# CS 1674/2074: Local features: detection, description and matching

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#### Plan for this lecture

- Feature detection / keypoint extraction
  - Corner detection
  - Blob detection
- Feature description (of detected features)
- Matching features across images

## An image is a set of pixels



Adapted from S. Narasimhan

#### Problems with pixel representation

4

- Not invariant to small changes
  - Translation
  - Illumination
  - etc.
- Some parts of an image are more important than others
- What do we want to represent?

Adriana Kovashka

#### Human eye movements



Yarbus eye tracking

#### Local features

- Local means that they only cover a small part of the image
- There will be many local features detected in an image; later we'll use those to compute a representation of the whole image
- Local features usually exploit image gradients, ignore color
- Feature ~= vector of gradient statistics for a window with particular location and size

#### Local features: desired properties

- Locality
  - A feature occupies a relatively small area of the image; robust to clutter and occlusion
- Repeatability and flexibility
  - Robustness to expected variations: the same feature can be found in several images despite geometric/photometric transformations
  - Maximize correct matches (panda to panda)
- Distinctiveness
  - Each feature has a distinctive description
  - Minimize wrong matches (panda to giraffe)
- Compactness and efficiency
  - Many fewer features than image pixels



7





Adapted from K. Grauman and D. Hoiem

### Interest(ing) points

- Note: "interest points" = "keypoints", also sometimes called "features"
- Many applications
  - Recognition: which patches are likely to tell us something about the object category?
  - Image search: which points would allow us to match images between query and database?
  - 3D reconstruction: how to find correspondences across different views?
  - Tracking: which points are good to track?

Adapted from D. Hoiem

#### 9

#### Interest points

- Suppose you have to click on some point, go away and come back after I deform the image, and click on the same points again.
  - Which points would you choose?



#### Choosing interest points

Where would you tell your friend to meet you?

 $\rightarrow$  Corner detection



#### Choosing interest points

Where would you tell your friend to meet you?

 $\rightarrow$  Blob detection



### Application 1: Keypoint matching for search



- 1. Find a set of distinctive keypoints
- 2. Define a region around each keypoint (window)
- 3. Compute a local descriptor from the region
- 4. Match descriptors

### Application 1: Keypoint matching for search

Query



In database

#### Goal:

We want to detect repeatable and distinctive points

- *Repeatable:* so that if images are slightly different, we can still retrieve them
- Distinctive: so we don't retrieve irrelevant content

Adapted from D. Hoiem

#### **Application 2: Panorama stitching**

• We have two images – how do we combine them?



L. Lazebnik

#### **Application 2: Panorama stitching**

• We have two images – how do we combine them?



Step 1: extract features Step 2: match features

L. Lazebnik

#### **Application 2: Panorama stitching**

• We have two images – how do we combine them?



Step 1: extract features Step 2: match features Step 3: align images

L. Lazebnik

- We should easily recognize the keypoint by looking through a small window
- Shifting a window in any direction should give a large change in intensity
  Candidate keypoint



"flat" region: no change in all directions

"edge": no change along the edge direction



"corner": significant change in all directions

Adapted from A. Efros, D. Frolova, D. Simakov

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### What points would you choose?



K. Grauman

Window-averaged squared change of intensity induced by shifting the patch for a fixed candidate keypoint by [u,v]:



Adapted from D. Frolova, D. Simakov

## Window-averaged squared change of intensity induced by shifting the patch for a fixed candidate keypoint by [u,v]:



Adapted from D. Frolova, D. Simakov





Adriana Kovashka

For every pixel (r, c) as candidate keypoint Initialize E = zeros(2\*max\_offset+1, 2\*max\_offset+1) For each offset (u, v) Initialize sum to 0 For each neighbor (x, y) of (r, c)  $sum = sum + [I(x, y) - I(x+u, y+v)]^2$  E(u, v) = sumPlot E(u, v)

[Github repo] – Module 3

We can approximate the autocorrelation surface between a patch and itself, shifted by [u,v], as:

$$E(u,v) \cong \begin{bmatrix} u,v \end{bmatrix} M \begin{bmatrix} u\\v \end{bmatrix}$$

where M is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix computed from image derivatives:

$$M = \sum_{x,y} \begin{bmatrix} I_h^2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) I_h I_v(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \\ I_h I_v(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) & I_v^2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \end{bmatrix}$$

Adapted from D. Frolova, D. Simakov

$$M = \sum_{x,y} \begin{bmatrix} I_h^2 & I_h I_v \\ I_h I_v & I_v^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad I_h^2 \Rightarrow I_h^2(x,y)$$





Your homework!

