

# SCADE: NeRFs from Space Carving with Ambiguity-aware Depth Estimates

Mikaela Angelina Uy <sup>1,2</sup>, Ricardo Martin-Brualla <sup>2</sup>, Leonidas Guibas <sup>1,2</sup>, Ke Li <sup>2,3</sup>



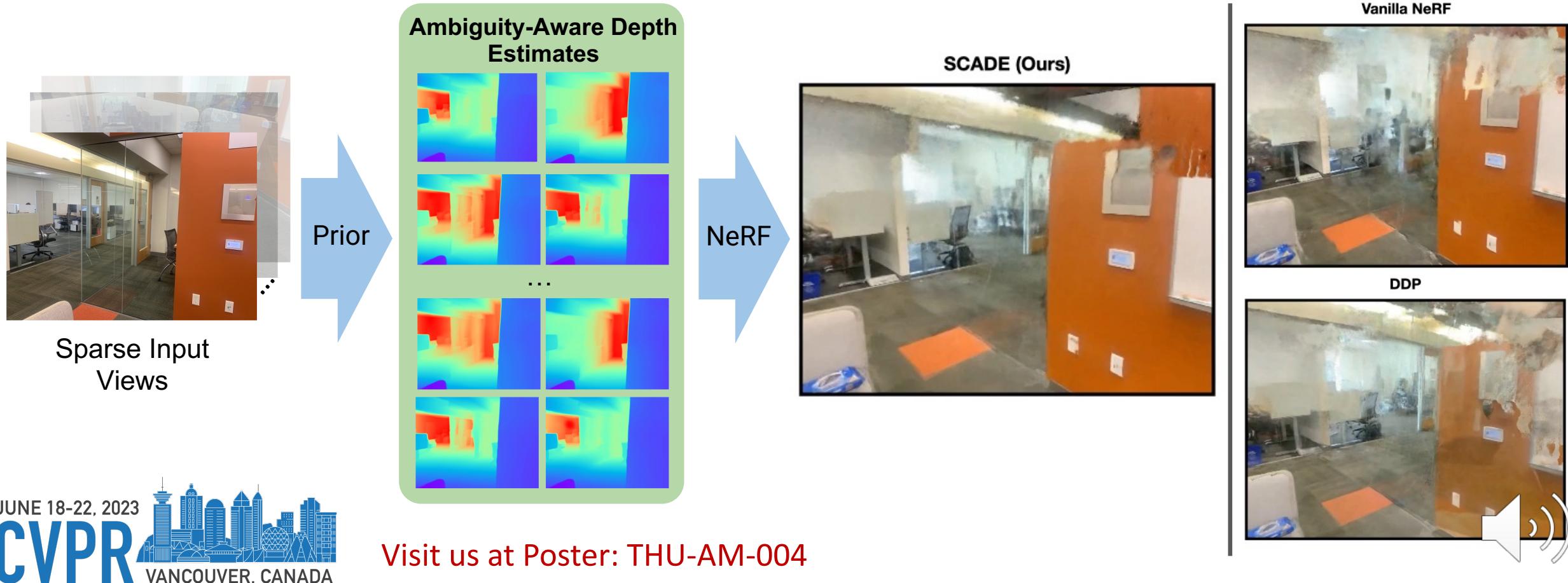
Stanford  
University <sup>1</sup>



Google <sup>2</sup>



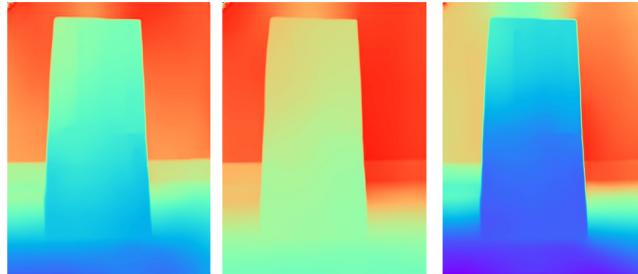
Simon Fraser  
University <sup>3</sup>



# Overview

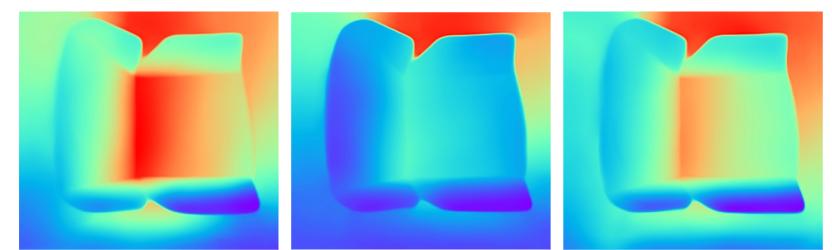
- There can be multiple, equally valid depth estimates given a single image.
- I.e. Monocular depth is inherently **ambiguous**.

Albedo vs Shading



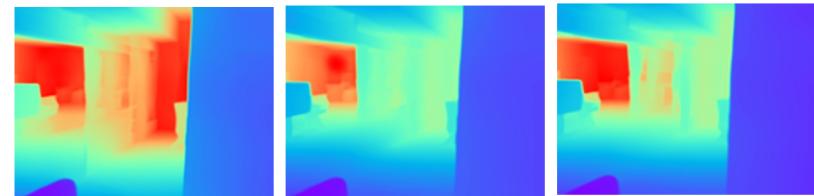
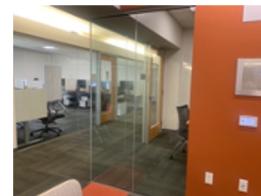
Possible depth maps

