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PostgreSQL sessions #8
Lyon 2016

From Pointcloud to 3D model with the help of postgres

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What are pointclouds

The Dutch situation

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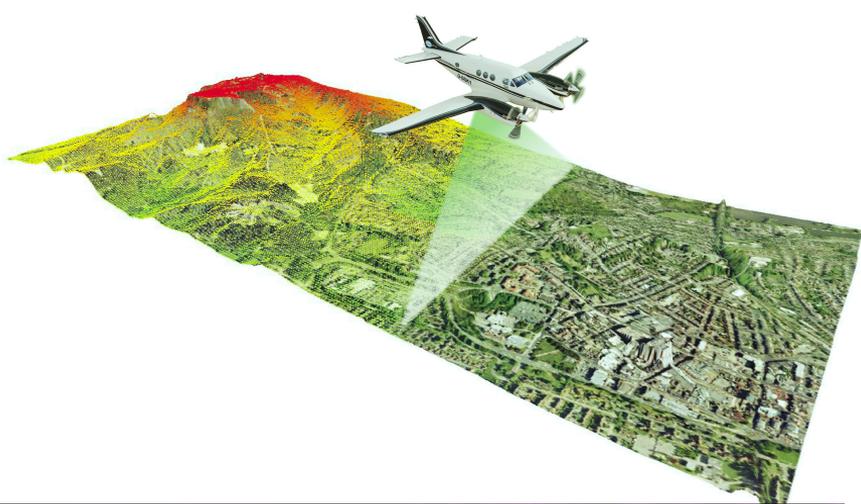
Discussion

