

ImagesToLARModel, a tool for creation of three-dimensional models from a stack of images

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January 14, 2016

Abstract

Here we will present a software for creating a three-dimensional model from a stack of images. This can be useful because of the simplicity of these type of representations. In particular a scope of use can be offered by medicine, where there is an enormous number of images but with very complex two-dimensional representations.

This work will use the LAR representation ([[CL13](#)]) with the Julia language, because of its simplicity, showing how it can be used for quickly process image data.

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1 Introduction

This work has the aim to transform a two-dimensional representation of a model (based on a stack of images) into a three-dimensional representation based on the LAR schema. In particular, it will produce a single obj model which can be viewed with standard graphics softwares.

In the past were developed other softwares using same principles (see [PDFJ15]). However, they were optimized for speed and cannot be able to accept huge amounts of data. With the rise of the big data era, we now have more and more data available for research purposes, so softwares must be able to deal with them. A typical hardware environment is based on a cluster of computers where computation can be distributed among a lot of different processes. However, as stated by *Amdahl's law*, the speedup of a program using multiple processors is limited by the time needed for the sequential fraction of the program. So use of parallel techniques for dealing with big data is not important for time performance gain but for memory space gain. In fact, our biggest problem is lack of memory, due to model sizes. As a consequence, every parts of this software is written with the clear objective of minimizing memory usage at the cost of losing something in terms of time performance. So, for example, images will be converted in blocks determined by a grid size (see section 5) among different processes and different machines of the cluster



Figure 1: Amdahl's law

1.1 Why Julia

Ricordare che precedenti versioni erano in python

Semplicità

Efficienza

Capacità di realizzare programmi paralleli con poco sforzo

2 Software structure

2.1 Julia packages

This software will be distributed as a Julia Package. For the actual release (Julia 0.4) a package is a simple git project with the structure showed in figure 2



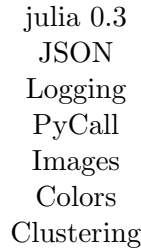
Figure 2: Julia module structure

Source code must be in folder `src`, while in `test` folder there are module tests with a `runtests.jl` for executing them and with a `REQUIRE` file for specifying tests dependencies. For listing dependencies for the entire project, there is another `REQUIRE` file in main folder. As an example in figure 3 there is the `REQUIRE` file for `ImagesToLARMModel.jl`.

After creating this structure for a project it can be pushed on a git repository and installed on Julia systems. The usual installation procedure use this syntax:

```
Pkg.add("Package-name")
```

This will check for that package in METADATA.jl repository on github where there are all official Julia package. However it is also possible to install an unofficial package (on a public git repository) using this syntax:



```
julia 0.3
JSON
Logging
PyCall
Images
Colors
Clustering
```

Figure 3: REQUIRE contents for `ImagesToLARModel.jl`

```
Pkg.clone("git://repository-address.git")
```

This will install the package on your system with all the dependencies listed in REQUIRE file.

2.2 Architecture of ImagesToLARModel

In previous section we have seen how to create a Julia package for distribute our application. Now we focus on the structure of our application. In `src` folder we can find the following modules:

ImagesToLARModel.jl: main module for the software, it takes input parameters and start images conversion

ImagesConversion.jl: it is called by `ImagesToLARModel.jl` module and controls the entire conversion process calling all other modules

GenerateBorderMatrix.jl: it generates the boundary operator for grid specified in input, saving it in a JSON file

PngStack2Array3dJulia.jl: it is responsible of images loading and conversion into computable data

Lar2Julia.jl: it contains a small subset of LAR functions written in Julia language

LARUtils.jl: it contains utility functions for manipulation of LAR models

Smoother.jl: it contains function for smoothing of LAR models

Model2Obj.jl: it contains function that manipulates obj files

In figure 4 there is a simple schema of dependencies between modules.

Next sections of this document will explain in details all these modules showing also the code involved in conversion

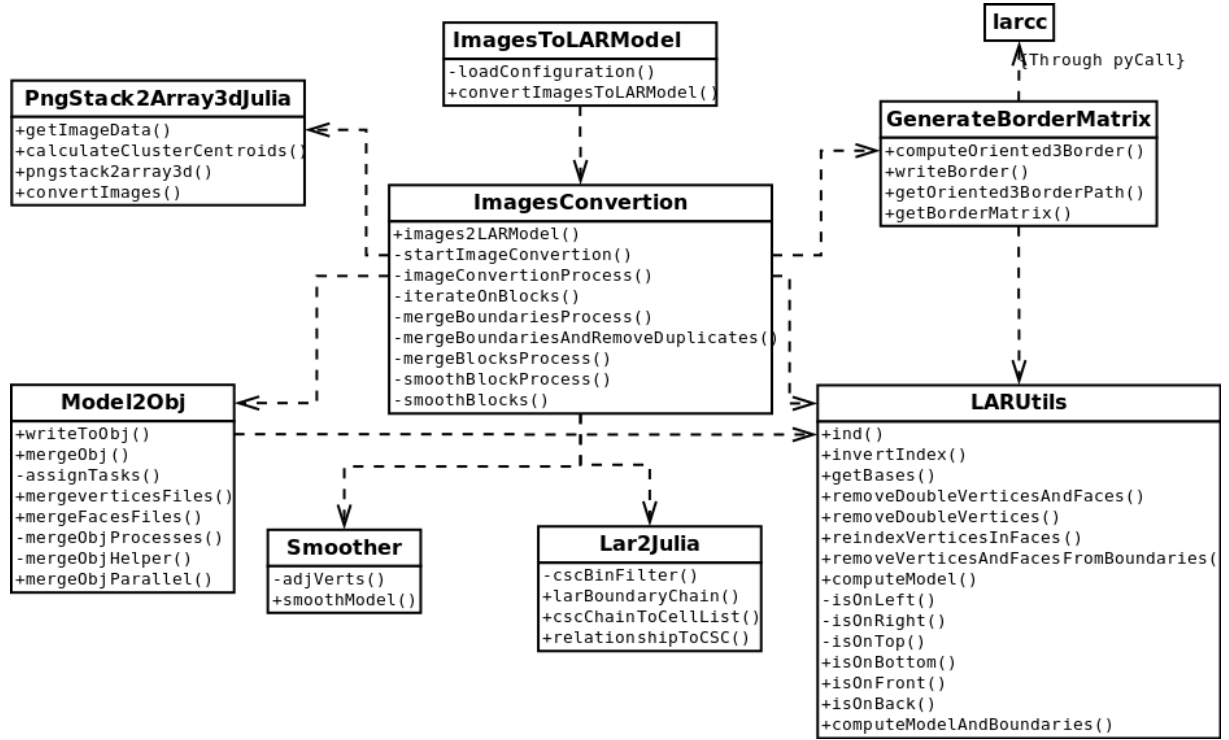


Figure 4: Schema of module dependencies of ImagesToLARModel

3 ImagesToLARModel

This is the main module for the application; it takes the input data and start conversion calling `ImagesConversion.jl`.

3.1 Calling modules

As we have already said, this first module has the responsibility of starting the conversion calling all other modules in the package. In Julia calling modules requires that they are in a path specified by `LOAD_PATH` array. So at the beginning of this module we need to add this line:

```

⟨ update load path 6 ⟩ ≡
    push!(LOAD_PATH, Pkg.dir("ImagesToLARModel/src"))
    ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

`Pkg.dir()` function gives us the path of the Julia installation, so `Pkg.dir("ImagesToLARModel/src")` returns “ $\langle Julia - path \rangle / ImagesToLARModel / src$ ”

After this line we can now import all modules defined here and export public functions:

```
 $\langle modules import ImagesToLARModel 7a \rangle \equiv$   
    import JSON  
    import ImagesConversion  
    import PngStack2Array3dJulia  
  
    using Logging  
  
    export convertImagesToLARModel, prepareData  
  
     $\diamond$ 
```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

3.2 Input loading for data preparation

Data preparation (see Section 3.4 takes several parameters:

- `inputDirectory`: The path of the directory containing the stack of images
- `outputDirectory`: The path of the directory with the output images
- `crop`: Parameter for images resizing (they can be extended or cropped)
- `noise_shape`: Intensity of the denoising filter for images (0 if you want to disable it)
- `threshold`: set a threshold for raw data. Pixels under that threshold will be set to black, otherwise they will be set to white. If threshold is not specified, segmentation will be done using a clustering algorithm
- `threshold3d`: set a threshold for the three-dimensional filter (see Section 4.2.3)
- `zDim`: set the stack dimension for the three-dimensional filter (see Section 4.2.3)

Because of their number it has been realized a function for simply loading them from a JSON configuration file; this is the code:

```
 $\langle load JSON configuration for data preparation 7b \rangle \equiv$ 
```



```

function loadConfigurationPrepareData(configurationFile)
    """
    load parameters from JSON file for data preparation

    configurationFile: Path of the configuration file
    """

    configuration = JSON.parse(configurationFile)

    crop = Void
    try
        crop = configuration["crop"]
    catch
    end

    noise_shape = 0
    try
        noise_shape = configuration["noise_shape"]
    catch
    end

    threshold = Void
    try
        threshold = configuration["threshold"]
    catch
    end

    threshold3d = 0
    try
        threshold3d = configuration["threshold3d"]
    catch
    end

    zDim = 0
    try
        zDim = configuration["zDim"]
    catch
    end

    return configuration["inputDirectory"], configuration["outputDirectory"],
        crop, noise_shape, threshold, threshold3d, zDim

end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

A valid JSON file has the following structure:

```
{
  "inputDirectory": "Path of the input directory",
  "outputDirectory": "Path of the output directory",
  "crop": Parameter for images resizing (they can be extended or cropped)
  "noise_shape": A number which indicates the intensity of the denoising
filter (0 if you want to disable denoising)
  "threshold": set a threshold for raw data. Pixels under that threshold
will be set to black, otherwise they will be set to white
  "threshold3d": A number indicating the chosen threshold for the
three-dimensional filter (0 if you want to disable this filter)
  "zDim": A number indicating the number of images computed
at once from the three-dimensional filter (0 if you want to take the entire stack) }
```

For example, we can write:

```
{
  "inputDirectory": "/home/juser/IMAGES/",
  "outputDirectory": "/home/juser/OUTPUT/",
  "crop": [[1,800],[1,600],[1,50]],
  "noise_shape": 0,
  "threshold": 13,
  "threshold3d": 100,
  "zDim": 0
}
```

crop, *noise_shape*, *threshold*, *threshold3d* and *zDim* are optional parameters

3.3 Input loading for images conversion

Images conversion takes several parameters:

- *inputDirectory*: The path of the directory containing the stack of images
- *outputDirectory*: The path of the directory containing the output

- nx, ny, nz: Sizes of the grid chosen for image segmentation (see section 5)
- DEBUG_LEVEL: Debug level for Julia logger
- parallelMerge (experimental): Choose between sequential or parallel merge of files (see section 10)

Because of their number it has been realized a function for simply loading them from a JSON configuration file; this is the code:

```

⟨load JSON configuration 10⟩ ≡
function loadConfiguration(configurationFile)
    """
    load parameters from JSON file

    configurationFile: Path of the configuration file
    """

    configuration = JSON.parse(configurationFile)

    DEBUG_LEVELS = [DEBUG, INFO, WARNING, ERROR, CRITICAL]

    parallelMerge = false
    try
        if configuration["parallelMerge"] == "true"
            parallelMerge = true
        else
            parallelMerge = false
        end
    catch
    end

    return configuration["inputDirectory"], configuration["outputDirectory"],
        configuration["nx"], configuration["ny"], configuration["nz"],
        DEBUG_LEVELS[configuration["DEBUG_LEVEL"]],
        parallelMerge

end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

A valid JSON file has the following structure:

```
{
  "inputDirectory": "Path of the input directory",
  "outputDirectory": "Path of the output directory",
  "nx": x grid size,
  "ny": y grid size,
  "nz": border z,
  "DEBUG_LEVEL": julia Logging level (can be a number from 1 to 5)
  "parallelMerge": "true" or "false"
}
```

For example, we can write:

```
{
  "inputDirectory": "/home/juser/IMAGES/",
  "outputDirectory": "/home/juser/OUTPUT/",
  "nx": 2,
  "ny": 2,
  "nz": 2,
  "DEBUG_LEVEL": 2
}
```

As we can see, in a valid JSON configuration file `DEBUG_LEVEL` can be a number from 1 to 5. Instead, when we explicitly define parameters, `DEBUG_LEVEL` can only be one of the following Julia constants:

- `DEBUG`
- `INFO`
- `WARNING`
- `ERROR`
- `CRITICAL`

parallelMerge is an optional parameter

3.4 Data preparation

$\langle \text{data preparation from JSON file 11} \rangle \equiv$

```

function prepareData(configurationFile)
    """
    Prepare the input data converting all files into png
    format with the desired resizing and denoising

    configurationFile: Path of the configuration file
    """
    inputPath, outputPath, crop,
        noise_shape, threshold,
        threshold3d, zDim = loadConfigurationPrepareData(open(configurationFile))

    prepareData(inputPath, outputPath, crop, noise_shape,
        threshold, threshold3d, zDim)

end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

$\langle \text{manual data preparation 12} \rangle \equiv$

```

function prepareData(inputPath, outputPath,
    crop = Void, noise_shape = 0, threshold = Void,
    threshold3d = 0, zDim = 0)
    """
    Prepare the input data converting all files into png
    format with the desired resizing and denoising

    inputPath: Directory containing the stack of images
    outputPath: Directory which will contain the output
    crop: Parameter for images resizing (they can be
        extended or cropped)
    noise_shape: The shape for image denoising
    threshold: Threshold for the raw data. All pixels under it
        will be set to black, otherwise they will be set to white
    threshold3d: A number indicating the chosen threshold for
        three-dimensional filter (0 if you want to disable this filter)
    zDim: A number indicating the number of images computed at once from the
        three-dimensional filter (0 if you want to take the entire stack)
    """
    # Create output directory
    try
        mkpath(outputPath)
    catch
    end
end

```

```

        PngStack2Array3dJulia.convertImages(inputPath, outputPath, crop, noise_shape,
                                             threshold, threshold3d, zDim)
    end
    ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

3.5 Starting conversion

As we have already said, this module has the only responsibility to collect data input and starts other modules. These are the functions that start the process and the only exposed to the application users:

```

⟨ Start conversion from JSON file 13a ⟩ ≡
function convertImagesToLARModel(configurationFile)
    """
    Start conversion of a stack of images into a 3D model
    loading parameters from a JSON configuration file

    configurationFile: Path of the configuration file
    """
    inputDirectory, outputDirectory, nx, ny, nz,
        DEBUG_LEVEL, parallelMerge = loadConfiguration(open(configurationFile))
    convertImagesToLARModel(inputDirectory, outputDirectory,
                            nx, ny, nz, DEBUG_LEVEL, parallelMerge)
end
    ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

```

⟨ Start manual conversion 13b ⟩ ≡
function convertImagesToLARModel(inputDirectory, outputDirectory,
                                nx, ny, nz, DEBUG_LEVEL = INFO,
                                parallelMerge = false)
    """
    Start conversion of a stack of images into a 3D model

    inputDirectory: Directory containing the stack of images
    outputDirectory: Directory containing the output
    nx, ny, nz: Border dimensions

```

```

DEBUG_LEVEL: Debug level for Julia logger. It can be one of the following:
- DEBUG
- INFO
- WARNING
- ERROR
- CRITICAL
parallelMerge: Choose if you want to use the algorithm
for parallel merging (experimental)
"""
# Create output directory
try
    mkpath(outputDirectory)
catch
end

Logging.configure(level=DEBUG_LEVEL)
ImagesConversion.images2LARModel(nx, ny, nz,
    inputDirectory, outputDirectory, parallelMerge)
end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95a.

4 PngStack2Array3dJulia

This module has the responsibility of convert a png image into an array of values that will be passed to other modules

4.1 Module imports

These are modules needed for this part of the package and the public functions exported

```

⟨ modules import PngStack2Array3dJulia 14 ⟩ ≡
    using Images # For loading png images
    using Colors # For grayscale images
    using PyCall
    using Clustering
    using Logging
    @pyimport scipy.ndimage as ndimage

    export pngstack2array3d, getImageData, convertImages
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

We need `Images`, `Clustering` and `Colors` packages for manipulating png images and `PyCall` for using Python functions for noise removal from images. As a consequence, we need a python environment with `scipy` to be able to run the package

4.2 Convert input to png

First thing to do in our program is getting our input folder and convert the stack of images into png format with only two values. This process lets us to avoid managing an enormous variety of formats during computation, simplifying code used for transformation.