Scale / Degree of Convexity



Possible depth maps

Non-opaque surfaces



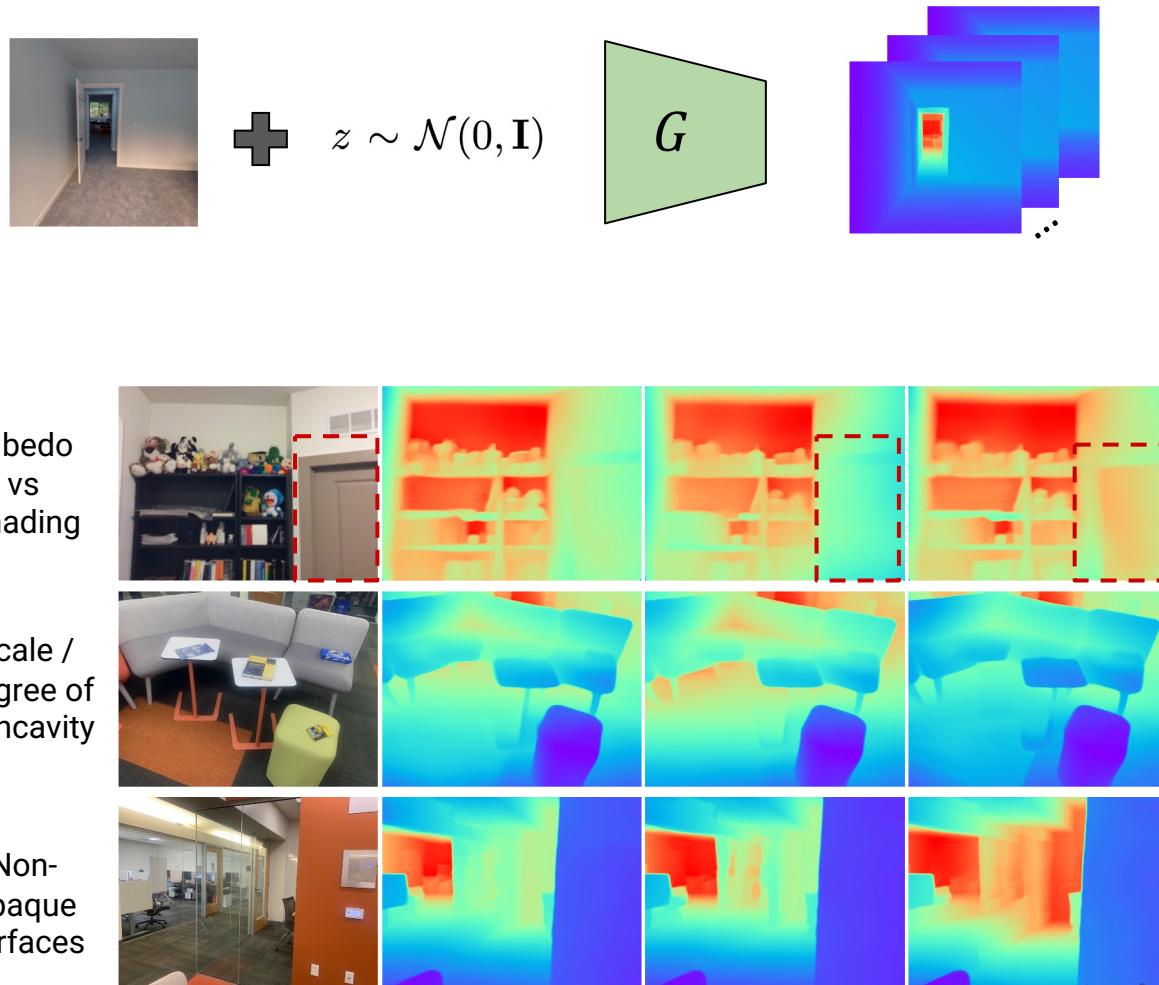
Possible depth maps

[1] The Bas-Relief Ambiguity. P. N. Belhumeur, et. al., IJCV 1999.



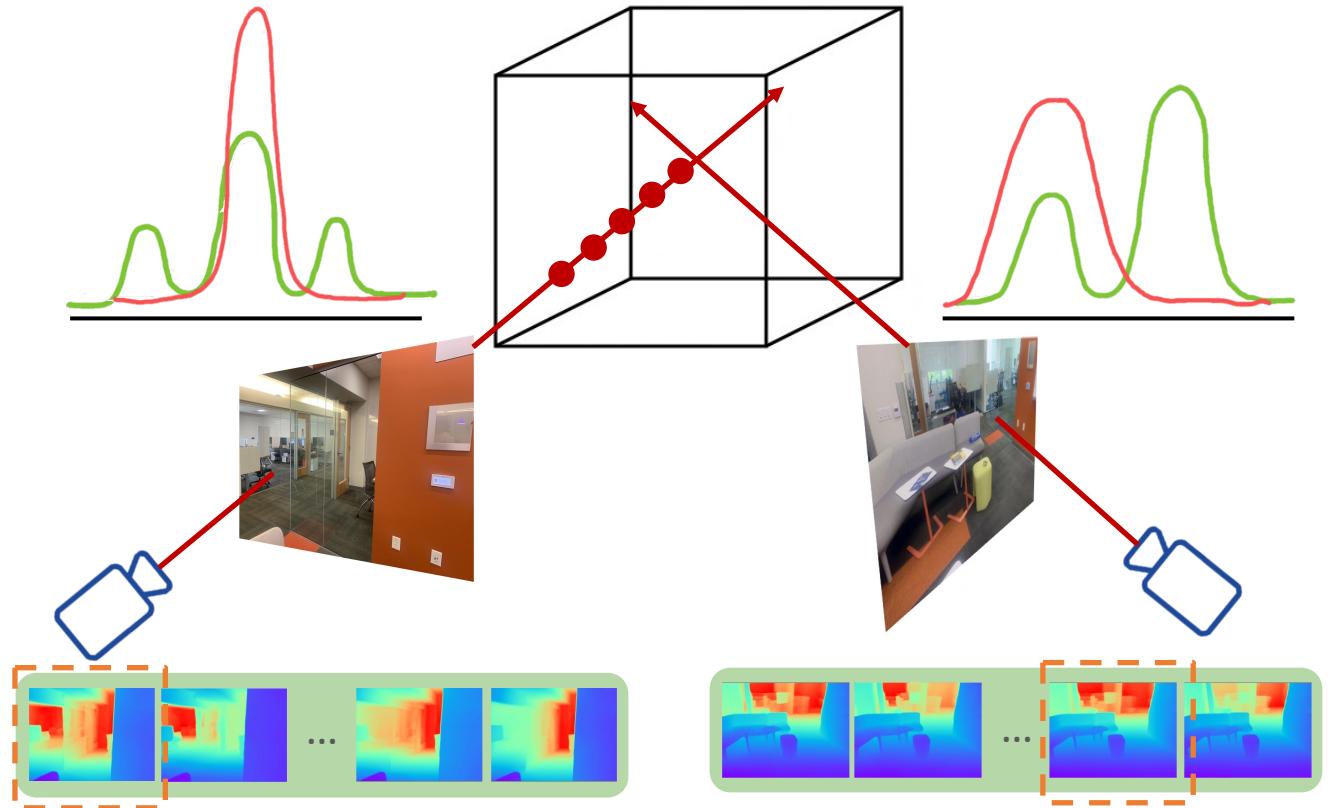
# Overview

- Our prior represents **depth as a distribution**, to handle ambiguity.
  - This distribution can be **multimodal**.
- Represent ambiguities and capture variable modes through **samples** via **conditional Implicit Maximum Likelihood Estimation (cIMLE)**.



# Overview

- Resolve ambiguities by **fusing** together **information** from multiple views.
- **Mode seeking**: finds the consistent agreement across views.
- **Sample-based loss** on the distribution instead of the moments leads to **supervision** in 3D instead of 2D.



[3] A Theory of Shape by Space Carving. K. Kutulakos and S. Seitz, IJCV 2000.



# Overview

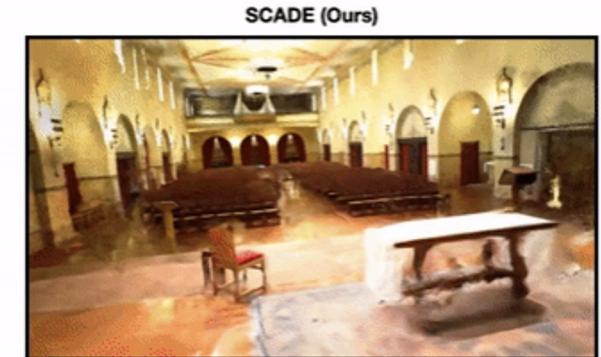
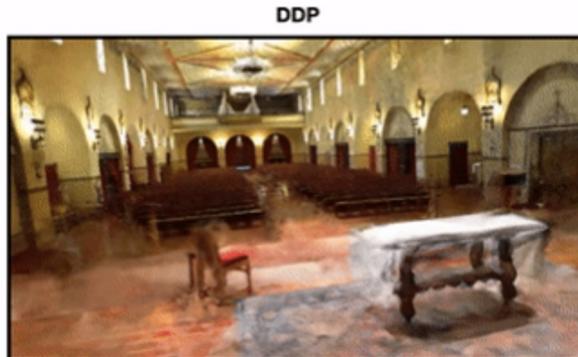
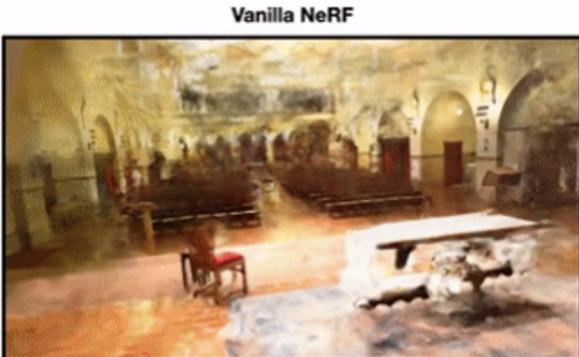
## In-the-Wild Scenes



