

Photogrammetry & Robotics Lab

Projective 3-Point (P3P) Algorithm or Spatial Resection

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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

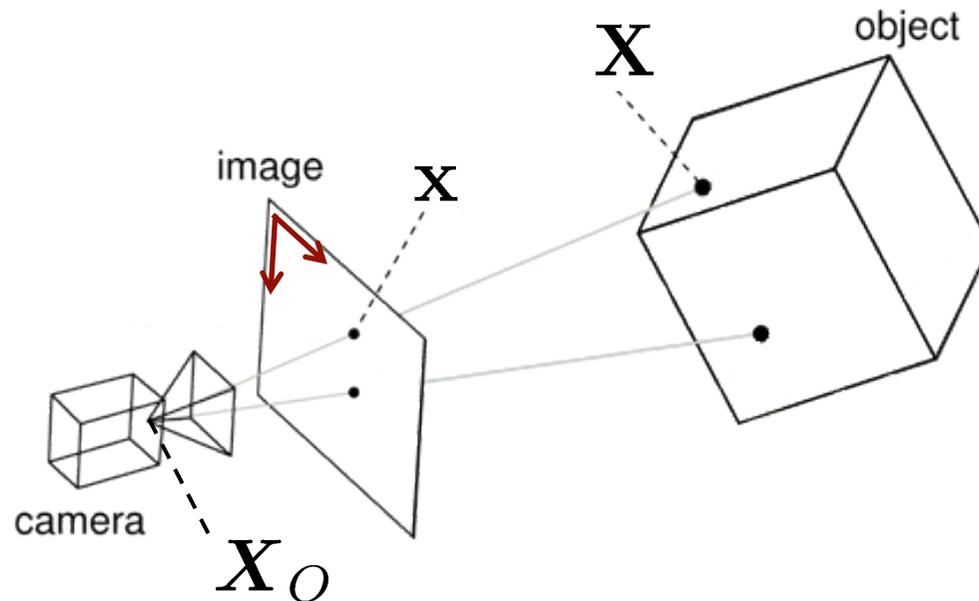
Wanted:

- 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}

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



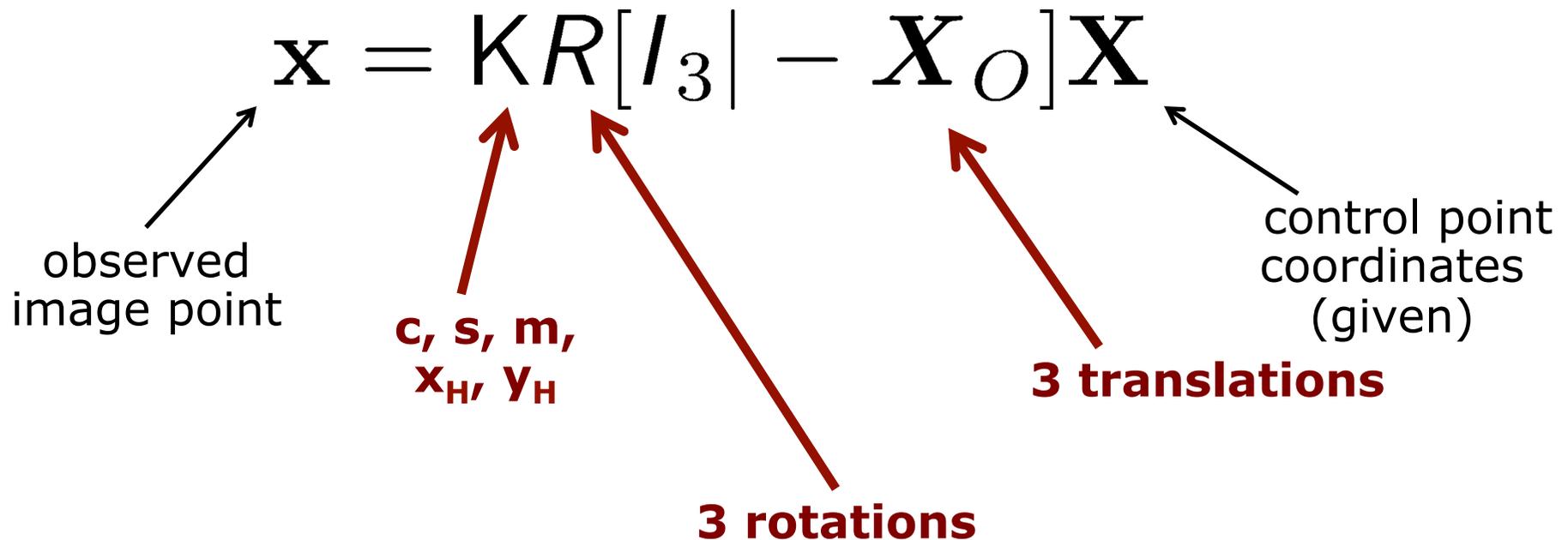
Reminder: Camera Orientation

$$\mathbf{x} = KR[I_3 | -X_O]\mathbf{X} = P \mathbf{X}$$

- **Intrinsics (interior orientation)**
 - Intrinsic parameters of the camera
 - Given through matrix K
- **Extrinsics (exterior orientation)**
 - Extrinsic parameters of the camera
 - Given through X_O and R

Direct Linear Transform (DLT)

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



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 include:

- 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 ≥ 3 points**

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

Problem Formulation

Given:

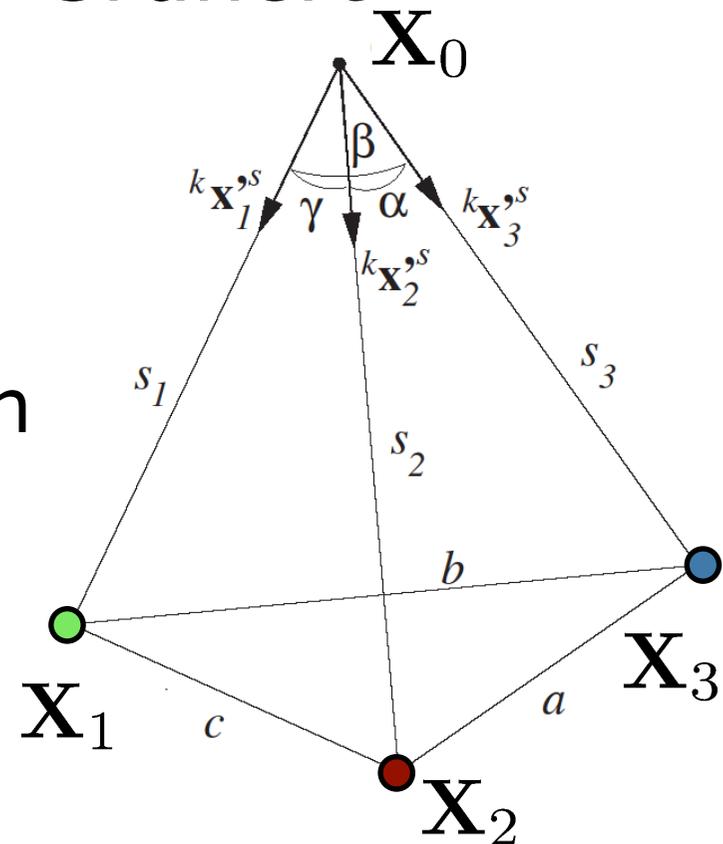
- 3D coordinates X_i of $I \geq 3$ object points
- Corresponding image coordinates x_i recorded using a calibrated camera

