

# Fitting and Alignment

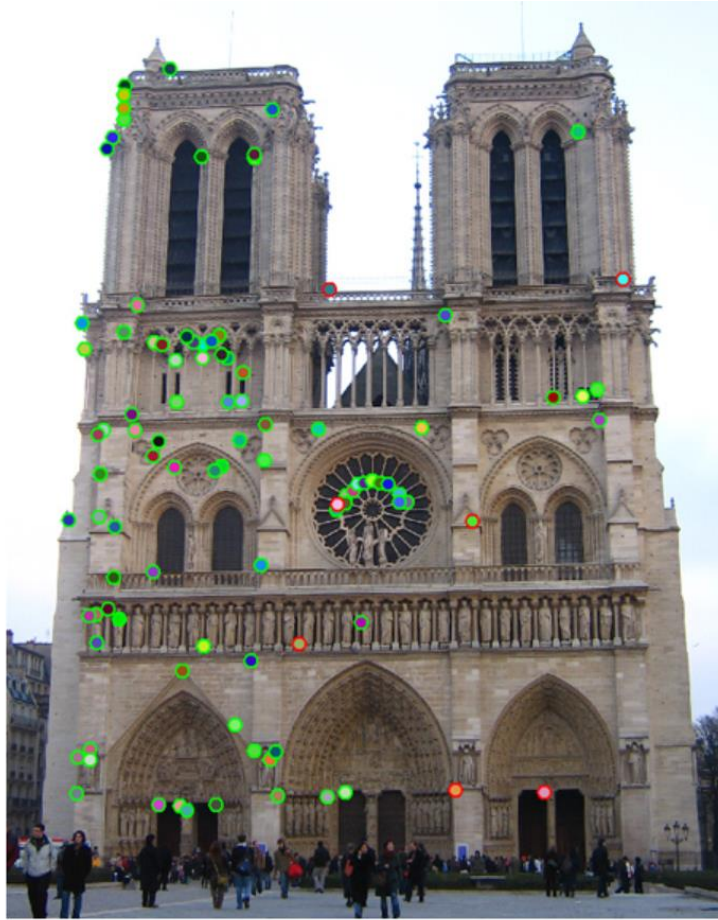
Szeliski 2.1  
and 8.1

Computer Vision

James Hays

Acknowledgment: Many slides from Derek Hoiem, Lana Lazebnik,  
and Grauman&Leibe 2008 AAAI Tutorial

# Project 2



The top 100 most confident local feature matches from a baseline implementation of project 2. In this case, 93 were correct (highlighted in green) and 7 were incorrect (highlighted in red).

## Project 2: Local Feature Matching

# Fitting and Alignment: Methods

- Global optimization / Search for parameters
  - ~~Least squares fit~~
  - ~~Robust least squares~~
  - ~~Other parameter search methods~~
- Hypothesize and test
  - Hough transform
  - RANSAC
- Iterative Closest Points (ICP)

# Review: Hough Transform

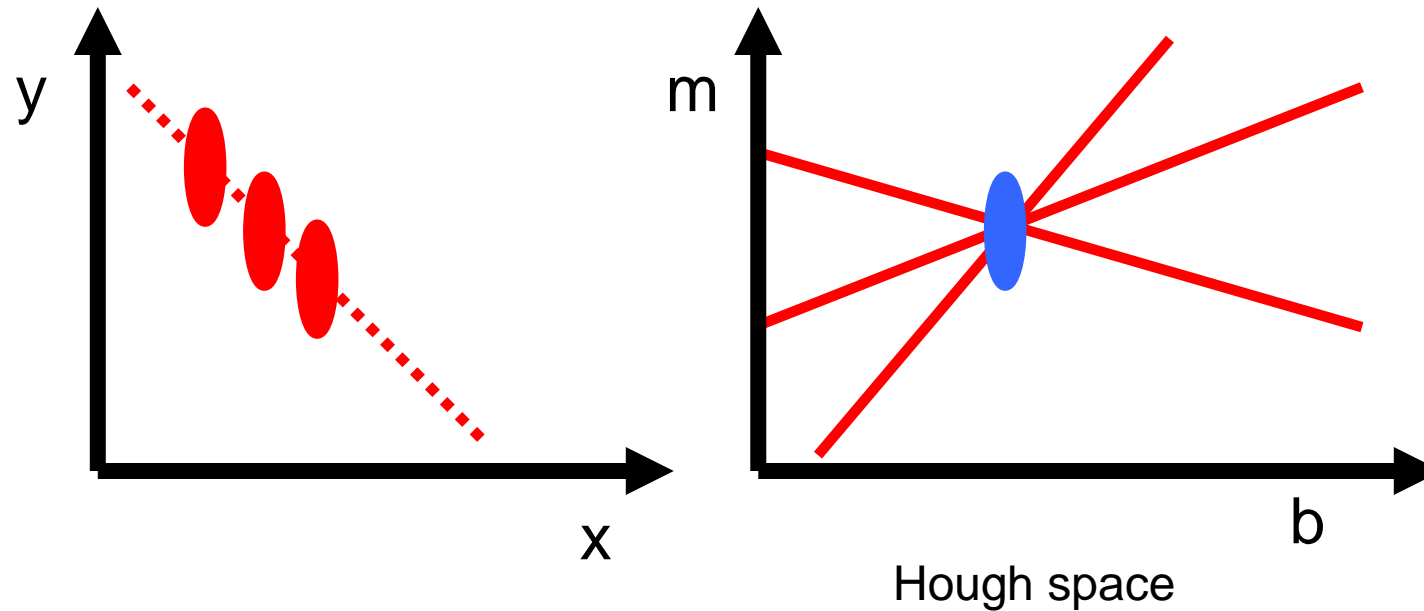
1. Create a grid of parameter values
2. Each point (or correspondence) votes for a set of parameters, incrementing those values in grid
3. Find maximum or local maxima in grid



# Review: Hough transform

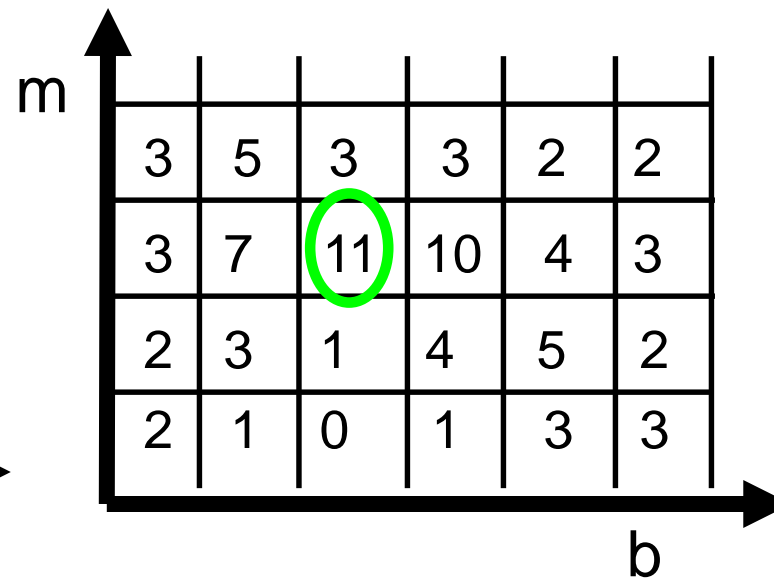
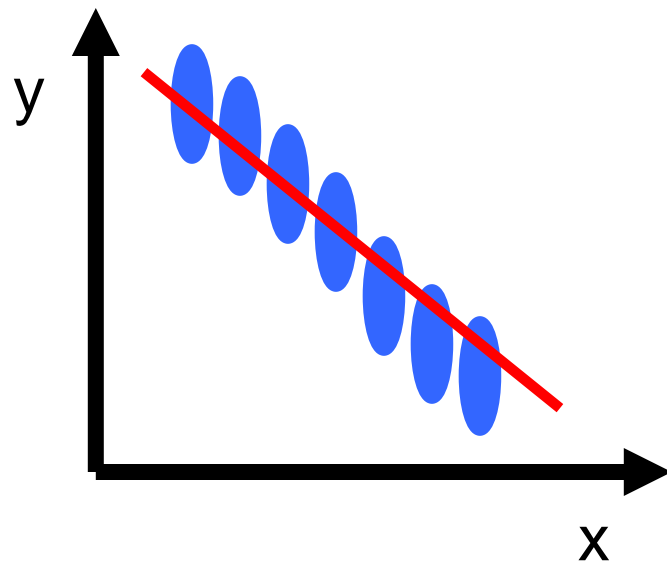
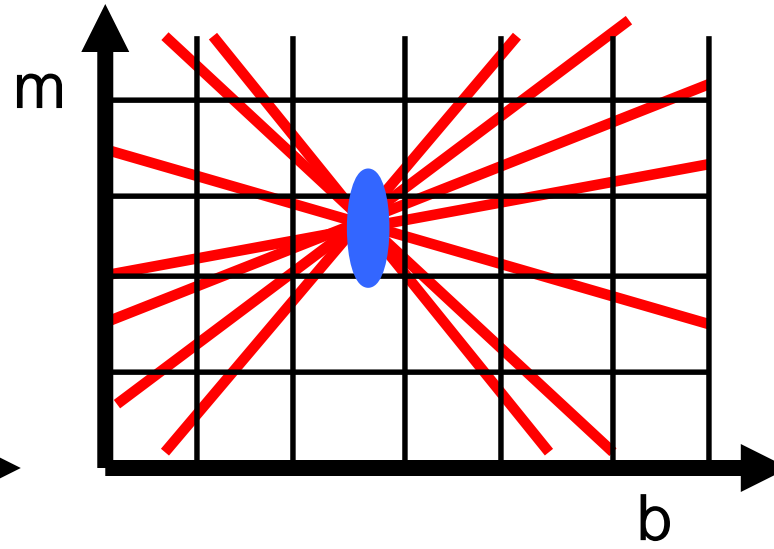
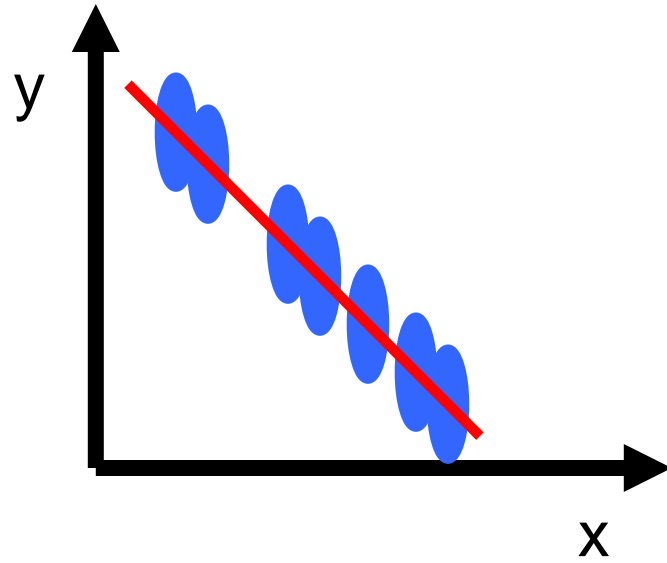
P.V.C. Hough, *Machine Analysis of Bubble Chamber Pictures*, Proc. Int. Conf. High Energy Accelerators and Instrumentation, 1959

