

# Panoptic Segmentation: Task and Approaches

CVPR 2019 Tutorial  
Visual Recognition and Beyond

Alexander Kirillov

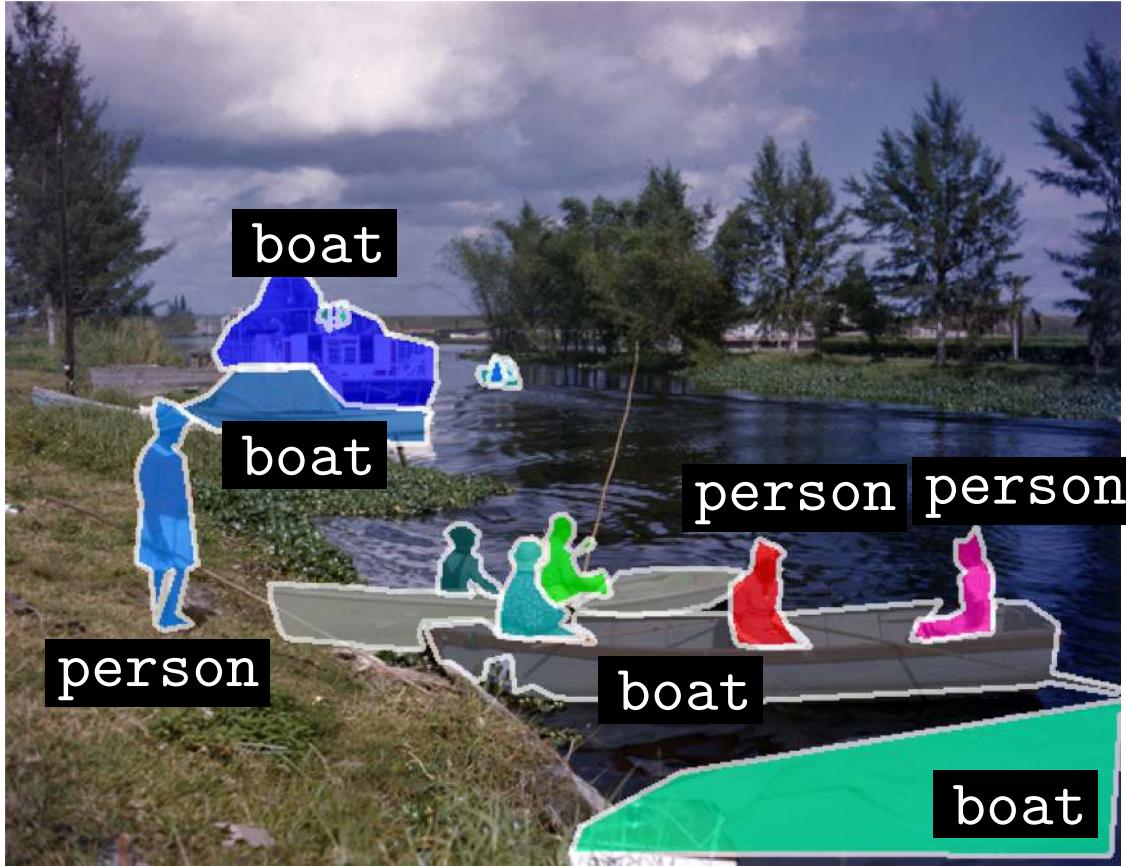
In this tutorial:

- panoptic segmentation task – unified semantic segmentation task
- approaches for the task

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# Image segmentation tasks last 10 years

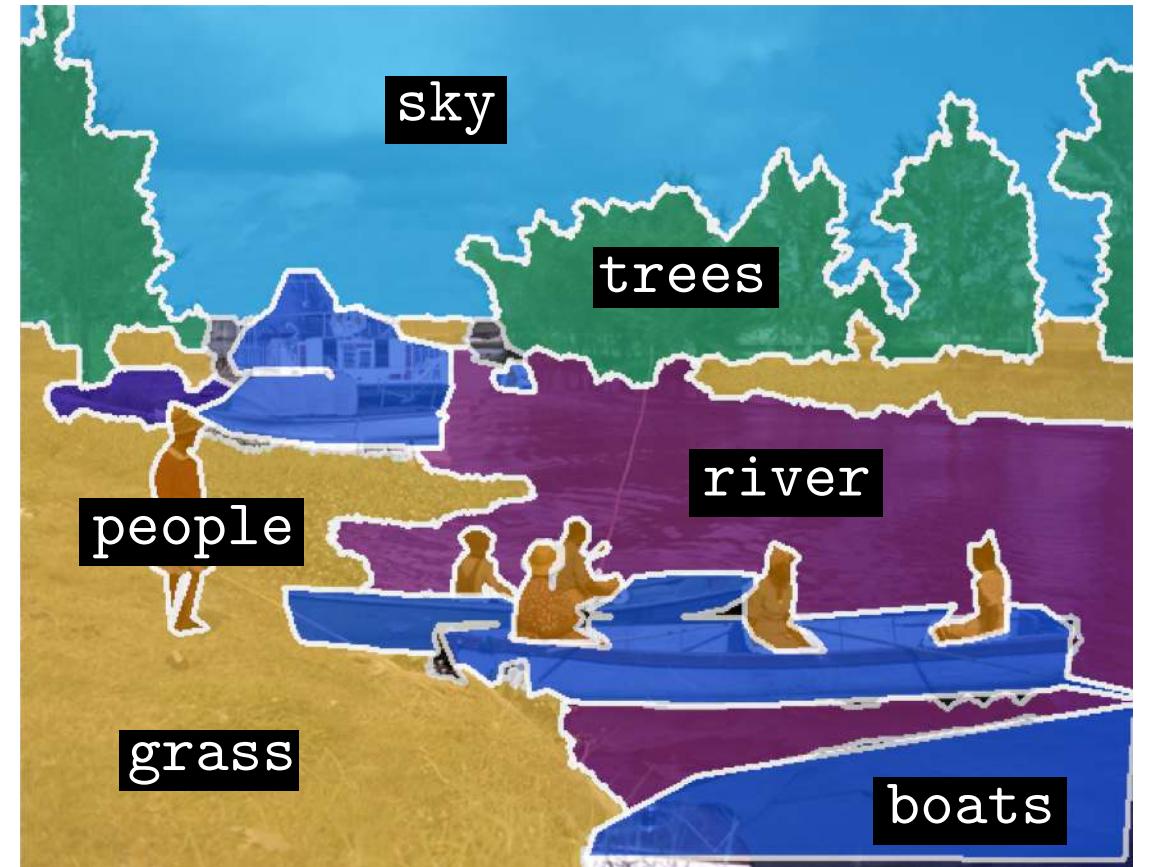


instance segmentation

delineate each  
object with a mask

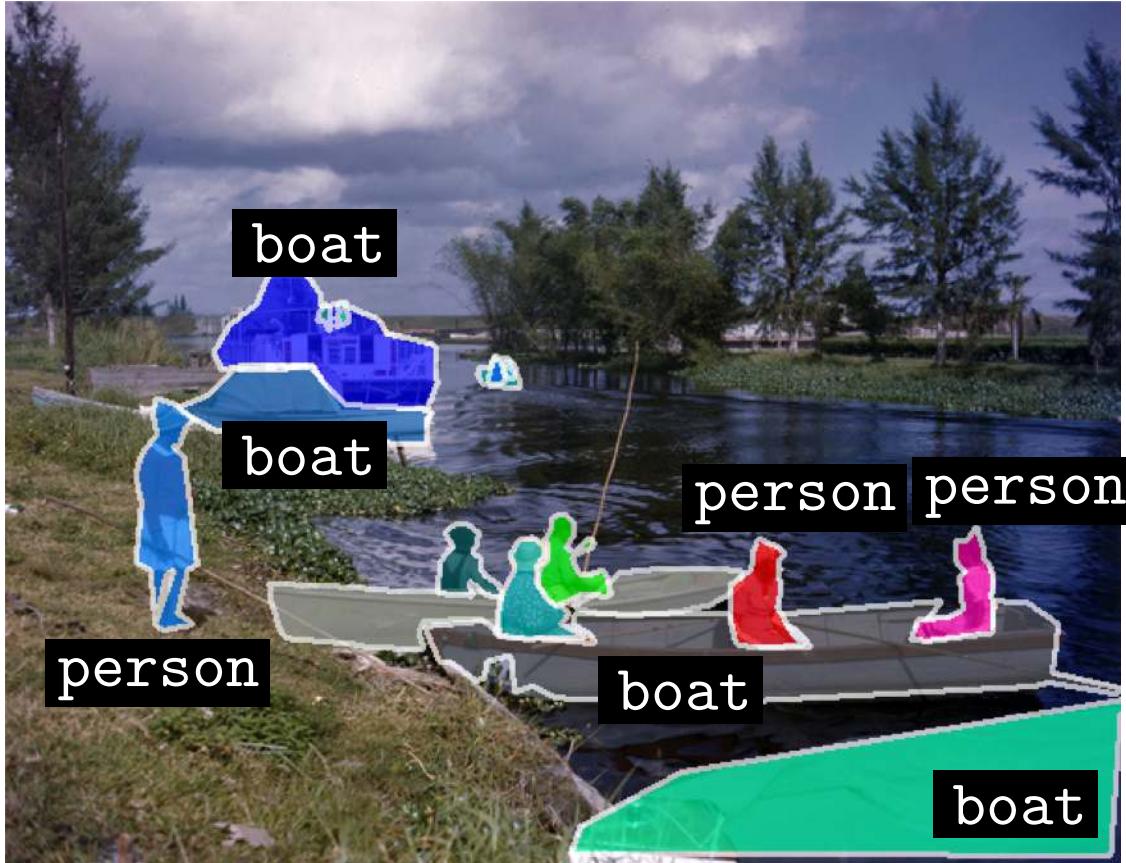
# Image segmentation tasks last 10 years

assign semantic label  
to each pixel



semantic segmentation

# Image segmentation tasks last 10 years

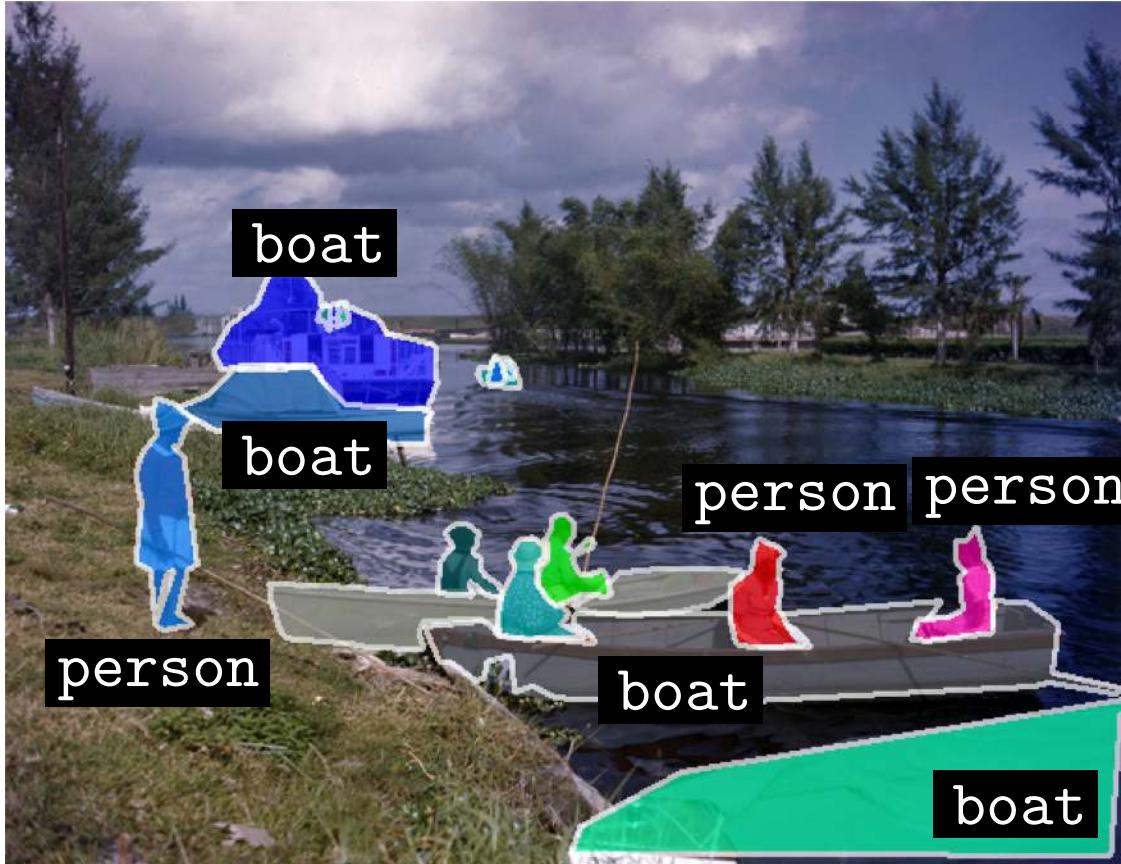


instance segmentation



semantic segmentation

# Image segmentation tasks last 10 years



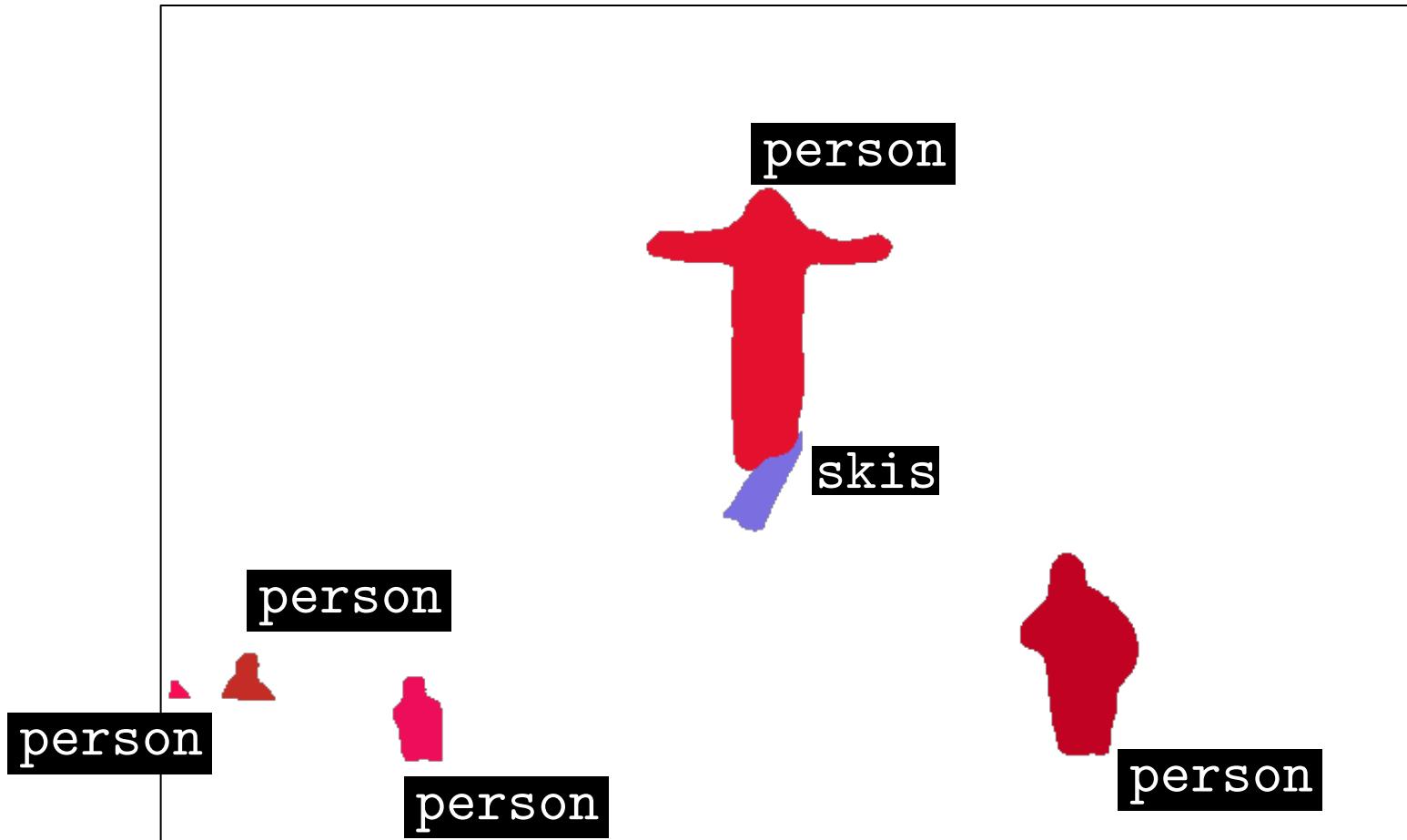
instance segmentation

real-world application likely requires both modalities



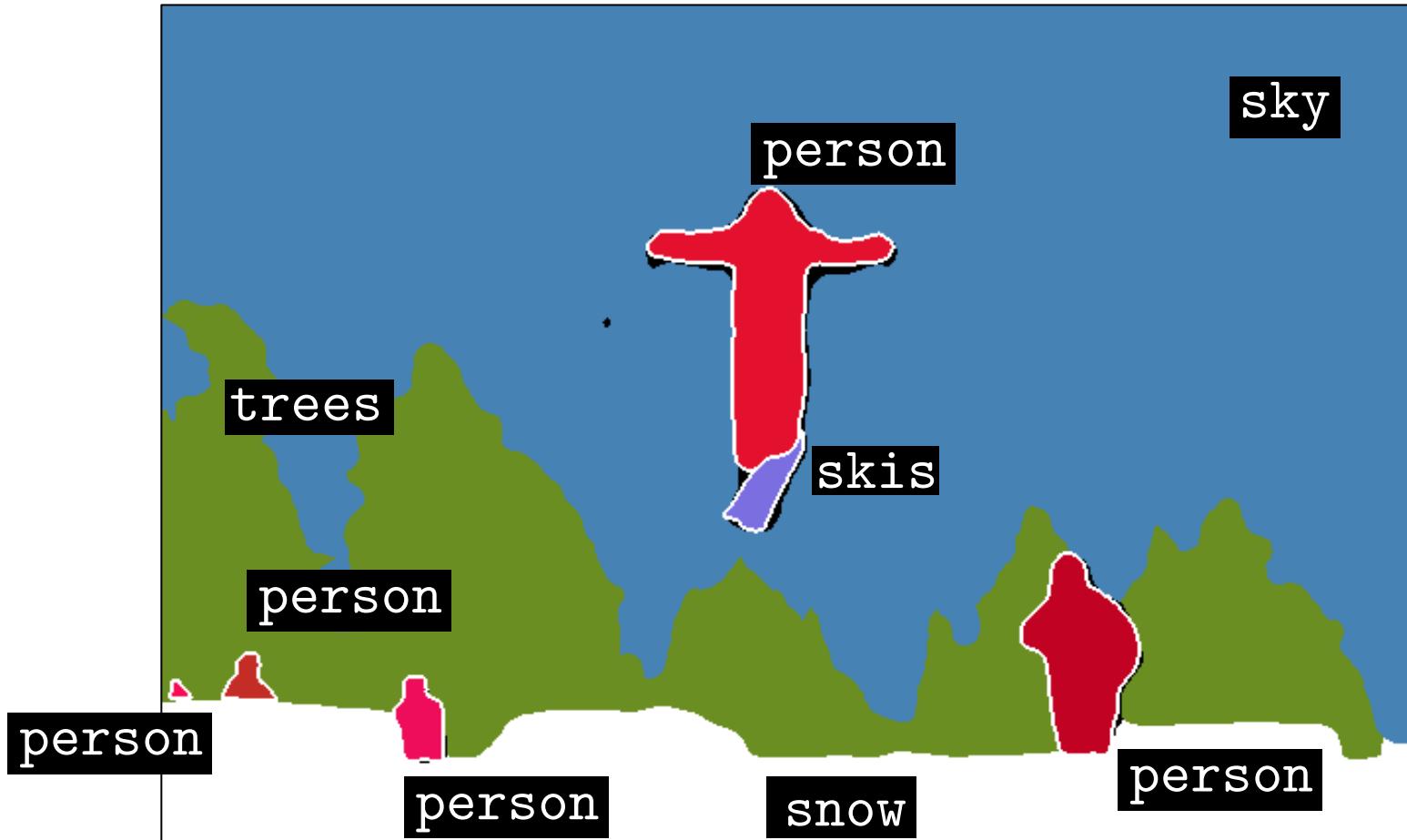
semantic segmentation

# What do instance segmentation methods “see”?



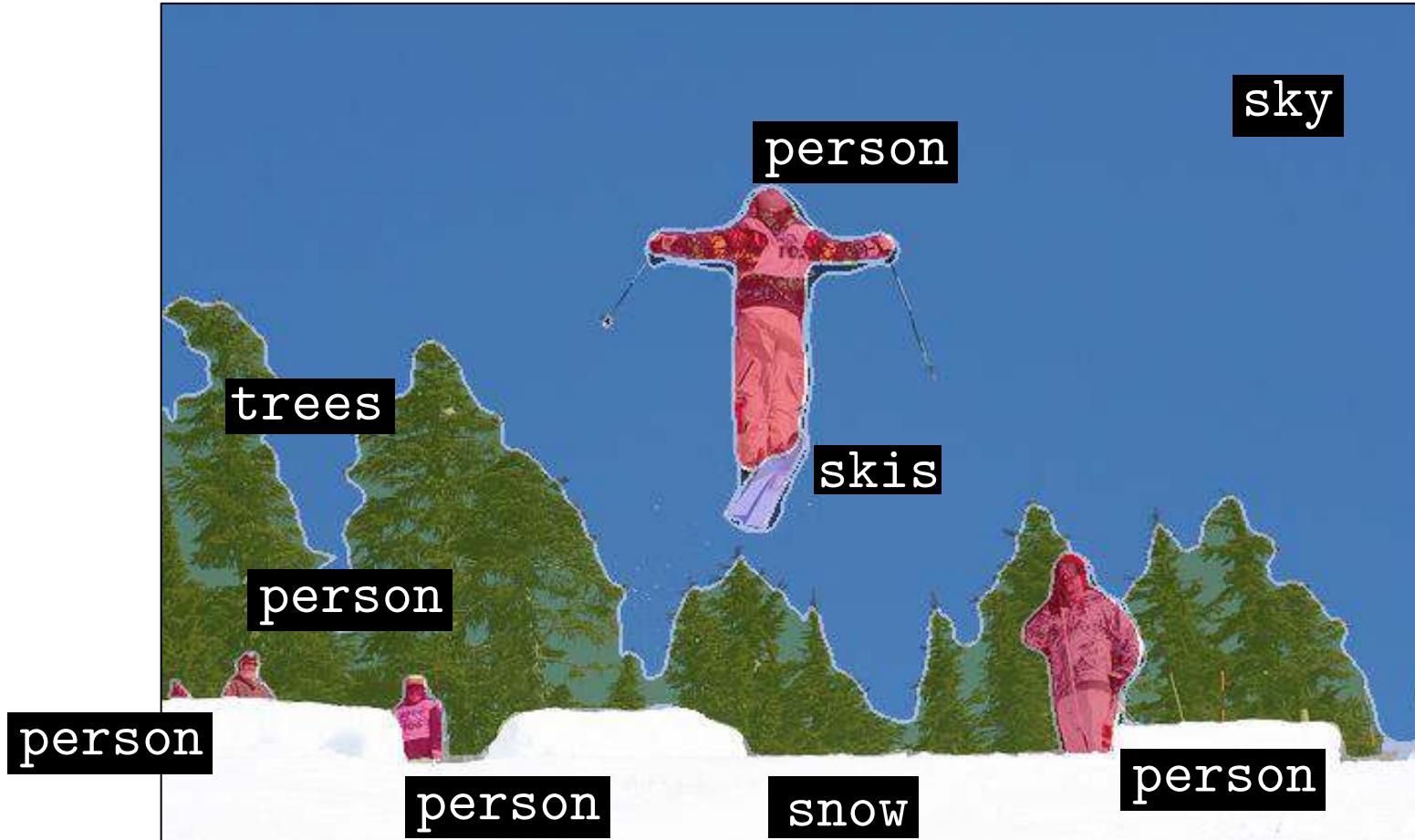
no understanding of the general scene layout