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

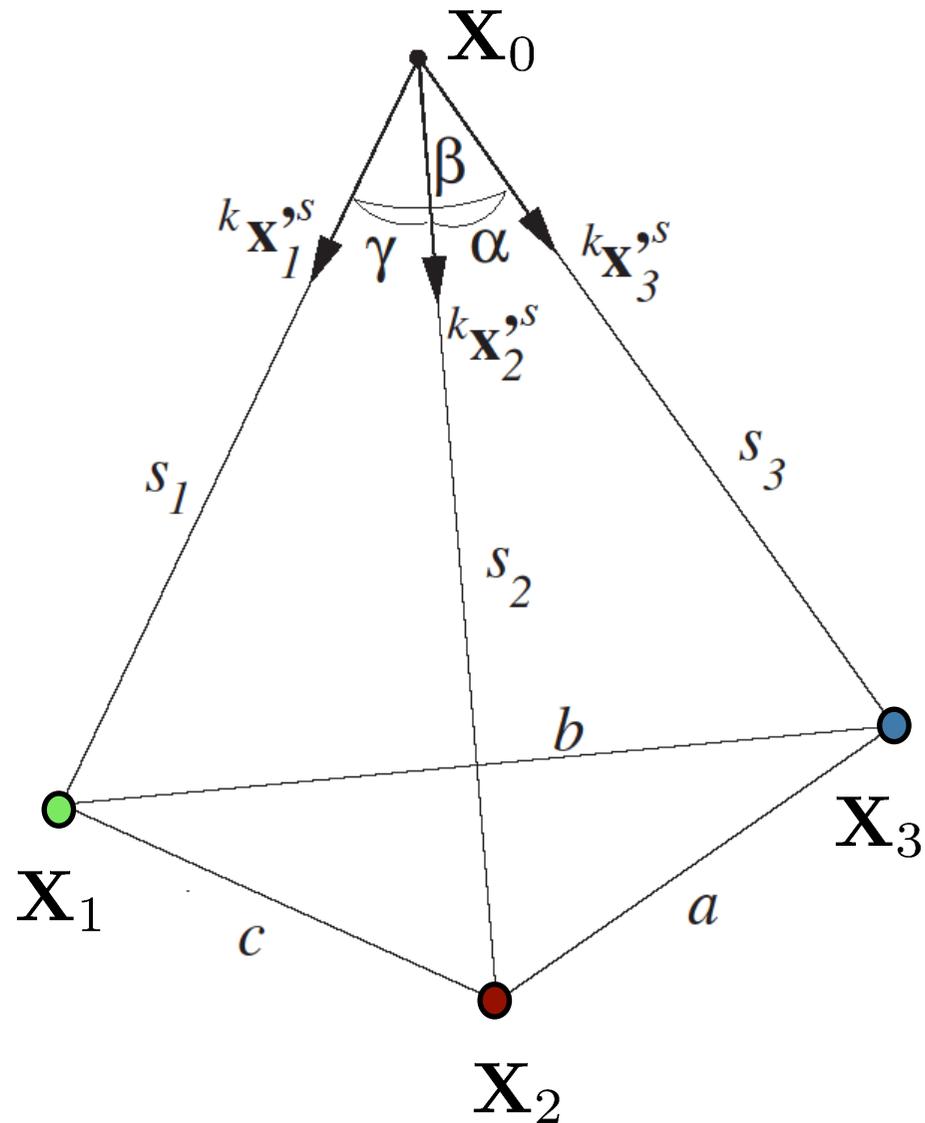


Direct Solution by Grunert

2-Step process

Estimate

1. length of projection rays
2. orientation

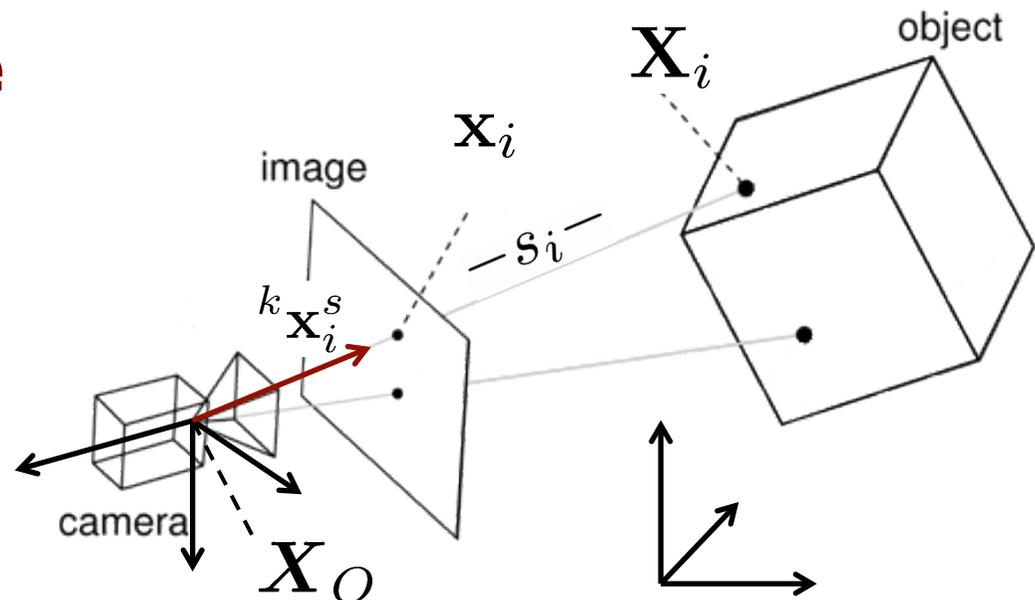


P3P/SR Model

- 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

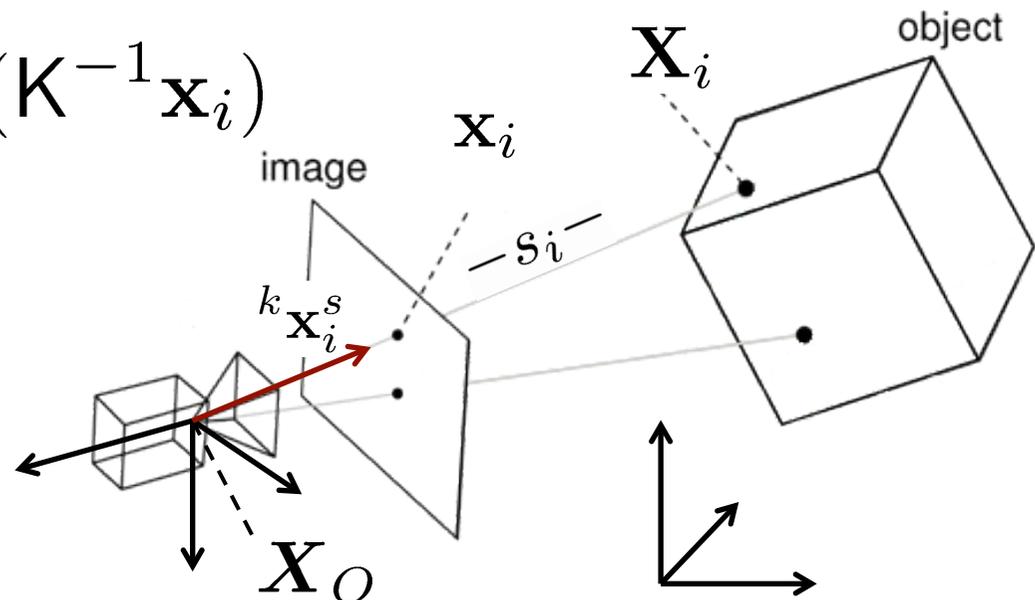
- Coordinates of object points within the camera system are given by

