

Motion-based Detection and Tracking in 3D LiDAR Scans

Ayush Dewan

Tim Caselitz

Gian Diego Tipaldi

Wolfram Burgard

Abstract—Robots are expected to operate autonomously in increasingly complex scenarios such as crowded streets or heavy traffic situations. Perceiving the dynamics of moving objects in the environment is crucial for safe and smart navigation and therefore a key enabler for autonomous driving. In this paper we present a novel model-free approach for detecting and tracking dynamic objects in 3D LiDAR scans obtained by a moving sensor. Our method only relies on motion cues and does not require any prior information about the objects. We sequentially detect multiple motions in the scene and segment objects using a Bayesian approach. For robustly tracking objects, we utilize their estimated motion models. We present extensive quantitative results based on publicly available datasets and show that our approach outperforms the state of the art.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the major goals in the area of mobile robotics is to develop robot systems that can robustly navigate to accomplish different tasks such as surveillance and transportation. As the environment in which a robot is expected to operate typically cannot be assumed to be static, it is necessary for the robot to properly deal with the dynamic aspects of the environment. For example, a self driving car trying to cross an intersection in heavy traffic needs to be able to detect the individual dynamic objects in its vicinity such as cars, bikes, trucks and pedestrians. Furthermore it is necessary to estimate their individual motion characteristics to be able to navigate in a safe and efficient way. Understanding the dynamic nature of the environment offers many advantages. First, removing dynamic objects from a map can help to more accurately estimate the pose of a robot. Second, predicting the location of dynamic objects facilitates motion and path planning. Third, estimating the dynamics of objects can also help to infer semantic information.

In this work we propose a model-free approach for detecting and tracking dynamic objects in urban environments. Traditionally, model-free approaches rely on detecting dynamic objects by analyzing the perceived change of the environment caused by motion. Instead of detecting changes, we segment distinct objects using motion cues. Change detection either requires a prior map or an online mapping technique. In contrast, our approach does not require a map. We begin to reason about objects at point level by matching corresponding points in consecutive scans. This information is used to detect different motions in the scene. We recover the local static structure and multiple dynamic objects only

All authors are with the Department of Computer Science at the University of Freiburg, Germany. This work has been partially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), contract number 13EZ1129B-iVIEW and by the European Commission under the grant numbers ERC-AG-PE7-267686-LifeNav, FP7-610603-EUROPA2 and FP7-610532-SQUIRREL

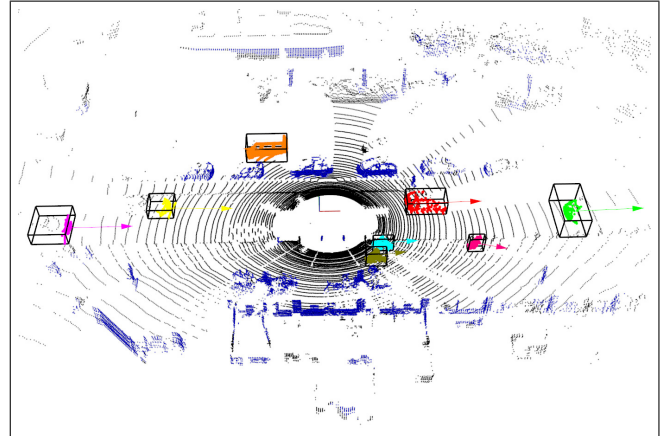


Fig. 1. A 3D LiDAR scan recorded by a car in a heavy traffic situation. Our approach estimates the motion of the car relative to the static structure, shown in blue, and the dynamic objects in its environment, shown in different colors. The arrows indicate the direction of the estimated motion.

based on the detected motion. Since we estimate motion models, we can reason about the dynamics of an detected object to efficiently track it. Tracking objects is a challenging problem since the sensor motion and the motion of objects lead to frequent occlusions, making data association a hard problem. Our framework leverages the estimated motion models for associating objects in consecutive frames.

The main contribution of our work is a novel approach for detecting and tracking dynamic objects in 3D LiDAR scans. We sequentially use RANSAC [4] to estimate motion models and propose a Bayesian approach to segment multiple objects. Our method only relies on motion cues and does not require any prior information about the object. Fig. 1 shows multiple objects of different types, shapes, and sizes detected and tracked by our approach.