Conversion needs the following parameters:

- `inputPath`: path of the folder containing the original images
- `outputPath`: path where we will save png images
- `crop`: parameters for images resizing (they can be extended or cropped)
- `threshold`: set a threshold for raw data. Pixels under that threshold will be set to black, otherwise they will be set to white. If the threshold is not set, the image will be converted using a clustering algorithm
- `threshold3d`: Set a threshold for the three-dimensional filter (see Section 4.2.3)
- `zDim`: Set the stack dimension for the three-dimensional filter (see Section 4.2.3)

Now we can examine single parts of conversion process. We need to open the single image doing the following operations:

1. Open images using `Images` library (which relies on `ImageMagick`) and save them in greyscale png format
2. Resize the images according to the `crop` parameter
3. Apply a denoising filter for the image
4. Set the threshold for the image or start the clustering algorithm

This is the code used for every step.

```

⟨ Greyscale conversion 15 ⟩ ≡
    rgb_img = convert(Image{ColorTypes.RGB}, img)
    gray_img = convert(Image{ColorTypes.Gray}, rgb_img) ◇

```


Fragment referenced in 18.

As we can see, we first need to convert image to RGB and then reconverting to greyscale. Without the RGB conversion these rows will return a stackoverflow error due to the presence of alpha channel

```
< Image resizing 16a > ≡  
  if(crop!= Void)  
    # Resize images on x-axis and y-axis  
    gray_img = resizeImage(gray_img, crop)  
  end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 18.

The code for image resizing will be better explained in Section 4.2.1.

Now we have to reduce noise on the image. The best choice consists in using a *median filter* from package `scipy.ndimage`, because it preserves better the edges of the image:

```
< Reduce noise 16b > ≡  
  imArray = raw(gray_img)  
  # Denoising  
  if noise_shape_detect != 0  
    imArray = ndimage.median_filter(imArray, noise_shape_detect)  
  end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 18.

The `Images.jl` `raw` function used here, get all pixel values saving them in an Array, which we have called *imArray*. In Figure 5 we can see how the array will be like for a sample greyscale image.

Finally we can set a threshold for image data. The idea is to get a value from the user and set to white all pixel over the threshold and set to black the remaining ones.

```
< Image thresholding 16c > ≡  
  if(threshold != Void)  
    imArray = map(x-> if x > threshold return 0xff else return 0x00 end, imArray)  
  else  
    imArray = clusterImage(imArray)  
  end  
  gray_img = grayim(imArray) ◇
```

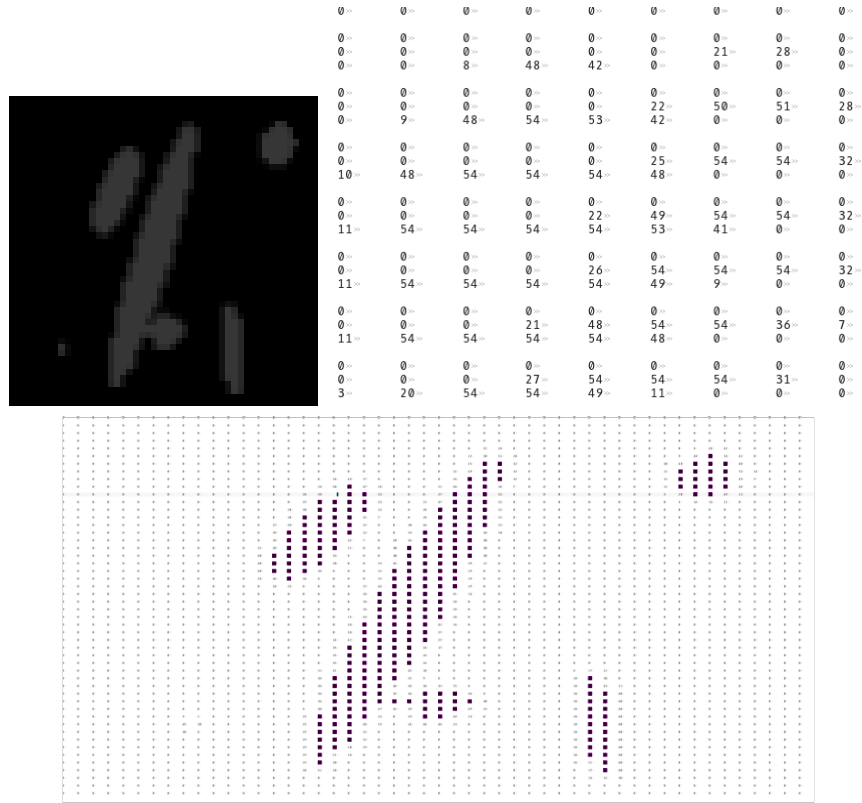


Figure 5: Reading raw data from image. (a) Original greyscale image (b) A view of raw data array (c) The entire raw data array with main color highlighted

Fragment referenced in 18.

The code used for image clustering will be explained in Section 4.2.2.

After these operations we can write the single image on disk. However, the stack computed at the moment, could have non-relevant pixels for our model (especially if there is a lot of noise in images). So to speed-up next computation and produce a final result with better quality we can introduce a *three-dimensional filter* for choosing only the useful pixels for the model. In Section 4.2.3 we will see the details of the implementation of this filter.

$\langle 3D \text{ filtering } 17 \rangle \equiv$

```

# Filtering out non-relevant parts of the model
if(threshold3d != 0)
    imageFilter3D(outputPath, threshold3d, zDim)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 18.

This is the code for the entire function:

```

⟨ Convert to png 18 ⟩ ≡
function convertImages(inputPath, outputPath,
                      crop = Void, noise_shape_detect = 0, threshold = Void,
                      threshold3d = 0, zDim = 0)
    """
    Get all images contained in inputPath directory
    saving them in outputPath directory in png format.
    Images will be resized according with the crop parameter
    and if folder contains an odd number of images another one will be
    added

    inputPath: Directory containing input images
    outputPath: Temporary directory containing png images
    crop: Parameter for images resizing (they can be
          extended or cropped)
    noise_shape_detect: Shape for the denoising filter
    threshold: Threshold for the raw data. All pixel under it
              will we set to black, otherwise they will be set to white
    """

    imageFiles = readdir(inputPath)

    ⟨ Resize images on z-axis 21 ⟩

    for imageFile in imageFiles
        img = imread(string(inputPath, imageFile))
        ⟨ Greyscale conversion 15 ⟩
        ⟨ Image resizing 16a ⟩

        ⟨ Reduce noise 16b ⟩
        ⟨ Image thresholding 16c ⟩

        outputFilename = string(outputPath, imageFile[1:rsearch(imageFile, ".")[1]], "png")
        imwrite(gray_img, outputFilename)
    end
end

```

```

end
⟨ 3D filtering 17 ⟩
end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

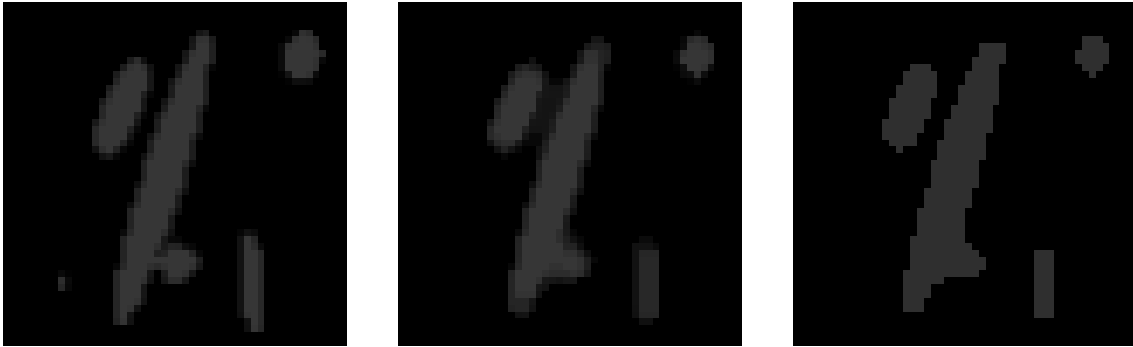


Figure 6: Image transformation. (a) Original greyscale image (b) Denoised image (c) Two-colors image

4.2.1 Image resizing

Now we will see in detail how to resize images on x and y axis. The most important parameter is *crop*, which is a list of numbers that contains the desired dimensions for the stack of images.

Given the list $[[xcropStart, xcropEnd], [ycropStart, ycropEnd], [zcropStart, zcropEnd]]$ we can have different cases based on the list values, as we can see in Figure 7.

So with the same parameter we can both resize or extend images. In particular, when we have to extend them, we have to get the raw data and concatenate a zeroed array to it. On the other hand, for image cropping we can use the `subim` function from the `Images` package.

```

⟨ image resizing 19 ⟩ ≡
function resizeImage(image, crop)
    """
    Utility function for images resize

    image: the input image
    crop: a list containing the crop parameters

```

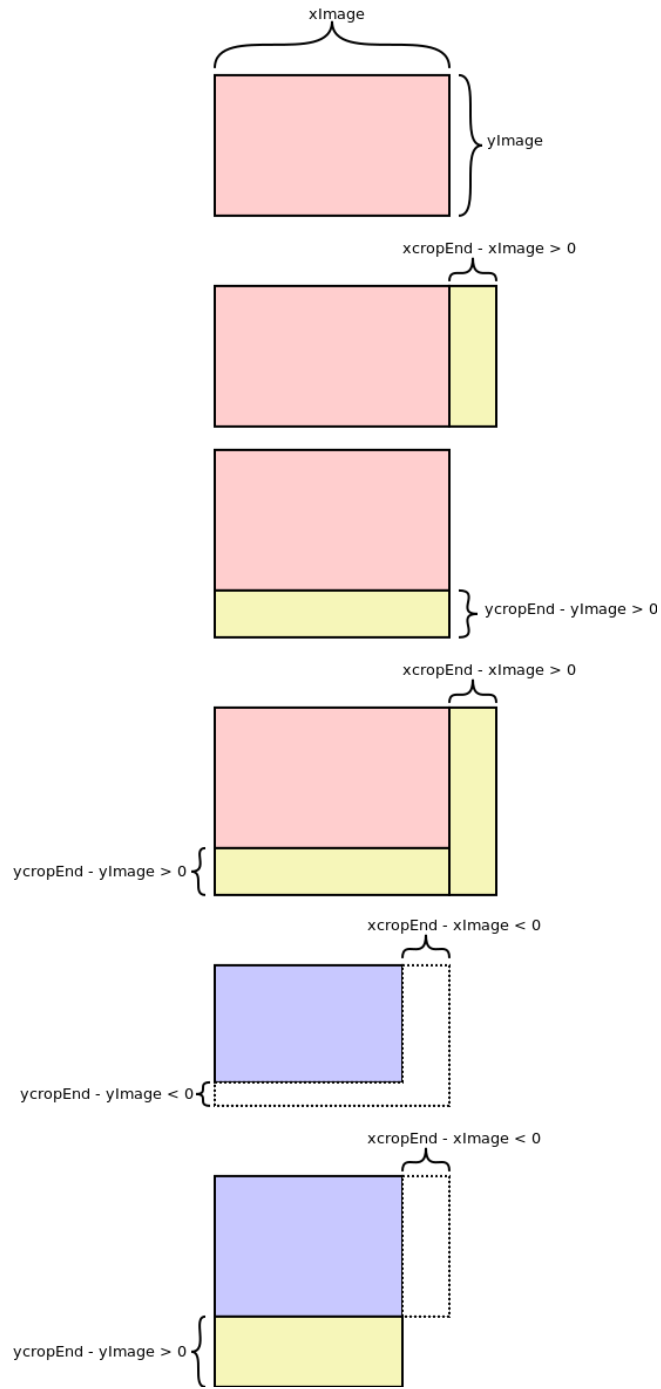


Figure 7: Some interesting resize cases. (a) The original image (b) Extension on the x dimension (c) Extension on the y dimension (d) Extension on both dimensions (e) Crop of both x and y (f) Crop of x and extension of y

```

        for the three dimensions

returns the resized image
"""
dim = size(image)
if(crop[1][2] > dim[1])
    # Extending the images on the x axis
    imArray = raw(image)
    zeroArray = zeros(UInt8, dim[2])
    for i in (1 : (crop[1][2] - dim[1]))
        imArray = vcat(imArray, transpose(zeroArray))
    end
    image = grayim(imArray)
end

if(crop[2][2] > dim[2])
    # Extending the images on the y axis
    imArray = raw(image)
    zeroArray = zeros(UInt8, size(image)[1])
    for i in (1: (crop[2][2] - dim[2]))
        imArray = hcat(imArray, zeroArray)
    end
    image = grayim(imArray)
end
return subim(image, crop[1][1]:crop[1][2], crop[2][1]:crop[2][2])
end ◊

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

However our stack of images have three dimensions, where the z-axis is represented by the number of images. So the third list for the crop parameters resize the stack removing or adding other images.

```

⟨ Resize images on z-axis 21 ⟩ ≡
#Resizing on the z axis
if(crop!= Void)
    numberOfImages = length(imageFiles)
    if(crop[3][2] > numberOfImages)
        imageWidth = crop[1][2] - crop[1][1] + 1
        imageHeight = crop[2][2] - crop[2][1] + 1
        for i in 1 : crop[3][2] - numberOfImages
            imArray = zeros(UInt8, imageWidth, imageHeight)
            img = grayim(imArray)
            outputFilename = string(outputPath, "/", imageFiles[end][1:rsearch(imageFiles[end], ".")

```

```

                                "_added-", i , ".png")
        imwrite(img, outputFilename)
    end
end
imageFiles = imageFiles[crop[3][1]:min(numberOfImages, crop[3][2])]
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 18.

4.2.2 Image clustering

When the user does not set a threshold for data segmentation, the software uses a k-means clustering algorithm for determining the values for binary images. First thing to do is to change raw data so it can be passed to the clustering function of the `Clustering.jl` package. After clustering completion, data is set to `0x00` or `0xff` depending on the algorithm assignments.

```

⟨ image clustering 22 ⟩ ≡
function clusterImage(imArray)
    """
    Get a binary representation of an image returning
    a two-color image using clustering

    imArray: array containing pixel values

    return the imArray with only two different values
    """

    imageWidth = size(imArray)[1]
    imageHeight = size(imArray)[2]

    # Formatting data for clustering
    image3d = Array{Array{UInt8,2},0}()
    push!(image3d, imArray)
    pixels = reshape(image3d[1], (imageWidth * imageHeight), 1)

    # Computing assignments from the raw data
    kmeansResults = kmeans(convert{Float64}(transpose(pixels)), 2)

    qnt = kmeansResults.assignments
    centers = kmeansResults.centers

    if(centers[1] == centers[2])

```

```

    if centers[1] < 30 # I assume that a full image can have light gray pixels
      qnt = fill(0x00, size(qnt))
    else
      qnt = fill(0xff, size(qnt))
    end
  else
    minIndex = findmin(centers)[2]
    qnt = map(x-> if x == minIndex return 0x00 else return 0xff end, qnt)
  end

  return reshape(qnt, imageWidth, imageHeight)
end ◊

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

We can see that sometimes the `Clustering.jl` library returns the same values for both centroid centers. This could happen when the images is completely empty or it has only colored pixels. So, we need to check this cases and fill the assignments array `qnt` with the right values based a fixed threshold.

4.2.3 three-dimensional model filter

Now we can see the implementation of a filter for removal of noise from our models. It is different from filters used in common image processing because it effectively removes only groups of linked pixels whose dimensions are under a given threshold. So this filter is able to consider the three-dimensional model described in our images to delete the non-relevant pixels.