## Scannet



## Tanks and Temples



# Idea

Prior:  
Depth

Fuse:  
Space  
Carving

Ambiguity

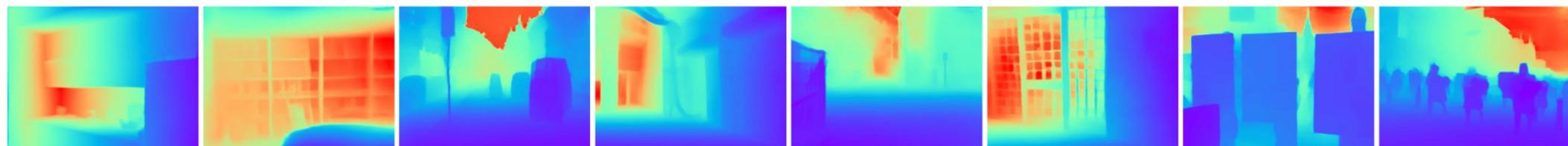
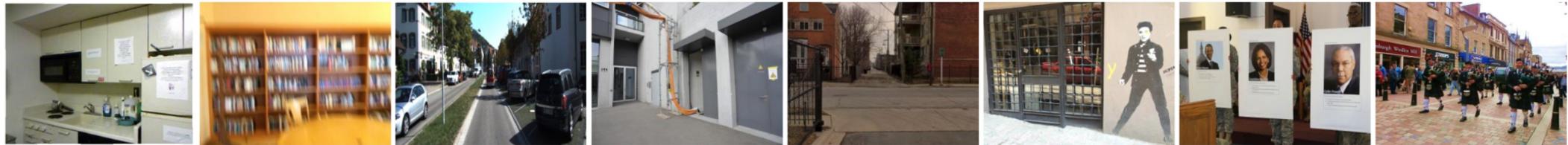
Distribution

Generalize  
Space  
Carving

- **Monocular Depth Estimation**

- Category agnostic
- Generalizes to in-the-wild scenes

Image taken from [1]



NYU

Scannet

KITTI

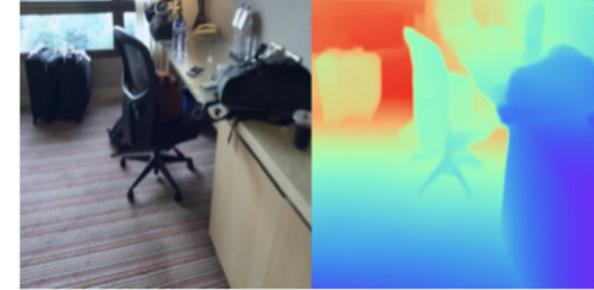
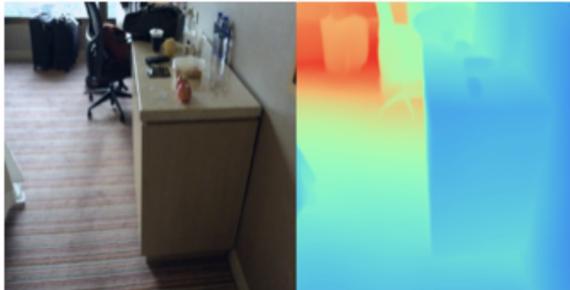
ETH3D

DIODE

In-the-Wild Scenes

- **Fuse**

- How do we fuse depths from multiple views?
- Space Carving!



- Classical Space Carving

- Finds the geometry that satisfies the different views.
  - “Carves” out empty space

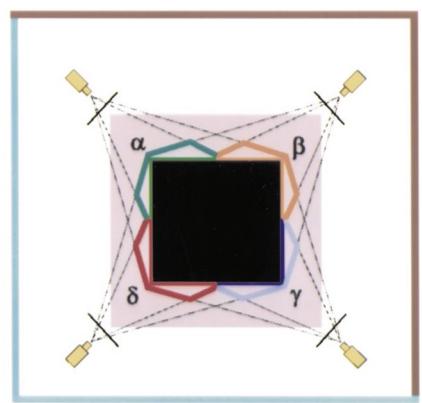
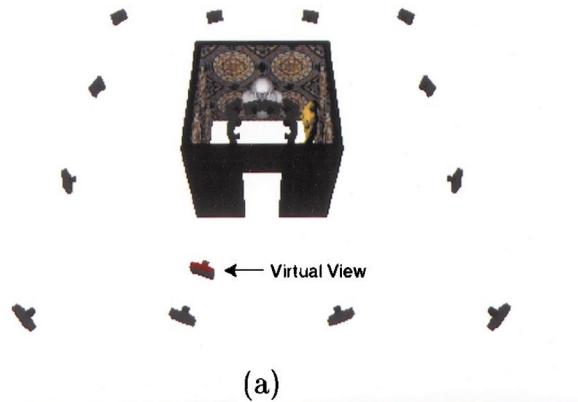


Image taken from [3]

- Works great with ground truth depth. But...

# Idea

Prior:  
Depth

Fuse:  
Space  
Carving

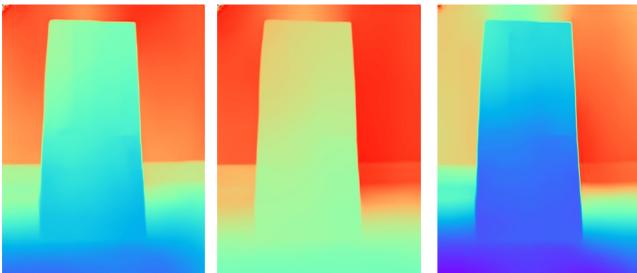
Ambiguity

Distribution

Generalize  
Space  
Carving

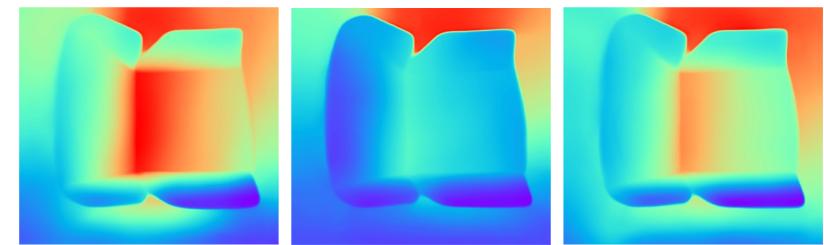
- Monocular depth is inherently ambiguous.

Albedo vs Shading



Possible depth maps

Scale / Degree of Convexity



Possible depth maps



# Idea

Prior:  
Depth

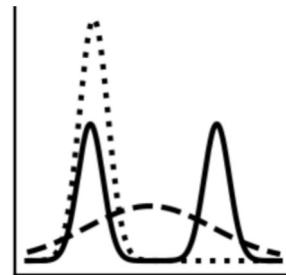
Fuse:  
Space  
Carving

Ambiguity

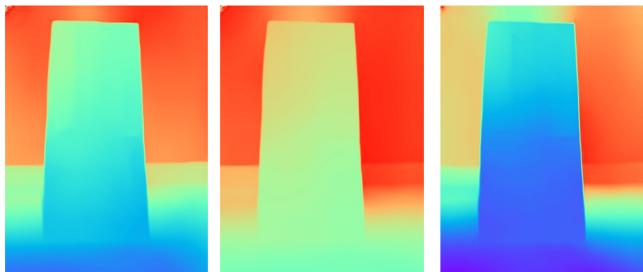
Distribution

Generalize  
Space  
Carving

- Represent depth as a **distribution**.
  - Distribution can be **multimodal**.

