Uncalibrated Factorization Using a Variable Symmetric Affine Camera

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In order to reconstruct 3-D Euclidean shape by the Tomasi-Kanade factorization, one needs to specify an affine camera model such as orthographic, weak perspective, and paraperspective. We present a new method that does not require any such specific models. We show that a minimal requirement for an affine camera to mimic perspective projection leads to a unique camera model, which we call a *symmetric affine camera*, which has two free functions. We determine their values from input images by linear computation and demonstrate by experiments that an appropriate camera model is automatically selected.

1. Introduction

One of the best known techniques for 3-D reconstruction from feature point tracking through a video stream is the Tomasi-Kanade factorization [20], which computes the 3-D shape of the scene by approximating the camera imaging by an affine transformation. The computation consists of linear calculus alone without involving iterations (see [10] for the computational details). The solution is sufficiently accurate for many practical purposes and is used as an initial solution for more sophisticated iterative reconstruction based on perspective projection [3].

If the camera model is not specified, other than being affine, the 3-D shape is computed only up to an affine transformation, known as affine reconstruction. For computing the correct shape (Euclid reconstruction¹), we need to specify the camera model. For this, orthographic, weak perspective, and paraperspective projections have been used [12]. However, the reconstruction accuracy does not necessarily follow that order [2]. To find the best camera models in a particular circumstance, one needs to choose the best one a posteriori. Is there any method for automatically selecting an appropriate camera model? This is the motivation of this paper.

Basri [1] pointed out that any affine camera can be regarded as paraperspective projection if the scale and the reference point are appropriately adjusted, and Sugimoto [19] exploited this fact for object recognition from a single image. Shapiro et al. [14] described the epipolar geometry for affine cameras and 3-D reconstruction methods based on it. Quan [13] showed that a generic affine camera has three intrinsic parameters and that they can be determined by self-calibration if the same camera is moved (i.e., the three intrinsic parameters are unchanged).

This paper extends Quan's result to variable intrinsic parameters. However, these three parameters cannot be determined if they vary freely, i.e., if the camera is completely arbitrary from frame to frame. The situation is similar to the *dual absolute quadric constraint* [3] for upgrading projective reconstruction to Euclidean, which cannot be imposed unless minimal constraints are imposed on the internal parameters (e.g., zero skew).

In this paper, we show that minimal requirements for the general affine camera to mimic perspective projection leads to a unique camera model, which we call a *symmetric affine camera*, having two free functions of motion parameters; specific choices of their function forms result in the orthographic, weak perspective, and paraperspective models.

Here, however, we do not specify such function forms. We determine their values directly from input images, taking advantage of the fact that at most two time varying quantities can be eliminated from the generic metric constraint. As a result, all the computation is linear just as in the case of the traditional factorization method, and an appropriate model is automatically selected.

Sec. 2 summarizes fundamentals of affine cameras, and Sec. 3 summarizes the metric constraint. In Sec. 4, we derive our symmetric affine camera model.

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¹Since the absolute scale is indeterminate, this should strictly be called *similarity reconstruction*, but the term "Euclidean" is widely used now.

2.3 Epipole computation

Let \mathbf{F} be the computed fundamental matrix, and let \mathbf{e} and \mathbf{e}' be the unit eigenvectors of \mathbf{F}^{\top} and \mathbf{F} , respectively, for eigenvalue 0. Since eigenvectors have sign indeterminacy, we chose the sign so that the third component is nonnegative (the sign is irrelevant if the third component is 0).

The points on the image plane in the direction of the vectors e and e' placed at the viewpoint are called the epipole.

Remark 3. Even in the presence of image noise, the fundamental matrix F is computed subject to the constraint det F = 0, so F^{\top} and F both eigenvalue 0. In practice, we simply compute the unit eigenvectors e and e' of positive semi-definite symmetric matrices FF^{\top} and $F^{\top}F$, respectively, for the smallest eigenvalue.

Remark 4. As is well known [9], the viewpoint of the second image is in the direction of e when viewed from the viewpoint of the first image, and the viewpoint of the first image is in the direction of e' when viewed from the viewpoint of the second image, However, these directions are relative to the *hypothetical cameras we are assuming*; they may not coincide with the physical directions. In order to let them coincide, we need precise camera calibration. Here, we do not do 3-D reconstruction, so we can arbitrarily assume the camera model.

2.4 Image Rotations

The epipole (x_e, y_e) is given from the eigenvector $\mathbf{e} = (e_1, e_2, e_3)^{\top}$ as follows:

$$x_e = f_0 \frac{e_1}{e_3}, y_e = f_0 \frac{e_2}{e_3}.$$
 (1)

We rotate the image around the image origin (0,0) so that this point is on the y-axis. By this rotation, each point (x,y) is mapped to a point (\tilde{x},\tilde{y}) such that

$$\tilde{x} = x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta, \quad \tilde{y} = x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta,$$
 (2)

where θ is the angle of the vector $(x_e, y_e)^{\top}$ measured from either the positive or the negative side of the y-axis. After this rotation, the epipole is at (0, e), where

$$e = x_e \sin \theta + y_e \cos \theta. \tag{3}$$

The second image is rotated similarly.

Remark 5. The angle θ is conveniently computed by

$$\theta = \begin{cases} \tan^{-1}(e_1/e_2) & |e_2| \ge |e_1| \\ \pi/2 - \tan^{-1}(e_2/e_1) & |e_1| > |e_2| \end{cases} . \tag{4}$$

Then, the epipole is mapped onto the positive side of the y-axis (e > 0) if the epipole (e_1, e_2) is in the half-plane $e_1 + e_2 \ge 0$ and the negative side (e < 0) if $e_1 + e_2 < 0$.

Remark 6. Here, we are assuming that $e_3 \neq 0$. If $e_3 = 0$, the epipole is at infinity in the direction of $(e_1, e_2)^{\top}$ from the image origin, so $e = \pm \infty$. However, if we determine the angle θ by eq. (4), we can rotate the image irrespective of whether $e_3 = 0$ or not. \square

Remark 7. We cannot use eq. (4) if $(x_e, y_e) = (0,0)$. Here, we are assuming that for both image the epipole is not inside the image frame, so $(x_e, y_e) \neq (0,0)$ and hence $e \neq 0$. We discuss this assumption later in further details.

