## Semantic Perception under Uncertainty with Viewpoint-Dependent Models

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### Intro – Robot Autonomy

Key components:

Perception (Situational Awareness, Data Fusion)

• Understanding of the environment and robot state within it

#### **Decision Making**

• Plan actions (towards task of interest)

#### Need to deal with uncertainty

• Due to: noisy and aliased measurements, partial information, *imperfect models*...



#### Intro 2 – Semantic Perception

#### **Geometric perception**

- $\Rightarrow$  established methods exist
  - SLAM Simultaneous Localization and Mapping

#### **Semantic perception**

- $\Rightarrow$  required for less-structured tasks
- ⇒ need resilience to per-frame errors for safe and reliable operation.



https://octomap.github.ic





Detectron 2, Wu et al. 2019



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## Outline

Viewpoint-Dependent models for Semantic Perception under Uncertainty

- 1. The semantic perception problem (Object-Level SLAM)
- 2. Viewpoint-dependent semantic measurement models
- 3. <u>Contributions</u>:
  - I. Classification under Model and Localization Uncertainty
  - II. Data Association-Aware Semantic Mapping and Localization
  - III. Semantic Perception with a Continuous Learned Representation

# Intro 3 – (Geometric) Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)



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# Intro 3 – (Geometric) Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)



© gtsam tutorial

 $l_2$ 

 $x_3$ 

## Semantic Perception: Object-Level SLAM

(Salas-Moreno et al. 13' CVPR, Choudhary et al. 14' IROS, Bowman et al. 17' ICRA, McCormack et al. 18 3dv, Nicholson 19' ral, Yang 19' TRO, ...)







## Semantic Perception: Object-Level SLAM

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### **Viewpoint-Dependent Models**

- Viewpoint dependency  $\Rightarrow$  viewpoint-dependent models
  - Allow to couple semantics and geometry



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## Spatially-Dependent Uncertainty-Aware Classification

"Bayesian viewpoint-dependent robust classification under model and localization uncertainty", Feldman & Indelman 18' ICRA "Spatially-dependent Bayesian semantic perception under model and localization uncertainty", Feldman & Indelman 20' ARJ





## Semantic Measurements – Spatial Correlation

Semantic measurements spatially correlated  $\Rightarrow$  not i.i.d.

Would like to model the joint likelihood





Can be done by fitting a Gaussian Process to classifier responses (offline training step)

$$s = f_c(x^{(rel)}) + \epsilon$$
$$f_c(x^{(rel)}) \sim \mathcal{GP}\left(\mu_c(x^{(rel)}), k_c(\cdot, \cdot)\right)$$

### Semantic Measurements – Model Uncertainty

Problem: DNN output away from training set unstable

Solution (Gal & Ghahramani, 16' and others):

marginalize over weight (model) uncertainty

Formally network output sample model uncertainty training data  

$$\mathbb{P}(c \mid \mathcal{D}) = \int \mathbb{P}(c \mid \mathcal{W}) \cdot \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{W} \mid \mathcal{D}) \ d\mathcal{W}$$
G&G 16':  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{W} \mid \mathcal{D})$  "  $\approx$  " Bernoulli  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \hat{\mathcal{W}}$ 

Marginalization approximated via importance sampling.







Image source: wikipedia

#### Approach – Uncertainty-Aware Classification



Evaluated in synthetic simulation, 3D simulation, real-world data (BigBIRD, AVD).

Single object classification from measurements over a track. Localization uncertain but estimate available.

#### **Evaluation criteria:**

- $\mathbb{P}(c^{GT} \mid \mathcal{H})$ Probability of ground-truth class (higher is better) 1.  $MGR \doteq \frac{\arg \max_{c} \ \mathbb{P}(c \mid \mathcal{H})}{\mathbb{P}(c^{GT} \mid \mathcal{H})}$
- 2. Most-likely-to-ground-truth ratio (lower is better)  $\Rightarrow$  sensitive to confident misclassifications

#### **Baselines**:

- \* "Model Based" Teacy et al. 15' AAMAS GP class model, assumes known localization
- Naïve Bayes (synthetic simulation) directly fuses class predictions, no class model

#### **Results – Synthetic Simulation**

Statistics for several hand-specified scenarios over realizations of simulated classification. 3 candidate classes with hand-specified GP models, measurements from ground truth GP.

Model uncertainty benchmark

Simulated classification is randomly offset at each step.
 Our method is input with uncertainty.

Localization uncertainty benchmark

 $\Rightarrow$  Localization biased in a way that creates aliasing.

Our method is input with uncertainty.

## Results – Synthetic Simulation – Model Uncertainty

Color patches are equal-step (10%) percentiles. Saturated line is median.

Legend lists % of steps with GT class most likely.

