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Accident Investigation with 3D Models from Images

FINAL RESEARCH REPORT

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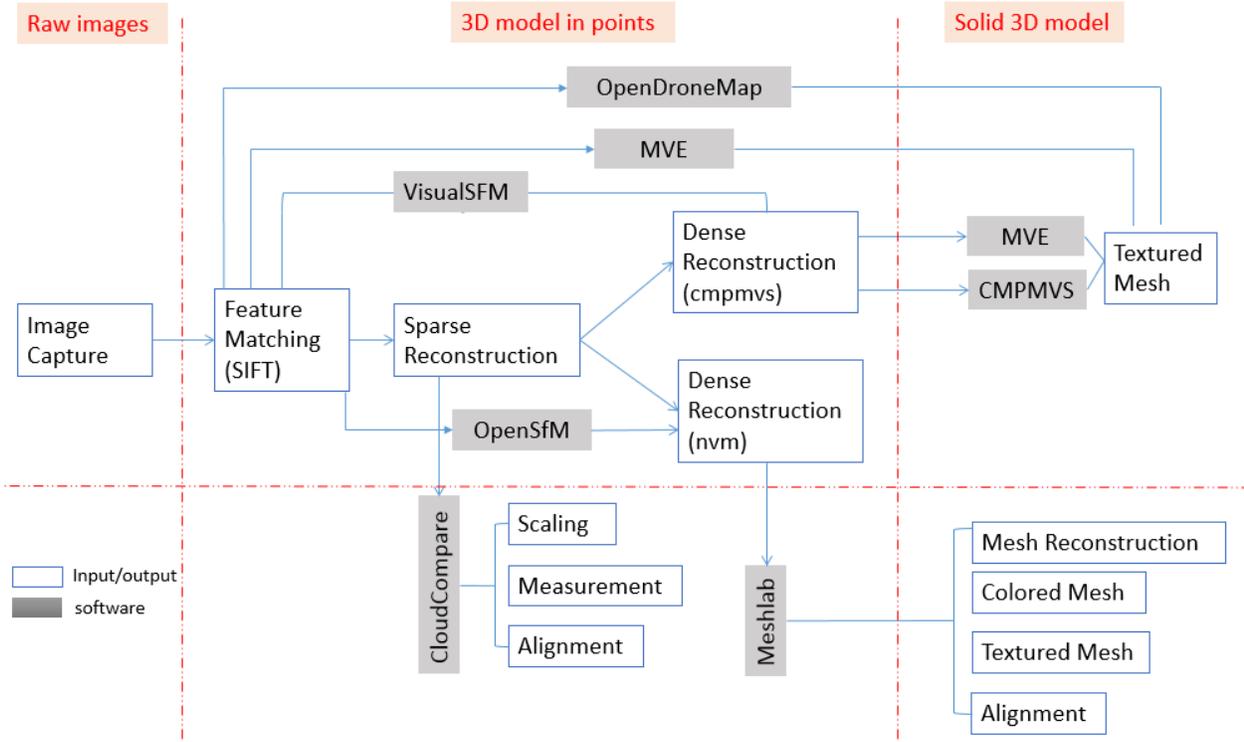
Accident Investigation with 3D Models from Image – Final Report

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Vehicular accidents are one of the great societal challenges. In some demographics, they are the leading cause of death. It is important that accidents are thoroughly investigated. The current practice of using laser scanners to capture the accident scene in 3D are so expensive and time consuming that they are only used in the most severe cases. We want to make 3D scene reconstruction with regular cameras practical so that it can be used efficiently by any accident investigator. To this effect we tried several reconstruction programs, developed end-to-end pipelines, improved on current methods, and made software and documentation freely available on a website (<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~reconstruction/>).

Reconstruction pipeline

Our approach takes images from smart cameras and generates 3D reconstruction models using structure from motion algorithms.



For the data collection phase, the only necessary equipment is the digital camera. Additionally, we recommend placing some markers in the scene, for the purpose of later on scaling and measurement. For image processing, as shown in the diagram above, multiple toolkits are available to reconstruct Point Clouds, and the solid models. Pick any toolkit combinations that work best for you. To render and analyze the reconstruction result, you only need some free third party applications like VisualSfM, Meshlab, and CloudCompare. They are lightweight and easy to install. Read on click here. The same free applications can be used for creating the reconstruction models. In the case of using CMPMVS application for mesh generation, a NVidia CUDA-enabled GPU may be required.

Image Capturing

Recommended equipment:

Digital camera is recommended. We used Samsung Galaxy camera, which captures images that are 4608 pixels wide and 3456 pixels high; and videos that are 1920x1080. The idea is to get better quality images. Higher resolution images usually help preserve detail and get better reconstruction result.

The images do not have to be taken with a single camera (i.e. differences on resolutions, or image sizes, are acceptable). Note that distortion of the lens may affect the result; modified photos may also cause inaccurate result.

Image taking approaches:

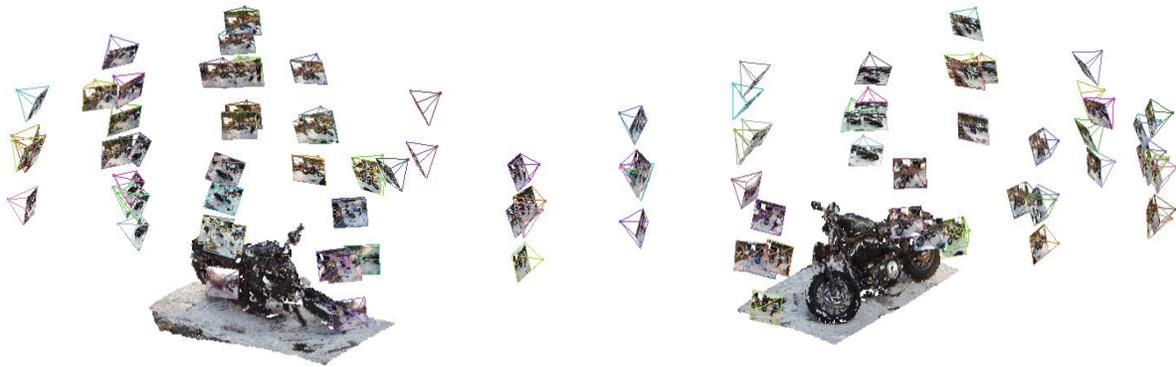
The algorithm needs to,

- recognize the scene,
- view the scene from many angles to understand the three dimensional relationship.

Thus, the general idea is to take images from slowly translating angles.

Below is an example of taking pictures of a motorcycle. In the center is the motorcycle dense reconstruction result in VisualSFM. The surrounding pyramids shows the 3D position of the images taken.



