A Dataset and Benchmark for Shape Completion of Fruits for Agricultural Robotics

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Abstract—As the population is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050, our agricultural production system needs to double its productivity despite a decline in human workforce in the agricultural sector. Autonomous robotic systems are one promising pathway to increase productivity by taking over labor-intensive manual tasks like fruit picking. To be effective, such systems need to monitor and interact with plants and fruits precisely, which is challenging due to the cluttered nature of agricultural environments causing, for example, strong occlusions. Thus, being able to estimate the complete 3D shapes of objects in presence of occlusions is crucial for automating operations such as fruit harvesting. In this paper, we propose the first publicly available 3D shape completion dataset for agricultural vision systems. We provide an RGB-D dataset for estimating the 3D shape of fruits. Specifically, our dataset contains RGB-D frames of single sweet peppers in lab conditions but also in a commercial greenhouse. For each fruit, we additionally collected high-precision point clouds that we use as ground truth. For acquiring the ground truth shape, we developed a measuring process that allows us to record data of real sweet pepper plants, both in the lab and in the greenhouse with high precision, and determine the shape of the sensed fruits. We release our dataset, consisting of almost 7000 RGB-D frames belonging to more than 100 different fruits. We provide segmented RGB-D frames, with camera intrinsics to easily obtain colored point clouds, together with the corresponding high-precision, occlusion-free point clouds obtained with a high-precision laser scanner. We additionally enable evaluation of shape completion approaches on a hidden test set through a public challenge on a benchmark server.

I. INTRODUCTION

Our agricultural production system needs to double its production of food, feed, fiber, and fuel to cope with an ever-growing population. A promising solution to support us in achieving this goal is the usage of autonomous systems that can continuously monitor the field, selectively harvest fruits and crops, or spot diseases early enough to avoid loss of yield. Such systems need to estimate important features of fruits and crops such as size, shape, and health status from perceived sensor data. In agricultural environments, this is extremely challenging due to their cluttered nature leading to plant and fruits being partially occluded.

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In this paper, we aim to facilitate the development of agricultural vision systems in presence of these occlusions. Occlusions are a key issue in developing vision systems in agricultural environments. A correct handling of occlusions could benefit a diverse number of agricultural tasks such as high-throughput phenotyping, yield estimation and forecasting, and robotic harvesting.

The main solutions for handling occlusions in agricultural environments have been constrained to 2D images, either by amodal instance segmentation methods that produce masks combining the visible and occluded part of crops [4] or by generative adversarial networks that estimate the appearance of crops as if there are no occlusions [16]. In contrast to the 2D case, fewer efforts have been made to tackle the occlusion problem in a 3D scene.

We are taking a different avenue to address occlusions in the context of fruit picking using 3D data provided by commonly employed RGB-D sensors. In particular, manipulation tasks in robotics commonly employ 3D models of the objects to perform grasp prediction, but usually employ CAD models of known objects for this purpose, which
cannot be pre-determined in an agricultural context, as each fruit has a different shape. Therefore, we propose a dataset for promoting research on predicting a complete shape model of real-world fruits that can be used in manipulation scenarios [21]. Thereby, we are addressing the challenging task of uncovering the full 3D shape of partially occluded fruits. Achieving this allows us to perform more reliable fruit grasping, and, can be used to derive phenotypic traits about the fruit, such as size, shape, and quality.

The main contribution of this paper is the release of the first publicly available 3D shape completion dataset consisting of RGB-D frames and corresponding high-precision, occlusion-free point clouds obtained with a high-precision laser scanner. The prediction task targets the estimation of the complete fruit shape from partial observations, as shown in Fig. 1. In this paper, we also describe the process of generating the ground truth shape models for the sweet peppers in a real-world commercial greenhouse. We specifically design a measuring process that allows us to acquire highly accurate and dense point cloud models of the sweet peppers.

In sum, our contributions can be summarized as follows: (i) we release the first public dataset for 3D shape completion in agricultural environments, (ii) we provide a CodaLab competition with a hidden test set to foster research in this area, (iii) we provide a description of the process to obtain the dataset to facilitate other researcher’s data collection efforts, (iv) we release a Python-based development toolkit for handling the dataset and computing metrics.

II. RELATED WORK

Dataset and associated benchmarks have a long history in robotics and computer vision. They enable researchers to quantitatively and qualitatively measure the progress of research providing the foundation of a reproducible evaluation. The datasets provide a starting point for investigation of novel research areas, where it is hard to acquire data or the data generation process requires specialized equipment.

