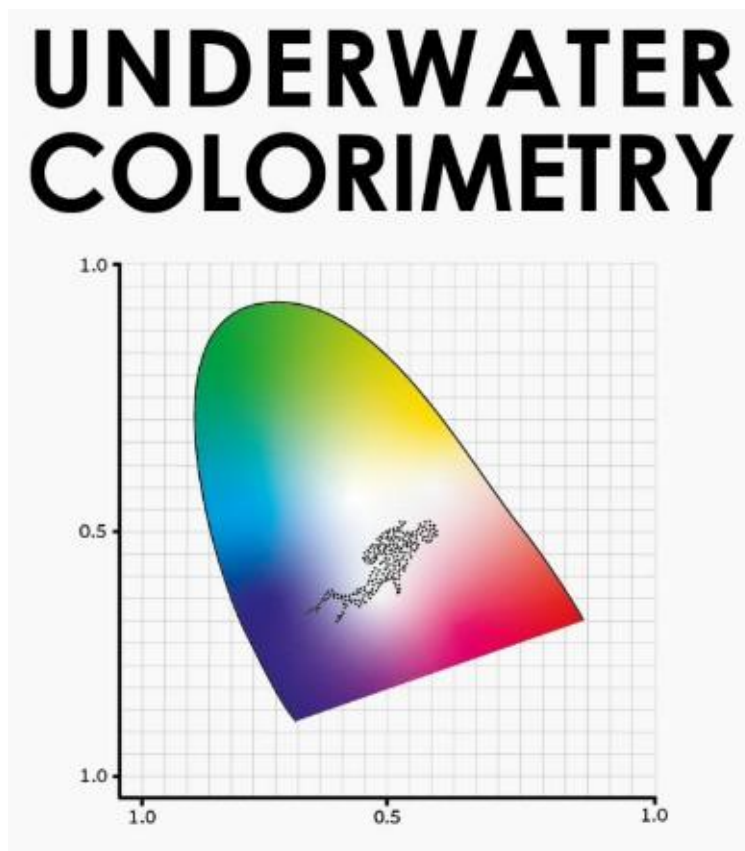


# Underwater Colorimetry

## Lab 3

IUI

January 2026



 THE INTERUNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE  
FOR MARINE SCIENCES  
IN EILAT

# Basic Photogrammetry

## Lab goals

1. Becoming familiar with *Agisoft Metashape Pro*.
2. Gaining experience collecting images for a 3D model reconstruction in air and under-water.
3. Obtaining a scaled depth map from a 3D model.

All exercises take place in the Computer Lab using Agisoft Metashape Pro and MATLAB. Agisoft software is already installed on the lab computers. If you wish to use your own laptop, you can download a 30-day trial version.

**Be sure to get the PRO version!**



## Required equipment

1. Computer
2. MATLAB or Python
3. Agisoft Metashape PRO
4. Adobe DNG Converter
5. Camera able to capture RAW images

## **Lab Report Due**

**Sunday 18.1.26 at 9:00 am, by email**

Submit to: **uwcolorimetry@gmail.com**

**Your email title should include the lab number, your name and affiliation!!!**

**For example:** Lab 3 – Mario Rossi - University of Pizza

**Lab report: Maximum 3 Pages!**

Please keep your reports clean and professional

***We will repeat this protocol twice  
(Tuesday & Wednesday)***

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the results turn out to be (better/worse) in the second  
model.***

## Road map

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?!

Before diving into the technical details of our photogrammetry lab, let's do a brief overview. In this lab our goal is to obtain a scaled “depth map” from a 3D model. We obtain this model from a Photogrammetry software which uses a method called **Structure from Motion**. More reading material about the method is available [HERE](#).

1. You have already collected images in the water. We will download these images to our computer to a dedicated folder.

Each image type has its own folder, for more details go to:

UWcolorimetry2026\Underwater-colorimetry-26\ ...  
Underwater-colorimetry-main\Lab1\Images\README.md

2. We will convert the images using *Adobe DNG Converter* and the same script from Lab 1 Exercise 1. Then we will upload our images to Agisoft.
3. We will “Align” the images.
4. We will build a 3D model.
5. Finally, we will export a scaled depth map using a Python script.

