

# Learning Interpretable Representations for Understanding and Generating 3D Environments

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Max Planck Institute  
for Intelligent Systems  
Autonomous Vision Group



**Slides are available at**



<https://paschalidoud.github.io/talks/learning-interpretable-representations.pdf>



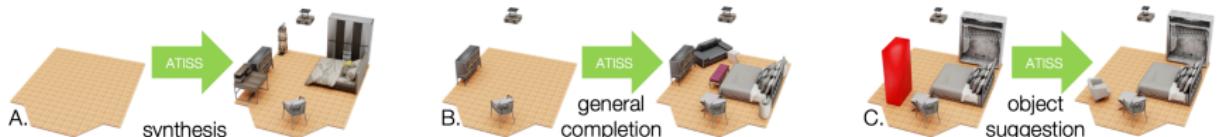
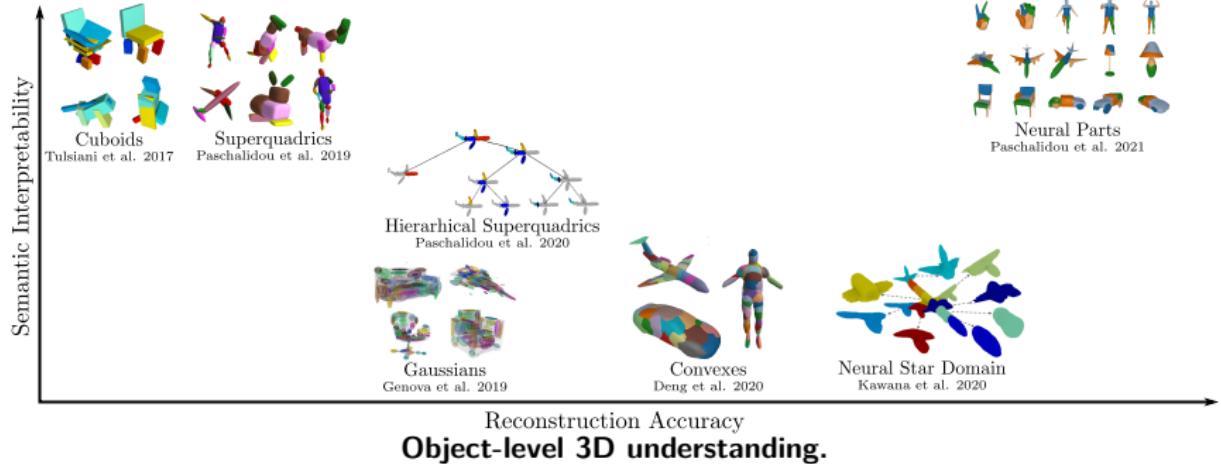








To achieve true AI we need to develop systems that can robustly  
**reason about the world both in object level and in scene**  
**level.**

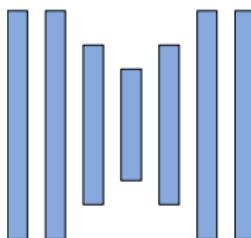


**Scene-level Understanding and Generation.**

Can we learn to recover 3D geometry from a 2D image?



Input Image

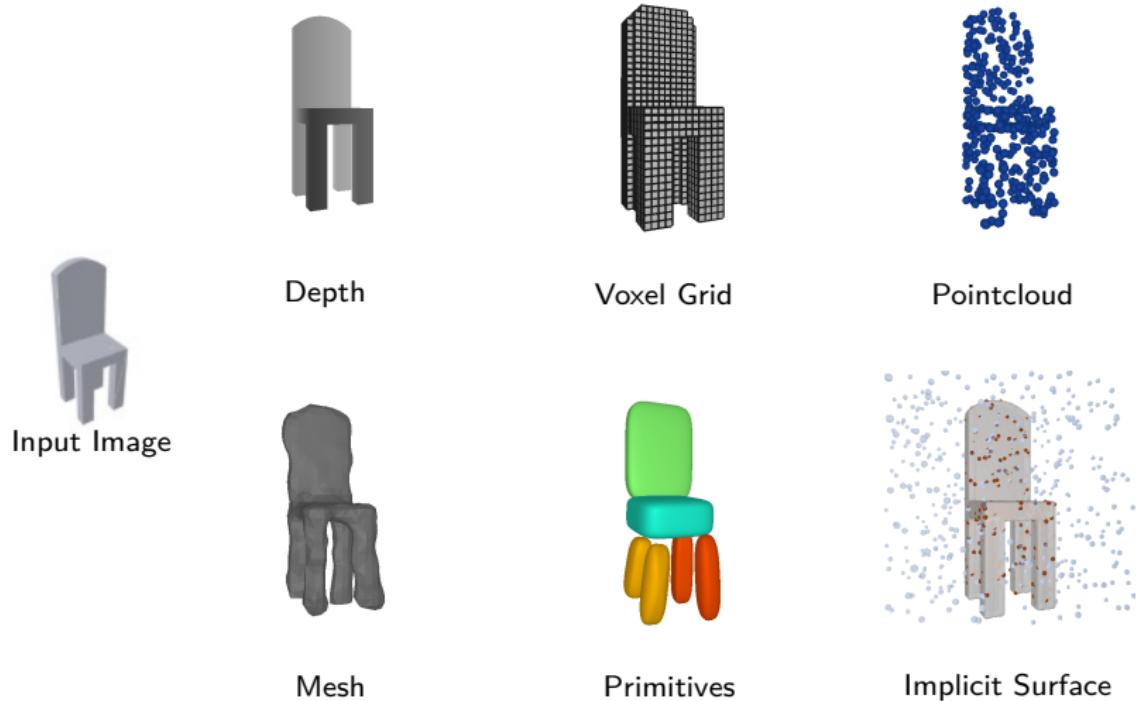


Neural Network

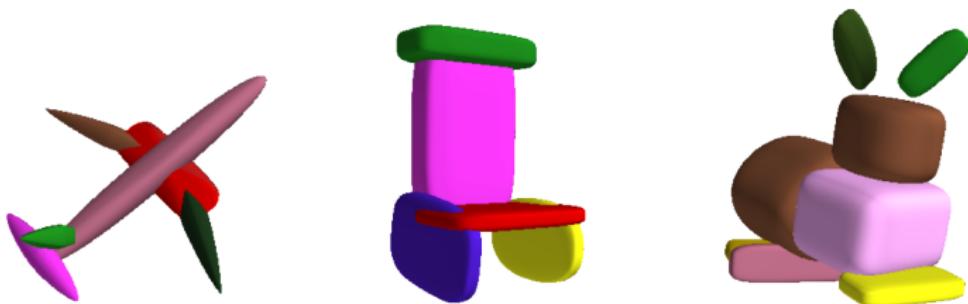


3D Reconstruction

# Taxonomy of 3D Representations

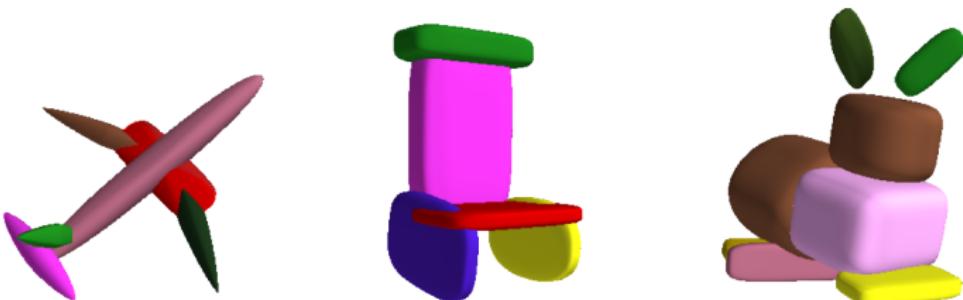


# 3D Geometric Primitives: Why do we care?



**Primitive-based Representations:**

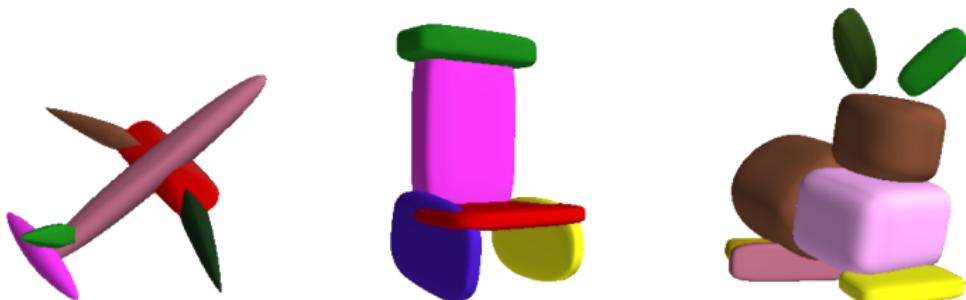
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- **Parsimonious Description:** Capture the 3D geometry using a small number of primitives.

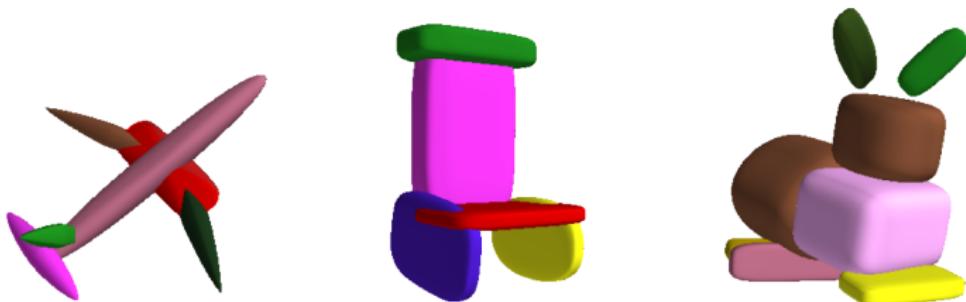
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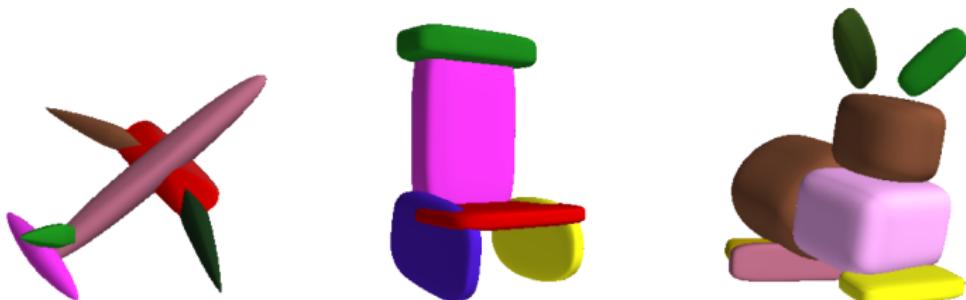
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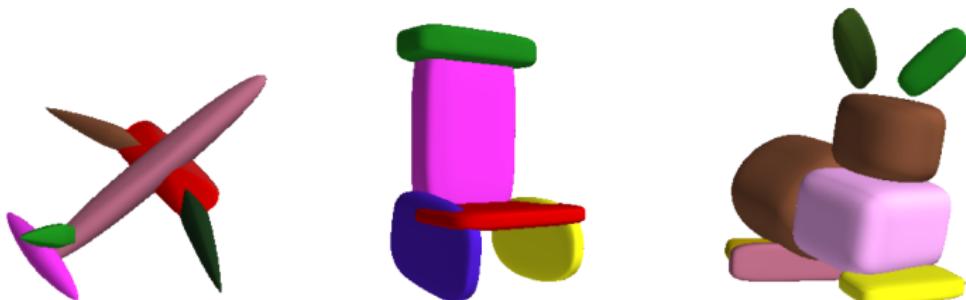
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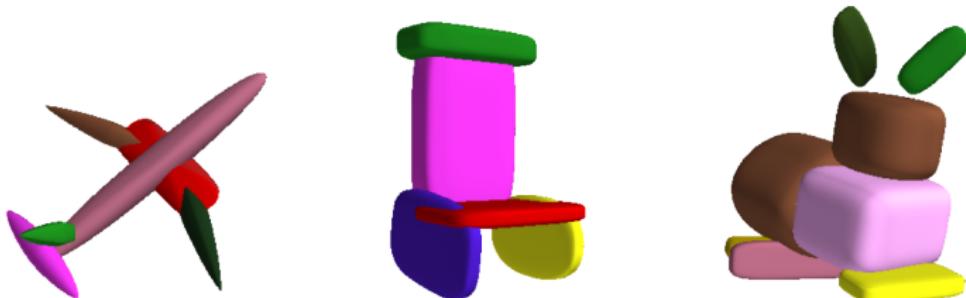
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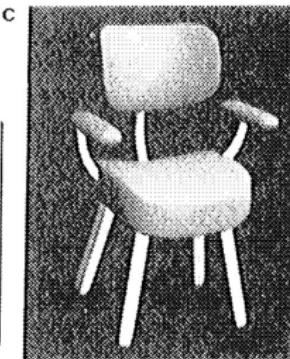
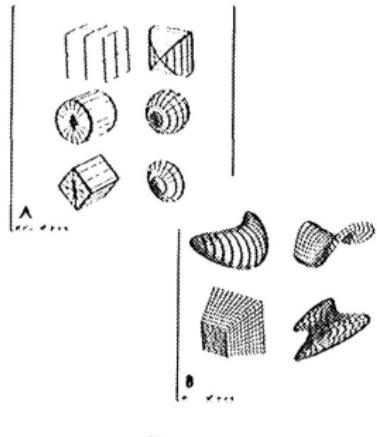
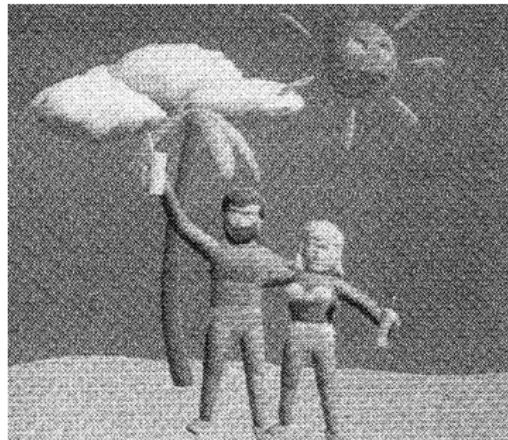
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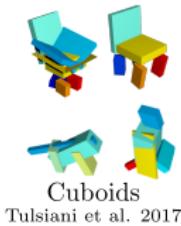
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  - ▶ Variable number of parts
  - ▶ What is really a semantic part?

