

# Learning Semantic Environment Perception for Cognitive Robots

**Sven Behnke**

University of Bonn, Germany

Computer Science Institute VI

Autonomous Intelligent Systems



# Some of Our Cognitive Robots

- Equipped with many sensors and DoFs
- Demonstration in complex scenarios



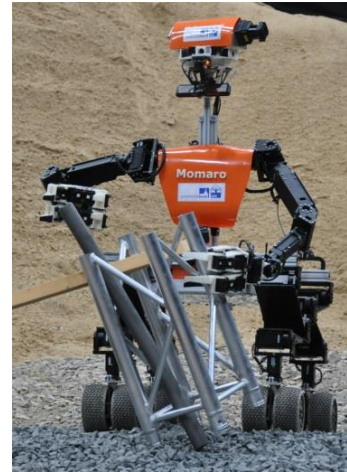
MAV



Soccer robot



Service robot



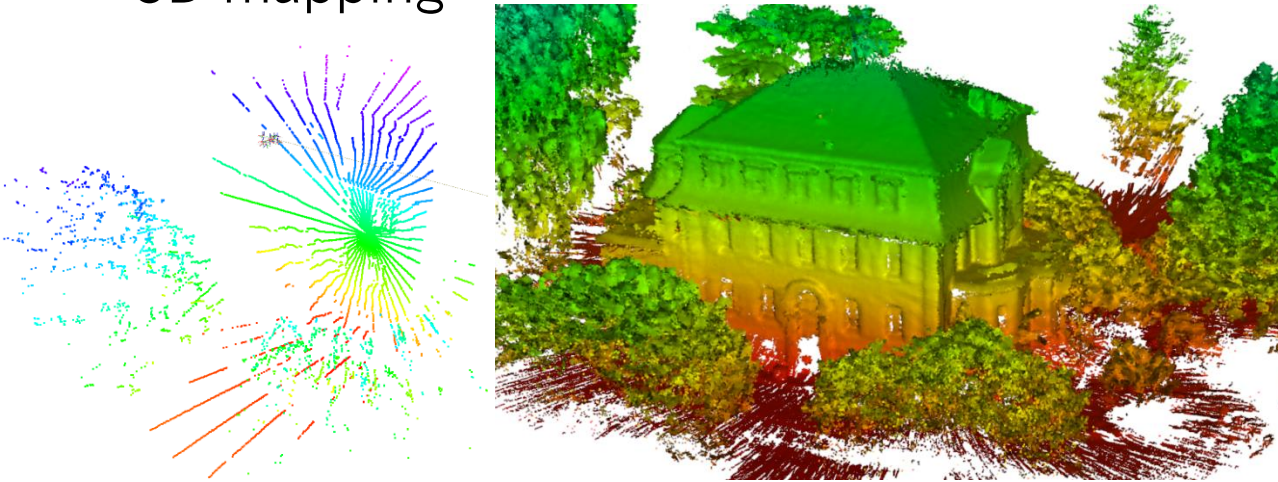
Exploration robot



Picking robot

# 3D Environment Perception

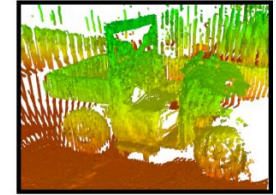
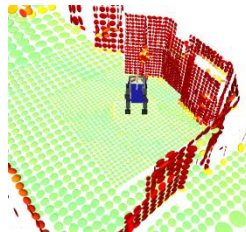
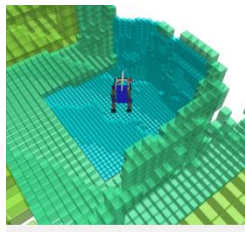
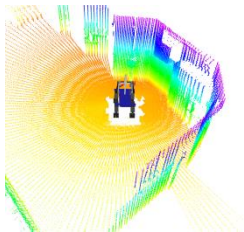
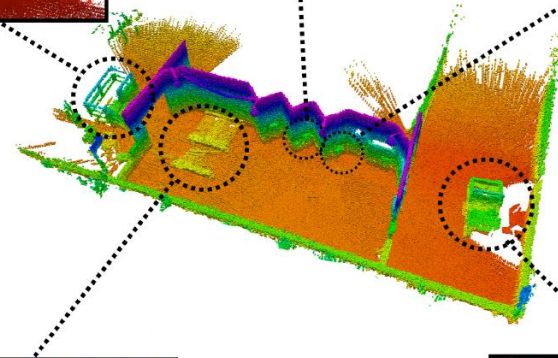
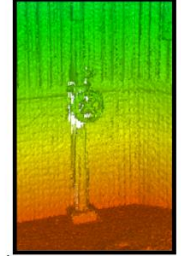
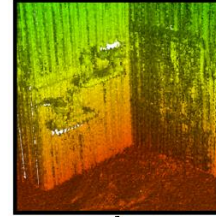
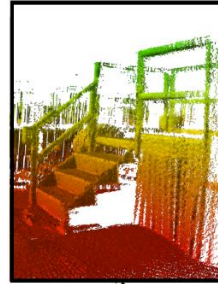
- 3D laser scanner, dual wide-angle stereo cameras, ultrasound, Quad Core i7
- Autonomous navigation close to structures
- 3D mapping



[Droeschel et al. JFR 2016]

# 3D Mapping

- Registering 3D laser scans



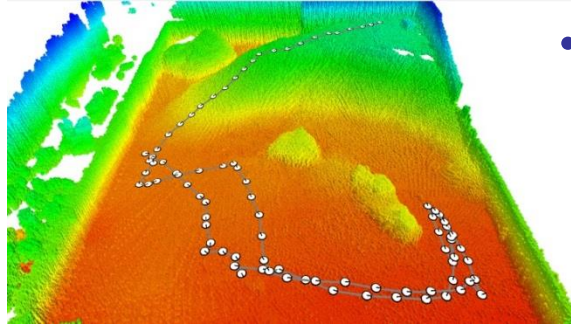
[Droeschel et al. 2016]

# Mobile Manipulation in Mars-like Environment

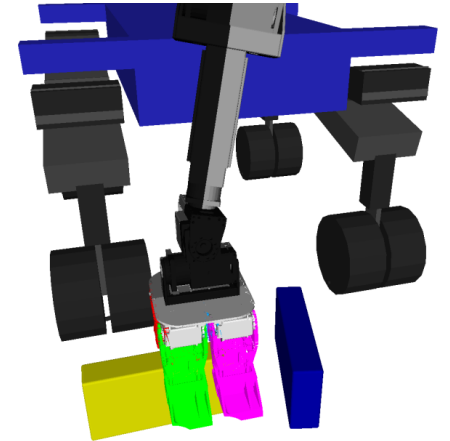
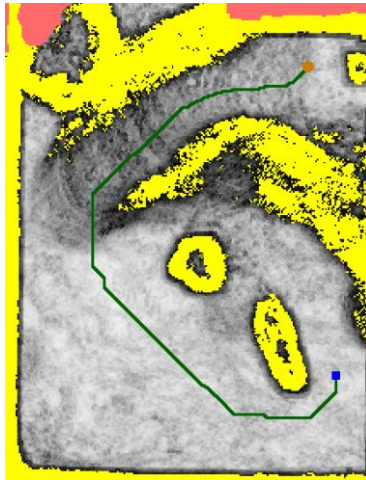
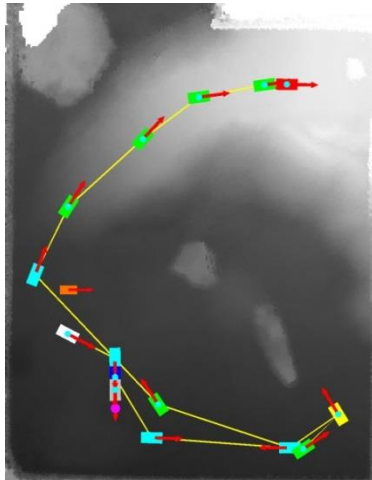
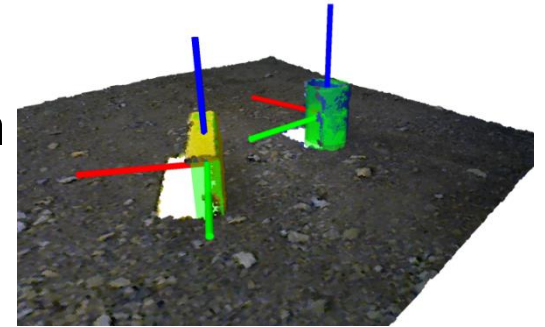


# Autonomous Mission Execution

- 3D mapping, localization, mission and navigation planning



- 3D object perception and grasping

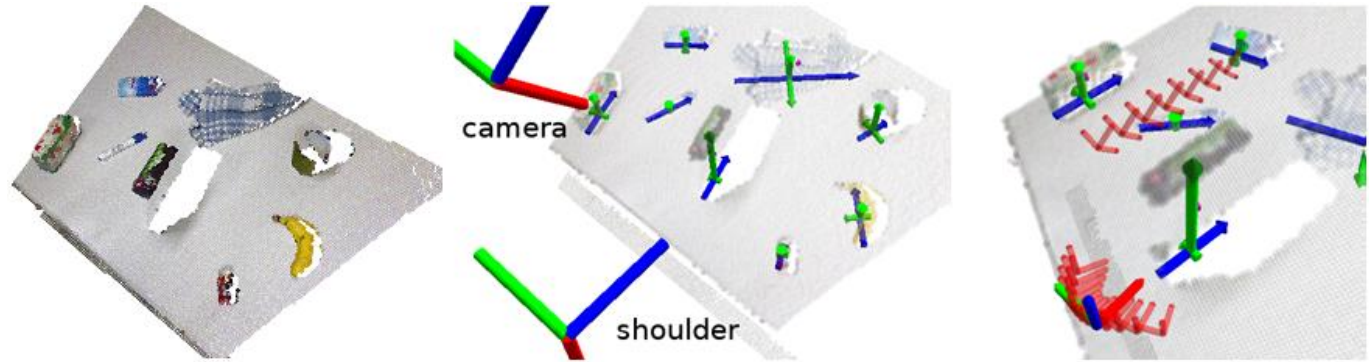


# Cognitive Service Robot Cosero

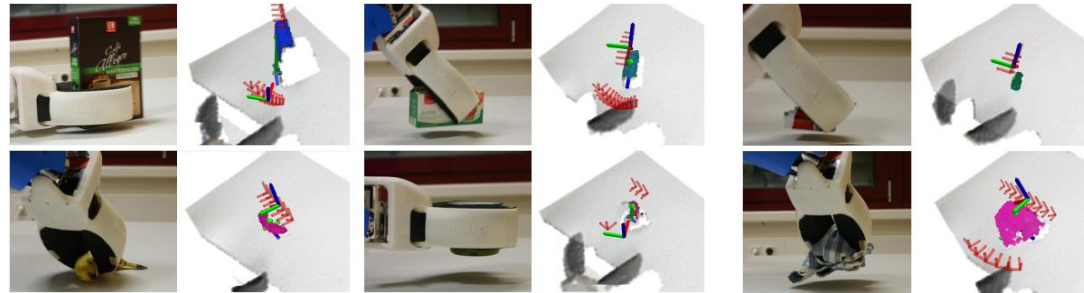


# Table-top Analysis and Grasp Planning

- Detection of clusters above horizontal plane
- Two grasps (top, side)



