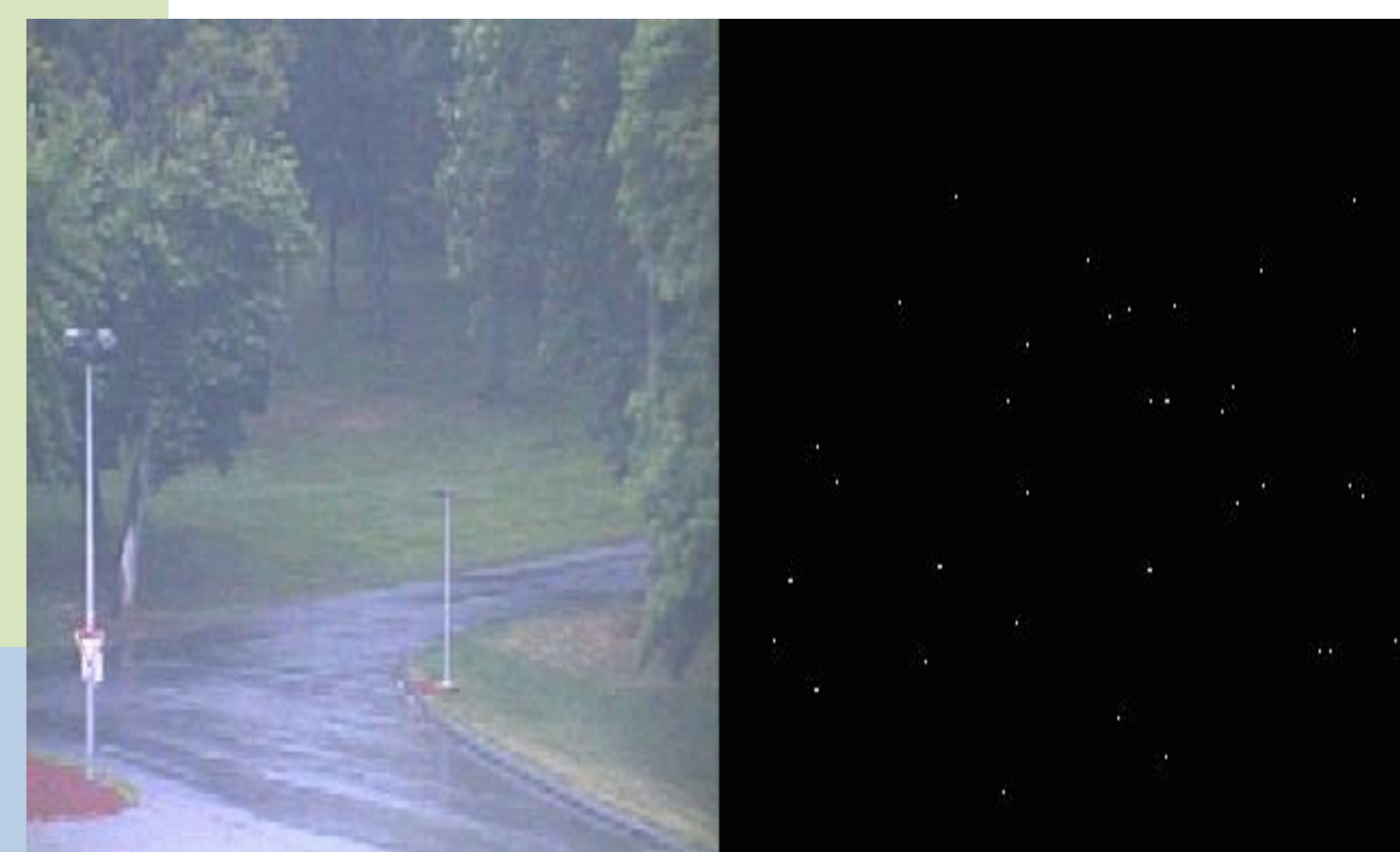


## Abstract

We propose a novel method for video foreground-background separation that models the scene as a superposition of illumination effects. The model predicts each pixel's value using a linear estimator comprised by a few other pixels of the scene. Our method achieves real-time performance using minimal hardware, which is a crucial consideration for embedding such a system on surveillance cameras.