## 1986: Pentland's Superquadrics



- 1 superquadric can be represented with 11 parameters
- Scene on the left **constructed with 100 primitives** required less than 1000 bytes!
- Early fitting-based approaches did not work robustly

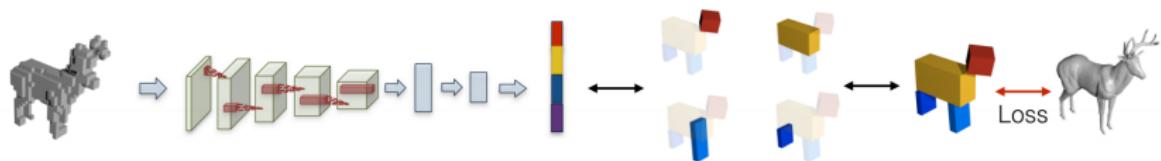
# Unsupervised Primitive-based Representations



Tulsiani et al. 2017

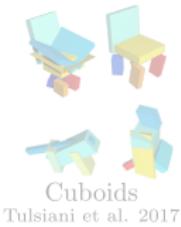


# 2017: 3D Reconstructions with Volumetric Primitives



- **Unsupervised** method for learning **cuboidal primitives**
- **Variable number of primitives**
- While **cuboids are sufficient for capturing the structure** of an object they **do not lead to expressive abstractions**.
- Computational expensive reinforcement learning for learning the existence probabilities

# Unsupervised Primitive-based Representations



Cuboids  
Tulsiani et al. 2017

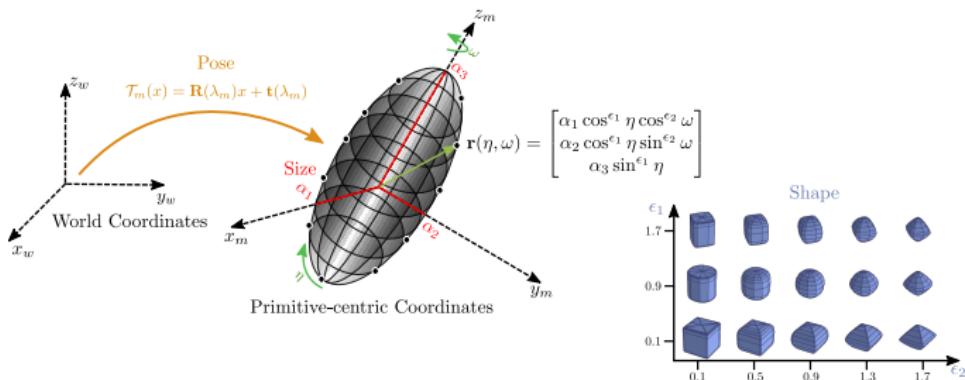


Superquadrics  
Paschalidou et al. 2019



# 2019: Superquadric Surfaces as Primitives

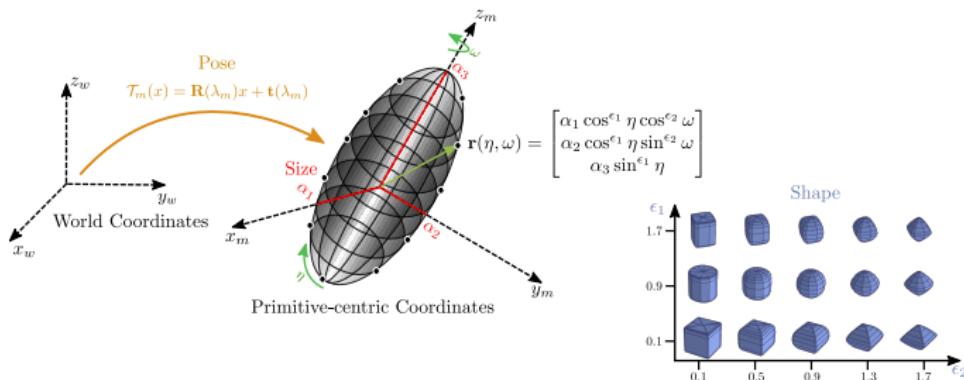
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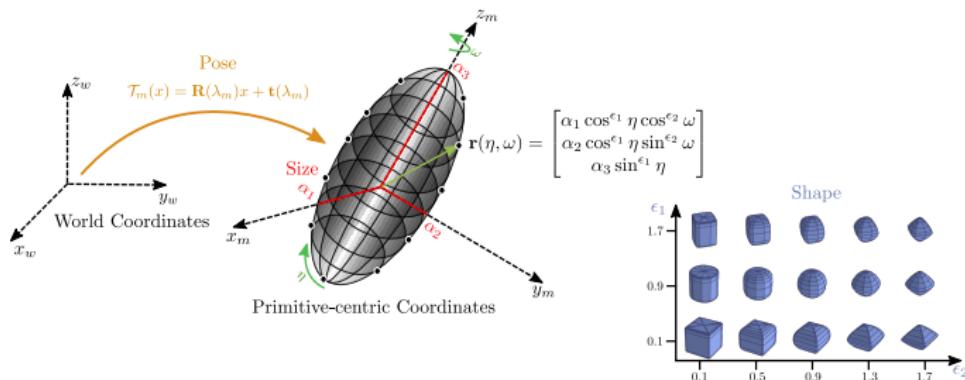


**Superquadrics allow complex solids and surfaces to be constructed and altered easily from a few interactive parameters.**

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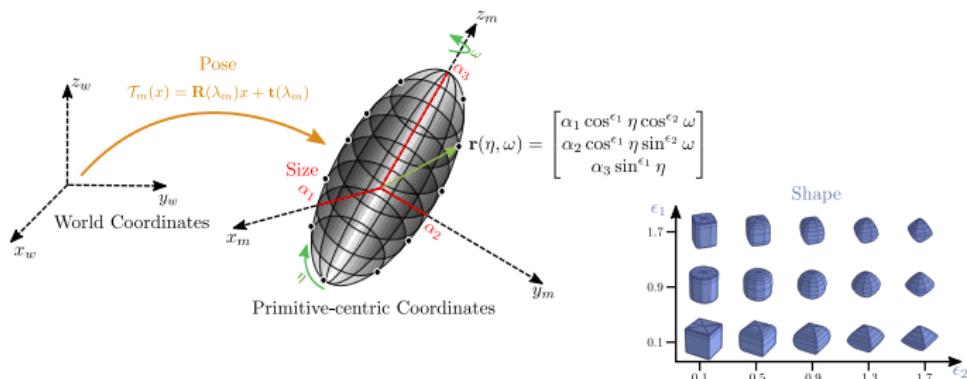


**Superquadrics allow complex solids and surfaces to be constructed and altered easily from a few interactive parameters.**

- Fully described with just 11 parameters
- Represent a diverse class of shapes such as cylinders, spheres, cuboids, ellipsoids in a **single continuous parameter space**

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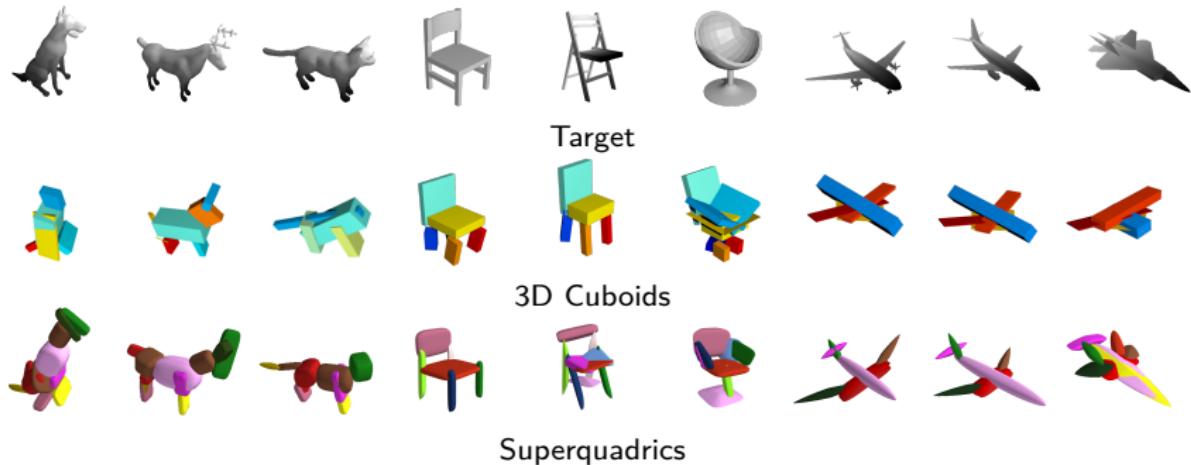
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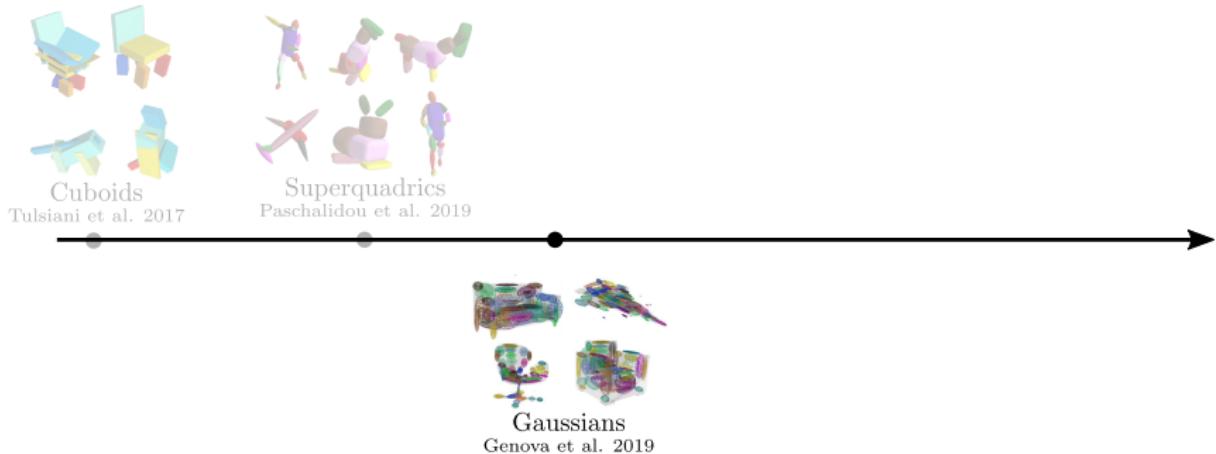
- Fully described with just 11 parameters
- Represent a diverse class of shapes such as cylinders, spheres, cuboids, ellipsoids in a **single continuous parameter space**
- Their large shape vocabulary allows for **faster** and **smoother fitting** than cuboids

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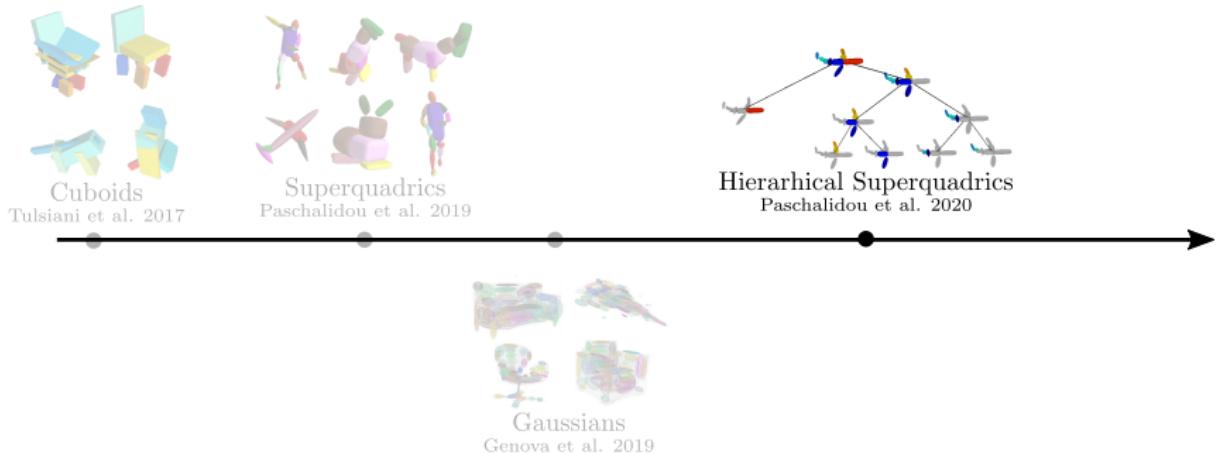


	Chamfer Distance			Volumetric IoU		
	Chairs	Aeroplanes	Animals	Chairs	Aeroplanes	Animals
3D Cuboids	0.0121	0.0153	0.0110	0.1288	0.0650	0.3339
Superquadrics	<b>0.0006</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>0.1408</b>	<b>0.1808</b>	<b>0.7506</b>

# Unsupervised Primitive-based Representations

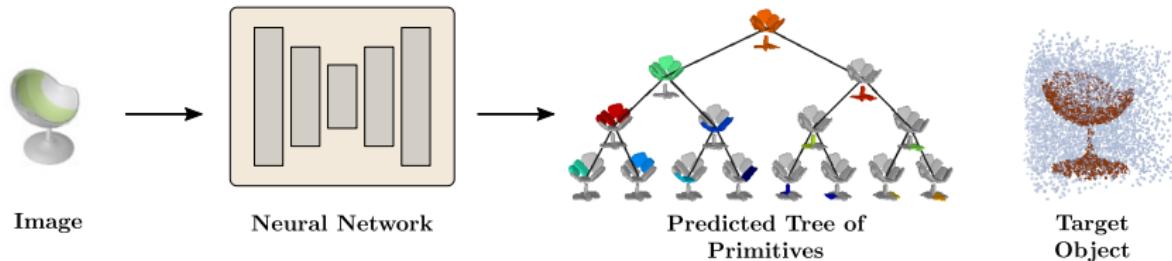


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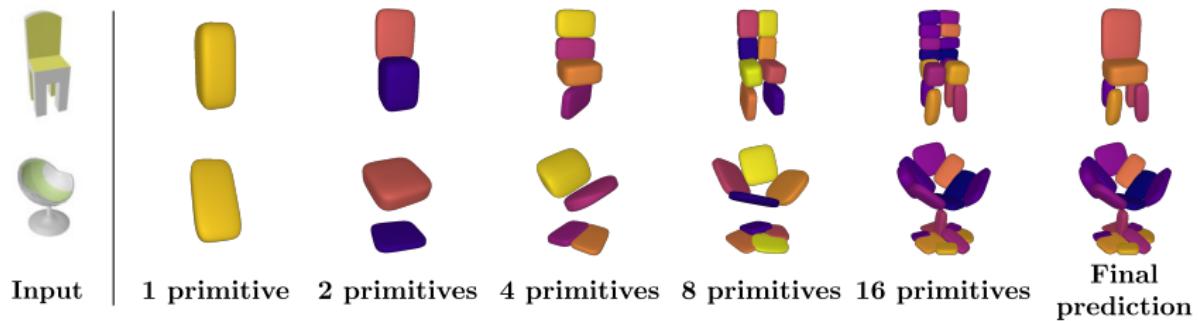


## 2020: Representing 3D Shapes with multiple levels of abstraction

Jointly recover the geometry and the latent hierarchical layout of an object.

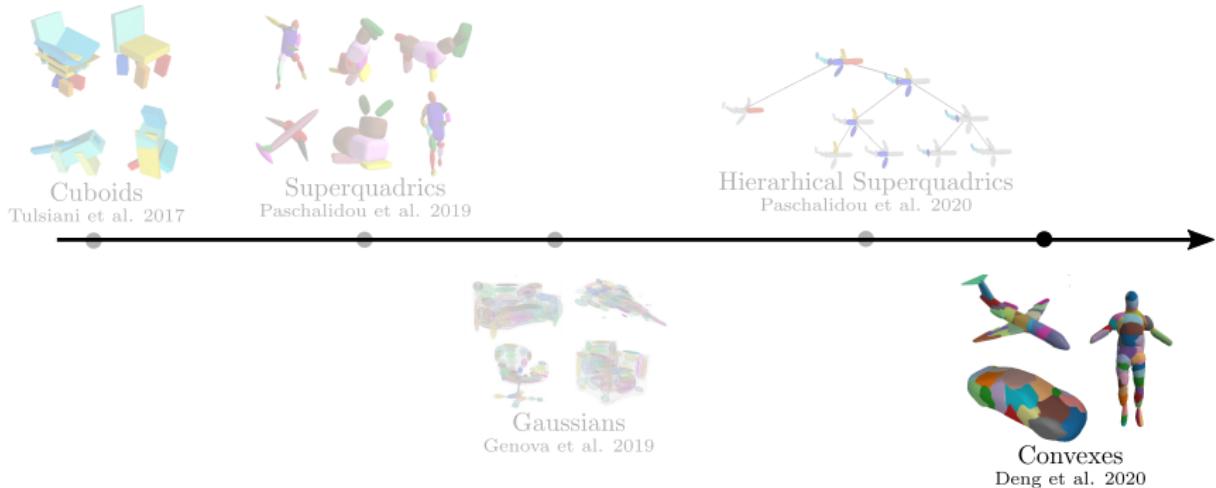


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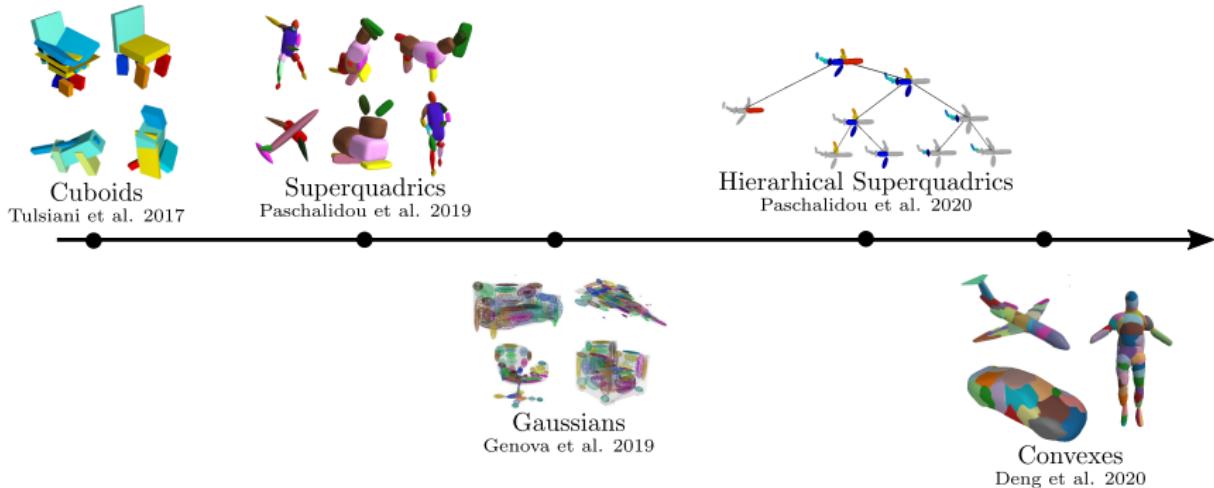


- Represent a 3D shape as a **binary tree of primitives**
- At each depth level, each node is **recursively** split into two until reaching the maximum depth
- Reconstructions from deeper depth levels are more detailed