Coming next: detailed instructions

## Detailed Instruction

### Step 0: Download images from the camera

**Do not leave a space in the folder name or use any special characters!**

**Work on the local computer not in the network for the sake of time!**

Go to:

UWcolorimetry2026\Underwater-colorimetry-26\ ...  
Underwater-colorimetry-main\Lab1\Images\README.md

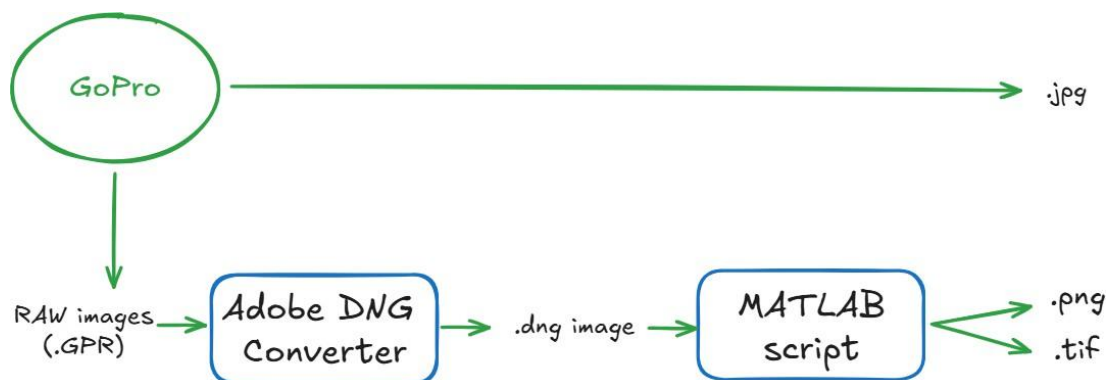
In the README file you have detailed instructions where to save each type of image file. **DON'T** save your images anywhere else and double check that everything is where it should be!

**Go quickly over the images for possible interferences such as fish or too blurry images and remove them**

### Step 1: Convert raw images to linear png format

This is similar to **Lab 1 Exercise 3**.

Don't forget to resize them in the process because the computers in the computer lab may not handle large images.



## Step 2: Build a 3D model in Agisoft Metashape Pro

We will guide you step by step, but, a 3D model construction tutorial provided by Agisoft can be found **HERE** for more details.

**Note:** All computers in the computer lab have the Pro license that allows to add scale to your models and measure a bunch of other stuff (surface area, volume etc..).

**Pro tip:** Be sure to save your model along the way!

### Open Agisoft

Load your .png images into the “Workspace” (you can drag and drop them on the “Chunk”).

### Set Brightness

As you learned in the lectures, raw (linear) images are notoriously dark and low-contrast. Therefore, you need to increase brightness by selecting all images and clicking in the half black half white circle in the toolbar.

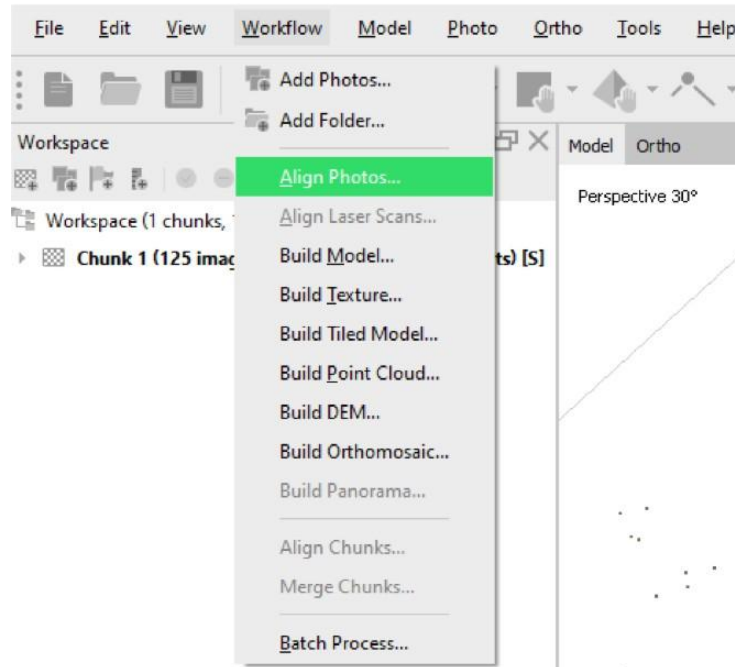
### Add Marker

1. Find the first image with the object of known size you placed in the scene (probably the color chart).
2. “*Add Marker*” to each of the **4 corners** of the known scale object. To “*Add Marker*”, right click on a corner and choose “*Add Marker*”.
3. *Place the existing markers on the same corner* for **at least** 5 following images.

