

# Real-time Image-based Reconstruction of Pipes Using Omnidirectional Cameras



Dipl. Inf. Sandro Esquivel  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Reinhard Koch

Multimedia Information Processing  
Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel

In cooperation with

IBAK Helmut Hunger GmbH & Co. KG, Kiel

# Motivation



Quelle: <http://www.kanalinspekteure.de>



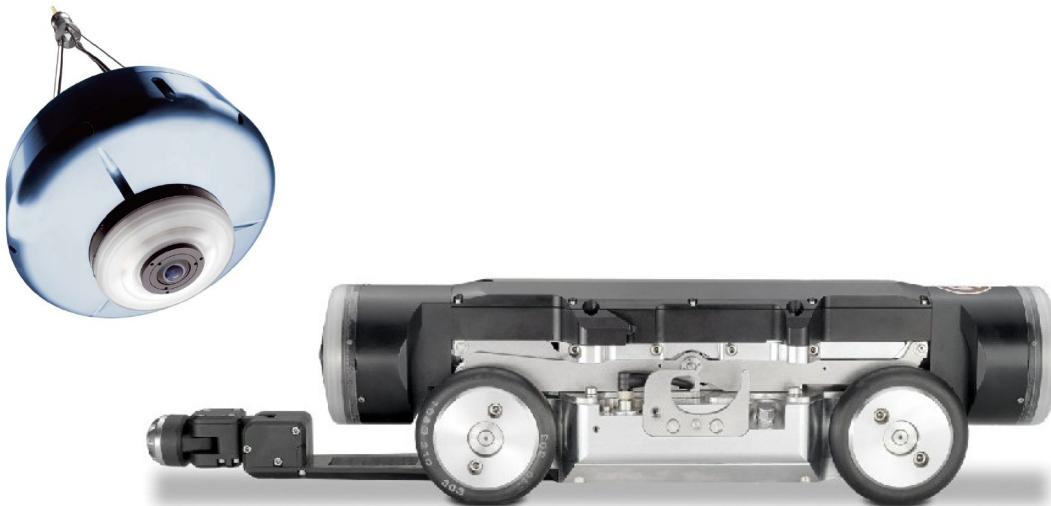
Quelle: <http://www.ibak.de>



# Sewer inspection systems

- Inspection of sewer shafts and pipes with mobile camera systems
- Manual evaluation of videos by expert

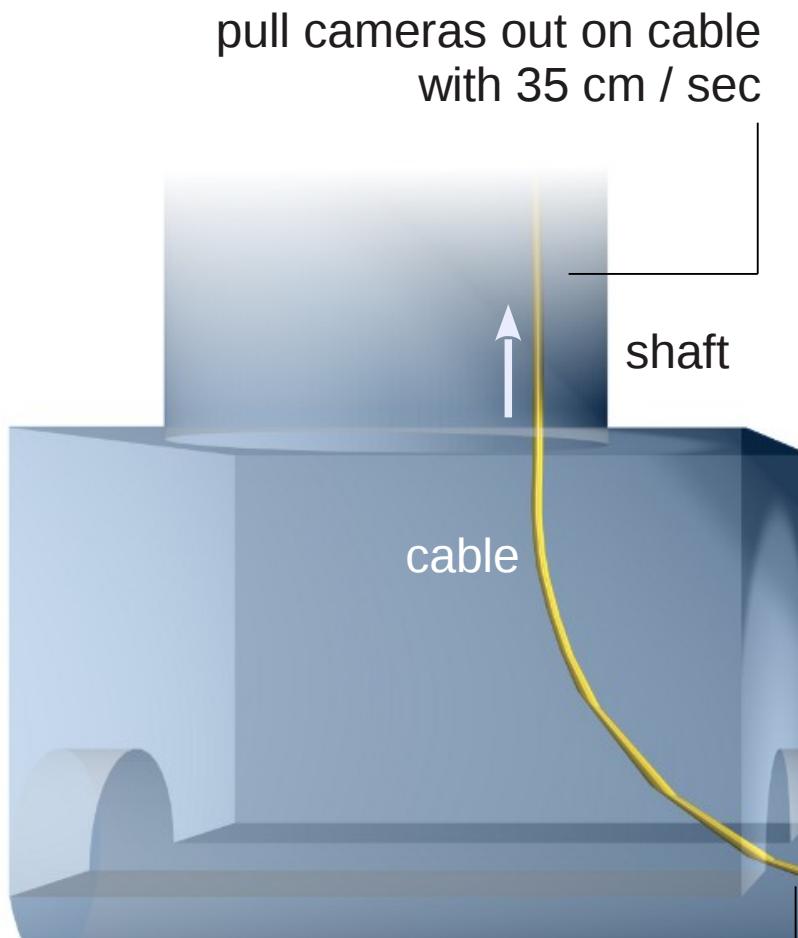
**Task:** Create 3d reconstruction  
for visualization and measuring



## Contents

- Image Acquisition and Structure from Motion
- Our reconstruction approach
  - Cylinder mapping
  - Global geometric correction
  - Profile fitting and model creation
- Tests and applications
- Conclusion

