# 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/m<sup>2</sup>):

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

"is Kippen it it of the high to







faces: 277,711 vertices: 140,482

## **Closed Objects**





