



Getting started working with LiDAR data (Part 1)

Office Hours - Oracle Spatial Technologies Series

Host: Denise Myrick

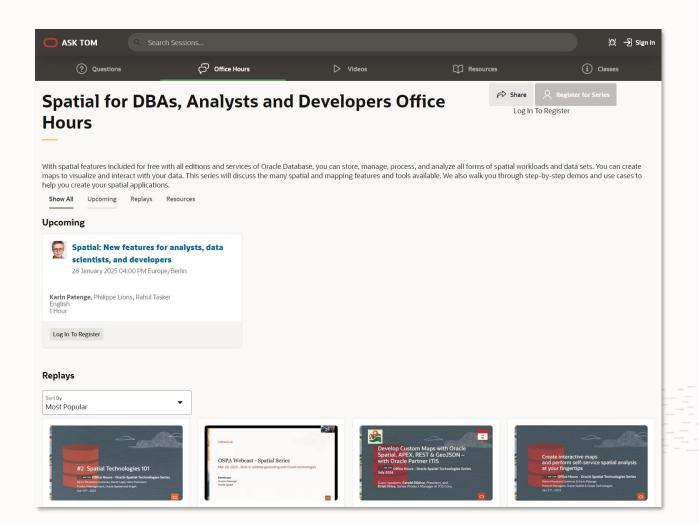
Speaker: Karin Patenge

Oracle Database Product Management | Spatial and Graph Technologies



Previous sessions of the Spatial Series on









Agenda for today

- 1. Basics about LiDAR
- 2. Tools to work with LiDAR data
- 3. Managing LiDAR data in the Oracle Database
- 4. A LiDAR data workflow
- 5. Where to find datasets

Tbc. in the August session



Basics about LiDAR



What is LiDAR?

Light **D**etection **a**nd **R**anging ...

- ... is an active remote sensing system
- ... that uses laser light (which is reflected by the surface it encounters)
- ... to create 3-dimensional representations of realworld objects, environments, or surfaces
- ... or to estimate the range between two objects

Sensors record the reflected light to measure a range.

LiDAR data are also known as **Point Clouds**.

Point Clouds are often used to generate products, such as digital elevation models, canopy models, biomass estimation, building models, contours, or digital twins.