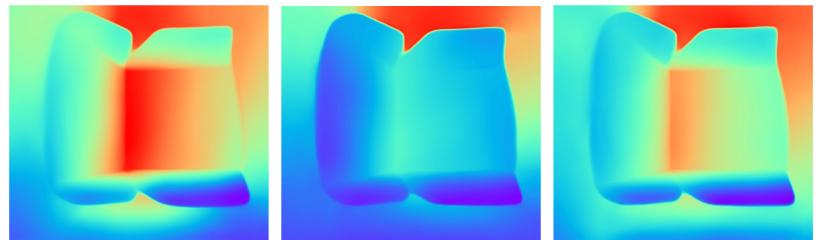


Albedo vs Shading



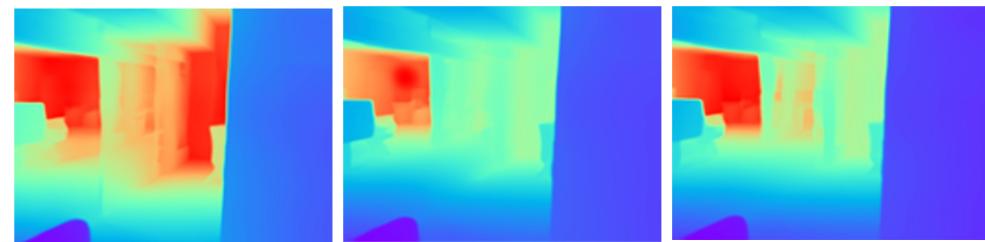
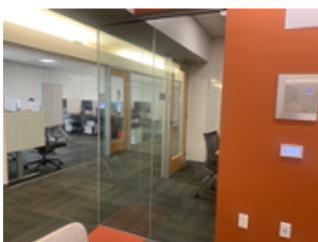
Possible depth maps

Scale / Degree of Convexity



Possible depth maps

Multimodal Example



Possible depth maps



# Idea

Prior:  
Depth

Fuse:  
Space  
Carving

Ambiguity

Distribution

Generalize  
Space  
Carving

- Generalized space carving
  - Classical space carving only works with **point estimates**, i.e. no uncertainties.



# Idea

Prior:  
Depth

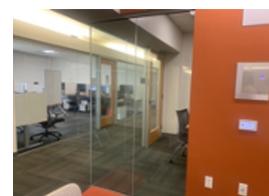
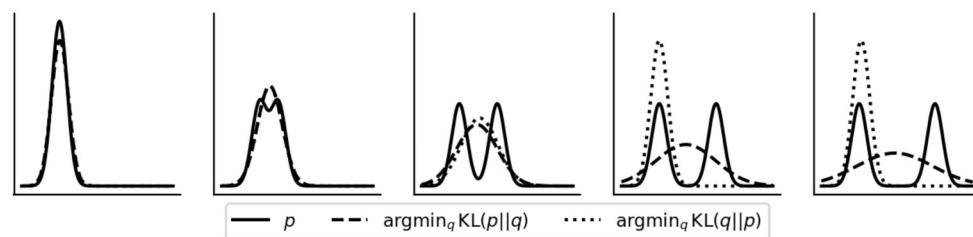
Fuse:  
Space  
Carving

Ambiguity

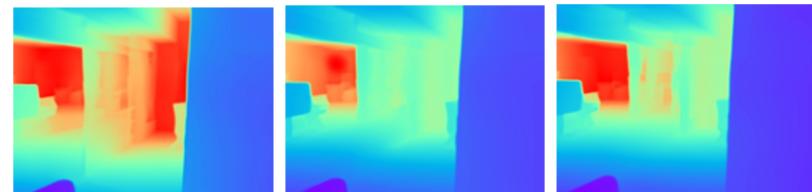
Distribution

Generalize  
Space  
Carving

- Generalized space carving
  - Classical space carving only works with **point estimates**, i.e. no uncertainties.
  - Probabilistic analogue: Ambiguities are only **resolved** once information on **multiple views are fused together**.
  - Pick the mode that satisfies the different views.
- **Mode seeking** vs mean seeking:
  - Expected depth would fall to the mean of multimodal distributions. The mean is not necessarily a valid depth.
  - We instead want to find a consistent mode, which is valid.



