Exploiting Bias for Scene Recovery

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Figure 1. Sample results of our algorithm on examples from four different classes of CULane dataset [33] are shown here. Cyan lines are the detected lane boundaries, green region represents the ego lane and magenta line displays the estimated horizon. In the No Line class, there is actually no line markings on the road but the ground truth carries the lines shown.
Goal: Road Layout Map

- With minimal/no labelling
- In nasty geometries

Figure 1: Our goal is to infer the layout of complex driving scenes from a single camera. Given a perspective image (top left) that captures a 3D scene, we predict a rich and interpretable scene description (bottom right), which represents the scene in an occlusion-reasoned semantic top-view.

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Road layout maps

• **A prediction of the layout of the main scene in front**
  • distinguish between
    • transients (cars, pedestrians, etc)
    • and persistent (road, walkways, bicycle lanes, buildings)
  • including
    • intersections
    • lane boundaries

• **Potential cues**
  • streetview
  • openmaps
  • layout is stylized
  • persistent categories have coherent (but variable) appearance
  • scene flow/photometric consistency
Road layout map

Fig. 1: 3D Intersection Understanding. Our system makes use of monocular (left) and stereo (middle) feature cues to infer the road layout and the location of traffic participants in the scene (right) from short video sequences. The observer is depicted in black.

Geiger et al
Cues

• Incidental data
  • streetview+openmaps

• layout is stylized

• persistent categories have coherent appearance

• scene flow/photometric consistency
Fig. 3. Intersection detection heatmap. Images are cropped from test set GSV panoramas in the direction of travel indicated by the black arrow. The probabilities of “approaching” an intersection output by the trained ConvNet are overlaid on the road. (The images are from the ground level road, not the bridge.)
Labelling - I

• Match panoramas to roads
  • panorama center location, orientation is known
  • (essentially) project to plane
  • thresholded nearest neighbor to road center polyline
    • thresholding removes panoramas inside buildings, etc.
  • some noise
    • under bridges, etc.

• Annotations
  • Intersections
  • Drivable heading
  • Heading angle
  • Bike lane
  • Speed limit, wrong way, etc.
Fig. 4. Distance to intersection estimation. For images within 30 m of true intersections, our model is trained to estimate the distance from the host car to the center of the intersection across a variety of road types.
Cues

- Incidental data
  - streetview + openmaps

- layout is stylized

- persistent categories have coherent appearance

- scene flow / photometric consistency
TODO

- layered depth images?
- support reasoning?
- adversarial losses
Figure 2: Our scene model consists of several parameters that capture a variety of complex driving scenes. (Left) We illustrate the model and highlight important parameters (A-I), which are grouped into three categories (middle): Lanes, to describe the layout of a single road; Topology, to model various road topologies; Walkable, describing scene elements for pedestrians. Our model is defined as a directed acyclic graph enabling efficient sampling and is represented in the top-view, making rendering easy. These properties turn our model into a simulator of semantic top-views. (Right) We show rendered examples for each of the above groups. A complete list of scene parameters and the corresponding graphical model is given in the supplementary.
**Figure 3: Overview of our proposed framework:** At train-time, our framework makes use of both manual annotation for real data (blue) and automated annotation for simulated data (red), see Sec. 3.2. The feature extractors $g$ convert semantic top views from either domain into a common representation which is input to $h$. An adversarial loss (orange) encourages a domain-agnostic output of $g$. At test-time, an RGB image in the perspective view is first transformed into a semantic top-view [23], which is then used by our proposed neural network (see Sec. 3.3), $h \circ g$, to infer our scene model (see Sec. 3.1). The graphical model defined in Sec. 3.4 ensures a coherent final output.

