

CS 558: Computer Vision

14th Set of Notes

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Overview

- Action and activity recognition
 - Background subtraction
 - Tracking
 - Tracking people
- Based on slides by K. Grauman and D. Hoiem

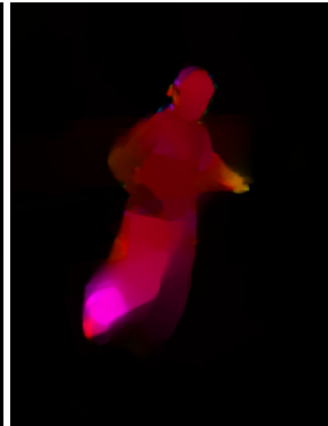
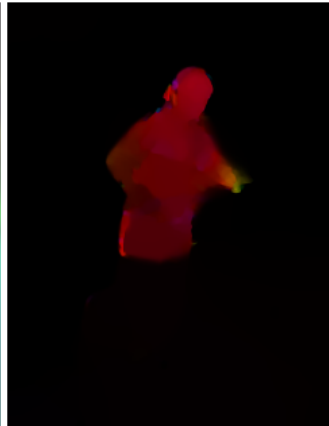
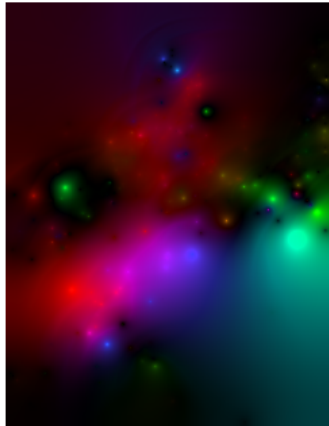
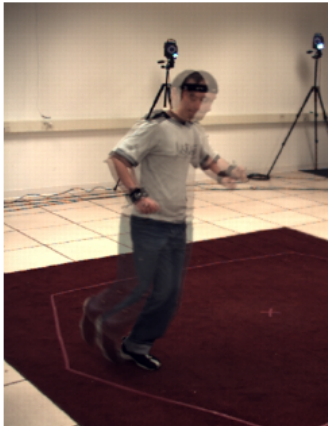
Action and activity in video

No universal terminology, but approximately:

- **“Actions”**: atomic motion patterns -- often gesture-like, single clear-cut trajectory, single nameable behavior (e.g., sit, wave arms)
- **“Activity”**: series or composition of actions (e.g., interactions between people)
- **“Event”**: combination of activities or actions (e.g., a football game, a traffic accident)

Reminder: Optical Flow

- Definition: optical flow is the *apparent* motion of brightness patterns in the image



Using optical flow: recognizing facial expressions



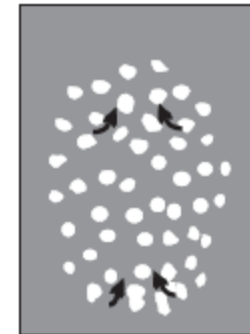
Disgust



Sadness



Happiness



Sadness



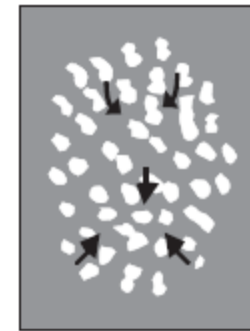
happiness



fear



Surprise



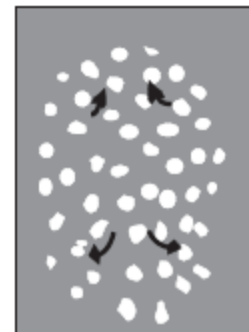
Anger



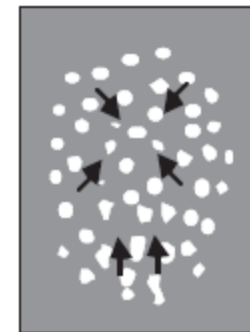
Anger



Surprise



Fear



Disaust

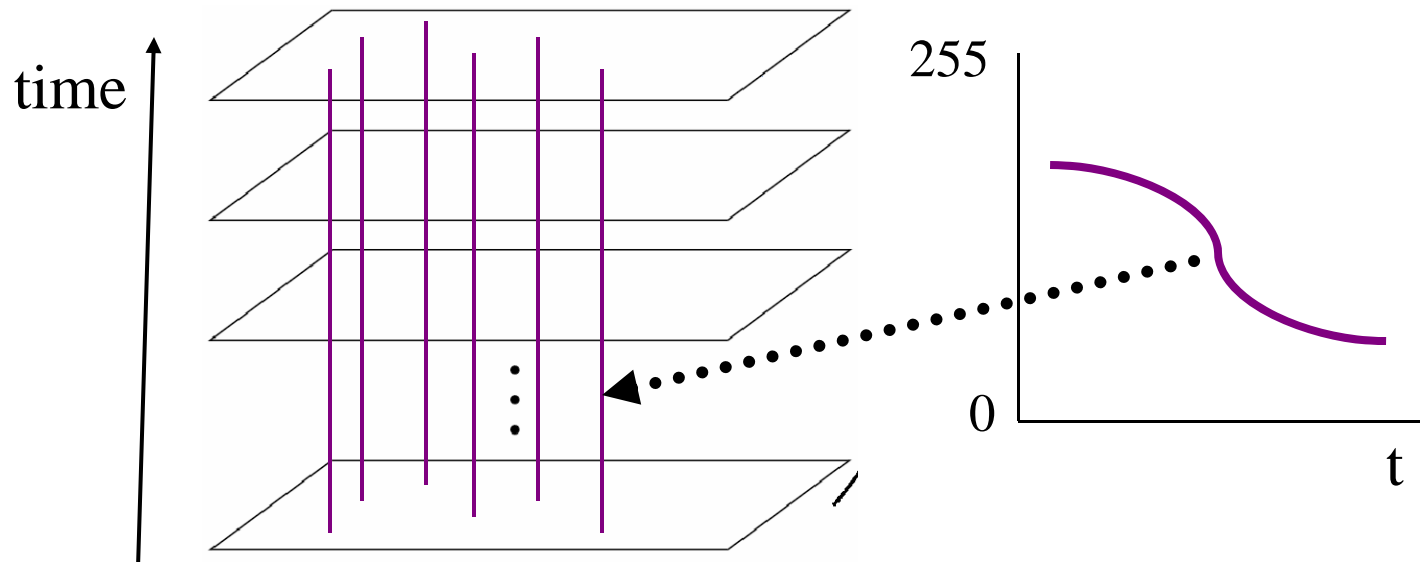
Recognizing Human Facial Expression (1994)
by Yaser Yacoob, Larry S. Davis

Using optical flow: recognizing facial expressions



OPENING EYE

Video as an “Image Stack”



- Can look at video data as a spatio-temporal volume
 - If camera is stationary, each line through time corresponds to a single ray in space

Background Subtraction

- Given an image (a video frame), we want to identify the foreground objects



- In most cases, objects are of interest, not the static part of the scene
- Makes our life easier: lower processing costs and less room for error

Background subtraction

- Simple techniques can do ok with static camera
- ...But hard to do perfectly
- Widely used:
 - Traffic monitoring (counting vehicles, detecting & tracking vehicles, pedestrians),
 - Human action recognition (run, walk, jump, squat),
 - Human-computer interaction
 - Object tracking

Simple Approach

Image at time t :

$I(x, y, t)$



Background at time t :

$B(x, y, t)$



—

$| > Th$

1. Estimate the background for time t
2. Subtract the estimated background from the input image
3. Apply a threshold Th to the absolute difference to get the foreground mask

Frame Differencing

- Background is estimated to be the previous frame.
Background subtraction equation becomes:

$$B(x,y,t) = I(x,y,t-1)$$

$$|I(x,y,t) - I(x,y,t-1)| > Th$$

- Depending on the object structure, speed, frame rate and global threshold, this approach may or may not be useful (usually not)



$| > Th$

Frame Differencing

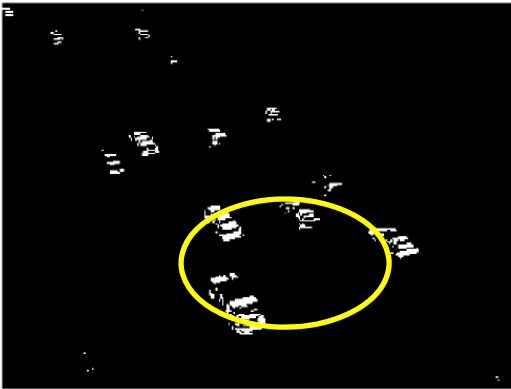
$Th = 25$



$Th = 50$



$Th = 100$



$Th = 200$



Mean Filter

- The background is the mean of the previous n frames

$$B(x, y, t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} I(x, y, t - i)$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$|I(x, y, t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} I(x, y, t - i)| > Th$$

- For $n=10$

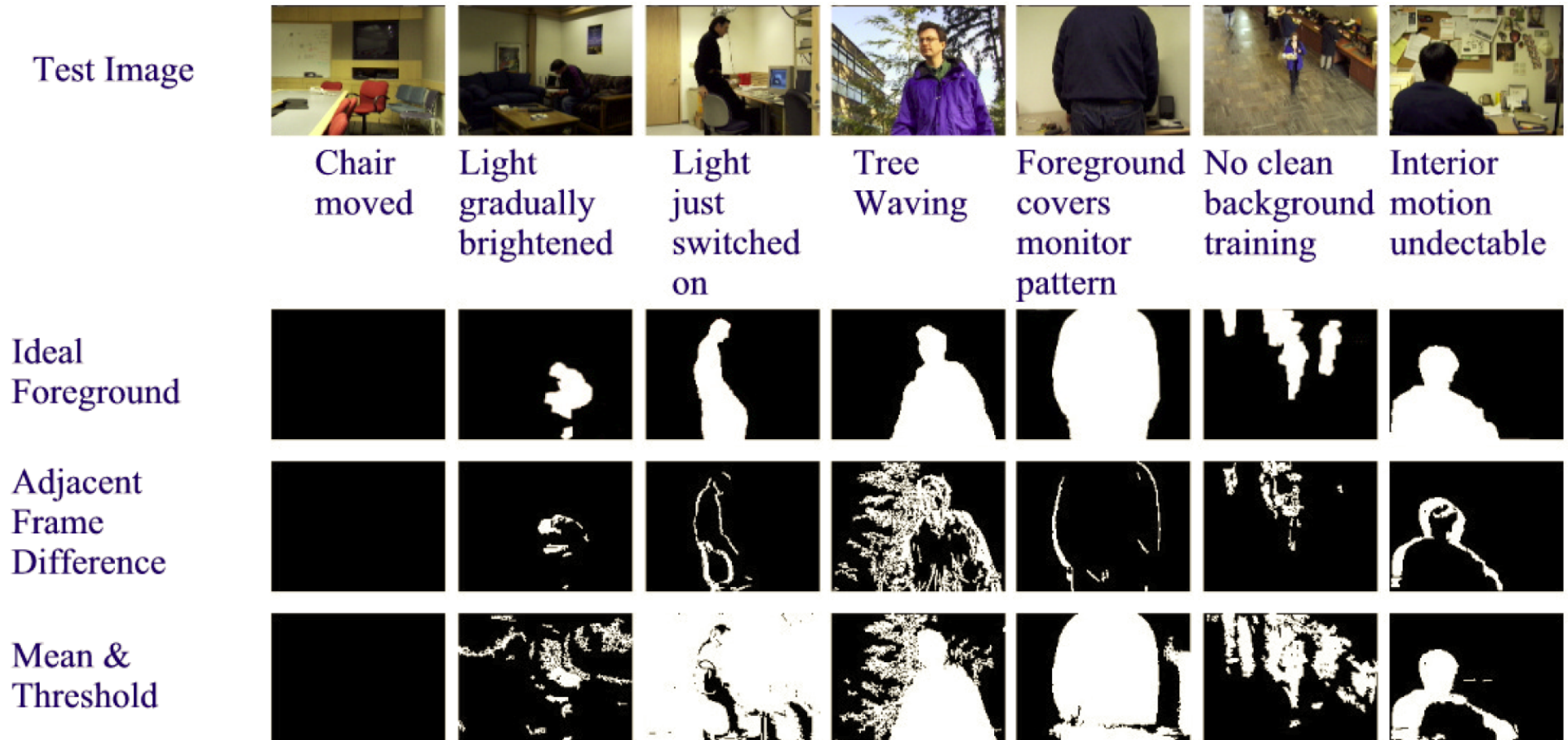
Estimated Background



Foreground Mask



Frame differences vs. background subtraction



- Toyama et al. 1999

Median Filter

- Assuming that the background is more likely to appear in a scene, we can use the median of the previous n frames as the background model:

$$B(x, y, t) = \text{median}\{I(x, y, t - i)\}$$

↓

$$|I(x, y, t) - \text{median}\{I(x, y, t - i)\}| > Th \text{ where} \\ i \in \{0, \dots, n - 1\}.$$

- For $n=10$

Estimated Background



Foreground Mask



Average/Median Image



Background Subtraction



-



=



Pros and cons

Advantages:

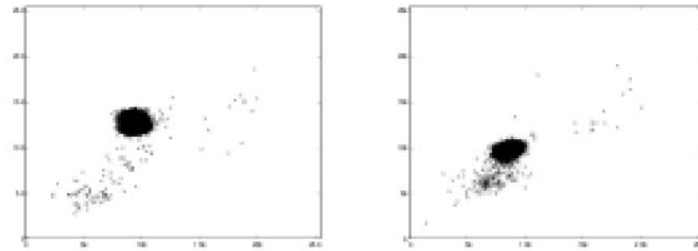
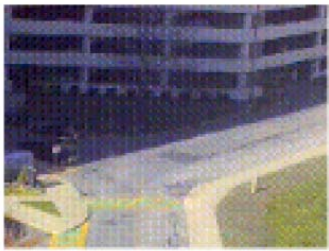
- Extremely easy to implement and use!
- All pretty fast.
- Corresponding background models need not be constant, they change over time.

Disadvantages:

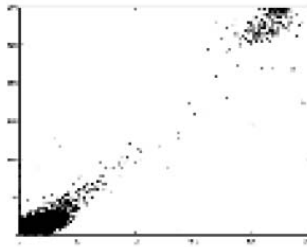
- Accuracy of frame differencing depends on object speed and frame rate
- Median background model: relatively high memory requirements.
- Setting global threshold Th...

When will this basic approach fail?

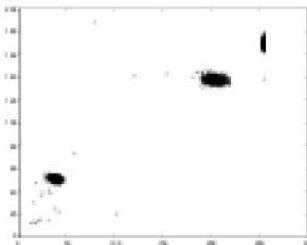
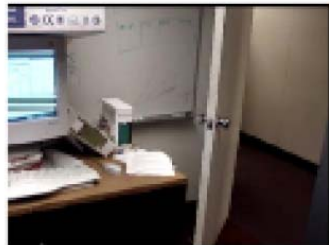
Background mixture models



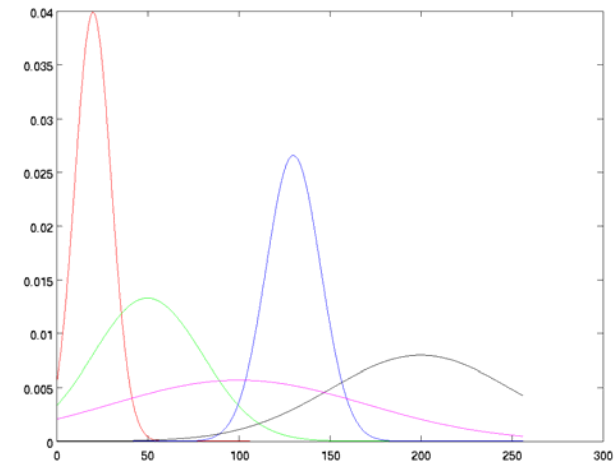
(a)



(b)



(c)



Idea: model each background pixel with a *mixture* of Gaussians; update its parameters over time.

Background subtraction with depth



How can we select foreground pixels based on depth information?

Surveillance

Camera 1



Camera 2



Camera 3



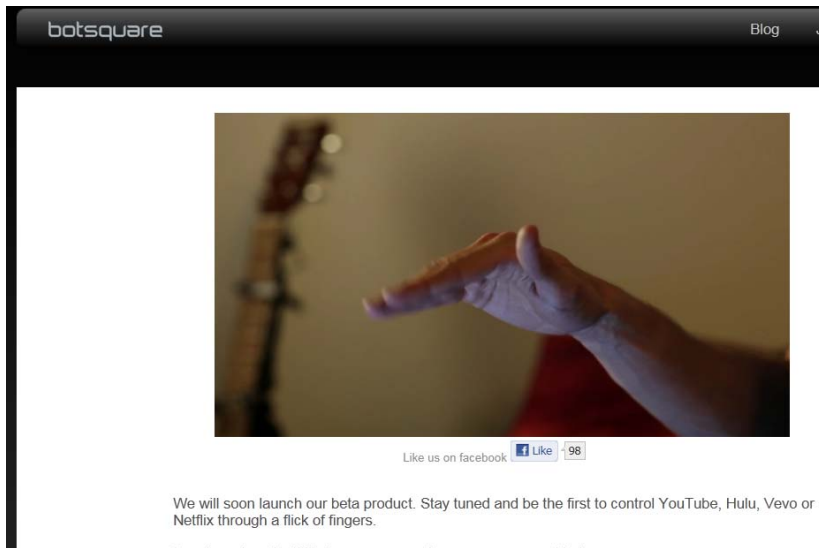
Interfaces



(a) template



(b) image



2011



(c) normalized correlation

1995

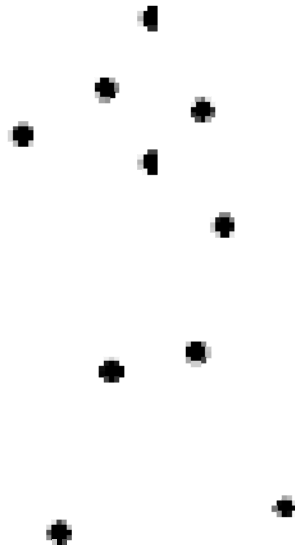
W. T. Freeman and C. Weissman, *Television control by hand gestures*, International Workshop on Automatic Face- and Gesture- Recognition, IEEE Computer Society, Zurich, Switzerland, June, 1995, pp. 179--183. [MERL-TR94-24](#)

Human activity in video: basic approaches

- **Model-based action/activity recognition:**
 - Use human body tracking and pose estimation techniques, relate to action descriptions (or learn)
 - Major challenge: accurate tracks in spite of occlusion, ambiguity, low resolution
- **Activity as motion, space-time appearance patterns**
 - Describe overall patterns, but no explicit body tracking
 - Typically learn a classifier