```

⟨ 3d model filtering 23 ⟩ ≡
function visitFromNode(node, graph, visited)
  """
  Visit a graph starting from a node using a DFS

  node: the starting node
  graph: the matrix representation of the graph
  visited: the visited nodes
  """
  toVisit = Array{Int, 0}
  visitedNodes = Array{Int, 0}
  push!(toVisit, node)
  while (length(toVisit) != 0)
    n = pop!(toVisit)
    if !in(n, visited)

```



```

        push!(visited, n)
        push!(visitedNodes, n)
        adj_list = adjacentPixels(graph, n)
        for adj in adj_list
            push!(toVisit, adj)
        end
    end
end
return visitedNodes
end

function pixelIndex(x, y, z, nx, ny)
    """
    Given the coordinates of a pixel
    of the image matrix return the index
    of the linearized matrix
    """
    return x + nx * (y - 1) + nx * ny * (z - 1)
end

function pixelCoords(ind, nx, ny)
    """
    Given the index of a pixel
    returns the coordinates of the pixel
    """

    xCoord = (ind - 1) % nx + 1

    yCoord = convert{Int, trunc((ind - 1) % (nx * ny) / nx)} + 1

    zCoord = convert{Int, trunc((ind - 1) / (nx * ny))} + 1

    return xCoord, yCoord, zCoord
end

function adjacentPixels(imageArray, pixel)
    """
    Find the pixels which are adjacent
    to a given one

    imageArray: the array containing the image
    pixel: the index of the pixel we are querying
    """
    nx = size(imageArray[1])[1]
    ny = size(imageArray[1])[2]
    adjs = Array{Int, 0}

```

```

xPixel, yPixel, zPixel = pixelCoords(pixel, nx, ny)
# Querying adjacent pixels
for z in max(1, zPixel - 1) : min(zPixel + 1, length(imageArray))
  for y in max(1, yPixel - 1) : min(yPixel + 1, nx)
    for x in max(1, xPixel - 1) : min(xPixel + 1, ny)
      if(x == xPixel || y == yPixel)
        index = pixelIndex(x, y, z, nx, ny)
        if(index != pixel && imageArray[z][x, y] != 0x00)
          push!(adjs, index)
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
return adjs
end

function imageFilter3D(imageDirectory, threshold, zDim = 0)
  """
  Implementation of a filter for a stack of images
  It traverses a stack of images loading zDim images
  at once finding the adjacent pixels. If the number of
  adjacent pixels is less than a threshold, the pixels
  will be deleted

  imageDirectory: The directory containg the images
  threshold: the minimum number of adjacent pixels for the result
  zDim: the number of images to load at once
  """
  imageFiles = readdir(imageDirectory)
  imageFiles = map((s) -> string(imageDirectory, s), imageFiles)

  if zDim == 0
    zDim = length(imageFiles)
  end

  numberOfBlocks = convert{Int, trunc(length(imageFiles)/zDim)}
  for zBlock in 1: numberOfBlocks
    imageArray = Array{Array{UInt8,2}, zDim}
    endBlock = min(zBlock * zDim, length(imageFiles))
    startBlock = endBlock - zDim + 1
    blockFiles = imageFiles[startBlock: endBlock]
    for i in 1: zDim
      img = imread(blockFiles[i])
      imageArray[i] = raw(img)
    end
  end
end

```

```

# Now I can start navigation of the graph determined
# by these images
visited = Array{Int, 0}
nx = size(imageArray[1])[1]
ny = size(imageArray[1])[2]
for i in 1: (zDim * nx * ny)
    xPixel, yPixel, zPixel = pixelCoords(i, nx, ny)
    if imageArray[zPixel][xPixel, yPixel] != 0x00 && !in(i, visited)
        visitedPixels = visitFromNode(i, imageArray, visited)
        if length(visitedPixels) < threshold
            for pixel in visitedPixels
                x, y, z = pixelCoords(pixel, nx, ny)
                imageArray[z][x, y] = 0x00
            end
        end
    end
end
end
# Now I can write the results on file
for i in 1: zDim
    imwrite(grayim(imageArray[i]), blockFiles[i])
end
end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

4.3 Getting data from a png

Now we need to load information data from png images. In particular we are interested in getting width and height of an image. As stated in [W3C] document, a standard PNG file contains a *signature* followed by a sequence of *chunks* (each one with a specific type).

The signature always contain the following values:

137 80 78 71 13 10 26 10

This signature indicates that the remainder of the datastream contains a single PNG image, consisting of a series of chunks beginning with an IHDR chunk and ending with an IEND chunk. Every chunk is preceded by four bytes indicating its length.

As we are interested in width and height we need to parse the IHDR chunk. It is the first chunk in PNG datastream and its type field contains the decimal values:

73 72 68 82

The header also contains:

Width	4 bytes
Height	4 bytes
Bit depth	1 bytes
Color type	1 byte
Compression method	1 byte
Filter method	1 byte
Interlace method	1 byte

So for reading width and height we need first 24 bytes; the first eight contain the signature, then we have four bytes for length, four bytes for the type field and eight bytes for information we are interested in. This is the code:

```
< Get image data 27 > ≡
function getImageData(imageFile)
    """
    Get width and height from a png image
    """

    input = open(imageFile, "r")
    data = readbytes(input, 24)

    if (convert(Array{Int},data[1:8]) != reshape([137 80 78 71 13 10 26 10],8))
        error("This is not a valid png image")
    end

    w = data[17:20]
    h = data[21:24]

    width = reinterpret{Int32, reverse(w)}[1]
    height = reinterpret{Int32, reverse(h)}[1]

    close(input)

    return width, height
end
◇
```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

4.4 Transform pixels into three-dimensional array

Now we can study the most important part of this module, where images are converted into data usable by other modules for the creation of the three-dimensional model. The basic concept consists in transforming every single pixel in an integer value representing color, obtaining a matrix containing only two values representing background and foreground of the image.

Now we will follow the code. This function uses three parameters:

- path: Path of the images directory
- minSlice: First image to read
- maxSlice: Last image to read

For every image we want to transform in the interval $[\text{minSlice}, \text{maxSlice})$ we have to read it from disk and save pixel informations into a multidimensional Array.

This is the complete code:

```
< Pixel transformation 28 > ≡
function pngstack2array3d(path, minSlice, maxSlice)
    """
        Import a stack of PNG images into a 3d array

        path: path of images directory
        minSlice and maxSlice: number of first and last slice
    """

    # image3d contains all images values
    image3d = Array{Array{UInt8,2}, 0}

    debug("maxSlice = ", maxSlice, " minSlice = ", minSlice)
    files = readdir(path)

    for slice in minSlice : (maxSlice - 1)
        debug("slice = ", slice)
        imageFilename = string(path, files[slice + 1])
        debug("image name: ", imageFilename)
        img = imread(imageFilename) # Open png image with Julia Package
        imArray = raw(img) # Putting pixel values into RAW 3d array
        debug("imArray size: ", size(imArray))

        # Inserting page on another list
        push!(image3d, imArray)
    end
end
```

```

    return image3d
end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98a.

5 ImagesConversion

Now we will study the most important module for this package: `ImagesConversion`. It has the responsibility of doing the entire conversion process delegating tasks to the other modules.

5.1 General algorithm

Now we will examine, in a general way, the algorithm used for conversion from a two-dimensional to a three-dimensional representation of our biomedical models.

We have already seen in section 4 how to get information from a png image, obtaining arrays with only two values; one for the **background** color and one for **foreground** color. This is only the first step of the complete conversion process.

Now we focus only on a single image of the stack. Our two-dimensional representation, consists of pixels of two different colors (where only the one associated with foreground is significant); so we can obtain a three-dimensional representation simply replacing every foreground pixel with a small cube. Focusing on the entire stack of images, the full three-dimensional representation can be obtained simply overlapping all the image representations

This algorithm is very simple, however we does not considered problems concerning lack of memory. In fact, we could have images so big that we cannot build these models entirely in memory; moreover they would require a lot of CPU time for computation. A good solution to these problems consists in taking our representation based on images and divide according to a **grid**.

So, instead of converting the entire model with a unique process, we can subdivide the input among a lot of processes, where every process will execute the conversion process on a small number of **blocks** according to the grid subdivision.

Summing up we can define the following terms, which will be used in next parts of this documentation:



Figure 8: The grid used for parallel computation (a) 2D grid on a single image (b) 3D grid for the stack of images

- **Grid:** It is the subdivision of the entire stack of images, with sizes defined by the user.
- **Block:** It is a single cell of the grid
- **xBlock:** It is the x-coordinate of a block
- **yBlock:** It is the y-coordinate of a block
- **zBlock:** It is the z-coordinate of a block

$xBlock$ and $yBlock$ are defined on a single image, while $zBlock$ is defined on different images; in the code it will often be replaced by terms **StartImage** and **EndImage**, which indicate the first image and the last image of that block respectively.

In next subsections we will examine the conversion algorithm in detail, showing what happens for every block of the grid.

5.2 Module imports

These are modules needed for this part of the package and the public functions exported.

```
< modules import ImagesConversion 30 > ≡
    import GenerateBorderMatrix
    import PngStack2Array3dJulia
```

```

import Lar2Julia
import Model2Obj
import LARUtils
import Smoother

using Logging

export images2LARModel
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

5.3 Data preparation

As a first thing, we will see how to prepare our data for conversion process. Firstly we need to compute the LAR boundary operator for finding boundaries of our cells (for the generation see section 6) getting width and height from our images.

Later we can start conversion with all these parameters calling `startImageConversion` function, which will be explained in next subsection.

```

⟨ main function for ImagesConversion 31 ⟩ ≡
function images2LARModel(nx, ny, nz,
                        inputDirectory, outputDirectory,
                        parallelMerge)
    """
    Convert a stack of images into a 3d model
    """

    info("Starting model creation")

    # Get sizes of the stack of images
    fileList = readdir(inputDirectory)
    imageWidth, imageHeight = PngStack2Array3dJulia.getImageData(
        string(inputDirectory, fileList[1]))
    imageDepth = length(fileList)

    # Computing border matrix
    info("Computing border matrix")
    try
        mkdir(string(outputDirectory, "BORDERS"))
    catch
    end
    borderFilename = GenerateBorderMatrix.getOriented3BorderPath(

```



```

    string(outputDirectory, "BORDERS"), nx, ny, nz)

# Starting images conversion and border computation
startImageConversion(inputDirectory, outputDirectory, borderFilename,
                    imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                    nx, ny, nz,
                    parallelMerge)

end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

5.4 Conversion pipeline

Now we can see how conversion of images works. In section 5.1 we have seen how to execute the single conversion of a pixel into a voxel using our grid for parallel computation. However, with that algorithm, we obtain models with internal boundaries between blocks and with squared edge. So we need to create a **conversion pipeline** which will progressively refine our models. In Figure 9 there are the steps used for our conversion



Figure 9: Images conversion pipeline

Every single step of the pipeline, is executed in parallel for every block of the grid; so we need a general purpose function for blocks iteration which will take as a parameter a function that will execute it. So we can define the `iterateOnBlocks` function which takes the following parameters:

- **inputDirectory**: Directory which contains input files for the process function
- **imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth**: Sizes of the stack of images
- **imageDx, imageDy, imageDz**: Sizes of the grid
- **processFunction**: Function that contains instructions for execution of a single step of the pipeline for every block

This function will iterate on all blocks of the image grid executing the process function, which will be different for every pipeline step. This is the code used:

$\langle \text{parallel block iteration 33} \rangle \equiv$

```
function iterateOnBlocks(inputDirectory,
                        imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                        imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                        processFunction)

    """
    Simple function that iterates on blocks for executing
    a task described by a processFunction

    inputDirectory: Directory which contains input files for the process function
    imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth: Images sizes
    imageDx, imageDy, imageDz: Sizes of cells grid
    processFunction: Function that will be executed on a separate task
    """

    beginImageStack = 0
    endImage = beginImageStack

    tasks = Array(RemoteRef, 0)
    for zBlock in 0:(imageDepth / imageDz - 1)
        startImage = endImage
        endImage = startImage + imageDz
        for xBlock in 0:(imageWidth / imageDx - 1)
            for yBlock in 0:(imageHeight / imageDy - 1)
                task = @spawn processFunction(inputDirectory,
                                              xBlock, yBlock,
                                              startImage, endImage,
                                              imageDx, imageDy,
                                              imageWidth, imageHeight)

                push!(tasks, task)
            end
        end
    end

    # Waiting for tasks
    for task in tasks
        wait(task)
    end
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

First of all we need to iterate on the grid finding the *zBlock* coordinate; we saw earlier that the *imageDz* parameter must be a divisor of the image depth, so we will have exactly

imageDepth/imageDz blocks on the *z* coordinate. Moreover, at every *zBlock* correspond a *startImage* and an *endImage* where $endImage - startImage = imageDz$.

Now we can iterate on the *xBlock* and *yBlock*, parallelizing the conversion process spawning a new process for every block. Finally, we have to wait for tasks completion.

Now we can see the entire pipeline for images conversion.

First of all we need to compute the centroids from the best image using module *PngStack2Array3dJulia* and get the previously computed border matrix in csc sparse array format

```

⟨ get border matrix 34a ⟩ ≡
    try
        mkdir(string(outputDirectory, "BORDERS"))
    catch
    end
    debug("Opening border file: border_", imageDx, "-", imageDy, "-", imageDz, ".json")
    boundaryMat = GenerateBorderMatrix.getBorderMatrix(
                                                string(outputDirectory, "BORDERS/", "border_",
                                                imageDx, "-", imageDy, "-", imageDz, ".json"))
    ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 35a.

Now we can start the pipeline:

```

⟨ pipeline conversion 34b ⟩ ≡
    # Starting pipeline conversion
    info("Starting images conversion")
    ⟨ pixels to voxels conversion step 40b ⟩

    info("Merging boundaries")
    ⟨ boundaries merge step 43 ⟩

    info("Merging blocks")
    ⟨ block merge step 45a ⟩

    info("Smoothing models")
    ⟨ smoothing step 49a ⟩

    info("Merging obj models")
    ⟨ final file merge 49b ⟩
    end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 35a.

As we can see, last pipeline step does not require iteration on all grid blocks. This is the code for the function that starts the pipeline, with the parts explained earlier:

$\langle \text{start conversion of images 35a} \rangle \equiv$

```
function startImageConversion(sliceDirectory, outputDirectory, borderFilename,
                             imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                             imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                             parallelMerge)
    """
    Support function for converting a stack of images into a model

    sliceDirectory: directory containing the image stack
    """

     $\langle \text{get border matrix 34a} \rangle$ 
     $\langle \text{pipeline conversion 34b} \rangle$ 
end
◇
```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

5.4.1 Images conversion step

Now we will focus on the first step of our pipeline conversion: *images conversion*. First thing to do is read an image calling the `PngStack2Array3dJulia`.

$\langle \text{image read 35b} \rangle \equiv$

```
theImage = PngStack2Array3dJulia.pngstack2array3d(sliceDirectory,
                                                    startImage, endImage)
◇
```

Fragment referenced in 39.

Now we can start iterating on other blocks of the grid:

$\langle \text{block iteration 35c} \rangle \equiv$

```

for xBlock in 0:(imageWidth / imageDx - 1)
  for yBlock in 0:(imageHeight / imageDy - 1)

    xStart = xBlock * imageDx
    yStart = yBlock * imageDy
    zStart = startImage

    xEnd = xStart + imageDx
    yEnd = yStart + imageDy

    imageDz = length(theImage)

    debug("*****")
    debug(string("xStart = ", xStart, " xEnd = ", xEnd))
    debug(string("yStart = ", yStart, " yEnd = ", yEnd))
    debug("theImage dimensions: ", size(theImage)[1], " ",
          size(theImage[1])[1], " ", size(theImage[1])[2]) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 39.

Here $xStart$ and $yStart$ are the absolute coordinates of the model and are calculated from the block coordinates. Now we can get the current slice for the entire image (with size $(imageDx, imageDy, imageDz)$), check values for every single pixel into it and, if it represents a foreground point, put it into an array called `chain3D`. This structure contains indexes of the linearized array created from the matrix. In Figure 10 there is a sample conversion from the matrix to the array

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0^0 & 0^2 \\ 0^1 & 0^3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 46^4 & 0^6 \\ 46^5 & 46^7 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow 0^0 \ 0^1 \ 0^2 \ 0^3 \ 46^4 \ 46^5 \ 0^6 \ 46^7 \\
\begin{pmatrix} 0^0 & 0^2 \\ 0^1 & 0^3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0^4 & 46^6 \\ 46^5 & 46^7 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow 0^0 \ 0^1 \ 0^2 \ 0^3 \ 0^4 \ 46^5 \ 46^6 \ 46^7$$

Figure 10: Transformation of a matrix resulting from a 2x2x2 grid into a linearized array (with cells indexes) (a) First example (b) Second example

As we can see from that figure, from a 2x2x2 grid we can obtain eight values for the single block (or **cell**), where the indexes for the foreground pixels represent indexes of non-empty cells in a 2x2x2 cuboidal geometry. This is the code for getting foreground pixels:

$\langle get \ image \ slice \ 36 \rangle \equiv$

```

chains3D = Array{Int, 0}
for z in 1 : imageDz
    for y in 1 : imageDy
        for x in 1 : imageDx
            if(theImage[z][x + xStart, y + yStart] == 0xff)
                index = x - 1 + (y - 1) * imageDx + (z - 1) * (imageDx * imageDy)
                push!(chains3D, index)
            end
        end
    end
end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 39.

Now that we have full cells for the geometry, we can convert them into a *LAR model*. In particular, we are interested in cell boundaries for every block (as we want to obtain only the boundaries for the final model) so we can call function `larBoundaryChain` from `Lar2Julia` module (which will be explained in section 7). In Figure 11 there are some examples of models extracted from a single $2 \times 2 \times 2$ block.