- Flexible grasping of many unknown objects



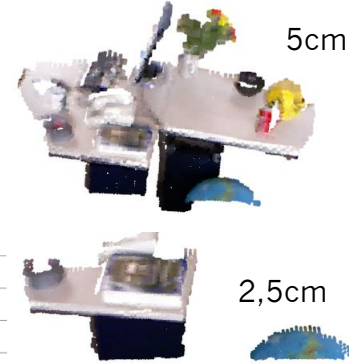
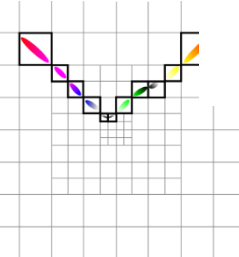
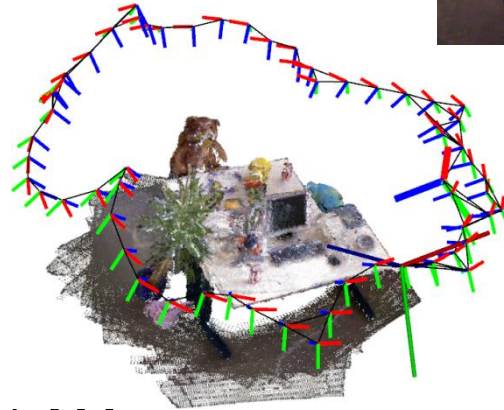
[Stückler et al, Robotics and Autonomous Systems, 2013]



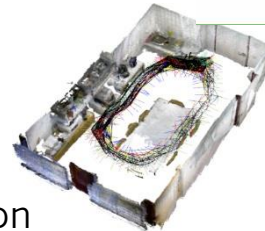
# 3D Mapping by RGB-D SLAM

[Stückler, Behnke:  
Journal of Visual Communication  
and Image Representation 2013]

- Modelling of shape and color distributions in voxels
- Local multiresolution
- Efficient registration of views on CPU
- Global optimization



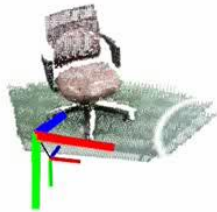
- Multi-camera SLAM



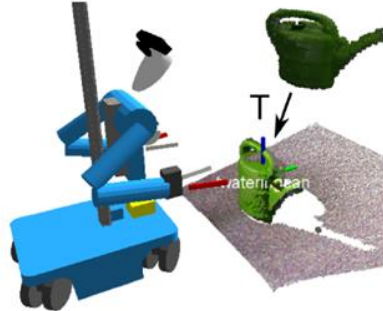
[Stoucken]

# Learning and Tracking Object Models

- Modeling of objects by RGB-D-SLAM

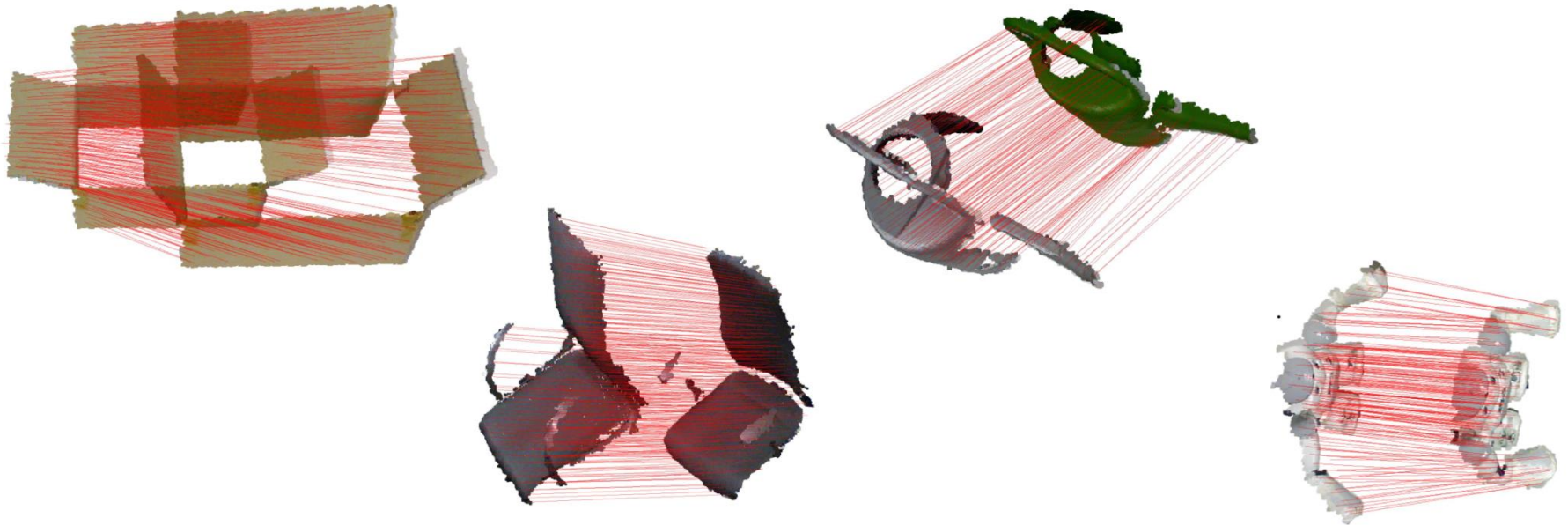


- Real-time registration with current RGB-D frame



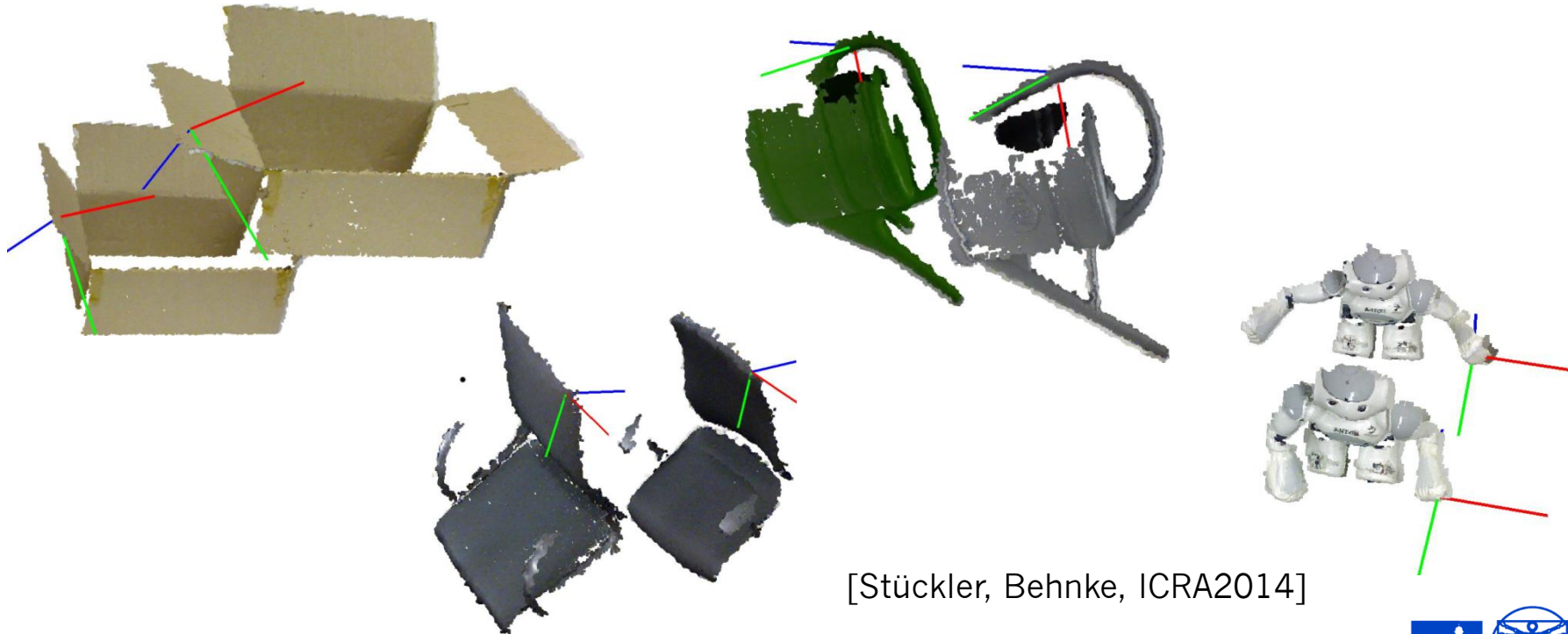
# Deformable RGB-D-Registration

- Based on Coherent Point Drift method [Myronenko & Song, PAMI 2010]
- Multiresolution Surfel Map allows real-time registration



