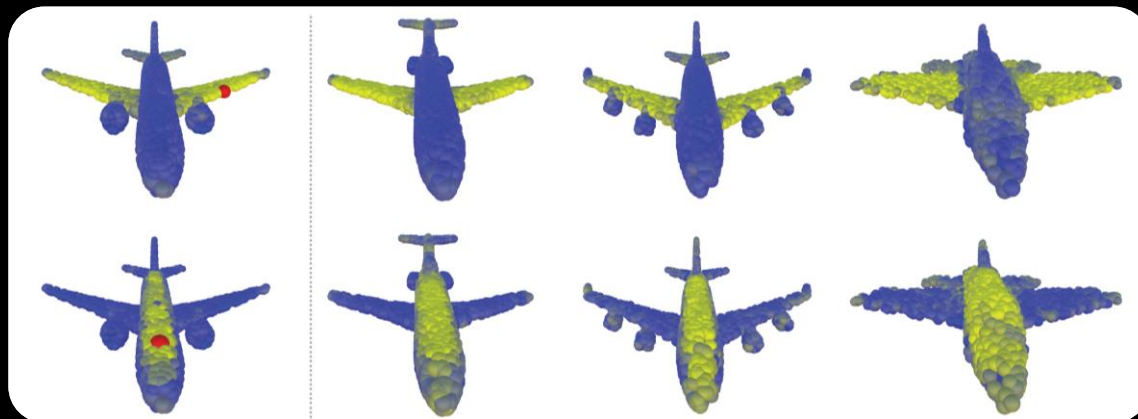


# Sensible Deep Learning for 3D Data



Justin Solomon  
MIT EECS



 **WARNING**




**NOT A  
PHYSICIST**



**But I want to learn about your geometry problems!**

# GDP @ MIT

GDP@MIT Home Team Publications Courses Contact 

## Geometric Data Processing Group

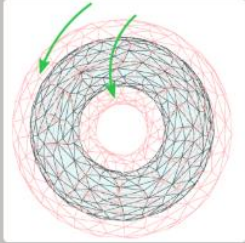
Principal investigator: Prof. Justin Solomon  
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

<http://gdp.csail.mit.edu>

### Welcome!

The MIT **Geometric Data Processing Group** studies geometric problems in computer graphics, computer vision, machine learning, and other disciplines.

Our **team** includes students and researchers spanning a variety of disciplines, from theoretical mathematics to applications in engineering and software development. We enthusiastically welcome collaborators and staff at all levels and encourage interested parties to **contact us** with ideas, challenging problems, and avenues for joint research.



### News

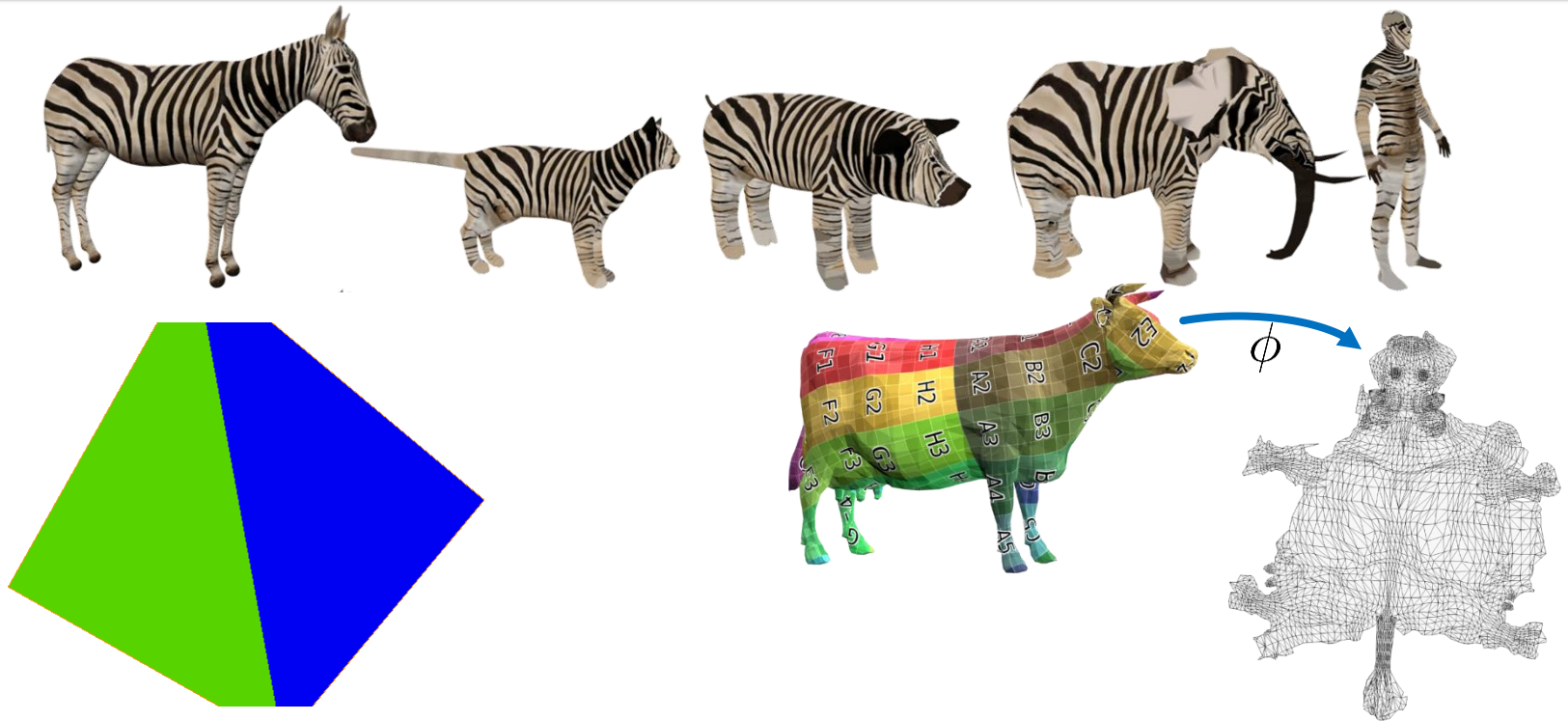
**Affiliations:** EECS, CSAIL, Metric Geometry & Gerrymandering Group, Center for Computational Engineering, MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab, Toyota-CSAIL Joint Research Center

New website

Please contact Justin with comments or edits

10/21/10

# Shape Analysis: Typical Tasks



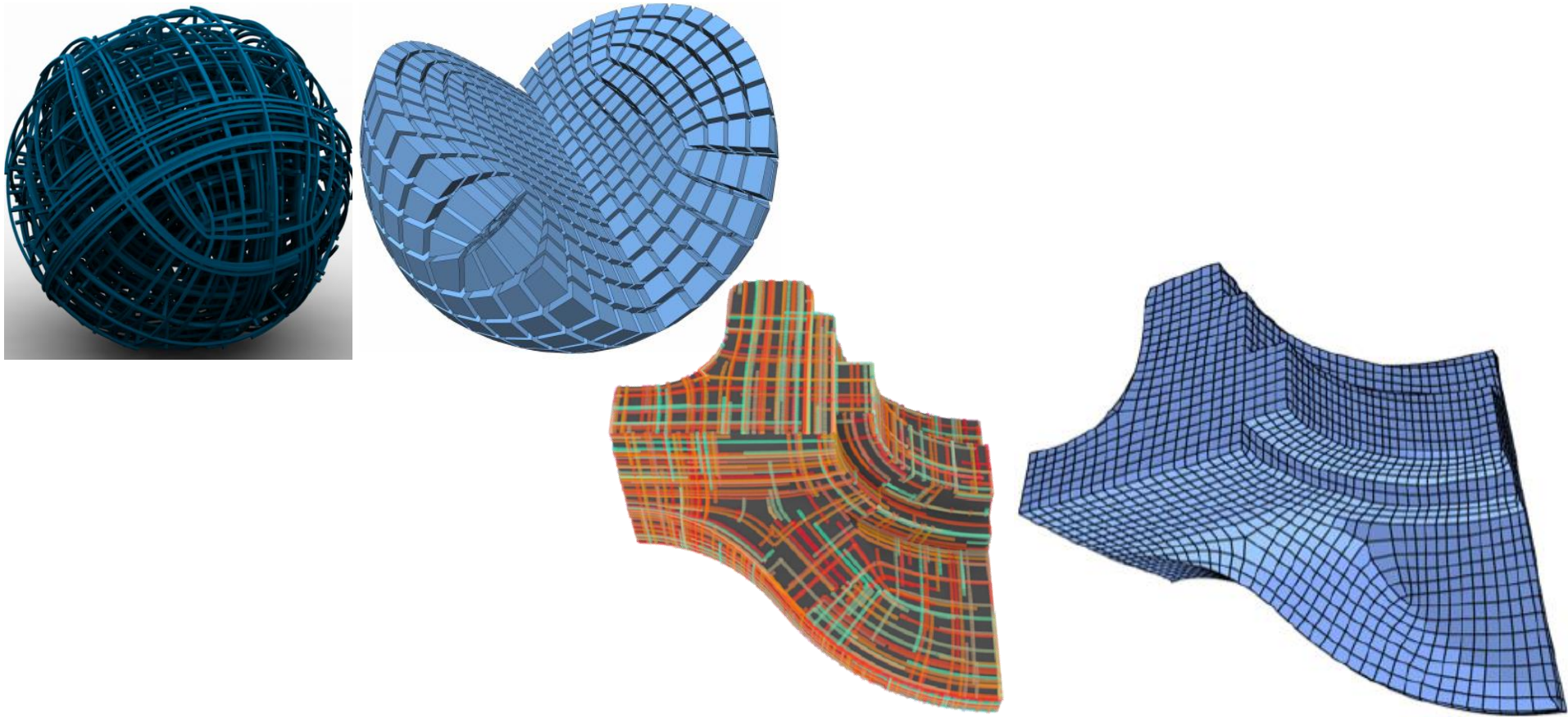
How do you embed domains into one another  
**efficiently** and with **low distortion**?

Claici et al. "Isometry-Aware Preconditioning for Mesh Parameterization." SGP 2017, London.

Li et al. "OptCuts: Joint Optimization of Surface Cuts and Parameterization." SIGGRAPH Asia 2018, Tokyo.

Gehre et al. "Interactive Curve Constrained Functional Maps." SGP 2018, Paris.

# Shape Analysis: Typical Tasks



How can we tile a shape with **simpler elements**?