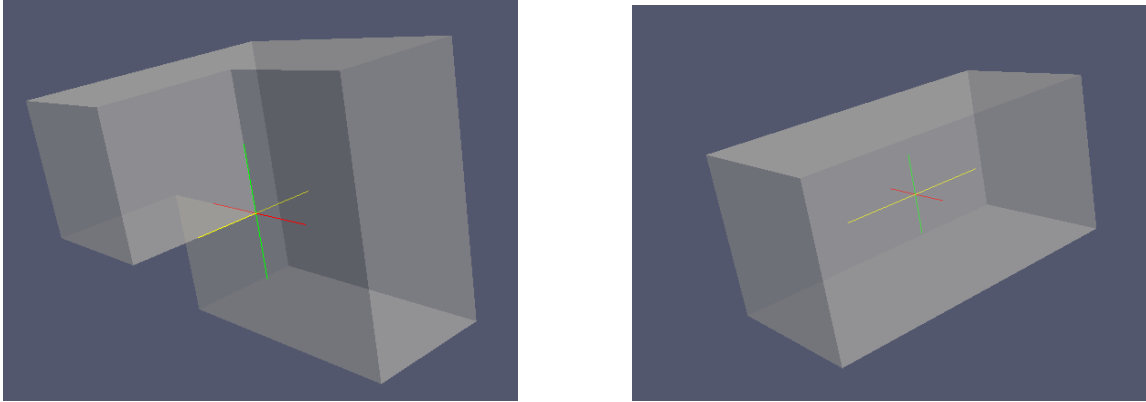


Figure 11: Sample models of 2x2x2 blocks

After model computation, next step is getting vertices and faces from model cells writing results to file. However, as we have already said, we are only interested in boundaries of the final model while now we have only boundaries of a single block. Consequently, we have to separate boundaries from the inner faces of the block on different files (boundaries separation will be explained in section 8). As we can see later, we will merge boundaries together deleting common faces on both block borders, obtaining a model without internal faces. These are pieces of code for getting the inner block model with the boundaries and for file writing:

< get inner model and boundaries 38a > ≡

```
models = LARUtils.computeModelAndBoundaries(imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                                             xStart, yStart, zStart, objectBoundaryChain)

V, FV = models[1][1] # inside model
V_left, FV_left = models[2][1]
V_right, FV_right = models[3][1] # right boundary
V_top, FV_top = models[4][1] # top boundary
V_bottom, FV_bottom = models[5][1] # bottom boundary
V_front, FV_front = models[6][1] # front boundary
V_back, FV_back = models[7][1] # back boundary
◇
```

Fragment referenced in 39.

< write block models to file 38b > ≡

```
# Writing all models on disk
model_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/model_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V, FV, model_outputFilename)

left_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/left_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_left, FV_left, left_outputFilename)

right_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/right_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_right, FV_right, right_outputFilename)

top_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/top_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_top, FV_top, top_outputFilename)

bottom_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/bottom_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_bottom, FV_bottom, bottom_outputFilename)

front_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/front_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_front, FV_front, front_outputFilename)

back_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/back_output_", xBlock,
                              "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_back, FV_back, back_outputFilename) ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 39.

This is the `processFunction` for this pipeline step

```
< image conversion process 39 > ≡
function imageConversionProcess(sliceDirectory,
                                startImage, endImage,
                                imageDx, imageDy,
                                imageWidth, imageHeight,
                                outputDirectory,
                                boundaryMat)

    """
    Support function for converting a stack of image on a single
    independent process
    """

    < image read 35b >

    < block iteration 35c >

        < get image slice 36 >

        if(length(chains3D) != 0)
            # Computing boundary chain
            debug("chains3d = ", chains3D)
            debug("Computing boundary chain")
            objectBoundaryChain = Lar2Julia.larBoundaryChain(boundaryMat, chains3D)
            debug("Converting models into obj")
            try
                mkdir(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"))
            catch
            end
            < get inner model and boundaries 38a >

            < write block models to file 38b >
        else
            debug("Model is empty")
        end
    end
end
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

This is the code for starting this pipeline step:

```
< pixelsToVoxels function 40a > ≡
function pixelsToVoxels(sliceDirectory,
                        imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                        imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                        outputDirectory,
                        boundaryMat)

    """
    Function for conversion of pixels into voxels. It is different
    from iterateOnBlocks because it needs a different distribution
    of tasks between processes
    """
    beginImageStack = 0
    endImage = beginImageStack

    tasks = Array(RemoteRef, 0)
    for zBlock in 0:(imageDepth / imageDz - 1)
        startImage = endImage
        endImage = startImage + imageDz
        task = @spawn imageConversionProcess(sliceDirectory,
                                              startImage, endImage,
                                              imageDx, imageDy,
                                              imageWidth, imageHeight,
                                              outputDirectory,
                                              boundaryMat)

        push!(tasks, task)
    end

    # Waiting for tasks
    for task in tasks
        wait(task)
    end
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

```
< pixels to voxels conversion step 40b > ≡
@time pixelsToVoxels(sliceDirectory,
                    imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                    imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                    outputDirectory,
                    boundaryMat) ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 34b.

How we can see, for this step we do not use the `iterateOnBlocks` function, in fact pixel to voxel conversion is more efficient if we parallelize tasks assigning to each process an entire z-Block.

5.4.2 Boundaries merge step

Next step of our pipeline consists in *boundaries merge*. In fact, we have already seen that for every non-empty cell we create files for the inner parts and for the boundaries of the block. So if we want a final model without boundaries between internal blocks, we need to merge them removing duplicated faces on both sides (see Section 8.6 for a better explanation of this step). The following is the `processFunction`:

$\langle \text{boundary merge process function 41} \rangle \equiv$

```
function mergeBoundariesProcess(modelDirectory,
                                xBlock, yBlock,
                                startImage, endImage,
                                imageDx, imageDy,
                                imageWidth, imageHeight)

    """
    Helper function for mergeBoundaries.
    It is executed on different processes

    modelDirectory: Directory containing model files
    startImage: Block start image
    endImage: Block end image
    imageDx, imageDy: x and y sizes of the grid
    imageWidth, imageHeight: Width and Height of the image
    """

    # Merging right Boundary
    firstPath = string(modelDirectory, "/right_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                        "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
    secondPath = string(modelDirectory, "/left_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock + 1,
                        "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
    mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates(firstPath, secondPath)

    # Merging top boundary
    firstPath = string(modelDirectory, "/top_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                        "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
    secondPath = string(modelDirectory, "/bottom_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                        "_", endImage, "_", endImage + (endImage - startImage))
```

```

mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates(firstPath, secondPath)

# Merging front boundary
firstPath = string(modelDirectory, "/front_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                    "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
secondPath = string(modelDirectory, "/back_output_", xBlock + 1, "-", yBlock,
                    "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates(firstPath, secondPath)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

For every block we do the following merges:

- right boundary with the left boundary of the next block on the right
- top boundary with the bottom boundary of the next block on the top
- front boundary with the back boundary of the next block on the front

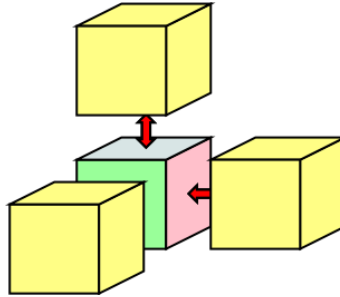


Figure 12: Merging of boundary faces. For a single block we need adjacent blocks on the right, top and front

all merges are executed by the function `mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates` which does the work calling the `Model2Obj` and `LARUtils` libraries for loading and cleaning of the boundaries models.

```

⟨merge boundaries utility function 42⟩ ≡
function mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates(firstPath, secondPath)
    """
    Merge two boundary files removing common faces between
    them

```

```

firstPath, secondPath: Prefix of paths to merge
"""

firstPathV = string(firstPath, "_vtx.stl")
firstPathFV = string(firstPath, "_faces.stl")

secondPathV = string(secondPath, "_vtx.stl")
secondPathFV = string(secondPath, "_faces.stl")

if(isfile(firstPathV) && isfile(secondPathV))

    V, FV = Model2Obj.getModelsFromFiles([firstPathV, secondPathV],
                                         [firstPathFV, secondPathFV])
    V, FV = LARUtils.removeVerticesAndFacesFromBoundaries(V, FV)

    # Writing model to file
    rm(firstPathV)
    rm(firstPathFV)
    rm(secondPathV)
    rm(secondPathFV)
    Model2Obj.writeToObj(V, FV, firstPath)
end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

This is the code used to start this pipeline step:

```

⟨ boundaries merge step 43 ⟩ ≡
    @time iterateOnBlocks(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"),
                          imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                          imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                          mergeBoundariesProcess) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 34b.

5.4.3 Block merge step

At this step of the computation, we have files with the inner parts of a single block model and the remaining boundaries. Now we need to merge the blocks removing double vertices and faces, so we can save space and prepare our model to the *smoothing step*. This is the code of the `processFunction`:

⟨ *Block merge process function 44* ⟩ ≡

```
function mergeBlocksProcess(modelDirectory,
                           xBlock, yBlock,
                           startImage, endImage,
                           imageDx, imageDy,
                           imageWidth, imageHeight)

    """
    Helper function for mergeBlocks.
    It is executed on different processes

    modelDirectory: Directory containing model files
    startImage: Block start image
    endImage: Block end image
    imageDx, imageDy: x and y sizes of the grid
    imageWidth, imageHeight: Width and Height of the image
    """

    blockCoordsV = string(xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_", startImage,
                          "_", endImage, "_vtx.stl")
    blockCoordsFV = string(xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_", startImage,
                          "_", endImage, "_faces.stl")

    arrayV = [string(modelDirectory, "/left_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/right_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/top_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/bottom_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/front_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/back_output_", blockCoordsV),
              string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_", blockCoordsV)]

    arrayFV = [string(modelDirectory, "/left_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/right_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/top_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/bottom_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/front_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/back_output_", blockCoordsFV),
               string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_", blockCoordsFV)]

    V, FV = Model2Obj.getModelsFromFiles(arrayV, arrayFV)
    V, FV = LARUtils.removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V, FV, 0)
    for i in 1:length(arrayV)
        if(isfile(arrayV[i]))
            rm(arrayV[i])
            rm(arrayFV[i])
        end
    end
end
```

```

        Model2Obj.writeToObj(V, FV, string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_",
                                           xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage))
    end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

For a better explanation of the `LARUtils` function that remove duplicated vertices, you can see [Section 8.4](#)

This is the code for block merge starting

```

⟨ block merge step 45a ⟩ ≡
    @time iterateOnBlocks(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"),
                          imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                          imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                          mergeBlocksProcess) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 34b.

5.4.4 Smoothing step

Now we have obtained models without internal boundaries between blocks and without double vertices and faces in a single block. However this partial model has squared edges, so we need to smooth them. The `processFunction` for this step, is the following:

```

⟨ Smooth block process function 45b ⟩ ≡
    function smoothBlocksProcess(modelDirectory,
                                xBlock, yBlock,
                                startImage, endImage,
                                imageDx, imageDy,
                                imageWidth, imageHeight)

        """
        Smoothes a block in a single process

        modelDirectory: Path of the directory containing all blocks
                        that will be smoothed
        startImage, endImage: start and end image for this block
        imageDx, imageDy: sizes of the grid
        imageWidth, imageHeight: sizes of the images
        """

        # Loading the current block model

```

```

blockFileV = string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                    "_", startImage, "_", endImage, "_vtx.stl")
blockFileFV = string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock,
                    "_", startImage, "_", endImage, "_faces.stl")

if isfile(blockFileV)
    # Loading only model of the current block
    blockModelV, blockModelFV = Model2Obj.getModelsFromFiles([blockFileV], [blockFileFV])
    blockModelV, blockModelFV = LARUtils.removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(blockModelV,
                                                                    blockModelFV, 0)

    # Loading a unique model from this block and its adjacents
    modelsFiles = Array(String, 0)
    for x in xBlock - 1:xBlock + 1
        for y in yBlock - 1:yBlock + 1
            for z in range(startImage - (endImage - startImage), (endImage - startImage), 3)
                push!(modelsFiles, string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_",
                                         x, "-", y, "-", z, "-", z + (endImage - startImage)))
            end
        end
    end

    modelsFilesV = map((s) -> string(s, "_vtx.stl"), modelsFiles)
    modelsFilesFV = map((s) -> string(s, "_faces.stl"), modelsFiles)

    modelV, modelFV = Model2Obj.getModelsFromFiles(modelsFilesV, modelsFilesFV)
    modelV, modelFV = LARUtils.removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(modelV, modelFV, 0)

    # Now I have to save indices of vertices of the current block model
    blockVerticesIndices = Array{Int, 0}
    for i in 1:length(blockModelV)
        for j in 1:length(modelV)
            if blockModelV[i] == modelV[j]
                push!(blockVerticesIndices, j)
            end
        end
    end

    # Now I can apply smoothing on this model
    V_sm, FV_sm = Smoother.smoothModel(modelV, modelFV)

    # Now I have to get only block vertices and save them on the new model
    V_final = Array{Array{Float64}, 0}
    for i in blockVerticesIndices
        push!(V_final, V_sm[i])
    end
end

```

```

        outputFilename = string(modelDirectory, "/smoothed_output_", xBlock, "-",
                                yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
        Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_final, blockModelFV, outputFilename)
    end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 95b.

An explanation of the smoothing algorithm used there, can be found in Section 9.2. What we need to remember here, is the importance of having the adjacent vertices for every vertex of our block. In fact, according to the chosen smoothing algorithm, every vertex is replaced with a new one with coordinates computed from the mean positions of its adjacent. However, loading of the entire model into memory cannot be done because of its sizes; so we created a simple algorithm which loads only near blocks to the current one. In fact, for every block we want to smooth, we load the twenty six adjacent blocks on all directions and the chosen one. We create a unique model with it (removing double vertices and faces) and then smoothing it with the algorithm in **Smother** module. Finally we save only smoothed vertices for the chosen block and continue with the other blocks. In Figure 13 there is a graphical explanation for the algorithm.

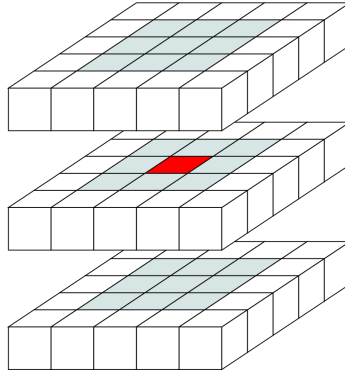


Figure 13: Smoothing of a single block. The red block at the center of the figure is the current one, while the other twenty six colored ones are the blocks that will be part of the model which will be smoothed for this iteration

Moreover, this **processFunction** can only execute a single iteration of the smoothing algorithm, so we need a function that can be able to execute more times the algorithm:

```

⟨ execute smoothing function 47 ⟩ ≡
    function smoothBlocks(modelDirectory,
                          imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,

```


We can see that after every smoothing iteration on the complete model, we need to rename the output files for the next iterations. In fact, this parallel algorithm works because for every block we do not need the current smoothed vertices for the adjacent blocks but only the old ones. However after first iteration we will have a lot of files with both the new smoothed model and the previous version; as a consequence we need to remove the old model and prepare the smoothed data for the next smoothing iteration. This is the code for starting this step:

```

⟨ smoothing step 49a ⟩ ≡
    @time smoothBlocks(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"),
                        imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                        imageDx, imageDy, imageDz) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 34b.

5.4.5 Model creation step

At this point of the pipeline, we have a lot of files containing models for a single block; now we can merge them in a unique obj file. As we will see in Section 10, there are two different algorithms for file merging. The first one use a serial merging and it is better for traditional filesystems. The other one use a parallel algorithm which is better on a distributed filesystem. This is the code for invocation of the step:

```

⟨ final file merge 49b ⟩ ≡
    if parallelMerge
        @time Model2Obj.mergeObjParallel(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"))
    else
        @time Model2Obj.mergeObj(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS")) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 34b.

6 GenerateBorderMatrix

This module has the responsibility for the generation of the border matrix operator for models boundary computation.