# Image acquisition for sewer pipe inspection



pull cameras out on cable  
with 35 cm / sec

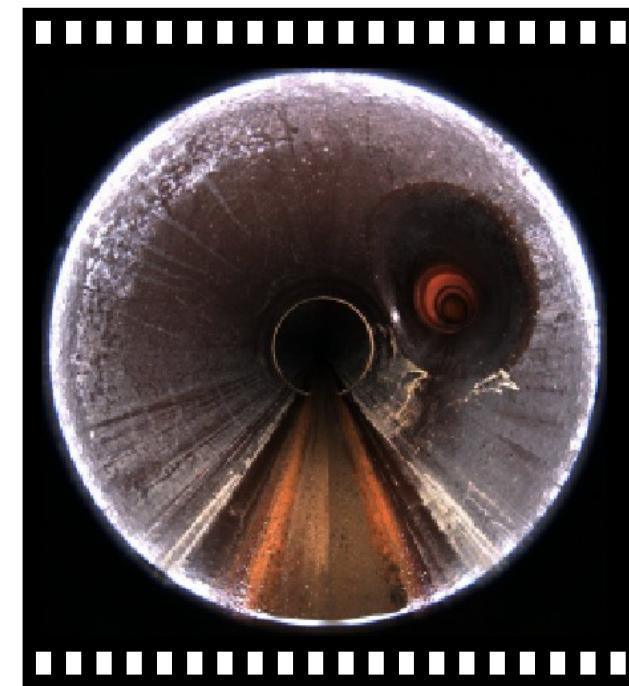
shaft

cable

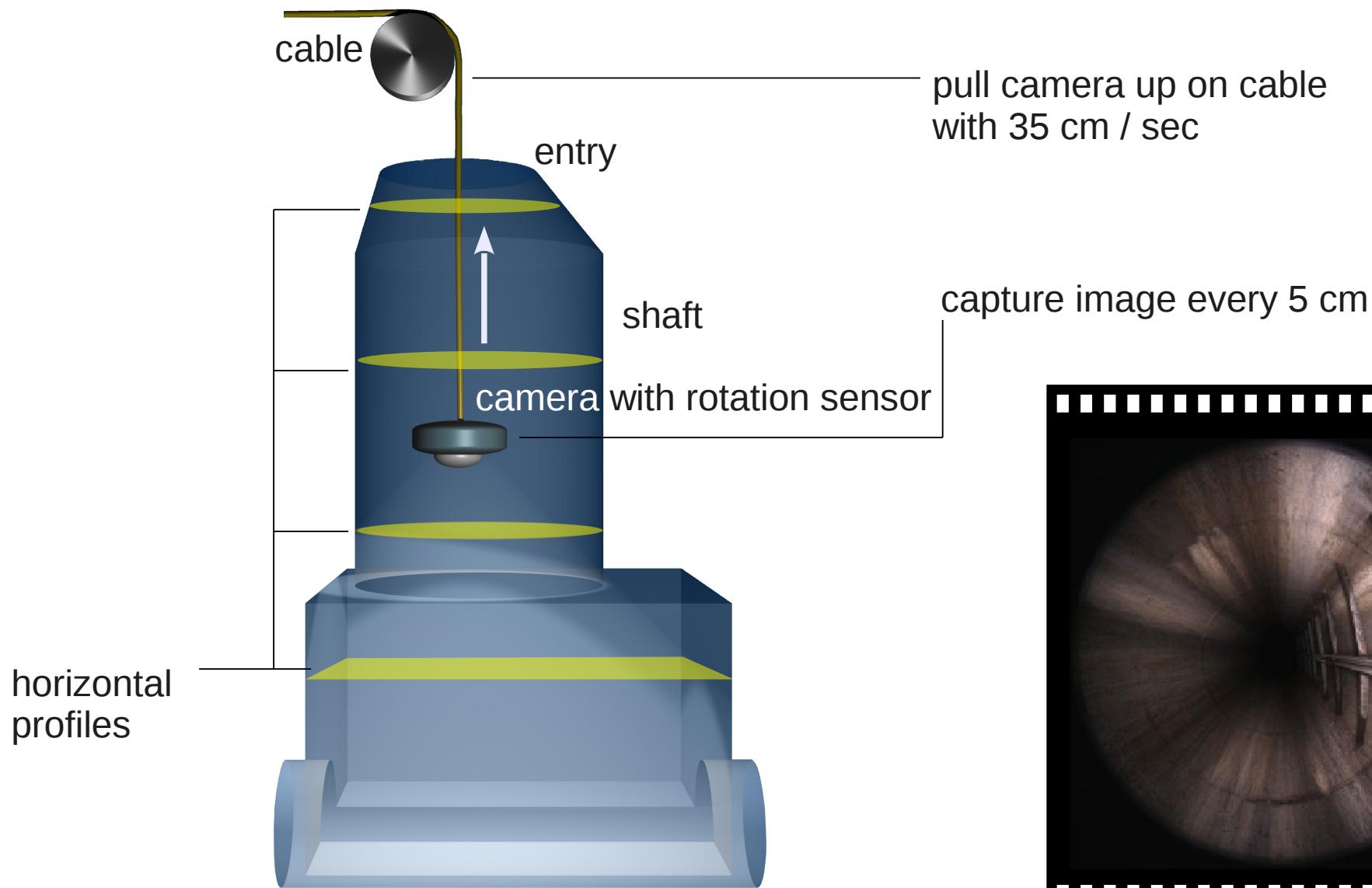
vertical profiles

mobile system with cameras

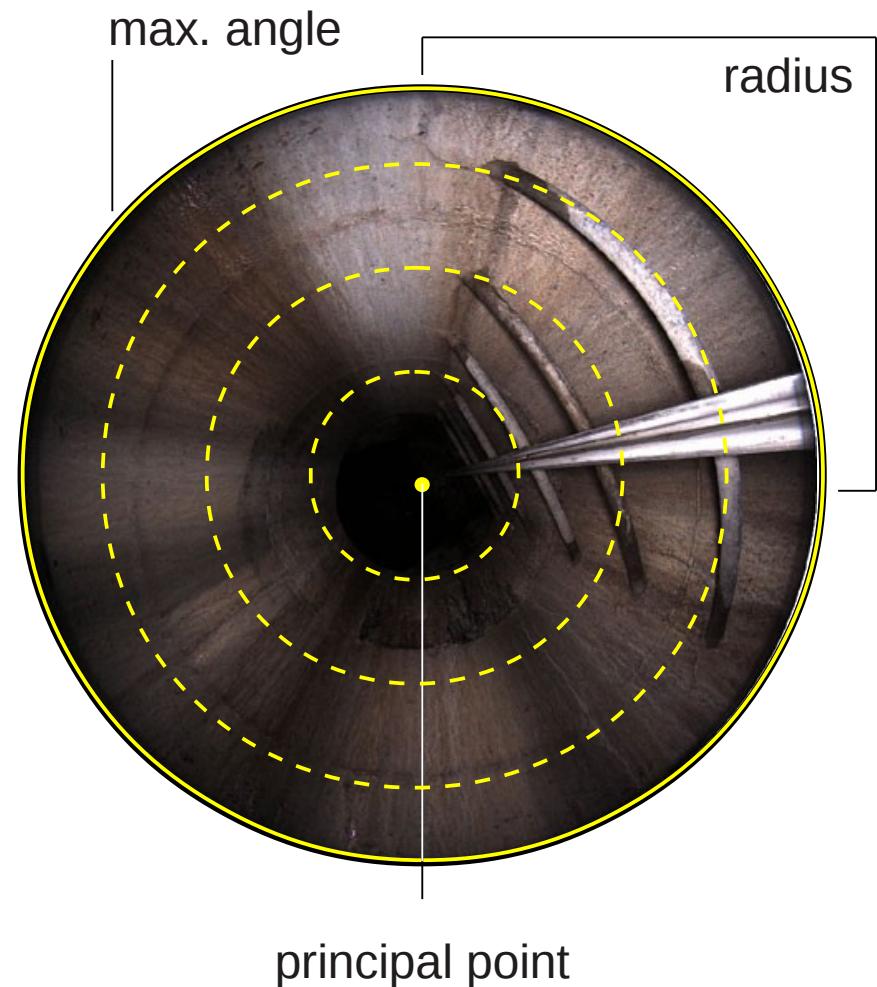
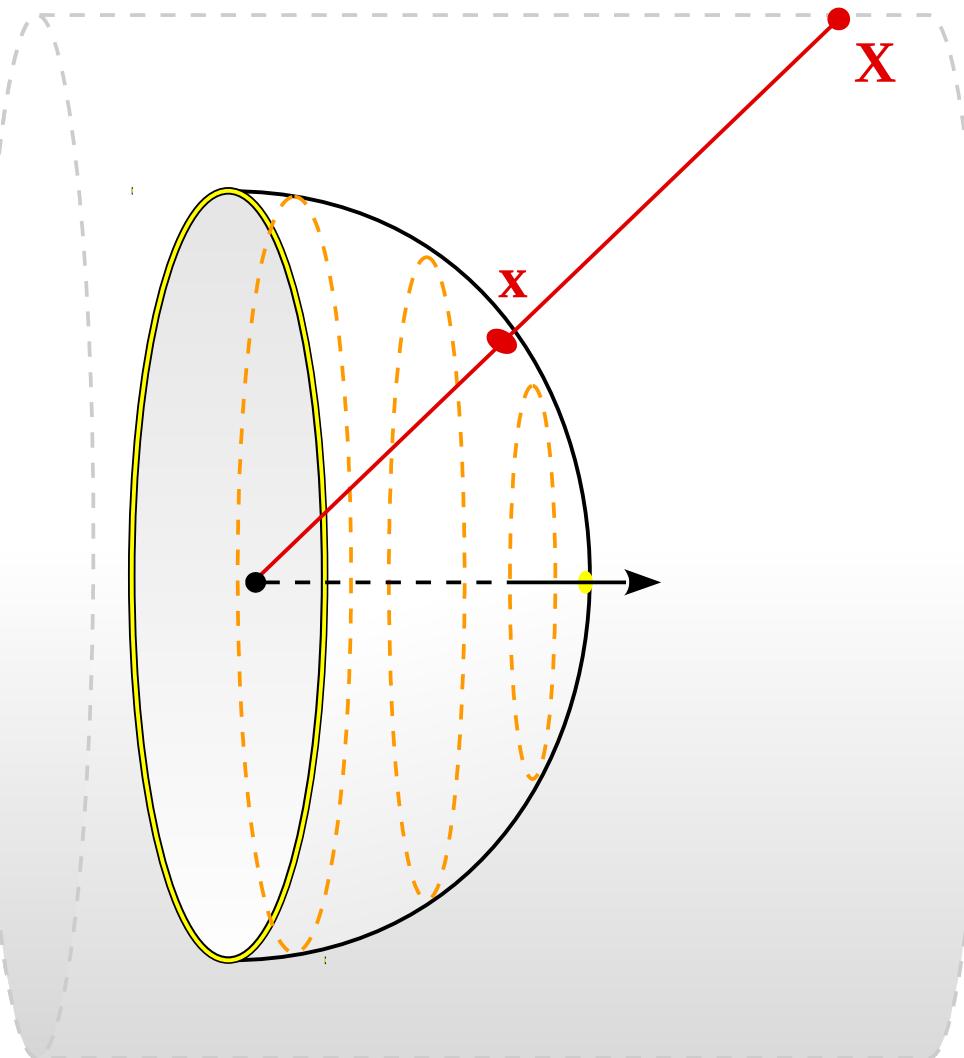
capture images every 5 cm



