Geometry SLAM from lidar and camera

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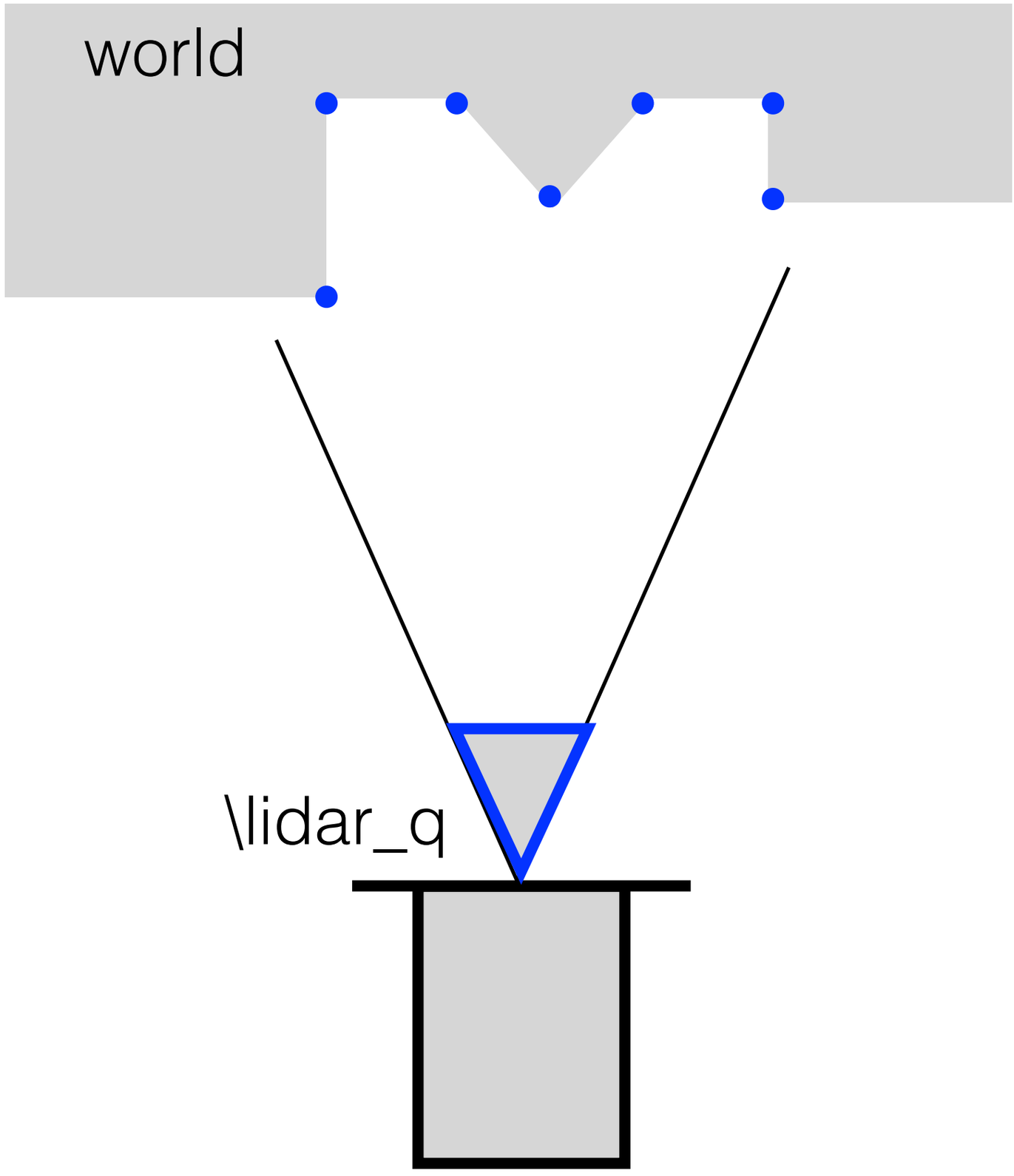
Motivation

- Motion of the robot cause Euclidean transformation of its c.f.
- Motion is not easy to estimate from interoceptive sensors (odometry wheel slipping, GPS-denied environment)
- Errors are often compensated from exteroceptive sensors (camera and lidar)

Motivation



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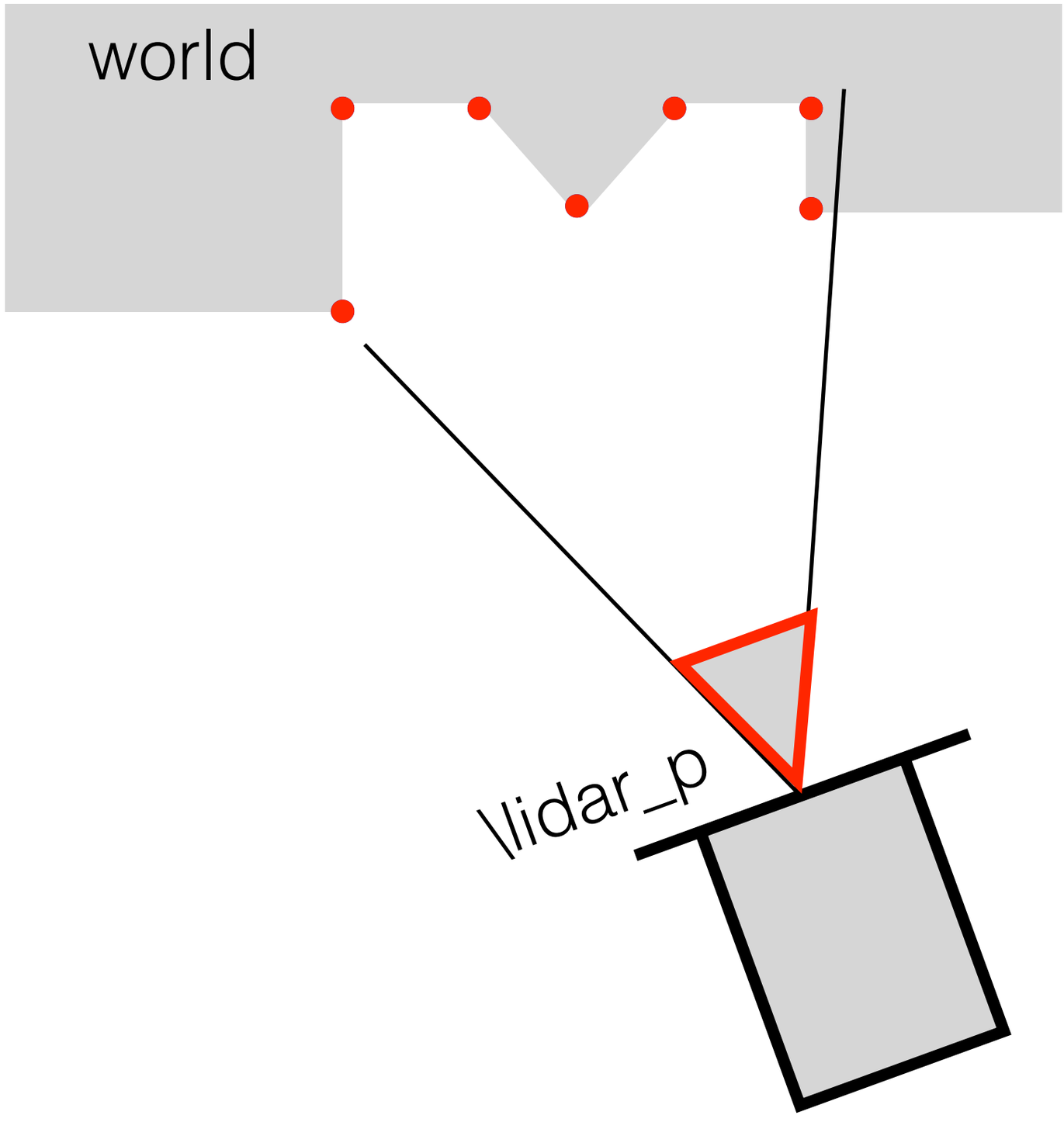

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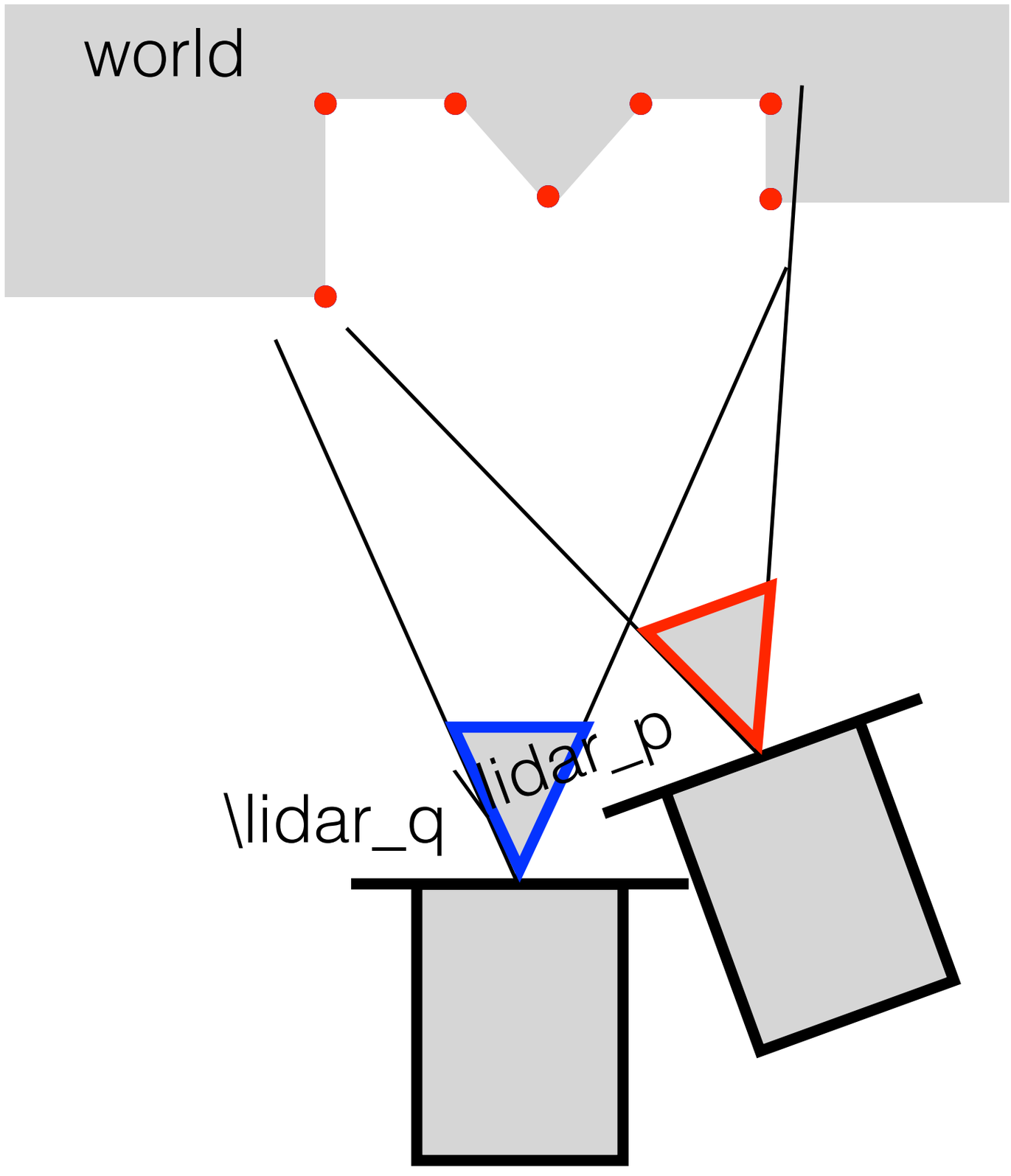
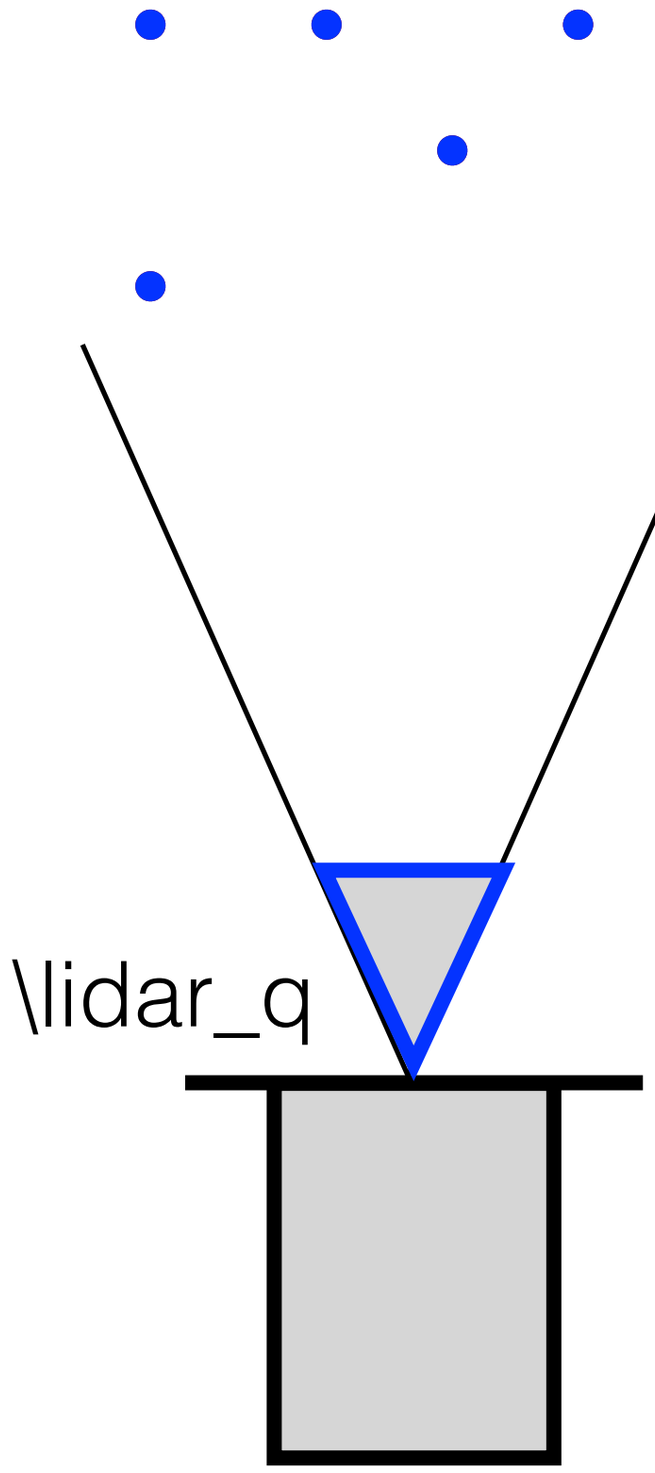
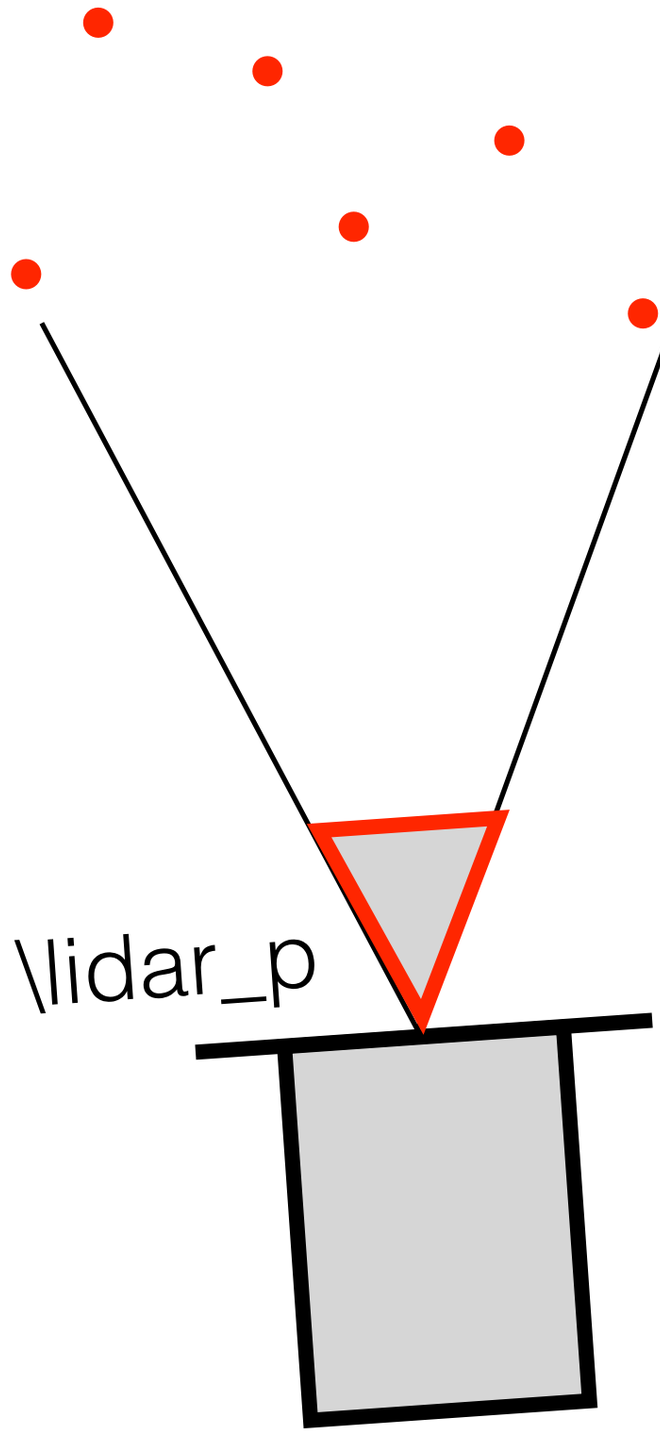


Motivation

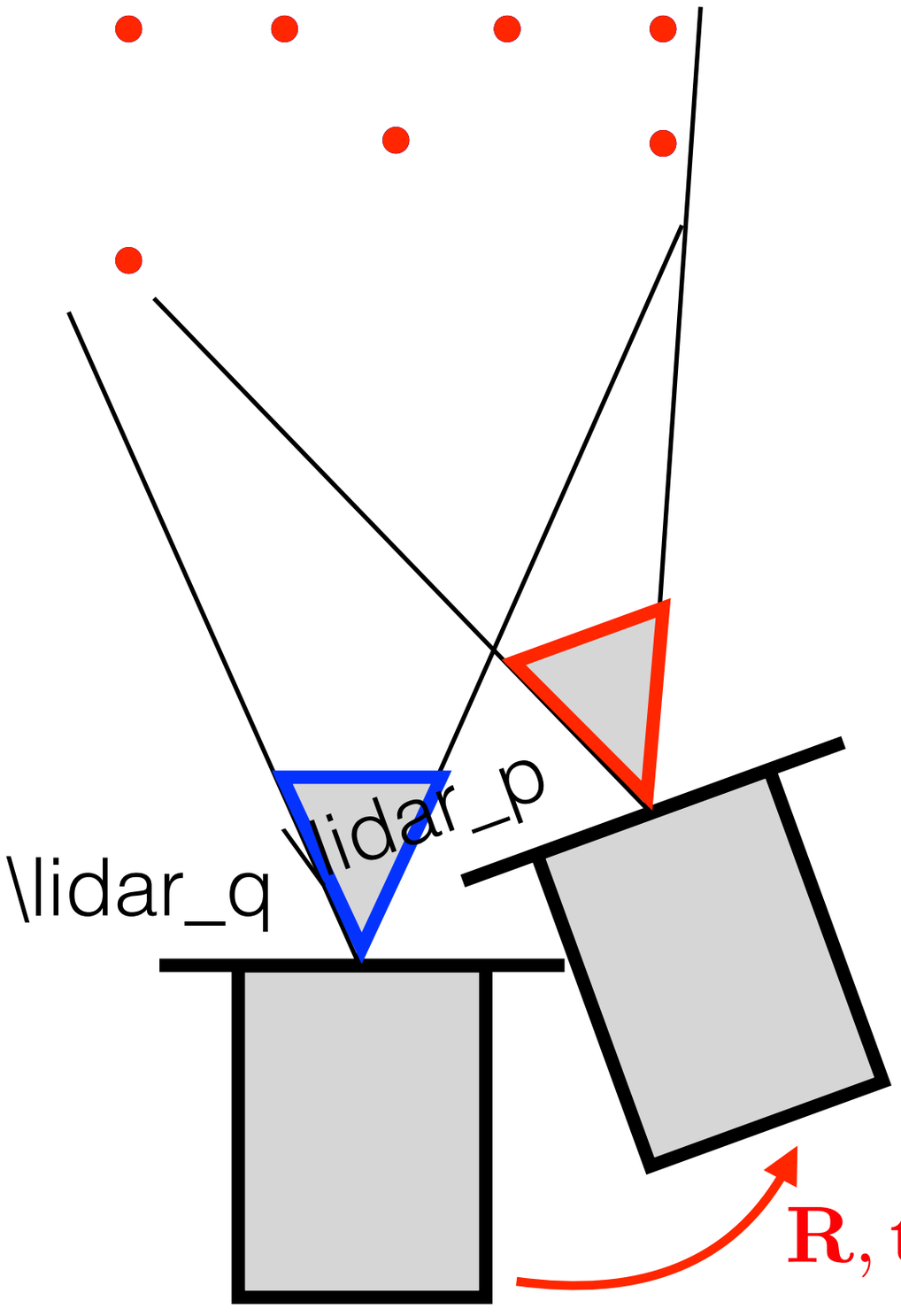
- given these two pointclouds, what is the motion of the robot?





Motivation

- the motion, which aligns correspondent points from PCLs

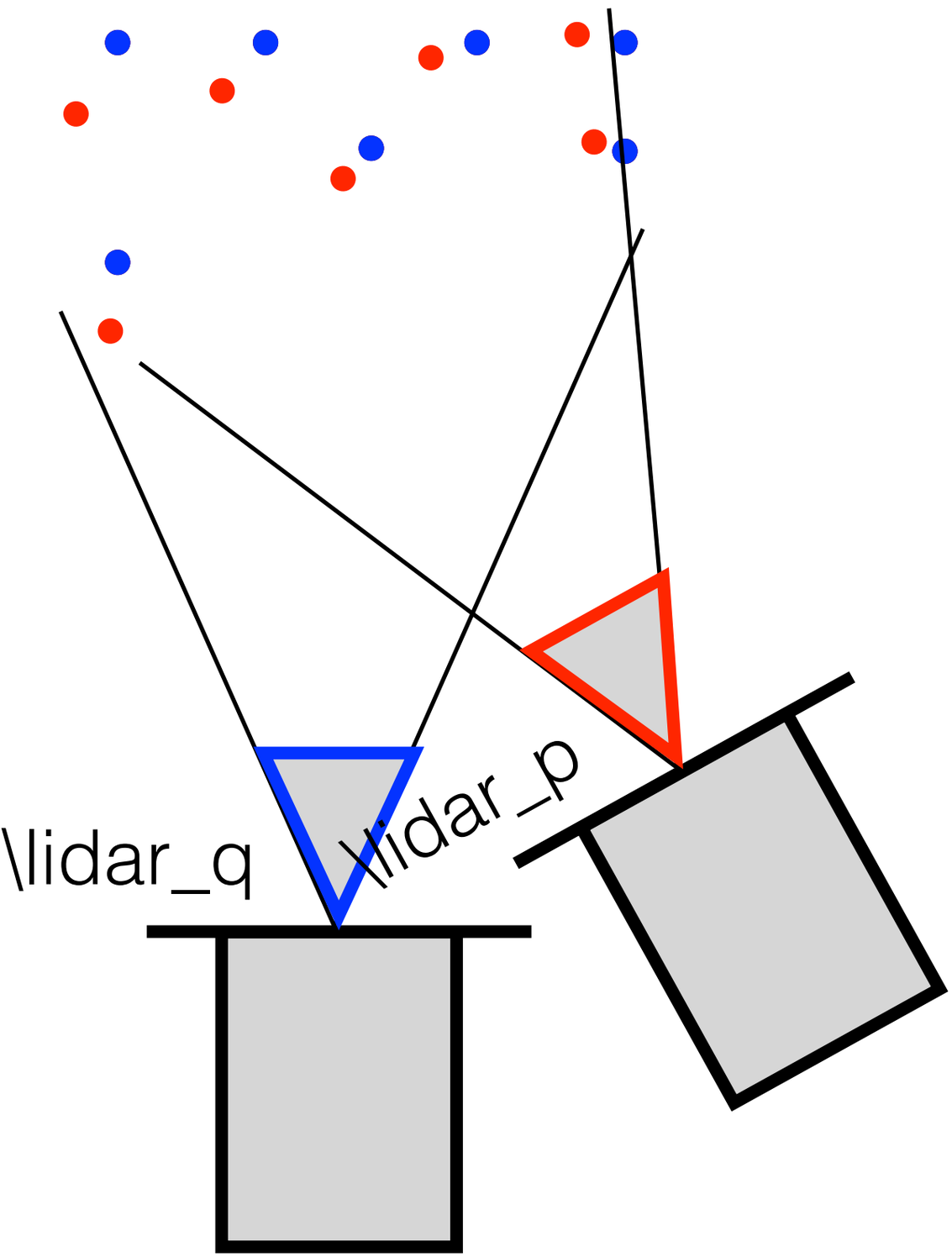


Motivation

- the motion, which aligns correspondent points from PCLs
- the task is same as calibration of two lidars, but 3D-3D correspondences cannot be provided manually.
- autonomous search for 3D-3D correspondences needed.

