

# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

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<https://github.com/tfzhou/ProtoSeg>

**CVPR2022 oral**

# Exploring Cross-Image Pixel Contrast for Semantic Segmentation

ICCV2021 oral

## Motivation:

- Pixel-Wise Cross-Entropy supervision:
  - 1) ignore relationship between pixels
  - 2) cannot supervise the learned representation directly
- Previous structure-aware loss ignore correlations between pixels across image

## Method:

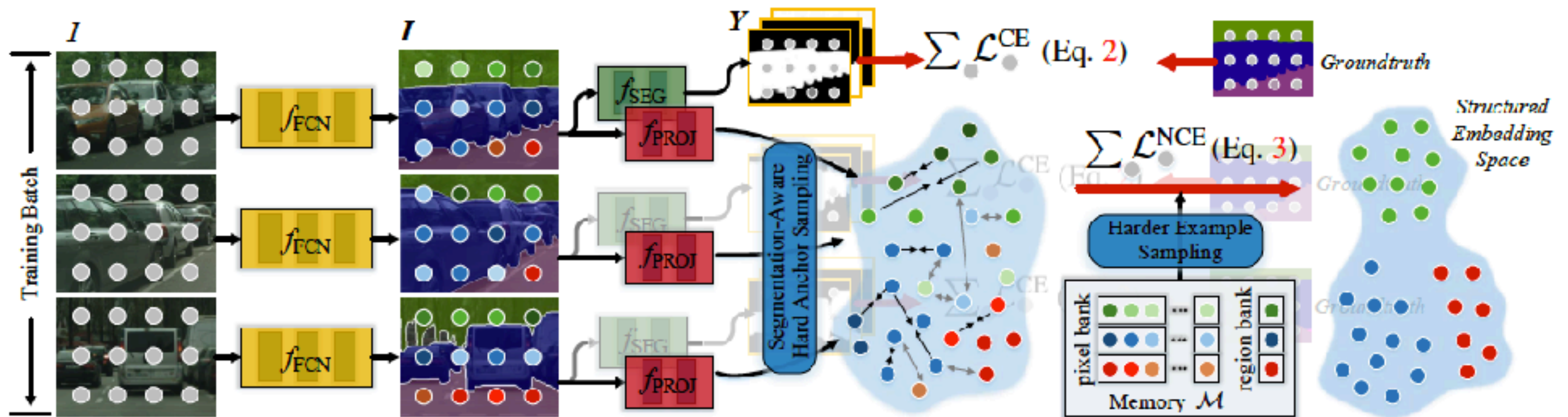


Figure 3: Detailed illustration of our pixel-wise contrastive learning based semantic segmentation network architecture.

