



# Deep Reality Simulation For Automated Poacher Detection

Mark Hamilton, Microsoft  
Anand Raman, Microsoft

#SAISDD2

AFRICA



# Nearly 90 Elephants Found Dead Near Botswana Sanctuary, Killed By Poachers

September 3, 2018 · 5:57 PM ET



EMILY SULLIVAN



# Okavango Delta Wildlife Sanctuary



# The Economics of Poaching

IT'S A \$70 BILLION A YEAR ILLEGAL INDUSTRY



RHINO HORN  
\$30,000/pound

GOLD  
\$22,000/pound

IVORY  
\$1,000/pound  
(Known as "white gold")

Rhino horn is worth more than gold.

Years of Average Income from one  
Poached Elephant:  
**52 – 104 years**

Average Elephant Tusk Weight:  
20-40 lbs

Average Per Capita Income Across  
Sub-Saharan Africa (2008):  
\$762





# Air Shepherd

The Lindbergh Foundation



Hamilton and Raman, #SAISDD2

# Previous System: EyeSpy



# SPOT Poachers in Action: Augmenting Conservation Drones with Automatic Detection in Near Real Time

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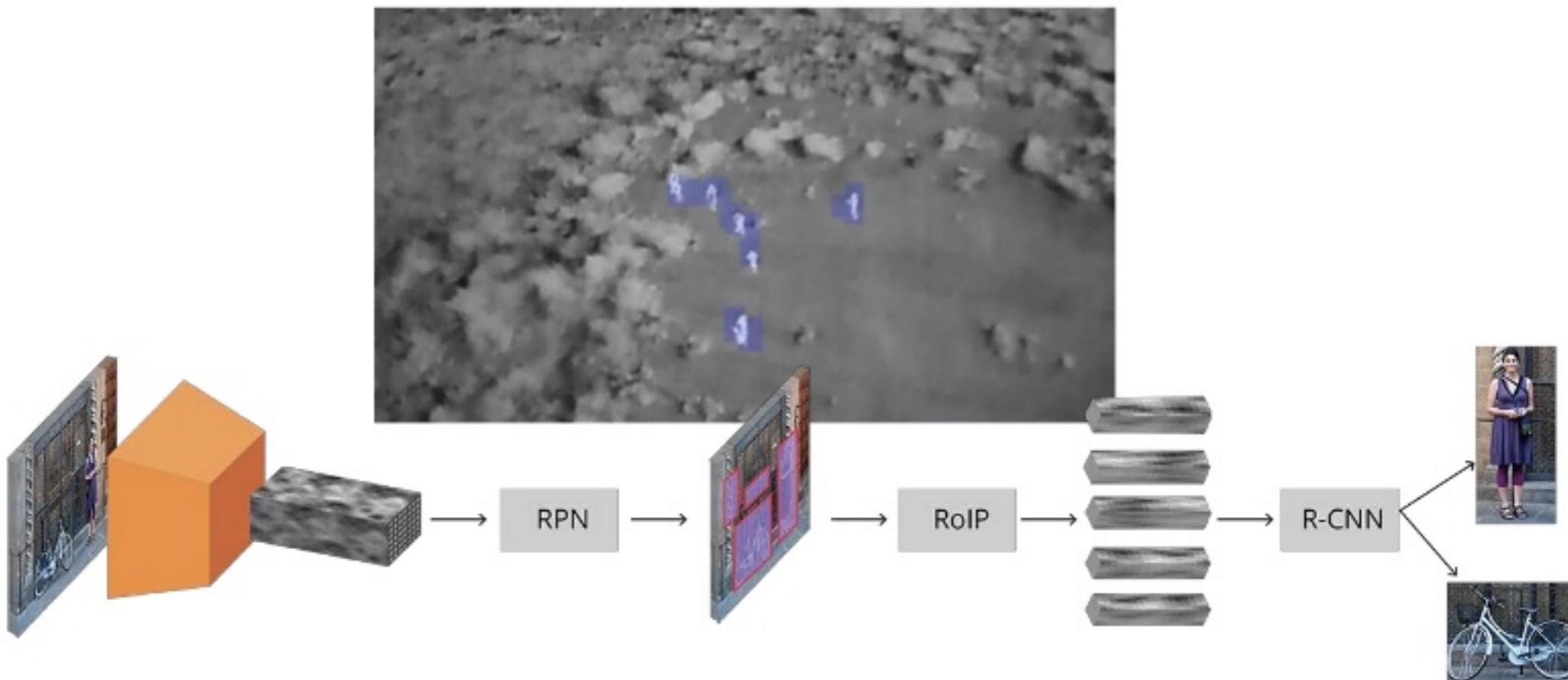
{bondi, dkar, ddmello, jongmooc, tambe, nevatia}@usc.edu

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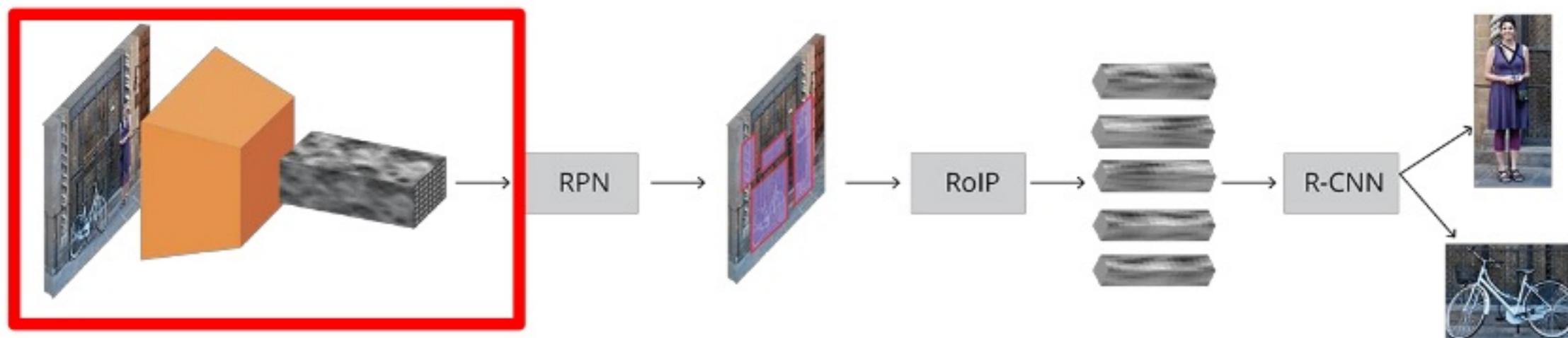
rob@coolideassolutions.com, arvind.iyer@lindberghfoundation.org



# Faster R-CNN: Convolutional Featurization

## Step 1

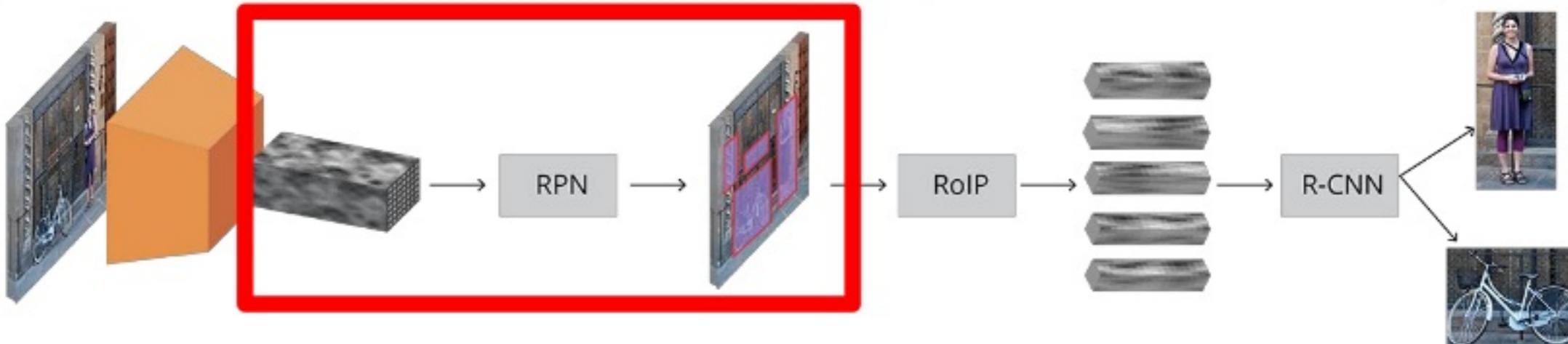
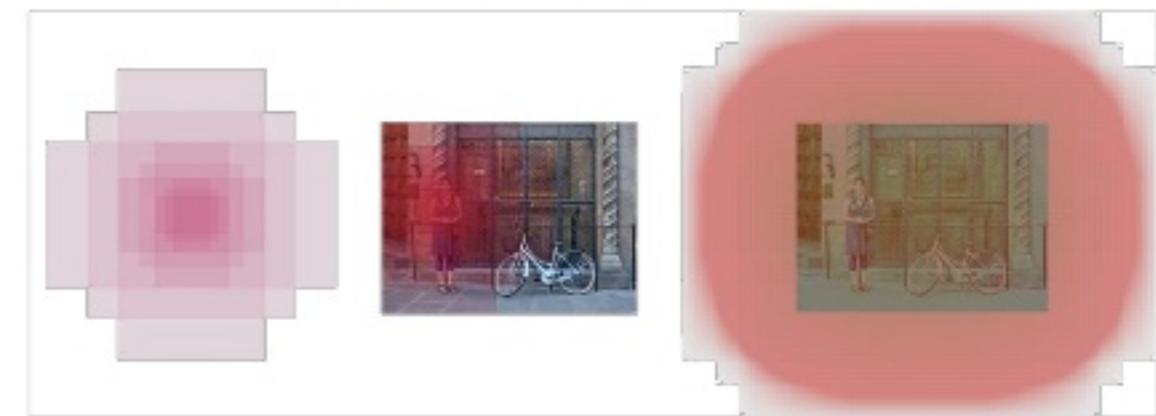
- A Convolutional network  
“featurizes” the image while  
maintaining its spatial structure



