
Multi View Geometry (Spring '08)

Epipolar Geometry and the Fundamental Matrix

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Two View Geometry

Epipolar Geometry 2

- **Epipolar geometry**
- **3D reconstruction**
- **F-matrix computation**
- **Structure computation**



Three questions

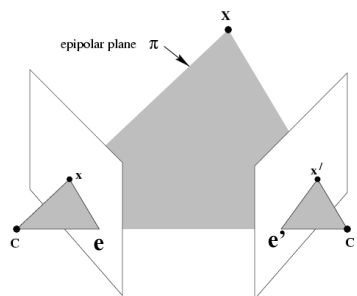
Epipolar Geometry 3

- **Correspondence geometry:**
 - ✓ Given an image point \mathbf{x} in the first image, how does this constrain the position of the corresponding point \mathbf{x}' in the second image?
- **Camera geometry (motion):**
 - ✓ Given a set of corresponding image points $\{\mathbf{x}_i \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'_i\}$, $i=1, \dots, n$, what are the cameras \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{P}' for the two views?
- **Scene geometry (structure):**
 - ✓ Given corresponding image points $\mathbf{x}_i \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'_i$ and cameras \mathbf{P} , \mathbf{P}' , what is the position of (their pre-image) \mathbf{X} in space?

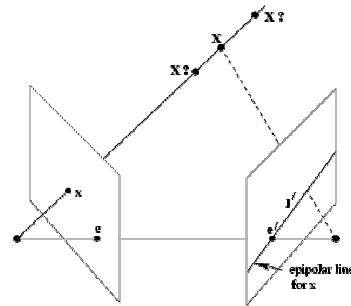
Epipolar geometry

Epipolar Geometry 4

- Point correspondence geometry



C, C', x, x' and X are coplanar

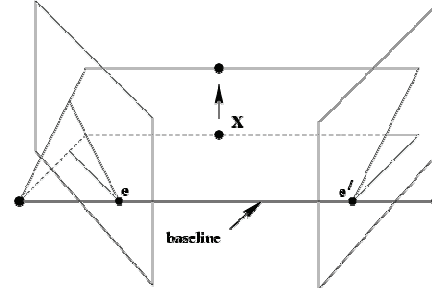
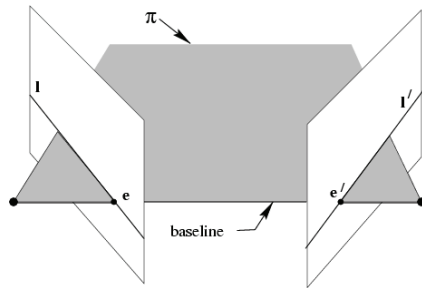


What if only C, C', x are known?

- **Epipole (\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{e}'):**
 - = intersection of baseline with image plane
 - = projection of projection center in other image
 - = vanishing point of camera motion direction
- **Epipolar plane** : plane containing baseline (1-D family)

Epipolar geometry

Epipolar Geometry 5



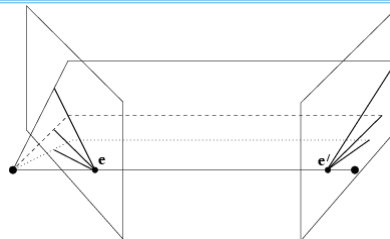
All points on π project on l and l'

Family of planes π and lines l and l'
Intersection in e and e'

- *Epipolar line* : The intersection of an epipolar plane with the image plane. (always come in corresponding pairs)
- *Baseline* : Intersection line each image plane at the epipoles
- *Epipolar pencil* : Family of epipolar planes

Epipolar geometry

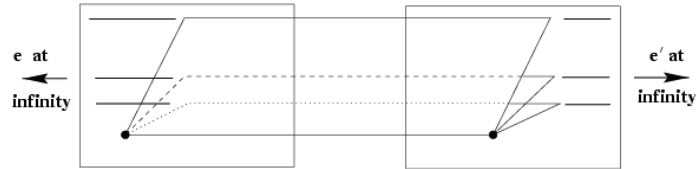
Epipolar Geometry 6



Epipolar geometry

Epipolar Geometry 7

- Example: motion parallel with image plane



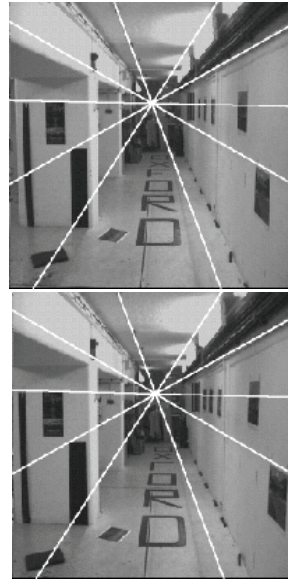
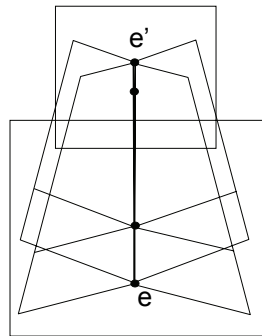
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Epipolar geometry

