GDR-Net: Geometry-Guided Direct Regression Network for Monocular 6D Object Pose Estimation

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Abstract

6D pose estimation from a single RGB image is a fundamental task in computer vision. The current top-performing deep learning-based methods rely on an indirect strategy, i.e., first establishing 2D-3D correspondences between the coordinates in the image plane and object coordinate system, and then applying a variant of the PnP/RANSAC algorithm. However, this two-stage pipeline is not end-to-end trainable, thus is hard to be employed for many tasks requiring differentiable poses. On the other hand, methods based on direct regression are currently inferior to geometry-based methods. In this work, we perform an in-depth investigation on both direct and indirect methods, and propose a simple yet effective Geometry-guided Direct Regression Network (GDR-Net) to learn the 6D pose in an end-to-end manner from dense correspondence-based intermediate geometric representations. Extensive experiments show that our approach remarkably outperforms state-of-the-art methods on LM, LM-O and YCB-V datasets. Code is available at https://git.io/GDR-Net.

1. Introduction

Estimating the 6D pose, i.e., the 3D rotation and 3D translation, of objects with respect to the camera is a fundamental problem in computer vision. It has wide applicability to many real-world tasks such as robotic manipulation \cite{10, 66, 53}, augmented reality \cite{35, 50} and autonomous driving\cite{32, 58}. Most traditional methods rely on depth data for this task \cite{13, 36, 14, 63, 54}, while monocular methods lagged considerably behind \cite{10, 12}. Nonetheless, with the advent of deep learning and especially the rise of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), accuracy and robustness of monocular 6D object pose estimation have been consistently improving, even at times surpassing methods relying on depth data \cite{22, 42, 18}.

Different strategies for predicting 6D pose from monocular data have been proposed. For instance, learning of an embedding space for pose \cite{49} or direct regression of the 3D rotation and translation \cite{31}. While these methods generally perform well, they usually lack in accuracy when compared with approaches that instead rely on establishing 2D-3D correspondences prior to estimating the 6D pose \cite{28, 15}.

Differently, this latter class of methods usually involves solving the 6D pose through a variant of the PnP/RANSAC algorithm. While such a paradigm provides good estimates, it also suffers from several drawbacks. First, these methods are usually trained with a surrogate objective for correspondence regression, which does not necessarily reflect the actual 6D pose error after optimization. In practice, two sets of correspondences can have the same average error while describing completely different poses. Second, these approaches are not differentiable with respect to the estimated 6D pose, which limits learning. For instance, these meth-
ods cannot be coupled with self-supervised learning from unlabeled real data [55, 34, 1], as they require the computation of the pose to be fully differentiable in order to obtain a signal between data and pose. Finally, the RANSAC iterative process can be very time-consuming when dealing with dense correspondences.

To summarize, while methods grounded on 2D-3D correspondences are dominating the field, they still exhibit downsides due to the decoupling of the problem into two separate steps one of which not differentiable. Consequently, some efforts have been devoted to enabling back-propagation through the PrnP/RANSAC stage. However, this either requires a complex training strategy in order to have good initialization of scene coordinates [4, 6, 7], or can only handle sparse correspondences of a predefined set of keypoints [8]. Recently, the authors of [19] proposed to leverage PointNet [41] in order to approximate PrnP for sparse correspondences. While this proves to work well, PointNet disregards the fact that the correspondences are organized with respect to the image pixels, which tends to strongly deteriorate the performance as shown in [30].

In this work, we propose to overcome these limitations by establishing 2D-3D correspondences whilst computing the final 6D pose estimate in a fully differentiable way (Fig. 1). In its core, we propose to learn the PrnP optimization, exploiting the fact that the correspondences are organized in image space, which gives a significant boost in performance, outperforming all prior works. To summarize, we make the following contributions:

- We revisit the key ingredients in direct 6D pose regression and observe that by choosing appropriate representations for the pose parameters, methods based on direct regression show competitive performance compared with state-of-the-art correspondence-based indirect methods.

- We further propose a simple yet effective Geometry-guided Direct Regression Network (GDR-Net) to boost the performance of direct 6D pose regression via leveraging the geometric guidance from dense correspondence-based intermediate representations.

Extensive experiments on LM [13], LM-O [3], and YCB-V [60] datasets show that our unified GDR-Net approach achieves accurate, yet real-time and robust, monocular 6D object pose estimation.

2. Related Work

While methods based on depth data used to dominate the field of 6D pose estimation [13, 36, 14, 63, 54], Deep Learning-based methods have recently demonstrated promising results for the task at hand [17, 18]. In this section, we review several commonly employed strategies for monocular 6D pose estimation.

**Indirect Methods.** The most popular approach is to establish 2D-3D correspondences, which are then leveraged to solve for the 6D pose using a variant of the RANSAC-based PrnP algorithm. For instance, [42] and [51] compute the 2D projections of a set of fixed control points (e.g., the 3D corners of the encapsulating bounding box). To enhance the robustness, [20] and [40] additionally conduct segmentation coupled with voting for each correspondence. However, the recent trend goes towards predicting dense rather than sparse correspondences [62, 28]. Moreover, while [38] leverages a GAN on top of dense correspondences to increase stability, [15] makes use of fragments in order to account for ambiguities in pose.

