

# From 2D Images to 3D Surface Models

Processing of UAV data Using Open Source Tools

\***Detailed** screenshots of processing Using : **VisualSfM + MeshLab**

\***Steps** of Processing Using : **osmBundler, VisualSfM+CMPPMVS**

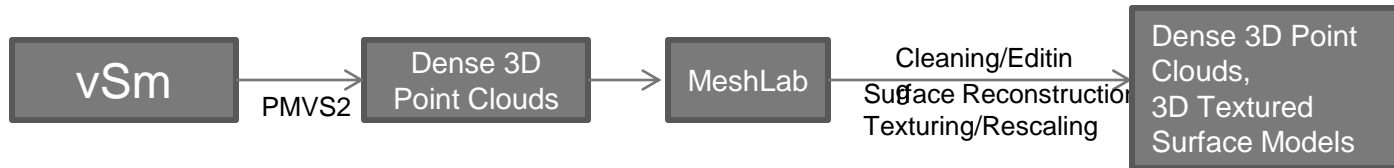
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## Some Open Source Tools for UAV Data Processing

Tools	Process Outputs	System Requirements
VisualSfM+Meshlab	Dense 3D Point Clouds, 3D Textured Surface Models	Windows/Linux (64 bit)
Python osm-bundler	Dense 3D Point Clouds	Windows/Linux (32/64 bit)
VisualSfM+CMPPMVS	OrthoMosaic, DEM, 3D Textured Surface Models	Windows/Linux (64 bit)
OpenDroneMap	OrthoMosaic, Georeferenced Point Clouds, 3D Textured Surface Models	Linux (Ubuntu LTS 14 N above)
SfMToolkit3	OrthoMosaic, Dense 3D Point Clouds, DSM	Windows(32/64 bit)

# VisualSfM, Meshlab

Dense 3D Point Clouds, 3D Textured Surface Models



## VisualSfM

VisualSfM finds unique features in each image, matches the features and constructs sparse 3D point cloud, The model is then refined into a dense point cloud.

VisualSfM gives two main outputs -

**.out** file (bundler format) which stores the calculated (solved) cameras' positions and a sparse point cloud representing the points in the scene that the software used to determine the camera positions.

**.ply** file which stores a denser cloud of points, each with position, color and normal (a vector perpendicular to the surface the point is on) data.

## Meshlab

Meshlab works on 3D mesh or a point cloud input files

Meshlab produces textured, clean, high-res mesh.

Meshlab also automatically calculates UV maps (the basis for 3D texturing) and builds a texture for us by estimating which projector is most accurate on each spot of the model. The outputs of this step are:

**.obj** file of a mesh (with UVs) that can be easily interchanged with various 3D softwares

**.png** file of varying size representing the texture of the mesh

# VisualFSM

## Example Scene :

Landslide Scar, Umling, Ribhoi

90 Images



Few Points to get the best possible reconstruction

1. **Parallax:** MOVE AROUND!. Move in a 360 degree circle around an object, taking snaps every 10-20 degrees, as well as at several heights
2. **Overlap:** minimum 75% overlap, 40% sidelap
3. **Photograph all angles :** to get everything
4. **Scale:** reconstructing entire environments is totally possible, but be prepared to take a lot more photographs. Smaller objects require fewer images and the process will take less time
5. **Minimize subject motion:** The software expects that everything in the scene is stationary when it analyzes the scene. if objects move around, the assumption that features are in the same space between photographs will be false, and VisualSFM will build a distorted model

## Step 1: Import the images

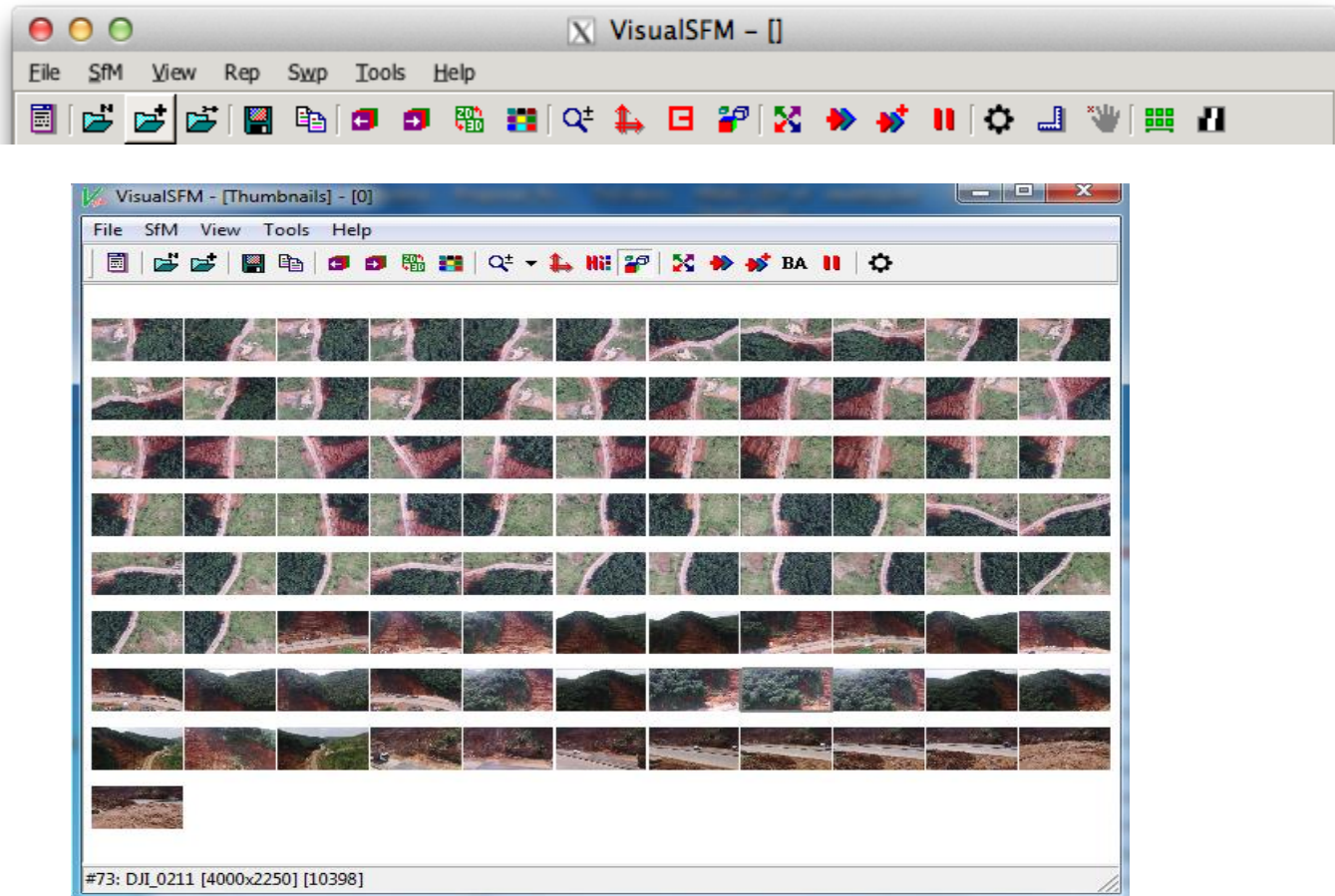
Note : **VisualSFM** will produce generally better results the higher-resolution your images are, **BUT**, after 3200px, the results get worse !

Before you import the images, make sure your images are no larger than 3200px tall or wide

*Note : Some experiments have been performed, that smaller images (<2k) actually improve feature detection and matching success. The process of matching features between images is done on the GPU. If you have high-end GPUs such as Tegra,...then you may try with better res imagery.*

If you do have to resize your images, make sure to retain any EXIF metadata logged by the camera as VisualSFM can use it in order to pick more accurate focal length and sensor size settings. VisualSFM installs a FOSS program called jhead for reading EXIF data from the command line

**Step 2: click the second folder icon to import your image sequence**



Note : Enable the task, it's in Tools → Show TaskViewer and gives logs of what VisualSFM is doing

**Step 2: SIFT and match : Click on icon that looks like 4 arrows in an X shape on the toolbar.**



Detection : "SIFTing" is where unique features of each image are detected and logged

*(This process can accelerate on machines with better GPU)*

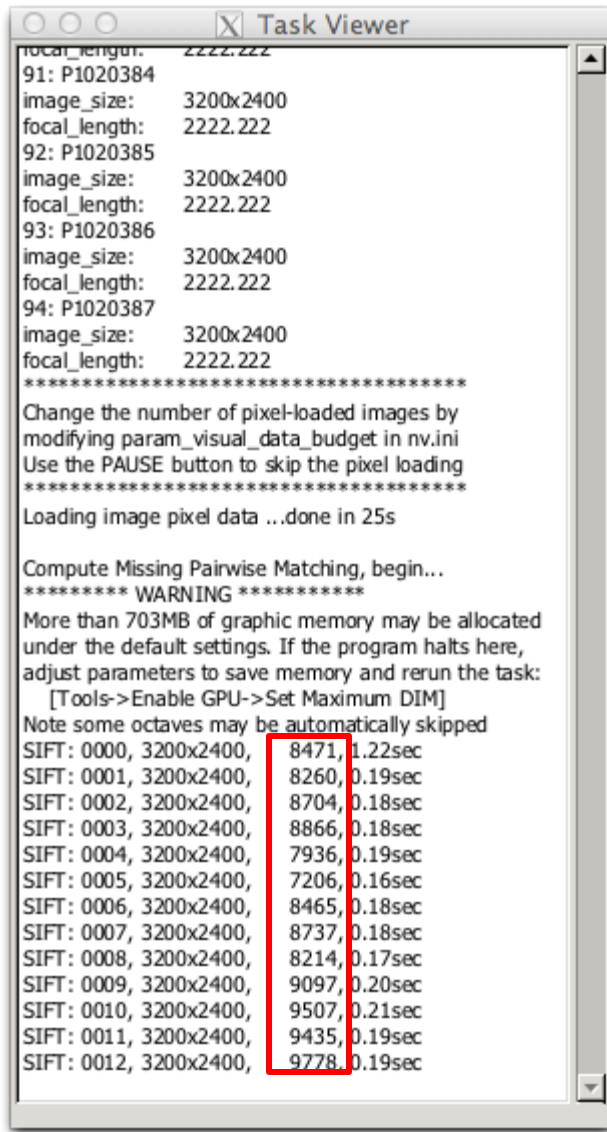
Matching : Features are matched between images

*(amount of comparisons that have to be made is exponentially related to the number of images)*

Neighbour comparison : comparison to only the  $n$  images on either side of each image taken with for a linear camera move.