# What do instance segmentation methods “see”?



combined with  
semantic segmentation  
prediction

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combined with  
semantic segmentation  
prediction

# What do semantic segmentation methods “see”?

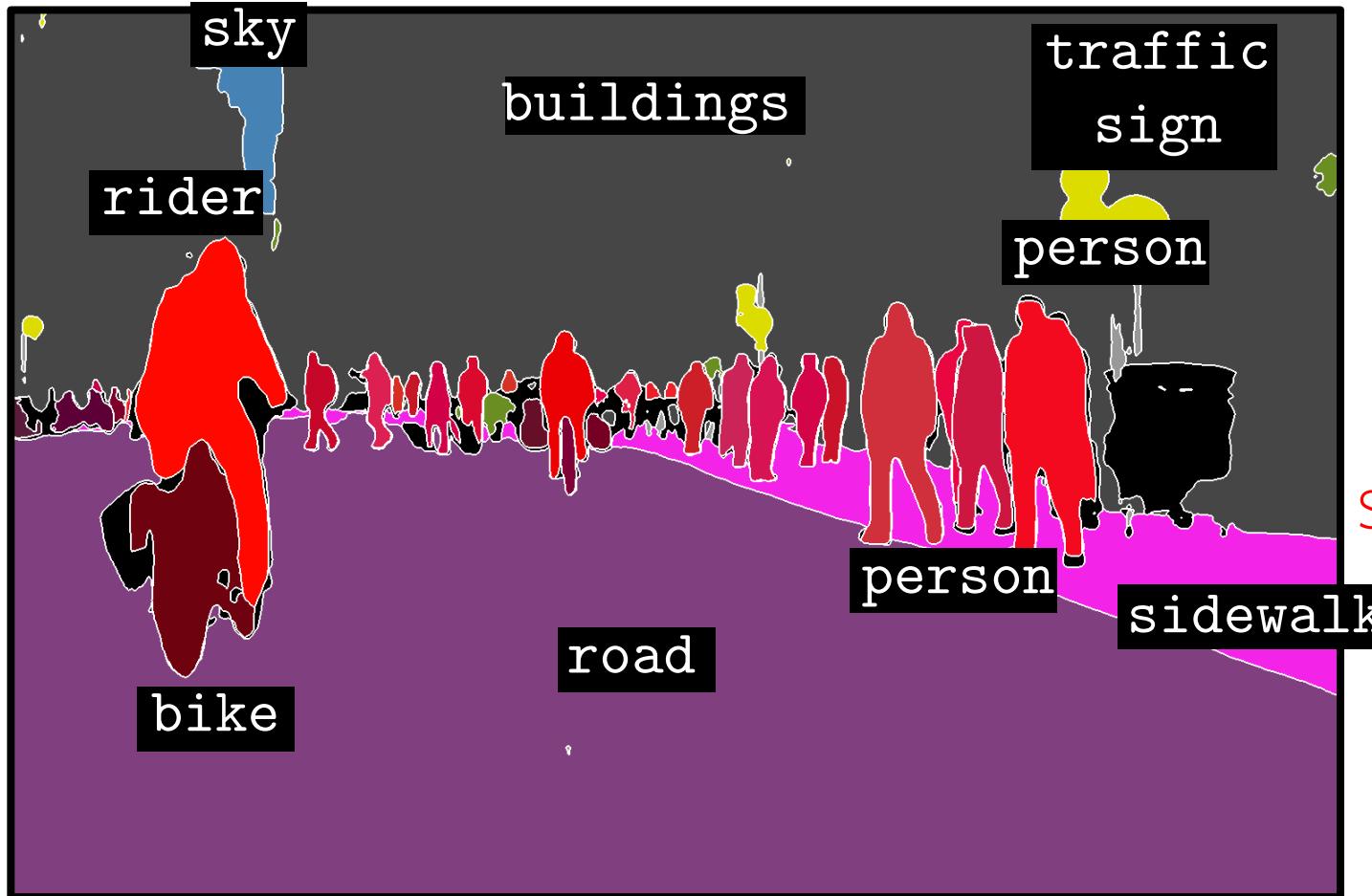


unable to reason about  
separate objects

# What do semantic segmentation methods “see”?

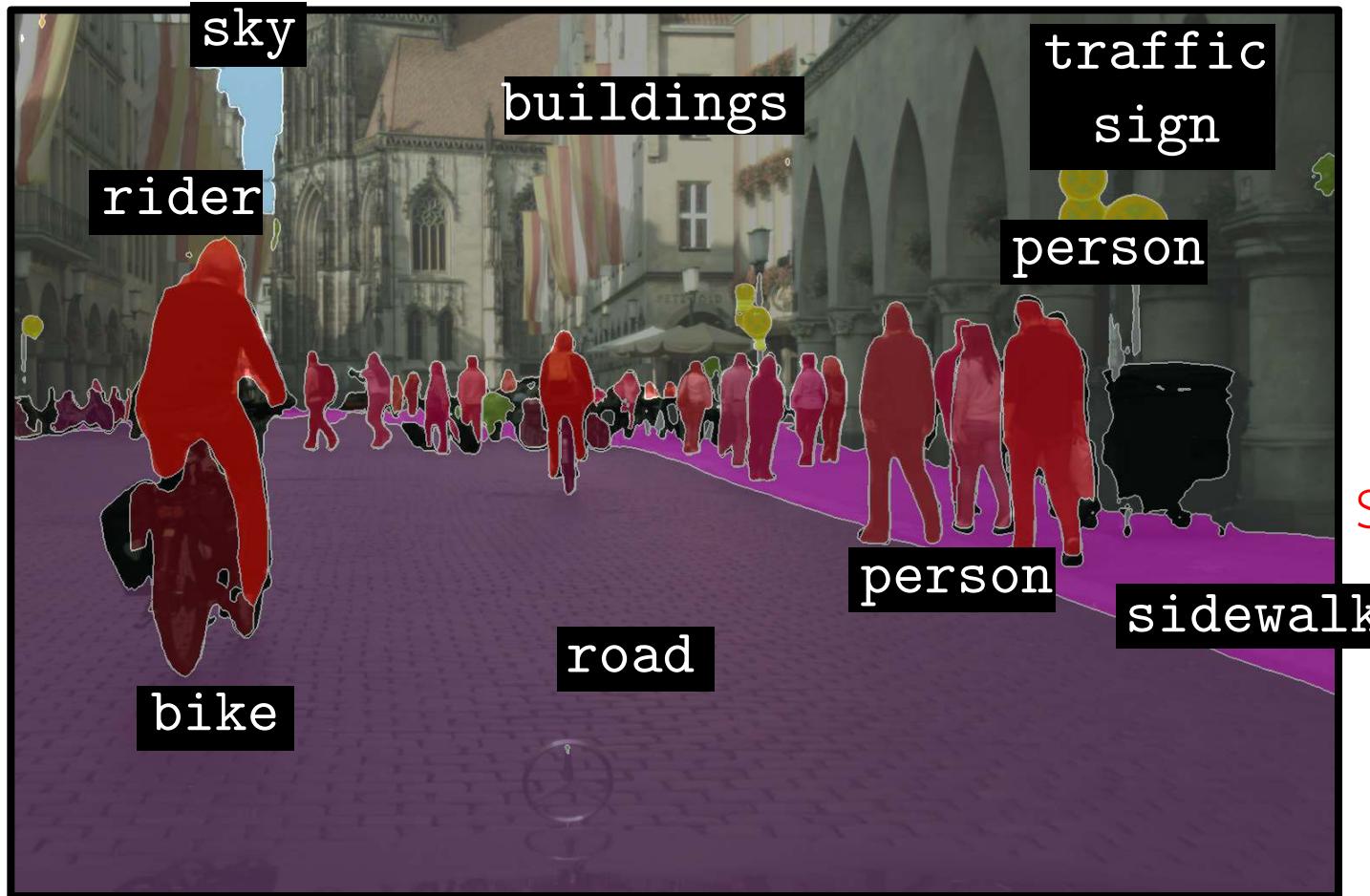


# What do semantic segmentation methods “see”?



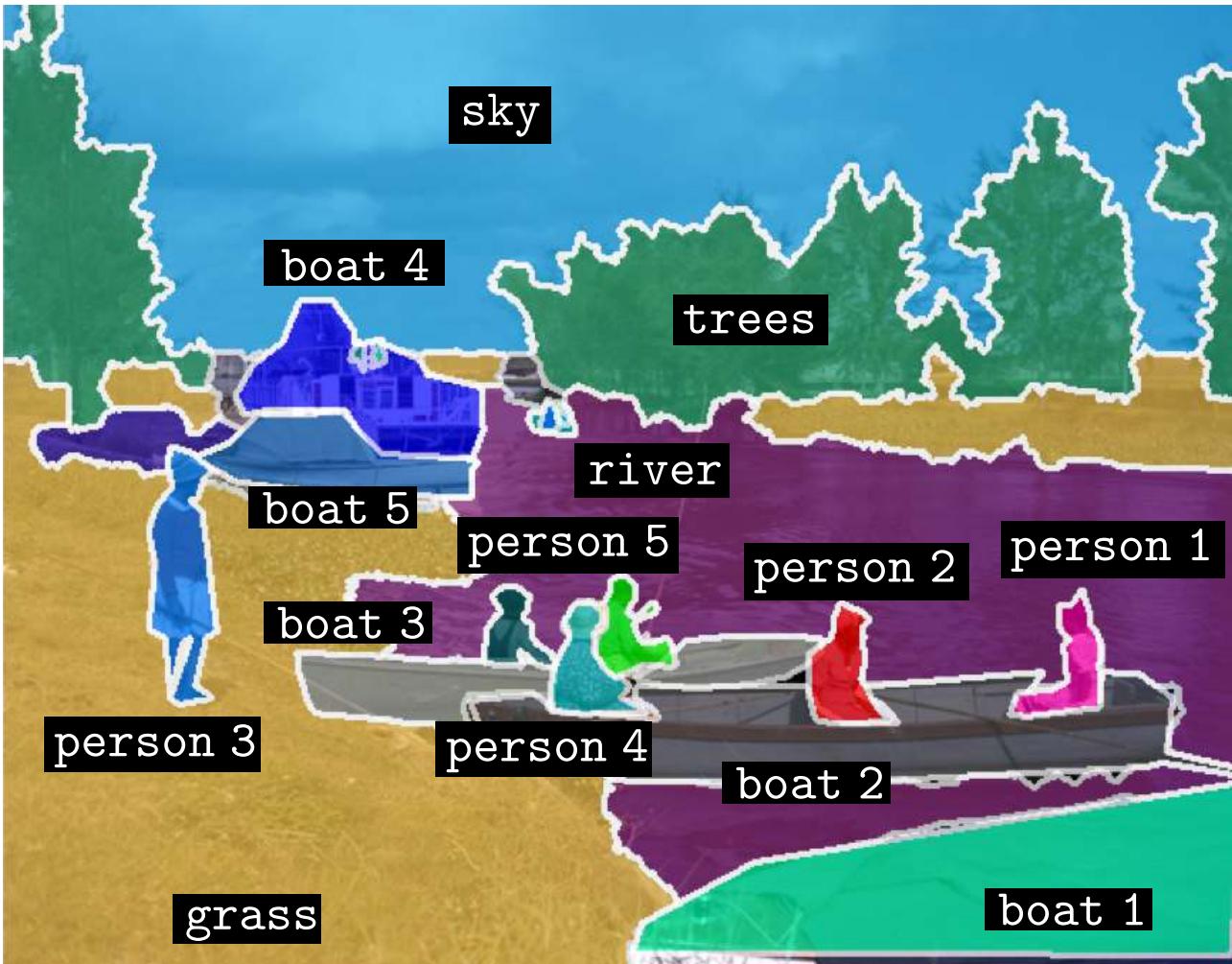
combined with instance  
segmentation prediction

# What do semantic segmentation methods “see”?



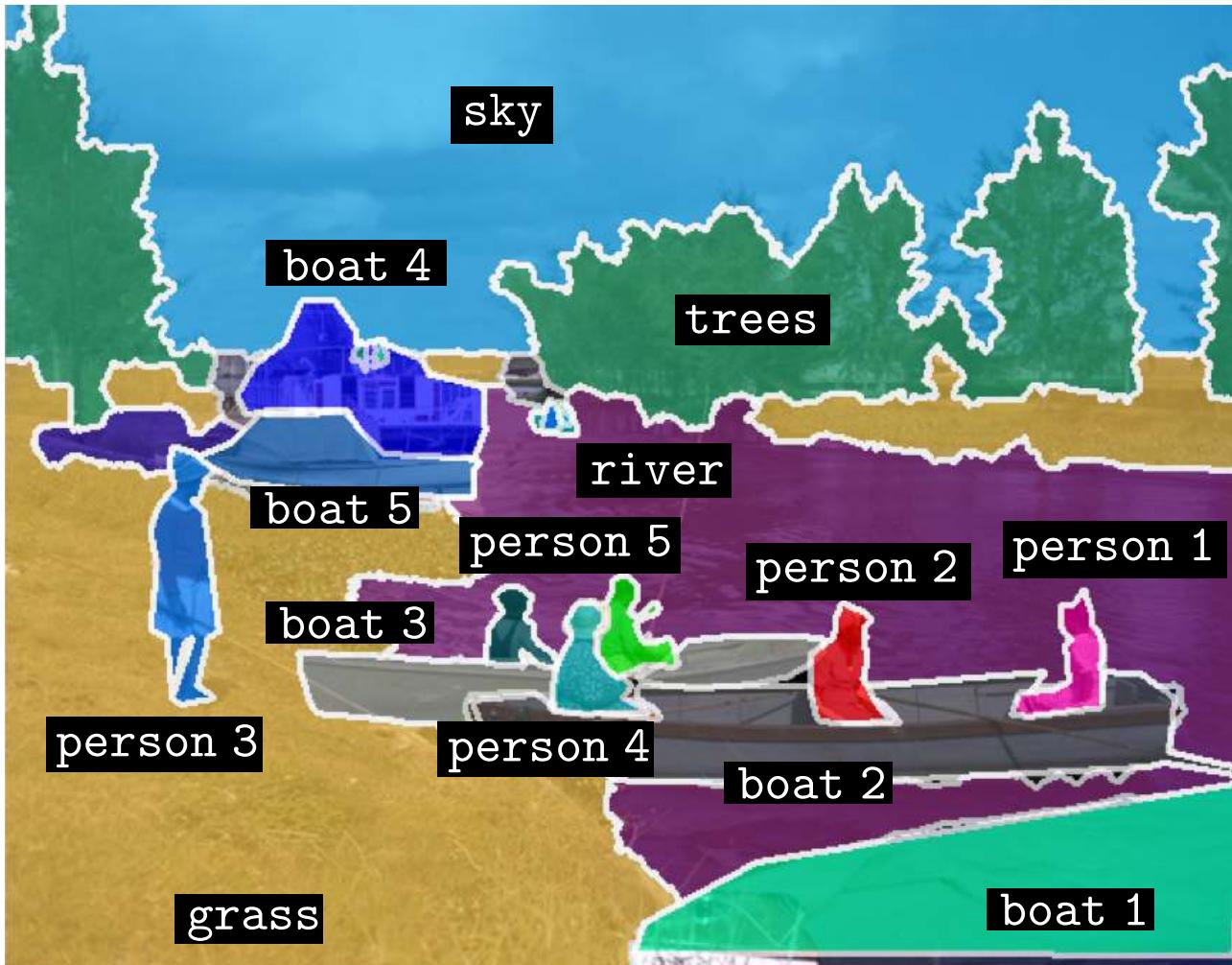
combined with instance  
segmentation prediction

# Unified segmentation task



single task that combines semantic  
and instance segmentation

# Unified segmentation task



single task that combines semantic  
and instance segmentation

**things:** categories with instance-level annotation (person, boat)

**stuff:** categories without the notion of instances (sky, road)

# Unified segmentation task

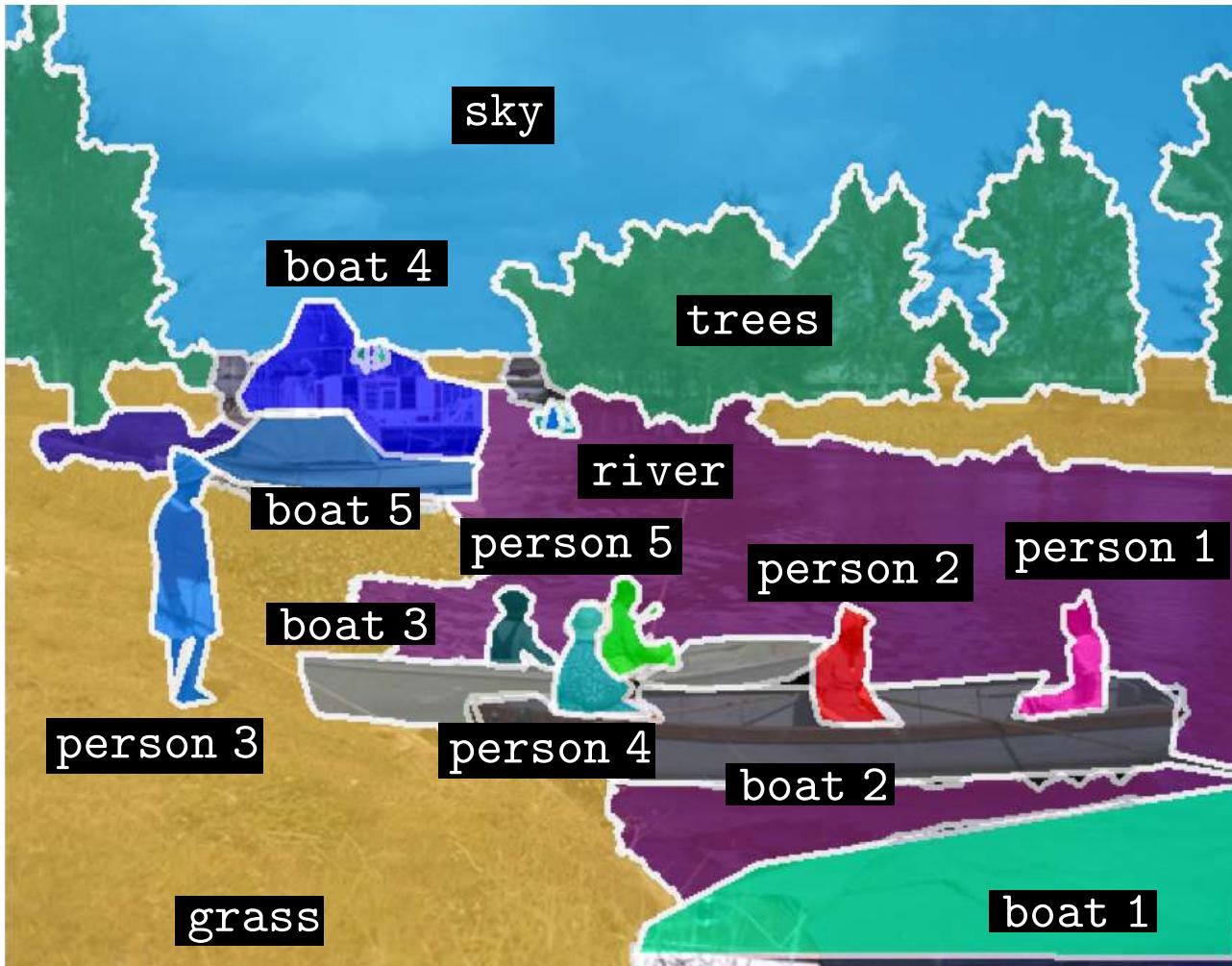
1. Tu et al. Image parsing: Unifying segmentation, detection, and recognition, IJCV 2005
2. Yao et al. Describing the scene as a whole: Joint object detection, scene classification and semantic segmentation, CVPR 2012
3. Tighe et al. Finding things: **Image parsing** with regions and per-exemplar detectors, CVPR 2013
4. Tighe et al. **Scene parsing** with object instances and occlusion ordering, CVPR 2014
5. Sun et al. Relating things and stuff via object property interactions, PAMI 2014
6. Kirillov et al. **Panoptic segmentation**, CVPR 2019

# Unified segmentation task

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6. Kirillov et al. **Panoptic segmentation**, CVPR 2019

