

# Learning to Reconstruct and Understand the 3D World

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Microsoft Mixed Reality & AI Lab – Zurich

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**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS



# Who Am I?

- Final-year PhD Student
  - Marc Pollefeys
  - Andreas Geiger
- Internships during PhD
  - 2021: Michael Zollhoefer
  - 2022: Tom Funkhouser
- Before PhD, worked in Singapore, and interned at INRIA and TUM

**ETH** zürich

**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS



**Meta**  
**Google** Research



[pengsongyou.github.io](https://pengsongyou.github.io)

# Motivation



Input Images

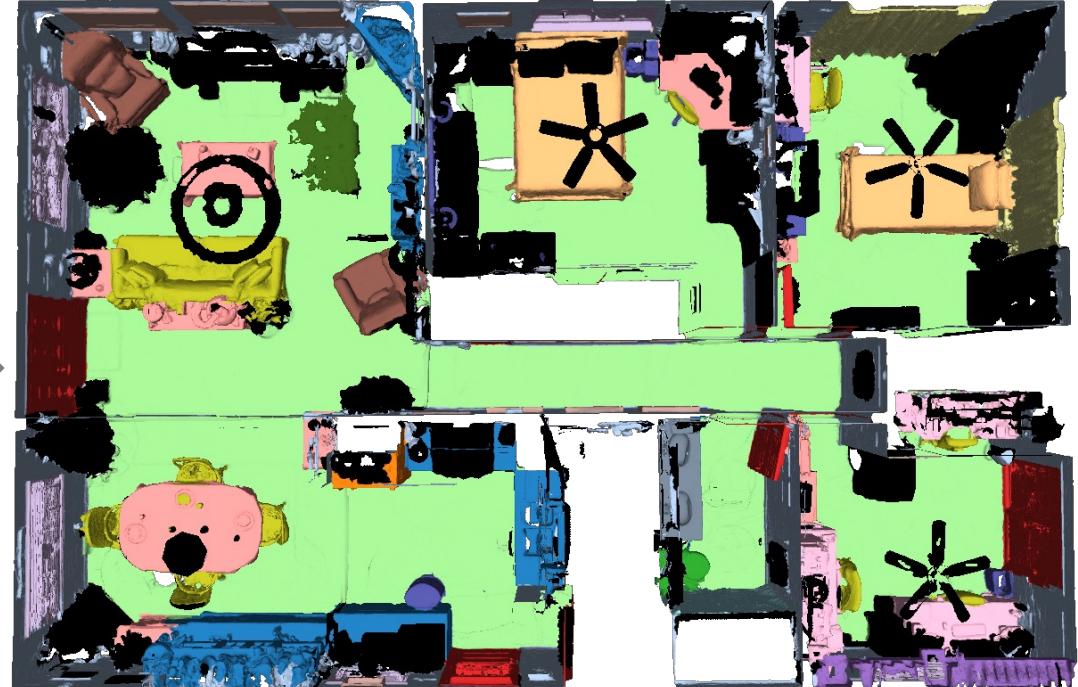


3D Reconstruction

# Motivation

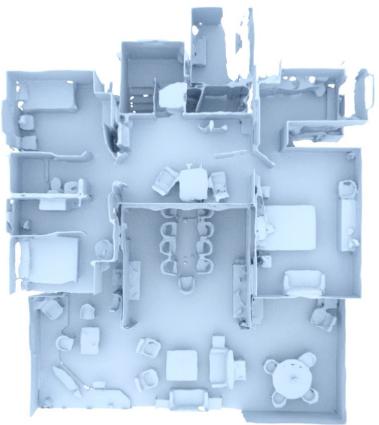


3D Reconstruction

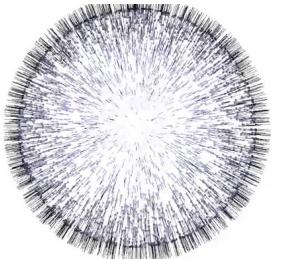


3D Scene Understanding

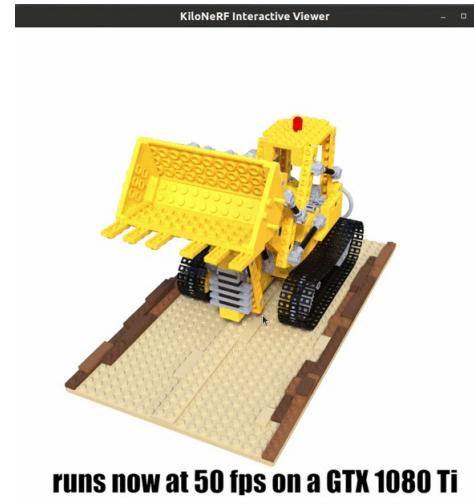
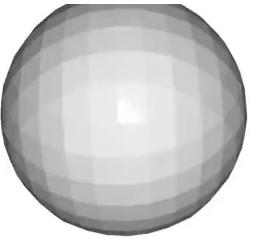
# My PhD Topics: Neural Scene Representations for 3D reconstruction and 3D scene understanding



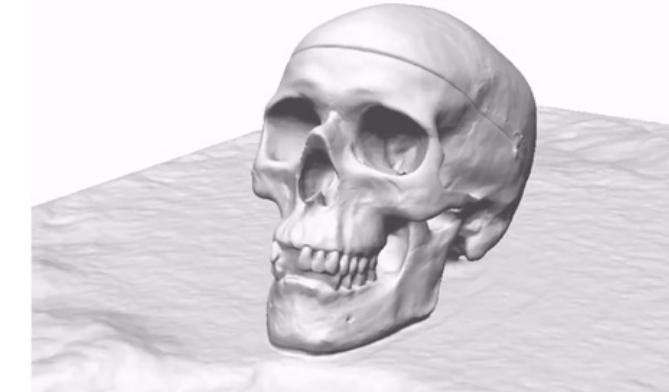
**Convolutional Occupancy Nets**  
ECCV 2020 (Spotlight)



**Shape As Points**  
NeurIPS 2021 (Oral)



**KiloNeRF**  
ICCV 2021

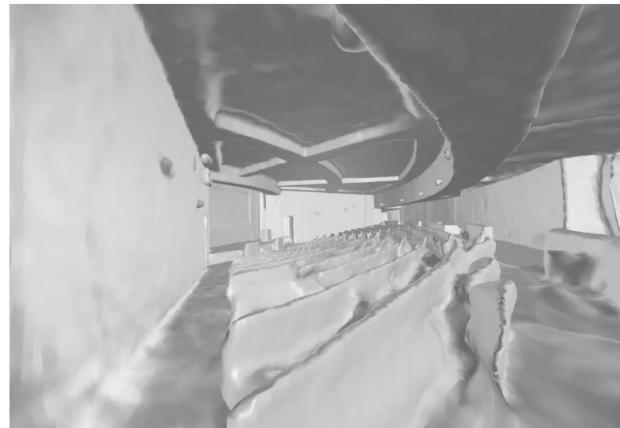


**UNISURF**  
ICCV 2021 (Oral)

floor

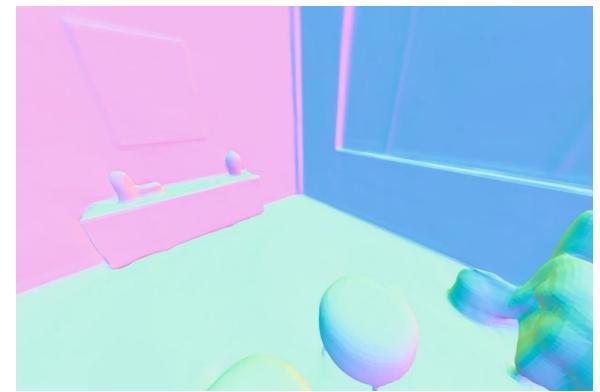


**NICE-SLAM**  
CVPR 2022



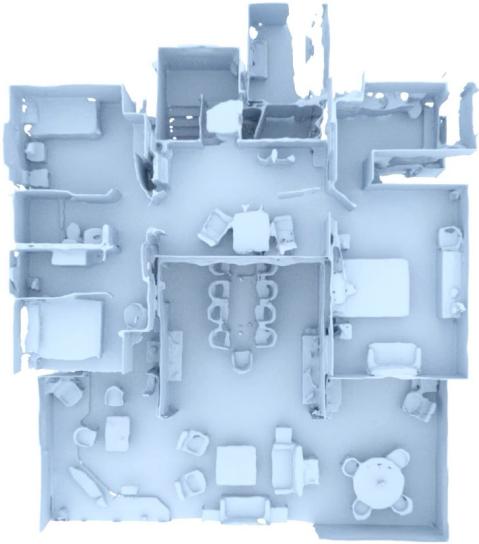
**Ours**  
**MonoSDF**  
NeurIPS 2022

**OpenScene**  
CVPR 2023



**NICER-SLAM**  
arXiv 2023

# My PhD Topics: Neural Scene Representations for 3D reconstruction and 3D scene understanding



floor

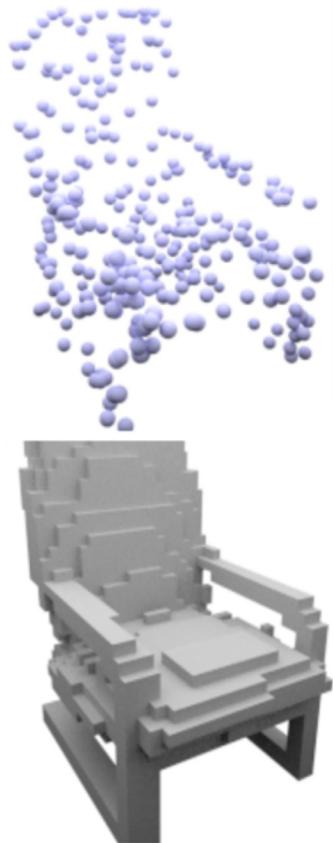


**Convolutional Occupancy Networks**  
ECCV 2020 (Spotlight)

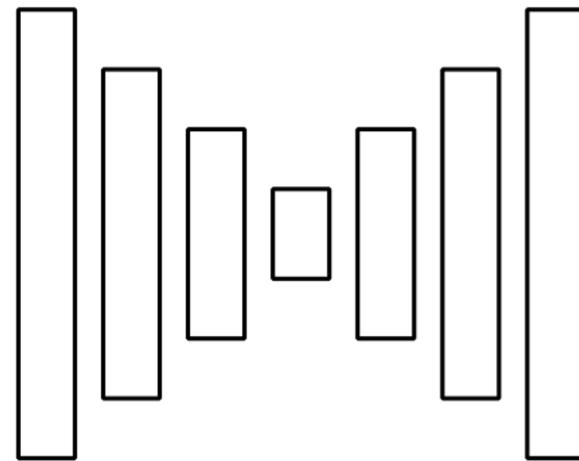
**NICE-SLAM**  
CVPR 2022

**OpenScene**  
CVPR 2023

# Learning-based 3D Surface Reconstruction



Input



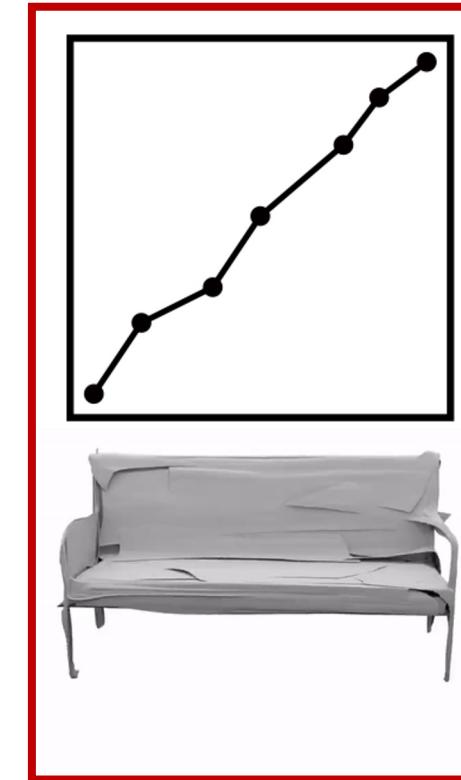
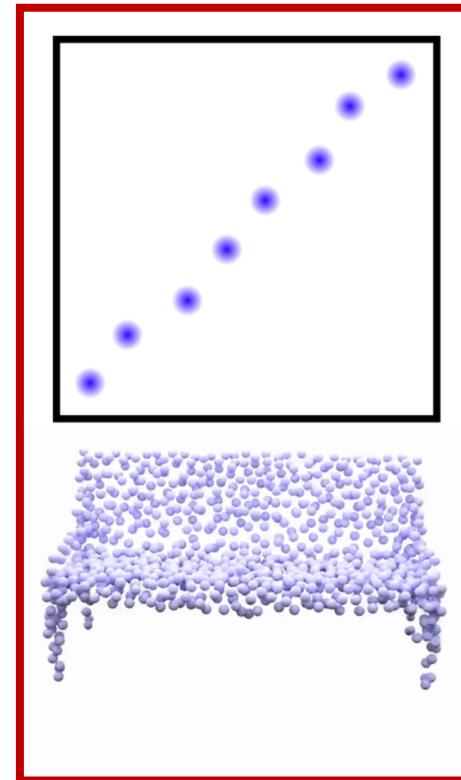
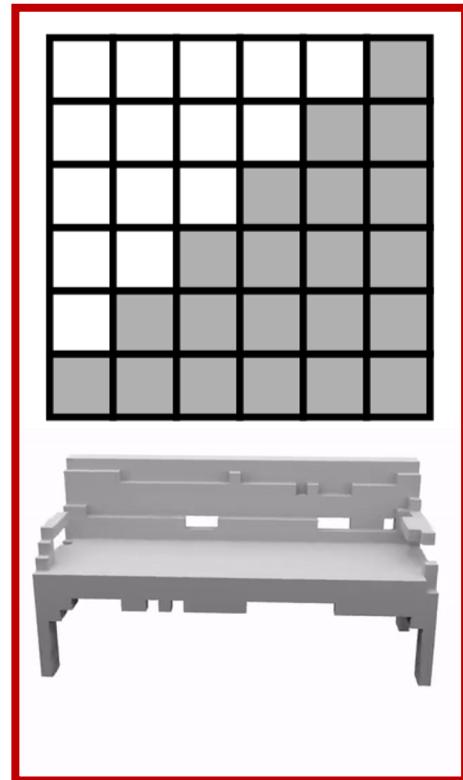
Neural Network



3D  
Reconstruction

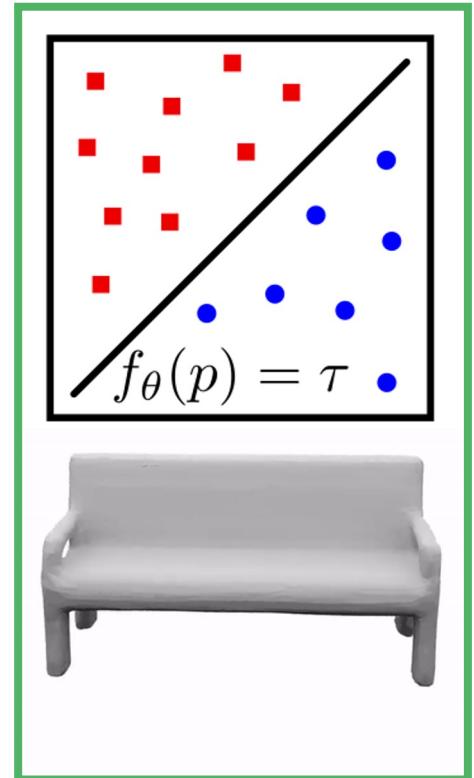
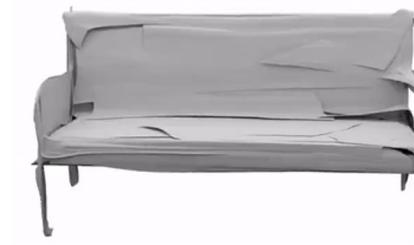
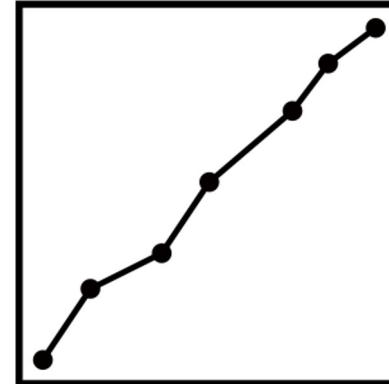
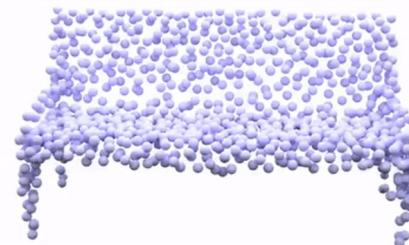
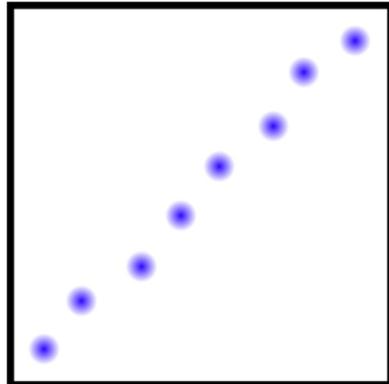
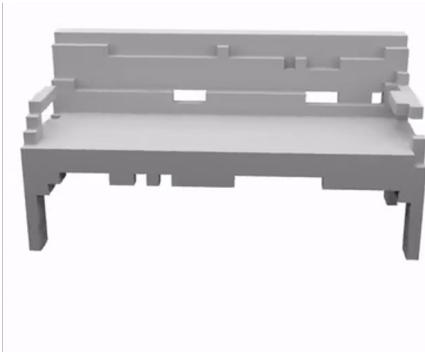
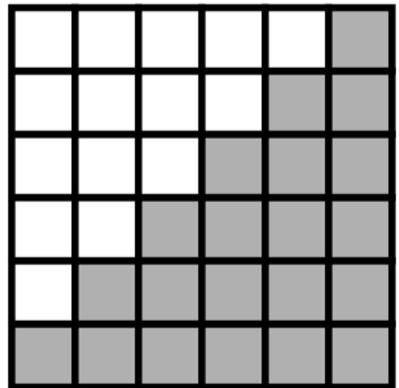
# What is a good 3D representation?

