



User Manual

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1. Overview

The Surface Extraction by TIN-based Search space Minimization (SETSM) software is designed to provide fully-automatic, generalized Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and orthoimage extraction from high-resolution stereoscopic image pairs distributed by DigitalGlobe and Airbus. Currently, these include imagery from the Ikonos, Quickbird, GeoEye, Worldview and Pleiades satellite constellations. In principle, SETSM could be applied to any set of pushbroom-mode imagery, but only DigitalGlobe Airbus/Pleiades metadata are currently supported.

SETSM consists of a series of self-contained c functions. The file names of the right and left image stereo pairs are passed as arguments, along with an output directory name. Other options are either passed as arguments or are read from the “default.txt” file. The images can either be in flat-binary format with an ENVI style header or can be Geotiff. SETSM produces three outputs, all flat binary rasters with header files: the DTM at the specified output resolution, an orthorectified image of the first image in the pair at the same resolution as the DTM and a “matchtag” mask, which gives ones at locations of data points and zeros for interpolated or background grid points. The binary output can be converted to GeoTiff or other formats with GDAL or other software packages.

For processing high-resolution (submeter) commercial imagery, a node with 12 or more cores is generally needed. Typical times for processing a pair of WorldView-1 images to 2 m resolution is 20 hours on a 16-core node, with 8m taking 5 hours. The processing time, however, will vary widely depending on the terrain and the area of overlap between the stereo images. SETSM is currently node-parallel (with OpenMP) but does not support multi-node (MPI) processing. MPI capability is expected in the near future.

Note that SETSM is currently under active development by Myoung-Jong Noh and the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) under a grant from the National Science Foundation and is expected to have many updates in the near future.

2. Installation

The SETSM binary is currently distributed with a makefile, default.txt file and readme. Installation consists of specifying the libtiff path and then running make to build the SETSM executable.

2.1. Dependencies

SETSM can be run in completely stand-alone mode with flat binary input and output, but two utilities are useful for reading more standard GeoTiff format directly into SETSM and manipulating/translating the output: libtiff and GDAL

2.1.1. libtiff

SETSM uses libtiff to read input geotiff images. In order to read bigTiff (> 4 GB) images, libtiff version 4.0 or greater is required. The following commands will install libtiff in your home directory:

```
wget ftp://ftp.remotesensing.org/pub/libtiff/tiff-4.0.3.tar.gz
tar -zxvf tiff-4.0.3.tar.gz
cd tiff-4.0.3
./configure --prefix=/home/your_username/
make
make install
ldconfig
make distclean
```

2.1.2. GDAL

The Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL) is an open source geospatial data manipulation package. It is useful for translating SETSM output (currently flat binary raster files and ascii header in polar stereographic projection) to other formats and projections. The Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) maintains a handy install script for installing or updating GDAL and all of its dependencies at <https://github.com/PolarGeospatialCenter/gdal-full>

- Command for converting ntf into tif

```
gdal_translate -q --config GDAL_CACHEMAX 2048 -ot UInt16 -co NBITS=16 -co bigtiff=if_safer  
-co tiled=yes -co compress=lzw input.ntf output.tif
```

- Command for converting *_dem.raw into tif

```
gdal_translate -co compress=lzw -a_nodata -9999 *_dem.raw outfile.tif
```

- Command for converting *_matchtag.raw into tif

```
gdal_translate -co compress=lzw -a_nodata 0 *_matchtag.raw outfile.tif
```

- Command for converting *_ortho_image.raw into tif

```
gdal_translate -co compress=lzw -a_nodata 0 *_ortho_image.raw outfile.tif
```

2.2. Building the SETSM Executable

Use the tiffinfo command to locate the path to the libtiff library and verify that it is version 4 or higher. Current SETSM has been developed through gcc compiler of 5.2.0 version, so we strongly recommend to use the compiler version. You will then need to edit the SETSM Makefile to point to your libtiff library installation.

