

Deep Learning for Remote Sensing – EduServ Course

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Presentation outline

1 Deep Learning on 3D Point Clouds

Outline

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- Motivation
- Traditional Approaches
- Deep-Learning Approaches
- Scaling Segmentation
- In Practice
- Bibliography

An Exciting time for 3D Analysis

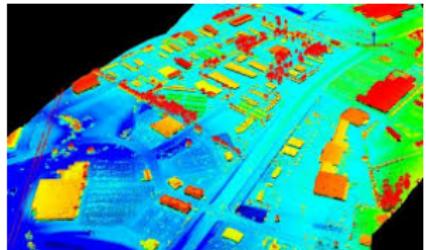
- LiDAR are getting cheaper : $100k\$ \rightarrow 2k\$$ in a few years.



credit: velodynelidar, green car congress

An Exciting time for 3D Analysis

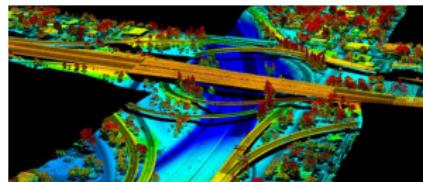
- LiDAR are getting cheaper : $100k\$ \rightarrow 2k\$$ in a few years.
- Also coming: solid state LiDAR (cheap, fast and resilient), single photon LiDAR (unmatched acquisition density).



credit: velodynelidar, spar3d

An Exciting time for 3D Analysis

- LiDAR are getting cheaper : $100k\$ \rightarrow 2k\$$ in a few years.
- Also coming: solid state LiDAR (cheap, fast and resilient), single photon LiDAR (unmatched acquisition density).
- **Major industrial application:** autonomous driving, virtual models, land survey...
- **Also to come:** major advances in automatic analysis of 3D data.
- Rapid progress in hardware and methodology + major applications = **a booming field.**



credit: tuck mapping solutions, clearpath robotics

Analysis of 3D point clouds

- **Classification:** classify the point cloud among class set \mathcal{K} :

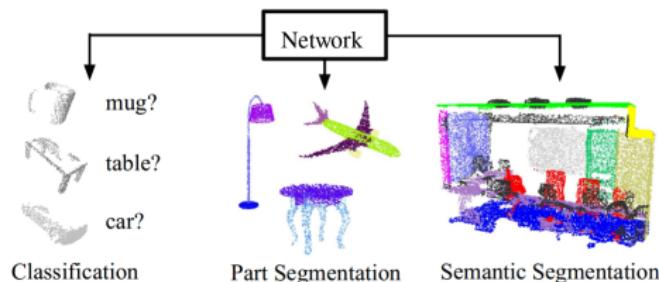
$$P \mapsto \mathcal{K}$$

- **Partition:** cluster the point cloud in C parts/object:

$$P_i \mapsto [1, \dots, C]$$

- **Semantic Segmentation:** classify each point of a point cloud between K classes:

$$P_i \mapsto [1, \dots, K]$$



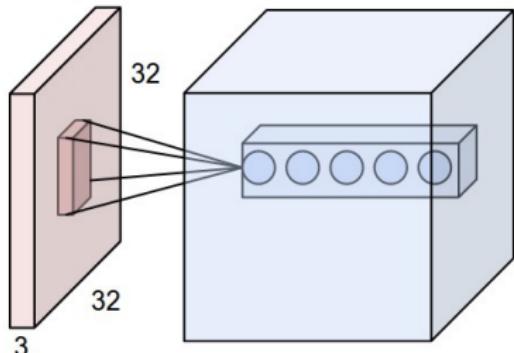
- **Instance Segmentation:** cluster the point cloud into semantically characterized objects:

$$P_i \mapsto [1, \dots, C]$$

$$[1, \dots, C] \mapsto [1, \dots, K]$$

credit: Qi et. al. 2017a

- Overheard at a vision conference:
"Computer Vision is a solved problem"
[not my words].
- **Fact:** CNNs are very efficient at extracting visual features in images.
- **Fact:** has allowed tremendous improvements in many image-based tasks.
- **Fact:** In 2019, (almost) no vision paper on images rely on traditional methods.
- **When is this “revolution” coming for the 3D community?**



credit : pubs.sciepub.com/ajmm

What Makes 3D Analysis so Hard?

- **3D data is much harder than images:**

- Data volume considerable.
- Lack of grid-structure.
- Permutation-invariance.
- Sparsity.
- Highly variable density.
- Acquisition artifacts.
- Occlusions.
- Batching issues.



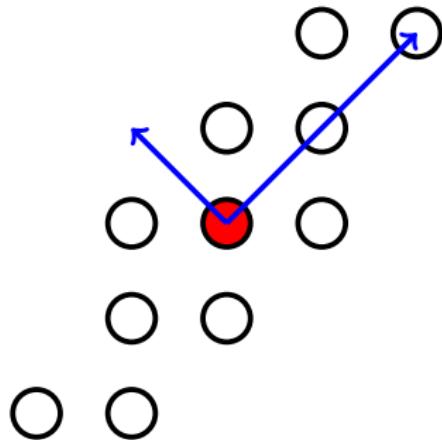
credit: Gaidon2016, Engelmann2017, Hackel2017

1 Deep Learning on 3D Point Clouds

- Motivation
- **Traditional Approaches**
- Deep-Learning Approaches
- Scaling Segmentation
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Pointwise classification

- **Step 1:** compute point features based on neighborhood



$$\text{Lin} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_1} - \sqrt{\lambda_2}}{\sqrt{\lambda_1}}$$

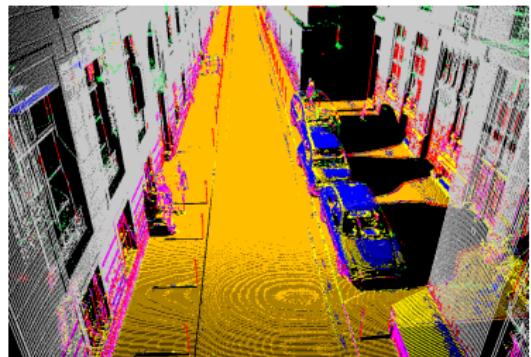
$$\text{Pla} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_2} - \sqrt{\lambda_3}}{\sqrt{\lambda_1}}$$

$$\text{Sca} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_3}}{\sqrt{\lambda_1}}$$

Demantke2011

Pointwise classification

- **Step 1:** compute point features based on neighborhood
- **Step 2:** classification (RF, SVM, etc...)

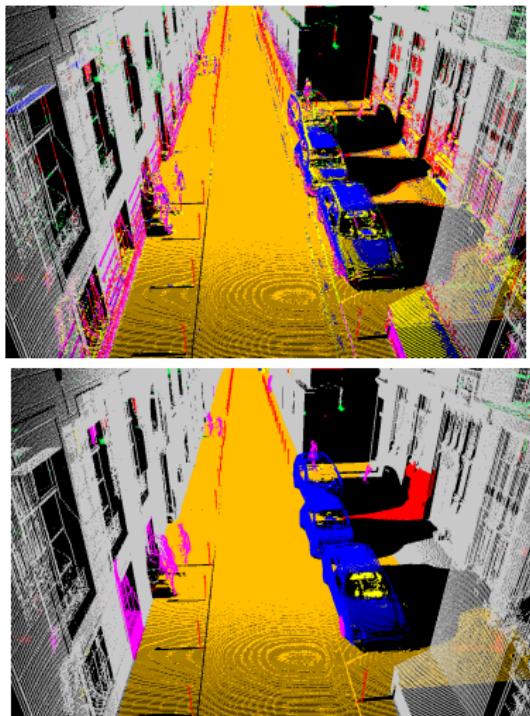


Weimann2015

credit: landrieu et. al. , JSPRS 2017

Pointwise classification

- **Step 1:** compute point features based on neighborhood
- **Step 2:** classification (RF, SVM, etc...)
- **Step 3:** smoothing to increase spatial regularity (with CRFs, MRFs, graph-structured optimization, etc...)

