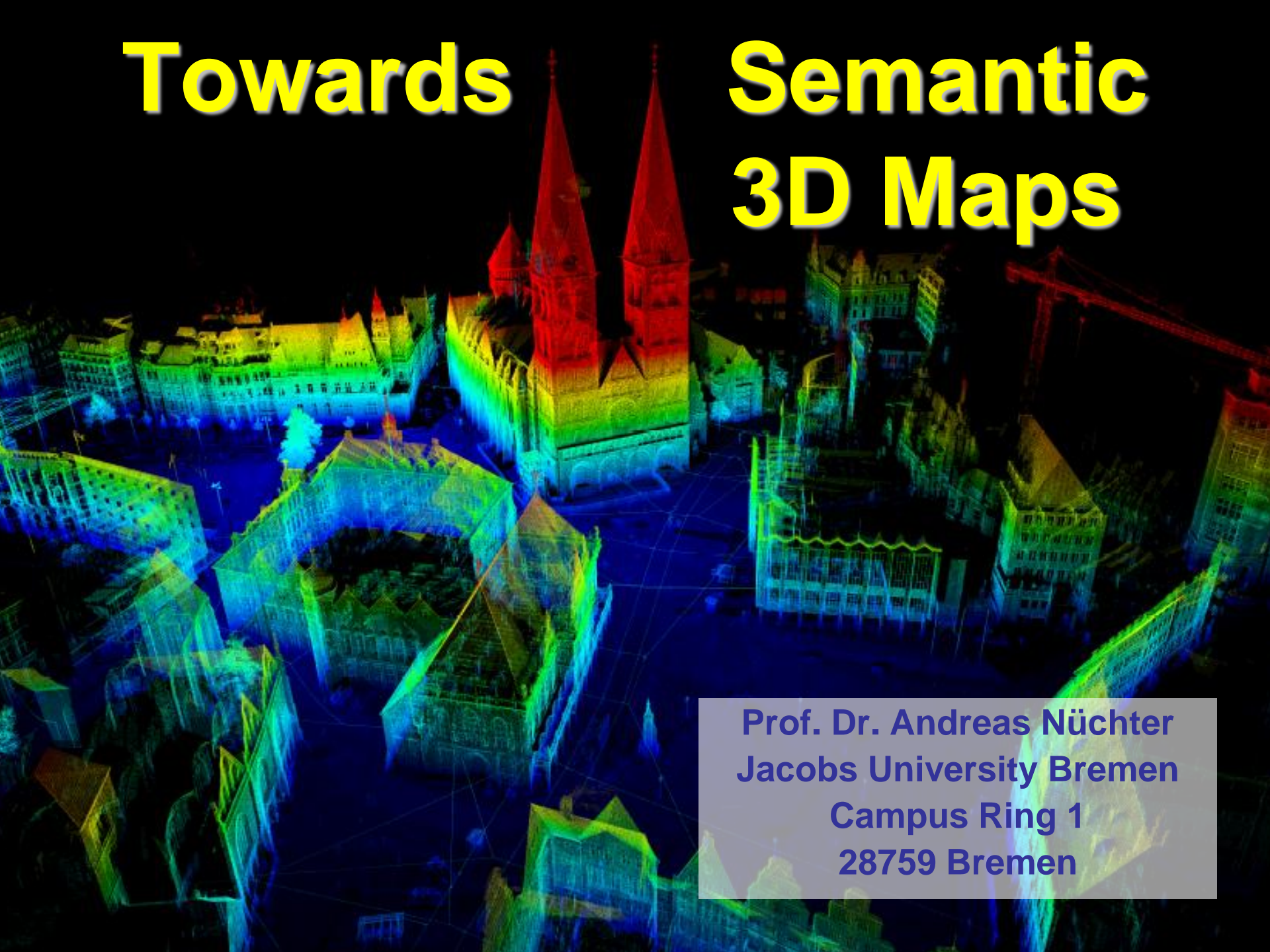


# Towards

# Semantic 3D Maps



Prof. Dr. Andreas Nüchter  
Jacobs University Bremen  
Campus Ring 1  
28759 Bremen

# Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank the following researchers for joint work and inspiration in the past years:

- Joachim Hertzberg
- Kai Lingemann
- Stefan Stiene
- Hartmut Surmann
- Oliver Wulf
- Bernardo Wagner
- Simone Frintrop
- Dietrich Paulus
- Sara Mitri
- Dorit Borrmann
- Jan Elseberg
- Sebastian Thrun
- Thomas Christaller



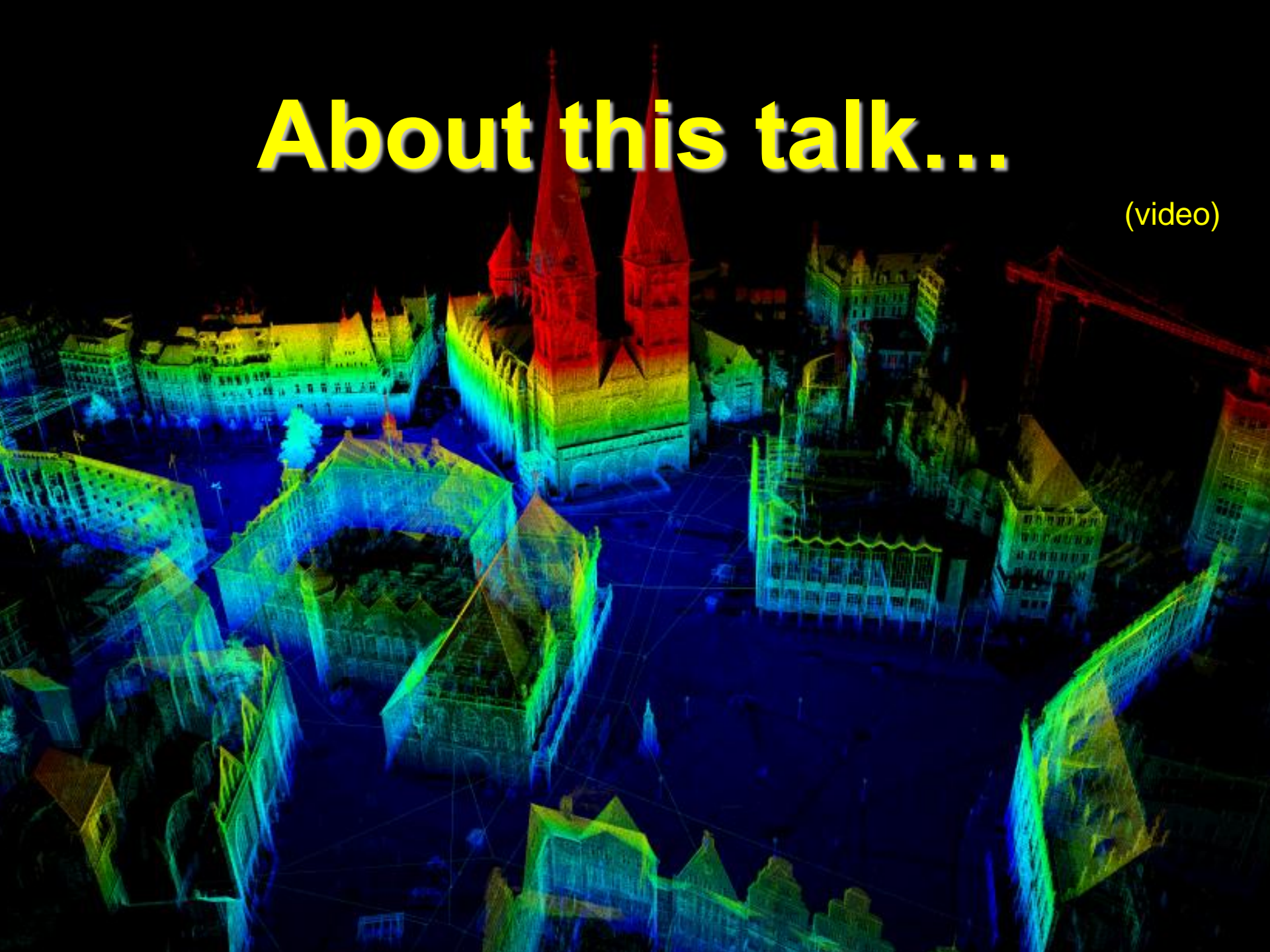
**Fraunhofer** Institut  
Autonome Intelligente  
Systeme





# About this talk...

(video)





# Outline

- Introduction
- 3D Robotic Mapping
- Interpretation of Point Clouds
- Semantic Maps
- Conclusion

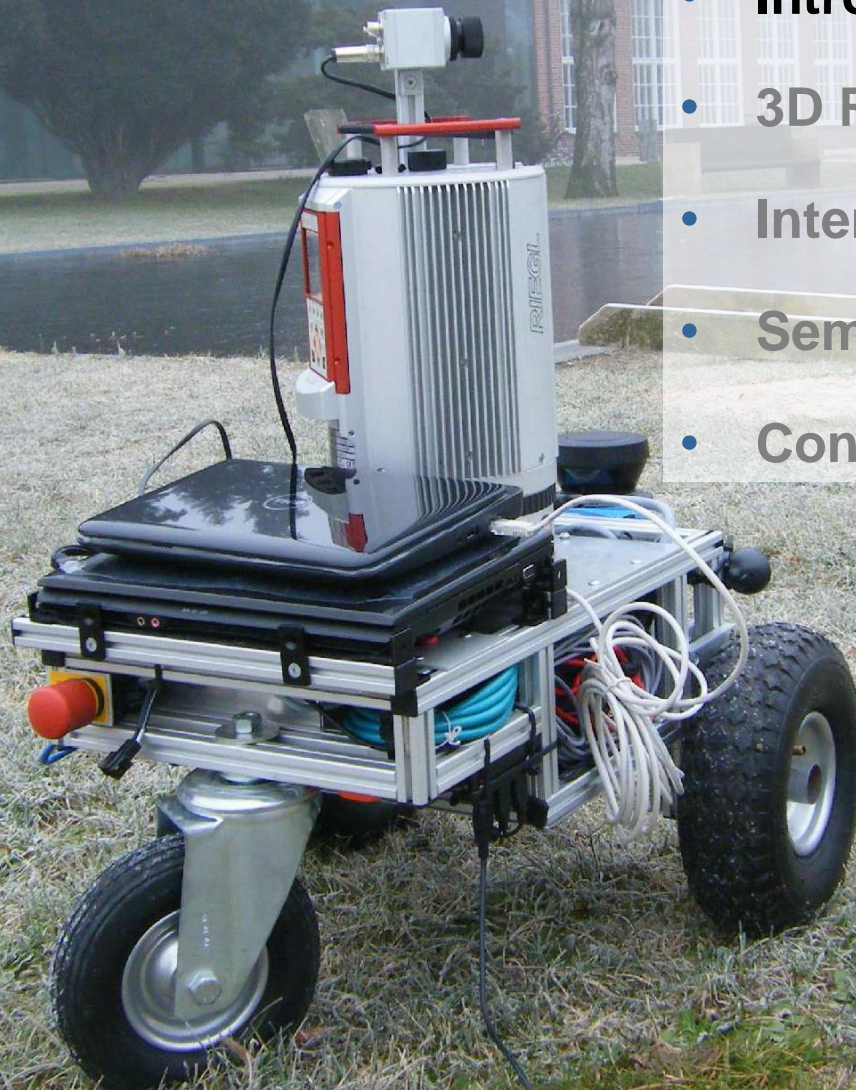


Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY



# Outline

- Introduction
- 3D Robotic Mapping
- Interpretation of Point Clouds
- Semantic Maps
- Conclusion

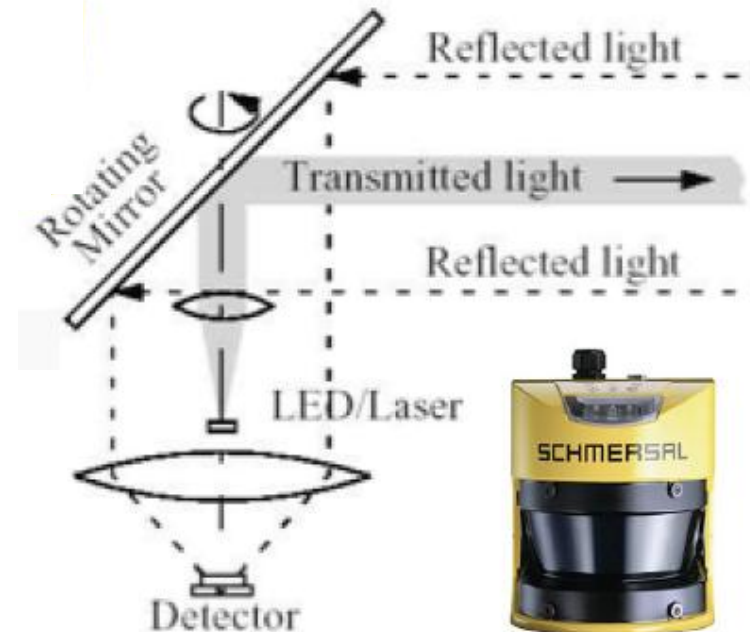
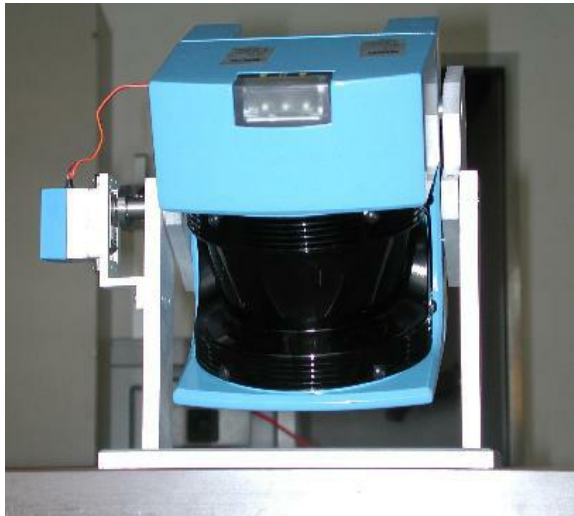


Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY



# 3D Laser Scanning

- 2D Laser range finder are standard tools in automation and robotics
- 3D laser scanner for mobile robots based on SICK LMS 200

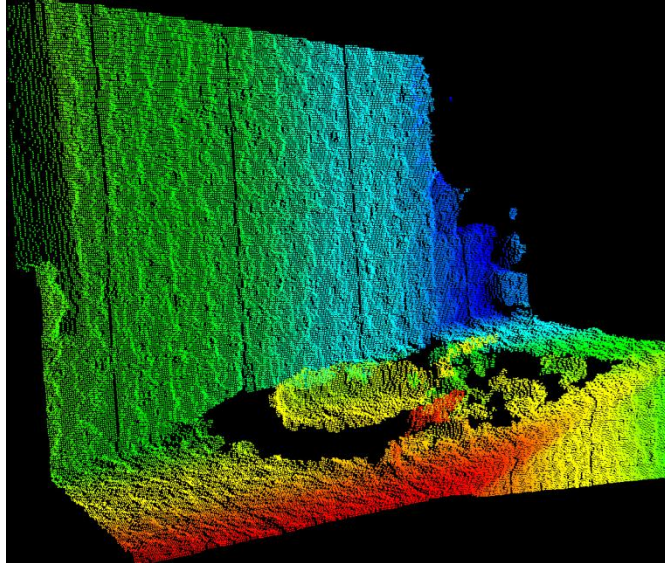


- Based on a laser scanner
- Relatively cheap sensor
- Controlled pitch motion ( $120^\circ$  v)
- Various resolutions and modi, e.g., intensity measurement  $\{181, 361, 721\}$  [h] x  $\{128, \dots, 500\}$  [v] pts
- Fast measurement, e.g., 3.4 sec (181x256 points)

# Kinecting

## Microsoft Kinect

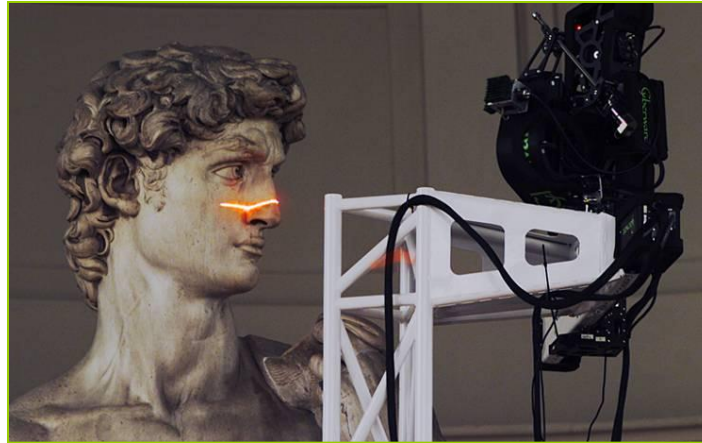
- Video 30 Hz
- RGB video: 8-bit VGA resolution (640 × 480 Pixel)
- Monochrome Video Stream  
(depth information): 11-bit VGA  
2048 depth values
- Depth: 1,2 – 3,5 m, (enhanced: 0,7 – 6 m)
- FOV: 57° (h) × 43°(vert)
- Tilt unit 27°
- Cost effective





# Professional 3D Scanners

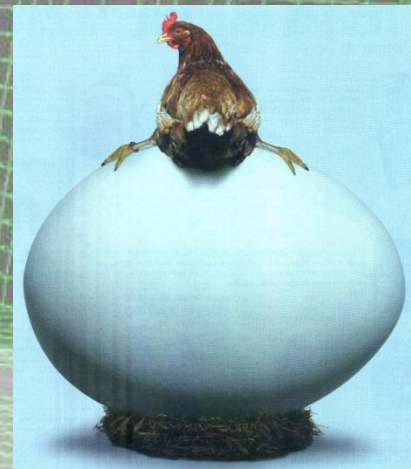
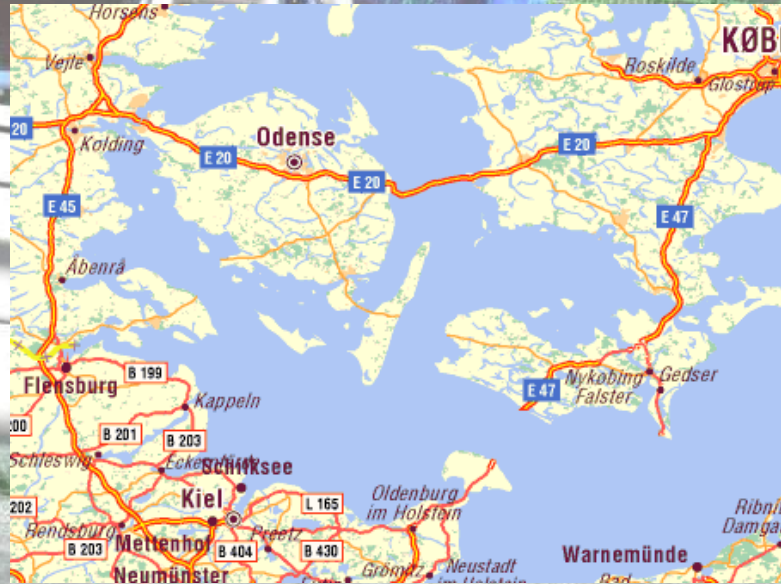
- Structured light (close range, triangulation)
- Time-of-flight (pulsed laser vs. continuous wave)





# Background Robotic Mapping

- If one knows the pose of a mobile robot precisely, then the sensor readings can be used to build a map.
- The pose of a robot is easy to compute from sensor readings, given a map.
- Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)



*The chicken and egg dilemma...*

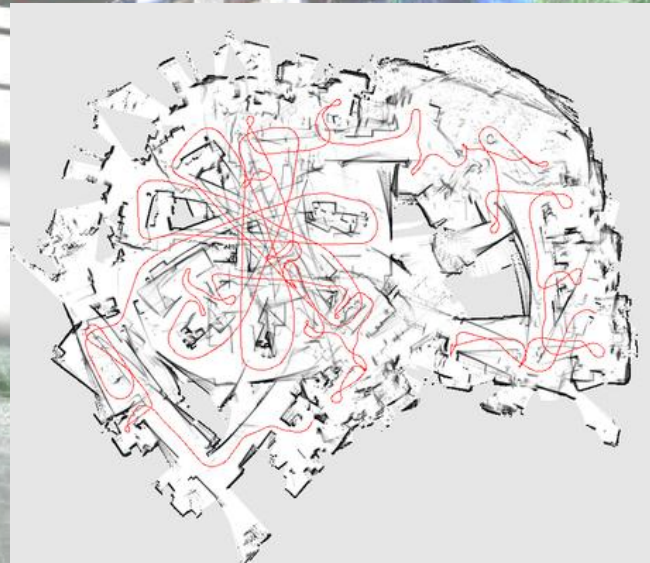


# Background Robotic Mapping

- If one knows the pose of a mobile robot precisely, then the sensor readings can be used to build a map.
- The pose of a robot is easy to compute from sensor readings, given a map.
- Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)



(Fig. Burgard et al.)

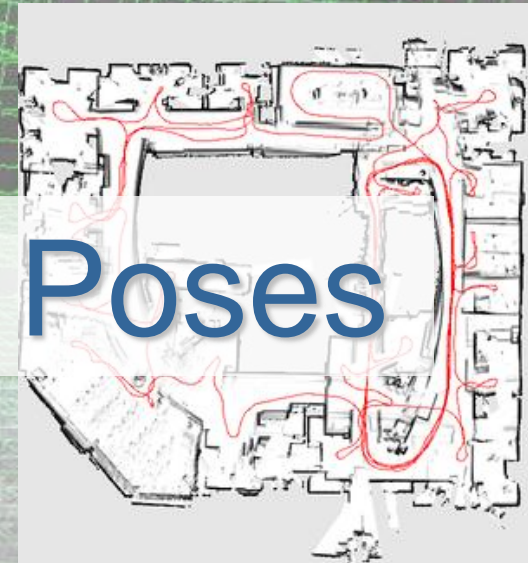
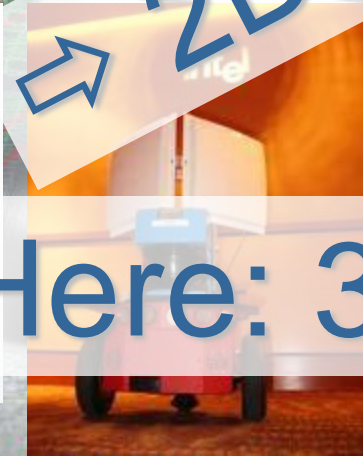




# Background Robotic Mapping

- If one knows the pose of a mobile robot precisely, then the sensor readings can be used to build a map.
- The pose of a robot is easy to compute from sensor readings, given a map.
- Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)

2D Data, 3DoF Poses



⇒ Here: 3D Data, 6D Poses

(Fig. Burgard et al.)



# The Ariadne Robot (2002/2003)

First, we used the 3D information for obstacle avoidance. Later of we did initial 3D mapping experiments.



The motion of the robot  
3 DoF

(Video Crash)      (Video NoCrash)







# The Mobile Robot Kurt3D (2004 – 2009)

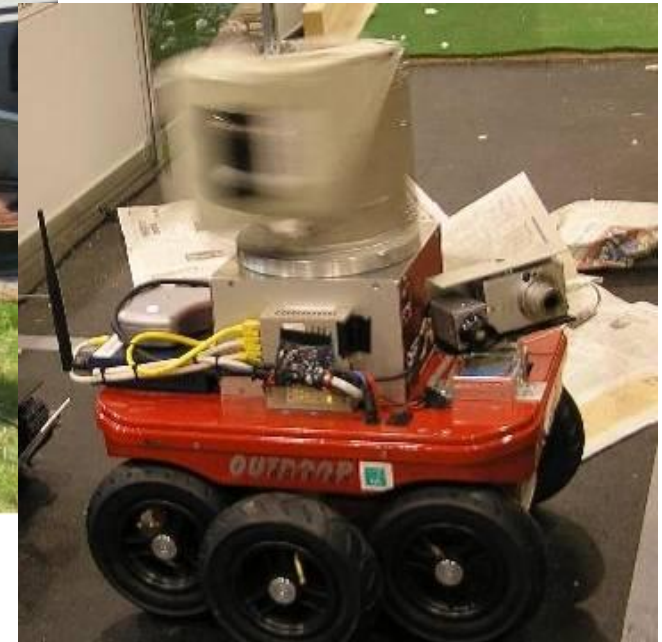


- Kurt3D is a lightweight (25 kg)
- Two 90W (200W) motors, 48 NiMH a 4500mAh, C167 Microcontroller, CAN Controller, Centrino Notebook

- Indoor/Outdoor versions available
- main Sensor:

3D scanner ⇒ 3D data, 6D poses

(Video Osaka)





# The Mobile Robot Irma3D (2010, ongoing)

## Technical Data:

- Base: volksbot
- 2D-Laserscanner: SICK LMS-100
- 3D-Scanner: Riegl VZ-400
- IMU: XSens
- Up to 3 color cameras
- Optris Imager PI
- Canon 1000D
- 12" Notebook for control
- RTLinux + ROS
- Battery capacity  
 $4 \times 7.2\text{Ah}@12\text{V}$

(video)





# Outline

- Introduction
- **3D Robotic Mapping**
- Interpretation of Point Clouds
- Semantic Maps
- Conclusion



Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY



# The ICP Algorithm

**Scan registration** Put two independent scans into one frame of reference

**Iterative Closest Point** algorithm [Besl/McKay 1992]

For prior point set  $M$  (“model set”) and data set  $D$

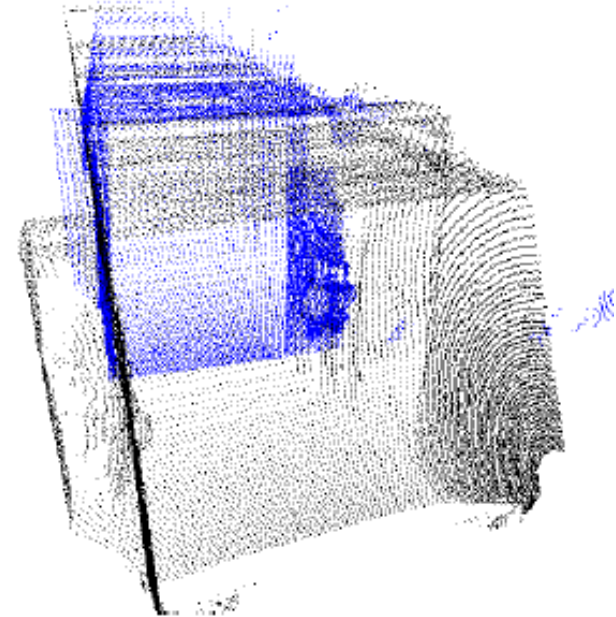
1. Select point correspondences  $w_{i,j}$  in  $\{0,1\}$
2. Minimize for rotation  $\mathbf{R}$ , translation  $\mathbf{t}$

$$E(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_m} \sum_{j=1}^{N_d} w_{i,j} \|\mathbf{m}_i - (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{d}_j + \mathbf{t})\|^2$$

