600.445 Computer Integrated Surgery Programming Assignment 1 and 2

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Basic Transformations & Pivot Calibration

1.1 Usage

The codebase is built with cmake. Inside the project directory,

```
mkdir build && cd build cmake .. && make
```

bin/ciscal <fileroot>

To run test cases and exit:

ciscal test

The executable is also included. There are two main usages. To run with the data files, pass the file root. To run the test cases and print the summary, pass "test". Note that we expect to find an OUTPUT directory in the folder you are executing from. If the program finds a debug output file, an error report between the computed and debug values will be printed.

```
e.x. bin/ciscal INPUT/pa1-debug-a
bin/ciscal test
The CLI usage information is printed if no arguments are passed.
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Usage:
    ciscal <fileroot>
The following files should exist:
    fileroot-calbody.txt
    fileroot-calreadings.txt
    fileroot-empivot.txt
    fileroot-optpivot.txt
Output file written to:
    OUTPUT/filename-output-1.txt
    Where filename does not include the path.
```

This program makes use of Eigen (eigen.tuxfamily.org) and doctest (github.com/onqtam/doctest)

This program uses Eigen (eigen.tuxfamily.org) for linear algebra and numerical methods as well as doctest (github.com/onqtam/doctest) to implement test cases.

1.2 Testing

While the code was implemented, unit tests were used to verify functionality. Doctest, developed by Victor Kirilov (https://github.com/onqtam/doctest), was used as a testing framework. With Doctest, test cases are outlined for each function at the bottom of their respective header files. The structure is as follows.

```
TEST_CASE("Description") {
    [Preamble]
    SUBCASE {
        ex. Test Assertions
        CHECK(LHS == RHS)
        CHECK_THROWS(expr)
    }
    [Conclusion]
}
```

During the execution the preamble is executed for each subcase, followed by the test, followed by the conclusion. To execute all the tests, the argument "test" can be passed to the main executable. Specific tests implementations are outlined below. After unit tests functionality was tested on the debug files.

1.3 General

Eigen(https://eigen.tuxfamily.org/) was used as the central numerical library. Most functions return Eigen objects, and are templated on the type of Eigen coefficient. The majority of the implementations are in the header files. Specific algorithms implementations are described below. There are some common objects used throughout the codebase, described in the following files.

1.3.1 Point Clouds and Points

```
pointcloud.h
```

Provides a PointCloud object, internally representing the point cloud as an Eigen::Array, were each row is a point. The object provides various functions to easily transform the point cloud and compute the centroid. Tests developed for the class include the computation of the centroid, transformation, and point insertion. A Point is an alias for a matrix of size 3 by 1, or Eigen::Matrix<T, 3, 1>.

- Point at (size_t i): Returns the ith point.
- Point centroid(): Compute the centroid.
- ullet PointCloud center(): Returns a new PointCloud with its centroid at (0,0,0)
- PointCloud center_self(): Subtract the centroid from all points.
- void transform (Eigen::Transform): Applies the transformation to each point.

1.3.2 File Parsers

```
files.h
```

This contains the the parsers for all the data files. They provide an interface to to read and interact with file data, returning PointCloud objects. The following file parsers are provided, where each can be constructed with a filename.

- CalBody: Represents a Calibration Body with markers. The defined marker PointCloud are obtained with the functions
 - opt_marker_embase(): Optical markers on the EM base
 - opt_marker_calobj(): Optical markers on the calibration object
 - em_marker_calobj(): EM markers on the calibration object
- CalReadings: Represents calibration readings varying with time. The same functions as CalBody are provided, but vectors of point clouds are provided.
- EMPivot: Provides a vector of PointCloud frames withem_marker_probe().
- OptPivot: Provides vectors of PointCloud frames with opt_marker_embase() and opt_marker_probe()
- OutputParse: Parses an Output file. This is primarily used to compute the error between our output and the debug files.

Each file parser is unit tested by creating a temporary file with known data, and checking we parse the correct information.

1.3.3 Utilities

```
utils.h utils.cpp
```

These files contain general purpose functions. The main function used here is split (str, delim), which splits a string by a delimiter and returns a vector.

