

## EXPLORATION OF OPEN DATA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO GENERATE 3D BUILDING MODELS

F. Biljecki<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore, Singapore

<sup>2</sup> Department of Real Estate, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Commission VI, WG VI/4

**KEY WORDS:** Volunteered geoinformation, OpenStreetMap, quality, completeness, 3D GIS, 3D city models, open data

### ABSTRACT:

This article investigates the current status of generating 3D building models across 11 countries in Southeast Asia from publicly available data, primarily volunteered geoinformation (OpenStreetMap). The following countries are analysed: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. This cross-country study includes multiple spatial levels of analysis: country, town, and micro-level (smaller neighbourhood). The main finding is that authoritative data to generate 3D building models is almost non-existent while building completeness in OpenStreetMap is highly heterogeneous, yielding location-dependent conclusions. While in general just a fraction of mapped buildings has height information and none of the administrative areas provides sufficient information to generate 3D building models, on a micro-level some areas are fully complete, providing a high potential to generate 3D building models on a precinct scale, which may be useful for certain spatial analyses. Furthermore, some areas have high building completeness, requiring only half of the work necessary for the extrusion: the collection of building height attributes. As a part of this work, a semantic 3D building model of a selected set of buildings in Singapore has been generated and released as open data (CityJSON), and the developed code was open-sourced.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

3D city models can be derived using a variety of acquisition techniques involving different stakeholders, under open or commercial arrangements. Much of the work done in the 3D GIS research community relies on the availability of open data. Besides the open data 3D city models released by local authorities (Schrotter and Hürzeler, 2020; Lehner and Dorffner, 2020), an increasing number of 3D city models are derived by conflating open datasets (Stoter et al., 2020; Kolbe et al., 2015). Such datasets originate from authorities and volunteered geoinformation, and have proven to be valuable in various spatial analyses (Saretta et al., 2020; Biljecki et al., 2016).

The developments involving open 3D data are mostly focused on Europe. The goal of this paper is to investigate the state of open building data in Southeast Asia to understand the current potential of generating 3D building models from free and public sources. While there are 3D city modelling developments across several countries in the region (Dissegna et al., 2019; Lagahit and Blanco, 2019; Aditya and Laksono, 2017; Stouffs et al., 2018; Ujang et al., 2018; Anh et al., 2018; Laksono and Aditya, 2019), rarely any work is based entirely on open data.

As there is a lack of 3D city models openly released by local authorities in the region, the focus of the paper is understanding currently open building and urban data that may aid the generation of 3D building models. Therefore, the research question that I seek to answer in this paper is: what is the current potential of generating 3D building models from open data in Southeast Asia?

Section 2 briefly overviews different approaches to generating 3D building models with a focus on open data. In Section 3,

the method of this research is described. Most of the work examines the regional potential of OpenStreetMap as the main source of building data to generate 3D building models. As the potential of generating 3D data in the study area turns out to be highly heterogeneous, the paper turns on understanding the completeness of data and patterns on different levels that could signify the potential (Section 4). This research includes some new aspects at looking and understanding the completeness of features in volunteered geoinformation. The analysis covers a vast scale (11 countries), resulting in large-scale insights and a cross-country comparison. The results and limitations are discussed in Section 5. Contributing to the availability of 3D building models in the region, the work also generates a 3D building dataset in Singapore (Section 6).

### 2. BACKGROUND

One of the most popular methods to generate 3D building models is extrusion (Ledoux and Meijers, 2011), which requires building footprints and information on the building height. Building footprints are often sourced from open government datasets or OpenStreetMap, while the building height may be derived from analysing airborne lidar data, among other options. Many — including country-wide — 3D city models have been generated entirely from open data combining different sources of building information and geospatial data (Dukai et al., 2019).

While building footprints are becoming increasingly available around the world, and many such datasets are open, airborne lidar datasets are not so widespread (Biljecki et al., 2017). Thus, a portion of 3D models has been generated by combining different attributes that indicate the height of the building, e.g. the number of floors has been used as a proxy for the building's height (Cheng et al., 2020).

\* Corresponding author at filip@nus.edu.sg

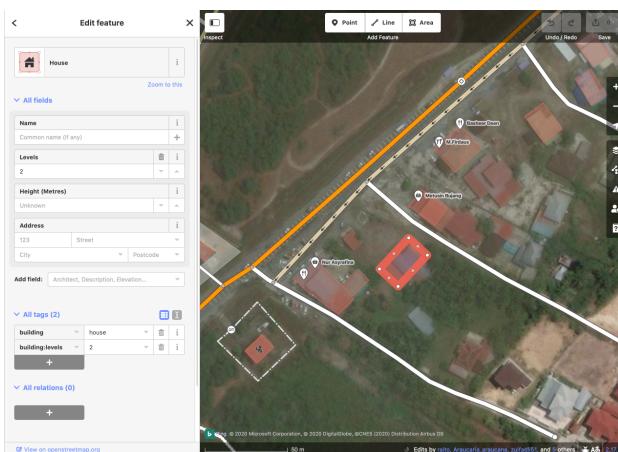


Figure 1. Example of editing the geometry and attributes (e.g. levels) in OpenStreetMap for a building in Telisai, Brunei. The surrounding of the building shows that the building completeness in this area is partial, which will be a topic of the later sections of the paper. Imagery: (c) Bing 2020 Microsoft Corporation, (c) 2020 DigitalGlobe, (c) CNES (2020) Distribution Airbus DS.

