Applications of CNNs in Computer Vision: Detection, Segmentation

Ju Sun Computer Science & Engineering Mar 25, 2025



Disclaimer

This set of slides are modified from slides made by **Ms. Andrea Walker** in 2020 Fall on the same topic for CSCI8980: Think Deep Learning. The object detection part borrows a lot of materials from the book: "Deep Learning for Vision Systems" by Mohamed Elgendy

https://www.manning.com/books/deep-learning-for-vision-systems

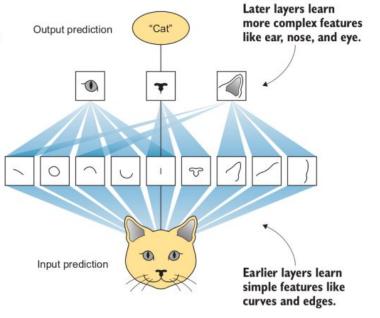
Most models we talked so far for classification

Classification

The following classification models are available, with or without pre-trained weights:

- AlexNet
- ConvNeXt
- DenseNet
- EfficientNet
- EfficientNetV2
- GoogLeNet
- Inception V3
- MaxVit
- MNASNet
- MobileNet V2
- MobileNet V3
- RegNet
- ResNet

- ResNeXt
- ShuffleNet V2
- SqueezeNet
- SwinTransformer
- VGG
- VisionTransformer
- Wide ResNet



(Credit: [Elgendy, 2020])

Applications of CNNs in computer vision

- Object detection
- Segmentation

Hybrid classification-regression problems in CV

Object detection

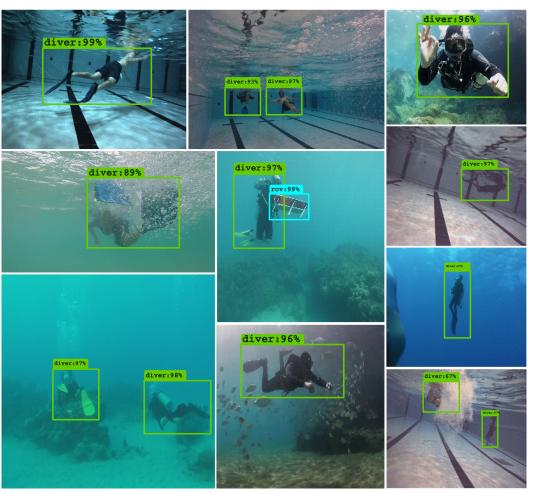
Localization:

where the objects are (by providing bounding boxes)

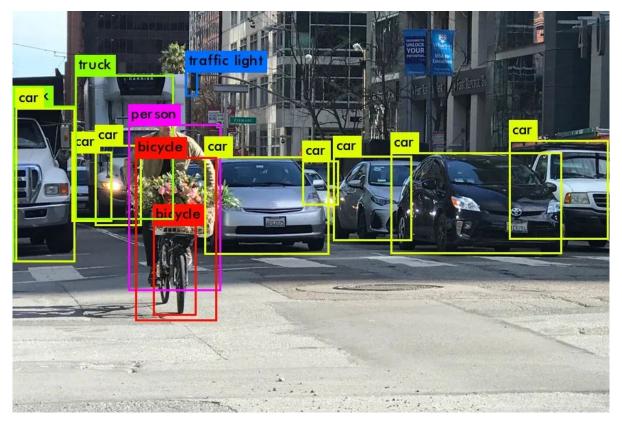
Classification:

what the objects are (by providing label for each bounding box)

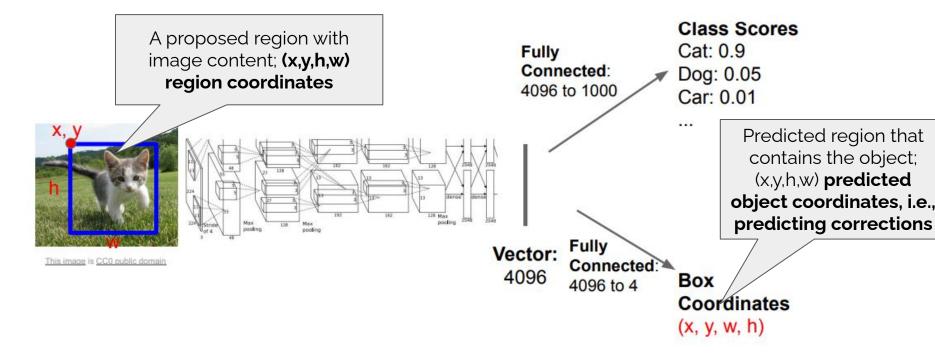
(Islam et al., "Toward a Generic Diver-Following Algorithm: Balancing Robustness and Efficiency in Deep Visual Detection," 2019)



For autonomous driving



Object detection: predictor



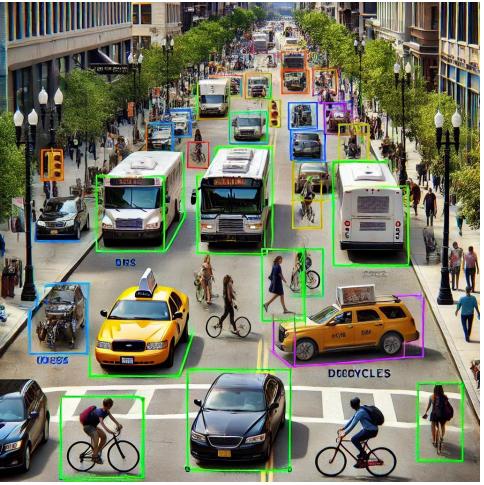
Training datasets

Bounding boxes are stored as

COCO format: Uses JSON files with details like bbox (x, y, width, height).

