



# Practical Course: Vision-based Navigation SS 2018

## Lecture 5. Backend

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# Contents

- Recursive Optimization
- Batch Optimization
- Pose graph

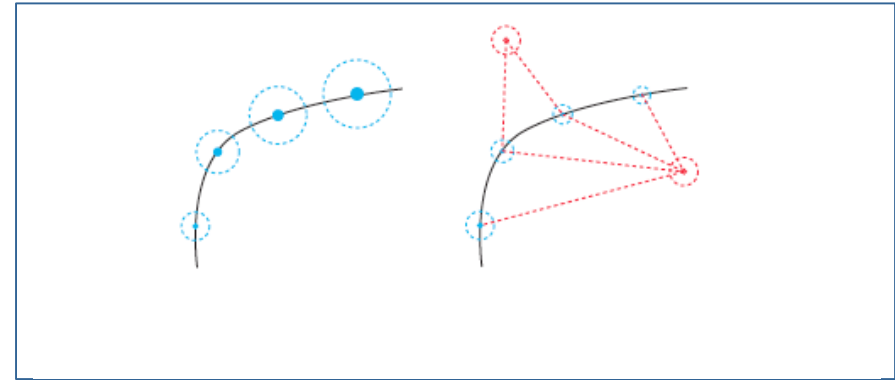
# Contents

- Recursive Optimization
- Batch Optimization
- Pose graph

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Backend
  - Estimate the state variables from the noisy data
- Batch way
  - Estimate the best state given all the data
  - Bundle Adjustment in visual SLAM system
- Incremental way
  - Keep the current (best) estimation, update it when new data is arrived
  - Also throw away the past information
  - Kalman Filter: Linear system + Gaussian noise
  - Extended Kalman Filter: Nonlinear system + Gaussian noise
  - Sliding window filter & multiple state constraint Kalman Filter

# 1. Recursive Optimization



- A simple example
- When we walk blindfolded:
  - At the beginning we know where we are
  - Roughly estimate the distance of each step
  - Uncertainty accumulates over time
- When you open your eyes at some time:
  - Can observe the soundings
  - Uncertainty in each step is still the same
  - But can be corrected by observation
  - Overall uncertainty can be kept within a certain range

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Recall the motion and observation model:

$$\begin{cases} x_k = f(x_{k-1}, u_k) + w_k \\ z_{k,j} = h(y_j, x_k) + v_{k,j} \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N, j = 1, \dots, M.$$

- Let's start from Bayes filter
- Use  $x_k$  to denote the unknown variables in time k:

$$x_k \triangleq \{x_k, y_1, \dots, y_m\}.$$

- Then the model can be simplified as:

$$\begin{cases} x_k = f(x_{k-1}, u_k) + w_k \\ z_k = h(x_k) + v_k \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N.$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- We show how to derive the recursive approach from batch approach
- Estimate the current state given data from 0 to k:

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k}).$$

- Bayes' rule (switch  $z_k$ ):

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k}) \propto P(z_k | x_k) P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}).$$

Likelihood

Prior

- Expand the prior:

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) = \int P(x_k | x_{k-1}, x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) P(x_{k-1} | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) dx_{k-1}. \quad (10.6)$$

Motion model prediction

Estimation in k-1

# 1. Recursive Optimization

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) = \int P(x_k | x_{k-1}, x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) P(x_{k-1} | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) dx_{k-1}. \quad (10.6)$$

- Different ways to treat this equation:
  - Assume the Markov property: we assume  $x_k$  is only relevant to  $x_{k-1}$
  - Don't assume Markov property:  $x_k$  is relevant to all previous state



# 1. Recursive Optimization

- By assuming the Markov's property:

$$P(x_k | x_{k-1}, x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) = P(x_k | x_{k-1}, u_k) .$$

- The second item becomes:

$$P(x_{k-1} | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) = P(x_{k-1} | x_0, u_{1:k-1}, z_{1:k-1}) .$$

- This equation (Bayes' rule) shows how to recursively estimate the status
  - But we haven't set the specific form of motion and obs model
- In Linear-Gaussian (LG) system, the recursive approach will lead to Kalman Filter (KF)

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Derivation of KF in LG system

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{A}_k \mathbf{x}_{k-1} + \mathbf{u}_k + \mathbf{w}_k \\ \mathbf{z}_k = \mathbf{C}_k \mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{v}_k \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N.$$

$\mathbf{w}_k \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{R}), \quad \mathbf{v}_k \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}).$  are noises

- Assume the state variables are Gaussian

$$P(\mathbf{x}_{k-1}) = N(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}, \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{k-1}) \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k, \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k$$

