

Practical Course: Vision Based Navigation

Lecture 4: Structure from Motion (SfM)

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Topics Covered



- Introduction
 - Structure from Motion (SfM)
 - Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)
- Bundle Adjustment
 - Energy Function
 - Non-linear Least Squares
 - Exploiting the Sparse Structure
- Triangulation

Structure from Motion

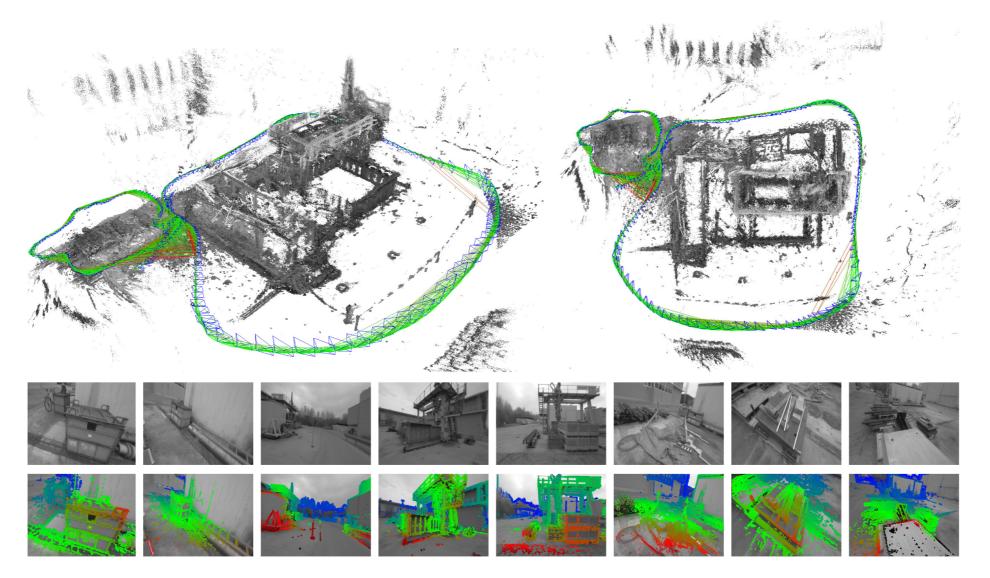




Agarwal et al., "Building Rome in a day", ICCV 2009, "Dubrovnik" image set

- 3D reconstruction using a set of unordered images
- Requires estimation of 6DoF poses

Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)



Engel et al., "LSD-SLAM: Large-Scale Direct Monocular SLAM", ECCV 2014

- Estimate 6DoF poses and map from sequential image data
- Update once new frames arrive

Problem Definition SfM / Visual SLAM

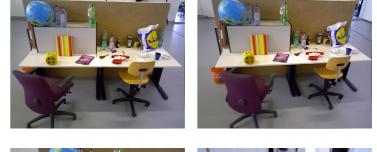
Estimate camera poses and map from a set of images

• Input

Set of images $I_{0:t} = \{I_0, I_1, ..., I_t\}$

Additional input possible

- Stereo
- Depth
- Inertial measurements
- Control input



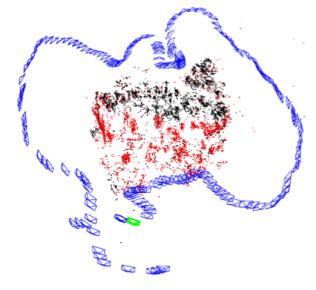


fr3/long_office_household sequence, TUM RGB-D benchmark

• Output

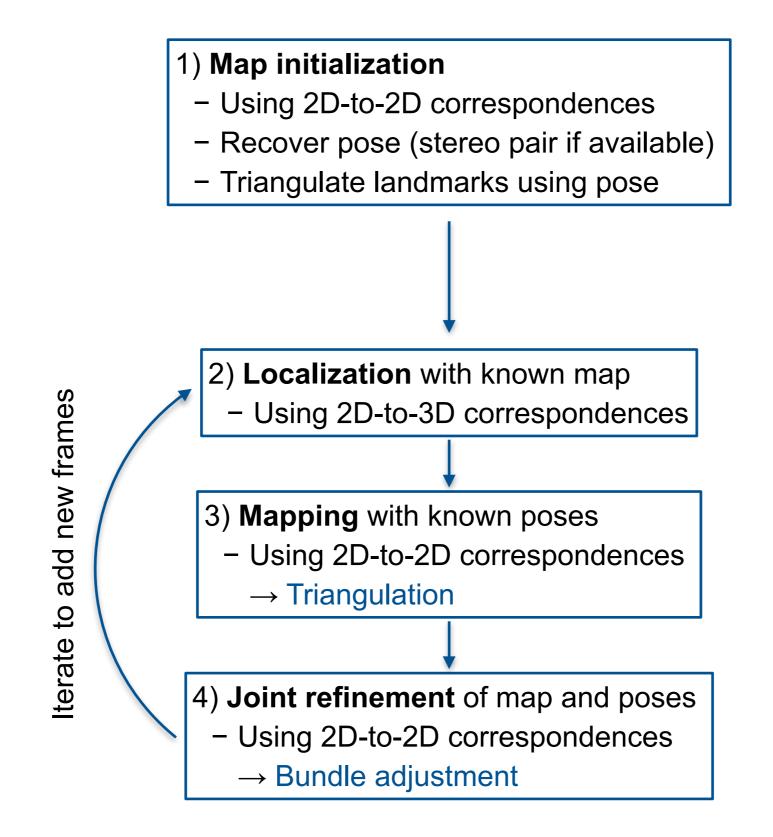
Camera pose estimates $\mathbf{T}_i \in SE(3)$, also written as $\boldsymbol{\xi}_i = (\log \mathbf{T}_i)^{\vee}$ $i \in \{0, 1, ..., t\}$

$$\operatorname{map} M$$



Mur-Artal et al., 2015

Typical SfM Pipeline



Visual SLAM

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SLAM \subset SfM, with special focus:

- Sequential image data
- Data arrives sequentially
- Preferably realtime
- More focus on trajectory

Technical solutions:

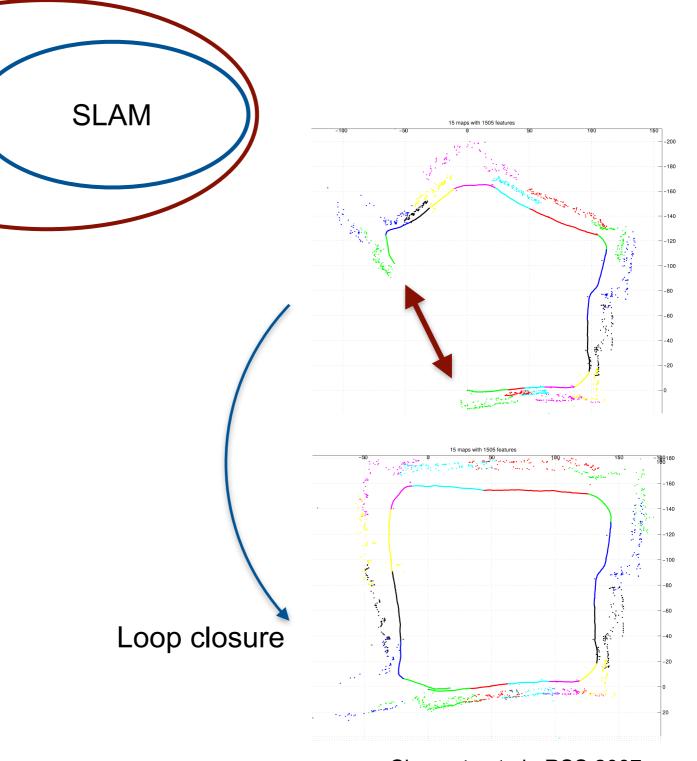
- Windowed optimization
- Selection of keyframes
- Removal of keyframes (e.g. marginalization)

SfM

- Detect loop closures for Accumulation of drift
- Global mapping in separate thread
- Pose graph optimization

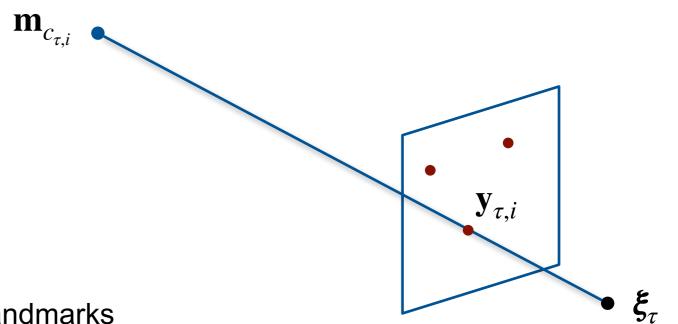
Odometry

- No global mapping
- Incremental tracking only
- Local map possible



Landmarks and Features





• The map consists of 3D locations of landmarks

$$M = \left\{ \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \dots, \mathbf{m}_S \right\}$$

• For image τ , the set of 2D image coordinates of detected features is denoted

$$Y_{\tau} = \left\{ \mathbf{y}_{\tau,1}, \mathbf{y}_{\tau,2}, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{\tau,N} \right\}$$

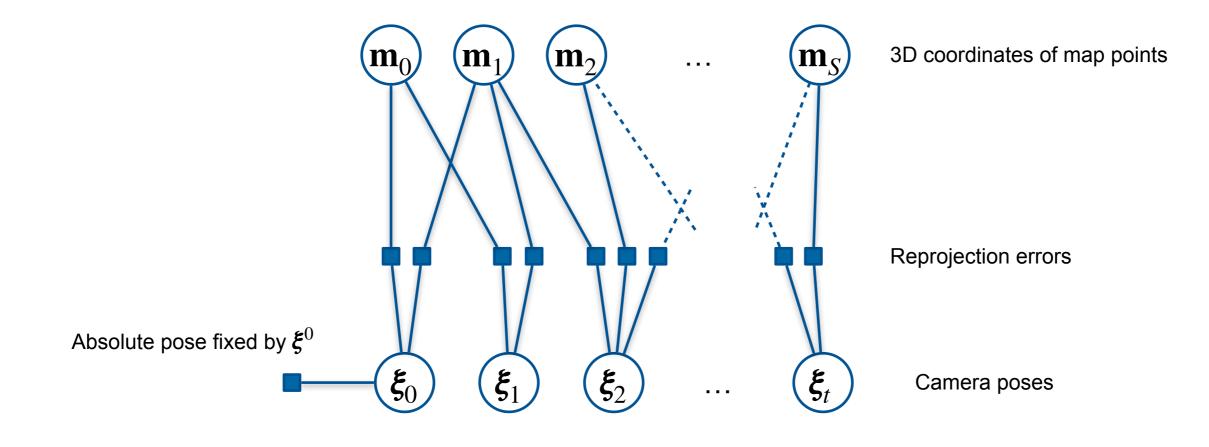
• Known data association:

Feature *i* in image τ corresponds to landmark $j = c_{\tau,i}$ $(1 \le i \le N, 1 \le j \le S)$

Bundle Adjustment Energy



- Pose prior: Fix absolute pose ambiguity
 - In this case equivalent to keeping $\boldsymbol{\xi}_0 = \boldsymbol{\xi}^0$
 - Keep absolute pose information e.g. when first frame is marginalized
- Additional prior to fix scale ambiguity might be necessary



Energy Function as Non-linear Least Squares

 $\mathbf{x} := \begin{vmatrix} \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{\xi}_t \\ \mathbf{m}_1 \\ \vdots \end{vmatrix}$