A popular source of building data is OpenStreetMap (OSM), and it has been deemed promising for generating 3D city models (Goetz and Zipf, 2012; Youssef et al., 2020). Besides providing building footprints that can be coupled with remotely sensed data (Bagheri et al., 2019), OSM allows capturing information on the vertical extent of the building (Figure 1), also enabling extrusion and serving as a complete 3D source on its own (Hadiimlioglu and King, 2019; Over et al., 2010). There are two key pieces of information that can be associated with a building footprint using the OSM's tag-value pair system: number of floors (`building:levels`) and height (`height`). The first one is intended to describe the number of storeys above the ground, while the latter is designated to include the actual building height in metres above ground.

While building completeness in OSM is very high in some parts of the world, and it can be considered to be on a par with government datasets, the main obstacle is the availability of building heights. For example, the research of Fan et al. (2014) shows that while building completeness reached nearly 100% in Germany, attributes on the height or number of storeys are filled for less than 1% of features. Recent research such as theirs is uncommon, so when replicating research on completeness for a particular country or region at this point, it is difficult to gauge whether it fares better than in other parts of the world. Completeness of building attributes must have somewhat improved since then, but a quick inspection in random places around the world reveals that it still lacks for the majority of buildings.

### 3. METHOD

This research first investigates the availability of building and topographic data from the authorities in the region, which may be useful to derive 3D building models. Afterwards, it focuses on OpenStreetMap and it provides a statistical analysis to understand the potential for generating 3D city models, and patterns in availability of data.

#### 3.1 Study area: 11 countries in Southeast Asia

The focus of this research is Southeast Asia, which accounts for 8.5% of the global population, and about 3% of the earth's

land area. The eleven countries investigated include those that are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam; and Timor-Leste which is not a member of ASEAN but it is geographically in Southeast Asia. The region is quite diverse, as the covered states have substantial economic, geographical, political, and cultural differences, presenting an interesting selection for a research such as this one.

#### 3.2 Authoritative data

An investigation into open building data in the 11 countries did not yield comprehensive results. Not a single country was found to release open data on buildings covering their entire territory. Some building data sources were found, e.g. on the Open Data Portal of the Singapore Government<sup>1</sup>, but including only a subset of buildings, such as public housing buildings.

Searching for open lidar datasets was similarly fruitless. The OpenTopography<sup>2</sup> portal reveals that there is no open lidar data in Southeast Asia. An extended search unveils that there is a dataset covering the Philippines<sup>3</sup>, but it requires submitting a data request, rather than allowing a direct unrestricted download, which would be considered as open data.

Arguably, with almost each country having a different official language, the language barrier provides a challenge in searching for the data. However, a literature review reveals that research that uses building data in the region either relied on OSM, closed cadastral sources, or own collection of data.

#### 3.3 Analysing OpenStreetMap data

Because of the lack of authoritative data, but also owing to its cross-country reach, this research mostly focuses on OSM. The research looks into the completeness of building levels and height attributes, their relation, and their spatial variation.

It should be mentioned that most of the related research assessing the quality of the building data is based on validating the data against authoritative data and are focused on a single country (Brovelli and Zamboni, 2018; Senaratne et al., 2017), which in this case is not possible nor feasible. Also, it should be noted that besides the completeness of the buildings, the correctness of the attributes is as well out of scope, as it would require an immense cross-country effort comparing it against other datasets, that in many cases would not be available (e.g. Google Street View).

A copy of the OSM database was downloaded from Planet OSM<sup>4</sup>, and it was loaded in a local PostgreSQL/PostGIS database using osm2pgsql<sup>5</sup>. The world was partitioned in cells (tiles) of the size of about 1 square km each (as inspired by the Worldpop project (Lloyd et al., 2019)). For each tile, the number of buildings was counted and the availability of the height attributes was noted, enabling an analysis ranging from regional and country level down to the micro-level of a neighbourhood. The eleven countries in Southeast Asia are covered by 358k such squares with at least one building, containing almost 38M buildings. To enable a cross-city and cross-country comparison,

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.gov.sg/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://portal.opentopography.org/datasets>

<sup>3</sup> <https://lipad.dream.upd.edu.ph>

<sup>4</sup> <https://planet.openstreetmap.org>

<sup>5</sup> <https://github.com/openstreetmap/osm2pgsql>



Figure 2. Tiles in the database used for the analysis, showing an example for the area of Nyaungdon, a town in the Ayeyarwady Region of southwest Myanmar. The tiles are generated only for areas with at least one building. (c) OpenStreetMap contributors.

for each tile the name of the corresponding administrative unit was derived (thanks to the Global Administrative Areas dataset<sup>6</sup>). The analysis will be made in three steps: country, town, and tile level (Section 4), and it will be discussed together in Section 5.

An example of this division is shown in Figure 2. The square in this particular example in Myanmar contains about 900 buildings, and it is highly complete in terms of building features (the completeness was checked against a recent satellite image).