2.5 Rectifying epipolars

As is well known [9], the point p' that corresponds to a point p in one image is on its epipolar in the other image, and all epipolars pass through the epipole of that image. Hence, if we apply a homography that maps the epipole to infinity, all the epipolars become parallel to each other. For this, we apply the following homography that maps (0, e) to $(0, \pm \infty)$:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{\tilde{x}}{1 - \tilde{y}/e}, \qquad \hat{y} = \frac{\tilde{y}}{1 - \tilde{y}/e}.$$
 (5)

The second image is transformed similarly.

Remark 8. A homography is a first order rational mapping with eight parameters [9], but we obtain eqs. (5) if we demand that

- 1. point (0, e) be mapped to $(0, \pm \infty)$,
- 2. points on the x-axis (including the image origin) do not move, and
- 3. the rate of expansion of the y-axis be 1 at the image origin.

Remark 9. Note that the mapping (5) can be computed irrespective of whether $e_3 = 0$ or not; we only need to let \tilde{y}/e in the denominator be 0 if $e_3 = 0$, in which case $e = \pm \infty$. Recall that we are assuming $e \neq 0$ (see Remark 7).

2.6 Height adjustment

After the above procedure, all epipolars in each image are parallel to each other. Now, we expand/compress the second image vertically so that the corresponding epipolars have the same height. For this, we apply the following homography:

$$\bar{x}' = \frac{a\hat{x}' + b}{c\hat{x} + 1}, \quad \bar{y}' = \frac{a\hat{y}'}{c\hat{x}' + 1}.$$
 (6)

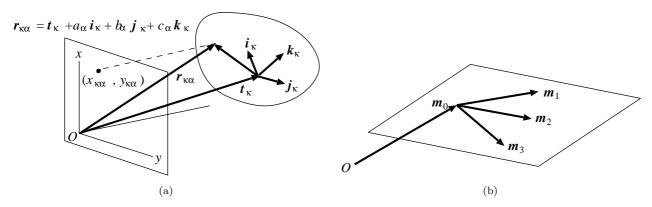


Figure 2: (a) Camera-based description of the world coordinate system. (b) Affine space constraint.

The 3-D position of the α th point at time κ has the form

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa\alpha} = \boldsymbol{t}_{\kappa} + a_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{i}_{\kappa} + b_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{j}_{\kappa} + c_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{k}_{\kappa}. \tag{6}$$

Under the affine camera of eq. (2), its image coordinates $(x_{\kappa\alpha}, y_{\kappa\alpha})$ are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{\kappa\alpha} \\ y_{\kappa\alpha} \end{pmatrix} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{t}}_{\kappa} + a_{\alpha}\tilde{\boldsymbol{i}}_{\kappa} + b_{\alpha}\tilde{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\kappa} + c_{\alpha}\tilde{\boldsymbol{k}}_{\kappa}, \qquad (7)$$

where $\tilde{\pmb{t}}_\kappa,\,\tilde{\pmb{i}}_\kappa,\,\tilde{\pmb{j}}_\kappa,$ and $\tilde{\pmb{k}}_\kappa$ are 2-D vectors defined by

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{t}}_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{t}_{\kappa} + \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\kappa}, \tag{8}$$

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{i}}_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{i}_{\kappa}, \quad \tilde{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{j}_{\kappa}, \quad \tilde{\boldsymbol{k}}_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{k}_{\kappa}.$$
 (9)

Here, Π_{κ} and π_{κ} are the projection matrix and the projective vector, respectively, at time κ . The motion history of the α th point is represented by a vector

$$\boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{1\alpha} & y_{1\alpha} & x_{2\alpha} & y_{2\alpha} & \dots & x_{M\alpha} & y_{M\alpha} \end{pmatrix}^{\top}, (10)$$

which we simply call the trajectory of that point. Using eq. (7), we can write

$$\boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha} = \boldsymbol{m}_0 + a_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_1 + b_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_2 + c_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_3, \qquad (11)$$

where m_0 , m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 are the 2M-dimensional vectors defined, respectively, by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\boldsymbol{t}}_1 \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{t}}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{t}}_M \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\boldsymbol{i}}_1 \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{i}}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{i}}_M \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\boldsymbol{j}}_1 \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{j}}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{j}}_M \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\boldsymbol{k}}_1 \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{k}}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{\boldsymbol{k}}_M \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(12)$$

Thus, all the trajectories $\{p_{\alpha}\}$ are constrained to be in the 3-D affine space \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{R}^{2M} passing through m_0 and spanned by m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 (Fig. 2(b)). This fact is known as the *affine space constraint*, which is also the basis for multi-body motion segmentation [7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18].

3. Metric Constraint

Next, we summarize the metric constraint on affine cameras.

Since the world coordinate system can be placed arbitrarily, we let its origin coincide with the centroid of the N feature points. This implies $\sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} a_{\alpha} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} b_{\alpha} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} c_{\alpha} = 0$, so we have from eq. (11)

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} \boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha} = \boldsymbol{m}_{0}, \tag{13}$$

i.e., m_0 is the centroid of the trajectories $\{p_{\alpha}\}$ in \mathcal{R}^{2M} . It follows that the deviation p'_{α} of p_{α} from the centroid m_0 is written as³

$$\boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha}' = \boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{m}_0 = a_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_1 + b_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_2 + c_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{m}_3, \quad (14)$$

which means that $\{p'_{\alpha}\}$ are constrained to be in the 3-D subspace \mathcal{L} in \mathcal{R}^{2M} . Hence, the (second-order) moment $matrix^4$

$$C = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N} p_{\alpha}' p_{\alpha}'^{\top}$$
 (15)

is of rank 3, having three nonzero eigenvalues. The corresponding unit eigenvectors $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ constitute an orthonormal basis of the subspace \mathcal{L} , and m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 are expressed as a linear combination of them in the form

$$\boldsymbol{m}_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 A_{ji} \boldsymbol{u}_j. \tag{16}$$

³In the traditional formulation [11, 12, 20, 21], vectors $\{p'_{\alpha}\}$ are combined into the observation (or measurement) matrix, $\mathbf{W} = (p'_1 \dots p'_N)$, and the object coordinates $\{(a_{\alpha}, b_{\alpha}, c_{\alpha})\}$ are combined into the shape matrix, $\mathbf{S} = (a_1 \dots a_N)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & \dots & a_N \\ b_1 & \dots & b_N \\ c_1 & \dots & c_N \end{pmatrix}$$
. Then, eq. (14) is written as $W = MS$,

where M, the *motion matrix*, is defined by the first of eqs. (17). However, our formulation is better suited for the subsequent analysis.