Note : In case the process is interrupted or crashing out/hanged, process resumes where it left off the next time you try to SIFT and match those images

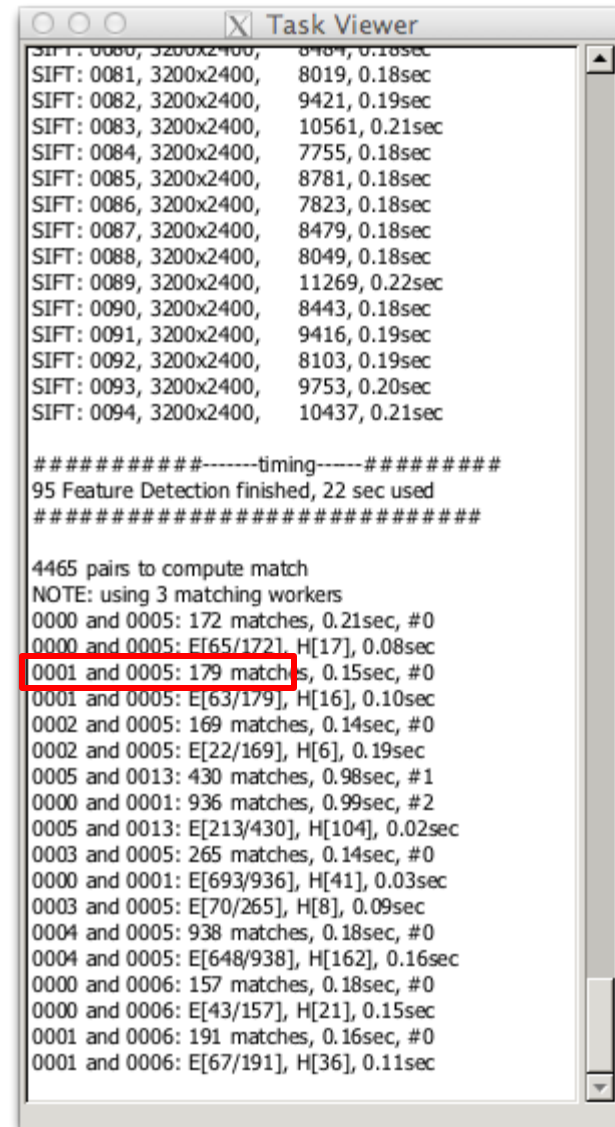
# Taskviewer Logs



```
local_length: 2222.222
91: P1020384
image_size: 3200x2400
focal_length: 2222.222
92: P1020385
image_size: 3200x2400
focal_length: 2222.222
93: P1020386
image_size: 3200x2400
focal_length: 2222.222
94: P1020387
image_size: 3200x2400
focal_length: 2222.222
*****
Change the number of pixel-loaded images by
modifying param_visual_data_budget in nv.ini
Use the PAUSE button to skip the pixel loading
*****
Loading image pixel data ...done in 25s

Compute Missing Pairwise Matching, begin...
***** WARNING *****
More than 703MB of graphic memory may be allocated
under the default settings. If the program halts here,
adjust parameters to save memory and rerun the task:
[Tools->Enable GPU->Set Maximum DIM]
Note some octaves may be automatically skipped
SIFT: 0000, 3200x2400, 8471, 0.122sec
SIFT: 0001, 3200x2400, 8260, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0002, 3200x2400, 8704, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0003, 3200x2400, 8866, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0004, 3200x2400, 7936, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0005, 3200x2400, 7206, 0.16sec
SIFT: 0006, 3200x2400, 8465, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0007, 3200x2400, 8737, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0008, 3200x2400, 8214, 0.17sec
SIFT: 0009, 3200x2400, 9097, 0.20sec
SIFT: 0010, 3200x2400, 9507, 0.21sec
SIFT: 0011, 3200x2400, 9435, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0012, 3200x2400, 9778, 0.19sec
```

Feature Detection



```
SIFT: 0000, 3200x2400, 8471, 0.122sec
SIFT: 0001, 3200x2400, 8019, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0002, 3200x2400, 9421, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0003, 3200x2400, 10561, 0.21sec
SIFT: 0004, 3200x2400, 7755, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0005, 3200x2400, 8781, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0006, 3200x2400, 7823, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0007, 3200x2400, 8479, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0008, 3200x2400, 8049, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0009, 3200x2400, 11269, 0.22sec
SIFT: 0090, 3200x2400, 8443, 0.18sec
SIFT: 0091, 3200x2400, 9416, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0092, 3200x2400, 8103, 0.19sec
SIFT: 0093, 3200x2400, 9753, 0.20sec
SIFT: 0094, 3200x2400, 10437, 0.21sec

#####-----timing-----#####
95 Feature Detection finished, 22 sec used
#####

4465 pairs to compute match
NOTE: using 3 matching workers
0000 and 0005: 172 matches, 0.21sec, #0
0000 and 0005: E[65/172], H[17], 0.08sec
0001 and 0005: 179 matches, 0.15sec, #0
0001 and 0005: E[63/179], H[16], 0.10sec
0002 and 0005: 169 matches, 0.14sec, #0
0002 and 0005: E[22/169], H[6], 0.19sec
0005 and 0013: 430 matches, 0.98sec, #1
0000 and 0001: 936 matches, 0.99sec, #2
0005 and 0013: E[213/430], H[104], 0.02sec
0003 and 0005: 265 matches, 0.14sec, #0
0000 and 0001: E[693/936], H[41], 0.03sec
0003 and 0005: E[70/265], H[8], 0.09sec
0004 and 0005: 938 matches, 0.18sec, #0
0004 and 0005: E[648/938], H[162], 0.16sec
0000 and 0006: 157 matches, 0.18sec, #0
0000 and 0006: E[43/157], H[21], 0.15sec
0001 and 0006: 191 matches, 0.16sec, #0
0001 and 0006: E[67/191], H[36], 0.11sec
```

Feature Matching



**Step 3: Sparse 3D reconstruction : Click on button with the two arrows on it (>>) to start this process.**

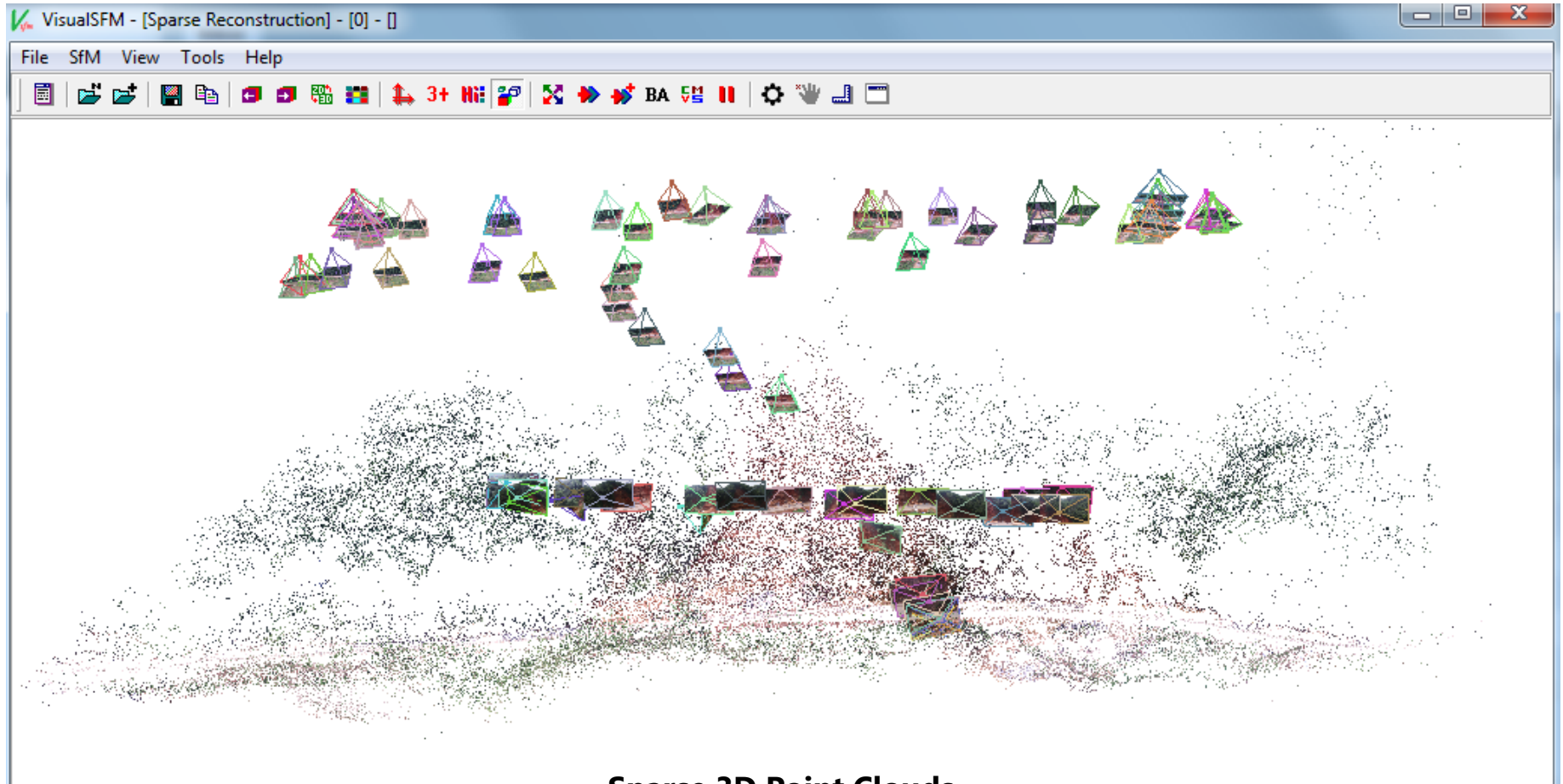
Once the overlapping features have been detected, you can begin a sparse 3D reconstruction