Iterative Closest Point (ICP) [Besl and McKay 92]

Input: two poinclouds P and Q.



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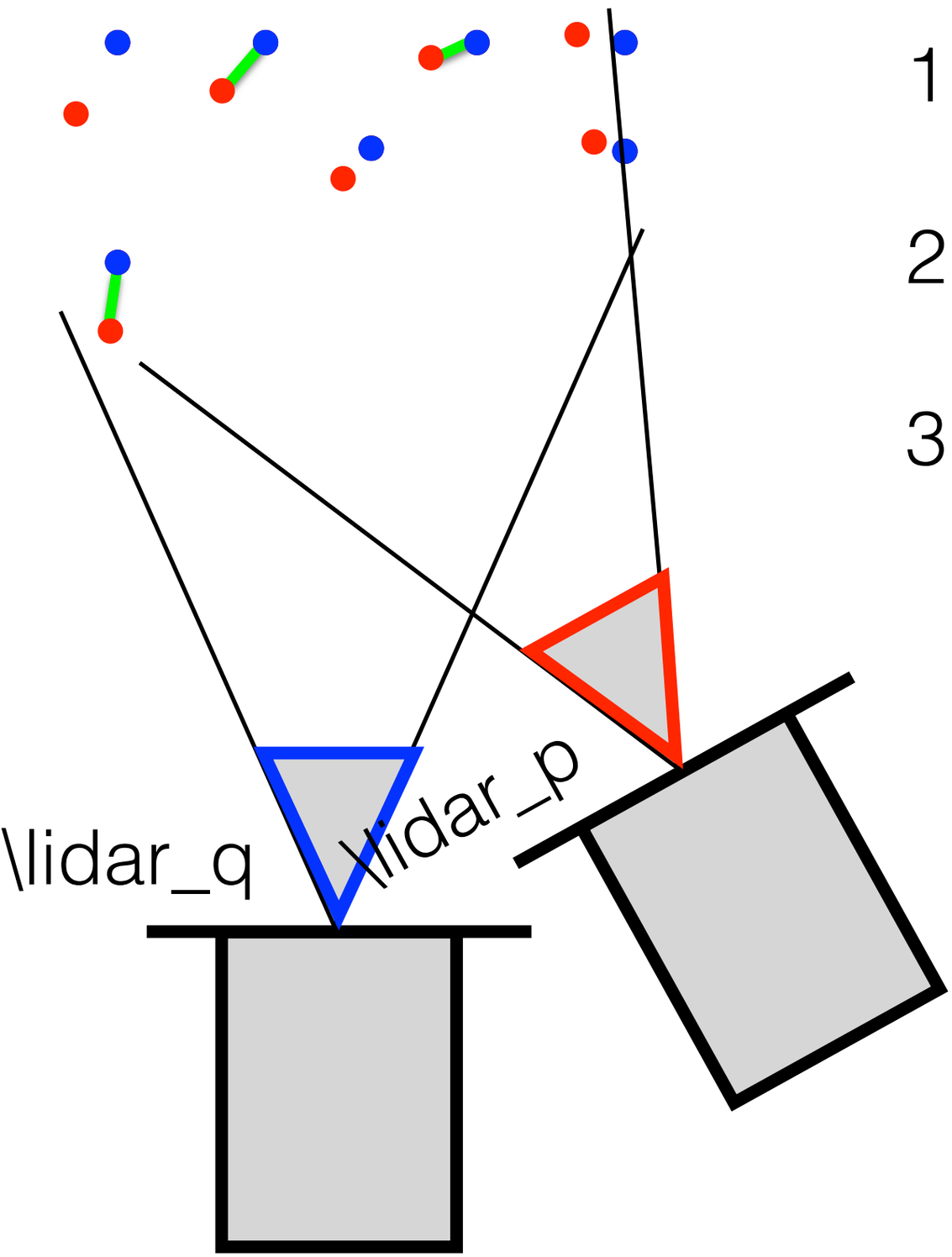

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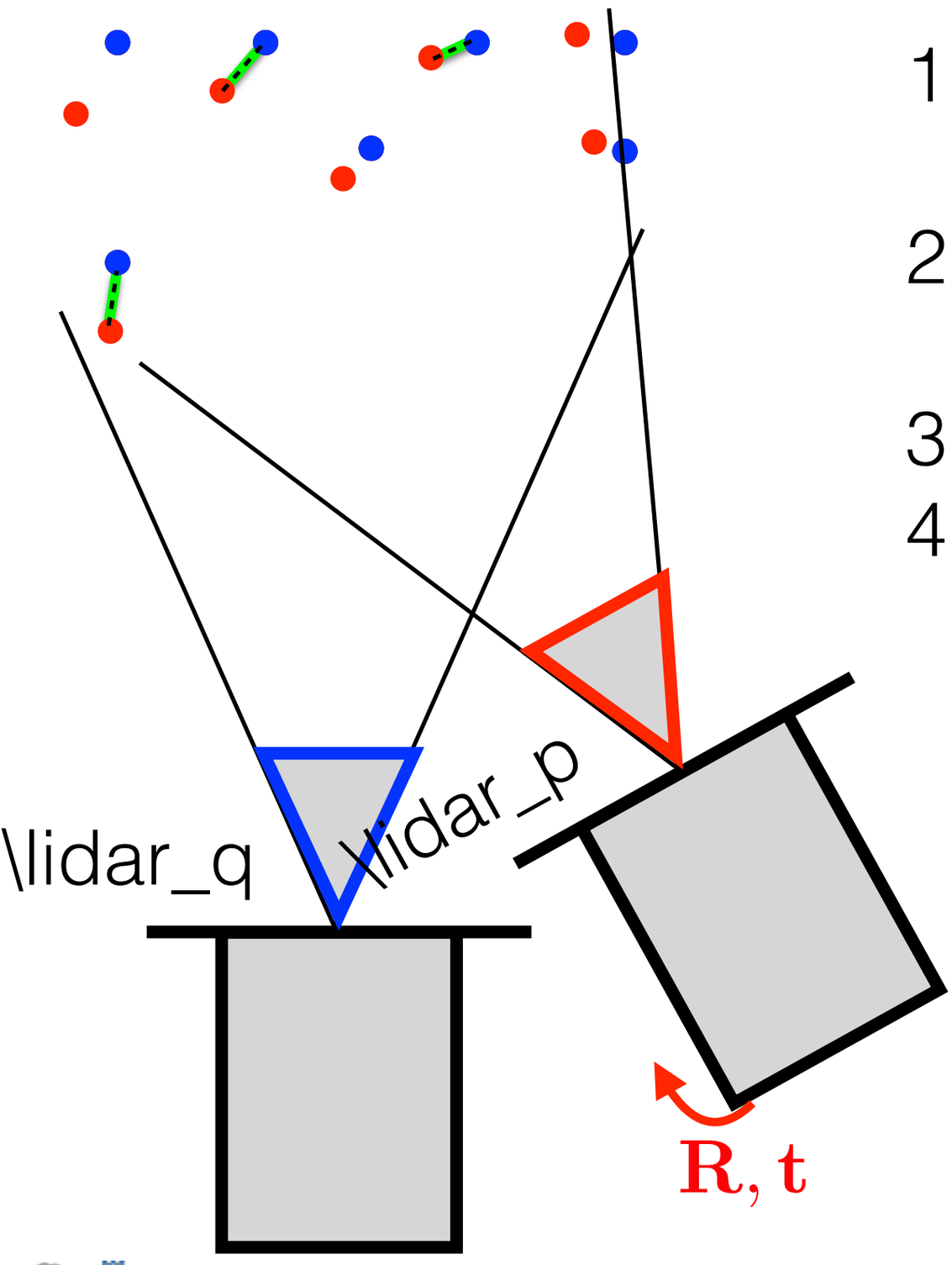

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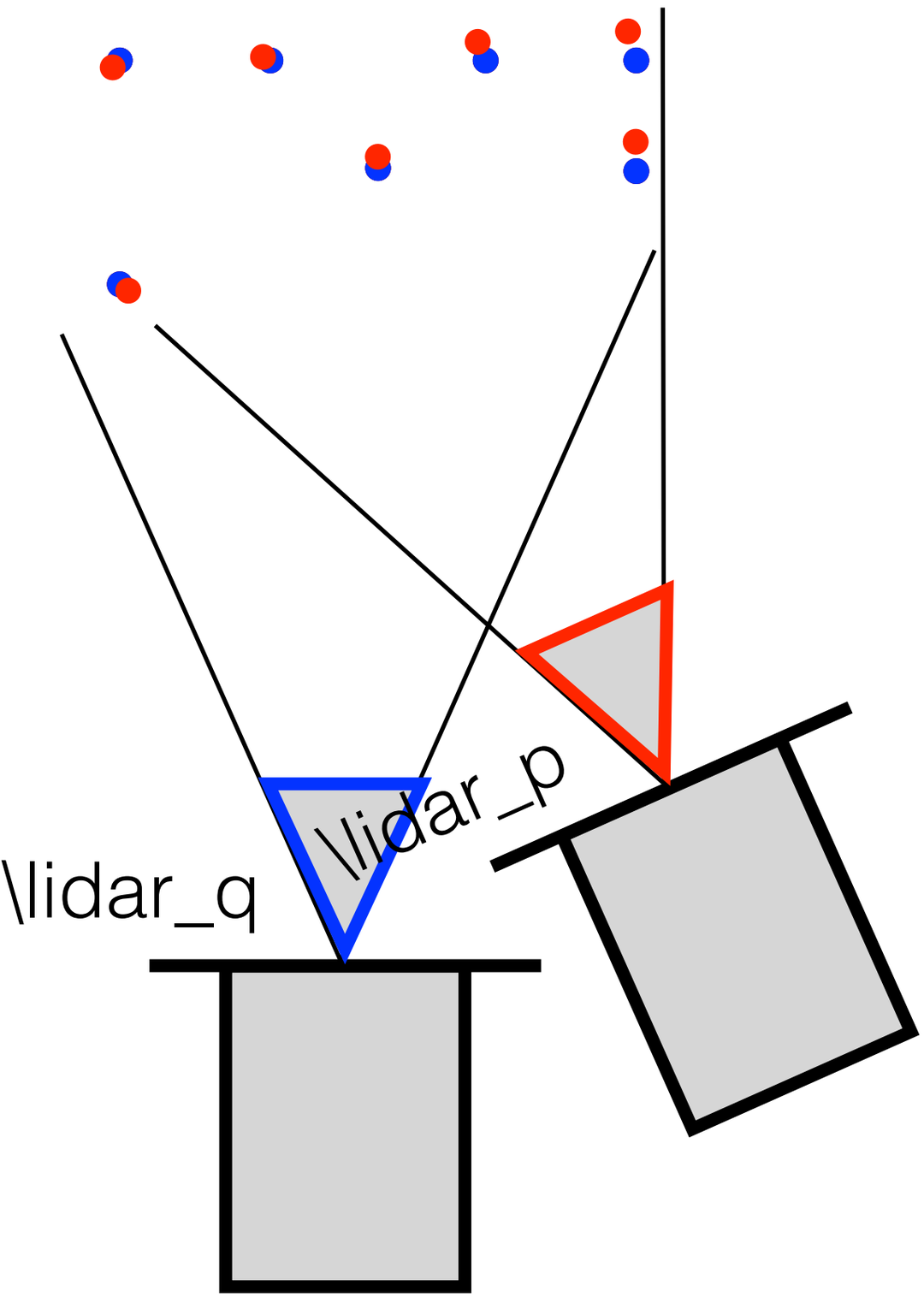

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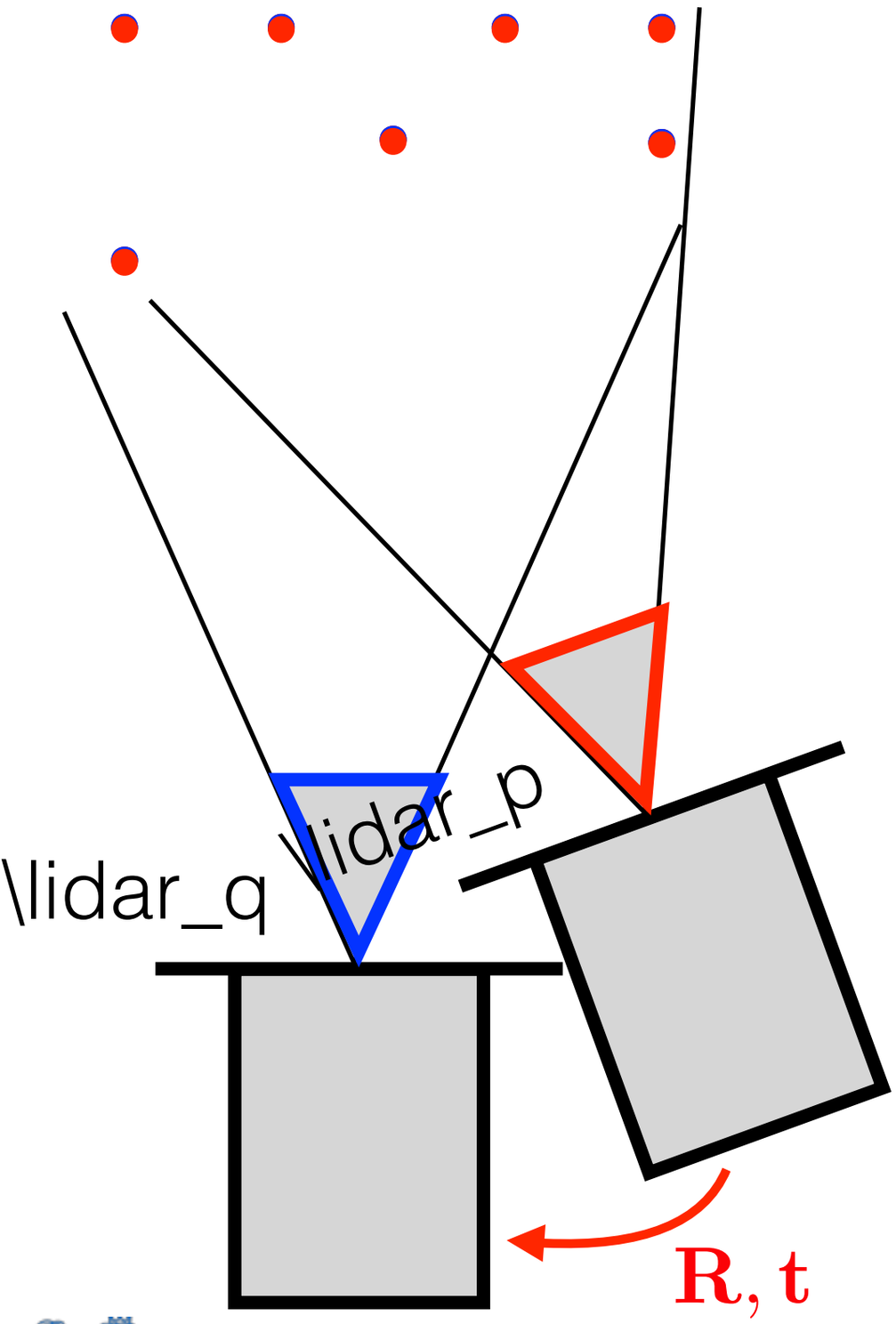

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6. Repeat from 1

Output: total rotation and translation

Iterative Closest Point (ICP) [Besl and McKay 92]

Summary

- Usually works well if the initialization is reasonably close.
- Can we provide better 3D-3D correspondences?
- Compatibility check of closest points:
  - color compatibility [Godin et al. 94]
  - surface normals should be similar [Pulli 99]
- Directly search for the correspondences by comparing visual patches in camera images.

Search for correspondences in camera images

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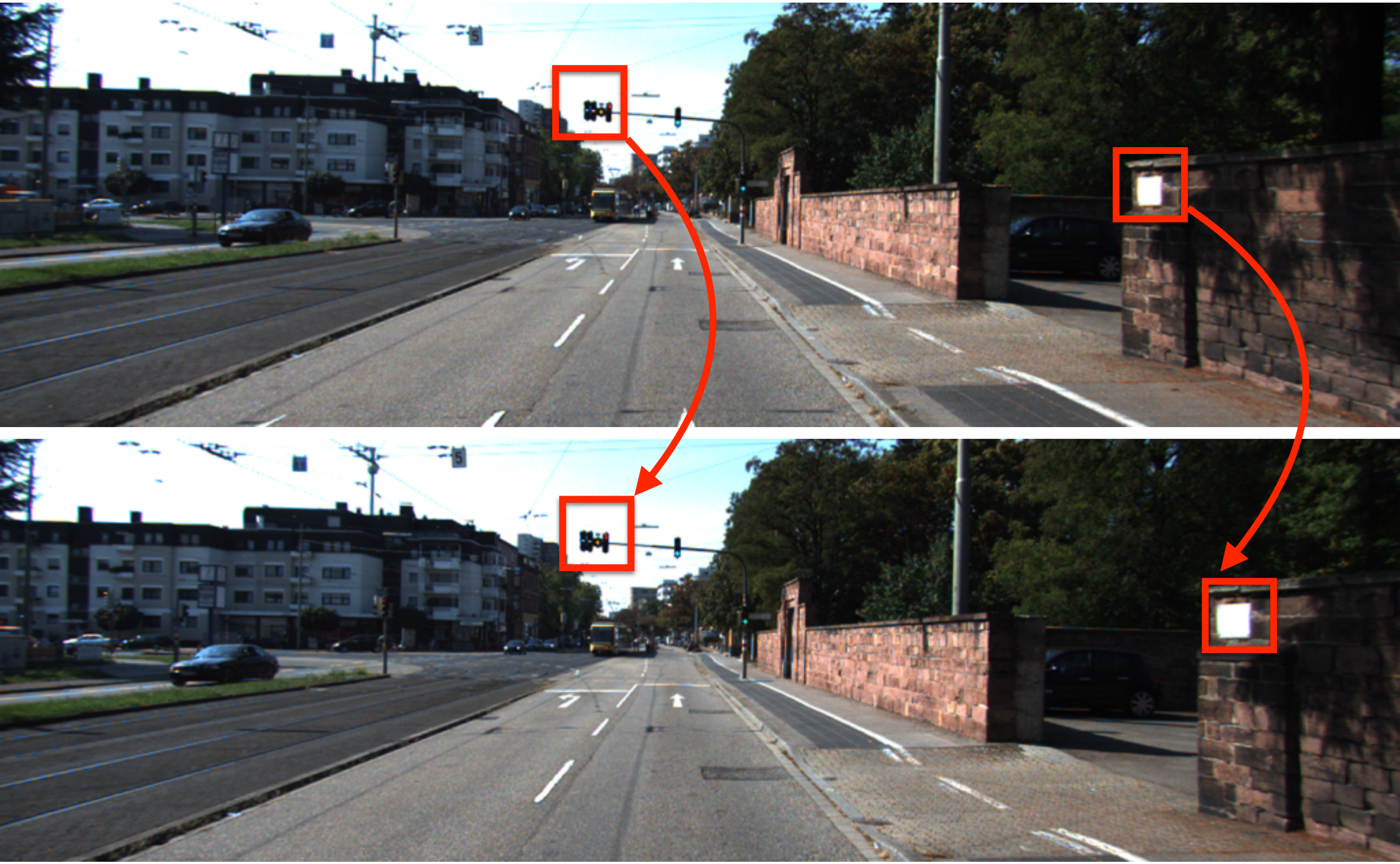

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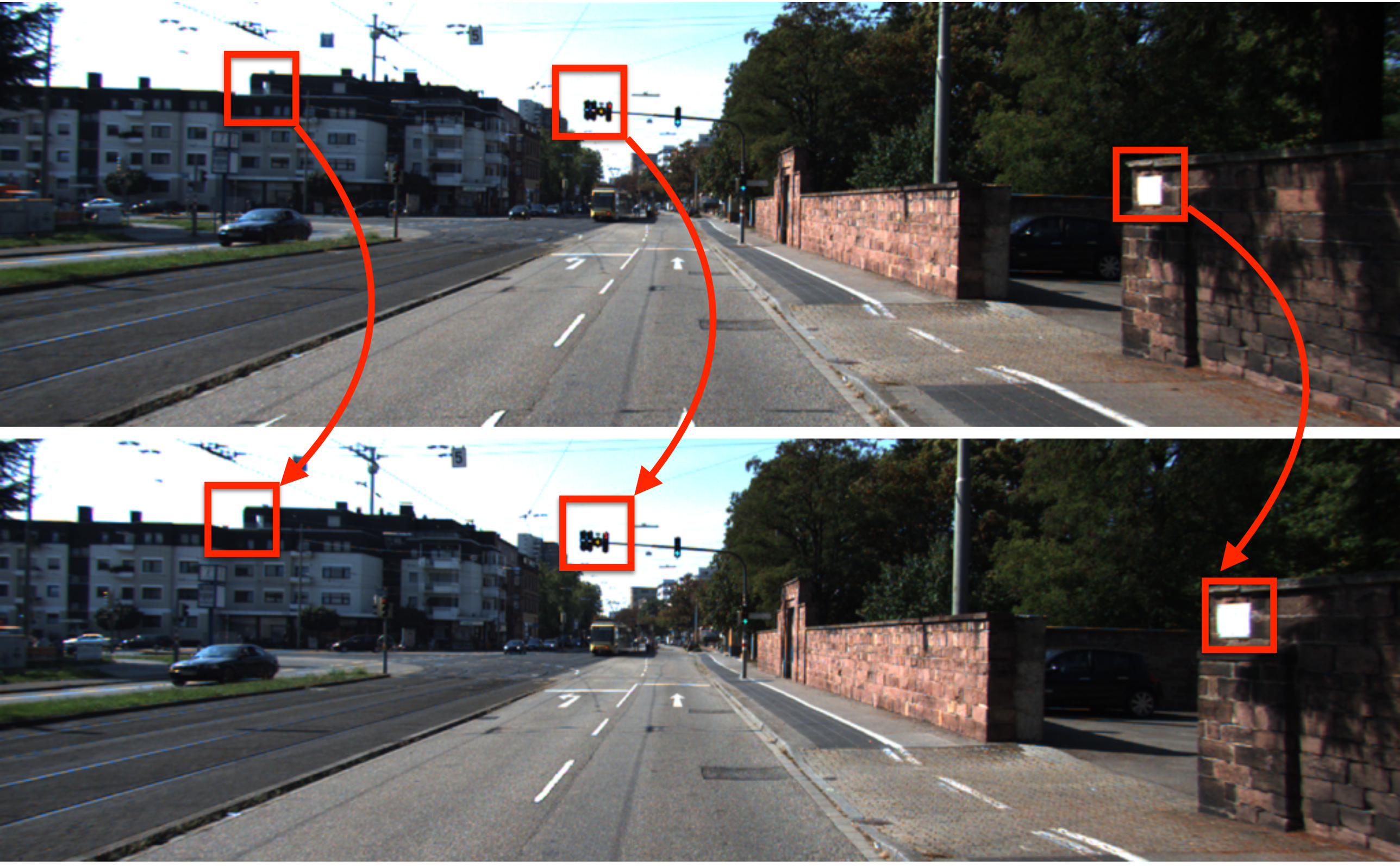

