

11<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Computer Vision Hersonissos, Heraklion, Crete, Greece September 5, 2010

#### **Tutorial on**

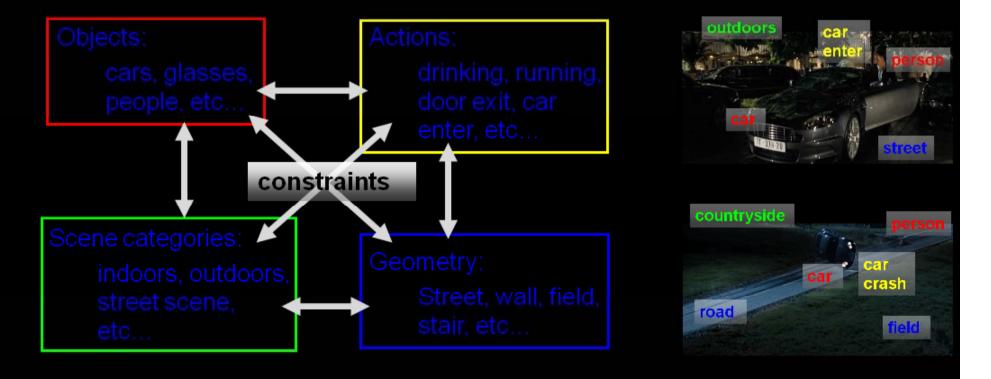
# Statistical and Structural Recognition of Human Actions

Ivan Laptev and Greg Mori



# Computer vision grand challenge: Video understanding



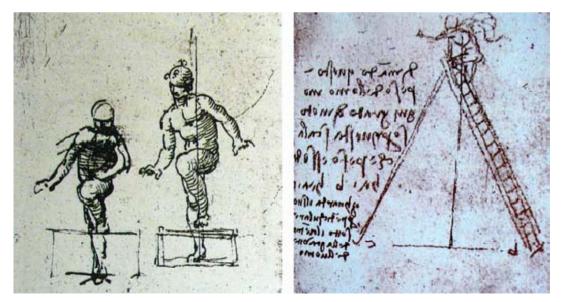


#### **Motivation I: Artistic Representation**

#### Early studies were motivated by human representations in Arts

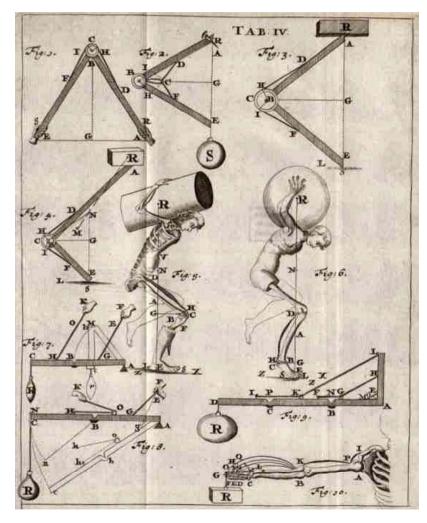
Da Vinci: "it is indispensable for a painter, to become totally familiar with the anatomy of nerves, bones, muscles, and sinews, such that he understands for their various motions and stresses, which sinews or which muscle causes a particular motion"

"I ask for the weight [pressure] of this man for every segment of motion when climbing those stairs, and for the weight he places on *b* and on *c*. Note the vertical line below the center of mass of this man."



Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519): A man going upstairs, or up a ladder.

#### **Motivation II: Biomechanics**



#### Giovanni Alfonso Borelli (1608–1679)

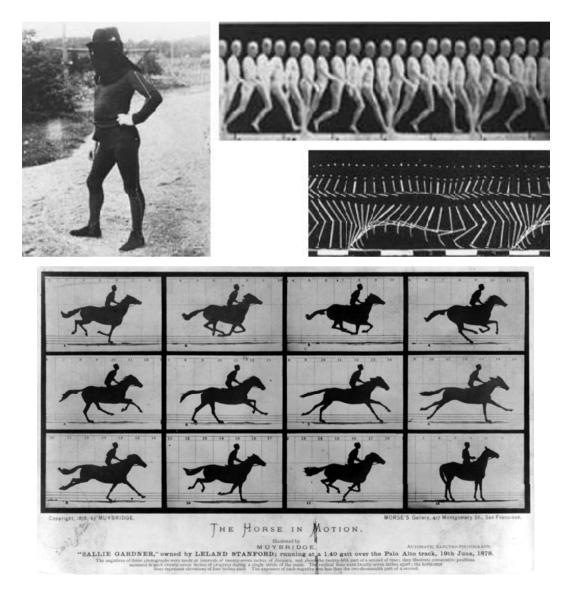
- The emergence of *biomechanics*
- Borelli applied to biology the analytical and geometrical methods, developed by Galileo Galilei
- He was the first to understand that bones serve as levers and muscles function according to mathematical principles
- His physiological studies included muscle analysis and a mathematical discussion of movements, such as running or jumping

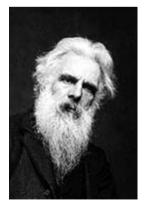
#### **Motivation III: Motion perception**



Etienne-Jules Marey: (1830–1904) made Chronophotographic experiments influential for the emerging field of *cinematography* 



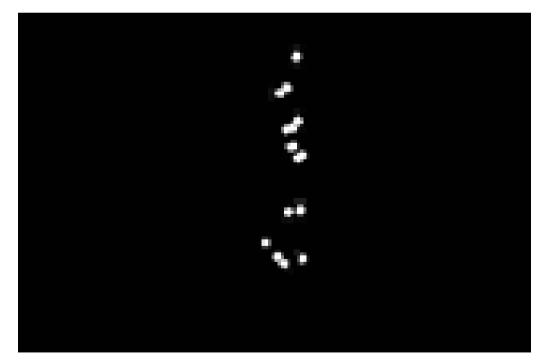




**Eadweard Muybridge** (1830–1904) invented a machine for displaying the recorded series of images. He pioneered motion pictures and applied his technique to movement studies

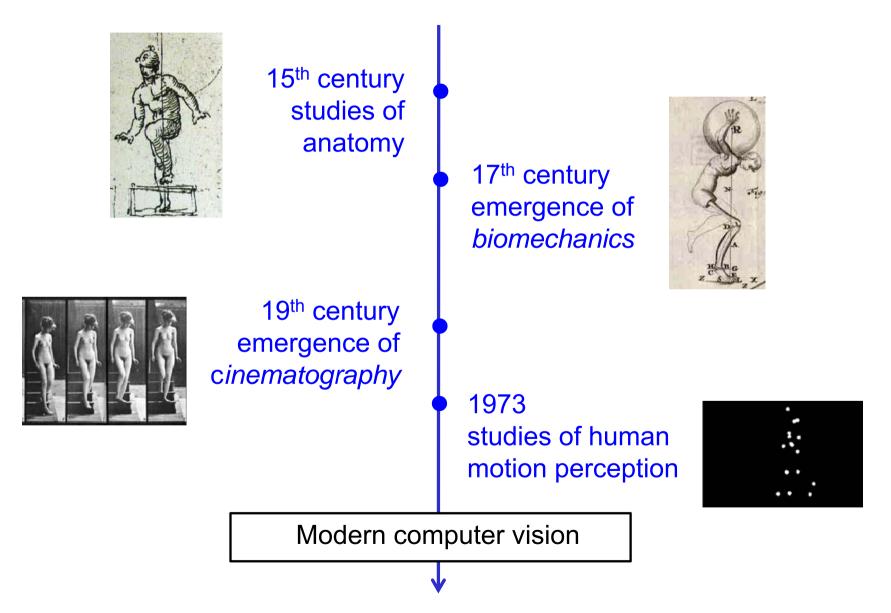
#### **Motivation III: Motion perception**

- Gunnar Johansson [1973] pioneered studies on the use of image sequences for a programmed human motion analysis
- "Moving Light Displays" (LED) enable identification of familiar people and the gender and inspired many works in computer vision.



Gunnar Johansson, Perception and Psychophysics, 1973

#### Human actions: Historic overview

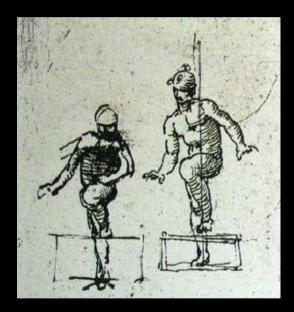


# Modern applications: Motion capture and animation



Avatar (2009)

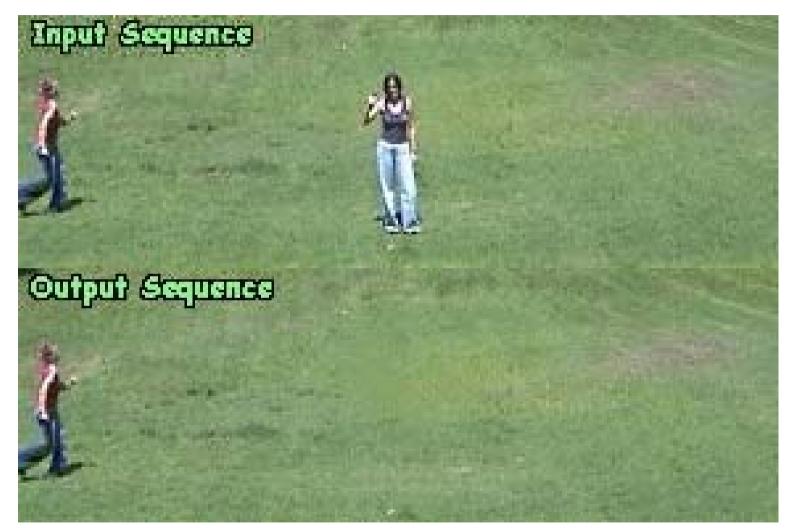
# Modern applications: Motion capture and animation





Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

Avatar (2009)



*Space-Time Video Completion* Y. Wexler, E. Shechtman and M. Irani, **CVPR** 2004



Space-Time Video Completion Y. Wexler, E. Shechtman and M. Irani, **CVPR** 2004



Recognizing Action at a Distance Alexei A. Efros, Alexander C. Berg, Greg Mori, Jitendra Malik, **ICCV** 2003



Recognizing Action at a Distance Alexei A. Efros, Alexander C. Berg, Greg Mori, Jitendra Malik, ICCV 2003

## **Applications: Unusual Activity Detection**



e.g. for surveillance

Detecting Irregularities in Images and in Video Boiman & Irani, **ICCV** 2005

# **Applications: Video Search**

• Huge amount of video is available and growing

B B C Motion Gallery



TV-channels recorded since 60's



>34K hours of video uploads every day



~30M surveillance cameras in US => ~700K video hours/day

# **Applications: Video Search**

• useful for TV production, entertainment, education, social studies, security,...



TV & Web: e.g. *"Fight in a parlament"* 



Home videos: e.g. *"My* daughter climbing"

#### Sociology research: e.g.



Manually analyzed smoking actions in 900 movies



Surveillance: e.g. *"Woman throws cat into wheelie bin"* 260K views in 7 days

... and it's mainly about people and human actions

# How many person-pixels are in video?





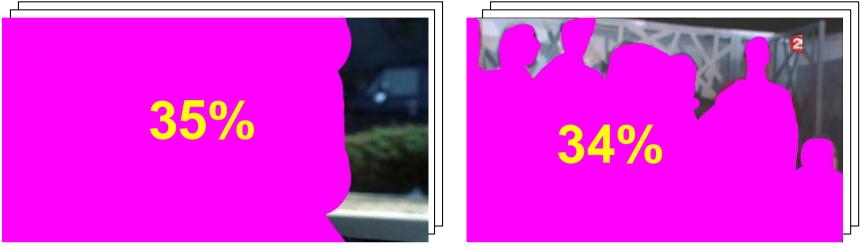






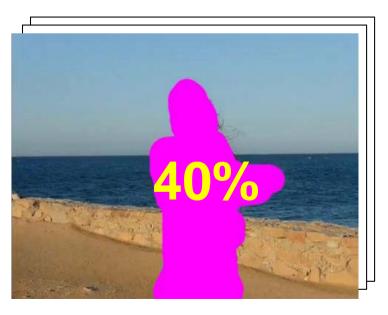
YouTube

#### How many person-pixels are in video?



Movies

TV





#### What this course is about?

#### Goal

#### **Get familiar with:**

- **Problem formulations**
- Mainstream approaches
- Particular existing techniques
- Current benchmarks
- Available baseline methods
- **Promising future directions**

# **Course overview**







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- Definitions
- Benchmark datasets
- Early silhouette and tracking-based methods
- Motion-based similarity measures
- Template-based methods
- Local space-time features
- **Bag-of-Features action recognition**
- Weakly-supervised methods
- Pose estimation and action recognition
- Action recognition in still images
- Human interactions and dynamic scene models
  - **Conclusions and future directions**

## What is Action Recognition?

- Terminology
  - What is an "action"?
- Output representation
  - What do we want to say about an image/video?

Unfortunately, neither question has atisfactory answer yet

## Terminology

- The terms "action recognition", "activity recognition", "event recognition", are used inconsistently
  - Finding a common language for describing videos is an open problem

# **Terminology Example**

- "Action" is a low-level primitive with semantic meaning
  - E.g. walking, pointing, placing an object
- "Activity" is a higher-level combination with some temporal relations
  - E.g. taking money out from ATM, waiting for a bus
- "Event" is a combination of activities, often involving multiple individuals

– E.g. a soccer game, a traffic accident

- This is contentious
  - No standard, rigorous definition exists

#### **Output Representation**

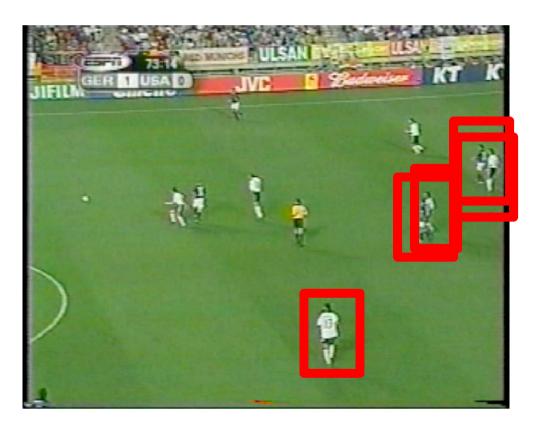
• Given this image what is the desired output?



- This image contains a man walking
  - Action classification / recognition
- The man walking is here
  - Action detection

#### **Output Representation**

• Given this image what is the desired output?



- This image contains 5 men walking, 4 jogging, 2 running
- The 5 men walking are here
- This is a soccer game

## **Output Representation**

• Given this image what is the desired output?

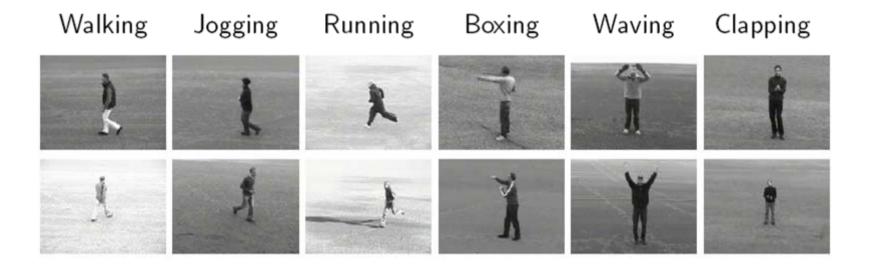


- Frames 1-20 the man ran to the left, then frames 21-25 he ran away from the camera
- Is this an accurate description?
- Are labels and video frames in 1-1 correspondence?