#### 4. UNDERSTANDING OPENSTREETMAP BUILDING CONTENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

##### 4.1 Country-level

The first layer of the results is at the country level (Table 1). These results reveal that, while dozens of millions of buildings are mapped, the completeness of their attributes that can be used for extrusion is tiny (albeit this is not necessarily lower than in other parts of the world), but also that there is a notable difference between the countries, suggesting highly heterogeneous levels of OSM quality across countries in Southeast Asia. The analysis also exposes that the tendency to store building

heights is much lower than building levels. This is not surprising, as mappers may find it much easier to record the number of storeys of buildings rather than measuring their heights.

Before proceeding further with the analysis, an attempt is made to understand the relation between the two attributes. For each cell, the percentage of the completeness of building levels and heights were plotted against each other, for each country separately (Figure 3). To avoid bias and small non-representative instances, only tiles with more than 20 buildings have been taken into account.

While completeness of the data on building heights and levels remains low on the country level, and some countries have few or no tiles with high completeness of heights/levels, the scatter plots indicate many interesting insights: (i) in some countries there are many tiles with near 100% completeness of either building levels or building height; (ii) in some cases the completeness between the two attributes is quite different (e.g. high building level completeness with an almost-zero availability of building heights); (iii) a number of tiles have an equal level of completeness between the two; but (iv) the comparable levels are often an exception rather than a rule, and this depends on the country: the correlation coefficients vary significantly between them (from 0.06 in Myanmar to 0.35 in Singapore).

##### 4.2 City-level

In the next level, towns are analysed. First, for each country, the largest city by population (Figure 4) the building level completeness was analysed and mapped. The largest city was considered instead of the capital (e.g. in Myanmar, Yangon is not the capital, but it is the most important commercial centre and the largest city by population). While none of the largest cities is fully covered with building levels data, this insight also reveals that there is a high variation of completeness within each town, and that there are substantial differences between the cities (this is in line with the general completeness by country). The high heterogeneity is particularly apparent: some parts of a city have zero availability of height attributes, while others have pockets with near 100% completeness. There is no particular pattern that was noticed in understanding why the completeness of some areas is high, so it may be highly dependent on the mappers in the area.

Table 1. Country-level analysis of the completeness of vertical attributes of buildings in OpenStreetMap.

Country	Buildings (no.)	w/ height [%]	w/ storeys [%]
Brunei	27 545	0.0	8.2
Cambodia	321 810	0.0	0.1
Indonesia	26 924 178	0.0	0.4
Laos	386 802	0.0	0.1
Malaysia	261 918	0.4	4.4
Myanmar	2 539 579	0.0	1.6
Philippines	6 230 123	0.0	0.5
Singapore	100 491	1.0	15.5
Thailand	554 114	0.2	2.2
Timor-Leste	43 173	0.0	0.0
Vietnam	455 653	0.0	1.1
Southeast Asia	37 845 386	0.0	0.6

<sup>6</sup> <https://gadm.org/data.html>

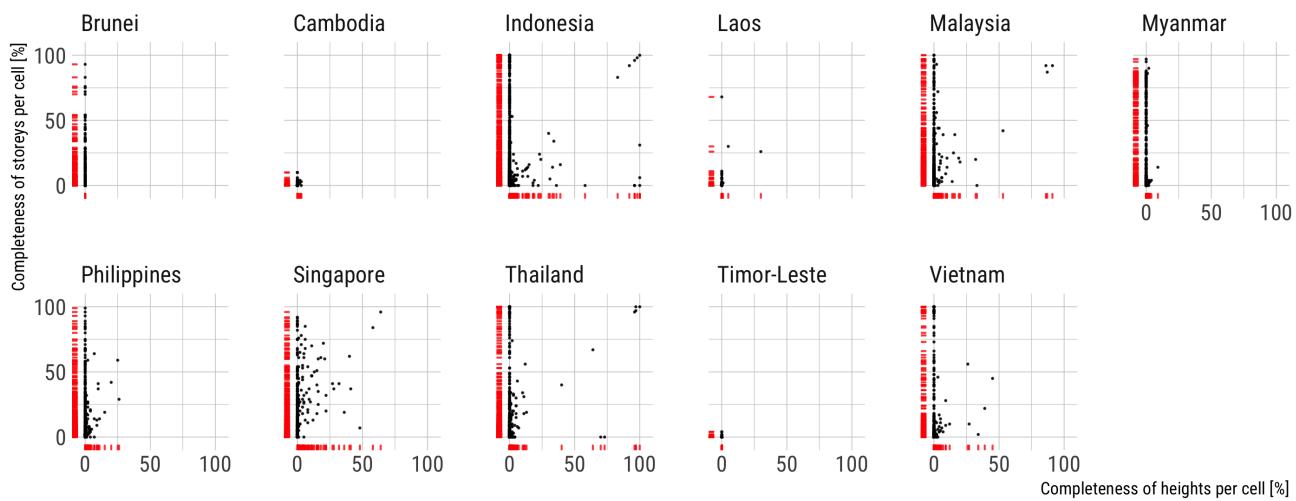


Figure 3. Scatter plots between the completeness of building height and levels (floors) attributes on the tile-level.