## Introduction

- Goal: Given a video clip taken by a static camera, to separate the objects of interest ("Foreground") and irrelevant information ("Background")
- Basic step in video analysis: recognition & tracking
- E.g.: Intelligent visual surveillance, & Human-Machine interaction (Microsoft's Kinect)
- Main challenges: noisy images, shadows, illumination changes (gradual\sudden), dynamic background and computational load



Video #1 - Foreground/Background separation example

## DSPB – Dynamic Spatial Predicted Background

- Physically inspired to handle illumination changes
- Pixel correlations depend on number of light sources:

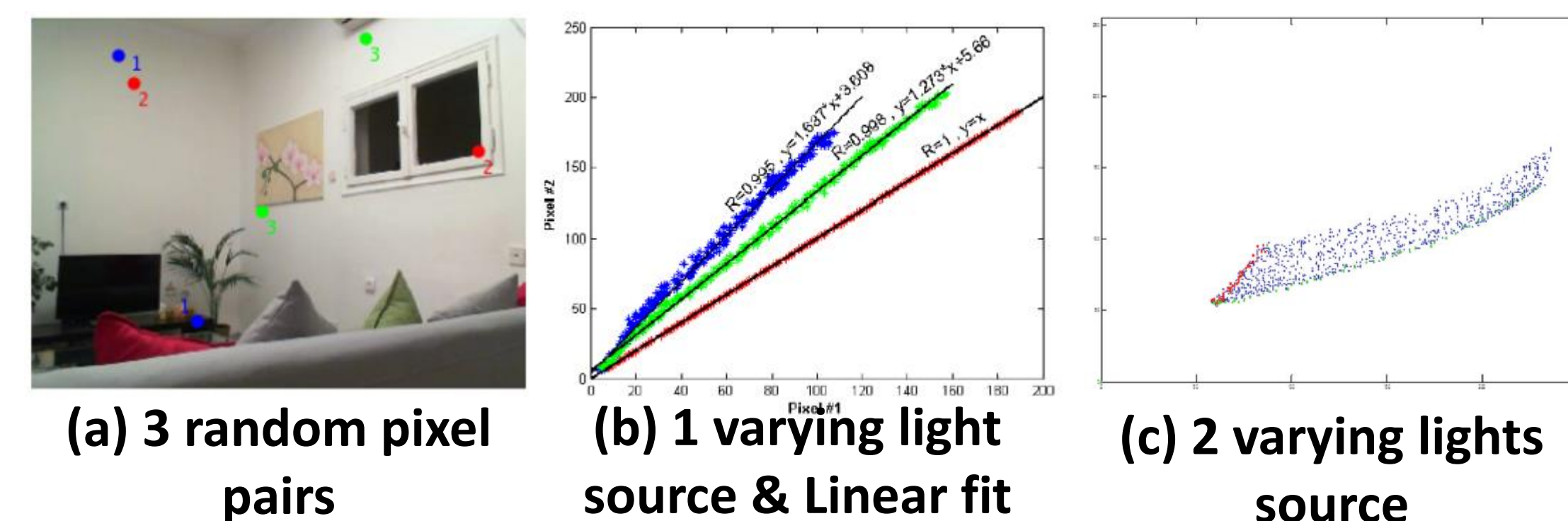


Fig 1. Pixel correlations & light sources

- Pixels can be estimated by knowing their and others history:
- $\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m$  - set of randomly chosen pixels, referred as "control pixels"
- $I(p) = M^p \cdot A$  (1),  $I(p) \in \mathbb{R}^1$  - Brightness level of pixel  $p$   
 $M^p \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times N}$  - weights of light sources to outcome  
 $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 1}$  - Light source powers
- $I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m} = M \cdot A$ ,  $I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m} \Rightarrow A = M^{-1} I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m}$  (2)  
(2)->(1):  $I(p) = M^p \cdot A = M^p M^{-1} I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m} \Rightarrow I(p) = T \cdot I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m}$  (3)
- $\Rightarrow I_t = T^* \cdot I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m}$  (4)
- Problem: inefficient to estimate  $T^*$ , so force linear solution
- Solution: Optimal linear estimator:

$$I_t = \mathbb{E}I_t + Cov_{I_t P} \cdot (Cov_P)^{-1} \cdot (P_t - \mathbb{E}P) \quad P = I_{\{p_k\}_{k=1}^m}$$

- Means & correlations calculated empirically (using past frames)
- Each pixel is estimated by a set of **5 pixels**
- **Background Initialization:** From the 5<sup>th</sup> frame!
- **Background Maintenance:** updating the model parameter as the video continues:  $\mathbb{E}_x^{i+1} = \alpha \mathbb{E}_x^i + (1 - \alpha)x^i$
- **Foreground Detection:**  $FG(x, y, t) = |I(x, y, t) - BG(x, y, t)| > 3 \cdot \sigma(x, y, t)$
- **Problem #1:** Control pixels can be occluded or noised
- Solution: 3 estimators instead of 1 -> 3 candidates for each pixel -> take median
- Problem #2: Correlations are more dominant to a small surrounding area
- Solution: - k-means on median image using first 5 frames  
- Estimation done separately for each cluster  
- BG image obtain by a mosaic of the sub-areas

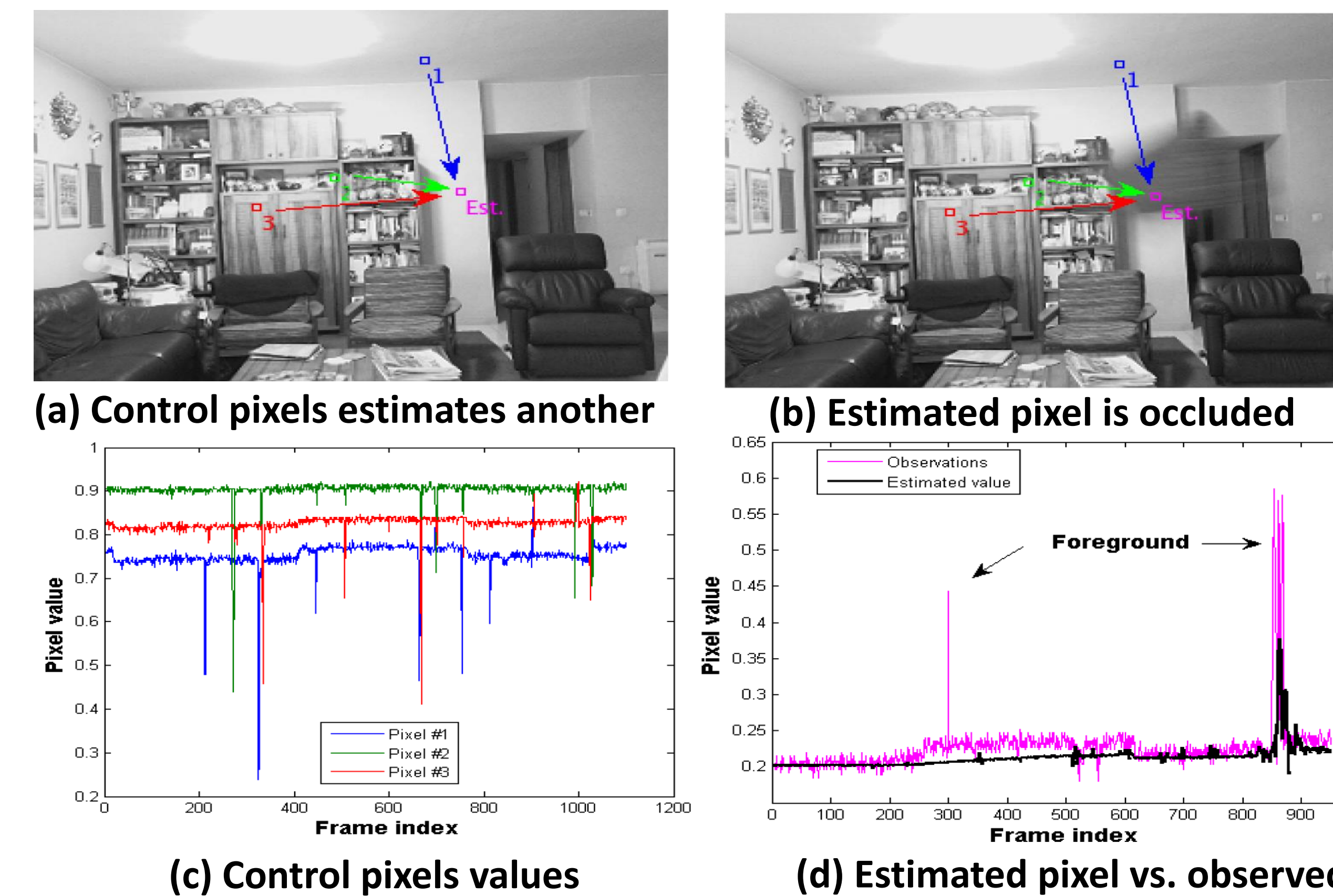


Fig 2. Estimator comprised of 3 pixels



Fig 3. "Light switch" video from LIMU dataset, Top - Frames, Middle - Background estimation, Bottom - Foreground mask