6.1 Module imports

These are modules needed for this part of the package and the public functions exported

```
< modules import GenerateBorderMatrix 50a > ≡
import LARUtils, Lar2Julia
import JSON

export computeOriented3Border, writeBorder, getOriented3BorderPath, getBorderMatrix
◇
```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

6.2 Get border matrix from file

As we have already seen in previous sections, we need to compute boundaries for every block of the model grid. This can be done using the topological boundary operator from LAR package (which has been ported into Julia as we can see in Section 7.5). However, the resulting matrix depends only on grid sizes; so it could be reused for other models. Consequently first time we need a border operator we compute it and then save it on disk for next conversions. This function does that work searching for a file containing the border and, if it does not exist, calculate and save it:

```
< get Border matrix 50b > ≡
function getOriented3BorderPath(borderPath, nx, ny, nz)
    """
    Try reading 3-border matrix from file. If it fails matrix
    is computed and saved on disk in JSON format

    borderPath: path of border directory
    nx, ny, nz: image dimensions
    """

    filename = string(borderPath, "/border_", nx, "-", ny, "-", nz, ".json")
    if !isfile(filename)
        border = computeOriented3Border(nx, ny, nz)
        writeBorder(border, filename)
    end
    return filename
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

6.3 Write border matrix on file

We have already seen that for performance reasons border operator matrix is saved on file; here we will see code used for this scope. Firstly, we have defined a function `writeBorder`, which takes as parameters the border matrix (computed in subsection 6.4) and the output file path.

```
< write Border matrix 51a > ≡
function writeBorder(boundaryMatrix, outputFile)
    """
    Write 3-border matrix on json file

    boundaryMatrix: matrix to write on file
    outputFile: path of the outputFile
    """

    row = findn(boundaryMatrix)[1]
    col = findn(boundaryMatrix)[2]
    data = nonzeros(boundaryMatrix)

    matrixObj = MatrixObject(0, 0, row, col, data)

    outfile = open(string(outputFile), "w")
    JSON.print(outfile, matrixObj)
    close(outfile)
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

We can see that, in final JSON file, we write an object called `MatrixObject` which has the following definition:

```
< Matrix object for JSON file 51b > ≡
type MatrixObject
    ROWCOUNT
    COLCOUNT
    ROW
    COL
    DATA
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

The most important fields of this object are the last three ones; the first two contain all coordinates of the non-zero elements, the last contains all non-zero elements of the sparse matrix. So considering the full matrix V we will have that $S[ROW[k], COL[k]] = V[k]$.

6.4 Compute border matrix

Here we can see code used for computation of the border operator, which calls the functions in `Lar2Julia` module.

```

< compute border matrix 52a > ≡
    # Compute the 3-border operator
    function computeOriented3Border(nx, ny, nz)
        """
        Compute the 3-border matrix
        """
        V, bases = LARUtils.getBases(nx, ny, nz)
        return Lar2Julia.signedCellularBoundary(V, bases)
    end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

6.5 Transform border matrix

Last function we will see, extracts the `MatrixObject` in Section 6.3 converting it into a common Julia csc sparse matrix

```

< transform border matrix in csc format 52b > ≡
    function getBorderMatrix(borderFilename)
        """
        Get the border matrix from json file and convert it in
        CSC format
        """
        # Loading borderMatrix from json file
        borderData = JSON.parsefile(borderFilename)

        # Converting Any arrays into Int arrays
        row = Array{Int64, length(borderData["ROW"])}
        col = Array{Int64, length(borderData["COL"])}
        data = Array{Int64, length(borderData["DATA"])}

        for i in 1: length(borderData["ROW"])
            row[i] = borderData["ROW"][i]
        end
    end

```

```

for i in 1: length(borderData["COL"])
    col[i] = borderData["COL"][i]
end

for i in 1: length(borderData["DATA"])
    data[i] = borderData["DATA"][i]
end
return sparse(row, col, data)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 96a.

7 Lar2Julia

This module contains functions used in LAR library which are converted using Julia syntax. Next versions of the software will contain more and more functions from the original LAR library (which is written in python)

7.1 Module imports

These are modules used for Lar2Julia and the public functions

```

⟨ modules import Lar2Julia 53 ⟩ ≡
import JSON

using Logging

export larBoundaryChain, cscChainToCellList, relationshipListToCSC ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 96b.

7.2 Get boundary chain from a model

Now we will observe how to compute the boundary chain of a LAR model given the list of non-empty cells and the boundary operator stored as a csc sparse matrix. This algorithm is very simply: firstly we need to convert the list of cells into a sparse array containing the LAR model. So, the resulting array (which will be called **cscChain**) will contain a one for every $\text{cscChain}[i][1] \forall i \in \text{brcCellList}$. Next, we just have to compute the product between the two sparse matrices and convert all values of the result into one of these: $\{-1; +1; 0\}$ using function **cscBinFilter**.

$\langle \text{get boundary chain } 54 \rangle \equiv$

```
function larBoundaryChain(cscBoundaryMat, brcCellList)
    """
    Compute boundary chains
    """

    # Computing boundary chains
    n = size(cscBoundaryMat)[1]
    m = size(cscBoundaryMat)[2]

    debug("Boundary matrix size: ", n, "\t", m)

    data = ones(Int64, length(brcCellList))

    i = Array{Int64, length(brcCellList)}
    for k in 1:length(brcCellList)
        i[k] = brcCellList[k] + 1
    end

    j = ones(Int64, length(brcCellList))

    debug("cscChain rows length: ", length(i))
    debug("cscChain columns length: ", length(j))
    debug("cscChain data length: ", length(brcCellList))

    debug("rows ", i)
    debug("columns ", j)
    debug("data ", data)

    cscChain = sparse(i, j, data, m, 1)
    cscmat = cscBoundaryMat * cscChain
    out = cscBinFilter(cscmat)
    return out
end

function cscBinFilter(CSCm)
    k = 1
    data = nonzeros(CSCm)
    sgArray = copysign(1, data)

    while k <= nnz(CSCm)
        if data[k] % 2 == 1 || data[k] % 2 == -1
            data[k] = 1 * sgArray[k]
        else
            data[k] = 0
        end
    end
end
```

```

        k += 1
    end

    return CSCm
end ◊

```

Fragment referenced in 96b.

7.3 Get oriented cells from a chain

Another operation that could be useful (even if it is not actually used in the package) consists in getting of “+1” oriented cells from a chain. For obtaining this result, it is necessary to get all non-zeros element from the sparse Julia array (remembering that if the user manually write a zero into the array it will be returned from `nonzeros` function anyway) and then returning only indices of cells that have a “+1” in nonzero element array.

(get oriented cells from a chain 55) ≡

```

function cscChainToCellList(CSCm)
    """
    Get a csc containing a chain and returns
    the cell list of the "+1" oriented faces
    """
    data = nonzeros(CSCm)
    # Now I need to remove zero element (problem with Julia nonzeros)
    nonzeroData = Array{Int64, 0}
    for n in data
        if n != 0
            push!(nonzeroData, n)
        end
    end

    cellList = Array{Int64, 0}
    for (k, theRow) in enumerate(findn(CSCm)[1])
        if nonzeroData[k] == 1
            push!(cellList, theRow)
        end
    end
    return cellList
end ◊

```

Fragment referenced in 96b.

7.4 Transform relationships from arrays of arrays to a sparse matrix

Another function which can be useful for our purposes is conversion between different representations of the LAR relationships. For example we often use a representation based on list of list of int but if we want to apply topological operators (such as the incident operators) we need to convert it into a matrix of values. In Figure 14 we can see an example of a LAR relationship with different representations.

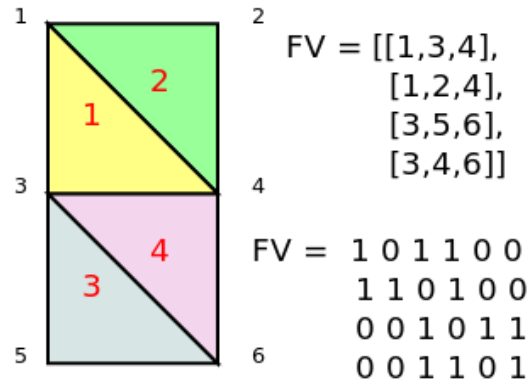


Figure 14: Different representations for faces of a simple LAR model. the first one is based on a list of list of int, while the other is a simple matrix where for every value we have $FV[i][j] = 1 \iff \text{face } i \text{ contains the vertex } j$

```

< transform relationships to csc 56 > ≡
function relationshipListToCSC(larRelation)
    """
    Get a LAR relationship
    and convert it into a CSC matrix
    """

    # Build I and J arrays for creation of
    # sparse matrix
    data = Array{Int, 0}
    I = Array{Int, 0}
    J = Array{Int, 0}
    for (k,row) in enumerate(larRelation)
        for col in row
            push!(I, k)
            push!(J, col)
            push!(data, 1)
        end
    end
end

```

```

        return sparse(I, J, data)
    end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 96b.

7.5 Compute the boundary operator

Here we see how to compute the boundary operator using topological algebra. First of all we need two helper functions for computation of convex combination of an array of vectors and for transposition of Julia sparse matrix.

$\langle \text{convex combination of an array of vectors } 57a \rangle \equiv$

```

function convexCombination(vectors)
    """
        Compute the convex combination of an
        array of vectors

        vectors: An array of vectors
    """
    # Computing sum of all vectors
    sum = [0.0, 0.0, 0.0]
    for v in vectors
        sum += v
    end
    return sum/length(vectors)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

$\langle \text{sparse matrix transposition } 57b \rangle \equiv$

```

function cscTranspose(CSCm)
    """
        Compute the transpose matrix of a
        sparse CSC matrix
    """
    rows, columns = findn(CSCm)
    data = nonzeros(CSCm)
    return sparse(columns, rows, data, size(CSCm)[2], size(CSCm)[1])
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

Now we can see how to compute the simple *boundary* operator (without orientation) for the array of *cells* and *facets* of our model. According to this algorithm, we should just compute the sparse matrix representation of the cells and facets multiply the latter with the transposed of the first. Finally we have to maintain only the max values for every row returning a matrix with only ones and zeros.

$\langle \textit{non-oriented boundary 58a} \rangle \equiv$

```
function boundary(cells, facets)
    """
    Take the usual LAR representation of d-cells
    and (d-1)-facets and returns the
    boundary operator in csc format

    cell, facets: d-cells and (d-1)-facets in BRC format
    """
    cscCV = relationshipListToCSC(cells)
    cscFV = relationshipListToCSC(facets)
    cscFC = cscFV * cscTranspose(cscCV)
    return cscBoundaryFilter(cscFC)
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

$\langle \textit{boundary filter 58b} \rangle \equiv$

```
function cscBoundaryFilter(CSCm)
    """
    Matrix filtering to produce the boundary
    matrix. It returns only max values for
    every row

    CSCm: a matrix in the CSC format
    """

    # Now I iterate on all rows of the matrix
    # saving only the max values on the row in a
    # new sparse matrix
    rows = Array{Int, 0}()
    columns = Array{Int, 0}()
    data = Array{Int, 0}()

    # I need to compute the transposed matrix
    # for improving performances. In fact Julia
    # use only column-stored arrays so it is
```

```

# inefficient to iterate over rows
transCSCm = cscTranspose(CSCm)

for k in 1 : size(transCSCm)[2]
    matrixColumn = transCSCm[:, k]
    maxColumnValue = maximum(matrixColumn)
    rowIndices, _ = findn(matrixColumn)
    for rowIndex in rowIndices
        if transCSCm[rowIndex, k] == maxColumnValue
            push!(rows, k)
            push!(columns, rowIndex)
            push!(data, 1)
        end
    end
end
return sparse(rows, columns, data, size(CSCm)[1], size(CSCm)[2])
end ◊

```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

Now we can compute the *oriented boundary operator*, which returns a sparse matrix with values in the Abelian group $\{-1, 0, 1\}$

```

⟨ oriented boundary operator 59 ⟩ ≡
function signedCellularBoundary(V, bases)
    """
    Compute the signed cellular boundary
    for polytopal complexes

    V: the array of vertices
    bases: the bases of a LAR model

    Warning: At the end of this function the bases arrays
    will be modified for performance reasons
    """
    # First of all I need to convert LAR bases in Julia
    # 1-based indexing

    for i in 1 : length(bases)
        for j in 1 : length(bases[i])
            for z in 1 : length(bases[i][j])
                bases[i][j][z] += 1 # This will change the reference to bases arrays!!
            end
        end
    end
end

```

```

end

cscBoundary = boundary(bases[end], bases[end - 1])
rows, columns = findn(cscBoundary)
pairs = map(((x,y) -> return[x, y]), rows, columns)
dim = length(bases) - 1
signs = Array{Int, 0}
chain = incidenceChain(bases)

for pair in pairs
    flag = reverse(pair)
    for k in 1 : dim - 1
        cell = flag[end]
        append!(flag, collect(chain[k + 1][cell][2]))
    end

    flagMat = Array{Float64, dim + 1, dim + 1}

    for k in 0 : dim
        vertices = Array{Array{Int}, 0}
        for v in bases[dim - k + 1][flag[k + 1]]
            push!(vertices, V[v])
        end
        vert = convexCombination(vertices)
        for j in 1 : dim
            flagMat[j, k + 1] = vert[j]
        end
        flagMat[dim + 1, k + 1] = 1
    end

    # I have used a transposed flagMat to better
    # exploit caching, now I can use the right version
    flagMat = transpose(flagMat)
    flagSign = sign(det(flagMat))
    push!(signs, flagSign)
end
transposedPairs = transpose(pairs)
return sparse(map(((x)->return x[1]), pairs), map(((x)->return x[2]), pairs), signs)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

As we can see, we also need an incidence operator between cells and facets

$\langle \text{incidence operator } 60 \rangle \equiv$

```

function larIncidence(cells, facets)
  """
  The incidence operator between cells
  and facets of a LAR model

  cells, facets: cells and facets BRC representation
  of a LAR model
  """
  # The cell-face incidence operator
  cscCellFacet = boundary(facets, cells)
  larCellFacet = Array(Array{Int}, length(cells))

  # Using a transposed matrix for caching exploitation
  transCscCellFacet = cscTranspose(cscCellFacet)
  columns, rows = findn(transCscCellFacet)
  data = nonzeros(transCscCellFacet)
  for i in 1 : length(data)
    if data[i] == 1
      if(!isdefined(larCellFacet, rows[i]))
        larCellFacet[rows[i]] = []
      end
      append!(larCellFacet[rows[i]], collect(columns[i]))
    end
  end
  return larCellFacet
end

function incidenceChain(bases)
  """
  Compute the full stack of BRC incidence matrices of
  a LAR representation for a cellular complex, starting
  from its list of bases, i.e. from [VV,EV,FV,CV,...]

  bases: bases of a LAR cellular complex
  """
  pairsOfBases = zip(bases[2 : end], bases[1 : end - 1])
  relations = Array{Array{Array{Int}}, 0}
  tasks = Array{RemoteRef, 0}
  for (cells, facets) in pairsOfBases
    task = @spawn larIncidence(cells, facets)
    push!(tasks, task)
  end

  for task in tasks
    push!(relations, fetch(task))
  end
end

```

```

    return reverse(relations)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 62a.

$\langle \text{boundary computation 62a} \rangle \equiv$
 $\langle \text{convex combination of an array of vectors 57a} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{sparse matrix transposition 57b} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{boundary filter 58b} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{non-oriented boundary 58a} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{incidence operator 60} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{oriented boundary operator 59} \rangle \diamond$

Fragment referenced in 96b.

8 LARUtils

This module contains functions used for manipulation of LAR models

8.1 Module imports

These are modules used in LARUtils and the functions exported

$\langle \text{modules import LARUtils 62b} \rangle \equiv$
 using Logging

 export ind, invertIndex, getBases, removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces,
 computeModelAndBoundaries
 ◇

Fragment referenced in 97a.

8.2 Transformation from matrix to array

First utility functions we will see, transform a matrix into an array and vice versa. We have already seen in section 5.4.1 uses of this linearized matrices; now we can focus on code for transformation.

```
< conversion from matrix to array 63a > ≡
function ind(x, y, z, nx, ny)
    """
    Transform coordinates into linearized matrix indexes
    """
    return x + (nx + 1) * (y + (ny + 1) * (z))
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 97a.

Here we have defined also the inverse transformation from the array to the matrix, which is useful for obtaining vertices coordinates from a cell

```
< conversion from array to matrix 63b > ≡
function invertIndex(nx,ny,nz)
    """
    Invert indexes
    """
    nx, ny, nz = nx + 1, ny + 1, nz + 1
    function invertIndex0(offset)
        a0, b0 = trunc(offset / nx), offset % nx
        a1, b1 = trunc(a0 / ny), a0 % ny
        a2, b2 = trunc(a1 / nz), a1 % nz
        return b0, b1, b2
    end
    return invertIndex0
end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 97a.

