

# **Photogrammetry & Robotics Lab**

## **Projective 3-Point (P3P) Algorithm or Spatial Resection**

**Cyrill Stachniss**

---

# Camera Localization



Task: estimate the pose of the camera

# Camera Localization

## Given:

- 3D coordinates of object points  $\mathbf{X}_i$

## Observed:

- 2D image coordinates  $\mathbf{x}_i$  of the object points

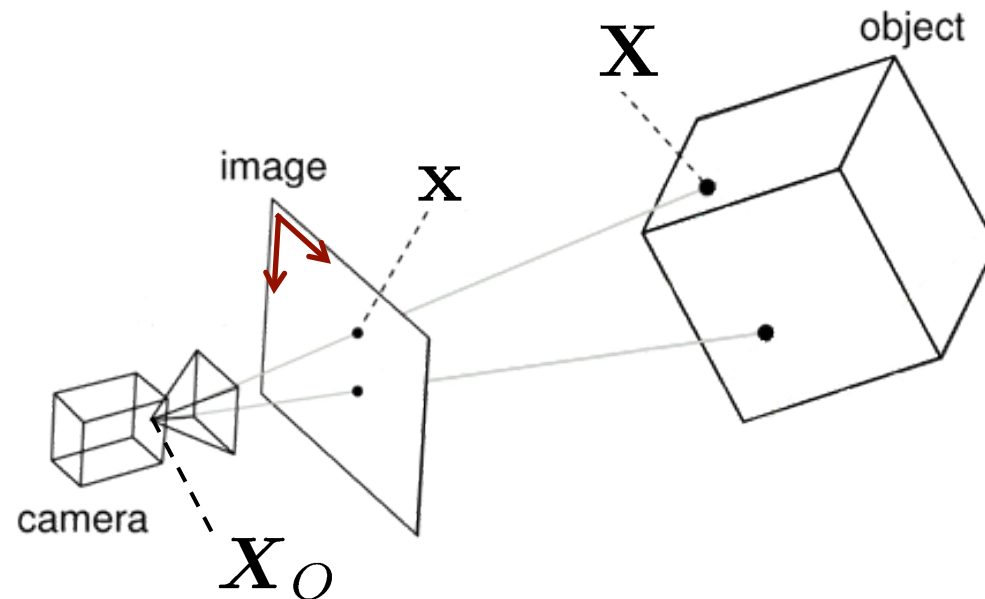
## Wanted:

- Extrinsic parameters  $R, \mathbf{X}_O$  of the calibrated camera

# Reminder: Mapping Model

Direct linear transform (DLT) maps any object point  $\mathbf{X}$  to the image point  $\mathbf{x}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= KR[I_3 | -\mathbf{X}_O]\mathbf{X} \\ &= \mathbf{P} \mathbf{X}\end{aligned}$$



# Reminder: Camera Orientation

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R} \begin{bmatrix} I_3 \\ -\mathbf{X}_O \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{X}$$

- **Intrinsics (interior orientation)**
  - Intrinsic parameters of the camera
  - Given through matrix  $\mathbf{K}$
- **Extrinsics (exterior orientation)**
  - Extrinsic parameters of the camera
  - Given through  $\mathbf{X}_O$  and  $\mathbf{R}$

# Direct Linear Transform (DLT)

**Relation to DLT :** Compute the **11 intrinsic and extrinsic parameters**

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R} [I_3 | -\mathbf{X}_O] \mathbf{X}$$

The diagram illustrates the Direct Linear Transform (DLT) equation  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R} [I_3 | -\mathbf{X}_O] \mathbf{X}$  with the following annotations:

- observed image point**: Points to  $\mathbf{x}$  with a black arrow.
- $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{x}_H, \mathbf{y}_H$** : Points to  $\mathbf{K}$  with a red arrow.
- 3 rotations**: Points to  $\mathbf{R}$  with a red arrow.
- 3 translations**: Points to  $-\mathbf{X}_O$  with a red arrow.
- control point coordinates (given)**: Points to  $\mathbf{X}$  with a black arrow.

# Projective 3-Point Algorithm (or Spatial Resection)

Given the intrinsic parameters, compute the **6 extrinsic parameters**

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R} [I_3 | -\mathbf{X}_O] \mathbf{X}$$

The diagram illustrates the projective 3-point algorithm equation  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{K} \mathbf{R} [I_3 | -\mathbf{X}_O] \mathbf{X}$ . Annotations with arrows point to each term:

- observed image points**: points to  $\mathbf{x}$
- $c, s, m, x_H, y_H$  (given)**: points to  $\mathbf{K}$
- 3 rotations**: points to  $\mathbf{R}$
- 3 translations**: points to  $-\mathbf{X}_O$
- control point coordinates (given)**: points to  $\mathbf{X}$

# P3P/SR vs. DLT

- **P3P/SR: Calibrated camera**
  - 6 unknowns
  - We need at least **3 points**
- **DLT: Uncalibrated camera**
  - 11 unknowns
  - We need at least **6 points**
  - Assuming an **affine camera**  
(straight-line preserving projection)



**Orienting a calibrated camera  
by using  $\geq 3$  points**

**P3P/Spatial Resection  
(direct solution)**

# Problem Formulation

## Given:

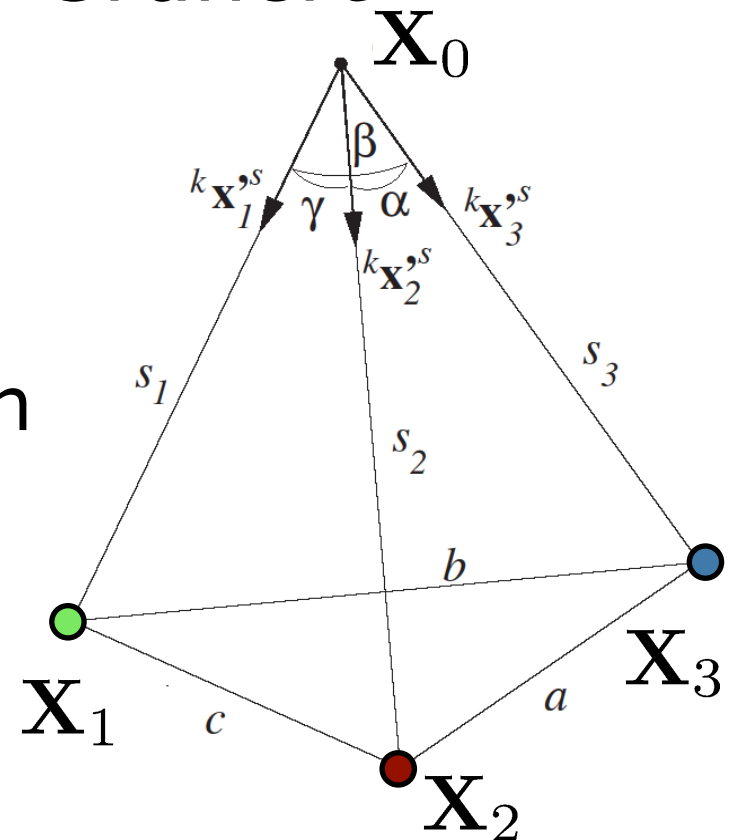
- 3D coordinates  $X_i$  of  $I \geq 3$  object points
- Corresponding image coordinates  $x_i$  recorded using a calibrated camera

## Task:

- Estimate the 6 parameters  $X_O, R$
- Direct solution (no initial guess)

# Different Approaches

- Different approaches: Grunert 1841, Killian 1955, Rohrberg 2009, ...
- Here: direct solution by Grunert
- **2-step process**
  1. Estimate length of projection rays
  2. Estimate the orientation

