

A black and white photograph of Earth from space, showing a satellite component in the foreground. The satellite has a cylindrical antenna and various instruments. The Earth's surface shows a mix of land and water, with a curved horizon line.

Segmentation-driven Satellite Pose Estimation

Kyle Gerard

kyle.gerard@epfl.ch

The team

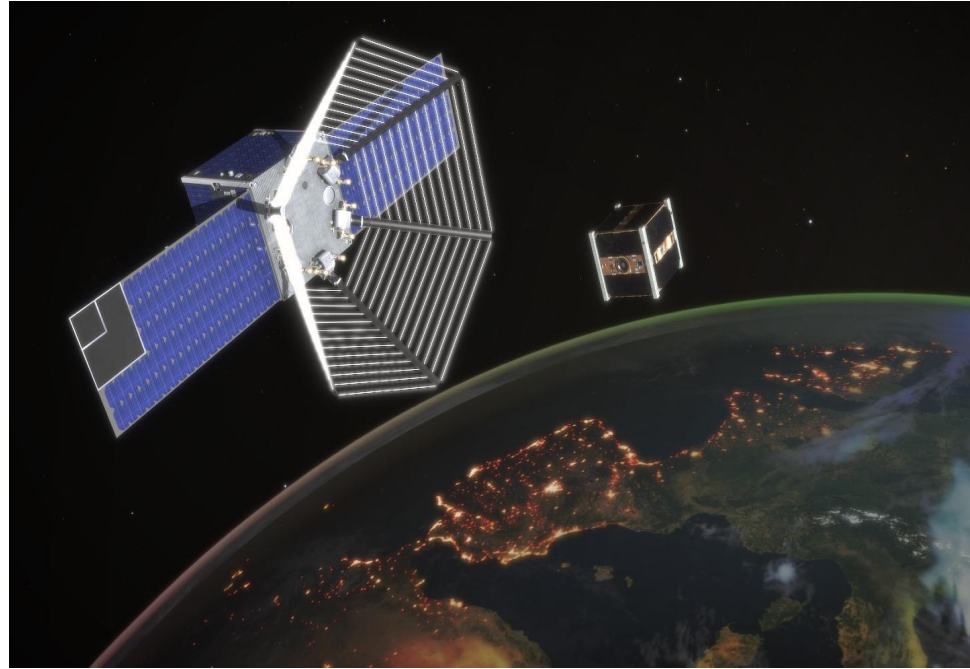
- Username: EPFL_CVLAB
- Kyle Gerard
- Dr Mathieu Salzmann (CVLAB)
- Dr Yinlin Hu (CVLAB)

EPFL



Why we participated

- Reduce space pollution
- CleanSpace One project to retrieve the swisscube
- eSpace

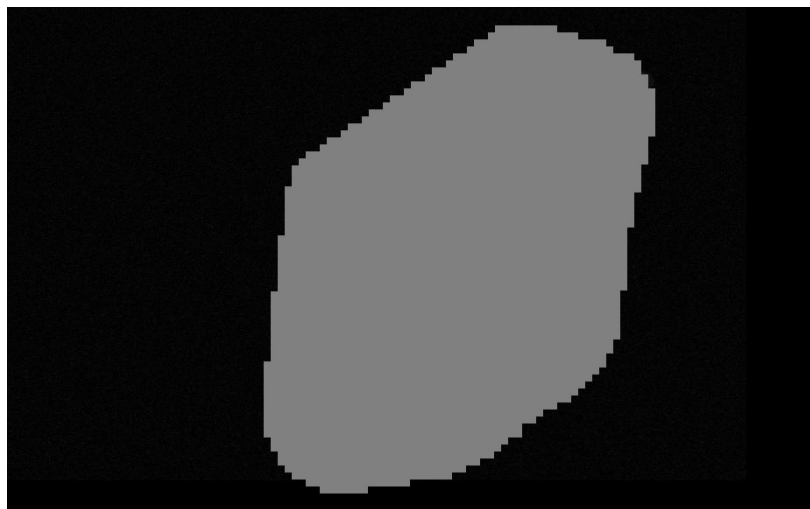
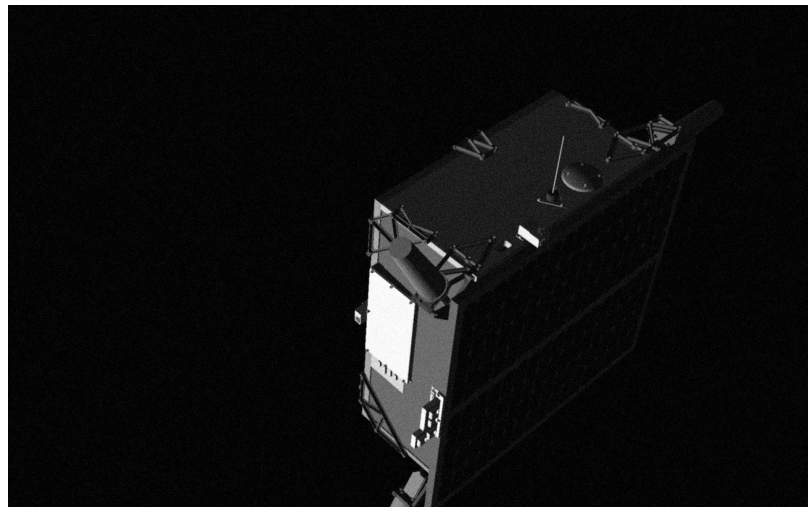