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Birds eye view

- We want
  - overhead view of semantically labelled image
  - completed

\[ (u, v) = (-s/t, -h/t) \]
\[ (s, t, -h) \]
\[ \text{horizon (v=0)} \]
\[ \text{Plane } z=-h \]
Fig. 1: Given a single RGB image of a typical street scene (left), our approach creates an **occlusion-reasoned semantic map of the scene layout in the bird’s eye view**. We present a CNN that can hallucinate depth and semantics in areas occluded by foreground objects (marked in red and obtained via standard semantic segmentation), which gives an initial but noisy and incomplete estimate of the scene layout (middle). To fill in unobserved areas in the top-view, we further propose a refinement-CNN that induces learning strong priors from simulated and OpenStreetMap data (right), which comes at no additional annotation costs.
Fig. 2: (a) The *inpainting CNN* first encodes a masked image and the mask itself. The extracted features are concatenated and two decoders predict semantics and depth for visible and occluded pixels. (b) To train the inpainting CNN we ignore foreground objects as no ground truth is available (red) but we *artificially add masks (green)* over background regions where full annotation is already available.

Notice: we inpaint labels and depth, NOT the image

Notice: depth is inferred from the image

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Fig. 6: Qualitative example of our hallucination CNN: Semantics and depth without (left) and with (right) hallucination.
Birds eye view from depth + labels

Fig. 3: The process of mapping the semantic segmentation with corresponding depth first into a 3D point cloud and then into the bird’s eye view. The red and blue circles illustrate corresponding locations in all views.
Refining birds eye predictions

Fig. 4: (a) Simulated road shapes in the top-view. (b) The refinement-CNN is an encoder-decoder network receiving three supervisory signals: self-reconstruction with the input, adversarial loss from simulated data, and reconstruction loss with aligned OpenStreetMap (OSM) data. (c) The alignment-CNN takes as input the initial BEV map and a crop of OSM data (via noisy GPS and yaw estimate given). The CNN predicts a warp for the OSM map and is trained to minimize the reconstruction loss with the initial BEV map.

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Fig. 5: (a) We use a composition of similarity transform (left, “box”) and a non-parametric warp (right, “flow”) to align noisy OSM with image evidence. (b, top) Input image and the corresponding $B^{\text{init}}$. (b, bottom) Resulting warping grid overlaid on the OSM map and the warping result for 4 different warping functions, respectively: “box”, “flow”, “box+flow”, “box+flow (with regularization)”. Note the importance of composing the transformations and the induced regularization.

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Fig. 8: **Examples of our BEV representation.** Each one shows the masked RGB input, the hallucinated semantics and depth, as well as three BEV maps, which are (from left to right), The BEV map without hallucination, with hallucination, and after refinement. The last example depicts a failure case.
The impact of the hallucination - CNN

The impact of induced priors from the learned refinement CNN
Good + bad

• Birds eye view is a good idea
  • right place to compare labels with models
• Label inpainting is good idea
  • but why in image?
  • the warping, registration seem to help A LOT with this
• It’s clear that warping, registration, adversary are helpful
  • adversary isn’t that helpful - why?
• If you’re going to warp OSM, why not use result of warp?
• Depth inference is a dubious idea
  • Why not use ground plane estimate?
  • and homography?
Figure 3: **Overview of our proposed framework:** At train-time, our framework makes use of both manual annotation for real data (blue) and automated annotation for simulated data (red), see Sec. 3.2. The feature extractors $g$ convert semantic top views from either domain into a common representation which is input to $h$. An adversarial loss (orange) encourages a domain-agnostic output of $g$. At test-time, an RGB image in the perspective view is first transformed into a semantic top-view [23], which is then used by our proposed neural network (see Sec. 3.3), $h \circ g$, to infer our scene model (see Sec. 3.1). The graphical model defined in Sec. 3.4 ensures a coherent final output.

Wang 19
Figure 4: Unpaired examples of simulated semantic top-views (top) and real ones from [23] (bottom).
Q: what does this apply to
   • I *think* predicted labels on “ground plane”
     • but what is discretization?
Figure 6: Qualitative results of H-BEV+DA+GM on individual frames from KITTI. Each example shows perspective RGB, ground truth and predicted semantic top-view, respectively. Our representation is rich enough to cover various road layouts and handles complex scenarios, e.g., rotation, existence of crosswalks, sidewalks, side-roads and curved roads.
Figure 7: Qualitative results comparing H-BEV+DA and H-BEV+DA+GM in consecutive frames of two example sequences of the KITTI validation set. In each column, we have visualized the perspective RGB image, prediction from H-BEV+DA and that of H-BEV+DA+GM from left to right. Each row shows a sequence of three frames. We can observe more consistent predictions, e.g., width of side-road and delimiter width, with the help of the temporal CRF.
Good + bad

