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Master's Thesis

Out-of-distribution detection in 3D semantic segmentation

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I, the undersigned below, declare that this work has not previously been submitted to this or any other university and that it is, unless otherwise stated, entirely my own work.

Date	Lokesh Veeramacheneni

Abstract

Your abstract

Acknowledgements

Thanks to ....

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1

Introduction

The development of Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) made tasks such as object classification and object detection simple. These DNNs has seen their way to various real world scenarios such as autonomous driving [26], semi-autonomous robotic surgery [32] and also in space rovers [29], [5]. DNNs are majorly deployed in the perception stack in the autonomous pipeline. Figure 1.1 depicts the pipeline of the modules present in one of the open source autonomous driving platform called Apollo [12]. From this pipeline, we can infer that the most of the decisions regarding the vehicle control made by autonomous system is dependent on the output of the perception module. Since the perception module plays such significance, the developers of the perception stack must make sure that the output is flawless.

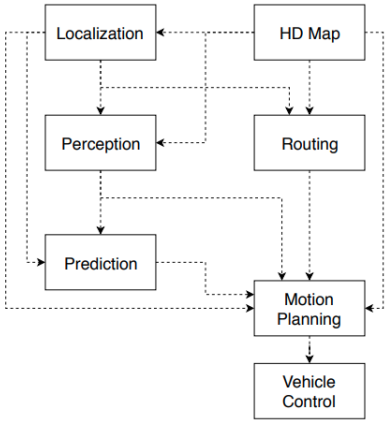


Figure 1.1: Module pipeline for Apollo autonomous driving platform. Image taken from [12]

The DNNs deployed in perception module are needed to be trained on the dataset which should be similar to area of its deployment. For example, an autonomous driving agent must be trained on dataset containing roads, vehicles, vegetation and other objects found around road. This closedness of the dataset i.e., fixed number of classes, will cause an issue when the DNN encounter an unknown object in real world. This unknown object is predicted as one of the class in the dataset, leading to radical decisions when this error is propogated down the pipeline in Figure 1.1. One such real world problem is encountered by the Tesla autonomous driving platform.

(a) (b)

Figure 1.2: Tesla fails. Images taken from [25]

Figures 1.2a and 1.2b depict the misdetections from the Tesla autonomous driving system. The problem with first one, is the moon is detected as the yellow signal light and second one has the problem of misdetection of burger king sign as stop signal. These misdetections of unknown objects might lead to consequences beyond imagination. This questions the safety of the Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) predictions. An effort has been made in this thesis to detect these unknown objects in 3D LiDAR data using uncertainty score. The unknown obejcts in the real world which are not present in the training dataset are called as out-of-distribution (OOD) class. More discussion on the OOD is presented in Section 1.1. More discussion on misdetections in a DNN trianed on MNIST and tested on USPS is presented in Section A.1 The contributions made in this thesis are

1. A survey on the available 3D LiDAR datasets and benchmark dataset for the OOD detection.
2. A survey on the 3D semantic segmentation models, uncertainty estimation methods and classical OOD methods.
3. Use of uncertainty for OOD detection in RandLA-Net

1.1 OOD/Anomaly/Distributional shift

Let us time travel back to 18^{th} century and assume that we had implemented a model to detect ships, the dataset images for the trained model will be similar to Figure 1.3a. 18^{th} century ships as in 1.3a can be defined as "*ship contains hull and sails*". Fast forward to present time, current ships are as shown in Figure 1.3b. Ship as in 1.3b can be defined as "*ship contains hull and passenger decks stacked upon each other*". Now if we want to deploy the old model trained with old ships to detect the present generation of ships, it is diffcult because of the change in definition and properties of ship. This change in data distribution over a period of time is called "*distributional shift*" of the data.

(a) (b) (c)

(d) (e) (f)

Figure 1.3: Illustration of distributional shift, anomaly and out of distribution examples using various kind of ships. 1.3a represents the sail ship during 18th century. 1.3b depicts the current training data. 1.3c, 1.3d represents the anamolous ship data and 1.3e, 1.3f represents the OOD data. Images are taken from [43], [20], [31], [44], [14], and [4] respectively in the order they appear.

Anomaly can be defined as the patterns that doesn't conform to the expected training behavior. By this definition, Figure 1.3c and Figure 1.3d can be considerd as anomalies. This is becuase Figure 1.3c is a container ship looking similar to Figure 1.3b instead of passenger decks we have containers stacked. Figure 1.3d is also anomaly because the Titanic also has a hull, passenger decks and chimneys. This additional chimnies as a fetures deviates this image from the definition of the ship and can be considered as "*anomaly*".

The input for out of distribution (OOD) is drawn from an unknown distribution of unknown data, which is not near to the trianing distribution. Figures 1.3e and 1.3f are submarine and arishipwhich are from unknown distribution and they doesn't adhere to the definition of ship by any means. In general, one can argue that OOD can be defined as inputs which doesn't belong to any class in the training data.