What are pointclouds

Often sensordata

Not raster, Not vector

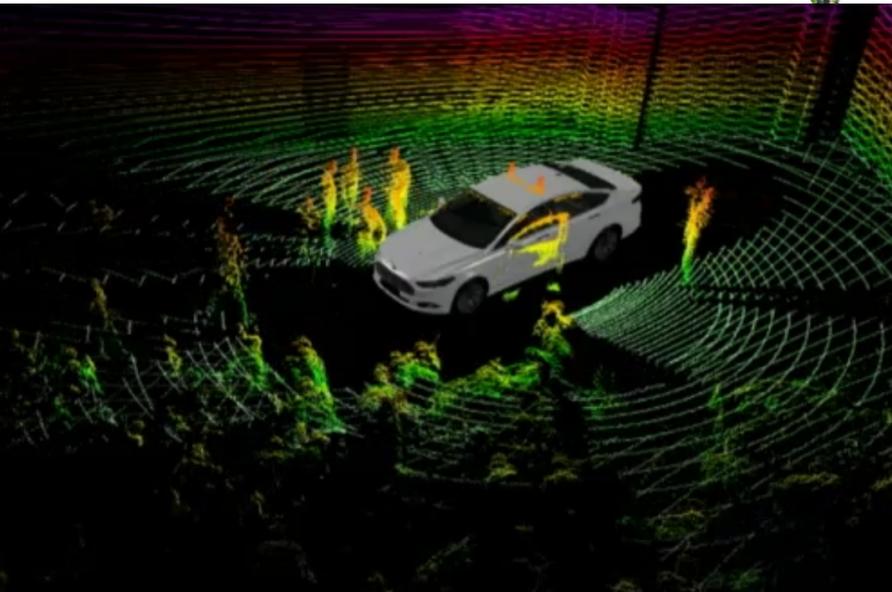
Can be a small object, can be a country



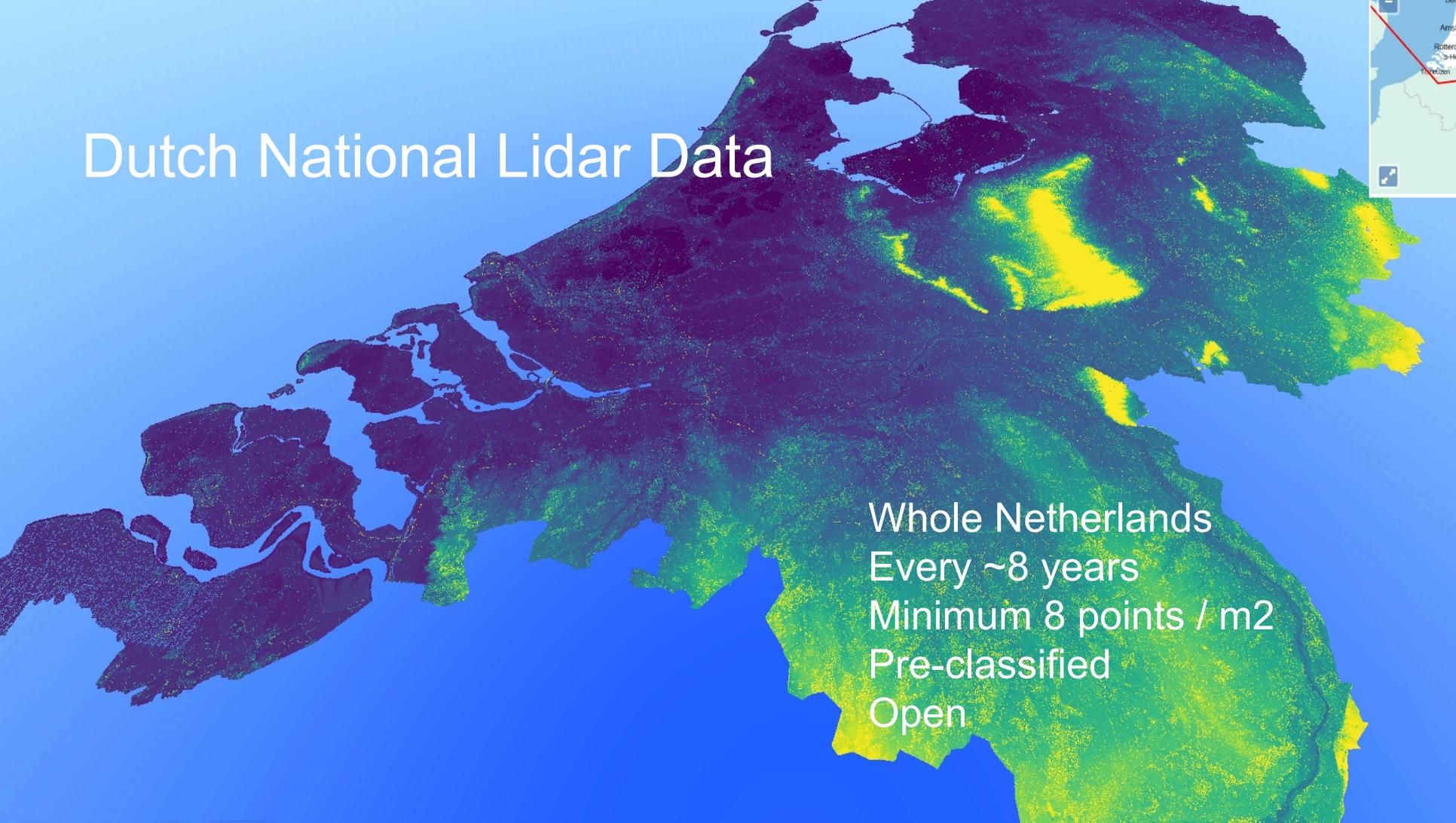
Laser scanner

Commonly contains:

- X,Y,Z
- Time
- Intensity
- Number of returns
- Return number

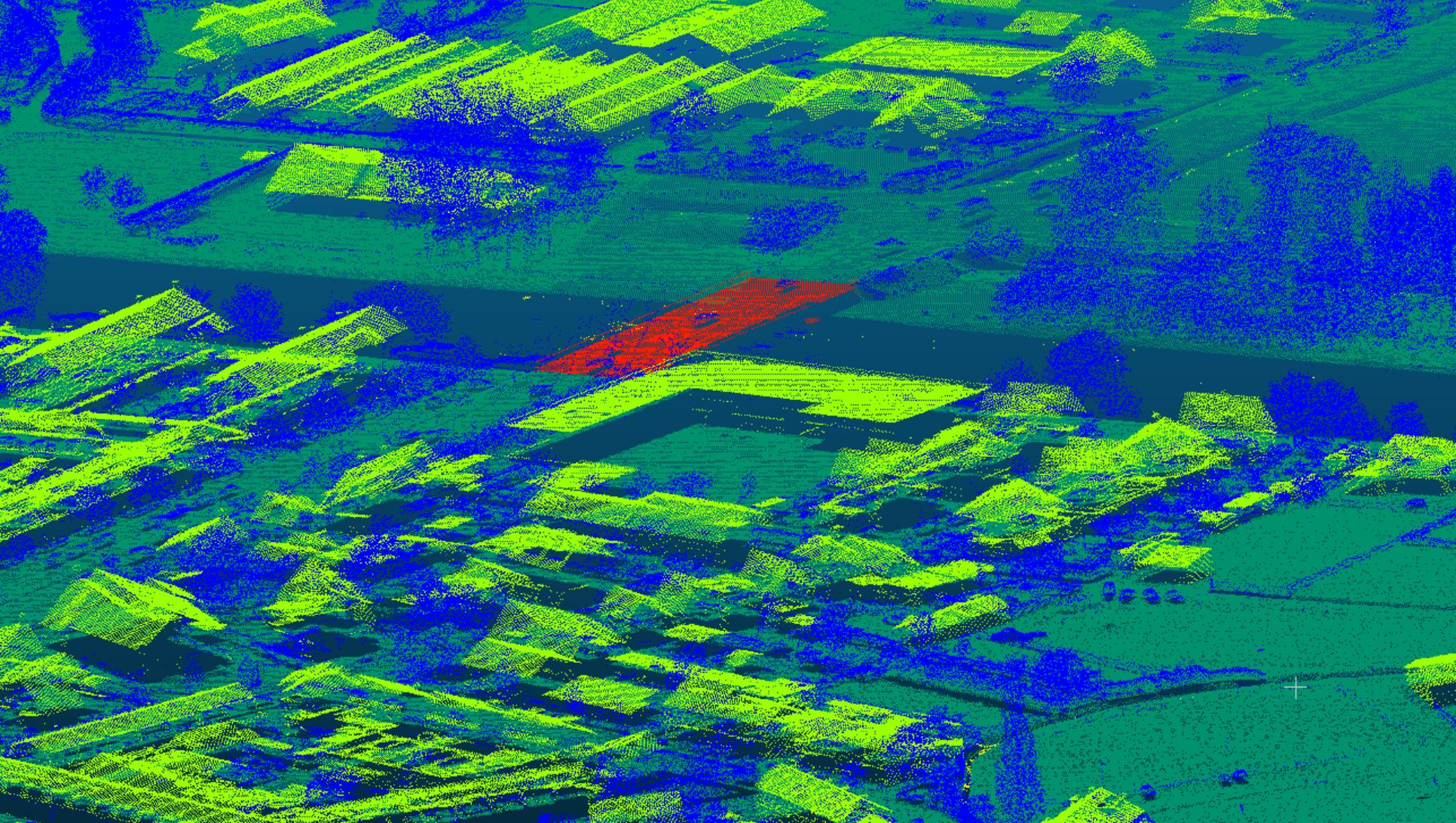


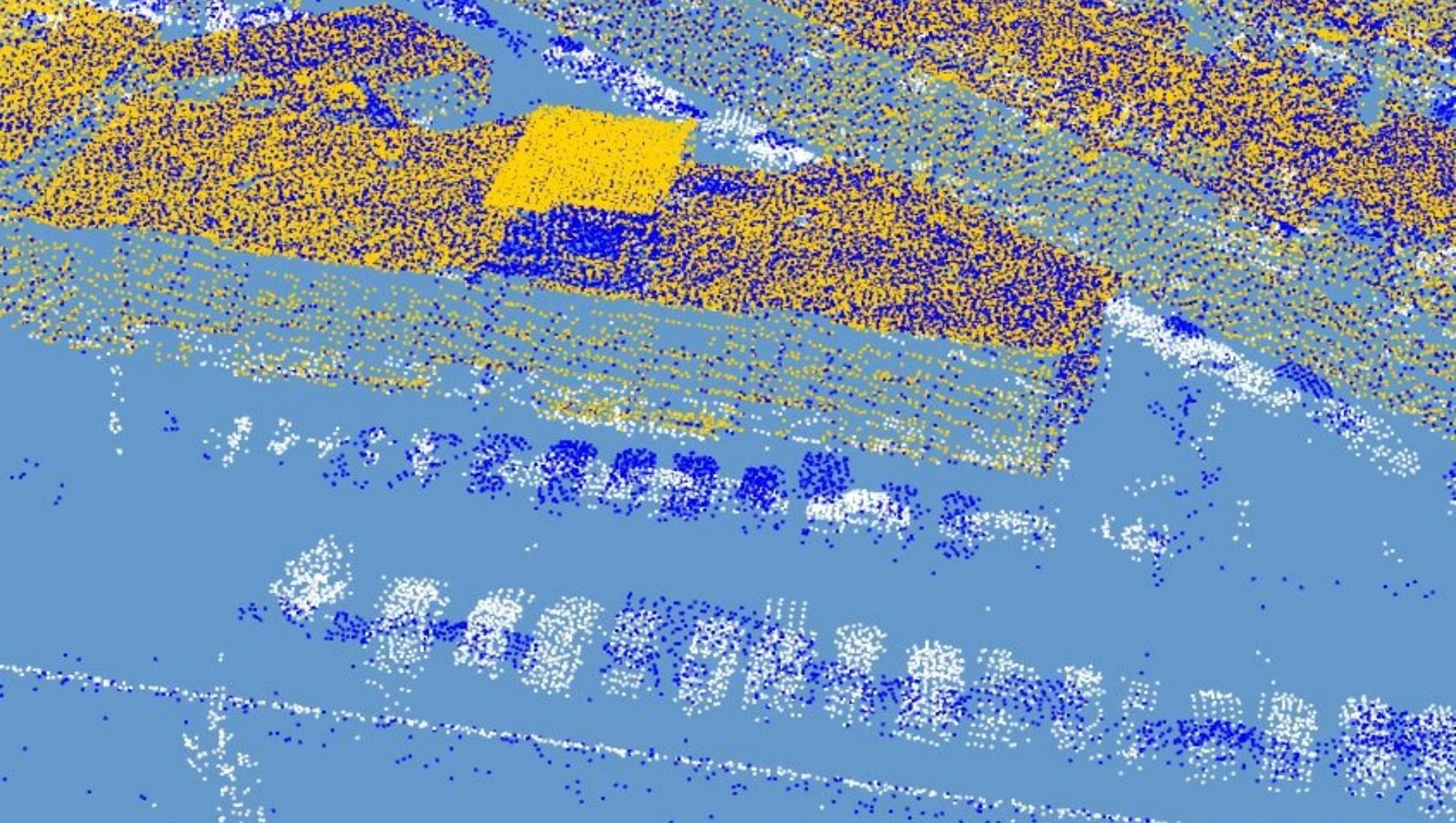
Dutch National Lidar Data



Whole Netherlands
Every ~8 years
Minimum 8 points / m²
Pre-classified
Open









Put **all** pointcloud data in postgres

PG Pointcloud

A PostgreSQL extension for storing point cloud (LIDAR) data

```
{
  "pcid" : 1,
  "pts" : [
    [0.02, 0.03, 0.05,
6],
    [0.02, 0.03, 0.05,
8]
  ]
}
```

<https://github.com/pgpointcloud/pointcloud>

Some difficulties

Laz files are up to 3 gb (!)

Total of 413 gb of laz files

Laz -> pgpointcloud 4x bigger (dimensional compr)

Total of:

6 TB disk space

Weeks of loading time...

and we have another set coming....