II. RELATED WORK

The problem of detecting and tracking multiple moving objects has been studied actively for decades [2], [3]. Proposed methods to solve this problem can be broadly subdivided into model-free [6], [9], [16] and model-based [8], [11], [10] approaches.

In model-based approaches, objects are detected on the basis of known model information. These approaches are preferred when the object to be detected is known and therefore can be modeled a priori. In [8], an approach for detection and tracking of cars is presented. For people, Spinello *et al.* proposed a learning based approach [11]. They subdivide a human structure into multiple layers based on height and then learn a classifier for each layer. In [10], Shackleton *et*

al. outline another method for detecting and tracking people. The main disadvantage of model-based approaches is that they do not generalize to objects of different categories. To overcome this disadvantage, we propose a model-free approach for detecting generic objects.

Model-free methods are mainly based on motion cues and enable detection and tracking of objects of arbitrary shape and size. Since these approaches require motion information, they are unable to detect objects which can potentially move but are static in the current observation. Model-free approaches are generally based on building a static map of the scene and using this map information for detecting dynamic objects. In [9], Pomerleau *et al.* make a visibility assumption that the scene behind the object is observed, if an object moves. To leverage over this information, they compare an incoming scan with a global map and detect dynamic objects. Since they only use depth as cue for change detection, there method might fail if the motion between scans is small.

Kaestner *et al.* [6] propose a generative Bayesian approach for detecting dynamic objects. For tracking they use an approach based on the Kalman filter. They show results for a static sensor but as mentioned in Pomerleau *et al.* [9] there is no straightforward extension of their approach to a moving sensor. Recently, Wang *et al.* [16] proposed a model-free approach for detection and tracking in 2D LiDAR data. Using a joint state representation, they estimate the state of the sensor, a local static map, and the state of the dynamic object. Every incoming scan is associated with a local static map and with dynamic objects. For tracking, they use a constant velocity motion model. While we have similar objectives, a comparison to our method is infeasible since our approach works on 3D instead of 2D LiDAR data.

Azim *et al.* [1] represent the environment using an octree-based occupancy grid and determine inconsistencies between the map and incoming scans to detect dynamic objects. In contrast, we do not build a map, but similar to [16] we only store local static information. For tracking they use Global Nearest Neighbor for associating tracks between consecutive frames. Tipaldi *et al.* [13] outline an approach for detecting and estimating motion using CRF for 2D LiDAR data. Van De Ven *et al.* [15] extended their approach by integrating the CRF based method with scan matching using a graphical model.

Moosmann *et al.* [7] use a segmentation method based on local convexity for detecting object hypotheses. They combine ICP and a Kalman filter for tracking and a classification method for managing tracks. Unlike them, we do not use a shape prior for detection but only rely on motion information. We compare our approach with their method and show superior performance. To best of our knowledge, this is one of the initial contribution for model-free detection and tracking in 3D LiDAR data.

III. FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

The goal of our approach is to segment and track dynamic objects in LiDAR scans obtained by a mobile robot. Our

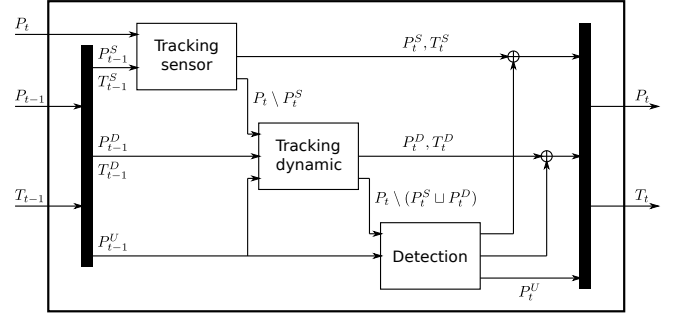


Fig. 2. Our framework consists of modules for motion detection, tracking the sensor, and tracking dynamic objects. Point sets are indicated with P , motions models with T .

