

# Epipolar Geometry

EECS 442 – Prof. David Fouhey  
Winter 2019, University of Michigan

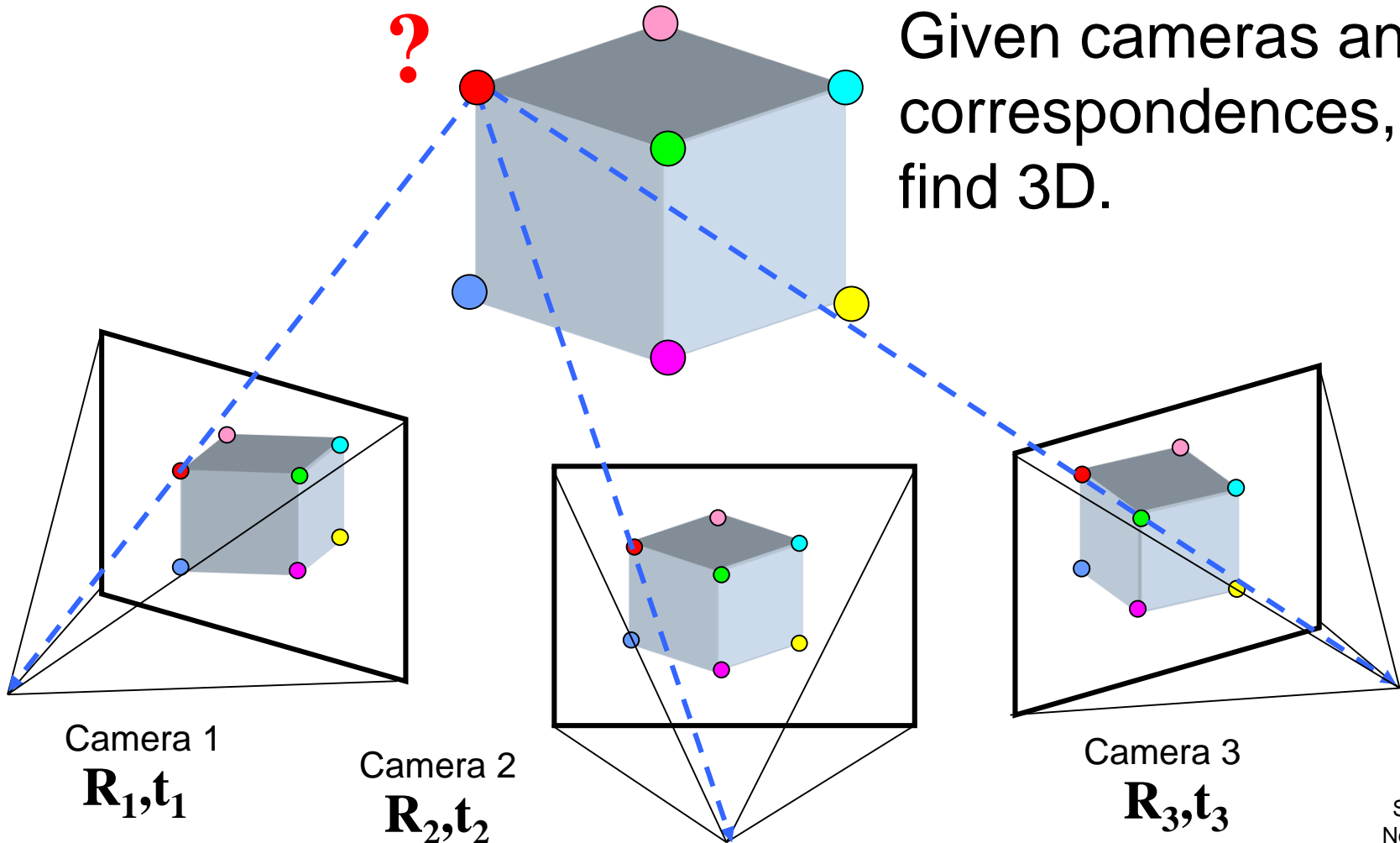
[http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fouhey/teaching/EECS442\\_W19/](http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fouhey/teaching/EECS442_W19/)

# Multi-view geometry



# Multi-view geometry problems

*Recovering structure:*  
Given cameras and correspondences, find 3D.

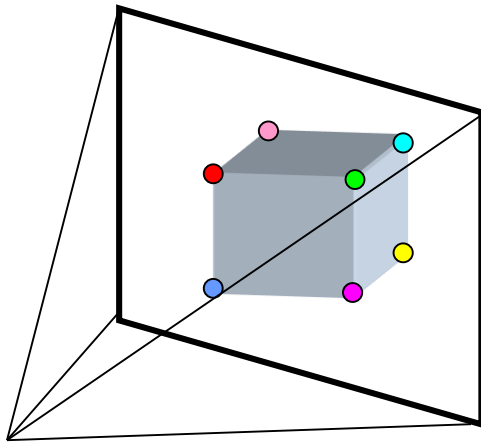
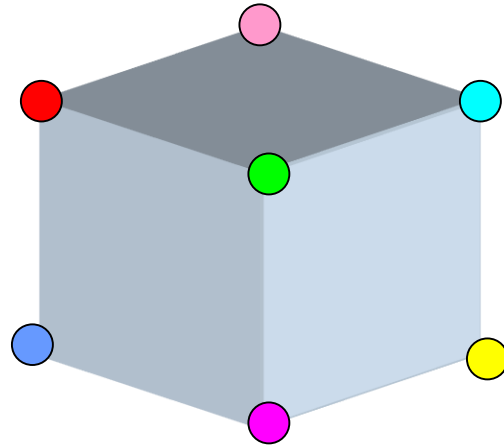




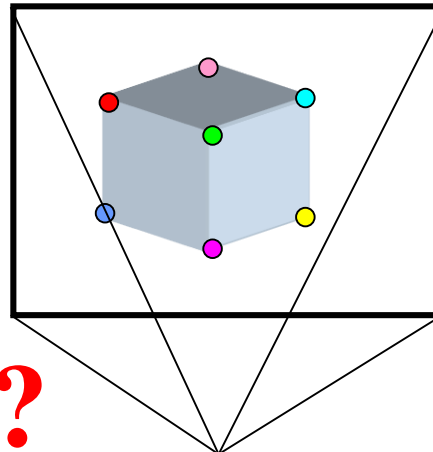
# Multi-view geometry problems

*Motion:*

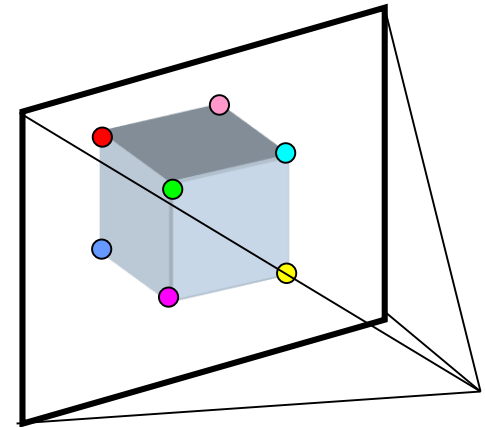
Figure out  $R, t$  for a set of cameras given correspondences



Camera 1  
 $R_1, t_1$  ?



Camera 2  
 $R_2, t_2$  ?

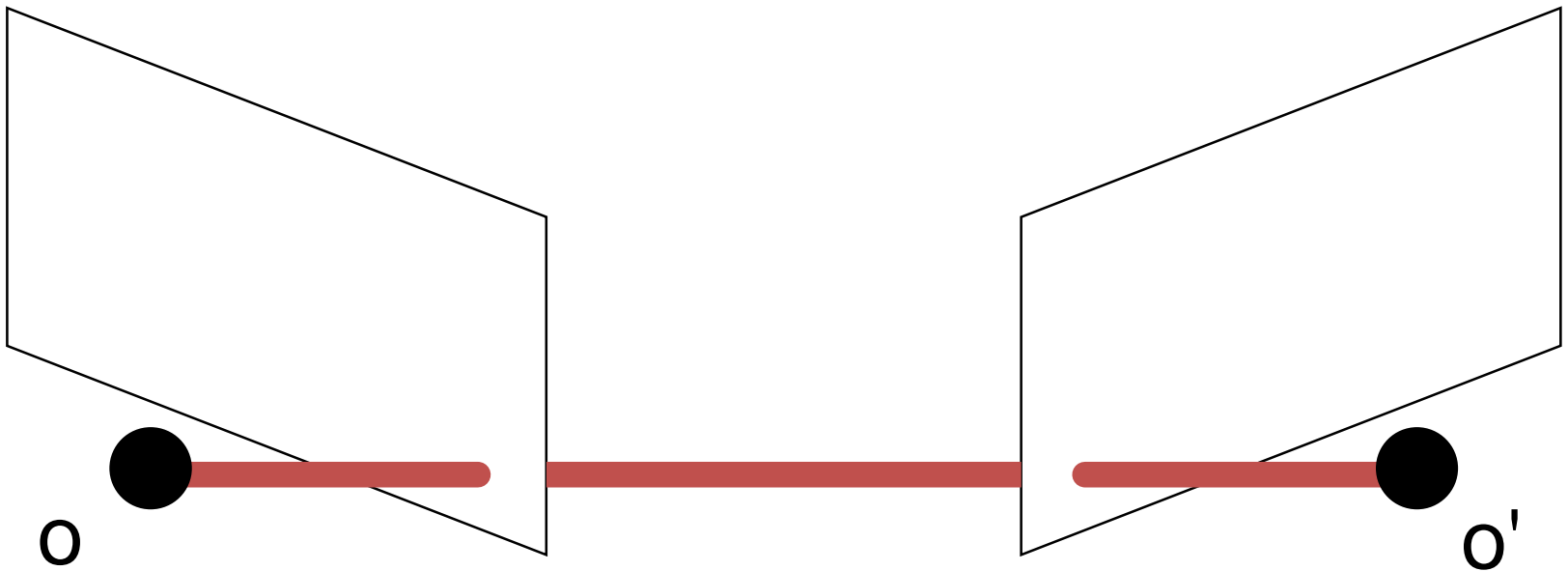


? Camera 3  
 $R_3, t_3$

# Two-view geometry

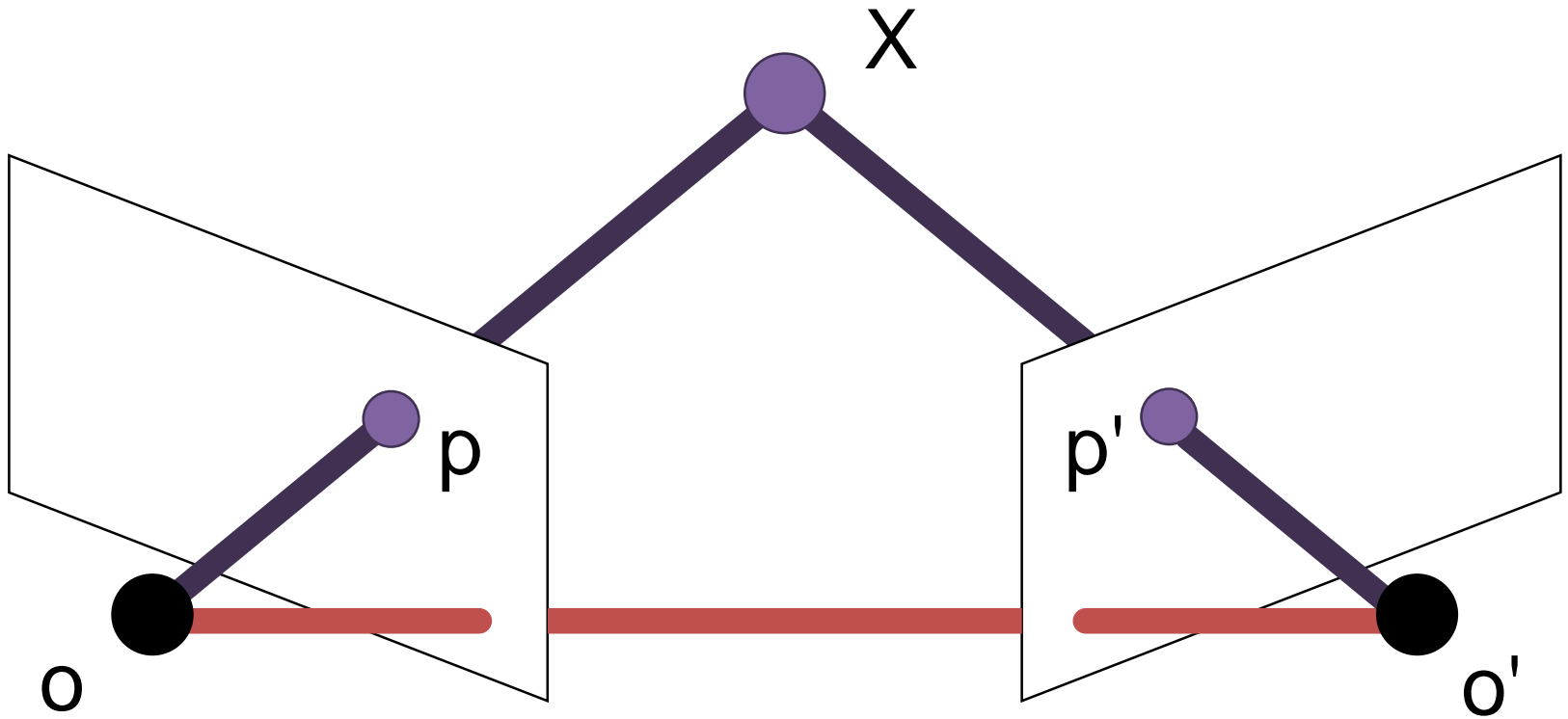


# Epipolar Geometry



Suppose we have two cameras at origins  $o$ ,  $o'$   
**Baseline** is the line connecting the origins

