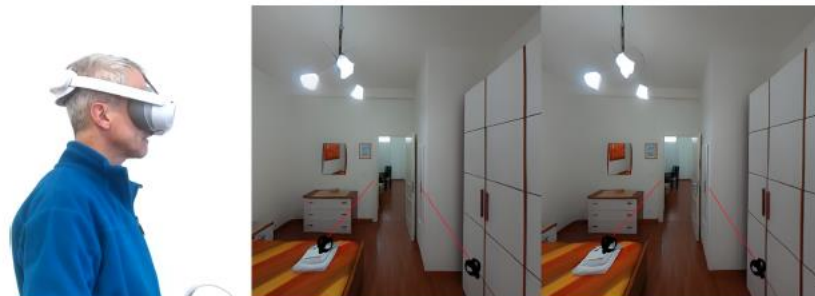


SESSION 5: VISUAL REPRESENTATION GENERATION AND EXPLORATION

Introduction

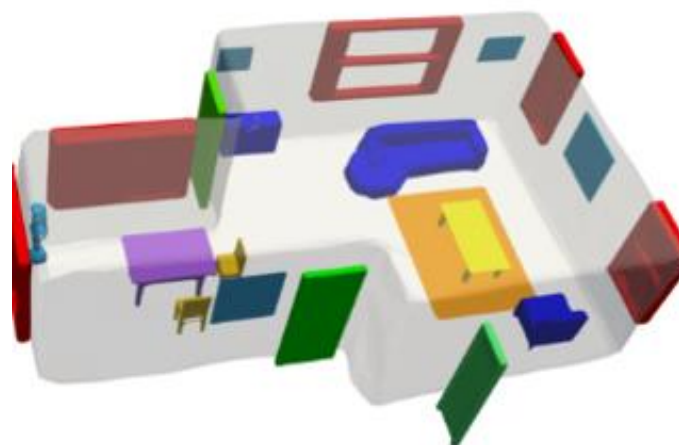
- Input:
 - Images associated with the room
 - Spatially referenced
 - 3D room model or pixel-wise information
 - Single scene
 - Walls, ceilings, floor
 - Multi-modal information for specific tasks
- Output:
 - Editable representations
 - VR exploration, Extended Reality, Editing appearance



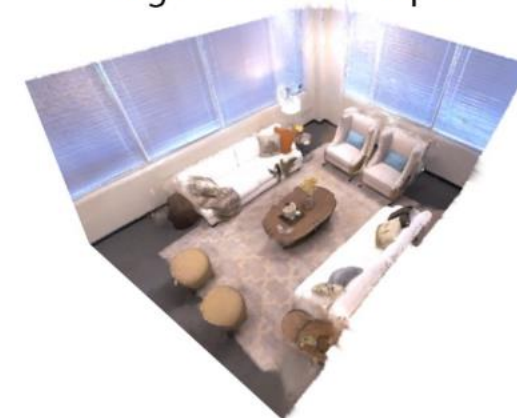
PanoStereo, Elsevier CAG 2024



Single Panorama Input



PanoContextFormer, IEEE CVPR 2024



Our Reconstructed 3DGS

Pano2Room, ACM TOG 2025

Application context

- **Omnidirectional imagery**
 - Fundamental component for creating immersive content from real-world scenes
- **Virtual tour popular in the real-estate domain**
 - Presentation to virtual visitors
 - Popularized during Covid pandemic
- **Other application domains:**
 - Tourism, architecture, construction



<https://matterport.com/industries/real-estate>



The Met 360° Project | The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Images may be subject to copyright. [Learn More](#)

[Visit](#)

Outline

- Single image solutions for supporting seamless exploration and editing in multiple devices
 - 3-DOF motion
 - Viewpoint rotation without translation on enriched image-based representations
 - Small displacement 6-DOF motion
 - Limited viewpoint translation
 - Stereo generation for immersive exploration
 - Large displacement 6-DOF motion
 - Full 3D reconstructions for full explorations
- Overview of SOTA methods and our recent contributions

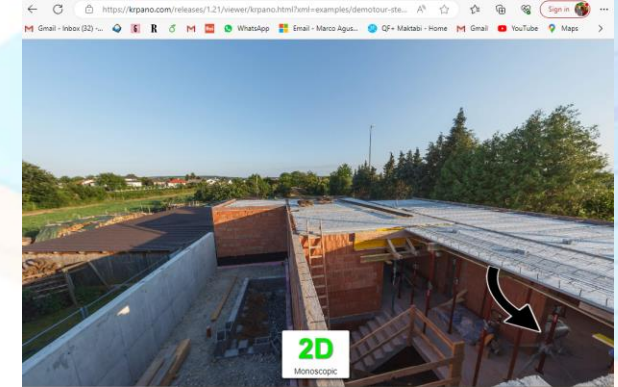
Background on 3-DOF solutions

Static solutions: Pano, Omni, Sphere viewers

- Limitation: they support only viewpoint rotation
 - No parallax
- Available online and using various representations
- Integration with WebVR and WebXR for direct usage with VR devices
- Cubemaps (krpano)
- Stereo panoramic couples (sphere stereo viewer)
 - A-frame



Pannellum.org



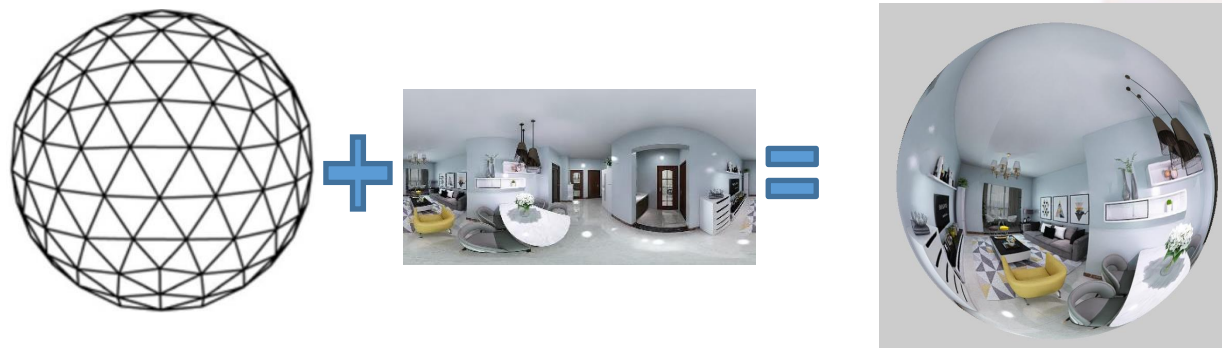
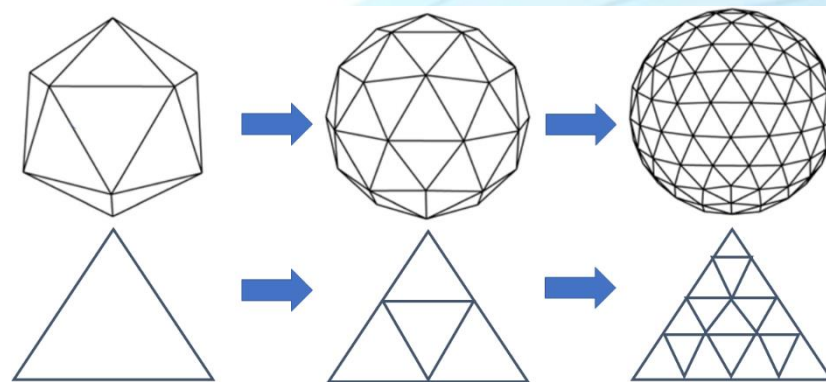
krpano



[360° | CSE-LAB-ICT \(renderstuff.com\)](http://360° | CSE-LAB-ICT (renderstuff.com))

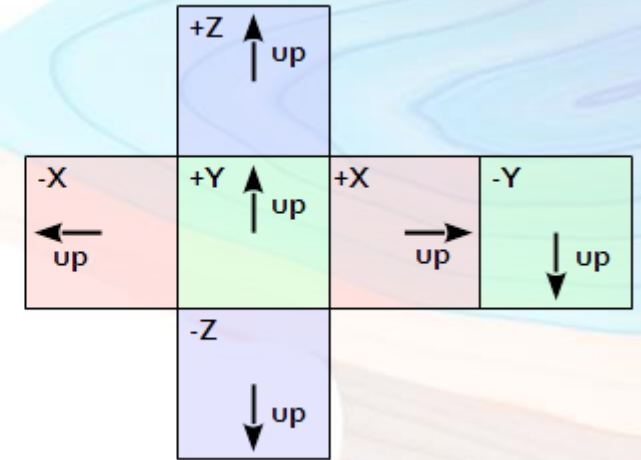
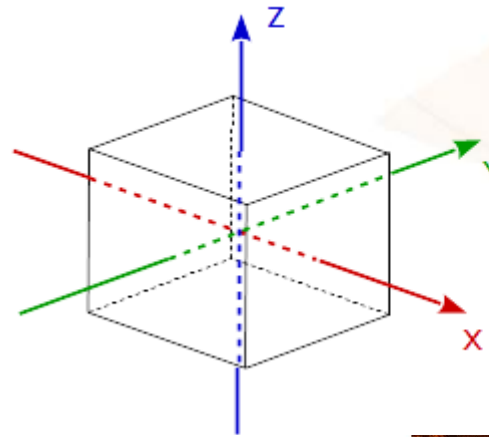
Static solutions: mesh-based rendering

- Spherical dome tessellation
 - Iterative subdivision from icosahedron
 - Subdivision level 8 leads to ~1.3M verts and ~1.3 M triangles
- Basic rendering mode for original images and head rotation movements (viewer in the camera position)



Static solutions: cubemaps

- From equirectangular image to six textures to be mapped to the faces of a cube
- Graphics hardware accelerates texture fetching in shaders (GL_TEXTURE_CUBE_MAP)
 - Popular for environment maps in games
- Used in popular panoramic image viewer like krPano



Courtesy: paulbourke.net

Viewport rendering: single-pass ray casting (e.g., on equirectangular image)

- Draw a quad in screen coordinates
- Fragment shader:
 - Pass view and perspective parameters: fov, distance of view plane
 - For each fragment:
 - cast a ray from eye position to intersect the spherical scene
 - fetch the corresponding texels from equirectangular images through inverse spherical mapping



Image-based editing using 3-DOF solutions

Applications: Diminished Reality

- Instant photorealistic view and depth of a panoramic indoor scene emptied of furniture and clutter
- Enables compelling and immersive XR applications, such as re-furnishing or planning of interior spaces

Overview: input



Input (RGB): single-shot 360 panorama of cluttered room

Giovanni Pintore, Marco Agus, Eva Almansa, and Enrico Gobbetti.

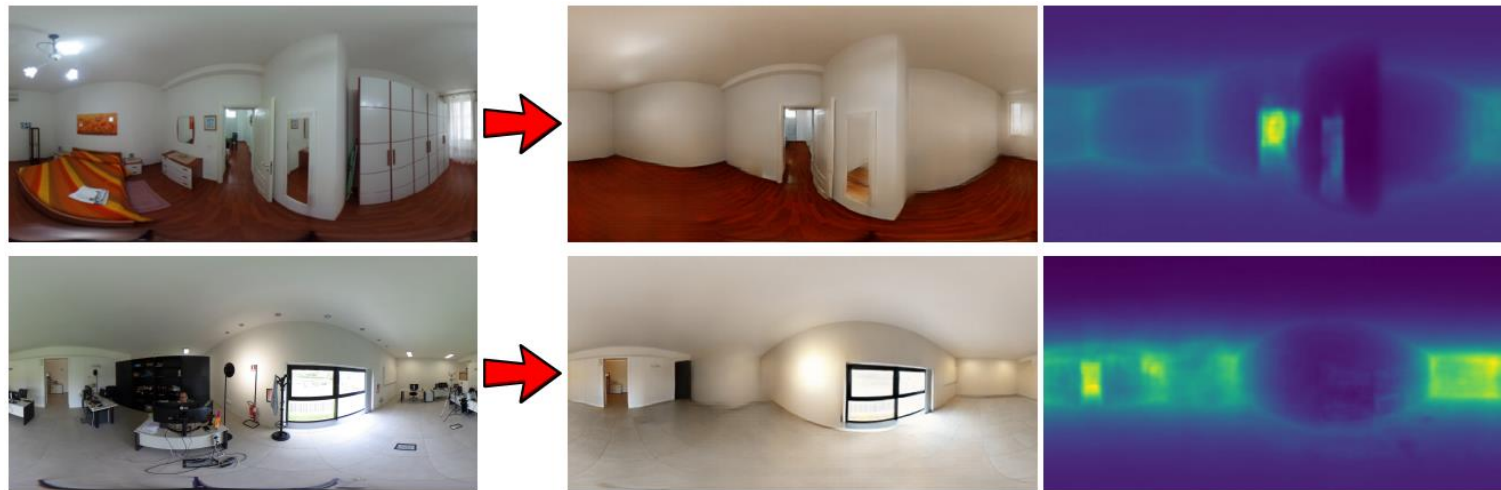
Instant Automatic Emptying of Panoramic Indoor Scenes. IEEE TVCG, 28(11): 3629-3639, 2022.

DOI: 10.1109/TVCG.2022.3202999. Proc. ISMAR.