Solomon, Vaxman, and Bommes. "Boundary Element Octahedral Fields in Volumes." TOG 2018.  
Zhang et al. "Spherical Harmonic Frames for Feature-Aligned Cross-Fields." Submitted.

# Shape Analysis: Typical Tasks

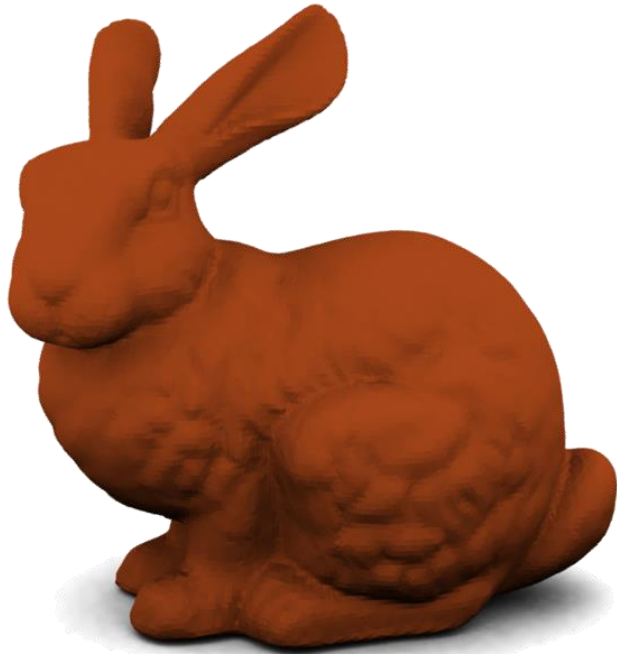
$$I_{\Omega}^{\text{TV}}(t) := \begin{cases} \min_{f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} & \text{TV}[f] \\ \text{subject to} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) dx = t \\ & 0 \leq f \leq \mathbb{1}_{\Omega} \end{cases}$$

How do we **stabilize** classical geometric measurements?

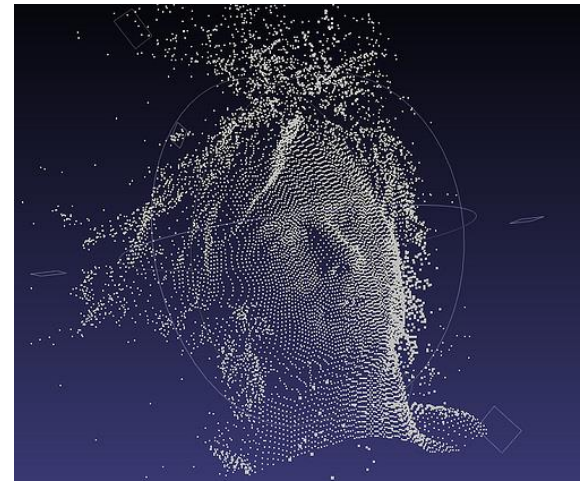
DeFord, Lavenant, Schutzman, and Solomon.

“Total Variation Isoperimetric Profiles.” SIAM SIAGA, to appear.

# Today's Research Thread



**Meshes**

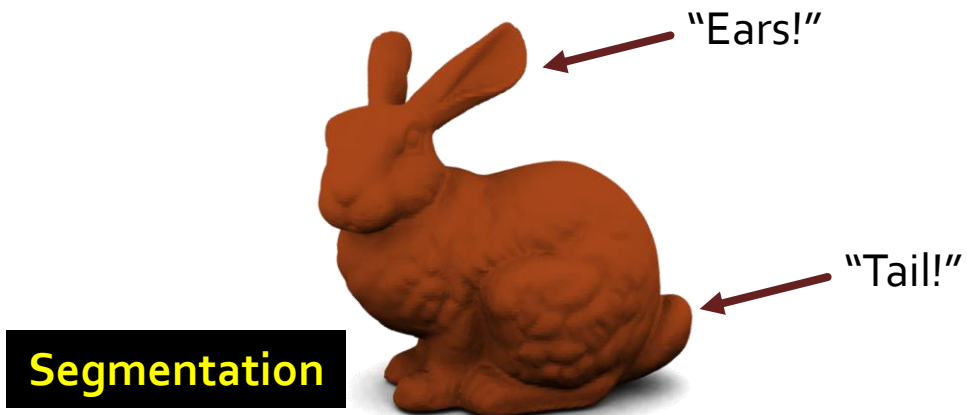
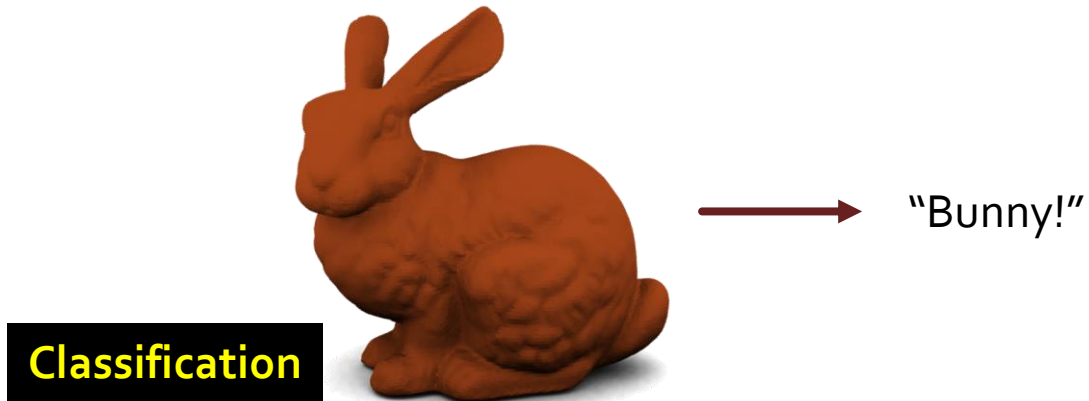


**Point clouds**

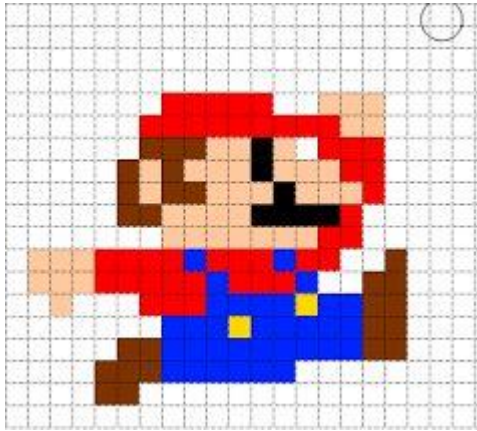
**(Deep) learning on geometric data**



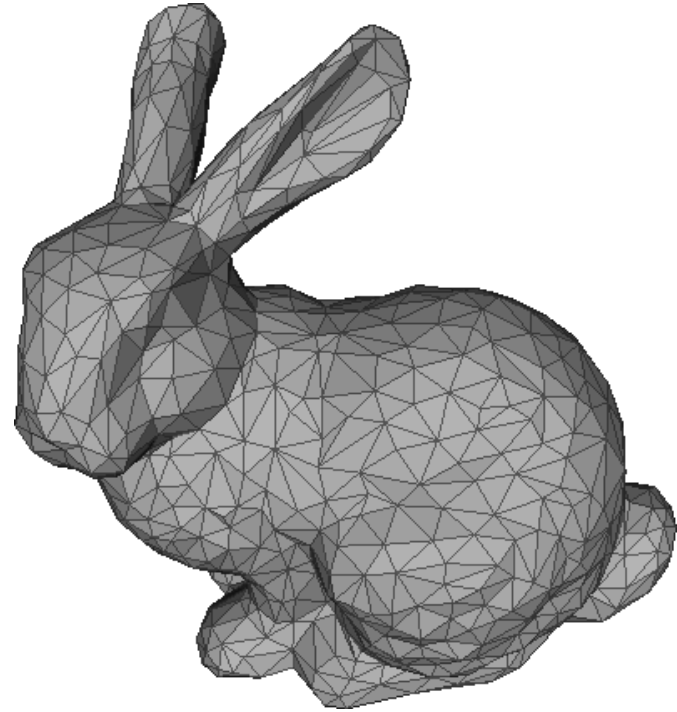
# Typical Tasks



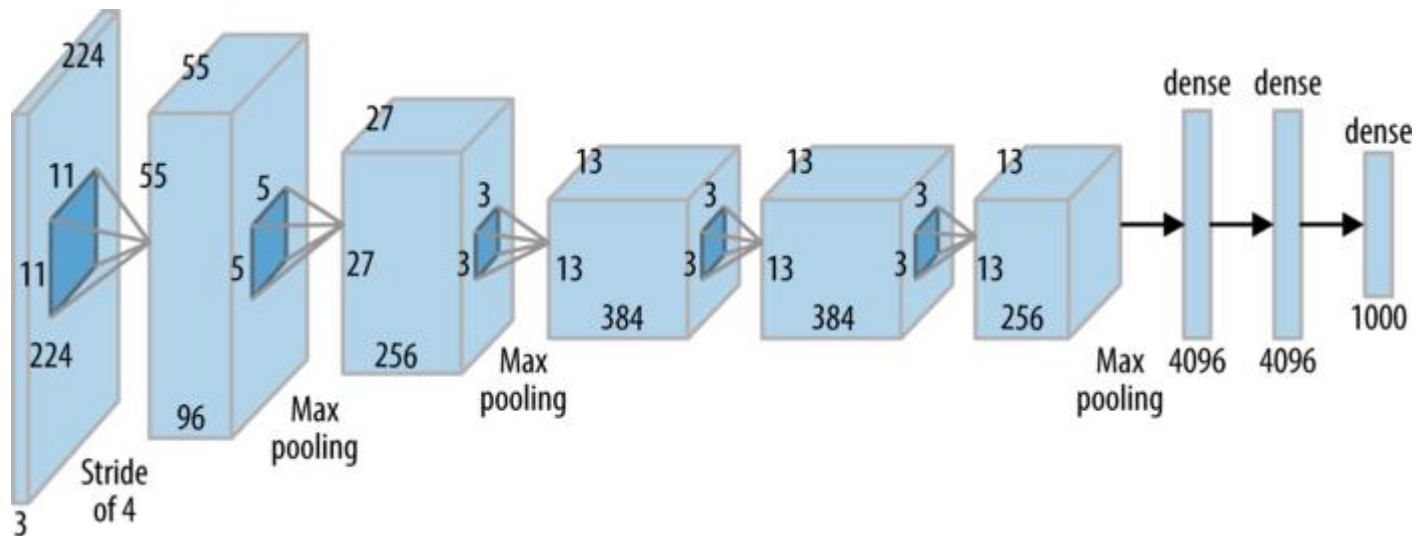
# The Challenge



≠



# Typical Image-Based Learning



## AlexNet

Krizhevsky, Sutskever, & Hinton:

“ImageNet classification with deep convolutional neural networks”

# 3D Learning: What We Want to Avoid



3D data



Shoehorn unit

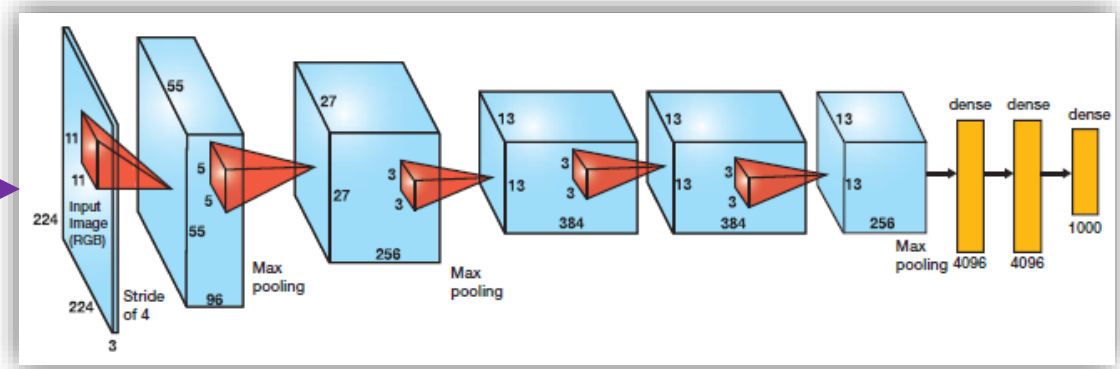
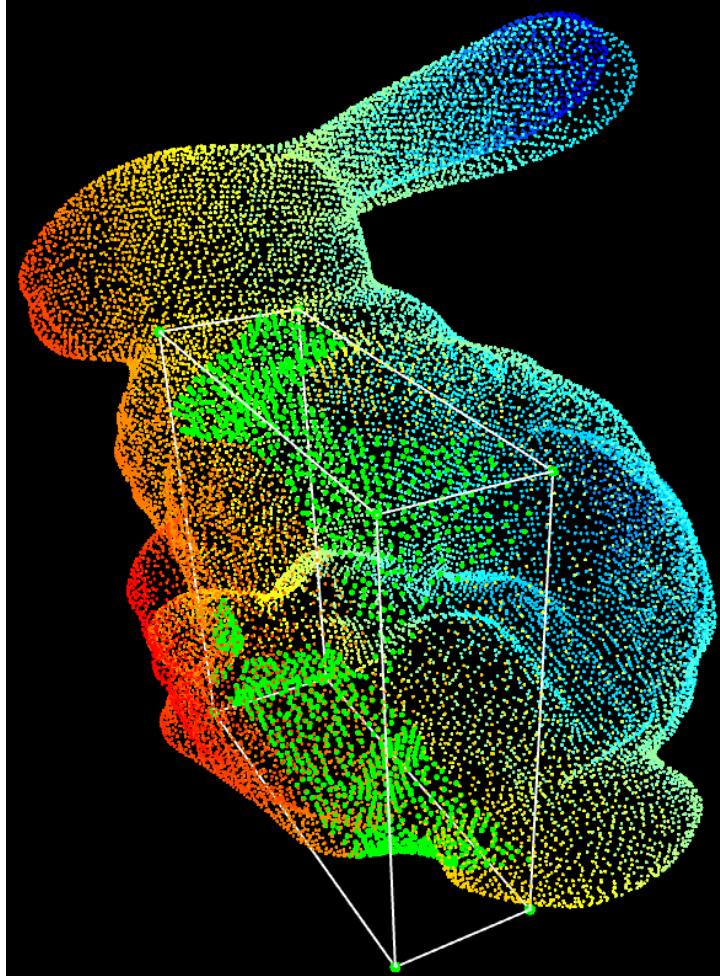


Image-based learning

# Point Cloud Learning



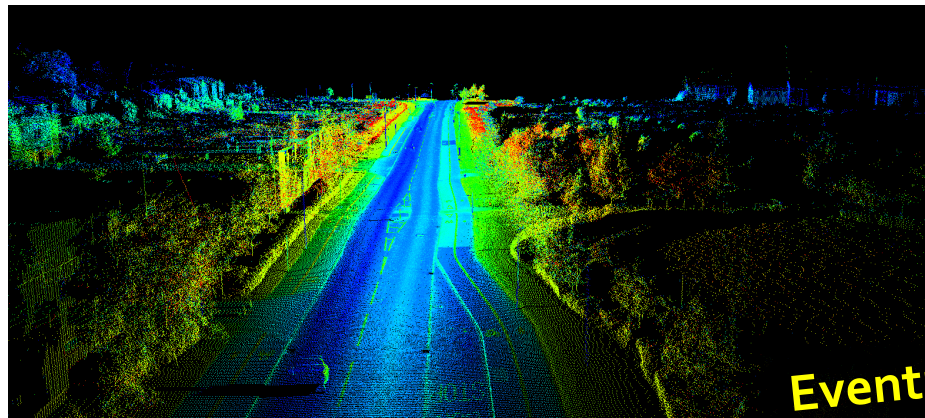
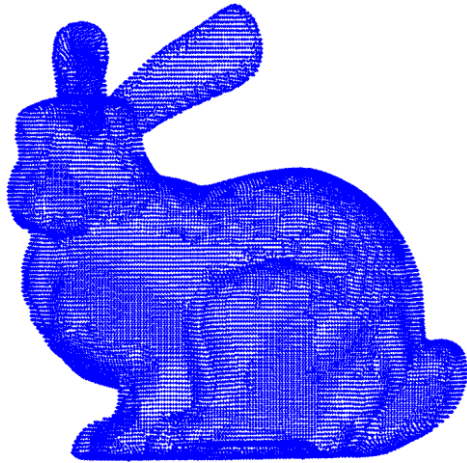
## Classification

Map point cloud to a label in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

## Segmentation

Map each point to a label in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

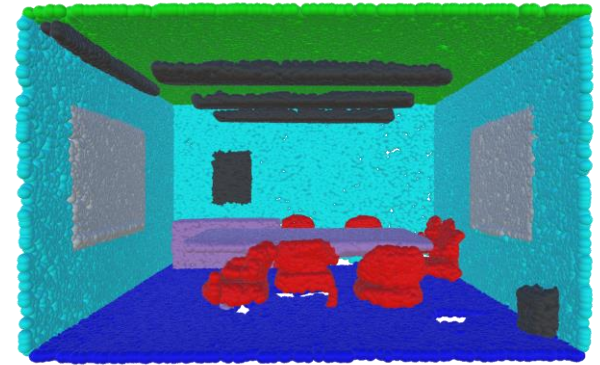
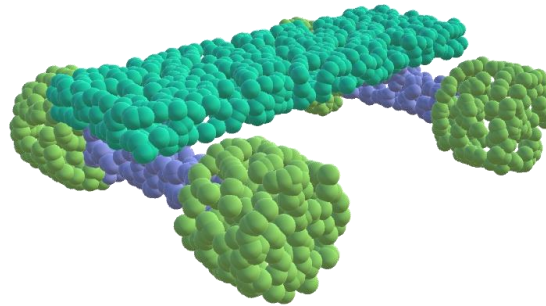
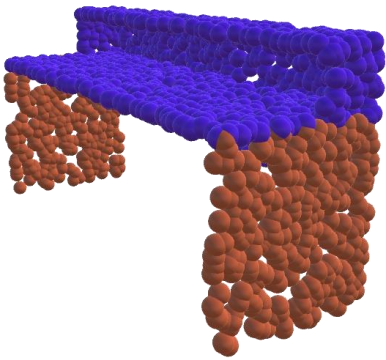
# Input



**Eventual goal**

Unordered set of points  $\{(x_i, y_i, z_i)\}_{i=1}^N$

# Challenges



- Point clouds are **unordered** and **unstructured**
- Cannot **parameterize** patches
- No **convolution**
- Need a means for points to **interact**

# Some Recent Options

## PointNet: Deep Learning on Point Sets for 3D Classification and Segmentation

Charles R. Qi\*   Hao Su\*   Kaichun Mo   Leonidas J. Guibas  
Stanford University

### Abstract

Point cloud is an important type of geometric structure. Due to its irregular format, most methods transform such data to regular 3D voxel grids or images. This, however, renders data less voluminous and causes issues. In this paper, we propose a novel type of neural network that directly processes point clouds, which well respects the permutation invariance of points in the input. Our network, named PointNet, provides a unified architecture for applications including object classification, part segmentation, topological parsing. Though simple, PointNet is highly effective. Empirically, it shows strong performance comparable or even better than state of the art. In this paper, we provide analysis towards understanding what the network has learnt and why the network is robust to input perturbation and corruption.

### 1. Introduction

In this paper we explore deep learning architectures capable of reasoning about 3D geometric data such as point clouds or meshes. Typical convolutional neural networks require highly regular input data formats, such as image grids or 3D voxels, in order to perform efficient sharing and other kernel optimizations. Since point clouds or meshes are not in a regular format, most methods transform such data to regular 3D voxel grids or images. This, however, renders data less voluminous and causes issues. In this paper, we propose a novel type of neural network that directly processes point clouds, which well respects the permutation invariance of points in the input. Our network, named PointNet, provides a unified architecture for applications including object classification, part segmentation, topological parsing. Though simple, PointNet is highly effective. Empirically, it shows strong performance comparable or even better than state of the art. In this paper, we provide analysis towards understanding what the network has learnt and why the network is robust to input perturbation and corruption.

## PointNet++: Deep Hierarchical Feature Learning on Point Sets in a Metric Space

Charles R. Qi   Li Yi   Hao Su   Leonidas J. Guibas  
Stanford University

### Abstract

Few prior works study deep learning in this direction. However, by directly processing the metric space points in a hierarchical manner, we show generalizability to continuous volumetric data and robustness to corruption. Our neural network that applies convolution to input point set. By explicitly modeling local features with increasing neighborhood sizes, our network achieves better performance for networks with deeper learning layers to adapt to varying input sizes. We show that our network can be trained efficiently and robustly. In this paper, we have been obtained on a variety of tasks.

