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

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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 Semplicita Efficienza Capacita 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 ImagesToLARModel.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 sintax:

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 RE-QUIRE 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 9 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

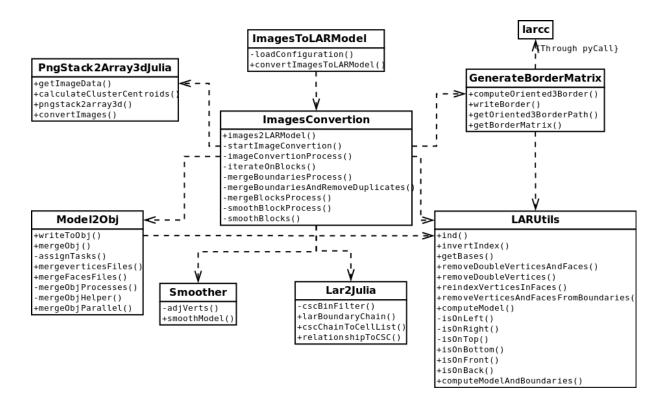


Figure 4: Schema of module dependencies of ImagesToLARModel

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:

```
\langle \ update \ load \ path \ 6 \ \rangle \equiv \\ \text{push!} \ (\texttt{LOAD\_PATH, Pkg.dir("ImagesToLARModel/src")}) \\ \diamond
```

Fragment referenced in 98.

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:

```
⟨ modules import ImagesToLARModel 7a⟩ ≡
  import JSON
  import ImagesConversion
  import PngStack2Array3dJulia
  using Logging
  export convertImagesToLARModel, prepareData
```

Fragment referenced in 98.

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
    threshold = configuration["threshold"]
  catch
  end
  threshold3d = 0
  try
    threshold3d = configuration["threshold3d"]
  {\tt catch}
  end
  zDim = 0
  try
    zDim = configuration["zDim"]
  {\tt catch}
  end
  return configuration["inputDirectory"], configuration["outputDirectory"],
        crop, noise_shape, threshold, threshold3d, zDim
end
\Diamond
```

```
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:

```
\langle load \ JSON \ configuration \ 10 \rangle \equiv
     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
           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 98.

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 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 98.
\langle 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 we 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
         mkpath(outputPath)
       catch
       end
```

Fragment referenced in 98.

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:

```
\langle Start \ conversion \ from \ JSON \ file \ 13a \rangle \equiv
     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 98.
\langle Start \ manual \ conversion \ 13b \rangle \equiv
     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
   mkpath(outputDirectory)
 catch
  end
 Logging.configure(level=DEBUG_LEVEL)
 ImagesConversion.images2LARModel(nx, ny, nz,
          inputDirectory, outputDirectory, parallelMerge)
end
```

Fragment referenced in 98.

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 101b.

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) ◊
```

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) ◊
```

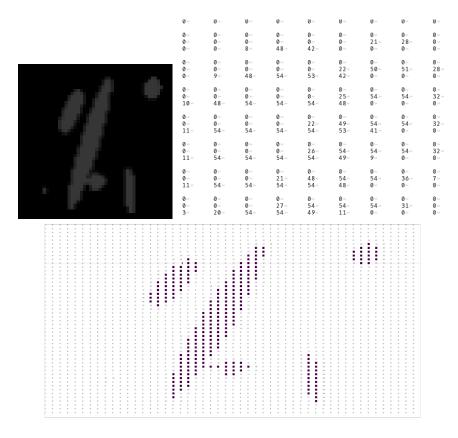


Figure 5: Reading raw data from image. (a) Original greyscale image (b) A view of raw data array (c) The entire raw data array with main color highlighted

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.

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

```
if(threshold3d != 0)
       imageFilter3D(outputPath, threshold3d, zDim)
     end \diamond
Fragment referenced in 18.
This is the code for the entire function:
\langle Convert \ to \ png \ 18 \rangle \equiv
     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
       11 11 11
       imageFiles = readdir(inputPath)
       \langle Resize \ images \ on \ z\text{-}axis \ 21 \rangle
       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)
```

Filtering out non-relevant parts of the model

```
end \langle \, 3D \, \, filtering \, 17 \, \rangle end \diamond
```

Fragment referenced in 101b.



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
```

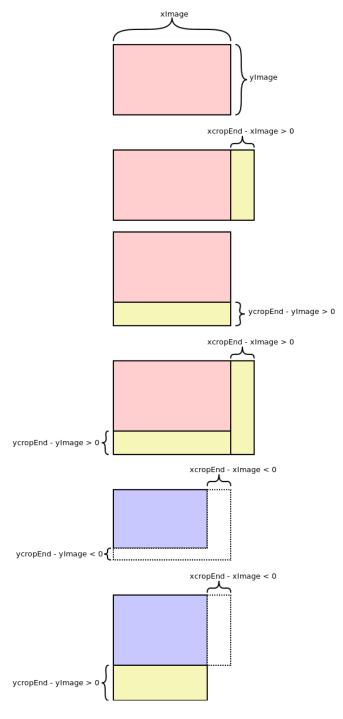


Figure 7: Some interesting resize cases. (a) The original image (b) Extension on the x dimension (c) Extension on the y dimension (d) Extension on both dimensions (e) Crop of both x and y (f) Crop of x and extension of y

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))
   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)
   image = grayim(imArray)
 return subim(image, crop[1][1]:crop[1][2], crop[2][1]:crop[2][2])
end <
```

Fragment referenced in 101b.