Approach

- Yinlin Hu, Joachim Hugonot, Pascal Fua and Mathieu Salzmann. Segmentation-driven 6D Object Pose Estimation. CVPR, 2019
- Darknet-53 architecture of YOLOv3 as the encoder
- Divided into grid where each cell makes predictions
- 2 stream architecture
- Cell votes/predictions are then fed to PnP algorithm to retrieve pose

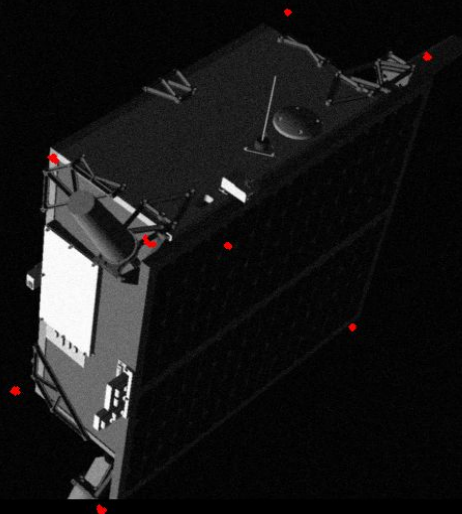
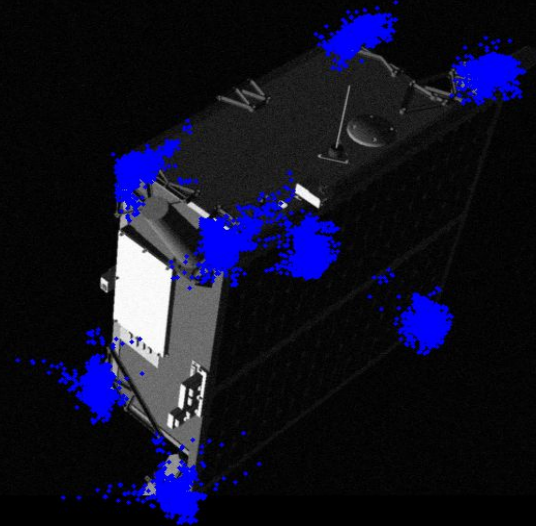
Segmentation stream

- Assign a label to each cell of the virtual $S \times S$ grid superposed on the image
- Uses Focal Loss because more background than object