Epipolar Geometry 8

- Example: forward motion



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The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 9

- Fundamental Matrix F :
- Algebraic representation of epipolar geometry

$$\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{l}'$$

- We will see that mapping is (singular) correlation (i.e. projective mapping from points to lines) represented by the fundamental matrix F

The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 10

- Geometric derivation
 - ✓ Step 1 : Point transfer via a plane

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{H}_\pi \mathbf{x}$$

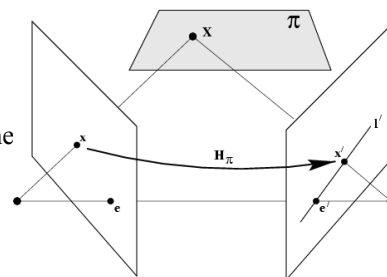
- ✓ Step 2 : Construction of the epipolar line

$$\mathbf{l}' = \mathbf{e}' \times \mathbf{x}' = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{x}'$$

$$\mathbf{l}' = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{H}_\pi \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{H}_\pi$$

mapping from 2-D to 1-D family (rank 2)



✳ Cross products : If $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)^T$ is a 3 vector, then one defines a corresponding skew-symmetric matrix

$$[\mathbf{a}]_{\times} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & 0 & -a_1 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix $[\mathbf{a}]_{\times}$ is singular, and \mathbf{a} is its null-vector (right or left)

The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 11

- Algebraic derivation

- ✓ ray back-projected from \mathbf{x} by \mathbf{P}

$$\mathbf{X}(\lambda) = \mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{x} + \lambda \mathbf{C}, \quad \mathbf{P}^+ = \mathbf{P}^T (\mathbf{P} \mathbf{P}^T)^{-1} \quad (\mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I})$$

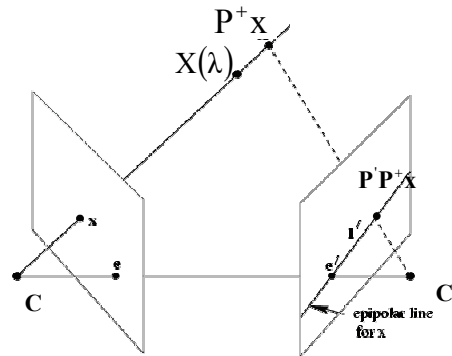
- ✓ consider two points

$$\mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{x} (\lambda = 0), \quad \mathbf{C} (\lambda = \infty)$$

- ✓ The epipolar line by \mathbf{P}'

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{l}' &= (\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{C}) \times (\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{x}) \\ &= [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} (\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{x}) \\ &= \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{P}' \mathbf{P}^+$$



The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 12

- Example

- ✓ Suppose the camera matrices are those of a calibrated stereo rig with the world origin at the first camera

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = \mathbf{K}'[\mathbf{R} \mid \mathbf{t}]$$

then

$$\mathbf{P}^+ = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0}^T \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{C}]_{\times} \mathbf{P}' \mathbf{P}^+$

$$= [\mathbf{K}' \mathbf{t}]_{\times} \mathbf{K}' \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} [\mathbf{t}]_{\times} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{R} [\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t}]_{\times} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^T [\mathbf{K} \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t}]_{\times}$$

where the various forms follow equation

$$[\mathbf{t} \mathbf{e}']_{\times} (\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{P}^+ \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} [\mathbf{e}']_{\times}$$

- ✓ Note that the epipoles are

$$\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{P} \begin{pmatrix} -\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t} \quad \mathbf{e}' = \mathbf{P}' \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{K}' \mathbf{t}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{H}_{\infty}$$

$$(\mathbf{H}_{\infty} = \mathbf{K}' \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^{-1})$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{K}' \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} [\mathbf{t}]_{\times} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{R} [\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t}]_{\times} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{K}^T [\mathbf{e}]_{\times}$$