### 1 Introduction

We are interested in analyzing geometric data in a hierarchical manner. In this paper, we propose a novel type of neural network that directly processes point clouds, which well respects the permutation invariance of points in the input. Our network, named PointNet, provides a unified architecture for applications including object classification, part segmentation, topological parsing. Though simple, PointNet is highly effective. Empirically, it shows strong performance comparable or even better than state of the art. In this paper, we provide analysis towards understanding what the network has learnt and why the network is robust to input perturbation and corruption.

## Point Convolutional Neural Networks by Extension Operators

Matan Atzmon\*   Haggai Maron\*   Yaron Lipman  
Weizmann Institute of Science

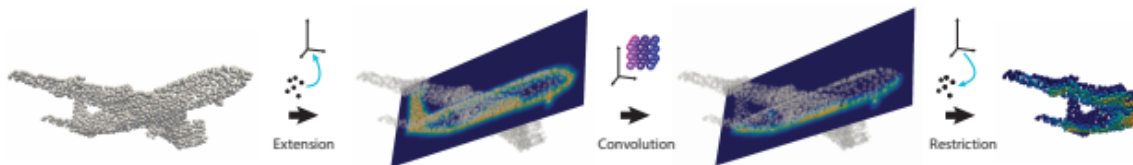
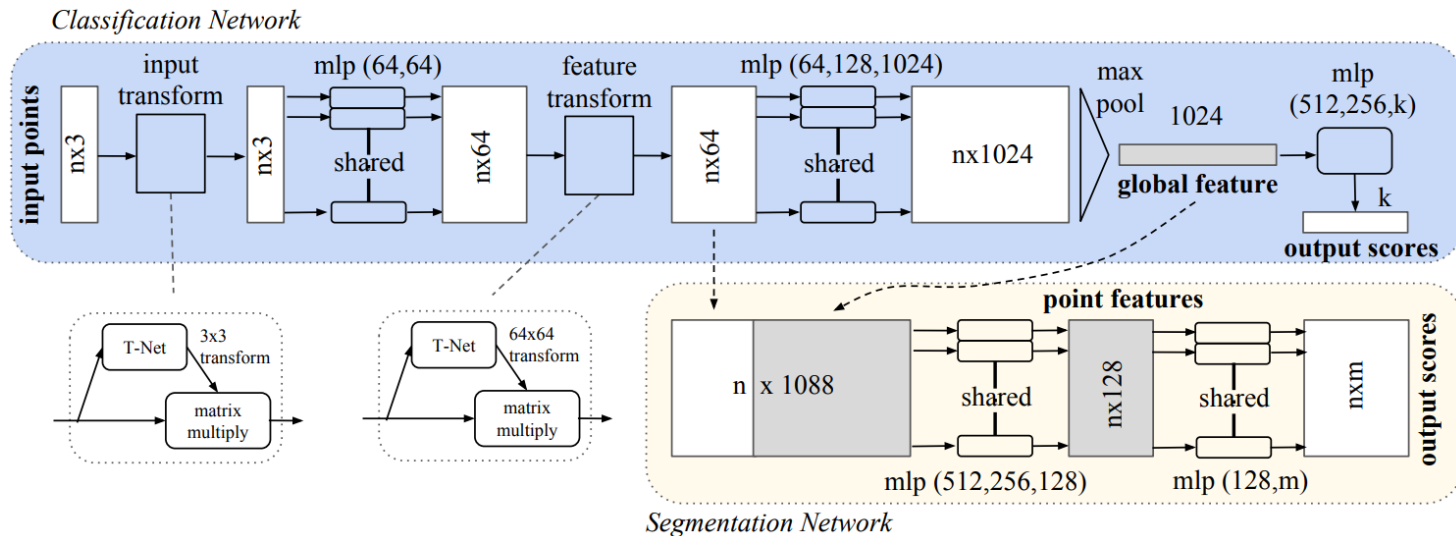


Figure 1: A new framework for applying convolution to functions defined over point clouds: First, a function over a point cloud (in this case the constant one) is extended to a continuous volumetric function over the ambient space; second, a continuous volumetric convolution is applied to this function (without any discretization or approximation); and finally, the result is restricted back to a point cloud.



# Remarkable First Step



Embeds points individually

**PointNet:** Deep Learning on Point Sets for 3D Classification and Segmentation  
Qi, Su, Mo, & Guibas; CVPR 2017

# PointNet architecture

# DGCNN

## Dynamic Graph CNN for Learning on Point Clouds

YUE WANG, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

YONGBIN SUN, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ZIWEI LIU, UC Berkeley / ICSI

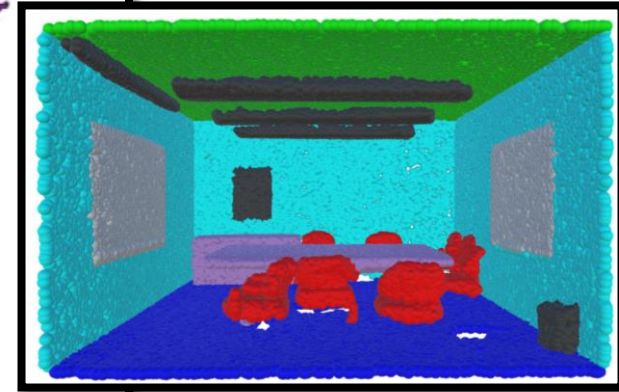
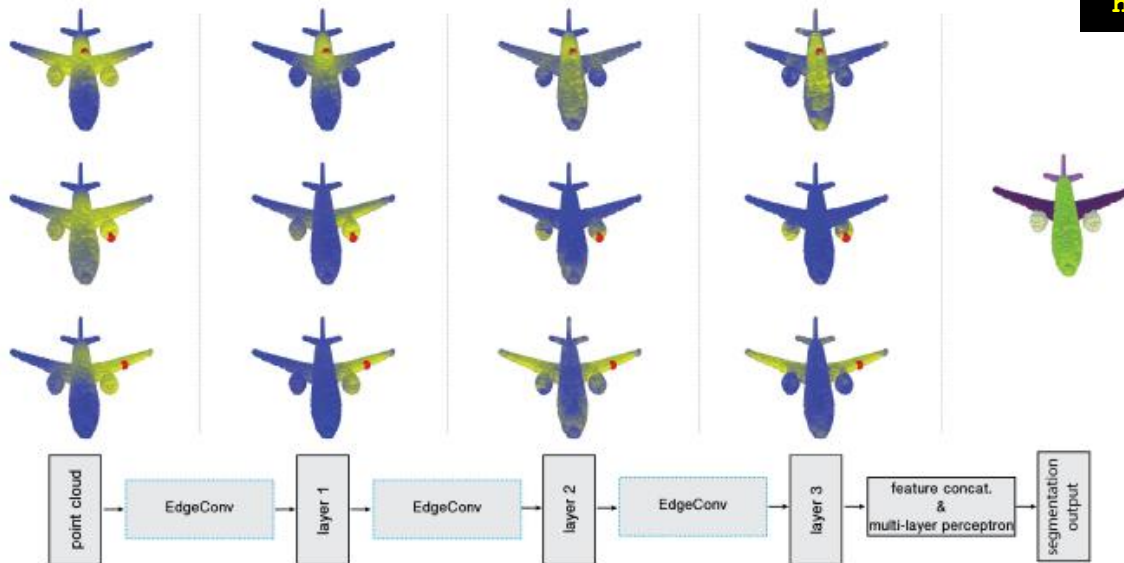
SANJAY E. SARMA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MICHAEL M. BRONSTEIN, Imperial College London / USI Lugano

JUSTIN M. SOLOMON, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ACM Transactions on Graphics  
*to appear*

<https://github.com/WangYueFt/dgcnn>

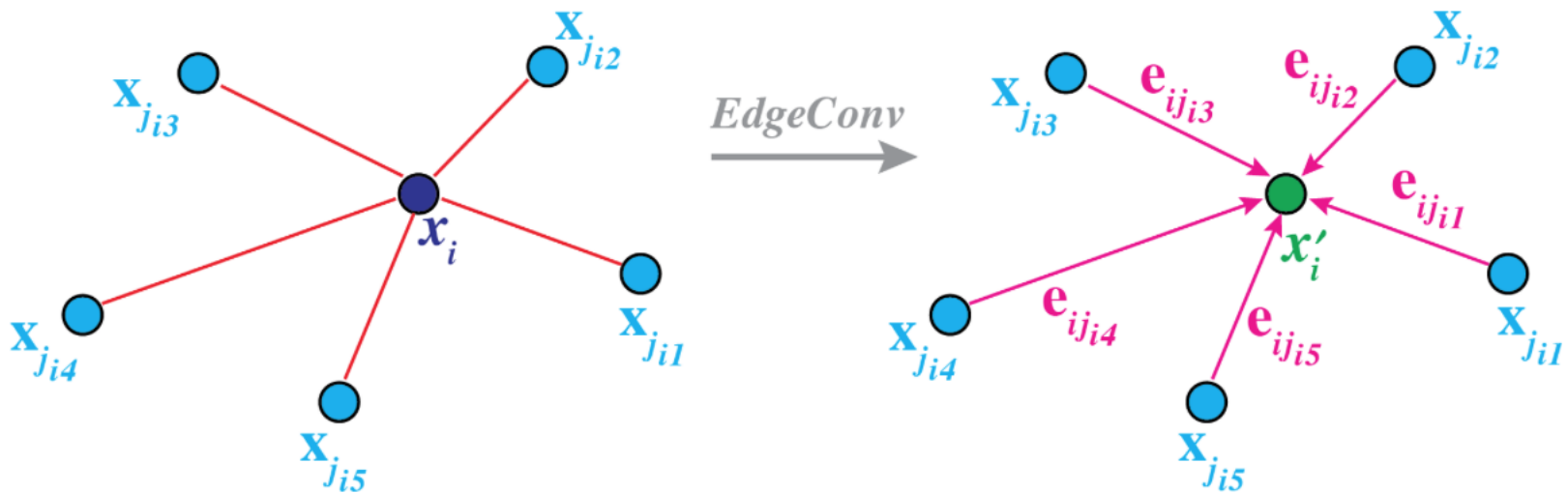


# Learning on point clouds

# Desiderata

- **Order invariance**  
No natural order for list of points
- **Captures global information**  
Combine information over entire shape
- **Leverages local neighborhoods**  
Curvature, local features relevant
- **Large receptive field**  
Some version of density independence

