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# Fitting

(Least squares & RANSAC)

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## Machine Vision Technology

Semantic information				Metric 3D information			
Pixels	Segments	Images	Videos	Camera		Multi-view Geometry	
Convolutions Edges & <b>Fitting</b> Local features Texture	Segmentation Clustering	Recognition Detection	Motion Tracking	Camera Model	Camera Calibration	Epipolar Geometry	SFM
10	4	4	2	2	2	2	2

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## Fitting

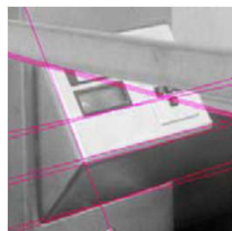
- We've learned how to detect edges. Now what?
- We would like to form a higher-level, more compact representation of the features in the image by grouping multiple features according to a simple model



Source: S. Lazebnik

## Fitting

- Choose a parametric model to represent a set of features



simple model: lines



simple model: circles



complicated model: car

Source: K. Grauman

## Fitting: Issues

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### Case study: Line detection



- **Noise** in the measured feature locations
- **Extraneous data:** clutter (outliers), multiple lines
- **Missing data:** occlusions

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Fitting: Overview

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- If we know which points belong to the line, how do we find the “optimal” line parameters?
  - Least squares
- What if there are outliers?
  - Robust fitting, RANSAC
- What if there are many lines?
  - Voting methods: RANSAC, Hough transform
- What if we’re not even sure it’s a line?
  - Model selection

Source: S. Lazebnik

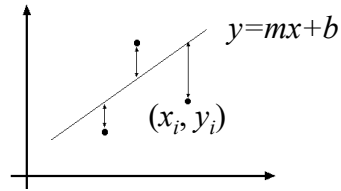
## Least squares line fitting

Data:  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$

Line equation:  $y_i = mx_i + b$

Find  $(m, b)$  to minimize

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mx_i - b)^2$$



$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} m \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E = \|Y - XB\|^2 = (Y - XB)^T (Y - XB) = Y^T Y - 2(XB)^T Y + (XB)^T (XB)$$

$$\frac{dE}{dB} = 2X^T XB - 2X^T Y = 0$$

$$X^T XB = X^T Y$$

*Normal equations: least squares solution to*  
 $XB=Y$

Source: S. Lazebnik

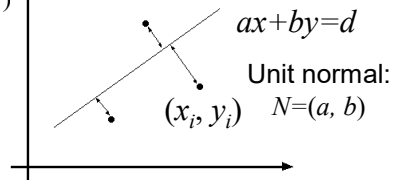
## Problem with “vertical” least squares

- Not rotation-invariant
- Fails completely for vertical lines

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Total least squares

Distance between point  $(x_i, y_i)$  and line  $ax+by=d$  ( $a^2+b^2=1$ )  
 $|ax_i + by_i - d|$



Source: S. Lazebnik

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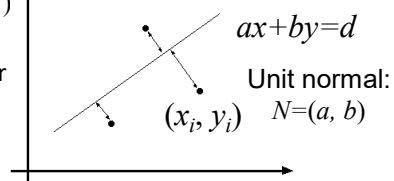
8

## Total least squares

Distance between point  $(x_i, y_i)$  and line  $ax+by=d$  ( $a^2+b^2=1$ )  
 $|ax_i + by_i - d|$

Find  $(a, b, d)$  to minimize the sum of squared perpendicular distances

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + by_i - d)^2$$



Source: S. Lazebnik

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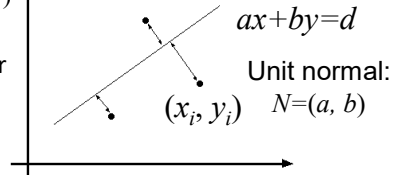
9

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Find  $(a, b, d)$  to minimize the sum of squared perpendicular distances