#### **Dataset: KTH-Actions**

- 6 action classes by 25 persons in 4 different scenarios
- Total of 2391 video samples
  - Specified train, validation, test sets
- Performance measure: average accuracy over all classes



Schuldt, Laptev, Caputo ICPR 2004

# **UCF-Sports**

- 10 different action classes
- 150 video samples in total
- Evaluation method: leave-one-out
- Performance measure: average accuracy over all classes



Rodriguez, Ahmed, and Shah CVPR 2008

# **UCF - YouTube Action Dataset**

- 11 categories, 1168 videos
- Evaluation method: leave-one-out
- Performance measure: average accuracy over all classes



# Semantic Description of Human Activities (ICPR 2010)

- 3 challenges: interaction, aerial view, wide-area
- Interaction
  - 6 classes, 120 instances over ~20 min. video
  - Classification and detection tasks (+/- bounding boxes)
  - Evaluation method: leave-one-out





#### Ryoo et al. ICPR 2010 challenge

# Hollywood2

- 12 action classes from 69 Hollywood movies
- 1707 video sequences in total
- Separate movies for training / testing
- Performance measure: mean average precision (mAP) over all classes



Marszałek, Laptev, Schmid CVPR 2009

# TRECVid Surveillance Event Detection

- 10 actions: person runs, take picture, cell to ear, ...
- 5 cameras, ~100h video from LGW airport
- Detection (in time, not space); multiple detections count as false positives
- Evaluation method: specified training / test videos, evaluation at NIST
- Performance measure: statistics on DET curves





Smeaton, Over, Kraaij, TRECVid

# **Dataset Desiderata**

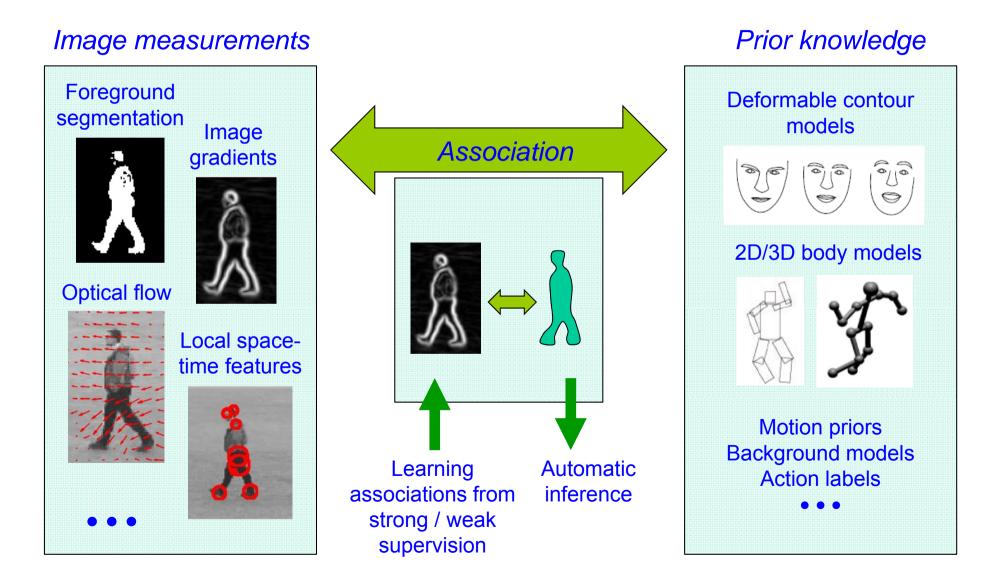
- Clutter
- Not choreographed by dataset collectors
  - Real-world variation
- Scale
  - Large amount of video
- Rarity of actions
  - Detection harder than classification
  - Chance performance should be **very** low
- Clear definition of training/test split
  - Validation set for parameter tuning?
  - Reproducing / comparing to other methods?

## **Datasets Summary**

	Clutter?	Choreographed?	Scale	Rarity of actions	Training/testi ng split
KTH	No	Yes	2391 videos	Classification - one per video	Defined – by actors
UCF Sports	Yes	No	150 videos	Classification – one per video	Undefined - LOO
UCF Youtube	Yes	No	1168 videos	Classification – one per video	Undefined - LOO
SDHA-ICPR Interaction	No	Yes	20 minutes, 120 instances	Classification / detection	Undefined - LOO
Hollywood2	Yes	No	69 movies, ~1600 instances	Detection, ~xx actions/h	Defined – by videos
TRECVid	Yes	No	~100h	Detection, ~20 actions/h	Defined – by time

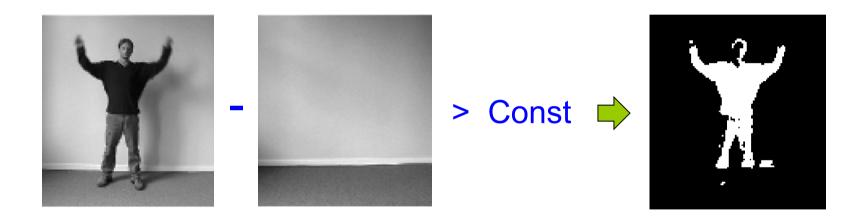
# How to recognize actions?

## **Action understanding: Key components**



## **Foreground segmentation**

Image differencing: a simple way to measure motion/change



Better Background / Foreground separation methods exist:

- Modeling of color variation at each pixel with Gaussian Mixture
- Dominant motion compensation for sequences with moving camera
- Motion layer separation for scenes with non-static backgrounds

## **Temporal Templates**

$$D(x, y, t)$$
  $t = 1, ..., T$ 









Idea: summarize motion in video in a Motion History Image (MHI):

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

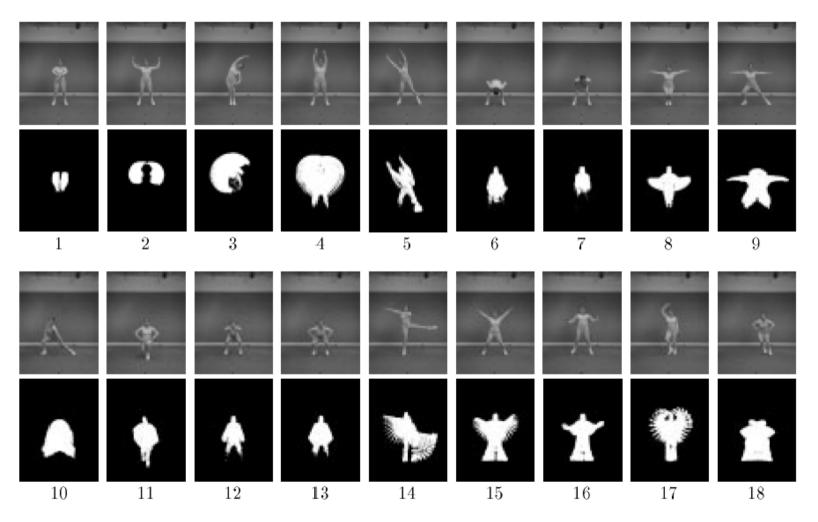
#### Descriptor: Hu moments of different orders

$$m_{pq} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^p y^q \rho(x, y) dx dy$$



[A.F. Bobick and J.W. Davis, PAMI 2001]

#### **Aerobics dataset**



Nearest Neighbor classifier: 66% accuracy

[A.F. Bobick and J.W. Davis, PAMI 2001]

# **Temporal Templates: Summary**

Pros:

- + Simple and fast
- + Works in controlled settings

Cons:

Prone to errors of background subtraction



What is the background here?

Not all shapes are valid

Restrict the space

of admissible silhouettes.

 Does not capture *interior* motion and shape

Variations in light, shadows, clothing...



Silhouette tells little about actions

## **Active Shape Models**

#### **Point Distribution Model**

• Represent the shape of samples by a set of corresponding points or *landmarks* 

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)^T$$

• Assume each shape can be represented by the linear combination of basis shapes

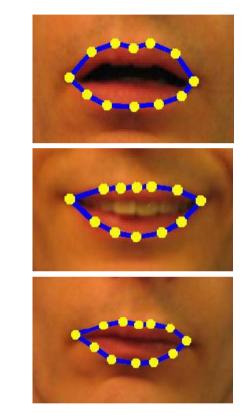
$$\mathbf{\Phi} = (\phi_1 | \phi_2 | \dots | \phi_t)$$

such that  $\ \ \mathbf{x} pprox ar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{b}$ 

for the mean shape

$$ar{\mathbf{x}} = rac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^{s} \mathbf{x}_i$$

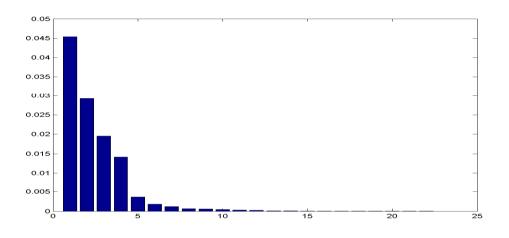
and some parameter vector  $\mathbf{b}$ 



[Cootes et al. 1995]

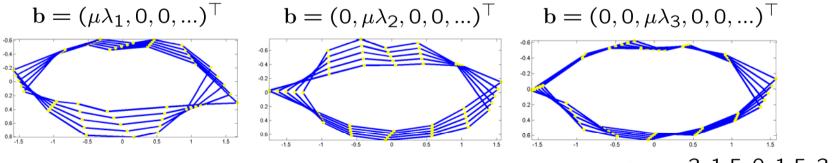
### **Active Shape Models**

• Distribution of eigenvalues of  $S: \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, ...$ 



A small fraction of basis shapes (eigenvecors) accounts for the most of shape variation (=> landmarks are redundant)

• Three main modes of lips-shape variation:

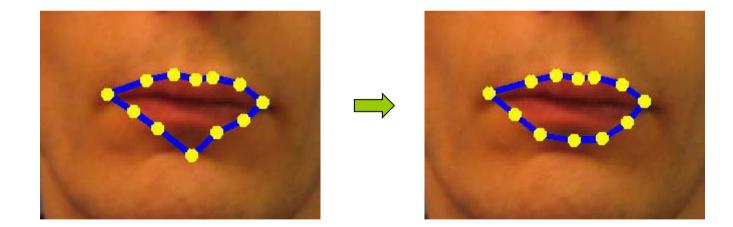


 $\mu = -3, 1.5, 0, 1.5, 3$ 

# Active Shape Models: effect of regularization

• Projection onto the shape-space serves as a regularization

$$\mathbf{x} \implies \mathbf{b} = \Phi^{\top}(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) \implies \mathbf{x}' = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \Phi \mathbf{b}$$



## **Person Tracking**



Learning flexible models from image sequences [A. Baumberg and D. Hogg, ECCV 1994]

# **Active Shape Models: Summary**

Pros:

- + Shape prior helps overcoming segmentation errors
- + Fast optimization
- + Can handle interior/exterior dynamics

Cons:

- Optimization gets trapped in local minima
- Re-initialization is problematic

#### **Possible improvements:**

• Learn and use motion priors, possibly specific to different actions

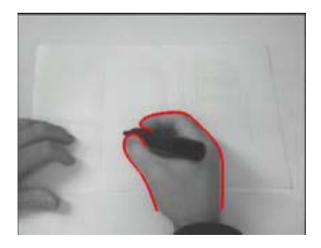
# **Motion priors**

- Accurate motion models can be used both to:
  - ✤ Help accurate tracking
  - Recognize actions
- Goal: formulate motion models for different types of actions and use such models for action recognition

Example:

Drawing with 3 action modes

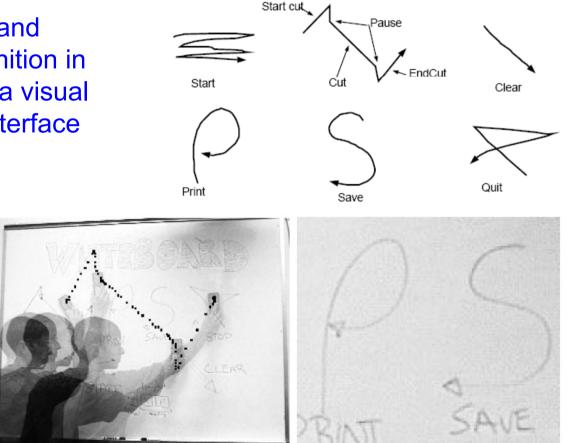
line drawingscribblingidle



[M. Isard and A. Blake, ICCV 1998]

#### **Dynamics with discrete states**

Joint tracking and gesture recognition in the context of a visual white-board interface



[M.J. Black and A.D. Jepson, ECCV 1998]

# **Motion priors & Trackimg: Summary**

#### Pros:

- + more accurate tracking using specific motion models
- Simultaneous tracking and motion recognition with discrete state dynamical models

Cons:

- Local minima is still an issue
- Re-initialization is still an issue

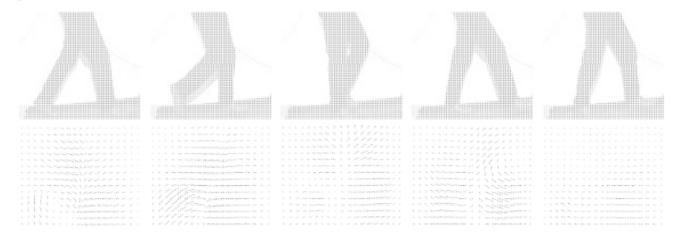
### **Shape and Appearance vs. Motion**

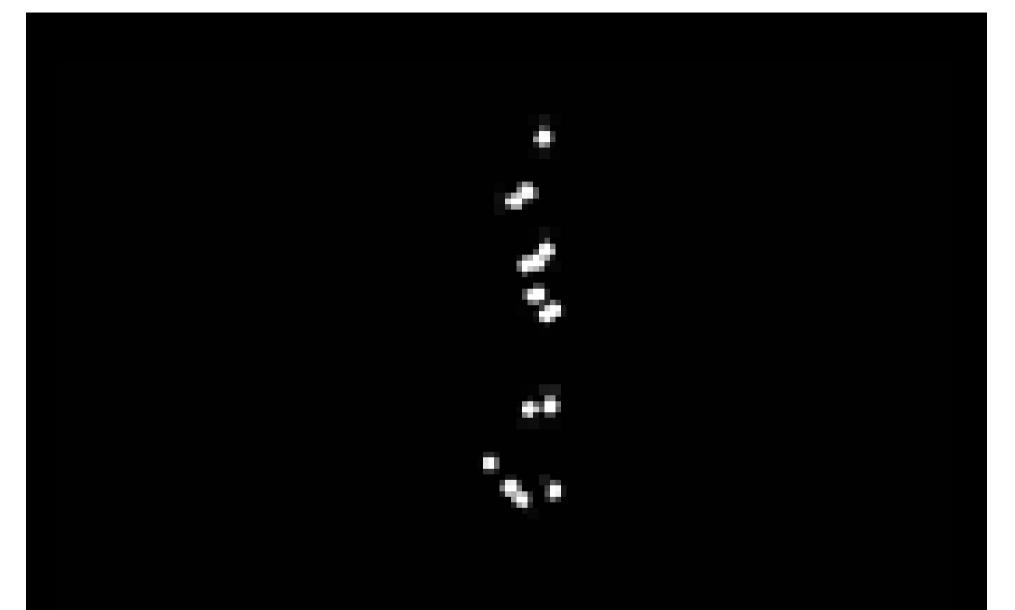
• Shape and appearance in images depends on many factors: clothing, illumination contrast, image resolution, etc...