Posterior

Prior

- Use different notations since we need Bayes' rule

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Some conclusions to start with:
- Linear transform of Gaussian distribution:
  - Assume  $x \sim N(m, S)$ ,  $y = Ax + b$ , then  $y$  is also Gaussian and satisfies:

$$E[y] = E[Ax + b] = AE[x] + b = Am + b$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[y] &= E[(y - E[y])(y - E[y])^T] \\ &= E[A(x - m)(x - m)^T A^T] = ASA^T \end{aligned}$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- With this we can derive the prior at time  $k$  using motion model:

$$\begin{cases} x_k = A_k x_{k-1} + u_k + w_k \\ z_k = C_k x_k + v_k \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N.$$

- With motion model:

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}) = N(A_k \hat{x}_{k-1} + u_k, A_k \hat{P}_{k-1} A_k^T + R).$$

- This equation gives the prior distribution, denoted it as:

$$\bar{x}_k = A_k \hat{x}_{k-1} + u_k, \quad \bar{P}_k = A_k \hat{P}_{k-1} A_k^T + R.$$

- From observation model we know:

$$P(z_k | x_k) = N(C_k x_k, Q).$$

- Compute the posterior model:

$$P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k}) \propto P(z_k | x_k) P(x_k | x_0, u_{1:k}, z_{1:k-1}).$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- A small trick: we assume the posterior is also Gaussian, so:

$$N(\hat{x}_k, \hat{P}_k) = \eta N(C_k x_k, Q_k) \cdot N(\bar{x}_k, \bar{P}_k)$$

- Since they are all Gaussian, so we just expand it and compare the linear and quadratic coefficients
- The exponential part is:

$$\left(x_k - \hat{x}_k\right)^T \hat{P}_k^{-1} \left(x_k - \hat{x}_k\right) = \left(z_k - C_k x_k\right)^T Q^{-1} \left(z_k - C_k x_k\right) + \left(x_k - \bar{x}_k\right)^T \bar{P}_k^{-1} \left(x_k - \bar{x}_k\right).$$

- Compare the coefficients of  $x_k$ , for the quadratic part we have:

$$\hat{P}_k^{-1} = C_k^T Q^{-1} C_k + \bar{P}_k^{-1}.$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- For the linear part we have:

$$\left(x_k - \hat{x}_k\right)^T \hat{P}_k^{-1} \left(x_k - \hat{x}_k\right) = \left(z_k - C_k x_k\right)^T Q^{-1} \left(z_k - C_k x_k\right) + \left(x_k - \bar{x}_k\right)^T \bar{P}_k^{-1} \left(x_k - \bar{x}_k\right).$$

$$-2 \hat{x}_k^T \hat{P}_k^{-1} x_k = -2 z_k^T Q^{-1} C_k x_k - 2 \bar{x}_k^T \bar{P}_k^{-1} x_k$$

- Rearrange it:

$$\hat{P}_k^{-1} \hat{x}_k = C_k^T Q^{-1} z_k + \bar{P}_k^{-1} \bar{x}_k$$

- Left multiply  $\hat{P}_k$  and define:  $K = \hat{P}_k C_k^T Q^{-1}$ , then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_k &= \hat{P}_k C_k^T Q^{-1} z_k + \hat{P}_k \bar{P}_k^{-1} \bar{x}_k && \text{Innovation part} \\ &= K z_k + (I - K C_k) \bar{x}_k = \bar{x}_k + K (z_k - C_k \bar{x}_k). \end{aligned}$$

K: Kalman gain

$$\hat{P}_k^{-1} = C_k^T Q^{-1} C_k + \bar{P}_k^{-1}.$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Kalman gain:  $K = \hat{P}_k C_k^T Q^{-1}$  requires  $\hat{P}_k$
- Another form:

$$\begin{aligned} K &= (C_k^T Q^{-1} C_k + \bar{P}_k^{-1})^{-1} C_k^T Q^{-1} \\ &= \bar{P}_k C_k^T (Q + C_k \bar{P}_k C_k^T)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

- This requires the Sherman-Morrison-Woodbury identities:

$$(A^{-1} + BD^{-1}C)^{-1} \equiv A - AB(D + CAB)^{-1}CA \quad (2.75a)$$

$$(D + CAB)^{-1} \equiv D^{-1} - D^{-1}C(A^{-1} + BD^{-1}C)^{-1}BD^{-1} \quad (2.75b)$$

$$AB(D + CAB)^{-1} \equiv (A^{-1} + BD^{-1}C)^{-1}BD^{-1} \quad (2.75c)$$

$$(D + CAB)^{-1}CA \equiv D^{-1}C(A^{-1} + BD^{-1}C)^{-1} \quad (2.75d)$$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Two steps in Kalman filter