Makefile :

setsm : Function.o

```
gcc -O3 -ffast-math -funroll-loops -fopenmp -o setsm Function.o
```

```
-L/home/your_username/libtiff/lib -lm -ltiff
```

Save and close the Makefile and then export the libtiff with:

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/home/your_username/libtiff/lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

Now run make to build the SETSM executable, which should now appear in the directory.

Confirm there is also a file named default.txt in the setsm directory.

3. SETSM Basic Usage

The basic SETSM syntax is:

```
./setsm [image1(*.raw|*.tif)] [image2(*.raw|*.tif)] [outputpath/name] [-options]
```

where image1 and image2 are paths/names of the stereo images and outputpath specifies the directory to which the output will be saved. SETSM automatically loads header information from the image filename (image1 and image2), so the header file(*.xml) should have the same filename(*) of image (*.raw|*.tif). Stereo images can be in one of two formats specified by their extension: *.raw are read as flat binary rasters with ENVI-format ascii header files (*.hdr) and *.tif are read as geoTiff.

The following output will be written to the outputpath:

- outputpath/name_dem.raw : the final DEM in flat-binary format with ENVI header (*.hdr)
- outputpath/name_ortho.raw : the int16 orthoimage on the same grid as the DEM made from image 1 with ENVI header (*.hdr)
- outputpath/name_matchtag.raw : matchtag binary mask with 1's for grid points with match solutions with ENVI header (*.hdr)
- outputpath/name/tmp/ : contains temporary files and is deleted after completing the process.
- outputpath/name/txt/: contains ascii intermediate files currently used and saved mainly for debugging purposes.
- outputpath/name_meta.txt : DEM metadata including output size and boundary coordinates, etc.

Options can be either be passed as input arguments or can be edited in the default.txt file. Input arguments take precedence over default.txt statements. We strongly suggest keeping an original copy of the default.txt file. Common options are:

-provider [DG (default) | Pleiades] :specifies a provider of input image: For Pleiades, users need to first convert the original IMG_*.JP2 image into *.tif or *.raw format (using e.g. GDAL)

and change the filenames of the RPC_*.xml to match the image filenames prior to running SETSM.

-GSD [value] : specifies GSD(ground sample distance) of input image in meters. For DG imagery, GSD is automatically calculated with xml header file. For Pleiades, the default is 0.5 m.

-outres [2 | 4 | 8 (default)] : specifies output grid resolution in meters. Future versions will allow arbitrary resolutions.

-tilesize [value] : specifies the size of the processing subset tile, in meters. The software breaks the stereo overlap into square tiles with an edge buffer, processes each individually, and merges them back together. The tiles are used to reduce physical memory usage and/or provide process checkpointing. Smaller tiles reduce memory usage but result in more redundant processing (at the tile boundaries) and therefore increase computation. The default is 4000. To process without tiling, insert a number larger than the width of the image, such as 100000. However, insufficient system memory will result in failure and file corruption. Also, tiles provide checkpointing because an interrupted job can be restarted, beginning at the last complete tile. Therefore, it is recommended that tiling be used for output resolutions greater than 8m.

-projection [utm | ps] : specifies the output projection. Options are “utm” , for Universal Trans Mercator projection, or “ps” for polar stereographic with standard parallels of -45°E and -71°E (the Polar Geospatial Center standard projections) for the northern and southern hemispheres, respectively. By default, will set the projection to “ps” for scene center latitudes greater than 60°, and “utm” otherwise. The UTM zone is also determined automatically from the scene center coordinates.

-utm_zone [value] : specifies the user defined utm zone from 1 to 60. If not, the utm zone is automatically determined from the scene center coordinates.

-boundary_min_X [value] : Lower-left X coordinate in meters of the selected output projection

-boundary_min_Y [value] : Lower-left Y coordinate “ “ “ “

-boundary_max_X [value] : Upper-right X coordinate “ “ “ “

-boundary_max_Y [value] : Upper-Right Y coordinate “ “ “ “

: defines a subset within the stereo pair overlap area to process. This is useful for reducing processing time when only part of a pair is of interest or when processing to very high resolutions (e.g. 0.5 m).