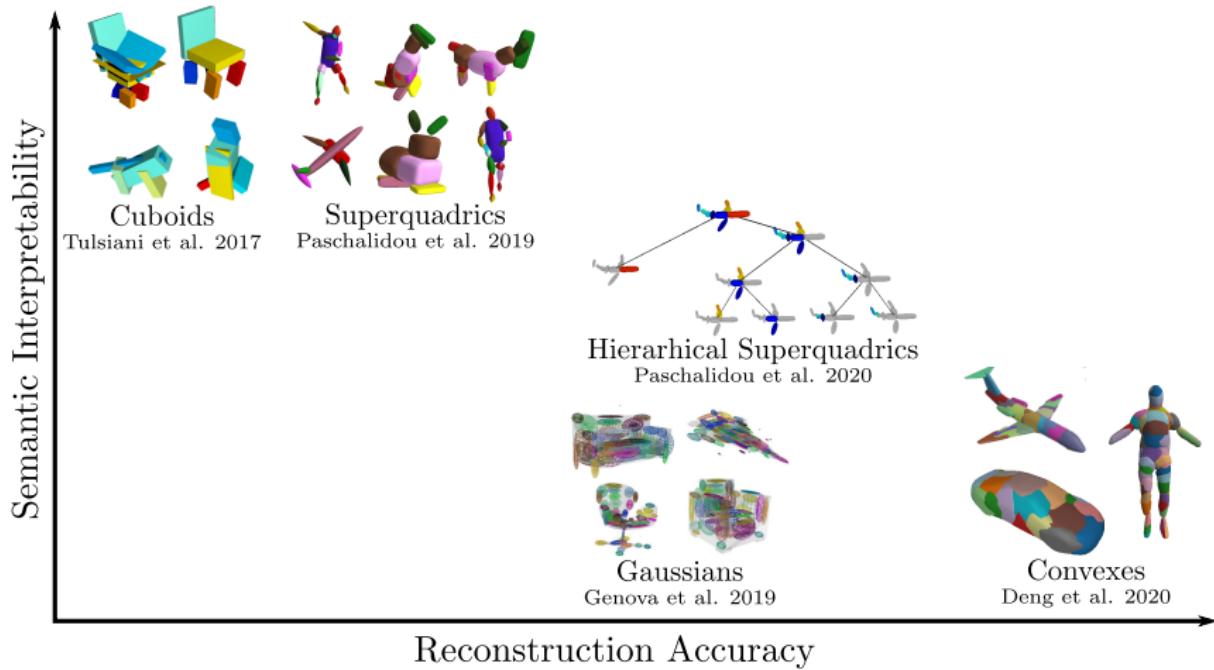
# Unsupervised Primitive-based Representations



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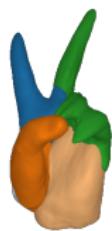
# Unsupervised Primitive-based Representations



# Neural Parts: Learning Expressive 3D Shape Abstractions with Invertible Neural Networks

Despoina Paschalidou, Angelos Katharopoulos, Andreas Geiger, Sanja Fidler

CVPR 2021



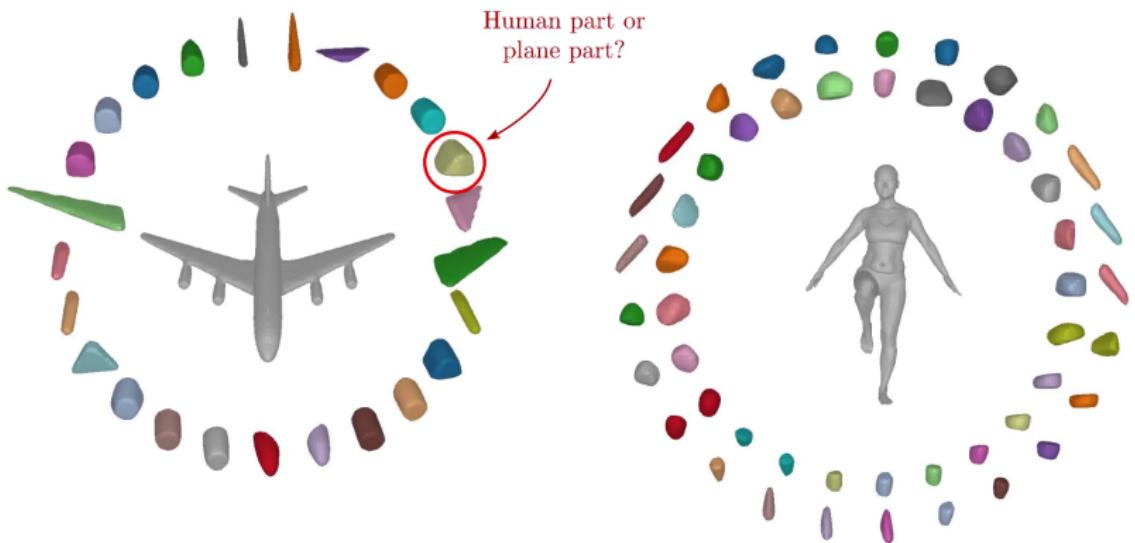
[https://paschalidoud.github.io/neural\\_parts](https://paschalidoud.github.io/neural_parts)

There exists a **trade-off** between the **number of primitives** and the **reconstruction quality** in primitive-based representations.

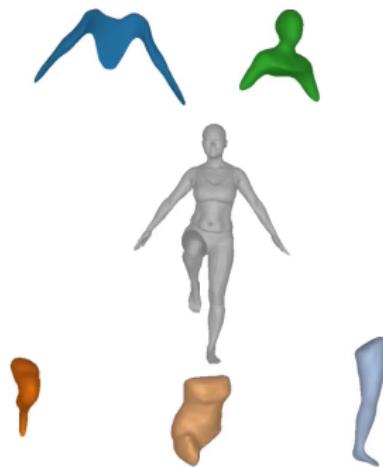
Simple parts require a large number of parts for accurate reconstructions.



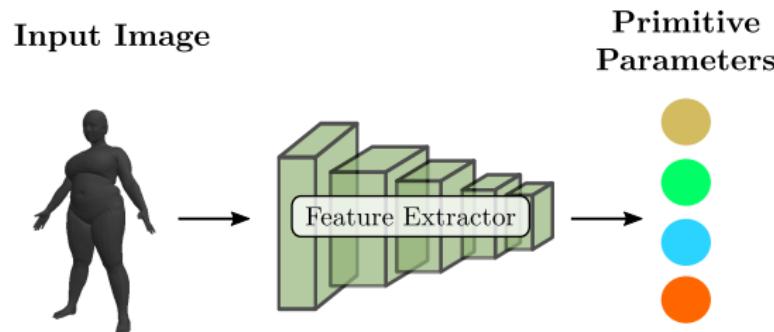
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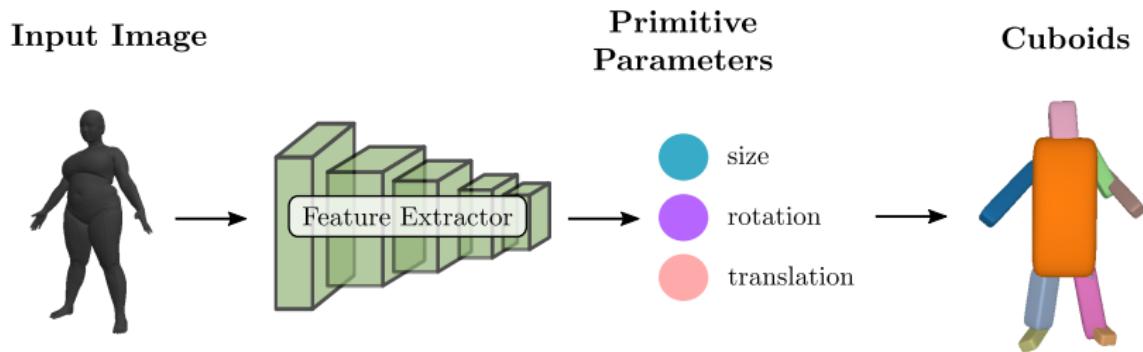
Neural Parts yield accurate and semantic reconstructions using an order of magnitude less parts.



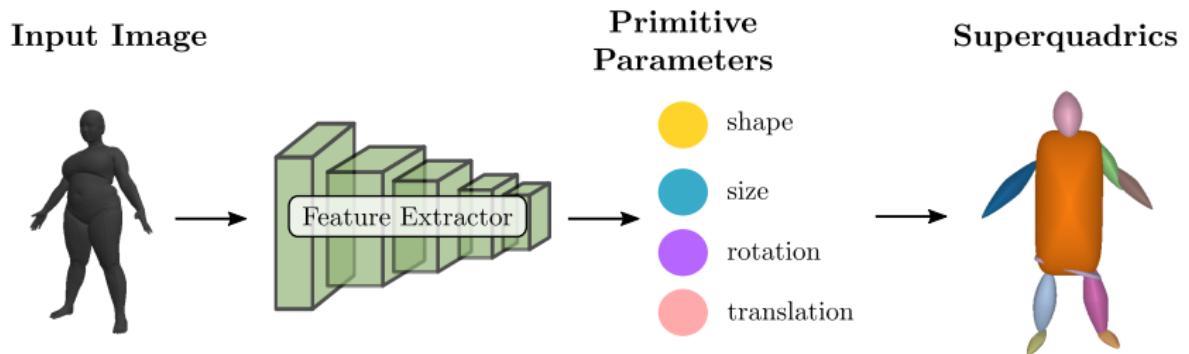
# Primitive-based Learning



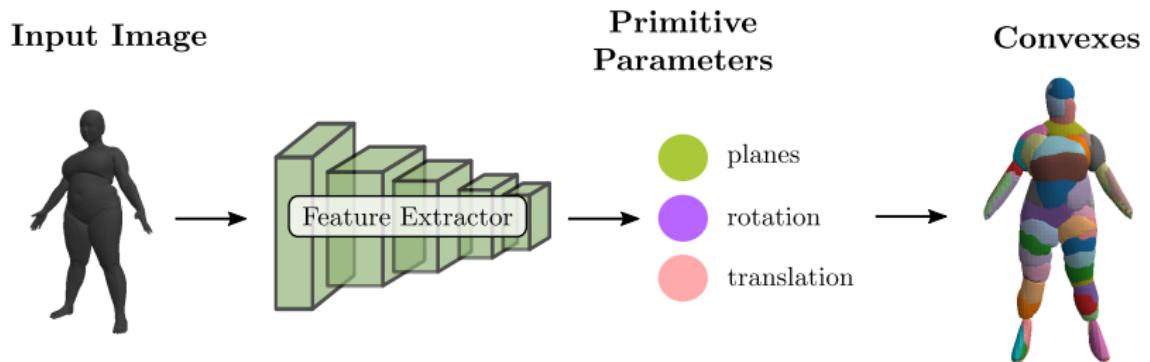
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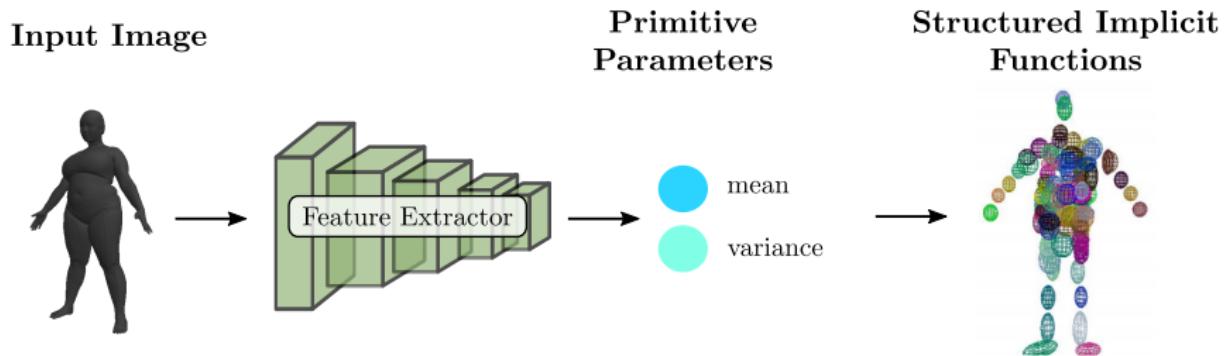
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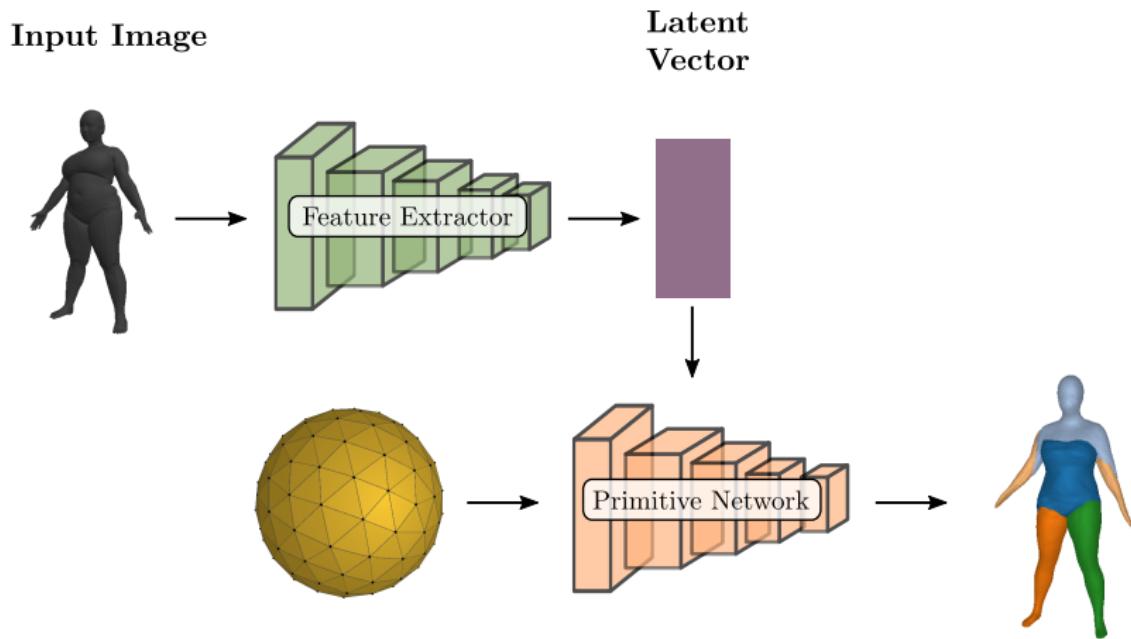
# Primitive-based Learning



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# Primitive-based Learning



# Homeomorphism

A **homeomorphism** is a **continuous map** between two topological spaces  $Y$  and  $X$  that preserves all topological properties. In our setup, a homeomorphism  $\phi_{\theta} : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is

$$\mathbf{x} = \phi_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}) \text{ and } \mathbf{y} = \phi_{\theta}^{-1}(\mathbf{x})$$

where  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are 3D points in  $X$  and  $Y$  and  $\phi_{\theta} : Y \rightarrow X$ ,  $\phi_{\theta}^{-1} : X \rightarrow Y$  are continuous bijections.



# System Overview

Input Image



# System Overview

Input Image



Target Object

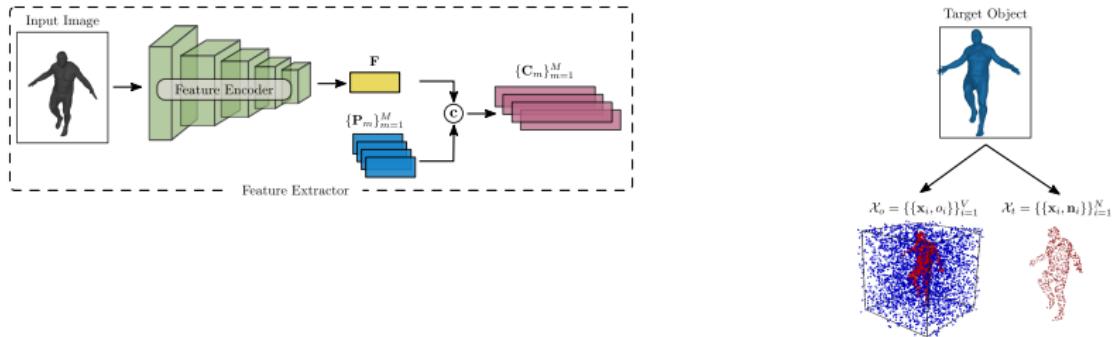


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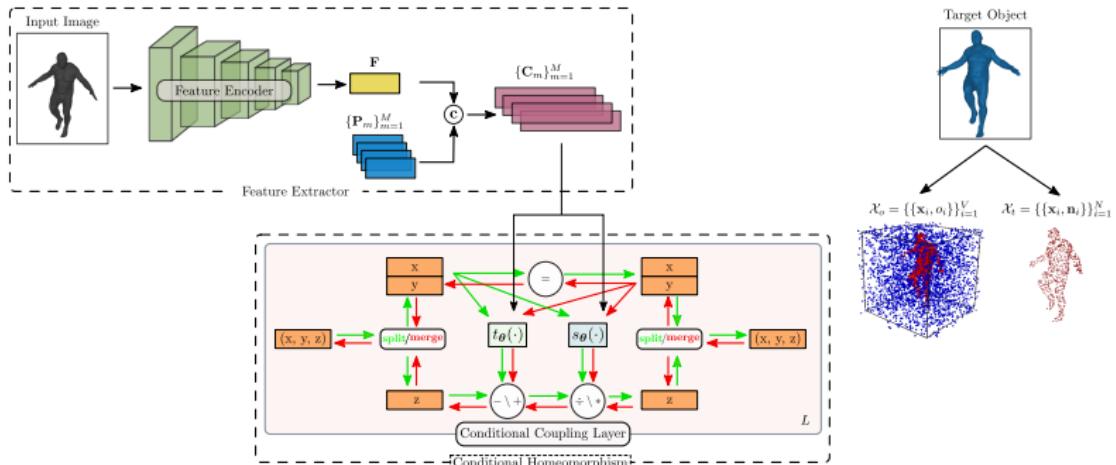
- Our **supervision** comes from a watertight mesh of the target object parametrized as **surface samples**  $\mathcal{X}_t$  and a set of **occupancy pairs**  $\mathcal{X}_o$ .