Another orthogonal line of works aims at learning a latent embedding of pose which can be utilized for retrieval during inference. These embeddings are commonly either grounded on metric learning employing a triplet loss [57], or via training of an Auto-Encoder [49, 48].

**Direct Methods.** Although indirect methods, leveraging 2D-3D correspondences, are currently performing better, they cannot be directly employed in many tasks, which require the pose estimation to be differentiable [55]. Hence, some methods directly regress the 6D pose, either leveraging a point matching loss [60, 27, 25] or employing separate loss terms for each component [31, 11]. Other methods discretize the pose space and conduct classification rather than regression [22]. A few methods also try to solve a proxy task during optimization. Thereby, [33] proposes to employ an edge-alignment loss using the distance transform, while [55] harnesses differentiable rendering to allow training on unlabeled samples.

**Differentiable Indirect Methods.** Recently, a few works attempt to make PrnP/RANSAC differentiable. In [4, 6, 7] the authors introduce a novel differentiable way to apply RANSAC via sharing of hypotheses based on the predicted distribution. Nonetheless, these approaches require a complex training strategy, as they expect a good initialization for the scene coordinates. As for PrnP, [8] employs the Implicit Function Theorem [23] to enable the computation of analytical gradients w.r.t. the pose loss. Yet, it is computationally expensive especially given too many correspondences since PrnP/RANSAC is still needed for both training and inference. Instead, [19] attempts to learn the PrnP stage with a PointNet-based architecture [41] which learns to infer the 6D pose from a fixed set of sparse 2D-3D correspondences.

**Beyond Instance-level 6D Pose Estimation.** Noteworthy, a few methods are recently trying to go beyond the instance-level scenario, even estimating the pose [56], sometimes paired with shape [9, 34, 37], for previously unseen objects.

3. Method

Given an RGB image $I$ and a set of $N$ objects $O = \{ O_i | i = 1, \cdots, N \}$ together with their corresponding
3D CAD models $\mathcal{M} = \{ \mathcal{M}_i | i = 1, \cdots, N \}$, our goal is to estimate the 6D object pose $\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{R}|\mathbf{t}]$ w.r.t. the camera for each object $\mathcal{O}$ present in $I$. Notice that $\mathbf{R}$ describes the 3D rotation and $\mathbf{t}$ denotes the 3D translation of the detected object.

Fig. 2 presents a schematic overview of the proposed methodology. In the core, we first detect all objects of interest using an off-the-shelf object detector, such as [44, 52]. For each detection, we then zoom in to the corresponding Region of Interest (RoI) and feed it to our network to predict several intermediate geometric features. Finally, we directly regress the associated 6D object pose from the dense correspondence-based intermediate geometric features.

In the following, we first (Sec. 3.1) revisit the key ingredients of direct 6D object pose estimation methods. Afterwards (Sec. 3.2), we illustrate a simple yet effective Geometry-Guided Direct Regression Network (GDR-Net) which unifies regression-based direct methods and geometry-based indirect methods, thus harnessing the best of both worlds.

### 3.1. Revisiting Direct 6D Object Pose Estimation

Direct 6D pose estimation methods usually differ in one or more of the following components. Firstly, the parameterization of the rotation $\mathbf{R}$ and translation $\mathbf{t}$, and secondly, the employed loss for pose. In this section, we investigate different commonly used parameterizations and demonstrate that appropriate choices have significant impact on the 6D pose estimates.

**Parameterization of 3D Rotation.** Several different parameterizations can be employed to describe 3D rotations. Since many representations exhibit ambiguities, i.e. $\mathbf{R}_i$ and $\mathbf{R}_j$ describe the same rotation with $\mathbf{R}_i \neq \mathbf{R}_j$, most works rely on parametrizations that are unique to help training. Therefore, common choices are unit quaternions [60, 33, 27], log quaternions [37], or Lie algebra-based vectors [11].

Nevertheless, it is well-known that all representations with four or fewer dimensions for 3D rotation have discontinuities in the Euclidean space. When regressing a rotation, this introduces an error close to the discontinuities which becomes often significantly large. To overcome this limitation, [65] proposed a novel continuous 6-dimensional representation for $\mathbf{R}$ in $SO(3)$, which has proven promising [65, 25]. Specifically, the 6-dimensional representation $\mathbf{R}_{6d}$ is defined as the first two columns of $\mathbf{R}$

$$\mathbf{R}_{6d} = [\mathbf{R}_{1} \ | \ \mathbf{R}_{2}],$$

(1)

Given a 6-dimensional vector $\mathbf{R}_{6d} = [r_1 \ | \ r_2]$, the rotation matrix $\mathbf{R} = [\mathbf{R}_{1} | \mathbf{R}_{2} | \mathbf{R}_{3}]$ can be computed according to

$$\begin{align*}
\mathbf{R}_{1} &= \phi(r_1) \\
\mathbf{R}_{3} &= \phi(\mathbf{R}_{1} \times \mathbf{r}_{2}) \\
\mathbf{R}_{2} &= \mathbf{R}_{3} \times \mathbf{R}_{1}
\end{align*}$$

(2)

where $\phi(\bullet)$ denotes the vector normalization operation.