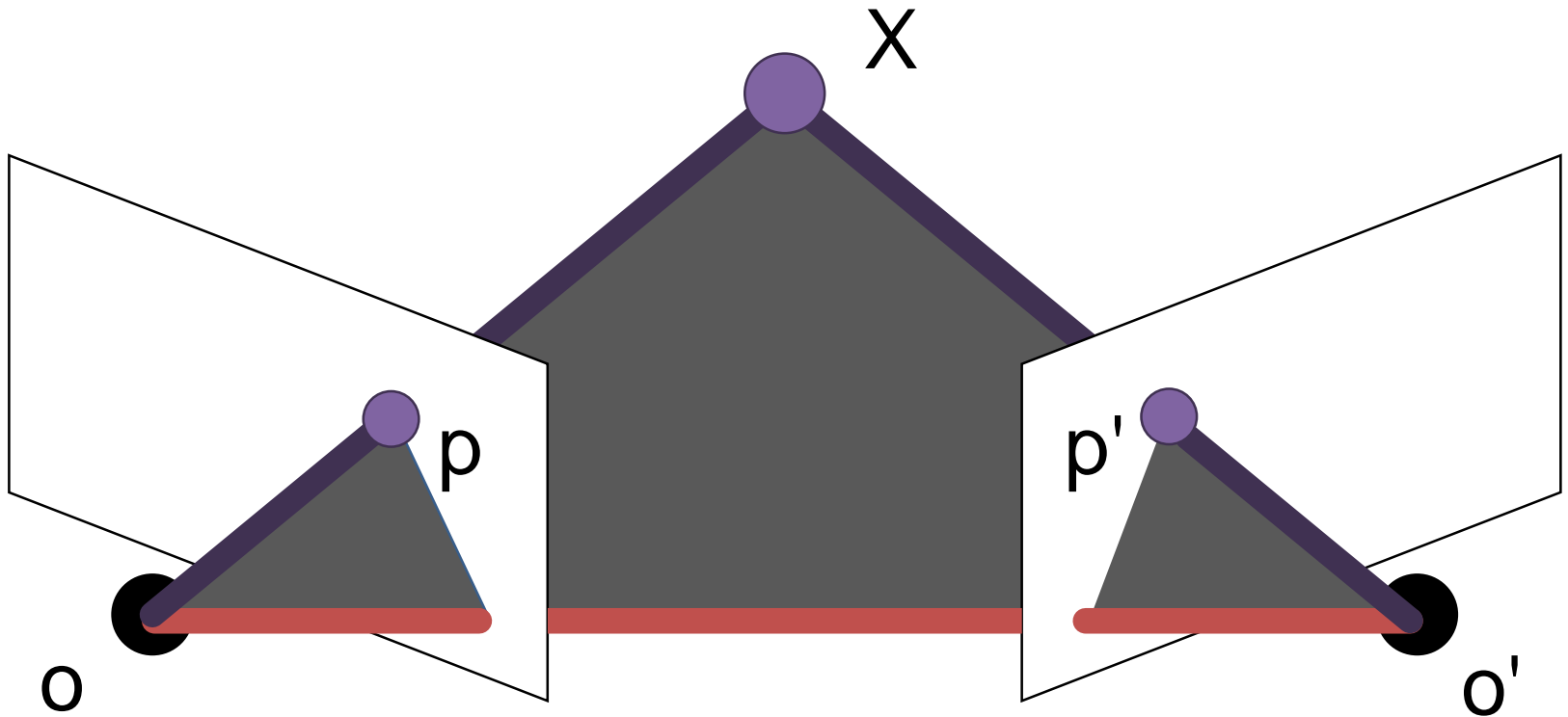
# Epipolar Geometry



Now add a **point  $X$** , which projects to  $p$  and  $p'$

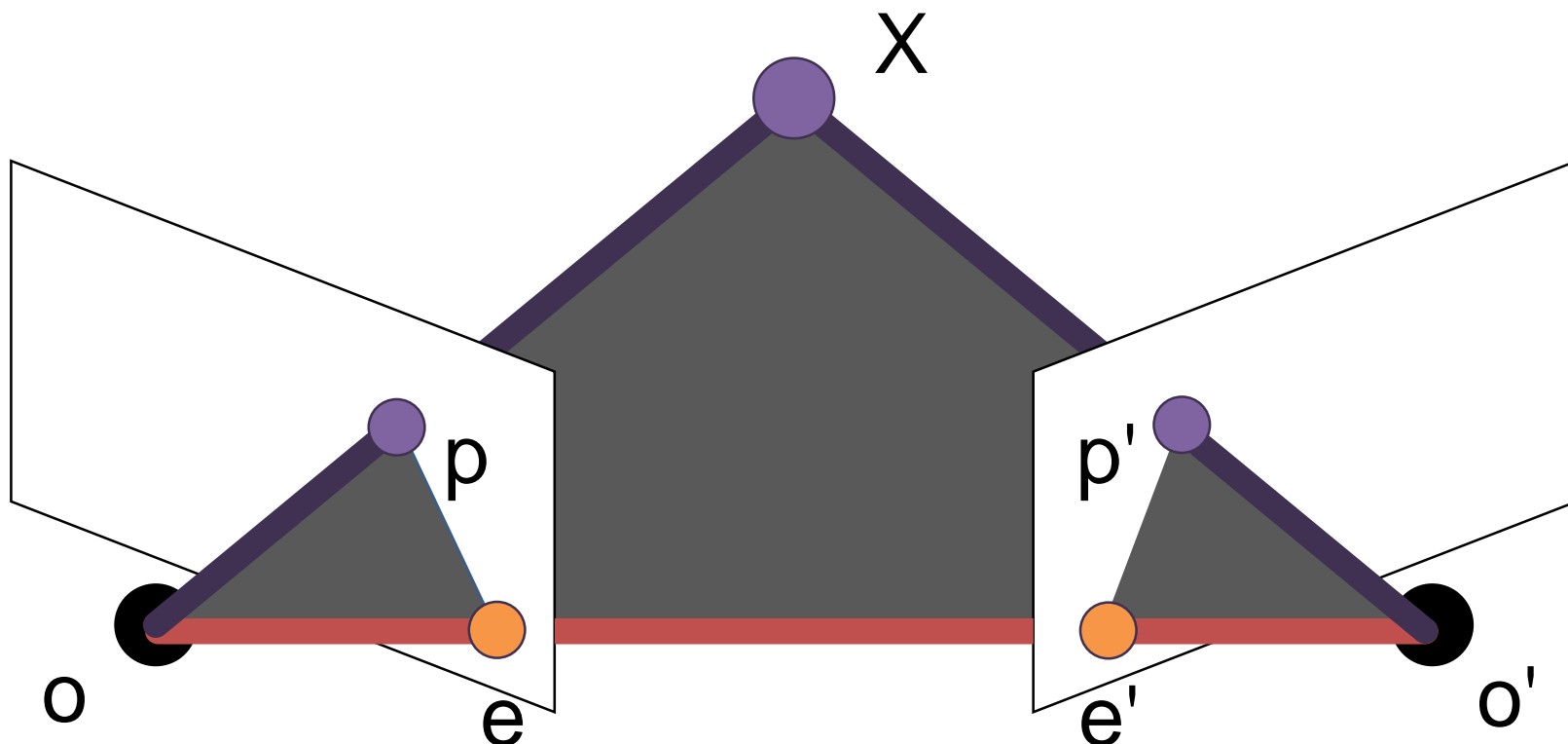


# Epipolar Geometry



The plane formed by  $X$ ,  $o$ , and  $o'$  is called the epipolar plane

# Epipolar Geometry



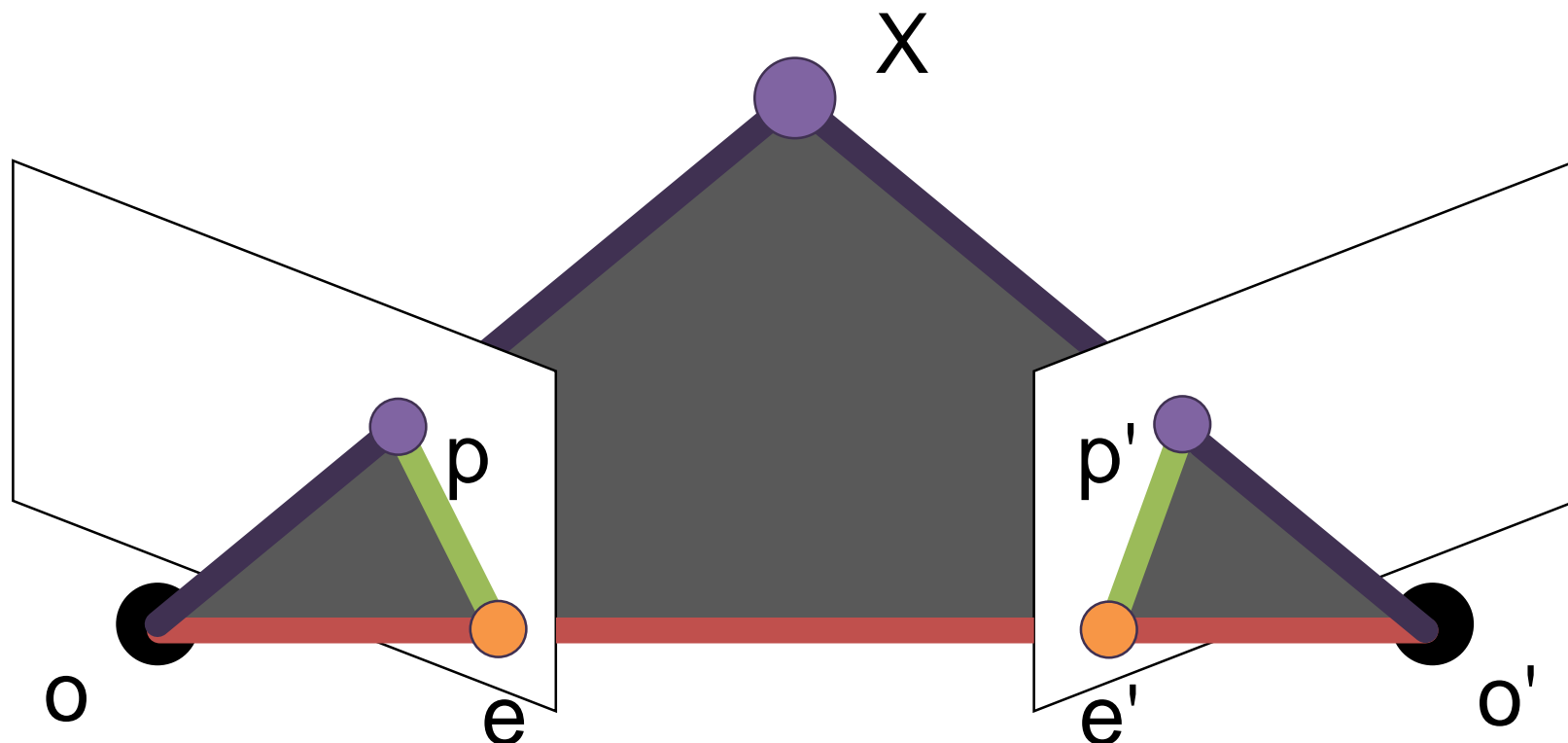
- Epipoles  $e$ ,  $e'$  are where the baseline intersects the image planes
- Projection of other camera in the image plane