 $^4{
m This}$ matrix is called by many different names such as the "covariance matrix" and the "scatter matrix".

Let M and U be the $2M \times 3$ matrices consisting of $\{m_1, m_2, m_3\}$ and $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ as columns:

$$M = (m_1 \ m_2 \ m_3), \quad U = (u_1 \ u_2 \ u_3).$$
 (17)

From eq. (16), M and U are related by the matrix $A = (A_{ij})$ in the form⁵:

$$\boldsymbol{M} = \boldsymbol{U}\boldsymbol{A}.\tag{18}$$

The rectifying matrix $\mathbf{A} = (A_{ij})$ should be determined so that \mathbf{m}_1 , \mathbf{m}_2 and \mathbf{m}_3 in eq. (12) are projections of the orthonormal basis vectors $\{i_{\kappa}, j_{\kappa}, k_{\kappa}\}$ in the form of eqs. (9). From eq. (9), we obtain

$$(\tilde{i}_{\kappa} \ \tilde{j}_{\kappa} \ \tilde{k}_{\kappa}) = \Pi_{\kappa} (i_{\kappa} \ j_{\kappa} \ k_{\kappa}) = \Pi_{\kappa} R_{\kappa}, \quad (19)$$

where \mathbf{R}_{κ} is the rotation at time κ . If we let $\mathbf{m}_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}$ be the $(2(\kappa - 1) + a)$ th column of the transpose \mathbf{M}^{\top} of the matrix \mathbf{M} in eqs. (17), $\kappa = 1, ..., M, a = 1, 2$. The transpose of both sides of eq. (19) is

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}^{\top}\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa}^{\top} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} & \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (20)

Eq. (18) implies $\boldsymbol{M}^{\top} = \boldsymbol{A}^{\top} \boldsymbol{U}^{\top}$, so if we let $\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}$ be the $(2(\kappa-1)+a)$ th column of the transpose \boldsymbol{U}^{\top} of the matrix \boldsymbol{U} in eqs. (17), we obtain

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger} = \boldsymbol{A}^{\top} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}. \tag{21}$$

Substituting this, we can rewrite eq. (20) as

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa}^{\top} = \boldsymbol{A}^{\top} \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} & \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (22)

Let U_{κ}^{\dagger} the 3×2 matrix having $u_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}$ and $u_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}$ as columns:

$$U_{\kappa}^{\dagger} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} & u_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (23)

Then, eq. (22) can be rewritten as $U_{\kappa}^{\dagger \top} A A^{\top} U_{\kappa}^{\dagger} = \Pi_{\kappa} R_{\kappa} R_{\kappa}^{\top} \Pi_{\kappa}^{\top}$. Since R_{κ} is a rotation matrix, we have the generic *metric constraint*

$$\boldsymbol{U}_{\kappa}^{\dagger \top} \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{U}_{\kappa}^{\dagger} = \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{\Pi}_{\kappa}^{\top}, \tag{24}$$

where we define the metric matrix T by

$$T = AA^{\top}. (25)$$

Eq. (24) is the generic metric constraint given by Quan [13]. If we take out the elements on both sides,

we have the following three expressions:

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \Pi_{1i\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \Pi_{2i\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \Pi_{1i\kappa} \Pi_{2i\kappa}.$$
(26)

If we let, instead of eq. (16), simply $\mathbf{m}_i = \mathbf{u}_i$, i = 1, 2, 3, we can still reconstruct the 3-D shape, but it is a deformation of the true shape by some affine transformation, known as affine reconstruction⁶. In order to restore the true shape (Euclidean reconstruction), one needs to rectify the basis $\{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3\}$ of the subspace \mathcal{L} by some linear transformation \mathbf{A} , and eq. (24) gives the constraint on it. In this sense, eq. (24) corresponds to the dual absolute quadric constraint [3] on the homography that rectifies the projective basis of projective reconstruction to Euclidean.

Assuming that the three intrinsic parameters are the same throughout the input sequence, Quan [13] eliminated them from eqs. (26) and obtained nonlinear constraints on the metric matrix T, which he solved by nonlinear optimization. Here, we focus on the fact that at most two time varying unknowns of the camera model can be eliminated from eqs. (26). We now show that (i) we can restrict the camera model without much impairing its descriptive capability so that it has two free functions and (ii) we can redefine them in such a way that the resulting 2M unknowns are linearly estimated.

4. Symmetric Affine Cameras

We now seek a concrete form of the affine camera by imposing minimal requirements that eq. (2) mimic perspective projection.

Requirement 1. The frontal parallel plane passing through the world coordinate origin is projected as if by perspective projection.

This corresponds to our assumption that the object of our interest is small and localized around the world coordinate origin (t_x, t_y, t_z) . A point on the plane $Z = t_z$ is written as (X, Y, t_z) , so Requirement 1 requires

$$\begin{pmatrix} fX/t_z \\ fY/t_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{11} & \Pi_{12} \\ \Pi_{21} & \Pi_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} + t_z \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{13} \\ \Pi_{23} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 \\ \pi_2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (27)$$

⁵In the traditional formulation [11, 12, 20, 21], the observation matrix \boldsymbol{W} is decomposed by SVD (singular value decomposition) into $\boldsymbol{W} = \boldsymbol{U}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\boldsymbol{V}^{\!\top}$, and the motion and the shape matrices \boldsymbol{M} and \boldsymbol{S} are set to $\boldsymbol{M} = \boldsymbol{U}\boldsymbol{A}$ an $\boldsymbol{S} = \boldsymbol{A}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\boldsymbol{V}^{\!\top}$ via a nonsingular matrix \boldsymbol{A} . However, our formulation is better suited for the subsequent analysis.

⁶We are assuming an affine camera model. If we use perspective images, the resulting shape may not be affine reconstruction, of course.