# 3D Representations



- Traditional Explicit Representations  $\Rightarrow$  **Discrete**

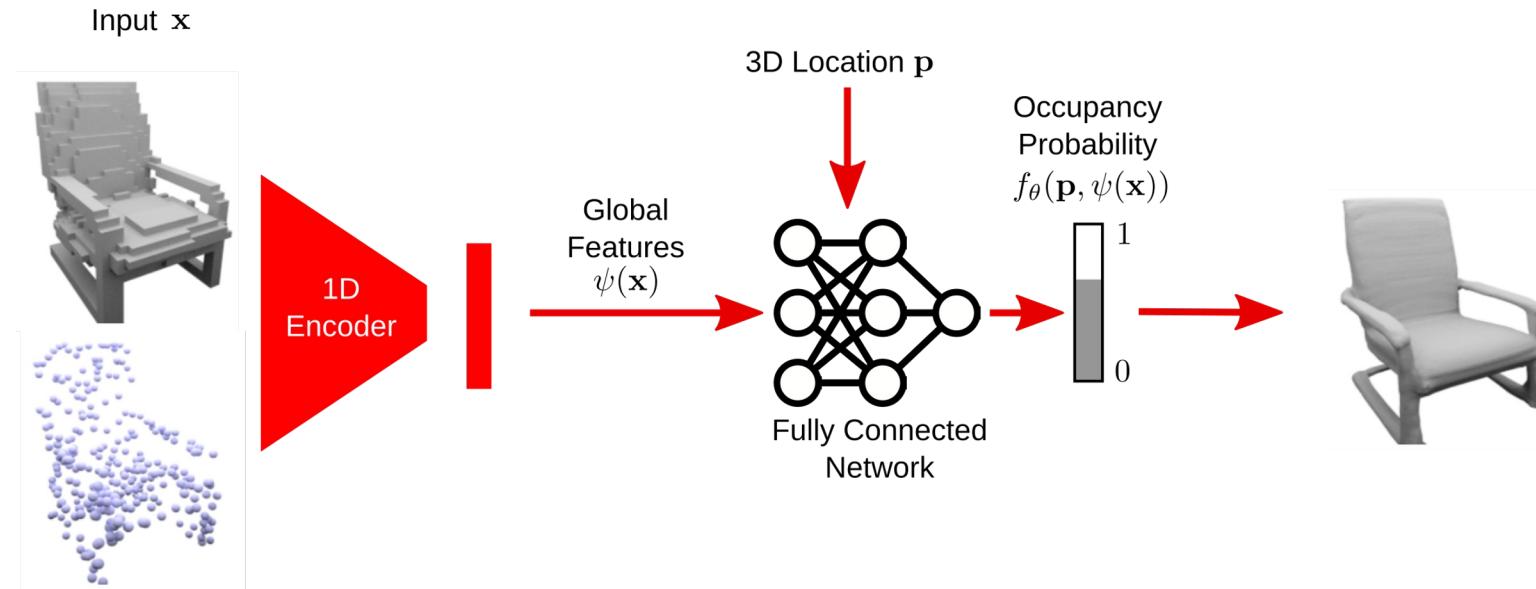
# 3D Representations



- Traditional Explicit Representations  $\Rightarrow$  **Discrete**
- Implicit Neural Representation  $\Rightarrow$  **Continuous**

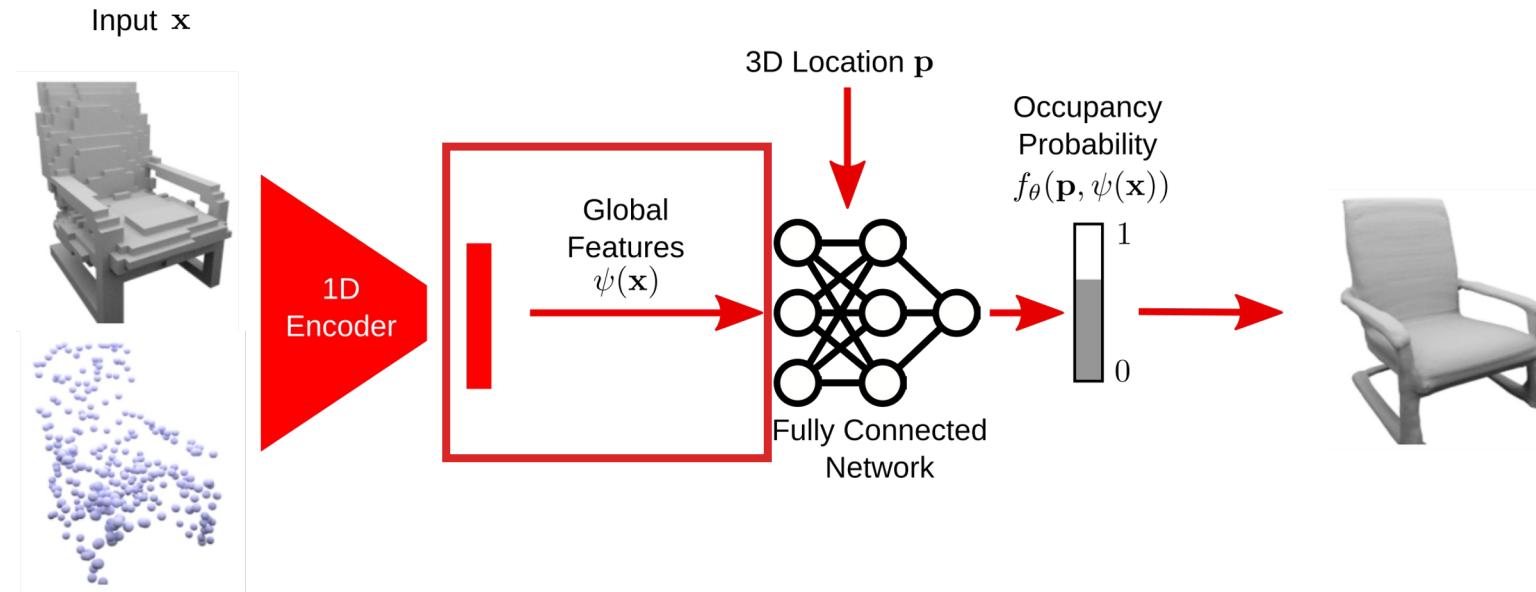
# Limitations

## Structure of neural implicit representations:



# Limitations

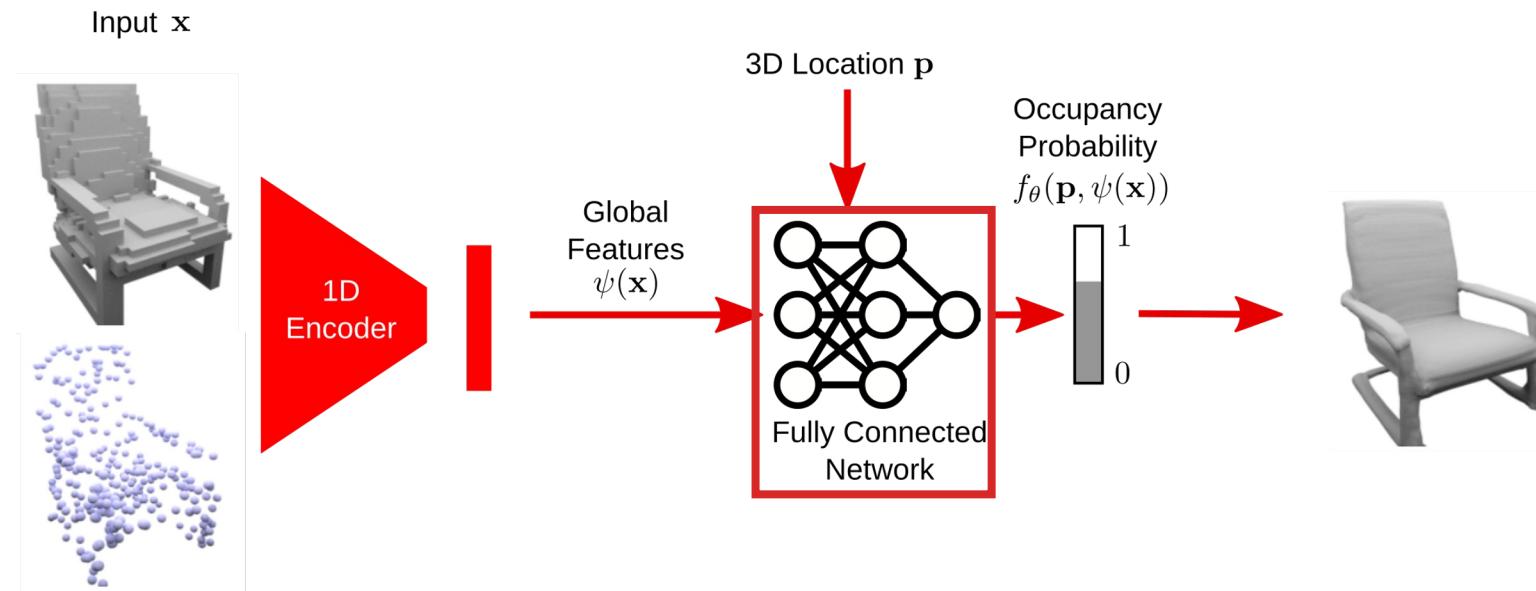
## Structure of neural implicit representations:



- Global latent code  $\Rightarrow$  **overly smooth geometry**

# Limitations

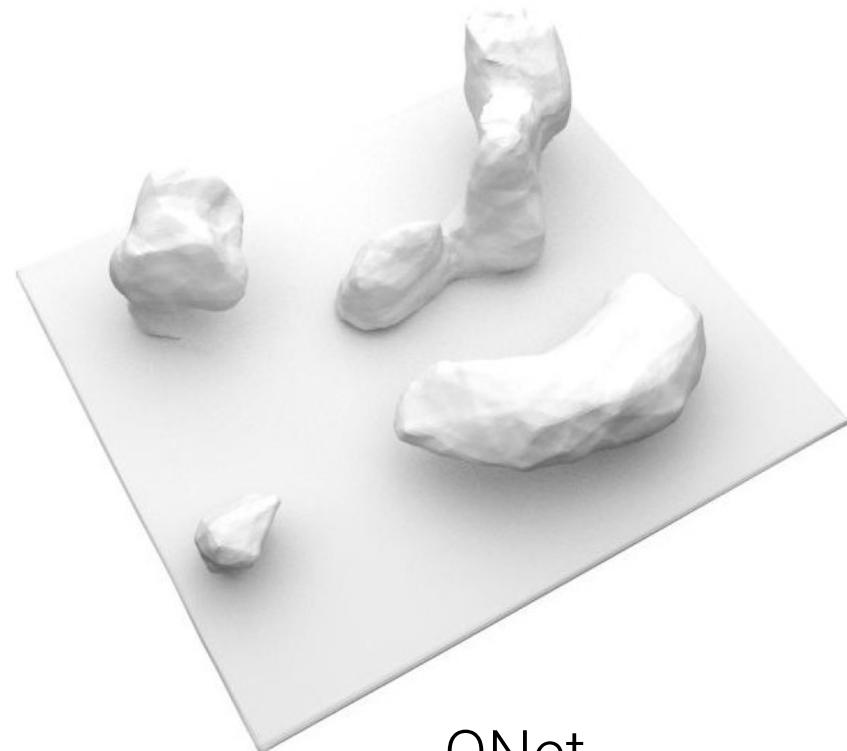
## Structure of neural implicit representations:



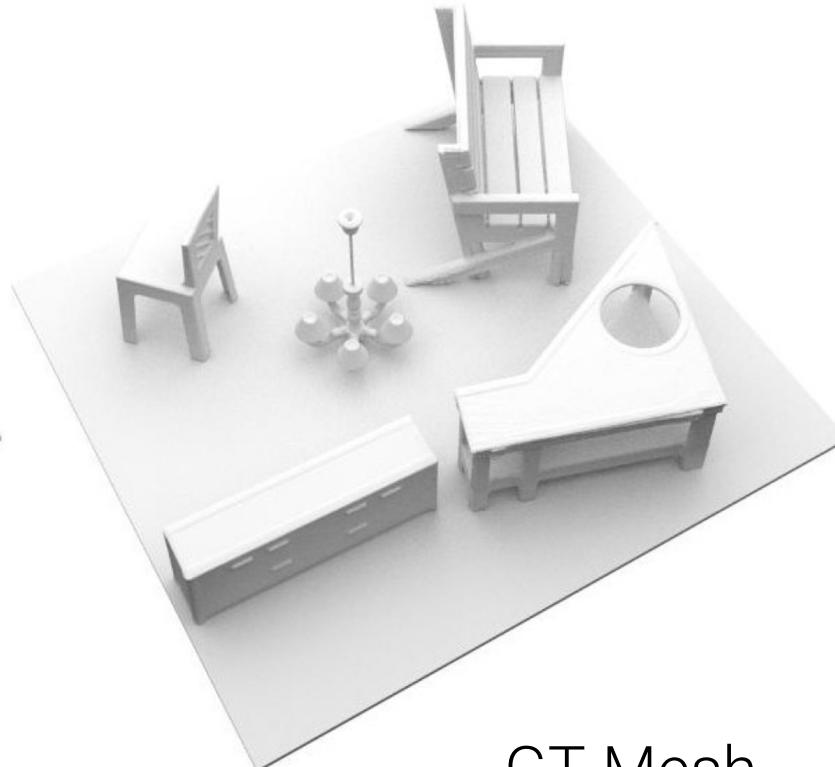
- Global latent code  $\Rightarrow$  **overly smooth geometry**
- Fully-connected architecture  $\Rightarrow$  **no translation equivariance**

# Limitations

Implicit models work well for **simple objects** but poorly on **complex scenes**:

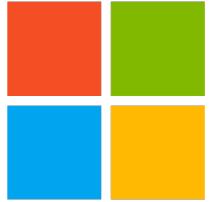


ONet



GT Mesh

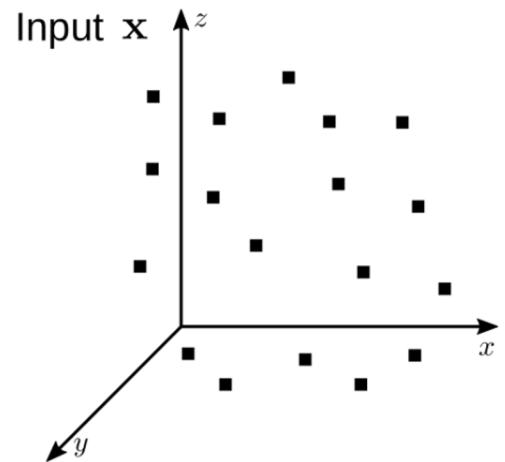
How to reconstruct large-scale 3D scenes with  
**neural implicit representations?**



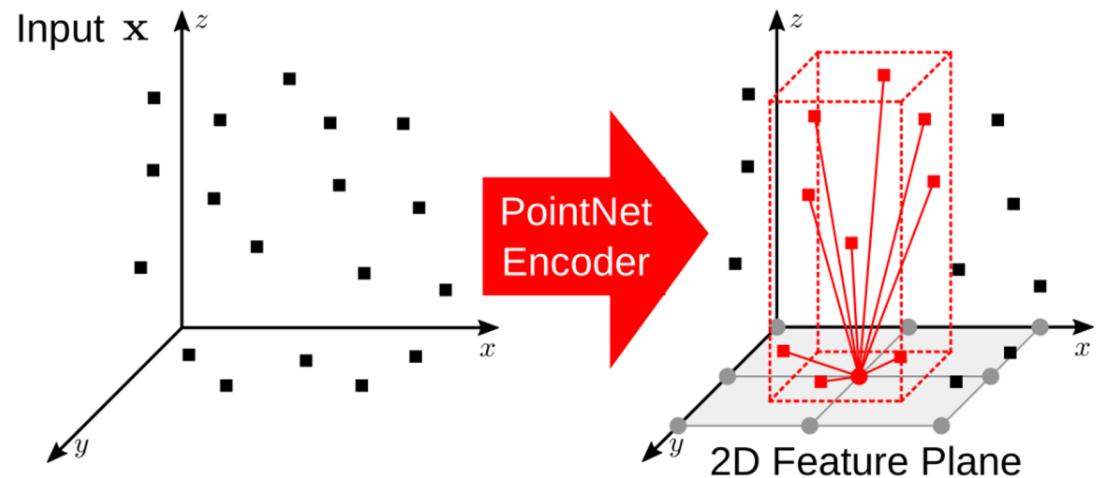
# Convolutional Occupancy Networks

**Songyou Peng****Michael Niemeyer****Lars Mescheder****Marc Pollefeys****Andreas Geiger**

# Main Idea

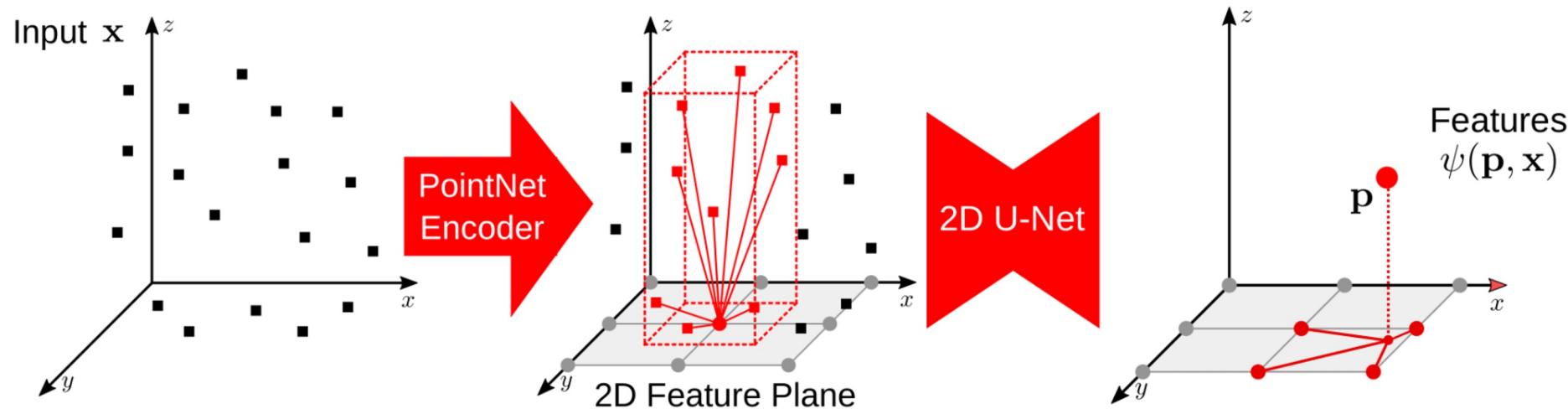


# Main Idea



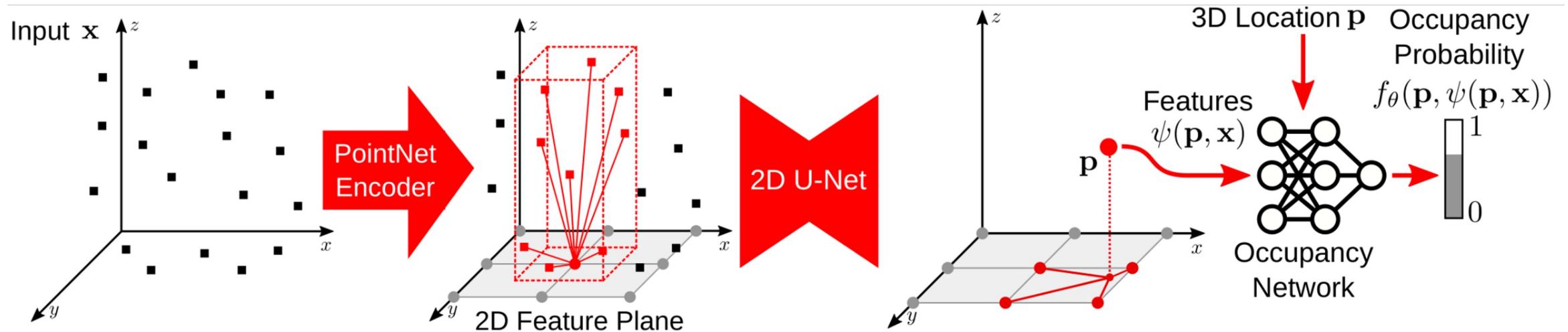
- **2D Plane Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, project onto canonical plane