The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 13

- Correspondence condition:
 - ✓ The fundamental matrix satisfies the condition that for any pair of corresponding points $\mathbf{x} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'$ in the two images

$$\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{l}' = 0)$$

- ✓ F is the unique 3×3 rank 2 matrix that satisfies $\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}'$

The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 14

- F is a rank 2 homogeneous matrix with 7 degrees of freedom.
- **Point correspondence:** If \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{x}' are corresponding image points, then $\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0$.
- **Epipolar lines:**
 - ◇ $\mathbf{l}' = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$ is the epipolar line corresponding to \mathbf{x} .
 - ◇ $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{x}'$ is the epipolar line corresponding to \mathbf{x}' .
- **Epipoles:**
 - ◇ $\mathbf{F} \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{0}$.
 - ◇ $\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{e}' = \mathbf{0}$.
- **Computation from camera matrices P, P' :**
 - ◇ General cameras, $\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} P' P^+$, where P^+ is the pseudo-inverse of P , and $\mathbf{e}' = P' \mathbf{c}$, with $P \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$.
 - ◇ Canonical cameras, $P = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}]$, $P' = [\mathbf{M} \mid \mathbf{m}]$, $\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^T [\mathbf{e}]_{\times}$, where $\mathbf{e}' = \mathbf{m}$ and $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{m}$.
 - ◇ Cameras not at infinity $P = K[\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}]$, $P' = K'[\mathbf{R} \mid \mathbf{t}]$, $\mathbf{F} = K'^{-T} [\mathbf{t}]_{\times} R K^{-1} = [K' \mathbf{t}]_{\times} K' R K^{-1} = K'^{-T} R K^{-1} [K R^T \mathbf{t}]_{\times}$.

The fundamental matrix F

Epipolar Geometry 15

- Properties of fundamental matrix

(i) Transpose : If $F=(P,P')$, then $F^T=(P',P)$

(ii) Epipolar line : For any point x, x' in the first and second image

$$l' = Fx, \quad l = F^T x'$$

(iii) The epipole : The epipolar line $l'=Fx$ contains the epipole e' .

$$e'^T (Fx) = (e'^T F)x = 0$$

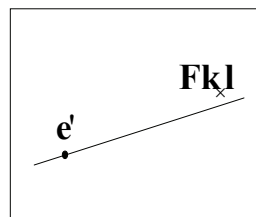
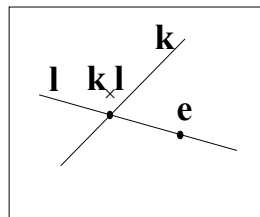
(iv) F has 7 DOF: $3 \times 3 - 1$ (scaling) $- 1$ (rank2) = 7.

(v) F is a correlation : projective mapping from x to a line $l'=Fx$, however it is not a proper correlation (not invertible).

The Epipolar line homography

Epipolar Geometry 16

- Suppose l, l' epipolar lines, k any line not through e
- Then $l' = F[k]_x l$ and symmetrically $l = F^T[k']_x l'$



(pick $k=e$, since $e^T e \neq 0$)

$$l' = F[e]_x l$$

$$l = F^T[e']_x l'$$

Special motions

Epipolar Geometry 17

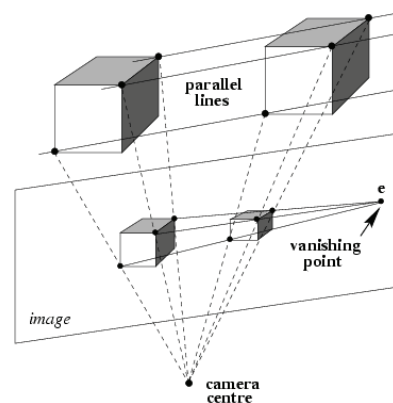
- A special motion arises from a particular relationship between the translation direction \mathbf{t} and the direction of the rotation axis \mathbf{a} .
- Pure translation : No rotation
- Pure planar motion : \mathbf{t} is orthogonal to \mathbf{a} .

※ The ‘pure’ indicates that there is no change in the internal parameters.