3. Iterate 1. and 2.

Four closed form solution for the minimization

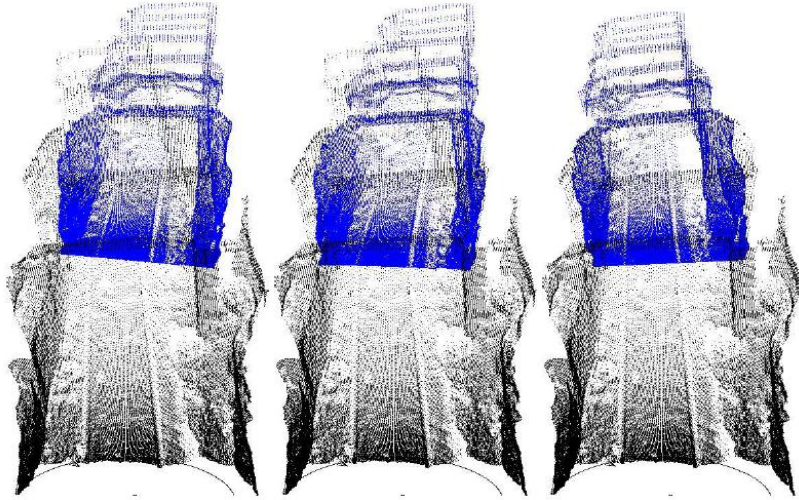
- works in 3 translation plus 3 rotation dimensions





# 3D Mapping Examples

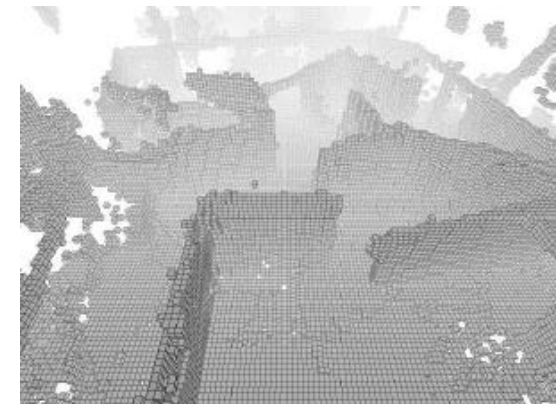
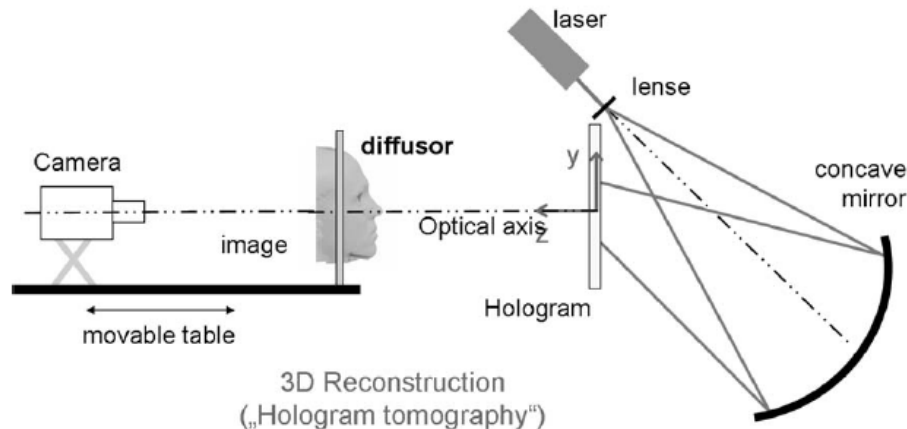
CMU 3D mapping of abandoned mines



RoboCup Rescue



3D reconstruction in the context of medical imaging





# The Global Opt Algorithm

**Scan registration** Put two independent scans into one frame of reference

**Iterative Closest Point** algorithm [Besl/McKay 1992]

For prior point set  $M$  (“model set”) and data set  $D$

1. Select point correspondences  $w_{i,j}$  in  $\{0,1\}$
2. Minimize for rotation  $\mathbf{R}$ , translation  $\mathbf{t}$

$$E(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_m} \sum_{j=1}^{N_d} w_{i,j} \|\mathbf{m}_i - (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{d}_j + \mathbf{t})\|^2$$

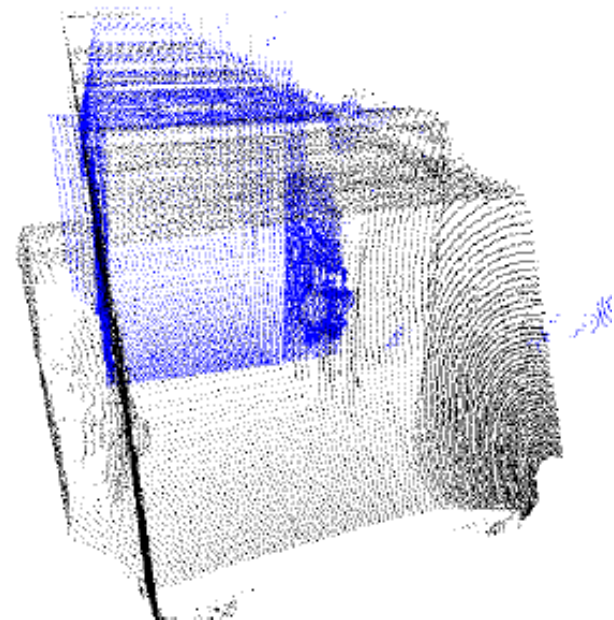
3. Iterate 1. and 2.

Four closed form solution for the minimization

Global consistent registration

$$E = \sum_{j \rightarrow k} \sum_i |\mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{t}_j - (\mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{d}_i + \mathbf{t}_k)|^2$$

Minimize for all rotations  $\mathbf{R}$  and translations  $\mathbf{t}$  at the same time



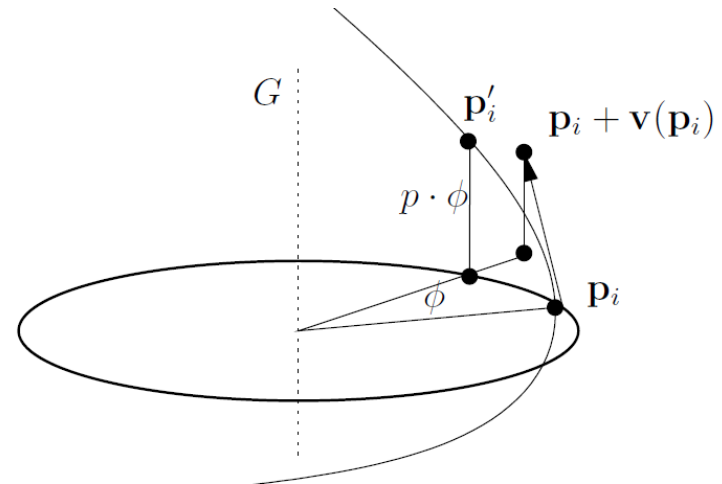


# Parameterizations for the Rigid Body Transformations

$$E = \sum_{j \rightarrow k} \sum_i |\mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{t}_j - (\mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{d}_i + \mathbf{t}_k)|^2$$

- Helix transformation

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{p}) = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{p}.$$



$$E = \sum_{j \rightarrow k} \sum_i (\mathbf{m}_i - \mathbf{d}_i + (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_j + \mathbf{x}_j \times \mathbf{m}_i) - (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_k + \mathbf{x}_k \times \mathbf{m}_i))^2$$

... solving a system of linear equations



# Parameterizations for the Rigid Body Transformations

$$E = \sum_{j \rightarrow k} \sum_i |\mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{t}_j - (\mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{d}_i + \mathbf{t}_k)|^2$$

- Small angle approximation  $\sin \theta \approx \theta - \frac{\theta^3}{3} + \frac{\theta^5}{5} - \dots$   
 $\cos \theta \approx 1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2} + \frac{\theta^4}{4} - \dots$

$$\mathbf{R} \approx \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\theta_z & \theta_y \\ \theta_x \theta_y + \theta_z & 1 - \theta_x \theta_y \theta_z & -\theta_x \\ \theta_x \theta_z - \theta_y & \theta_x + \theta_y \theta_z & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{R} \approx \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\theta_z & \theta_y \\ \theta_z & 1 & -\theta_x \\ -\theta_y & \theta_x & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

... solving a system of linear equations

# Parameterizations for the Rigid Body Transformations

$$E = \sum_{j \rightarrow k} \sum_i |\mathbf{R}_j \mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{t}_j - (\mathbf{R}_k \mathbf{d}_i + \mathbf{t}_k)|^2$$

- Explicit modeling of uncertainties
- Assumptions: The unknown error is normally distributed

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \sum_{j \rightarrow k} (\bar{\mathbf{E}}_{j,k} - \mathbf{E}'_{j,k})^T \mathbf{C}_{j,k}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{E}}'_{j,k} - \mathbf{E}'_{j,k}) \\ &= \sum_{j \rightarrow k} (\bar{\mathbf{E}}_{j,k} - (\mathbf{X}'_j - \mathbf{X}'_k)) \mathbf{C}_{j,k}^{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{E}}'_{j,k} - (\mathbf{X}'_j - \mathbf{X}'_k)). \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{j,k} = \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathbf{X}_j \oplus \mathbf{d}_i - \mathbf{X}_k \oplus \mathbf{m}_i\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \|\mathbf{Z}_i(\mathbf{X}_j, \mathbf{X}_k)\|^2$$



# Comparisons of the Parametrizations

## Global ICP

- Gaussian noise in the „3D Point Cloud“ space
- Locally optimal
- ICP-like iterations using new point correspondences

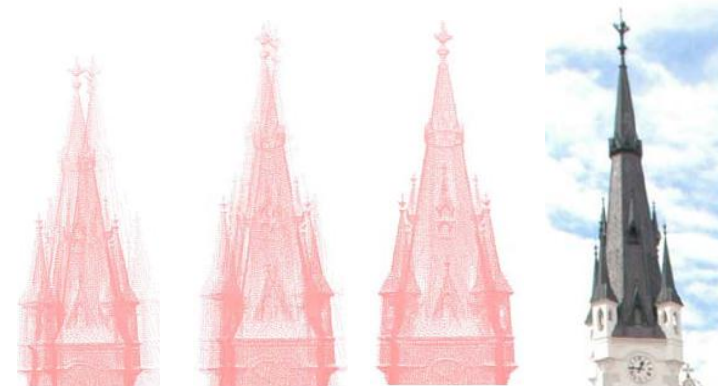
## Classical Pose GraphSLAM

- Gaussian noise in the space of poses
- Gradient descent needed
- ICP-like iterations using new point correspondences needed as well

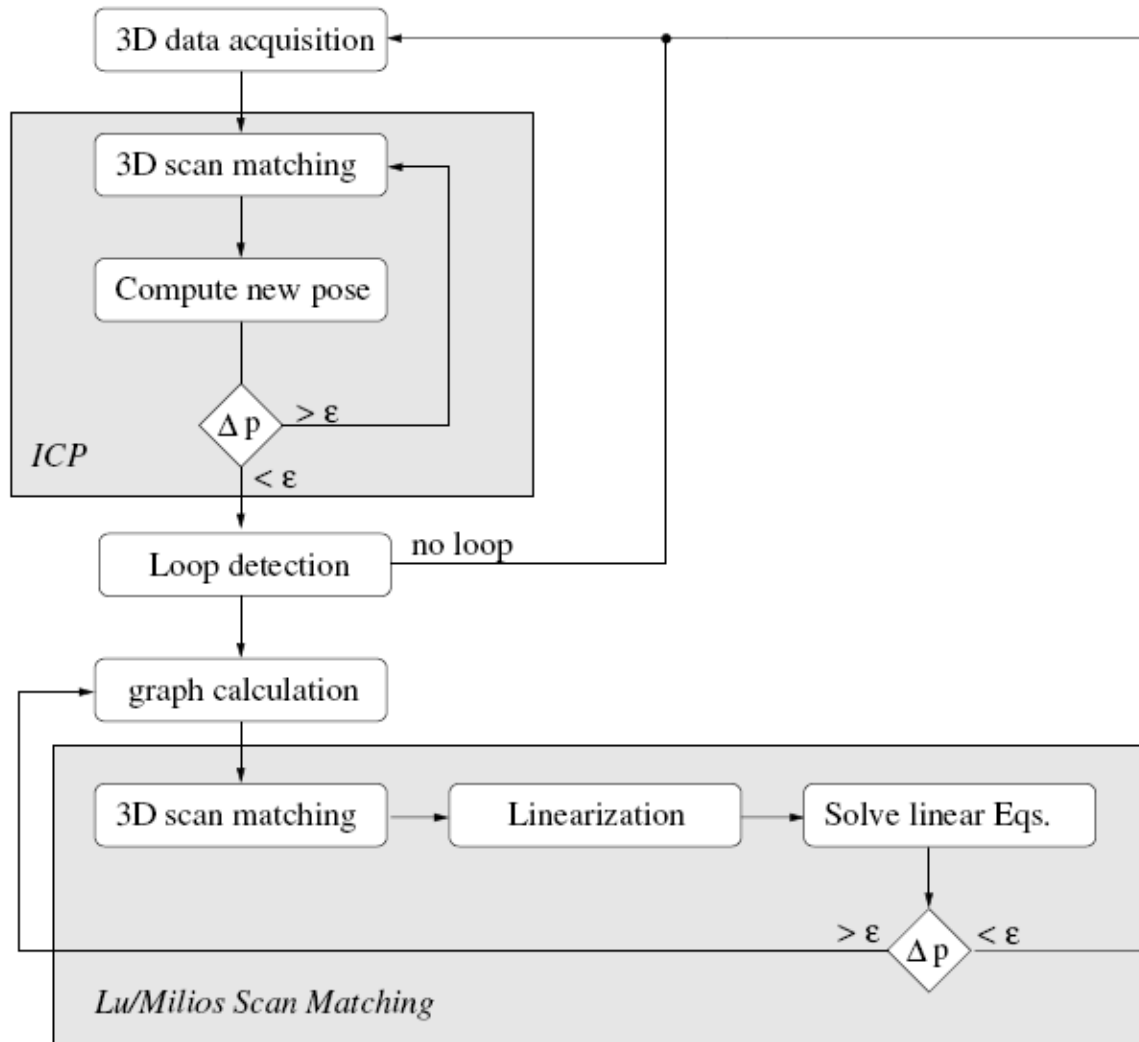
- Riegl Laser Measurement GmbH

(Video courtesy of Riegl)