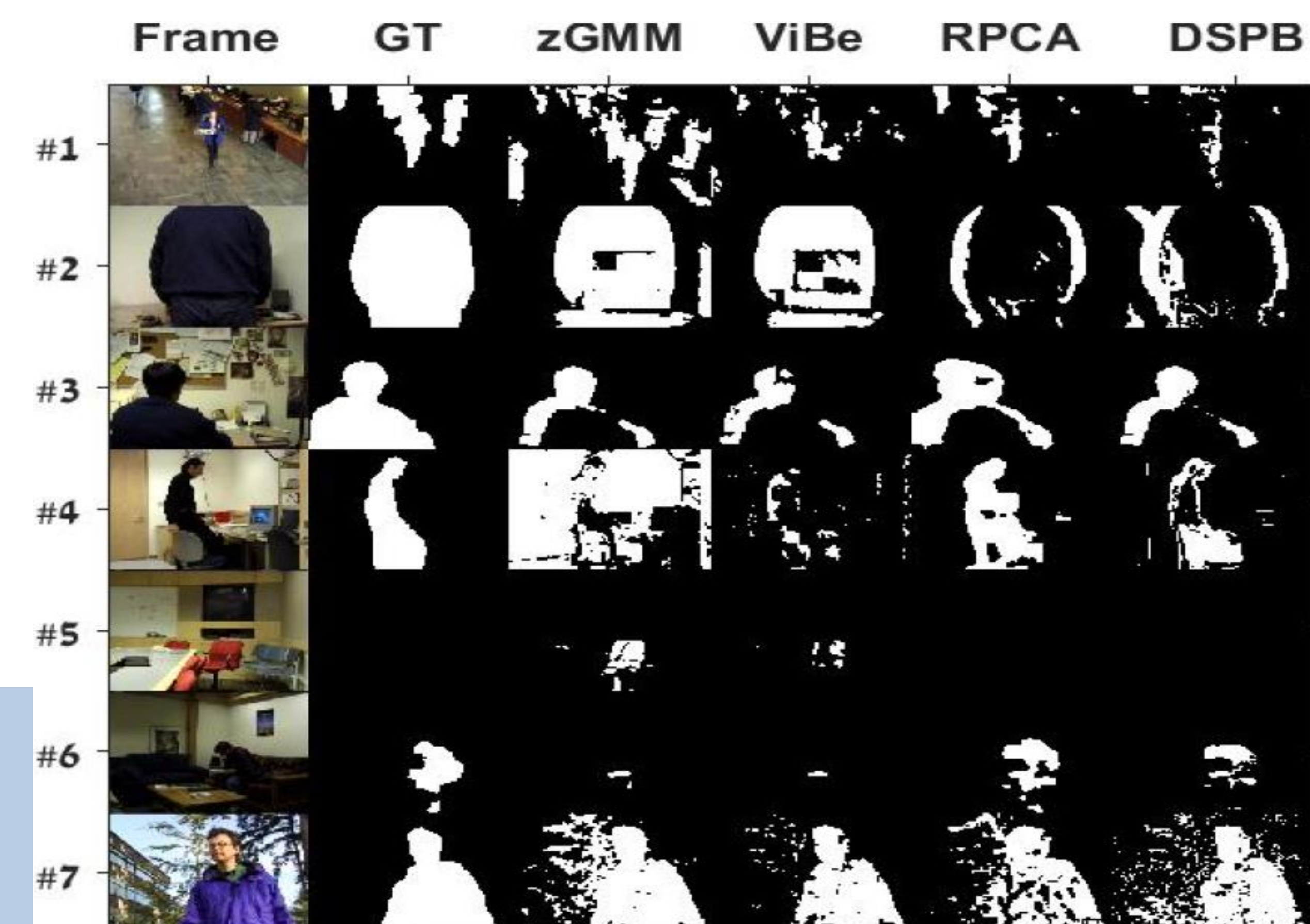


Fig 4. "Wallflower" Ground truth frames with foreground masks of tested methods

## Evaluation & Results

- **Evaluation metrics:** Precision:  $Pr = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$ , Recall:  $Re = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$ , Specificity:  $Sp = \frac{TN}{TN+FP}$ , F-measure =  $\frac{2PrRe}{Pr+Re}$ , Frames per second:  $fps$
- **Tested Methods:** 1) GMM zivkovic et al. <sup>1</sup> 2) ViBe <sup>2</sup>, 3) RPCA - ALM <sup>3</sup>
- **LIMU Dataset:** 5 video clips. 5000 frames with  $240 \times 320$  resolution Ground truth each 15<sup>th</sup> frame from frame 500
- **Wallflower Dataset:** 7 short videos, unique challenges

Method	zGMM	ViBe	RPCA	DSPB	Method	zGMM	ViBe	RPCA	DSPB
$Pr$	0.5466	0.5838	0.7663	0.8263	$Pr$	0.6230	0.7722	0.7115	0.6981
$Re$	0.5534	0.3555	0.6836	0.4368	$Re$	0.5661	0.4051	0.5537	0.4293
$Sp$	0.9262	0.9426	0.9959	0.9984	$Sp$	0.7827	0.9680	0.9271	0.9122
$F$	<b>0.4380</b>	<b>0.2819</b>	<b>0.7012</b>	<b>0.5335</b>	$F$	<b>0.4891</b>	<b>0.4813</b>	<b>0.5903</b>	<b>0.5035</b>
$fps$	137.29	209.76	0.55	278.25	$fps$	352.06	466.74	3.64	209.96

Table 1. LIMU results

Table 2. Wallflower results

## Conclusions

- A novel Hybrid FG-BG separation system
- Involves spatial information (correlations) combined with pixel temporal statistics
- Physically inspired to deal with illumination changes – Gradual or Sudden
- Simple method with low computational requirements – performs in real-time

## References

1. Zoran Zivkovic, "Vision modules for a multi sensory bridge monitoring approach," in Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Pattern Recognition, ICPR, pp. 1051–1054. 2004
2. Barnich and M. Van Droogenbroeck, "Vibe: A universal background subtraction algorithm for video sequences," IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, vol. 20, no. 6, pp. 1709–1724, 2011.
3. D Goldfarb, S Ma, and K Scheinberg, "Fast alternating linearization methods for minimizing the sum of two convex function," Math. Program. Ser. A, 2010.