# Image acquisition for sewer shaft inspection

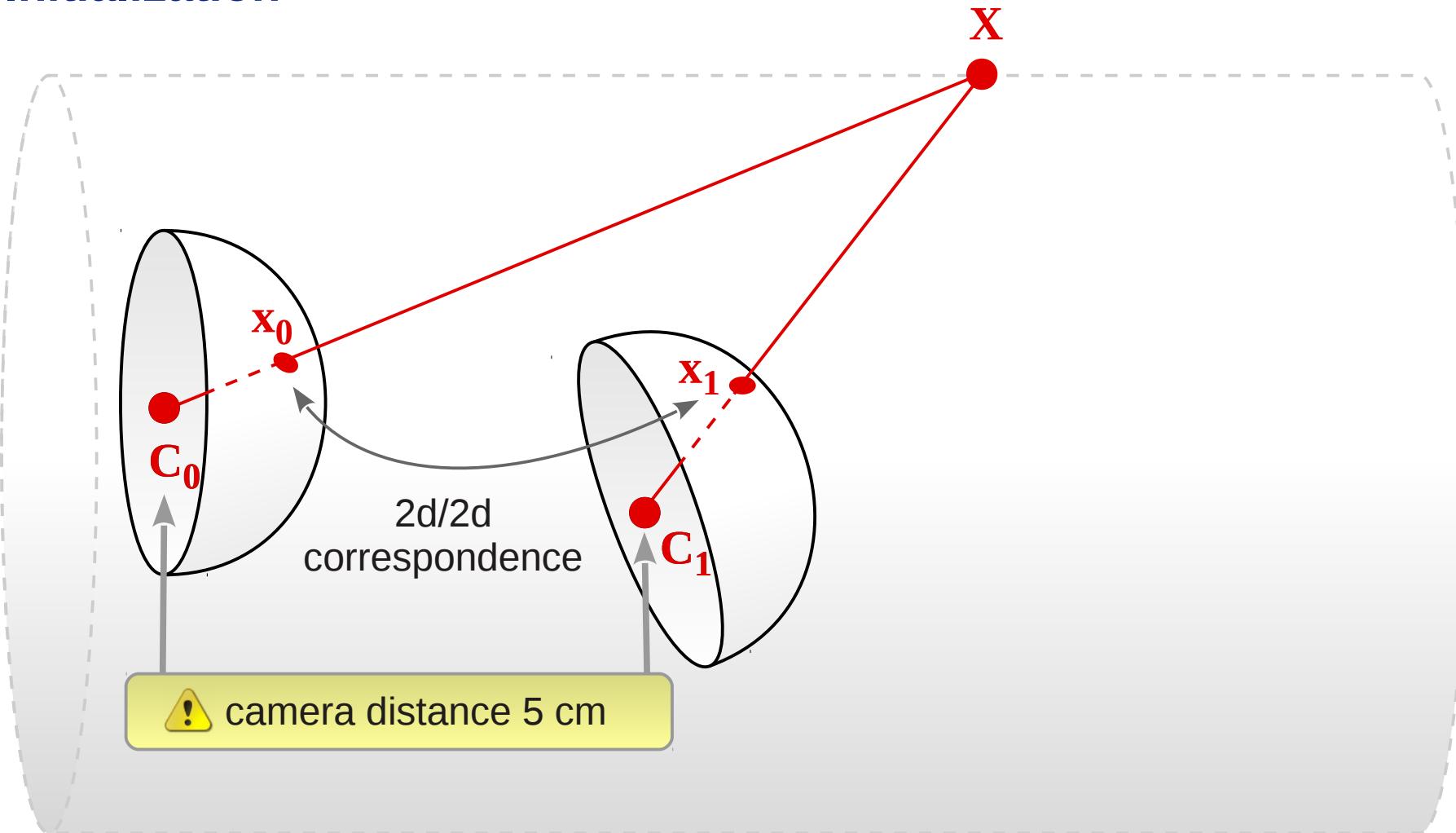


# Spherical camera model



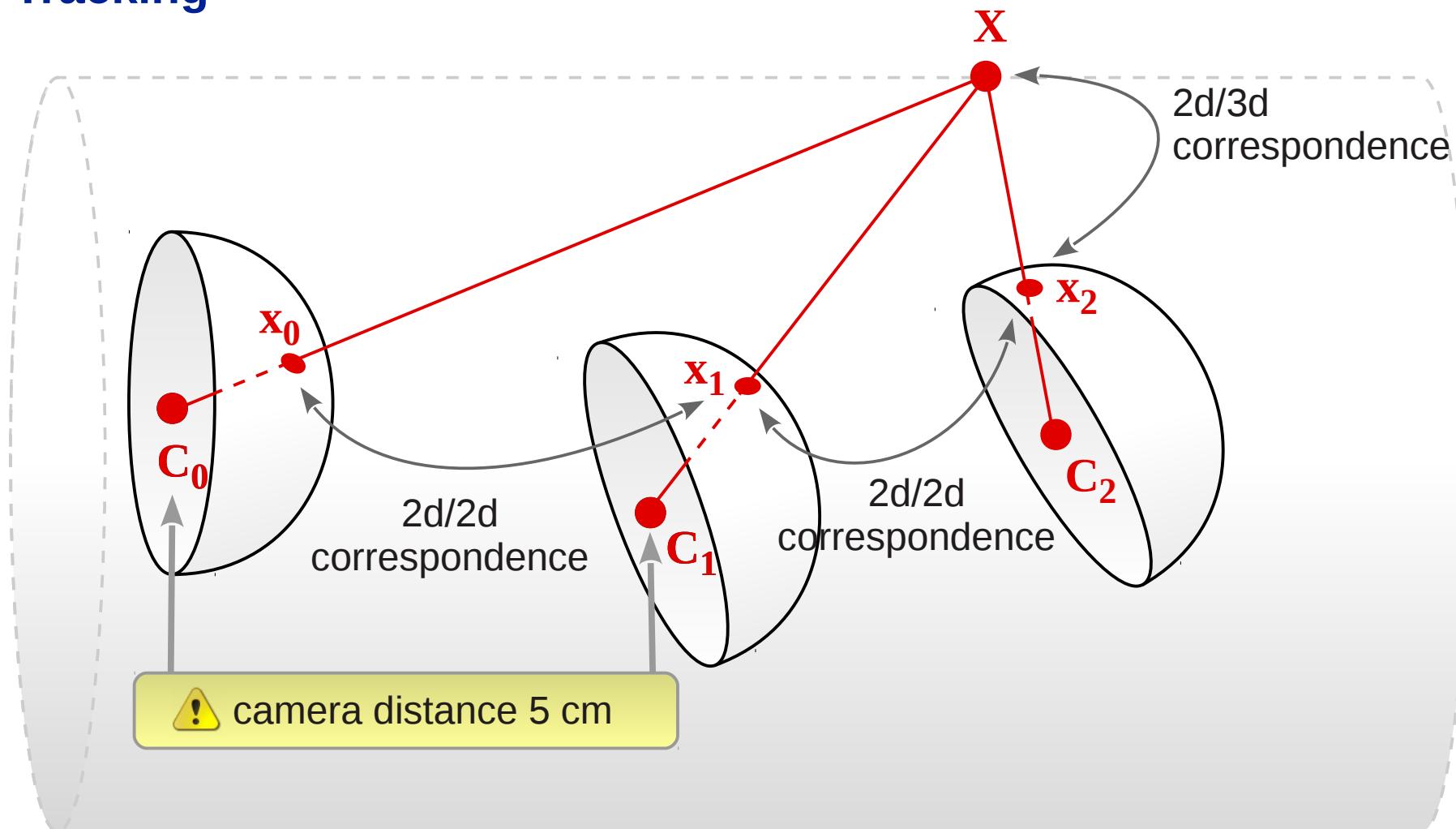
# Structure from Motion

## Initialization



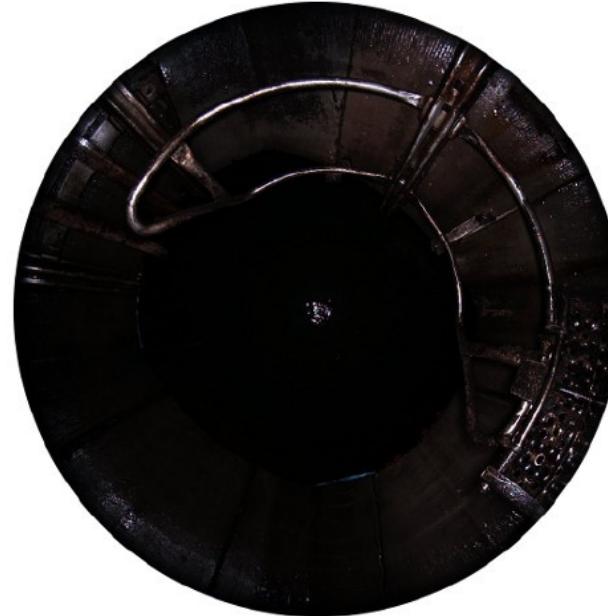
# Structure from Motion

## Tracking



## 3d reconstruction - Problems and challenges

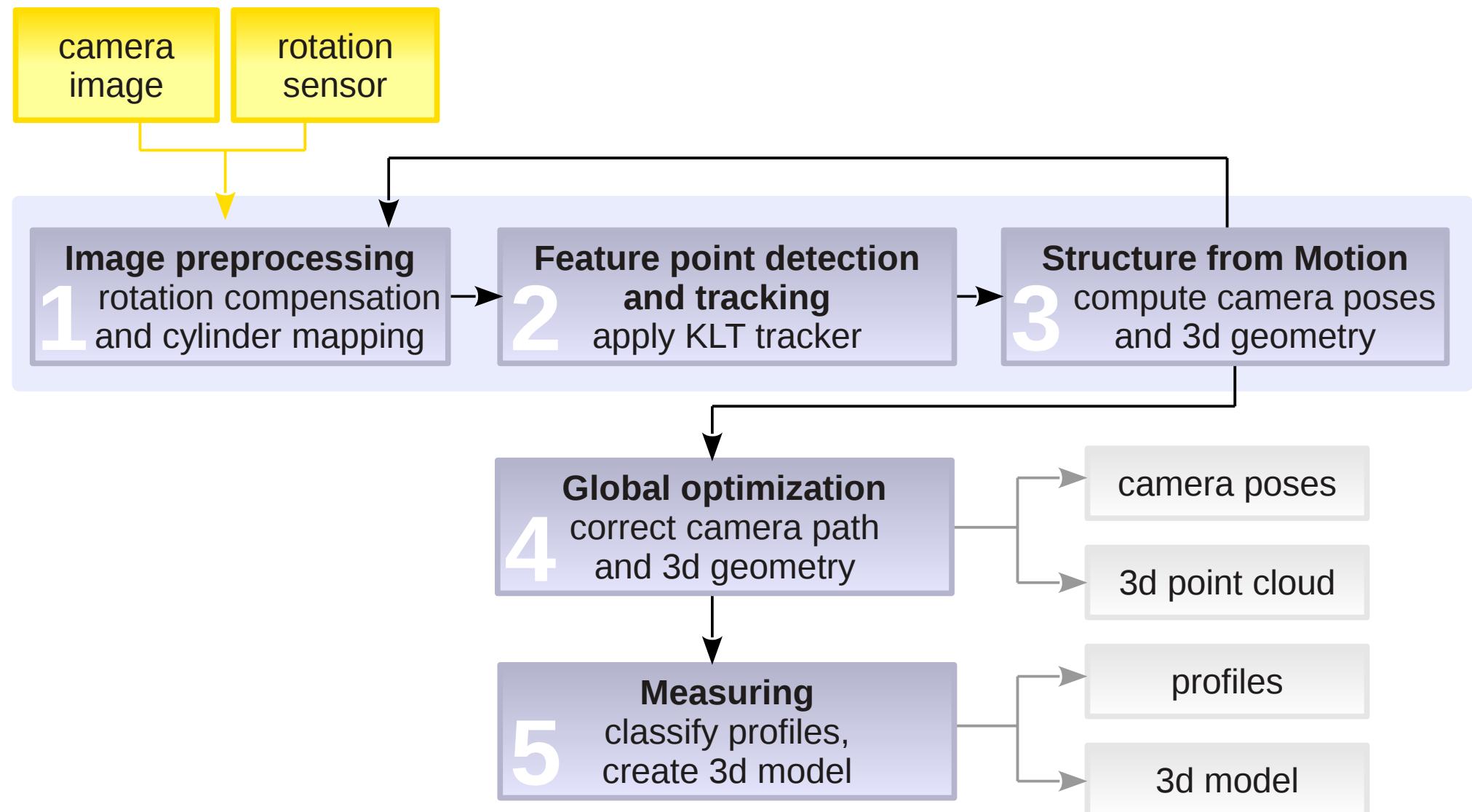
- Challenging lighting conditions and depth of view
- Strong image distortions
- Brief feature point visibility, large frame-to-frame translation
- Inaccurate camera calibration
- Demands for real-time processing: min. 7 Hz