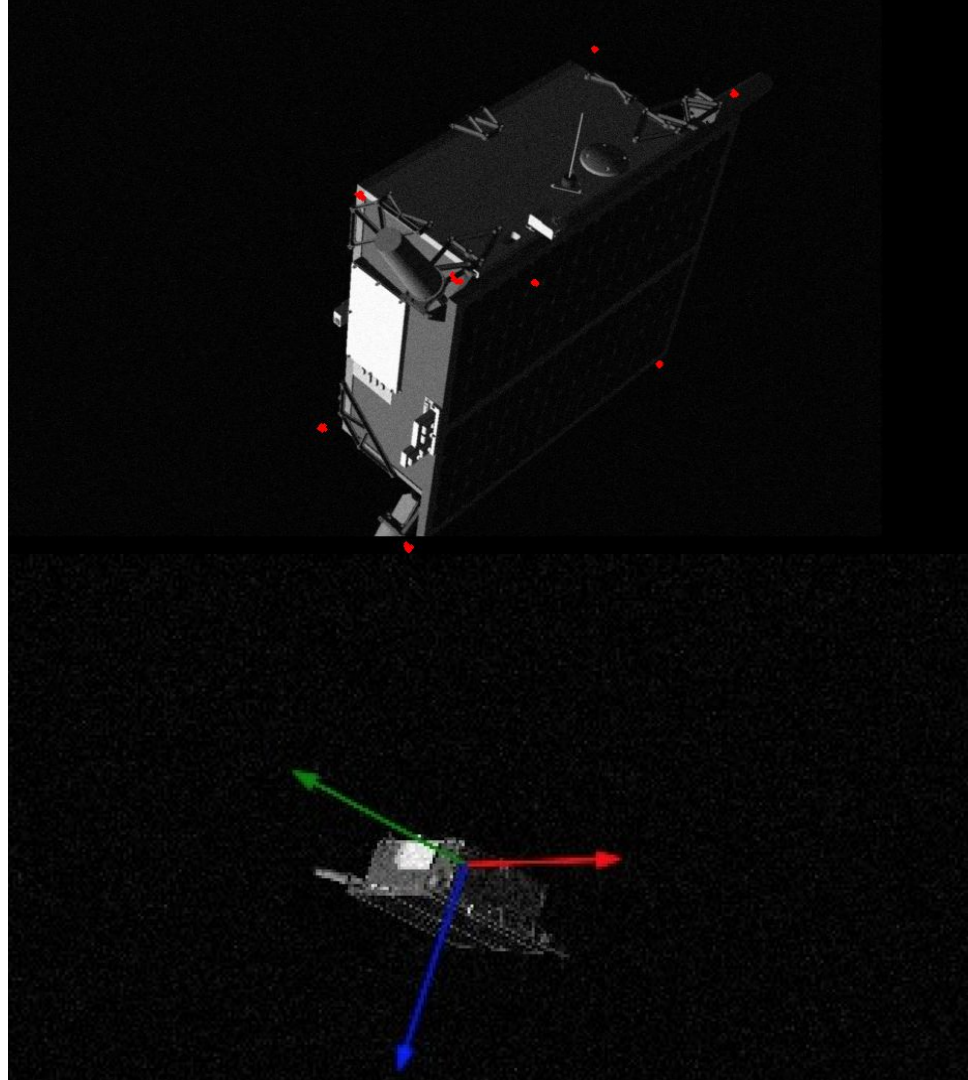
Regression stream

- Cells each predict relative 2D keypoints position
- L1 Loss of error distance
- Sigmoid function for confidence value
- Robust if satellite is damaged
- Confidence value is used to select n best 2D keypoint predictions

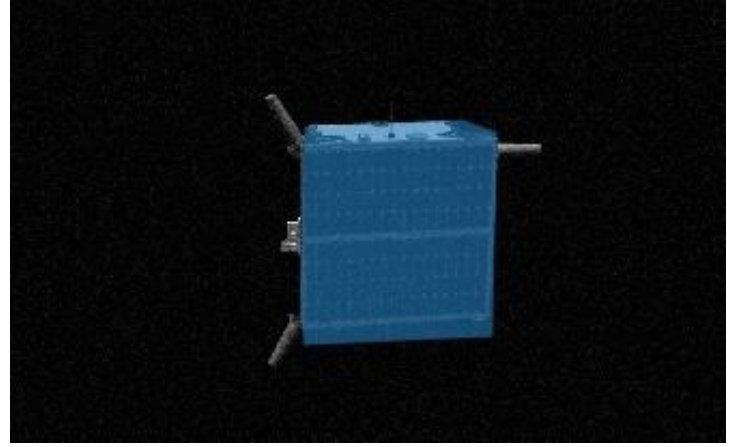
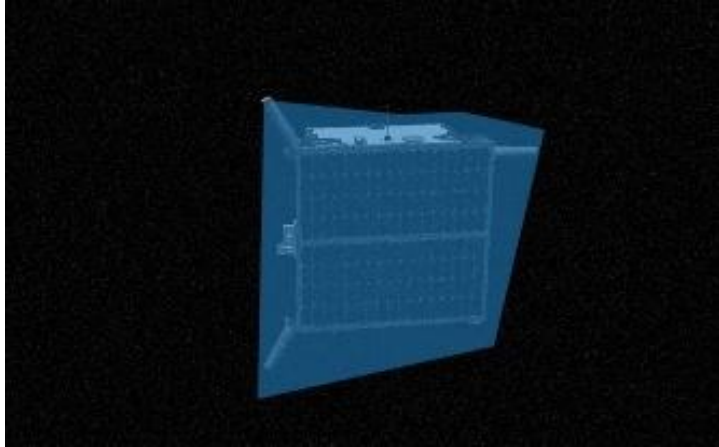


2D key points to 3D pose

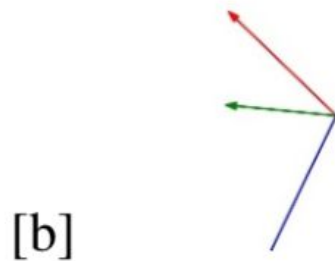
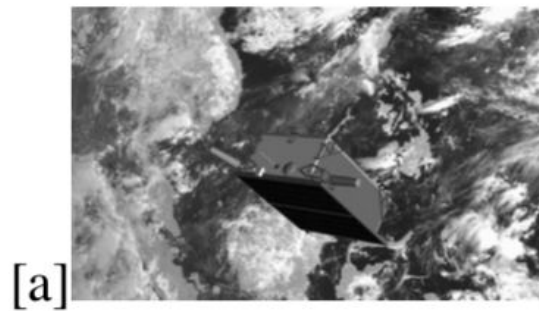
- Iterative PnP method
- RANSAC-based version of the EPnP developed at CVLAB to retrieve Pose