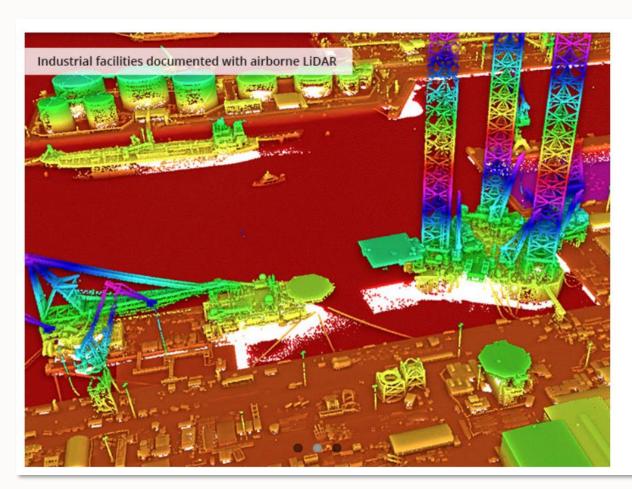
The Data Format

- The standard format for Point Clouds is the LAS file format
- There are other formats, such as E57
- The compressed version of LAS is LAZ
- LAS/LAZ files contain a collection of points with attributes
- Attributes are useful for analysis and visualization
 - XYZ coordinates
 - Point classification
 - Intensity of the returned pulse
 - RGB color values
 - Return number and the total number of returns from the pulse
 - Scan angle
 - Overlap points
 - ...

```
[opc@db-spatial-tools-instance LAStools]$ lasinfo64 ./data/zurich.laz
lasinfo (241210) report for './data/zurich.laz
reporting all LAS header entries:
 file signature:
                             'LASF'
  file source ID:
  global encoding:
  project ID GUID data 1-4:
                            00000000-0000-0000-0000-00000000000000
  version major.minor:
  system identifier:
                             'LAStools (c) rapidlasso'
                             'LAStools'
  generating software:
  file creation day/year:
                             16/2015
  header size:
                             227
  offset to point data:
                             229
 number var. length records: 0
 point data format:
 point data record length:
 number of point records:
                            656837
 number of points by return: 467357 107076 47254 21904 8935
  scale factor x y z:
 offset x y z:
                             -0 -0 -0
 min x y z:
                             676750.00 246000.00 547.29
 max x y z:
                             676849.99 246099.99 573.87
 he header is followed by 2 user-defined bytes
LASzip compression (version 2.4r0 c2 50000): POINT10 2 GPSTIME11 2
 eporting minimum and maximum for all LAS point record entries ...
                         67684999
                             7669
  intensity
  return number
  number of returns
 edge of flight line 0
  scan direction flag 0
  classification
  scan_angle rank
 user data
 point_source_ID 2404
 gps time 78474513.065274 80531980.003439
   NING: 228 points outside of header bounding box
 umber of first returns:
                                  467357
number of intermediate returns: 82506
 number of last returns:
                                  466716
number of single returns:
 ARNING: there are 3160 points with return number 6
 ARNING: there are 1151 points with return number 7
overview over number of returns of given pulse: 359742 119359 76362 52315 28914 13431 6714
histogram of classification of points:
          171354 ground (2)
           20228 low vegetation (3)
           37072 medium vegetation (4)
           98061 high vegetation (5)
          156178 building (6)
              579 noise (7)
          172798 overlap (12)
              567 bridge deck (17)
  RNING: real max z larger than header max z by 0.030000
  RNING: real min z smaller than header min z by 41.060000
```

Visualizing Point Cloud (1/2)





THE POWER OF POINT CLOUDS

3D point clouds serve as precise models of reality, available at low costs, and perfectly suited for high-performance processing.

Capture assets, sites, and entire environments 1:1 every year, every month, every day, every hour, every minute, or every second.

Run spatial analytics based on 3D point cloud streams that continuously deliver billions of data points.

Perform feature detection and differential analysis as core algorithms operating on 3D point clouds.

Build a unique spatio-temporal model of reality with 4D point clouds, combining 3D point clouds captured at different points in time.

Source: www.pointcloudtechnology.com/en/



Visualizing Point Cloud (2/2)





Source: app.iprpraha.cz/apl/app/CAMP/lidar/



Challenges with Point Clouds

Data Volume

- Can contain hundreds of millions of points
- Increasing densities with enhanced sensors and technology
- Overlapping and noisy data
- Versioning and metadata
- ...

Storage and Computation

- Where do I put all this data?
- What about security?
- What are effective compression methods?
- How is the data indexed?
- Optimal format for analysis?
- Memory bottlenecks when processing or analyzing the data
- Parallel processing
- ...

Analysis

- Derivative product generation (TINs, Contours, DEMs)
- Correlate with other data (vector, raster, networks, addresses ...)
- ...



Tools to work with LiDAR data?



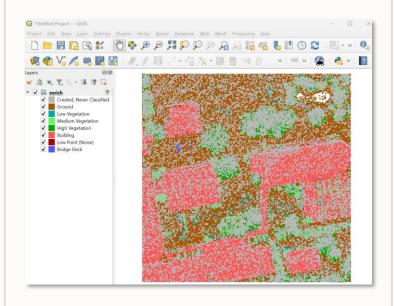
A Selection of Tools

LAStools by rapidlasso

- <u>lastools.github.io</u>
- <u>rapidlasso.de</u>
- A set of command-line tools to load, process, transform, and visualize LiDAR datasets
- Tools divided into
 - Open-source
 - Free
 - Closed source
- New: GUI and workbench for LAStools
 - <u>rapidlasso.de/laslook</u>

QGIS

- Open-source software
- Visualizes LAS and LAZ files



Python libraries

- Visualize point clouds
 - PDAL pdal.io
 - laspy.readthedocs.io



Setting up LAStools on a Compute machine

- Install SQL*Loader from Oracle Instant Client 23_8 for Linux (tools)
 (https://www.oracle.com/database/technologies/instant-client/downloads.html)
- Upload and extract the Database wallet. Set the TNS_ADMIN environment variable and modify sqlnet.ora to match the wallet location.
- Install LAStools (example for Linux):

