



# pointcloudlibrary

## Point Cloud Library (**PCL**)

**Radu B. Rusu**

over 110 developers/contributors worldwide!... and counting

July 1, 2011



## Outline

1. Why

2. How

3. PCL

4. Apps

5. Specifics



What is this all about?



## Why (2-10/16)

Before we begin...

1. name is not important (!!). We can call this:



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2. what matters: we need 3d infrastructure for the masses!



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2. what matters: we need 3d infrastructure for the masses!
3. analogy to Boost: modular, compact, efficient, fast, open



Goal: Solve **n-D perception** problems!





# Why (12/16)

## n-D Perception???

- ▶ What is he talking about? What is n-D perception?



- ▶ at the very least  $n = 3$ : x,y,z.
- ▶ + RGB = 4D
- ▶ + normal information = 7D
- ▶ + surface curvature = 8D
- ▶ + ... = n-D





# Why (13/16)

The world is not 2D



Sony 3D TV Commercial © Sony Electronics Inc., USA

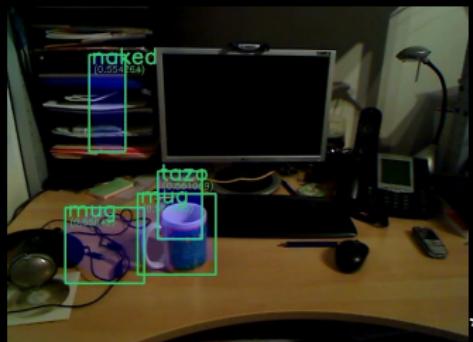
there's no robotics without 3D geometry



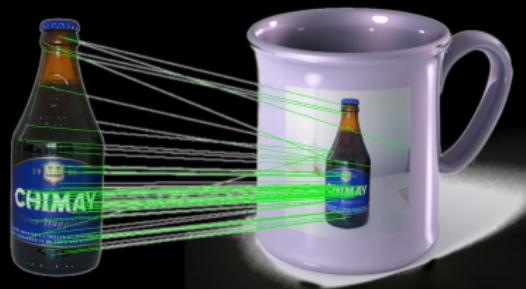
# Why (14/16)

2D thinking might be slowing us down

- ▶ great progress in 2D computer vision



- ▶ still poised by false positives. **not good enough** for robotics.





## Why (15/16)

3D has arrived!



- ▶ Kinect was just the beginning
- ▶ Asus XtionPro is next
- ▶ other devices coming soon

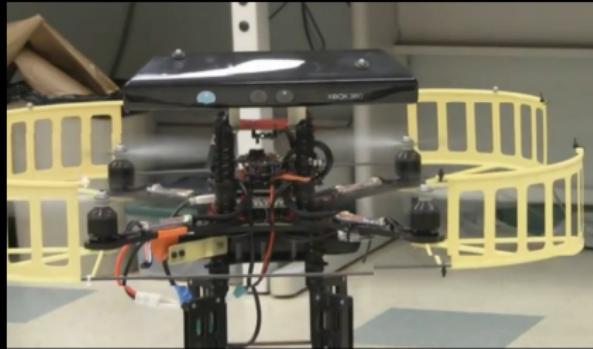
- ▶ 3D pocket cameras!
- ▶ high resolution, decent SNR
- ▶ potential for good close range 3D
- ▶ at some point => back to stereo!