3D model of Tango satellite

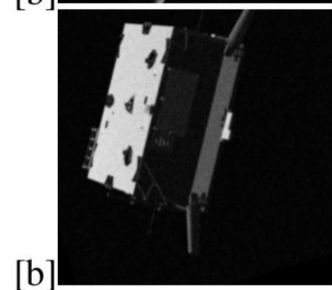
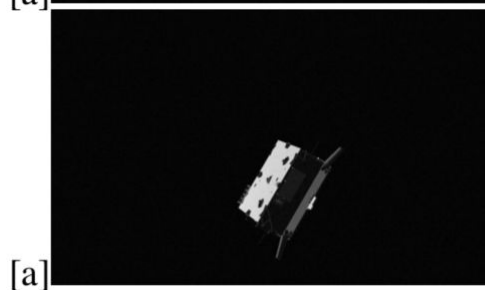
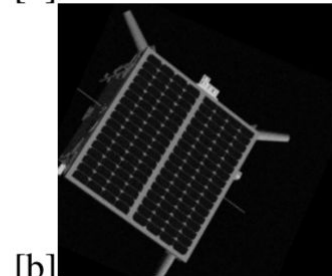
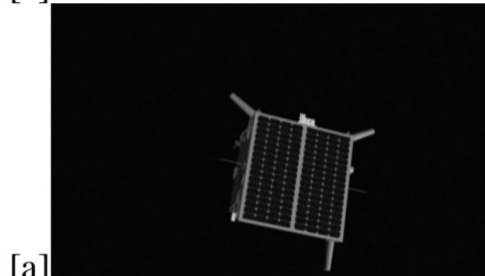
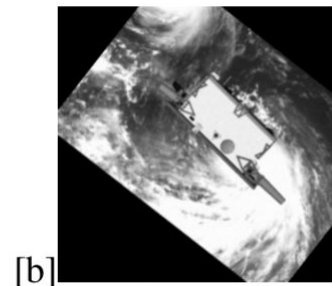
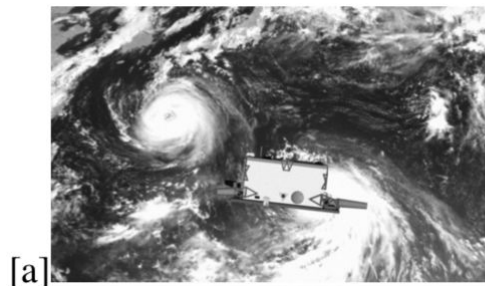


Bounding Box + Segmentation bitmap



Data Augmentation

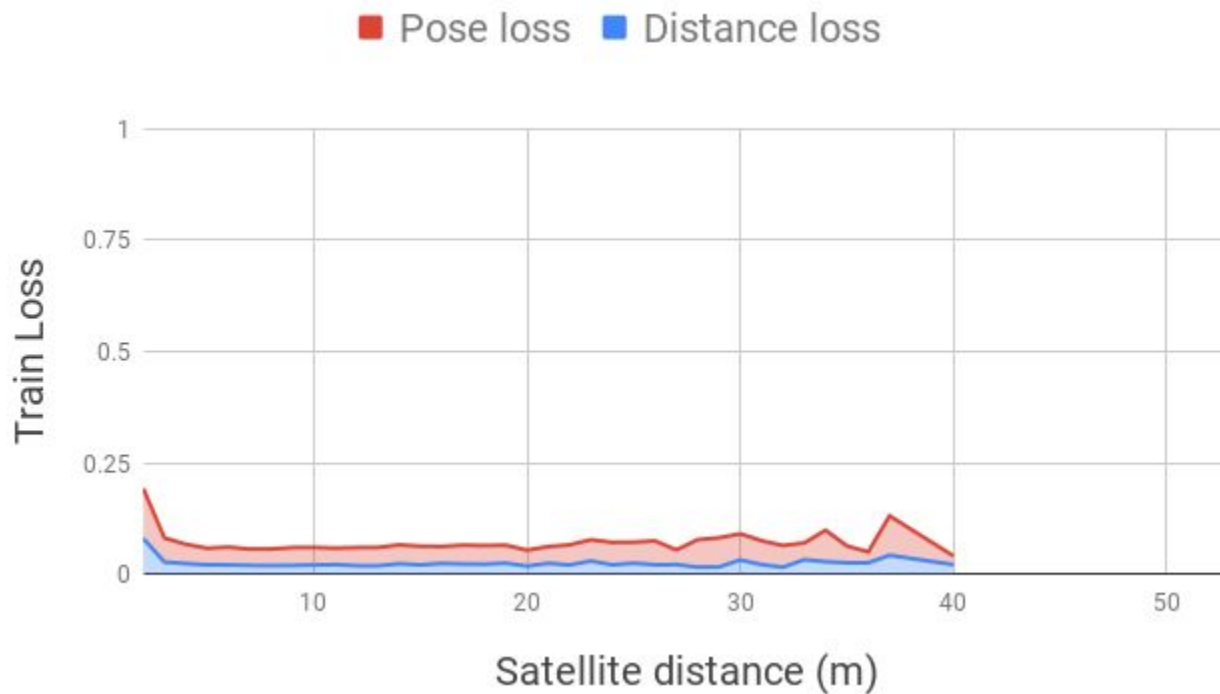
- Rotation
- Random noise
- Zoom / Cropping