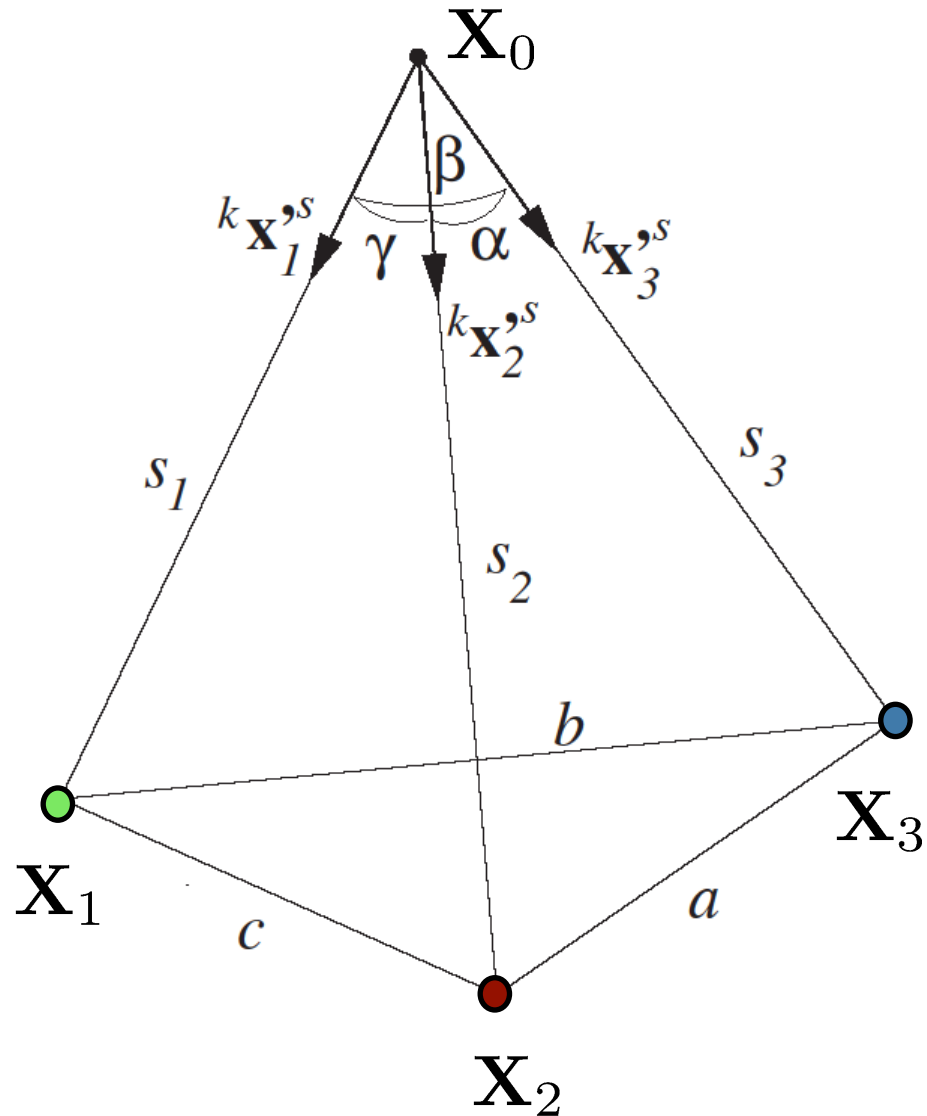


# Direct Solution by Grunert

## 2-Step process

Estimate

1. length of projection rays
2. orientation

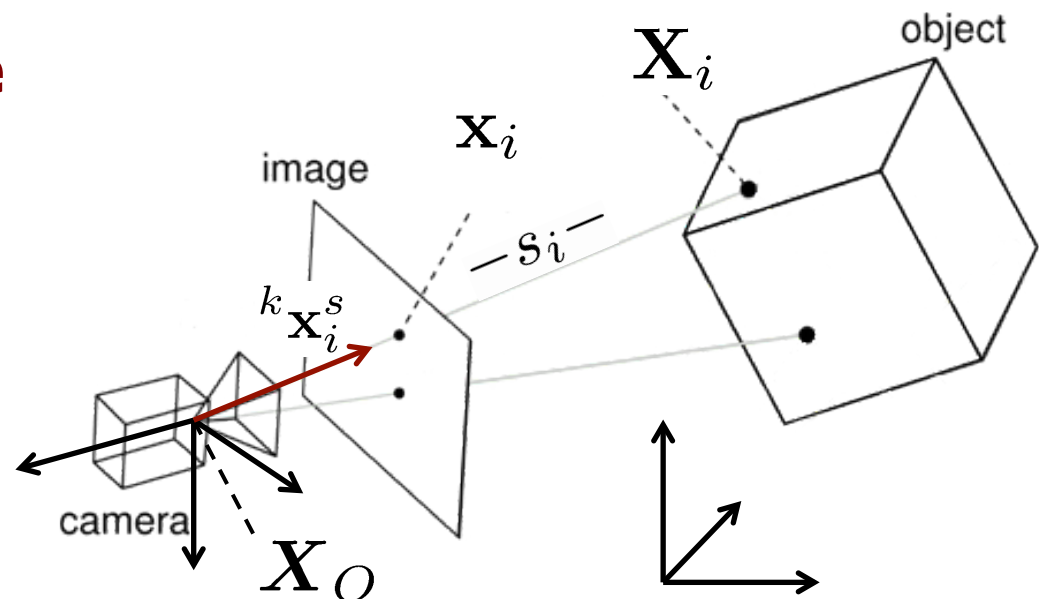


# P3P/SR Model

- Coordinates of object points **within the camera system** are given by

$$s_i \mathbf{x}_i^s = R(\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_O) \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

ray directions  
pointing to the  
object points



# P3P/SR Model

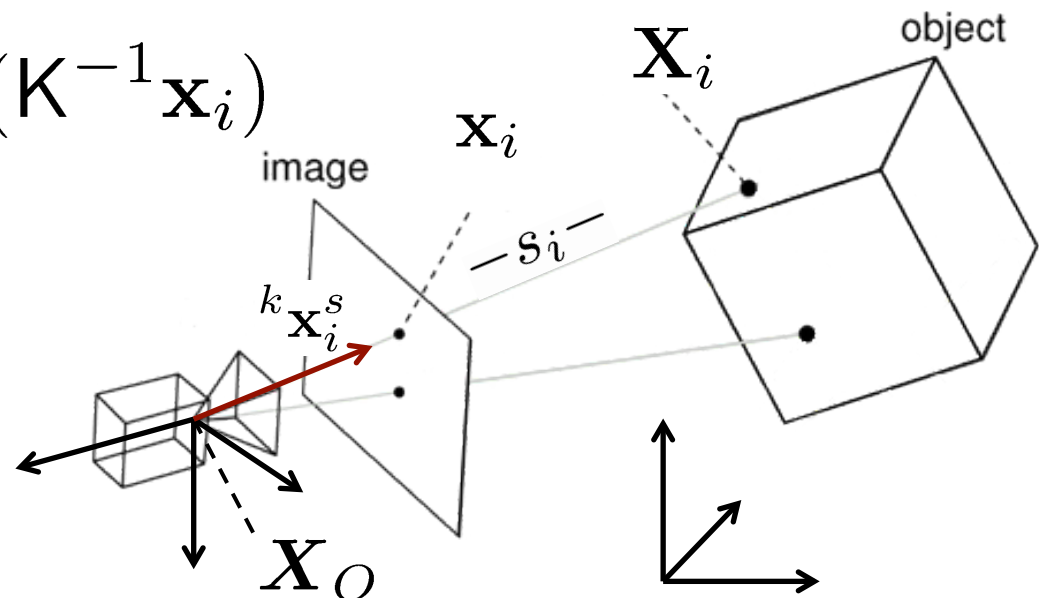
- Coordinates of object points within the camera system are given by

$$s_i {}^k \mathbf{x}_i^s = R(\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_O) \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

- From image coordinates, we obtain the directional vector of projection ray

$${}^k \mathbf{x}_i^s = -\text{sign}(c) N(K^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i)$$