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

- 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

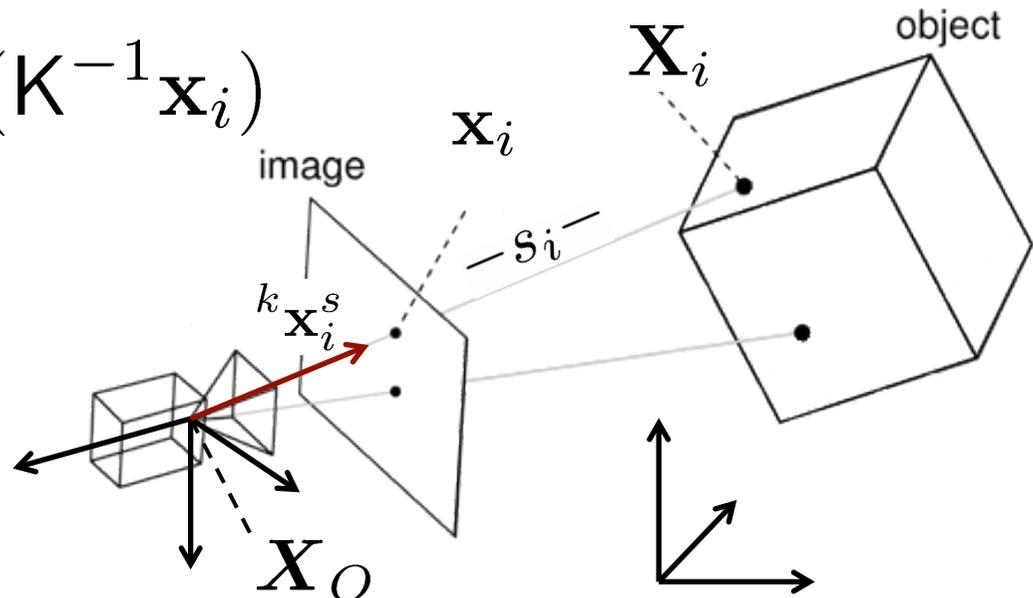
$$s_i \mathbf{x}_i^s = R(\mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{X}_O) \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

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

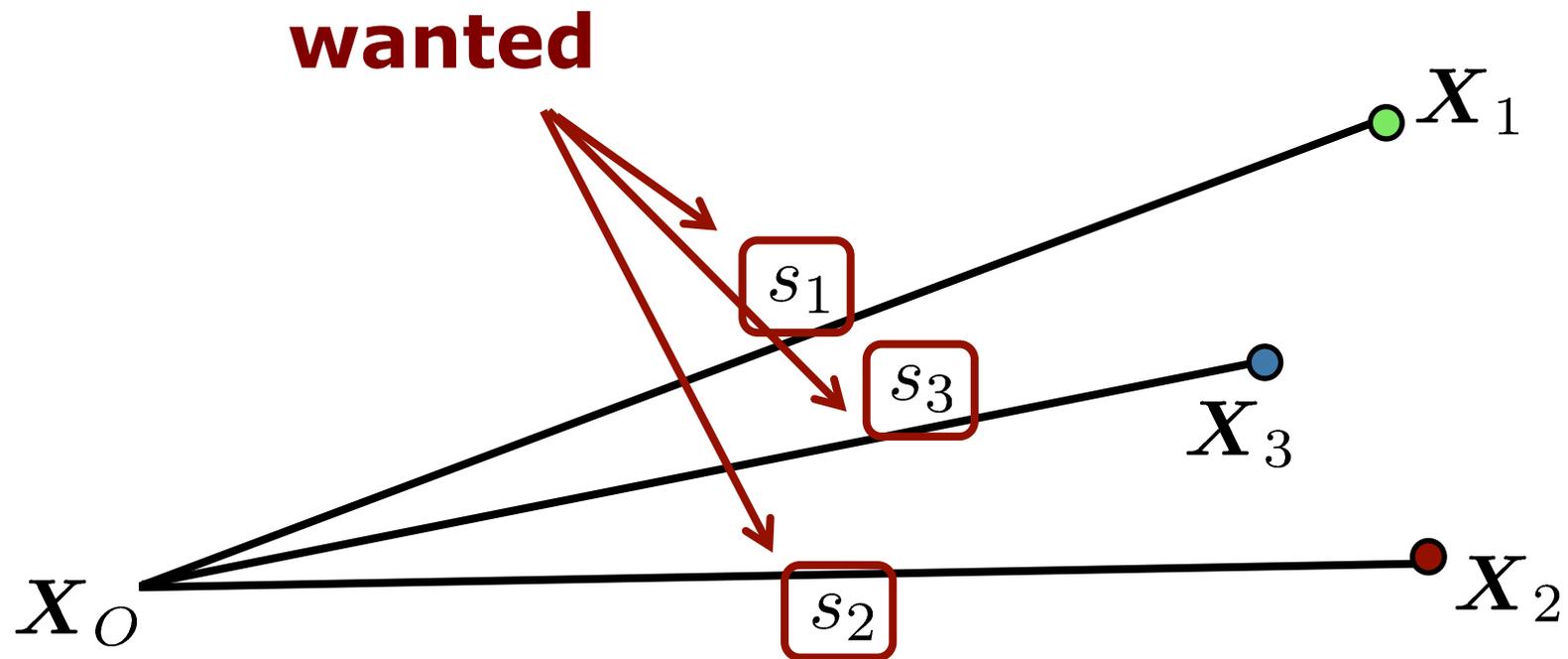
$$k \mathbf{x}_i^s = -\text{sign}(c) N(K^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i)$$