Applications: diminished reality

- **Light-weight end-to-end deep network**

- Input: 360 image of a furnished indoor space
- Output: 360 photorealistic view and architecturally plausible depth of the same scene emptied
 - Very low latency
- NB. Learning on synthetic dataset transferred to real-world cases



Pintore, Almansa, Agus, Gobbetti. IEEE TVCG 2022

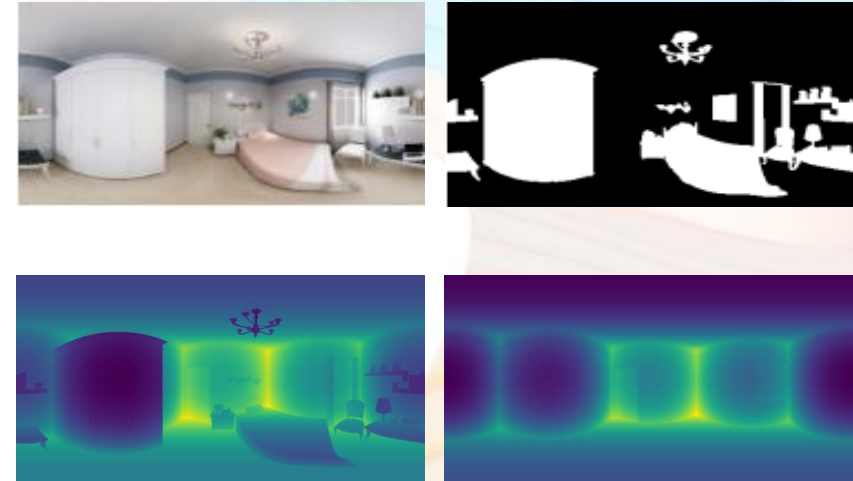
Key contributions

- **End-to-end network providing, at interactive rate, a panoramic indoor scene emptied automatically without user intervention**
 - Linear fashion and depth-separable gating
 - Visual and geometric constraints are applied only at training time
- **Geometric representation of the scene as additional output**
 - Basis for further processing in XR application
 - Enables robust and effective pixel-wise geometric priors
- **Loss function that combines photorealistic and geometric terms**
 - Virtual normals to recover the salient characteristics of indoor structures
 - Flatness and smoothness, less restrictive than Manhattan World, etc.

Methods

- **Clutter identification**

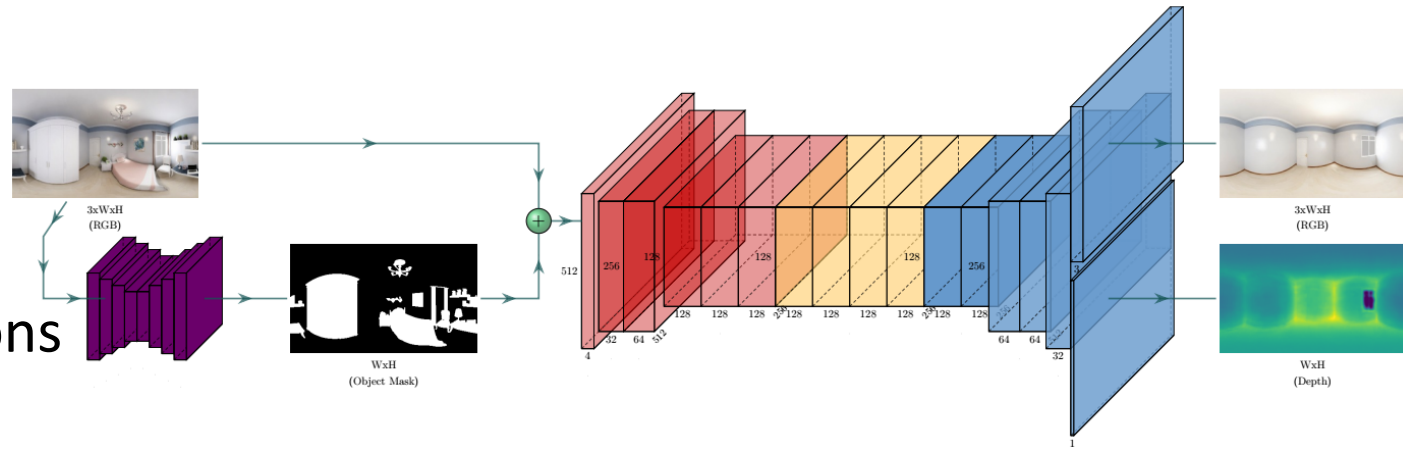
- Automatic binary mask
- Geometric mask obtained by comparing the ground-truth depths
- Very lightweight encoder-decoder network
- Binary cross-entropy loss



$$-\frac{1}{n} \sum_{p \in D_m^c} (\hat{p} \log p + (1 - \hat{p}) \log (1 - p))$$

Methods

- **Empty scene synthesis**
 - Image inpainting baseline
 - Learnable gating
 - Light Weight Gated Convolutions (LWGC)
 - simplify training
 - low latency at inference time
 - Repeated dilations used for the bottleneck
 - Aggregates multi-scale contextual information without losing resolution
 - Avoid increasing number of weights



$$\begin{aligned}
 G &= \text{conv}(W_g, I) \\
 F &= \text{conv}(W_f, I) \\
 O &= \sigma(G) \odot \psi(F)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$D_{y,x} = \sigma\left(b + \sum_{i=-k'_h}^{k'_h} \sum_{j=-k'_w}^{k'_w} W_{k'_h+i, k'_w+j} \cdot I_{y+\eta i, x+\eta j}\right)$$

Methods

- **Training and losses**

- Combination of a visual term and a geometric term
- Visual term
 - L1 with data-driven perceptual and style losses
- Geometric term
 - combination of low- and high-order 3D constraints
 - High-order based on virtual normal consistency

$$n_i = \frac{\overrightarrow{P_a P_b} \times \overrightarrow{P_a P_c}}{\|\overrightarrow{P_a P_b} \times \overrightarrow{P_a P_c}\|} \quad \mathcal{L}_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \|n_i^{pred} - n_i^{gt}\|$$

$$C = \{\alpha \geq \angle(\overrightarrow{P_a P_b}, \overrightarrow{P_a P_c}) \leq \beta, \alpha \geq \angle(\overrightarrow{P_b P_c}, \overrightarrow{P_b P_a}) \leq \beta\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{vis} = \lambda_{px} \mathcal{L}_{px} + \lambda_{perc} \mathcal{L}_{perc} + \lambda_{style} \mathcal{L}_{style}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{geom} = \lambda_d \mathcal{L}_d + \lambda_n \mathcal{L}_n$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{perc} = \sum_n^{N-1} \|\psi_n(I_{out}) - \psi_n(I_{gt})\|_1$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{style} = \sum_n^{N-1} \|K_n(\psi_n(I_{out})^T \psi_n(I_{out})) - \psi_n(I_{gt})^T \psi_n(I_{gt})\|_1$$

Some results

Overview: input

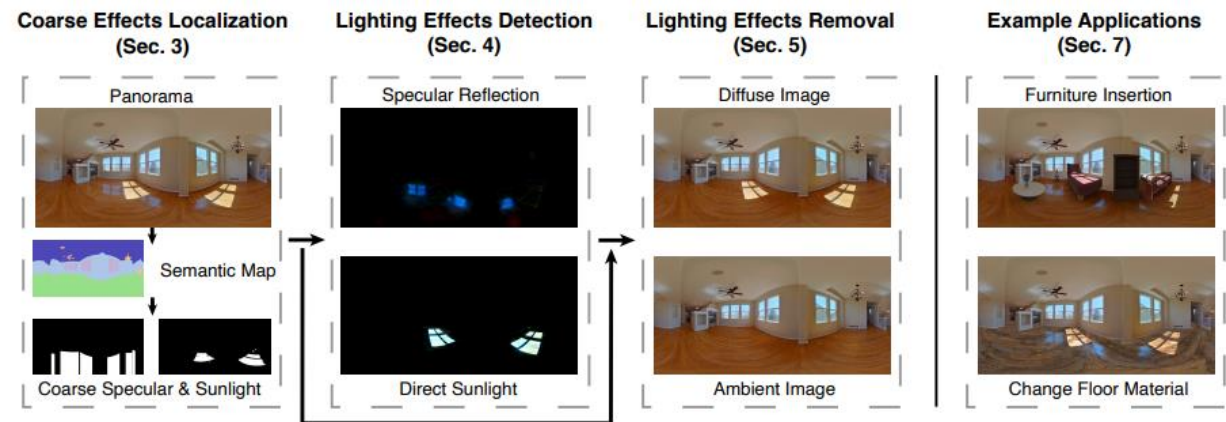


Input (RGB): single-shot 360 panorama of cluttered room

*Giovanni Pintore, Marco Agus, Eva Almansa, and Enrico Gobbetti.
Instant Automatic Emptying of Panoramic Indoor Scenes. IEEE TVCG, 28(11): 3629-3639, 2022.
DOI: 10.1109/TVCG.2022.3202999. Proc. ISMAR.*

Applications: scene modification

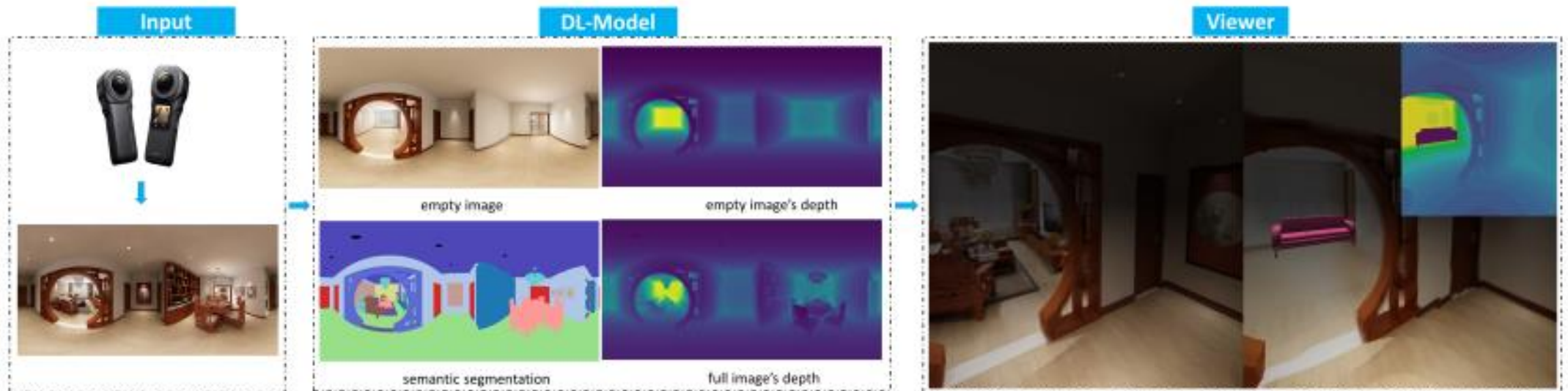
- Support editing and modifications
 - Adding/removing clutter/objects
 - Place POI/annotations
 - 3D multimedia hyperlinks
- Appearance modification
 - Lighting (Zhi et al, ACM TOG 2022)
 - Style Transfer (Tukur et al, IEEE ICCVW 2023)
- Virtual staging as emerging field



Zhi et al. , ACM TOG 2022

Applications: virtual staging

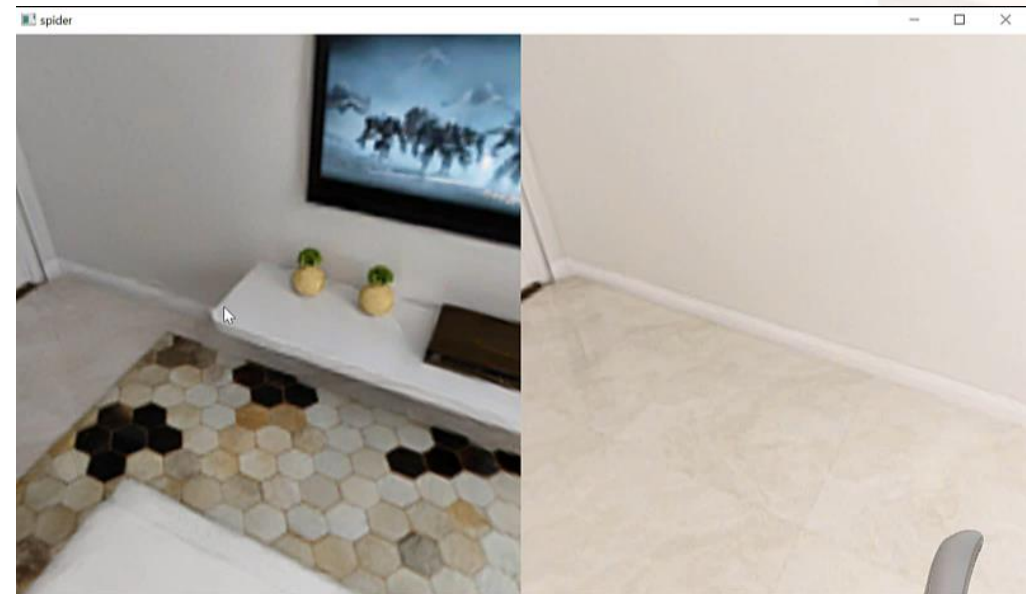
- An interactive editing and rendering system for indoor DR/XR applications from a single panoramic image



Muhammad Tukur, Giovanni Pintore, Enrico Gobbetti, Jens Schneider, and Marco Agus.
SPIDER: A framework for processing, editing and presenting immersive high-resolution spherical indoor scenes.
Graphical Models, 128: 101182:1-101182:11, July 2023. DOI: 10.1016/j.gmod.2023.101182.

