

# Camera Models and Image Formation

Srikumar Ramalingam

School of Computing

University of Utah

[srikumar@cs.utah.edu](mailto:srikumar@cs.utah.edu)

# Reference

Most slides are adapted from the following notes:

- [Some lecture notes on geometric computer vision](#) (available online) by Peter Sturm



# 3D Street Art

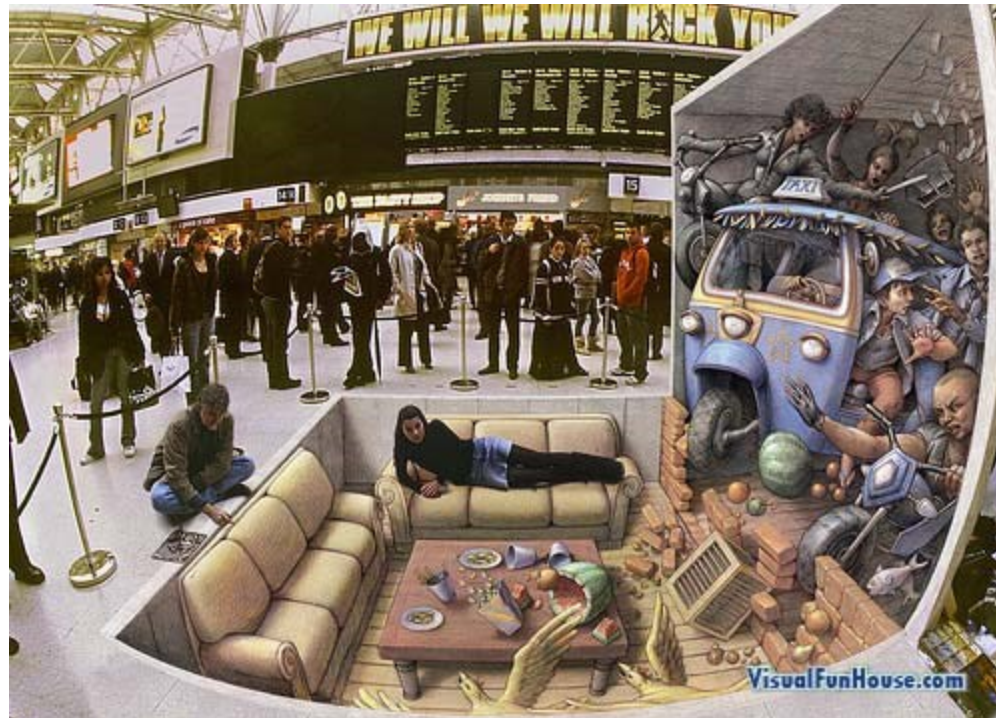


Image courtesy: Julian Beaver (VisualFunHouse.com)

# 3D Street Art



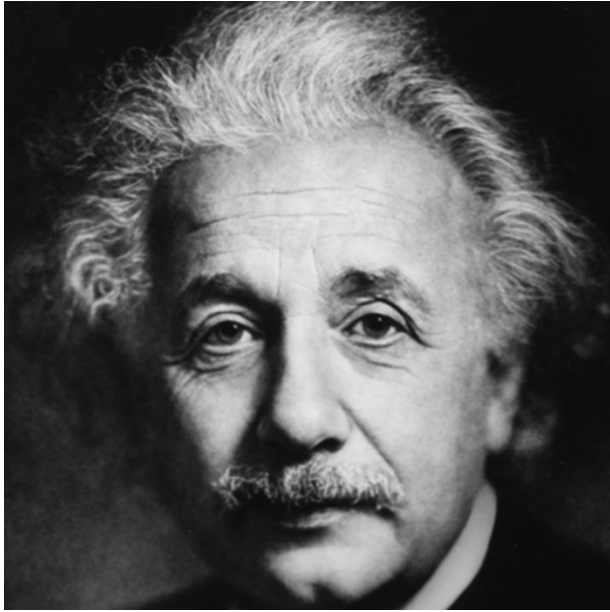
Image courtesy: Julian Beaver (VisualFunHouse.com)

# 3D Street Art

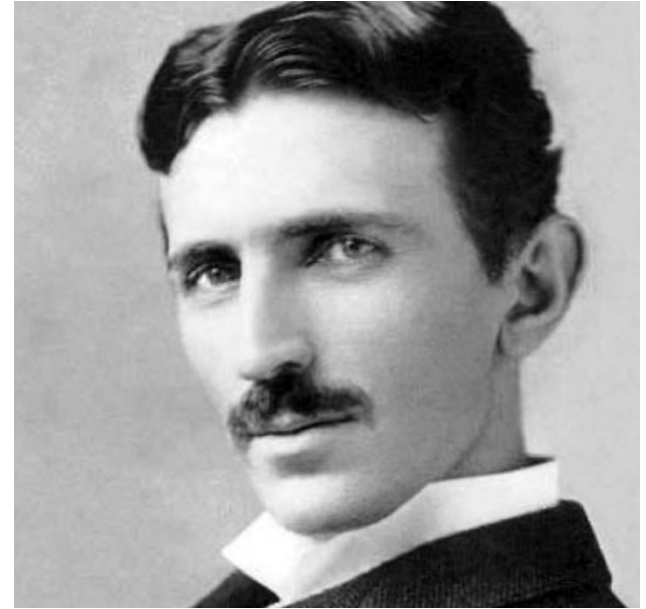


Image courtesy: Julian Beaver (VisualFunHouse.com)

