

# COLMAP

SFM  $\rightarrow$  3D Reconstruction + 2D Images from  
diff. views.

3 Major steps.

①. Keypoints detection & Matching

②. Reconstruction  $\rightarrow$  3D Model

③. Bundle Adjustment  $\rightarrow$  Refining Camera & Structure.

Detection & Matching

Feature Extraction  $\rightarrow$  Keypoints & Descriptor.

1.  $\rightarrow$  SIFT / ORB / SURF

★ Feature Matching  $\rightarrow$

1. Brute Force Matching

2. Vocabulary Trees

3. ANN (Approx. Near. Neig.)

Geometric Verification:  $\rightarrow$  epipolar geometry

\* Essential Matrix (E), Fundamental Matrix (F)

& Homography

(H)

RANSAC  $\rightarrow$  to filter out wrong matched.  
in

$\rightarrow$  Scene graph augment

Scene graph.

Output after DM  $\rightarrow$

image as nodes &  
Verified images as edges.

Paperkraft

Input  $\rightarrow$  Scene graph

## Reconstruction

1. Initial Image pair  $\rightarrow$  then add increm.  
registered using \* PnP (perspective n point)

\* Initial from dense location result for pose estimation.  
\* accurate reconstruction.

Triangulation  $\rightarrow$  to compute 3D points.

\* Outlier filtering  $\rightarrow$  removes inconsistent points

## Bundle Adjustment

1. Defines Camera pose & 3D points to minimize

2. \* Schur Complement trick \* projection error

3. global BA (all image), local BA (new images)

1) Scene graph Augmentation  $F, H, E$   
prevents incorrect camera pose & improve robustness.

2) Next Best View Selection

→ Multi-resolution pyramid based selection strategy.

+ Standard Triangulation has feature tracking error

RANSAC → finds robust <sup>+</sup> inlier correspondance

→ recovers multiple independent 3D points per feature

→ reduce error caused by incorrect track. Matches.

(Instead of running BA only once)

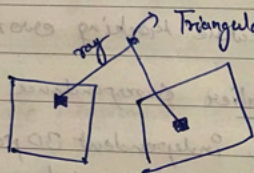
Bundle adjustment → Pre BA re-triangulation  
→ Post BA re-triangulation  
(to refine point positions after optimization)

→ <sup>++</sup> Iterative BA-RT cycles.

Efficient Bundle Adjustment by grouping similar image into clusters.

Pnp (perspective n point)  $\rightarrow$  to estimate the camera pose from  $n$  known 3D points and their correspond 2D projection images.

Triangulation  $\rightarrow$  estimating the 3D points position given its 2D projection in multiple views.



Triangulation finds the 3D point where they intersect

1) Linear Triangulation

2) Non-Linear Triangulation  $\rightarrow$  Bundle Adjustment to

3) Mid-point Method.

$\rightarrow$  mini Reprojection error, refine.



## Scene graph Augmentation

- 1) Validate Image pair
- 2) Classify Transformation (general motion, pure rotation, planar).
- 3) Detect Incorrect Correspondence. (watermark, timestamp).

→ Fundamental Matrix Estimation epipolar geometry:  
b/w two uncalibrated images.

→ RANSAC

→ If inliers are found, the image pair is geometrically verified.

Homography Estimation → planar Transformation.

$$\text{if } N_H / N_F < E_{HF} \quad \text{general}$$

> planar or parallax

Estimated Essential Matrix (for Calibrated Images)

If images are calibrated, the E is calculated

if  $N_E / N_F > E_{EF}$ , then camera calibration is correct.

If Calibration is correct, then perform triangulation  
 $NH/N_f < \epsilon_{NF}$

→ median triangulation angle  $\alpha_m$  (distinguish)  
using  $\alpha_m \rightarrow$  pure rotation  
planar scene

Valid Images are labeled in the scene graph -  
general motion, Panoramic, planar.

\* → avoid starting from panoramic pair (they  
are difficult to reconstruct)

## Next Best View selection

a wrong choice can lead to cascading errors in pose  
estimation & faulty triangulation.

a poorly chosen view can degrade the Best  
Camera registration.

Ensure Completeness.

## Strategy for choosing

- ① most visible points strategy  $\rightarrow$  highest no. of already triangulated 3D points.
- ② uncertain Driven approach.
- ③ Feature Distribution Based Selection  
 $\rightarrow$  uniformly distributed improves stability in pose estimation.

an efficient approx. of uncertainty - driven NOV selection using  $\rightarrow$  multi-reso image partitions.

- ④ graph based feature tracking
  - ⑤ <sup>\*\*</sup>Avoiding Exhaustive Covariance propagation
  - ⑥ Image grid partitioning  $\rightarrow K \times K$  bins
- If new feature appears in Empty bin,
- Empty (no feature Detected)  $\rightarrow$  Full (at least one feature point detected)
- the score  $S_i$  of the image is  $\uparrow$  by weight  $w_i$ .
- $\Rightarrow$  We prioritize evenly distributed images

Outlier - doesn't fit the expected model in estimation

If no. of visible points is small, multi-grid will fail.

Multi-resolution pyramid  $\rightarrow$  partition image progressively finer grids at multiple level.  $K_L = 2^L$ .

to handle sparse & dense feature.

## Robust & Efficient Triangulation

Problem  
 $\downarrow$

- Many SFM datasets are sparse, not all scene points appear in multiple images.

- Approx. Feature Matching across image pair with small baseline.

$\rightarrow$  Small baseline cause poor depth estimation, lead to high uncertainty in triangulation.

$\rightarrow$  Two view matches often contain outliers due to repeated texture, diff points mistakenly grouped



Solution  $\Rightarrow$  RANSAC  $\{$ .

① randomly select two obs.  $(T_a, T_b)$  & triangulate a 3D point  $X_{ab}$ .

quality is checked using ① - Triangulation angle

$\cos \alpha_z = \frac{(t_a - X_{ab})(t_b - X_{ab})}{\|t_a - X_{ab}\| \|t_b - X_{ab}\|}$  & b/w Camera rays should be large.

$\frac{(t_a - X_{ab})(t_b - X_{ab})}{\|t_a - X_{ab}\| \|t_b - X_{ab}\|}$

② chirality Constraint.

Depth must be +ve.

Bundle Adjustment non-linear optimization technique that refines estimated camera pose, intrinsic parameters & 3D points location, to minimize reprojection errors.

$$\sum_{ij} \rho(\|x_{ij} - \pi(X_j, p_j, k)\|^2)$$

projection function depends on camera pose  $p$  & intrinsic  $k$ .

robust loss function to handle outliers.

(Cauchy loss)