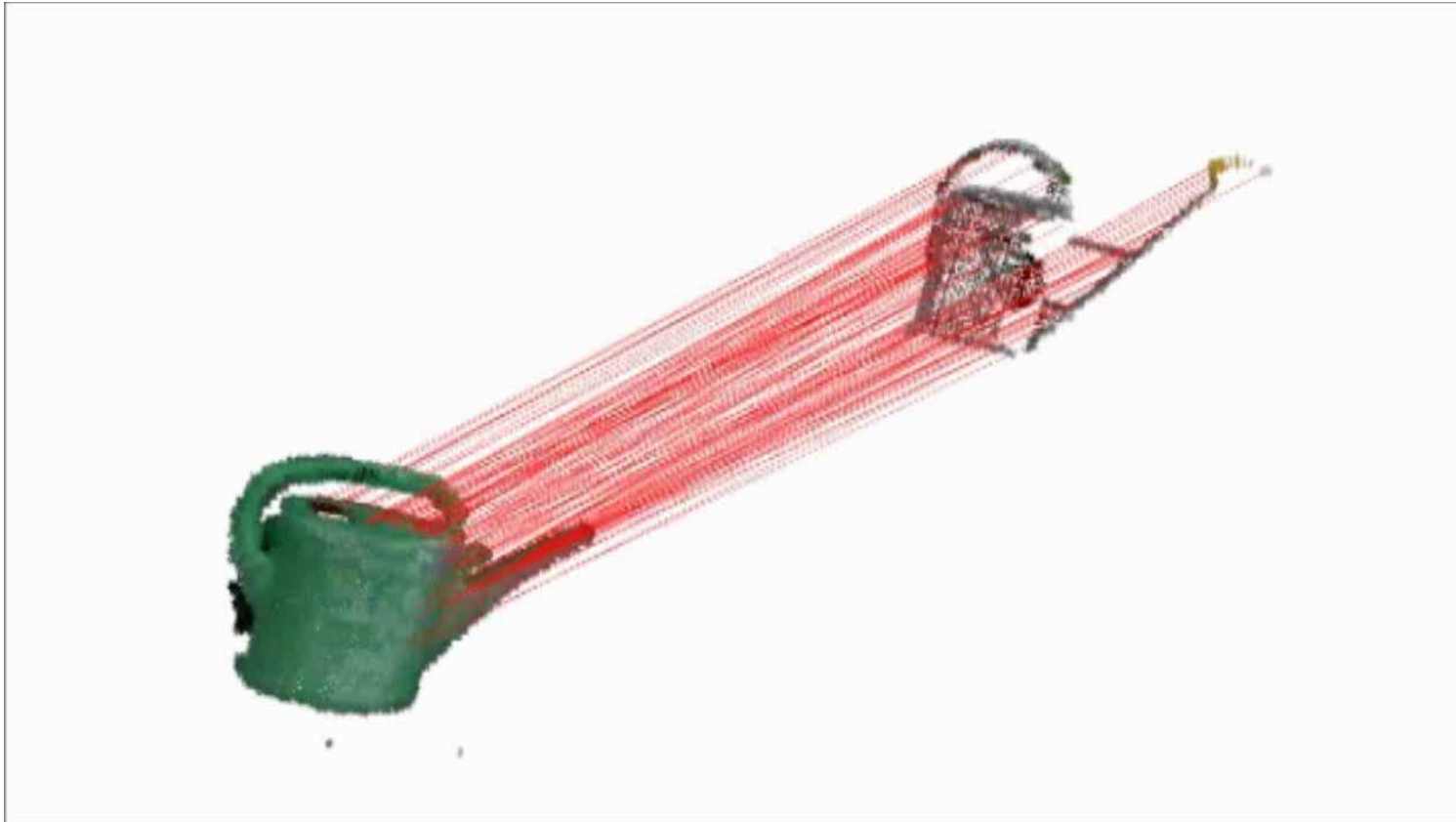
# Transformation of Poses on Object

- Derived from the deformation field



[Stückler, Behnke, ICRA2014]

# Grasp & Motion Skill Transfer



[Stückler,  
Behnke,  
ICRA2014]

# Tool use: Bottle Opener

- Tool tip perception



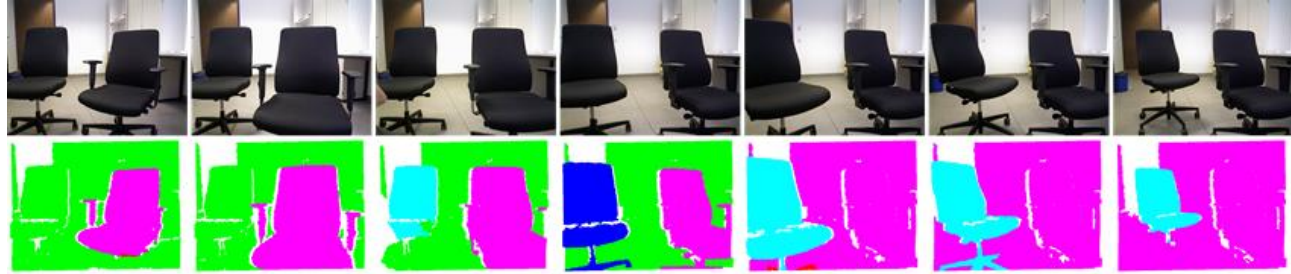
- Extension of arm kinematics
- Perception of crown cap
- Motion adaptation



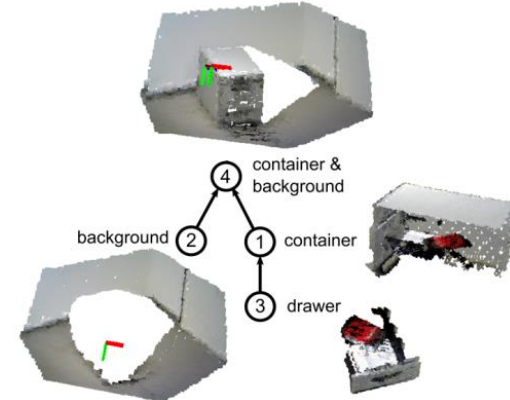
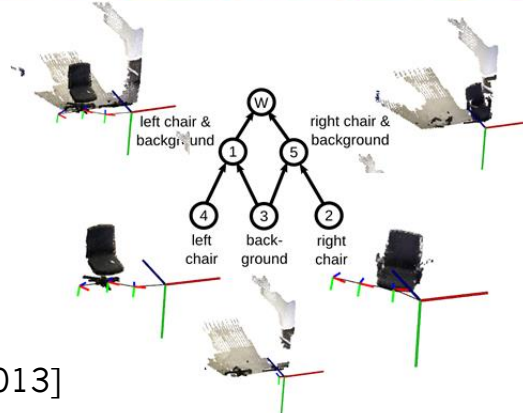
[Stückler, Behnke, Humanoids 2014]

# Hierarchical Object Discovery through Motion Segmentation

- Simultaneous object modeling and motion segmentation



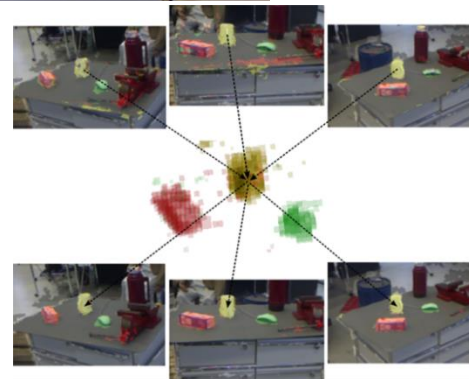
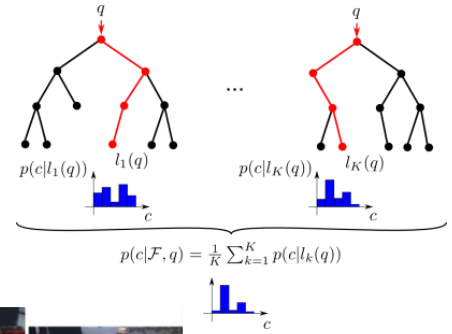
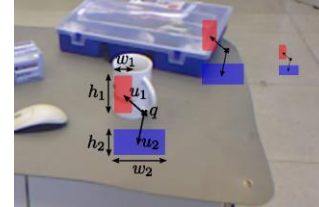
- Inference of a segment hierarchy



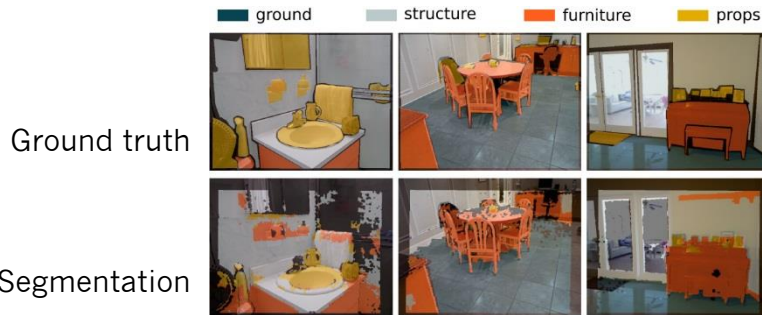
[Stückler, Behnke: IJCAI 2013]

# Semantic Mapping

- Pixel-wise classification of RGB-D images by random forests
- Compare color / depth of regions
- Size normalization
- 3D fusion through RGB-D SLAM
- Evaluation on NYU depth v2



[Stückler, Biresev, Behnke: IROS 2012]

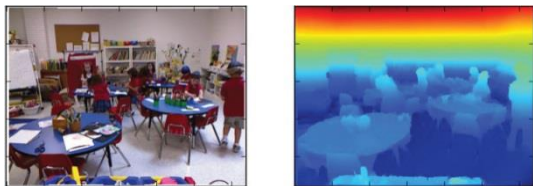


|                       | Accuracy in % | Ø Classes | Ø Pixels |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Silberman et al. 2012 | 59,6          | 59,6      | 58,6     |
| Coupric et al. 2013   | 63,5          | 63,5      | 64,5     |
| Random forest         | 65,0          | 65,0      | 68,1     |
| 3D-Fusion             | <b>66,8</b>   |           |          |



