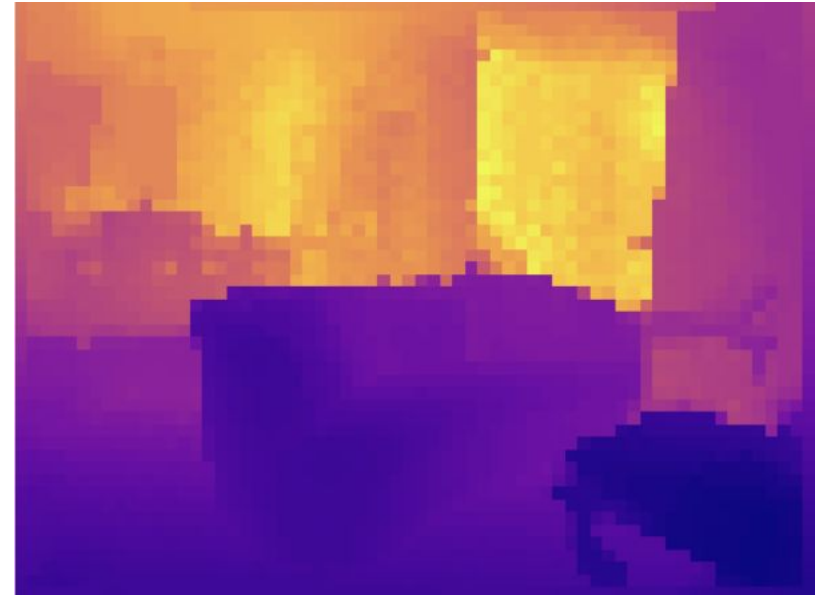


# Neuron Selectivity for Efficient Monocular Depth Estimation

Lien Huong Huynh  
Evgeniia Rumiantseva

# Monocular Depth Estimation



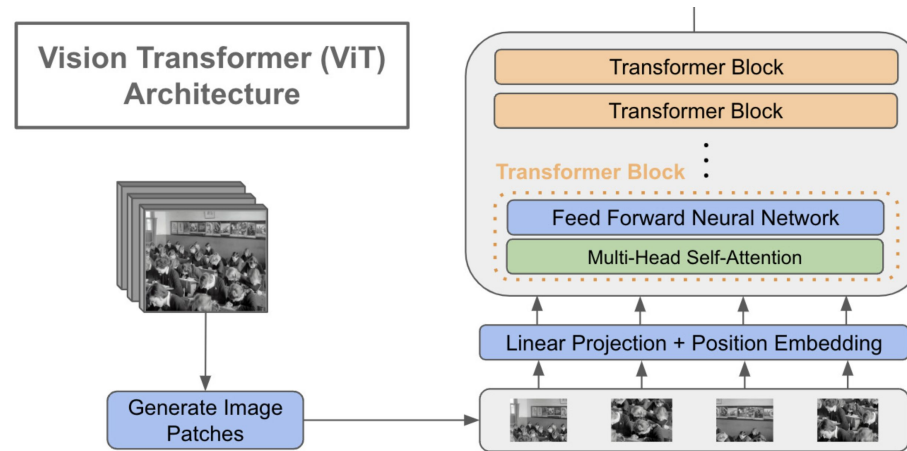
# Related Works – CNN-based

- Encoder-Decoder CNNs
- Transfer Learning: Pretrained Encoder + Specific Decoder
- For global extraction capabilities require large computational resources

*M. Song, S. Lim, and W. Kim, “Monocular depth estimation using laplacian pyramid-based depth residuals,” IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology, vol. 31, no. 11, pp. 4381–4393, 2021.*

*I. Alhashim and P. Wonka, “High quality monocular depth estimation via transfer learning,” 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.11941>*

# Related Works - Visual Transformer

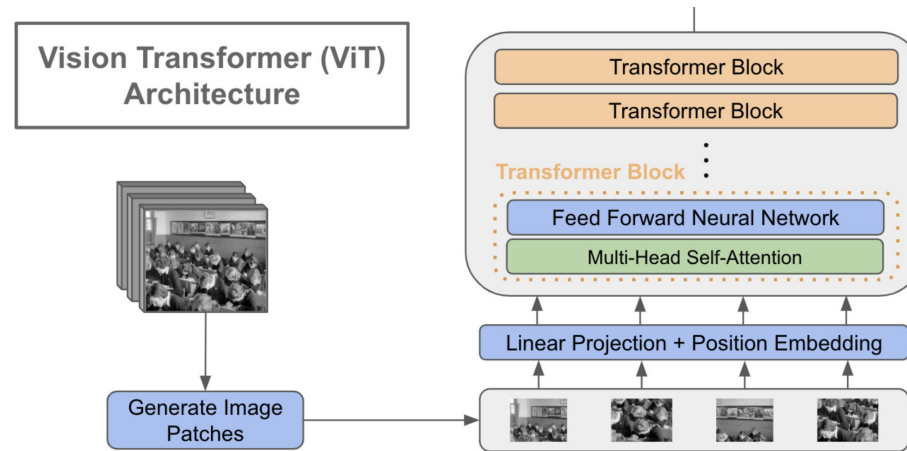


Advantages of ViT: input-adaptive weighting and global processing, which leads to finer-grade predictions with respect to standard CNN

Disadvantages of ViT: too many parameters to run on small devices

Solution: instead of extracting patches straight from the image preprocess & postprocess it with convolutions -> MobileViT -> add skip connections to the decoder -> METER encoder

# Related Works - Visual Transformer



Original paper: A. Dosovitskiy, L. Beyer, A. Kolesnikov, D. Weissenborn, X. Zhai, T. Unterthiner, M. Dehghani, M. Minderer, G. Heigold, S. Gelly, J. Uszkoreit, and N. Houlsby, “An image is worth 16x16 words: Transformers for image recognition at scale,” 2020.

MobileViT: S. Mehta and M. Rastegari, “Mobilevit: Light-weight, general-purpose, and mobile-friendly vision transformer,” 2021.