spherical normalization

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



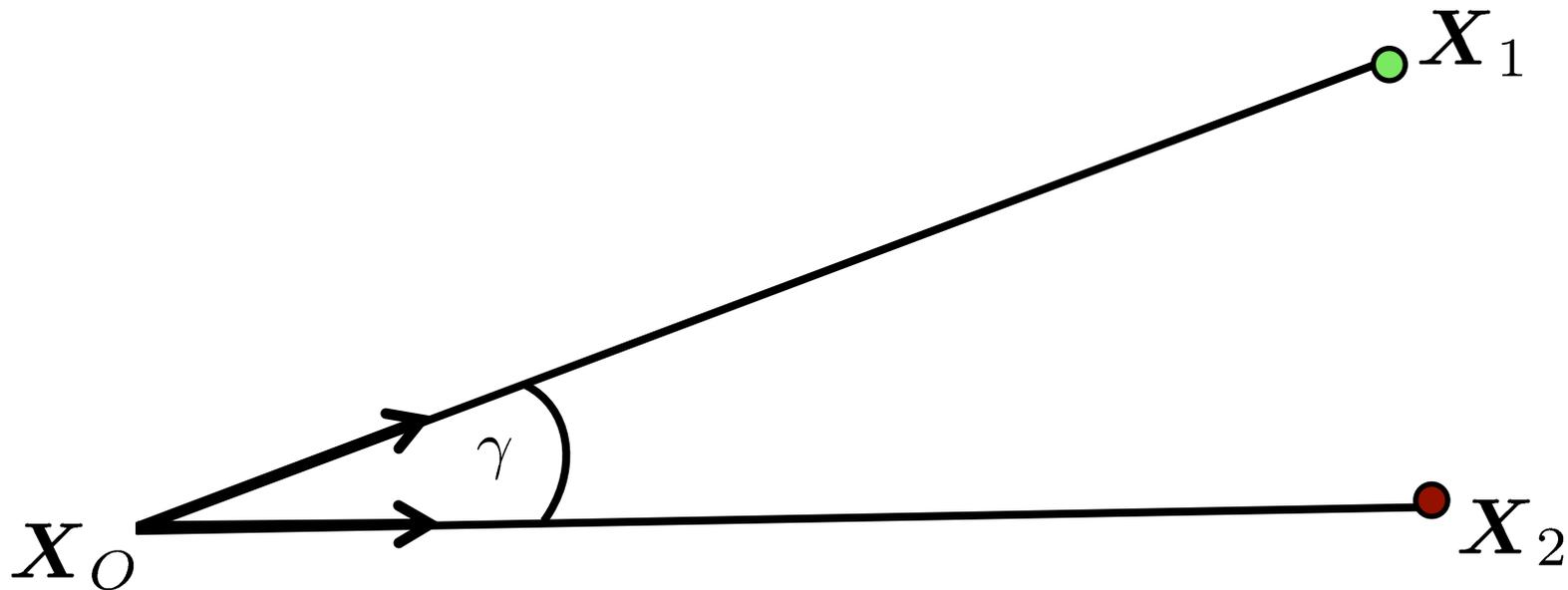
1. Get Length of Projection Rays



1. Get Length of Projection Rays

- Start with computing the angle between rays:

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



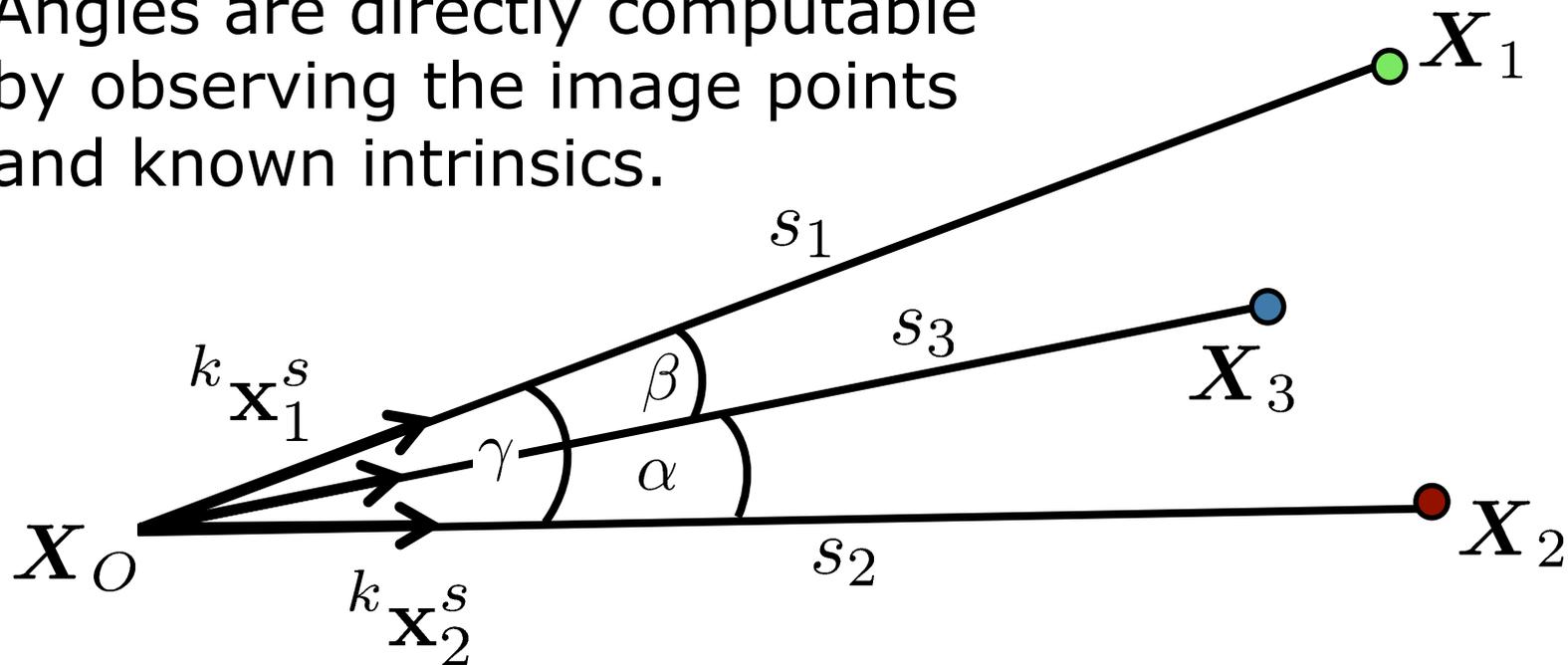
1. Get Length of Projection Rays

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

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

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

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



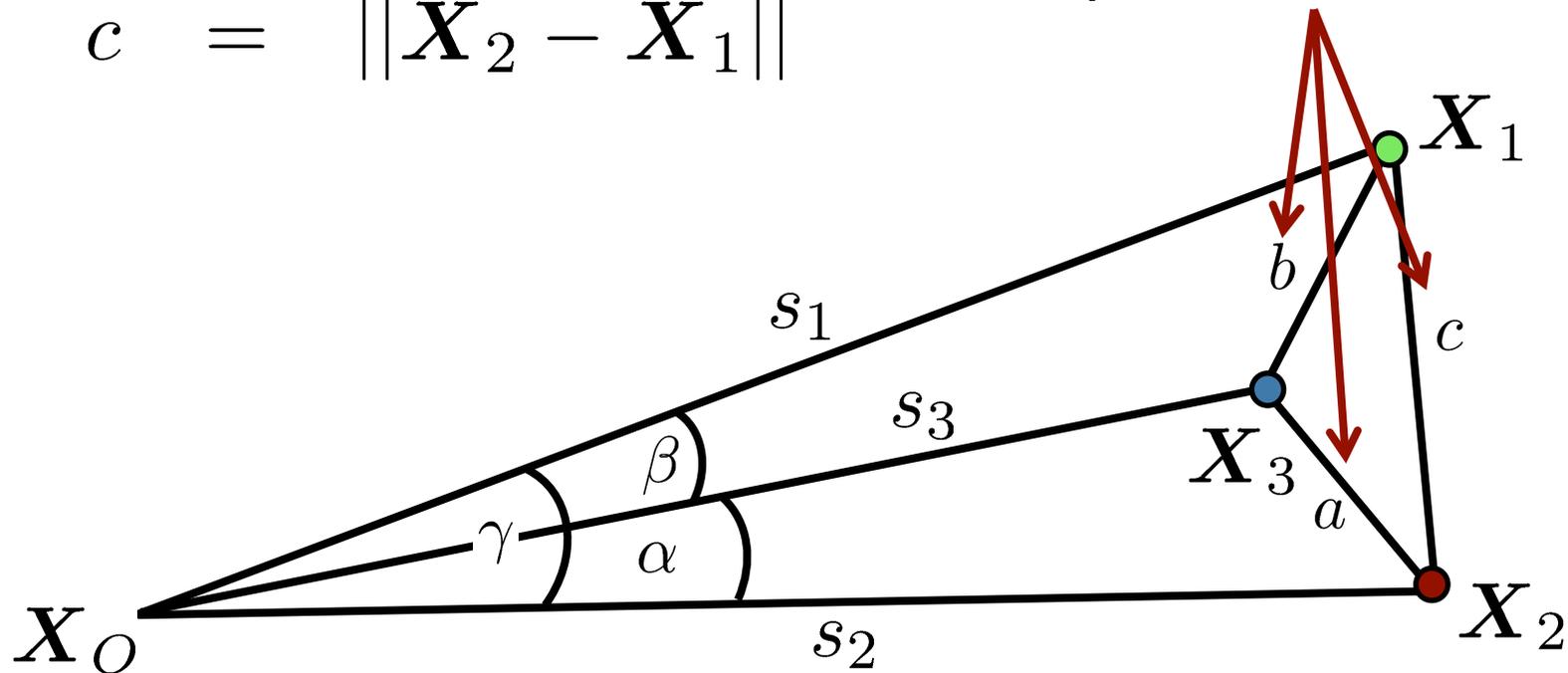
1. Get Length of Projection Rays

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

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

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

Given through
known control
point coordinates

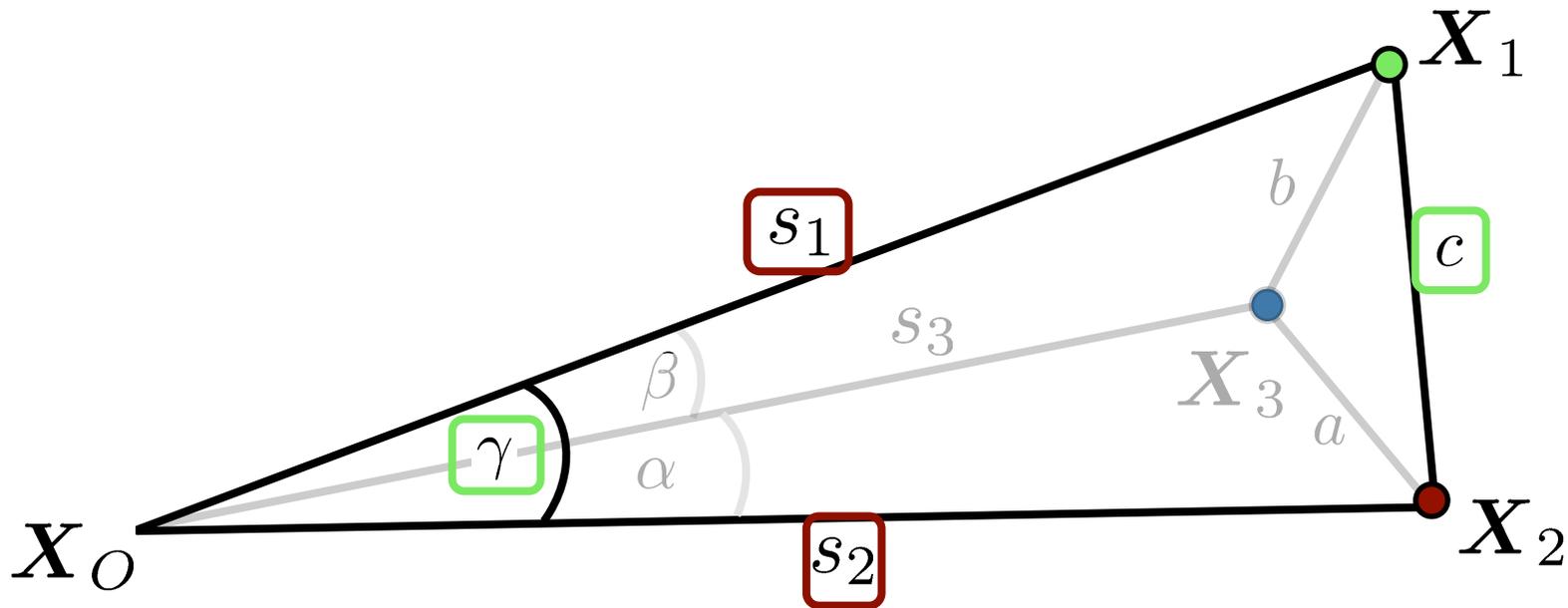


Use the Law of Cosines

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



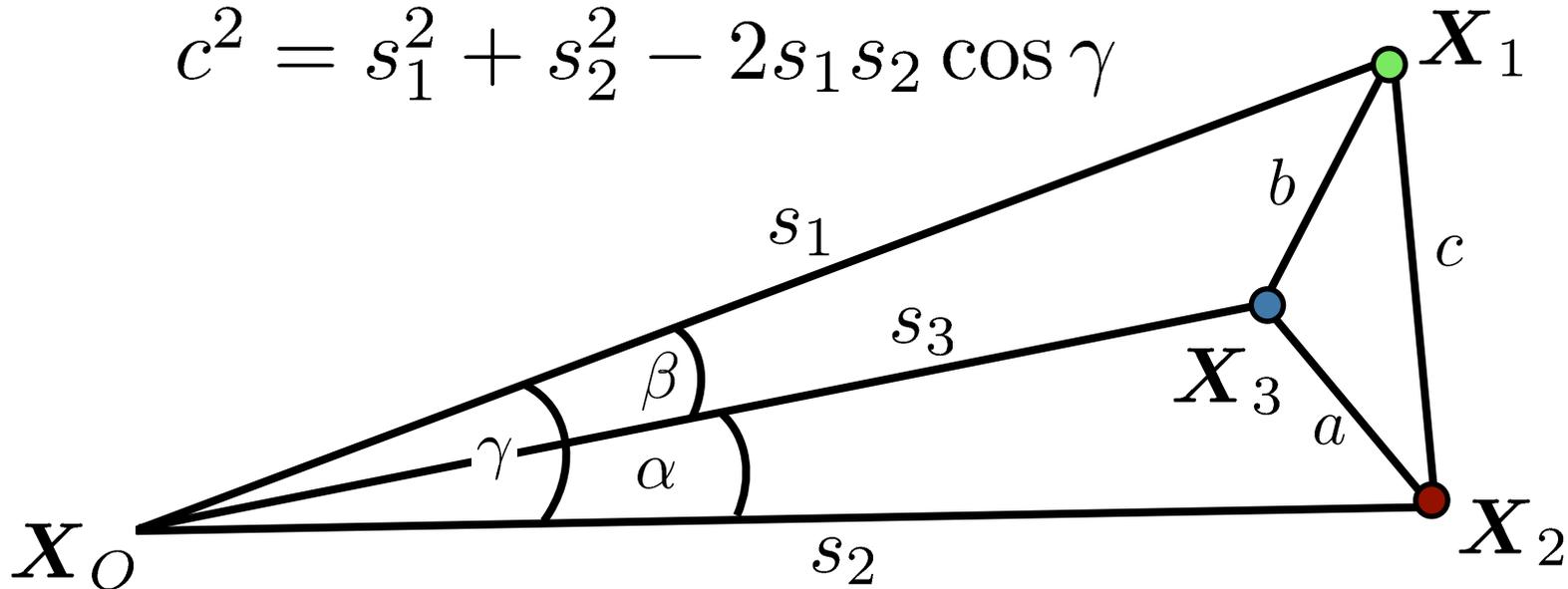
Use the Law of Cosines

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:

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

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

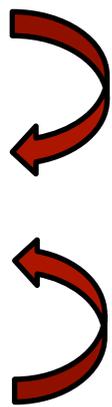
Compute Distances

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

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


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

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

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

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

Forth Degree Polynomial

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

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

Forth Degree Polynomial

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

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

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

Fourth 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:

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

$$s_3 = v s_1$$

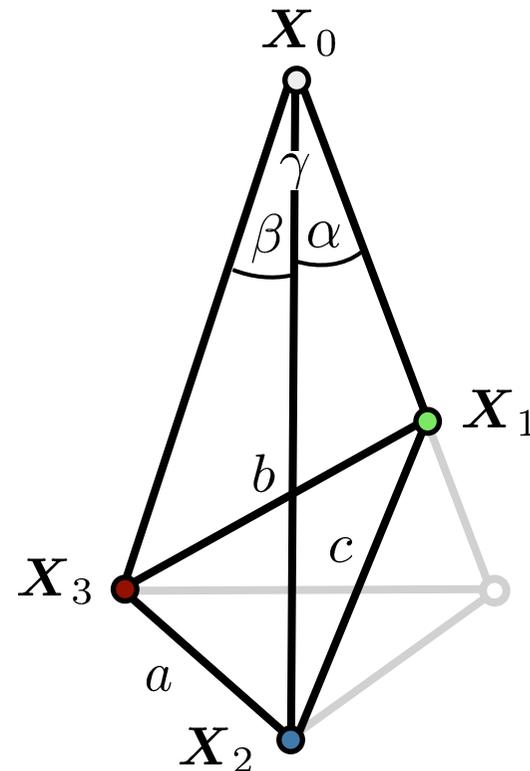
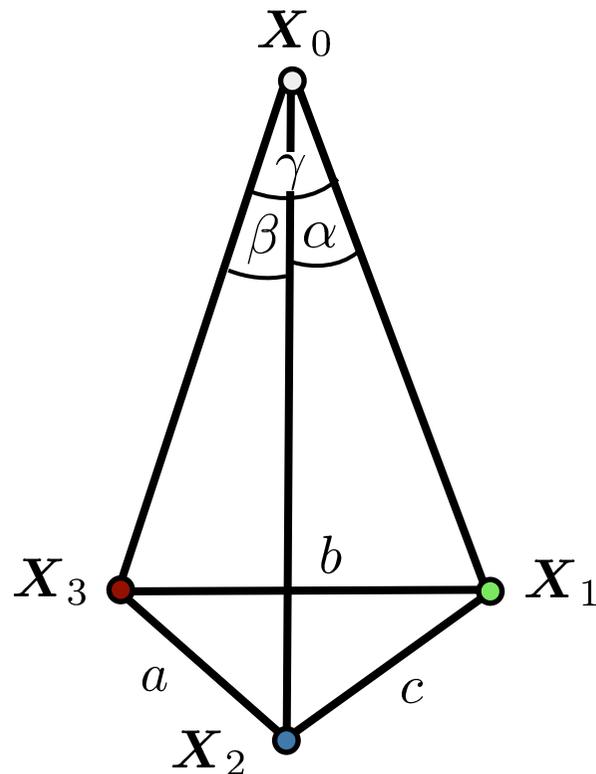
$$a^2 = s_2^2 + s_3^2 - 2s_2s_3 \cos \alpha \Rightarrow s_2 = \dots$$

Problem:
up to 4 possible solutions !

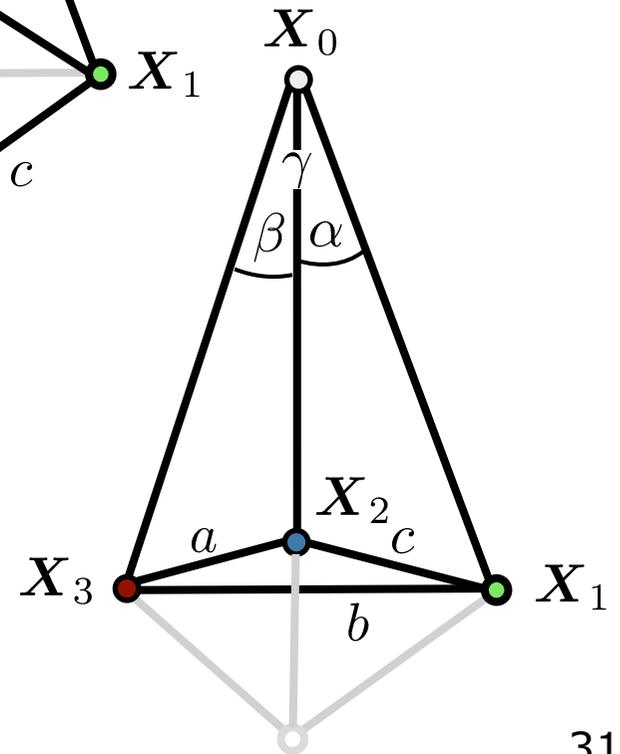
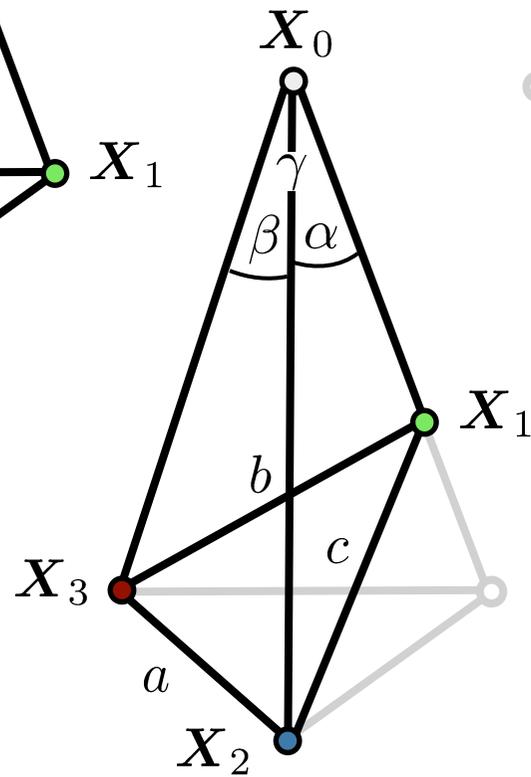
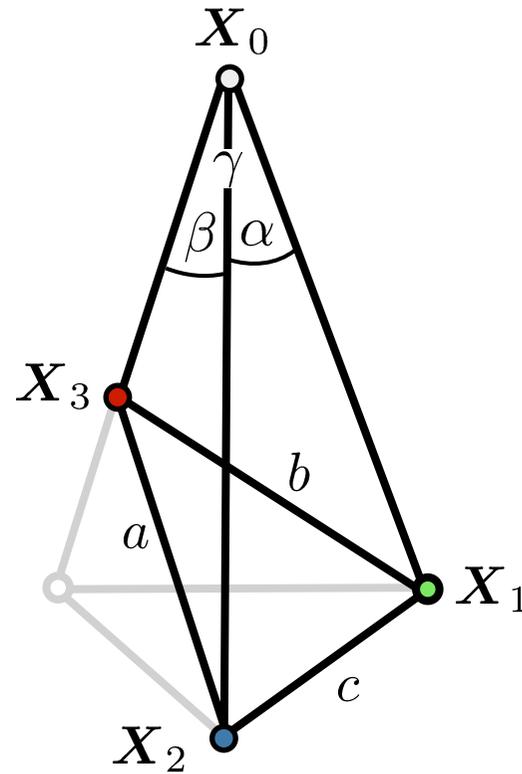
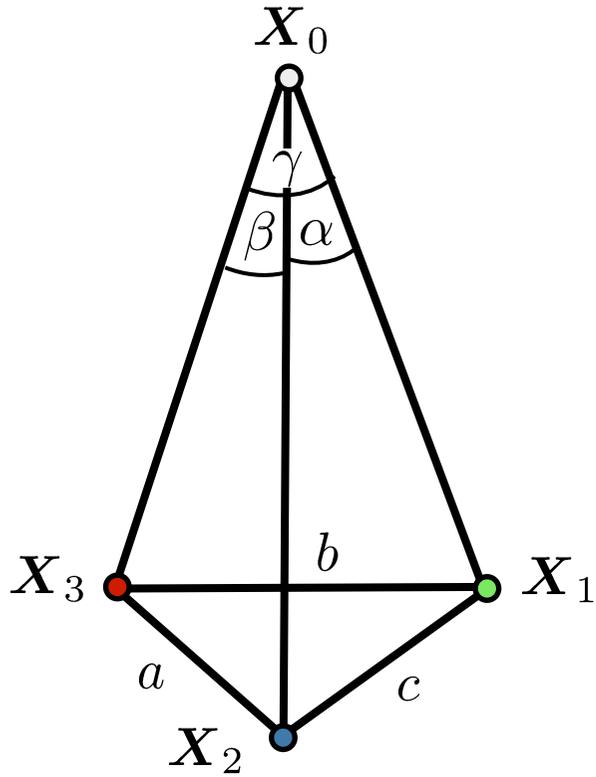
$$\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}_{1\dots 4}$$