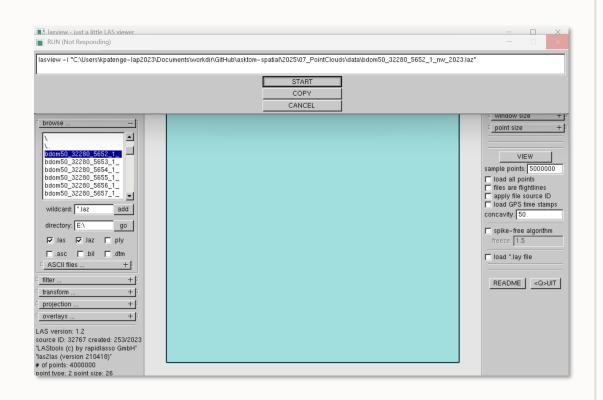
```
cd ~
mkdir lastools
cd lastools
wget https://downloads.rapidlasso.de/LAStools.tar.gz
tar -xvzf LAStools.tar.gz
```

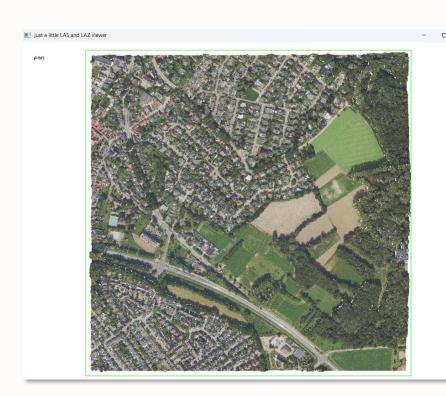
- Add environment variables:
 - PATH (Oracle client path & lastools path) & LD_LIBRARY_PATH (Oracle client library path & lastools library path)
- Create a table in your DB schema before loading .las/.laz/.txt files



Using LAStools

View .laz data using "lasview"

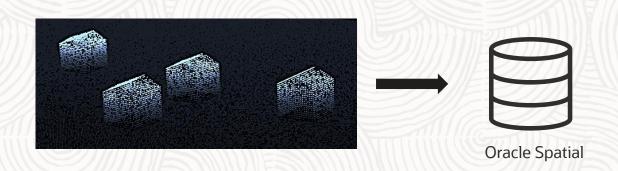








Managing LiDAR data in the Oracle Database

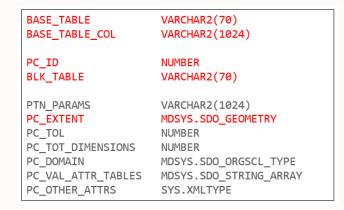




Two complementary approaches

- Flat tables containing X, Y, Z, and all other attributes
- Especially recommended if you can leverage intelligent Exadata storage servers (Autonomous Database, ExaCC, ...)
 - High compression rates with Hybrid Columnar Compression (HCC)
 - Parallel enabled smart scan for best performance
- No indexes needed
- Direct load from .las/.laz files or from flat ASCII files
- Best for volatile datasets (no reblocking needed)

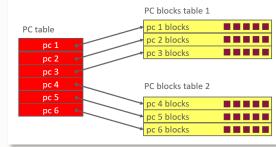
• **SDO_PC** object type



Needs a spatial index for spatial searches

The points are stored as arrays in a BLOB using SECUREFILES

 Allows compression, encryption, and de-duplication





PL/SQL Package SDO_PC_PKG

```
SDO PC PKG.CLIP PC
SDO PC PKG.CLIP PC FLAT
SDO PC PKG.CLIP PC FLAT STRING
SDO PC PKG.CLIP PC INTO TABLE
SDO PC PKG.CREATE CONTOUR GEOMETRIES
SDO PC PKG.CREATE PC
SDO_PC_PKG.CREATE_PC_UNIFIED
SDO PC PKG.DROP DEPENDENCIES
SDO PC PKG.GENERATE CROSS SECTION AS GEOMS
SDO PC PKG.GET PT IDS
SDO PC PKG.HAS PYRAMID
SDO PC PKG.INIT
SDO_PC_PKG.PC_DIFFERENCE
SDO PC PKG.PC2DEM
SDO PC PKG.PRESERVES LEVEL1
SDO PC PKG.SDO PC NN
SDO PC PKG.SDO PC NN FOR EACH
SDO PC PKG.TO GEOMETRY
```

