GVDepth: Zero-Shot Monocular Depth Estimation for Ground Vehicles based on Probabilistic Cue Fusion

Supplementary Material

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A. Additional Ablations with Ground Plane Methods

Additional Results. Table 6 presents a more detailed ablation study of GEDepth [25], incorporating results from additional training datasets. GVDepth consistently outperforms GEDepth across multiple training-test dataset combinations. We do not report results on Argoverse and DDAD datasets, as GEDepth failed to achieve satisfactory convergence. We will provide further comments on this issue below.

Furthermore, in Tab. 7, we provide results for PlaneDepth [22] and GroCo [1], which utilize the ground plane constraint in a similar manner as GVDepth. Since these methods are self-supervised, we retrained PlaneDepth with supervision, using the same backbone as our method. The results suggest that the performance gap is not due to difference in supervision or model complexity, but due to the superior out-of-distribution generalization of our approach. For GroCo [1], we report the results from the original paper, as it lacks the open-source code implementation. However, GroCo is fundamentally a self-supervised version of GEDepth [25], preserving all of its core principles.

Our main argument is that none of these methods are explicitly designed to enhance generalization or facilitate training with diverse perspective geometries. Moreover, they improve performance only for road pixels, unlike the proposed $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ that exploits the ground plane constraint for all objects. In the following sections, we provide an indepth analysis, offering insights into the generalization and convergence challenges faced by this methods.

Detailed Analysis. We start with the following premises, which differentiate the proposed $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ from aforementioned approaches:

 (i) Unlike GEDepth and GroCo, which utilize the ground plane constraint only for road pixels, the proposed canonical representation enables utilization of

Table 6. Comparison with GEDepth [25]. All models are trained with equivalent setup and model complexity on KITTI, Driving-Stereo and Waymo datasets. Best results are **bolded**, second best are underlined. In-domain evaluation results are shaded.

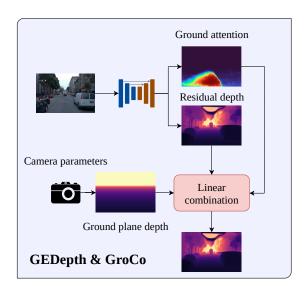
	Testing	GEDepth[25]		Vertical		Fusion	
	dataset	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1 \uparrow$	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1 \uparrow$	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1\uparrow$
	KITTI	5.68	95.4	5.70	95.5	5.67	95.7
Ξ	DStereo	18.25	66.7	10.43	87.3	10.24	87.4
KITTI	Waymo	22.11	69.1	13.42	78.6	14.34	<u>78.4</u>
\mathbf{Z}	Argo	19.27	52.8	14.72	64.7	10.45	84.8
	DDAD	19.46	61.2	<u>14.26</u>	<u>73.6</u>	11.81	82.5
	KITTI	11.77	74.2	7.42	92.6	6.96	92.7
e.	DStereo	2.99	99.5	3.07	99.5	3.01	<u>99.5</u>
Dstereo	Waymo	18.88	73.3	11.72	85.5	12.15	83.1
Ã	Argo	13.19	83.0	<u>11.41</u>	84.7	9.91	86.9
	DDAD	20.20	55.18	15.71	80.0	12.02	82.4
	KITTI	15.91	82.1	8.30	92.3	10.92	89.8
90 100	DStereo	14.21	84.4	11.40	86.8	12.78	87.1
Waymo	Waymo	3.42	99.0	3.61	98.9	<u>3.51</u>	98.8
Ä	Argo	17.83	83.4	12.21	88.6	9.62	94.1
	DDAD	19.20	66.6	11.51	<u>84.4</u>	13.99	86.2

Table 7. Comparison with self-supervised methods that leverage the known ground plane. Results for KITTI \rightarrow DDAD zero-shot transfer.(†): Trained with supervision. (‡): Results taken from corresponding paper.

