

# Visualizing and explaining neural networks

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<https://deepdreamgenerator.com/>

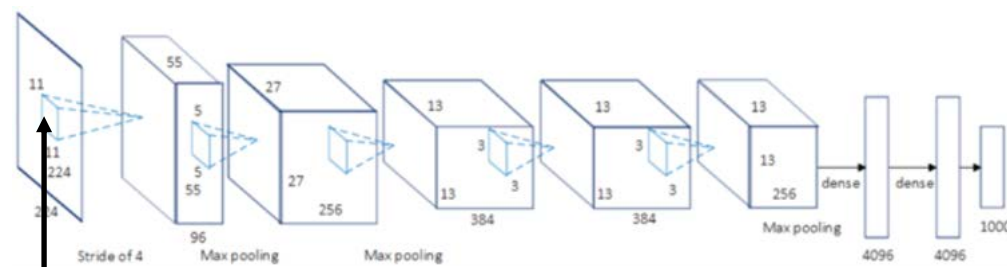
# Outline

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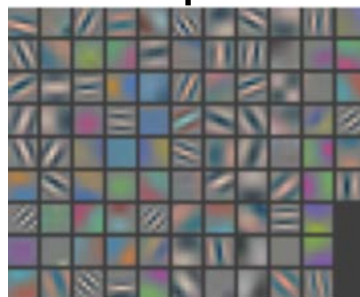
- Basic visualization techniques
- Mapping activations back to the image
- Synthesizing images to maximize activation
- Saliency maps
- Quantifying interpretability of units

# Overview and basic visualization techniques

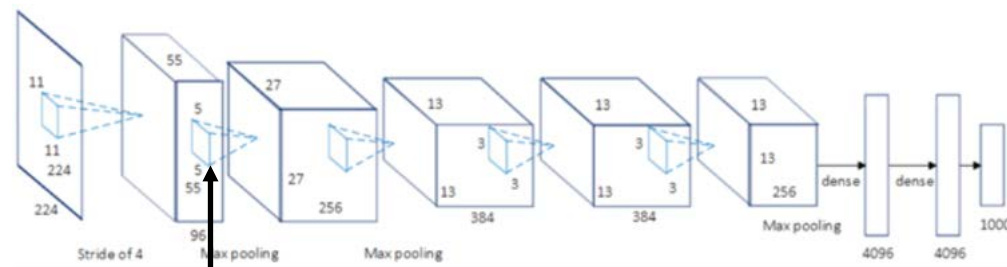
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Visualize first-layer  
weights directly



# Overview and basic visualization techniques



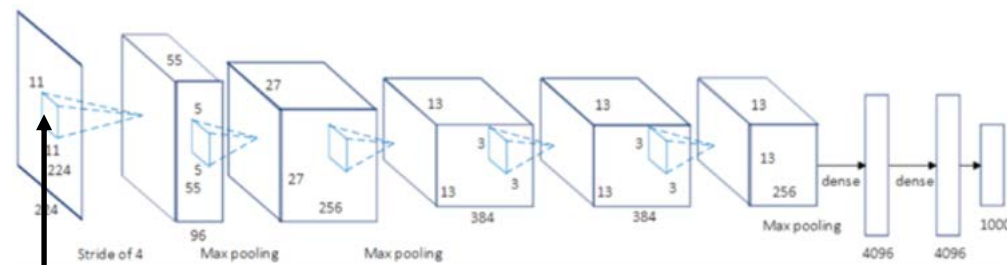
Not too helpful for  
subsequent layers



Features from a CIFAR10 network, via [Stanford CS231n](#)

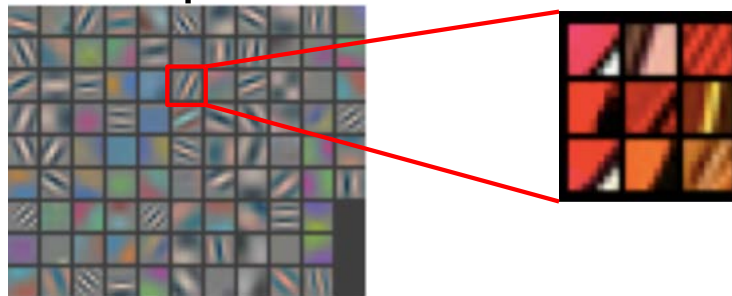
# Overview and basic visualization techniques

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## Visualize maximally activating patches:

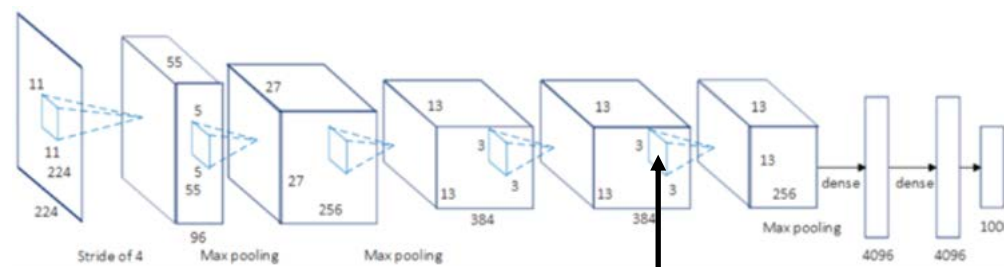
pick a unit; run many images through the network; visualize patches that produce the highest output values





# Overview and basic visualization techniques

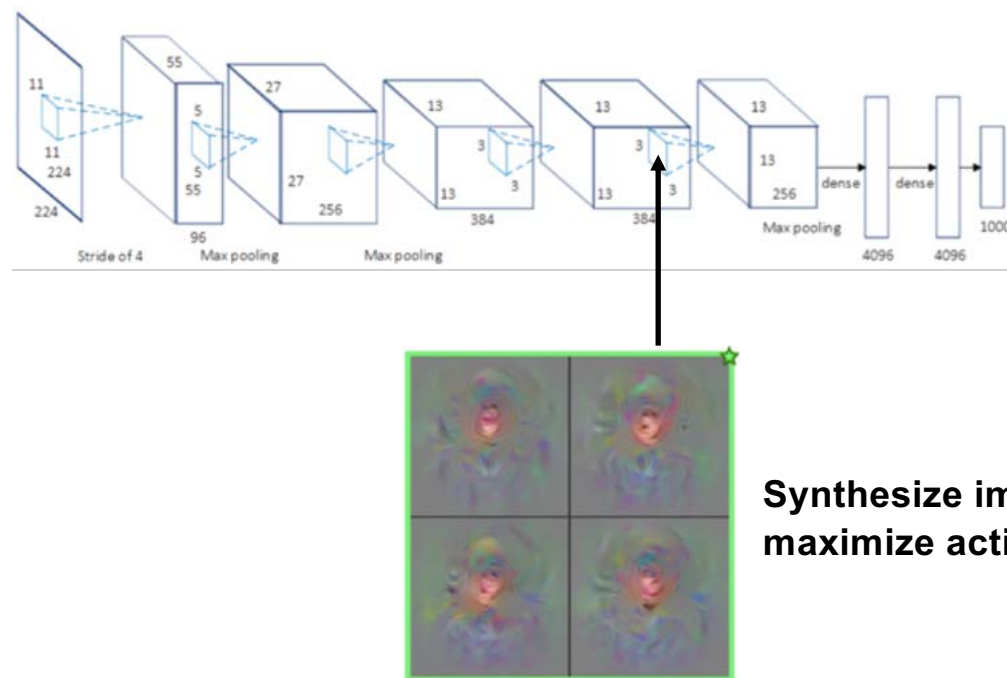
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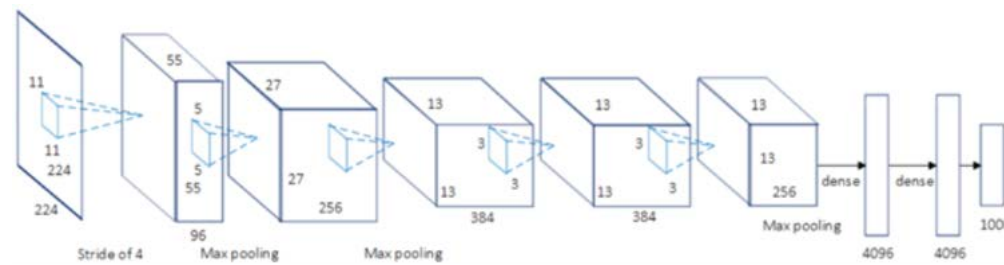
**Visualize maximally activating patches**

# Overview and basic visualization techniques

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# Overview and basic visualization techniques



**What about FC layers?**

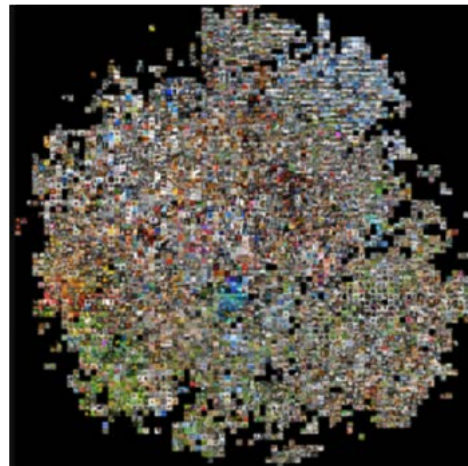
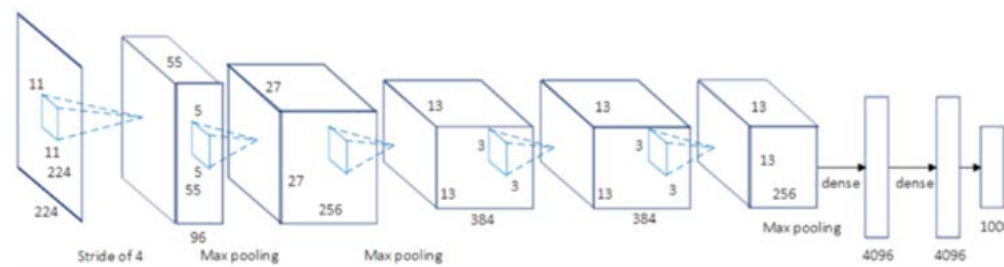
Visualize nearest neighbor images according to activation vectors