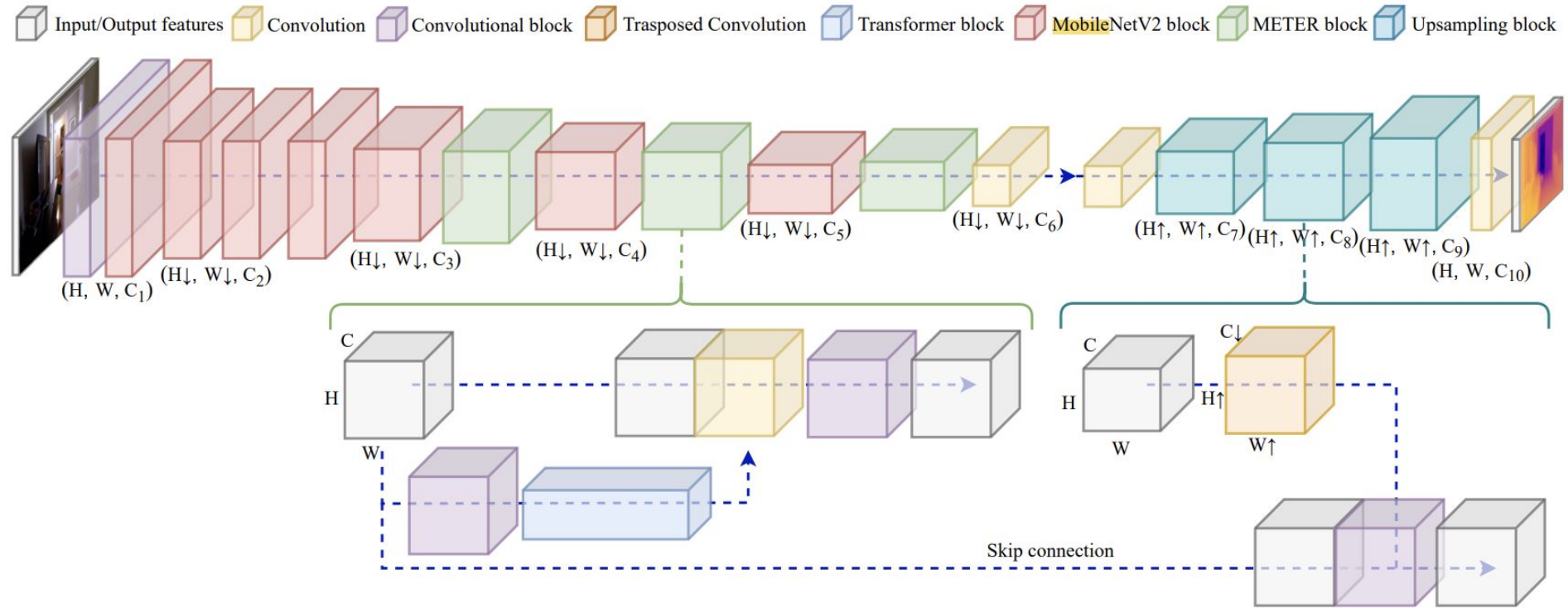
METER: Lorenzo Papa, Paolo Russo and Irene Amerini, “METER: a mobile vision transformer architecture for monocular depth estimation,” 2021

# Related Works – Interpretability of CV DNNs

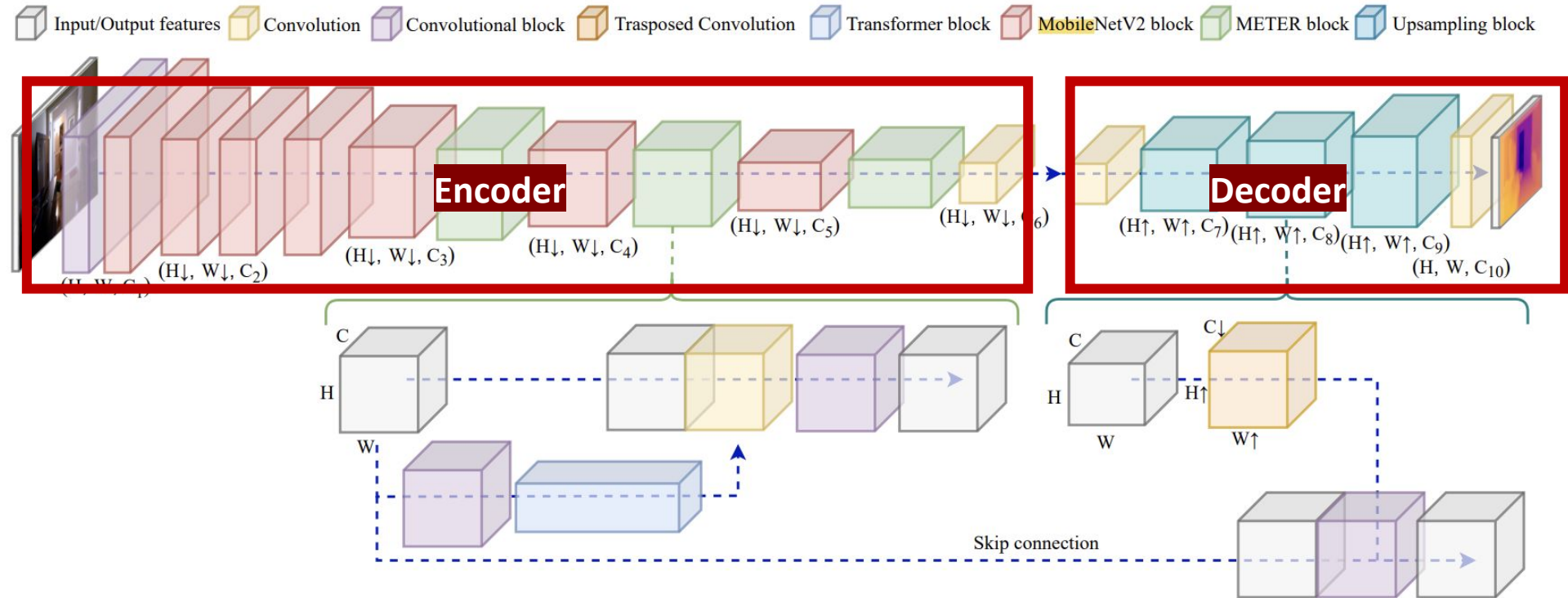
*CNNs interpretability (idea is close!)*: Quanshi Zhang, Ying Nian Wu, and Song-Chun Zhu.  
Interpretable convolutional neural networks. In IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2018.