Method	A.Rel↓	$\mathrm{RMS}\downarrow$	$\mathrm{RMS}_{\mathrm{log}}\downarrow$	$\delta_1 \uparrow$
PlaneDepth [†] [22]	30.28	12.01	0.499	37.8
PlaneDepth [22]	32.71	14.77	0.529	37.9
GroCo [‡] [1]	42.40	15.37	-	-
Vertical†	<u>14.26</u>	9.39	0.271	<u>73.6</u>
Fusion†	11.81	8.35	0.251	82.5

vertical image position cue for all objects in the scene:

(ii) Similarly, in constrast to GEDepth and GroCo, our approach is inherently modeled to enable perspective



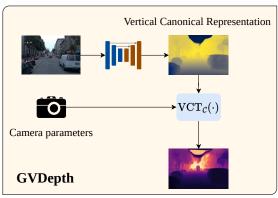


Figure 9. Different approaches for incorporation of ground plane constraint. In our approach, $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ serves as a *point of disentanglement*, which enables learning of *Vertical Canonical Representation* that is invariant to specific perspective geometry. Linear combination used in GEDepth and GroCo does not hold such properties, leading to limited generalization.

geometry disentanglement for all objects, resulting in better out-of-distribution generalization.

While our extensive evaluation confirms this, here we also provide insights into why GEDepth and GroCo fail to generalize across all objects in the scene.

Both GEDepth and GroCo formulate the problem of depth regression $\mathbf{D} \in [0, D_{max}]^{H \times W}$ as a linear combination of the known ground depth $\mathbf{D_G} \in [0, D_{max}]^{H \times W}$ and the learnable residual depth $\mathbf{D_R} \in [0, D_{max}]^{H \times W}$, weighted by the learnable "ground attention" $\mathbf{A} \in [0, 1]^{H \times W}$:

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{D_G} + (1 - \mathbf{A}) \odot \mathbf{D_R}. \tag{1}$$

Through a straightforward analysis, we can notice why this formulation enhances depth estimation for road pixels only. First, any part of the scene appearing above the horizon can not benefit from the induced perspective geometry constraint, as D_G is invalid for those regions of the image. Moreover, ground attention A is usually estimated with the $Sigmoid(\cdot)$, which has a natural tendency to converge to either 0 or 1 during optimization, leading to A effectively being equivalent to road segmentation, as visualized in [1, 25]. Even for rare cases where this is not the case, the resulting linear combination has an ambivalent geometric interpretation chosen arbitrarily by the model. Our proposed $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ is a simple and elegant solution for all of these issues; it enables effective utilization of the ground plane constraint for all image regions while preserving a clear geometric interpretation.

The same fundamental principles can be applied to perspective geometry disentanglement. While $\mathbf{D_G}$ clearly disentangles depth from camera parameters, the estimated $\mathbf{D_R}$ does not hold such properties, inducing generalization errors due to the ambiguity of depth and camera parameters. Since the final depth \mathbf{D} is calculated as a linear combination, it is only fully disentangled where \mathbf{A} is 1, which is valid only for road pixels. On the other hand, $\mathrm{VCT}_{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{C}}}(\cdot)$ is inherently designed to incorporate perspective geometry disentanglement, regardless of the specific image region.

GEDepth Convergence Issues. GEDepth optimizes **D** from Eq. (1) without additional regularization factors or external segmentation modules, claiming that the learned attention map can automatically separate ground and other regions. Unfortunately, in our experiments this occurred rather inconsistently, and the learned attention map converged to adequate ground segmentation only on the 19th training experiment. In most cases, the model resorted to estimating $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0}^{H \times W}$, thus ignoring the provided ground plane information and resulting in $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D_R}$.

Final Remarks. We conducted a thorough evaluation that highlights the extremely limited generalization capabilities of models that rely on ground plane constraints [1, 22, 25]. While one might assume that these issues arise from limited reproducibility or incorrect convergence, the analysis we presented in previous sections suggests that the root cause lies in inherent design choices. These models are optimized to perform well only on narrow training distribution. Even within these constraints, improvements in accuracy are confined to road pixels, which are of limited relevance for safety-critical applications. In contrast, the proposed $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ elegantly addresses all these limitations.