# Faster R-CNN: Region Proposal Network

## Step 2

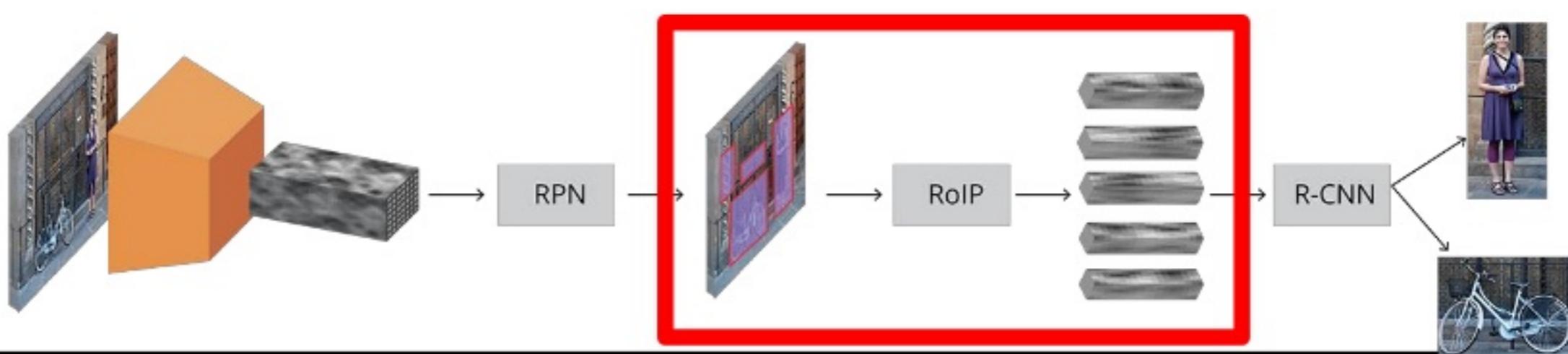
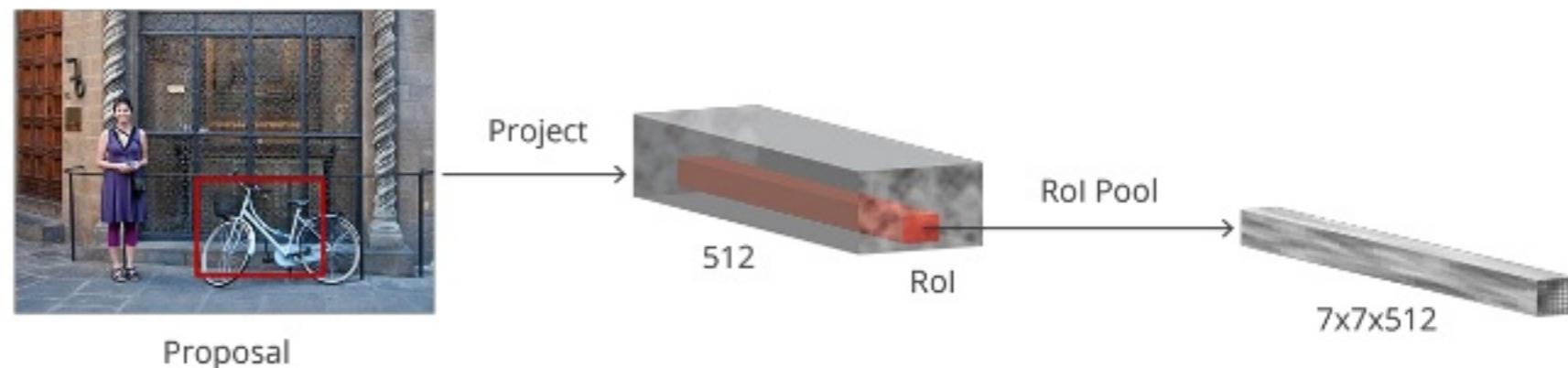
- ▶ A “Region Proposal network” generates the probability that each “Anchor” has an object
- ▶ The RPN also predicts how to “adjust” the anchors to make them fit the object



# Faster R-CNN: Region of Interest Pooling

## Step 3

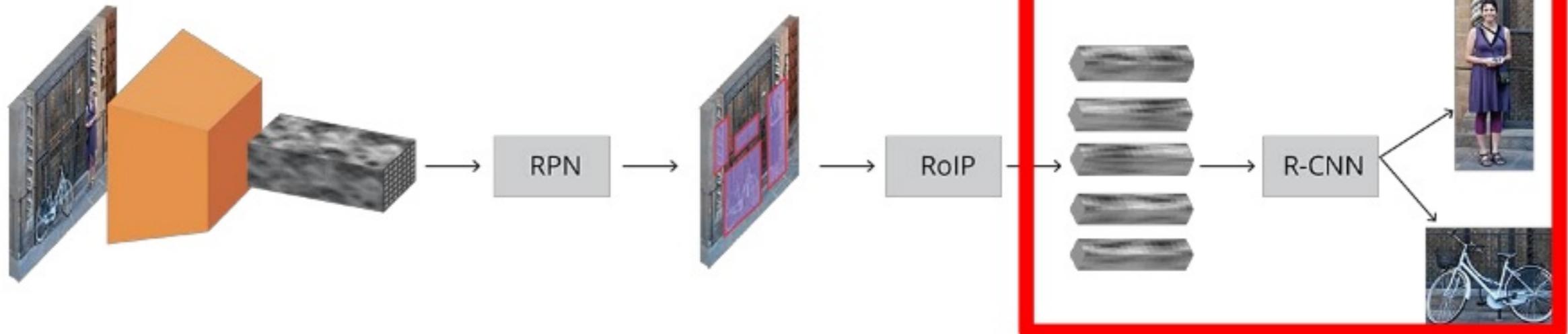
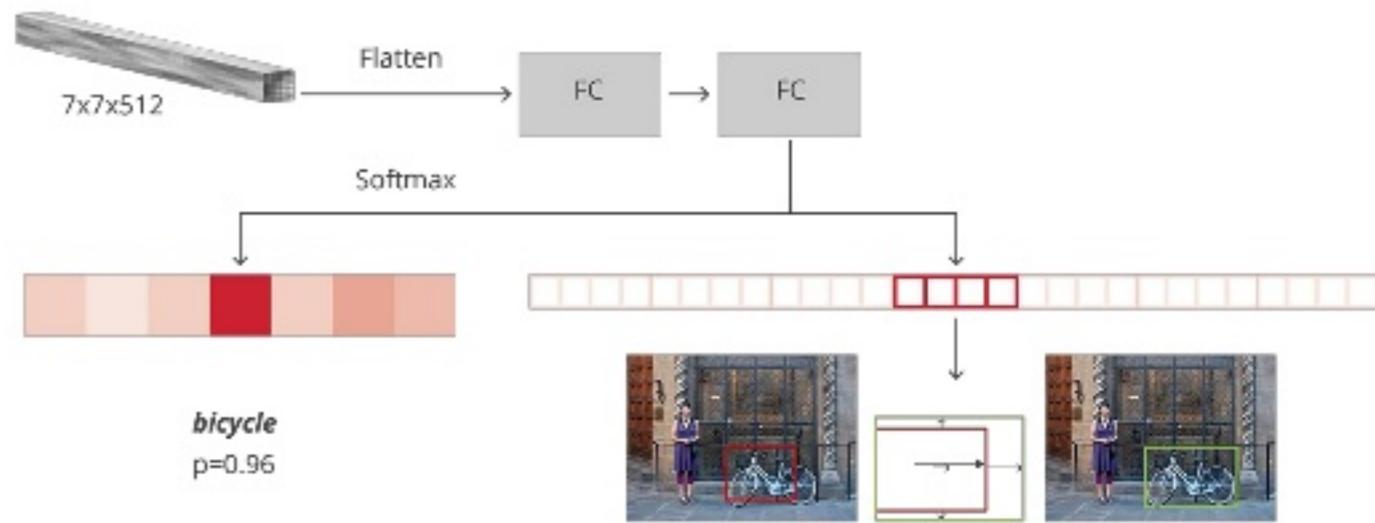
- ▶ A “Region of Interest Pooling” stage condenses the convolutional features into a fixed size