- It’s clear that label fields are highly structured
  - but BEV construction is weird
- This structure is very important and valuable
  - Q: can we exploit without OSM, Streetview, etc.?
Scene Flow and Ways to Infer It

- particularly photometric consistency
  - a version of this applies to scene inference
Recall optical flow gives information about movement.
Recall optical flow gives information about movement AND depth
Scene Flow

• Mark \((x, y, z)\) AND \((v_x, v_y, v_z)\) at every image point
  • From pair of (image+depth) or (stereo pair) or (lidar) or even (image)
• Rigid scene
  • Easy for stereo pair/image+depth pair:
    • \((v_x, v_y, v_z)\) follow from depth and camera ego-motion
  • Much harder for image pair
    • depth, scene flow ambiguity

• BUT assume there are moving objects
Depth/flow ambiguity

- Notice there are no problems if you know depth

Figure 2. Relating monocular scene flow estimation to optical flow: (a) Projection of scene flow into the image plane yields optical flow [59]. (b) Back-projection of optical flow leaves an ambiguity in jointly determining depth and scene flow.

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Harder when there are moving objects…

- Registering the depths (say) doesn’t work
- Need to know which pixels are moving rigidly together
- Much more important case
  - Think cars
  - Time to contact
Fun fact about vision

Focal point

focal length = f

distance = D

Fun fact: time to contact = \( \frac{x}{(dx/dt)} \)
TTC - Long
TTC - AAARGH!
Typical scene flows

Figure 1: Scene Flow Results on the proposed Dataset. Top-to-bottom: Estimated moving objects with background object in transparent, flow results and flow ground truth.

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Estimation strategies - I

- RGB-D image pairs
  - segment
  - estimate correspondence using RGB
  - get $v_x, v_y, v_z$ using D

- RGB stereo pairs
  - segment
  - estimate depth using stereo
  - as above

- LIDAR
  - segment; use registration from early lectures (with tricks, following slides)
  - get $v_x, v_y, v_z$
Estimation strategies -II

- Single image pairs
  - use single image depth predictor, proceed as above
  - use labelled scene flow images, predict w/net

- LIDAR - II
  - train a network to estimate from pairs with known scene flows
Estimation for stereo

- Break into superpixels
- Each gets depth, flow
- Use this to predict appearance in other views
- This gives massive CRF
  - pile in and solve

Figure 2: Data Term. Each superpixel $i$ in the reference view is modeled as a rigidly moving 3D plane and warped into each other image to calculate matching costs. Each of the superpixels is associated with a 3D plane variable and a pointer to an object hypothesis comprising its rigid motion.

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Lagniappe: Scene flow in LIDAR

- Learn without labelled data
- ICP isn’t quite enough
  - objects might contract, for example
  - use a cycle consistency loss
    - $f_{ab} = 3Da -> 3Db$
    - we must have $f_{ba}(f_{ab}(x)) = x$
  - trick:
    - as stated, this is unstable
    - instead, $f_{ba}(0.5 f_{ab}(x) + 0.5 \text{NN}(f_{ab}(x)))$ close to $x$
    - this also avoids problems with zero flow
Figure 4: Scene flow estimation between point clouds at time $t$ (red) and $t+1$ (green) from the KITTI dataset trained without any labeled LIDAR data. Predictions from our self-supervised method, trained on nuScenes and fine-tuned on KITTI using self-supervised learning is shown in blue; the baseline with only synthetic training is shown in purple. In the absence of real-world supervised training, our method clearly outperforms the baseline method, which overestimate the flow in many regions. (Best viewed in color)
Figure 5: Comparison of our self-supervised method to a baseline trained only on synthetic data, shown on the nuScenes dataset. Scene flow is computed between point clouds at time $t$ (red) and $t + 1$ (green); the point cloud that is transformed using the estimated flow is shown in blue. In our method, the predicted point cloud has a much better overlap with the point cloud of the next timestamp (green) compared to the baseline. Since nuScenes dataset does not provide any scene flow annotation, the supervised approaches cannot be fine-tuned to this environment.
Scene flow in single images

- Predict depth from single image
  - using network which makes mixture of normals in depth at location
  - trained using existing image-depth data