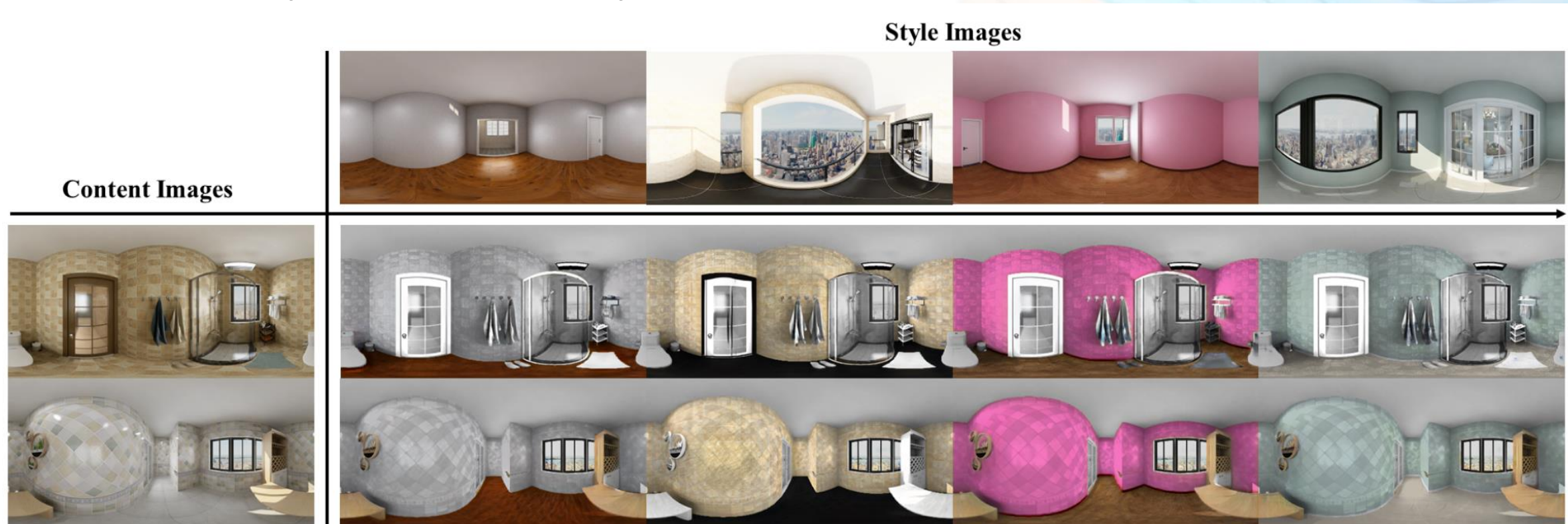
Virtual object placement

- Basic operations for Virtual Staging
 - Placement of synthetic objects
 - Transfer of semantic content from cluttered scene to empty scene



Applications: editing indoor panoramas

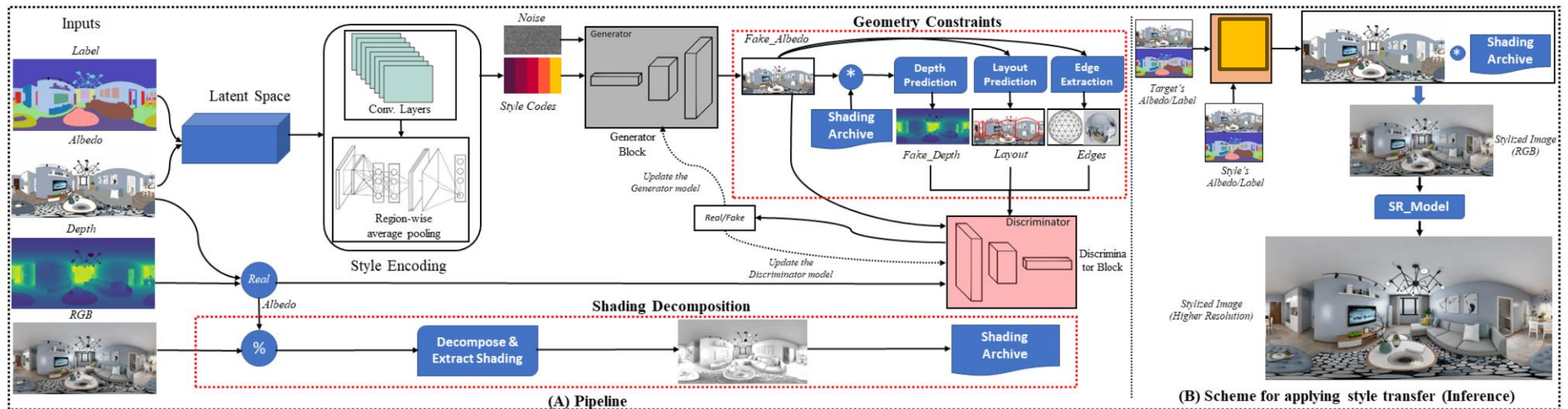
- GAN-based photorealistic style transfer



Tukur, Ur Rehman, Pintore, Gobbetti, Schneider, and Agus.PanoStyle, ICCVW 2023

GAN-based photorealistic style transfer

- Two main additions on top of a classical GAN-based style transfer architecture:
 - Shading decomposition
 - Geometry constraints



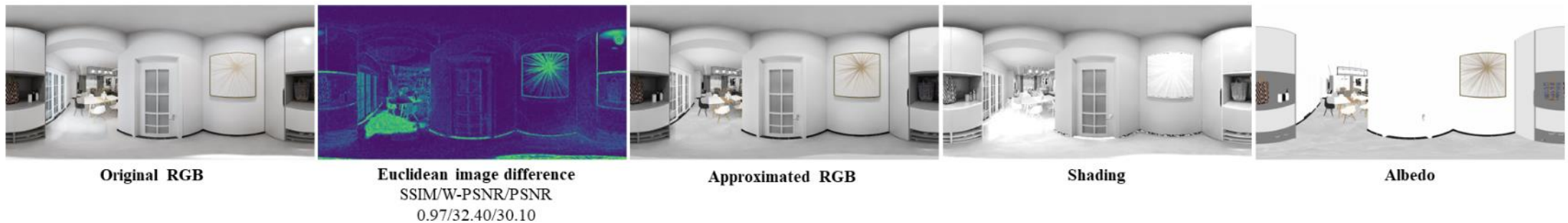
Tukur, Ur Rehman, Pintore, Gobbetti, Schneider, and Agus. PanoStyle, ICCVW 2023

Intrinsic shading decomposition

- Normalized shading signal for removing secondary effects

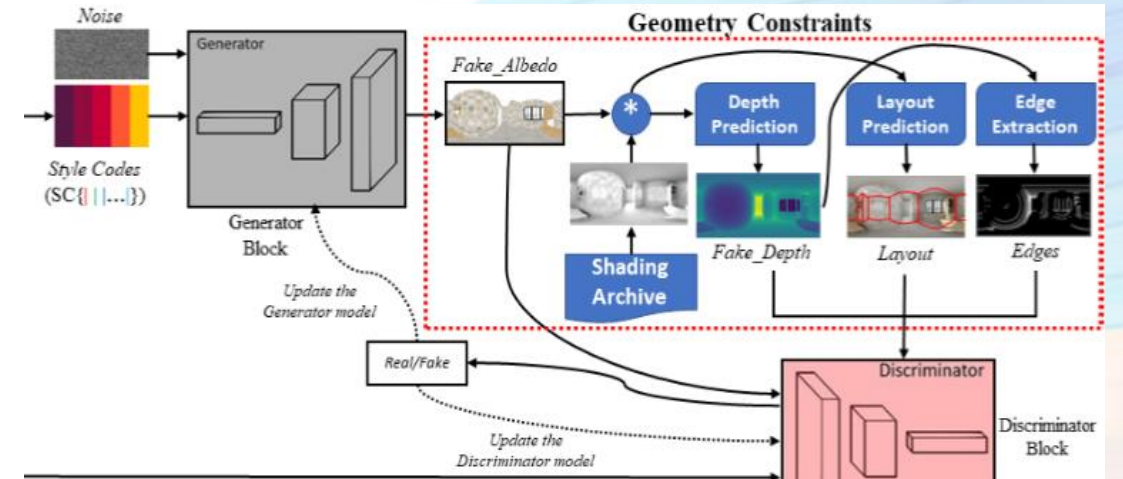
$$I_{\text{shad}} := \max \left(\left\| I_{\text{rgb}} \ominus I_{\text{alb}} \right\|_2, 1 \right) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \hat{I}_{\text{rgb}} = I_{\text{shad}} \cdot I_{\text{alb}}$$

- Style codes computed on albedo and shading a-posteriori



Geometry constraints

- Enforce scene depth, layout and edge consistency with additional geometry losses
 - For depth prediction, SliceNet [Pintore et al, 2021]
 - For layout prediction, HorizonNet [Sun et al., 2019]



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{depth}}^{\text{geo}} = \sum_{ij} w_{ij} \|D_{ij}^{\text{G}} - D_{ij}^{\text{R}}\|_1$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{depth}}^{\text{glob}} = \sum_n \|F_n(D^{\text{G}}) - F_n(D^{\text{R}})\|_1$$

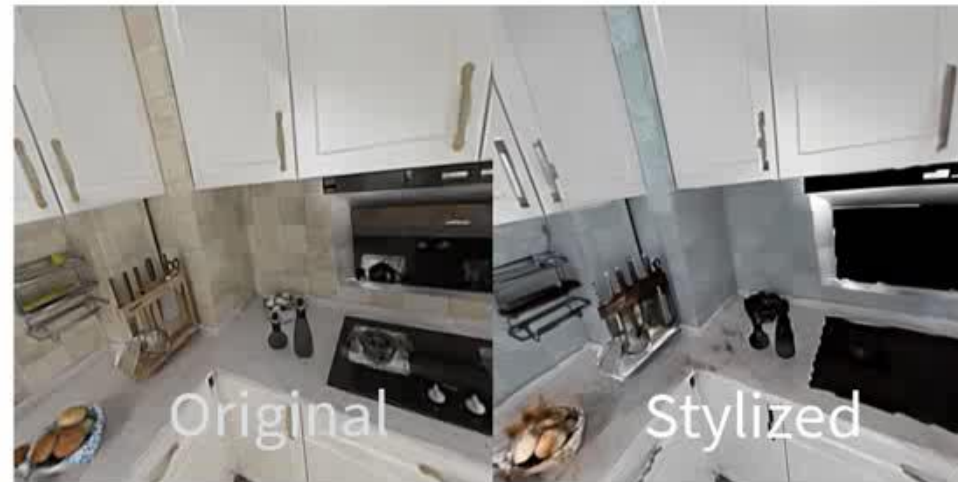
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{depth}}^{\text{loc}} = \sum_n \left\| K_n \left(F_n(D^{\text{G}})^T F_n(D^{\text{G}}) - F_n(D^{\text{R}})^T F_n(D^{\text{R}}) \right) \right\|_1$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{layout}}^{\text{geo}} = \|L^{\text{G}} - L^{\text{R}}\|_1,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{layout}}^{\text{glob}} = \sum_n \|H_n(L^{\text{G}}) - H_n(L^{\text{R}})\|_1,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{layout}}^{\text{loc}} = \sum_n \left\| K_n \left(H_n(L^{\text{G}})^T H_n(L^{\text{G}}) - H_n(L^{\text{R}})^T H_n(L^{\text{R}}) \right) \right\|_1$$

Some results



Limitations of static solutions

- Indoor usage scenario
 - Users want to perceive layout, scene composition, metric distances
 - Users want to explore behind corners and check clutter details
- Lack of stereo and parallax cues
 - Limited immersive capabilities on VR devices
- Spherical mapping
 - Flat appearance is a limitation for indoor applications
 - Clutter close to viewer as well as architecture details not correctly represented

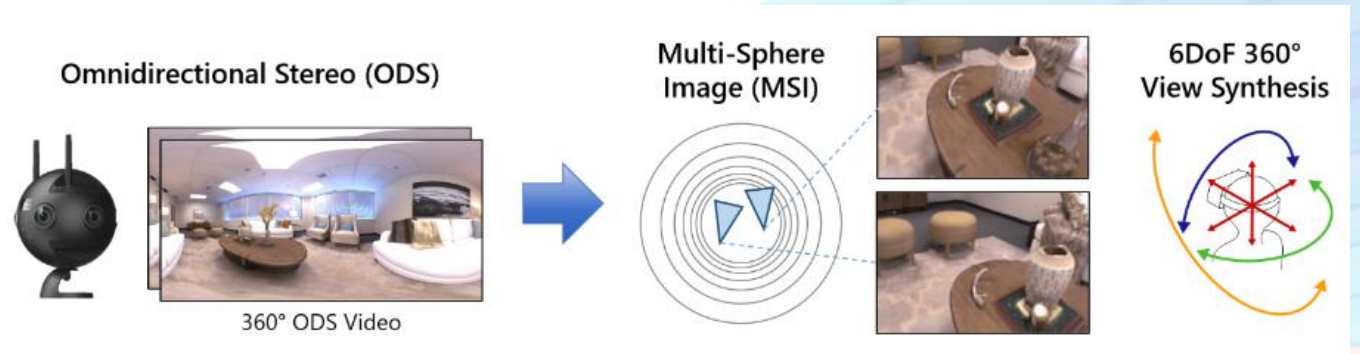
6-DOF solutions

6-DOF solutions

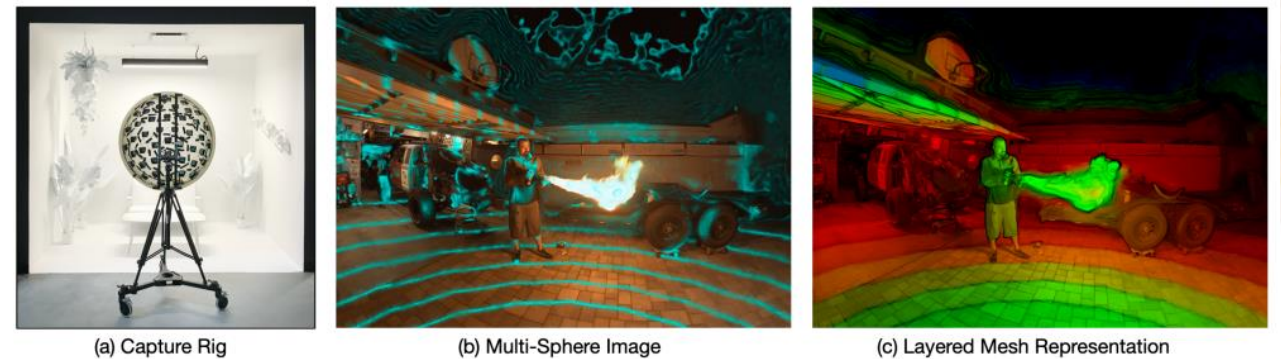
- They try to provide consistent viewpoint translation or accurate stereo cues for immersive exploration
- Two main categories according to input data:
 - Integration of multiple images and videos and multistereo setups (Multi-input)
 - Data-driven solutions working on single panoramic images (Single-input)
- Two main categories according to the output representation:
 - Image-based solutions (Novel View Synthesis)
 - Representation-based solutions (Renderable data structures)
- Mix and match of these categories

Input: multiple spherical images

- Multi-spherical images
 - Extension of Multi-planar images for spherical shells (Attal et al, 2020)
 - Conversion to layered mesh representation (Broxton et al., 2020)
 - 360 sweep video (Bertel et al., 2020)



Attal et al. , Matryodska, ECCV 2020



Broxton et al. ACM TOG 2020

Our focus today: 6-DOF from a single image

Input: single spherical image

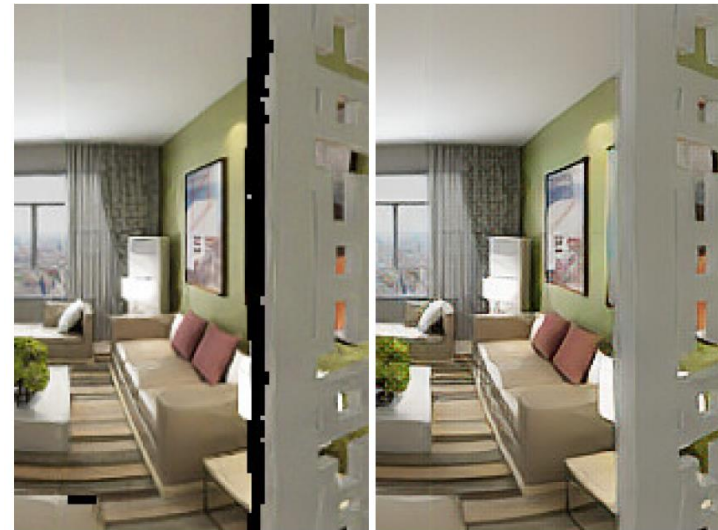
- Importance: single or sparse panoramic capture is fast and convenient
- Usage scenario: quick capture of a single room, or acquisition of large multi-room environment with one image/room
- Goals: make single panorama more immersive and increase exploration freedom
- Two classes of approaches according to the allowed motion:
 - Small displacement:
 - support stereo cues: eyes stay in a circle around the original capture position
 - Support small head movements: eyes stay close to the original capture position (range of 50 cm or less – to support head motion for static viewer)
 - Large displacement:
 - From limited viewer motion to full exploration (also of originally unseen scene portions!)