Given a set of points, find the curve or line that explains the data points best



$$y = m x + b$$

# Review: Hough transform

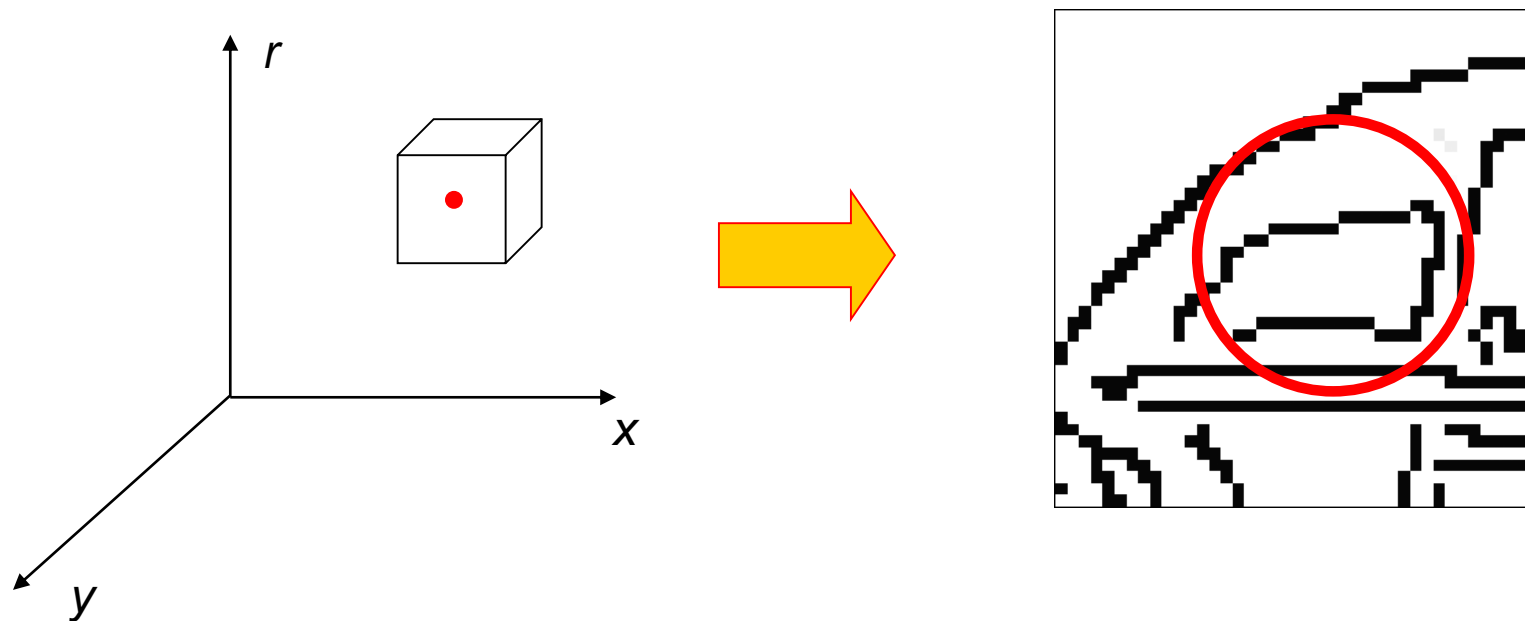


# Hough Transform

- How would we find circles?
  - Of fixed radius
  - Of unknown radius
  - Of unknown radius but with known edge orientation

# Hough transform for circles

- Similar procedure: for each  $(x,y,r)$ , draw the corresponding circle in the image and compute its “support”



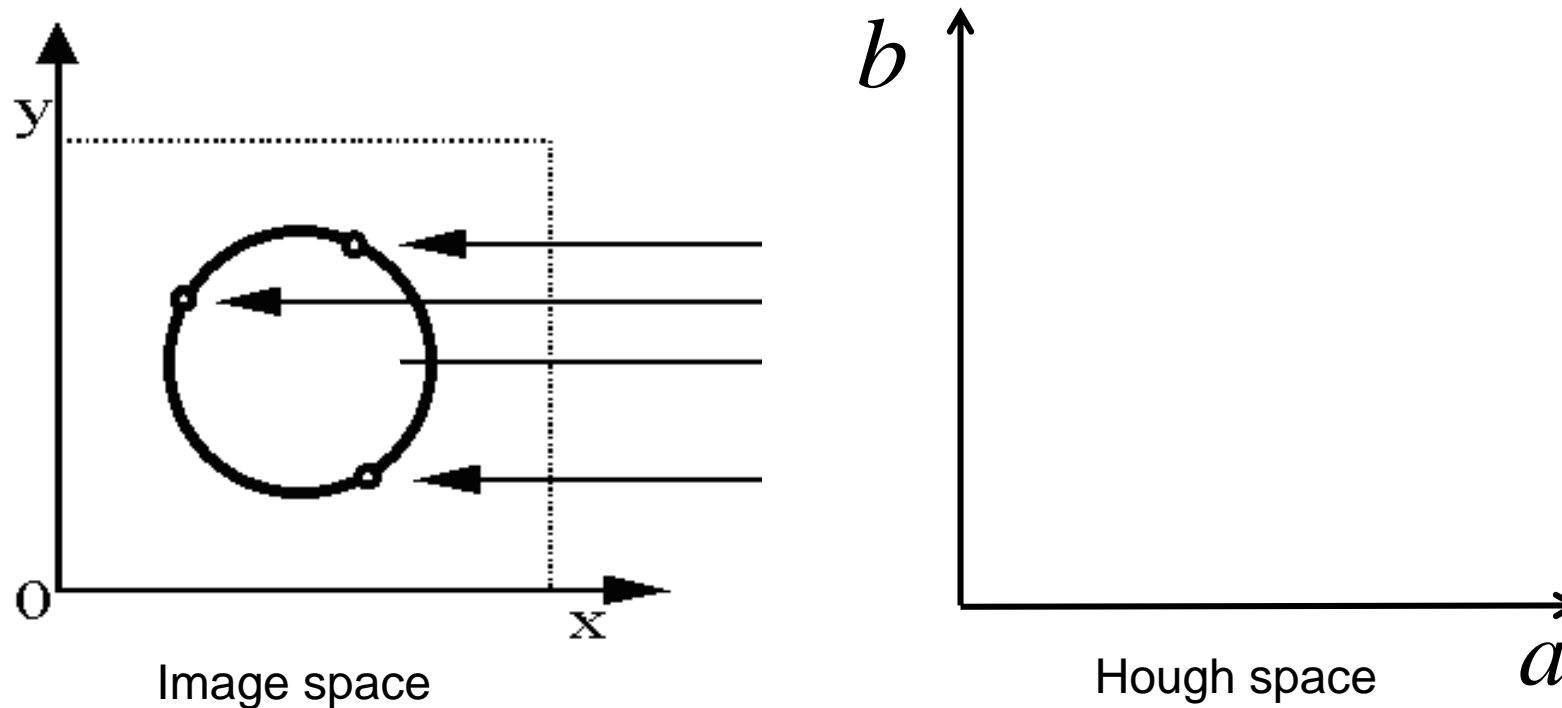
Is this more or less efficient than voting with features?

# Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center  $(a,b)$  and radius  $r$

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For a fixed radius  $r$

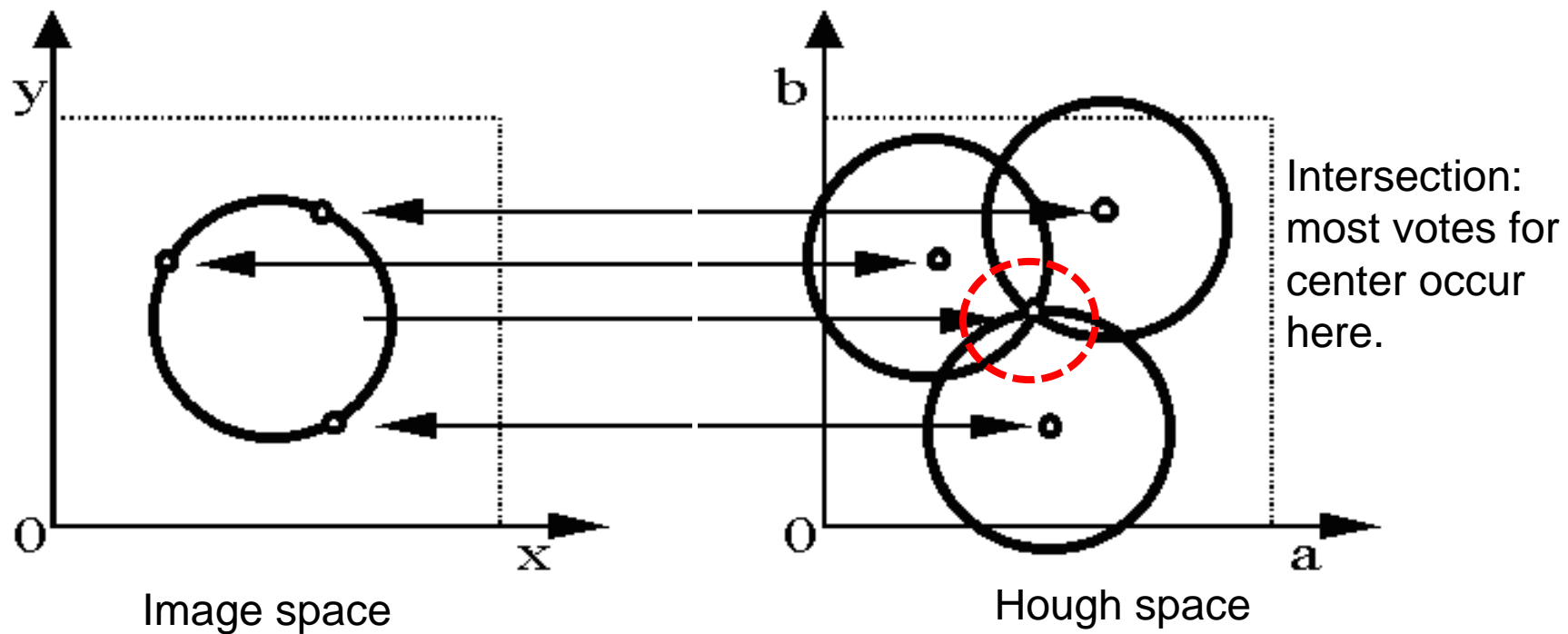


# Hough transform for circles

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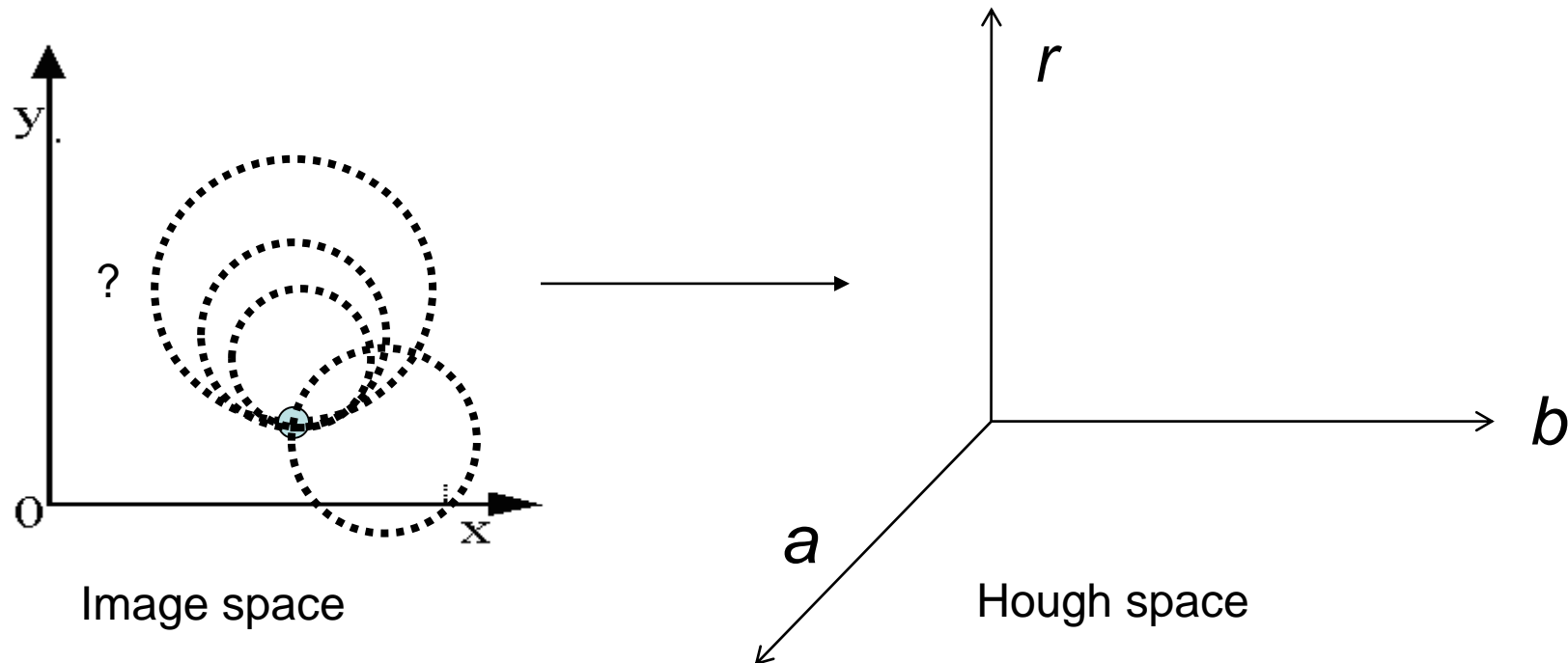


# Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center  $(a,b)$  and radius  $r$