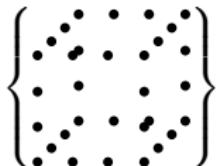
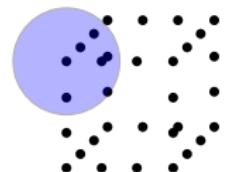
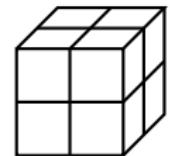
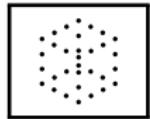
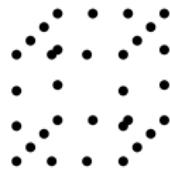


Landrieu et. al. 2017a JSPRS

1 Deep Learning on 3D Point Clouds

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- Different ways of handling 3D point clouds:
 - As a set of images,
 - As a voxel occupancy grid,
 - As a convolution-enabling structure,
 - As an non-ordered set of points,
 - As a graph structure.



- **Idea:** CNNs work great for images.
Can we use images for 3D?
- **SnapNet:**
 - surface reconstruction,
 - *virtual snapshots*,
 - semantic segmentation of snapshots with CNNs,
 - project prediction back to point clouds.

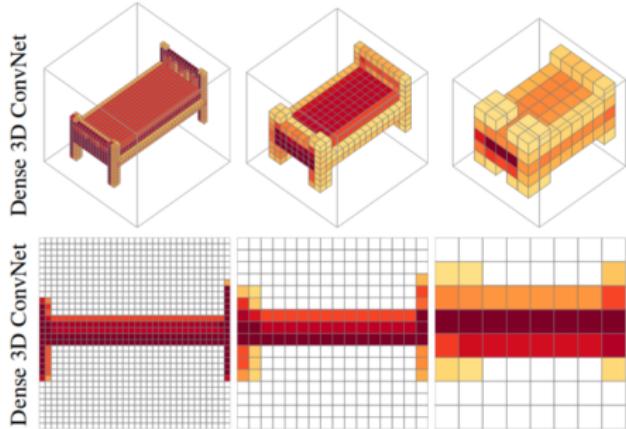


Boulch et. al. 2017

credit: Boulch et. al. 2017

Voxel-Based Methods

- **Idea:** generalize image convolutions to 3D regular grids.
- Voxelization + 3D convNets
Guiotte2020
- **Problem:** inefficient representation, loss of invariance, costly (cubic).

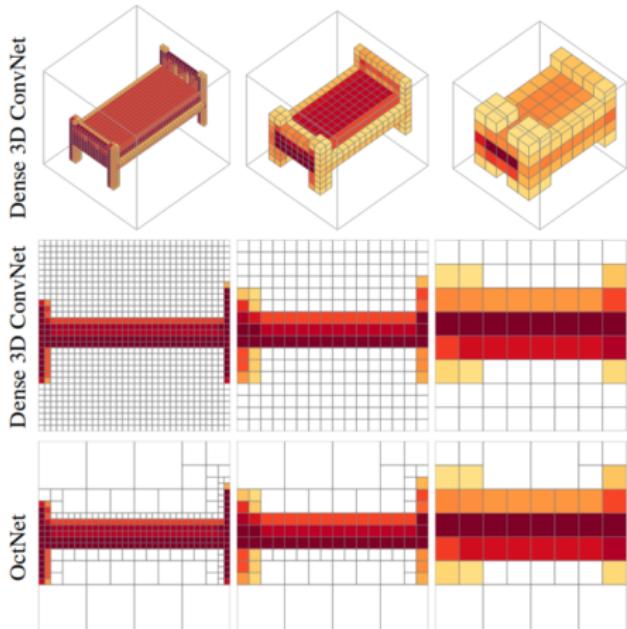


Wu2015

credit: Riegler2017, Tchapmi2017, Jampani2017

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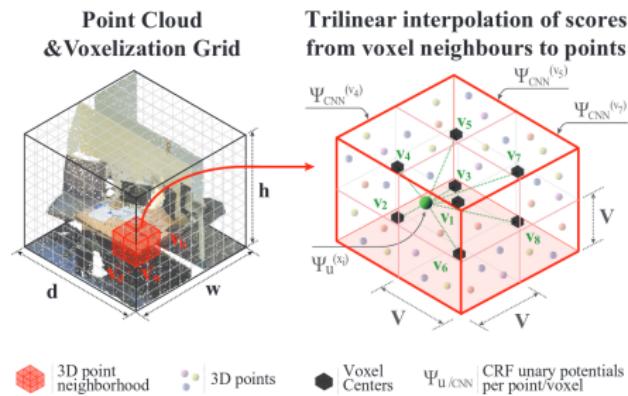


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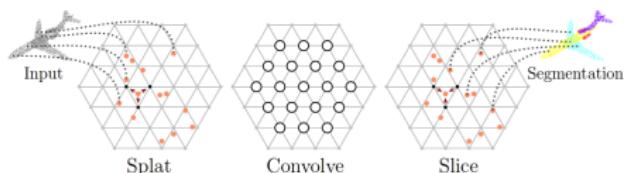


Wu2015 , Riegler2017 , Tchapmi2017,
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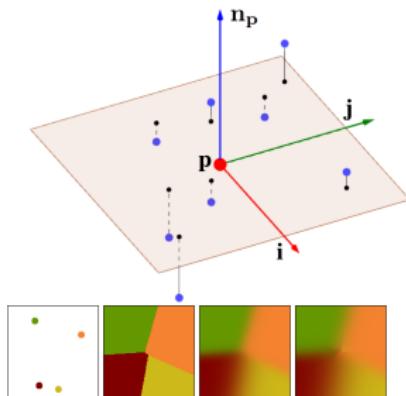
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- **Idea 2:** SegCloud, large voxels, subvoxel predictions with CRFs.
- **Idea 3:** SplatNet, MinkowskiNet sparse convolutions, indexed with hashmaps.



Wu2015 , Riegler2017 , Tchapmi2017,
Jampani2018.

credit: Riegler2017, Tchapmi2017, Jampani2017

- **Idea:** generalize 2D convolutions to *spatial* convolutions.
- **Tangent Convolution:** 2D convolution in the tangent space of each point.
- Can now used 2D convolutions to learn spatial features.



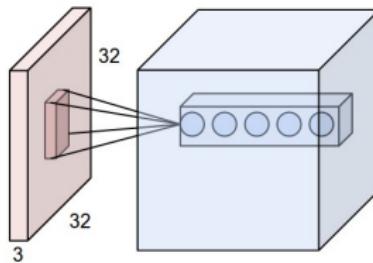
credit: Tatarchenko2018, Li2018

- Generalizing Spatial convolutions.

(i, j) point to embed, f features, K kernel,
 $c_d \in \mathbb{R}^d$ kernel weights.

2D convolutions on images:

$$(\mathcal{C} * f)(i, j) = \sum_{d \in K} c_d f[(i, j) + d].$$



credit : pubs.sciepub.com/ajmm

3D Convolution-Based Methods II

- Generalizing Spatial convolutions.

(i, j) point to embed, f features, K kernel, $c_d \in \mathbb{R}^d$ kernel weights.

2D convolutions on images:

$$(\mathcal{C} * f)(i, j) = \sum_{d \in K} c_d f[(i, j) + d] .$$

- x spatial coordinates, N_x : neighbors of x , $y_j \in K$ spatial coordinate of kernel points.