# The Epipole



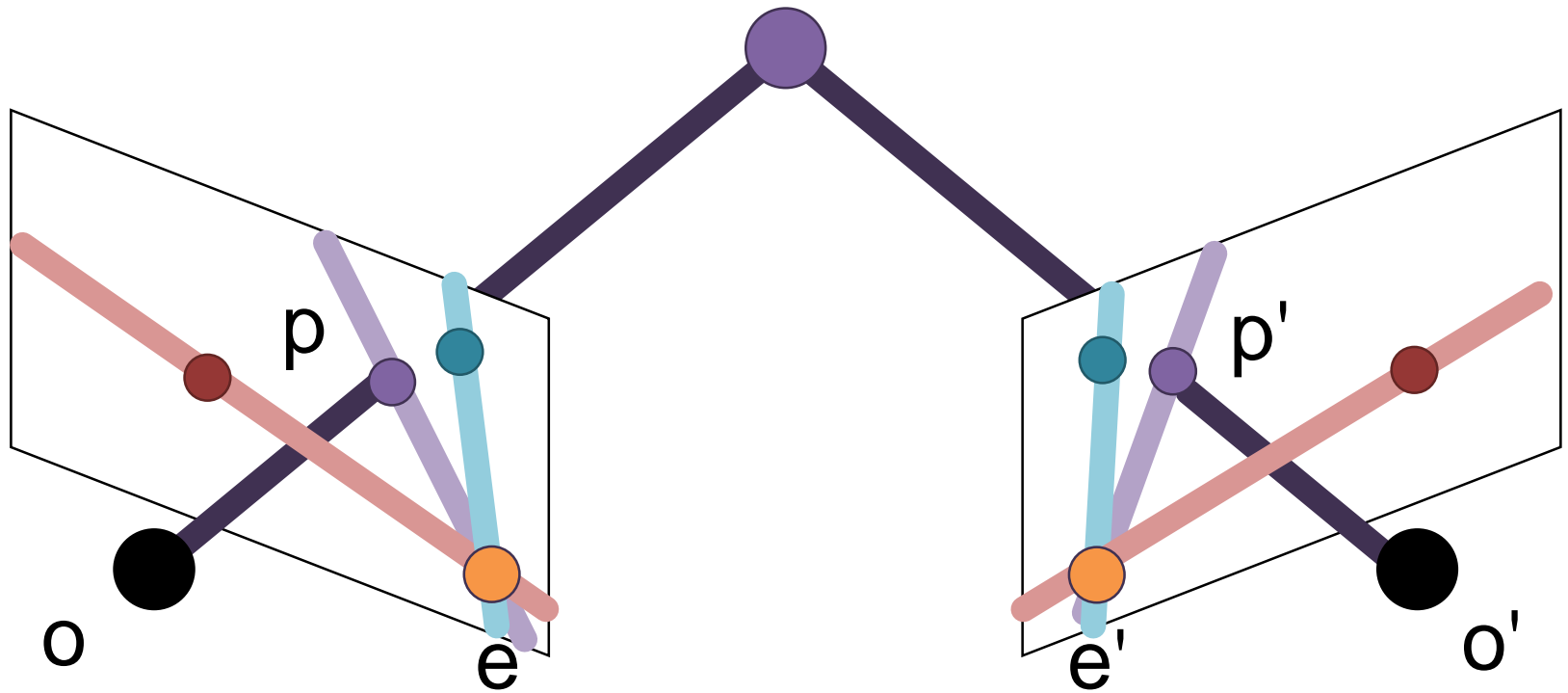
Photo by Frank Dellaert

# Epipolar Geometry



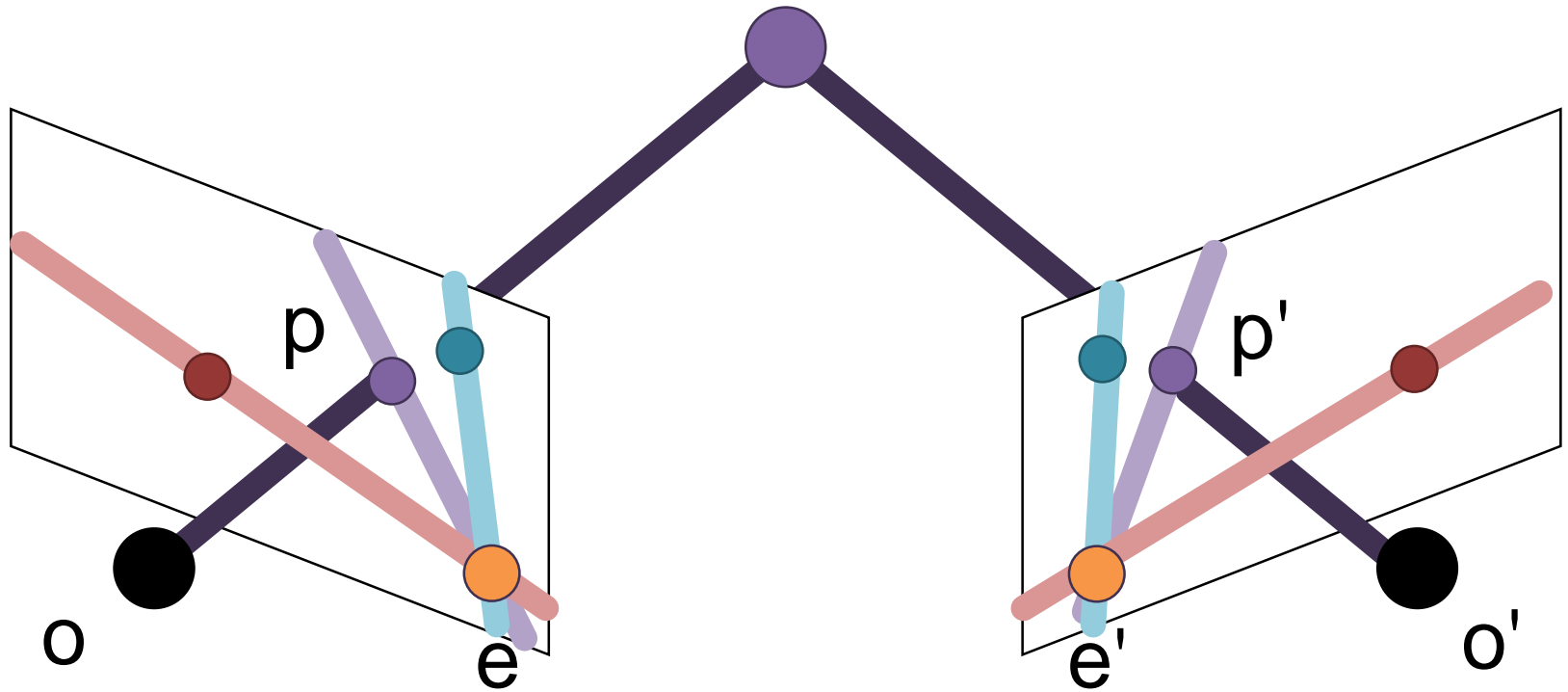
- Epipolar lines go between the epipoles and the projections of the points.
- Intersection of epipolar plane with image plane

# Example: Converging Cameras



Epipoles finite, maybe in image; epipolar lines converge

# Example: Converging Cameras

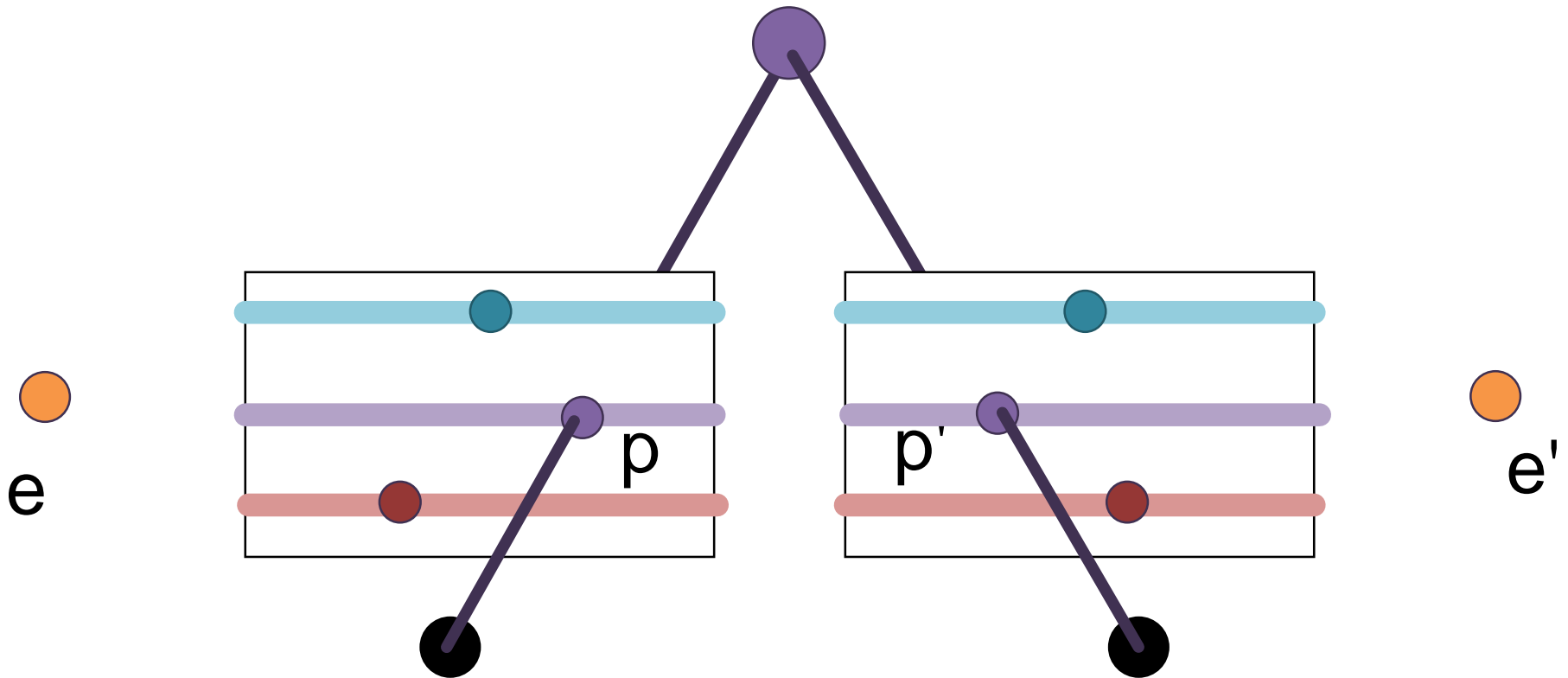


Epipolar lines come in pairs: given a point  $p$ , we can construct the epipolar line for  $p'$ .

