MADALGO
CENTER FOR MASSIVE DATA ALGORITHMICS

Danmarks Grundforskningsfond
Danish National Research Foundation

TerraSTREAM: Terrain Processing Pipeline

What
TerraSTREAM is a collection of software modules for computation on very large digital terrain models.

Problem
Modern sampling techniques yield datasets in the order of hundreds of gigabytes, which cannot be processed by standard software.

Solution
Use provable efficient algorithms specifically tailored to terrains much larger than the size of the memory. These algorithms tries to minimize the number of disk accesses.

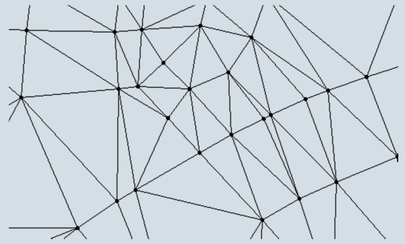
Properties
- Where it makes sense, all modules work on both grid and triangulated terrains.
- Works on GNU/Linux, Mac OS X and Windows.
- Many of the modules export several different parameters that can be tweaked by the user for maximum flexibility.
- Supports reading and writing grid mosaics and LAS files.

Usage
The modules presented on this poster are designed independently of any frontend. Frontends designed for:

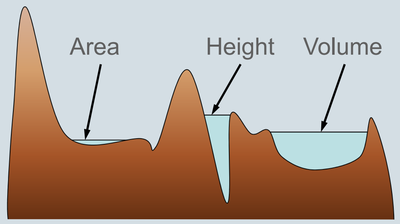
Commercialization
TerraSTREAM is currently used by a range of both governmental and commercial organizations. To secure ongoing service and development the software has been commercialized in the company SCALGO.

SCALABLE ALGORITHMICS

Model Construction
Constructs a terrain model (a grid or a triangulation) from the point cloud representing the terrain. Also, computes quality of a grid by computing the distance to nearest point in input point cloud.

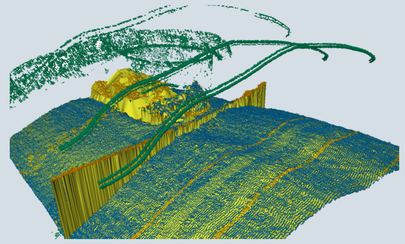


Topological Simplification
Removes insignificant depressions from a terrain model. Significance is user defined in terms of the height, area and volume of the depression. Insignificant depressions are removed by raising them to the height of their surroundings.

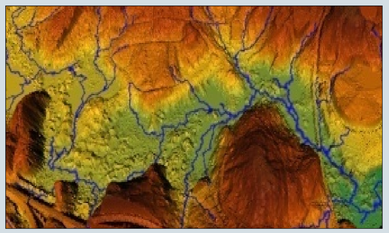


Sea Level Rise Mapping
Computes what part of a terrain model that will be flooded for any given sea level rise. Alternatively the module can compute for each part of the terrain at what sea level this particular part is flooded.

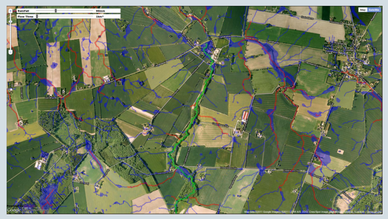
Point Cleaning
Detects outlier points that are due to noise in measurements. Every closely connected component of points are associated with a score that indicates how far this component lies from the terrain surface. A component far away from the surrounding terrain is more likely to be noise.



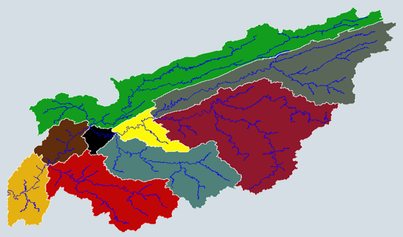
Flow Modelling
Determines the flow direction at each point of the terrain model and then computes upstream area of each point using the flow directions. The module supports several different flow models. Topological simplification prepares a terrain for flow modelling.



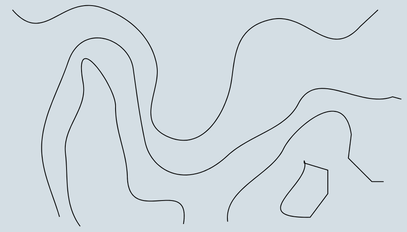
Flash Flood Mapping
In flow modelling, water disappears once it reaches a depression in the terrain. Flood risk mapping models how water fills depressions in the terrain. These depressions eventually spill into neighboring depressions thereby increasing the rate at which this neighbor fills.



Pfafstetter Labeling
Decomposes a terrain model into a hierarchy of watersheds. The pfafstetter labels define a certain hierarchy, which is easy for humans to visualize.



Contour Maps
Constructs and simplifies contour maps of the entire terrain. The contours generated from high resolution terrain models tend to be very jagged and visually unpleasing. Contour maps are simplified while maintaining all significant features and precision.



Fitting Everything Together
The modules can be combined to form a pipeline. This figure shows the typical order in which the modules are invoked