# Pixels are permuted and replicated



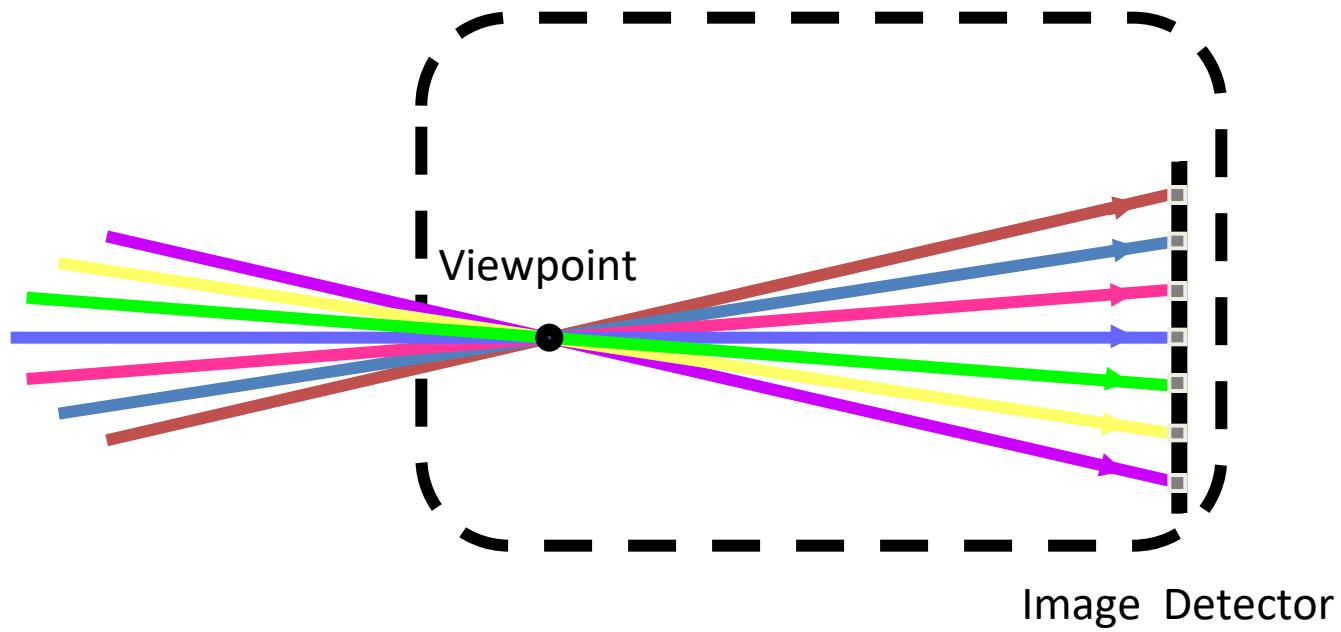
Scene



Output Image

- Is this a camera?