framework shown in Fig. 2 consists of modules for detecting motion, tracking the sensor and tracking dynamic objects. A LiDAR scan is defined as a set of points:

$$P = \{p_k \mid p_k \in \mathbb{R}^3, k = 1, \dots, K\} \quad (1)$$

At every time step t , the scans P_t , P_{t-1} , and the motion models $T_{t-1} \in SE(3)$ are provided to the framework. In our notation T_t describes the motion from P_{t-1} to P_t . The points in P_{t-1} are classified as either static, dynamic, or unknown point, i.e.,:

$$P_{t-1} = P_{t-1}^S \sqcup P_{t-1}^D \sqcup P_{t-1}^U \quad (2)$$

First, the sensor tracking module classifies a subset of points $P_t^S \subset P_t$ as static and estimates the sensor motion T_t^S relative to these points. Second, the object tracking module classifies a subset of points $P_t^D \subset (P_t \setminus P_t^S)$ as dynamic, where $P_t^D = P_t^{D_1} \sqcup \dots \sqcup P_t^{D_N}$ consists of multiple disjoint point sets assigned to different dynamic objects. The module also estimates motion models $T_t^D = \{T_t^{D_1}, \dots, T_t^{D_N}\}$ for these objects. Third, all points $P_t \setminus (P_t^S \sqcup P_t^D)$ not classified by the tracking modules are provided to the detection module, which either adds them to the static point set, creates a new dynamic object, or assigns them to the unknown set P_t^U . For the first scan all points are unknown, i.e. $P_1 = P_1^U$.

IV. MOTION-BASED DETECTION

We segment dynamic objects using only motion cues. The motion of points between two consecutive LiDAR scans is mainly caused by the motion of the sensor and the motion of dynamic objects. We assume that the motion of these objects is rigid. The following subsection describes how we estimate motion models for the sensor and the dynamic objects. Subsequently, we explain the proposed Bayesian approach which calculates the probability of a point to follow a given motion model. Finally, we introduce our data association between consecutive scans and outline the method for detecting multiple motions. To simplify the notation in this section we assume without loss of generality that no points are classified already, i.e., $P_{t-1} = P_{t-1}^U$.

A. Motion Models

We use RANSAC to estimate motion models $T_t \in SE(3)$ for the sensor and the dynamic objects. To find initial point correspondences between the two scans, we uniformly sample keypoints $F_{t-1} \subset P_{t-1}$, match their SHOT descriptors [14] against all points in P_t , and pick the matches with minimum descriptor distance. We discard correspondences with a distance greater than a threshold, which is determined by an assumed motion limit and the sensor frame rate. RANSAC estimates the motion model T_t consented by the majority of the remaining correspondences. We define the inlier point set $I_{t-1} \subset F_{t-1}$ as all points in P_{t-1} that are part of an inlier correspondence.

So far, T_t is only related to the motion of points in I_{t-1} , which is a *sparse* subset of all the points in P_{t-1} . Therefore it is necessary to infer all non-inlier points which also follow T_t . In the next subsection we propose an approach to tackle this problem.

B. Bayesian Approach

We propose a Bayesian approach to determine the probability of each point $p_k \in P_{t-1}$ to follow a given motion model. By this means we expand the sparse subset I_{t-1} to all points in scan P_{t-1} . We represent the *consent* of p_k with T_t as a Bernoulli distributed random variable h_k , where $h_k = 1$ means that p_k follows the motion model T_t . The objective of the proposed Bayesian approach is to calculate the probability $p(h_k | P_t, \hat{p}_k)$, where $\hat{p}_k \in \hat{P}_{t-1}$ is the point p_k transformed by T_t . We apply Bayes' rule and assume independence of h_k and \hat{p}_k to calculate this probability:

$$p(h_k | P_t, \hat{p}_k) = \frac{p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k)p(h_k, \hat{p}_k)}{p(P_t, \hat{p}_k)} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k)p(h_k)p(\hat{p}_k)}{p(P_t | \hat{p}_k)p(\hat{p}_k)} \quad (4)$$

$$\propto p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k)p(h_k) \quad (5)$$

In the following subsections we describe how we model the likelihood $p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k)$ and the prior $p(h_k)$ in (5). The proposed Bayesian approach relies on the fact that \hat{p}_k is well aligned with points in P_t , if $h_k = 1$. Therefore the *depth*, i.e. the distance to the sensor, of \hat{p}_k and the neighboring points in P_t should be similar. This is also true for *local geometry*. Furthermore, we impose by *regularization* that p_k is likely to follow the same motion as points in its vicinity.