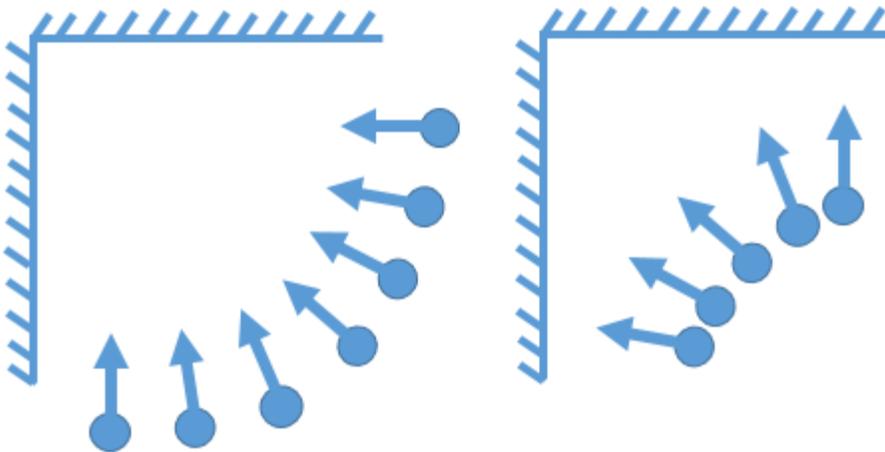


Basic rules:

1. Start at one spot, take three images at high, middle, low position. Move to the next spot, take three images. Walk roughly in a circle surround the scene/object. Imagine the scene/object as the center of the circle; the camera's viewpoint casts a ray to the scene, like the radius of the circle. Try to keep two rays within 30 degree angle. Repeat until disclosure the circle.
2. For a feature to be successfully reconstructed, it has to be seen by least three cameras. The more, the better.
3. All cameras are pointing to the scene/object (the Harley in this case).

correct

wrong



4. All cameras have a similar distance from the scene/object. The scene/object should not look too large or too small. Ideally, frame your scene/object in the middle 1/3 to 2/3 of the picture. If you want particular detailed features, take multiple pictures at equal intervals while slowly approaching the feature of interest. Do not move your camera dramatically in one single direction. This is to make sure the program could understand and relate the detailed feature to the whole scene.
We recommend taking a new set of images for a separate reconstruction of the detailed feature, unless it has to be part of the general large-scale scene/object.
5. Reflections and shadows do affect the program's judgement. Try to take more images from different viewpoint to secure the reconstruction.
6. More features would help locate the camera. Always include surrounding features. For example, a piece of white wall is featureless; a door frame would be feature on the white wall. A car hood itself is featureless (too smooth and uniformed); a zoom-out picture including side mirrors,

windshield, ground, tires, etc. would make it easier for the program to ‘understand’ and to locate the hood.

Alternatively, one can take videos of the scene/object, or shoot in burst mode (continuous high speed shooting).

One way of video frame extraction is to use free open source software GIMP&GAP. Please refer to this video¹ for detailed instructions. Download and install GIMP, GAP, and GIMP extensions, following the link provided in the video.

We recommend moving the camera in similar manners – walking around in a circle while moving the camera up and down.



Software Installation

Software and hardware requirement:

The instructions are designed for Windows (64-bit) operating system with NVIDIA CUDA-enabled GPU. Contact us if your platform is different.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chmuaoHAzDM>

An alternative for VisualSFM+CMPMVS is Multi-View Environment (MVE). It works on Linux OS and is distributed under less strict license. For more details on MVE usage and performance, click [here](#).

Download and install a set of 3rd party software to analyze and visualize the data:

1. VisualSFM
2. CMP-MVS (requires CUDA)
3. Meshlab
4. CloudCompare

Install VisualSFM:

1. Check the system properties.
On your computer, go to "Computer"> "system properties".
Check and make sure your machine has a 64-bit operating system.
2. Get VisualSFM windows binaries from here: <http://ccwu.me/vsfm/>
Go to the Download section and download the first one "Windows*". Click on '64-bit', which matches your operating system.

Download from the second option "Windows", if you do not have CUDA.

Download v0.5.26 ([changelog](#) with new feature documentation)

Windows* ([64-bit](#), [32-bit](#), [installation guide](#)), *for nVidia CUDA or [CUDA Simulation](#).

Download the version that matches with your operating system. Save it to a folder of your choice. Unzip the package. It should look like below, where the VisualSFM application locates:

Name	Type	Size
 cudart64_40_17	DLL File	564 KB
 glew64	DLL File	273 KB
 pba_x64	DLL File	1,412 KB
 README	Text Document	3 KB
 SiftGPU64	DLL File	1,766 KB
 VisualSFM	Application	1,353 KB

3. **Get the CMVS/PMVS binaries from here:**
<http://code.google.com/p/osm-bundler/downloads/detail?name=osm-bundler-pmvs2-cmvs-full-32-64.zip>

Unzip the package. And then put cmvs.exe, pmvs.exe, genOption.exe and pthreadVc2.dll in the same folder as the VisualSFM application, which you got in step 2.

You will find these files in the directories:

.../osm-bundler/osm-bundlerWin64/software/cmvs/bin and

.../osm-bundler/osm-bundlerWin64/software/pmvs/bin

Install CMPMVS:

CMPMVS can be found here:

<http://ptak.felk.cvut.cz/sfmservice/websfm.pl?menu=cmpmvs>

As CMPMVS requires a NVIDIA CUDA-enabled GPU, it may not work on some computers. An alternative way to generate a mesh reconstruction is using Meshlab. See the Meshlab section for details.

Download the latest version:

Download

[cmpmvs-v0.6.0-binary-win64-cuda.zip](#)

- Complete binary distribution package for 64-bit Windows 7 OS with CUDA

Read the readme.txt carefully. Make sure you have installed:

Visual Studio 2008 x64 redistributable: <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=15336>

DirectX: <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=6883>

Latest GPU driver: <http://www.nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx?lang=en-us>

Install Meshlab:

Meshlab can be found here: <http://meshlab.sourceforge.net/>

When the Meshlab setup wizard started, click on 'Next', 'I Agree', and accept the default path, and 'install'.

You might have errors (e.g. “missing Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 SP1 Redistributable Package (x64)”). It may be because some packages are not installed on your computer. Download the missing package and install. The problem should be fixed.

Install CloudCompare:

CloudCompare can be found here: <http://www.danielgm.net/cc/>

On CloudCompare Download page, click to download the CloudCompare 2.6.1 installer version for Windows 64 bits (or Windows 32 bits based on your operating system).

When the downloading completes, double-click on the installer. Click 'Run' and 'Yes', if your system pops up windows for security reasons.

When the CloudCompare setup wizard window shows. Keep clicking 'Next' (for four times). Then Click 'Install'.

Dense Reconstruction

The dense reconstruction is done using VisualSFM.

Double click on the VisualSFM application icon  VisualSFM to open VisualSFM. You can find the application in the unzipped VisualSFM folder. See ‘Install VisualSFM’ section above for details.

Follow the first four steps below.



