

# Optimising 3D-CNN Design towards Human Pose Estimation on Low Power Devices

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## Abstract

3D CNN-based architectures have found application in a variety of 3D vision tasks, significantly outperforming earlier approaches. This increase in accuracy, however, has come at the cost of computational complexity, with deep learning models becoming more and more complex, requiring significant computational resources, especially in the case of 3D data. Meanwhile, the growing adoption of low power devices in various technology fields has shifted the research focus towards the implementation of deep learning on systems with limited resources. While plenty of approaches have achieved promising results in terms of reducing the computational complexity in 2D tasks, their applicability in 3D-CNN designs has not been thoroughly researched. The current work aims at filling this void, by investigating a series of efficient CNN design techniques within the scope of 3D-CNNs, in order to produce guidelines for 3D-CNN design that can be applied to already established architectures, reducing their computational complexity. Following these guidelines, a computationally efficient 3D-CNN architecture for human pose estimation from 3D data is proposed, achieving comparable accuracy to the state-of-the-art. The proposed design guidelines are further validated within the scope of 3D object classification, achieving high accuracy results at a low computational cost.

## 1 Introduction

Deep Learning has revolutionized, in recent years, multiple scientific fields, including Computer Vision [25]. Applied in a broad spectrum of vision applications, convolutional neural networks have achieved remarkable results in a variety of tasks [6, 22, 28, 40], significantly outperforming earlier approaches, and in some cases even surpassing human perception levels [10]. 3D Computer Vision has also benefited from these advances, with multiple works undertaking tasks such as object recognition [53] and reconstruction [4], semantic segmentation [68] and pose estimation [49] from 3D data.

This immense increase in accuracy, however, has come at the cost of computational complexity [20]. The complexity of deep learning models has been steadily growing, increasing

the required computational resources during both training and inference. This increase in complexity becomes even more evident in the case of 3D vision tasks, as the addition of a third dimension makes the cost of every new layer even steeper, while also limiting the spatial resolution of the input data, in an attempt to bound this increase.

Meanwhile, the growing adoption of low power devices in various applications, has shifted the research focus towards the implementation of deep learning methods on such systems, making it necessary to reduce the computational complexity of the proposed networks while maintaining the level of accuracy. Many approaches have been proposed attempting to reduce the complexity of deep learning models by either shrinking the models [13] or minimizing the cost of computations [54]. While these methods have achieved promising results in 2D vision tasks, their applicability in 3D-CNN designs has not been thoroughly researched, hindering the utilization of such architectures on systems with limited resources.

The proposed work aims at filling this void, by investigating a series of efficient 3D-CNN design techniques, towards their implementation on low power devices. More specifically, the main contributions of this paper are:

- A series of network design guidelines, that can reduce the computational complexity of already established 3D-CNN architectures, while maintaining comparable accuracy
- A novel 3D-CNN architecture for multi-person 3D human pose estimation from 3D data, based on the above guidelines, which performs comparably to state-of-the-art methods, while requiring significantly fewer computational resources
- Experimental validation of the applicability of the design guidelines in other 3D tasks, through the optimisation of a 3D object classification network

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a summary of the state-of-the-art in the fields of 3D-CNNs in Computer Vision and efficient network design, Section 3 introduces the computational complexity metrics used throughout the paper and Section 4 describes the network optimisation pipeline. Section 5 presents the results from the comparative experimental evaluation and, finally, Section 6 concludes the paper.

## 2 Related Work

### 2.1 3D-CNNs in Computer Vision

3D-CNNs have been employed in Computer Vision mainly in the scope of 3D vision, where the three spatial dimensions correspond to the real world coordinates. Towards object detection, the Voxnet architecture [50] utilizes 3 different occupancy models, along with a 4-layer detection network. In [53] 3D geometric shapes are represented as a probabilistic distribution of binary variables and combined with a Convolutional Deep Belief Network, while Qi *et al.* [57] introduce auxiliary learning tasks to scrutinize details of 3D objects and anisotropic kernels to probe for long-distance interactions. Song and Xiao [46] propose the first 3D RPN to learn objectness from geometric shapes, utilizing the projective Directional Truncated Signed Distance Function representations. In [40] a hybrid Grid-Octree data structure is presented, allowing to focus memory allocation and computation to dense regions, while in [24, 52] random sampling is employed to generate multidimensional features from raw 3D points. In [5] the projective DTSDf representation is employed for 3D hand pose estimation,