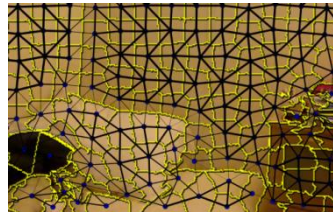
# Learning Depth-sensitive CRFs

- SLIC+depth super pixels
- Unary features: random forest
- Height feature



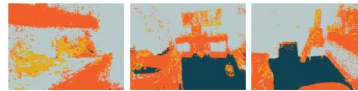
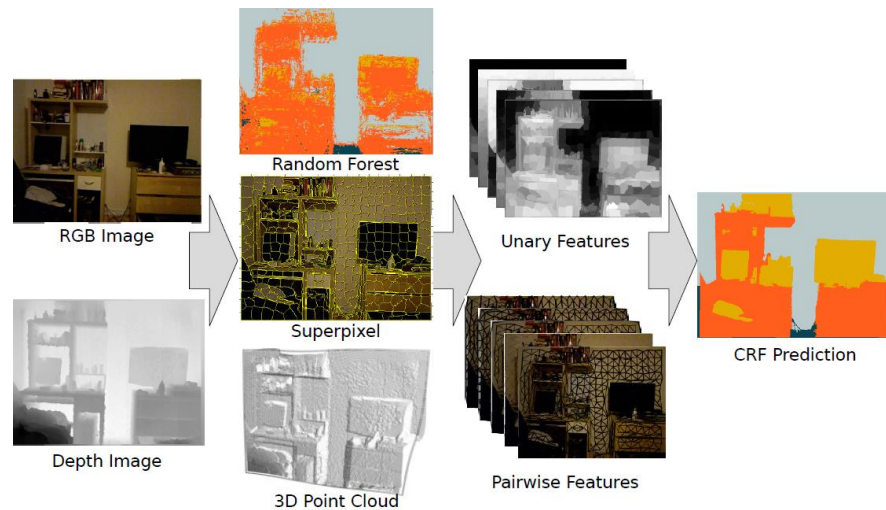
- Pairwise features

- Color contrast
- Vertical alignment
- Depth difference
- Normal differences



- Results:

|                         | class average | pixel average |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| RF                      | 65.0          | 68.3          |
| RF + SP                 | 65.7          | 70.1          |
| RF + SP + SVM           | 70.4          | 70.3          |
| RF + SP + CRF           | <b>71.9</b>   | <b>72.3</b>   |
| Silberman <i>et al.</i> | 59.6          | 58.6          |
| Coupric <i>et al.</i>   | 63.5          | 64.5          |



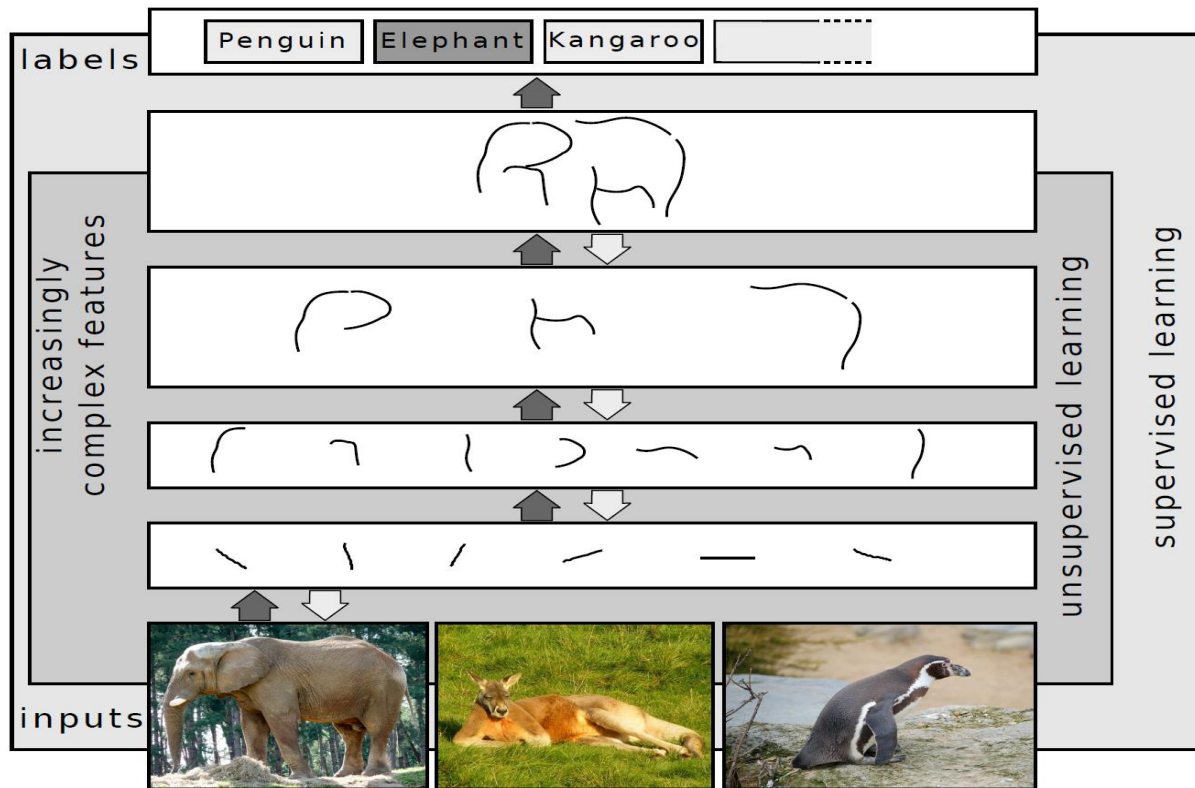
Random forest

CRF prediction

Ground truth

# Deep Learning

- Learning layered representations

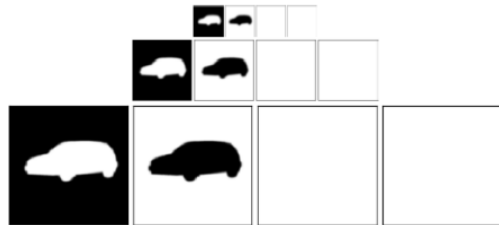


[Schulz;  
Behnke,  
KI 2012]

# Object-class Segmentation

[Schulz, Behnke, ESANN 2012]

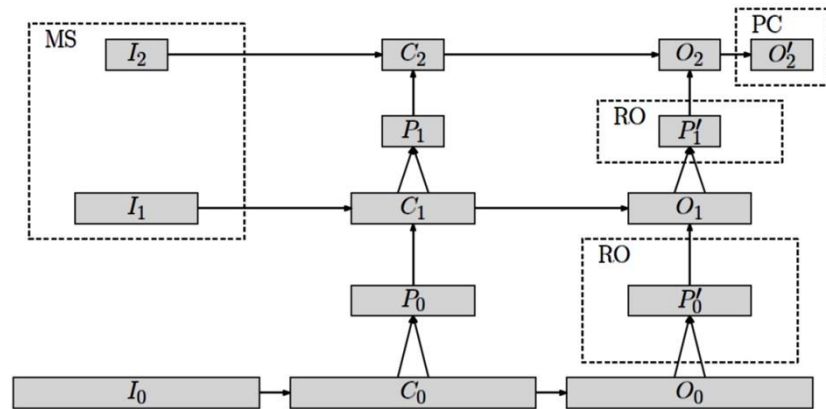
- Class annotation per pixel



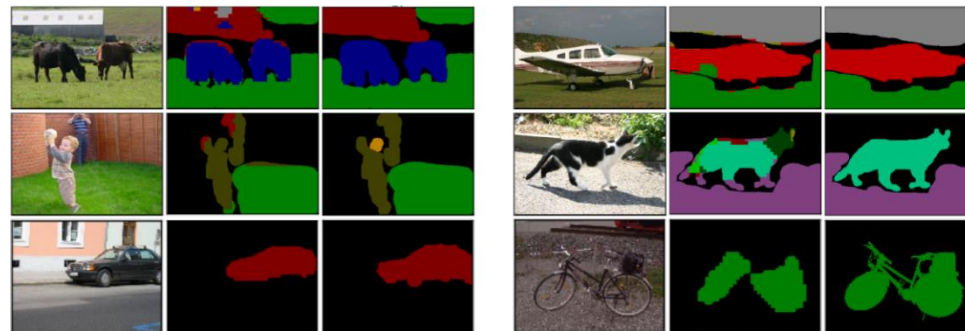
- Multi-scale input channels



- Evaluated on MSRC-9/21 and INRIA Graz-02 data sets



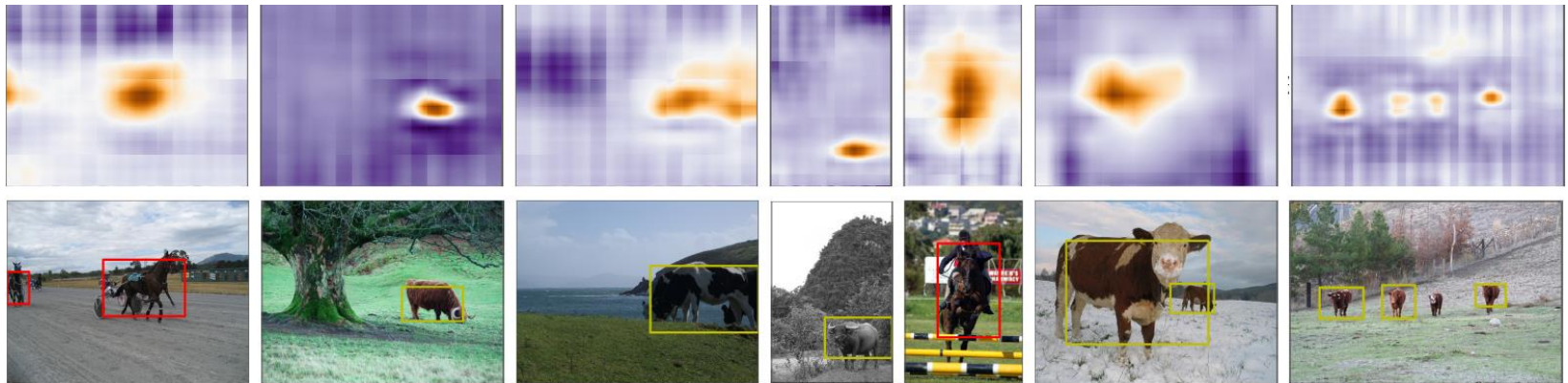
$I$ . Input Layer  $O$ . Output Layer  $\rightarrow$  Convolution  $\triangleright$  Max-Pooling