1.2 Problem Statement

In this thesis, we study the application of out-of-distribution (OOD) detection over the 3D semantic segmentation problem in the context of autonomous driving. Notably, we study the 3D semantic segmentation datasets available and create a benchmark for in-distribution and out-distribution for the OOD setting.

The other major issue, we address in this thesis is the OOD detection methods themselves. Existing OOD detection methods are developed on 2D classification tasks and applicability of these methods on 3D semantic segmentation tasks is not studied. This is also challenging because the existing OOD methods are not easily adaptable to the 3D segmentation models because segmentation involves multi

class classification and moreover high dimensionality of the 3D data.

The research questions answered by this thesis are:

R1 How to create a benchmark over 3D segmentation datasets for the OOD setting?, i.e., create the in-distribution and out-distribution datasets.

R2 How to extend current OOD detection methods from 2D classification task to 3D semantic segmentation?

R3 Is uncertainty quantification an effective approach to classify OOD detection in 3D semantic segmentation models?

R4 How to evaluate the OOD detections over the 3D semantic segmentation task?

2

State of the Art

In this chapter, we will discuss about the 3D LiDAR datasets available and made an attempt to classify them based on type of acquisition. Also we will discuss about the 3D semantic segmentation models, uncertainty estimation methods and OOD methods available.

2.1 3D LiDAR Datasets

LiDAR is one of the central component in the sensor suite for SLAM system in robotic applications [50], [35], [19] and autonomous driving [27]. 3D LiDAR data is preferred because, it can provide the exact replica of 3D geometry of the real world represented in the form of 3D point clouds. Because of these rich features and widespread use of LiDAR sensors, tasks such as 3D object detection [64], [62] and 3D semantic segmentation [37], [2] are becoming more predominant area for research.

In this section, we will discuss about the available 3D LiDAR datasets for 3D semantic segmentation task and classify the datasets based on acquisition methods as in [13]. [13] classifies the available public datasets into three classes based on the data acquisition process. They are *Sequential*, *Static* and *Synthetic* datasets. The data for sequential datasets are collected as frame sequences where mechanical LiDAR is mounted on top of a autonomous driivng platform as in Figure 2.1. Most of the popular autonomous

Figure 2.1: Sequential mounted LiDAR for data collection of Lyft L5 dataset. Image from [21]

driving datasets are of sequential type, but these kind of datasets comes with a drawback of sparse points than other datasets.

Static datasets consists of data collected from a stationary view point by a terrestrial laser scanner. These kind of datasets capture the static information of the realworld whereas the sequential datasets capture the dynamic movements of the surrounding objects. Static datasets find their way in applications such as the urban planning, augmented reality and robotics. Figure 2.2 depcits a terrestrial laser scanner

Figure 2.2: Terrestrial laser scanner in an industrial environment with the laser scanner mounted on a yellow tripod in the left corner of the floor. Image taken from [38]

used to capture point cloud of an industrial environment. An advantage with the static datasets, are they can produce highly dense point clouds leading to rich 3D geometric representations.

Last type of 3D LiDAR datasets are synthetic datasets. As the name suggests these datasets are generated from the computer simulation. Figure 2.3 depcits a simulated point cloud in a synthtic dataset called SynthCity. Eventhough synthetic datasets can be generated in large scale with cheap cost, they lack the accuracy in detail when compared to the point clouds generated from real world.

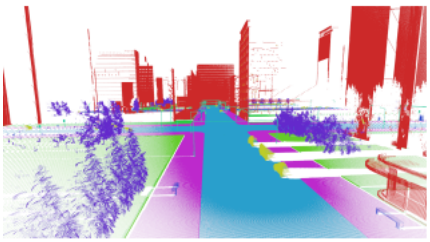


Figure 2.3: Illustration of a scene in synthetic dataset called SynthCity. Image taken from [17]

The datasets belonging to the each acquisition type are summed up in Table 2.1. Most of the datasets from the Table 2.1 are taken from [13] and also as a part of this study, additional new datasets were added to the list. The newly added datasets include DALES [53], ScanObjectNN [51] in static acquisition mode and AIO Drive [56], Toronto3D [46] are additions in the sequential mode. [13] also classifies GTAV (#cite) dataset as synthetic 3D LiDAR but the corresponding paper doesn't report any LiDAR dataset and proposed only 2D dataset for segmentation. The limited number of datasets in 3D LiDAR allowed us

to study the characteristics of each individual datasets such as each class, data distribution and features of each point in point cloud. It is summarized in Table (#ref) in Appendix (#chapter number)