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.

```
#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 $\theta x\theta\theta$ or θxff depending on the algorithm assignments.

```
\langle image\ clustering\ 22 \rangle \equiv
     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
       11 11 11
       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(Array{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 101b.

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 on 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. The main idea behind this filter is very simple. We assume that big groups of pixels which are directly linked are interesting for the final model; so we just need to navigate pixels (as they were nodes in a graph) that are adjacent and filter out only groups under the threshold at the end of the visit. We first need a simple function for a DFS of a graph:

```
⟨DFS function 23⟩ ≡
function visitFromNode(node, adjacentRel, visited)
"""

Visit a graph starting from a node using a DFS

node: the starting node
adjacentRel: a list where in position i there are all
adjacent nodes to i
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 = adjacentRel[n]
        for adj in adj_list
            push!(toVisit, adj)
        end
    end
    end
    return visitedNodes
```

Fragment referenced in 29.

This is a function valid for every type of graph. What can change from an application to another is the *adjacency condition*. In this case we can see that our function uses the adjacentRel parameter, which is a list where for every position *i* there are all nodes that are adjacent to *i*. The relationship of adjacency used in this case is trivial. In fact we assume that:

Given a pixel with coordinates (xPixel, yPixel, zPixel) we consider only the following adjacent pixels:

```
    z ∈ [zPixel - 1, zPixel + 1]
    coordinates = {(xPixel - 1, yPixel, z), (xPixel + 1, yPixel, z), (xPixel, yPixel - 1, z), (xPixel, yPixel + 1, z)}
```

This is the function that implements the algorithm we have seen above

```
⟨find adjacent pixels 24⟩ ≡
function getAdjacentPixels(imageArray)
"""
Find all adjacent pixels in the stack of images
imageArray: the array containing the images
Returns a list containing list of adjacent pixels
```

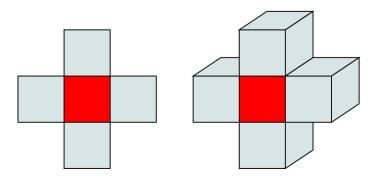


Figure 8: Adjacency relationship for pixels. (a) A 2D view of the relationship. (b) A 3D view of the relationship (where the z-axis is determined by previous and next pictures in the array stack

```
nx = size(imageArray[1])[1]
 ny = size(imageArray[1])[2]
 PP = Array(Array{Int}, nx * ny * length(imageArray))
 for(pixel in 1: (nx * ny * length(imageArray)))
   PP[pixel] = Array(Int, 0)
   xPixel, yPixel, zPixel = pixelCoords(pixel, nx, ny)
   if(imageArray[zPixel][xPixel, yPixel] != 0x00)
      # 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!(PP[pixel], index)
              end
            end
          end
        end
      end
   end
  end
 return PP
end <
```

Fragment referenced in 29.

How we can see, we also need to transform pixel coordinates into an index and vice versa. So we defined the following utility functions:

```
\langle pixel\ coordinates\ to\ index\ 26a \rangle \equiv
     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 <
Fragment referenced in 29.
\langle pixel index to coordinates 26b \rangle \equiv
     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 <
```

Now we can examine the main function for this filter. First of all, to reduce the quantity of memory involved in the process we must divide the number of images computed at once by a single process using a parameter called zDim. After block division we can start the function that will be executed on every process on the images of the previous, current and next blocks (saving only images for the current one). This is the code:

```
\langle 3D \mod el \text{ filtering main function } 26c \rangle \equiv
```

Fragment referenced in 29.

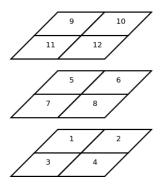


Figure 9: Enumerating schema used for pixel indexing.

```
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))
  if length(imageFiles) % zDim != 0
   numberOfBlocks += 1
  end
 tasks = Array(RemoteRef, 0)
 for zBlock in 1: numberOfBlocks
   endBlock = min(zBlock * zDim, length(imageFiles))
   startBlock = (zBlock - 1) * zDim + 1
   startPrevBlock = max(startBlock - zDim, 1)
   endNextBlock = min(endBlock + zDim, length(imageFiles))
```

```
blockFiles = imageFiles[startPrevBlock : endNextBlock]

startBlockInd = startBlock - startPrevBlock + 1
  endBlockInd = startBlockInd + endBlock - startBlock

task = @spawn filter3DProcessFunction(blockFiles, startBlockInd, endBlockInd, threshold)
  push!(tasks, task)

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

Fragment referenced in 29.

Finally we can see the function executed in every process for images filtering. We just need to iterate on all pixels of the stack of images that are full and that have not been visited yet and start the DFS visit obtaining the list of visited pixels. If its length is less than the threshold parameter we set all those pixels to zero. After all pixels have been visited we can write the resulting images on disk