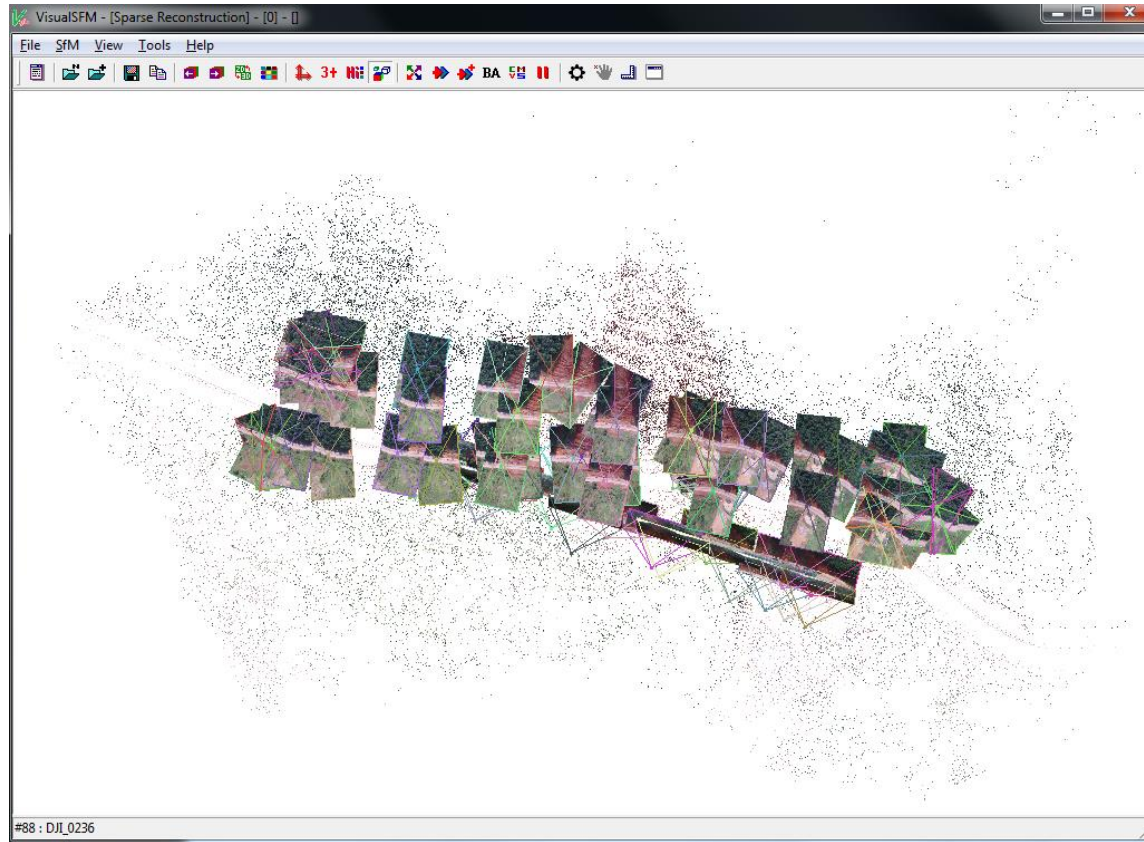
This process is interactive! : Pan, rotate and zoom through the 3D space as it tries to solve the feature overlaps into a 3D form!

See the position and rotation of the cameras that recorded the original images

**ctrl+mousewheel** up or down in order to scale the photos that are reconstructing the scene to get an idea of which photos are being places where



**Sparse 3D Point Clouds**



Adjusted the size of the projectors up a bit so you can how it's fitting each camera / image into the scene

This process is interactive in that you can influence the outcome of the solve by removing bad cameras

## Removing bad cameras (Optional)

### Method 1.

1. Turn off 3+
2. Click F2, select the bad 3D points
3. Click the 'hand' icon twice, it will delete the camera that sees the largest number of selected points
4. Go to step 1 if there are still bad 3D points
5. Click >>+ to grow the modified 3D model

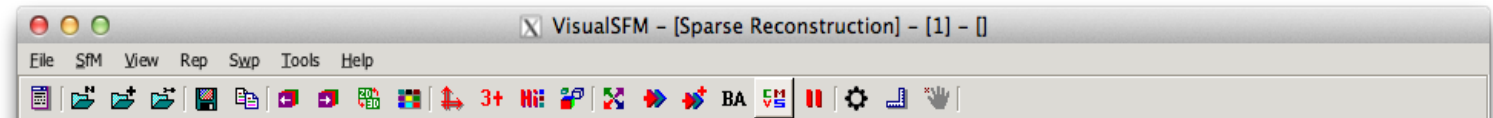
### Method 2.

1. Click F1, draw a rectangle to select all the bad cameras (at most 250 cameras at a time)
2. Click the "hand" icon to remove all the bad cameras
3. Click >>+ to grow the modified 3D model.



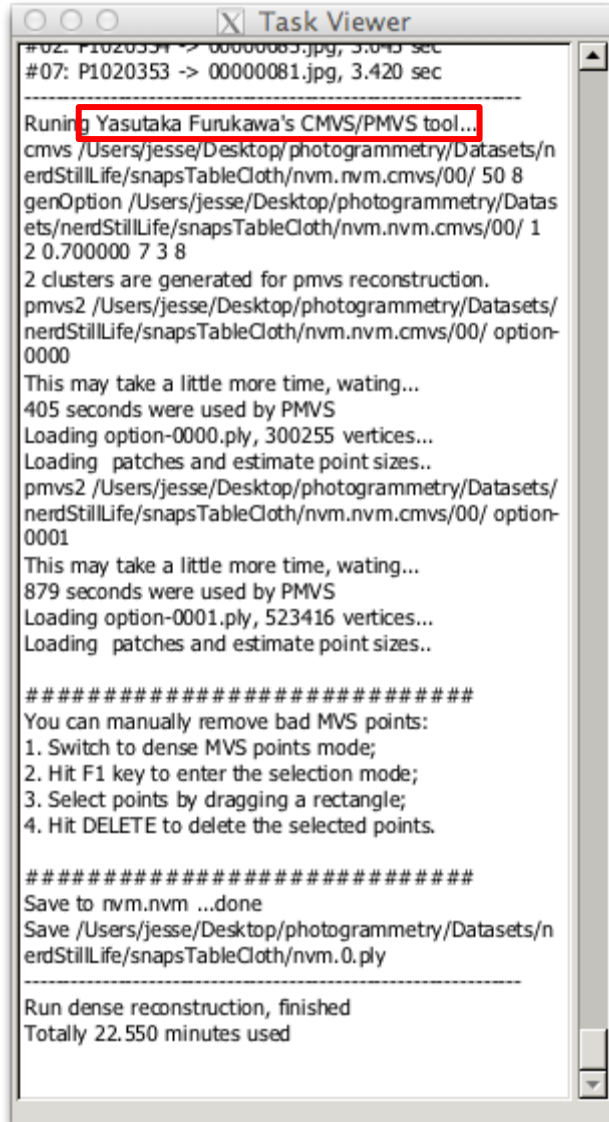
**Step 4: Dense reconstruction : Click on the “cmvs” button, and save the cmvs folder structure**

Takes Sparse Point cloud and computes a much denser version of the point cloud



VisualSFM will export its internal sparse reconstruction to that folder in the format needed by cmvs / pmvs2 and that software is then run in order to populate that folder structure with the dense point cloud