How we do it

6TB of SSD

PDAL pipeline with chipper (100 Gb in memory)

600 pts per patch, gist index on bbox

Every laz file in its own table, combine in one view



Pitfalls

Parallel loading

-> data gets dispersed on disk

(Thanks to *Giuseppe Broccolo*)

Putting all 6TB (~6 billion records) in 1 table

-> headache!

Some nice surprises

Indexing patches is fast

Indices are effective

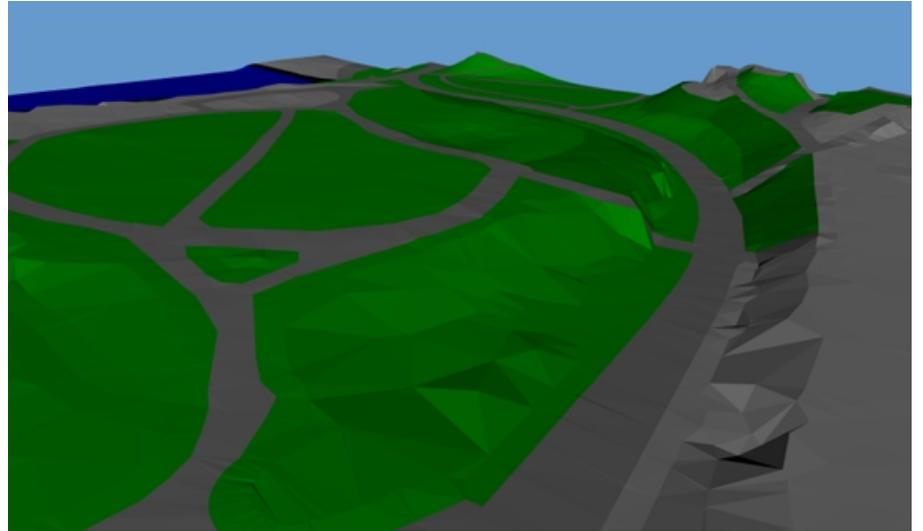
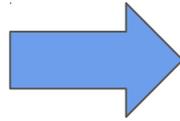
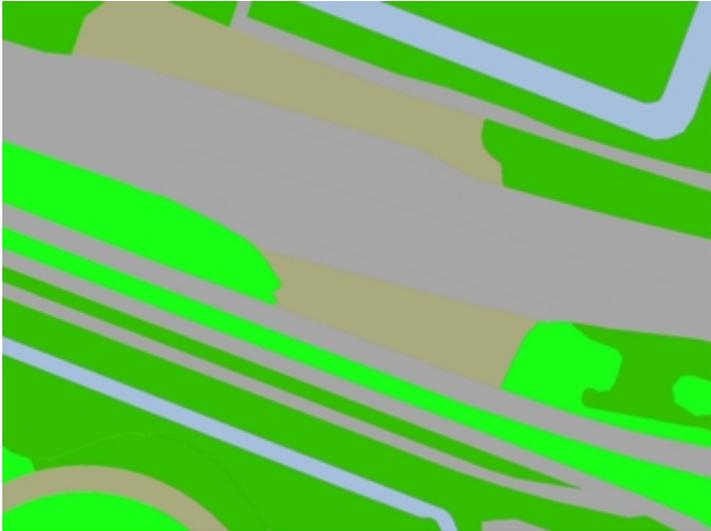
Filtering with pgpointcloud not as slow as expected