1.4 3D point set to 3D point set registration algorithm

The first step of this assignment was to develop a method to complete a 3D point cloud to 3D point cloud registration. Ultimately, we are looking for the rotation R and the translation p which satisfies

$$R\vec{p}_{A,i} + \vec{p} = \vec{p}_{B,i}$$

for each point in each rigid body. To do so, we decided to use Horn's method with quaternions to compute the rotation between the point clouds. Using this rotation, we can estimate the translation between the point clouds by determining the distance between the centroid of the original point cloud and the rotated 2nd point cloud. The approach is described below.

Before the algorithm is run, the two point clouds supplied must be in respect to the same reference frame and have the same number of points in order to compute the transformation correctly. We will represent the original points in each cloud as $\vec{p}_{A,i}$ and $\vec{p}_{B,i}$ respectively.

The first step of the algorithm is to compute the centroid of each point cloud, \hat{a} and \hat{b} for the first and second clouds, respectively. Then, compute the difference between each point in the cloud and the centroid. For the first point cloud, we will call these vectors \vec{a}_i and for the second point cloud \vec{b}_i .

$$\hat{a} = \frac{1}{N_A} \sum_{i} \vec{p}_{A,i}$$

$$\hat{b} = \frac{1}{N_B} \sum_{i} \vec{p}_{B,i}$$

$$\vec{a}_i = \vec{p}_{A,i} - \hat{a}$$

$$\vec{b}_i = \vec{p}_{B,i} - \hat{b}$$

From here, we begin to use Horn's method to compute the rotation between the two point clouds, described below. (Based on summary of the method described in the lecture notes).

1. Compute

$$H = \sum_{i} egin{bmatrix} a_{ix}b_{ix} & a_{ix}b_{iy} & a_{ix}b_{iz} \ a_{iy}b_{ix} & a_{iy}b_{iy} & a_{iy}b_{iz} \ a_{iz}b_{ix} & a_{iz}b_{iy} & a_{iz}b_{iz} \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Compute

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} trace(H) & \Delta^T \\ \Delta & H + H^T - trace(H) * I \end{bmatrix}$$

where
$$\Delta^T = [H_{2,3} - H_{3,2}, H_{3,1} - H_{1,3}, H_{1,2} - H_{2,1}].$$

- 3. Compute the eigenvalue decomposition of G.
- 4. The eigenvector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue is the quaternion of the rotation between the two point clouds.
- 5. Once the Rotation R is computed, we use this rotation to estimate the translation $\vec{p} = \hat{b} R\hat{a}$

Implementation

horn.h

This function accepts two PointCloud objects, and computes the transformation from cloud1 to cloud2 using Horn's method. The centroid of each cloud is taken, and the H and G matrices are constructed as outlined above. Since G is a symmetric matrix, the Eigen::SelfAdjointSolver was used to compute the eigenvectors of G. The eigenvector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue is then interpreted as a Quaternion, and the corresponding translation computed. The two operations are returned as an Eigen::Transform<T,3,Eigen::Affine>object that applies the rotation first, then the translation.

Testing

To test the function, a random PointCloud is first made. A second point cloud is generated by transforming each point by a known rotation about the X,Y,Z axes, followed by a translation. The computed transformation is then compared with this known transformation. We check that the computed rotation and translation matricies are equivalent to the original transformations. Please review the Doctest test cases at the bottom of horn.h.

1.5 Distortion Calibration

To complete the distortion calibration component of the assignment, we simply needed to read in frames of optical tracker data D_i , A_i , compute the transformations between the calibration object and EM base to the optical tracker, then use these transformations to compute the expected value of the EM markers in the EM Tracker reference frame.

The transformation from the optical tracker to the EM base is computed using the Horn method described above. We are provided locations of optical markers $\vec{d_i}$ on the EM base in the EM base coordinate system. We compute the transformation $F_D^{(k)}$ between that point cloud and the point cloud of measurements $\vec{D_i}$ in a specific frame of data k. The same is done for the optical markers on the calibration object itself to find the transformation $F_A^{(k)}$ between markers $\vec{a_i}$ on the calibration object and the optical tracker measurements A_i on frame k. Because the EM markers c_i on the calibration object belong to the same reference frame as the optical markers $\vec{a_i}$, the transformations above can be used to estimate the location of the EM markers in the EM base space. This is done through the following equation:

$$\vec{C}_{i,exp} = F_D^{-1} F_A \vec{c}_i$$

This calculation is completed for every marker on every frame of data provided.