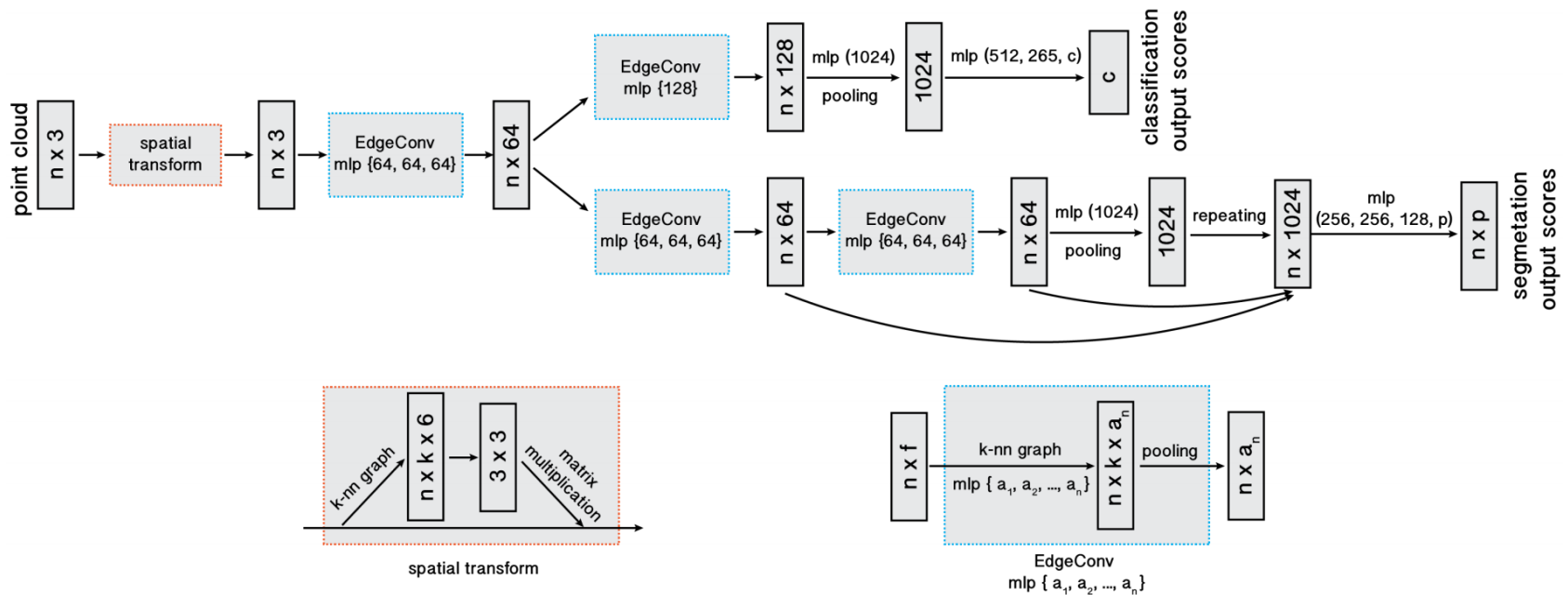
# Introducing: EdgeConv



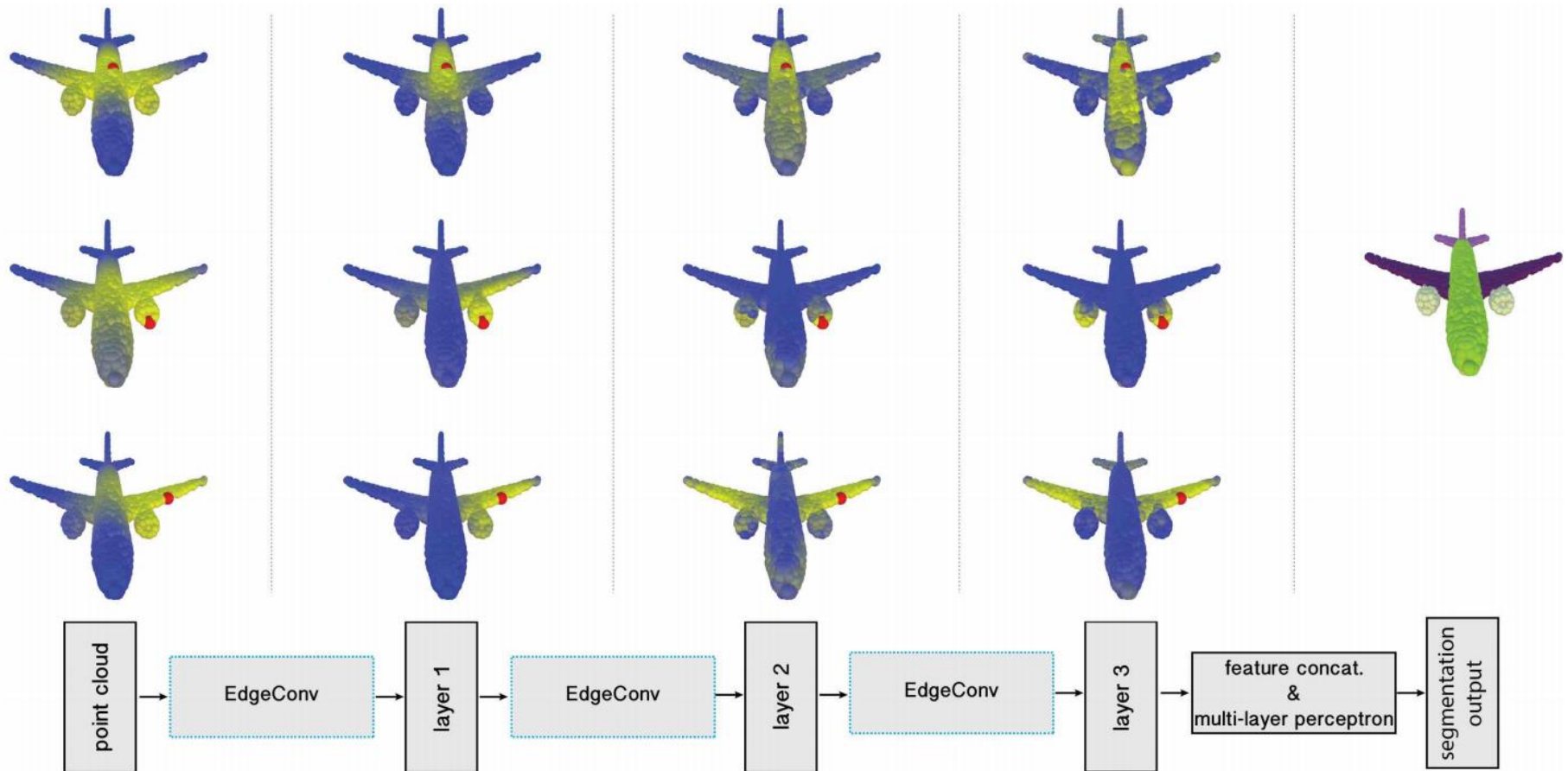
- **Feature per edge**  
Concatenate two endpoints
- **Feed-forward NN to transform**  
High-dimensional point per edge
- **Symmetric aggregation**  
Back to center point

# Dynamic Graph

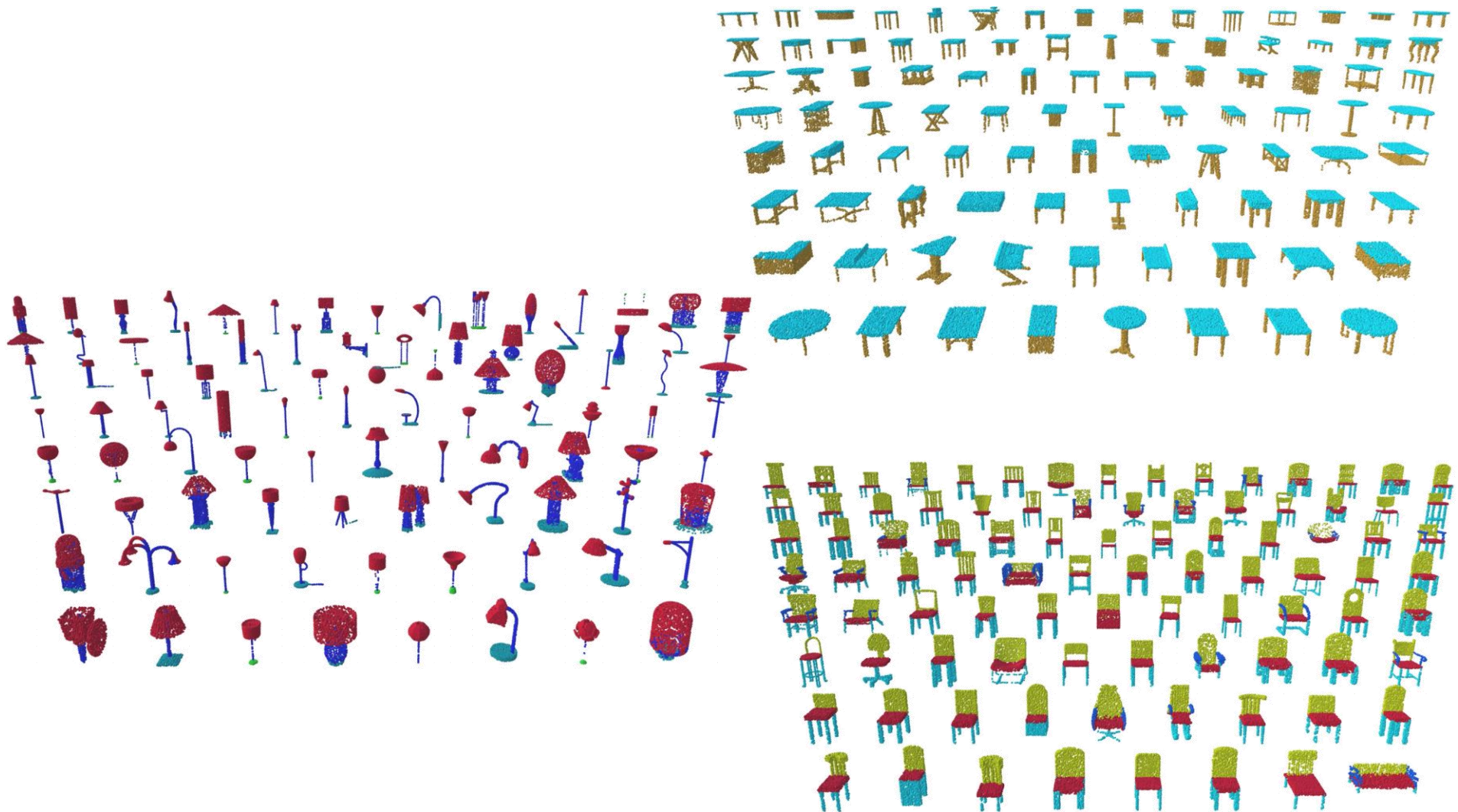
- **Stack** EdgeConv layers
- **Recompute KNN** before each layer
- Notion of “**nearby**” changes each layer