8.3 Get bases of a LAR model

For generation of LAR models from an array of non-empty cells, we need to define a function for obtaining a base for every model, which will contain all LAR relationships:

- **V**: the array of vertices of a LAR model

- **VV**: the relationship between a vertex and itself
- **EV**: the relationship between an edge and its vertices
- **FV**: the relationship between a face and its vertices
- **CV**: the relationship between a cell and its vertices

From a geometrical point of view these bases create a chain composed from $nx \times ny \times nz$ square cells (where nx , ny and nz are the grid size).

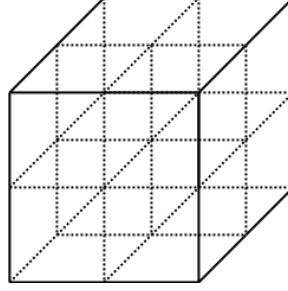


Figure 15: LAR bases geometry for a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid

Now we will see in details how to obtain all LAR relationships. First of all we need to compute vertices for the geometry:

```

⟨ compute vertices 64a ⟩ ≡
  # Calculating vertex coordinates (nx * ny * nz)
  V = Array{Int64}[]
  for z in 0:nz
    for y in 0:ny
      for x in 0:nx
        push!(V, [x,y,z])
      end
    end
  end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

So we assume that our cube geometry has only integers coordinates that can vary from (0,0,0) to (nx,ny,nz)

Next we have to compute the CV relationship:

```

⟨ compute CV 64b ⟩ ≡

```

```

# Building CV relationship
CV = Array{Int64}[]
for z in 0:nz-1
  for y in 0:ny-1
    for x in 0:nx-1
      push!(CV,the3Dcell([x,y,z]))
    end
  end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

For every coordinate in the space delimited by the grid size, it is called function `the3Dcell`, which get the coordinate values returning a cell in the three-dimensional space:

```

⟨ compute three-dimensional cells 65a ⟩ ≡
function the3Dcell(coords)
  x,y,z = coords
  return [ind(x,y,z,nx,ny), ind(x+1,y,z,nx,ny), ind(x,y+1,z,nx,ny),
          ind(x,y,z+1,nx,ny), ind(x+1,y+1,z,nx,ny), ind(x+1,y,z+1,nx,ny),
          ind(x,y+1,z+1,nx,ny), ind(x+1,y+1,z+1,nx,ny)]
end
◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

Now we have to compute the FV relationship, which will be widely used in this package:

```

⟨ compute FV 65b ⟩ ≡
# Building FV relationship
FV = Array{Int64}[]
v2coords = invertIndex(nx,ny,nz)

for h in 0:(length(V)-1)
  x,y,z = v2coords(h)

  if (x < nx) && (y < ny)
    push!(FV, [h,ind(x+1,y,z,nx,ny),ind(x,y+1,z,nx,ny),ind(x+1,y+1,z,nx,ny)])
  end

  if (x < nx) && (z < nz)

```

```

    push!(FV, [h,ind(x+1,y,z,nx,ny),ind(x,y,z+1,nx,ny),ind(x+1,y,z+1,nx,ny)])
end

if (y < ny) && (z < nz)
    push!(FV, [h,ind(x,y+1,z,nx,ny),ind(x,y,z+1,nx,ny),ind(x,y+1,z+1,nx,ny)])
end

end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

Finally we have the VV relationship (which is trivial)

```

⟨ compute VV 66a ⟩ ≡
    # Building VV relationship
    VV = map((x)->[x], 0:length(V)-1) ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

and the EV relationship

```

⟨ compute EV 66b ⟩ ≡
    # Building EV relationship
    EV = Array{Int64}[]
    for h in 0:length(V)-1
        x,y,z = v2coords(h)
        if (x < nx)
            push!(EV, [h,ind(x+1,y,z,nx,ny)])
        end
        if (y < ny)
            push!(EV, [h,ind(x,y+1,z,nx,ny)])
        end
        if (z < nz)
            push!(EV, [h,ind(x,y,z+1,nx,ny)])
        end
    end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 67.

This is the complete code for the function `getBases`

```

⟨ get LAR bases 67 ⟩ ≡
function getBases(nx, ny, nz)
  """
  Compute all LAR relations
  """

  ⟨ compute three-dimensional cells 65a ⟩

  ⟨ compute vertices 64a ⟩

  ⟨ compute CV 64b ⟩

  ⟨ compute FV 65b ⟩

  ⟨ compute VV 66a ⟩

  ⟨ compute EV 66b ⟩

  # return all basis
  return V, (VV, EV, FV, CV)
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97a.

8.4 Double vertices and faces removal

Another useful function for our models is *removal of double vertices and faces*. In fact, when we produce a LAR model getting only full cell from the geometry in Figure 15 we could obtain double vertices (and consequently double faces). Figure 16 shows an example of a model with these vertices:

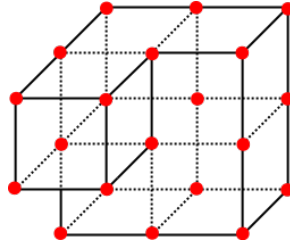


Figure 16: A sample model taken from a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid with double vertices between faces in red (remember that we have only the boundaries faces for the model as we have seen in section 5.4.1)

As we can see, for every model there are a lot of double vertices, so we need to remove them for obtaining a compact representation and for next smoothing of the objects. First of all we have to identify double vertices, so it can be useful to define an order between them. Unfortunately Julia does not define a function for order array containing coordinates (which is format used in V array); so we have to define first a custom ordering function:

```

< vertices comparator function 68a > ≡
function lessThanVertices(v1, v2)
    """
    Utility function for comparing vertices coordinates
    """

    if v1[1] == v2[1]
        if v1[2] == v2[2]
            return v1[3] < v2[3]
        end
        return v1[2] < v2[2]
    end
    return v1[1] < v2[1]
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 70.

Now we can remove double vertices from the V array simply ordering them and removing all consecutive equal vertices. This procedure is more complex than a simple call to Julia `unique` function for removal of double elements because we need the new vertices indices for renaming faces (as we can see later)

```

< removal of double vertices 68b > ≡
function removeDoubleVertices(V)
    """
    Remove double vertices from a LAR model

    V: Array containing all vertices of the model
    """

    # Sort the vertices list and returns the ordered indices
    orderedIndices = sortperm(V, lt = lessThanVertices, alg=MergeSort)

    orderedVerticesAndIndices = collect(zip(sort(V, lt = lessThanVertices),
                                             orderedIndices))

    newVertices = Array{Array{Float64}, 0}()
    indices = zeros{Int, length(V)}

```

```

prevv = Void
i = 1
for (v, ind) in orderedVerticesAndIndices
    if v == prevv
        indices[ind] = i - 1
    else
        push!(newVertices, v)
        indices[ind] = i
        i += 1
        prevv = v
    end
end
return newVertices, indices
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 70.

As we can see the algorithm does the following steps:

1. Sort of vertices list
2. Set the current vertex index counter to 1
3. For every couple (*vertex*, *index* into V array) do:
 - (a) If the current *vertex* is equal to the previous one put into the indices array at position *index* the value for the current vertex index count
 - (b) If the current *vertex* is not equal to the previous one save it into a new V array, insert the indices array at position *index* the current index count and increment it by one

So at the end of this function the array *newVertices* will contain all unique vertices, while the *indices* array will contain the correct index for every vertex into *newVertices* and the index corresponding to the saved vertex for every deleted vertex.

Now we can use these informations for renaming all faces.

$\langle \text{renaming of faces 69} \rangle \equiv$

```

function reindexVerticesInFaces(FV, indices, offset)
    """
    Reindex vertices indices in faces array

    FV: Faces array of the LAR model

```

```

indices: new Indices for faces
offset: offset for faces indices
"""

for f in FV
    for i in 1: length(f)
        f[i] = indices[f[i] - offset] + offset
    end
end
return FV
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 70.

Here we can observe a *offset* parameter, which is necessary only if we are renaming faces whose indices doesn't start from zero; actually in `ImagesToLARModel` it is always equal to zero.

Finally for removing double faces, we only have to call `unique` function on renamed faces. This is the final code

*⟨ removal of double vertices and faces 70 ⟩ ≡
 ⟨ vertices comparator function 68a ⟩*

```

function removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V, FV, facesOffset)
    """
    Removes double vertices and faces from a LAR model

    V: Array containing all vertices
    FV: Array containing all faces
    facesOffset: offset for faces indices
    """

    newV, indices = removeDoubleVertices(V)
    reindexedFaces = reindexVerticesInFaces(FV, indices, facesOffset)
    newFV = unique(FV)

    return newV, newFV
end

```

⟨ removal of double vertices 68b ⟩

⟨ renaming of faces 69 ⟩ ◇

Fragment referenced in 97a.

8.5 Creation of a LAR model

Now we can see code used for creation of a LAR model given the sparse array containing full cells of our block (**objectBoundaryChain** as we had seen in Section 7.2). We also need the following parameters:

- **imageDx, imageDy, imageDz**: The grid size
- **xStart, yStart, zStart**: The coordinate offsets for the current block vertices
- **facesOffset**: The offset for faces of this block

First thing to do is define models that will be returned from the function:

```
< models definition 71 > ≡  
  V_model = Array(Array{Int}, 0)  
  FV_model = Array(Array{Int}, 0)  
  
  V_left = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_left = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  
  V_right = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_right = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  
  V_top = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_top = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  
  V_bottom = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_bottom = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  
  V_front = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_front = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  
  V_back = Array(Array{Int},0)  
  FV_back = Array(Array{Int},0) ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 75.

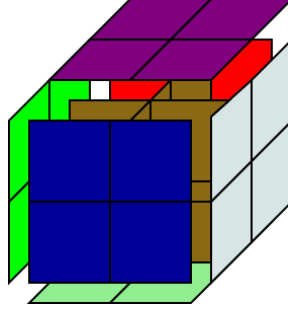


Figure 17: Decomposition of a LAR model into seven parts: the inside model (brown), the left boundary (green), the right boundary (light blue), the top boundary (purple), the bottom boundary (light green), the front boundary (blue), the back boundary (red)

We can see from Figure 17 that our grid is divided into seven parts.

We need this decomposition because we are interested in boundaries of the entire model, while we currently have boundaries only for blocks. So we need to split the inner parts of a single block model, as we need to freely merge boundaries between adjacent blocks removing the common faces. Function for boundaries merging are shown in subsection 8.6.

After model definition we have to get the cells indices from the block boundary chain and for every non-empty cell we have found, choose the correct model for it. We can observe that every boundary face has a fixed coordinate; for example all faces on the top boundary have the maximum z-coordinate, or faces on right boundary have the maximum y-coordinate (as shown in Figure 18)

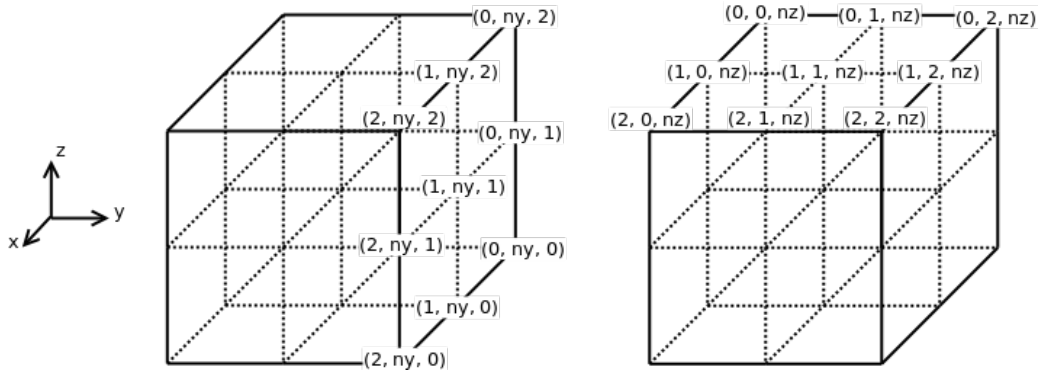


Figure 18: Boundaries coordinates for top and right boundaries of a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid. We can observe that every boundary has a fixed coordinate

So we can define a series of functions for checking the membership of a given face to a boundary exploiting these fixed coordinates:

```

< check membership of a face to a boundary 73 > ≡
function isOnLeft(face, V, nx, ny, nz)
    """
    Check if face is on left boundary
    """

    for(vtx in face)
        if(V[vtx + 1][2] != 0)
            return false
        end
    end
    return true

end

function isOnRight(face, V, nx, ny, nz)
    """
    Check if face is on right boundary
    """

    for(vtx in face)
        if(V[vtx + 1][2] != ny)
            return false
        end
    end
    return true

end

function isOnTop(face, V, nx, ny, nz)
    """
    Check if face is on top boundary
    """

    for(vtx in face)
        if(V[vtx + 1][3] != nz)
            return false
        end
    end
    return true

end

function isOnBottom(face, V, nx, ny, nz)

```

```

"""
Check if face is on bottom boundary
"""

for(vtx in face)
  if(V[vtx + 1][3] != 0)
    return false
  end
end
return true
end

function isOnFront(face, V, nx, ny, nz)
"""
Check if face is on front boundary
"""

for(vtx in face)
  if(V[vtx + 1][1] != nx)
    return false
  end
end
return true
end

function isOnBack(face, V, nx, ny, nz)
"""
Check if face is on back boundary
"""

for(vtx in face)
  if(V[vtx + 1][1] != 0)
    return false
  end
end
return true
end
end

```

Fragment referenced in 75.

After choosing of the right model, we have to insert our face into it. We can do it with the following function, which takes vertices and faces of the base and the model, the face, and the offset of the current face for the model chosen:

$\langle \text{add a face to a model } 74 \rangle \equiv$

```

function addFaceToModel(V_base, FV_base, V, FV, face, vertex_count)
    """
    Insert a face into a LAR model

    V_base, FV_base: LAR model of the base
    V, FV: LAR model
    face: Face that will be added to the model
    vertex_count: Indices for faces vertices
    """
    new_vertex_count = vertex_count
    for vtx in FV_base[face]
        push!(V, [convert{Int, V_base[vtx + 1][1] + xStart},
                  convert{Int, V_base[vtx + 1][2] + yStart},
                  convert{Int, V_base[vtx + 1][3] + zStart}])
        new_vertex_count += 1
    end
    push!(FV, [vertex_count, vertex_count + 1, vertex_count + 3])
    push!(FV, [vertex_count, vertex_count + 3, vertex_count + 2])

    return new_vertex_count
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 75.

As we can see, for every face we put into the model FV array two faces, in fact our final representation is not based on square faces but on triangular faces.