while in [63, 49] 3D extensions of the hourglass [65] and convolutional pose machines [62] architectures are introduced for 3D human pose estimation. Towards 3D shape reconstruction, 3D-R2N2 [9] employs a 3D-Convolutional LSTM along with a 3D Deconvolutional Neural Network, Wu *et al.* [63] extend GANs to 3D space, and Yi *et al.* [69] present the Densely Connected 3D Auto-encoder architecture.

Additionally, 3D-CNNs have also been employed for spatio-temporal learning, where the time axis acts as the third dimension. Multiple approaches use 3D-CNNs for action recognition from short video sequences [12, 18, 47]. Varol *et al.* [48] extend these approaches to longer temporal convolutions, also exploring the impact of optical flow. Wang *et al.* [50] introduce saliency-aware maps into the 3D-CNN architecture, while the I3D model [10] achieves improvements in action classification utilizing an Inception-like 3D-CNN network. Building upon the action recognition models, [56, 57] add LSTMs and visual-semantic Embedding for video description, while [27, 31, 52] utilize 3D CNNs for gesture recognition.

## 2.2 Computationally Efficient CNN Design

Multiple recent research efforts have focused in building small and efficient neural networks, suitable for systems with limited resources, such as mobile devices. A common approach is to reduce the number of parameters in the convolutions, with the MobileNets [13, 20], ShuffleNet [29, 60] and Xception [9] models utilizing depth-wise separable convolutions [24]. Meanwhile, Wang *et al.* [50] introduce factorized convolutions and Jin *et al.* [19] propose the use of topological connections for further reducing computational requirements. Other small networks include the Squeezenet [16] which uses a bottleneck approach to design a very small network, structured transform networks [45] and deep fried convnets [56].

A different approach is to obtain a small network by shrinking a pre-trained network, with the most popular network compression techniques including: 1) quantisation [17, 54], in which filter weight matrices are quantised to lower bit depths, 2) hashing [2], which uses a low-cost hash function to randomly group connection weights into hash buckets, with connections within the same bucket sharing a single parameter, and 3) Huffman coding [8] which reduces the size of the networks using Huffman coding on the weights of the network.

While these techniques have been thoroughly tested on 2D architectures, corresponding work towards efficient 3D-CNN designs has been rather limited. Ye *et al.* [58] present a preliminary investigation of the use of 3D depthwise convolutions in 3D classification and reconstruction. Zhi *et al.* [60] leverage multitask learning to improve the efficiency of Voxnet, while Kumawat *et al.* [23] propose the ReLPV block, a four-layer alternative efficient representation of the standard 3D convolutional layer. Additionally, efficient 3D-CNN architectures have been proposed within the scope of spatio-temporal learning [15, 69].

The current work, on the other hand, attempts a thorough investigation of 3D-CNN design optimisation techniques, using a state-of-the-art 3D-CNN human pose estimation network [49] as a baseline. All the stages of the architecture are optimised in terms of accuracy and computational cost, leading to the definition of a series of design guidelines for the generation of a 3D-CNN model of comparable accuracy but of lower complexity.

## 3 Computational Complexity Metrics

To evaluate the computational complexity of a network design, three framework agnostic metrics are established (Table 1):

- **MACs** describe the number of the required arithmetic operations. In the case of neural networks most of the computations are dot products (multiplication followed by addition), with 1 MAC corresponding to one multiplication-addition
- **Network Parameters** are the number of trainable variables at each layer of a network, that need to be learned and stored
- **MEMs** describe the required amount of memory access operations in order to read and write all the data during compute. Disregarding, for simplicity, advanced techniques such as caching, three MEM groups are processed at each layer: a) read the input, b) read the weights, c) write the output.