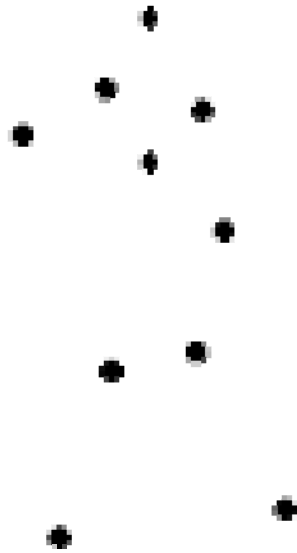
Motion and perceptual organization

- Even “impoverished” motion data can evoke a strong percept



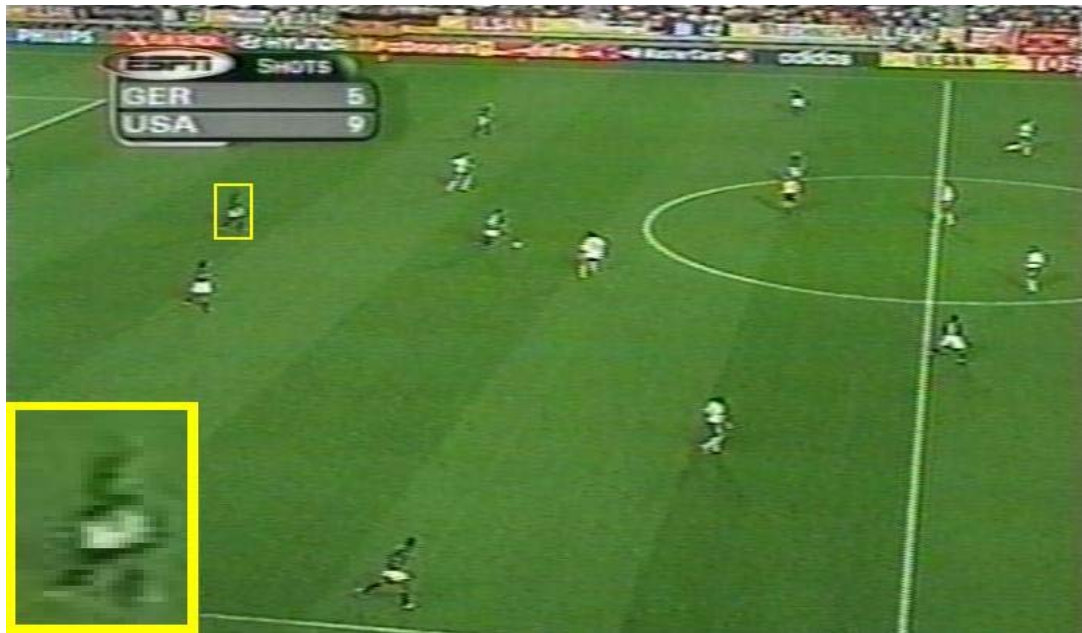
Motion and perceptual organization

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Using optical flow: action recognition at a distance

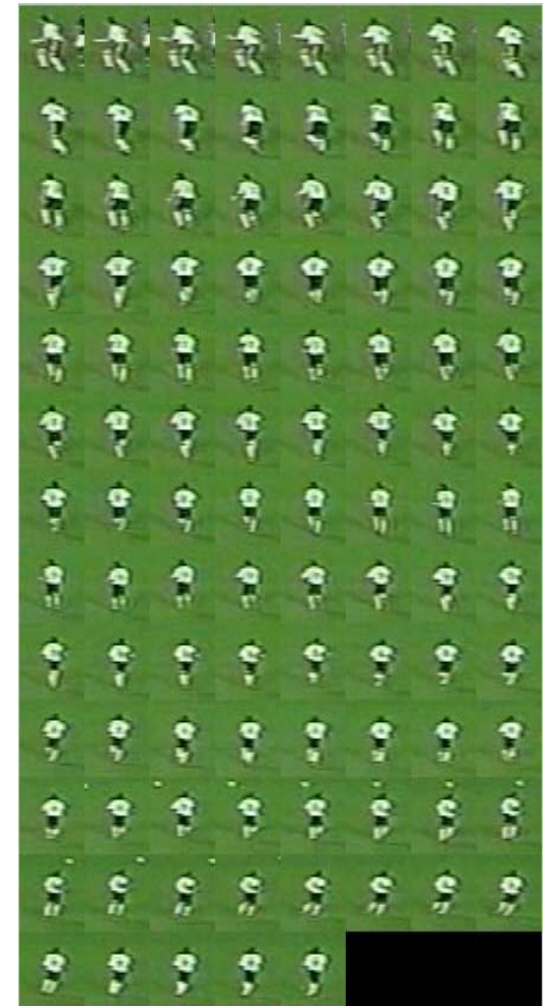
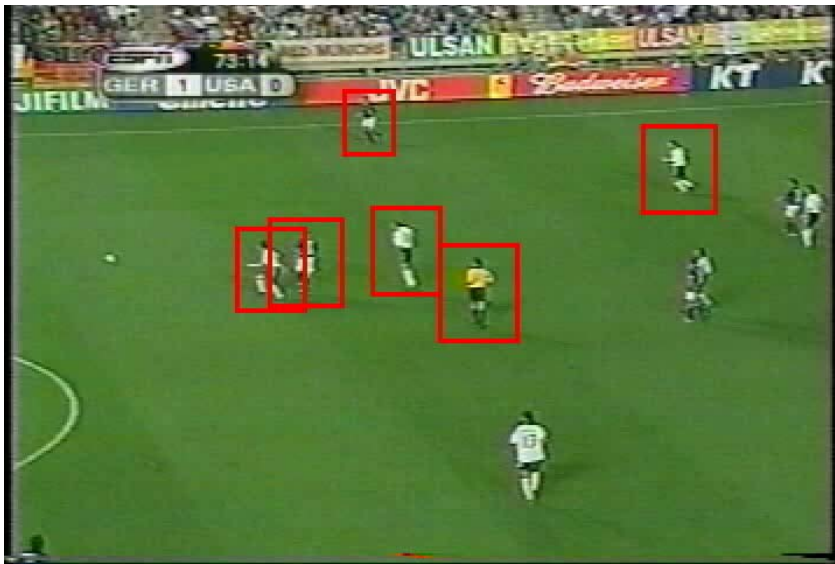
- Features = optical flow within a region of interest
- Classifier = nearest neighbors



Challenge: low-res data, not going to be able to track each limb.

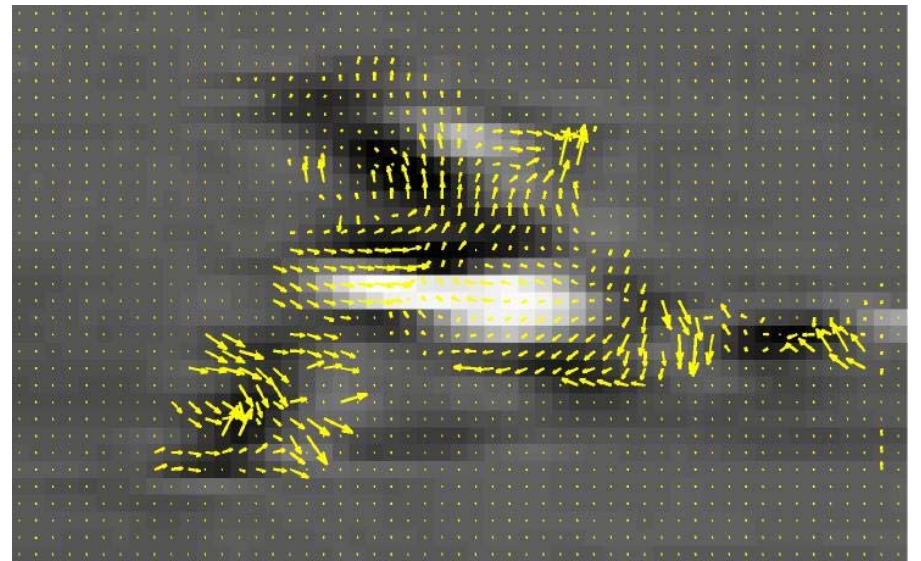
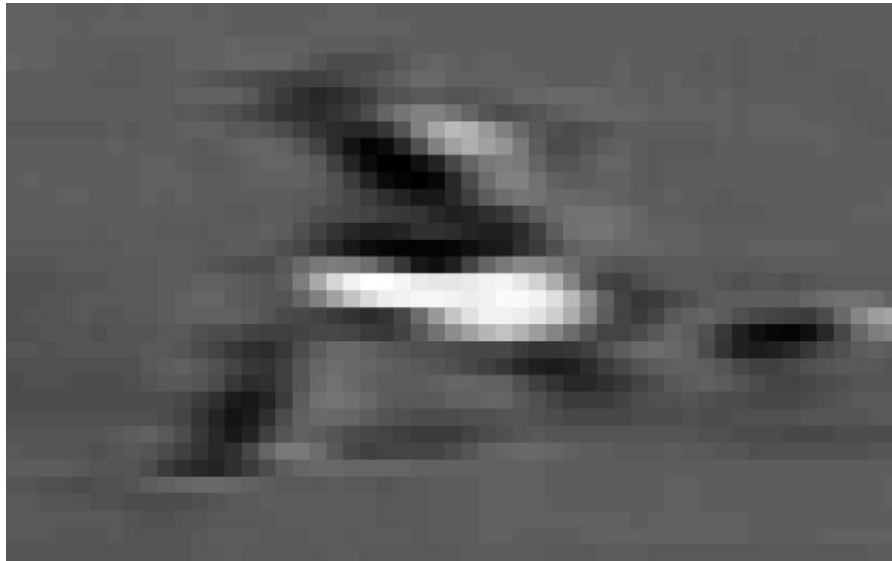
The 30-Pixel Man

Using optical flow: action recognition at a distance



Correlation-based tracking
Extract person-centered frame window

Using optical flow: action recognition at a distance



Extract optical flow to describe the region's motion.

[Efros, Berg, Mori, & Malik 2003]

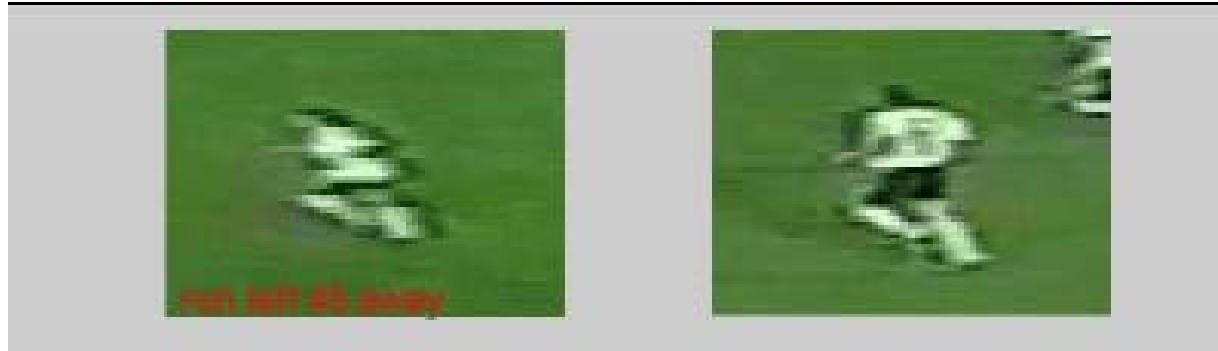
<http://graphics.cs.cmu.edu/people/efros/research/action/>

Using optical flow: action recognition at a distance



Use **nearest neighbor** classifier to name the actions occurring in new video frames.

Using optical flow: action recognition at a distance

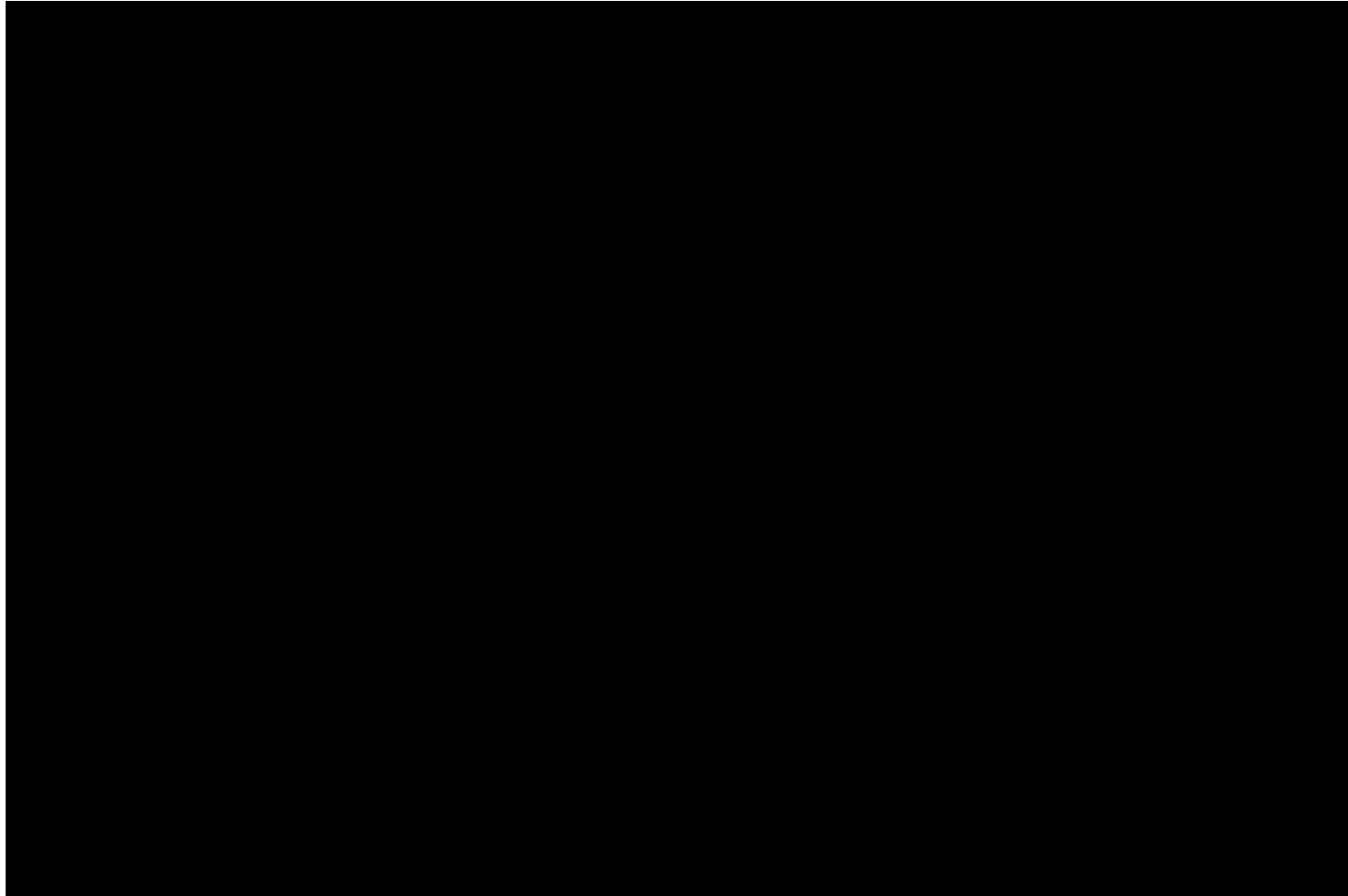


Input
Sequence

Matched NN
Frame

Use **nearest neighbor** classifier to name the actions occurring in new video frames.

Do as I do: motion retargeting



Motion Energy Images

$$E_{\tau}(x, y, t) = \bigcup_{i=0}^{\tau-1} D(x, y, t - i)$$

$D(x,y,t)$: Binary image sequence indicating motion locations

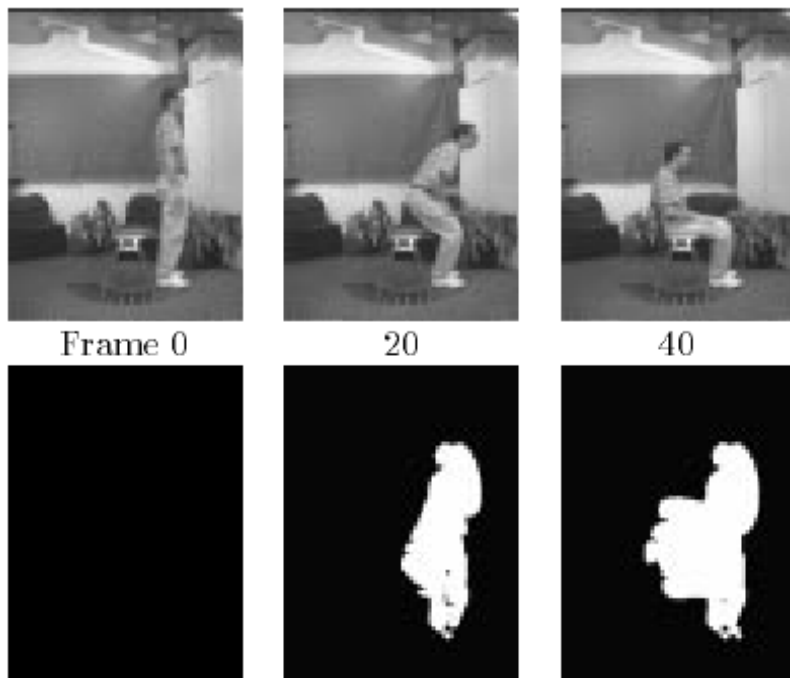


Figure 2: Example of someone sitting. Top row contains key frames; bottom row is cumulative motion images starting from Frame 0.