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- Residuals as function of state vector \boldsymbol{x}

$$\mathbf{r}^{0}(\mathbf{x}) := \boldsymbol{\xi}_{0} \ominus \boldsymbol{\xi}^{0}$$
$$\mathbf{r}^{y}_{t,i}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{y}_{t,i} - h\left(\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t}, \mathbf{m}_{c_{t,i}}\right)$$

• Stack the residuals in a vector-valued function und collect the residual covariances on the diagonal blocks of a square matrix

$$\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x}) := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}^{0}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \mathbf{r}_{0,1}^{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{r}_{t,N_{t}}^{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{W} := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,\xi}^{-1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}_{0,1}}^{-1} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}_{t,N_{t}}}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Rewrite energy function as

$$E(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x})$$

Recap: Gauss-Newton Method

- Idea: Approximate Newton's method to minimize $E(\mathbf{x})$
 - Approximate $E(\mathbf{x})$ through linearization of residuals

$$\begin{split} \tilde{E}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\mathbf{r}}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \tilde{\mathbf{r}}(\mathbf{x}) & k \text{ iteration index} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{r} \left(\mathbf{x}_k \right) + \mathbf{J}_k \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k \right) \right)^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \left(\mathbf{r} \left(\mathbf{x}_k \right) + \mathbf{J}_k \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k \right) \right) & \mathbf{J}_k := \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_k} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r} \left(\mathbf{x}_k \right)^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{r} \left(\mathbf{x}_k \right) + \underbrace{\mathbf{r} \left(\mathbf{x}_k \right)^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{J}_k \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k \right)^{\mathsf{T}} \underbrace{\mathbf{J}_k^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{J}_k \left(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k \right)}_{=:\mathbf{H}_k} \\ \end{split}$$

• Finding root of gradient as in Newton's method leads to update rule

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \tilde{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b}_{k}^{\mathsf{T}} + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{k})^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{H}_{k}$$
$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \tilde{E}(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_{k} - \mathbf{H}_{k}^{-1} \mathbf{b}_{k}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{H}_k^{-1} \mathbf{b}_k$$

- Pros:
 - Faster convergence than gradient descent (approx. quadratic convergence rate)
- Cons:
 - Divergence if too far from local optimum (${f H}$ not positive definite)
 - Solution quality depends on initial guess

Structure of the Bundle Adjustment Problem

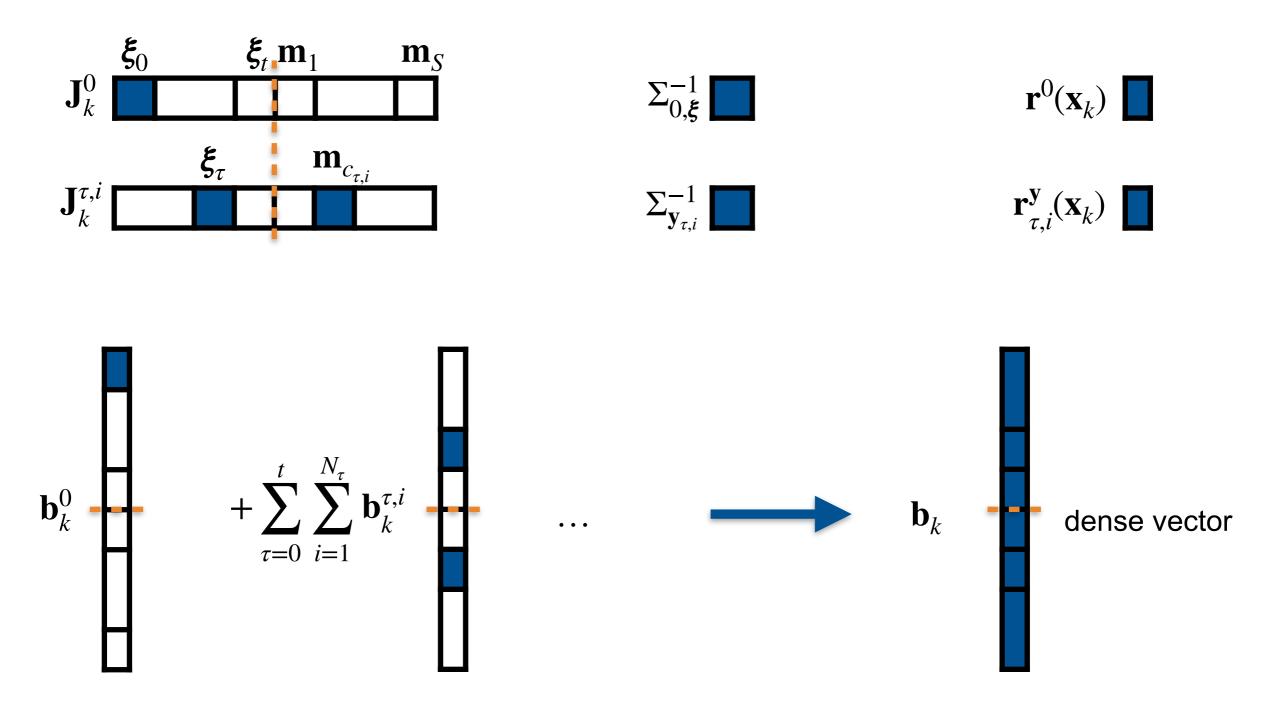
• \mathbf{b}_k and \mathbf{H}_k sum terms from individual residuals:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}_{k} &= \mathbf{b}_{k}^{0} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \mathbf{b}_{k}^{\tau,i} = \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{0}\right)^{\top} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,\boldsymbol{\xi}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}^{0} \left(\mathbf{x}_{k}\right) + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{\tau,i}\right)^{\top} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}_{\tau,i}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_{\boldsymbol{y}_{\tau,i}}^{\mathbf{y}} \left(\mathbf{x}_{k}\right) \\ \mathbf{H}_{k} &= \mathbf{H}_{k}^{0} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \mathbf{H}_{k}^{\tau,i} = \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{0}\right)^{\top} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{0,\boldsymbol{\xi}}^{-1} \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{0}\right) + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{\tau,i}\right)^{\top} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}_{\tau,i}}^{-1} \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{\tau,i}\right) \end{aligned}$$