# Faster R-CNN: Region Based CNN

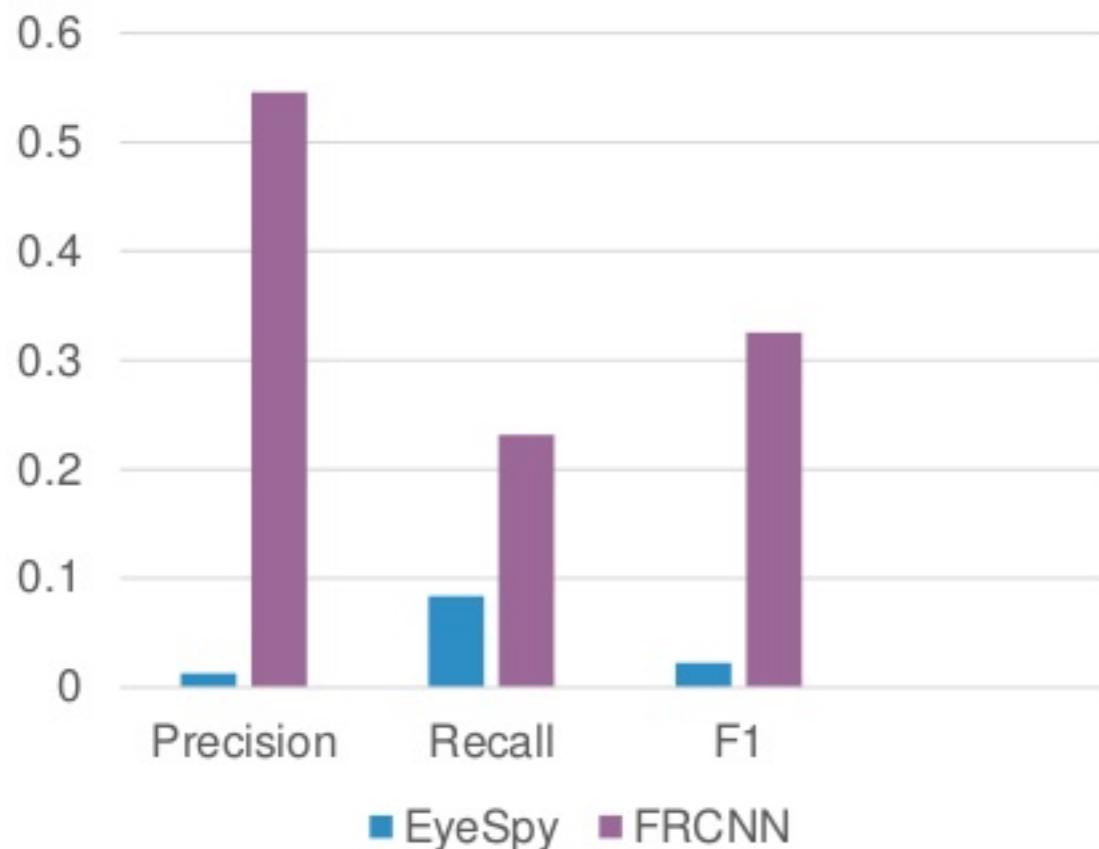
## Step 4

- ▶ A convolutional network emits the class of the object and the bounding box “adjustments”

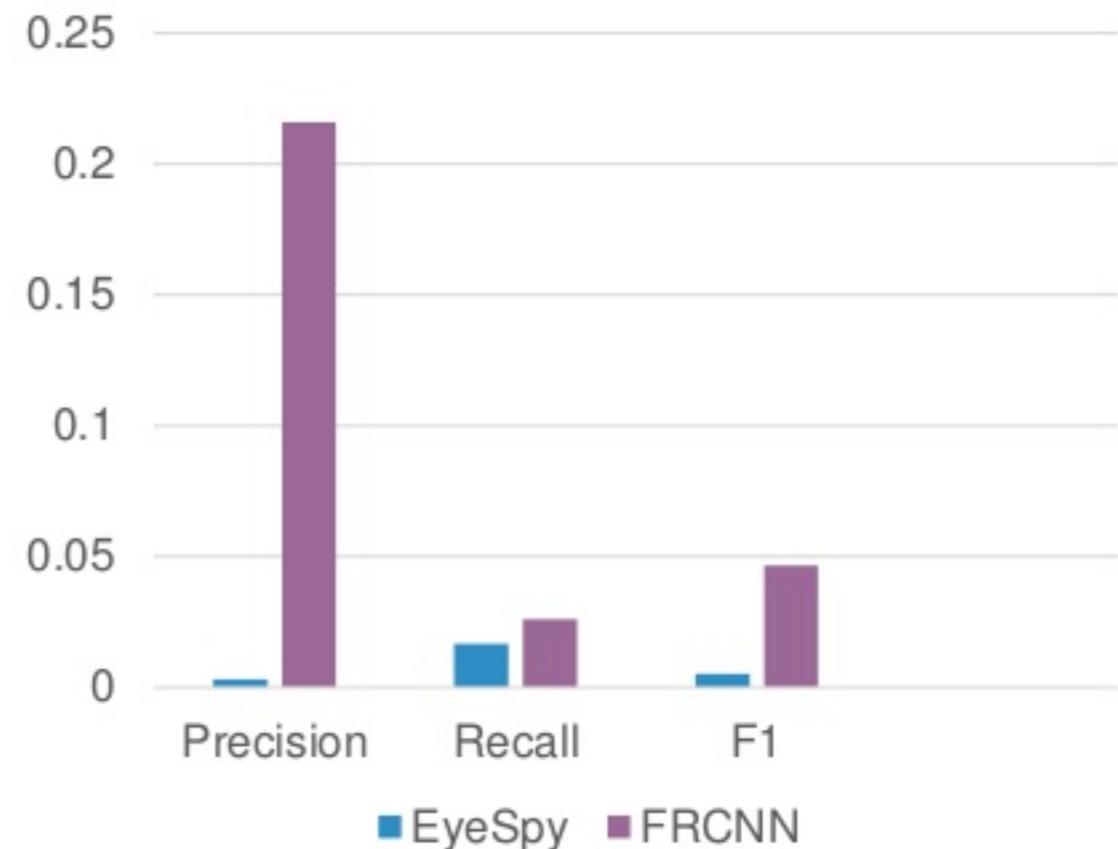


# Results

Metrics for Animal Class

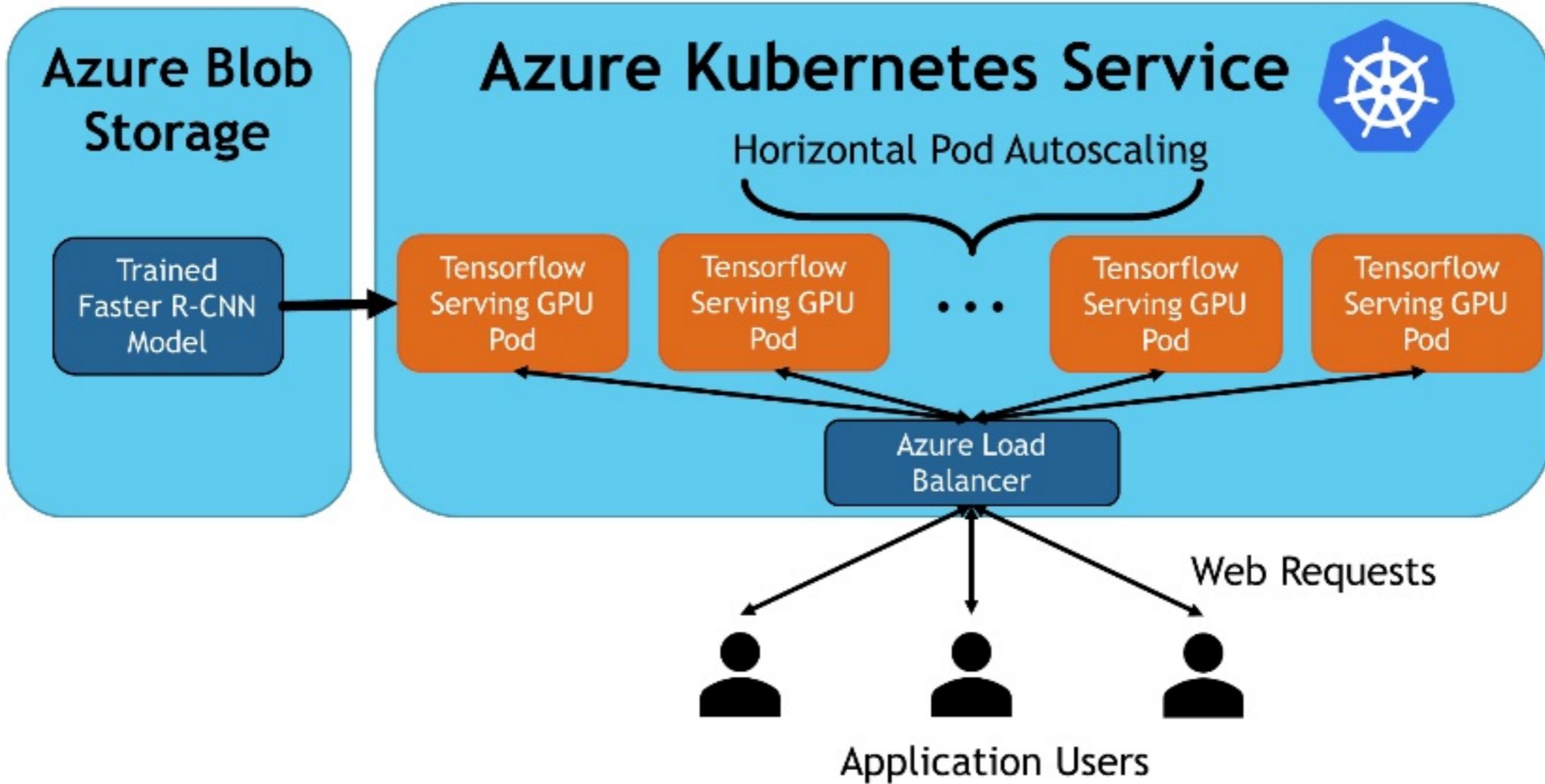


Metrics for Poacher Class



"AirSim-W: A Simulation Environment for Wildlife Conservation with UAVs" – E. Bondi et al