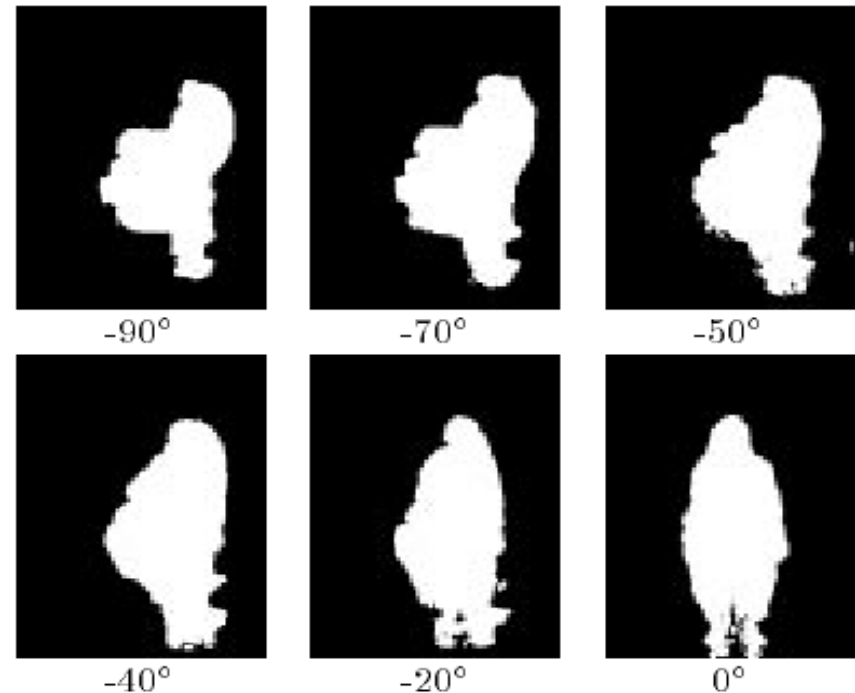
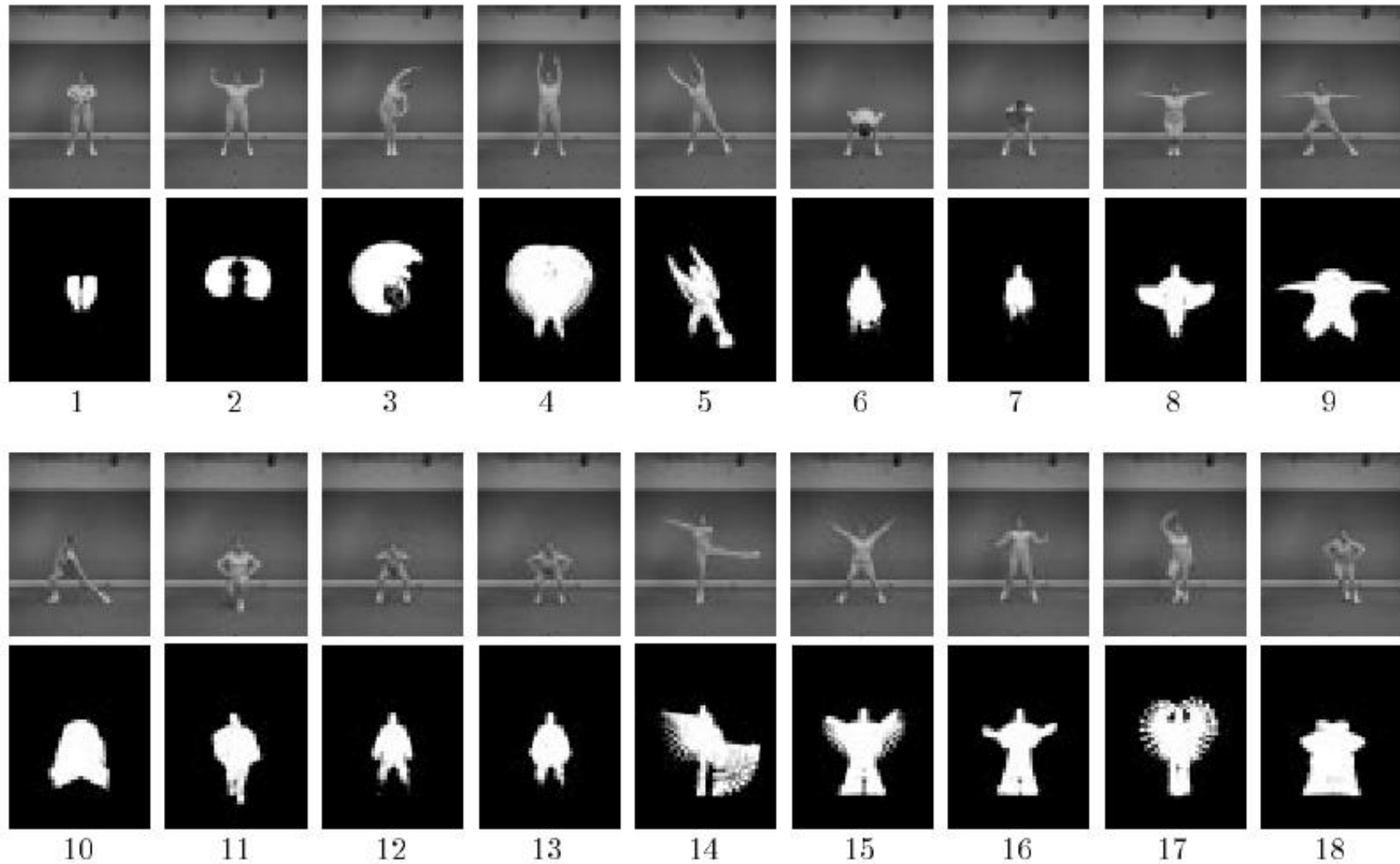


Figure 3: MEIs of sitting action over 90° viewing angle. The smooth change implies only a coarse sampling of viewing direction is necessary to recognize the action from all angles.

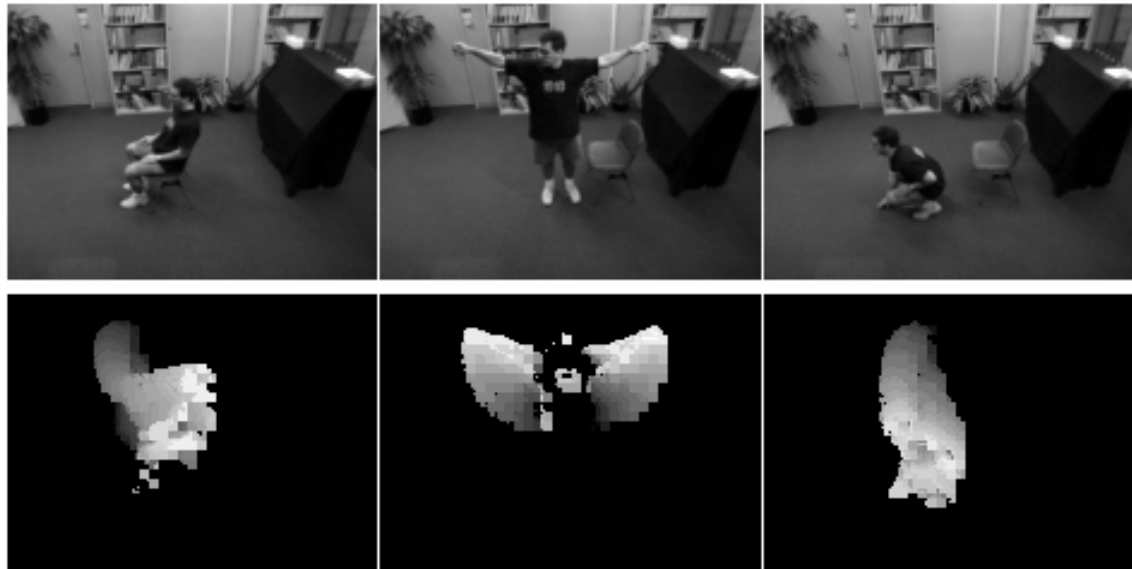
Motion Energy Images



Davis & Bobick 1999: The Representation and Recognition of Action Using Temporal Templates

Motion History Images

$$H_{\tau}(x, y, t) = \begin{cases} \tau & \text{if } D(x, y, t) = 1 \\ \max(0, H_{\tau}(x, y, t - 1) - 1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Davis & Bobick 1999: The Representation and Recognition of Action Using Temporal Templates

Image moments

Use to summarize shape given image $I(x,y)$

$$M_{ij} = \sum_x \sum_y x^i y^j I(x, y)$$

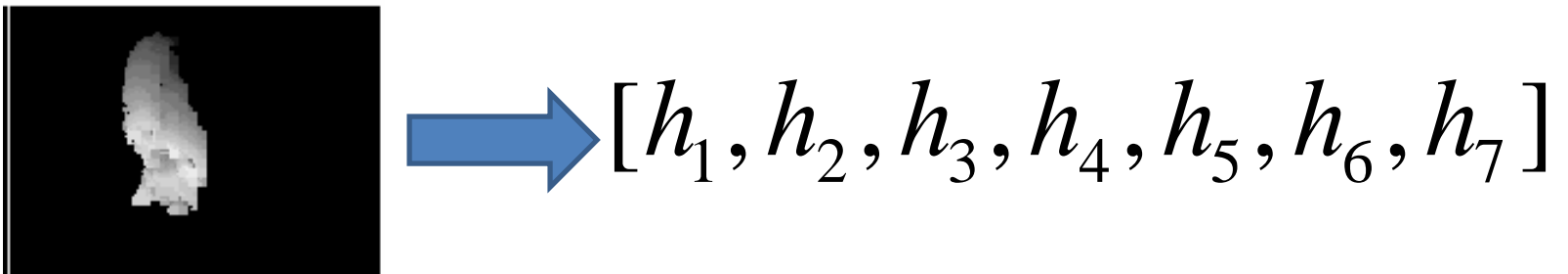
Central moments are translation invariant:

$$\mu_{pq} = \sum_x \sum_y (x - \bar{x})^p (y - \bar{y})^q I(x, y)$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{M_{10}}{M_{00}} \quad \bar{y} = \frac{M_{01}}{M_{00}}$$

Hu moments

- Set of 7 moments
- Apply to Motion History Image for global space-time “shape” descriptor
- Translation and rotation invariant



Tracking: some applications



Body pose tracking,
activity recognition



Censusing a bat
population



Video-based
interfaces



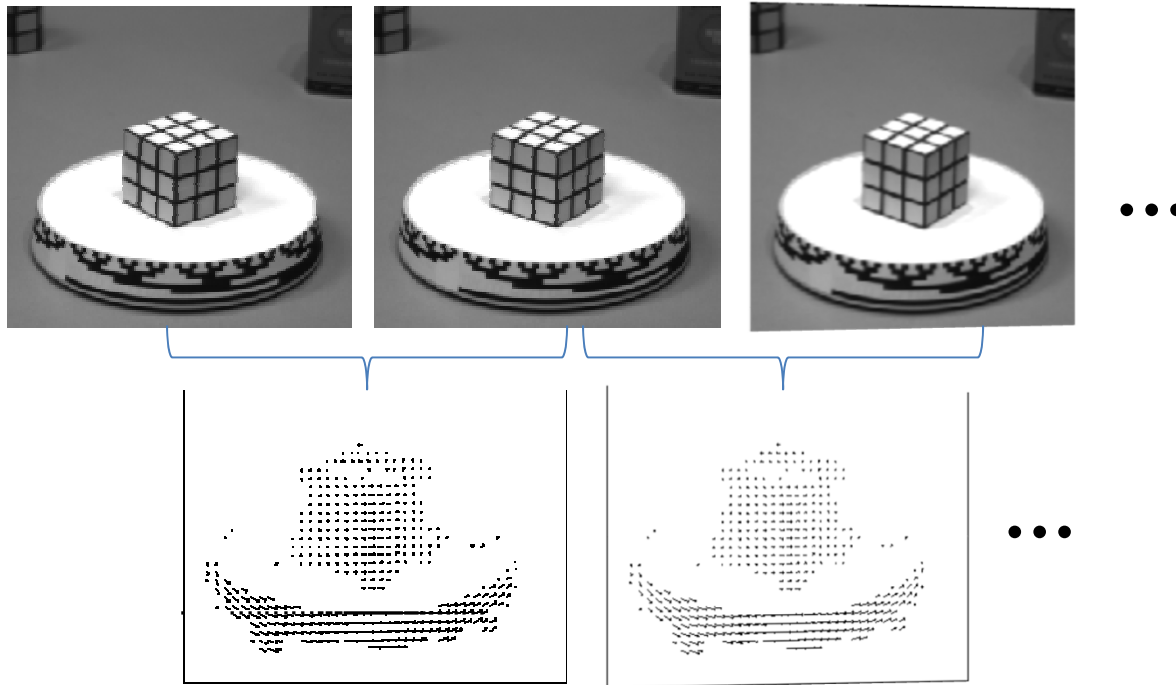
Medical



Surveillance

Optical flow for tracking?

If we have more than just a pair of frames, we could compute flow from one to the next:

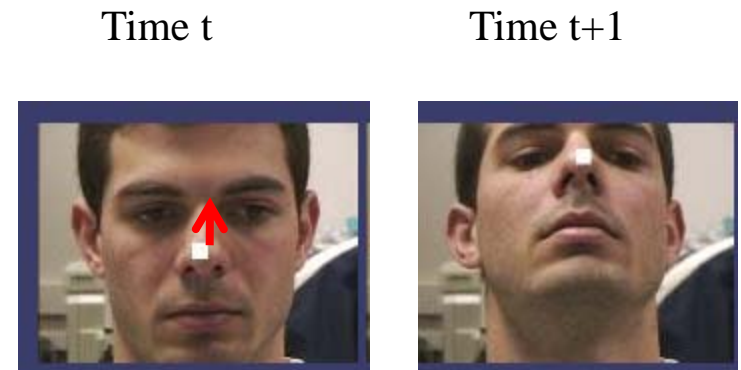
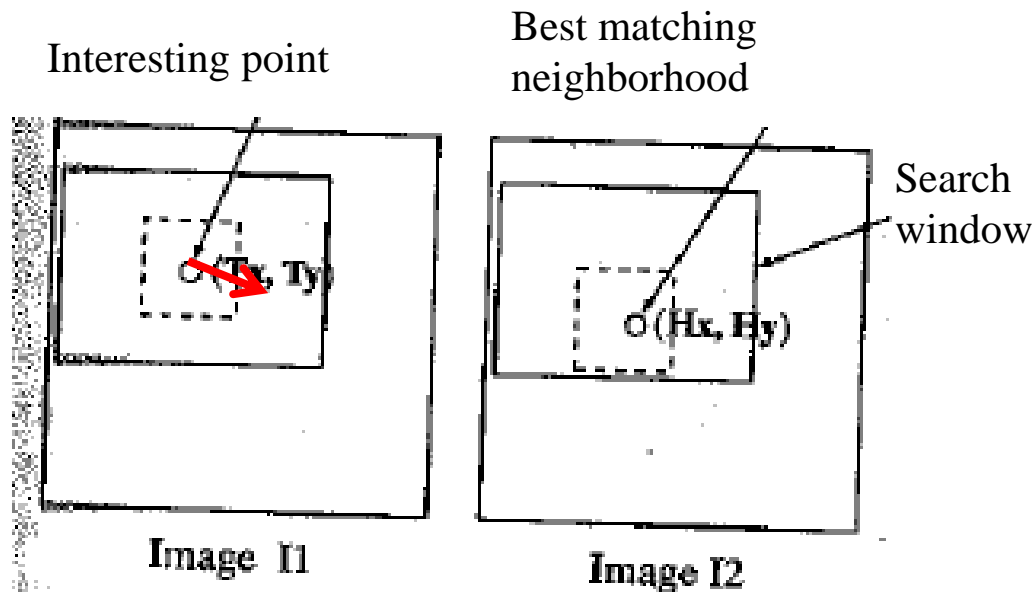


But flow only reliable for small motions, and we may have occlusions, textureless regions that yield bad estimates anyway...

Motion estimation techniques

- Direct methods
 - Directly recover image motion at each pixel from spatio-temporal image brightness variations
 - Dense motion fields, but sensitive to appearance variations
 - Suitable for video and when image motion is small
- **Feature-based methods**
 - Extract visual features (corners, textured areas) and track them over multiple frames
 - Sparse motion fields, but more robust tracking
 - Suitable when image motion is large (10s of pixels)

Feature-based matching for motion



Search window is centered at the point where we last saw the feature, in image I1.

Best match = position where we have the highest normalized cross-correlation value.

Example: A Camera Mouse

- Video interface: use feature tracking as mouse replacement



- User clicks on the feature to be tracked
- Take the 15x15 pixel square of the feature
- In the next image do a search to find the 15x15 region with the highest correlation
- Move the mouse pointer accordingly
- Repeat in the background every 1/30th of a second

Example: A Camera Mouse

- Specialized software for communication, games



James Gips and Margrit Betke
<http://www.bc.edu/schools/csom/eagleeyes/>

Kristen Grauman

Detection vs. tracking



t=1



t=2

...



t=20



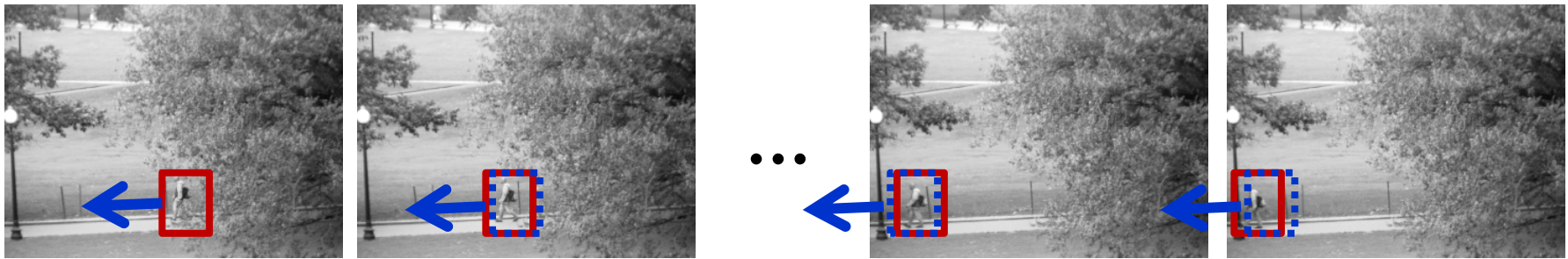
t=21

Detection vs. tracking



Detection: We detect the object independently in each frame and can record its position over time, e.g., based on blob's centroid or detection window coordinates

Detection vs. tracking

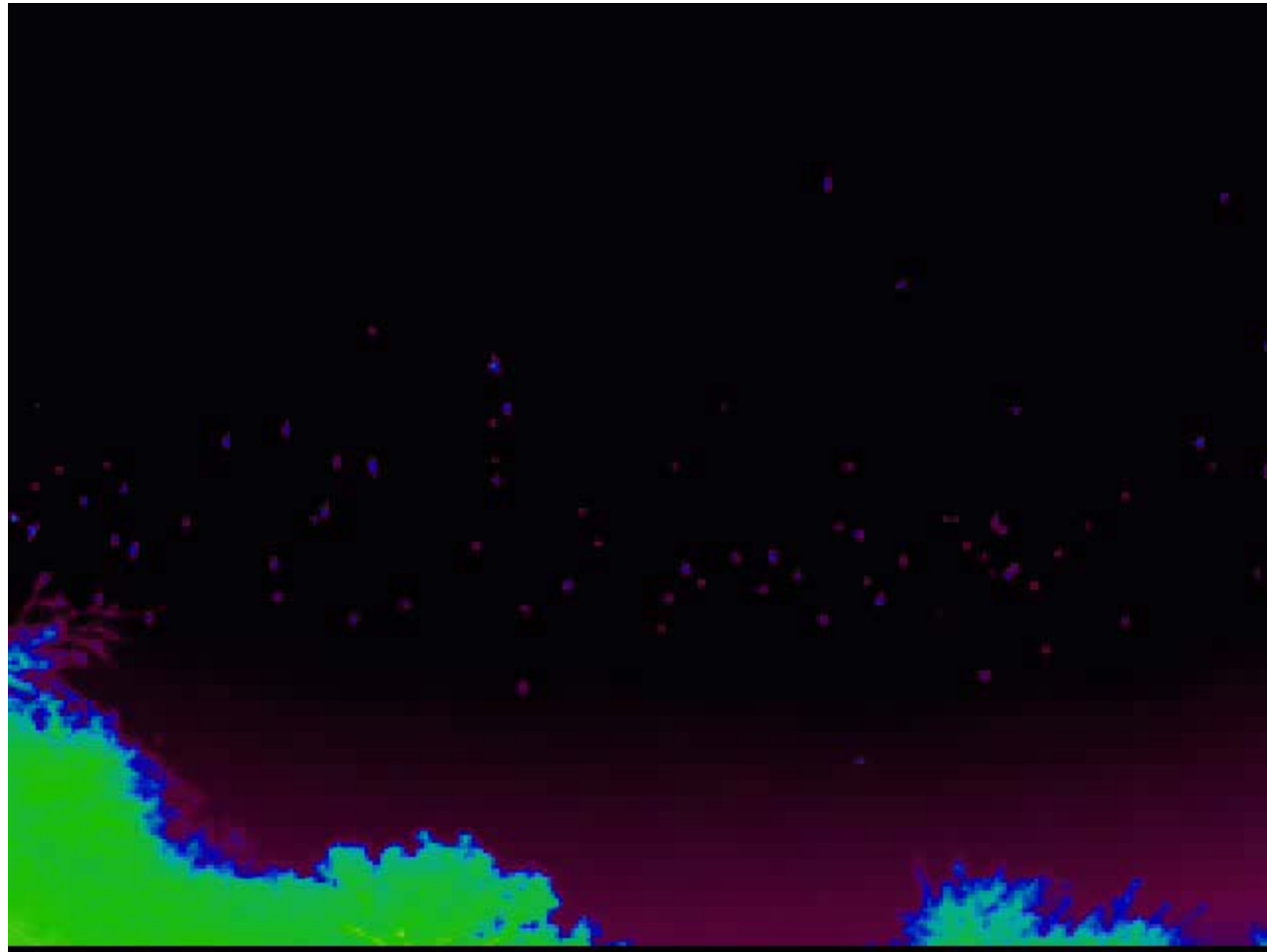


Tracking with *dynamics*: We use image measurements to estimate position of object, but also incorporate position predicted by dynamics, i.e., our expectation of object's motion pattern.