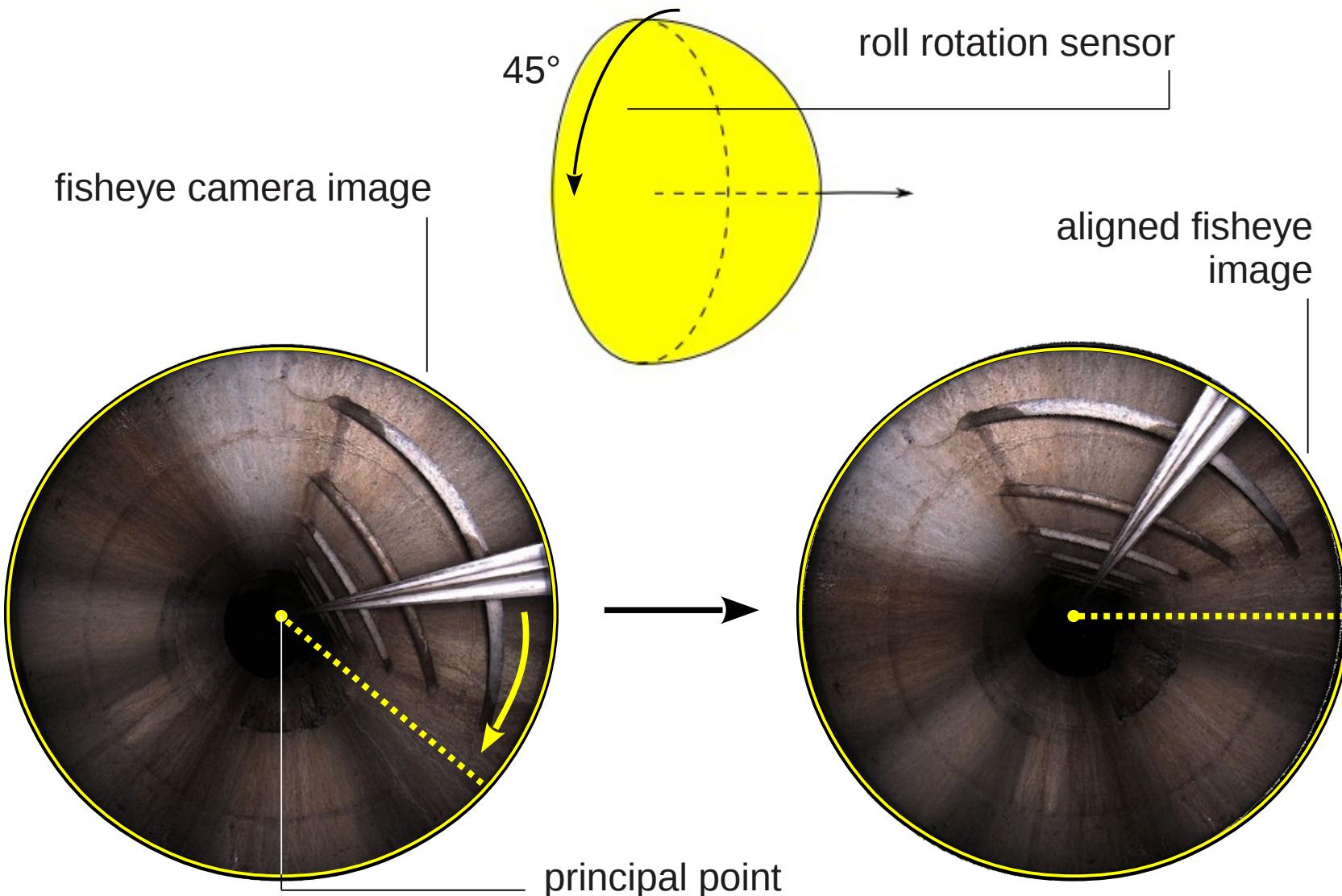
## Our approach

- Image Acquisition and Structure from Motion
- Our reconstruction approach
  - Cylinder mapping
  - Global geometric correction
  - Profile fitting and model creation
- Tests and applications
- Conclusion

# Overview of our approach

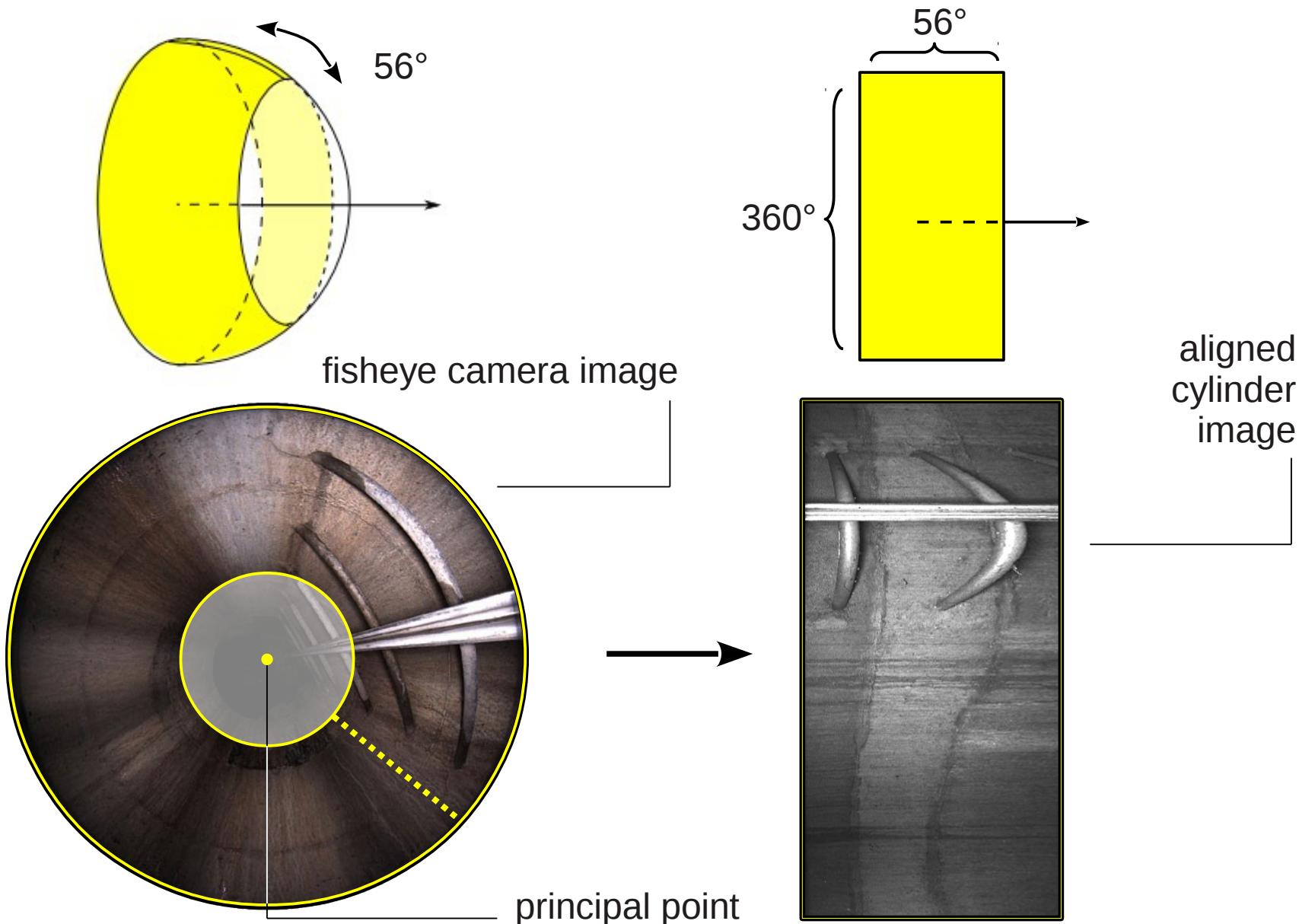


# 1. Image preprocessing: Roll rotation compensation



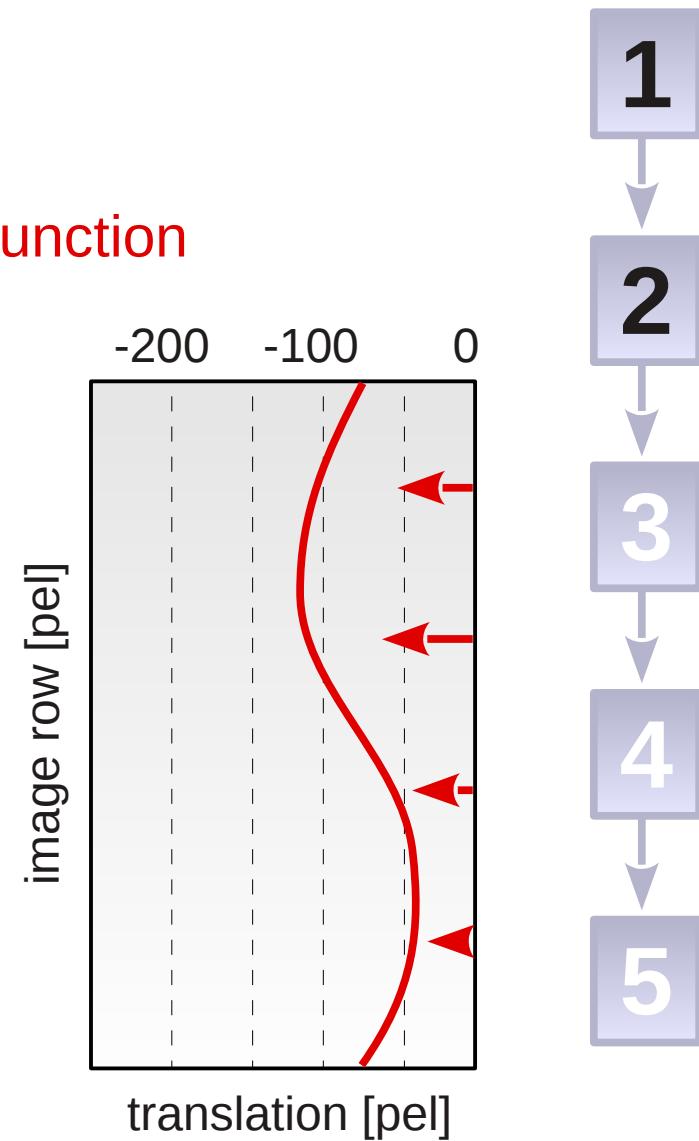
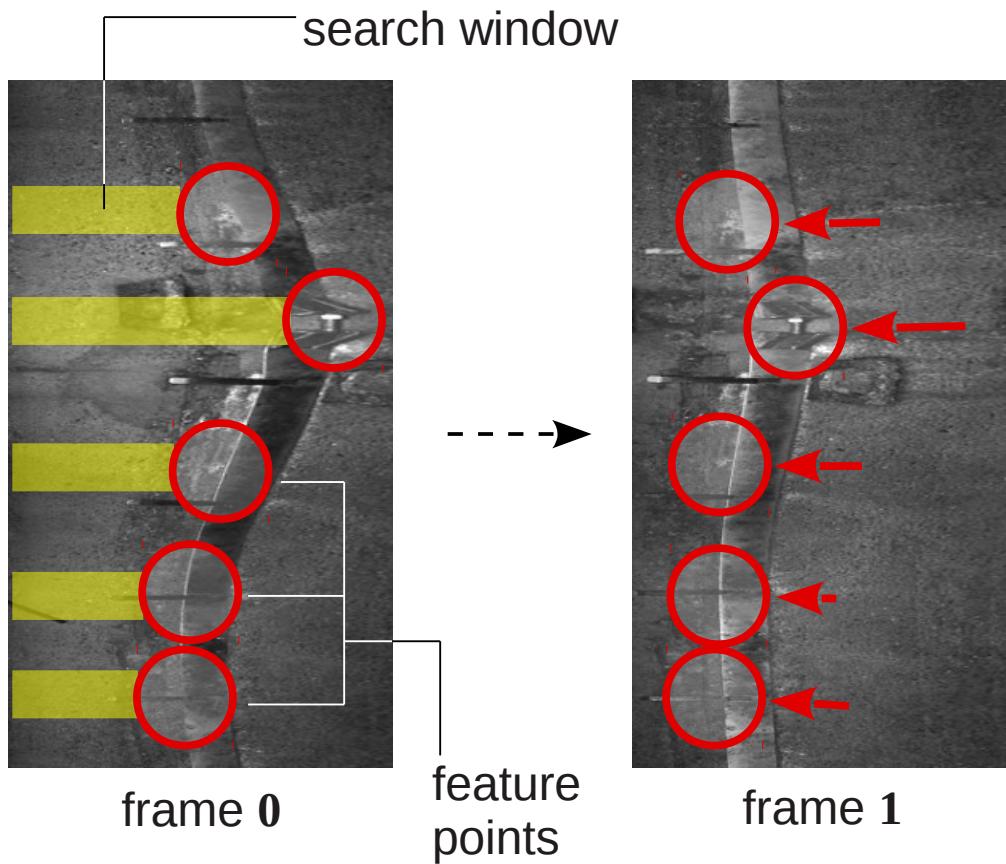
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