*Main paper*: Zunzhi You, Yi-Hsuan Tsai, Wei-Chen Chiu, Guanbin Li, “Towards Interpretable Deep Networks for Monocular Depth Estimation,” 2021

# METER Architecture

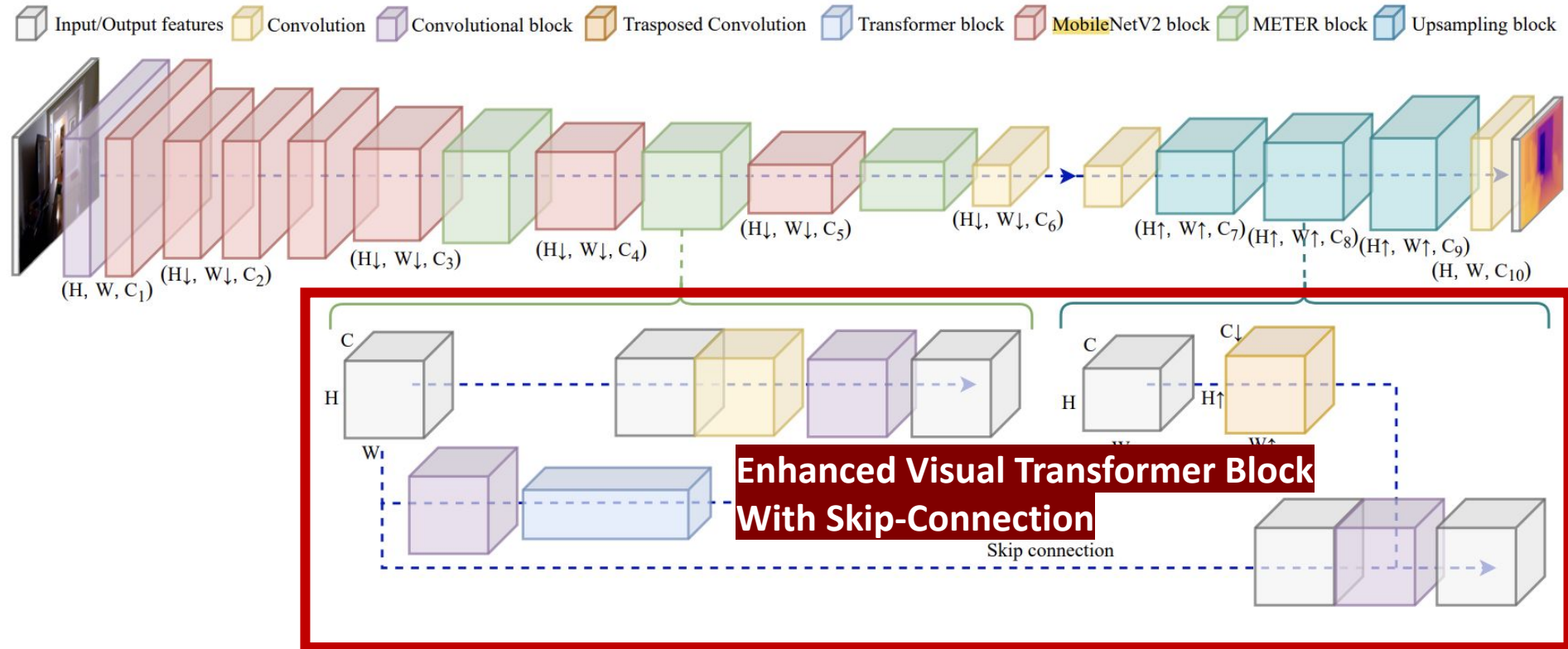


# METER Architecture





# METER Architecture



# METER

- Loss function: Balanced Loss Function

$$L(y_i, \hat{y}_i) = L_{depth} + \lambda_1 L_{grad} + \lambda_2 L_{norm} + \lambda_3 L_{SSIM}$$

$$L_{depth}(y_i, \hat{y}_i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

$$L_{grad}(y_i, \hat{y}_i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla_x(|y_i - \hat{y}_i|) + \nabla_y(|y_i - \hat{y}_i|))$$

Vertical and horizontal gradient to detect object boundaries

$$L_{norm}(y_i, \hat{y}_i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( 1 - \frac{\langle n_{\hat{y}_i}, n_{y_i} \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle n_{\hat{y}_i}, n_{\hat{y}_i} \rangle} \sqrt{\langle n_{y_i}, n_{y_i} \rangle}} \right)$$

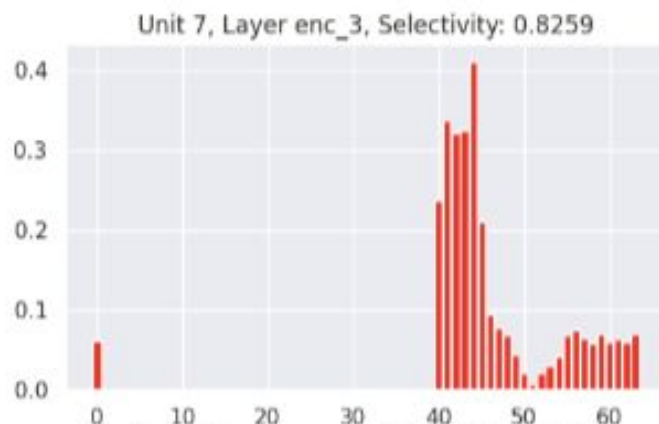
Cosine similarity between depths normals

$$L_{SSIM}(y_i, \hat{y}_i) = 1 - SSIM(y_i, \hat{y}_i)$$

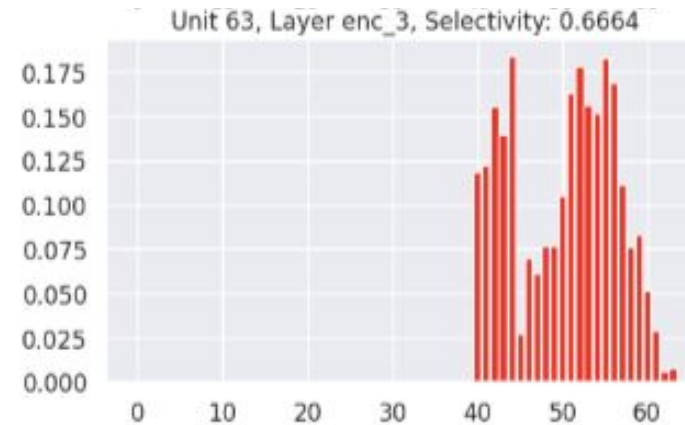
Structural similarity

# Neuron Selectivity for Interpretability

- Observation: in deep MDE networks, some hidden neurons are selective to specific ranges of depth
- Observation II: ablating neurons with higher selectivity drops quality faster
  - > The interpretability of a deep network for MDE can be quantified by the depth selectivity of its neurons!