Tracking with dynamics

- Use model of expected motion to *predict* where objects will occur in next frame, even before seeing the image
- **Intent:**
 - Do less work looking for the object, restrict the search
 - Get improved estimates since measurement noise is tempered by smoothness, dynamics priors
- **Assumption: continuous motion patterns:**
 - Camera is not moving instantly to new viewpoint
 - Objects do not disappear and reappear in different places in the scene
 - Gradual change in pose between camera and scene

A bat census



<http://www.cs.bu.edu/~betke/research/bats/>

Tracking: issues

- **Initialization**
 - Often done manually
 - Background subtraction, detection can also be used
- **Data association, multiple tracked objects**
 - Occlusions, clutter

Tracking: issues

- **Initialization**
 - Often done manually
 - Background subtraction, detection can also be used
- **Data association, multiple tracked objects**
 - Occlusions, clutter
 - Which measurements go with which tracks?



Tracking: issues

- **Initialization**
 - Often done manually
 - Background subtraction, detection can also be used
- **Data association, multiple tracked objects**
 - Occlusions, clutter
- **Deformable and articulated objects**

Tracking via deformable contours

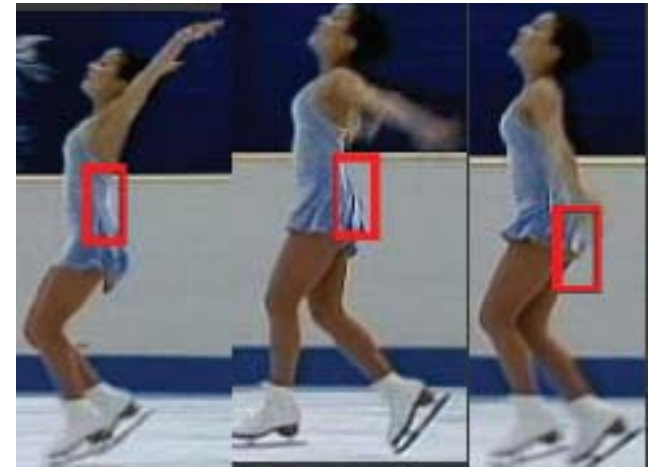
1. Use final contour/model extracted at frame t as an initial solution for frame $t+1$
2. Evolve initial contour to fit exact object boundary at frame $t+1$
3. Repeat, initializing with most recent frame.



Tracking: issues

- **Initialization**
 - Often done manually
 - Background subtraction, detection can also be used
- **Data association, multiple tracked objects**
 - Occlusions, clutter
- **Deformable and articulated objects**
- **Constructing accurate models of dynamics**
 - E.g., Fitting parameters for a linear dynamics model
- **Drift**
 - Accumulation of errors over time

Drift

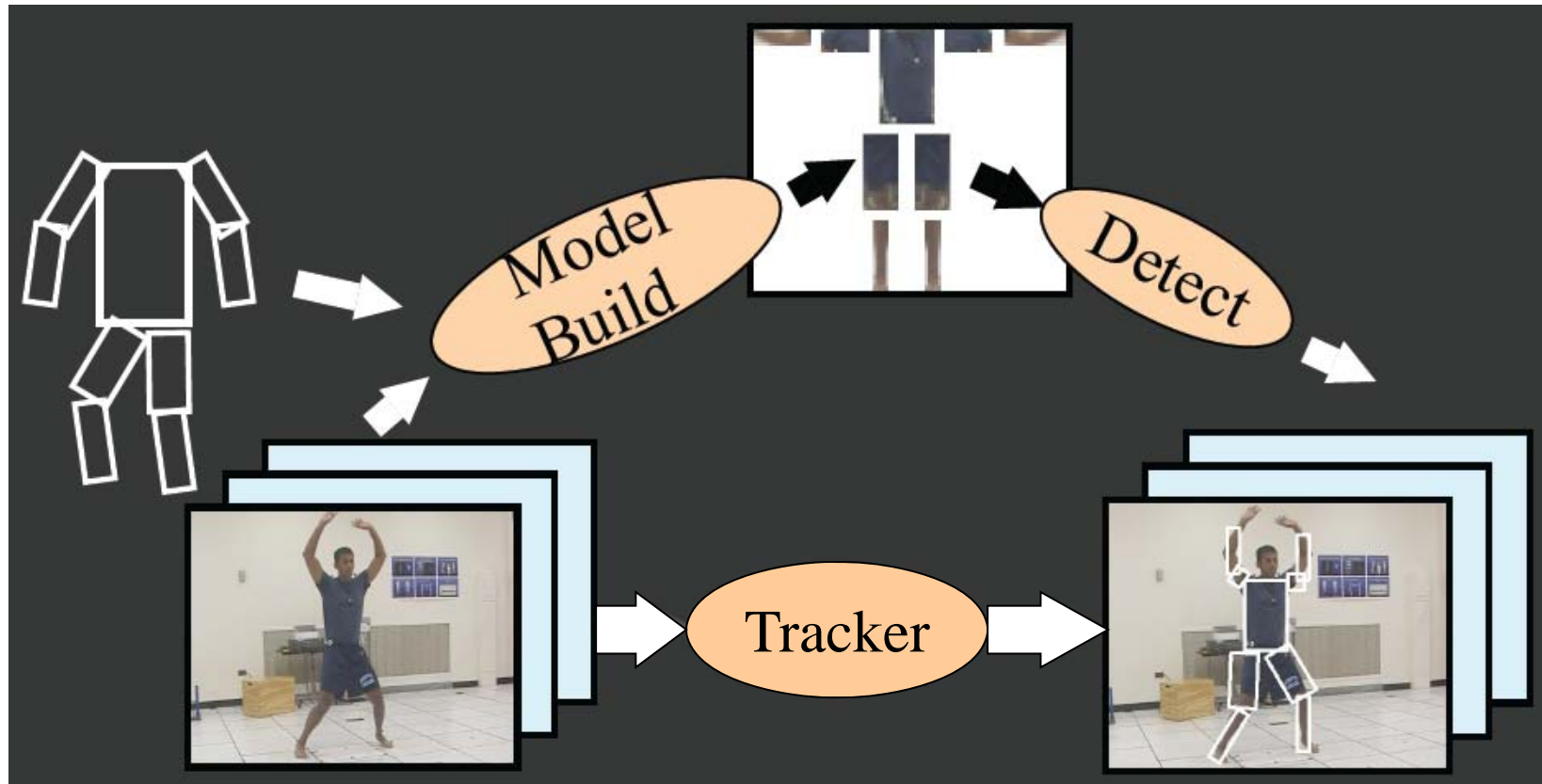


Tracking people

- Person model = appearance + structure (+ dynamics)
- Structure and dynamics are general, appearance is person-specific
- Trying to acquire an appearance model “on the fly” can lead to drift
- Instead, can use the whole sequence to initialize the appearance model and then keep it fixed while tracking
- Given strong structure and appearance models, tracking can essentially be done by repeated detection (with some smoothing)

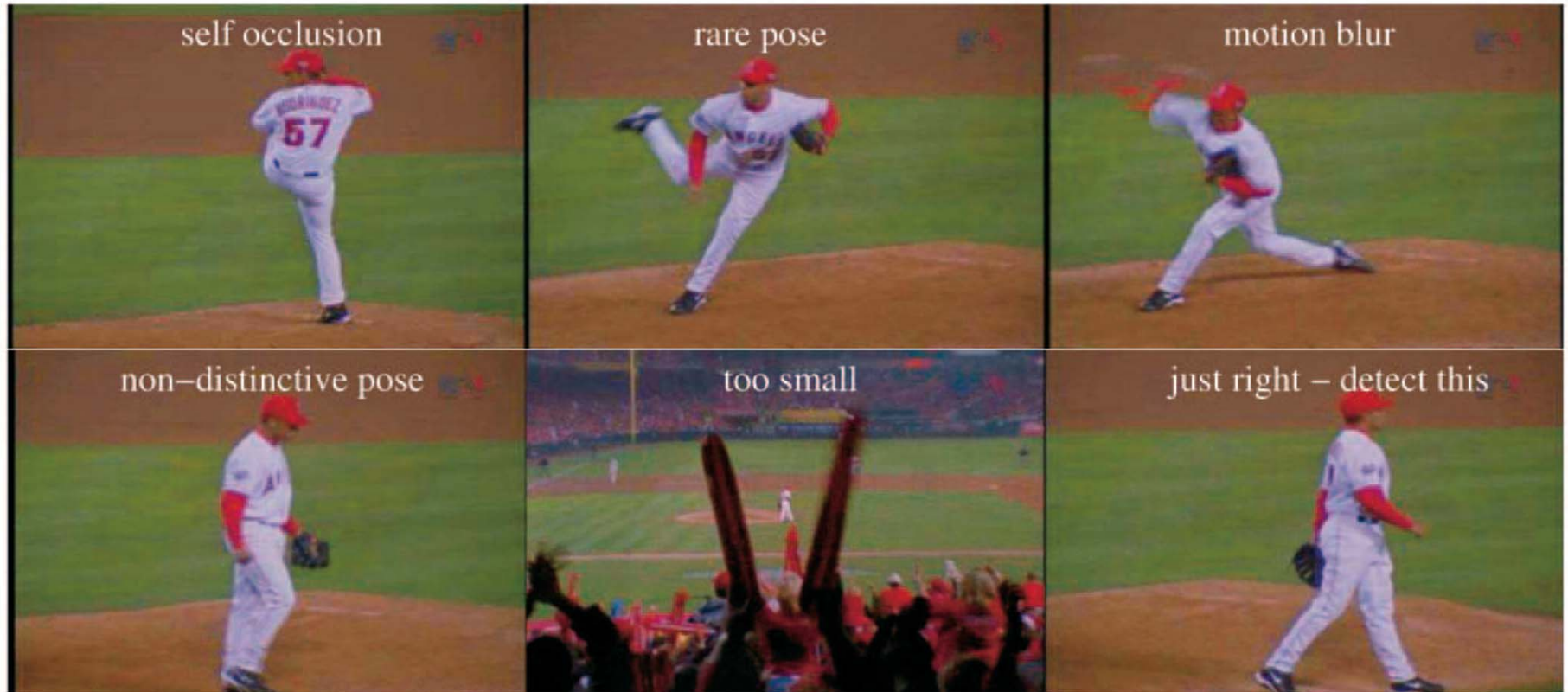
D. Ramanan, D. Forsyth, and A. Zisserman. [Tracking People by Learning their Appearance](#). PAMI 2007.

Tracking people by learning their appearance



D. Ramanan, D. Forsyth, and A. Zisserman. [Tracking People by Learning their Appearance](#). PAMI 2007.

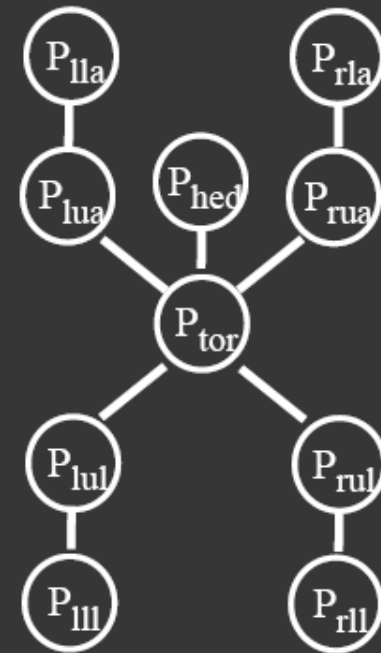
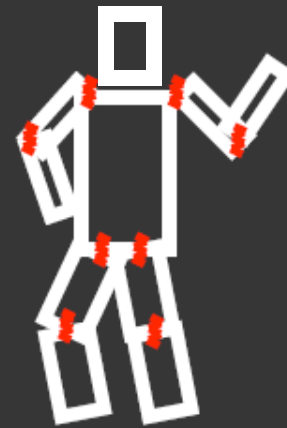
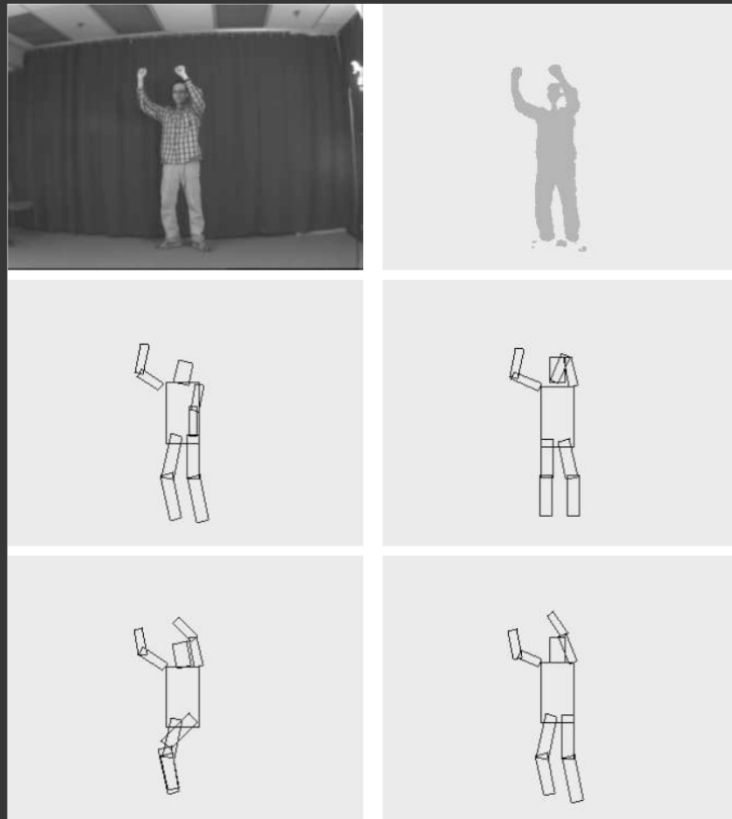
Top-down method to build model: Exploit “easy” poses



D. Ramanan, D. Forsyth, and A. Zisserman. [Tracking People by Learning their Appearance](#). PAMI 2007.

Pictorial structure model

Fischler and Elschlager(73), Felzenszwalb and Huttenlocher(00)



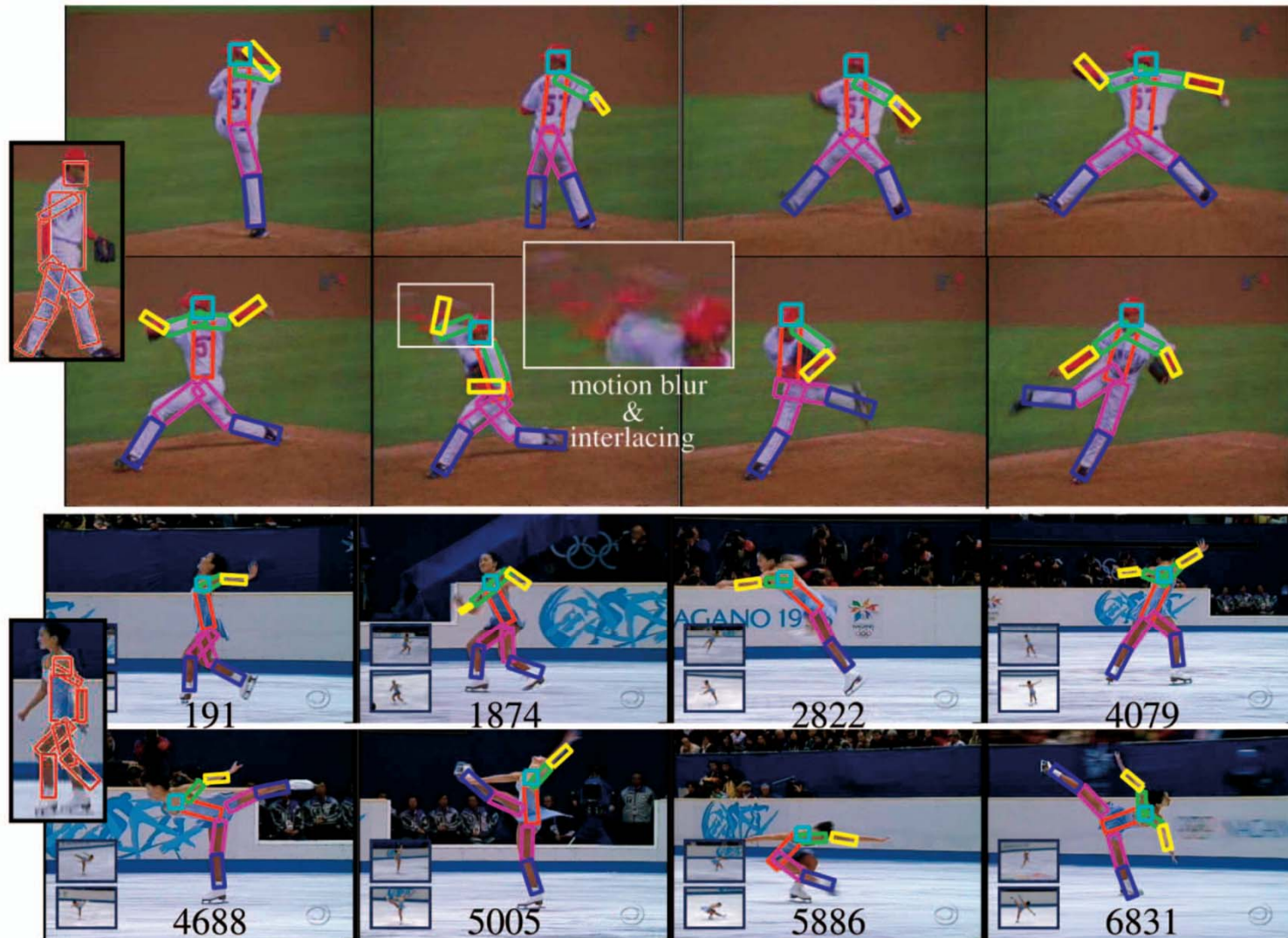
$$\Pr(P_{\text{tor}}, P_{\text{arm}}, \dots | \text{Im}) \propto \prod_{i,j} \Pr(P_i | P_j) \prod_i \Pr(\text{Im}(P_i))$$

↑
↑
 part geometry part appearance

Temporal model

- Parts cannot move too far

Example results



What is an action?