Layer	Input	Filter	MACs	MEMs	Params
<b>FC</b>	$D$	$n$ nodes	$D \cdot n$	$D + D \cdot n + n$	$D \cdot n$
<b>Conv</b>	$D^3 \times C_{in}$	$k \times k \times k \times C_{out}$ stride $s$ groups $g$	$C_{in} \cdot C_{out} \cdot k^3 \cdot D^3 / g \cdot s^3$	$D^3 \cdot C_{in} +$ $k^3 \cdot C_{out} / g +$ $D^3 \cdot C_{out} / s^3$	$C_{in} \cdot k^3 \cdot C_{out} / g$
<b>Pool</b>	$D^3 \times C_{in}$	$k \times k \times k$ stride $s$	$k^3 \cdot D^3 \cdot C_{in} / s^3$	$D^3 \cdot C_{in} +$ $D^3 \cdot C_{in} / s^3$	n/a
<b>ReLU</b>	$D^3 \times C_{in}$	n/a	$D^3 \cdot C_{in}$	$2 \cdot D^3 \cdot C_{in}$	n/a

Table 1: Calculation of the computational complexity metrics for 3D-CNNs.  $D$  is the input’s spatial dimension,  $C_{in}, C_{out}$  are the input and output channels and  $k$  is the kernel size.

## 4 Network Design Optimisation

The optimisation process involves the revision of the state-of-the-art 3D-CNN architecture for human pose estimation from Vasileiadis *et al.* [49]. The final goal is to reduce its overall computational complexity, while maintaining its accuracy, achieving an optimal trade-off.

The baseline network employs a fully-convolutional 3D-CNN architecture, that uses as input a 3D voxel grid and produces per-voxel likelihood maps of human joints and body parts, for multi-person 3D human pose estimation from 3D point cloud data [49] (Fig. 1).

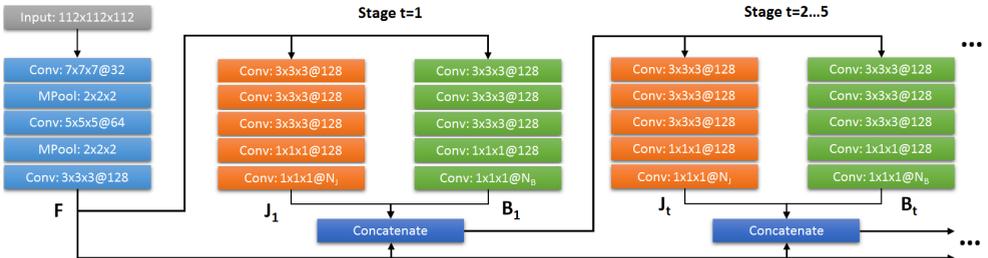


Figure 1: The baseline architecture from Vasileiadis *et al.* [49]. The 3D feature maps  $F$  are generated from a  $112^3$  input voxel grid, and passed to the sequential multistage structure, which produces per-voxel likelihood maps  $J_t, B_t$  for  $N_J$  joints and  $N_B$  body parts respectively. The feature maps and stage predictions are then concatenated and passed to the next stage

## 4.1 Optimisation Protocol

A protocol is established to consistently evaluate the effect in accuracy and computational complexity of each potential network design. Every alternative network architecture is trained from scratch and evaluated on the ITOP-front dataset [9], following the same training guidelines as in [49], with the *Mean Average Precision at 0.1m (mAP)* metric used for evaluation. Additionally, the three complexity metrics are estimated for each architecture. Overall, the goal at each optimisation step is to reduce the network’s total computational complexity, while maintaining the accuracy of the previous step.

### 4.1.1 Efficient Convolutional Building Blocks

The first step in the design optimisation process is to find efficient alternatives to standard convolutions. Inspired by the use of depthwise separable convolutions [42], towards the same goal, in multiple proposed 2D-CNN architectures, five specific blocks are investigated, based on the Mobilenets [13, 42], Shufflenet [29, 60] and Bottleneck [10] models (Fig. 2).