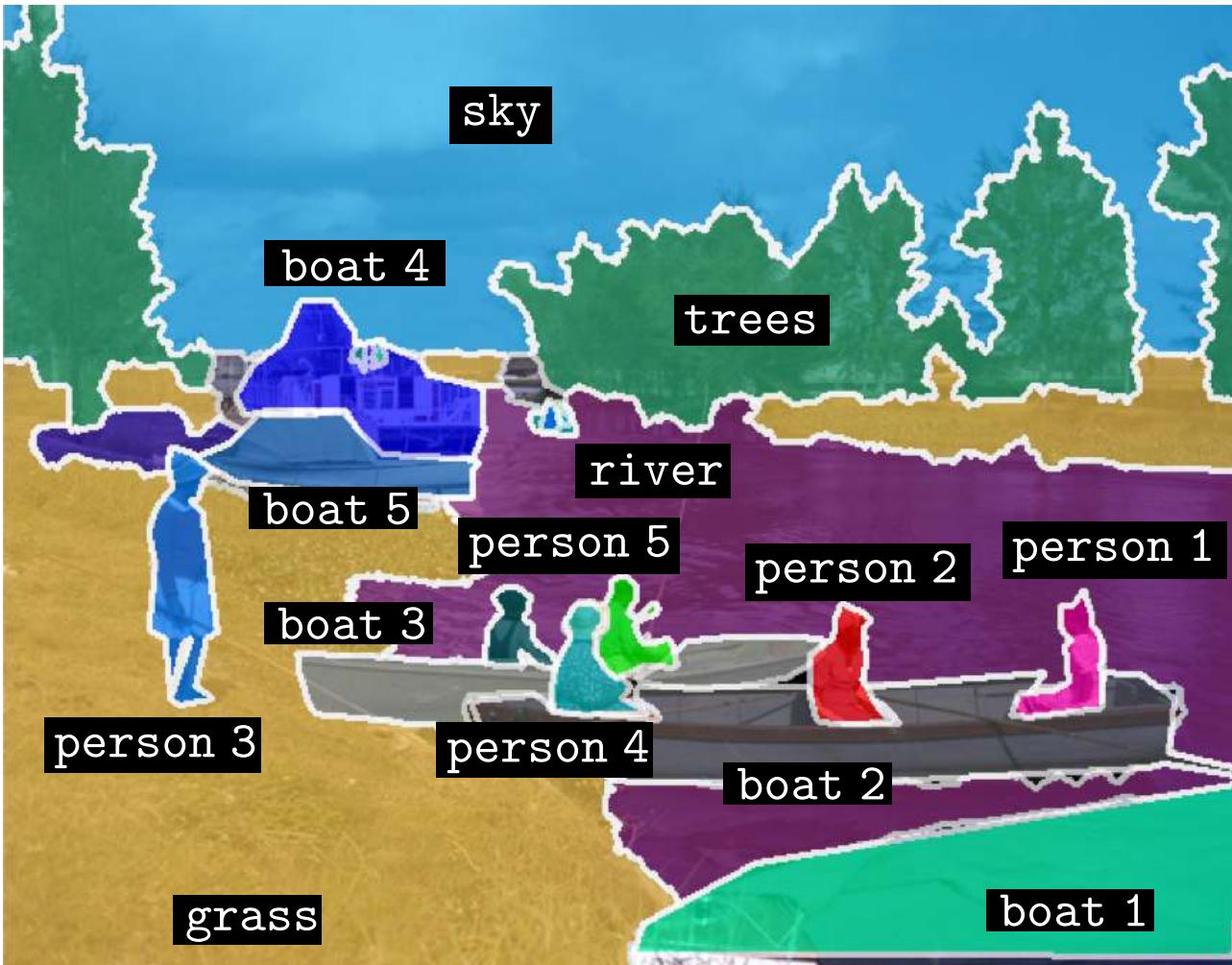
“panoptic” – seeing everything at once

# Panoptic segmentation



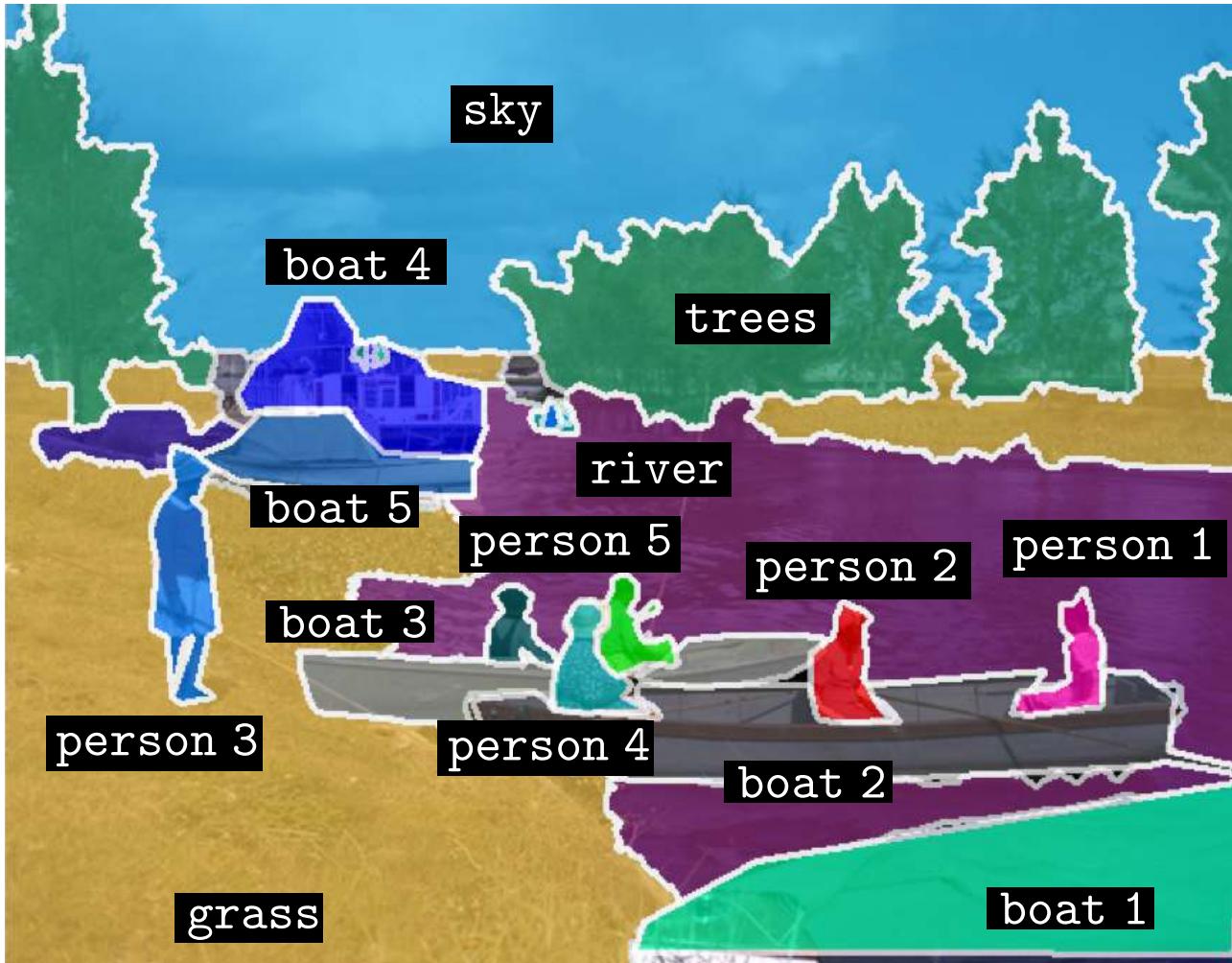
task: ?

# Panoptic segmentation



assign semantic labels to pixels +  
segment each instance separately

# Panoptic segmentation



generalization of both semantic  
and instance segmentation tasks

# Overlapping Segments

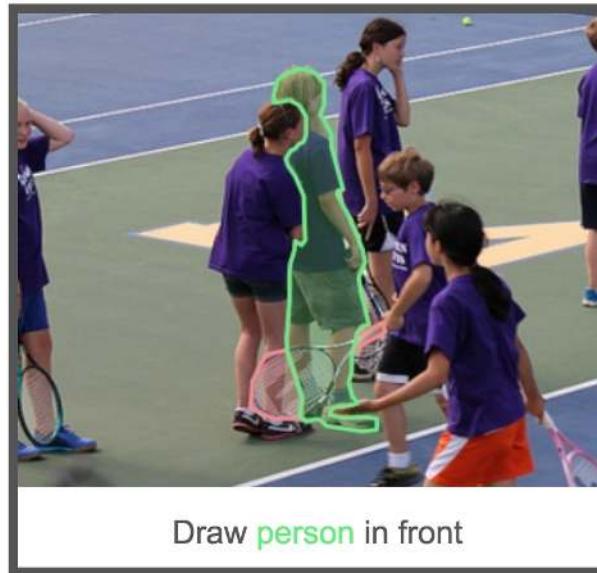


instance segmentation formulation  
allows overlapping instances

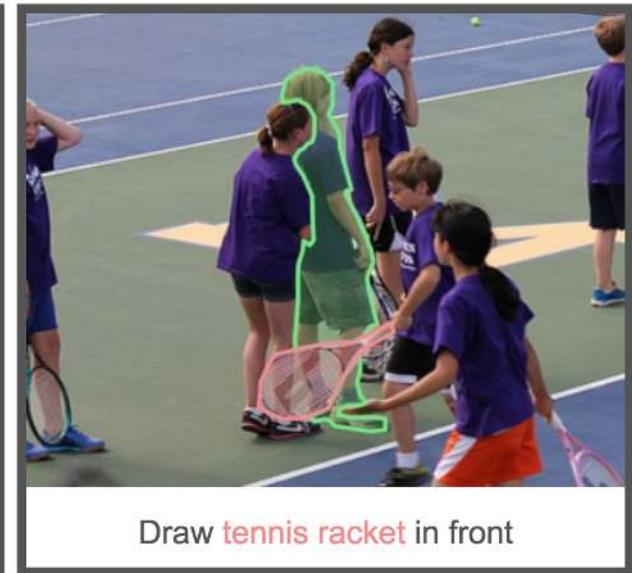
# Overlapping Segments



instance segmentation formulation  
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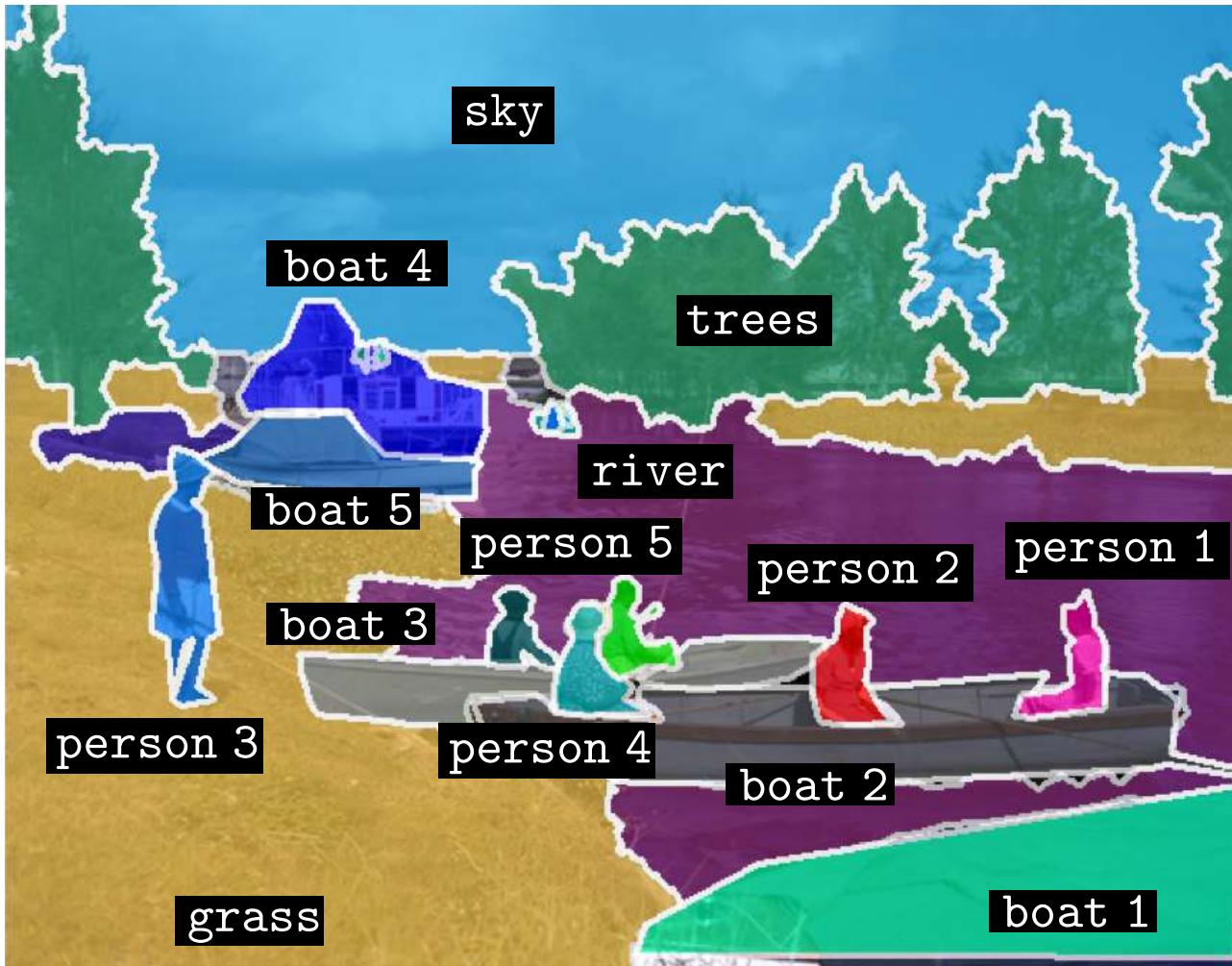
Draw person in front



Draw tennis racket in front

in panoptic segmentation  
each pixel has only one label

# Panoptic segmentation



task: ✓  
datasets: ?

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)  
~200k images, 133 categories

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)

COCO-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)  
COCO-panoptic challenges:  
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Mapillary Vistas (2017)  
~25k images, 66 categories

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)  
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ECCV`18, ICCV`19

Mapillary Vistas (2017)  
Vistas-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19

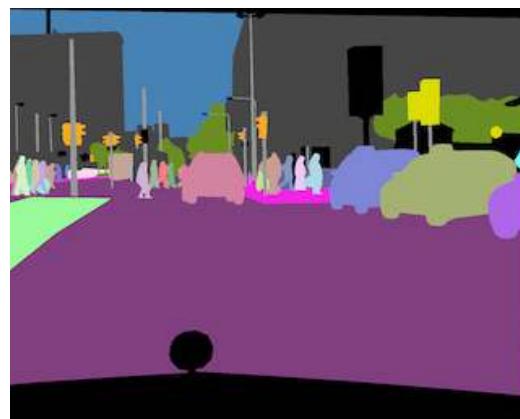
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ECCV`18, ICCV`19



Mapillary Vistas (2017)  
Vistas-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19



Cityscapes (2015)  
5k images, 19 categories

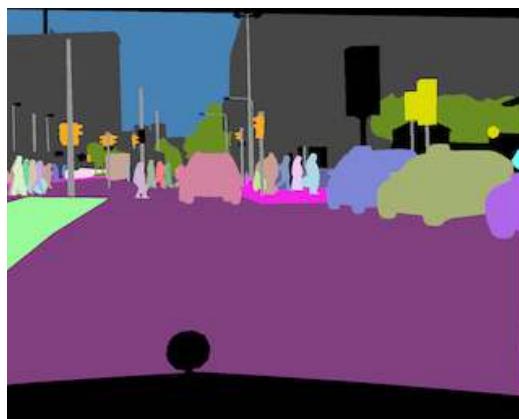
# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)  
COCO-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19

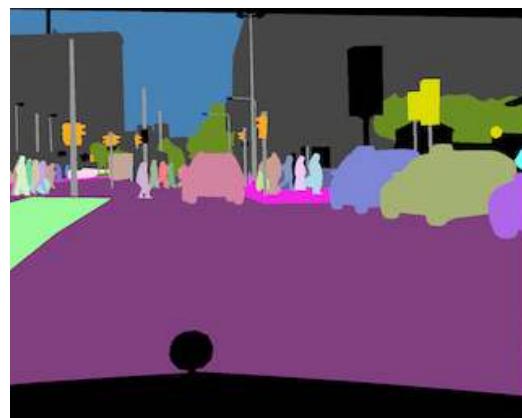


Mapillary Vistas (2017)  
Vistas-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19



Cityscapes (2015)  
panoptic test set  
leaderboard (2019)

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets



COCO (2014) + COCO-stuff (2017)  
COCO-panoptic challenges:  
ECCV`18, ICCV`19

Mapillary Vistas (2017)  
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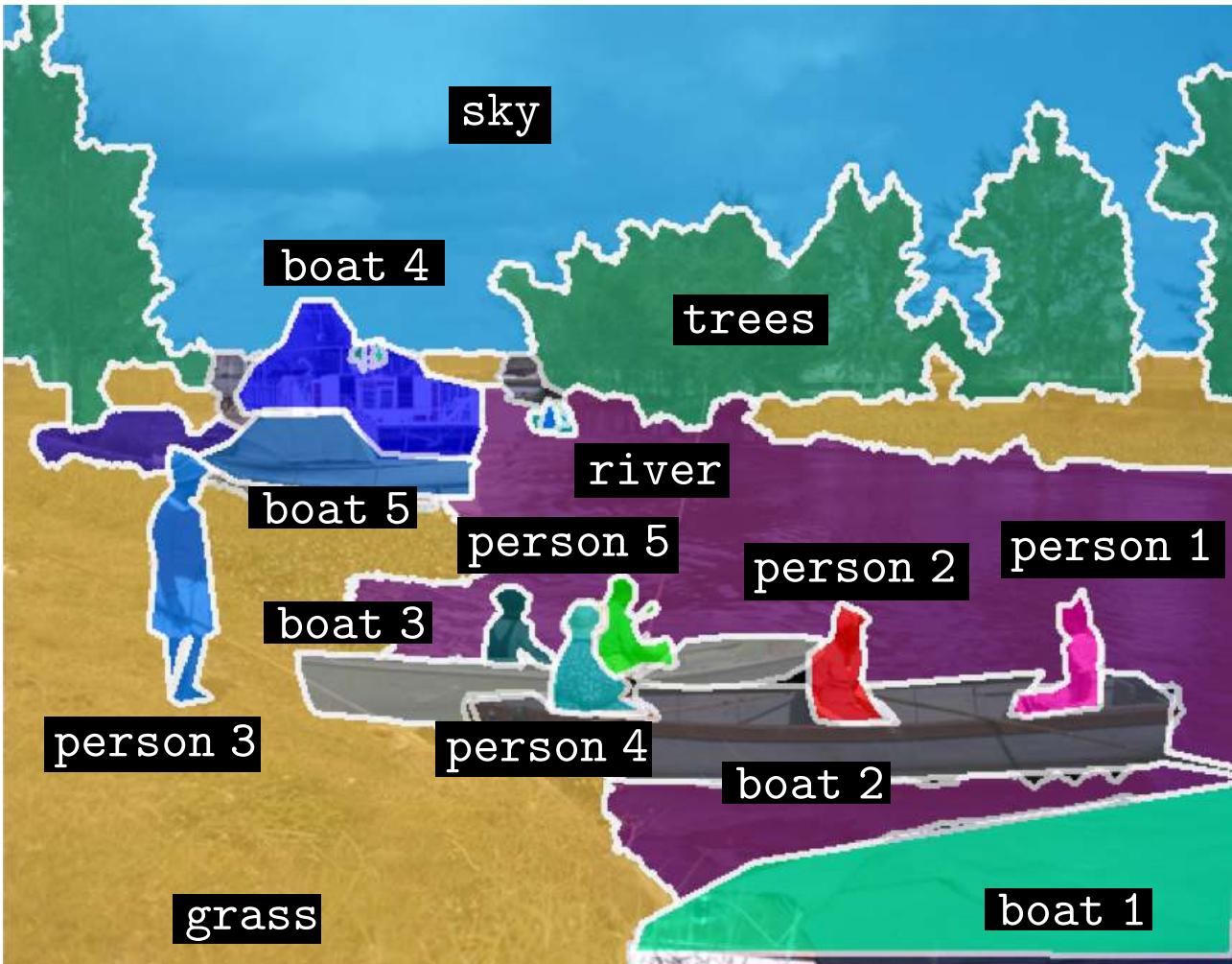
Cityscapes (2015)  
panoptic test set  
leaderboard (2019)

ADE20k (2016)  
>22k images, 150 categories

# Available panoptic segmentation datasets

1. Lin et al. Microsoft COCO: Common Objects in Context, ECCV 2014
2. Caesar et al. COCO-Stuff: Thing and Stuff Classes in Context, CVPR 2018
3. Neuhold et al. The Mapillary Vistas Dataset for Semantic Understanding of Street Scenes, ICCV 2017
4. Cordts et al. The Cityscapes Dataset for Semantic Urban Scene Understanding, CVPR 2016
5. Zhou et al. Semantic understanding of scenes through the ade20k dataset, IJCV 2016

# Panoptic segmentation



task: ✓

datasets: ✓

evaluation: ?

# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
  - Intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric

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- semantic segmentation
  - Intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric



ground truth



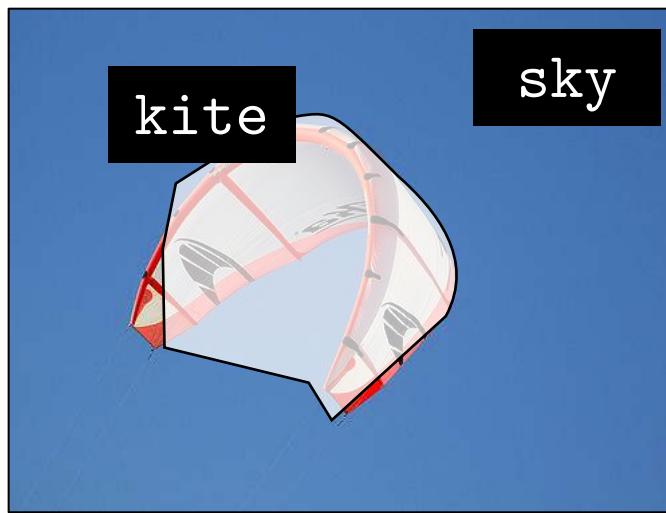
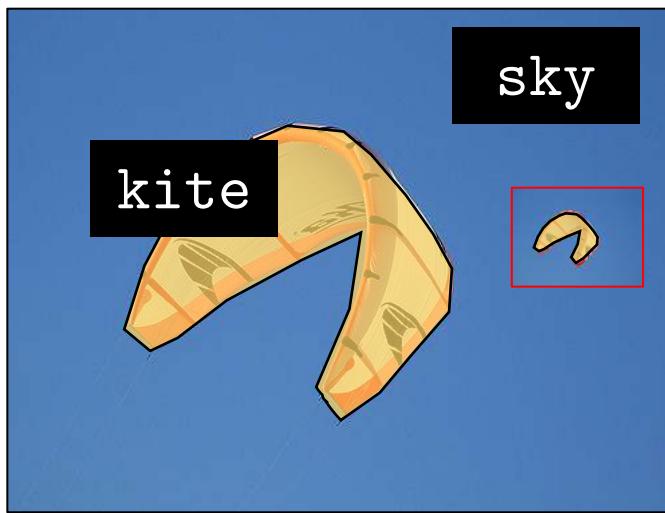
prediction

$$\text{IoU}(\text{kite}) = \frac{\text{area}(\text{kite} \cap \text{prediction})}{\text{area}(\text{kite} \cup \text{prediction})}$$

The diagram illustrates the calculation of IoU for the kite segment. It shows two overlapping regions: a white area representing the intersection of the ground truth and prediction masks, and a larger black area representing the union of the two masks. The formula above uses these areas to calculate the Intersection-over-Union metric for the kite segment.

# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
  - Intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric



ground truth

prediction

$$\text{IoU}(\text{kite}) = \frac{\text{area}(\text{kite} \cap \text{prediction})}{\text{area}(\text{kite} \cup \text{prediction})}$$

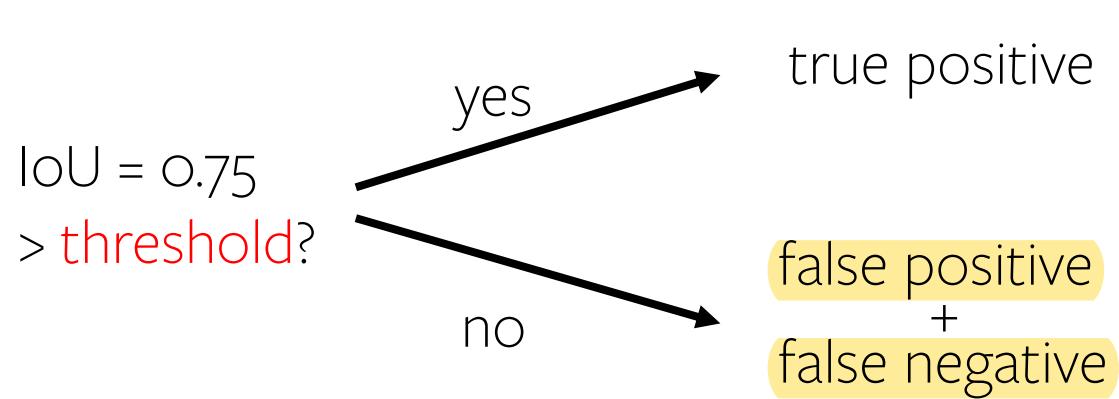
The diagram illustrates the formula for calculating the Intersection-over-Union (IoU) for the kite segment. It shows two overlapping regions: a black shaded area representing the ground truth kite and a white shaded area representing the predicted kite. The intersection of these two areas is highlighted with a red rectangle. The union of the two areas is shown as a larger black shape. The formula for IoU is the ratio of the intersection area to the union area.

# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
  - intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric
- instance segmentation
  - average precision (AP) over several IoU thresholds (0.5:0.05:0.95), object size-agnostic

# Image segmentation evaluation

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# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
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- panoptic segmentation

neither IoU nor AP alone works  
for panoptic segmentation

# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
  - intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric
- instance segmentation
  - average precision (AP) over several IoU thresholds (0.5:0.05:0.95), object size-agnostic
- panoptic segmentation
  - IoU + AP

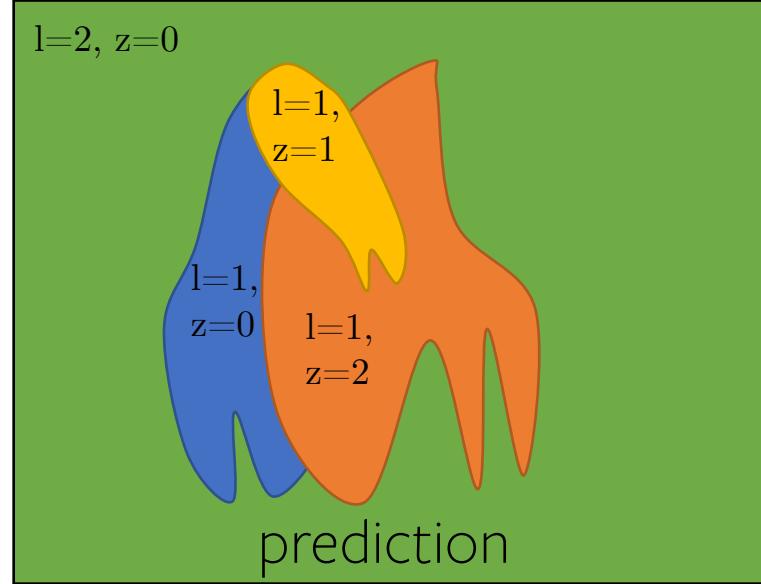
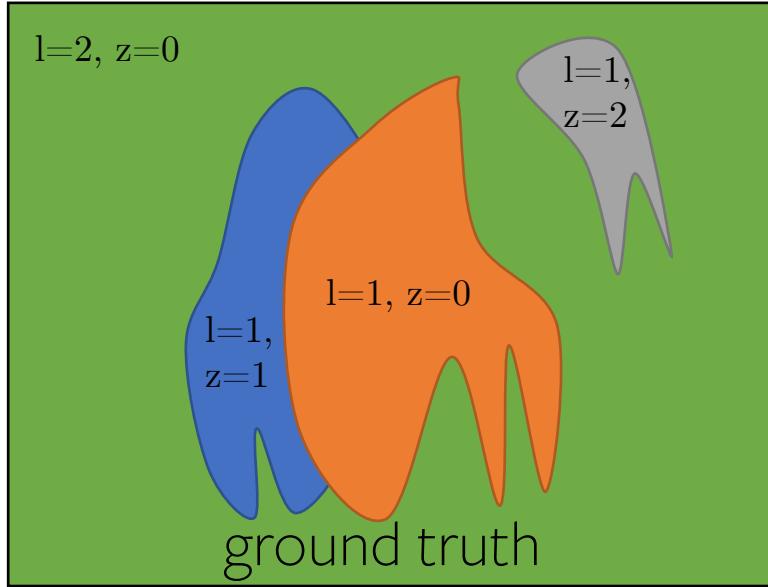
asymmetric for classes with and without instance-level annotation

# Image segmentation evaluation

- semantic segmentation
  - intersection-over-union (IoU), per-pixel metric
- instance segmentation
  - average precision (AP) over several IoU thresholds (0.5:0.05:0.95), object size-agnostic
- panoptic segmentation
  - IoU + AP
  - **panoptic quality (PQ)**, segment size-agnostic

metric that treats all  
categories in the same way

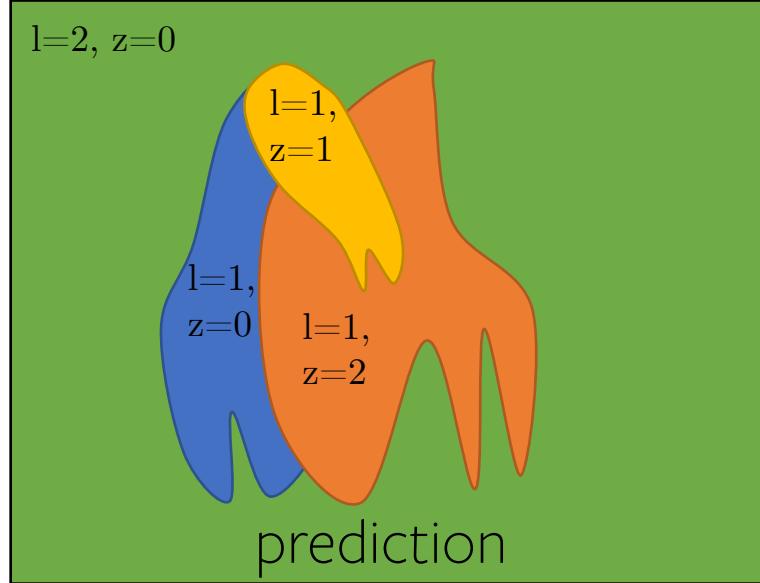
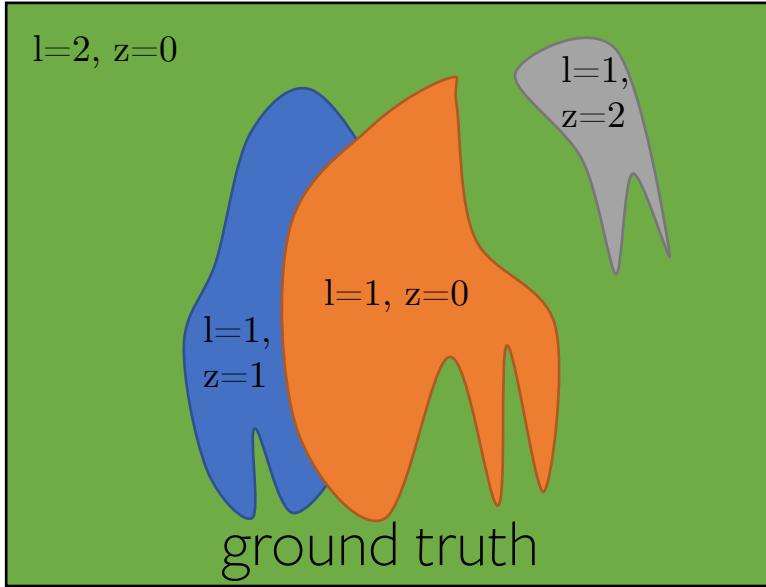
# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure



PQ computation:

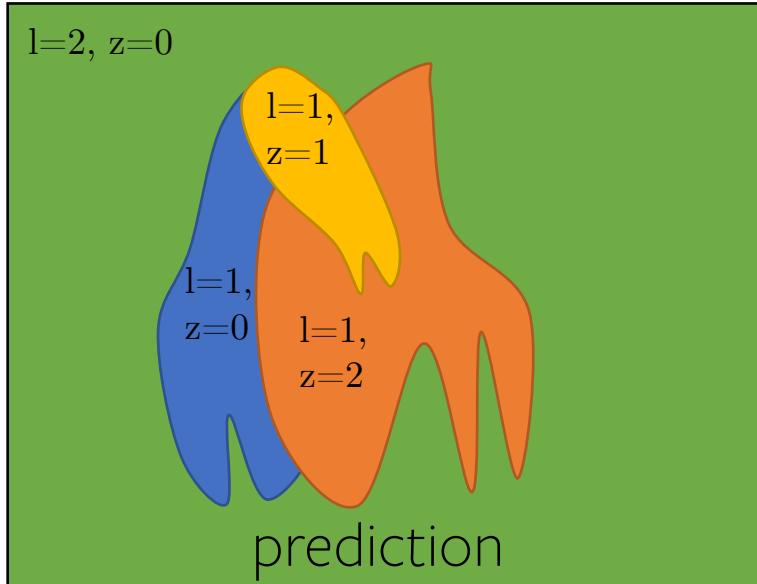
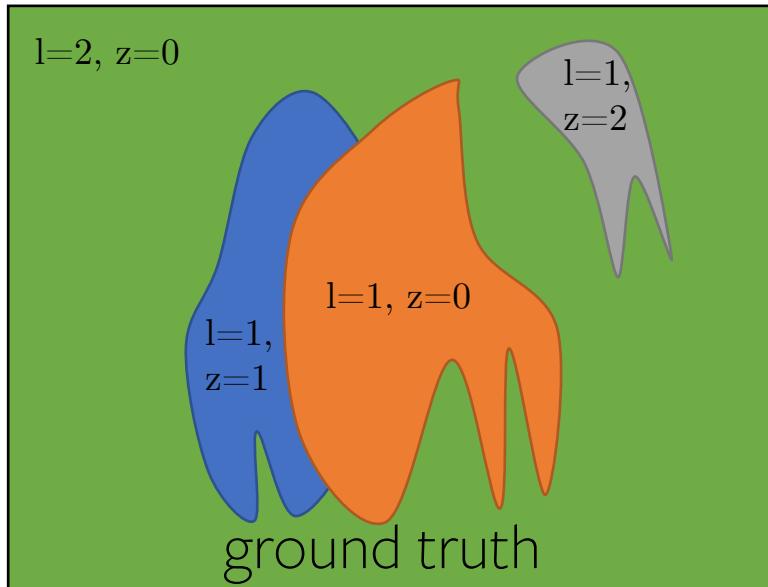
- matching
- calculation

# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure

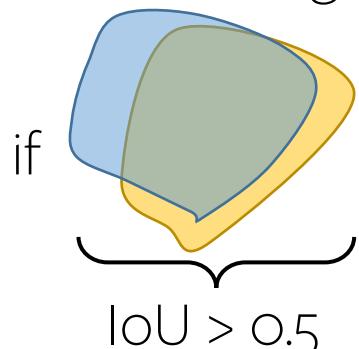


- matching rule: two segments match if their  $\text{IoU} > 0.5$

# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure

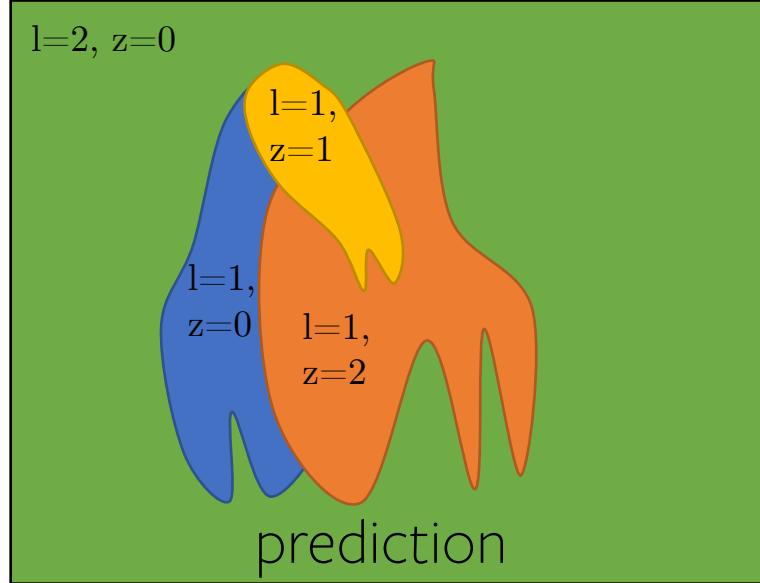
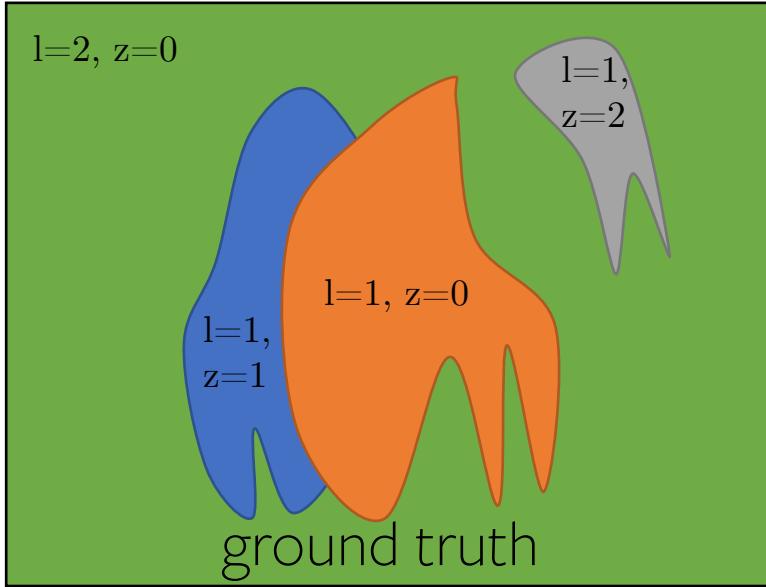


- matching rule: two segments match if their  $\text{IoU} > 0.5$
- the matching is unique:



then there is no other non overlapping object that has  $\text{IoU} > 0.5$

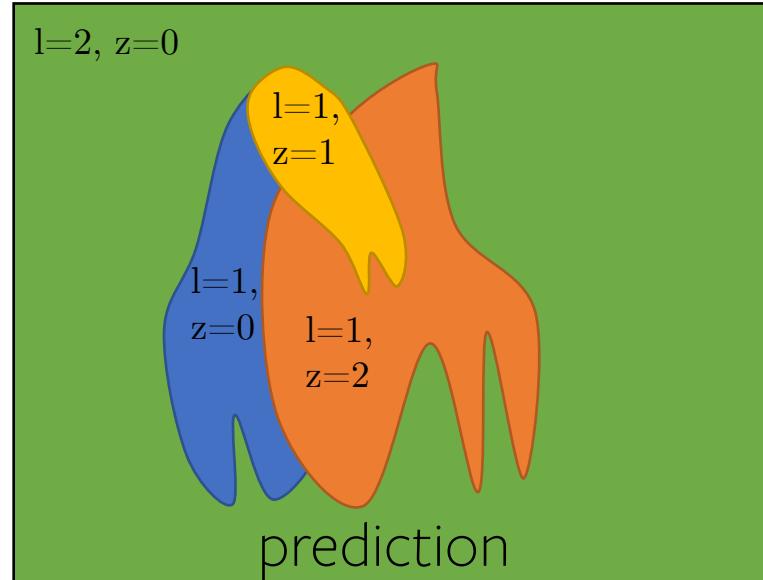
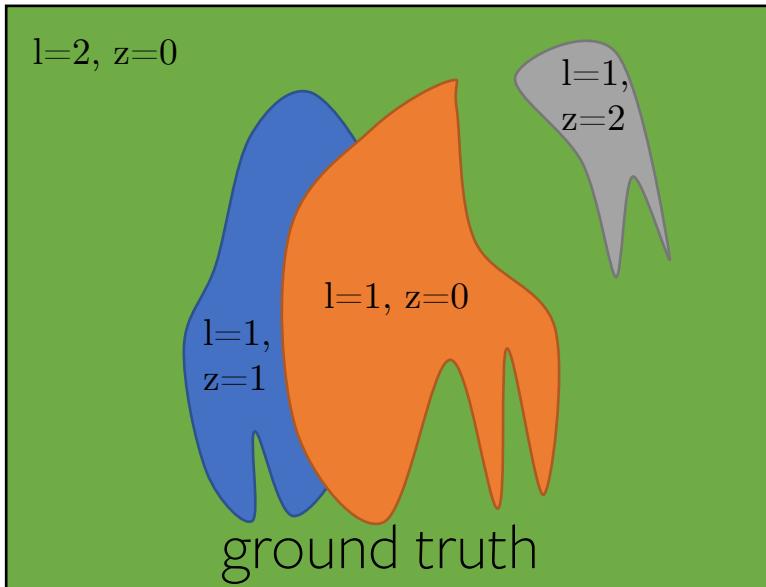
# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure



- matching rule: two segments match if their IoU > 0.5

$$TP = \{(\boxed{\text{blue}}, \boxed{\text{blue}}), (\boxed{\text{orange}}, \boxed{\text{orange}})\}, FN = \{\boxed{\text{grey}}\}, FP = \{\boxed{\text{yellow}}\}$$

# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure



- matching rule: two segments match if their IoU > 0.5

$$TP = \{(\boxed{\text{blue segment}}, \boxed{\text{blue segment}}), (\boxed{\text{orange segment}}, \boxed{\text{orange segment}})\}, FN = \{\boxed{\text{grey segment}}\}, FP = \{\boxed{\text{yellow segment}}\}$$

- calculation:

$$PQ = \frac{\sum_{(p,g) \in TP} \text{IoU}(p, g)}{|TP| + \frac{1}{2}|FP| + \frac{1}{2}|FN|}$$

# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure

$$\text{PQ} = \frac{\sum_{(p,g) \in TP} \text{IoU}(p, g)}{|TP| + \frac{1}{2}|FP| + \frac{1}{2}|FN|}$$

# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure

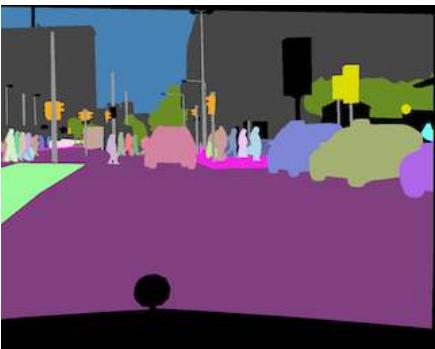
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- symmetric
- unified for categories with and without instance-level annotation (analysis)

# PQ analysis (human experimentation)



Cityscapes  
30 images



Mapillary Vistas  
46 images



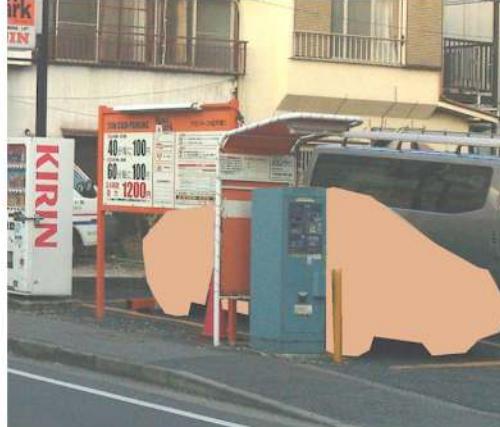
ADE20k  
64 images



COCO  
5000 images

sets of images annotated twice independently

# PQ analysis

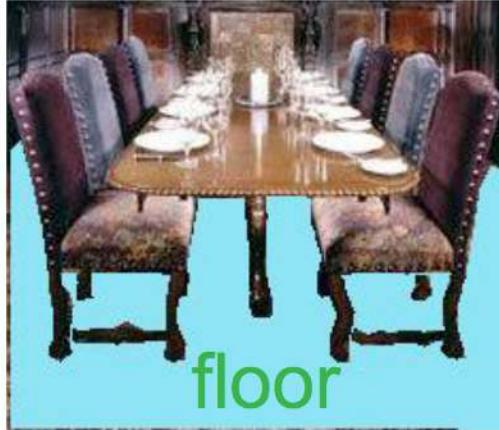


inconsistency examples

annotator 1

annotator 2

# PQ analysis



annotator 1

annotator 2

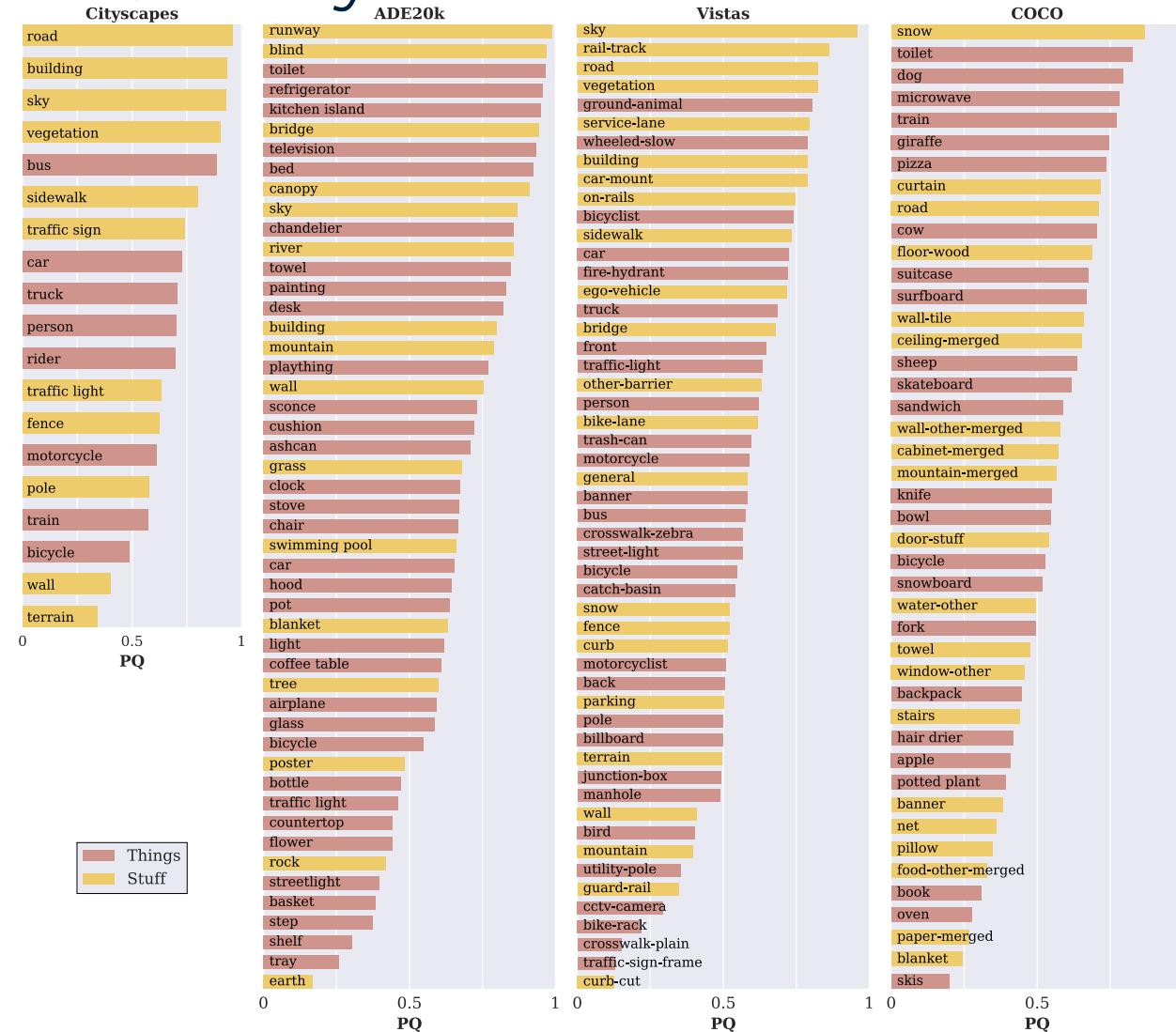
inconsistency examples

# PQ analysis

	PQ	$PQ^{St}$	$PQ^{Th}$
Cityscapes	69.7	71.3	67.4
ADE20k	67.1	70.3	65.9
Vistas	57.5	62.6	53.4
COCO	53.5	47.1	57.8