# Taskviewer Logs



```
#02: P1020351 -> 00000083.jpg, 3.043 sec
#07: P1020353 -> 00000081.jpg, 3.420 sec

-----
Running Yasutaka Furukawa's CMVS/PMVS tool...
cmvs /Users/jesse/Desktop/photogrammetry/Datasets/nerdStillLife/snapsTableCloth/nvm.nvm.cmvs/00/ 50 8
genOption /Users/jesse/Desktop/photogrammetry/Datasets/nerdStillLife/snapsTableCloth/nvm.nvm.cmvs/00/ 1
2 0.700000 7 3 8
2 clusters are generated for pmvs reconstruction.
pmvs2 /Users/jesse/Desktop/photogrammetry/Datasets/nerdStillLife/snapsTableCloth/nvm.nvm.cmvs/00/ option-0000
This may take a little more time, waiting...
405 seconds were used by PMVS
Loading option-0000.ply, 300255 vertices...
Loading patches and estimate point sizes..
pmvs2 /Users/jesse/Desktop/photogrammetry/Datasets/nerdStillLife/snapsTableCloth/nvm.nvm.cmvs/00/ option-0001
This may take a little more time, waiting...
879 seconds were used by PMVS
Loading option-0001.ply, 523416 vertices...
Loading patches and estimate point sizes..

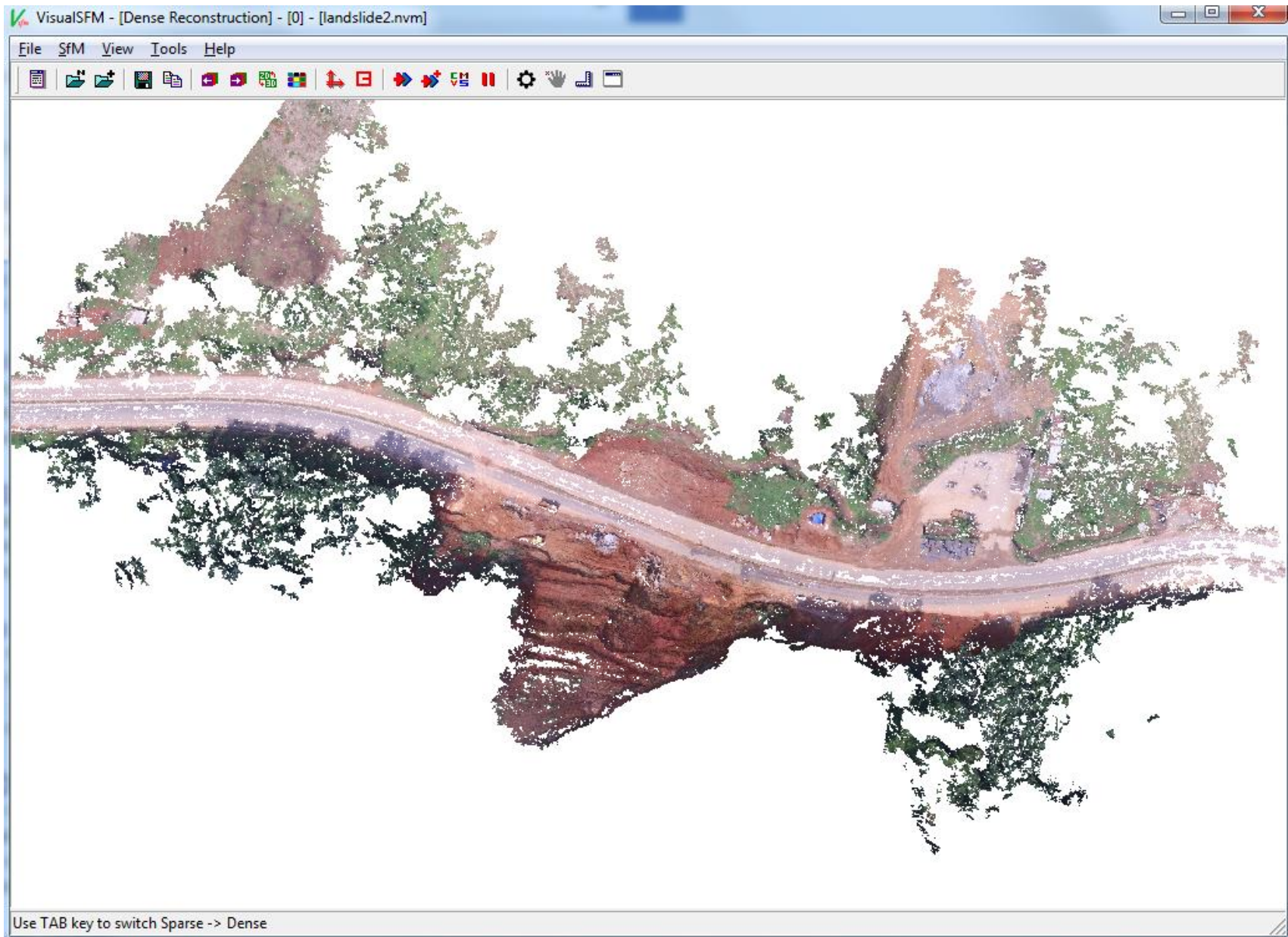
#####
You can manually remove bad MVS points:
1. Switch to dense MVS points mode;
2. Hit F1 key to enter the selection mode;
3. Select points by dragging a rectangle;
4. Hit DELETE to delete the selected points.

#####
Save to nvm.nvm ...done
Save /Users/jesse/Desktop/photogrammetry/Datasets/nerdStillLife/snapsTableCloth/nvm.0.ply

-----
Run dense reconstruction, finished
Totally 22.550 minutes used
```

Once the dense reconstruction is complete, Click tab to see a visualization within VisualSFM of 3D Dense Point Cloud





Click on 'F' to hide/show camera position

Note : you can also perform a dense reconstruction with [cmp-mvs](#)

## VisualSFM Process Conclusion

1. Debugging – Remove bad points / cameras that have been added in the wrong position / orientation in order to improve
2. The SIFT and matching process is stored on disk  
**.sift and .mat file for each image**



# Meshlab

**“MeshLab** is an advanced 3D mesh processing software system that is oriented to the management and processing of unstructured large meshes and provides a set of tools for editing, cleaning, healing, inspecting, rendering, and converting these kinds of meshes. MeshLab is free and open-source software, subject to the requirements of the GNU General Public License (GPL), version 2 or later, and is used as both a complete package and a library powering other software. It is well known in the more technical fields of 3D development and data handling ”

**Input** : Meshlab operates on mesh and point-cloud data

**Caution :**

1. it doesn't have undo button/action!

Changes are only made to a mesh if you “export” it.

If you want to go back, you can “reload” the current mesh you're editing

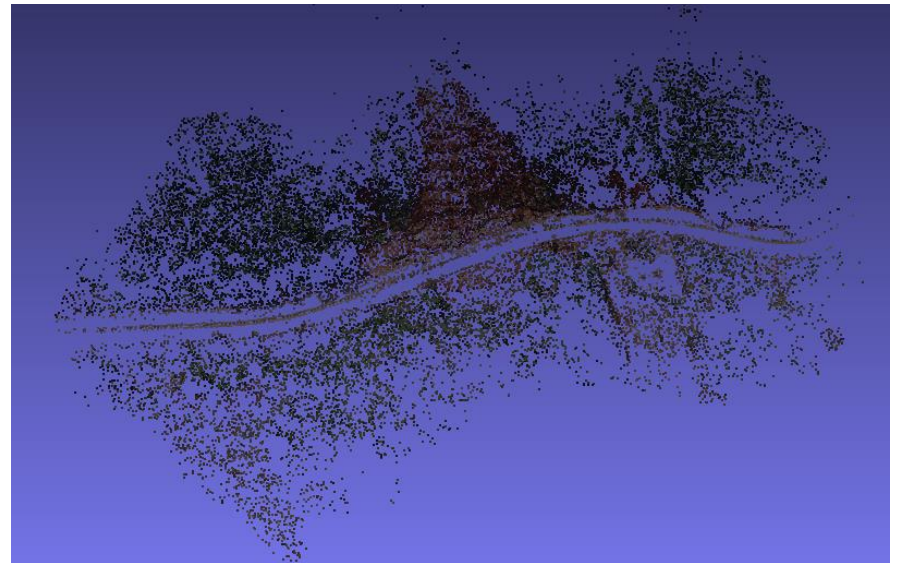
Note : Be careful and save your meshlab project AND export your mesh (“export as...” in order to save a new file) frequently