**ensure ray  
directions are  
pointing to the  
object points**



# P3P/SR Model

- Coordinates of object points within the camera system are given by

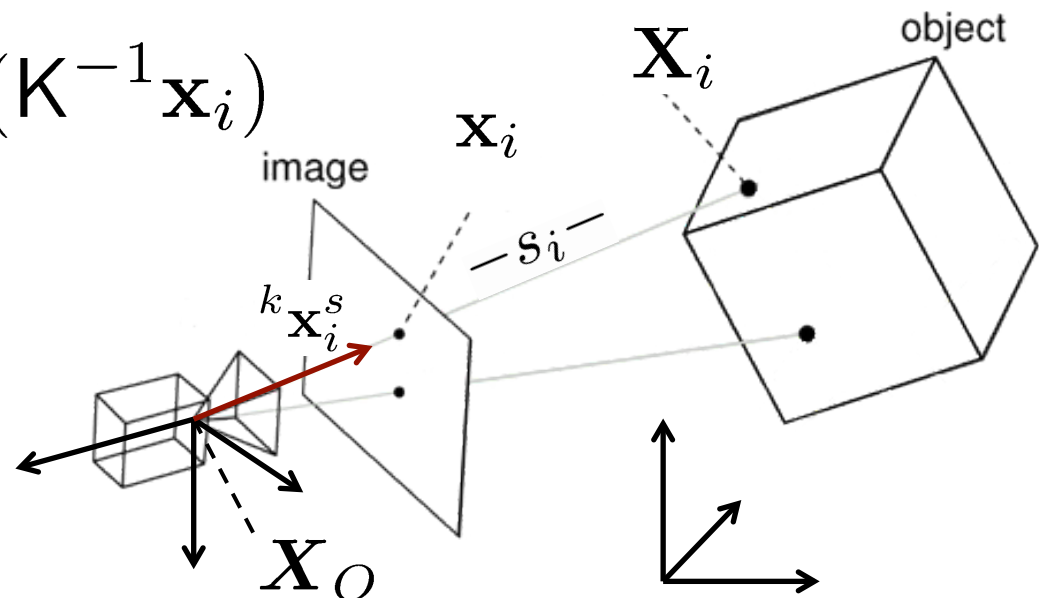
$$s_i {}^k \mathbf{x}_i^s = R(\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_O) \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

- From image coordinates, we obtain the directional vector of projection ray

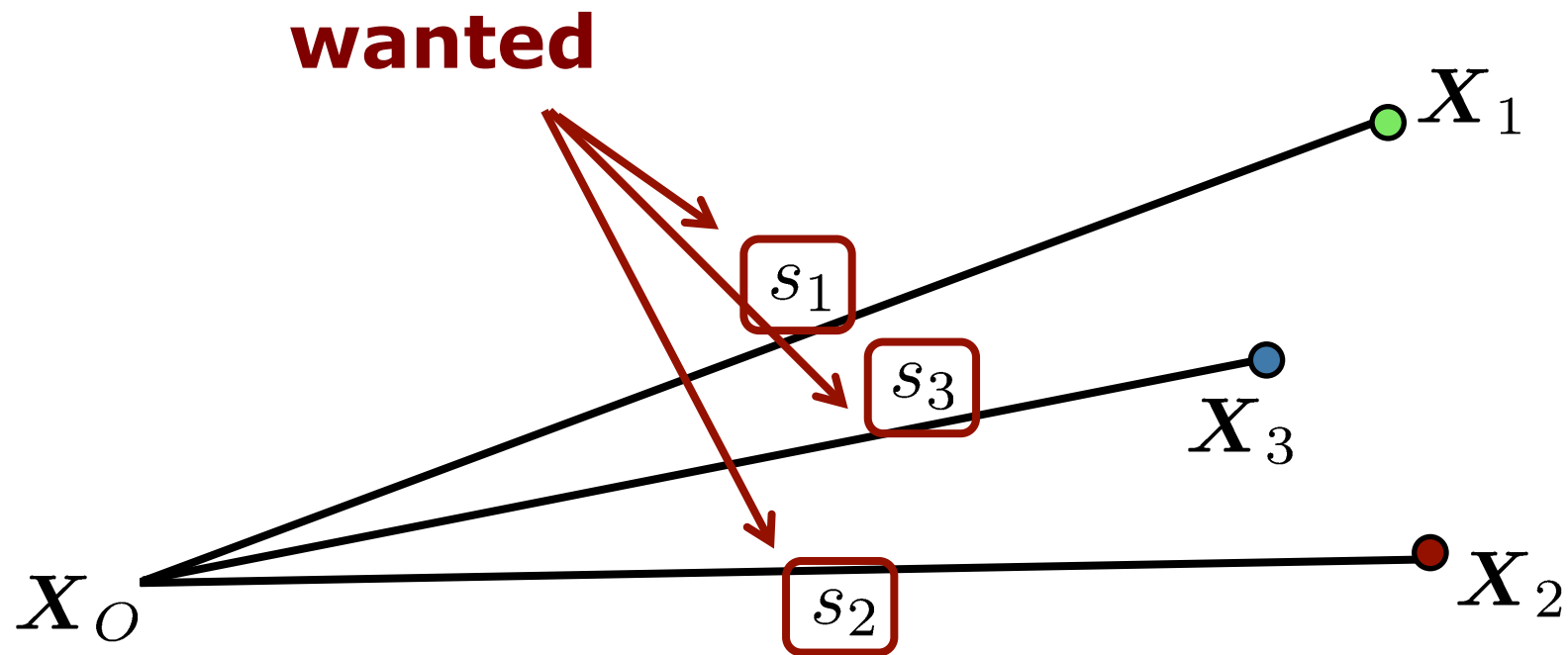
$${}^k \mathbf{x}_i^s = -\text{sign}(c) N(K^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i)$$

**spherical  
normalization**

$$N(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|}$$



# 1. Get Length of Projection Rays

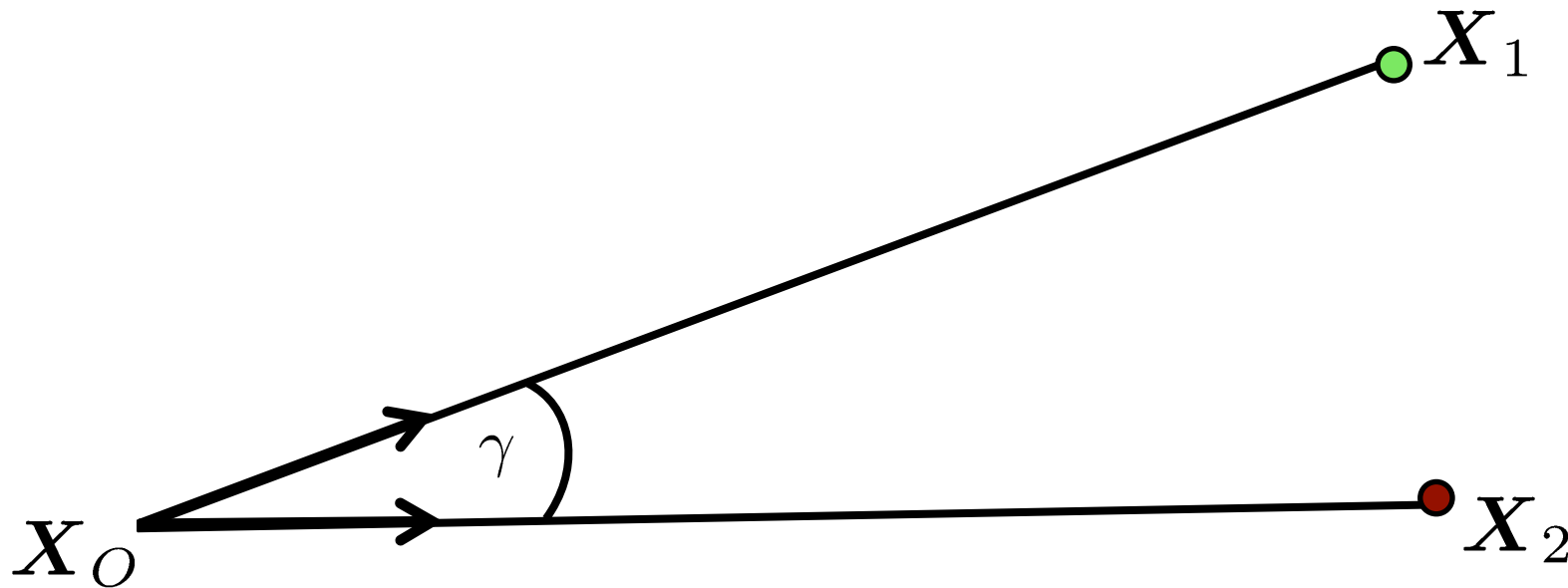




# 1. Get Length of Projection Rays

- Start with computing the angle between rays:

$$\cos \gamma = \frac{(\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_0) \cdot (\mathbf{X}_2 - \mathbf{X}_0)}{\|\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_0\| \|\mathbf{X}_2 - \mathbf{X}_0\|}$$