Full Image - Test score: 0.161

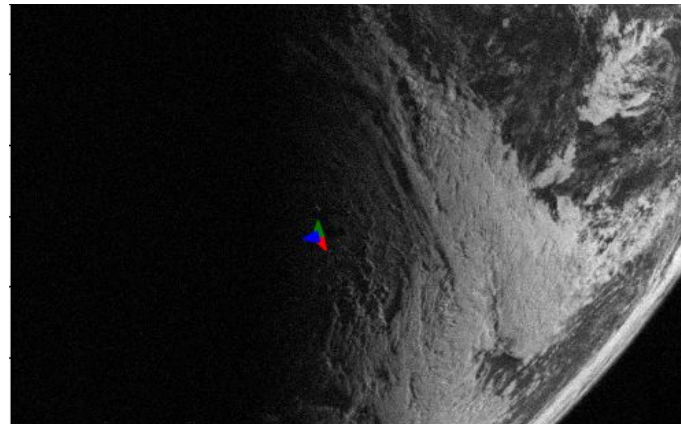
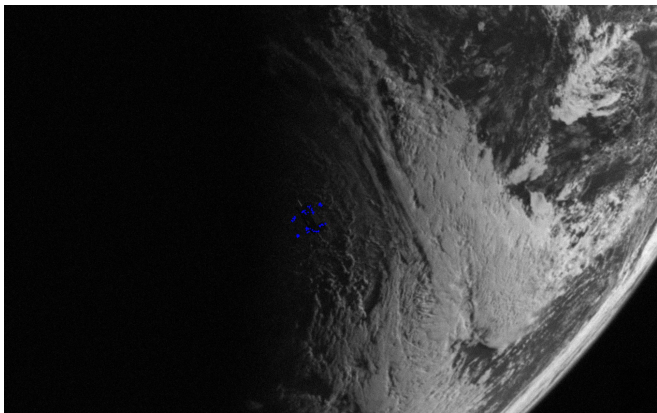


Zoom - Test score: below 0.05



PnP issues

- Bad 2D keypoint prediction lead to absurd PnP results.
- Score of 1 image is unbounded -> Test Score of $2.99e+63$...
- Detected using confidence value + range of possible satellite distances (satellite is between 3 and 50 meters away).

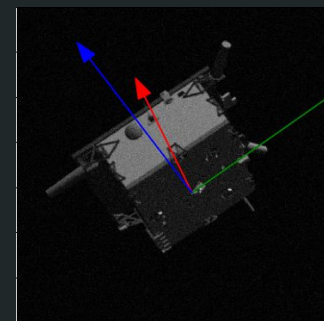
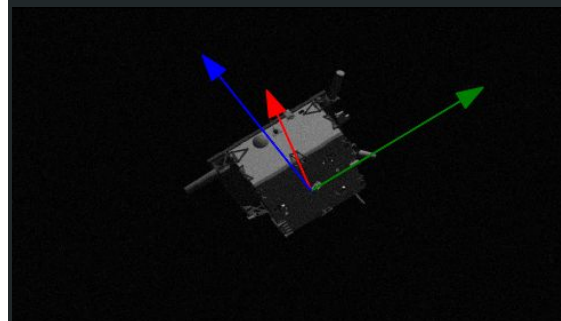
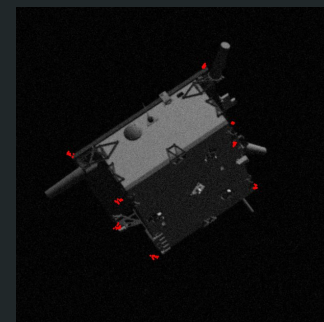
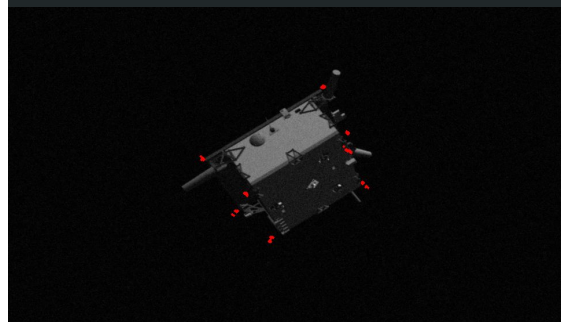
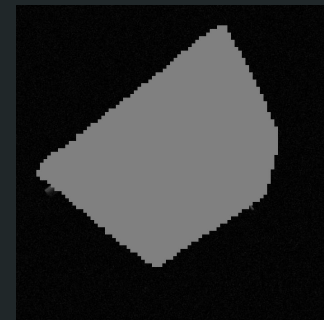
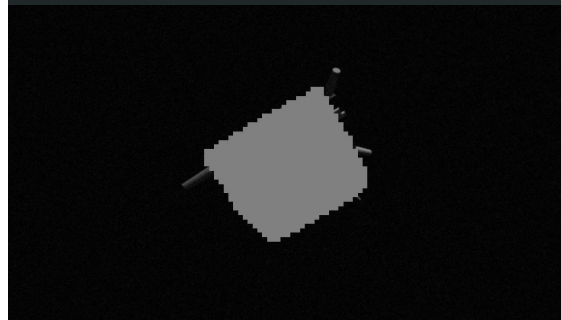