# Deployment of SPOT



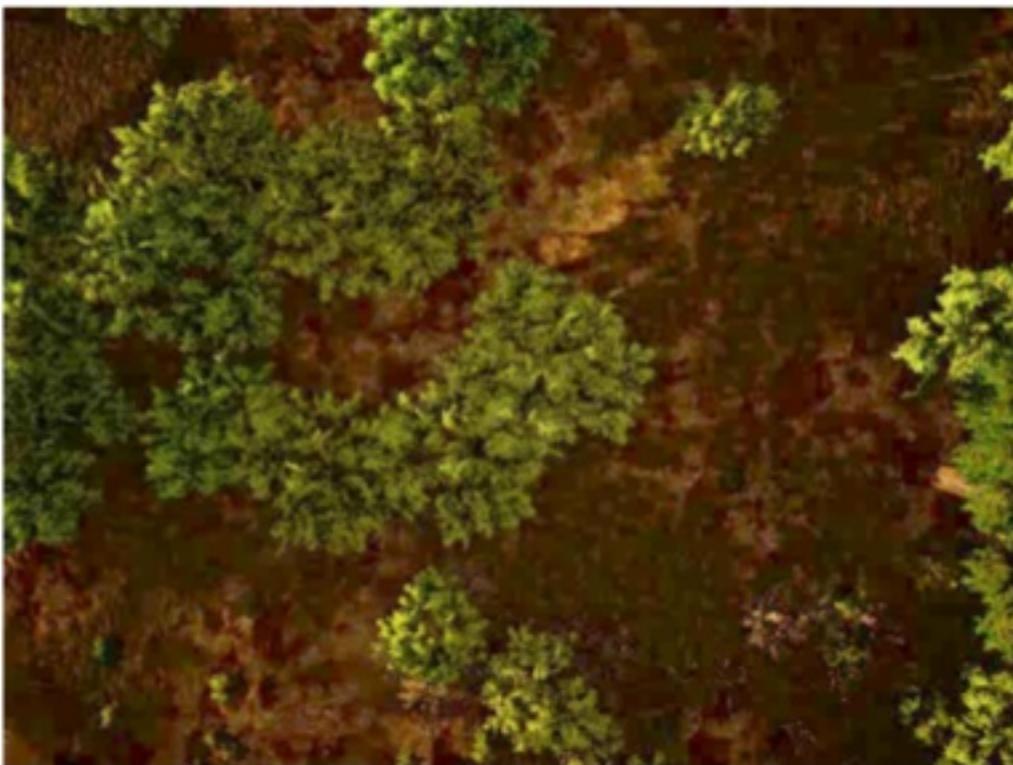
# Sidestepping Labeling Woes with AirSim

- ▶ 70 videos (~180,000 individual bounding boxes, 39,380 frames) labeled with VIOLA took **6 months**
- ▶ Goal: Bypass the need for human labelling

Shah, S., Dey, D., Lovett, C., & Kapoor, A. (2017). AirSim: High-fidelity visual and physical simulation for autonomous vehicles. In *Field and Service Robotics* (pp. 621-635). Springer, Cham.



# AirSim-W: Africa Environment



*"AirSim-W: A Simulation Environment for Wildlife Conservation with UAVs" – E. Bondi et al*

# Results

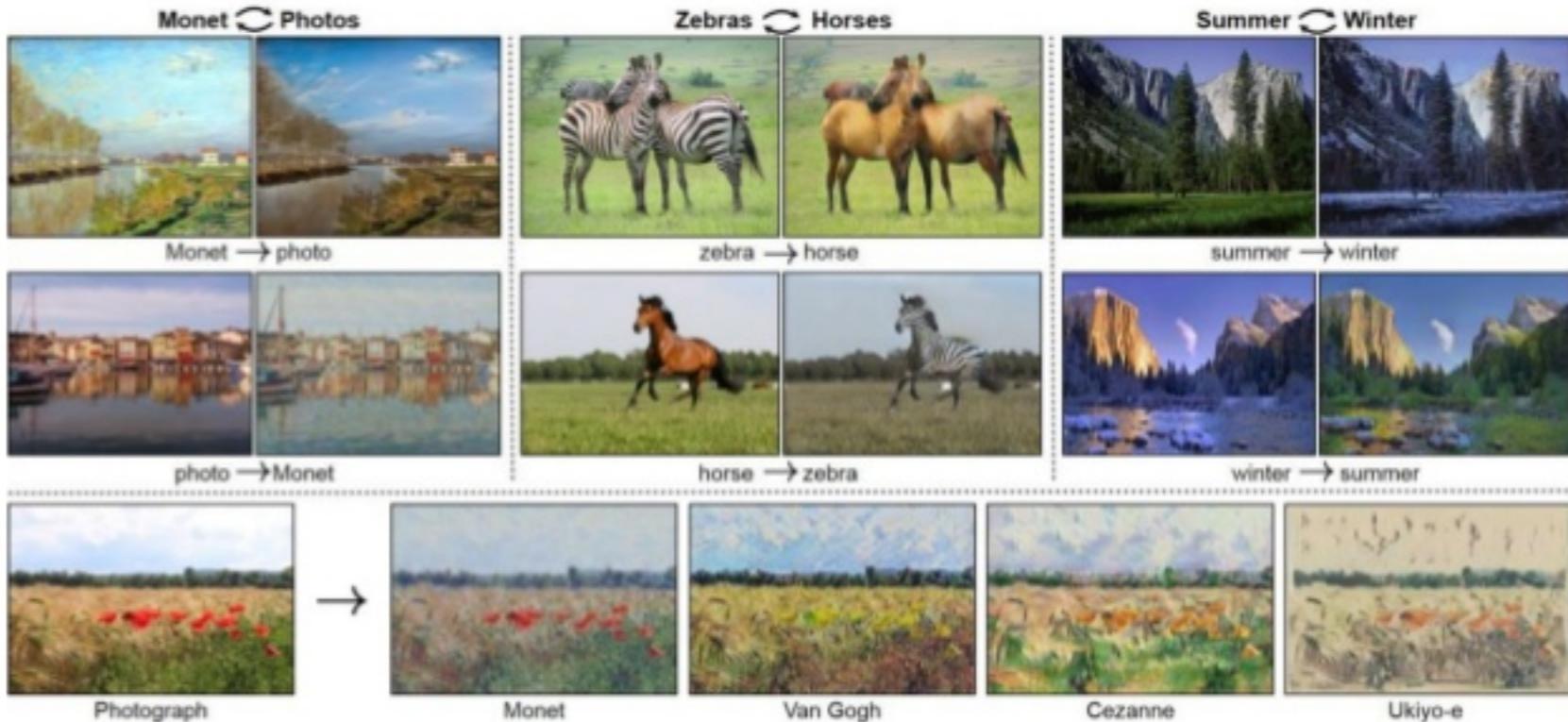
	Precision			
	EyeSpy	Only Real	Only Sim.	Sim. + Real
Animals	0.0128	<b>0.5463</b>	0.0202	0.5352
Poachers	0.0031	0.2160	0.0051	<b>0.3329</b>

	Recall			
	EyeSpy	Only Real	Only Sim.	Sim. + Real
Animals	0.0839	0.2316	0.1458	<b>0.3207</b>
Poachers	0.0167	0.0261	0.0038	<b>0.0485</b>

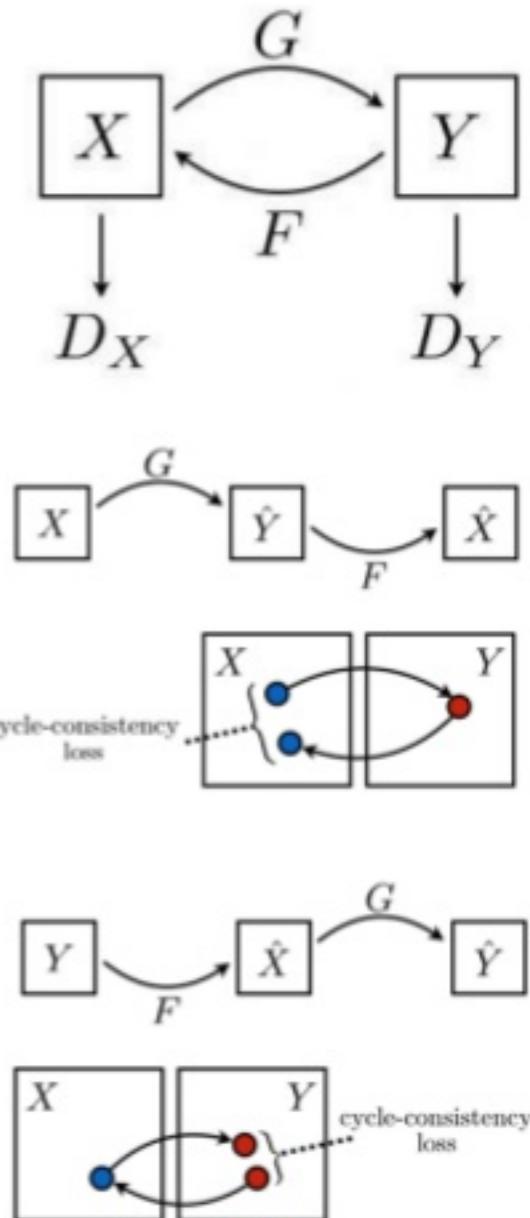
F1			
EyeSpy	Only Real	Only Sim.	Sim. + Real
0.0222	0.3253	0.0355	<b>0.4011</b>
0.0052	0.0466	0.0044	<b>0.0847</b>

"AirSim-W: A Simulation Environment for Wildlife Conservation with UAVs" – E. Bondi et al