- Break image into superpixels
  - each is a plane section that moves rigidly
    - to infer: plane params, motion params (9 total per superpixel)

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Scene flow in single images

- CRF
  - unary losses:
    - plane section motion should predict next frame pixel values well
    - plane section should model predicted depth well
  - binary losses:
    - plane sections should have compatible depths on boundary
    - normals of neighbors should be similar

Figure 8. Exemplary qualitative result of Mono-SF on a crop of Cityscapes (removing car hood); left: first input image, middle: estimated depth values at time $t = 0$ (left half) and $t = 1$ (right half), right: estimated optical flow
Scene flow in single images

- Straightforward network prediction of scene flow
  - depth ambiguity?
  - semantics, etc. resolve
  - *train* with stereo pairs
- cues
  - single image depth cues (texture)
  - photometric consistency
  - optic flow

Figure 1. Results of our monocular scene flow approach on the KITTI dataset [11]. Given two consecutive images (left), our method jointly predicts depth (middle) and scene flow (right). $(x,z)$-coordinates of 3D scene flow are visualized using an optical flow color coding.
Scene flow in single images

Figure 1. Results of our monocular scene flow approach on the KITTI dataset [11]. Given two consecutive images (left), our method jointly predicts depth (middle) and scene flow (right). $(x,z)$-coordinates of 3D scene flow are visualized using an optical flow color coding.

- Cute trick - this can be self-supervised
- Training time:
  - stereo images
- Test time
  - real images

Hur 20
Computing a loss for self supervision

Depth+motion+ego-motion cue

- Each point in L gets
  - depth, flow
- Use depth to predict
  - appearance in R
- Use depth+flow to predict
  - appearance in t+1 L, R
  - 3D location in t+1 L
    - compare with depth
- This gives loss
- Train to minimize

Figure 2: **Data Term.** Each superpixel $i$ in the reference view is modeled as a rigidly moving 3D plane and warped into each other image to calculate matching costs. Each of the superpixels is associated with a 3D plane variable and a pointer to an object hypothesis comprising its rigid motion.

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Training losses

- Disparity predictions should be good
  - train with stereo pairs for this
  - disparity should predict color in other frame (in training)
  - disparity should be smooth

- Photometric consistency
  - scene flow should predict pixel values in next frame

- Point consistency
  - scene flow should predict depth in next frame

- Smoothness
  - scene flow at a point should be similar to neighbors
Figure 5. Qualitative results of our monocular scene flow results (Self-Mono-SF-ft) on KITTI 2015 Scene Flow Test: each scene shows (a) two input images, (b) monocular depth, (c) optical flow, and (d) a 3D visualization of estimated depth, overlayed with the reference image, and colored with the $(x, z)$-coordinates of the 3D scene flow using the standard optical flow color coding.
Motion in depth

Image plane

Focal point

\[ x = \frac{fX}{d} \]
Motion in depth

• Now imagine object moves IN DEPTH
  • so $d'$, $x'$
• We get
  \[ x' = \frac{fX}{d'} \]
  \[ s = \frac{x}{x'} = \frac{d'}{d} \]
  \[ x = \frac{fX}{d} \]

• this is important, because
  \[ d(s - 1) = d' - d \propto v_z \]
• and we can estimate $d$
Scene flow from MiD

- Train optic expansion network
  - optic expansion=1/s
  - using existing scene flow training data
- Then attach to optic flow, cleanup

Figure 5. Network architecture for estimating normalized scene flow. 1) Given two consecutive images, we first predict dense optical flow fields using an existing flow network. 2) Then we estimate the initial optical expansion with a local affine transform layer, which is refined by a U-Net architecture taking affine fitting error and image appearance features as guidance [24]. 3) To correct for errors from the scaled-orthographic projection and rotation assumptions, we predict the difference between optical expansion and motion-in-depth with another U-Net. Finally, a dense normalized scene flow field is computed using Eq. 2 by combining (u, v, τ) with camera intrinsics K.
Learning to predict SF from point clouds

• Point clouds
  • Eg LiDAR
  • problem:
    • given point cloud at t, t+1
      • place a 3D motion vector on each point in t
  • hard, because:
    • there may be no corresponding point in t+1
    • representing a point cloud is hard