(Video 1)   (Video 2)   (Video 3)



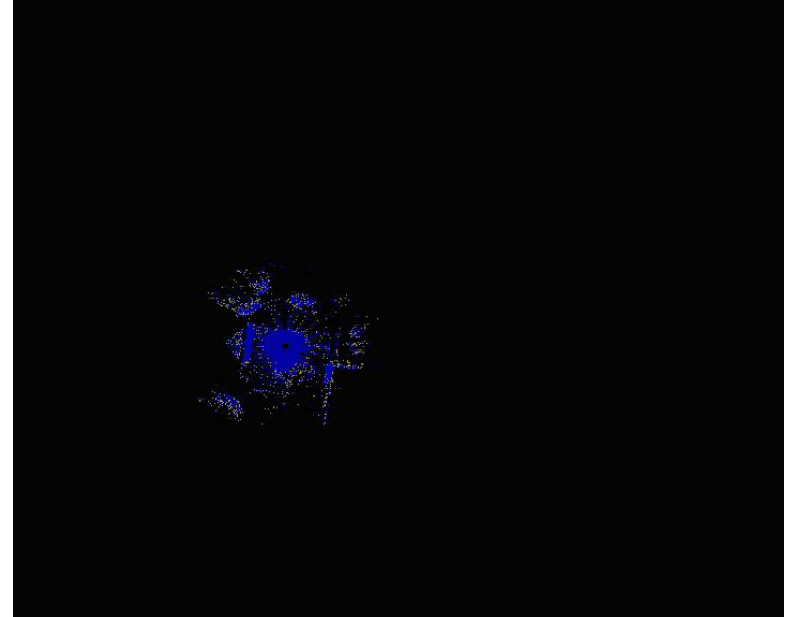
# Closed Loop Detection and Global Relaxation





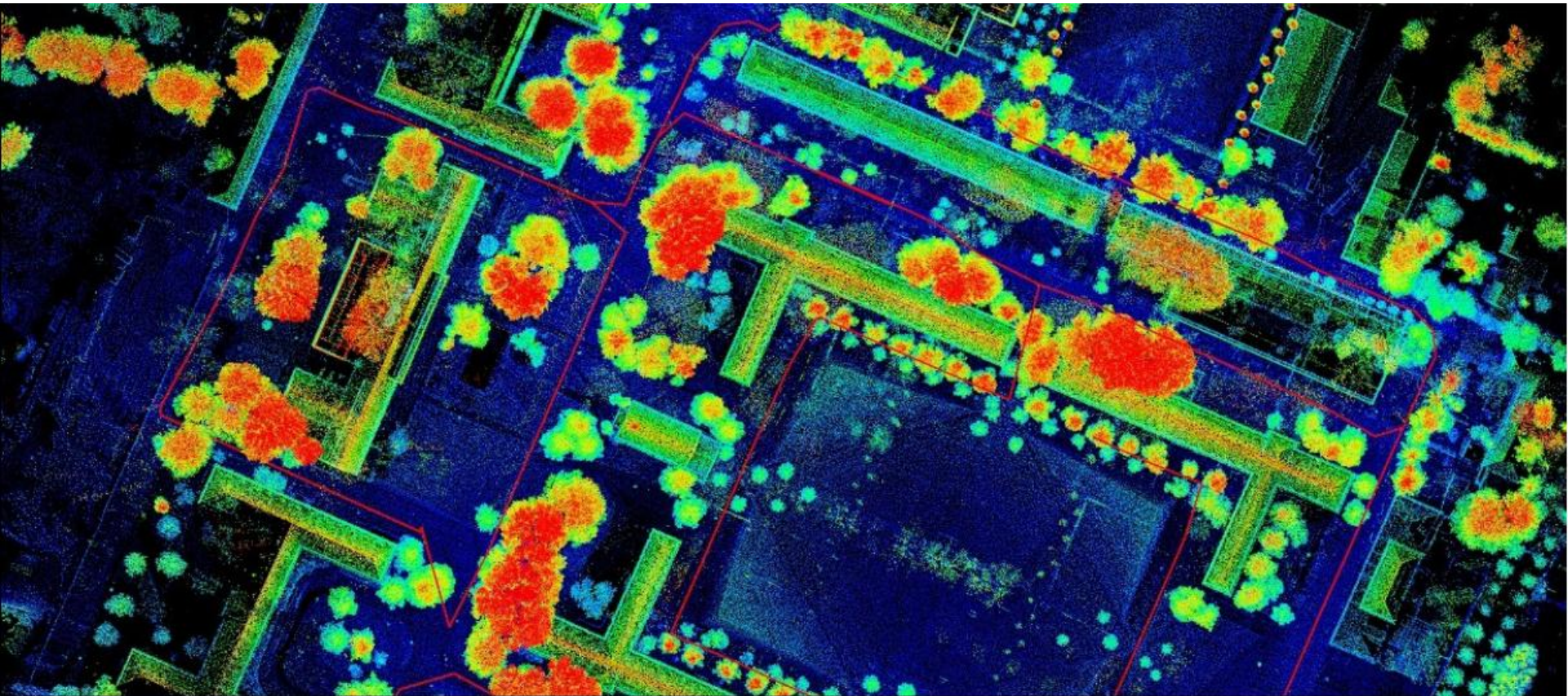
# 6D SLAM – Full Example

- Leibniz University Hannover (RTS)





# 3D Point Cloud Processing – Emerging Trends

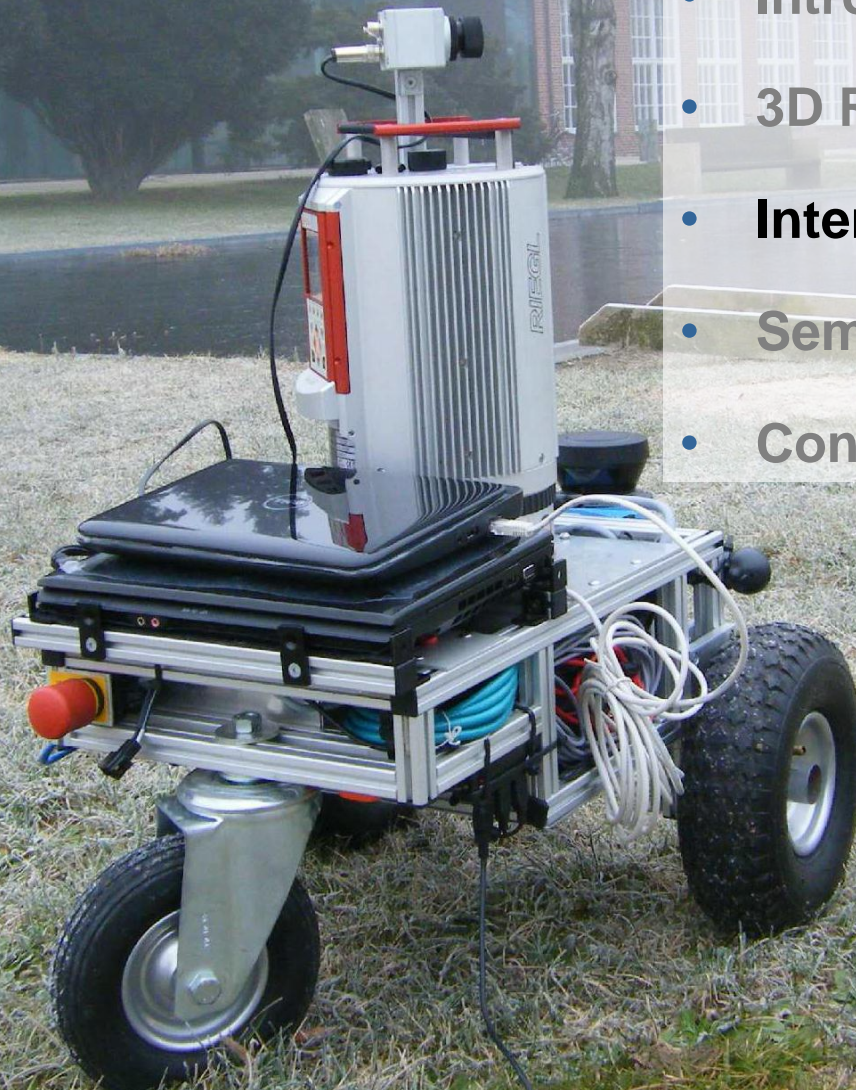


- 122 Scans @ more than 2 Billion points
- 4 coordinates per point, 8 bytes per coordinate => 59.6 Gb
- Compressed only 8.8 Gb @ ~100 micron precision



# Outline

- Introduction
- 3D Robotic Mapping
- **Interpretation of Point Clouds**
- Semantic Maps
- Conclusion

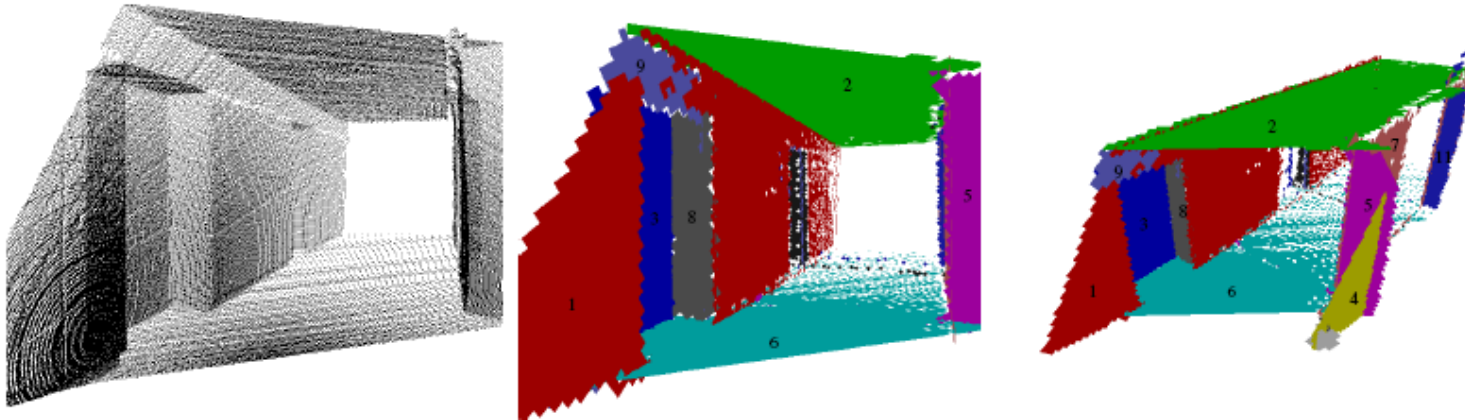


Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY

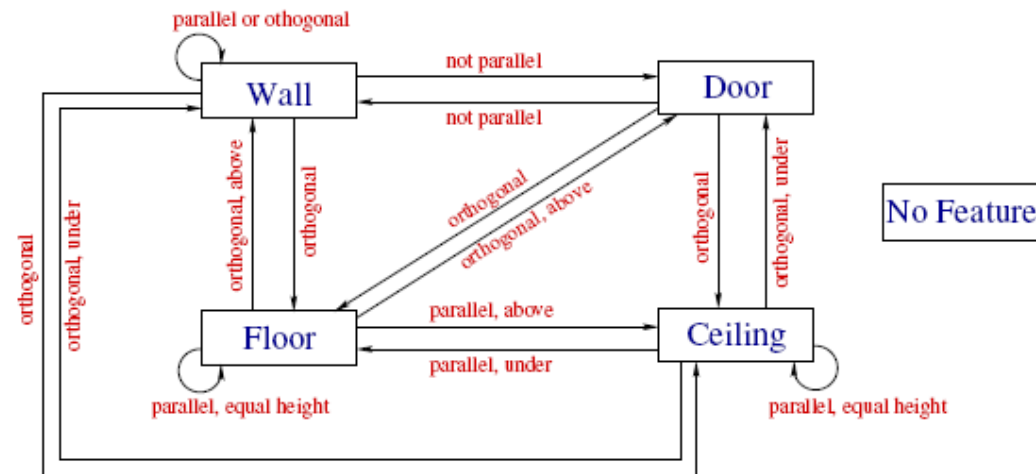


# Scene Interpretation

- Plane extraction using a novel RANSAC+ICP



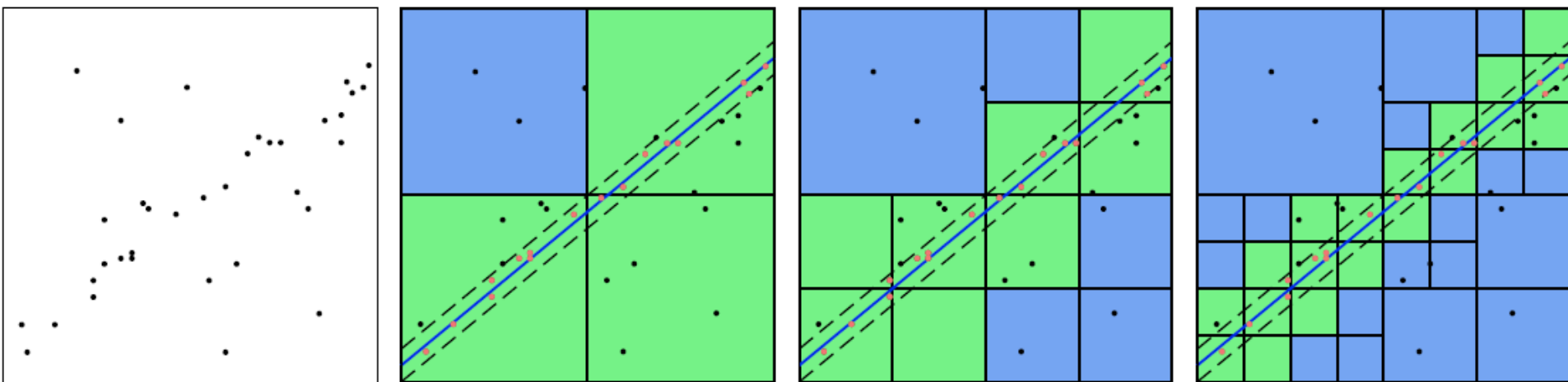
- Semantic net for assigning meaningful labels to the planes