3D convolutions on point clouds:

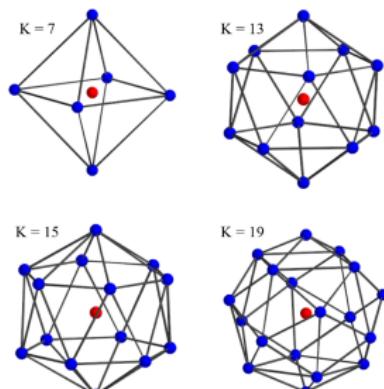
$$(\mathcal{C} * f)(x) = \sum_{j \in K} \sum_{i \in N_x} g(x_i, y_j) c_j f_i .$$

- Kernels can be fixed or learnt.

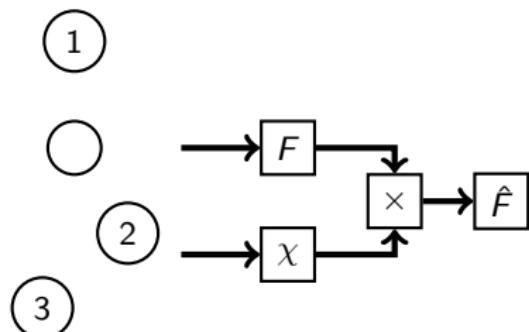
- $g(x, y) = \max(0, 1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} \|x - y\|)$.

- Or g can be a learnt function as well.

credit: Thomas et al. 2019, Boulch 2019



- **PointCNN** : χ -convolutions:
generalized convolutions for unordered inputs.
- **Principle:** the network learns how to permute *ordered* inputs:
 x = concatenated features of neighbors sorted by distance.
 $F, \chi = f(x)$.
 $\hat{F} = F \times \chi$.
- The invariance is learnt.

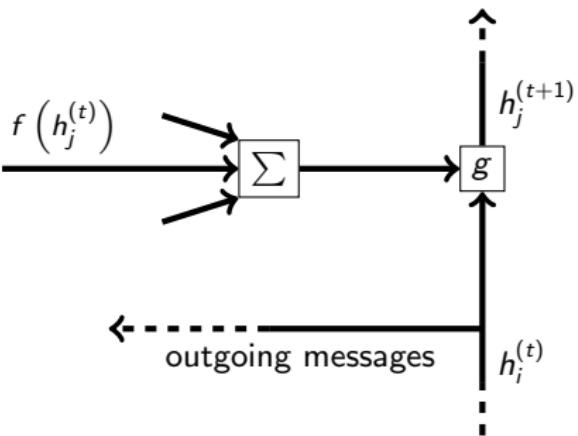


credit: Tatarchenko2018

Graph-Neural Network

- **Idea:** Generalize convolutions to the general graph setting.
- For example: k-nearest neighbors graph.
- **Principle:** Each point maintain a hidden state h_i influenced by its neighbors.
- **GNN Qi2017:** iterative message-passing algorithm with a mapping f and RNN g :

$$h_i^{(t+1)} = g\left(\sum_{j \rightarrow i} f(h_j^{(t)}), h_i^{(t)}\right).$$



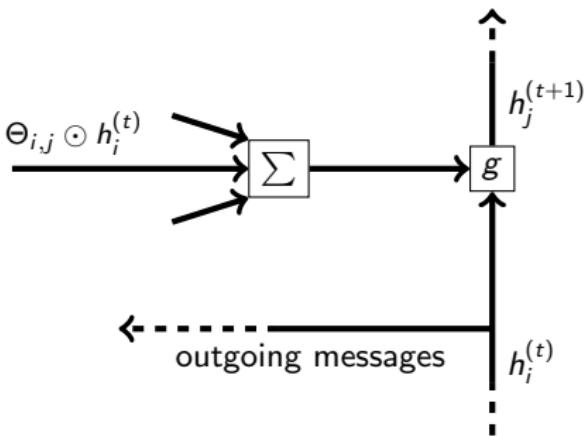
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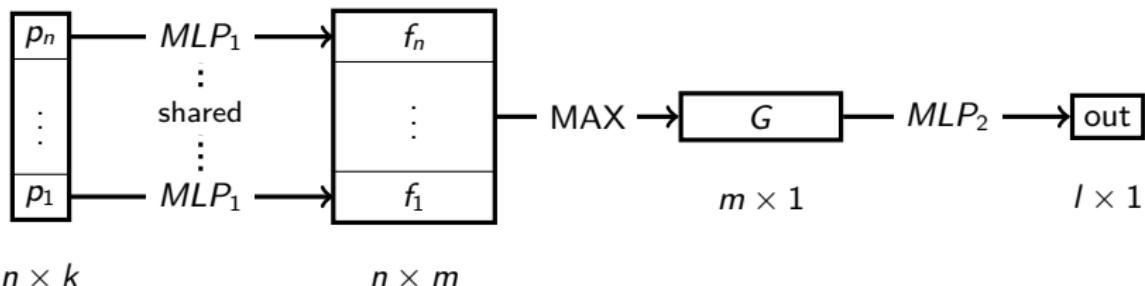
- **ECC Simonovski2017** messages are conditioned by edge features:

$$h_i^{(t+1)} = g\left(\sum_{j \rightarrow i} \Theta_{i,j} \odot h_j^{(t)}, h_i^{(t)}\right).$$



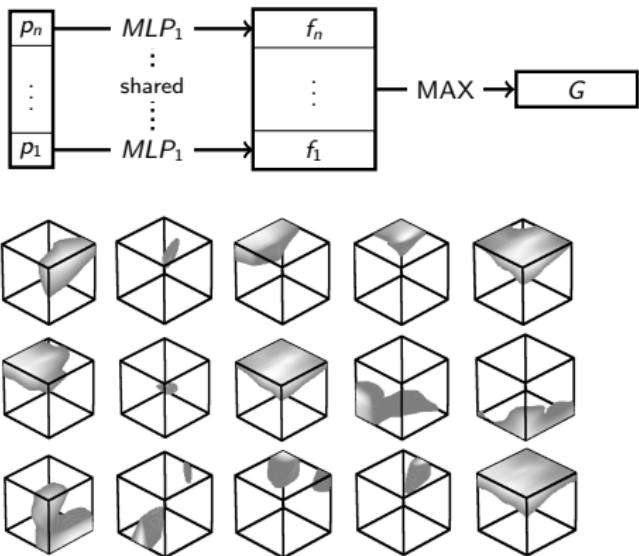
PointNet - Set-Based Approach

- A cornerstone of modern 3D analysis.
- **A fundamental constraint:** permutation-invariant inputs.
- **Solution:** n : number of points, k size of observations, m size of intermediary embeddings, l size of desired output:
 - Independantly compute point features $\{f_i\}_{i=1}^n$ through function $MLP_1 : \mathbb{R}^k \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$
 - Computes permutation invariant global embedding $[G]_j = \max_{i=1 \dots n} [f_i]_j, j = 1 \dots m$
 - Process this global with function with $MLP_3 : \mathbb{R}^m \mapsto \mathbb{R}^l$

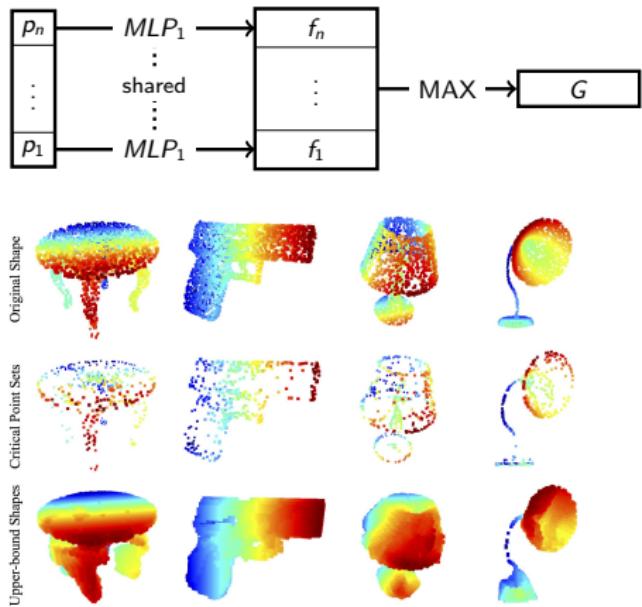


Qi et. al. 2017a

- **Point function:** Visualization of $[MLP_1]_j$ for some j . the full part represents high values (≥ 0.5) in the unit cube.
- Each coordinates of MLP_1 is sensitive to different positions: acts as a learned spatial descriptor.

