

Feature Extraction functionalities 20220202

key definitions:

- scanline** - pointcloud data from a single laser
- scan** - a collection of scanline(s), generally from one full revolution of the Lidar
- pointcloud** - a collection of points, generally from scan(s)

overall design:

- 1) take in a pointcloud containing a single scan (can be multiple scanlines)
- 2) separate into continuous clusters using delta_range and delta_horizontal_angle as a way to distinguish clusters
- 3) throw away clusters of insufficient size (please use a macro to define numerical parameters)
- 4) apply algorithm on each cluster to determine corners, return indices of corners
- 5) use indices to extract points from original pointcloud and save as separate pointcloud

main function:

```
/** @brief take in a pointcloud containing a single scanline and return the indices of the corner points  
  
 * @param scanline pointcloud containing one scanline  
  
/* @return a vector containing indices of all corner points, returns empty vector if non found  
  
std::vector<size_t> find_corners(const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ> & scanline);
```

sub functions:

```
/** 1) read in point cloud sample code */
pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ>::Ptr uav_pointcloud(new pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ>);
if(pcl::io::loadPCDFile<pcl::PointXYZ>(file_path_string, *uav_pointcloud) == -1)
{
    std::cerr << "failed to read pointcloud file. \n";
    return -1;
}
else
    std::cout << "file loaded, size: " << (*uav_pointcloud).size() << "\n";

/** 2) separate a scanline into clusters of points
 * 3) this function should also use a size check at end to filter out clusters of insufficient size
 @return a vector of scanline clusters*/
std::vector<pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ>>
cluster_scanline_with_range_angle(const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ> & scanline, float
range_threshold, float angle_threshold);

/** 4) corner finding algorithm
 @return indices of corner points*/
std::vector<size_t> find_corners_in_scanline_cluster (const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ> &
scanline_cluster);

/** 5) extract and save pointcloud based on indices */
// to save pcd, use pcl::io::savePCDFileASCII, make sure to check that the pointcloud is not empty
before saving, otherwise it will crash the software
```