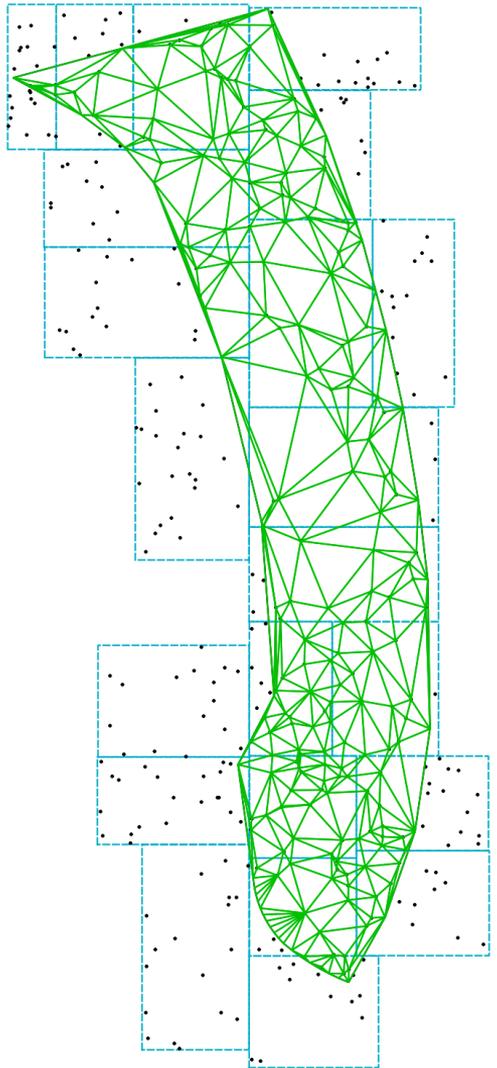
Some good SFCGAL functions to make use of

Hidden feature: ST_Triangulate2DZ

Use case 1:

Make 3D out of 2D kadastral data





More on this process
in the next talk

```

)
,basepoints AS (
    SELECT id,geom FROM polygonsz
    W HERE ST_IsValid(geom )
)
,triangles AS (
    SELECT
        id,
        ST_MakePolygon(
            ST_ExteriorRing(
                (ST_Dump(ST_Triangulate2DZ(ST_Collect(a.geom )))).geom
            )
        )geom
    FROM basepoints a
    GROUP BY id
)
,assign_triags AS (
    SELECT a.*,b.type,b.class
    FROM triangles a
    INNER JOIN polygons b
    ON ST_Contains(b.geom ,a.geom )
    ,bounds c
    W HERE ST_Intersects(ST_Centroid(b.geom ),c.geom )
    AND a.id = b.id
)

SELECT _south::text ||_west::text || p.id as id ,p.type as type ,
    ST_AsX3D(ST_Collect(p.geom ),5) geom
FROM assign_triags p
GROUP BY p.id ,p.type

```

Demo time!

Use case 2:

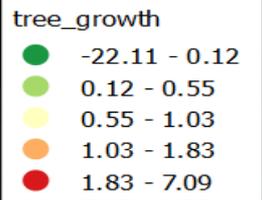
Finding tree growth

Finding tree cluster

```
SELECT  
  Geometry(pt) AS geom ,  
  ST_ClusterDBScan(Geometry(pt), eps := 2.5, minpoints := 370) over () AS cid  
FROM points a  
WHERE PC_Get(pt, 'ReturnNumber') < PC_Get(pt, 'NumberOfReturns') - 1  
AND PC_Get(pt, 'Intensity') < 150
```