Higher selectivity



Lower selectivity

# Loss with Depth Selectivity

1. Computing average response of every separate neuron  $k$  in layer  $l$  for specific depth range  $d$  over the whole dataset:  $R_{l,k}^d$
2. Compute selectivity index:

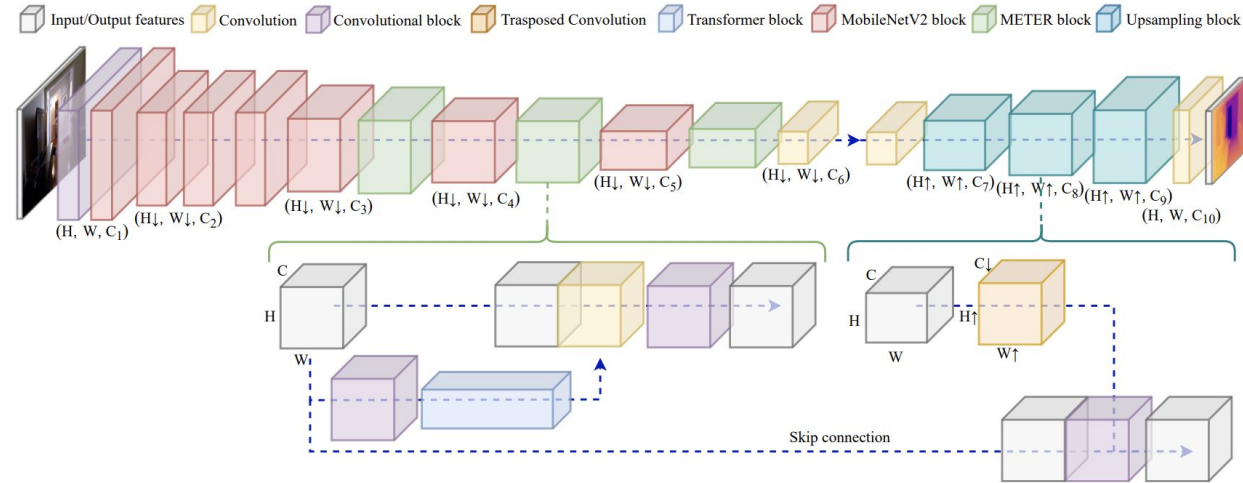
$$DS_{l,k} = \frac{|R_{l,k}^{max}| - |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-max}|}{|R_{l,k}^{max}| + |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-max}|}$$

3. Assign each unit a specific depth range & add a corresponding regularizer

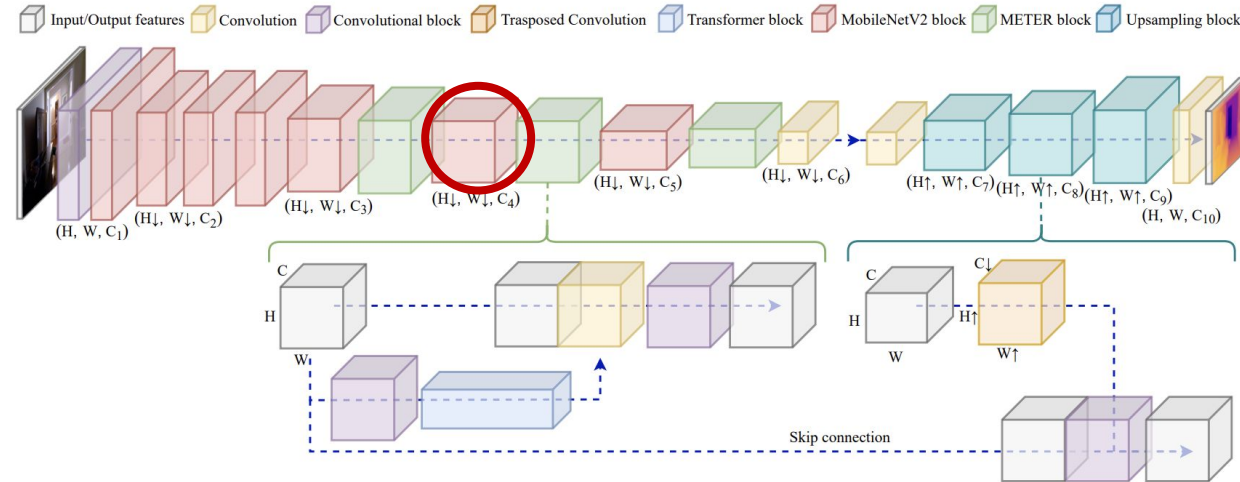
$$\mathcal{L}_{assign} = -\lambda \sum_{l \in L} \frac{1}{K_l} \sum_k \frac{|R_{l,k}^{d_k}| - |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-d_k}|}{|R_{l,k}^{d_k}| + |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-d_k}|}$$