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For an unknown radius  $r$

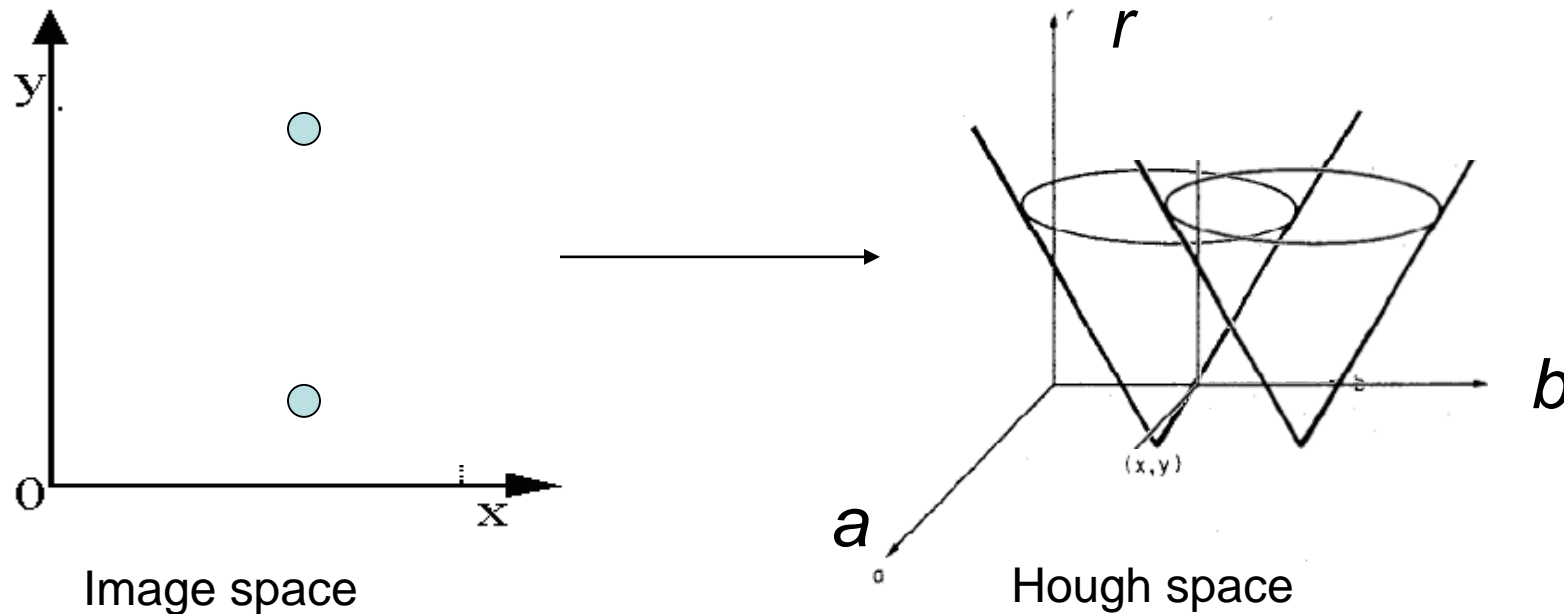


# Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center  $(a,b)$  and radius  $r$

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For an unknown radius  $r$



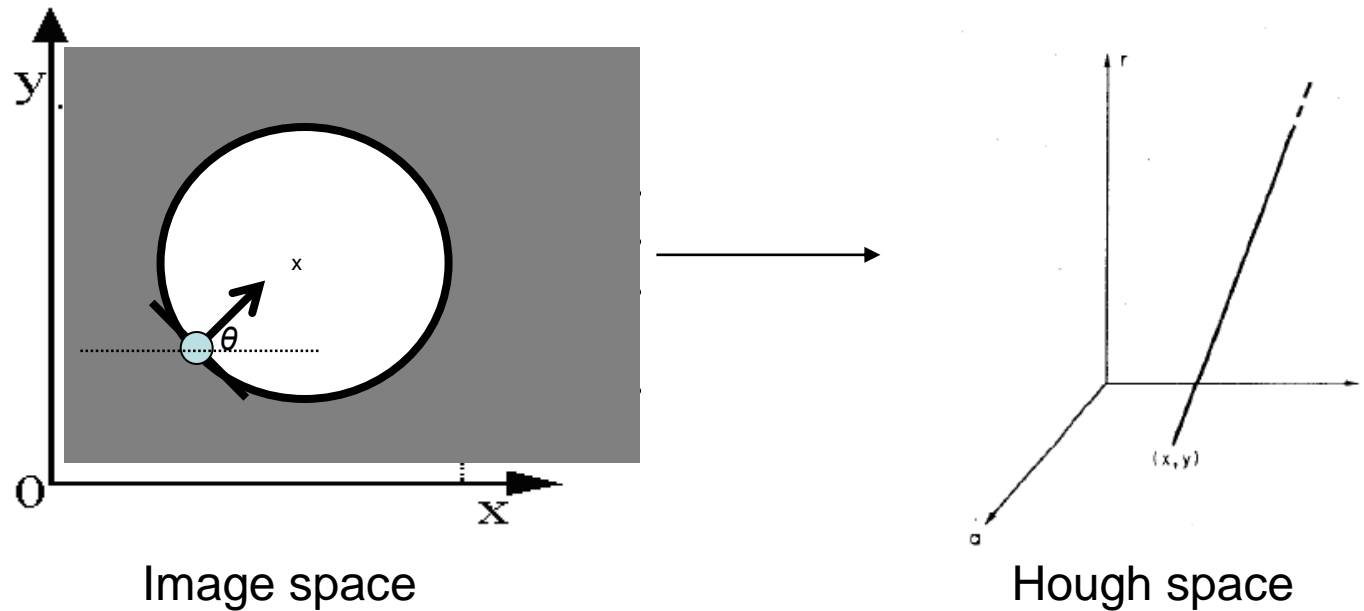


# Hough transform for circles

- Circle: center  $(a,b)$  and radius  $r$

$$(x_i - a)^2 + (y_i - b)^2 = r^2$$

- For an unknown radius  $r$ , **known** gradient direction



# Hough transform for circles

For every edge pixel  $(x,y)$  :

For each possible radius value  $r$ .

For each possible gradient direction  $\theta$ :

*// or use estimated gradient at  $(x,y)$*

$a = x - r \cos(\theta)$  *// column*

$b = y + r \sin(\theta)$  *// row*

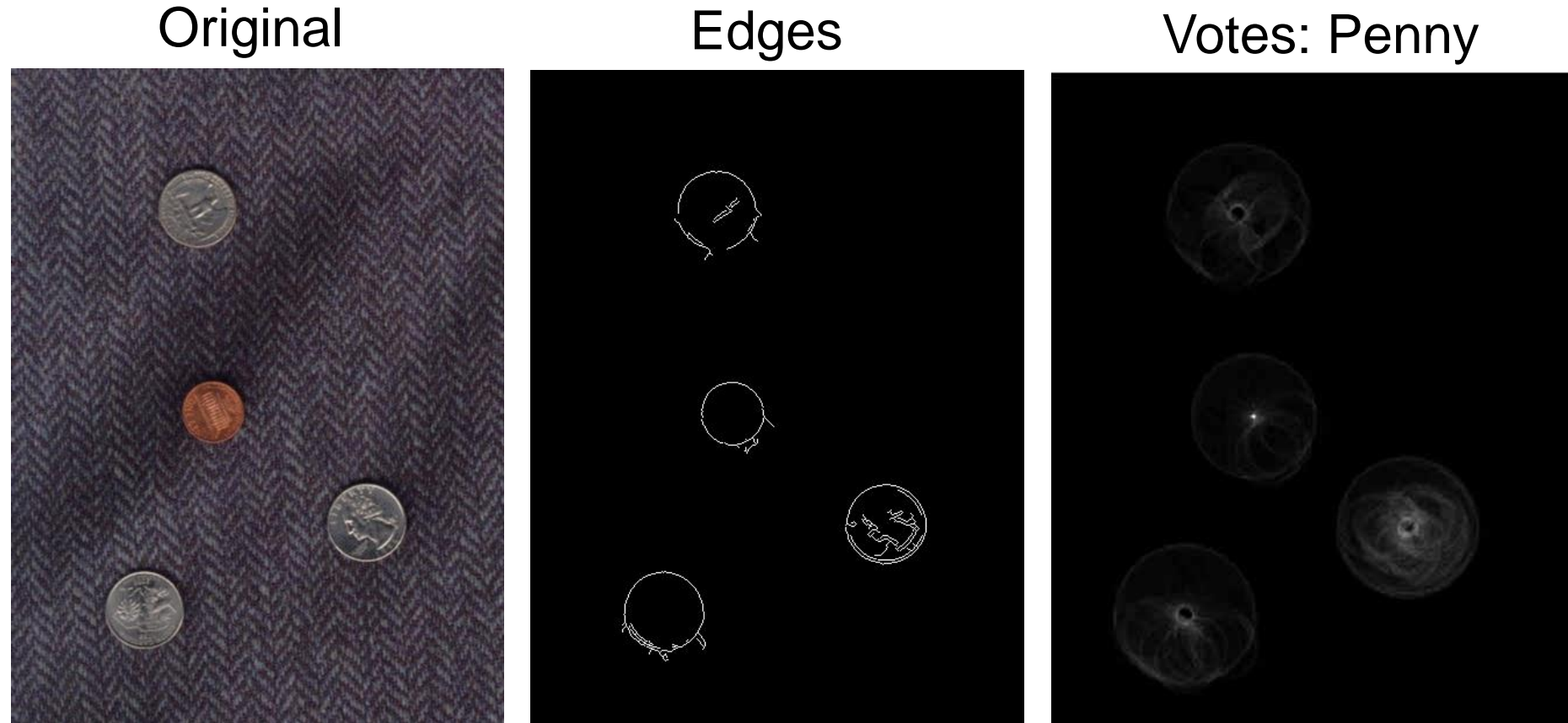
$H[a,b,r] += 1$

end

end

- Check out online demo : <http://www.markschulze.net/java/hough/>

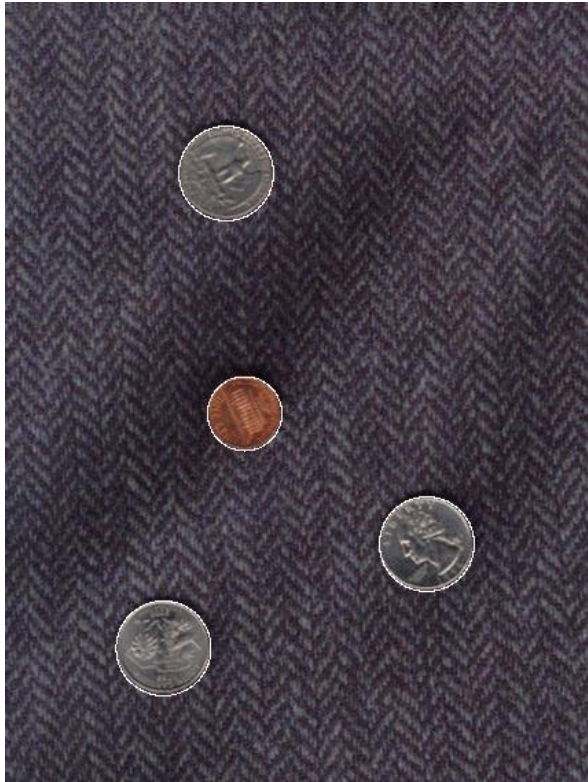
# Example: detecting circles with Hough



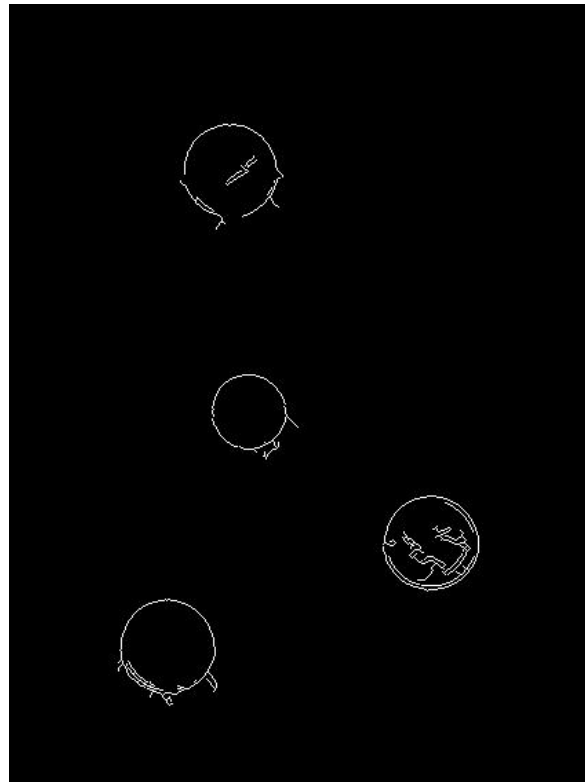
Note: a different Hough transform (with separate accumulators) was used for each circle radius (quarters vs. penny).