### Align Photos

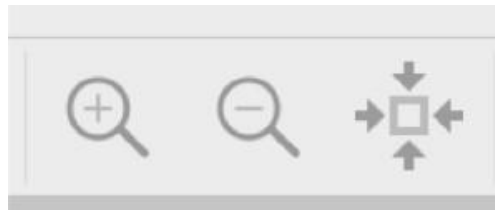
From the “Workflow” menu, select “Align Photos”. The lab computers are not very powerful. In the interest of time, we will do this lab with the medium setting (if you do it on your computer and can handle more then go for it). The resulting quality will be not too accurate. If you prefer, you can run your models overnight at higher quality.

**Make sure all cameras are aligned**



## Reset View

After the alignment is finished, inspect your model. Sometimes, following the alignment, your model can disappear.... don't panic, just press the "Reset view" in the tool bar (the square with 4 arrows).

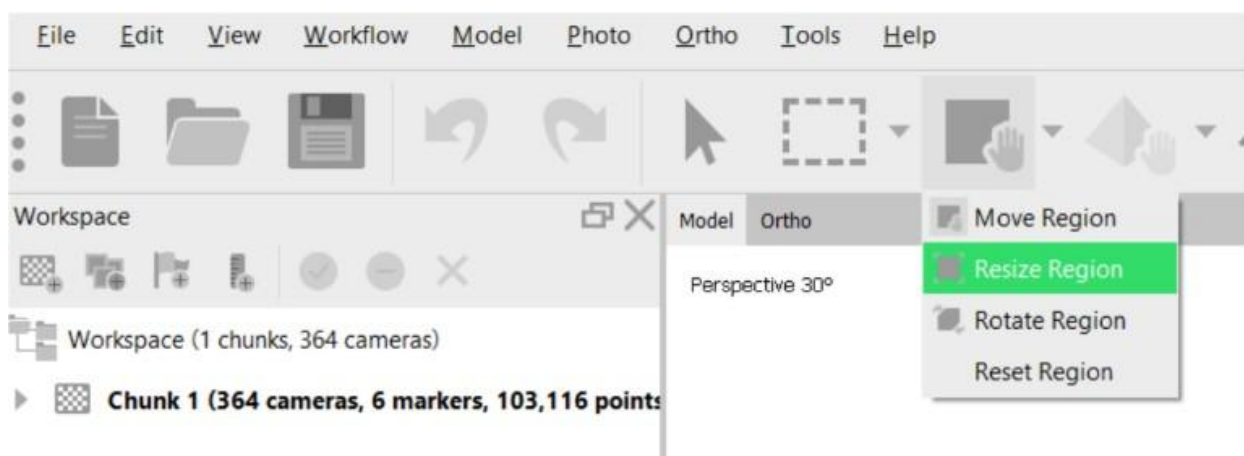


## Inspect the Geometry

See if the geometry looks right (e.g., straight lines are straight, flat surfaces are not curved, the pizza is round and not burnt, etc.). If there are very obvious artifacts, align again. In an extreme case, you might need to re-collect a better dataset (with more overlap between images, aim for 70%), anyway talk to the TAs to help you out a bit.

## Resize Region

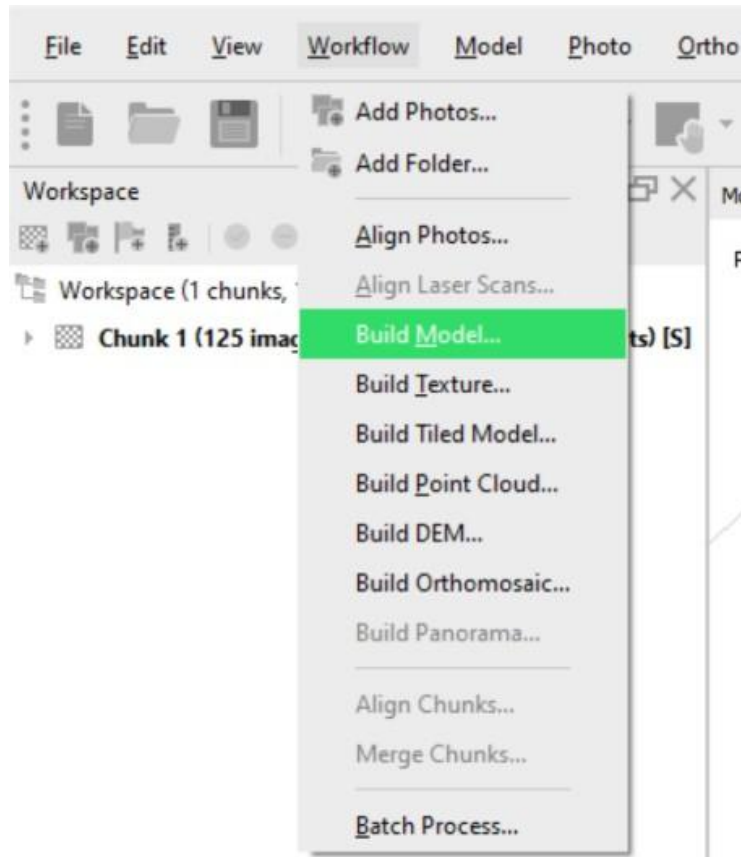
Resize and/or move the area. The aim is to remove the distal areas full of noise and holes focusing on the object of interest. It is done by clicking in the filled square with the hand in the toolbar and choose resize. Once chosen move the region (make it bigger or smaller) toward the object of interest.