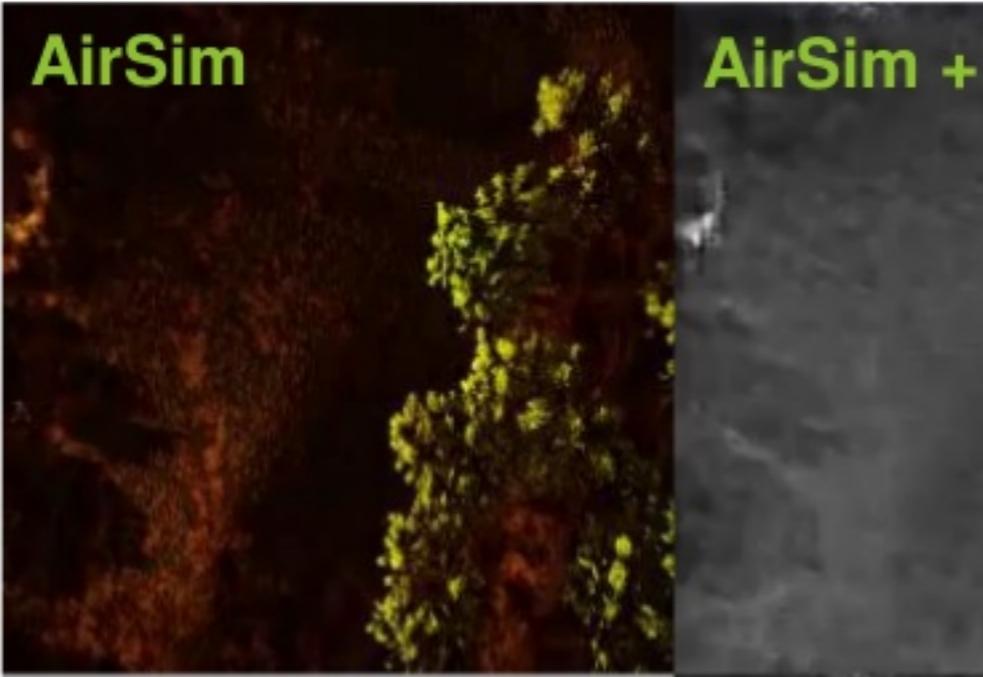
# Deep Domain Adaptation



*"Unpaired Image-to-Image Translation using Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Networks"* Jun-Yan Zhu\*, Taesung Park\*, Phillip Isola, Alexei A. Efros  
Berkeley AI Research Lab, UC Berkeley



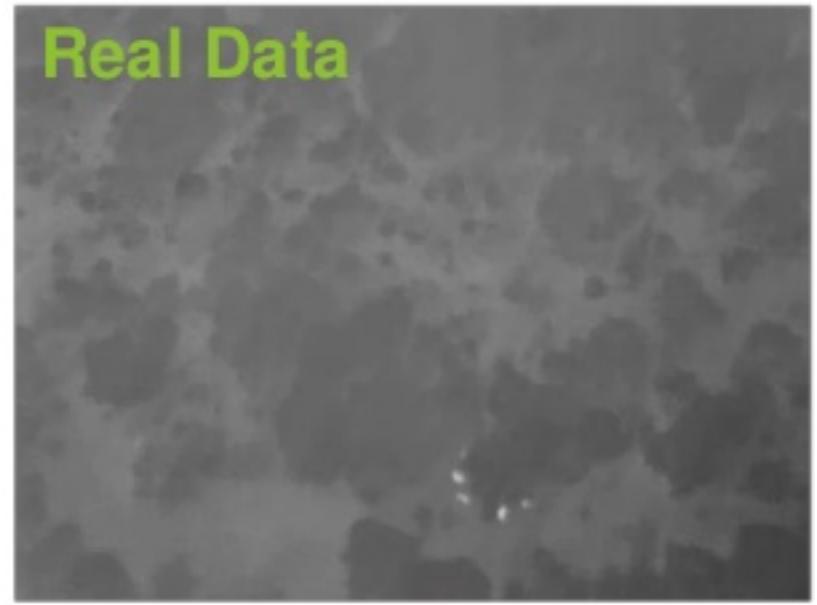
AirSim



AirSim + GAN



Real Data



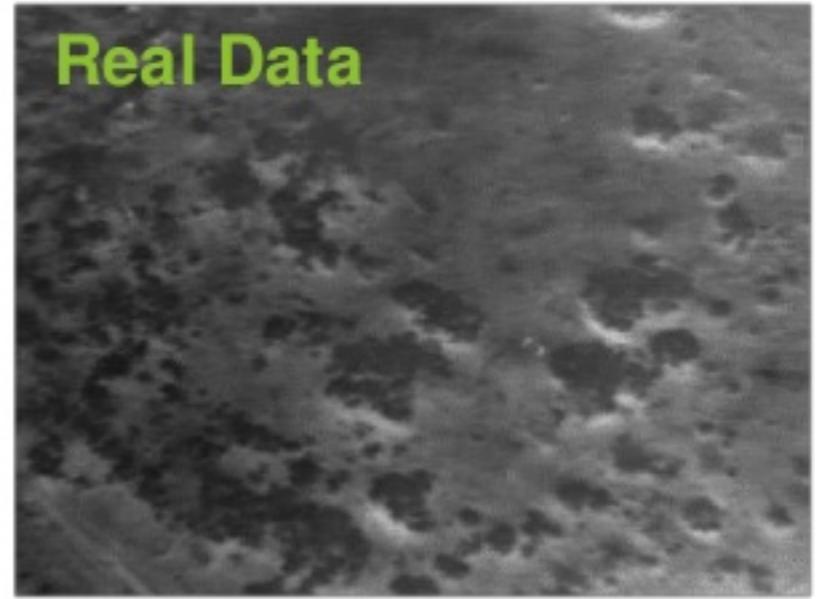
AirSim IR



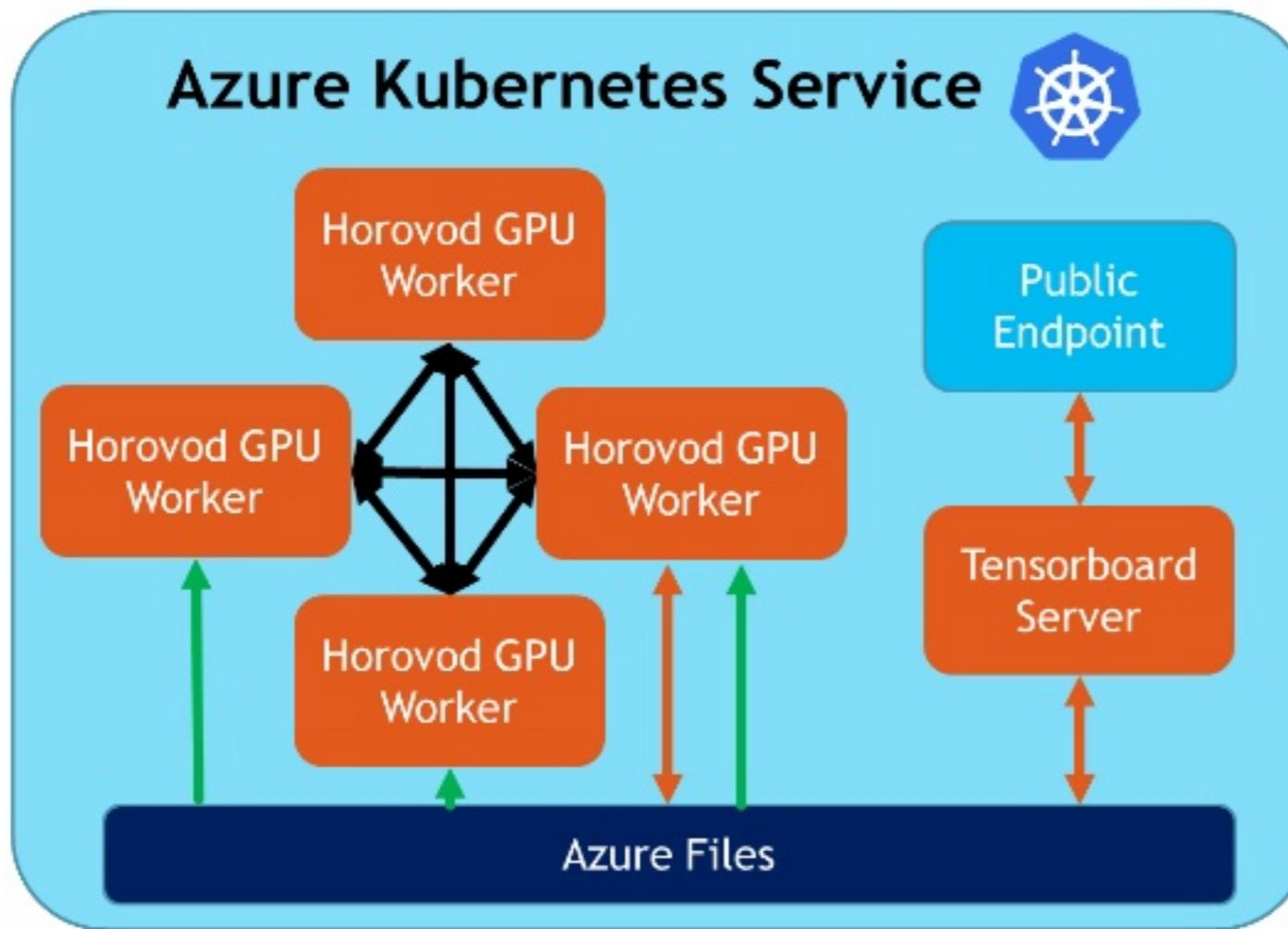
AirSim + GAN +  
Animal Highlight



Real Data



# Distributed Training Architecture



## Key

- ↔ Orange arrow: Metrics/Logs
- Green arrow: Data
- ↔ Black arrow: MPI Gradients
- Orange box: Pods
- Blue box: Endpoints/Load Balancers
- Dark Blue box: Mounted Storage