**Step 1. Open the bundle.rd.out file  
(to import the bundle.rd.out file to get the camera positions and rasters)**

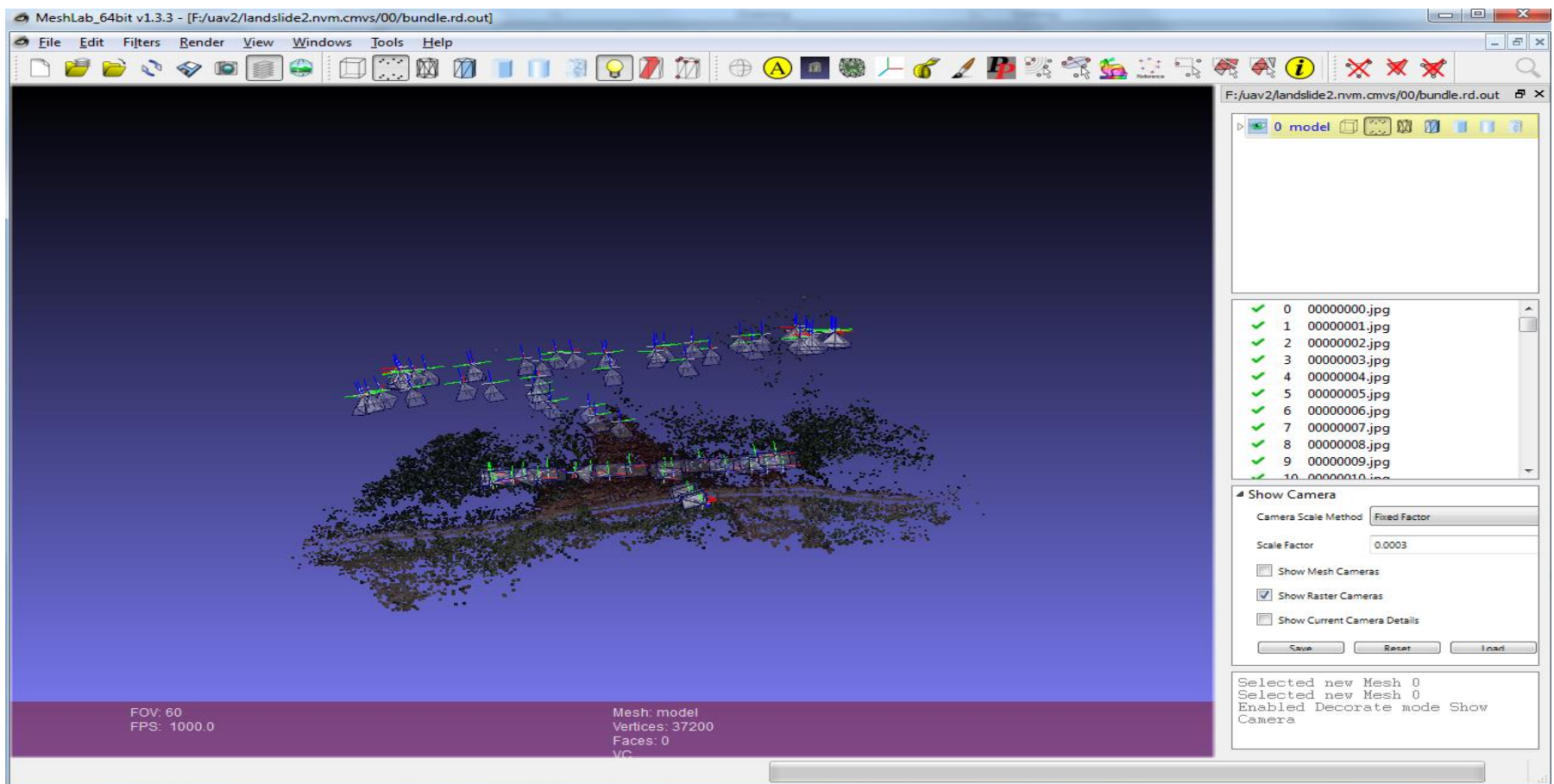
bundle.rd.out stores internal representation of the sparse reconstruction

Go to File → Open Project, and navigate to your bundle.rd.out file within the nvm directory

Meshlab will ask you as soon as you select the bundle.rd.out file to select the camera file. That's in a file in the same directory called, "list.txt", so select that next



The above steps will import the cameras from your solve into the scene as well as the photos they're associated with (they're called raster layers in Meshlab). This is important for the texturing process later on



click on the layers icon on the toolbar to open up the layers palette. You should see your geometry layers on the top right, and the raster layers on the bottom right of the screen.

Go to Render → Show Camera. This will display the camera frustums from all of your projectors in the viewer. The default scale of the camera visualization is huge compared to the size of our mesh, so click on the disclosure triangle next to "Show Camera" that has appeared on our layers sidebar: change the scale factor to something like 0.001. Keep decreasing it until you can see both your mesh and the camera positions around your mesh.

Disable the camera visualization by unchecking Render → Show Camera.

## Step 2. Replace sparse cloud with the dense one

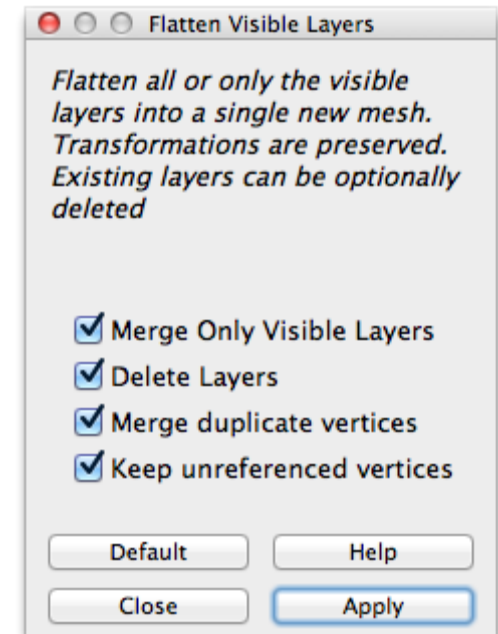
1. In the layers palate, right click on the mesh layer, and select "delete current mesh" in order to remove it entirely.
2. select File → Import Mesh and load the dense mesh. It should be located in your NVM\_FOLDER/00/models/option-0000.ply

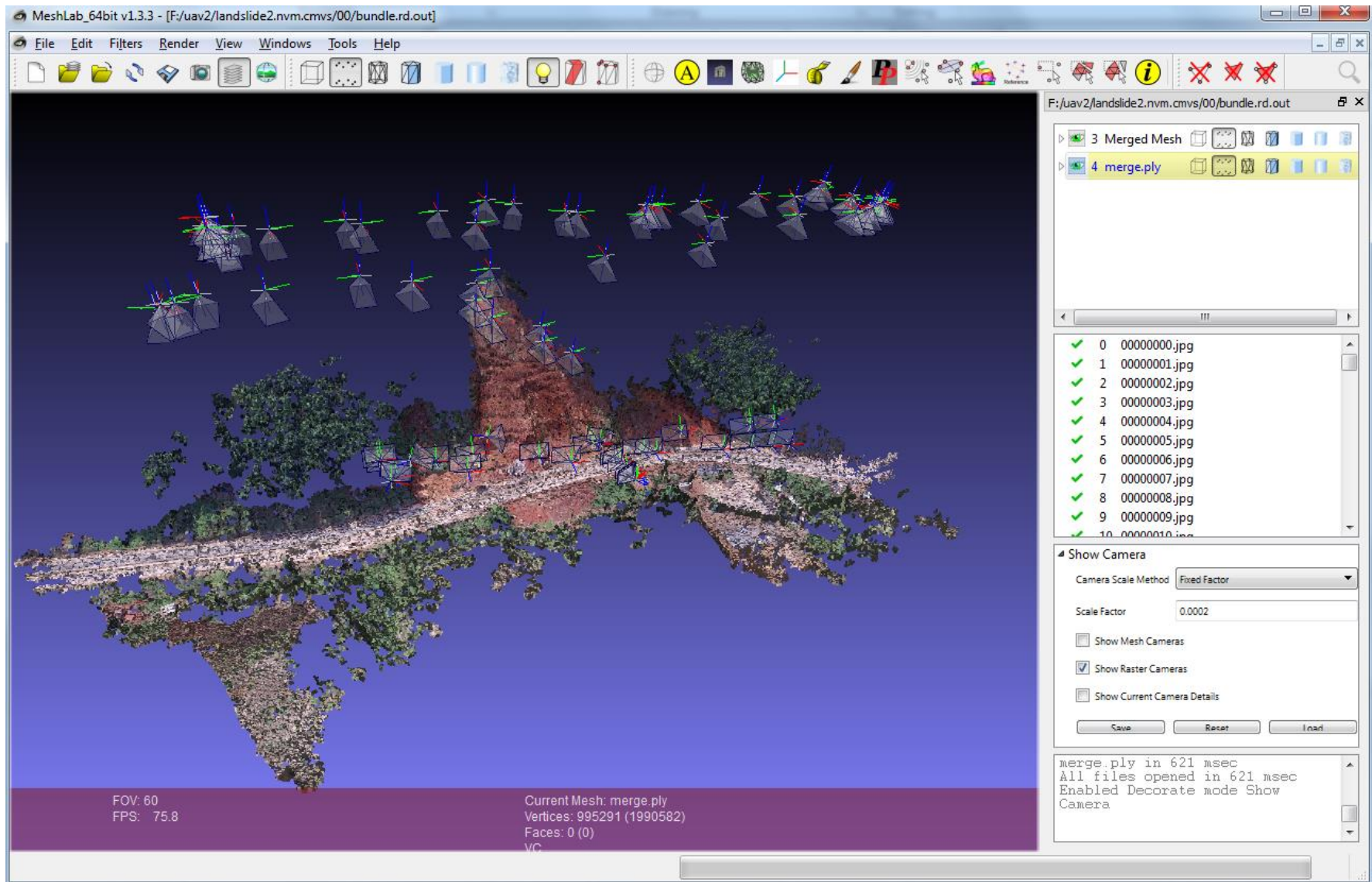
**Note :** It's possible that VisualSFM (really pmvs2) generated multiple .ply files (called option-0000.ply, option-0001.ply etc). Because the dense mesher only works with 50 cameras at a time.

If you have multiple .ply files, you'll need to flatten them into one mesh before you can proceed.

Simply right click on any of the mesh layers, and select "Flatter Visible Layers". Make sure to check "Keep unreferenced vertices":

Save as the merge ply file and import it afresh





Dense point cloud AND the camera positions / raster layers!