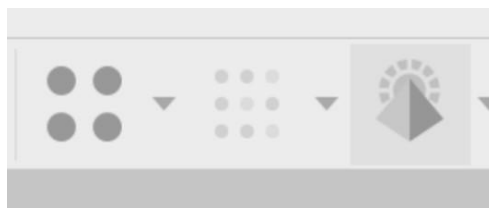
## Build Model

Again, experiment with quality settings but only medium or low quality will finish quickly enough. You can also run it overnight to get better quality.



## Inspecting the Model

Once the “Model” is finished it might appear by itself. If not, you can look at it by clicking on the pyramid on the toolbar.

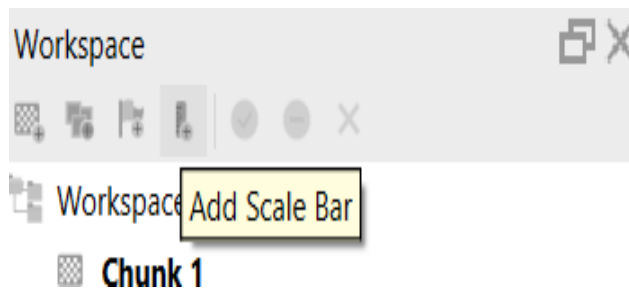


## Step 3: Scaling

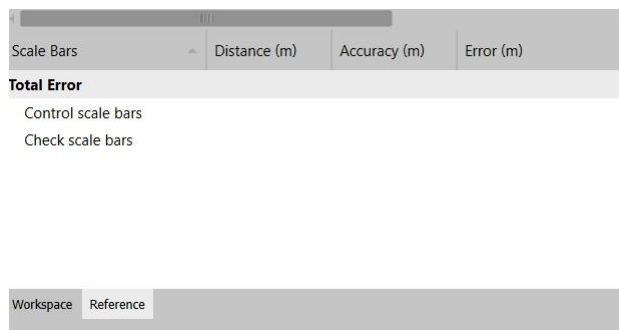
Before exporting a scaled depth map, i.e. with physical units of distance, we need to scale our model based on a known sized object. Luckily enough, we have a color chart in our model!

### Scale Bar

1. Now in the workspace tab on the left, select any two markers and click *add scale bar* (little ruler on the top of the “workspace”).



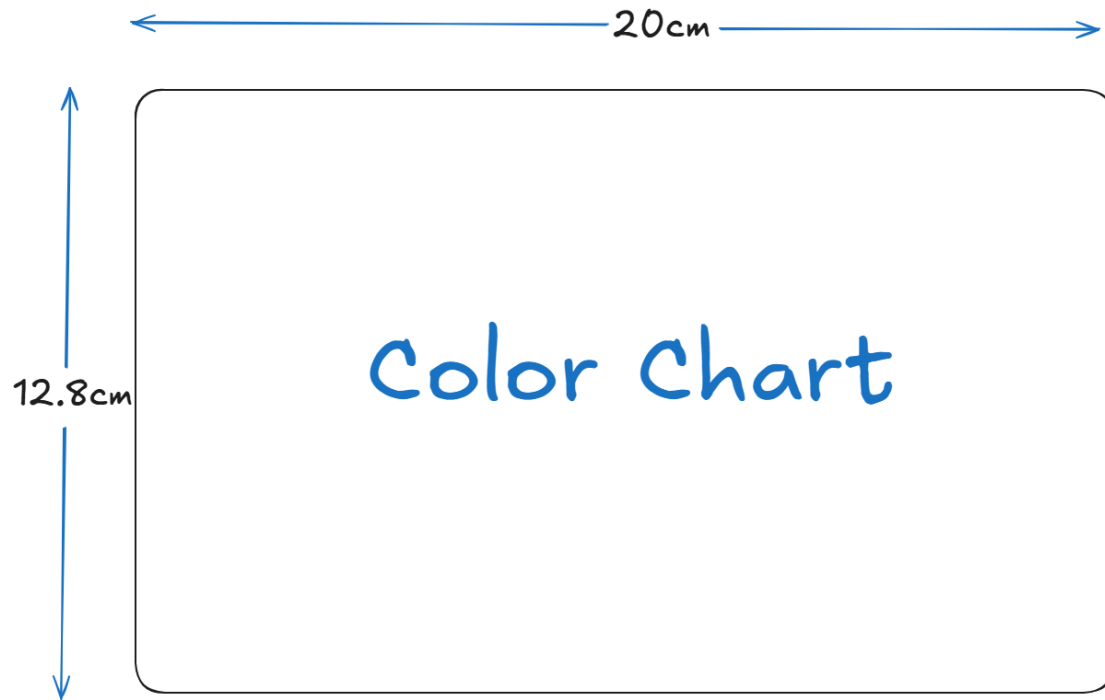
2. To enter the measurements for all sides (in meters) go to “reference” tab (lower left) and add the “*Distance(m)*” value for each scale bar.