# Main Idea



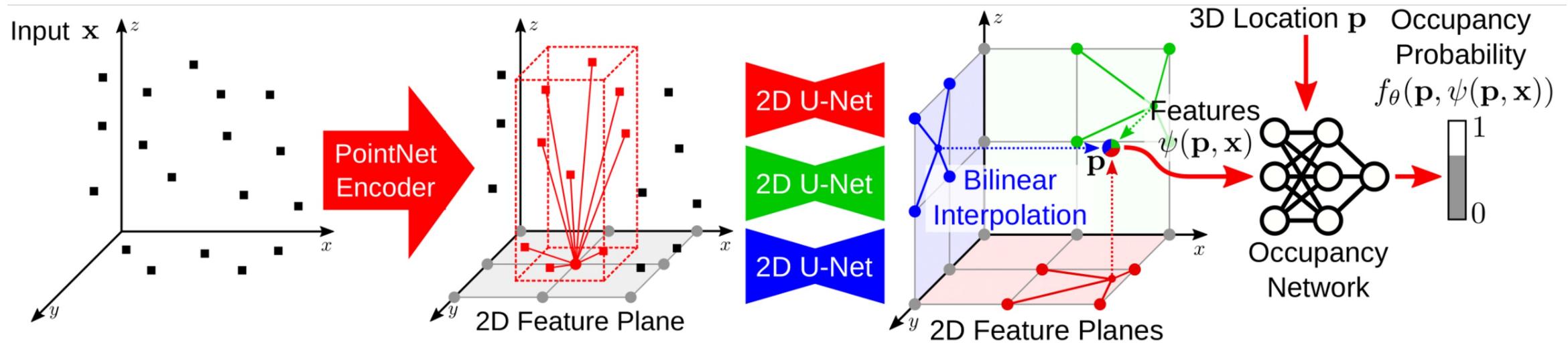
- **2D Plane Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, project onto canonical plane
- **2D Plane Decoder:** Processed by U-Net, query features via bilinear interpolation

# Main Idea



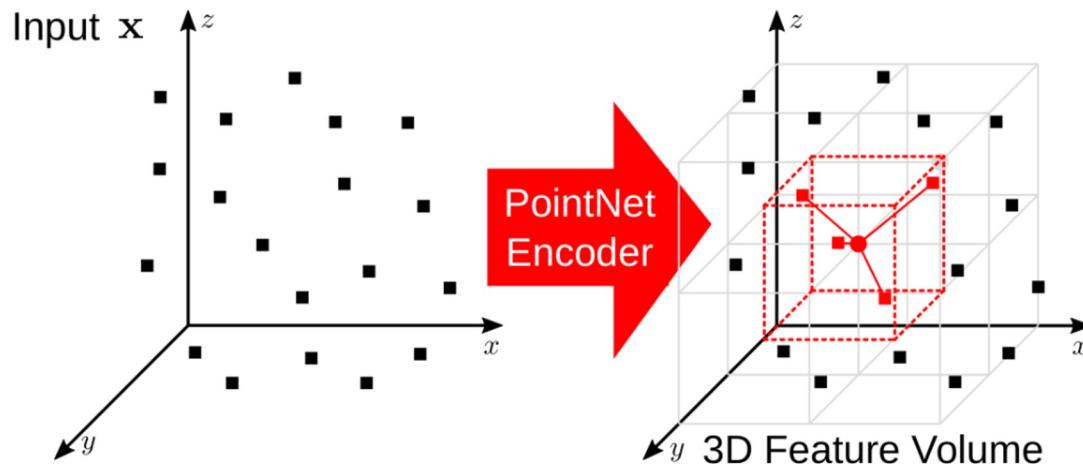
- **2D Plane Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, project onto canonical plane
- **2D Plane Decoder:** Processed by U-Net, query features via bilinear interpolation
- **Occupancy Readout:** Shallow occupancy network  $f_\theta(\cdot)$

# Main Idea



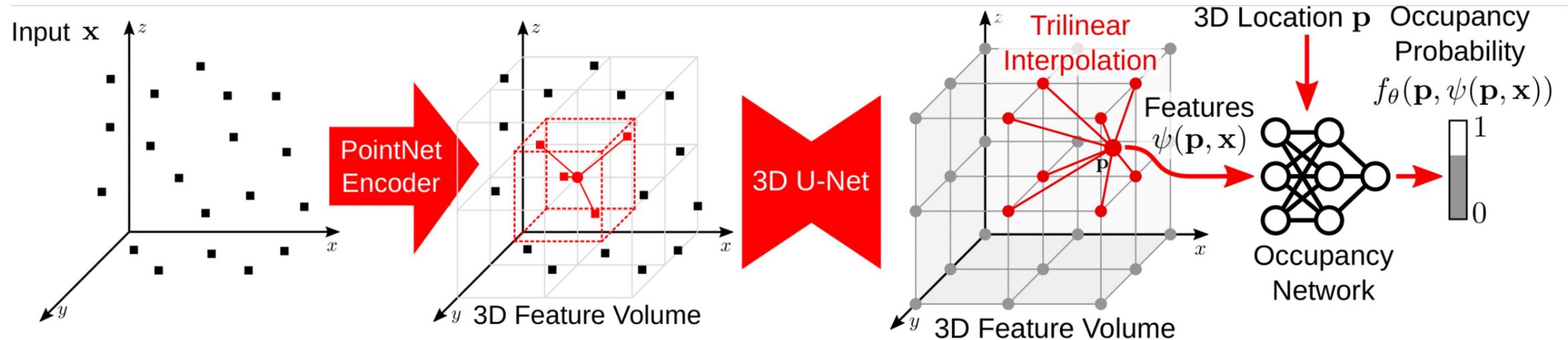
- **2D Plane Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, project onto **3-canonical planes**
- **2D Plane Decoder:** Processed by U-Net, query features via bilinear interpolation
- **Occupancy Readout:** Shallow occupancy network  $f_\theta(\cdot)$

# Main Idea – 3D



- **3D Volume Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, volumetric feature encoding

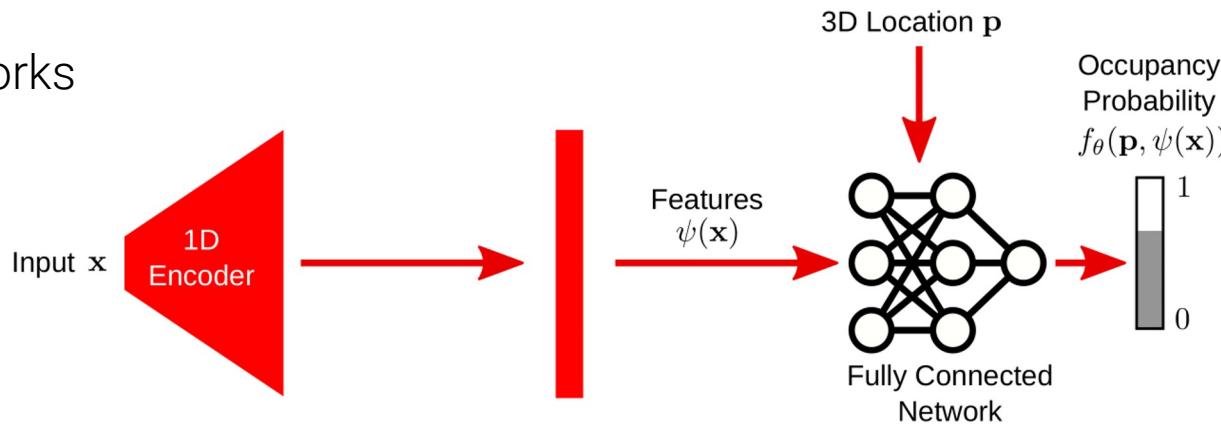
# Main Idea – 3D



- **3D Volume Encoder:** Use a local PointNet to process input, volumetric feature encoding
- **3D Volume Decoder:** Processed by 3D U-Net, query features via trilinear interpolation
- **Occupancy Readout:** Shallow occupancy network  $f_{\theta}(\cdot)$

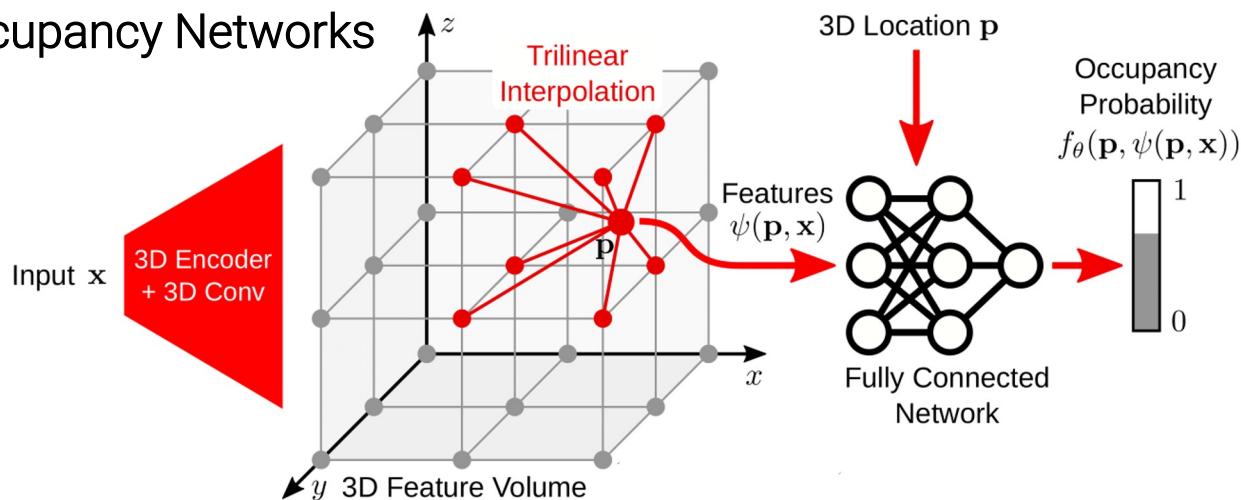
# Comparison

## Occupancy Networks



- global feature
- heavy FC network
- no translation equivariance

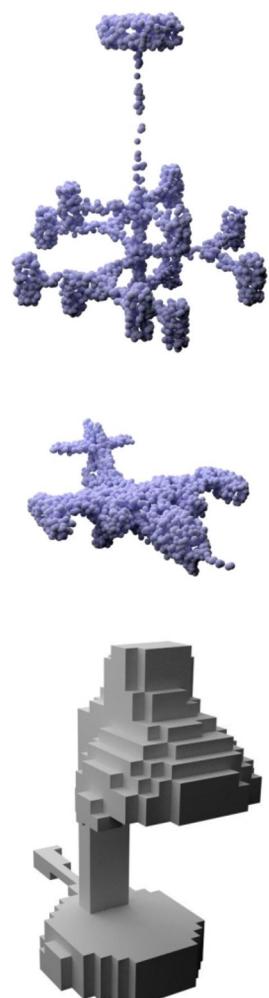
## Convolutional Occupancy Networks



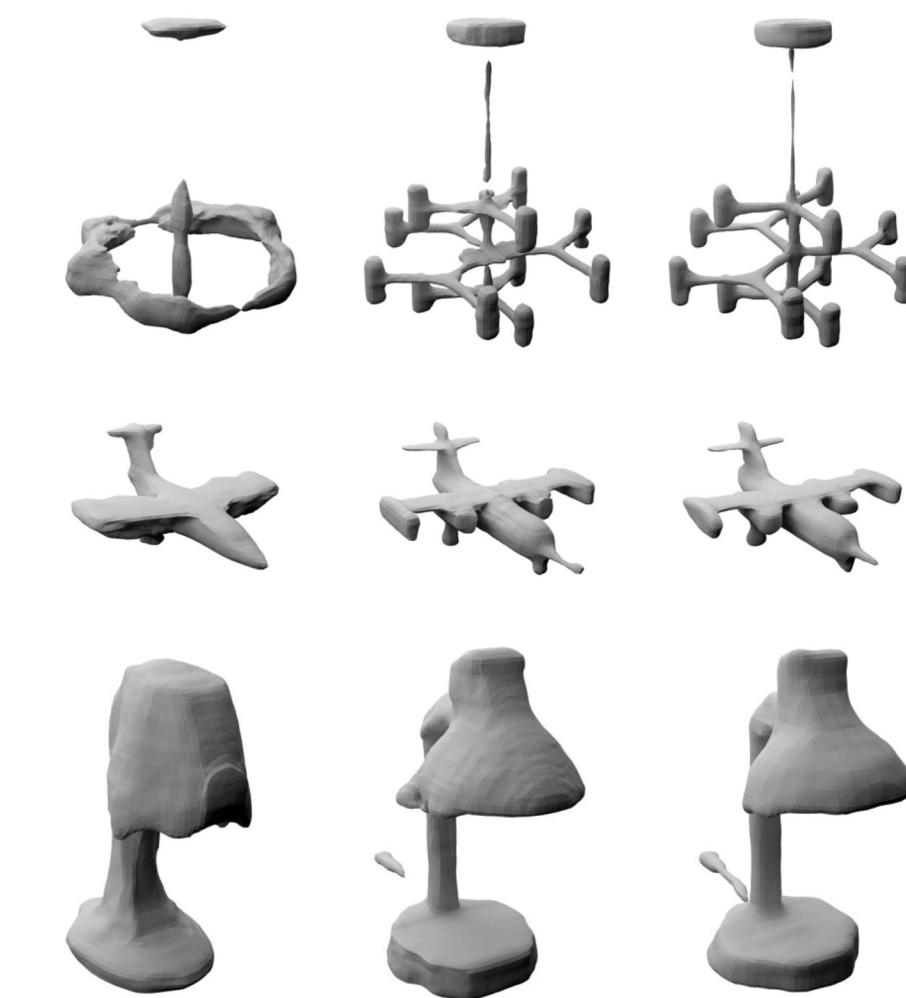
- + local feature
- + shallow FC network
- + translation equivariance

