Registering (aligning) multiple topographic datasets and topographic change detection

The Iterative Closest Point algorithm: a method for registering (aligning) two sets of points



Fig. 4. Iterative point-based registration of phantom face range data





Iterate Find closest points
Transform point cloud
$$\phi$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma & \beta & t_x \\ \gamma & 1 & -\alpha & t_y \\ -\beta & \alpha & 1 & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



















Pre-earthquake LiDAR survey















The Challenges of LiDAR differencing

- Data are irregularly spaced (we can rasterize them, but we lose information doing so).
- There can be large mismatches in point density (typically the newer dataset is denser than the older one).
- There may also be large errors in absolute point positioning (for instance at the edges of scan lines, as we saw at El Mayor).



The Iterative Closest Point algorithm: a method for registering (aligning) two sets of points



Fig. 4. Iterative point-based registration of phantom face range data

Post-earthquake point cloud





The Iterative Closest Point algorithm: a method for registering (aligning) two sets of points

- the two point clouds are first split into square "windows", 50 m in diameter
- ICP is run separately on each pair of windows. (An additional "fringe" of 5 m is included in the post-event window in order to capture the coseismic displacement)
- ICP finds the displacement and rotation that best aligns the pre-event and post-event point clouds.
- This alignment corresponds to the local coseismic displacement for that window.

see Nissen et al. (2012), Geophys. Res. Lett., for details

Post-earthquake point cloud







Post-earthquake point cloud







Post-earthquake point cloud







Find closest points



Iterate Find closest points
Transform point cloud
$$\phi$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\gamma & \beta & t_x \\ \gamma & 1 & -\alpha & t_y \\ -\beta & \alpha & 1 & t_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

























between earthquakes elastic strain accumulates

Interseismic GPS velocities, 1996-2000 from Hashimoto et al. (2009)



Coseismic GPS velocities from during earthquake elastic strain is released March 11 2011 from Ozawa et al. (2011)







Takada et al. (2009), Earth Planets Space

Japan Geographical Survey Institute



Pre-earthquake DEM (2m)



Post-earthquake DEM (1m)



DEM subtraction (height change, m)





Pre-earthquake DEM (2m)



Post-earthquake DEM (1m)







quake (Mw 6.9), Japan



Photos by Tadashi Maruyama







InSAR model from Fukushima et al. (2013), BSSA





Pre-event data: 2 m Bare Earth DEM, Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd.



Post-event data: 1 m Bare Earth DEM, Aero Asahi Corp.

















This is a common phenomenon for thrust faults that rupture upwards through unconsolidated sediment



Geological map from Toda & Tsutsumi (2013)



In many places, only a small proportion of the slip makes it to the surface

This is a common phenomenon for thrust faults that rupture upwards through unconsolidated sediment

However, this is a bedrock normal fault









ICP LiDAR differencing: strengths and weaknesses

Synthetic Aperture Radar Interferometry (InSAR)



Sub-pixel matching





InSAR measures deformation in the satellite line of sight. **Pixel matching** usually only measures horizontal displacements.

ICP can resolve displacements and rotations in *3-D*.

Pixel matching can be applied to LiDAR imagery, but requires gridding (rasterization) of the point clouds, resulting in information loss.

ICP works on the original point clouds.

InSAR is good at measuring **far-field deformation** but often break down close to surface faulting

LiDAR is typically focused along active faults, so ICP will be useful for obtaining **near-field deformation**