A Two-Page Abstract Using the New Article Format

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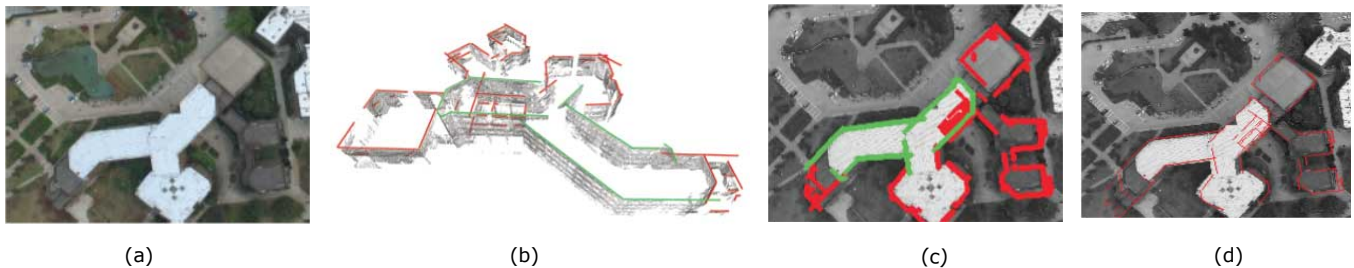(a)   (b)   (c)   (d)

Figure 1: (a) The overhead image is captured by a aerial device in low altitude. (b) The point cloud is scanned by a laser device on the ground. We extract the roof contours (in different colors) according altitude histogram of points (c) The contours are matched with the overhead image respectively to achieve an initialization for optimizing the global matrix. (d) The camera pose is estimated after teh global matrix optimization. We project the contours on the overhead image to show the results.

ABSTRACT

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CCS CONCEPTS

• **Computer systems organization** → **Embedded systems**; *Redundancy*; Robotics; • **Networks** → Network reliability;

KEYWORDS

ACM proceedings, LaTeX, text tagging

1 INTRODUCTION

As a key technique to image-based navigation, augmented reality (AR) and 3D reconstruction, geo-localization has drawn massive attentions in the literature. When presenting a geo-localization problem, an image or a frame of video is often used as the query data, a 3D model is needed to provide a global coordinate, a sensor prior is optionally employed and the camera pose with respect to the global coordinate system is to be estimated.

In this work, we estimate the camera pose using an overhead image captured by a low-altitude aerial device as query and a corresponding building point cloud as 3D model. Comparing to existing methods using images captured on the ground [Arth et al. 2015] or in high altitude [Liu and Tuzel 2010], we are not able to take advantages of vanishing points and suffer from more critical perspective effect. There are two key observations that vertical facades of a point cloud correspond to edges of building roofs in the overhead image and that roofs at different altitudes are of different scales in the image, which inspires us to treat this geo-localization problem as a combination of a multi-layer shape matching problem and a global optimizing procedure.

2 OUR APPROACH

Given a building point cloud, we first extract contours of building roofs in different altitudes according to the altitude histogram of points, where each contour is fit into a set of line segments (Figure 1b). And then the contours are matched with the edge map of the overhead image respectively using a shape matching technique of [Liu and Tuzel 2010]. A local project matrix is achieved for each contour (Figure 1c). Note that we need a global project matrix instead of local ones to estimate the camera pose. So we treat the result of shape matching as the initialization of the following global optimizing procedure.
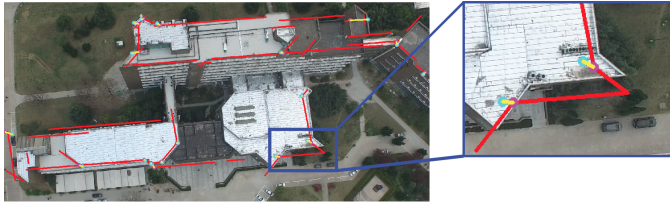
Figure 2: Finding paired 3D and 2D feature points: for a 3D feature point, we project it on the overhead image (magenta points) using current project matrix and search in its $k \times k$ neighborhood for a corner (cyan points). These 3D feature points and corresponding corners form pairs of feature points for next iteration of calculating project matrix.

To calculate the global project matrix between the whole point cloud and the overhead image, we need a series of paired 3D feature points and corresponding 2D feature points. We use the intersections of neighboring line segments of building roof contours as 3D feature points and introduce an iterative algorithm to find corresponding 2D feature points, where we utilize the result of shape matching as initial project matrix. As shown in Figure 2, for a 3D feature point, we project it on the overhead image (magenta points) using current project matrix and search in its $k \times k$ neighborhood for a corner (cyan points). These 3D feature points and corresponding corners form pairs of feature points for next iteration of calculating project matrix. With this set of paired 3D and 2D feature points, we can optimize a global project matrix by minimizing the average of the distance between projected contours and the edge of the overhead image, which can be accelerated by distance transformation. With the global project matrix and pre-calibrated focus length of the camera, we can finally estimate the 6 DoF camera pose of the overhead image in point cloud coordinate system.

We tested the proposed approach on a newly collected dataset. Figure 1(d) shows one of the results, where we project roof contours onto the overhead image. Since most of the consuming time is spent in the shape matching stage and the optimizing stage is fast, we can easily extend our approach to video-based problem.

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