Exploring scene representations for visual localization

Laura Leal-Taixé | CVPR | June 2024









Global Positioning System (GPS)















Applications

Indoor / Outdoor Navigation (GPS-unavailable /unreliable)



src:https://techcrunch.com/2018/08/09/blippar-is-usingar-to-help-customers-find-their-way-indoors/

src:<u>https://xrlabs.co/how-ar-vr-expe</u>riences-can-enhancetourism-experiences/



src:https://advanced-robotics.ch/robot-for-events/



src:https://mashable.com/video/aeolus-robot-cleans-vour-hou ses-serves-you-drinks-uses-vacuum



src:https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-05-31/ hello-and-welcome-robot-waiters-to-the-rescue-amid-virus

AR / VR (Require cm-mm accuracy)



<u>://blog.guidigo.com/bl</u> <u>-coming</u> -to-museums-this-fall-with-quidigo-ar-composer/

src: A mock-up of design app HoloStudio

src:https://insidernavigation.com/ar-indoor-navigation/

Autonomous Service Robots

src:Microsoft Hololens Project XRay Demo

Localization System

Query

Scene Map

 $\square >$

Method



Reference Images



Query Image



3D Point Cloud





Outputs



Localization System



Structure-based Localization





Storage Demand



Camera	٦D		Point Descriptors			
	Points	Images	SIFT	CAPS	SuperPoint	
15.73 MB	3.44 GB	157.84 GB	130.10 GB	520.38 GB	1.041 TB	



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[1] Francesco, Pittaluga, et al Revealing Scenes by Inverting Structure From Motion Reconstructions. CVPR19







[2] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al. "Privacy-preserving image features via adversarial affine subspace embeddings." CVPR21. [3] Ng, Tony, et al. "NinjaDesc: Content-Concealing Visual Descriptors via Adversarial Learning." CVPR22



Maintenance Complexity



[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21



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Geometric-based Matching



Geometric-based Matching



Scalable Large-scale Localization



Low Storage

Privacy

 $\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \bullet \end{array} \right)$

- Preserving
- No Descriptor Maintenance

Geometric-based matching and pose estimation





Geometric-based matching and pose estimation

Does not scale to real-world localization settings!



Geometric-based matching and pose estimation















Median Translation Error



Median Rotation Error (°)











Generalization: outdoor/indoor and keypoints

MegaDepth (Outdoor w.SIFT)









Rialto Bridge, Venice



Eiffel Tower, Paris



Central Park, NYC





Grand Canal, Venice Trafalga

Trafalgar Square, London





Colosseum, Rome

Generalization: outdoor/indoor and keypoints











Rialto Bridge, Venice



Eiffel Tower, Paris



Central Park, NYC





Grand Canal, Venice Trafalgar Square, London







Colosseum, Rome





7Scenes



Generalization: outdoor/indoor and keypoints



Comparison with SOTA – Cambridge Landmarks





Comparison with SOTA – Cambridge Landmarks





Comparison with SOTA – Cambridge Landmarks



Comparison with SOTA – 7 Scenes



~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Method	Storage (MB)	No Desc. Maint.	Privacy	King's College	Old Hospital Median Pose	Shop Facade Error (m, °)	St. Mary's Church (↓)
E2E	PoseNet [38] DSAC++ [6] MSPN [4]	200 828 -	\ \ \	\ \ \	1.92/5.40 0.18/0.30 1.73/3.65	2.31/5.38 0.20/0.30 2.55/4.05	1.46/8.08 0.06/0.30 2.92/7.49	2.65/8.48 0.13/0.40 2.67/6.18
	MS-Transformer [65]	71.1	1	1	0.83/1.47	1.81/2.39	0.86/3.07	1.62/3.99
VM	HybridSC [14] Active Search [58] HLoc [55](w.SP [22]) HLoc(w.SP+SG [56])	3.13 812.7 3214.84 3214.84	× × × ×	? X X X	0.81/0.59 0.42/0.55 0.16/0.38 <b>0.12/0.20</b>	0.75/1.01 0.44/1.01 0.33/1.04 <b>0.15/0.30</b>	0.19/0.54 0.12/0.40 0.07/0.54 <b>0.04/0.20</b>	0.50/0.49 0.19/0.54 0.16/0.54 <b>0.07/0.21</b>
GM	BPnPNet [11] GoMatch	$\begin{array}{c} 48.15\\ 48.15\end{array}$	<i>s</i>	<i>s</i>	26.73/106.99 0.25/0.64	24.8/162.99 2.83/8.14	7.53/107.17 0.48/4.77	11.11/49.74 3.35/9.94