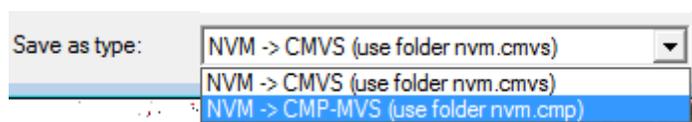
Cite: <http://ccwu.me/vsfm/>

1. Click  to load your images.
Image name should contain **only numbers and letters**. Special characters may cause VisualSFM reconstruction failure.
Browse to your image folder. Press 'ctrl' + 'A' on your keyboard at the same time to select all images. Click OK.
The loading may take a few seconds, depending on the number of images.
2. Click on the button. The process may take seconds to minutes, depending on the number of images.
3. Click on the button. After the process terminated, you can drag the model by pressing the left mouse button, and rotate the model by pressing the right mouse button and dragging. Also, you can read the information in the log window (on the right). It tells you how many models are reconstructed. Ideally, we want one complete model. The fewer models it generated, the better.
4. Click on the button. If you got multiple models in previous sparse reconstruction process, press 'Shift' and click. This creates dense reconstruction for all models.
In the popped up window, name your dense model. Leave the 'Save as type' in its default. Click 'Save'. The dense reconstruction process may take 30 minutes to complete. The result can be visualized in VisualSFM, Meshlab, or CloudCompare. See the measurement section for details.

Mesh Reconstruction

The CMPMVS takes the dense model generated by VisualSFM, and do mesh reconstruction. See the [advanced features](#) (look for 'How to do mesh reconstruction in Meshlab') on how to generate mesh with Meshlab.

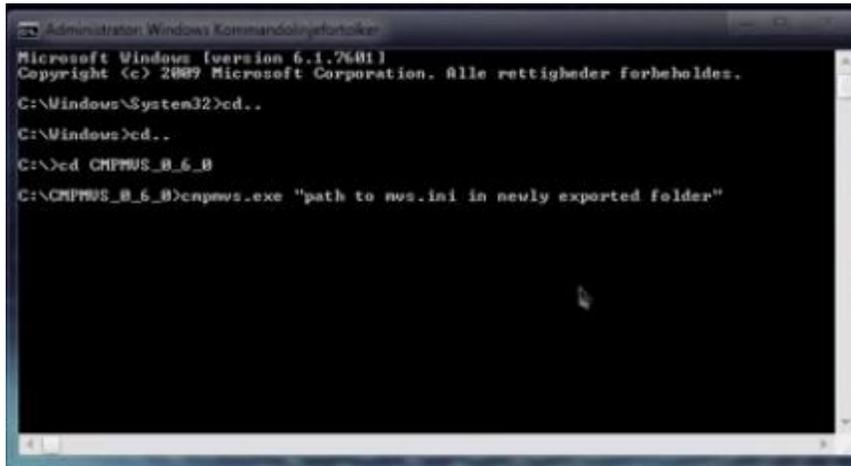
1. Repeat to the first three steps in Dense reconstruction.
2. Click on the  button. In the popped up window, look for 'Save as type:', then select the second option, i.e. 'NVM -> CMP-MVS'. Name your file and click 'Save'. This process may take a few seconds.



3. Browse to the newly exported .nvm.cmp folder and open the mvs.ini file with a text editor (like notepad). In the [global] section, ensure that the directory in the line `dirName="<path_to_your_folder>.nvm.cmp\00\data"` is correct for the machine you will be

running CMPMVS on, including the trailing slash (“\”). **If you change machines, you will need to change this to the absolute path of the 00\data\ folder.**

4. Run CMPMVS from the command line as shown below.



```
Administrator: Windows Kommandozeile
Microsoft Windows [version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. Alle rettigheder forbeholdes.

C:\Windows\System32>cd..
C:\Windows>cd..
C:\>cd CMPMVS_8_6_8
C:\CMPMVS_8_6_8>cmpmvs.exe "path to mvs.ini in newly exported folder"
```

In command line, change directory (type ‘cd’ followed by a space) to the folder where CMPMVS executable is installed/located. To run the application, type CMPMVS.exe, followed by a space, followed by the directory of the mvs.ini file. To find the directory of the mvs.ini file, browse to the .nvm.cmp folder (which is newly exported from VisualSFM steps) > 00, copy the route and paste into the command line, and type the name of the mvs.ini file. Hit Enter to run with default settings.

The command line example:

```
C:\user\...\cmmvms\CMPMVS_6>CMPMVS.exe E:\...\00\mvs.ini
```

Note that there should be no space in the path to mvs.ini file. Otherwise error occurs.

You can also add more options to change parameters.

For example, put another single space, and paste the options you want. The options can be found in readme file under CMPMVS root folder. Hit Enter to run CMPMVS with your settings.

The command line example:

```
C:\user\...\cmmvms\CMPMVS_6>CMPMVS.exe E:\...\00\mvs.ini DoGenerateVideo=True.
```

CMPMVS process may run for several hours. When it’s finished, the command line status should be like:

```
C:\user\...\cmmvms\CMPMVS_6>_
```

The reconstruction results are saved in the ~\00\data_OUT\simplified10 folder. The colored mesh is named ‘meshAvImgCol.ply’. The Textured mesh is named ‘meshAvImgTex.wrl’. In case you want a denser reconstruction, go to the ~\00\data_OUT folder to find the original files with same names.

Open them in Meshlab or CloudCompare. See the measurement section for details.

 meshAvImgCol	PLY File	11,019 KB
 meshAvImgTex.wrl	WRL File	46,755 KB

CMPMVS TroubleShooting:

- Crashes at
“Processing input images
Loading input data”
Possible solution: The dirName in the [global] section of mvs.ini does not have an absolute

path to the 00\data\ folder. Ensure that the path is correct, absolute (starts with C:\), and ends with a trailing slash (\).

- Crashes immediately with “The application was unable to start correctly (0xc000007b). Click OK to close the application.”
Possible solution: Copy C:\Windows\System32\D3DX9_43.dll to the same folder as CMPMVS.exe and rename it to d3dx9_42.dll
See <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!topic/cmpmvs/J33ZitOyj78>.

Visualization in VisualSfM

When VisualSfM is open, two windows present. The one on the right is a ‘log window’; the left one is referred to as ‘task window’.

Tool bar:



Menu:



Operate with mouse, keyboard, and menu buttons

Drag (press and do not release) the left mouse button to move the model.

Drag (press and do not release) the right mouse button to rotate the model.

Use mouse scroll wheel to zoom in/out.

Use the buttons  to switch between 3D views and image thumbnails.

In dense mode, click  the show/hide features button to see the cameras (i.e. images). Press ‘Ctrl’ and scroll the mouse wheel to zoom the cameras.

In sparse mode, press the up/down arrow key on keyboard to see different models.

View dense reconstruction result

After the dense reconstruction process complete, do not quit the program. Click anywhere inside the VisualSfM task window to make sure it’s activated. Now press ‘Tab’ on the keyboard to see the dense reconstruction. Press ‘Tab’ again to switch to sparse reconstruction.

Load a previous reconstruction

Sometimes you start the VisualSfM and would like to see a previously reconstructed model (a dense reconstruction).