6-DOF with small displacement

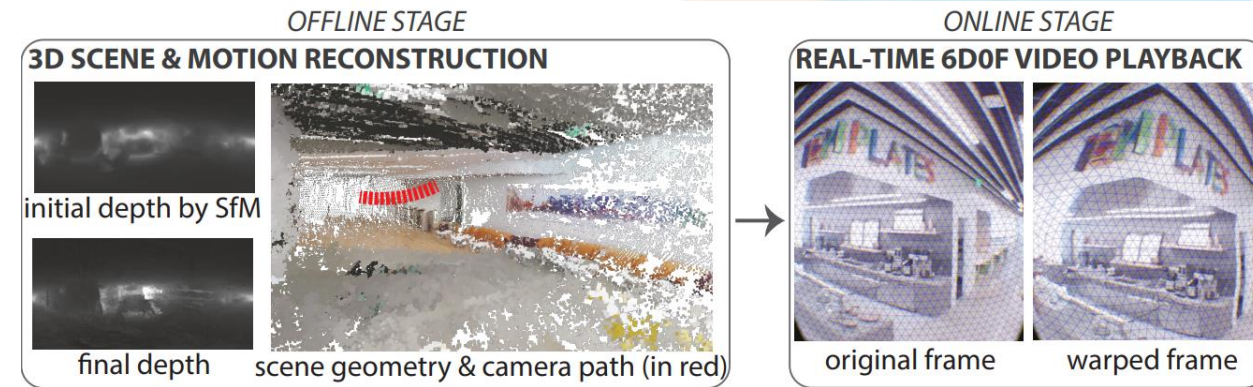
Restricted small displacement motion

- Specialized solutions for moderately small change of perspective or disocclusion of limited portion of the scene
- Creation of compact representation optimized for rendering and valid only for the known viewing environment



Geometry/Proxy solutions

- Panoramic images + depth map
 - Point cloud rendering [Huang, 2017]
 - View-dependent meshes from point clouds [Tukur et al, GMOD 2023]
- Integrate depth maps with multiple image signals to create a geometry proxy
 - OmniPhotos[Bertel et al., 2020]
 - It requires single sweep with a consumer 360° video camera as input



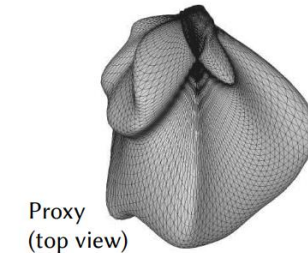
Huang et al., IEEE VR 2017



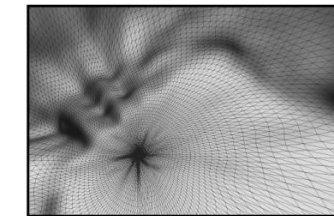
360° viewpoints



360° optical flow



Proxy (top view)

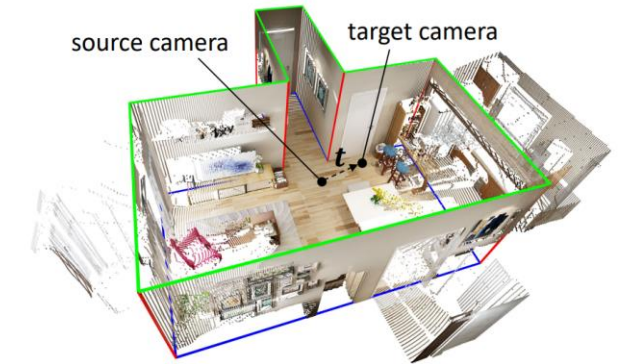


Proxy (inside, from above)

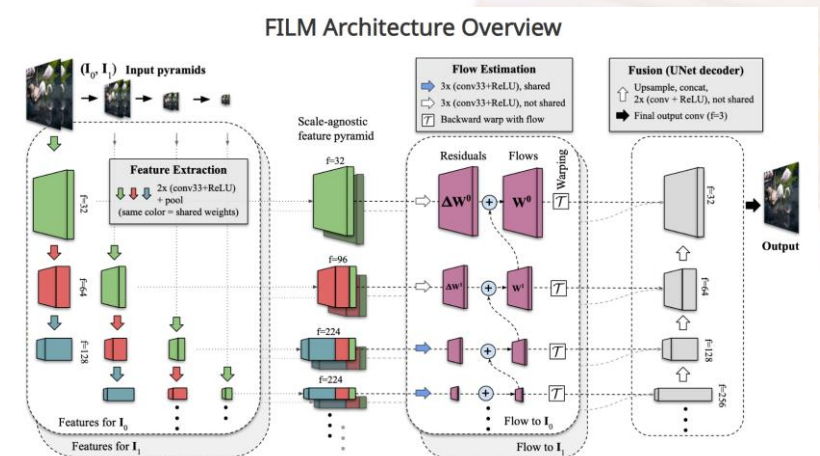
Bertel et al., ACM TOG 2020

Image synthesis solutions

- End-to-end synthesis networks
 - [Pintore, Bettio, Agus, Gobbetti, IEEE TVCG 2023]
 - Panoramic Novel View Synthesis [Xu et al., IEEE CVPR 2021]
- Novel views through interpolation or blending of nearby viewpoints
 - FILM [Reda et al., 2022]
 - Gram matrix loss that measures the correlation difference between features



Xu et al., IEEE CVPR 2021



Reda et al., ECCV 2022

Image-based GAN-based view synthesis

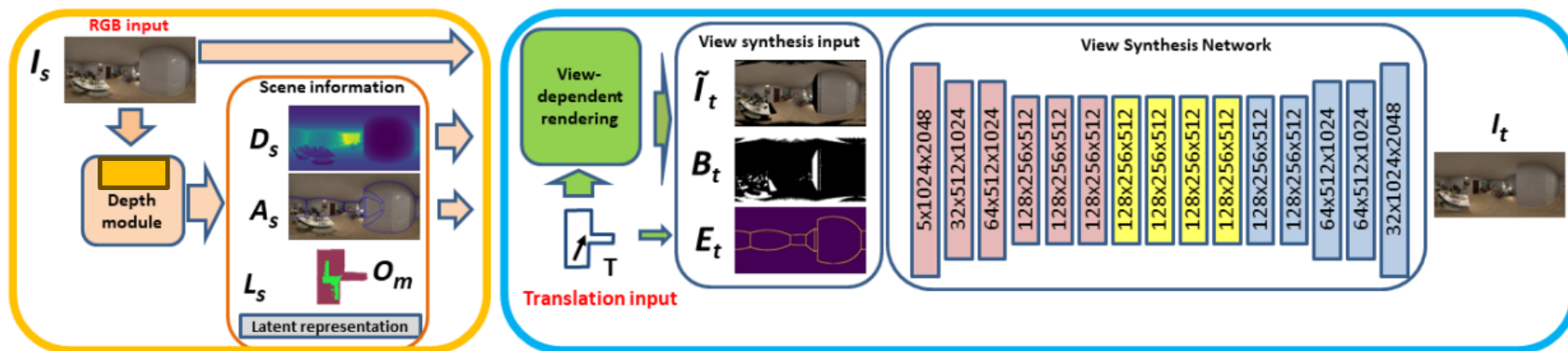
- **Main Idea:** Explicit or implicit geometry estimation, to perform occlusion-aware reprojection and synthesize the disoccluded content
 - Complex training and inference
 - Room layout prior, to guide the generation of target views [PNVS, Xu et al., IEEE CVPR 2021]
- **Application:** Low-latency extraction of novel poses to extract perspective images in real-time responding to both translation and rotation for small movements
 - [Pintore, Bettio, Agus, Gobbetti, IEEE TVCG 2023]

Features

- Client-server architecture
 - Thin WebGL client manages head motion
 - Server computes images for head translation
 - 70 Hz refresh, 10 fps panorama updates, workspace ~30 cm
- Novel views synthesis respecting Atlanta World model constraints
 - Model exploits Gravity Aligned Features and LSTM for managing spatial relationships
 - Depth and layout prediction for constraining view synthesis

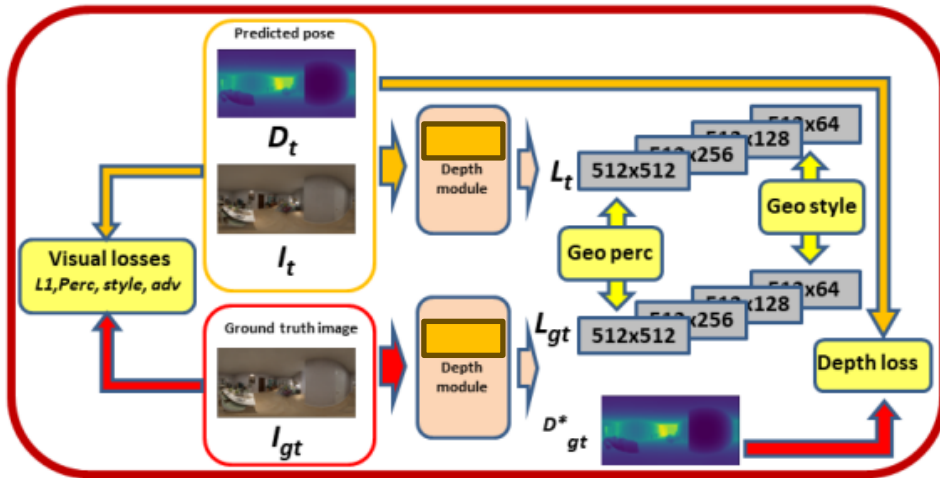
Forward pipeline

- **Signal extraction module:** concurrent estimation of scene depth, scene latent representation, 3D room shape and floor occupancy map
- **View Synthesis module:** lightweight approach to generate novel panoramic views
 - Limited number of layers, combining gated and dilated convolutions



Training stage

- Objective functions for indoor structural consistency
 - Design of losses based on direct estimation and latent-space features
 - Geometric perceptual and geometric style loss

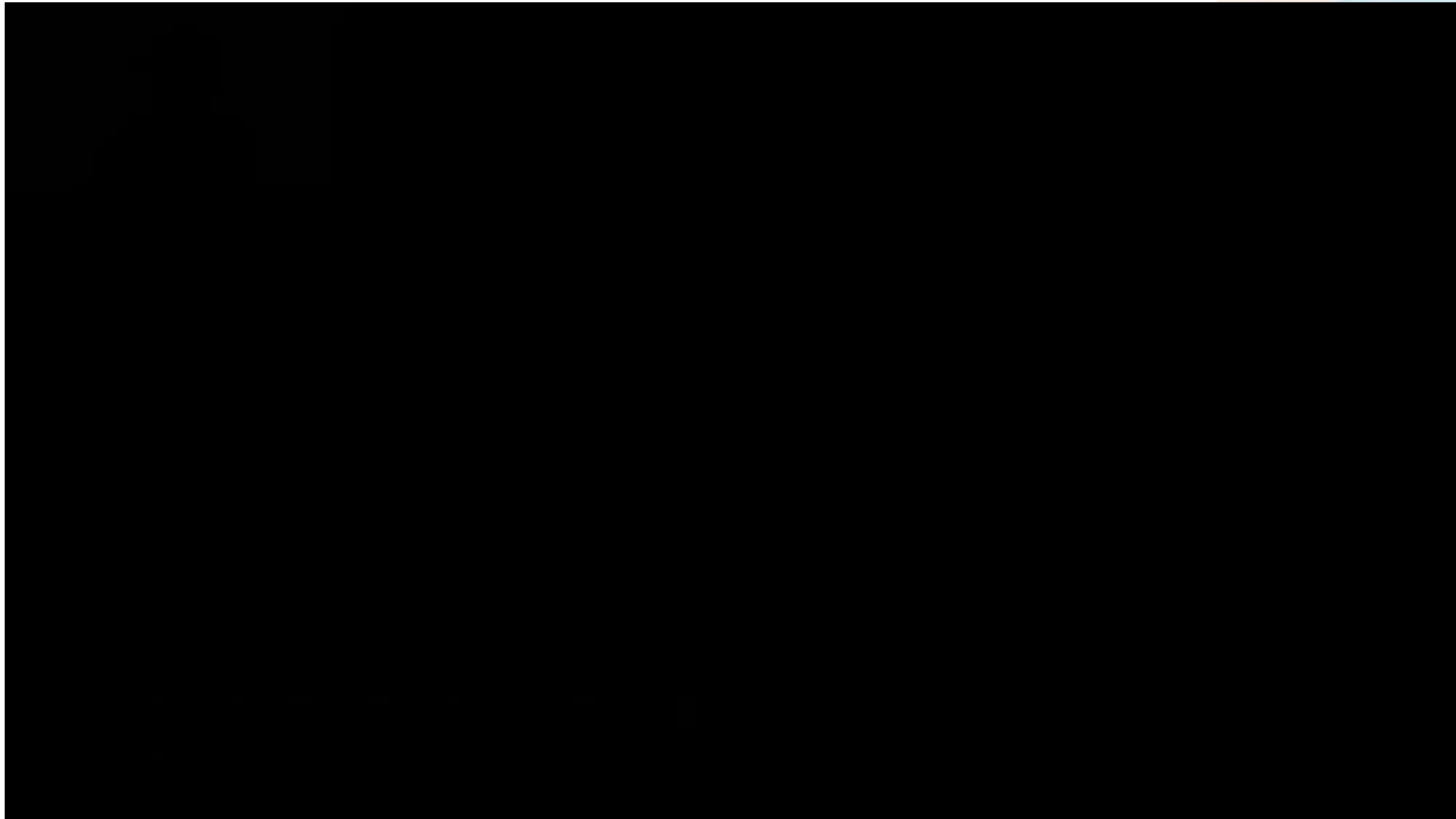


$$\mathcal{L}_{adm} = \lambda_d \mathcal{L}_d - \lambda_{ss} \mathcal{L}_{ss} + \lambda_l \mathcal{L}_l + \lambda_h \mathcal{L}_h$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{geocont} = \sum_n^4 \|L_n(I_t) - L_n(I_{gt})\|_1$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{geostyle} = \sum_n^4 \left\| K_n(L_n(I_t)^T L_n(I_t)) - L_n(I_{gt})^T L_n(I_{gt}) \right\|_1$$