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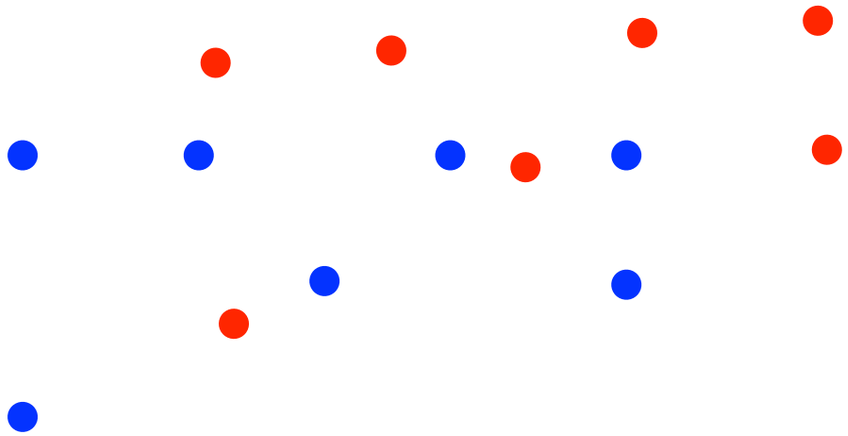
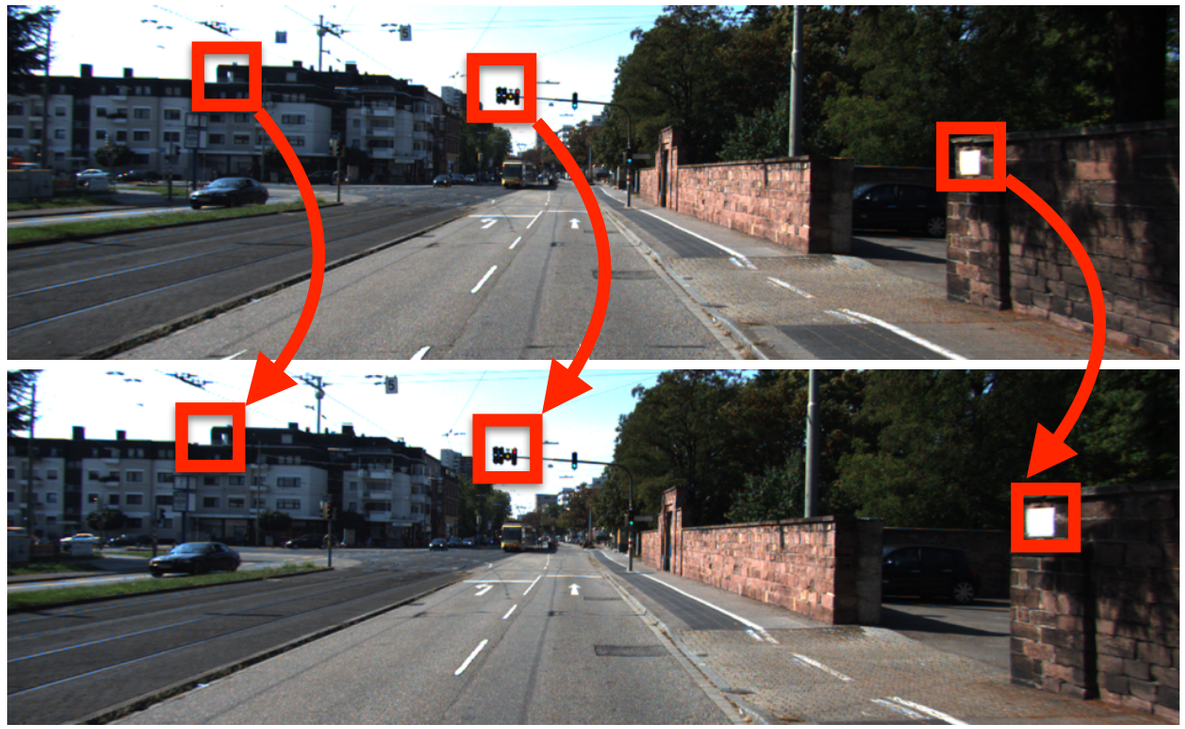
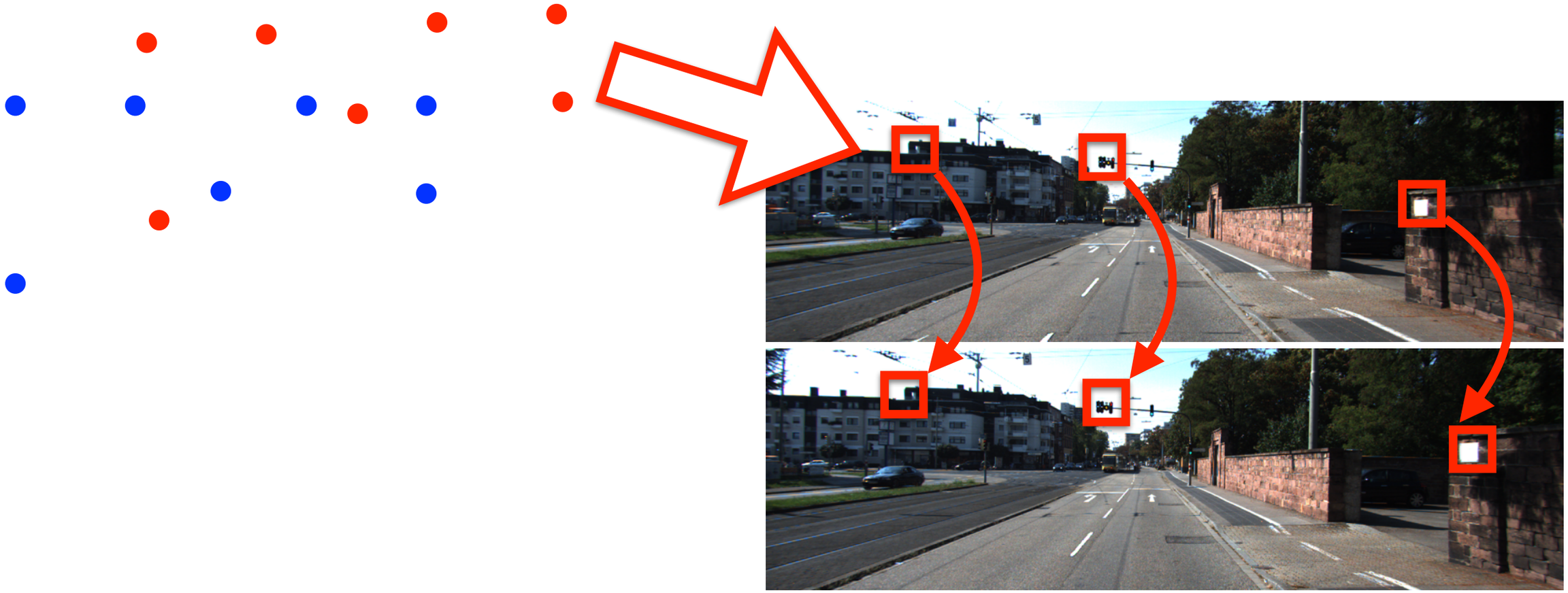




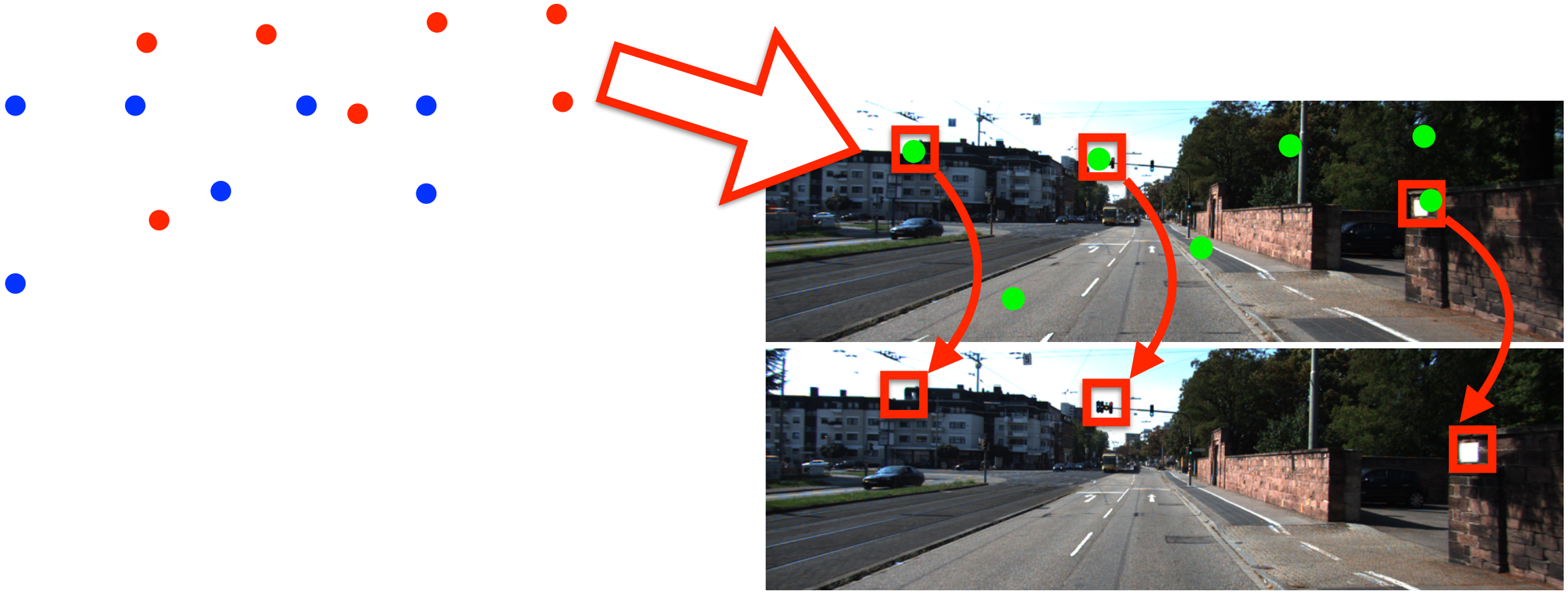
Lidar calibrated wrt camera

Search for correspondences in camera images



Project 3D pointcloud on image plane

Search for correspondences in camera images



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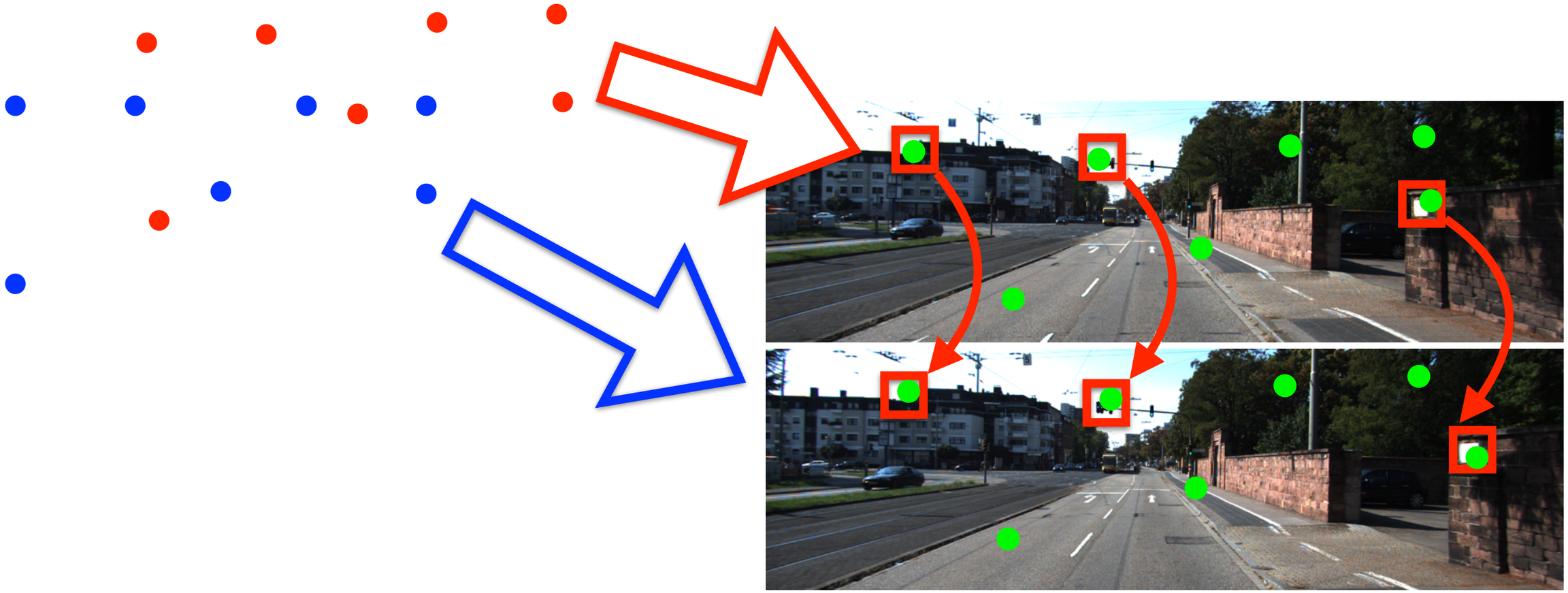

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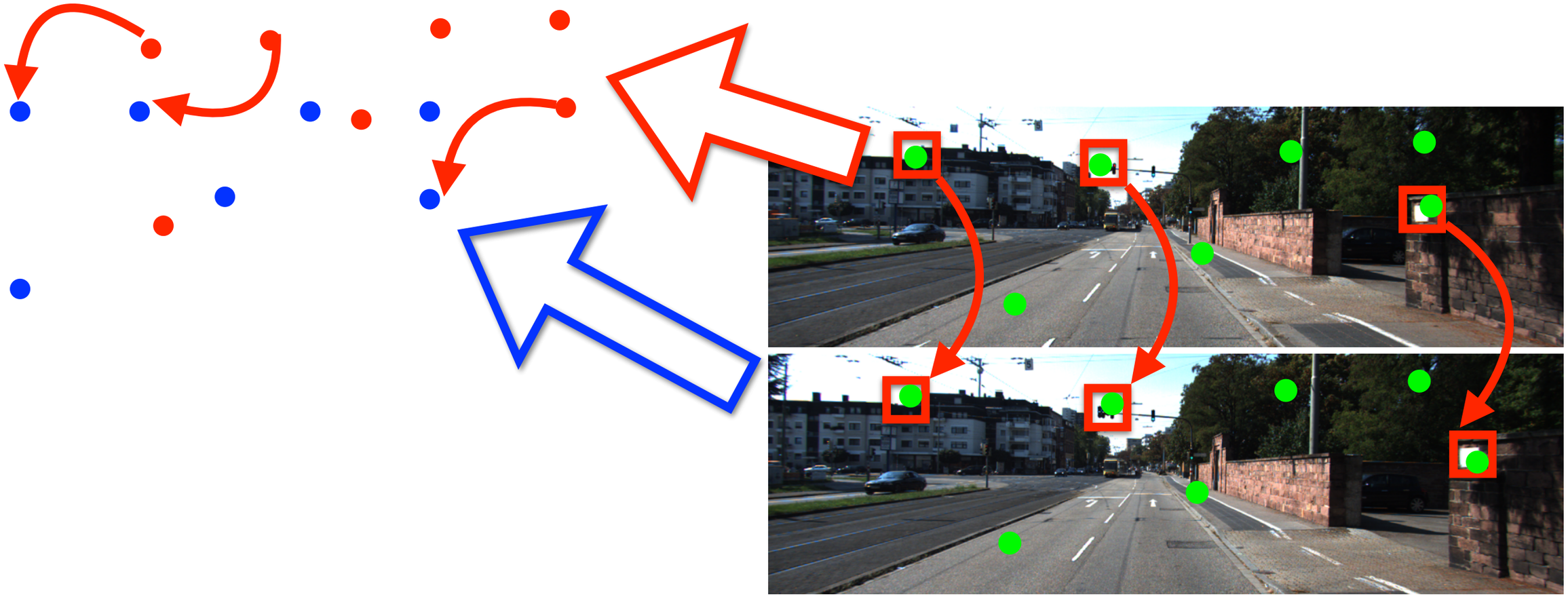
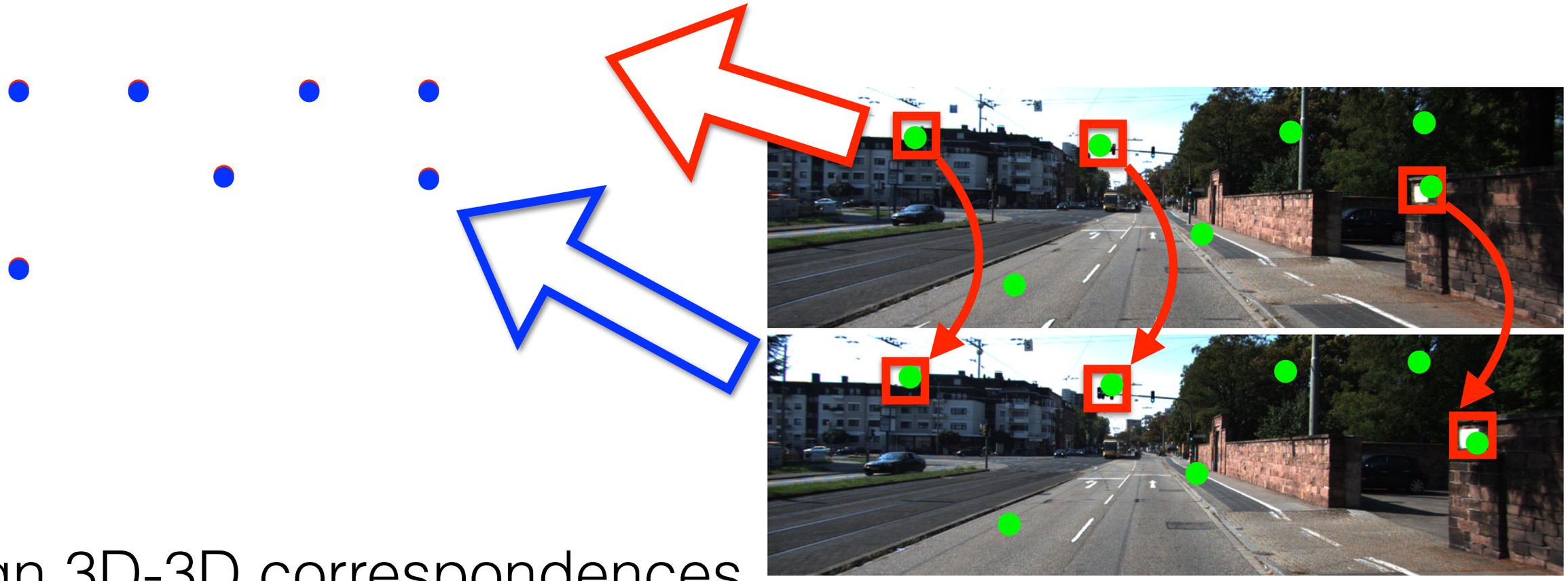


For each 2D-2D correspondence, find closest lidar point
=> 3D-3D correspondences

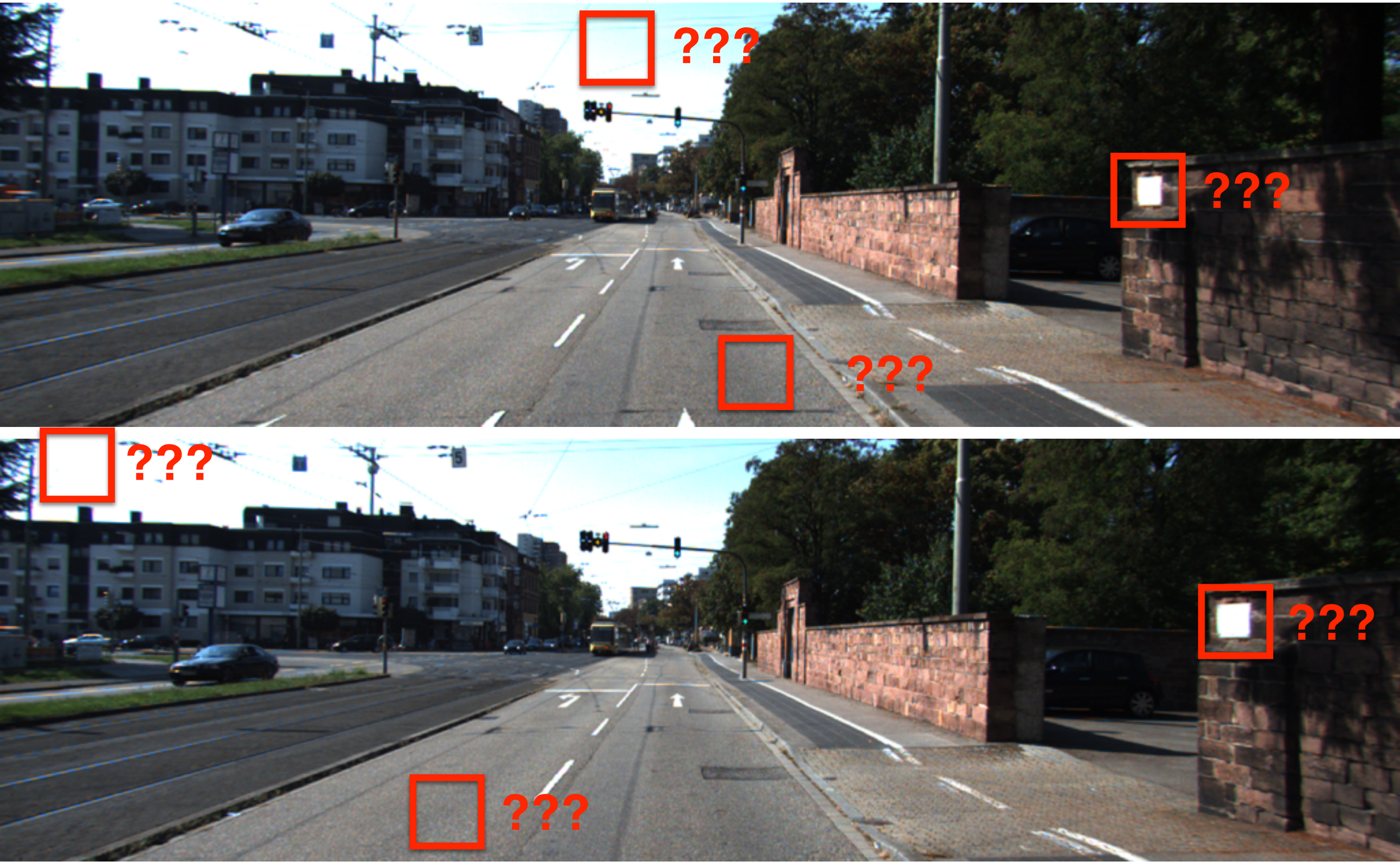
Search for correspondences in camera images