1) *Depth*: The depth of the point p is denoted z . Since the likelihood of h_k actually only depends on the neighborhood $N_k \subset P_t$ of \hat{p}_k and we assume independence between the points $p_l \in N_k$ we can model the likelihood in (5) based on the depth alignment [5] as

$$p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k) = \prod_{p_l \in N_k} p(z_l | h_k, \hat{z}_k) \quad (6)$$

Similar to [9], we define N_k as the conical frustum around \hat{p}_k . It better captures the disparity caused by misalignment in comparison to a spherical neighborhood.

To model the likelihood $p(z_l | h_k, \hat{z}_k)$, we use the beam-based sensor model from [12]. For $h_k = 1$ it is a linear combination of four distributions:

$$p(z_k | h_k = 1, \hat{z}_k) = \begin{pmatrix} w_{hit} \\ w_{short} \\ w_{max} \\ w_{rand} \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} p_{hit} \\ p_{short} \\ p_{max} \\ p_{rand} \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

where $w_{hit} + w_{short} + w_{max} + w_{rand} = 1$ and p_{hit} models the probability of hitting the expected surface, p_{short} of hitting an unexpected obstacle in front, p_{max} of a maximum range measurement, and p_{rand} of an unexplainable measurement.

$$p_{hit} = \begin{cases} \eta \cdot \mathcal{N}(z_k; \hat{z}_k, \sigma_{hit}^2) & \text{if } 0 \leq z_k \leq z_{max} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$p_{short} = \begin{cases} \eta \lambda_{short} e^{-\lambda_{short} z_k} & \text{if } 0 \leq z_k \leq \hat{z}_k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

$$p_{max} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z = z_{max} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$p_{rand} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{z_{max}} & \text{if } 0 \leq z_k \leq z_{max} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

For $h_k = 0$ the likelihood (7) changes to a mixture of three distributions:

$$p(z_k | h_k = 0, \hat{z}_k) = \begin{pmatrix} w_{short} \\ w_{max} \\ w_{rand} \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} p_{short} \\ p_{max} \\ p_{rand} \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

where the weights are adapted and p_{short} in (9) is cut off at the maximum range z_{max} instead at the expected measurement \hat{z}_k .

2) *Local Geometry*: We measure consistency of local geometry by calculating the cosine similarity c_{kl} between the SHOT descriptors f_k and f_l :

$$c_{kl} = \frac{f_k \cdot f_l}{\|f_k\| \|f_l\|} \quad (13)$$

To incorporate the consistency of local geometry into the likelihood, we change (6) by weighting the individual factors with c_{kl} :

$$p(P_t | h_k, \hat{p}_k) = \prod_{p_l \in N_k} c_{kl} p(z_l | h_k, \hat{z}_k) \quad (14)$$

3) *Regularization*: Since p_k likely follows the same motion as points in its vicinity, we impose a prior $p(h_k)$ in (5). We model this prior by utilizing the information provided by RANSAC, namely if points in the neighborhood of p_k are in the inlier point set $I_{t-1} \subset F_{t-1}$ or not. The neighborhood is calculated by drawing a sphere around p_k :

$$N_k^F = \{p_l \in F_{t-1} | \|p_k - p_l\| < 3\sigma_w\} \quad (15)$$

Points p_k that have many inlier and few outlier points in their vicinity should have a high prior to consent with T_t and

vice versa. We realize these characteristics by computing a weighted average:

$$p_0(h_k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p_k \in I_{t-1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$p(h_k) = \frac{\sum_{p_l \in N_k^F} w_{kl} p_0(h_k)}{\sum_{p_l \in N_k^F} w_{kl}} \quad (17)$$

Since we want closer points to have a higher influence on the prior, we use a Gaussian for the weighting:

$$w_{kl} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_w^2} \exp\left(-\frac{\|p_k - p_l\|^2}{2\sigma_w^2}\right) \quad (18)$$

The proposed Bayesian approach is used to calculate the probability of points in P_{t-1} to follow the motion model T_t . The next subsection describes how we associate T_t with points in the *current* scan P_t .