# Why (16/16)

Kinect enables robotics





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## How (1/5)



# pointcloudlibrary

<http://pointclouds.org/>



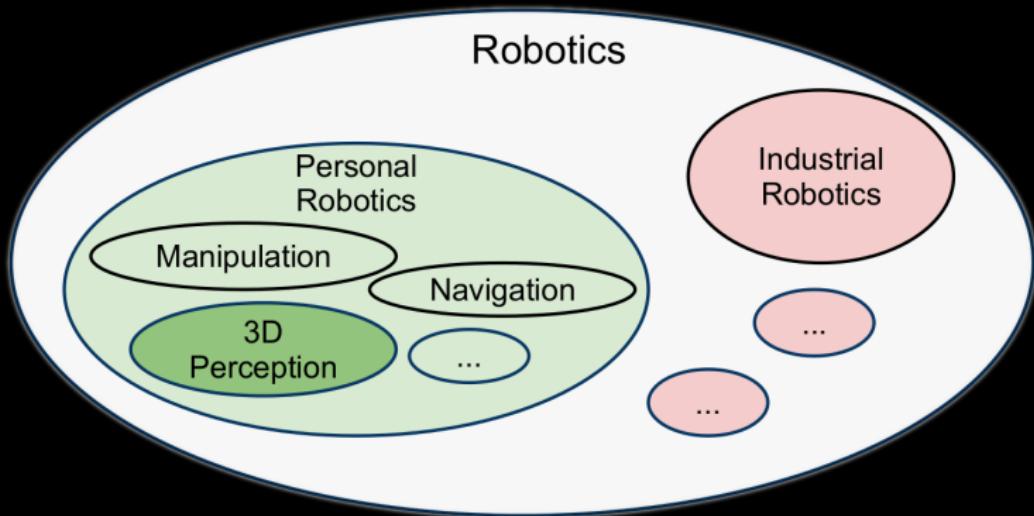
## How (2/5)

What is PCL (Point Cloud Library)?

PCL is:

- ▶ a large scale, open project<sup>1</sup> for 3D point cloud processing

We are basically changing our attitude from this:



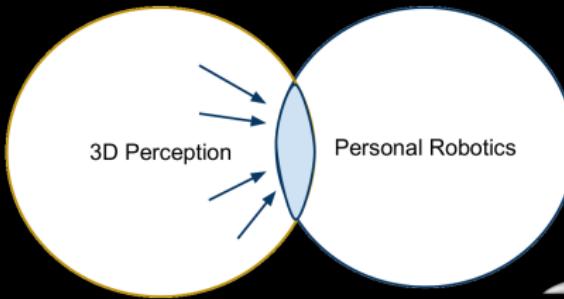
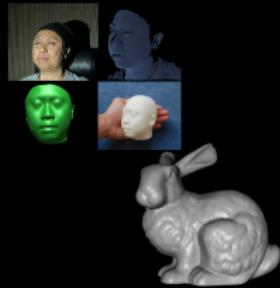
<sup>1</sup> source code is BSD licensed, management process is completely open



## How (3/5)

What is PCL (Point Cloud Library)?

to this:



This means:

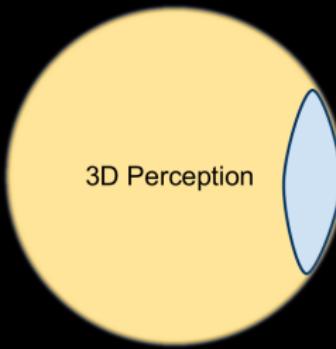
- ▶ their complexity is equally high
- ▶ many things in perception (that we do not think of) could help robotics



## How (4/5)

What is PCL (Point Cloud Library)?

- ▶ leverage the **broader** (non-robot) 3D perception community
- ▶ help advance **specific goals** in personal robotics