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Let  $I_h$  (of size width x height of the image) be the image derivative in the **horizontal direction**,

 $I_y$  be derivative in the **vertical direction**. (Both require one correlation op to compute.)

For every pixel (r, c) as candidate keypoint Initialize M = zeros(2, 2) For x = r-1 : r+1 For y = c-1 : c+1  $M(0, 0) = ? M(0, 0) + I_h(x, y)^2$  M(0, 1) = ? M(1, 0) = ?M(1, 1) = ?

## What does the matrix M reveal? Since *M* is symmetric, we have $M = X \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} X^T$



 $Mx_i = \lambda_i x_i$ 

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



#### **Corner response function**





"edge":  $\lambda_1 >> \lambda_2$  $\lambda_2 >> \lambda_1$  "corner":  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are large,  $\lambda_1 \sim \lambda_2$ 



"flat" region:  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are small

#### Adapted from A. Efros, D. Frolova, D. Simakov, K. Grauman

Measure of corner response:

 $R = \det M - k \left( \operatorname{trace} M \right)^2$ 

$$\det M = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$
  
trace  $M = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$ 

Because M is symmetric

(k - empirical constant, k = 0.04-0.06)

#### Harris Detector: Algorithm

- Compute image gradients *I<sub>h</sub>* and *I<sub>v</sub>* for all pixels
- For each pixel
  - Compute

$$M = \sum_{x,y} \begin{bmatrix} I_{h}^{2}(x, y)I_{h}I_{v}(x, y) \\ I_{h}I_{v}(x, y) I_{v}^{2}(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$$

by looping over neighbors x, y

*R* =

Compute

= det 
$$M - k (\text{trace } M)^2$$
 (k :empirical constant,  $k = 0.04-0.06$ )

Find points with large corner response function R (R > threshold)

D. Frolova, D. Simakov

#### Harris Detector: Algorithm

• Finally, perform non-max suppression: Take the points of locally maximum R as the detected feature points (i.e. pixels where R is bigger than for all the 4 or 8 neighbors)



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#### **Example of Harris Application**



K. Grauman

#### **Example of Harris Application**

Corner response at every pixel (red = high, blue = low)



#### More Harris Responses



*Effect:* A very precise corner detector.




### Properties: Invariance vs covariance

- "A function is *invariant* under a certain family of transformations if its value does not change when a transformation from this family is applied to its argument.
  - [For example] the area of a 2D surface is invariant under 2D rotations, since rotating a 2D surface does not make it any smaller or bigger.

• A function is *covariant* when it commutes with the transformation, i.e., applying the transformation to the argument of the function has the same effect as applying the transformation to the output of the function.

• [For example] If *f* is *invariant* under linear transformations, then f(ax+b) = f(x), and if it is *covariant* with respect to these transformations, then f(ax+b) = a f(x) + b

"Local Invariant Feature Detectors: A Survey" by Tinne Tuytelaars and Krystian Mikolajczyk, in *Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision* Vol. 3, No. 3 (2007) 177–280 Chapter 1, 3.2, 7 <u>http://homes.esat.kuleuven.be/%7Etuytelaa/FT\_survey\_interestpoints08.pd</u>f

# What happens if: Affine intensity change $I \rightarrow a I + b$

• Only derivatives are used => invariance to intensity shift  $I \rightarrow I + b$ 



L. Lazebnik

### What happens if: Image translation



Derivatives and window function are shift-invariant

<u>Corner location</u> is **covariant** w.r.t. translation (on image level), <u>corner response</u> is **invariant** (on patch level)

Adapted from L. Lazebnik

### What happens if: Image rotation



Second moment ellipse rotates but its shape (i.e. eigenvalues) remains the same

<u>Corner location</u> is **covariant** w.r.t. rotation (on image level), <u>corner response</u> is **invariant** (on patch level)

Adapted from L. Lazebnik

## What happens if: Scaling

• Invariant to image scale?



image

zoomed image

A. Torralba

### What happens if: Scaling



Adapted from L. Lazebnik

### Scale invariant detection

- Problem:
  - How do we choose corresponding windows independently in each image?
  - Do objects have a characteristic scale that we can identify?