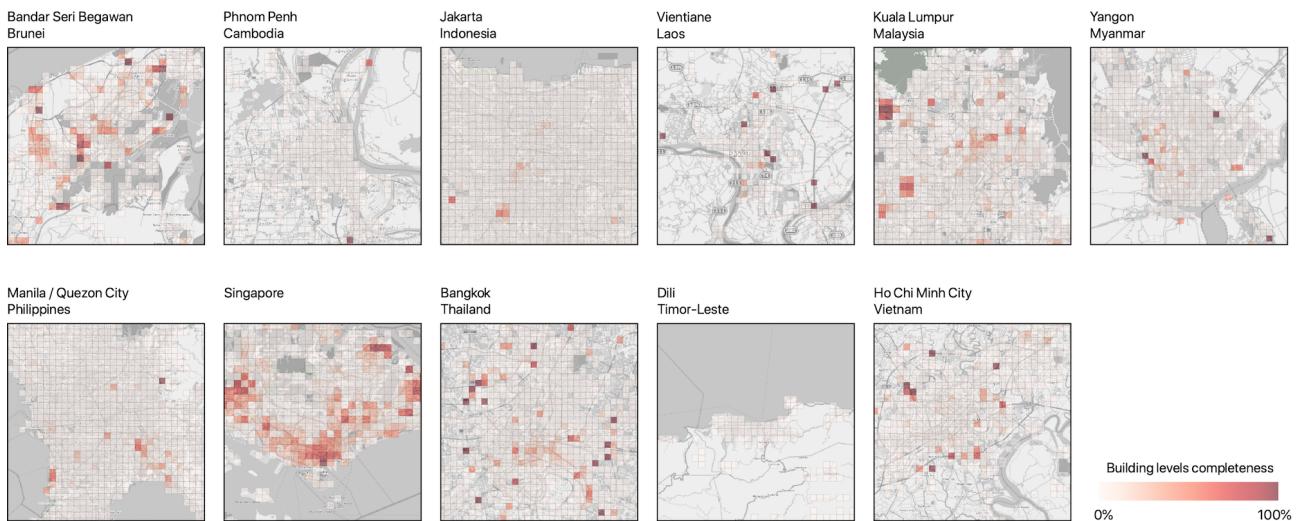


Figure 4. The completeness of building levels in the largest cities in the eleven countries. Each map shows an extent of approx. 25 x 25 km. (c) OpenStreetMap contributors.

Second, to understand the availability of height attributes in cities, a scatter plot similar to the one in Figure 3, was generated: Figure 5 shows 1382 settlements (only those that contain more than 1000 buildings are included) suggesting overall completeness on the local administrative level. The plot reveals that virtually all cities have much more buildings without height attributes than with them, and that even outliers have 30-40% completeness at best. None of these is a major city. While this plot

also echoes the fact that building levels are available at a much higher frequency than heights, there are some settlements with completeness of building height higher than the building levels. It is worthwhile to have a closer look at the two towns that stand out.

Kediri is an Indonesian city with a population of 250k, located on the island of Java (Figure 6). The town contains a small district thoroughly mapped with a few thousands of buildings, with an almost 100% completeness of both the levels and heights. A few steps away, in the same city, there is almost zero completeness of buildings, and those that are mapped have no information on the building height (resulting in average attribute completeness of slightly less than half at the city level, as indicated in Figure 5). This example suggests that it may be much more meaningful to look into the data on the tile-level, disregarding administrative boundaries, and indicates that completeness is concentrated into clusters covering smaller extents.

The other example is Phan Thiet, a city with 335k residents on the southeast coast in Vietnam. The city is covered by 65 tiles, with more than half of them having higher than 90% completeness of height attributes. Such ratio signals a spatial extent with high-quality data. However, a closer inspection reveals that

Figure 5. Understanding height/level attributes' completeness on town level, and identifying the settlements with the highest rate.

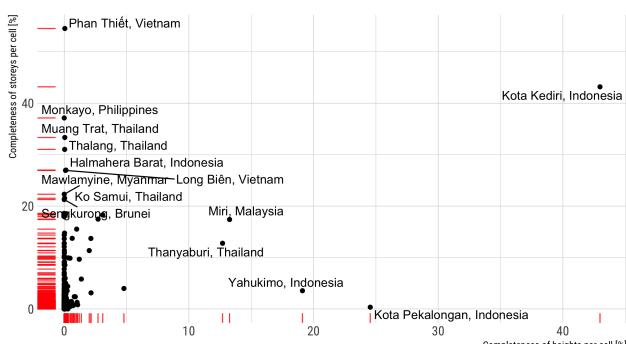




Figure 6. Highly heterogeneous mapping completeness in the town Kediri, Indonesia, suggesting that this research is more meaningful on the neighbourhood-scale.

the city, with only 2000 buildings mapped, suffers from poor building completeness, meaning that those buildings that are mapped are carefully modelled including attributes. This example reveals the main limitation of this study: understanding the potential of generating 3D building models is intertwined with building completeness, which due to the effort required is out of scope of this preliminary paper. This shortcoming will be discussed in Section 5.