# Detecting Shapes with RANSAC

- Improve selection of sample points
  - Choose points with higher likelihood if in close proximity
  - Lower number of draws required
- Speed up validation of hypothesis



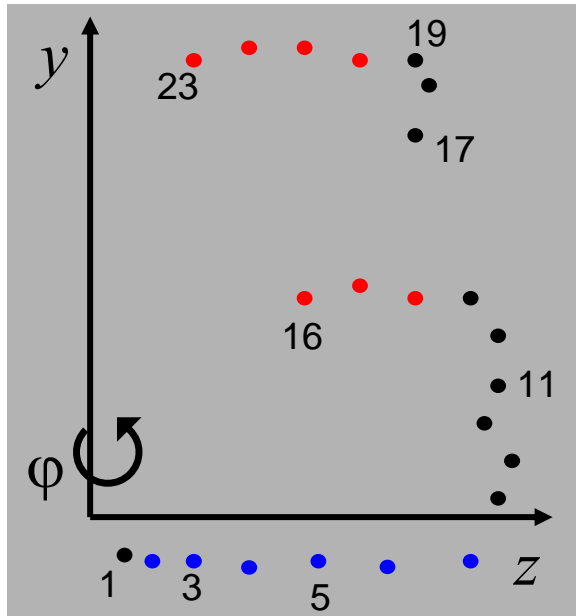
AVERAGE COMPUTING TIME IN *ms* OF RANSAC.

Data set	no octree	octree	speedup
Kurt3D	1666.57	176.69	9.43
Kinect	6905.94	429.32	16.08
city	388551.55	11084.81	35.05

# Semantics by Point Labeling

- Classification of 3D points

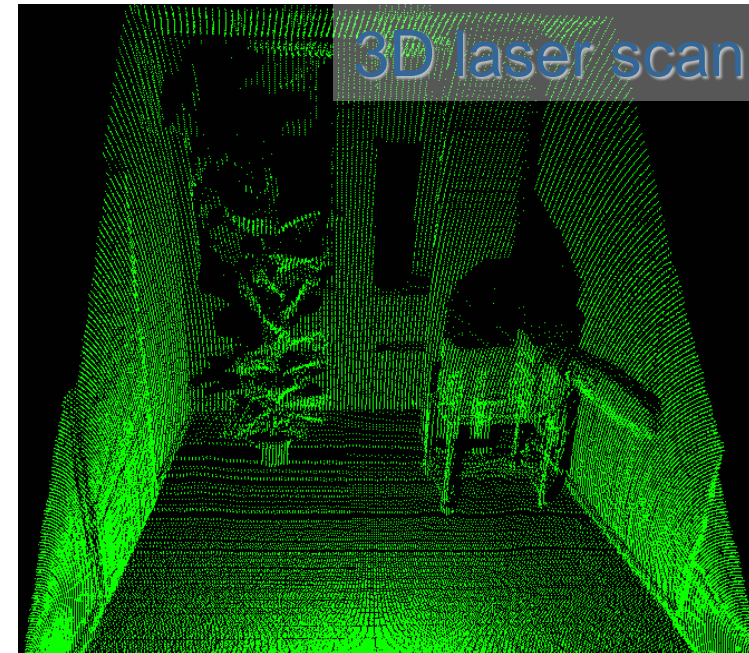
$p_{i,j} = (\varphi_i, z_{i,j}, y_{i,j})$  is in the  $i$ -th vertical scan the  $j$ -th point (start counting from the bottom)



„drivable points“

Flat angle in scanning order

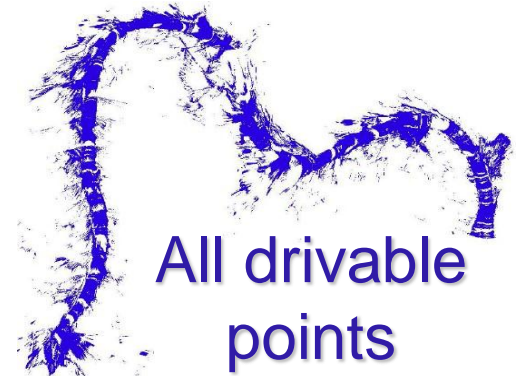
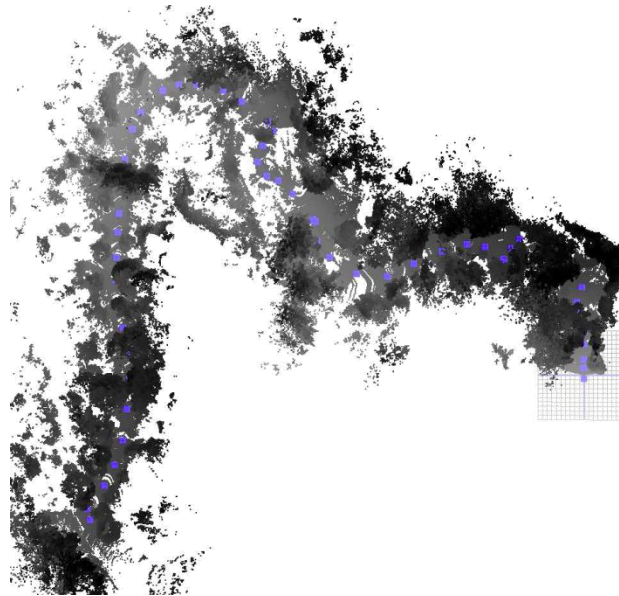
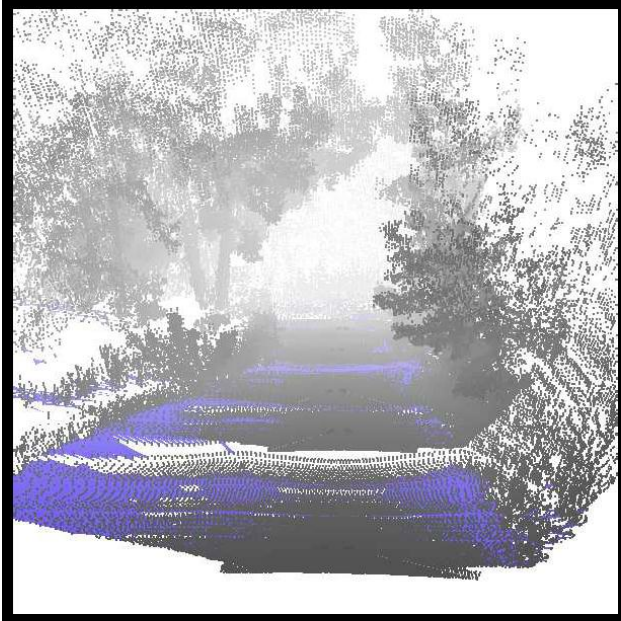
$$|\alpha_{i,j}| < \tau$$





# Drivable Surface Classification

Matched Scans, floor blue



- Unfortunately not all robots are equipped with a 3D scanner  
⇒ Classification based on camera images and 2D laser scans for path planning in natural environments

(Video 1)

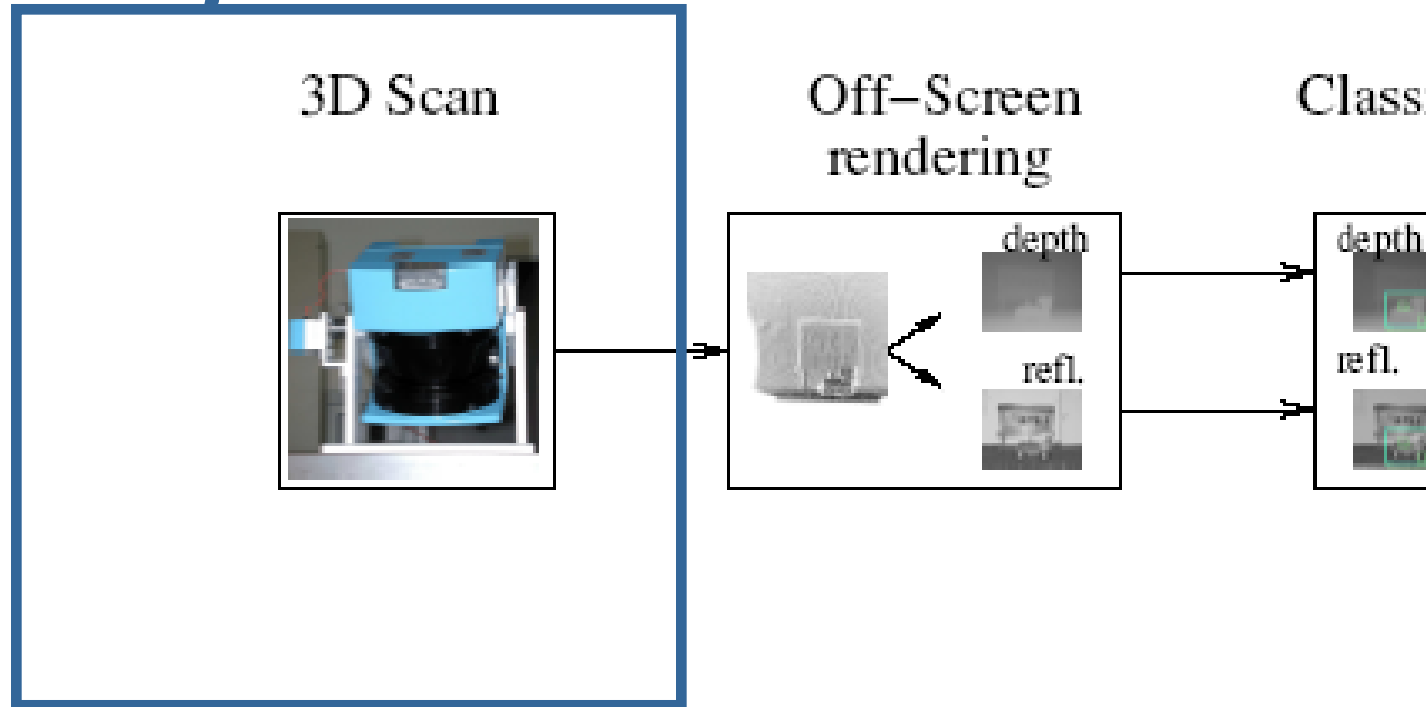
(Video 2)

(Video 3)

(Video 4)

# Finding Objects in 3D Point Clouds

## Object detection

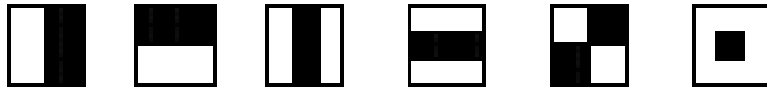




# Feature Detection Using Integral Images

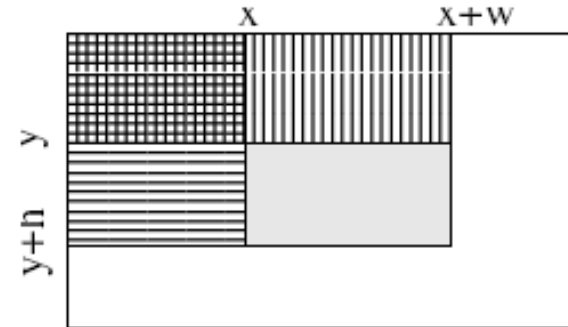
- Efficient representation of images using integral images

$$I(x, y) = \sum_{x'=0}^x \sum_{y'=0}^y N(x', y')$$



- Calculate features in integral images

$$F(x, y, h, w) = I(x, y) + I(x + w, y + h) - I(x, y + h) - I(x + w, y).$$



- Rotated features can be calculated with rotated integral images



$$I_r(x, y) = \sum_{x'=0}^x \sum_{y'=0}^{x-|x'-y|} N(x', y')$$

# Learning a Classifier (1)

- Learn objects from 3D-Scans
- Create a classification window that contains all possible features
- Learn combination of features using Ada-Boost



