

# pointcloudlibrary

**PCL :: I/O**

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1. Reading and Writing PCD Files
2. The PCD File Format
3. The Grabber Interface
4. Writing a Custom Grabber

global functions in the namespace `pcl::io`

## Reading ROS-type point clouds - simple version

```
inline int loadPCDFile (const std::string &file_name, sensor_msgs::PointCloud2 &
cloud);
```

## extended version reading the sensor pose

```
inline int loadPCDFile (const std::string &file_name, sensor_msgs::PointCloud2 &
cloud, Eigen::Vector4f &origin, Eigen::Quaternionf &orientation);
```

## Reading native point clouds

```
template<typename PointT> inline int loadPCDFile (const std::string &file_name,
pcl::PointCloud<PointT> &cloud);
```

The `pcl::FileReader` interface - e.g. `pcl::PCDReader`

Reading the header (meta data) of a PCD file.

```
int readHeader (const std::string &file_name, sensor_msgs::PointCloud2 &cloud,
Eigen::Vector4f &origin, Eigen::Quaternionf &orientation, int &file_version, bool
&binary_data, int &data_idx);
```

Reading ROS-type point clouds - simple version

```
int read (const std::string &file_name, sensor_msgs::PointCloud2 &cloud);
```

extended version reading the sensor pose

```
int read (const std::string &file_name, sensor_msgs::PointCloud2 &cloud, Eigen::
Vector4f &origin, Eigen::Quaternionf &orientation, int &file_version);
```

Reading native point clouds

```
template<typename PointT> int read (const string &file_name, PointCloud<PointT> &
cloud);
```

global functions in the namespace `pcl::io`

## writing ROS-type point clouds

```
int savePCDFile (string file_name, const PointCloud2 &cloud, const Vector4f &
origin, const Quaternionf &orientation, bool binary_mode);
```

## writing native point clouds

```
template<typename PointT> int savePCDFile (const string &file_name, const
PointCloud<PointT> &cloud, bool binary_mode);
```

```
template<typename PointT> int savePCDFile (const std::string &file_name, const
pcl::PointCloud<PointT> &cloud, const std::vector<int> &indices, bool binary_mode
= false);
```

The `pcl::FileWriter` interface - e.g. `pcl::PCDWriter`

## writing ROS-type point clouds

```
inline int write (const std::string &file_name, const sensor_msgs::PointCloud2
&cloud, const Eigen::Vector4f &origin = Eigen::Vector4f::Zero (), const Eigen::
Quaternionf &orientation = Eigen::Quaternionf::Identity (), bool binary = false);
```

## writing native point clouds

```
template<typename PointT> inline int write (const std::string &file_name, const
pcl::PointCloud<PointT> &cloud, bool binary = false);
```

## ASCII

examples/pcd\_write.cpp assembles an ordered point cloud and writes it as an ASCII pcd file.

```
1  #include <pcl/io/pcd_io.h>
2  #include <pcl/point_types.h>
3
4  int main ()
5  {
6      pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB> cloud;
7      cloud.points.resize (10);
8      cloud.height = 2;
9      cloud.width = 5;
10     cloud.sensor_origin_[0] = 11.1;
11     cloud.sensor_origin_[1] = 22.2;
12     cloud.sensor_origin_[2] = 33.3;
13     cloud.sensor_orientation_.w () = 0.1;
14     cloud.sensor_orientation_.x () = 0.2;
15     cloud.sensor_orientation_.y () = 0.3;
16     cloud.sensor_orientation_.z () = 0.4;
17
18     for (unsigned point_idx = 0; point_idx < cloud.points.size(); ++point_idx)
19     {
20         cloud.points[point_idx].x = 1.1 + point_idx;
21         cloud.points[point_idx].y = 1.2 + point_idx;
22         cloud.points[point_idx].z = 1.3 + point_idx;
23         cloud.points[point_idx].rgb = 0.0;
24     }
25
26     return pcl::io::savePCDFile ("test.pcd", cloud, false);
27 }
```

## ASCII output

## the output PCD file

```
1 # .PCD v.7 - Point Cloud Data file format
2 VERSION .7
3 FIELDS x y z rgb
4 SIZE 4 4 4 4
5 TYPE F F F F
6 COUNT 1 1 1 1
7 WIDTH 5
8 HEIGHT 2
9 VIEWPOINT 11.1 22.2 33.3 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
10 POINTS 10
11 DATA ascii
12 1.1 1.2 1.3 0
13 2.1 2.2 2.3 0
14 3.1 3.2 3.3 0
15 4.1 4.2 4.3 0
16 5.1 5.2 5.3 0
17 6.1 6.2 6.3 0
18 7.1 7.2 7.3 0
19 8.1 8.2 8.3 0
20 9.1 9.2 9.3 0
21 10.1 10.2 10.3 0
```



## Binary output

## the output PCD file

```
1 # .PCD v.7 - Point Cloud Data file format
2 VERSION .7
3 FIELDS x y z _ rgb _
4 SIZE 4 4 4 1 4 1
5 TYPE F F F U F U
6 COUNT 1 1 1 4 1 12
7 WIDTH 5
8 HEIGHT 2
9 VIEWPOINT 11.1 22.2 33.3 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4
10 POINTS 10
11 DATA binary
12 <Binary Data>
```

## Advantages of the ASCII PCD format

- ▶ human readable → can be edited manually
- ▶ can be exchanged through all machine architectures

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### Advantages of the Binary PCD format