Source: [Stanford CS231n](#)



# Overview and basic visualization techniques

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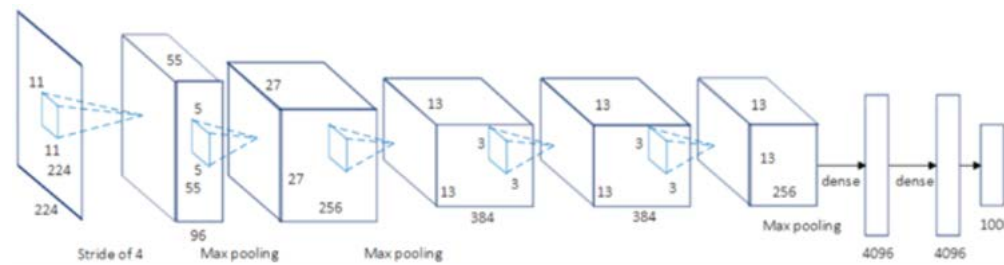


Source: [Andrej Karpathy](#)

What about FC layers?  
Fancy dimensionality  
reduction, e.g., [t-SNE](#)

# Overview and basic visualization techniques

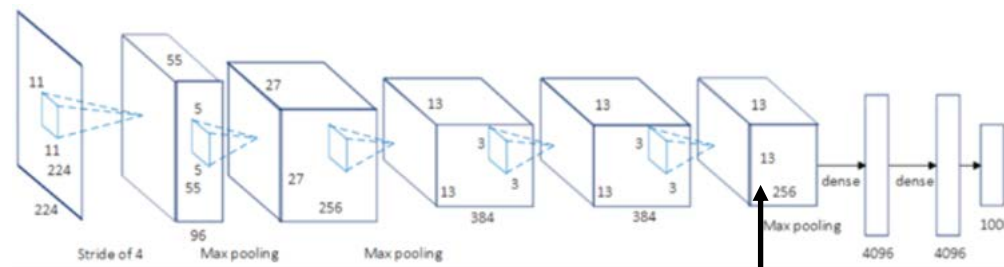
Given: a particular input image



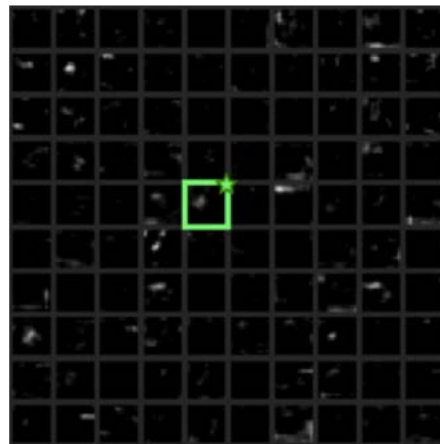
**“cat”**

# Overview and basic visualization techniques

Given: a particular input image



"cat"

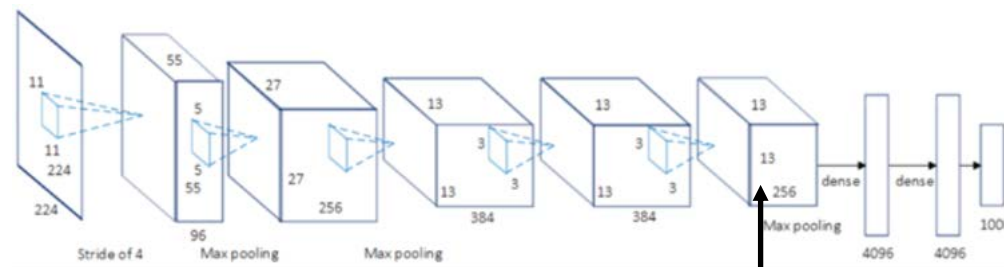


Visualize activations  
for this image

[Source](#)

# Overview and basic visualization techniques

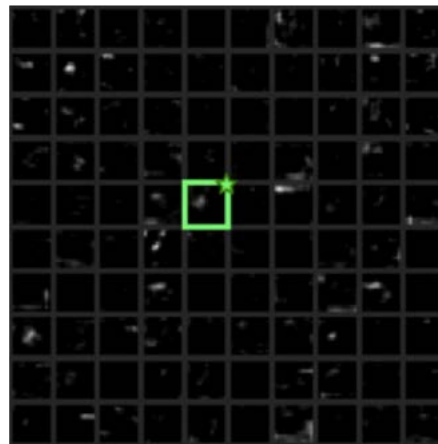
Given: a particular input image



"cat"



Visualize pixel  
values responsible  
for the activation

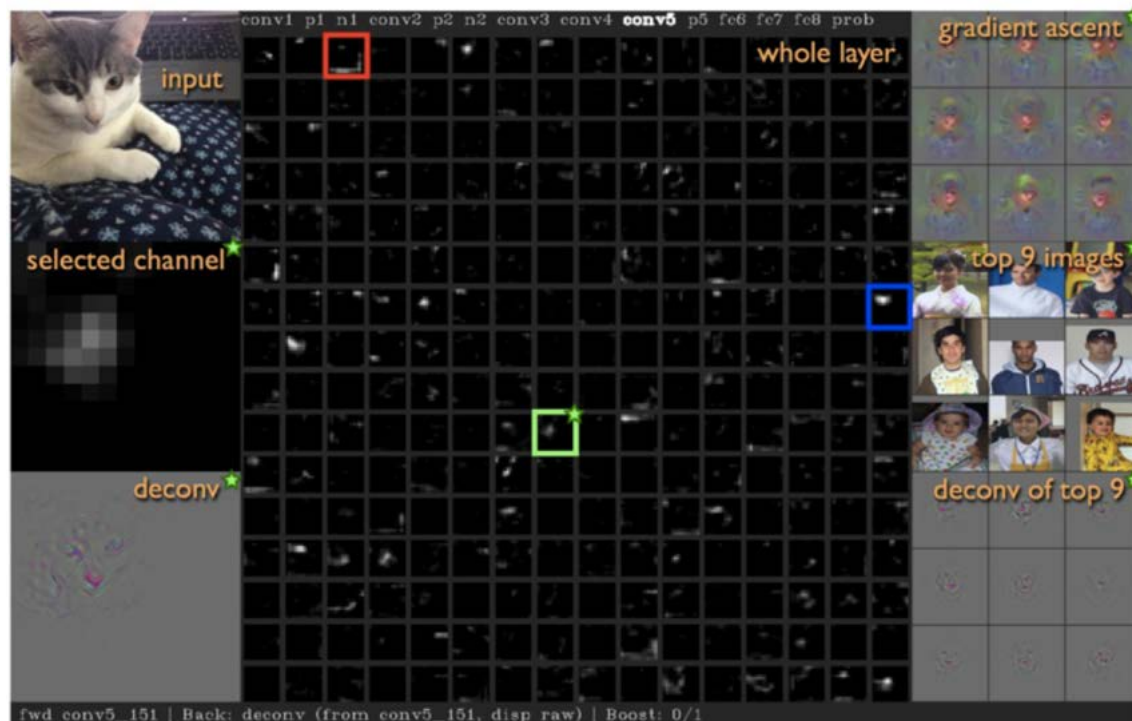


[Source](#)

Visualize activations  
for this image

# Deep visualization toolbox

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## [YouTube video](#)

J. Yosinski, J. Clune, A. Nguyen, T. Fuchs, and H. Lipson, [Understanding neural networks through deep visualization](#), ICML DL workshop, 2015

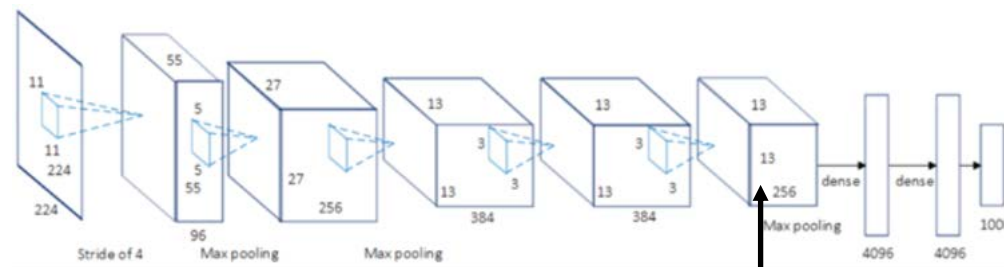
# Outline

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- Basic visualization techniques
- Mapping activations back to the image
- Synthesizing images to maximize activation
- Saliency maps
- Quantifying interpretability of units



# Mapping activations back to pixels



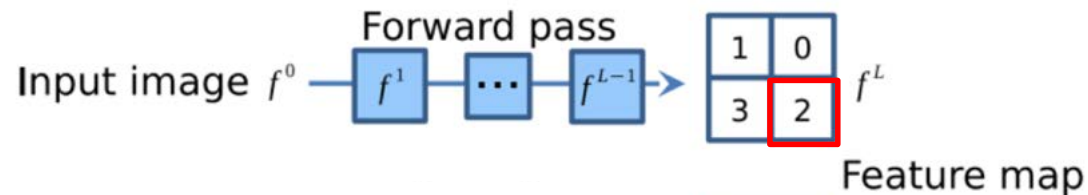
- Let's take a single value in an intermediate feature map and propagate its gradient back to the original image pixels
- What does this tell us?