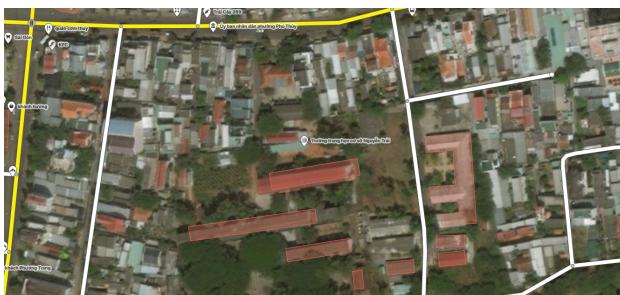


Figure 7. Low building completeness in Phan Thiet, Vietnam; but with a high share of building height attributes. Imagery: Bing (c) 2020 Microsoft Corporation, (c) 2020 DigitalGlobe, (c) CNES (2020) Distribution Airbus DS.

### 4.3 Tile-level

The goal of this section is to understand the height attribute completeness on the micro-scale (tile-level). The highly heterogeneous availability of data and examples from the previous sections puts this scale under the spotlight. For this part, about half of the tiles in the dataset – those that contain 20 or more buildings have been taken into account – resulting in 174k tiles for the analysis.

A query on the database indicates that only 1% of them contain at least 10% of building height attribute completeness. However, there is a number of tiles that contain more than 50% completeness, including some that reach 100% (Figure 8). The number of tiles that have near complete level of building height

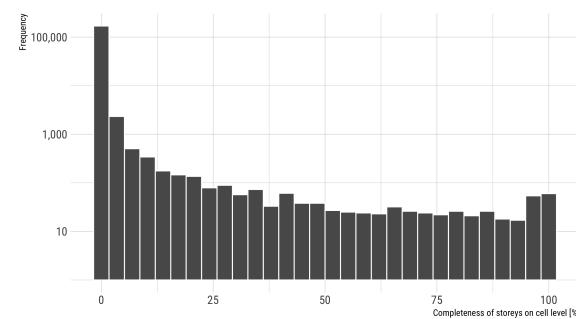


Figure 8. Completeness of height attributes on the tile-level (logarithmic scale). Most tiles have none or almost none building height attributes, but there is a number of those that are near-complete, indicating high potential for generating 3D building models on micro-scale, provided the building completeness is also high.

attributes is a few hundred, so together with the assumption that there are tiles that are mapped thoroughly (as it is the case in Figure 6), we may conclude that a 3D building model may be automatically generated for a few hundred square kilometres of area in SE Asia without or with some minor additional work in areas that have 80-90% completeness.

## 5. DISCUSSION

There are multiple findings from the data exploration in the previous section. Conceptually, OSM is highly suited for generating 3D models. In reality, the potential depends on the availability of the data, which is often lacking.

There are two angles at looking at the potential. First, considering only the completeness of the height attributes, answering the research question on the potential of generating 3D building models from OpenStreetMap renders a highly heterogeneous answer. Availability of the attributes is highly localised and vary from place to place. No city can be generated entirely in 3D, but the generation of 3D building models may be well viable on a micro-scale at some locations, which may be useful for 3D GIS analyses that can be performed on a precinct scale, such as noise pollution estimation (Stoter et al., 2020), understanding the urban heat island (Hofierka et al., 2020), shadow simulations (Southall and Biljecki, 2017), and energy predictions (Zirak et al., 2020). Second, half of the data required for extrusion (building footprints) are of high quality in many places in the region, so ‘only’ the heights need to be collected, which in some areas are not entirely absent and are partially available.

However, on a broader scope, the potential for generating 3D building models is an inseparable function of two arguments: building completeness and height attribute completeness. In this analysis, the latter has been investigated, with only some hints of the former. The attribute completeness has been derived as the share of buildings that have a height attribute divided with the number of buildings. However, the actual height attribute completeness is a fraction that includes all buildings in reality:

Buildings with either levels or height attribute
Buildings in OSM + Missing buildings not mapped in OSM

Therefore, the main limitation of this study is that it is impeded by the lack of systematic information on building completeness. I am afraid that research considering building completeness would require a comprehensive undertaking given the vast area covering several countries, and it might be arduous considering the lack of authoritative data. Studying building completeness is a topic on its own, and it is mostly confined to one or a few small countries at a time (Goldblatt et al., 2020; Fan et al., 2014; Girres and Touya, 2010; Hecht et al., 2013; Brovelli and Zamboni, 2018). Thus, analysing building completeness for 11 countries is way out of the scope of this paper. While OSM quality has been studied in some countries in the region (Husen et al., 2018; Aditya et al., 2012), research is either limited or outdated.

While the lack of a building completeness study is a limitation of the work, some manually checked areas have indicated to have an exceptionally high building completeness (e.g. see Figure 2 and Figure 6). And since building footprints present half of the ingredients required for the extrusion, generating 3D building models may still be viable, as it would require manually populating missing attributes of the heights, which in some parts may not actually require much work.