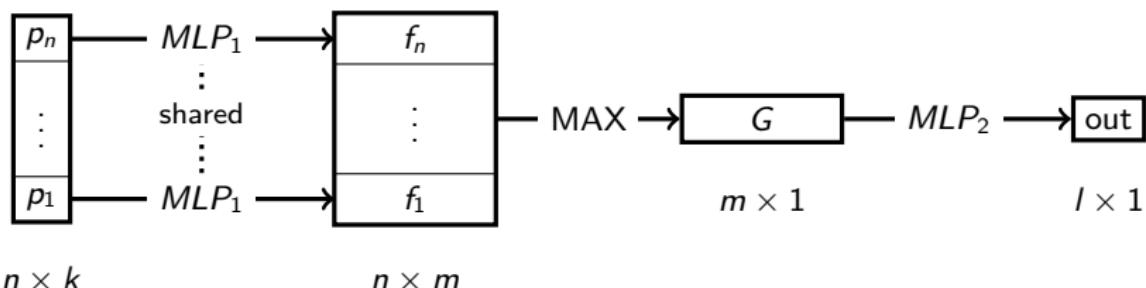


- **Point function:** Visualization of $[MLP_1]_j$ for some j . the full part represents high values (≥ 0.5) in the unit cube.
- Each coordinates of MLP_1 is sensitive to different positions: acts as a learned spatial descriptor.
- **Critical Set:** points with an influence in G . Makes up a shape *skeleton*.
- **Upper Bound Shape:** maximal point cloud with exactly the same global embedding G .
- All 3 shapes have the exact same embedding.



PointNet for Cloud embedding

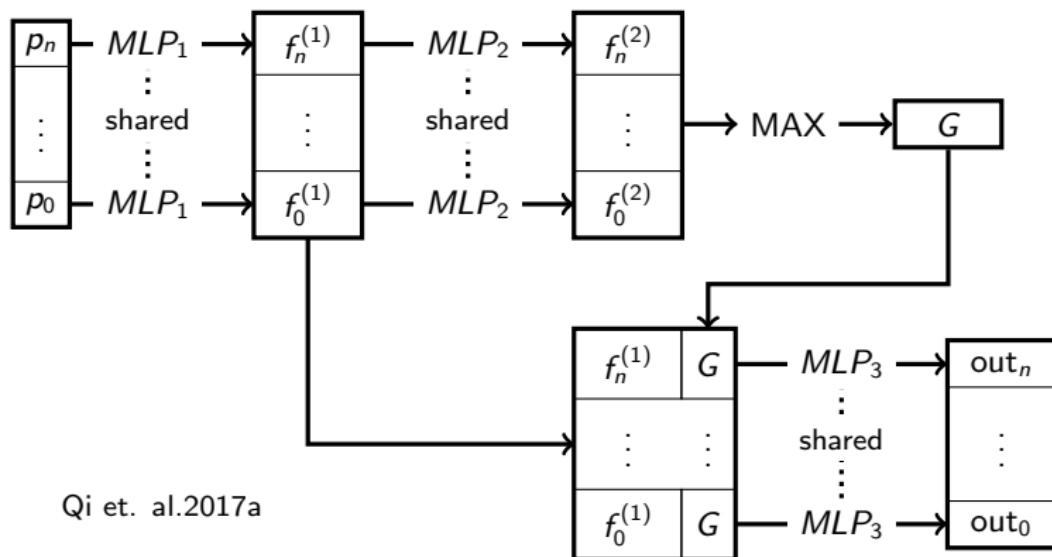
- $p_i \in \mathbb{R}^k$: point features (coordinate, color, etc...)
- $f_i = MLP_1(p_i) \in \mathbb{R}^m, \forall i = 1 \cdots n$
- $G_j = \max_{i=1 \cdots n}([f_i]_j) \forall j = 1 \cdots m$
- $\text{out} = MLP_2(G) \in \mathbb{R}^l$



Qi et. al. 2017a

PointNet for Semantic Segmentation

- $f_i^{(1)} = MLP_1(p_i) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_1} \forall i = 1 \dots n$
- $f_i^{(2)} = MLP_2(f_i^{(1)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_2} \forall i = 1 \dots n$
- $[G_j]_j = \max_{i=1 \dots n}([f_i^{(2)}]_j) \forall j = 1 \dots m_2$
- $\text{out}_i = MLP_3([G, f_i^{(1)}]) \in \mathbb{R}^l \forall i = 1 \dots n$



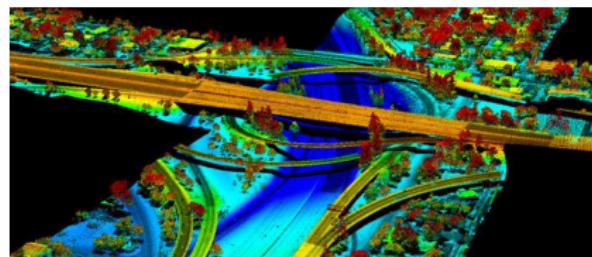
Qi et. al. 2017a

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- Motivation
- Traditional Approaches
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- **Scaling Segmentation**
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Why we need to scale

- **Problem:** best approaches are very memory-hungry and the data volumes are huge.
- Previous methods only work with a few thousands points.
- **Naive strategies:**
 - **Aggressive subsampling:** loses a lot of information.
 - **Sliding windows:** loses the global structure.



credit: tuck mapping solution

- Pyramid structure for multi-scale feature extraction.
- Initialization:

$f_i^{(0)}$ = initial features: xyz, RGB, etc...

- Spatial Pooling:

$$P^{(t+1)} = \text{subsample}(P^{(t)})$$

- Correspondence

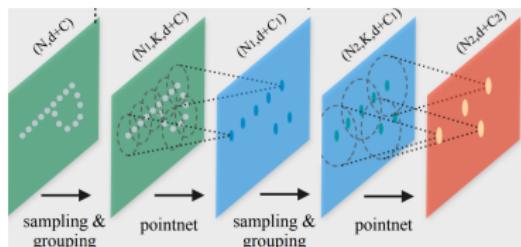
$$N_i = \text{neighborhood of } i \in P^{(t+1)} \text{ in } P^{(t)}$$