Results

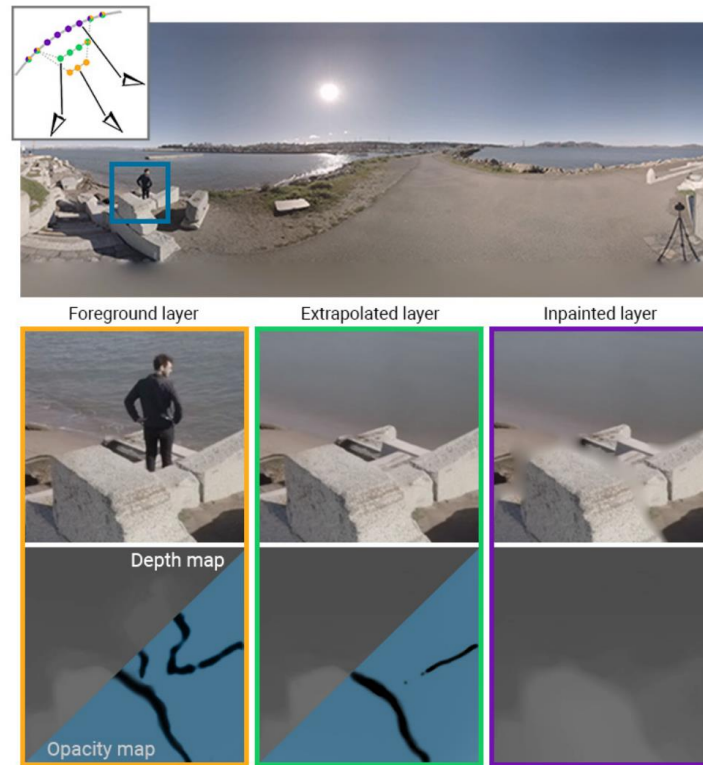


Limitations

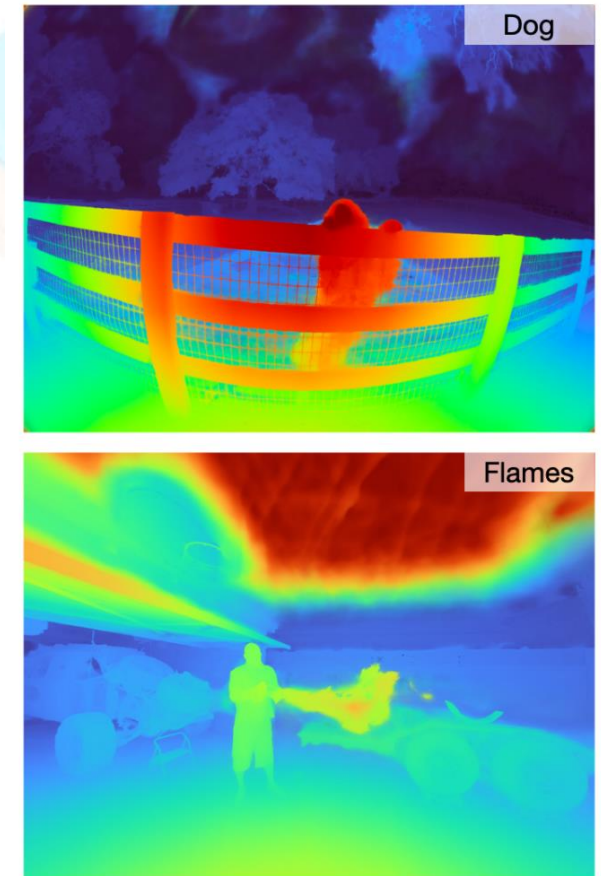
- Latency and bandwidth issues in generating interactive frames in response to fast head motions
- Solution: use novel view synthesis as building blocks for computing intermediate representations fast to render

Layered depth representations

- **Key concept:** Each pixel is associated with multiple depth values
- Single panoramic images [Serrano et al, 2019]
- Create light field videos and layered meshes [Broxton et al., 2020]



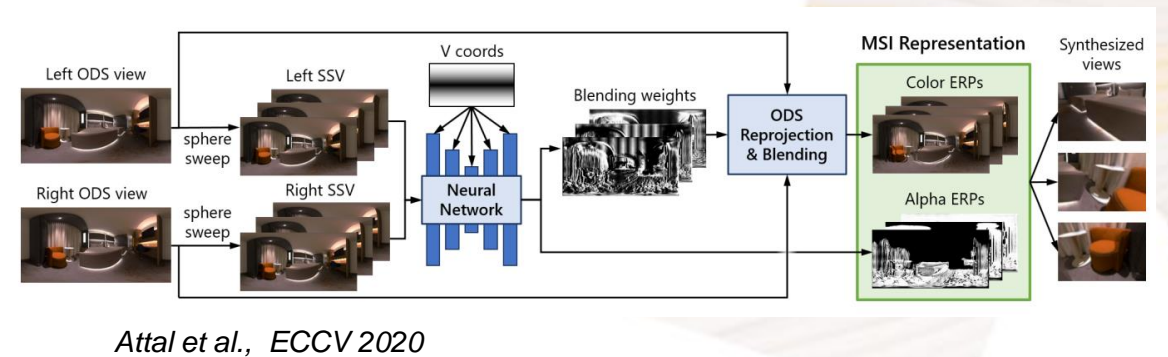
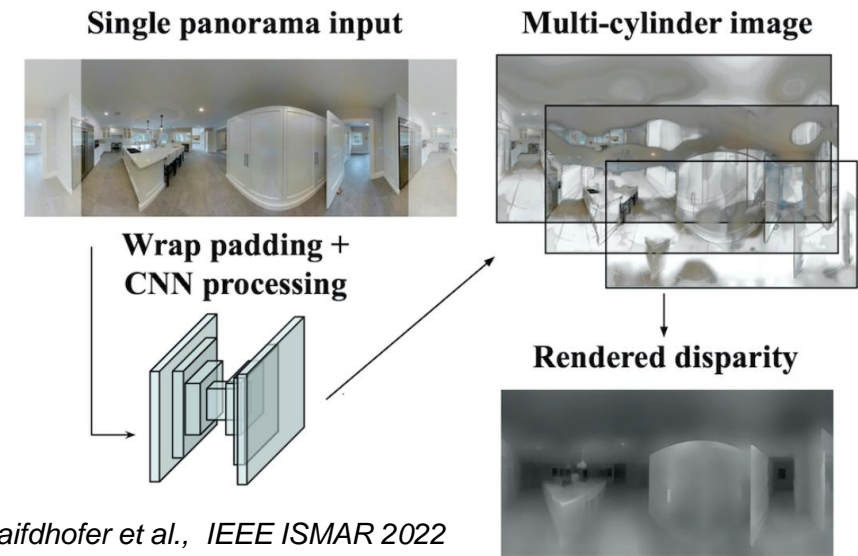
Serrano et al., IEEE TVCG 2019



Broxton et al., ACM TOG 2020

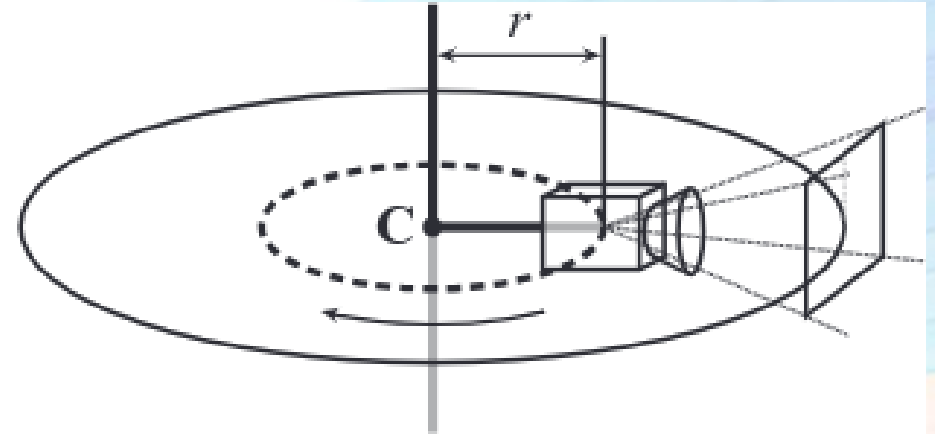
Multi-planar Images

- **Key concept:** capturing the scene at multiple fixed depths and integrate during rendering
 - Multi-planar Image (MPI) [Tucker and Snavely, 2020]
- Extension to panoramic images by changing the proxy representation
 - Multi-Spherical Images (MSI) [Attal et al., 2020]
 - Multi-Cylinder Images (MCI) [Waidhofer et al, 2022]
- View-dependent rendering of depth images
 - [Marrinan and Papka, 2021]



MCOP: Multiple-center-of-projection images for omnidirectional stereo

- **Key concept:** generate images by rotating around the head center and create a multi-perspective image by blending the viewing rays
 - [Original setup, also with physical cameras, Ishiguro et al 1992]
- Later: many different geometries and blending modes
- Pintore et al., 2024: use deep view synthesis networks to generate virtual views, blend them into omnidirectional images