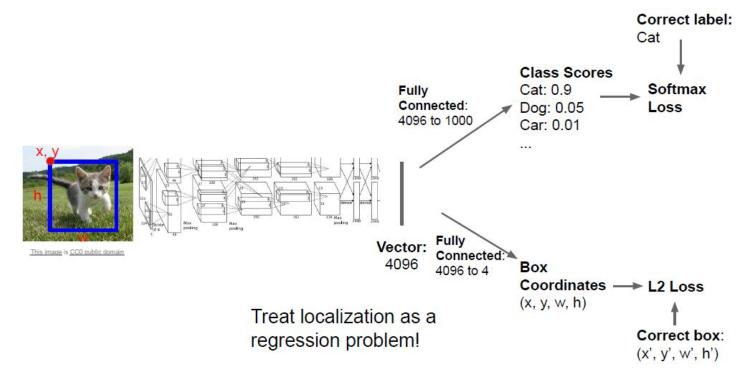
Pascal VOC format: Uses XML files with coordinates.

YOLO format: Uses a text file with normalized (x_center, y_center, width, height) values

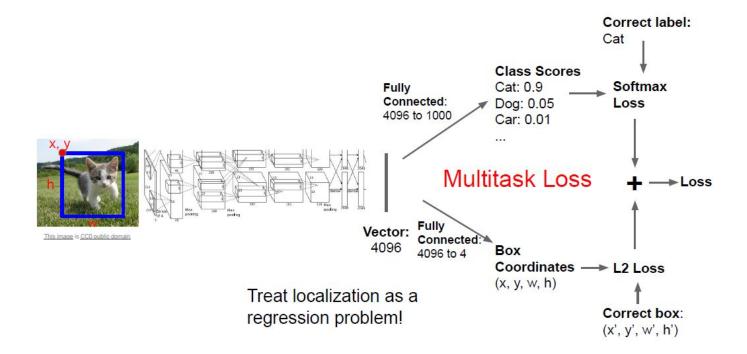


... contain many images with bounding boxes

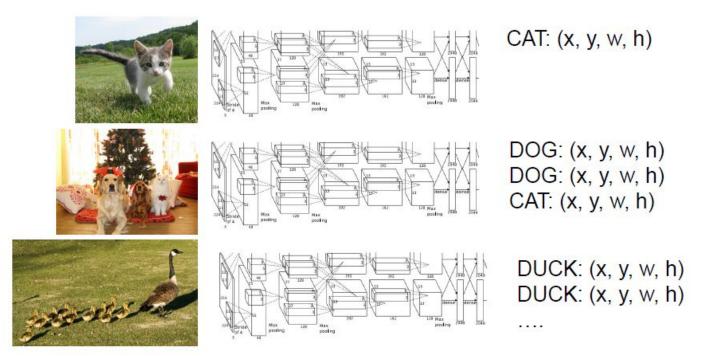
Object detection: training



Object detection: training



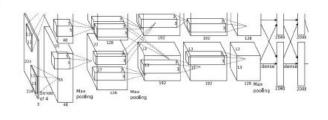
Multiple objects: multiple outputs



Multiple objects: initial solution

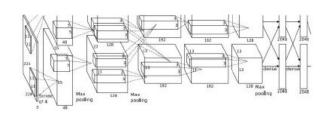
Scanning window method





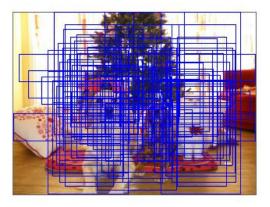
Dog? NO Cat? NO Background? YES



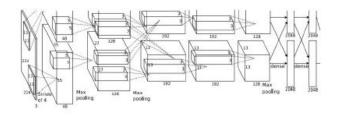


Dog? YES Cat? NO Background? NO

Multiple objects: heavy computational cost



Apply a CNN to many different crops of the image, CNN classifies each crop as object or background



Dog? NO Cat? YES Background? NO

Problem: Need to apply CNN to huge number of locations, scales, and aspect ratios, very computationally expensive!