- Next layer:

$$f_i^{(t+1)} = \text{PointNet}^{(t)} \left(\{f_j^{(t)}\}_{j \in N_i} \right)$$

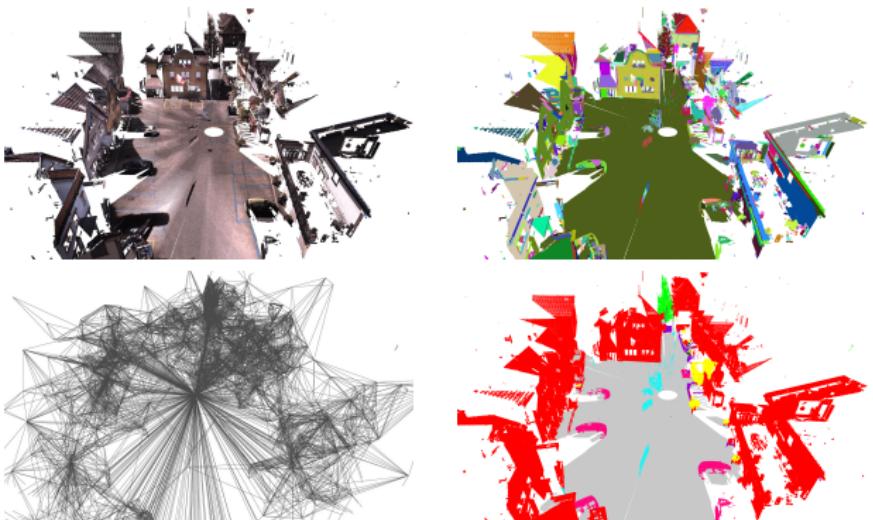
- From local to global with increasingly abstract features.

credit: Qi et. al. 2017b



SuperPoint-Graph

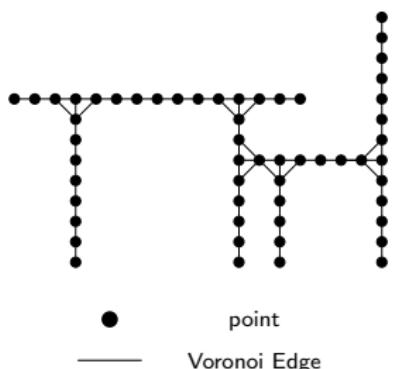
- **Observation:**
 $n_{\text{points}} \gg n_{\text{objects}}$.
- Partition scene into superpoints with simple shapes.
- Only a few superpoints, context leveraging with powerful graph methods.



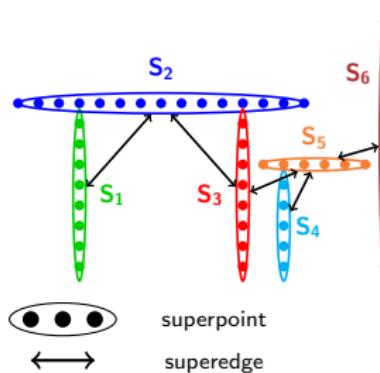
Landrieu&Simonovski, CVPR 2018

Step	Complexity	Algorithm
Geometric Partition into simple shapes	very high 10^8 points	ℓ_0 -cut pursuit
Superpoint embedding learning shape descriptors	low subsampling to 128 points	PointNet
Contextual Segmentation leveraging the global structure	very low ~ 1000 vertices	ECC with GRUs

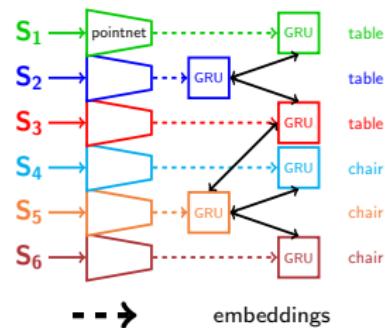
Pipeline



(a) Point cloud



(b) Superpoint graph

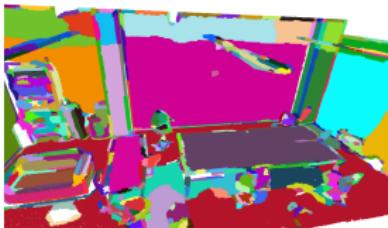


(c) Convolution Network

Superpoint Partition

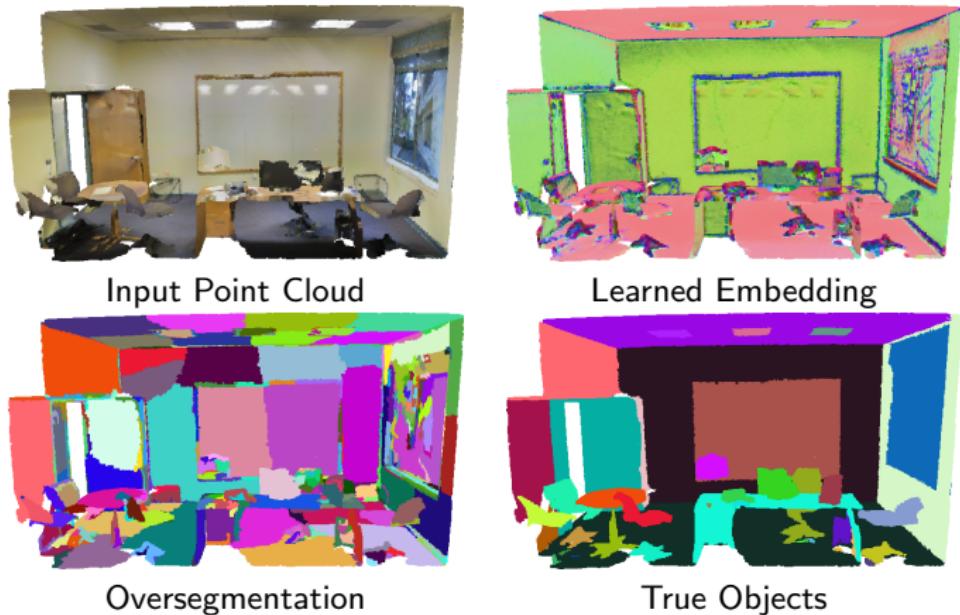
$$f^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times m}} \sum_{i \in C} \|f_i - e_i\|^2 + \sum_{(i,j) \in E} w_{i,j}[f_i \neq f_j],$$

- $e \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times m}$: handcrafted descriptors of the local geometry/radiometry.
- f^* : piecewise constant approximation of e .
- Solutions can be efficiently approximated with ℓ_0 -cut pursuit.
- Superpoints: constant connected components of f^* .
- **Problem:** any errors made in the partition will carry in the prediction...



Landrieu & obozinski, SIIMS 2017, Raguet & Landrieu, ICML 2018, 2019

Learning to Partition



- 1) Train a neural network to produce points embeddings with high contrast at the border of objects...
- 2) ... which serve as inputs of a segmentation algorithm.
→ Requires 5 times less superpoints than unsupervised approaches.

Adjacency Graph

- $G = (C, E)$ adjacency graph
- E_{inter} : set of inter-object edges
- E_{intra} : set of intra-object edges
- We want high contrast at E_{inter} and homogeneous value at E_{intra}
- If we get E_{inter} right, then we get objects' borders.
almost!



- e_i embeddings of the local geometry/radiometry
- Superpoints: connected component of f^* a **piecewise-constant approximation** of e_i .

$$f^* = \arg \min_{f \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times m}} \sum_{i \in C} \|f_i - e_i\|^2 + \sum_{(i,j) \in E} w_{i,j} [f_i \neq f_j],$$

- Superpoints: regions with homogeneous embeddings
- **Problem:** a non-convex, nondifferentiable, noncontinuous problem
- Good approximations can be computed with ℓ_0 -cut pursuit [Landrieu & Obozinski SIIMS 2018, Raguet & Landrieu, ICML2018,2019]

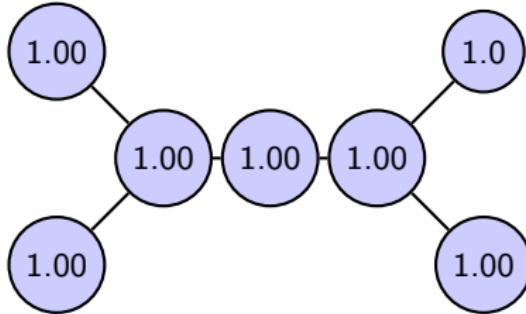
The Problem With the GMPP

$$f^* = \arg \min_{f \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times m}} \sum_{i \in C} \|f_i - e_i\|^2 + \sum_{(i,j) \in E} w_{i,j} [f_i \neq f_j],$$

- Let consider our pipeline:
 - Let x be the parameters of the Local Point Embedder
 - Let $e(x)$ be the resulting embeddings
 - Let $f^*(e(x))$ be the solution of the GMPP
 - Let CCC the constant connected component operator on G
 - The superpoints are: $S = CCC(f^*(e(x)))$
- Let $M(S)$ be a measure of how good an oversegmentation is (implementing purity, border recall, etc...)
- Naive Approach:** $\ell(x) = -M(CCC(f^*(e(x))))$
- To backpropagate we need: $\frac{\partial CCC}{\partial f^*}$ and $\frac{\partial f^*}{\partial e}$
- Problem:** Those functions are **not differentiable** (at all).