Results:

- ✤ Naïve Bayes arbitrarily off due to erroneous input.
- Model Based gives high scores to GT, but misclassifies in nearly 30% of the cases (MGR).
- Our method gracefully accumulates information, dense performance percentiles.









#### Results – Synthetic Simulation – Localization Uncertainty $\mathbb{P}(c_{GT} \mid \mathcal{H})$

- Model Based arbitrarily off due to aliasing. \*
- Naïve Bayes unaffected (classification measurements are correct).
- Our method gracefully accumulates information.





10

time inde:

imple Bayes, 78,76629

25

0.8

of correct class

€ 0.4 probabil







## **Results – 3D Simulation**

Localization uncertainty:





Model uncertainty:









### Results – Real Data

BigBIRD

(Big Berkeley Instance Recognition)

⇒ 125 objects

120 views / object







#### AVD (Active Vision Dataset)







#### Results – Real Data

#### Localization uncertainty



#### Example objects and learned GPs









0.75

0.50

0.25

0.00

-0.25

-0.50

-0.75

-0.5

0.0

0.5





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## DA - Aware Semantic Mapping and Localization

"Data association aware semantic mapping and localization via a viewpoint-dependent classifier model", Tchuiev, Feldman and Indelman 19' IROS



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## DA - Aware Semantic Mapping and Localization

Contributions:

- DA-Aware Semantic Mapping through maintaining a full hybrid belief.
  - Maintain all plausible hypotheses until disambiguation is possible. Tractable in practice (subject to pruning).
- Viewpoint-Dependent model aids DA disambiguation by coupling between geometry and semantics.
- Approach operates with rich semantic feature vectors, not limited to most-likely-class measurements.

#### Approach - DA - Aware Semantic SLAM

Denote 
$$b\left[\mathcal{X}_{0:k}, \mathcal{O}\right]_{\beta_{1:k}}^{\mathcal{C}} \doteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{X}_{0:k}, \mathcal{O} \mid \mathcal{C}, \beta_{1:k})$$
  $w_{\beta_{1:k}}^{\mathcal{C}} \doteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{C}, \beta_{1:k} \mid \mathcal{H}_k)$  (continuous) hypothesis hypothesis

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{hypothesis}\\ \text{propagation} \end{array} b \begin{bmatrix} \chi_{0:k}, \mathcal{O} \end{bmatrix}_{\beta_{1:k}}^{\mathcal{C}} \propto b \begin{bmatrix} \chi_{0:k-1}, \mathcal{O} \end{bmatrix}_{\beta_{1:k-1}}^{\mathcal{C}} \cdot \mathbb{P}(\chi_{k} \mid \chi_{k-1}, \mathcal{A}_{k-1}) \cdot \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{Z}_{k} \mid \chi_{k}, \mathcal{O}_{\beta_{k}}, \mathcal{C}) \\ \text{motion model} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{weight}\\ \text{update} \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{l} w_{\beta_{1:k}}^{\mathcal{C}} \propto w_{\beta_{1:k-1}}^{\mathcal{C}} \int_{\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{O}} \mathbb{P}(\beta_{k} \mid \chi_{k}, \mathcal{O}_{\beta_{k}}) \cdot b \begin{bmatrix} \chi_{0:k}, \mathcal{O} \end{bmatrix}_{\beta_{1:k}}^{\mathcal{C}} d\mathcal{X} d\mathcal{O} \end{array}$$

Weights that fall bellow a threshold are pruned

Simulated environment:

- ✤ 6 identical objects
- 2 candidate classes with synthetic measurement models

#### uninformative robot pose prior

Time k = 1, without (left) and with (right) classifier model.





Time k = 15 without (left) and with (right) classifier model

With classifier:

- Fewer hypotheses
- More accurate localization

Hypothesis weight comparison, times k = 1 (left) and k = 15 (right)



With classifier:

- Fewer hypotheses
- Stronger disambiguation

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# Semantic Perception with a Continuous Learned Representation

An initial version presented as "Towards Self-Supervised Semantic Representation with a Viewpoint-Dependent Observation Model" in proceedings of Workshop on Self-Supervised Robot Learning, in conjunction with RSS, July 2020



Requires maintaining hypotheses (inefficient)
 Requires per-class models

Limited granularity of semantic representation



# Semantic Perception with a Continuous Learned Representation



#### **Continuous Learned Representation – Inference**



Need a single semantic observation model (as opposed to per-class previously)
 Continuous inference
 No discretization on semantic representation

#### Fitting the Viewpoint-Dependent Model – Take 1

Assume a Gaussian viewpoint-dependent model conditioned on continuous representation:  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{Z}_k \mid \mathcal{X}_{0:k}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{H}_k \setminus \{z_k\}) \doteq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{Z}_k \mid \mathcal{X}_k^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E})$ 