Click on  the Load NView Match button. Browse to the location where you stored the (dense_file_name).nvm.cmvs folder. There should be a separate (dense_file_name).nvm file in the same directory. Click on the .nvm file (not the folder). Click ‘Open’. Wait for the loading process to complete. Then activate the task window. Use ‘Tab’ on keyboard to switch between sparse and dense reconstruction.

Open another model in new window

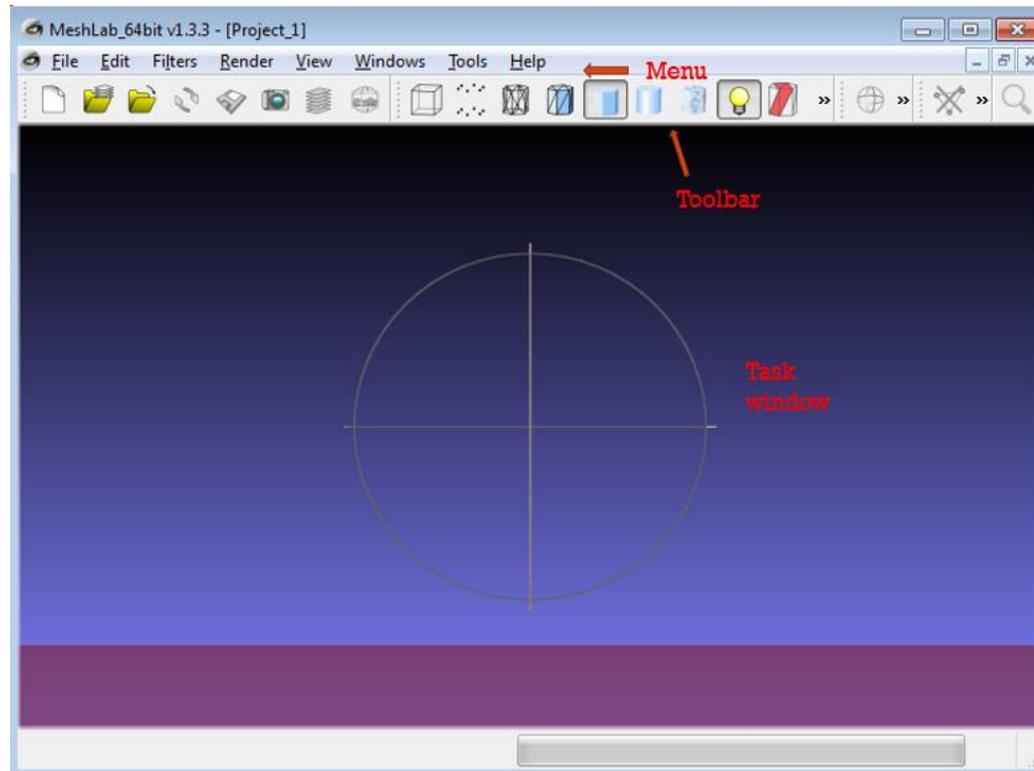
You can open multiple models in VisualSfM. This is useful when you want to roughly see the difference of two reconstruction models.

In VisualSfM, go to File > New Window to open a new task window. Load a different model here.

Clean up points in VisualSFM

Press F2 in dense mode. Drag with mouse to select unwanted points. Press Delete on keyboard to delete.

Visualization in Meshlab



Import mesh reconstruction

To open and view a mesh reconstruction, click on the import mesh button  on the toolbar. Click 'open' to import it.

Specifically, to open and view the mesh reconstruction done by CPMVS, click on the import mesh button . Browse to the reconstruction results saved from the CPMVS process. In most cases, browse to the `~\00\data_OUT\simplified10` folder. The colored mesh is named 'meshAvImgCol.ply'. The Textured mesh is named 'meshAvImgTex.wrl'. In case you want a denser reconstruction, go to the `~\00\data_OUT` folder to find the original files with same names. Import them.

Operate with mouse, keyboard, and menu buttons

In case you don't see the model in the task window, press 'ctrl' + 'H' on the keyboard to reset the view.

Drag the left mouse button to rotate the model.

Press and do not release 'ctrl', and meanwhile drag the left mouse button to move the model. Or you can press the mouse scroll wheel, instead of scrolling, and drag to move the model.

Scroll the mouse wheel to zoom the model.

Use  on the toolbar to turn on/off the light. This does not modify the model. Make it on or off,

whichever gives a better visual effect. Use  to view the model in different mode. Again, this does not modify the model. They are just different ways to view the model. The last one has to be enabled to see the color/texture information. The second last renders

a smoothed model. The third from the right renders the triangle faces in the model. The first one from the left shows only the bounding box. The second one from the left shows the vertex points of the model. You can also switch these mode from the Layer Dialog.

Enable the Layer Dialog

Click on  button on the toolbar, if the Layer Dialog is not visible by default.

Select to activate layer

In the Layer Dialog, click to select the layer you would like to clean up. The selected layer will be highlighted. Mostly any tasks only affect the selected layer, unless in cases of aligning, etc.



Clean up point cloud or mesh in Meshlab

Sometimes we need to remove unwanted points:

- 1) Surroundings that are not part of the scene/object
- 2) Detached points scattered around the scene/object
- 3) Noise

Select (highlight) the layer you want to clean up.

Use 'Select Vertexes'  to select unwanted area. The selected area are highlighted in red.(You

can also use  to select points on a plane. This is useful to remove points inside the car.)

Press Shift to subtract selections (deselect). Press Ctrl to add selections (not very easy to control with plane selection mode, helpful when using 'select vertexes').

After selecting, click on the button again to stop selection mode. This is to be able to rotate the model and check, before removing the points. Click  to remove the selected area. Repeat until this layer is cleaned up.

Note: On some computers, Meshlab stops responding when selecting starts. In this case, the selection can be done if you keep pressing the mouse button while Meshlab is not responding and releases it after Meshlab responds again. i.e. the select function is too slow.