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + by_i - d)^2$$



$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial d} = \sum_{i=1}^n -2(ax_i + by_i - d) = 0$$

$$d = \frac{a}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \frac{b}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i = a\bar{x} + b\bar{y}$$

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^n (a(x_i - \bar{x}) + b(y_i - \bar{y}))^2 = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \bar{x} & y_1 - \bar{y} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n - \bar{x} & y_n - \bar{y} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \right\|^2 = (UN)^T (UN)$$

$$\frac{dE}{dN} = 2(U^T U)N = 0$$

Solution to  $(U^T U)N = 0$ , subject to  $\|N\|^2 = 1$ : eigenvector of  $U^T U$  associated with the smallest eigenvalue (least squares solution to *homogeneous linear system*  $UN = 0$ )

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Total least squares

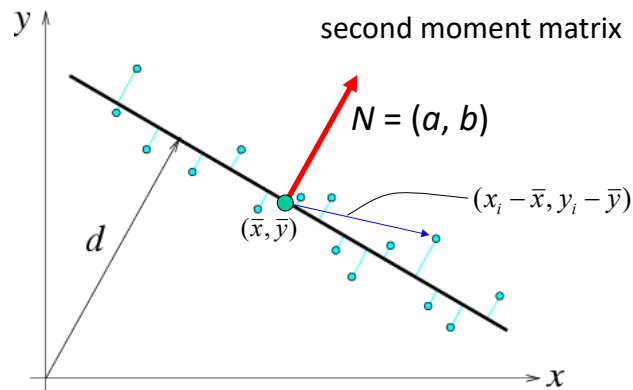
$$U = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \bar{x} & y_1 - \bar{y} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n - \bar{x} & y_n - \bar{y} \end{bmatrix} \quad U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 & \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) \\ \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) & \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

second moment matrix

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Total least squares

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - \bar{x} & y_1 - \bar{y} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_n - \bar{x} & y_n - \bar{y} \end{bmatrix} \quad U^T U = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 & \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) \\ \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) & \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Least squares as likelihood maximization

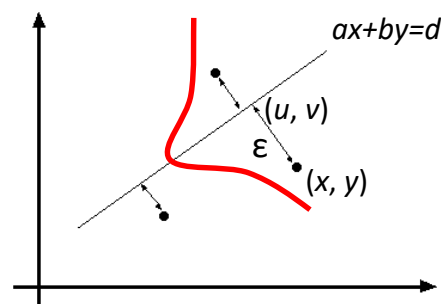
- **Generative model:** line points are sampled independently and corrupted by Gaussian noise in the direction perpendicular to the line

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} + \varepsilon \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

point on the line

noise: sampled from zero-mean Gaussian with std. dev.  $\sigma$

normal direction



Source: S. Lazebnik

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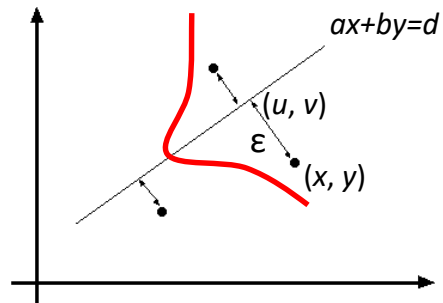
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## Least squares as likelihood maximization

- **Generative model:** line points are sampled independently and corrupted by Gaussian noise in the direction perpendicular to the line

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} + \varepsilon \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$



Likelihood of points given line parameters  $(a, b, d)$ :