PQ for stuff classes is close to PQ for things classes

# PQ analysis



things and stuff are  
distributed evenly

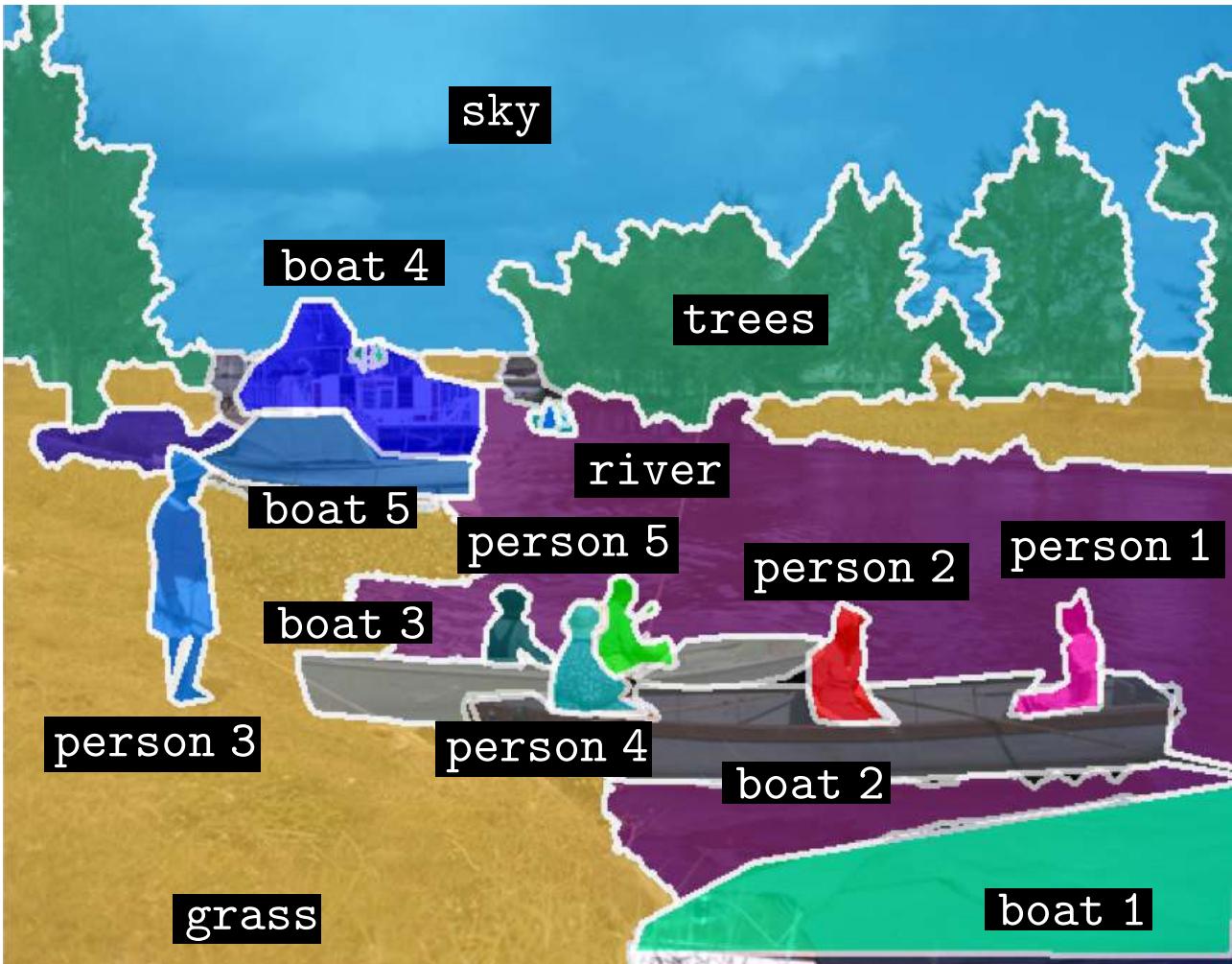
# Panoptic quality (PQ) measure

$$\text{PQ} = \frac{\sum_{(p,g) \in TP} \text{IoU}(p, g)}{|TP| + \frac{1}{2}|FP| + \frac{1}{2}|FN|} = \underbrace{\frac{\sum_{(p,g) \in TP} \text{IoU}(p, g)}{|TP|}}_{\text{Segmentation Quality (SQ)}} \times \underbrace{\frac{|TP|}{|TP| + \frac{1}{2}|FP| + \frac{1}{2}|FN|}}_{\text{Recognition Quality (RQ)}}$$

- symmetric
- unified for categories with and without instance-level annotation (analysis)

evaluation code: <https://github.com/cocodataset/panopticapi>

# Panoptic segmentation



task: ✓

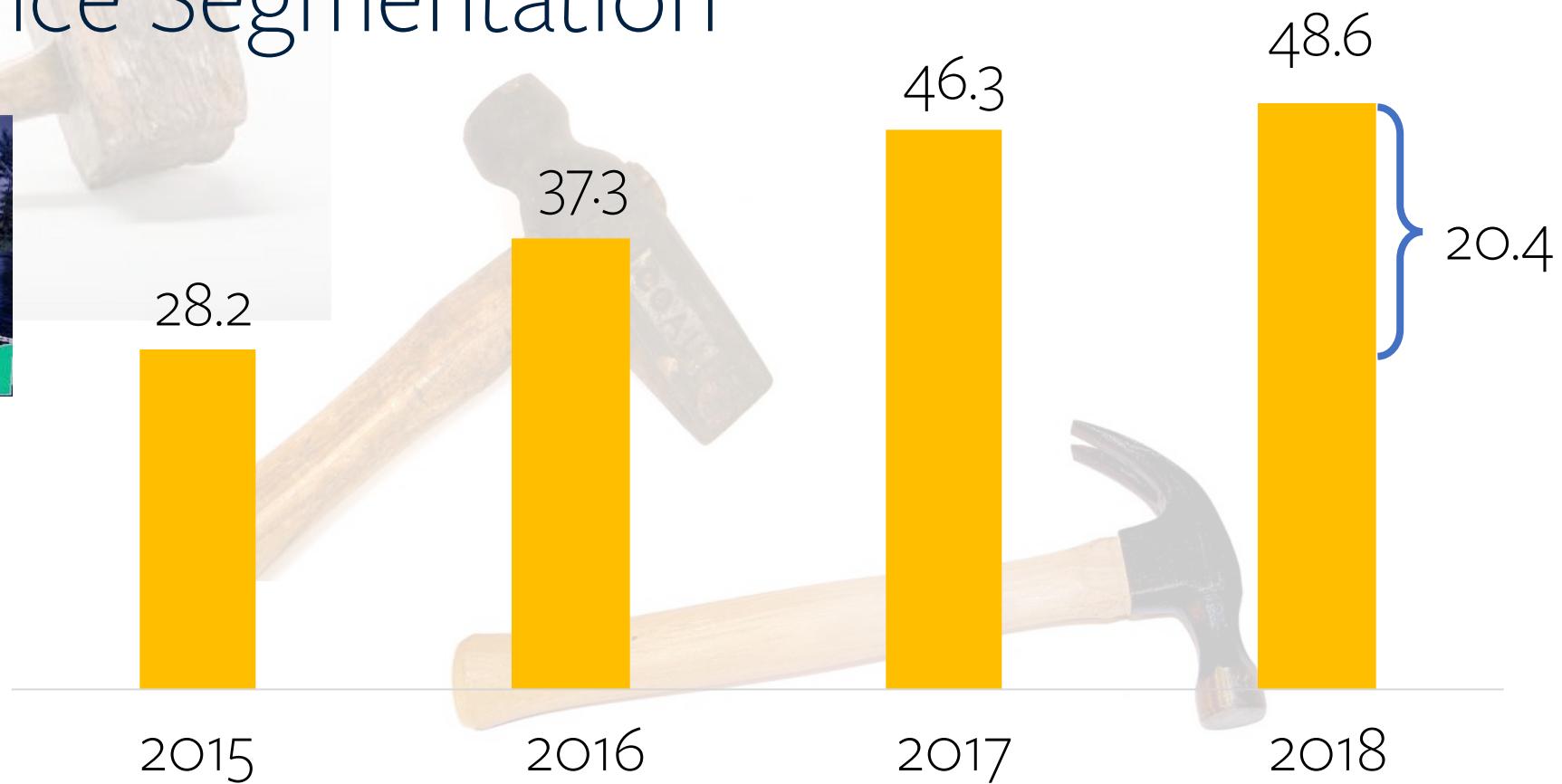
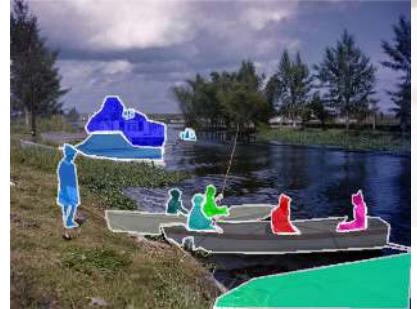
datasets: ✓

evaluation: ✓

In this tutorial:

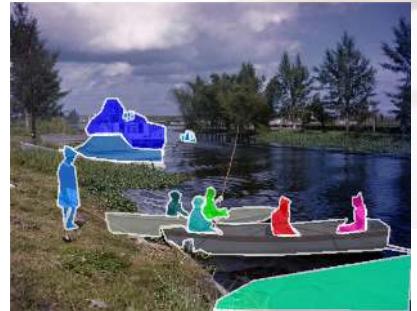
- panoptic segmentation task – unified semantic segmentation task
- approaches for the task
  - instance segmentation (recap)
  - semantic segmentation (recap)
  - panoptic segmentation

# Instance Segmentation



COCO-challenge winner instance segmentation AP (%)

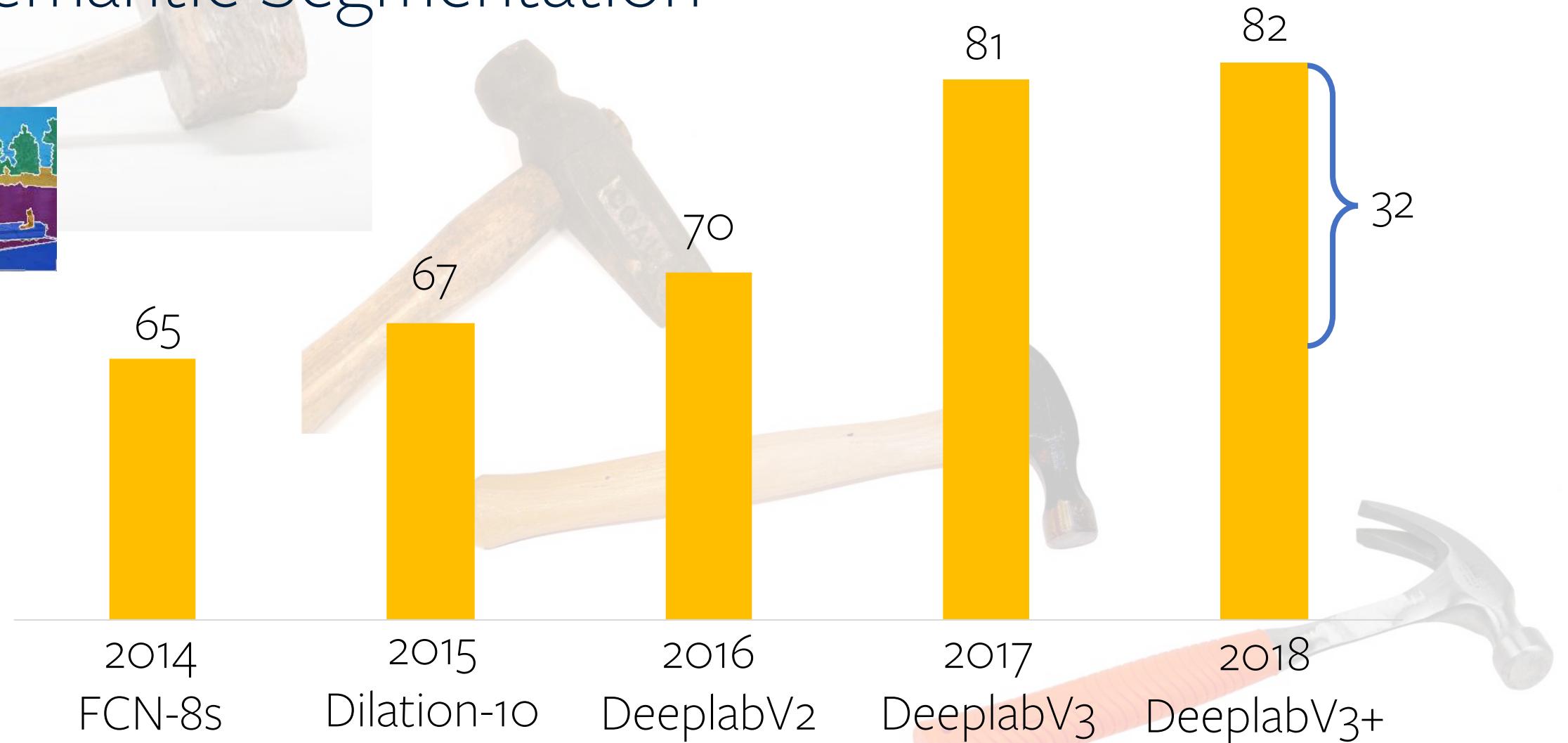
# Instance Segmentation



Hammers credits:  
Ross Girshick

COCO-challenge winner instance segmentation AP (%)

# Semantic Segmentation



Hammers credits:  
Ross Girshick

Cityscapes semantic segmentation IoU (%)

Cityscapes leaderboard  
performance

# Semantic Segmentation

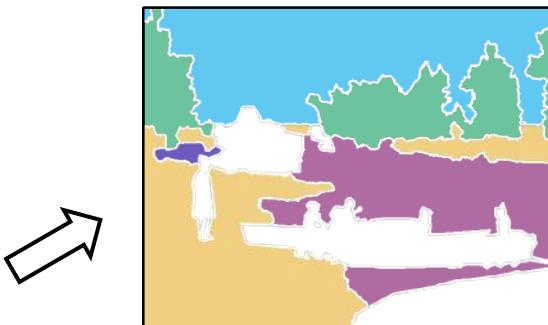
1. Long et al. Fully Convolutional Networks for Semantic Segmentation, CVPR 2015
2. Yu et al. Multi-Scale Context Aggregation by Dilated Convolutions, ICLR 2016
3. Chen et al. DeepLab: Semantic Image Segmentation with Deep Convolutional Nets, Atrous Convolution, and Fully Connected CRFs, TPAMI 2017
4. Chen et al. Rethinking Atrous Convolution for Semantic Image Segmentation, arXiv 2017
5. Chen et al. Encoder-Decoder with Atrous Separable Convolution for Semantic Image Segmentation , ECCV 2018

# In this tutorial:

- panoptic segmentation task – unified semantic segmentation task
- approaches for the task
  - instance segmentation (recap)
  - semantic segmentation (recap)
  - panoptic segmentation

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

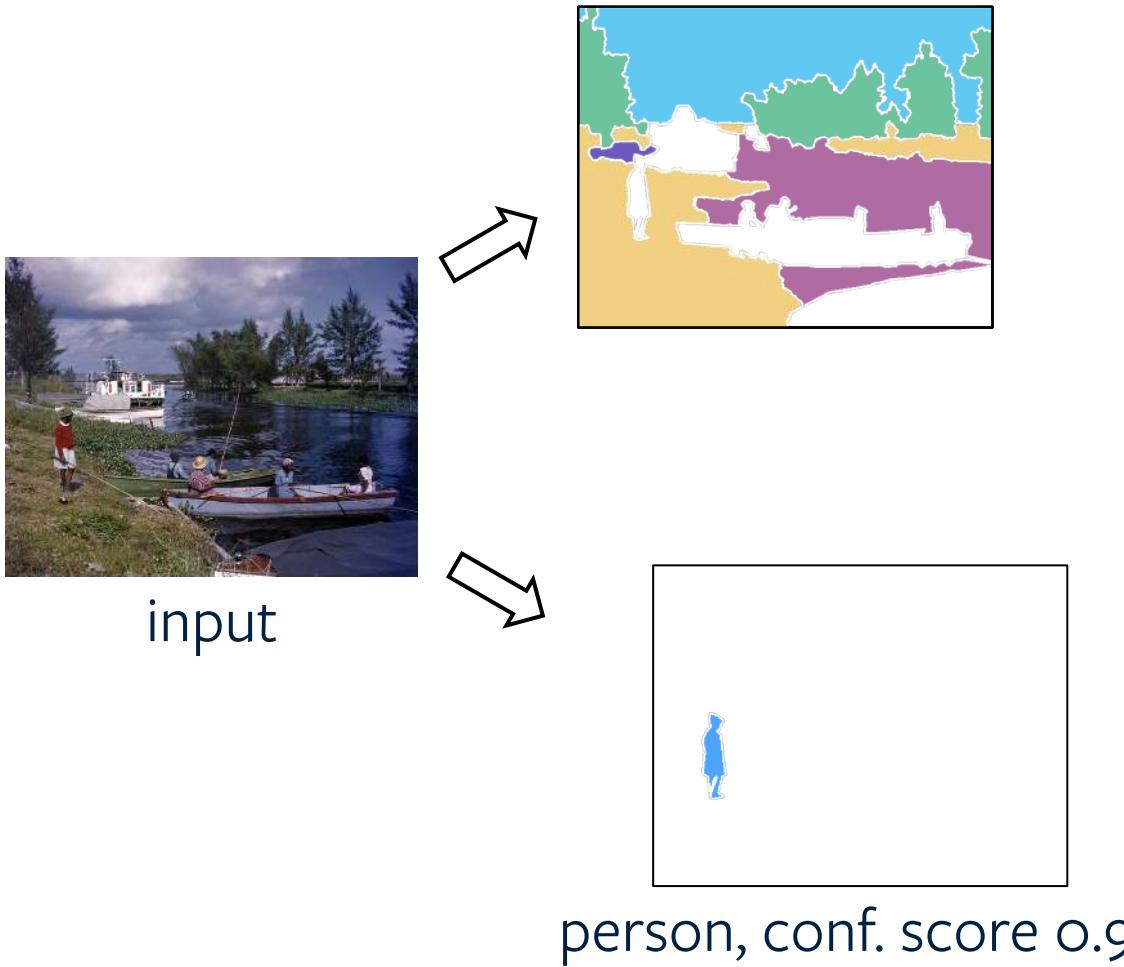
## semantic segmentation



input

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

## semantic segmentation

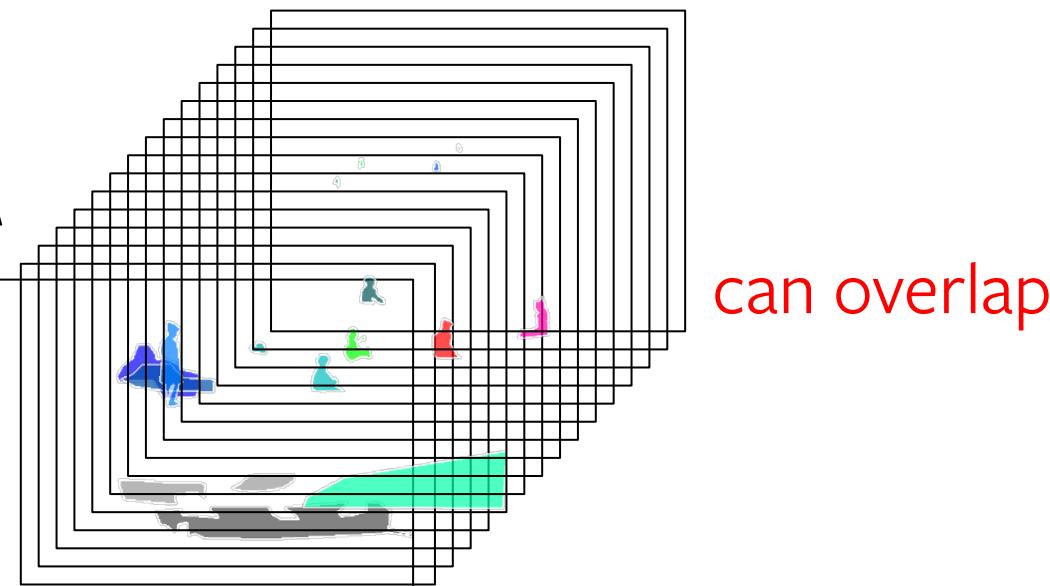
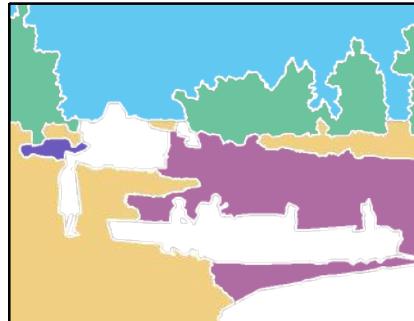


# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

semantic segmentation



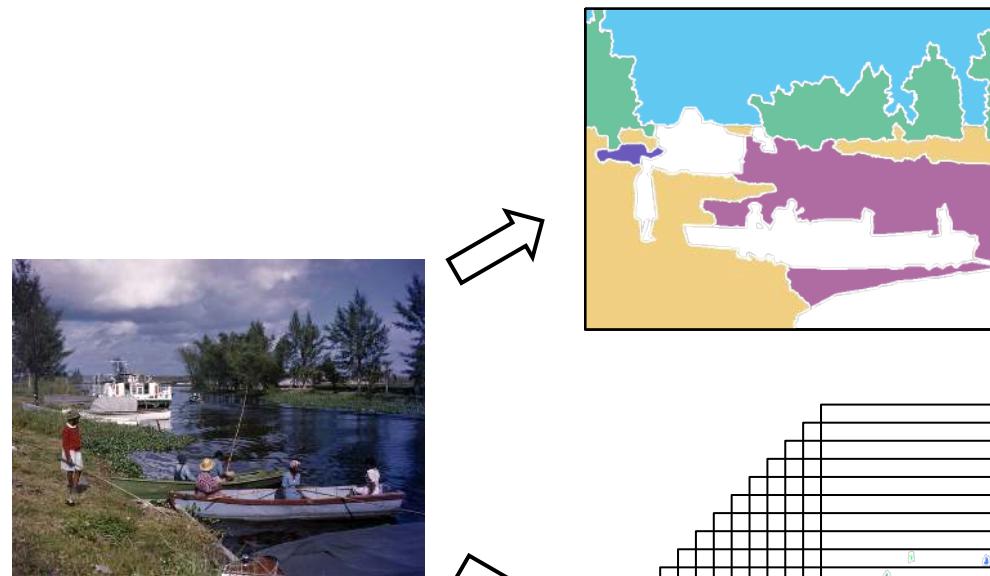
input



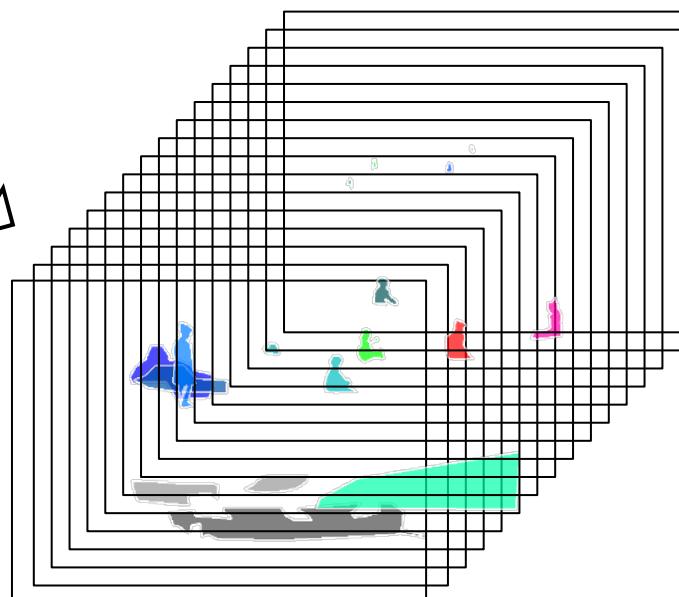
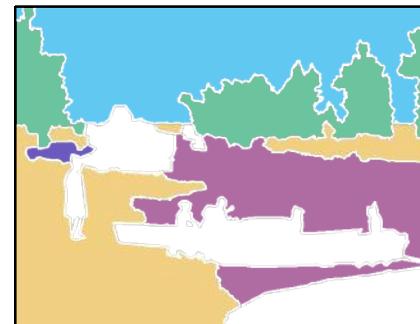
instance segmentations with conf. scores