• Strategy:
  • don’t need corresponding points - use segments
  • use pointnet features
Pointnet - a neat trick

• Required: learned feature representation of a point cloud
• Difficulty: point cloud has no order
  • you can get the same point cloud in a different order
  • could impose order, but…
• Permutation invariants:
  • the basis for permutation invariants are the symmetric functions
    • mostly, a nuisance to work with
• Idea:
  • for any point cloud of n points in d dimensions,

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\max(x_{1,1}, x_{2,1}, \ldots, x_{n,1}) \\
\ldots \\
\max(x_{1,d}, x_{2,d}, \ldots, x_{n,d})
\end{bmatrix}
\]

is permutation invariant
Pointnet - a neat trick - II

- So:
  - embed points in high dimension (K)
  - compute this pooling
  - now compute embedding of this feature vector
  - the resulting object is permutation invariant
    - and “general”
      - assume
        - f(S) continuous in Hausdorff distance on point sets
          - Hausdorff distance on point sets = max dist to nearest neighbor
        - choose eps, and K big enough
        - then there is some g(S) of this form s.t. |f(S) - g(S)| < eps
Figure 3: FlowNet3D architecture. Given two frames of point clouds, the network learns to predict the scene flow as translational motion vectors for each point of the first frame. See Fig. 2 for illustrations of the layers and Sec. 4.4 for more details on the network architecture.
Figure 6: Partial scan registration of two chair scans. The goal is to register point cloud 1 (red) to point cloud 2 (green). The transformed point cloud 1 is in blue. We show a case where ICP fails to align the chair while our method grounded by dense scene flow succeeds.
Figure 7: Motion segmentation of a Lidar point cloud. 

*Left:* Lidar points and estimated scene flow in colored quiver vectors. 

*Right:* motion segmented objects and regions.
How do we deal with relief?

- Surely some form of height field
  - estimated by consistency
  - changing slowly
- Horizon estimation gets complicated in tilted planes
  - you might get distracted by distant horizon
  - Local horizon estimator has problems
Nasty geometries

• Single image depth prediction likely doesn’t work here
  • weird relief and dip in road
• Ground plane estimates likely don’t work here either
Estimating the camera

- **Height**
  - from car (calibrated and known)

- **Roll and pitch**
  - from horizon
    - roll is why horizon isn’t parallel to image plane
    - pitch is why it isn’t centerline

\[ (u, v) = (-s/t, -h/t) \]
\[ (s, t, -h) \]

Plane \( z = -h \)
Sources of variation in the label map

- Foreshortening
- Wrong ground plane estimate
Sources of variation in the label map

- Torsion
Horizon estimation

- Khan et al - vanishing points from road lines + fudge
- Workman et al - mark up dataset, classify

Figure 5: Example results showing the estimated distribution over horizon lines. For each image, the ground truth horizon line (dash green) and the predicted horizon line (magenta) are shown. A false-color overlay (red = more likely, transparent = less likely) shows the estimated distribution over the point on the horizon line closest to the image center.
Horizons

- Horizon estimation gets complicated in tilted planes
  - you might get distracted by distant horizon (picture)
Horizons

- Horizon estimation gets complicated in tilted planes
  - local cues are a problem
What to do?

- (Likely)
  - build sources of variance into simulated label fields
  - work on best available ground plane
    - (possibly) estimate several planes to rectify label fields
  - train without labelled images, as above
    - note this is a clusterer
• Straightforward consistency losses are very powerful
• Minimal use of labelled data
  • (augmentation by stereo pairs, but no labelling)
• Some form of photometric consistency loss for labels
  • eg
    • predict layout map 1
    • move forward
    • predict layout map 2
    • they should register
    • things that have the same label (tar, paint, junction, etc.)
      • should look similar
Appearance Consistency and Clustering

- Map image into some feature space so that
  - patches that “look similar” are “close”
  - without markup
- Why?
  - because doing so would help produce a layout map eg
    - attach labels to clusters using current maps
    - improve maps using labels
Deep Embedding Clustering

- Compute embedding that
  - autoencodes
  - clusters well

*Figure 1. Network structure*

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Clustering

- Cluster centers $\mu_j$ must be estimated
  - form membership weights as in TSNE (alpha=1) ->