5			•					
	Method	Storage (MB)	No Desc. Maint.	Privacy	King's College	Old Hospital Median Pose	Shop Facade Error (m, $^{\circ}$ )	St. Mary's Church (↓)
۲T	PoseNet [38]	200	1	1	1.92/5.40	2.31/5.38	1.46/8.08	2.65/8.48
321	DSAC++[6]	828	1	1	0.18/0.30	0.20/0.30	0.06/0.30	0.13/0.40
щ	MSPN [4]	-	1	1	1.73/3.65	2.55/4.05	2.92/7.49	2.67/6.18
***	MS-Transformer [65]	71.1	1	1	0.83/1.47	1.81/2.39	0.86/3.07	1.62/3.99
I	HybridSC [14]	3.13	X	?	0.81/0.59	0.75/1.01	0.19/0.54	0.50/0.49
N/	Active Search [58]	812.7	X	×	0.42/0.55	0.44/1.01	0.12/0.40	0.19/0.54
	HLoc [55](w.SP [22])	3214.84	×	×	0.16/0.38	0.33/1.04	0.07/0.54	0.16/0.54
01	HLoc(w.SP+SG [56])	3214.84	×	×	0.12/0.20	0.15/0.30	0.04/0.20	0.07/0.21
М	BPnPNet [11]	48.15	1	1	26.73/106.99	24.8/162.99	7.53/107.17	11.11/49.74
3	GoMatch	48.15	1	1	0.25/0.64	2.83/8.14	0.48/4.77	3.35/9.94

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M	HLoc(w.SP+SG[56])	3214.84	×	×	0.12/0.20	0.15/0.30	0.04/0.20	0.07/0.21
	BPnPNet [11]	48.15	1	1	26.73/106.99	24.8/162.99	7.53/107.17	11.11/49.74
C	GoMatch	48.15	1	1	0.25/0.64	2.83/8.14	0.48/4.77	3.35/9.94
# Compare to VM – Cambridge Landmarks

-		Method	Storage (MB)	No Desc. Maint.	Privacy	King's College	Old Hospital Median Pose	Shop Facade Error (m, °)	St. Mary's Church (↓)
	2E	PoseNet $[38]$ DSAC++ $[6]$	$200 \\ 828$	<i>s</i>	1	1.92/5.40 0.18/0.30	2.31/5.38 0.20/0.30	1.46/8.08 0.06/0.30	2.65/8.48 0.13/0.40
	Ш	MSPN [4] MS-Transformer [65]	- 71.1		1	1.73/3.65 0.83/1.47	2.55/4.05 1.81/2.39	2.92/7.49 0.86/3.07	2.67/6.18 1.62/3.99
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# Conclusions

• Geometric localization is possible and (somewhat) SOTA





• Opens a new door for new work in privacy-aware, scalable localization

DGC-GNN: Leveraging Geometry and Color Cues for Visual Descriptor-Free 2D-3D Matching (CVPR24):

- adding sparse color information
- global-to-local GNN for matching
- => significantly boost performance



# Localization System

Query

### Scene Map

 $\square$ 

Method



Reference Images



Query Image



**Descriptor-free** Point Cloud

GoMatch



#### Outputs





## Even more compact scene representation ?

# Localization System

Query

## 

Scene Map





Query Image







 $\square$ 







#### Outputs



## Introduction







Query Image







Query Image





















Metrics	Pt3D	Pe3D	$f^1$	$f^2$	$f^3$	$f^4$	$f^5$	$f^6$	$f^7$
Med. Translation $(cm,\downarrow)$	432.3	25.5	22.9	23.3	21.8	22.3	23.5	24.1	40.9
Med. Rotation $(^{\circ}, \downarrow)$	6.5	0.6	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0.5	<b>0.5</b>	0.5	<b>0.5</b>	1.0
Localize Recall. $(\%, \uparrow)$	2.1	60.1	64.8	64.2	65.8	64.1	63.3	62.1	43.2