Comparison of the two 3D models

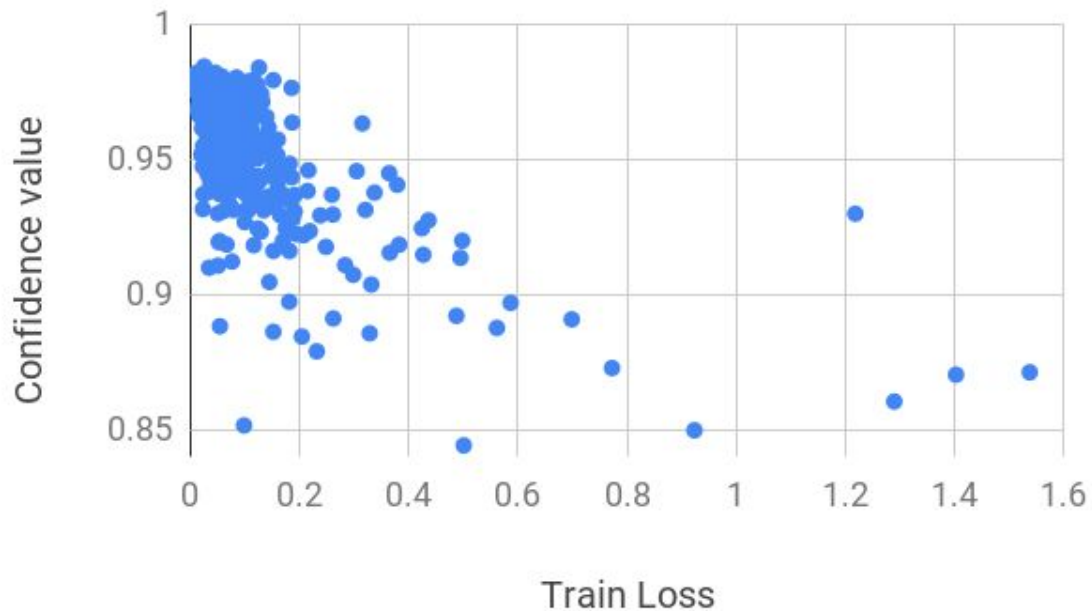
- model Without antennas:
Best test score: 0.054
- Model with antennas score:
Best test score 0.064

Without Antennas

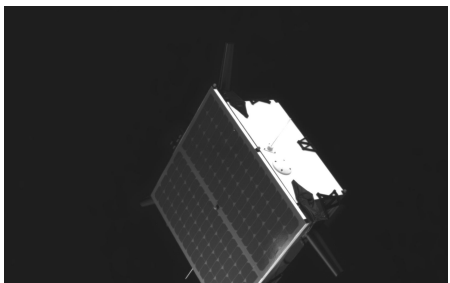
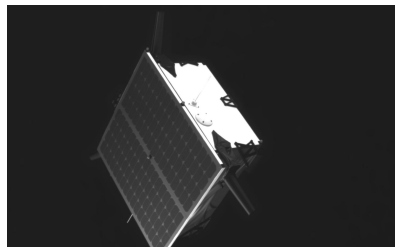
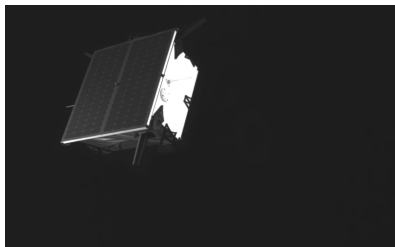
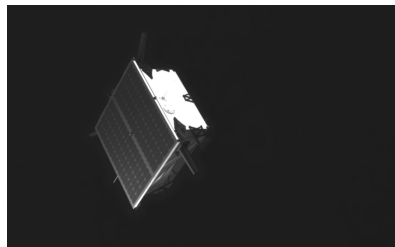
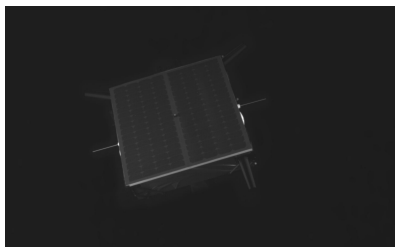
With Antennas