- Design memory bank for dense pixel embeddings
- hard sample selection

# Exploring Cross-Image Pixel Contrast for Semantic Segmentation

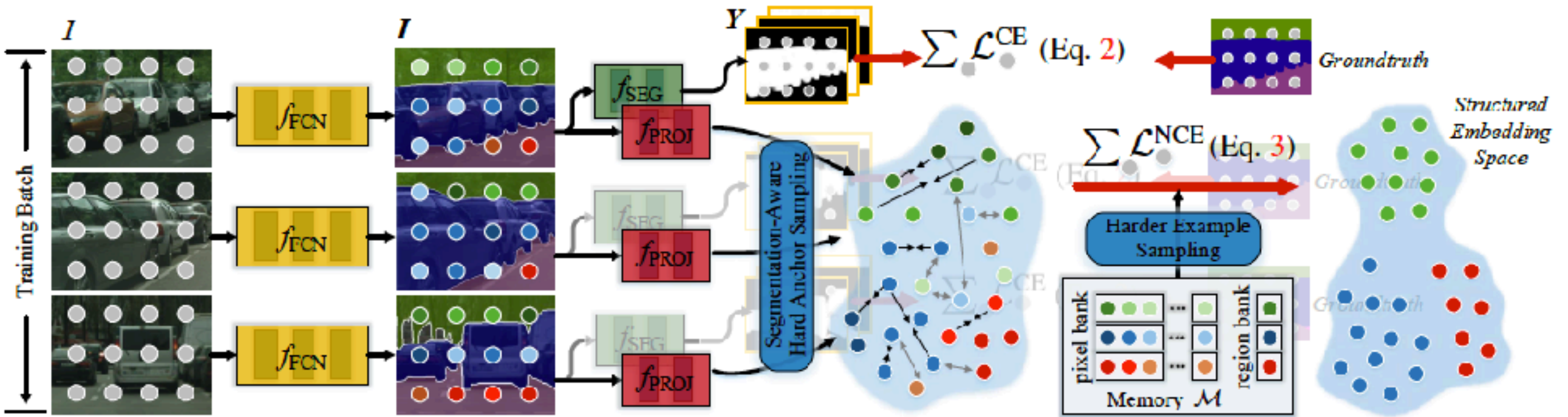


Figure 3: Detailed illustration of our pixel-wise contrastive learning based semantic segmentation network architecture.

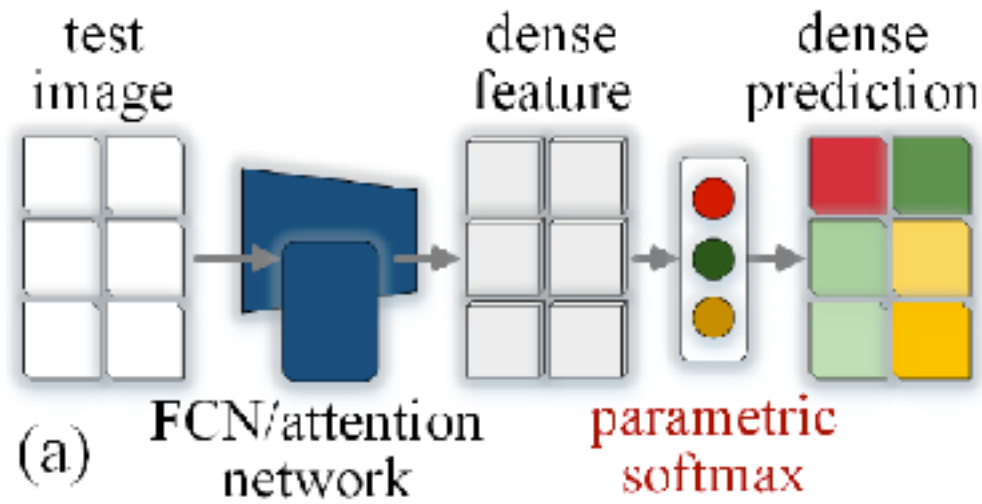
## Limitation:

- pull all features  $\in C_i$  together
- two stream

# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Previous semantic segmentation methods