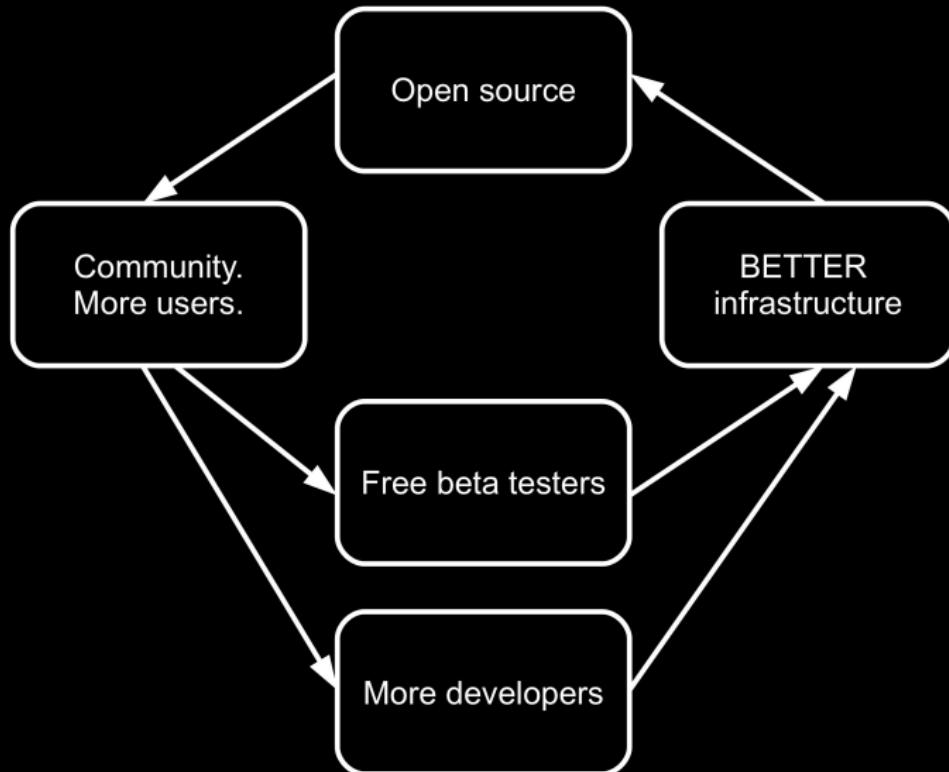


- ▶ many people don't care about robotics, but they care about perception
- ▶ bring them to robotics later



## How (5/5)

What is PCL (Point Cloud Library)?





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# PCL (1/3)

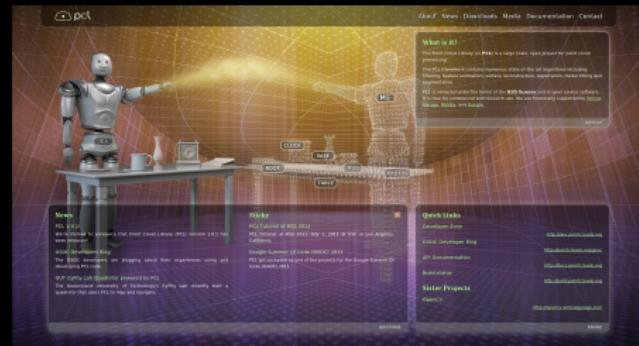
## Statistics

[www.pointclouds.org](http://www.pointclouds.org)

- ▶ News
- ▶ Videos and examples
- ▶ Tutorials and support
- ▶ Facebook/Twitter ☺

## Statistics (3 months):

- ▶ over **500,000** views
- ▶ over **90,000** visits
- ▶ **6** continents
- ▶ **138** countries
- ▶ over **4,000,000** SVN repository hits





## PCL (2/3)

### An incredible community-driven push for 3D!

#### Developers

The project is currently supported by engineers and scientists from a number of organizations, geographically distributed all around the world, including:

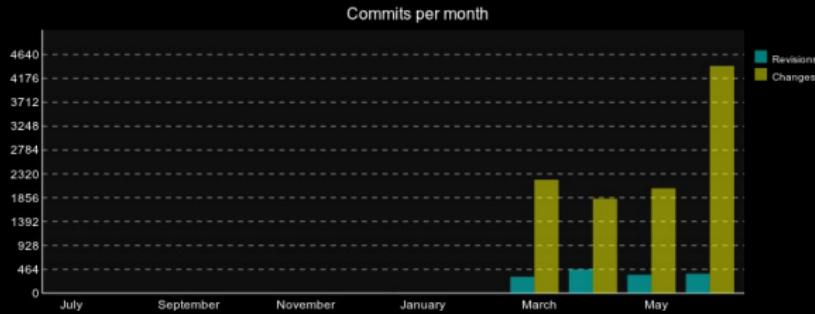


Please see the developers website at <http://dev.pointclouds.org/> for more details.

over 110 active developers and contributors world-wide (!)