# Full Segmentation Pipeline



# Segmentation



# Evaluation

	MEAN CLASS ACCURACY	OVERALL ACCURACY
3DShapENets [Wu et al. 2015]	77.3	84.7
VoxNet [Maturana and Scherer 2015]	83.0	85.9
SubVolume [Qi et al. 2016]	86.0	89.2
VRN (single view) [Brock et al. 2016]	88.98	-
VRN (multiple views) [Brock et al. 2016]	91.33	-
ECC [Simonovsky and Komodakis 2017]	83.2	87.4
PointNet [Qi et al. 2017b]	86.0	89.2
PointNet++ [Qi et al. 2017c]	-	90.7
KD-Net [Klokov and Lempitsky 2017]	-	90.6
PointCNN [Li et al. 2018a]	88.1	92.2
PCNN [Atzmon et al. 2018]	-	92.3
Ours (baseline)	88.9	91.7
Ours	<b>90.2</b>	<b>92.9</b>
Ours (2048 points)	<b>90.7</b>	<b>93.5</b>

Table 2. Classification results on ModelNet40.



# Recent Extension

## Deep Closest Point: Learning Representations for Point Cloud Registration

Yue Wang

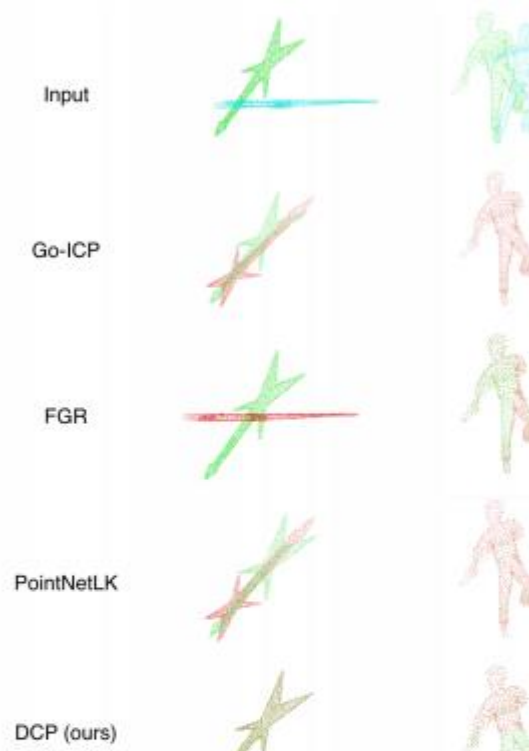
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139  
yuewangx@mit.edu

Justin M. Solomon

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139  
jsolomon@mit.edu

### Abstract

Point cloud registration is a key problem for computer vision applied to robotics, medical imaging, and other applications. This problem involves finding a rigid transformation from one point cloud into another so that they align. Iterative Closest Point (ICP) and its variants provide simple and easily-implemented iterative methods for this task, but these algorithms can converge to spurious local optima. To address local optima and other difficulties in the ICP pipeline, we propose a learning-based method, titled Deep Closest Point (DCP), inspired by recent techniques in computer vision and natural language processing. Our model consists of three parts: a point cloud embedding network, an attention-based module combined with a pointer generation layer, to approximate combinatorial matching, and a differentiable singular value decomposition (SVD) layer to extract the final rigid transformation. We train our model end-to-end on the ModelNet40 dataset and show in several settings that it performs better than ICP, its variants (e.g.,

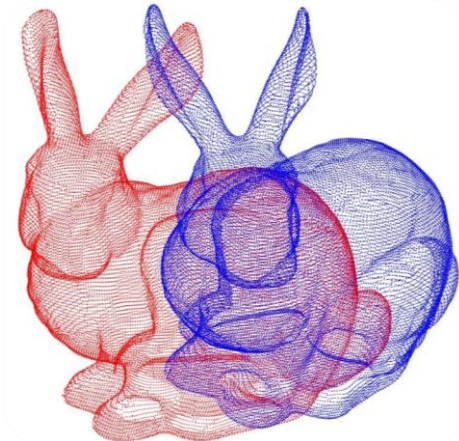


# Classical Iterative Closest Point

- **Choose** e.g. 1000 random points
- **Match** each to closest point on other scan
- **Reject** pairs with distance  $> k$  times median
- **Minimize**

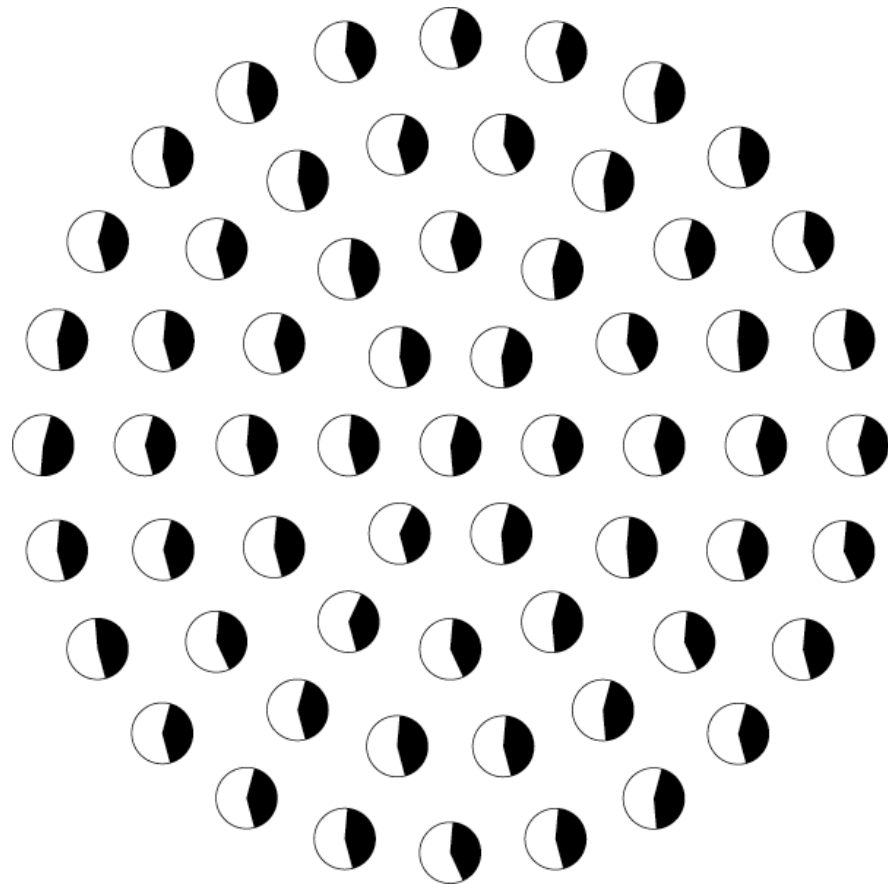
$$E[R, t] := \sum_i \|Rp_i + t - q_i\|^2$$

- **Iterate**

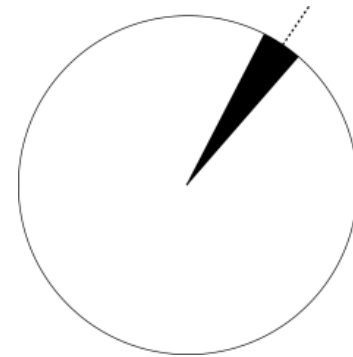


“A method for registration of 3-D shapes.”  
Besl and McKay, PAMI 1992.

# Local Optima



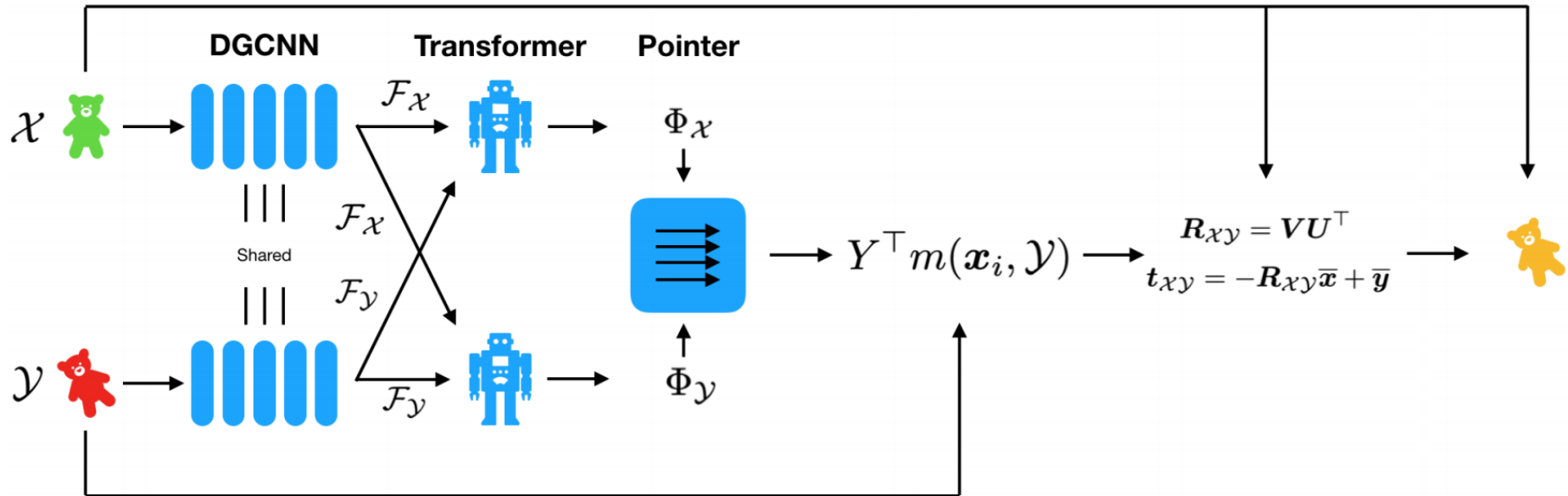
**Translation** in xz plane  
**Rotation** about y



■ Converges

□ Does not converge

# Our Approach



**Choose closest points in feature space**

Training data: Synthetically rotated shape pairs  
Features are self-supervised!