[Efros et al. 2003]

 Motion field (in theory) is invariant to shape and can be used directly to describe human actions



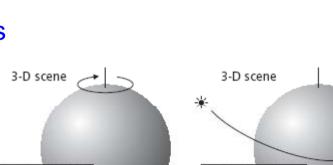


Gunnar Johansson, Moving Light Displays, 1973

## **Motion estimation: Optical Flow**

flow field

- Classical problem of computer vision [Gibson 1955]
- Goal: estimate motion field
  - How? We only have access to image pixels Estimate pixel-wise correspondence between frames = Optical Flow
- Brightness Change assumption: corresponding pixels preserve their intensity (color)
  - Useful assumption in many cases
  - Breaks at occlusions and illumination changes
  - Physical and visual motion may be different



field



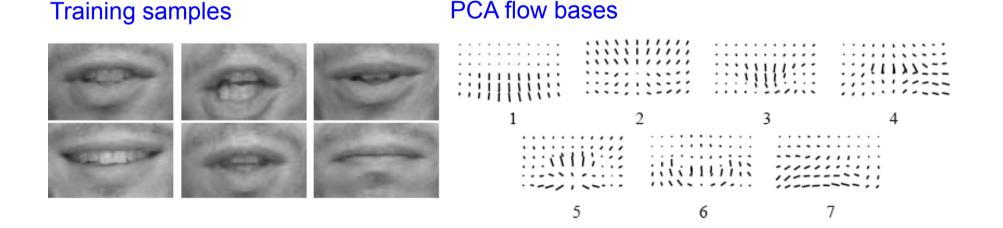
### **Parameterized Optical Flow**

1. Compute standard Optical Flow for many examples 2. Put velocity components into one vector

$$\mathbf{w} = (v_x^1, v_y^1, v_x^2, v_y^2, ..., v_x^n, v_y^n)^ op$$

3. Do PCA on w and obtain most informative PCA flow basis vectors

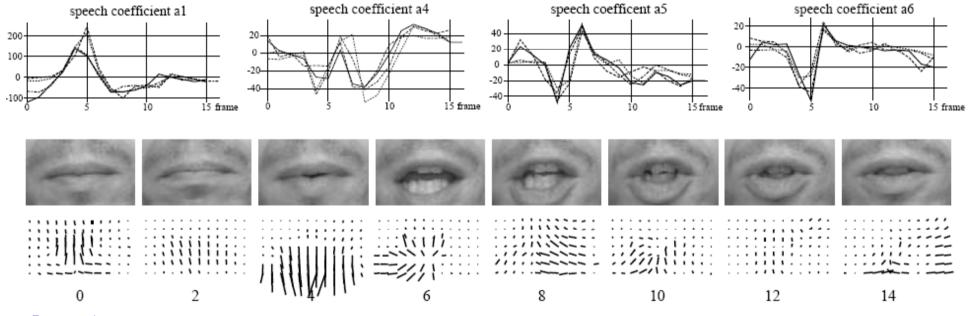
PCA flow bases



[Black, Yacoob, Jepson, Fleet, CVPR 1997]

## **Parameterized Optical Flow**

 Estimated coefficients of PCA flow bases can be used as action descriptors

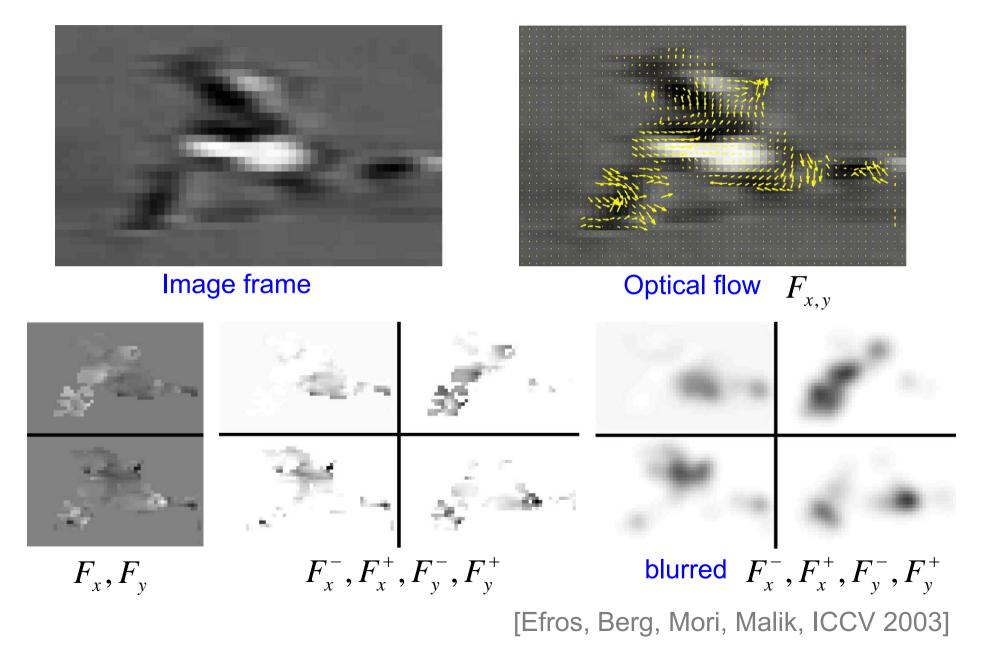


Frame numbers

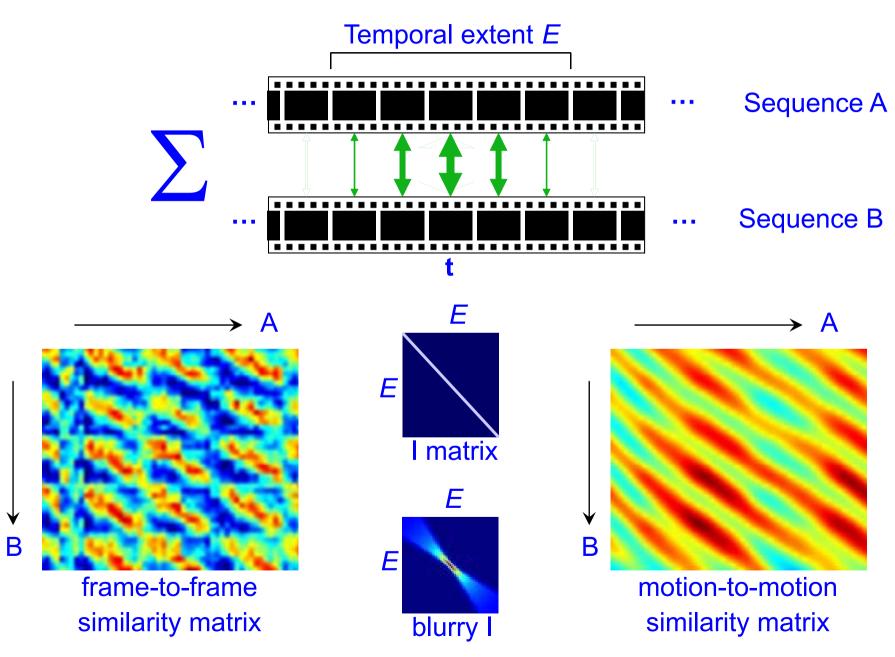
Optical flow seems to be an interesting descriptor for motion/action recognition

[Black, Yacoob, Jepson, Fleet, CVPR 1997]

### **Spatial Motion Descriptor**



## **Spatio-Temporal Motion Descriptor**



### **Football Actions: matching**

Input Sequence

Matched Frames



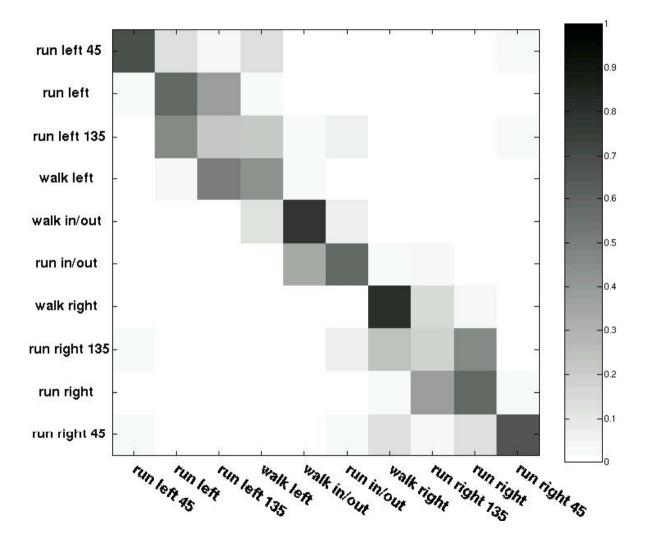


input

matched

[Efros, Berg, Mori, Malik, ICCV 2003]

### **Football Actions: classification**



10 actions; 4500 total frames; 13-frame motion descriptor [Efros, Berg, Mori, Malik, ICCV 2003]

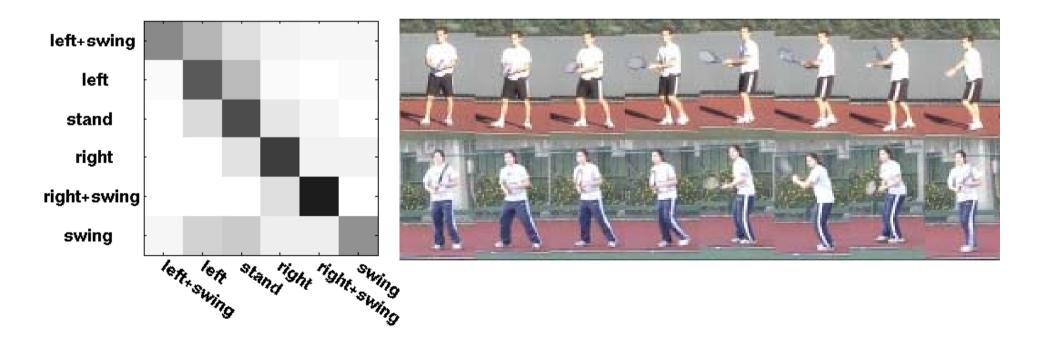
### **Football Actions: Replacement**



[Efros, Berg, Mori, Malik, ICCV 2003]

## **Classifying Tennis Actions**

6 actions; 4600 frames; 7-frame motion descriptor Woman player used as training, man as testing.



[Efros, Berg, Mori, Malik, ICCV 2003]

## **Classifying Tennis Actions**



LEFT LEFT FAST SLOW SWING STAND

RIGHT FAST

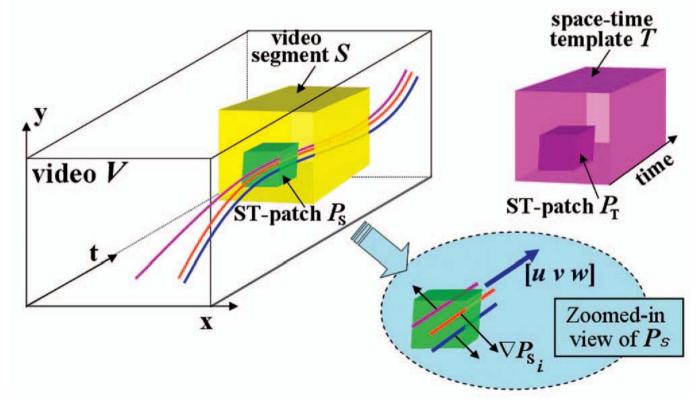
RIGHT

SLOW

Red bars illustrate classification confidence for each action [A. A. Efros, A. C. Berg, G. Mori, J. Malik, ICCV 2003]

# Motion recognition without motion estimations

- Motion estimation from video is a often noisy/unreliable
- Measure motion consistency between a template and test video



[Schechtman and Irani, PAMI 2007]

# Motion recognition without motion estimations

- Motion estimation from video is a often noisy/unreliable
- Measure motion consistency between a template and test video



Template video



Test video

#### **Correlation result**

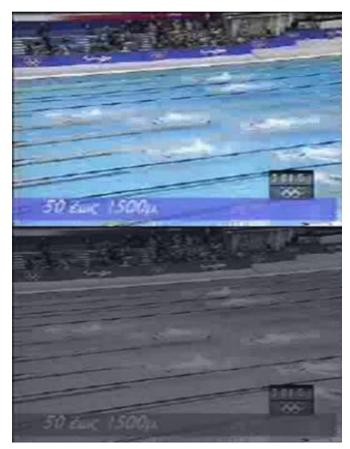
[Schechtman and Irani, PAMI 2007]

# Motion recognition without motion estimations

- Motion estimation from video is a often noisy/unreliable
- Measure motion consistency between a template and test video



Template video



Test video

**Correlation result** 

[Schechtman and Irani, PAMI 2007]

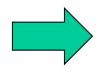
## **Motion-based template matching**

#### Pros:

+ Depends less on variations in appearance

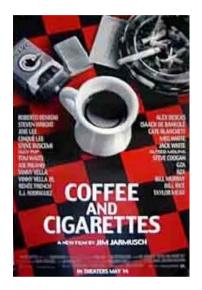
#### Cons:

- Can be slow
- Does not model negatives



Improvements possible using *discriminatively-trained* template-based action classifiers

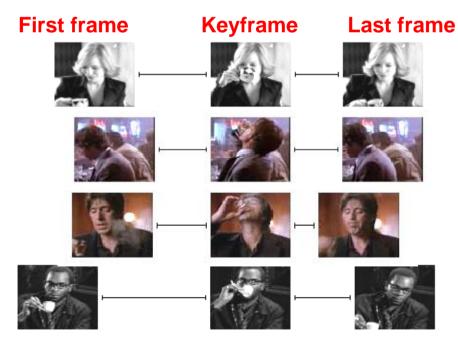
## **Action Dataset and Annotation**



Manual annotation of drinking actions in movies: "Coffee and Cigarettes"; "Sea of Love"

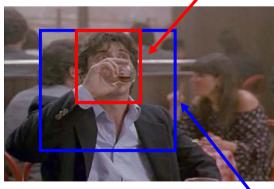
> "*Drinking*": 159 annotated samples "*Smoking*": 149 annotated samples

#### **Temporal annotation**



#### Spatial annotation

head rectangle



torso rectangle

## "Drinking" action samples

#### training samples

#### test samples



### Actions == space-time objects?

"stableview" objects







"atomic" actions



car exit



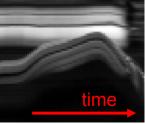
phoning

hand shaking

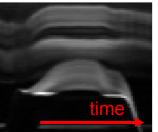
drinking

**Objective:** take advantage of spacetime shape

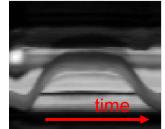




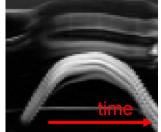




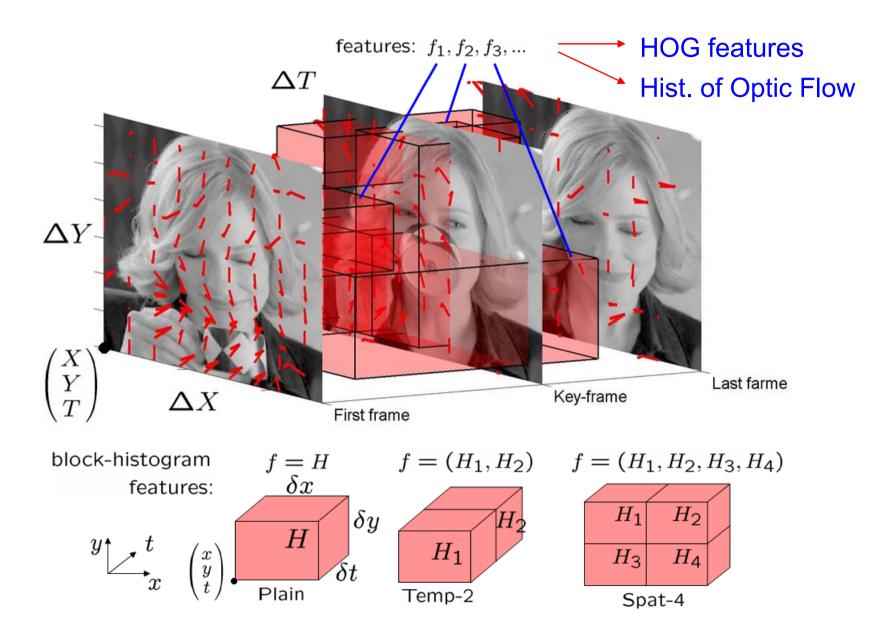




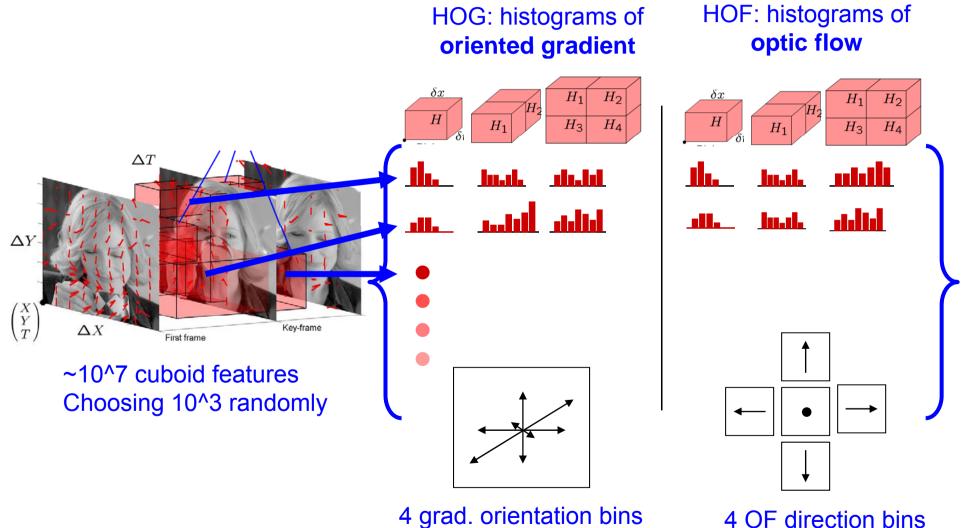




## **Actions == Space-Time Objects?**

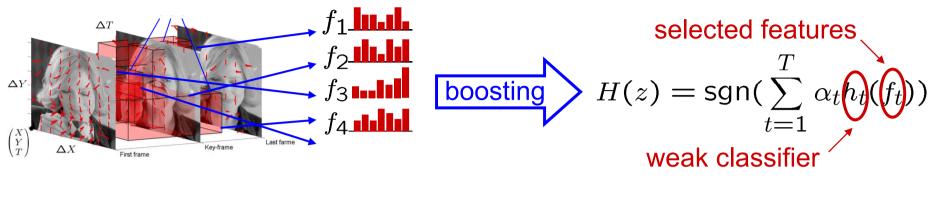


## **Histogram features**



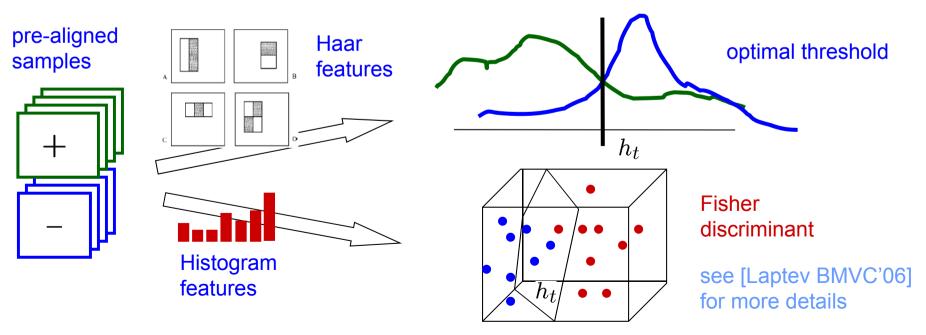
<sup>+ 1</sup> bin for no motion

## **Action learning**



AdaBoost:

Efficient discriminative classifier [Freund&Schapire'97]
Good performance for face detection [Viola&Jones'01]



## **Drinking action detection**



Test episodes from the movie "Coffee and cigarettes"

[I. Laptev and P. Pérez, ICCV 2007]

## Where are we so far ?



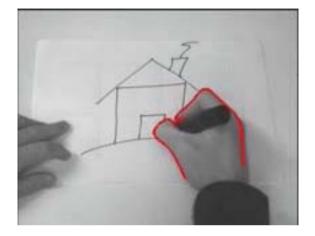
Temporal templates:

- + simple, fast
- sensitive to segmentation errors



Active shape models:

- + shape regularization
- sensitive to initialization and tracking failures

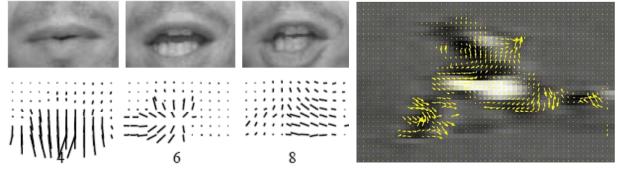


#### **Tracking with motion priors:**

- + improved tracking and simultaneous action recognition
- sensitive to initialization and tracking failures

#### **Motion-based recognition:**

- + generic descriptors; less depends on appearance
- sensitive to localization/tracking errors



# **Course overview**







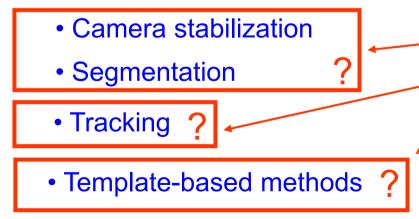
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- Action recognition in still images
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  - **Conclusions and future directions**

# How to handle real complexity?



#### Common methods:



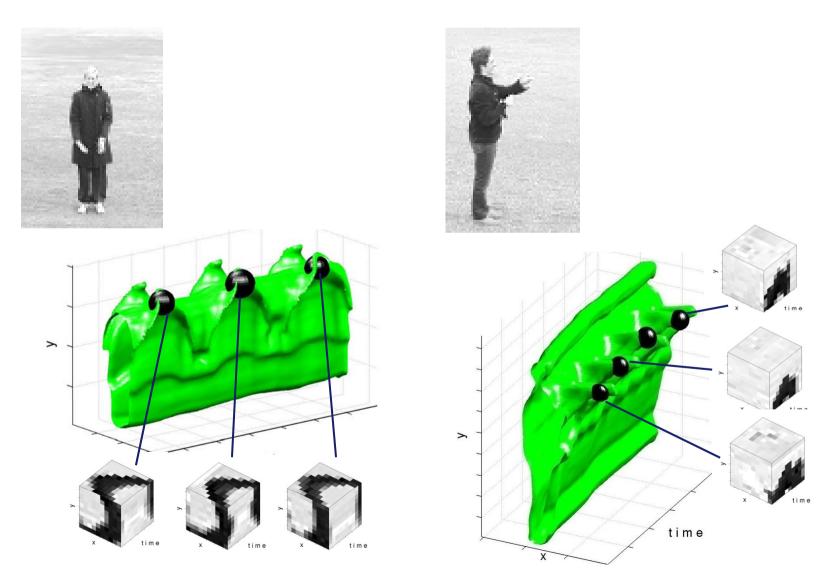
Common problems:

- Complex & changing BG
- Changes in appearance
- Large variations in motion



Avoid global assumptions!

## No global assumptions => Local measurements



## **Relation to local image features**

Airplanes	
Motorbikes	
Faces	
Wild Cats	
Leaves	
People	
Bikes	

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## **Space-Time Interest Points**

What neighborhoods to consider?

Distinctive neighborhoods	High imageLook at the $\Rightarrow$ variation in space $\Rightarrow$ and timegradient	
Definitions:		
$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$	Original image sequence	
$g(x,y,t;\Sigma)$	Space-time Gaussian with covariance $\Sigma \in SPSD$	(3)
$L_{\xi}(\cdot; \Sigma) = f(\cdot) \ast$	* $g_{\xi}(\cdot; \Sigma)$ Gaussian derivative of $f$	
$\nabla L = (L_x, L_y, L_t)$	$\mathcal{O}^T$ Space-time gradient	١
$\mu(\cdot; \Sigma) = \nabla L(\cdot;$	$\Sigma)(\nabla L(\cdot; \Sigma))^{T} * g(\cdot; s\Sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_{xx} & \mu_{xy} & \mu_{xt} \\ \mu_{xy} & \mu_{yy} & \mu_{yt} \\ \mu_{xt} & \mu_{yt} & \mu_{tt} \end{pmatrix}$	
	Second-moment matrix $\langle \mu_{xt} \ \mu_{yt} \ \mu_{tt}  angle$	/

## **Space-Time Interest Points: Detection**

## Properties of $\mu(\cdot; \Sigma)$

 $\mu(\cdot; \Sigma)$  defines second order approximation for the local distribution of  $\nabla L$  within neighborhood  $\Sigma$ rank( $\mu$ ) = 1  $\Rightarrow$  1D space-time variation of f e.g. moving bar rank( $\mu$ ) = 2  $\Rightarrow$  2D space-time variation of f e.g. moving ball rank( $\mu$ ) = 3  $\Rightarrow$  3D space-time variation of f e.g. jumping ball

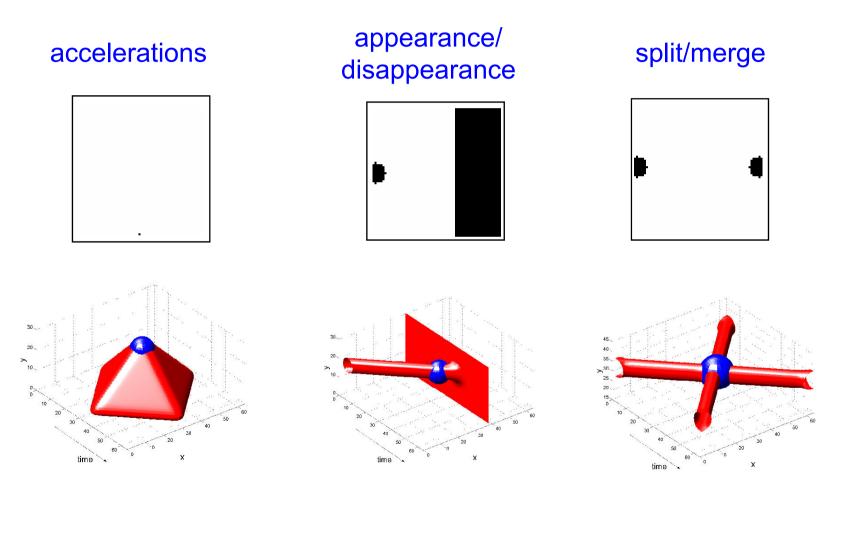
Large eigenvalues of  $\mu$  can be detected by the local maxima of H over (x,y,t):

$$H(p; \Sigma) = \det(\mu(p; \Sigma)) + k \operatorname{trace}^{3}(\mu(p; \Sigma))$$
$$= \lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \lambda_{3} - k(\lambda_{1} + \lambda_{2} + \lambda_{3})^{3}$$

(similar to Harris operator [Harris and Stephens, 1988])

## **Space-Time Interest Points: Examples**

Motion event detection: synthetic sequences

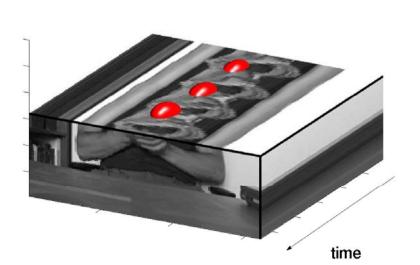


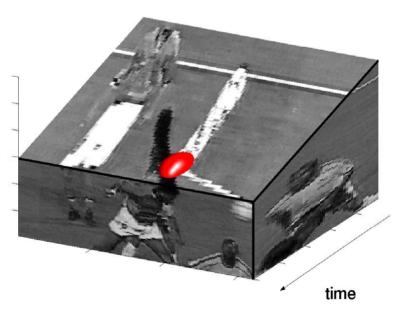
## **Space-Time Interest Points: Examples**

#### Motion event detection







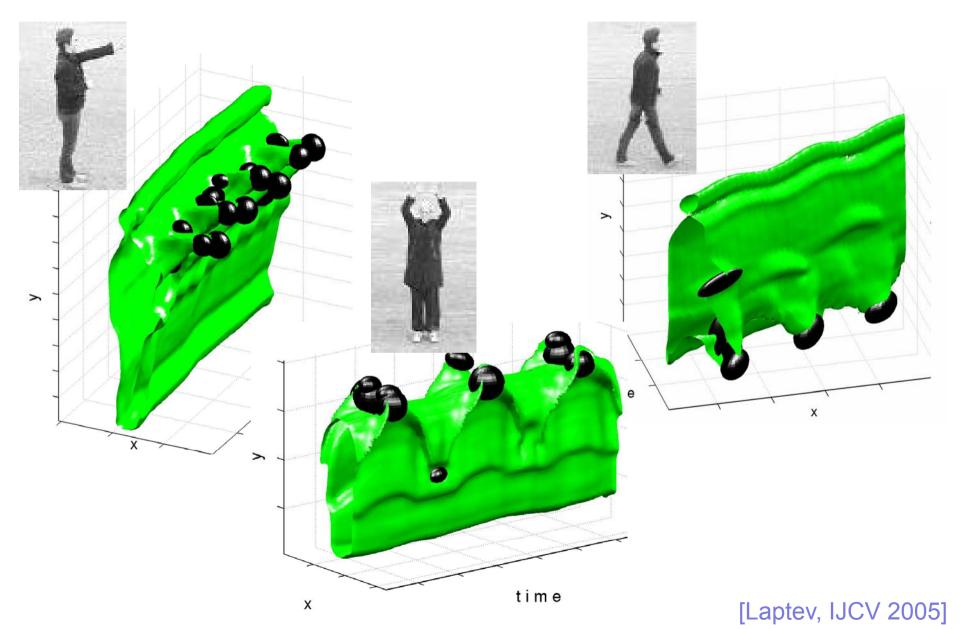


## **Space-Time Interest Points: Examples**

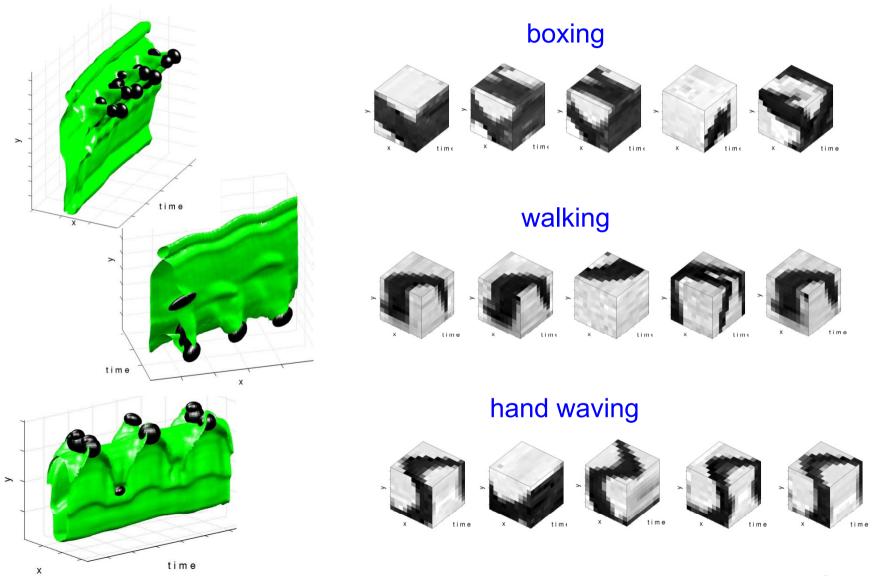
#### Motion event detection: complex background



## **Features from human actions**

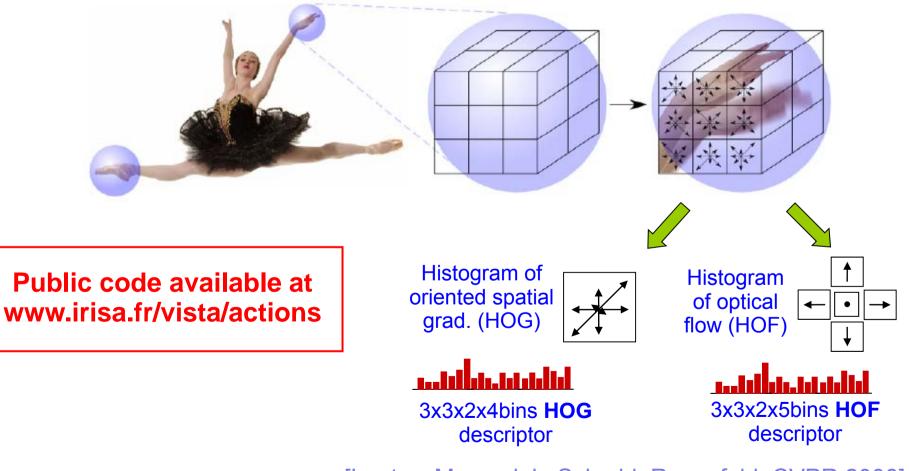


## **Features from human actions**



## **Space-Time Features: Descriptor**

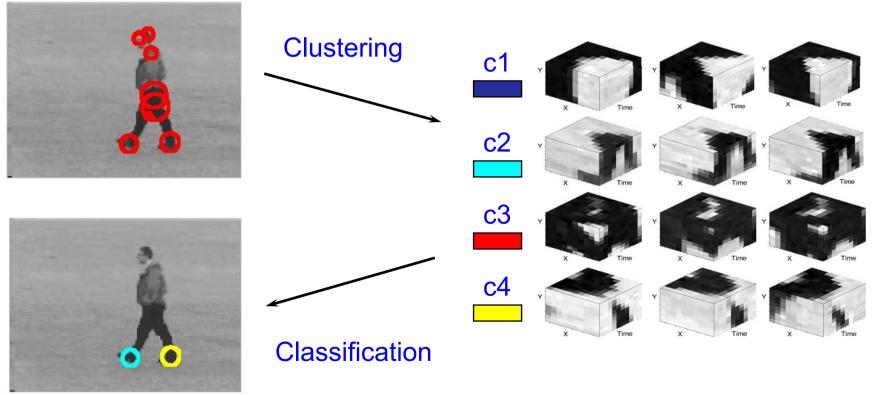
Multi-scale space-time patches from corner detector



[Laptev, Marszałek, Schmid, Rozenfeld, CVPR 2008]