## PCL (3/3)



dev.pointclouds.org

- ▶ Source repository, Downloads
- ▶ Issue tracking
- ▶ Wiki
- ▶ Mailing lists: pcl-users@ & pcl-developers@



GSOC

- ▶ 175 out of 417 organizations accepted only (!)
- ▶ PCL accepted (!) ☺
- ▶ got 11 slots

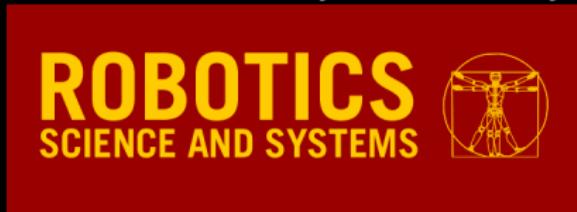




## Tutorials

conferences: RSS, IROS, ICCV, CVPR

- ▶ **RSS** - Robotics Science and Systems :: July 1



- ▶ **IROS** - Intelligent Robots and Systems :: September 25



- ▶ **ICCV** - International Conference on Computer Vision





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# Demo Applications (1/5)

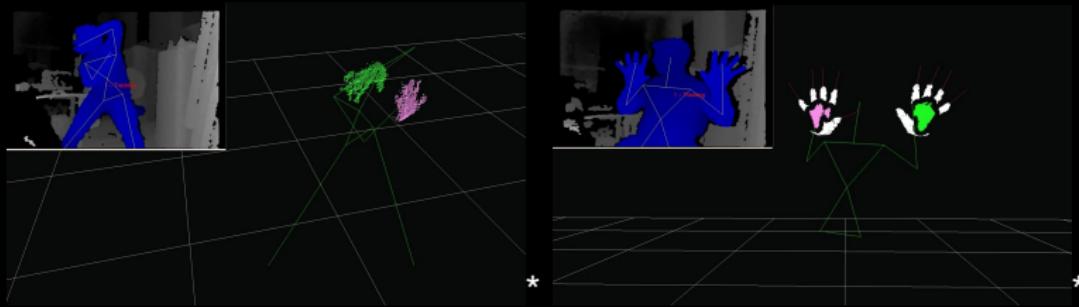
PCL Application Examples :: ROS3D contest