Compared to other ways of using NeRF:

- Training Augmentation: DFNet, LENS
- Test-time refinement: NeFes
- Joint NeRF and matching training: CrossFire, NeRFLoc (requires depth image input)

Cambridge Landmarks - Rotation Error (°)







on outdoor scenes.



for NeRF training.



0.6 0.4 0.2 0.0 -HOC mloc





#### Indoor performance bottleneck vs SOTA

#### Indoor performance bottleneck vs SOTA

- Not good yet at **filtering** inaccurate matches, which has a large effect on small scenes.
- Better **scaling** to large-outdoor scene compared to regression-based methods.

Method	Scene	7-Scenes - SfM Poses - Indo						loor		
	Repres.	Chess	Fire	Heads	Office	Pump.	Kitchen	Stairs	Avg.Med↓	Avg.Recall↑.
MS-Trans. [53]	APR Net.	11/6.4	23/11.5	13/13	18/8.1	17/8.4	16/8.9	29/10.3	18.1/9.5	-
DFNet [17]	APR Net.	3/1.1	6/2.3	4/2.3	6/1.5	7/1.9	7/1.7	12/2.6	6.4/1.9	-
NeFeS [16]	APR+NeRF	2/0.8	2/0.8	2/1.4	2/0.6	2/0.6	2/0.6	5/1.3	2.4/0.9	-
DSAC* [10]	SCR Net.	0.5/0.2	0.8/0.3	0.5/0.3	1.2/0.3	1.2/0.3	0.7/0.2	2.7/0.8	1.1/0.3	97.8
ACE [6]	SCR Net.	0.7/0.5	0.6/0.9	$0.5/\ 0.5$	1.2/0.5	1.1/0.2	0.9/0.5	2.8/1.0	1.1/0.6	97.1
DVLAD+R2D2 [45,60]	3D+RGB	0.4/0.1	0.5/0.2	0.4/0.2	0.7/0.2	0.6/0.1	0.4/0.1	2.4/0.7	0.8/0.2	95.7
HLoc [48]	3D+RGB	0.8/ <b>0.1</b>	0.9/ <b>0.2</b>	0.6/0.3	1.2/ <b>0.2</b>	1.4/0.2	1.1/ <b>0.1</b>	2.9/0.8	1.3/0.3	95.7
NeRFMatch-Mini	NeRF+RGB	1.4/0.5	1.7/1.0	2.1/0.7	4.4/1.0	4.7/1.0	2.2/0.5	8.8/2.1	3.6/0.9	67.9
NeRFMatch	NeRF+RGB	0.9/0.3	1.3/0.4	1.6/1.0	3.2/0.7	3.3/0.7	1.3/0.3	7.5/1.3	2.7/0.7	75.3
NeRFMatch	$\operatorname{NeRF}$	0.9/0.3	1.3/0.4	1.6/1.0	3.3/0.7	3.2/0.6	1.3/0.3	7.2/1.3	2.7/0.7	75.4

**Depth inaccuracies**: NeRF predicted depth maps are used to compute pseudo ground-truth for matching supervision. Incorrect depth predictions can lead to misaligned feature correspondences. In contrast, image matching, SCR, and APR methods use more accurate labels like Colmap camera poses or 3D maps.

## Conclusions

• Geometric localization is possible and (somewhat) SOTA





Initial steps towards NeRF as the primary representation for visual localization





# Camera Pose Orientation Position (x, y, z) R



# Questions?

https://research.nvidia.com/labs/dvl/

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# Things that did not make the cut (yet?)