# Example: detecting circles with Hough

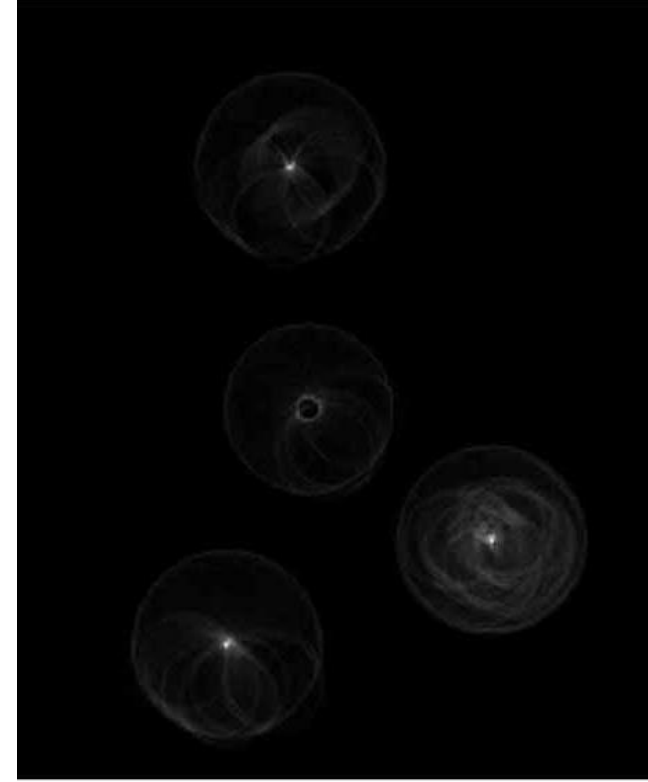
Original



Edges



Votes: Quarter



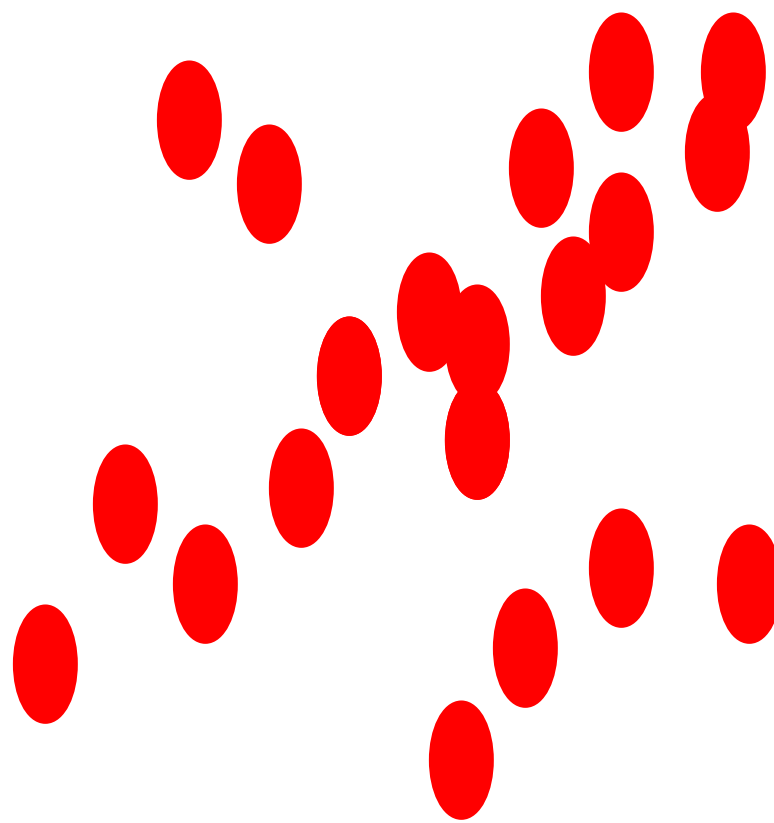
# Fitting and Alignment: Methods

- Global optimization / Search for parameters
  - ~~Least squares fit~~
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  - ~~Hough transform~~
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# RANSAC

(**RAN**dom **SA**mple **C**onsensus) :

Fischler & Bolles in '81.



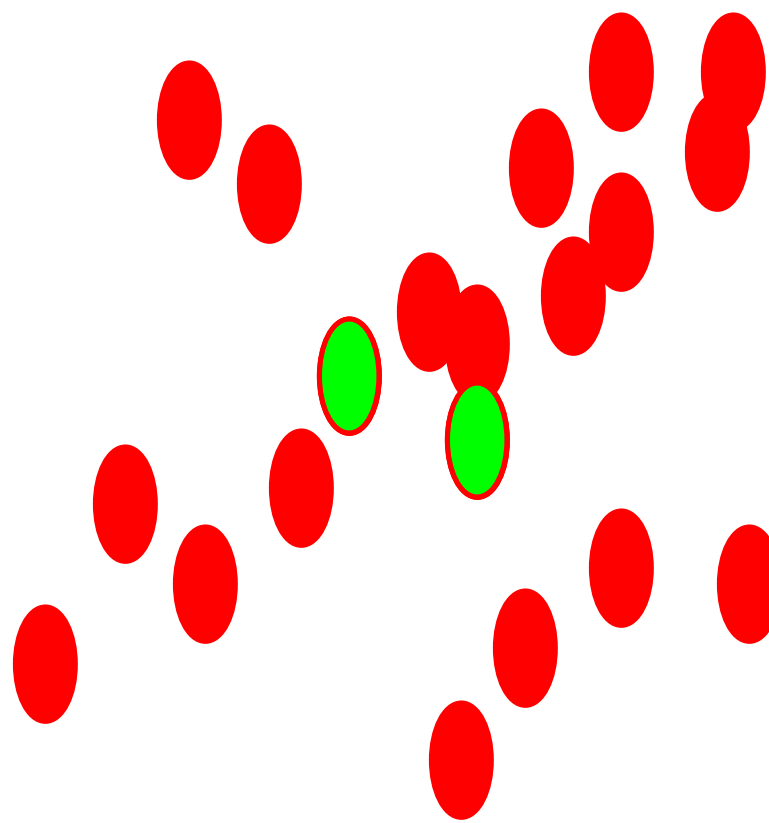
Algorithm:

1. **Sample** (randomly) the number of points required to fit the model
2. **Solve** for model parameters using samples
3. **Score** by the fraction of inliers within a preset threshold of the model

**Repeat** 1-3 until the best model is found with high confidence

# RANSAC

Line fitting example



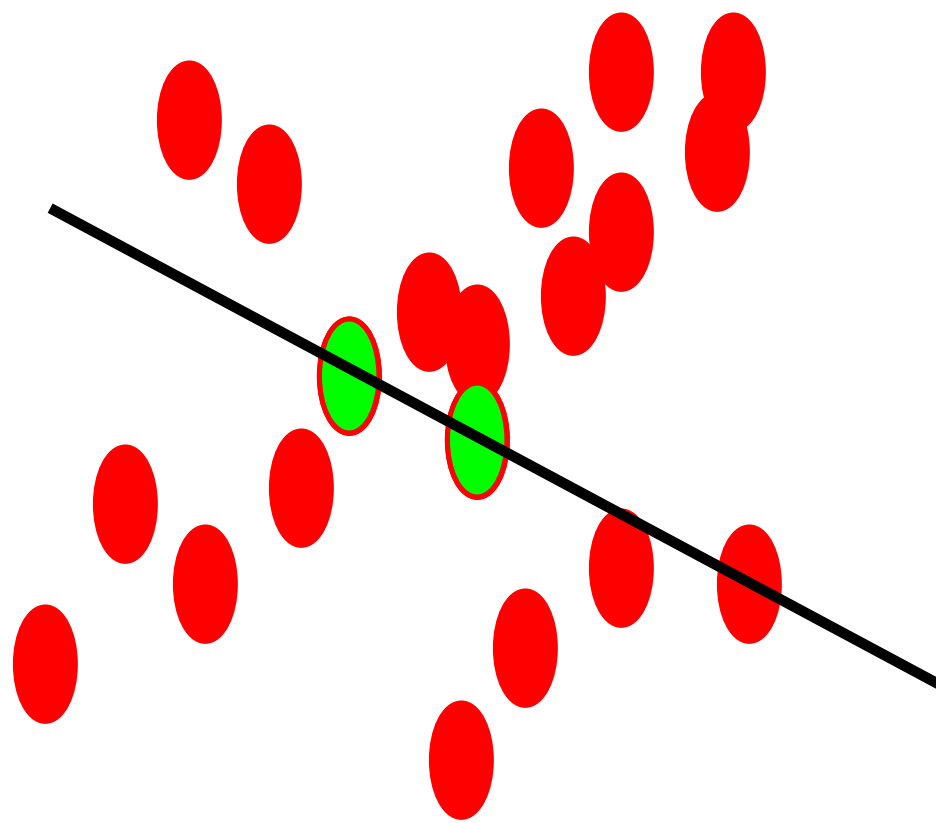
Algorithm:

1. **Sample** (randomly) the number of points required to fit the model ( $\#=2$ )
2. **Solve** for model parameters using samples
3. **Score** by the fraction of inliers within a preset threshold of the model

**Repeat** 1-3 until the best model is found with high confidence

# RANSAC

Line fitting example



Algorithm:

1. **Sample** (randomly) the number of points required to fit the model ( $\#=2$ )
2. **Solve** for model parameters using samples
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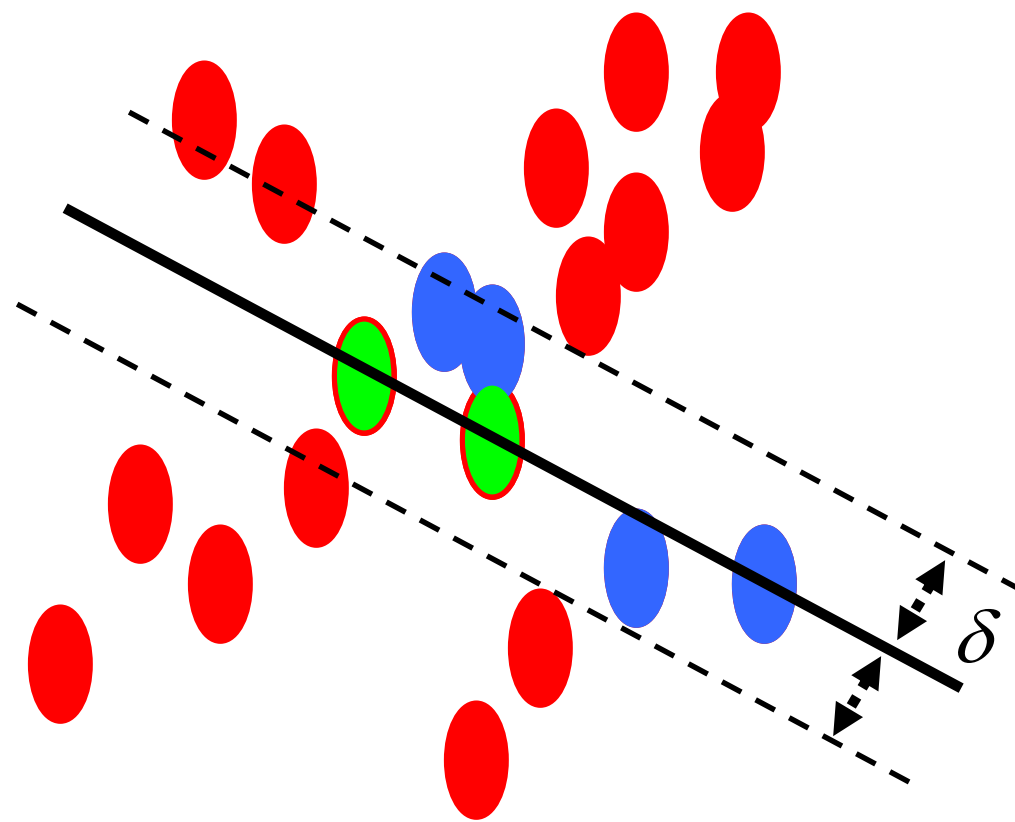
**Repeat** 1-3 until the best model is found with high confidence