Action: a transition from one state to another

- Who is the actor?
- How is the state of the actor changing?
- What (if anything) is being acted on?
- How is that thing changing?
- What is the purpose of the action (if any)?

How do we represent actions?

Categories

Walking, hammering, dancing, skiing,
sitting down, standing up, jumping

Poses



Nouns and Predicates

<man, swings, hammer>

<man, hits, nail, w/ hammer>

What is the purpose of action recognition?

- To describe
- To predict

How can we identify actions?

Motion



Pose



Held
Objects



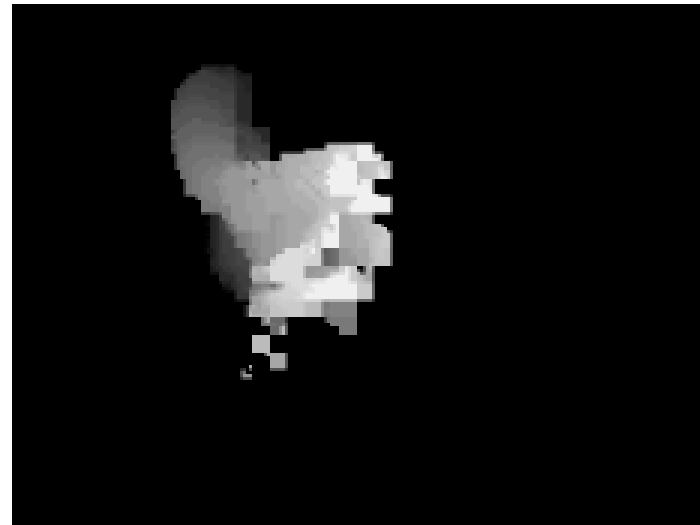
Nearby
Objects

Representing Motion

Optical Flow with Motion History



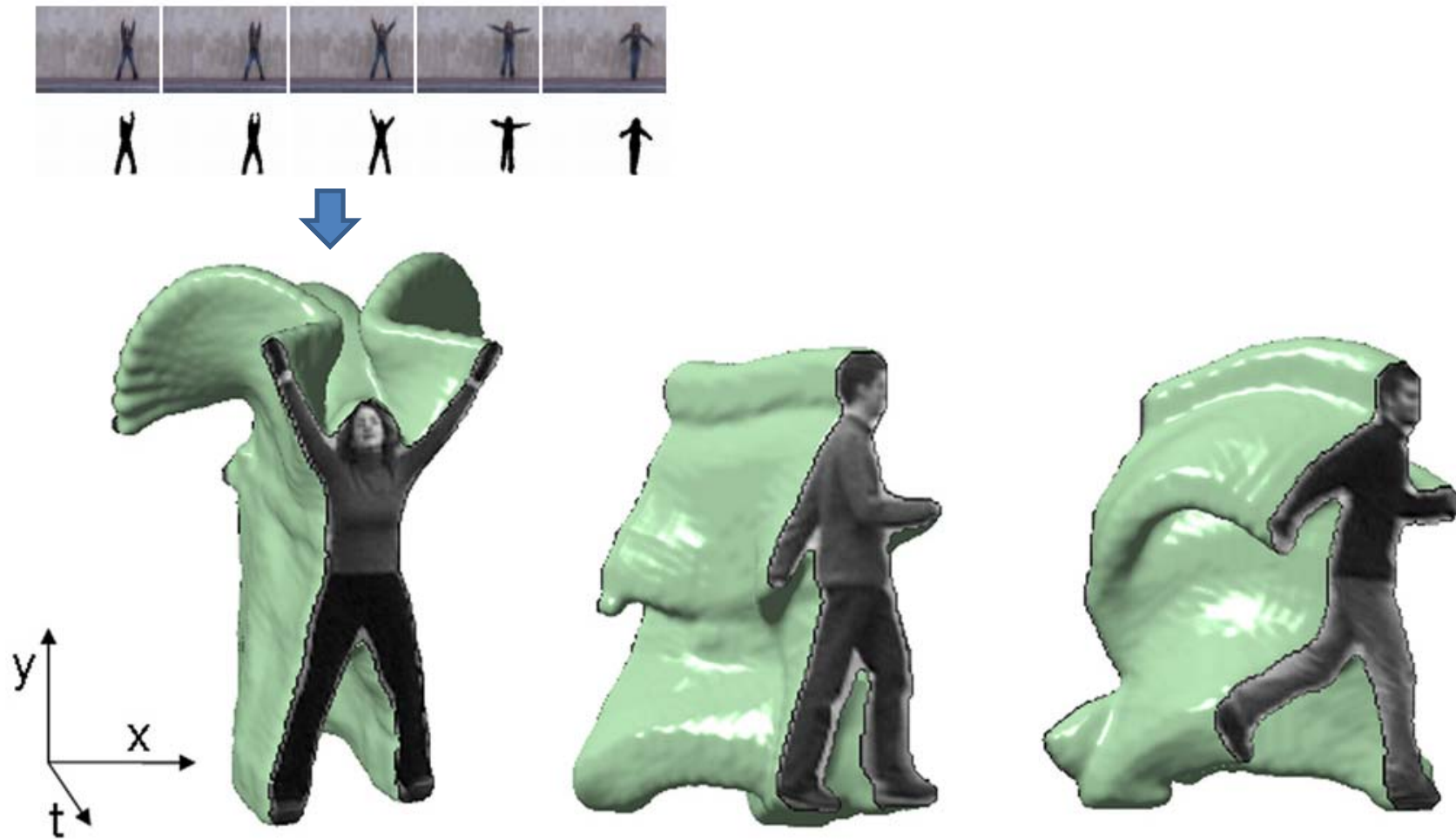
sit-down



sit-down MHI

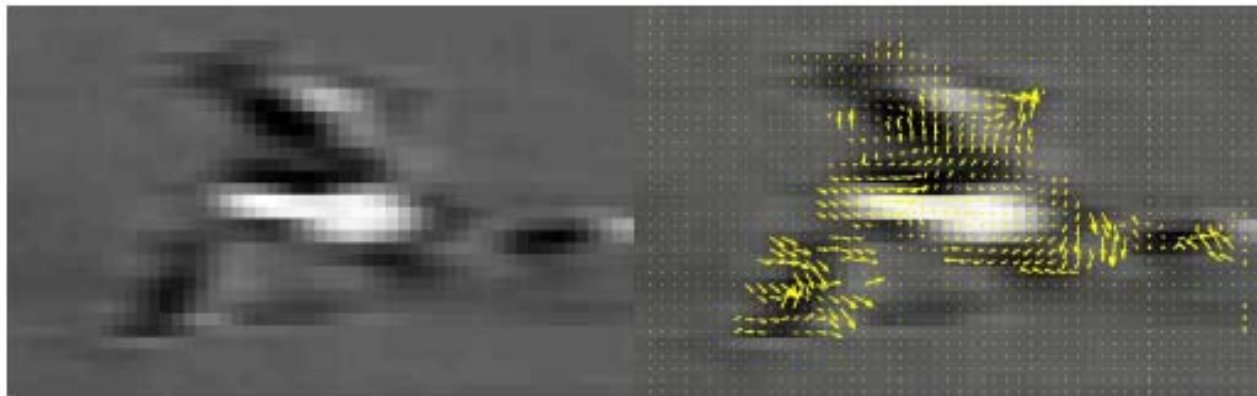
Representing Motion

Space-Time Volumes



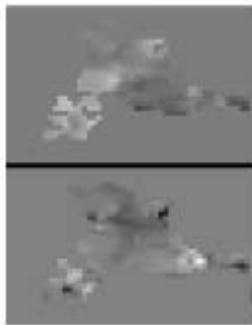
Representing Motion

Optical Flow with Split Channels



(a) original image

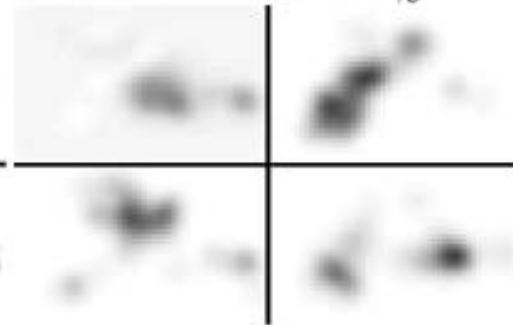
(b) optical flow $F_{x,y}$



(c) F_x, F_y
optical flow

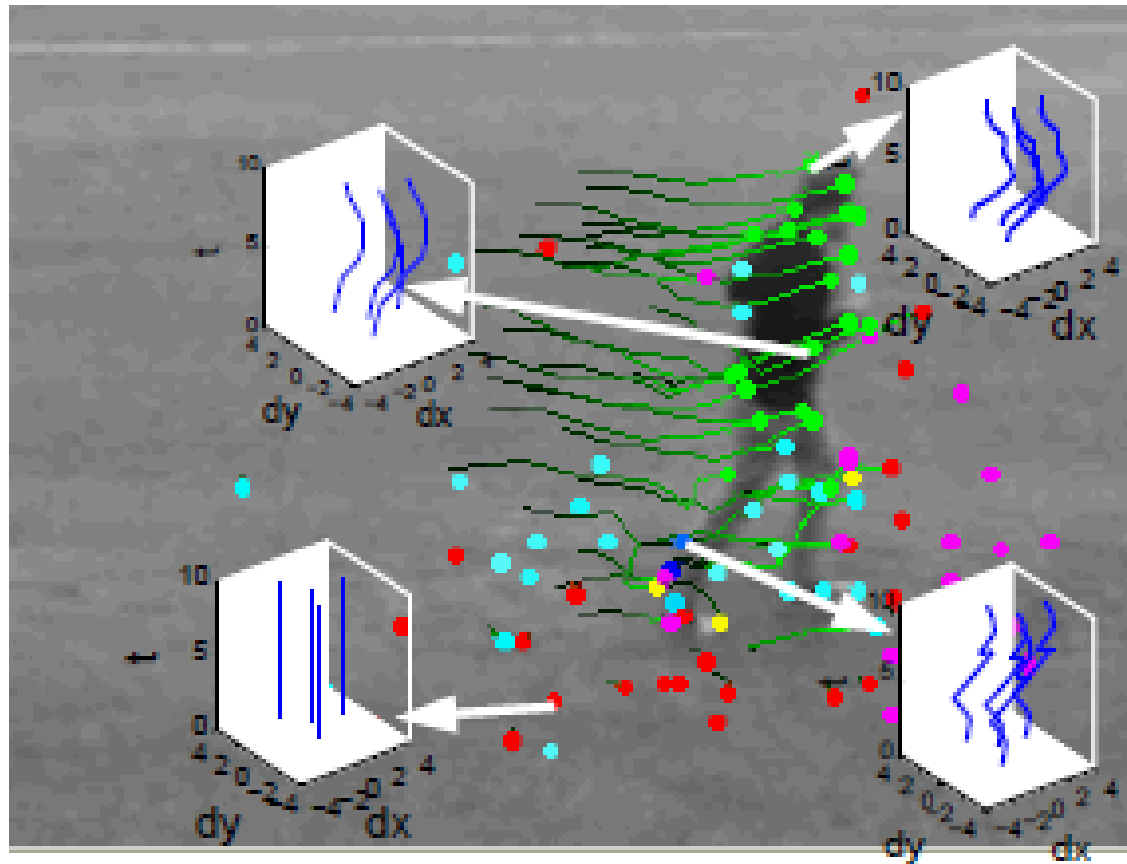


(d) $F_x^+, F_x^-, F_y^+, F_y^-$
split into pos/neg channels



(e) $Fb_x^+, Fb_x^-, Fb_y^+, Fb_y^-$
blurred pos/neg flow

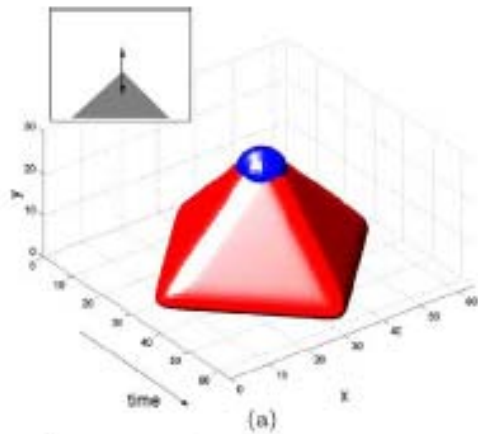
Representing Motion Tracked Points



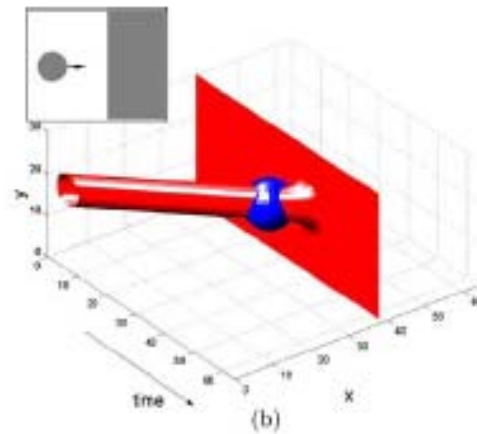
Representing Motion

Space-Time Interest Points

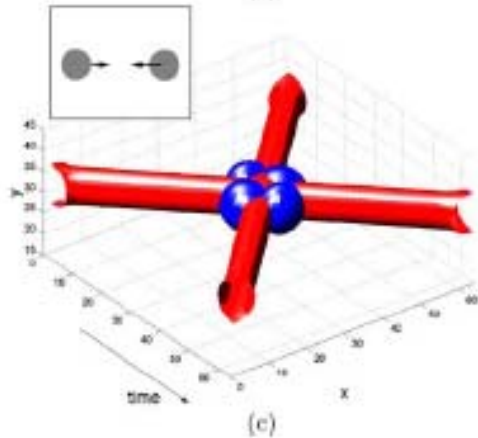
Moving corner



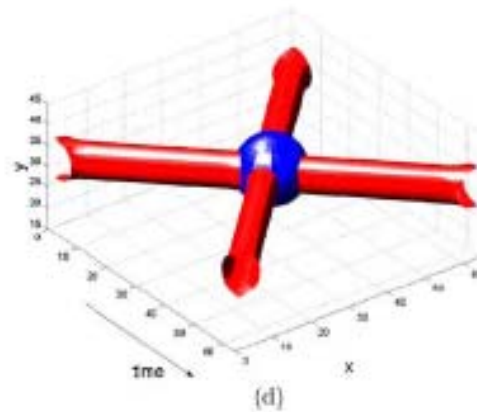
Ball hits wall



Corner detectors in space-time



Balls collide



Balls collide (different scale)

Examples of Action Recognition Systems

- Feature-based classification
- Recognition using pose and objects

Action recognition as classification

training samples

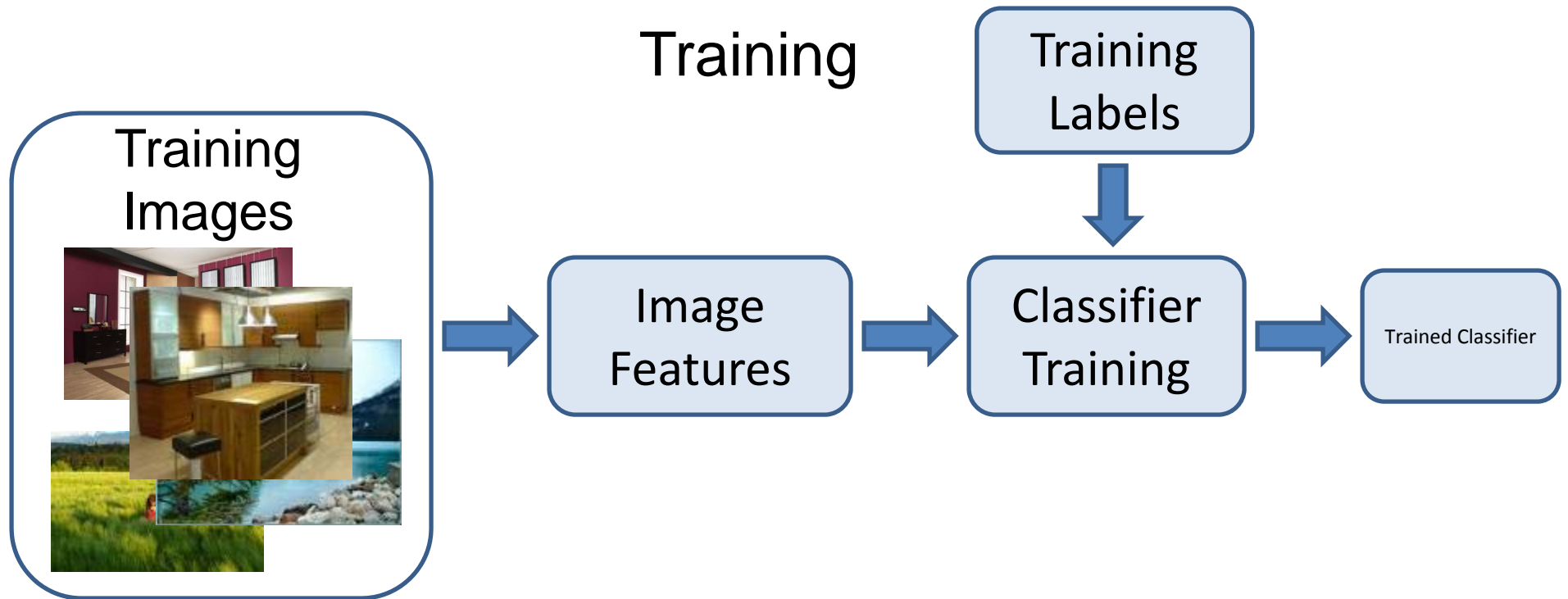


test samples

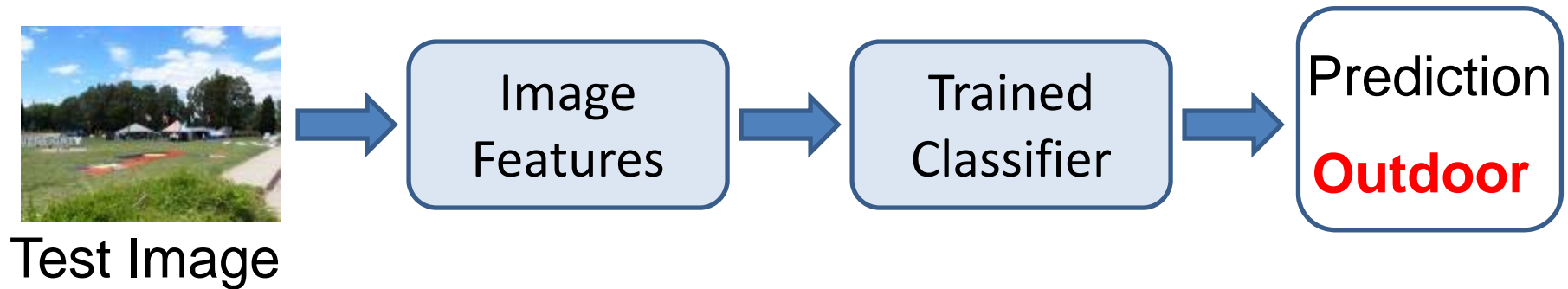


Remember image categorization...