# Perspective Imaging





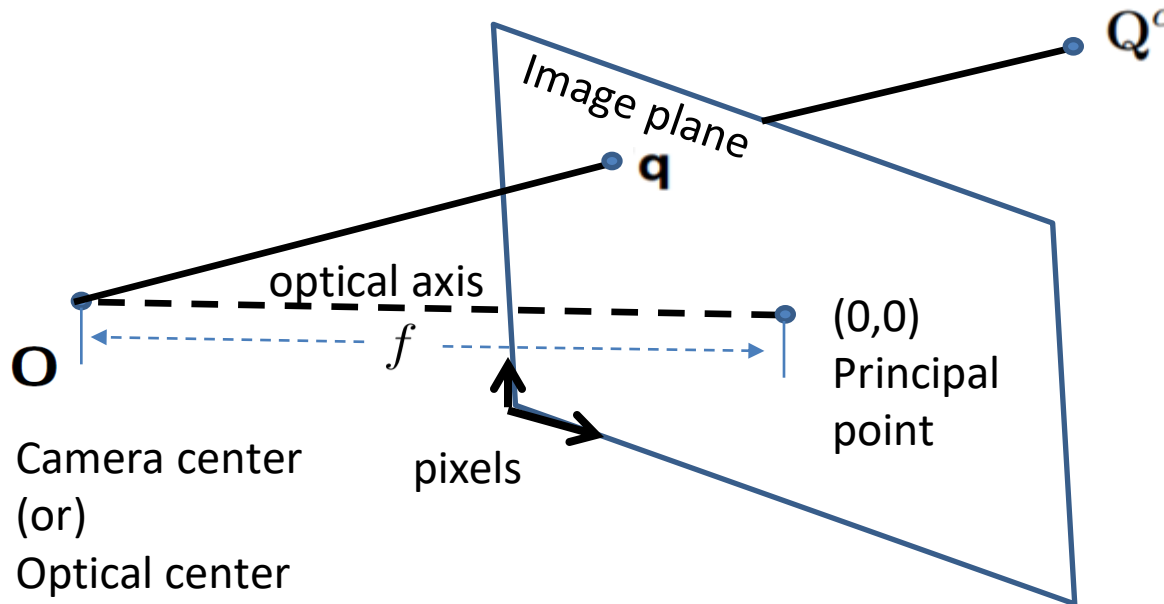
# Many Types of Imaging Systems



# Pinhole model

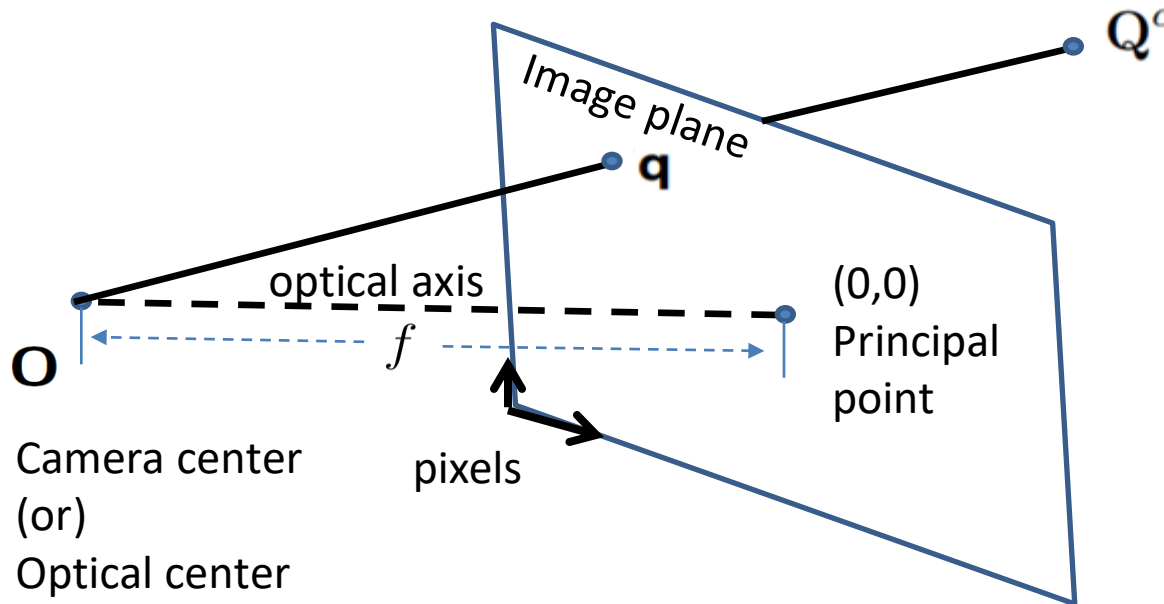
- A camera maps the 3D world to a 2D image.
- Many such mappings or camera models exist.
- A pinhole model is a good approximation for many existing cameras.

# Perspective projection



- A pinhole model can be expressed using an optical center  $O$  and an image plane. We treat the optical center to be the origin of the camera coordinate frame.
- A 3D point  $Q^c$  gets projected along the line of sight that connects it with the optical center  $O$ . Its image point  $q$  is the intersection of this line with the image plane.

# Perspective projection



- We are given the 3D point in the camera coordinate system (exponent “c” denotes the camera coordinate system).

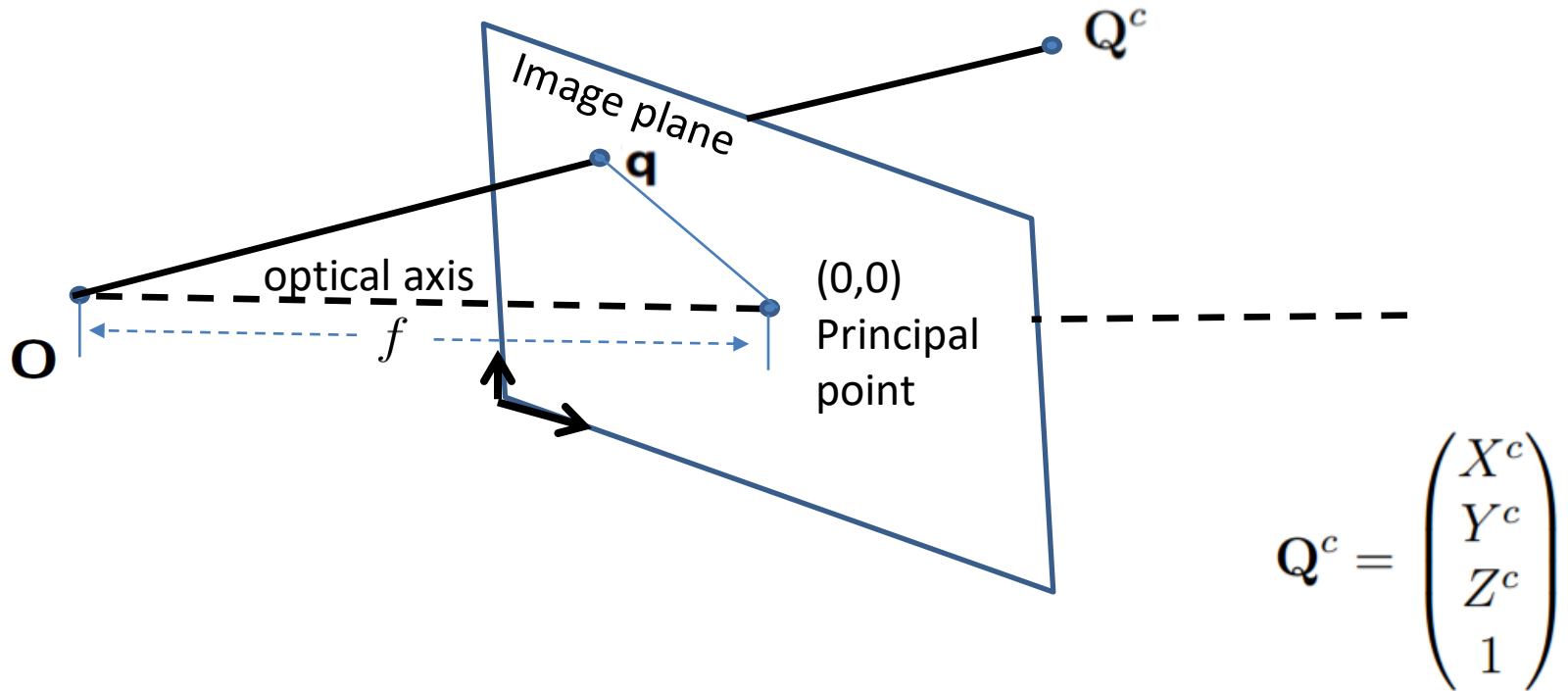
$$Q^c = \begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Why do we have the “1”?