Use Maximum-a-Posteriori to fit 
$$\mathcal{E}, \theta$$
  
representation variables corresponding  
observations for n objects relative poses  
arg max  $\mathbb{P}\left(\mathcal{Z}_{0:k}, \mathcal{E}_{1:n} \mid \mathcal{X}_{0:k}^{(rel)}, \beta_{0:k}\right)$   
 $= \underset{\theta, \mathcal{E}_{1:n}}{\operatorname{arg max}} \sum_{\substack{\substack{\ell \in \mathcal{E}_{1:n} \\ \forall i \in \mathcal{E}_{1:n} \\ \forall i \in \mathcal{E}_{1:n}}} \log \mathbb{P}_{\theta}\left(\mathcal{Z}_{i} \mid \mathcal{E}_{\beta_{i}}, \mathcal{X}_{i}^{(rel)}\right) + \log \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{1:n})$ 

observation model

33/46

vectors

## Take 1 - Results for Fitting $\mathbb{P}_{\theta}\left(\mathcal{Z} \mid \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}\right)$



example images



## Take 1 - Results for Fitting $\mathbb{P}_{\theta}\left(\mathcal{Z} \mid \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}\right)$



example images



mean predictions (at ground truth)



predictions for varying X (around ground truth)

#### Take1 - Inference Using the Model

Simulation: use frames from viewpoints along a simulated trackAlso using odometry





example track frames

#### Take 1 - Limitations

- ✤ Factor is huge  $(32 \times 32 \text{ frame} \Rightarrow 1024 \text{ Jacobian rows / keyframe!})$
- Model expressiveness?
- ✤ Maximum likelihood does not provide sufficient gradients for optimization

$$\underset{\theta, \mathcal{E}_{1:n}}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \sum_{\substack{\theta, \mathcal{E}_{1:n}}} \log \mathbb{P}_{\theta} \left( \mathcal{Z}_i \mid \mathcal{E}_{\beta_i}, \mathcal{X}_i^{(rel)} \right) + \log \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_{1:n})$$





Values of likelihood  $\mathbb{P}_{\theta}\left(\mathcal{Z} \mid \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}\right)$  around ground truth point:



#### Example optimization path:



37/46

#### A Closer Look...

The learned model is constrained on a sparse set of triplets  $\mathcal{Z}, \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E}$ 

⇒ Can try to improve inference by shaping the model elsewhere



#### Fitting the Viewpoint-Dependent Model – Take 2 (a)

Use a feature extractor to reduce factor dimensionality

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{Z}_{k} \mid \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E}) \doteq \mathbb{P}_{\theta}\left(f_{\psi}\left(\mathcal{Z}_{k}\right) \mid \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E}\right)$$
$$\doteq \mathcal{N}\left(f_{\psi}\left(\mathcal{Z}_{k}\right); \ \mu_{\theta}(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E}), \Sigma\right)$$

In practice we use  $\dim(\mathcal{E}) = 16 \quad \dim(f_{\psi}(\mathcal{Z}_k)) = 12$ .



#### Fitting the Viewpoint-Dependent Model – Take 2 (b)

#### Data term

$$\begin{split} J_{d}^{(i)}\left(\theta,\psi,\mathcal{E}_{1:n}\right) &= \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\Delta\mathcal{X}^{(rel)},\Delta\mathcal{E}} \begin{cases} \frac{\left\| \left[\Delta\mathcal{X}^{(rel)},\Delta\mathcal{E}\right] + s\left(\mathcal{X}^{(rel)} + \Delta\mathcal{X}^{(rel)},\mathcal{E} + \Delta\mathcal{E}\right)\right\|^{2}}{\left\| \left[\Delta\mathcal{X}^{(rel)},\Delta\mathcal{E}\right]\right\|^{2}} \\ \end{split}$$
for training example (i)

where s is the optimization step at  $\mathcal{X}^{(rel)} + \Delta \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E} + \Delta \mathcal{E}$  (that will be used at inference)

For gradient descent

$$s^{GD} \doteq -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E}} \log \mathbb{P}_{\theta} \left( \mathcal{Z} \mid \mathcal{X}^{(rel)} + \Delta \mathcal{X}^{(rel)}, \mathcal{E} + \Delta \mathcal{E} \right)$$

#### Learned Model

This finally gives useful gradients with respect to both  $\mathcal{X}^{(rel)}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$ . Inference experiments still in progress.

likelihood - offsets in relative pose



#### likelihood - offsets in semantic representation

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  - 4. Summary

## Summary

We showed how to address semantic perception under uncertainty by exploiting the coupling between semantics and geometry provided by viewpoint-dependent models.

#### Contributions:

- I. Classification aware of Model uncertainty and correlations among viewpoints
- II. Data Association-Aware Semantic Mapping and Localization
- III. A novel approach to semantic SLAM through inference in a learned latent space

## **Thanks for listening!**





## **Questions?**