- **Parametric Softmax Projections**

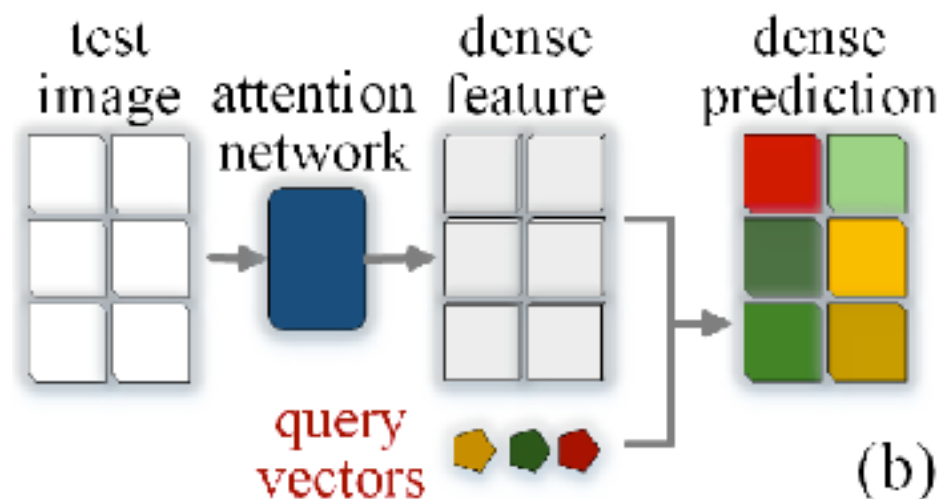


dense visual feature extractor  $\rightarrow$

+  
pixel wise linear layer  $W = [w_1, \dots, w_C] \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$

$$p(c|i) = \frac{\exp(w_c^\top i)}{\sum_{c'=1}^C \exp(w_{c'}^\top i)},$$

- **Parametric Pixel-Query**



dense visual feature extractor  $\rightarrow$

+  
pixel query layer  $E = [e_1, \dots, e_C] \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$

$$p(c|i) = \frac{\exp(e_c * i)}{\sum_{c'=1}^C \exp(e_{c'} * i)},$$



# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Previous semantic segmentation methods

- **Parametric Softmax Projections**

test  
image

dense  
feature

dense  
prediction

dense visual feature extractor →

+

pixel wise linear layer  $W = [w_1, \dots, w_C] \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$

$$p(c|i) = \frac{\exp(w_c^\top i)}{\sum_{c'=1}^C \exp(w_{c'}^\top i)}$$

### Limitation

1. single prototype per class
2. parameter:  $D \times C$
3. ignore relationship between pixels and prototypes

test  
image

attention  
network

dense  
feature

dense  
prediction

query  
vectors



(b)

visual feature extractor →

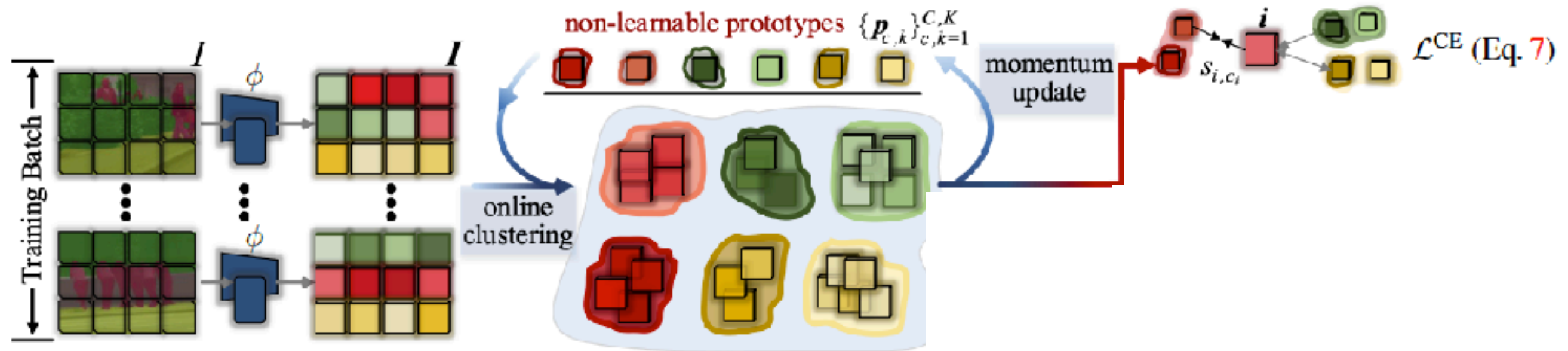
+

pixel query layer  $E = [e_1, \dots, e_C] \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times D}$

$$p(c|i) = \frac{\exp(e_c * i)}{\sum_{c'=1}^C \exp(e_{c'} * i)}$$

# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Proposed Method



$$p(c|i) = \frac{\exp(-s_{i,c})}{\sum_{c'=1}^C \exp(-s_{i,c'})}, \quad \text{with } s_{i,c} = \min\{\langle i, p_{c,k} \rangle\}_{k=1}^K$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{CE} = -\log p(c_i|i)$$

$$= -\log \frac{\exp(-s_{i,c_i})}{\exp(-s_{i,c_i}) + \sum_{c' \neq c_i} \exp(-s_{i,c'})}$$