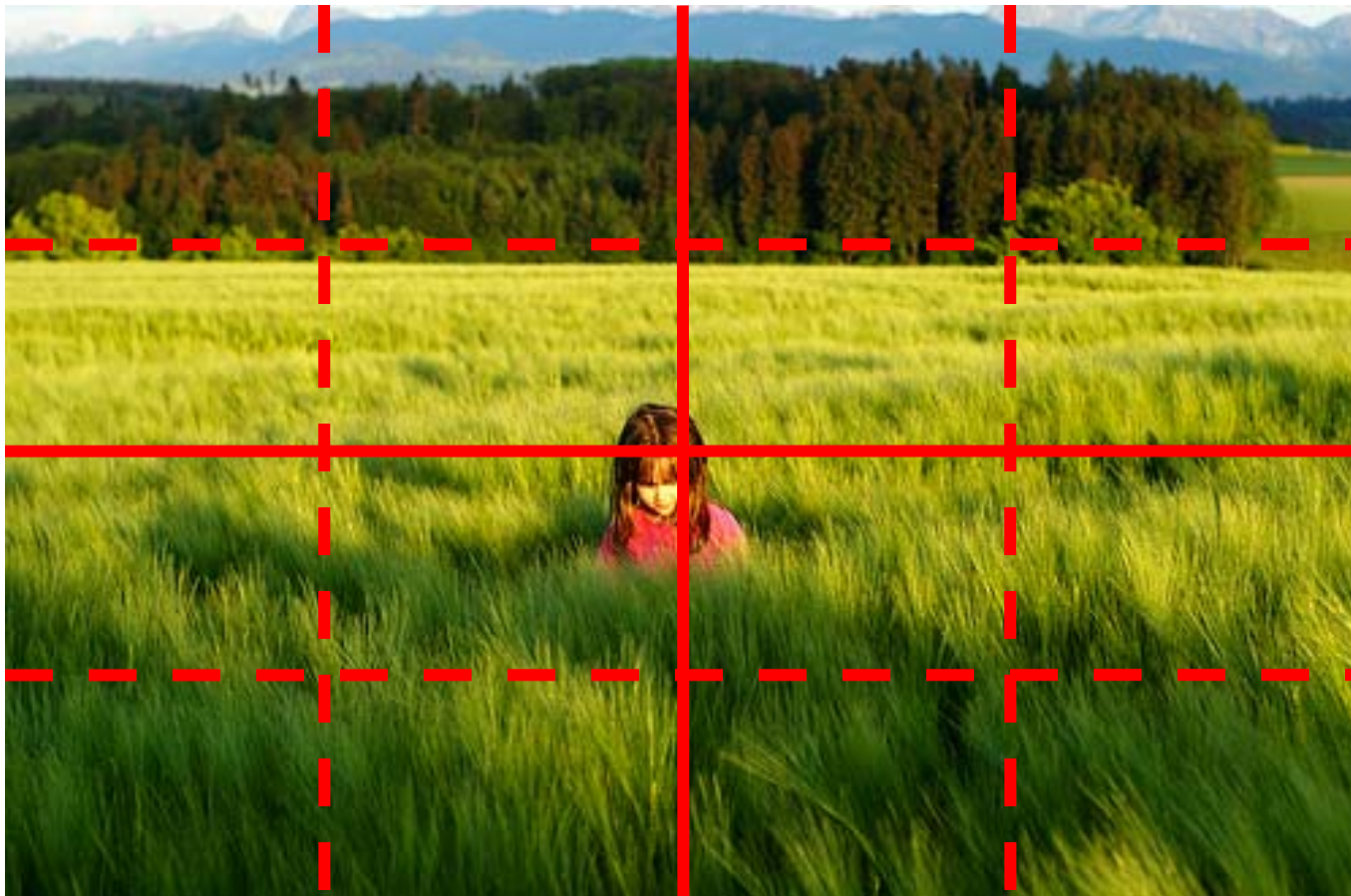
Training



Testing



Remember spatial pyramids...

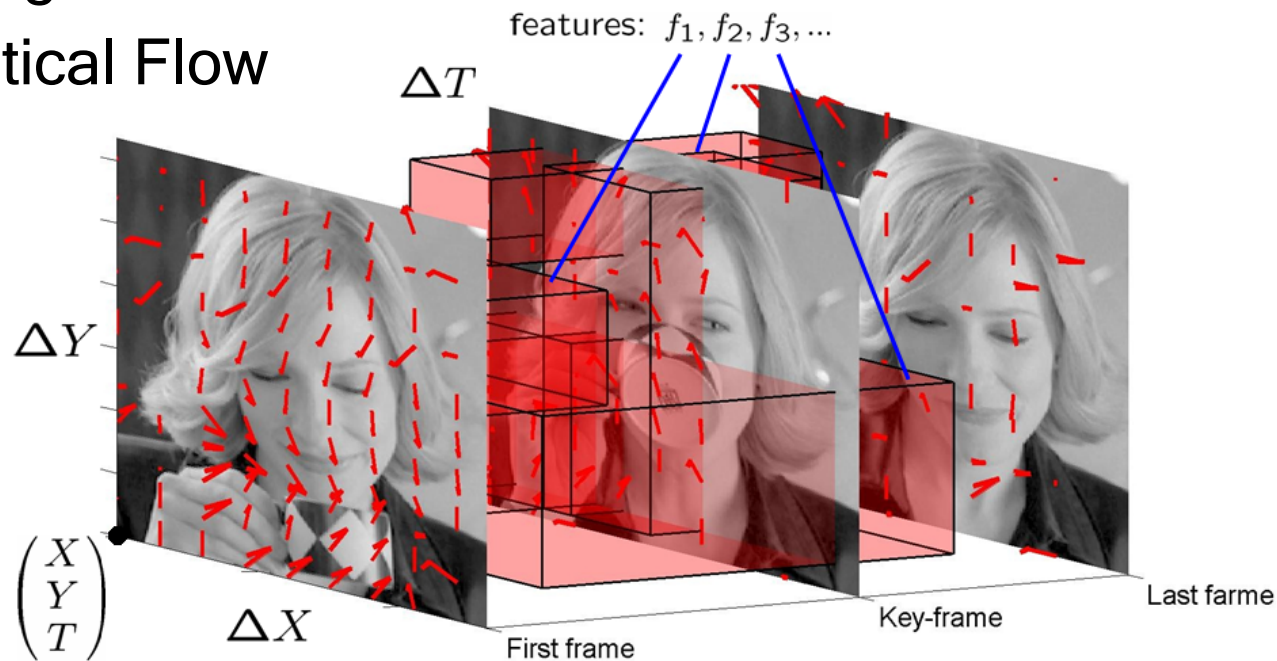


Compute histogram in each spatial bin

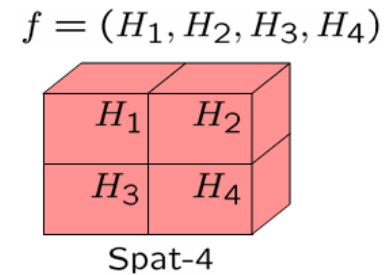
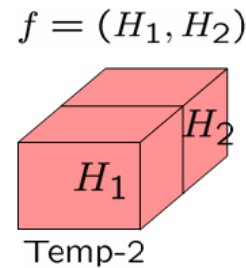
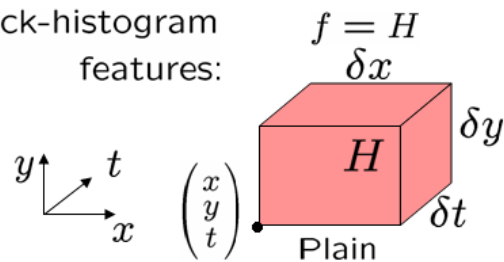
Features for Classifying Actions

1. Spatio-temporal pyramids

- Image Gradients
- Optical Flow

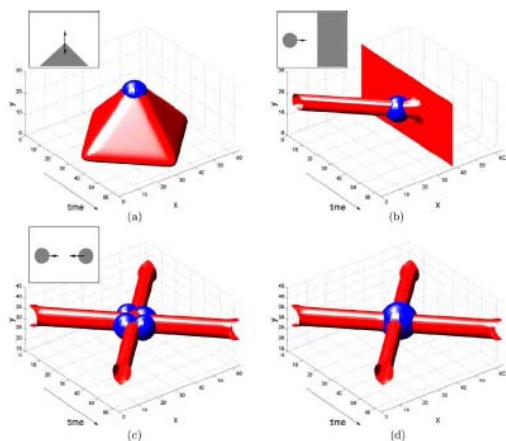


block-histogram
features:

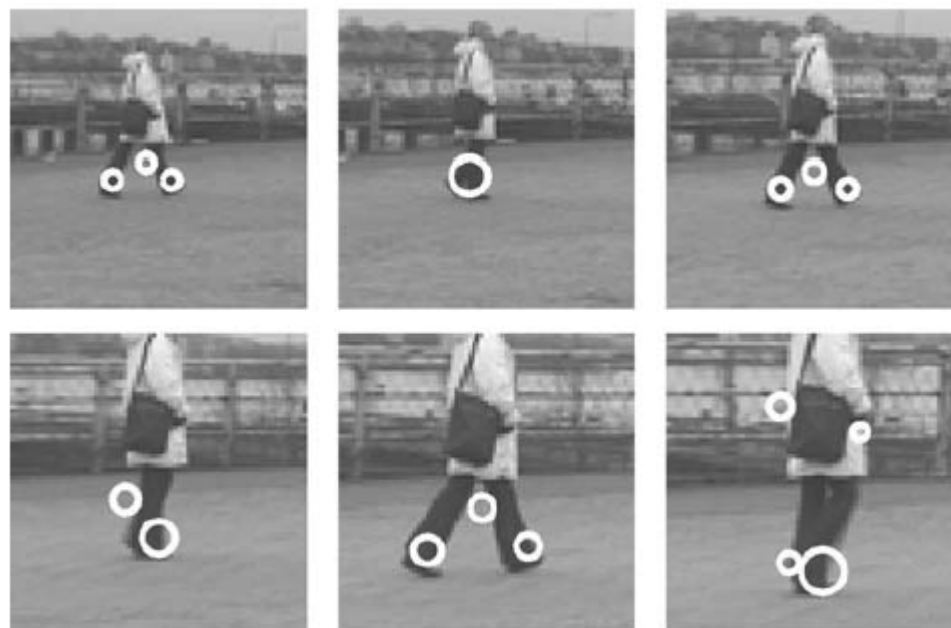


Features for Classifying Actions

2. Spatio-temporal interest points



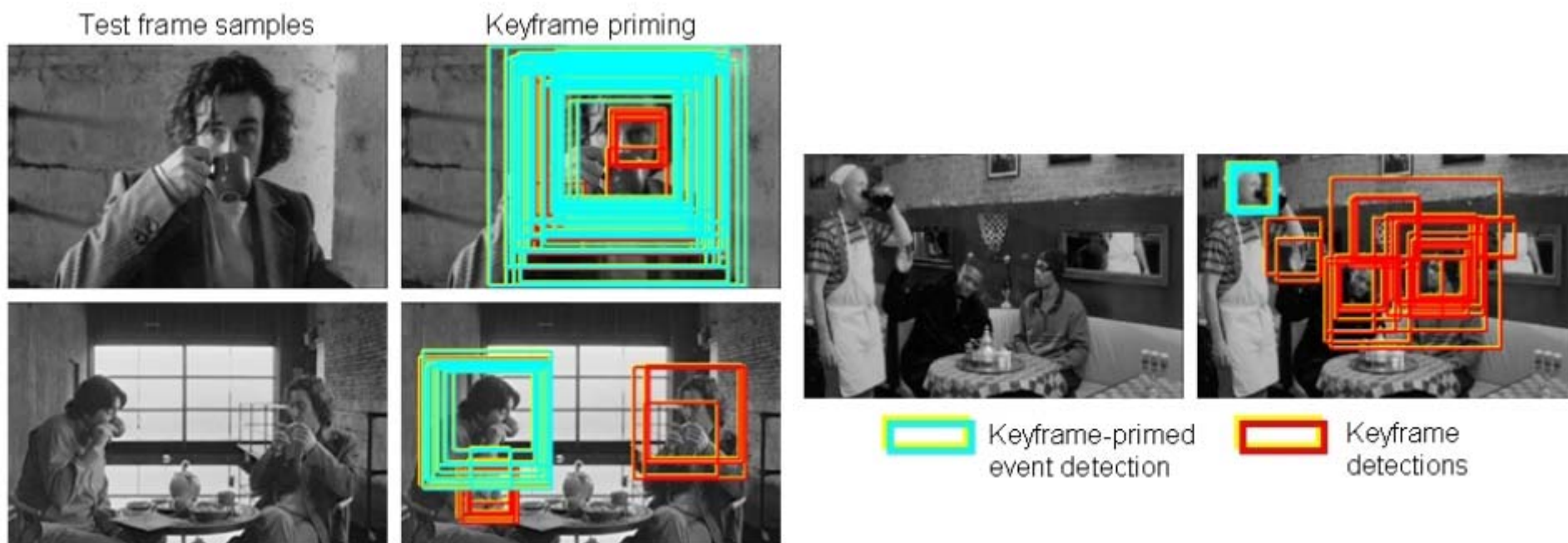
Corner detectors in space-time



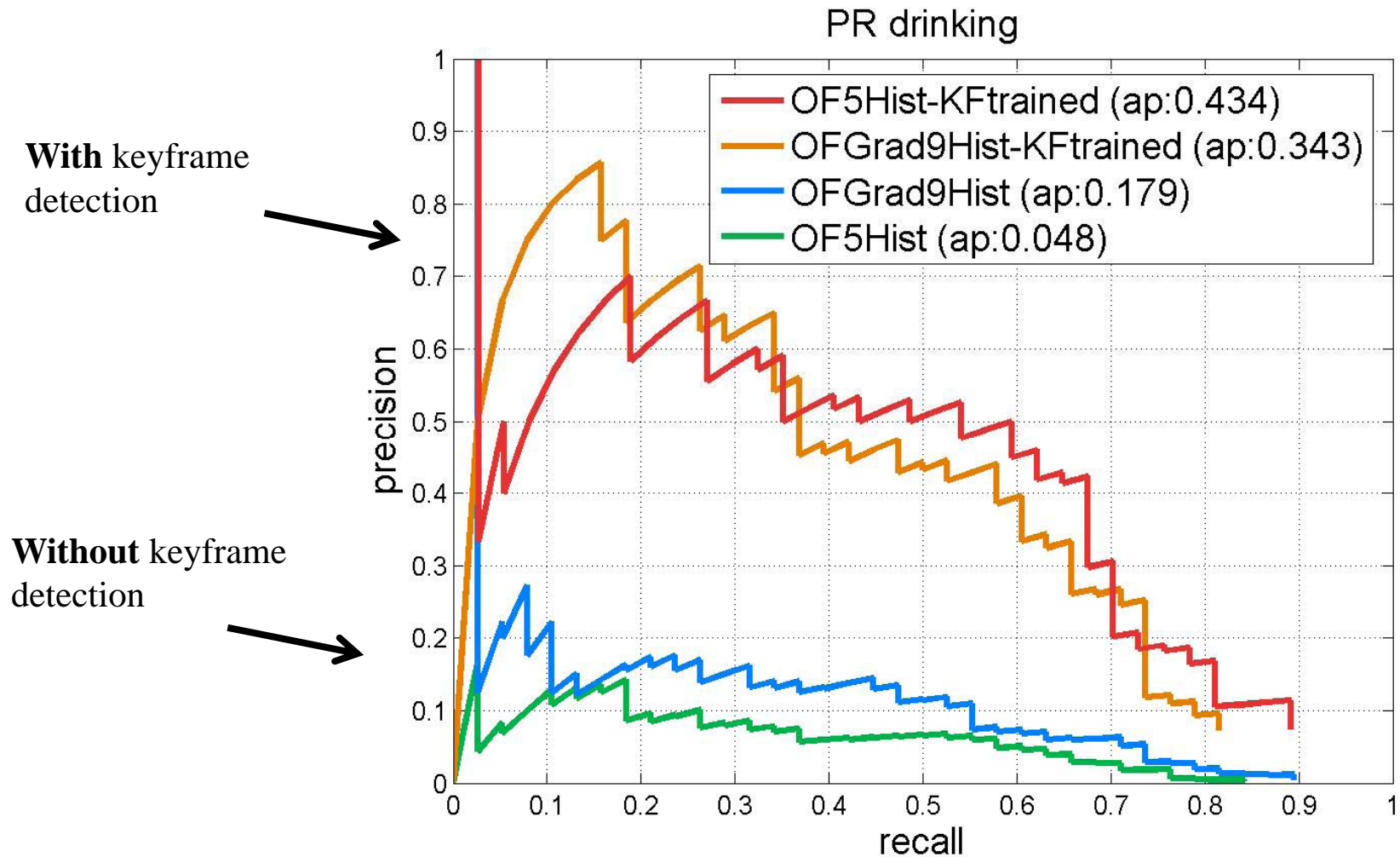
Descriptors based on Gaussian derivative filters over x , y , time

Searching the video for an action

1. Detect keyframes using a trained HOG detector in each frame
2. Classify detected keyframes as positive (e.g., “drinking”) or negative (“other”)



Accuracy in searching video





“Talk on phone”



“Get out of car”

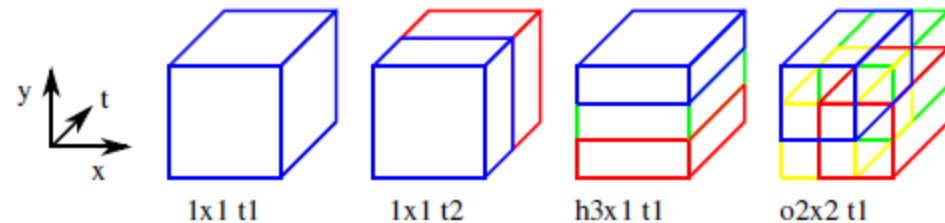
[Learning realistic human actions from movies, Laptev et al. 2008](#)