C. Data Association

To classify points in the current scan P_t , we need to associate them to the corresponding motion models T_t . Due to sensor motion and noise, every scan consists of varying points which are sampled from surfaces of the real structure. Therefore, establishing point-to-point correspondences between P_{t-1} and P_t is not feasible.

To realize the data association, we first identify points $p_k^* \in P_{t-1}^* \subset P_{t-1}$ with a probability $p(h_k = 1 | P_t, \hat{p}_k) > \zeta$, i.e. points that have a high probability to follow the motion model T_t . Second, we determine the union of neighborhoods N by drawing spheres around all points $\hat{p}_k^* \in \hat{P}_{t-1}^*$. Third, we declare points $p_l \in P_t$ to follow the motion T_t if they lie inside N . In this way we classify points in P_t according to their motion and assign them to the static point set P_t^S or to a point set of a dynamic object $P_t^{D_i}$. We apply Euclidean clustering to handle multiple objects following the same motion.

D. Multiple Motions

We use RANSAC to detect motion in the scene (IV-A). To identify all points in scan P_t that follow a motion model T_t , we use the Bayesian approach (IV-B) and apply the data association (IV-C). To detect *multiple* motions, we apply this pipeline sequentially. The detected T_t always stems from the motion which is consented by the majority of points. Therefore we remove all these points from P_{t-1} and P_t to subsequently determine the next motion model.

Since we assume that most points originate from static structure, the first T_t we detect is the sensor motion T_t^S . We create a new dynamic object if

$$\|T_t^{D_i} - T_t^S\|_F > \varepsilon \quad (19)$$

where $T_t^{D_i}$ is its estimated motion model, $\|\cdot\|_F$ the Frobenius norm, and ε a threshold that determines the minimum motion of an object to be considered as dynamic. If (19) is false, we add points to P_t^S .

V. TRACKING THE SENSOR AND DYNAMIC OBJECTS

Tracking is concerned with propagating information over time, in our case from LiDAR scan P_{t-1} to P_t . This involves updating the motion models of the sensor and the dynamic objects from T_{t-1} to T_t . Furthermore, the points in P_t have to be classified as static or assigned to a specific dynamic object. In the following subsection we describe how we track the motion of the sensor and of dynamic objects.

A. Sensor Motion

We first update the motion model of the sensor from T_{t-1}^S to T_t^S . To get an initial estimate how static points have moved, we apply the previous motion model:

$$\hat{P}_{t-1}^S = T_{t-1}^S * P_{t-1}^S \quad (20)$$

Based on this estimate, we find correspondences between all points $\hat{p}_k \in \hat{P}_{t-1}^S$ and points in P_t using nearest neighbor in Euclidean space. We apply RANSAC to estimate the motion \hat{T}_t^S and update the motion model of the sensor:

$$T_t^S = \hat{T}_t^S * T_{t-1}^S \quad (21)$$

To classify points in P_t as static, we first use the proposed Bayesian approach (IV-B). Based on the probabilities $p(h_k | P_t, \hat{p}_k)$, we identify points that were static in P_{t-1} but are dynamic or disappeared in P_t , i.e. have a low probability. Points with a high probability to consent with the sensor motion T_t^S are used in the data association (IV-C) to assign points to $P_t^S \subset P_t$.

B. Dynamic Objects

The tracking of dynamic objects relies on a similar concepts as the sensor tracking. However, updating the motion model of an object from $T_{t-1}^{D_i}$ to $T_t^{D_i}$ is realized differently. First, we again apply the previous motion model to get an initial estimate where the object has moved:

$$\hat{P}_{t-1}^{D_i} = T_{t-1}^{D_i} * P_{t-1}^{D_i} \quad (22)$$

We determine a neighborhood $N \subset P_t$ as it is done in (IV-C). This provides a coarse prior information, where to search for correspondences, namely between points in $\hat{P}_{t-1}^{D_i}$ and N . We find correspondences by matching SHOT descriptors, which are subsequently used by RANSAC to estimate the motion model $T_t^{D_i}$. To assign object points to $P_t^{D_i} \subset P_t$, we choose the same approach as for the sensor tracking.

