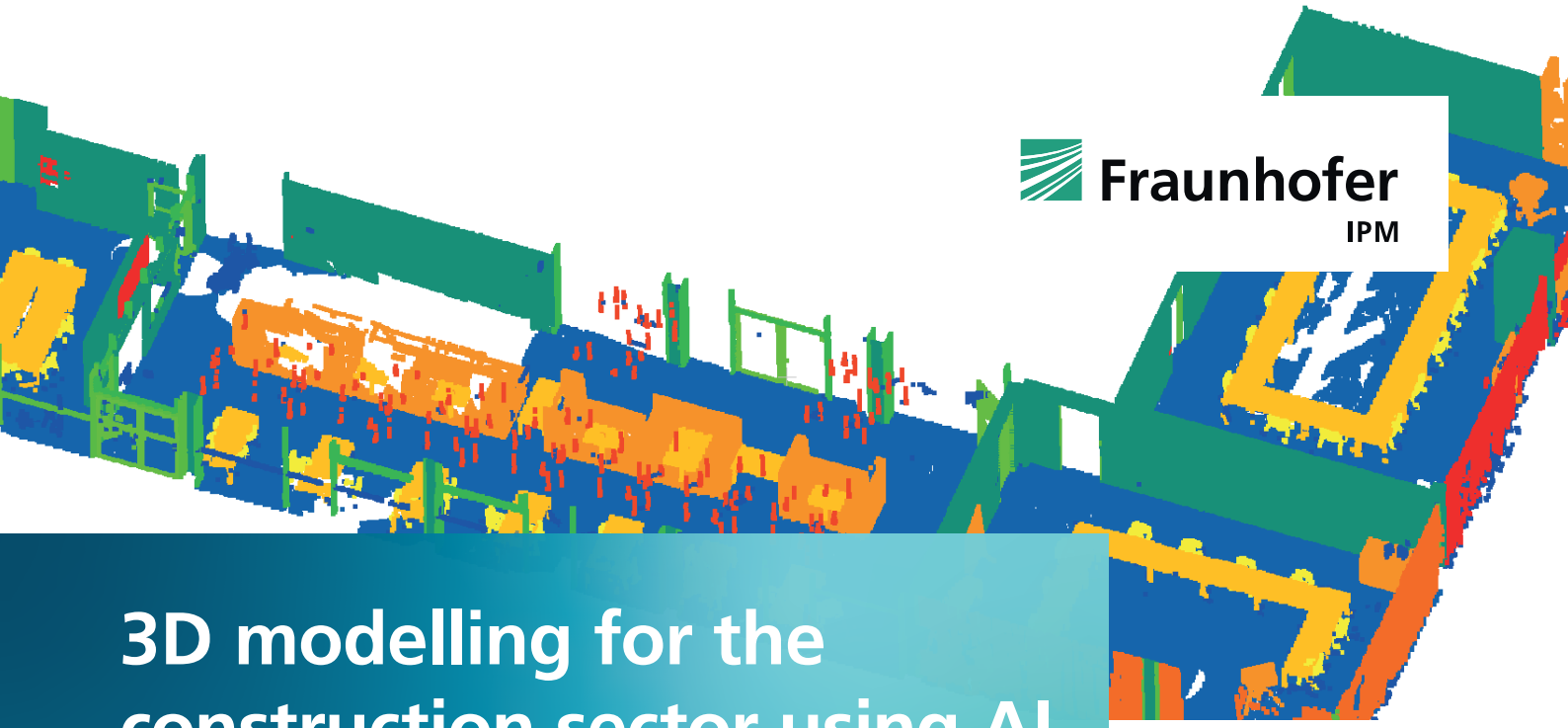

Fraunhofer IPM

3D modelling for the construction sector using AI

Fully automated conversion of 3D point clouds to semantic 3D models

Automated creation of a 3D model: The measurement data is classified in the directly 3D point cloud, followed by either AI-based or geometry instantiation, depending on the object class.