Approach

- Space-time interest point detectors
- Descriptors
 - HOG, HOF
- Pyramid histograms (3x3x2)
- SVMs with Chi-Squared Kernel



Interest Points



Spatio-Temporal Binning

Results



Task	HoG BoF	HoF BoF	Best channel	Best combination
KTH multi-class	81.6%	89.7%	91.1% (hof h3x1 t3)	91.8% (hof 1 t2, hog 1 t3)
Action AnswerPhone	13.4%	24.6%	26.7% (hof h3x1 t3)	32.1% (hof o2x2 t1, hof h3x1 t3)
Action GetOutCar	21.9%	14.9%	22.5% (hof o2x2 1)	41.5% (hof o2x2 t1, hog h3x1 t1)
Action HandShake	18.6%	12.1%	23.7% (hog h3x1 1)	32.3% (hog h3x1 t1, hog o2x2 t3)
Action HugPerson	29.1%	17.4%	34.9% (hog h3x1 t2)	40.6% (hog 1 t2, hog o2x2 t2, hog h3x1 t2)
Action Kiss	52.0%	36.5%	52.0% (hog 1 1)	53.3% (hog 1 t1, hof 1 t1, hof o2x2 t1)
Action SitDown	29.1%	20.7%	37.8% (hog 1 t2)	38.6% (hog 1 t2, hog 1 t3)
Action SitUp	6.5%	5.7%	15.2% (hog h3x1 t2)	18.2% (hog o2x2 t1, hog o2x2 t2, hog h3x1 t2)
Action StandUp	45.4%	40.0%	45.4% (hog 1 1)	50.5% (hog 1 t1, hof 1 t2)

Action Recognition using Pose and Objects



[Modeling Mutual Context of Object and Human Pose in Human-Object Interaction Activities](#), B. Yao and Li Fei-Fei, 2010

Slide Credit: Yao/Fei-Fei

Human-Object Interaction

Holistic image based classification



Integrated reasoning

- **Human pose estimation**



Human-Object Interaction

Holistic image based classification



Integrated reasoning

- Human pose estimation
- **Object detection**



Human-Object Interaction

Holistic image based classification



Integrated reasoning

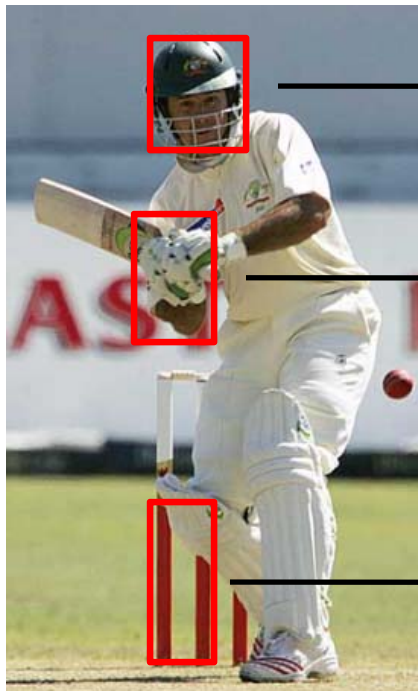
- **Human pose estimation**
- **Object detection**
- **Action categorization**



Activity: Tennis Forehand

Human pose estimation & Object detection

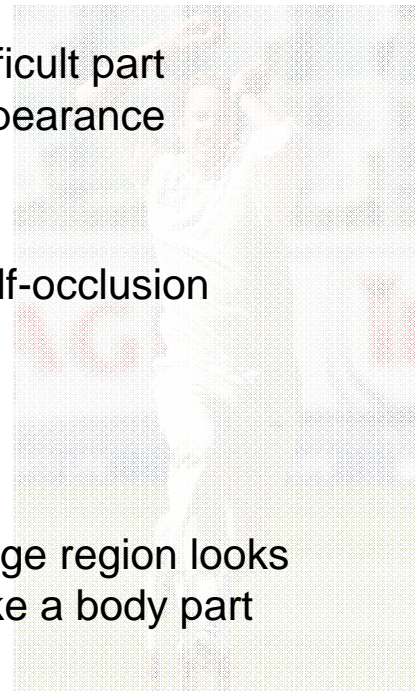
Human pose estimation is challenging.



Difficult part appearance

Self-occlusion

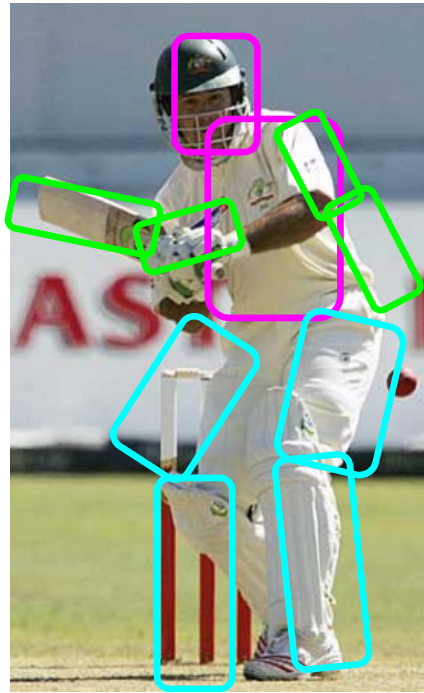
Image region looks like a body part



- Felzenszwalb & Huttenlocher, 2005
- Ren et al, 2005
- Ramanan, 2006
- Ferrari et al, 2008
- Yang & Mori, 2008
- Andriluka et al, 2009
- Eichner & Ferrari, 2009

Human pose estimation & Object detection

Human pose estimation is challenging.

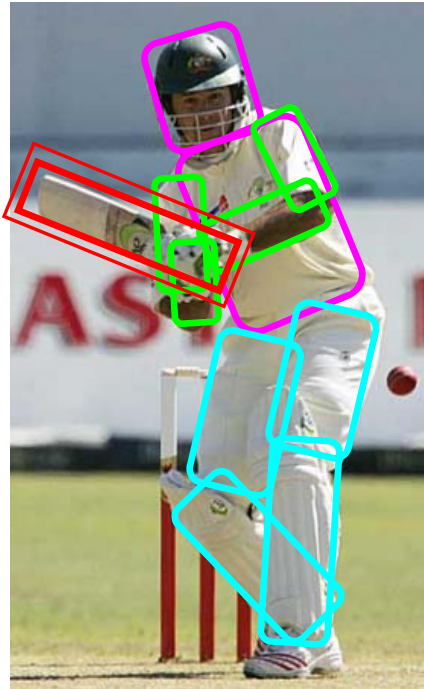


- Felzenszwalb & Huttenlocher, 2005
- Ren et al, 2005
- Ramanan, 2006
- Ferrari et al, 2008
- Yang & Mori, 2008
- Andriluka et al, 2009
- Eichner & Ferrari, 2009

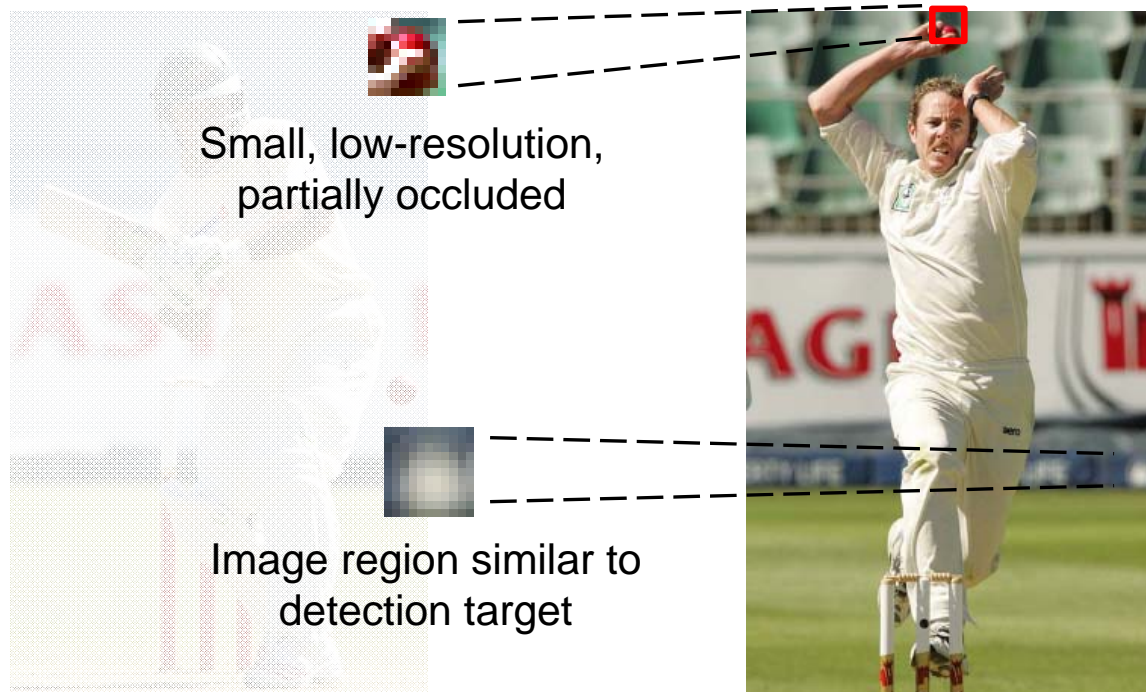
Human pose estimation & Object detection

Facilitate

Given the
object is
detected

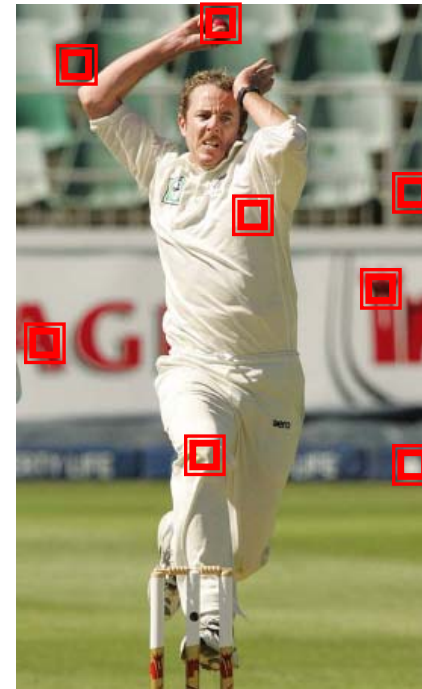


Human pose estimation & Object detection



- Viola & Jones, 2001
- Lampert et al, 2008
- Divvala et al, 2009
- Vedaldi et al, 2009

Human pose estimation & Object detection

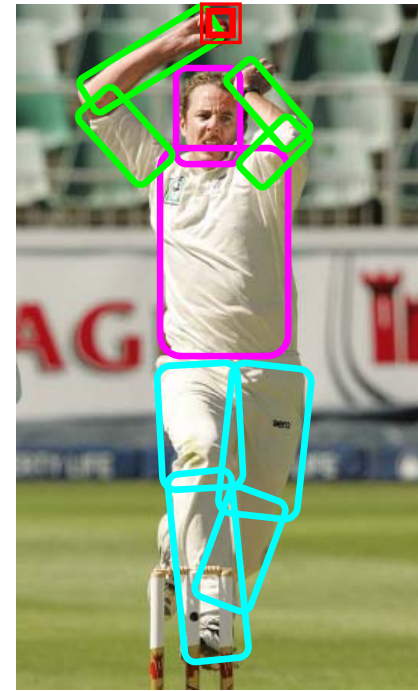


Object detection is challenging

- Viola & Jones, 2001
- Lampert et al, 2008
- Divvala et al, 2009
- Vedaldi et al, 2009

Human pose estimation & Object detection

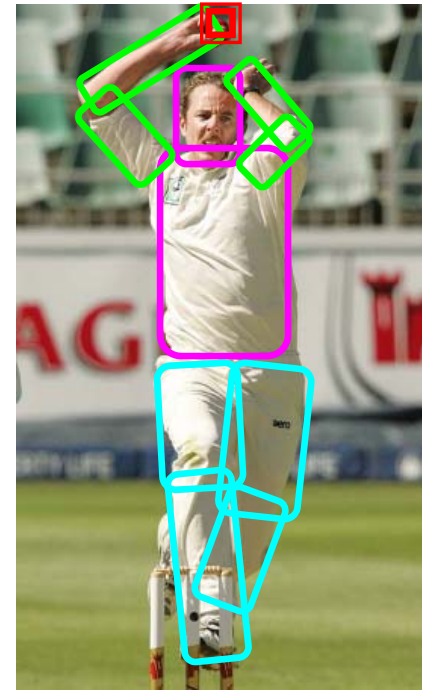
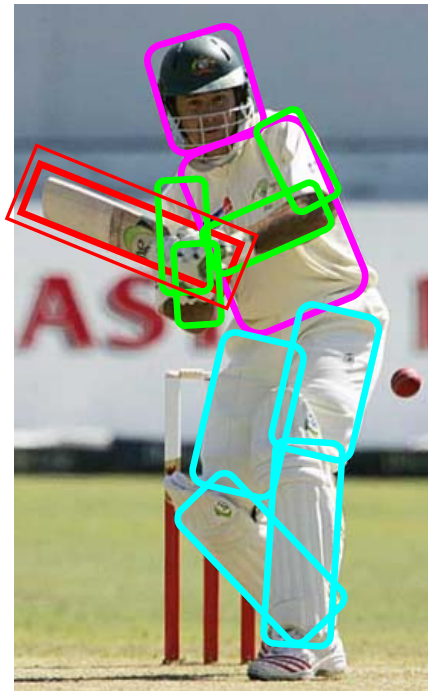
Facilitate



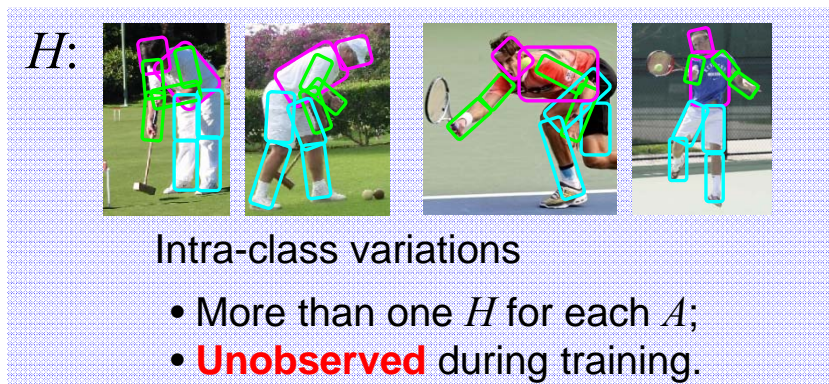
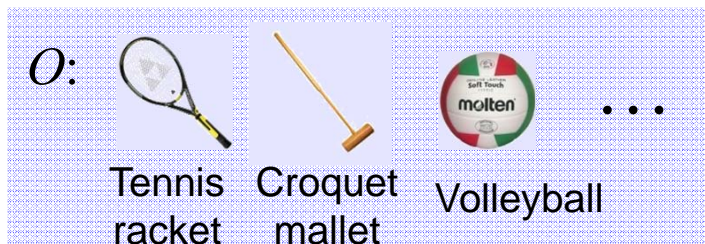
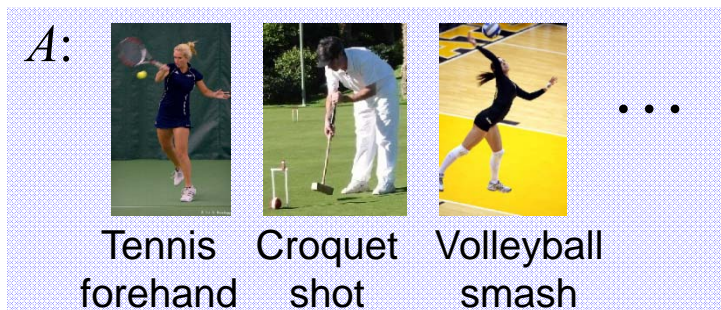
Given the pose is estimated

Human pose estimation & Object detection

Mutual Context

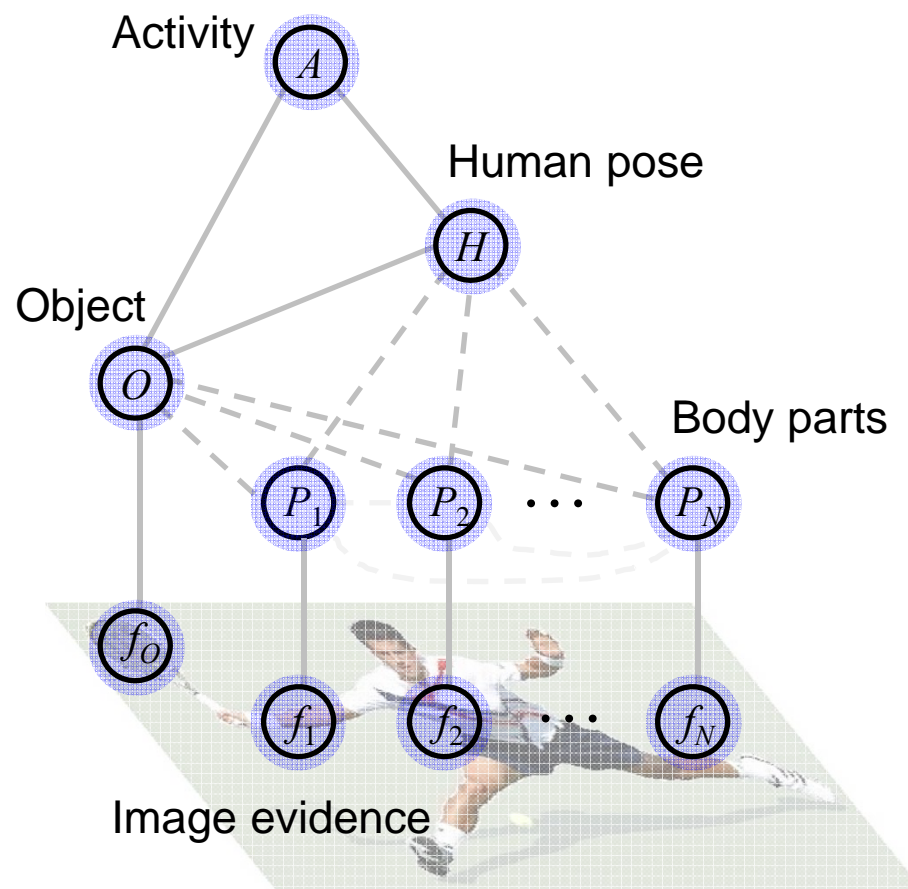


Mutual Context Model Representation



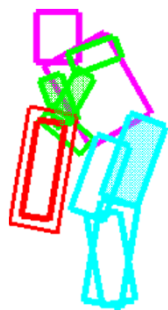
P : l_p : location; θ_p : orientation; s_p : scale.

f : Shape context. [Belongie et al, 2002]



Learning Results

Cricket defensive shot



Cricket bowling

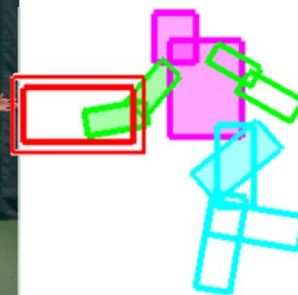


Croquet shot



Learning Results

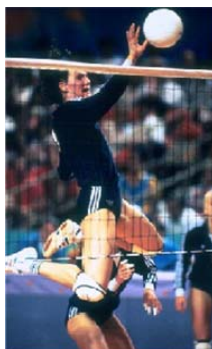
Tennis
forehand



Tennis
serve



Volleyball
smash



Dataset and Experiment Setup

Sport data set: 6 classes

180 training (supervised with object and part locations) & 120 testing images



Cricket
defensive shot



Cricket
bowling



Croquet
shot



Tennis
forehand



Tennis
serve



Volleyball
smash

Tasks:

- Object detection;
- Pose estimation;
- Activity classification.