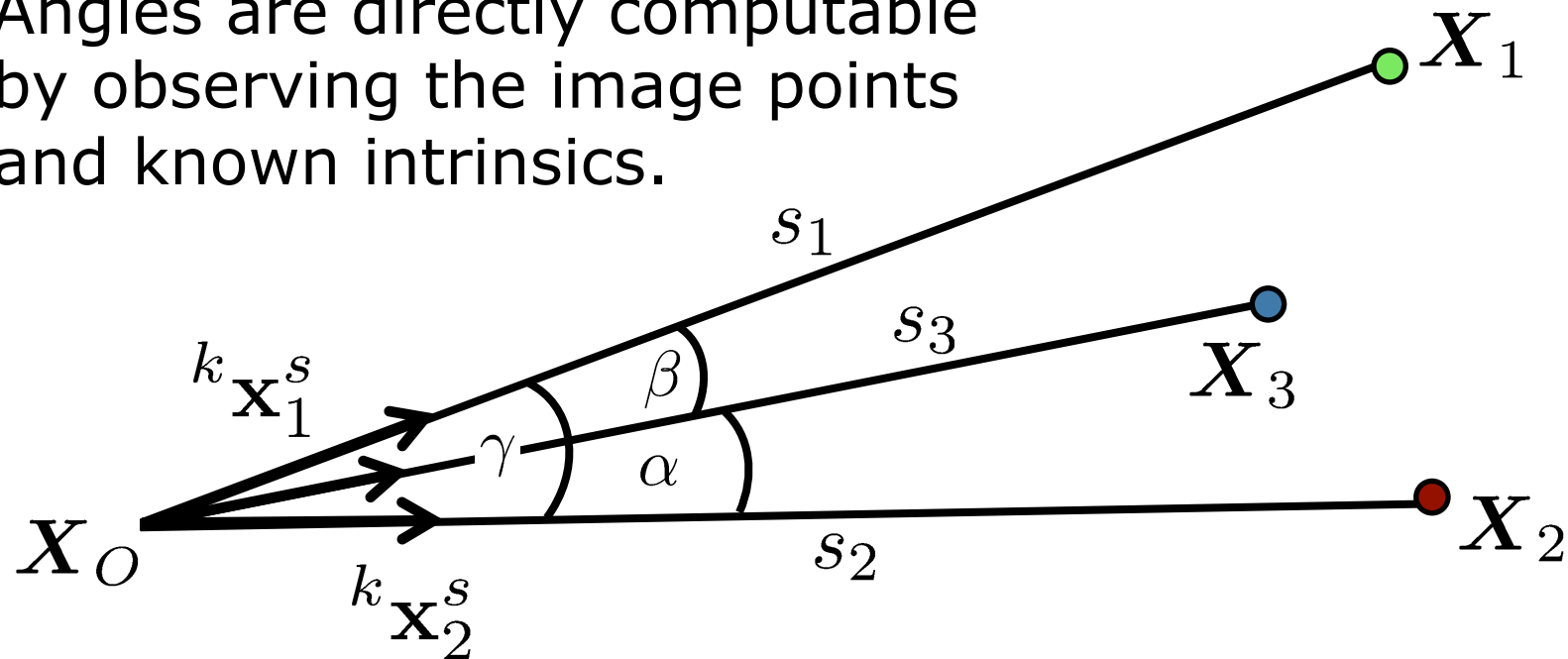
# 1. Get Length of Projection Rays

$$\alpha = \arccos \left( {}^k\mathbf{x}_2^s, {}^k\mathbf{x}_3^s \right)$$

$$\beta = \arccos \left( {}^k\mathbf{x}_3^s, {}^k\mathbf{x}_1^s \right)$$

$$\gamma = \arccos \left( {}^k\mathbf{x}_1^s, {}^k\mathbf{x}_2^s \right)$$

Angles are directly computable by observing the image points and known intrinsics.