# RANSAC

Line fitting example

$$N_I = 6$$

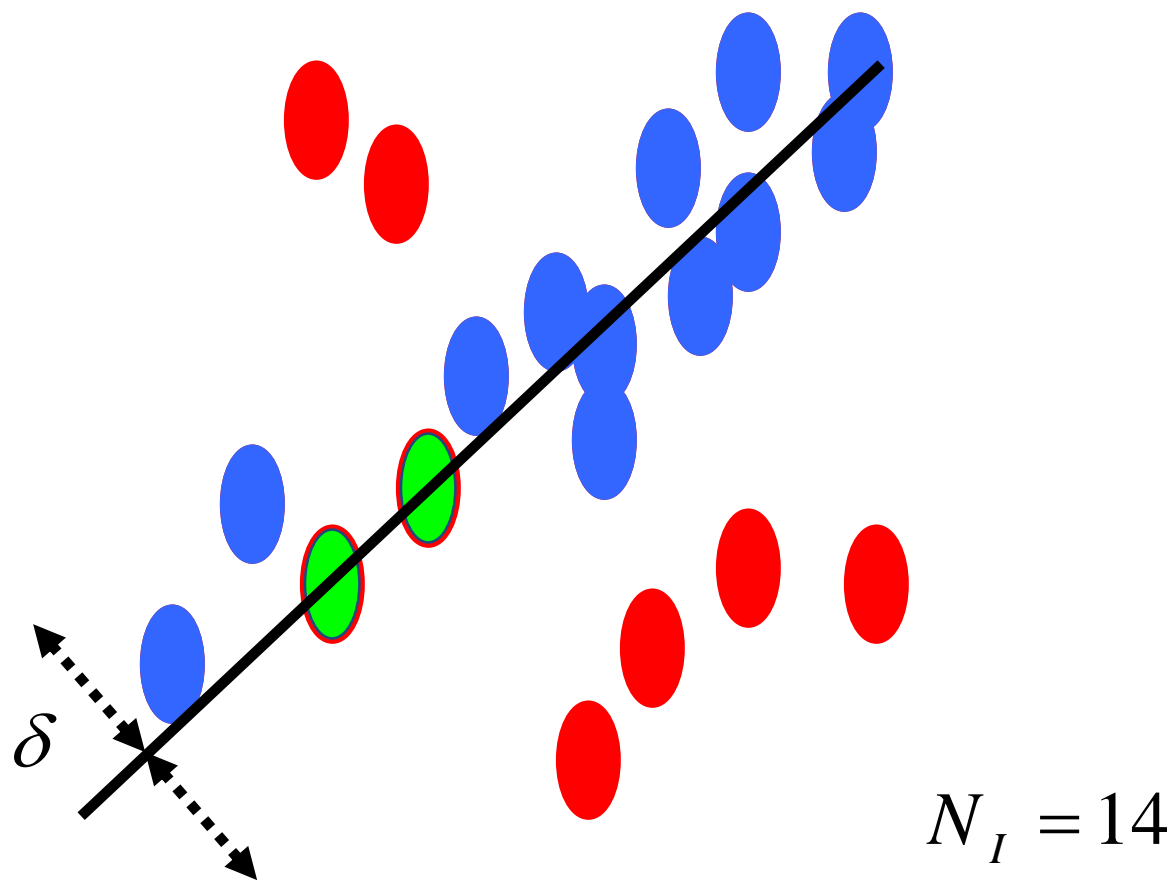


Algorithm:

1. **Sample** (randomly) the number of points required to fit the model ( $\#=2$ )
2. **Solve** for model parameters using samples
3. **Score** by the fraction of inliers within a preset threshold of the model

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# RANSAC



Algorithm:

1. **Sample** (randomly) the number of points required to fit the model ( $\#=2$ )
2. **Solve** for model parameters using samples
3. **Score** by the fraction of inliers within a preset threshold of the model

**Repeat 1-3 until the best model is found with high confidence**

# How to choose parameters?

- Number of iterations of sampling  $N$ 
  - Choose  $N$  so that, with probability  $p$ , at least one random sample is free from outliers (e.g.  $p=0.99$ ) (outlier ratio:  $e$ )
- Number of sampled points  $s$ 
  - Minimum number needed to fit the model
- Distance threshold  $\delta$ 
  - Choose  $\delta$  so that a good point with noise is likely (e.g., prob=0.95) within threshold

$$N = \log(1-p) / \log(1-(1-e)^s)$$

s	proportion of outliers $e$						
	5%	10%	20%	25%	30%	40%	50%
2	2	3	5	6	7	11	17
3	3	4	7	9	11	19	35
4	3	5	9	13	17	34	72
5	4	6	12	17	26	57	146
6	4	7	16	24	37	97	293
7	4	8	20	33	54	163	588
8	5	9	26	44	78	272	1177

For  $p = 0.99$

modified from M. Pollefeys

# RANSAC conclusions

## Good

- Robust to outliers
- Applicable for larger number of model parameters than Hough transform
- Optimization parameters are easier to choose than Hough transform

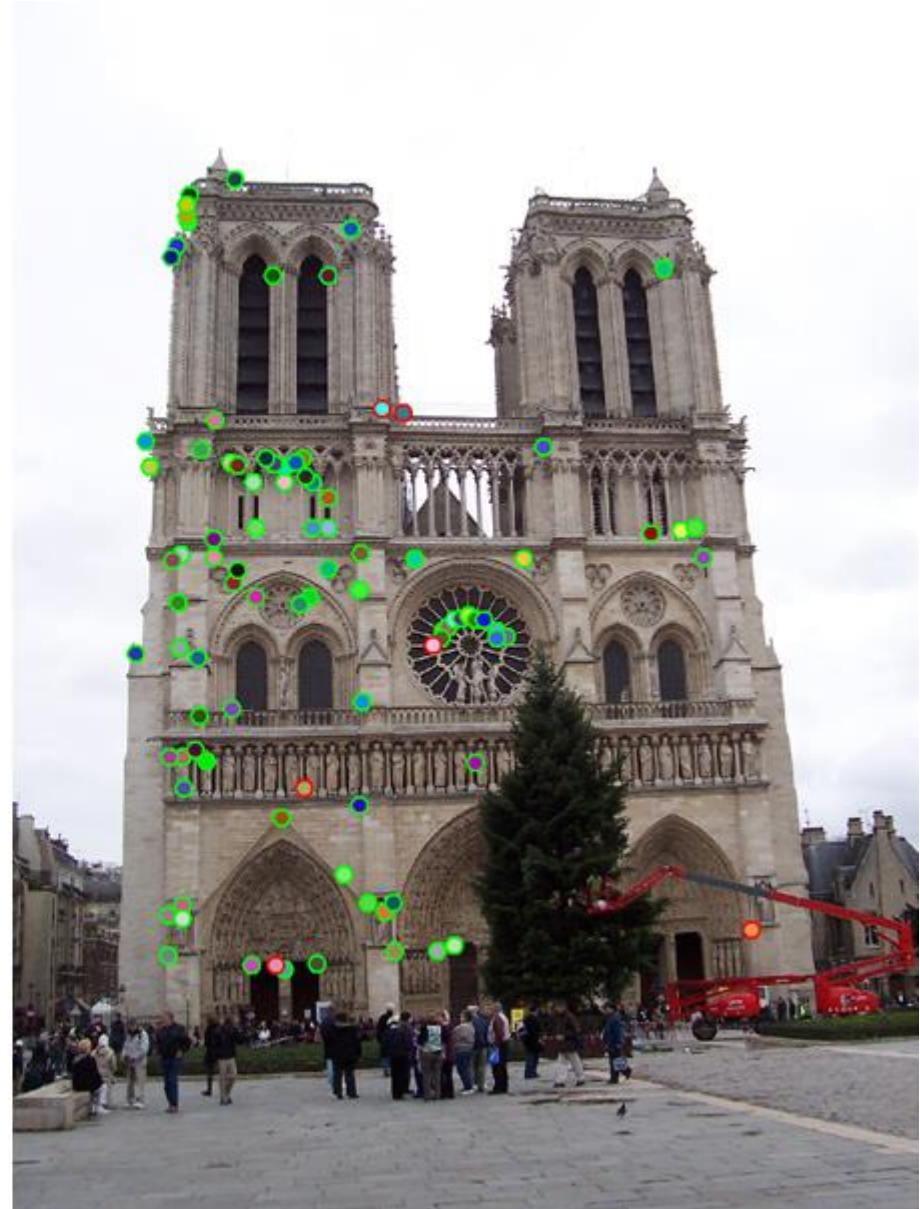
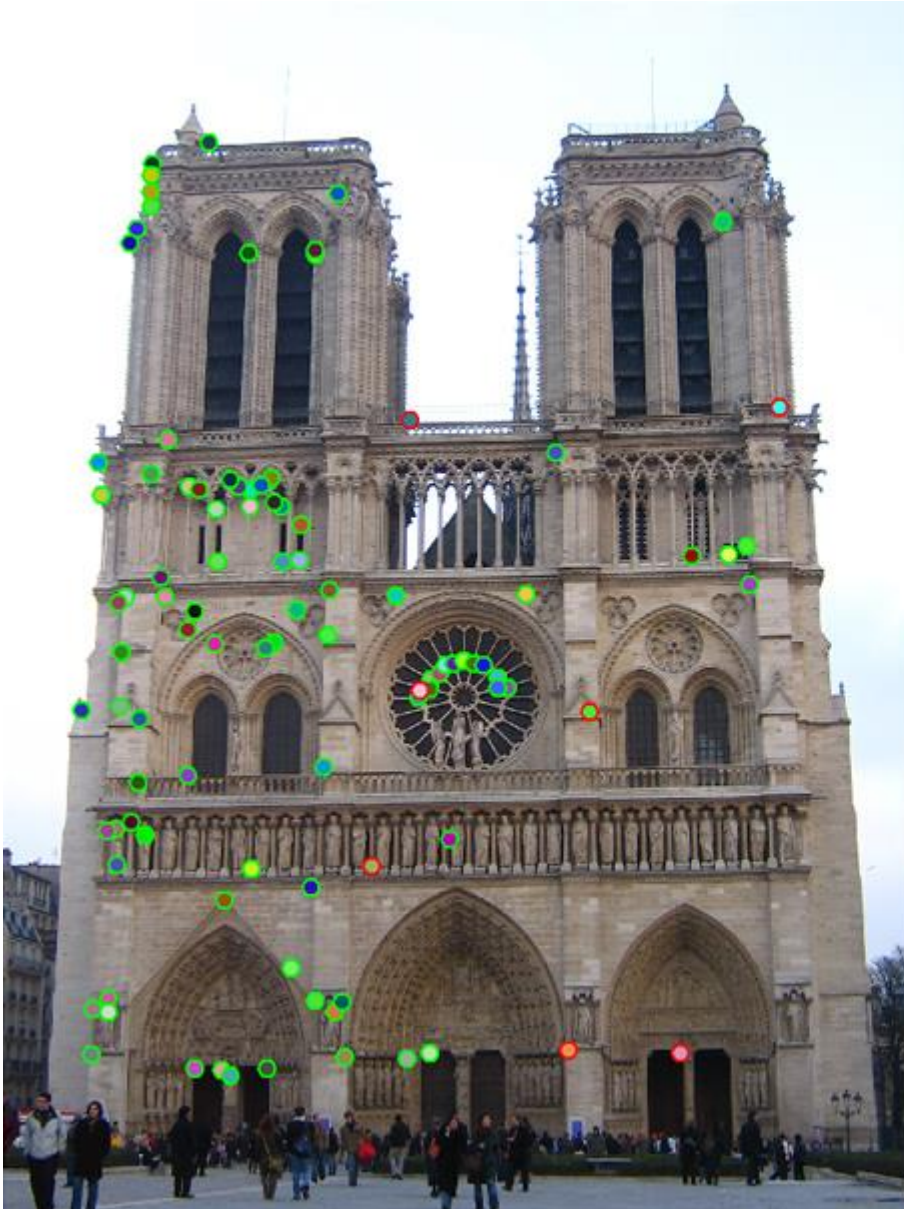
## Bad

- Computational time grows quickly with fraction of outliers and number of parameters
- Not good for getting multiple fits

## Common applications

- Computing a homography (e.g., image stitching)
- Estimating fundamental matrix (relating two views)

# How do we fit the best alignment?



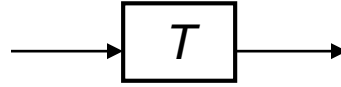
# Alignment

- Alignment: find parameters of model that maps one set of points to another
- Typically want to solve for a global transformation that accounts for \*most\* true correspondences
- Difficulties
  - Noise (typically 1-3 pixels)
  - Outliers (often 50%)
  - Many-to-one matches or multiple objects

# Parametric (global) warping



$$\mathbf{p} = (x, y)$$



$$\mathbf{p}' = (x', y')$$

Transformation  $T$  is a coordinate-changing machine:

$$\mathbf{p}' = T(\mathbf{p})$$

What does it mean that  $T$  is global and parametric?

