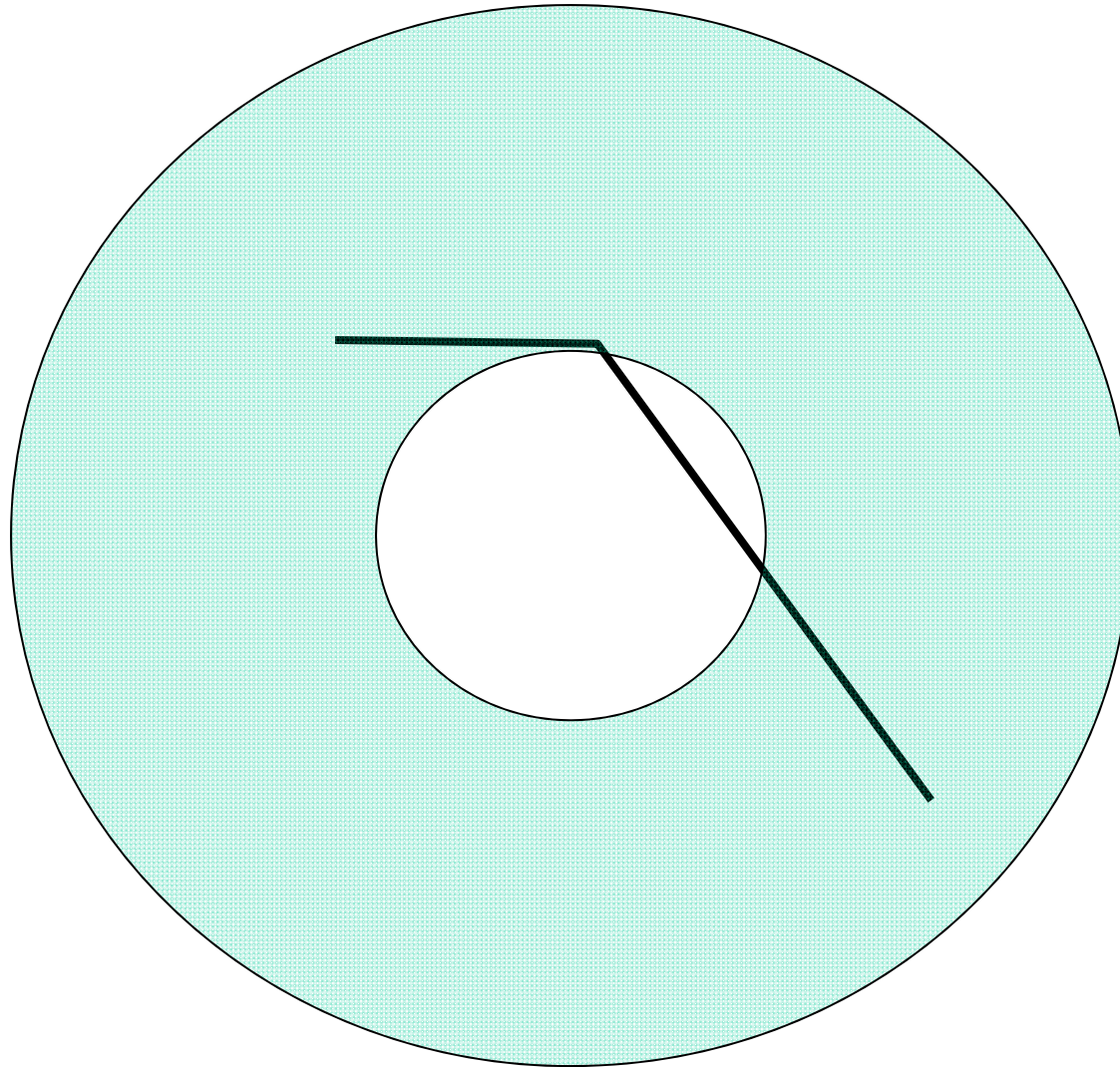


# Recall: Aperture Problem



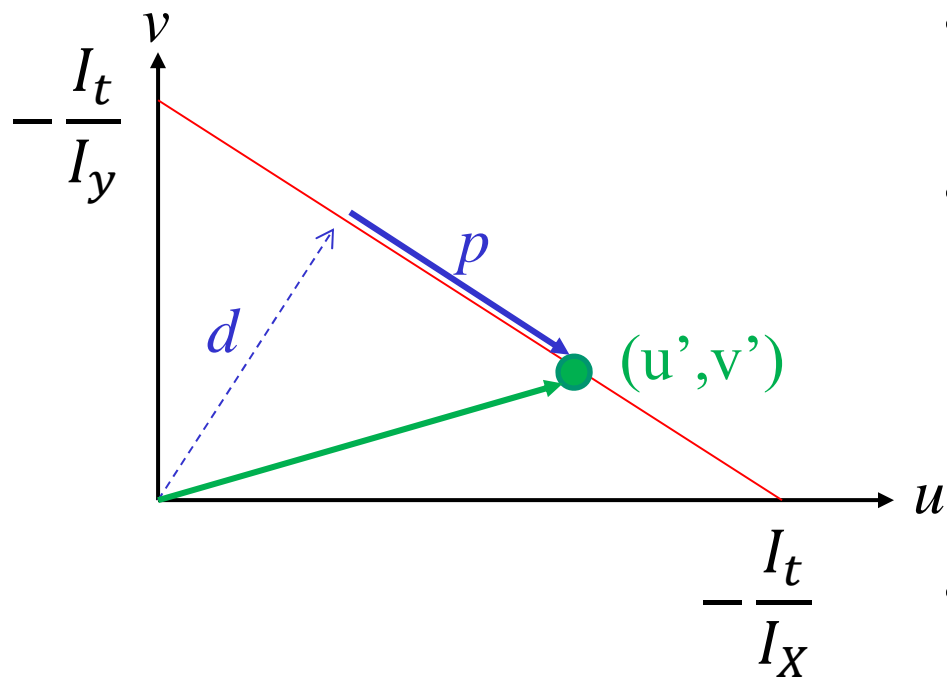


# Recall: Aperture Problem





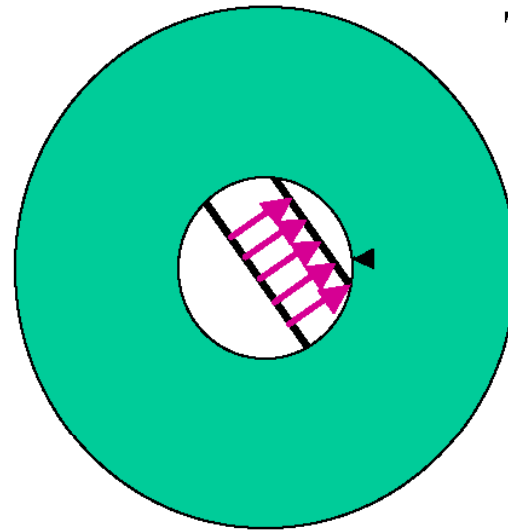
## Aperture Problem and Normal Flow



- let  $(u', v')$  be true flow
- true flow has two components:
  - Normal flow:  $d$
  - Parallel flow:  $p$
- normal flow **can be** computed
- parallel flow **cannot**



# Aperture Problem and Normal Flow



The gradient constraint:

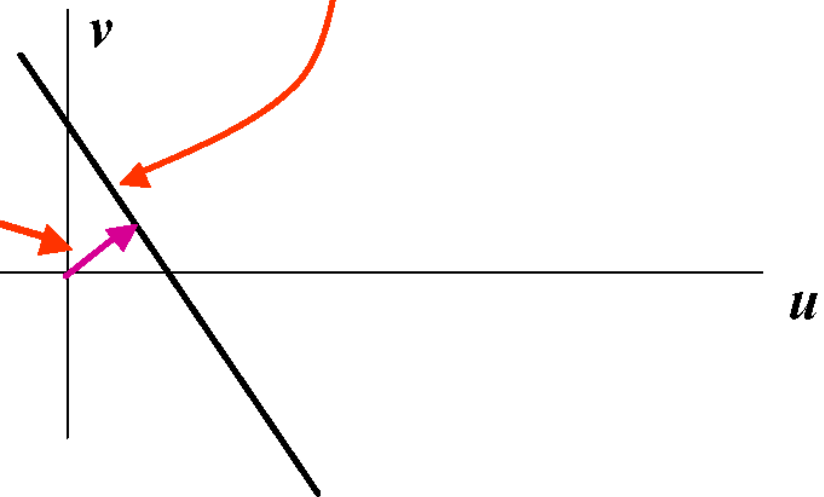
$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0$$

$$\nabla I \bullet \vec{U} = 0$$

Defines a line in the  $(u, v)$  space

Normal Flow:

$$u_{\perp} = -\frac{I_t}{|\nabla I|} \frac{\nabla I}{|\nabla I|}$$





# Computing True Flow

- Schunck
- Horn & Schunck
- Lukas and Kanade





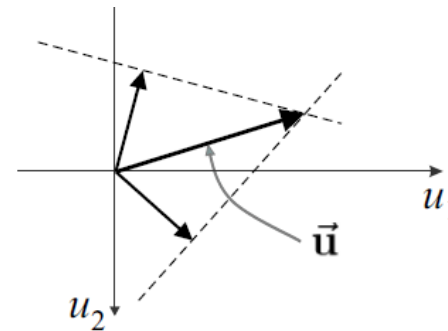
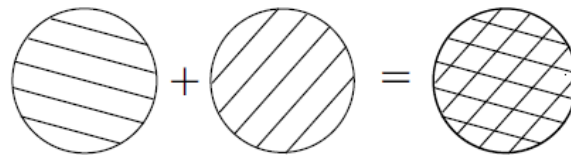
## Possible Solution: Neighbors

**Two adjacent pixels** which are part of the **same rigid object**:

- we can calculate normal flows  $\mathbf{v}_{n1}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_{n2}$
- Two OF equations for 2 parameters of flow:  $\bar{\mathbf{v}} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ u \end{pmatrix}$

$$\nabla I_1 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} + I_{t1} = 0$$

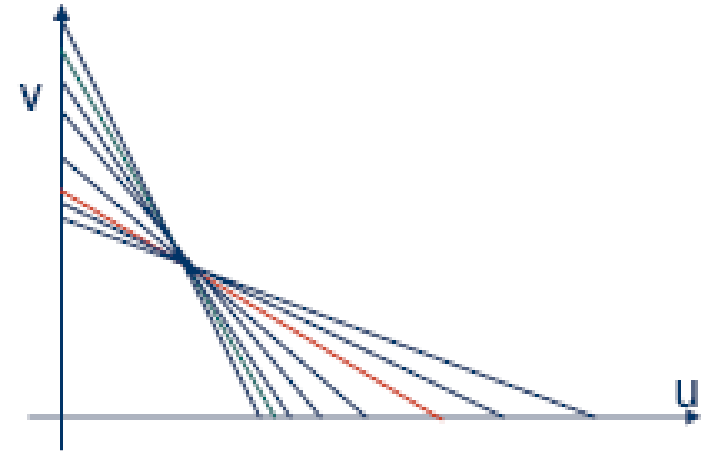
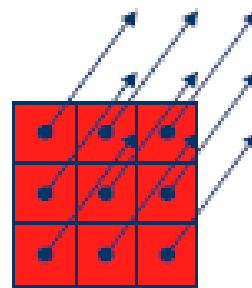
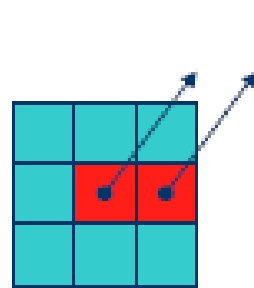
$$\nabla I_2 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} + I_{t2} = 0$$





## Schunck: Considering Neighbor Pixels

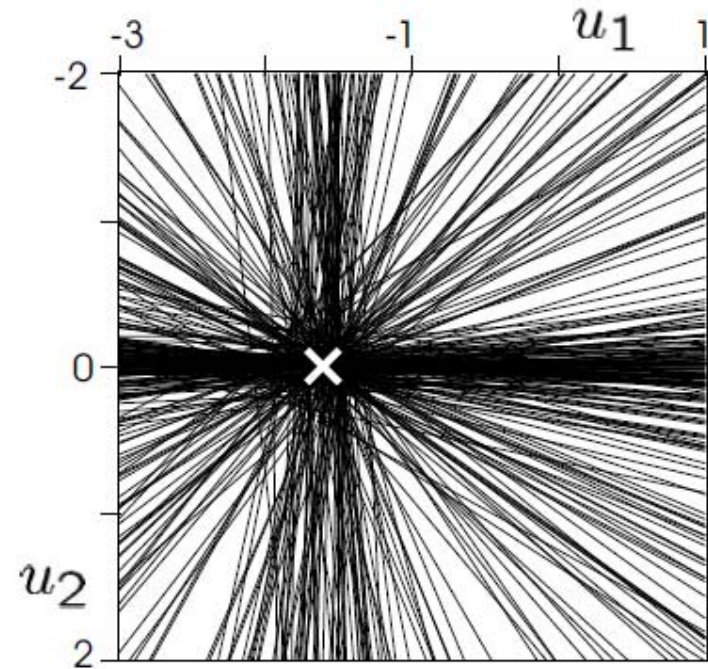
- If two neighboring pixels move with same velocity
  - Corresponding flow equations intersect at a point in  $(u,v)$  space
  - Find the intersection point of lines
  - If more than 1 intersection points find clusters
  - Biggest cluster is true flow



Alper Yilmaz, Fall 2005 UCF



## Schunck: Considering Neighbor Pixels



Cluster center provides velocity vector common for all pixels in patch.



# Optical Flow

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization: Horn & Schunck
- Lucas-Kanade
- Coarse-to-fine
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

Horn and Schunck's approach — Regularization

Two terms are defined as follows:

- Departure from smoothness

$$e_s = \int \int_{\Omega} ((u_x^2 + u_y^2) + (v_x^2 + v_y^2)) dx dy$$

- Error in optical flow constraint equation

$$e_c = \int \int_{\Omega} (E_x u + E_y v + E_t)^2 dx dy$$

The formulation is to minimize the linear combination of  $e_s$  and  $e_c$ ,

$$e_s + \lambda e_c$$

where  $\lambda$  is a parameter.