# Results

# Object-Level Reconstruction



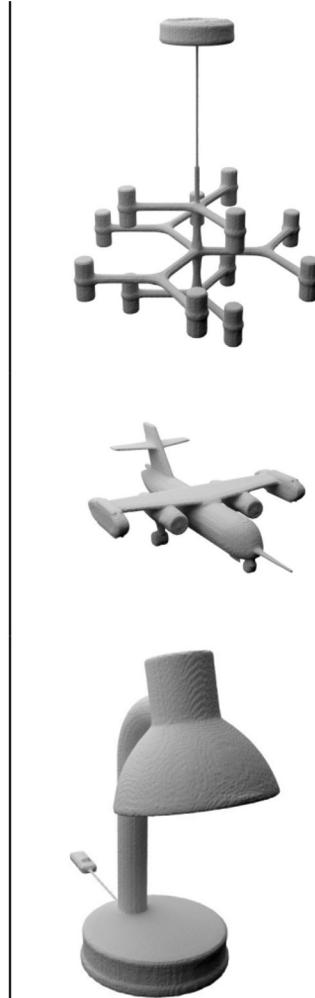
Input



ONet

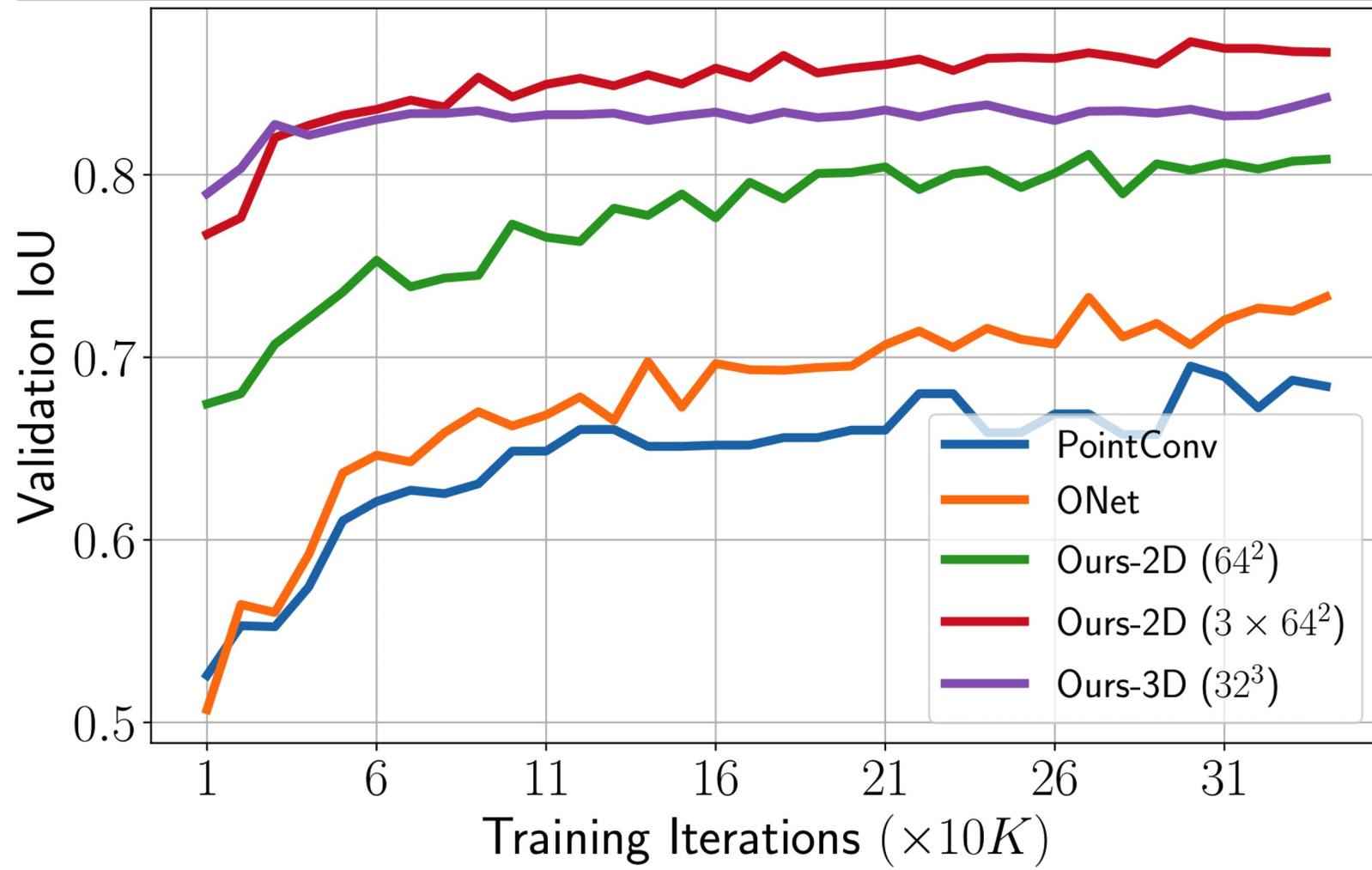
Ours - 2D

Ours - 3D

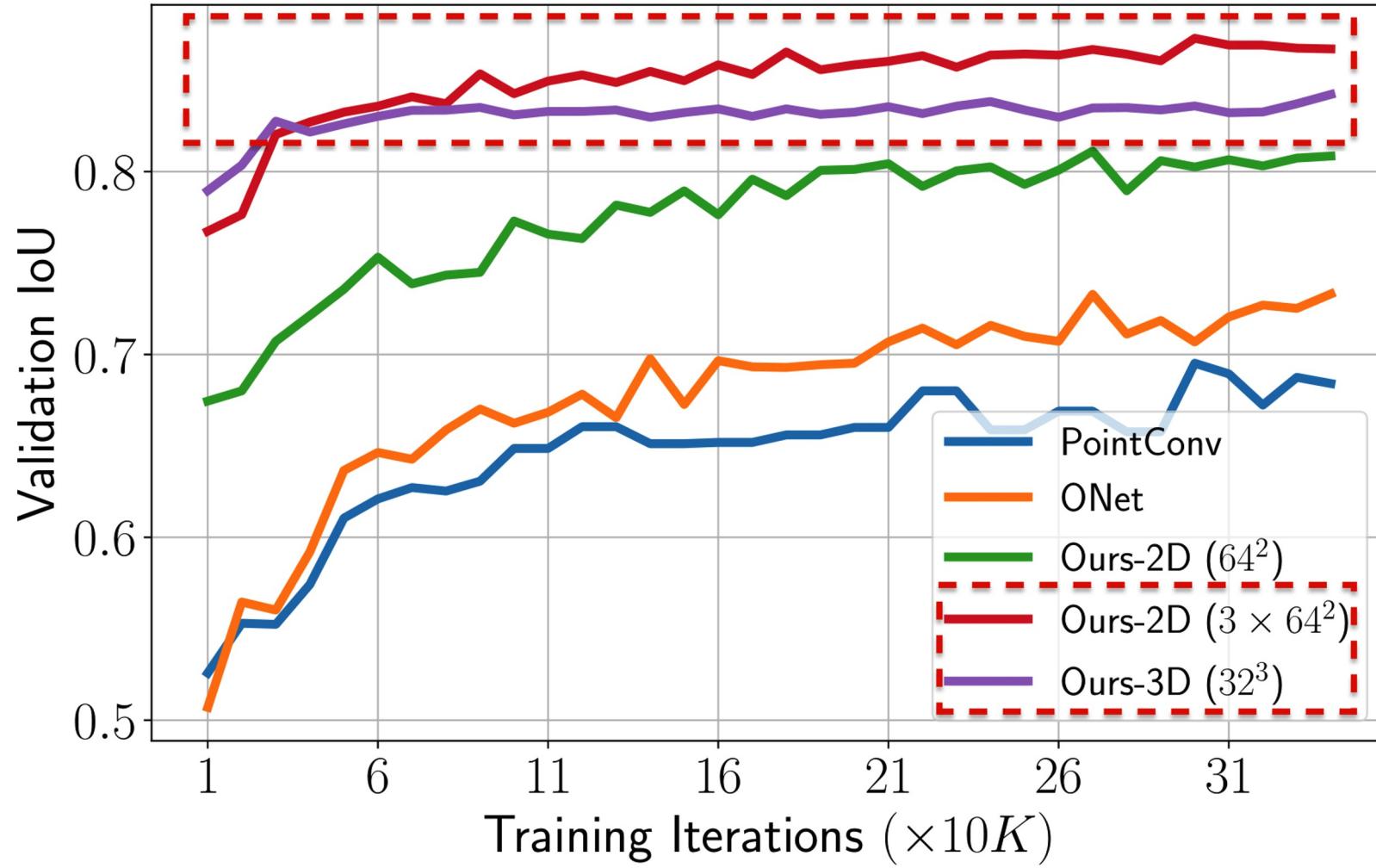


GT Mesh

# Training Speed

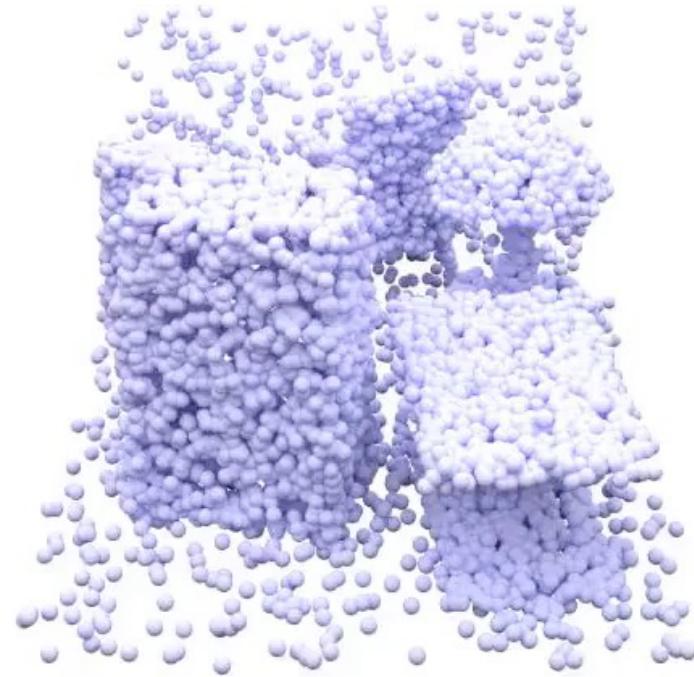


# Training Speed



# Scene-Level Reconstruction: Synthetic

- Trained and evaluated on synthetic rooms



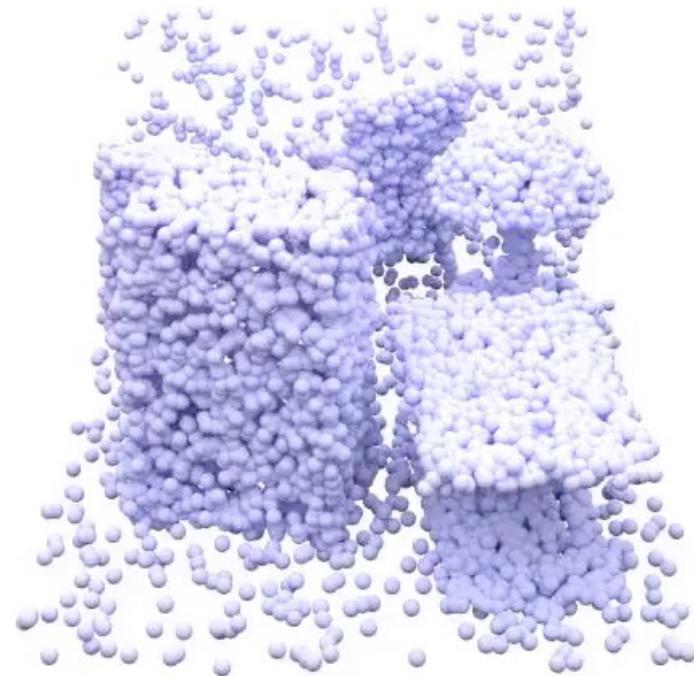
Input



GT Mesh

# Scene-Level Reconstruction: Synthetic

- ONet **fails on** room-level reconstruction



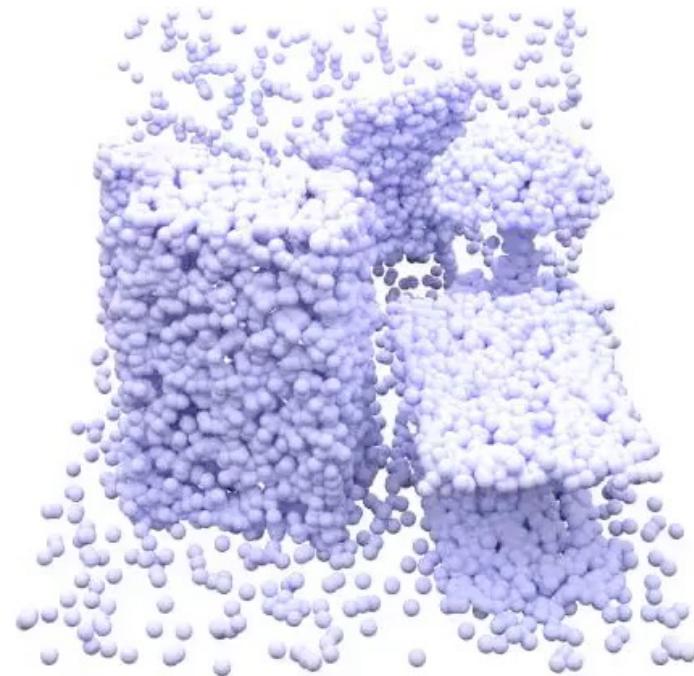
Input



ONet

# Scene-Level Reconstruction: Synthetic

- SPSR requires surface normals, output is **noisy**



Input

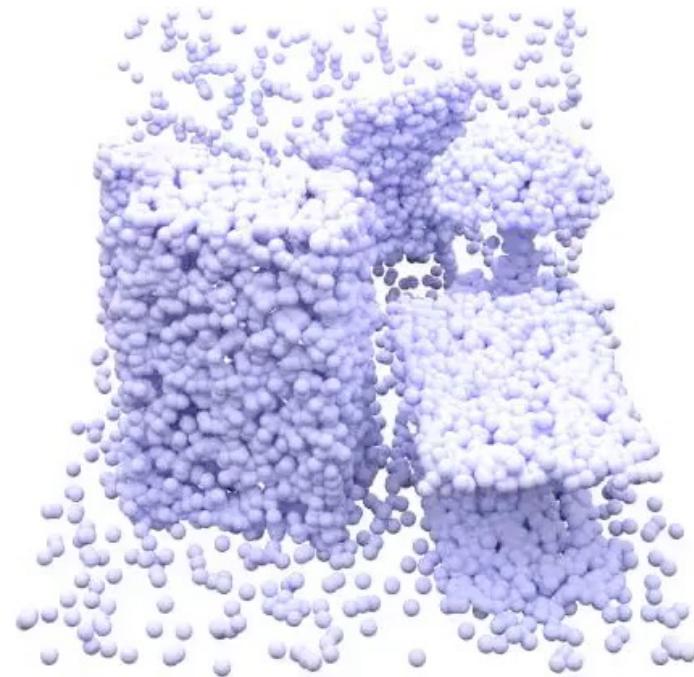


SPSR

(Screened Poisson Surface Reconstruction)

# Scene-Level Reconstruction: Synthetic

- Our method **preserves better details**



Input



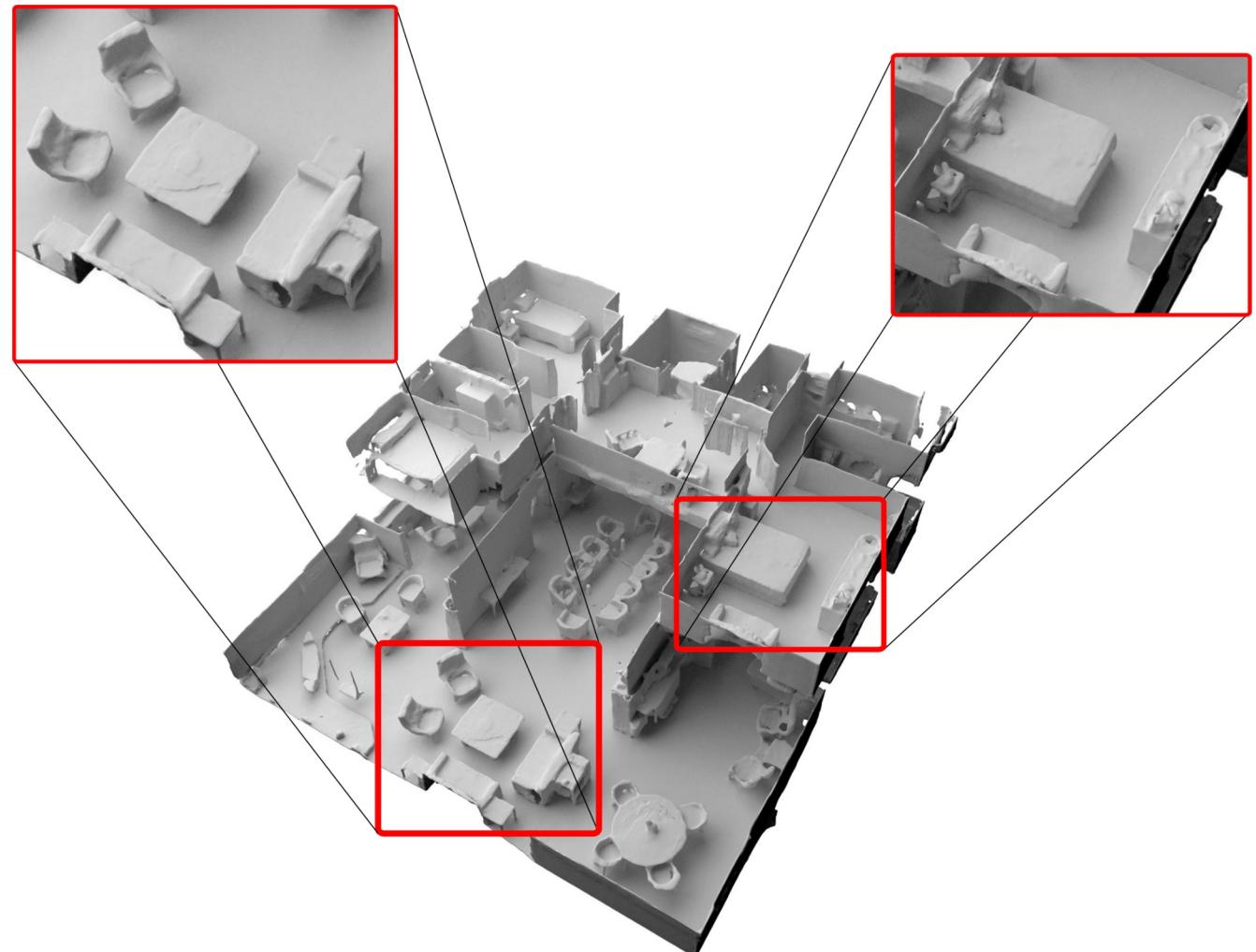
**Ours**

# Large-Scale Reconstruction

**Scene size:** 15.7m x 12.3m x 4.5m

## Results on Matterport3D

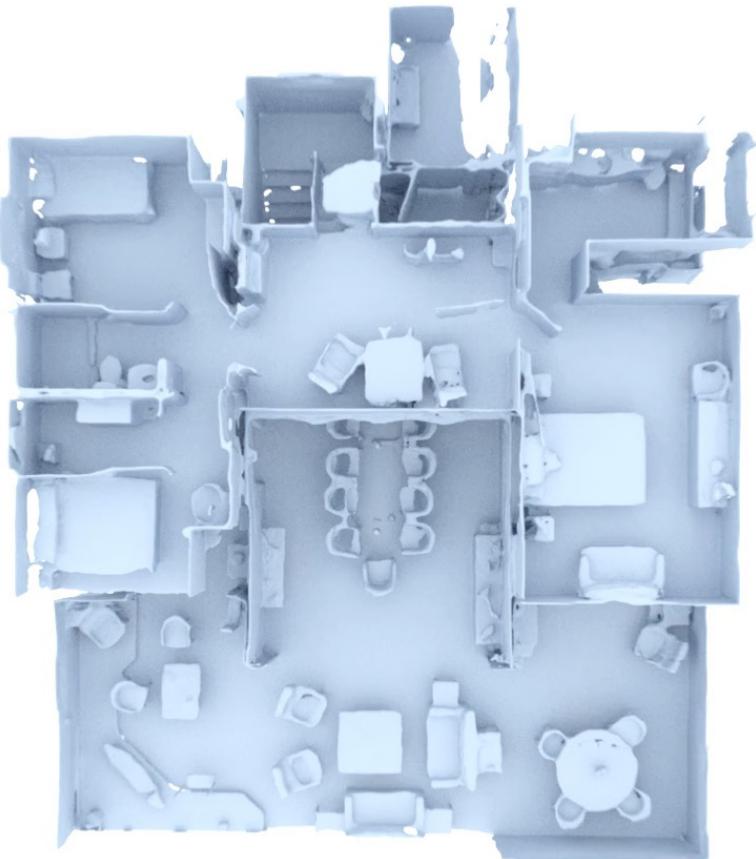
- Fully convolutional model
- Trained on synthetic crops
- Sliding-window evaluation
- Scale to any scene size