## 1. Prediction

$$\bar{x}_k = A_k \hat{x}_{k-1} + u_k, \quad \bar{P}_k = A_k \hat{P}_{k-1} A_k^T + R$$

## 2. Correction

- Compute Kalman gain:

$$K = \bar{P}_k C_k^T (Q + C_k \bar{P}_k C_k^T)^{-1}$$

- Update the estimation:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_k &= \bar{x}_k + K(z_k - C_k \bar{x}_k) \\ \hat{P}_k &= (I - K C_k) \bar{P}_k \end{aligned}$$



# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Some notes on Kalman filter
  - Kalman filter is the BLUE (best linear unbiased estimate) estimation in LG system
  - Kalman filter gives the same result as MAP in LG system
    - This is because the mode and mean are same in Gauss distribution
    - We can also derive KF through optimization way
    - Or by choose a best Kalman gain to get the best estimation

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Extended KF in NL systems:

$$\begin{cases} x_k = f(x_{k-1}, u_k) + w_k \\ z_k = h(x_k) + v_k \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N.$$

- We take the Taylor expansion in current estimate:

$$x_k \approx f(\hat{x}_{k-1}, u_k) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{k-1}} \right|_{\hat{x}_{k-1}} (x_{k-1} - \hat{x}_{k-1}) + w_k.$$

Denoted as F

$$z_k \approx h(\bar{x}_k) + \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial x_k} \right|_{\bar{x}_k} (x_k - \hat{x}_k) + n_k.$$

Denoted as H

# 1. Recursive Optimization $\begin{cases} x_k = f(x_{k-1}, u_k) + w_k \\ z_k = h(x_k) + v_k \end{cases} \quad k = 1, \dots, N.$

- Then employ the conclusions in KF:
- Prediction:

$$\bar{x}_k = f(\hat{x}_{k-1}, u_k), \quad \bar{P}_k = F \hat{P}_k F^T + R_k.$$

- Correction:

- Kalman gain:  $K_k = \bar{P}_k H^T (H \bar{P}_k H^T + Q_k)^{-1}.$

- Update:  $\hat{x}_k = \bar{x}_k + K_k (z_k - h(\bar{x}_k)), \hat{P}_k = (I - K_k H) \bar{P}_k.$

# 1. Recursive Optimization

- Discussion of KF and EKF
- Advantages
  - Clean and simple
  - Do not require any property of motion and observation model
  - Can be used for multiple sensor fusion
- Disadvantages
  - Need to assume Markov property (which is not satisfied when we have loop closure)
  - May diverge if the observations have outliers
  - Linearization may have error if the model has strong nonlinearity
  - Gaussian approximation may not be accurate for some variables
  - Need to store the mean and covariance matrix for all status

# Contents

- Recursive Optimization
- Batch Optimization
- Pose graph

## 2. Batch Optimization

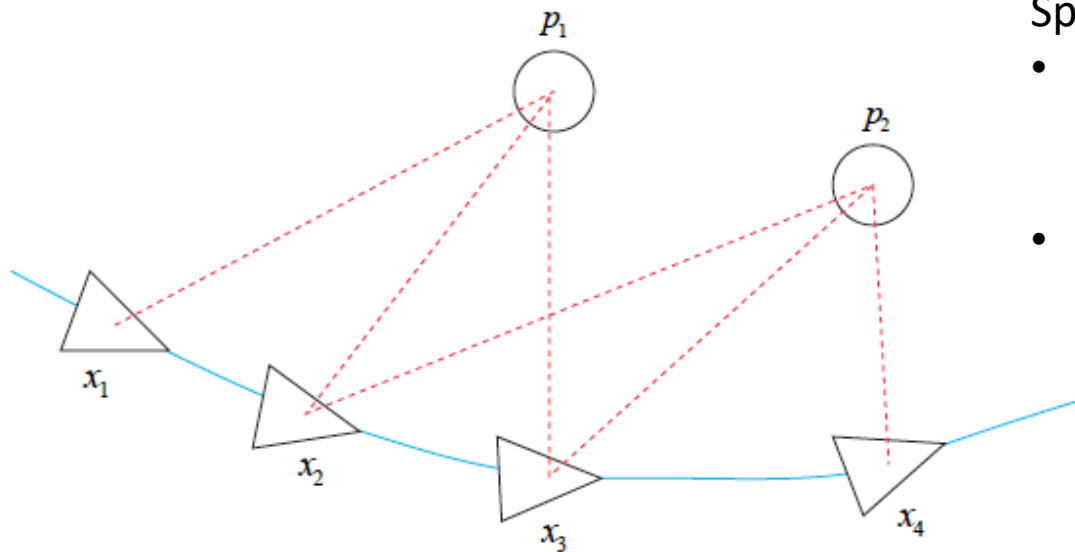
- Batch optimization
- We've shown some conclusions in Lecture 3
- MAP estimation is equivalent to least square solution