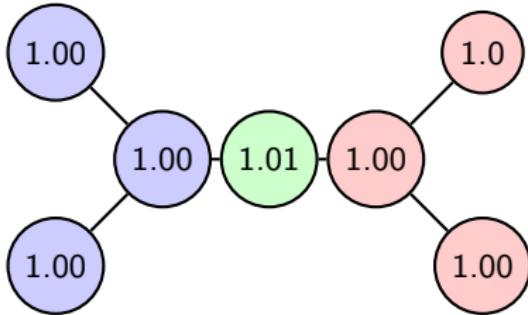
Non-differentiability of the naive pipeline

- Non differentiability of the CCC operator



Non-differentiability of the naive pipeline

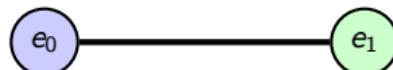
- Non differentiability of the CCC operator
- Tiny changes - large consequence



Non-differentiability of the naive pipeline

$$f^* = \arg \min \|f_0 - e_0\|^2 + \|x_1 - e_1\|^2 + 0.5[f_0 \neq f_1]$$

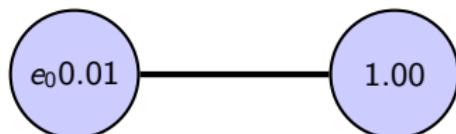
- Non differentiability of the CCC operator
- = Tiny changes - large consequence
- Non differentiability of $f^*(e)$



Non-differentiability of the naive pipeline

$$f^* = \arg \min \|f_0 - e_0\|^2 + \|x_1 - e_1\|^2 + 0.5[f_0 \neq f_1]$$

- Non differentiability of the CCC operator
- Tiny changes - large consequence
- Non differentiability of $f^*(e)$

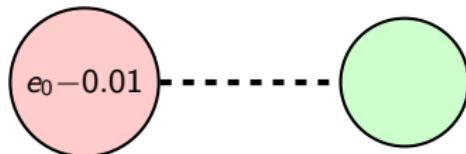


$$f_0^* = 0.505, \quad f_1^* = 0.505$$

Non-differentiability of the naive pipeline

$$f^* = \arg \min \|f_0 - e_0\|^2 + \|x_1 - e_1\|^2 + 0.5[f_0 \neq f_1]$$

- Non differentiability of the CCC operator
- Tiny changes - large consequence
- Non differentiability of $f^*(e)$
- non-continuous w.r.t inputs



$$f_1^* = -0.01, \quad f_1^* = 1.00$$

Graph-Structured Contrastive Loss

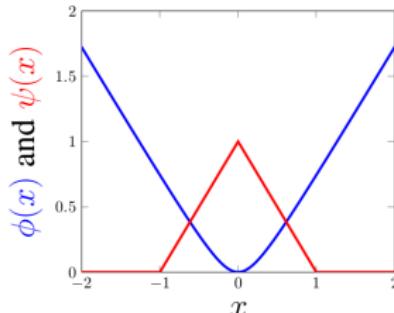
- We propose a *surrogate loss* to learn meaningful embeddings

$$\ell(\mathbf{e}) = \frac{1}{|E|} \left(\sum_{(i,j) \in E_{\text{intra}}} \phi(\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_j) + \sum_{(i,j) \in E_{\text{inter}}} \mu_{i,j} \psi(\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_j) \right),$$

- ϕ minimum at 0, ψ maximum at 0

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(x) &= \delta(\sqrt{\|x\|^2/\delta^2 + 1} - 1) \\ \psi(x) &= \max(1 - \|x\|, 0)\end{aligned}$$

- Promotes homogeneity within objects and contrast at their borders
- $\mu_{i,j}$: weight of inter-edges

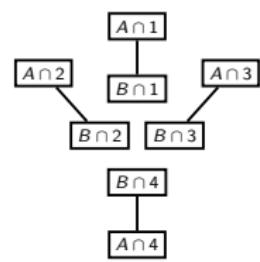
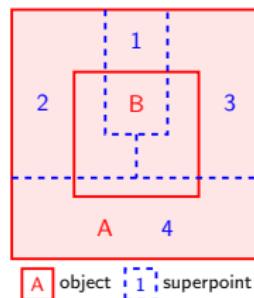


Cross-Partition Weighting Strategy

- The role of $\mu_{i,j}$ is critical
- Indeed, one single missed inter-edge can have drastic consequence on the purity!
- **Objective:** $\mu_{i,j}$ represents the importance of (i,j)
- We propose: the **cross-partition weighting strategy**
- Based on the cross-partition between \mathcal{O} objects and superpoints \mathcal{S} :

$$\mathcal{C} = \{O \cap S \mid O \in \mathcal{O}, S \in \mathcal{S}\}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \{\{(i,j) \in (U \times V) \cap E_{\text{inter}}\} \mid U, V \in \mathcal{C}\}.$$



cross-segmentation graph G

Cross-Partition Weighting Strategy, cont'd

$$\mu_{U,V} = \mu \frac{\min(|U|, |V|)}{|(U, V)|} \quad \text{for } (U, V) \in \mathcal{E}$$
$$\mu_{i,j} = \mu_{U,V} \quad \text{for all } (i, j) \in (U, V)$$

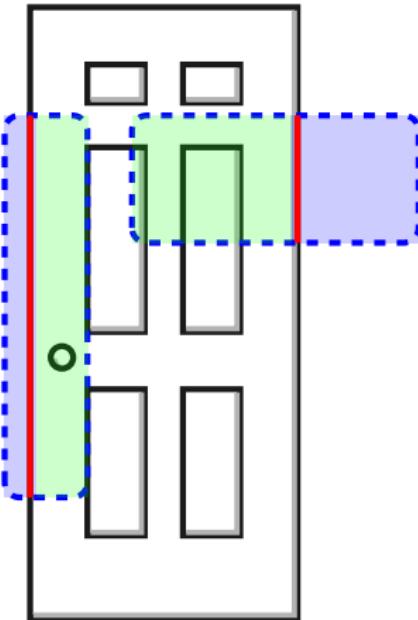


majority object
trespassing
interface

- $\min(|U|, |V|)$: how many *trespassing* points i.e. not in majority object \sim undersegmentation error
- $|(U, V)|$: length of the interface \sim number of terms in ℓ

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in (U, V)} \mu_{i,j} = \mu \min(|U|, |V|)$$

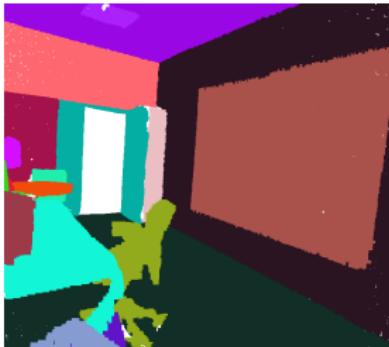
- Sum of weights of edges constituting a superedge \propto number of trespassing points = undersegmentation error.