acquisition mode	dataset	frames	points (in million)	classes	scene type
static	Oakland[33]	17	1.6	44	outdoor
	Paris-lille-3D[40]	3	143	50	outdoor
	Paris-rue-Madame[42]	2	20	17	outdoor
	S3DIS[3]	5	215	12	indoor
	ScanObjectNN[51]	-	-	15	indoor
	Semantic3D[18]	30	4009	8	outdoor
	TerraMobilita/IQmulus[52]	10	12	15	outdoor
	TUM City Campus[15]	631	41	8	outdoor
	DALES[53]	40 (tiles)	492	8	outdoor
sequential	A2D2[16]	41277	1238	38	outdoor
	AIO Drive[56]	100	-	23	outdoor
	KITTI-360[60]	100K	18000	19	outdoor
	nuScenes-lidarseg[8]	40000	1400	32	outdoor
	PandaSet[59]	16000	1844	37	outdoor
	SemanticKITTI[6]	43552	4549	28	outdoor
	SemanticPOSS[34]	2988	216	14	outdoor
	Sydney Urban[11]	631	-	26	outdoor
	Toronto-3D[46]	4	78.3	8	outdoor
synthetic	SynthCity[17]	75000	367.9	9	outdoor

Table 2.1: 3D LiDAR datasets classified based on the acquisition type. Table updated from [13]

2.2 3D semantic segmentation models

2.3 Uncertainty estimation methods

2.4 Out-of-distribution (OOD) detection methods

3

Methodology

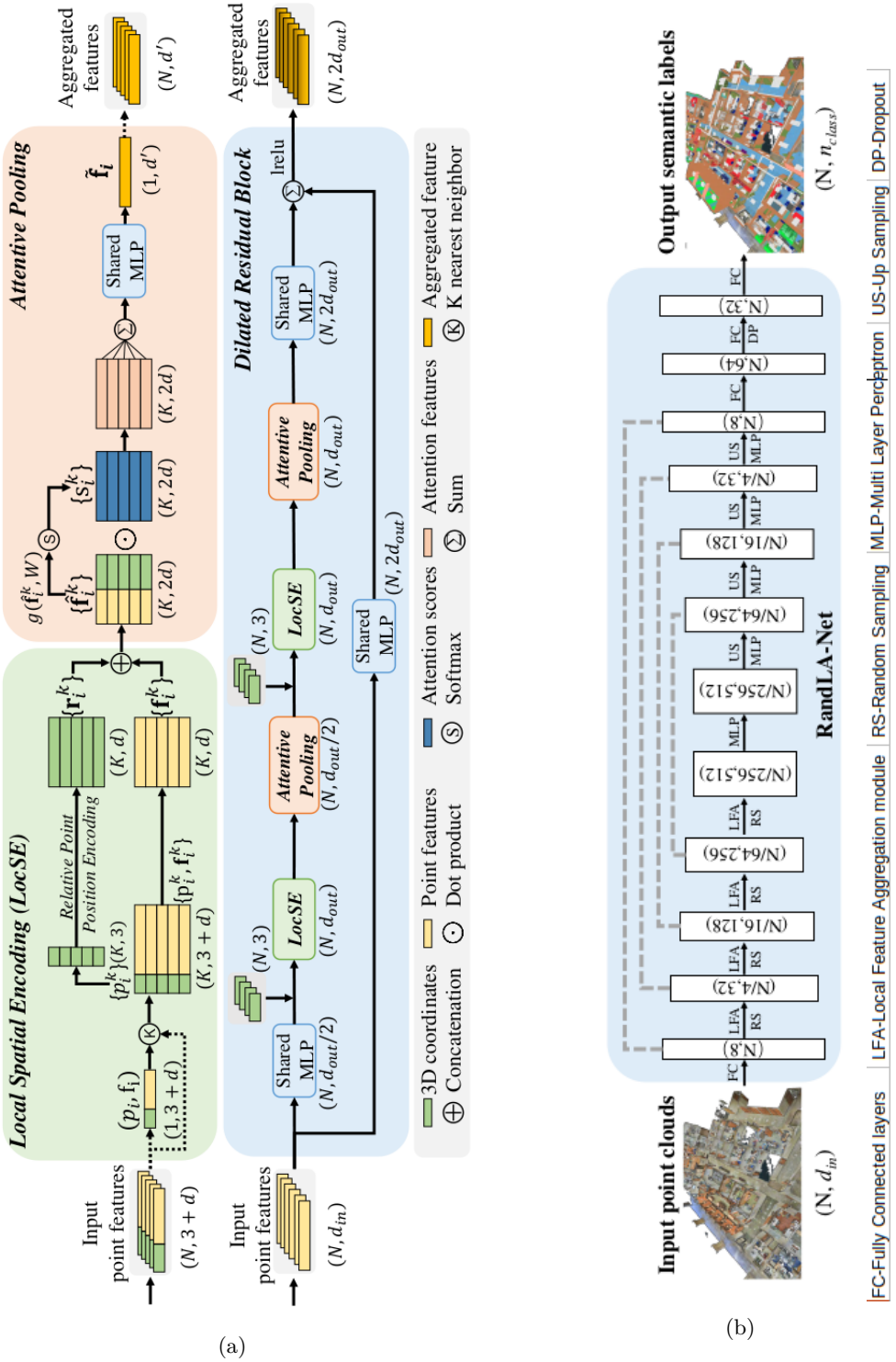
In this chapter, we will discuss about RandLA-Net used for 3D semantic segmentation, especially about how the RandLA-Net architecture helps in efficient segmentation. How random point sampling along with local feature aggregation module in RandLA-Net is better than other sampling methods. We also discuss about the deep ensembles for uncertinty quantification and, we conclude this chapter with the environment and training details for the RandLA-Net with deep ensembles.