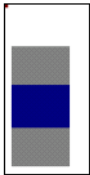
[Viola und Jones 01, Freund und Schapire 96]



thr. = 0.002739

$\alpha = -0.9544$

$\beta = 0.8265$



thr. = -0.01696

$\alpha = 0.7638$

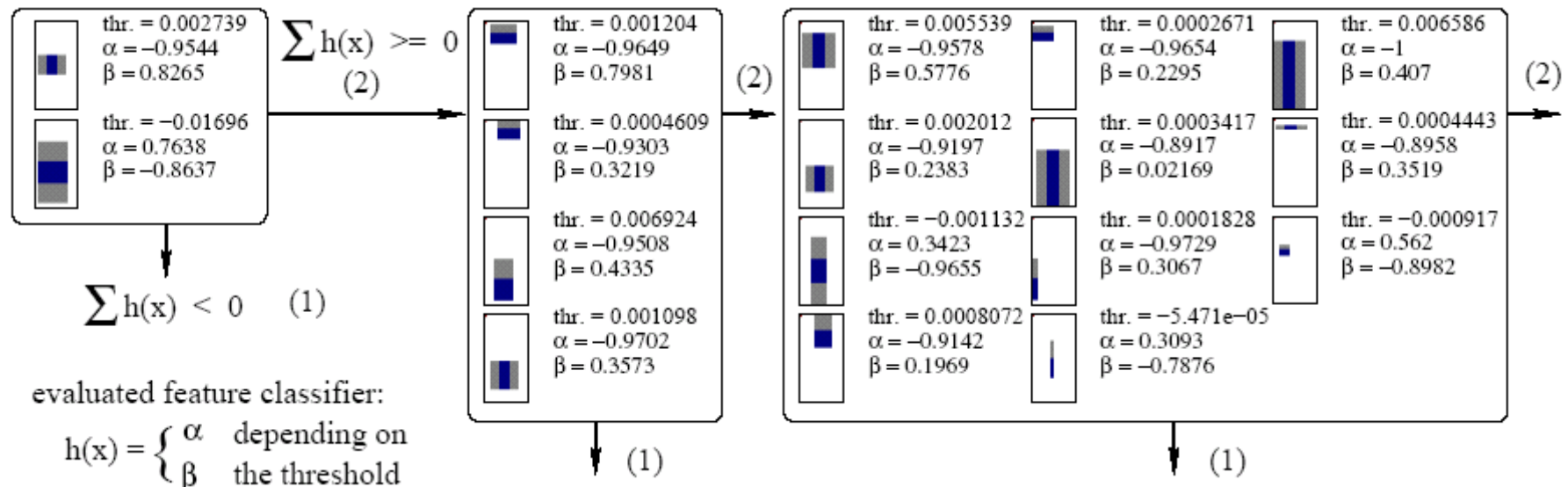
$\beta = -0.8637$

- Objects of different sizes are detected by rescaling the classifier window.

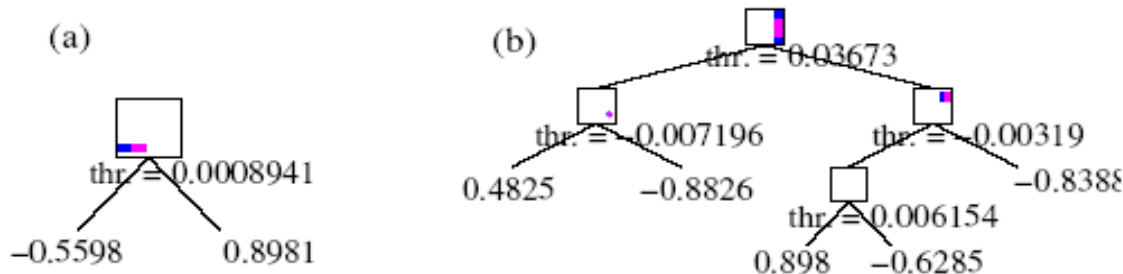


# Learning a Classifier (2)

- Last but not least use a cascade to lower the false detection rate.



- Improvement: Use Classification and Regression Trees!



# Object Detection

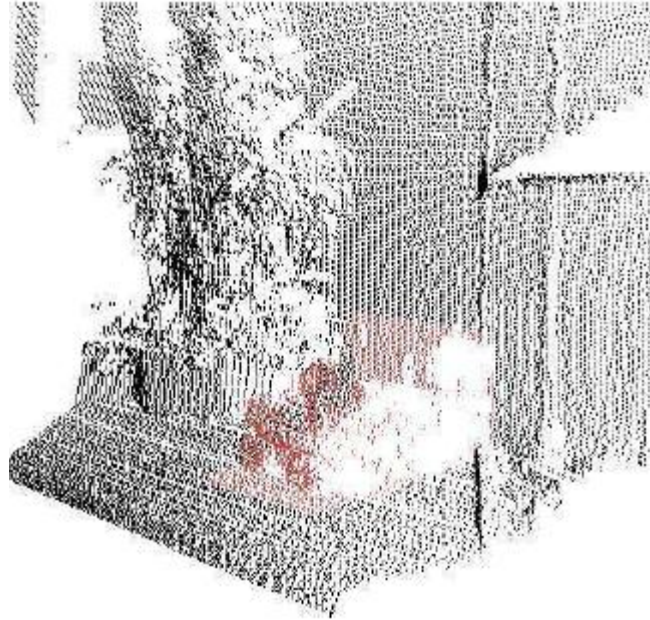
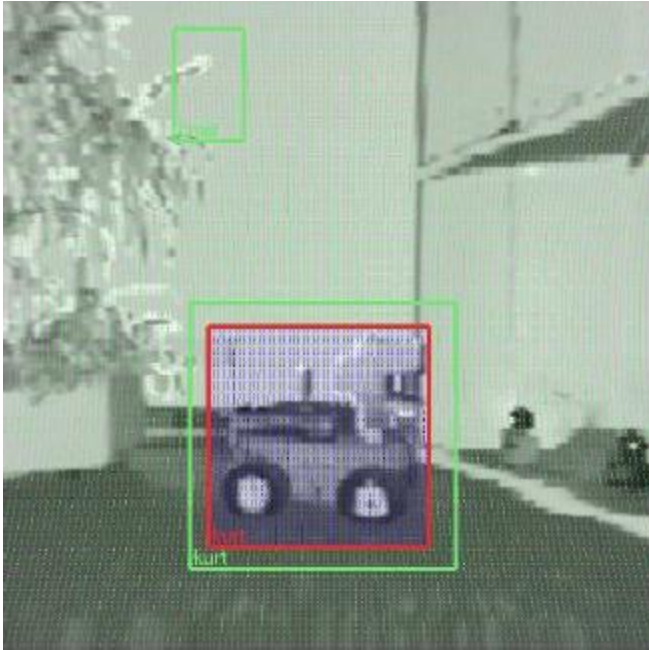
- Use the cascade for detection in the depth and reflectance image
- Logical AND yields reliable detection (false detection ~ 0%)





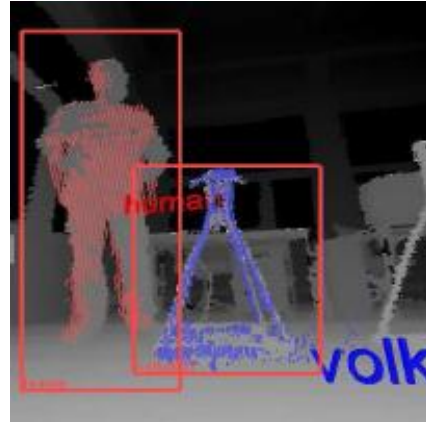
# Localize the Objects (1)

- Get object points via ray tracing



# Localize the Objects (2)

- Fit objects in point cloud using an ICP variant



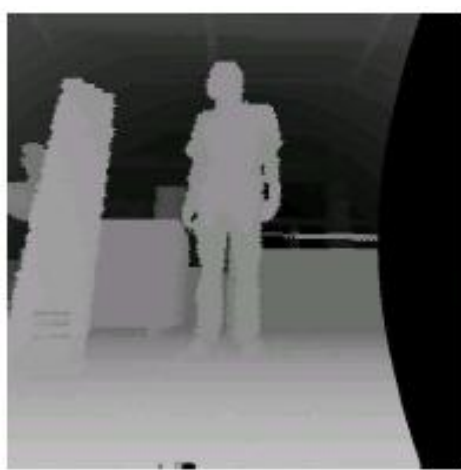
- For prior point set  $M$  (“model set”) and data set  $D$ 
  1. Select point correspondences  $w_{i,j}$  in  $\{0,1\}$
  2. Minimize for rotation  $\mathbf{R}$ , translation  $\mathbf{t}$

$$E(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_m} \sum_{j=1}^{N_d} w_{i,j} ||\mathbf{m}_i - (\mathbf{R}\mathbf{d}_j + \mathbf{t})||^2$$

3. Iterate 1. and 2.

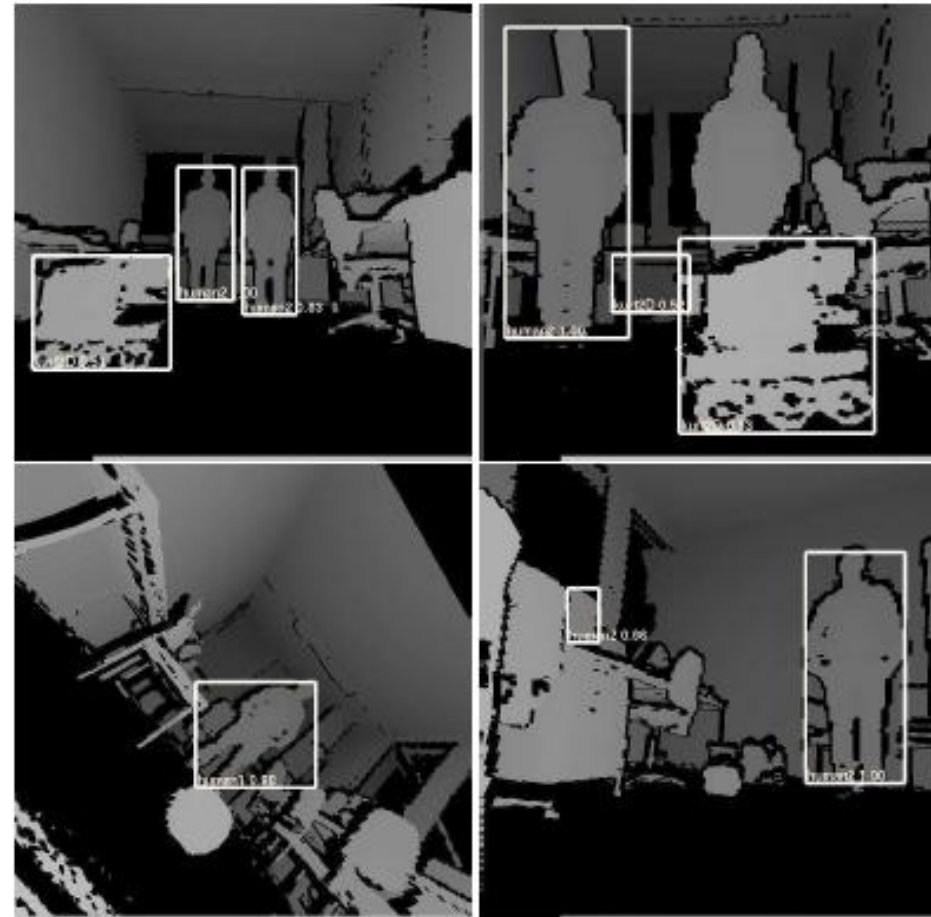


# Point Semantic for Object Detection



- Point labeling removes the ground
  - Extract contour features
  - Learning
  - Detect objects
- ⇒ Map building with labeled objects

- Task: Detect Objects in depth images



# Identifying 3D Google Warehouse Models (1)

**Task:** Recognize “Audi A4” in laser scan data

- Input: String “Audi A4”, 3D laser scan



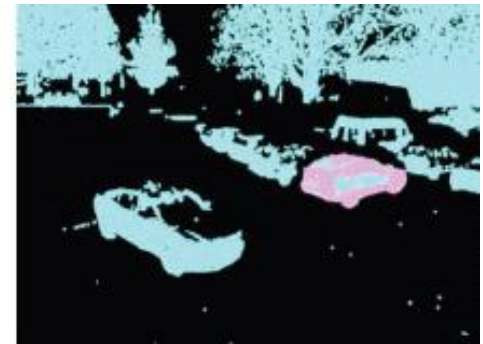
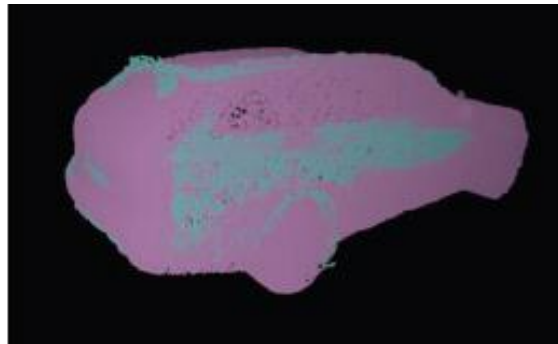
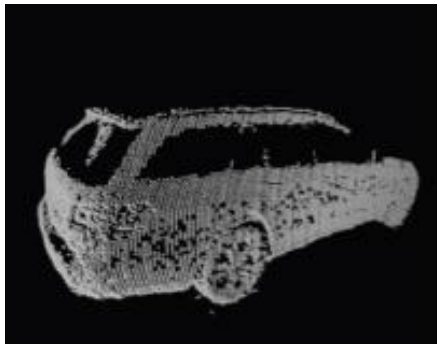
- Output: Pose of the object with 6 DoF