# Why homogenous coordinates?

- Allows us to express common transformations in matrix form:
- Simplifies the concepts such as points at infinity, etc.

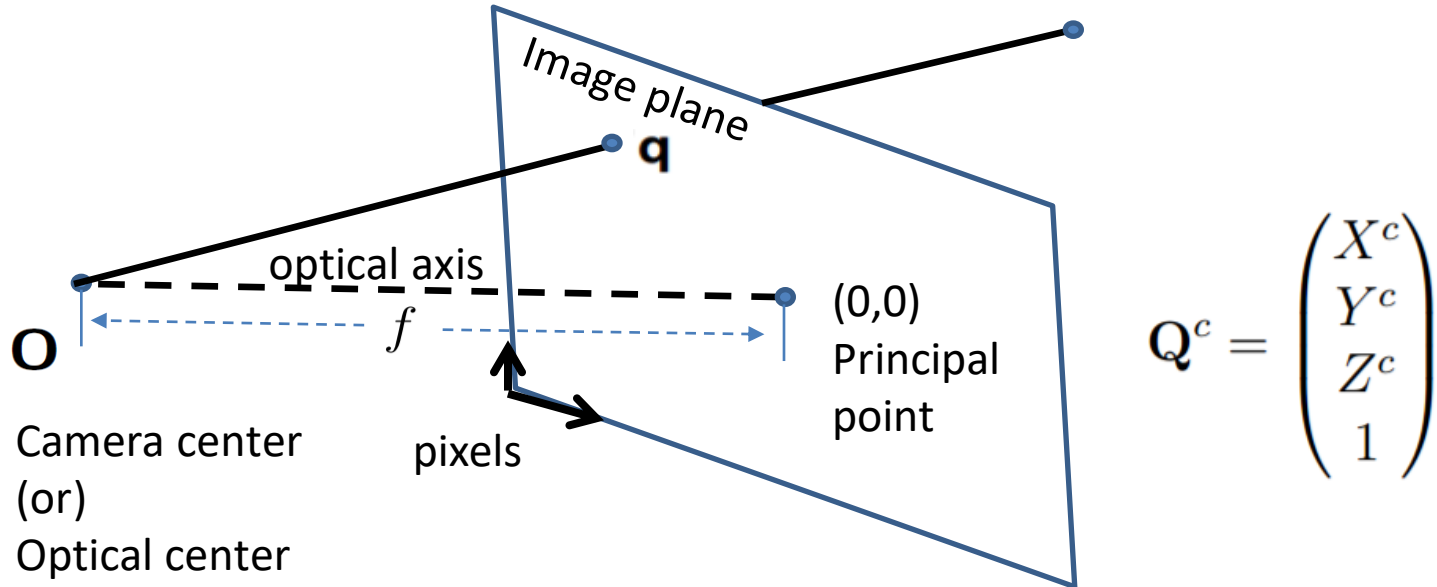
# Perspective projection



- The image point  $q(x, y)$  can be computed using similar triangles:

$$x = f \frac{X^c}{Z^c} \quad y = f \frac{Y^c}{Z^c}$$

# Perspective projection



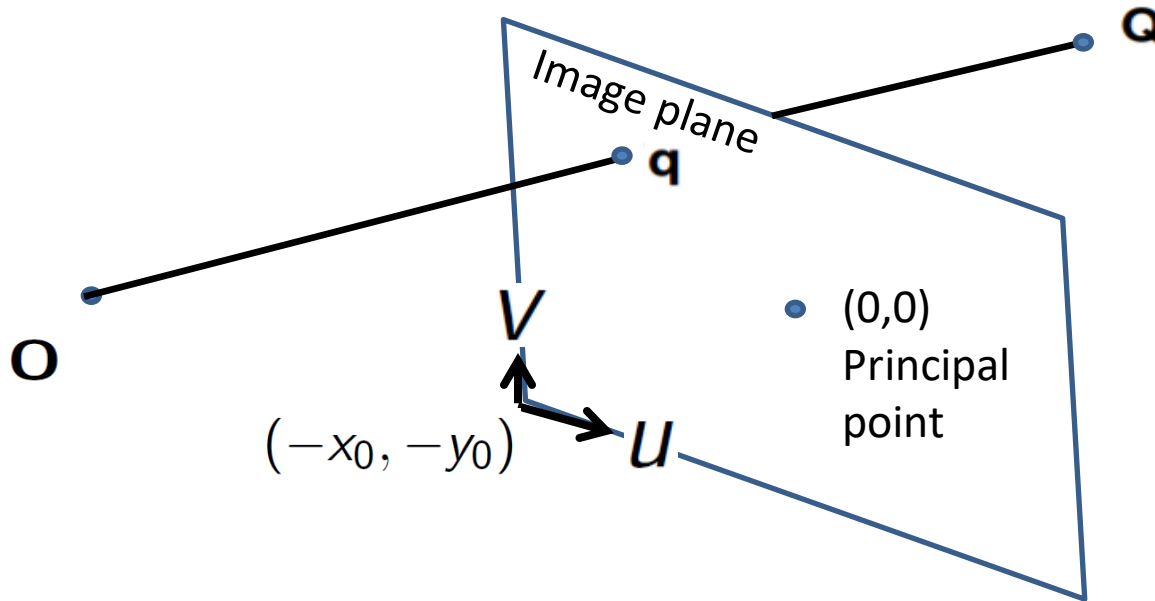
- In homogeneous coordinates (by adding 1 at the end of a vector), these equations can be written in the form of matrix-vector product: “up to a scale” - scalar multiplication does not change the equivalence.

