



Projective Manifold Gradient Layer for Deep Rotation Regression

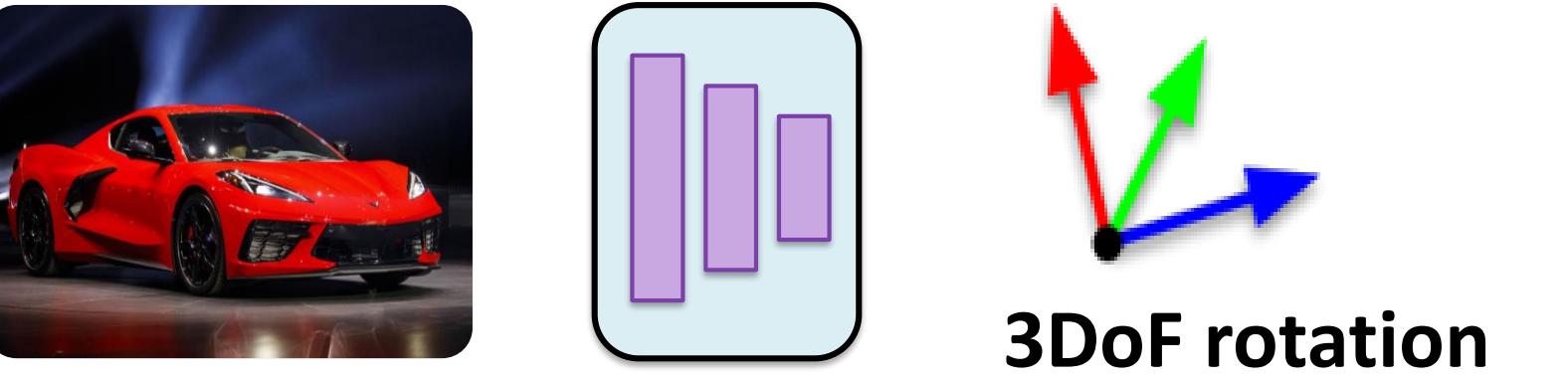
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Introduction

- Task: to improve the accuracy of deep rotation regression



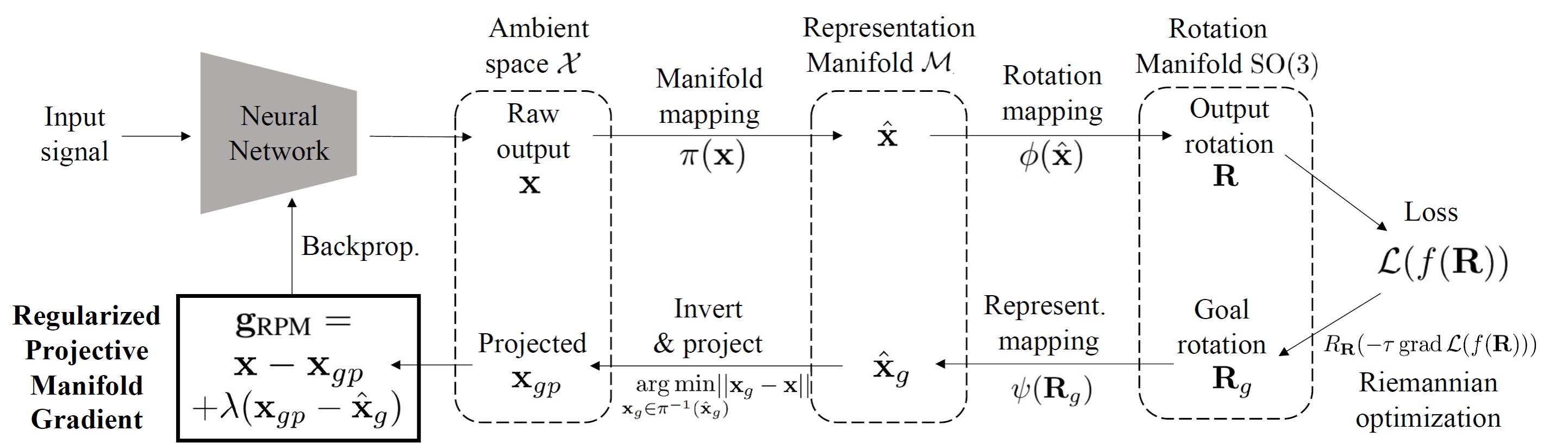
- Motivation: $SO(3)$ is a non-Euclidean manifold while network outputs are in a Euclidean ambient space.

- The forward pass thus always involves **projection** onto manifold.
- However, naïve backward pass simply backprop. based on the chain rule without considering the **many-to-one** nature of the projection.

Our work:

- proposes a **manifold-aware gradient layer** to replace naïve backward pass while maintaining forward pass unchanged
- **significantly improve** rotation regression on a broad range of tasks (supervised/unsupervised rotation est. from images/point clouds) and rotation representations at no cost of speed and memory.