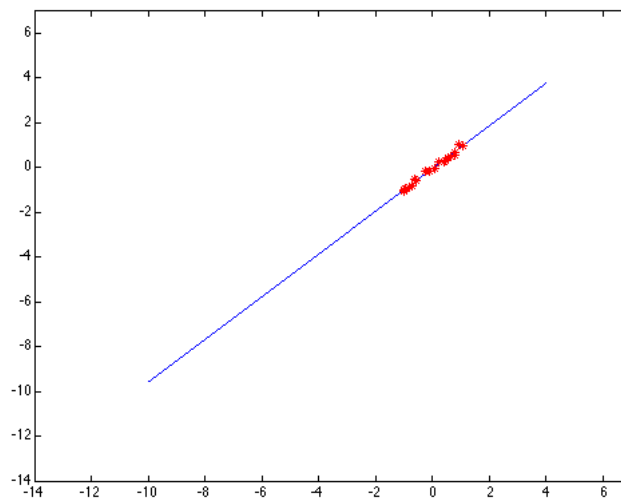
$$P(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n | a, b, d) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i, y_i | a, b, d) \propto \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(-\frac{(ax_i + by_i - d)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\text{Log-likelihood: } L(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n | a, b, d) = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + by_i - d)^2$$

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Least squares: Robustness to noise

Least squares fit to the red points:

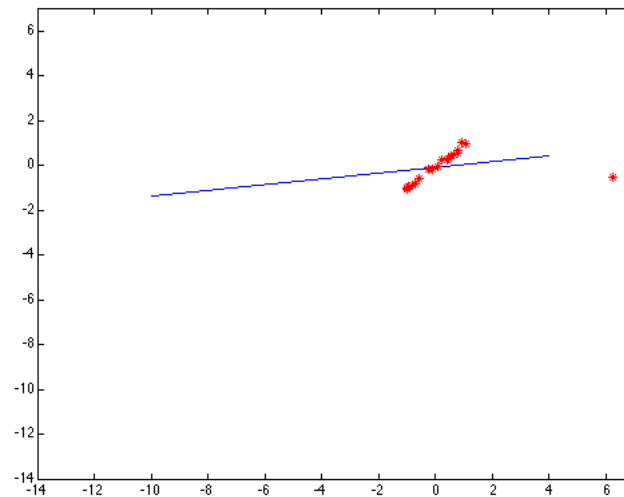


Source: S. Lazebnik



## Least squares: Robustness to noise

Least squares fit with an outlier:



Problem: squared error heavily penalizes outliers

Source: S. Lazebnik

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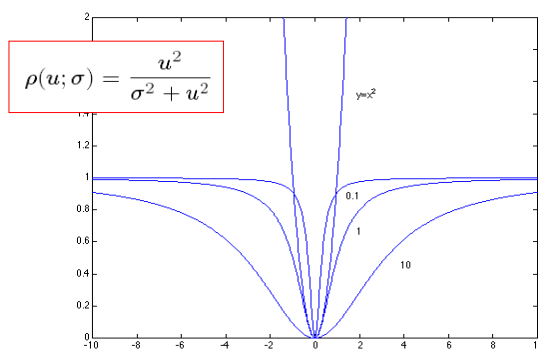
## Robust estimators

- General approach: find model parameters  $\theta$  that minimize

$$\sum_i \rho(r_i(x_i, \theta); \sigma)$$

$r_i(x_i, \theta)$  – residual of  $i$ th point w.r.t. model parameters  $\theta$

$\rho$  – robust function with scale parameter  $\sigma$



The robust function  $\rho$  behaves like squared distance for small values of the residual  $u$  but saturates for larger values of  $u$

Source: S. Lazebnik

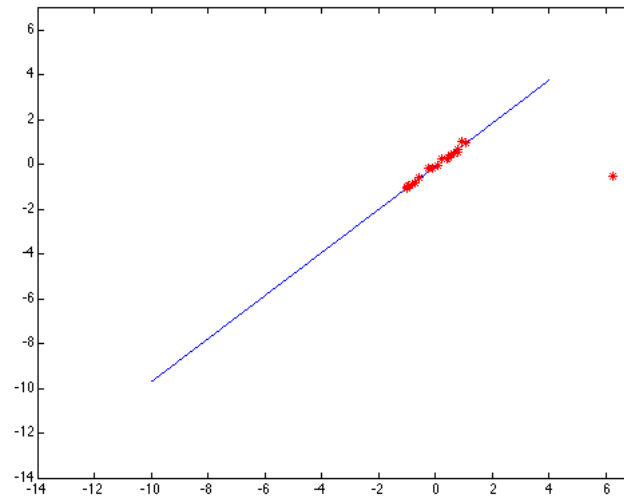
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## Choosing the scale: Just right