# 1. Image preprocessing: Cylinder mapping



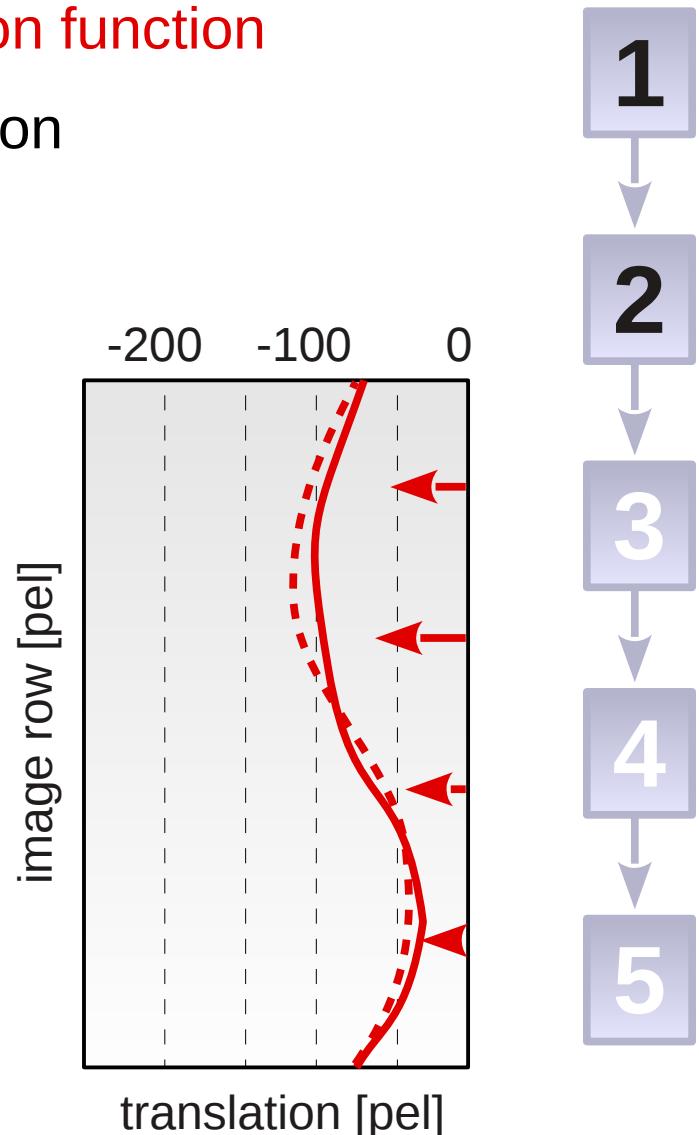
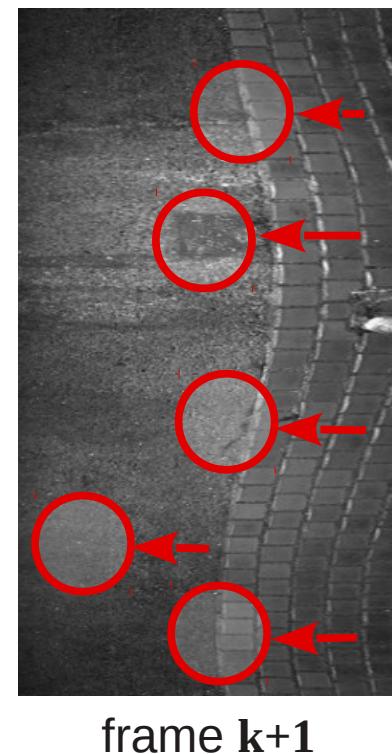
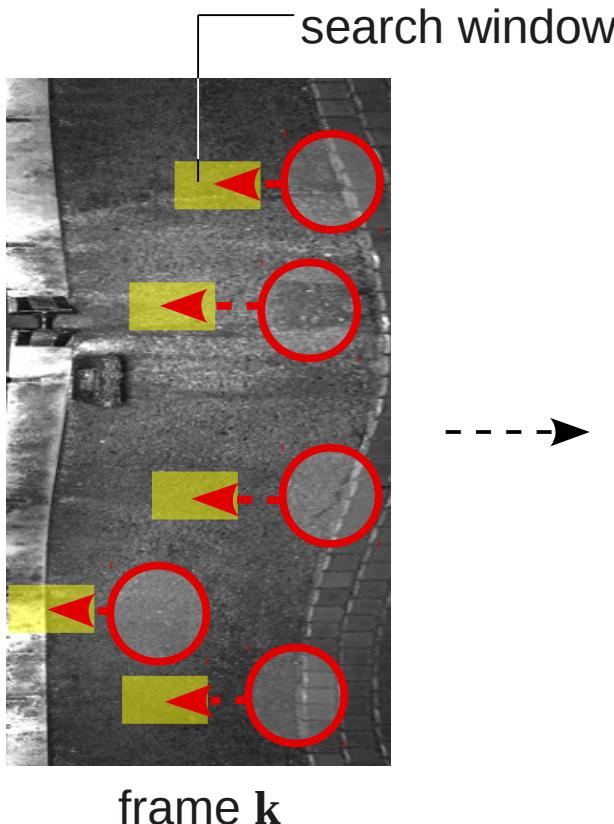
## 2. Feature point tracking

- **Initialization:** Detect KLT feature points
- Find correspondences along image rows
- Create row-dependent horizontal translation function



## 2. Feature point tracking

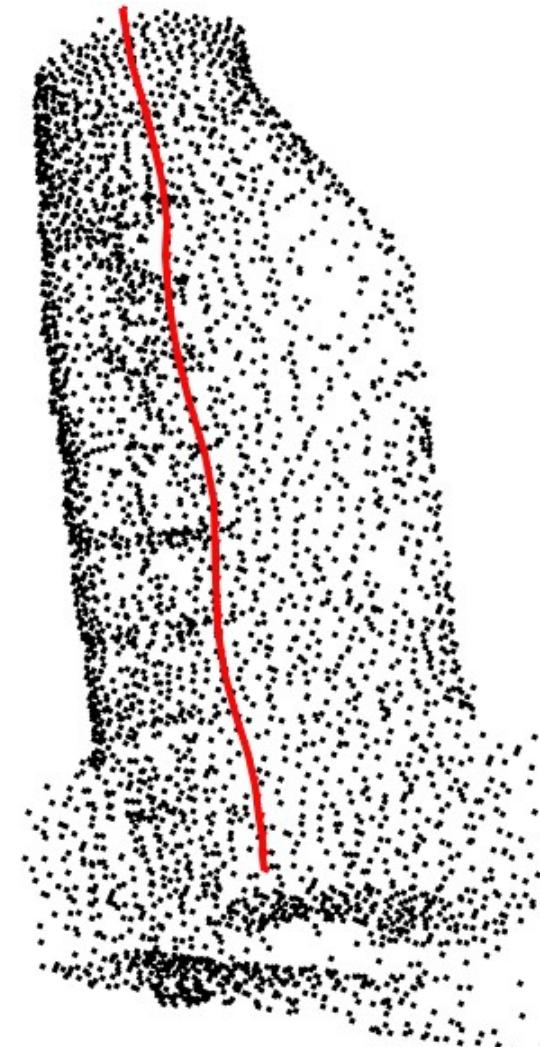
- **Tracking:** Predict new position with **translation function**
- Use small search window around target position
- Update **horizontal translation function**



## 3. Structure from Motion

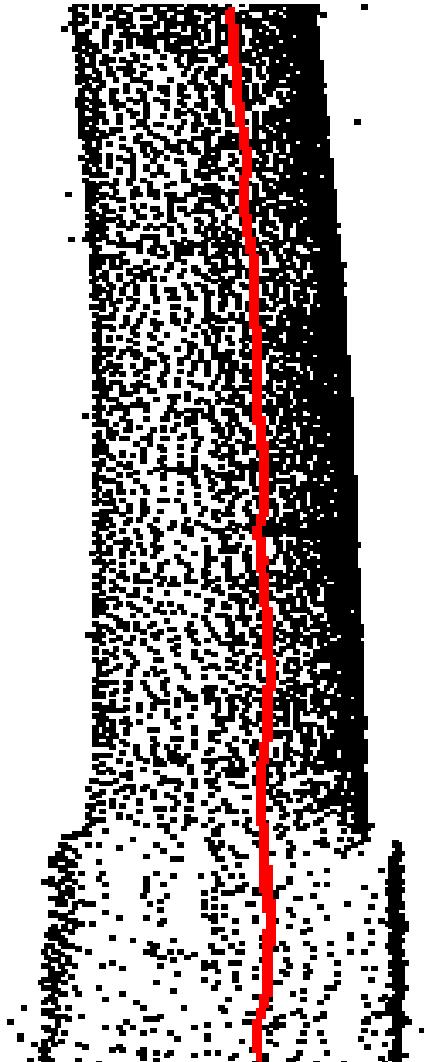
### Output:

- Computed 3d point cloud
- Computed **camera poses** for each frame (position + rotation)
- Robust estimation using RANSAC



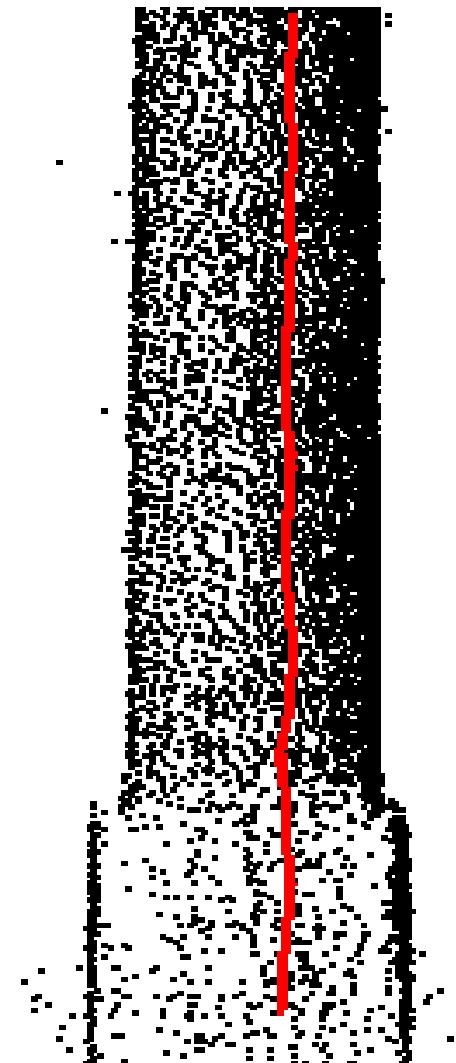
## 4. Global optimization

- ⚠ Error accumulation
- ⚠ Inaccurate camera calibration
- ▷ Bent and conical 3d reconstruction
- Global optimization needed
- Bundle Adjustment not useful for real-time application