Input Output Truth

# Object Detection in Natural Images

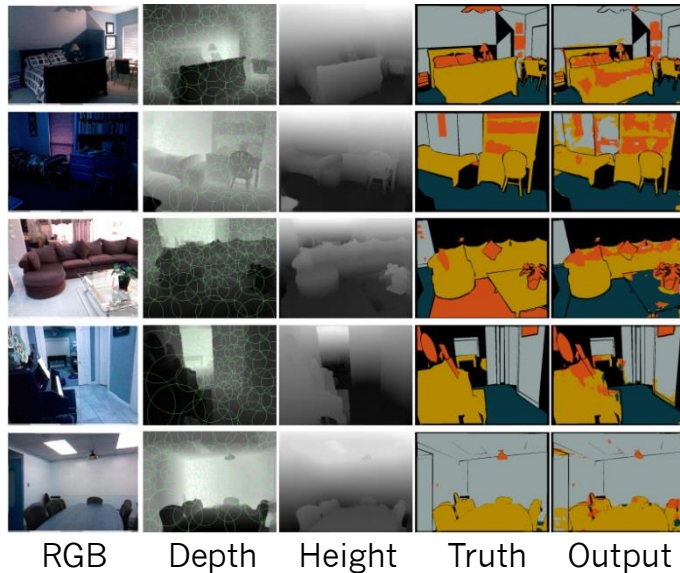
- Bounding box annotation
- Structured loss that directly maximizes overlap of the prediction with ground truth bounding boxes
- Evaluated on two of the Pascal VOC 2007 classes



[Schulz, Behnke, ICANN 2014]

# RGB-D Object-Class Segmentation

- Covering windows segmented with CNN
- Scale input according to depth, compute pixel height



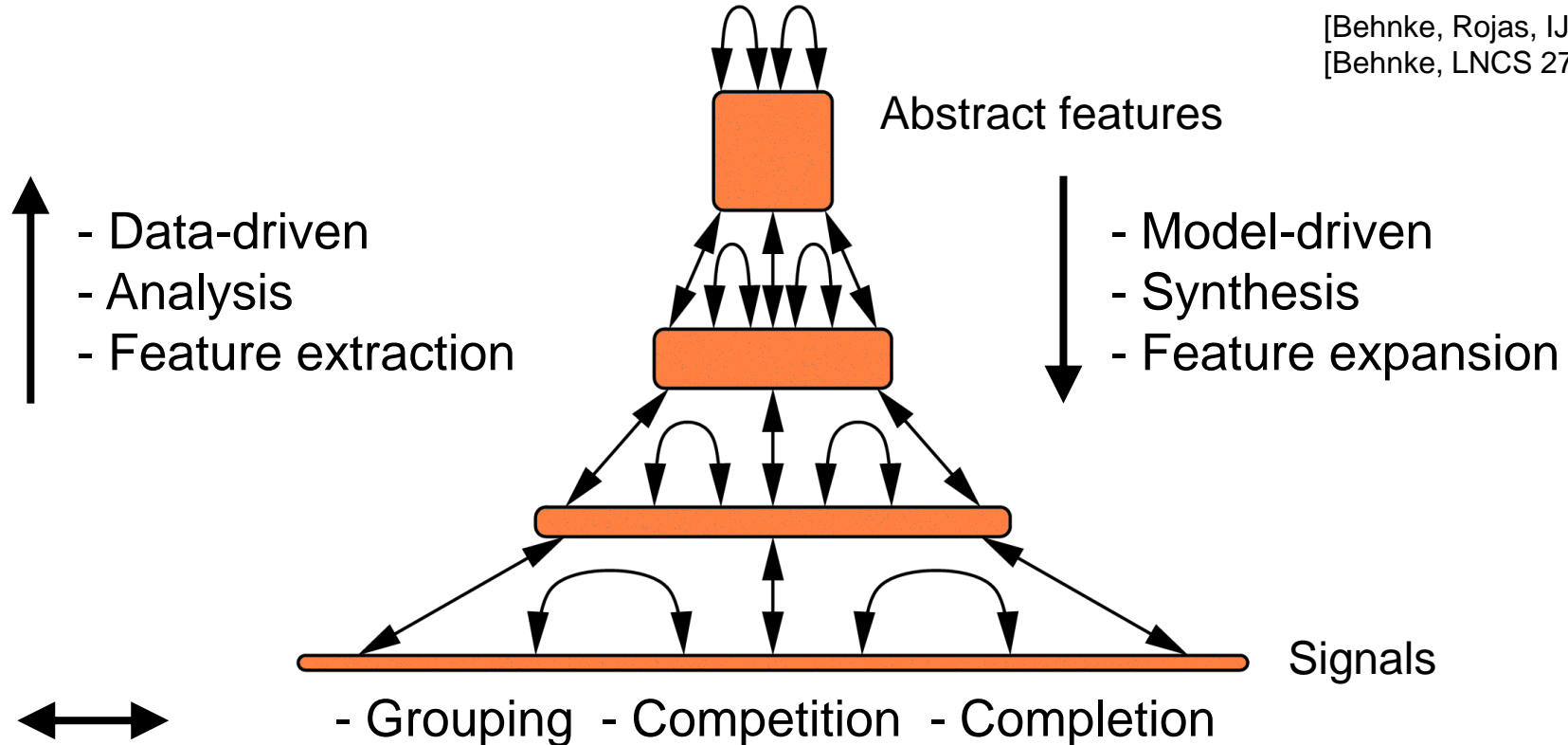
| Method            | floor | struct | furnit | prop | Class Avg.  | Pixel Acc.  |
|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|------|-------------|-------------|
| CW                | 84.6  | 70.3   | 58.7   | 52.9 | 66.6        | 65.4        |
| CW+DN             | 87.7  | 70.8   | 57.0   | 53.6 | 67.3        | 65.5        |
| CW+H              | 78.4  | 74.5   | 55.6   | 62.7 | 67.8        | 66.5        |
| CW+DN+H           | 93.7  | 72.5   | 61.7   | 55.5 | 70.9        | 70.5        |
| CW+DN+H+SP        | 91.8  | 74.1   | 59.4   | 63.4 | 72.2        | 71.9        |
| CW+DN+H+CRF       | 93.5  | 80.2   | 66.4   | 54.9 | <b>73.7</b> | <b>73.4</b> |
| Müller et al.[8]  | 94.9  | 78.9   | 71.1   | 42.7 | 71.9        | 72.3        |
| Random Forest [8] | 90.8  | 81.6   | 67.9   | 19.9 | 65.1        | 68.3        |
| Coupric et al.[9] | 87.3  | 86.1   | 45.3   | 35.5 | 63.6        | 64.5        |
| Höft et al.[10]   | 77.9  | 65.4   | 55.9   | 49.9 | 62.3        | 62.0        |
| Silberman [12]    | 68    | 59     | 70     | 42   | 59.7        | 58.6        |

CW is covering windows, H is height above ground, DN is depth normalized patch sizes. SP is averaged within superpixels and SVM-reweighted. CRF is a conditional random field over superpixels [8]. Structure class numbers are optimized for class accuracy.

[Schulz, Höft, Behnke, ESANN 2015]

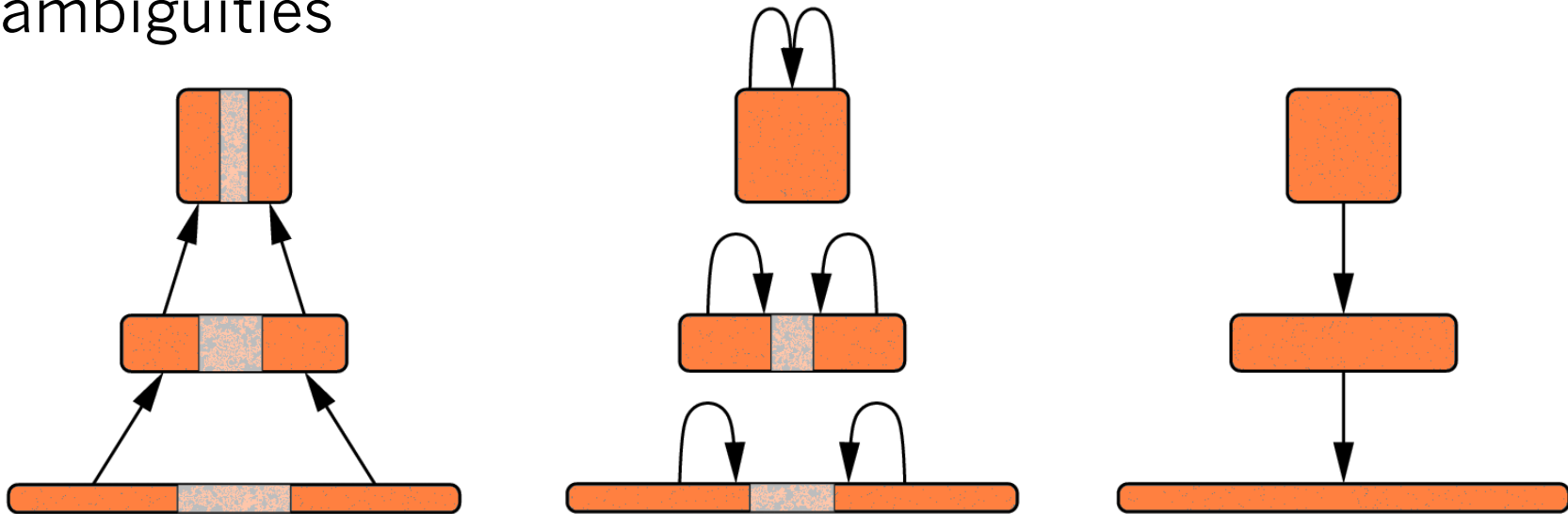
# Neural Abstraction Pyramid

[Behnke, Rojas, IJCNN 1998]  
[Behnke, LNCS 2766, 2003]