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

semantic segmentation

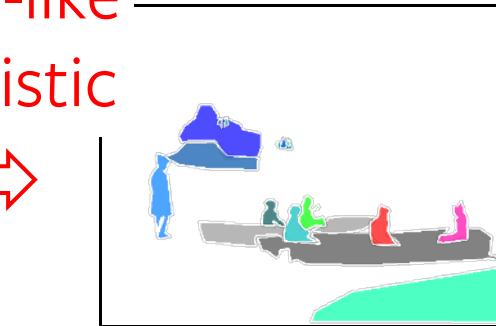


input



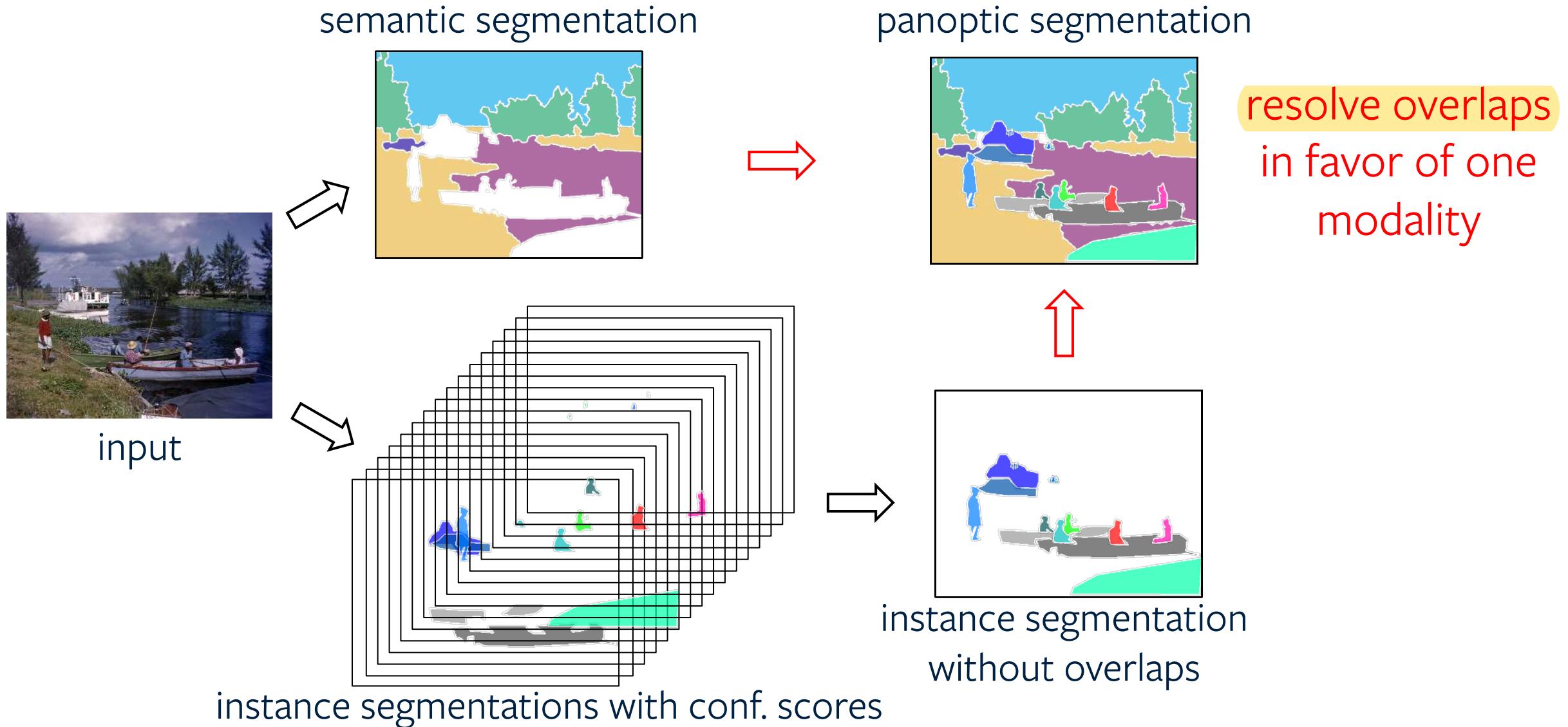
instance segmentations with conf. scores

NMS-like  
heuristic

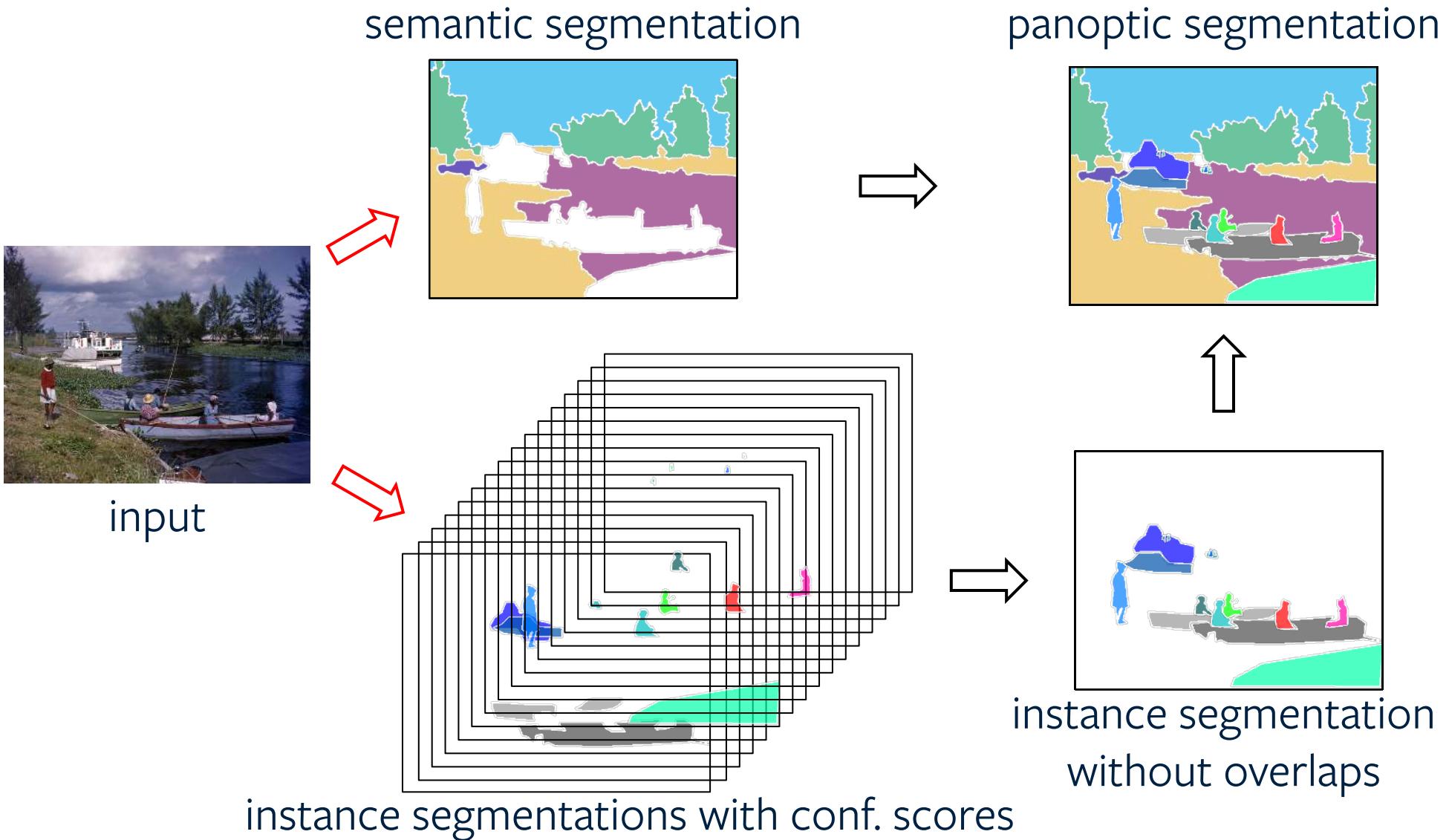


instance segmentation  
without overlaps

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach



# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

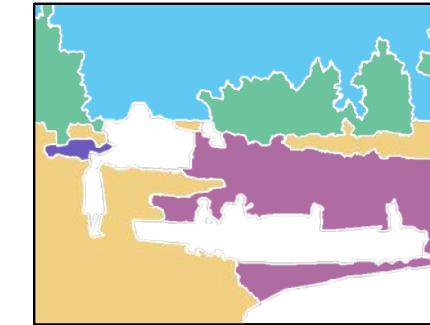
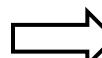
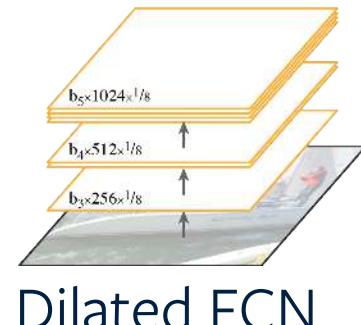


# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

semantic segmentation



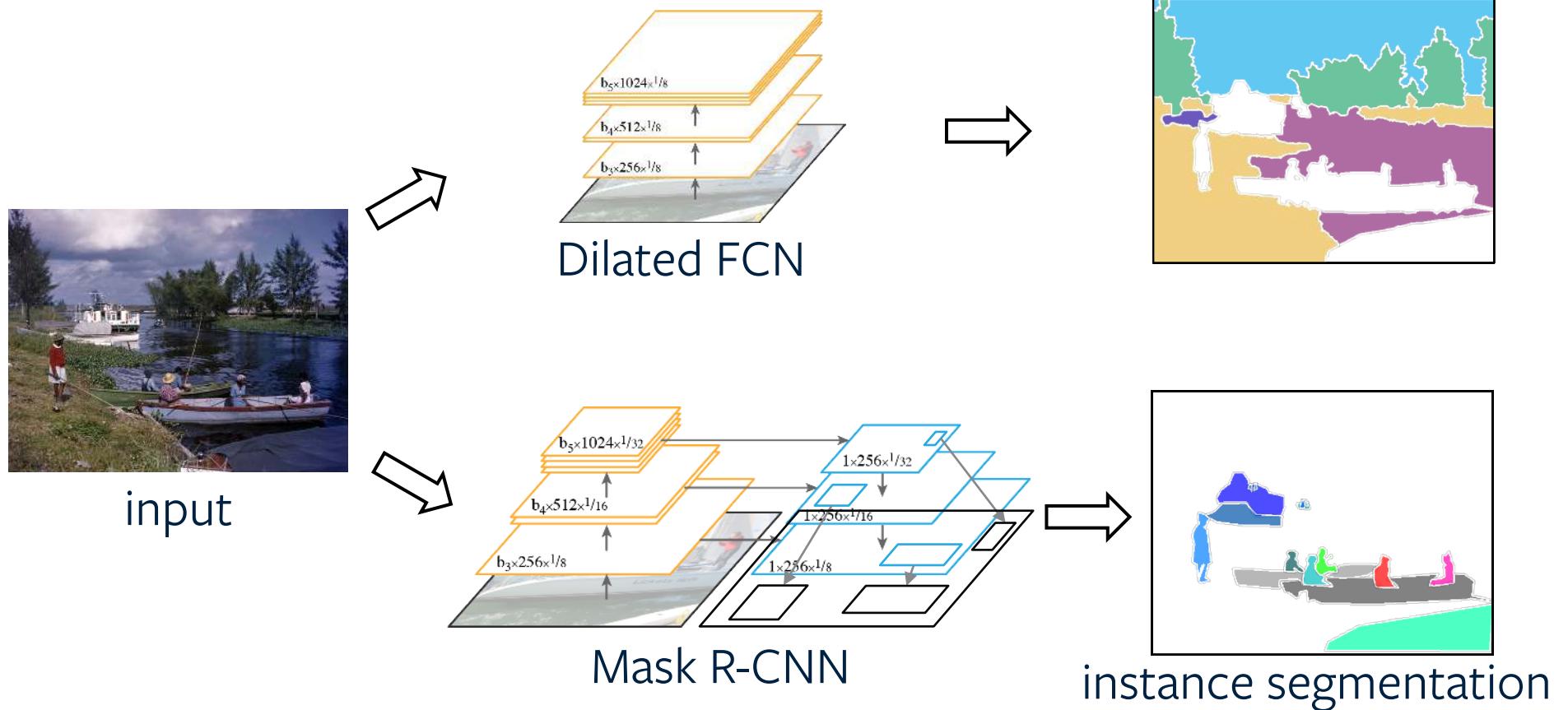
input



best known semantic segmentation method

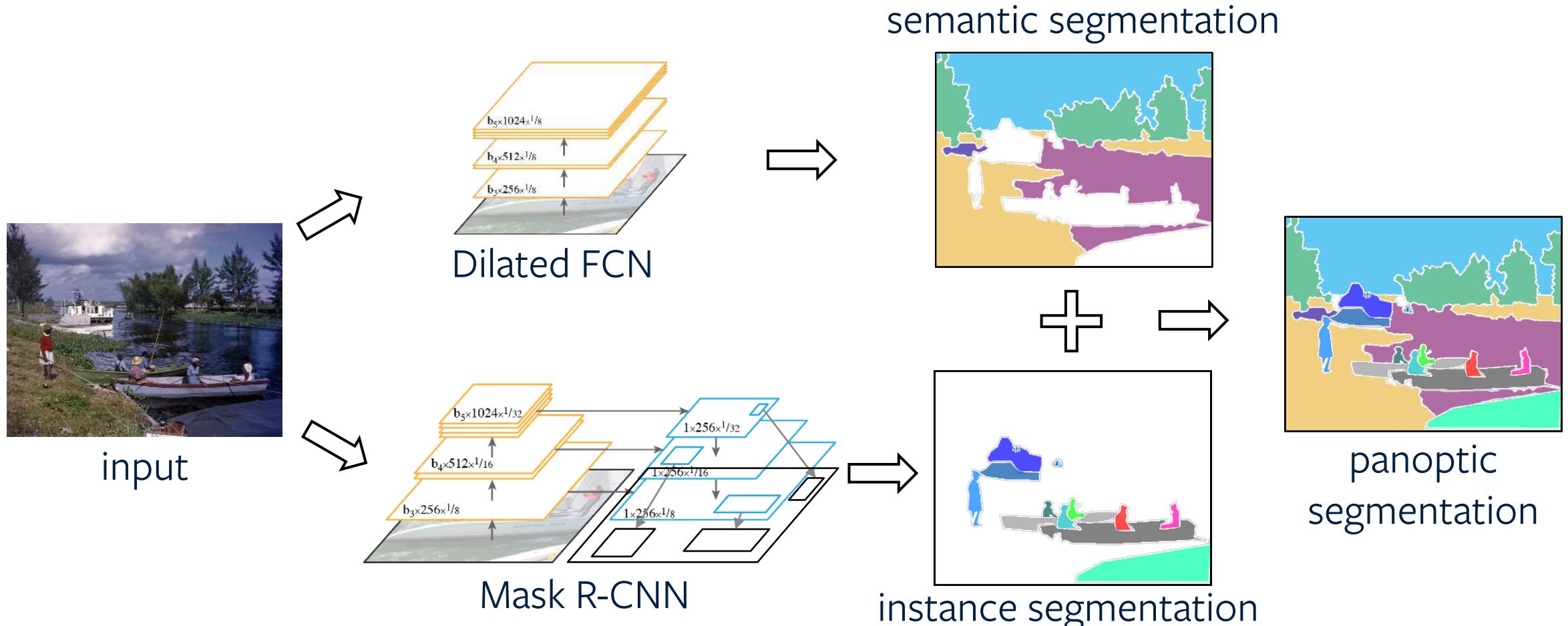
# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach

semantic segmentation



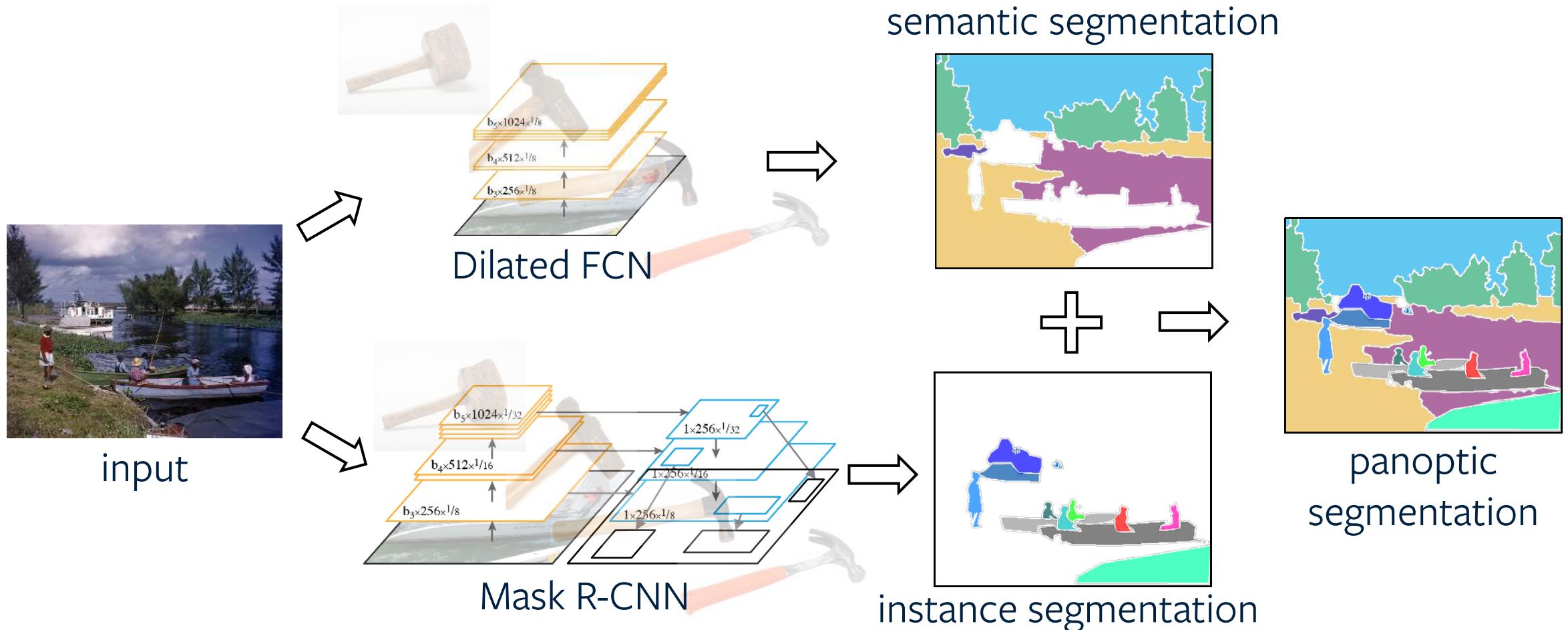
best known instance segmentation method

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach



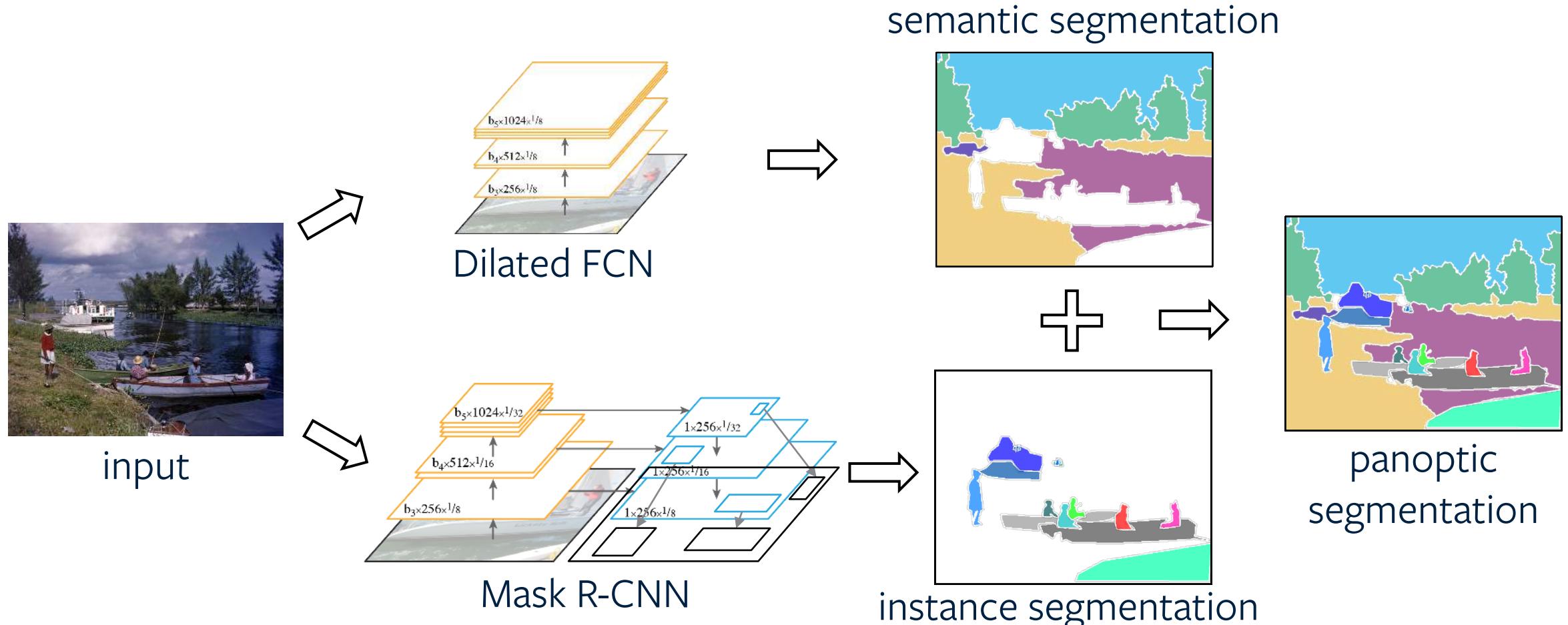
resolve overlaps between different  
instances and stuff classes

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach



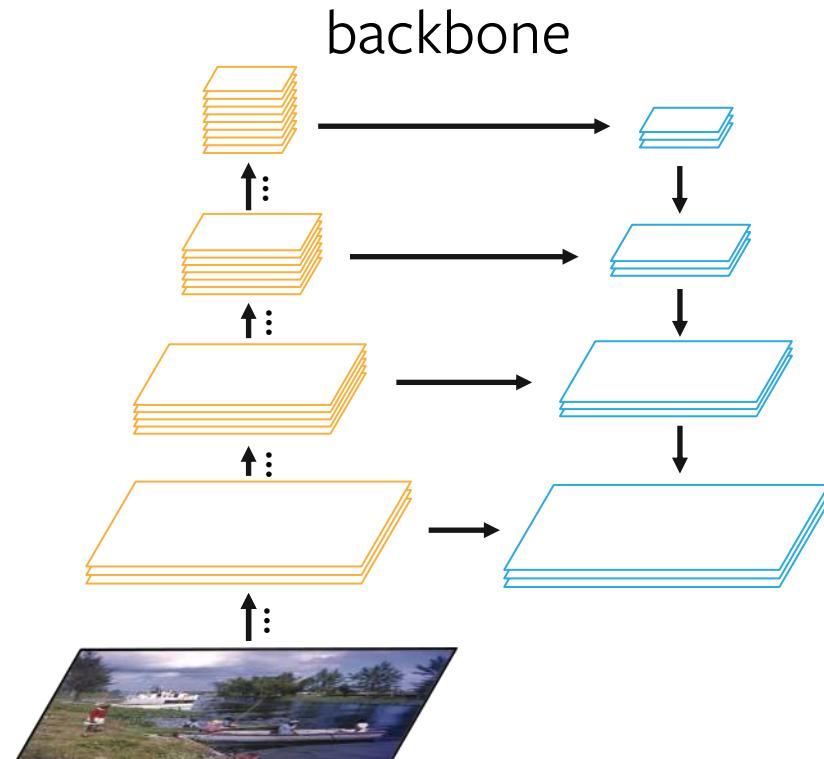
better semantic or instance segmentation ->  
better panoptic segmentation