- Global: Is the same for any point  $\mathbf{p}$
- Parametric: can be described by just a few numbers

We're going to focus on *linear* transformations, we can represent  $T$  as a matrix multiplication

$$\mathbf{p}' = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{p}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{T} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

# Common transformations



original

## Transformed



translation



rotation



aspect



affine



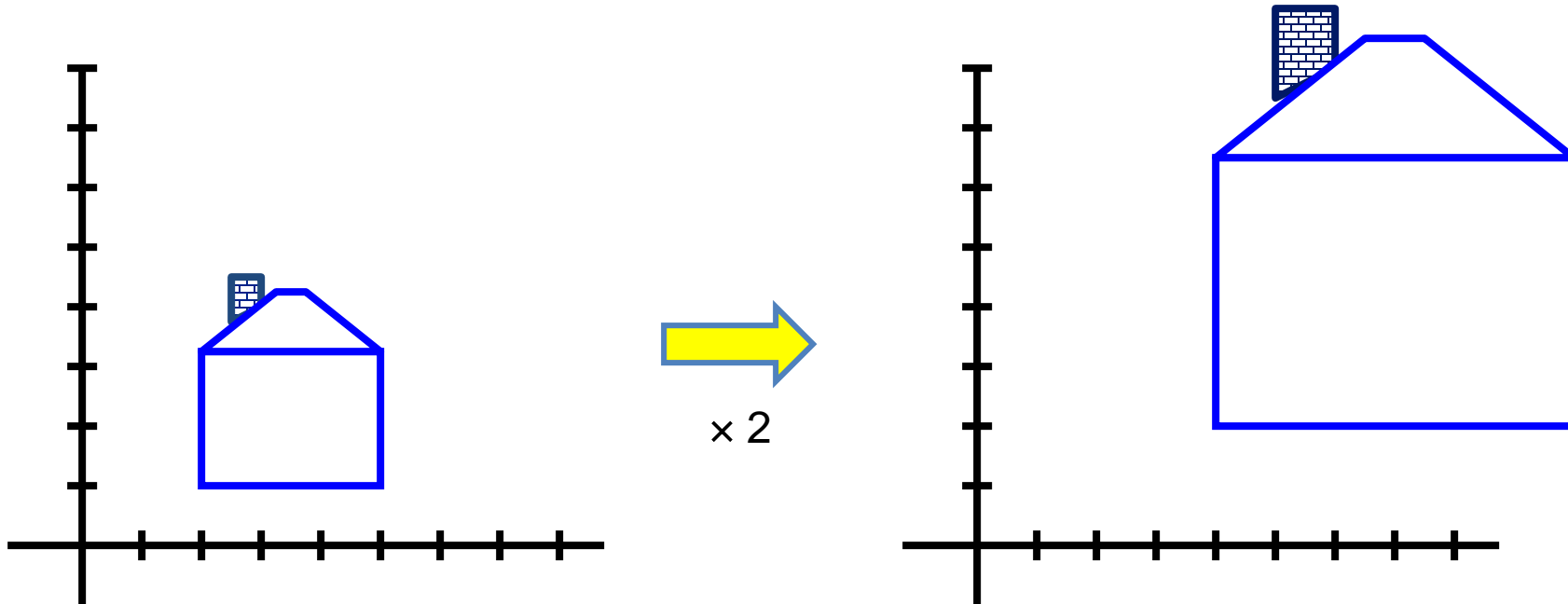
perspective

Slide credit (next few slides):  
A. Efros and/or S. Seitz



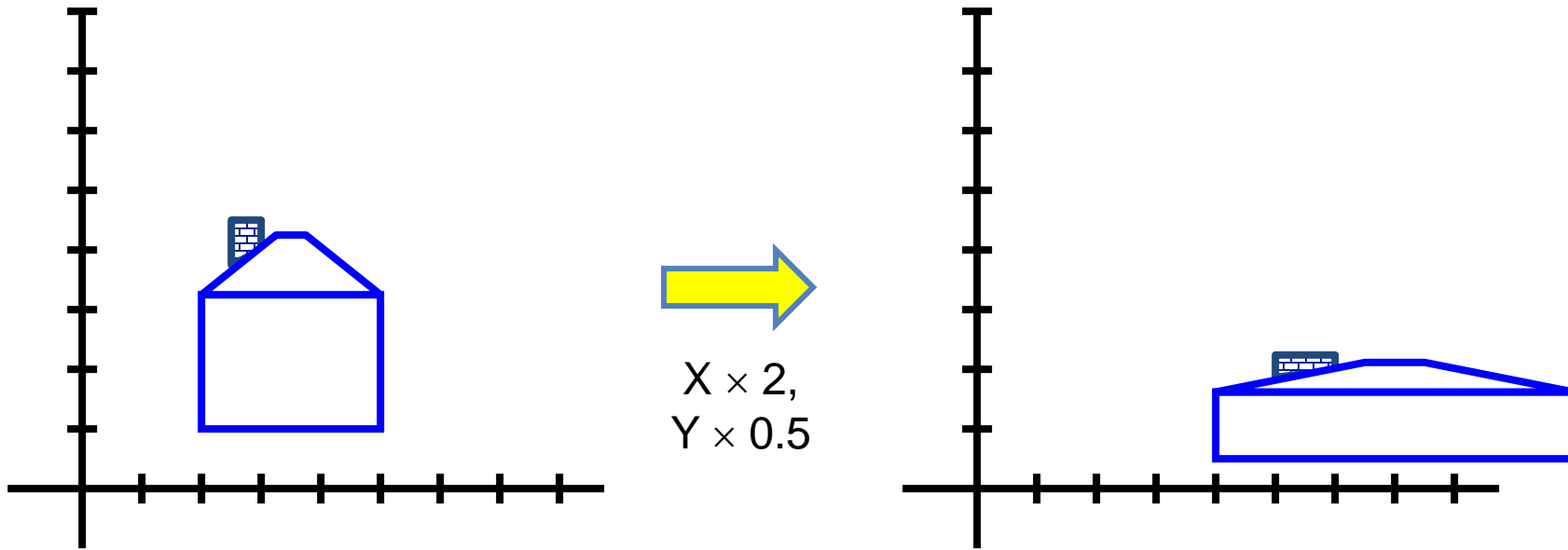
# Scaling

- *Scaling* a coordinate means multiplying each of its components by a scalar
- *Uniform scaling* means this scalar is the same for all components:



# Scaling

- *Non-uniform scaling*: different scalars per component:

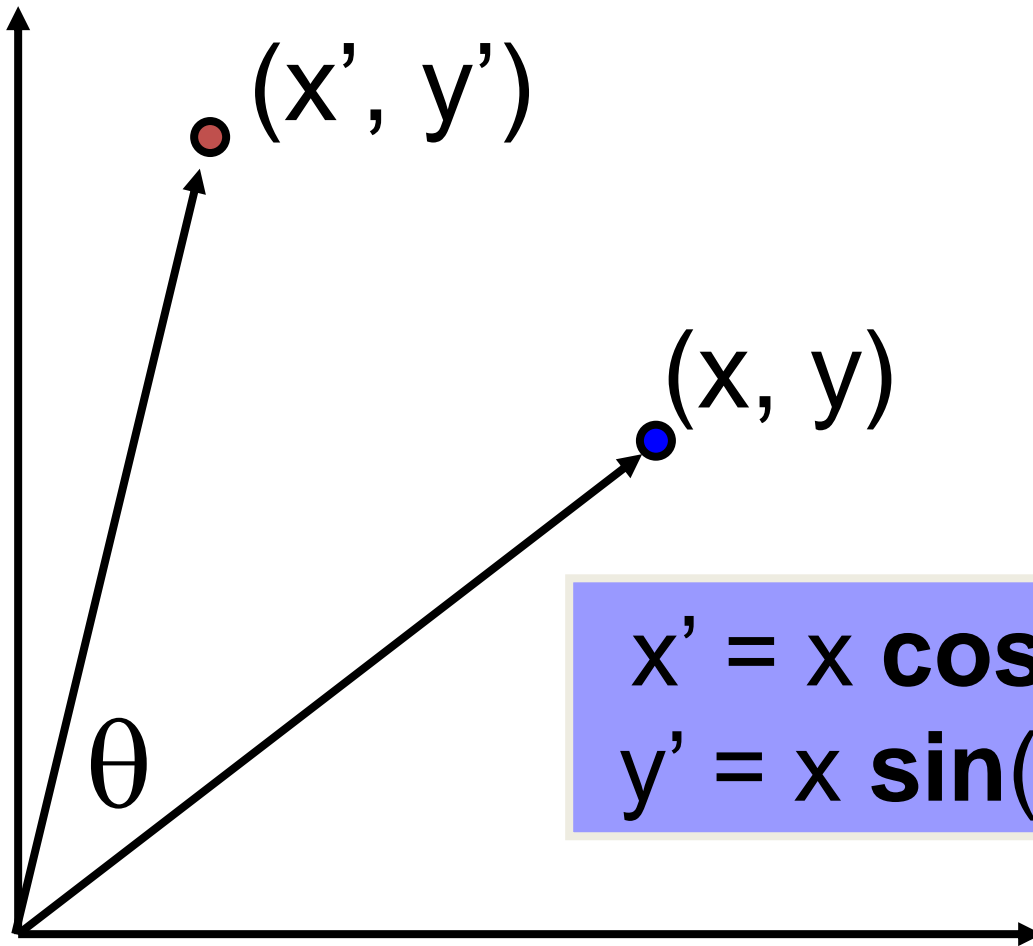


# Scaling

- Scaling operation:  $x' = ax$   
 $y' = by$

- Or, in matrix form: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{scaling matrix } S} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

## 2-D Rotation (around the origin)



$$\begin{aligned}x' &= x \cos(\theta) - y \sin(\theta) \\y' &= x \sin(\theta) + y \cos(\theta)\end{aligned}$$

# 2-D Rotation

This is easy to capture in matrix form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{R}} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Even though  $\sin(\theta)$  and  $\cos(\theta)$  are nonlinear functions of  $\theta$ ,

- ***For a particular  $\theta$ ,  $x'$  is a linear combination of  $x$  and  $y$***
- ***For a particular  $\theta$ ,  $y'$  is a linear combination of  $x$  and  $y$***

What is the inverse transformation?

- Rotation by  $-\theta$
- For rotation matrices  **$\mathbf{R}^{-1} = \mathbf{R}^T$**

# Basic 2D transformations

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s_x & 0 \\ 0 & s_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Scale

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha_x \\ \alpha_y & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Shear

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \Theta & -\sin \Theta \\ \sin \Theta & \cos \Theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotate

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & t_x \\ 0 & 1 & t_y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Translate

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Affine

Affine is any combination of translation, scale, rotation, shear

# 2D Affine Transformations

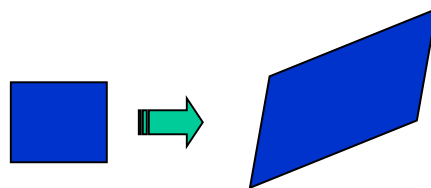
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$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ w' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

Affine transformations are combinations of ...

- Linear transformations, and
- Translations

Parallel lines remain parallel



# Projective Transformations

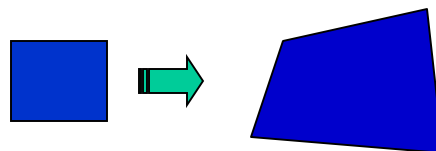
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$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ w' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ w \end{bmatrix}$$

Projective transformations:

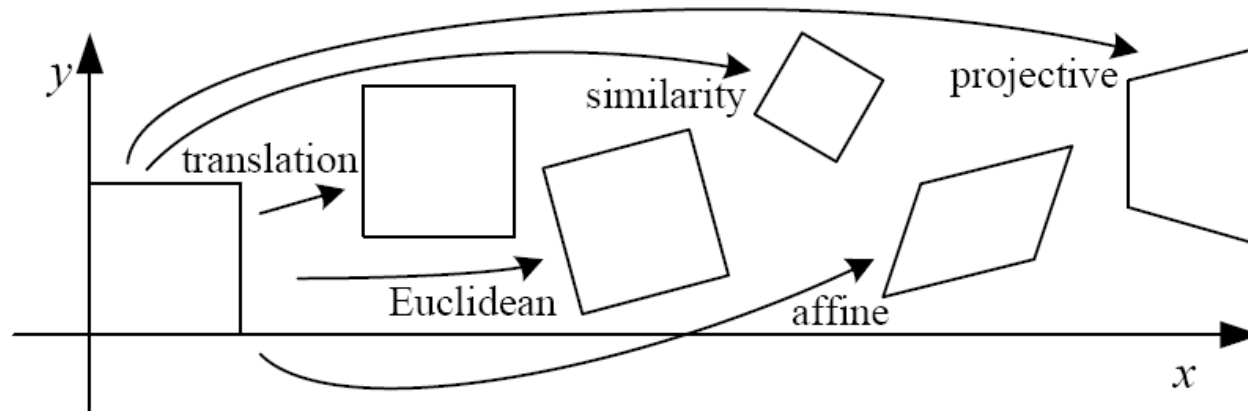
- Affine transformations, and
- Projective warps