**Our reconstruction output**

# Large-Scale Reconstruction

**Scene size:** 15.7m x 12.3m x 4.5m



## Results on Matterport3D

- Fully convolutional model
- Trained on synthetic crops
- Sliding-window evaluation
- Scale to any scene size

**Our reconstruction output**

# Take-home Messages

- Introduce 3 different expressive hybrid representations for neural fields
- CNN's translation equivariance enables to reconstruct large scenes
- The "**tri-plane**" representation became VERY popular
  - Especially in the **NeRF era**, see e.g. EG3D [CVPR'21], TensoRF [ECCV'22]

## Limitations

- Not rotational equivariance

# NeRF is awesome!



## Some existing problems...

- 😢 Poor underlying geometry
- 😢 Camera poses needed

## RGB-D Sequences



40x Speed



# NICE-SLAM

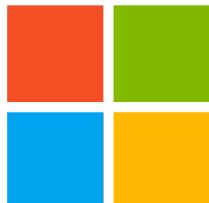
## Neural Implicit Scalable Encoding for SLAM

CVPR 2022

Zihan Zhu\* Songyou Peng\* Viktor Larsson Weiwei Xu Hujun Bao  
Zhaopeng Cui Martin R. Oswald Marc Pollefeys

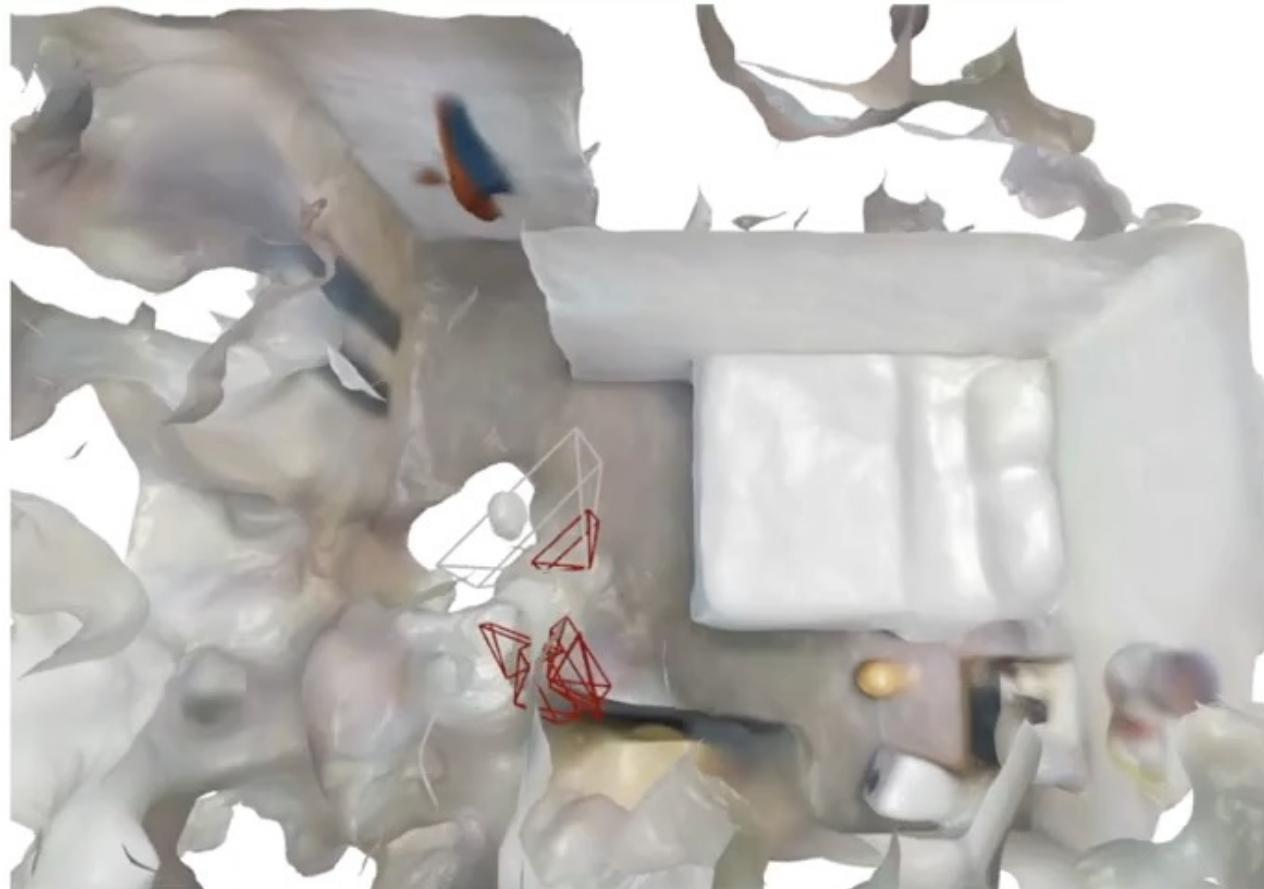
\* Equal Contributions

**ETH** zürich



# iMAP

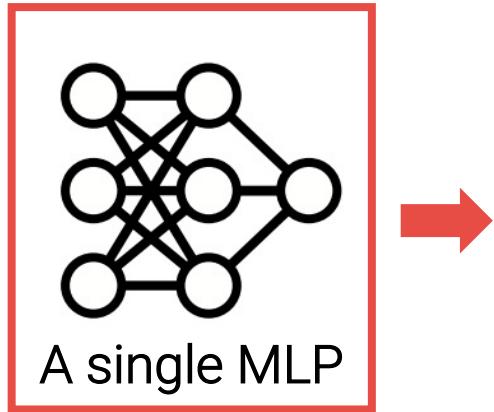
[Sucar et al., ICCV'21]



First neural implicit-based **online** SLAM system

# iMAP

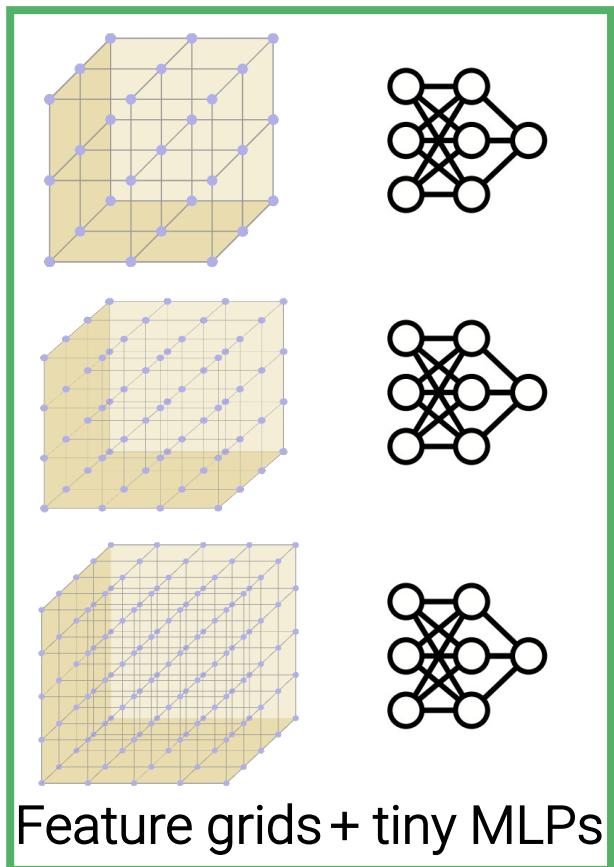
[Sucar et al., ICCV'21]



- Fail when scaling up to larger scenes
- Global update → Catastrophic forgetting
- Slow convergence

— Predicted Poses  
— GT Poses

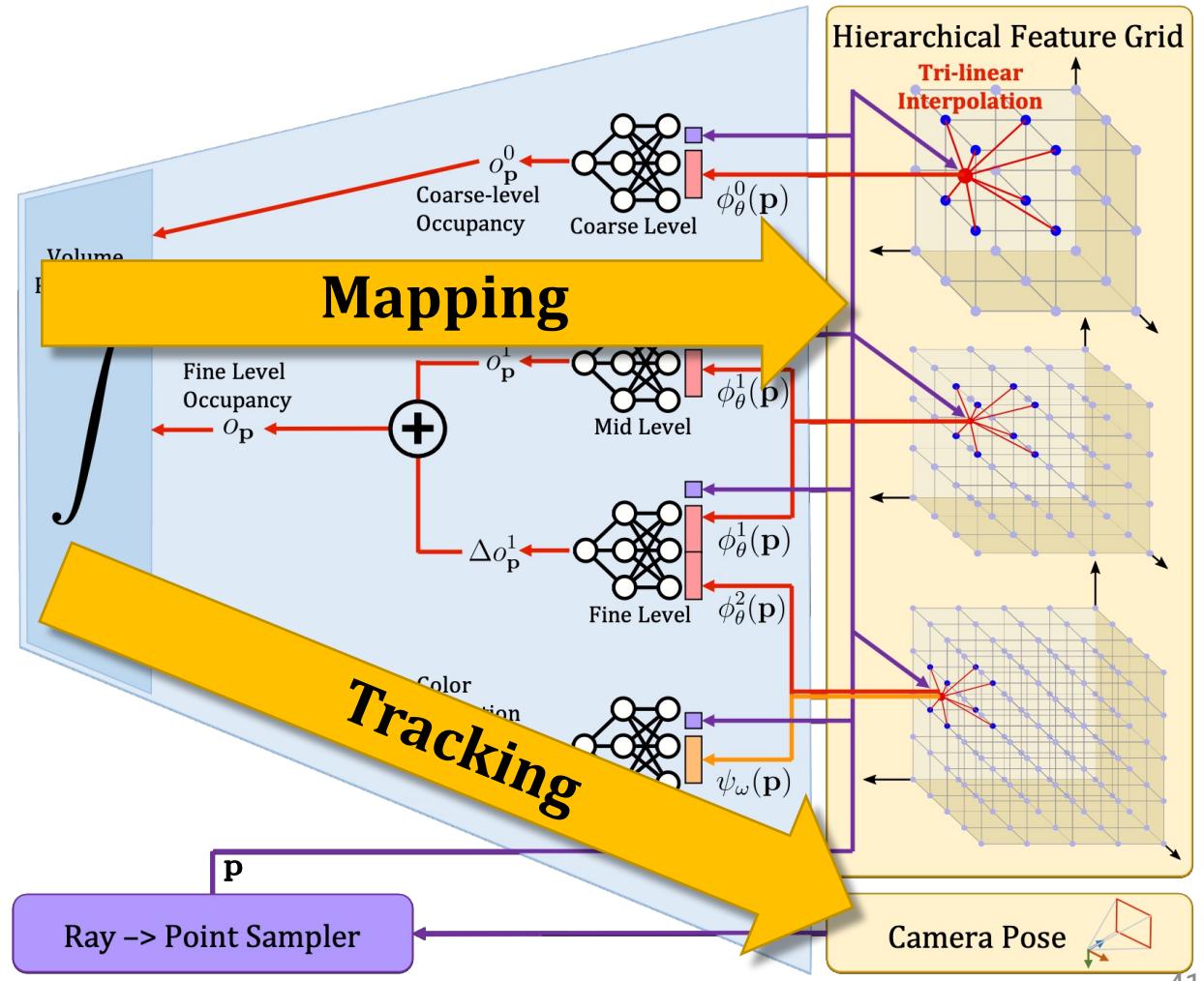
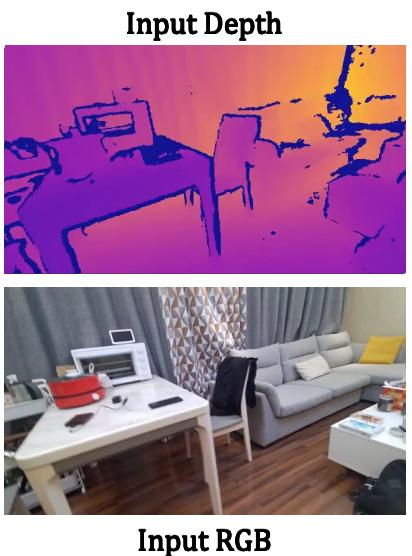
# NICE-SLAM



- Applicable to large-scale scenes
- Local update → No forgetting problem
- Fast convergence

Predicted Poses  
GT Poses

# Pipeline



# Results

# iMAP\*

(our re-implementation of iMAP)

# NICE-SLAM

4x Speed

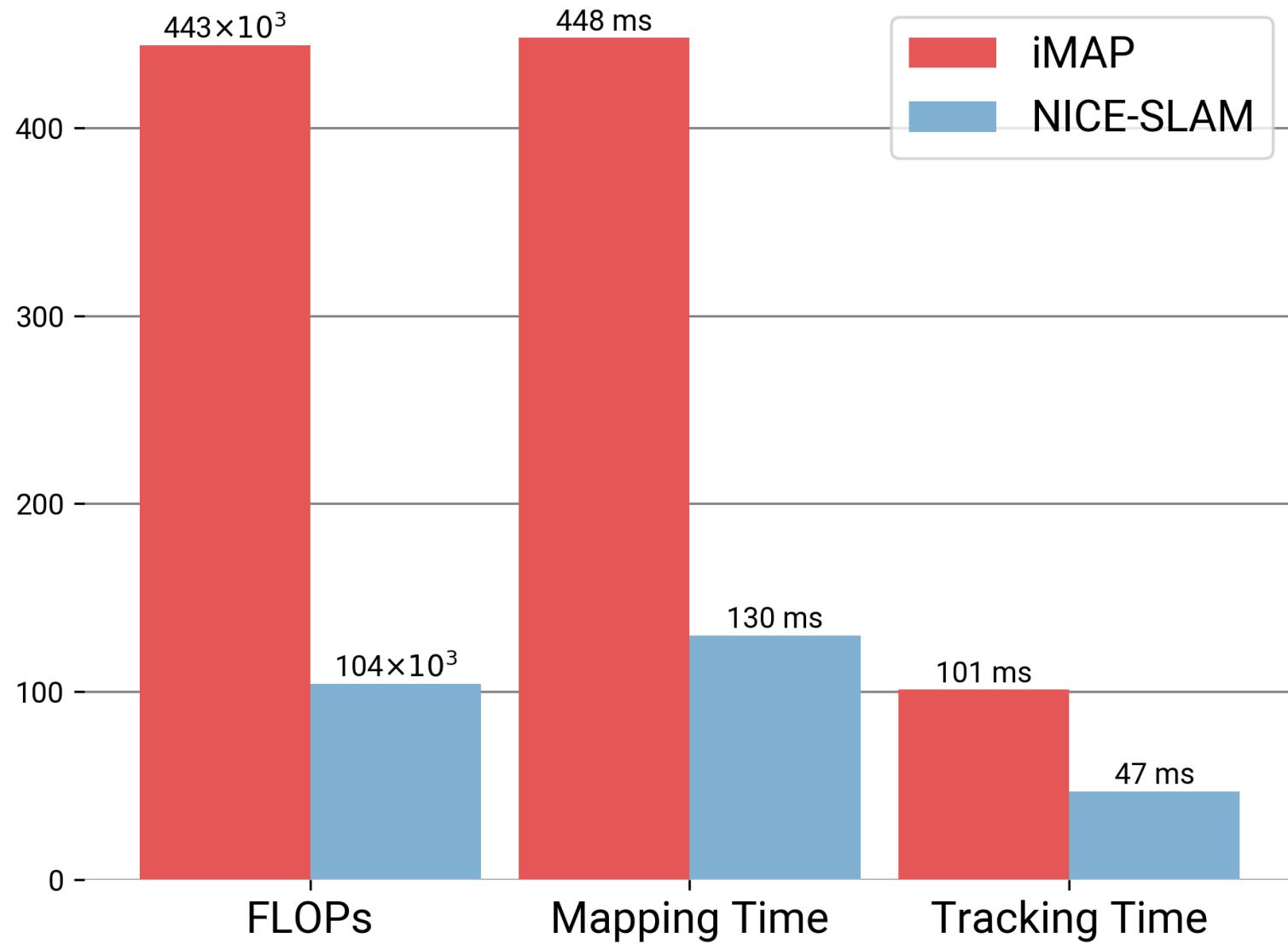
Predicted Poses  
GT Poses 43

# iMAP\*

(our re-implementation of iMAP)

# NICE-SLAM

10x Speed



Note: Runtime evaluation setting from iMAP paper, not the best-performing setting <sup>45</sup>

# Take-home Message

- A NICE NeRF-based SLAM system for indoor scenes
- Hierarchical feature grids + a tiny MLP seems to be a trend!
  - Instant-NGP [SIGGRAPH'22 Best Paper]

## Limitations

- Requires depths as input
- Only bounded scenes
- Still not real-time

# NICER-SLAM: Neural Implicit Scene Encoding for RGB SLAM

Zihan Zhu<sup>1\*</sup>   Songyou Peng<sup>1,2\*</sup>   Viktor Larsson<sup>3</sup>   Zhaopeng Cui<sup>4</sup>  
Martin R. Oswald<sup>1,5</sup>   Andreas Geiger<sup>6</sup>   Marc Pollefeys<sup>1,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ETH Zürich