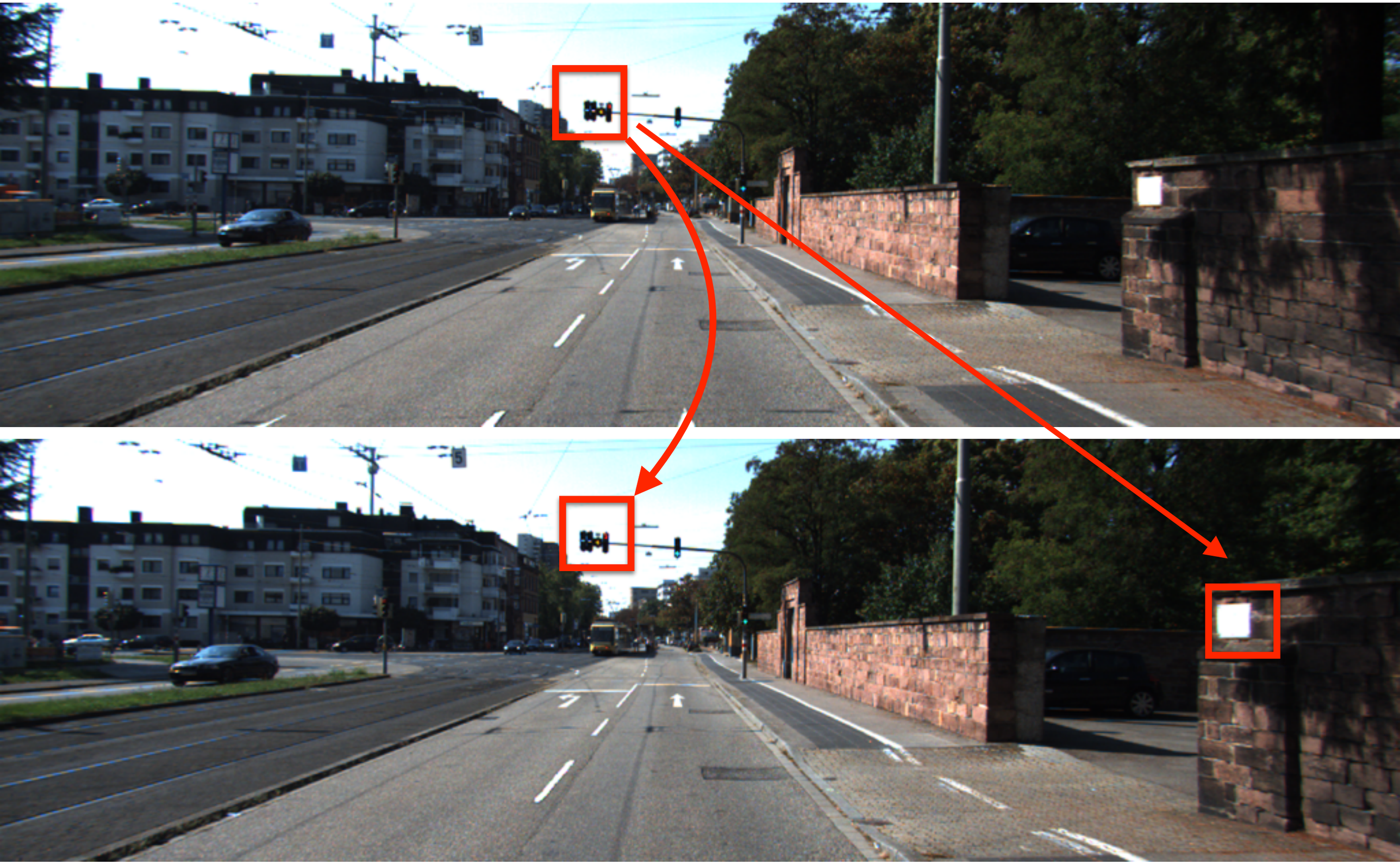
Align 3D-3D correspondences

How to find these 2D-2D correspondences in images?

Problem1: Which points are suitable candidates?



Problem2: How to measure similarity?



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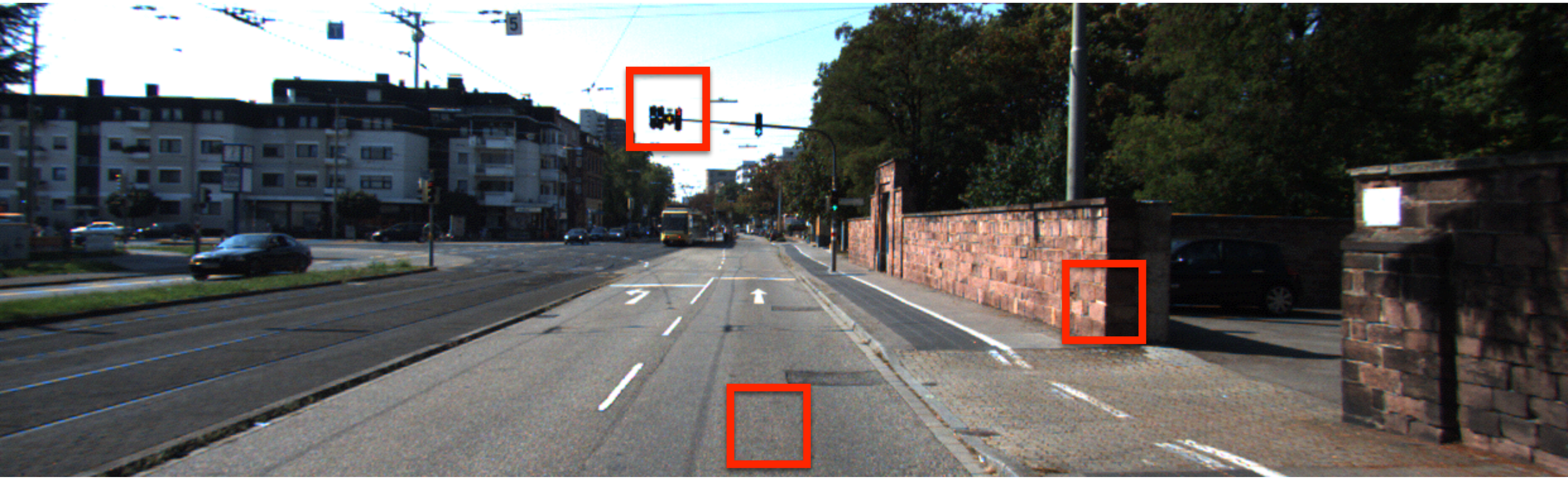
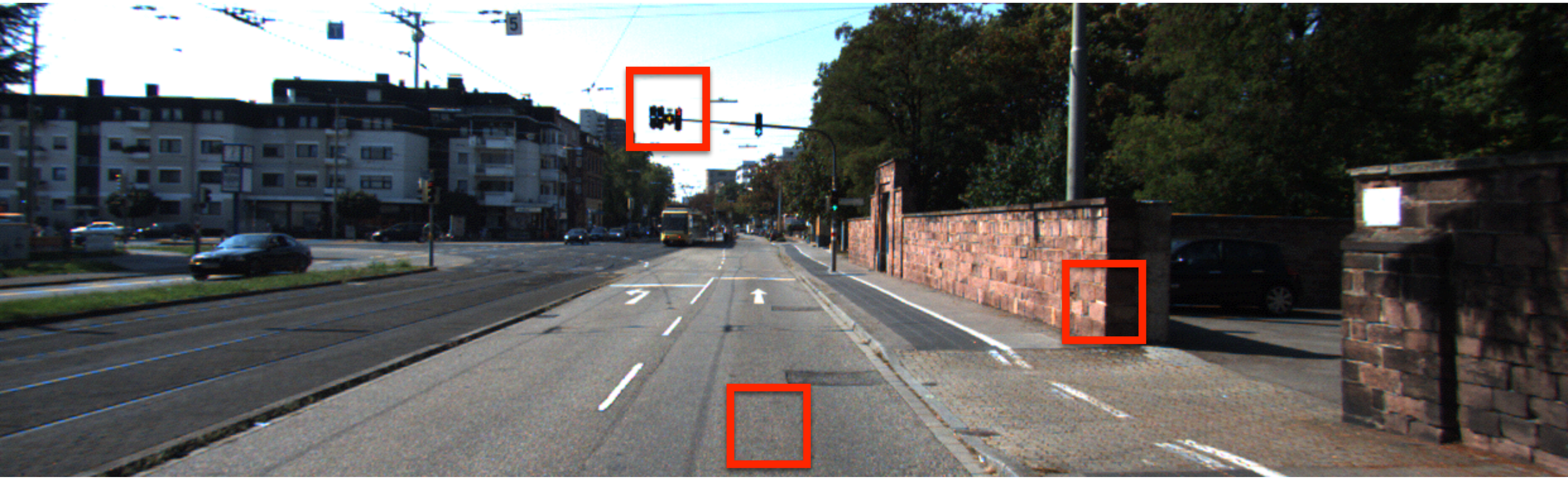


Problem1: Which points are suitable candidates?

Points with patches dissimilar to their neighbourhood



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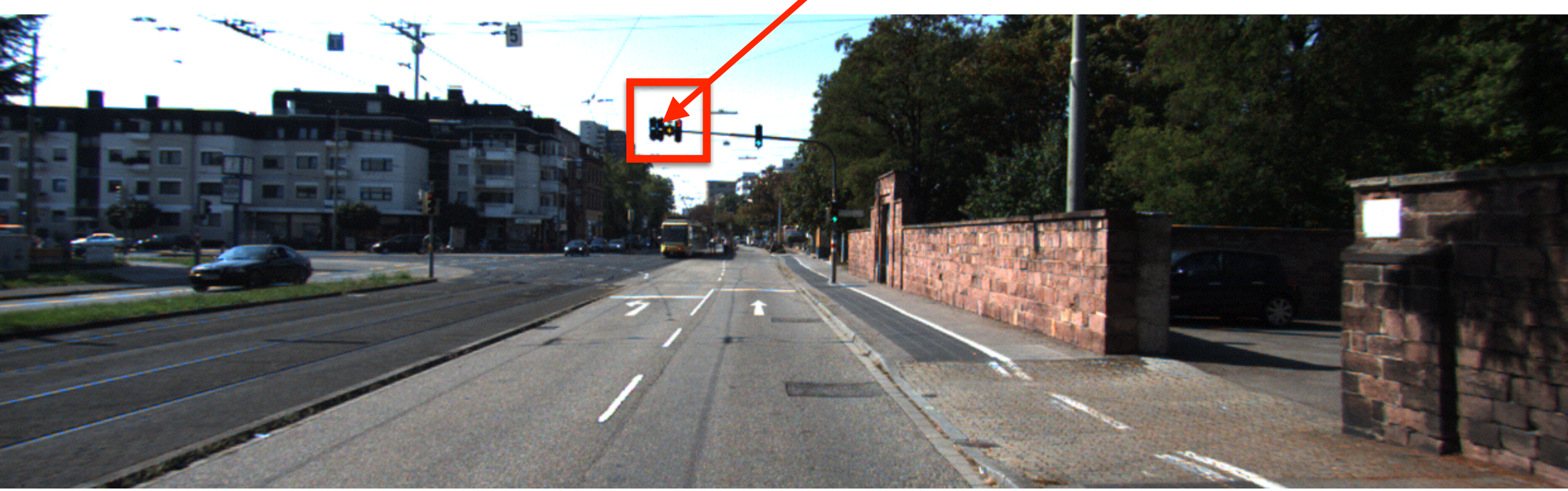
Let us study suitability of point $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{R}^2$



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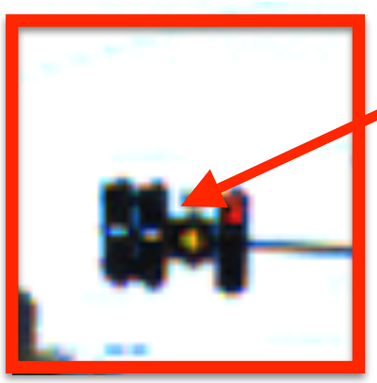
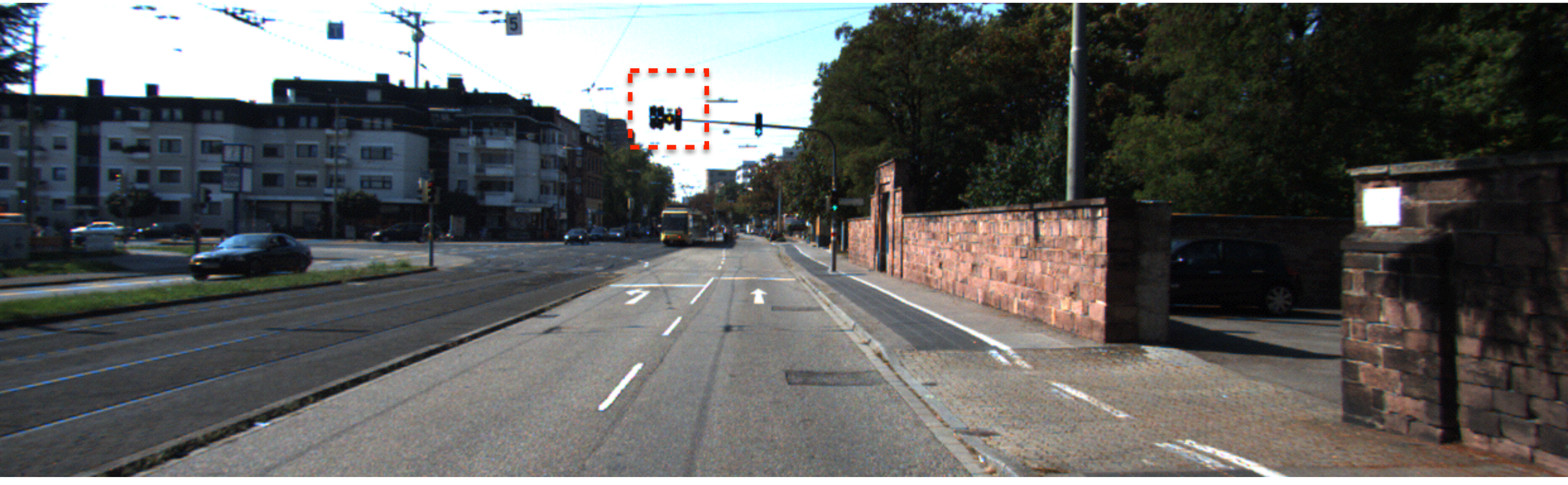
$I(\mathbf{x}) =$  …image patch in the neighbood of $\mathbf{u}$

$\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{R}^2$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})$ …set of pixels in the neighbourhood of $\mathbf{u}$



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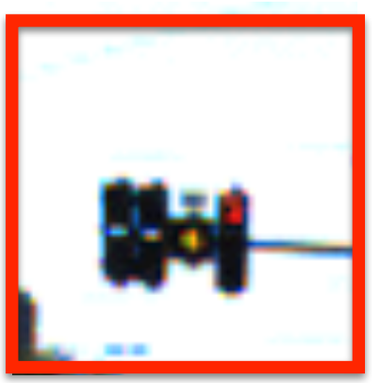

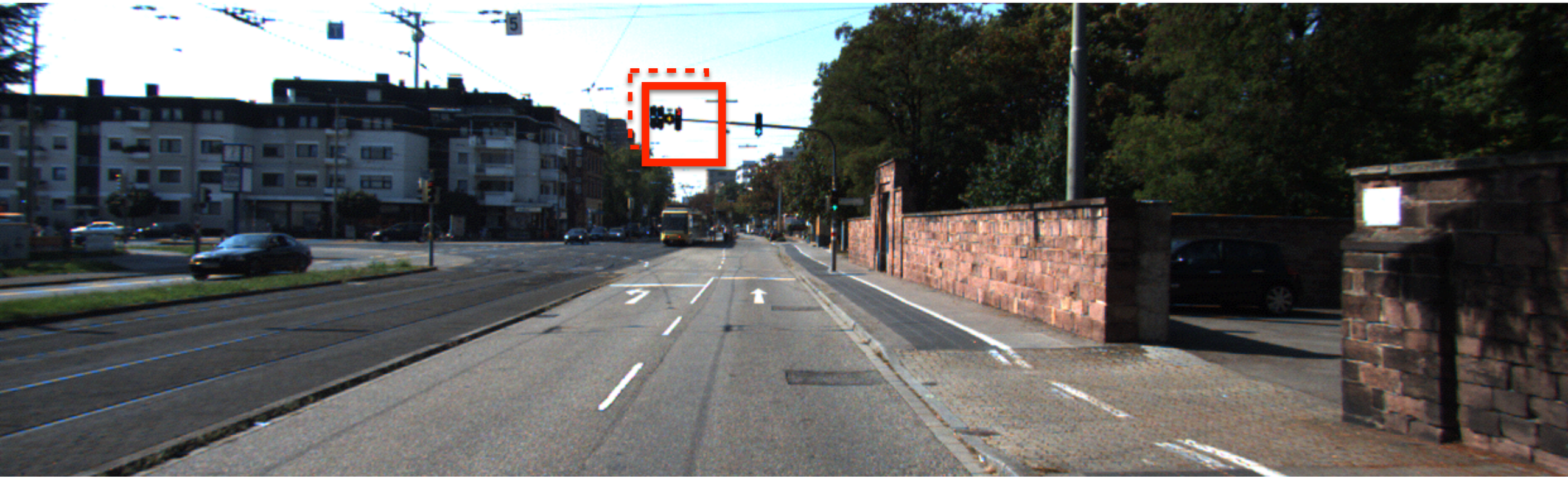

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$$I(\mathbf{x}) = \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})$$

$$I(\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{t}) = \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})$$

image patch in neighbourhood

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Point $\mathbf{u}$ whose dissimilarity with neigbouring patches grows fast in all directions is the suitable point.

$$E(\mathbf{t}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})} \left(I(\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{t}) - I(\mathbf{x})\right)^2 \approx \mathbf{t}^\top \underbrace{\sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})} \frac{\partial I(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial I(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^\top}_{\mathbf{M}} \mathbf{t}$$

$$I(\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{t}) \approx I(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\partial I(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^\top \mathbf{t}$$

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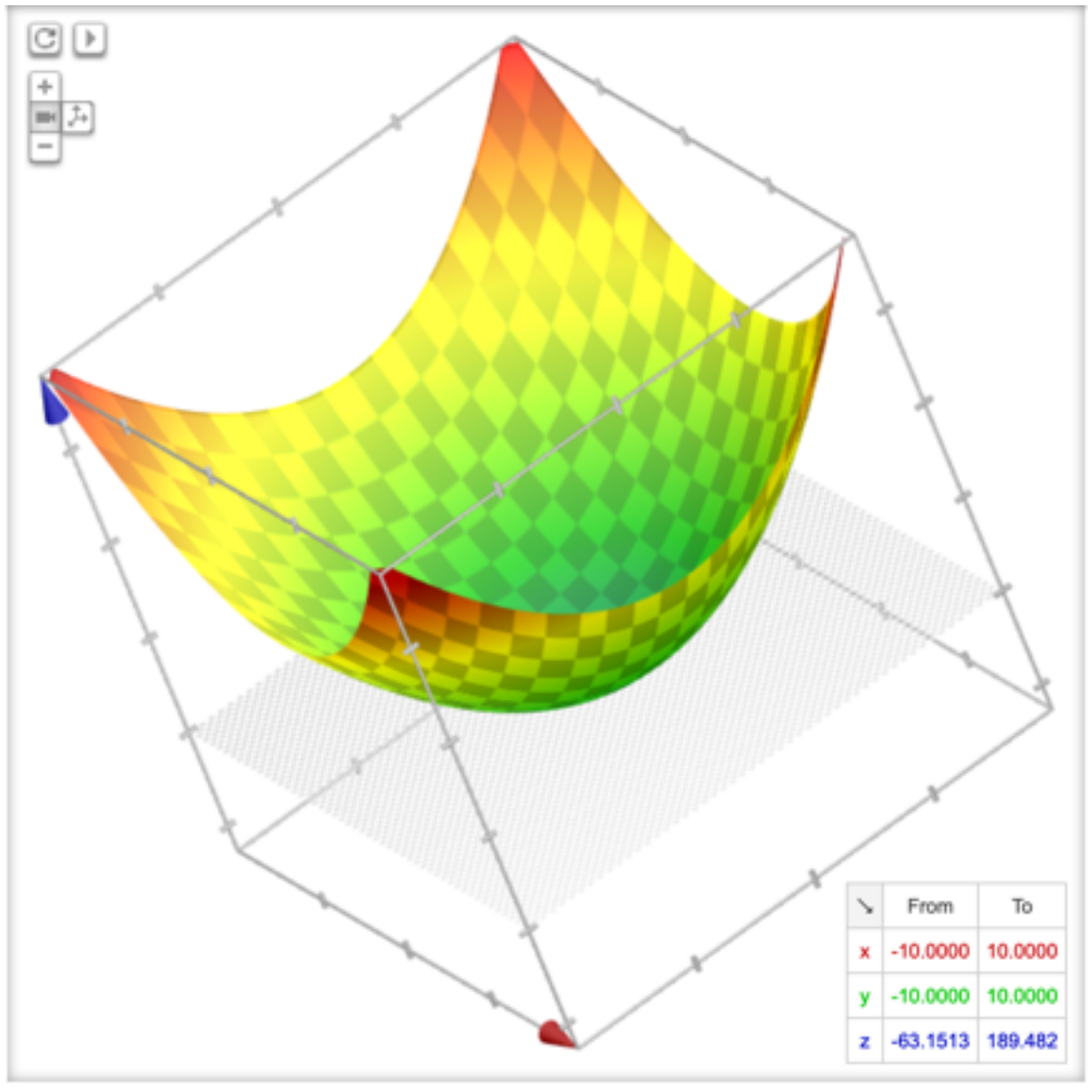