- Documentation
 - Oracle Spatial Developer's Guide <u>docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/23/spatl/spatial-developers-guide.pdf</u>
- Code examples can be found in
 - \$ORACLE_HOME/md/demo/PointCloud/exam ples
 - Requires the installation of the Oracle Database Examples
 - https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracledatabase/21/exmpl/index.html
 - https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracledatabase/19/exmpl/index.html



Processing Point Clouds

Two selected processing types of flat tables

CLIP_PC

- Clip Point Cloud
- 2D or 3D query window
- Returns points for any block whose extent intersects the query window
- Only points that intersect the query window are returned
- Creates a set of PC blocks, which can be stored or used in queries

CREATE_CONTOUR_GEOMETRIES

- Create the contour lines for a point cloud
- Processing is grid-based. The points within a grid cell get averaged.
- Set of elevations as input parameters

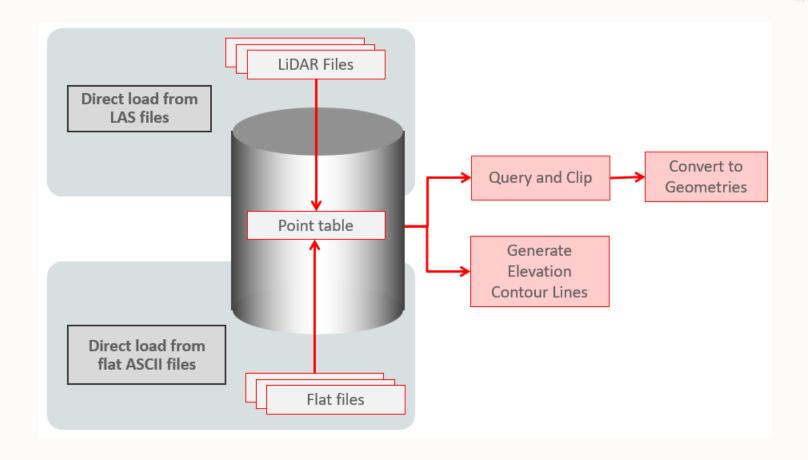
```
SDO_PC_PKG.CLIP_PC_FLAT(
       geometry IN SDO GEOMETRY,
       table name IN VARCHAR2,
       tolerance IN NUMBER,
       other dim gry IN SDO MBR,
       mask IN VARCHAR2 DEFAULT NULL
) RETURN REF CURSOR;
SDO_PC_PKG.CREATE_CONTOUR_GEOMETRIES(
       pc flat table IN VARCHAR2,
       srid IN NUMBER,
       sampling resolution IN NUMBER,
       elevations IN SDO_ORDINATE_ARRAY,
       region IN SDO_GEOMETRY
 RETURN SDO_GEOMETRY_ARRAY;
```

A LiDAR data workflow

Using datasets published on www.opengeodata.nrw.de/produkte/geobasis/hm/bdom50 las/bdom50 las/ under the license "Datenlizenz Deutschland – Zero – Version 2.0"