*Note:* In this formulation,  $u$  and  $v$  are functions of  $x$  and  $y$ . Physically,  $u$  is the  $x$ -component of the motion, and  $v$  is the  $y$ -component of the motion.



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

Additional smoothness constraint

(usually motion field varies smoothly in the image  
→ penalize departure from smoothness) :

$$e_s = \iint ((u_x^2 + u_y^2) + (v_x^2 + v_y^2)) dx dy,$$

OF constraint equation term

(formulate error in optical flow constraint) :

$$e_c = \iint (I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2 dx dy,$$



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

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(formulate error in optical flow constraint) :

$$e_c = \iint (I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2 dx dy,$$

minimize  $e_s + \lambda e_c$



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

Variational calculus: Pair of second order differential equations that can be solved iteratively.

- Define an energy function and minimize

$$E(x, y) = (uI_x + vI_y + I_t)^2 + \lambda \overbrace{(u_x^2 + u_y^2 + v_x^2 + v_y^2)}^f$$

- Differentiate w.r.t. unknowns  $u$  and  $v$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u} = 2I_x(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2(u_{xx} + u_{yy})$$

laplacian of  $u$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial v} = 2I_y(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) + 2(v_{xx} + v_{yy})$$

laplacian of  $v$





## Horn & Schunck algorithm

$$I_x(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) + \lambda \Delta u = 0$$

$$I_y(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) + \lambda \Delta v = 0$$

Approximate Laplacian by weight averaged computed in a neighborhood around the pixel  $(x,y)$ :

$$\Delta u(x, y) = u(x, y) - \bar{u}(x, y)$$

$$\Delta v(x, y) = v(x, y) - \bar{v}(x, y)$$

Rearranging terms:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= I_x(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) + \lambda(u - \bar{u}) \\ &= u(\lambda + I_x^2) + v I_x I_y + I_x I_t - \lambda \bar{u} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= I_y(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) + \lambda(v - \bar{v}) \\ &= v(\lambda + I_y^2) + u I_x I_y + I_y I_t - \lambda \bar{v} \end{aligned}$$

2 equations in 2 unknowns, write  $v$  in terms of  $u$  and plug it in the other equation



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

$$u = \frac{\lambda \bar{u} - v I_x I_y - I_x I_t}{\lambda + I_x^2}$$

$$v = \frac{\lambda \bar{v} - u I_x I_y - I_y I_t}{\lambda + I_y^2}$$

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2 equations in 2 unknowns, write  $v$  in terms of  $u$  and plug it in the other equation

$$u = u_{avg} - I_x \left( \frac{I_x u_{avg} + I_y v_{avg} + I_t}{I_x^2 + I_y^2 + \lambda} \right) \quad v = v_{avg} - I_y \left( \frac{I_x u_{avg} + I_y v_{avg} + I_t}{I_x^2 + I_y^2 + \lambda} \right)$$

- Iteratively compute  $u$  and  $v$ 
  - Assume initially  $u$  and  $v$  are 0
  - Compute  $u_{avg}$  and  $v_{avg}$  in a neighborhood



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

The Euler-Lagrange equations :

$$F_u - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F_{u_x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} F_{u_y} = 0$$

$$F_v - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F_{v_x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} F_{v_y} = 0$$

In our case ,

$$F = (u_x^2 + u_y^2) + (v_x^2 + v_y^2) + \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2,$$



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

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In our case ,

$$F = (u_x^2 + u_y^2) + (v_x^2 + v_y^2) + \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)^2,$$

so the Euler-Lagrange equations are

$$\Delta u = \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)I_x,$$

$$\Delta v = \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)I_y,$$

$$\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \quad \text{is the Laplacian operator}$$



# Horn & Schunck algorithm

Remarks :



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Remarks :

1. Coupled PDEs solved using iterative methods and finite differences

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u - \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)I_x,$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \Delta v - \lambda(I_x u + I_y v + I_t)I_y,$$





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2. More than two frames allow a better estimation of  $I_t$



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2. More than two frames allow a better estimation of  $I_t$
3. Information spreads from corner-type patterns

# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm

---



Consider image pixel  $(i, j)$

- Departure from Smoothness Constraint:

$$s_{ij} = \frac{1}{4} [(u_{i+1,j} - u_{i,j})^2 + (u_{i,j+1} - u_{i,j})^2 + (v_{i+1,j} - v_{i,j})^2 + (v_{i,j+1} - v_{i,j})^2]$$

# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm

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- Error in Optical Flow constraint equation:

$$c_{ij} = (I_x^{ij} u_{ij} + I_y^{ij} v_{ij} + I_t^{ij})^2$$

# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm



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- Departure from Smoothness Constraint:

$$s_{ij} = \frac{1}{4} [(u_{i+1,j} - u_{i,j})^2 + (u_{i,j+1} - u_{i,j})^2 + (v_{i+1,j} - v_{i,j})^2 + (v_{i,j+1} - v_{i,j})^2]$$

- Error in Optical Flow constraint equation:

$$c_{ij} = (I_x^{ij} u_{ij} + I_y^{ij} v_{ij} + I_t^{ij})^2$$

- We seek the set  $\{u_{ij}\}$  &  $\{v_{ij}\}$  that minimize:

$$e = \sum_i \sum_j (s_{ij} + \lambda c_{ij})$$

NOTE:  $\{u_{ij}\}$  &  $\{v_{ij}\}$  show up in more than one term

# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm



- Differentiating  $e$  w.r.t  $v_{kl}$  &  $u_{kl}$  and setting to zero:

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial u_{kl}} = 2 (u_{kl} - \overline{u_{kl}}) + 2\lambda (I_x^{kl} u_{kl} + I_y^{kl} v_{kl} + I_t^{kl}) I_x^{kl} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial v_{kl}} = 2 (v_{kl} - \overline{v_{kl}}) + 2\lambda (I_x^{kl} u_{kl} + I_y^{kl} v_{kl} + I_t^{kl}) I_y^{kl} = 0$$

- $\overline{v_{kl}}$  &  $\overline{u_{kl}}$  are averages of  $(u, v)$  around pixel  $(k, l)$



# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm



- Differentiating  $e$  w.r.t  $v_{kl}$  &  $u_{kl}$  and setting to zero:

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# Discrete Optical Flow Algorithm



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$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial v_{kl}} = 2(v_{kl} - \overline{v_{kl}}) + 2\lambda (I_x^{kl} u_{kl} + I_y^{kl} v_{kl} + I_t^{kl}) I_y^{kl} = 0$$

- $\overline{v_{kl}}$  &  $\overline{u_{kl}}$  are averages of  $(u, v)$  around pixel  $(k, l)$

Update Rule:

$$u_{kl}^{n+1} = \overline{u_{kl}^n} - \frac{I_x^{kl} \overline{u_{kl}^n} + I_y^{kl} \overline{v_{kl}^n} + I_t^{kl}}{1 + \lambda [(I_x^{kl})^2 + (I_y^{kl})^2]} I_x^{kl}$$

$$v_{kl}^{n+1} = \overline{v_{kl}^n} - \frac{I_x^{kl} \overline{u_{kl}^n} + I_y^{kl} \overline{v_{kl}^n} + I_t^{kl}}{1 + \lambda [(I_x^{kl})^2 + (I_y^{kl})^2]} I_y^{kl}$$



# Horn-Schunck Algorithm : Discrete Case

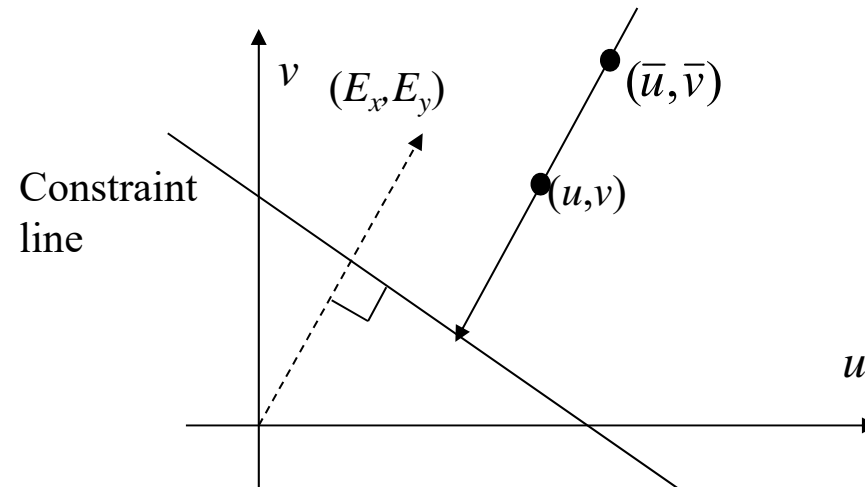
- Derivatives (and error functionals) are approximated by difference operators
- Leads to an iterative solution:

$$\begin{aligned}u_{ij}^{n+1} &= \bar{u}_{ij}^n - \alpha I_x \\v_{ij}^{n+1} &= \bar{v}_{ij}^n - \alpha I_y\end{aligned}\quad \alpha = \frac{I_x \bar{u}_{ij}^n + I_y \bar{v}_{ij}^n + I_t}{1 + \lambda(I_x^2 + I_y^2)}$$

$\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  are the averages of values of neighbors



# Intuition of the Iterative Scheme



The new value of  $(u, v)$  at a point is equal to the average of surrounding values minus an adjustment in the direction of the brightness gradient



# Horn - Schunck Algorithm

```

begin
  for  $j := 1$  to  $N$  do for  $i := 1$  to  $M$  do begin
    calculate the values  $E_x(i, j, t)$ ,  $E_y(i, j, t)$ , and  $E_t(i, j, t)$  using
    a selected approximation formula;
    { special cases for image points at the image border
      have to be taken into account }

    initialize the values  $u(i, j)$  and  $v(i, j)$  with zero
  end {for};

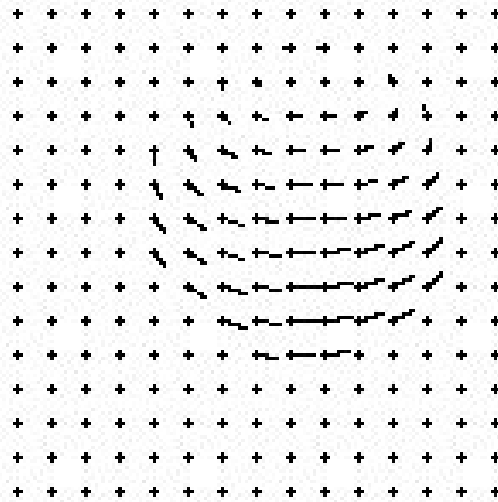
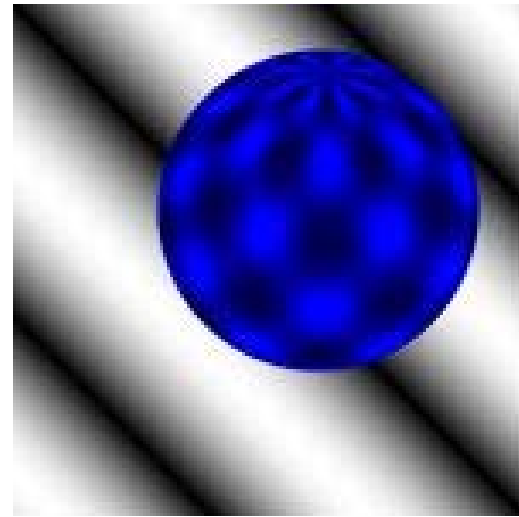
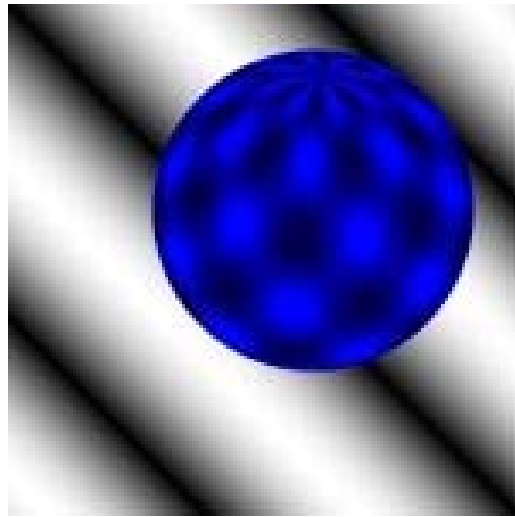
  choose a suitable weighting value  $\lambda$ ;           { e.g.  $\lambda = 10$  }
  choose a suitable number  $n_0 \geq 1$  of iterations;   {  $n_0 = 8$  }
   $n := 1$ ;                                           { iteration counter }
  while  $n \leq n_0$  do begin
    for  $j := 1$  to  $N$  do for  $i := 1$  to  $M$  do begin
       $\bar{u} := \frac{1}{4}(u(i-1, j) + u(i+1, j) + u(i, j-1) + u(i, j+1))$ ;
       $\bar{v} := \frac{1}{4}(v(i-1, j) + v(i+1, j) + v(i, j-1) + v(i, j+1))$ ;
      { treat image points at the image border separately }

       $\alpha := \frac{E_x(i, j, t)\bar{u} + E_y(i, j, t)\bar{v} + E_t(i, j, t)}{1 + \lambda(E_x^2(i, j, t) + E_y^2(i, j, t))} \cdot \lambda$ ;

       $u(i, j) := \bar{u} - \alpha \cdot E_x(i, j, t)$ ;  $v(i, j) := \bar{v} - \alpha \cdot E_y(i, j, t)$ 

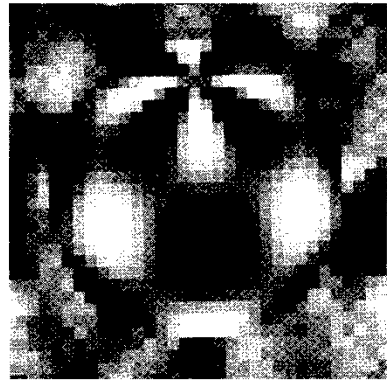
    end {for};
     $n := n + 1$ 
  end {while}
end;
```