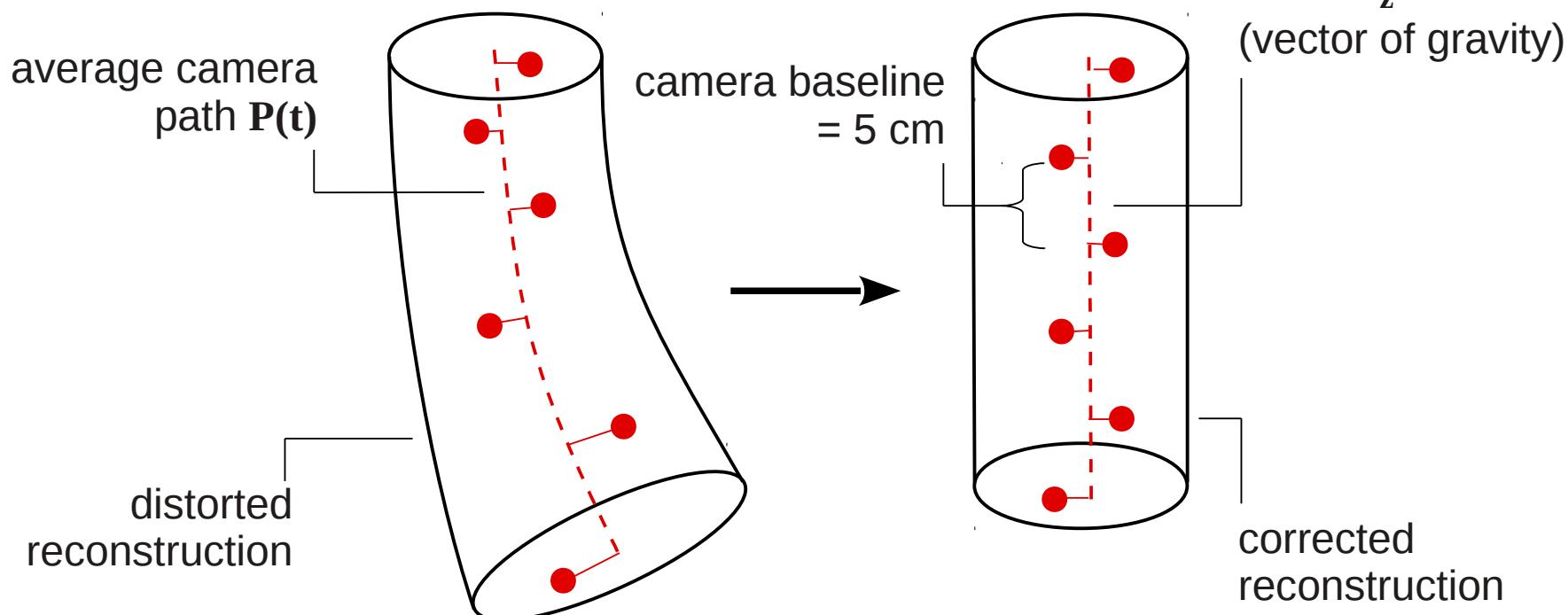
## 4. Global optimization

- Correct 3d reconstruction using geometric constraints:
  - Average camera path is known (vector of gravity = z-axis)
  - Camera baseline between frames is known (approx. 5 cm)



## 4. Global optimization

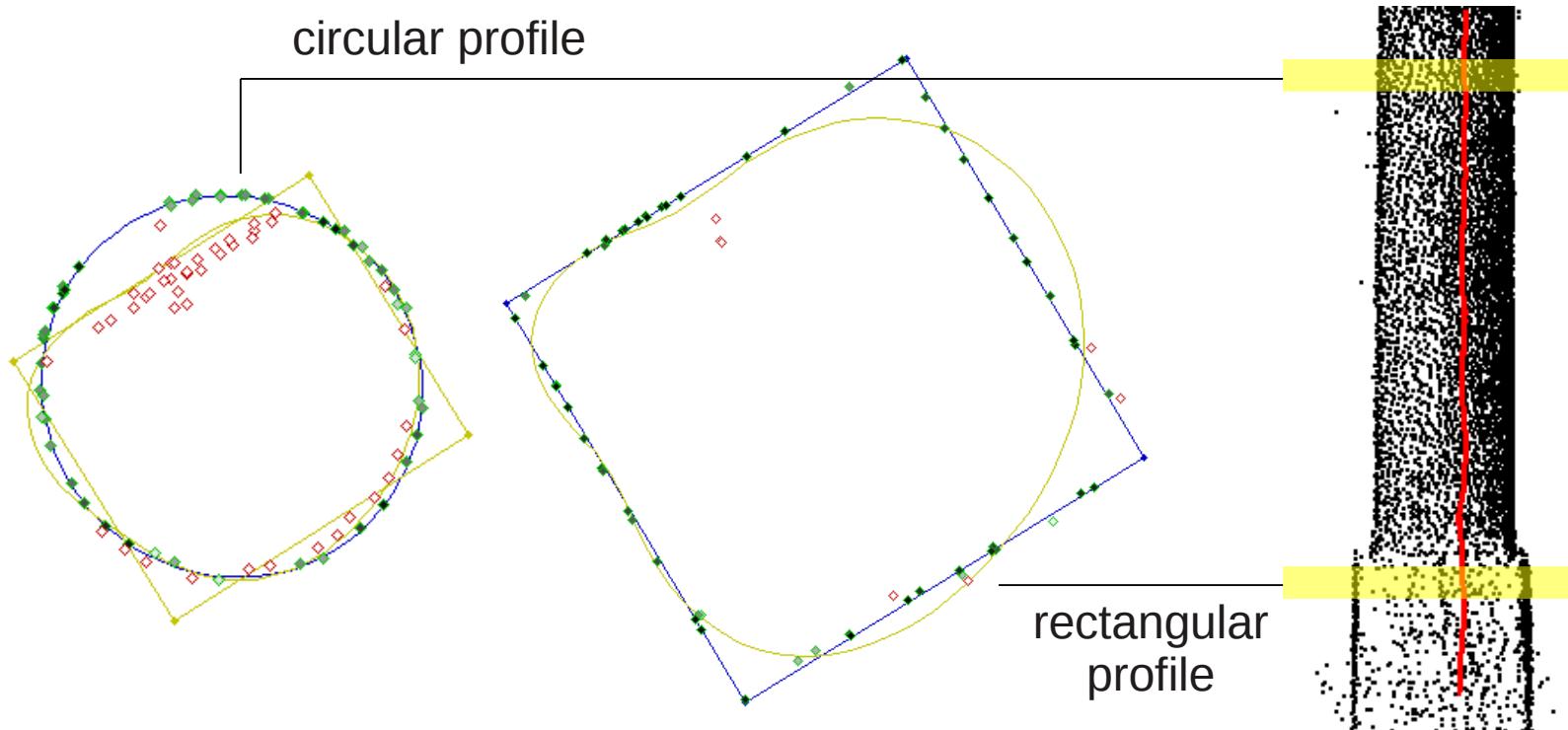
- Fit polynomial  $\mathbf{P}(t)$  to **average camera path**
- Transform 3d points and **camera poses**  
via mapping of  $\mathbf{P}(t)$  onto corrected path  $\mathbf{P}^*(t) = 5 \text{ cm} \cdot t \cdot \vec{\mathbf{e}}_z$



## 5. Measuring profile shapes

- Classification of horizontal shaft / vertical pipe profiles
- Robust shape estimation from 3d points within slice

1  
2  
3  
4  
5



## 5. Creating 3d models for visualization

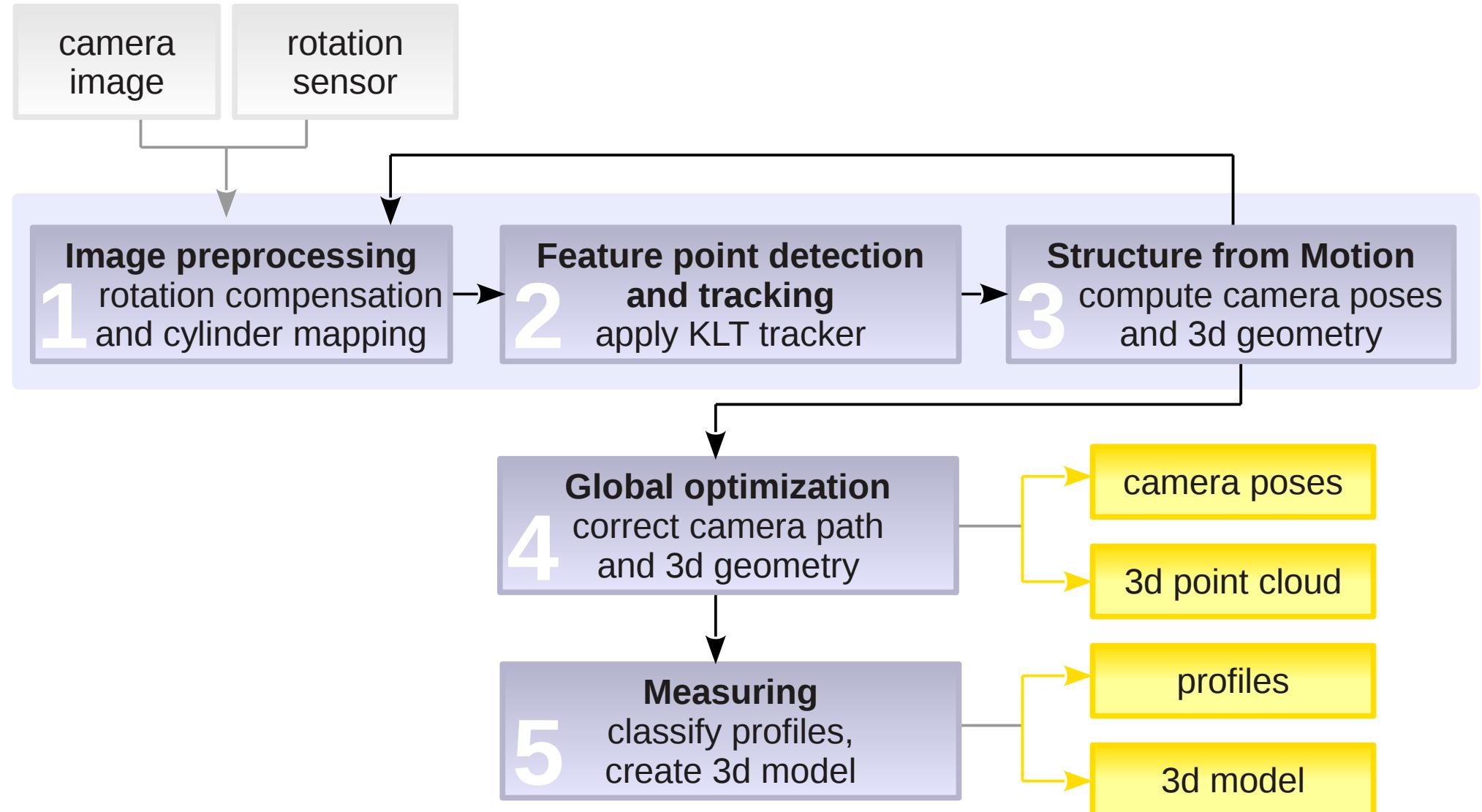
- Classify profile shapes in 3d points
- Connect subsequent contours of the same shape class
- Brightness alignment of images
- Optional 3d geometry fitting