# Mapping activations back to pixels

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1. Forward an image through the network
2. Choose a feature map and an activation
3. Zero out all values except for the one of interest
4. Propagate that value back to the image



[Figure source](#)

# Mapping activations back to pixels

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- Commonly used methods differ in how they treat the ReLU



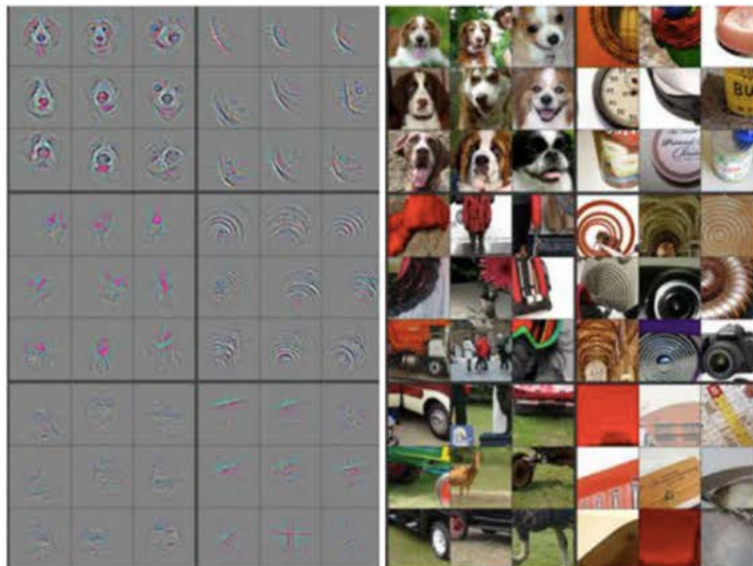
Propagating back negative  
gradients bad for visualization

J. Springenberg, A. Dosovitskiy, T. Brox, M. Riedmiller, [Striving for simplicity: The all convolutional net](#), ICLR workshop, 2015

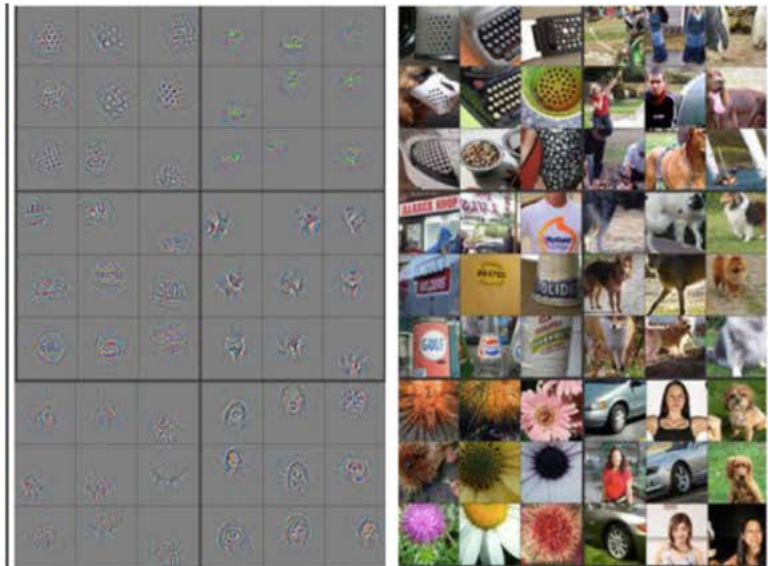
# Deconvnet visualization

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AlexNet Layer 4



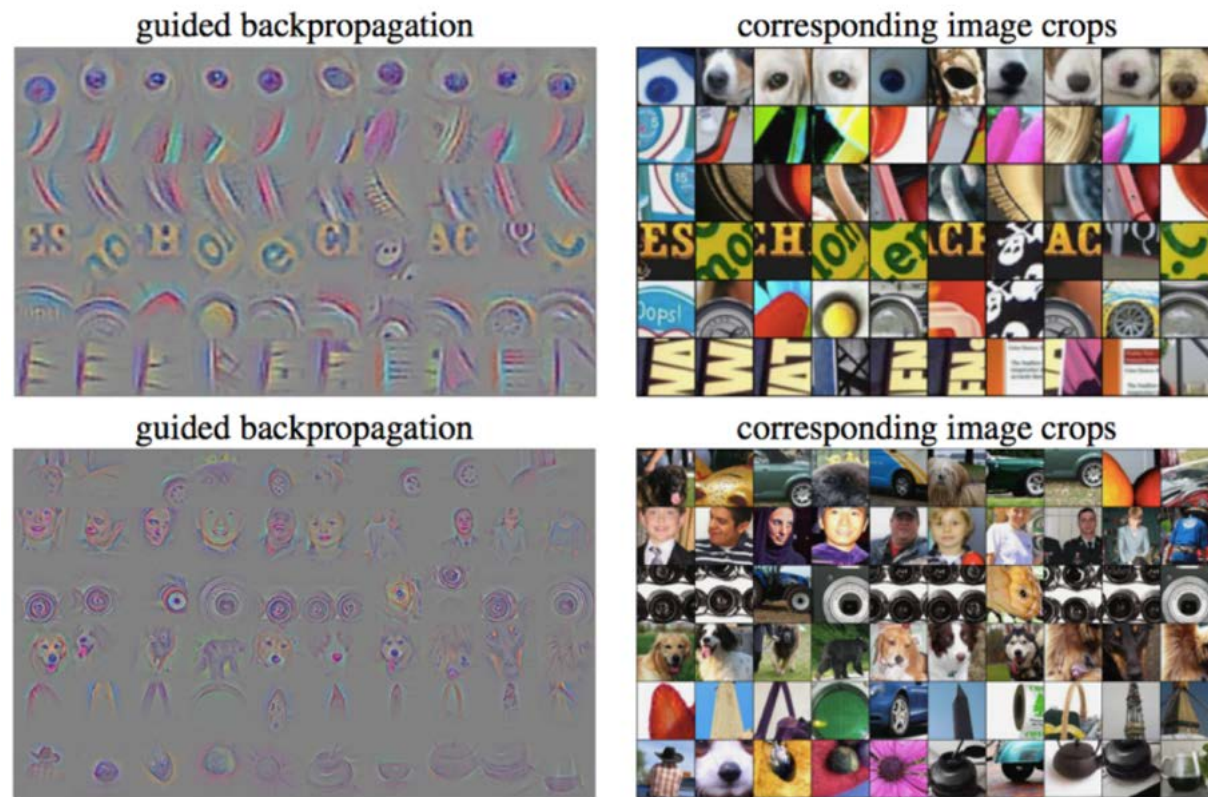
AlexNet Layer 5



M. Zeiler and R. Fergus, [Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks](#),  
ECCV 2014

# Guided backpropagation visualization

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J. Springenberg, A. Dosovitskiy, T. Brox, M. Riedmiller, [Striving for simplicity: The all convolutional net](#), ICLR workshop, 2015

# Outline

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## Visualization by optimization (model inversion)

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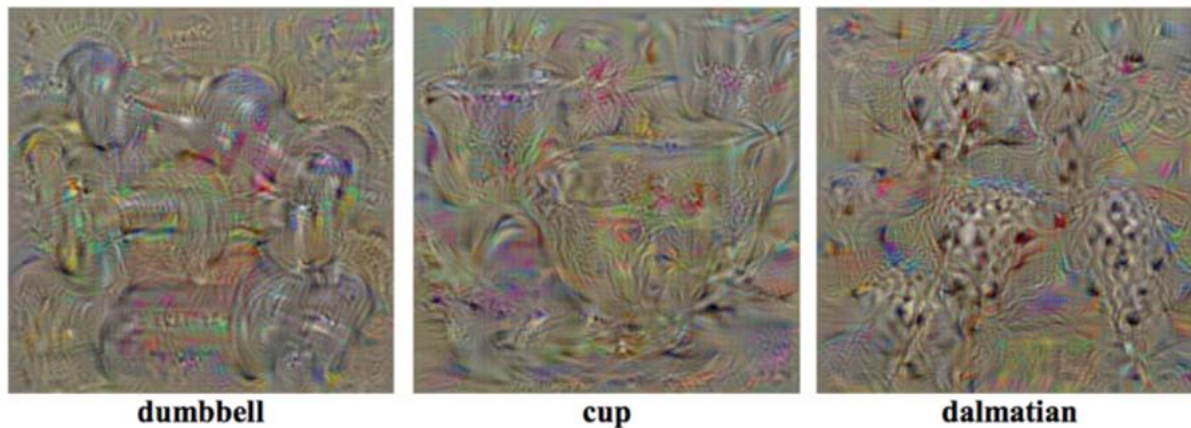
- How can we synthesize images that maximize activation of a given neuron?
- Basic approach: find image  $x$  maximizing target activation  $f(x)$  subject to *natural image regularization penalty*  $R(x)$ :

$$x^* = \arg \max_x f(x) - \lambda R(x)$$

# Visualization by optimization (model inversion)

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- Maximize  $f(x) - \lambda R(x)$ 
  - $f(x)$  is score for a category *before softmax*
  - $R(x)$  is L2 regularization
- Perform *gradient ascent* starting with zero image, add dataset mean to result



K. Simonyan, A. Vedaldi, and A. Zisserman, [Deep Inside Convolutional Networks: Visualising Image Classification Models and Saliency Maps](#), ICLR 2014

# Visualization by optimization (model inversion)

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- Alternative approach to regularization:  
at each step of gradient ascent, apply operator  $r$  that regularizes the image:

$$x \leftarrow r \left( x + \eta \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