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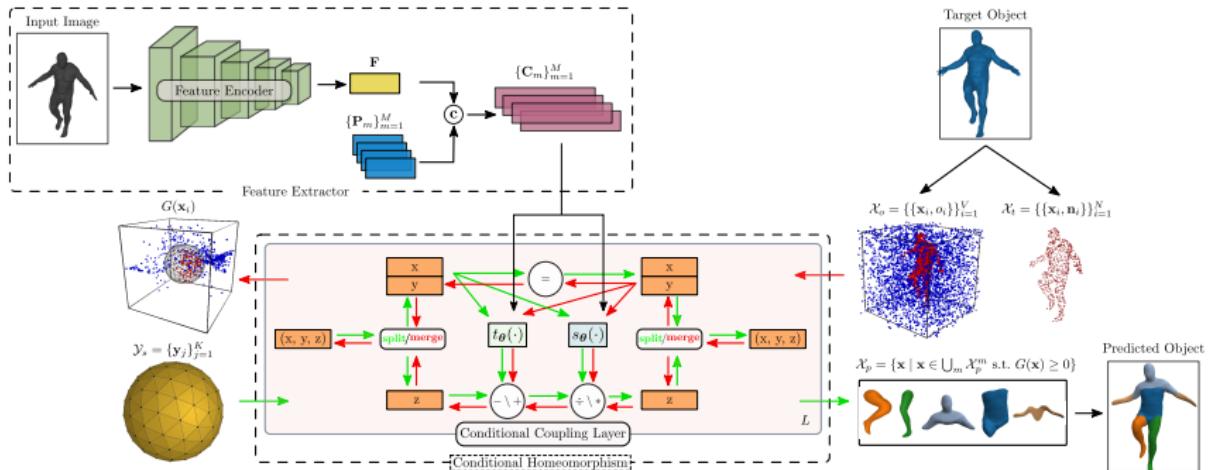
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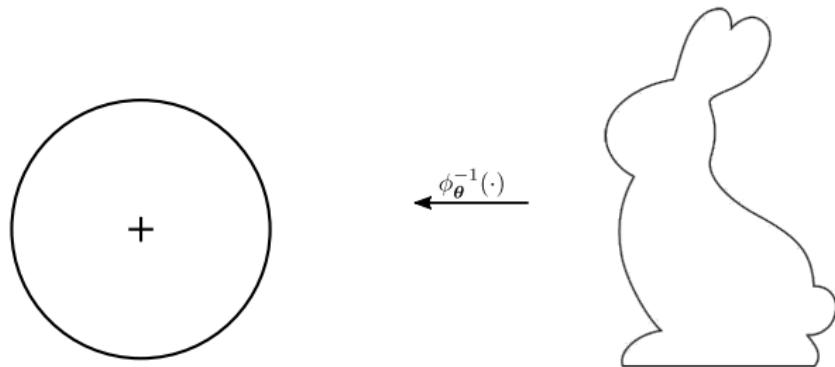
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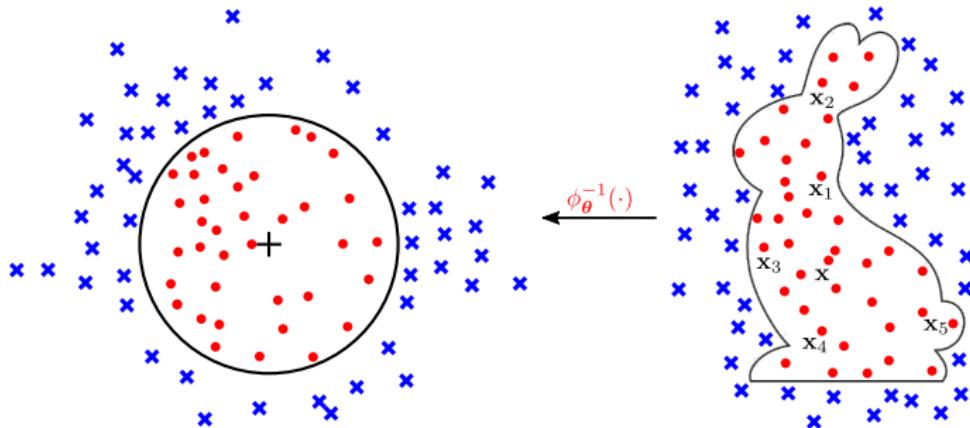
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# Implicit Primitive Representation



where  $\phi_{\theta}^{-1}$  is the **inverse homeomorphic mapping from the primitive space to the sphere space.**

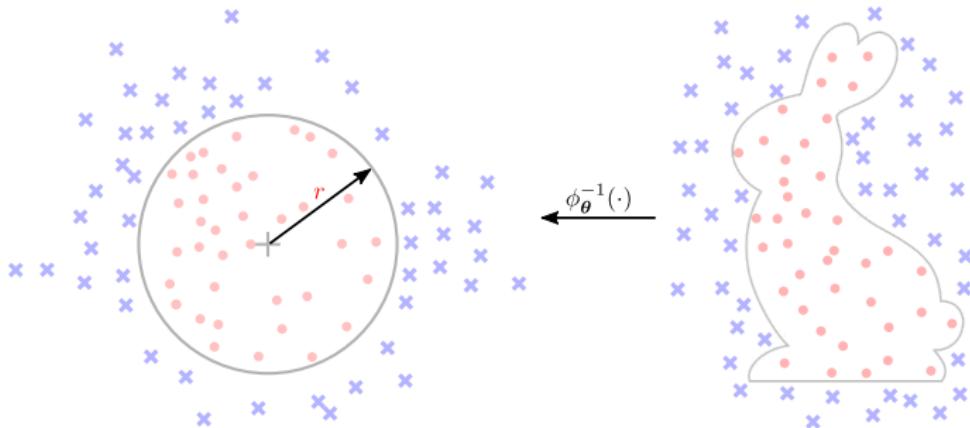
# Implicit Primitive Representation



$$g^m(x) = \|\phi_{\theta}^{-1}(x; C_m)\|_2 - r, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

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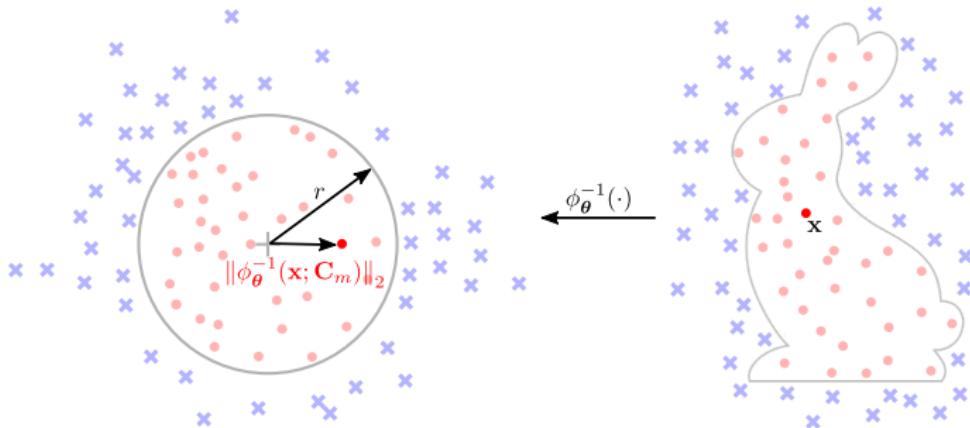
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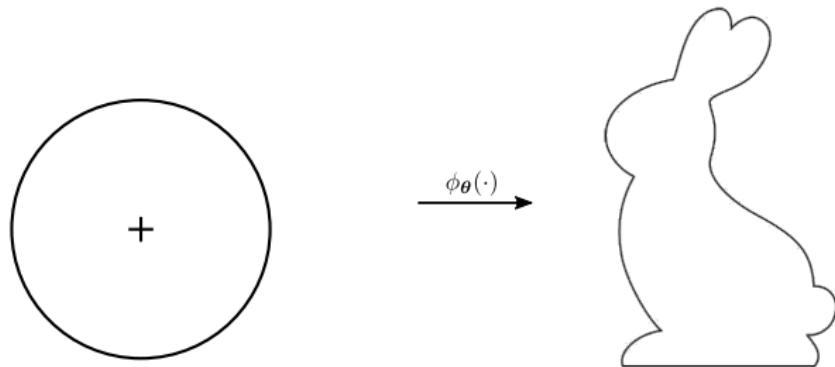
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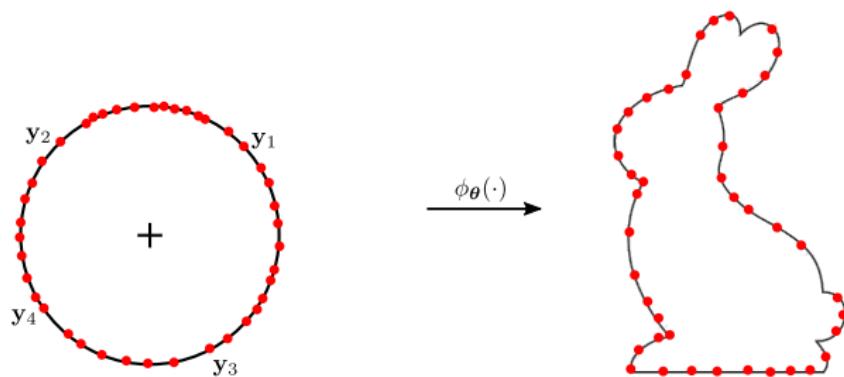
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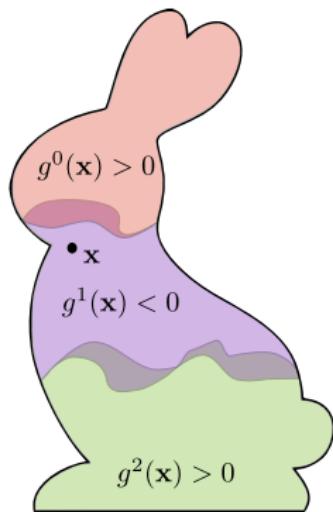
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$$\mathcal{X}_p^m = \{\phi_{\theta}(y_j; \mathbf{C}_m), \forall y_j \in \mathcal{Y}_s\}$$

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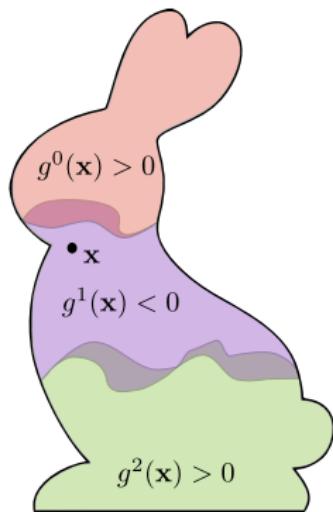
# Implicit and Explicit Representation of Predicted Shape



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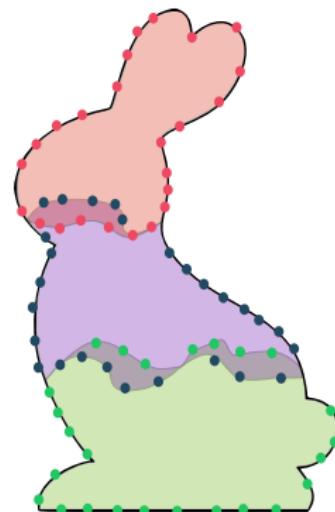
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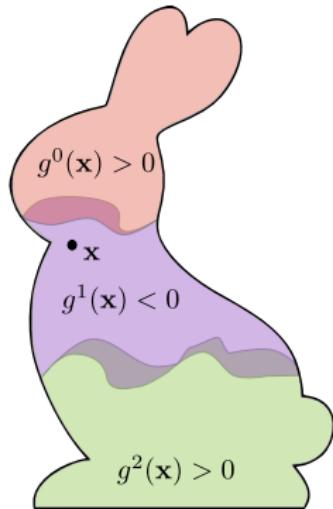
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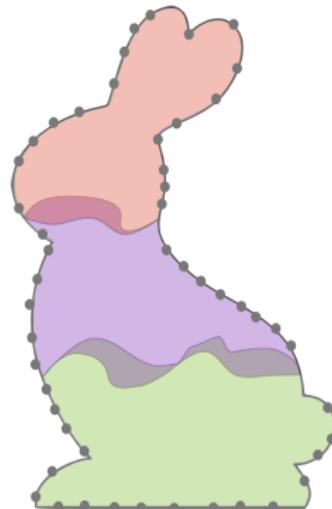
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# Loss Functions

## Overall Loss:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{rec}(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{X}_p) + \mathcal{L}_{occ}(\mathcal{X}_o) + \mathcal{L}_{norm}(\mathcal{X}_t) + \mathcal{L}_{overlap}(\mathcal{X}_o) + \mathcal{L}_{cover}(\mathcal{X}_o)$$

## Composed of:

- $\mathcal{L}_{rec}(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{X}_p)$  : Reconstruction Loss
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## Target and Predicted Shape:

- **Target:**
  - ▶ **Surface Samples:**  $\mathcal{X}_t = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{n}_i\}\}_{i=1}^N$

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  - ▶ Volumetric Samples:  $\mathcal{X}_o = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, o_i\}\}_{i=1}^V$

# Loss Functions

## Overall Loss:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{rec}(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{X}_p) + \mathcal{L}_{occ}(\mathcal{X}_o) + \mathcal{L}_{norm}(\mathcal{X}_t) + \mathcal{L}_{overlap}(\mathcal{X}_o) + \mathcal{L}_{cover}(\mathcal{X}_o)$$

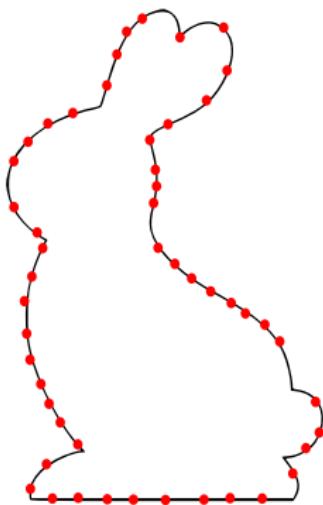
## Composed of:

- $\mathcal{L}_{rec}(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{X}_p)$  : Reconstruction Loss
- $\mathcal{L}_{occ}(\mathcal{X}_o)$ : Occupancy Loss
- $\mathcal{L}_{norm}(\mathcal{X}_t)$ : Normal Consistency Loss
- $\mathcal{L}_{overlap}(\mathcal{X}_o)$ : Overlapping Loss
- $\mathcal{L}_{cover}(\mathcal{X}_o)$ : Coverage Loss

## Target and Predicted Shape:

- **Target:**
  - ▶ **Surface Samples:**  $\mathcal{X}_t = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{n}_i\}\}_{i=1}^N$
  - ▶ **Volumetric Samples:**  $\mathcal{X}_o = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, o_i\}\}_{i=1}^V$
- **Predicted:**  $\mathcal{X}_p = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in \bigcup_m \mathcal{X}_p^m \text{ s.t. } G(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0\}$