# Example



<http://of-eval.sourceforge.net/>

# Results



(a)



(b)

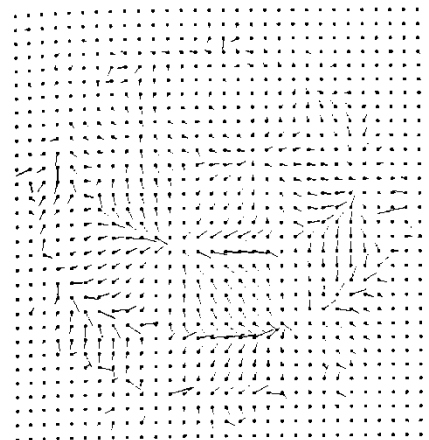


(c)

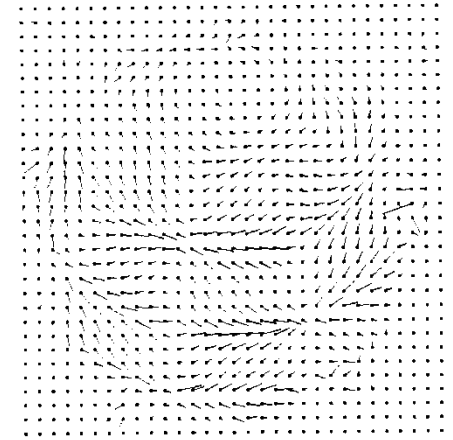


(d)

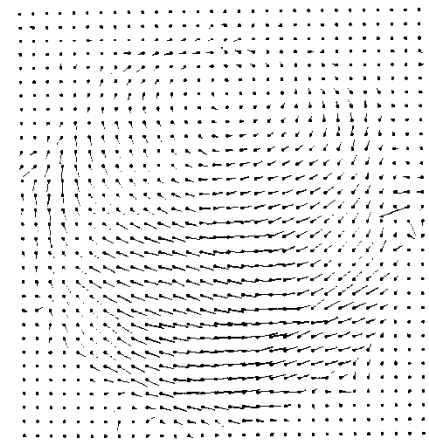
**Figure 12-8.** Four frames of a synthetic image sequence showing a sphere slowly rotating in front of a randomly patterned background.



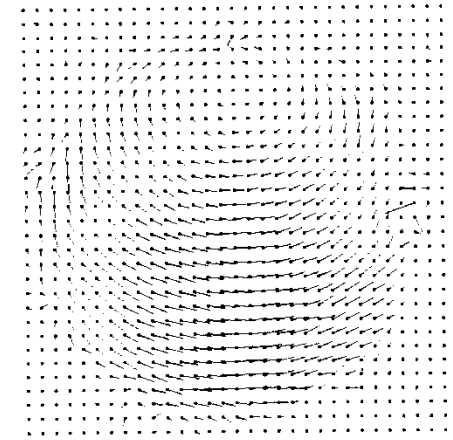
(a)



(b)



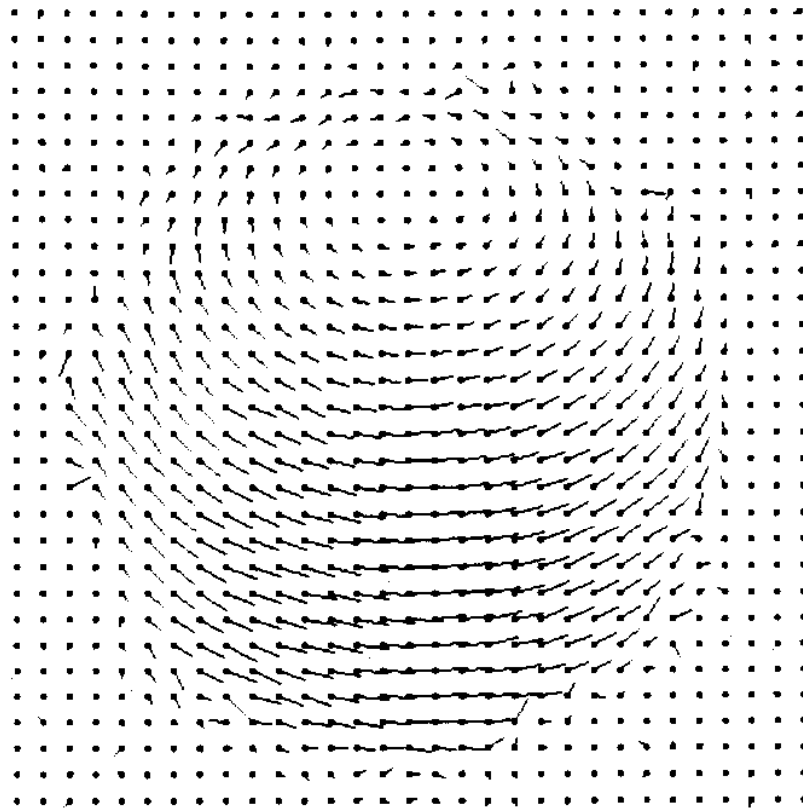
(c)



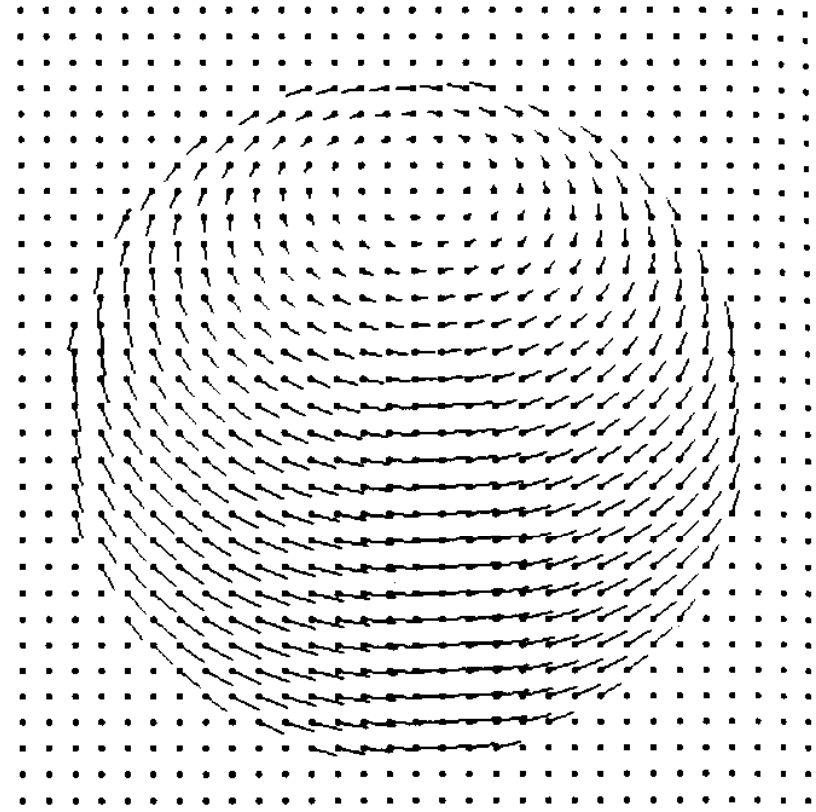
(d)

**Figure 12-9.** Estimates of the optical flow shown in the form of needle diagrams after 1, 4, 16, and 64 iterations of the algorithm.

# Results



(a)



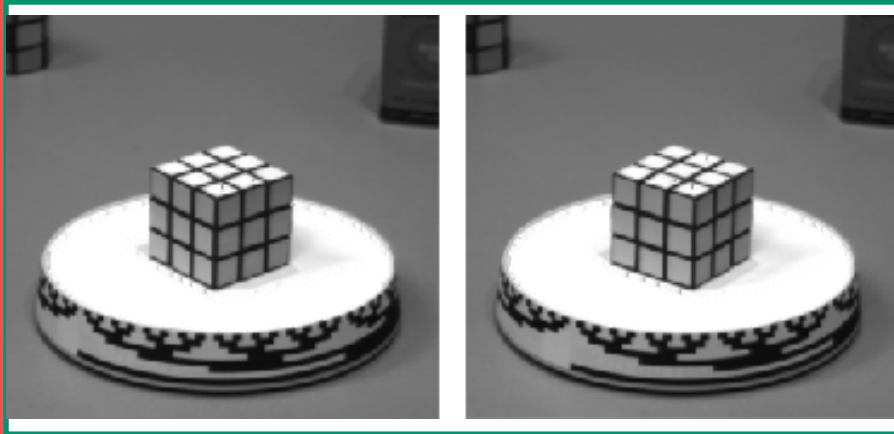
(b)

**Figure 12-10.** (a) The estimated optical flow after several more iterations. (b) The computed motion field.



# Optical Flow Result

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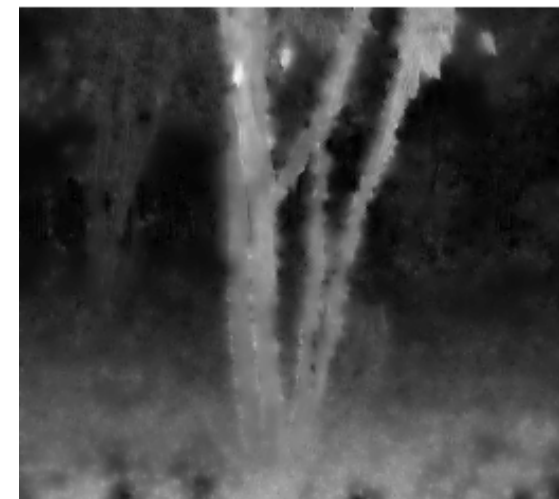
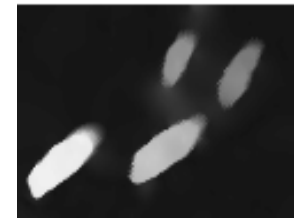
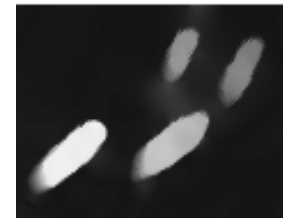
## Horn & Schunck, remarks

$$\int_D (\nabla I \cdot \vec{v} + I_t)^2 + \lambda^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] dx dy$$

1. Errors at boundaries (smooth over)
2. Example of *regularization*  
(selection principle for the solution of ill-posed problems)



## Results of an enhanced system





# Results

<http://www-student.informatik.uni-bonn.de/~gerdes/OpticalFlow/index.html>



Differenzbild (pixelweise)



Gradient  $E_t$  (in 2x2x2 Block)



PAPER lambda=0.001 #Iterationen 1



Gradient  $E_x$  (in 2x2x2 Block)

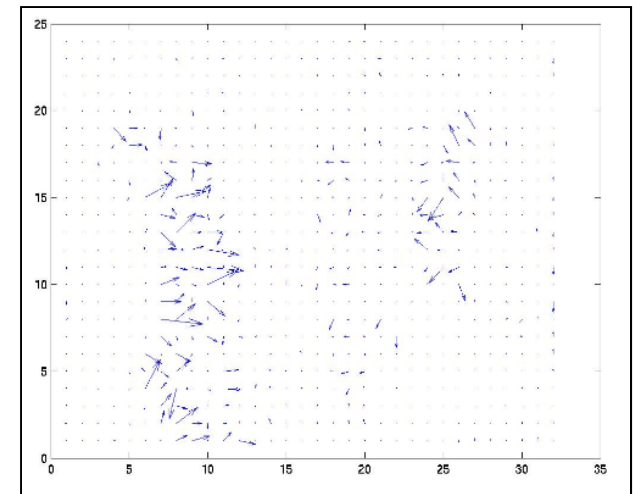
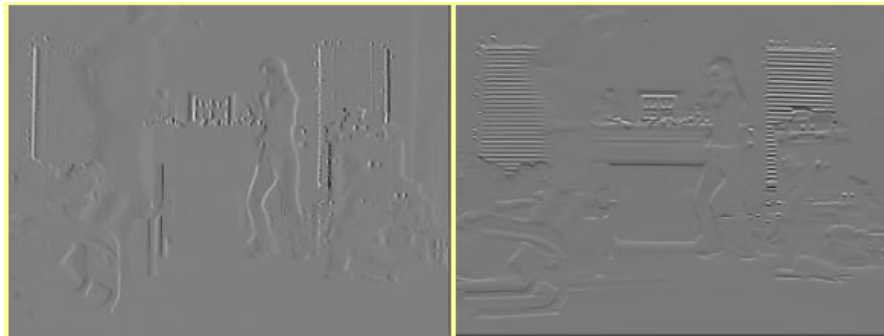


Gradient  $E_y$  (in 2x2x2 Block)



# Results

<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/jmugan/GraphicsProject/OpticalFlow/>





# Optical Flow

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization
- **Lucas-Kanade**
- Coarse-to-fine
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow



# Lucas & Kanade

- Assume single velocity for all pixels within a patch.
- Integrate over a patch.



# Lucas & Kanade

- Assume single velocity for all pixels within a patch.
- Integrate over a patch.