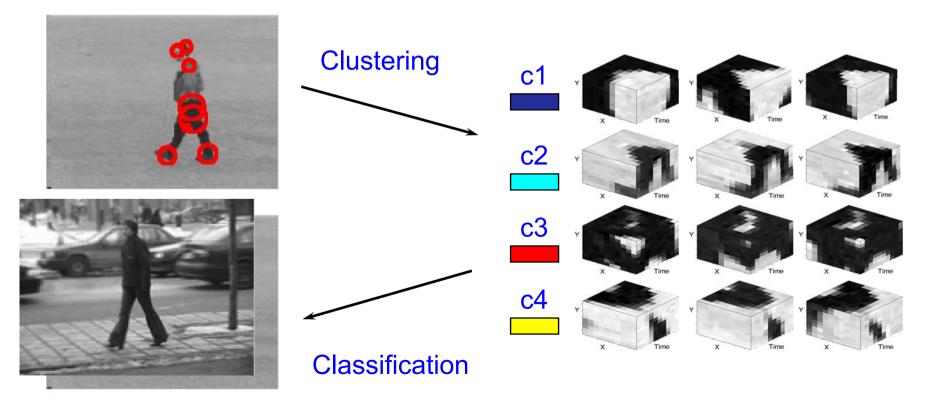
## **Visual Vocabulary: K-means clustering**

- Group similar points in the space of image descriptors using K-means clustering
- Select significant clusters



## **Visual Vocabulary: K-means clustering**

- Group similar points in the space of image descriptors using K-means clustering
- Select significant clusters

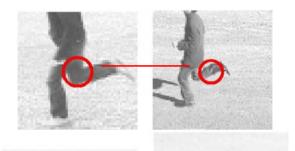


## **Local Space-time features: Matching**

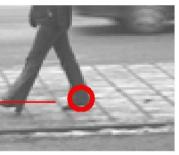
• Find similar events in pairs of video sequences









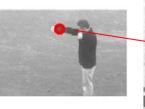








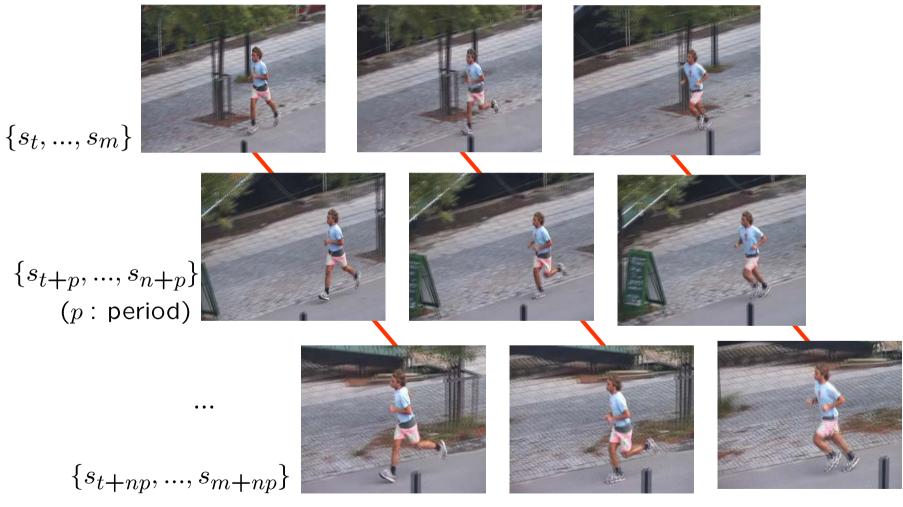






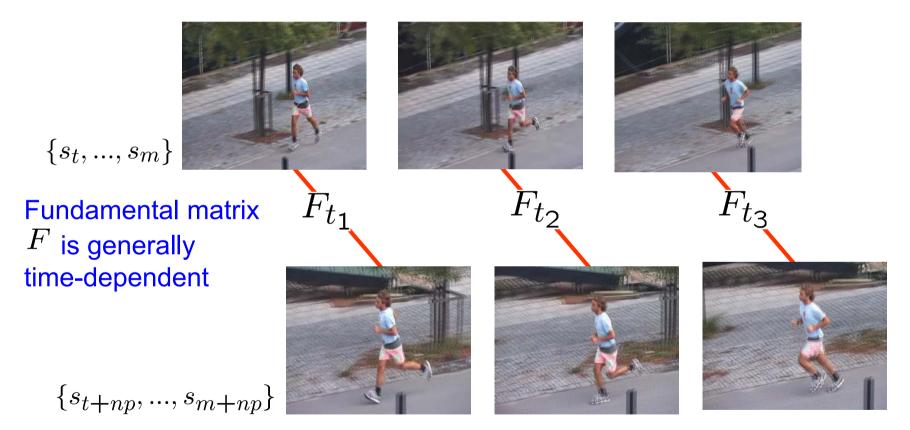
## **Periodic Motion**

• Periodic views of a sequence can be approximately treated as stereopairs



## **Periodic Motion**

• Periodic views of a sequence can be approximately treated as stereopairs



Periodic motion estimation ~ sequence alignment

# **Sequence alignment**

#### **Generally hard problem**

- Unknown positions and motions of cameras
- Unknown temporal offset
- Possible time warping

### **Prior work treats special cases**

- Caspi and Irani "Spatio-temporal alignment of sequences", PAMI 2002
- Rao et.al. "*View-invariant alignment and matching of video sequences*", ICCV 2003
- Tuytelaars and Van Gool "Synchronizing video sequences", CVPR 2004

### **Useful for**

- Reconstruction of dynamic scenes
- *Recognition* of dynamic scenes

## **Sequence alignment**

#### **Constant translation**

- Assume the camera is translating with velocity  $_{V}\ensuremath{\,\mathrm{relatively}}$  to the object

 $\Rightarrow \text{ For sequences } \begin{array}{l} S_a = \{s_t, ..., s_m\} \\ S_b = \{s_{t+np}, ..., s_{m+np}\} \end{array}$ 

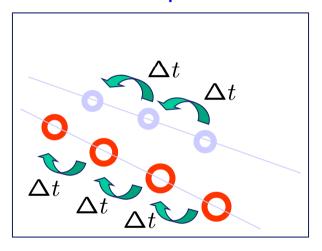
corresponding points are related by

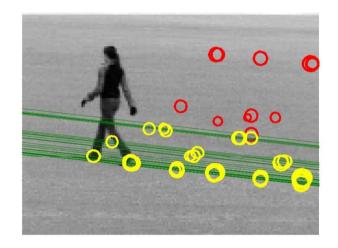
$$x_t^{\top} F x_{t+np} = 0$$
 with  $F = [npV]_{\times} R \sim [V]_{\times}$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  All corresponding periodic points are on the same epipolar line

## **Periodic motion detection**

1. Corresponding points have similar descriptors





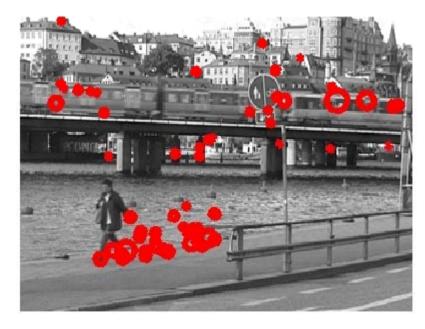
2. Same period  $p = \Delta t$  for all features

3. Spatial arrangement of features across periods satisfy epipolar constraint:  $[x^t]'Fx^{t+p} = 0$ 

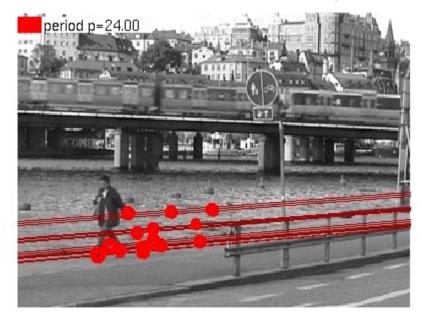
Use RANSAC to estimate F and p

## **Periodic motion detection**

#### Original space-time features



#### RANSAC estimation of F,p

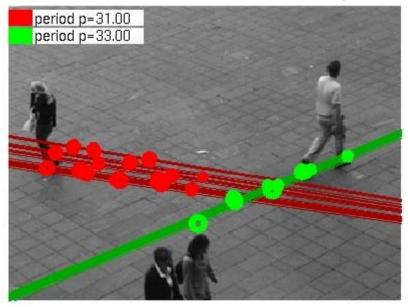


## **Periodic motion detection**

#### Original space-time features



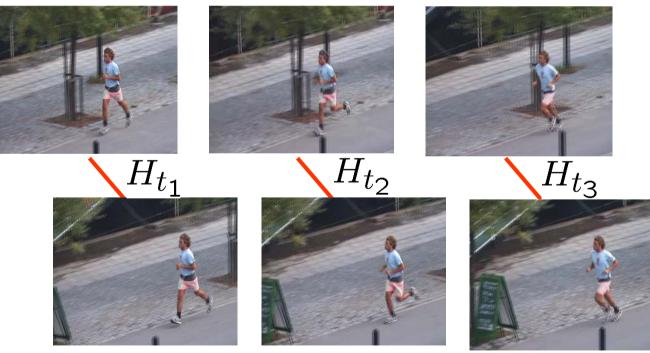
#### RANSAC estimation of F,p



## **Periodic motion segmentation**

- Assume periodic objects are planar
- Periodic points can be related by a *dynamic homography:*

 $x_t = Hx_{t+p}$  with linear in time  $H(t) = I + p(\mathbf{v}\mathbf{n}^\top - \mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{v}I)/d - \frac{t}{t}\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{v}I/d$ 



## **Periodic motion segmentation**

## • Assume periodic objects are planar

 $\Rightarrow$  Periodic points can be related by a *dynamic homography:* 

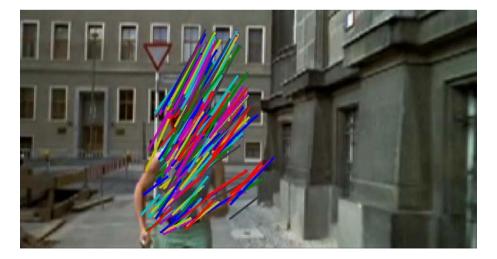
 $x_t = Hx_{t+p} \text{ with } \qquad \text{linear in time} \\ H(t) = I + p(\mathbf{v}\mathbf{n}^\top - \mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{v}I)/d - t\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{v}I/d \\ \Rightarrow \text{RANSAC estimation of } H \text{ and } p$ 



## **Object-centered stabilization**









[Laptev, Belongie, Pérez, Wills, ICCV 2005]

## **Segmentation**



## Graph-cut segmentation







## Segmentation



[I. Laptev, S.J. Belongie, P. Pérez and J. Wills, ICCV 2005]

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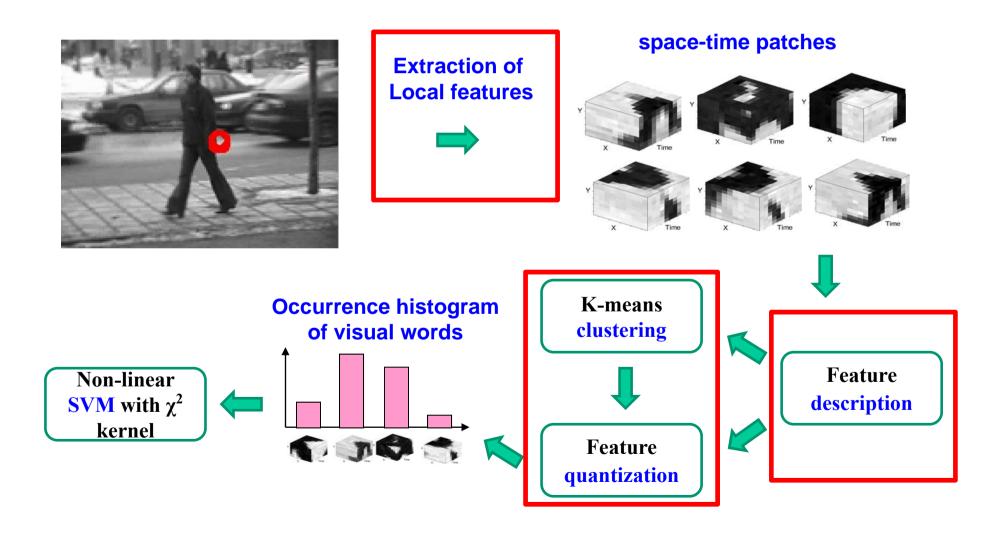


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# **Action recognition framework**

Bag of space-time features + SVM [Schuldt'04, Niebles'06, Zhang'07,...]



## The spatio-temporal features/descriptors

## • Features: Detectors

- Harris3D [I. Laptev, IJCV 2005]
- Dollar [P. Dollar et al., VS-PETS 2005]
- Hessian [G. Willems et al, ECCV 2008]
- Regular sampling [H. Wang et al. BMVC 2009]

## • **Descriptors**

- HoG/HoF [I. Laptev, et al. CVPR 2008]
- Dollar [P. Dollar et al., VS-PETS 2005]
- HoG3D [A. Klaeser et al., BMVC 2008]
- Extended SURF [G. Willems et al., ECCV 2008]

## **Illustration of ST detectors**

#### Harris3D

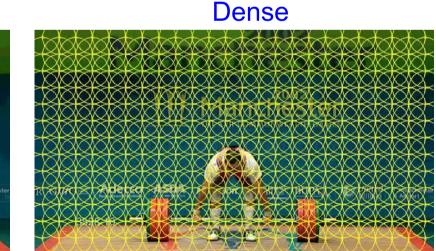


# R G///G CCC ASDA

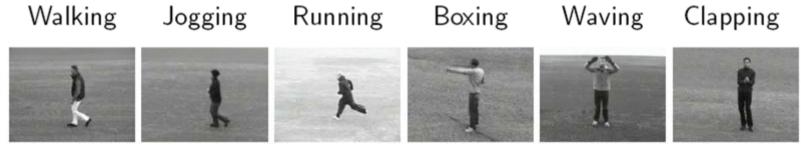
Hessian

#### Cuboid





# **Results: KTH actions**



#### **Detectors**

		Harris3D	Cuboids	Hessian	Dense
escriptors)	HOG3D	89.0%	90.0%	84.6%	85.3%
	HOG/HOF	91.8%	88.7%	88.7%	86.1%
	HOG	80.9%	82.3%	77.7%	79.0%
	HOF	92.1%	88.2%	88.6%	88.0%
	Cuboids	-	89.1%	-	-
	E-SURF			81.4%	

- Best results for **Sparse** Harris3D + HOF
- Dense features perform relatively poor compared to sparse features

[Wang, Ullah, Kläser, Laptev, Schmid, BMVC 2009]

# **Results: UCF sports**



		Harris3D	Cuboids	Hessian	Dense
	HOG3D	79.7%	82.9%	79.0%	85.6%
S	HOG/HOF	78.1%	77.7%	79.3%	81.6%
	HOG	71.4%	72.7%	66.0%	77.4%
SCL	HOF	75.4%	76.7%	75.3%	82.6%
L L	Cuboids		76.6%		
	E-SURF	unnaa deennaa de Tintste konstantin staat die konstantin staat die konstantin staat die konstantin staat die konst 		77.3%	

- Best results for **Dense** + HOG3D
- Cuboids: good performance with HOG3D

[Wang, Ullah, Kläser, Laptev, Schmid, BMVC 2009]

#### **Results: Hollywood-2**



#### Detectors

		Harris3D	Cuboids	Hessian	Dense
Descriptors	HOG3D	43.7%	45.7%	41.3%	45.3%
	HOG/HOF	45.2%	46.2%	46.0%	47.4%
	HOG	32.8%	39.4%	36.2%	39.4%
	HOF	43.3%	42.9%	43.0%	45.5%
	Cuboids	-	45.0%		-
	E-SURF	-	_	38.2%	