- We want these weights to match a target distribution
  - $p_{ij}$=target for j’th cluster on i’th point
  - KL divergence (as in TSNE)

Following van der Maaten & Hinton (2008) we use the Student’s $t$-distribution as a kernel to measure the similarity between embedded point $z_i$ and centroid $\mu_j$:

$$q_{ij} = \frac{(1 + \|z_i - \mu_j\|^2 / \alpha)^{-\frac{\alpha+1}{2}}}{\sum_j (1 + \|z_i - \mu_j\|^2 / \alpha)^{-\frac{\alpha+1}{2}}}.$$ (1)

$$L = KL(P\|Q) = \sum_i \sum_j p_{ij} \log \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}.$$ (2)
But what are $p$?

- notice we have some form of reestimation going on here

After that, just descend

- note autoencoder initialization would probably be done differently now

In our experiments, we compute $p_i$ by first raising $q_i$ to the second power and then normalizing by frequency per cluster:

$$p_{ij} = \frac{q_{ij}^2 / f_j}{\sum_{j'} q_{ij'}^2 / f_{j'}},$$

where $f_j = \sum_i q_{ij}$ are soft cluster frequencies. Please refer to section 5.1 for discussions on empirical properties of $L$ and $P$. 
Clustering

(a) Epoch 0
(b) Epoch 3
(c) Epoch 6
(d) Epoch 9
(e) Epoch 12
(f) Accuracy vs. epochs

Xie et al 15
Figure 4. Gradient visualization at the start of KL divergence minimization. This plot shows the magnitude of the gradient of the loss $L$ vs. the cluster soft assignment probability $q_{ij}$. See text for discussion.
Figure 3. Each row contains the top 10 scoring elements from one cluster.
Attribute discovery

• We have:
  • a set of images labelled with class, but not attribute
  • a feature construction (now very old fashioned)

• We want:
  • to associate each image with a bit vector
    • attribute present/absent
  • where
    • bits are “easily predicted”
    • bits are “informative”
    • bit vectors within a category cluster
Fig. 1. Each bit in the code can be thought of as a hyperplane in the feature space. We learn arrangements of hyperplanes in a way that the resulting bit codes are discriminative and also all hyperplanes can be reliably predicted (enough margin). For example, the red hyperplanes (II,V) are not desirable because II is not informative (discriminative) and IV is not predictable (no margin). Our method allows the green hyperplanes (good ones) to sacrifice discrimination for predictability and vice versa. For example, our method allows the green hyperplane (I) to go through the triangle class because it has strong evidence that some of the triangles are very similar to circles.
**Fig. 6.** This figure qualitatively compares the quality of retrieved images by our method comparing to that of ITQ and SpH. Each row corresponds to the top five images returned by three different methods: ours, ITQ and spectral hashing. This retrieval is done by first projecting the query image to the space of binary codes and then running KNN in that space. Notice how, even with relatively short codes (32 bits), our method recovers relevant objects. This means that the discriminative training of the code has forced our code learning to focus on distinctive shared properties of categories. Our method consistently become more accurate as we increase the code size.
Fig. 8. Discovering attributes: Each bit corresponds to a hyperplane that groups the data according to unknown notions of similarity. It is interesting to show what our bits have discovered. On two sides of the black bar we show 8 most confident images for 5 different hyperplanes/bits (Each row). Note that one can easily provide names for these attributes. For example, the bottom row corresponds to all round objects versus objects with straight vertical lines. The top row has silvery, metallic and boxy objects on one side and natural images on the other side, the second row has water animals versus objects with checkerboard patterns. Discovered attributes are in the form of contrast: both sides have its own meaning. These attributes are compact representations of standard attributes that only explain one property. For more examples of discovered attributes please see supplementary material.
Why do we care?

- Each imputes labels by
  - compelling the label space to have strong properties
    - variant clustering
- DEC suggests that this is enough to learn features
  - DBC has fixed feature stack (but this is discriminative)
- Idea:
  - a feature stack that is discriminative
    - and perhaps has autoencoding properties
  - likely clusters appearance in a useful way
    - so you can impose labels by just compelling them to have spatial structure