-tilesSR [value] : Starting row number of tiles

-tilesER [value] : Ending row number of tiles (> tilesSR)

-tilesSC [value] : Starting column number of tiles

-tilesEC [value] : Ending column number of tiles (> tilesSC)

: defines a subset of tiles within the stereo pair overlap area to process. The tile number starts from lower-left corner (1, 1) [row, column] to Upper-right corner (r_{max} , c_{max}).

-seed [path/name heightRange] : SETSM can use a seed DEM to reduce processing time. The seed DEM can be used as binary (*.raw) format with envi header file format (*.hdr), or lower resolution of SETSM DEM (*.raw or *.tif) with meta file(*meta.txt) to generate a higher resolution DEM. The first argument is the path/name of the seed dem and the second argument is an +/- height range in meters from the seed DEM height to limit the search-heights at initial computation. The chosen height range should depend on the resolution and confidence of the seed DEM, such as 1.5 to 2σ uncertainty. We caution that it is better to not use a seed DEM if possible, as it can only negatively impact the quality of the SETSM DEM. For example, errors in the seed DEM with too low a range will result in data loss in SETSM.

-minH [value] : minimum terrain height of the stereo pair overlap area [m]

-maxH [value] : maximum terrain height of the stereo pair overlap area [m]

: defines minimum and maximum terrain height information if known, which helps SETSM set initial search heights if the provided heights from RPCs are significantly incorrect in order to reduce processing time. We have found large (> 10 m) sensor model errors in a small percentage (< 5%) of DG and Airbus imagery.

-RALine [value] : relative RPC line bias

-RASample [value] : relative RPC sample bias

: defines relative bias in RPC sensor models between stereo images. If known, this will reduce overall processing time. After generating any lower resolution SETSM DEM, resulted metafile

(*meta.txt) includes the bias information that can be input to generate higher resolution SETSM DEM. If the **-seed** option is used, the bias information is automatically loaded from the metafile.

-gridonly [path] : where path contains the /txt directory from a previous SETSM run for which the output DEM is deleted or missing. This option will rebuild the DEM more quickly using the results in txt folder to bypass the matching processes.

-help : shows SETSM common options. example) ./setsm -help

SETSM Command Examples:

1. Process an image pair using the files and settings in the default.txt file:

```
./setsm
```

2. Process an entire image pair to 8m resolution with tiling (basic command):

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 8
```

3. Process an entire image pair to 8m resolution with no tiling:

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 8 -tilesize 100000
```

4. Process an entire image pair to 8m resolution with tiling and utm projection:

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 8 -projection utm
```

5. Process a 4km by 4km subset region of a pair to 2 m with tiling:

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 2 -boundary_min_X -2000  
-boundary_min_Y 4000 -boundary_max_X 2000 -boundary_max_Y 2000
```

6. Process a tiled subset region (2~3, 5~8) of a pair to 2 m with tiling:

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 2 -tilesSR 2 -tilesER 4  
-tilesSC 5 -tilesEC 9
```

7. Process an entire image pair to 2m resolution with 8m seed SETSM DEM (20m uncertainty), tiling and ps projection:

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 2 -seed  
/8mseedpath/DEM.raw 20 -projection ps
```

8. Process an entire image pair to 8m resolution with known RPC bias (1.253, 2.365) , tiling, and ps projection;

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 2 -RAline 1.253  
-RASample 2.365 -projection ps
```

9. Process an entire image pair to 8m resolution without tiling and min, max height (100, 1000)

```
./setsm /image/path/image1.tif /image/path/image2.tif outpath -outres 8 -tilesize 100000 -minH  
100 -maxH 1000
```

4. Contacts

If you have any questions and problems, please contact one of following persons.

1. Myoung-Jong Noh, Senior Research Associate, BPCRC, OSU, ngnmj77@gmail.com
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