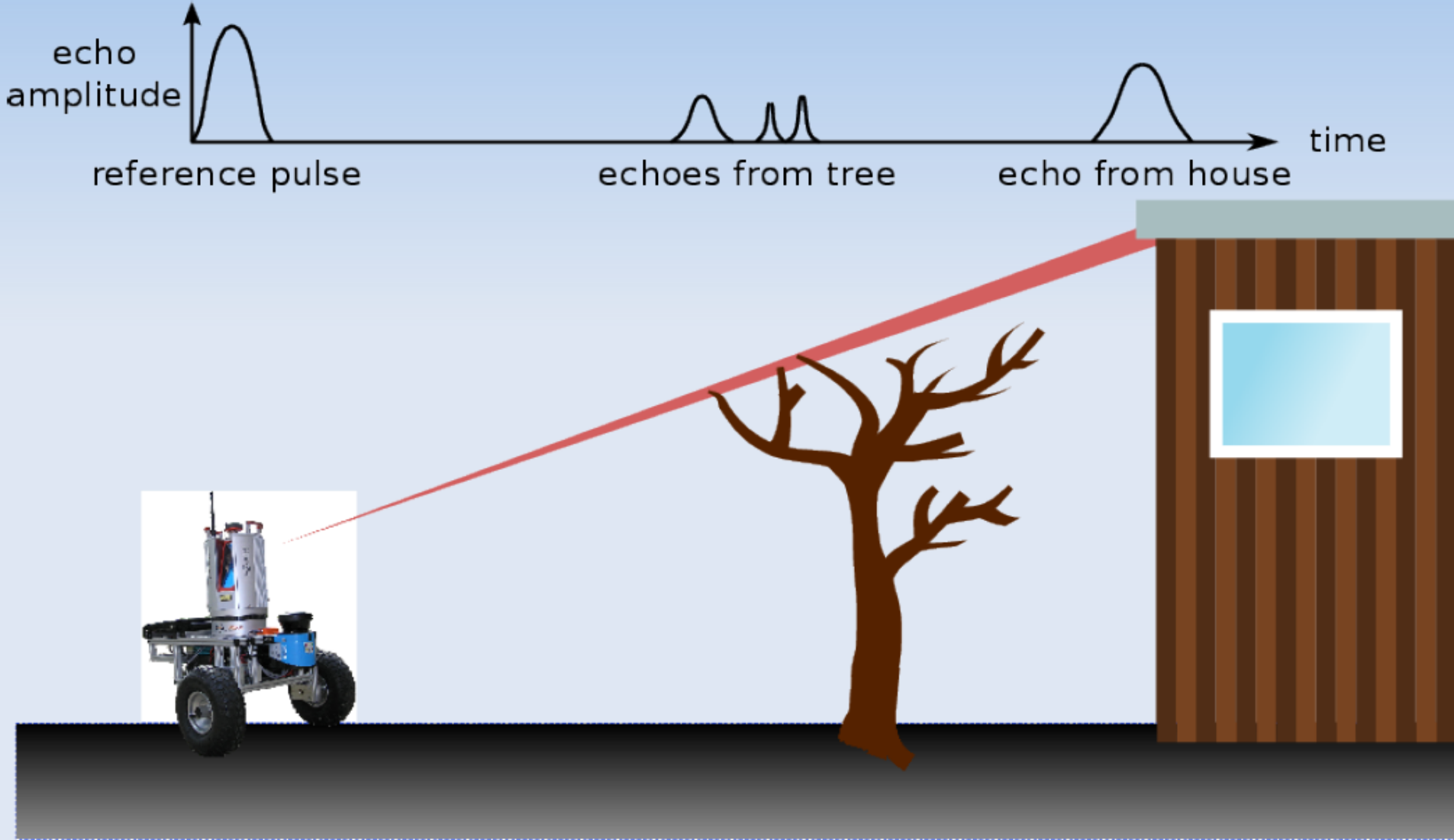
# Identifying 3D Google Warehouse Models (2)

- Algorithm:
  - Query Google's data base and download all models
  - Convert the models in point cloud data
  - Segment your 3D scan and remove obvious objects
  - Match the models into the segmented scan with a modified version of ICP (scale of the models is unknown!)
  - Design an evaluation function to find the best match



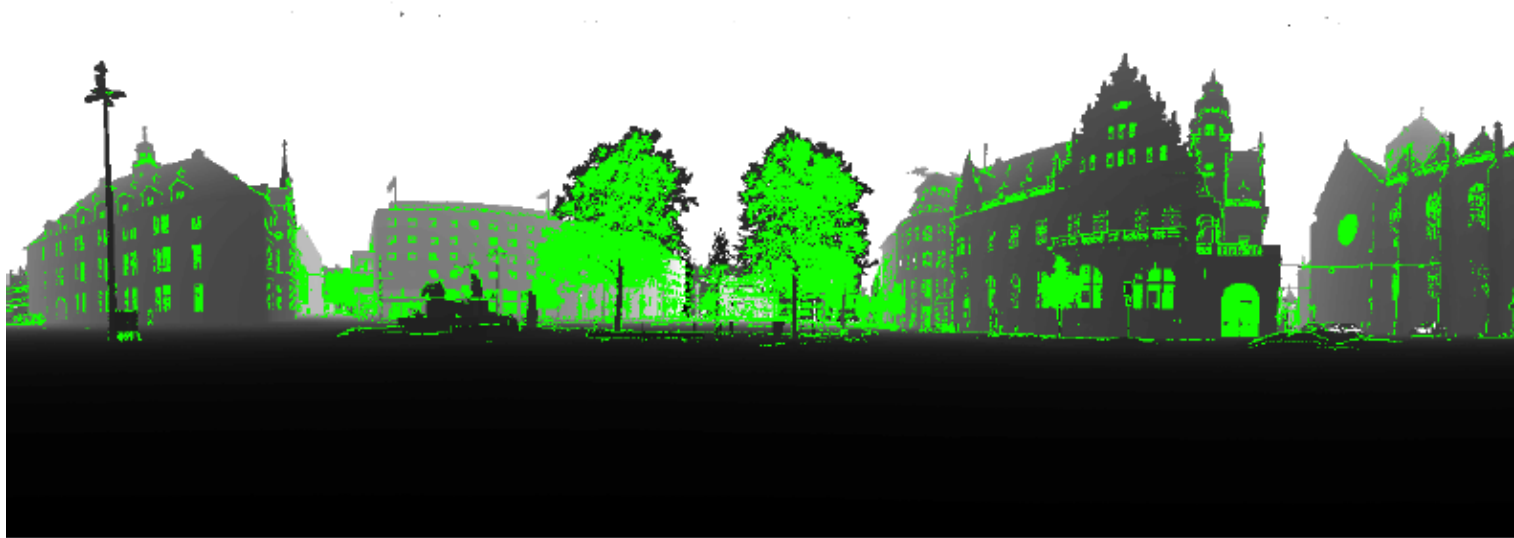
(video)

# Full Wave Analysis



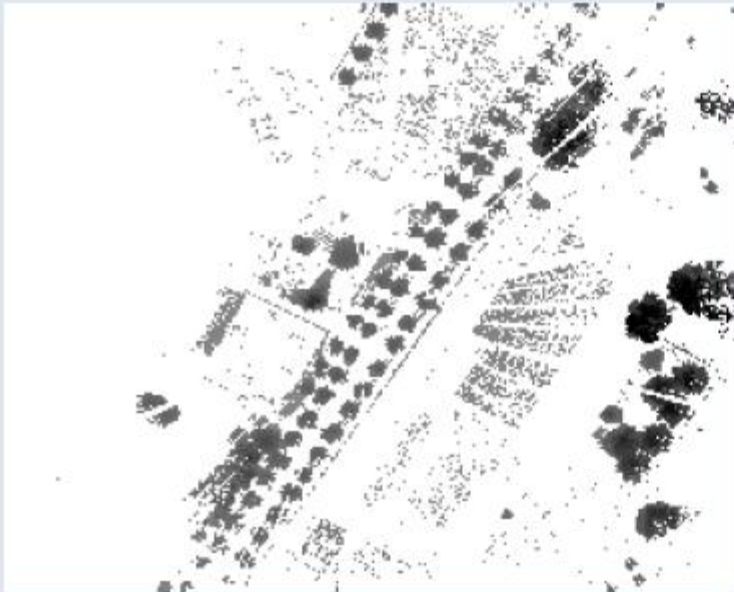
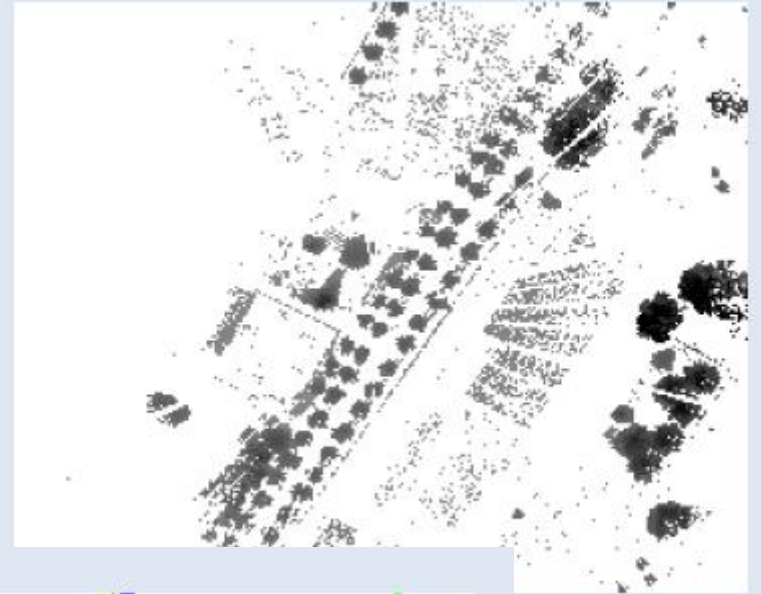


# Multiple Echos



# Vegetation Detection

1. Extract inner echos
2. Extract ROI
3. Classify regions





# Vegetation Detection





# Vegetation Detection





# Outline

- Introduction
- 3D Robotic Mapping
- Interpretation of Point Clouds
- **Semantic Maps**
- Conclusion

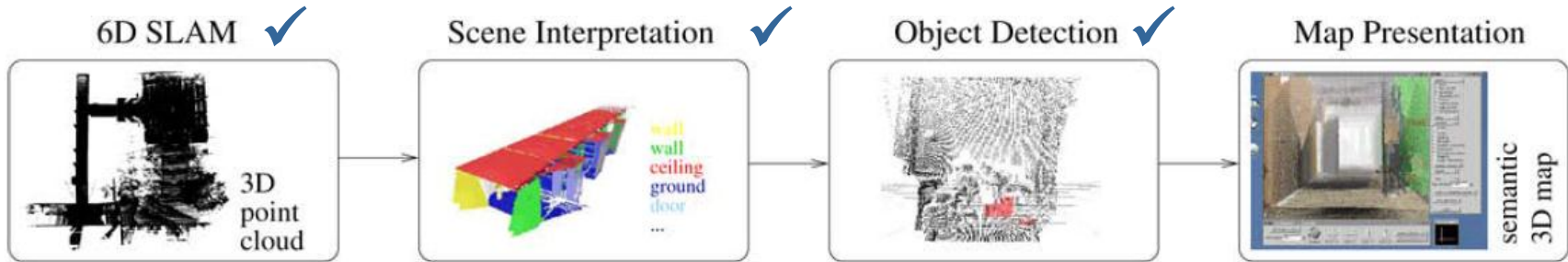


Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY



# Definition / Discussion

- A semantic 3D map is a metrical map that contains in addition to geometrical information semantic label of the data points.



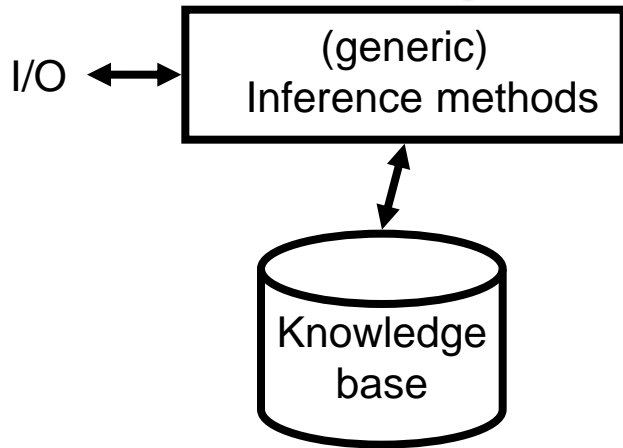
- Map presentation as video

(Video)



# Where does knowledge come from? Where does it go?

## Knowledge based software system

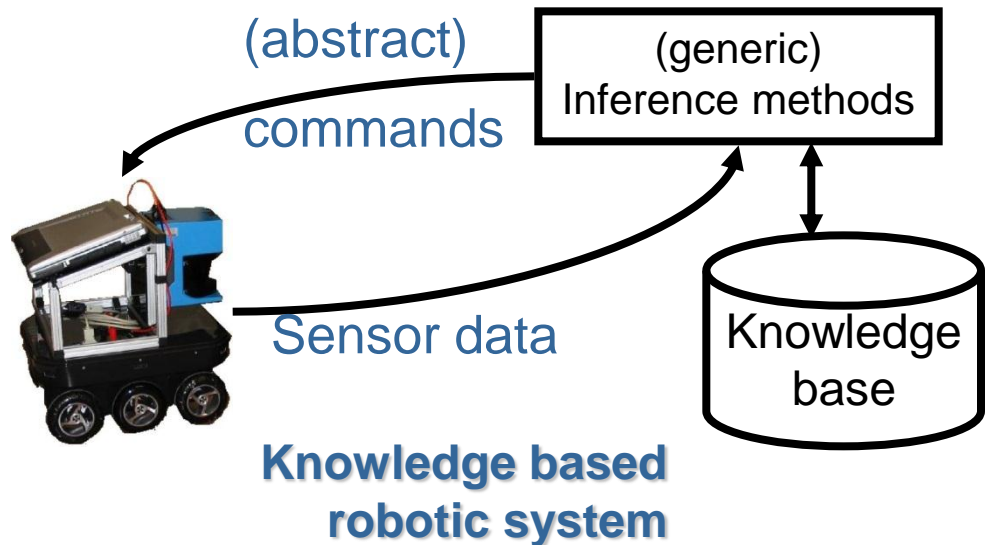


## Example expert system:

- *Knowledge Engineer* sets up knowledge base (off-line)
- User causes input and edit the output

## Example robot:

- *Knowledge Engineer* creates knowledge base off-line
- Input of KBS comes from sensors
- Output drives the robot



Robots in natural environments must translate sensor data into symbols and inferences eventually into control data!