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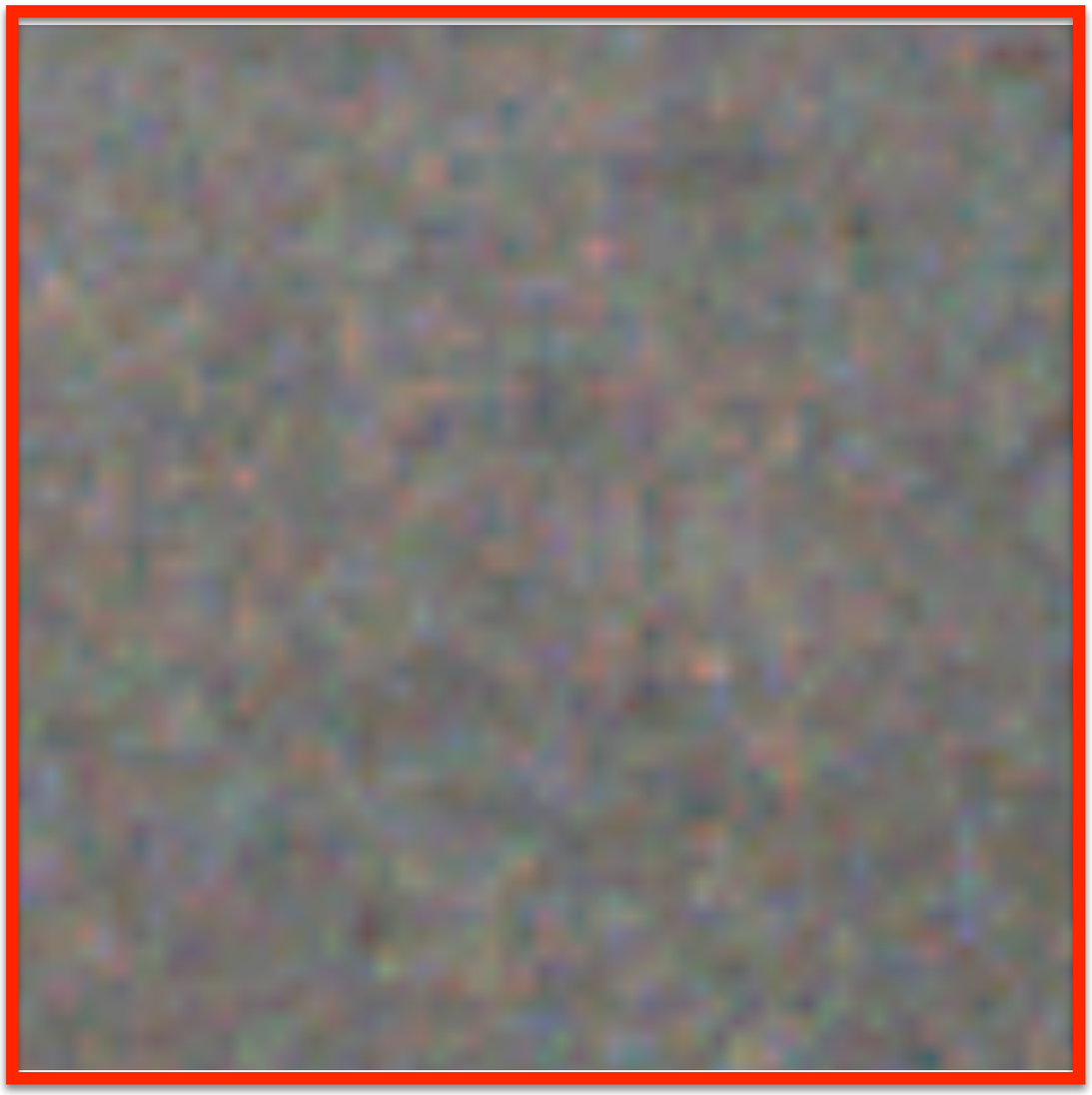

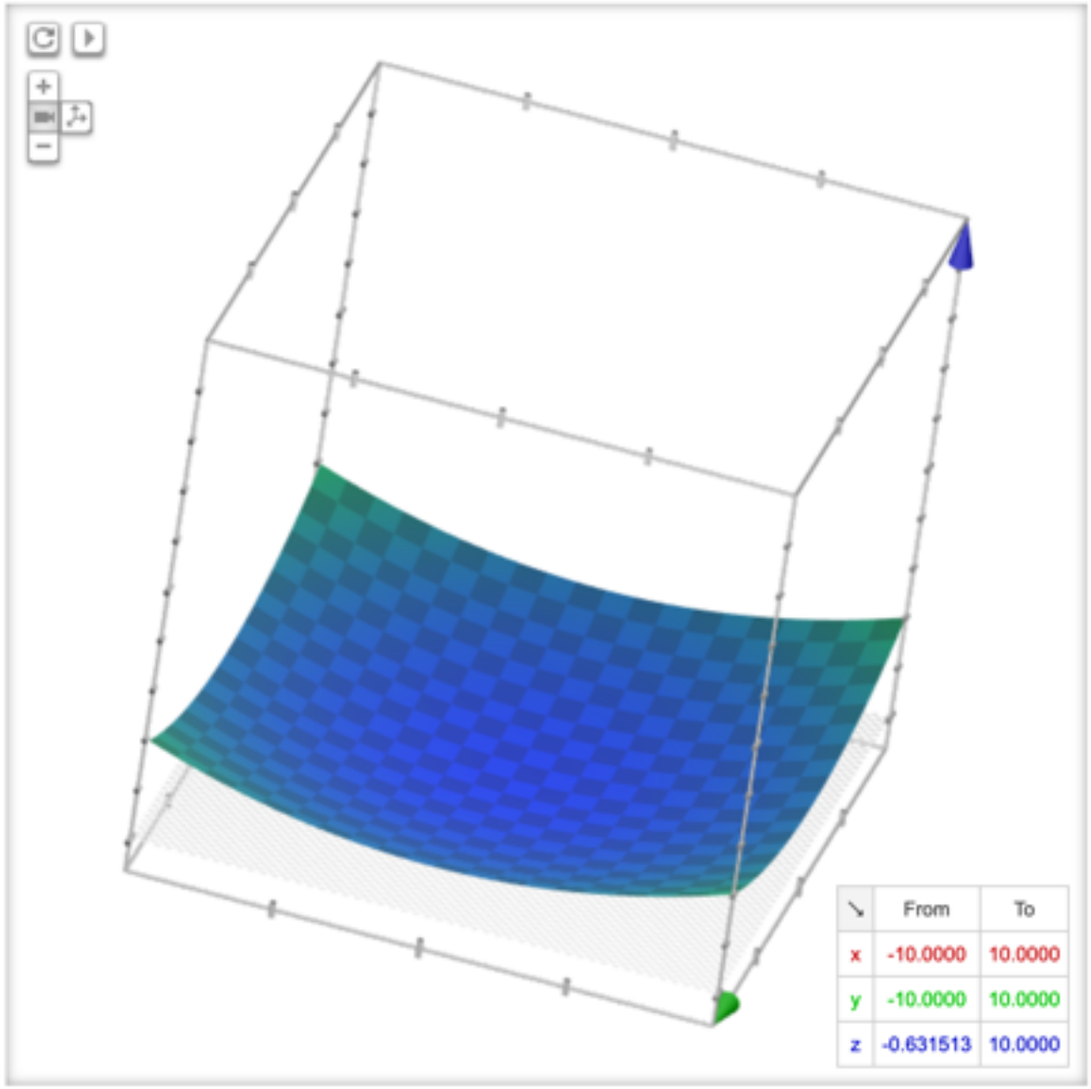

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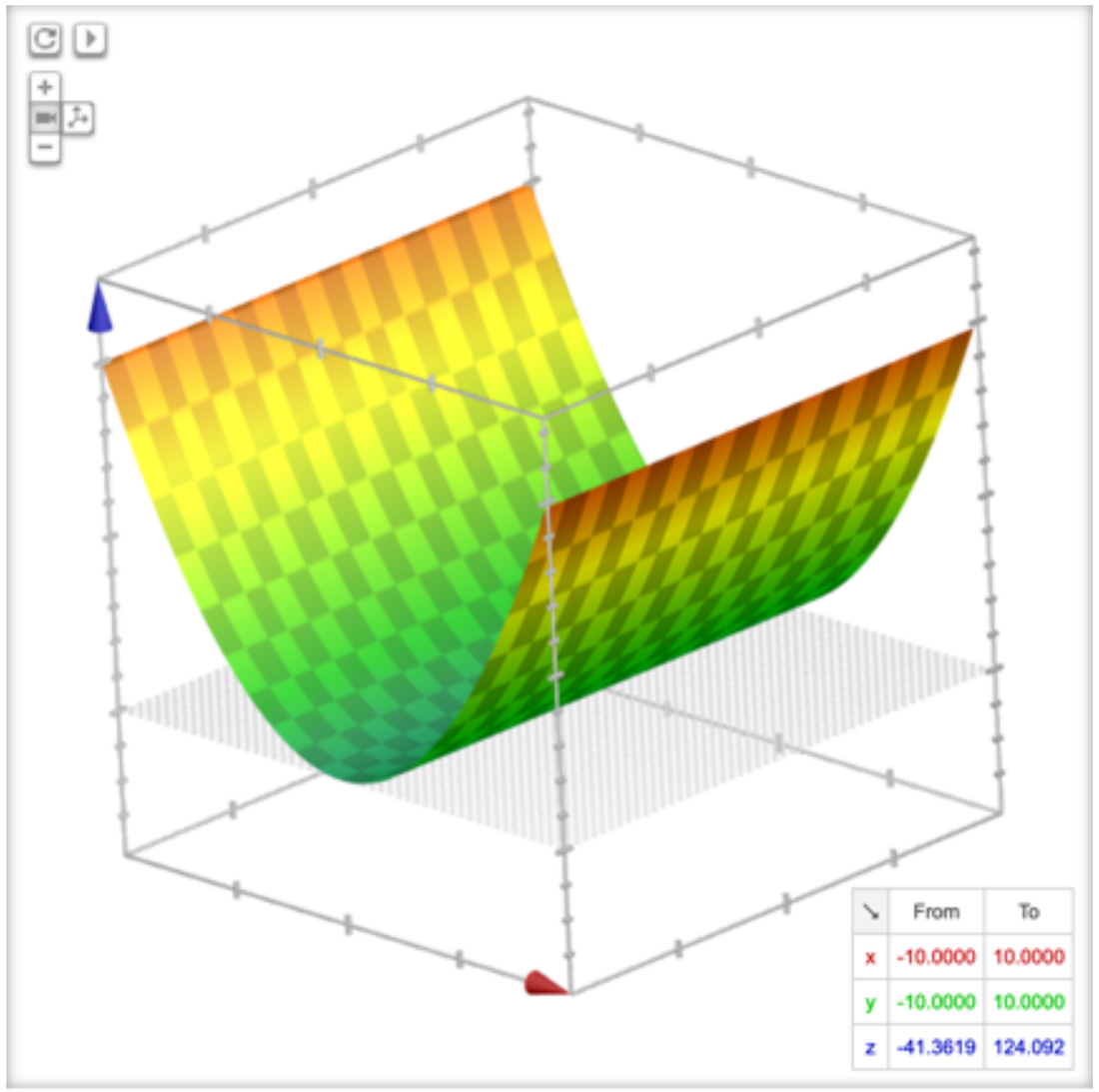

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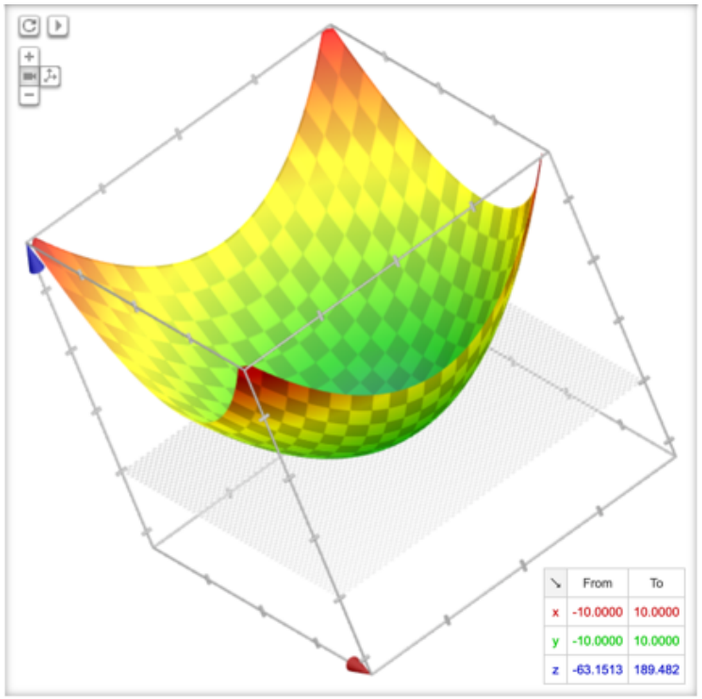
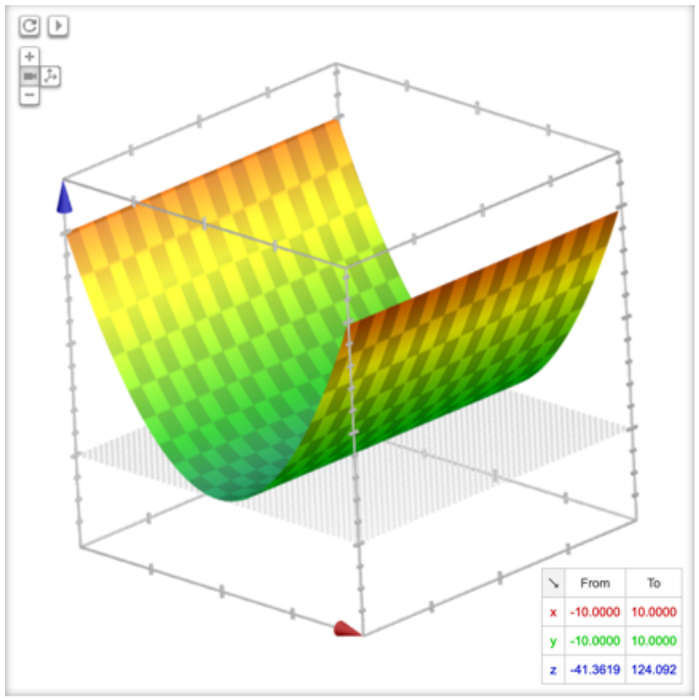


$\lambda_1 >> 0, \lambda_2 >> 0$



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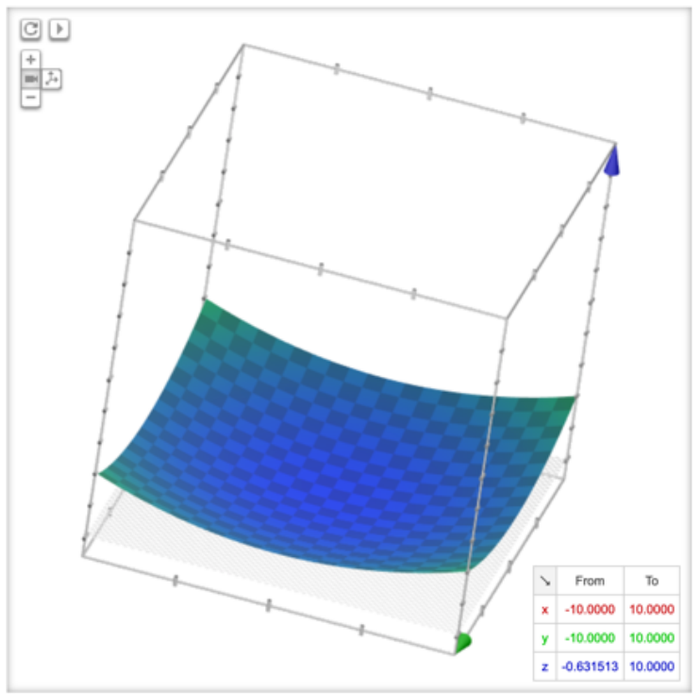

$\lambda_1 \approx 0, \lambda_2 \approx 0$

Shape of quadric determined by eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 of $\mathbf{M}$

Problem1: Which points are suitable candidates?

Harris corner detector (simplified):

1. Compute gradient image
2. Efficiently estimate (e.g. convolution) matrix for every point

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}(\mathbf{u})} \frac{\partial I(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial I(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}^{\top}$$

3. Compute (or approximate) eigenvalues $\lambda_1(\mathbf{u}), \lambda_2(\mathbf{u})$
4. Denote points with both eigenvalues bigger than threshold

Problem1: Which points are suitable candidates?

Summary

- Corner points are suitable candidates.
- There is a faster but more hacked version of corner detector called FAST [Rosten TPAMI 2010].
- OpenCV implementation

```
# initialise
fast = cv2.FastFeatureDetector()
# detect corner points
kp = fast.detect(img,None)
# draw detected corner points
img2 = cv2.drawKeypoints(img, kp, color=(255,0,0))
```

Outline: Search for correspondences in camera images

Problem1: Which points are suitable candidates?

Problem2: How to measure similarity?

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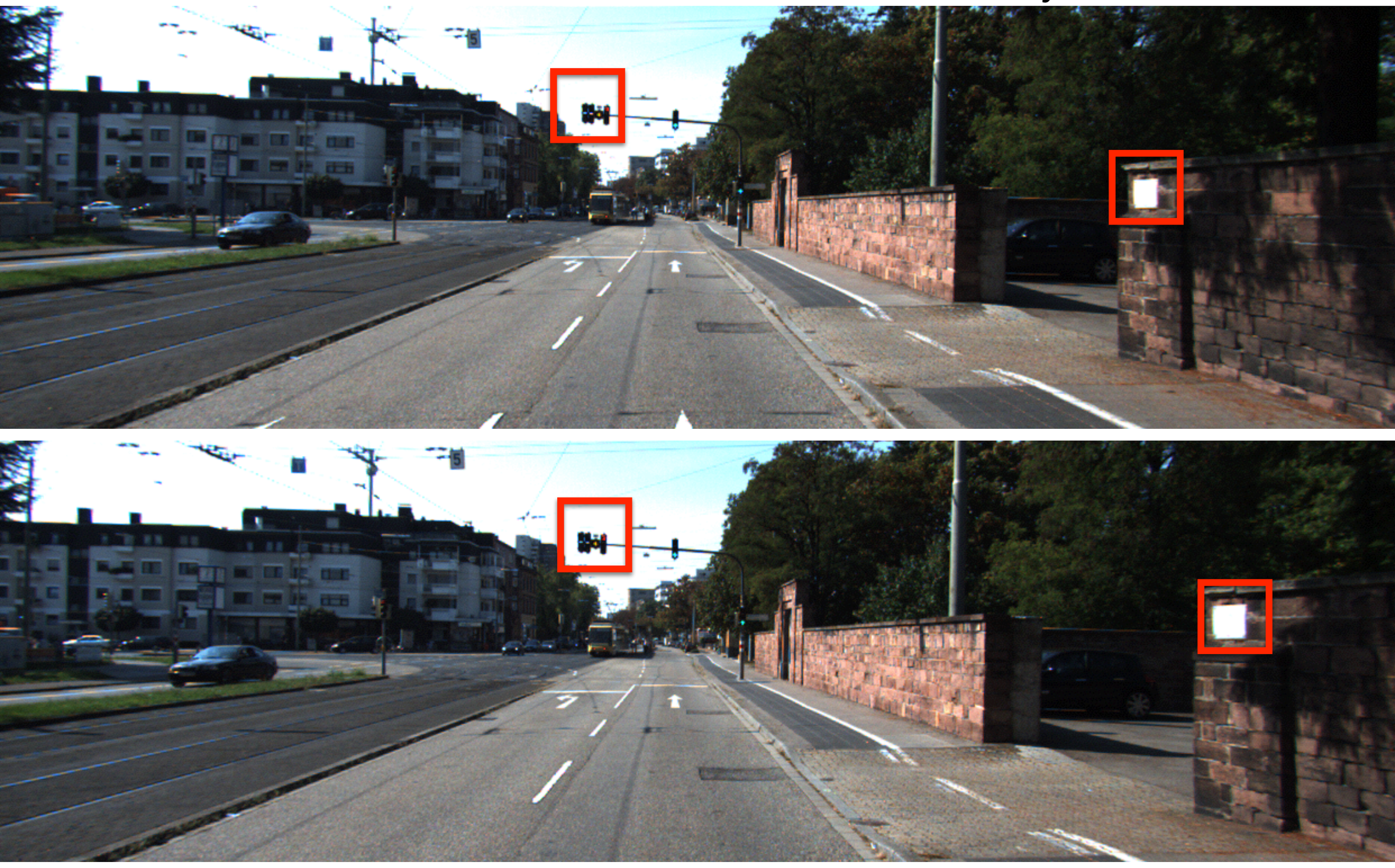

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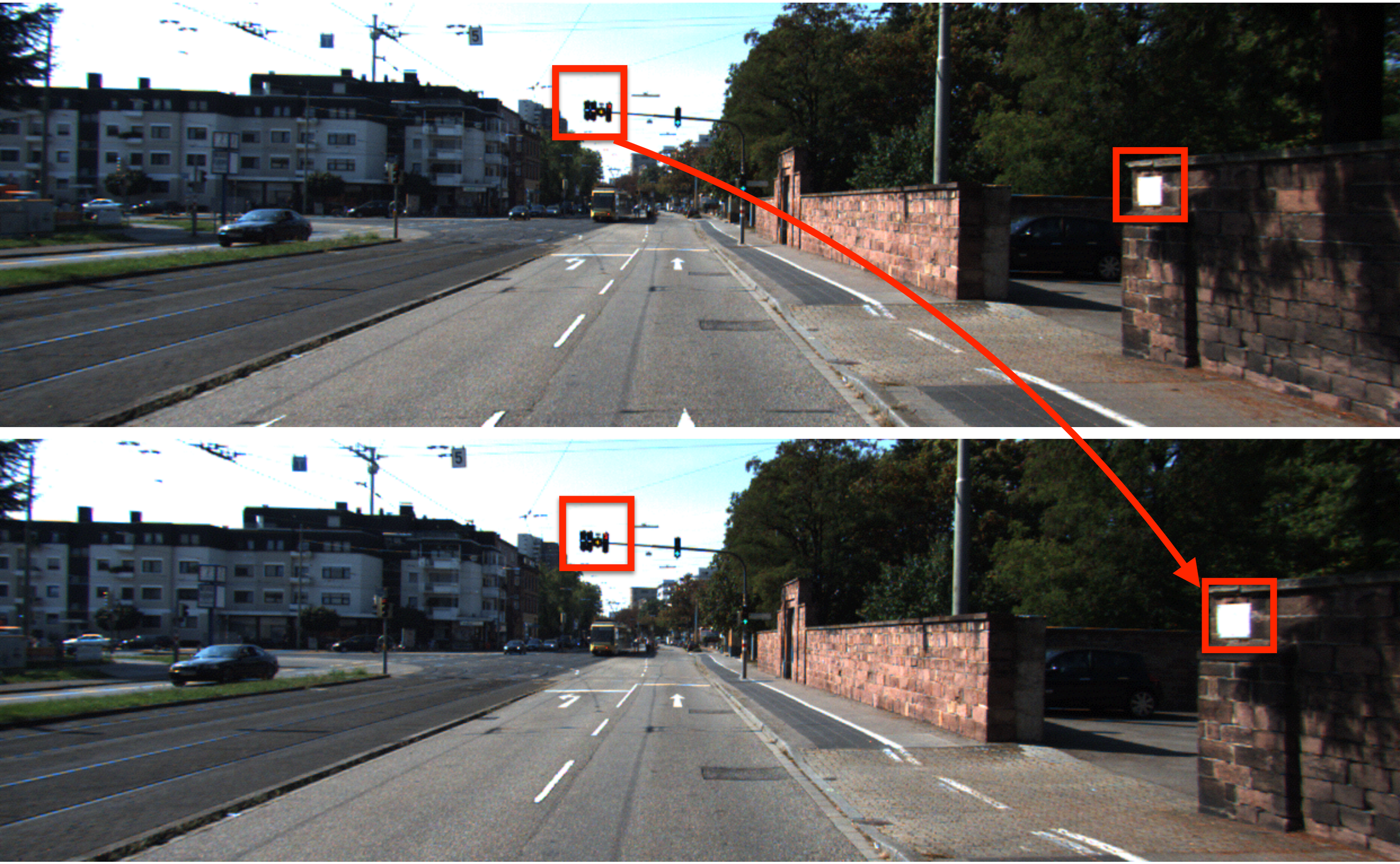

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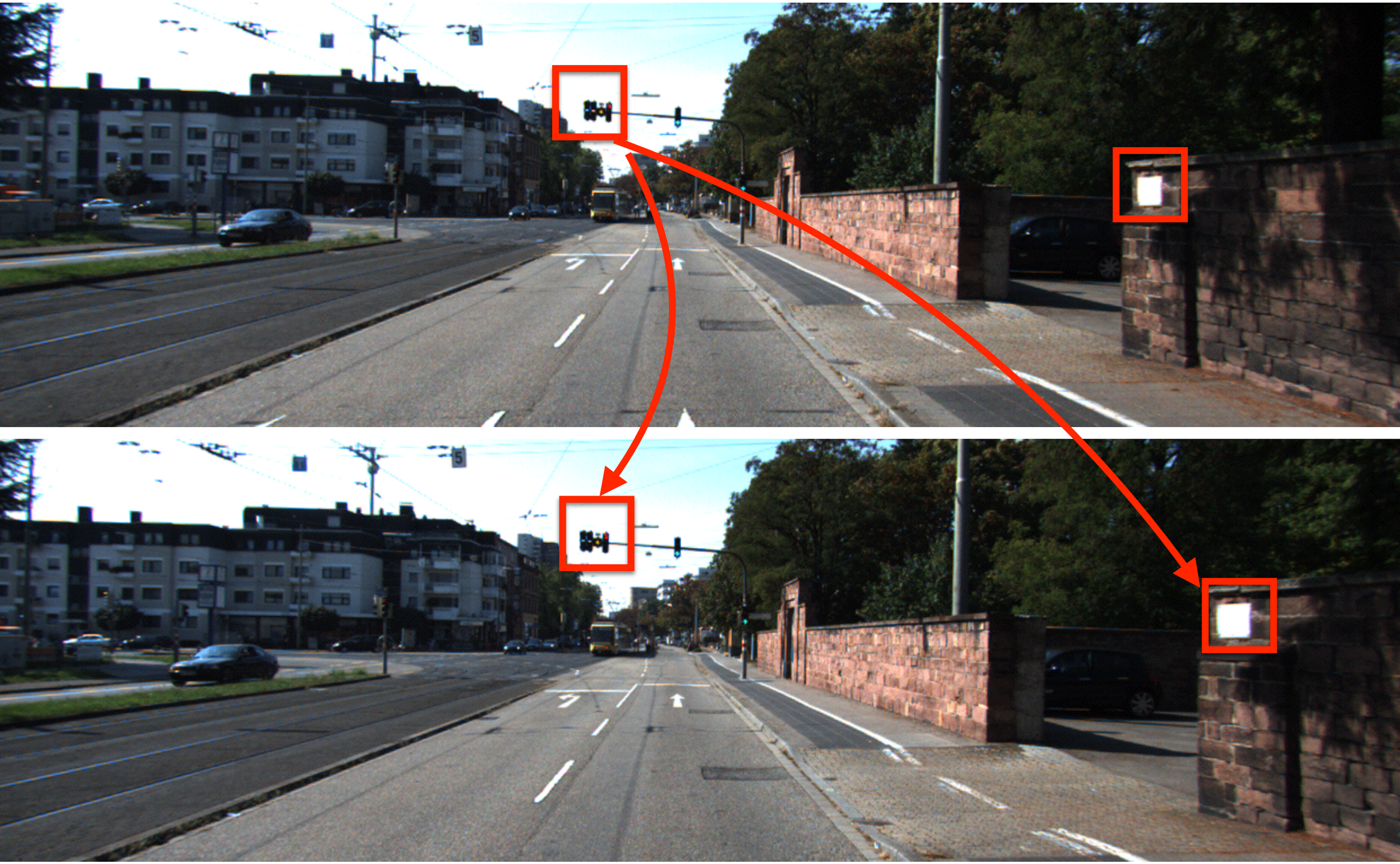

Problem2: How to measure similarity?