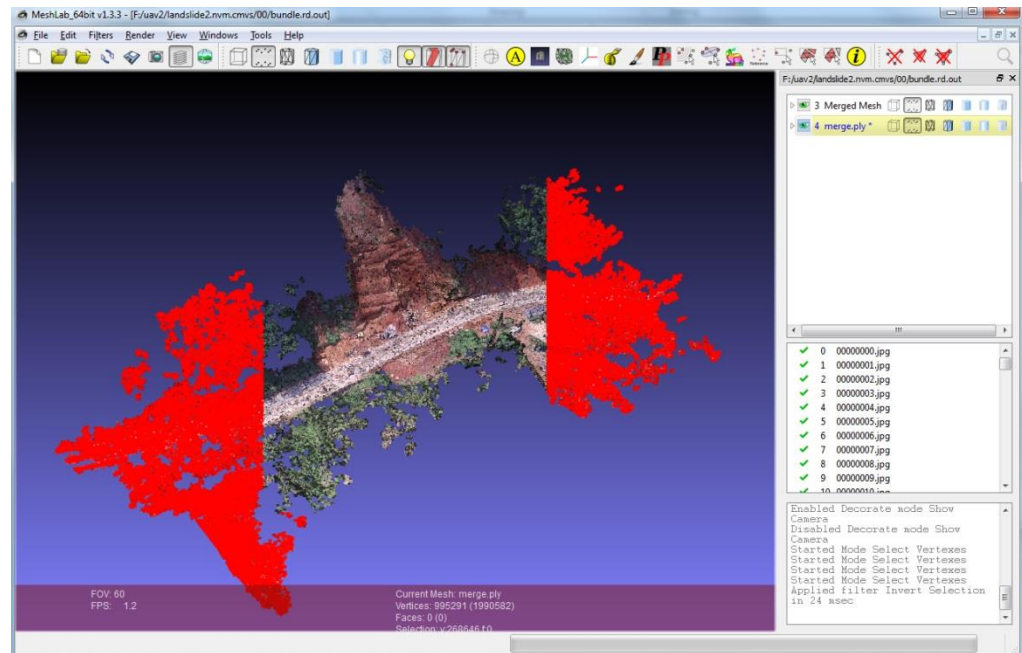
### Step 3. Clean up dense 3d points



box selection tool : select regions of points that are bad



delete points button



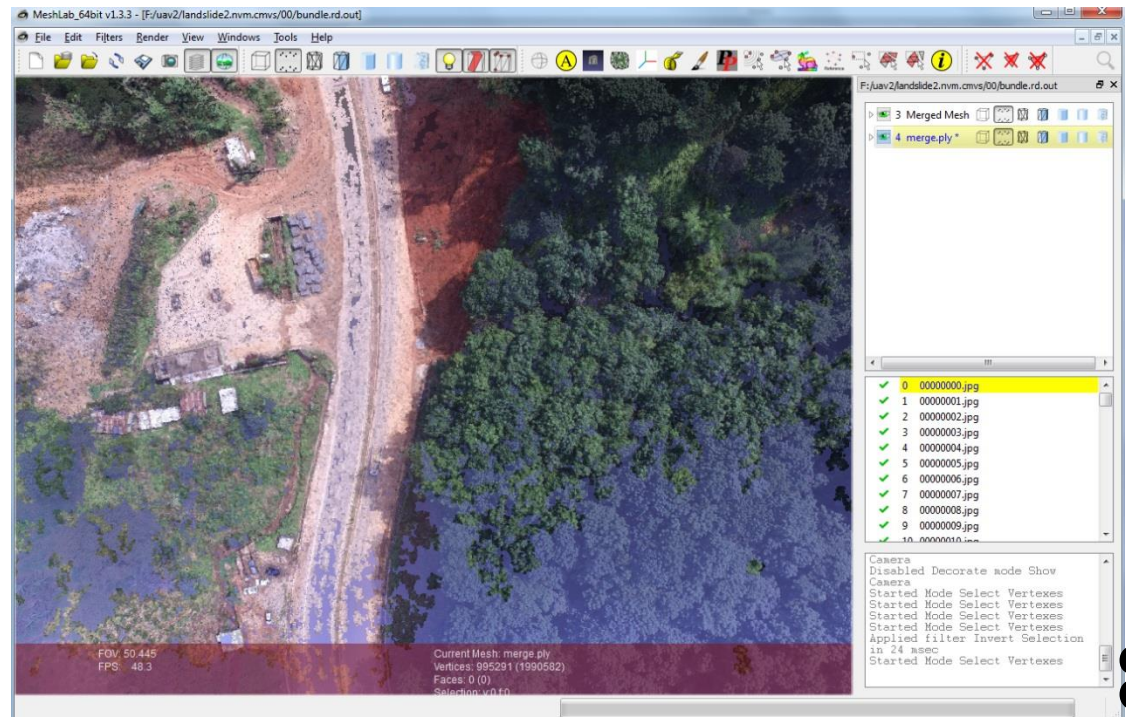
## Step 4. Check the Cameras



Click on "Show current raster mode" button

The 3D camera will snap to the position where VisualSFM thought that image was taken from in 3d space! You can scroll your mousewheel to alter the transparency of your image and double check the alignment!

After, you've checked your cameras, disable the "Show current raster mode" by hitting the icon again.



## Step 5. Meshing

Convert point cloud into an actual polygonal mesh

Several algorithms for doing this meshing step, but the best seems to be the Poisson Surface Reconstruction algorithm by *Kazhdan, Bolitho, and Hoppe*

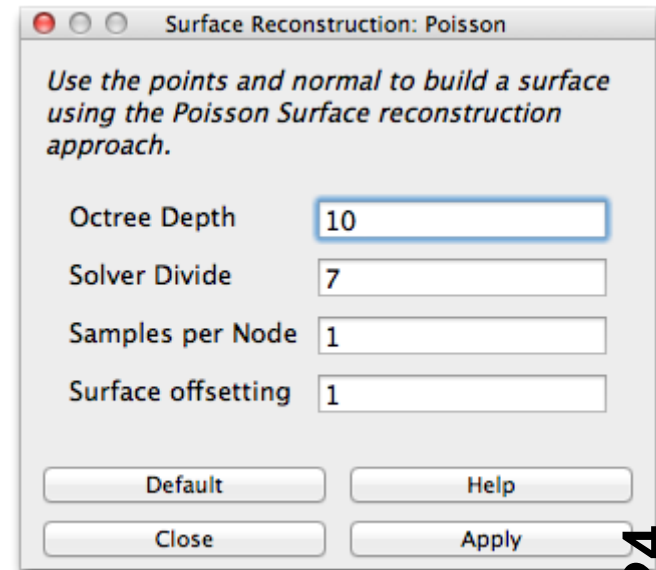
The algorithm is Open source : See the source code at <http://www.cs.jhu.edu/~misha/Code/PoissonRecon/Version6/>

Select Filter → Points → Surface Reconstruction: Poisson

Spend some time and experiment here,

Keep increasing the Octree Depth till you're getting meshes that have more or less the same level of detail.

**Note** : Each time you click on "apply" in the Poisson Surface Reconstruction filter, meshlab will create a new layer with your mesh in it. Instead of deleting the ones that are bad, keep them around and maybe even rename them with the settings you chose

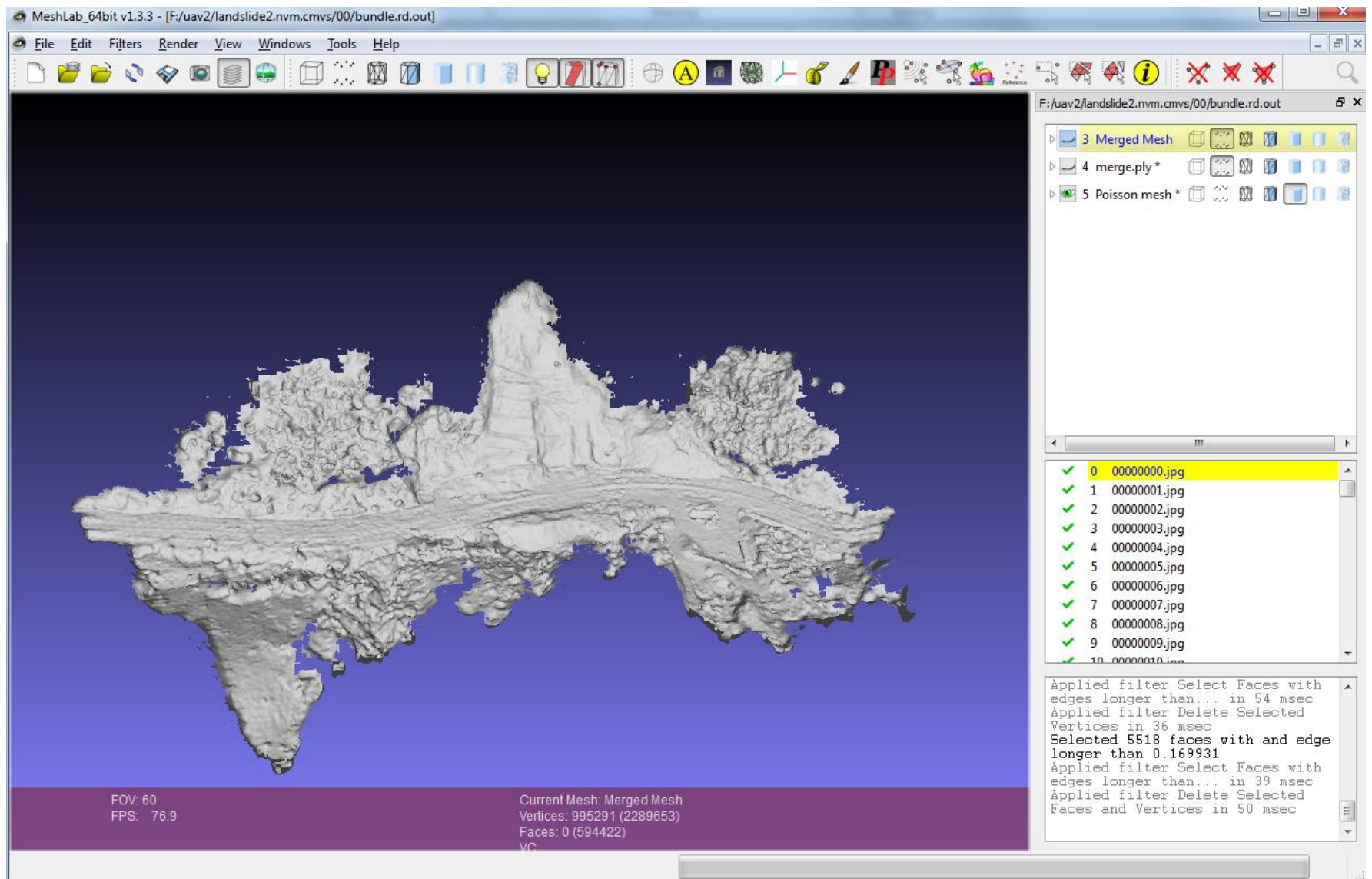




## Caution : Meshing

- Octree Depth seems to have the most control over the detail in the mesh. The larger that number gets, the slower things seem to go / more memory you need, so be careful
- The Solver Divide seems to help use less memory when the Octree depth increases
- "Samples per Node" setting seems to smooth the mesh out if it has a lot of errors in it  
(Leave it at 1-5 to start with and increase up to 20 to try to smooth your mesh out a bit if there are problems)