Since this should hold for arbitrary X and Y, we obtain

$$\Pi_{11} = \Pi_{22} = \frac{f}{t_z}, \quad \Pi_{12} = \Pi_{21} = 0,$$

$$t_z\Pi_{13} + \pi_1 = 0, \quad t_z\Pi_{23} + \pi_2 = 0,$$
 (28)

which reduces eq. (2) to

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{f}{t_z} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} - (t_z - Z) \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{13} \\ \Pi_{23} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (29)$$

where f, Π_{13} and Π_{23} are arbitrary functions of $\{t, \mathbf{R}\}$. In order to obtain a more specific form, we impose the following requirements:

Requirement 2. The camera imaging is symmetric around the Z-axis.

Requirement 3. The camera imaging does not depend on R.

Requirement 2 states that if the scene is rotated around the optical axis by an angle θ , the resulting image should also rotate around the image origin by the same angle θ , a very natural requirement. Requirement 3 is also natural, since the orientation of the world coordinate system can be defined arbitrarily, and such indeterminate parameterization should not affect the actual observation.

Let $\mathcal{R}(\theta)$ be the 2-D rotation matrix by angle θ :

$$\mathcal{R}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}. \tag{30}$$

Requirement 2 is written as

$$\mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{f}{t_z} \mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} - (t_z - Z) \begin{pmatrix} \Pi'_{13} \\ \Pi'_{23} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (31)$$

where Π'_{13} and Π'_{23} are the values of the functions Π_{13} and Π_{23} , respectively, obtained by replacing t_x and t_y in their arguments by $t_x \cos \theta - t_y \sin \theta$ and $t_x \sin \theta + t_y \cos \theta$, respectively; by Requirement 3, the arguments of Π_{13} and Π_{23} do not contain \mathbf{R} . Multiplying both sides of eq. (29) by $\mathcal{R}(\theta)$, we obtain

$$\mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{f}{t_z} \mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} - (t_z - Z) \mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{13} \\ \Pi_{23} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{32}$$

Comparing eqs. (31) and (32), we conclude that the equality

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Pi'_{13} \\ \Pi'_{23} \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R}(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{13} \\ \Pi_{23} \end{pmatrix}$$
 (33)

should hold identically for an arbitrary θ . According to the theory of invariants [4], this implies

$$\begin{pmatrix}
\Pi_{13} \\
\Pi_{23}
\end{pmatrix} = c \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix},$$
(34)

where c is an arbitrary function of $t_x^2 + t_y^2$ and t_z . Thus, if we define

$$\zeta = \frac{t_z}{f}, \qquad \beta = -\frac{ct_z}{f}, \tag{35}$$

eq. (29) is written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\zeta} \left(\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} + \beta (t_z - Z) \begin{pmatrix} t_x \\ t_y \end{pmatrix} \right). \quad (36)$$

The corresponding projection matrix Π and the projection vector π are

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\zeta & 0 & -\beta t_x/\zeta \\ 0 & 1/\zeta & -\beta t_y/\zeta \end{pmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\pi} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta t_x t_z/\zeta \\ \beta t_y t_z/\zeta \end{pmatrix}, \tag{37}$$

where ζ and β are arbitrary functions of $t_x^2 + t_y^2$ and t_z . We observe:

• Eq. (36) reduces to the paraperspective projection of eq. (5) if we choose

$$\zeta = \frac{t_z}{f}, \qquad \beta = \frac{1}{t_z}. \tag{38}$$

• Eq. (36) reduces to the weak perspective projection of eq. (4) if we choose

$$\zeta = \frac{t_z}{f}, \qquad \beta = 0. \tag{39}$$

• Eq. (36) reduces to the orthographic projection of eq. (3) if we choose

$$\zeta = 1, \qquad \beta = 0. \tag{40}$$

Thus, eq. (36) includes the traditional affine camera models as special instances and is the *only possible* form that satisfies Requirements 1, 2, and 3.

However, we need not define the functions ζ and β in any particular form; we can regard them as time varying unknowns and determine their values by self-calibration. This is made possible by the fact that at most two time varying unknowns can be eliminated from the metric constraint of eqs. (26).

5. Procedure for 3-D Reconstruction

3-D Euclidean reconstruction using eq. (36) goes just as when using the traditional camera models [10]. Here is the outline (the full computational details are given in Appendix):

1. We fit a 3-D affine space \mathcal{A} to the trajectories $\{p_{\alpha}\}$ by least squares. Namely, we compute the centroid m_0 by eq. (13) and compute the unit eigenvectors $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$ of the moment matrix C in eq. (15) for the largest three eigenvalues⁷.

⁷This corresponds to the SVD $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{V}^{\top}$ of the observation matrix \mathbf{W} in the traditional formulation [12, 20].

2. We eliminate time varying unknowns from the the metric constraint of eqs. (26) and solve for the metric matrix T by least squares. To be specific, substituting eqs. (37) into eqs. (26), we have

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa},$$

$$(41)$$

where $\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}$ and $\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}$ are, respectively, the $(2(\kappa - 1) + 1)$ th and the $(2(\kappa - 1) + 2)$ th components of the centroid m_0 . Eliminating ζ_{κ} and β_{κ} , we obtain

$$\begin{split} A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger},\boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) - C_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger},\boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \\ -A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger},\boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = 0, \end{split} \tag{42}$$

where $A_{\kappa} = \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}$ and $C_{\kappa} = \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^2 - \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^2$. This is a linear constraint on T, so we can determine T by solving the M equations for $\kappa = 1, ..., M$ by least squares. Once we have determined T, we can determine ζ_{κ} and β_{κ} from eqs. (41) by least squares.

- 3. We decompose the metric matrix T into the rectifying matrix A in the form of eq. (25), and compute the vectors m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 from eq. (16).
- 4. We compute the translation t_{κ} and the rotation R_{κ} at each time. The translation components $t_{x\kappa}$ and $t_{y\kappa}$ are given by eq. (8) in the form of $t_{x\kappa} = \zeta_{\kappa} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}$ and $t_{y\kappa} = \zeta_{\kappa} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}$. The three rows $r_{\kappa(1)}$, $r_{\kappa(2)}$, and $r_{\kappa(3)}$ of the rotation R_{κ} are given by solving the linear equations

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)} - \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)} = \zeta_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger},$$

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)} - \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)} = \zeta_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger},$$

$$\beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)} + \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)} + \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)} = \zeta_{\kappa}^{2} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} \times \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}.$$

$$(43)$$

The resulting matrix \mathbf{R}_{κ} may not be strictly orthogonal, so we compute its SVD (singular value decomposition) $\mathbf{V}_{\kappa} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{\kappa} \mathbf{U}_{\kappa}^{\top}$ and redefine $\mathbf{V}_{\kappa} \mathbf{U}_{\kappa}^{\top}$ to be \mathbf{R}_{κ} [5].