$I(\mathbf{x}) =$

$J(\mathbf{x}) =$

pixel values: $\sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{W}} (I(\mathbf{x}) - J(\mathbf{x}))^2$

extremely illumination and pose sensitive !!!

=>replace pixel values by less sensitive descriptor

Problem2: How to measure similarity?
BRIEF descriptor [Calonder ECCV 2010]

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$$\tau(I, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } I(\mathbf{x}) < I(\mathbf{y}) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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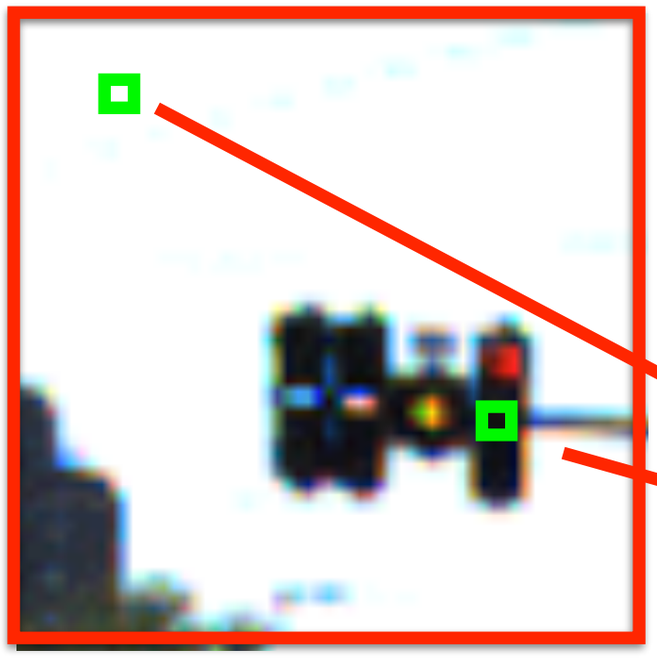

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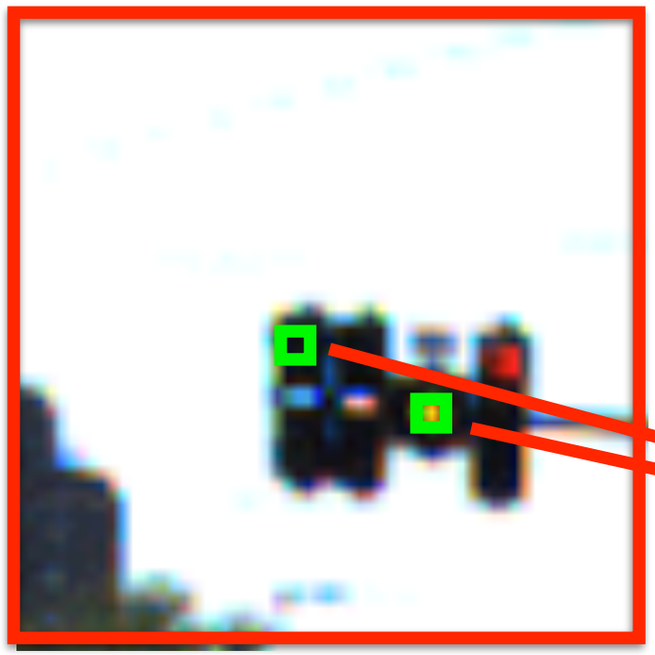

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N tests form an N-dimensional binary vector (e.g. 1001011)

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N tests form an N-dimensional binary vector (e.g. 1001011)

BRIEF descriptor is decimal representation of this binary code

$$f(I) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 2^{i-1} \tau(I, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$$

Problem2: How to measure similarity?
Simplified matching with BRIEF descriptor

Input: Randomly defined N binary tests + image patches I_k, J_k

1. Smooth each image patch

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2. For each image patch compute BRIEF descriptor:

$$f(I_k) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 2^{i-1} \tau(I_k, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \quad f(J_k) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 2^{i-1} \tau(J_k, \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$$

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3. For each image patch I from the first image find the most similar patch in the second image.

$$\arg\min_k (f(I) - f(J_k))^2$$

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4. Optionally reject dissimilar patches (outliers) and those whose second similar patch is not sufficiently similar.

Output: 2D-2D correspondences

Summary: Search for correspondences in camera images

1. Find corner points (FASTs, harris corners)
2. Compute descriptor (BRIEF)
3. Estimate 2D-2D correspondences

Summary: Search for correspondences in camera images

1. Find corner points (FASTs, harris corners)
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3. Estimate 2D-2D correspondences

- Commonly used version is ORB-detector [Rublee ICCV 2011]
- It is FAST+BRIEF+few hacks. OpenCV implementation:

```
# initialise
orb = cv2.ORB_create()
# find points and compute descriptors
kp1, des1 = orb.detectAndCompute(img1,None)
kp2, des2 = orb.detectAndCompute(img2,None)
# match descriptors
bf =cv2.BFMatcher(cv2.NORM_HAMMING,crossCheck=True)
matches = bf.match(des1,des2)
```

http://www.willowgarage.com/sites/default/files/orb_final.pdf

https://opencv-python-tutroals.readthedocs.io/en/latest/py_tutorials/py_feature2d/py_orb/py_orb.html

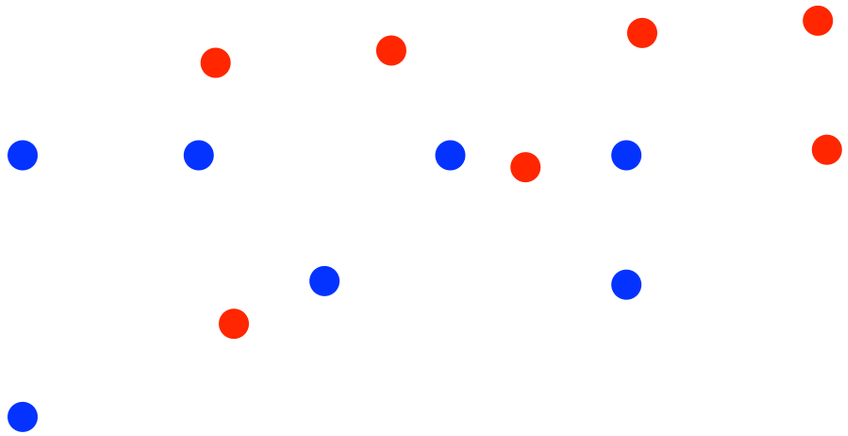
Simplified mapping pipeline overview

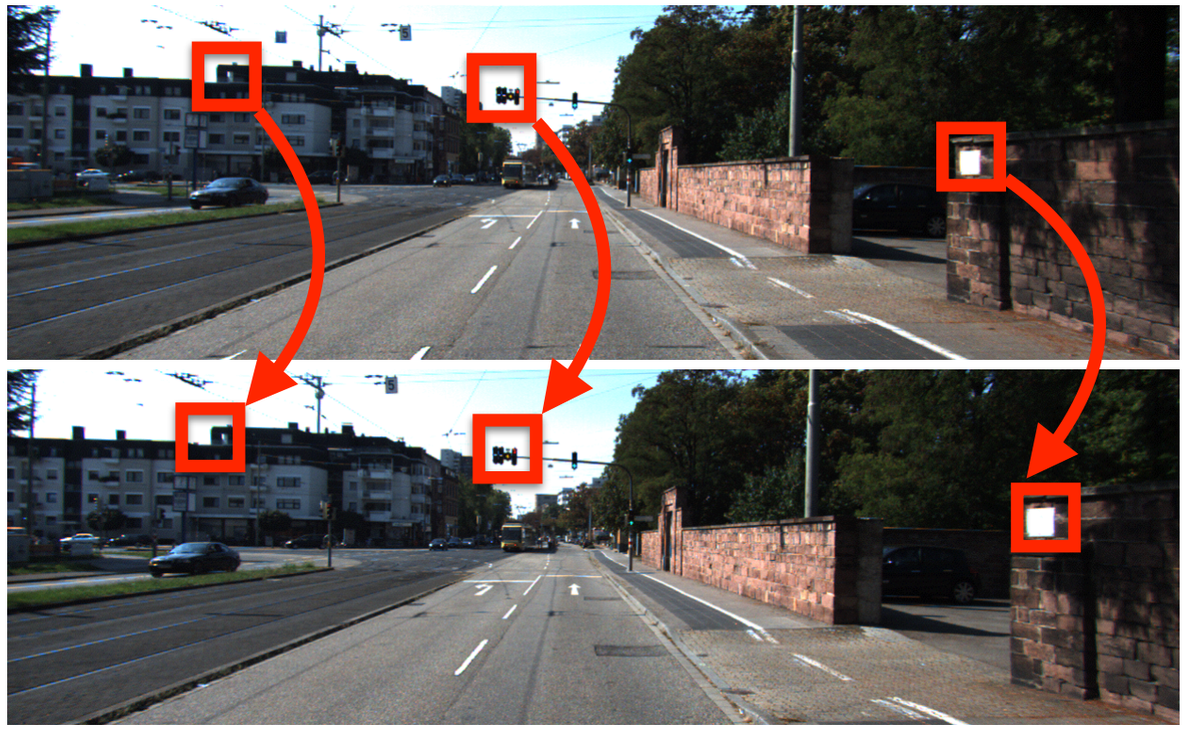
Input: Two consecutive images and two 3D pointclouds

1. Estimate 2D-2D correspondences (e.g. ORB-detector)
2. Project pointclouds and estimate 3D-3D correspondences
3. Align pointclouds and estimate $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}$ (motion of the robot)
4. Merge aligned point clouds to create a map.
5. Use the map as initial pointcloud and repeat from 1

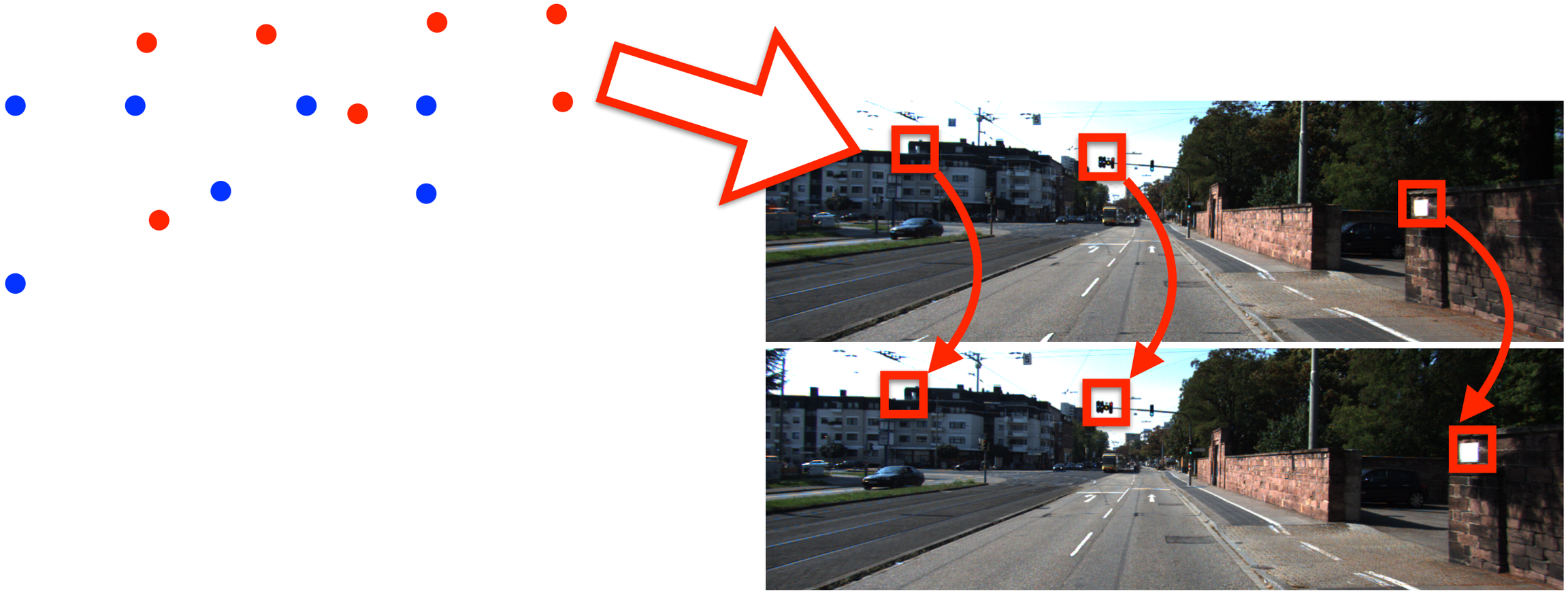
Output: motion of the robot and map

Estimate 2D-2D correspondences





Project 3D pointclouds



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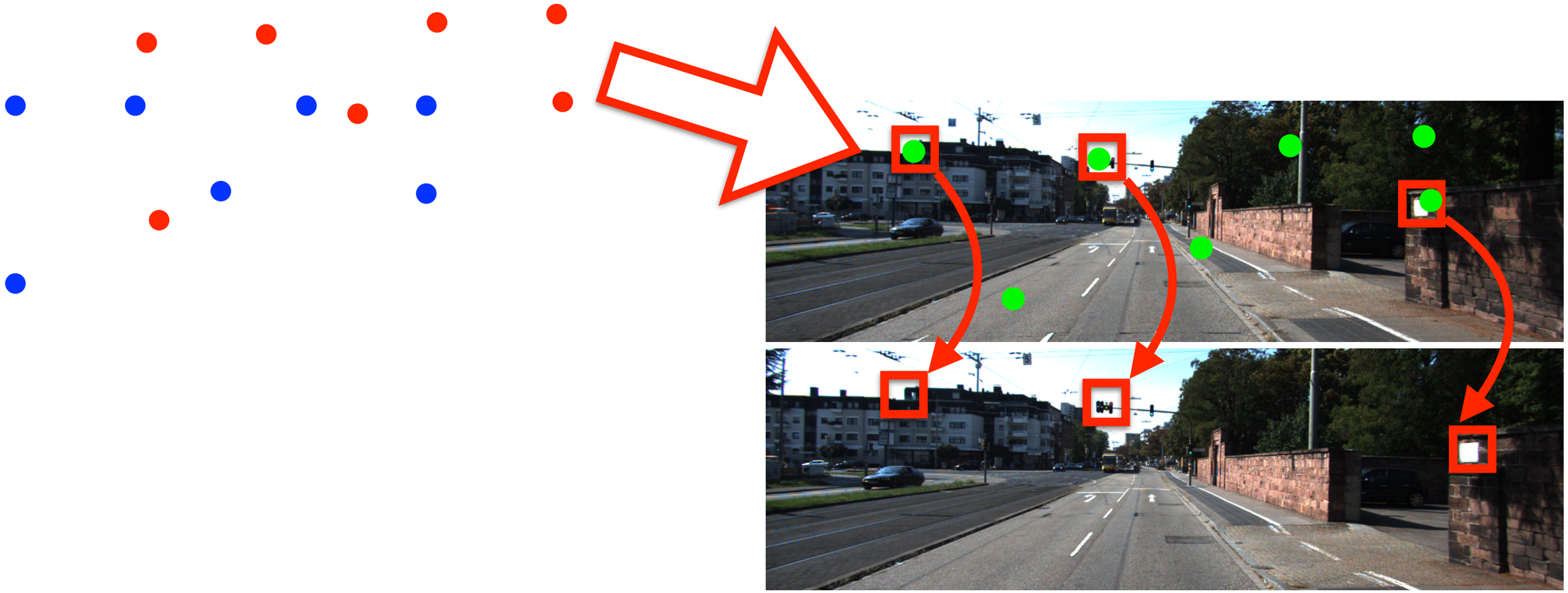
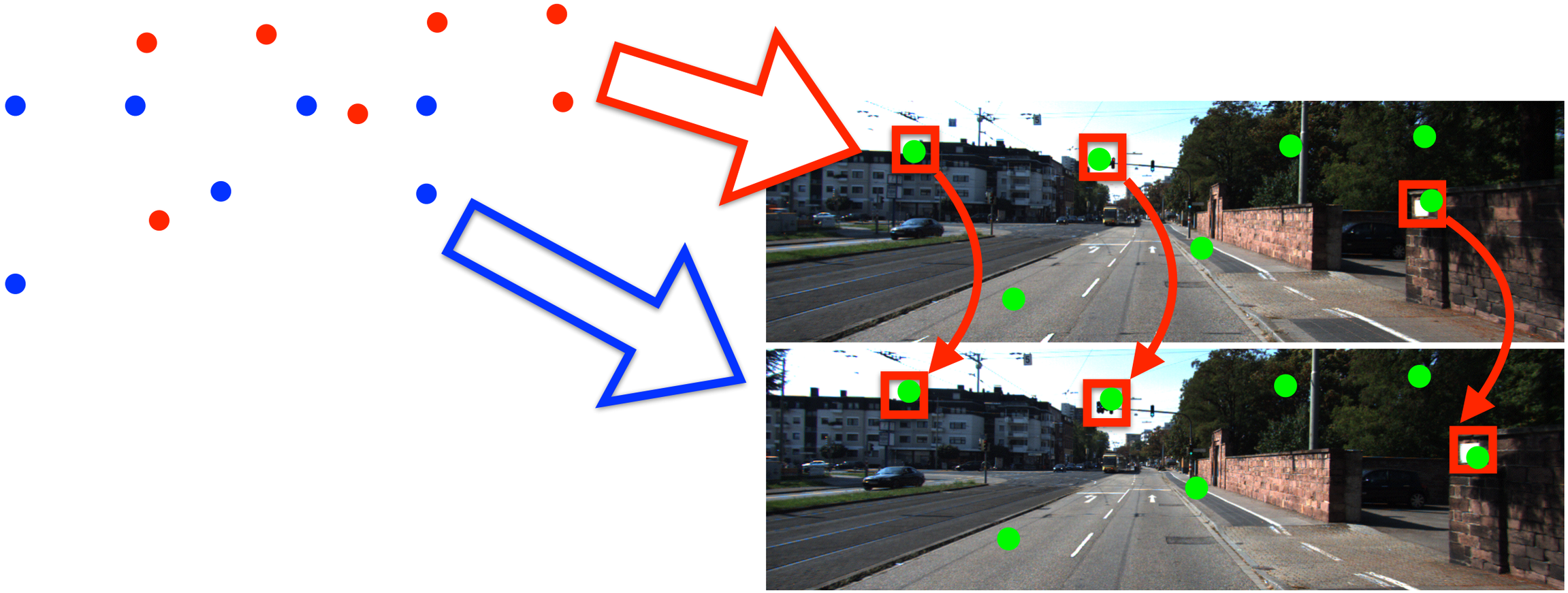
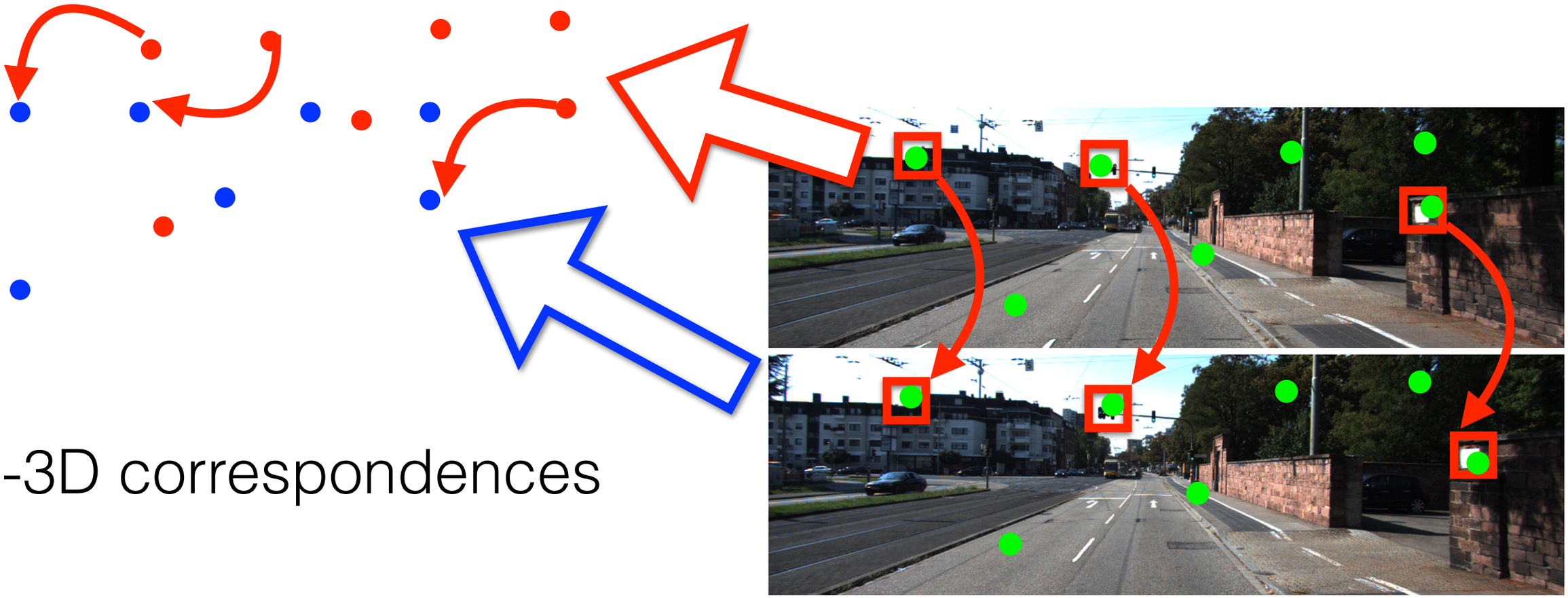