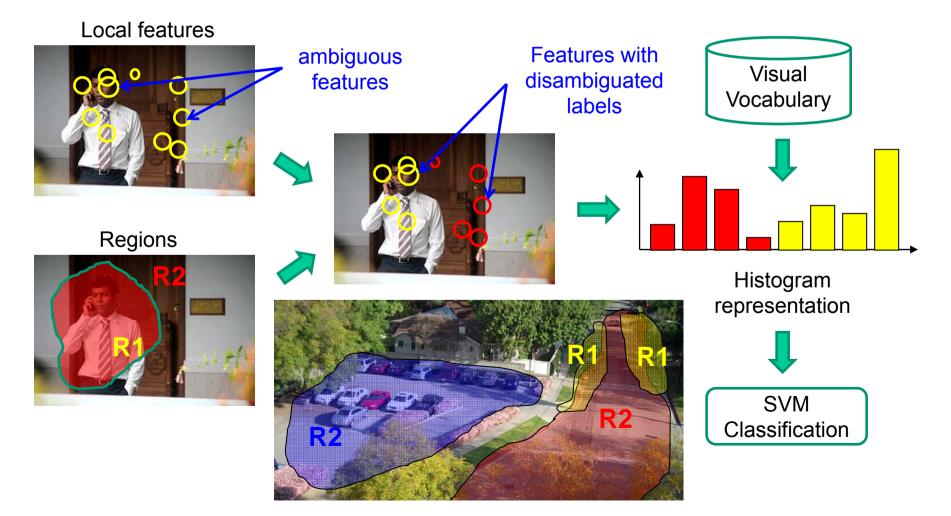
- Best results for **Dense** + HOG/HOF
- Good results for HOG/HOF

[Wang, Ullah, Kläser, Laptev, Schmid, BMVC 2009]

# **Improved BoF action classification**

Goals:

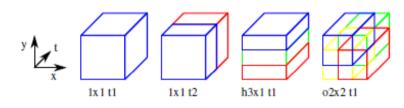
- Inject additional supervision into BoF
- Improve local descriptors with region-level information

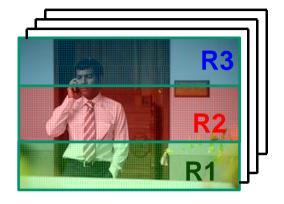


# **Video Segmentation**

• Spatio-temporal grids

AnswerPhone





Static action detectors [Felzenszwalb'08] • - Trained from ~100 web-images per class



Object and Person detectors (Upper body) • [Felzenszwalb'08]

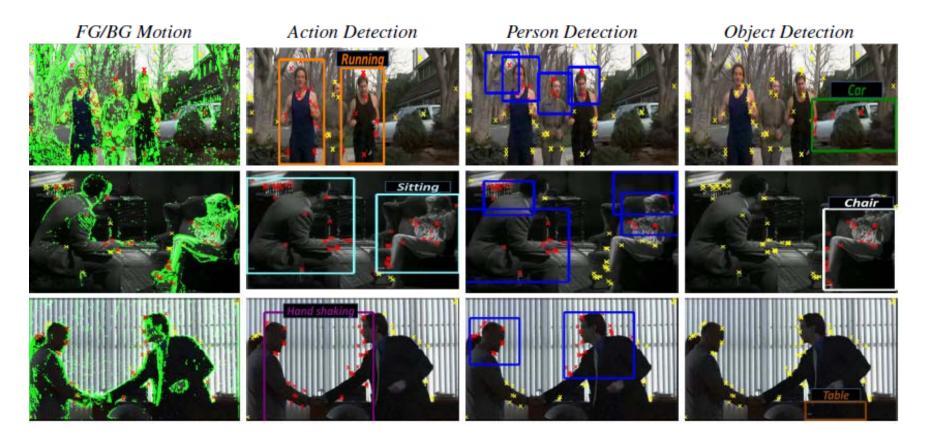


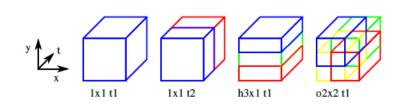
Run

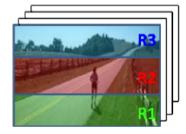
Kiss



#### **Video Segmentation**







#### **Multi-channel chi-square kernel**

Use SVMs with a multi-channel chi-square kernel for classification

$$K(H_i, H_j) = \exp\left(-\sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \frac{1}{A_c} D_c(H_i, H_j)\right)$$

- Channel c corresponds to particular region segmentation
- $D_c(H_i, H_i)$  is the chi-square distance between histograms
- A<sub>c</sub> is the mean value of the distances between all training samples
- The best set of channels C for a given training set is found based on a greedy approach

# Hollywood-2 action classification

Attributed feature	Performance (meanAP)
BoF	48.55
Spatiotemoral grid 24 channels	51.83
Motion segmentation	50.39
Upper body	49.26
Object detectors	49.89
Action detectors	52.77
Spatiotemoral grid + Motion segmentation	53.20
Spatiotemoral grid + Upper body	53.18
Spatiotemoral grid + Object detectors	52.97
Spatiotemoral grid + Action detectors	55.72
Spatiotemoral grid + Motion segmentation + Upper body + Object detectors + Action detectors	55.33

[Ullah, Parizi, Laptev, BMVC 2009]

### **Hollywood-2 action classification**

Channels	BoF	STG24	AD-class	STG24 + AD-class	STG24 + MS8
					+ AD-class
					+ UB $+$ OD
mean AP	48.55%	51.83%	52.77%	55.72%	55.33%
AnswerPhone	15.71%	25.87%	20.75%	26.32%	24.77%
DriveCar	87.61%	85.91%	86.87%	86.48%	<b>88.11</b> %
Eat	54.77%	56.39%	57.38%	59.19%	61.42%
FightPerson	73.90%	74.93%	75.73%	76.21%	<b>76.47</b> %
GetOutCar	33.35%	44.02%	38.26%	45.71%	47.42%
HandShake	19.99%	29.68%	45.71%	49.73%	38.41%
HugPerson	37.80%	46.08%	40.75%	45.41%	44.58%
Kiss	52.12%	54.96%	56.00%	58.96%	<b>61.47</b> %
Run	71.13%	69.40%	73.18%	71.97%	74.31%
SitDown	59.01%	58.89%	59.59%	62.43%	61.26%
SitUp	23.90%	18.40%	24.06%	27.52%	25.50%
StandUp	53.30%	57.41%	54.94%	58.76%	60.41%

[Ullah, Parizi, Laptev, BMVC 2009]

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## Why is action recognition hard?

Lots of diversity in the data (view-points, appearance, motion, lighting...)



Drinking



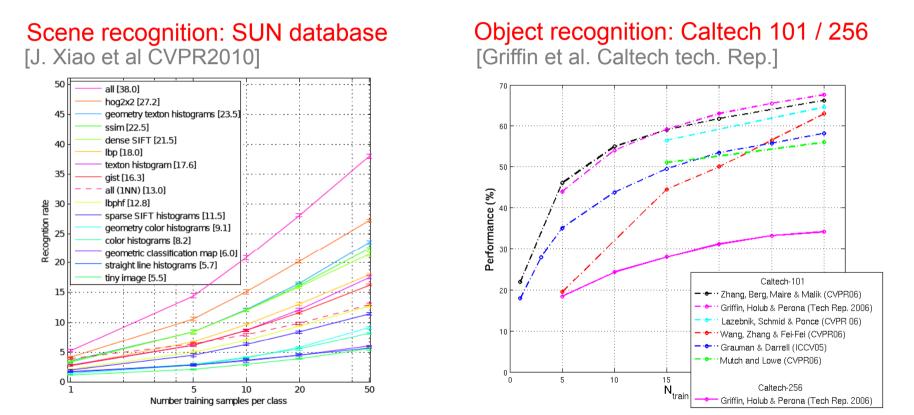
Smoking

Lots of classes and concepts



### The positive effect of data

• The performance of current visual recognition methods heavily depends on the amount of available training data



Action recognition: [Laptev et al. CVPR2008, Marszałek et al. CVPR2009]

Hollywood (~29 samples / class)	mAP: 38.4 %
Hollywood 2 (~75 samples / class)	mAP: 50.3%

# The positive effect of data

• The performance of current visual recognition methods heavily depends on the amount of available training data



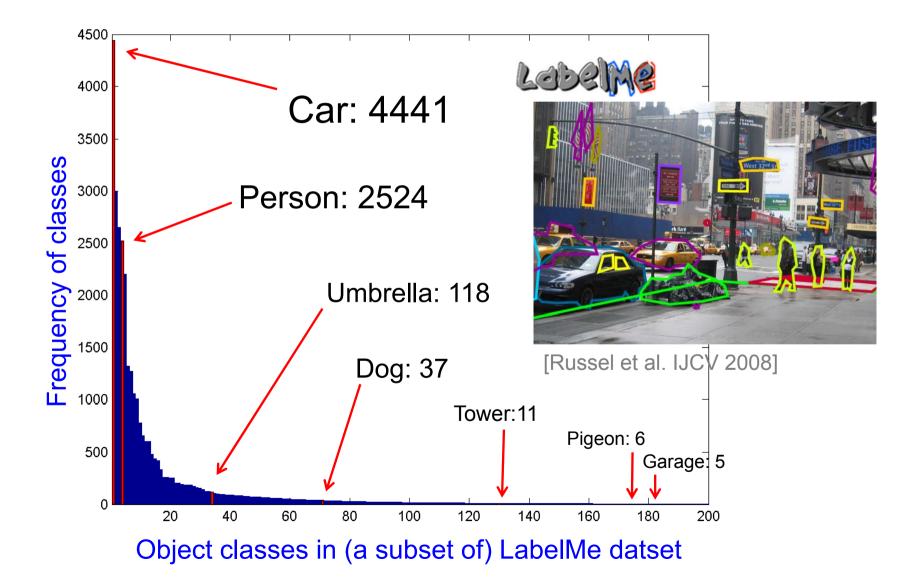
Need to collect substantial amounts of data for training



Current algorithms may not scale well / be optimal for large datasets

 See also article "The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Data" by A. Halevy, P. Norvig, and F. Pereira, Google, *IEEE Intelligent Systems*

#### Why is data collection difficult?



# Why is data collection difficult?

- A few classes are very frequent, but most of the classes are very rare
- Similar phenomena have been observed for non-visual data, e.g. word counts in natural language, etc. Such phenomena follow Zipf's empirical law:

class rank = F(1 / class frequency)

- Manual supervision is very costly especially for video
  - Example: Common actions such as *Kissing*, *Hand Shaking* and *Answering Phone* appear 3-4 times in typical movies



~42 hours of video needs to be inspected to collect 100 samples for each new action class







# **Learning Actions from Movies**

- Realistic variation of human actions
- Many classes and many examples per class

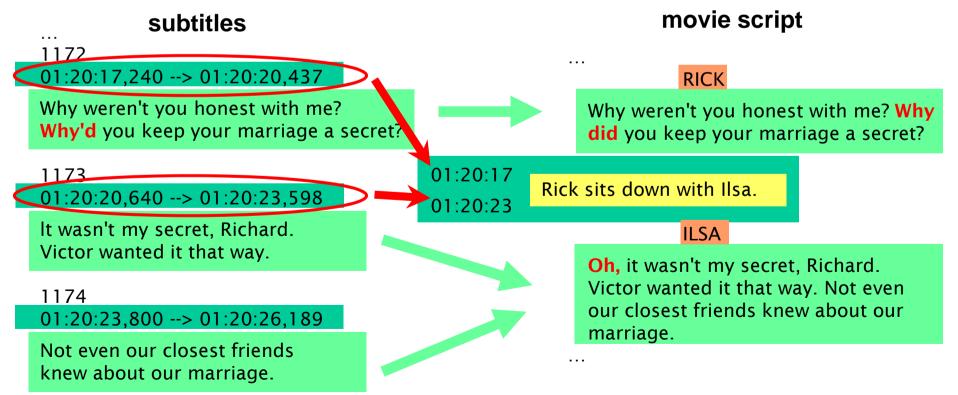


#### Problems:

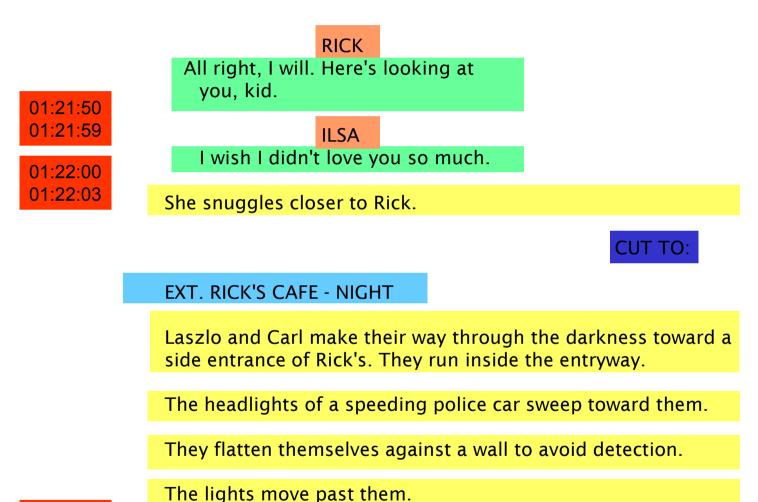
- Typically only a few class-samples per movie
- Manual annotation is very time consuming

# Automatic video annotation with scripts

- Scripts available for >500 movies (no time synchronization) www.dailyscript.com, www.movie-page.com, www.weeklyscript.com ...
- Subtitles (with time info.) are available for the most of movies
- Can transfer time to scripts by text alignment



# **Script alignment**



CARL

I think we lost them.

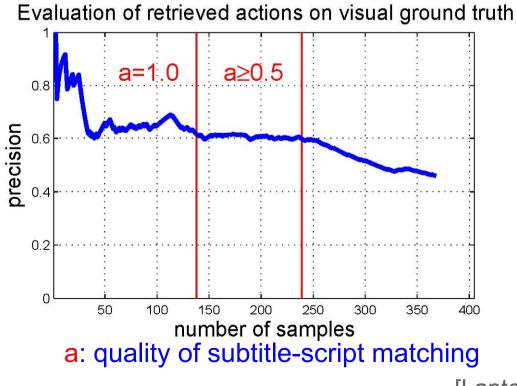
. . .

01:22:15 01:22:17

[Laptev, Marszałek, Schmid, Rozenfeld 2008]

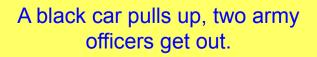
# **Script alignment: Evaluation**

- Annotate action samples *in text*
- Do automatic script-to-video alignment
- Check the correspondence of actions in scripts and movies



Example of a "visual false positive"

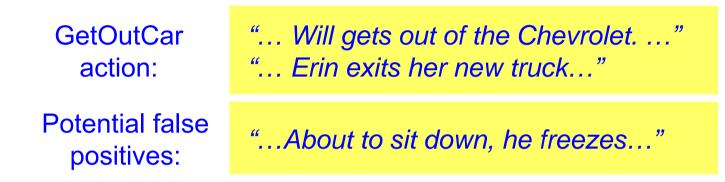




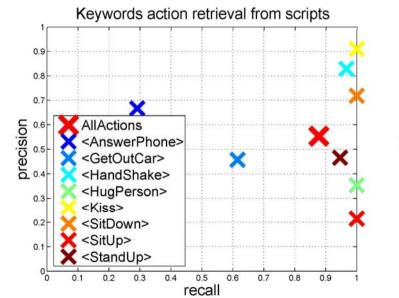
[Laptev, Marszałek, Schmid, Rozenfeld 2008]

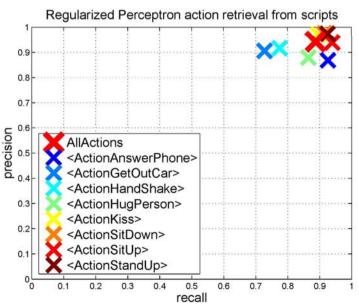
#### **Text-based action retrieval**

• Large variation of action expressions in text:



#### => Supervised text classification approach





### Hollywood-2 actions dataset

Actions						
	Training subset (clean)	Training subset (automatic)	Test subset (clean)			
AnswerPhone	66	59	64			
DriveCar	85	90	102			
Eat	40	44	33			
FightPerson	54	33	70			
GetOutCar	51	40	57			
HandShake	32	38	45			
HugPerson	64	27	66			
Kiss	114	125	103			
Run	135	187	141			
SitDown	104	87	108			
SitUp	24	26	37			
StandUp	132	133	146			
All Samples	823	810	884			

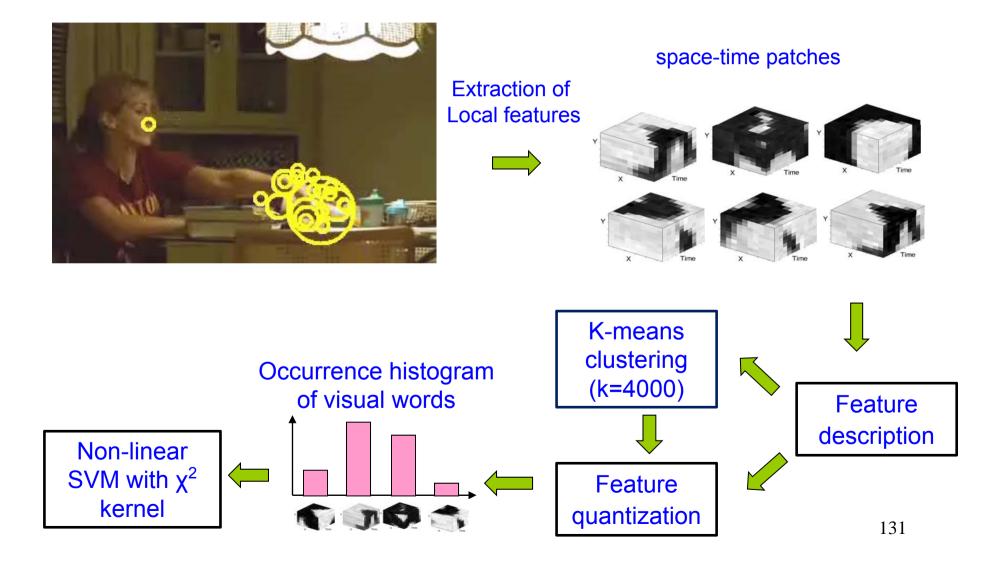
Training and test samples are obtained from 33 and 36 distinct movies respectively.