Method Overview



Forward – same as previous works

Rotation Repres.	Ambient Space	Manifold Mapping	Representation Manifold	Rotation Mapping
Quaternion	\mathbb{R}^4	Length norm	S^3	quat.-rot. conversion
6D [1]	\mathbb{R}^6	Gram-Schmidt process	Grassmann Manif.	cross product
9D [2]	\mathbb{R}^9	Symmetric SVD	$SO(3)$	identity mapping

Backward

- Find a goal R_g using **Riemannian gradient**: $R_g \leftarrow R_{\mathbf{R}}(-\tau \text{grad } \mathcal{L}(f(\mathbf{R})))$ especially useful when R_{GT} is not available (self-supervised case).
- Inverse image $\pi^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_g)$: one-to-many but usually an analytical solution is available after some relaxations.
- Project: To find the element which is closest to the raw output in $\pi^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_g)$, by solving $\mathbf{x}_{gp} = \underset{\pi(\mathbf{x}_g) = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_g}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_g\|_2$

Projective manifold gradient:

$$g_{PM} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{gp}$$

Key insight:

- a *multi-ground-truth problem* for \mathbf{x}
- the lowest redundancy in the gradient
- similar to min-of-N strategy

Vanishing length problem

- **Reason:** the projection process will make the length of raw output decrease and further lead to unstable training.

- **Solution:** add a regularization term, $\lambda(\mathbf{x}_{gp} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_g)$, which leads to our final

Regularized Projective Manifold Gradient (RPMG):