- 5. We recompute the vectors m_1 , m_2 , and m_3 in the form of eqs. (12) using the computed rotations $\mathbf{R}_{\kappa} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{i}_{\kappa} & \mathbf{j}_{\kappa} & \mathbf{k}_{\kappa} \end{pmatrix}$.
- 6. We compute the shape vector $\mathbf{s}_{\alpha} = (a_{\alpha}, b_{\beta}, c_{\beta})^{\top}$ of each point by least-squares expansion of \mathbf{p}'_{α} in the form of eq. (14), minimizing

$$\|\boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha}' - a_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{m}_{1} - b_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{m}_{2} - c_{\alpha}\boldsymbol{m}_{3}\|^{2} = \|\boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{M}\boldsymbol{s}_{\alpha}\|^{2}.$$
(44)

The solution is given by $s_{\alpha} = M^{-}p_{\alpha}$, using the pseudoinverse M^{-} of M.

However, the following indeterminacy remains:

- 1. Another solution is obtained by multiplying all $\{t_{\kappa}\}$ and $\{s_{\alpha}\}$ by a common constant.
- 2. Another solution is obtained by multiplying the all $\{R_{\kappa}\}$ by a common rotation. The shape vectors $\{s_{\alpha}\}$ are rotated accordingly.
- 3. Each solution has its mirror image solution. The mirror image rotation \mathbf{R}'_{κ} is obtained by the rotation \mathbf{R}_{κ} followed by a rotation around axis $(\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa}, \beta_{\kappa}t_{y\kappa}, 1)$ by angle 2π . Then, the shape vectors $\{\mathbf{s}_{\alpha}\}$ change their signs.
- 4. The absolute depth t_z of the world coordinate origin is indeterminate.

Item 1 is the fundamental ambiguity of 3-D reconstruction from images, meaning that a large motion of a large object in the distance is indistinguishable from a small motion of a small object nearby. Item 2 reflects the fact that the orientation of the world coordinate system can be arbitrarily chosen. Item 3 is due to eq. (25), which can be written as $T = (\pm AQ)(\pm AQ)^{\top}$ for an arbitrary rotation Q, and is inherent of all affine cameras [13, 14].

Item 4 is due to the fact that eq. (36) involves only the relative depth of individual point from the world coordinate origin \mathbf{t}_{κ} . The absolute depth t_z is determined only if ζ and β are given as specific functions of t_z , as in the case of the traditional camera models. Here, however, we do not specify their functional forms, directly determining their values by self-calibration and leaving t_z unspecified.

6. Experiments

Fig. 3 shows four simulated image sequences of 600×600 pixels perspectively projected with focal length f = 600 pixels. Each consists of 11 frames; six decimated frames are shown here. We added Gaussian random noise of mean 0 and standard deviation 1 pixel independently to the x and y coordinates of the feature points and reconstructed their 3-D shape (the frames in Fig. 3(a),(b) are merely for visual ease).

From the resulting two mirror image shapes, we chose the correct one by comparing the depths of two points that are known be close to and away from the camera. Since the absolute depth and scale are indeterminate, we translated the true and the reconstructed shapes so that their centroids are at the coordinate origin and scaled their sizes so that the rootmean-square distance of the feature points from the origin is 1. Then, we rotated the reconstructed shape so that root-mean-square distances between the corresponding points of the two shapes is minimized. We adopted the resulting residual as the measure of reconstruction accuracy.

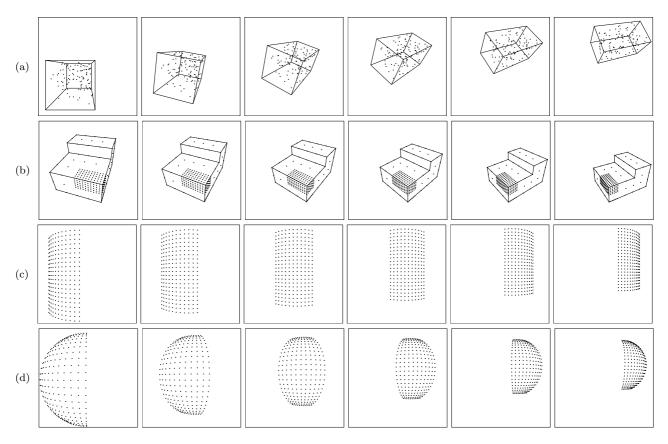


Figure 3: Simulated image sequences (six decimated frames for each).

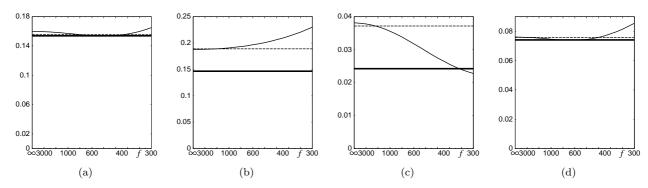


Figure 4: 3-D reconstruction accuracy for the image sequences of Fig. 3(a) \sim (d). The horizontal axis is scaled in proportion to 1/f. Three models are compared: The dashed line: weak perspective (dashed lines), paraperspective (thin solid lines), and our generic model (thick solid lines).

We compared three camera models: the weak perspective, the paraperspective, and our symmetric affine camera models. The orthographic model is omitted, since evidently good results cannot be obtained when the object moves in the depth direction. For using the weak perspective and paraperspective models, we need to specify the focal length f (see eqs. (4) and (5)). If the size of the reconstructed shape is normalized as described earlier, the choice of f is irrelevant for the weak perspective model, because it only affects the object size as a whole. However, the paraperspective model depends on the value of f we use.

Fig. 4 plots the reconstruction accuracy vs. the input focal length f; the horizontal axis is scaled in proportion to 1/f. The dashed line is for weak perspective, the thin solid line is for paraperspective, and the thick solid line is for our model. We observe that the paraperspective model does not necessarily give the highest accuracy when f coincides with the focal length (600 pixels) of the perspective images. The error is indeed minimum around f = 600 for Fig. 4(b),(c), but the error decreases as f increases for Fig. 4(a) and as f decreases for Fig. 4(d).