Pure Translation

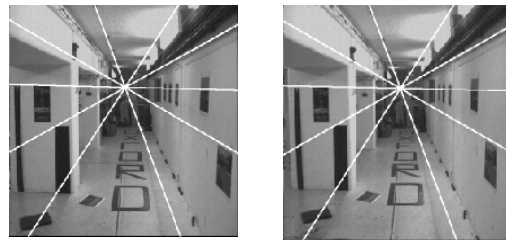
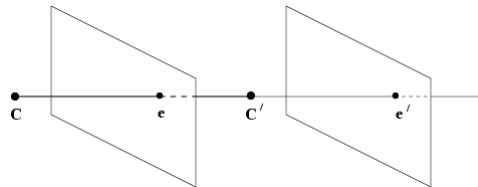
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- The camera is stationary, and the world undergoes a translation – \mathbf{t} .
- Vanishing point \mathbf{v} in the direction of \mathbf{t} is the epipole and parallel lines are the epipolar lines.



Pure Translation

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Pure translation

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- Example

- ✓ Two cameras $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{I} | \mathbf{0}]$ and $\mathbf{P}' = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{I} | \mathbf{t}]$, then

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{K}^{-1} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times}$$

- ✓ If the camera translation is parallel to the x-axis, then $\mathbf{e}' = (1, 0, 0)^T$ so,

$$\mathbf{F} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{\times}$$

$$\mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0 \Leftrightarrow y = y'$$

- ✓ If \mathbf{x} is normalized as $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, 1)^T$ then from

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{I} | \mathbf{0}] \mathbf{X} \Rightarrow (X, Y, Z)^T = \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x} \quad \mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times}$$

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{P}' \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{I} | \mathbf{t}] \mathbf{X} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{K} \mathbf{t} / Z$$

skew symmetric

- ✓ If pure translation, \mathbf{F} only 2DOF, $\mathbf{x}^T [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{x} = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ auto-epipolar

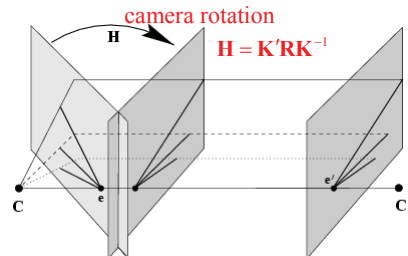
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General Motion

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- Given two arbitrary cameras with rotation and different calibration matrices



- The F matrix between the corrected first and the second image is $\hat{F} = [e']_x$, satisfying $x'^T \hat{F} \hat{x} = 0$, where $\hat{x} = Hx$
- Thus, $x'^T [e']_x Hx = 0 \Rightarrow F = [e']_x H$

General Motion

Epipolar Geometry 22

- Example

✓ Consider two cameras $P = K[I | 0]$, $P' = K'[R | t]$

$$F = [e']_x H_\infty \quad H_\infty = K'RK^{-1}$$

infinity homography

✓ If x is normalized as $x = (x, y, 1)^T$ then

$$x = PX = K[I | 0]X \Rightarrow (X, Y, Z)^T = ZK^{-1}x$$

$$x' = P'X = K'[R | t]X \Rightarrow x' = K'RK^{-1}x + K't/Z$$

Projective transformation and invariance

Epipolar Geometry 23

- Derivation based purely on projective concepts

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{H}'\mathbf{x}' \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{F}} = \mathbf{H}'^{-T}\mathbf{F}\mathbf{H}^{-1}$$

- \mathbf{F} is invariant to transformations of projective 3-space

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{P}\mathbf{H})(\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{X}) = \hat{\mathbf{P}}\hat{\mathbf{X}}$$

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{P}'\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{P}'\mathbf{H})(\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{X}) = \hat{\mathbf{P}}'\hat{\mathbf{X}}$$

$$(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}') \mapsto \mathbf{F} \quad \text{unique}$$

$$\mathbf{F} \mapsto (\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}') \quad \text{not unique}$$

canonical form

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}]$$

$$\mathbf{P}' = [\mathbf{M} \mid \mathbf{m}]$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{m}]_{\times} \mathbf{M}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{e}']_{\times} \mathbf{P}'\mathbf{P}^+$$

Projective ambiguity of cameras given \mathbf{F}

Epipolar Geometry 24

- Show that if \mathbf{F} is same for $(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}')$ and $(\tilde{\mathbf{P}}, \tilde{\mathbf{P}}')$, there exists a projective transformation \mathbf{H} so that $\tilde{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{H}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}' = \mathbf{P}'\mathbf{H}$