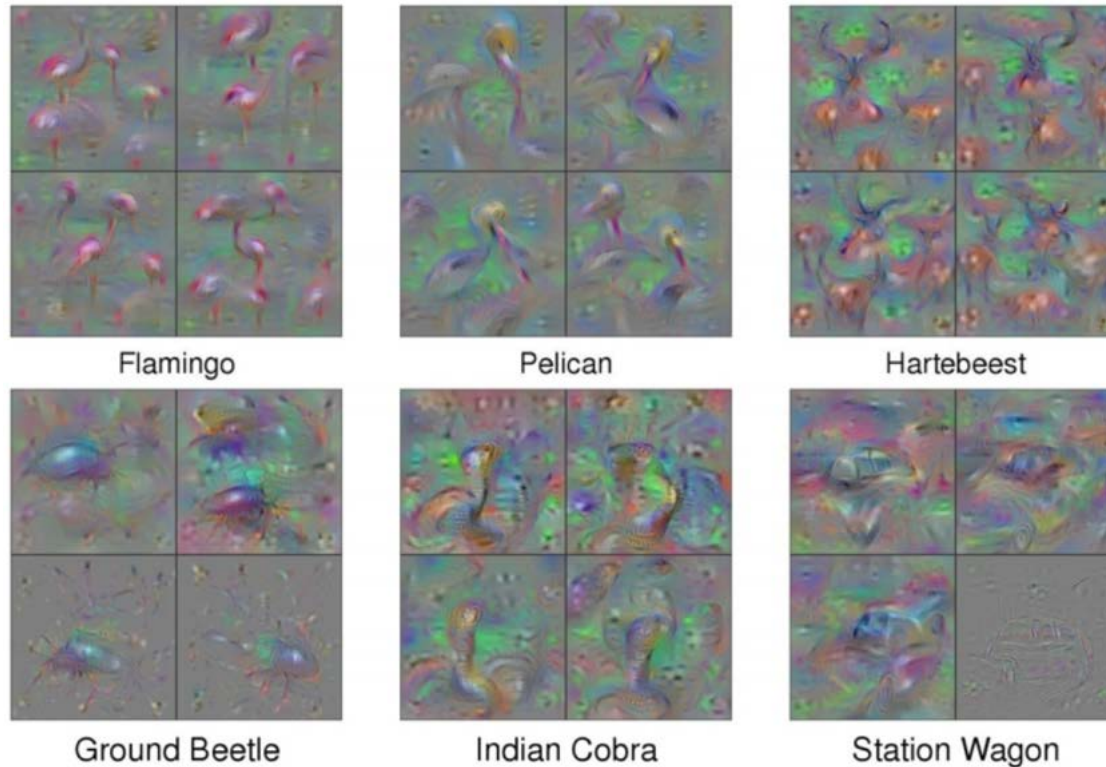
- Combination that gives good-looking results:
  - L2 decay
  - Gaussian blur (every few iterations)
  - Clip pixel values with small magnitude
  - Clip pixel values with small contribution to the activation (estimated by product of pixel value and gradient)

J. Yosinski, J. Clune, A. Nguyen, T. Fuchs, and H. Lipson, [Understanding neural networks through deep visualization](#), ICML DL workshop, 2015

# Visualization by optimization (model inversion)

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- Example visualizations:

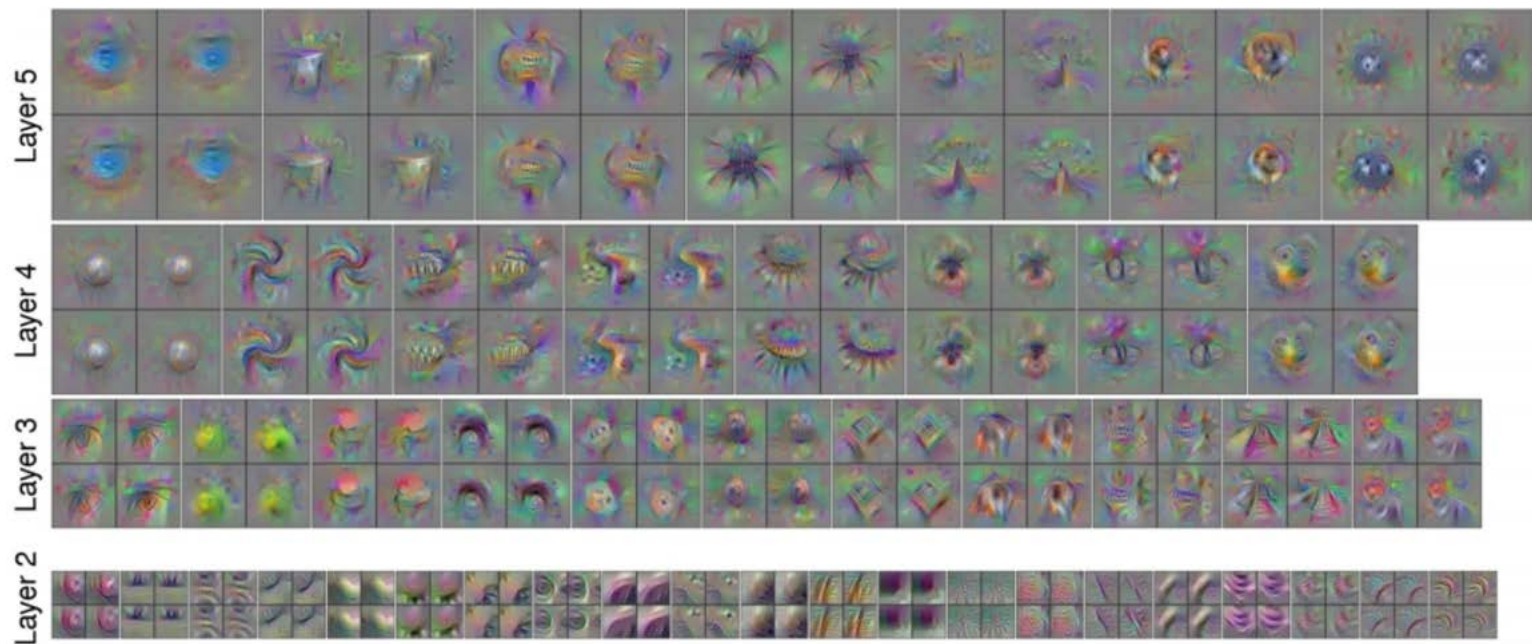


J. Yosinski, J. Clune, A. Nguyen, T. Fuchs, and H. Lipson, [Understanding neural networks through deep visualization](#), ICML DL workshop, 2015

# Visualization by optimization (model inversion)

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- Example visualizations of intermediate features:



J. Yosinski, J. Clune, A. Nguyen, T. Fuchs, and H. Lipson, [Understanding neural networks through deep visualization](#), ICML DL workshop, 2015



# Multifaceted feature visualization

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- Key idea: most neurons in high layers respond to a mix of different patterns or “facets”
- For coherent visualizations, zero in on individual facets



A. Nguyen, J. Yosinski, J. Clune, [Multifaceted Feature Visualization: Uncovering the Different Types of Features Learned By Each Neuron in Deep Neural Networks](#), ICML workshop, 2016



# Multifaceted feature visualization

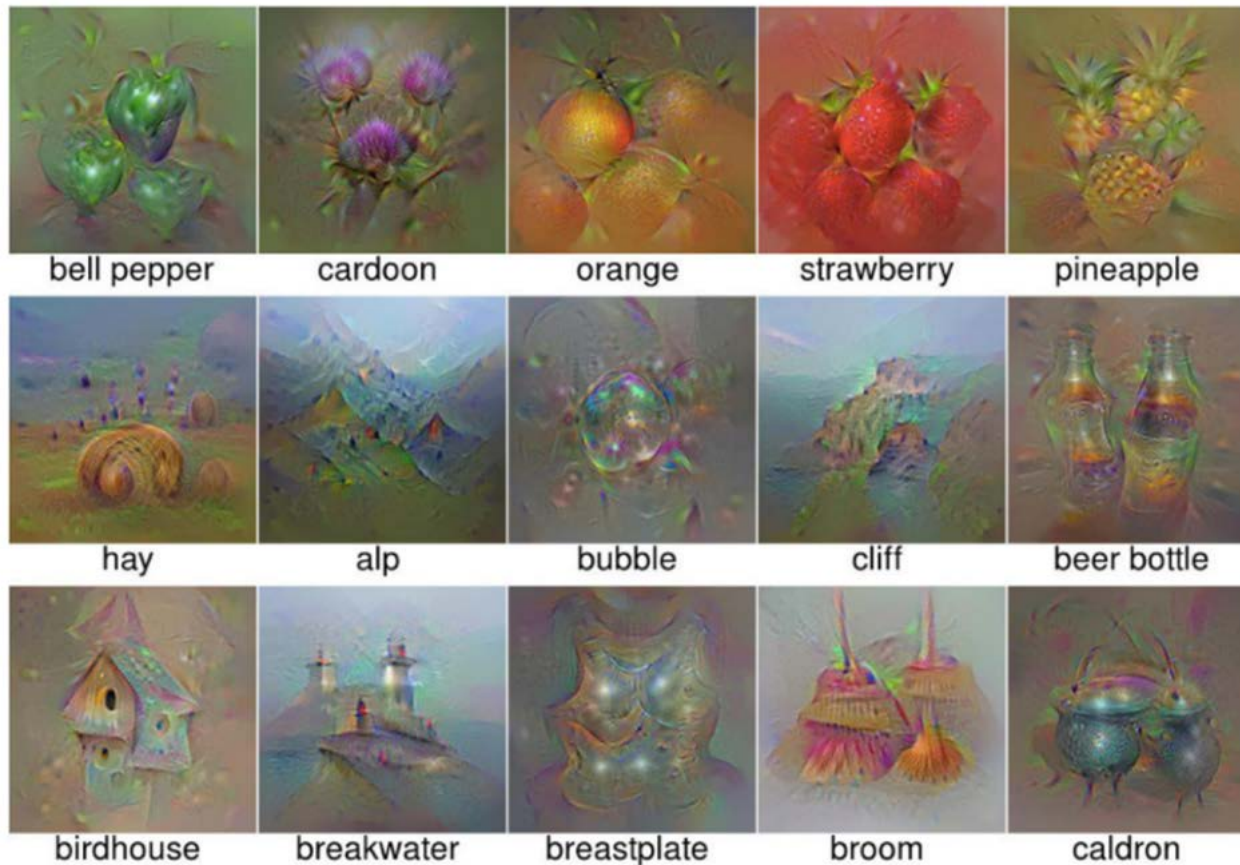
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- Key idea: most neurons in high layers respond to a mix of different patterns or “facets”
- For coherent visualizations, zero in on individual facets
- Algorithm:
  - Cluster FC activations of training images to identify facets
  - For each facet, initialize optimization with mean image of that facet
  - To attempt to produce image of a single object, use *center-biased regularization* (start with blurry image, gradually increase resolution and update center pixels more than edge pixels)