**DGCNN learns features**

# Results

Model	MSE( $R$ )	RMSE( $R$ )	MAE( $R$ )	MSE( $t$ )	RMSE( $t$ )	MAE( $t$ )
ICP	894.897339	29.914835	23.544817	0.084643	0.290935	0.248755
Go-ICP [53]	140.477325	11.852313	2.588463	0.000659	0.025665	0.007092
FGR [57]	87.661491	9.362772	1.999290	0.000194	0.013939	0.002839
PointNetLK [16]	227.870331	15.095374	4.225304	0.000487	0.022065	0.005404
DCP-v1 (ours)	6.480572	2.545697	1.505548	<b>0.000003</b>	<b>0.001763</b>	<b>0.001451</b>
DCP-v2 (ours)	<b>1.307329</b>	<b>1.143385</b>	<b>0.770573</b>	<b>0.000003</b>	0.001786	<b>0.001195</b>

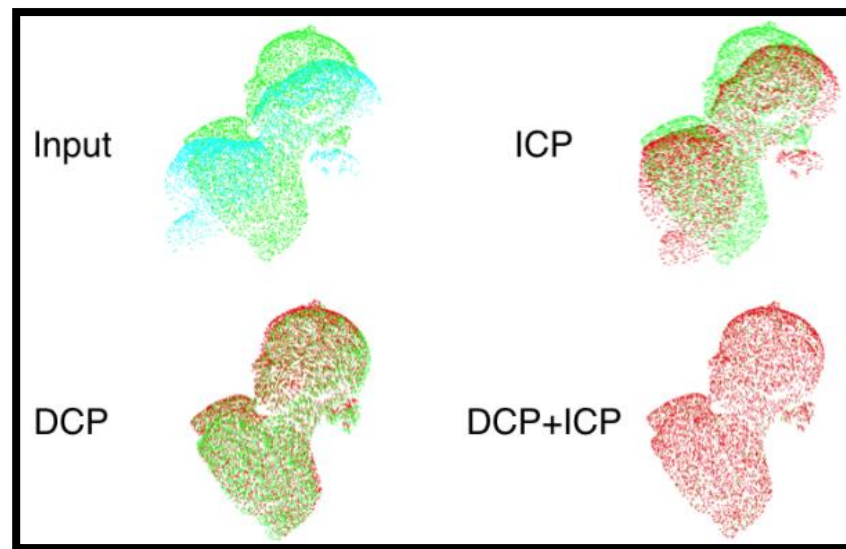
Table 1. ModelNet40: Test on unseen point clouds

Model	MSE( $R$ )	RMSE( $R$ )	MAE( $R$ )	MSE( $t$ )	RMSE( $t$ )	MAE( $t$ )
ICP	892.601135	29.876431	23.626110	0.086005	0.293266	0.251916
Go-ICP [53]	192.258636	13.865736	2.914169	0.000491	0.022154	0.006219
FGR [57]	97.002747	9.848997	<b>1.445460</b>	0.000182	0.013503	0.002231
PointNetLK [16]	306.323975	17.502113	5.280545	0.000784	0.028007	0.007203
DCP-v1 (ours)	19.201385	4.381938	2.680408	<b>0.000025</b>	<b>0.004950</b>	<b>0.003597</b>
DCP-v2 (ours)	<b>9.923701</b>	<b>3.150191</b>	2.007210	<b>0.000025</b>	0.005039	0.003703

Table 2. ModelNet40: Test on unseen categories

Model	MSE( $R$ )	RMSE( $R$ )	MAE( $R$ )	MSE( $t$ )	RMSE( $t$ )	MAE( $t$ )
ICP	882.564209	29.707983	23.557217	0.084537	0.290752	0.249092
Go-ICP [53]	131.182495	11.453493	2.534873	0.000531	0.023051	0.004192
FGR [57]	607.694885	24.651468	10.055918	0.011876	0.108977	0.027393
PointNetLK [16]	256.155548	16.004860	4.595617	0.000465	0.021558	0.005652
DCP-v1 (ours)	6.926589	2.631841	1.515879	0.000003	0.001801	0.001697
DCP-v2 (ours)	<b>1.169384</b>	<b>1.081380</b>	<b>0.737479</b>	<b>0.000002</b>	<b>0.001500</b>	<b>0.001053</b>

Table 3. ModelNet40: Test on objects with Gaussian noise



# Different Task

## Deep Parametric Shape Predictions using Distance Fields

Dmitriy Smirnov<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Fisher<sup>2</sup>, Vladimir G. Kim<sup>2</sup>, Richard Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Justin Solomon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology, <sup>2</sup>Adobe Research

### Abstract

Many tasks in graphics and vision demand machinery for converting shapes into representations with sparse sets of parameters; these representations facilitate rendering, editing, and storage. When the source data is noisy or ambiguous, however, artists and engineers often manually construct such representations, a tedious and potentially time-consuming process. While advances in deep learning have been successfully applied to noisy geometric data, the task of generating parametric shapes has so far been difficult for these methods. Hence, we propose a new framework for predicting parametric shape primitives using deep learning. We use distance fields to transition between shape parameters like control points and input data on a raster grid. We demonstrate efficacy on 2D and 3D tasks, including font vectorization and surface abstraction.

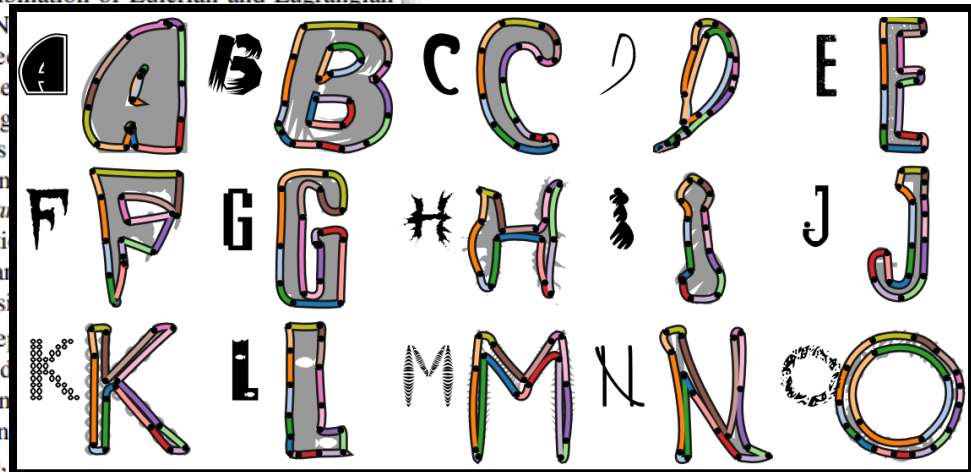
### 1. Introduction

The creation, modification, and rendering of vector graphics and parametric shapes is a fundamental problem of interest to engineers, artists, animators, and designers. Such representations offer distinct advantages over other models. By expressing a shape as a collection of primitives, we are

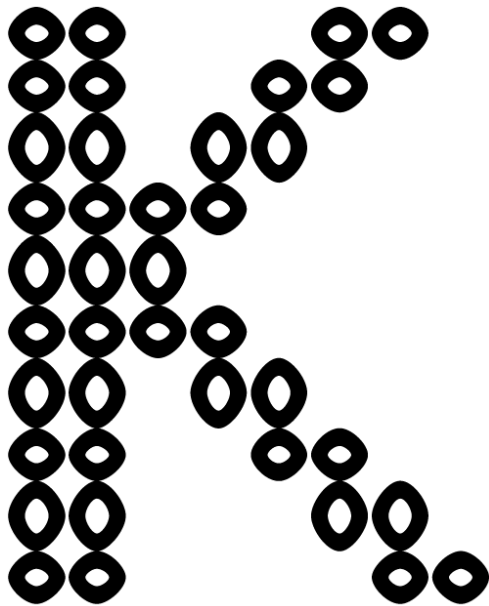
Grid structure is fundamentally built into convolution as a mechanism for information to travel between layers of a deep network. This structure is leveraged during training to optimize performance on a GPU. Recent deep learning pipelines that output vector shape primitives [40] have been significantly less successful than pipelines for analogous tasks on raster images or voxelized volumes.

A challenge when applying deep learning to parametric geometry is the combination of Eulerian and Lagrangian representations. CNNs in that they apply fixed Eulerian shape representations as values on a fixed grid, while Lagrangian representations, on the other hand, use sparse sets of control points to express geometry. In this paper, we combine these representations. In particular, this Lagrangian representation is a key step in an efficient pipeline for font vectorization. Above, a task we consider.

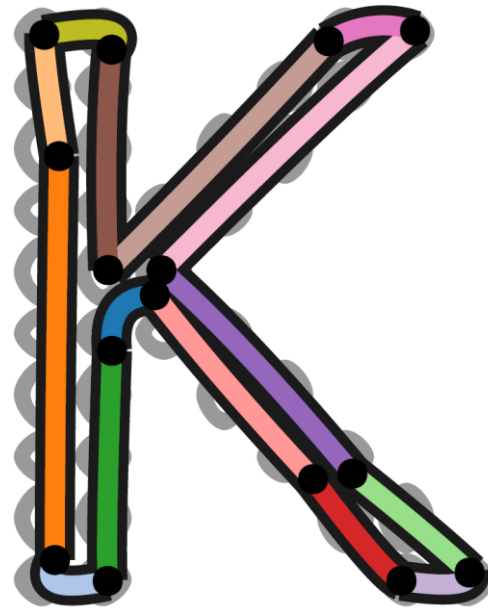
We propose a deep learning framework for predicting parametric shapes, adding the ability to analytically compute distance fields. In each training iteration, we use the Chamfer distance, a metric for point-to-point similarity. Our metric can be computed efficiently and does not