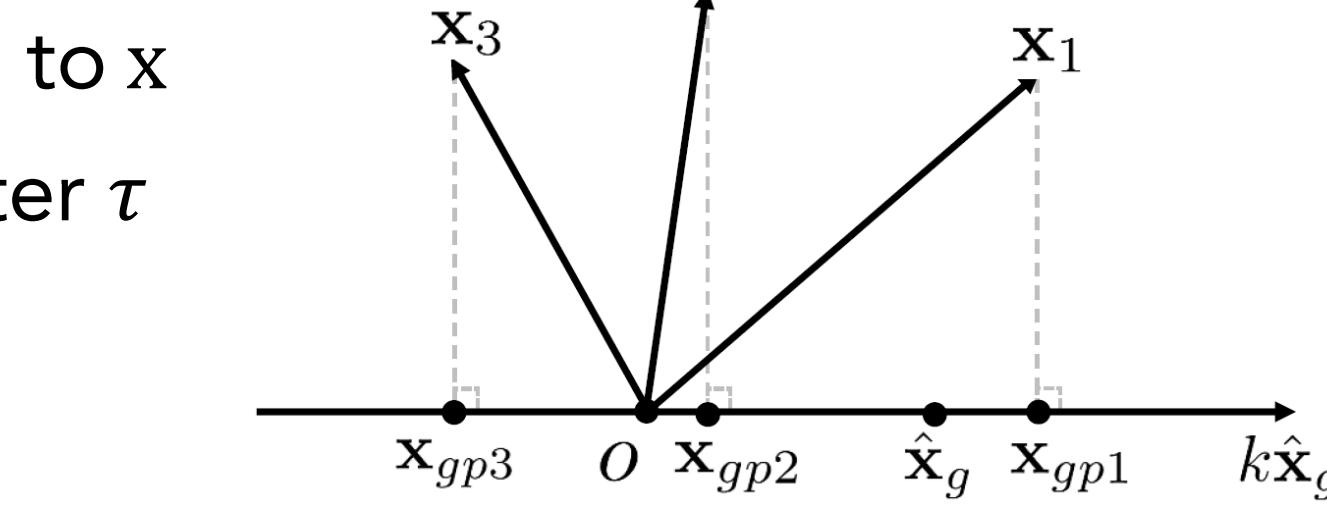
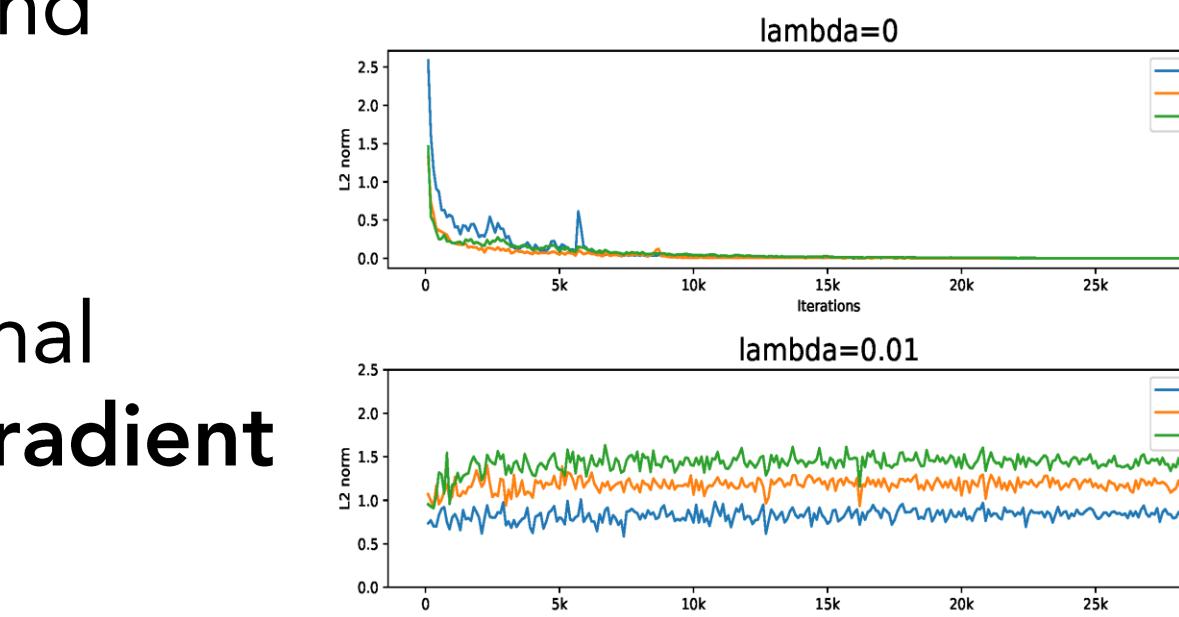
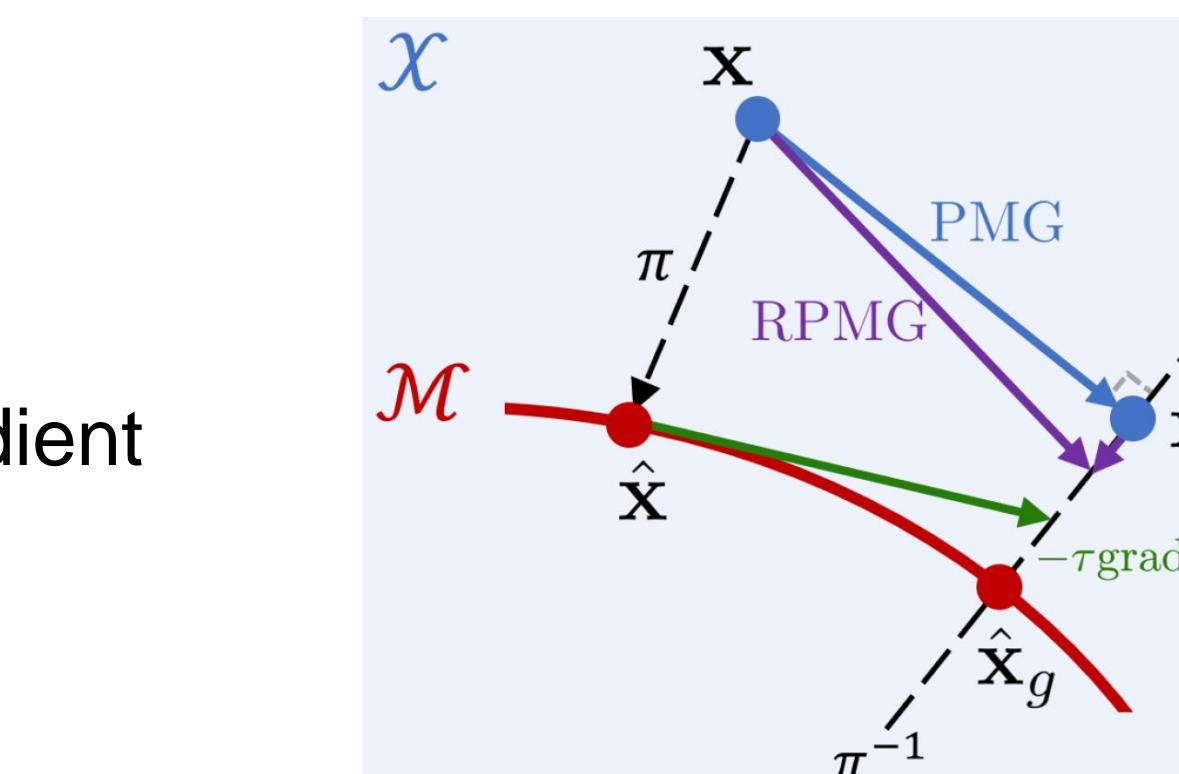
$$g_{RPM} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{gp} + \lambda(\mathbf{x}_{gp} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_g)$$

Reflection problem

- **Reason:** the analytical solution of the inverse image assumes $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_g$ close to \mathbf{x}
- **Solution:** use a small hyperparameter τ in Riemannian optimization.