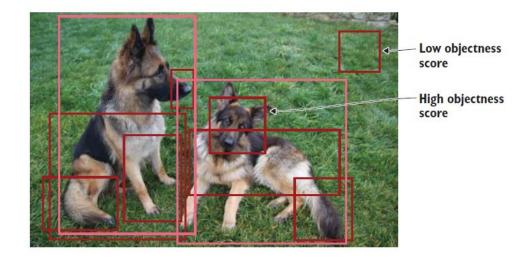
Solution: 4-step object-detection framework

- Region proposal: identify regions of interest (RoI) for potential locations of objects
- 2. Feature extraction: extract visual features within each RoI for classification
- 3. Non-maximum suppression: avoid repeated detections
- 4. Evaluation metrics: evaluate performance of model

1. Region proposal

Propose Regions of Interest (Rols)

- General procedures
 - Generate thousands of bounding boxes (BBs)
 - Classify BBs as foreground or background based on 'objectness score'
 - Pass only foreground through rest of network



- Popular: **selective search**
 - Fast algorithm, ~200 region proposals in a few seconds on CPU

Selective search

Greedy search algorithm for region (blob) proposal

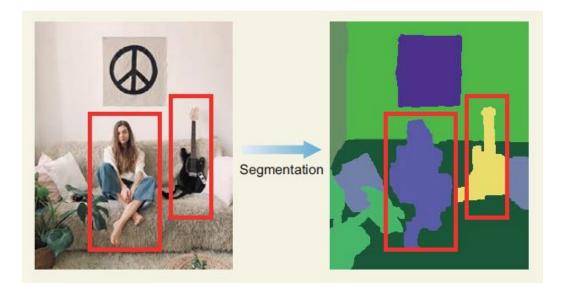
Bottom-up clustering (segmentation)

• Start with many small patches

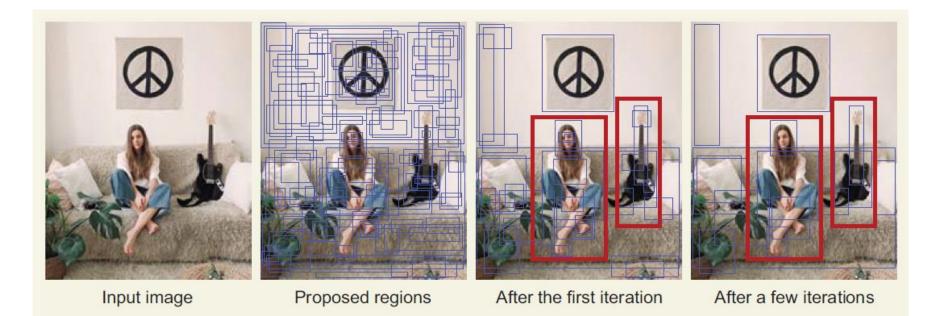
Repeat:

• Most similar patches are merged

Until target #patches reached



Selective search



2. Feature extraction & prediction in each Rol

• Extract features using a pretrained CNN

(Remember transfer learning?)

- Make 2 predictions using additional layers:
 - Bounding box prediction (x, y, width, height)
 - Class prediction (softmax function predicting the class probability for each object class)



3. Remove duplicate object detections

Intersection over Union (IoU)

Non-maximum suppression (NMS):

To eliminate duplicate detections

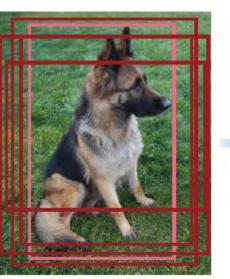
- 1. Discard BBs with predictions below a **confidence threshold**.
- 2. Select the BB with the highest probability
- 3. Calculate IoU scores of all other BB's with the selected
- 4. Discard BB's with small IoU scores (e.g., <=0.5) and average those left



Area of overlap Score =

union

BB: bounding b





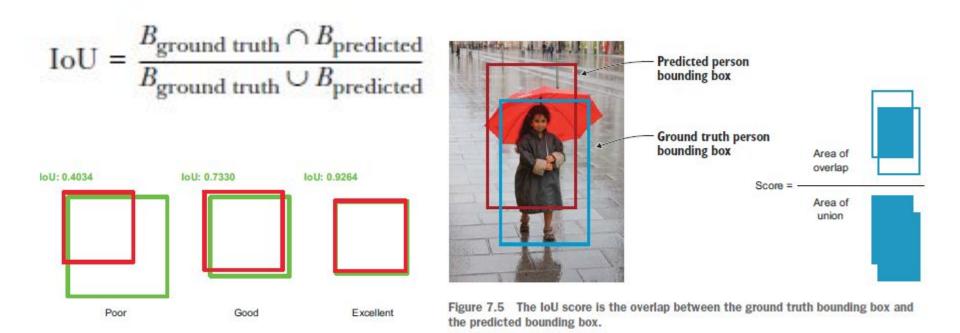
After applying non-maximum suppression

4. Evaluation metrics for detection performance

- 1. Frames per second (FPS) detection speed
- 2. Mean Average Precision (mAP) detection accuracy

mAP: Class average of AP, which is the area under the precision-recall curve

Intersection over Union (IoU)



Precision-recall curve and the area under

		Predicted condition	
	Total population = P + N	Positive (PP)	Negative (PN)
Actual condition	Positive (P)	True positive (TP)	False negative (FN)
	Negative (N)	False positive (FP)	True negative (TN)

Can't we use accuracy?