-> new loss = balanced loss +  $\alpha$  · selectivity

# METER + Neuron Selectivity Regularizer

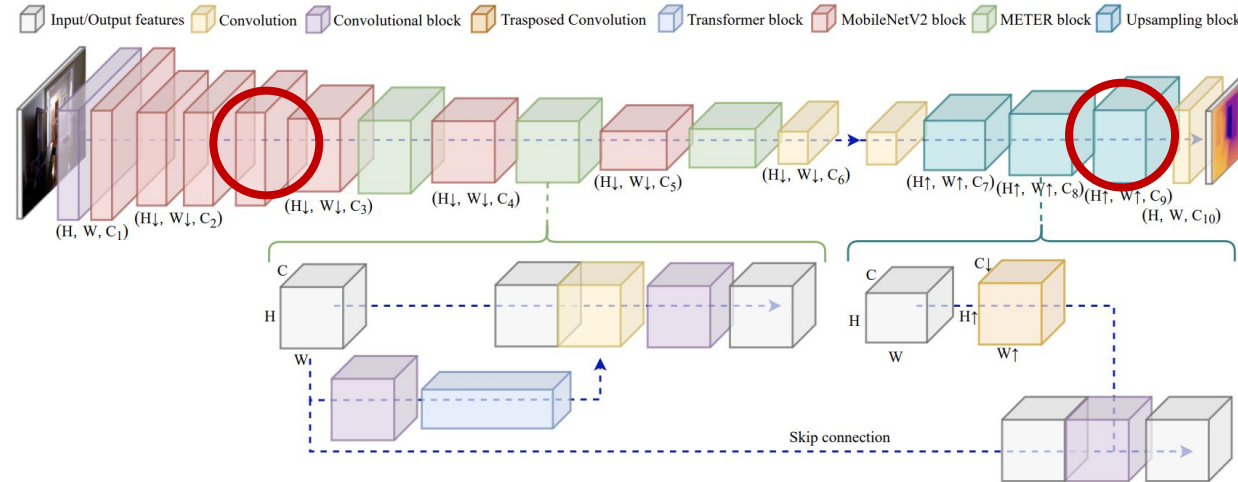


# METER + Neuron Selectivity Regularizer



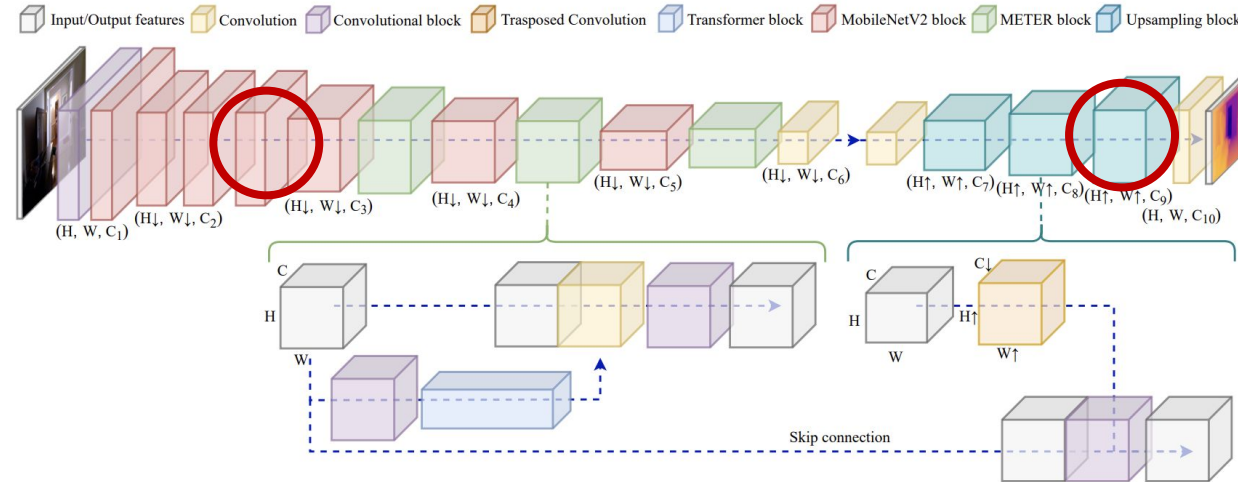
- Setup 1: Selective Loss applied to the 6<sup>th</sup> encoder MobileNetV2 block

# METER + Neuron Selectivity Regularizer



- Setup 1: Selective Loss applied to the 6<sup>th</sup> MobileNetV2 block (encoder)
- Setup 2: Selective Loss applied to 4<sup>th</sup> MobileNetV2 block (encoder) + 3<sup>rd</sup> upsampling block (decoder)

# METER + Neuron Selectivity Regularizer



- Setup 1: Selective Loss applied to the 6<sup>th</sup> MobileNetV2 block (encoder)
- Setup 2: Selective Loss applied to 4<sup>th</sup> MobileNetV2 block (encoder) + 3<sup>rd</sup> upsampling block (decoder)
- Setup 3: Setup 2 + adjusted alpha hyperparameter



# Data

- NYU Depth v2
  - RGB images and corresponding depth maps in several indoor scenarios
  - Initial resolution is  $640 \times 480$  pixels
  - For training we use downsampled images to the resolution of  $256 \times 192$
- Dataset size
  - Train: 40550, Val: 5068, Test: 5070

# Evaluation Metrics

- RMSE – for depth estimation quality

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{|n|} \sum_{i \in n} \|y_i - \hat{y}_i\|^2}$$

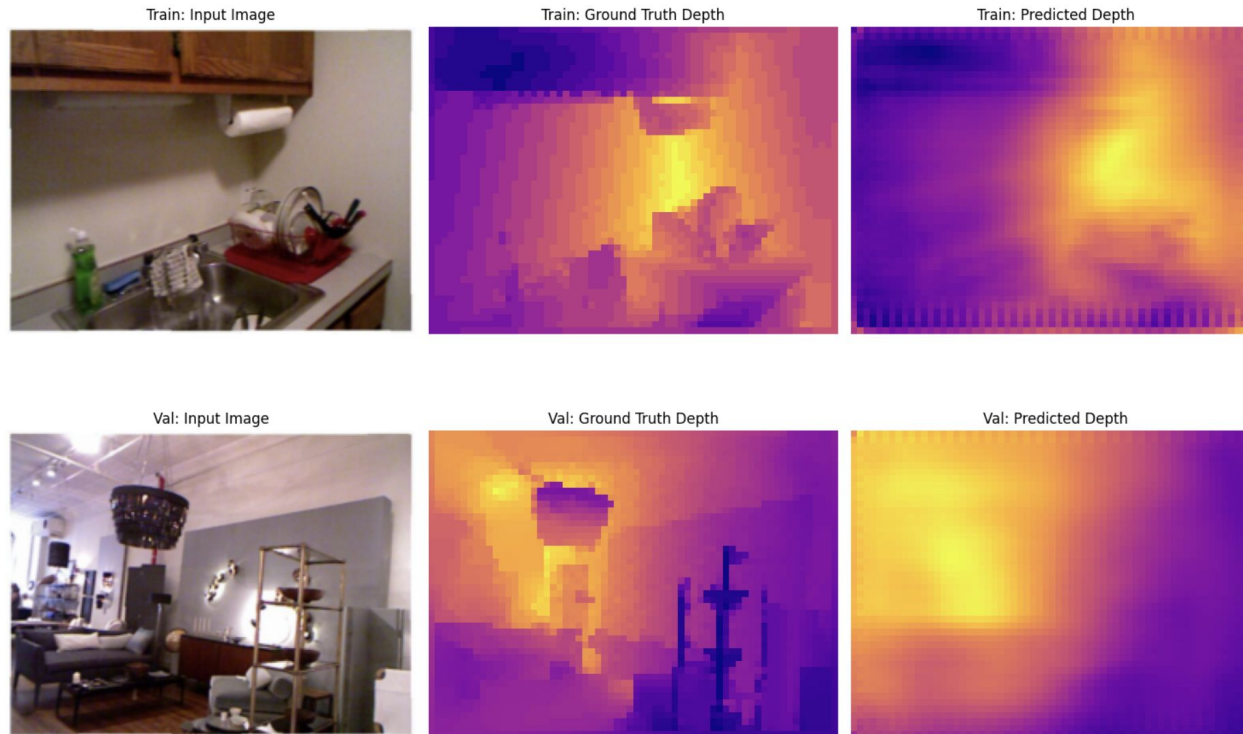
- Average Selectivity for Each Layer

$$\frac{1}{K_l} \sum_k \frac{|R_{l,k}^{d_k}| - |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-d_k}|}{|R_{l,k}^{d_k}| + |\bar{R}_{l,k}^{-d_k}|}$$