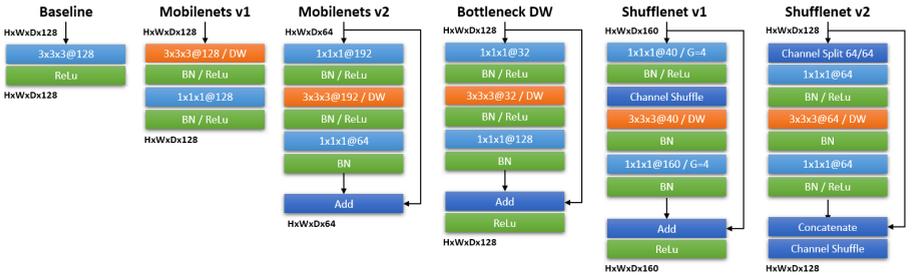


Figure 2: The basic convolutional building blocks investigated, based on the Mobilenets [13, 42], Shufflenet [29, 60] and Residual Bottleneck [10] architectures.

While in the corresponding papers, the authors propose specific architectures based on these blocks, herein standard convolutions are directly substituted by the corresponding efficient blocks, maintaining the kernel sizes and channels widths of the baseline model. For the Mobilenets v2 and Shufflenet v1 blocks, the channel width is slightly altered in order to produce an architecture with a similar computational cost to the other three (Fig. 2, Table 2(a)). When a layer is followed by strided Max Pooling, the strided versions of the blocks are used, to maintain the spatial resolution of the baseline model. Moreover, for blocks that include residual connections, an identity layer is added, if the input and output do not have the same number of channels. Finally, the first input layer, and the final two pointwise layers at the end of each stage, are not substituted, as they are investigated on their own below.

From the evaluation of the building blocks (Table 2(a)), it becomes evident that all potential architectures achieve massive reductions, over 90%, in terms of MACs and parameters, while approaching the accuracy of the baseline model, with an average decrease in mAP of just 1.5%. Of the five architectures, the Shufflenet v2 [29] building block not only achieves the highest accuracy score, but also presents the lowest complexity across all three metrics.

### 4.1.2 Input Layer

The first layer in the baseline model is comprised of a  $7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 32$  convolution followed by strided Max pooling. Since it deals with the full resolution input grid, it accounts for

approximately half of the total MACs of the model, thus making it necessary to optimise it. Two potential blocks are investigated: a) standard strided convolution and b) Mobilenets v1 strided block, where the stride is employed on the depthwise convolution. The other four blocks from Section 4.1.1 are not employed as they would require an extra expensive pointwise convolution at the full resolution of the input.

Both alternative first layers (Table 2(b)), manage to outperform the baseline layer, while reducing the total MACs in half. The Mobilenets v1 block achieves larger complexity and accuracy gains, even though it may seem counter-intuitive to perform a depthwise convolution on a single channel input.

### 4.1.3 Kernel Size

In the previous steps the kernel dimensions of the baseline layers are maintained in the depthwise convolutions. Meanwhile, in the original Mobilenets and Shufflenet architectures, the authors opt-out to use only kernel size  $k = 3$  for the depthwise convolutions, along with the pointwise convolutions, as most deep learning frameworks have custom, highly optimised implementations for these kernel types. The same principle is applied to the optimised architecture, specifically to the first two blocks as the rest of the network uses only kernel sizes  $k = \{1, 3\}$ . Additionally, the use of dilated convolutions is investigated, attempting to maintain the receptive field of the original kernels. The  $3 \times 3 \times 3$  kernels present the same performance with the baseline kernels, slightly reducing the MACs and network parameters, while the dilated convolutional kernels result in a significant drop in accuracy (Table 2(c)).

### 4.1.4 End-of-stage Pointwise Layers

At the end of each prediction stage two pointwise convolutional layers are employed, following [28] where fully connected layers are substituted with pointwise convolutions in order to generate fully convolutional architectures. While pointwise convolutions are generally considered computationally efficient, in the current optimised architecture the second to last end-of-stage pointwise layers account for approximately a quarter of the total MACs and parameters, as they are applied on the full channel width (128 channels). Removing those layers results in a small decrease in accuracy of less than 0.7%, leading, however, to significant gains in computational complexity, thus justifying this decision (Table 2(d)).

### 4.1.5 Squeeze-and-Excitation Blocks

Moving in the opposite direction to the previous steps, the utilization of *Squeeze - and - Excitation (SE) blocks* [14] is investigated, as a means of increasing the accuracy at a minor computational cost. SE blocks adaptively recalibrate the feature responses of each channel by modelling interdependencies between them, and have demonstrated significant improvements in performance for existing state-of-the-art CNN architectures.