1.5.1 Implementation

```
distortion_calibration.h

template<typename T>
Eigen::Matrix<T, 6, 1>
std::vector<PointCloud<T>> distortion_calibration(
const CalBody<T> &body, const CalReadings<T> &readings)
```

The distortion calibration function accepts a representation of the calibration body object, which contains point clouds for the EM base/calibration object markers $\vec{d_i}, \vec{a_i}, \vec{c_i}$. This information was extracted from the text files previously using functions within files.h. It also accepts a representation of the calibration readings, which contain a collection of vectors of point clouds representing data on each frame for each marker type. Within the body of the function, the point clouds representing the markers on the EM base and calibration object are stored in variables and used to compute the transformation from the base/object reference frame to the tracker reference frame on each frame of data. This transformation is computed using cloud_to_cloud(), the Horn method defined in horn.h. At this point, we have the two transformations F_D , F_A represented in Eigen. The final step of the inner loop is to transform the entire point cloud of EM

markers $\vec{c_i}$ to the EM frame using c.transform (F_D.inverse() * F_A). This transformed point cloud is stored and written to the output file.

Because this problem is a simple example of the use of our Horn method, we were confident in the test cases in horn. h and simply compared the results of this function to the debug data provided.

1.6 Performing a Pivot Calibration

Within the pivot calibration, it is our goal to determine the vector representing the tip of the pointer in the probe frame and the location of the calibration post in the EM tracker frame. This is done for both the optical tracking system as well as the EM tracking system. This is accomplished by determining the transformation between the pointer reference axis and the EM tracker axis on each frame of data using the computed locations of the markers on the probe. Below describes the protocol of doing so for the probe with EM markers.

Define the Probe Axis

As suggested in the assignment, we define the probe coordinate system as the centroid of the EM markers in the probe. The vectors representing each of the markers in this space is the difference of the vector to the marker and this centroid. In all frames of data, these positions never change because we assume that the markers do not move on the probe.

As provided in the assignment, this axis can be defined using the first frame of data. The centroid of the markers in the EM Tracker space \vec{G}_0 is used to compute \vec{g}_i : the difference of the actual marker measurement with the centroid to generate coordinates in the probe space

$$\vec{G}_0 = rac{1}{N_G} \sum_j G_j$$
 $\vec{q}_i = \vec{G}_i - \vec{G}_0$

In addition to defining the axis of the probe, this operation generates a point cloud in the probe space which can be transformed to each new point cloud in each frame of data.

Compute Transformation from EM Tracker to Probe on each frame

The next step is to determine the transformation between the probe point cloud and the point cloud in the EM Tracker space on each frame k of the data, $F_{MG}^{(k)}$. This is completed using the Horn Method described previously.

Compute the tip and the post vectors

The true goal of the calibration step is to determine the vector representing the tip of the probe in the probe space as well as the location of the calibration post in the EM tracker space.

$$F_{DG}^{(k)} \vec{p}_{tip} = \vec{p}_{post}$$

$$R_{DG}^{(k)} \vec{p}_{tip} + \vec{p}_{DG}^{(k)} = \vec{p}_{post}$$

$$R_{DG}^{(k)} \vec{p}_{tip} - \vec{p}_{post} = -\vec{p}_{DG}^{(k)}$$

$$\left[R_{DG}^{(k)} - I \right] \begin{bmatrix} \vec{p}_{tip} \\ \vec{p}_{post} \end{bmatrix} = -\vec{p}_{DG}^{(k)}$$

When this is expanded to every frame in the data:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots \\ R_{DG}^{(k)} & -I \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{p}_{tip} \\ \vec{p}_{post} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ -\vec{p}_{DG}^{(k)} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

We can thus use least squares in order to solve this system of linear equations to solve for each vector.