# Example 1: Converging Cameras



# Example: Parallel to Image Plane



Epipoles *infinitely* far away, epipolar lines parallel



# Example: Parallel to Image Plane





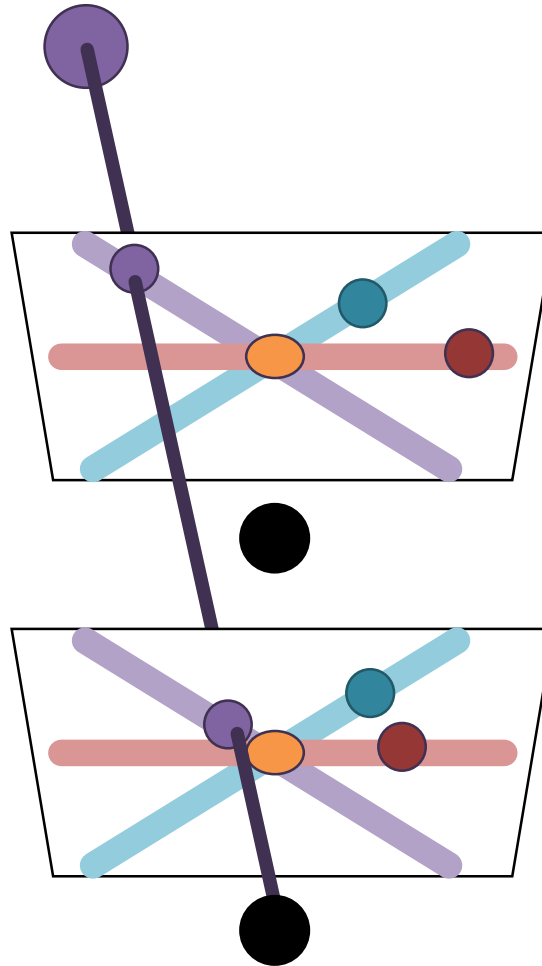
# Example: Forward Motion



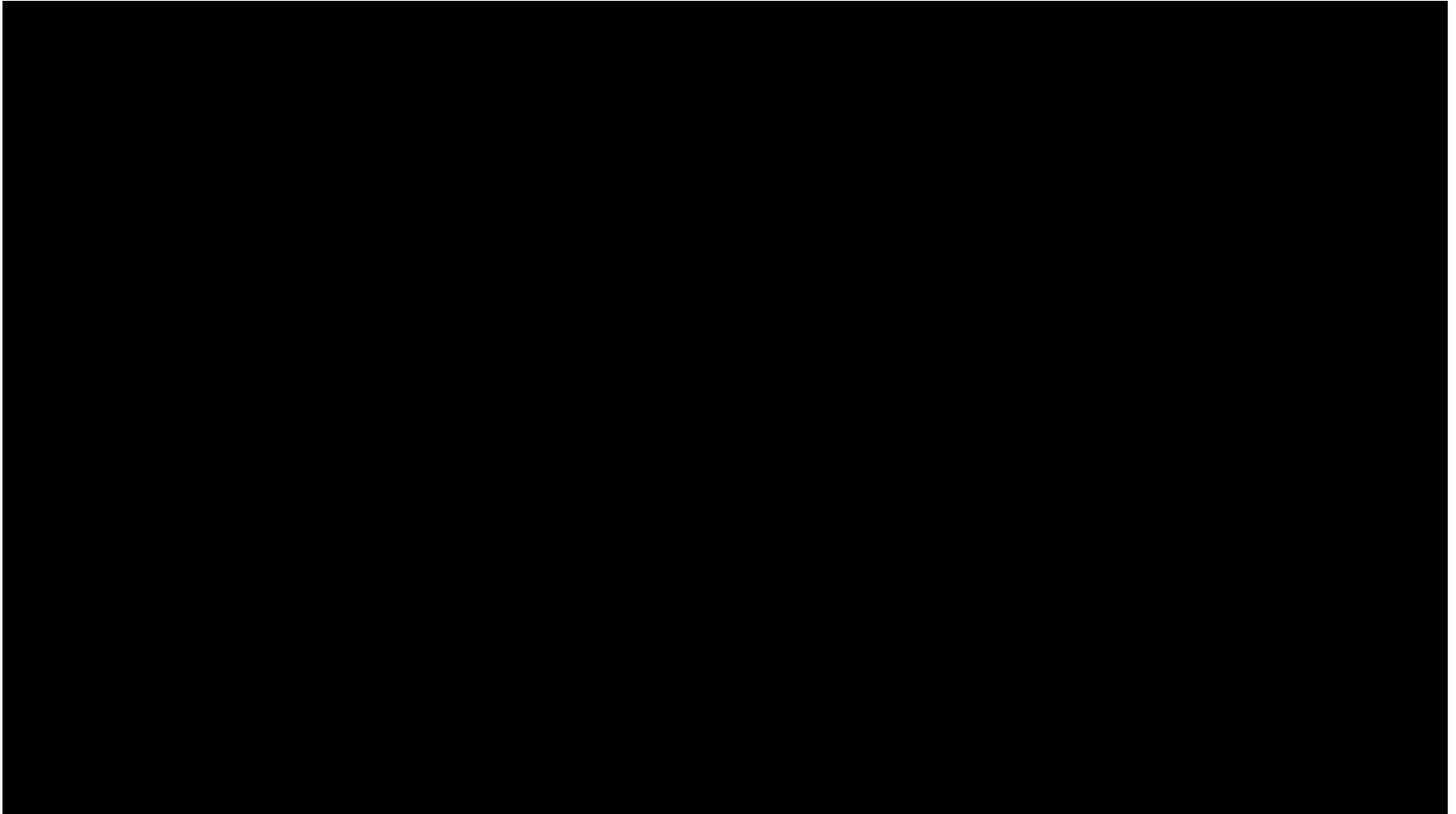
# Example: Forward Motion

Epipole is focus of expansion / principal point of the camera.

Epipolar lines go out from principal point



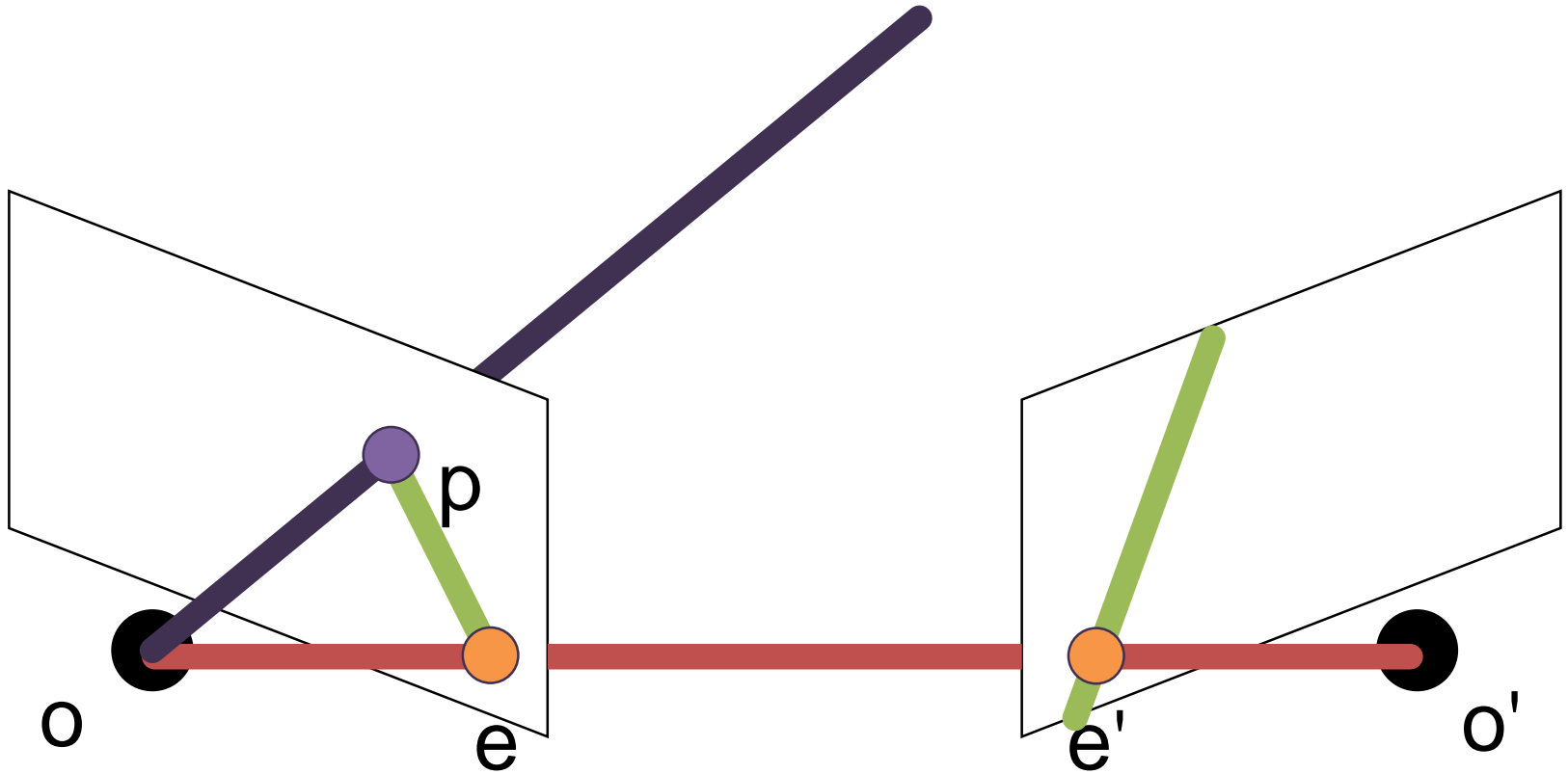
# Motion perpendicular to image plane



<http://vimeo.com/48425421>

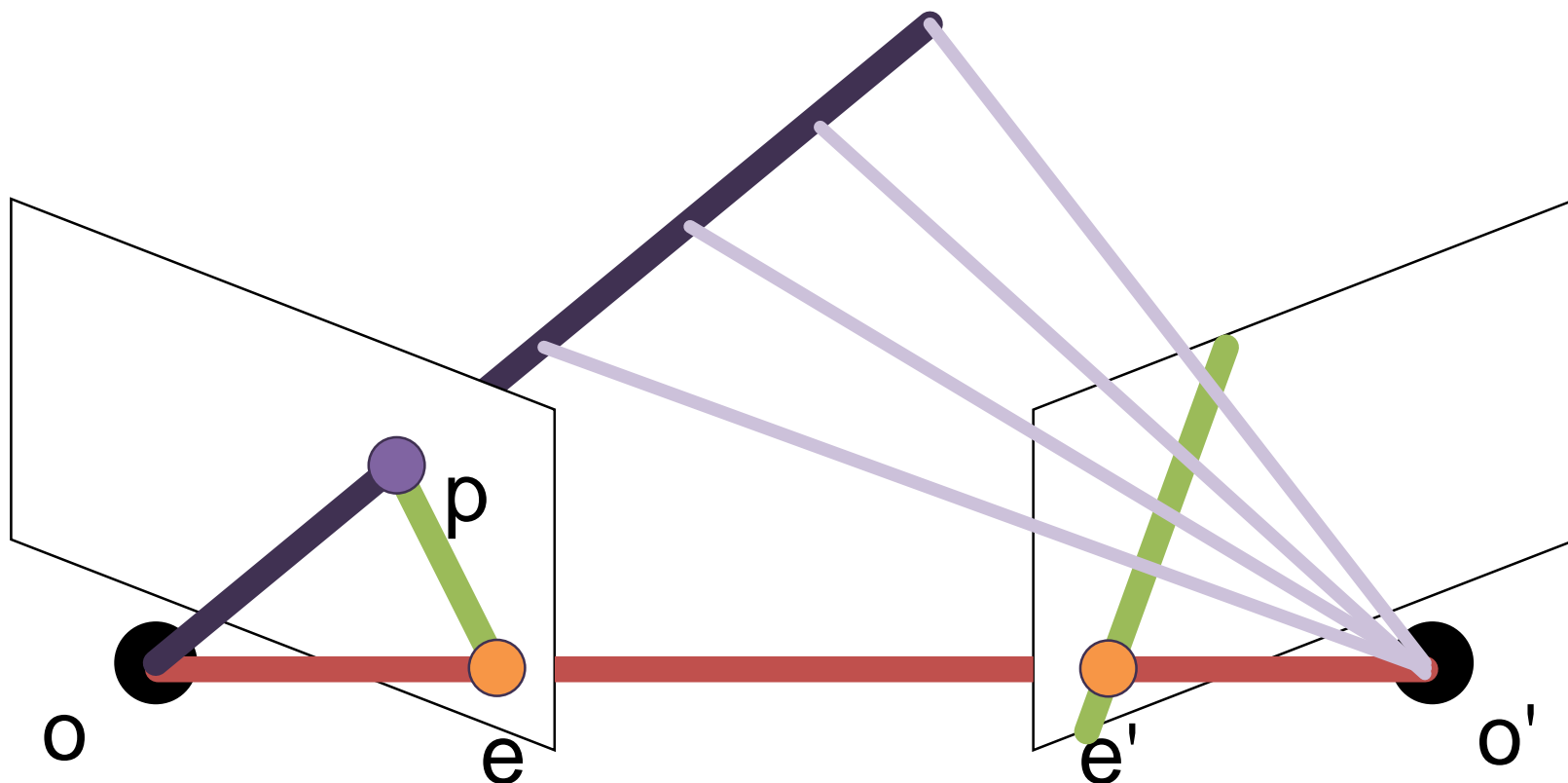
So?