Given the advantages of this representation, in this work we employ $\mathbf{R}_{6d}$ to parameterize the 3D rotation. Nevertheless, in contrast to [65, 25], we propose to let the network predict the allocentric representation [24] of rotation $\mathbf{R}_{6d}$. This representation is favored as it is viewpoint-invariant under 3D translations of the object. Hence, it is more suitable to deal with zoomed-in RoIs. Note that the egocentric rotation can be easily converted from allocentric rotation given 3D translation and camera intrinsics $K$ following [24].

**Parameterization of 3D Translation.** Since directly regressing the translation $\mathbf{t} = [t_x, t_y, t_z]^T \in \mathbb{R}^3$ in 3D space does not work well in practice, previous works usually decouple the translation into the 2D location $(o_x, o_y)$ of the projected 3D centroid and the object’s distance $t_z$ towards...
the camera. Given the camera intrinsics $K$, the translation can be calculated via back-projection

$$t = K^{-1} t_z [o_x, o_y, 1]^T. \quad (3)$$

Exemplarily, $[22, 49]$ approximate $(o_x, o_y)$ as the bounding box center $(c_x, c_y)$ and estimate $t_z$ using a reference camera distance. PoseCNN $[60]$ directly regresses $(o_x, o_y)$ and $t_z$. Nonetheless, this is not suitable for dealing with zoomed-in RoIs, since it is essential for the network to estimate position and scale invariant parameters.

Therefore, in our work we utilize a Scale-Invariant representation for Translation Estimation (SITE) $[28]$. Concretely, given the size $s_o = \max\{w, h\}$ and center $(c_x, c_y)$ of the detected bounding box and the ratio $r = s_{\text{zoom}}/s_o$ w.r.t. the zoom-in size $s_{\text{zoom}}$, the network regresses the scale-invariant translation parameters $t_{\text{SITE}} = [\delta_x, \delta_y, \delta_z]^T$, where

$$\begin{align*}
\delta_x &= (o_x - c_x)/w \\
\delta_y &= (o_y - c_y)/h \\
\delta_z &= t_z/r.
\end{align*} \quad (4)$$

Finally, the 3D translation can be solved according to Eq. 3.

**Disentangled 6D Pose Loss.** Apart from the parameterization of rotation and translation, the choice of loss function is also crucial for 6D pose optimization. Instead of directly utilizing distances based on rotation and translation (e.g., angular distance, $L_1$ or $L_2$ distances), most works employ a variant of Point-Matching loss $[27, 60, 25]$ based on the ADD(-S) metric $[13, 3]$ in an effort to couple the estimation of rotation and translation.

Inspired by $[46, 25]$, we employ a novel variant of disentangled 6D pose loss via individually supervising the rotation $R$, the scale-invariant 2D object center $(\delta_x, \delta_y)$, and the distance $\delta_z$.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Pose}} = \mathcal{L}_R + \mathcal{L}_{\text{center}} + \mathcal{L}_z. \quad (5)$$

Thereby,

$$\begin{align*}
\mathcal{L}_R &= \frac{1}{|\mathcal{M}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \| \hat{R}x - R x \|_1 \\
\mathcal{L}_{\text{center}} &= \| (\hat{\delta}_x - \bar{\delta}_x, \hat{\delta}_y - \bar{\delta}_y) \|_1, \\
\mathcal{L}_z &= \| \delta_z - \bar{\delta}_z \|_1, \quad (6)
\end{align*}$$

where $\cdot$ and $\cdot$ denote prediction and ground truth, respectively. To account for symmetric objects, given $\mathcal{R}$, the set of all possible ground-truth rotations under symmetry, we further extend our loss to a symmetry-aware formulation

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{R,sym}} = \min_{R \in \mathcal{R}} \mathcal{L}_R(\hat{R}, R).$$

### 3.2. Geometry-guided Direct Regression Network

In this section, we present our Geometry-guided Direct Regression Network, which we dub GDR-Net. Harnessing dense correspondence-based geometric features, we directly regress 6D object pose. Thereby, GDR-Net unifies approaches based on dense correspondences and direct regression.

**Network Architecture.** As shown in Fig. 2, we feed the GDR-Net with a zoomed-in RoI of size $256 \times 256$ and predict three intermediate geometric feature maps with spatial size of $64 \times 64$, which are composed of the Dense Correspondences Map ($M_{2D-3D}$), the Surface Region Attention Map ($M_{\text{SRA}}$) and the Visible Object Mask ($M_{\text{vis}}$).

Our network is inspired by CDPN $[28]$, a state-of-the-art dense correspondence-based method for indirect pose estimation. In essence, we keep the layers for regressing $M_{\text{XYZ}}$ and $M_{\text{d}}$, while removing the disentangled translation head. Additionally, we append the channels required by $M_{\text{SRA}}$ to the output layer. Since these intermediate geometric feature maps are all organized 2D-3D correspondences w.r.t. the image, we employ a simple yet effective 2D convolutional Patch-PnP module to directly regress the 6D object pose from $M_{2D-3D}$ and $M_{\text{SRA}}$.