We conclude that our model achieves the accuracy comparable to paraperspective projection given an appropriate value of f, which is unknown in advance. This means that our model automatically chooses appropriate parameter values without any knowledge about f.

We conducted many other experiments (not shown here) and observed similar results. We have found that degeneracy can occur in special circumstances. By "degeneracy", we mean that the matrix A is rank deficient so that the resulting vectors $\{m_i\}$ are linearly dependent (see eq. (16)). As a result, the reconstructed shape is "flat" (see eq. (14)). This occurs when the smallest eigenvalue of T computed by least squares is negative, while eq. (25) requires T to be positive semidefinite. In the computation, we replace the negative eigenvalue by zero, resulting in degeneracy.

This type of degeneracy occurs for the traditional camera models, too. In principle, we could avoid it by parameterizing T so that it is guaranteed to be positive definite [13]. However, this would require nonlinear optimization, and the merit of the factorization approach (i.e., linear computation only) would be lost. Moreover, if we look at the images that cause degeneracy, they really look as if a planar object is moving. Since the information is insufficient in the first place, any methods, including self-calibration using the dual absolute quadric constraint, which is very susceptible to noise, may not be able to solve such degeneracies.

7. Conclusions

We showed that minimal requirements for an affine camera to mimic perspective projection leads to a unique camera model, which we call "symmetric affine camera", having two free functions, whose specific choices would result in the traditional camera models. We regarded them as time varying parameters and determined their values by self-calibration, using linear computation alone, so that an appropriate model is automatically selected. Our method can be viewed as an extension of Quan's method [13] to varying intrinsic parameters. We have demonstrated by simulation that the reconstruction accuracy is comparable to the paraperspective model given an appropriate focal length estimate.

The full computational details are given in Appendix.

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Appendix

A. Procedure for 3-D Reconstruction

Input: Image coordinates $(x_{\kappa\alpha}, y_{\kappa\alpha})$ of the α th feature point in the κ th frame, $\kappa = 1, ..., M, \alpha = 1, ..., N$. The origin of the image coordinate system is assumed to be at the center of the frame with the x-axis upward and the y-axis rightward.

Output: Two sets of reconstructed 3-D positions $\{r_{\alpha}\}$ and $\{r'_{\alpha}\}$, each a mirror image of the other.

Procedure:

- 1. Compute the centroid m_0 of the 2M-dimensional trajectory vectors $\{p_{\alpha}\}$ (eq. (12)) and the $2M \times 2M$ moment matrix C (eq. (14)).
- 2. Let $\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}$ and $\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}$ be the $(2(\kappa 1) + 1)$ th and the $(2(\kappa 1) + 2)$ th components of the centroid m_0 , respectively.
- 3. Let u_1 , u_2 , and u_3 be the 2M-dimensional unit eigenvectors of the moment matrix C for the largest three eigenvalues, and define the following $2M \times 3$ matrix U:

$$\boldsymbol{U} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{u}_1 & \boldsymbol{u}_2 & \boldsymbol{u}_3 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{45}$$

- 4. Let $\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}$ be the $(2(\kappa-1)+a)$ th column of the transpose \boldsymbol{U}^{\top} , $\kappa=1,...,M,\,a=1,\,2$.
- 5. Compute the 3×3 metric matrix \boldsymbol{T} (see Appendix B).
- 6. Compute the parameters $\{\zeta_{\kappa}\}$ and $\{\beta_{\kappa}\}$ and the translation components $\{(t_{x\kappa}, t_{y\kappa})\}$ (see Appendix C).
- 7. Compute the rotations $\{R_{\kappa}\}$ (see Appendix D).
- 8. Compute the following $2M \times 3$ matrix M:

$$\boldsymbol{M} = \sum_{\kappa=1}^{M} \tilde{\boldsymbol{\Pi}}_{\kappa}^{\top} \boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}. \tag{46}$$

Here, $\tilde{\Pi}_{\kappa} = (\tilde{\Pi}_{\kappa(ij)})$ is a $3 \times 2M$ matrix with elements

$$\frac{1/\zeta_{\kappa}}{-\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa}/\zeta_{\kappa}} \quad \text{if } (i,j) = (1,2\kappa - 1), (2,2\kappa), \\
 -\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa}/\zeta_{\kappa} \quad \text{if } (i,j) = (3,2\kappa - 1), \\
 -\beta_{\kappa}t_{y\kappa}/\zeta_{\kappa} \quad \text{if } (i,j) = (3,2\kappa), \\
 0 \quad \text{otherwise.}$$
(47)

- 9. If the rank of M is 2 or less, exit and switch to the usual factorization procedure based on the weak perspective projection model.
- 10. Else, compute the shape vectors $\{s_{\alpha}\}$, $\alpha = 1, ..., N$, as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{s}_{\alpha} = (\boldsymbol{M}^{\top} \boldsymbol{M})^{-1} \boldsymbol{M}^{\top} \boldsymbol{p}_{\alpha}', \tag{48}$$

11. Compute the mirror image rotations $\{R'_{\kappa}\}$, $\kappa = 1, ..., M$, as follows (see Appendix E):

$$\boldsymbol{n}_{\kappa} = N\begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \\ \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\kappa} = 2\boldsymbol{n}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{n}_{\kappa}^{\top} - \boldsymbol{I},$$

$$\boldsymbol{R}'_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}. \tag{49}$$

12. Output the two sets of 3-D positions $\{r_{\kappa\alpha}\}$ and $\{r'_{\kappa\alpha}\}$, $\alpha = 1, ..., N, \kappa = 1, ..., M$, given by

$$\mathbf{r}_{\kappa\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} t_{x\kappa} \\ t_{y\kappa} \\ t_{z\kappa} \end{pmatrix} + \mathbf{R}_{\kappa} \mathbf{s}_{\alpha},$$

$$\mathbf{r}'_{\kappa\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} t_{x\kappa} \\ t_{y\kappa} \\ t_{z\kappa} \end{pmatrix} - \mathbf{R}'_{\kappa} \mathbf{s}_{\alpha}, \tag{50}$$

where $t_{z\kappa}$ is arbitrarily set (e.g., $t_{z\kappa} = 0$).