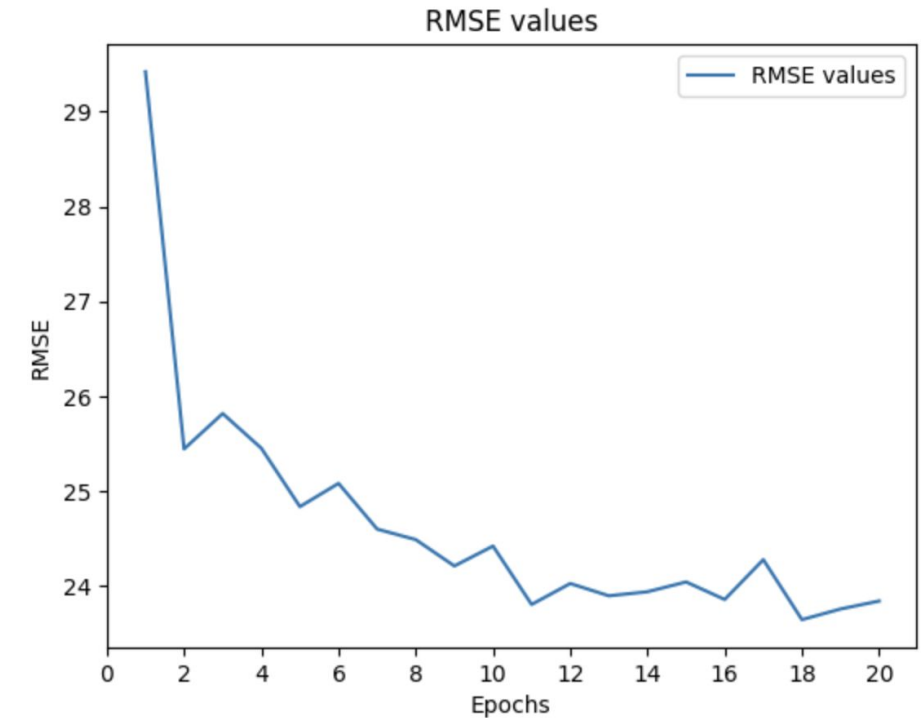
# Experimental Setup

- AdamW optimizer:  $lr = 1e-4$ ,  $weight\_decay = 1e-2$
- Number of Epochs: 20
- Batch Size: 64
- Weight for selectivity regularizer:
  - Default: 0.1 (as in the paper)
  - Adjusted: 0.5