Hollywood-2 dataset is on-line: http://www.irisa.fr/vista /actions/hollywood2



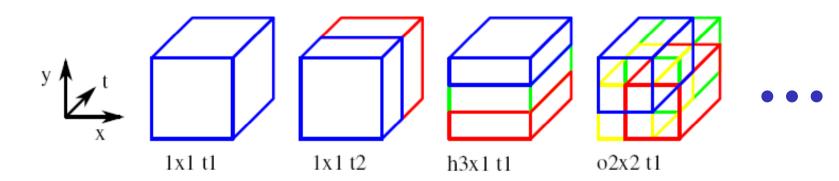
- Learn vision-based classifier from automatic training set
  - Compare performance to the manual training set

#### **Bag-of-Features Recognition**



# **Spatio-temporal bag-of-features**

- Use global spatio-temporal grids
- In the spatial domain:
  - 1x1 (standard BoF)
  - 2x2, o2x2 (50% overlap)
  - h3x1 (horizontal), v1x3 (vertical)
  - 3x3
- In the temporal domain:
  - t1 (standard BoF), t2, t3

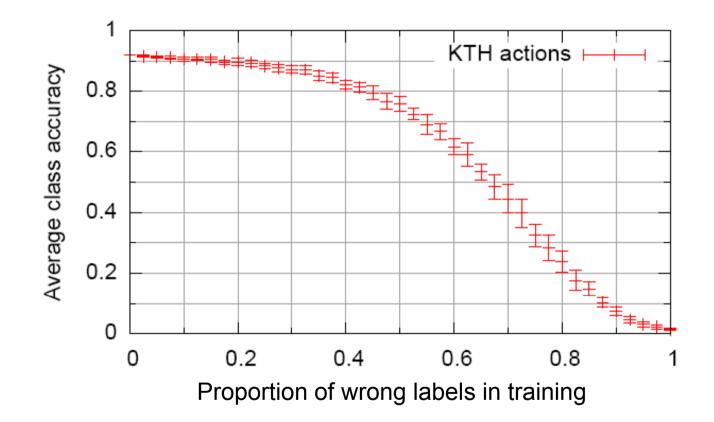


#### **KTH actions dataset**



Sample frames from KTH action dataset for six classes (columns) and four scenarios (rows)

#### **Robustness to noise in training**



- Up to p=0.2 the performance decreases insignificantly
- At p=0.4 the performance decreases by around 10%

# **Action recognition in movies**

GetOutCar HandShake HugPerson AnswerPhone TP FP FN

- Real data is hard!
- False Positives (FP) and True Positives (TP) often visually similar
- False Negatives (FN) are often particularly difficult

# **Results on Hollywood-2 dataset**

SetUp	Clean Training		Automatic Training		Chance
Channel	Combination	BoF	Combination	BoF	
mAP	50.7	47.3	34.6	30.8	9.2
AnswerPhone	20.9	15.7	19.1	17.7	7.2
DriveCar	84.6	86.6	79.1	75.8	11.5
Eat	67.0	59.5	23.5	15.0	3.7
FightPerson	69.8	71.1	59.0	56.3	7.9
GetOutCar	45.7	29.3	25.7	12.3	6.4
HandShake	27.8	21.2	15.2	12.4	5.1
HugPerson	43.2	35.8	14.6	15.6	7.5
Kiss	52.5	51.5	44.4	40.8	11.7
Run	67.8	69.1	50.7	52.6	16.0
SitDown	57.6	58.2	31.4	25.8	12.2
SitUp	17.2	17.5	8.5	8.8	4.2
StandUp	54.3	51.7	44.1	36.8	16.5

Class Average Precision (AP) and mean AP for

- Clean training set
- Automatic training set (with noisy labels)
- Random performance

#### **Action classification**



Test episodes from movies "The Graduate", "It's a Wonderful Life", "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" [Laptev et al. CVPR 2008]

#### Actions in Context (CVPR 2009)

• Human actions are frequently correlated with particular scene classes Reasons: *physical properties* and *particular purposes* of scenes



Eating -- kitchen

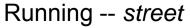


Eating -- cafe

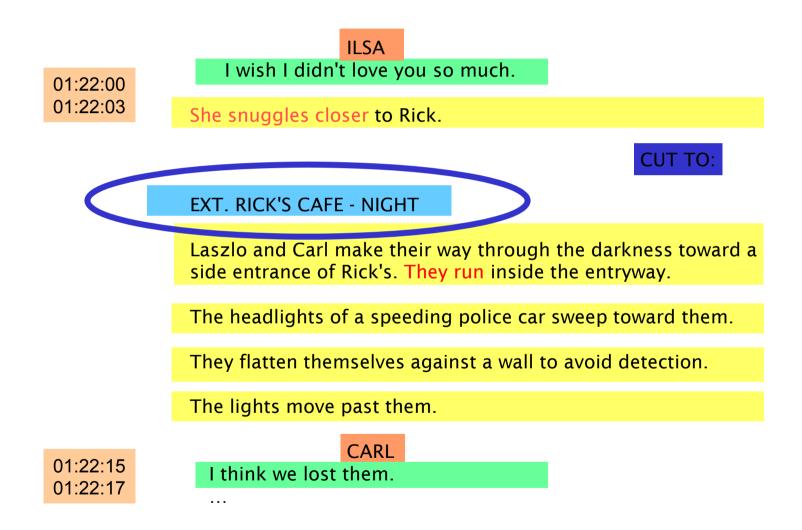


Running -- road





### **Mining scene captions**



## **Mining scene captions**

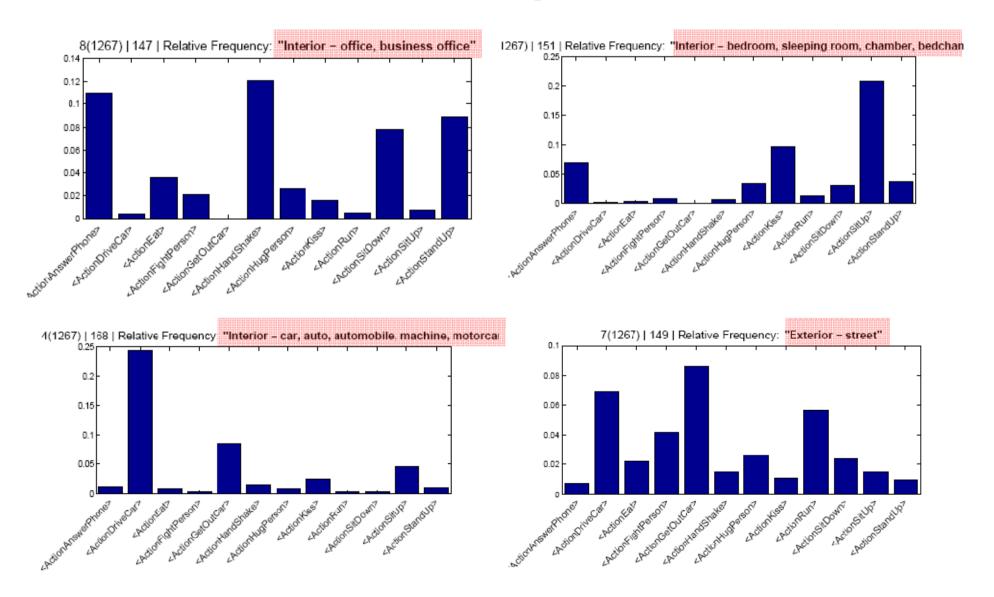
INT. TRENDY RESTAURANT - NIGHT INT. MARSELLUS WALLACE'S DINING ROOM MORNING EXT. STREETS BY DORA'S HOUSE - DAY. INT. MELVIN'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM – NIGHT EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET NEAR CAROL'S RESTAURANT – DAY INT. CRAIG AND LOTTE'S BATHROOM - DAY

- Maximize word frequency street, living room, bedroom, car ....
- Merge words with similar senses using WordNet:

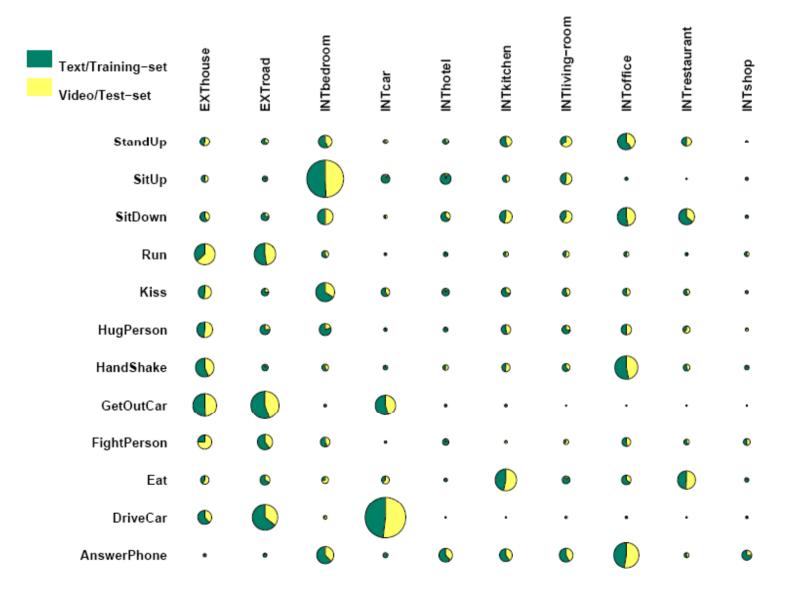
taxi -> car, cafe -> restaurant

- Measure correlation of words with actions (in scripts) and
- Re-sort words by the entropy  $S = -k \sum P_i \ln P_i$  for P = p(action | word)

#### Co-occurrence of actions and scenes in scripts



#### Co-occurrence of actions and scenes in text vs. video



#### Automatic gathering of relevant scene classes and visual samples

Source: 69 movies aligned with the scripts

Hollywood-2 dataset is on-line:

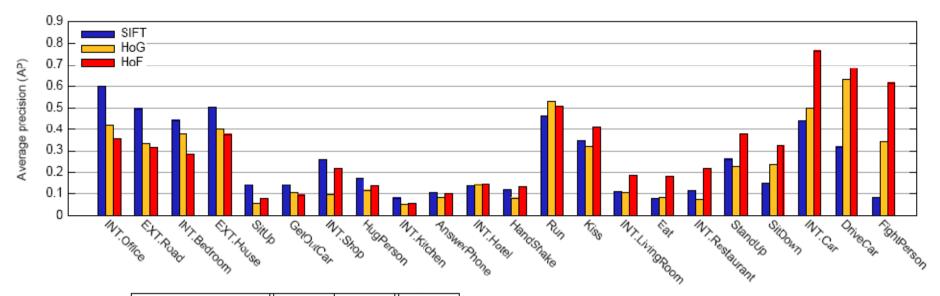
AnswerPhone DriveCar	06 Auto-Train-Actions	Clean-Test-Actions		Auto-Train-Scenes	Clean-Test-Scenes
Eat	44	33	EXT-house	81	140
FightPerson	33	70	EXT-road	81	114
GetOutCar	40	57	INT-bedroom	67	69
HandShake	38	45	INT-car	44	68
HugPerson	27	66	INT-hotel	59	37
Kiss	125	103	INT-kitchen	38	24
Run	187	141	INT-living-room	30	51
SitDown	87	108	INT-office	114	110
SitUp	26	37	INT-restaurant	44	36
StandUp	133	146	INT-shop	47	28
All Samples	810	884	All Samples	570	582

(a) Actions

(b) Scenes

http://www.irisa.fr/vista/actions/hollywood2

#### **Results: actions and scenes (separately)**



				SIFT
			HoG	HoG
		SIFT	HoF	HoF
	AnswerPhone	0.105	0.088	0.107
	DriveCar	0.313	0.749	0.750
	Eat	0.082	0.263	0.286
6	FightPerson	0.081	0.675	0.571
ũ	GetOutCar	0.191	0.090	0.116
.0	HandShake	0.123	0.116	0.141
Actions	HugPerson	0.129	0.135	0.138
A	Kiss	0.348	0.496	0.556
	Run	0.458	0.537	0.565
	SitDown	0.161	0.316	0.278
	SitUp	0.142	0.072	0.078
	StandUp	0.262	0.350	0.325
	Action average	0.200	0.324	0.326

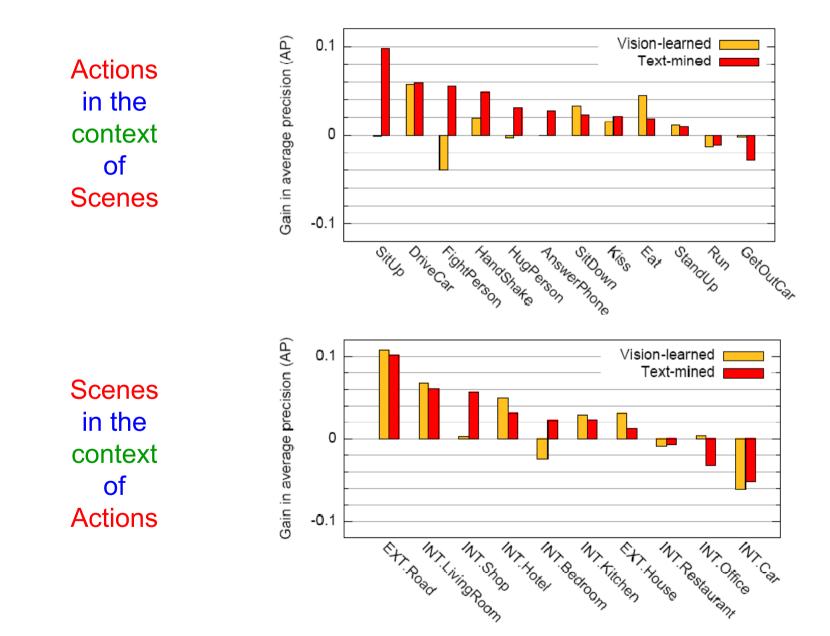
				SIFT
			HoG	HoG
		SIFT	HoF	HoF
	EXT.House	0.503	0.363	0.491
	EXT.Road	0.498	0.372	0.389
	INT.Bedroom	0.445	0.362	0.462
ע D	INT.Car	0.444	0.759	0.773
Scelles	INT.Hotel	0.141	0.220	0.250
<u>ש</u>	INT.Kitchen	0.081	0.050	0.070
ñ	INT.LivingRoom	0.109	0.128	0.152
	INT.Office	0.602	0.453	0.574
	INT.Restaurant	0.112	0.103	0.108
	INT.Shop	0.257	0.149	0.244
	Scene average	0.319	0.296	0.351
	Total average	0.259	0.310	0.339

### **Classification with the help of context**

$$a'_i(\boldsymbol{x}) = a_i(\boldsymbol{x}) + \tau \sum_{j \in S} w_{ij} s_j(\boldsymbol{x})$$

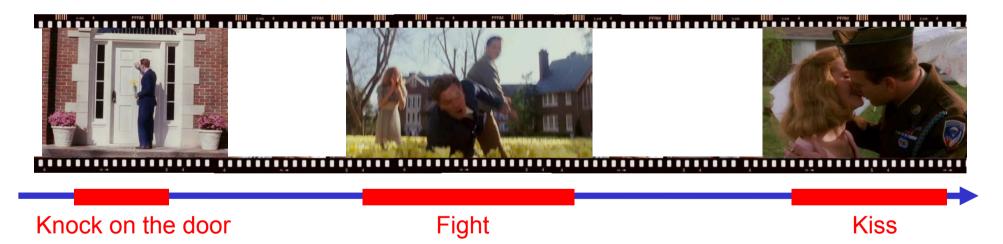
- $a_i(\boldsymbol{x})$  Action classification score
- $s_j(\boldsymbol{x})$  Scene classification score
  - $w_{ij}$  Weight, estimated from text: p(Scene|Action)
  - $a_i'({m x})$  New action score

## **Results: actions and scenes (jointly)**



# Weakly-Supervised Temporal Action Annotation [Duchenne at al. ICCV 2009]

• Answer questions: WHAT actions and WHEN they happened?