Multimodal Example

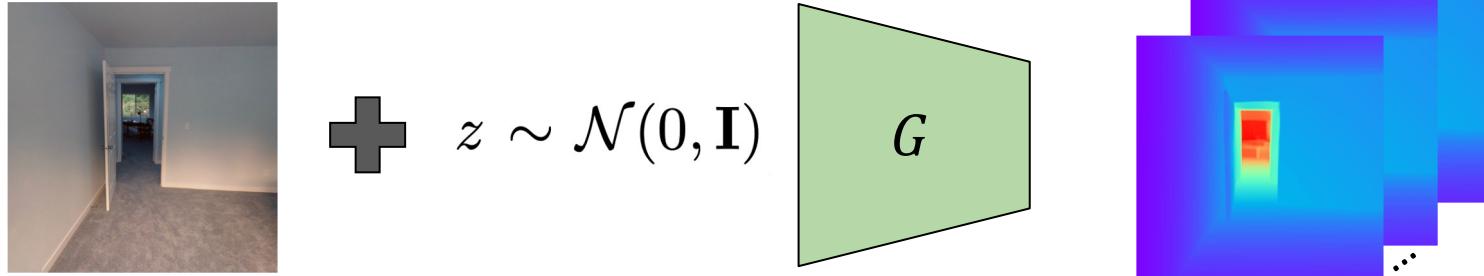


Possible depth maps

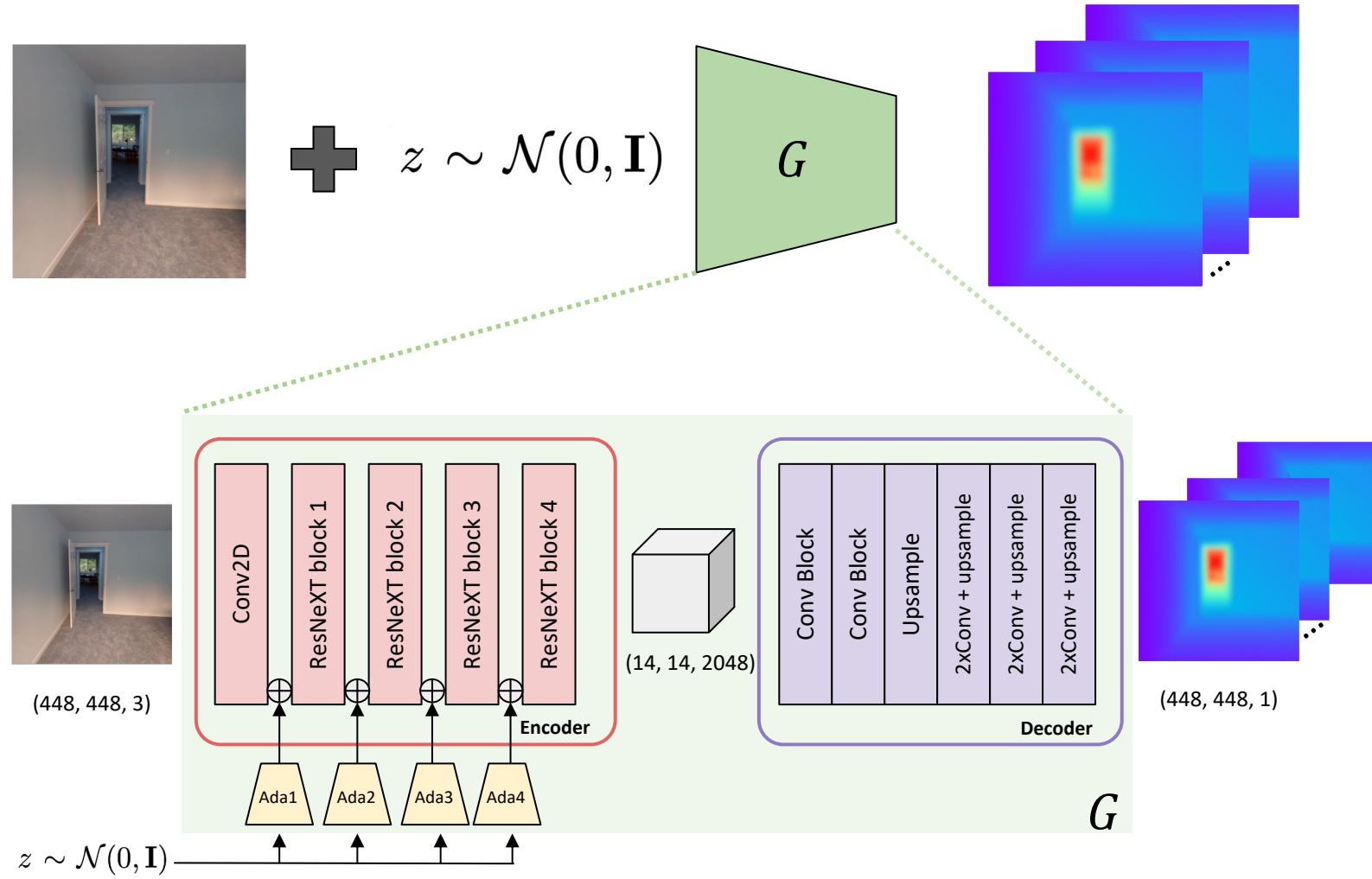


# Our Ambiguity-Aware Prior

- Our prior represents **depth as a distribution**, to handle ambiguity.
  - This distribution can be **multimodal**.
- Represent ambiguities and capture variable modes through **samples** via **conditional Implicit Maximum Likelihood Estimation (cIMLE)**.



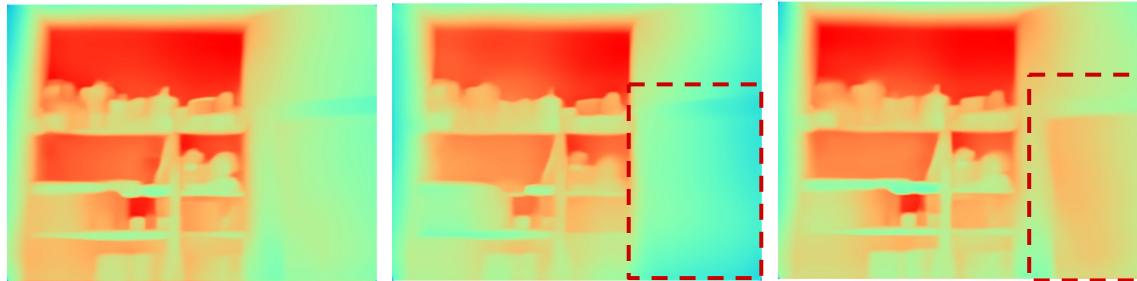
# Our Ambiguity-Aware Prior



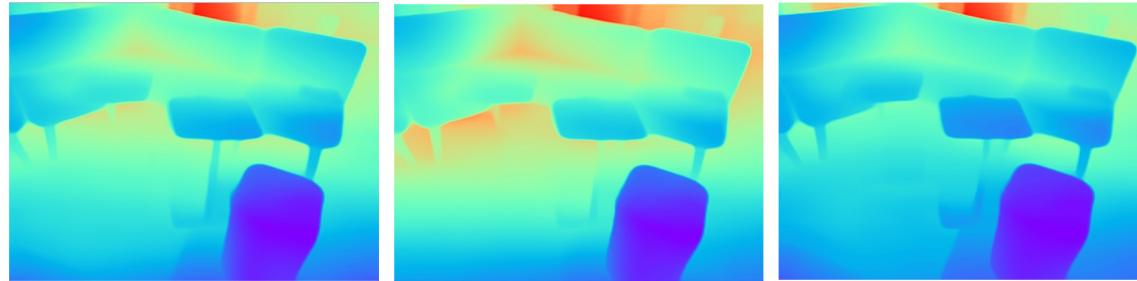
- [2] Multimodal Image Synthesis with Conditional Implicit Maximum Likelihood Estimation. K. Li, et. al., IJCV 2020.  
[4] Learning to Recover 3D shape from a Single Image. W. Yin, et. al., CVPR 2021.

# Our Ambiguity-Aware Depth Estimates

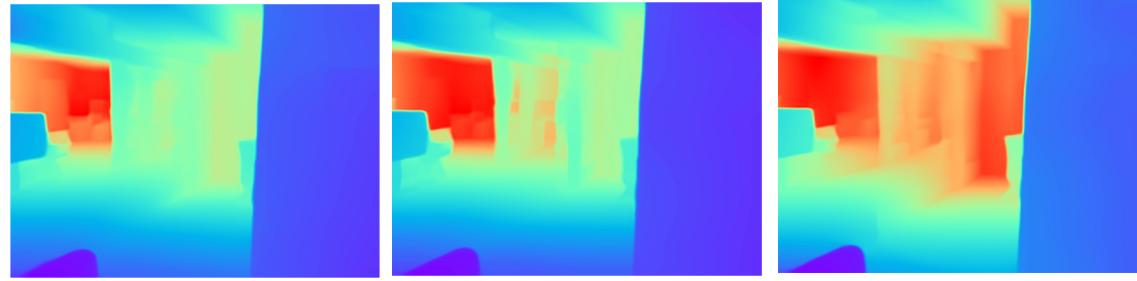
Albedo  
vs  
Shading



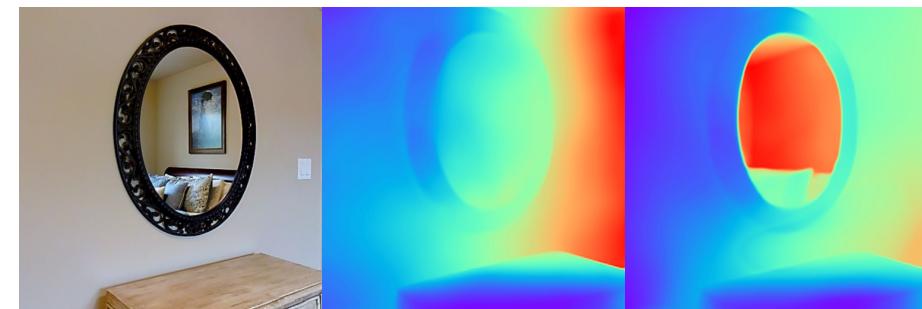
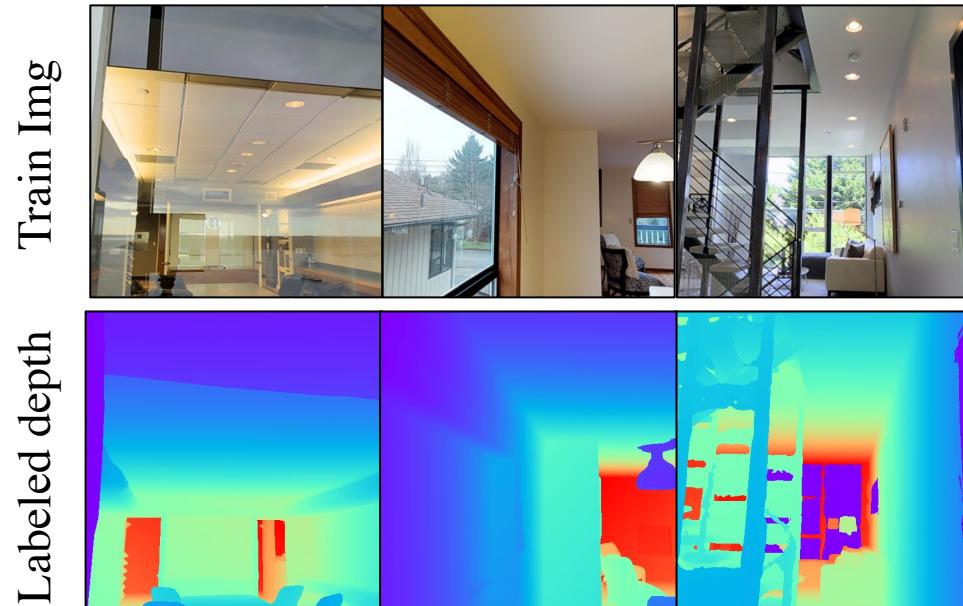
Scale /  
Degree of  
Concavity