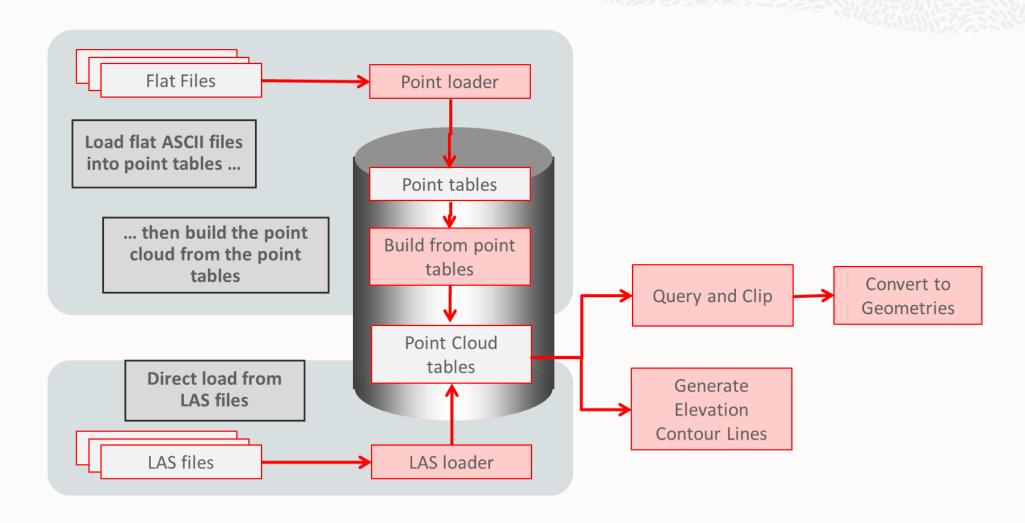


Using Flat Tables





Using SDO_PC





Example 1: Loading a larger set of .las/.laz files

The LiDAR datasets used in this example were downloaded from the [OpenData.NRW portal](https://www.opengeodata.nrw.de/produkte/geobasis/hm/bdom50_las/bdom50_las/).

License information: [Datenlizenz Deutschland - Zero - Version 2.0](https://www.govdata.de/dl-de/zero-2-0)



Check LAS/LAZ files using LAStools

```
#!/bin/bash
NUM FILES=0
TOTAL POINTS=0
TOTAL AREA=0
LAS FILES=~/data/pc
ls -lh $LAS FILES
echo Filename, X min, X max, Y min, Y max, Z min, Z max, points, area, density
find $LAS FILES -name *.laz | while read file
  NUM POINTS=`lasinfo64 $file -nc -stdout | grep 'number of points by return' |
awk '{print $6}'`
  MIN=`lasinfo64 $file -nc -stdout | grep 'min x y z:'`
  MAX=`lasinfo64 $file -nc -stdout | grep 'max x y z:'`
  MIN X=\echo $MIN | awk '{print int($5+0.5)}'
  MIN Y=`echo $MIN
                     awk '{print int($6+0.5)}'`
  MIN Z=`echo $MIN
                     awk '{print int($7+0.5)}'`
  MAX X=`echo $MAX
                     awk '{print int($5+0.5)}'`
  MAX Y=`echo $MAX
                     awk '{print int($6+0.5)}'`
  MAX Z=`echo $MAX | awk '{print int($7+0.5)}'`
  #((AREA=(MAX X-MIN X)*(MAX Y-MIN Y)))
  ((DENSITY=NUM POINTS/AREA))
  NAME="$(basename $file)"
  echo
$NAME,$MIN X,$MAX X,$MIN Y,$MAX Y,$MIN Z,$MAX Z,$NUM POINTS,$AREA,$DENSITY
  ((NUM FILES++))
  ((TOTAL POINTS+=NUM POINTS))
  ((TOTAL AREA+=AREA))
done
```

```
Filename, X min, X max, Y min, Y max, Z min, Z max, points, area, density
bdom50 32280 5660 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5660000,5661000,30,73,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32280_5659_1_nw_2023.laz,280000,281000,5659000,5660000,30,65,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5658 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5658000,5659000,31,72,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5657 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5657000,5658000,32,75,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5656 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5656000,5657000,32,77,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32280_5655_1_nw_2023.laz,280000,281000,5655000,5656000,34,82,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32280_5654_1_nw_2023.laz,280000,281000,5654000,5655000,37,119,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5653 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5653000,5654000,43,116,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5652 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5652000,5653000,50,131,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5661 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5661000,5662000,23,69,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5660000,5661000,28,74,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5659 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5659000,5660000,31,71,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5658 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5658000,5659000,33,72,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32281_5657_1_nw_2023.laz,281000,282000,5657000,5658000,35,66,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5656 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5656000,5657000,35,74,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5655 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5655000,5656000,32,78,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32281_5654_1_nw_2023.laz,281000,282000,5654000,5655000,39,84,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50_32281_5653_1_nw_2023.laz,281000,282000,5653000,5654000,52,110,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32281 5652 1 nw 2023.laz,281000,282000,5652000,5653000,60,130,4000000,1000000,4
bdom50 32280 5661 1 nw 2023.laz,280000,281000,5661000,5662000,26,69,4000000,1000000,4
```