Precision-Recall (PR):

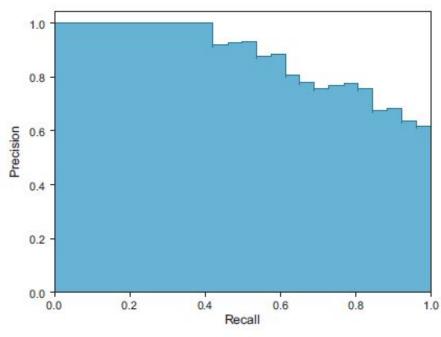
Completeness:

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

Precisio

Sharpness:

When we vary the IoU threshold ...



⁽Elgendy, 2020)

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State of the Art Object Detection CNNs

• R-CNNs

SSD

Object Detection

The following object detection models are available, with or without pre-trained weights:

• YOLO

- Faster R-CNN
- FCOS
- RetinaNet
- SSD
- SSDlite

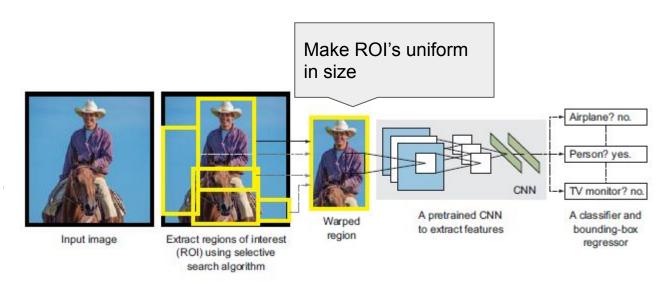
https://pytorch.org/vision/stable/models.html#object-detection-instance-segmentat ion-and-person-keypoint-detection

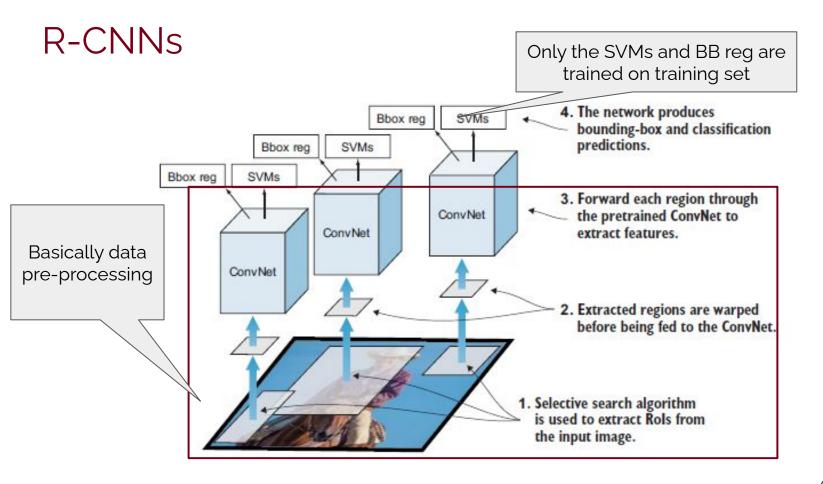
R-CNNs : Region-based CNNs

R-CNN family of networks :

- R-CNN
- Fast-RCNN
- Faster-RCNN

R-CNN architecture



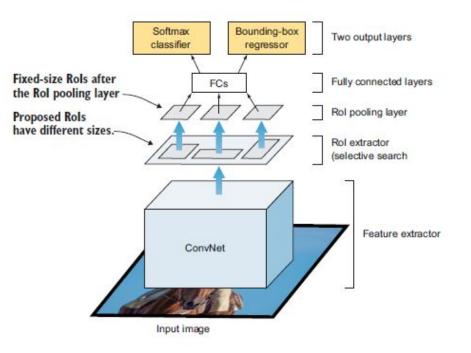


Fast R-CNN

Improves on R-CNN in both detection **speed** and **accuracy**.

Architecture changes:

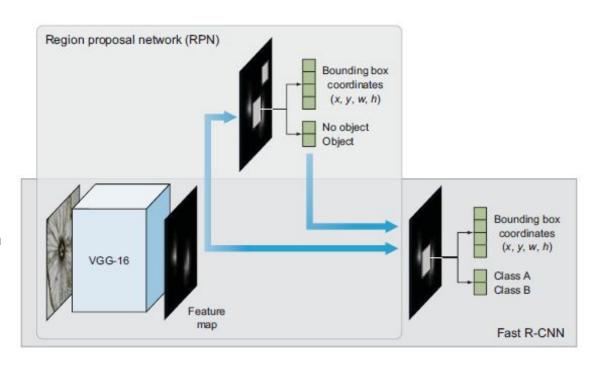
- CNN feature extractor first applied to entire image, then extract features for the proposed Rols
 - Only run one CNN instead of ~2000 CNNs on overlapping Rols
- (C)DNN performs **both** the **classification and feature extraction**
 - Feature extractor trainable also (initialized from a pretrained model)
 - SVM machine replaced with a softmax layer



Faster R-CNN

Architecture

- Same overall structure as Fast R-CNN except for **region proposal** algorithm
- Selective search replaced with **region proposal network**, which outputs
 - Objectness score
 - Bounding box location