## Demo Applications (2/5)

PCL Application Examples :: ROS3D contest





## Demo Applications (3/5)

PCL Application Examples :: ROS3D contest





# Demo Applications (4/5)

PCL Application Examples :: ROS3D contest

## Altitude Control Using Kinect Data

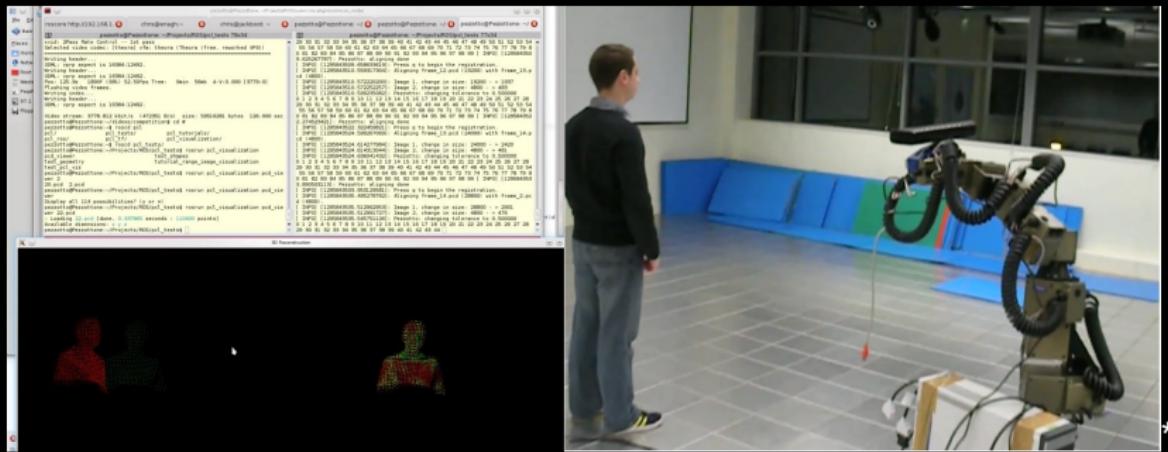


\*



# Demo Applications (5/5)

## PCL Application Examples :: ROS3D contest





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# 1.0.1 released

## PCL 1.0.1 (1/8)

Cloud icon and 'pcl' logo.

**PCL 1.0.1!**

Posted on Jun 29, 2011 | Tag: [release](#), [1.0.1](#)

We're thrilled to announce that Point Cloud Library (PCL) version 1.0.1 has been released!

We're thrilled to announce that Point Cloud Library (PCL) version 1.0.1 has been released!

**pcl 1.0.1**

PCL 1.0.1 is a patch release, API compatible with 1.0. Here's [a few of the release highlights](#):

- please note that version 1.0.0 had a flaw when creating ASCII pcl files. This version includes the tool pcl\_convert\_NaN\_nan to fix this
- fixed a bug in the `computeNormalTolerance`
- fixing the `cmisspack/FLANN` headers, thus reducing compile time for user code
- fixed `IntegralImageKernelEstimation`
- tutorial updates and fixes + new tutorials. Changed tutorial structure to split CPP files from RST text.
- better doxygen documentation for many functions
- fixed a bug in `ConditionalRemovalFilter` where the `keep`, organized condition was reversed
- removed `BorderDescription` and `Histogram<2>` from the list of explicit template instantiations
- added `PoIntXYZ` point registration macros
- added `ExternalIndicesSelf` unit tests
- removed support of `OpenNI` on 32bit architectures
- PCD ascii files now have each individual line trimmed for trailing spaces
- internal changes for `PCDRewriter`, where NAN data is represented as "nan"
- sped up compilation with MSVC by adding `/MP` for multiprocessor builds
- added a voxel grid command line tool filter
- issues fixed: #242, #207, #237, #215, #236, #226, #148, #214, #218, #216, #196, #219, #207, #194, #192, #183, #178, #154, #174, #145, #155, #122
- added support for PathScale pathc compiler
- added support for Intel icc C++ compiler
- added support for GCC 4.6 C++ compiler
- added preliminary support for Clang C++ compiler
- `FindPCL`, `make` and `PCLConfig`, `make` completed

New to PCL? Visit our [downloads](#) page and give it a try. If you're looking for ideas on how to get started, be sure to check out our growing collection of [tutorials](#).

**Other news**



## PCL (Point Cloud Library) structure

### PCL

- ▶ uses **SSE** optimizations for fast computations
- ▶ uses **OpenMP** for parallelization (Boost.MPI to come!)
- ▶ data passing between modules using **shared pointers**
- ▶ uses **CUDA** for GPGPU programming (trunk only atm)
- ▶ unit tests, examples, tutorials (!)
- ▶ **apps**: higher level + integration



## PCL (Point Cloud Library) structure

...split into a collection of smaller, modular C++ libraries:

- ▶ **libpcl\_keypoints**: nD interest points
- ▶ **libpcl\_features**: nD feature descriptors
- ▶ **libpcl\_surface**: surface meshing/reconstruction techniques
- ▶ **libpcl\_filters**: point cloud data filters and smoothing
- ▶ **libpcl\_io**: I/O operations, 3D camera drivers (e.g., Kinect)
- ▶ **libpcl\_kdtree**: fast nearest neighbor operations
- ▶ **libpcl\_octree**: downsampling, compression, change detection
- ▶ **libpcl\_range\_image**: efficient 3D operations
- ▶ **libpcl\_sample\_consensus**: RANSAC, MSAC, MLESAC, planes, spheres, etc
- ▶ **libpcl\_segmentation**: model segmentation operations
- ▶ **libpcl\_registration**: point cloud registration methods
- ▶ **libpcl\_visualization**: 2D/3D visualization library



## PCL 1.0.1 (4/8)

1.0.1 released

- ▶ full support for OpenNI (Kinect, PrimeSense, Asus XTION)

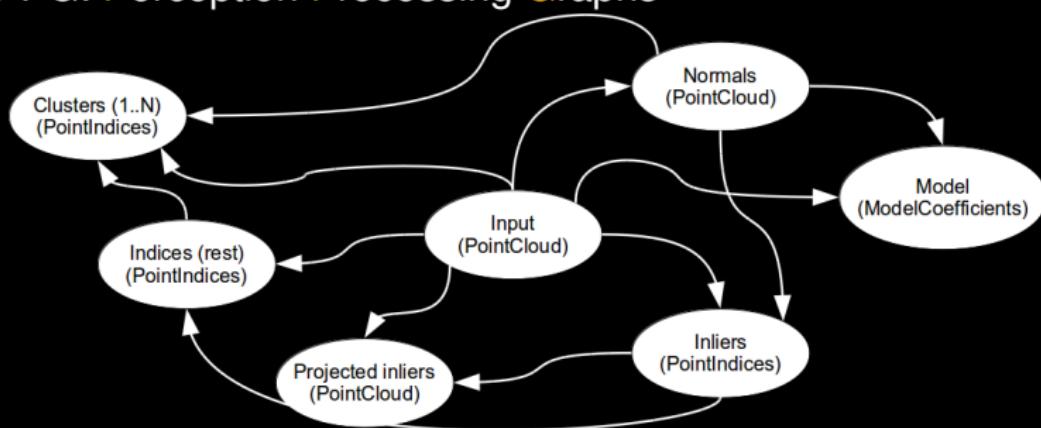


- ▶ Linux, Windows, MacOS support ☈/windows/macOS (next: Android)



## PPG: Perception Processing Graphs

- ▶ Philosophy: *write once, parameterize everywhere*
- ▶ PPG: Perception Processing Graphs