### Output:

- Profile shapes
- Wire-frame model
- Textured model



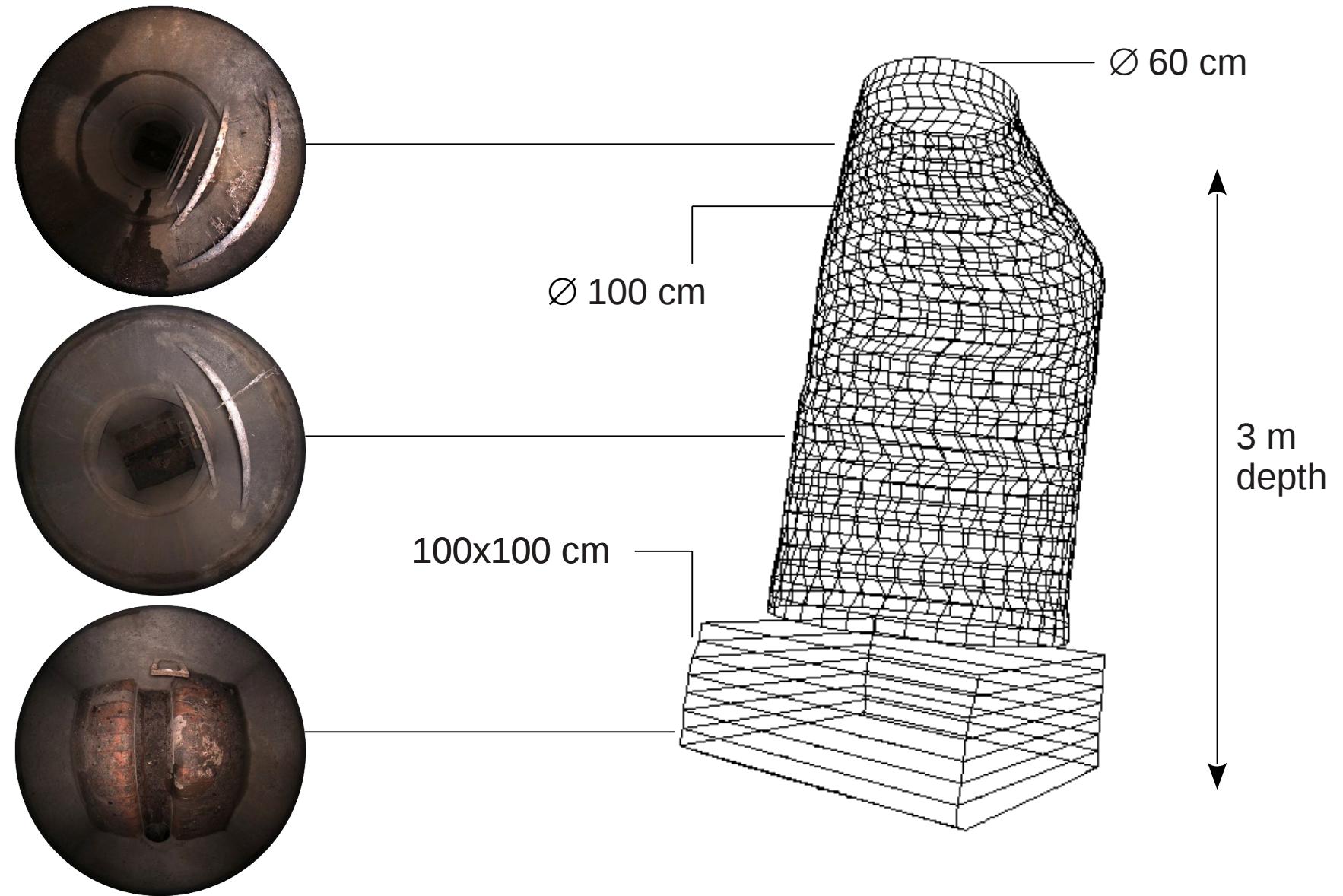
# Output of our approach



## Tests and applications

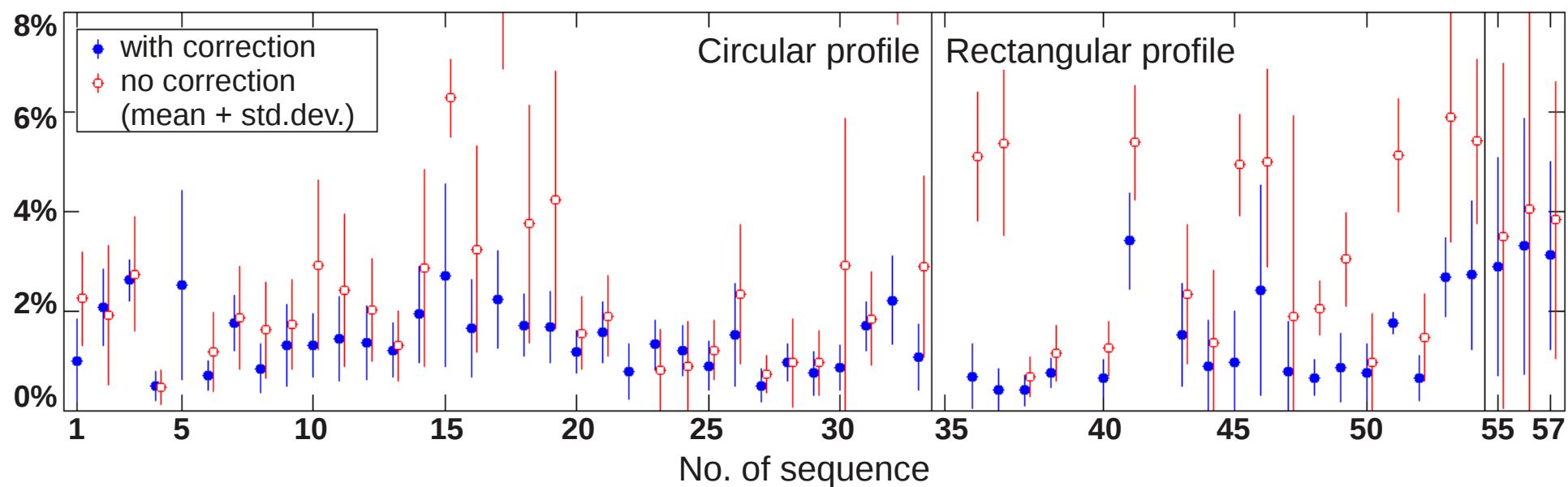
- Image Acquisition and Structure from Motion
- Our reconstruction approach
  - Cylinder mapping
  - Global geometric correction
  - Profile fitting and model creation
- Tests and applications
- Conclusion