# Easy Deployment with HELM



- Helm acts as a “package manager” for Kubernetes
- Easily deploy and share recipes for complex architectures
  - Uses parameters for easy CLI configuration
- Works on any Kubernetes Cluster (AKS, ACI, On-Prem)
- Open Source “Helm Chart” Coming Soon!

```
charts/horovod$ helm install ./horovod -n cycle-gan
```

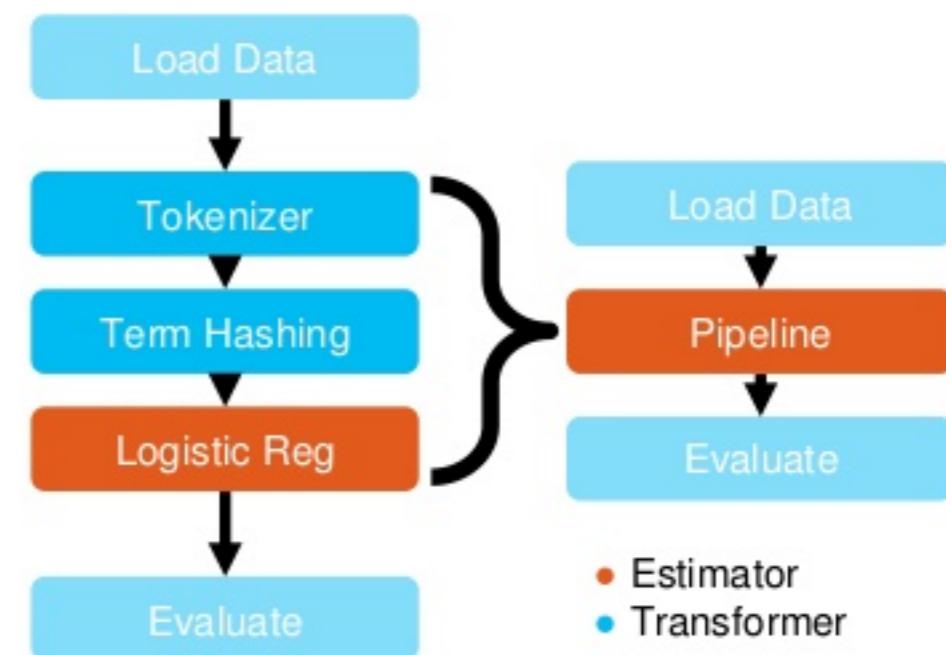
# Challenges

- No unified procedures for storing data
- Serving and training architectures fundamentally different
  - Inconsistent APIs
  - Inconsistent architectures (different base pods)
- No single point of entry to run entire workflow

# APACHE Spark™ ML

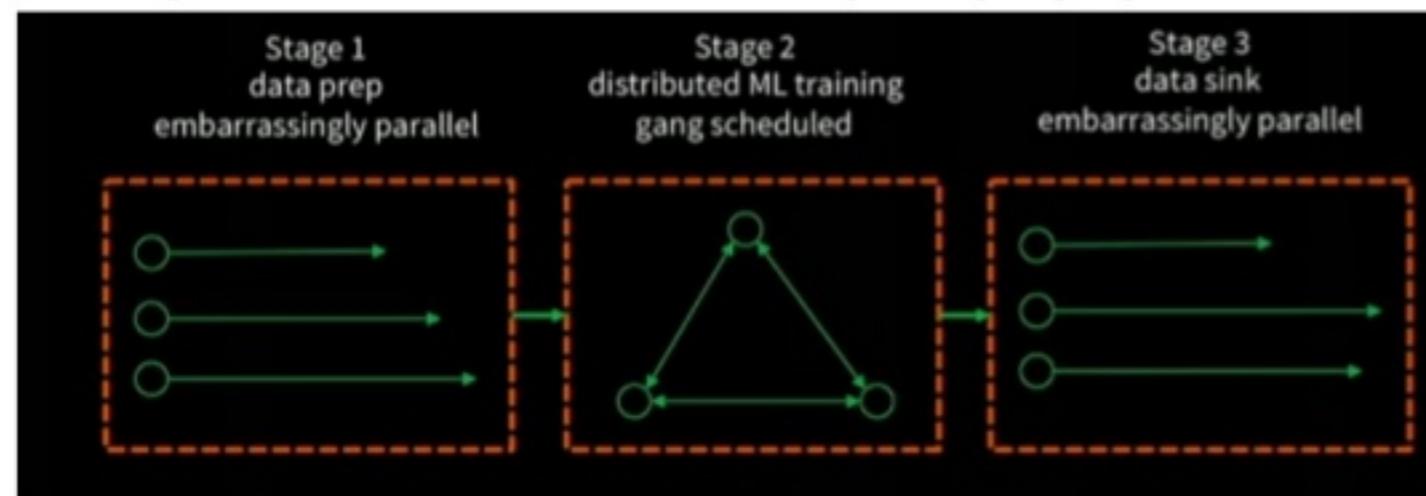
- High level library for distributed machine learning
- More general than SciKit-Learn
- All models have a uniform interface
  - Can compose models into complex pipelines
  - Can save, load, and transport models

```
data = spark.read.csv("hdfs://...")  
train, test = data.randomSplit([.5,.5])  
model = LogisticRegression().fit(train)  
predictions = model.transform(test)
```



# Horovod on Spark

- High level SparkML API for launching distributed deep learning jobs on the spark cluster
- Built on Project Hydrogen: Gang Scheduled Job
- Enables integration with data prep pipeline on Spark



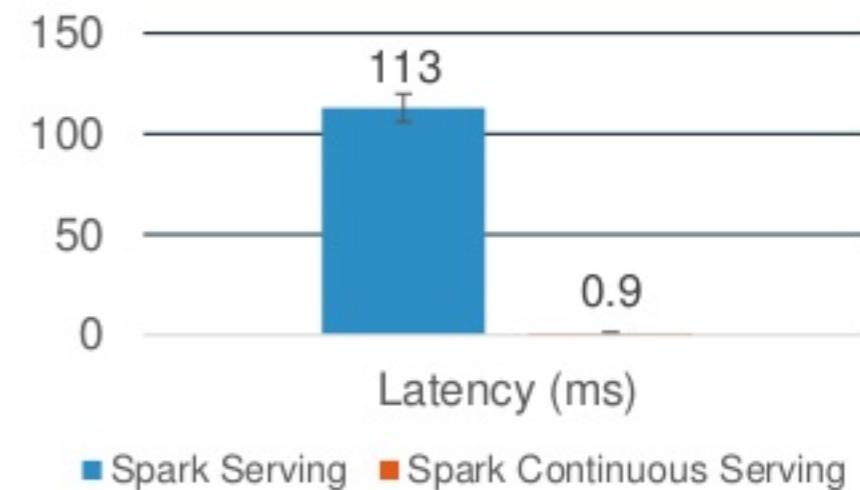
# APACHE Serving

Lightning Fast Web Services on *Any* Spark Cluster

- Sub-millisecond latencies
- Fully Distributed
- Spins up in seconds
- Same API as Batch and Streaming
- Scala, Python, R and Java
- Fully Open Source