### Scale invariant detection

- Solution:
  - Design a function on the region which has the same shape even if the image is resized
  - Take a local maximum of this function



Adapted from A. Torralba

### Scale invariant detection

 A "good" function for scale detection: has one stable sharp peak



Adapted from A. Torralba



#### How to find corresponding patch sizes?













 $f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x',\sigma))$ 

• Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)





 $f(I_{i_1...i_m}(x',\sigma))$ 





51

• Function responses for increasing scale (scale signature)





### What is a useful signature function?

Laplacian of Gaussian = "blob" detector •



### Blob detection in 2D

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





### Difference of Gaussian ≈ Laplacian

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



K. Grauman

### **Difference of Gaussian Scale Pyramid**



## Find *local maxima* in position-scale space of Difference-of-Gaussian



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57

response

## Laplacian pyramid example

• Allows detection of increasingly coarse detail



### Results: Difference-of-Gaussian



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- Feature detection / keypoint extraction
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- Matching features across images

### **Geometric transformations**



K. Grauman

## Scale-Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT) descriptor

Journal + conference versions: 87,527 citations (AlexNet paper has 93,821)



Histogram of oriented gradients

- Captures important texture information
- Robust to small translations / affine deformations

[Lowe, ICCV 1999]

K. Grauman, B. Leibe

### **Computing gradients**

L = the image intensity



63

## Gradients



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64

### Gradients



### Gradients



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66

#### Basic idea:

- Take 16x16 square window around detected feature
- Compute gradient orientation for each pixel
- · Create histogram over edge orientations weighted by magnitude
- That's your feature descriptor!



Adapted from L. Zitnick, D. Lowe

### Full version

- Divide the 16x16 window into a 4x4 grid of cells (2x2 case shown below)
- Quantize the gradient orientations i.e. snap each gradient to one of 8 angles
- Each gradient contributes not just 1, but magnitude(gradient) to the histogram, i.e. stronger gradients contribute more
- 16 cells \* 8 orientations = 128 dimensional descriptor for each detected feature



Adapted from L. Zitnick, D. Lowe





Gradients

Histogram of gradients

### **Full version**

- Divide the 16x16 window into a 4x4 grid of cells (2x2 case shown below)
- Quantize the gradient orientations i.e. snap each gradient to one of 8 angles
- Each gradient contributes not just 1, but magnitude(gradient) to the histogram, i.e. stronger gradients contribute more
- 16 cells \* 8 orientations = 128 dimensional descriptor for each detected feature
- Normalize + clip (threshold normalize to 0.2) + normalize the descriptor
- We want:

$$\sum_i d_i = 1$$
 such that:  $d_i < 0.2$ 



Adapted from L. Zitnick, D. Lowe

### Making descriptor rotation invariant



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

Adapted from K. Grauman, image from Matthew Brown
# SIFT is robust

- Can handle changes in viewpoint
  - Up to about 60 degree out of plane rotation
- Can handle significant changes in illumination
  - Sometimes even day vs. night
- Fast and efficient—can run in real time
- Can be made to work without feature detection, resulting in "dense SIFT" (more points means robustness to occlusion)
- One commonly used implementation
  - <u>http://www.vlfeat.org/overview/sift.html</u>

Adapted from S. Seitz

# Examples of using SIFT







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# Examples of using SIFT





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# Examples of using SIFT





Images from S. Seitz

# Applications of local invariant features

- Object recognition
- Indexing and retrieval
- Robot navigation
- 3D reconstruction
- Motion tracking

. . .

- Image alignment
- Panoramas and mosaics



http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~mbrown/autostitch/autostitch.html

Adapted from K. Grauman and L. Lazebnik

# Plan for this lecture

- Feature detection / keypoint extraction
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#### **Matching Local Features**



Image 1

Image 2

- To generate **candidate matches**, find patches that have the most similar appearance (e.g., lowest feature Euclidean distance)
- Simplest approach: take the closest (or closest k, or within a thresholded distance) as matches to query

K. Grauman

## **Robust Matching**



Image 1

Image 2

- At what Euclidean distance value do we have a good match?
- To add robustness to matching, can consider ratio: distance of query to best match / distance to second best match
  - If low, first match looks good

K. Grauman

• If high, could be ambiguous match

d(q, fv1) / d(q, fv2)

# Matching SIFT descriptors

- Nearest neighbor (Euclidean distance)
- Threshold ratio of 1<sup>st</sup> nearest to 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest descriptor





# Efficient Matching

- So far we discussed matching features across just two images
- What if you wanted to match a query feature from one image, to features from all frames in a video?
- Or an image to other images in a giant database?
- With potentially thousands of features per image, and hundreds to millions of images to search, how to efficiently find those that are relevant to a new image?