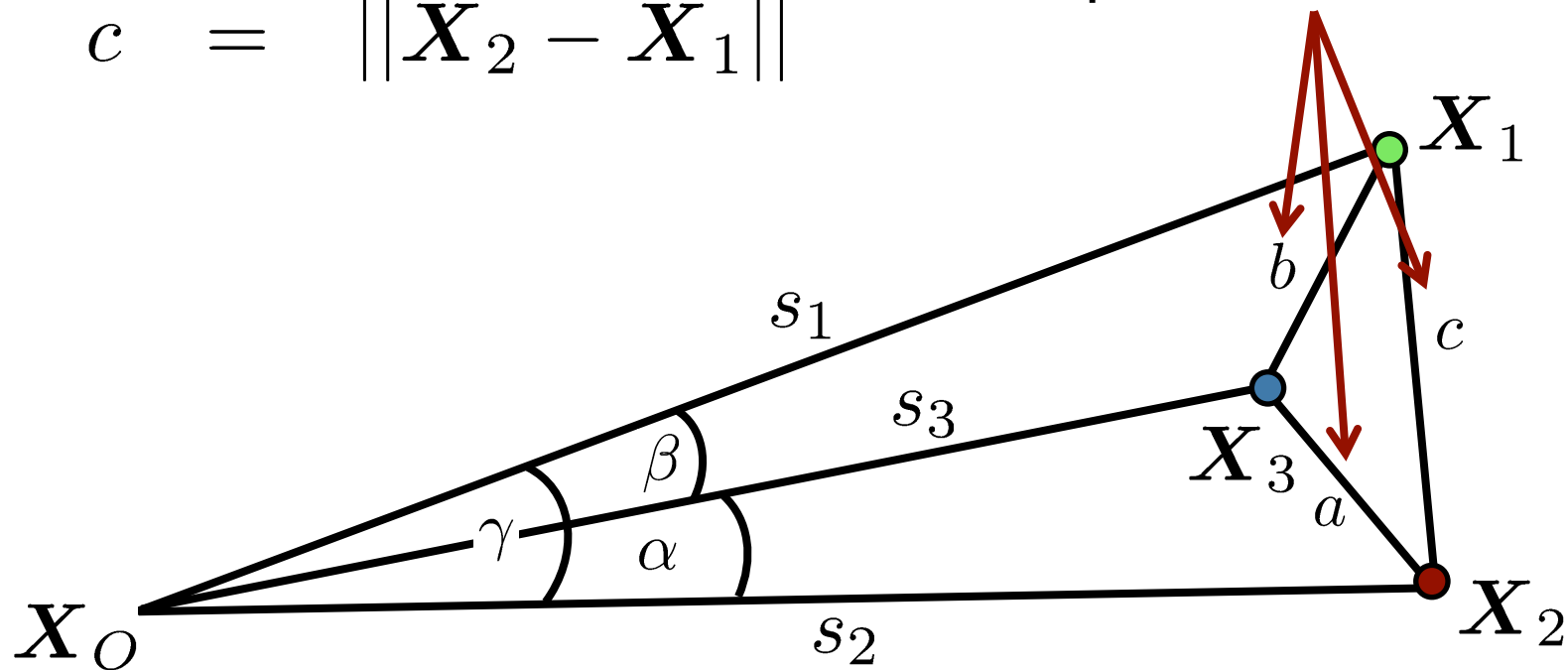
# 1. Get Length of Projection Rays

$$a = ||\mathbf{X}_3 - \mathbf{X}_2||$$

$$b = ||\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_3||$$

$$c = ||\mathbf{X}_2 - \mathbf{X}_1||$$

Given through  
known control  
point coordinates

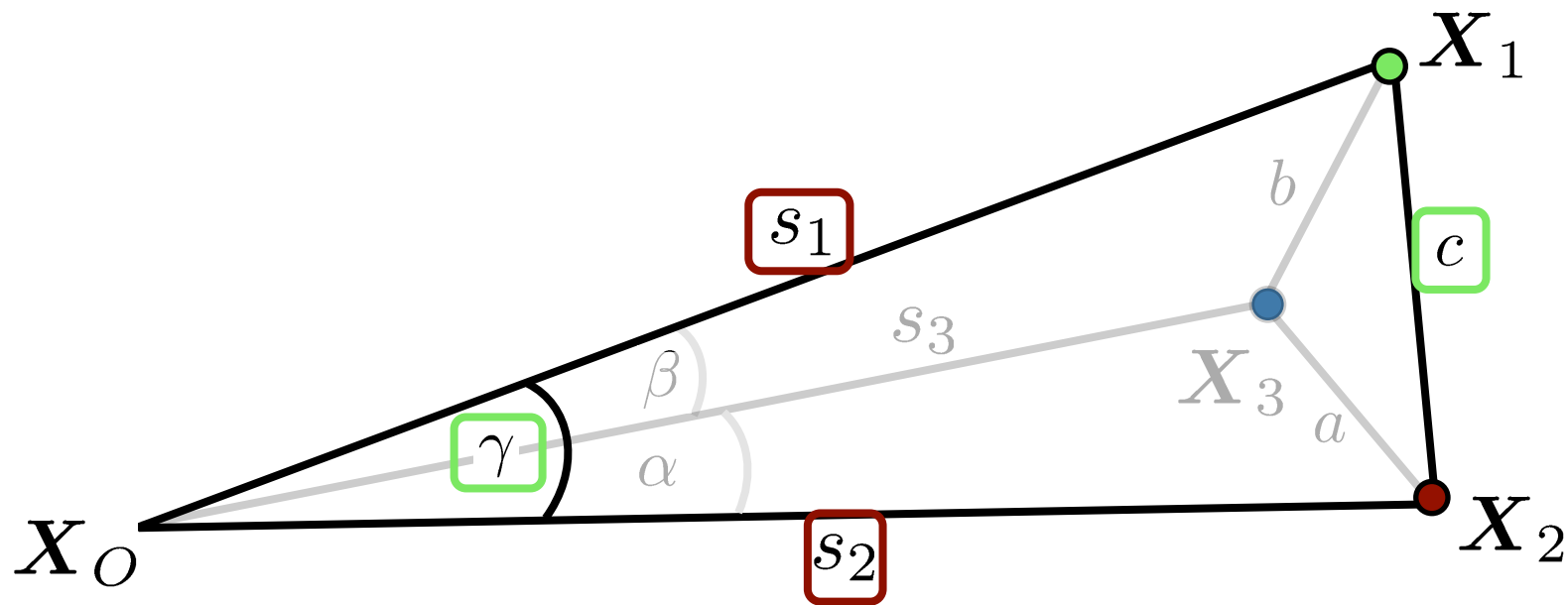


# Use the Law of Cosines

In triangle  $X_0, X_1, X_2$

$$s_1^2 + s_2^2 - 2 \boxed{s_1} \boxed{s_2} \cos \boxed{\gamma} = \boxed{c^2}$$

wanted                      known



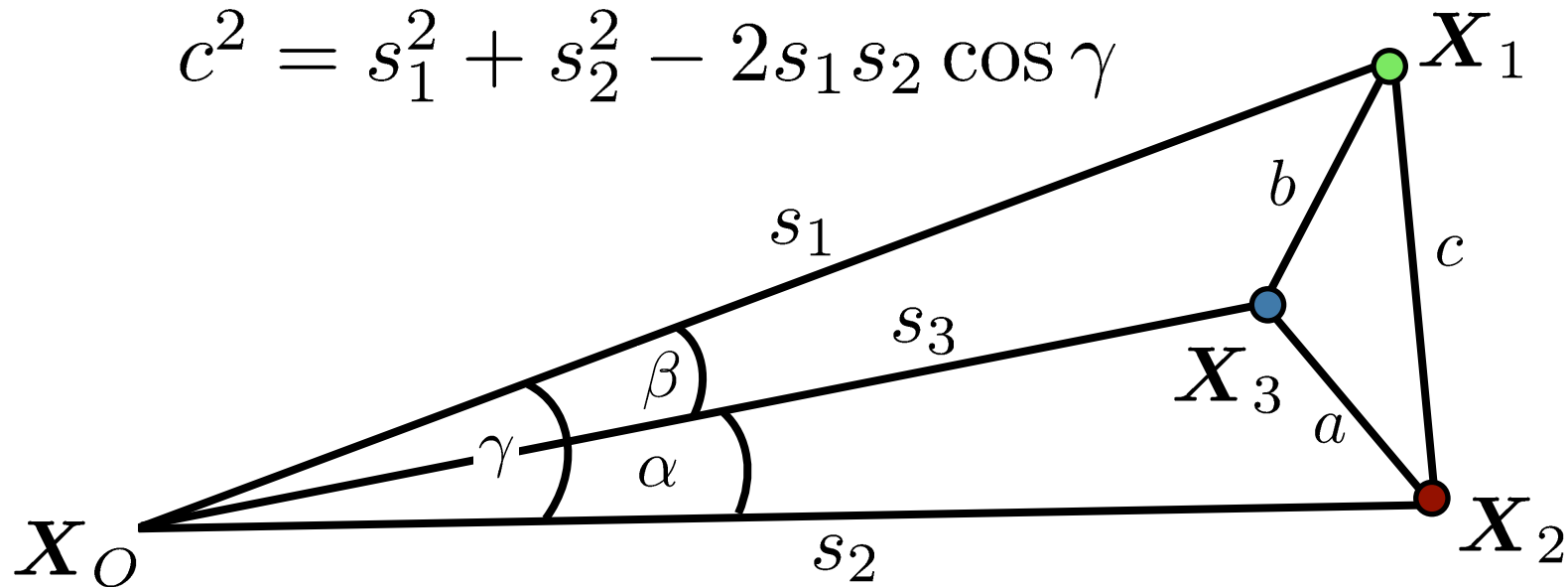
# Use the Law of Cosines

Analogously in all three triangles

$$a^2 = s_2^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_2s_3 \cos \alpha$$

$$b^2 = s_1^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_1s_3 \cos \beta$$

$$c^2 = s_1^2 + s_2^2 - 2s_1s_2 \cos \gamma$$



# Compute Distances

- We start from:

$$a^2 = s_2^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_2s_3 \cos \alpha$$

- Define:  $u = \frac{s_2}{s_1}$        $v = \frac{s_3}{s_1}$

- Substitution leads to:

$$a^2 = s_1^2(u^2 + v^2 - 2uv \cos \alpha)$$

- Rearrange to:  $s_1^2 = \frac{a^2}{u^2 + v^2 - 2uv \cos \alpha}$

# Compute Distances

- Use the same definition

$$u = \frac{s_2}{s_1} \quad v = \frac{s_3}{s_1}$$

- And perform the substitution again for:

$$b^2 = s_1^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_1s_3 \cos \beta$$

$$c^2 = s_1^2 + s_2^2 - 2s_1s_2 \cos \gamma$$

# Compute Distances

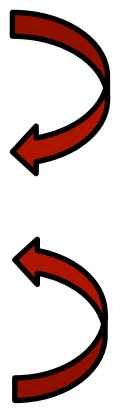
Analogously, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}s_1^2 &= \frac{a^2}{u^2 + v^2 - 2uv \cos \alpha} \\ &= \frac{b^2}{1 + v^2 - 2v \cos \beta} \\ &= \frac{c^2}{1 + u^2 - 2u \cos \gamma}\end{aligned}$$



## Rearrange Again

Solve one equation for  $u$  put into the other

$$\begin{aligned}s_1^2 &= \frac{a^2}{u^2 + v^2 - 2uv \cos \alpha} \\s_1^2 &= \frac{b^2}{1 + v^2 - 2v \cos \beta} \\s_1^2 &= \frac{c^2}{1 + u^2 - 2u \cos \gamma}\end{aligned}$$


**Results in an fourth degree polynomial**

$$A_4 v^4 + A_3 v^3 + A_2 v^2 + A_1 v + A_0 = 0$$

# Forth Degree Polynomial

$$\boxed{A_4}v^4 + \boxed{A_3}v^3 + A_2v^2 + A_1v + A_0 = 0$$

$$\boxed{A_4} = \left( \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} - 1 \right)^2 - \frac{4c^2}{b^2} \cos^2 \alpha$$

$$\boxed{A_3} = 4 \left[ \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \left( 1 - \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right) \cos \beta \right. \\ \left. - \left( 1 - \frac{a^2 + c^2}{b^2} \right) \cos \alpha \cos \gamma + 2 \frac{c^2}{b^2} \cos^2 \alpha \cos \beta \right]$$