For the optical tracking system data, an additional step needs to be completed in order complete the calibration within the EM tracker frame instead of the optical tracker frame. As above, we can define the EM base axis as the centroid of the optical markers, \vec{D}_0 and generate a point cloud in this reference frame by computing $\vec{d}_i = \vec{D}_i - \vec{D}_0$ for each measured vector D_i in the first frame of data. The transformation from the optical tracker space to the EM base space is computed using the Horn method as $F_{OD}^{(k)}$ on each frame of data k.

To complete the calibration of the probe, we relate the location of the post in the EM base space to the tip of the probe in the probe space. We first transform all vectors H_i in the optical tracker space into the EM base reference frame by multiplying by F_{OD}^{-1} . Because these points are now in the EM base reference frame, we can use the exact same method as described above to compute p_{tip} and p_{post} .

Implementation

```
pivot_calibration.h

template<typename T>
Eigen::Matrix<T, 6, 1>
pivot_calibration(const std::vector<PointCloud<T>> &frames)
```

The pivot calibration function accepts a a vector of PointCloud objects, where each point cloud is a frame of data. Internally, the problem is posed as an $\mathbf{A}\vec{x}=\vec{b}$ problem as outlined above. \mathbf{A} is constructed with dimension $3N\times 6$, and \vec{b} is constructed with dimension $3N\times 1$, where N is the number of frames. The first frame is centered to serve as a reference frame, the the transformation from the reference to each frame is computed using cloud_to_cloud() and used to populate the \mathbf{A} and \vec{b} matricies. Once populated, the Eigen Jacobi SVD solver is used to compute \vec{x} . This results in a 6×1 matrix, where the upper 3×1 block is the vector from the reference frame centroid to the tip \vec{t} , and the lower block is the the post position \vec{p} .

The above method is used directly for the EM coordinates case in problem 5. For the optical tracker, a separate method is called:

In this function, the optical coordinates stored in opt for each frame is transformed to EM base coordinate by simultaneously computing the transformation from optical tracker coordinates to EM base coordinates through the Horn method. Once this is completed for every frame of data, the frames are sent to the pivot_calibration method above to compute the estimated post location.

Testing

To test the pivot calibration function, a random point cloud was generated, as well as a random post position. The point cloud was rotated and translated to the post, giving us multiple frames about the post. In this scenario, the true \vec{p}_{tip} is the post vector minus the point cloud centroid. We then performed the pivot calibration to ensure the predicted values were the same (within numerical error) of the actual \vec{p}_{tip} and \vec{p}_{post} .

1.7 Discussion

In the OUTPUT directory, a summary of the errors on the provided debug data is written to debug_error.txt. For the EM Pivot calibration, our absolute error was minimal, always within 10^{-2} of the expected values. However, our optical pivot calibration data was consistently off by 75 in every dimension on the initial debug files (a - c) with fluctuations around these values for later files. We attempted to debug this issue but could not find the source of the problem. We think that somewhere in the transformation of the \vec{H}_i vectors in the optical tracker space to the EM base space that some additional translation is thrown in. It may have something to do with the centroid of the optical trackers on the EM base because the x and y coordinates of the centroid are both 75. However, the z component is in the negatives thousands. This issue is something that we need to be wary of in future assignments.

For the calculations of the expected value of the EM markers in the calibration object, our RMS error was minimal as well. This error peaked at about 1 for some of the later debug files. Because of these results, we are confident that our point cloud transformation methods are accurate and can be helpful in future assignments.

1.8 Contributions

Both partners contributed equally. Doran primarily worked on the distortion calibration and pivot calibration functions, and Ravi primarily worked on the support code and Horn's method. We contributed in debugging all functions and test.

Distortion Calibration & Application

2.1 Usage

The code for PA2 was extended onto the base of PA1. As such the usage is the same as described above. The program will still execute PA1, and if the files exist for PA2, do that too. Test cases are still run by passing the argument test A few notes:

- The file spec for the output filename is slightly different for PA1 and PA2, we matched the given files. The output for PA1 is <root>-output1.txt and for PA2 it is <root>-output2.txt.
- The files given have a typo, <root>-em-fidicualss.txt with an extra 's'. We corrected this typo so the program expects <root>-em-fidicuals.txt.

```
mkdir build && cd build
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release ..
make -j4 && cd ../
bin/ciscal [<root> | test]
```

2.2 Testing

The same testing methods as PA1 were used, with unit tests followed by debug file checks.