So now the whole pipeline is trained end-to-end

Multi-stage vs single-stage detectors

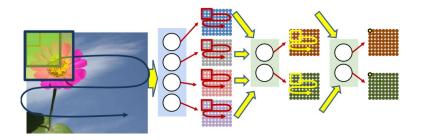
Multistage detectors:

- Two separate components: (sparse) Rols proposal & final prediction on Rols
- Slow but more accurate

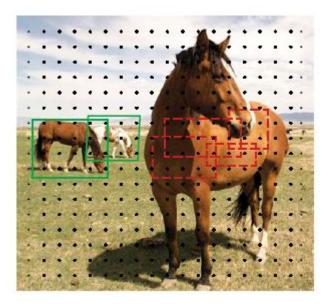
Single-stage detectors:

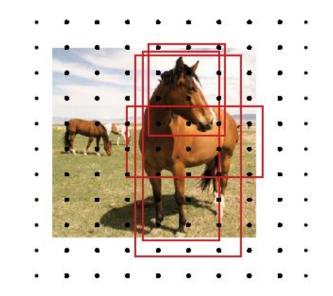
- No Rol proposal stage: direct predictions on densely sampled Rols
- Fast but less accurate

Effective multi-scale Rol grids & Rols

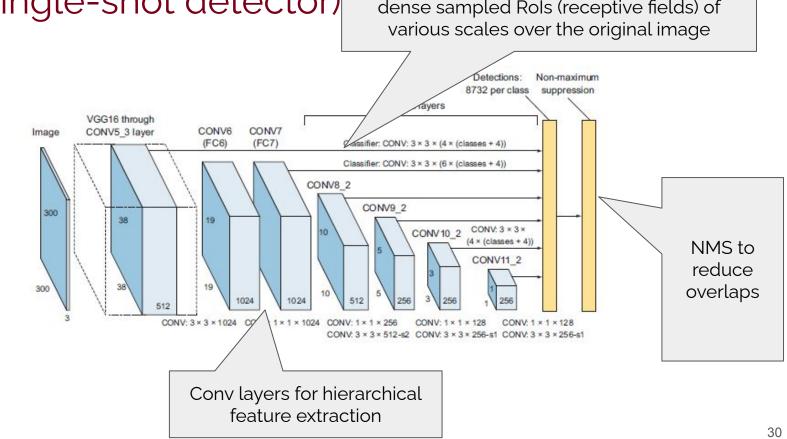


size of receptive field





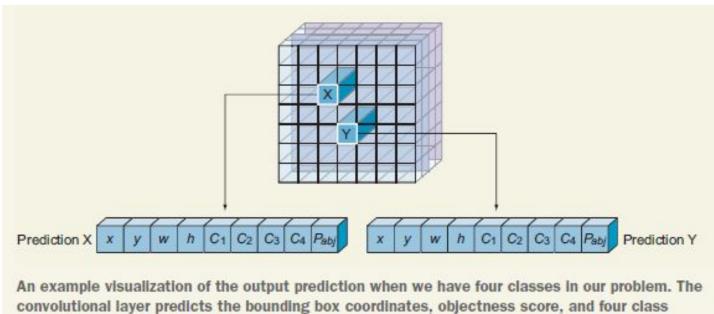
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SSD (Single-shot detector)

Conv to directly make prediction on dense grid of the feature maps, corresponding to dense sampled RoIs (receptive fields) of various scales over the original image

SSD: prediction for each feature location



probabilities: C1, C2, C3, and C4.

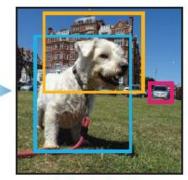
YOLO: Real-time Object Detection



Splits the image into grids



Predicts bounding boxes and classifications



Final predictions after non-maximum suppression

- No region proposal network
- Performs predictions based on a grid of cells (sacrifice accuracy for speed)
- Each cell directly predicts the BB and object class
- NMS yields final prediction

Applications of CNNs in Computer Vision

- Object Detection
- Segmentation

Segmentation

Segmentation: grouping the pixels by their "meanings"

Semantic segmentation: segmentation + assigning a label to each pixel of the image

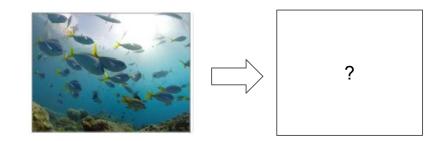
(Islam et al., "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," 2020)

umage Background Input Human divers Plant/sea-grass Ground truth Wrecks/ruins Reefs/invertebrate Fish/vertebrates Labels Sea-floor/Rocks Predicted

Paper from UMN IRVLab: <u>http://irvlab.dl.umn.edu/</u>

What is semantic segmentation?





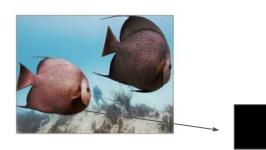
FISH, DIVER, BACKGROUND, AQUATIC PLANTS, SEAFLOOR

Training data paired: Each pixel labeled with a semantic category.

During test, classify each pixel of the new image.