<sup>2</sup>MPI for Intelligent Systems, Tübingen

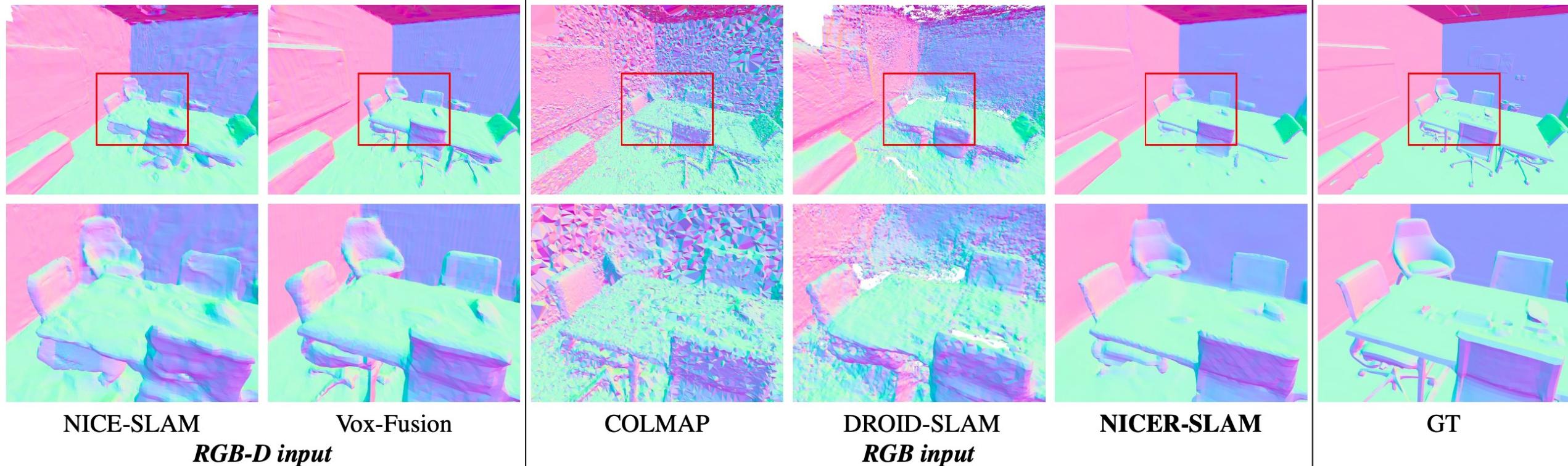
<sup>3</sup>Lund University

<sup>4</sup>State Key Lab of CAD&CG, Zhejiang University

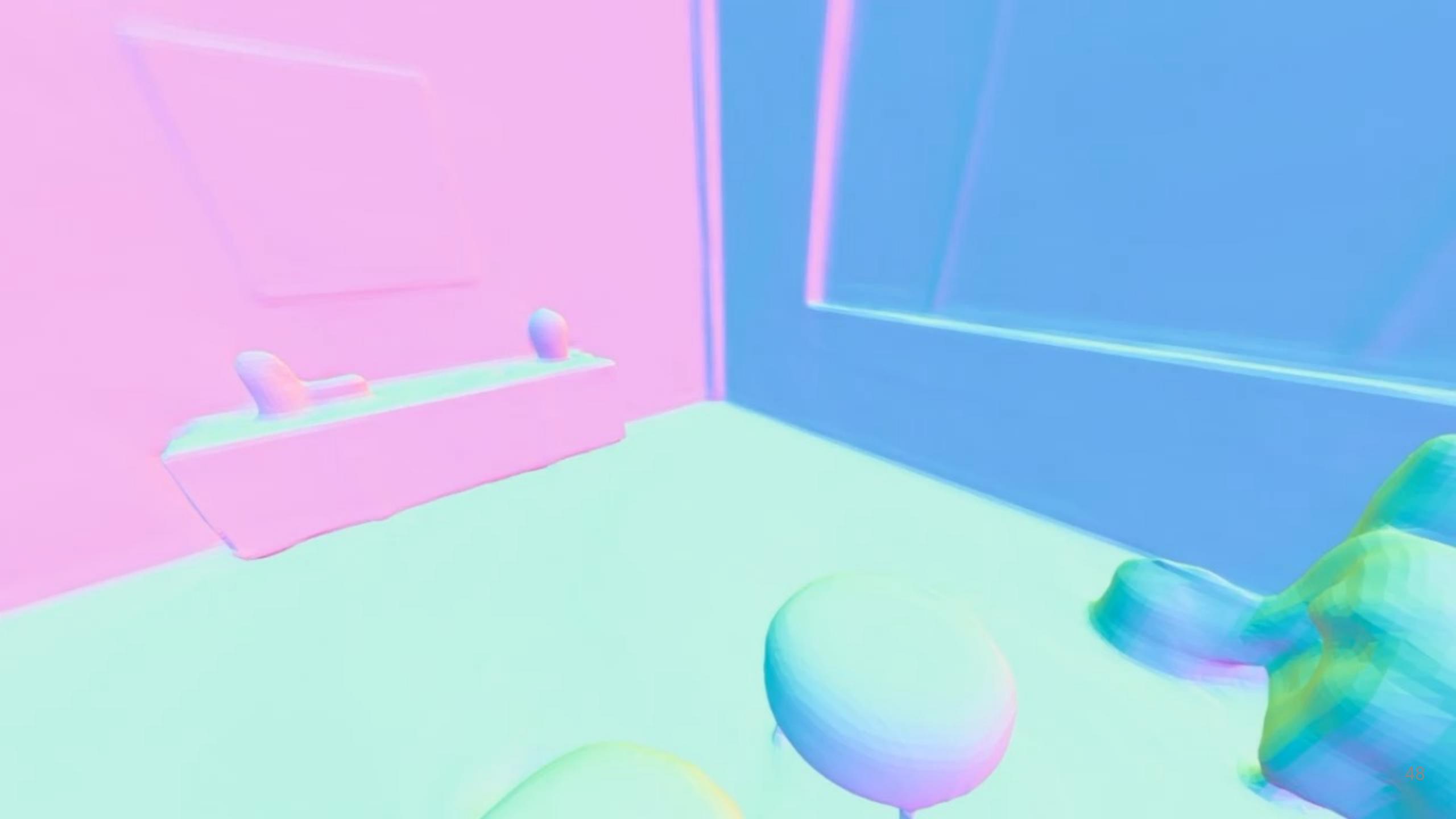
<sup>5</sup>University of Amsterdam

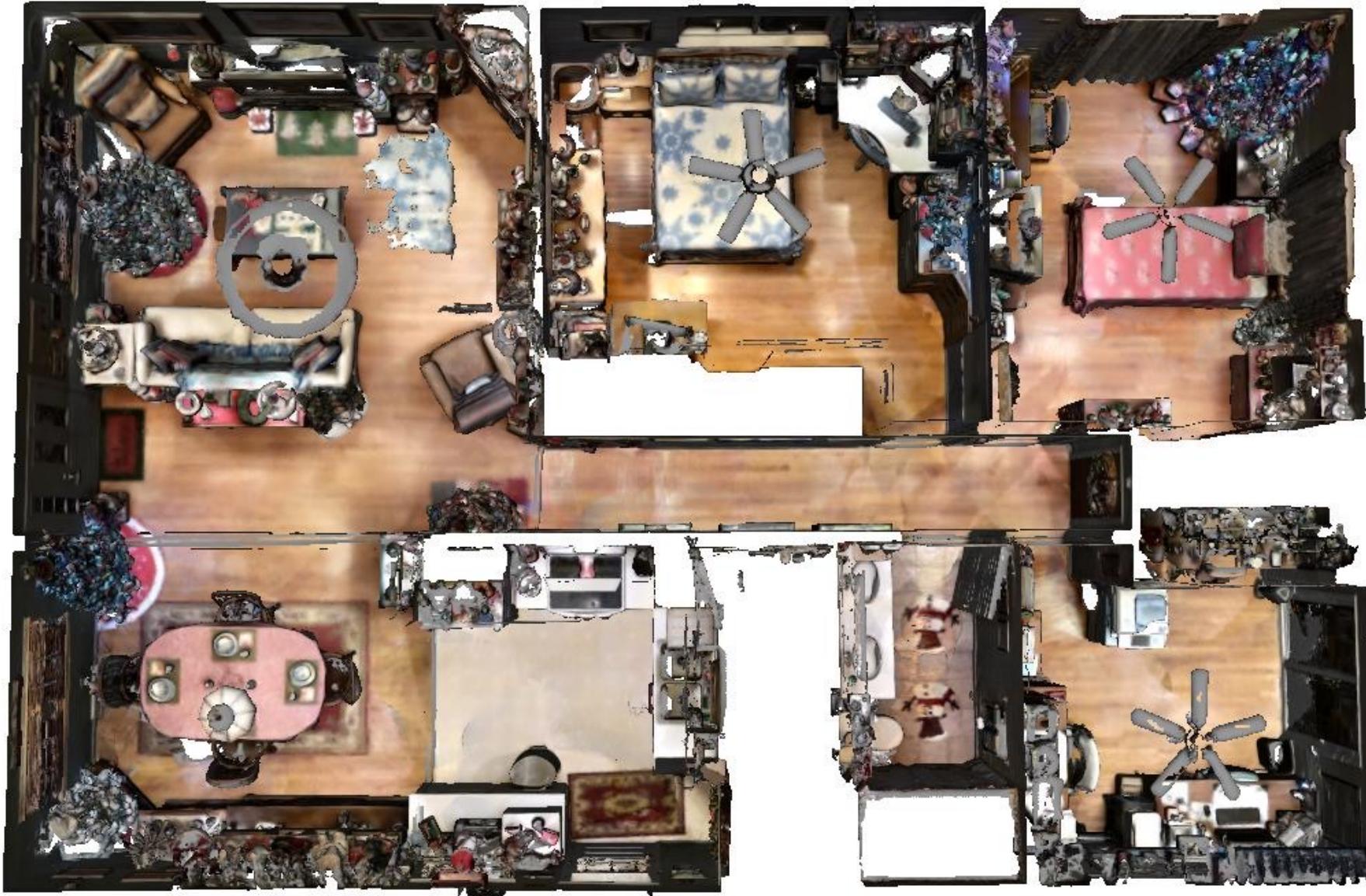
<sup>6</sup>University of Tübingen, Tübingen AI Center

<sup>7</sup>Microsoft

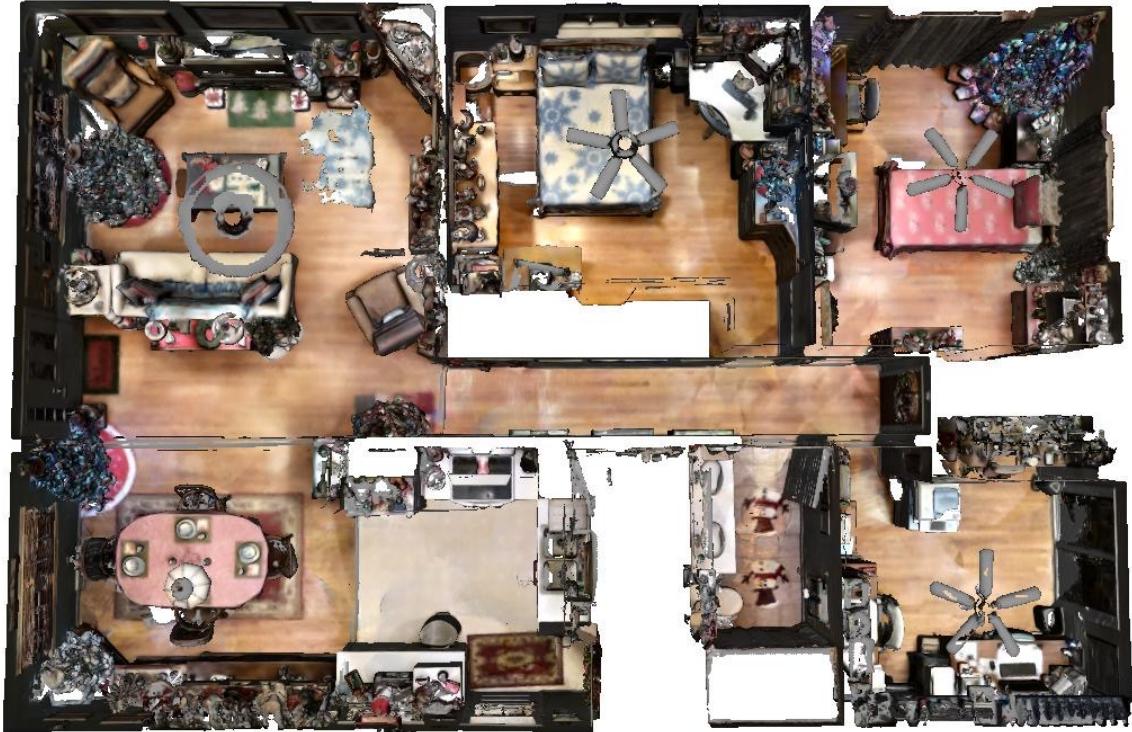


<https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.03594>





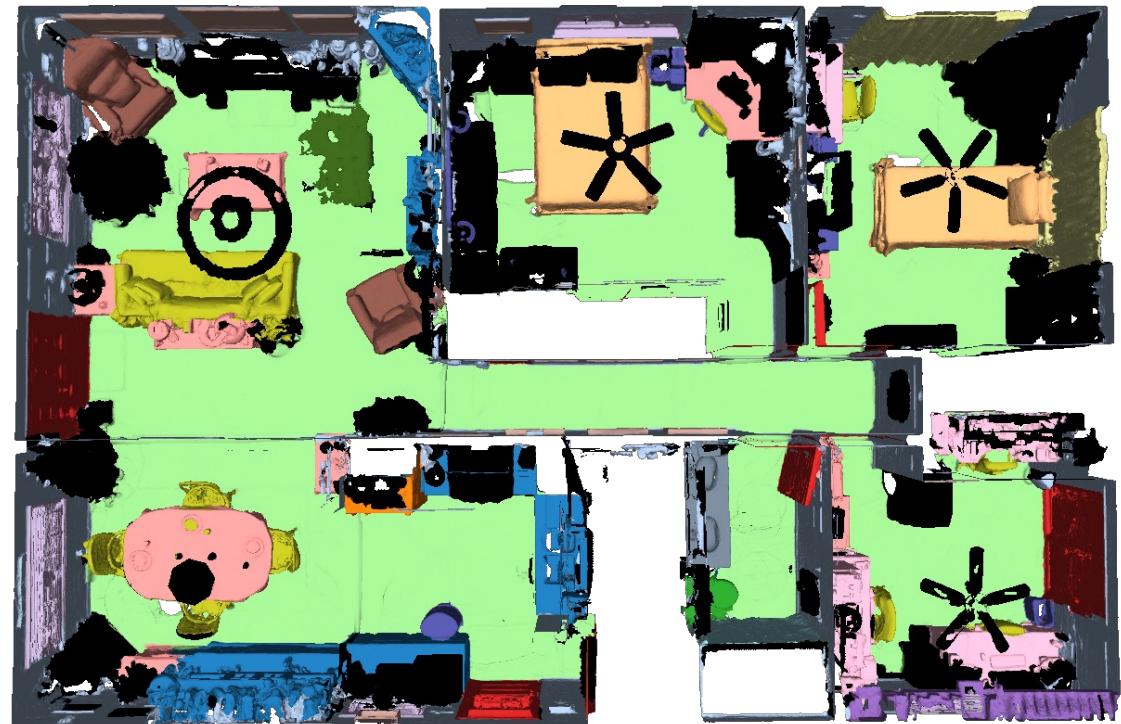
Input 3D Geometry



Input 3D Geometry

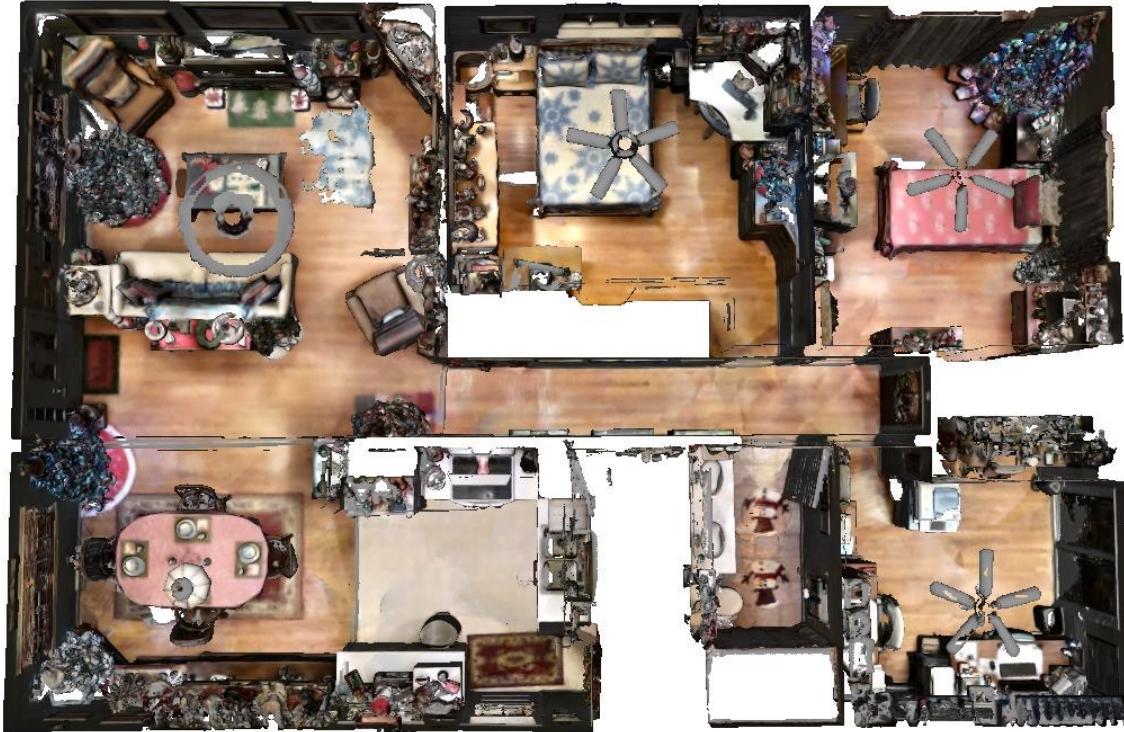
Legend:

- wall
- floor
- cabinet
- bed
- chair
- sofa
- table
- door
- window
- counter
- curtain
- toilet
- sink
- bathtub
- other
- unlabeled



Traditional Semantic Segmentation

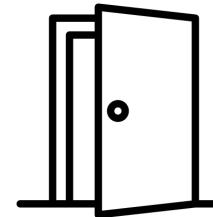
Only train and test on a few common classes



Input 3D Geometry

- Affordance prediction
- Material identification
- Physical property estimation
- Rare object retrieval
- Activity site prediction
- Fine-grained semantic segmentation
- Many more...