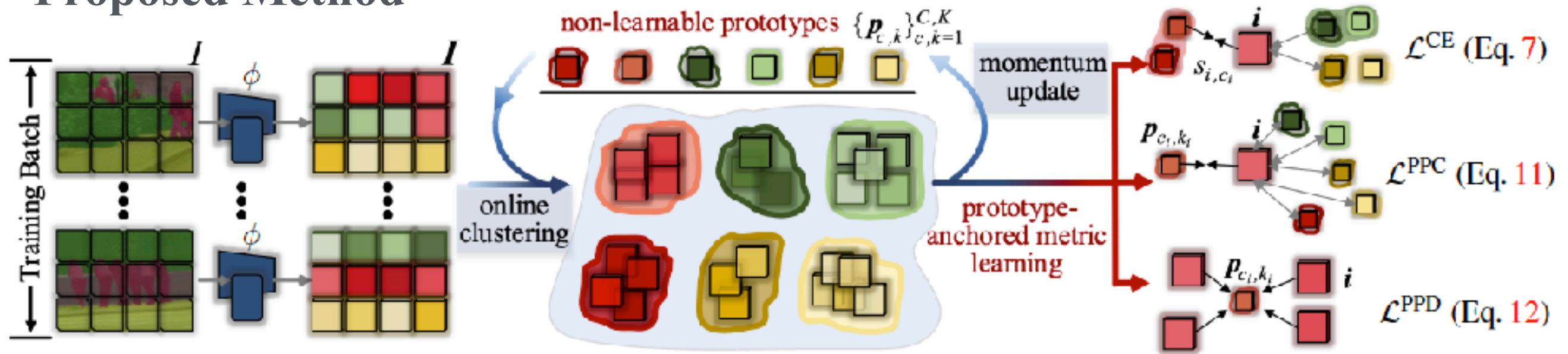
### Limitation

1. ignore within-class pixel-prototype relations
2. only consider relative relation between intra-class and inter-class

-> cannot directly supervise the feature distribution

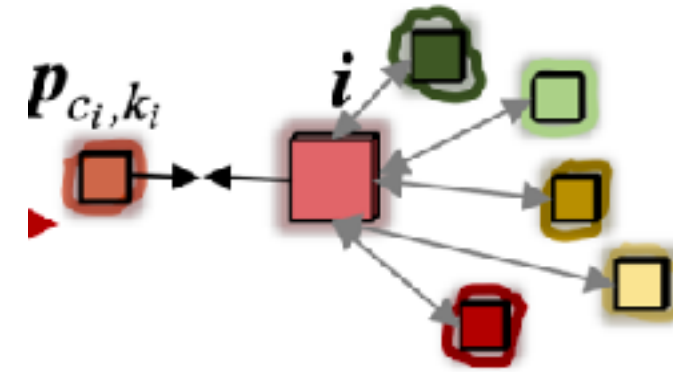
# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Proposed Method



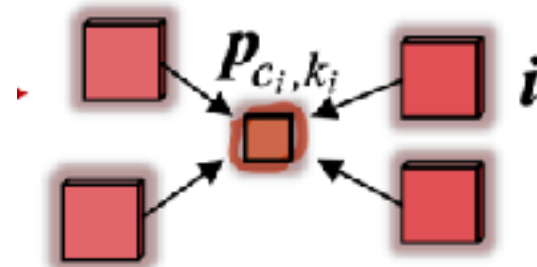
## Pixel-Prototype Contrastive Learning.