(Islam et al., "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," 2020) Paper from UMN IRVLab <u>http://irvlab.dl.umn.edu/</u>

Semantic Segmentation: Sliding Window

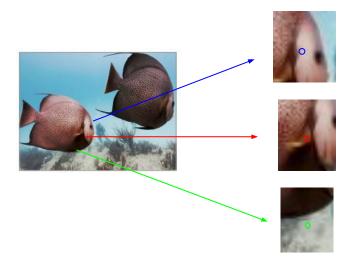


Impossible to classify without context!

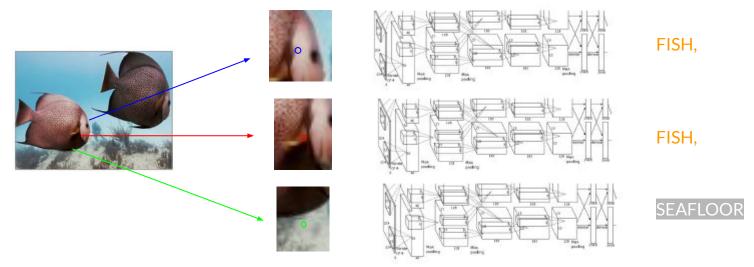
How do we include context?

(Islam et al., "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," 2020) Paper from UMN IRVLab <u>http://irvlab.dl.umn.edu/</u>

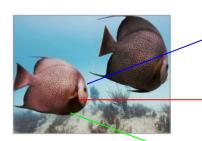
Semantic Segmentation: Sliding Window



Semantic Segmentation: Sliding Window

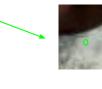


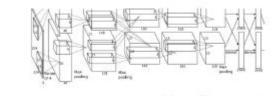
Semantic Segmentation: Sliding Window

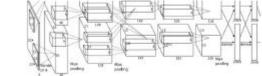


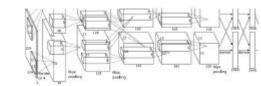
This is very inefficient! It re-identifies shared features for each overlapping patch.











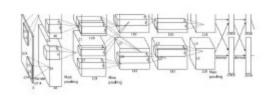
FISH,

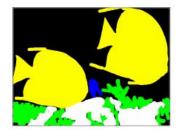


SEAFLOOR

End-to-end learning for semantic segmentation





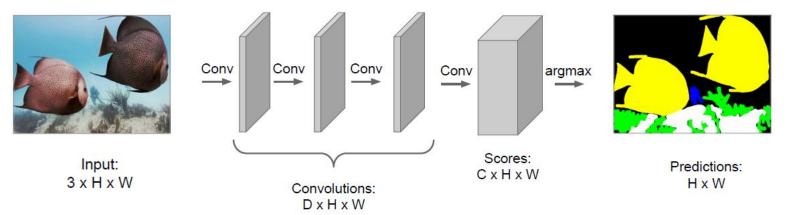


Intuition: encode the entire image with a CNN, then do semantic segmentation at the end.

Challenge: Classification architectures **reduce feature sizes** as they go deeper into the network; Semantic segmentation requires output size == input.

End-to-end learning for semantic segmentation

Challenge: keep the output size the same as that of input **Solution:** eliminate any downsampling (e.g., from pooling, strides, etc)

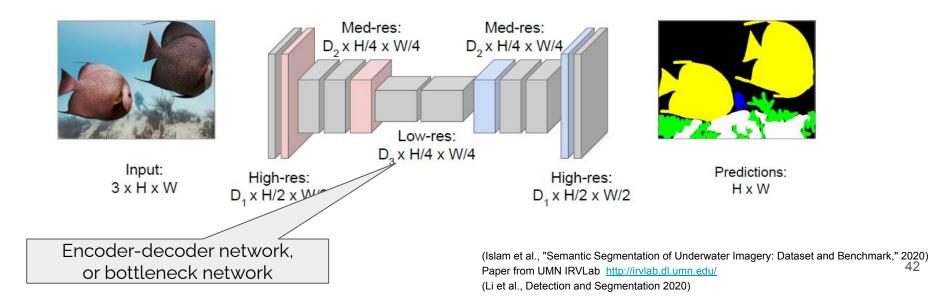


Issue: expensive

End-to-end learning for semantic segmentation

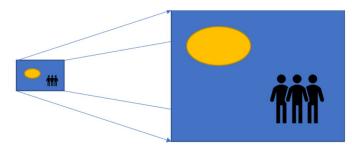
Issue: using convolution still expensive

Solution: add both downsampling and upsampling inside network!



How to do upsampling with convolution?