## 3D Scene Understanding Tasks w/o Labels



# OpenScene

3D Scene Understanding with Open Vocabularies

CVPR 2023

Songyou Peng



Kyle Genova



Chiyu "Max" Jiang



Andrea Tagliasacchi



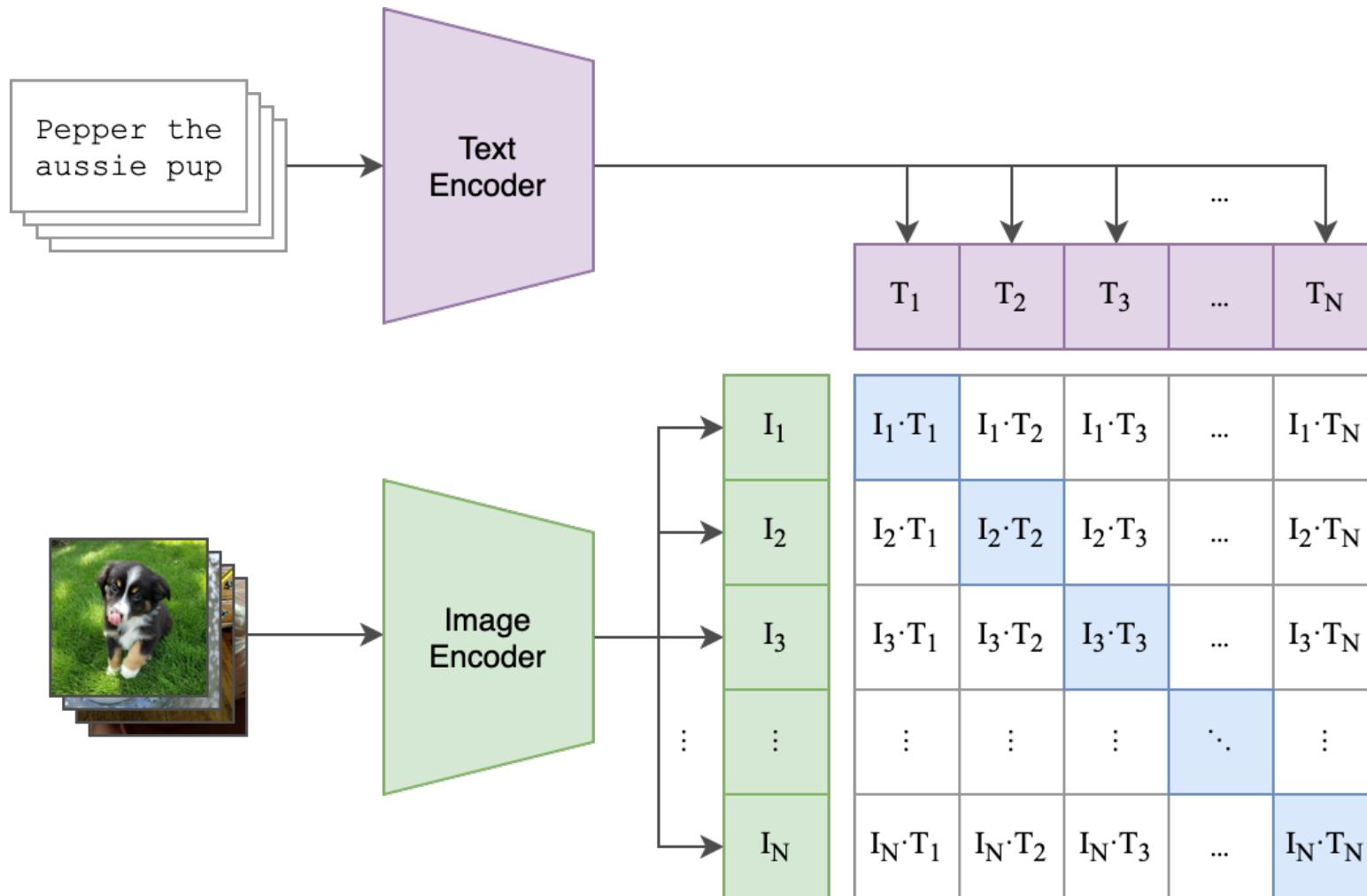
Marc Pollefeys



Tom Funkhouser



# Key Idea: Co-embed 3D features with CLIP features

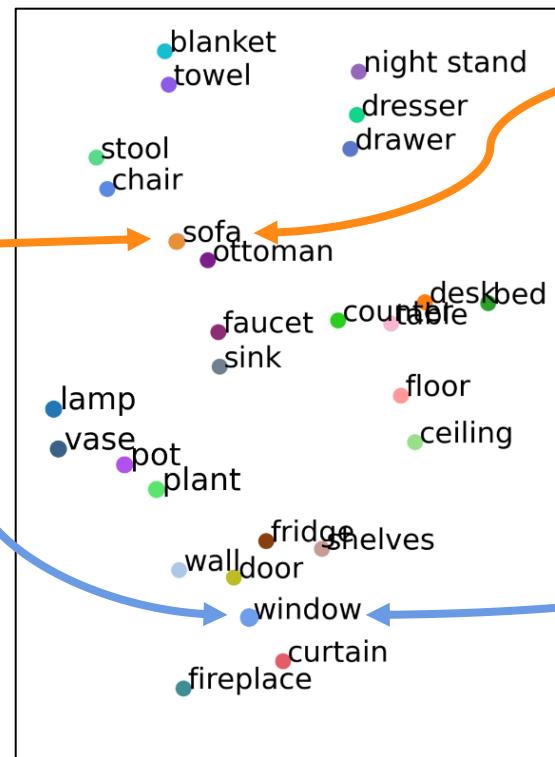


**CLIP:** Contrastive Language-Image Pre-Training

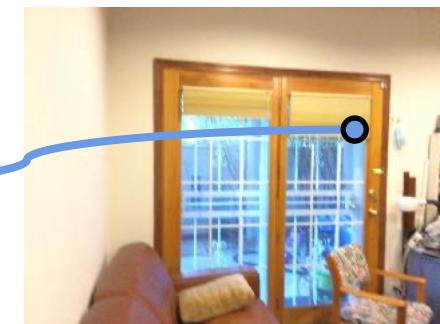
# Key Idea: Co-embed 3D features with CLIP features



3D Geometry



CLIP Text Features  
(visualize with T-SNE)



RGB Images

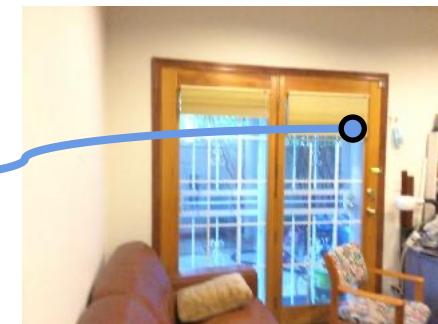
# Key Idea: Co-embed 3D features with CLIP features



3D Geometry



CLIP Text Features  
(visualize with T-SNE)

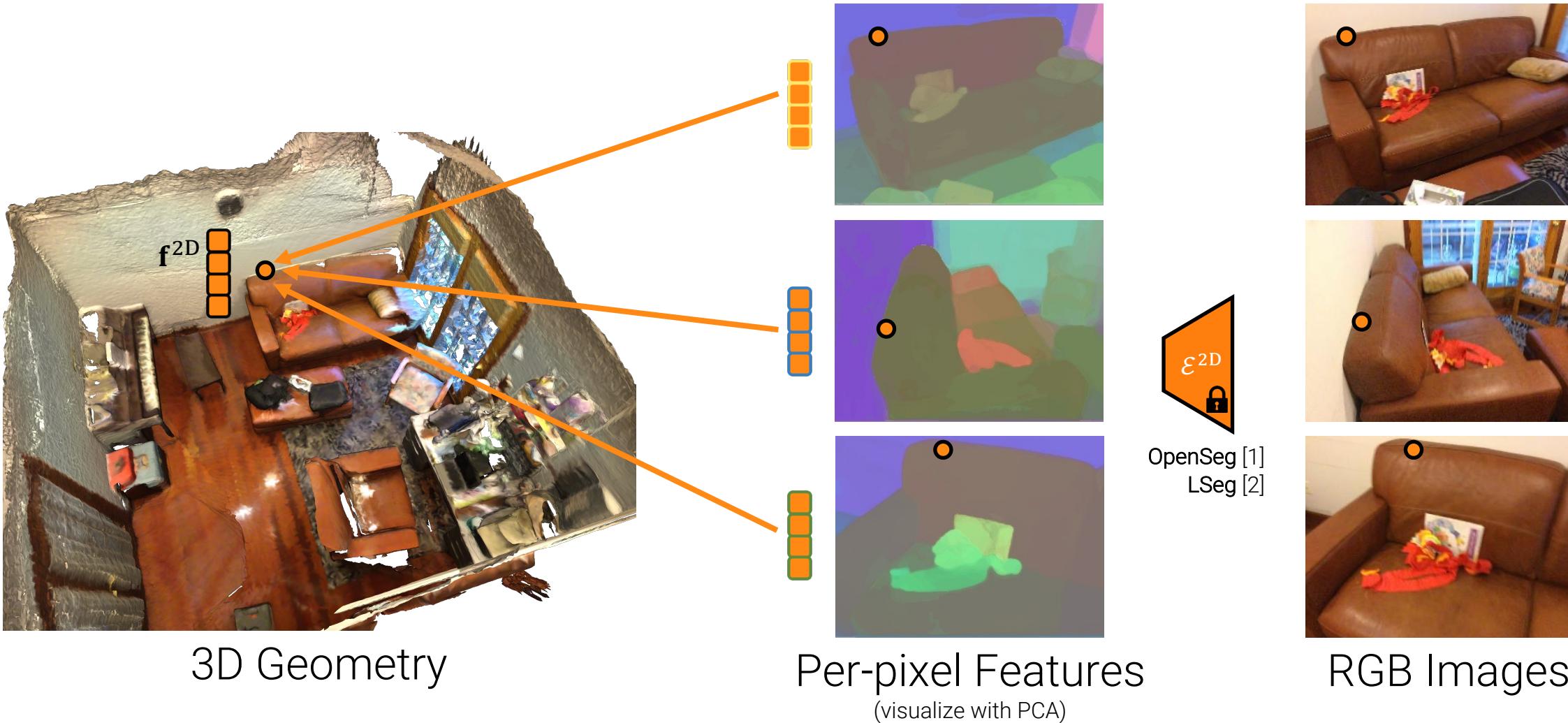


RGB Images

Note: bold word embeddings are approximate

# How to Learn Such Text-Image-3D Co-Embeddings?

# Step 1: Multi-view Feature Fusion



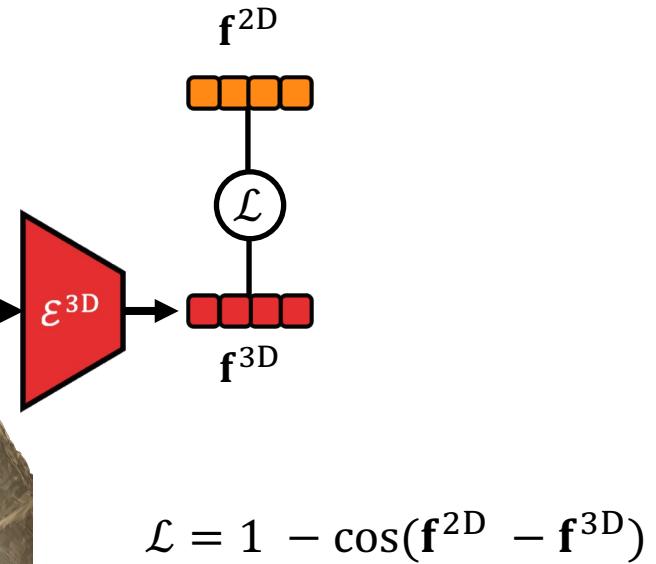
[1] Ghiasi, Gu, Cui, Lin: [Scaling Open-Vocabulary Image Segmentation with Image-Level Labels](#). ECCV 2022

[2] Li, Weinberger, Belongie, Koltun, Ranftl: [Language-driven Semantic Segmentation](#). ICLR 2022

# Step 2: 3D Distillation



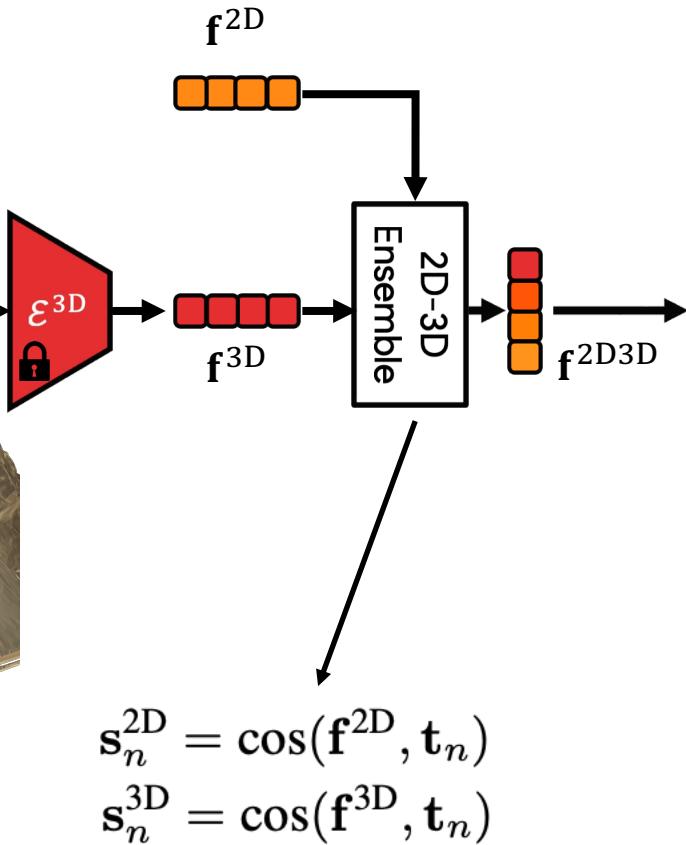
3D Geometry



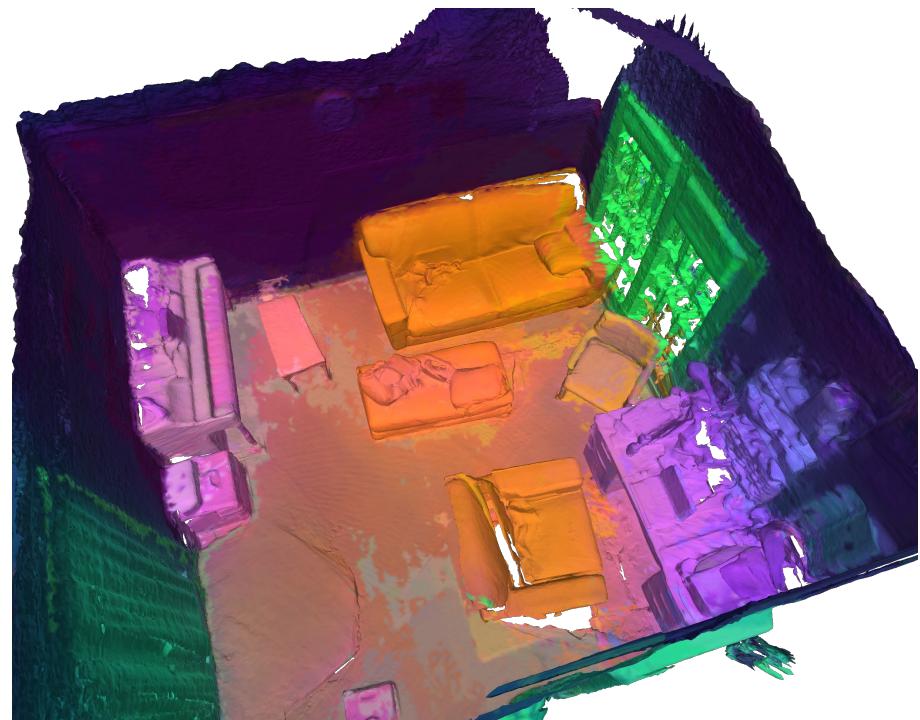
# Step 3: 2D-3D Ensemble



3D Geometry



Choose the feature with  
the highest max score among all prompts



2D-3D Ensemble Features  
(visualize with PCA)

# Open-Vocabulary, Zero-shot 3D Semantic Segmentation



Input 3D Geometry



Our Zero-shot 3D Segmentation  
(20 classes)