3. Refresh by pressing in the circular icon (“*Update Transform*”) in “reference”.



4. Check how much error you have (we will guide you through this step).

**Color chart dimensions**

## Export depth map

Now export a scaled “depth map” for each image using the python script:

`export_depth_v4_arguments.py`

The script can be found in the Lab3 folder:

UWcolorimetry2026\Underwater-colorimetry-26  
\Underwater-colorimetry-main\Lab3

Now, call the script in Agisoft by clicking:

Tools→ Run Script from the user interface (or Ctrl + R)

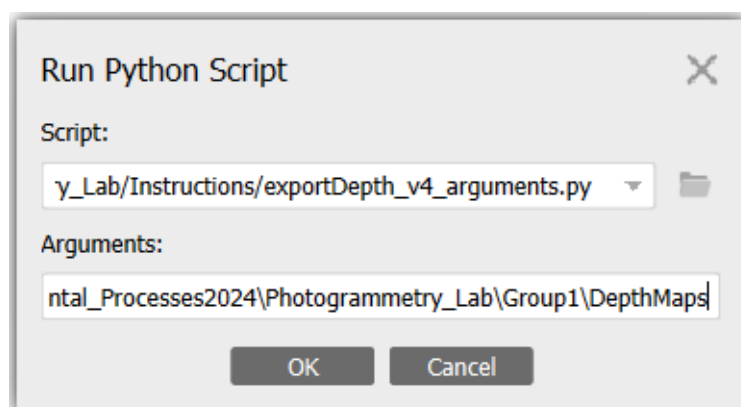
- In “Script” chose browse and select the python script in:

'Your\_Path'\UWcolorimetry2026\Underwater-colorimetry-26  
\Underwater-colorimetry-main\Lab3

- In “Arguments” section chose the “*DepthMaps*” folder in your group’s folder:

'Your\_Path'\UWcolorimetry2026\Underwater-colorimetry-26  
\Underwater-colorimetry-main\Lab3\DepthMaps

**BE SURE TO EXPORT YOUR DEPTH MAPS TO THE CORRECT FOLDER!**



**Note:** If there are unaligned cameras in your chunk, the script will not fully run.

## Inspect your depth map

To inspect your depth maps, load one of the .tiff files exported from Agisoft into Matlab (you can do this by dragging and dropping the file into the Matlab command window), and then typing:

```
imagesc(Name_Of_Your_Depth_Map_In_The_Workspace);colorbar
```

into the command window to visualize it in false color.

Check the color bar to make sure the distances make sense for the scene you photographed.

## Include in Your Report

1. Name and institution of both partners.
2. A screenshot of the two models you made. Discuss these points:
  - (a) Inspect your models.
  - (b) How do you think they came out?
  - (c) What went wrong?
  - (d) What could you have done better/differently?
  - (e) Is the object of scale in your scene (e.g., color chart) rigid or distorted in your models? What does that mean for the geometry of the rest of your models?

Inspect your models and discuss these points.
3. Include, side-by-side, one photo from your dataset and its corresponding scaled depth map in a false coloration (together with a legend) that shows distances. Does the depth map seem accurate to the distance you remember taking the photo from? Why/why not?
4. Your cameras captured “.GPR” and “.JPG” images. Additionally, starting from the “.GPR” images, you obtained “.PNG” images. Pick one photo, and compare, side-by-side, the “.JPG” image and the “.PNG” image. What differences do you see and why? Discuss.
5. Discussion and comparison of the 2 models
  - What have you changed between the two models? Why? How did they turn out?
  - Which model quality is higher? Compare properties of each model such as number of images, scene complexity, etc. when quantifying model quality.

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