```
\langle process function for 3D filter 28 \rangle \equiv
```

```
function filter3DProcessFunction(blockFiles, startBlock, endBlock, threshold)
    """
    Process function for the 3D filter.
    It takes a single block and processes all files
    on a single process

blockFiles: The array of files of previous, current and next blocks
    startBlock: Index of the first file of the current block
    endBlock: Index of the last file of the current block
    threshold: The threshold for data filtering
    """

zDim = length(blockFiles)
    imageArray = Array(Array{Uint8,2}, zDim)
    for i in 1: zDim
        img = imread(blockFiles[i])
        imageArray[i] = raw(img)
    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]
        PP = getAdjacentPixels(imageArray)
        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, PP, visited)
             if length(visitedPixels) < threshold</pre>
               for pixel in visitedPixels
                  x, y, z = pixelCoords(pixel, nx, ny)
                  imageArray[z][x, y] = 0x00
                end
             end
           end
        end
        # Now I can write the results on file
        for i in startBlock: endBlock
           imwrite(grayim(imageArray[i]), blockFiles[i])
        end
      end <
Fragment referenced in 29.
\langle 3d \mod el \text{ filtering } 29 \rangle \equiv
      \langle DFS function 23 \rangle
      \langle pixel\ coordinates\ to\ index\ 26a \rangle
      ⟨ pixel index to coordinates 26b ⟩
      \langle find adjacent pixels 24 \rangle
      ⟨ process function for 3D filter 28 ⟩
      \langle 3D \ model \ filtering \ main \ function \ 26c \rangle \Leftrightarrow
Fragment referenced in 101b.
```

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 contains 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:

4 bytes
4 bytes
1 bytes
1 byte
1 byte
1 byte
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 30⟩ ≡
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 101b.

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 [minSlice, maxSlice) we have to read it from disk and save pixel informations into a multidimensional Array.

This is the complete code:

```
⟨ Pixel transformation 31 ⟩ ≡
   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
 return image3d
end
```

Fragment referenced in 101b.

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 twodimensional 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**.



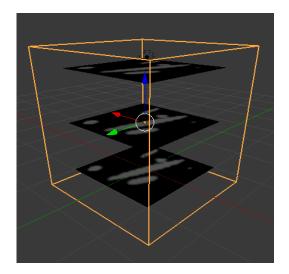


Figure 10: The grid used for parallel computation (a) 2D grid on a single image (b) 3D grid for the stack of images

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:

- **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 34a⟩ ≡
   import GenerateBorderMatrix
   import PngStack2Array3dJulia
   import Lar2Julia
   import Model2Obj
   import LARUtils
   import Smoother
   using Logging
   export images2LARModel
   ◊
```

Fragment referenced in 99a.

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.

```
\langle \ main \ function \ for \ Images Conversion \ 34b \rangle \equiv \\  \ function \ images 2LARModel (nx, ny, nz, \\  \ input Directory, output Directory, \\  \ parallel Merge) \\  \ """ \\  \ 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")
   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 99a.

11 11 11

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 11 there are the steps used for our conversion



Figure 11: 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 parallel block iteration 36 \rangle \equiv
     function iterateOnBlocks(inputDirectory,
                               imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                               imageDx, imageDz,
                               processFunction)
       11 11 11
       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 99a.

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

Fragment referenced in 38b.

Now we can start the pipeline:

```
\begin{tabular}{ll} &\langle\ pipeline\ conversion\ 38a\ \rangle\equiv\\ &\#\ Starting\ pipeline\ conversion\\ &\inf\ o("Starting\ images\ conversion")\\ &\langle\ pixels\ to\ voxels\ conversion\ step\ 44a\ \rangle\\ &\inf\ o("Merging\ boundaries")\\ &\langle\ boundaries\ merge\ step\ 47a\ \rangle\\ &\inf\ o("Merging\ blocks")\\ &\langle\ block\ merge\ step\ 48\ \rangle\\ &\inf\ o("Smoothing\ models")\\ &\langle\ smoothing\ step\ 52\ \rangle\\ &\inf\ o("Merging\ obj\ models")\\ &\langle\ final\ file\ merge\ 53a\ \rangle\\ &end\ &\Diamond\ \end{array}
```

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:

Fragment referenced in 99a.

Fragment referenced in 38b.

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.

```
\label{eq:continuous} $$ \langle image \; read \; 39a \rangle \equiv $$ theImage = PngStack2Array3dJulia.pngstack2array3d(sliceDirectory, startImage, endImage) $$ $$ $$ $$
```

Fragment referenced in 42.

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

```
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])[2])
```

Fragment referenced in 42.

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 12 there is a sample conversion from the matrix to the array

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

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

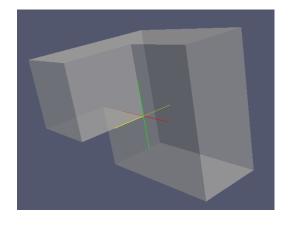
Figure 12: Transformation of a matrix resulting from a 2x2x2 grid into a linearized array (with cells indexes) (a) First example (b) Second example

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:

Fragment referenced in 42.

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 13 there are some examples of models extracted from a single $2 \times 2 \times 2$ block.

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:



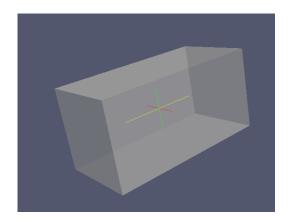


Figure 13: Sample models of 2x2x2 blocks

```
\langle get inner model and boundaries 41a \rangle \equiv
     models = LARUtils.computeModelAndBoundaries(imageDx, imageDy, imageDy,
                                                     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 42.
\langle write \ block \ models \ to \ file \ 41b \rangle \equiv
     # 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)
```

Model2Obj.writeToObj(V_right, FV_right, right_outputFilename)

right_outputFilename = string(outputDirectory, "MODELS/right_output_", xBlock,

"-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)

