

Radial Distortion



magnification/focal length different for different angles of inclination

pincushion
(tele-photo)

barrel
(wide-angle)



Can be corrected! (if parameters are know)



Radial distortion

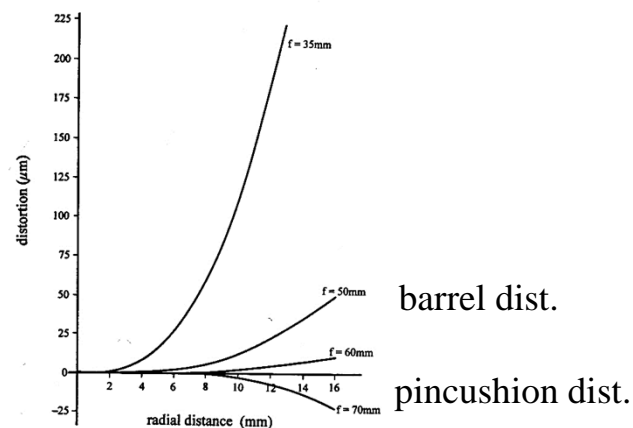
- Due to spherical lenses (cheap)
- Model:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} f_x & s & c_x \\ 0 & f_y & c_y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{R}^\top \\ 0_3^\top \\ -\mathbf{R}^\top \mathbf{t} \\ 1 \end{array} \right] \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{R}(x, y) = (1 + K_1(x^2 + y^2) + K_2(x^4 + y^4) + \dots) \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$



straight lines are not straight anymore





Radial distortion

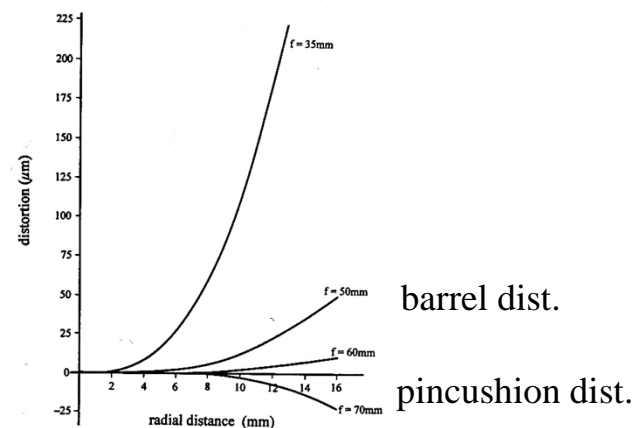
- Due to spherical lenses (cheap)
- Model (following Tsai 1987 et al.):

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{M}P$$

λ is a polynomial function of $\hat{r}^2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \hat{u}^2 + \hat{v}^2$, i.e., $\lambda = 1 + \kappa_1 \hat{r}^2 + \kappa_2 \hat{r}^4 + \dots$



straight lines are not straight anymore





Radial distortion example





3.3.1 Estimation of Projection Matrix

Geometrically, radial distortion changes the distance between the image center and the image point \mathbf{p} but it does not affect the direction of the vector joining these two points. This is called the *radial alignment constraint* by Tsai, and it can be expressed algebraically by writing

$$\lambda \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdot \mathbf{P}}{\mathbf{m}_3 \cdot \mathbf{P}} \\ \frac{\mathbf{m}_2 \cdot \mathbf{P}}{\mathbf{m}_3 \cdot \mathbf{P}} \end{pmatrix} \implies v(\mathbf{m}_1 \cdot \mathbf{P}) - u(\mathbf{m}_2 \cdot \mathbf{P}) = 0.$$

This is a linear constraint on the vectors \mathbf{m}_1 and \mathbf{m}_2 . Given n fiducial points we obtain n equations in the eight coefficients of the vectors \mathbf{m}_1 and \mathbf{m}_2 , namely

$$\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{n} = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{Q} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \mathbf{P}_1^T & -u_1 \mathbf{P}_1^T \\ \dots & \dots \\ v_n \mathbf{P}_n^T & -u_n \mathbf{P}_n^T \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{m}_1 \\ \mathbf{m}_2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6.3.9)$$

Note the similarity with the previous case. When $n \geq 8$, the system of equations (6.3.9) is in general overconstrained, and a solution with unit norm can be found using linear least squares.



Useful Links

Demo calibration (some links broken):

- <http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-journals/Videre/001/articles/Zhang/CalibEnv/CalibEnv.html>

Bouget camera calibration SW:

- http://www.vision.caltech.edu/bouguetj/calib_doc/

CVonline: Monocular Camera calibration:

- <http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/cgi/rbf/CVONLINE/entries.pl?TAG250>