Convert LAS/LAZ files using LAStools

Input: A set of 20 .laz files

```
#!/bin/bash
cd "$(dirname "$0")"
LAS FILES=~/data/pc
ls -lh $LAS FILES
TILE ID=1
echo Converting LAS/LAZ files to TXT in $LAS FILES
find $LAS FILES -name *.laz | while read file
  echo reading information from file $file
  lasinfo64 $file
  text=${file/%.laz/.txt}
  base=${file##*/}
  echo Converting file $base to $text ...
  echo ... las2txt64 -i "$file" -o $text -parse xyzirnedcaRGB -sep
comma
  time las2txt64 -i "$file" -o $text -parse xyzirnedcaRGB -sep comma
-verbose
  awk -F',' -v OFS=',' -v col1=$TILE ID -v col2=$base '{print $0,
col1, col2}' $text > temp && mv temp $text
  echo show header of converted file
  head -n5 $text
  ((TILE ID++))
done
ls -lh $LAS FILES
```

```
head bdom50 32281 5660 1 nw 2023.txt
281000.25,5660199.75,46.61,38912,1,1,0,0,0,0,14848,14848,16128,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281000.75,5660199.75,46.49,37632,1,1,0,0,0,0,14336,14336,16128,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281001.25,5660199.75,45.99,37632,1,1,0,0,0,0,14592,14336,16384,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281001.75,5660199.75,45.77,37120,1,1,0,0,0,0,13824,13824,16128,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281002.25,5660199.75,59.60,36096,1,1,0,0,0,0,13824,13568,14080,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281002.75,5660199.75,60.25,46848,1,1,0,0,0,0,26624,26880,22016,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281003.25,5660199.75,60.37,44800,1,1,0,0,0,0,25600,25344,20736,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281003.75,5660199.75,61.21,46080,1,1,0,0,0,0,24832,25344,19200,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281004.25,5660199.75,61.54,44800,1,1,0,0,0,0,24320,24832,18944,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
281004.75,5660199.75,61.79,45568,1,1,0,0,0,0,22016,22016,17152,11,bdom50
32281 5660 1 nw 2023.laz
```



Create tables to store the points

```
-- Flat table
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS lidar_points CASCADE CONSTRAINTS PURGE;
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS lidar points (
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- X
  Х
                        NUMBER,
                        NUMBER,
  Z
  intensity
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- i => Intensity
  return_number
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- r => Return Number
  number of returns
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- n => Number of Returns
                                    -- e => Flightline Edge
  edge_of_flight_line
                        NUMBER,
  scan_direction_flag
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- d => Scan Direction Flag
  classification
                                    -- c => Classification
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- a => Scan Angle Rank
  scan angle rank
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- R => Color red (2 bytes [0-65536])
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- G => Color green (2 bytes [0-65536])
                        NUMBER,
                                    -- B => Color blue (2 bytes [0-65536])
                        NUMBER,
  tile id
                        NUMBER,
                                       -- tile identifier
  sourcefile
                        VARCHAR2(200) -- File source
NOLOGGING;
```



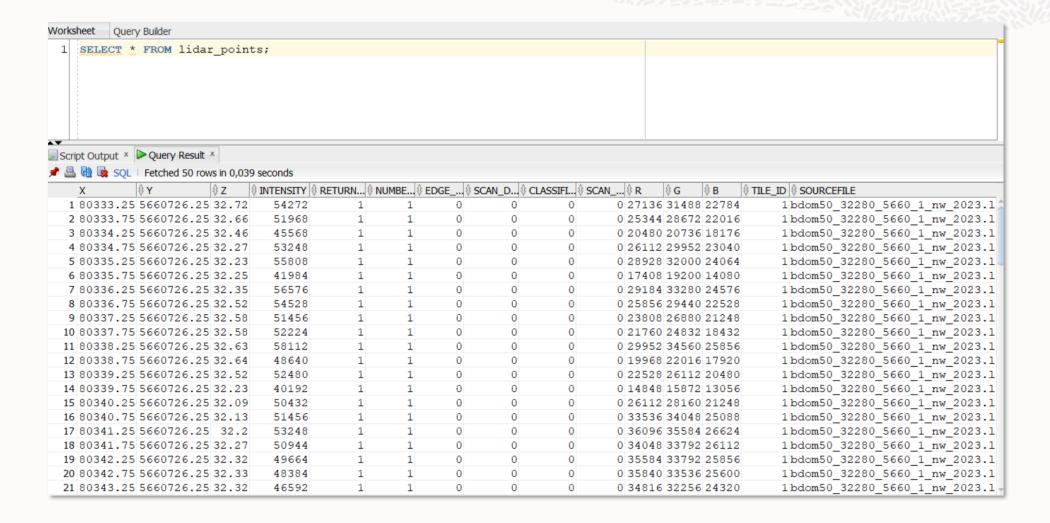
Load converted data as points into a flat table