The combination of optical measurement technology and automated data evaluation is suitable for optimizing construction planning and documentation. Fraunhofer IPM develops multimodal sensor systems for the detection of existing buildings, construction sites and construction areas. AI-based software provides automated data evaluation, which in turn accelerates the scan to BIM process – regardless of which detection sensor technology is used.

Multimodal measurement systems

Digital 3D models are increasingly becoming the basis of efficient construction planning and execution. While most new buildings are now planned using 3D models, the advantages of Building Information Modeling (BIM) are not usually applied to existing buildings because this would require the buildings to be measured and modeled.

High-performance sensors can be used to quickly and precisely record both the insides of buildings and facades. Fraunhofer IPM develops multimodal measurement systems with – depending on the requirements – integrated cameras, laser scanners, thermal imaging cameras, stereo cameras and GNSS sensors for position measurement. Inside buildings, we use Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) to measure the spatial location of the sensors. Our systems capture the environment in a quasi-static process using handheld devices or mobile robot platforms. To survey large areas, for example in civil engineering, we use drone-based sensors.

Fraunhofer IPM develops low-cost sensor technology for documenting construction progress, which allows even untrained staff to easily record the construction site. The recording devices, e. g. commercially available tablet PCs, are equipped with commercially available stereo cameras and an inertial sensor.

Creating object-based, semantically enriched 3D models faster

Fraunhofer IPM offers an automated process for the conversion of large 3D point clouds into a semantic 3D model that creates a BIM-capable model in considerably less time than ever before. Until now, the digital model has

Automatisierter Scan-to-BIM-Prozess

- Automated instead of manual processing of large 3D data volumes
- Enrichment with semantic information
- Modeling of existing buildings (facades, interiors, construction sites)
- Independent of detection sensors

From point cloud to 3D model: In an automated process, point clouds are converted to semantically enriched models.

been created in a manual or semi-manual process. This is very time-consuming, particularly for large and complex projects because the 3D point clouds captured by the laser scanner are often combined and enriched with RGB image data provided by the cameras. These textured point clouds have a very high data volume and are manually converted to a 3D model and enriched with meta information, e.g. object classes.

BIM-enabled data directly from the point cloud

The automated data evaluation process developed at Fraunhofer IPM significantly shortens the time from measurement to the finished 3D model. Our AI-based approach to automated 3D model generation builds on our extensive experience with data fusion and homogenization, as well as handling huge point clouds. The data is automatically classified in the 3D point cloud, followed by either AI-based or geometry instantiation, depending on the object class. The point clouds can optionally be enriched with RGB information.

In construction, edge detection is particularly crucial: for the measurement of doors, windows or facade elements in buildings, or for the detection of pipes, cables or curbs in civil engineering. We use both geometry and AI-based approaches for detecting edges in point clouds.

Specially created data set for AI training

The data is semantically segmented in the 3D point cloud by means of an automated process. The segmentation algorithms are based on an artificial neural network (ANN), which has been specially trained for construction applications using a custom, semantically enriched dataset for the classification of different object classes. These include doors, windows, wiring, pipes, stairs, lamps, etc.

Efficient digitization for efficient construction

The automated, efficient 3D modeling of existing buildings or even building areas (volumetry) can optimize various aspects of construction planning and construction documentation:

- Complete digitization of facades and building parts
- Automated reconciliation of existing buildings and planning models, e.g. for retrofitting existing buildings or for invoicing
- Construction progress control and documentation
- Fitting new buildings into existing infrastructure
- Planning equipment retrofitting in factory buildings or planning new factory equipment
- Precise prefabrication of construction elements (e. g. facade elements) based on 3D models
- Recording historical buildings for the protection of monuments or restoration

Contact

Prof. Dr. Alexander Reiterer
Head of Department
Object and Shape Detection
Phone +49 761 8857-183
alexander.reiterer@ipm.fraunhofer.de

Dr. Jana Heuer
Business Development
Phone +49 761 8857-413
jana.heuer@ipm.fraunhofer.de

Fraunhofer Institute for Physical Measurement Techniques IPM
Georges-Köhler-Allee 301
D-79110 Freiburg
www.ipm.fraunhofer.de/en