# Forth Degree Polynomial

$$A_4 v^4 + A_3 v^3 + A_2 v^2 + A_1 v + A_0 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 = & 2 \left[ \left( \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right)^2 - 1 + 2 \left( \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right)^2 \cos^2 \beta \right. \\ & + 2 \left( \frac{b^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right) \cos^2 \alpha \\ & - 4 \left( \frac{a^2 + c^2}{b^2} \right) \cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma \\ & \left. + 2 \left( \frac{b^2 - a^2}{b^2} \right) \cos^2 \gamma \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Forth Degree Polynomial

$$A_4 v^4 + A_3 v^3 + A_2 v^2 + \boxed{A_1} v + \boxed{A_0} = 0$$

$$\boxed{A_1} = 4 \left[ - \left( \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right) \cos \beta \right. \\ \left. + \frac{2a^2}{b^2} \cos^2 \gamma \cos \beta \right. \\ \left. - \left( 1 - \left( \frac{a^2 + c^2}{b^2} \right) \right) \cos \alpha \cos \gamma \right]$$

$$\boxed{A_0} = \left( 1 + \frac{a^2 - c^2}{b^2} \right)^2 - \frac{4a^2}{b^2} \cos^2 \gamma$$

## Forth Degree Polynomial

$$A_4v^4 + A_3v^3 + A_2v^2 + A_1v + A_0 = 0$$

Solve for  $v$  to get  $s_1, s_2, s_3$  through:

$$s_1^2 = \frac{b^2}{1+v^2-2v \cos \beta}$$

$$s_3 = v s_1$$

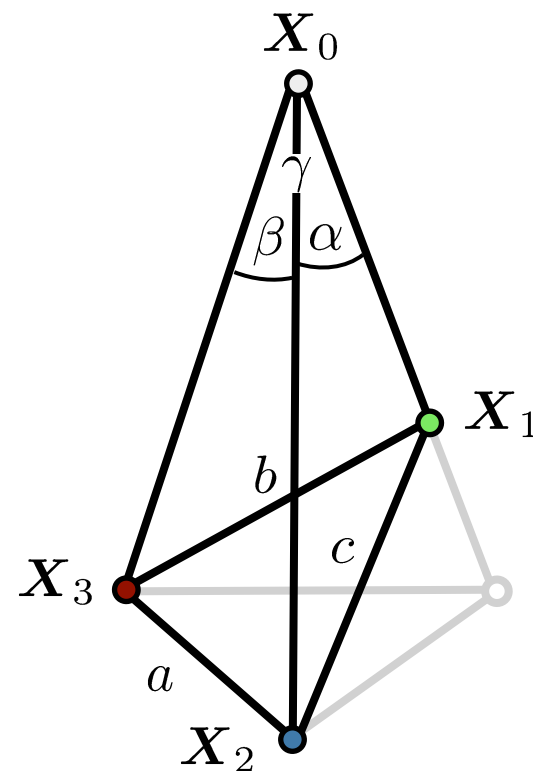
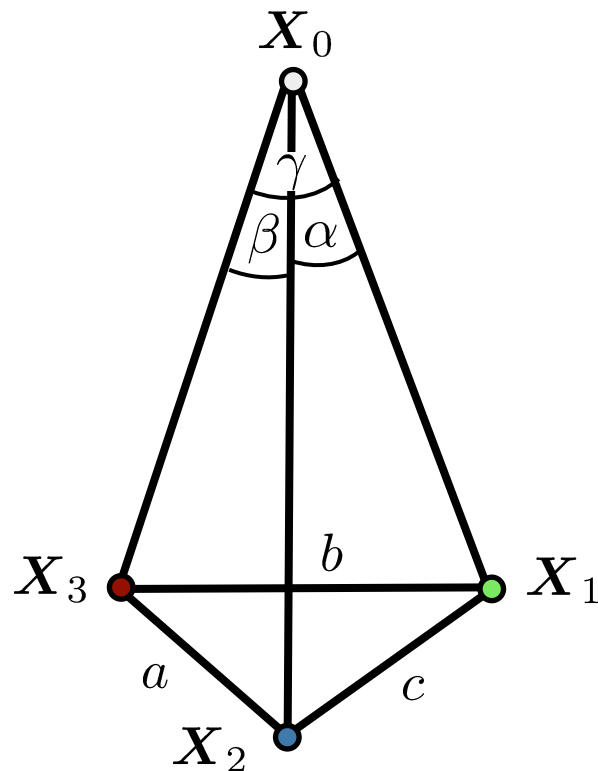
$$a^2 = s_2^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_2s_3 \cos \alpha \Rightarrow s_2 = \dots$$

**Problem:**  
**up to 4 possible solutions !**

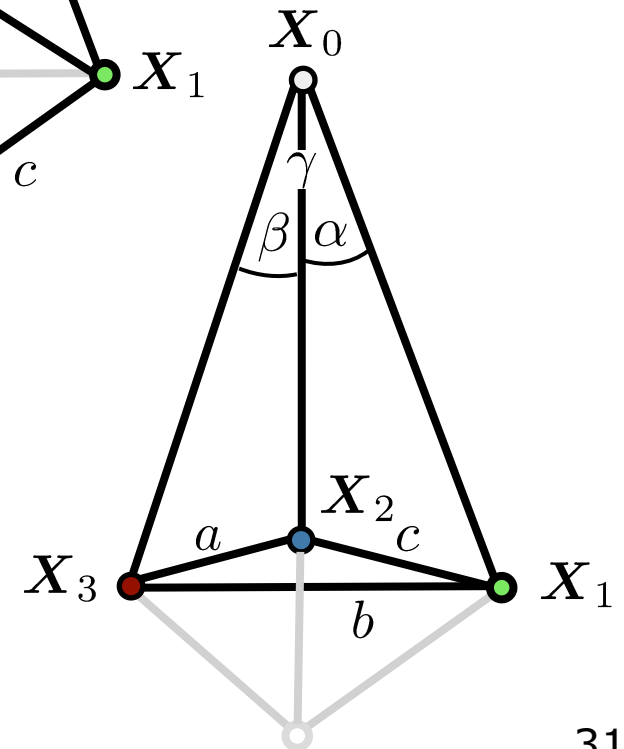
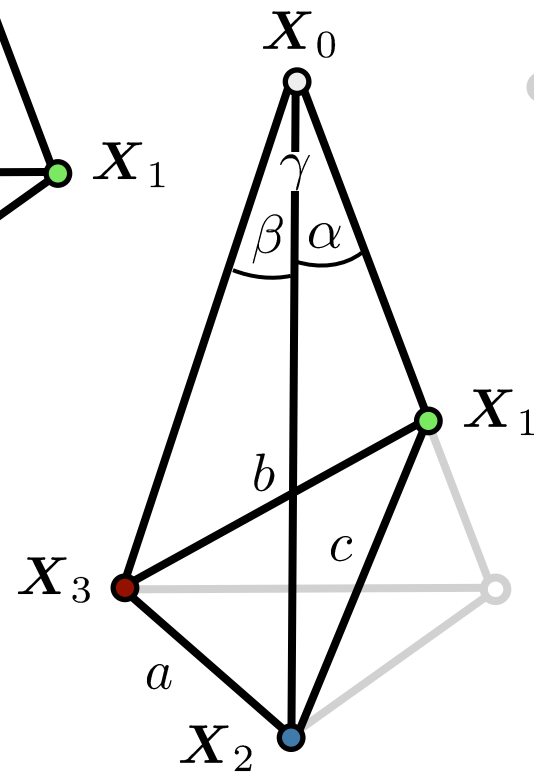
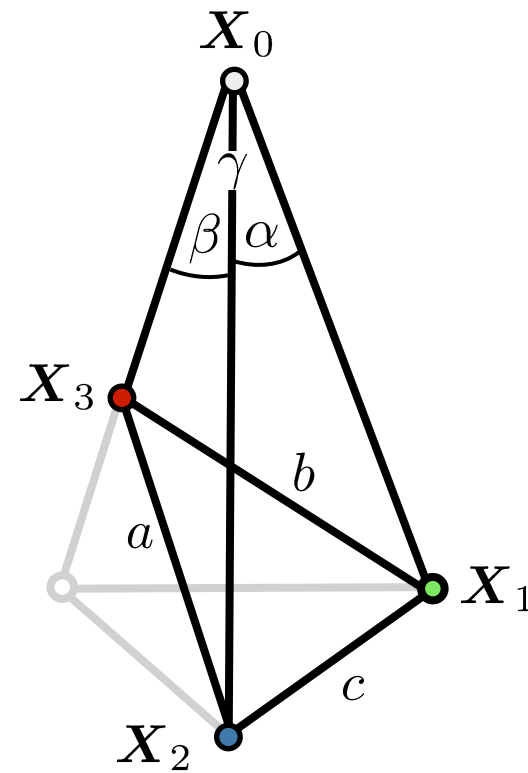
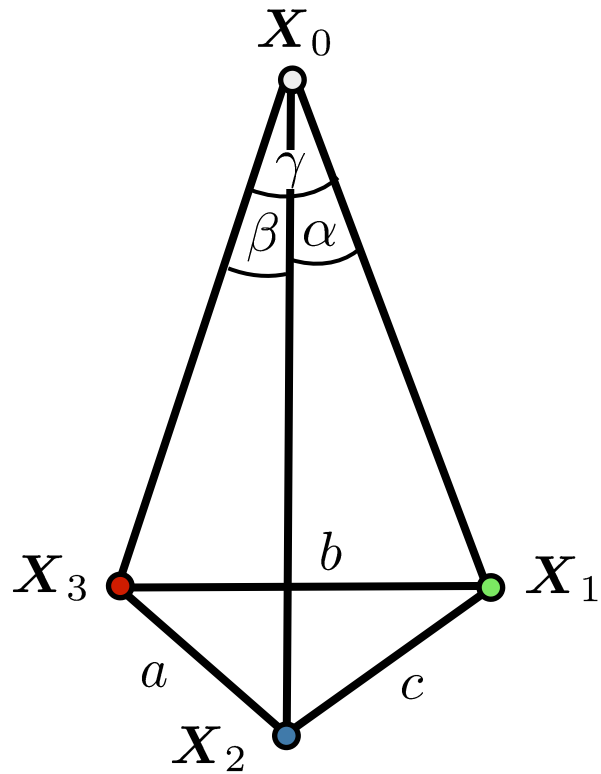
$$\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}_{1\dots 4}$$