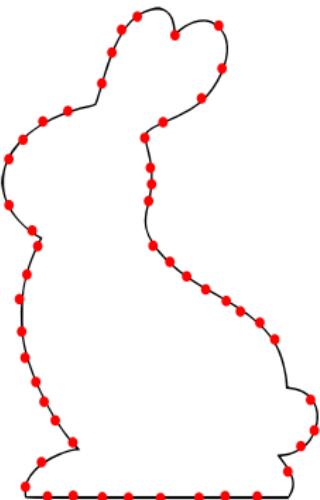
# Reconstruction Loss



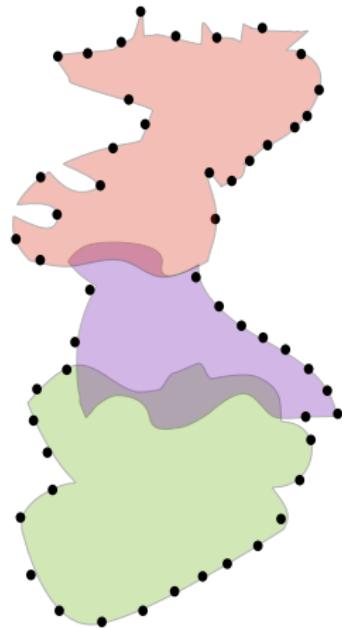
**Target Surface Samples:**

$$\mathcal{X}_t = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{n}_i\}\}_{i=1}^N$$

# Reconstruction Loss

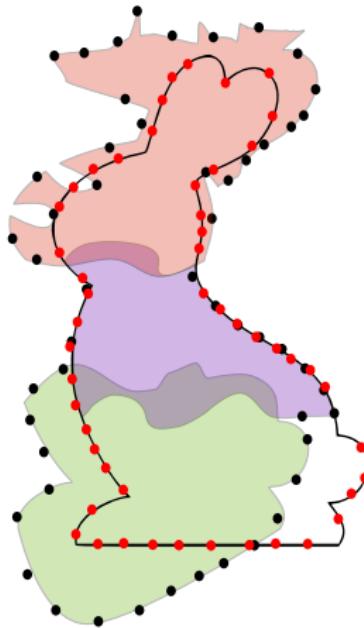


**Target Surface Samples:**  
 $\mathcal{X}_t = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{n}_i\}\}_{i=1}^N$



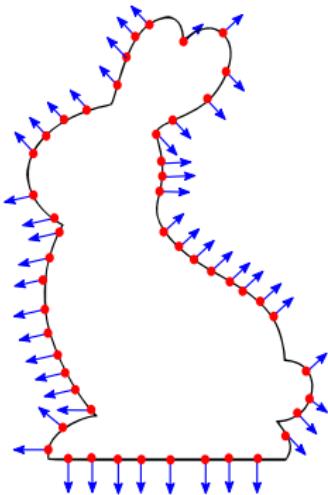
**Predicted Surface Samples:**  
 $\mathcal{X}_p = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in \bigcup_m \mathcal{X}_p^m \text{ s.t. } G(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0\}$

# Reconstruction Loss



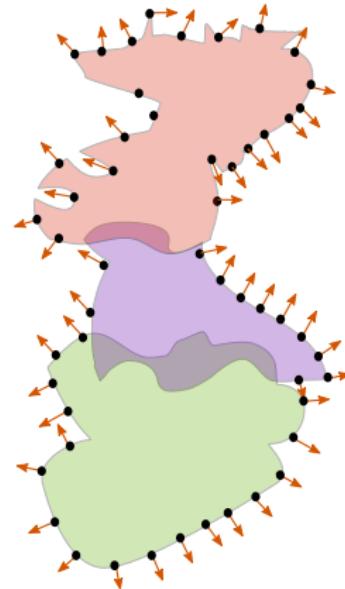
$$\mathcal{L}_{rec}(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{X}_p) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}_t|} \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{X}_t} \min_{x_j \in \mathcal{X}_p} \|x_i - x_j\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}_p|} \sum_{x_j \in \mathcal{X}_p} \min_{x_i \in \mathcal{X}_t} \|x_i - x_j\|_2^2$$

# Normal Consistency Loss



**Target Surface Samples:**

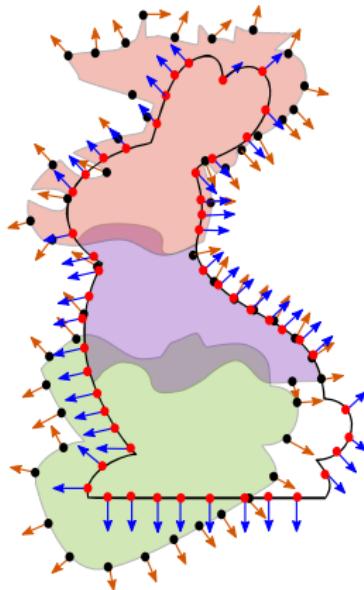
$$\mathcal{X}_t = \{\{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{n}_i\}\}_{i=1}^N$$



**Predicted Surface Normals:**

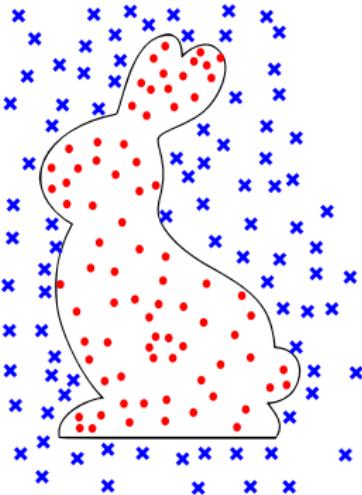
$$\frac{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} G(\mathbf{x})}{\|\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} G(\mathbf{x})\|_2}$$

# Normal Consistency Loss



$$\mathcal{L}_{norm}(\mathcal{X}_t) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}_t|} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{n}) \in \mathcal{X}_t} \left( 1 - \left\langle \frac{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} G(\mathbf{x})}{\|\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} G(\mathbf{x})\|_2}, \mathbf{n} \right\rangle \right)$$

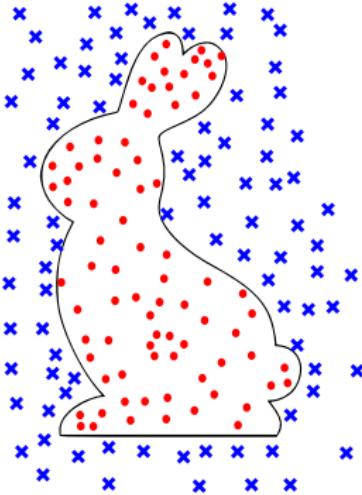
# Occupancy Loss



**Target Volumetric Samples:**

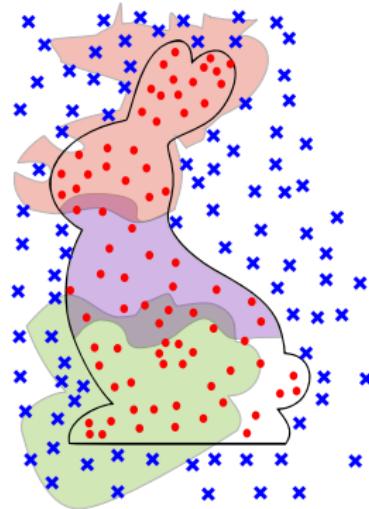
$$\mathcal{X}_o = \{\{x_i, o_i\}\}_{i=1}^V$$

# Occupancy Loss



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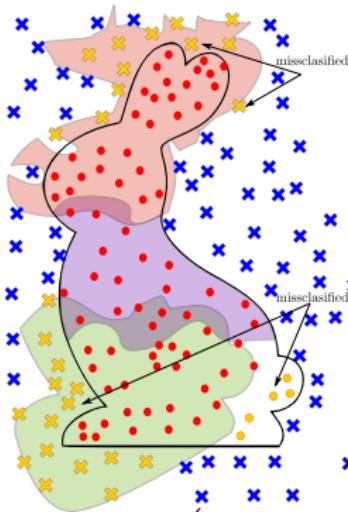
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**Predicted Volumetric Samples:**

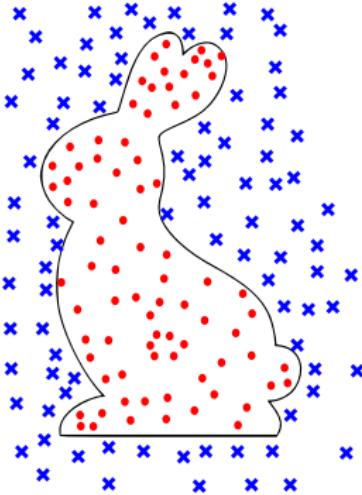
$$G(x) = \min_{m \in 0 \dots M} g^m(x)$$

# Occupancy Loss



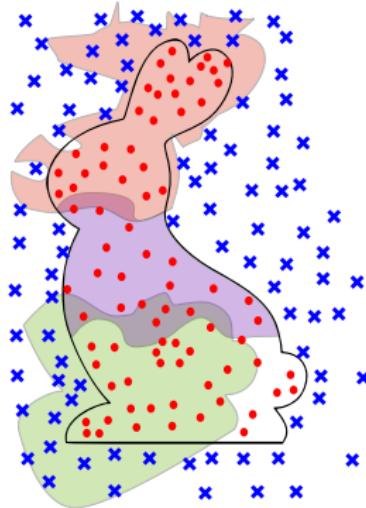
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{occ}}(\mathcal{X}_o) = \sum_{(x,o) \in \mathcal{X}_o} \mathcal{L}_{\text{ce}} \left( \underbrace{\sigma \left( \frac{-G(x)}{\tau} \right)}_{> 1 \text{ when } x \text{ inside the predicted shape}}, o \right)$$

# Overlapping Loss



**Target Volumetric Samples:**

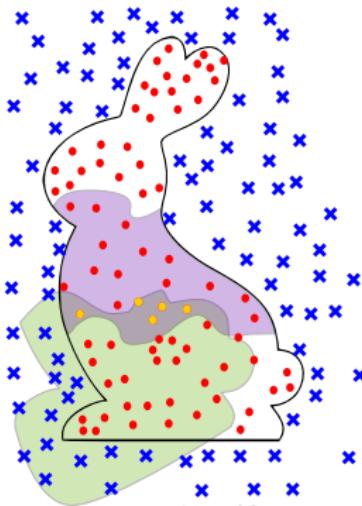
$$\mathcal{X}_o = \{\{x_i, o_i\}\}_{i=1}^V$$



**Predicted Volumetric Samples:**

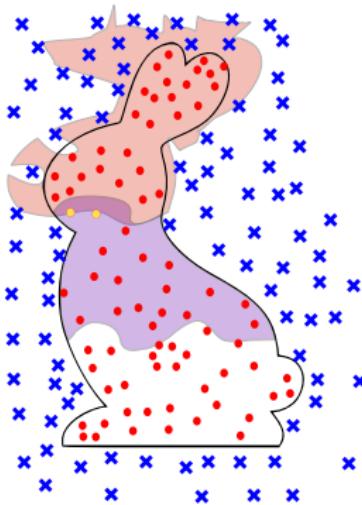
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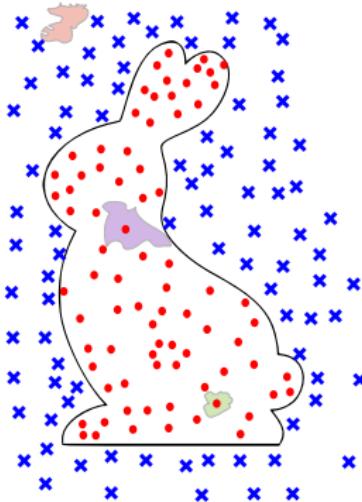
$$\mathcal{L}_{overlap}(\mathcal{X}_o) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}_o|} \max \left( 0, \sum_{m=1}^M \sigma \left( \frac{-g^m(\mathbf{x})}{\tau} \right) - \lambda \right)$$

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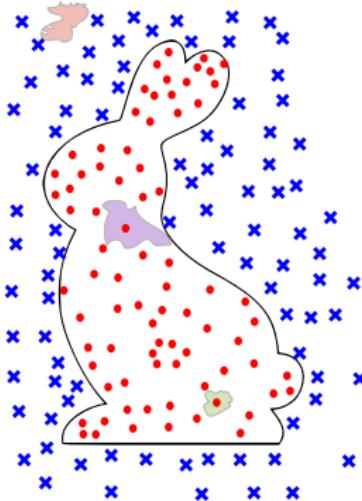


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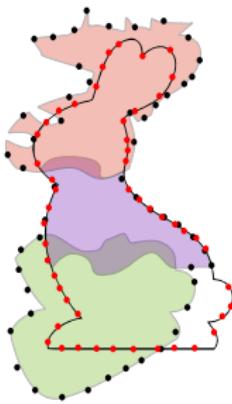


# Coverage Loss



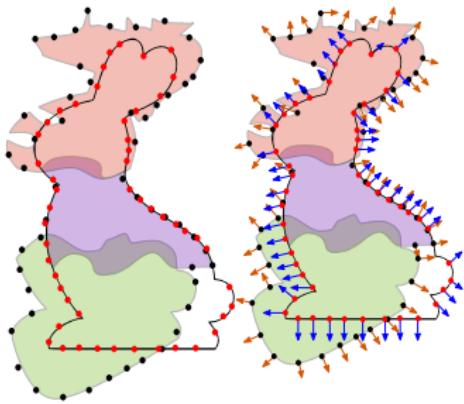
$$\mathcal{L}_{cover}(\mathcal{X}_o) = \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{N}_k^m} \max(0, g^m(\mathbf{x}))$$

## Loss Functions: Summary



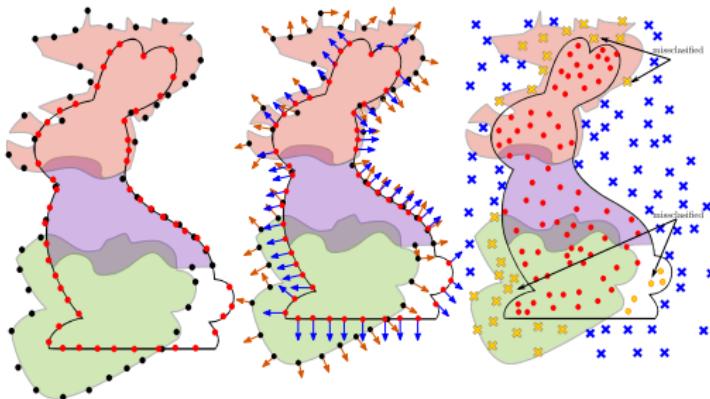
- **Reconstruction Loss:** The **surface** of the target and the predicted shape should match.

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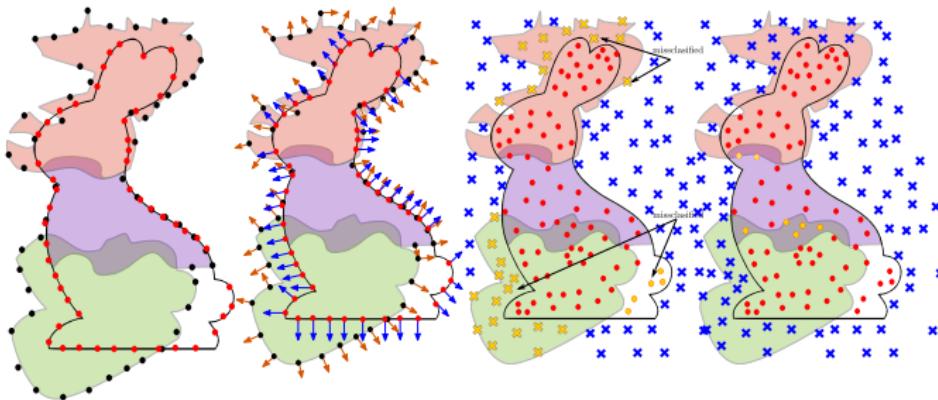
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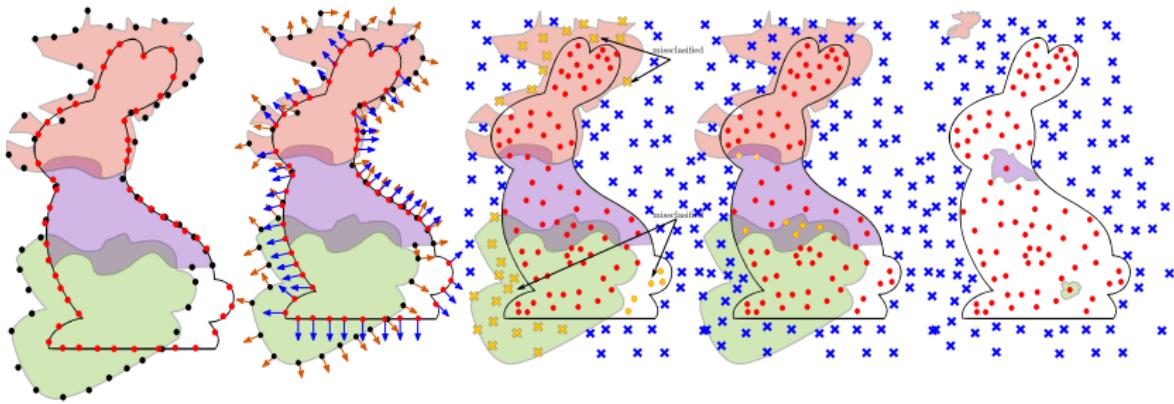
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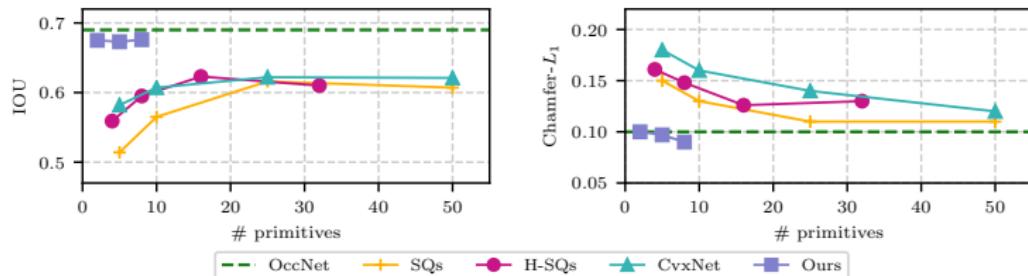


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- **Overlapping Loss:** Prevent overlapping primitives.
- **Coverage Loss:** Prevent degenerate primitive arrangements.