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$





# From image plane to pixel coordinates



- In homogeneous coordinates we have the following for the image point  $q(x, y)$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} k_u & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & x_0 \\ 0 & 1 & y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$


# 3D-to-2D projection

$$\mathbf{q} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} f & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

3D to image plane projection

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} k_u & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & x_0 \\ 0 & 1 & y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Image plane to pixel system


$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} k_u f & 0 & k_u x_0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_v f & k_v y_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# World coordinate frame

- We assume that the 3D point is given in the world coordinate system.
- We model the pose of the camera using a 3x1 translation vector  $\mathbf{t}$  and a 3x3 rotation matrix  $R$ .
- Let us assume that the superscript “m” denotes 3D points in the world coordinate frame, and the transformation to camera frame is given below:

$$\begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \end{pmatrix} = R \left( \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{t} \right) = R \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \end{pmatrix} - R\mathbf{t}$$

# World coordinate frame

$$\begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \end{pmatrix} = R \left( \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{t} \right) = R \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \end{pmatrix} - R\mathbf{t}$$

- Rewriting the above equation in homogeneous coordinates to denote the mapping from world to camera coordinate frame:

$$\begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} R & -R\mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

4x4 matrix

$$\mathbf{0}^T = (0 \ 0 \ 0)$$

# Cross-checking

- We want to ensure that the optical center is the origin of the camera coordinate system.
- In the world coordinate system, the optical center is given by  $\mathbf{t}$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} X^c \\ Y^c \\ Z^c \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} & -\mathbf{R}\mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}^\top & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} & -\mathbf{R}\mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}^\top & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{t} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t} - \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Rotation matrices

- Rotations are orthonormal matrices:
  - their columns are mutually orthogonal 3-vectors of norm 1.
- For a rotation matrix, the determinant value should be equal to +1. For reflection matrix, the determinant value will be -1.
- The inverse of a rotation matrix is its transpose:

$$RR^T = I$$

# Rotation matrices

- Each rotation can be decomposed into three base rotations:

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma & 0 \\ \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta & 0 & \sin \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \beta & 0 & \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ 0 & \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

- The Euler angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are associated with  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  axes respectively.

# Complete Model

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} k_u f & 0 & k_u x_0 & 0 \\ 0 & k_v f & k_v y_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{R} & -\mathbf{R}\mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{0}^\top & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- The following 3x3 matrix is the camera calibration matrix:

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} k_u f & 0 & k_u x_0 \\ 0 & k_v f & k_v y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Projection Matrix

$$P \sim (K \quad \mathbf{0}) \begin{pmatrix} R & -Rt \\ \mathbf{0}^T & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P \sim (KR \quad -KRt)$$

$$P \sim KR (\mathbf{I} \quad -t)$$

- The  $3 \times 4$  matrix is called projection matrix. It maps 3D points to 2D image points, all expressed in homogeneous coordinates.

# Camera Parameters

- Extrinsic parameters – the rotation matrix  $R$  and the translation vector  $\mathbf{t}$  .
- Intrinsic parameters – that explains what happens inside a camera -  $f, k_u, k_v, x_0$  and  $y_0$  .

# Calibration matrix

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} k_u f & 0 & k_u x_0 \\ 0 & k_v f & k_v y_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

There used to be a skew parameter in old cameras, that are not necessary in modern cameras.

- We have 4 parameters defined by 5 coefficients.

# Reparameterization

$$\begin{array}{l} \alpha_u = k_u f \\ \alpha_v = k_v f \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \alpha_u \\ \alpha_v \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Focal lengths} \\ \text{in pixels} \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} u_0 = k_u x_0 \\ v_0 = k_v y_0 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} u_0 \\ v_0 \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Principal point} \\ \text{in pixels} \end{array}$$