# Example for Multiple Solutions

- Assume  $a = b = c$  and  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma$
- Tilting the triangle  $(X_1, X_2, X_3)$  has no effect on  $(a, b, c)$  and  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$



# Four Solutions



# How to Eliminate This Ambiguity?

- Known approximate solution (e.g. from GPS) or
- Use 4<sup>th</sup> points to confirm the right solution



**Unique solution for**

$s_1, s_2, s_3$



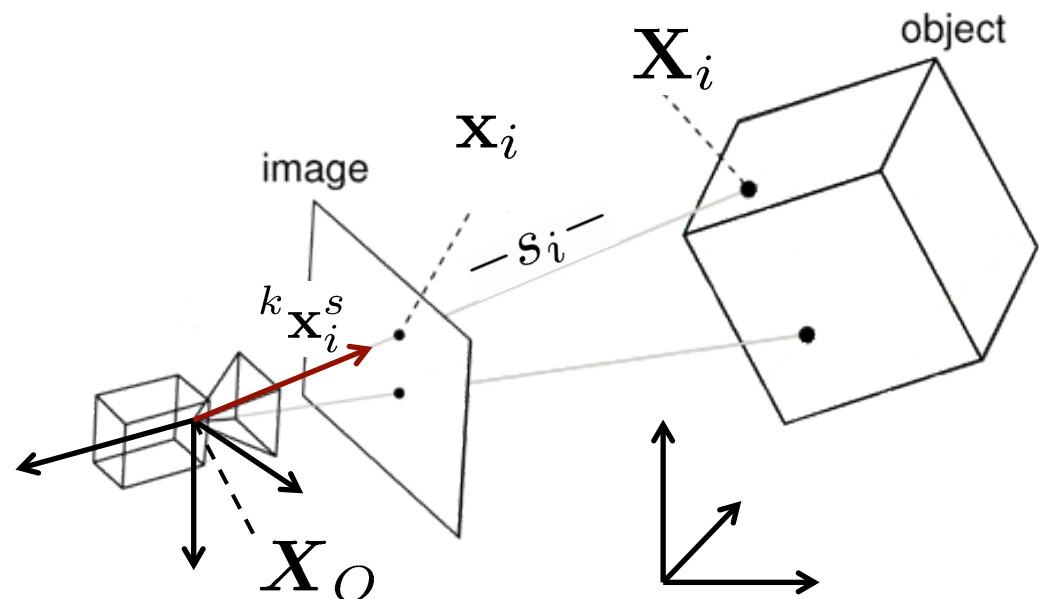
## 2. Orientation of the Camera

### Given:

- Distances and direction vectors to the control points

### Task:

- Estimate 6 extrinsic parameters

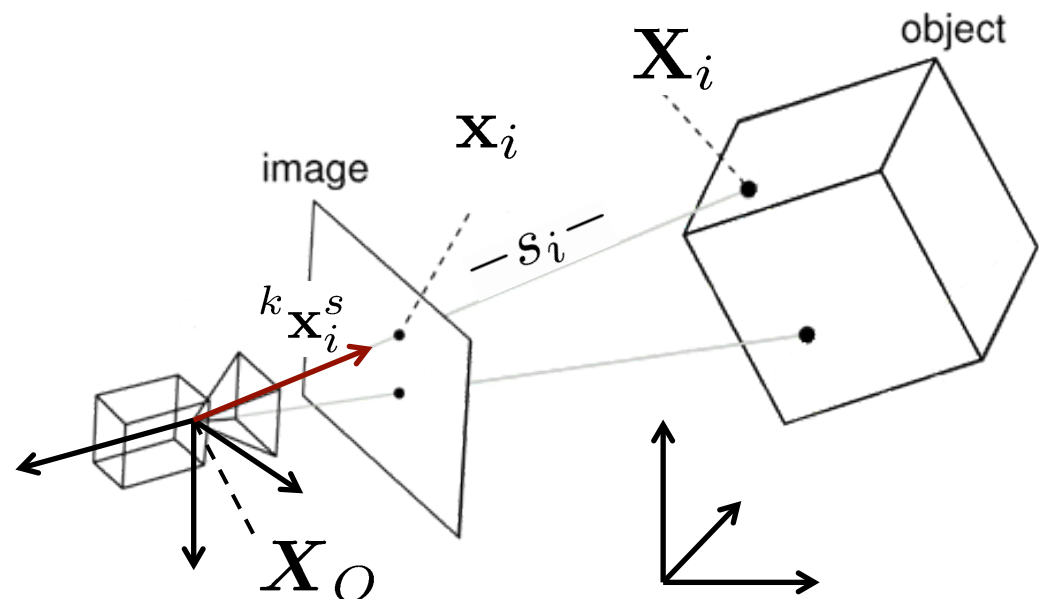


## 2. Orientation of the Camera

1. Compute 3D coordinates of the control points in the camera system

$${}^k\mathbf{X}_i = s_i {}^k\mathbf{x}_i^s \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