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 (α, β, γ)



Four Solutions



How to Eliminate This Ambiguity?

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



Unique solution for

s_1, s_2, s_3

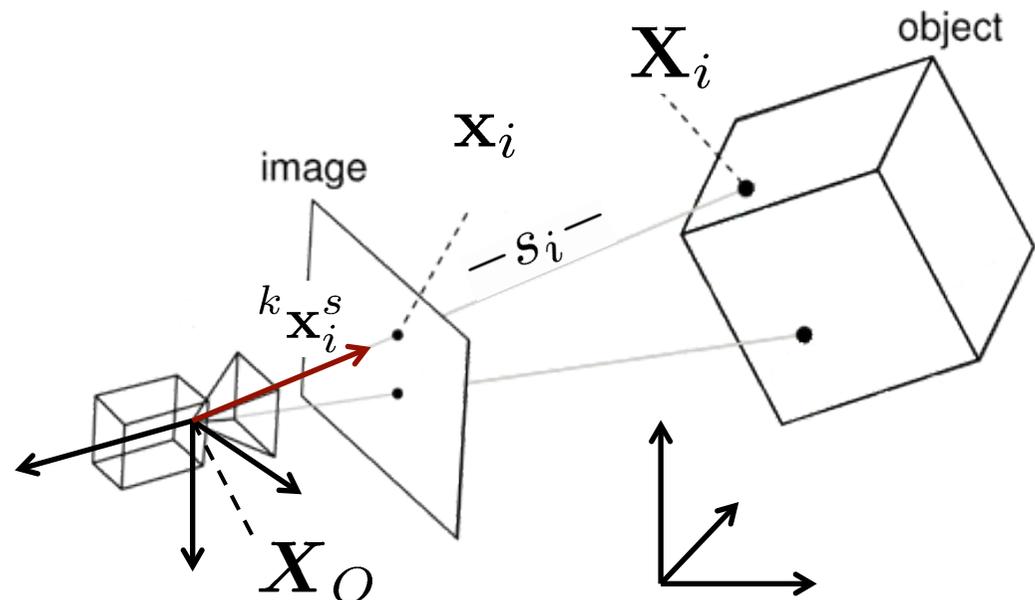
2. Orientation of the Camera

Given:

- Distances and direction vectors to the control points

Task:

- Estimate 6 extrinsic parameters

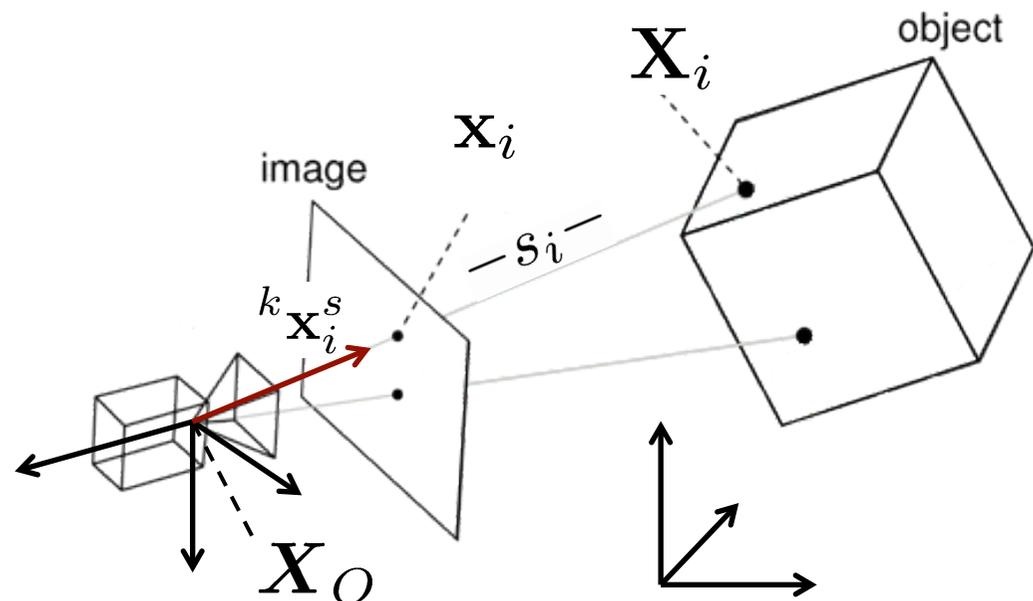


2. Orientation of the Camera

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!