B. Qualitative Results

Qualitative results for different model configurations are shown in Fig. 10. All models demonstrate comparable capabilities in reconstructing semantic objects, effectively cap-

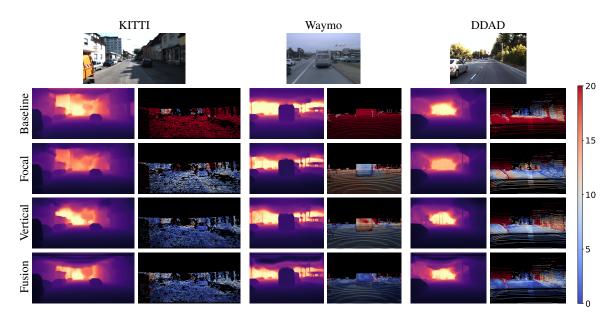


Figure 10. **Qualitative ablation.** Predicted depths and errors for DrivingStereo \rightarrow {KITI, Waymo, DDAD} models. Baseline – standard depth regression with geometric augmentations. Focal – depth regression via Focal Canonical Transform - $FCT_c(\cdot)$. This is equivalent to Metric3D[27], but trained on our setup. Vertical – depth regression via Vertical Canonical Transform - $VCT_c(\cdot)$. Fusion – depth regression with uncertainty-based fusion model.

turing object boundaries and overall scene layout. However, error maps reveal that the Baseline model struggles to handle the domain gap introduced by varying camera parameters in the zero-shot transfer setting, leading to reduced accuracy. Both the Focal and Vertical models perform reasonably well across most image regions, though they exhibit noticeable modeling errors in certain areas. In contrast, the Fusion model attains the highest accuracy by adaptively integrating the depth predictions from both Focal and Vertical models.

C. Model Architecture

In this work, we employ a fully convolutional encoder-decoder architecture with skip connections. While vision transformer (ViT)-based encoders, such as DINOv2 [15], often achieve superior accuracy, their advantages typically rely on large-scale training. A similar fully convolutional design is adopted in Metric3D [27], demonstrating the effectiveness of such models for generalizable monocular depth estimation (MDE). Given our focus on single-dataset training, we prioritize convolutional backbones to reduce computational complexity while maintaining robust generalization performance.

Decoder Architecture Details. Our decoder is designed similarly as in Metric3D [27], consisting of four blocks that progressively upsample and fuse encoder features from a resolution of $(\frac{H}{32}, \frac{W}{32})$ to $(\frac{H}{2}, \frac{W}{2})$. Decoder channels dimensions are $\{756, 512, 256, 128\}$. Our fusion module processes $(\frac{H}{2}, \frac{W}{2})$ resolution feature maps \mathbf{F} with two compact

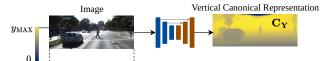


Figure 11. Vertical Canonical Representation regression. Visualization of regression boundaries of proposed *Vertical Canonical Representation*. We predict vertical image position of ground plane projection in range $[0, y_{MAX}]$. Image is *virtually extended* beyond bottom boundary to enable depth estimation for pixels with ground-plane projection below camera field-of-view. For stability reasons, regression is bounded to y_{MAX} , which corresponds to $d_{MAX} = 80$.

U-Net-like networks [19], each containing 3 downsampling and upsampling blocks, producing two final feature representations. These feature representations are processed with two convolutional blocks which predict our canonical representations ($\mathbf{C_F}, \mathbf{C_Y}$) and accompanying uncertainty estimates ($\mathbf{\Sigma_F}, \mathbf{\Sigma_Y}$). After uncertainty-based fusion, final depth map is bilinearly upsampled to (H, W) resolution.

Vertical Canonical Representation details. For convenience, we restate the equation used in Vertical Canonical Transform $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$:

$$d = \frac{f_y h}{(H - c_y - y)\cos(\theta) - f_y \sin(\theta)}.$$
 (2)

Upon closer inspection, it becomes evident that mapping $y \mapsto d$ can lead to unstable training if not properly regular-

ized. Specifically, at y corresponding to the horizon level of a given camera setup, the depth d approaches infinity. Furthermore, for any y above the horizon, the depth d becomes negative. To address this, as visualized in Fig. 11, we bound the regression of y to y_{MAX} , derived from the inverse mapping from $d_{MAX}=80$. Additionally, to accommodate depth regression for objects with ground-plane projections below the camera's field of view, we *virtually extend* the image. In practice, this corresponds to increasing H in Eq. (2) accordingly.

D. Model Complexity

Table 8. **Model architecture details.** Encoder architectures number of parameters and execution time for models used in this work. Execution time is measured for resolution 416x640, on a single NVIDIA RTX A6000 GPU.