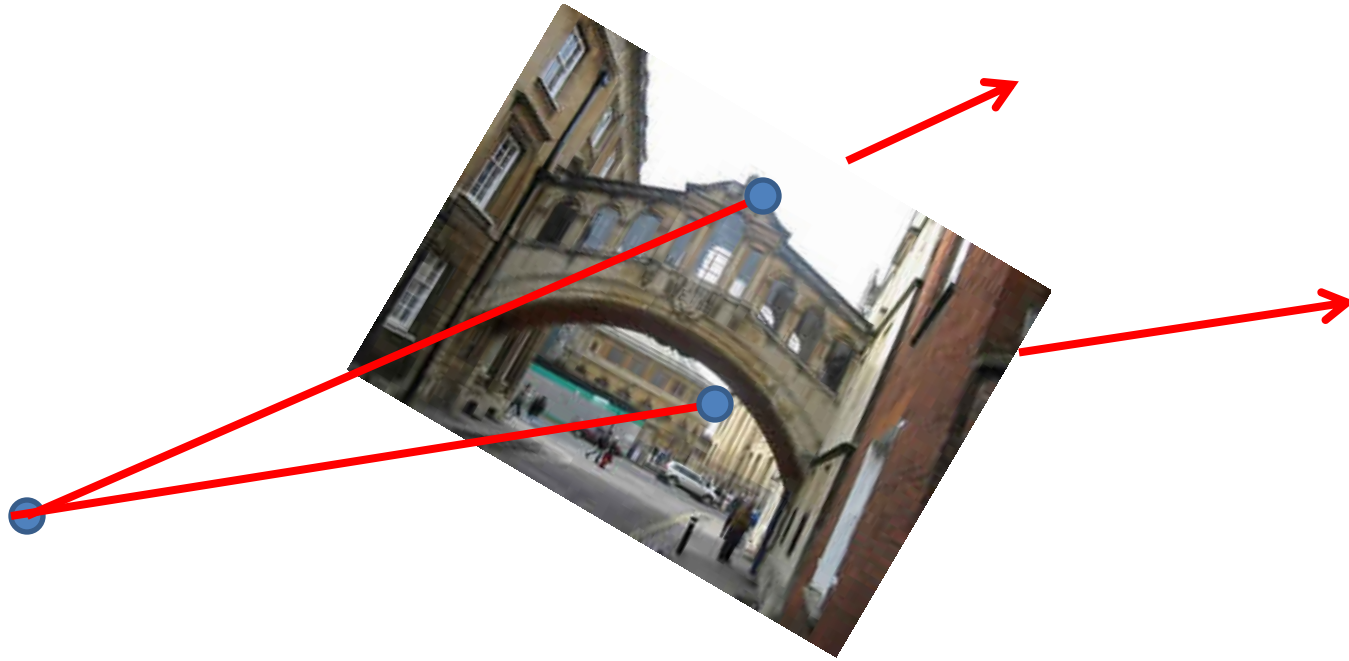
# Calibration Parameters

- Focal length typically ranges to several hundreds of millimeters.
- The photosensitive area of a camera is typically a rectangle with several millimeters side length and the pixel density is usually of the order of one or several hundreds of pixels per mm
- For cameras with well mounted optics, the principal point is usually very close to the center of the photosensitive area.

# What is Camera Calibration?

- The task refers to the problem of computing the calibration matrix.
- We compute the focal length, principal point, and aspect ratio.

# Why do you need calibration?



- For a given pixel, the camera calibration allows you to know the light ray along which the camera samples the world.

# Calibration Toolbox

MATLAB

- [https://www.vision.caltech.edu/bouguetj/calib\\_doc/htmls/example.html](https://www.vision.caltech.edu/bouguetj/calib_doc/htmls/example.html)

OpenCV

- [http://docs.opencv.org/2.4/doc/tutorials/calib3d/camera\\_calibration/camera\\_calibration.html](http://docs.opencv.org/2.4/doc/tutorials/calib3d/camera_calibration/camera_calibration.html)



# Visual SFM

- <http://ccwu.me/vsfm/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHa\\_LBIzDac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHa_LBIzDac)

# Forward and backward projection

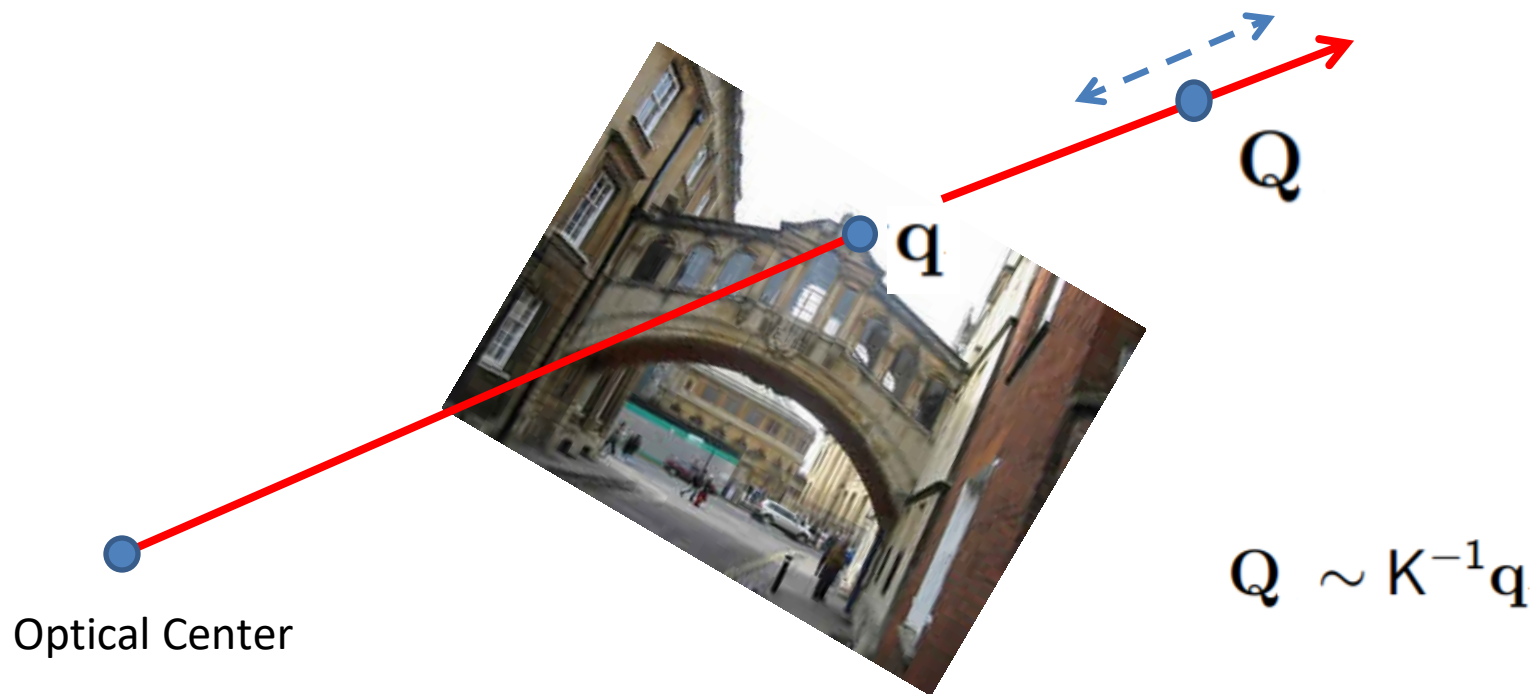
- Forward: The projection of a 3D point on the image:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathbf{KR} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} & -\mathbf{t} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathbf{P} \begin{pmatrix} X^m \\ Y^m \\ Z^m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