2.3 General

In PA1 we had templated most functions on the coefficient type, those were removed here. A "Point" is always a Eigen::Matrix<double, 3, 1>.

2.4 Distortion Calibration

In the previous programming assignment, we computed the expected values $\vec{C}_{i,exp}$ of the EM Tracker markers in the EM Base frame using the transformations computed with the optical tracker data, F_D, F_A . The goal in this assignment is to actually determine a correction function to map the incorrectly measured values to the actual values. This is done using Bernstein polynomials to interpolate/model the distorted data. By setting up a large system of equations, we are able to determine the weights of the member polynomials that best fit the actual data. The math is reproduced below (referenced in the Interpolation lecture slides from class).

An individual term of the Bernstein polynomial F_{ijk} is reproduced below, Where $B_{i,5}$ represents a Bernstein base polynomial of degree 5 using parameter i between 0-5.

$$F_{ijk}(u_x, u_y, u_z) = B_{i,5}(u_x)B_{j,5}(u_y)B_{k,5}(u_z)$$

$$B_{i,5}(x) = {5 \choose i} (1-x)^{5-i} x^i$$

This function is applied on the coordinates of the measured points by the EM tracker after each index is scaled between 0 and 1. This is because Bernstein polynomials are stable when the input is within this range. This scaling is done by finding the maximum and minimum values of the calibration data in the x,y, and z directions. For each coordinate, the following function is applied:

$$ext{scaleToBox}(q,q_{min},q_{max}) = rac{q-q_{min}}{q_{max}-q_{min}}$$

The entire Bernstein polynomial representation of a input point is computed for all combinations of i, j, k between 0 and 5. This is produces a vector of 216 values, $F_{ijk}(\vec{u}_s)$, for the scaled input vector u_s . Our goal is to estimate the weights of these polynomials required to map the inaccurate sensor values to the actual expected values. The system of equations is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ F_{000}(\vec{u}_s) & \cdots & F_{555}(\vec{u}_s) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_{000}^x & c_{000}^y & c_{000}^z \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{555}^x & c_{555}^y & c_{555}^z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ p_{s,x} & p_{s,y} & p_{s,z} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

where $p_{s,x}, p_{s,y}, p_{s,z}$ represents the expected value of the sensor measurement \vec{u}_s . The matrix of weights d_{fn} will be used in all future parts of this assignment to undistort measurements from the EM sensor.

Implementation

Computing the Distortion function:

Scaling the points and computing the interpolation polynomial:

```
bernstein.h

Point scale_to_box(Point q, Point q_min, Point q_max);

template <size_t DEGREE>
Eigen::Matrix<double, 1, cexp_pow(DEGREE + 1, 3)>
interpolation_poly(const Point &u);
```

We supply the expected measurement output of the distortion_calibration function in Assignment 1 into distortion_function as well as the inaccurate original readings. In bernstein.h, we have the method scale_to_box to scale the original readings such that all entries lie between 0 and 1 for the Bernstein polynomials and interpolation_poly to compute the Bernstein polynomial expansion for that scaled point. This is completed for every point in every frame of the calibration body data. The compiled matrix of Bernstein polynomial expressions F_{mat} and the compiled matrix of expected point values P_{mat} are supplied to the Eigen least squares solver to determine the weights on each Bernstein polynomial component d_{fn} . We chose to use the the jacobiSvd solver. While this gives good results, it is a bit slow to converge.

Several test cases were developed to make sure we obtain the correct bernstein polynomial, seen in bernstein.h.