The Patch-PnP module consists of three convolutional layers with kernel size $3 \times 3$ and stride $= 2$, each followed by Group Normalization $[59]$ and ReLU activation. Two Fully Connected (FC) layers are then applied to the flattened feature, reducing the dimension from $8192$ to $256$. Finally, two parallel FC layers output the 3D rotation $R$ parameterized as $R_{6d}$ (Eq. 1) and 3D translation $t$ parameterized as $t_{\text{SITE}}$ (Eq. 4), respectively.

**Dense Correspondences Maps ($M_{2D-3D}$).** In order to compute the Dense Correspondences Maps $M_{2D-3D}$, we first estimate the underlying Dense Coordinates Maps ($M_{\text{XYZ}}$). $M_{2D-3D}$ can then be derived by stacking $M_{\text{XYZ}}$ onto the corresponding 2D pixel coordinates. In particular, given the CAD model of an object, $M_{\text{XYZ}}$ can be obtained by rendering the model’s 3D object coordinates given the associated pose. Similar to $[28, 56]$, we let the network predict a normalized representation of $M_{\text{XYZ}}$. Concretely, each channel of $M_{\text{XYZ}}$ is normalized within $[0, 1]$ by $(l_x, l_y, l_z)$, which is the size of corresponding tight 3D bounding box of the CAD model.

Notice that $M_{2D-3D}$ does not only encode the 2D-3D correspondences, but also explicitly reflect the geometric shape information of objects. Moreover, as previously mentioned, since $M_{2D-3D}$ is regular w.r.t. the image, we are capable of learning the 6D object pose via a simple 2D convolutional neural network (Patch-PnP).

**Surface Region Attention Maps ($M_{\text{SRA}}$).** Inspired by $[15]$, we let the network predict the surface regions as additional ambiguity-aware supervision. However, instead of coupling them with RANSAC, we use them within our Patch-PnP framework.

Essentially, the ground-truth regions $M_{\text{SRA}}$ can be derived from $M_{\text{XYZ}}$ employing farthest points sampling.

For each pixel we classify the corresponding regions, thus the probabilities in the predicted $M_{\text{SRA}}$ implicitly rep-
resent the symmetry of an object. For instance, if a pixel is assigned to two potential fragments due to a plane of symmetry, Minimizing this assignment will return a probability of 0.5 for each fragment. Moreover, leveraging MSMRA not only mitigates the influence of ambiguities but also acts as an auxiliary task on top of M3D. In other words, it eases the learning of M3D by first locating coarse regions and then regressing finer coordinates. We utilize M3RA as a symmetry-aware attention to guide the learning of Patch-PnP.

**Geometry-guided 6D Object Pose Regression.** The presented image-based geometric feature patches, i.e., M2D, M3D and M3RA, are then utilized to guide our proposed Patch-PnP for direct 6D object pose regression as

\[
P = \text{Patch-PnP}(M_{2D}, M_{3RA}).
\]  

We employ \(L_1\) loss for normalized \(M_{XYZ}\) and visible masks \(M_{vis}\), and cross-entropy loss (CL) for MSMRA.

\[
\mathcal{L}_{\text{Geom}} = \| \bar{M}_{vis} \odot (\tilde{M}_{XYZ} - \hat{M}_{XYZ}) \|_1 + \| \bar{M}_{vis} - \bar{M}_{vis} \|_1 + CL(M_{vis} \odot M_{3RA} - M_{3RA}).
\]

Thereby, \(\odot\) denotes element-wise multiplication and we only supervise \(M_{XYZ}\) and \(M_{3RA}\) using the visible region.

The overall loss for GDR-Net can be summarized as

\[
\mathcal{L}_{\text{GDR}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{Pose}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Geom}}.
\]

Notice that our GDR-Net can be trained end-to-end, without requiring any three-stage training strategy as in [28].

**Decoupling Detection and 6D Object Pose Estimation.**

Similar to [28, 25], we mainly focus on the network for 6D object pose estimation and make use of an existing 2D object detector to obtain the zoomed-in input RoIs. This allows us to directly make use of the advances in runtime [43, 2] and accuracy [44, 52] within the rapidly growing field of 2D object detection, without having to change or re-train the pose network. Therefore, we adopt a simplified Dynamic Zoom-In (DZI) [28] to decouple the training of our GDR-Net and object detectors. During training, we first uniformly shift the center and scale of the ground-truth bounding boxes by a ratio of 25%. We then zoom in the input RoIs with a ratio of \(r = 1.5\) while maintaining the original aspect ratio. This ensures that the area containing the object is approximately half the RoI. DZI can also circumvent the need of dealing with varying object sizes.

Noteworthy, although we employ a two-stage approach, one could also implement GDR-Net on top of any object detector and train it in an end-to-end manner.