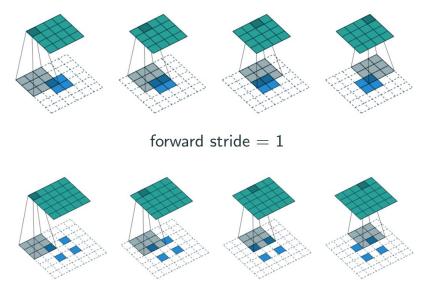
convolution with strides: downsampling transposed convolution: upsampling



(Credit: https://naokishibuya.medium.com/)

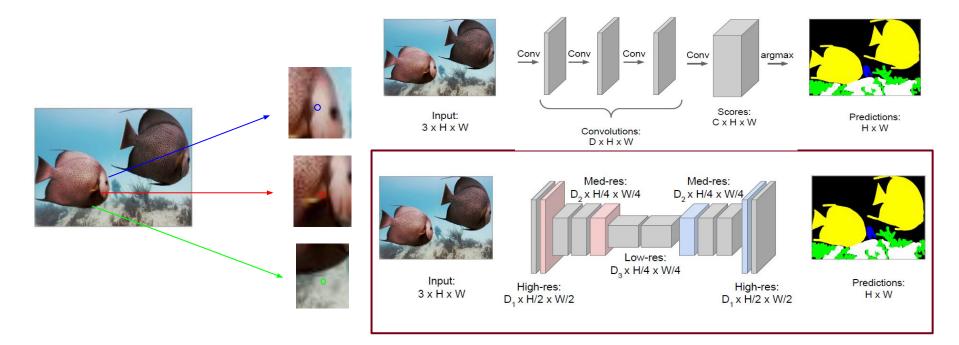
often used for segmentation, generation, or other regression—outputs are structured objects such as images, videos, time series, speech, etc

- traditional methods: e.g., nearest neighbor/bilinear/bicubic interpolation
- here: interpolation with a learnable filter



forward stride = 2

Semantic Segmentation: Summary

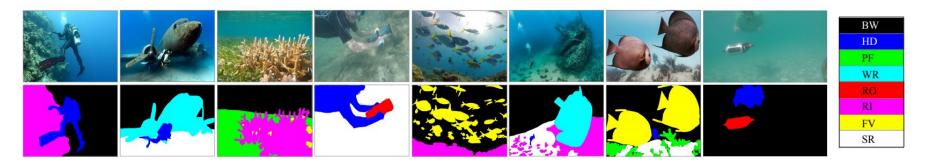


Semantic Segmentation: Summary

Goal: label each pixel in the image with a category label.

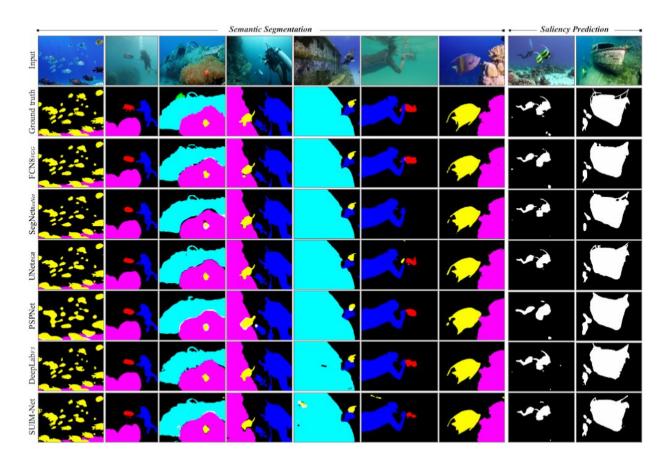
Don't differentiate between different instances of the same class of object; only care about the pixel-level.

Object category	RGB color	Code
Background (waterbody)	000	BW
Human divers	001	HD
Aquatic plants and sea-grass	010	PF
Wrecks or ruins	011	WR
Robots (AUVs/ROVs/instruments)	100	RO
Reefs and invertebrates	101	RI
Fish and vertebrates	110	FV
Sea-floor and rocks	111	SR



(Islam et al., "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," 2020) Paper from UMN IRVLab <u>http://irvlab.dl.umn.edu/</u>45

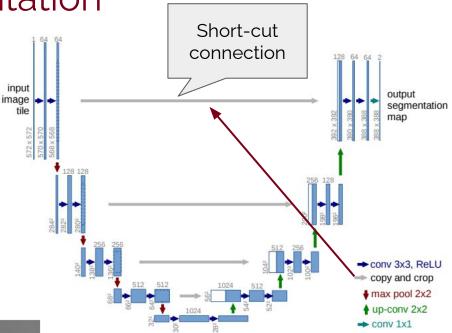
State of the Art Segmentation CNNs

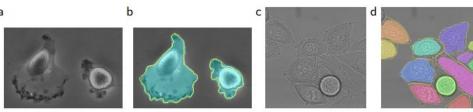


(Islam et al., "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," 2020) Paper from UMN IRVLab <u>http://irvlab.dl.umn.edu/</u>

UNET: Semantic Segmentation

- Very popular in medical image segmentation, and gradually propagated to other domains also
- Main innovation: adding "shortcut" connections to compensate for information loss, since not all features can be re-created by the decoder





Mask R-CNN for instance segmentation

Instance segmentation = detection + segmentation

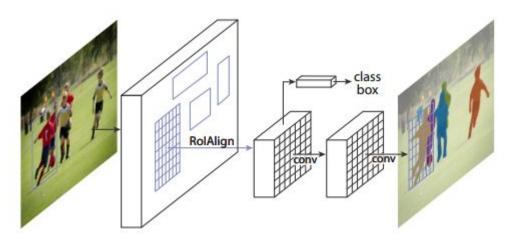


Figure 1. The Mask R-CNN framework for instance segmentation.