Competition optimizations - competition score: 0.02



Real Images



- 5 labelled images inserted to represent 10% of training images
 - sufficient because real dataset is not very diverse
 - Test score: 0.10
 - no need for domain adaptation for real images
-

Results

Leaderboard

Name	Submissions	Last Submission	Best Submission	Real Image Score	Best Score
UniAdelaide	30	July 1, 2019, 5:59 a.m.	July 1, 2019, 5:59 a.m.	0.36340645622528017	0.00864899489025079
EPFL_cvlab	33	June 30, 2019, 7:34 p.m.	June 30, 2019, 12:24 a.m.	0.1040193712417902	0.020492797305239972
pedro_fairspace	22	July 1, 2019, 12:37 a.m.	July 1, 2019, 12:37 a.m.	0.1476264625490052	0.055458132121867405
stanford_slab	3	July 1, 2019, 5:54 a.m.	June 30, 2019, 6:16 a.m.	0.32214726966380525	0.06106161608221092
Team_Platypus	33	July 1, 2019, 5:46 a.m.	July 1, 2019, 5:46 a.m.	1.7117510190859844	0.06749196492840154
motokimura1	27	July 1, 2019, 5:35 a.m.	July 1, 2019, 5:35 a.m.	0.5713766945291576	0.07343483001842709
Magpies	29	July 1, 2019, 3:49 a.m.	July 1, 2019, 2:44 a.m.	1.2400904671292423	0.14294669930679743

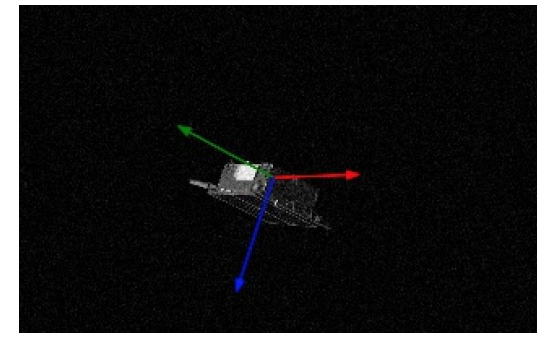
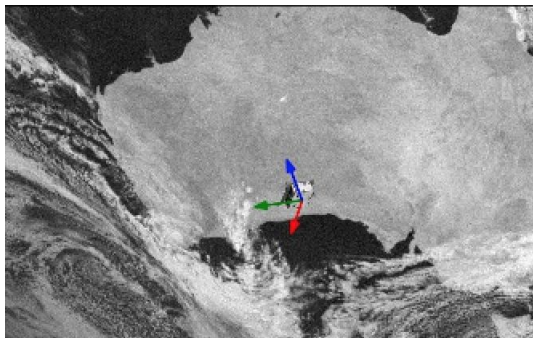
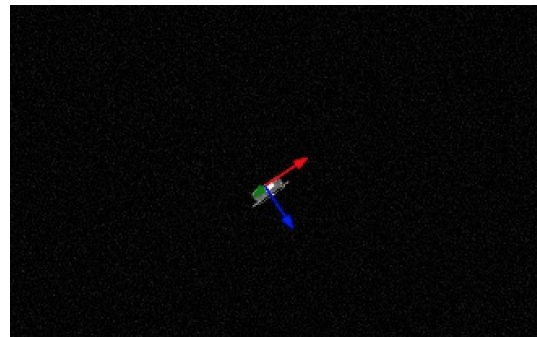
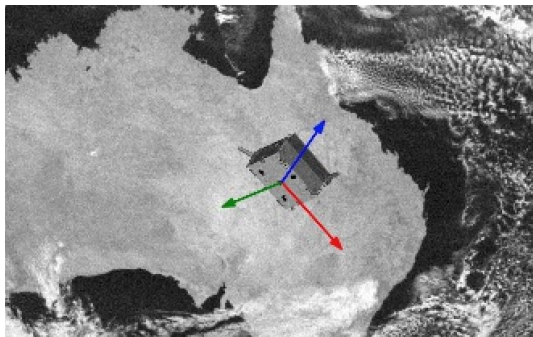
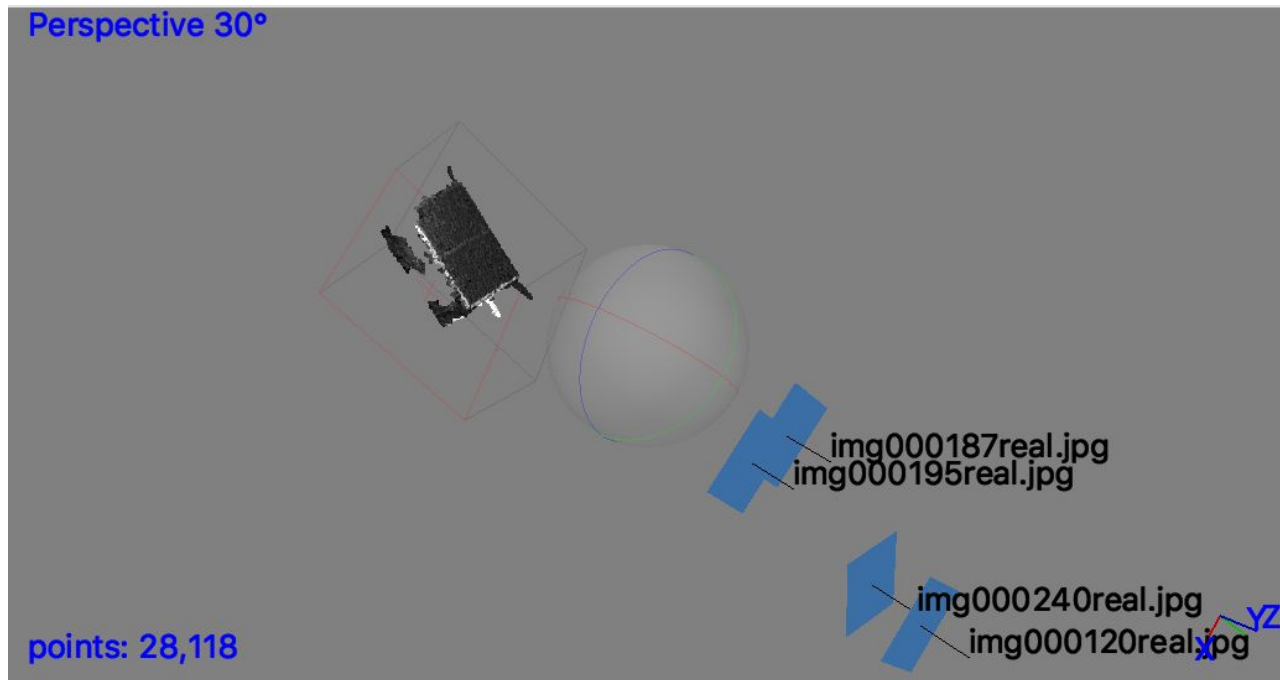