Announcing: **100x Latency Reduction**  
with MMLSpark v0.14



[www.aka.ms/spark](http://www.aka.ms/spark)  
JIRA: SPARK-25350

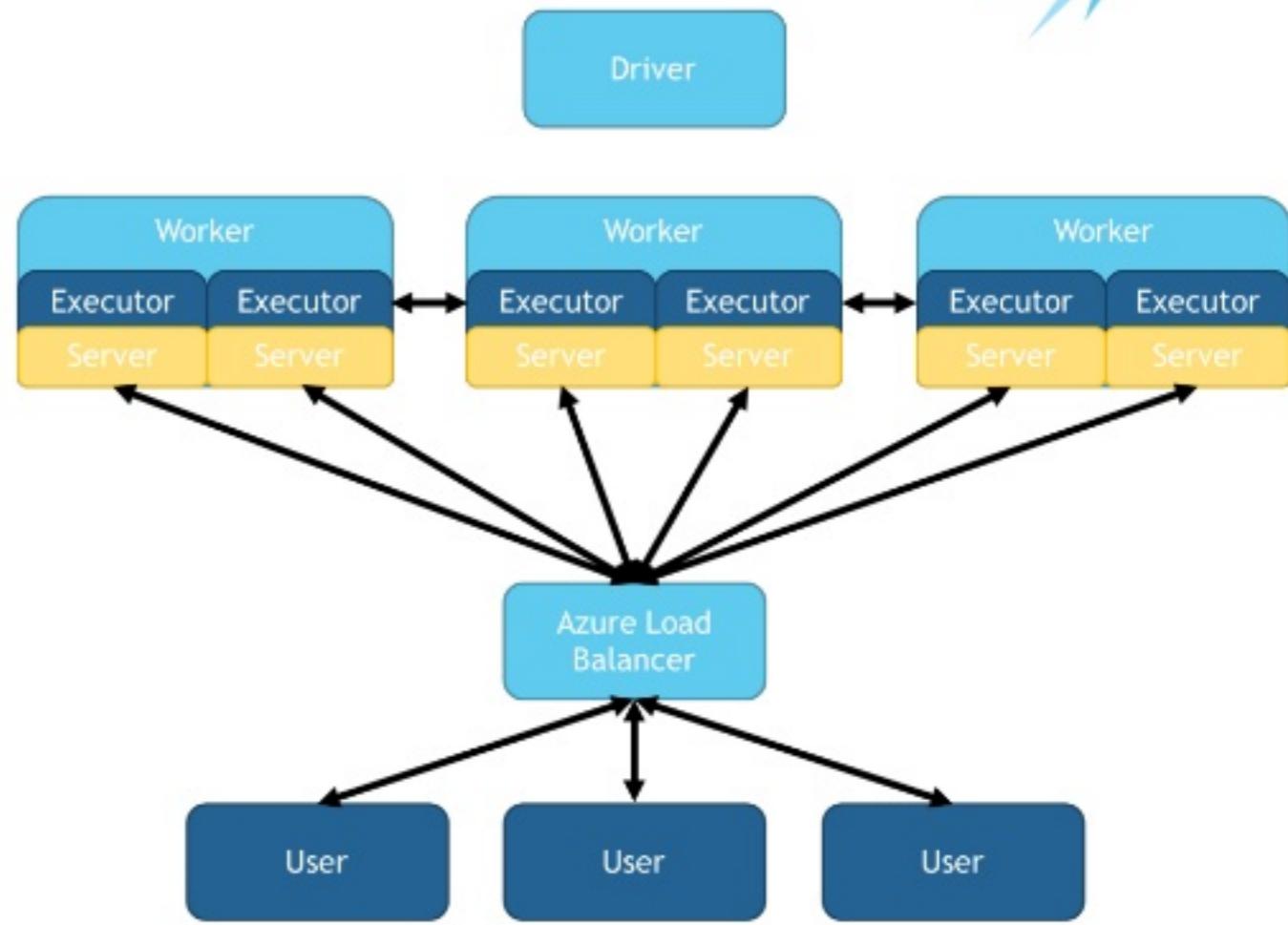
# The Spark Serving API

```
4 # Create a new "Serving" Dataframe
5 serving_df = (spark.readStream.server()
6     .address("0.0.0.0", 8889, "danger_detector").load()
7     .parseRequest(BinaryType())
8     .withColumnRenamed("bytes", "image"))
9
10 # Manipulate your dataframe using ANY Spark/SparkML operations
11 replies = fitModel.transform(serving_df).makeReply("probability")
12
13 # Write your serving dataframe to the api to reply
14 server = (replies.writeStream.server()
15     .replyTo("danger_detector")
16     .queryName("my_service")
17     .start())
```



# Spark Serving Architecture

- 3 main modes:
  - server: 1 service on the head node
  - distributedServer: 1 service per executor
  - continuousServer: 1 service per partition
- Built on top of Spark Streaming
- Each worker keeps a running service, and a routing table
- Use HTTP on Spark objects to represent requests and responses in Spark SQL



# Ideal Architecture



Azure Kubernetes Service or Azure Databricks



Preprocess  
Image Data  
with OpenCV  
on Spark

Train the  
CycleGAN  
with Horovod  
on Spark

Train  
FasterRCNN  
with Horovod  
on Spark

Deploy  
FasterRCNN  
as a Web  
Service with  
Spark Serving

# In Conclusion

- Big Releases in MMLSpark v0.14:
  - Sub-Millisecond latency distributed web services
  - 2 more large announcements in our next Session!
    - [Semi-Supervised Object Detection Using the Azure Cognitive Services on Spark:](#)  
Oct 3, 14:00
- We aim to give all work back to the community!
- Easy to Get Started on Databricks:
  - 16 Jupiter notebook guide



[www.aka.ms/spark](http://www.aka.ms/spark)

Contributions Welcome!  
[github.com/Azure/mmlspark](https://github.com/Azure/mmlspark)

# Thanks to

- You all!
- MMLSpark Team: Sudarshan Raghunathan, Ilya Matiach, Eli Barzilay, Tong Wen, Ben Brodsky
- Microsoft AI Development Acceleration Program: Abhiram Eswaran, Ari Green, Courtney Cochrane, Janhavi Suresh Mahajan, Karthik Rajendran, Minsoo Thigpen, Casey Hong, Soundar Srinivasan
- University of Southern California: Elizabeth Bondi, Millind Timbe
- Microsoft: Joseph Sirosh, Lucas Joppa, WeeHyong Tok

MMLSpark Website: [aka.ms/spark](http://aka.ms/spark)

Get in touch: [marhamil@microsoft.com](mailto:marhamil@microsoft.com)

# Using LIME to generate bounding boxes

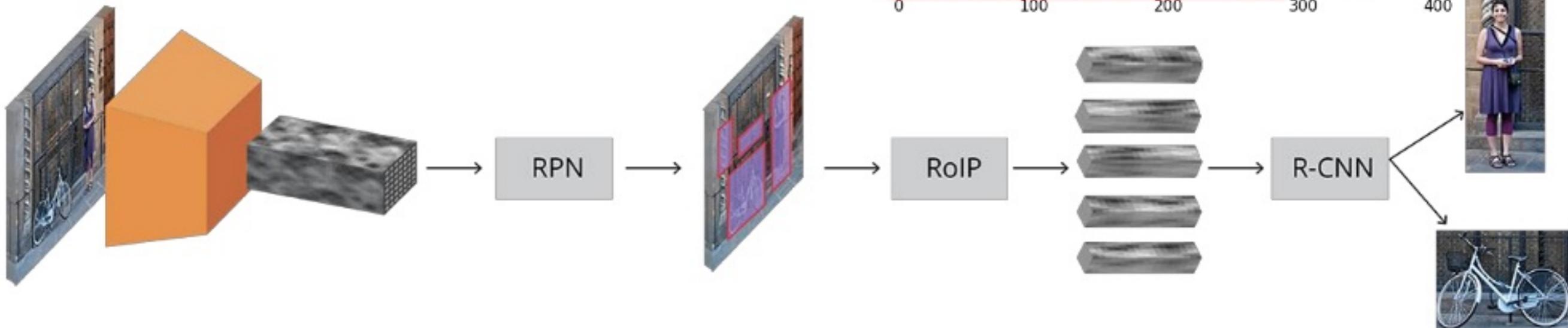
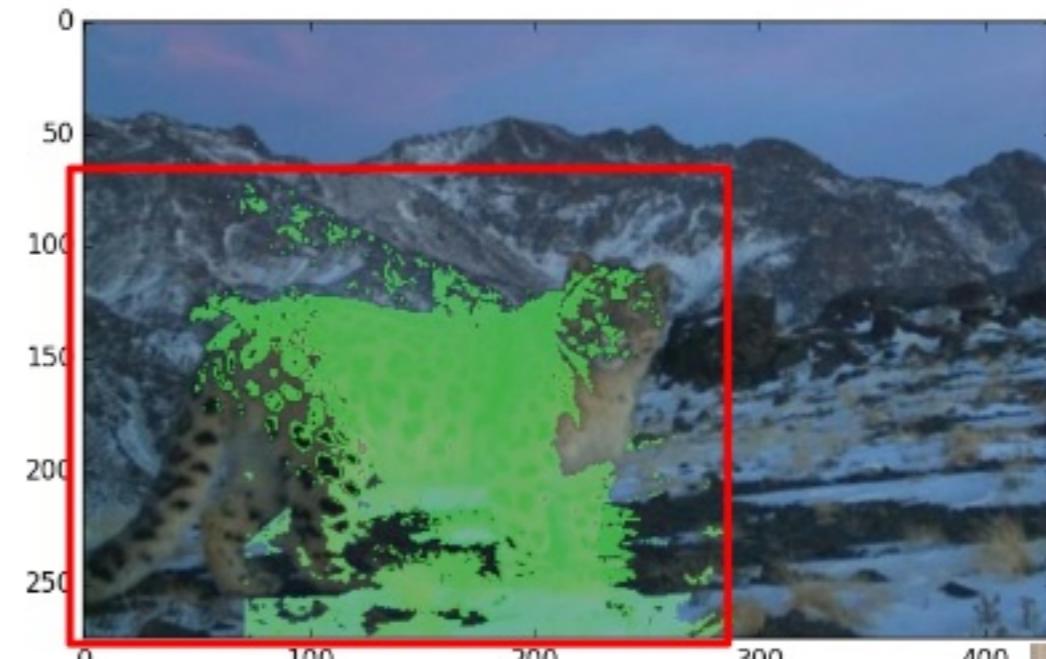


# Transferring LIME's Knowledge to FasterRCNN

$mask = \text{union}(\text{superpixels} \mid \text{top } 70\% \text{ of weights})$