3.1 RandLA-Net

As stated in [22], it is a light weight, and efficient neural network architecture for sematic segmentation of 3D point clouds. From related work section cite here, we can observe that the RandLA-Net architecture is best performing among the point models. Efficient computation, memory usage and a model with direct application o 3D points are the main motivation when developing the RandLA-Net. To acheive these goals, RandLA-Net employs random point sampling along with the local feature aggregation module. Authors in [22] proved that by a successive application of random point sampling along with lcoal feature aggregation module effective reduce and extract the features of the large scale point clouds from a scale of 10^5 to 10^2.

RandLA-Net utilizes random point sampling among the other sampling methods such as Farthest Point Sampling, Inverse Density Point Sampling. In random point sampling, we select K points uniformly from original point cloud and has a computational complexity time of O(1). When compared among other point sampling methods, random point sampling has the lowest computational complexity and computation time is completely independent on number of points. Despite of these advantages, random point sampling comes with a major disadvantgae of important points being dropped. To overcome this, authors of RandLA-Net proposed local feature aggragation module for progressive capture of complex features on these selected points.

Figure 3.1a represents the local features aggregation module for the RandLA-Net. This module is applied paralelly on the 3D points and architecture of local feature aggregation module is further divided into three sub modules. They are local spatial encoding (LocSE), attentive pooling and dilated residual block represented as green, pink and blue blocks respectively in Figure 3.1a. Let us discuss further each of these submodules in detail.



(a) (b)

Figure 3.1: Illustration of (a) local feature aggregation module in RandLa-Net and (b) architecture of RandLA-Net. Both the images are taken from [22]

3.1.1 Local Spatial Encoding (LocSE)

Local spatial enconding module takes each point (p_i) in point cloud (P) and encodes its neighbouring points position(x, y and z). This encoding makes sure that point p always have information of its neighbours. Also this encoding helps in learning geometric patterns and learn complex structures progressively. This module works in three steps:

1. Finding nearest neighbours

2. Relative position encoding

3. Feature augmentation

In step 1, neighbouring points for point (p_i) are collected using euclidean distance based K-nearest neighbour (KNN) algorithm. Step 2 encodes these collected K-points for point (p_i) using a Multi Layer Perceptron (MLP) into realtive point position. The encoding formula is given by

$$r_i^k = MLP(p_i \oplus p_i^k \oplus (p_i - p_i^k) \oplus ||p_i - p_i^k||)$$

where r_i^k is the relative position of point p_i with respect to p_i^k, here in p_i and p_i^k only the x,y and z positions are used. $\oplus$, and $||p_i - p_i^k||$ represents the concatenation operation and euclidean distance calculation between p_i and p_i^k respectively. This step 2 of relative position encoding is represented by above part in LocSE module in green track in Figure 3.1a. Step 3 creates a augmented feature vector $\hat{f_i^k}$ by concatenation of relative point position (r_i^k) and its point features (f_i^k) of point p_i^k. Point features (f_i^k) include the R,G and B values and other features such as intensity values. This step 3 is represented in lower part of the LocSE module in yellow track in Figure 3.1a.

3.1.2 Attentive Pooling

This augmented feature vector $\hat{f_i^k}$ from LocSE module is passed through a pooling layer to extract important features. Authors state that use of max and mean pooling layer leads in loss of information, because of this authors made use of attention mechanism which helps in learning important features automatically. Given the feature vector $\hat{f_i^k}$ a function g is learned by help of MLP and softmax and the resultant vector is denoted as s_i^k in the pink block in Figure 3.1a. These each feature score s_i^k from function g is multiplied with feature vector f_i^k called informative feature vector and summed up to form a unique feature vector $\tilde{f}_i$ for point p_i and this operation is mathematically denoted as