SE blocks with squeeze ratio  $r = 4$  are added after the last BN/ReLU block in every Shufflenet v2 block, leading to an impressive 1.3% increase in accuracy (Table 2(e)).

### 4.1.6 Input Data Representation

The baseline model [49] employs the computationally inexpensive Hitgrid [30] volumetric representation to model the input data to a dense, fixed size 3D occupancy grid. Using, how-

ever, slightly more complex representations, could potentially increase the overall accuracy, leading to a better accuracy/complexity trade-off.

Two low cost data modelling approaches are investigated: a) projective D-TSDF [44] which offers a fast approximation of the TSDF model [34] and b) PointGrid [24] which combines the dense volumetric representation with raw point cloud features. For the former, the truncation limit is set to  $l = 5$  voxels, while for the later each voxel is represented by  $K = 6$  points and the grid resolution is halved, with stride set to  $s = 1$ . All three representation models require less than  $10ms$  to be generated from 25K 3D points on a single CPU core.

However, neither of the two representations manages to outperform the Hitgrid model (Table 2(f)). In the case of the projective D-TSDF, it can be partially attributed to the presence of obstacles that may block the projection beam, while for PointGrid, the low number of 3D points around smaller body parts (hands, feet) results in randomly duplicating data which can make it harder for the convolution to extract good features.

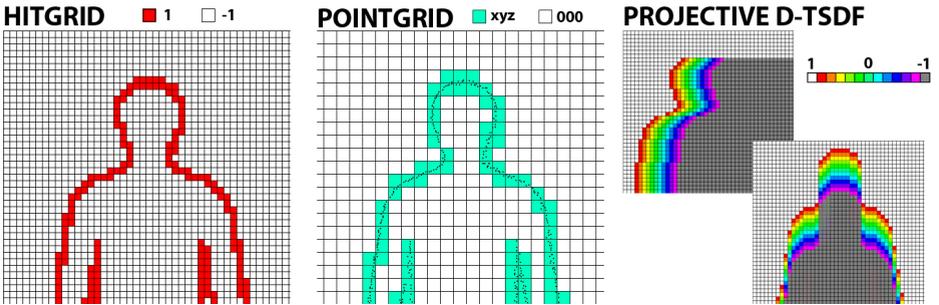


Figure 3: 2D illustrations of the *Hitgrid*, *PointGrid* and *projective D-TSDF* representations

## 4.2 Network Dimensionality Parameterization

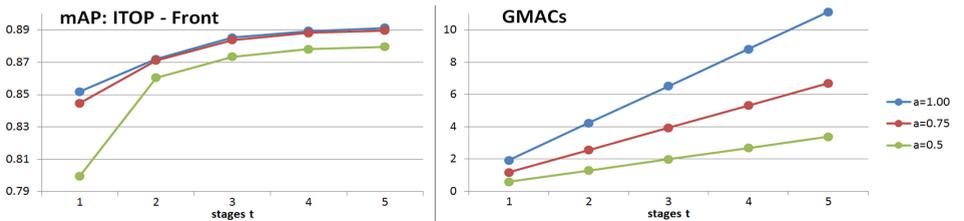


Figure 4: mAP on the ITOP-front dataset and computational complexity in giga-MACs, for different width multiplier values  $a$  and number of sequential stages  $t$

In order to further optimise the accuracy/complexity trade-off, two network dimensionality hyperparameters are introduced: a) the width multiplier hyperparameter  $a \in (0, 1]$ , which uniformly reduces the width of the network at each layer and b) the sequential stages hyperparameter  $t > 0$ , which defines the number of repetitive prediction stages in the sequential multi-stage structure (the baseline configuration described above corresponds to  $\{a = 1, t = 5\}$ ).

By evaluating all potential combinations (Fig. 4), the  $\{a = 0.75, t = 4\}$  configuration achieves the best accuracy/complexity trade-off, as it presents minimal loss in accuracy (

-0.3% compared to  $\{a = 1, t = 5\}$ ), while requiring approximately half of the computational resources.