The effect of the outlier is minimized

Source: S. Lazebnik

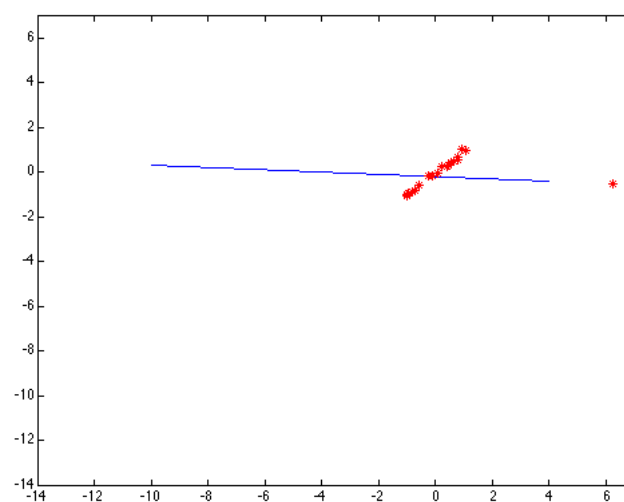
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## Choosing the scale: Too small



The error value is almost the same for every point and the fit is very poor

Source: S. Lazebnik

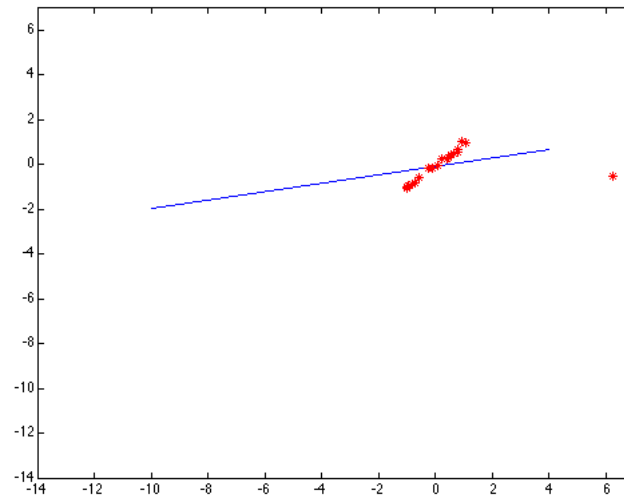
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## Choosing the scale: Too large



Behaves much the same as least squares

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## Robust estimation: Details

- Robust fitting is a nonlinear optimization problem that must be solved iteratively
- Least squares solution can be used for initialization
- Adaptive choice of scale: approx. 1.5 times median residual (F&P, Sec. 15.5.1)

Source: S. Lazebnik

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## RANSAC

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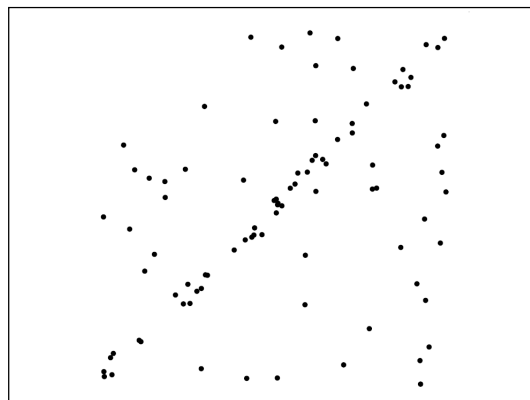
- Robust fitting can deal with a few outliers – what if we have very many?
- Random sample consensus (RANSAC):  
Very general framework for model fitting in the presence of outliers
- Outline
  - Choose a small subset of points uniformly at random
  - Fit a model to that subset
  - Find all remaining points that are “close” to the model and reject the rest as outliers
  - Do this many times and choose the best model

M. A. Fischler, R. C. Bolles. [Random Sample Consensus: A Paradigm for Model Fitting with Applications to Image Analysis and Automated Cartography](#). Comm. of the ACM, Vol 24, pp 381-395, 1981.