$$\tilde{f}_i = \sum_{k=1}^{K} (\hat{f_i^k} . s_i^k)$$

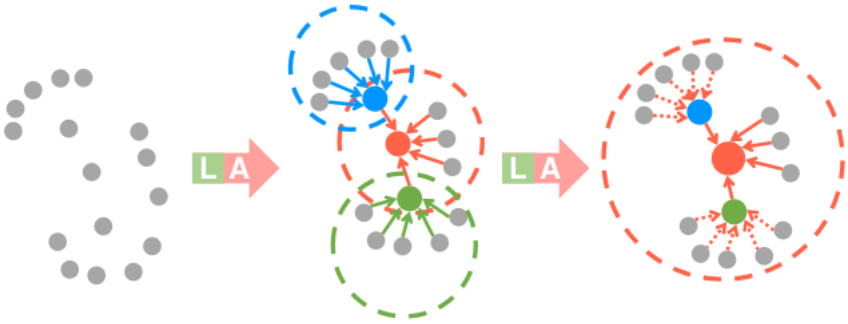


Figure 3.2: Dilated residual block. Image taken from [22].

3.1.3 Dilated Residual Block

Dilated Resudial Block is a ResNet inspired module as claimed by authors and represented as blue color module in Figure 3.1a. This module is a combination of multiple LocSE, Attentive Polling, and a skip connection which feeds informative feature vector to output. Let us consider a red point in Figure 3.2 and after application of first LocSE and Attentive Pooling module it observes K neighbours represented in red circle. Secondary application of LocSE and Attentive Polling allows the red point to observe K^2 neighbours represented as large red circle in right subimage in Figure 3.2. This progressive dilation of receptive fields allows to observe local features in first application of LocSe and Attentive Pooling and then observe global features on further application of LocSE and Attentive Polling modules. Authors claim that more LocSE and Attentive Pooling stacked in Dilated Residual Block powerful the Dilated Residual Block becomes and greater the receptive field at an expense of computational time. Authors also claim that only by stacked application of two LocSE and Attentive Pooling modules is powerful enough and it is effective and efficient in computational time.

To summarize upto this point, we have studied the special feature of RandLA-Net. That is how random point sampling in conjecture with local features aggregation module in Figure 3.1a helps in extraction of features progressively. We also studied how local feature aggragation module is divided into three sub modules namely Local Spatial Encoding (LocSE), Attentive Pooling and Dilated Residual Block and each of this submodules working procedure. In the next section we study the architecture of RandLA-Net.

3.1.4 RandLA-Net architecture

RandLA-Net is an encoder-decoder architecture with skip connections as used in various segmentation networks such as 3D U-Net[55]. The input point clouds are directly applied to encoder consisting of Fully Connected (FC) and four Local Feature Aggragation (LFA) modules connected sequentially. The size of point cloud reduces by a factor of 4 for every encoder layer. Similarly four decoder layers are used and the input features maps to each decoder layer is upsampled and concatenated to respective encoder feature maps via skip connections. The MLP is applied and fed into next decoder layer. Output of final decoder

layer is fed in to 3 FC layers for point classification and a dropout layer is added before last layer with a dropout rate of 0.5. The detailed network architecture is illustrated in Figure 3.1b.

We chose RandLA-Net because of the following reasons:

1. Efficient extraction of complex structures progressively using Local Feature Aggregation (LFA) module.
2. Has lower number of parameters (1.24M) making training efficient, as 3D semantic segmentation models are computationally expensive.
3. Proven performance over variety of datasets such as Semantic3D and SemanticKITTI, along with ablation study of each submodule in LFA proposed in [22].
4. No preprocessing such as range image representation as in [30] or farthest point sampling with a computaitonal complexity of $O(N^2)$ as in [36]. Whereas RandLA-Net employs random point sampling with computational time of $O(1)$.
5. State of the art performance in point based methods, consisting of only Multi Layer Perceptrons (MLP) and without expensive operations such as kernalization or graph construction.

Here, we conclude the study of RandLA-Net, reason for its effective performance and argued the reasons to chose RandLA-Net. In following sections we will discuss about the utilized uncertainty estimation methods such as deep ensembles,.....

3.2 Deep ensembles

4

Solution

Your main contributions go here

4.1 Proposed algorithm

4.2 Implementation details

5

Evaluation

Implementation and measurements.

6

Results

6.1 Use case 1

Describe results and analyse them

6.2 Use case 2

6.3 Use case 3

7

Conclusions

7.1 Contributions

7.2 Lessons learned

7.3 Future work

8

Notes/Remarks

8.1 Related work - Models

In this section, we will discuss about the methods available for 3D semantic segmentation. The discussion include a breif peek into traditional 3D semantic segmentation methods and study of deep learning based 3D point cloud segmentation.