Method	Encoder	Params #	Execution time
Monodepth2 [9]	ResNet-50 [12]	34M	12.70 ms
DIFFNet [29]	HRNet-18 [21]	11M	29.42 ms
NeWCRFs [28]	Swin-L [13]	270M	62.56 ms
iDisc [16]	Swin-L [13]	208M	120.51 ms
PlaneDepth [22]	ResNet-50 [12]	39M	15.21 ms
MiDaS [18]	ResNeXt-101 [23]	105M	26.51 ms
LeReS [26]	ResNet-50 [12]	52M	20.26 ms
ZeroDepth [11]	ResNet-18 [12]	232M	238.48 ms
Metric3D [27]	ConvNext-L [14]	203M	10.74 ms
UniDepth [17]	ConvNext-L [14]	239M	55.34 ms
GVDepth	ConvNext-L [14]	228M	21.24 ms

In Tab. 8 we present the architectural details of the models used in this work. While most results align with expectations, there are a few notable outliers worth discussing. First, ZeroDepth exhibits the highest inference times, despite utilizing the least complex backbone among all methods. Essentially, ZeroDepth shifts complexity from the pretrained backbone to its proprietary self-attention layers in the decoder. This trade-off limits its ability to fully leverage the benefits of large-scale pretraining, which may explain its subpar accuracy compared to UniDepth, Metric3D, and GVDepth, even though it uses significantly more data during training.

On the other hand, Metric3D achieves remarkably low latency in depth prediction despite employing a relatively complex backbone. This efficiency likely stems from predicting depths at a reduced $(\frac{H}{4}, \frac{W}{4})$ resolution, which is subsequently upsampled to the original resolution Lastly, GVDepth stands out for its lightweight design and low inference time, even though it uses a relatively complex backbone. Its impressive generalization performance is attributed to our novel methodology rather than reliance on model or data scaling. In future work, we will investigate

Table 9. **Ablation of fusion strategies.** Mean – fusion via mean of $FCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ and $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$. L1 – Uncertainty loss without aleatoric uncertainty weighting in \mathcal{L}_{unc} . All models are trained on Driving-Stereo.

C6	DrivingStereo		KITTI		Waymo	
Configuration	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1 \uparrow$	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1 \uparrow$	A.Rel↓	$\delta_1 \uparrow$
Mean	3.05	<u>99.4</u>	8.21	91.1	14.01	82.8
L1	3.09	99.4	8.02	91.4	<u>13.23</u>	82.9
Fusion	3.07	99.5	6.96	92.7	12.15	83.1

more complex transformer architectures, which were costly to train on our current computational setup.

E. Ablation of Fusion Strategy.

In Tab. 9 we examine the efficacy of different fusion strategies. Zero-shot transfer results demonstrate that our adaptive fusion weighted by aleatoric uncertainties leads to superior generalization performance.

F. Dataset Details

In this work, we use KITTI [8], DDAD [10], DrivingStereo [24], Waymo [20] and Argoverse Stereo [3] datasets, both for training and evaluation. For KITTI dataset, we evaluate all models on commonly used Eigen split [6] with Garg crop [7], resulting in 23158 training images and 652 testing images. On DDAD dataset we use the official training and validation split, with 12650 and 3950 images, respectively. Since Waymo, DrivingStereo, and Argoverse Stereo are not widely used for MDE evaluation, we simplify the process by creating custom dataset splits. The resulting training splits consist of {156K, 168K, 5K} samples, while the corresponding testing splits contain {5K, 5K, 500} samples, respectively.

G. Camera setup calibration

In this section, we provide additional details about our camera calibration procedure. Our proposed Vertical Canonical Transform $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$, as indicated in Eq. (2), requires the knowledge of camera parameters $\mathcal{C}=\{f_y,c_y,h,\theta\}$. Here, for all datasets, f_y and c_y are usually known up to the reasonable error induced by the calibration procedure. However, for certain datasets, camera height h and camera pitch θ are either unknown, or not properly calibrated. To remain consistent throughout this work, we recalibrate the extrinsic parameters for each dataset, with details provided in Algorithm 1. For semantic segmentation of the road plane we use the DeepLabv3 model [4].

Calibration results. Estimated camera height h and camera pitch θ for each dataset are provided in Tab. 10. Moreover, in Fig. 12 we visualize the histograms obtained with our calibration procedure. Since DrivingStereo [24] and

Algorithm 1 Estimate Camera Height h and Pitch θ .