Project 3D pointcloud on image plane

Project 3D pointclouds



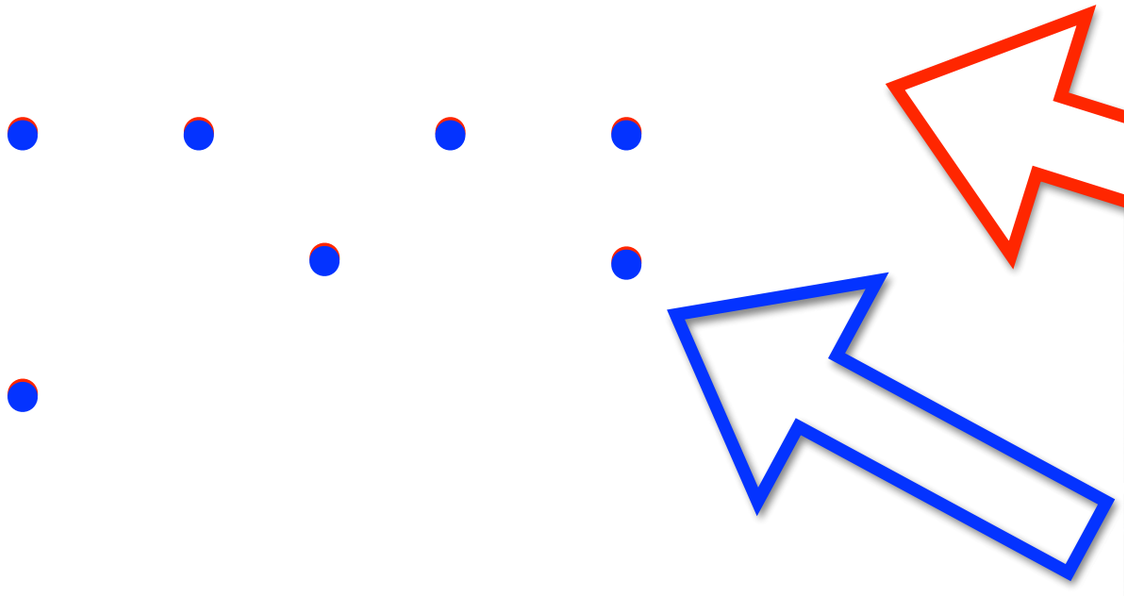
For each 2D-2D correspondence, find closest lidar point



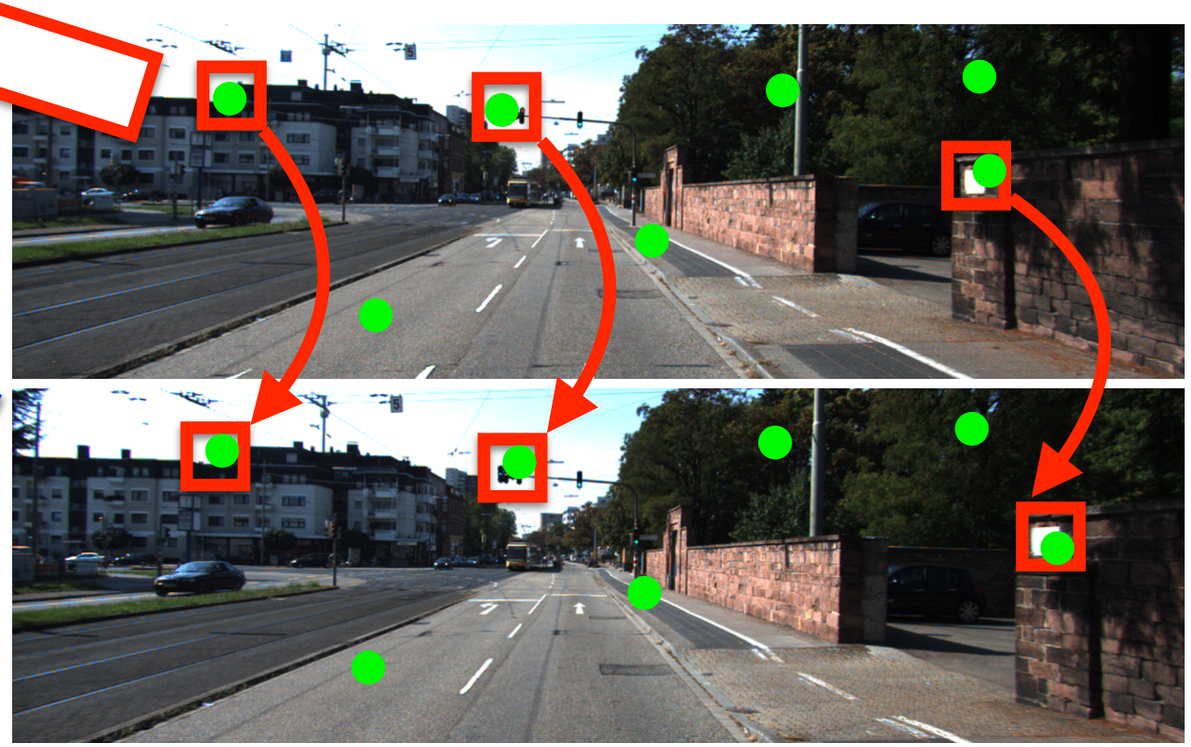
3D-3D correspondences

2D-2D correspondences

Align 3D-3D correspondences



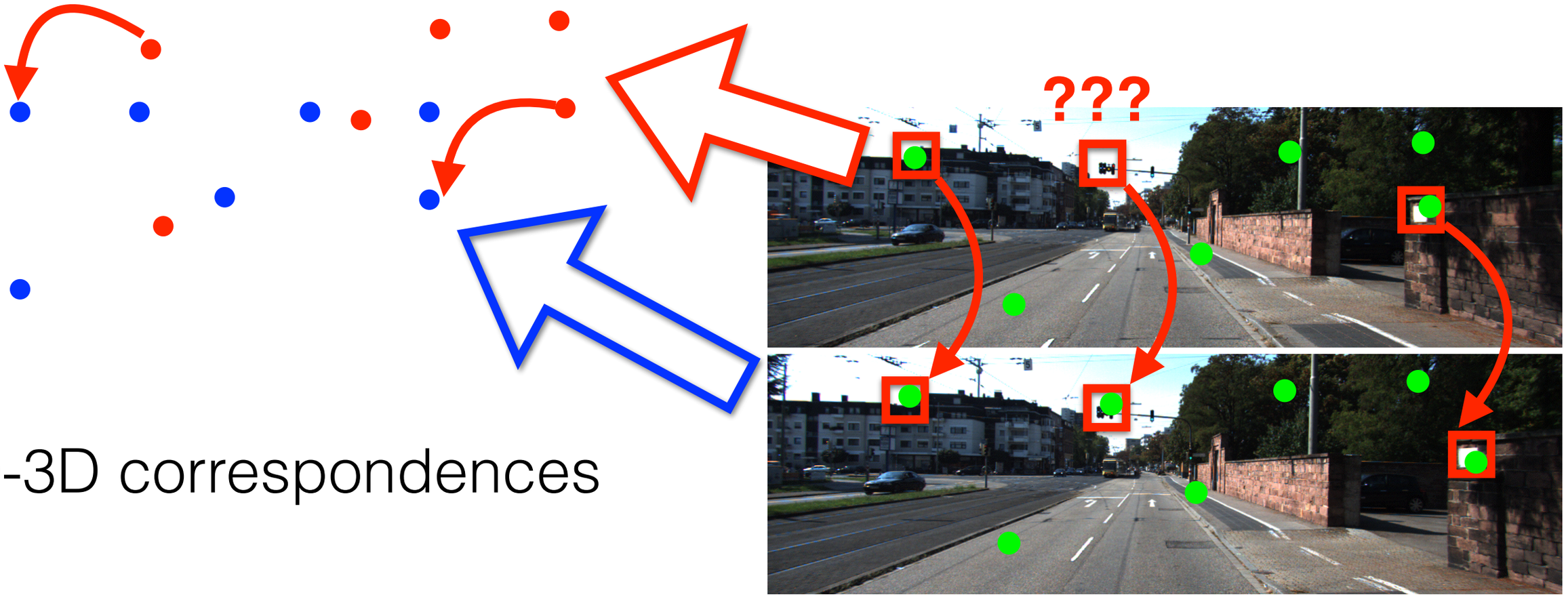
3D-3D correspondences



2D-2D correspondences

Do you see any catch?

What if 3D point for a 2D-2D correspondence is not available?

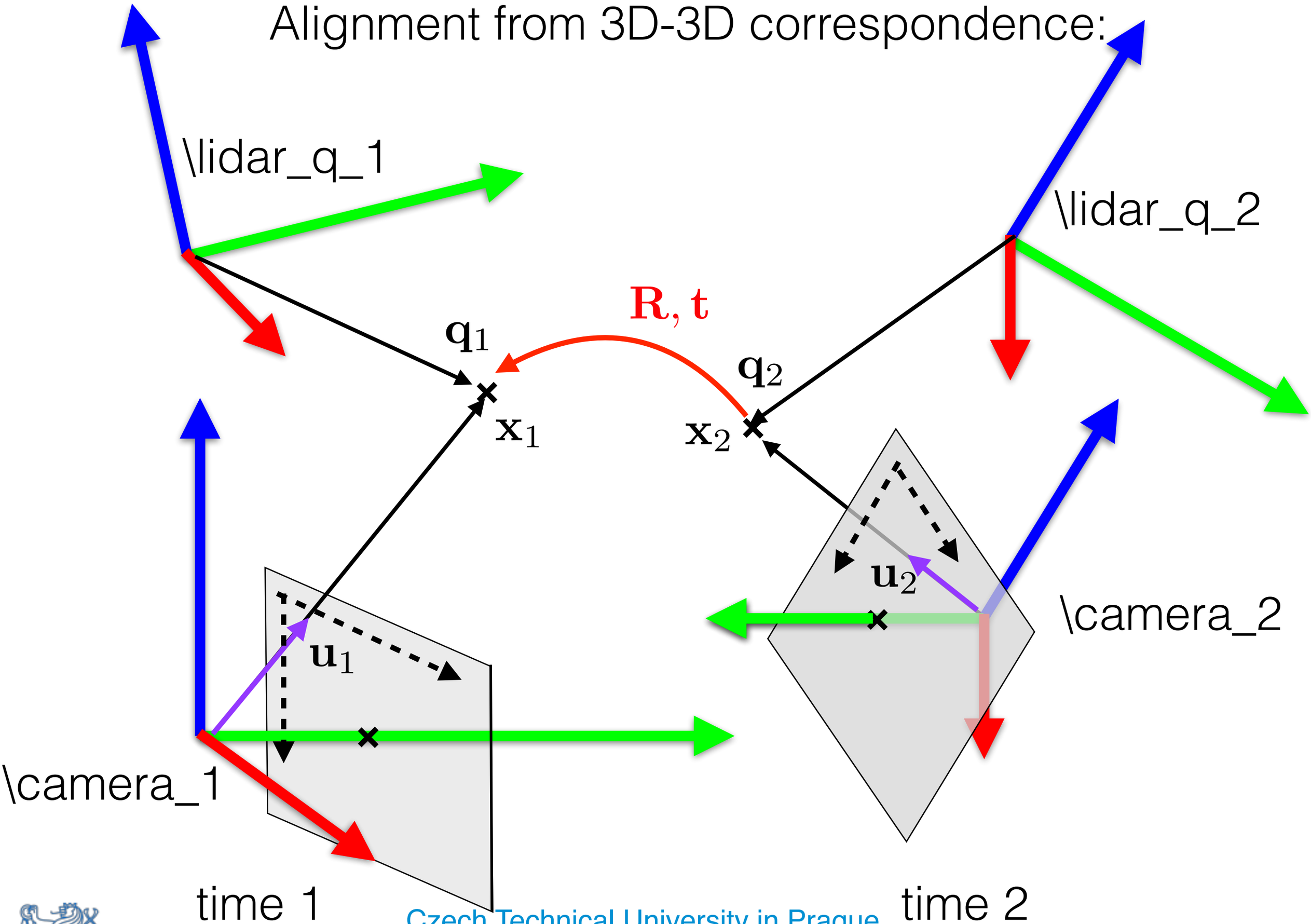


3D-3D correspondences

2D-2D correspondences

Why 3D measurement could be missing?

Alignment from 3D-3D correspondence:



Alignment from 3D-3D correspondence:

- Search for transformation which maps 3D-3D correspondence on the same point

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{t}$$

- Each 3D-3D correspondence => 3 equations:

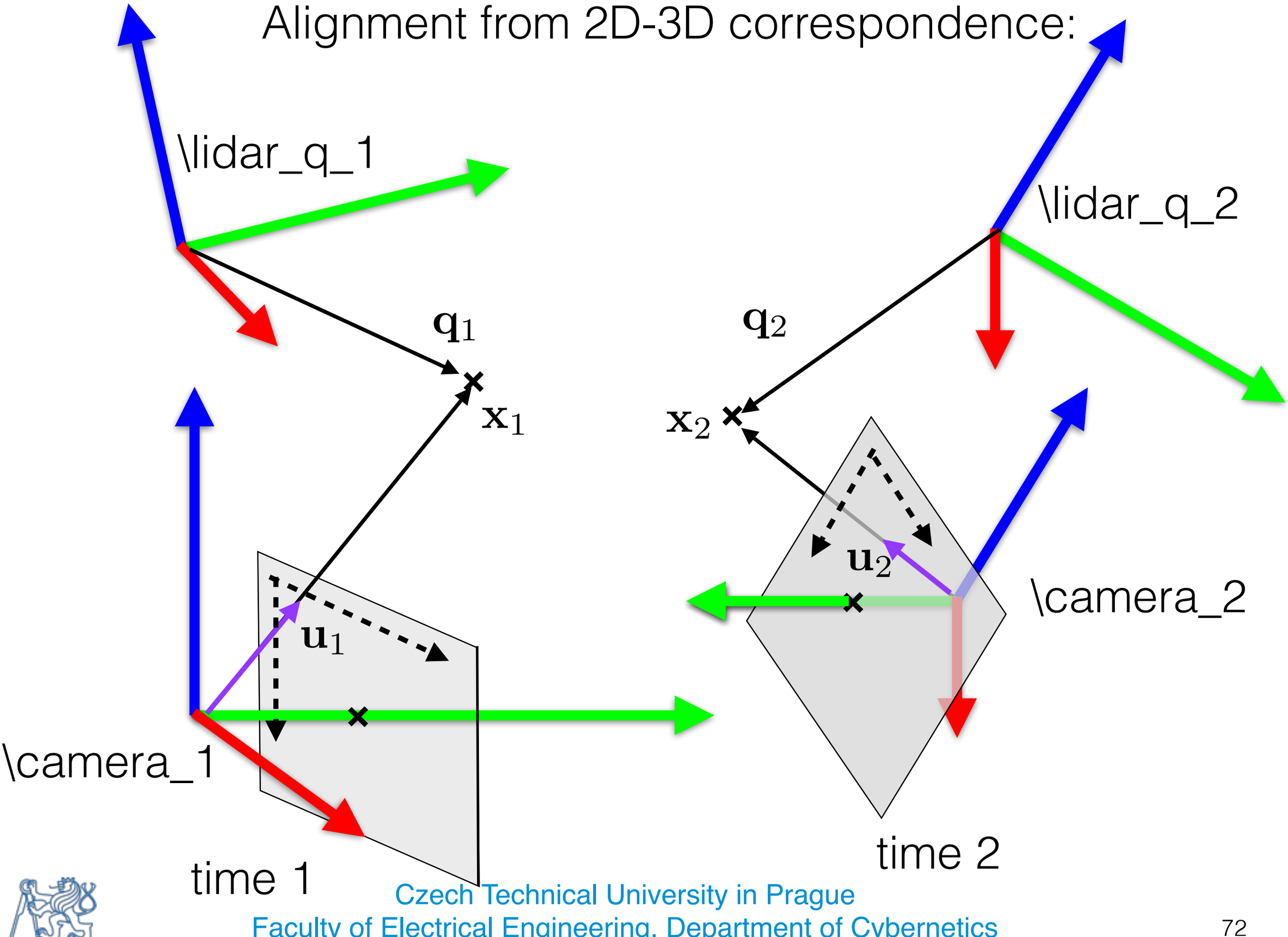
$$f_{33}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{x}_1 - (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{t}) = 0$$

- ML estimate under Gaussian noise is

$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}} \|f_{33}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t})\|_2^2$$

- One 3D-3D correspondece = > 3 equations

Alignment from 2D-3D correspondence:



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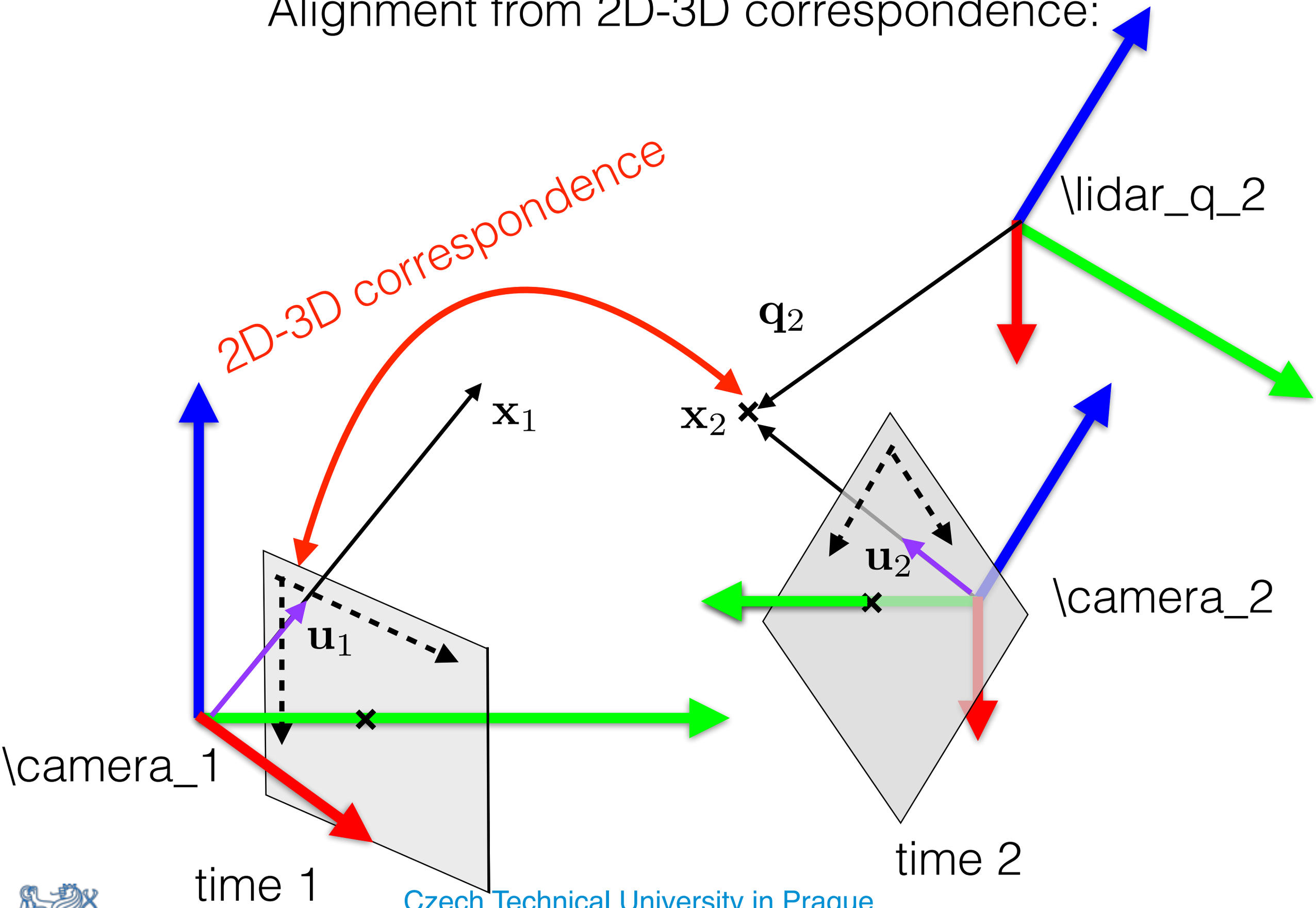
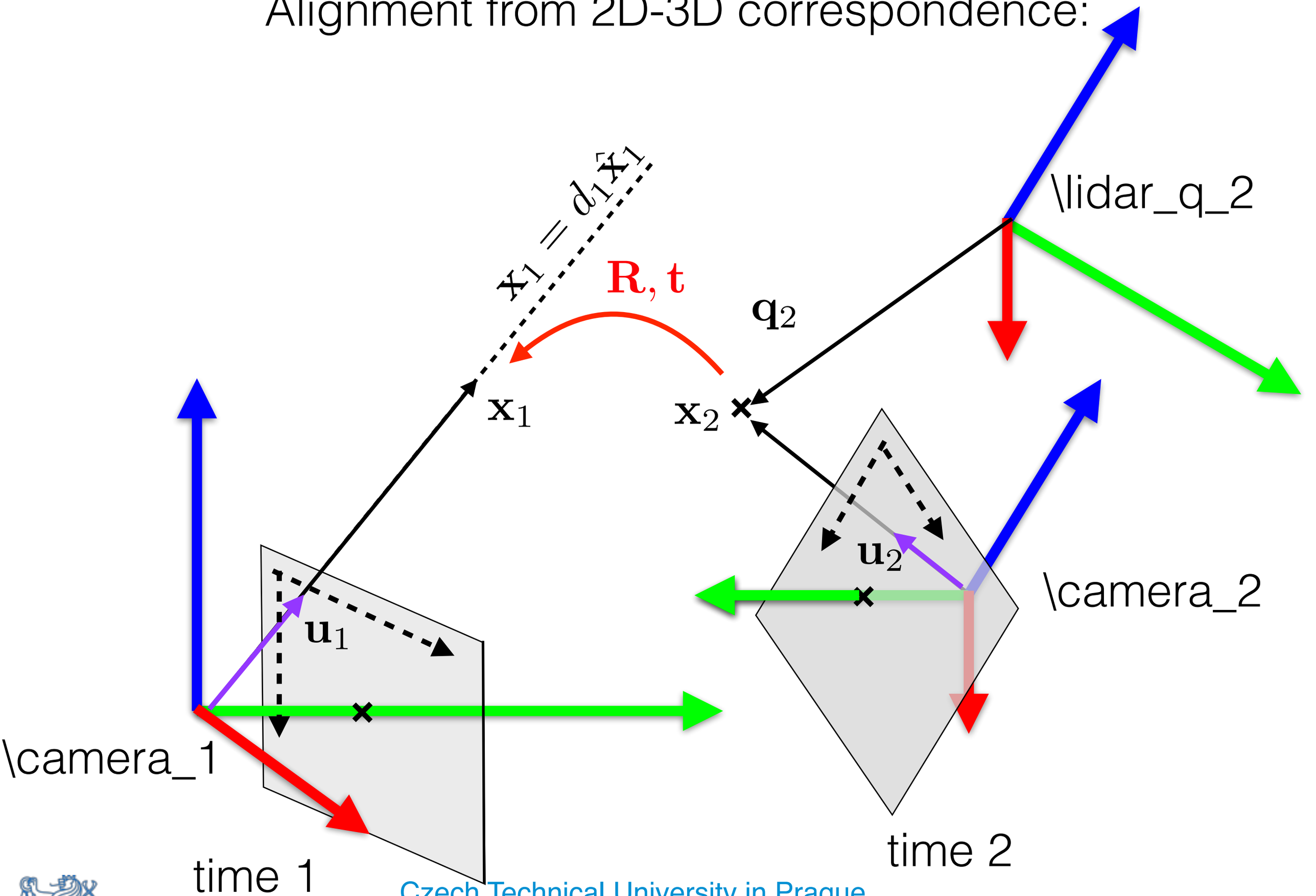