*The Poisson Mesher always tries to return "watertight" meshes which means that often it will return a mesh-ball with your object /environment inside. In order to excavate your mesh, you'll need to spend some time deleting faces. You can try "Filters -> Selection -> Select faces with edges longer than"*



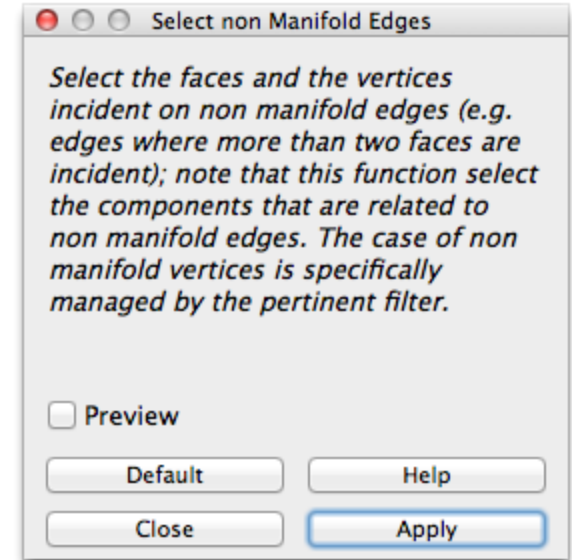
Save both mesh and project

## Step 6. Fix manifold edges

After meshing, there are non-manifold edges which need to be removed before we can proceed.

Technically, non-manifold geometry is *"any edge shared by more than two faces."* Non-technically, non-manifold geometry is bad geo that that certain algorithms can't deal with

Filters -> Selection -> Select Non-Manifold edges, hit Apply, then delete them with the delete points button.

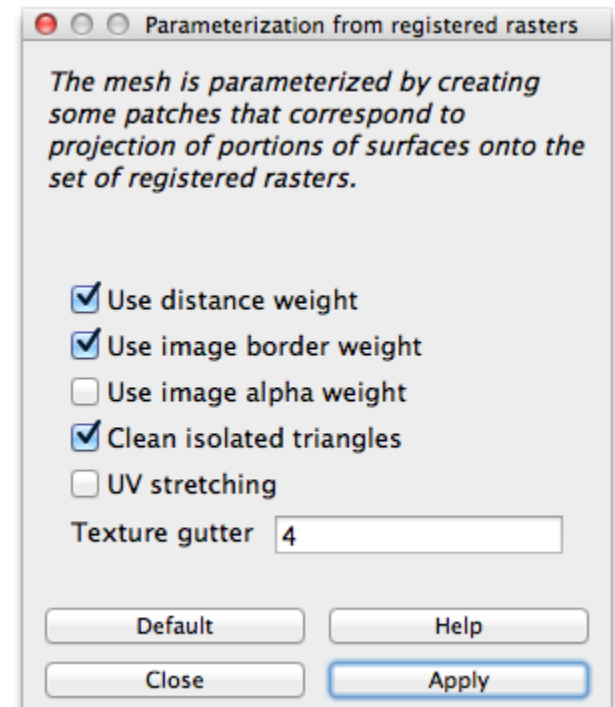


## Step 7. Parameterization

Automatically builds a UV map by figuring out which projector cameras have the best view of each face of the model

Filter → Texture → Parameterization from registered rasters, and match the following settings

Save (both the project, and the mesh).

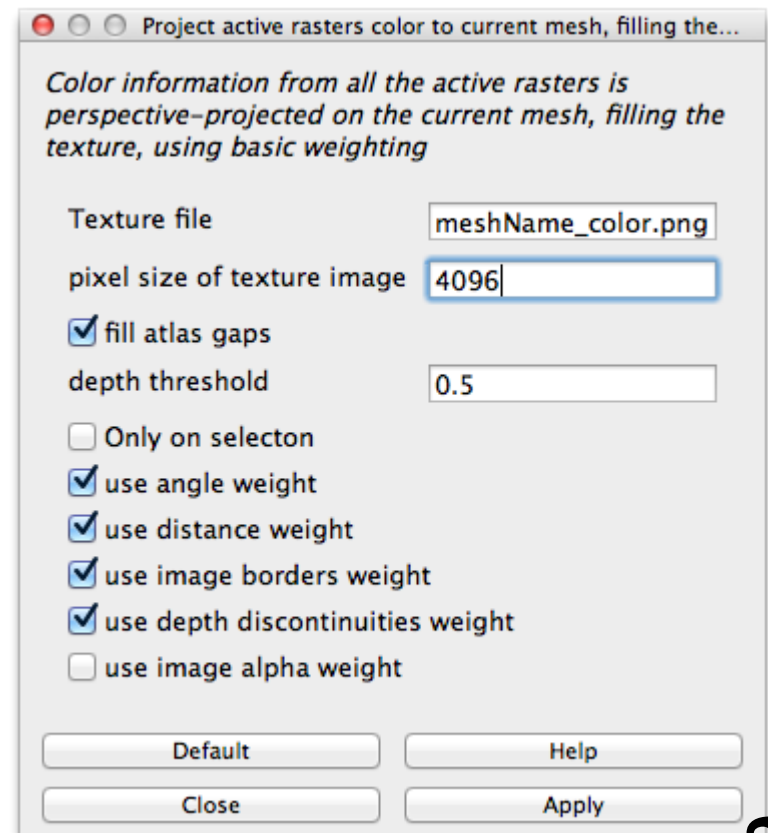


## Step 8. Project textures

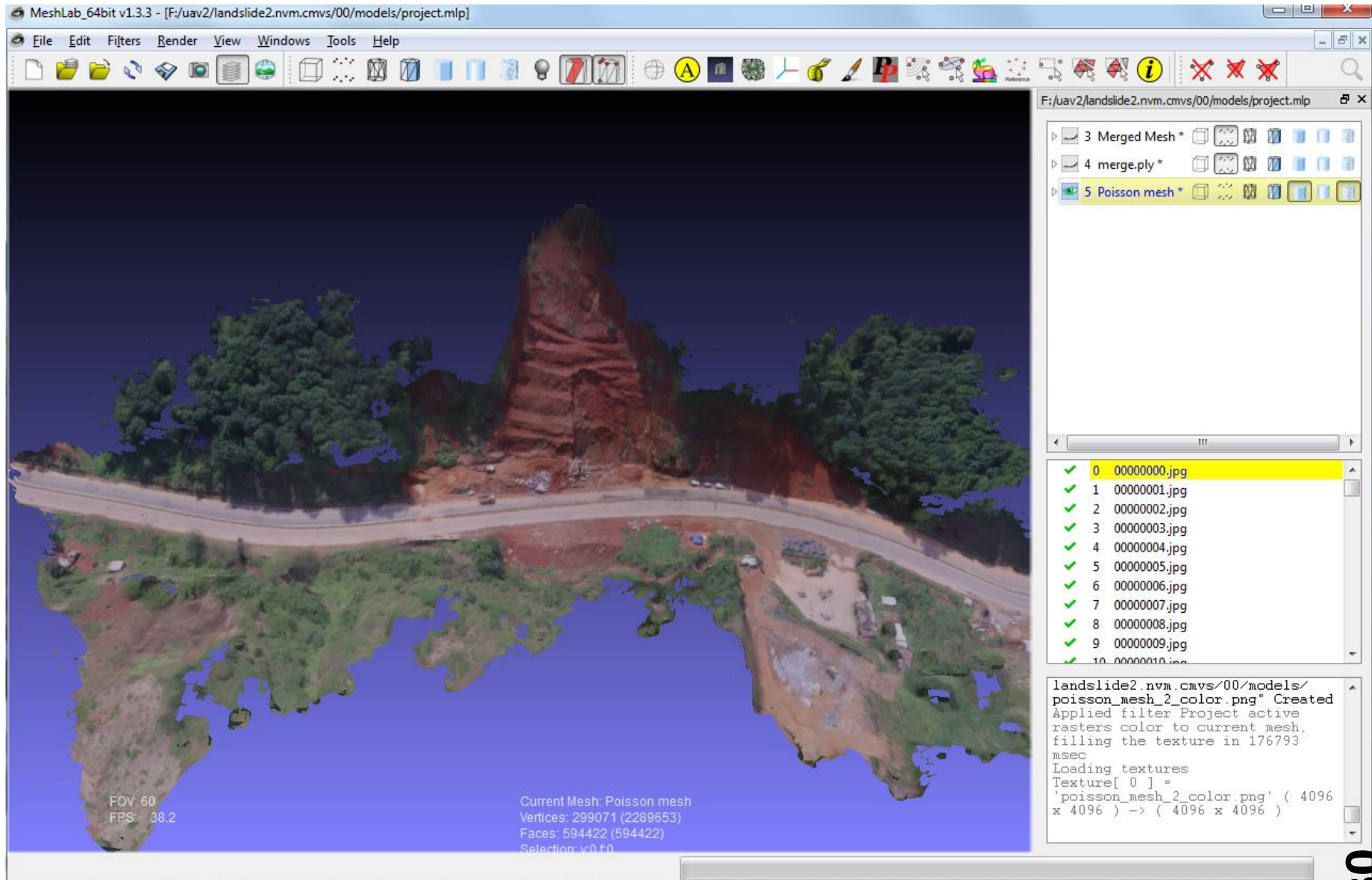
Project the texture from the projectors and make a texture map. Filter → Texture → Project active rasters color to current mesh, filling the texture, and match the following settings.