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \|e_{ij}\|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \|z_{ij} - h(\xi_i, p_j)\|^2.$$

- It is called **Bundle Adjustment** when used in visual SLAM systems
  - We have a **bundle** of lights and **adjust** the cameras to fit the observation model

## 2. Batch Optimization

- BA and graph optimization
  - Least square in BA can be represented as a graph  $G=\{V,E\}$
  - Where  $V$  is the node set containing the optimization variables
  - And  $E$  is the edge set containing the observation errors



Special pattern in BA:

- Each observation is only related to two variables (nodes)
- We don't have point-point edges (structure prior)

## 2. Batch Optimization

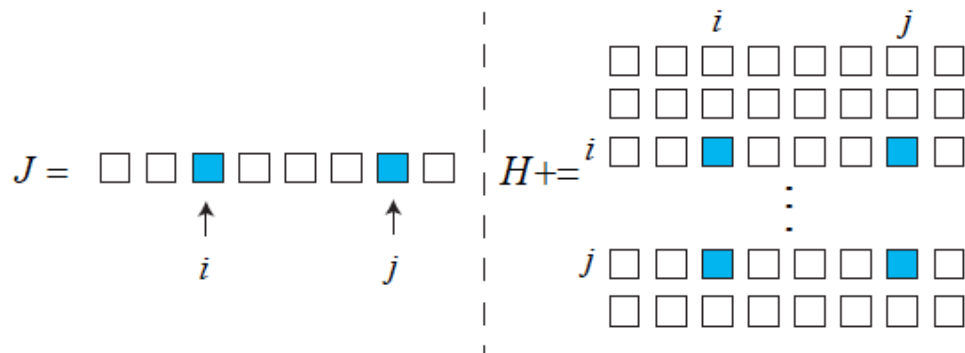
- According to optimization theory we will finally need to solve the normal equation:

$$H\Delta x = -b$$

- Each edge contributes to this H by:  $H = \sum_{i,j} J_{ij}^T J_{ij}$
- Consider an observation regarding to i-th camera and j-th point:

$$J_{ij}(x) = \left( \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 6}, \dots, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 6}, \frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial \xi_i}, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 6}, \dots, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 3}, \dots, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 3}, \frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial p_j}, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 3}, \dots, \mathbf{0}_{2 \times 3} \right).$$

- This is a sparse matrix that only has two non-zero entries:

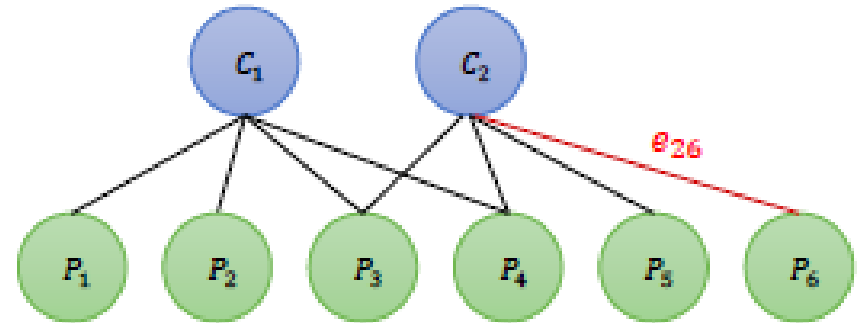




## 2. Batch Optimization

- If we set the order of the overall status by keeping the cameras at first and points at last, then the H matrix has the special form:

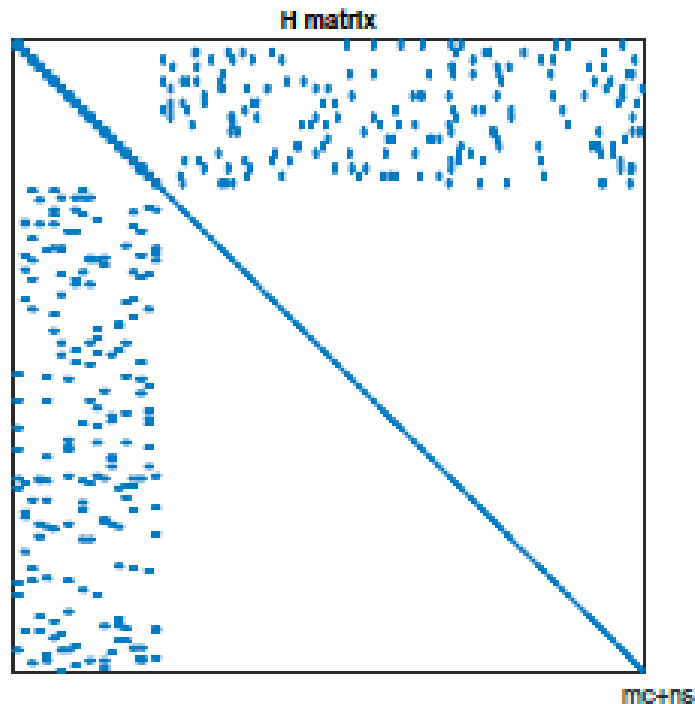
$$H = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} C_1 & C_2 & P_1 & P_2 & P_3 & P_4 & P_5 & P_6 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \\ P_4 \\ P_5 \\ P_6 \end{matrix} & \left[ \begin{array}{cccccccc} \text{blue block} & & \text{blue block} & \text{blue block} & \text{blue block} & \text{blue block} & \text{blue block} & \text{blue block} \\ & \text{blue block} & & & & & & \text{red block} \\ \text{blue block} & & \text{blue block} & & & & & \\ \text{blue block} & & & \text{blue block} & & & & \\ \text{blue block} & & & & \text{blue block} & & & \\ \text{blue block} & & & & & \text{blue block} & & \\ \text{blue block} & & & & & & \text{blue block} & \\ & & & & & & & \text{blue block} \end{array} \right] \end{matrix}$$



- The relationship of the graph and H matrix:
  - Each edge in the graph is corresponding to a non-zero block in H

## 2. Batch Optimization

- In real-world BA the number of points is far more than cameras, so the H will be:



The Arrow-like H matrix

## 2. Batch Optimization

- For a dense H matrix we need to inverse it to solve the normal equation, which has  $O(n^3)$  complexity
- But in BA this can be accelerated by employing the special structure of H
- Split the blocks in H:

$$\begin{bmatrix} B & E \\ E^T & C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_c \\ \Delta x_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v \\ w \end{bmatrix}.$$

B and C are diagonal block matrices  
E and  $E^T$  is dense and the non-zero blocks are corresponding to real observations

- Idea:
  - Since C is block diagonal, we use Gaussian elimination to eliminate the E and  $E^T$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & -EC^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} B & E \\ E^T & C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_c \\ \Delta x_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & -EC^{-1} \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v \\ w \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} B - EC^{-1}E^T & 0 \\ E^T & C \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta x_c \\ \Delta x_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v - EC^{-1}w \\ w \end{bmatrix}.$$

## 2. Batch Optimization

- So the normal equation becomes:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}^{-1}\mathbf{E}^T & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{E}^T & \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \mathbf{x}_c \\ \Delta \mathbf{x}_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{C}^{-1}\mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{bmatrix}.$$

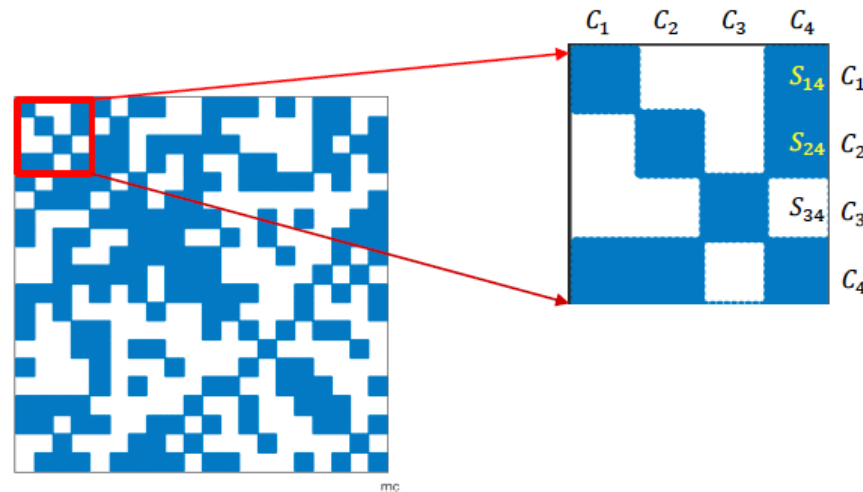
- Solve it in two steps:
  1. Solve the upper part to get  $\Delta \mathbf{x}_c$
  2. Take it into the lower part and get  $\Delta \mathbf{x}_p$
- This is called **Marginalization** or **Schur complement**
  - We can also use other approaches like Cholesky decomposition to solve this sparse linear problem