- Similar to line fitting we have seen

- Define an energy functional

- Take derivatives equate it to 0
- Rearrange and construct an observation matrix

$$E = \sum (uI_x + vI_y + I_t)^2$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u} = \sum 2I_x(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial v} = \sum 2I_y(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$





# Lucas & Kanade

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial u} = \sum 2I_x(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\sum uI_x^2 + \sum vI_xI_y + \sum I_xI_t = 0$$

$$u\sum I_x^2 + v\sum I_xI_y = -\sum I_xI_t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_xI_y \\ \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -\sum I_xI_t$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial v} = \sum 2I_y(uI_x + vI_y + I_t) = 0$$

$$\sum uI_xI_y + \sum vI_y^2 + \sum I_yI_t = 0$$

$$u\sum I_xI_y + v\sum I_y^2 = -\sum I_yI_t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -\sum I_yI_t$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \overbrace{\sum I_x^2}^A & \sum I_xI_y \\ \sum I_xI_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \overbrace{-\sum I_xI_t}^B \\ -\sum I_yI_t \end{bmatrix}$$



# Lucas & Kanade

$$Au = B \quad A^{-1}Au = A^{-1}B \quad Iu = A^{-1}B \quad u = A^{-1}B$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sum I_x^2 \sum I_y^2 - (\sum I_x I_y)^2} \begin{bmatrix} \sum I_y^2 & -\sum I_x I_y \\ -\sum I_x I_y & \sum I_x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$



# Lucas-Kanade: Integrate over a Patch

Assume a single velocity for all pixels within an image patch

$$E(u, v) = \sum_{x, y \in \Omega} \left( I_x(x, y)u + I_y(x, y)v + I_t \right)^2$$

$$\frac{dE(u, v)}{du} = \sum 2I_x(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) = 0$$

Solve with:

$$\frac{dE(u, v)}{dv} = \sum 2I_y(I_x u + I_y v + I_t) = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sum I_x^2 & \sum I_x I_y \\ \sum I_x I_y & \sum I_y^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \sum I_x I_t \\ \sum I_y I_t \end{pmatrix}$$

On the LHS: sum of the 2x2 outer product tensor of the gradient vector

$$\left( \sum \nabla I \nabla I^T \right) \vec{U} = - \sum \nabla I I_t$$



## Lucas-Kanade: Singularities and the Aperture Problem

$$\text{Let } M = \sum (\nabla I)(\nabla I)^T \quad \text{and} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} -\sum I_x I_t \\ -\sum I_y I_t \end{bmatrix}$$

- Algorithm: At each pixel compute  $U$  by solving  $MU=b$
- $M$  is singular if all gradient vectors point in the same direction
  - e.g., along an edge
  - of course, trivially singular if the summation is over a single pixel
  - i.e., only *normal flow* is available (aperture problem)
- Corners and textured areas are OK



## Discussion

- Horn-Schunck: Add smoothness constraint.

$$\int_D (\nabla I \cdot \vec{v} + I_t)^2 + \lambda^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] dx dy$$

- Lucas-Kanade: Provide constraint by minimizing over local neighborhood:

$$\sum_{x,y \in \Omega} W^2(x,y) [\nabla I(x,y,t) \cdot \vec{v} + I_t(x,y,t)]^2$$

- Horn-Schunck and Lucas-Kanade optical methods work only for small motion.
- If object moves faster, the brightness changes rapidly, derivative masks fail to estimate spatiotemporal derivatives.
- Pyramids can be used to compute large optical flow vectors.

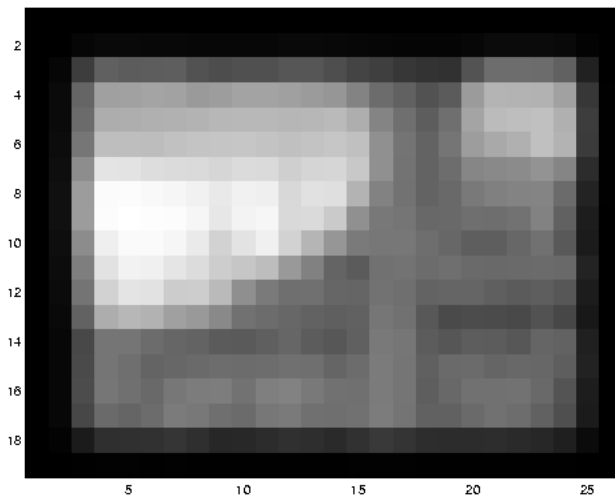
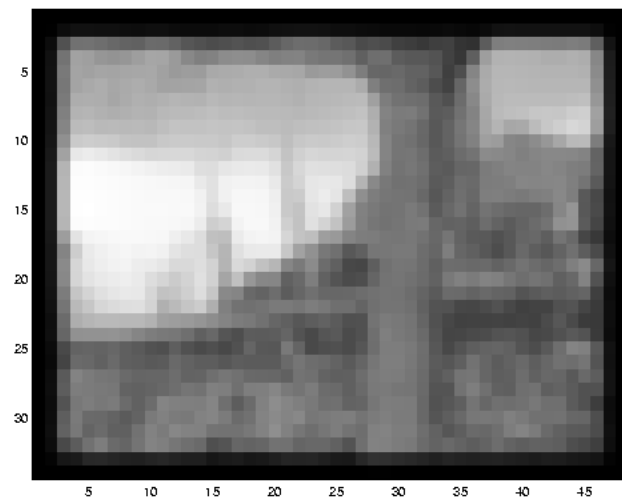
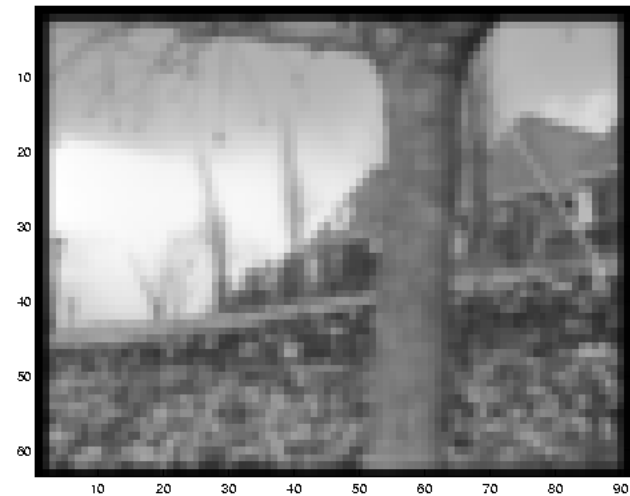


# Iterative Refinement (Iterative Lucas-Kanade)

- Estimate velocity at each pixel using one iteration of Lucas and Kanade estimation
- Warp one image toward the other using the estimated flow field  
*(easier said than done)*
- Refine estimate by repeating the process



# Reduce the Resolution!





# Optical Flow

- Brightness Constancy
- The Aperture problem
- Regularization
- Lucas-Kanade
- **Coarse-to-fine**
- Parametric motion models
- Direct depth
- SSD tracking
- Robust flow
- Bayesian flow





## Limits of the (local) gradient method

1. Fails when intensity structure within window is poor
2. Fails when the displacement is large (typical operating range is motion of 1 pixel per iteration!)
  - *Linearization of brightness is suitable only for small displacements*

Also, brightness is not strictly constant in images

- *actually less problematic than it appears, since we can pre-filter images to make them look similar*



## Revisiting the Small Motion Assumption

---



- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel (2<sup>nd</sup> order terms dominate)
  - How might we solve this problem?



## Revisiting the Small Motion Assumption

---



- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel (2<sup>nd</sup> order terms dominate)
  - How might we solve this problem?



## Revisiting the Small Motion Assumption

---



- Is this motion small enough?
  - Probably not—it's much larger than one pixel (2<sup>nd</sup> order terms dominate)
  - How might we solve this problem?