### 4. Experiments

In this section we first introduce our experimental setup, and then present the evaluation results for several commonly employed benchmark datasets. Thereby, we first present experiments on a synthetic toy dataset, which clearly demonstrates the benefit of our Patch-PnP compared to the classic optimization-driven PnP. Additionally, we demonstrate the effectiveness of our individual components by performing an ablative study on LM [13]. Finally, we compare GDR-Net with state-of-the-art methods on two challenging datasets, i.e., LM-O [3] and YCB-V [60].

#### 4.1. Experimental Setup

**Implementation Details.** All our experiments are implemented using PyTorch [39]. We train all our networks end-to-end using the Ranger optimizer [29, 64, 61] with a batch size of 24 and a base learning rate of 1e-4, which we anneal at 72% of the training phase using a cosine schedule [21].

**Datasets.** We conduct our experiments on four datasets: Synthetic Sphere [26, 19], LM [13], LM-O [3], and YCB-V [60]. The Synthetic Sphere dataset contains 20k samples for training and 2k for testing, created by randomly capturing a unit sphere model using a virtual calibrated camera with focal length 800, resolution 640×480, and the principal point located at the image center. The Rotations and translations are uniformly sampled in 3D space, and within an interval of \([-2, 2] \times [-2, 2] \times [4, 8]\), respectively. LM dataset consists of 13 sequences, each containing \(\approx 1.2k\) images with ground-truth poses for a single object with clutter and mild occlusion. We follow [5] and employ \(\approx 15\%\) of the RGB images for training and 85% for testing. We additionally use 1k rendered RGB images for each object during training as in [28]. LM-O consists of 1214 images from a LM sequence, where the ground-truth poses of 8 visible objects with more occlusion are provided for testing. Apart from the real data from LM, we also leverage synthetic data for training. Similarly, we render 10k synthetic images (syn) for each object as in [40]. YCB-V is a very challenging dataset exhibiting strong occlusion, clutter and several symmetric objects. It comprises over 110k real images captured with 21 objects, both with and without texture. For both LM-O and YCB-V, we also leverage the publicly available synthetic data using physically-based rendering (pbr) [18] for training.

**Evaluation Metrics.** We use two common metrics for 6D object pose evaluation, i.e., ADD(S) [13, 16], and \(n^6\), \(n\) cm [45]. The ADD metric [13] measures whether the average deviation of the transformed model points is less than 10% of the object’s diameter (0.1d). For symmetric objects, the \(ADD-S\) metric is employed to measure the error as the average distance to the closest model point [13, 16]. When evaluating on YCB-V, we also compute the AUC (area under curve) of ADD(S) by varying the distance threshold with a maximum of 10 cm [60]. The \(n^6\), \(n\) cm metric [45] measures whether the rotation error is less than \(n^6\) and the translation error is below \(n\) cm. Notice that to ac-

\[1\] Ranger means the RAdam [29] optimizer combined with Lookahead [64] and Gradient Centralization [61].
count for symmetries, \( n^c \), \( n \) cm is computed w.r.t. the sphere’s diameter (y-axis in log-scale). (c): Zoomed-In (64 \( \times \) 64) synthetic examples for Patch-PnP.

4.2. Toy Experiment on Synthetic Sphere

We conduct a toy experiment comparing our approach with PnP/RANSAC and [19] on the Synthetic Sphere dataset. We generate \( M_{\text{XYZ}} \) from the provided poses and feed them to our Patch-PnP. For fairness, \( M_{\text{SRA}} \) is excluded from the input. Following [19], during training, we randomly add Gaussian noise \( \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \) with \( \sigma \in \mathcal{U}[0, 0.03] \) to each point of the dense coordinates maps. Since the coordinates maps are normalized in [0, 1], we choose 0.03 as it reflects approximately the same level of noise as in [19]. Additionally, we randomly generated 0% to 30% of outliers for \( M_{\text{XYZ}} \) (Fig. 3c). During testing, we report the relative ADD error w.r.t. the sphere’s diameter on the test set with different levels of noise and outliers.

Comparison with PnP/RANSAC and [19]. In Fig. 3, we demonstrate the effectiveness and robustness of our approach by comparing Patch-PnP with the traditional RANSAC-based EPnP [26] and the learning-based PnP from [19]. As depicted in Fig. 3, while RANSAC-based EPnP is more accurate when noise is unrealistically minimal, learning-based PnP is more accurate and robust as the level of noise increases. Moreover, Patch-PnP is significantly more robust than Single-Stage [19] w.r.t. to noise and outliers, thanks to our geometrically rich and dense correspondences maps.

4.3. Ablation Study on LM

We present several ablation experiments for the widely used LM dataset [13]. We train a single GDR-Net for all objects for 160 epochs without applying any color augment-

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\( b \)

Figure 3: Results of PnP variants on Synthetic Sphere. (a, b): We compare our Patch-PnP module with the traditional RANSAC EPnP [26] and another learning-based PnP [19]. The pose error is reported as relative ADD error w.r.t. the sphere’s diameter (y-axis in log-scale). (c): Zoomed-In (64 \( \times \) 64) synthetic examples for Patch-PnP.

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\( n = 0 \), \( n = 30 \) cm is computed w.r.t. the smallest error for all possible ground-truth poses [27].
leads to inferior poses w.r.t. translation (B0 vs. E1, E2). Hence, when dealing with zoomed-in RoIs, it is essential to parameterize the 3D translation in a scale-invariant fashion.

