Automation

Innovating marine survey workflows

ONBOARD



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Content

- Why Automate?
- Force multiplication
- Automation for marine survey
 - CARIS Onboard
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) for sonar noise removal
- Example of automation for survey efficiency
- Conclusions









Automation: CARIS Onboard

- A web application based processing service is installed on each survey platform
 - Autonomous or staffed platforms
- The surveyor designs a processing workflow before deployment, which is set to run on the sensor data as it is acquired
- Data processing is automated during the survey
- It also allows processed results to be viewed and remotely monitored through web map for QC



Reference: Leveraging Near Real-time Data Processing to Safely Increase Hydrographic Production; Kalman Czotter and David Dodd, Canadian Hydrographic Service, and Travis Hamilton, Teledyne CARIS Inc.; Proceedings of Canadian Hydrographic Conference 2016



Automation: CARIS Onboard

- Users can reduce risks and costs by remotely monitoring survey results via web interface
- Real-time QC allows for problems to be identified and corrected during the survey
- Provides a single point of access for quality checks between vessels
- Remote QC and visualization can be achieved with a low bandwidth connection
 - 150Kbps to 1Mbps





CARIS Onboard 2.1

Scaled Bandwidth for Remote Survey Monitoring



CARIS Onboard Example: AUV operations

- CARIS Onboard trial with JAMSTEC and their deep-sea AUV "URASHIMA"
- Traditionally it was several hours for a decision to transit or redeploy the AUV after recovery
- Automated bathymetry processing on the AUV during the trial allowed:
 - Access to processed results immediately following AUV recovery
 - Survey quality and coverage confirmed within 15 minutes
- Operational cost and time savings
 - Minutes vs. hours







Automation: Al for sonar noise removal

- Manual data cleaning continues to be a bottleneck for many marine surveys
 - Modern sonars can still produce noise in challenging environments, or if not operated properly
 - Data requires manual cleaning/review even with algorithms like CUBE
- Noise that is apparent in acoustic sonar data often follows specific patterns
 - e.g. side-lobe noise or bubble sweep
 - Al algorithms are purpose built to find patterns in data
- In 2019 CARIS will offer an AI solution to:
 - Automatically classify and reject common types of noise in sonar surveys
 - Provide further operational cost savings for marine surveys
 - Improve utilization of resources and increase production rates



Machine Learning

Good at:

- Pattern recognition
- Prediction

Top trend in recent years across industries







Applying machine learning to noise removal

Noise cleaning remains a significant bottleneck in post-processing and is labor-intensive.

A human operator recognizes noise patterns. An AI can be trained to do the same.





Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)





Al Deployment

- In-house: NVIDIA Titan RTX for training
- Flexible deployment:
 - AWS cloud
 - PCs with the minimum GPU card requirement







AI Classification Workflow

- Data is analyzed and divided into tiles (VR)
- Voxel grid calculated for each tile
- Send voxels to AWS
- Map response back to points







Performance: Accuracy

- > 99% "real" points
- ~92% noise points





Al Example: Reducing Processing Times

Shallow Survey 2015 Demo Dataset

- Collected using Reson T20P
- Approx 175M soundings
- 44 line km of survey
- Roughly 9 ½ hours online survey time





Al Example: Reducing Processing Times

• Time trials (N=1, HH:MM)

Workflow	Automatic	Manual	Total	Acquisition/Processing
Manual	00:00	05:52	05:52	1h/36m
CUBE as Filter	00:29	02:30	02:59	1h/20m
CNN	00:20	00:35	00:55	1h/6m







Questions? Thank You!

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