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in semantic interpretation of images in the agricultural context, both on arable crops [19], [34], [28] and horticulture [12], [29], [2]. These works rely on large image datasets with pixel-accurate labels designed for various tasks: crop/weed segmentation [6], [30], leaf segmentation [15], [33], fruit counting [32], [27], and fruit size estimation [9], [11]. We refer to Lu et al. [20] for an overview of image datasets in agricultural environments. In contrast to these dataset, we provide 3D ground truth shapes of fruits in the agricultural context rather than segmentation labels.

While there are several image datasets available, few provide point cloud data and none of them tackle the occlusion problem in agriculture to the best of our knowledge. For instance, Chaudhury et al. [5] proposed a synthetically generated point cloud dataset based on plant models with semantic labels. Furthermore, the Pheno4D dataset [31] provides point clouds of tomato and maize plants captured with a high-precision laser scanner with labels of individual leaves that are consistent over time. James et al. [13] provide a temporally consistent dataset of strawberry point clouds. Dutagaci et al. [8] release a rosebush plants 3D dataset acquired through X-ray tomography with semantic labels. Khanna et al. [14] present a dataset containing color images, infra-red stereo image pairs, and multi-spectral camera images along with applied treatments and weather conditions of the surroundings. Finally, Marks et al. [22] a sugar beet point cloud dataset with leaves instance labels from real breeding plots. In contrast to these works, our dataset is specifically designed to tackle the occlusion problem in agricultural environments by providing complete shapes of sweet peppers with sub-millimeter accuracy.

Recently, a few datasets have been released for mapping applications in agricultural environments. The MAgro dataset [23] consists of robotic sensor data, such as 3D LiDAR, date from an inertial measurement unit, and wheel encoders, gathered in apple and pear orchards with calibrated RTK GPS to evaluate localization methods. The Bacchus dataset [26] captures the whole canopy growth of a vineyard tailored for mapping and localization algorithms for long-term autonomous robotic operation. Instead, we designed our dataset to estimate precisely the 3D shape of individual fruits, which could be exploited for robotic fruit grasping applications.

In summary, our dataset complements available point cloud datasets by providing real-world measurements from a greenhouse using an RGB-D sensor with occlusions caused by leaves and other fruits. By providing additionally the accurately measured shapes of the sensed fruits, we provide a dataset for shape completion from partial observations and furthermore enable unbiased and reproducible evaluation on a hidden test set.

III. OUR DATASET

We propose a dataset of fruits collected in two scenarios: (1) data collected in a lab environment for controlled experiments and (2) data collected in a commercial greenhouse showing the full complexity of the application scenario.

As inputs in both scenarios, we choose to use RGB-D frames collected with an Intel RealSense d435i, which is a commonly used cameras in agricultural robotics research. For collecting ground truth data capturing the shape of the fruits, we use a high-precision handheld LiDAR scanner, a Perceptron V5 laser scanner, with a non-actuated measuring arm, a Hexagon ROMER Infinite 2.0 arm that provides sub-millimeter measurements. For more details on the handheld LiDAR scanner and the measuring arm, we refer to Schunck et al. [31].

For both scenarios, we designed a specific measurement procedure to align the measurements from the RGB-D sensor with the accurate ground truth point cloud of the handheld LiDAR scanner such that we have a pose in the coordinate frame of the handheld LiDAR scanner.
A. Lab Scenario

In the lab scenario, we are able to record data of different fruits from more viewpoints compared to the greenhouse scenario. For each fruit, we collect the RGB-D frames by manually moving the camera around the fruit and trying to obtain as many viewpoints as possible. Afterwards, we repeat the process with the handheld LiDAR scanner covering the complete fruit. We want to highlight that it was not possible to scan the fruit with the different sensors at the same time, since the camera has a minimum range of 30 cm while the handheld LiDAR scanner operates at a closer range, i.e., 10 cm on average.

To use the data from different the laser scanner and the RGB-D camera in the same pipeline, we have to register the data to each other. A high-level overview of the registration process is shown in Fig. 2.

To register the sensor data, we start by registering each RGB-D image belonging to the same fruit to each other with a standard TSDF fusion pipeline [7], [24], [35]. This provides us with locally consistent poses of each recorded RGB-D image. The results of this step are the camera poses for each RGB-D frame in a local coordinate system of the first RGB-D image and a mesh of the object extracted via marching cubes [18].

To register the point cloud of the handheld LiDAR scanner to the points of the mesh from the RGB-D sensor, we apply iterative closest point (ICP) [3], where we approximate the initial transformation between the two point clouds using the environment structure. To initialize the transformation between the point clouds, we scan the fruits inside three perpendicular planes and exploit this structure in the registration.