### 4.3 Design Guidelines Overview

Based on the study presented above, the design guidelines for improved accuracy/complexity trade-off of established 3D-CNN architectures, are defined as follows:

- a. Hitgrid [30] volumetric data representation model
- b. Mobilenets v1 [13] convolutional block for the first layer
- c. Shufflenet v2 [29] convolutional blocks for the rest non-pointwise layers
- d. Kernel size  $k = 3$  for all non-pointwise layers
- e. Strided convolution instead of pooling
- f. Remove extra pointwise layers, besides last one
- g. Squeeze and Excitation blocks [14]
- h. Uniform reduction in network width and depth for best accuracy/complexity trade-off

Layer	mAP	MACs	Params	MEMs
<b>(a) Building Blocks</b>				
<b>Baseline [4]</b>	0.8923	377.65 G	14720 K	3.11 G
<b>Mobilenets v1 [13]</b>	0.8772	33.74 G	840 K	4.34 G
<b>Mobilenets v2 [29]</b>	0.8769	33.88 G	1184 K	6.49 G
<b>Bottleneck DW [10]</b>	0.8765	30.91 G	707 K	4.93 G
<b>Shufflenet v1 [61]</b>	0.8744	34.20 G	685 K	5.91 G
<b>Shufflenet v2 [29]</b>	0.8782	30.17 G	674 K	4.25 G
<b>(b) Input Layer</b>				
<b>Conv + Max Pooling</b>	0.8782	30.17 G	674 K	4.25 G
<b>Conv / s=2</b>	0.8830	16.64 G	674 K	3.57 G
<b>Mobilenets v1 / s=2</b>	0.8841	14.78 G	663 K	3.58 G
<b>(c) Kernel Size</b>				
<b>7x / 5x / 3x</b>	0.8841	14.78 G	663 K	3.58 G
<b>3x / 3x / 3x</b>	0.8841	14.58 G	656 K	3.58 G
<b>3x / 3x / 3x dilated</b>	0.8454	14.58 G	656 K	3.58 G
<b>(d) Pointwise Layers</b>				
<b>Keep layers</b>	0.8841	14.58 G	656 K	3.58 G
<b>Remove layers</b>	0.8782	10.97 G	491 K	3.12 G
<b>(e) SE Blocks [14]</b>				
<b>No SE blocks</b>	0.8782	10.97 G	491 K	3.12 G
<b>SE blocks / r=4</b>	0.8913	11.11 G	558 K	3.83 G
<b>(f) Data Representation Model</b>				
<b>HitGrid [30]</b>	0.8913	11.11 G	558 K	3.83 G
<b>PointGrid / K=6 [24]</b>	0.8801	11.28 G	558 K	3.84 G
<b>Projective D-TSDF / l=5 [46]</b>	0.8853	11.13 G	558 K	3.83 G

Table 2: mAP on the ITOP-front dataset and overall computational complexity for different network architectures. At each step, the last optimised architecture (gray) is revised

## 5 Experimental Evaluation

### 5.1 3D Human Pose Estimation

Following the evaluation protocol in [49], the final optimised architecture<sup>1</sup> is evaluated on the single-person ITOP [9] and multi-person CMU PanopticStudio (Band and Haggling sequences) [20] datasets, matching the accuracy of the Baseline [49] on the ITOP-front and CMU Haggling subsets. On the other hand, a larger drop in performance is observed on the more challenging ITOP-top and CMU Band subsets (2.5% and 1.5% respectively), with the overall accuracy, however, being comparable to the state-of-the-art [9, 53, 49].

	ITOP - front	ITOP - top	CMU Haggling	CMU Band
<b>Head</b>	0.983	0.981	0.983	0.981
<b>Neck</b>	0.986	0.983	0.995	0.981
<b>Shoulders</b>	0.967	0.957	0.991	0.975
<b>Elbows</b>	0.819	0.772	0.982	0.967
<b>Hands</b>	0.700	0.627	0.965	0.955
<b>Torso</b>	0.983	0.973	n/a	n/a
<b>Hips</b>	0.955	0.844	0.961	0.827
<b>Knees</b>	0.910	0.776	0.980	0.963
<b>Feet</b>	0.870	0.708	0.978	0.947
<b>Ours MEAN</b>	0.888	0.820	0.978	0.945
<b>Baseline [49]</b>	0.893	0.845	0.988	0.960
<b>Moon 2018 [53]</b>	0.887	0.834	n/a	n/a
<b>Guo 2017 [9]</b>	0.849	0.755	n/a	n/a