 \mathbf{J}_k^0 Jacobian of pose prior

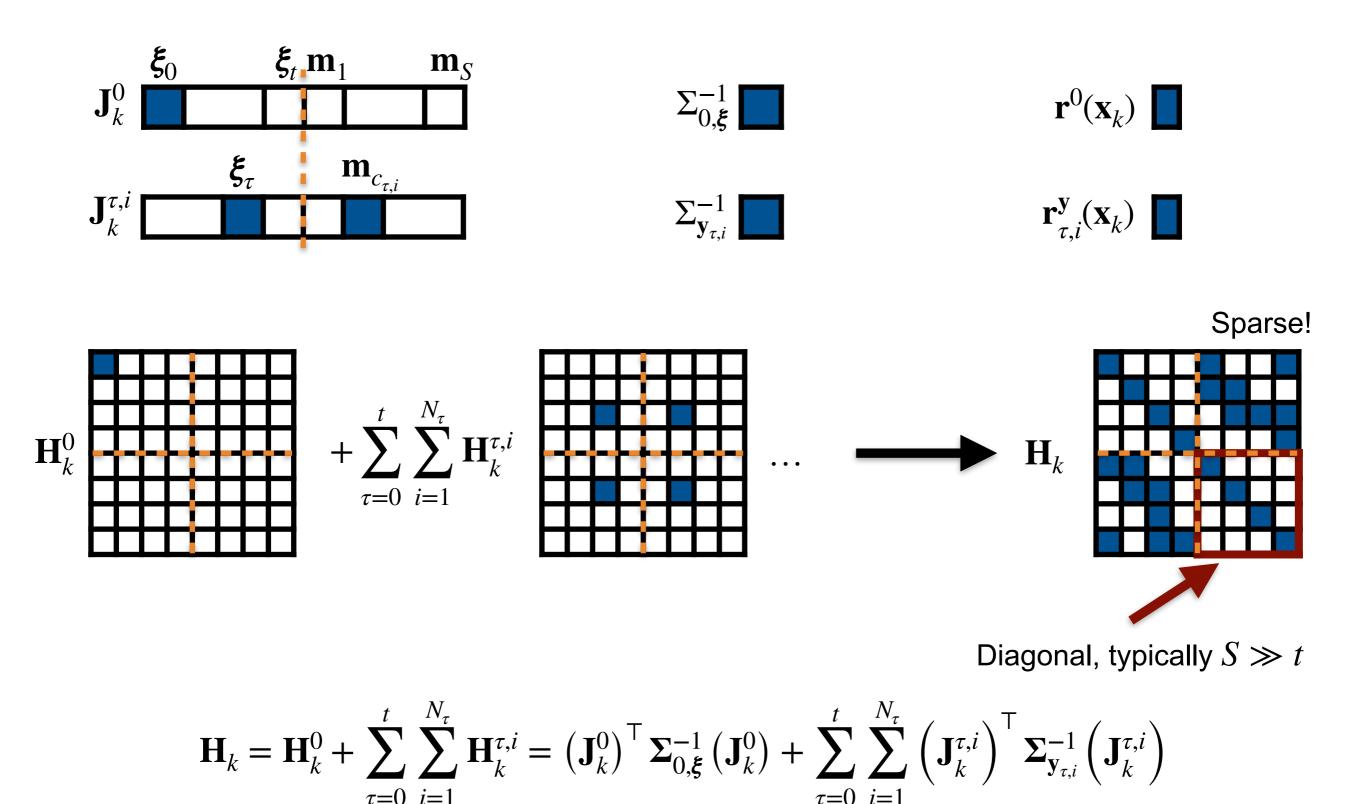
- $\mathbf{J}_{k}^{ au,i}$ Jacobian of residuals for feature i in image au
- What is the structure of these terms?

Structure of the Bundle Adjustment Problem

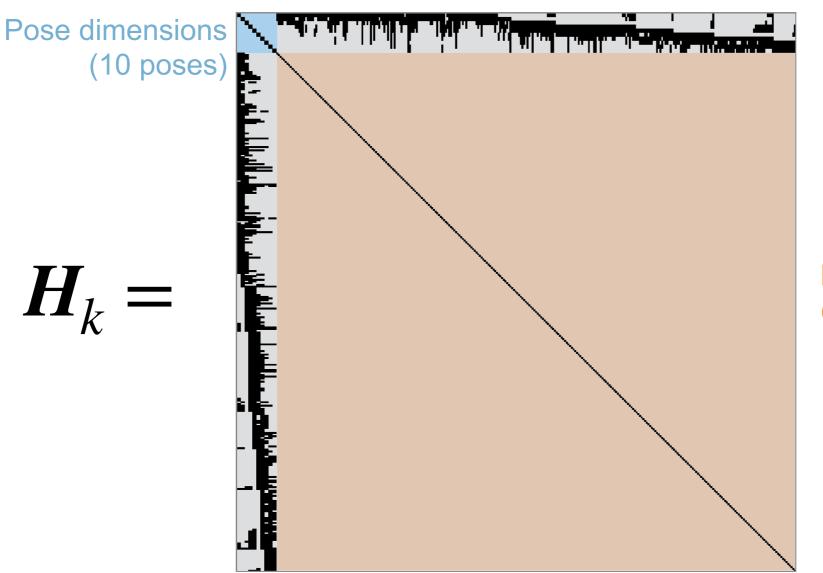


 $\mathbf{b}_{k} = \mathbf{b}_{k}^{0} + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \mathbf{b}_{k}^{\tau,i} = \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{0}\right)^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{0,\boldsymbol{\xi}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}^{0} \left(\mathbf{x}_{k}\right) + \sum_{\tau=0}^{t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\tau}} \left(\mathbf{J}_{k}^{\tau,i}\right)^{\mathsf{T}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{y}_{\tau,i}}^{-1} \mathbf{r}_{\tau,i}^{\mathbf{y}} \left(\mathbf{x}_{k}\right)$

Structure of the Bundle Adjustment Problem



Example Hessian of a BA Problem



Landmark dimensions (982 landmarks)



Large, but sparse!