# Epipolar Geometry



- Suppose we don't know  $X$  and just have  $p$

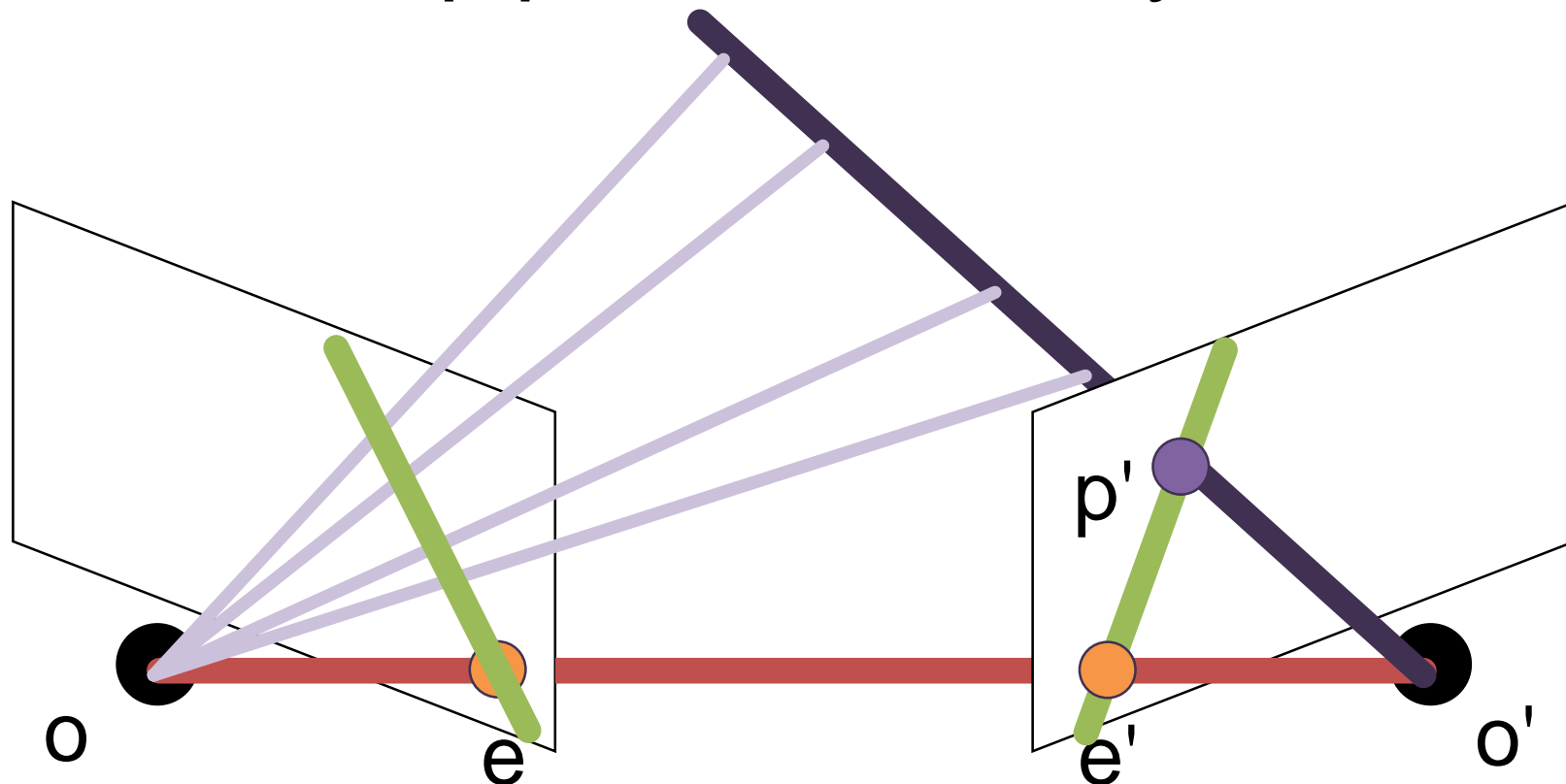
# Epipolar Geometry



- Suppose we don't know  $X$  and just have  $p$
- Corresponding  $p'$  lies along corresponding epipolar line



# Epipolar Geometry

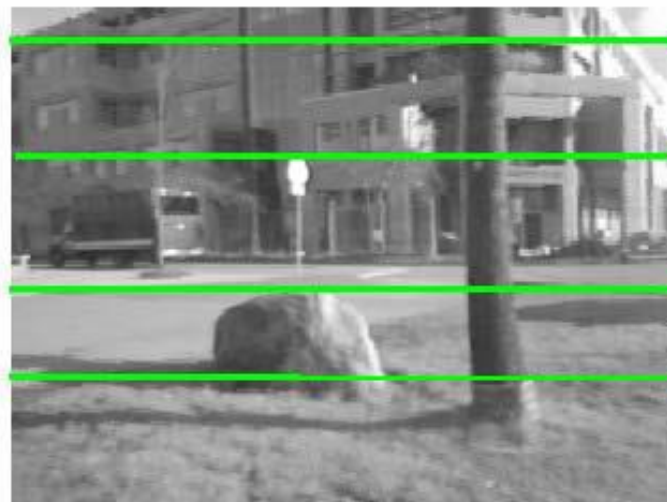


- Suppose we don't know  $X$  and just have  $p'$
- Corresponding  $p$  lies along corresponding epipolar line

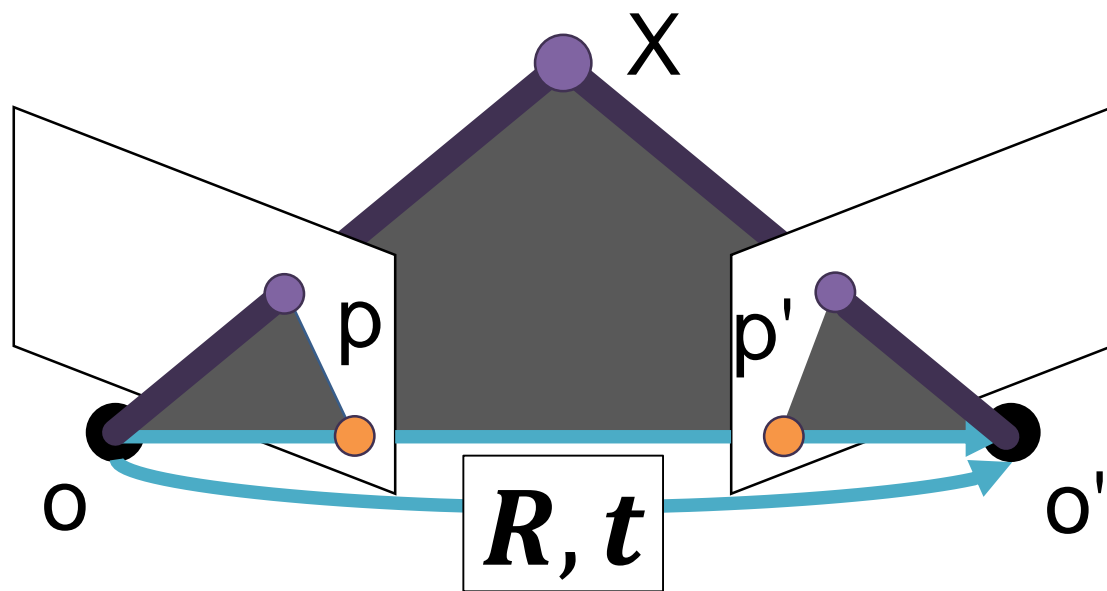
# Epipolar Geometry

- If I want to do stereo, I want to find a corresponding pixel for each pixel in the image:
- Naïve search:
  - For each pixel, search every other pixel
- With epipolar geometry:
  - For each pixel, search along each line (1D search)

# Epipolar constraint example



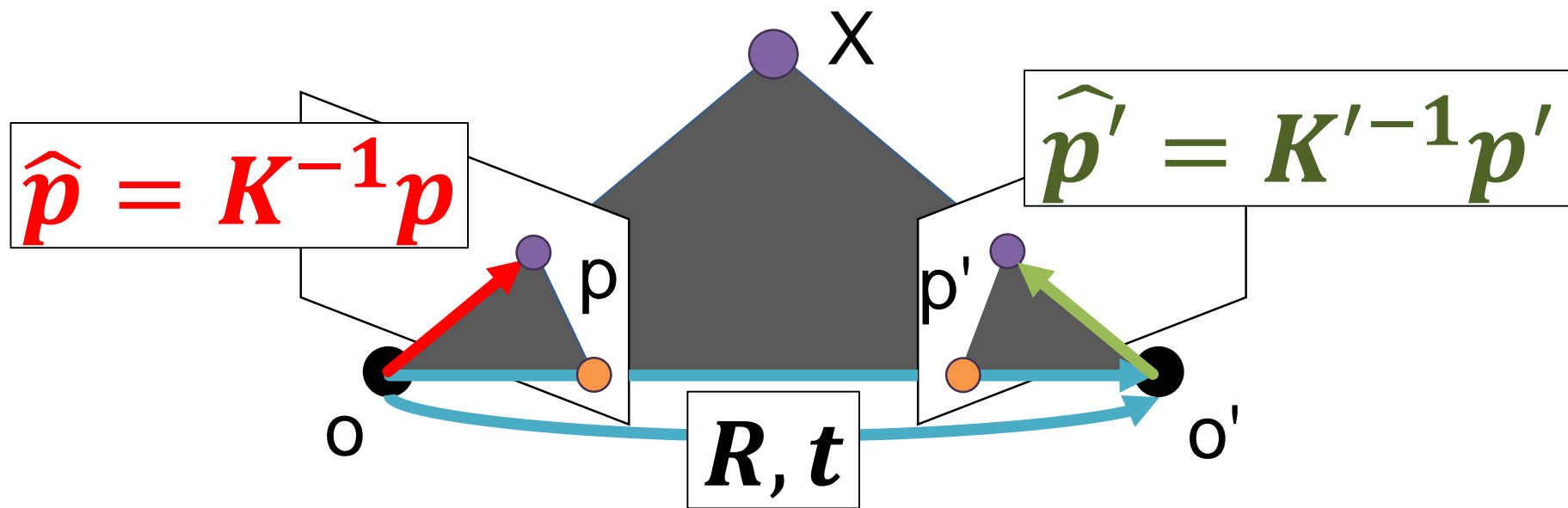
# Epipolar Constraint: Calibrated Case



- If we know intrinsic and extrinsic parameters, set coordinate system to first camera
- Projections matrices:  $P_1 = K[I, \mathbf{0}]$  and  $P_2 = K'[R, t]$
- **What are:**