$$\mathcal{L}_{PPC} = -\log \frac{\exp(i^\top p_{c_i, k_i} / \tau)}{\exp(i^\top p_{c_i, k_i} / \tau) + \sum_{p^- \in \mathcal{P}^-} \exp(i^\top p^- / \tau)},$$



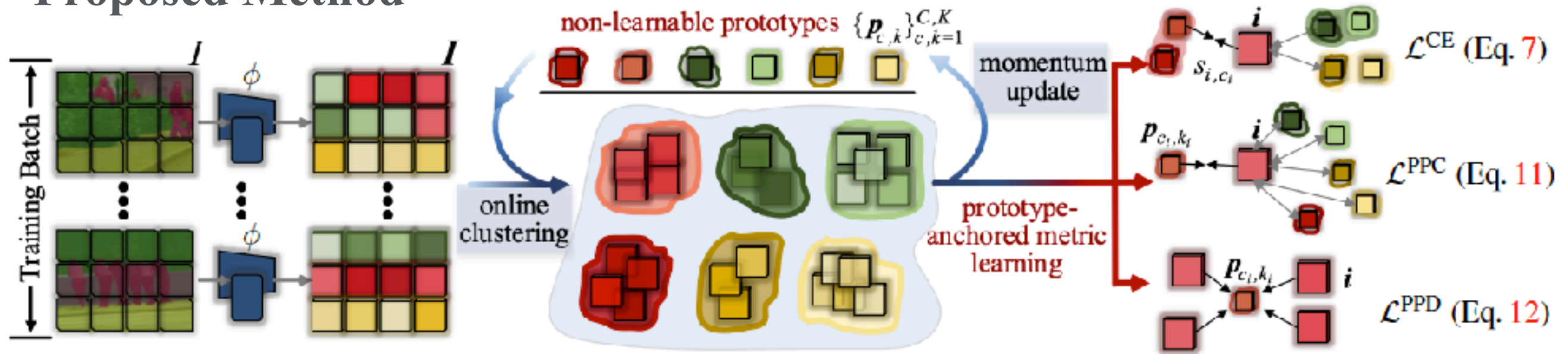
## Pixel-Prototype Distance Optimization.

$$\mathcal{L}_{PPD} = (1 - i^\top p_{c_i, k_i})^2.$$



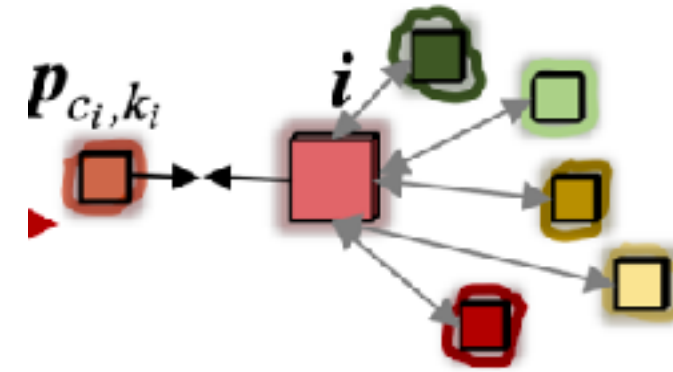
# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Proposed Method



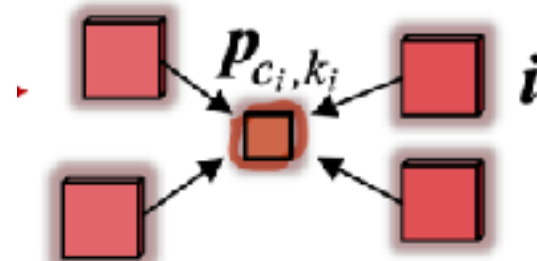
## Pixel-Prototype Contrastive Learning.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PPC}} = -\log \frac{\exp(i^\top p_{c_i,k_i}/\tau)}{\exp(i^\top p_{c_i,k_i}/\tau) + \sum_{p^- \in \mathcal{P}^-} \exp(i^\top p^-/\tau)},$$