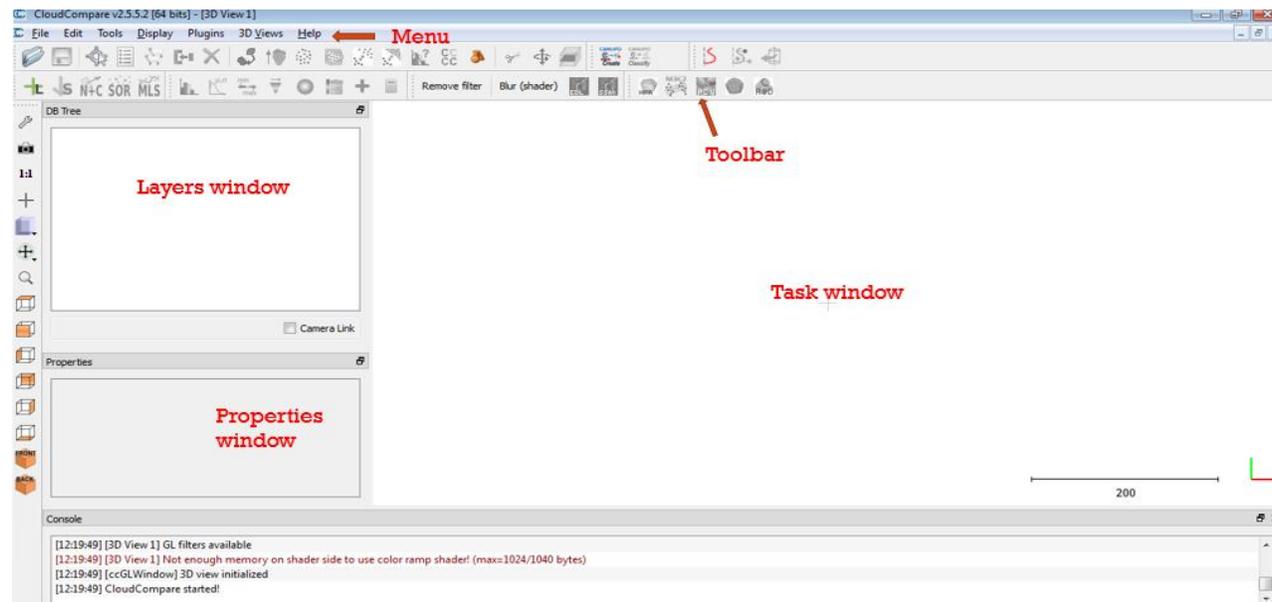
Save the layer

Make sure to save after every step. This can also prevent Meshlab crashing from memory overflow.

To save to the original layer, simply clicking  the save button.

To save as a new layer, go to file> export mesh as... Give a different name to your layer and save it.

Analysis in CloudCompare



Change the background color of Task window

The default task window background color is blue. You can change it by going to Menu > Display > Display settings. Click to unfold the tab 'Colors and materials'. Under Colors section, click on the blue button next to 'Background'. Change the color to white. Click 'Apply' and then 'Ok'.

Open files in CloudCompare

Open CloudCompare. From the toolbar, click  to open the file. Change the file type to ply mesh.

Browse to proper location. Click open to import.

If you have multiple files to open, press 'ctrl' on the keyboard, and select them. Click open to import.

Click 'Apply' in all the popup windows.

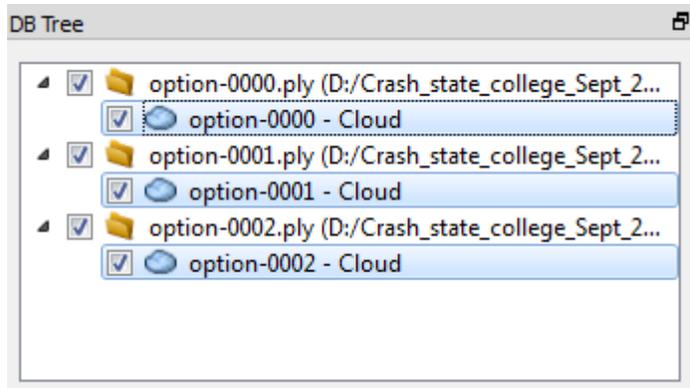
Combine multiple files in CloudCompare

The Merge function combines all files into one single file.

You may need to merge the mode when one model is so large that VisualSFM saved it into several option-xxxx.ply files, which can be combined into option-all.ply.

You may also need it after segmenting your model into pieces.

In the DB Tree window, press 'ctrl' while clicking and selecting all the option files:



In the toolbar, click  the merge button.

In the toolbar, click  the save button to save it in ~(yourfilename).nvm.cmvs /00/models folder as option-all.ply

Operate with mouse, keyboard, and menu buttons

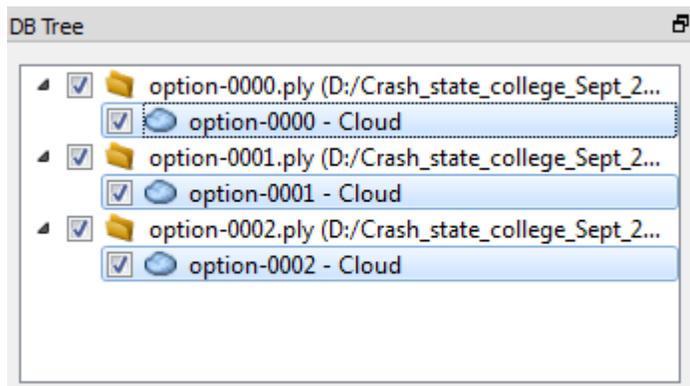
Press and drag the left mouse button to rotate the model.

Press and drag the right mouse button to move the model.

Scroll the mouse wheel to zoom.

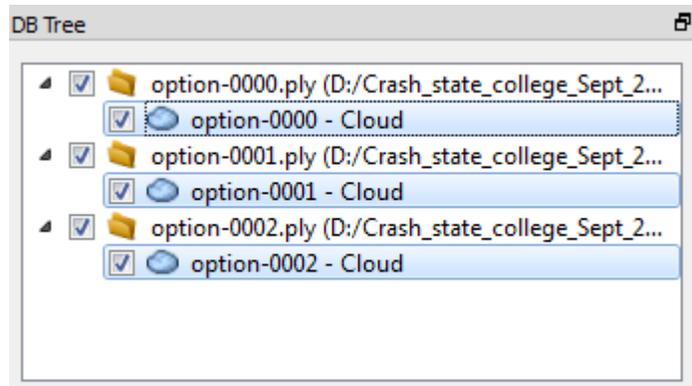
Select to activate layers

Unlike Meshlab, CloudCompare allows users to select and work with multiply layers. Press 'ctrl' and click on the layers to select. Release 'ctrl' when your selecting finished. Make sure you are selecting the Cloud, not the folder.



Turn on/off layers

Check/uncheck the box in front of the file to turn on/off the layer. This controls only the display of the file, with no modification to the file itself.



Clean up or cutting models in CloudCompare

Segmentation can be used for cleaning models, or selecting certain portions of models.

Click on  'segment' tool from the toolbar.

In the Task Window, left click to set the start point, click again to set another point. Click repeatedly to 'draw' a polygon. When you finish setting the boundary, right click to release the cursor.

In the segment menu bar, choose  to keep the inner part of the polygon and accept the changes by clicking .

Everything inside your polygon will be saved in a new Cloud layer. Similarly, choose  to keep everything outside of the polygon and accept the changes by clicking . Everything outside your polygon will be saved in a new Cloud layer. i.e. In the newly saved layer, everything inside the polygon has been removed.

Click  to quit the segmentation session.

You can also use the Merge tool to combine several segmented layer back together.

Rotate the model and repeat the segmentation session until getting a satisfactory model.

Save a model

Always select the layer in the Layers Window to save. Some tools may create new layers, for example, segmentation tools. Check the box before each layer to turn it on/off. Make sure you are saving the right layer.