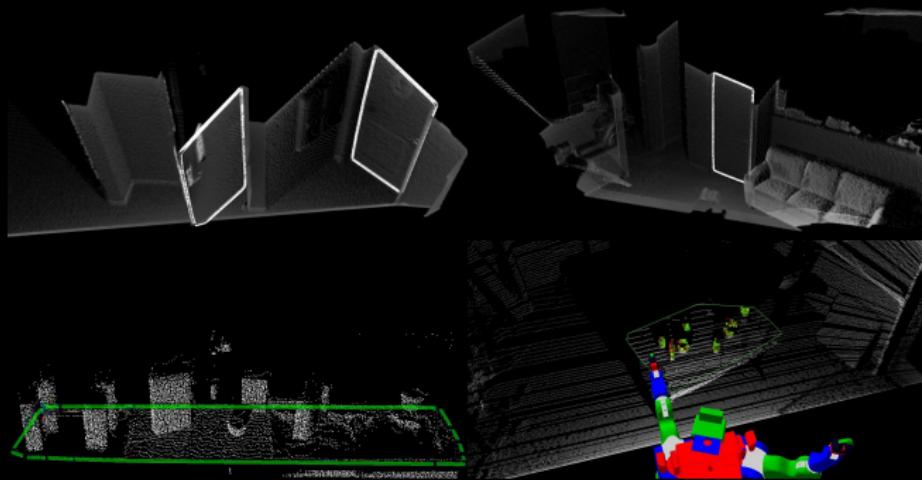




## PPG: Perception Processing Graphs

## Why PPG?

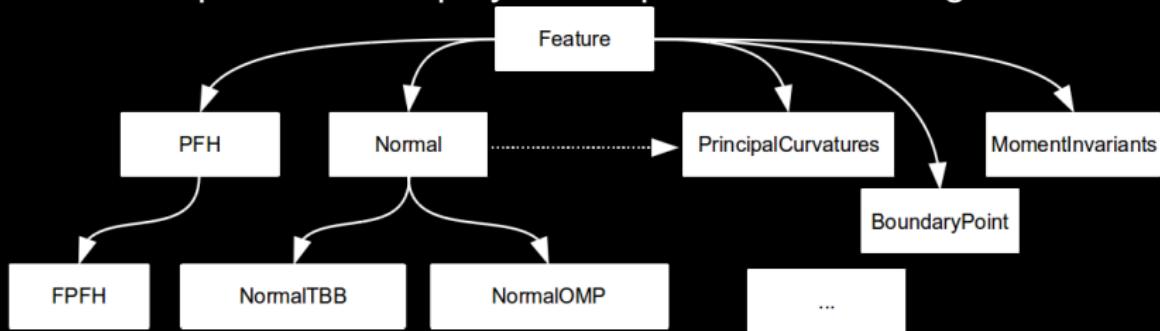
- ▶ Algorithmically:  
door detection = table detection = wall detection = ...
- ▶ the only thing that changes is: parameters (constraints)!





## More on architecture

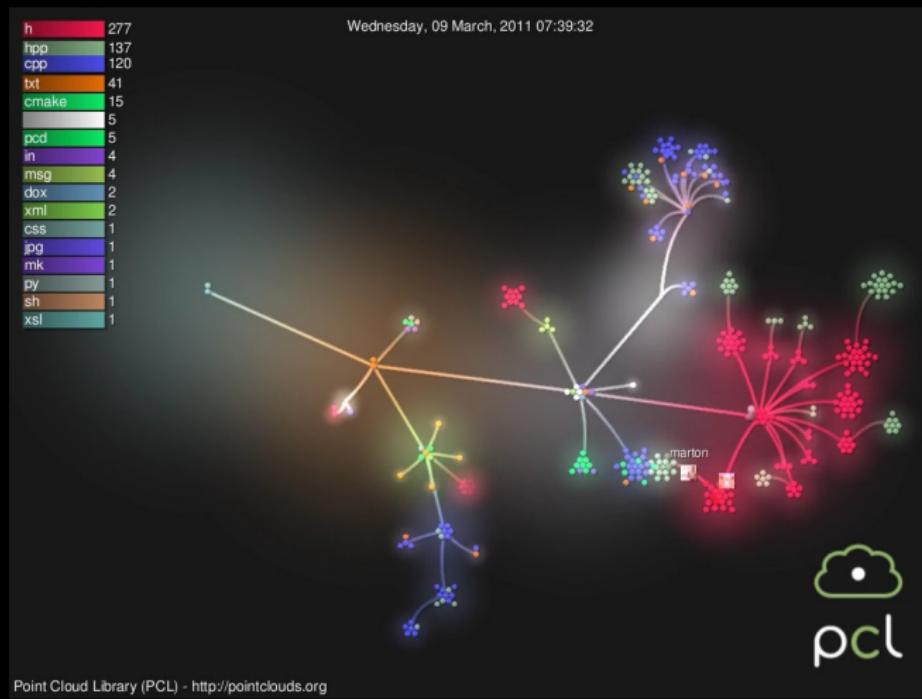
Good API practices simplify development and testing:



```
pcl::Feature<PointT> feat;
feat = pcl::Normal<PointT> (input);
feat = pcl::FPFH<PointT> (input);
feat = pcl::BoundaryPoint<PointT> (input);
...
feat.compute (&output);
...
```



## Project activity





Thanks!



<http://pointclouds.org/>