A. Nguyen, J. Yosinski, J. Clune, [Multifaceted Feature Visualization: Uncovering the Different Types of Features Learned By Each Neuron in Deep Neural Networks](#), ICML workshop, 2016

# Multifaceted feature visualization

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A. Nguyen, J. Yosinski, J. Clune, [Multifaceted Feature Visualization: Uncovering the Different Types of Features Learned By Each Neuron in Deep Neural Networks](#), ICML workshop, 2016

# Google DeepDream

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Choose an image and a layer in a CNN; repeat:

1. Forward: compute activations at chosen layer
2. Set gradient of chosen layer *equal to its activation*
  - Equivalent to maximizing  $\sum_i f_i^2(x)$
3. Backward: Compute gradient w.r.t. image
4. Update image (with some tricks)

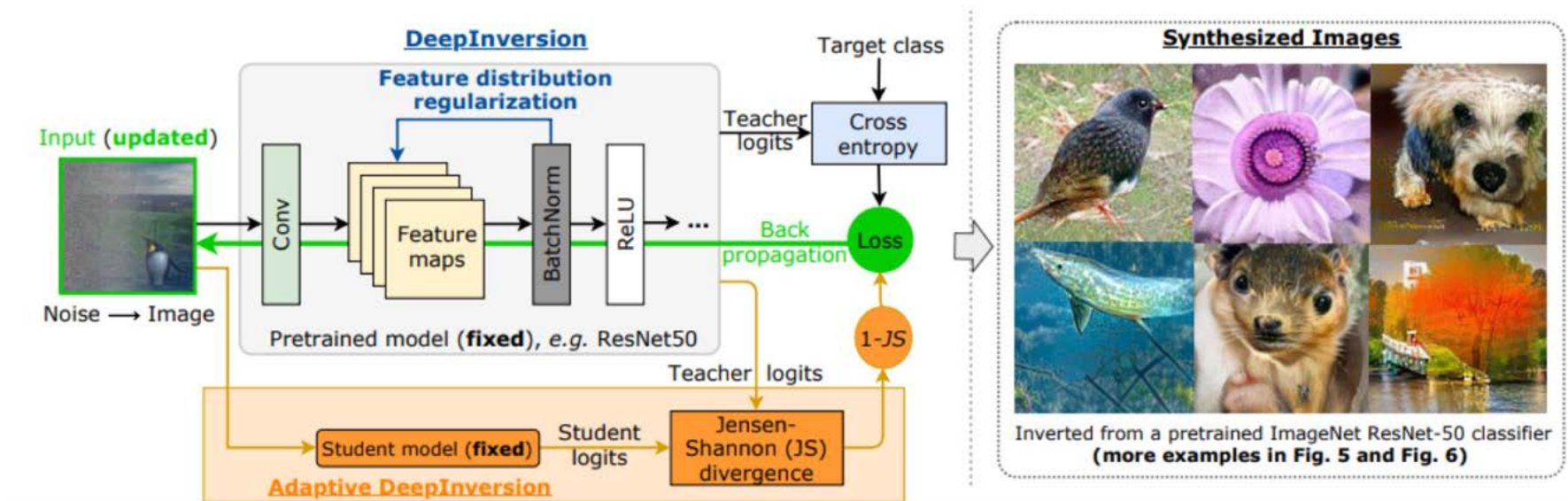
Source: [Stanford CS231n](#)

<https://ai.googleblog.com/2015/06/inceptionism-going-deeper-into-neural.html>

<https://deepdreamgenerator.com/>

# Dreaming to distill

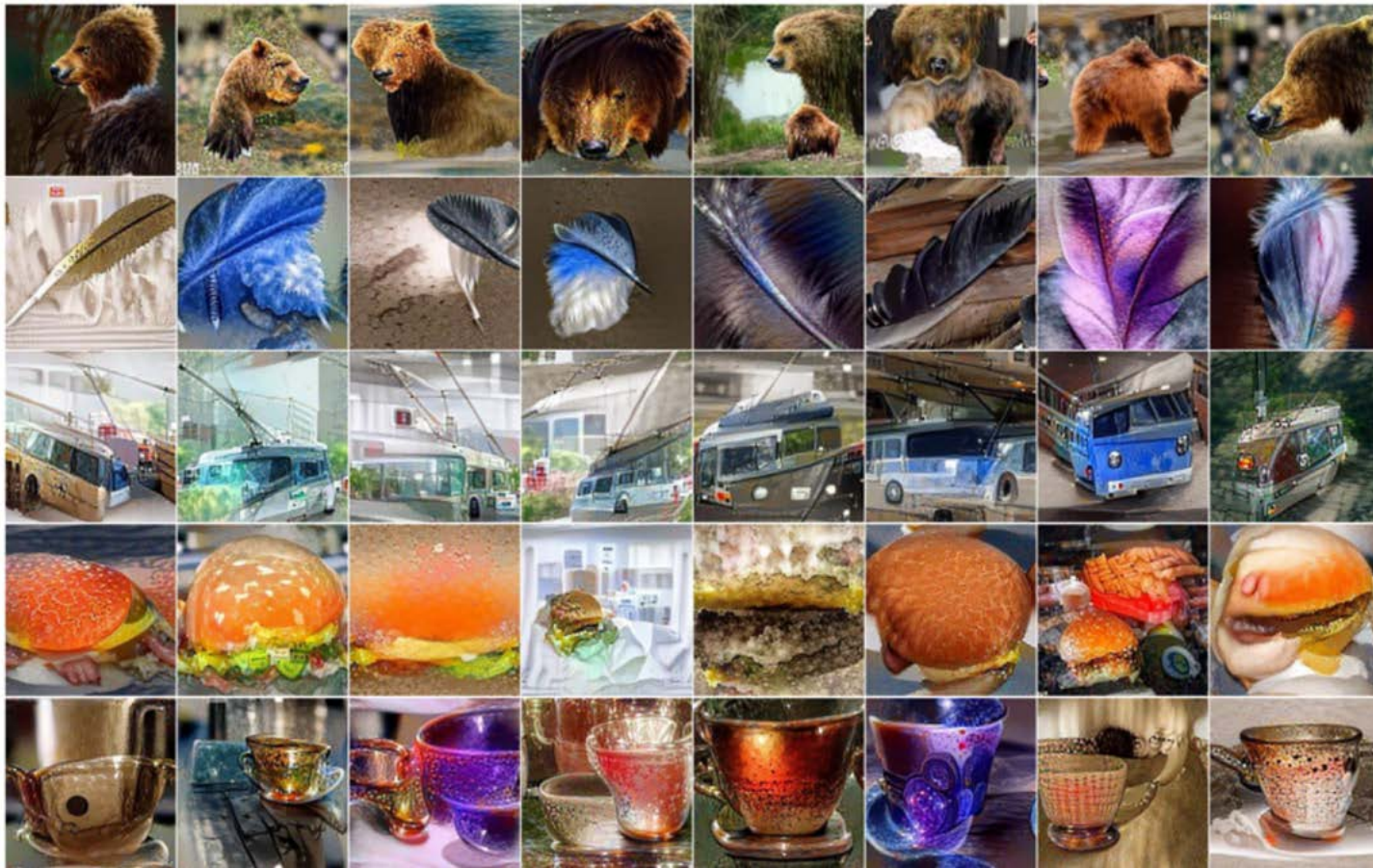
- Key idea: add regularization terms to encourage the mean and variance of values in intermediate feature maps to match batchnorm statistics of the network





# Dreaming to distill: Results

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H. Yin et al. [Dreaming to Distill: Data-free Knowledge Transfer via DeepInversion](#). CVPR 2020

# Outline

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- Basic visualization techniques
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# Saliency maps

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- Which parts of the image played the most important role in the network's decision?

Prediction: "car" 64%



Source: K. Saenko

## “White box” saliency via gradients

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- Backpropagate gradient of class score (before softmax) to the image, display max of absolute values across color channels