Use  the save button on the toolbar to save your work. Give your layer a new name, and it will be saved as a new file. Otherwise a window will pop up asking whether to replace the original file. It's recommended to save files in ASCII format. You can save it as Binary to save space, if no further notepad editing required.

Align two models in CloudCompare

Say we want to align two planes: the blender plane and the table plane.

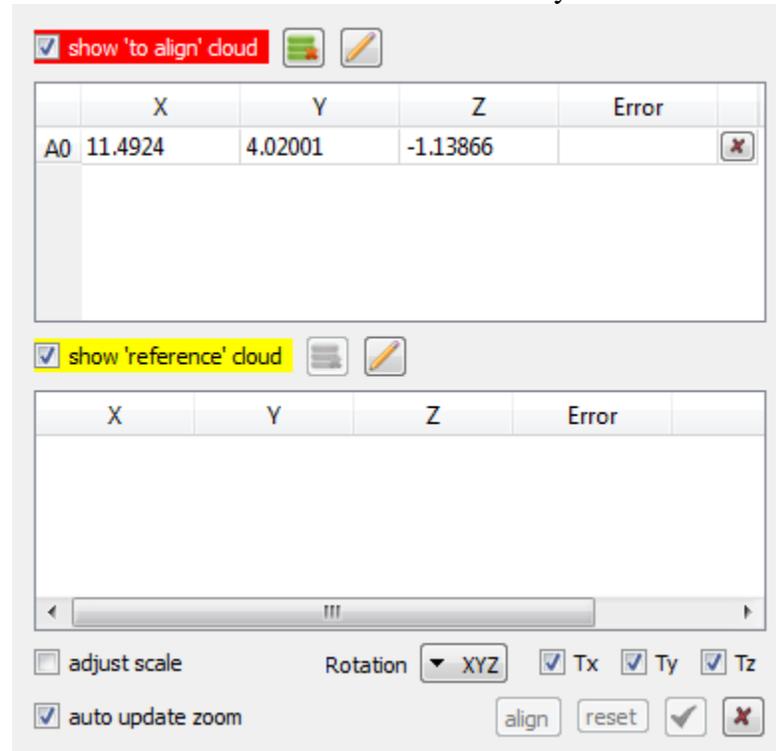
Load both plane layers. Select both the blender plane and the table layer. Align  the blender plane to the table surface. i.e. the reference is table surface cloud.

If one layer has true scale information, it's recommended to set this layer as the reference, so that the real-world scale is preserved.

Check the box to allow 'adjust scale'. This rescale the aligning layer to match with the reference

layer.

Left click to select one anchor point. Click on the corresponding point on the other model. The program will align the models based on the anchor points. Try to be as much accurate as possible. Drag with left mouse button to rotate the model. Scroll the mouse wheel to zoom. You can also check/uncheck the box to show/hide the layer.



When more than 4 points are selected on each model, the 'align' button will be enabled. Click it to see the result. Add more points for better alignment result. Click  to accept the result. Save the aligned layer.

Measure distance on point cloud

In CloudCompare, load the model. Select to activate the model. Use  from the toolbar, select the mode  to measure the distance of two points. Click on one point. Click on the second point. Click  to see the distance.

Scale point cloud in CloudCompare

In CloudCompare, load the model. Select to activate the model. We use a scaling factor to scale the model. The scaling factor $Sf = D_{actual} / D_{target}$.

To find D_{target} , use  from the toolbar to measure the distance (D_{target}) of two points. The actual distance is D_{actual} .

Calculate the scaling factor.

Go to menu, Edit > Multiply/scale: in the fx, fy and fz fields, enter the Sf factor (same for all dimensions).

Measure distance/ accuracy of two point clouds

- 1) Load the two point cloud layers.
- 2) Press Ctrl key on the keyboard, and select both layers in the Layer Window. Now you need to cut the two layers into exact same size. Select both layers and cut them together, using the tools mentioned in 'Clean up models in CloudCompare' above.

- 3) Press Ctrl key to select the new segmented layers. On the tool bar, click the button for  'compare cloud/cloud distance'. In the prompt-up window, see if the parameters on each tab are proper. We normally keep the 'General parameters' at the default value.
- 4) On the third tab, click Compute to get the result.
- 5) You can view the histogram by clicking the  'Show histogram' button in the tool bar.
- 6) Save your segmented layers.

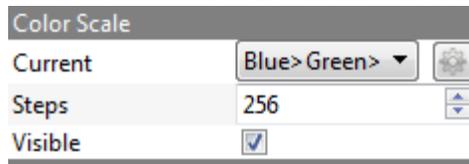
Alternative: Measure distance/ accuracy of two point clouds with PCL(Point Cloud Library)

There are scripts available to 1) convert ply to pcd files, and 2) do incremental registration. The incremental registration algorithm also has the option to use hand picked initial points.

PCL approach automates the point cloud registration.

Edit and customize the scalar color in CloudCompare

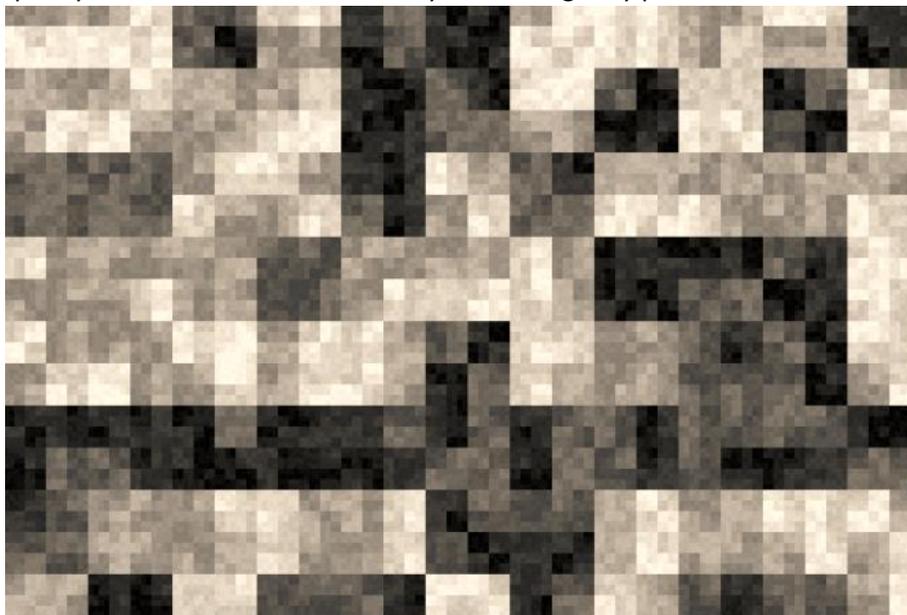
Select the layer, in the Properties window, scroll down to the 'Color Scale' section. Click the setting button  on the right to the current color scale. Click 'copy' to copy and edit customized color scalar. Switch the mode 'relative/absolute' to better measure the scaling. For example, using absolute allows user to set a bar at 2 centimeter. Under 'Color Scale', check the visible box to view



the legend bar.