## Pixel-Prototype Distance Optimization.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PPD}} = (1 - i^\top p_{c_i,k_i})^2.$$



$\mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}$ (Eq. 7)	$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PPC}}$ (Eq. 11)	$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PPD}}$ (Eq. 12)	mIoU (%)
✓			45.0
✓	✓		45.9
✓		✓	45.4
✓	✓	✓	46.4



# Rethinking Semantic Segmentation: A Prototype View

## Result

Method	Backbone	# Param (M)	mIoU (%)
DeepLabV3+ [ECCV18] [16]	ResNet-101 [46]	62.7	44.1
OCR [ECCV20] [131]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	70.3	45.6
MaskFormer [NeurIPS21] [20]	ResNet-101 [46]	60.0	46.0
UperNet [ECCV20] [119]	Swin-Base [79]	121.0	48.4
OCR [ECCV20] [131]	HRFormer-B [132]	70.3	48.7
SETR [CVPR21] [141]	ViT-Large [31]	318.3	50.2
Segmenter [ICCV21] [102]	ViT-Large [31]	334.0	51.8
<sup>†</sup> MaskFormer [NeurIPS21] [20]	Swin-Base [79]	102.0	52.7
FCN [CVPR15] [80]	ResNet-101 [46]	68.6	39.9
<b>Ours</b>		68.5	<b>41.1 <math>\uparrow</math> 1.2</b>
HRNet [PAMI20] [110]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	65.9	42.0
<b>Ours</b>		65.8	<b>43.0 <math>\uparrow</math> 1.0</b>
Swin [ICCV21] [79]	Swin-Base [79]	90.6	48.0
<b>Ours</b>		90.5	<b>48.6 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.6</b>
SegFormer [NeurIPS21] [120]	MiT-B4 [120]	64.1	50.9
<b>Ours</b>		64.0	<b>51.7 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.8</b>

<sup>†</sup>: backbone is pre-trained on ImageNet-22K.

Table 1. Quantitative results (§5.2) on ADE20K [142] val.

Method	Backbone	# Param (M)	mIoU (%)
SVCNet [CVPR19] [29]	ResNet-101 [46]	-	39.6
DANet [CVPR19] [35]	ResNet-101 [46]	69.1	39.7
SpyGR [CVPR20] [68]	ResNet-101 [46]	-	39.9
MaskFormer [NeurIPS21] [20]	ResNet-101 [46]	60.0	39.8
ACNet [ICCV19] [36]	ResNet-101 [46]	-	40.1
OCR [ECCV20] [131]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	70.3	40.5
FCN [CVPR15] [80]	ResNet-101 [46]	68.6	32.5
<b>Ours</b>		68.5	<b>34.0 <math>\uparrow</math> 1.5</b>
HRNet [PAMI21] [110]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	65.9	38.7
<b>Ours</b>		65.8	<b>39.9 <math>\uparrow</math> 1.2</b>
Swin [ICCV21] [79]	Swin-Base [79]	90.6	41.5
<b>Ours</b>		90.5	<b>42.4 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.9</b>
SegFormer [NeurIPS21] [120]	MiT-B4 [120]	64.1	42.5
<b>Ours</b>		64.0	<b>43.3 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.8</b>

Table 3. Quantitative results (§5.2) on COCO-Stuff [10] test.