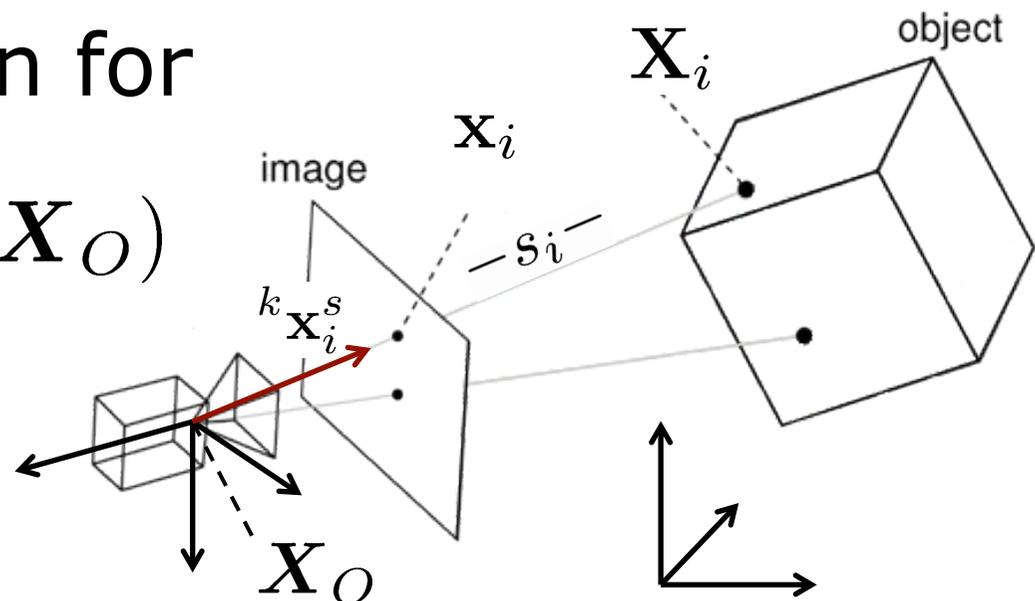
2. Orientation of the Camera

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

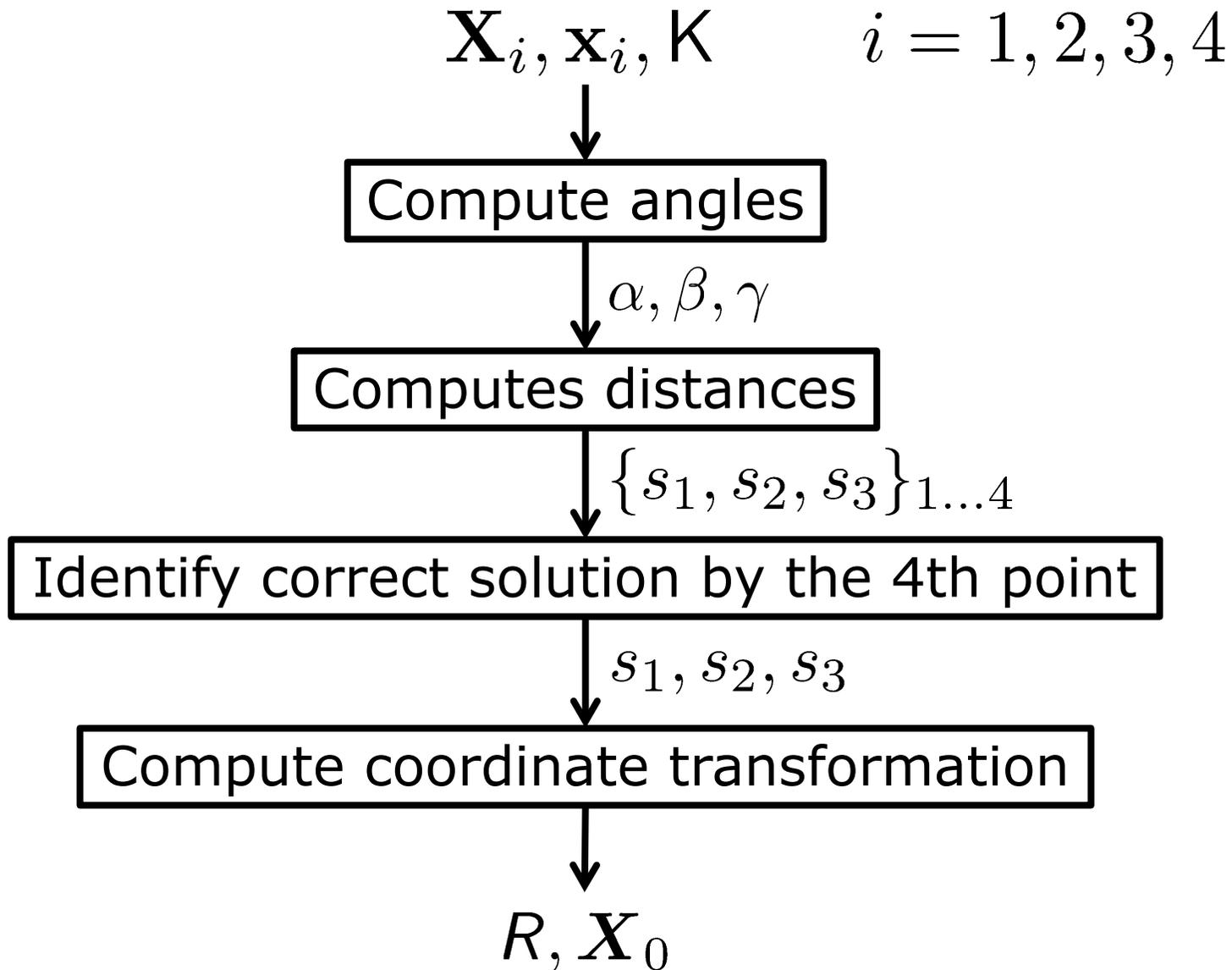
$${}^k \mathbf{X}_i = s_i {}^k \mathbf{x}_i^s \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

2. Compute coordinate transformation for

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



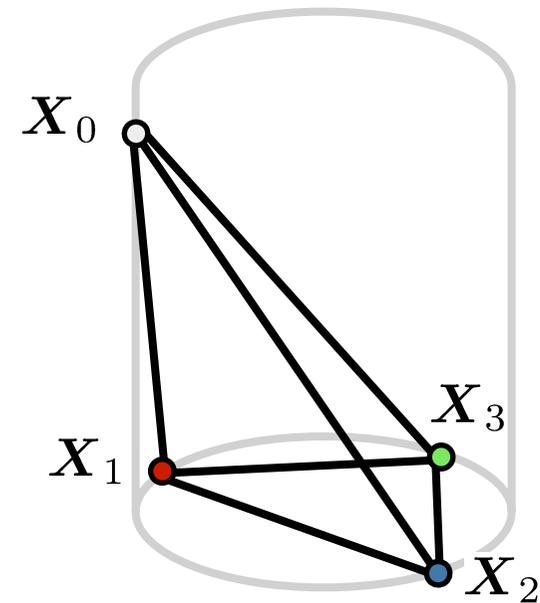
P3P/SR in a Nutshell



Critical Surfaces

“Critical cylinder”

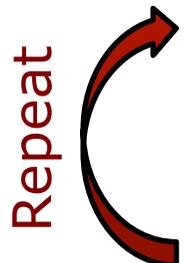
- If the projection center lies on a cylinder defined by the control points
- Small changes in angles lead to large changes in coordinates
- Unstable solution



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 $\mathbf{x}_i, i = 1, \dots, I$
 - Estimate initial solution $R, \mathbf{X}_o \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{(0)}$
 - Adjustment
 - Linearizing
 - Estimate extrinsic parameter $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$
 - Iterate until convergence

Summary: P3P/SR

- Estimates the **pose** of a **calibrated camera** given control points
- Uses **≥ 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