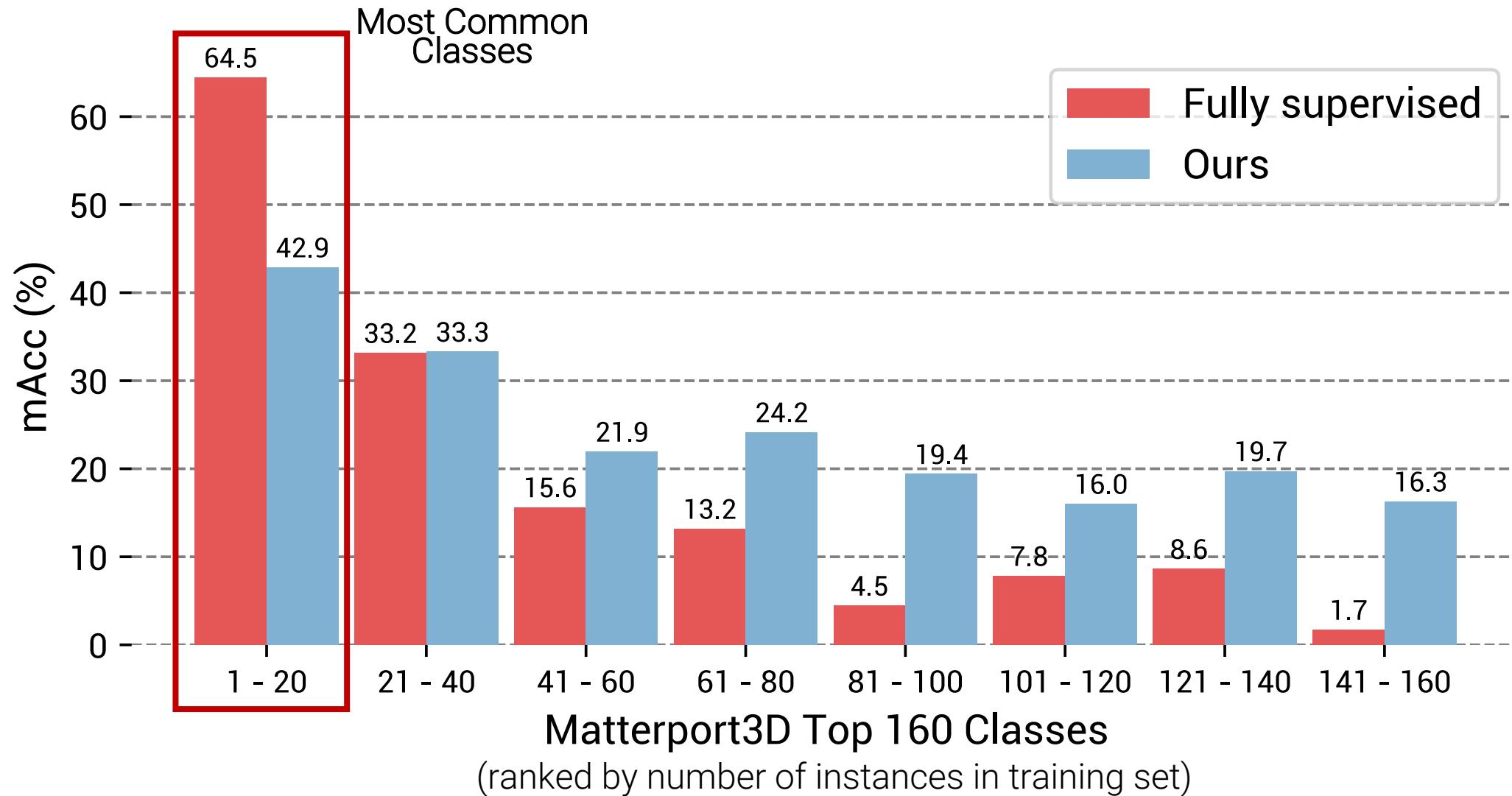
■ wall ■ floor ■ cabinet ■ bed ■ chair ■ sofa ■ table ■ door ■ window ■ bookshelf ■ picture ■ counter ■ desk ■ curtain ■ refrigerator ■ shower curtain ■ toilet ■ sink ■ bathtub ■ other



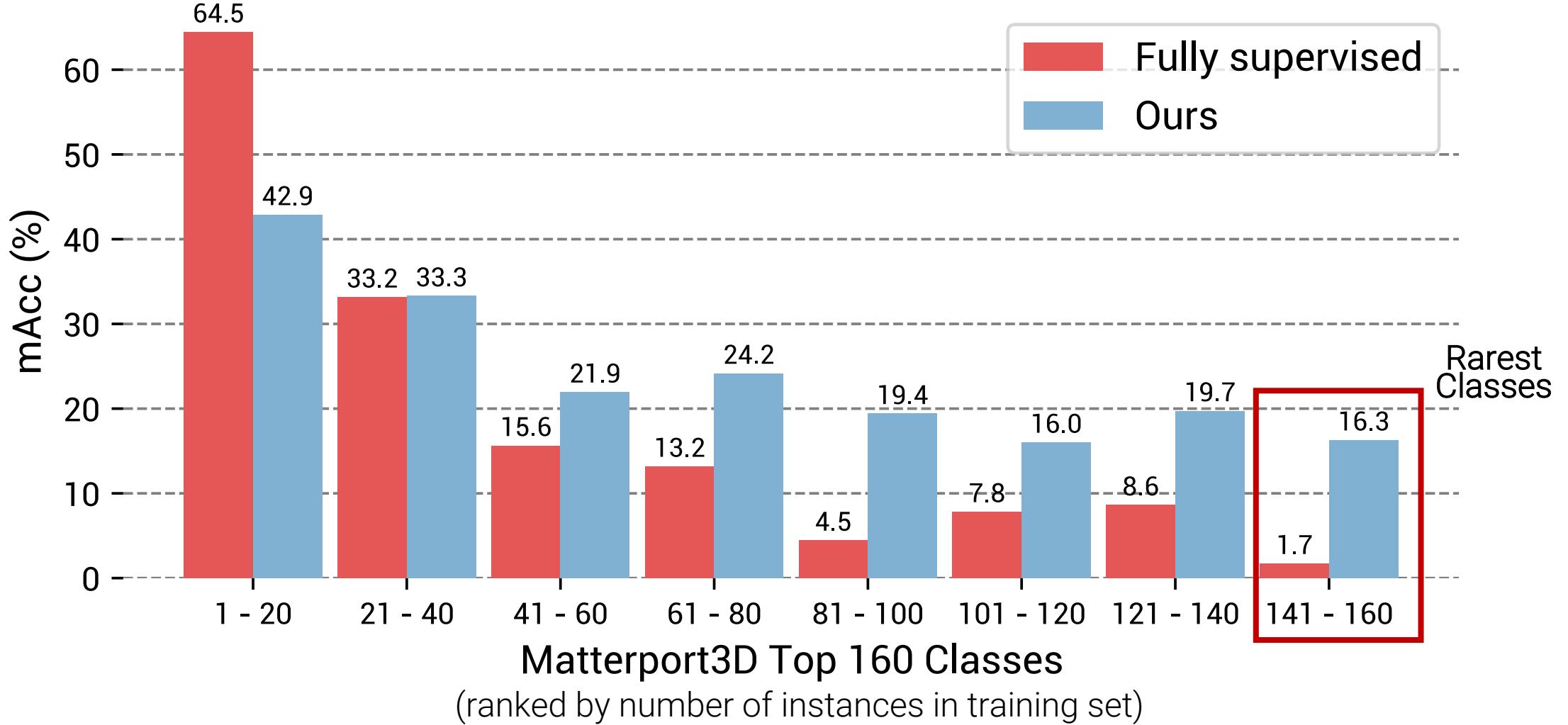
Our Zero-shot 3D Segmentation  
(160 classes)

wall	cabinet	bed	pot	bath	dresser	stand	clock	tissue box	furniture	soap	cup	hanger	urn	paper towel dispenser	toy
door	curtain	night stand	desk	book	rug	drawer	stove	air vent	air conditioner	thermostat	ladder	candlestick	decorative plate	foot rest	
ceiling	floor	table	box	air vent	ottoman	container	washing machine	faucet	fire extinguisher	fire extinguisher	garage door	light	car	lamp shade	
picture	plant	column	toilet	coffee table	photo	bottle	light switch	shower curtain	radiator	piano	scale	jacket	computer	sofa dish	
mirror	mirror	banister	counter	counter	bench	refridgerator	purse	bin	curtain rod	paper towel	board	bottle of soap	cleaner	drum	
window	towel	stairs	stool	stool	bookshelf	bookshelf	wardrobe	telephone	printer	sheet	rope	display case	water cooler	whiteboard	computer
chair	sink	fan	stool	garbage bin	garbage bin	door way	chest	bucket	headboard	paper	ball	toilet paper holder	teapot	knob	knob
pillow	shelves	vase	vase	vase	vase	railing	fan	wardrobe	wardrobe	towel	excercise equipment	stuffed animal	tray	range hood	projector

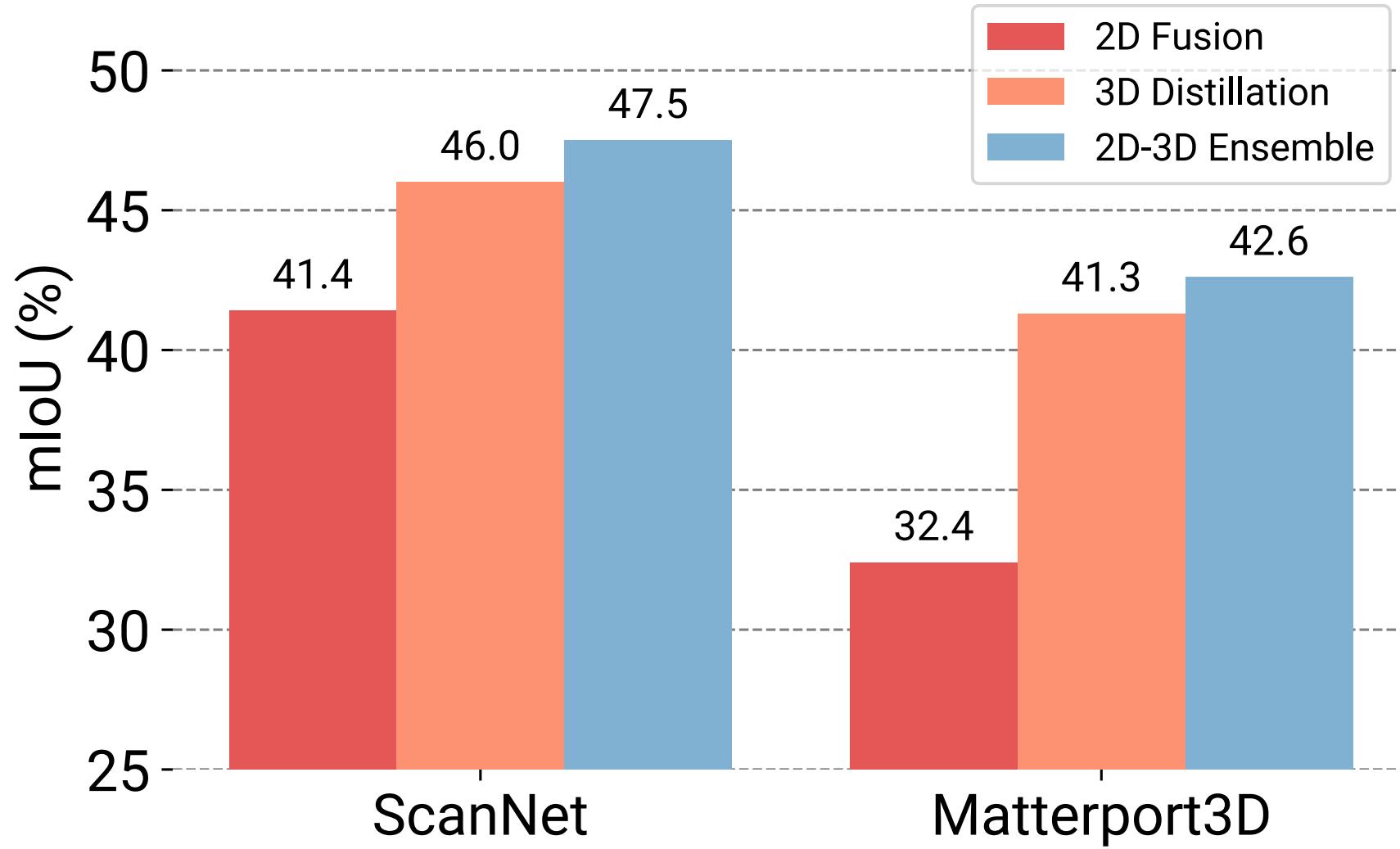
# Comparison



# Comparison



# Ablation



# **Image-based 3D Scene Query**



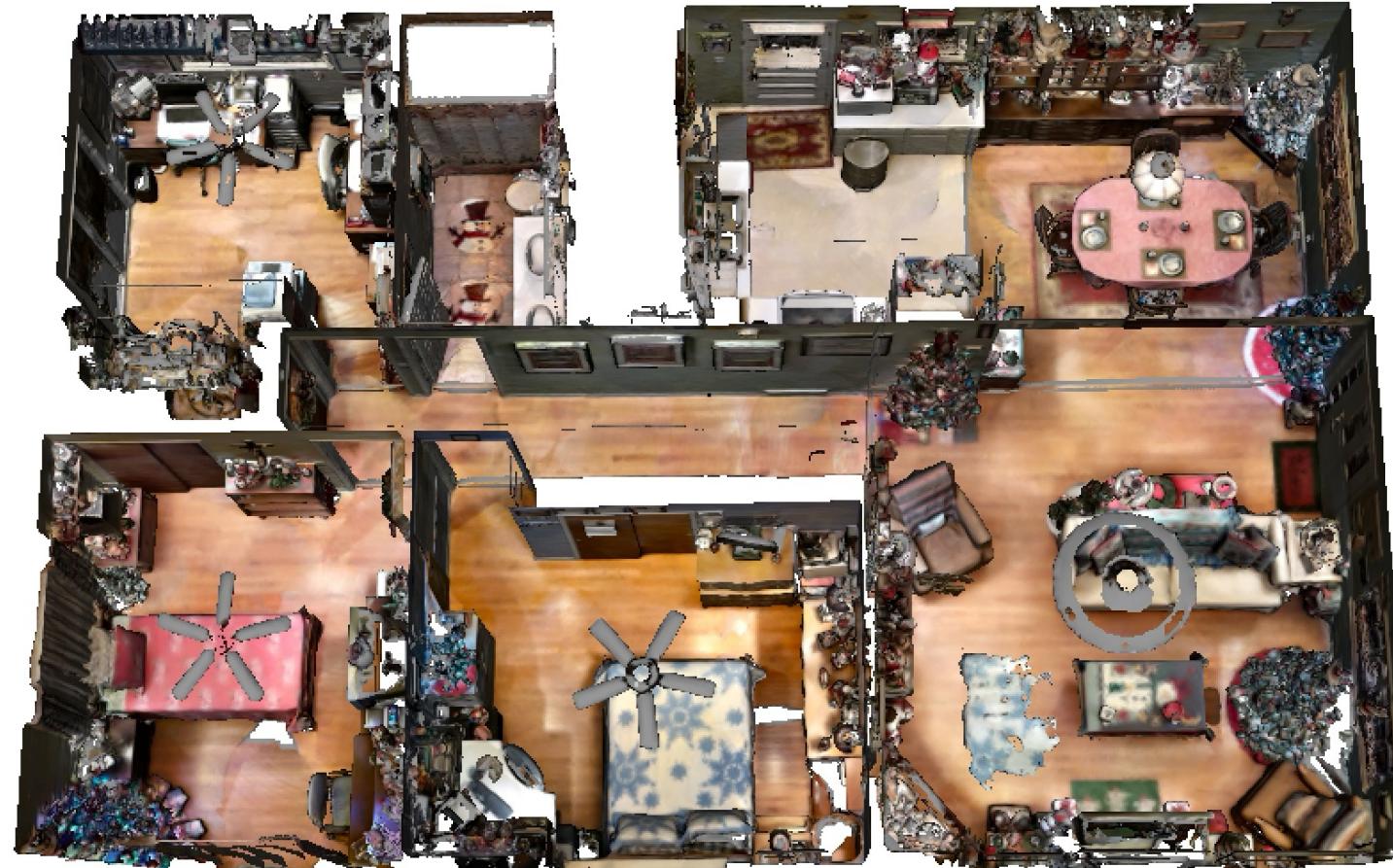
Image Queries

Given 3D Geometry

# **Interactive Demo**

Open-vocabulary 3D Scene Exploration

Text queries:

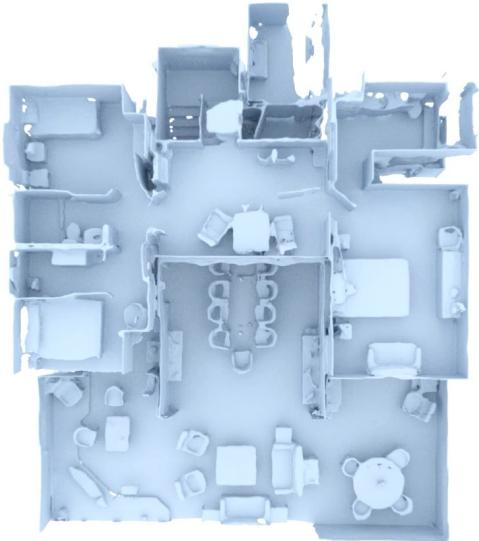


# Take-home Message

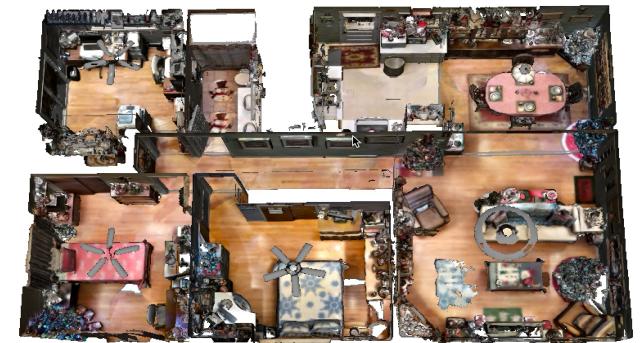
- We enable a **wide range of applications** by open-vocabulary queries
- This can hopefully influence how people train 3D scene understanding systems in the future
- Our real-time demo already shows the **possibility to directly apply to AR/VR**

# Learn to Reconstruct and Understand the 3D World

Songyou Peng



floor



**Convolutional Occupancy Networks**  
ECCV 2020 (Spotlight)  
[pengsongyou.github.io/conv\\_onet](https://pengsongyou.github.io/conv_onet)

**NICE-SLAM**  
CVPR 2022  
[pengsongyou.github.io/nice-slam](https://pengsongyou.github.io/nice-slam)

**OpenScene**  
CVPR 2023  
[pengsongyou.github.io/openscene](https://pengsongyou.github.io/openscene)

Thank you!