SQL*Loader

```
#!/bin/bash
cd "$(dirname "$0")"
# Change the following to match your environment:
DB SERVICE=<service>
DB USER=<user>
DB_PASS=<pwd>
TXT FILES=../../data/pc
echo Loading text files from $TXT_FILES
# The following works for all file names (including those with
spaces)
find $TXT_FILES -name *.txt | while read file
  echo Loading $file
  sqlldr $DB USER/$DB PASS@$DB SERVICE \
    control=04a load point table.ctl \
    data=$file \
    direct=yes \
    rows=100000
done
# ~ 3 mins for 80 mio points
```

```
-- SQL*Loader control file to load point cloud data into a staging table
LOAD DATA
 APPEND
 INTO TABLE lidar points
 FIELDS TERMINATED BY ',' (
 Χ,
  у,
  Ζ,
 intensity,
 return number,
  number of returns,
  edge of flight line,
  scan direction flag,
  classification,
  scan_angle_rank,
  r,
  g,
 tile id,
  sourcefile
```

Show stored points





Process points

Clipping

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS lidar points clip AS
SELECT * FROM lidar points WHERE 0 = 1;
-- Clip
DECLARE
  points cursor sys refcursor;
  TYPE points list IS TABLE OF lidar_points%rowtype;
  points points list;
BEGIN
  points cursor :=
    SDO PC PKG.CLIP PC FLAT (
      geometry =>
        SDO GEOMETRY (
          2003, 25832, NULL,
          SDO ELEM INFO_ARRAY (1, 1003, 3),
          SDO ORDINATE ARRAY (281200, 5654100, 281300,
5654200
      table name
                  => 'LIDAR POINTS',
      tolerance
                    \Rightarrow 0.000005,
      other dim gry => null,
      mask
                    => null
                              -- Default: mask=ANYINTERACT
  );
```

```
LOOP

FETCH points_cursor

BULK COLLECT INTO points

LIMIT 10000;

FORALL I in 1 .. points.COUNT

INSERT INTO lidar_points_clip VALUES points(i);

EXIT WHEN points_cursor%NOTFOUND;

END LOOP;

CLOSE points_cursor;

END;