# Panoptic segmentation: naïve approach



inefficient  
hard to improve

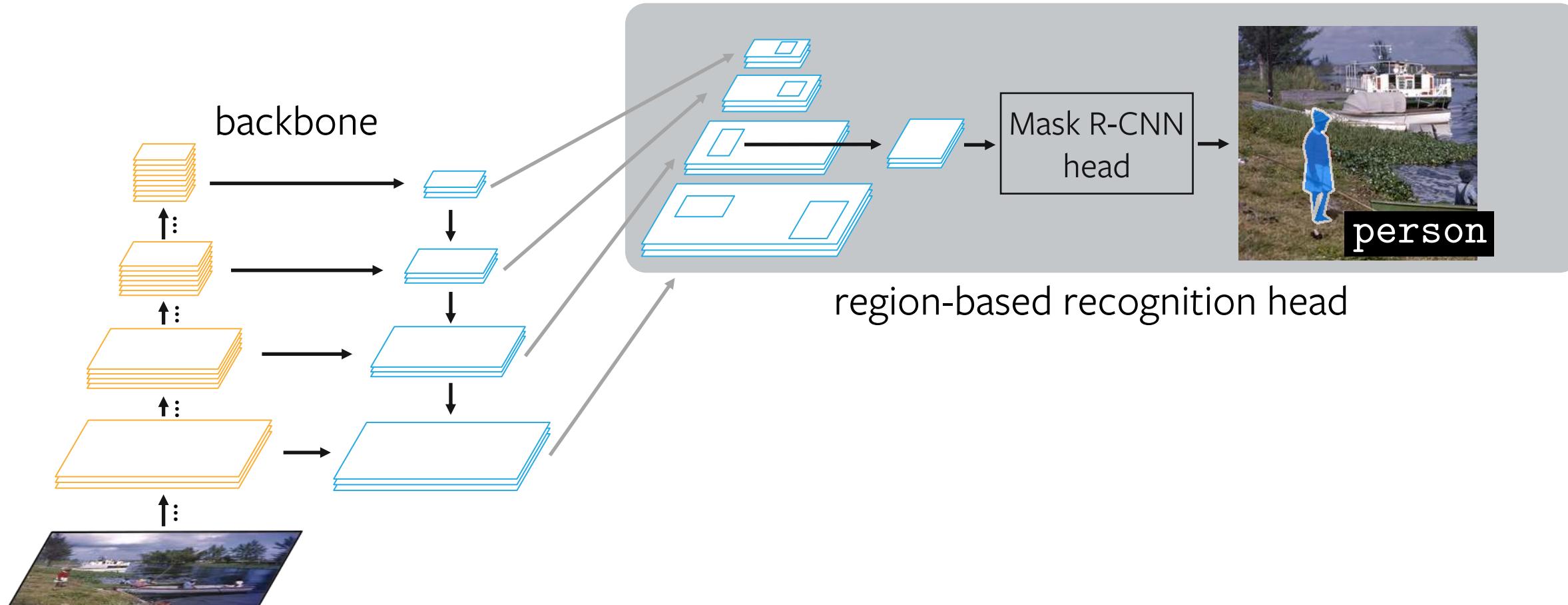
# Panoptic FPN: unified framework



Feature Pyramid Network (FPN)

Lin et al. Feature Pyramid Networks for Object Detection, CVPR'17

# Panoptic FPN: unified framework

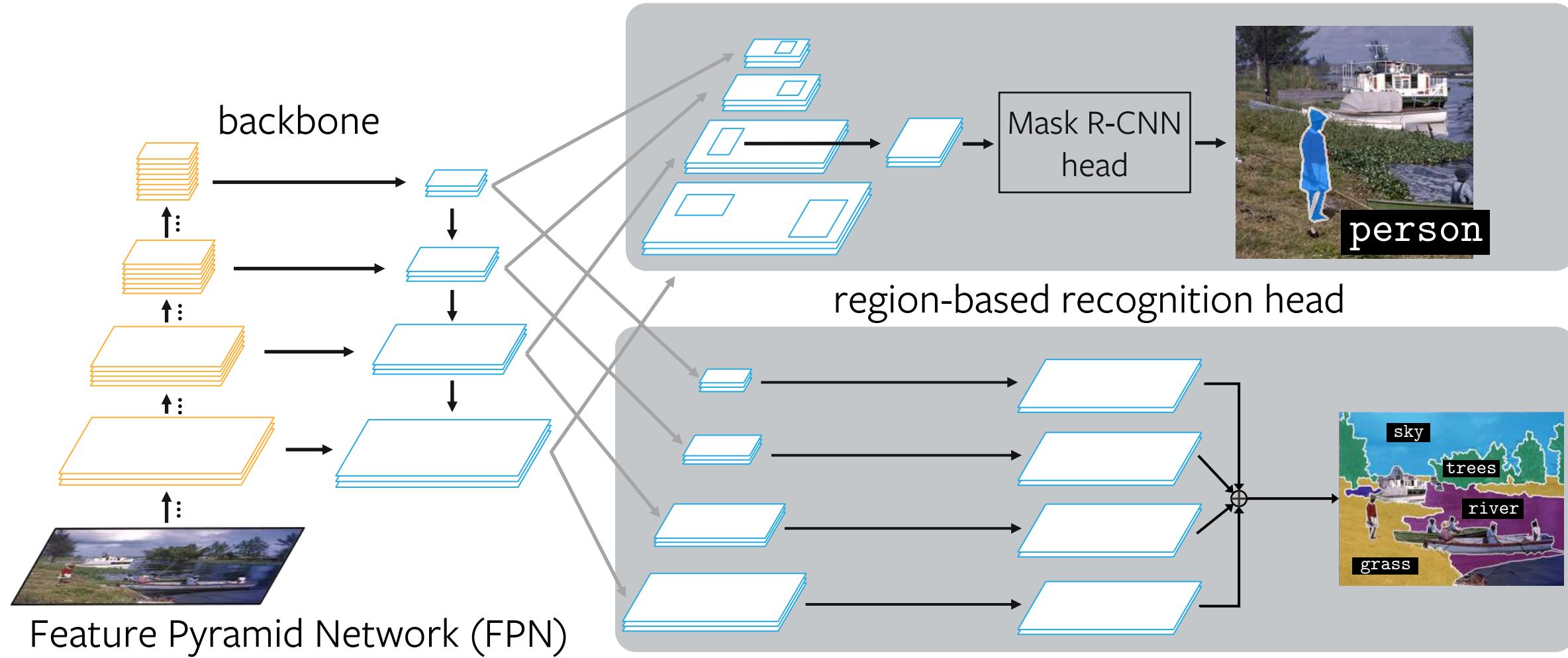


Feature Pyramid Network (FPN)

Lin et al. Feature Pyramid Networks for Object Detection, CVPR`17

He et al. Mask R-CNN, ICCV`17

# Panoptic FPN: unified framework

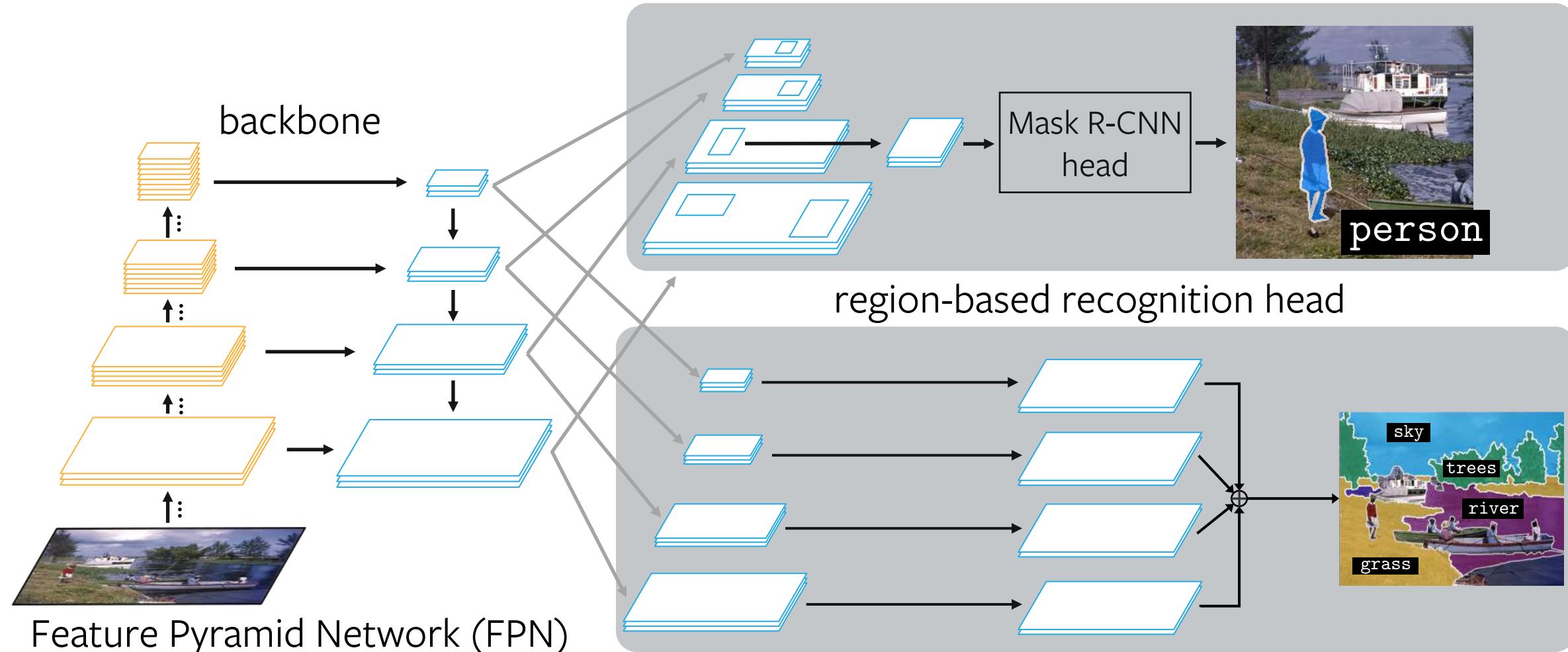


Lin et al. Feature Pyramid Networks for Object Detection, CVPR`17

He et al. Mask R-CNN, ICCV`17

Kirillov et al. Panoptic Feature Pyramid Networks, CVPR`19

# Panoptic FPN: unified framework



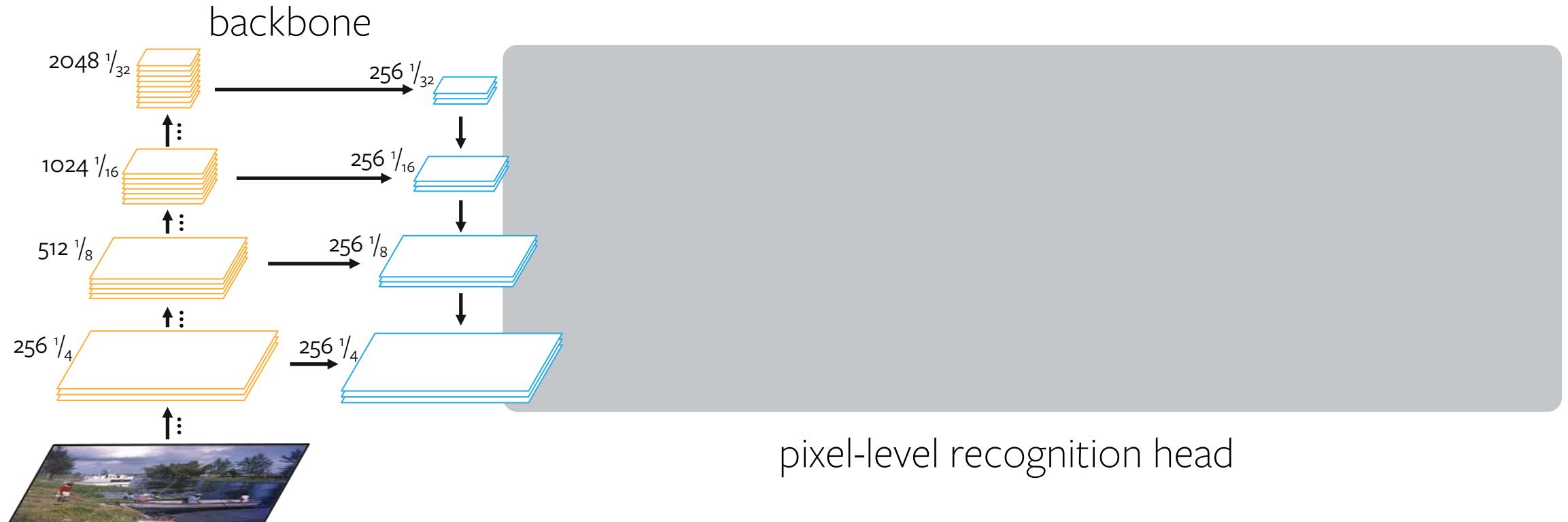
Lin et al. Feature Pyramid Networks for Object Detection, CVPR`17

He et al. Mask R-CNN, ICCV`17

Kirillov et al. Panoptic Feature Pyramid Networks, CVPR`19

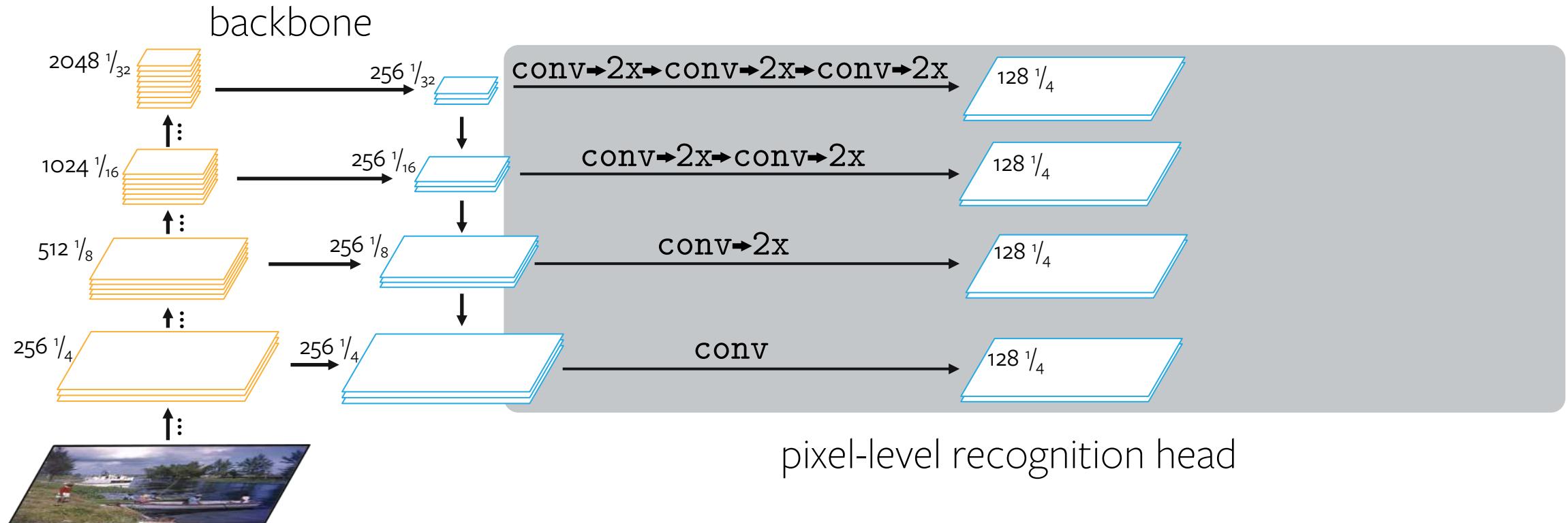
not yet another R-CNN framework head

# Semantic FPN



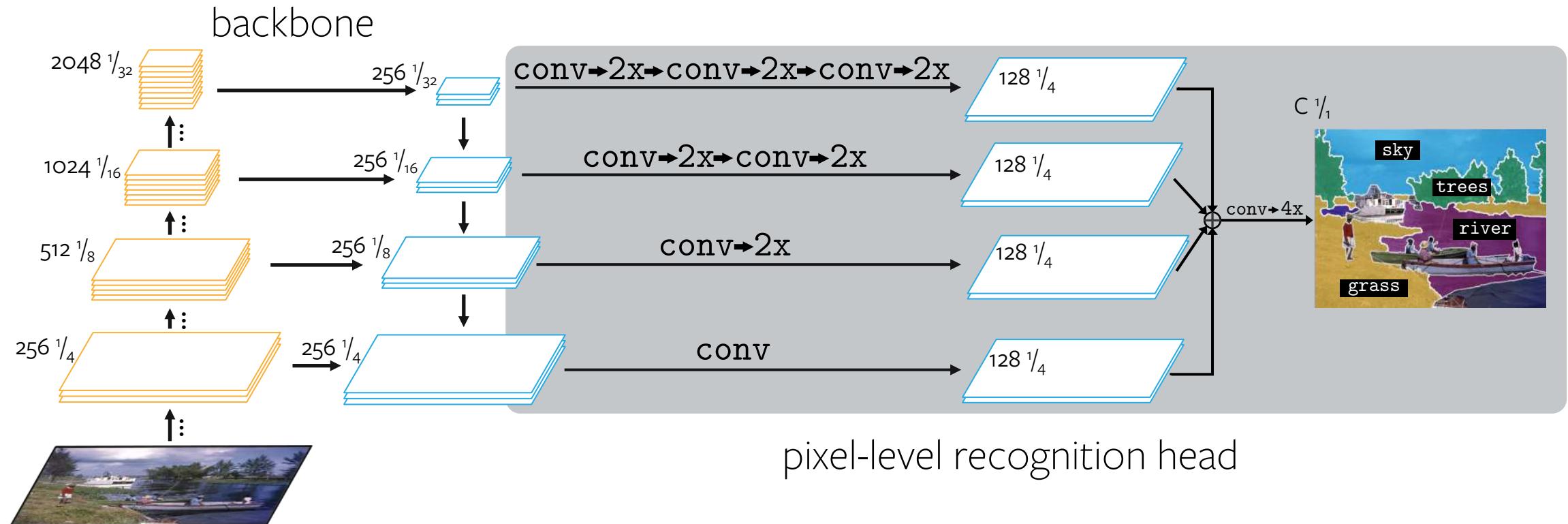
Feature Pyramid Network (FPN)

# Semantic FPN



Feature Pyramid Network (FPN)

# Semantic FPN



Feature Pyramid Network (FPN)

# Semantic FPN

	backbone	mIoU	FLOPs	memory
DeeplabV3	ResNet-101-D8	77.8	1.9	1.9
PSANet101	ResNet-101-D8	77.9	2.0	2.0
Mapillary	WideResNet-38-D8	79.4	4.3	1.7
DeeplabV3+	X-71-D16	79.6	0.5	1.9
<b>Semantic FPN</b>	ResNet-101-FPN	77.7	0.5	0.8
<b>Semantic FPN</b>	ResNeXt-101-FPN	79.1	0.8	1.4