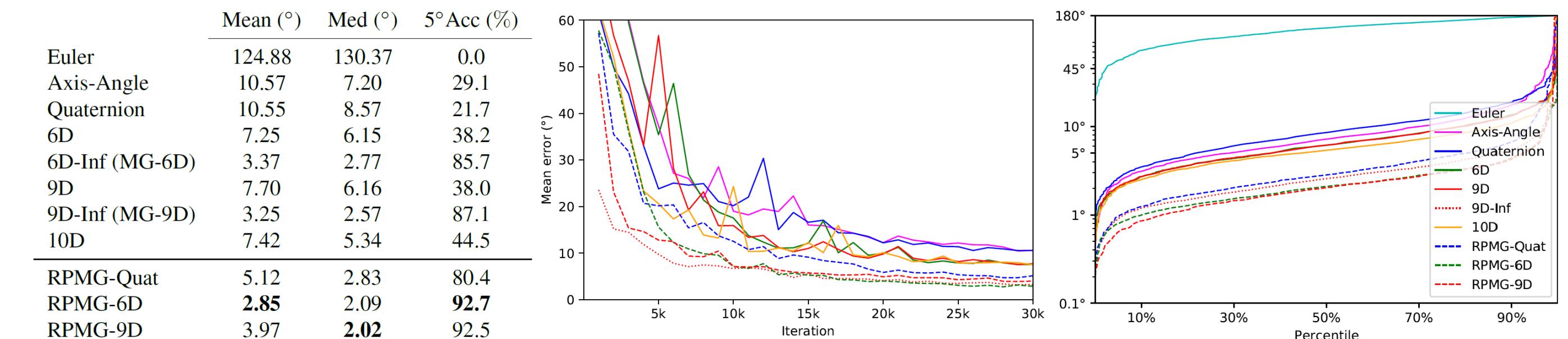
Reference

- [1] Yi Zhou et al. On the continuity of rotation representations in neural networks. CVPR 2019.
[2] Jake Levinson et al. An analysis of svd for deep rotation estimation. NeurIPS 2020.



Experiment

Rotation regression w/ GT supervision from point clouds



Rotation regression w/o GT supervision from point clouds

Method	Instance-Level Self-Supervise			Category-Level Self-Supervise		
	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)
Euler	129.3	132.9	0	12.14	6.91	33.6
Axis-Angle	36.31	6.98	37	35.49	20.80	4.7
Quaternion	4.04	3.30	74	11.54	7.67	29.8
6D	43.9	6.49	44	14.13	9.41	23.4
9D	2.47	2.02	92.5	11.44	8.01	23.8
9D-Inf	101.5	96.61	0	4.07	3.28	76.7
10D	2.18	1.91	96.5	9.28	7.05	32.6
RPMG-Quat	2.88	2.38	91.5	4.86	3.25	75.8
RPMG-6D	3.08	2.92	89.5	2.71	2.04	92.1
RPMG-9D	1.40	1.17	100	3.75	2.10	91.1

Rotation regression w/ GT supervision from images

Method	Chair			Sofa		
	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)
Euler	21.46	10.95	10.4	27.46	12.00	9.4
Axis-Angle	25.71	14.27	7.2	30.25	14.55	6.2
Quaternion	25.75	14.99	6.3	30.00	15.73	5.7
6D	19.60	9.09	19.1	17.51	7.33	27.3
9D	17.46	8.30	23.1	19.75	7.58	24.9
9D-Inf	12.10	5.09	49.2	12.48	3.45	69.7
10D	18.40	9.02	19.6	20.89	8.73	19.8
RPMG-Quat	13.03	5.90	39.9	13.02	3.60	66.6
RPMG-6D	12.94	4.74	53.1	11.52	2.79	77.1
RPMG-9D	11.93	4.36	58.1	10.49	2.41	81.7

Ablation Study

Method	Complete			5° Acc (%)		
	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)	Mean (°)	Med (°)	5° Acc (%)
L2 w/ 6D	-	-	-	7.25	6.15	38.2
MG-6D	$\lambda = 1$	$\tau_{convergence}$	3.27	2.68	86.1	
		τ_{gt}	3.37	2.77	85.7	
PMG-6D	$\lambda = 0$	$\tau_{convergence}$	64.41	40.99	2.8	
		τ_{gt}	103.2	100.4	0.0	
		τ_{init}	3.60	2.30	91.1	
		τ_{gt}	4.12	2.22	87.1	
RPMG-6D	$\lambda = 0.01$	$\tau_{convergence}$	4.28	2.09	92.7	
		τ_{gt}	4.12	2.22	87.1	
		$\tau_{init} \rightarrow \tau_{convergence}$	1.57	1.82	90.9	
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