## 2. Batch Optimization

- Marginalization
  - From the probabilistic theory, it means:
    - $P(x_c, x_p) = P(x_c) \cdot P(x_p | x_c)$ .    Joint = Marginal \* Conditional
  - In BA, we marginalize all the points into the cameras to make the acceleration
  - And in KF & EKF, we actually marginalize all the past state into the current state
  - We can also choose to marginalize part of the points or part of the cameras

## 2. Batch Optimization

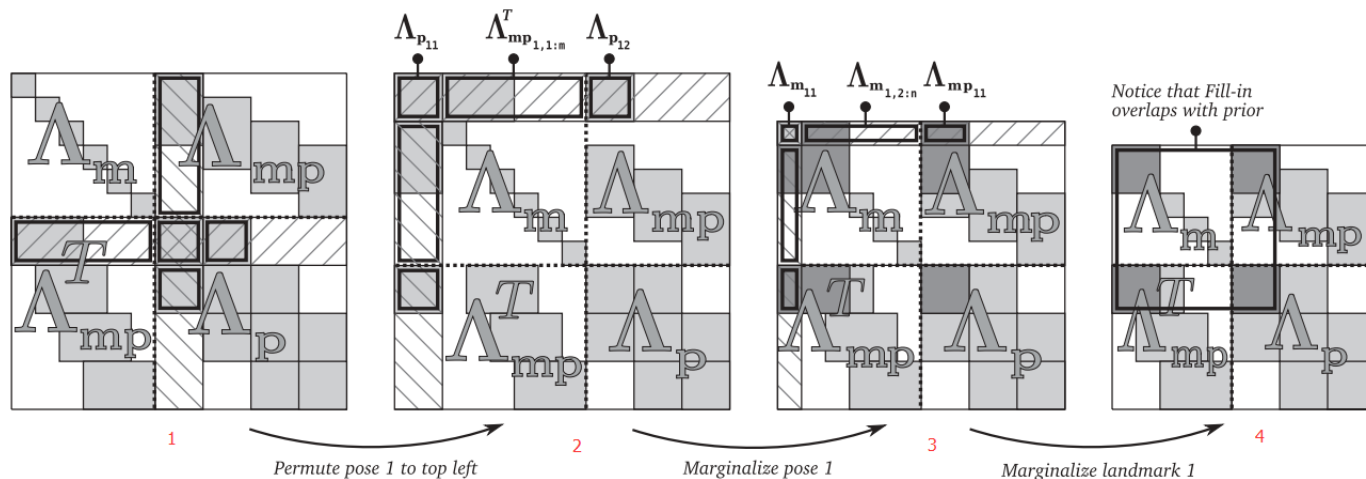
- After marginalization, the top-left corner of  $H$  won't have the sparse structure again:



- But it shows the co-visibility relationship of the cameras
  - The non-zero block in  $i, j$  means camera  $i$  and camera  $j$  have observed at least one same point

## 2. Batch Optimization

- Marginalization will fill the original matrix and make it no longer sparse
- So in KF & EKF, the covariance matrix is not sparse
- And in recursive problems, we can
  - Just use a dense matrix but keep it small (like EKF, only keeps the current camera estimation)
  - Or use a special marginalization strategy to keep it sparse



## 2. Batch Optimization

- Comparison of recursive and batch approaches:

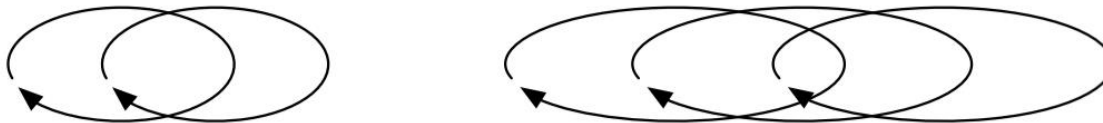
Gauss-Newton iterates over the entire trajectory, but runs offline and not in constant time

$\mathbf{x}_0 \quad \mathbf{x}_1 \quad \mathbf{x}_2 \quad \mathbf{x}_3 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-2} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-1} \quad \mathbf{x}_k \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+2} \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_K$