To determine the initial transformation, we extract the planes using a RANSAC approach which determines the three most dominant planes. To match the planes, we simply assume that for the first RGB-D frame we are approximately looking at the intersection point of the three planes. This results in three pairs of planes with normals \( (n_i, n'_i), i = 1, 2, 3 \), where we have normals \( n_i \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) from the planes in the first point cloud and \( n'_i \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) of the planes in the second point cloud. The rotation matrix \( R \in \mathbb{R}^{3\times3} \) between the two sets with known associations between the normals \( (n_i, n'_i) \) can be calculated as follows [10]:

\[
R = \frac{n'_1(n_2 \times n_3)^\top + n'_2(n_3 \times n_1)^\top + n'_3(n_1 \times n_2)^\top}{\det(n_1, n_2, n_3)},
\]

(1)

where \( \det(\cdot) \) corresponds to the determinant of the matrix \( (n'_1, n'_2, n'_3) \) with the normals \( n_i \) as column vectors. The matrix \( R \) is usually not an orthonormal matrix because of the measurement noise, but a true rotation matrix, can be computed using a singular value decomposition of \( R \).

The translation between the two sets of planes is the difference between the intersection point of the planes in the RGB-D point cloud and the intersection point of the planes in the LiDAR point cloud.

After a fine-registration using ICP, we can compute the pose of every RGB-D frame in the coordinate system of the handheld LiDAR point cloud.

B. Greenhouse Scenario

For the greenhouse scenario, we collected data in a greenhouse at Campus Klein-Altendorf near Bonn, Germany, which we provide as validation and test sets. As before, the collected data is comprised of measurements of two different sensors: (i) RGB-D frames collected with an autonomous robot equipped with three Intel RealSense d435i cameras mounted on a robotic platform as described by Smitt et al. [32] and (ii) high-precision scans of individual sweet
peppers obtained with the aforementioned handheld LiDAR scanner as ground truth measurement.

In the lab scenario, we exploit the environment structure for aligning the data from different sensors. However, the same procedure is not possible as the sensors are located in different places. To register the individual sweet peppers in the RGB-D frames with their respective ground truth, we rely on a different measurement procedure.

We first perform a data collection run without any markers to get data as seen by a robot operating in the greenhouse. For getting the ground truth shape via high-precision point cloud using the handheld LiDAR scanner, we augment the environment with markers to associate the harvested fruits with the already collected data. See Fig. 3 for a visual impression of our greenhouse scenario and the measurement procedure.

More specifically, we manually tag individual sweet peppers in two ways: first, we place a label with an ID close to each fruit and, second, we insert multiple 3D markers, similar to paper pins, on each sweet pepper. The ID ensures that we can identify the fruits after harvesting and scanning them with the handheld LiDAR scanner. The attached 3D markers allow us to register the scanned fruits in the RGB-D frames. After augmentation with markers, we deploy our robot again to collect data with the markers attached to the sweet peppers.

After these procedures we obtain: (i) a clean set of RGB-D frames that will be used as inputs for the shape completion challenge, (ii) a tagged set of RGB-D frames that we use for registration purposes, and (iii) high-precision point clouds for each sweet pepper that represents our ground truth for each individual fruit.

To register each fruit in the RGB-D frame they appear, we first conduct a 3D reconstruction for the complete plant row. The TSDF fusion pipeline of the RGB-D frames that we used for the lab scenario did not yield convincing results, due to larger noise in the depth measurements under natural lighting conditions. To solve such an issue, we opted for an estimation of camera poses via an RGB bundle adjustment using a commercial software for photogrammetric 3D reconstruction [1]. Together with the estimated camera poses, we can further derive a dense point cloud and a 3D mesh.

We scaled the two reconstructions, i.e., reconstruction of the first clean recording run and the recording with the markers, to the real scene scale using the data from the wheel odometry of the robot. As we need the relative transformation between these two 3D reconstructions for transforming fruit poses from the tagged dataset to the original dataset, we apply ICP to the dense point clouds for alignment. The initial transformation for ICP is estimated by manually identifying a single pair of frames of the two recording runs which show the same part of the row and computing their relative pose.

For aligning a point cloud of a fruit from the handheld LiDAR scanner to a frame of the tagged dataset, we manually measure three corresponding 3D markers in the laser scan and on the image frame. Then we intersect the viewing rays constructed with the measured image coordinates with the reconstructed 3D mesh to get the 3D coordinates of the 3D markers in the tagged mesh. Given these 3D point correspondences, we can estimate the relative pose of the scanned fruit in the tagged dataset. As we know the transformation to the original dataset, we concatenate all transformations such that we end up in the pose of the scanned fruit in the RGB-D camera frame.