Ishiguro et al., *Omnidirectional Stereo*, TPAMI 1992

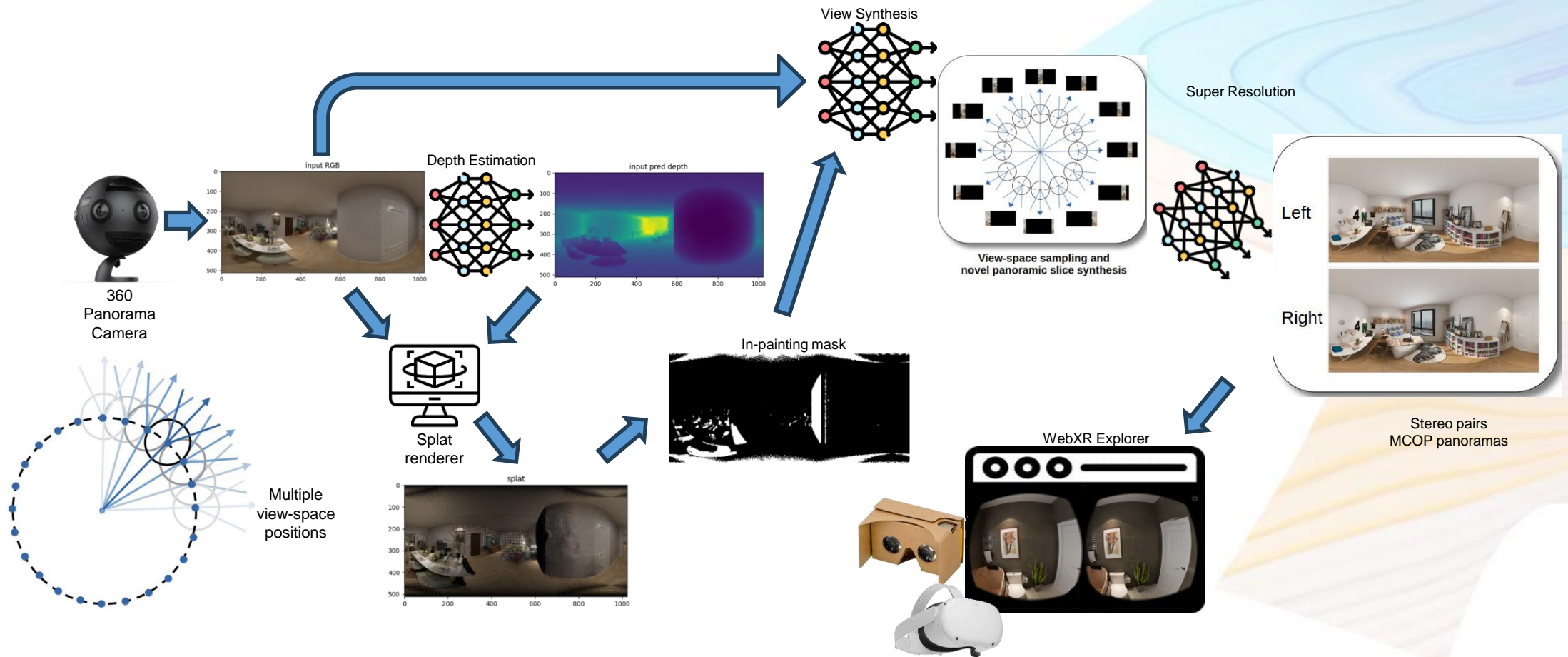


Pintore et al. *Deep Pano Stereo*, CAG 2024

MCOP generation: discrete set of panoramic slices

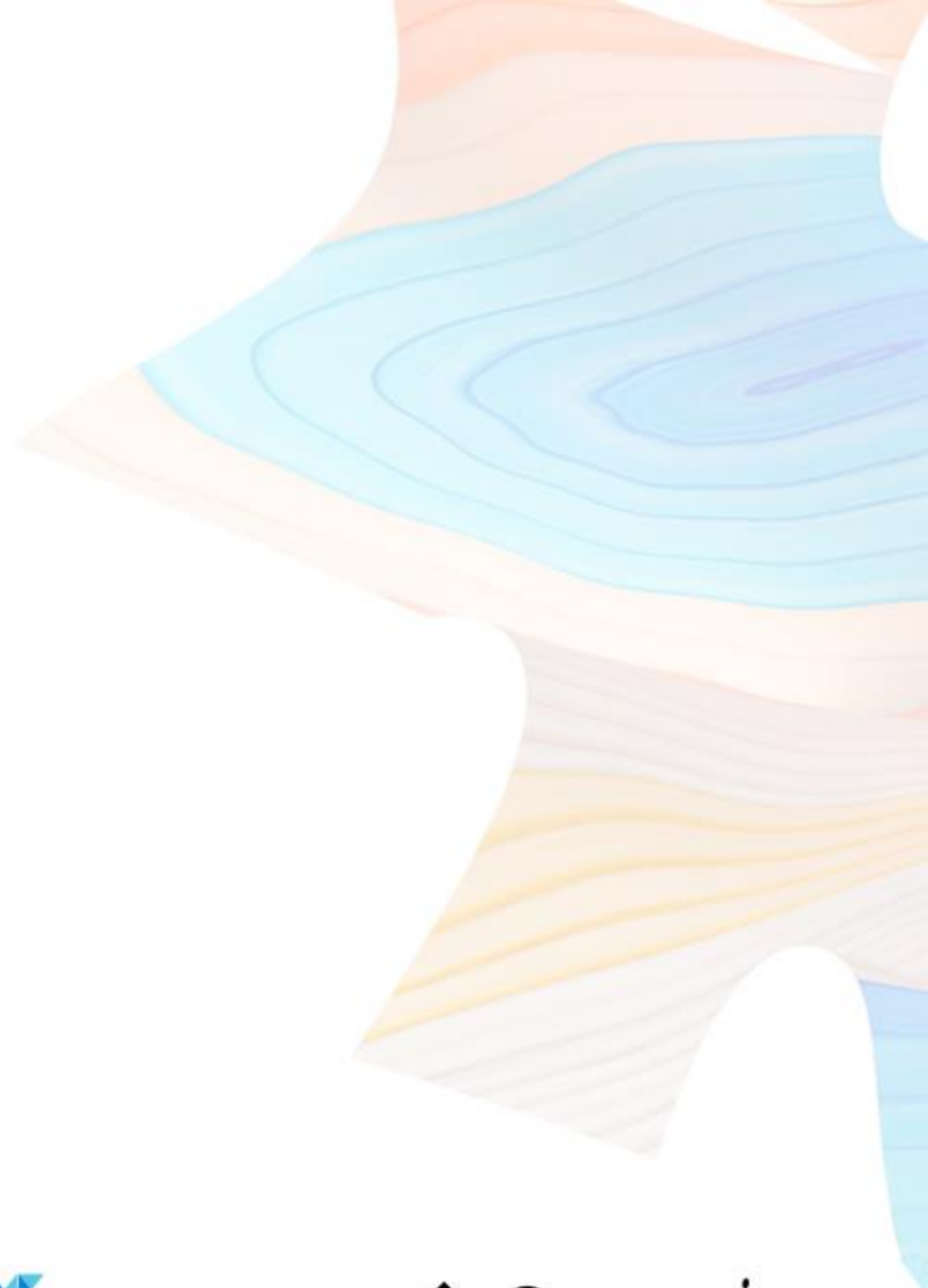
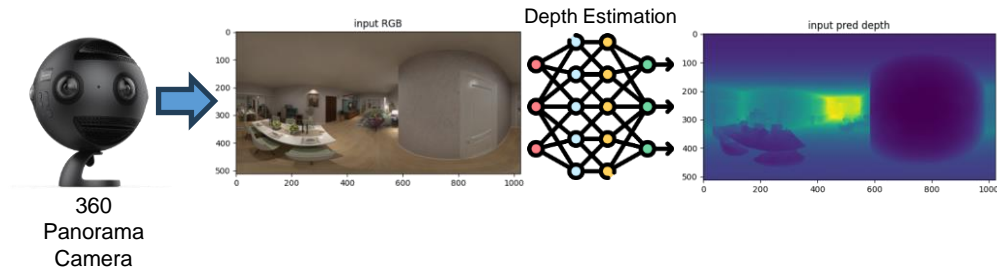
- Deep learning architecture for generating shifted views of indoor panoramic images
 - Estimation of depth, reprojection, and inpainting
- Similar PNVS network, based on a lightweight gated and dilated architecture
 - Novel photometric loss function + GAN for view synthesis
- Stereo exploration through precomputed MCOP image
 - Seamless stereo couples responding to the head motion
 - Web-compliant viewer using WebXR

PanoStereo Pipeline



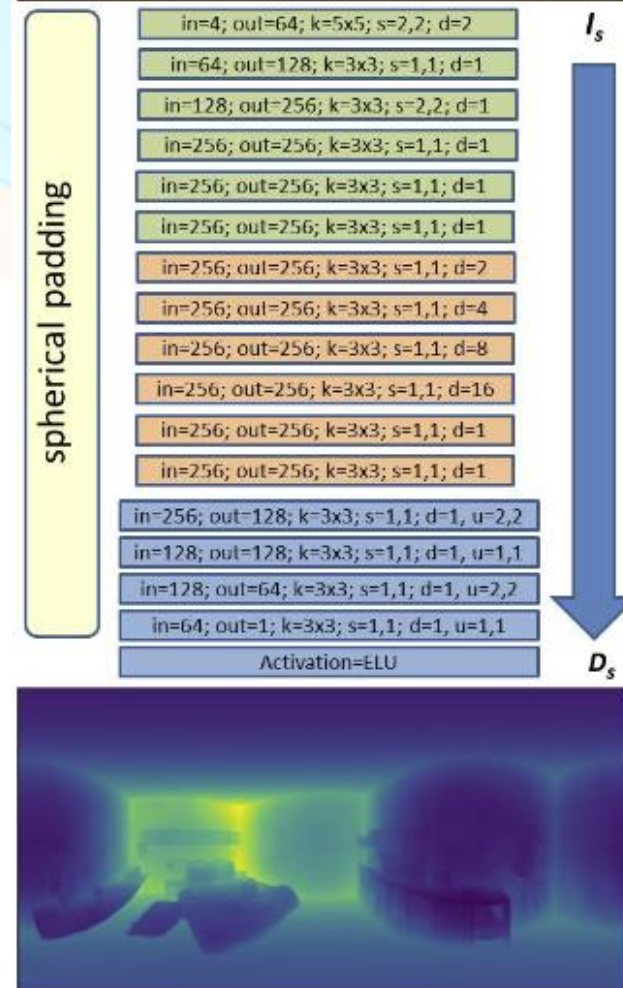
Pintore, Jaspe-Villanueva, Hadwiger, Schneider, Agus, Marton, Bettio, and Gobbetti. Deep synthesis and exploration of omnidirectional stereoscopic environments from a single surround-view panoramic image. *Computers & Graphics*, 119: 103907, March 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.cag.2024.103907.

PanoStereo Pipeline

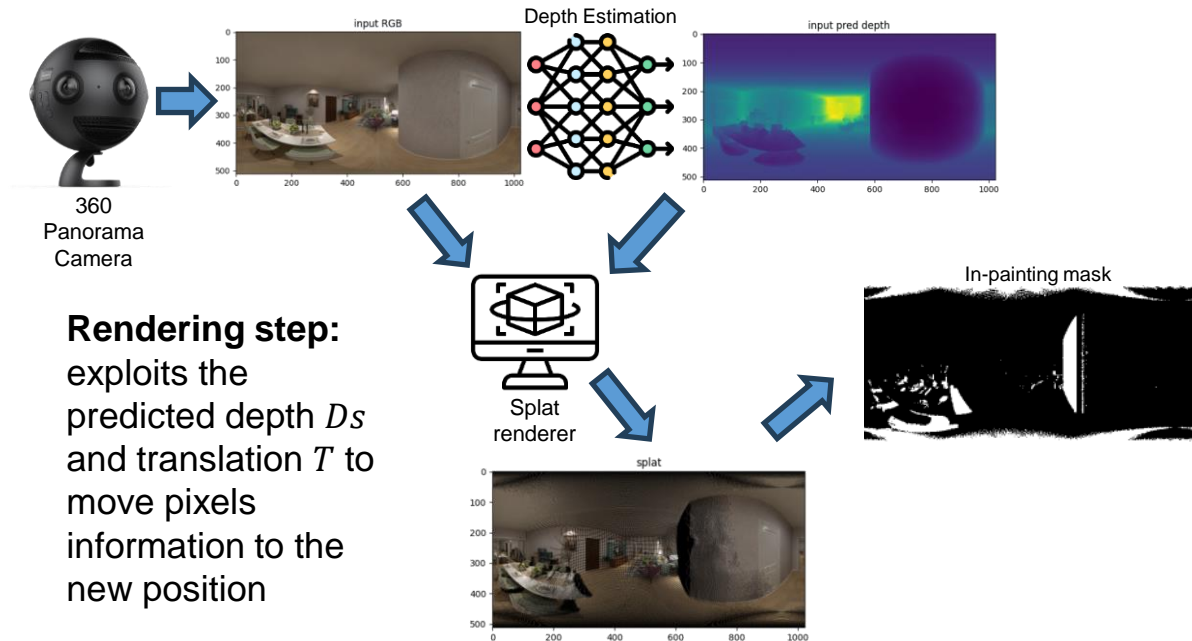


Depth Estimation

- Many solutions available – see section on depth estimation
 - Pintore et al. 2024 uses a gated architecture, with an encoder-decoder scheme follows the same design adopted for view-synthesis, with adaptations to the specific task of spherical depth estimation
- Computed once for the central view, then used to support reprojection before view synthesis at each of the translated views

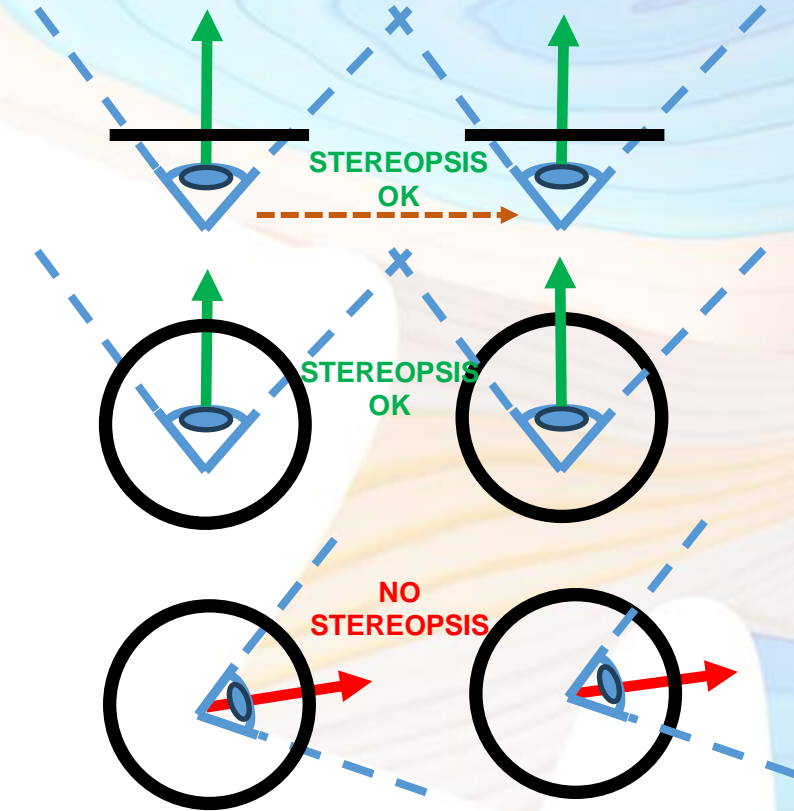
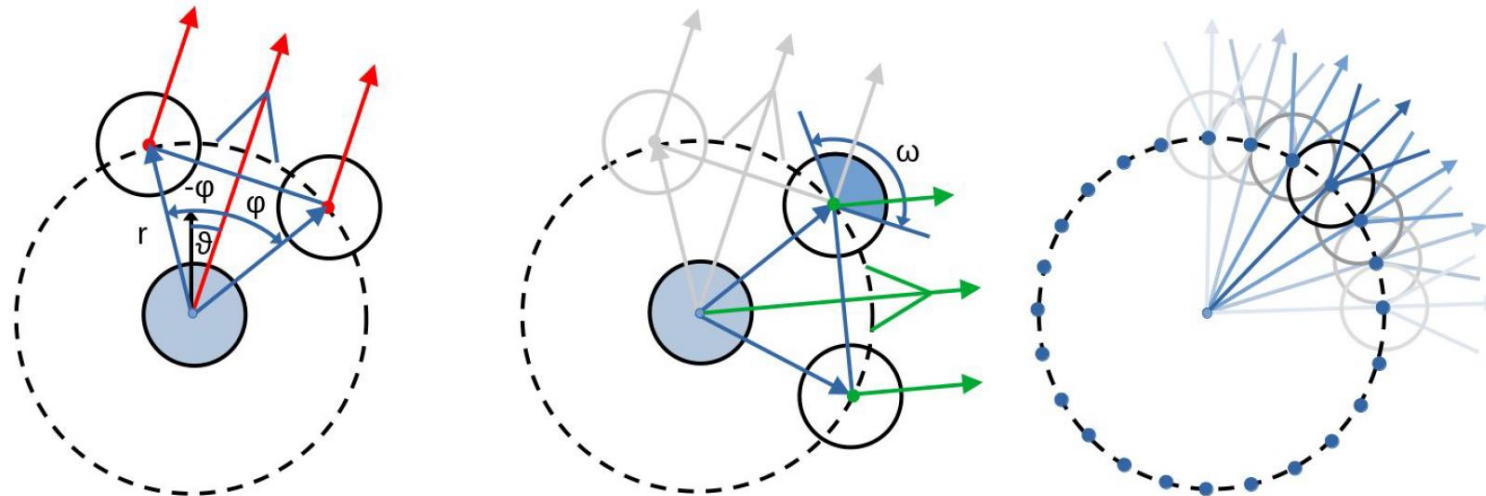