We create a tracklet for every segmented dynamic object, which is defined by its motion model $T_t^{D_i}$ and point set $P_t^{D_i}$. Tracklets tracked for more than N_T scans are promoted as tracks. We make this distinction to avoid false positives. A track is lost when an object is no longer in the sensors field of view or when it is entirely occluded, i.e. $P_t^{D_i} = \emptyset$. To tackle temporary occlusions we predict a bounding box based on the objects last observation. We recover a track when points reappear inside the tracks bounding box.

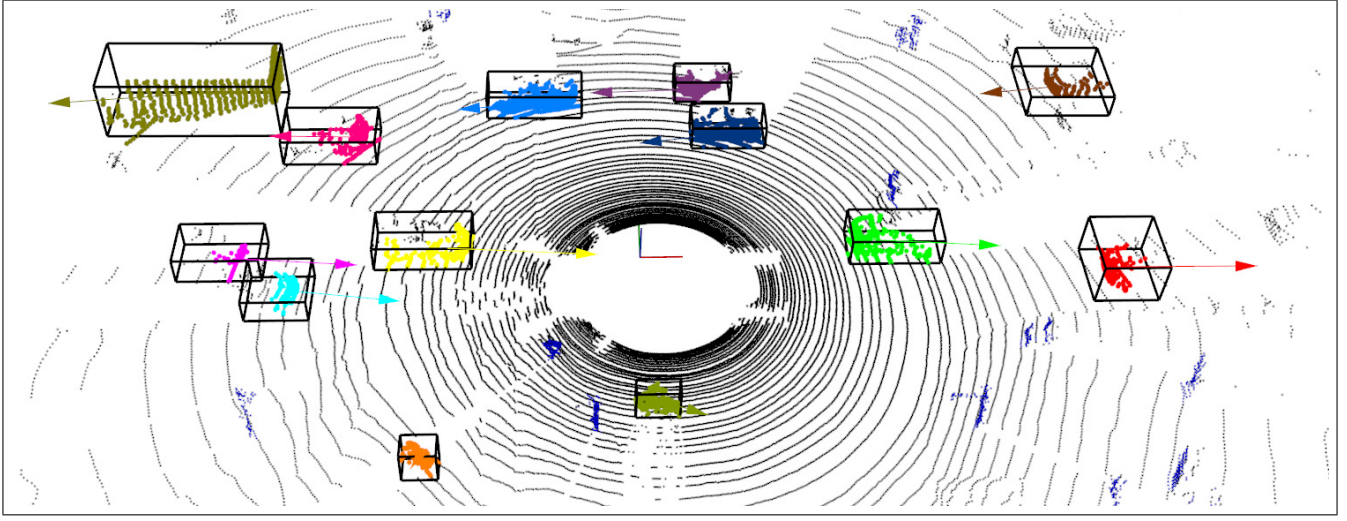


Fig. 3. LiDAR scan of sequence B at $t = 26.2s$. Ground truth is indicated by black bounding boxes. Structure classified as static is shown in blue, dynamic objects in other colors. Arrows display the translational part of the estimated motion models.

VI. RESULTS

We evaluate our approach on two datasets made available by [7]. Both scan sequences A and B are collected in non-flat urban environments using a Velodyne HDL-64E LiDAR sensor at 10Hz and are 38 and 50 seconds long, respectively. The ground truth velocity of the sensor was obtained using DGPS/IMU and is also available for one other car. To conduct an extensive quantitative analysis, we manually labeled all dynamic objects apart from pedestrians and compared the results of our approach against the *Moving Object Mapping* (MOM) method presented by Moosmann *et al.* [7]. For all experiments presented in this section, we chose $\zeta = 0.95$, $\varepsilon = 0.2$, and $N_T = 8$.

Fig. 3 shows a snapshot of sequence B taken at $t = 26.2s$. Since we remove the ground plane before we provide a scan to the framework, ground points are not classified. It can be seen that we are able to segment and track many objects of various types, e.g. cars, trucks, and bikes. This is one major advantage of our approach compared to model-based methods. Admittedly, our approach does not work well for pedestrians. This is mainly for the reason that they move slowly and our detection method only relies on motion cues. Furthermore, the assumption of rigid body motion does not hold. Due to their comparatively small size, pedestrians may also consist of very few points, especially if they are far away from the sensor. Since pedestrians are not labeled in the ground truth, we ensure not to count them as false positives in the analysis.