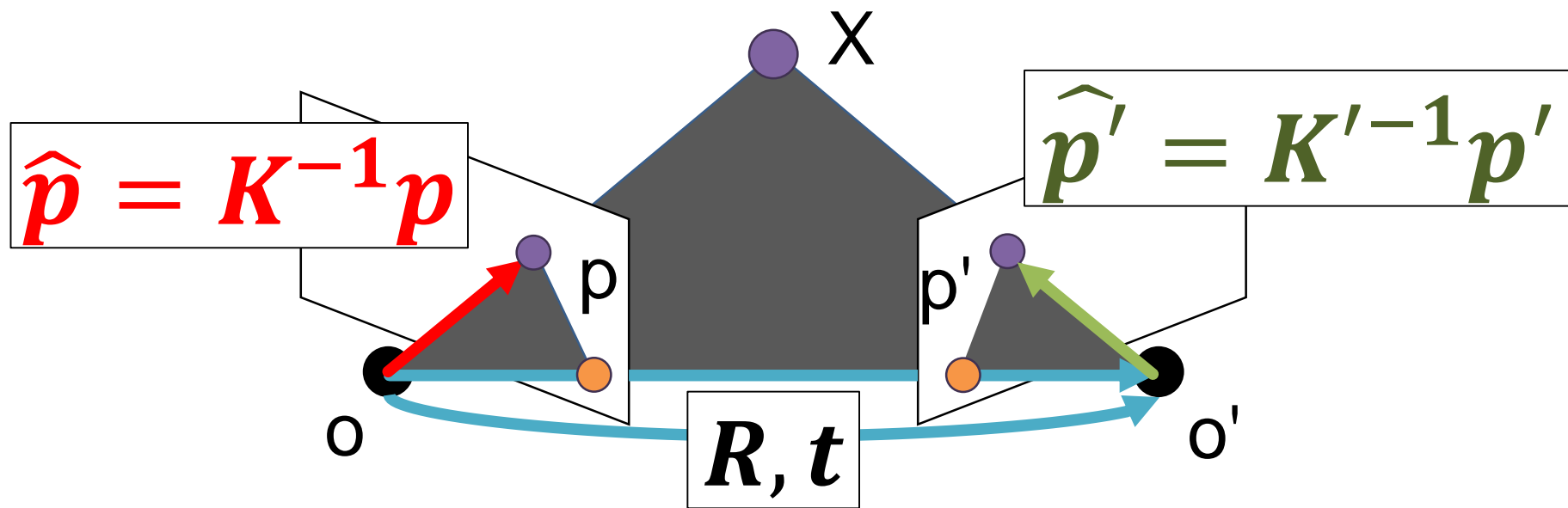
$$P_1 X \quad P_2 X \quad K^{-1} p \quad K'^{-1} p'$$

# Epipolar Constraint: Calibrated Case



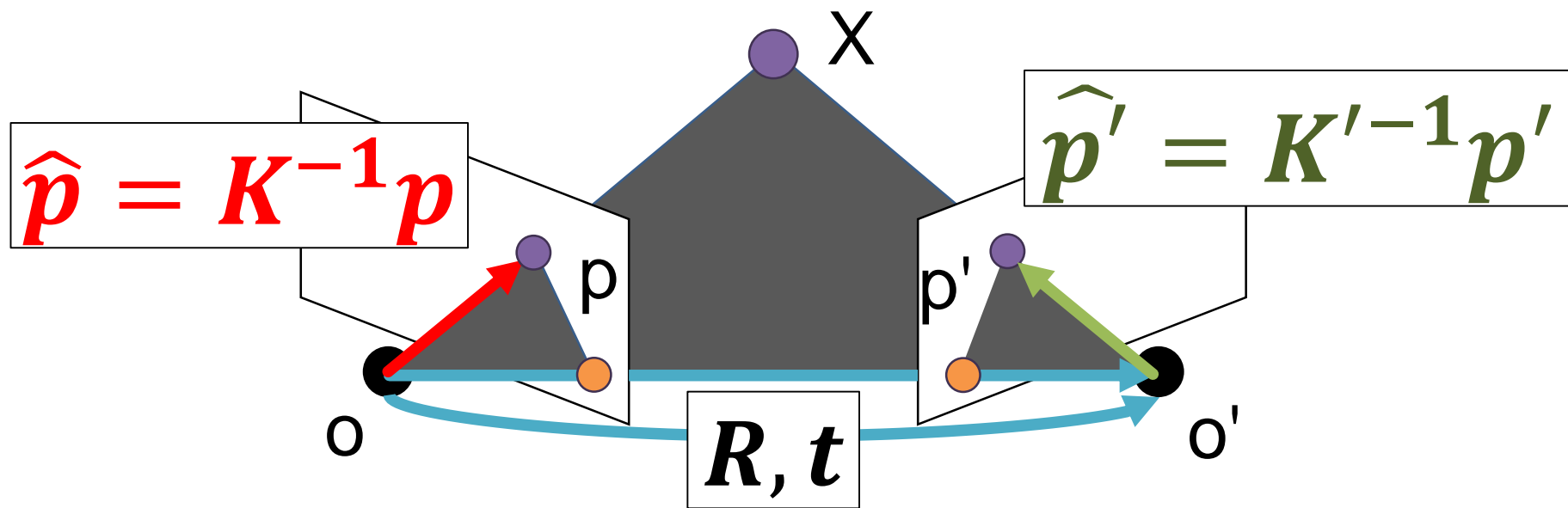
- Note that  $\hat{p}'$  is actually translated and rotated
- The following are all co-planar:  $\hat{p}$ ,  $t$ ,  $R\hat{p}'$  (ignore translation for co-planarity)
- One way to check co-planarity:  $\hat{p}^T (t \times R\hat{p}') = 0$

# Epipolar Constraint: Calibrated Case



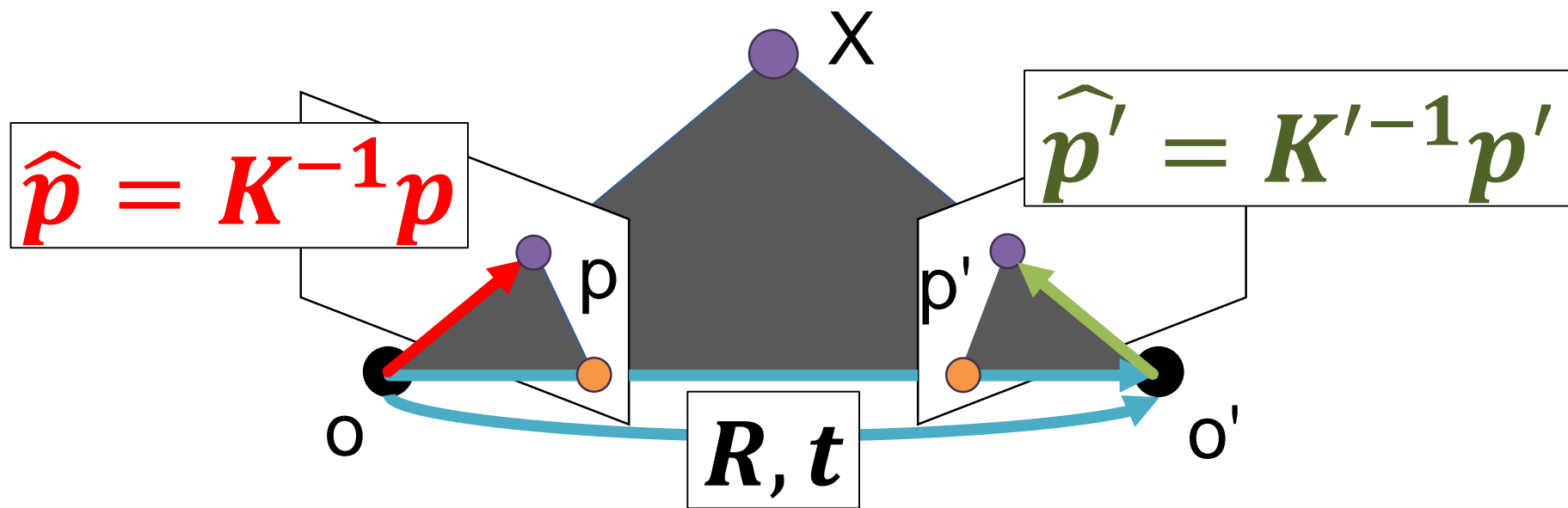
- Given calibration,  $\hat{p} = K^{-1}p$  and  $\hat{p}' = K'^{-1}p'$  are normalized coordinates

# Epipolar Constraint: Calibrated Case



$$\hat{p}^T (t \times R\hat{p}') = 0 \rightarrow \hat{p}^T \begin{matrix} [t_x] \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -t_3 & t_2 \\ t_3 & 0 & -t_1 \\ -t_2 & t_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} R\hat{p}' \end{matrix} = 0$$

# Epipolar Constraint: Calibrated Case

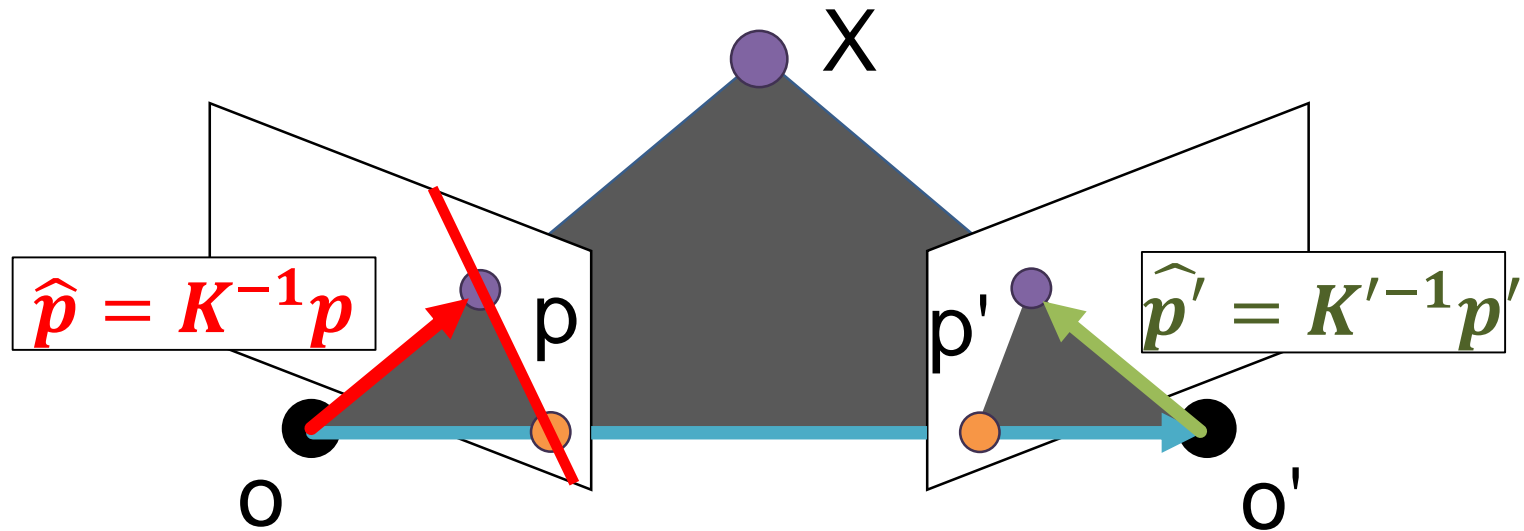


Essential matrix (Longuet-Higgins, 1981):  $E = [t_x]R$

If you have a normalized point  $\hat{p}$ , its correspondence  $\hat{p}'$  must satisfy  $\hat{p}^T E \hat{p}' = 0$



# Essential Essential Matrix Facts

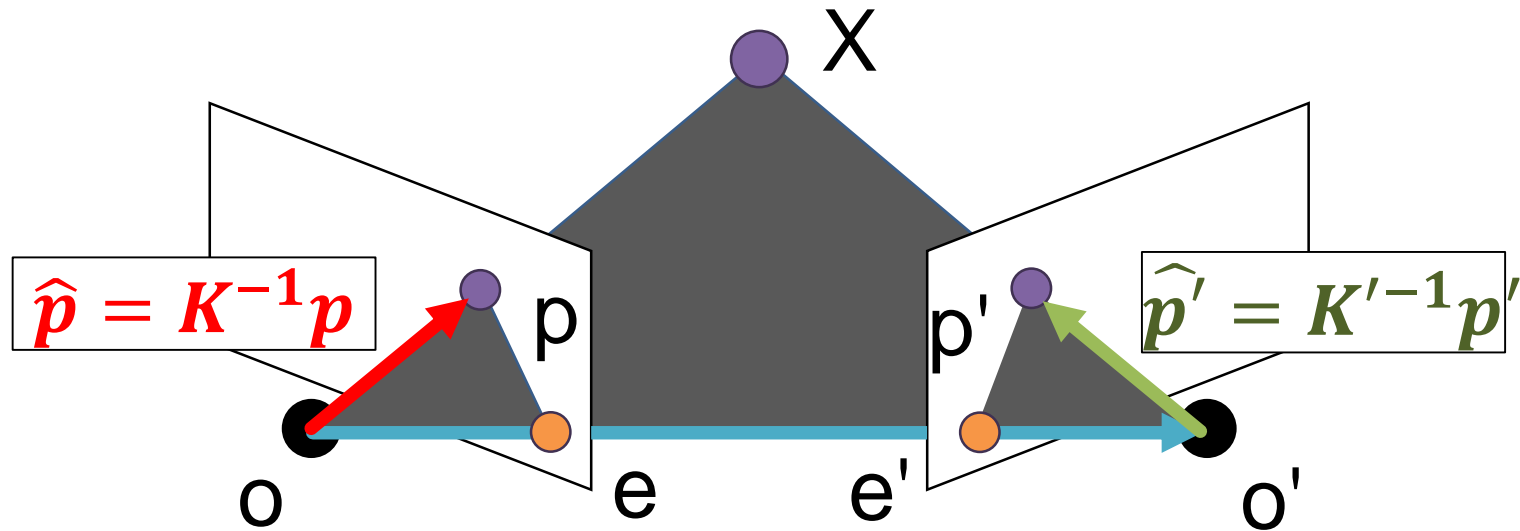


Suppose we know  $\mathbf{E}$  and  $\hat{p}^T \mathbf{E} \hat{p}' = 0$ . What is the set  $\{\mathbf{x}: \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{E} \hat{p}' = 0\}$ ?