Table 3: Comparison (mAP@0.1m) of the proposed optimised architecture to the state-of-the-art on the ITOP and CMU PanopticStudio datasets

	MACs	Params	MEMs	CPU / GPU	Model Size
<b>Ours</b>	5.32 G	264 K	2.35 G	5.45 / 0.17 s	1.06 MB
<b>Baseline [49]</b>	377.65 G	14720 K	3.10 G	15.21 / 0.32 s	58.88 MB
<b>Ours Single</b>	1.34 G	135 K	0.64 G	1.38 / 0.05 s	0.54 MB
<b>Baseline Single</b>	105.71 G	7440 K	1.03 G	4.69 / 0.13 s	29.76 MB
<b>Moon 2018 [53]</b>	36.39 G	3398 K	1.28 G	3.49 / 0.11 s	13.59 MB

Table 4: Computational complexity and inference runtime comparison of the proposed optimised architecture and state-of-the-art 3D-CNN human pose estimation architectures

Moreover, the computational complexity of the optimised architecture is estimated and compared against the Baseline [49] and Moon *et al.* [53]. A “single person” configuration is also presented, using only the joints detection branch and an 88<sup>3</sup> input grid, as in [53] (Table 4). Additionally, all architectures are benchmarked on a CPU-only and a GPU-based hardware configurations<sup>2</sup>, in order to provide an indication about their actual performance.

The proposed network achieves massive gains in terms of MACs and Network parameters, with smaller improvements in MEMs, mainly due to the optimisation process not

<sup>1</sup>a detailed diagram of the optimised architecture is available in the supplemental material

<sup>2</sup>Intel Core i5-4670K, 2 cores activated / Nvidia GTX970

affecting the dimensions of the feature maps. Meanwhile, the speedup in runtime is in the range of 3x on both configurations, with the single model reaching 20fps on the GPU.

## 5.2 3D Object Classification

In order to investigate the effectiveness of the design guidelines in other 3D tasks, they are applied in 3D object classification. A naive 3D extension of VGG13 [26] is employed as a baseline and optimised following the proposed guidelines. Both the baseline and optimised architectures are evaluated on the ModelNet10 subset of the ShapeNet dataset [55], which includes 55k 3D CAD models, sampled as  $32 \times 32 \times 32$  grids, split into 10 object categories.

The optimised VGG13 3D architecture matches the accuracy of the baseline model (Table 5), while performing comparably to the state-of-the-art [23, 80, 43, 60]. Moreover, a reduction across all three computational complexity metrics is observed (Table 6), similar to the human pose estimation task, with a speedup of over 2x on the CPU-only configuration.

VGG13 3D Ours	VGG13 3D	Maturana 2015 [80]	Zhi 2017 [61]	Sedaghat 2017 [43]	Kumawat 2019 [23]
0.910	0.916	0.920	0.934	0.938	0.944

Table 5: Accuracy comparison of the baseline and optimised VGG13 3D architectures, to state-of-the-art volumetric 3D-CNN models on the ModelNet10 dataset

	MACs	Params	MEMs	CPU / GPU	Model Size
VGG13 3D Ours	0.26 G	19 M	243 M	0.19 / 0.018 s	76 MB
VGG13 3D	8.59 G	61 M	340 M	0.42 / 0.019 s	244 MB

Table 6: Computational complexity and inference runtime comparison of the baseline and proposed optimised VGG13 3D architectures

## 6 Conclusions

This paper presented a series of CNN design guidelines, towards the computationally efficient redesign of established 3D-CNN architectures, in order to make them suitable for deployment on low power devices. Following these guidelines, a novel 3D-CNN human pose estimation architecture was proposed, achieving comparable results to the state-of-the-art, at a significantly lower computational cost, demonstrating the effectiveness of the introduced guidelines. Moreover, the proposed design guidelines were further validated through their application in 3D object classification.

Future work could include evaluating the guidelines in more 3D-CNN architectures, and investigating techniques for further complexity reduction, such as more memory-efficient data representation, non-depthwise 3D convolutions [23] and lower bit-width compute [47].

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