# Baseline Evaluation

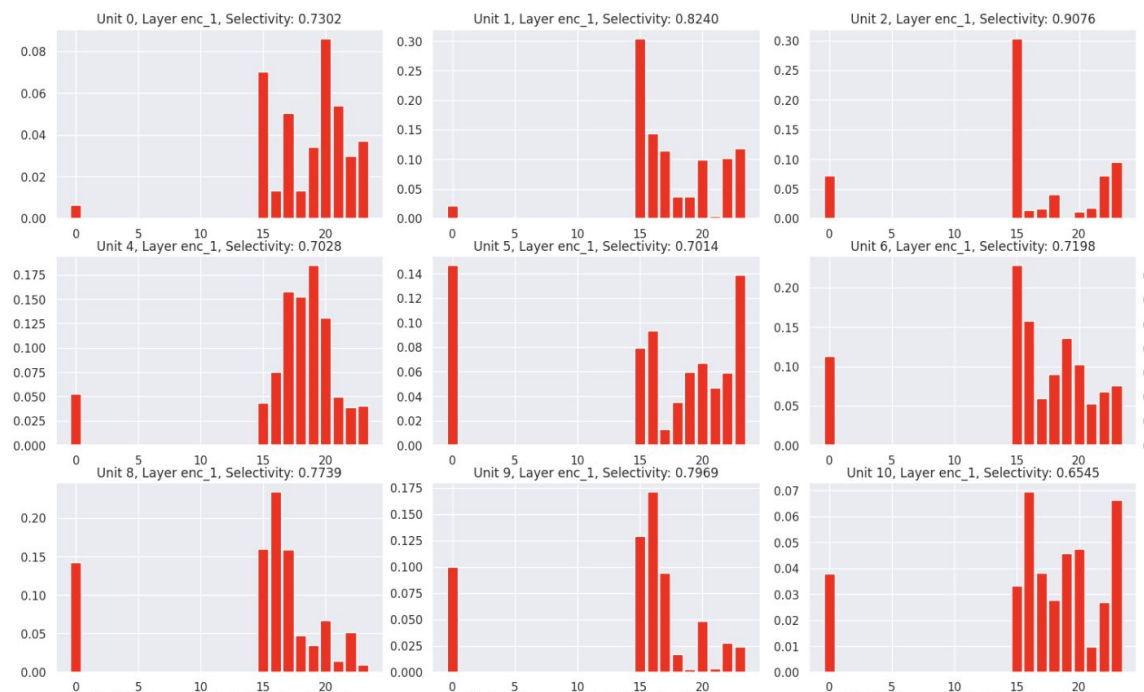


Example predictions on validation dataset  
after 20 epochs



Best RMSE: 23.64

# Baseline Evaluation



Example neuron depth selectivity  
distribution for 1st MobileNetV2 block

Mean selectivity value for each layer

enc\_0 0.533

enc\_1 0.555

enc\_2 0.746

enc\_3 0.734

enc\_4 0.735

enc\_5 0.745

enc\_6 0.579

enc\_7 0.784

enc\_8 0.590

enc\_9 0.758

enc\_10 0.672

enc\_output 0.667

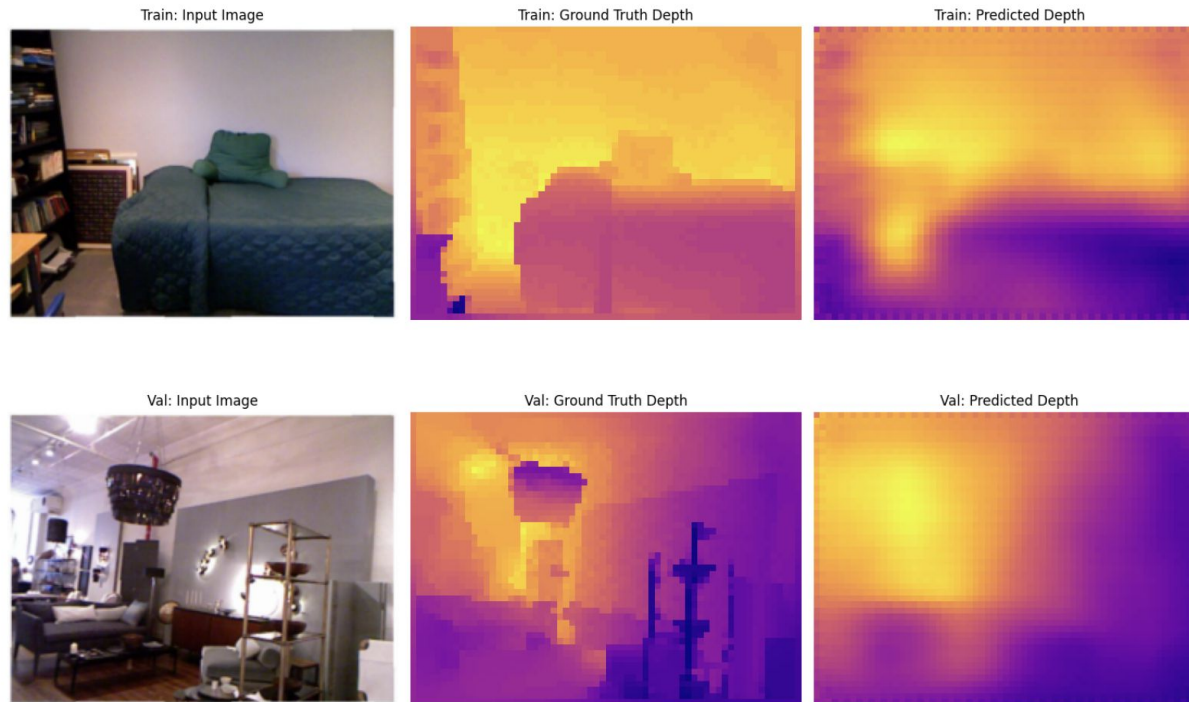
dec\_0 0.635

dec\_1 0.606

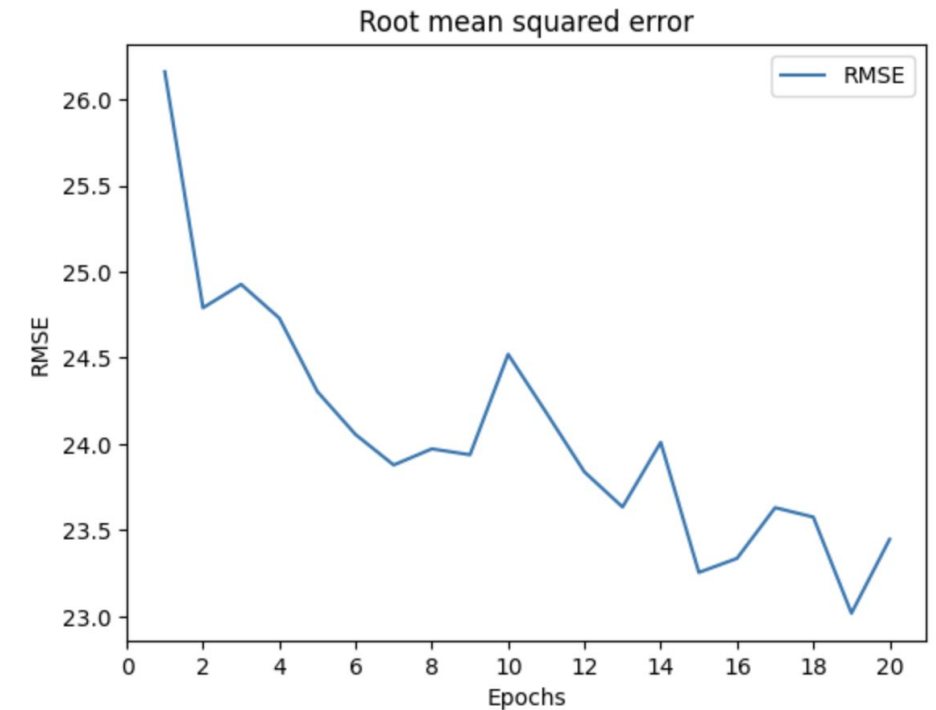
dec\_2 0.583

dec\_3 0.436

# Evaluation with Neuron Selective Loss



Example predictions on validation dataset  
after 20 epochs

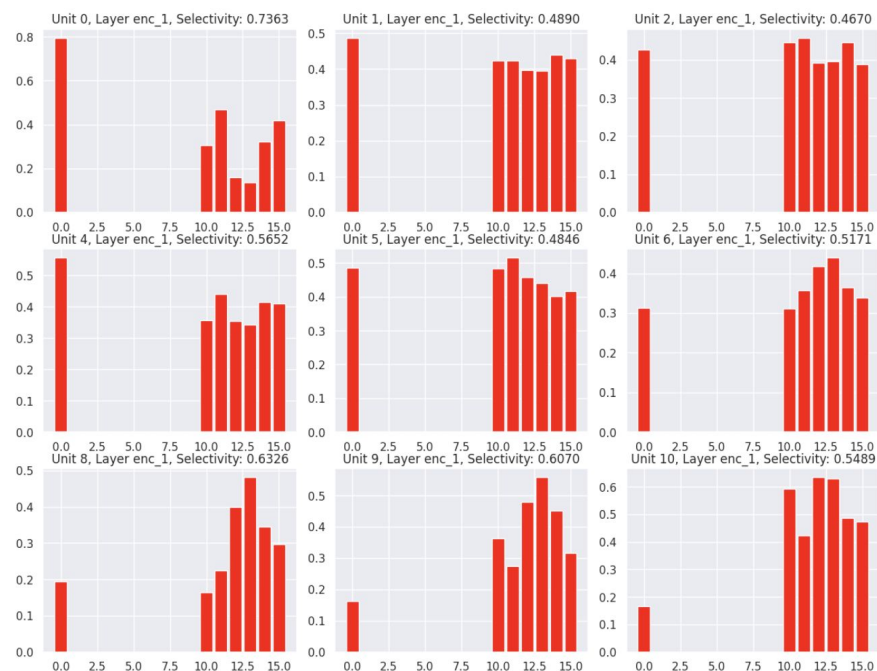


Best RMSE: 23.02

# Evaluation with Neuron Selective Loss

Neuron depth selectivity distribution for 1st MobileNetV2 block.

Selectivity enhanced for 3rd encoder MobileNetV2 block and 3rd decoder block.



Mean selectivity value for each layer

enc_0	0.543	dec_0	0.632
enc_1	0.566	dec_1	0.602
enc_2	0.762	dec_2	0.544
enc_3	0.694	dec_3	0.534
enc_4	0.650		
enc_5	0.760		
enc_6	0.574		
enc_7	0.691		
enc_8	0.602		
enc_9	0.720		
enc_10	0.659		
enc_output	0.657		

# Mean selectivity comparison

## Baseline

enc\_0 0.533  
enc\_1 0.555  
enc\_2 0.746  
enc\_3 0.734  
**enc\_4 0.735**  
enc\_5 0.745  
enc\_6 0.579  
enc\_7 0.784  
enc\_8 0.590  
enc\_9 0.758  
enc\_10 0.672  
enc\_output 0.667