## Example test sequence for shaft reconstruction

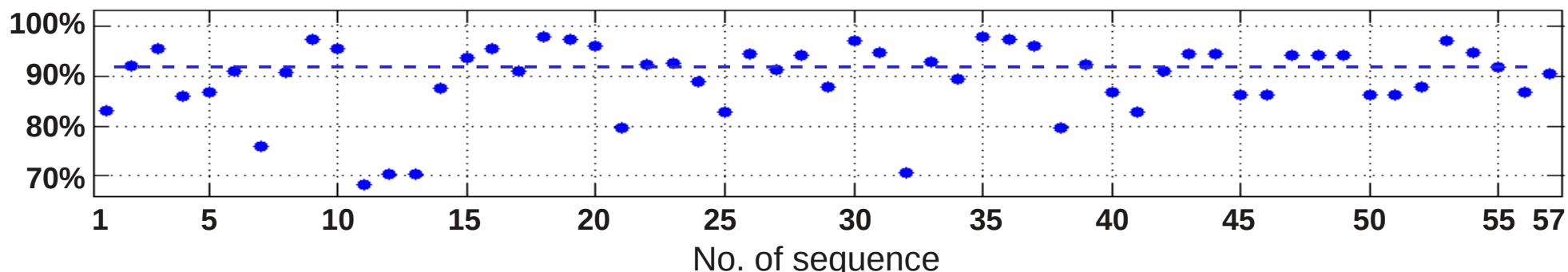


## Evaluation of profile measurements

Average diameter estimation error for 57 sequences

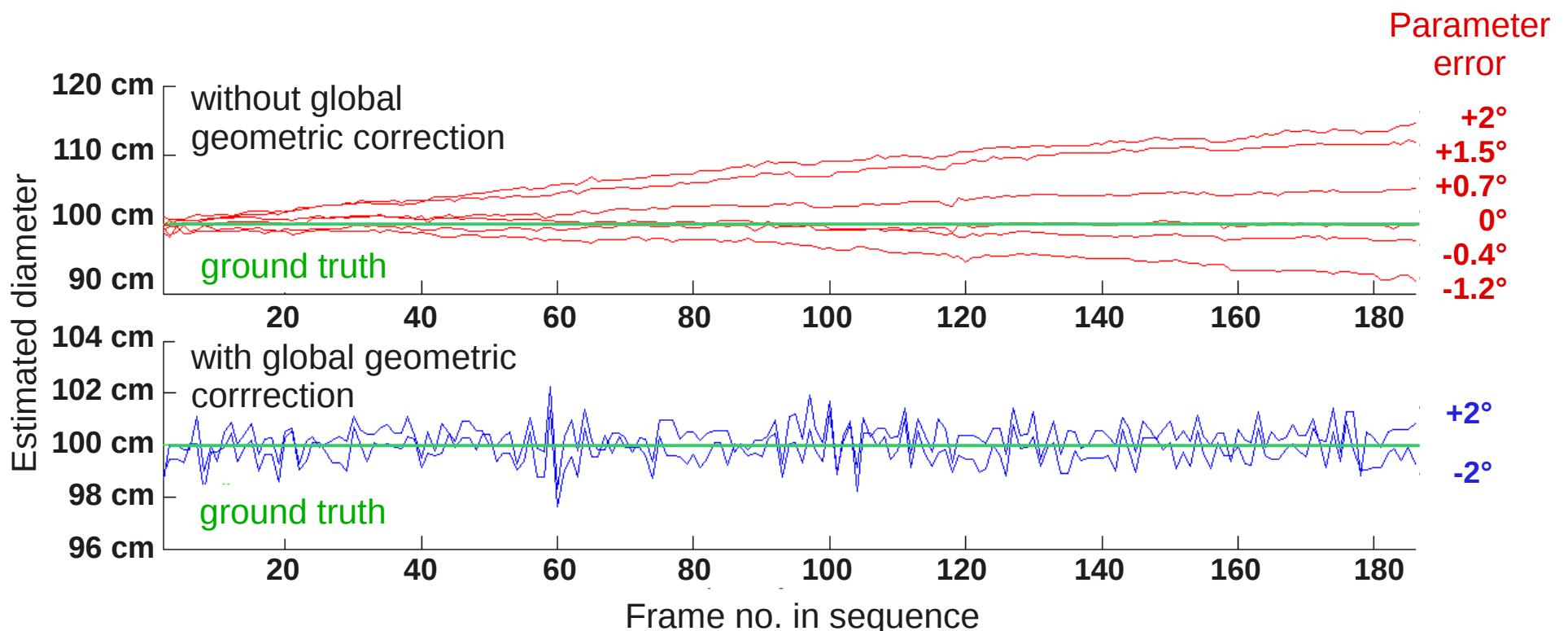


Success rate of diameter estimation



# Evaluation of global geometric correction

- Variate intrinsic camera parameters (here: max. angle  $\pm 2^\circ$ )
  - ▷ Systematic reconstruction error (here: up to 15 cm)
  - ▷ Compensation by global geometric correction



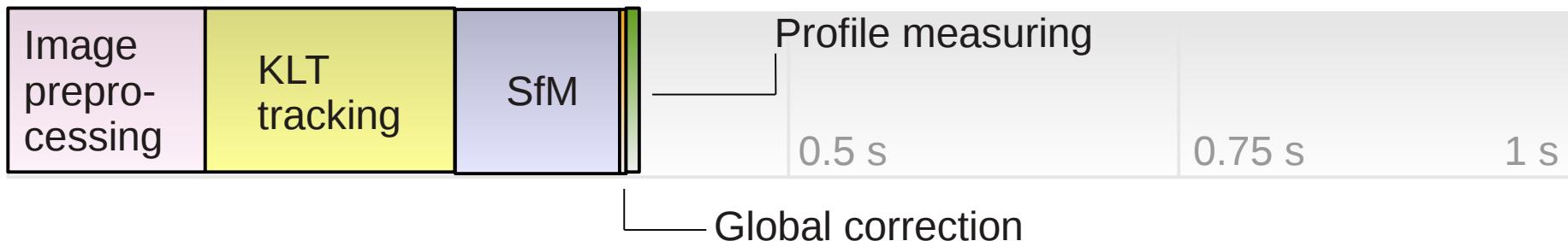
## Runtime evaluation (offline)

- Original application (offline)  $\Rightarrow$  2 – 3 frames per second
- Computation on CPU
- RANSAC with many iterations needed for robustness

**Initialization:** ~800 ms / frame



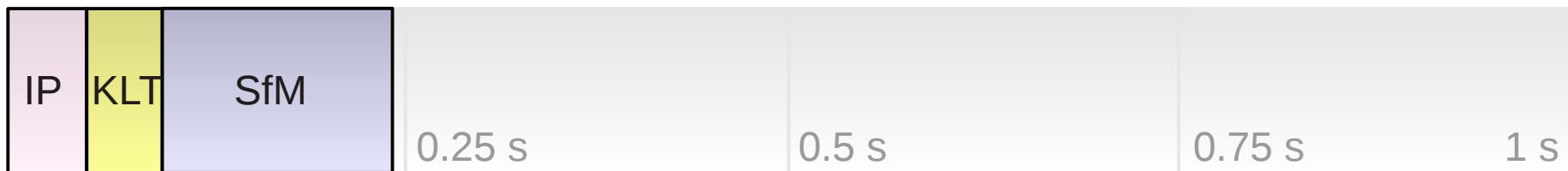
**Tracking:** ~380 ms / frame



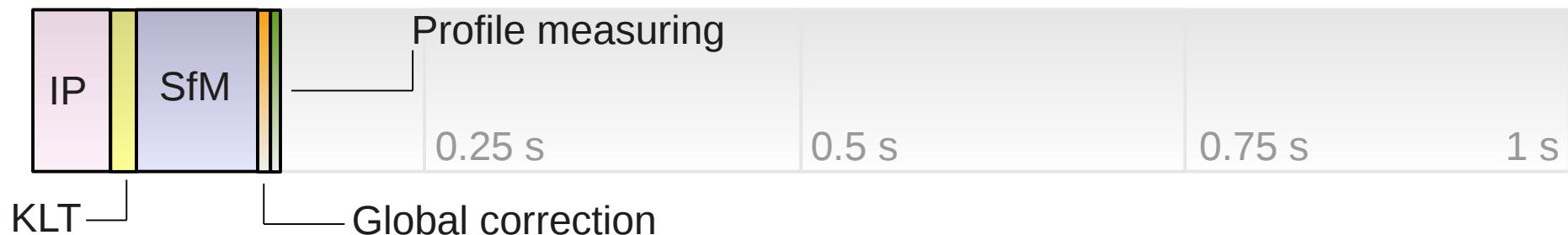
## Runtime evaluation (realtime)

- Realtime application (on site) ➔ ~7 frames per second
- Image preprocessing and KLT tracking on GPU
- Use *PreemptiveRANSAC* instead of RANSAC

**Initialization:** ~240 ms / frame

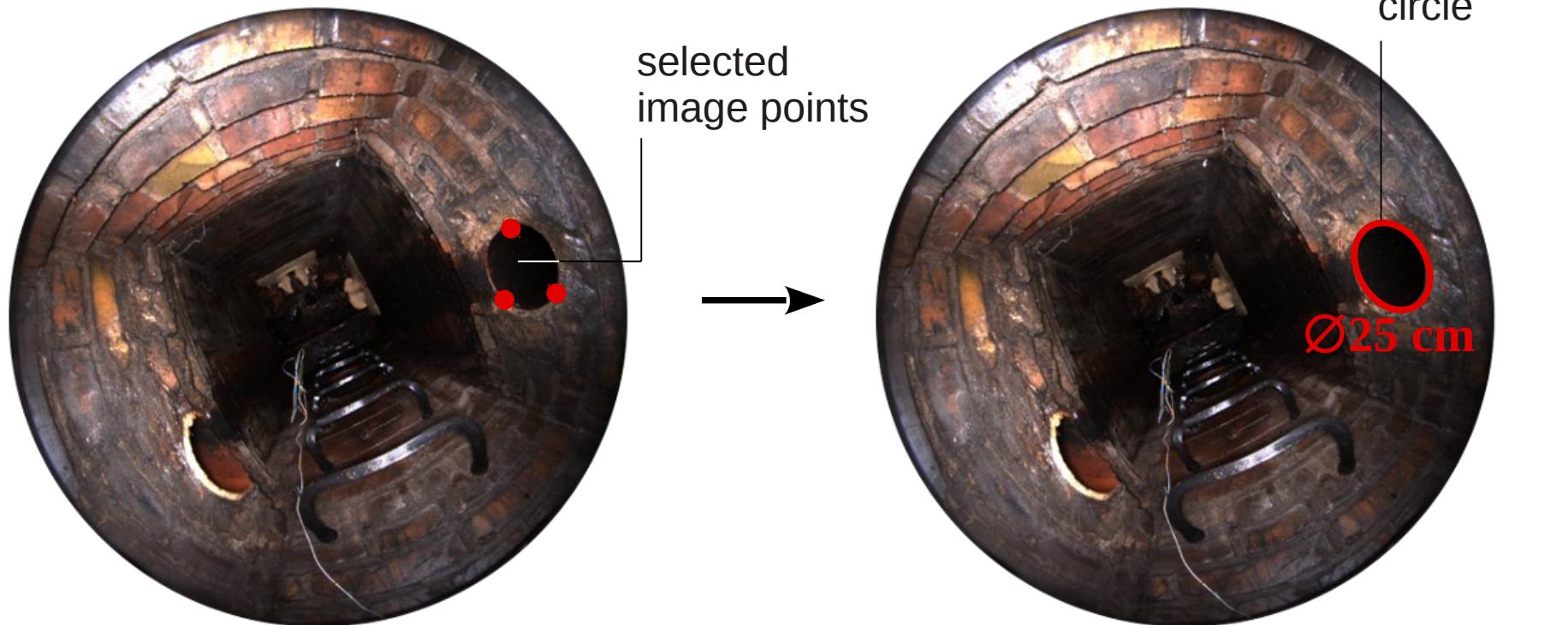


**Tracking:** ~140 ms / frame



## Use camera poses for manual measuring

- Manual selection of **measuring points** in camera image
  - ▷ Automatic correspondence search in subsequent image
  - ▷ Triangulation of 3d point using known camera poses
  - ▷ Compute measurements in 3d space (e.g. distance)



## Visualization of 3d models



Kiel Elmschenhagen #3



Kiel Hürth #1



Kiel Nordmarksportfeld #1

# Conclusion

- Image Acquisition and Structure from Motion
- Our reconstruction approach
  - Cylinder mapping
  - Global geometric correction
  - Profile fitting and model creation
- Tests and applications
- Conclusion

## Conclusion

- Robust automatic approach for image-based 3d reconstruction of sewer pipes and shafts with IBAK Panorama / SI
- Simple geometric correction replaces Bundle Adjustment
- Creation of 3d models for visualization
- Manual measuring in camera images using computed camera poses
- Real-time capability to use on-site
- Successful application to practise

Thank you for your attention!  
Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!



**ZUKUNFTS**programm  
Wirtschaft

*Investition in Ihre Zukunft*

financed by the European Union,  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



*Institut  
für Informatik*  
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