B. Computation of the Metric Constraint

Letting the projection matrix elements $\Pi_{ij\kappa}$ in the metric constraint of eqs. (25) be in the form of the first of eqs. (36), we obtain

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2},$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}.$$
(51)

The third equation can be solved for β_{κ} in the form

$$\beta_{\kappa} = \sqrt{\frac{(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})}{\tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}}}.$$
 (52)

Substituting this into the first and the second of eqs. (51), we obtain

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \frac{\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}}{\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}),$$

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = \frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^{2}} + \frac{\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}}{\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}). \quad (53)$$

Eliminating $1/\zeta_{\kappa}^2$ by subtraction on both sides, we obtain after rearrangement

$$A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) - C_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) - A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) = 0,$$
 (54)

where we put

$$A_{\kappa} = \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}\tilde{t}_{y\kappa}, \qquad C_{\kappa} = \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^2 - \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^2. \tag{55}$$

We determine the metric matrix T by least squares, minimizing

$$K = \sum_{\kappa=1}^{M} \left(A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) - C_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) - A_{\kappa}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \right)^{2},$$
(56)

which can be rewritten as

$$K = \sum_{\kappa=1}^{M} \sum_{i,k,l=1}^{3} B_{ijkl} T_{ij} T_{kl}, \tag{57}$$

where we define the $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3$ tensor $\mathcal{B} = (B_{ijkl})$ as follows:

$$B_{ijkl} = \sum_{\kappa=1}^{M} \left[A_{\kappa}^{2} \left((\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} \right] + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} \right] + \frac{1}{4} C_{\kappa}^{2} \left((\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} \right] + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{l} + (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{j} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{k} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{l} - (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})_{i} (\mathbf{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})$$

The function K appears to take its minimum K=0 for T=O, but we must recall the scale indeterminacy of T. Doubling T in eq. (22) means multiplying the rectifying matrix A by $\sqrt{2}$. Hence, the vector m_i in eq. (15) is also multiplied by $\sqrt{2}$. However, we can still obtain a solution compatible with the observed data $\{p_{\alpha}\}$ if we divide a_{α} , b_{α} , and c_{α} in eq. (13) by $\sqrt{2}$. Hence, we do not lose generality if we impose normalization ||T|| = 1, where the matrix norm is defined by $||T|| = \sqrt{\sum_{i,j=1,3} T_{ij}^2}$. Then, the solution T that minimizes eq. (57) is given by the eigenmatrix of unit norm of tensor \mathcal{B} for the smallest eigenvalue

[6]. This is obtained by first computing the 6-D unit eigenvector $\boldsymbol{\tau} = (\tau_i)$ of the following 6×6 matrix \boldsymbol{B} for the smallest eigenvalue [6]:

$$\boldsymbol{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B_{1111} & B_{1122} & B_{1133} \\ B_{2211} & B_{2222} & B_{2233} \\ B_{3311} & B_{3322} & B_{3333} \\ \sqrt{2}B_{2311} & \sqrt{2}B_{2322} & \sqrt{2}B_{2333} \\ \sqrt{2}B_{3111} & \sqrt{2}B_{3122} & \sqrt{2}B_{3133} \\ \sqrt{2}B_{1211} & \sqrt{2}B_{1222} & \sqrt{2}B_{1233} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \sqrt{2}B_{1123} & \sqrt{2}B_{1131} & \sqrt{2}B_{1112} \\ \sqrt{2}B_{2223} & \sqrt{2}B_{2231} & \sqrt{2}B_{2212} \\ \sqrt{2}B_{3323} & \sqrt{2}B_{3331} & \sqrt{2}B_{3312} \\ 2B_{2323} & 2B_{2331} & 2B_{2312} \\ 2B_{3123} & 2B_{3131} & 2B_{3112} \\ 2B_{1223} & 2B_{1231} & 2B_{1212} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (59)$$

The eigenvector τ is not uniquely determined if the smallest eigenvalue is a multiple root. In that case, we return an error message and stop. Otherwise, the metric matrix T is given by

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_1 & \tau_6/\sqrt{2} & \tau_5/\sqrt{2} \\ \tau_6/\sqrt{2} & \tau_2 & \tau_4/\sqrt{2} \\ \tau_5/\sqrt{2} & \tau_4/\sqrt{2} & \tau_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (60)

However, the sign of the eigenvector τ is indeterminate. Since T should be positive semidefinite, we select the sign that makes $\det T \geq 0$.

C. Computation of the Translations

If the metric matrix T is determined, the values of $\{\zeta_{\kappa}\}$ and $\{\beta_{\kappa}\}$ are determined from the metric condition of eqs. (51), which can be rewritten as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2} \\ 1 & \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2} \\ 0 & \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}\tilde{t}_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/\zeta_{\kappa}^{2} \\ \beta_{\kappa}^{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) \\ (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \\ (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T}\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(61)$$

This is overdetermination, so we compute the leastsquares solution given by the following normal equation:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
2 & t_{x\kappa}^{2} + t_{y\kappa}^{2} \\
\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2} + \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2} & \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{4} + \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{4} + \tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2}
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
1/\zeta_{\kappa}^{2} \\
\beta_{\kappa}^{2}
\end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix}
(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) + (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \\
\tilde{t}_{x\kappa}^{2} (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) + \tilde{t}_{y\kappa}^{2} (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}) \\
+ \tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \tilde{t}_{y\kappa} (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})
\end{pmatrix}.$$
(62)

The solution is indeterminate if $\tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \approx 0$ and $\tilde{t}_{y\kappa} \approx 0$. In that case, we let $\beta_{\kappa}^2 = 0$ and solve only the first equation for $1/\zeta_{\kappa}^2$ in the form

$$\frac{1}{\zeta_{\kappa}^2} = \frac{(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}) + (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{T} \boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})}{2}.$$
 (63)

From the resulting $1/\zeta_{\kappa}^2$ and β_{κ}^2 , we let $\zeta_{\kappa} = 1/\sqrt{1/\zeta_{\kappa}^2}$ and $\beta_{\kappa} = \sqrt{\beta_{\kappa}^2}$. If $1/\zeta_{\kappa}^2 \le 0$, we let ζ_{κ} be a sufficiently large value. If $\beta_{\kappa}^2 < 0$, we let $\beta_{\kappa} = 0$.