2.5 Distortion-Corrected Pivot Calibration

Once the weights d_{fn} on our Bernstein polynomials are determined in the previous step, we are able to determine the accurate value of any EM sensor measurement \vec{C}_i through

$$C_{exp} = \texttt{interpolation_poly} < \texttt{5} > (\texttt{scale_to_box}(\vec{C}_i, q_{min}, q_{max})) * d_{fn}$$

Consequently, we can return to the pivot calibration problem from the past assignment and use corrected values of the measurements provided to compute a more accurate transformation. We correct all sensor values on every frame using the equation above then pass these corrected frames to the previously defined pivot calibration method to compute the correct pivot calibration. This function returns the location of the tip of the probe in the probe reference frame as well as the position of the post in the EM base frame.

Implementation

Using the method above, we iterate over all frames of data supplied by the EM Tracker during the pivot calibration and correct them using the calibration function. The pivot calibration function from PA1 is then used on these corrected points.

2.6 Compute Registration Transformation

Because we have accounted for distortion in the system, we can now successfully complete registration of the EM base reference frame to the CT reference frame. In CT-Fiducials.txt, we have locations \vec{b}_i of the markers in the CT frame and in EM-Fiducials.txt we have frames of data representing the location of the EM markers on the probe when placed in contact with the fiducials in the real world. To compute the registration transformation, we complete the following:

1. Compute the transformation for the probe space to the EM base space F_{DG}^i for the frame of data when the probe is in contact with fiducial i. This is done using the rigid body transformation method developed in the previous assignment.

- 2. Compute $\vec{v}_i = F_{DG}^i \vec{p}_{tip}$ for all transformations F_{DG} to get the point cloud in the EM base space representing the location of the probe tip on all fiducial markers. \vec{p}_{tip} is the translation of the probe tip computed in the corrected pivot calibration in the previous step.
- 3. Use the rigid body transformation to find the transformation from the point cloud $\{\vec{v}_i\}$ to $\{\vec{b}_i\}$. This is our registration transformation F_{reg} .

Implementation

The function takes the fiducials and and calibration function. We then compute the corrected EM coordinates. We use a similar procedure as PA1, using a reference frame to compute multiple rigid body transformations so we can translate \vec{p}_{tip} . These translated vectors then form a new point cloud, and the transformation from this to the provided CT fiducials serves as the registration.

2.7 Navigation in the CT Frame

In the final part of the assignment, we are given a set of frames representing the location of the probe at various times in the EM Base space in EM-Nav.txt. We use the registration transformation to determine the equivalent path in the CT space. This is completed by:

- 1. Compute the transformation for the probe space to the EM base space F_{DG}^i on frame i. This is done using the rigid body transformation method developed in the previous assignment.
- 2. Compute the location of the probe in CT space $\vec{b}_i = F_{reg} F_{DG} \vec{p}_{tip}$.
- 3. Write this location to the output file EM-OUTPUT2.txt.

Implementation

We use a similar procedure as previously to compute the CT coordinates. Once the frames are corrected, we use the first frame as the reference frame and compute the cloud_to_cloud transformation. We then combine this transformation with F_{reg} obtained previously to \vec{p}_{tip} .

2.8 Discussion

We were able to successfully navigate through the process of correcting for distortion in the first half of the assignment. The Bernstein polynomial approach worked very well with minimal error between the corrected vectors and the expected vectors. This is demonstrated within debug_error_2.txt.

However, once we stepped into the process of computing the registration transformation, we encountered one significant issue. The registration transformation produced from the point clouds in the CT frame and EM base frame had significant error. While debugging, we determined that the process of correcting the measured EM sensor values was functional to compute the transformation to the probe. In addition, transforming the probe tip to the EM base frame was reporting correct results. The transformation returned by our point cloud to point cloud method still was not functioning. We also implemented Arun's method to test if for some reason Horn's method was having some issues, but to no avail.

Consequently, we are led to believe that this means that the two point clouds that we are trying to relate are too different to find an accurate transformation. Assuming that the data provided within the debug files should be attainable, this likely means that the point cloud that we are generating in the EM base frame is not correct. That being said, we are using the exact same methods defined in Assignment 1 which were functional as well as the correct distortion correction function. This is a limitation of our submission, and we look forward to determining the source of the cause.

2.9 Contributions

Both partners contributed equally. Doran primarily worked on defining the math behind distortion correction and registration, and Ravi primarily worked on the implementation. We contributed in debugging all functions and test.