**Ablation on Pose Loss.** As mentioned in Section 3.1, the loss function has an impact on direct 6D pose regression. In Tab. 1b, we compare our disentangled $L_{\text{pose}}$ to a simple angular loss and the Point-Matching loss [27] (F0). Furthermore, we present its disentangled versions following [46]. As shown in (B0 and F0-F4), all variants of the PM loss are clearly better than the angular loss in terms of rotation estimation. In addition, disentangling the rotation $R$ and distance $t_z$ in $L_{\text{PM}}$ largely enhances the rotation accuracy. Nonetheless, the overall performance is slightly inferior to our disentangled formulation $L_{\text{pose}}$, which disentangles $t_{\text{SITE}}$ rather than the 3D translation $t$. It is worth noting that $L_{\text{R-sym}}$ has a rather insignificant contribution compared with $L_{\text{R}}$. This can be accounted to the lack of severe symmetries in LM and to our proposed surface region attention $M_{\text{SRA}}$.

**Effectiveness of Geometry-Guided Direct Regression.** Furthermore, we train GDR-Net leveraging only our pose loss $L_{\text{pose}}$ by discarding the geometric supervision $L_{\text{Geom}}$. Surprisingly, even the simple version outperforms CDPN [28] w.r.t. ADD(-S) 0.1d, when employing $R_{6d}$ for rotation (Tab. 1b G0 vs. A0). Yet, we clearly outperform our baseline using GDR-Net with explicit geometric guidance. If we predict the rotation as allocentric quaternions, the accuracy decreases (G2 vs. G0), which can partially account for the weak performance of previous direct methods [60, 11]. Moreover, when we remove the guidance of $M_{\text{2D}}$, the accuracy drops significantly (G0 vs. G1). Based on these results, we can see that an appropriate geometric guidance is essential for direct 6D pose regression.

Direct pose regression also enhances the learning of geometric features as the error signal from pose can be back-propagated. Tab. 1b (B1, B2) shows that when evaluating GDR-Net with PnP/RANSAC from the predicted $M_{\text{2D}}$, the overall performance exceeds CDPN [28]. Similar to CDPN, we run tests using PnP/RANSAC for $R$ and Patch-PnP for $t$, which achieves the overall best accuracy (B2). This demonstrates that our unified GDR-Net can leverage the best of both worlds, namely, geometry-based indirect methods and direct methods.

**Effectiveness of Detection and Pose Decoupling.** Similar to CDPN [28], we decouple the detector and GDR-Net by means of Dynamic Zoom-In (DZI). When evaluating GDR-Net with the Yolov3 detections from [28], the overall accuracy only drops slightly while the accuracy for ADD(-S) 0.1d almost remains unchanged (Tab. 1b H0).

### 4.4. Comparison with State of the Art

We compare our approach with state-of-the-art methods on the LM-O and YCB-V datasets. During training, we

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4 We follow the most commonly used evaluation protocol for LM-O and YCB-V, which has also been employed by another learned PnP [19] and many other works such as [60, 40, 47, 62, 27, 25]. We kindly refer the readers to our supplement for the results under BOP [18] setup.
Table 2: Comparison with State of the Art on LM-O. We report the Average Recall (%) of ADD(-S). P.E. means whether the method is trained with 1 pose estimator for the whole dataset or 1 per object (N objects in total). (∗) denotes symmetric objects and “−” denotes unavailable results.

| Method          | Ref. | P.E. | ADD(-S) | AUC of ADD-S | AUC of ADD(-S) |
|-----------------|------|------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| PoseCNN [60]    | 1    |      | 21.3    | 75.9         | 61.3           |
| SegDriven [20]  | 1    |      | 39.0    | -            | -              |
| PVNet [40]      | N    |      | -       | -            | -              |
| Single-Stage [19] | N   |      | 53.9    | -            | -              |
| GDR-Net (Ours)  | 1    |      | 49.1    | 89.1         | 80.2           |
| GDR-Net (Ours)  | N    |      | 60.1    | 91.6         | 84.4           |
| DeepIM [27]     | ✓    |      | 1       | -            | 81.9           |
| CosyPose [25]   | ✓    |      | 1       | -            | 89.8           | 84.5           |

Table 3: Comparison with State of the Art on YCB-V. We report the Average Recall (%) of ADD(-S), and AUC of ADD-S and ADD(-S). As in [60], ADD-S uses the symmetric metric for all objects, while ADD(-S) only uses the symmetric metric for symmetric objects. P.E. means whether the method is trained with 1 pose estimator for the whole dataset or 1 per object (N objects in total). Ref. stands for Refinement and “−” denotes unavailable results.

| Method          | Ref. | P.E. | ADD(-S) | AUC of ADD-S | AUC of ADD(-S) |
|-----------------|------|------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| PoseCNN [60]    | 1    |      | 21.3    | 75.9         | 61.3           |
| SegDriven [20]  | 1    |      | 39.0    | -            | -              |
| PVNet [40]      | N    |      | -       | -            | -              |
| Single-Stage [19] | N   |      | 53.9    | -            | -              |
| GDR-Net (Ours)  | 1    |      | 49.1    | 89.1         | 80.2           |
| GDR-Net (Ours)  | N    |      | 60.1    | 91.6         | 84.4           |
| DeepIM [27]     | ✓    |      | 1       | -            | 81.9           |
| CosyPose [25]   | ✓    |      | 1       | -            | 89.8           | 84.5           |

Results on LM-O. Tab. 2 presents the results of GDR-Net compared with state-of-the-art methods on LM-O. When trained with “real+syn”, our single GDR-Net is comparable to [47, 62]. Moreover, our GDR-Net trained with “real+pbr” even outperforms the refinement-based method DeepIM [27].