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

---

**image H**

**image I**



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

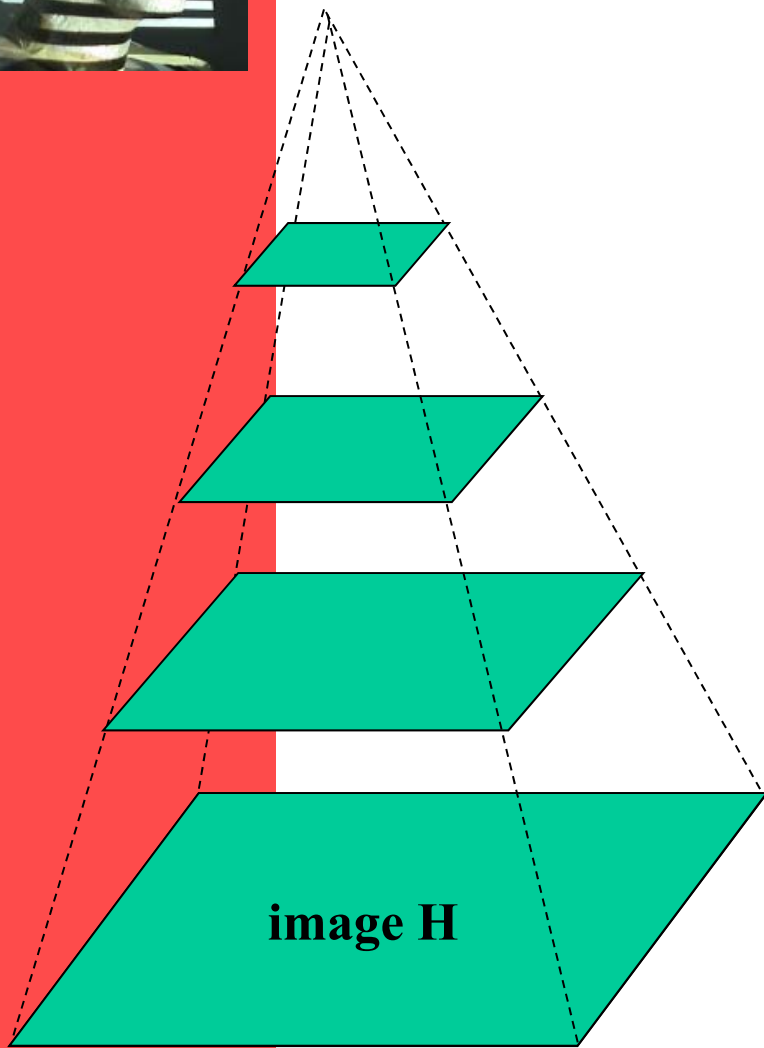
---

**image H**

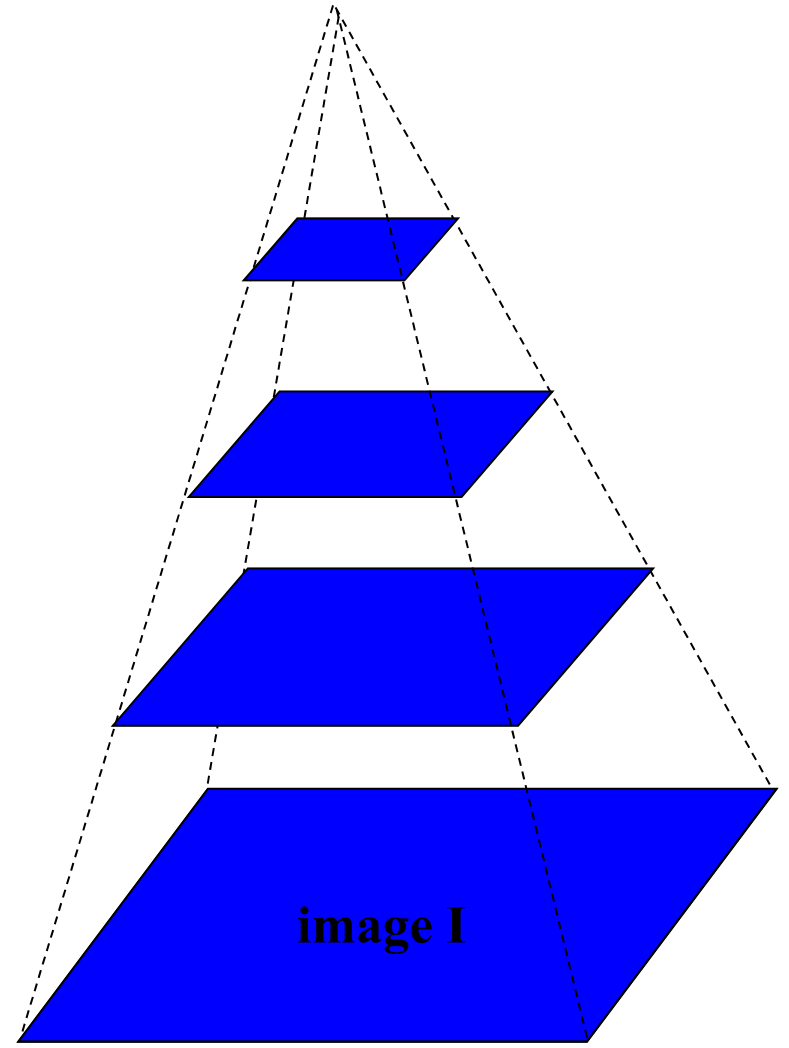
**image I**

# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

---



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

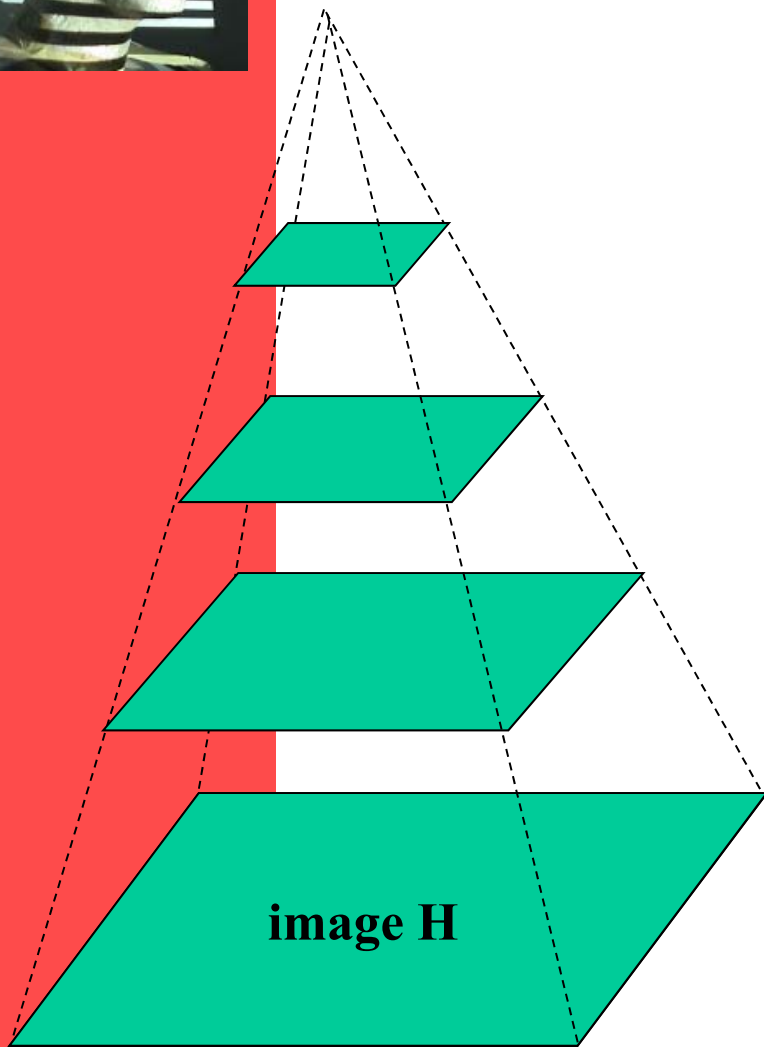


**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

---



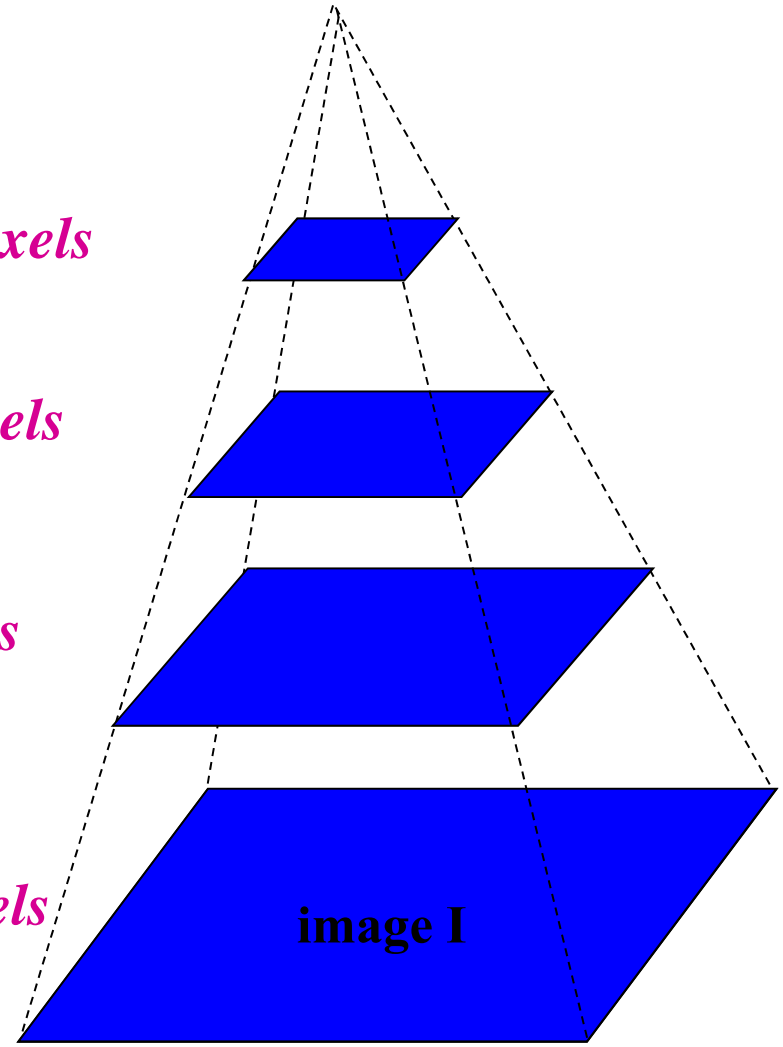
**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

*$u=1.25$  pixels*

*$u=2.5$  pixels*

*$u=5$  pixels*

*$u=10$  pixels*

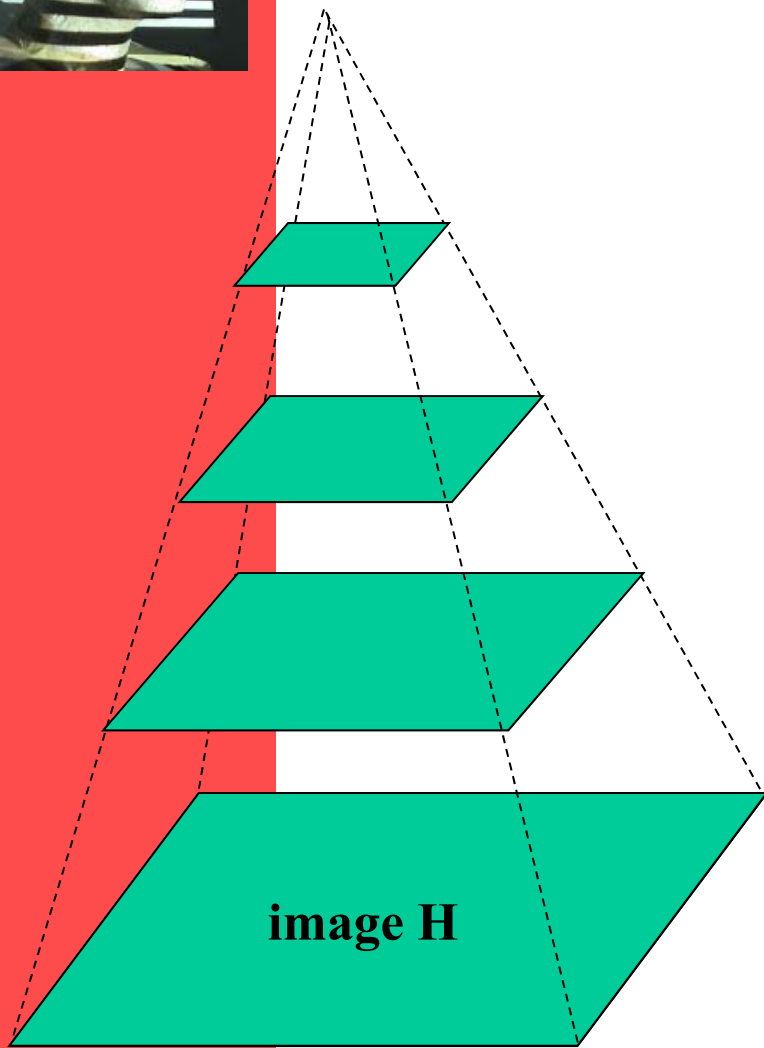


**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**

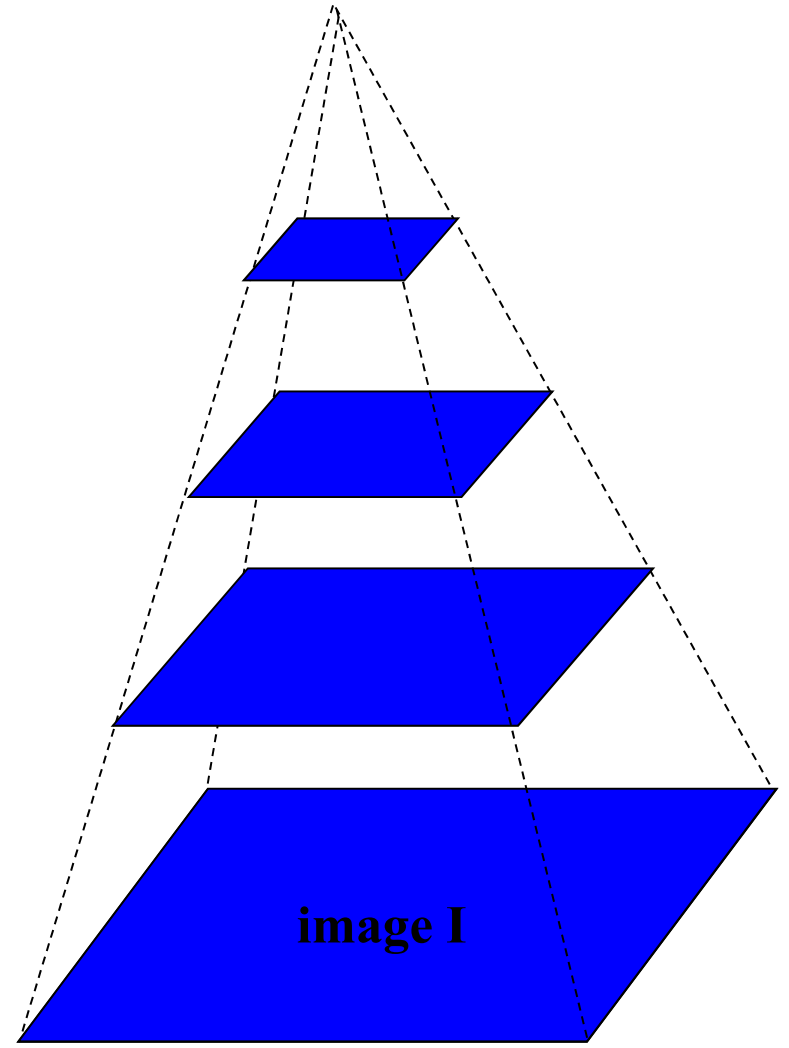


# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

---



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

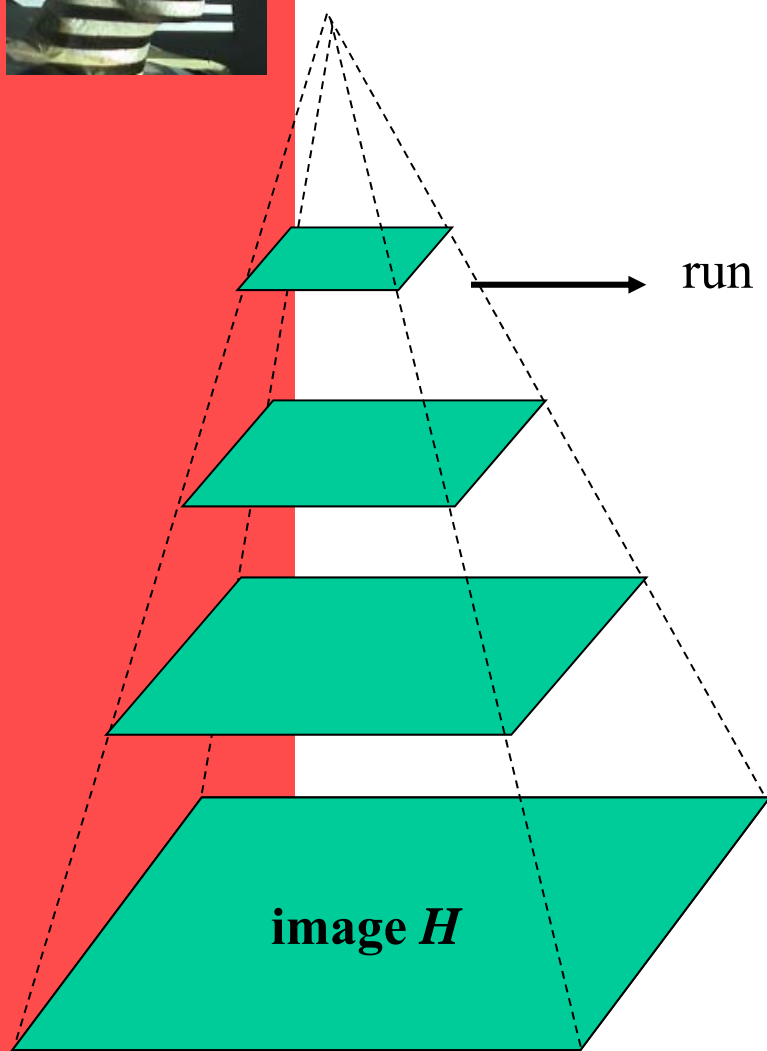


**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**



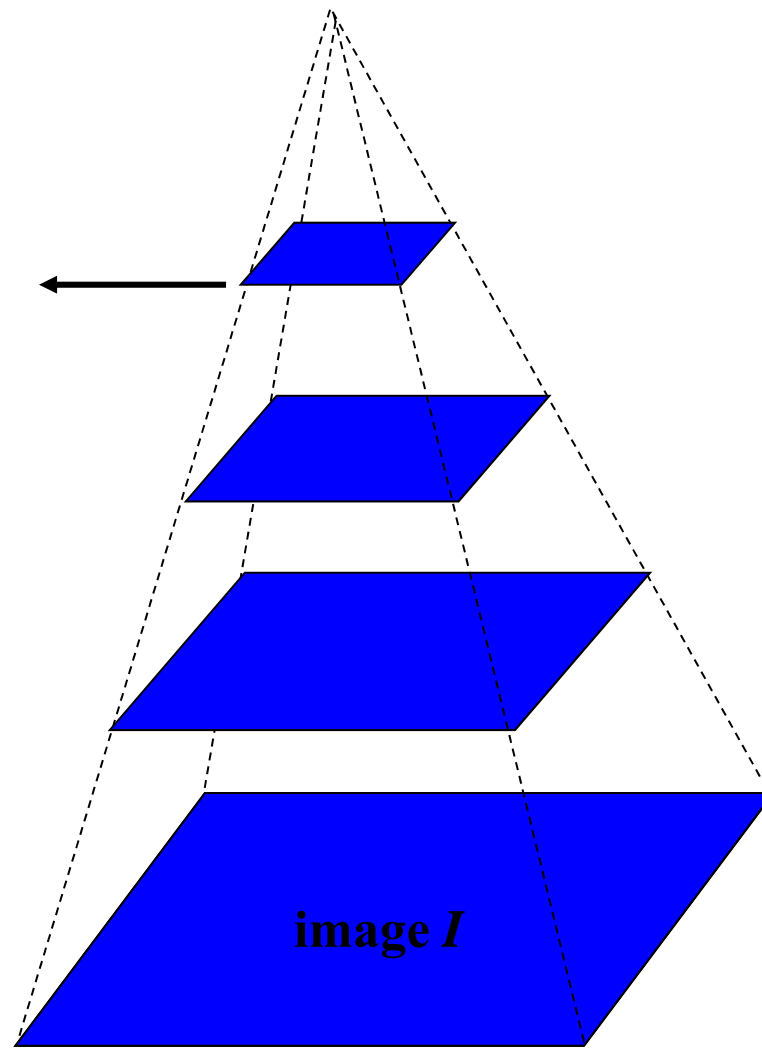
# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