The texture filename you choose will be the name of the texture image that gets written out. The pixel size can be any power of 2 greater than, I'd say, 512. 512 / 1024 / 2048 / 4096 / 8192...the sky (really your computer) is the limit.

Shortcut: Parameterization + texturing from registered rasters



# The Textured 3D Model!



### osmBundler implements 3 algorithms

- Bundler –performs sparse 3D reconstruction
- PMVS (patch multi view stereo) takes the sparse reconstruction resulted from running Bundler and produces a dense 3D reconstruction.
- CMVS (clustered multi view stereo) which is the same as PMVS, only that is faster and should be used when you process a lot of images.

### Installation

- Download and copy osm-bundler on any drive
- Download & Install python 2.7
- install Python Imaging Library

### Setup and Running

- Open Command Prompt as an Administrator
- `>>cd drive:\<Installation Path>\osm-bundler\osm-bundlerWin32/64`
- insert the camera model and the CCD width to Bundler's camera's database (For NESAC zenmuse, its 6.17 calculated from CMOS sensor size of 1/2.3")
  - `python RunBundler.py --photos=<full path where your images are located> --checkCameraDatabase`
- Keypoint detection/matching and generation of sparse 3d point clouds
  - `>>python RunBundler.py --photos="<full path where your images are located>"`
- Dense Point Cloud Generation
  - `>>python RunPMVS.py -bundlerOutputPath="<BundlerOutputPath>"`
- Open the Dense Point cloud .ply file in Meshlab  
(Observer the number of 3Dpoints/vertices)

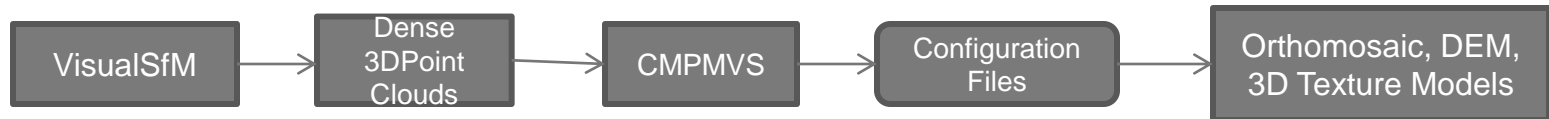


# 3

## VisualSfM+CMPMVS

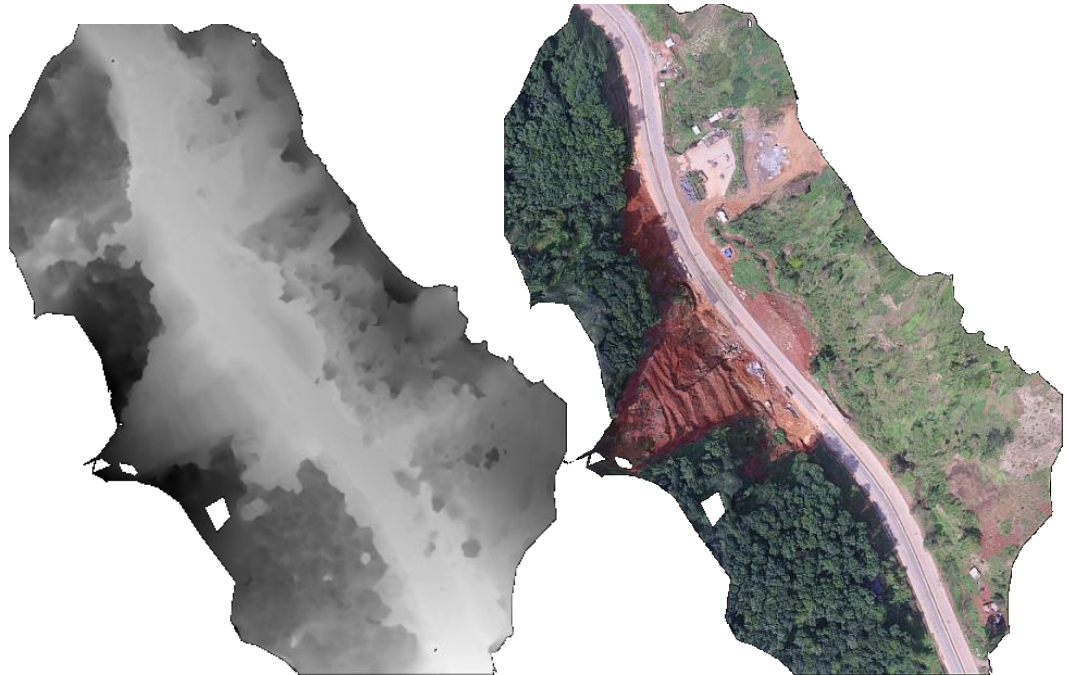
OrthoMosaic, DEM, 3D Textured Surface Models

### Process Flow



**Issues :** It gives DEM data as **DEM.png** which 16-bit data and needs to be converted to 32 bit (float) .tiff where each pixels will represent the pixels value as altitude in meters

CMPMVS is contains computer vision algorithms and run using libraries from OpenCV



DEM

Orthophoto



# VisualSfM+CMPMVS

OrthoMosaic, DEM, 3D Textured Surface Models

- Install and Setup visualSfM as usual
- Run VisualSfm till 3D sparse reconstruction
- In VisualSfM, save the dense 3D reconstruction output to folder of type
  - NVM.CMP
- Install CMPMVS version 0.6
  - Configure mvs.ini (output from VisualSfM) according to type of products that needs to be generated
  - Eg. For DEM, set `doComputeDEM=TRUE` ; For, Orthomosaic, set `doComputeOrthomosaic=TRUE`
  - Once .ini file has been configured
    - Open command prompt, Go to CMPMVS installation path
    - Execute `>>cmpmvs "path to .ini"`

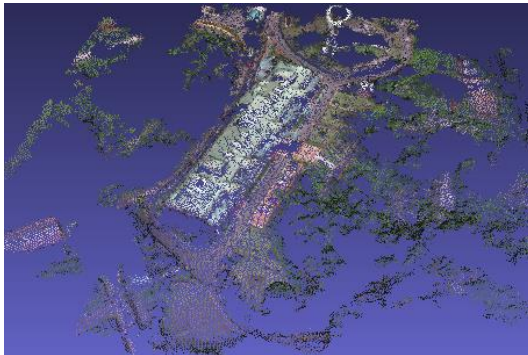
Complete UAV data process pipelines in one open 'box'!

## UAV Data Products from ODM

- Point Clouds
- Digital Surface Models
- Textured Digital Surface Models
- Orthorectified Imagery
- Classified Point Clouds
- Digital Elevation Models

```
puyam@puyam-HP-ProBook-4430s: ~/nesac2
[... odm_texturing-textureResolution <positive integer>]
[... odm_texturing-texturewidthsize <positive integer>]
[... odm_georeferencing-gcpfile <path string>]
[... odm_georeferencing-useGcp]
[... odm_orthophoto-resolution <float > 0.0>] [--zip-results]
run-1.py: error: unrecognized arguments: false
puyam@puyam-HP-ProBook-4430s:~/orchid5$ ./OpenDroneMap/run-1.py --odm_georeferencing-useGcp=false --start-w
lth odm_georeferencing
usage: run-1.py [-h] [--resize-to <integer>] [--job-dir-name <string>]
[... --start-with <task>] [--end-with <task>] [--run-only <task>]
[... --use-opensfm] [--use-bundler]
[... --force-focal <positive float>]
[... --force-cdd <positive float>] [--min-num-features <integer>]
[... --matcher-threshold <percent>] [--matcher-ratio <float>]
[... --matcher-neighbors <integer>] [--matcher-distance <integer>]
[... --cmvs-maxImages <integer>] [--pmvs-level <positive integer>]
[... --pmvs-calize <positive integer>]
[... --pmvs-threshold <float: -1.0 <= x <= 1.0>]
[... --pmvs-walze <positive integer>]
[... --pmvs-minImageNum <positive integer>]
[... --odm_meshting-maxVertexcount <positive integer>]
[... --odm_meshting-octreeDepth <positive integer>]
[... --odm_meshting-samplesPerNode <float > 1.0>]
[... --odm_meshting-solverDivide <positive integer>]
[... odm_texturing-textureResolution <positive integer>]
[... odm_texturing-texturewidthsize <positive integer>]
[... odm_georeferencing-gcpfile <path string>]
[... odm_georeferencing-useGcp]
[... odm_orthophoto-resolution <float > 0.0>] [--zip-results]
run-1.py: error: argument --odm_georeferencing-useGcp: ignored explicit argument 'false'
puyam@puyam-HP-ProBook-4430s:~/orchid5$ cd ..
puyam@puyam-HP-ProBook-4430s:~$ cd nesac2
puyam@puyam-HP-ProBook-4430s:~/nesac2$
```

Running ODM on Ubuntu



GeoRef Point Clouds



Orthophoto.tif