dec\_0 0.635  
dec\_1 0.606  
dec\_2 0.583  
**dec\_3 0.436**

**AVG selectivity  
before: 0.647**

## With Neuron Selective Loss

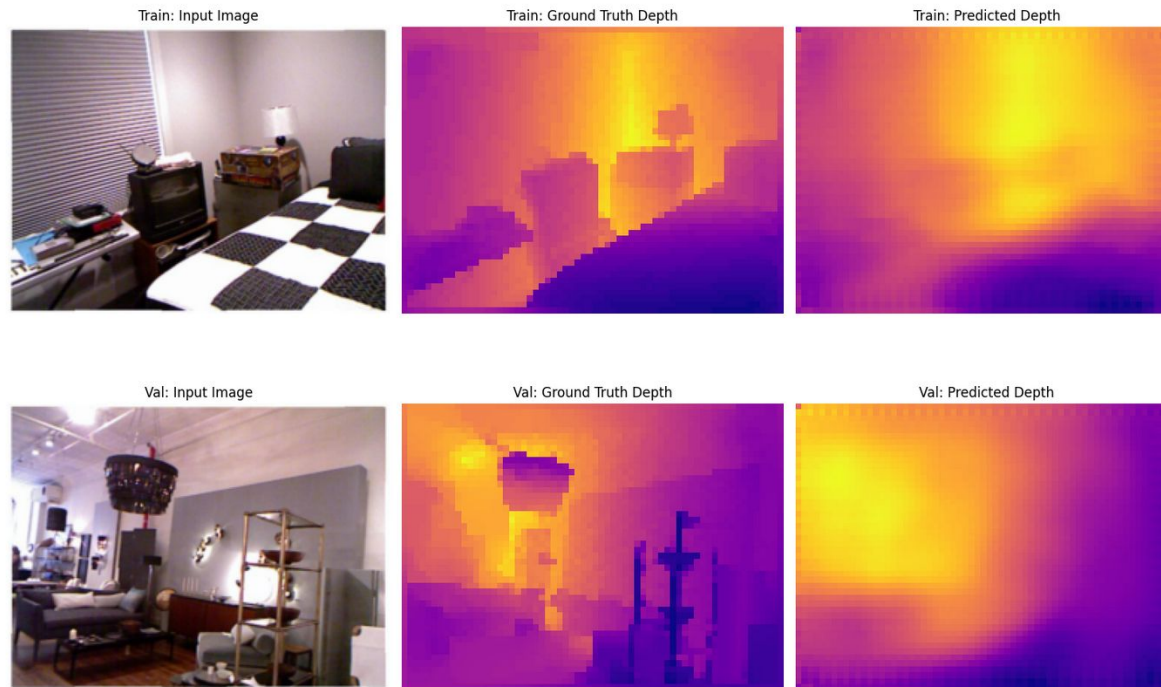
**enc\_0 0.543**  
**enc\_1 0.566**  
**enc\_2 0.762**  
enc\_3 0.694  
enc\_4 0.650  
**enc\_5 0.760**  
enc\_6 0.574  
enc\_7 0.691  
**enc\_8 0.602**  
enc\_9 0.720  
enc\_10 0.659  
enc\_output 0.657

dec\_0 0.632  
dec\_1 0.602  
dec\_2 0.544  
**dec\_3 0.534**

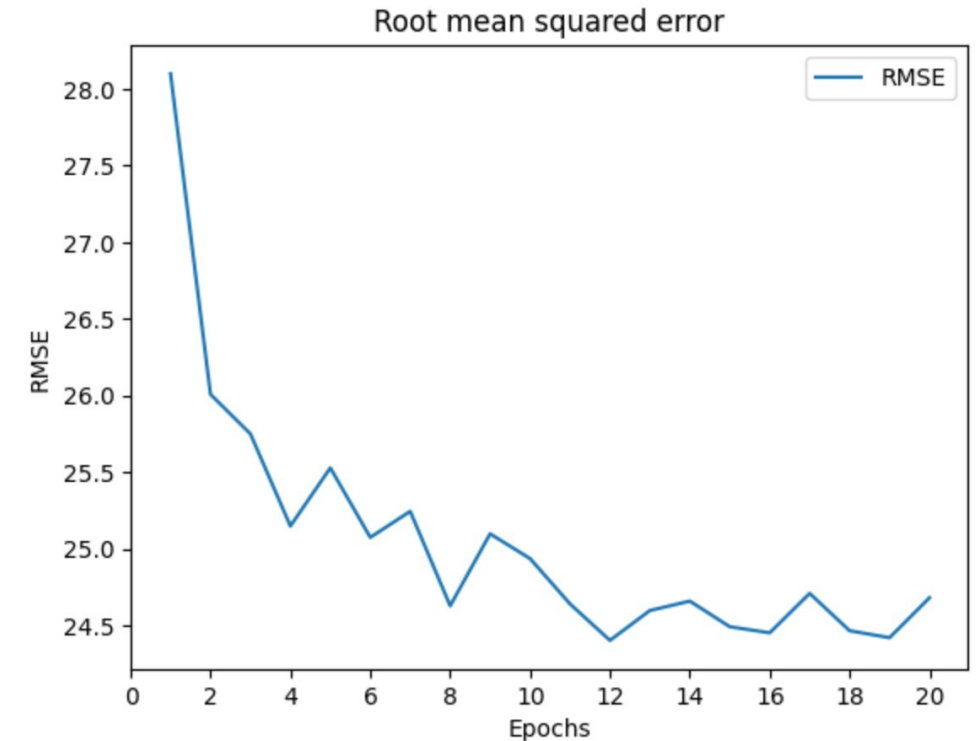
**AVG selectivity  
after: 0.636**



# Evaluation with Neuron Selective Loss (adjusted $\alpha = -0.5$ )



Example predictions on validation dataset  
after 20 epochs



Best RMSE: 24.45

# Mean selectivity comparison (adjusted $\alpha$ )

## Baseline

enc\_0 0.533  
enc\_1 0.555  
enc\_2 0.746  
enc\_3 0.734  
**enc\_4 0.735**  
enc\_5 0.745  
enc\_6 0.579  
enc\_7 0.784  
enc\_8 0.590  
enc\_9 0.758  
enc\_10 0.672  
enc\_output 0.667

dec\_0 0.635  
dec\_1 0.606  
dec\_2 0.583  
**dec\_3 0.436**

**AVG selectivity  
before: 0.647**

## With Neuron Selective Loss ( $\alpha = -0.5$ )

enc\_0 0.503  
enc\_1 0.522  
enc\_2 0.742  
enc\_3 0.706  
enc\_4 0.718  
enc\_5 0.737  
enc\_6 0.570  
enc\_7 0.753  
enc\_8 0.577  
enc\_9 0.756  
enc\_10 0.628  
enc\_output 0.622

dec\_0 0.589  
dec\_1 0.569  
dec\_2 0.529  
**dec\_3 0.593**

**AVG selectivity  
after: 0.632**

# Conclusions and Future Work

- Selectivity Regularization boosts depth selectivity for some layers, but the overall mean depth selectivity does not improve
- We can see a slight improvement of RMSE after training with neuron selectivity
- It requires further thorough hyperparameters tuning (alpha/selected layers) to show better performance & interpretability

# Conclusions and Future Work

Other setups to be explored:

- Apply neuron selective loss to all skip-connections inputs/only encoder output/both
- Apply neuron selective loss to layers closest to depth output
- Adjust weight of the neuron selective loss
- Explore larger efficient MDE models (S and XS-METER)