**That's what we just discussed!**



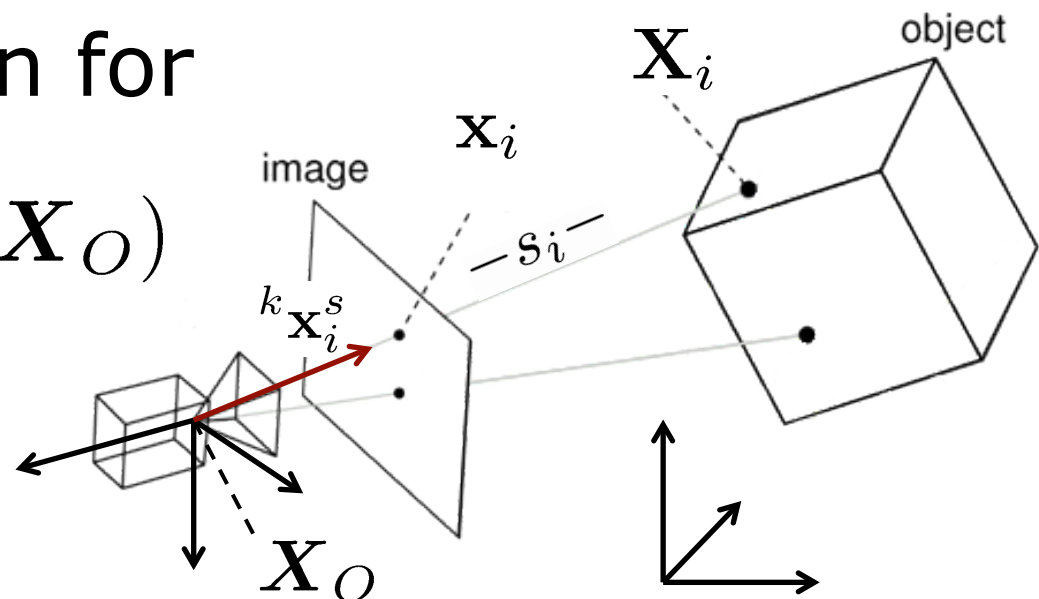
## 2. Orientation of the Camera

1. Compute 3D coordinates of the control points in the camera system

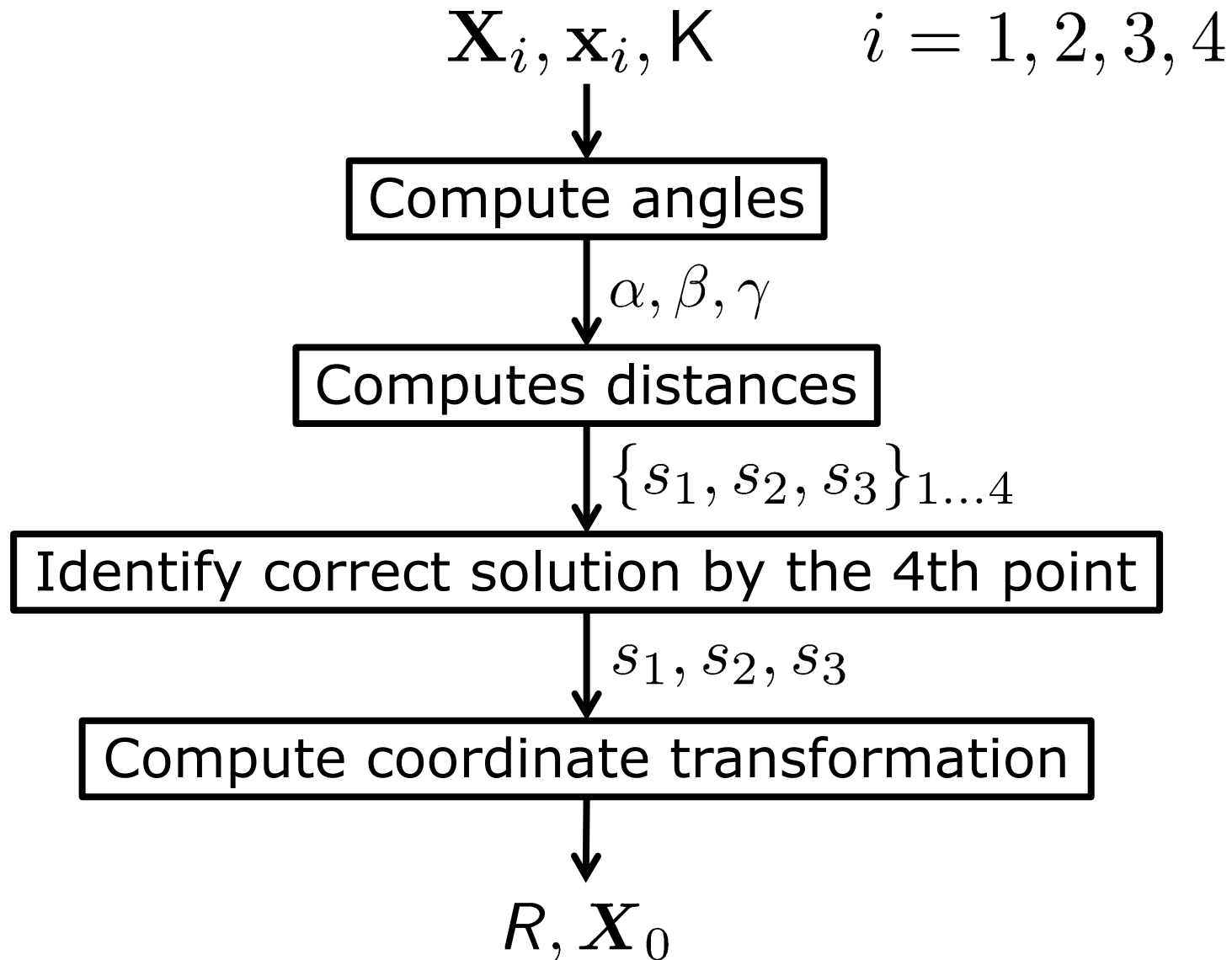
$${}^k\mathbf{X}_i = s_i {}^k\mathbf{x}_i^s \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

2. Compute coordinate transformation for

$${}^k\mathbf{X}_i = R(\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_O)$$



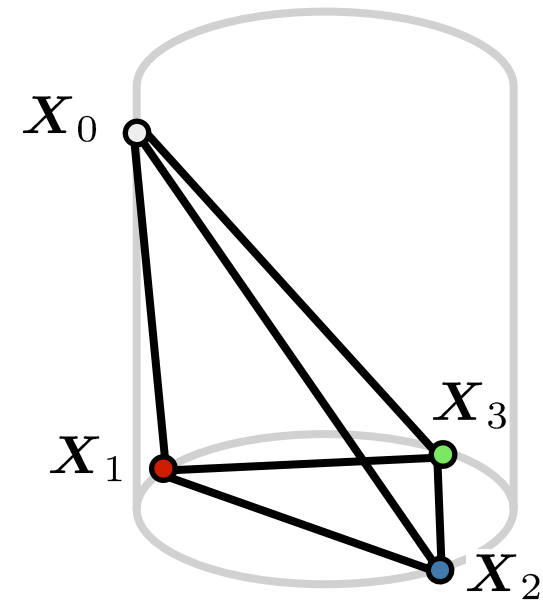
# P3P/SR in a Nutshell



# Critical Surfaces

## “Critical cylinder”

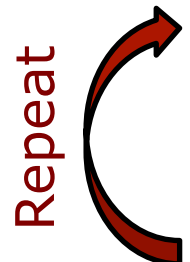
- If the projection center lies on a cylinder defined by the control points
- Small changes in angles lead to large changes in coordinates
- Unstable solution



# Outlier Handling with RANSAC

Use **direct solution** to find correct solution among set of corrupted points

- Assume  $I \geq 3$  points

- Repeat 
1. Select 3 points randomly
  2. Estimate parameters of SR/P3P
  3. Count the number of other points that support current hypotheses
  4. Select best solution

- Can deal with large numbers of outliers in data

# **Orienting a calibrated camera by using $> 3$ points**

## **Spatial Resection Iterative Solution**

# Overview: Iterative Solution

- Over determined system with  $I > 3$
- No direct solution but iterative LS
- Main steps
  - Build the system of observation equations
  - Measure image points  $x_i, i = 1, \dots, I$
  - Estimate initial solution  $R, X_o \rightarrow x^{(0)}$
  - Adjustment
    - Linearizing
    - Estimate extrinsic parameter  $\hat{x}$
    - Iterate until convergence



# Summary: P3P/SR

- Estimates the **pose** of a **calibrated camera** given control points
- Uses  **$\geq 3$  points**
- **Direct solution**
  - Fast
  - Suited for outlier detection with RANSAC
- **Statistically optimal solution using iterative least squares**
  - Uses all available points
  - Assumes no outliers
  - Allows for accuracy assessments