Reconstruction improvements by using tags

Tags with multi-scale random checkerboard patterns² like the one shown below can greatly enhance the quality of a 3D reconstruction if they are strategically placed in the scene.



² A set of patterns can be downloaded at:
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~reconstruction/Downloads/multiscale_pattern.zip

General Rules for High Quality and Complete Reconstructions

- Each point on the car needs to be seen from at least 3 viewpoints.
- Adjacent viewpoints should not differ by more than 30 degrees and should not change distance by more than 1.5x. (Points on tags are more robust, see below).
- It is better to translate the camera between viewpoints rather than take many pictures from the same point but in different directions.

Rules for Tag Placement and Usage

The tags form a reference point skeleton that keeps the model together. Example tag locations for a complete interior and exterior vehicle model are shown on the next page.

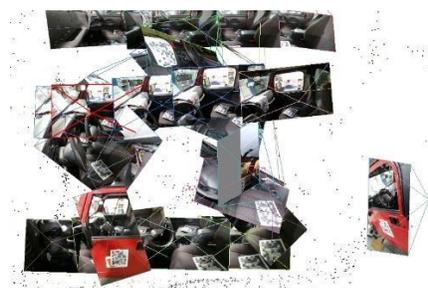
- Each tag should appear in at least 3 pictures from different locations
- Adjacent tags on the vehicle should be clear in at least one picture. This allows the spanning tree to be connected.
- It is okay if two views of a tag are from very different angles and distances as long as the tag is not viewed too much on edge.

Exterior Reconstruction

- Pictures should be taken from high (head height), middle (waist height), and low (knee height). If a reconstruction that includes the roof is required, pictures may need to be taken from a ladder.

Interior Reconstruction

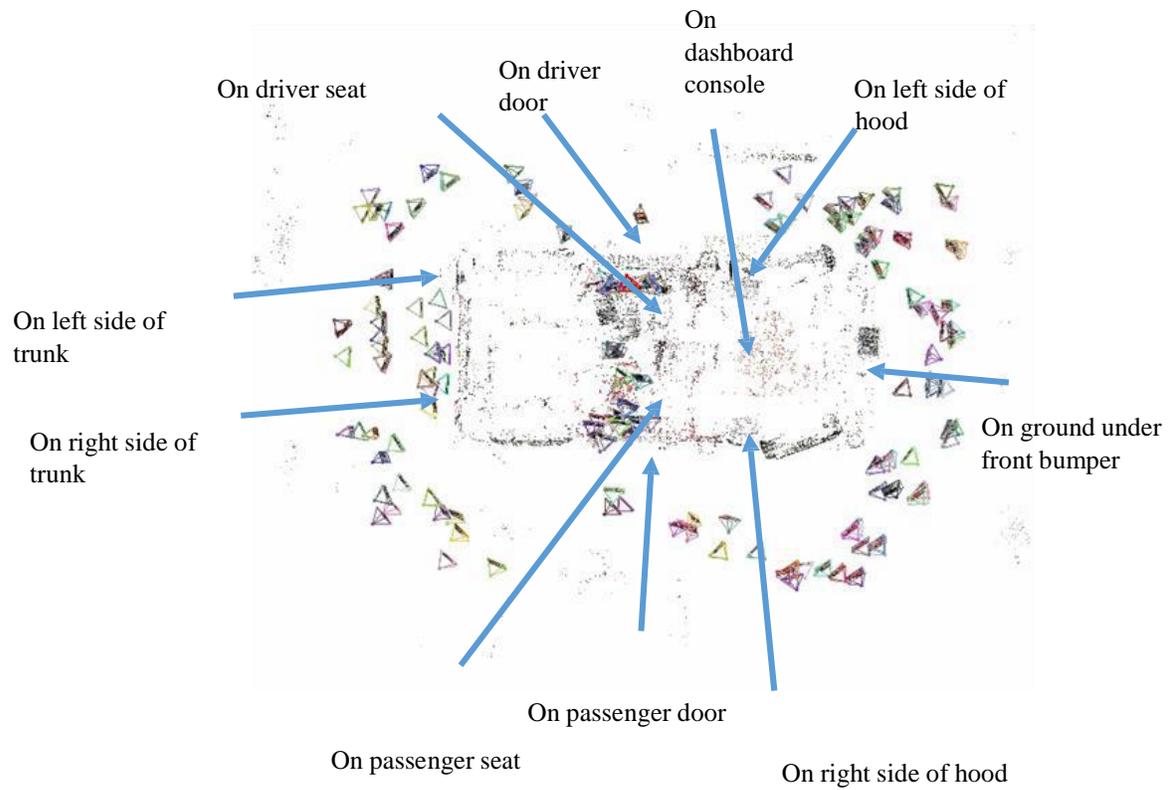
- Pictures should be taken from the driver and passenger side windows as shown below. Do not take pictures from the same viewpoint, the camera image planes should fill the entire window.
- Make sure some pictures include both tags on the seats and the tag on the console.
- At least one picture should include the tag on the door so that the interior model can be joined with the exterior model.



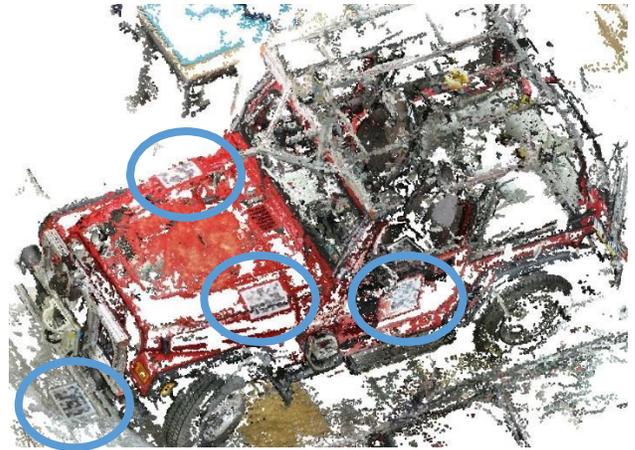
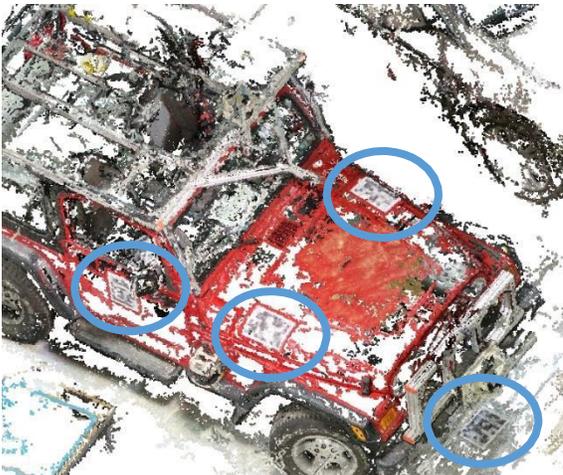
The pictures are taken at relatively the same angle but fill the entire window area.