```
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)
     Model20bj.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 42.
This is the processFunction for this pipeline step
\langle image\ conversion\ process\ 42 \, \rangle \equiv
     function imageConversionProcess(sliceDirectory,
                                     startImage, endImage,
                                     imageDx, imageDy,
                                     imageWidth, imageHeight,
                                     outputDirectory,
                                     boundaryMat)
       Support function for converting a stack of image on a single
       independent process
       11 11 11
       ⟨ image read 39a ⟩
       ⟨ block iteration 39b ⟩
           ⟨ get image slice 40 ⟩
           if(length(chains3D) != 0)
              # Computing boundary chain
              debug("chains3d = ", chains3D)
              debug("Computing boundary chain")
              objectBoundaryChain = Lar2Julia.larBoundaryChain(boundaryMat, chains3D)
```

```
mkdir(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"))
              catch
              end
              ⟨ get inner model and boundaries 41a ⟩
              ⟨ write block models to file 41b⟩
            else
              debug("Model is empty")
            end
          end
       end
     end <
Fragment referenced in 99a.
This is the code for starting this pipeline step:
\langle pixels To Voxels function 43 \rangle \equiv
     function pixelsToVoxels(sliceDirectory,
                               imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                               imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                               outputDirectory,
                               boundaryMat)
       11 11 11
       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)
```

debug("Converting models into obj")

```
# Waiting for tasks
for task in tasks
wait(task)
end
end <>
Fragment referenced in 99a.

| pixels to voxels conversion step 44a | =
| Otime pixelsToVoxels(sliceDirectory, imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth, imageDx, imageDy, imageDz, outputDirectory, boundaryMat) <>
| Fragment referenced in 38a.
```

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 \ boundary \ merge \ process \ function \ 44b \ \rangle \equiv \\ function \ merge Boundaries Process (model Directory, \\ xBlock, \ yBlock, \\ start Image, \ end Image, \\ image Dx, \ image Dy, \\ image Width, \ image Height) \\ """ \\ Helper \ function \ for \ merge Boundaries. \\ 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 99a.

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

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.

 $\langle merge\ boundaries\ utility\ function\ 45 \rangle \equiv$

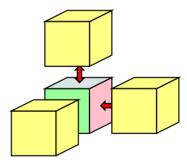


Figure 14: Merging of boundary faces. For a single block we need adjacent blocks on the right, top and front

```
function mergeBoundariesAndRemoveDuplicates(firstPath, secondPath)
  Merge two boundary files removing common faces between
  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 <
```

This is the code used to start this pipeline step:

Fragment referenced in 38a.

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:

```
\langle Block \ merge \ process \ function \ 47b \rangle \equiv
     function mergeBlocksProcess(modelDirectory,
                                     xBlock, yBlock,
                                     startImage, endImage,
                                     imageDx, imageDy,
                                     imageWidth, imageHeight)
       11 11 11
       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
       Model2Obj.writeToObj(V, FV, string(modelDirectory, "/model_output_",
                                  xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage))
     end <
Fragment referenced in 99a.
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
\langle block merge step 48 \rangle \equiv
     @time iterateOnBlocks(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"),
                        imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                        imageDx, imageDy, imageDz,
                        mergeBlocksProcess)
```

5.4.4 Smoothing step

Fragment referenced in 38a.

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:

```
\langle Smooth \ block \ process \ function \ 49 \rangle \equiv
     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
   outputFilename = string(modelDirectory, "/smoothed_output_", xBlock, "-",
                            yBlock, "_", startImage, "_", endImage)
   Model20bj.writeToObj(V_final, blockModelFV, outputFilename)
  end
end <
```

Fragment referenced in 99a.

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 Smoother module. Finally we save only smoothed vertices for the chosen block and continue with the other blocks. In Figure 15 there is a graphical explanation for the algorithm.

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:

```
\langle \ execute \ smoothing \ function \ 50 \ \rangle \equiv function smoothBlocks(modelDirectory, imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
```

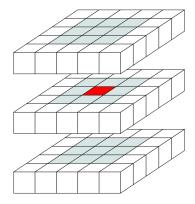


Figure 15: Smoothing of a single block. The red block at the center of the figure is the current one, while the other twenty six colored ones are the blocks that will be part of the model which will be smoothed for this iteration

```
imageDx, imageDy, imageDz)
11 11 11
Smoothes all blocks of the
model
iterations = 1
for i in 1:iterations
  info("Iteration ", i)
  iterateOnBlocks(modelDirectory,
                  imageHeight, imageWidth, imageDepth,
                  imageDx, imageDz,
                  smoothBlocksProcess)
  # Moving smoothed file for next iterations
  beginImageStack = 0
  endImage = beginImageStack
  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)
       f_V = string(modelDirectory, "/smoothed_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_",
                     startImage, "_", endImage, "_vtx.stl")
       f_FV = string(modelDirectory, "/smoothed_output_", xBlock, "-", yBlock, "_",
                      startImage, "_", endImage, "_faces.stl")
```