---



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

run iterative OF

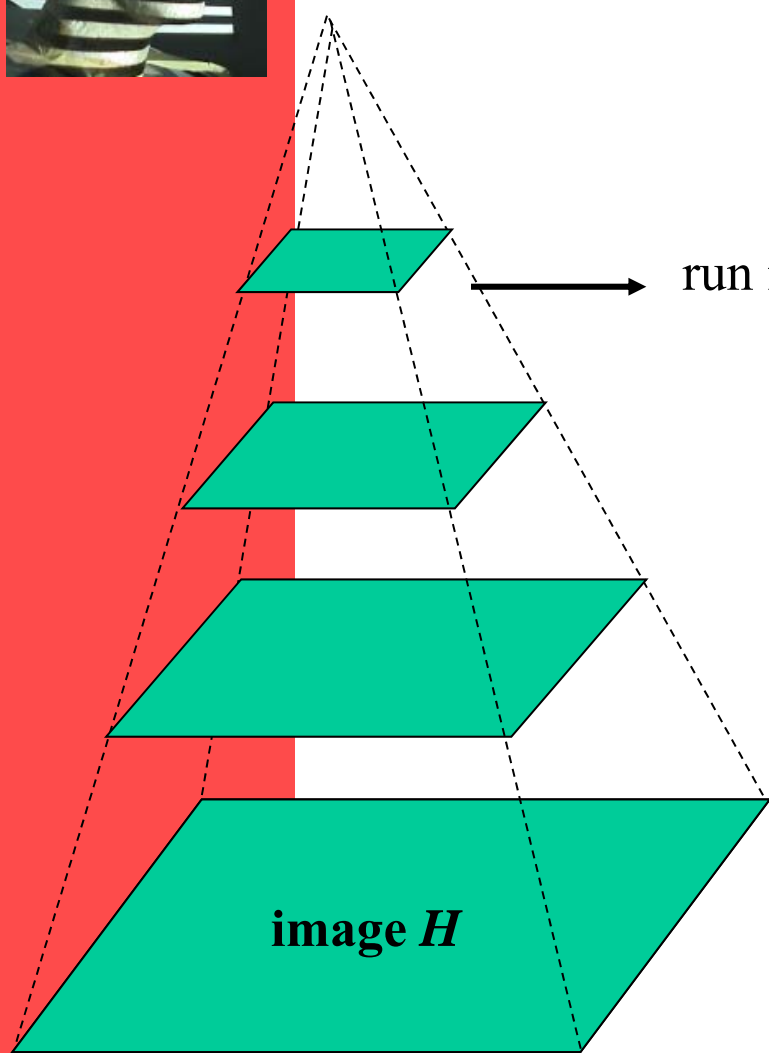


**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

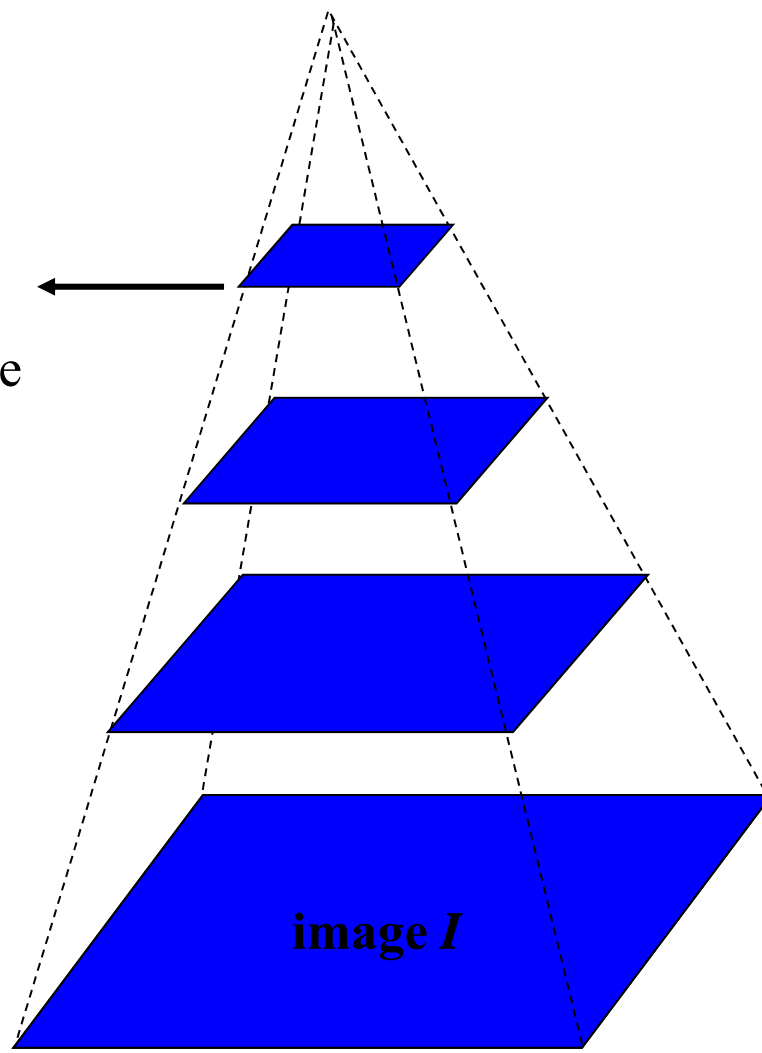
---



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

run iterative OF

↓  
upsample

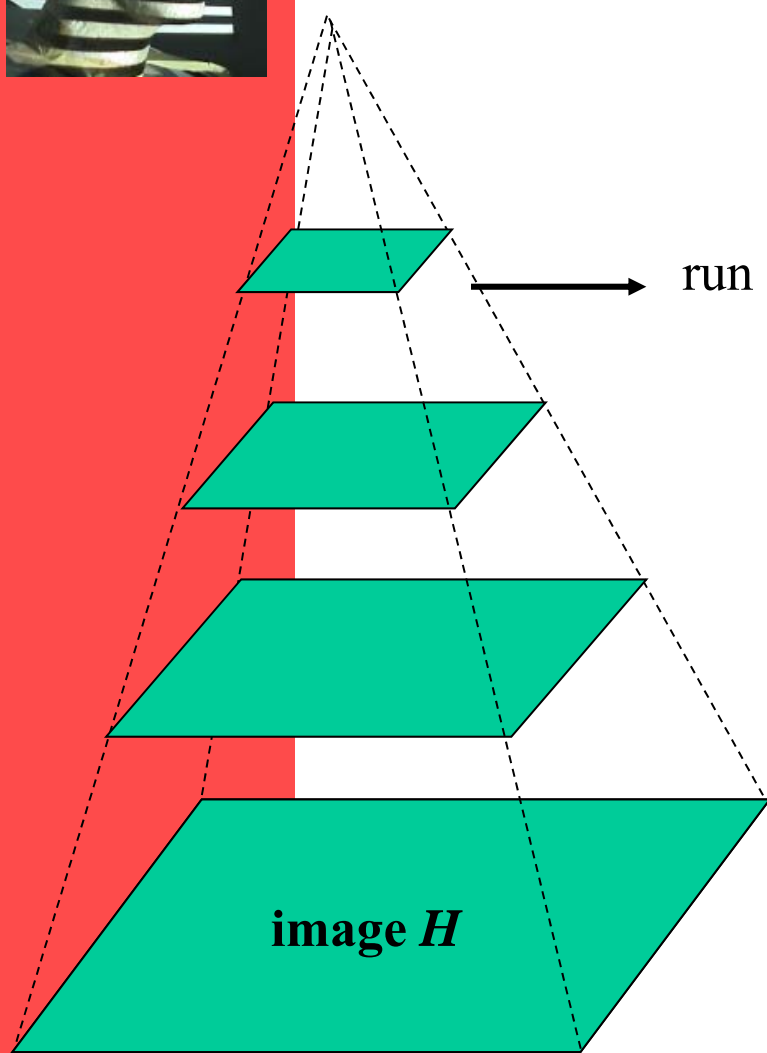


**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**



# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation

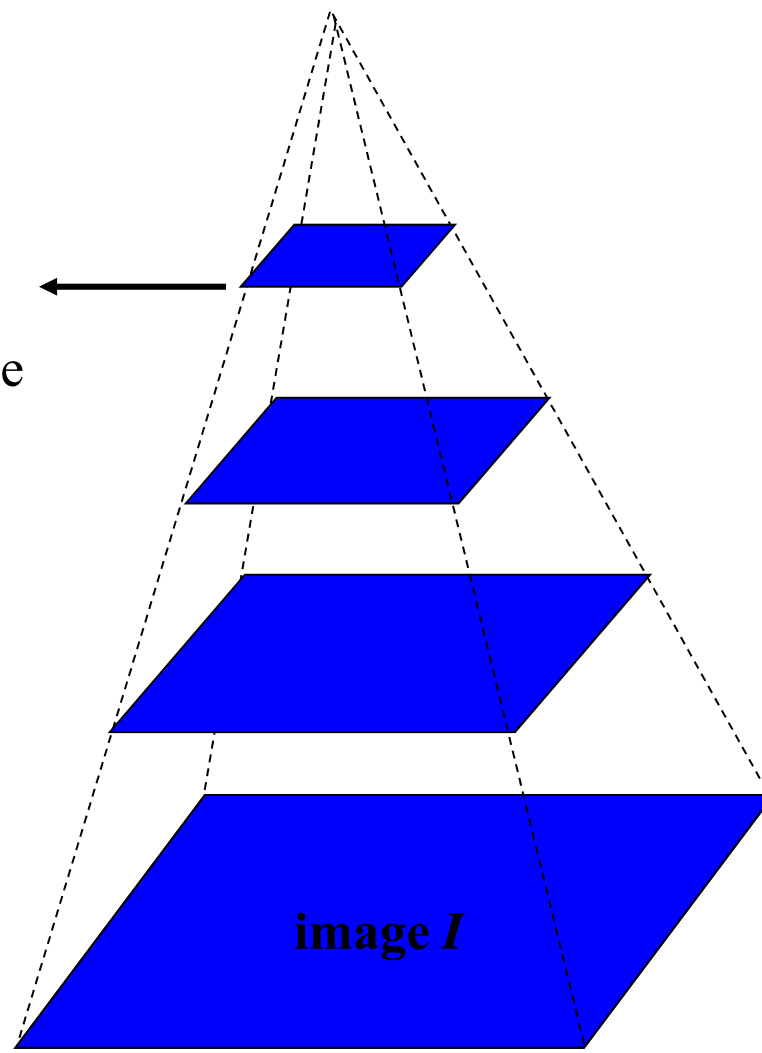
---



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $H$**