Source: S. Lazebnik

## RANSAC for line fitting example

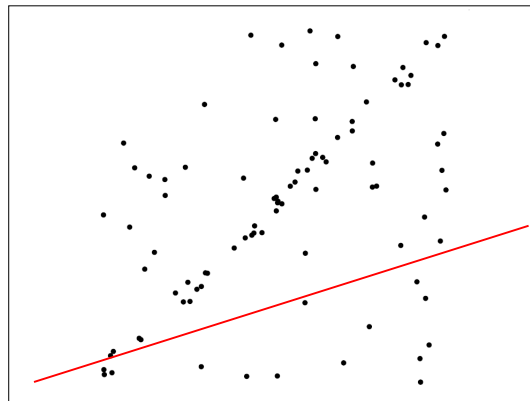
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Source: R. Raguram

## RANSAC for line fitting example

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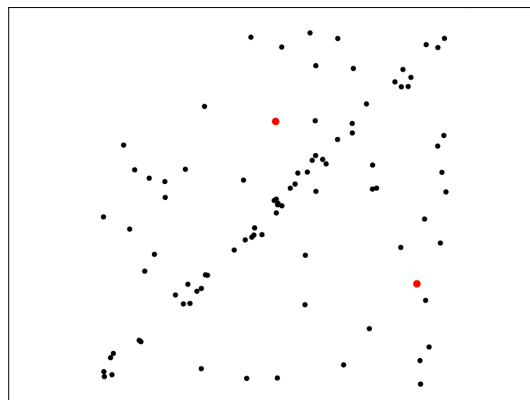


Least-squares fit

Source: R. Raguram

## RANSAC for line fitting example

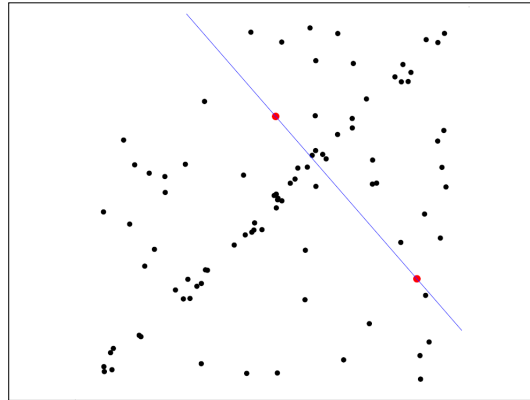
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1. Randomly select minimal subset of points

Source: R. Raguram

## RANSAC for line fitting example



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model

Source: R. Raguram

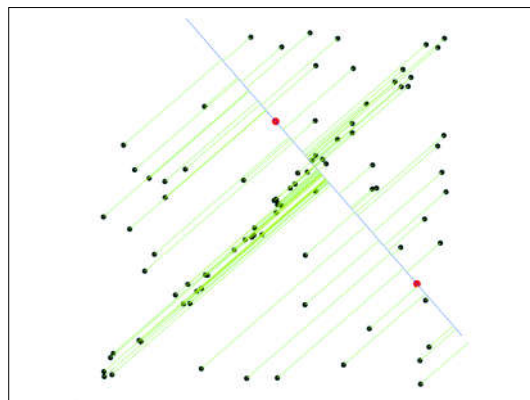
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## RANSAC for line fitting example