TABLE I
CLASSIFICATION OF DYNAMIC OBJECTS

	Precision	Recall	F_1	ObjRcl
Sequence A				
Ours	62.41	91.33	70.76	81.77
MOM	14.89	72.91	22.02	30.90
Sequence B				
Ours	72.57	78.18	73.05	74.08
MOM	29.85	89.01	41.81	79.91

For a quantitative evaluation of our approach, we use the ground truth bounding boxes of the dynamic objects. For each scan we compute precision and recall, where precision is defined as the ratio between the number of correct detections and detections and recall as the ratio between the number of correct detections and bounding boxes. We average precision and recall over all scans of the sequence and compute the F_1 score. We also define an object recall (ObjRcl) that measures the ratio between the number of scans in which an object is detected and scans in which it is actually there according to the ground truth. We average this value over all objects. In contrast to recall, every object *equally* contributes to the object recall, independent on the number of scans in which the object is present.

Table I reports results for our approach and compares them. In sequence A we clearly outperform MOM which suffers from a high number of false positives. Its different recall and object recall values are caused by the dominance of one object, that in contrast to others, is present over the whole sequence and can be tracked. In sequence B our approach reaches significantly better precision with a slightly worse recall. In both sequences we achieve better F_1 scores.

Fig. 4 illustrates the tracks estimated by our approach in comparison to the ground truth for sequence B. We are able to segment almost all objects and track them robustly. Since our approach requires a minimum motion to consider an object as dynamic, we can only detect objects as soon as they have reached a certain velocity. Our loss of recall is primarily due to the late detection of the objects 10-18 and the few undetected objects. These cases were recorded at an intersection and include slow moving objects either approaching or leaving the intersection. Fig. 4 also depicts cases where objects were temporarily occluded. Since we always recover from occlusions if we detect the object, we claim that our approach is robust against occlusions.

To further compare our approach, we also conduct the tracking quality experiment presented by Moosmann *et al.* [7]. The objective of this experiment is to estimate the

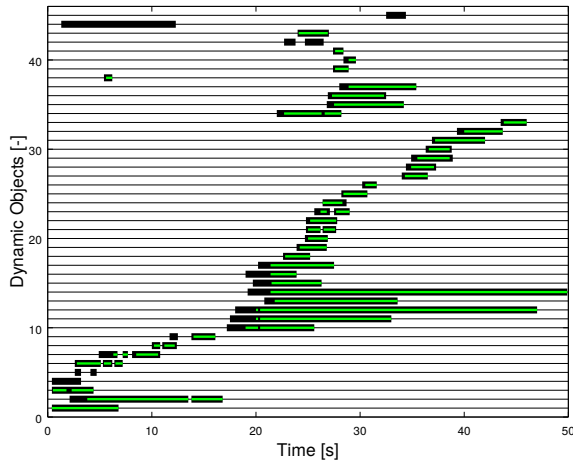


Fig. 4. Tracks for sequence B. Ground truth is depicted in black, estimated tracks are colored green. Gaps in the ground truth are caused by occlusions.

absolute speed of another car. Therefore we evaluate the estimation of the sensor motion and the relative motion between sensor and dynamic object. Fig. 5 shows that we can robustly track both in sequence A. The peak in the sensor motion is caused by a corrupted LiDAR scan. In Table II we report the median, mean, standard deviation, and RMSE generated without the outer 10%-quantiles for the sensor motion in both sequences. The table also shows results for the dynamic objects tracking in comparison to the results reported in Moosmann *et al.* [7]. It can be seen that our approach outperforms MOM. To provide a more informative measure we also report the RMSE for our approach.

TABLE II
ESTIMATION OF SENSOR AND DYNAMIC OBJECT MOTION
[GENERATED WITHOUT OUTER 10%-QUANTILES]

	Median	Mean	Std.-Dev.	RMSE
Sensor Speed Error				
Ours A	-0.19	-0.06	± 0.57	0.57
Ours B	-0.09	-0.08	± 0.26	0.30
Object Speed Error				
Ours	-0.34	-0.32	± 0.68	0.75
MOM	-0.84	-0.69	± 1.16	-

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we present a novel approach to detect and track dynamic objects. We detect motions between consecutive scans by sequentially using RANSAC and propose a Bayesian approach to segment and track multiple objects. Our method is model-free, i.e., it does not require any prior information about the objects. We analyze our approach on two publicly available data sequences and compare it with an existing method. For both sequences, our approach achieves a better F_1 score. Furthermore, we show that we track the speed of the sensor and of another object with a higher accuracy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank Pratik Agarwal for the fruitful discussions and Frank Moosmann for providing the dataset and the source code for *Moving Object Mapping* [7].