$\mathbf{E} \hat{p}$  gives equation of the epipolar line (in  $ax+by+c=0$  form) in image for  $o$

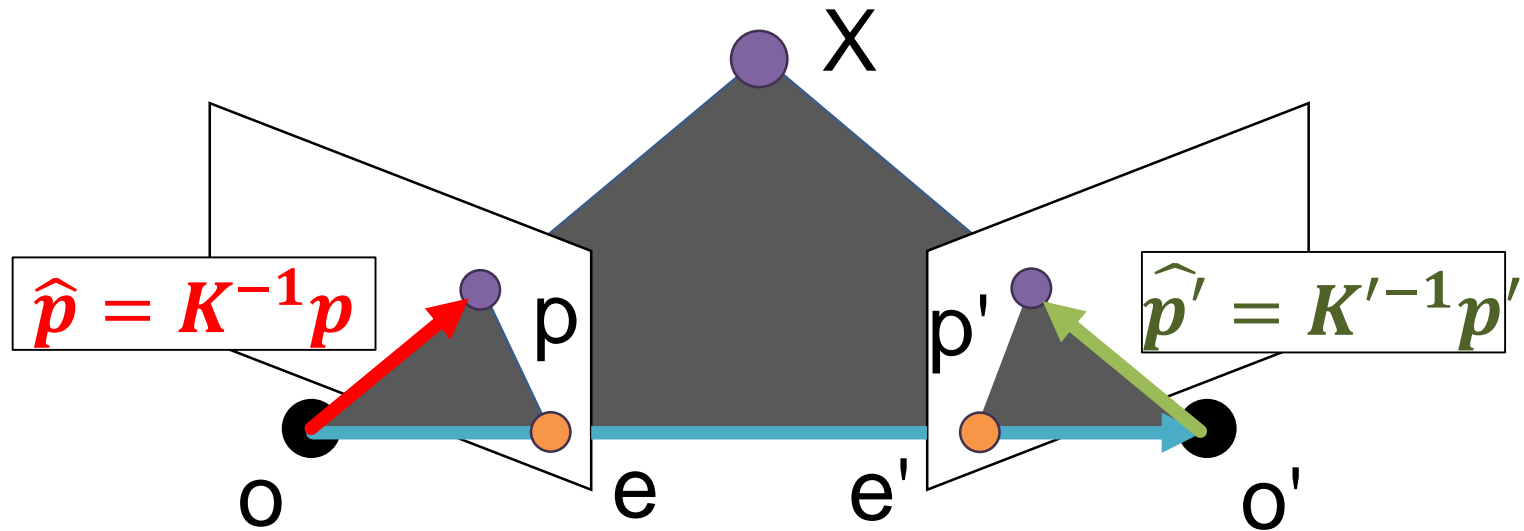
What's  $\mathbf{E}^T \hat{p}$  ?

# Essential Matrix Facts



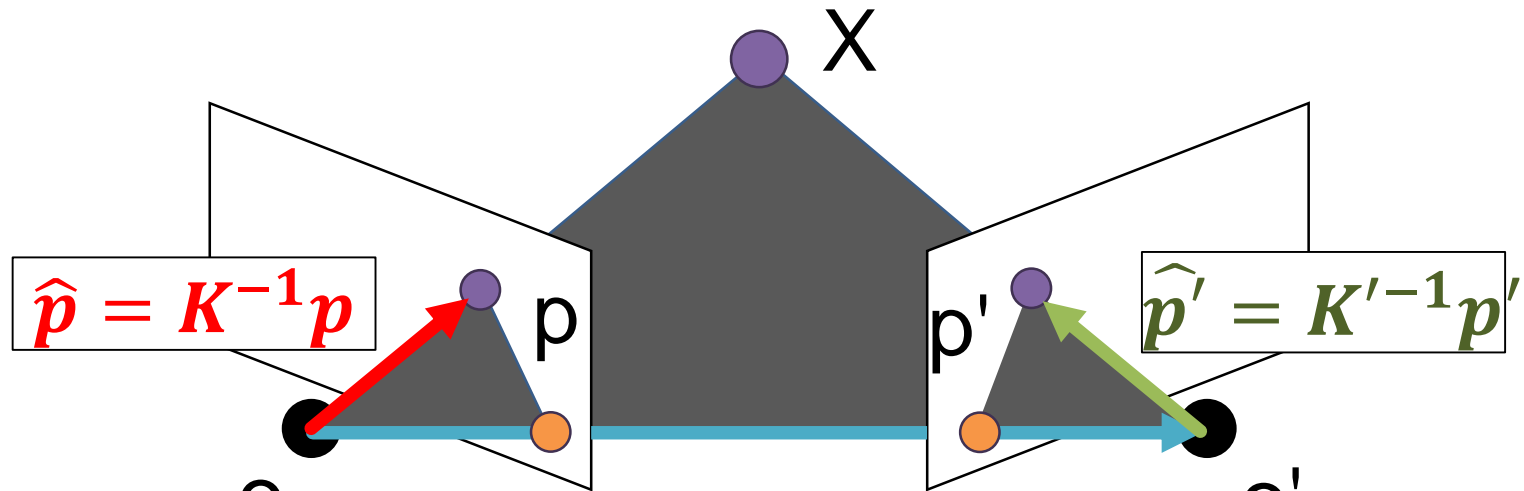
- $E\hat{e}' = 0$  and  $E^T\hat{e} = 0$  (epipoles are the nullspace of  $E$  – note all epipolar lines pass through epipoles)
- **Degrees of freedom (Recall  $E = [t_x]R$ )?**
- $5 - 3 (R) + 3 (t) - 1$  due to scale ambiguity
- $E$  is singular (rank 2); it has two non-zero and identical singular values

# Essential Matrix Facts



- One nice thing: if I estimate  $E$  from two images (more on this later), it's unique up to easy symmetries.

# What if we don't know $K$ ?



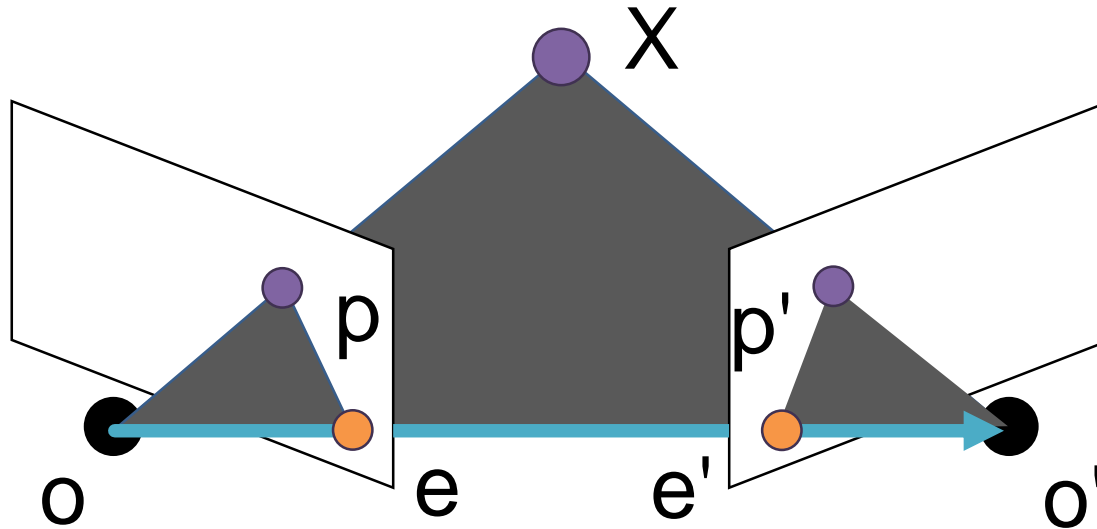
Have:  $\hat{p} = K^{-1}p$ ,  $\hat{p}' = K'^{-1}p'$ ,  $\hat{p}^T E \hat{p}' = 0$

$(K^{-1}p)^T E (K'^{-1}p') = 0 \implies p^T K^{-T} E K'^{-1} p' = 0$

Set:  $\underbrace{F = K^{-T} E K'^{-1}}$  Then:  $p^T F p' = 0$

Fundamental Matrix (Faugeras and Luong, 1992)

# Fundamental Matrix Fundamentals



- $Fp', F^T p$  are epipolar lines for  $p', p$
- $Fe' = 0, F^T e = 0$
- $F$  is singular (rank 2)
- $F$  has seven degrees of freedom
- $F$  definitely not unique

# Estimating the fundamental matrix



# Estimating the fundamental matrix

- $F$  has 7 degrees of freedom
- Possible to fit  $F$  with seven correspondences, but it's a bit complex

# Estimating the fundamental matrix

Given correspondences  $\mathbf{p} = [u, v, 1]$  and  $\mathbf{p}' = [u', v', 1]$  (e.g., via SIFT) we know:  $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{p}' = 0$

$$[u, v, 1] \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$[uu', uv', u, vu', vv', v, u', v', 1] \cdot [f_{11}, f_{12}, f_{13}, f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}, f_{31}, f_{32}, f_{33}]^T = 0$$

**How do we solve for f?**

**How many correspondences do we need?**

Leads to the **eight point algorithm**





# Eight Point Algorithm – Difficulty 1

If we estimate  $F$ , we get some  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $F$   
We know  $F$  needs to be singular. How do we force  $F$  to be singular?

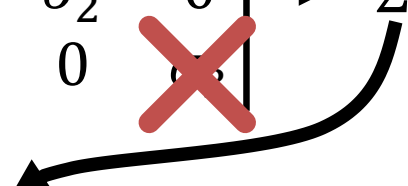
$$U\Sigma V^T = F_{init}$$



$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\Sigma' = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$F = U\Sigma'V^T$$

Open it up with SVD, mess with singular values, put it back together.