How to invert efficiently?



• Idea:

Apply the Schur complement to solve the system in a partitioned way

• Is this any better?



• What is the structure of the two sub-problems?

• Poses:

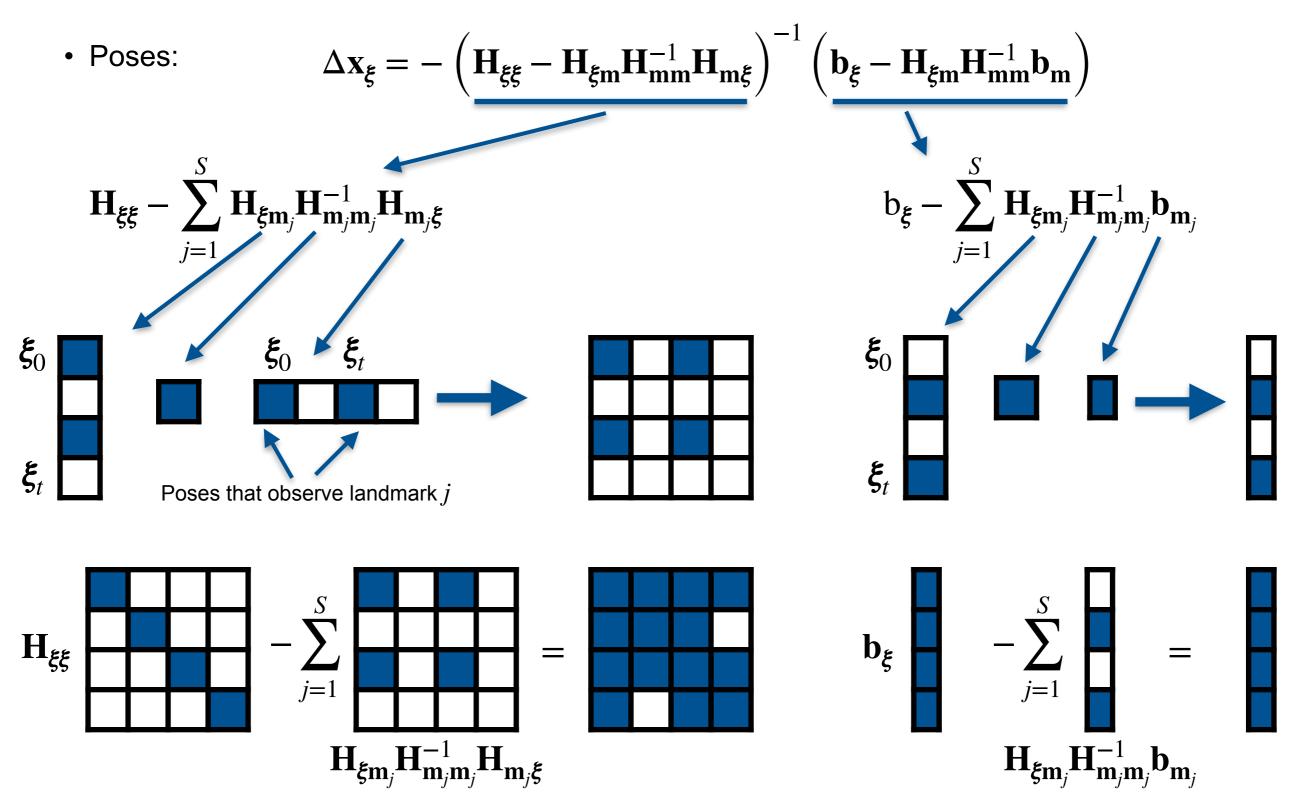
$$\Delta \mathbf{x}_{\xi} = -\left(\mathbf{H}_{\xi\xi} - \mathbf{H}_{\xi m}\mathbf{H}_{mm}^{-1}\mathbf{H}_{m\xi}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{b}_{\xi} - \mathbf{H}_{\xi m}\mathbf{H}_{mm}^{-1}\mathbf{b}_{m}\right)$$

$$\mathbf{H}_{\xi\xi} - \mathbf{H}_{\xi m}\mathbf{H}_{mm}^{-1}\mathbf{H}_{m\xi} = \mathbf{H}_{\xi\xi} - \sum_{j=1}^{S}\mathbf{H}_{\xi m_{j}}\mathbf{H}_{m_{j}m_{j}}^{-1}\mathbf{H}_{m_{j}\xi}$$
Reduced pose Hessian

$$\mathbf{b}_{\xi} - \mathbf{H}_{\xi m}\mathbf{H}_{mm}^{-1}\mathbf{b}_{m} = \mathbf{b}_{\xi} - \sum_{j=1}^{S}\mathbf{H}_{\xi m_{j}}\mathbf{H}_{m_{j}m_{j}}^{-1}\mathbf{b}_{m_{j}}$$

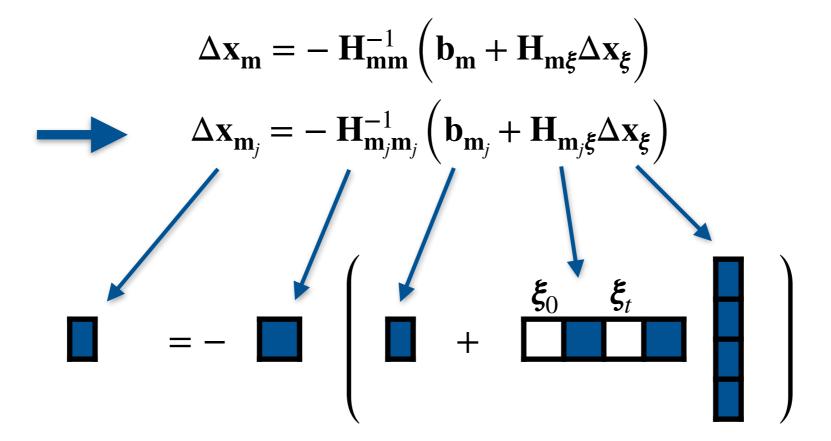
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• What is the structure of the two sub-problems?