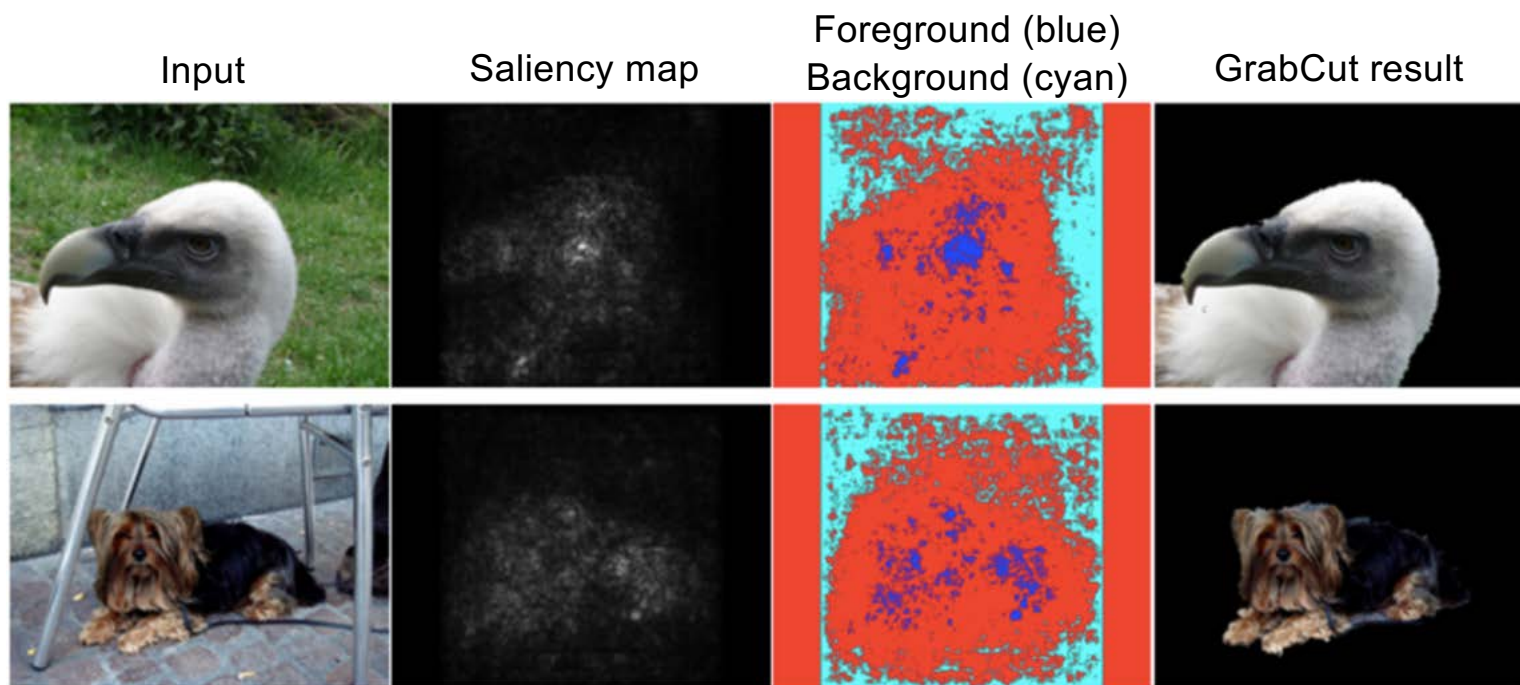


K. Simonyan, A. Vedaldi, and A. Zisserman, [Deep Inside Convolutional Networks: Visualising Image Classification Models and Saliency Maps](#), ICLR 2014

## “White box” saliency via gradients

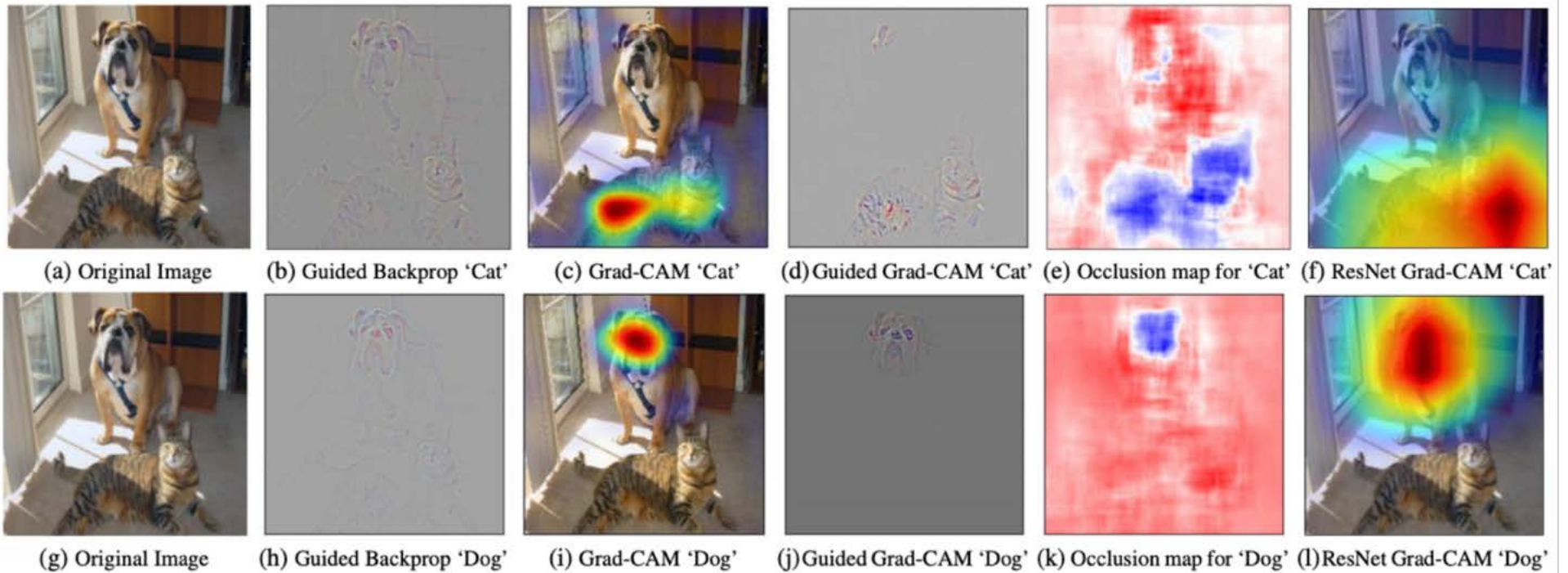
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- Can be used for *weakly supervised* segmentation:



K. Simonyan, A. Vedaldi, and A. Zisserman, [Deep Inside Convolutional Networks: Visualising Image Classification Models and Saliency Maps](#), ICLR 2014

# Gradient-weighted class activation mapping (Grad-CAM)



R. Selvaraju et al. [Grad-CAM: Visual Explanations from Deep Networks via Gradient-based Localization](#). ICCV 2017

## “Black box” saliency via masking

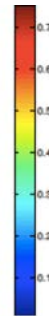
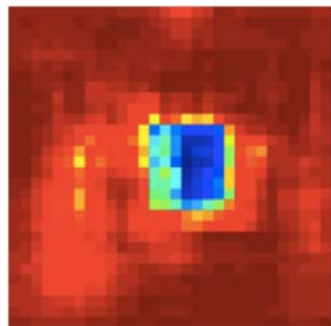
---

- Slide square occluder across image, see how class score changes

Input image



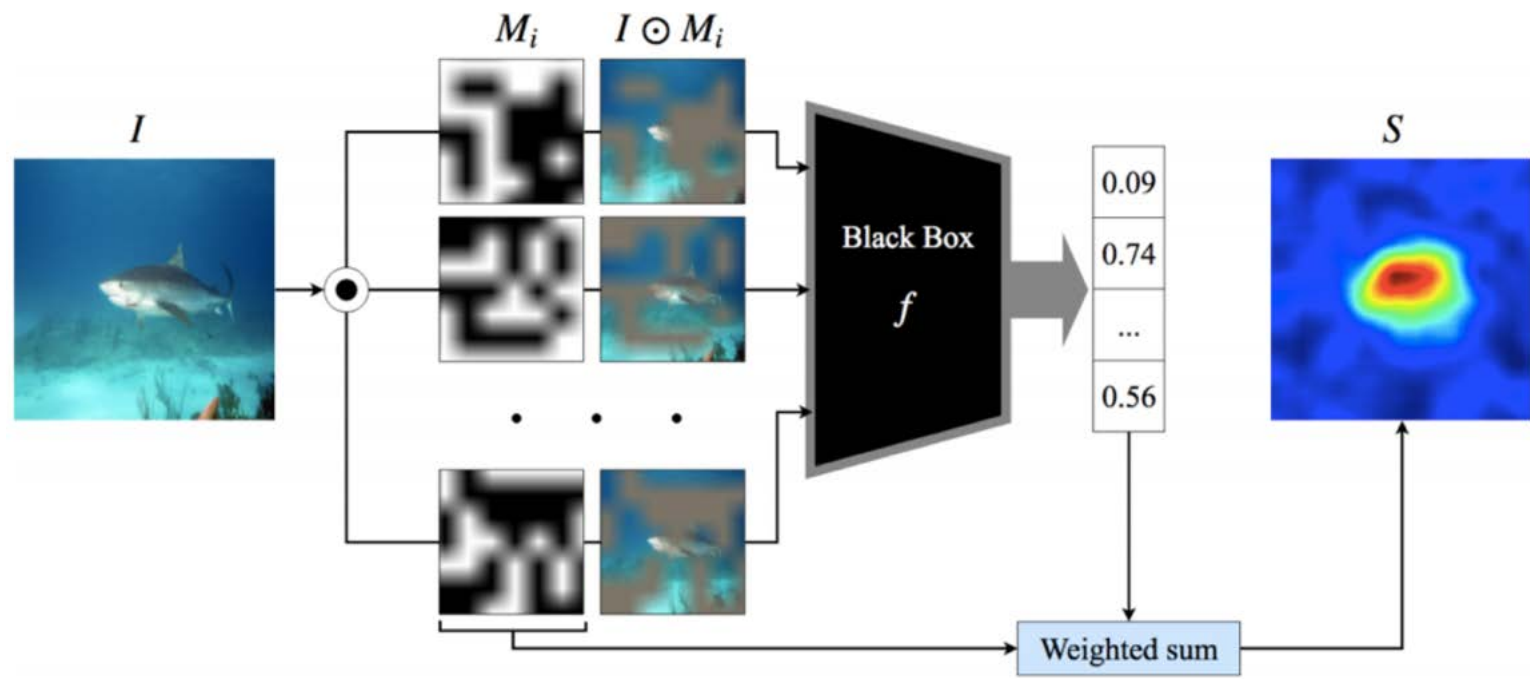
Correct class  
probability as  
function of  
occluder position



M. Zeiler and R. Fergus, [Visualizing and Understanding Convolutional Networks](#),  
ECCV 2014

## “Black box” saliency via masking

- Saliency of a class at a pixel is expected score for that class over all masks where the pixel is visible