82

Adapted from K. Grauman

# Matching Local Features Setup

 Each patch / region has a descriptor, which is a point in some high-dimensional feature space (e.g., SIFT)



# Matching Local Features Setup

 When we see close points in feature space, we have similar descriptors, which indicates similar local content



#### Indexing local features

#### Index

"Along I-75," From Detroit to Florida; inside back cover "Drive I-95," From Boston to Florida; inside back cover 1929 Spanish Trail Roadway; 101-102.104 511 Traffic Information; 83 A1A (Barrier Isi) - I-95 Access; 86 AAA (and CAA); 83 AAA National Office: 88 Abbreviations. Colored 25 mile Maps: cover Exit Services: 196 Traveloque: 85 Africa; 177 Agricultural Inspection Stns; 126 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum; 160 Air Conditioning, First; 112 Alabama: 124 Alachua: 132 County; 131 Alafia River; 143 Alapaha, Name; 126 Alfred B Maclay Gardens; 106 Alligator Alley; 154-155 Allicator Farm, St Augustine: 169 Alligator Hole (definition); 157 Alligator, Buddy; 155 Alligators; 100,135,138,147,156 Anastasia Island; 170 Anhaica: 108-109,146 Analachicola River: 112 Appleton Mus of Art: 138 Aquifer; 102 Arabian Nights; 94 Art Museum, Ringling; 147 Aruba Beach Cale; 183 Aucilla River Project; 106 Babcock-Web WMA: 151 Bahia Mar Marina; 184 Baker County; 99 Barefoot Mailmen; 182 Barge Canal; 137 Bee Line Expy; 80 Belz Outlet Mall: 89 Bernard Castro; 136 Big 'l': 165 Big Cypress; 155,158 Big Foot Monster; 105 Billie Swamp Safari; 160 Blackwater River SP: 117 Blue Angels A4-C Skyhawk: 117 Atrium: 121 Blue Springs SP: 87

Butterfly Center, McGuire; 134 CAA (see AAA) CCC, The; 111,113,115,135,142 Ca d'Zan; 147 Caloosahatchee River: 152 Name: 150 Canaveral Natni Seashore; 173 Cannon Creek Airpark; 130 Canopy Road; 106,169 Cape Canaveral; 174 Castillo San Marcos: 169 Cave Diving; 131 Cayo Costa, Name; 150 Celebration; 93 Charlotte County; 149 Charlotte Harbor; 150 Chautauqua; 116 Chipley; 114 Name; 115 Choctawatchee, Name; 115 Circus Museum, Ringling; 147 Citrus; 88,97,130,136,140,180 CityPlace, W Palm Beach; 180 City Maps, Ft Lauderdale Expwys; 194-195 Jacksonville: 163 Kissimmee Expwys; 192-193 Miami Expressways; 194-195 Orlando Expressways; 192-193 Pensacola; 26 Tallahassee: 191 Tampa-St. Petersburg; 63 St. Augsutine; 191 Civil War; 100,108,127,138,141 Clearwater Marine Aquarium; 187 Collier County; 154 Collier, Barron; 152 Colonial Spanish Quarters; 168 Columbia County; 101,128 Coguina Building Material: 165 Corkscrew Swamp, Name; 154 Cowboys; 95 Crab Trap II; 144 Cracker, Florida; 88,95,132 Crosstown Expy; 11,35,98,143 Cuban Bread: 184 Dade Battlefield; 140 Dade, Maj. Francis; 139-140,161 Dania Beach Hurricane; 184 Daniel Boone, Florida Walk; 117 Daytona Beach; 172-173 De Land: 87 De Soto Hernando Anhaica; 108-109,146 County: 149

Driving Lanes; 85 Duval County: 163 Eau Gallie; 175 Edison, Thomas; 152 Ealin AFB: 116-118 Eight Reale: 176 Ellenton; 144-145 Emanuel Point Wreck; 120 Emergency Caliboxes; 83 Epiphyles; 142,148,157,159 Escambia Bay: 119 Bridge (I-10); 119 County: 120 Estero: 153 Everglade,90,95,139-140,154-160 Draining of; 156,181 Wildlife MA; 160 Wonder Gardens: 154 Falling Waters SP; 115 Fantasy of Flight: 95 Fayer Dykes SP; 171 Fires, Forest; 166 Fires, Prescribed ; 148 Fisherman's Village; 151 Flagler County; 171 Flagler, Henry; 97,165,167,171 Florida Aquarium; 186 Florida 12,000 years ago; 187 Cavern SP; 114 Map of all Expressways; 2-3 Mus of Natural History; 134 National Cemetery : 141 Part of Africa; 177 Platform; 187 Sheriff's Boys Camp; 126 Sports Hall of Fame; 130 Sun 'n Fun Museum; 97 Supreme Court: 107 Florida's Turnpike (FTP), 178,189 25 mile Strip Maps; 66 Administration; 189 Coin System; 190 Exit Services; 189 HEFT: 76.161.190 History; 189 Names; 189 Service Plazas; 190 Spur SR91; 76 Ticket System; 190 Toll Plazas; 190 Ford, Henry; 152 Fort Barrancas: 122 Buried Alive: 123

Fort Caroline: 164

- For text documents, an efficient way to find all pages on which a word occurs is to use an index...
- We want to find all *images* in which a *feature* occurs.
- To use this idea, we'll need to map our features to "visual words".