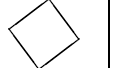



Parallel lines do not necessarily remain parallel



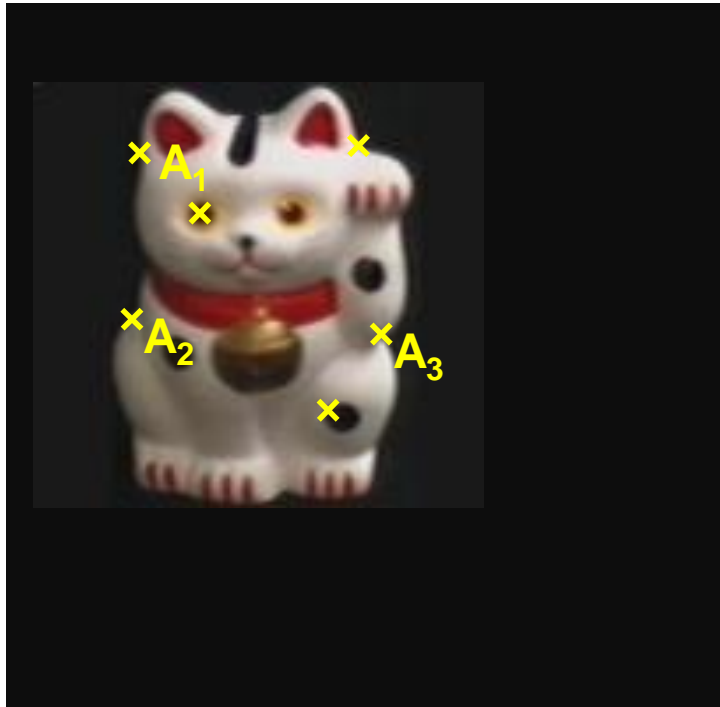


# 2D image transformations (reference table)



Name	Matrix	# D.O.F.	Preserves:	Icon
translation	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	2	orientation + ...	
rigid (Euclidean)	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	3	lengths + ...	
similarity	$\begin{bmatrix} s\mathbf{R} & \mathbf{t} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	4	angles + ...	
affine	$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix}_{2 \times 3}$	6	parallelism + ...	
projective	$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{H}} \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$	8	straight lines	

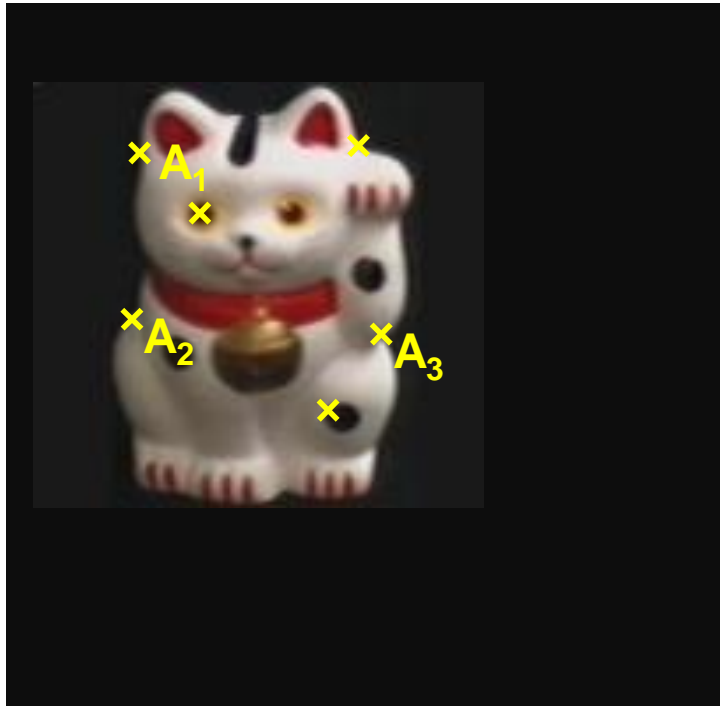
# Example: solving for translation



Given matched points in  $\{A\}$  and  $\{B\}$ , estimate the translation of the object

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: solving for translation



$(t_x, t_y)$   
→



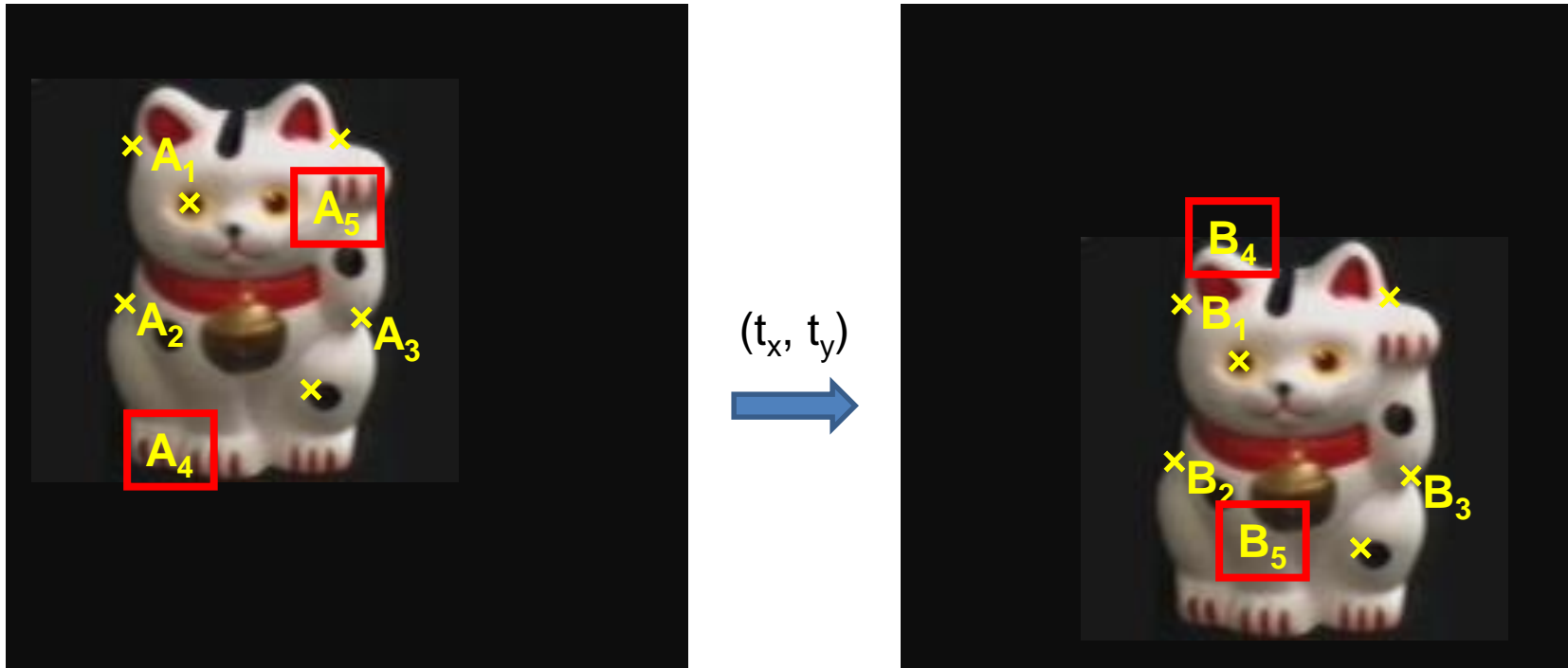
## Least squares solution

1. Write down objective function
2. Derived solution
  - a) Compute derivative
  - b) Compute solution
3. Computational solution
  - a) Write in form  $Ax=b$
  - b) Solve using pseudo-inverse or eigenvalue decomposition

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^B - x_1^A \\ y_1^B - y_1^A \\ \vdots \\ x_n^B - x_n^A \\ y_n^B - y_n^A \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: solving for translation



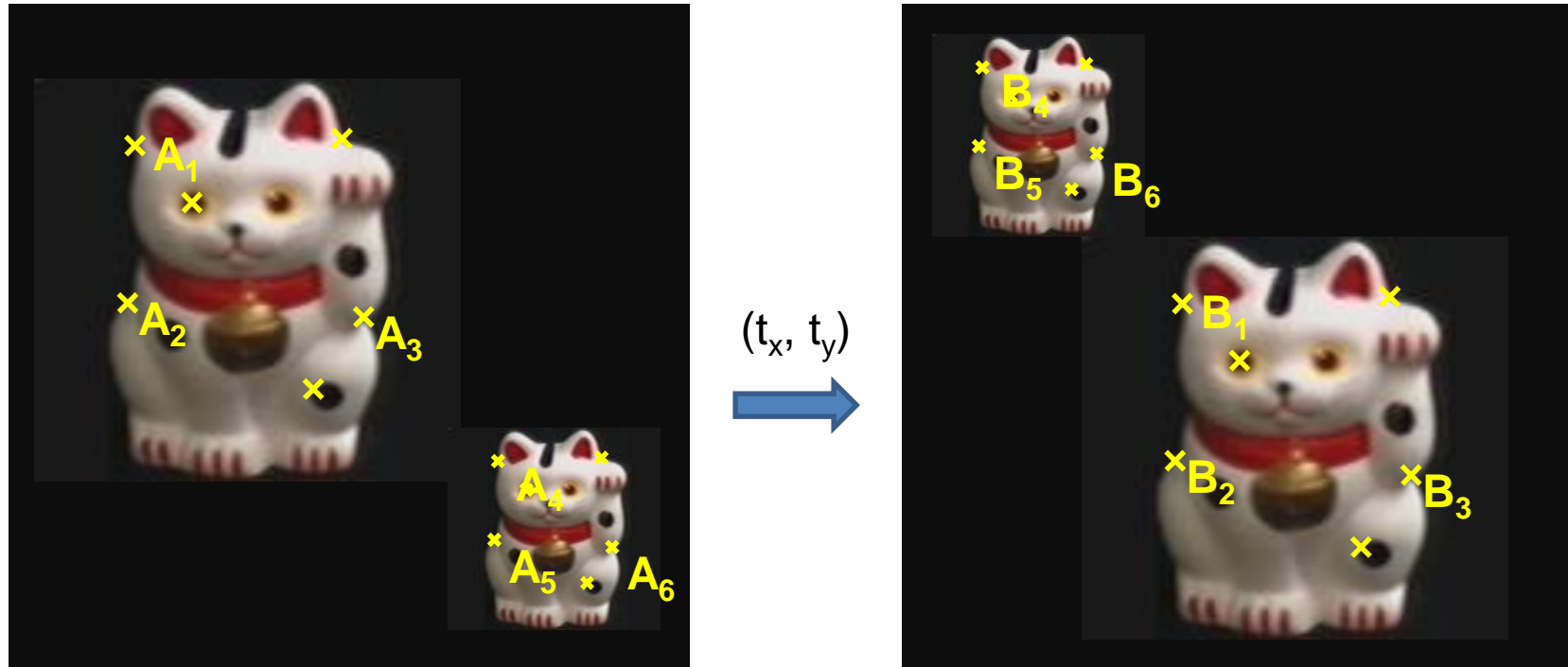
**Problem: outliers**

## RANSAC solution

1. Sample a set of matching points (1 pair)
2. Solve for transformation parameters
3. Score parameters with number of inliers
4. Repeat steps 1-3 N times