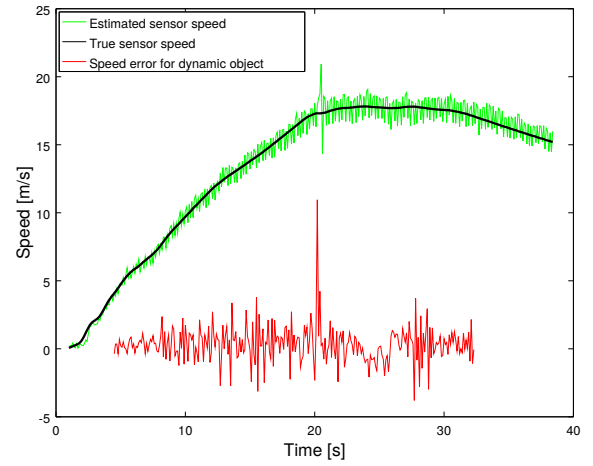


Fig. 5. Speed estimation for sequence A. The ground truth for the sensor motion is depicted in black, our estimate in green. The error in the speed estimation for the dynamic object is colored red.

REFERENCES

- [1] Asma Azim and Olivier Aycard. Detection, classification and tracking of moving objects in a 3d environment. In *IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium (IV)*, 2012.
- [2] Yaakov Bar-Shalom and Xiao-Rong Li. *Estimation and tracking-Principles, techniques, and software*. Artech House, 1993.
- [3] Yaakov Bar-Shalom and Xiao-Rong Li. *Multitarget-multisensor tracking: principles and techniques*. Yaakov Bar-Shalom, 1995.
- [4] Martin A. Fischler and Robert C Bolles. Random sample consensus: a paradigm for model fitting with applications to image analysis and automated cartography. *Communications of the ACM*, 24(6), 1981.
- [5] Evan Herbst, Peter Henry, Xiaofeng Ren, and Dieter Fox. Toward object discovery and modeling via 3-d scene comparison. In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2011.
- [6] Ralf Kaestner, Jérôme Maye, Yves Pilat, and Roland Siegwart. Generative object detection and tracking in 3d range data. In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2012.
- [7] Frank Moosmann and Christoph Stiller. Joint self-localization and tracking of generic objects in 3d range data. In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2013.
- [8] Anna Petrovskaya and Sebastian Thrun. Model based vehicle detection and tracking for autonomous urban driving. *Autonomous Robots*, 26(2-3), 2009.
- [9] François Pomerleau, Philipp Krusi, Francis Colas, Paul Furgale, and Roland Siegwart. Long-term 3d map maintenance in dynamic environments. In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2014.
- [10] John Shackleton, Brian Van Voorst, and Joel A Hesch. Tracking people with a 360-degree lidar. In *IEEE International Conference on Advanced Video and Signal Based Surveillance (AVSS)*, 2010.
- [11] Luciano Spinello, Kai O Arras, Rudolph Triebel, and Roland Siegwart. A layered approach to people detection in 3d range data. In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2010.
- [12] Sebastian Thrun, Wolfram Burgard, and Dieter Fox. *Probabilistic robotics*. MIT Press, 2005.
- [13] Gian Diego Tipaldi and Fabio Ramos. Motion clustering and estimation with conditional random fields. In *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2009.
- [14] Federico Tombari, Samuele Salti, and Luigi Di Stefano. Unique signatures of histograms for local surface description. In *European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)*. Springer, 2010.
- [15] Joop Van De Ven, Fabio Ramos, and Gian Diego Tipaldi. An integrated probabilistic model for scan-matching, moving object detection and motion estimation. In *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2010.
- [16] Dominic Zeng Wang, Ingmar Posner, and Paul Newman. Model-free detection and tracking of dynamic objects with 2d lidar. *The International Journal of Robotics Research (IJRR)*, 34(7), 2015.