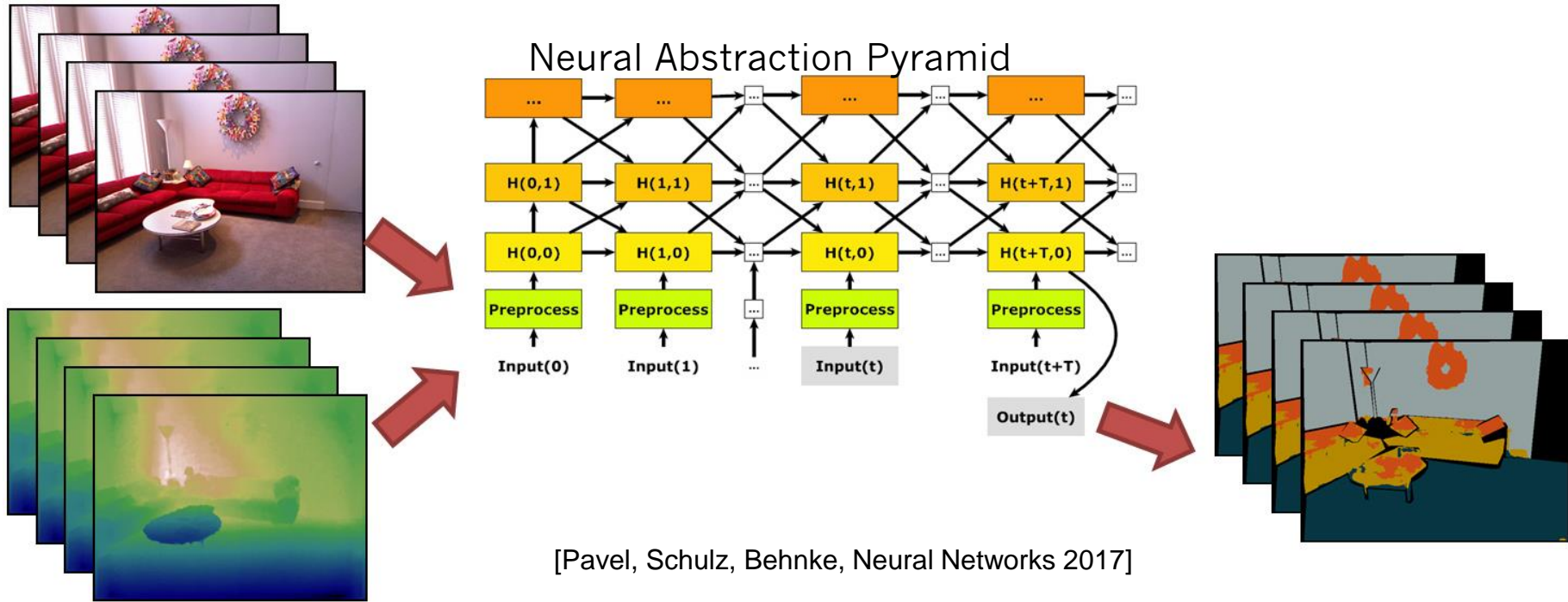
# Iterative Image Interpretation

- Interpret most obvious parts first
- Use partial interpretation as context to resolve local ambiguities



# Neural Abstraction Pyramid for RGB-D Video Object-class Segmentation

- Recursive computation is efficient for temporal integration

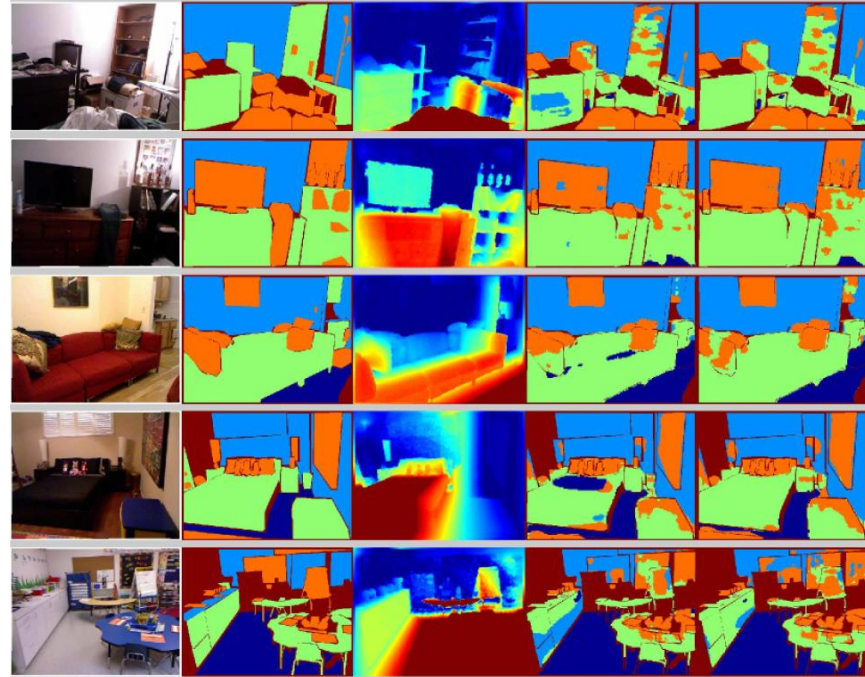


[Pavel, Schulz, Behnke, Neural Networks 2017]



# Geometric and Semantic Features for RGB-D Object-class Segmentation

- New **geometric** feature: distance from wall
- **Semantic** features pretrained from ImageNet
- Both help significantly



[Husain et al. RA-L 2016]

RGB

Truth

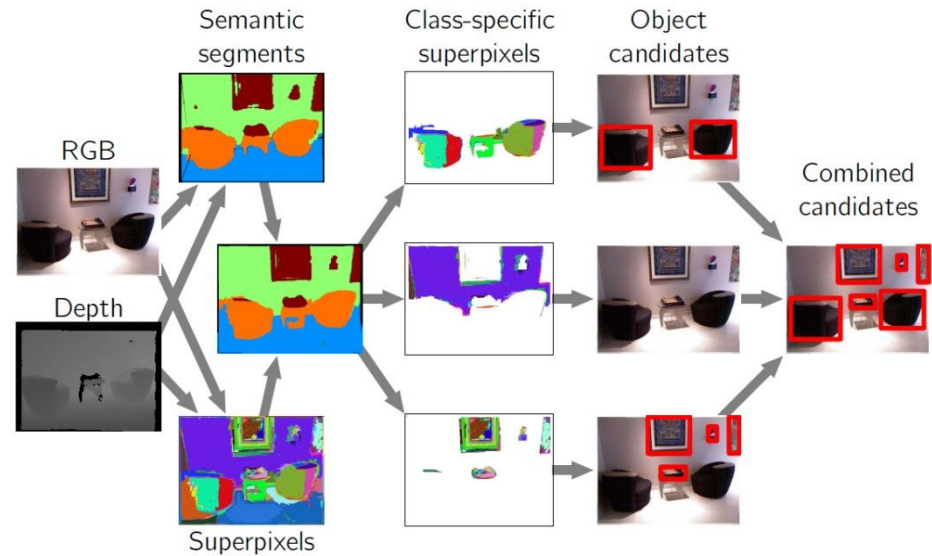
DistWall

OutWO

OutWithDistWall

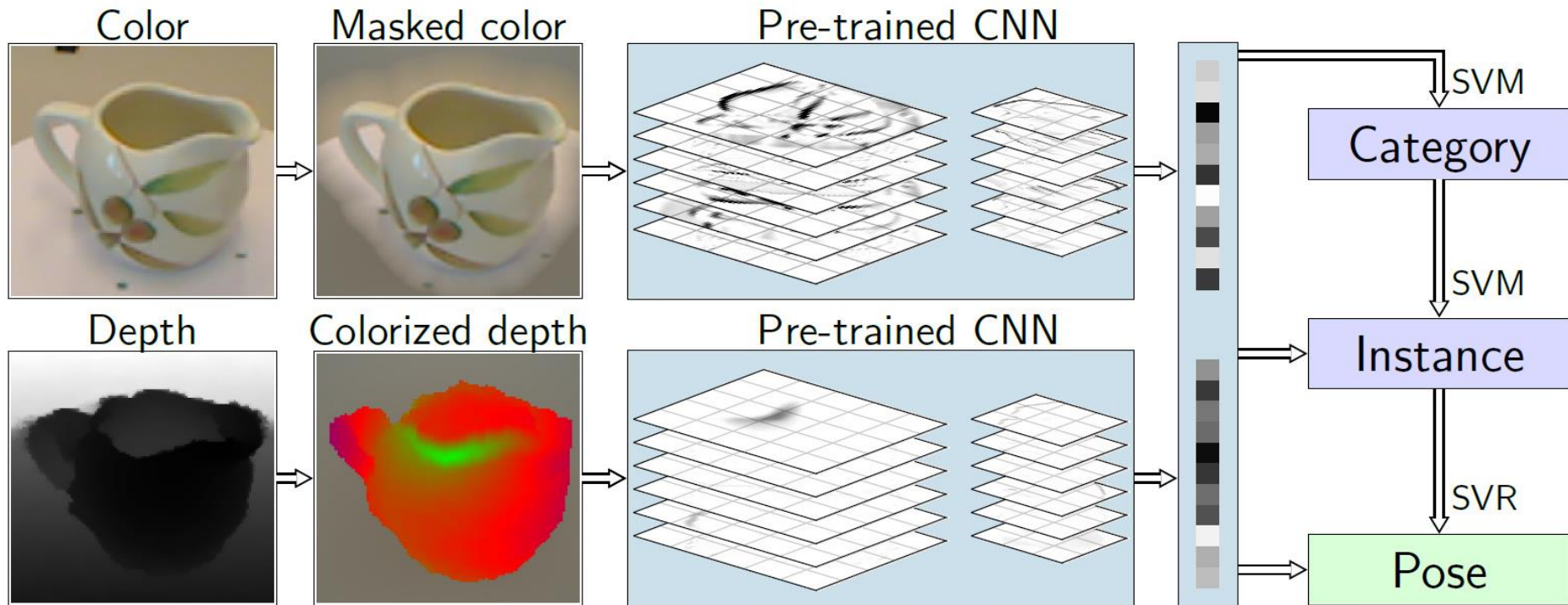
# Semantic Segmentation Priors for Object Discovery