- Extension of Faster R-CNN
- Adds a masking network after the output of Faster R-CNN
- Masking network outputs a segmentation mask for each object instance

Mask R-CNN for instance segmentation

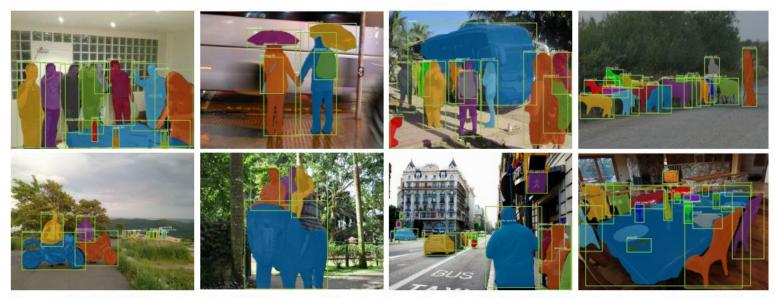


Figure 2. Mask R-CNN results on the COCO test set. These results are based on ResNet-101 [19], achieving a *mask* AP of 35.7 and running at 5 fps. Masks are shown in color, and bounding box, category, and confidences are also shown.

DeepLab by Google

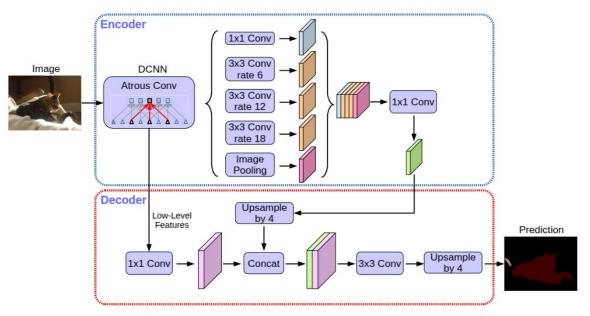


Fig. 2. Our proposed DeepLabv3+ extends DeepLabv3 by employing a encoderdecoder structure. The encoder module encodes multi-scale contextual information by applying atrous convolution at multiple scales, while the simple yet effective decoder module refines the segmentation results along object boundaries.

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Segment anything (SAM; by Meta)

Transformer-based

Meta AI Research, FAIR

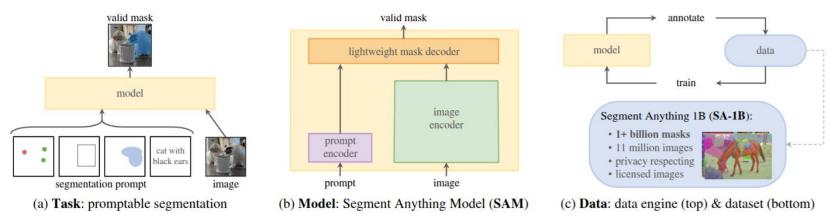


Figure 1: We aim to build a foundation model for segmentation by introducing three interconnected components: a promptable segmentation *task*, a segmentation *model* (SAM) that powers data annotation and enables zero-shot transfer to a range of tasks via prompt engineering, and a *data* engine for collecting SA-1B, our dataset of over 1 billion masks.

https://segment-anything.com/

Popular Datasets for Classification, Detection, and Segmentation

- COCO (172 classes, common benchmark dataset)
 - <u>http://cocodataset.org/#home</u>
- Cityscapes (roads, lanes vehicles, objects on roads)
 - <u>https://www.cityscapes-dataset.com/</u>
- Pascal Context (real-world; over 400 classes)
 - o <u>https://cs.stanford.edu/~roozbeh/pascal-context/</u>
- Lits (medical imaging, CT scans)
 - o <u>https://competitions.codalab.org/competitions/17094</u>
- Inria Aerial Image Labeling

Acknowledgements

F.-F. Li, R. Krishna, and D. Xu, "Detection and Segmentation," in CS231n: Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition, 2020.

F.-F. Li, R. Krishna, and D. Xu, "Visualizing and Understanding," in *CS231n: Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition*, 2020.

M. J. Islam, M. Fulton and J. Sattar, "Toward a Generic Diver-Following Algorithm: Balancing Robustness and Efficiency in Deep Visual Detection," in IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 113-120, Jan. 2019, doi: 10.1109/LRA.2018.2882856.

M. J. Islam, C. Edge, Y. Xiao, P. Luo, M. Mehtaz, C. Morse, S. S. Enan, and J. Sattar, "Semantic Segmentation of Underwater Imagery: Dataset and Benchmark," in IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), IEEE/RSJ, 2020.

M. Elgendy, "Object Detection with R-CNN, SSD, and YOLO," in *Deep Learning for Vision Systems*, Shelter Island, NY: O'REILLY MEDIA, 2020, pp. 283–337.

K. He, G. Gkioxari, P. Dollár, and R. Girshick, "Mask r-cnn," 2018.

O. Ronneberger, P. Fischer, and T. Brox, "U-net: Convolutional networks for biomedical image segmentation," 2015.