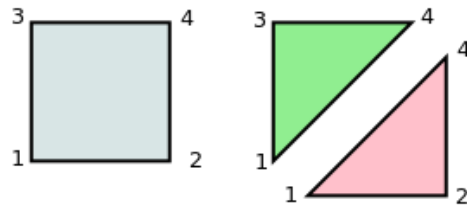


Figure 19: Triangulation of a single face

This is the complete code for creation of a model

$\langle \text{LAR model creation 75} \rangle \equiv$

$\langle \text{check membership of a face to a boundary 73} \rangle$

```

function computeModelAndBoundaries(imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                                    xStart, yStart, zStart,

```

```

                                objectBoundaryChain)
"""
Takes the boundary chain of a part of the entire model
and returns a LAR model splitting the boundaries

imageDx, imageDy, imageDz: Boundary dimensions
xStart, yStart, zStart: Offset of this part of the model
objectBoundaryChain: Sparse csc matrix containing the cells
"""

< add a face to a model 74 >

< models definition 71 >

V, bases = getBases(imageDx, imageDy, imageDz)
FV = bases[3]

vertex_count_model = 1
vertex_count_left = 1
vertex_count_right = 1
vertex_count_top = 1
vertex_count_bottom = 1
vertex_count_front = 1
vertex_count_back = 1

# Get all cells (independently from orientation)
b2cells = findn(objectBoundaryChain)[1]

debug("b2cells = ", b2cells)

for f in b2cells
    old_vertex_count_model = vertex_count_model
    old_vertex_count_left = vertex_count_left
    old_vertex_count_right = vertex_count_right
    old_vertex_count_top = vertex_count_top
    old_vertex_count_bottom = vertex_count_bottom
    old_vertex_count_front = vertex_count_front
    old_vertex_count_back = vertex_count_back

    # Choosing the right model for vertex
    if(isOnLeft(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
        vertex_count_left = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_left, FV_left,
                                            f, old_vertex_count_left)
    elseif(isOnRight(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
        vertex_count_right = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_right, FV_right,
                                            f, old_vertex_count_right)

```

```

elseif(isOnTop(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
    vertex_count_top = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_top, FV_top,
                                      f, old_vertex_count_top)
elseif(isOnBottom(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
    vertex_count_bottom = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_bottom, FV_bottom,
                                         f, old_vertex_count_bottom)
elseif(isOnFront(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
    vertex_count_front = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_front, FV_front,
                                        f, old_vertex_count_front)
elseif(isOnBack(FV[f], V, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz))
    vertex_count_back = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_back, FV_back,
                                       f, old_vertex_count_back)
else
    vertex_count_model = addFaceToModel(V, FV, V_model, FV_model,
                                        f, old_vertex_count_model)
end

end

# Removing double vertices
return [removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_model, FV_model, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_left, FV_left, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_right, FV_right, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_top, FV_top, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_bottom, FV_bottom, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_front, FV_front, 0)],
[removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces(V_back, FV_back, 0)]
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97a.

8.6 Removing double faces and vertices from boundaries

In previous section, we have seen how to create a LAR model from the chain list. However this model contains all borders between blocks, while we are only interested in borders for the entire image. So, we will see functions for boundaries merging with removal of double faces and vertices from both sides.

The algorithm for the removal is very simply. First of all we need to remove double vertices from models in the usual way using `removeDoubleVertices` function and re-indexing all faces. Next we count all elements in re-indexed faces array removing elements with more than one occurrence and create an array of faces with an explicit representation of vertices (*FV_vertices*). Now we can safely remove double vertices on the other side of the

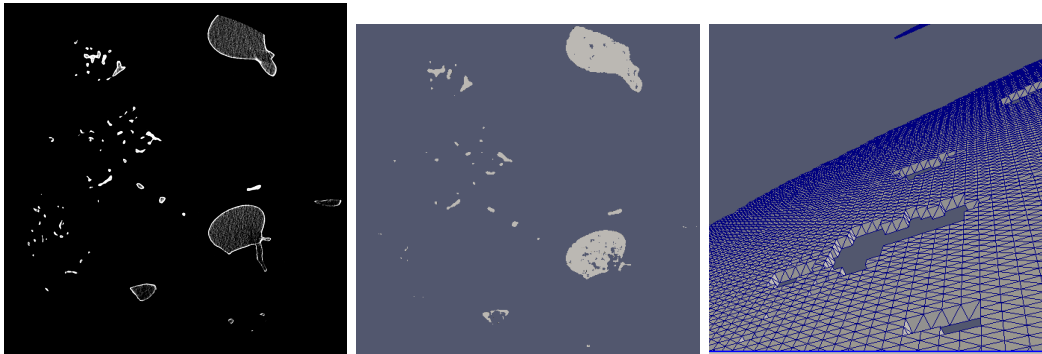


Figure 20: Creation of a sample model. (a) The original image (b) The three-dimensional model (c) The three-dimensional model (detail with triangular faces)

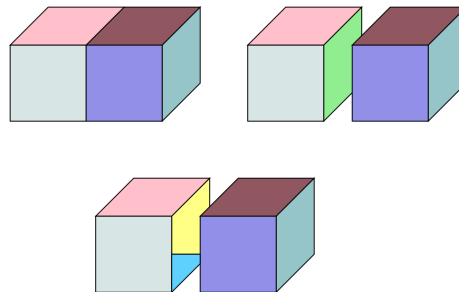


Figure 21: Removal of double faces from boundaries. (a) Two adjacent blocks (b) The same blocks exploded on x axis (c) Result of the removal on the exploded blocks

boundary without losing the correct indexing in the faces. Finally we can create the final faces array with only remaining vertices comparing coordinates in *FV_vertices* with the ones in the last vertices array.

Code for this function is the following:

```

< Removal of double vertices and faces from boundaries 78 > ≡
function removeVerticesAndFacesFromBoundaries(V, FV)
    """
    Remove vertices and faces duplicates on
    boundaries models

    V,FV: lar model of two merged boundaries
    """

    newV, indices = removeDoubleVertices(V)
    uniqueIndices = unique(indices)

```

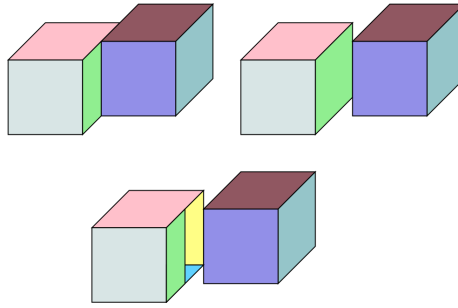


Figure 22: Same as Figure 21 with another model

```
# Removing double faces on both boundaries
FV_reindexed = reindexVerticesInFaces(FV, indices, 0)
FV_unique = unique(FV_reindexed)

FV_cleaned = Array(Array{Int}, 0)
for f in FV_unique
    if(count((x) -> x == f, FV_reindexed) == 1)
        push!(FV_cleaned, f)
    end
end

# Creating an array of faces with explicit vertices
FV_vertices = Array(Array{Array{Float64}}, 0)

for i in 1 : length(FV_cleaned)
    push!(FV_vertices, Array(Array{Float64}, 0))
    for vtx in FV_cleaned[i]
        push!(FV_vertices[i], newV[vtx])
    end
end

V_final = Array(Array{Float64}, 0)
FV_final = Array(Array{Int}, 0)

# Saving only used vertices
for face in FV_vertices
    for vtx in face
        push!(V_final, vtx)
    end
end

V_final = unique(V_final)
```



```

# Renumbering FV
for face in FV_vertices
  tmp = Array(Int, 0)
  for vtx in face
    ind = findfirst(V_final, vtx)
    push!(tmp, ind)
  end
  push!(FV_final, tmp)
end

return V_final, FV_final
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97a.

9 Smoother

This module contains functions used for smoothing LAR models

9.1 Get adjacent vertices

As we will see in next subsection, for executing a smoothing algorithm we need to know adjacent vertices to a given one. So we need a *VV relationship*, where for every vertex index i , we have a list of adjacent vertices.

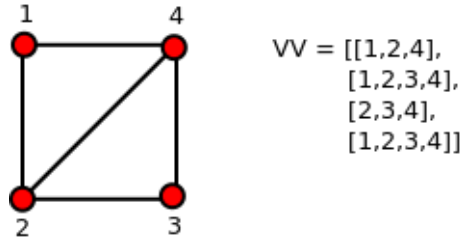


Figure 23: *VV relationship* for a simple model

Algorithm is very simple and exploit the following property: *for triangular faces all vertices are linked together*. So, for every vertex v in a face f , we just have to add to $VV[v]$ all the vertices of f .

$\langle \text{get adjacent vertices } 80 \rangle \equiv$

```

function adjVerts(V, FV)
    """
    Compute the adjacency graph of vertices
    of a LAR model

    V, FV: LAR model

    Returns the list of indices of vertices adjacent
    to a vertex
    """
    VV = Array(Array{Int},length(V))
    for i in 1: length(FV)
        for v in FV[i]
            if(!isdefined(VV,v))
                # Adding a new array for this vertex
                VV[v] = Array{Int}[]
            end
            push!(VV[v], FV[i][1], FV[i][2], FV[i][3])
            VV[v] = unique(VV[v])
        end
    end
    return VV
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98b.

9.2 Laplacian smoothing

There are many different algorithms for mesh smoothing. The simpler and the one we used in this library is **laplacian smoothing**. For each vertex in a mesh, a new position is chosen according to local information (such as the coordinates of neighbors) and the vertex is moved there. If that mesh is topologically a rectangular grid (so each internal vertex is connected to four neighbors) then this operation produces the *Laplacian* of the mesh.

As we can see from Figure 24, with substitution of every vertex position with the mean of the neighbors positions, we can obtain a curve with smoothed edges. This procedure can be repeated many times, so we can obtain a smoother model. For example, in Figure 26, we can see this algorithm applied on a sample mesh with three iterations.

This is the code for the smoothing function; it takes a single LAR model and returns the smoothed model.

```

⟨ laplacian smoothing 81 ⟩ ≡
    function smoothModel(V, FV)

```

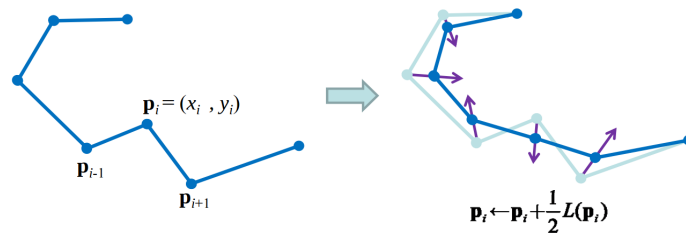


Figure 24: Laplacian smoothing (picture taken from the *Geometry Processing Algorithms* course at Stanford University)

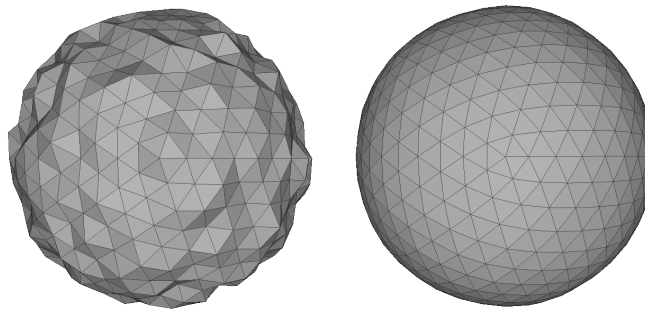


Figure 25: Laplacian smoothing for a sample mesh. (a) Original mesh (b) Mesh after three iterations of the smoothing algorithm (picture taken from a *Digital Geometry Processing* course at IMPA)

```

"""
Execute a Laplacian smoothing on a LAR model returning
the new smoothed model

V, FV: LAR model
"""

VV = adjVerts(V, FV)
newV = Array(Array{Float64},0)
V_temp = Array(Array{Float64},0)

for i in 1:length(VV)
    adjs = VV[i]
    # Get all coordinates for adjacent vertices
    coords = Array(Array{Float64}, 0)
    for v in adjs
        push!(coords, V[v])
    end

```

```

    # Computing sum of all vectors
    sum = [0.0, 0.0, 0.0]
    for v in coords
        sum += v
    end

    # Computing convex combination of vertices
    push!(newV, sum/length(adjs))

end

return newV, FV
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 98b.

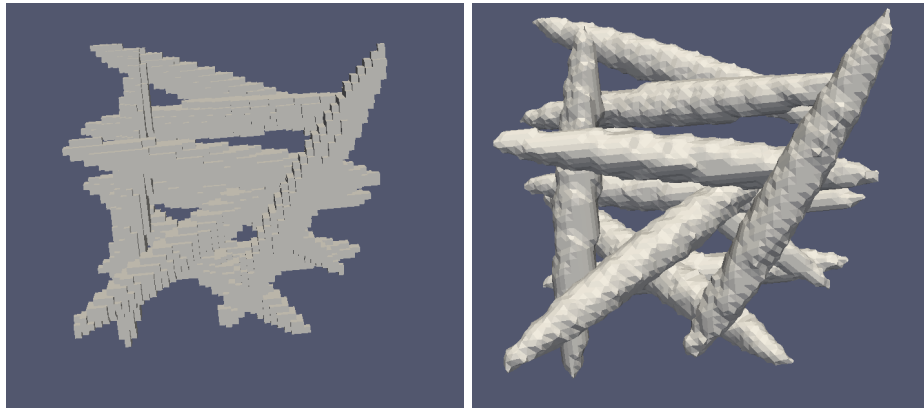


Figure 26: Smoothing of a sample model made with ImagesToLARModel

10 Model2Obj

This module contains functions used for reading/writing LAR models into obj files on disk

10.1 Writing models to file

Up to now we have seen how to manipulate LAR models obtaining a three-dimensional representation for our stack of images. However we have not seen how to visualize them

using external software yet. We have chosen the *wavefront obj file format* for external visualization, which is very simple and common. The syntax used is the following:

- All vertices are described with their coordinates and written on a single row according to the following syntax: `v xCoord yCoord zCoord`
- All faces are described with their vertex index (calculated from their row) according to the following syntax: `f vertex1 vertex2 ...vertexn`

In Figure 27 there is an example of an obj file


v 0 0 0	
v 1 0 0	
v 0 1 0	
v 1 1 0	
v 0 0 1	
v 1 0 1	
v 1 1 1	
f 1 2 4 3	
f 5 6 8 7	
f 1 2 6 5	

Figure 27: Obj sample file

We can see that this kind of representation is very similar to the LAR representation schema, so we just have to read every element of V and FV arrays and write them on disk. Because of we will use these informations a lot, it is more convenient to save the vertices and the faces on different files, so they can be loaded with less efforts. This is code used by the library:

```
< write obj files 84 > ≡
function writeToObj(V, FV, outputFilename)
    """
    Take a LAR model and write it on obj file

    V: array containing vertices coordinates
    FV: array containing faces
    outputFilename: prefix for the output files
    """

    if (length(V) != 0)
        outputVtx = string(outputFilename, "_vtx.stl")
        outputFaces = string(outputFilename, "_faces.stl")

        fileVertex = open(outputVtx, "w")
        fileFaces = open(outputFaces, "w")
```

```

for v in V
  write(fileVertex, "v ")
  write(fileVertex, string(v[1], " "))
  write(fileVertex, string(v[2], " "))
  write(fileVertex, string(v[3], "\n"))
end

for f in FV

  write(fileFaces, "f ")
  write(fileFaces, string(f[1], " "))
  write(fileFaces, string(f[2], " "))
  write(fileFaces, string(f[3], "\n"))
end

close(fileVertex)
close(fileFaces)

end

end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

10.2 Merging block models

Now we have seen how to write on disk a LAR model using the *wavefront obj file format*, however, as we have already seen, we have a lot of models from every block; so we need a function for the creation of the final merged model. The code which executes this task is very simple; this is the function:

```

⟨ serial file merge 85 ⟩ ≡
function mergeObj(modelDirectory)
  """
  Merge stl files in a single obj file

  modelDirectory: directory containing models
  """

  files = readdir(modelDirectory)
  vertices_files = files[find(s -> contains(s, string("_vtx.stl")), files)]
  faces_files = files[find(s -> contains(s, string("_faces.stl")), files)]

```

```

obj_file = open(string(modelDirectory, "/", "model.obj"), "w") # Output file

vertices_counts = Array(Int64, length(vertices_files))
number_of_vertices = 0
for i in 1:length(vertices_files)
    vtx_file = vertices_files[i]
    f = open(string(modelDirectory, "/", vtx_file))

    # Writing vertices on the obj file
    for ln in eachline(f)
        splitted = split(ln)
        write(obj_file, "v ")
        write(obj_file, string(convert(Int,round(parse(splitted[2]) * 10)), " "))
        write(obj_file, string(convert(Int,round(parse(splitted[3]) * 10)), " "))
        write(obj_file, string(convert(Int,round(parse(splitted[4]) * 10)), "\n"))
        number_of_vertices += 1
    end
    # Saving number of vertices
    vertices_counts[i] = number_of_vertices
    close(f)
end

for i in 1 : length(faces_files)
    faces_file = faces_files[i]
    f = open(string(modelDirectory, "/", faces_file))
    for ln in eachline(f)
        splitted = split(ln)
        write(obj_file, "f ")
        if i > 1
            write(obj_file, string(parse(splitted[2]) + vertices_counts[i - 1], " "))
            write(obj_file, string(parse(splitted[3]) + vertices_counts[i - 1], " "))
            write(obj_file, string(parse(splitted[4]) + vertices_counts[i - 1]))
        else
            write(obj_file, string(splitted[2], " "))
            write(obj_file, string(splitted[3], " "))
            write(obj_file, splitted[4])
        end
        write(obj_file, "\n")
    end
    close(f)
end
close(obj_file)

# Removing all tmp files
for vtx_file in vertices_files
    rm(string(modelDirectory, "/", vtx_file))
end

```

```

end

for fcs_file in faces_files
    rm(string(modelDirectory, "/", fcs_file))
end

end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

As we can see, we take all files contained into the model folder (distinguishing between files containing vertices from those containing faces) and write all their lines into the final model file. However this is simply for vertices files, while it is a bit complicated for faces, because it is necessary to change their indexes according to the current vertices positions into the file. So we need to memorize the offset for every file counting the number of vertices added at every time we open a new file containing vertices. Moreover we can see that we convert vertices coordinates into integer values; this is useful because some softwares do not read float vertices coordinates, so we first make the model ten times bigger (so we still have the first decimal number) and then round it.

The creation of this final model is quite slow, so we can try to speedup the entire software parallelizing it. In the next part we will see how this can be done.

10.2.1 Parallel merging of obj files

Now we will see how to parallelize the final file merging. However this is useful only for certain conditions; in fact in traditional filesystems the disk can be accessed from only one process at the same time, so parallelizing this task is totally useless. However for parallel filesystems it is a different matter because we can have parallel writes on storage.