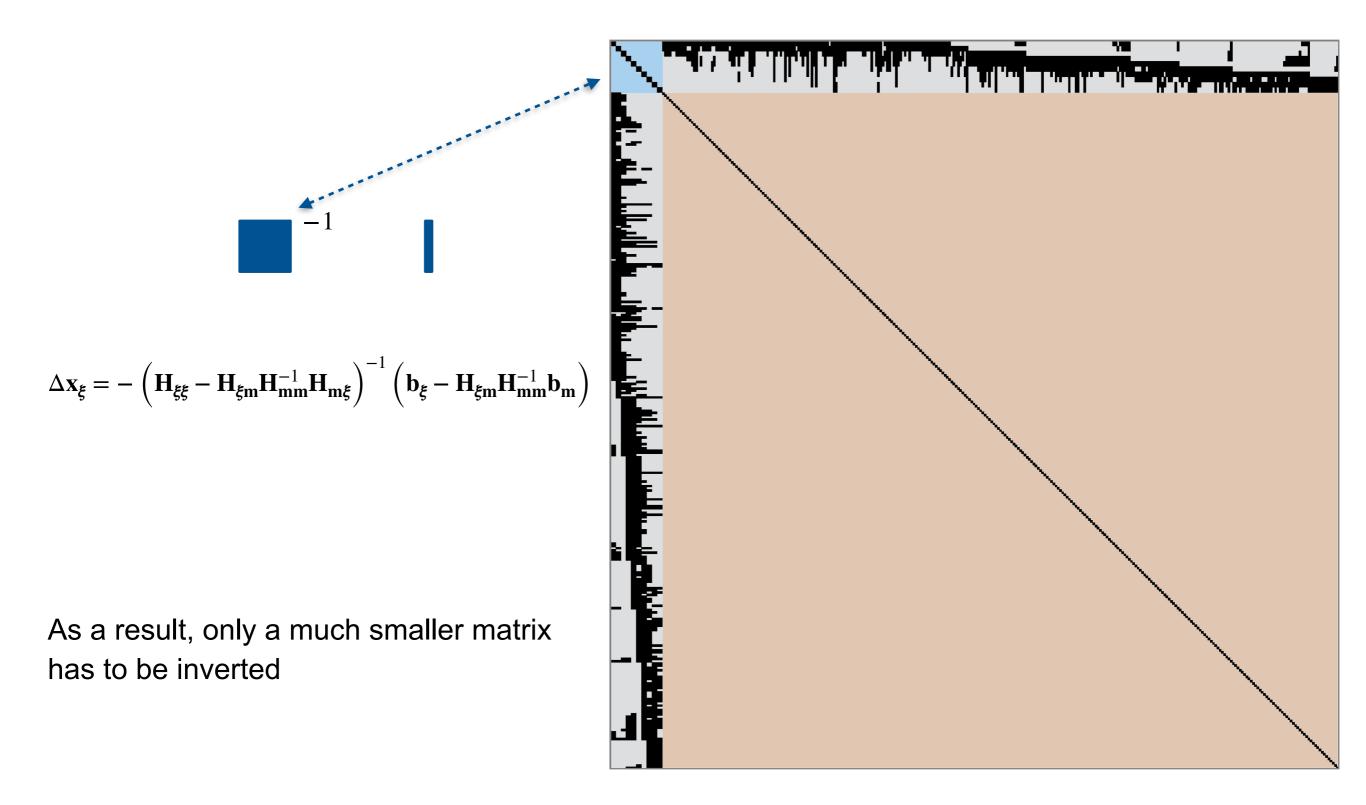


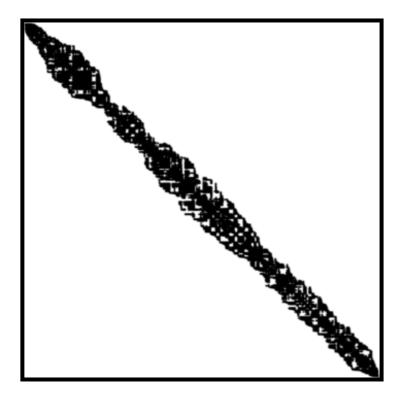
- What is the structure of the two sub-problems?
- Landmarks:



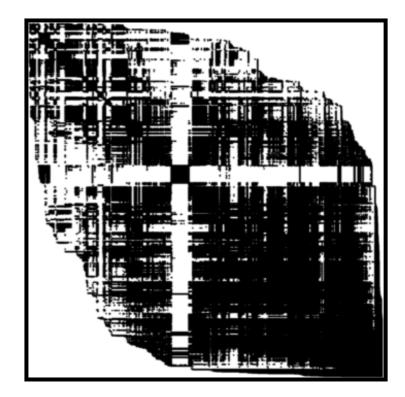
- Landmark-wise solution
- Comparably small matrix operations
- Only involves poses that observe the landmark







Camera on a moving vehicle (6375 images)



Flickr image search "Dubrovnik" (4585 images)