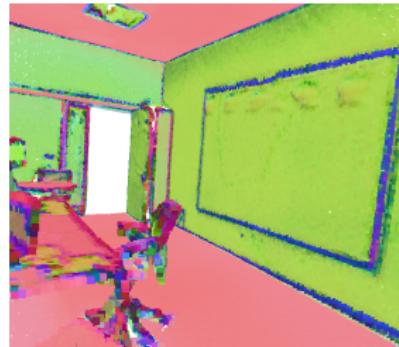
Illustration



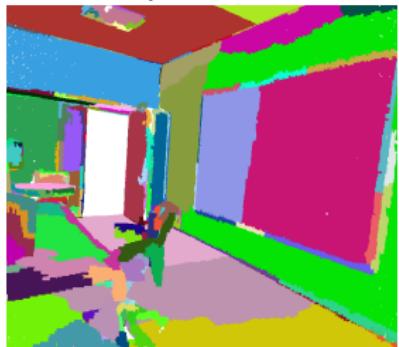
Input cloud



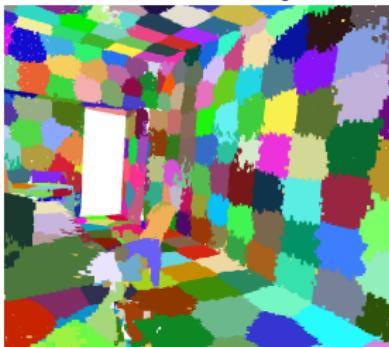
Ground truth objects



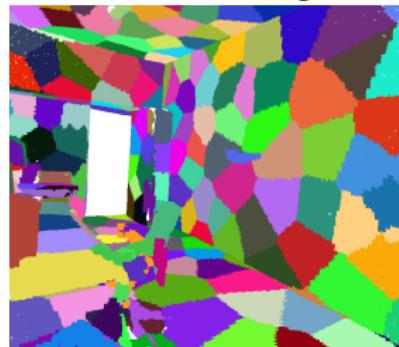
LCE embeddings



Graph-LCE (ours)

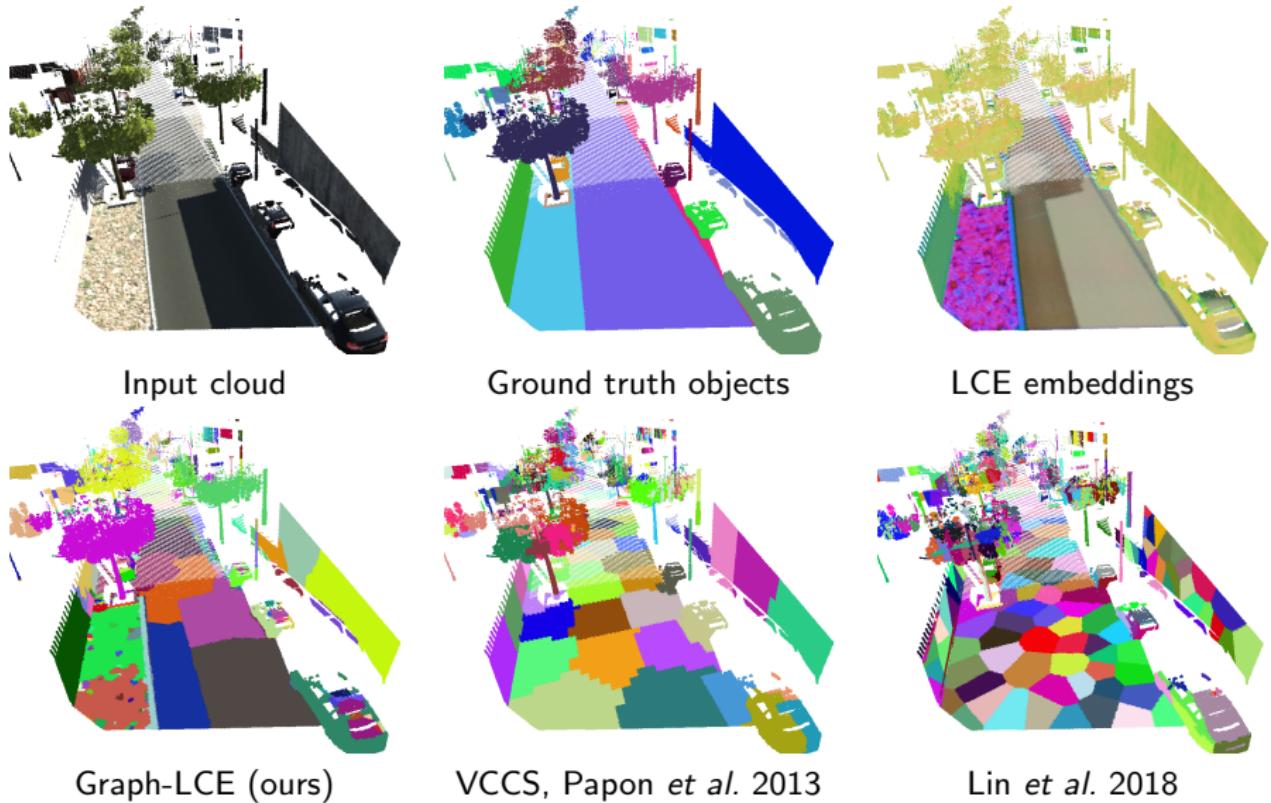


VCCS, Papon *et al.* 2013



Lin *et al.* 2018

Illustration



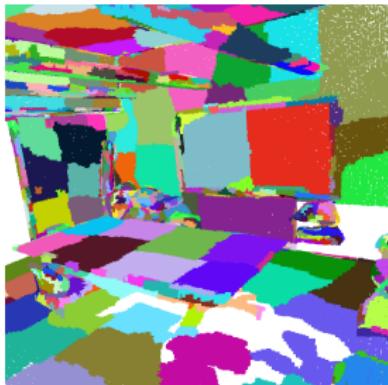
1 Deep Learning on 3D Point Clouds

- Motivation
- Traditional Approaches
- Deep-Learning Approaches
- Scaling Segmentation
- **In Practice**
- Bibliography