## Sérgio Agostinho



Aljoša Ošep





#### Laura Leal-Taixé











# Practical Challenges



Storage Demand



MegaDepth (192 scenes)

Cameras

**3D Points** 

Images

Storage	Desc Type	Data Type	Storage	
15.73 MB SIFT		Uint8	133.33 GB	
3.44 GB	CAPS	FP32	523.83 GB	
157.84 GB	SuperPoint	FP32	1.044 TB	

# Practical Challenges



Storage	Desc Type	Data Type	Storage	
15.73 MB	SIFT	Uint8	133.33 GB	
3.44 GB	CAPS	FP32	523.83 GB	
157.84 GB	SuperPoint	FP32	1.044 TB	

# Compare to E2E – Cambridge Landmarks









## Descriptor Maintenance

## Privacy Preserving



# Geometric-based matching and pose estimation

#### SoftPOSIT [1]

- Alternate step: softassign + POSIT
- Requires initialization
- Struggles with clutter, occlusions, repetitive patterns.
- Efficient



#### GOPAC [3]

- Globally optimal solution using Branch-and-Bound
- Prohibitive runtime requirements
- Cannot scale to large problems



[1] David, Philip, et al. "SoftPOSIT: Simultaneous pose and correspondence determination." IJCV 2004

[2] Moreno-Noguer, Francesc et al. "Pose priors for simultaneously solving alignment and correspondence." ECCV 2008
[3] Campbell, Dylan, et al. "Globally-optimal inlier set maximisation for camera pose and correspondence estimation." PAMI 2018
[4] Campbell, Dylan, et al. "Solving the blind perspective-n-point problem end-to-end with robust differentiable geometric optimization." ECCV 2020.



#### BPnPNet [4]

- Learning-based geometric matching network
- Declarative layers to back propagate through Sinkhorn, RANSAC and the PnP solver.
- Performance substantially degraded with outliers.



## Geometric-Only Methods





Liu Liu, et al. "Learning 2d-3d correspondences to solve the blind perspective-n-point problem." arXiv20

Dylan Campbell, Liu Liu, and Stephen Gould. "Solving the blind perspective-n-point problem end-to-end with robust differentiable geometric optimization." ECCV20

# Outdoor Scene – Cambridge Landmarks









# Practical Challenges



itorage	Desc Type	Data Type	Storage	
5.73 MB	SIFT	Uint8	133.33 GB	
3.44 GB	CAPS	FP32	523.83 GB	
57.84 GB	SuperPoint	FP32	1.044 TB	






[2] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al. "Privacy-preserving image features via adversarial affine subspace embeddings." CVPR21. [3] Ng, Tony, et al. "NinjaDesc: Content-Concealing Visual Descriptors via Adversarial Learning." CVPR22



Maintenance Complexity



[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21

#### Visual Localization









#### GoMatch Step-by-Step





#### Introduction















#### Motivation



Camera Pose Regression (PoseNet, MapNet, ...)

Scene Coordinate Regression (DSAC, DSAC++, ...)

Structure-based Localization (HLoc, ActiveSearch, ...)

#### Visual Localization Approaches



# GoMatch



Query Image



Privacy

#### Localization Performance

- **Storage Requirements**
- No Descriptor Maintenance

## Significantly Lower Storage Requirements



1.5% vs visual descriptors



#### Structure-based Approaches



T. Sattler, B. Leibe, and L. Kobbelt. Efficient & Effective Prioritized Matching for Large-Scale Image-Based Localization. PAMI2017





## End-to-end Learned Localization

Sattler, Torsten, Qunjie Zhou, Marc Pollefeys, and Laura Leal-Taixé. "Understanding the limitations of cnn-based absolute camera pose regression." CVPR19.





Scene Coordinate Regression (DSAC, DSAC++, ...)

Camera Pose Regression (PoseNet, MapNet, ...)

Relative Pose Estimation (EssNet, CamNet, ...)