# Symbol Grounding

S. Harnad: *The Symbol Grounding Problem*  
Physica D 42:335–346, 1990  
[cogprints.org/3106/01/sgproblem1.html](http://cogprints.org/3106/01/sgproblem1.html)

*How is meaning of a symbol to be grounded  
in something other than just more meaningless symbols?*

Is that an important question?

- Some (AI) say: No, at the best that's a technical problem!
- Some (Philosophy, Cog. Sci.) say: That's the point, at which artificial intelligence systems are doomed to fail!
- Some (AI, Cog. Sci., Robotics people, Nüchter) say: That's currently the most interesting point in fundamental research in AI



# Specialization: Object anchoring

S. Coradeschi, A. Saffiotti: *An Introduction to the Anchoring Problem*  
Robotics & Autonomous Systems 43(2–3):85–96, 2003

[www.aass.oru.se/~asaffio/Papers/ras03.html](http://www.aass.oru.se/~asaffio/Papers/ras03.html)

- **Anchoring (object anchoring):** *the process of creating and maintaining the correspondence between symbols and sensor data that refer to the same physical objects*
- **Anchoring problem:** *the problem of how to perform anchoring in an artificial system*
- Specialization with symbol anchoring in general:  
Is related only to physical objects, e.g., no abstract objects like weather or no attributes („red“)



# Outline

- Introduction
- 3D Robotic Mapping
- Interpretation of Point Clouds
- Semantic Maps
- Conclusion



Automation  
JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY

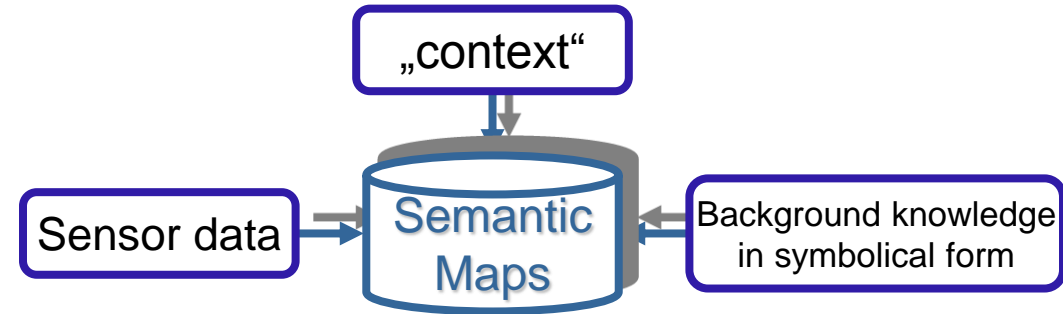
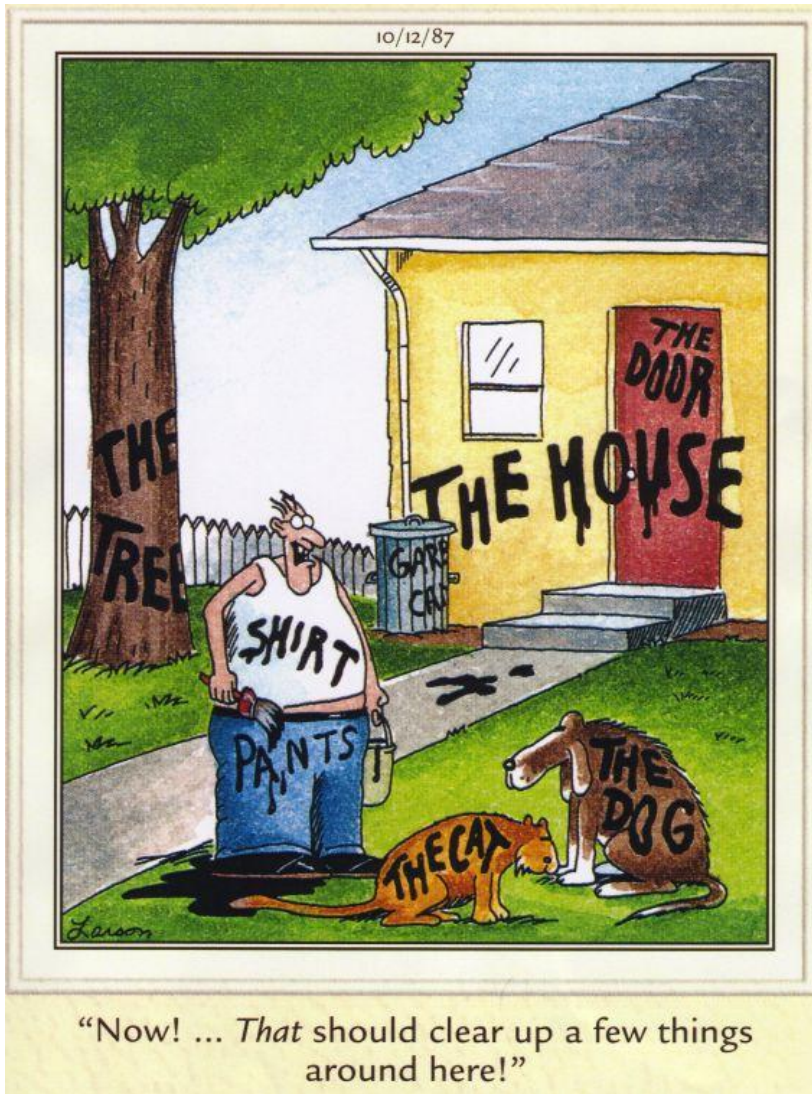


# Conclusions

---

- Practical (on-line, on-board) variant of ICP for high-resolution point sets
- Generating overall consistent 3D maps with global relaxation
- Tested on various data sets (including borrowed ones, e.g., CMU mine mapping)
- Interpretation of 3D maps resulting in 3D object maps
- Integrated into robot controller for 3D environment mapping
- RoboCup Rescue as evaluation for our mapping approach
  - 2004 second place, SSRR 2005 best paper award, 2005 6th place
- However, there is still no theory about „Semantic Maps in Robotics“

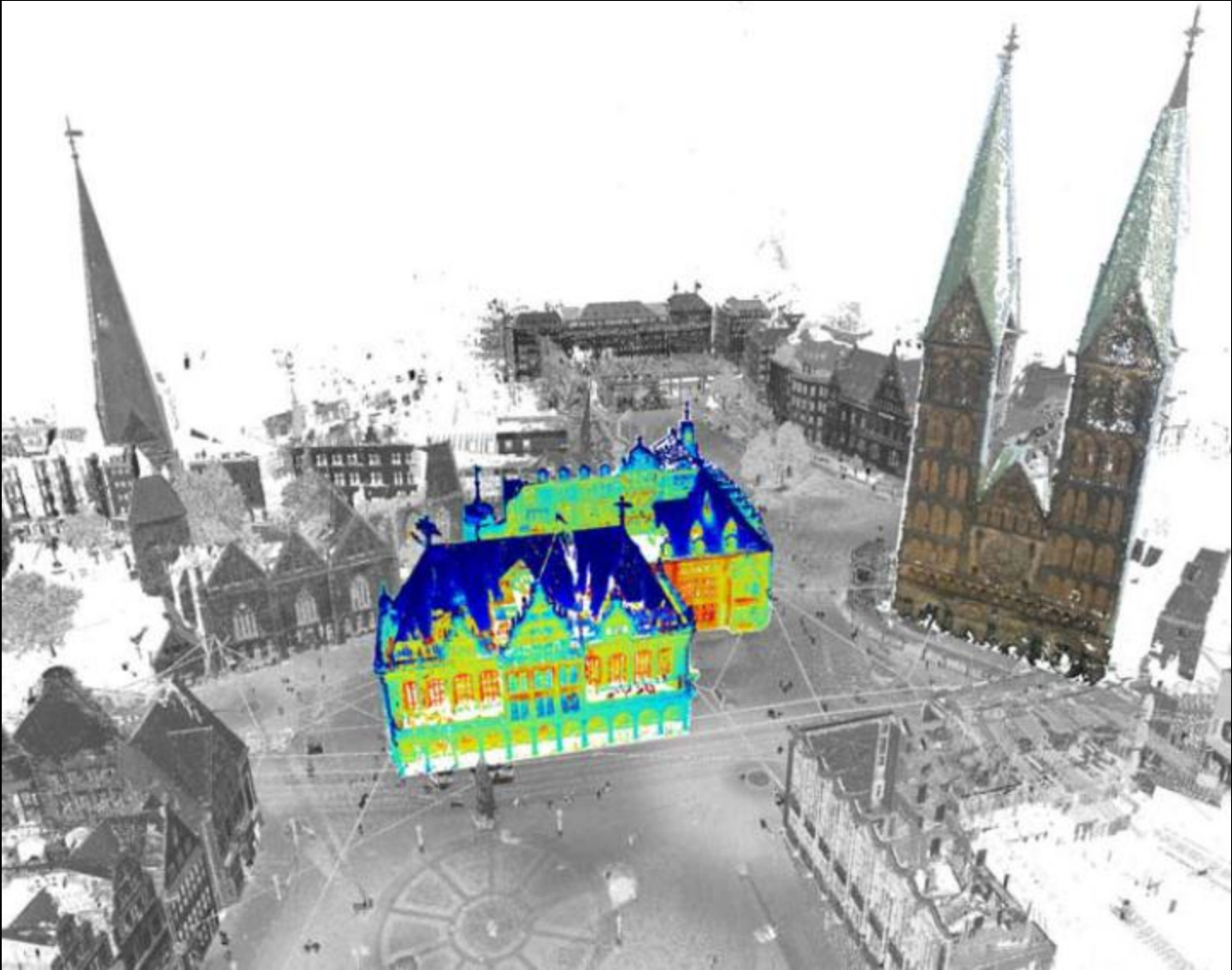
# Conclusion – Semantic Maps



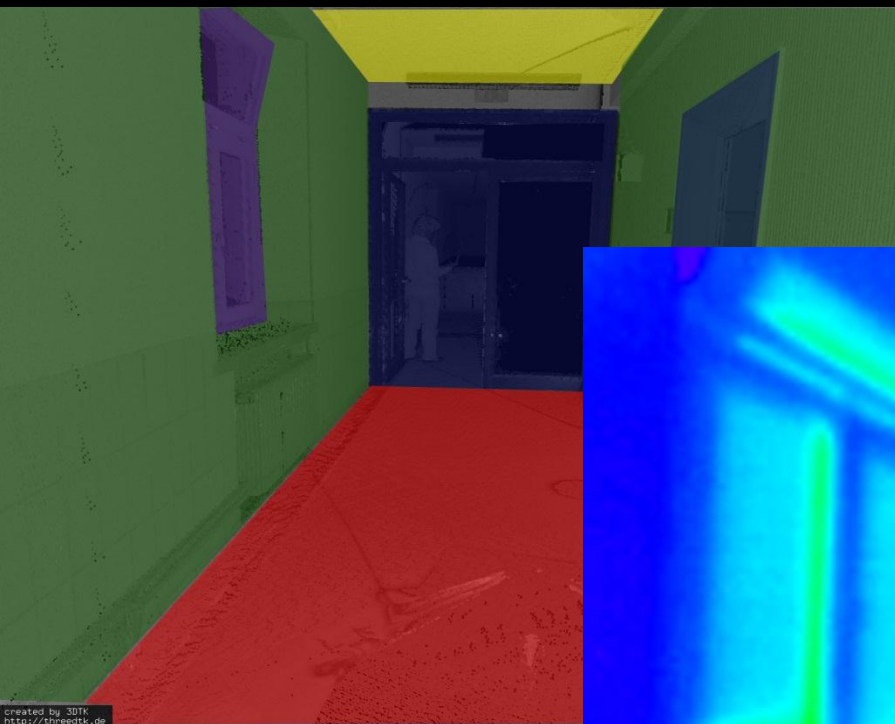
- For constructing semantic maps a robot uses sensor and semantic information to
  - interpret the sensor data (e.g., for disambiguation)
  - conclude additional semantic information (that extrapolates the sensor values, contradicts the sensors values)
  - acquire goal-directed new sensor information (e.g., attention based control, active vision)



# Recent Work



# Recent Work





# References

---

- Please visit my homepage @  
[www.nuechti.de](http://www.nuechti.de)
- Please visit our youtube page @  
[www.youtube.com/user/AutomationAtJacobs](http://www.youtube.com/user/AutomationAtJacobs)
- Please check out our Open Source project  
**3DTK – The 3D Toolkit**  
<http://slam6d.sourceforge.net>