

Computer Vision Project - Phase 1

21 november 2025

1 Paper Overview

The paper proposes a method for estimating relative depth from a single image using a deep neural network built on top of a ResNet backbone. While the overall workflow is clearly presented, several technical components were not sufficiently detailed in the paper. These unclear parts, mainly the network architecture and the loss function, are discussed in the following subsections.

1.1 Network Architecture

The paper describes its model as using a ResNet encoder followed by residual and multi-scale fusion modules. However, the architectural description does not go into more narrow details on how these modules are implemented, and many details are missing. In particular, the paper does not specify:

- The exact configuration and depth of the residual blocks
- How features from different resolutions are fused
- Any modifications made to the base ResNet architecture
- The structure of the decoder or upsampling

The absence of these details makes it difficult to reconstruct the architecture precisely from the paper alone.

1.2 Loss Function

The loss function was one of the most challenging parts of the paper to interpret. Although the paper provides a mathematical expression, it relies on a ranking loss formulation that was not explained good enough. Since our team was not previously familiar with ranking losses, understanding its purpose and behavior required additional effort. Also

Because of the unclear symbols and ambiguous indexing structure, it was challenging to follow how the loss evaluates whether a predicted depth ordering is correct. This lack of clarity made it difficult to fully grasp the intuition behind the loss and how to implement it correctly. These issues ultimately required external clarification from our professor to resolve.

1.3 Dataset Exploration

As part of this milestone, we downloaded the dataset referenced in the paper and examined its structure. During this exploration, one important observation was the high variability in image dimensions and aspect ratios. The dataset contains a wide range of both horizontal and vertical images, with significantly different resolutions. This variability indicates that proper preprocessing will be necessary:

- Images must be resized or padded carefully before being fed into the network.
- Aspect ratio differences must be handled in a way that minimizes distortion.

1.4 Related Work Review (MiDaS)

We also explored the MiDaS repository, which implements a ResNet-based architecture with multi-scale fusion for monocular depth estimation. Although it does not reference the paper directly, its design is highly similar and offers practical guidance that will be valuable when we begin implementing the model.

2 External Guidance and Communication

To resolve the unclear aspects of the paper, we used two strategies:

2.1 Meeting with the Professor

After our own investigation and attempts through large language models did not yield sufficient clarity, we arranged a meeting with our professor. In this meeting, we discussed:

- How the ResNet backbone integrates with the overall model
- The intended structure of the residual and fusion modules
- The intuition and function of the loss

This meeting significantly clarified the workflow of the model and provided the guidance needed to proceed with implementation in upcoming milestones.

2.2 Attempting to Contact the Authors

We also reached out to the author of the paper via email to request access to any available additional resources, such as presentation slides, talks, or code implementations. As of this report, we have not received a response. If further materials become available, they may support us in refining our implementation.

3 Next Steps

We've considered implementing a baseline architecture for the second phase of the project. Since now we have access to the MiDaS repository, it might be clearer what to do. Nevertheless, many difficulties will remain, and meetings with the professor are highly necessary.

4 Conclusion

In this milestone, we developed a clear understanding of the paper’s overall workflow and identified the main challenges we will face during implementation. By closely examining the architecture and loss function—and clarifying their unclear aspects through a meeting with our professor—we now have a more confident grasp of the method. Our exploration of both the dataset and related work further prepared us for the practical considerations ahead. With these insights, we are ready to move forward to the implementation phase in the next milestone.