Traditional methods involve a complex features extraction and pass these features to a classficiation algorithm such as Support Vector Machines or Random Forests to classify each point the point cloud. Various authors developed variety of methods to extract the features from the input point cloud. Some of these methods include segmentation from edge information [7], construction of complex graph pyramids [24]. 3D Hough transforms as in [54] and application of RANSAC [41] and [48]. These traditional methods are now outdated as DNNs proved to better at feature extraction.

8.1.1 Deep learning based 3D semantic segmentation

Method	Summary	Type	#Params
PointNet[36]		Point	3M
PointNet++[37]		Point	6M
TangentConv[49]		Point	0.4M
SPLATNet[45]		Point	0.8M
Squeezeseg[57]		Project	1M
SPGraph[28]		Point	0.25M
LatticeNet[39]		Point	-
SqueezesegV2[58]		Project	1M
RangeNet-21[30]		Project	25M
RangeNet-53[30]		Project	50M
RangeNet-53++[30]		Project	50M
SqueezesegV3[61]		Project	0.92M
RandLA-Net[22]		Point	0.95M
3DMiniNet[2]		Project	4M
SalsaNet[1]		Project	6.6M
SalsaNext[10]		Project	6.7M
PolarNet[63]		Project	14M
KPRNet[23]		Project	243M
SPVNAS[47]		Point	2.6M
Cylinder3D[65]		Project	-
(AF)2-S3Net[9]		Point	-

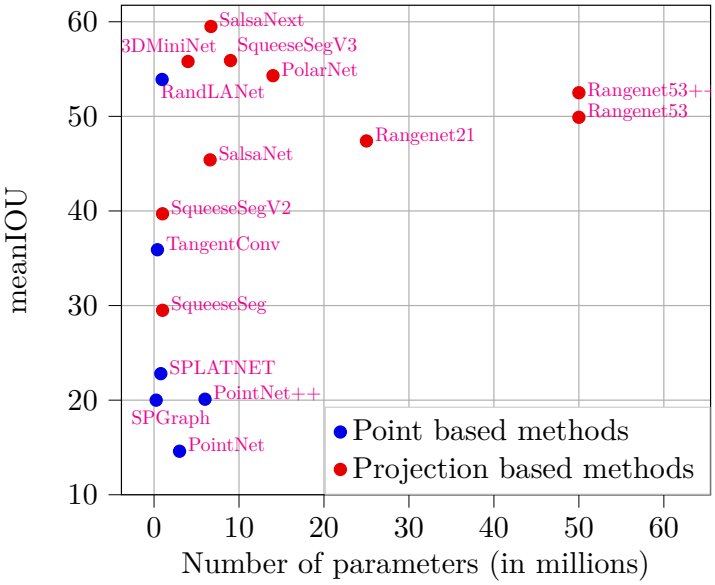


Figure 8.1: Comparison of 3D semantic segmentation methods performance on SemanticKITTI dataset against the number of parameters. Blue points represent point based methods and red represented projection based methods.

8.2 Semantic3D

Semantic3D is a huge 3D benchmark point cloud classification dataset and classified as static dataset. The dataset consists of nearly 4 billion points which contain variety of scenes in urban and rural setting. These scenes are taken in places such as markets, dom, stations and fields collected in European streets with terrestrial lasers. Each point in the point cloud consists of geometric positions (x, y, and z), color (R, G, and B) and intensity values as features. Example point cloud scenes are provided in cite figure.

The dataset consits of 8 classes and they include

1. man-made terrain - pavement
2. natural terrain - grass
3. high vegetation - large bushes and trees
4. low vegetation - flowers and bushes less than 2cm in height
5. buildings - stations, churches, cityhalls
6. hardscapes - garden walls, banks, fountains
7. scanning artificats - dynmically moving objects
8. cars

The distribution of these calsses are given in Figure 8.2. From this graph, we can observe that the manmade terrain made most of the dataset because the lidar is placed on street during collection. As they are near to lidar and it is common with outdoor lidar datasets. The classes low vegetation, hardscapes, scanning artificats and cars have less number of training points and lower performance from the model on these classes are to be expected. Also according to [18], scanning artifacts, cars and hardscapes are toughest classes becuase of variation in obejct shapes. [13] also proves that the Semantic3D is most diverse dataset in 3D LiDAR data compared to other datasets such as SemanticKITTI and SemanticPOSS. Becuase of these reasons, we considered using Semantic3D dataset as in distribution training data. The dataset is availabel to download on http://www.semantic3d.net/. As this is an ongoing benchmark challenge, the labels for the testing data is not available. We made use of validation set for evaluation purpose which is a subset of trianing set.