# High-Level Theme



*Input data:*  
**Eulerian**  
representation



*Input data:*  
**Lagrangian**  
representation

# A Graceful Transition

$$\mathcal{L}_\Psi(d_A(\cdot), d_B(\cdot)) = \int_S \Psi[d_A(x), d_B(x)] dV(x)$$

**Closed-form** distances for Bézier curves, implicit primitives, and Boolean representations.

*Generalizes:*

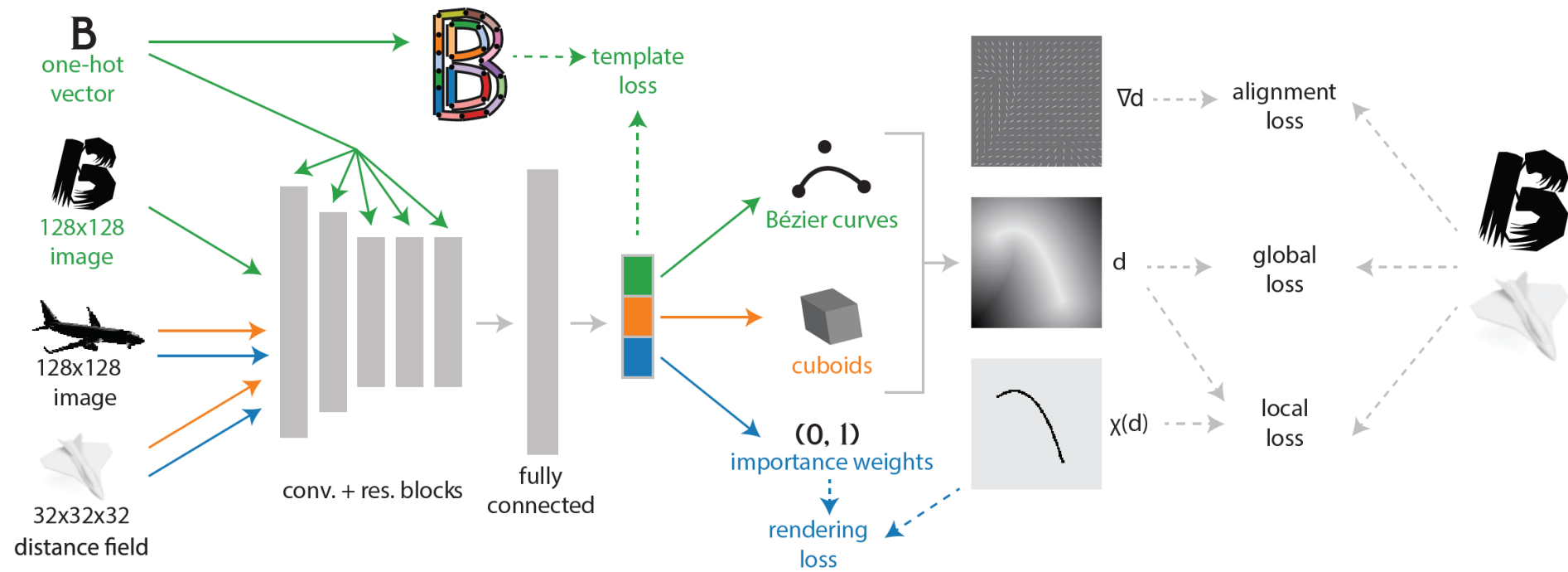
- Chamfer loss
- Global alignment
- Normal alignment

**Bonus:**  
**More efficient!**

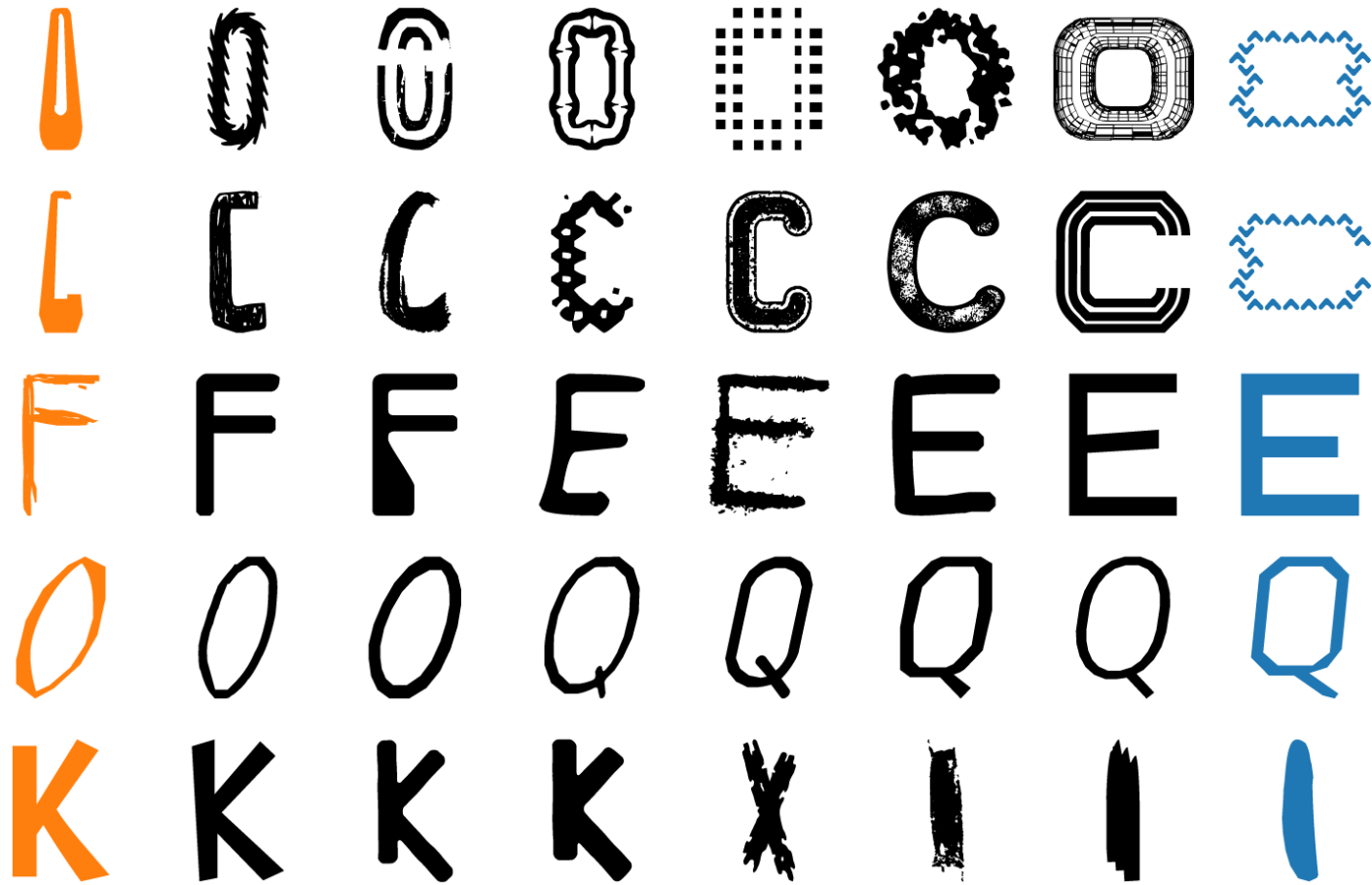
**Alignment objectives are easy to evaluate from a distance field.**



# Learning Pipeline



# Results



Interpolation

# Results



**Self-Supervised Shape Abstraction**

# Results



Extremely sparse  
representation

Image-based 3D abstraction

# Forthcoming Work

## Deep Sketch-Based Modeling of Man-Made Shapes

DMITRIY SMIRNOV, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIKHAIL BESSMELTSEV, Université de Montréal

JUSTIN SOLOMON, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

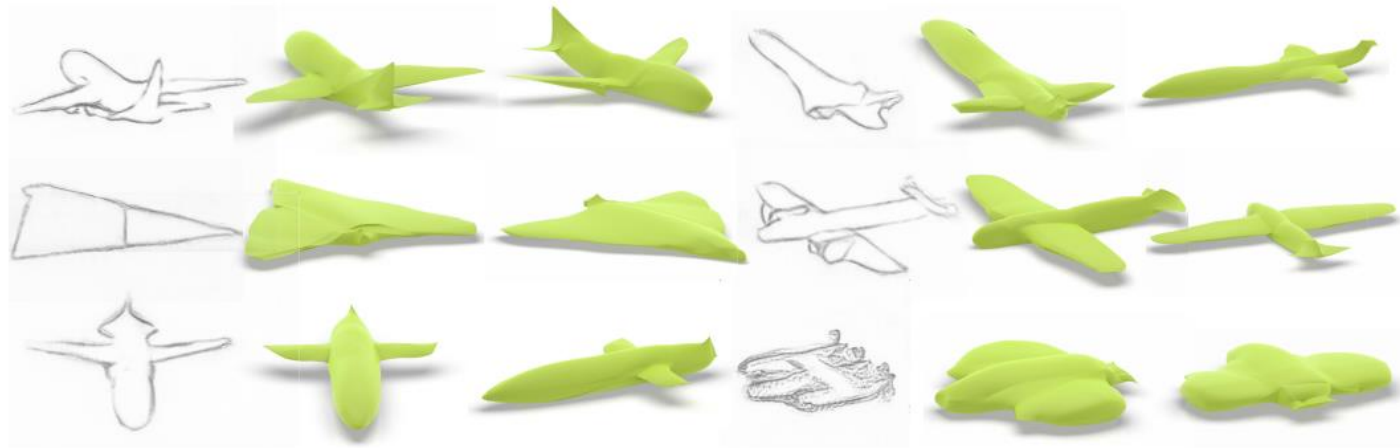


Fig. 1. Given a bitmap sketch of a man-made shape, our method automatically infers a complete *parametric* 3D model, ready to be edited, rendered, or converted to a mesh. Compared to conventional methods, our resolution-independent geometry representation allows us to faithfully reconstruct sharp features (wing and tail edges) as well as smooth regions. Results are shown on sketches from a test dataset. Sketches in this figure are upsampled from the actual images used as input to our method.

Sketch-based modeling aims to model 3D geometry using a concise and easy to create—but extremely ambiguous—input: artist sketches. Most conventional sketch-based modeling systems target smooth shapes and, to counter the ambiguity, put manually-designed priors on the 3D shape; they also typically require clean, vectorized input. Recent approaches attempt to learn those priors from data but often produce low-quality output. Focusing on piecewise-smooth man-made shapes, we address these issues by presenting a deep learning-based system to infer a complete man-made 3D shape from a single bitmap sketch. Given a sketch, our system infers a set of parametric surfaces that realize the drawing in 3D. To capture the piecewise smooth

### ACM Reference Format:

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Algorithmically interpreting natural sketches as well as humans do would make 3D modeling intuitive and accessible. This is the goal

# Take-Away

**Learning from 3D data requires specialized, carefully-designed structures.**

*Many open problems!*

# Sensible Deep Learning for 3D Data



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