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: solving for translation



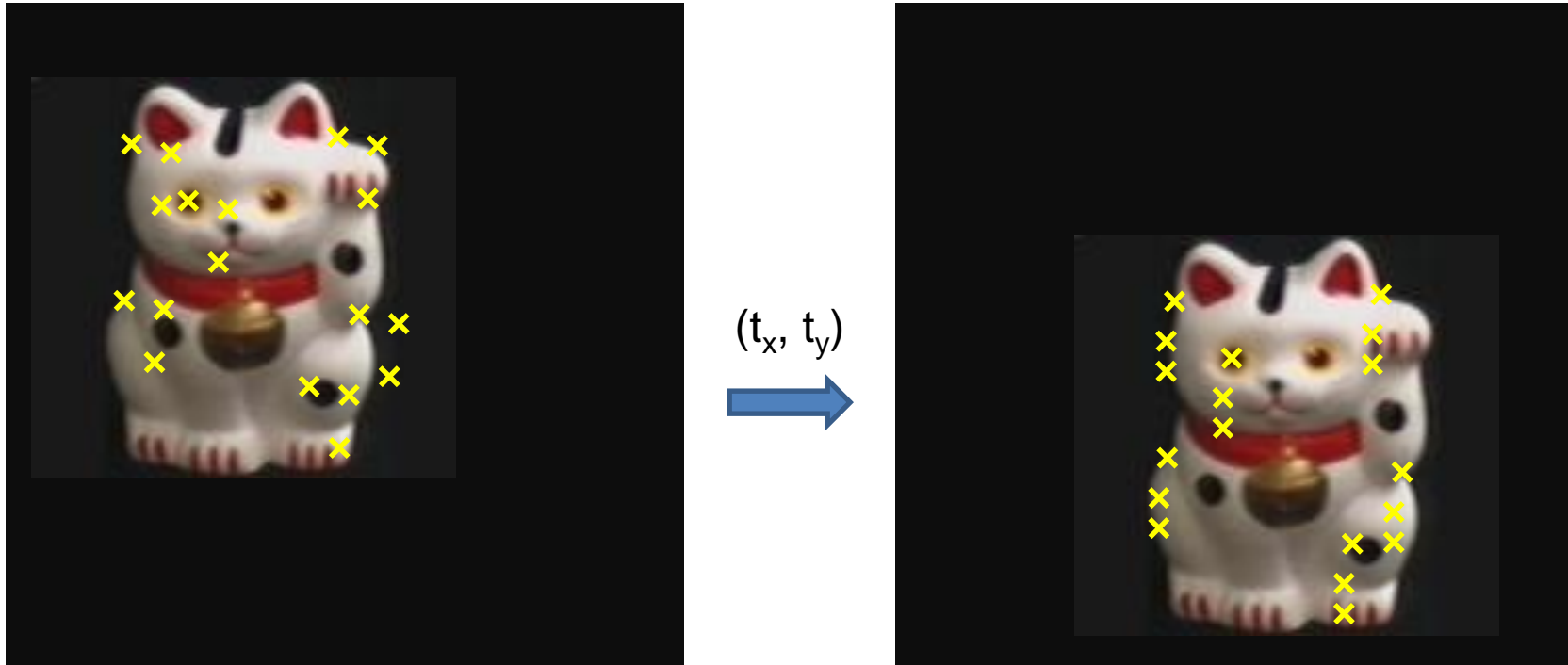
**Problem: outliers, multiple objects, and/or many-to-one matches**

## Hough transform solution

1. Initialize a grid of parameter values
2. Each matched pair casts a vote for consistent values
3. Find the parameters with the most votes
4. Solve using least squares with inliers

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

# Example: solving for translation



**Problem: no initial guesses for correspondence**

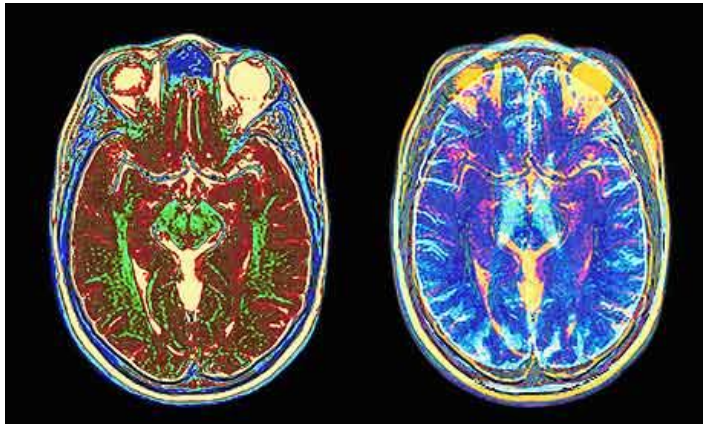
$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

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# What if you want to align but have no prior matched pairs?

- Hough transform and RANSAC not applicable
- Important applications



Medical imaging: match brain scans or contours



Robotics: match point clouds



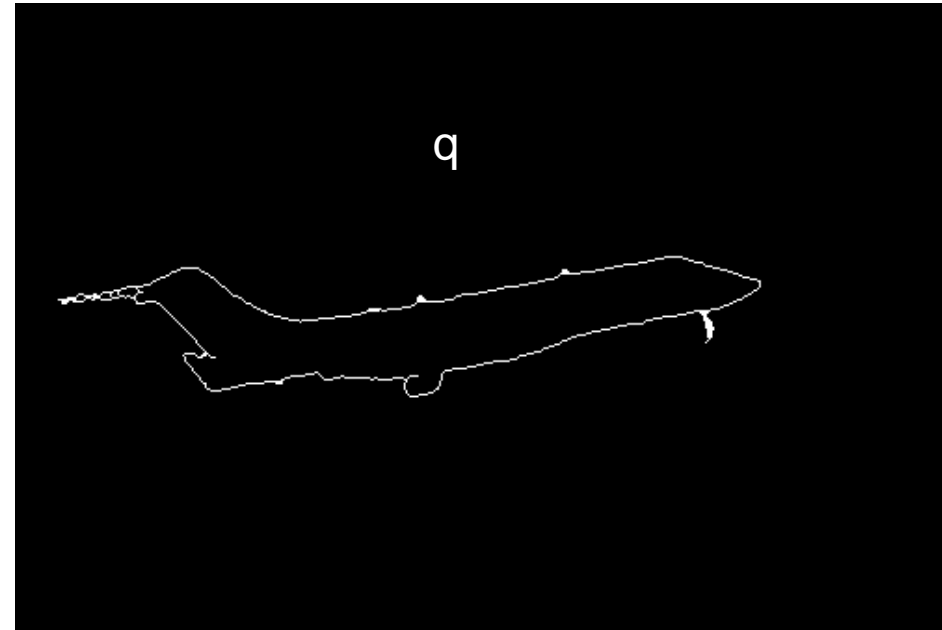
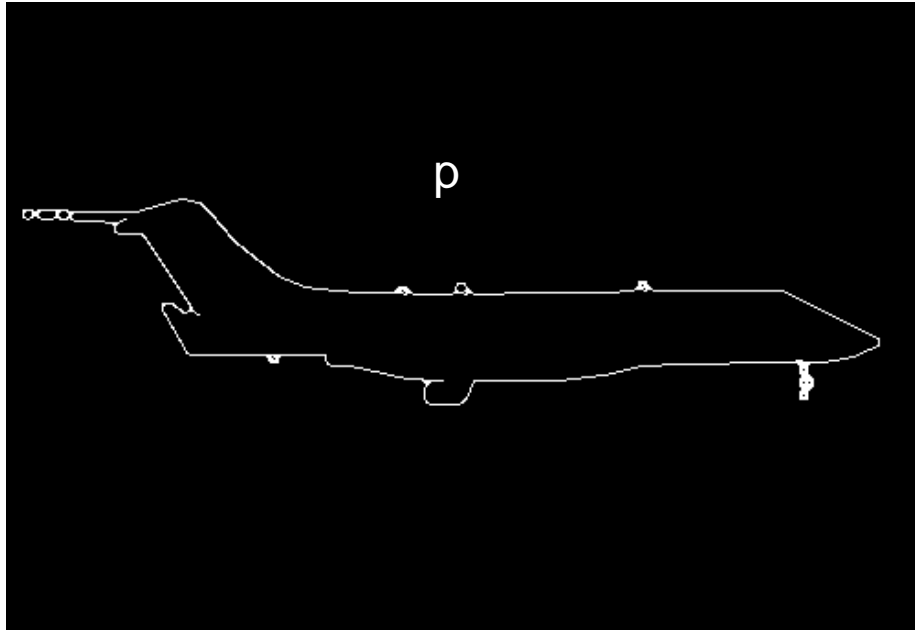
# Iterative Closest Points (ICP) Algorithm

Goal: estimate transform between two dense sets of points

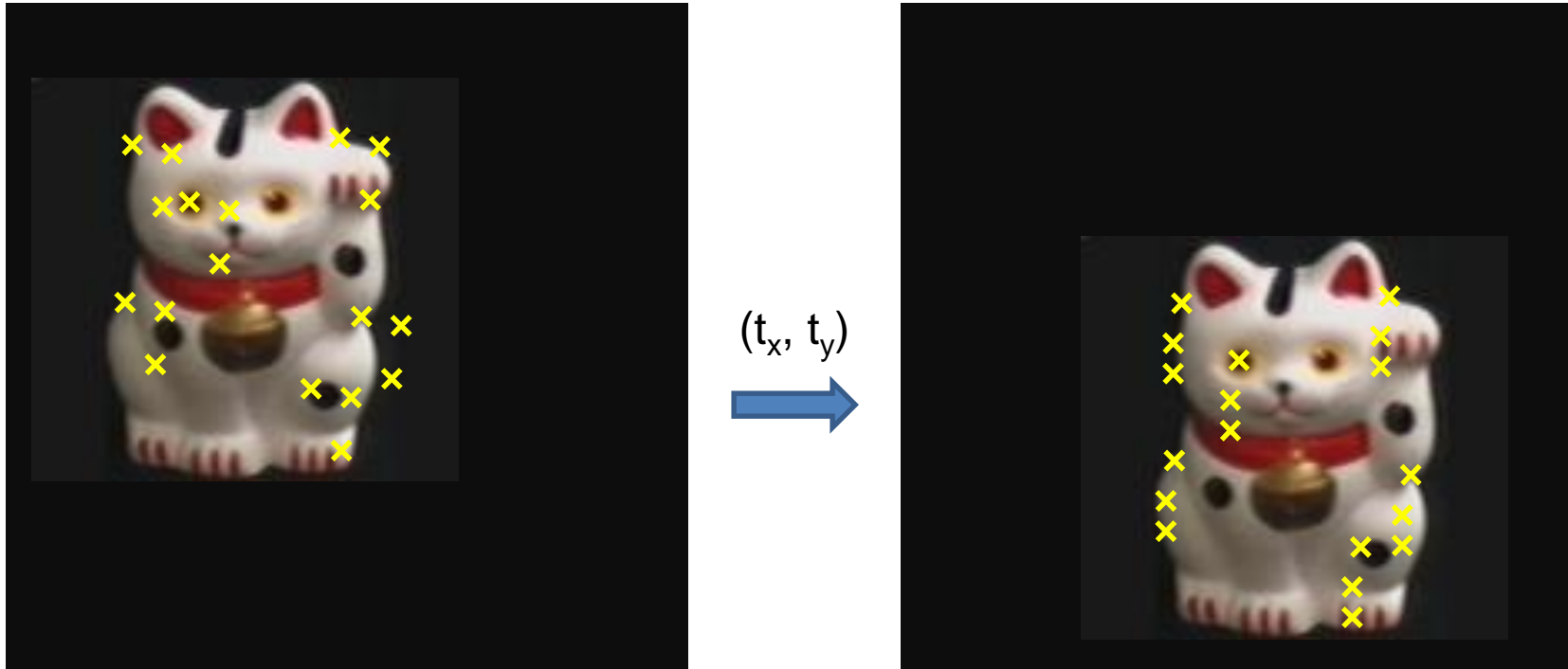
1. **Initialize** transformation (e.g., compute difference in means and scale)
2. **Assign** each point in {Set 1} to its nearest neighbor in {Set 2}
3. **Estimate** transformation parameters
  - e.g., least squares or robust least squares
4. **Transform** the points in {Set 1} using estimated parameters
5. **Repeat** steps 2-4 until change is very small

# Example: aligning boundaries

1. Extract edge pixels  $p_1..pn$  and  $q_1..qm$
2. Compute initial transformation (e.g., compute translation and scaling by center of mass, variance within each image)
3. Get nearest neighbors: for each point  $p_i$  find corresponding  $\text{match}(i) = \underset{j}{\text{argmin}} \text{dist}(p_i, q_j)$
4. Compute transformation  $T$  based on matches
5. Warp points  $p$  according to  $T$
6. Repeat 3-5 until convergence



# Example: solving for translation



**Problem: no initial guesses for correspondence**

## ICP solution

1. Find nearest neighbors for each point
2. Compute transform using matches
3. Move points using transform
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until convergence

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_i^B \\ y_i^B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_i^A \\ y_i^A \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{bmatrix}$$

# *Sparse ICP*

*Sofien Bouaziz    Andrea Tagliasacchi    Mark Pauly*



# Algorithm Summaries

- Least Squares Fit
  - closed form solution
  - robust to noise
  - not robust to outliers
- Robust Least Squares
  - improves robustness to outliers
  - requires iterative optimization
- Hough transform
  - robust to noise and outliers
  - can fit multiple models
  - only works for a few parameters (1-4 typically)
- RANSAC
  - robust to noise and outliers
  - works with a moderate number of parameters (e.g, 1-8)
- Iterative Closest Point (ICP)
  - For local alignment only: does not require initial correspondences

# Rough count of mentions in recent literature

- Hough: 901 mentions
- RANSAC: 1,690 mentions
- ICP: 895 mentions
- “Least Squares” 2,290 mentions
- “Robust Least Squares” 4 mentions
- Keypoint 2,180 mentions
- SIFT 3,530 mentions
- Affine 2,970
- ResNet: 8,510 mentions

Google search for site:<https://openaccess.thecvf.com> [term]  
Seems to find results since 2013.