Non-opaque  
surfaces



# Why does it work?

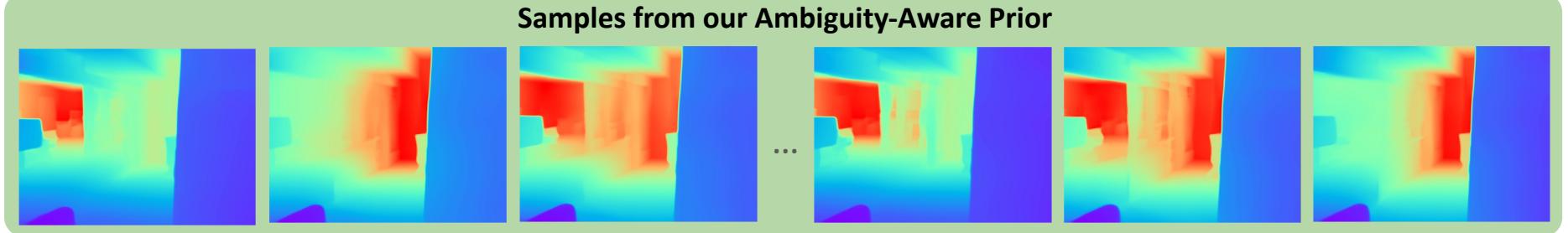


# SCADE

Input View 1



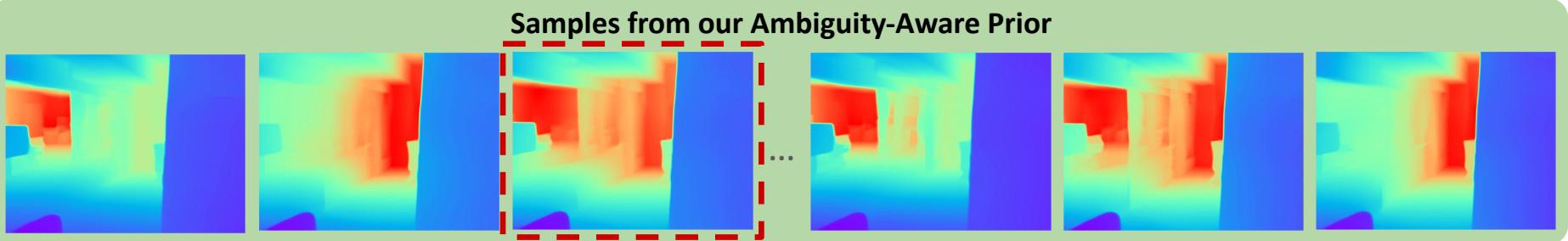
Samples from our Ambiguity-Aware Prior



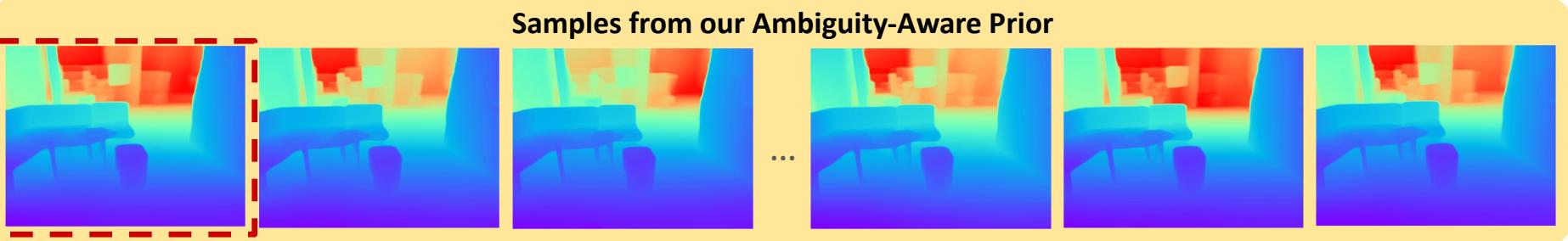
Ambiguous!