Results on YCB-V. We compare GDR-Net to state-of-the-art approaches on YCB-V in Tab. 3 (see supplement for detailed results). Our GDR-Net trained one network per object exceeds again state of the art, even without leveraging any refinement. Our single model for all objects is also comparable to the refinement-based methods such as [27, 25] w.r.t. AUC of ADD-S metric. Noteworthy, our approach runs much faster than the methods requiring refinement.

4.5. Runtime Analysis

On a desktop with an Intel 3.40GHz CPU and an NVIDIA 2080Ti GPU, given a 640 × 480 image, using the Yolov3 [43] detector, our approach takes ≈ 22ms for a single object and ≈ 35ms for 8 objects, including 15ms for detection.

5. Conclusion

In this work, we revisited the ingredients of direct 6D pose regression and proposed a novel GDR-Net to unify direct and geometry-based indirect methods. The key idea is to exploit the intermediate geometric features regarding 2D-3D correspondences organized regularly as image-like 2D patches, which facilitates us to utilize a simple yet effective 2D convolutional Patch-Pro to directly regress 6D pose from geometric guidance. Our approach achieves real-time, accurate and robust monocular 6D object pose estimation. In the future, we want to extend our work to more challenging scenarios, such as the lack of annotated real data [55, 34] and unseen object categories or instances [56, 37].

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3https://github.com/LZGMatrix/BOP19_CDPN_2019ICCV
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| Method                | PoseCNN [60] | SegDriven [20] | Single-Stage [19] | GDR-Net (Ours) |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| P.E.                  |              |                |                   |                |
| 002_master_chef_can   | 3.6          | 33.0           | -                 | 51.7           |
| 003_cracker_box       | 25.1         | 44.6           | -                 | 45.1           |
| 004_sugar_box         | 40.3         | 75.6           | -                 | 83.9           |
| 005_tomato_soup_can   | 25.5         | 40.8           | -                 | 48.3           |
| 006_mustard_bottle    | 61.9         | 70.6           | 70.6              | 92.2           |
| 007_juna_fish_can     | 11.4         | 18.1           | -                 | 29.1           |
| 008_pudding_box       | 14.5         | 12.2           | -                 | 39.7           |
| 009_gelatin_box       | 12.1         | 59.4           | -                 | 34.6           |
| 010_potted_meat_can   | 18.9         | 33.3           | -                 | 36.3           |
| 011_banana            | 30.3         | 16.6           | -                 | 60.2           |
| 019_pitcher_base      | 15.6         | 90.0           | -                 | 96.3           |
| 021_bleach_cleanser   | 21.2         | 70.9           | -                 | 73.0           |
| 024_bowl*             | 12.1         | 30.5           | -                 | 35.0           |
| 025_mug               | 5.2          | 40.7           | -                 | 39.3           |
| 035_power_drill       | 29.9         | 63.5           | -                 | 57.7           |
| 036_wood_block*       | 10.7         | 27.7           | -                 | 50.8           |
| 037_scissors          | 2.2          | 17.1           | -                 | 6.6            |
| 040_large_marker      | 3.4          | 4.8            | -                 | 13.7           |
| 051_large_clamp*      | 28.5         | 25.6           | -                 | 40.3           |
| 052_extra_large_clamp*| 19.6         | 8.8            | -                 | 35.3           |
| 061_foam_brick*       | 54.5         | 34.7           | -                 | 61.1           |
| MEAN                  | 21.3         | 39.0           | 53.9              | 49.1           |

Table B.1: Detailed results on YCB-V [60] w.r.t. ADD(-S). P.E. means whether the method is trained with 1 pose estimator for the whole dataset or 1 per object (N objects in total). (*) denotes symmetric objects and “-” denotes unavailable results.

A. Details of PnP/RANSAC

The implementation and hyper-parameters of PnP/RANSAC follow the state-of-the-art method CDPN [28] for all our experiments. Specifically, we leverage EPnP [26] together with 100 RANSAC iterations using a reprojection error threshold of 3 and confidence threshold of 0.99.

B. Detailed Results of YCB-V

We present detailed evaluation results on YCB-V [60] for our GDR-Net in Tab. B.1 and Tab. B.2 and compare them to state-of-the-art approaches w.r.t. ADD(-S) and AUC of ADD-S/ADD(-S), respectively. As for methods trained simultaneously for all objects, our GDR-Net clearly outperforms all other state-of-the-art methods. Furthermore, when GDR-Net is trained separately for each individual object, we can even surpass refinement-based methods such as DeepIM [27] w.r.t. AUC of ADD-S/ADD(-S) metric.