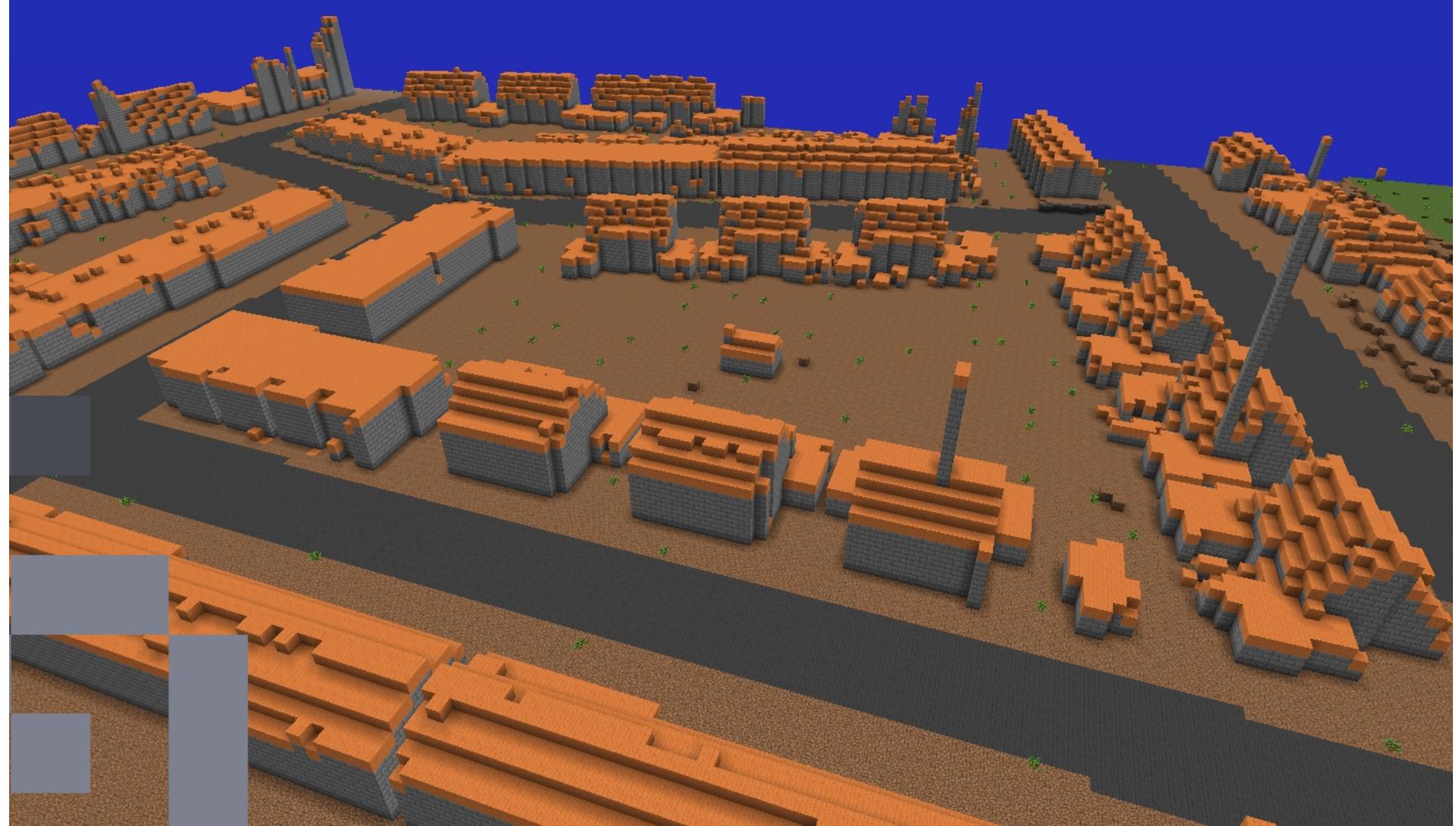
BGT 3D





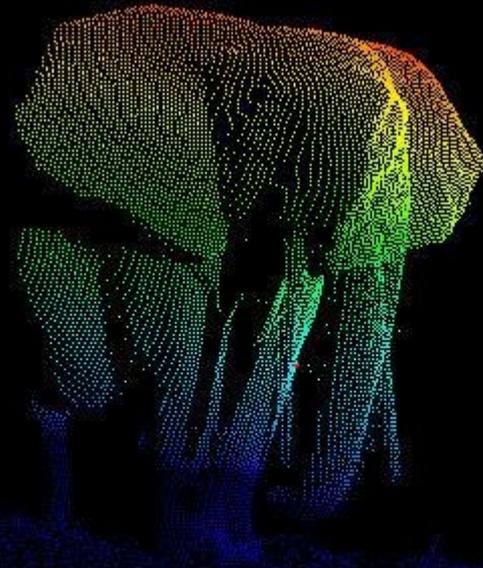
Use case 3:

Make minecraft levels





Fin



Discussion

Is a database really the best place for massive pointcloud storage ?

Would a columnstorage perform better in loading and indexing ?

Use-cases, use-cases, uses-cases.....