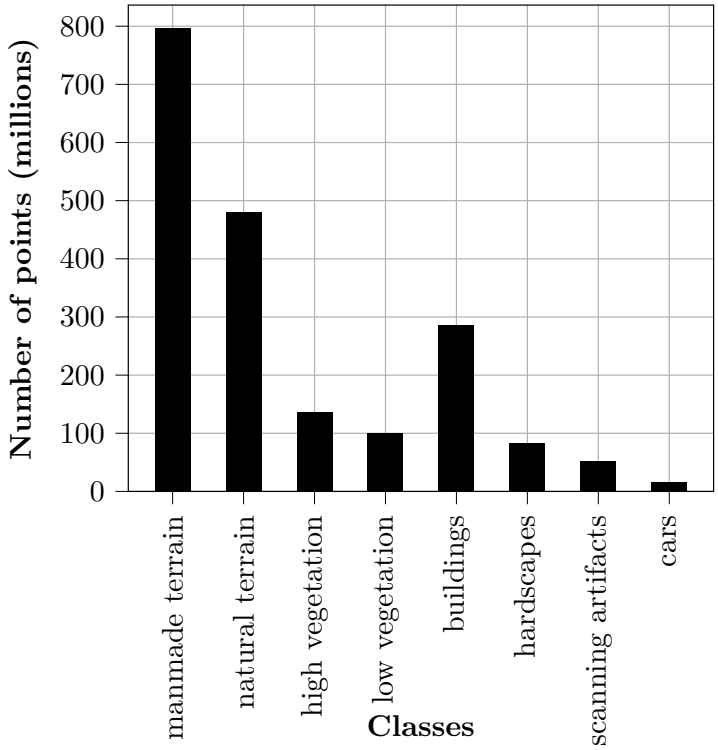


Figure 8.2: Distribution of training points in million per class in Semantic3D dataset.

8.3 S3DIS

S3DIS is an indoor dataset making it an ideal OOD dataset candidatae becuase of the no class overlap with the Semantic3D dataset. It is only one of two datasets available in indoor LiDAR dataset candidataes. The other is ScanObjectNN whose dataset is not available online. Dataset comprises of scans of three different buildings covering an 6020 square meters. These scans include areas such as personal offices, restrooms, open spaces, lobbies and hallways. The scans are generated using Matterport 3D scanner and can be seen in cite figure. S3DIS dataset is divided into 12 classes which are further divided into two subclasses. First subclass include structural elements which consist of *ceiling, floor, window, wall, beam, columns and door* and latter subclass has common items such as *table, sofa, chair, board and blackboard.*