# Eight Point Algorithm – Difficulty 1

Estimated F  
(Wrong)



Estimated+Truncated F  
(Correct)



# Eight Point Algorithm – Difficulty 2

$$\begin{bmatrix} uu', uv', u, vu', vv', v, u', v', 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot [f_{11}, f_{12}, f_{13}, f_{21}, f_{22}, f_{23}, f_{31}, f_{32}, f_{33}]^T = 0$$

Recall:  $u, u'$  are in pixels. Suppose image is 1Kx1K

**How big might  $uu'$  be? How big might  $u$  be?**

Each row looks like:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 10^6 & 10^6 & 10^3 & 10^6 & 10^6 & 10^3 & 10^3 & 10^3 & 10^3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then:  $U^T U_{1,1}$  is  $\sim 10^{12}$ ,  $U^T U_{2,9}$  is  $\sim 10^3$

# Eight Point Algorithm – Difficulty 2

Numbers of varying magnitude → instability

A floating point number (float/double) isn't a "real" number: for sign, coefficient, exponent integers

$$(-1)^{\text{sign}} * \text{coefficient} * 2^{\text{exponent}}$$

Exercise to see how this screws up: add up Gaussian noise (mean=100, std=10), divide by number you added up

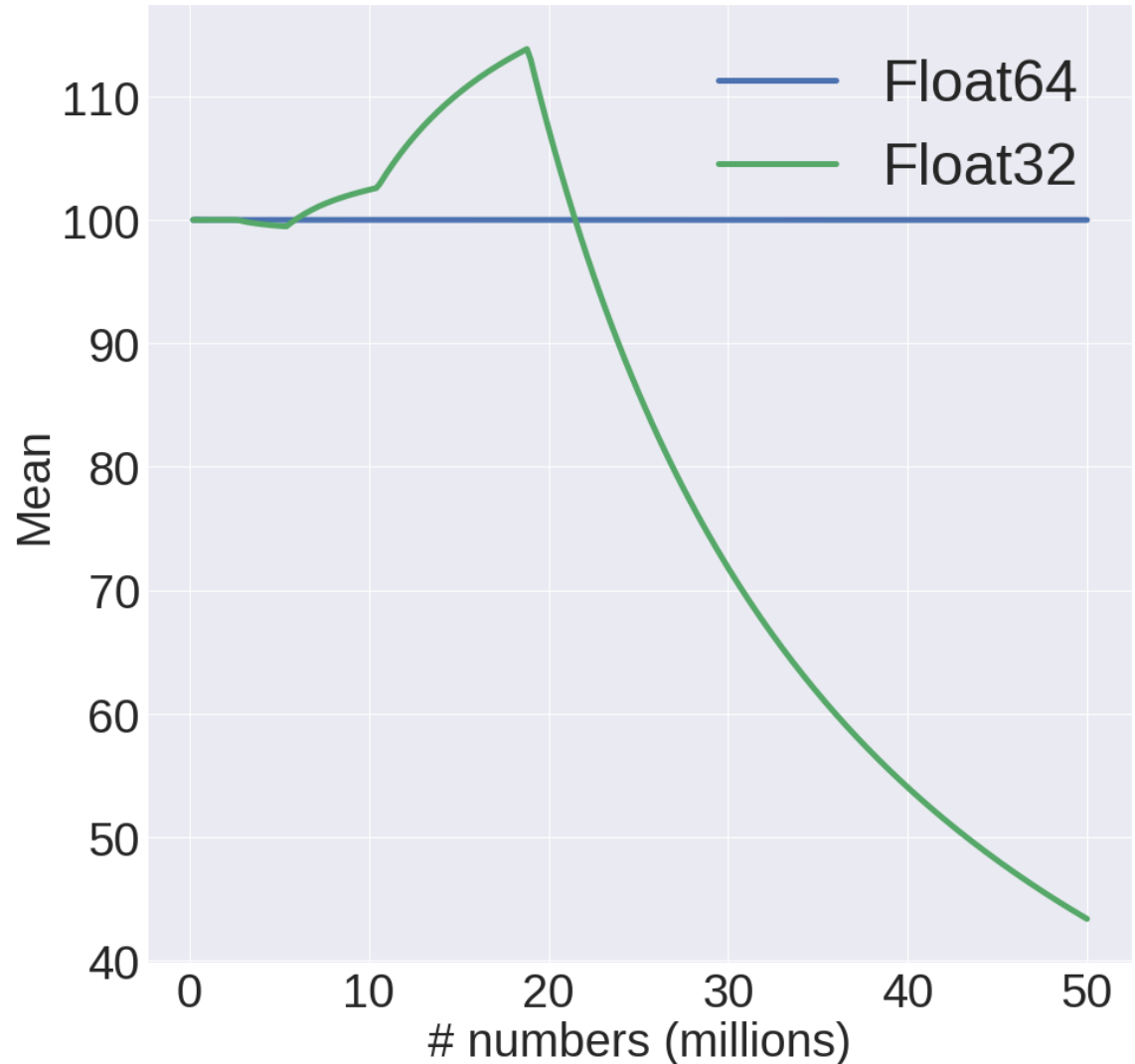
# Easy Numerical Instability

Code :

```
x += N(100, 10)
i += 1
mean = x/I
```

Only change is the  
# of bits in  
accumulator x

Note: 50M is 50  
1Kx1K images



# Solution: Normalized 8-point

- Center the image data at the origin, and scale it so the mean squared distance between the origin and the data points is 2 pixels
- Use the eight-point algorithm to compute  $F$  from the normalized points
- Enforce the rank-2 constraint (for example, take SVD of  $F$  and throw out the smallest singular value)
- Transform fundamental matrix back to original units: if  $T$  and  $T'$  are the normalizing transformations in the two images, then the fundamental matrix in original coordinates is  $T'^T F T$

R. Hartley

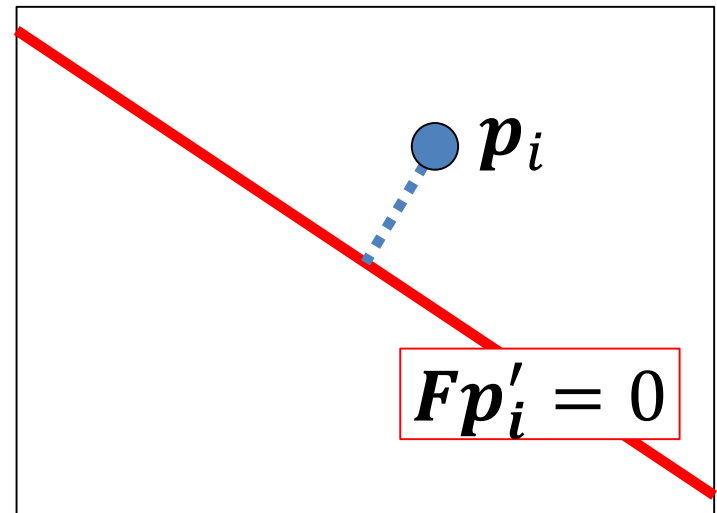
# Last Trick

Minimizing via  $U^T U$  minimizes sum of squared *algebraic* distances between points  $\mathbf{p}_i$  and epipolar lines  $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{p}'_i$  (or points  $\mathbf{p}'_i$  and epipolar lines  $\mathbf{F}^T\mathbf{p}_i$ ):

$$\sum_i (p_i^T F p'_i)^2$$

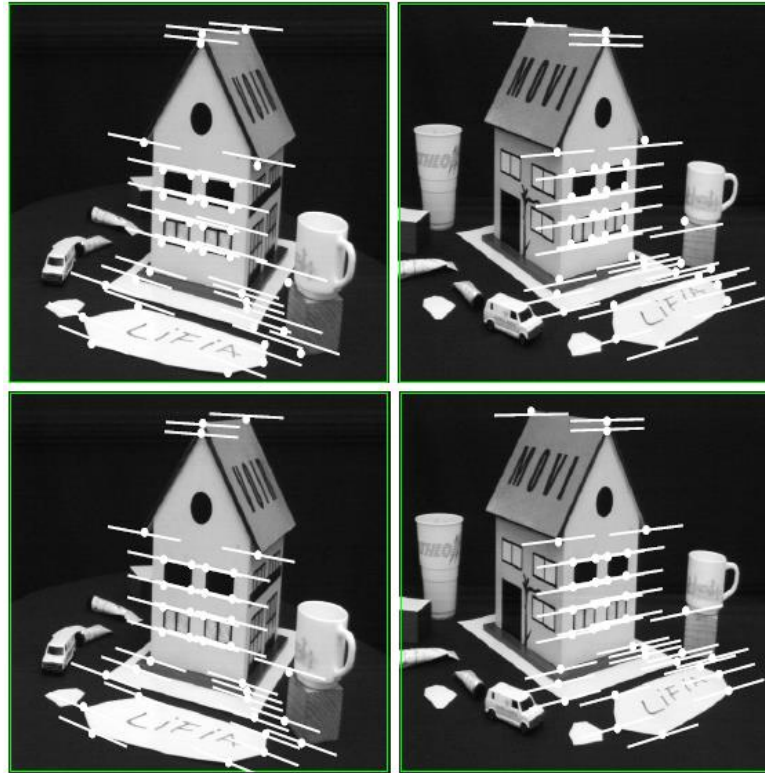
May want to minimize *geometric* distance:

$$\sum_i d(p_i, F p'_i)^2 + d(p'_i, F^T p_i)^2$$





# Comparison



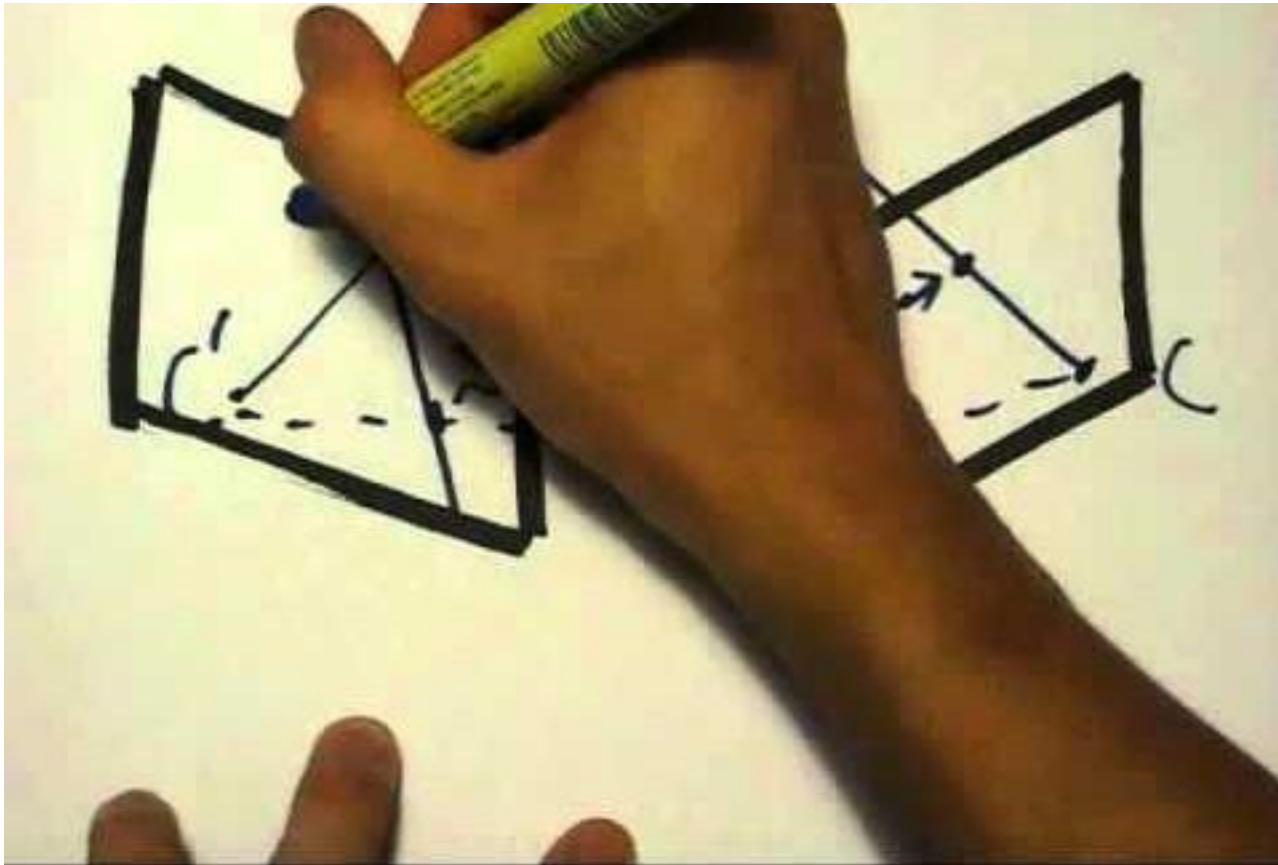
	8-point	Normalized 8-point	Nonlinear least squares
Av. Dist. 1	2.33 pixels	0.92 pixel	0.86 pixel
Av. Dist. 2	2.18 pixels	0.85 pixel	0.80 pixel

# The Fundamental Matrix Song



<http://danielwedge.com/fmatrix/>

# The Fundamental Matrix Song



<http://danielwedge.com/fmatrix/>

# From Epipolar Geometry to Calibration

- Estimating the fundamental matrix is known as “weak calibration”
- If we know the calibration matrices of the two cameras, we can estimate the essential matrix:  
$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{K}'^T \mathbf{F} \mathbf{K}$$
- The essential matrix gives us the relative rotation and translation between the cameras, or their extrinsic parameters
- Alternatively, if the calibration matrices are known, the [five-point algorithm](#) can be used to estimate relative camera pose