This exploration also reveals some interesting patterns when it comes to completeness, mirroring findings of other researchers that completeness is heterogeneous and it highly depends on the different types, motivations, and effort of OpenStreetMap contributors (Quinn, 2015). For example, there are clusters of high completeness of buildings and their attributes (Figure 6). These may be explained mostly by a mapping effort of local enthusiast(s). Then, there are areas of exceptionally high completeness of footprints, but they have no height information at all. For example, see Figure 2: despite the near-perfect building completeness, not a single building in the spatial extent contains the attribute on its height or number of storeys. Such situations may be a result of humanitarian mapping (the region was hit by a natural disaster several years ago), exhibiting less priority on the attributes. Further, quite some mapping is done using aerial images (Figure 1), from which it is difficult to collect the number of floors, explaining the lack of such information. There are also cases of high completeness of height attributes, but mostly because of the low completeness of footprints (see the above equation), meaning that those buildings that are mapped, are mapped quite well (situation occurring in the area shown in Figure 7). Finally, it was noticed that some tourist hotspots in Southeast Asia, e.g. Phuket (Thailand) and Ubud (Indonesia), have high levels of attribute completeness, potentially suggesting OSM contributions by visitors.

A manual exploration of the data also suggested that the largest and most urbanised areas are not necessarily the ones with the highest building footprint completeness. For example, it was found that some rural Burmese areas (see the second pane in the Figure 2) have a complete or near-complete building completeness, which is higher than the completeness found in both the country's largest city (Yangon) and capital (Naypyidaw). The statistical analysis has indicated that there is no correlation between the density of the buildings in an area and attribute completeness.

More research is needed to understand the patterns of building and attribute completeness, and this is one of the main suggested paths for future work. For example, it might be worthwhile investigating the relationship between completeness, and pop-

ulation density and GDP, similar to the research of Barrington-Leigh and Millard-Ball (2017), which is focused on roads.

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION IN SINGAPORE

A 3D city model in Singapore was generated and released as open data as part of this work to contribute to the increase of open 3D data in the region. While OpenStreetMap building footprint coverage in Singapore appears to be near-complete, and the share of building height attributes is highest in SE Asia (Table 1), this combination is still not sufficient to generate an urban scale 3D city model.

As an alternative, a 3D building model was generated maximising the combination of volunteered and governmental geoinformation (Figure 9). Singapore's Housing and Development Board (HDB), which is in charge of the public housing in Singapore, maintains an open dataset containing information on their buildings<sup>7</sup>. While the dataset does not contain the geometry of the building footprints, it includes the number of storeys of each building, together with a rich set of information. The tabular information of buildings was associated to building footprints in OpenStreetMap using the Government's geocoding API<sup>8</sup>, after which the footprints were extruded in 3D, and preserving the attributes (Figure 10). The dataset was generated in CityJSON (Ledoux et al., 2019), and it is available publicly at the Github repository of the Urban Analytics Lab of the National University of Singapore<sup>9</sup>, together with the code (in Python) developed to generate it<sup>10</sup>.



Figure 9. A semantic LoD1 building model of residential buildings in Singapore generated in the frame of this research, conflating OpenStreetMap data and an open dataset released by a Singapore Government agency. The resulting data (CityJSON) and the code are released openly.

Public housing accommodates the predominant majority of Singapore's population, so the dataset covers most of the nation's residential buildings. While many of the same buildings in OSM contain the same building levels attributes, so OpenStreetMap alone could be sufficient to obtain a 3D building model, a decision was made to include the government dataset to take advantage of the extended set of information such as the year of construction. This example exposes another particularity — varying attribute completeness and heterogeneous potential for generating 3D building models is not necessarily only a geographic matter, as it can be rather available on other

<sup>7</sup> <https://data.gov.sg/dataset/hdb-property-information>

<sup>8</sup> <https://docs.onemap.sg/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://github.com/ualsg/hdb3d-data>

<sup>10</sup> <https://github.com/ualsg/hdb3d-code>

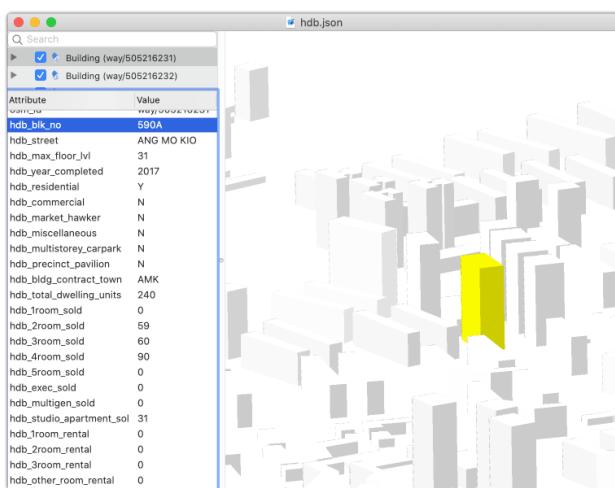


Figure 10. Viewing the generated CityJSON dataset in azul (Arroyo Ohori, 2020), indicating the rich attribute set for each building, e.g. number of apartments and their type.

dimensions such as building type: this dataset has a country-wide coverage but it is partial — it covers a particular subset of buildings.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Generating 3D city models from open data such as extruding footprints of OpenStreetMap is not a new topic, but not much documented in Southeast Asia. The main conclusion of this study is that the potential for large-scale generation of open 3D building models is low, both due to lack of open government data and patchy OpenStreetMap completeness (which actually may not be much different from many other regions around the world). On the other hand, generating data on the neighbourhood scale may still be a viable option, as there are some extraordinarily well mapped areas and pockets of high completeness.