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = [\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{a}], \quad \tilde{\mathbf{P}} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \tilde{\mathbf{P}}' = [\tilde{\mathbf{A}} \mid \tilde{\mathbf{a}}]$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [\mathbf{a}]_{\times} \mathbf{A} = [\tilde{\mathbf{a}}]_{\times} \tilde{\mathbf{A}}$$

lemma: $\tilde{\mathbf{a}} = k\mathbf{a}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{A}} = k^{-1}(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{a}\mathbf{v}^T)$

$$\mathbf{a}\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{a}[\mathbf{a}]_{\times} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0} = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}\mathbf{F} \stackrel{\text{rank 2}}{\Rightarrow} \tilde{\mathbf{a}} = k\mathbf{a}$$

$$[\mathbf{a}]_{\times} \mathbf{A} = [\tilde{\mathbf{a}}]_{\times} \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \Rightarrow [\mathbf{a}]_{\times} (k\tilde{\mathbf{A}} - \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow (k\tilde{\mathbf{A}} - \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{a}\mathbf{v}^T$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} k^{-1}\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ k^{-1}\mathbf{v}^T & k \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{P}'\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{A} \mid \mathbf{a}] \begin{bmatrix} k^{-1}\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ k^{-1}\mathbf{v}^T & k \end{bmatrix} = [k^{-1}(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{a}\mathbf{v}^T) \mid k\mathbf{a}] = \tilde{\mathbf{P}}'$$

(22-15=7, ok)

Canonical Cameras given F

Epipolar Geometry 25

- **F determines the camera pairs up to a 3D projective transformation. What is the specific forms then?**
- **F matrix corresponds to \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{P}' iff $\mathbf{P}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{P}$ is skew-symmetric**
 $(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{P}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x} = 0, \forall \mathbf{X})$
- **F matrix, S any skew-symmetric matrix, then**

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = [\mathbf{S} \mathbf{F} \mid \mathbf{e}'] \quad (\text{fund. matrix} = \mathbf{F})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} [\mathbf{S} \mathbf{F} \mid \mathbf{e}']^T \mathbf{F} [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \\ \mathbf{e}'^T \mathbf{F} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{F} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{F} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

Possible choice:

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = [[\mathbf{e}']_x \mathbf{F} \mid \mathbf{e}']$$

skew symmetric

General canonical representation:

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = [[\mathbf{e}']_x \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{e}' \mathbf{v}^T \mid \lambda \mathbf{e}']$$

The Essential matrix

Epipolar Geometry 26

- Normalized camera (known \mathbf{K})
 $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{R} \mid \mathbf{t}]\mathbf{X} \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{R} \mid \mathbf{t}]\mathbf{X}$
- Fundamental matrix for calibrated cameras (remove \mathbf{K})
- Fundamental matrix with the normalized image coordinates
- The fundamental matrix of a pair of normalized cameras

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{I} \mid \mathbf{0}] \quad \mathbf{P}' = [\mathbf{R} \mid \mathbf{t}] \quad \Rightarrow \mathbf{E} = [\mathbf{t}]_x \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}[\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{t}]_x$$

- And

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}^T \mathbf{E} \hat{\mathbf{x}} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{K}'^{-T} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x} = 0 \quad (\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{x}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}' = \mathbf{K}'^{-1} \mathbf{x}')$$

$$\therefore \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{K}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{K}$$

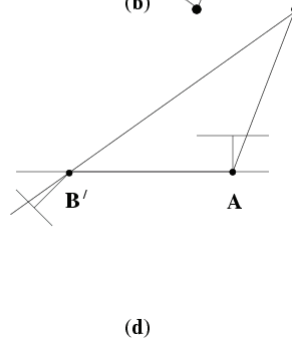
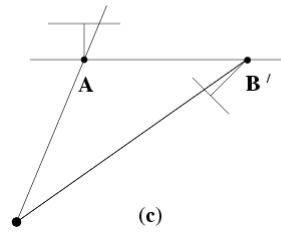
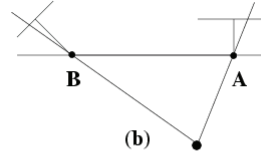
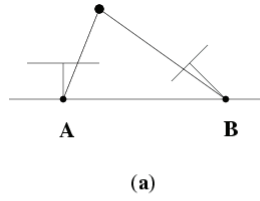
5 DOF (3 for \mathbf{R} ; 2 for \mathbf{t} up to scale)

- **E is essential matrix if and only if two singular values are equal (and third=0)**

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{U} \text{diag}(1, 1, 0) \mathbf{V}^T$$

Four possible reconstructions from E

Epipolar Geometry 27



(only one solution where points is in front of both cameras)