Optionally, ICP can be applied between the 3D mesh and a single scanned fruit to improve the pose estimate further, which was based on our qualitative assessment of the estimated fruit poses.

In this way, we obtain the ground truth shape of each sweet pepper and also ground truth poses with respect to the fruit canonical pose, i.e., with the peduncle pointing upwards.
C. Curating the Benchmark Dataset

The objective of our dataset is to foster research in 3D shape completion and reconstruction in agricultural environments. To simplify the task, we concentrate on the shape reconstruction and completion task for a segmented fruit, thus, factor out the process of generating an instance segmentation of a complete RGB-D frame and the pose estimation of the fruits.

To this end, we employed an instance segmentation approach trained on sweet peppers [32] to extract the parts of the RGB-D frame \( I \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3} \), where each pixel \( p_i = (u, v) \) of the image frame of width \( W \) and height \( H \) corresponds to an RGB value \((r_i, g_i, b_i)\) and its corresponding metric depth \( d_i \in \mathbb{R} \), that corresponds to the fruit \( F_j \), i.e., \( F_j = \{p_i | p_i \in S_j\} \), where \( S_j \subset \{0,1\}^{H \times W} \) is the binary mask corresponding to the \( j \)-th fruit inside the image \( I \).

For each fruit point cloud \( F_j \) in the RGB-D point cloud, we then apply the know transformation from the RGB-D image to the handheld LiDAR point cloud to transform the points of \( F_j \) into the LiDAR’s canonical pose, i.e., with the peduncle pointing upwards. Thus, for each fruit we provide: (i) the original RGB-D data, \( P_j \), and (ii) the corresponding complete ground truth point cloud \( \hat{P}_j \) obtained with the handheld LiDAR.

For reproducible experimental evaluation in our benchmark, we split the data of the two scenarios into train, validation, and test set, where we ensured that fruits in the validation and test set are spatially separated. Tab. I provides a summary of the provided data for the task of shape completion of sweet peppers. Note that it is possible that the same fruit is visible from multiple viewpoints but share the same ground truth point cloud. We refer to Fig. 5 for an qualitative impression of the registration results and share the same ground truth point cloud. We refer to Fig. 5 for an qualitative impression of the registration results and refer to our dataset website for further details on the dataset organization.

Table I: Statistics of the provided data. L indicates data collected in the lab, G in the greenhouse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Split</th>
<th>#Images</th>
<th>#Fruits</th>
<th>Ground truth</th>
<th>Scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>66</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation</td>
<td>1387</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>L + G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. SHAPE COMPLETION BENCHMARK

Together with the dataset, we provide a benchmark for the reproducible and unbiased evaluation of shape completion approaches in the agricultural domain. Therefore, we concentrate here on the shape completion in a setting of reconstructing the fruit in a canonical orientation, where we factor out the process of determining the location of the fruits and provide RGB-D information in canonical fruit-specific local reference frame as described in Sec. III.C.

In our benchmark, we expect the estimation of a complete 3D mesh \( \mathcal{M} \) given partial observation of fruits \( \mathcal{P} \) provided by an RGB-D sensor. The desired mesh \( \mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{T}) \), represented by \( N \) vertices \( \mathcal{V} = \{v_1, \ldots, v_N\} \) and \( M \) triangles \( \mathcal{T} = \{(i,j,k)|i,j,k \in \{1, \ldots, N\}\} \) defined as tuples with the corresponding vertex indexes, should represent a closed surface of the complete fruit. Thus, the task can be described as the problem of finding the complete mesh \( \mathcal{M} \) of a given colored point cloud \( \mathcal{P} \) in a canonical frame of the fruit, see Fig. 4.

A. Metrics

We report four different metrics: f-score, precision, recall, and Chamfer distance for evaluating 3D shapes, but rely on the f-score integrating precision and recall as our main metric. Precision, recall, and Chamfer distance are evaluated on point cloud \( \mathcal{R} \) generated by densely sampling of the reconstructed mesh \( \mathcal{M} \) and the corresponding point cloud \( \mathcal{G} \) of the handheld LiDAR scanner.