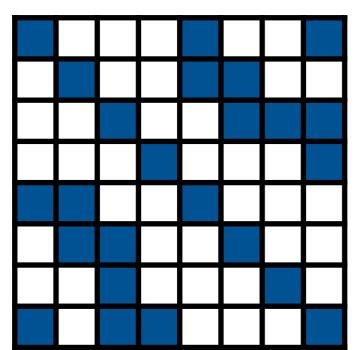
Agarwal et al., ECCV 2010

- Reduced pose Hessian can still have a sparse structure
- For many camera poses with many shared observations, the inversion of the reduced pose Hessian is still computationally expensive!
- Exploit further structure, e.g. using variable reordering or hierarchical decomposition

Effect of Loop Closures on the Hessian



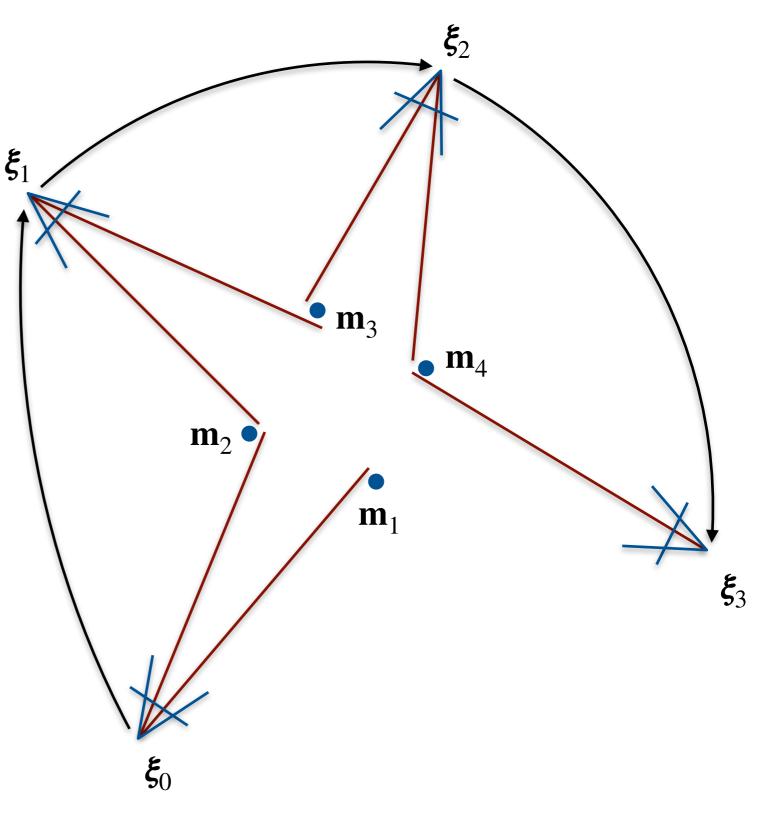
Full Hessian



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Reduced pose Hessian

Band matrix

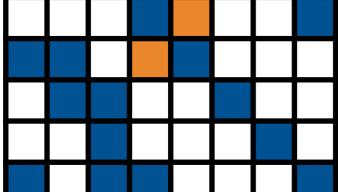


Before loop closure

Effect of Loop Closures on the Hessian

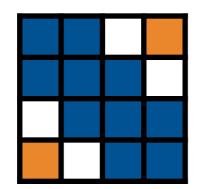


Full Hessian

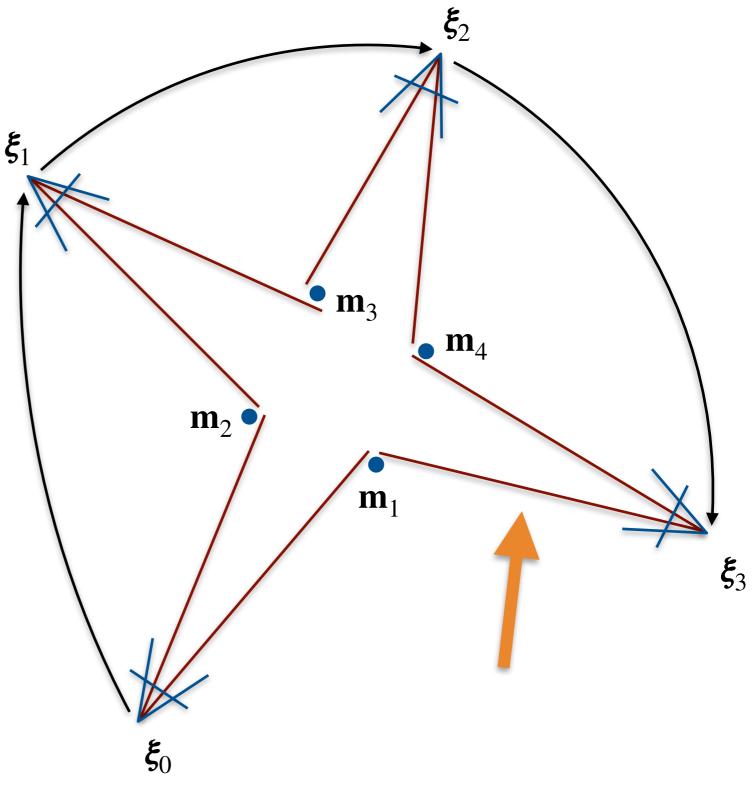


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Reduced pose Hessian



No band matrix: costlier to solve

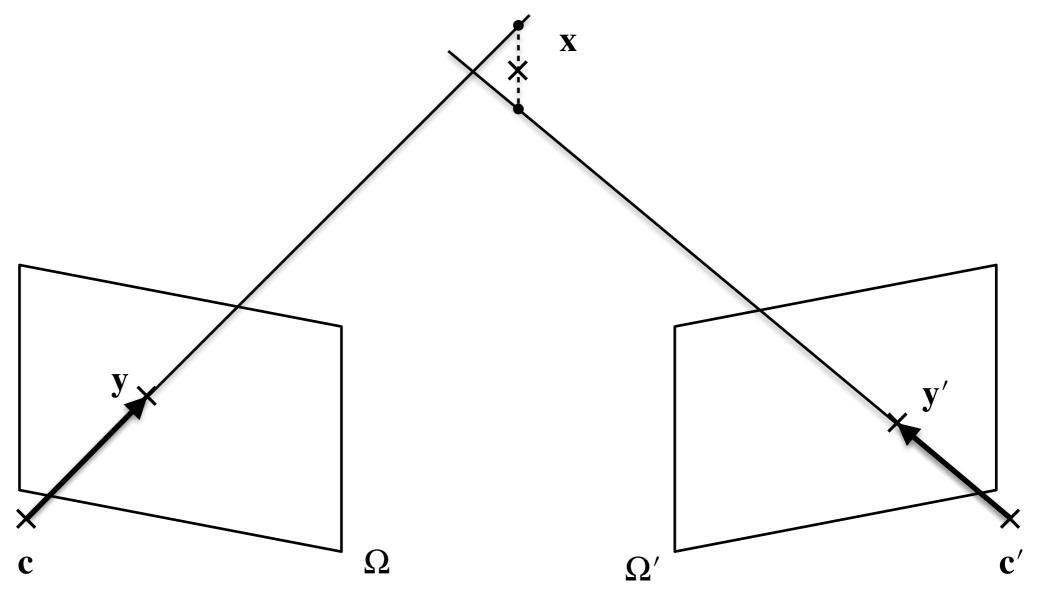


Further Considerations

Many methods to improve convergence / robustness / run-time efficiency, e.g.

- Use matrix decompositions (e.g. Cholesky) to perform inversions
- Levenberg-Marquardt optimization improves basin of convergence
- Heavier-tail distributions / robust norms on the residuals can be implemented using iteratively reweighted least squares
- Preconditioning
- Hierarchical optimization
- Variable reordering
- Delayed relinearization

Triangulation



- Find landmark position given the camera poses
- Ideally, the rays should intersect
- In practice, many sources of error: pose estimates, feature detections and camera model / intrinsic parameters

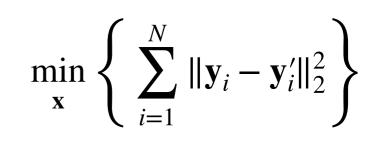
Triangulation



- Goal: Reconstruct 3D point $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (x, y, z, w)^{\top} \in \mathbb{P}^3$ from 2D image observations $\{\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_N\}$ for known camera poses $\{\mathbf{T}_1, \dots, \mathbf{T}_N\}$
- Linear solution: Find 3D point such that reprojections equal its projection

- For each image *i*, let
$$\mathbf{T}_i = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_1 & \\ \mathbf{p}_2 & \\ \mathbf{p}_3 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and $\mathbf{y}_i = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$

- Projecting $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ yields $\mathbf{y}'_i = \pi \left(\mathbf{T}_i \tilde{\mathbf{x}} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} / \mathbf{p}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} \\ \mathbf{p}_2 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} / \mathbf{p}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} \end{pmatrix}$
- Requiring $\mathbf{y}'_i = \mathbf{y}_i$ gives two linear equations per image:
- $\mathbf{p}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} = u \mathbf{p}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ $\mathbf{p}_2 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} = v \mathbf{p}_3 \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$
- Leads to system of linear equations $A\tilde{x} = 0$, two approaches to solve:
 - Set w = 1 and solve non-homogeneous least squares problem
 - Find nullspace of A using SVD, then scale such that w = 1
- Non-linear least squares on reprojection errors (more accurate):
- · Different solutions for different methods in the presence of noise



Exercises

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Exercise sheet 4

- Implement components of SfM pipeline
- BA: Ceres can do the Schur complement
- Triangulation: use OpenGV's triangulate function

```
ceres::Solver::Options ceres_options;
ceres_options.max_num_iterations = 20;
ceres_options.linear_solver_type =
ceres::SPARSE_SCHUR;
ceres_options.num_threads = 8;
ceres::Solver::Summary summary;
Solve(ceres_options, &problem,
&summary);
std::cout << summary.FullReport() <<
std::endl;
```

Next slide

Exercise sheet 5

- Implement components of odometry
- Similar to sheet 4, but:
 - More efficient 2D-3D matching using approximate pose of previous frame
 - New keyframe if number of matches too small
 - New landmarks by triangulation from stereo pair
 - Keep runtime bounded by removing old keyframes

	Original	F	Reduced	
Parameter blocks	4896		4892	_
Parameters	15354		15324	
Effective parameters	15190		15162	
Residual blocks	24014		24014	
Residuals	48028		48028	
Minimizer	TRUST_REGION			
Sparse linear algebra librar	y SUITE_SPARSE			
Trust region strategy LE	VENBERG_MARQUARDT			
			_	
	Given		Used	
Linear solver	SPARSE_SCHUR	SPARSE	E_SCHUR	
Threads	8		8	
Linear solver ordering	AUTOMATIC	47	730,162	
Schur structure	2,3,6		2,3,6	
Cost:				
Initial	3.979886e+03			
Final	3.766801e+03			
Change	2.130843e+02			
5				
Minimizer iterations	21			
Successful steps	21			
Unsuccessful steps	0			
Time (in seconds):				
Preprocessor	0.048047			
Residual only evaluation	0.069569	(20)		
Jacobian & residual evalua				
Linear solver	0.586967			
Minimizer	1.134797			
Postprocessor	0.001068			
Total	1.183913			
Termination:	NO_CONVERGENCE	(Maximum number of	iterations read	ched. Number of

iterations: 20.)

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Summary

SfM

- Estimate map and camera poses from set of images
- SLAM: Sequential data, real-time
- Odometry: No global mapping

Bundle Adjustment

- Non-linear least squares problem
- Sparse structure of Hessian can be exploited for efficient inversion

Triangulation

- Linear and non-linear algorithms
- Differences in the presence of noise