Require: RGB images $\{I_i\}_{i=1}^N$, ground-truth depth maps $\{D_i\}_{i=1}^N$

Ensure: Median camera height h_{median} and pitch θ_{median}

- 1: Initialize empty sets $\mathcal{H} = \emptyset$, $\Theta = \emptyset$
- 2: **for** i = 1 to N **do**
- 3: Run semantic segmentation model on I_i to acquire road pixels \mathcal{P}_i

$$\mathcal{P}_i = \{(u, v) \mid (u, v) \text{ belongs to the road in } I_i\}$$

- 4: Extract depths $\{D_i(u,v) \mid (u,v) \in \mathcal{P}_i\}$
- 5: Filter road pixels based on depth:

$$\mathcal{P}_i^{\text{filtered}} = \{(u, v) \in \mathcal{P}_i \mid D_i(u, v) < 20\}$$

6: Project filtered road pixels to 3D points:

$$Q_i = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} \middle| \begin{aligned} X &= \frac{(u - c_x)Z}{f_x}, \\ Y &= \frac{(v - c_y)Z}{f_y}, \forall (u, v) \in \mathcal{P}_i^{\text{filtered}} \\ Z &= D_i(u, v) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

- 7: Fit $\mathbf{R}_i(\theta_i)$ (rotation matrix) and h_i (camera height) to \mathcal{Q}_i with RANSAC plane estimation
- 8: Append h_i to \mathcal{H} and θ_i to Θ
- 9: end for
- 10: Compute median camera height and pitch:

$$h_{\text{median}} = \text{median}(\mathcal{H}), \quad \theta_{\text{median}} = \text{median}(\Theta)$$

11: **return** $h_{\text{median}}, \theta_{\text{median}}$

Table 10. **Camera calibration**. Camera extrinsics estimated by the calibration procedure described in Algorithm 1.

Dataset	h[m]	θ [°]
Argoverse Stereo [2]	1.678	0.021
DDAD [10]	1.459	-0.519
DrivingStereo [24]	1.739	-0.561
KITTI [8]	1.659	-0.664
Waymo [20]	2.145	-0.331

KITTI [8] do not report extrinsic parameters, we use the estimated values in our proposed canonical transform. Furthermore, for the DDAD dataset [10], we observe a significant discrepancy between the official and estimated extrinsics. Therefore, we use our calibrated parameters, as they align more closely with the ground-truth depth. In contrast, for Argoverse Stereo [2] and Waymo [20], the estimated values are consistent with the official calibration.

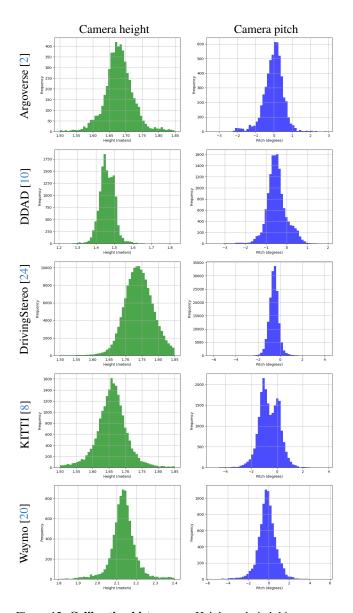


Figure 12. **Calibration histograms.** Height and pitch histograms acquired by calibration procedure described in Algorithm 1. Best viewed zoomned in.

KITTI Calibration Issues. We would also like to address the problems with KITTI calibration. As shown in Fig. 12, the pitch histogram for the KITTI dataset does not follow an unimodal distribution. We believe that this highlights inconsistencies in the official KITTI intrinsics calibration across different recording sequences. While this observation is not novel [5], it is rarely, if ever, discussed in the context of MDE. Given that the KITTI dataset remains a cornerstone for MDE evaluation, we believe that this issue should be given increased attention.

Evaluation with Per-frame Calibration. Our per-frame calibration procedure offers potentially higher accuracy than median-filtered results. This is because it better cap-

Table 11. Evaluation with per-frame extrinsics calibration. Vertical – depth regression via Vertical Canonical Transform – $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$. Fusion – depth regression with fusion model. Vertical+ and Fusion+ indicate usage of per-frame camera extrinsic calibration during evaluation. Training datasets on rows, testing datasets on columns. Best results are **bolded**. In-domain evaluation results are shaded .