- Combine bottom-up object discovery and semantic priors
- Semantic segmentation used to classify color and depth superpixels
- Higher recall, more precise object borders



[Garcia et al. ICPR 2016]

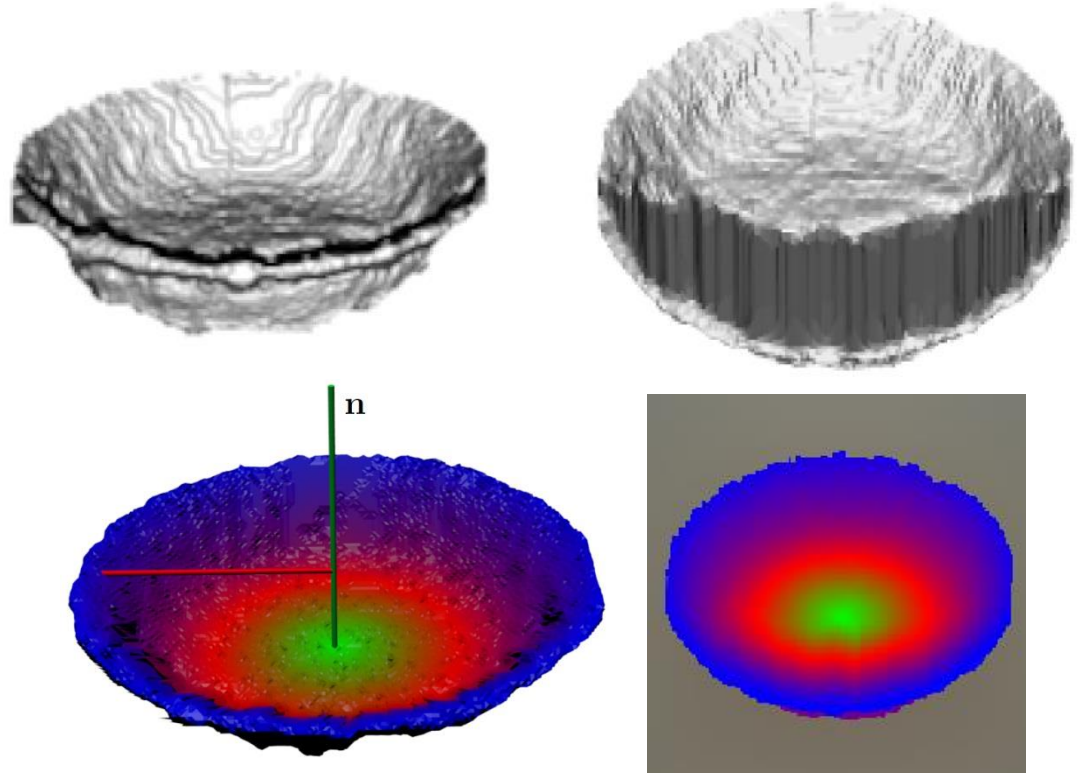
# RGB-D Object Recognition and Pose Estimation



[Schwarz, Schulz, Behnke, ICRA2015]

# Canonical View, Colorization

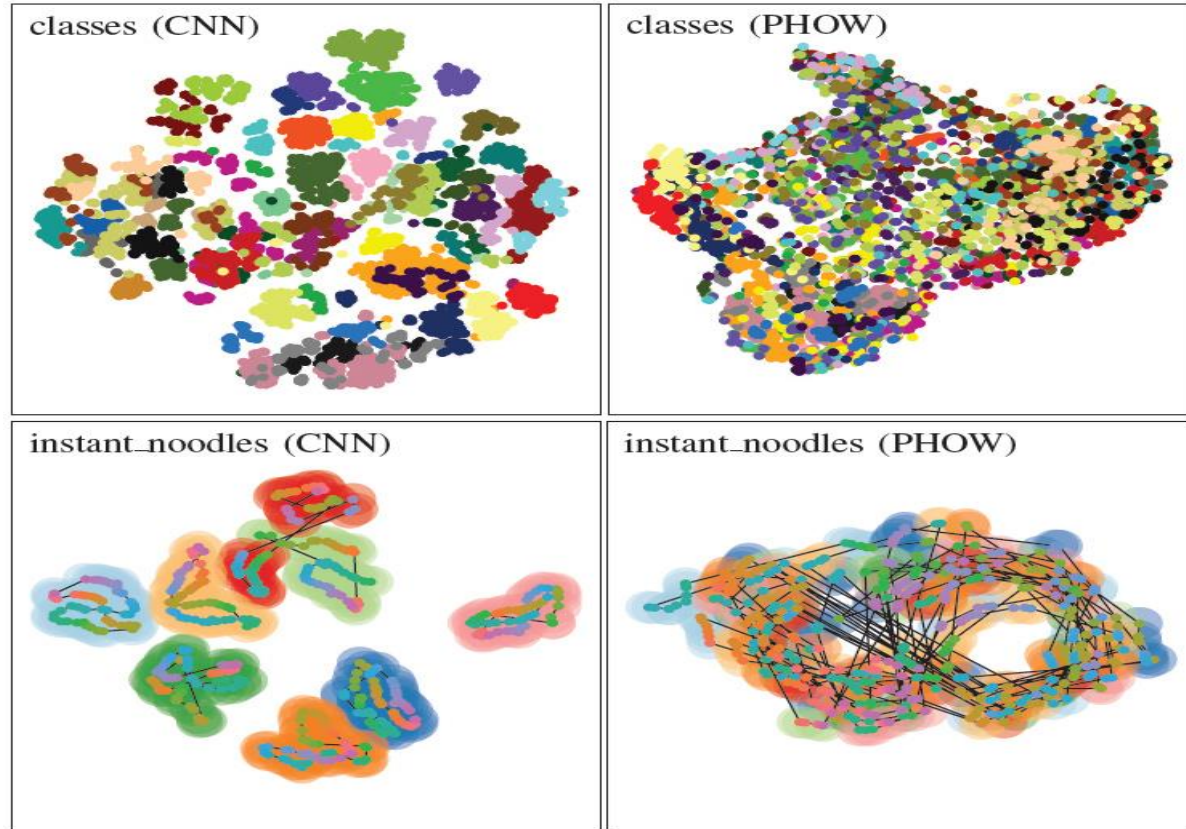
- Objects viewed from different elevation
- Render canonical view
- Colorization based on distance from center vertical



[Schwarz, Schulz, Behnke, ICRA2015]

# Pretrained Features Disentangle Data

- t-SNE embedding



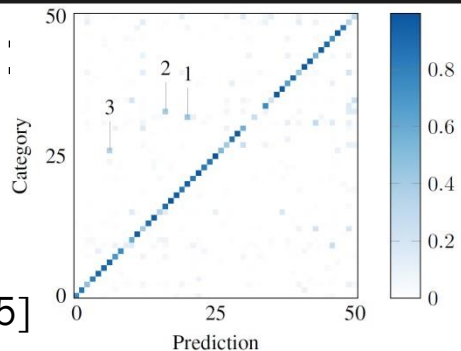
[Schwarz, Schulz,  
Behnke ICRA2015]

# Recognition Accuracy

- Improved both category and instance recognition

| Method                | Category Accuracy (%) |                   | Instance Accuracy (%) |             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                       | RGB                   | RGB-D             | RGB                   | RGB-D       |
| Lai <i>et al.</i> [1] | 74.3 ± 3.3            | 81.9 ± 2.8        | 59.3                  | 73.9        |
| Bo <i>et al.</i> [2]  | 82.4 ± 3.1            | 87.5 ± 2.9        | <b>92.1</b>           | 92.8        |
| PHOW[3]               | 80.2 ± 1.8            | —                 | 62.8                  | —           |
| <b>Ours</b>           | <b>83.1 ± 2.0</b>     | 88.3 ± 1.5        | 92.0                  | <b>94.1</b> |
| <b>Ours</b>           | <b>83.1 ± 2.0</b>     | <b>89.4 ± 1.3</b> | 92.0                  | <b>94.1</b> |

- Confusion:



[Schwarz, Schulz, Behnke, ICRA2015]

1: pitcher / coffe mug



2: peach / sponge



# Amazon Picking Challenge

- Large variety of objects
- Unordered in shelf or tote
- Picking and stowing tasks



[Schwarz et al. ICRA 2017]

# Deep Learning Semantic Segmentation

- Adapted from our segmentation of indoor scenes [Husain et al. RA-L 2016]