Photo reconstruction tools



Efforts to make model faster

Current model achieves 12 FPS on TITAN X GPU

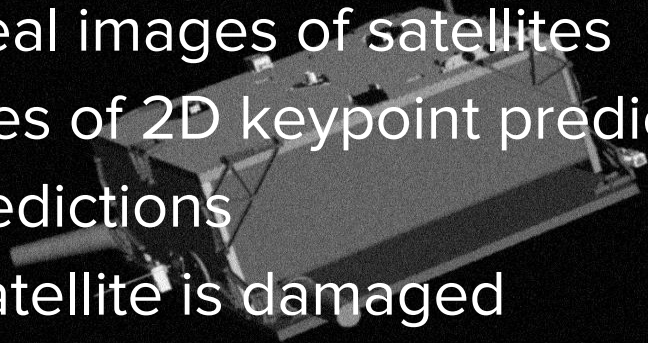
—————→ needs to be faster to run on satellites

Solution:

- compact model
- optimizations
- FPGA

Conclusion

- It is possible to estimate satellite 6D pose accurately
- Very low resolution 3D models of objects are sufficient for the framework to be accurate
- Models trained on synthetic images seem to be transferable to real images of satellites
- Confidence values of 2D keypoint predictions are helpful to detect bad predictions
- Should work if satellite is damaged



References

https://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Safety/Space_Debris/Space_debris_by_the_numbers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQpcqsXO14E>

D'Amico S., Bodin P., Delpech M., Noteborn R.; PRISMA; Chap 21, pp. 599-637. In: D'Errico M. (Ed.) Distributed Space Missions for Earth System Monitoring Space Technology Library, 2013, Volume 31, Part 4, 599-637. DOI 10.1007/978-1-4614-4541-821

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Vincent Lepetit, Francesc Moreno-Noguer, and Pascal Fua. EPnP: An Accurate $O(n)$ Solution to the PnP Problem. International Journal of Computer Vision, 2009

Yinlin Hu, Joachim Hugonot, Pascal Fua and Mathieu Salzmann. Segmentation-driven 6D Object Pose Estimation. CVPR, 2019