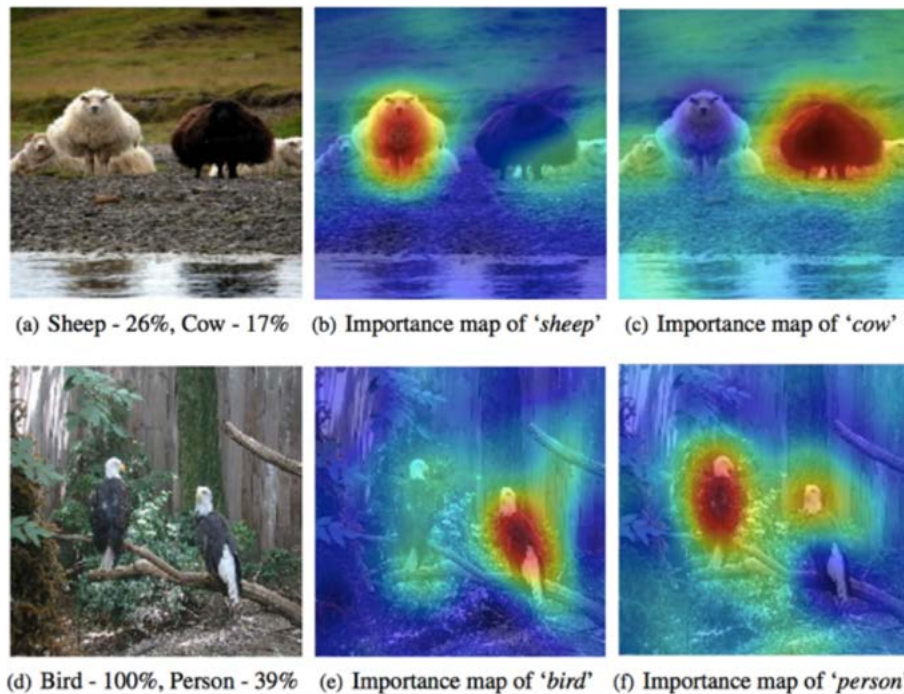
V. Petsiuk, A. Das, K. Saenko, [RISE: Randomized Input Sampling for Explanation of Black-box Models](#), BMVC 2018



## “Black box” saliency via masking

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V. Petsiuk, A. Das, K. Saenko, [RISE: Randomized Input Sampling for Explanation of Black-box Models](#), BMVC 2018



## “Black box” saliency via masking

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- Application: detecting model/dataset bias

Prediction: “cow” 76%



Source: K. Saenko

## “Black box” saliency via masking

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- Application: detecting model/dataset bias



Baseline: A **man** sitting at a desk with a laptop computer.



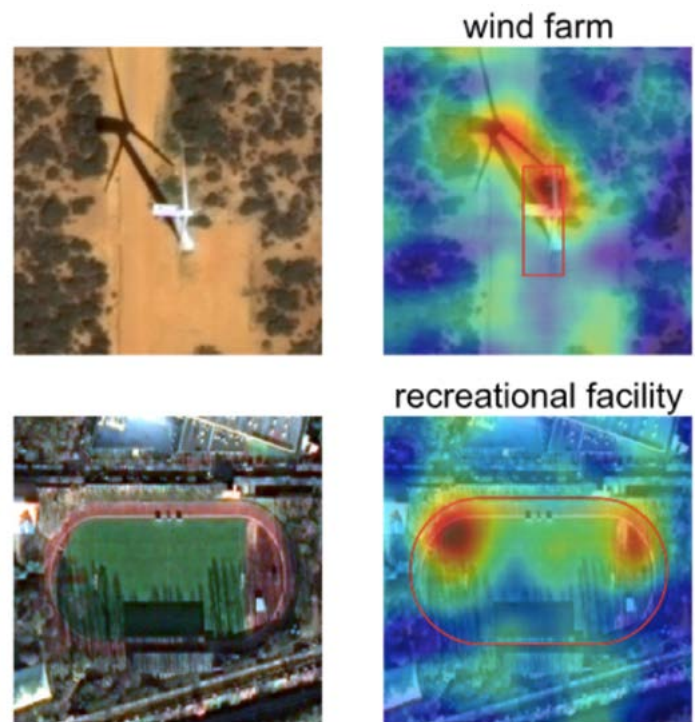
Improved model: A **woman** sitting in front of a laptop computer.

L. Hendricks, K. Burns, K. Saenko, T. Darrell, A. Rohrbach, [Women Also Snowboard: Overcoming Bias in Captioning Models](#), ECCV 2018

## “Black box” saliency via masking

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- Application: detecting model/dataset bias



RISE applied to satellite image  
classification model shows that shadows  
have great influence on the model

Source: [RISE poster](#)

# Outline

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- Basic visualization techniques
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# Quantifying interpretability of units

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- From the beginning, people have observed that many units in higher layers seem to fire on meaningful concepts
- But how can we quantify this?

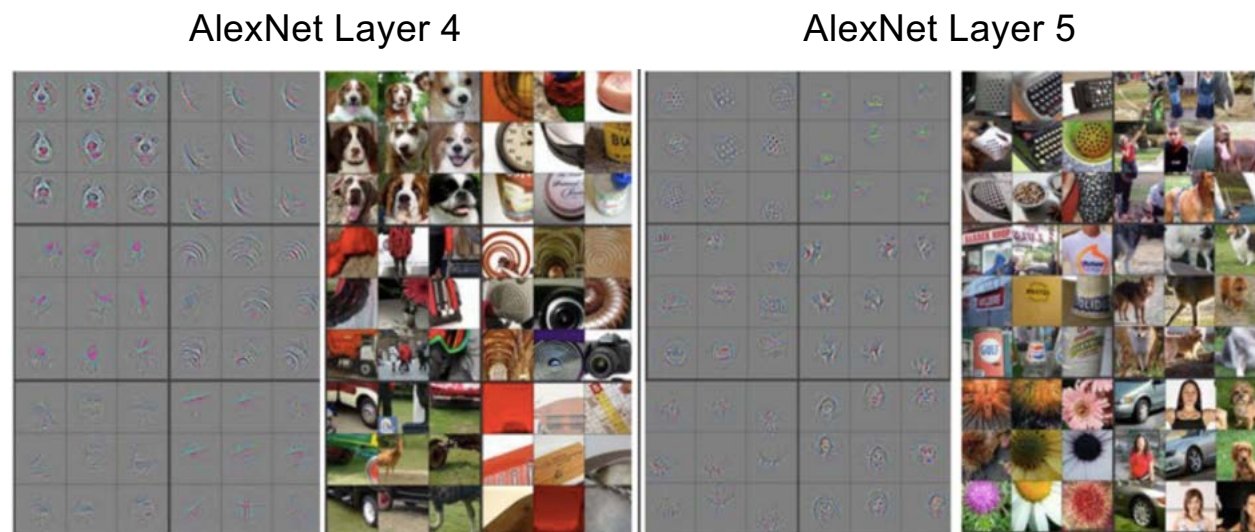
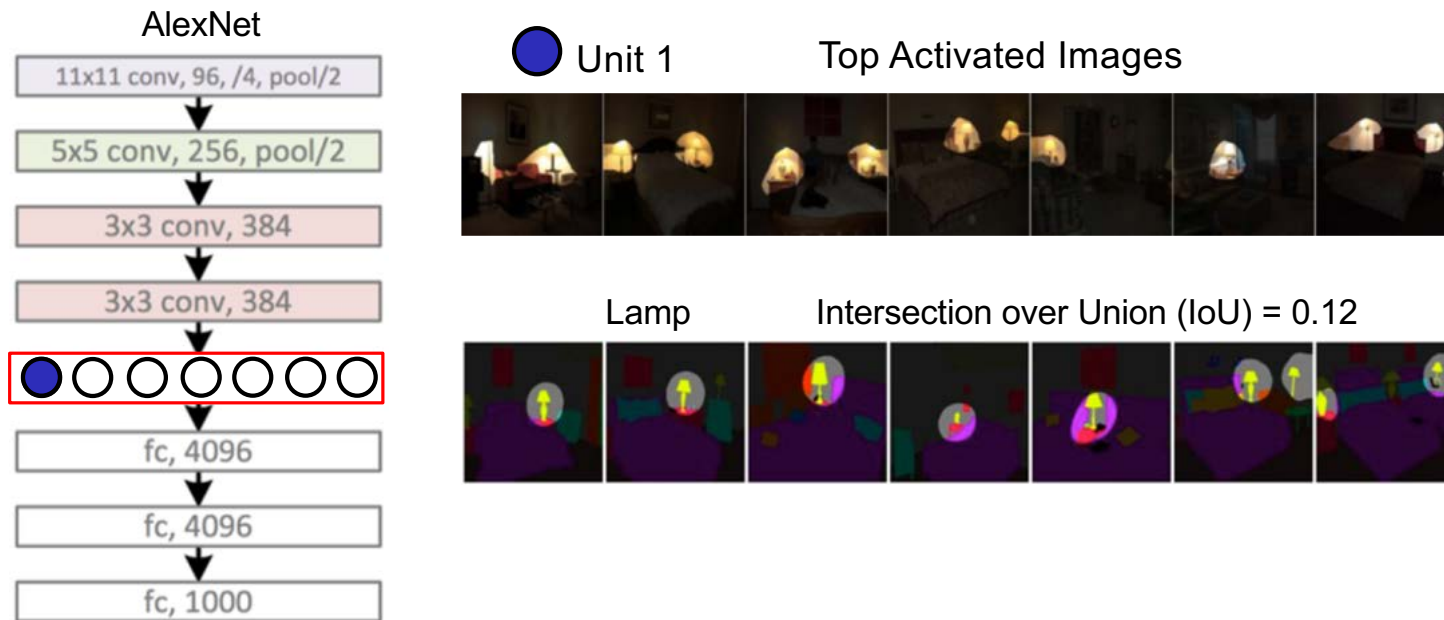