/

SELECT count(*) FROM lidar_points_clip;
```

Save the date! LiDAR Part 2

Processing, Querying, and Visualizing LiDAR dataset



Where to find datasets



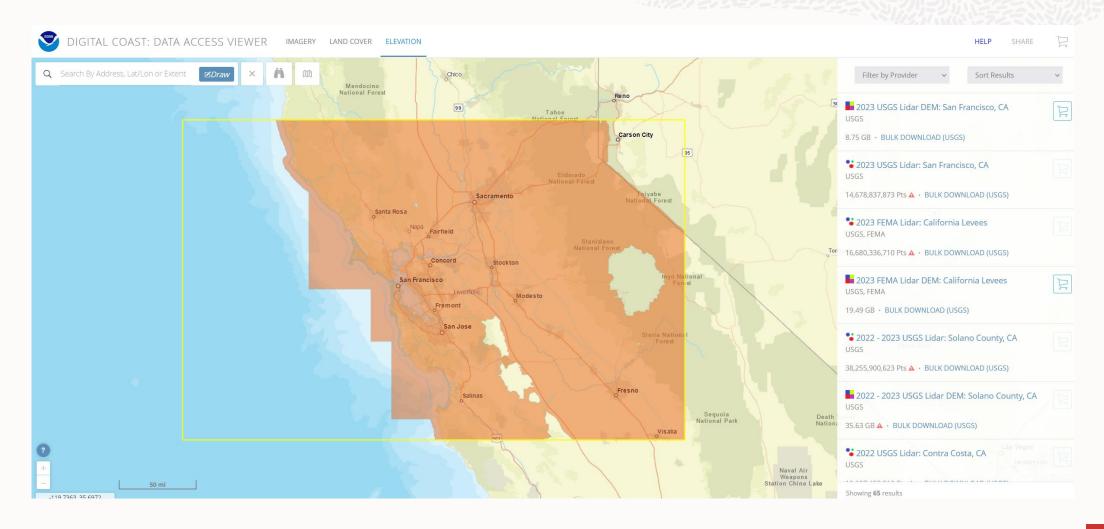
Some Resources

- gisgeography.com/top-6-free-lidar-data-sources/
- Demodata for a Forest and agricultural area and Sandviken urban area (Sweden)
 www.lantmateriet.se/sv/geodata/vara-produkter/produktlista/laserdata-nedladdning-nh/#anchor-2
- Geoportal Praha geoportalpraha.cz/en/data-and-services/articles-and-projects/3d-model/3d-model-lidar
- European LiDAR and Aerial Maps <u>lidarandaerialarchaeology.com/europe/</u>
- Collection of open nation-scale LiDAR datasets registry.opendata.aws/open-lidar-data/
- National LiDAR datasets
 - http://vterrain.org/Locations/eu/
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National lidar dataset publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC126223/jrc126223 jrc126223 lidaropen sourcedata.pdf



Digital Coast Access Viewer

coast.noaa.gov/dataviewer/#/lidar/search/





Channels to post questions at any time





stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/oracle-spatial





forums.oracle.com/ords/apexds/domain/devcommunity/category/database-software?tags=spatial





Resources on Oracle Spatial Technologies

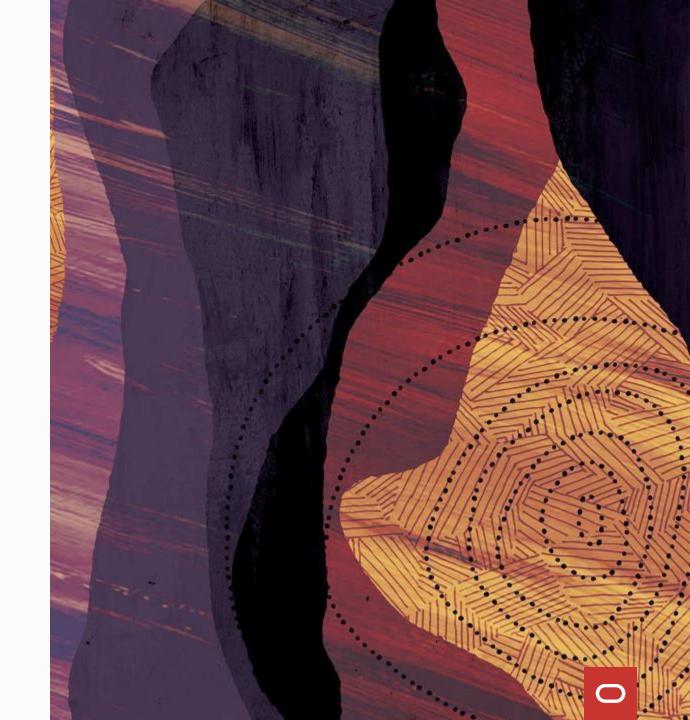
- Vector tiles & H3 blog post & Video: bit.ly/OracleSpatialVT
- Oracle Spatial technologies: www.oracle.com/database/spatial/
- Oracle LiveLabs: bit.ly/golivelabs-spatial
- Blog: blogs.oracle.com/database/category/db-spatial
- Slack (Please join #spatial channel): bit.ly/Join-ANDOUC-Slack
- YouTube: bit.ly/Spatial-Graph-YouTube
- AskTOM Spatial Series videos: bit.ly/AskTOMSpatial
- LinkedIn: bit.ly/Spatial-Graph-LinkedIn





Thank you for your attention!

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