run iterative OF

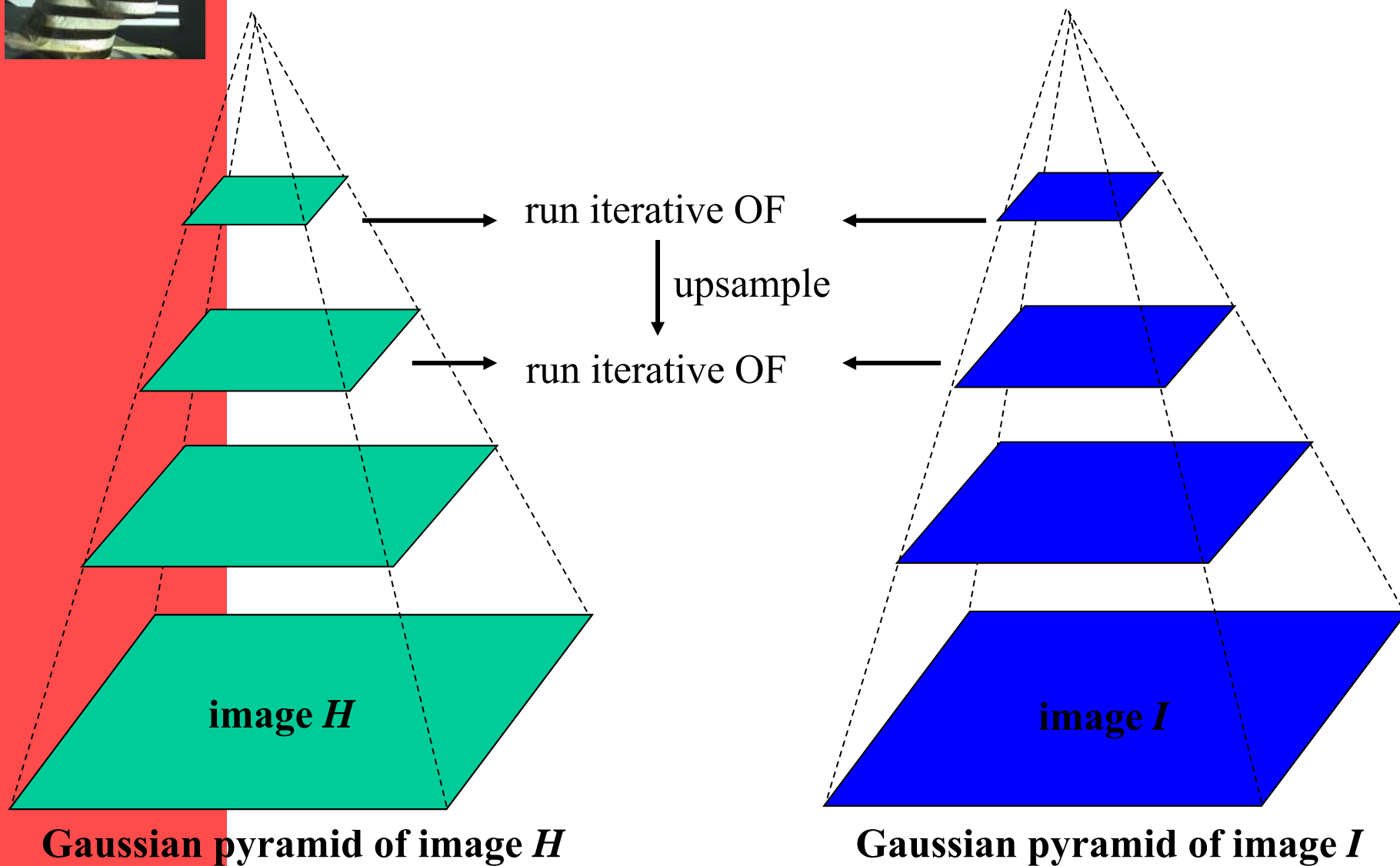
↓  
upsample



**Gaussian pyramid of image  $I$**

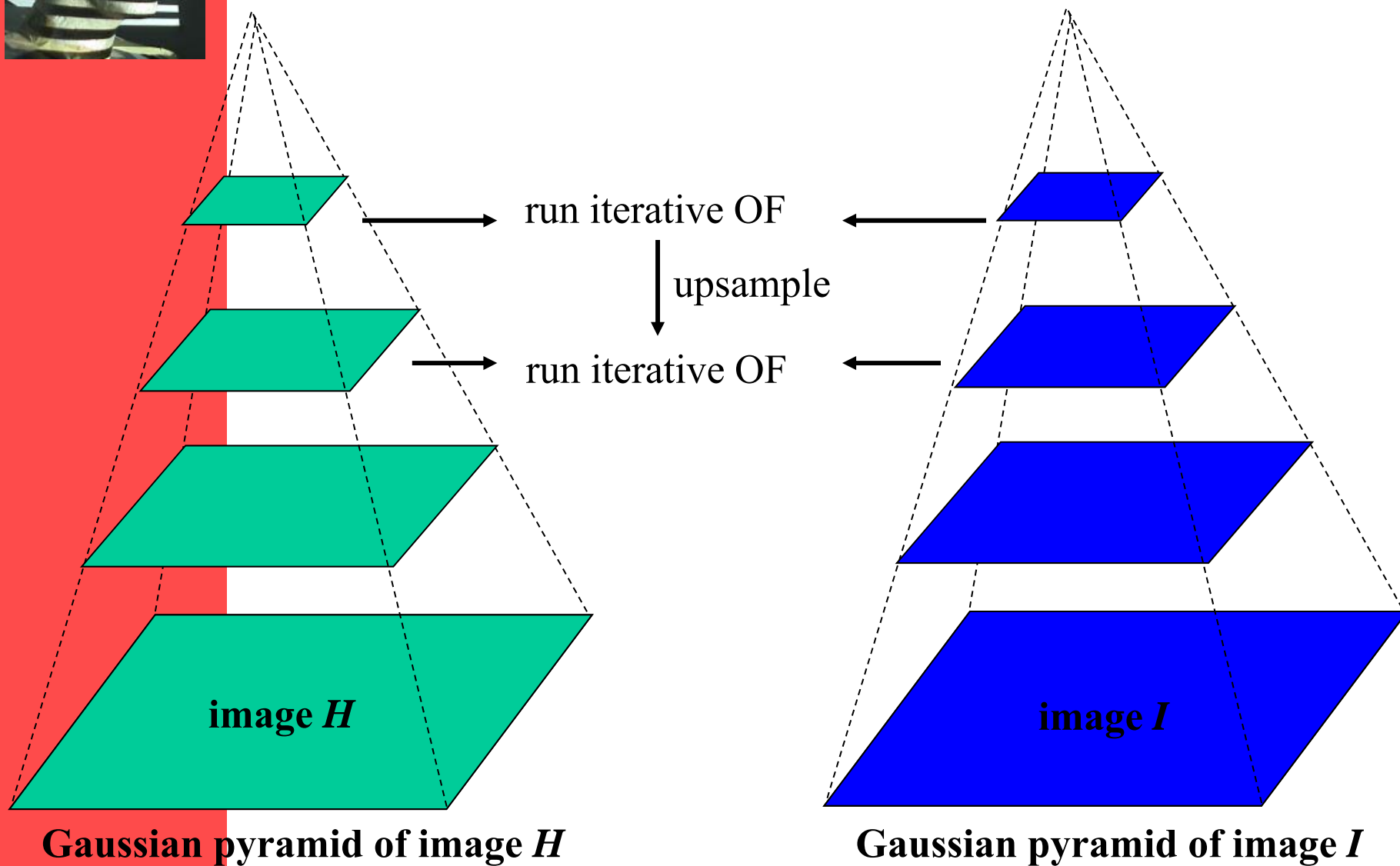


# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation



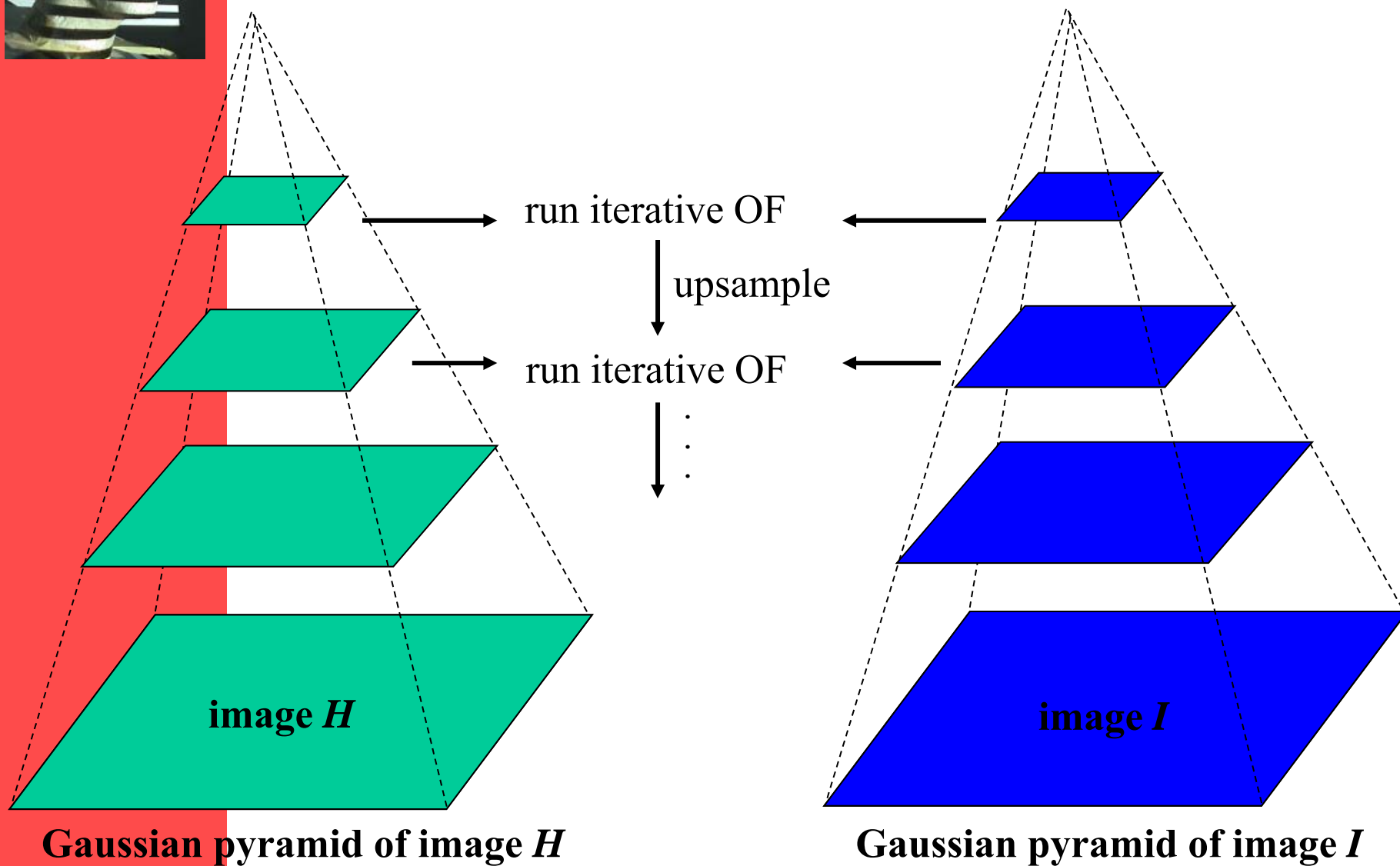


# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation





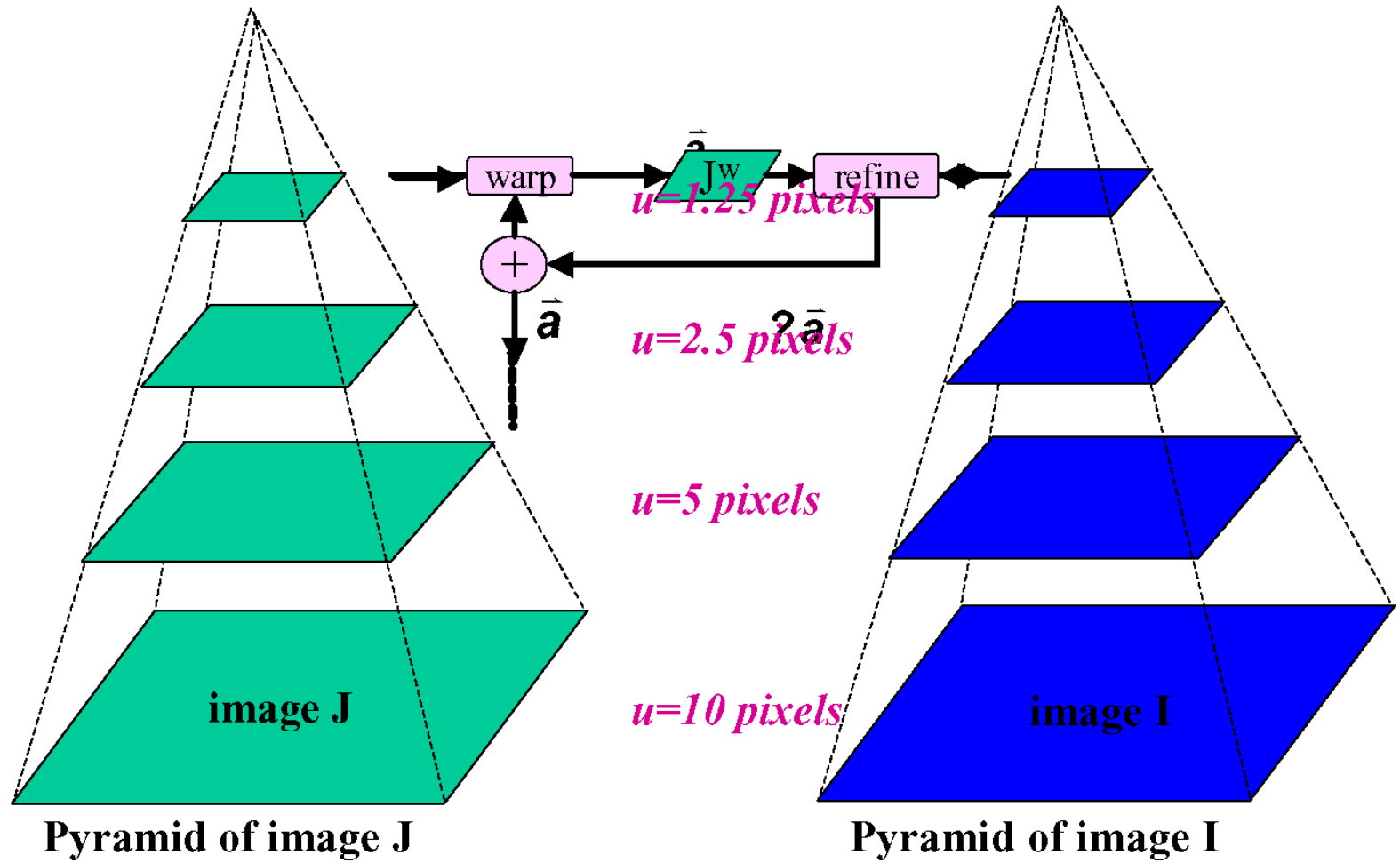
# Coarse-to-fine Optical Flow Estimation





# Coarse-to-Fine Estimation

$$I_x \cdot u + I_y \cdot v + I_t \approx 0 \implies \text{small } u \text{ and } v \dots$$