How well does it work?

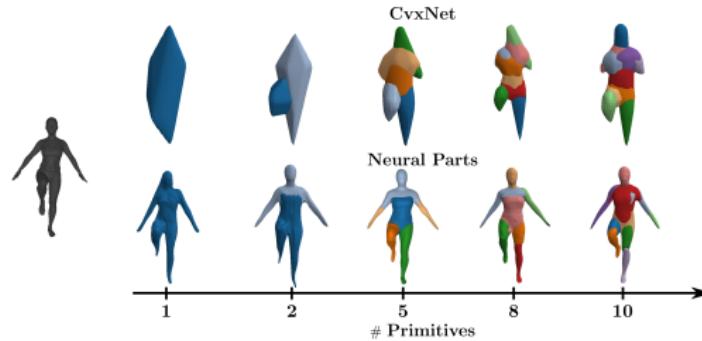
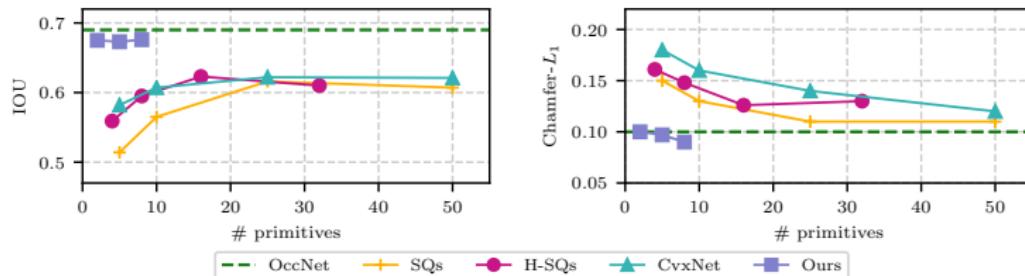
# Representation Power of Primitive-based Representations

Neural Parts decouple the reconstruction quality from the number of parts.

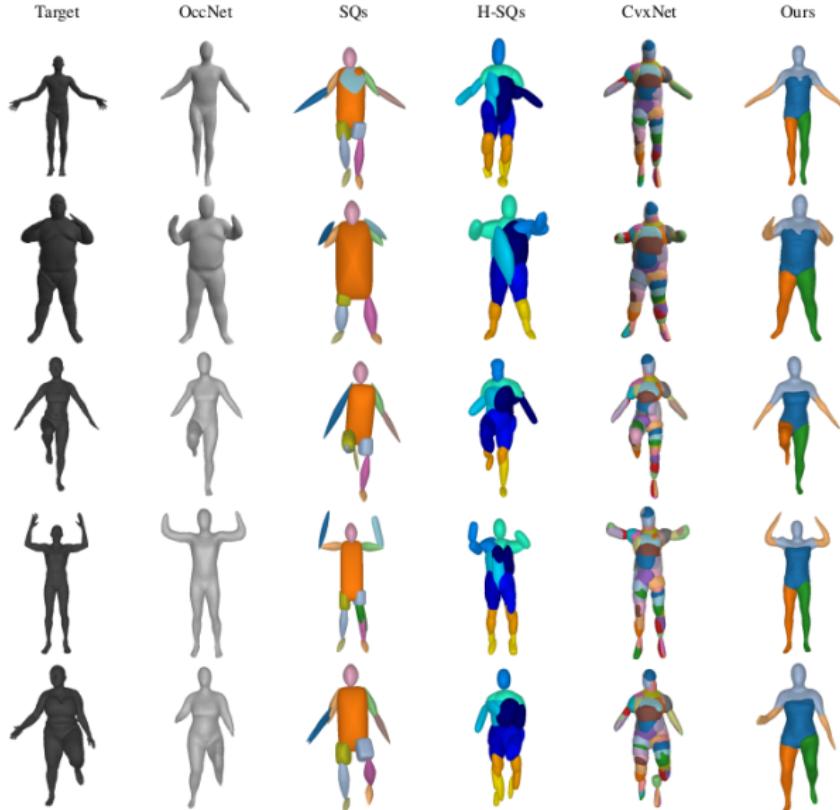


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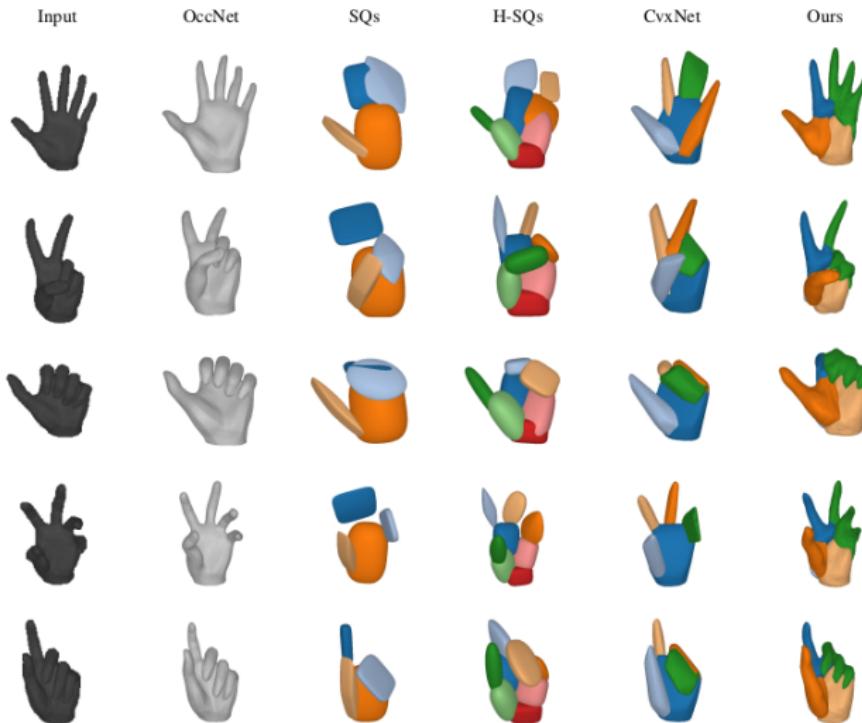
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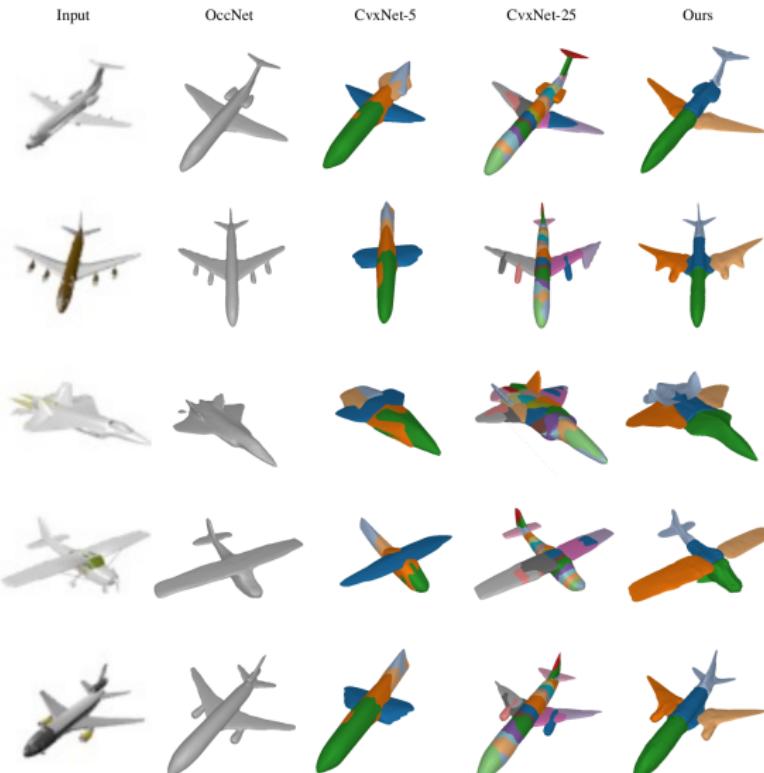
# Single-view 3D Reconstruction on D-FAUST



# Single-view 3D Reconstruction on FreiHAND



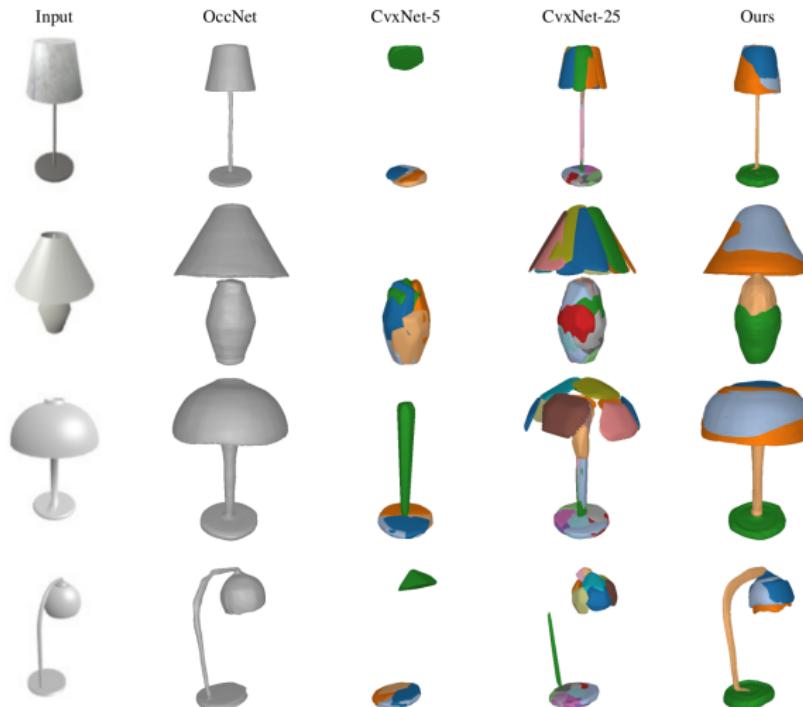
# Single-view 3D Reconstruction on ShapeNet



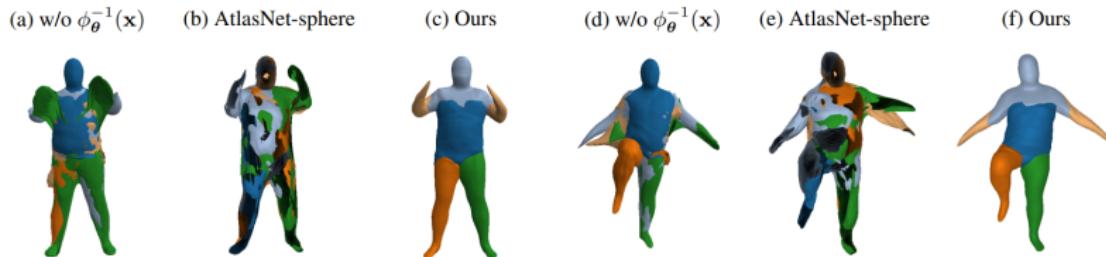
# Single-view 3D Reconstruction on ShapeNet



# Single-view 3D Reconstruction on ShapeNet



# Do we really need an INN?



	w/o $\phi_{\theta}^{-1}(x)$	AtlasNet - sphere	Ours
IoU	0.639	*	0.673
Chamfer- $L_1$	0.119	0.087	0.097

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  - ▶ Similar to all primitive-based representations, the reconstructed parts are **spatially consistent without necessarily being semantic**.

# ATISS: Autoregressive Transformers for Indoor Scene Synthesis

Despoina Paschalidou, Amlan Kar, Maria Shugrina, Karsten Kreis,  
Andreas Geiger, Sanja Fidler

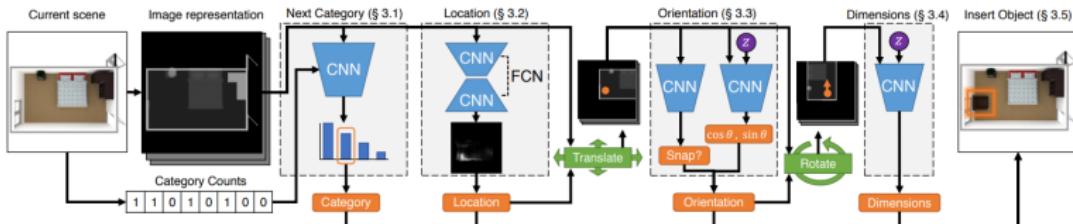
Under Review



<https://paschalidoud.github.io/atiss>

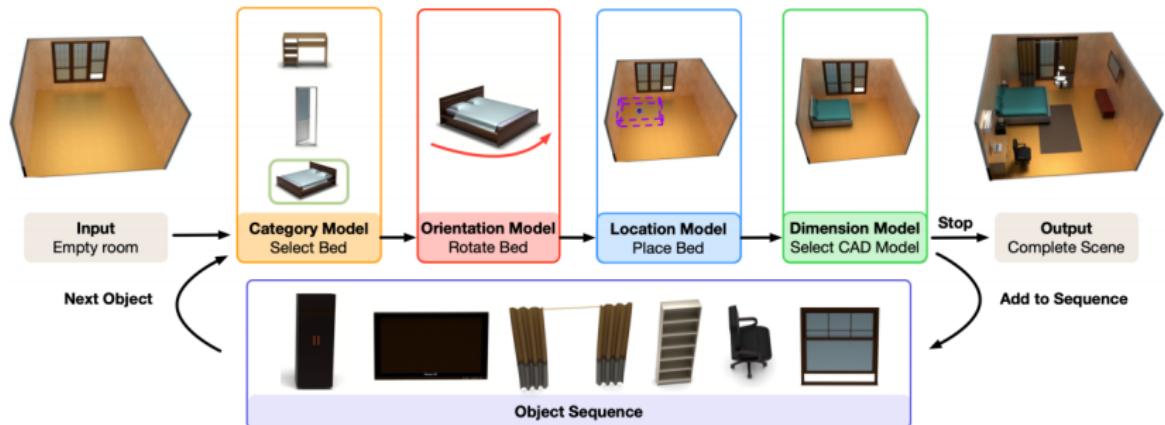
Existing scene synthesis methods  
**impose unnatural constraints on the scene generation process**  
since they represent **scenes as ordered sequences of objects**.

# 2019: Scenes as Ordered Sequences of Objects



- **Autoregressive, CNN-based generative model** of scenes as **ordered sequences of objects**.
- Supervision in the form of **2D labelled bounding boxes** as well as **auxiliary supervision** such as depth maps and object segmentation masks.
- Operates on top-down image-based representation of a scene, thus requires rendering after adding an object which makes it **very slow**.
- Limited applications due to the ordered sequence formulation.

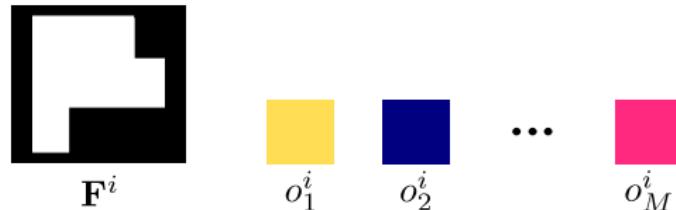
## 2020: Scenes as Ordered Sequences of Objects



- A series of transformers that **autoregressively** adds objects in a scene.
- Scenes are parametrized as **ordered sequences of objects**.
- Supervision in the form of **2D labelled bounding boxes**.
- Limited applications due to the ordered sequence formulation.