# SCADE

Input View 1

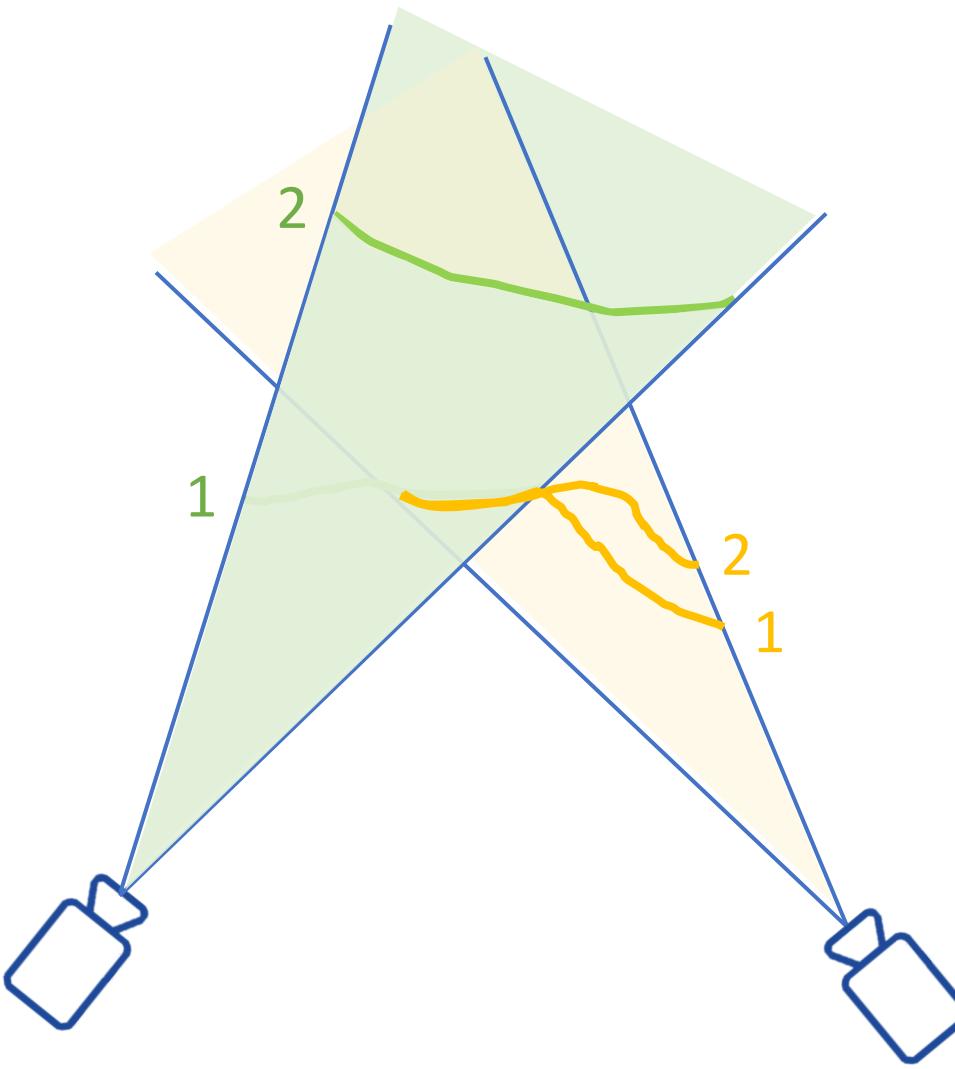


Input View 2



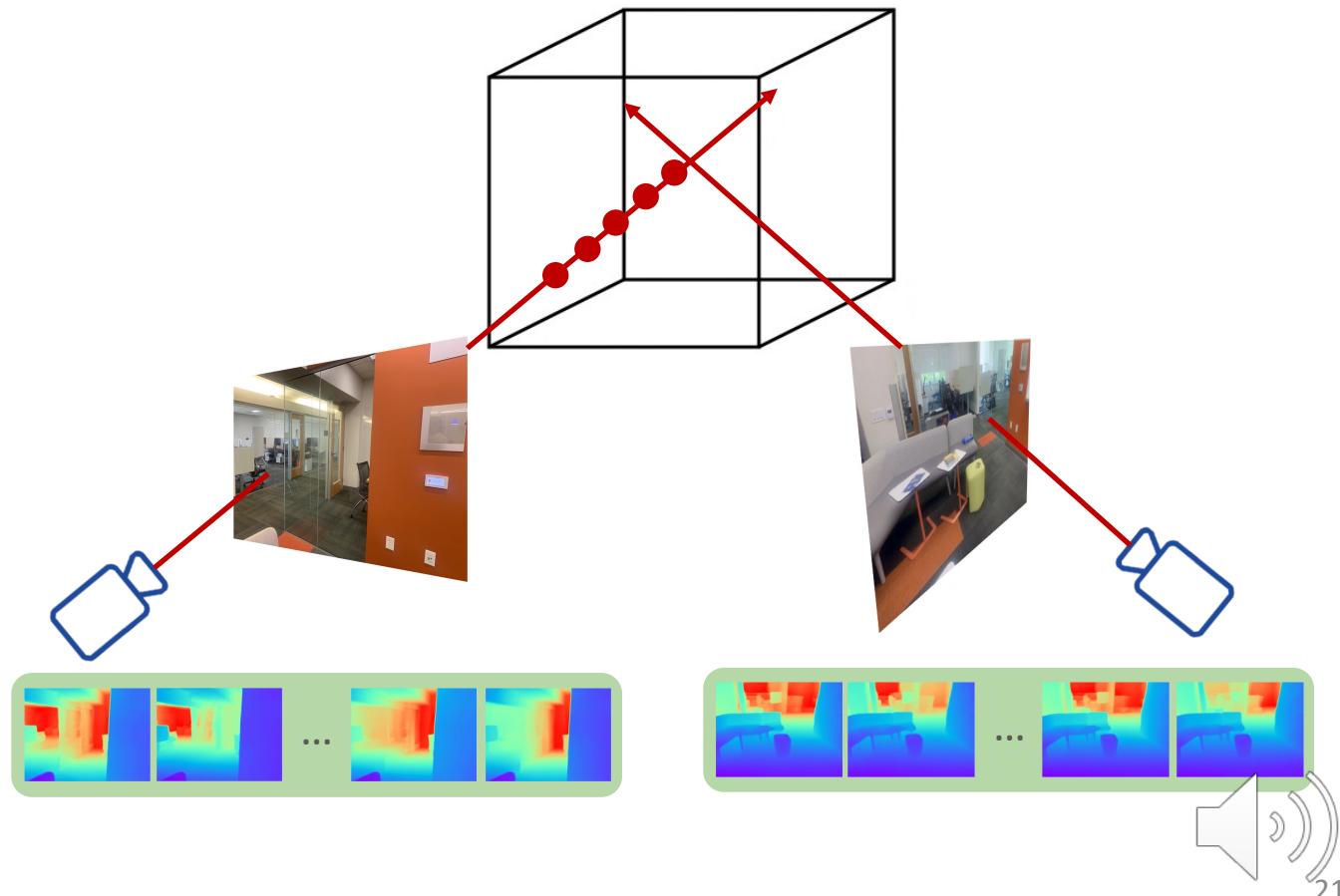
- Resolve ambiguities by **fusing** together information from multiple views.

# Space Carving Intuition



# SCADE

- We **distill** the **consistent hypotheses** for each view into a global 3D geometry represented with a **NeRF**.
- We introduce our novel **space carving loss** on the two distributions:
  1. Ambiguity-aware prior
  2. Ray termination distance from NeRF

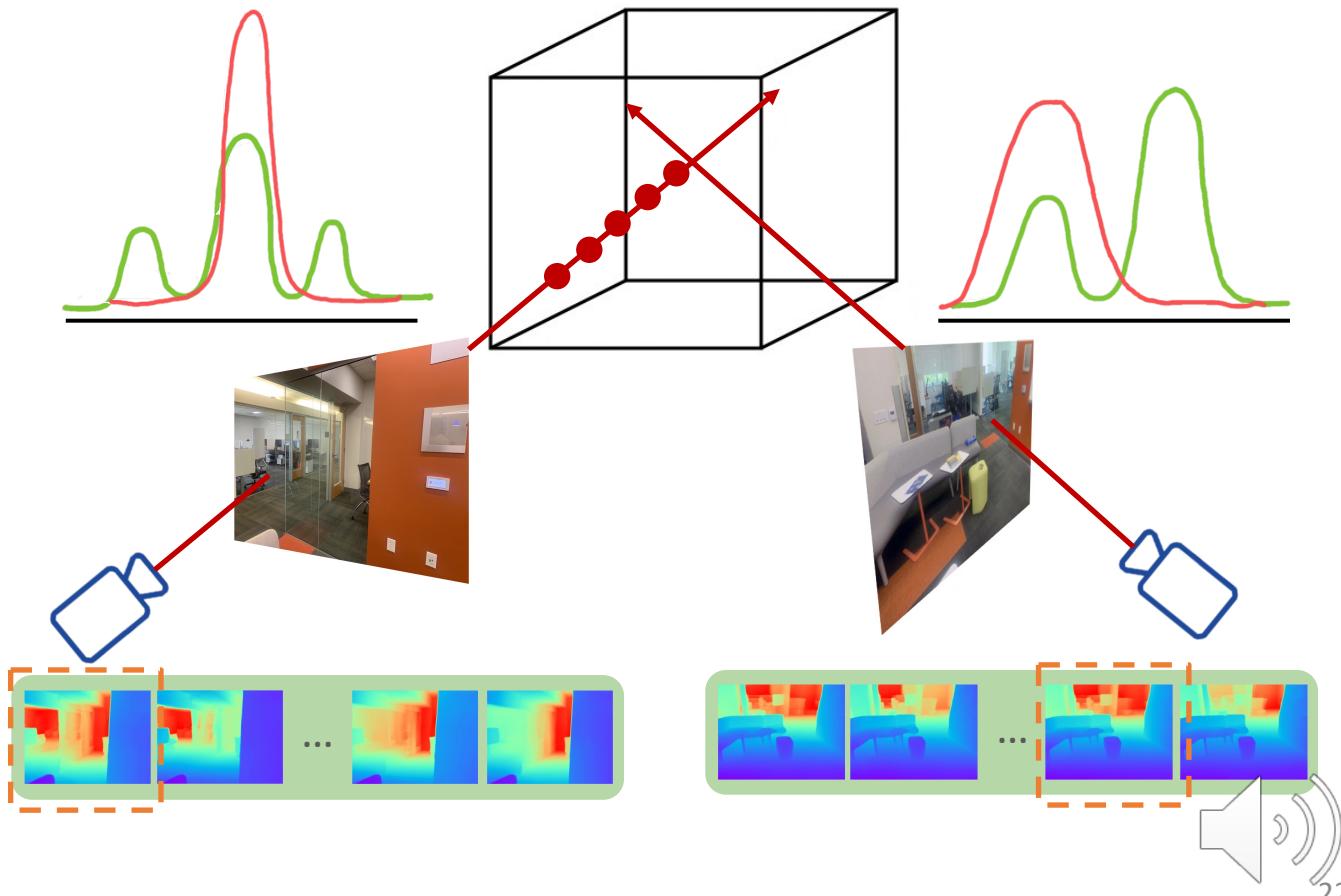


# SCADE

## Our Space Carving Loss

- The learned depth distribution should be **consistent** with **some** depth hypothesis in **every** view.
- **Mode seeking** : finds the consistent agreement across views.
- **Sample-based loss** on the distribution *instead of moments* leads to **supervision in 3D instead of 2D**.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{space\_carving}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i \in [N]} \min_{j \in [M]} \| \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{y}_j \|_2^2$$