Alignment from 2D-3D correspondence:



Alignment from 2D-3D correspondence:

Camera point in time 1: $\mathbf{u}_1 \in \mathcal{R}^2$
Lidar point in time 2: $\mathbf{q}_2 \in \mathcal{R}^3$

1.Transform lidar pointcloud to the camera c.f. (known depth)

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = [\mathbf{R}_c \mid \mathbf{t}_c]\,\overline{\mathbf{q}}_2$$

2.Corresponding point in time 1 lies on the ray (unknown depth

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_1 / \|\mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{u}_1\|$$

3.Search for transformation with unknown depth in camera

$$d_1\hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{t}$$

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which aligns 3D point on the ray (for some depth)

Alignment from 2D-3D correspondence:

3.Search for transformation with unknown depth in camera

$$d_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{t}$$

(a) $d_1 \hat{x}_1 = \mathbf{R}_1^\top x_2 + t_1$

(b) $d_1 \hat{y}_1 = \mathbf{R}_2^\top y_2 + t_2$

(c) $d_1 \hat{z}_1 = \mathbf{R}_3^\top z_2 + t_3$

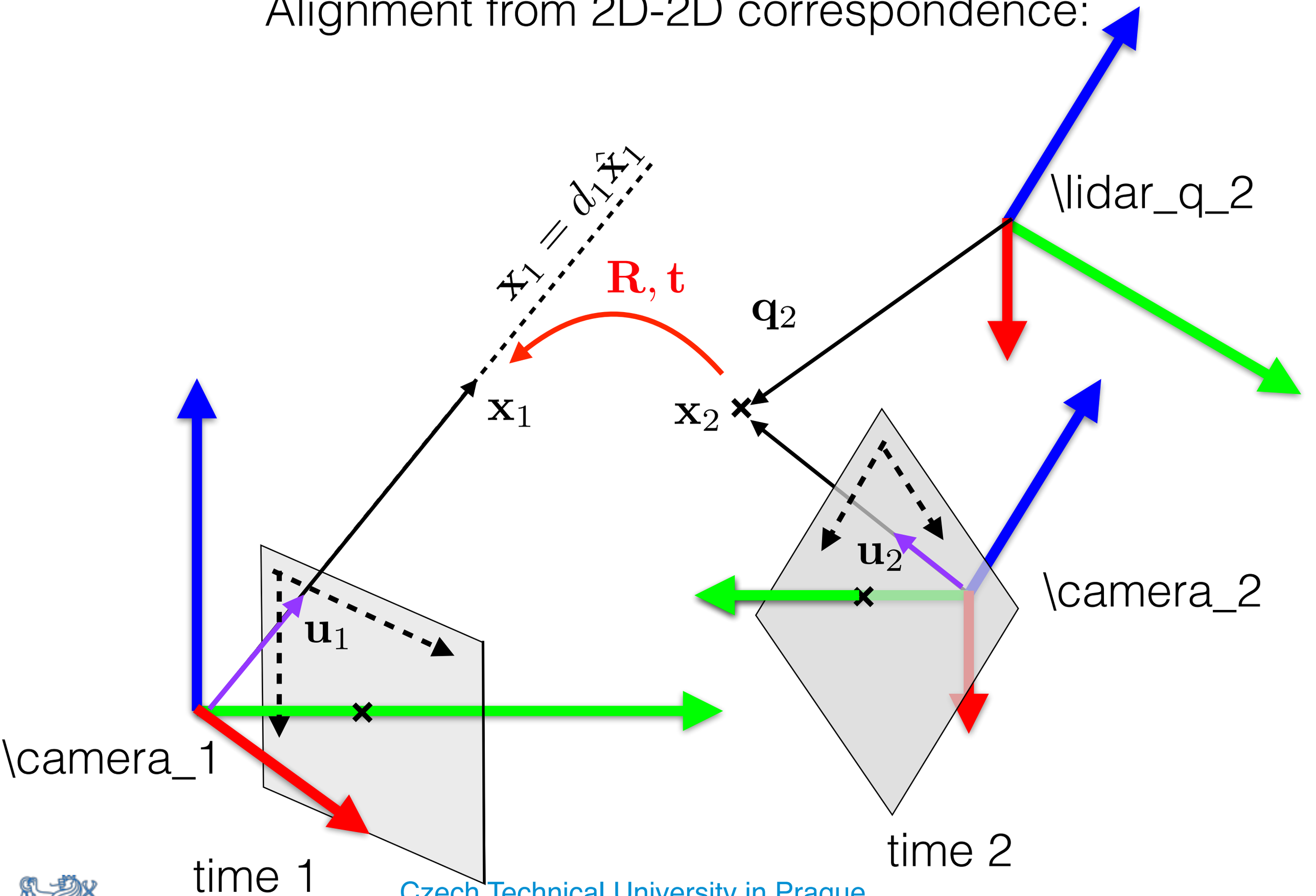
(a)/(c) $\hat{x}_1(\mathbf{R}_3^\top z_2 + t_3) - \hat{z}_1(\mathbf{R}_1^\top x_2 + t_1) = 0$

(b)/(c) $\hat{y}_1(\mathbf{R}_3^\top z_2 + t_3) - \hat{z}_1(\mathbf{R}_2^\top x_2 + t_2) = 0$

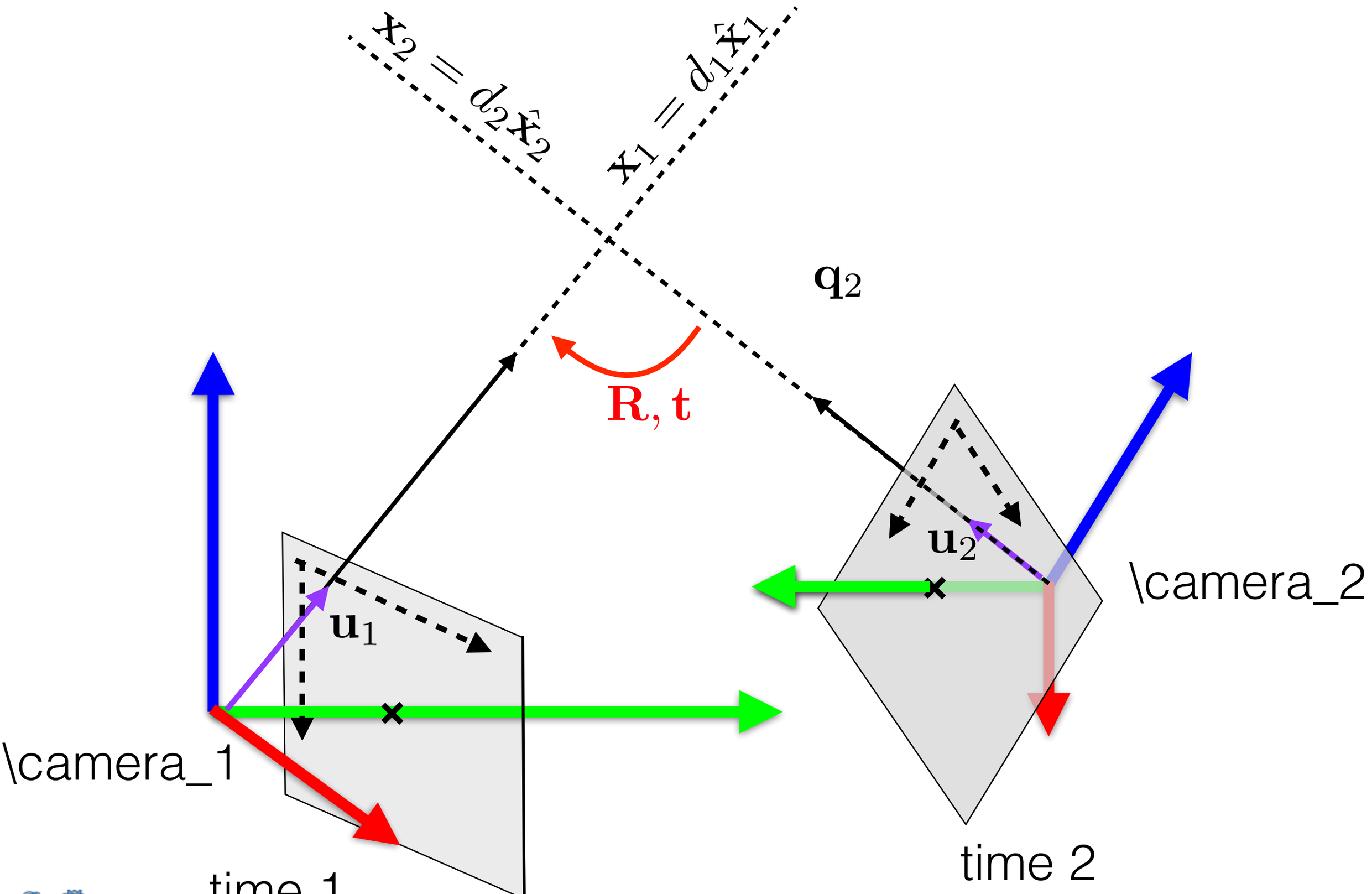
$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}} \|f_{23}(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t})\|_2^2$$

- One 2D-3D correspondece = > 2 equations

Alignment from 2D-2D correspondence:



Alignment from 2D-2D correspondence:



Alignment from 2D-2D correspondence:

Search for transformation with unknown depth in cameras

$$d_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 = \mathbf{R} d_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 + \mathbf{t}$$

(a) $d_1 \hat{x}_1 = \mathbf{R}_1^\top d_2 \hat{x}_2 + t_1$

(b) $d_1 \hat{y}_1 = \mathbf{R}_2^\top d_2 \hat{y}_2 + t_2$ three eq. !!!

(c) $d_1 \hat{z}_1 = \mathbf{R}_3^\top d_2 \hat{z}_2 + t_3$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\hat{y}_1 t_3 + \hat{z}_1 t_2 \\ \hat{x}_1 t_3 + \hat{z}_1 t_1 \\ -\hat{x}_1 t_2 + \hat{y}_1 t_1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}\,\mathbf{x}_2 = 0$$ one eq. !!!

$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}} \|f_{22}(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t})\|_2^2$$

- One 2D-2D correspondence = > 1 equation

Alignment from correspondences:

- Typically you have mixed correspondences, due to noise on reflective and semitransparent surfaces and different frame-rate of camera and lidar
- Camera-lidar SLAM reduces to the following optimisation task:

$$\underset{\mathbf{R}\in\mathcal{SO}(3),\mathbf{t}\in\mathcal{R}^3}{\arg\min} \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \sum_i f_{33}^i(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}) \\ \sum_i f_{23}^i(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}) \\ \sum_i f_{23}^i(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}) \\ \sum_i f_{22}^i(\mathbf{R},\mathbf{t}) \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2^2$$

- Optimisation typically tackled by Levenberg-Marquardt method.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levenberg–Marquardt_algorithm

Summary: geometry SLAM

- Typical application self-driving cars (Kitti dataset)
  http://www.cvlibs.net/datasets/kitti/eval_odometry.php

- Winners of Kitti visual odometry challenge:
  [Zhang ICRA 2015]
  https://frc.ri.cmu.edu/~zhangji/publications/ICRA_2015.pdf

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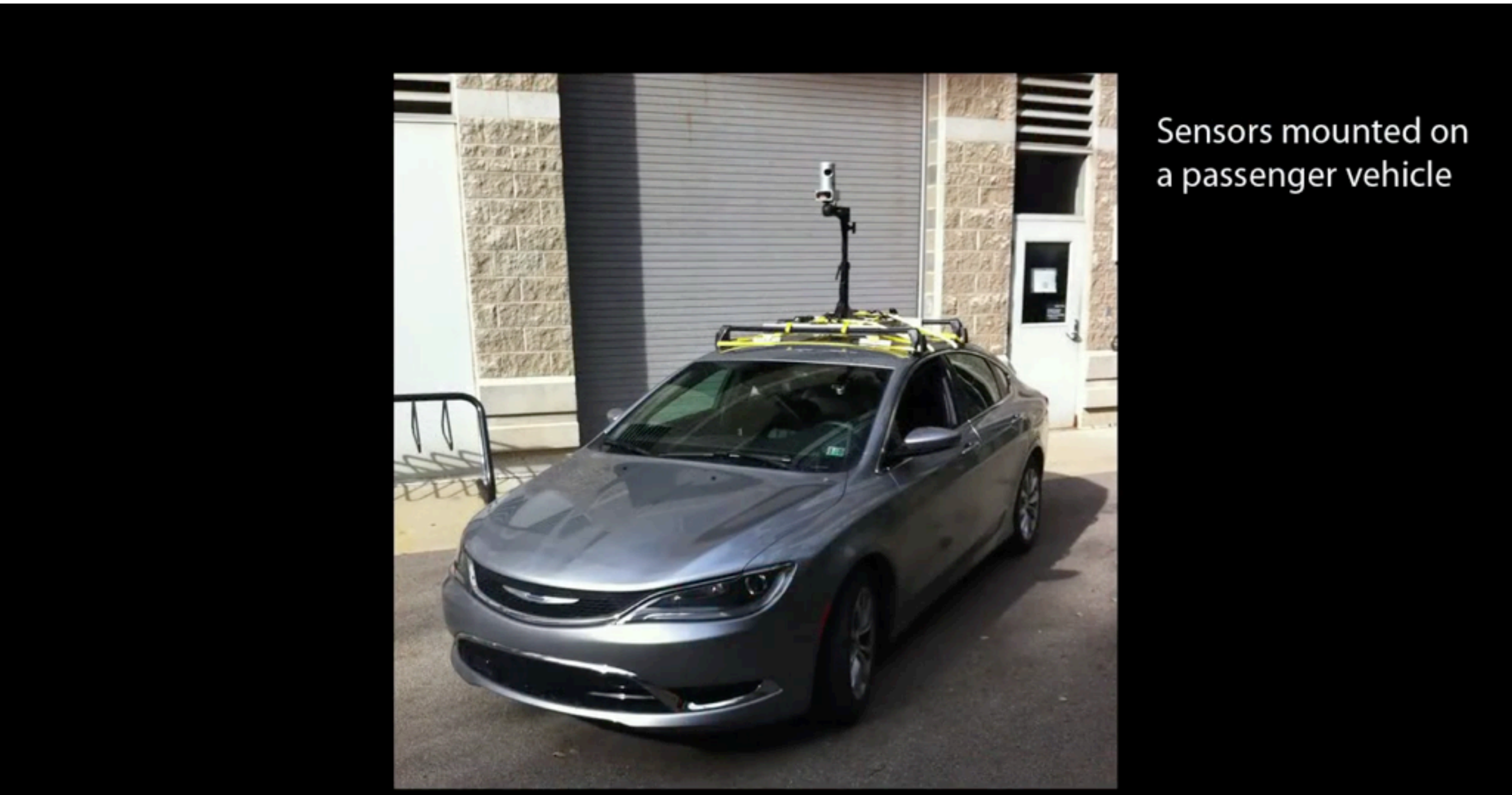
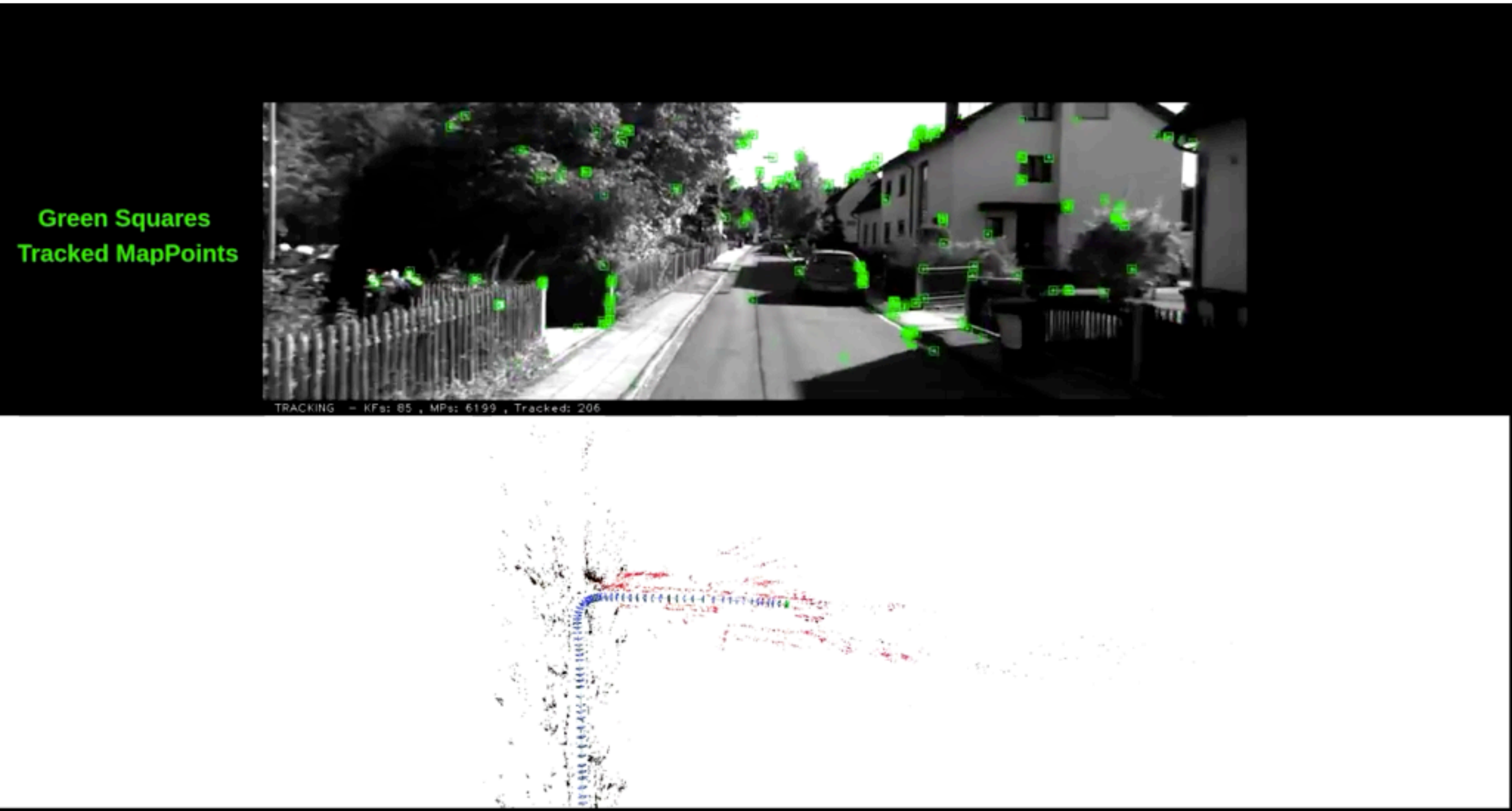


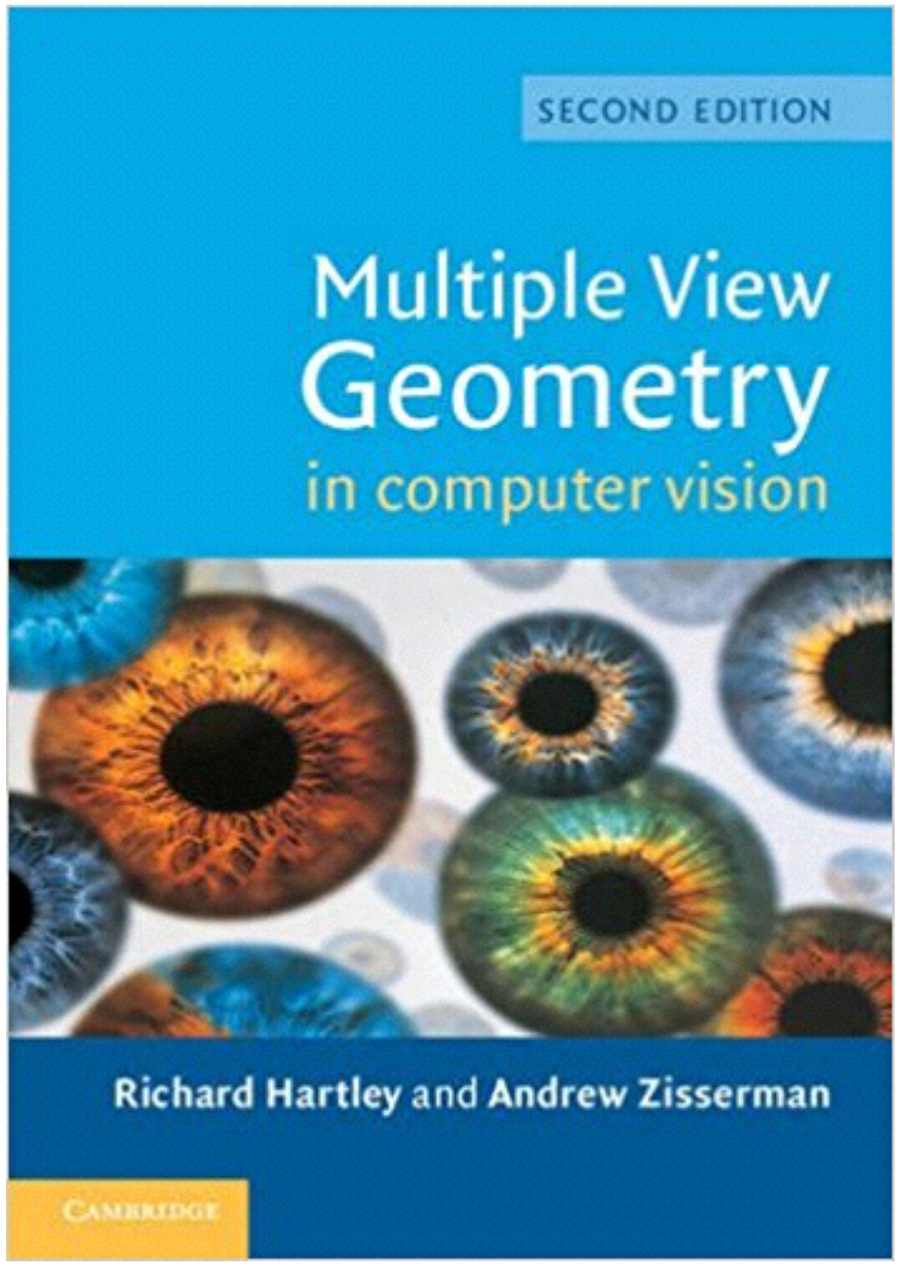
Summary: geometry SLAM

- ORB-SLAM2 RGBD implementation [Raul TRO 2015]: http://webdiis.unizar.es/~raulmur/orbslam/



Summary: geometry SLAM

- Further reading on camera geometry



https://www.robots.ox.ac.uk/~vgg/hzbook/