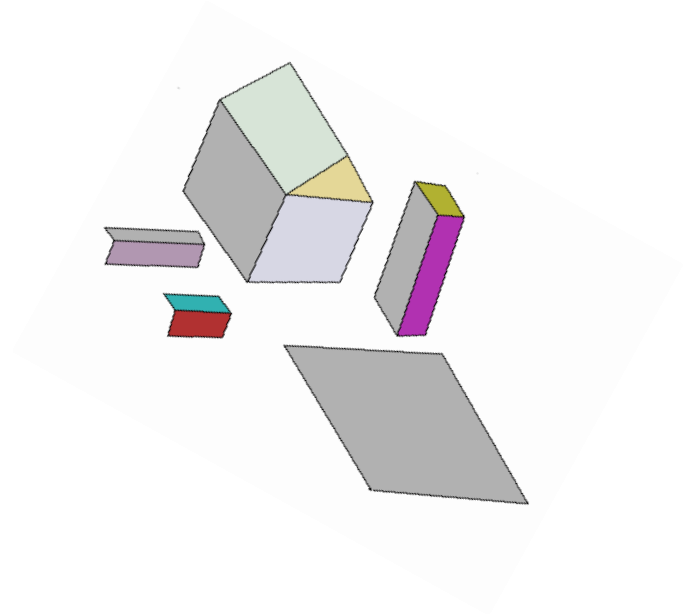
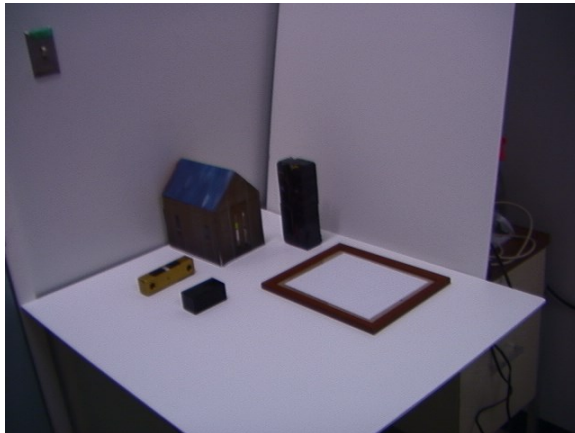
# Forward and backward projection

- Backward projection: Given a pixel in the image, we determine the set of points in space that map to this point.



# Pose estimation

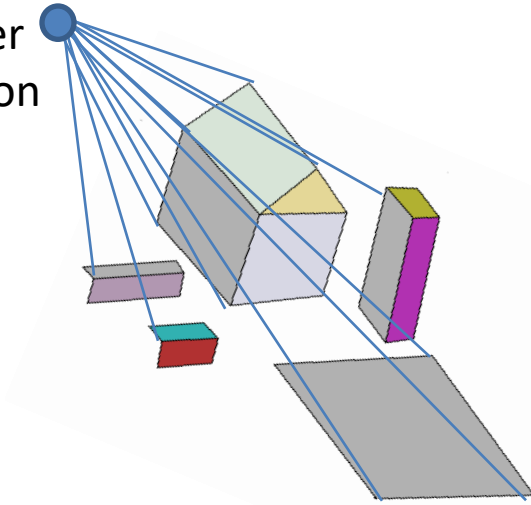
- Given an image of an object whose structure is perfectly known, is it possible find the position and orientation of the camera?