C. BOP Results on LM-O and YCB-V

In the main paper, we have presented the results on LM-O and YCB-V following the most commonly used evaluation protocol following another learned PnP [19] and many other works such as [60, 40, 47, 62, 27, 25]. Nevertheless, the evaluation protocol of BOP Challenge [17, 18] has recently become more popular. Therefore, we also present the results of our GDR-Net on LM-O and YCB-V under the BOP setup.

The BOP evaluation protocol differs from the former in three main aspects as follows. i) No real data should be used for LM-O, thus we only employ the provided synthetic pbr data [18] for training on LM-O; ii) The number of test images for both LM-O and YCB-V is smaller, i.e., they only contains a subset of the original test images; iii) The evaluation metric is different. Thereby, for each dataset, an Average Recall (AR) score is reported by calculating the mean Average Recall of three different metrics: \( \text{AR} = \left( \frac{\text{AR}_{\text{MSPD}} + \text{AR}_{\text{MSSD}} + \text{AR}_{\text{VSD}}}{3} \right) \). Please refer to [18] for the detailed explanation of these metrics.

Tab. C.3 presents the results of our GDR-Net on LM-O and YCB-V compared with other state-of-the-art RGB-based methods under BOP setup. Since our method is built on top of CDPN [28], we follow [28] to train one network per object for
Table B.2: Detailed results on YCB-V [60] w.r.t. AUC of ADD-S and ADD(-S). As in [60], ADD-S uses the symmetric metric for all objects, while ADD(-S) only uses the symmetric metric for symmetric objects. P.E. means whether the method is trained with 1 pose estimator for the whole dataset or 1 per object (N objects in total). (∗) denotes symmetric objects and "-" denotes unavailable results.

| Method                  | PoseCNN [60] | PVNet [40] | GDR-Net (Ours) | DeepIM [27] | CosyPose [25] |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| w/o Refinement          |              |            |                |             |               |
| PoseCNN                 |              |            |                |             |               |
| PVNet                   |              |            |                |             |               |
| GDR-Net (Ours)          |              |            |                |             |               |
| DeepIM                  |              |            |                |             |               |
| CosyPose                |              |            |                |             |               |
| w/ Refinement           |              |            |                |             |               |
| PoseCNN                 |              |            |                |             |               |
| PVNet                   |              |            |                |             |               |
| GDR-Net (Ours)          |              |            |                |             |               |
| DeepIM                  |              |            |                |             |               |
| CosyPose                |              |            |                |             |               |

Table C.3: Results on LM-O and YCB-V under BOP [18] setup. The results for other methods are obtained from https://bop.felk.cvut.cz/leaderboards/. The time (s) is the average image processing time averaged over the datasets. Ref. stands for refinement. For each column, we denote the best score in bold and the second best score in italics.

the sake of fairness. We utilize the publicly available detections from FCOS [52] following CDPNv2 [28]. We can see that our GDR-Net significantly outperforms all other state-of-the-art methods without refinement. It is worth noting that most of these top-performing methods [38, 15, 28] rely on the indirect PnP/RANSAC solver, while ours directly regress the 6D object pose leveraging geometric guidance, which again demonstrates the effectiveness of our proposed learning-based Patch-PnP. Our GDR-Net even outperforms the state-of-the-art refinement-based method CosyPose [25] on LM-O. On YCB-V, ours is worse than CosyPose but far better than all other methods without refinement. Nevertheless, our method runs much faster than CosyPose as no refinement step is needed. Moreover, our method can be combined with an additional refiner such as CosyPose to achieve better results.
D. Qualitative Results

We demonstrated additional qualitative results for LM [13], LM-O [3], and YCB-V [60] in Fig. D.1, Fig. D.2 and Fig. D.3, respectively. Thereby, in Fig. D.1, we visualize the 6D pose by overlaying the image with the corresponding transformed 3D bounding box. In Fig. D.2 and Fig. D.3, we illustrate the estimated 6D poses by rendering the 3D models on top of the input image and highlighting the respective contours. Note that while Blue constitutes the ground-truth poses, we demonstrate in Green the predicted poses from GDR-Net. For better visualization we cropped the images and zoomed into the area of interest.

\[\text{https://github.com/LZGMatrix/BOP19_CDPN_2019ICCV}\]
Figure D.1: Qualitative Results on LM [13]. We visualize the 6D pose by overlaying the image with the corresponding transformed 3D bounding box. We demonstrate in Blue and Green the ground-truth pose and the predicted pose, respectively.
Figure D.2: **Qualitative Results on LM-O** [3]. For each image, we visualize the 6D poses by rendering the 3D models and overlaying the contours on the right. We demonstrate in *Blue* and *Green* the ground-truth pose and the predicted pose, respectively.
Figure D.3: **Qualitative Results on YCB-V [60]**. For each image, we visualize the 6D poses by rendering the 3D models and overlaying the contours on the right. We demonstrate in Blue and Green the ground-truth pose and the predicted pose, respectively.