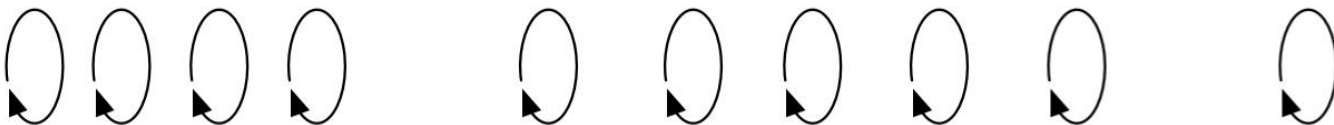
Sliding-window filters iterate over several timesteps at once, run online and in constant time

$\mathbf{x}_0 \quad \mathbf{x}_1 \quad \mathbf{x}_2 \quad \mathbf{x}_3 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-2} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-1} \quad \mathbf{x}_k \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+2} \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_K$



IEKF iterates at only one timestep at a time, but runs online and in constant time

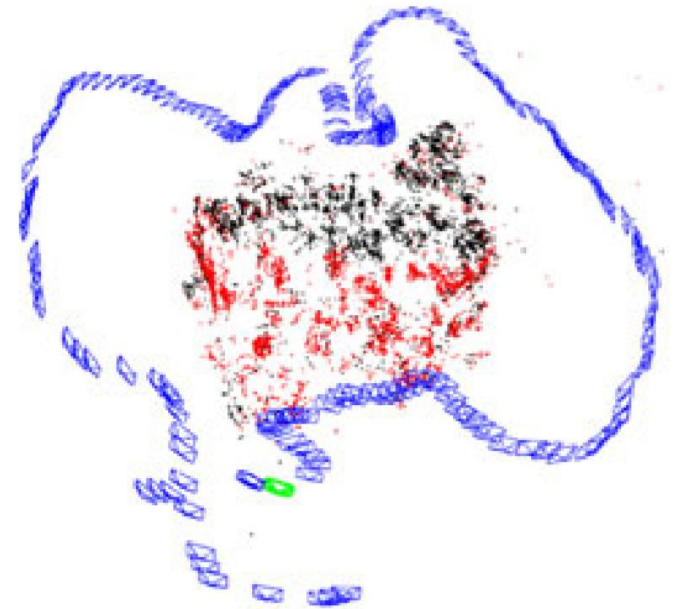
$\mathbf{x}_0 \quad \mathbf{x}_1 \quad \mathbf{x}_2 \quad \mathbf{x}_3 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-2} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k-1} \quad \mathbf{x}_k \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+1} \quad \mathbf{x}_{k+2} \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{x}_K$





## 2. Batch Optimization

- Apply BA in SLAM
  - Manage a keyframe set and map point set
- Batch approach
  - Use BA to optimize part of the graph
  - Keep others fixed
- Recursive approach (sliding window)
  - Keep a constant number of keyframes
  - Use BA to optimize the keyframe and points inside the window
  - Marginalize old keyframe and points when new data arrived

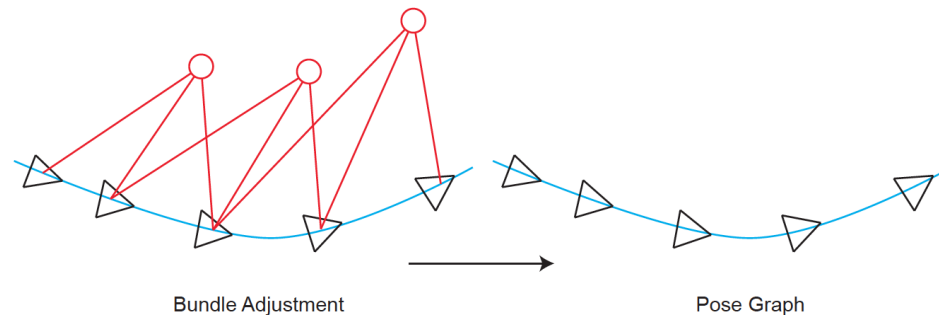


# Contents

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### 3. Pose graph

- BA usually needs much computation resource
  - So we put it in a single backed thread
  - Modern CPU need several seconds to solve a problem with 100 cameras and 100,000 points
- If we build a problem that only has cameras and no points, then the computation can be greatly reduced



# 3. Pose graph

- Pose graph
  - Vertex: cameras only
  - Edge: camera transform as observation

$$\Delta T_{ij} = T_i^{-1} T_j.$$

- Error:

$$\begin{aligned} e_{ij} &= \ln \left( \Delta T_{ij}^{-1} T_i^{-1} T_j \right)^\vee \\ &= \ln \left( \exp((- \xi_{ij})^\wedge) \exp((- \xi_i)^\wedge) \exp(\xi_j^\wedge) \right)^\vee. \end{aligned}$$

