Structure from Motion



Outline

Structure from Motion (SfM):

- How it works
- Our workflow
- Value of ground control points (GCPs)
- Potential with existing aerial photos
- Example multitemporal study

Digital Topography from the Stereoscopic Effect



Structure from Motion vs. Stereophotogrammetry

- Traditional stereophotogrammetry requires that we know the precise locations of the photos, and a fairly simple photo geometry
- Structure from Motion simultaneously solves for the camera parameters and the scene geometry, and can support large changes in camera position

Structure from Motion (SfM)

- Reconstructs 3D model of a scene from photographs with overlapping coverage taken from changing perspectives
- Triangulates among features in different photos using Scale Invariant Feature Transform (Lowe, 2004; Snavely et al., 2008)



 Incorporation of aerial platform improves camera perspective and increases coverage compared to ground-based surveys

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Inexpensive
- User-friendly software and technology
- Very high-resolution data
- Colored point clouds

Cons:

- Cannot "see through" vegetation
- Usually cover much smaller areas than LiDAR

SfM Workflow



Field work and data collection

Data processing



Photo credit: Kate Scharer

Choose platform

Select camera



Deploy and survey ground control points

Collect photographs



Helium balloon



http://aeroquad.com/attachment.php?attachmentid=7091&d=1375885270

Considerations

- Site conditions
 - Weather especially wind
 - Terrain steep or sub-horizontal
- Regulations
 - In America, using a tether avoids most issues

- Desired resolution
 - Smaller distance between camera and target yields higher density point cloud but photo footprint is smaller



ALT T

Choose aerial platform

Select camera

Deploy and survey ground control points



Criteria:

ullet

- Time-lapse or remote-controlled triggering
- GPS tagging preferred

Collect photographs



Choose aerial platform

Select camera

Deploy and survey ground control points (GCPs)

Collect photographs



GPS locations of prominent features are used during the processing phase to improve point cloud accuracy



Choose aerial platform

Select camera

Deploy and survey ground control points

Collect photographs



Proper photo collection

more detail provided by Agisoft:

http://www.agisoft.com/pdf/tips_and_tricks/Image%20Capture%20Tips%20-%20Equipment%20and%20Shooting%20Scenarios.pdf

-More photos are better than not enough

-Each photo should be maximally occupied by features of interest (but the full object does not need to be in every frame)

-For aerial data collection, aim for 80% forward overlap and 60% side overlap

Imaging a sub-planar feature



Collect photos from multiple locations but similar look angles

Imaging an interior (e.g. of a room)

Interior (Incorrect)

Interior (Correct)



Collect photos from the opposite side of the interior

Imaging an isolated object

Isolated Object (Incorrect)

Isolated Object (Correct)



Collect photos many angles

Data Processing

*Agisoft Photoscan Pro



More details in Johnson et al., (2014).



*Alternative workflows presented in Westoby et al. (2012), James and Robson (2012), and Fonstad et al. (2013).

Ground Control Points (GCPs): a case study at the Washington Street Site

We compared our SfM DEM to an existing DEM to quantify the accuracy of structure from motion when GCPs are and are not used



Washington Street Site

density

90% > 60

How does SfM point density compare to airborne LiDAR?



LiDAR point density (points/m²):

90% > 1 50% > 1.75

Johnson et al., 2014

'B4' LiDAR Project led by the USGS and Ohio State University and funded by the NSF. Data collected by NCALM.

Washington Street Site: No GCPs



SfM profile is shifted and tilted compared to the LiDAR



Johnson et al., 2014

Washington Street Site: No GCPs

Absolute vertical distances (meters) from each LiDAR point to nearest SfM point



Johnson et al., 2014

Washington Street Site: With GCPs

Add GCPs from GeoXH GPS with 20 cm uncertainty



Washington Street Site: With GCPs

Absolute vertical distances (meters) from each LiDAR point to nearest SfM point



Johnson et al., 2014

Washington Street Site: With GCPs



Johnson et al., 2014

Conclusion: although SfM is able to work out the rough 3D structure of the scene without any GCPs, there may be warping and tilting \rightarrow we always use GCPs!

If images are collected from a camera that does not have GPS, GCPs must be used to create a spatial/geospatial reference frame.

Agisoft Lens



Washington Street Site Interpretation



Johnson et al., 2014

*Corresponds with slip estimates for ca. 1690 earthquake

Example: Jointing and magmatic dikes as a precursor to the development of volcanic plugs

Townsend et al. (in press)



Use geologic evidence to test flow localization theories

Characterize systematic set of dikeperpendicular joints in sedimentary host rock





Used orthophoto (5 mm resolution) to measure the length and orientation of the joints

Showed that perpendicular joints are associated with magma emplacement and thermal pressurization in host rock → fracturing is precursor to host rock erosion and sustained flow

SfM from existing aerial photos

Because rigid photo geometry and camera position/orientation details are not important in SfM, we can extract elevation data from any set of aerial photos – provided they have sufficient overlap.

Example: Stream profile analysis in Montana



Example: Assessment of the 1992 Lander's earthquake rupture zone width and complexity



Does rupture width and complexity depend more on lithology and surface cover thickness, or structural maturity of the causative fault?

Point cloud generated using aerial photos from just after the earthquake

Use in multitemporal studies

Suitable for repeat surveys if:

- Satellite methods do not provide sufficient resolution (time and/or space)
- Alternative methods (e.g. laser scanning) are too costly or logistically complicated

Example: Degradation of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake scarp






Degradation of the 2010 El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake scarp





Degradation due to flooding

LiDAR; post-earthquake, August 2010



SfM; post-flooding, November 2013



Quantitative comparison

2010-to-2013 absolute vertical change







General Applications in Active Tectonics

CICESE, April 2015 Barrett Salisbury Arizona State University

Outline

- southern San Andreas, ballooning
- central (creeping) San Andreas, UAV
- Preliminary Pre- and Post-event comparison, Napa, CA
- Fun outcrop modeling, Antarctic Peninsula
- Examples of closed objects

southern San Andreas













Perspective 30°













Perspective 30°











Pick equivalent points on both clouds (at least 4 pairs - mind the order) (you can add points 'manually' if necessary)









Central Creeping San Andreas



Toke and Arrowsmith, 2013 SCEC Annual Report





Bunds, M., N. Toke, S. Walker, A. Fletcher, and M. Arnoff, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Utah Valley University



Bunds et al.





Bunds et al.





Toke and Arrowsmith, 2013 SCEC Annual Report



Bunds et al.



Toke and Arrowsmith, 2013 SCEC Annual Report

Preliminary Pre- and Post-event Comparison









Outcrop Studies

• Antarctic Peninsula, Brown Bluff

Outcrop Studies

Antarctic Peninsula, Brown Bluff

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faces: 277,711 vertices: 140,482

Closed Objects