K. Grauman

• Extract some local features from a number of images ...



e.g., SIFT descriptor space: each point is 128-dimensional











# **Visual Words**

- Patches on the right = regions used to compute SIFT
- Each group of patches belongs to the same "visual word"





Figure from Sivic & Zisserman, ICCV 2003

Adapted from K. Grauman

# **Visual Words for Indexing**

 Map high-dimensional descriptors to tokens/words by quantizing the feature space



• Each cluster has a center

- To determine which word to assign to new image region (e.q. query), find closest cluster center
- *To compare features:* Only compare query to others in same cluster, or just compare word IDs
- *To compare images:* see next few slides

Adapted from K. Grauman

#### Inverted File Index



• Index database images: map each word to image IDs that contain it

#### **Inverted File Index**

When will this indexing process give us a gain in efficiency?



Word #

Image #

• For a new query image, find which database images share a word with it, and retrieve those images as matches (or inspect only those further)

Adapted from K. Grauman

95

#### How to describe documents with words



China is forecasting a trade surplus of \$90bn (£51bn) to \$100bn this year, a threefold increase on 2004's \$32bn. The Commerce Ministry said the surplus would be created by a predicted 30% morts to \$750bn, com imports to China, trade, further a ed surplus, commerce that Ch delibe exports, imports, US, agree uan, bank, domestic. yuan foreign, increase, govern also nee trade, value demand s country. Chil yuan against the and permitted it to trade within a narro but the US wants the yuan to be all trade freely. However, Beijing has ma clear that it will take its time and tread carefully before allowing the yuan to rise further in value.

ICCV 2005 short course, L. Fei-Fei



97

Adapted from K. Grauman

# Describing images with visual words

- Summarize entire image based on its distribution (histogram) of word occurrences
- Analogous to bag of words representation commonly used for documents

Feature patches:



K. Grauman

# Comparing bags of words

- Similarity of images measured as normalized scalar product between their word occurrence counts
- Can be used to rank results (nearest neighbors of query)



Adapted from K. Grauman

# Bags of words: pros and cons

- + flexible to geometry / deformations / viewpoint
- + compact summary of image content
- basic model ignores geometry verify afterwards
- what is the optimal vocabulary size?
- background and foreground mixed when bag covers whole image

Adapted from K. Grauman

# Summary: Inverted file index and bags of words similarity

Offline:

Extract features in database images, cluster them to find words
= cluster centers, make index

Online (during search):

- 1. Extract words in query (extract features and map each to closest cluster center)
- 2. Use inverted file index to find database images relevant to query
- 3. Rank database images by comparing word counts of query and database image

Adapted from K. Grauman

# **Additional References**

- Survey paper on local features
  - "Local Invariant Feature Detectors: A Survey" by Tinne Tuytelaars and Krystian Mikolajczyk, in *Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision* Vol. 3, No. 3 (2007) 177–280 (mostly Chapters 1, 3.2, 7) <u>http://homes.esat.kuleuven.be/%7Etuytelaa/FT\_survey\_interestpoints08.pd</u>f
- Making Harris detection scale-invariant
  - "Indexing based on scale invariant interest points" by Krystian Mikolajczyk and Cordelia Schmid, in ICCV 2001 <u>https://hal.archives-</u> <u>ouvertes.fr/file/index/docid/548276/filename/mikolajcICCV2001.pdf</u>
- SIFT paper by David Lowe
  - "Distinctive Image Features from Scale-Invariant Keypoints" by David G. Lowe, in IJCV 2004 <u>http://www.cs.ubc.ca/~lowe/papers/ijcv04.pdf</u>

# Summary

- Keypoint detection: repeatable and distinctive
  - Corners, blobs, stable regions
  - Laplacian of Gaussian, automatic scale selection
- Descriptors: robust and selective
  - Histograms for robustness to small shifts and translations (SIFT descriptor)
- Matching: cluster and index
  - Compare images through their feature distribution





Adapted from D. Hoiem, K. Grauman