Method	Backbone	# Param (M)	mIoU (%)
PSPNet [CVPR17] [137]	ResNet-101 [46]	65.9	78.4
PSANet [ECCV18] [138]	ResNet-101 [46]	-	78.6
AAF [ECCV18] [60]	ResNet-101 [46]	-	79.1
Segmenter [ICCV21] [102]	ViT-Large [31]	322.0	79.1
ContrastiveSeg [ICCV21] [113]	ResNet-101 [46]	58.0	79.2
MaskFormer [NeurIPS21] [20]	ResNet-101 [46]	60.0	80.3
DeepLabV3+ [ECCV18] [16]	ResNet-101 [46]	62.7	80.9
OCR [ECCV20] [131]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	70.3	81.1
FCN [CVPR15] [80]	ResNet-101 [46]	68.6	78.1
<b>Ours</b>		68.5	<b>79.1 <math>\uparrow</math> 1.0</b>
HRNet [PAMI20] [110]	HRNetV2-W48 [110]	65.9	80.4
<b>Ours</b>		65.8	<b>81.1 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.7</b>
Swin [ICCV21] [79]	Swin-Base [79]	90.6	79.8
<b>Ours</b>		90.5	<b>80.6 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.8</b>
SegFormer [NeurIPS21] [120]	MiT-B4 [120]	64.1	80.7
<b>Ours</b>		64.0	<b>81.3 <math>\uparrow</math> 0.6</b>

Table 2. Quantitative results (§5.2) on Cityscapes [23] val.

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## prototype explanation



Figure 3. **Visualization of pixel-prototype similarity** for *person* (top) and *car* (bottom) classes. Please refer to §3 for details.

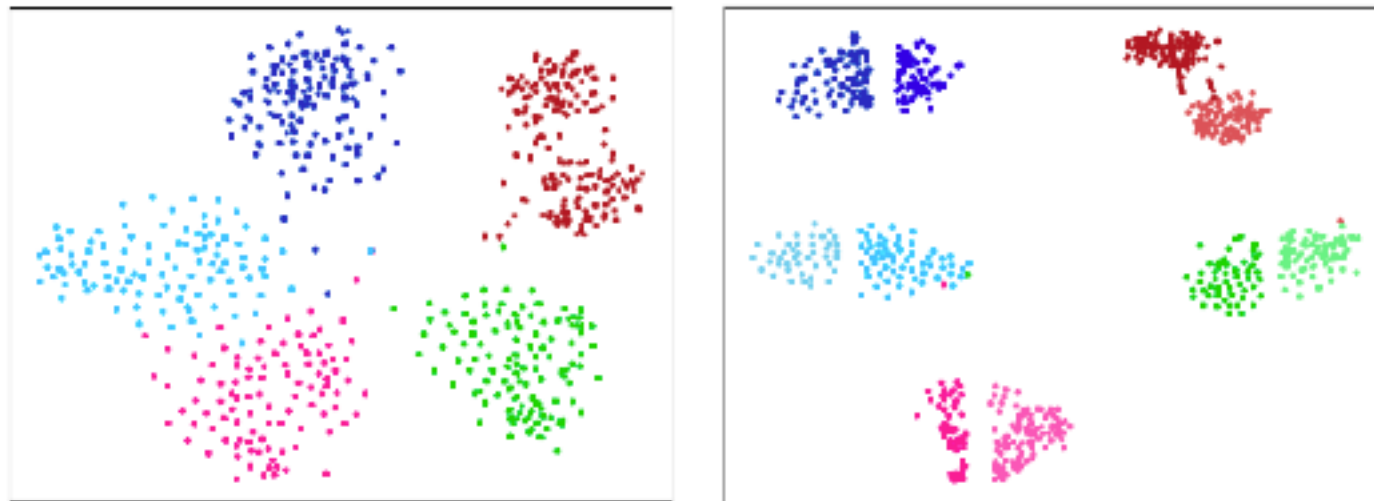


Figure 5. **Embedding spaces** learned by (left) parametric model [120], and (right) our nonparametric model. For better visualization, we show five classes of Cityscapes [23] with two prototypes per class.

# Prototype	mIoU (%)
$K = 1$	45.5
$K = 5$	46.0
$K = 10$	46.4
$K = 20$	46.5
$K = 50$	46.4



# Deep Hierarchical Semantic Segmentation