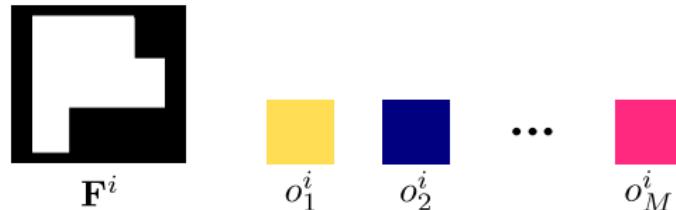
# ATISS: Scene Parametrization

Each scene  $\mathcal{X}_i = (\mathcal{O}_i, \mathbf{F}^i)$  comprises the **unordered set of  $M$  objects** in the scene  $\mathcal{O}_i = \{o_j^i\}_{j=1}^M$  and its **floor shape**  $\mathbf{F}^i$ .



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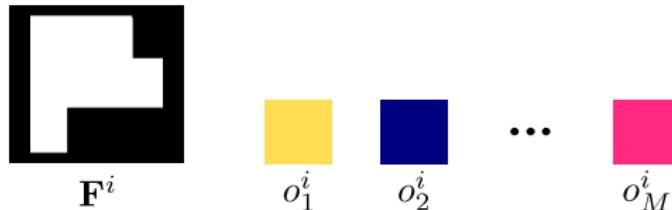
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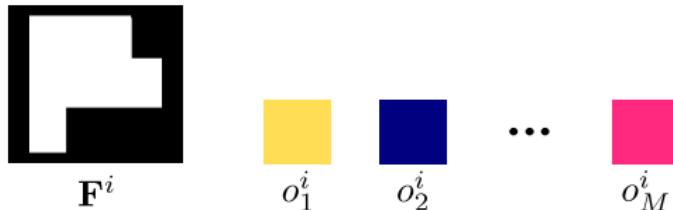
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- Each 3D object is modelled with four random variables that describe their **category, size, orientation and location**,  $o_j = \{\mathbf{c}_j, \mathbf{s}_j, \mathbf{t}_j, \mathbf{r}_j\}$ .

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- The object category  $c_j$  is modelled using a **categorical variable over the total number of object categories** in and the size  $s_j$ , location  $t_j$  and orientation  $r_j$  are modelled with a **mixture of logistics distributions**.

# ATISS: Scene Generation



$o_1$



$o_2$

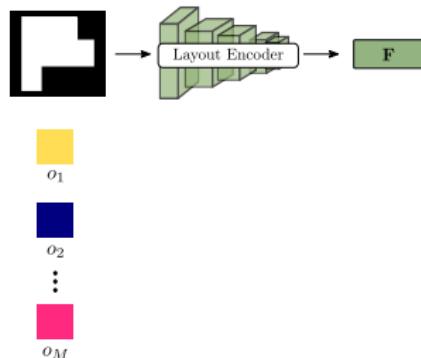
⋮



$o_M$

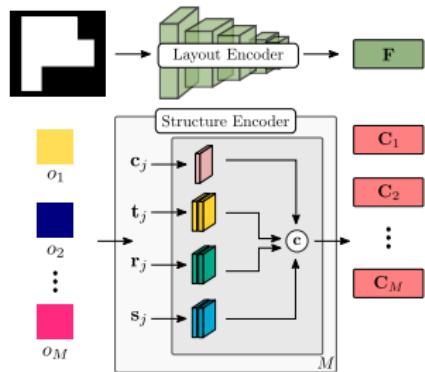
Starting from a scene parameterized as its **unordered set of  $M$  objects**  $\mathcal{O} = \{o_j\}_{j=1}^M$  and its **floor shape  $F$** .

# ATISS: Scene Generation



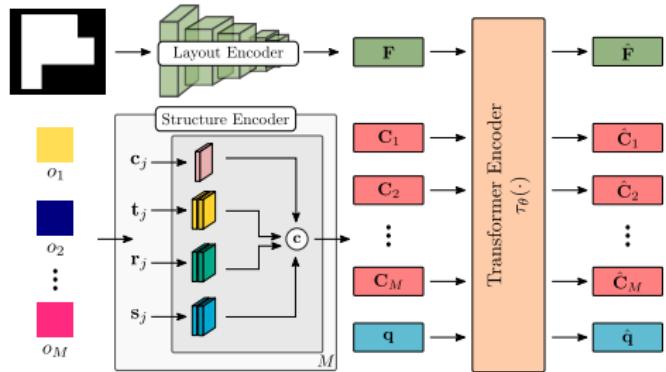
Pass the floor shape to the **layout encoder** and extract a feature representation for the floor.

# ATISS: Scene Generation



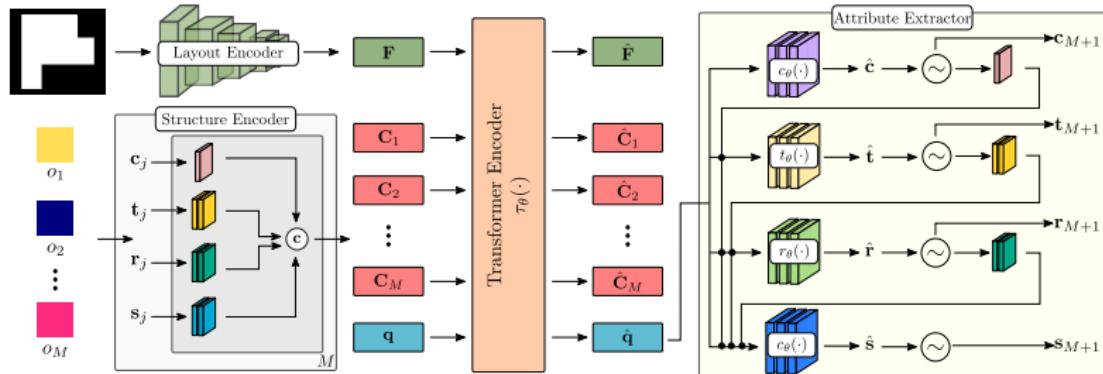
Map each object in the scene  $\mathbf{o}_j$  to a per-object context embedding  $\mathbf{C}_j$ .

# ATISS: Scene Generation



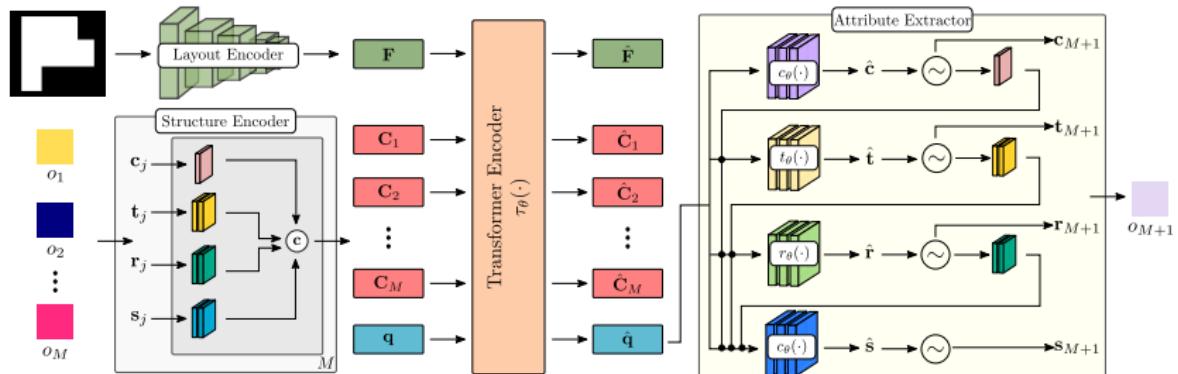
$F, C = \{C_j\}_{j=1}^M$  and a **query embedding**  $q$  are passed to a transformer encoder that **predicts the features of the next object to be added in the scene**.

# ATISS: Scene Generation



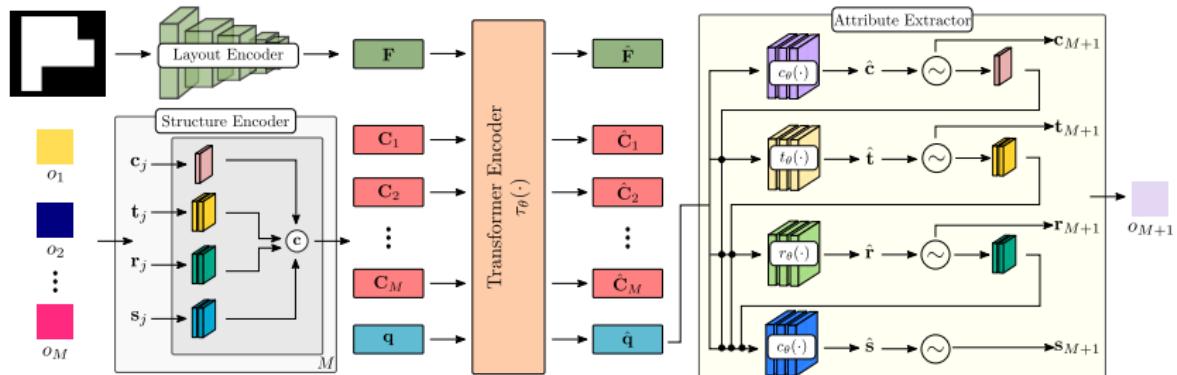
Using the predicted features  $\hat{q}$  the **attribute extractor** autoregressively predicts the object attributes of the next object to be added in the scene.

# ATISS: Scene Generation



Once a new object is generated, it is appended to the objects already in the scene to be used in the next step of the generation process, **until the end symbol is generated.**

# ATISS: Scene Generation

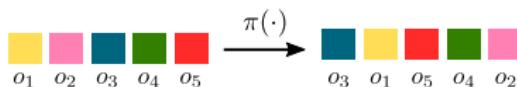


- We train ATISS to **maximize the log-likelihood of all possible permutations of object arrangements** in a collection of scenes.
- This enforces that adding an object in the scene is **equiprobable regardless of the order of the previously added objects**.

# ATISS: Training Overview

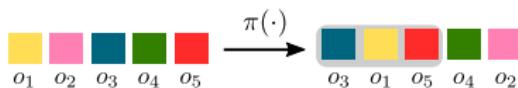


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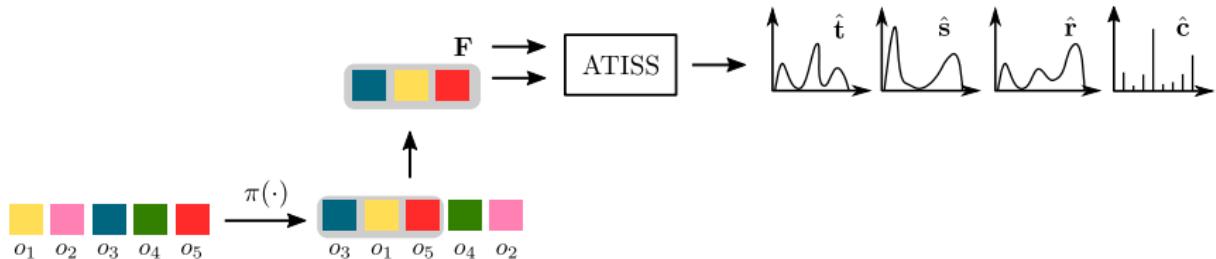
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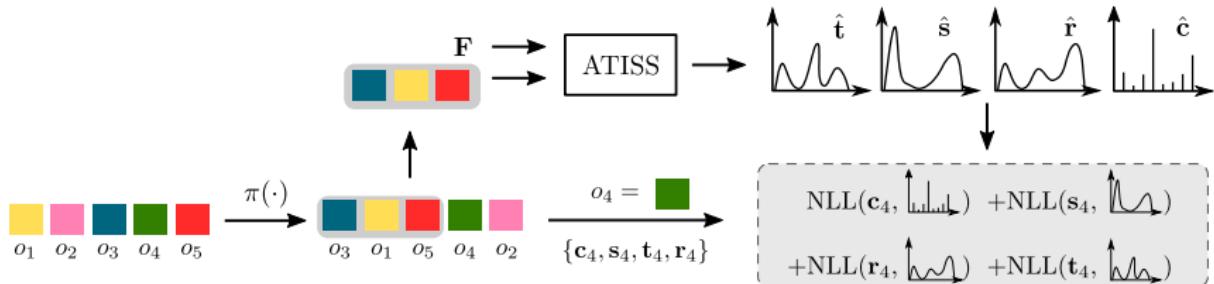
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- Conditioned on the  $C$  and  $F$ , ATISS predicts the attribute distributions of the next object to be added in the scene.

# ATISS: Training Overview

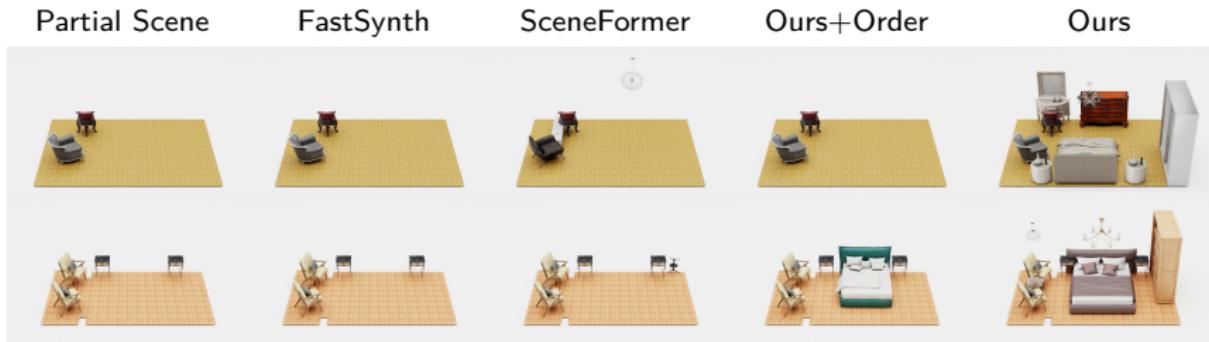


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- Conditioned on the  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ , ATISS **predicts the attribute distributions of the next object** to be added in the scene.
- ATISS is trained to maximize the log likelihood of the  $T+1$  object from the permuted set of objects.

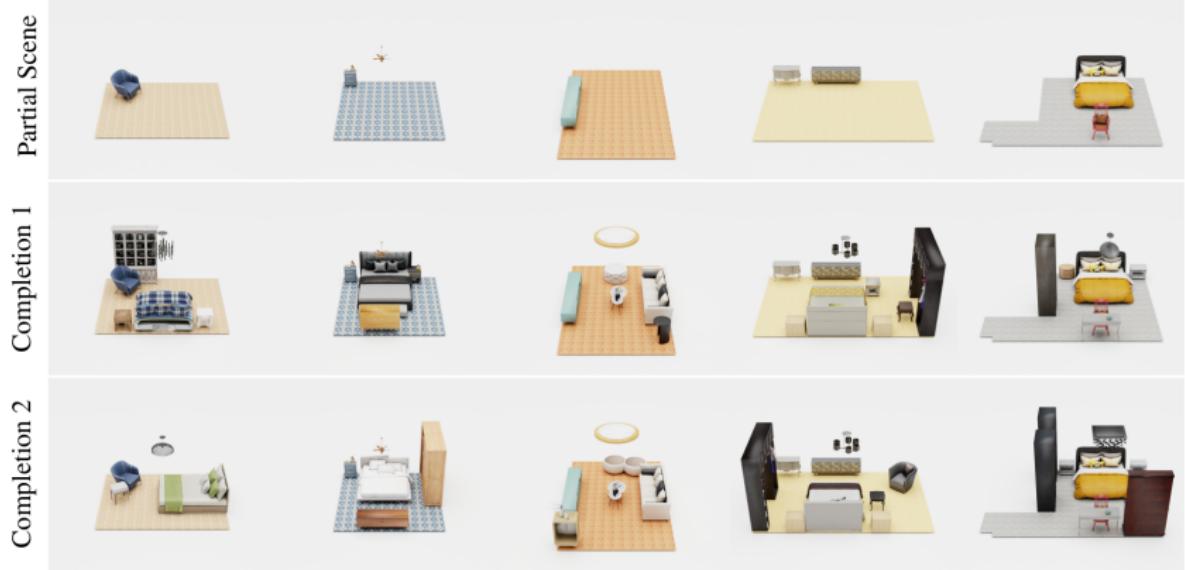
How well does it work?

# Scene Completion

We compare scene completions using our model, SceneFormer and FastSynth.