While generating 3D building models from open data on a wider scale may be difficult, it may not be impossible when considering methods such as the one introduced by Biljecki et al. (2017), which predicts heights of buildings from 2D data, enabling the generation of 3D building models without elevation data. Some of the cities with a level of completeness of 10–20% may provide a sufficient amount of data for training a regression model to predict the heights of the remaining portion of the buildings that do not contain height information. In fact, the feasibility of this idea was demonstrated by a replication of the method in the same study area of this research—Anh et al. (2018) implemented the approach in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Another contribution of this paper is considering OSM attribute completeness through a more detailed statistical analysis, which may also be useful for understanding building height attribute completeness in general regardless of the study area. Further, the study resulted in a tangible contribution — a 3D building model was generated and released openly. Although simple and relatively easy to reproduce, the release of the dataset attracted substantial interest suggesting strong demand for open 3D city models in Singapore and Southeast Asia, and it is already in use in research efforts by other researchers.

This research is of preliminary nature, setting the scene for a more comprehensive work: it focused on the availability of the

data, but not its accuracy. For future work, building completeness should be considered as well, together with checking the quality of the heights and it may be worth scaling the work on the global scale to understand the worldwide potential of generating 3D building models from open data.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The OpenStreetMap community is gratefully acknowledged. The work of Ang Li Min in preparing the OSM local database and the discussions with Chow Yoong Shin are appreciated. The dataset generated in this work was sourced by combining data from OpenStreetMap, Housing and Development Board, and Singapore Land Authority. This research is part of the project Large-scale 3D Geospatial Data for Urban Analytics, which is supported by the National University of Singapore under the Start Up Grant R-295-000-171-133. The author would like to thank Ordnance Survey GB (<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>) and 1Spatial (<https://1spatial.com/>) for sponsoring the publication of this paper.

## References

- Aditya, T. and Laksono, D., 2017. LOD 1 - 3D CityModel for Implementing SmartCity Concept. In: *ICIT 2017*, ACM Press, New York, New York, USA, pp. 136–141.
- Aditya, T., Widjajanti, N., Laksono, D., Kurniati, R., Solihah, M., Purwanti, S., Sidqi, B., Paramitasari, A. and Diputra, M. S., 2012. Evaluation of OpenStreetMap data in Indonesia. Technical report.
- Anh, P., Thanh, N. T. N., Vu, C. T., Ha, N. V. and Hung, B. Q., 2018. Preliminary Result of 3D City Modelling For Hanoi, Vietnam. In: *2018 5th NAFOSTED Conference on Information and Computer Science (NICS)*, IEEE, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, pp. 294–299.
- Arroyo Ohori, K., 2020. azul: a fast and efficient 3D city model viewer for macOS. *Transactions in GIS*.
- Bagheri, H., Schmitt, M. and Zhu, X., 2019. Fusion of Multi-Sensor-Derived Heights and OSM-Derived Building Footprints for Urban 3D Reconstruction. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 8(4), pp. 193.
- Barrington-Leigh, C. and Millard-Ball, A., 2017. The world's user-generated road map is more than 80% complete. *PLOS ONE* 12(8), pp. e0180698–20.
- Biljecki, F., Arroyo Ohori, K., Ledoux, H., Peters, R. and Stoter, J., 2016. Population Estimation Using a 3D City Model: A Multi-Scale Country-Wide Study in the Netherlands. *PLOS ONE* 11(6), pp. e0156808.
- Biljecki, F., Ledoux, H. and Stoter, J., 2017. Generating 3D city models without elevation data. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* 64, pp. 1–18.
- Brovelli, M. A. and Zamboni, G., 2018. A New Method for the Assessment of Spatial Accuracy and Completeness of OpenStreetMap Building Footprints. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 7(8), pp. 289.
- Cheng, L., Zhang, F., Li, S., Mao, J., Xu, H., Ju, W., Liu, X., Wu, J., Min, K., Zhang, X. and Li, M., 2020. Solar energy potential of urban buildings in 10 cities of China. *Energy* 196, pp. 117038.