Cityscapes

on par performance with the best  
semantic segmentation approaches

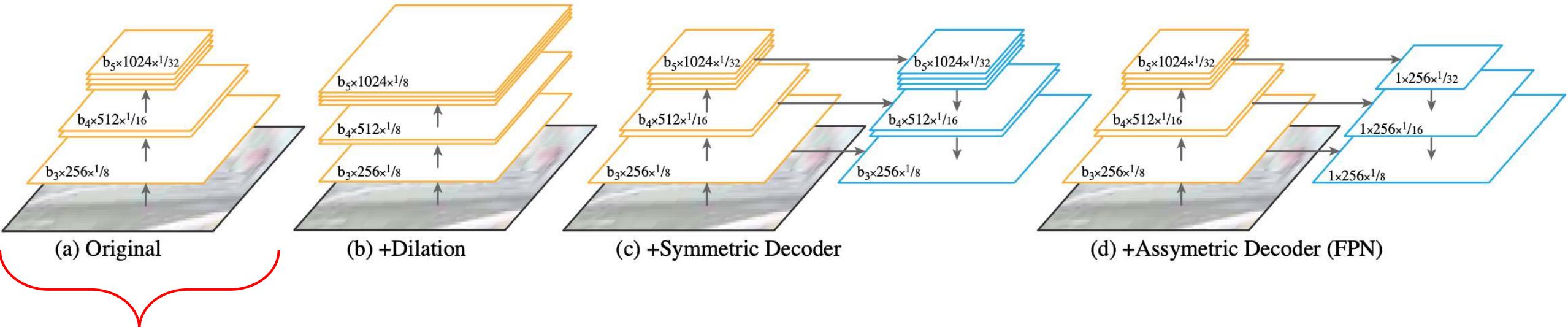
# Semantic FPN

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Cityscapes

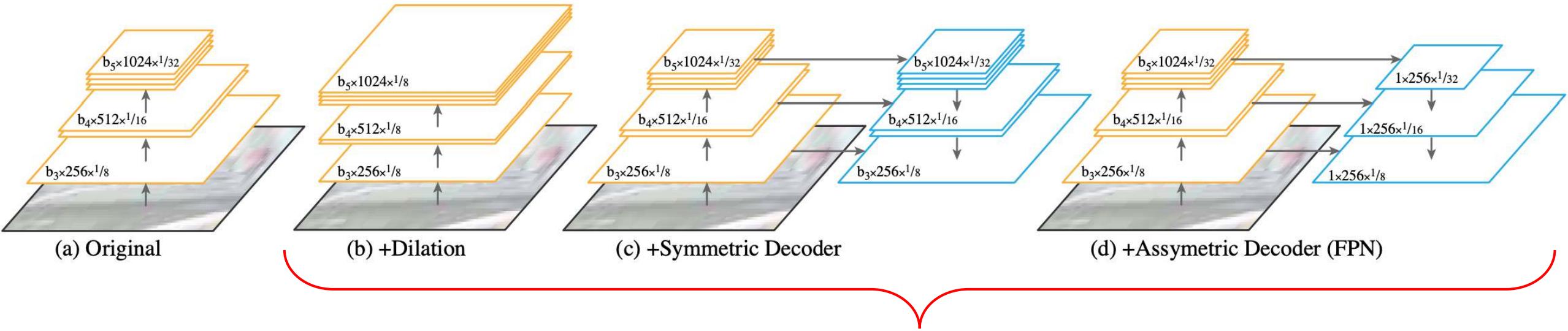
computational and memory efficient

# Semantic FPN



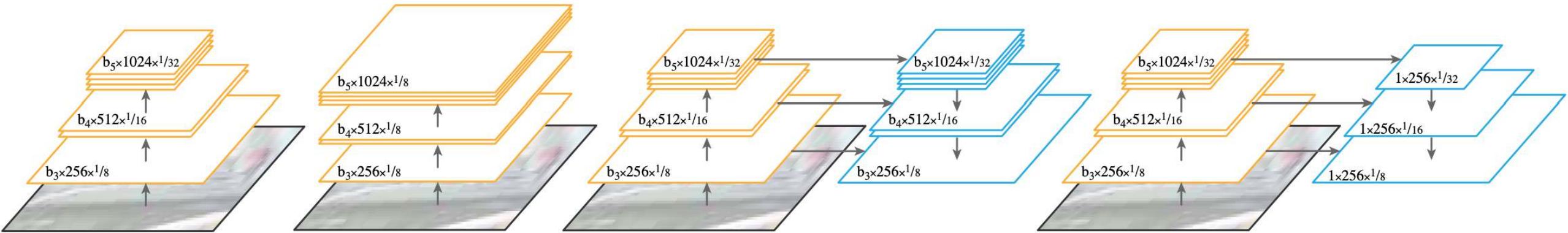
classification  
network

# Semantic FPN



different approaches to preserve spatial resolution

# Semantic FPN

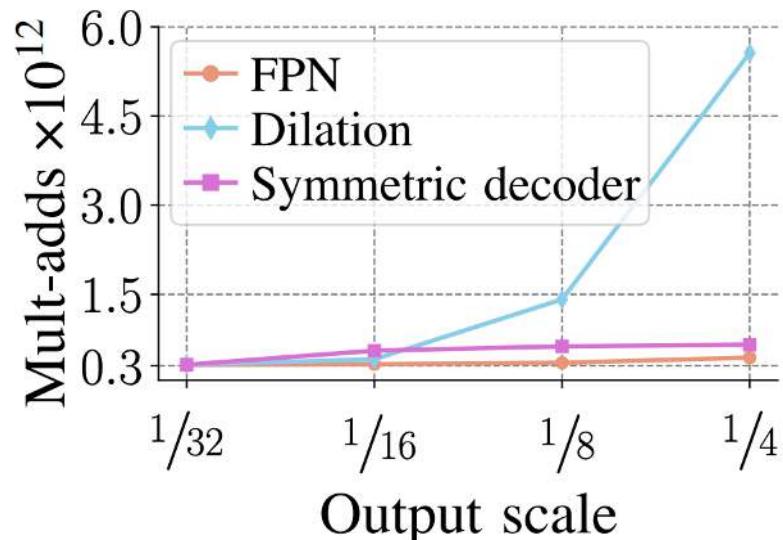
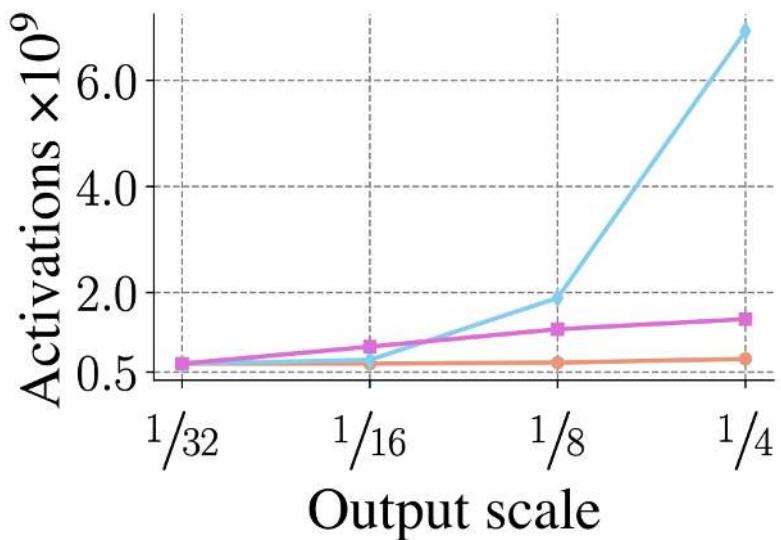


(a) Original

(b) +Dilation

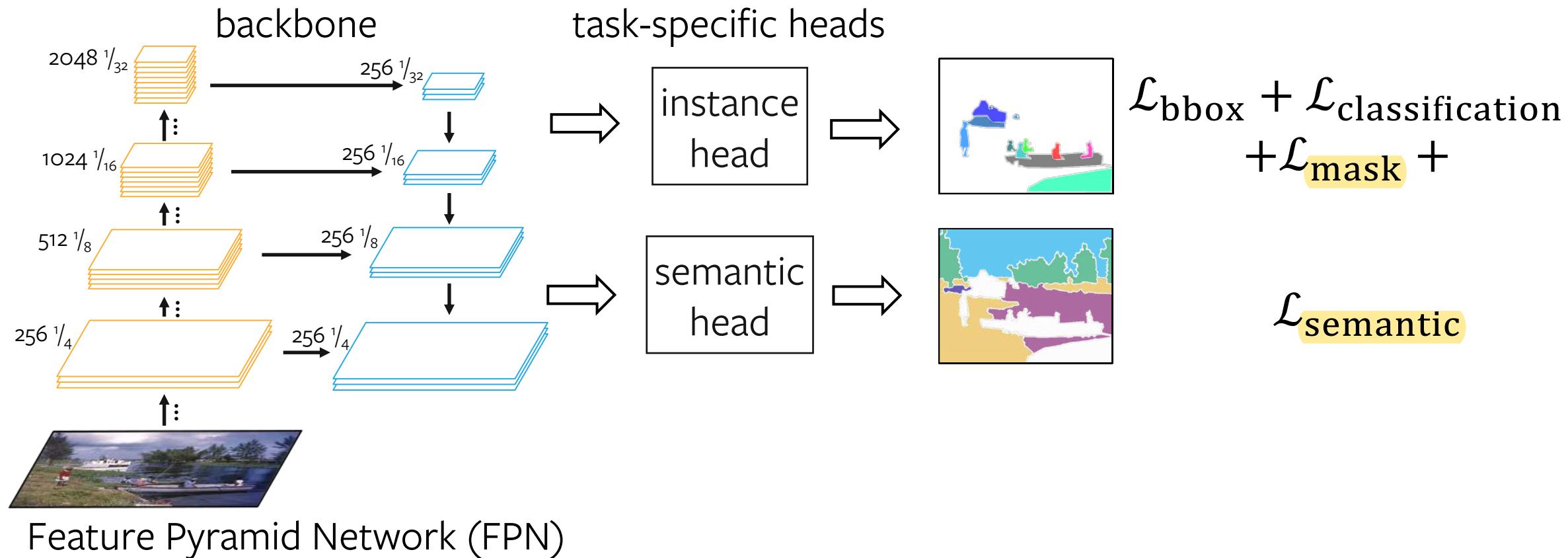
(c) +Symmetric Decoder

(d) +Assymmetric Decoder (FPN)



FPN-based backbone is the most efficient

# Panoptic FPN



# Panoptic FPN vs. Mask R-CNN

$$\mathcal{L} = \lambda_i (\mathcal{L}_{\text{bbox}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{classification}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mask}}) + \lambda_s \mathcal{L}_{\text{semantic}}$$

dataset	$\lambda_i$	$\lambda_s$	AP
COCO	1.0	0.1	+0.1
Cityscapes	1.0	1.0	+1.0

improves instance segmentation  
compare with Mask R-CNN alone

# Panoptic FPN vs. Semantic FPN

$$\mathcal{L} = \lambda_i (\mathcal{L}_{\text{bbox}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{classification}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mask}}) + \lambda_s \mathcal{L}_{\text{semantic}}$$

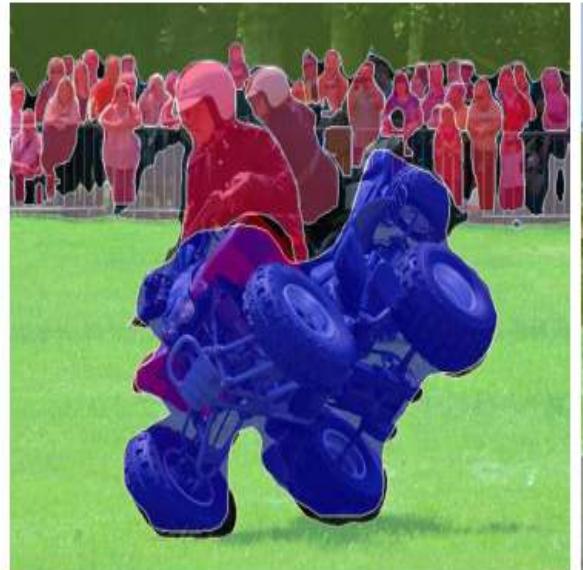
dataset	$\lambda_i$	$\lambda_s$	IoU
COCO	1.0	1.0	+1.2
Cityscapes	0.25	1.0	+1.0

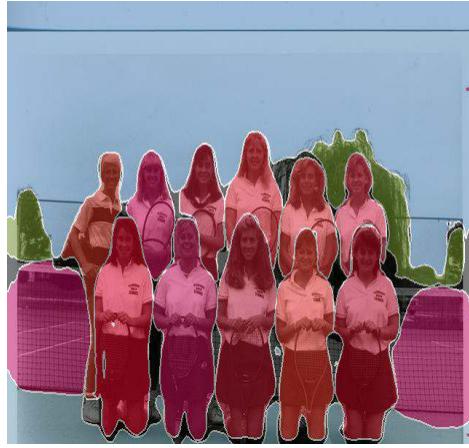
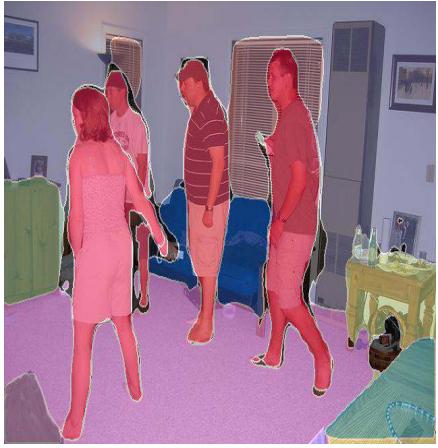
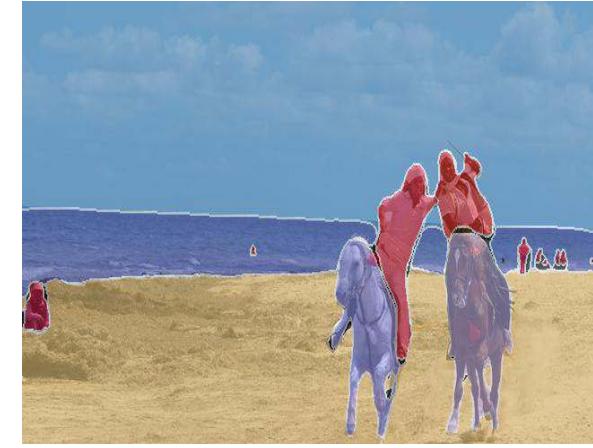
improves semantic segmentation  
compare to Semantic FPN alone

# Panoptic FPN vs. Mask R-CNN + Semantic FPN

dataset	inst. segm.	sem. segm.	panoptic segm.
COCO	+1.3 AP	+1.9 IoU	+0.9 PQ
Cityscapes	+0.8 AP	+1.2 IoU	+0.3 PQ

given the same computational budget





# Panoptic FPN takeaway

- straightforward and efficient baseline for panoptic segmentation
- OSS version later this year as a part of **Detectron2** (PyTorch)
- lower bound for future panoptic methods

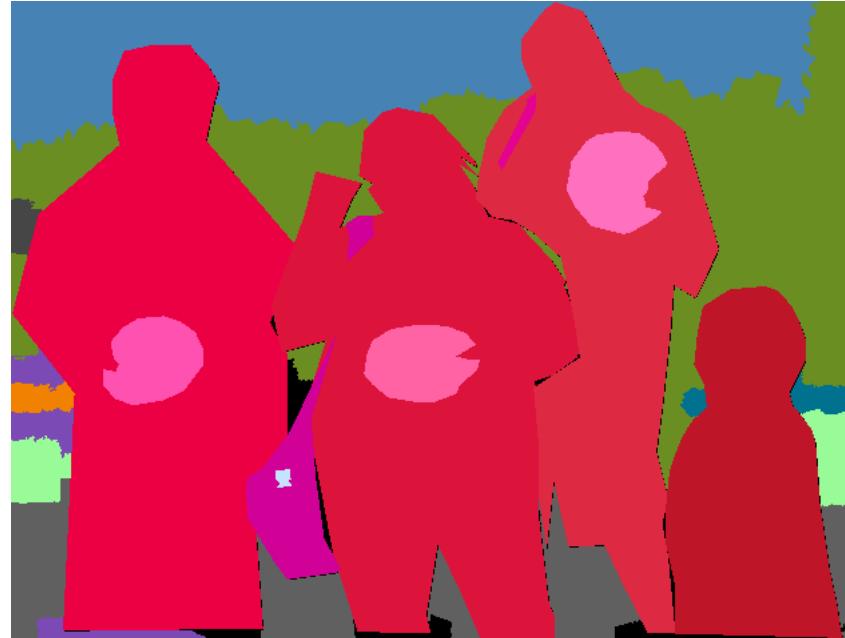
# Panoptic FPN takeaway

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- lower bound for future panoptic methods

# Is panoptic segmentation solved?



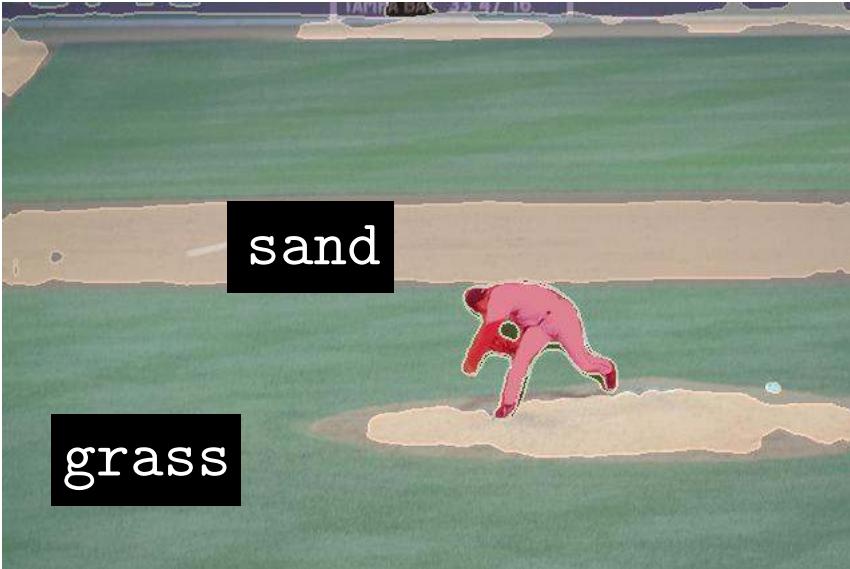
prediction



ground truth

suboptimal overlaps resolution

# Is panoptic segmentation solved?



prediction

missing context

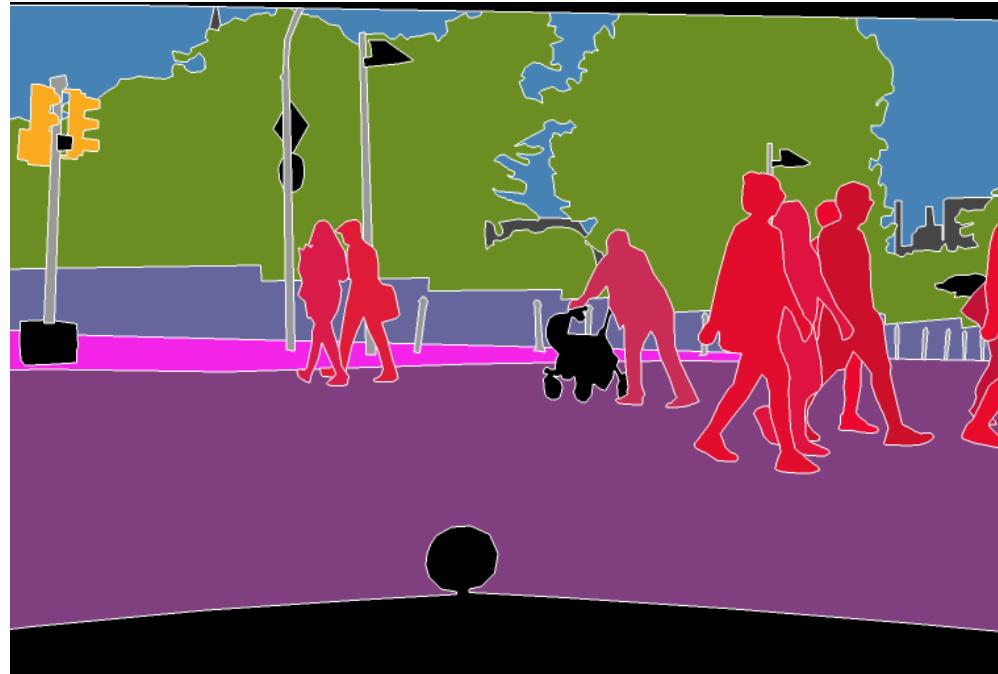


ground truth

# Is panoptic segmentation solved?



prediction

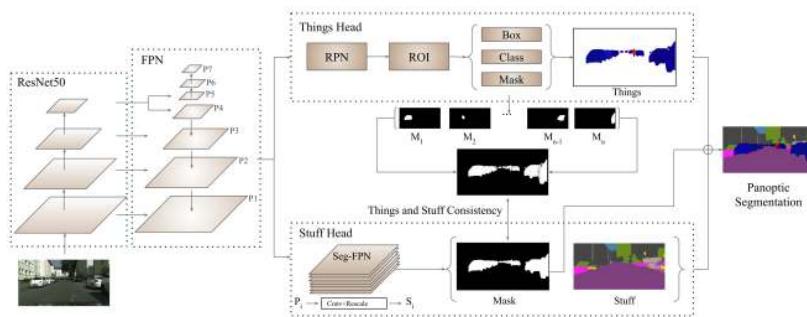


ground truth

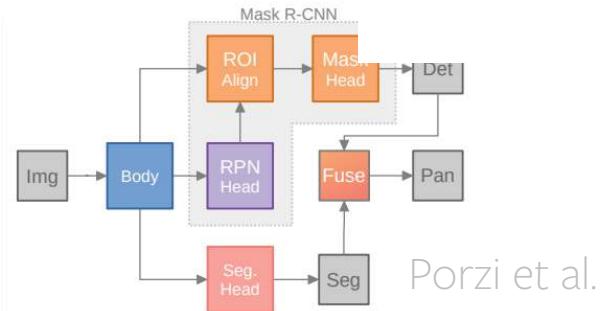
poor alignment

# Recent development

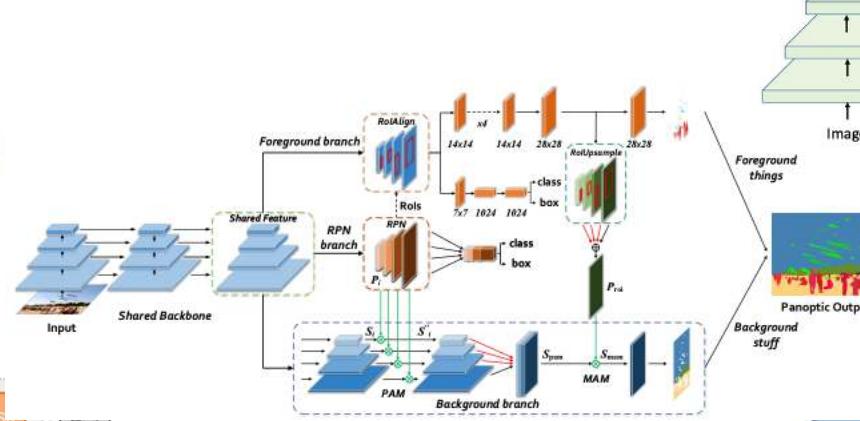
1. Li et al. Attention-guided Unified Network for Panoptic Segmentation, CVPR 2019
2. Xiong et al. UPSNet: A Unified Panoptic Segmentation Network, CVPR 2019
3. Liu et al. An End-to-End Network for Panoptic Segmentation, CVPR 2019
4. Li et al. Learning to Fuse Things and Stuff, arXiv 2018
5. Porzi et al. Seamless Scene Segmentation, arXiv 2019



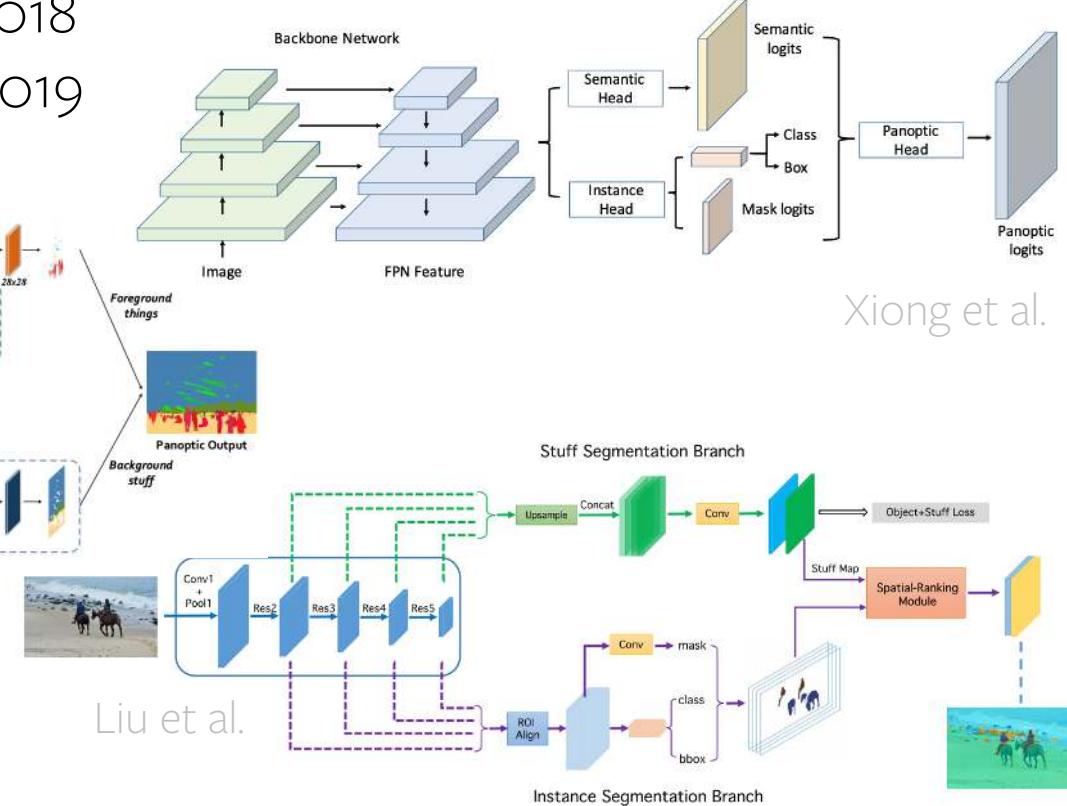
Li et al.



Porzi et al.



Liu et al.



Xiong et al.

Schemes credits:  
papers on the slide

# Takeaway

- Panoptic segmentation – practically important task with a lot of room for improvement
- Panoptic FPN – simple baseline for the task that your method should beat
- Panoptic segmentation challenges – COCO & Vistas (ICCV`19), Cityscapes leaderboard



**ICCV 2019**  
Seoul, Korea

# FAIR Research Engineer

Menlo Park, CA  
Seattle, WA



## ACCELERATE AND SCALE CV RESEARCH

Familiarity with CV and ML  
Ability to write high-quality and performance-critical code

wlo@fb.com