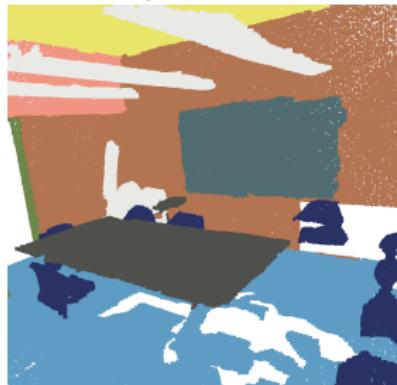
Illustration



Input Cloud



Oversegmentation



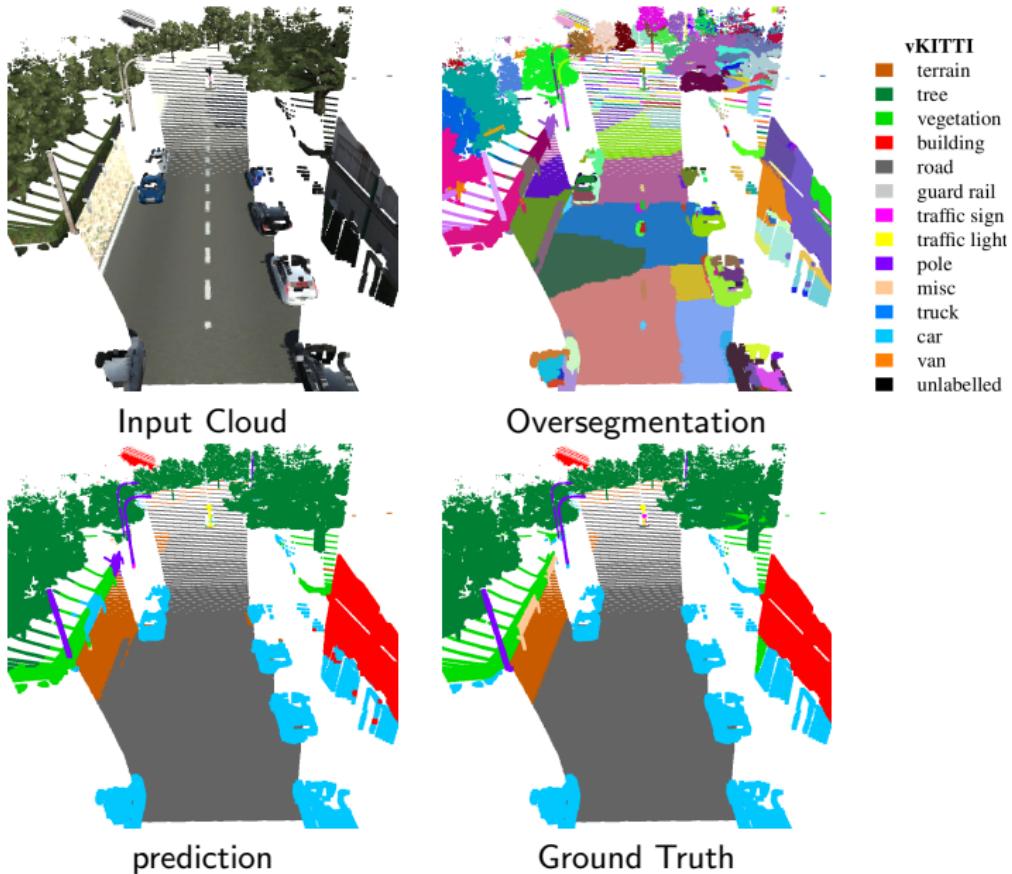
prediction



Ground Truth

S3DIS
ceiling
floor
wall
column
beam
window
door
table
chair
bookcase
sofa
board
clutter
unlabelled

Illustration



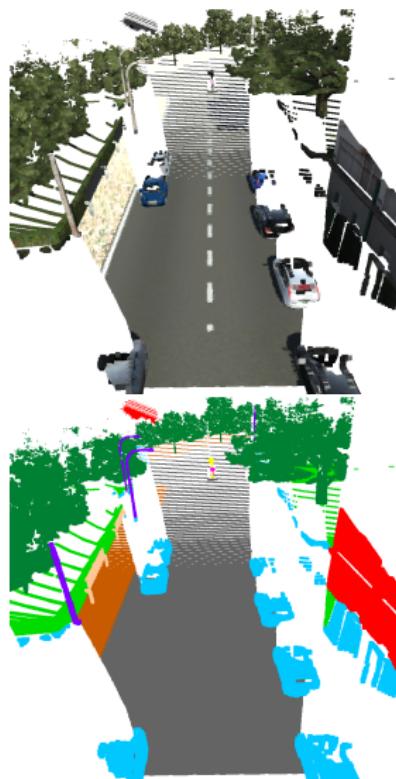
Quantitative Results on S3DIS:



Method	OA	mAcc	mIoU
6-fold cross validation			
PointNet	78.5	66.2	47.6
Engelmann <i>et al.</i> 2017	81.1	66.4	49.7
PointNet++	81.0	67.1	54.5
Engelmann <i>et al.</i> 2018	84.0	67.8	58.3
SPG	85.5	73.0	62.1
PointCNN	88.1	75.6	65.4
ConvPoint	88.1	75.6	68.2
SSP + SPG	87.9	78.3	68.4
PointSIFT	88.7	-	70.2
KPConv	88.8	79.1	70.6
Fold 5			
PointNet	-	49.0	41.1
Engelmann <i>et al.</i>	84.2	61.8	52.2
pointCNN	85.9	63.9	57.3
SPG	86.4	66.5	58.0
PCCN	-	67.0	58.3
SSP + SPG	87.9	68.2	61.7

Table: State-of-the-art 2019: **OA** : Overall Accuracy, **mAcc** : average class accuracy, **mIoU**: average class Intersection over Union.

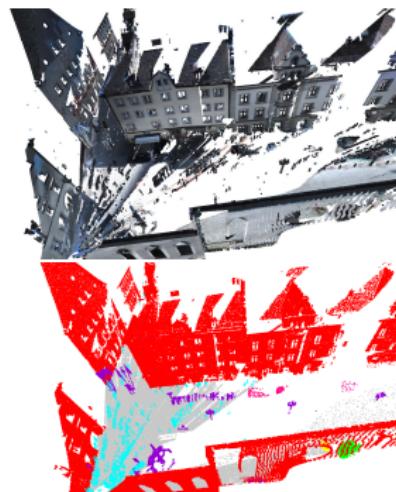
Quantitative Results on vKITTI3D:



Method	OA	mAcc	mIoU
PointNet	79.7	47.0	34.4
Engelmann <i>et al.</i> 2018	79.7	57.6	35.6
Engelmann 2017	80.6	49.7	36.2
3P-RNN	87.8	54.1	41.6
SSP + SPG	84.3	67.3	52.0

Table: STOTA 2019 on vKITTI3D with 6-fold cross validation.

Quantitative Results on Semantic3D



Method	OA	mIoU
reduced test set: 78 699 329 points		
TMLC-MSR	86.2	54.2
DeePr3SS	88.9	58.5
SnapNet	88.6	59.1
SegCloud	88.1	61.3
SPG	94.0	73.2
KP-FCNN	92.9	74.6
full test set: 2 091 952 018 points		
TMLC-MS	85.0	49.4
SnapNet	91.0	67.4
SPG	92.9	76.2
ConvPoint	93.4	76.5

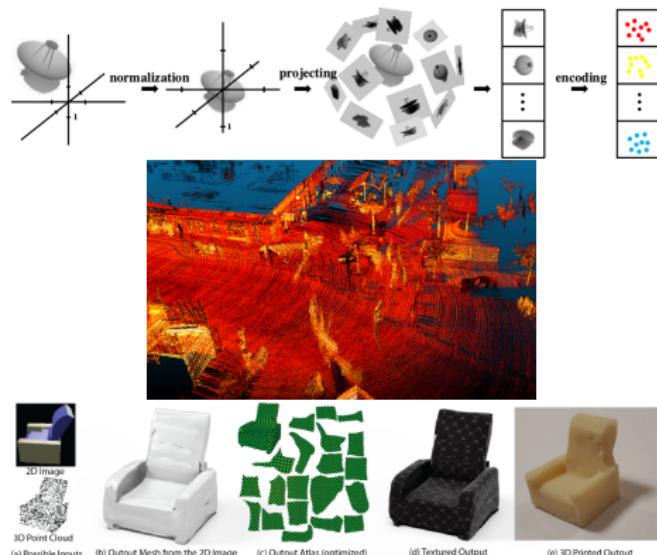
Table: STOTA 2019 on Semantic3D.

- **Which algorithm to chose in practice:**
 - Start with a classical algorithm for baseline / data cleaning
 - If enough annotation, PointNet + sliding window.
 - If not powerful enough, PointCNN/KPconv/ConvPoint.
 - If too slow / loss of global structure: SPG/PointNet++.

Future of the Field

- Semi-supervised learning **Zhu2016**.
- Real-time analysis for dynamic 3D data for autonomous driving (ANR READY3D).
- Deep learning for other remote sensing tasks: segmentation, object detection, surface reconstruction. **Groueix2018**.
- Multi-source, multi-task, etc...
- Most codes are now open-source.

github/loicland/superpoint-graph
420 ★ 136 ⚡



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