- ▶ very fast, since one `mmap` call
- ▶ usually smaller

- ▶ polymorphic - easily exchangeable (e.g. OpenNIGrabber, PCDGrabber, ONIGrabber)
- ▶ extensible - allows all kind of data to be published
- ▶ supports streaming devices (OpenNIGrabber) as well as triggered devices (PCDGrabber)

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```
template<typename T> boost::signals2::connection registerCallback (const boost::  
function<T>& callback) throw (pcl::PCLIOException);
```

```
template<typename T> bool providesCallback () const;
```

```
virtual void start () throw (pcl::PCLIOException) = 0 ;
```

```
virtual void stop () throw (pcl::PCLIOException) = 0 ;
```

```
virtual std::string getName () const = 0;
```

```
virtual bool isRunning () const throw (pcl::PCLIOException) = 0;
```

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virtual void start () throw (pcl::PCLIOException) = 0 ;
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virtual std::string getName () const = 0;
```

```
virtual bool isRunning () const throw (pcl::PCLIOException) = 0;
```

Note:

For triggered devices, **start** is used to trigger, **stop** has no effect and **isRunning** is always **false**.

For streaming devices, **start** has to be implemented non-blocking!

## Using Global Callback Functions

Let's have a look at the example application [examples/openni\\_grabber\\_example.cpp](#).

create a new grabber object of type `pcl::OpenNIGrabber`

```
65 pcl::Grabber* grabber = new pcl::OpenNIGrabber();
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```

check wheter the grabber provides a point cloud of type `PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB>`

```
72 if (grabber->providesCallback<void (const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB>::  
ConstPtr&>())
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create a `boost::function` object using `boost::bind`

```
74 boost::function<void (const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB>::ConstPtr&> global_function = boost::bind (globalFunction, _1);
```

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76 grabber->registerCallback(global_function);
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start the grabber

```
79 grabber->start();
```

## Using Member Callback Functions

Let's have a look at the example application [examples/openni\\_grabber\\_example.cpp](#).

create a new grabber object of type `pcl::OpenNIGrabber`

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65 pcl::Grabber* grabber = new pcl::OpenNIGrabber();
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create an instance of the point cloud processor

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66 SimpleOpenNIProcessor processor;
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66 SimpleOpenNIProcessor processor;
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create a `boost::function` object using `boost::bind`

```
68     boost::function<void (const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZ>::ConstPtr&)>  
member_function = boost::bind (&SimpleOpenNIProcessor::memberFunction, &processor  
, _1);
```

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# Using the Grabber Interface

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70 grabber->registerCallback(member_function);
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    , _1);
```

register the function object

```
70 grabber->registerCallback (member_function);
```

start the grabber

```
79 grabber->start ();
```

examples/sphere\_grabber.h

```
33 boost::signals2::signal<void (const boost::shared_ptr<const pcl::PointCloud<  
pcl::PointXYZRGB> >&)* point_cloud_rgb_signal_;
```



examples/sphere\_grabber.h

```
33 boost::signals2::signal<void (const boost::shared_ptr<const pcl::PointCloud<
pcl::PointXYZRGB> >&)* point_cloud_rgb_signal_;
```

examples/sphere\_grabber.cpp

create the signal object and store a pointer to it

```
29 point_cloud_rgb_signal_ = createSignal <void (const boost::shared_ptr<const
pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB> >&)>();
```

create the point cloud

```
52 boost::shared_ptr<const pcl::PointCloud<pcl::PointXYZRGB> > cloud =
assembleSphere ();
```

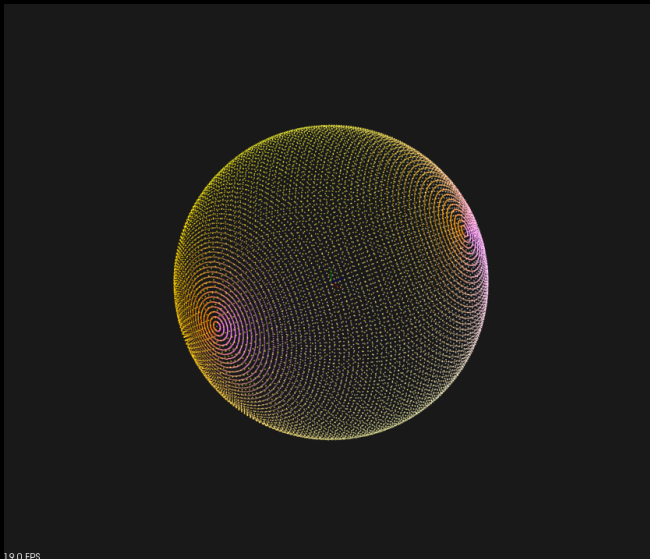
publish the point cloud

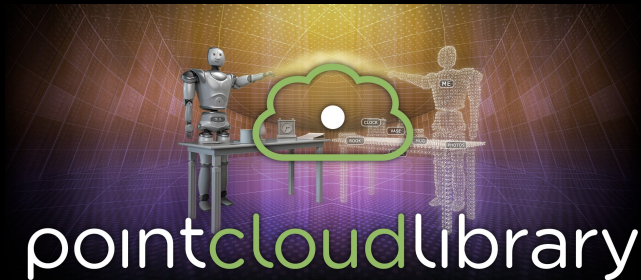
```
55 point_cloud_rgb_signal_->operator() (cloud);
```

or

```
56 (*point_cloud_rgb_signal_) (cloud);
```

## examples/sphere\_grabber\_example.cpp





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<http://pointclouds.org/>