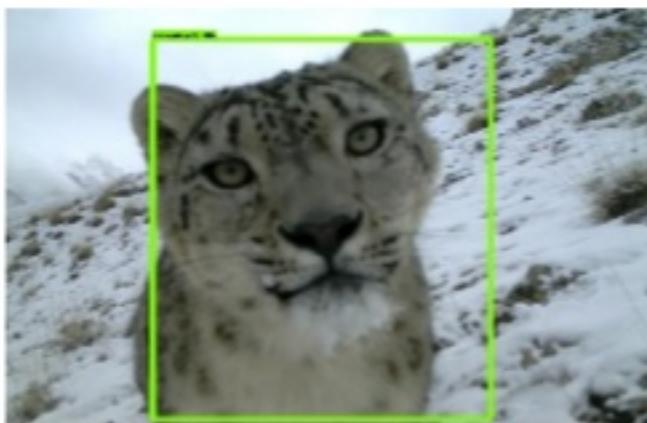
$x_1, y_1 = \min(mask_x), \min(mask_y)$

$x_2, y_2 = \max(mask_x), \max(mask_y)$

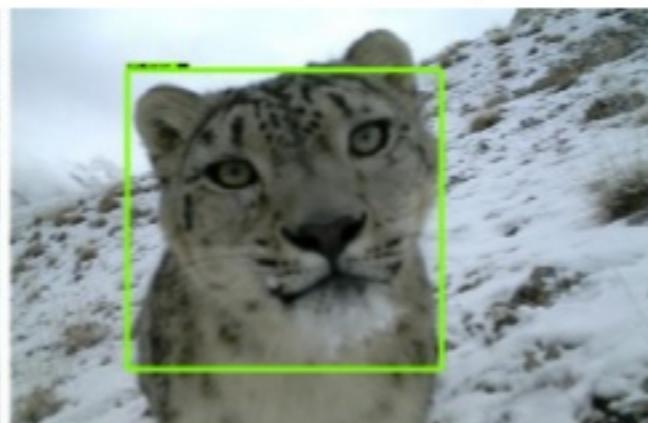


# Results

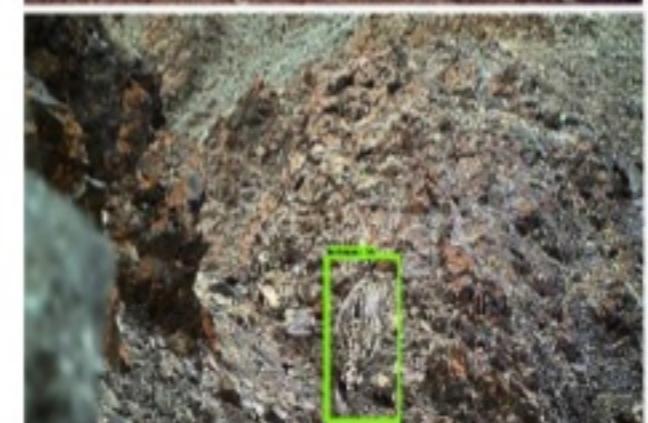
Human Labels



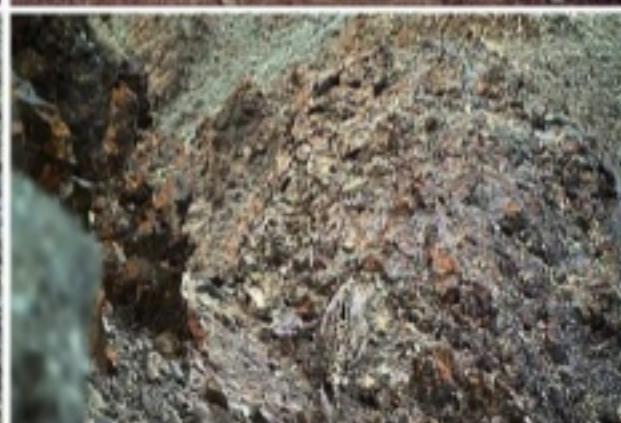
Unsupervised  
FRCNN Outputs

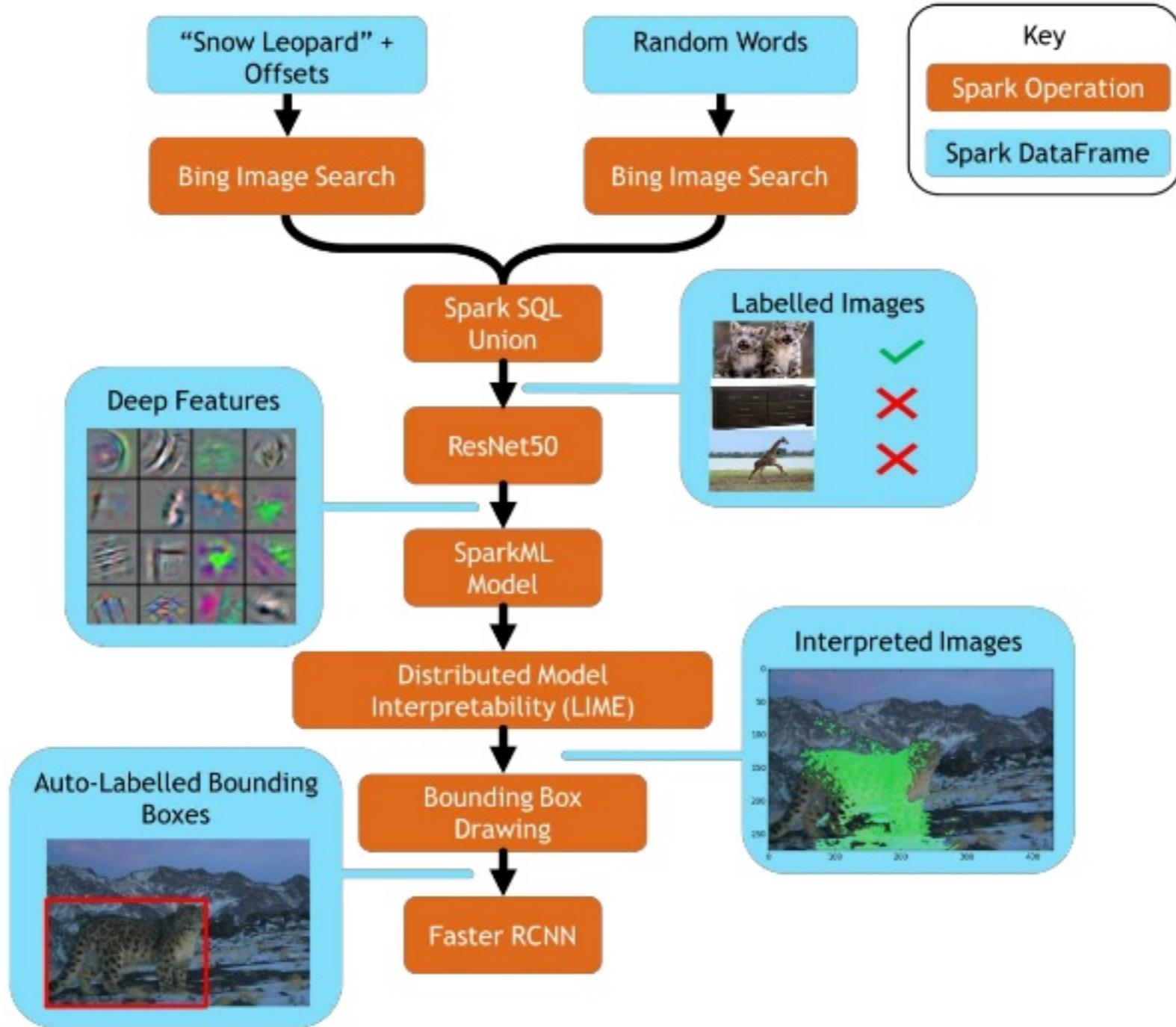


Human Labels

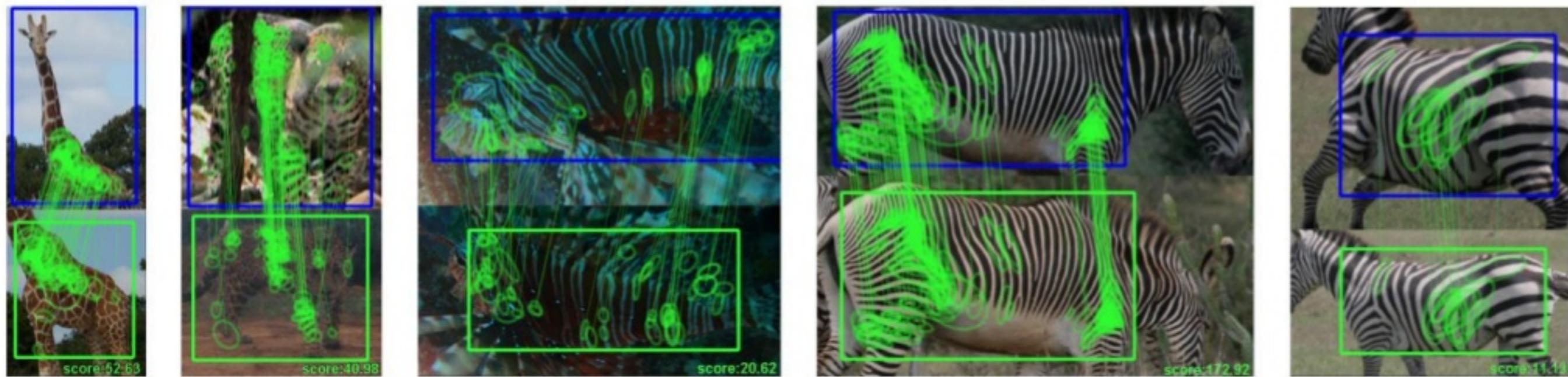


Unsupervised  
FRCNN Outputs





# Next Steps: Hotspotter



Source: HotSpotter - Patterned Species Instance Recognition

# In Conclusion

- Big Releases in v0.14:
  - **Cognitive Services on Spark**
  - **Sub-Millisecond latency distributed web services**
  - **Distributed Model Interpretability**
- Easy batch, streaming apps, PowerBI dashboards, or RESTful web services
- We aim to give all work back to the community!
- Easy to Get Started on Databricks:
  - 16 Jupiter notebook guide



MMLSpark v0.14

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