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function

Source: R. Raguram

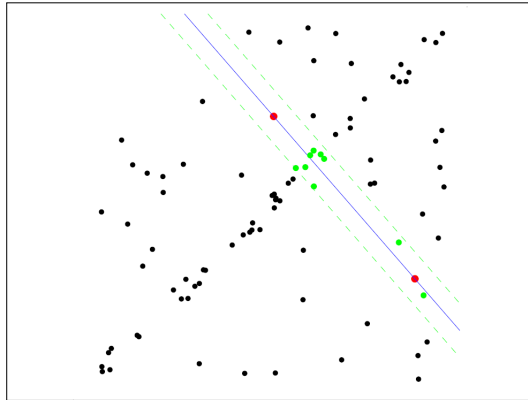
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## RANSAC for line fitting example



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function
4. **Select points consistent with model**

Source: R. Raguram

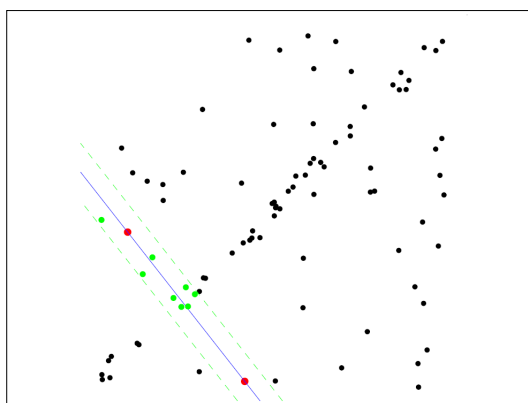
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## RANSAC for line fitting example



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function
4. Select points consistent with model
5. **Repeat hypothesize-and-verify loop**

Source: R. Raguram

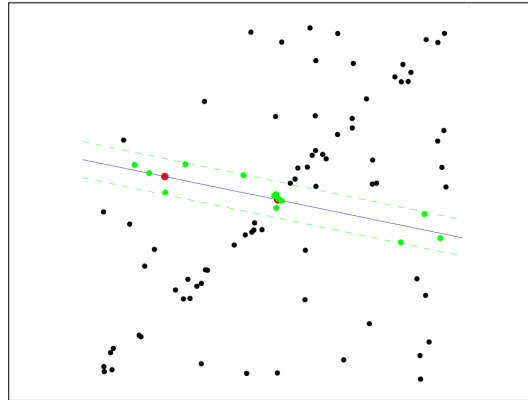
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## RANSAC for line fitting example



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function
4. Select points consistent with model
5. Repeat *hypothesize-and-verify* loop

Source: R. Raguram

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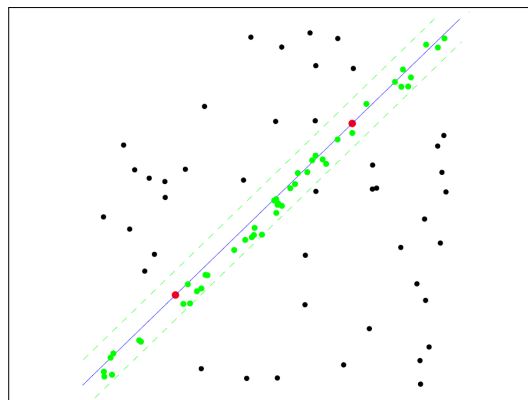
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## RANSAC for line fitting example

### Uncontaminated sample



1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function
4. Select points consistent with model
5. Repeat *hypothesize-and-verify* loop

Source: R. Raguram

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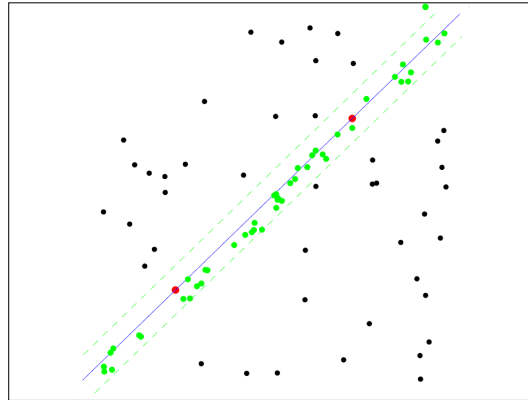
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## RANSAC for line fitting example