- Dissegna, M. A., Yin, T., Wei, S., Richards, D. and Grêt-Regamey, A., 2019. 3-D Reconstruction of an Urban Landscape to Assess the Influence of Vegetation in the Radiative Budget. *Forests* 10(8), pp. 700.
- Dukai, B., Ledoux, H. and Stoter, J. E., 2019. A multi-height LoD1 model of all buildings in the Netherlands. *ISPRS Ann. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.* IV-4/W8, pp. 51–57.
- Fan, H., Zipf, A., Fu, Q. and Neis, P., 2014. Quality assessment for building footprints data on OpenStreetMap. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* 28(4), pp. 700–719.
- Girres, J.-F. and Touya, G., 2010. Quality Assessment of the French OpenStreetMap Dataset. *Transactions in GIS* 14(4), pp. 435–459.
- Goetz, M. and Zipf, A., 2012. Towards Defining a Framework for the Automatic Derivation of 3D CityGML Models from Volunteered Geographic Information. *International Journal of 3-D Information Modeling* 1(2), pp. 1–16.
- Goldblatt, Jones and Mannix, 2020. Assessing OpenStreetMap Completeness for Management of Natural Disaster by Means of Remote Sensing: A Case Study of Three Small Island States (Haiti, Dominica and St. Lucia). *Remote Sensing* 12(1), pp. 118.
- Hadimlioglu, I. A. and King, S. A., 2019. City Maker: Reconstruction of Cities from OpenStreetMap Data for Environmental Visualization and Simulations. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 8(7), pp. 298–17.
- Hecht, R., Kunze, C. and Hahmann, S., 2013. Measuring Completeness of Building Footprints in OpenStreetMap over Space and Time. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 2(4), pp. 1066–1091.
- Hofierka, J., Gallay, M., Onačillová, K. and Hofierka Jr, J., 2020. Physically-based land surface temperature modeling in urban areas using a 3-D city model and multispectral satellite data. *Urban Climate* 31, pp. 100566.
- Husen, S. N. R. M., Idris, N. H. and Ishak, M. H. I., 2018. The quality of OpenStreetMap in Malaysia: a preliminary assessment. *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.* XLII-4/W9, pp. 291–298.
- Kolbe, T. H., Burger, B. and Cantzler, B., 2015. CityGML goes to Broadway. In: *Photogrammetric Week '15*, Stuttgart, Germany, pp. 343–356.
- Lagahit, M. L. R. and Blanco, A. C., 2019. Using openly sourced 3D geographic information systems (GIS) in determining the photovoltaic potential of Quezon City hall in terms of received direct solar radiation. *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.* XLII-4/W19, pp. 263–270.
- Laksono and Aditya, 2019. Utilizing A Game Engine for Interactive 3D Topographic Data Visualization. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 8(8), pp. 361–23.
- Ledoux, H. and Meijers, M., 2011. Topologically consistent 3D city models obtained by extrusion. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* 25(4), pp. 557–574.
- Ledoux, H., Arroyo Ohori, K., Kumar, K., Dukai, B., Labetski, A. and Vitalis, S., 2019. CityJSON: A compact and easy-to-use encoding of the CityGML data model. *Open Geospatial Data, Software and Standards* 4, pp. 4.
- Lechner, H. and Dorffner, L., 2020. Digital geoTwin Vienna: Towards a Digital Twin City as Geodata Hub. *PFG – Journal of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Science* pp. 1–13.
- Lloyd, C. T., Chamberlain, H., Kerr, D., Yetman, G., Pistolesi, L., Stevens, F. R., Gaughan, A. E., Nieves, J. J., Hornby, G., MacManus, K., Sinha, P., Bondarenko, M., Sorichetta, A. and Tatem, A. J., 2019. Global spatio-temporally harmonised datasets for producing high-resolution gridded population distribution datasets. *Big Earth Data* 3(2), pp. 108–139.
- Over, M., Schilling, A., Neubauer, S. and Zipf, A., 2010. Generating web-based 3D City Models from OpenStreetMap: The current situation in Germany. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* 34(6), pp. 496–507.
- Quinn, S., 2015. Using small cities to understand the crowd behind OpenStreetMap. *GeoJournal* 82(3), pp. 455–473.
- Saretta, E., Bonomo, P. and Frontini, F., 2020. A calculation method for the BIPV potential of Swiss façades at LOD2.5 in urban areas: A case from Ticino region. *Solar Energy* 195, pp. 150–165.
- Schrotter, G. and Hürzeler, C., 2020. The Digital Twin of the City of Zurich for Urban Planning. *PFG – Journal of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Science* pp. 1–14.
- Senaratne, H., Mobasher, A., Ali, A. L., Capineri, C. and Haklay, M. M., 2017. A review of volunteered geographic information quality assessment methods. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* 31(1), pp. 139–167.
- Southall, R. and Biljecki, F., 2017. The VI-Suite: a set of environmental analysis tools with geospatial data applications. *Open Geospatial Data, Software and Standards* 2, pp. 23.
- Stoter, J., Peters, R., Commandeur, T., Dukai, B., Kumar, K. and Ledoux, H., 2020. Automated reconstruction of 3D input data for noise simulation. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* 80, pp. 101424.
- Stouffs, R., Tauscher, H. and Biljecki, F., 2018. Achieving Complete and Near-Lossless Conversion from IFC to CityGML. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 7(9), pp. 355.
- Ujang, U., Azri, S., Zahir, M., Abdul Rahman, A. and Choon, T. L., 2018. Urban heat island micro-mapping via 3D city model. *Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci.* XLII-4/W10, pp. 201–207.
- Youssef, A., Prisyazhnuk, S., Petrov, A. and Atlasov, R., 2020. Using Free Lidar Data with Aerial Photogrammetry Images for Construction of 3D Building Models for Openstreetmap. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering* 753, pp. 032081.
- Zirak, M., Weiler, V., Hein, M. and Eicker, U., 2020. Urban models enrichment for energy applications: Challenges in energy simulation using different data sources for building age information. *Energy* 190, pp. 116292.