```
if(isfile(f_V))
    if VERSION >= v"0.4"
        mv(f_V, replace(f_V, "smoothed", "model"), remove_destination = true)
        mv(f_FV, replace(f_FV, "smoothed", "model"), remove_destination = true)
    else
        mv(f_V, replace(f_V, "smoothed", "model"))
        mv(f_FV, replace(f_FV, "smoothed", "model"))
        end
        end
```

Fragment referenced in 99a.

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:

Fragment referenced in 38a.

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 53a⟩ ≡

if parallelMerge
     @time Model2Obj.mergeObjParallel(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS"))

else
     @time Model2Obj.mergeObj(string(outputDirectory, "MODELS")) ◊

Fragment referenced in 38a.
```

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 53b⟩ ≡
  import LARUtils, Lar2Julia
  import JSON
  export computeOriented3Border, writeBorder, getOriented3BorderPath, getBorderMatrix
  ◊
```

Fragment referenced in 99b.

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:

```
\langle get \ Border \ matrix \ 53c \rangle \equiv
```

```
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 99b.

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 54⟩ ≡
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 99b.

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

```
⟨ Matrix object for JSON file 55a ⟩ ≡
    type MatrixObject
    ROWCOUNT
    COLCOUNT
    ROW
    COL
    DATA
    end ◊
```

Fragment referenced in 99b.

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 55b⟩ ≡

# 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 99b.

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

```
\langle transform\ border\ matrix\ in\ csc\ format\ 56 \rangle \equiv
     function getBorderMatrix(borderFilename)
       Get the border matrix from json file and convert it in
       CSC format
       11 11 11
       # 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]
       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 99b.

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 57a⟩ ≡
   import JSON
   using Logging
   export larBoundaryChain, cscChainToCellList, relationshipListToCSC ◊
Fragment referenced in 100a.
```

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 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.

```
    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
    k += 1
 end
 return CSCm
end \diamond
```

Fragment referenced in 100a.

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.

```
\langle get \ oriented \ cells \ from \ a \ chain \ 58 \rangle \equiv
```

```
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 100a.

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 16 we can see an example of a LAR relationship with different representations.

```
⟨ transform relationships to csc 59⟩ ≡
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)
```

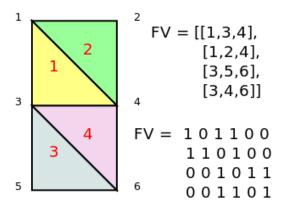


Figure 16: Different representations for faces of a simple LAR model. the first one is based on a list of list of int, while the other is a simple matrix where for every value we have $FV[i][j] = 1 \iff face \ i \ contains \ the \ vertex \ j$

```
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
return sparse(I, J, data)
end
```

Fragment referenced in 100a.

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 \ convex \ combination \ of \ an \ array \ of \ vectors \ 60 \ \rangle \equiv function convexCombination(vectors)
```

```
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 \diamond
Fragment referenced in 65.
\langle sparse\ matrix\ transposition\ 61a \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 65.

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.

```
(non-oriented boundary 61b) =
  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 \diamond
Fragment referenced in 65.
\langle boundary filter 62 \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 \diamond
```

Fragment referenced in 65.

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

```
\langle oriented boundary operator 63 \rangle \equiv
     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
       cscBoundary = boundary(bases[end], bases[end - 1])
       rows, columns = findn(cscBoundary)
       pairs = map(((x,y) \rightarrow 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]
      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 x[1], pairs, map(((x)->return x[1]), pairs), map(((x)->return x[2]), pairs), signs)
end <
```

Fragment referenced in 65.

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

```
(incidence operator 64) =
  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]] = []
           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
       return reverse (relations)
     end <
Fragment referenced in 65.
\langle boundary \ computation \ 65 \rangle \equiv
     ⟨ convex combination of an array of vectors 60 ⟩
     ⟨ sparse matrix transposition 61a ⟩
     ⟨ boundary filter 62 ⟩
```

```
\langle non-oriented boundary 61b\rangle
\langle incidence operator 64\rangle
\langle oriented boundary operator 63\rangle \diamond
Fragment referenced in 100a.
```

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 \ modules \ import \ LARUtils \ 66a \rangle \equiv \\ using \ Logging \\ export \ ind, \ invertIndex, \ getBases, \ removeDoubleVerticesAndFaces, \\ computeModelAndBoundaries \\ \diamond
```

Fragment referenced in 100b.

Fragment referenced in 100b.

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 66b⟩ ≡
function ind(x, y, z, nx, ny)
"""

Transform coordinates into linearized matrix indexes
"""

return x + (nx + 1) * (y + (ny + 1) * (z))
end ◊
```

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 67a⟩ ≡

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 100b.

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).

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

```
\langle compute \ vertices \ 67b \rangle \equiv
```

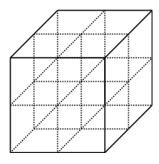


Figure 17: LAR bases geometry for a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid

```
# 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
```

Fragment referenced in 70c.

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 68⟩ ≡

# 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 70c.

For every coordinate in the space delimited by the grid size, it is called function the 3Dcell, which get the coordinate values returning a cell in the three-dimensional space:

Fragment referenced in 70c.

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

```
\langle compute FV 69b \rangle \equiv
     # 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 70c.