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1. Randomly select minimal subset of points
2. Hypothesize a model
3. Compute error function
4. Select points consistent with model
5. Repeat *hypothesize-and-verify* loop

Source: R. Raguram

## RANSAC for line fitting

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Repeat  $N$  times:

- Draw  $s$  points uniformly at random
- Fit line to these  $s$  points
- Find inliers to this line among the remaining points (i.e., points whose distance from the line is less than  $t$ )
- If there are  $d$  or more inliers, accept the line and refit using all inliers

Source: S. Lazebnik

## Choosing the parameters

- Initial number of points  $s$ 
  - Typically minimum number needed to fit the model
- Distance threshold  $t$ 
  - Choose  $t$  so probability for inlier is  $p$  (e.g. 0.95)
  - Zero-mean Gaussian noise with std. dev.  $\sigma$ :  $t^2=3.84\sigma^2$
- Number of samples  $N$ 
  - Choose  $N$  so that, with probability  $p$ , at least one random sample is free from outliers (e.g.  $p=0.99$ ) (outlier ratio:  $e$ )

Source: M. Pollefeys

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$$\left(1 - (1 - e)^s\right)^N = 1 - p$$

$$N = \log(1 - p) / \log(1 - (1 - e)^s)$$

s	proportion of outliers $e$						
	5%	10%	20%	25%	30%	40%	50%
2	2	3	5	6	7	11	17
3	3	4	7	9	11	19	35
4	3	5	9	13	17	34	72
5	4	6	12	17	26	57	146
6	4	7	16	24	37	97	293
7	4	8	20	33	54	163	588
8	5	9	26	44	78	272	1177

Source: M. Pollefeys

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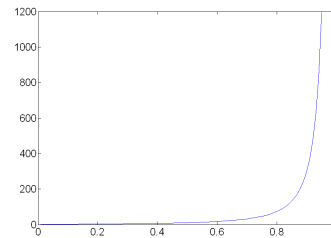
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Source: M. Pollefeys

## Choosing the parameters

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- Number of samples  $N$ 
  - Choose  $N$  so that, with probability  $p$ , at least one random sample is free from outliers (e.g.  $p=0.99$ ) (outlier ratio:  $e$ )
- Consensus set size  $d$ 
  - Should match expected inlier ratio

Source: M. Pollefeys

## Adaptively determining the number of samples

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- Inlier ratio  $e$  is often unknown a priori, so pick worst case, e.g. 50%, and adapt if more inliers are found, e.g. 80% would yield  $e=0.2$
- Adaptive procedure:
  - $N=\infty$ ,  $sample\_count = 0$
  - While  $N > sample\_count$ 
    - Choose a sample and count the number of inliers
    - Set  $e = 1 - (\text{number of inliers})/(\text{total number of points})$
    - Recompute  $N$  from  $e$ :

$$N = \log(1 - p) / \log(1 - (1 - e)^s)$$

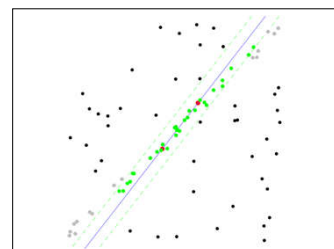
- Increment the  $sample\_count$  by 1

Source: M. Pollefeys

## RANSAC pros and cons

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- Pros
  - Simple and general
  - Applicable to many different problems
  - Often works well in practice
- Cons
  - Lots of parameters to tune
  - Doesn't work well for low inlier ratios (too many iterations, or can fail completely)
  - Can't always get a good initialization of the model based on the minimum number of samples



Source: S. Lazebnik