PanoStereo Pipeline

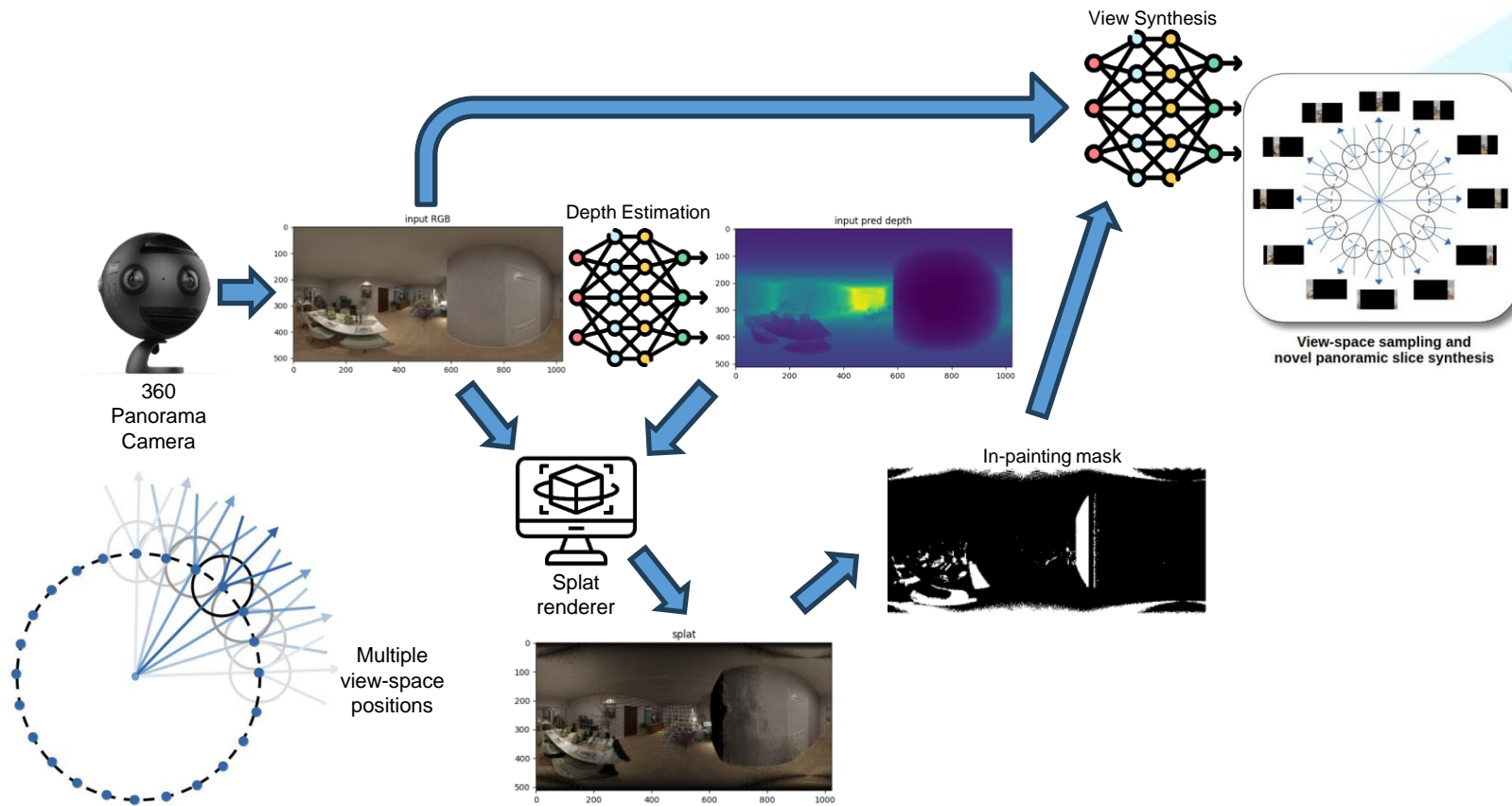


Generation of stereo view

- Stereo generation is “easy” for planar images (displacement in the eyes’ axis)
- Not applicable for panoramic images
- **Solution**
 - Simulation of head rotation
 - Multi-Center-Of-Projection
 - Blending of multiple thin slices

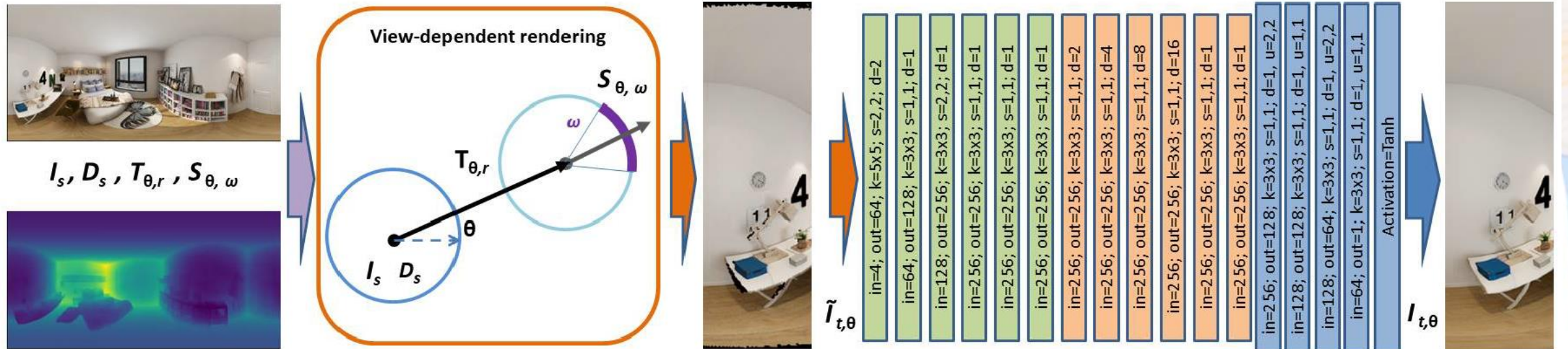


PanoStereo Pipeline

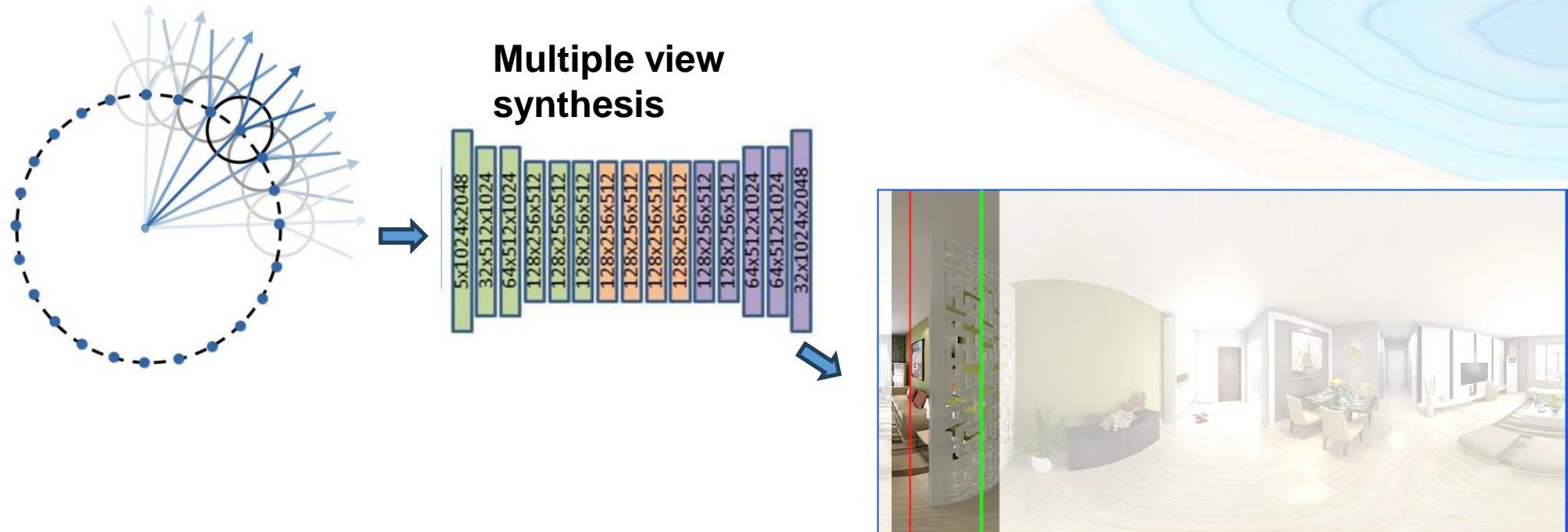


View synthesis

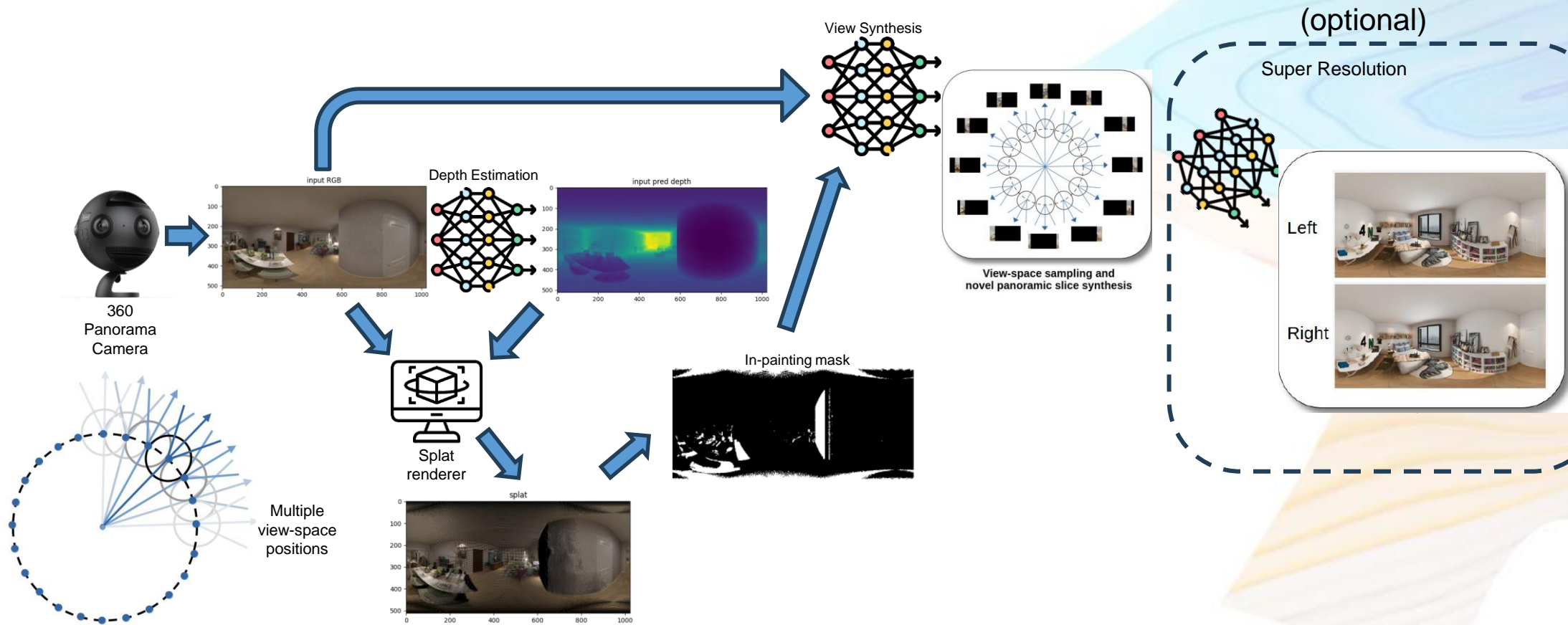
- Compute a novel, photorealistic, spherical image from a translated position
- Inpainting of the masked disoccluded holes
- Similar encoder-decoder architecture with perceptual and geometry losses
- Trained with synth dataset + **novel photometric loss function**
 - The synthetic image is back-projected to the initial position and compared with the original
 - Combination of L1 and SSIM (structure similarity)



Scene composition (MCOP image)



PanoStereo Pipeline



Results

Deep synthesis and exploration of omnidirectional stereoscopic environments from a single surround-view panoramic image

Giovanni Pintore (1,2), Alberto Jaspe-Villanueva (3),
Markus Hadwiger (3), Jens Schneider (4), Marco Agus (4),
Fabio Marton (1,2), Fabio Bettio (1),
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(1) CRS4, Italy

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Quantum Computing, Italy

(3) KAUST, Saudi Arabia

(4) HBKU, Qatar

Pintore, Jaspe-Villanueva, Hadwiger, Schneider, Agus, Marton, Bettio, and Gobbetti. Deep synthesis and exploration of omnidirectional stereoscopic environments from a single surround-view panoramic image. *Computers & Graphics*, 119: 103907, March 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.cag.2024.103907.