#### Storage Requirements





Maintenance Complexity









[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21







#### Existing Solutions







[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21



[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21



### Maintenance Effort



[1] Dusmanu, Mihai, et al.. Cross-descriptor visual localization and mapping. ICCV21

#### **Descriptor Maintenance**

## Geometric-based matching and pose estimation



#### GOPAC [3]

- Globally optimal solution using Branch-and-Bound
- Prohibitive runtime _ requirements
- Cannot scale to large problems _

#### SoftPOSIT [1]

- Alternate step: softassign + POSIT
- Requires initialization
- Struggles with clutter, occlusions, repetitive patterns.
- Efficient

#### Bind PnP [2]

- Kalman-Filter to maintain correspondence hypotheses.
- Requires initialization of GMM pose priors
- Better handling of occlusion, _ clutter and repetitive patterns



[1] David, Philip, et al. "SoftPOSIT: Simultaneous pose and correspondence determination." IJCV 2004 [2] Moreno-Noquer, Francesc et al. "Pose priors for simultaneously solving alignment and correspondence." ECCV 2008 [3] Campbell, Dylan, et al. "Globally-optimal inlier set maximisation for camera pose and correspondence estimation." PAMI 2018 [4] Campbell, Dylan, et al. "Solving the blind perspective-n-point problem end-to-end with robust differentiable geometric optimization." ECCV 2020.

## Geometric-based matching and pose estimation

#### SoftPOSIT [1]

- Iterative softassign
- POSIT
- Requires initialization







pose and correspondence determination." IJCV

#### Geometric-based matching



Existing work

#### With 2D–3D correspondences:

- Perspective-n-Point (PnP)
  - Gao et al. 2003; Lepetit et al. 2009
  - + RANSAC [Fischler & Bolles 1981]
  - + global optimisation [Li 2009]
  - + neural network [Dang et al. 2018]
- Sparse feature pipelines
  - Svärm et al. 2016; Sattler et al. 2017; Cavallari et al. 2017, 2019; Schönberger et al. 2018; Taira et al. 2018

#### Without 2D–3D correspondences:

- Learning-based camera pose
  - 2017, 2018, 2020 (DSAC)
- Optimization-based camera pose
  - Local: David et al. 2004 (SoftPOSIT);
  - Global: Grimson 1990; Jurie 1999;

• Kendall et al. 2015–2017; Cai et al. 2018; Brahmbhatt et al. 2018; Radwan et al. 2018; Walch et al. 2017; Brachmann et al.

Moreno-Noguer et al. 2008 (BlindPnP)

Brown et al. 2015; Campbell et al. 2019

#### Geometric-Only Methods



Campbell, Dylan, Lars Petersson, Laurent Kneip, Hongdong Li, and Stephen Gould. The alignment of the spheres: Globally-optimal spherical mixture alignment for camera pose estimation. CVPR 2019.



# Visual Localization



Query





Query





Keypoint Detection









Query





Keypoint Detection



Visual Descriptor







Point Cloud Descriptor







()





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 $\bigcirc$ 


# Visual Localization







https://blog.helpdocs.io/guidigo/



[Middelberg, Sattler, Untzelmann, Kobbelt, Scalable 6-DOF Localization on Mobile Devices, ECCV 2014]

### Storage Requirements



Privacy	Database Storage (GB, $\downarrow$ )				
	Cameras (MB)	3D	Raw Imgs	Descs	Total
X	15.73	3.44	×	130.10 (uint8)	133.33
X	15.73	3.44	×	520.38 (fp32)	523.83
X	15.73	3.44	×	1040.76 (fp32)	1044.21
×	15.73	3.44	157.84	×	161.29
\$ \$	15.73	3.44	×	×	3.45



# Privacy Challenge



Francesco, Pittaluga, et al Revealing Scenes by Inverting Structure From Motion Reconstructions. CVPR19



### Man-in-the-middle Attack



# Privacy Challenge



Francesco Pittaluga, Sanjeev J.Koppal, Sing Bing Kang, and Sudipta N Sinha. Revealing Scenes by Inverting Structure From Motion Reconstructions. CVPR19



### Man-in-the-middle Attack



# Privacy Challenge



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Ng, Tony, et al. "NinjaDesc: Content-Concealing Visual Descriptors via Adversarial Learning." CVPR22



(attack)

NinjaDesc

### NinjaDesc



#### SOSNet



#### NinjaDesc matches





### Generalization











**Grand Canal**, Venice

Trafalgar Square, London

Colosseum, Rome

# Evaluation

### MegaDepth (Outdoor w.SIFT)





### **BPnPNet**