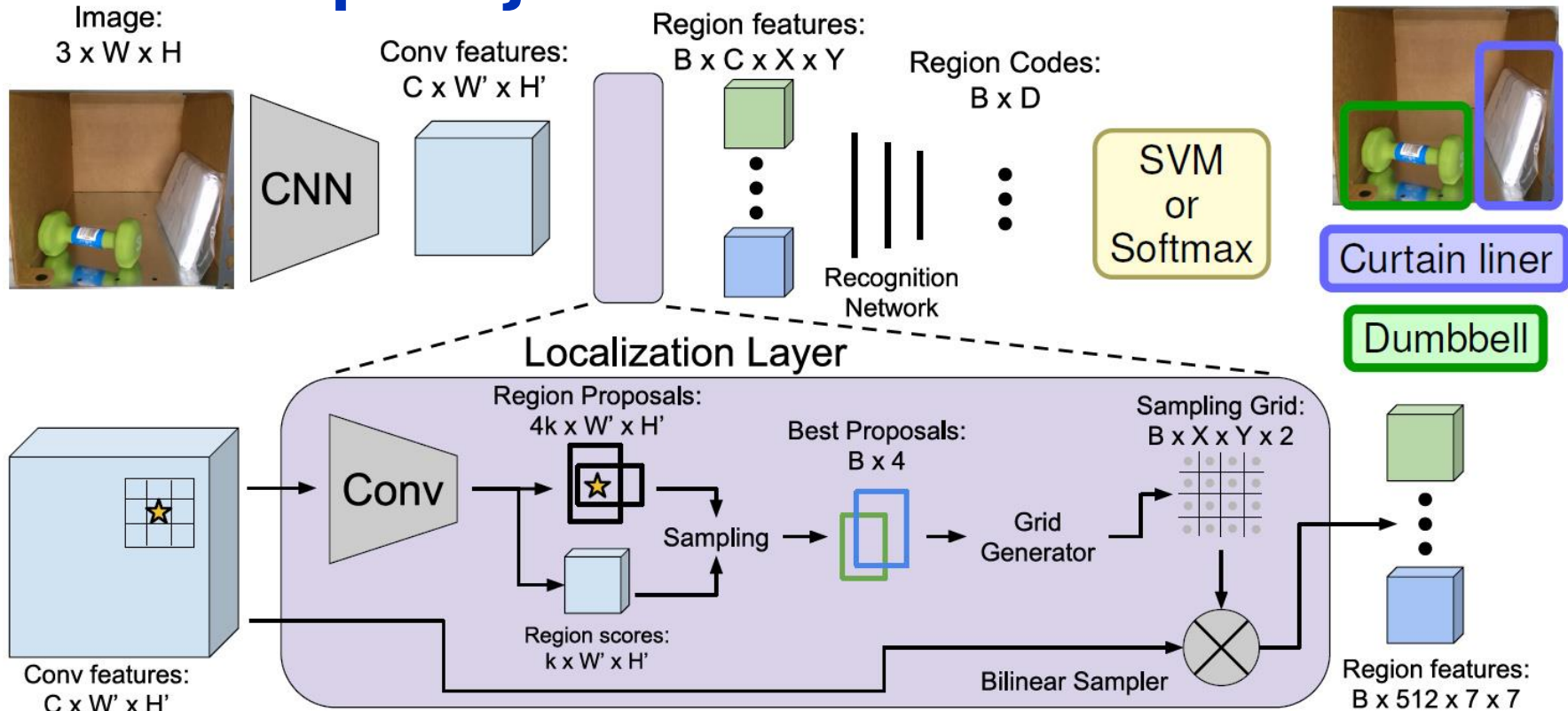


[Schwarz et al. ICRA 2017]





# DenseCap Object Detection

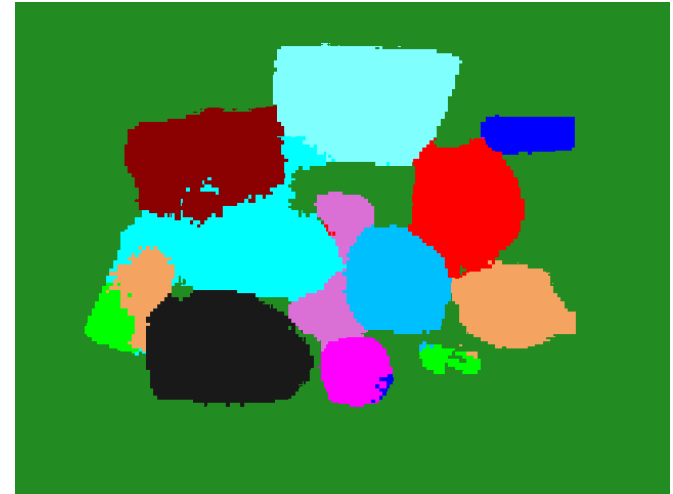
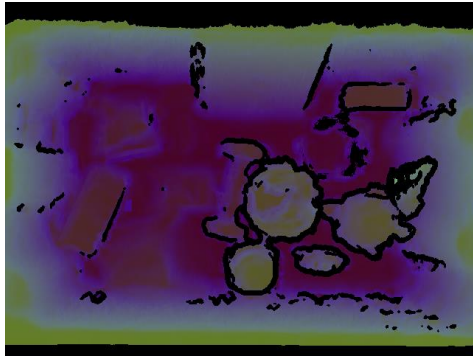
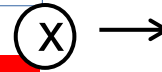


[Schwarz et al. ICRA 2017]

[Johnson et al. CVPR 2016]

# Combined Detection and Segmentation

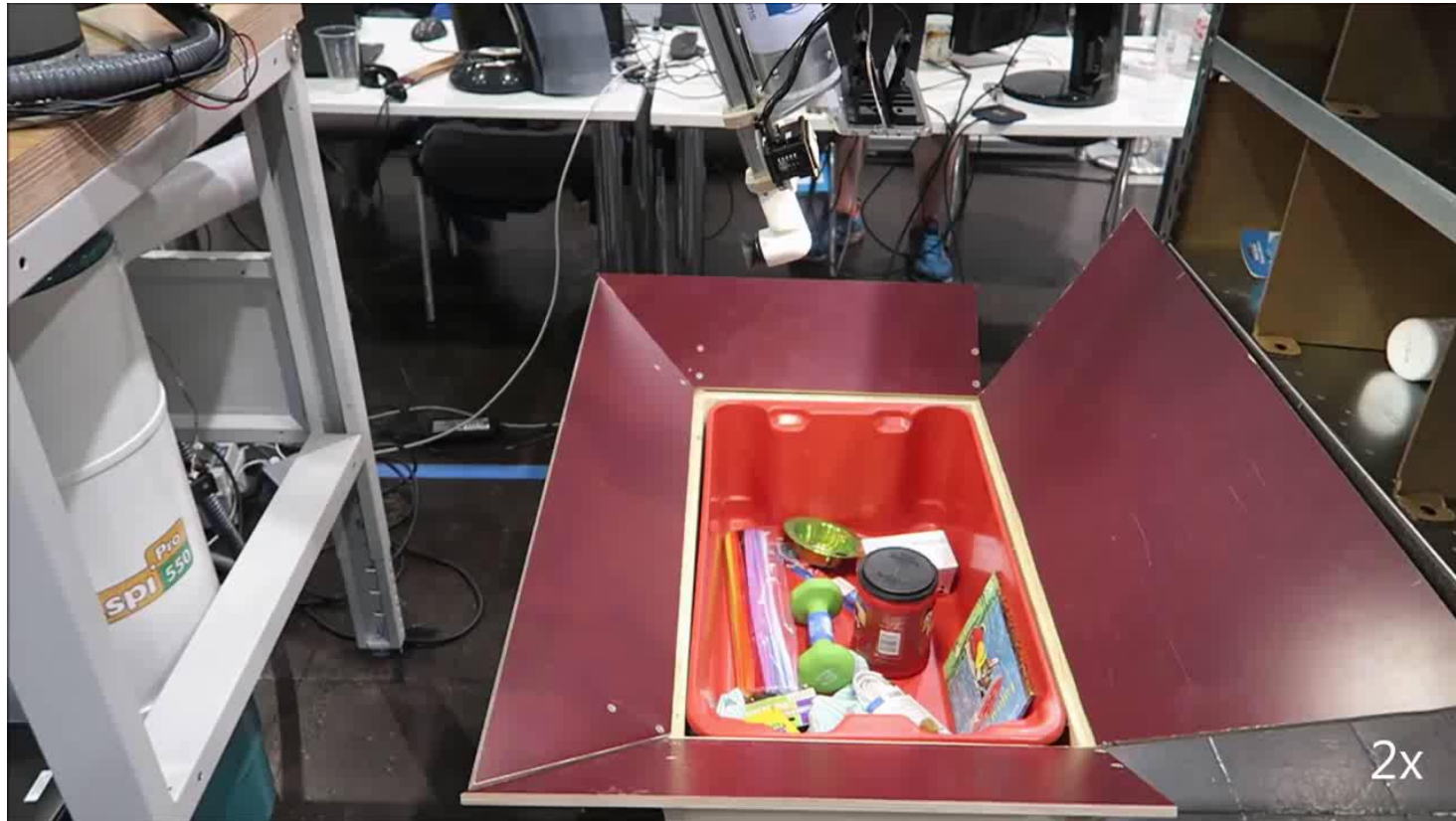
Detection



[Schwarz et al. IJRR 2017]

Segmentation

# Stowing



# Picking



4x

# NimbRo Picking APC 2016 Results

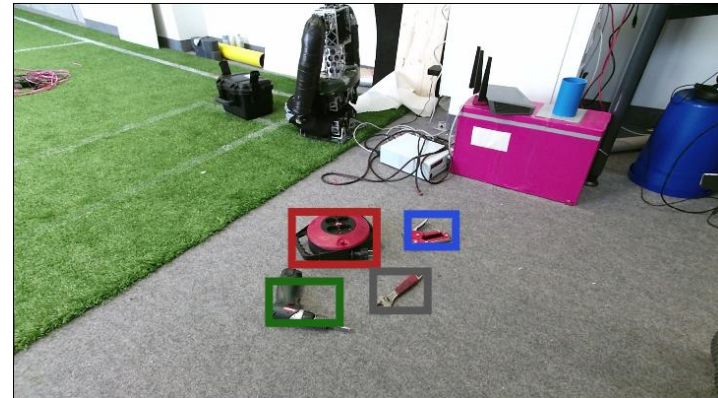
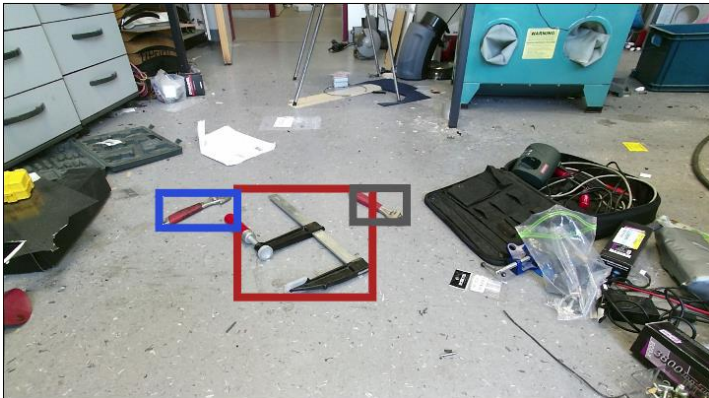


- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Stowing (186 points)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Picking (97 points)



[Schwarz et al. IJRR 2017]

# Detection of Tools



# MBZIRC Challenge 2



# Wrench Selection: Detection of Tool Ends





# Amazon Robotics Challenge 2017

- Training with rendered scenes



# Conclusions

- Semantic perception is challenging
- Simple methods rely on strong assumptions
- Depth helps with segmentation, allows for size normalization, geometric features, shape descriptors
- Deep learning methods work well
- Transfer of features from large data sets
- Synthetic training
- Many open problems, e.g. total scene understanding, incorporating physics, ...

# Questions?