The first simple algorithm we can think for parallel file merging, takes two files for every process and merge them creating a unique file. Then, this process can be repeated until we have only one final file. In Figure 28 there is a simple schema for this algorithm.

How we can see in that figure, if we have a process for every merge operation and sixteen files, we will have eight processes for the first merge, four processes for the second merge steps, two processes for the third step and one process for the final merge. Speaking in a general way, told n the number of files we want to merge, we will use $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ processes for every step. Probably if we would not have a balanced tree we could use the number of processes in a more efficient way for all our steps. In Figure 29 there is a non-balanced tree where the number of processes for every merge step is maximized.

Now we can examine the code used for obtaining this result. First of all we need a function for assigning files to the right process creating the tree in Figure 29:

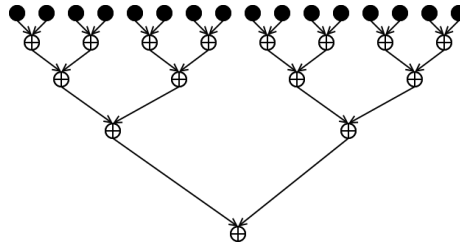


Figure 28: The first parallel algorithm for file merge. Black circles represent the original files, while circles with the cross, represent merged files

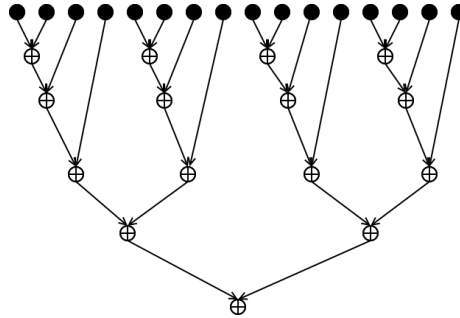


Figure 29: A better algorithm for file merge

```

< assign tasks 88 > ≡
function assignTasks(startInd, endInd, taskArray)
  """
  This function choose the first files to merge
  creating a tree where number of processes is maximized

  startInd: starting index for array subdivision
  endInd: end index for array subdivision
  taskArray: array containing indices of files to merge for first
  """
  if (endInd - startInd == 2)
    push!(taskArray, startInd)
  elseif (endInd - startInd < 2)
    if (endInd % 4 != 0 && startInd != endInd)
      # Stop recursion on this branch
      push!(taskArray, startInd)
    end
    # Stop recursion doing nothing
  else
    assignTasks(startInd, startInd + trunc((endInd - startInd) / 2), taskArray)
    assignTasks(startInd + trunc((endInd - startInd) / 2) + 1, endInd, taskArray)
  end
end

```

```

    end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

Now we need some functions for merging files; in particular we have to merge vertices files (contemporary counting the offsets for the faces) and faces files. This is the code for the first function:

```

⟨merge vertices file 89⟩ ≡
function mergeVerticesFiles(file1, file2, startOffset)
    """
    Support function for merging two vertices files.
    Returns the number of vertices of the merged file

    file1: path of the first file
    file2: path of the second file
    startOffset: starting face offset for second file
    """

    f1 = open(file1, "a")

    f2 = open(file2)
    debug("Merging ", file2)
    number_of_vertices = startOffset
    for ln in eachline(f2)
        write(f1, ln)
        number_of_vertices += 1
    end
    close(f2)

    close(f1)

    return number_of_vertices
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

As we can see the algorithm is very simple; what we do is appending the content of the second file into the first one and returns the number of appended vertices, which will be used as offsets for faces. This is the code for concatenation of faces files:

merge faces file 90a \equiv

```
function mergeFacesFiles(file1, file2, facesOffset)
    """
    Support function for merging two faces files

    file1: path of the first file
    file2: path of the second file
    facesOffset: offset for faces
    """

    f1 = open(file1, "a")

    f2 = open(file2)
    for ln in eachline(f2)
        splitted = split(ln)
        write(f1, "f ")
        write(f1, string(parse(splitted[2]) + facesOffset, " "))
        write(f1, string(parse(splitted[3]) + facesOffset, " "))
        write(f1, string(parse(splitted[4]) + facesOffset, "\n"))
    end
    close(f2)

    close(f1)
end  $\diamond$ 
```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

These concatenation functions, are called by the `mergeObjProcesses`, which is executed by a single Julia process:

parallel merge obj process function 90b \equiv

```
function mergeObjProcesses(fileArray, facesOffset = Nothing)
    """
    Merge files on a single process

    fileArray: Array containing files that will be merged
    facesOffset (optional): if merging faces files, this array contains
        offsets for every file

    if it is merging vertices files it returns the offset
    for the corresponding faces
    """

    if(contains(fileArray[1], string("_vtx.stl")))

```

```

    # Merging vertices files
    offsets = Array(Int, 0)
    push!(offsets, countlines(fileArray[1]))
    vertices_count = mergeVerticesFiles(fileArray[1], fileArray[2], countlines(fileArray[1]))
    rm(fileArray[2]) # Removing merged file
    push!(offsets, vertices_count)
    for i in 3: length(fileArray)
        vertices_count = mergeVerticesFiles(fileArray[1], fileArray[i], vertices_count)
        rm(fileArray[i]) # Removing merged file
        push!(offsets, vertices_count)
    end
    return offsets
else
    # Merging faces files
    mergeFacesFiles(fileArray[1], fileArray[2], facesOffset[1])
    rm(fileArray[2]) # Removing merged file
    for i in 3 : length(fileArray)
        mergeFacesFiles(fileArray[1], fileArray[i], facesOffset[i - 1])
        rm(fileArray[i]) # Removing merged file
    end
end
end
end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

The function can be called for both faces and vertices files; for the last case, however, we need to specify the *facesOffset* parameter.

Now we can put together the above functions with the following code:

```

⟨ merge obj helper function 91 ⟩ ≡
function mergeObjHelper(vertices_files, faces_files)
    """
    Support function for mergeObj. It takes vertices and faces files
    and executes a single merging step

    vertices_files: Array containing vertices files
    faces_files: Array containing faces files
    """
    numberOfImages = length(vertices_files)
    taskArray = Array{Int, 0}
    assignTasks(1, numberOfImages, taskArray)

    # Now taskArray contains first files to merge
    numberOfVertices = Array{Int, 0}

```

```

tasks = Array(RemoteRef, 0)
for i in 1 : length(taskArray) - 1
    task = @spawn mergeObjProcesses(vertices_files[taskArray[i] : (taskArray[i + 1] - 1)])
    push!(tasks, task)
end

# Merging last vertices files
task = @spawn mergeObjProcesses(vertices_files[taskArray[length(taskArray)] : end])
push!(tasks, task)

for task in tasks
    append!(numberOfVertices, fetch(task))
end

debug("NumberOfVertices = ", numberOfVertices)

# Merging faces files
tasks = Array(RemoteRef, 0)
for i in 1 : length(taskArray) - 1

    task = @spawn mergeObjProcesses(faces_files[taskArray[i] : (taskArray[i + 1] - 1)],
                                   numberOfVertices[taskArray[i] : (taskArray[i + 1] - 1)])

    push!(tasks, task)
end

#Merging last faces files
task = @spawn mergeObjProcesses(faces_files[taskArray[length(taskArray)] : end],
                                numberOfVertices[taskArray[length(taskArray)] : end])

push!(tasks, task)

for task in tasks
    wait(task)
end

end ◇

```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

As we can see, this is the code for distribution of our work among all processes. We have chosen to spawn a new process following the tree in Figure 29, passing to the `mergeObjProcesses` function the files given to the task with the function `assignTasks`.

Finally we just have to define the main function for parallel merging

$\langle \text{merge obj parallel 93} \rangle \equiv$

```
function mergeObjParallel(modelDirectory)
  """
  Merge stl files in a single obj file using a parallel
  approach. Files will be recursively merged two by two
  generating a tree where number of processes for every
  step is maximized
  Actually use of this function is discouraged. In fact
  speedup is influenced by disk speed. It could work on
  particular systems with parallel accesses on disks

  modelDirectory: directory containing models
  """

  files = readdir(modelDirectory)

  # Appending directory path to every file
  files = map((s) -> string(modelDirectory, "/", s), files)

  # While we have more than one vtx file and one faces file
  while(length(files) != 2)
    vertices_files = files[find(s -> contains(s,string("_vtx.stl")), files)]
    faces_files = files[find(s -> contains(s,string("_faces.stl")), files)]

    # Merging files
    mergeObjHelper(vertices_files, faces_files)

    files = readdir(modelDirectory)
    files = map((s) -> string(modelDirectory, "/", s), files)
  end

  mergeVerticesFiles(files[2], files[1], 0)
  mv(files[2], string(modelDirectory, "/model.obj"))
  rm(files[1])

end ◇
```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

10.3 Load models from files

Another important functionality for our library, consists in model loading from our faces and vertices files. This is useful when passing from a pipeline step to another one. For

simplicity, we offer a unique function that loads an array of vertices files (with the corresponding array of faces files), merge the values into a unique model and returns it.

⟨ Load models from file 94 ⟩ \equiv

```
function getModelsFromFiles(arrayV, arrayFV)
    """
    Get a LAR models for two arrays of vertices
    and faces files

    arrayV: Array containing all vertices files
    arrayFV: Array containing all faces files
    """

    V = Array{Array{Float64}, 0}
    FV = Array{Array{Int}, 0}
    offset = 0

    for i in 1:length(arrayV)
        if isfile(arrayFV[i])
            f_FV = open(arrayFV[i])

            for ln in eachline(f_FV)
                splitted = split(ln)
                push!(FV, [parse(splitted[2]) + offset, parse(splitted[3]) + offset,
                    parse(splitted[4]) + offset])
            end
            close(f_FV)

            f_V = open(arrayV[i])
            for ln in eachline(f_V)
                splitted = split(ln)
                push!(V, [parse(splitted[2]), parse(splitted[3]),
                    parse(splitted[4])])
                offset += 1
            end
            close(f_V)
        end
    end
    return V, FV
end ◊
```

Fragment referenced in 97b.

11 Exporting the library

ImagesToLARModel

```
"src/ImagesToLARModel.jl" 95a≡  
    module ImagesToLARModel  
  
        < update load path 6 >  
  
        < modules import ImagesToLARModel 7a >  
        < load JSON configuration 10 >  
        < load JSON configuration for data preparation 7b >  
        < data preparation from JSON file 11 >  
        < manual data preparation 12 >  
        < Start conversion from JSON file 13a >  
        < Start manual conversion 13b >  
    end  
    ◇
```

ImagesConversion

```
"src/ImagesConversion.jl" 95b≡  
    module ImagesConversion  
  
        < modules import ImagesConversion 30 >  
  
        < main function for ImagesConversion 31 >  
  
        < parallel block iteration 33 >  
  
        < pixelsToVoxels function 40a >  
  
        < start conversion of images 35a >  
  
        < image conversion process 39 >  
  
        < boundary merge process function 41 >  
  
        < merge boundaries utility function 42 >  
  
        < Block merge process function 44 >  
  
        < Smooth block process function 45b >
```


⟨ execute smoothing function 47 ⟩

end

◇

GenerateBorderMatrix

"src/GenerateBorderMatrix.jl" 96a≡
module GenerateBorderMatrix

⟨ Matrix object for JSON file 51b ⟩

⟨ modules import GenerateBorderMatrix 50a ⟩

⟨ compute border matrix 52a ⟩

⟨ write Border matrix 51a ⟩

⟨ get Border matrix 50b ⟩

⟨ transform border matrix in csc format 52b ⟩

end

◇

Lar2Julia

"src/Lar2Julia.jl" 96b≡
module Lar2Julia

⟨ modules import Lar2Julia 53 ⟩

⟨ get boundary chain 54 ⟩

⟨ get oriented cells from a chain 55 ⟩

⟨ transform relationships to csc 56 ⟩

⟨ boundary computation 62a ⟩

end

◇

LARUtils

```
"src/LARUtils.jl" 97a≡  
    module LARUtils  
  
        < modules import LARUtils 62b >  
  
        < conversion from matrix to array 63a >  
  
        < conversion from array to matrix 63b >  
  
        < get LAR bases 67 >  
  
        < removal of double vertices and faces 70 >  
  
        < Removal of double vertices and faces from boundaries 78 >  
  
        < LAR model creation 75 >  
    end  
    ◇
```

Model2Obj

```
"src/Model2Obj.jl" 97b≡  
    module Model2Obj  
  
        using Logging  
  
        export writeToObj, mergeObj, mergeObjParallel  
  
        < write obj files 84 >  
  
        < serial file merge 85 >  
  
        < assign tasks 88 >  
  
        < merge vertices file 89 >  
  
        < merge faces file 90a >
```

```

    < parallel merge obj process function 90b >

    < merge obj helper function 91 >

    < merge obj parallel 93 >

    < Load models from file 94 >
end
◇

```

PngStack2Array3dJulia

```

"src/PngStack2Array3dJulia.jl" 98a≡
    module PngStack2Array3dJulia

        < modules import PngStack2Array3dJulia 14 >
        < image resizing 19 >

        < image clustering 22 >

        < 3d model filtering 23 >

        < Convert to png 18 >
        < Get image data 27 >
        < Pixel transformation 28 >
    end
◇

```

Smoother

```

"src/Smoother.jl" 98b≡
    module Smoother
        export smoothModel

        < get adjacent vertices 80 >

        < laplacian smoothing 81 >
    end
◇

```

11.1 Installing the library

12 Conclusions

12.1 Results

12.2 Further improvements

References

- [CL13] CVD-Lab, *Linear Algebraic Representation*, Tech. Report 13-00, Roma Tre University, October 2013.
- [PDFJ15] Alberto Paoluzzi, Antonio DiCarlo, Francesco Furiani, and Miroslav Jirik, *CAD models from medical images using LAR*, Computer-Aided Design and Applications **13** (2015), To appear.
- [W3C] W3C, *Portable Network Graphics (PNG) Specification (Second Edition)*, Tech. report.

A Utility functions

B Tests

Generation of the border matrix

```
"test/generateBorderMatrix.jl" 99≡
  push!(LOAD_PATH, "../..")
  import GenerateBorderMatrix
  import JSON
  using Base.Test

  function testComputeOriented3Border()
    """
    Test function for computeOriented3Border
    """
    boundaryMatrix = GenerateBorderMatrix.computeOriented3Border(2,2,2)

    rowcount = boundaryMatrix[:shape][1]
    @test rowcount == 36
```


Conversion of a png stack to a 3D array

```
"test/pngStack2Array3dJulia.jl" 100≡
push!(LOAD_PATH, "../..")
import PngStack2Array3dJulia
using Base.Test

function testGetImageData()
    """
    Test function for getImageData
    """

    width, height = PngStack2Array3dJulia.getImageData("images/0.png")

    @test width == 50
    @test height == 50

end

function testCalculateClusterCentroids()
    """
    Test function for calculateClusterCentroids
    """

    path = "images/"
    image = 0
    centroids = PngStack2Array3dJulia.calculateClusterCentroids(path, image, 2)

    expected = [0, 253]
    centroids = vec(reshape(centroids, 1, 2))

    @test sort(centroids) == expected
end

function testPngstack2array3d()
    """
    Test function for pngstack2array3d
    """

    path = "images/"
    minSlice = 0
    maxSlice = 4
    centroids = PngStack2Array3dJulia.calculateClusterCentroids(path, 0, 2)
    image3d = PngStack2Array3dJulia.pngstack2array3d(path, minSlice, maxSlice, centroids)

    @test size(image3d)[1] == 5
    @test size(image3d[1])[1] == 50
    @test size(image3d[1])[2] == 200
end
```

```

end

function executeAllTests()
    @time testCalculateClusterCentroids()
    @time testPngstack2array3d()
    @time testGetImageData()
    println("Tests completed.")
end

executeAllTests()

◇

```

Test for LAR utilities

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"test/LARUtils.jl" 102≡
push!(LOAD_PATH, "../..")
import LARUtils
using Base.Test

function testInd()
    """
    Test function for ind
    """

    nx = 2
    ny = 2

    @test LARUtils.ind(0, 0, 0, nx, ny) == 0
    @test LARUtils.ind(1, 1, 1, nx, ny) == 13
    @test LARUtils.ind(2, 5, 4, nx, ny) == 53
    @test LARUtils.ind(1, 1, 1, nx, ny) == 13
    @test LARUtils.ind(2, 7, 1, nx, ny) == 32
    @test LARUtils.ind(1, 0, 3, nx, ny) == 28
end

function executeAllTests()
    @time testInd()
    println("Tests completed.")
end

executeAllTests()

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```