Wrap-up of small displacement solutions

- Valid only on small area around the head
 - ... lack of freedom
- Real-time synthesis may provide the best possible quality
 - ... but is too slow to support hires rendering on current HMDs
- Precomputed representations with fast rendering allow for much higher resolution of individual images
 - ... but work well only for limited image counts (e.g., stereo, or small set of multi-planer images)
 - So, more constraints (e.g., stereo only) or artefacts when moving out of sweet spot



Attal et al., ECCV 2020

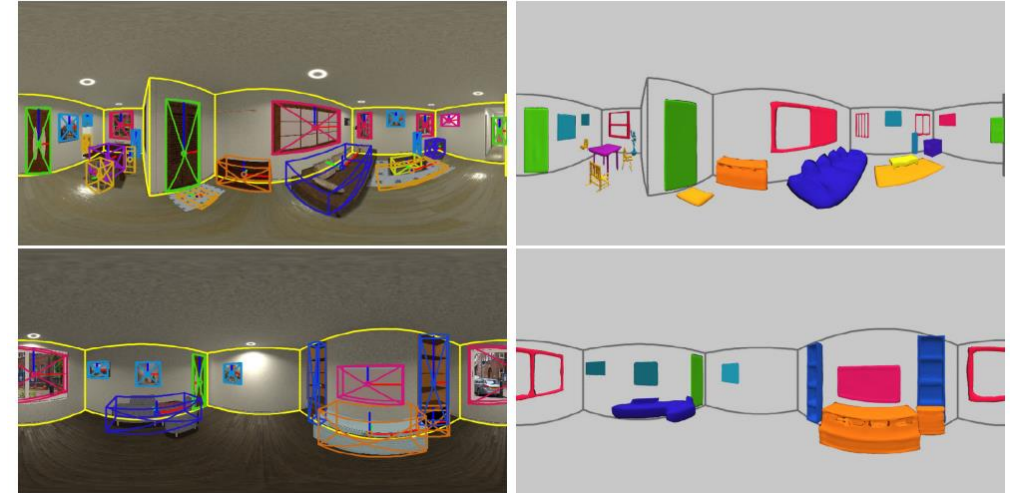
6-DOF with large displacement

Large displacement methods

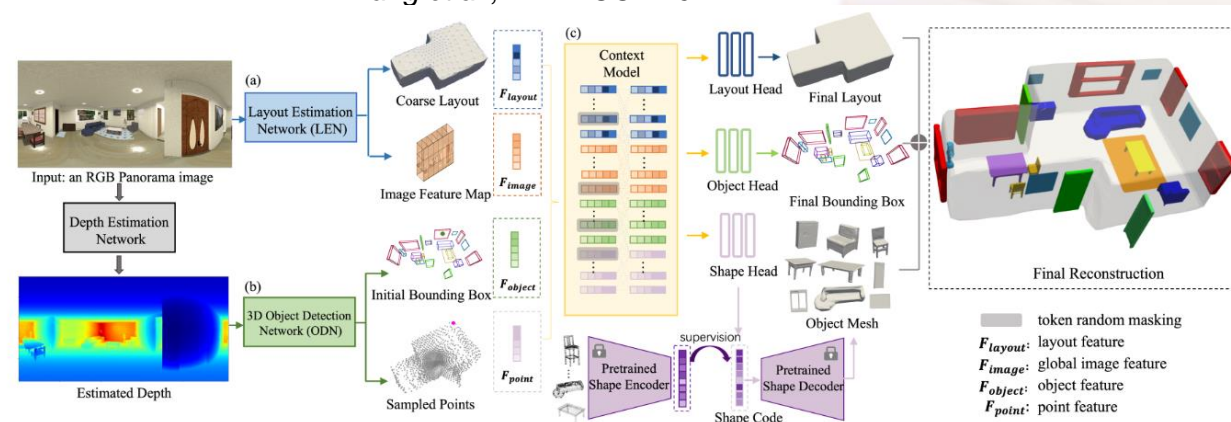
- Enable large displacements from the original capture position
 - Input: single panoramic image
 - Output: complete 3D renderable model
- Solutions categorized according to the need of prior knowledge
 - Known (inferred) scene semantic and structure
 - ... which must be inferred from the image
 - Semantic and structure then guides 3D scene generation
 - Semantic-free approaches
 - Requires some way to synthesize plausible and consistent views even far from the original panorama
 - May exploit Neural Radiance Fields, 3D Gaussian Splats, or similar representations as intermediate or final renderable representation

Solutions exploiting additional knowledge

- They exploit the knowledge of layout of the room, and the type and pose of known objects
 - DeepPanoContext [Zhang et al., 2021]
 - PanoContextFormer [Dong et al., 2024]
- Limitations: they fail in real-world scenarios when they need to fill the scene with undefined/unrecognized semantics
 - Need for open vocabulary solutions
 - Diffusion models for text-to-3D generation (hot topic)



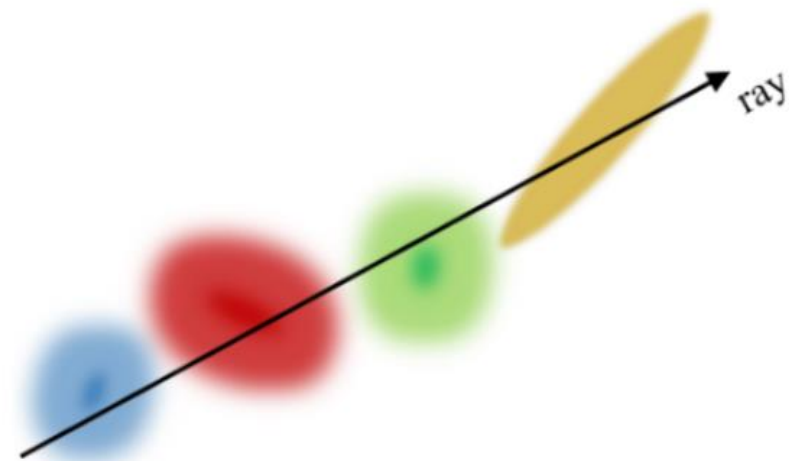
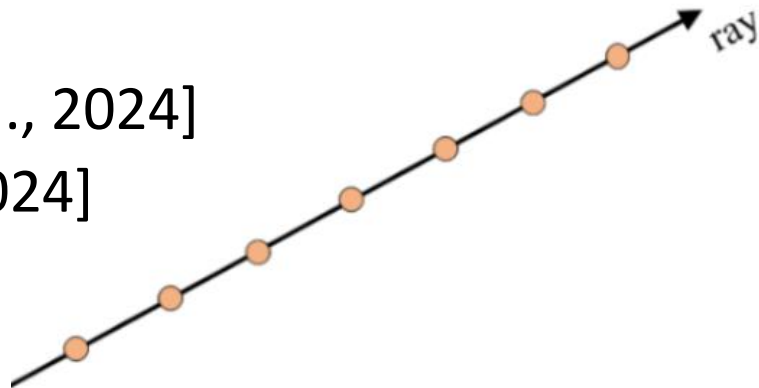
Zhang et al., IEEE ICCV 2021



Dong et al., IEEE CVPR 2024

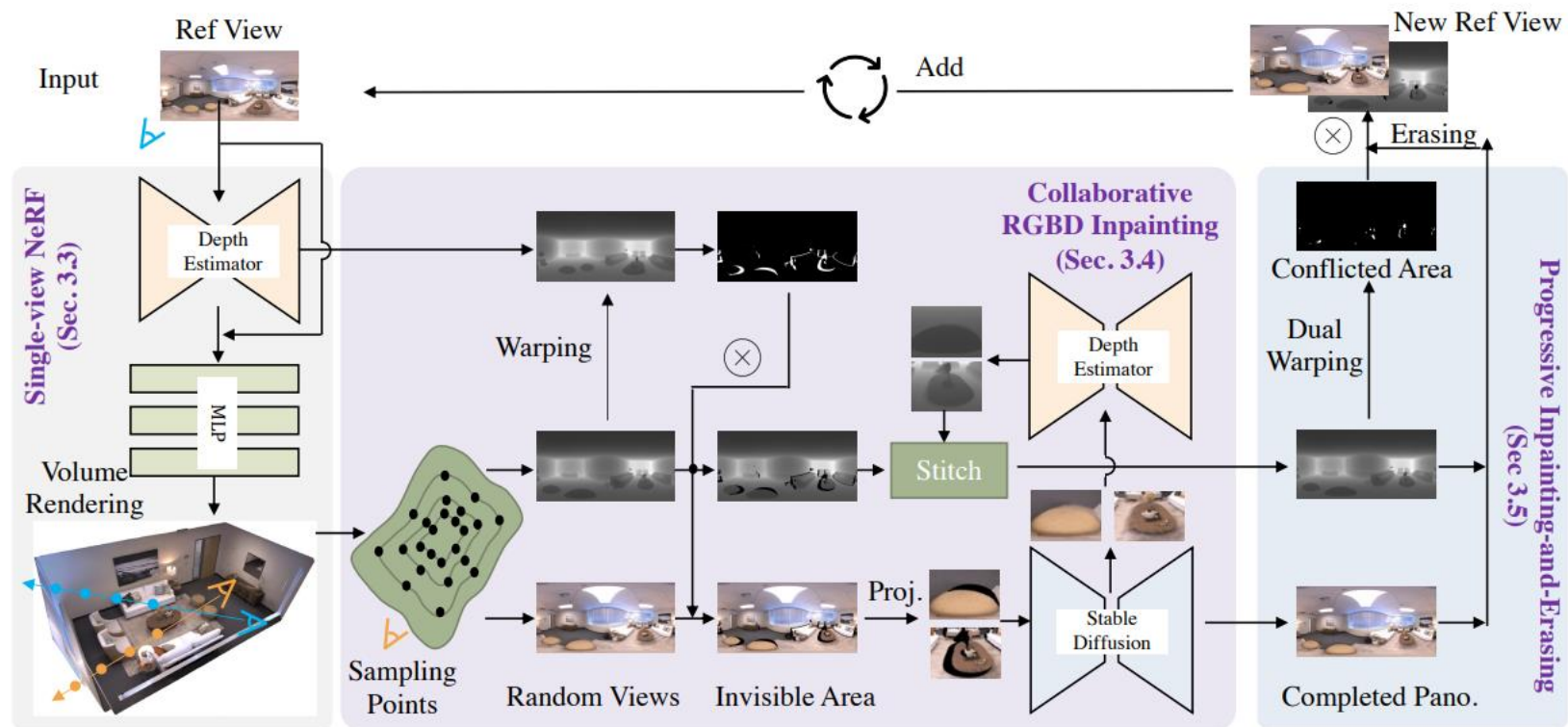
Semantic-free approaches

- They use novel view synthesis blocks described before to generate data for training Neural Radiance Fields of 3D Gaussian Splats
- NERF and 3DGS are optimized rendering representations able to perform blending and filtering in real-time
 - PERF [Wang et al., 2024]
 - PixelSplat [Charatan et al., 2024]
 - Pano2Room [Pu et al., 2024]



PERF

- Generate images with depth corresponding to novel views
 - [Wang et al., IEEE TPAMI, 2024]
- Perform collaborative RGB-D inpainting
- Limitations
 - Even if allowing for large motion, the camera needs to stay in predefined trajectories
 - Ghost geometries in undersampled areas
 - Heavy blurring in occluded areas



Wang et al., IEEE TPAMI 2024

Pano2Room

- Convert input panorama in a 3D mesh through depth estimation
 - [Pu et al., ACM TOG, 2025]
- Iteratively refine the mesh through a RGB-D inpainter to generate occluded color and geometry
- General incorporation and check for visibility conflicts at each step
- Inpainted mesh converted to 3D Gaussian Splats, trained on 3D consistent pseudo-novel views



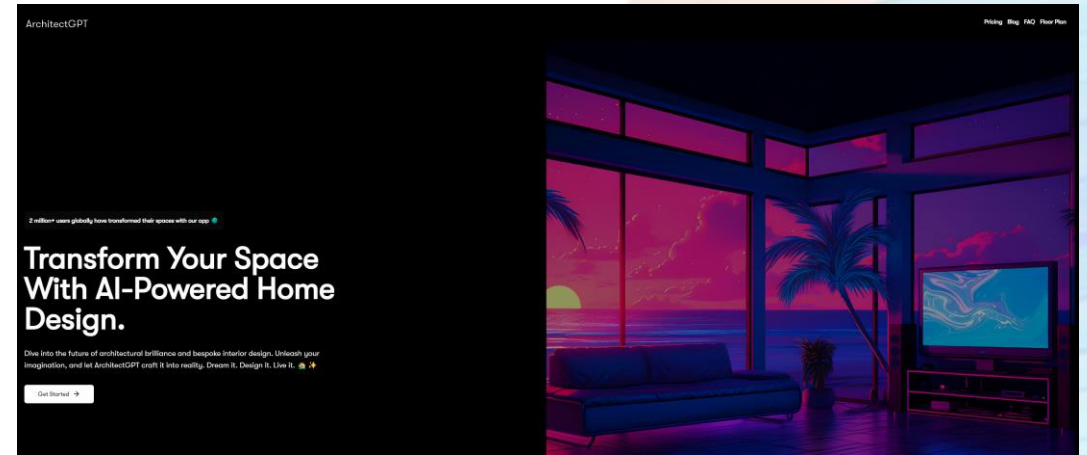
Pu et al., Siggraph Asia 2024

Recap

- AI-based technologies for performing immersive exploration and editing of scenes obtained through spherical imaging
 - Methods using different priors and assumptions
- Limitations:
 - Data hungry methods (rely on high-quality time-consuming data acquisition campaigns and processing)
 - We still mostly rely on synthetic datasets, like Structured3D
 - Resolution (most methods still work on 1024x512 input images!)
 - Partial workaround (usage of superresolution methods, like ESRGan or LAUNet)

Take-home messages

- The field is developing very fast
 - Thanks also to academic efforts
- Many challenges to address
 - Generalization to real-world scenarios
 - Integration with diffusion models
 - Open-vocabulary solutions
 - Increasing resolution
- Tech companies are investing huge resources
 - New solutions for XR
 - Automatic solutions for virtual staging



From ArchitectGPT.io, 2024



Apple VisionPro, 2024



Meta Quest Pro, 2024



Meta, Project ARIA, 2024

NEXT SESSION: CLOSING