Letting the projection matrix Π_{κ} and the projection vector π_{κ} in the first of eqs. (8) be in the form of eqs. (36), we can obtain $t_{x\kappa}$ and $t_{y\kappa}$ in the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} t_{x\kappa} \\ t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix} = \zeta_{\kappa} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{t}_{x\kappa} \\ \tilde{t}_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{64}$$

D. Computation of the Rotations

If we let $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3$ be the eigenvalues of the metric matrix T and $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ the orthonormal system of the corresponding unit eigenvectors, T has the following spectral decomposition:

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_3 \end{pmatrix} \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_3 \end{pmatrix}^{\top}.$$
(65)

Since we choose the sign of T so that $|T| \ge 0$, we have either $\lambda_1 \ge \lambda_2 \ge \lambda_3 \ge 0$ or $\lambda_1 \ge 0 \ge \lambda_2 \ge \lambda_3$. The latter may occur when $\lambda_1 \approx 0$ due to data inaccuracy. In that case, we let $\lambda_1 = 0$ and change the signs of λ_2 and λ_3 .

From eq. (65), the rectifying matrix \mathbf{A} has the form

$$\mathbf{A} = \pm \left(\sqrt{\lambda_1} \mathbf{v}_1 \ \sqrt{\lambda_2} \mathbf{v}_2 \ \sqrt{\lambda_3} \mathbf{v}_3 \right) \mathbf{Q}, \tag{66}$$

where Q is an arbitrary rotation matrix. This indeterminacy corresponds to the fact that we can arbitrarily define the orientation of the object coordinate system. The double sign \pm implies the existence of the mirror image solution. So, we choose one solution by selecting + and letting Q = I. From eq. (15), the vector m_i , or the ith column of the matrix M, is given by

$$\boldsymbol{m}_{i} = \sqrt{\lambda_{i}} \begin{pmatrix} (\boldsymbol{u}_{1(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{v}_{i}) \\ (\boldsymbol{u}_{1(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{v}_{i}) \\ (\boldsymbol{u}_{2(1)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{v}_{i}) \\ \vdots \\ (\boldsymbol{u}_{M(2)}^{\dagger}, \boldsymbol{v}_{i}) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{67}$$

The three columns m_1 , m_2 and m_3 determines the matrix M, which determines the 3-D vectors $\{m_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}\}$. Let $r_{\kappa(i)}^{\dagger}$ the *i*th column of the transpose R_{κ}^{\top} . Eq. (19) is rewritten as

$$\zeta_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} = \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} - \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger},
\zeta_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} = \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} - \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}.$$
(68)

Since $\{\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger},\,\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger},\,\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}\}$ is a right-handed orthonormal system, the vector product of eqs. (68) on both sides is

$$\zeta_{\kappa}^2 \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} \times \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} = \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} + \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} + \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}. \tag{69}$$

Solving eqs. (68) and (69) for $\mathbf{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}$, $\mathbf{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}$, and $\mathbf{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}$, we obtain

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger} = \zeta_{\kappa} \left(\frac{\zeta_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} \times \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} - \beta_{\kappa} (t_{x\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} + t_{y\kappa} \boldsymbol{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger})}{1 + \beta_{\kappa}^{2} (t_{x\kappa}^{2} + t_{y\kappa}^{2})} \right),$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} = \zeta_{\kappa} \mathbf{m}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} + \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \mathbf{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger},$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} = \zeta_{\kappa} \mathbf{m}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} + \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \mathbf{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}.$$
(70)

However, the resulting $\{\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger}, \, \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger}, \, \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}\}$ may not be strictly orthonormal in the presence of noise in the data. In order to make them strictly orthonormal, we compute the following SVD:

$$\left(\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger} \ \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger} \ \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}\right) = \boldsymbol{V}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{U}_{\kappa}^{\top}. \tag{71}$$

An optimal rotation \boldsymbol{R}_{κ} that best fits $\{\boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(1)}^{\dagger},\ \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(2)}^{\dagger},\ \boldsymbol{r}_{\kappa(3)}^{\dagger}\}$ is given as follows [5]:

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{U}_{\kappa} \boldsymbol{V}_{\kappa}^{\top}. \tag{72}$$

E. Mirror Image Solution

If we choose "–" for the " \pm " in eq. (66), the vectors $\{m_i\}$ given by eq. (67) change their signs. However, we can still obtain a solution compatible with eq. (13) if we change the signs of a, b and c. So, the shape vector solution $\{s_{\alpha}\}$ has its mirror image solution $\{-s_{\alpha}\}$.

Changing the signs of the vectors $\{m_i\}$ means changing the signs of the vectors $\{m_{\kappa(a)}^{\dagger}\}$. If we take out equations that involve R_{κ} from eq. (46), we find that another solution R'_{κ} exists such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \\ 0 & 1 & -\beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}_{\kappa} = -\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \\ 0 & 1 & -\beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{R}'_{\kappa}.$$
(73)

Transposing both sides and letting

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}^{\prime}\boldsymbol{R}_{\kappa}^{\top} = \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\kappa}, \tag{74}$$

we can rewrite eq. (73) in the form

$$\Omega_{\kappa} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ -\beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} & -\beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \\ \beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} & \beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix}.$$
(75)

This means that Ω_{κ} is a rotation that maps $(1,0,-\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa})$ and $(0,1,-\beta_{\kappa}t_{y\kappa})$ to $(-1,0,\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa})$ and $(0,-1,\beta_{\kappa}t_{y\kappa})$, respectively. Hence, Ω_{κ} is a rotation by angle 180° around an axis perpendicular to the plane passing by $(1,0,-\beta_{\kappa}t_{x\kappa})^{\top}$, $(0,1,-\beta_{\kappa}t_{y\kappa})^{\top}$, and the origin O. The unit vector along the axis is given by

$$n_{\kappa} = N\begin{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -\beta_{\kappa} t_{x\kappa} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -\beta_{\kappa} t_{y\kappa} \end{pmatrix}].$$
 (76)

This is rewritten as the first of eqs. (49). The rotation Ω_{κ} is then written in the form of the second of eqs. (49). From eq. (74), the mirror image rotation \mathbf{R}'_{κ} is given by the third of eqs. (49).