Finally we have the VV relationship (which is trivial)

```
\langle compute VV 70a \rangle \equiv
      # Building VV relationship
      VV = map((x) \rightarrow [x], 0:length(V) - 1) \diamond
Fragment referenced in 70c.
and the EV relationship
\langle compute EV 70b \rangle \equiv
      # 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)])
         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 \diamond
Fragment referenced in 70c.
This is the complete code for the function getBases
\langle get \ LAR \ bases \ 70c \rangle \equiv
      function getBases(nx, ny, nz)
         Compute all LAR relations
         \langle compute \ three-dimensional \ cells \ 69a \rangle
         ⟨ compute vertices 67b ⟩
         \langle compute CV 68 \rangle
```

 $\langle compute FV 69b \rangle$

```
⟨ compute VV 70a⟩
⟨ compute EV 70b⟩

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

Fragment referenced in 100b.

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 17 we could obtain double vertices (and consequently double faces). Figure 18 shows an example of a model with these vertices:

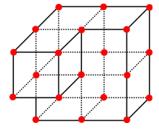


Figure 18: A sample model taken from a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid with double vertices between faces in red (remember that we have only the boundaries faces for the model as we have seen in section 5.4.1)

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:

```
if v1[2] == v2[2]
    return v1[3] < v2[3]
    end
    return v1[2] < v2[2]
    end
    return v1[1] < v2[1]
end </pre>
```

Fragment referenced in 74.

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)

```
\langle removal \ of \ double \ vertices \ 72 \rangle \equiv
     function removeDoubleVertices(V)
       Remove double vertices from a LAR model
       V: Array containing all vertices of the model
       11 11 11
       # 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
           push!(newVertices, v)
           indices[ind] = i
           i += 1
           prevv = v
         end
       end
       return newVertices, indices
     end <
```

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 new Vertices will contain all unique vertices, while the *indices* array will contain the correct index for every vertex into new Vertices and the index corresponding to the saved vertex for every deleted vertex.

Now we can use these informations for renaming all faces.

```
⟨ renaming of faces 73⟩ ≡
    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 ◊
```

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 74⟩ ≡
    ⟨ vertices comparator function 71⟩

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 72⟩
    ⟨ renaming of faces 73⟩ ⋄

Fragment referenced in 100b.
```

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:

```
\langle models \ definition \ 75 \rangle \equiv
     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 79.
```

We can see from Figure 19 that our grid is divided into seven parts.

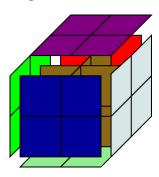


Figure 19: Decomposition of a LAR model into seven parts: the inside model (brown), the left boundary (green), the right boundary (light blue), the top boundary (purple), the bottom boundary (light green), the front boundary(blue), the back boundary (red)

We 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 20)

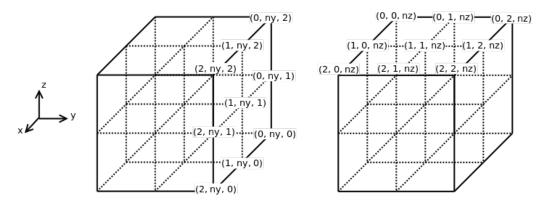


Figure 20: Boundaries coordinates for top and right boundaries of a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ grid. We can observe that every boundary has a fixed coordinate

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 76⟩ ≡
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
```

the offset of the current face for the model chosen:

Fragment referenced in 79.

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

```
\langle add \ a \ face \ to \ a \ model \ 78 \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])
```

```
\begin{array}{c} \texttt{return new\_vertex\_count} \\ \texttt{end} \ \diamondsuit \end{array}
```

Fragment referenced in 79.

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.

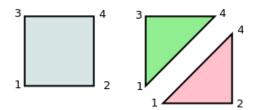


Figure 21: Triangulation of a single face

This is the complete code for creation of a model

```
\langle \, LAR \,\, model \,\, creation \,\, 79 \, \rangle \equiv
      ⟨ check membership of a face to a boundary 76 ⟩
      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
        \langle add \ a \ face \ to \ a \ model \ 78 \rangle
        \langle models \ definition \ 75 \rangle
        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
```

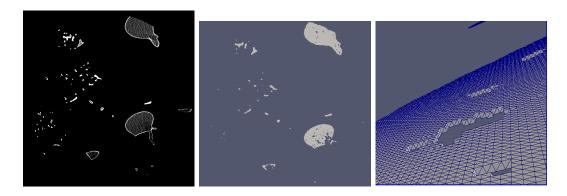


Figure 22: Creation of a sample model. (a) The original image (b) The three-dimensional model (c) The three-dimensional model (detail with triangular faces)

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 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

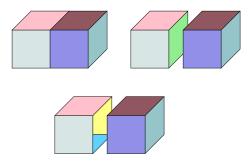


Figure 23: Removal of double faces from boundaries. (a) Two adjacent blocks (b) The same blocks exploded on x axis (c) Result of the removal on the exploded blocks

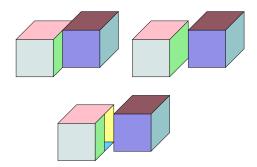


Figure 24: Same as Figure 23 with another model

ones in the last vertices array. Code for this function is the following:

```
⟨Removal of double vertices and faces from boundaries 82⟩ ≡
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)

# 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) \rightarrow x == f, FV\_reindexed) == 1)
      push!(FV_cleaned, f)
    \quad \text{end} \quad
  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)
    push!(FV_final, tmp)
  end
  return V_final, FV_final
end \diamond
```

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.

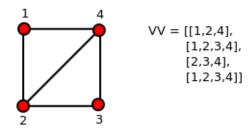


Figure 25: VV relationship for a simple model

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 get \ adjacent \ vertices \ 84 \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
       11 11 11
       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}[]
            push!(VV[v], FV[i][1], FV[i][2], FV[i][3])
            VV[v] = unique(VV[v])
```

```
end
return VV
end ◊
```

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.