[Gupta et al,
2009]

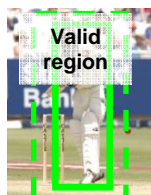
Slide Credit: Yao/Fei-Fei

Object Detection Results



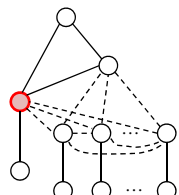
Sliding window

[Andriluka et al, 2009]



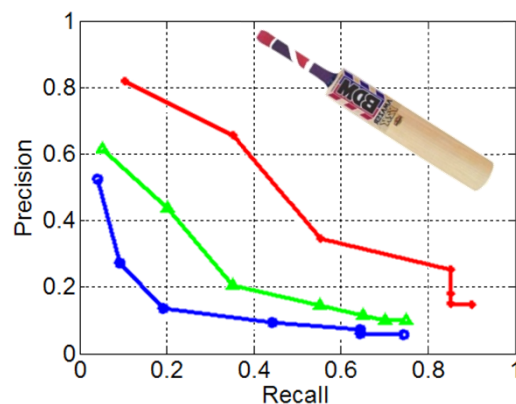
Pedestrian context

[Dalal & Triggs, 2006]

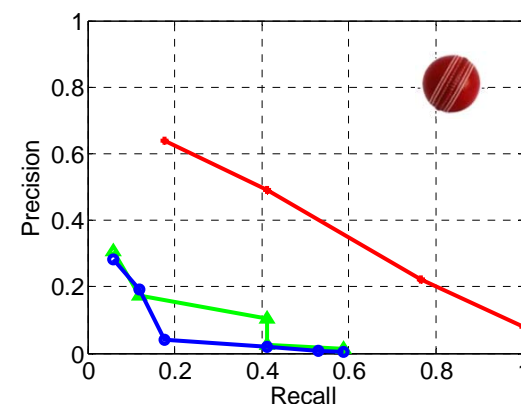


Our Method

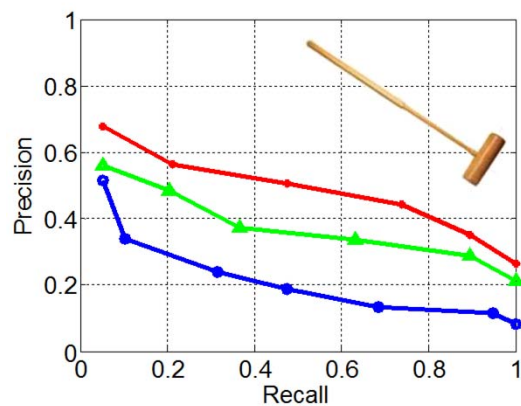
Cricket bat



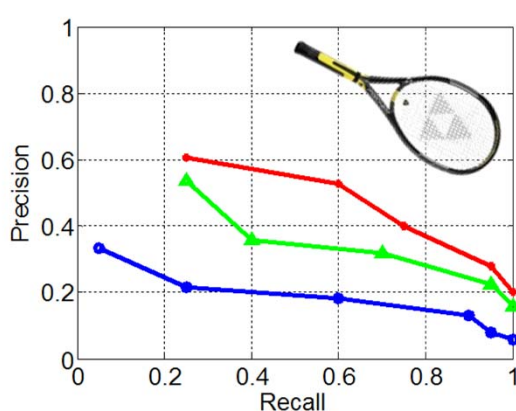
Cricket ball



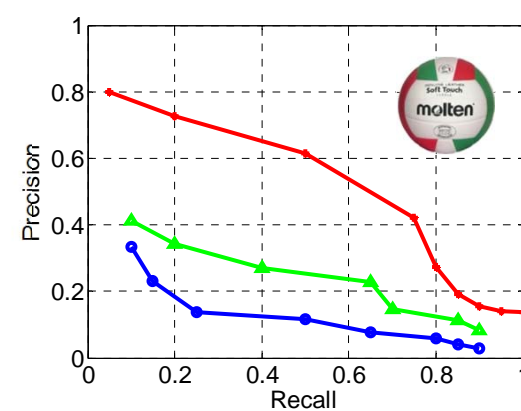
Croquet mallet



Tennis racket



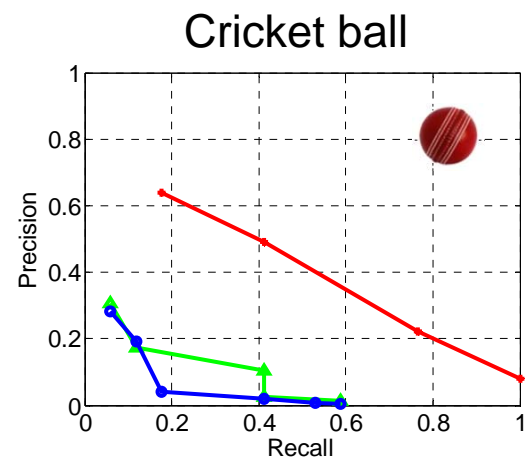
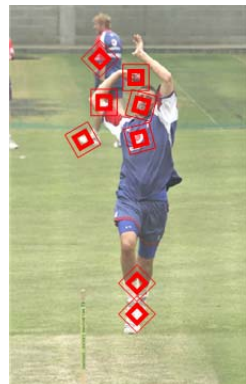
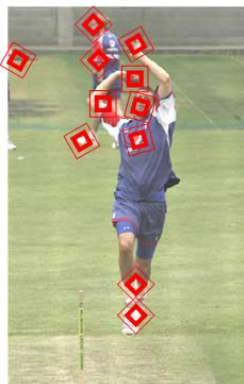
Volleyball



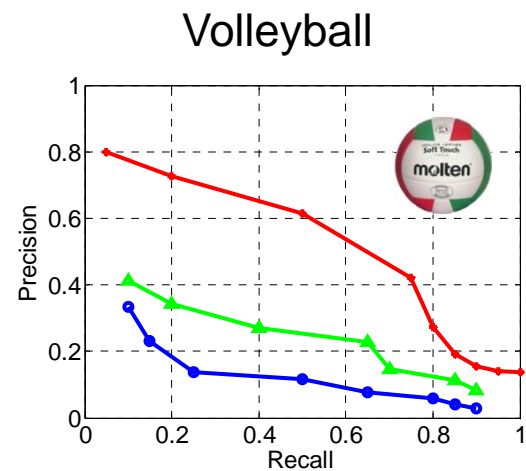
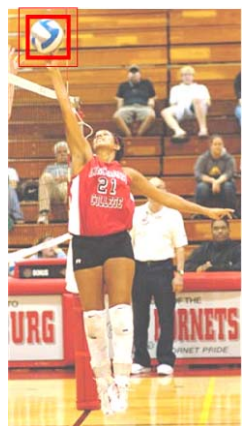
Object Detection Results

● Sliding window
 ▲ Pedestrian context
 ◆ Our method

Small object



Background clutter



Dataset and Experiment Setup

Sport data set: 6 classes

180 training & 120 testing images



Cricket
defensive
shot



Cricket
bowling



Croquet
shot



Tennis
forehand



Tennis
serve



Volleyball
smash

Tasks:

- Object detection;
- **Pose estimation;**
- Activity classification.

[Gupta et al,
2009]

Human Pose Estimation Results

Method	Torso	Upper Leg		Lower Leg		Upper Arm		Lower Arm		Head
Ramanan, 2006	.52	.22	.22	.21	.28	.24	.28	.17	.14	.42
Andriluka et al, 2009	.50	.31	.30	.31	.27	.18	.19	.11	.11	.45
Our full model	.66	.43	.39	.44	.34	.44	.40	.27	.29	.58

Human Pose Estimation Results

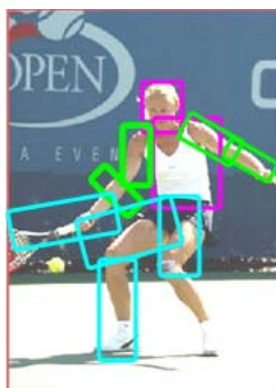
Method	Torso	Upper Leg		Lower Leg		Upper Arm		Lower Arm		Head
Ramanan, 2006	.52	.22	.22	.21	.28	.24	.28	.17	.14	.42
Andriluka et al, 2009	.50	.31	.30	.31	.27	.18	.19	.11	.11	.45
Our full model	.66	.43	.39	.44	.34	.44	.40	.27	.29	.58



Tennis serve model



Our estimation result



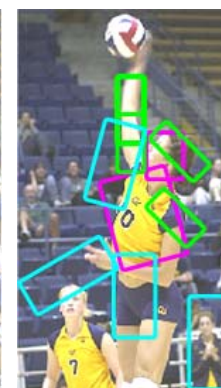
Andriluka et al, 2009



Volleyball smash model



Our estimation result



Andriluka et al, 2009

Dataset and Experiment Setup

Sport data set: 6 classes

180 training & 120 testing images



Cricket
defensive
shot



Cricket
bowling



Croquet
shot



Tennis
forehand



Tennis
serve



Volleyball
smash

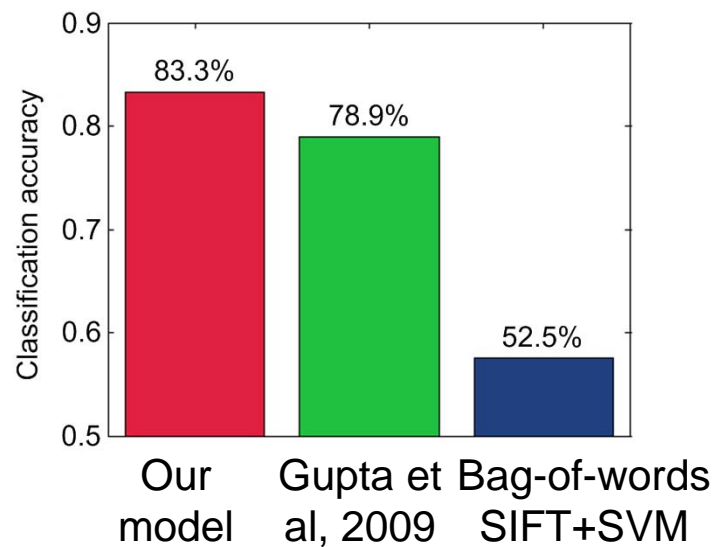
Tasks:

- Object detection;
- Pose estimation;
- **Activity classification.**

[Gupta et al,
2009]

Slide Credit: Yao/Fei-Fei

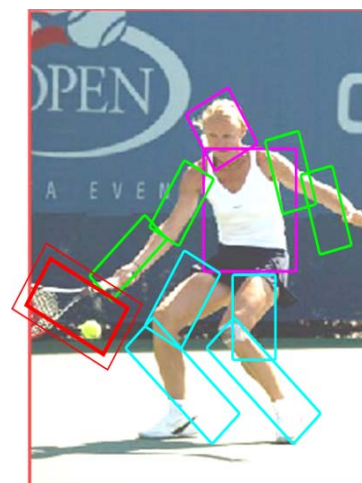
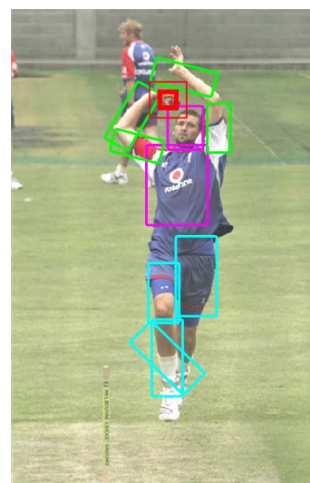
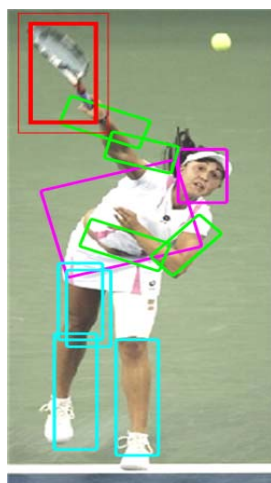
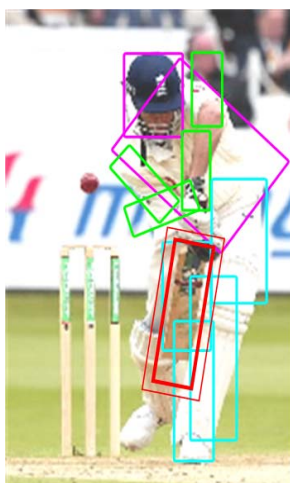
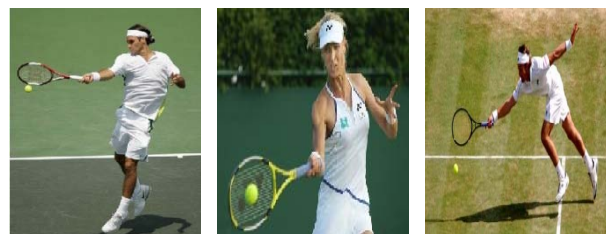
Activity Classification Results



Cricket shot



Tennis forehand



Slide Credit: Yao/Fei-Fei

Take-home messages

- Action recognition is an open problem.
 - How to define actions?
 - How to infer them?
 - What are good visual cues?
 - How do we incorporate higher level reasoning?

Take-home messages

- Some work done, but it is just the beginning of exploring the problem. So far...
 - Actions are mainly categorical (could be framed in terms of effect or intent)
 - Most approaches are classification using simple features (spatial-temporal histograms of gradients or flow, s-t interest points, SIFT in images)
 - Just a couple works on how to incorporate pose and objects
 - Not much idea of how to reason about long-term activities or to describe video sequences

Sources of inspiration

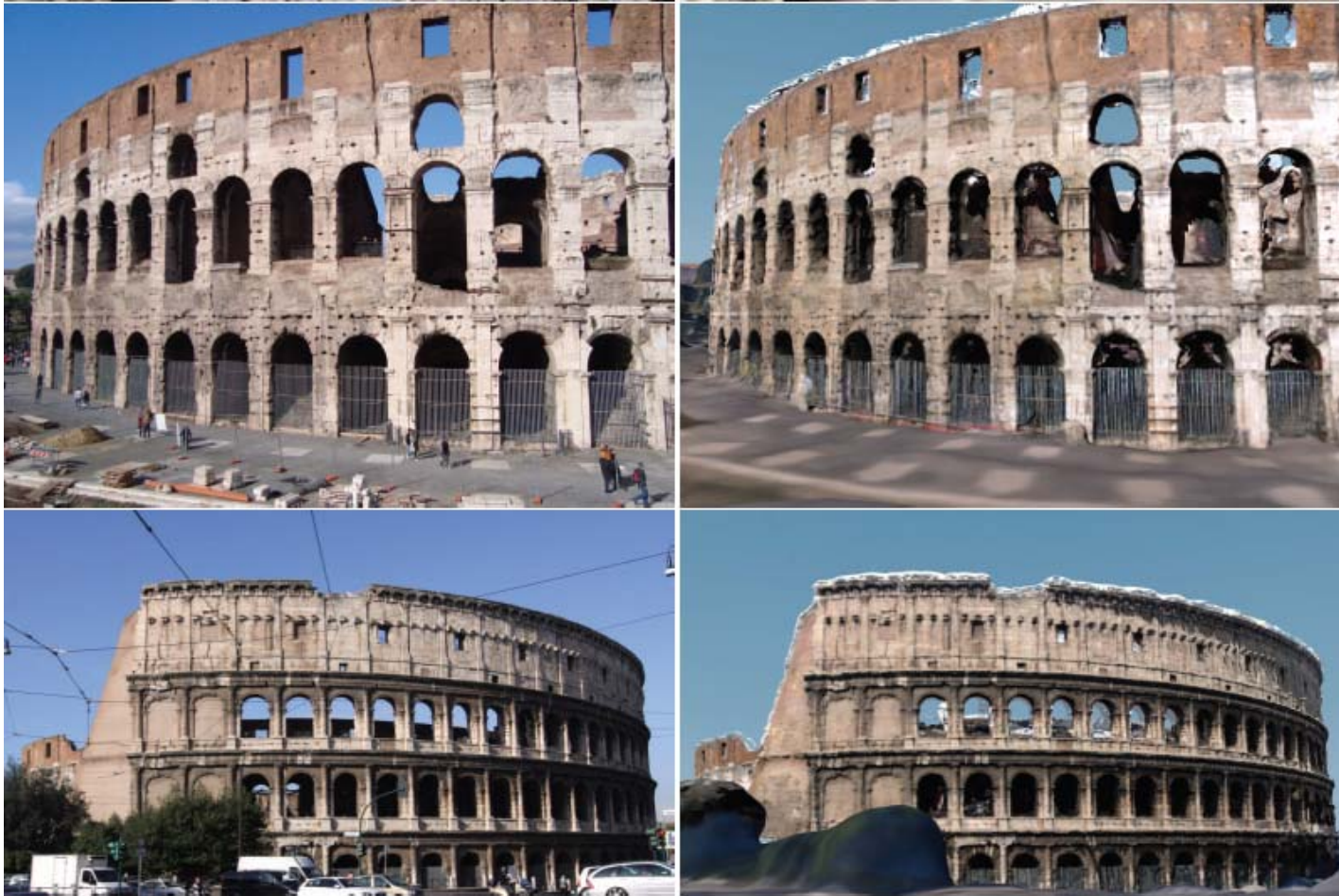
... at least for me

The Campanile Movie



Paul E. Debevec, Camillo J. Taylor, and Jitendra Malik
University of California at Berkeley

The Visual Turing Test for Scene Reconstruction



Qi Shan, Riley Adams, Brian Curless, Yasutaka Furukawa, and Steven M. Seitz
University of Washington and Google Inc.

High-Quality Streamable Free-Viewpoint Video



Alvaro Collet, Ming Chuang, Pat Sweeney, Don Gillett, Dennis Evseev, David Calabrese,
Hugues Hoppe, Adam Kirk, Steve Sullivan
MICROSOFT CORPORATION