Figure: Zeiler & Fergus

# Quantifying interpretability of units

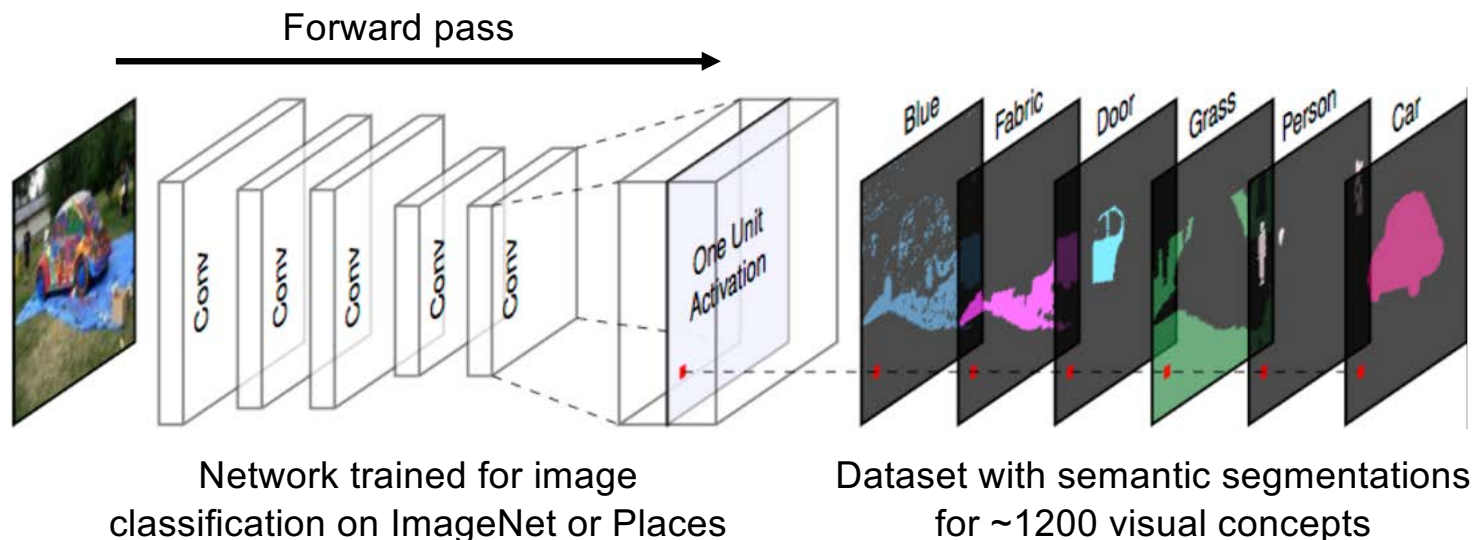
- For a given unit, measure the overlap between areas of high activation and semantic segmentations for a large set of visual concepts



D. Bau, B. Zhou, A. Khosla, A. Oliva, A. Torralba, [Network Dissection: Quantifying Interpretability of Deep Visual Representations](#), CVPR 2017

# Quantifying interpretability of units

- For a given unit, measure the overlap between areas of high activation and semantic segmentations for a large set of visual concepts

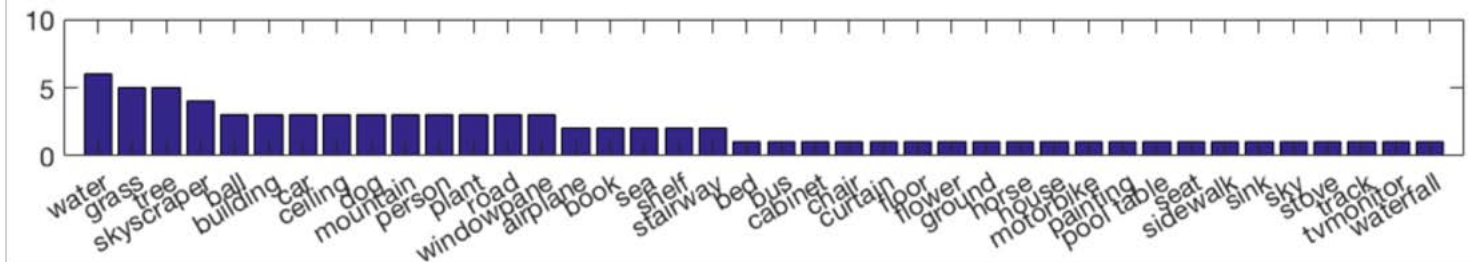


D. Bau, B. Zhou, A. Khosla, A. Oliva, A. Torralba, [Network Dissection: Quantifying Interpretability of Deep Visual Representations](#), CVPR 2017



# Quantifying interpretability of units

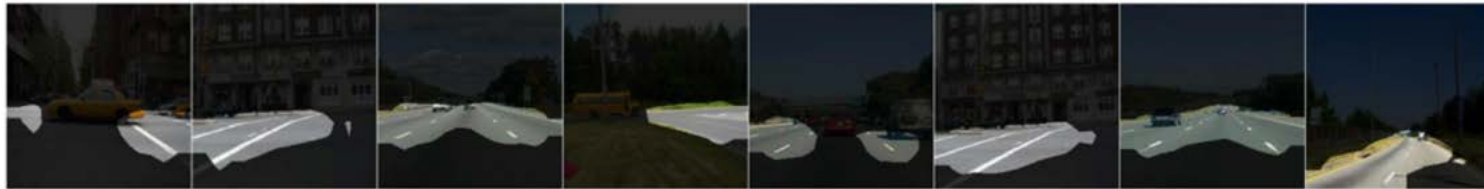
Histogram of object detectors for Places AlexNet conv5 units  
81/256 units with  $\text{IoU} > 0.04$



conv5 unit 79      car (object)       $\text{IoU}=0.13$

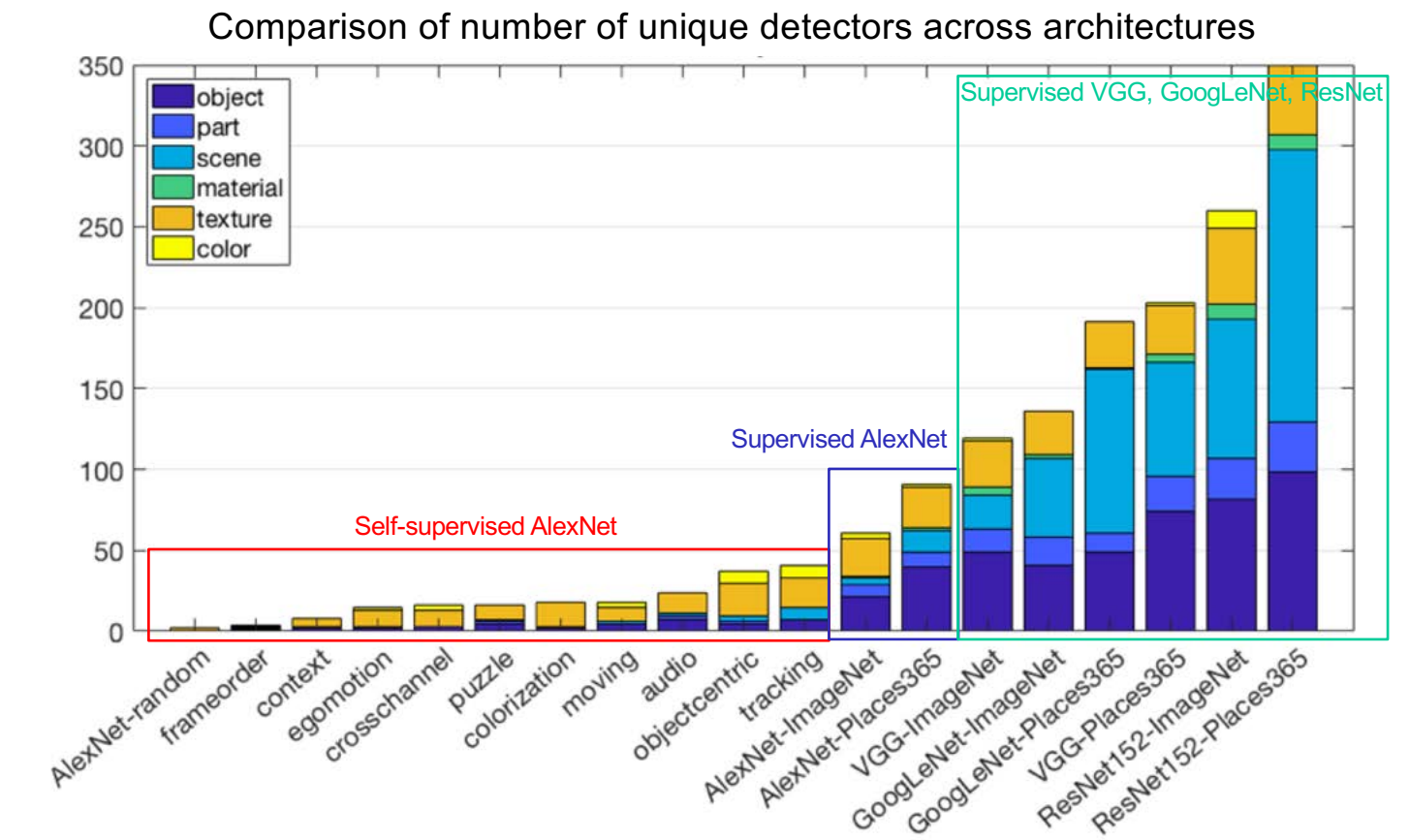


conv5 unit 107      road (object)       $\text{IoU}=0.15$



D. Bau, B. Zhou, A. Khosla, A. Oliva, A. Torralba, [Network Dissection: Quantifying Interpretability of Deep Visual Representations](#), CVPR 2017

# Quantifying interpretability of units



D. Bau, B. Zhou, A. Khosla, A. Oliva, A. Torralba, [Network Dissection: Quantifying Interpretability of Deep Visual Representations](#), CVPR 2017

# Summary

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- Basic visualization techniques
  - Showing weights, top activated patches, nearest neighbors
- Mapping activations back to the image
  - Deconvolution
  - Guided back-propagation
- Synthesizing images to maximize activation
  - Gradient ascent with natural image regularization
- Saliency maps
  - “White box” vs. “black box”
- Explainability/interpretability
  - Explaining network decisions, detecting bias
  - Quantifying interpretability of intermediate units