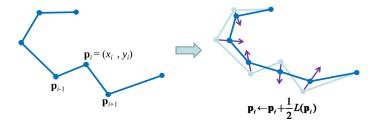


Figure 26: Laplacian smoothing (picture taken from the *Geometry Processing Algorithms* course at Stanford University)

As we can see from Figure 26, 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 28, 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.

```
\langle laplacian smoothing 85 \rangle =
function smoothModel(V, FV)

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

V, FV: LAR model
"""

VV = adjVerts(V, FV)
```

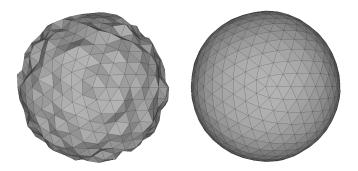


Figure 27: Laplacian smoothing for a sample mesh. (a) Original mesh (b) Mesh after three iterations of the smoothing algorithm (picture taken from a *Digital Geometry Processing* course at IMPA)

```
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])
    # 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 \diamond
```

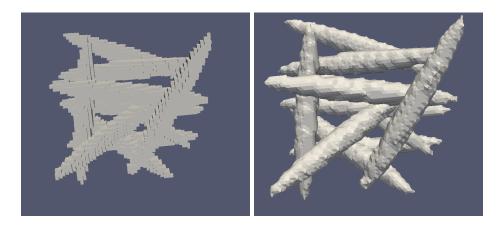


Figure 28: Smoothing of a sample model made with ImagesToLARModel

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 29 there is an example of an obj 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 87⟩ ≡
   function writeToObj(V, FV, outputFilename)
    """
    Take a LAR model and write it on obj file
```

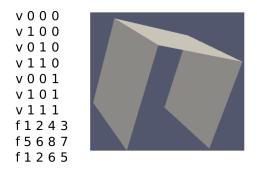


Figure 29: Obj sample file

```
V: array containing vertices coordinates
FV: array containing faces
outputFilename: prefix for the output files
11 11 11
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
```

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:

```
\langle serial file merge 89 \rangle \equiv
     function mergeObj(modelDirectory)
       Merge stl files in a single obj file
       modelDirectory: directory containing models
       11 11 11
       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]))
        write(obj_file, string(splitted[2], " "))
        write(obj_file, string(splitted[3], " "))
        write(obj_file, splitted[4])
      write(obj_file, "\n")
   close(f)
 close(obj_file)
 # Removing all tmp files
 for vtx_file in vertices_files
   rm(string(modelDirectory, "/", vtx_file))
  end
 for fcs_file in faces_files
   rm(string(modelDirectory, "/", fcs_file))
  end
end <
```

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 30 there is a simple schema for this algorithm.

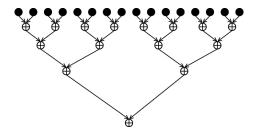


Figure 30: The first parallel algorithm for file merge. Black circles represent the original files, while circles with the cross, represent merged files

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 31 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 31:

```
⟨ assign tasks 91⟩ ≡
  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
```

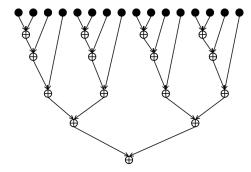


Figure 31: A better algorithm for file merge

```
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 </pre>
```

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 92⟩ ≡
   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
```

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:

```
    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[4]) + facesOffset, ""))
        write(f1, string(parse(splitted[4]) + facesOffset, "\n"))
        end
```

```
close(f2)
close(f1)
end ◊
```

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

```
\langle parallel merge obj process function 94 \rangle \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
       11 11 11
       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 \diamond
```

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:

```
\langle merge\ obj\ helper\ function\ 95 \rangle \equiv
     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
```

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 31, 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

Fragment referenced in 101a.

```
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
```

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.

```
\langle Load models from file 97 \rangle =
    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 \diamond
```

11 Exporting the library

ImagesToLARModel

Fragment referenced in 101a.

```
"src/ImagesToLARModel.jl" 98 \equiv \mod 1  module ImagesToLARModel \langle update \ load \ path \ 6 \rangle \langle modules \ import \ ImagesToLARModel \ 7a \rangle \langle load \ JSON \ configuration \ 10 \rangle \langle load \ JSON \ configuration \ for \ data \ preparation \ 7b \rangle \langle data \ preparation \ from \ JSON \ file \ 11 \rangle \langle manual \ data \ preparation \ 12 \rangle \langle Start \ conversion \ from \ JSON \ file \ 13a \rangle \langle Start \ manual \ conversion \ 13b \rangle end
```

ImagesConversion

```
"src/ImagesConversion.jl" 99a≡
module ImagesConversion

⟨ modules import ImagesConversion 34a⟩

⟨ main function for ImagesConversion 34b⟩

⟨ parallel block iteration 36⟩

⟨ pixelsToVoxels function 43⟩

⟨ start conversion of images 38b⟩

⟨ image conversion process 42⟩

⟨ boundary merge process function 44b⟩

⟨ merge boundaries utility function 45⟩

⟨ Block merge process function 47b⟩

⟨ Smooth block process function 49⟩

⟨ execute smoothing function 50⟩

end

⋄
```