# Video Segmentation



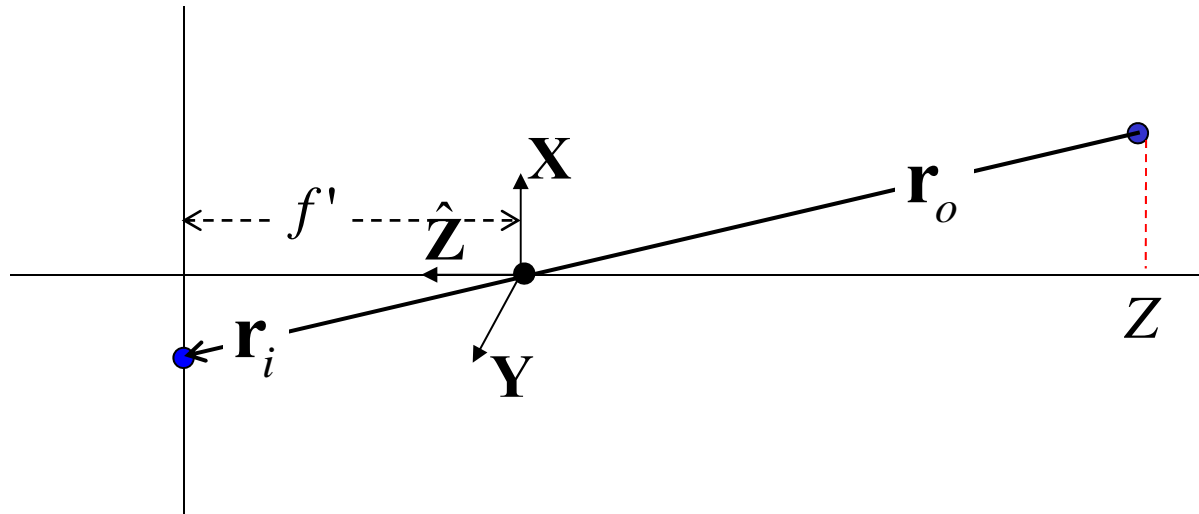


Next:  
Motion Field  
Structure from Motion

# Motion Field



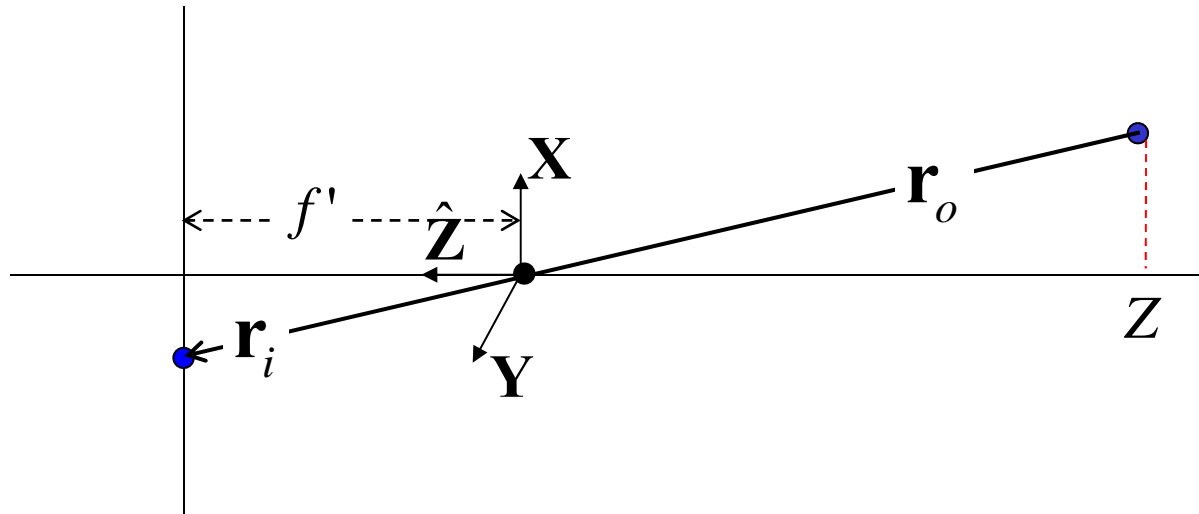
- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



# Motion Field



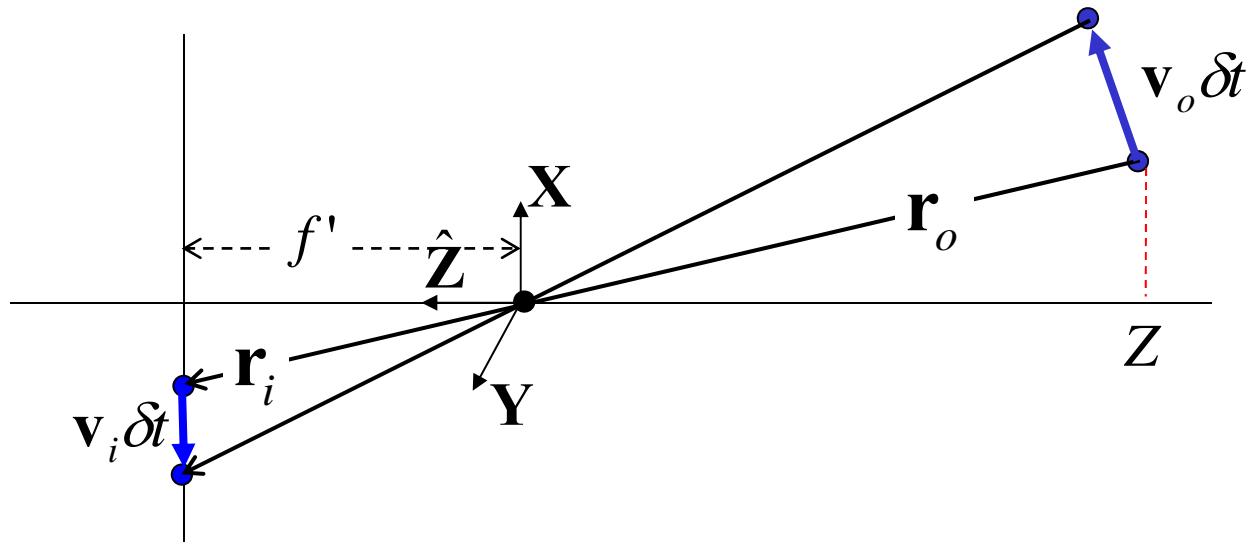
- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



# Motion Field



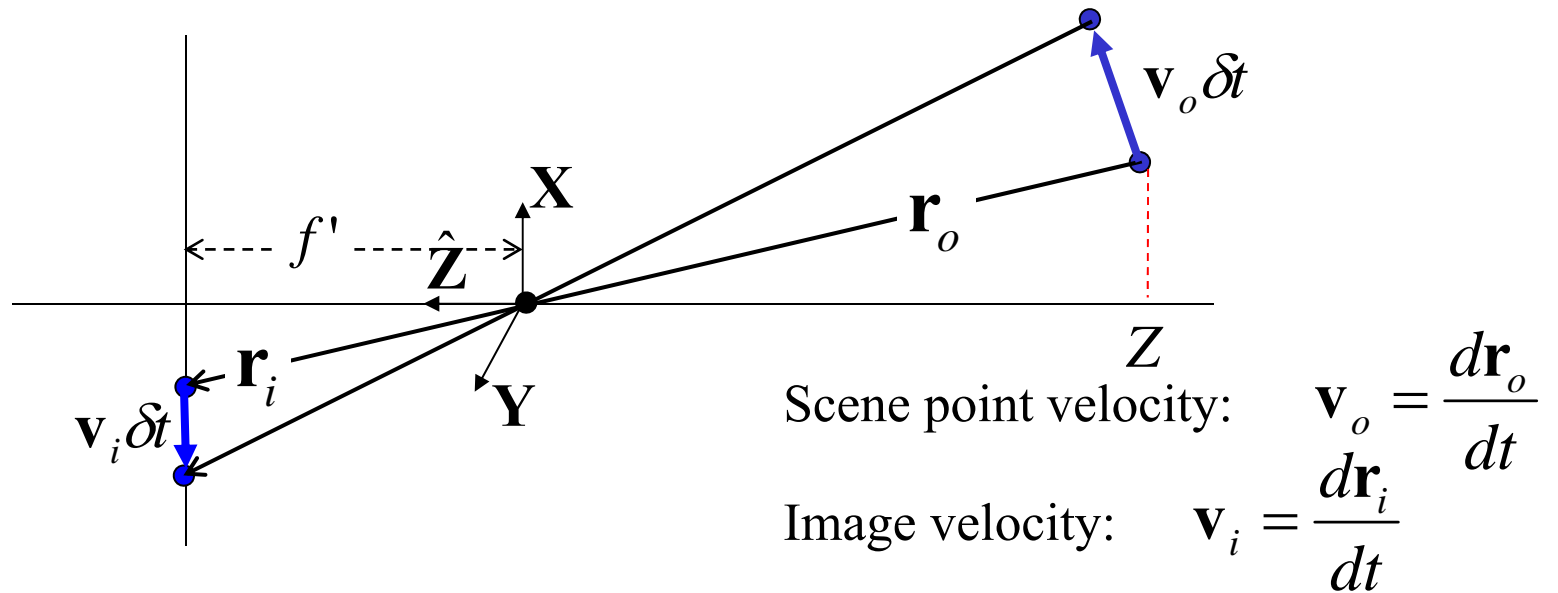
- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



# Motion Field



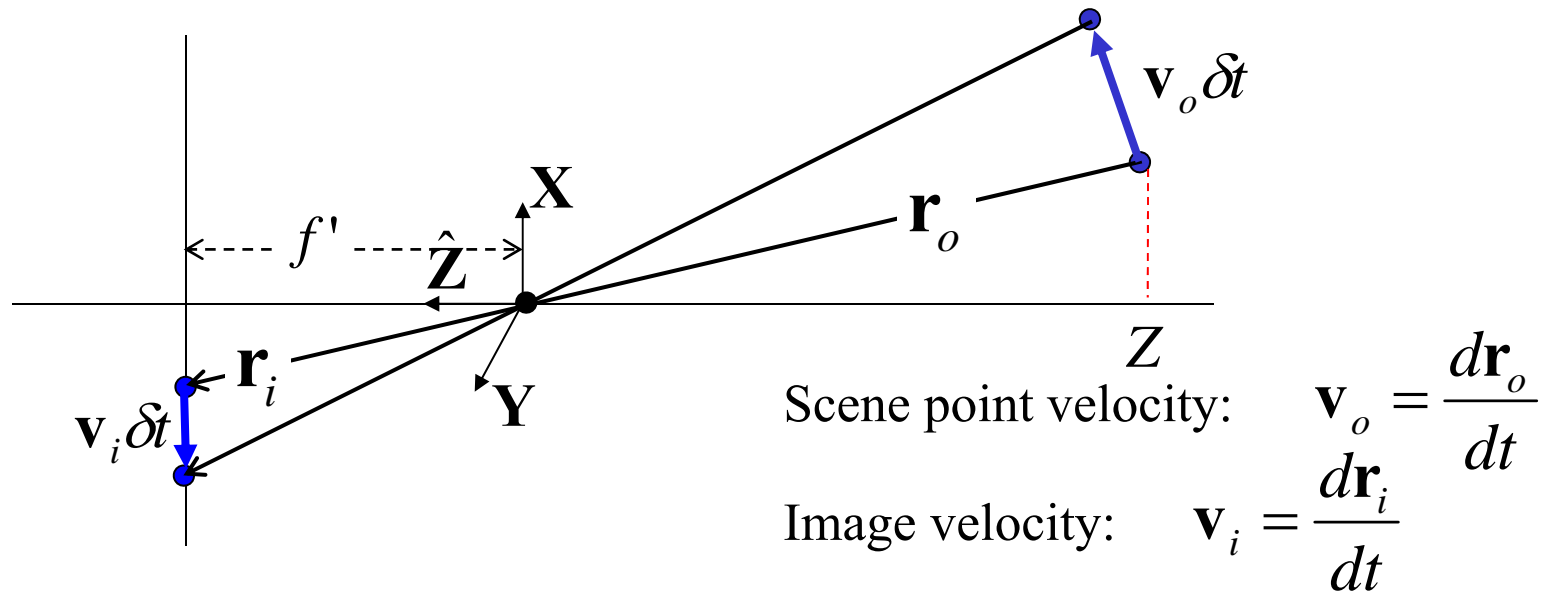
- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



# Motion Field



- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene

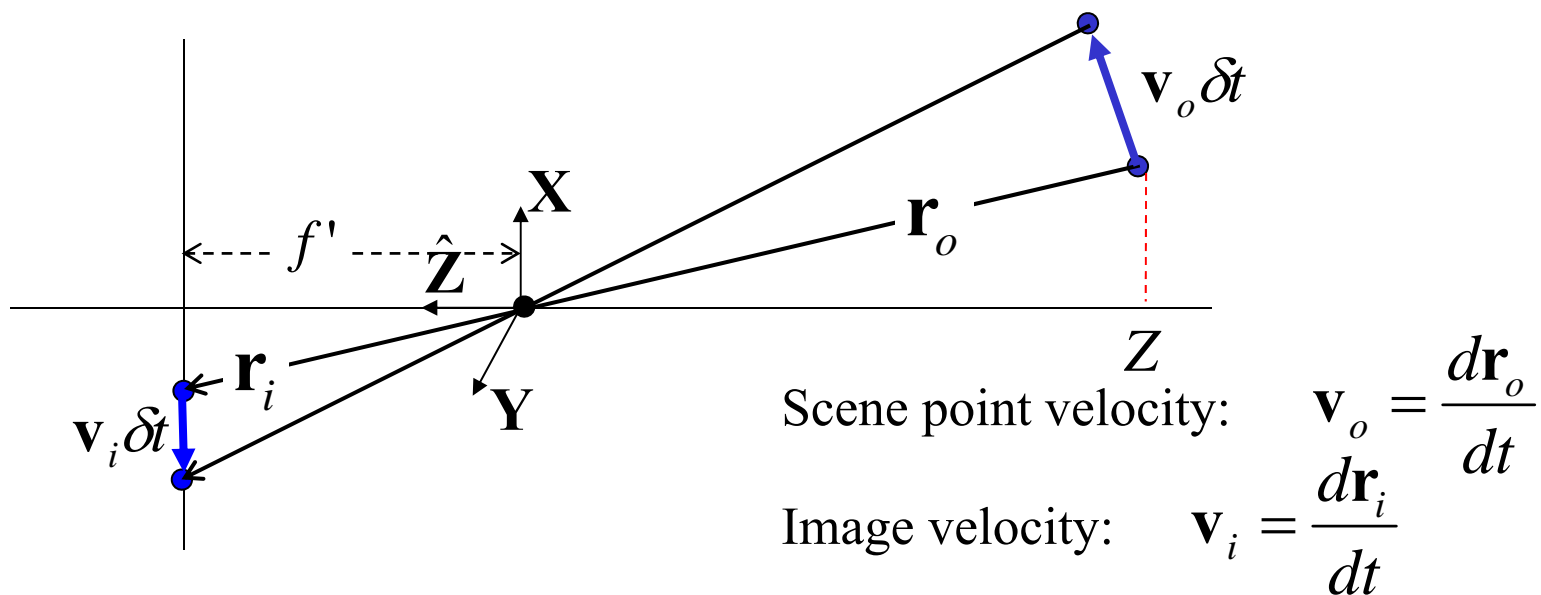


Perspective projection:  $\frac{1}{f'} \mathbf{r}_i = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Z}}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{Z}$



# Motion Field

- Image velocity of a point moving in the scene



Perspective projection:  $\frac{1}{f'} \mathbf{r}_i = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \hat{\mathbf{Z}}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_o}{Z}$

Motion field

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i}{dt} = f' \frac{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})\mathbf{v}_o - (\mathbf{v}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})\mathbf{r}_o}{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})^2} = f' \frac{(\mathbf{r}_o \times \mathbf{v}_o) \times \mathbf{Z}}{(\mathbf{r}_o \cdot \mathbf{Z})^2}$$