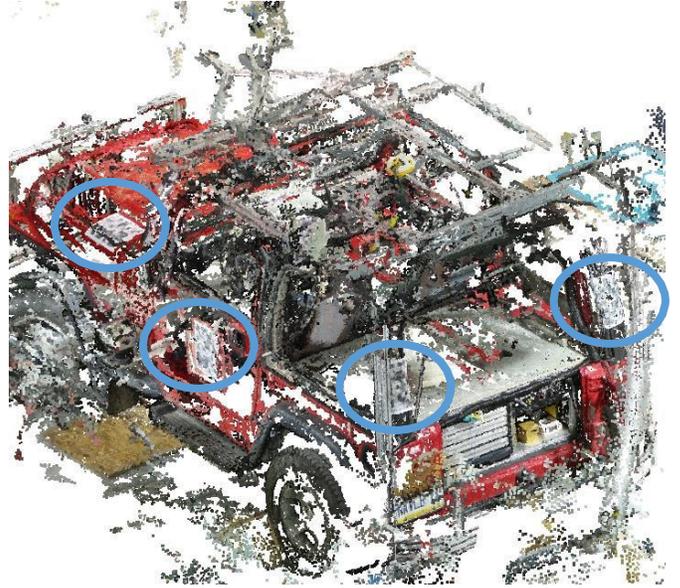
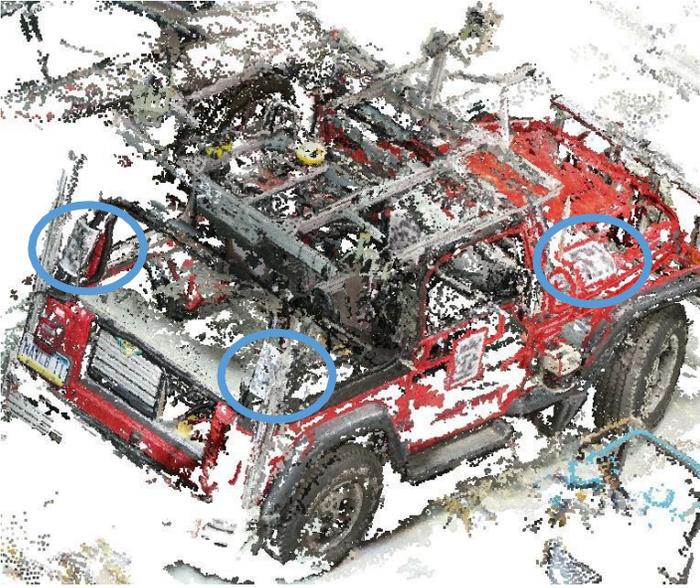
Notice the pictures that include the tag on the door as well as some of the interior tags.

Example Tag Locations



Tag locations are indicated with blue circles:

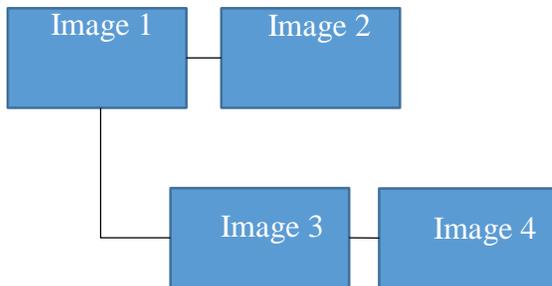




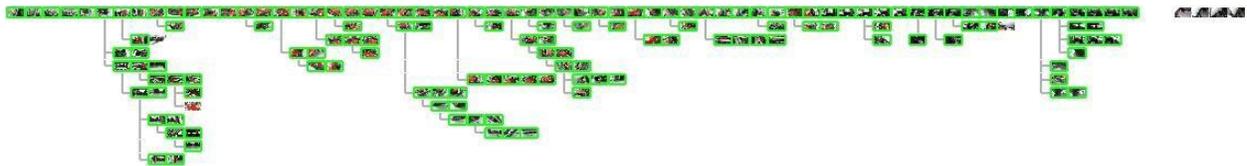
Using VisualSfM

Spanning Forest (SfM > Pairwise Matching > Show Spanning Forest)

This tree displays the connections between the images that form the model. Images that are adjacent horizontally and connected with a grey line are strongly connected. Vertical grey lines indicate a divergence in the forest as shown below: Image 1 and Image 2 are strongly connected (have many inlier matches), as are Image 3 and Image 4. Image 1 and Image 3 are also strongly connected, but Image 2 and Image 3 are not (they have few or no inlier matches).



Since we usually want images from all around the vehicle a good spanning forest should look like the one below. Press the up and down arrow keys to highlight the different models in green. Ideally all of the images should be part of the same model, as shown below.



Inlier Matches (View > Inlier Matches)

Right click a pair of images in the spanning forest and click View > Inlier Matches. This view shows the two images next to each other with green lines connecting matched features. An example is shown below. Note how strongly the tag matches between the two images. If the green lines are too dense, use View > More Options > Show Rand Match and use the up and down arrow keys to jump between matches. This is useful for checking that the matches are correct.



WREX presentation

Our methods were presented at the accident reconstruction conference WREX. The flyer that was distributed to interested participants is shown below:

3D Accident Reconstruction with Images

Webpage: <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~reconstruction/>
 contact: cmertz@andrew.cmu.edu, jinhangw@andrew.cmu.edu

Carnegie Mellon
THE ROBOTICS INSTITUTE

The Challenge

Severe accidents require 3D reconstruction, which currently need to be done by trained professionals and expensive laser scanners. The challenge is to come up with a speedy, low-cost, and still accurate approach, that can be done by any person with minimal training.

Structure from Motion Approach

--using any common camera



Speed: Data collection takes about 10 mins per car per person.
Accuracy: 1 inch with standard procedure, much higher accuracy possible with scene preparation and more close up images.
Usage: Deformation measurement, as well as 3D printed model for forensic purpose.

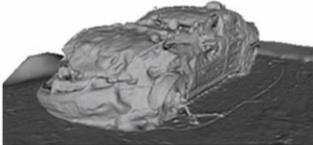


Dense Reconstruction 3D Model



Obtain 3D information from images using the free software VisualSFM. The process takes 30 minutes for a 100-image dataset. The result is a dense reconstruction 3D model, a model of clusters of points, surrounded by spatially positioned input images.

Solid Mesh Reconstruction



A solid mesh reconstruction can be generated with further processing.



This model can be colored (shown), 3D printed, or analyzed with accident investigation software.

Measurement and Analysis



The dense 3D model can be scaled in another free software. Align the crashed model with a pre-crash model. Rotate and cut out a slice of interest. Conduct measurement and analysis.

Variety Scale



Top to bottom: original image, 3D scene, and texture-mapped 3D scene.

Left to right: penny on table (very small object), crashed motorcycle, indoor crime scene, full house (very large object), and indoor multi-room.