• Train visual action detectors and annotate actions with the minimal manual supervision

# WHAT actions?

• Automatic discovery of action classes in text (movie scripts)

-- Text processing:

Part of Speech (POS) tagging; Named Entity Recognition (NER); WordNet pruning; Visual Noun filtering

#### -- Search action patterns

#### Person+Verb

#### 3725 /PERSON .\* is 2644 /PERSON .\* looks 1300 /PERSON .\* turns 916 /PERSON .\* takes 840 /PERSON .\* sits 829 /PERSON .\* has 807 /PERSON .\* walks 701 /PERSON .\* stands 622 /PERSON .\* goes 591 /PERSON .\* starts 585 /PERSON .\* does 569 /PERSON .\* gets 552 /PERSON .\* pulls 503 /PERSON .\* comes 493 /PERSON .\* sees 462 /PERSON .\* are/VBP

#### Person+Verb+Prep.

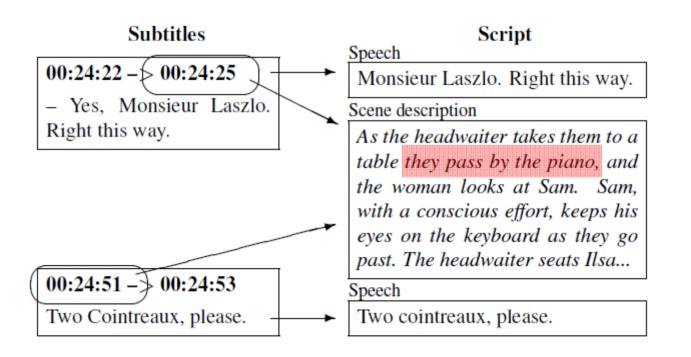
989	/PERSON	.* looks .* at
384	/PERSON	.* is .* in
363	/PERSON	.* looks .* up
234	/PERSON	.* is .* on
215	/PERSON	.* picks .* up
196	/PERSON	.* is .* at
139	/PERSON	.* sits .* in
138	/PERSON	.* is .* with
134	/PERSON	.* stares .* at
129	/PERSON	.* is .* by
126	/PERSON	.* looks .* down
124	/PERSON	.* sits .* on
122	/PERSON	.* is .* of
122	FLIXOUN	. 15 . 01
		.* gets .* up
114		.* gets .* up

#### Person+Verb+Prep+Vis.Noun

41	/PERSON	.* sits .* in .* chair
37	/PERSON	.* sits .* at .* table
31	/PERSON	.* sits .* on .* bed
29	/PERSON	.* sits .* at .* desk
26	/PERSON	.* picks .* up .* phone
23	/PERSON	.* gets .* out .* car
23	/PERSON	.* looks .* out .* window
21	/PERSON	.* looks .* around .* room
18	/PERSON	.* is .* at .* desk
17	/PERSON	.* hangs .* up .* phone
17	/PERSON	.* is .* on .* phone
17	/PERSON	.* looks .* at .* watch
16	/PERSON	.* sits .* on .* couch
15	/PERSON	.* opens .* of .* door
15	/PERSON	.* walks .* into .* room
14	/PERSON	.* goes .* into .* room

# WHEN: Video Data and Annotation

- Want to target realistic video data
- Want to avoid manual video annotation for training •
  - Use movies + scripts for automatic annotation of training samples





**Jncertainty!** 

[Duchenne, Laptev, Sivic, Bach, Ponce, ICCV 2009]

# **Overview**

### Input:

- Action type, e.g. Person Opens Door
- Videos + aligned scripts

### Automatic collection of training clips

- Jane jumps up and opens the door ... Carolyn opens the front door ...
  - Jane opens her bedroom door ...



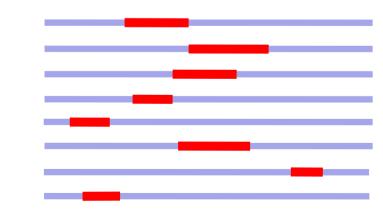


### Output:

Slidingwindow-style temporal action localization

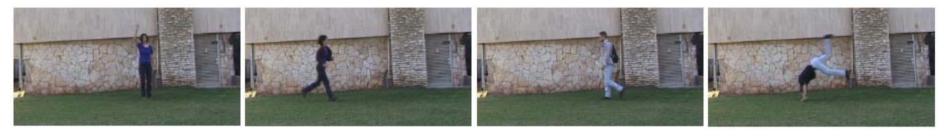
### **Training classifier**

### **Clustering** of positive segments

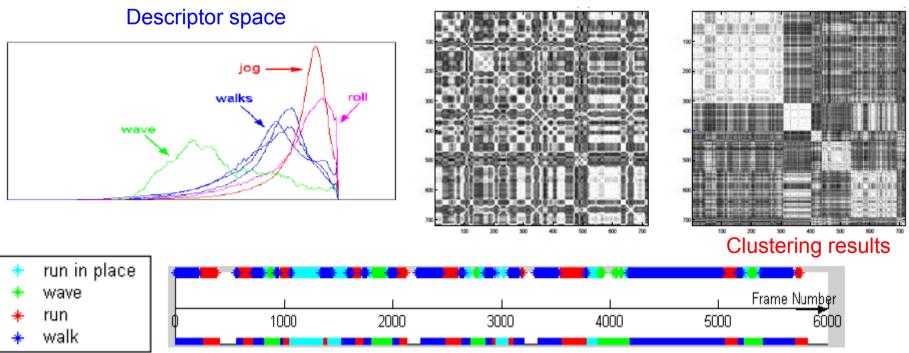


[Duchenne, Laptev, Sivic, Bach, Ponce, ICCV 2009]

### **Action clustering** [Lihi Zelnik-Manor and Michal Irani CVPR 2001]



#### Spectral clustering



Ground truth

### Action clustering Our data:





Standard clustering methods do not work on this data



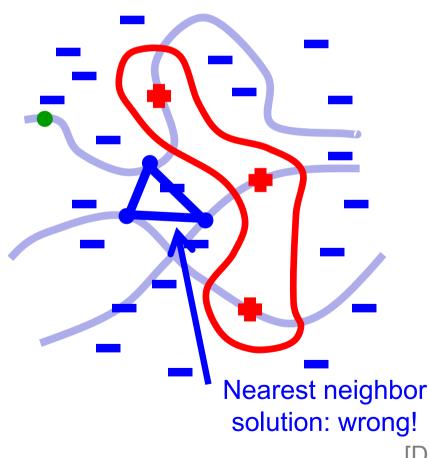




# **Action clustering**

### Our view at the problem

### Feature space



#### Video space



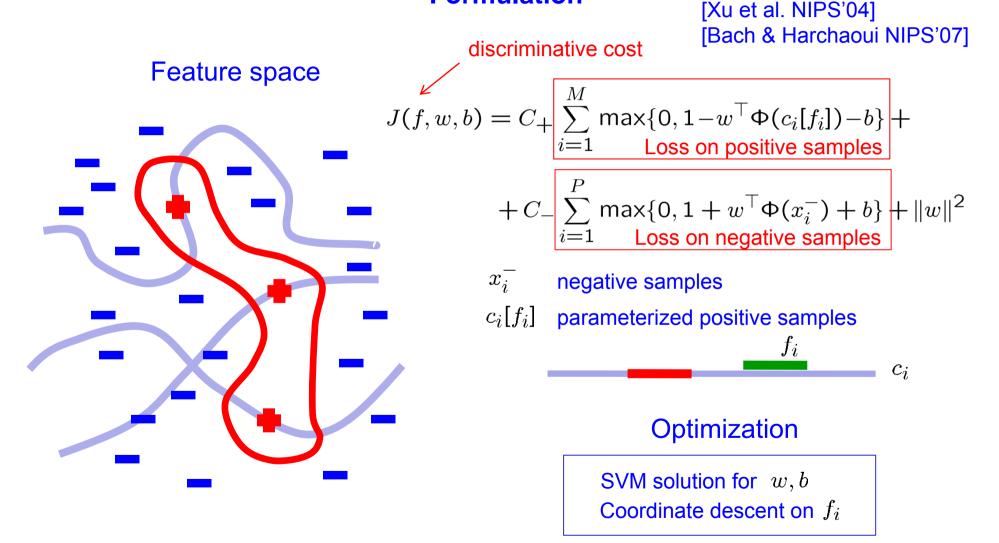
### Negative samples!



OrRandom video samples: lots of them,g!very low chance to be positives[Duchenne, Laptev, Sivic, Bach, Ponce, ICCV 2009]

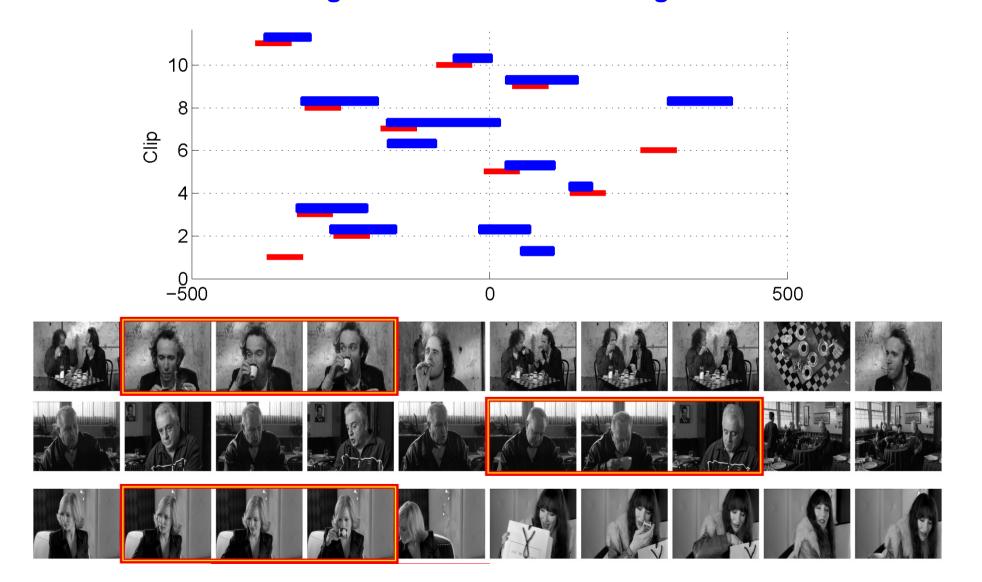
# **Action clustering**

### **Formulation**



[Duchenne, Laptev, Sivic, Bach, Ponce, ICCV 2009]

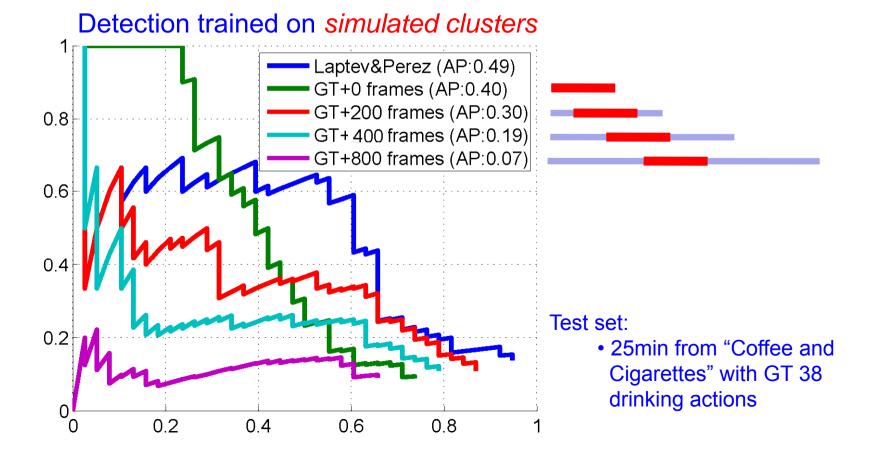
### **Clustering results** Drinking actions in Coffee and Cigarettes



## **Detection results**

### **Drinking actions in Coffee and Cigarettes**

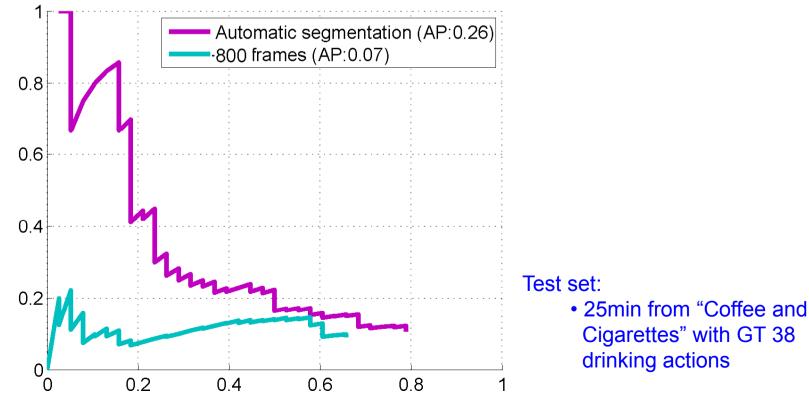
- Training Bag-of-Features classifier
- Temporal sliding window classification
- Non-maximum suppression



## **Detection results**

### **Drinking actions in Coffee and Cigarettes**

- Training Bag-of-Features classifier
- Temporal sliding window classification
- Non-maximum suppression

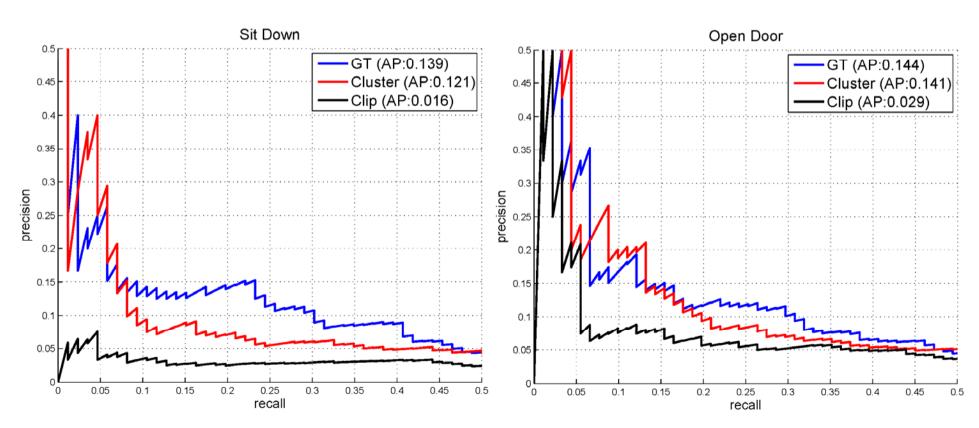


### **Detection trained on automatic clusters**

### **Detection results**

### "Sit Down" and "Open Door" actions in ~5 hours of movies







Temporal detection of "Sit Down" and "Open Door" actions in movies: The Graduate, The Crying Game, Living in Oblivion [Duchenne et al. 09]

# **Course overview**





- Definitions
- Benchmark datasets
- Early silhouette and tracking-based methods
- Motion-based similarity measures
- Template-based methods
- Local space-time features
- **Bag-of-Features action recognition**
- Weakly-supervised methods
- Pose estimation and action recognition
- Action recognition in still images
- Human interactions and dynamic scene models
  - **Conclusions and future directions**



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