A

DNN Safety

A.1 Safety of DNNs

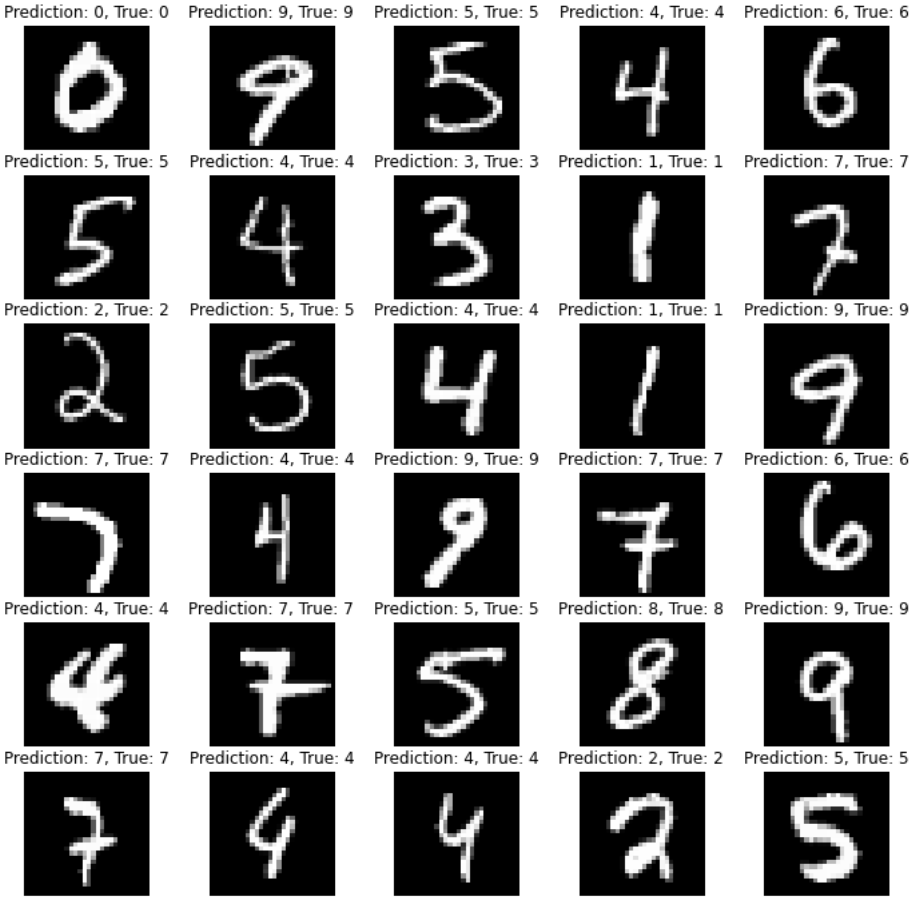

Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 9, True: 9
Prediction: 5, True: 5
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 6, True: 6
Prediction: 5, True: 5
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 3, True: 3
Prediction: 1, True: 1
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 2, True: 2
Prediction: 5, True: 5
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 1, True: 1
Prediction: 9, True: 9
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 9, True: 9
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 6, True: 6
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 5, True: 5
Prediction: 8, True: 8
Prediction: 9, True: 9
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 2, True: 2
Prediction: 5, True: 5

Figure A.1

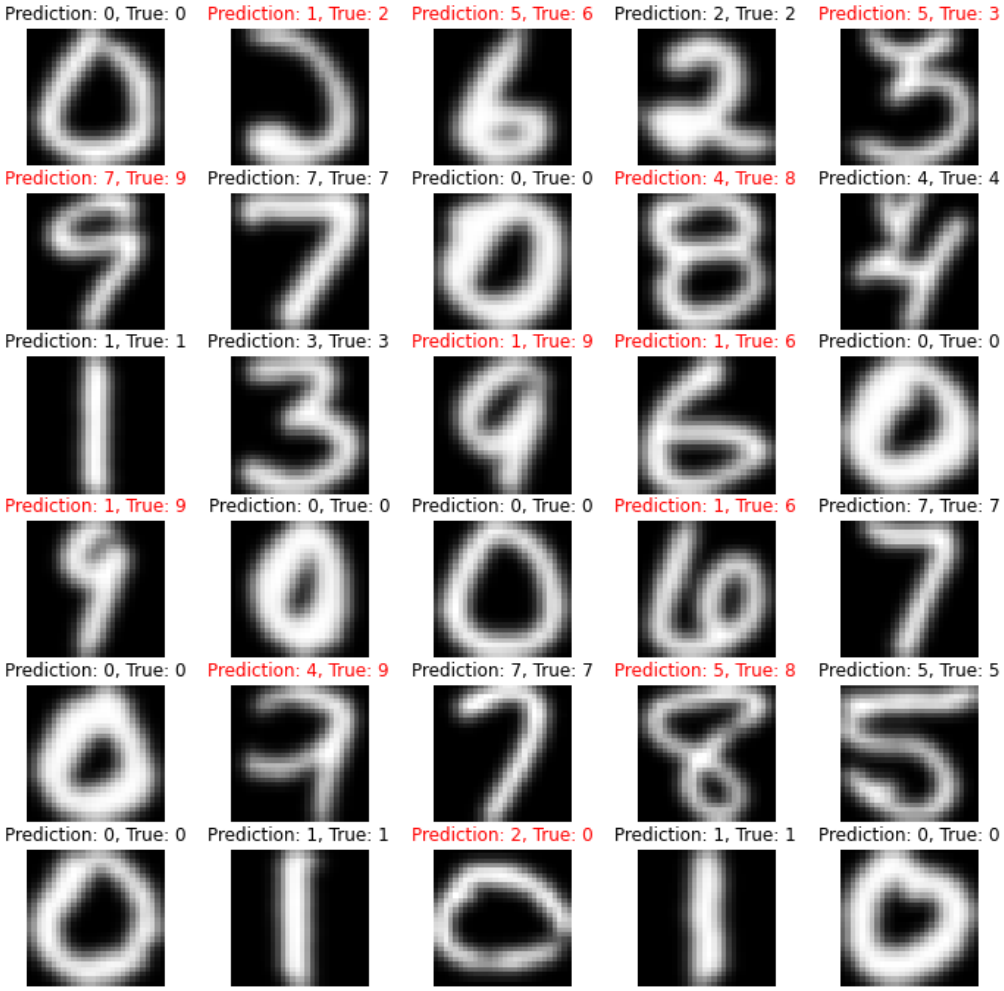

Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 1, True: 2
Prediction: 5, True: 6
Prediction: 2, True: 2
Prediction: 5, True: 3
Prediction: 7, True: 9
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 4, True: 8
Prediction: 4, True: 4
Prediction: 1, True: 1
Prediction: 3, True: 3
Prediction: 1, True: 9
Prediction: 1, True: 6
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 1, True: 9
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 1, True: 6
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 4, True: 9
Prediction: 7, True: 7
Prediction: 5, True: 8
Prediction: 5, True: 5
Prediction: 0, True: 0
Prediction: 1, True: 1
Prediction: 2, True: 0
Prediction: 1, True: 1
Prediction: 0, True: 0

Figure A.2

B

Parameters

Your second chapter appendix

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