GenerateBorderMatrix

```
"src/GenerateBorderMatrix.jl" 99b≡
module GenerateBorderMatrix

⟨ Matrix object for JSON file 55a⟩

⟨ modules import GenerateBorderMatrix 53b⟩

⟨ compute border matrix 55b⟩

⟨ write Border matrix 54⟩
```

```
\langle get Border matrix 53c \rangle
\langle transform border matrix in csc format 56 \rangle
end \diamond
```

Lar2Julia

```
"src/Lar2Julia.jl" 100a≡
module Lar2Julia

⟨ modules import Lar2Julia 57a⟩

⟨ get boundary chain 57b⟩

⟨ get oriented cells from a chain 58⟩

⟨ transform relationships to csc 59⟩

⟨ boundary computation 65⟩
end

⋄
```

LARUtils

```
"src/LARUtils.jl" 100b≡

module LARUtils

⟨modules import LARUtils 66a⟩

⟨conversion from matrix to array 66b⟩

⟨conversion from array to matrix 67a⟩

⟨get LAR bases 70c⟩

⟨removal of double vertices and faces 74⟩

⟨Removal of double vertices and faces from boundaries 82⟩
```

```
\langle \, LAR \,\, model \,\, creation \,\, 79 \, 
angle end \diamond
```

Model2Obj

```
"src/Model20bj.jl" 101a≡
module Model20bj

using Logging

export writeToObj, mergeObj, mergeObjParallel

⟨write obj files 87⟩

⟨serial file merge 89⟩

⟨assign tasks 91⟩

⟨merge vertices file 92⟩

⟨merge faces file 93⟩

⟨parallel merge obj process function 94⟩

⟨merge obj helper function 95⟩

⟨merge obj parallel 96⟩

⟨Load models from file 97⟩
end

⋄
```

PngStack2Array3dJulia

"src/PngStack2Array3dJulia.jl" $101b\equiv$

module PngStack2Array3dJulia

```
\langle \ modules \ import \ PngStack2Array3dJulia \ 14 \rangle
\langle \ image \ resizing \ 19 \rangle
\langle \ image \ clustering \ 22 \rangle
\langle \ 3d \ model \ filtering \ 29 \rangle
\langle \ Convert \ to \ png \ 18 \rangle
\langle \ Get \ image \ data \ 30 \rangle
\langle \ Pixel \ transformation \ 31 \rangle
end
\diamond
```

Smoother

```
"src/Smoother.jl" 102≡

module Smoother
export smoothModel

⟨ get adjacent vertices 84⟩

⟨ laplacian smoothing 85⟩
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

filename = "borderFile"

```
"test/generateBorderMatrix.jl" 103 \equiv
   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
    colcount = boundaryMatrix[:shape][2]
    @test colcount == 8
    row = boundaryMatrix[:indptr]
    col = boundaryMatrix[:indices]
    data = boundaryMatrix[:data]
    end
   function testWriteBorder()
    Test for writeBorder
```

boundaryMatrix = GenerateBorderMatrix.computeOriented3Border(2,2,2)

```
GenerateBorderMatrix.writeBorder(boundaryMatrix, filename)
 @test isfile(filename)
 # Loading borderMatrix from json file
 borderData = JSON.parsefile(filename)
 row = Array(Int64, length(borderData["ROW"]))
 col = Array(Int64, length(borderData["COL"]))
 data = Array(Int64, length(borderData["DATA"]))
 @test borderData["ROW"] == [0,1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,15,17,18,19,20,22,23,24,26,27,29,30,3
 @test borderData["COL"] == [0,0,0,1,1,0,1,1,2,0,2,2,3,1,3,2,3,3,2,3,0,4,4,4,1,5,5,4,5,5,2,6,
 rm(filename)
end
function executeAllTests()
 @time testComputeOriented3Border()
 @time testWriteBorder()
 println("Tests completed.")
end
executeAllTests()
```

Conversion of a png stack to a 3D array

```
"test/pngStack2Array3dJulia.jl" 104\(\text{10AD_PATH, "../../")}\)
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
 \texttt{@test size(image3d[1])[2] == 200}
end
function executeAllTests()
 @time testCalculateClusterCentroids()
 @time testPngstack2array3d()
 @time testGetImageData()
 println("Tests completed.")
end
```

executeAllTests()

Test for LAR utilities

```
"test/LARUtils.jl" 105 \equiv
     push!(LOAD_PATH, "../../")
     import LARUtils
     using Base.Test
     function testInd()
       Test function for ind
       nx = 2
       ny = 2
       \texttt{@test LARUtils.ind(0, 0, 0, nx, ny) == 0}
       Otest LARUtils.ind(1, 1, 1, nx, ny) == 13
       Otest LARUtils.ind(2, 5, 4, nx, ny) == 53
       \texttt{@test LARUtils.ind(1, 1, 1, nx, ny) == 13}
       Otest LARUtils.ind(2, 7, 1, nx, ny) == 32
       Otest LARUtils.ind(1, 0, 3, nx, ny) == 28
     end
     function executeAllTests()
       @time testInd()
       println("Tests completed.")
     end
     executeAllTests()
```