### 3. Pose graph

- Jacobians

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{e}_{ij} &= \ln \left( T_{ij}^{-1} T_i^{-1} \exp((- \delta \xi_i)^\wedge) \exp(\delta \xi_j^\wedge) T_j \right)^\vee \\
 &= \ln \left( T_{ij}^{-1} T_i^{-1} T_j \exp \left( (-\text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}) \delta \xi_i)^\wedge \right) \exp((\text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}) \delta \xi_j)^\wedge) \right)^\vee \\
 &\approx \ln \left( T_{ij}^{-1} T_i^{-1} T_j \left[ I - (\text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}) \delta \xi_i)^\wedge + (\text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}) \delta \xi_j)^\wedge \right] \right)^\vee \\
 &\approx e_{ij} + \frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial \delta \xi_i} \delta \xi_i + \frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial \delta \xi_j} \delta \xi_j
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial \delta \xi_i} = -\mathcal{J}_r^{-1}(e_{ij}) \text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}).$$

$$\frac{\partial e_{ij}}{\partial \delta \xi_j} = \mathcal{J}_r^{-1}(e_{ij}) \text{Ad}(T_j^{-1}).$$

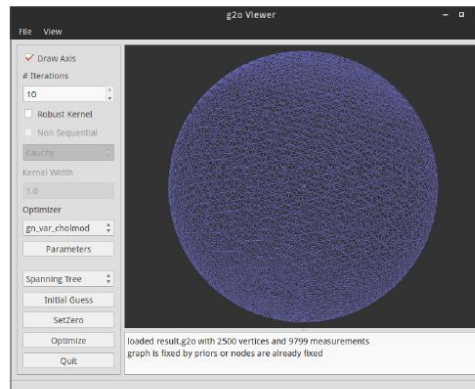
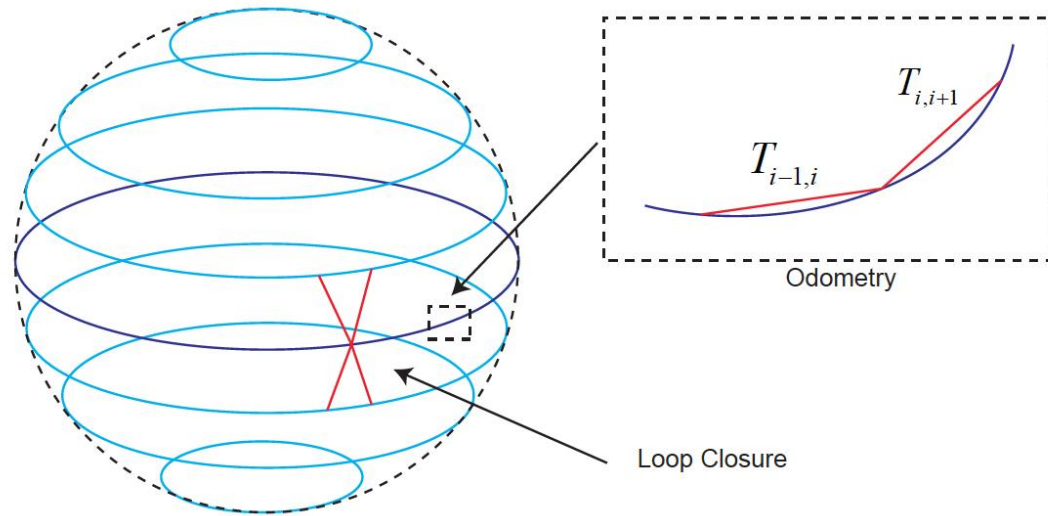
$$\mathcal{J}_r^{-1}(e_{ij}) \approx I + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \phi_e^\wedge & \rho_e^\wedge \\ \mathbf{0} & \phi_e^\wedge \end{bmatrix}.$$

Adjoint:

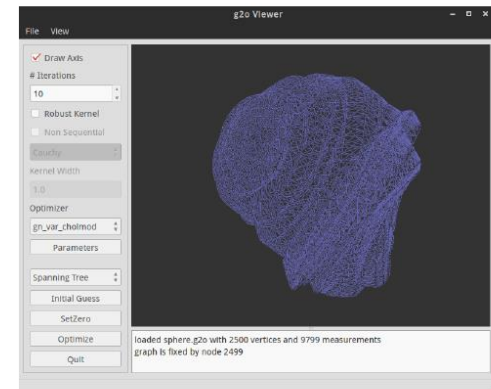
$$\exp((\text{Ad}(T)\xi)^\wedge) = T \exp(\xi^\wedge) T^{-1}.$$

# 3. Pose graph

- Assignment in pose graph
- Pose ball



Add Noise



Any questions?