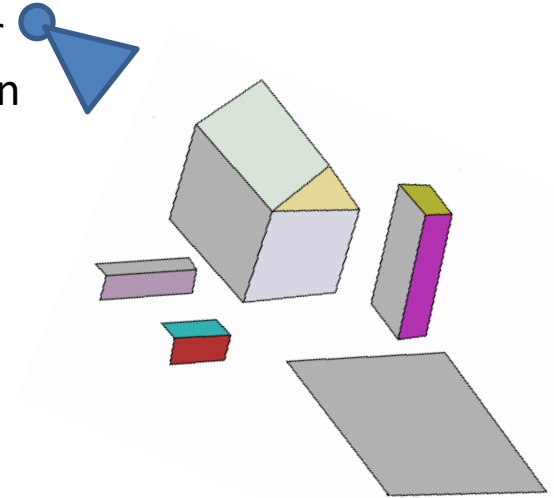
# Pose estimation

Compute the pose  
using constraints  
from the 3D points

Camera center  
and orientation



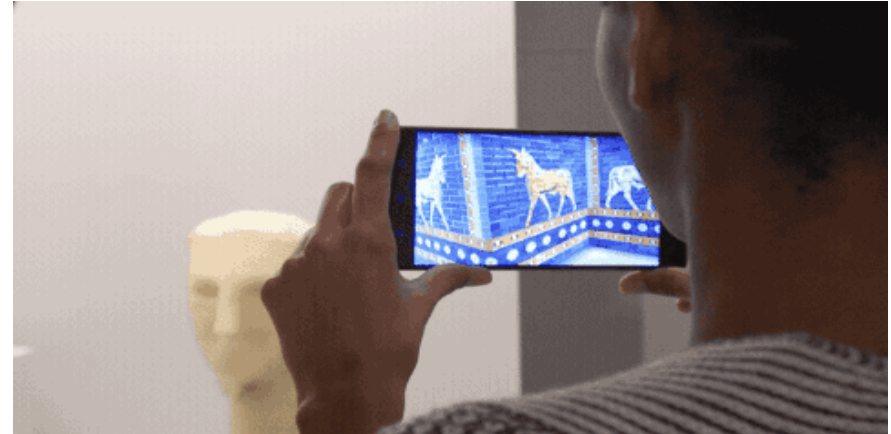
Camera center  
and orientation



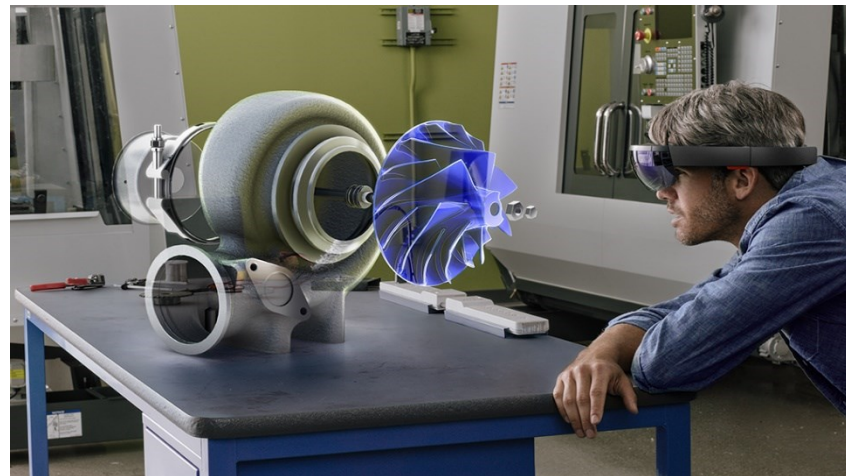
# Where do you find applications for pose estimation?



Image courtesy: Oculus Rift



Google Tango



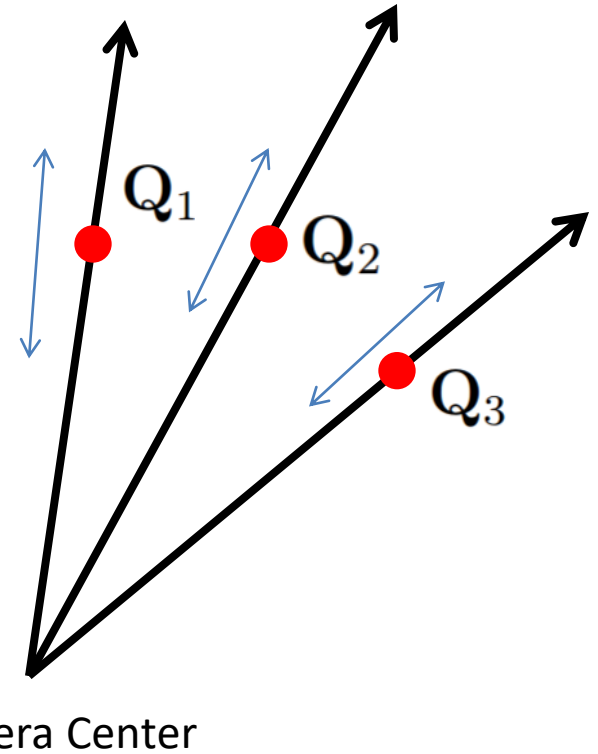
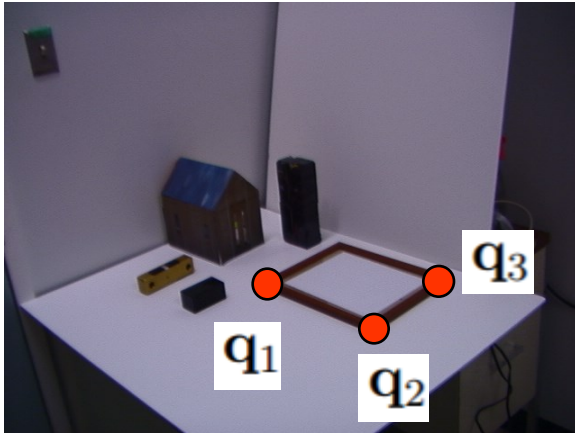
Microsoft HoloLens

# Where do you find applications for pose estimation?



Magic Leap

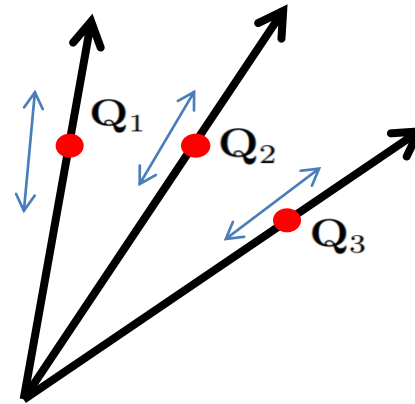
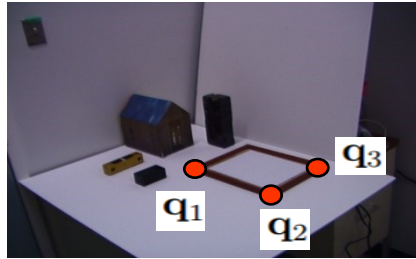
# Pose estimation



What other constraints can you use to find the pose?



# Pose estimation



Camera Center

We are given 3 points on the image and their corresponding 3D points.

$$\mathbf{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{q}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} u_3 \\ v_3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We compute the 2D distances between pairs of 2D points on the image:  $d_{12}$ ,  $d_{13}$  and  $d_{23}$

**Thank You!**