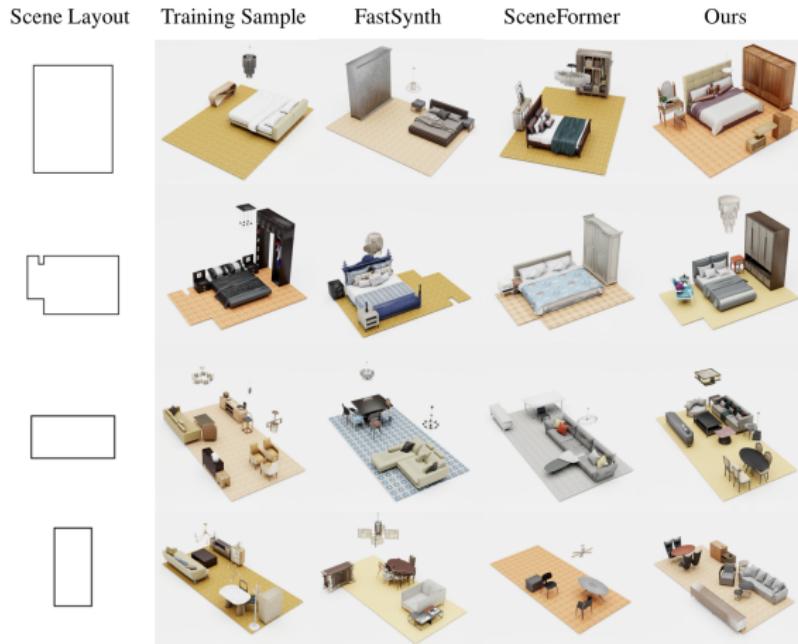


# Scene Completion



# Scene Synthesis

We compare the generated scenes conditioned on various floor shapes and room types using ATISS, SceneFormer and FastSynth.



# Scene Synthesis



# Generalization Beyond Training Data

ATISS generates plausible object arrangements conditioned on manually designed floor plans.

Scene Layout



FastSynth



SceneFormer



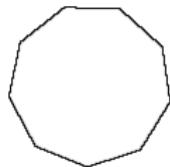
Ours



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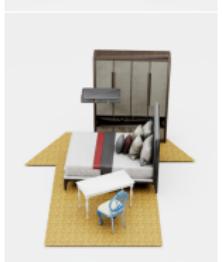
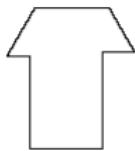
FastSynth



SceneFormer

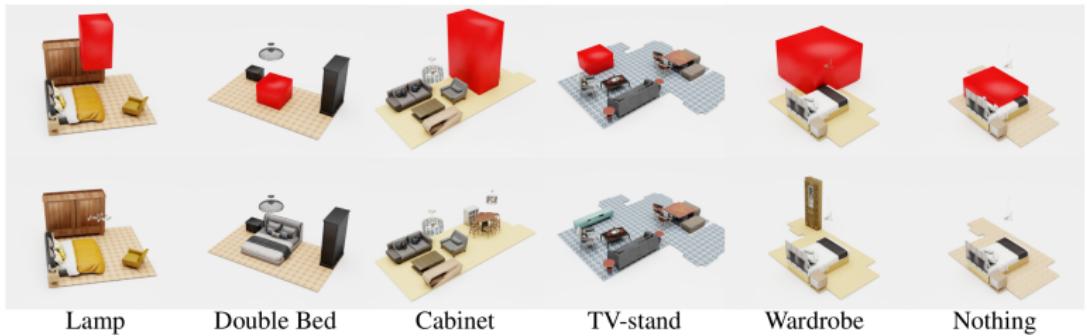


Ours



# Objects Suggestion

ATISS can suggest objects given user-specified location constraints.



# Failure Cases Correction

ATISS identifies problematic object arrangements and repositions them.



## Generation Time

	Bedroom	Living	Dining	Library
FastSynth	13193.77	30578.54	26596.08	10813.87
SceneFormer	849.37	731.84	901.17	369.74
Ours	<b>102.38</b>	<b>201.59</b>	<b>201.84</b>	<b>88.24</b>

- At least 100× faster than the CNN-based FastSynth for all room types.
- At least 4× faster than the Transformer-based SceneFormer for all room types.

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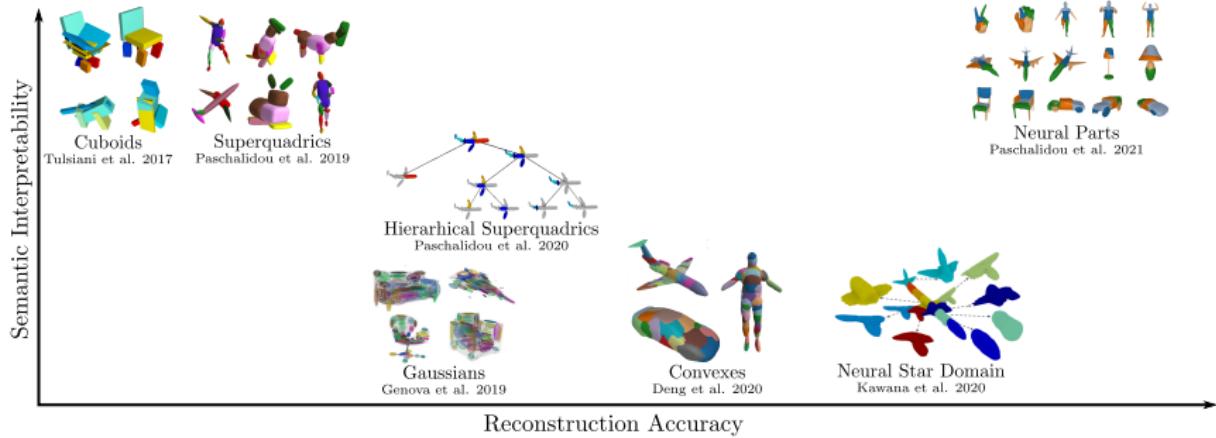
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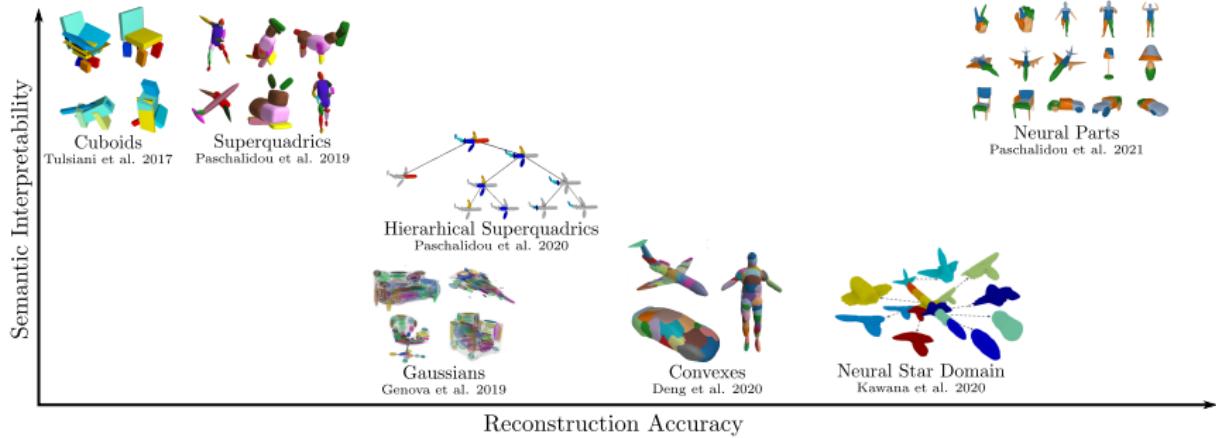
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- Limitations:
  - ▶ The autoregressive generation of attributes need to follow a specific ordering.
  - ▶ Separate object retrieval module.

What comes next?

# Primitive Arena

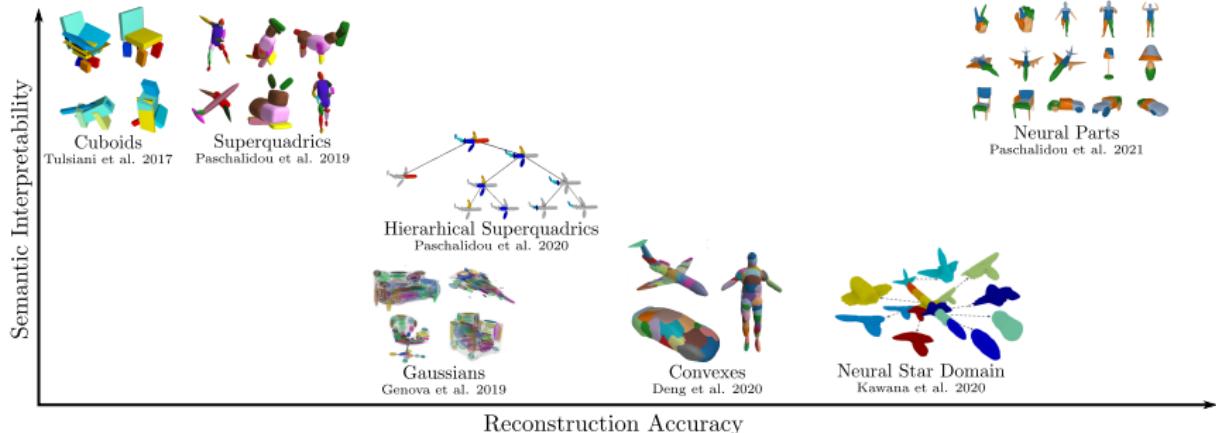


# Primitive Arena



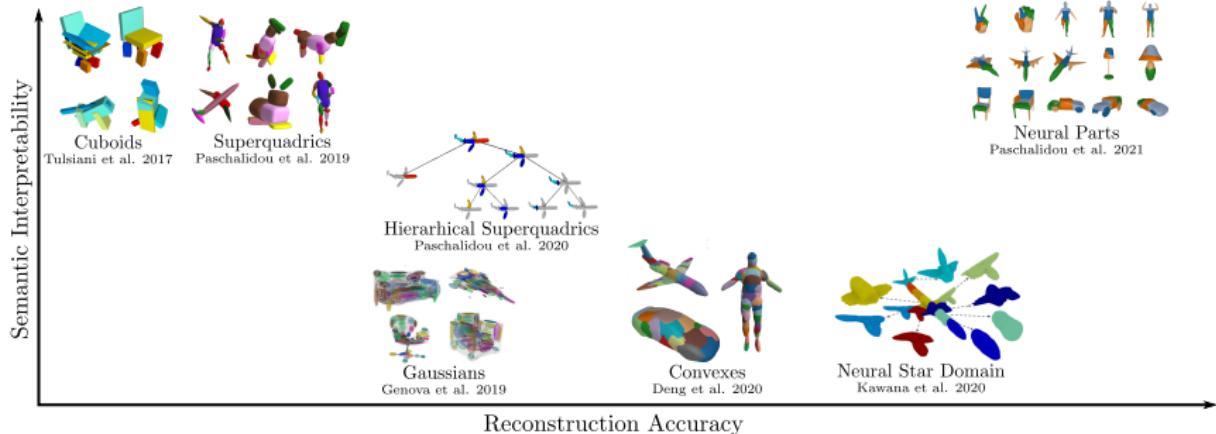
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# Primitive Arena



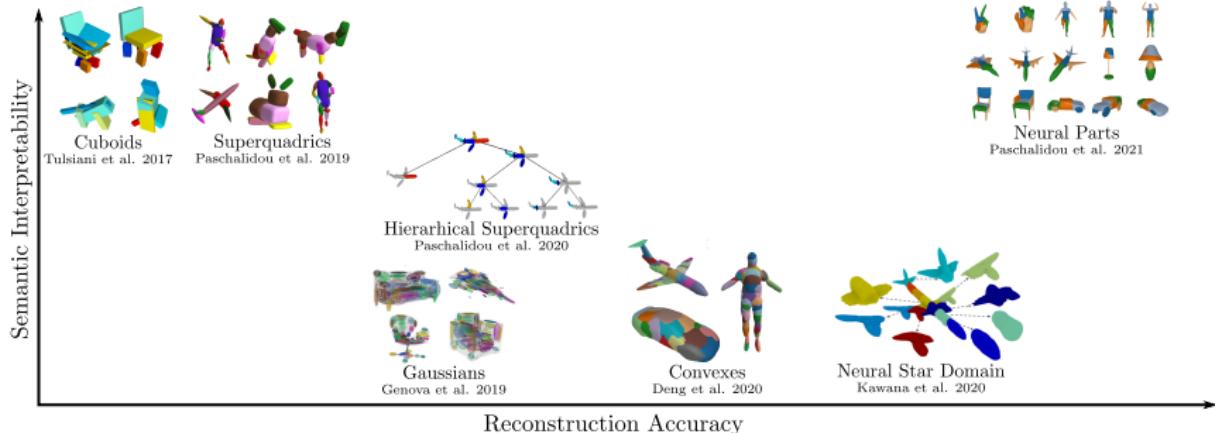
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# Primitive Arena



- What makes a **good primitive-representation?**
- We learn primitives by **optimizing the geometry**? Can't we do better?
- **Do we really learn semantic parts?**
- Why do we need primitive-based representations?

# Learning semantic parts without part-level supervision



(a) Curve skeletons derived from our decomposition (GCs are in different colors).



(b) Curve skeletons extracted by ROSA [Tagliasacchi et al. 2009].



(c) Mean curvature skeletons [Tagliasacchi et al. 2012].



(d) Curve skeletons and segmentations obtained by [Au et al. 2008].



(e) Curve skeletons and segmentations obtained by Reiners et al. [2008].

Image Source: Generalized Cylinder  
Decomposition, 2015  
**Learning parts  
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(f) PSD prediction 1 (g) PSD flow1 (h) PSD prediction 2 (i) PSD flow2 (j) 3DnVAE prediction (k) 3DnVAE flow (l) Zoomed-in views

Figure 12: Comparison of synthesizing future frames between our PSD model and 3DnVAE.



Figure 13: Results of segmenting parts (e-g) and learning hierarchical structure (h-l) on human motions.



Image Source: Unsupervised Discovery of Parts,  
Structure and Dynamics, 2019

**Learning parts  
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Image Source: Generalized Cylinder Decomposition, 2015

**Learning parts  
through skeletonization**



Figure 12: Comparison of synthesizing future frames between our PSD model and 3DVAE.



Image Source: Functionality Representations and Applications for Shape Analysis, 2018

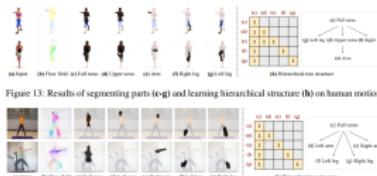


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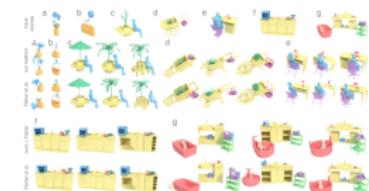


Image Source: Unsupervised Discovery of Parts, Structure and Dynamics, 2019

**Learning parts  
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Image Source: Relationship Templates for Creating Scene Variations, 2016

## The Proposed Where2Act Task

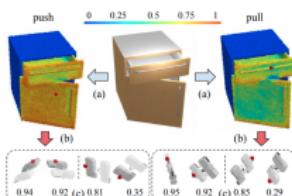


Image Source: Where2Act: From Pixels to Actions for Articulated 3D Objects, 2021

**Learning functional parts**

# Generative model of parts for content creation

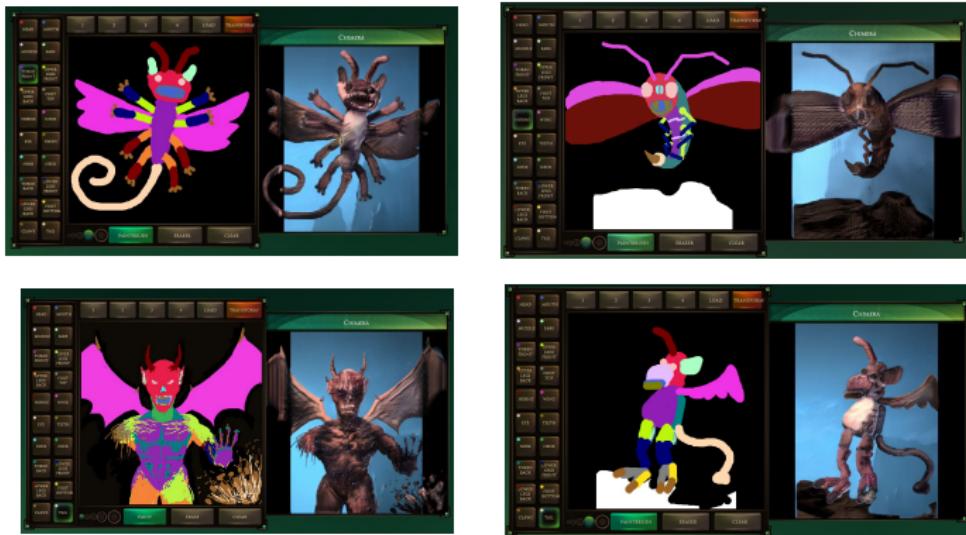


Image Source: Google Chimera

# Generative model of parts for content creation



Image Source: Attribblt: Content Creation with Semantic Attributes, 2013

Thank you for your attention!