In line with Knipitsch et al. [17], we compute the precision \( p(\rho) \), i.e., which is the proportion of the points of the reconstruction \( \mathcal{R} \) that are close to the ground truth \( \mathcal{G} \) and recall \( r(\rho) \), i.e., the proportion of the point of the ground truth \( \mathcal{G} \) are close to the reconstructed mesh point cloud \( \mathcal{R} \), where closeness is given by a threshold distance \( \rho \): \n
\[
p(\rho) = \frac{100}{|\mathcal{R}|} \sum_{\mathcal{R} \in \mathcal{R}} \min_{\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{G}} \left\| \mathcal{R} - \mathcal{G} \right\| < \rho ,
\]

\[
r(\rho) = \frac{100}{|\mathcal{G}|} \sum_{\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{G}} \min_{\mathcal{R} \in \mathcal{R}} \left\| \mathcal{G} - \mathcal{R} \right\| < \rho ,
\]

where \( \mathcal{G} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) and \( \mathcal{R} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) are points from \( \mathcal{G} \) and \( \mathcal{R} \), respectively. Here, the operator \( \left\llbracket \cdot \right\rrbracket \) is the Iverson bracket, i.e., if the condition \( c \) within the brackets is satisfied it evaluates to 1, otherwise to 0.

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3Our dataset website provides further details on the provided data: [https://www.ipb.uni-bonn.de/data/shape_completion](https://www.ipb.uni-bonn.de/data/shape_completion)
Rather than choosing a fixed threshold $\rho$ like Knapitsch et al. [17], we evaluate precision and recall at different $\rho$ values, i.e., $\rho \in \{0.01 \text{ m}, 0.02 \text{ m}, \ldots, 0.1 \text{ m}\}$, and therefore with interval $\Delta = 0.01 \text{ m}$. We compute the area under the curve for the precision $\bar{p}$ and recall $\bar{r}$ as follows:

$$\bar{p} = \frac{1}{\eta} \sum_{\rho \in \{0.01 \text{ m}, 0.02 \text{ m}, \ldots, 0.1 \text{ m}\}} \Delta p(\rho)$$

$$\bar{r} = \frac{1}{\eta} \sum_{\rho \in \{0.01 \text{ m}, 0.02 \text{ m}, \ldots, 0.1 \text{ m}\}} \Delta r(\rho),$$

where $\eta$ is a normalizer that corresponds to the precision or recall of a perfect estimator evaluated with aforementioned thresholds to arrive at $\bar{p} \in [0, 1]$ and $\bar{r} \in [0, 1]$.

Finally, the f-score $f$ is given by:

$$f = \frac{2 \bar{p} \bar{r}}{\bar{p} + \bar{r}}.$$  

We additionally evaluate the Chamfer distance $D_C$. It is the average symmetric squared distance $d^2$ of each point to its nearest neighbor in the other point cloud:

$$D_C(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{R}) = \frac{d^2(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{R})}{2} + \frac{d^2(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{G})}{2},$$

with

$$d^2(\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{P}_j) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{P}_i|} \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{P}_i} \min_{x_j \in \mathcal{P}_j} ||x_i - x_j||^2_2.$$

For the ranking of the entries submitted to our competition, we use the F1-score as a primary metric and the Chamfer distance as secondary metric in case of a tie.

B. CodaLab Competition

To evaluate predictions on the hidden test set, we expect a specific directory structure in our CodaLab competition [25]. We ask the participants to submit a zip file that contains one .ply file for each fruit id. Note that we expect the fruit to be in the canonical pose, i.e., with the peduncle pointing upwards, this is trivial to obtain given the provided pose for each RGB-D frame. More details can be found on the CodaLab submission page.

To speed up the usage of our dataset, we provide a development kit providing a PyTorch-based data loader and a small library for computing the metrics that we use in the CodaLab competition.

V. Conclusion

In this paper, we presented a novel dataset for 3D shape completion of sweet peppers in agricultural environments. Our dataset consists of RGB-D frames collected in the lab and a commercial greenhouse, together with dense high-precision point clouds as ground truth of the sweet peppers, where we aligned the RGB-D data and the ground truth point cloud with a tailored measurement procedure. We additionally provide a CodaLab competition with a hidden test set to ensure fair comparisons and automatic evaluations to foster research into this problem for agricultural vision systems.

In future, we also plan to provide ground truth for other applications, such as 3D object pose estimation of fruits, where we leverage our measurement procedure to determine an accurate pose of visible sweet peppers based on the alignment between the marker point clouds and our ground truth measurements.

REFERENCES


Fig. 5: Qualitative example of our registration results in the lab (top) and greenhouse (bottom). Where we show the ground truth point cloud aligned with the corresponding RGB-D frames.