# Results – In-the-Wild Demo

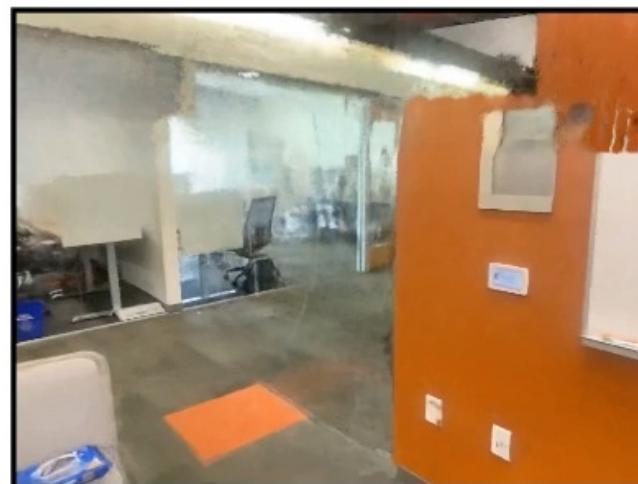
Vanilla NeRF



DDP



SCADE (Ours)

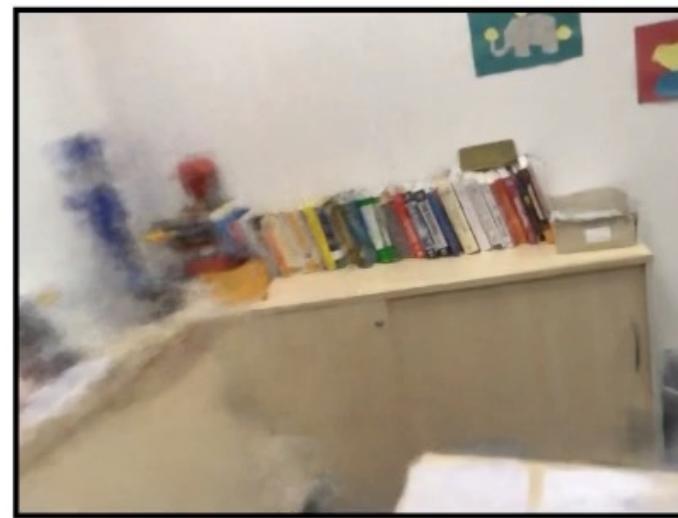


# Results – Scannet Demo

Vanilla NeRF



DDP (out-domain)



DDP (in-domain)



SCADE (Ours)



# Results – Tanks and Temples Demo

Vanilla NeRF



DDP



SCADE (Ours)



# Results

	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
Vanilla NeRF [24]	19.03	0.670	0.398
NerfingMVS [47]	16.29	0.626	0.502
IBRNet [41]	13.25	0.529	0.673
MVSNeRF [3]	15.67	0.533	0.635
DS-NeRF [6]	20.85	0.713	0.344
DDP [32]	19.29	0.695	0.368
<b>SCADE (Ours)</b>	<b>21.54</b>	<b>0.732</b>	<b>0.292</b>

Table 1. **ScanNet Results.** Results for DS-NeRF and NerfingMVS follow what was reported in prior literature [32]. Because our setting requires out-of-domain priors, the results for DDP are with out-of-domain priors. The results of DDP with in-domain priors are (20.96, 0.737, 0.236) for PSNR, SSIM and LPIPS, respectively.

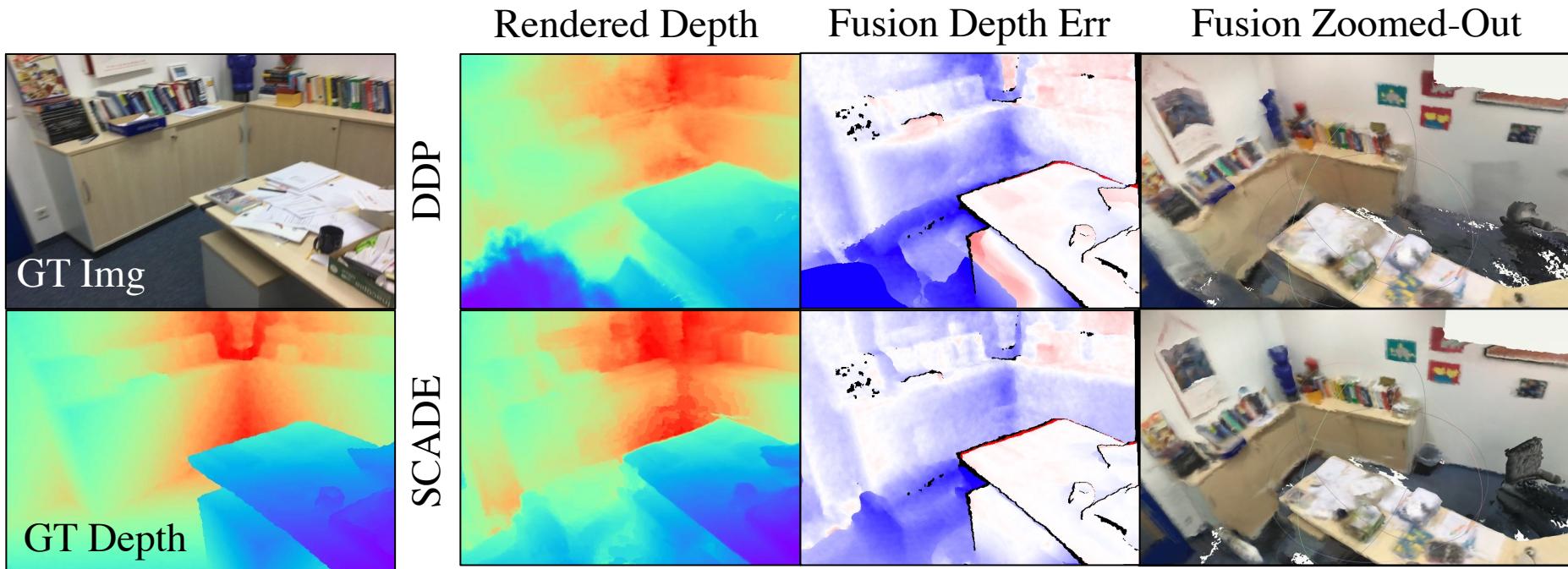
	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
Vanilla NeRF [25]	19.09	0.700	0.437
DDP [33]	19.84	0.727	0.382
<b>SCADE</b>	<b>21.48</b>	<b>0.736</b>	<b>0.356</b>

Table 2. In-the-wild Results.

	PSNR ↑	SSIM ↑	LPIPS ↓
Vanilla NeRF [6]	17.19	0.559	0.457
DDP [7]	18.23	0.631	0.377
<b>SCADE</b>	<b>20.32</b>	<b>0.663</b>	<b>0.348</b>

Table 1. Quantitative results for the Tanks and Temples [3] dataset.

# Results



# Thank you!



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