	Danmagantation	KITTI			DrivingStereo		
	Representation	A.Rel↓	$\mathrm{RMS}\downarrow$	$\delta_1 \uparrow$	A.Rel↓	$\overline{\mathrm{RMS}}\downarrow$	$\delta_1 \uparrow$
_	Vertical	5.70	2.58	95.5	10.43	5.42	87.3
KITTI	Vertical+	5.72	2.62	95.6	10.45	5.46	87.1
	Fusion	5.67	2.61	95.7	10.24	5.66	87.4
	Fusion+	5.61	2.60	95.8	10.22	5.60	87.5
0	Vertical	7.52	3.33	92.6	3.07	1.75	99.5
DStereo	Vertical+	7.31	3.28	92.7	2.78	1.61	99.6
	Fusion	6.96	3.17	92.7	3.01	1.76	99.5
	Fusion+	6.85	3.15	92.7	2.91	1.74	99.6

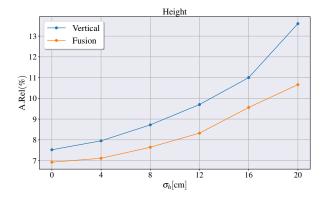
tures ground plane perturbations and vehicle dynamics, which cause slight variations in camera pitch. In Tab. 11, we present evaluation results using per-frame calibration. While this approach leads to slight performance improvement, the gain is marginal, possibly due to the noise in our calibration process. Although such additional information about vehicle dynamics and perturbation could theoretically be integrated into a real system using localization with visual odometry or sensor fusion, we exclude these results from the main paper since competing methods do not leverage this information.

Calibration Sensitivity. Models involving canonical mapping via $\mathrm{VCT}_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ are inherently sensitive to inaccuracies in camera extrinsic parameters. In Fig. 13, we evaluate the A.Rel metric for our Vertical and Fusion model configurations under varying levels of Gaussian noise in the extrinsic parameters.

While both models exhibit sensitivity to calibration noise, the Fusion model demonstrates a smaller error increase due to its uncertainty-based fusion with depth from $FCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$. However, the Fusion model's error still increases under noisy conditions, indicating that its uncertainty prediction does not fully compensate for inaccuracies in camera calibration. This is expected, as camera calibration directly affects the canonical mapping performed by $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$ and is not internally estimated by the model.

H. Additional Considerations

Multi-dataset Training. Almost all challenges in multi-dataset training for MDE arise from inconsistent and ambiguous perspective geometries, making our approach inherently scalable due to the invariance introduced in canonical spaces. While we lacked the computational resources to scale the training to the level of a MDE foundation model, in Tab. 3 in main text we demonstrated our method's ability to leverage diverse perspective geometries in the training



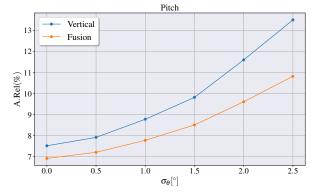


Figure 13. **Calibration sensitivity.** Sensitivity to Gaussian noise perturbations in extrinsic parameters evaluated on KITTI dataset. Vertical – depth regression via Vertical Canonical Transform - $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$. Fusion – depth regression with fusion model. Train/test dataset combination for both models is DrivingStereo \rightarrow KITTI.

data induced by geometric augmentations, especially compared to the *Baseline*.

Flat Ground Assumption. Our method implicitly assumes the ideal ground plane within the $VCT_{\mathcal{C}}(\cdot)$. Unlike in GEDepth [25], which explicitly models the ground slope, we choose to grant the model greater flexibility. Motivation behind this choice is straightforward; our proposed canonical transformation is designed to assist the model in resolving ambiguities that diverse training data alone cannot, such as the entanglement of depth and camera parameters. For other adversarial perturbations, like ground plane imperfections, we do not explicitly model them. Instead, we allow the model to internally adjust values in canonical space when it detects these perturbations within highly diverse training data. Moreover, the uncertainty-based fusion provides the model with additional capabilities to adaptively weight cues based on aleatoric uncertainty, enabling the down-weighting of specific cue in highly uncertain regions.

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