

Recognizing and Learning Object Categories

Li Fei-Fei, Stanford

Rob Fergus, NYU

Antonio Torralba, MIT

Outline

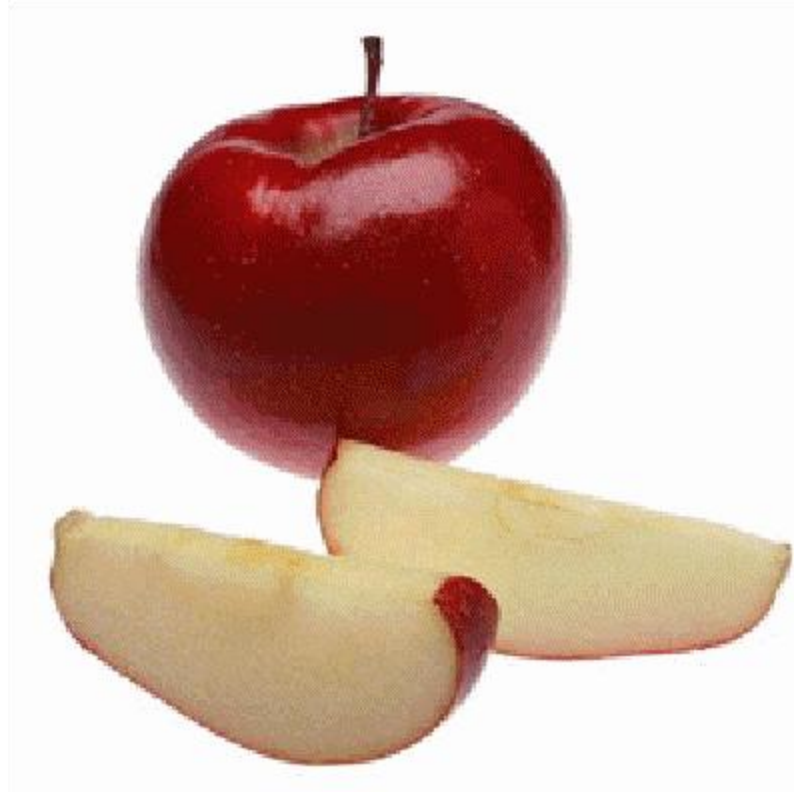
2. Single object categories

- Bag of words
- Part-based
- Discriminative
- Detecting single objects in contexts
- 3D object classes

3. Multiple object categories

- Recognizing a large number of objects
- Recognizing multiple objects in an image
- Objects and annotations

4. Object-related datasets and challenges



ob·ject   [Pronunciation Key](#) (ŏb'jĕkt, -jĕkt')
n.

perceptible

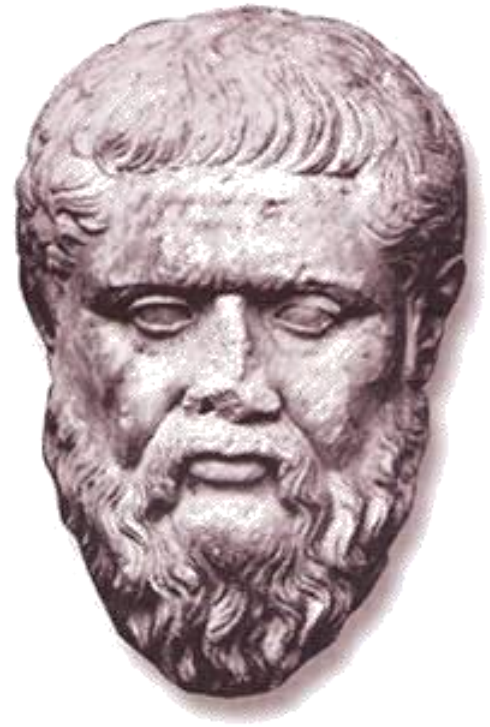
vision

**material
thing**

1. Something that can be perceived by one or more of the senses, especially sight or touch; a perceptible object.
2. A focus of attention, thought, or action: *an object of contemplation*.
3. The purpose or goal of a specific action or effort: *the object of the game*.
4. Grammar.
 - a. A noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that receives or is affected by the action of a verb within a sentence.
 - b. A noun or substantive governed by a preposition.
5. Philosophy. Something intelligible or perceptible by the mind.
6. Computer Science. A discrete item that can be selected and maneuvered, such as an onscreen graphic. In object-oriented programming, objects include data and the procedures necessary to operate on that data.

Plato said...

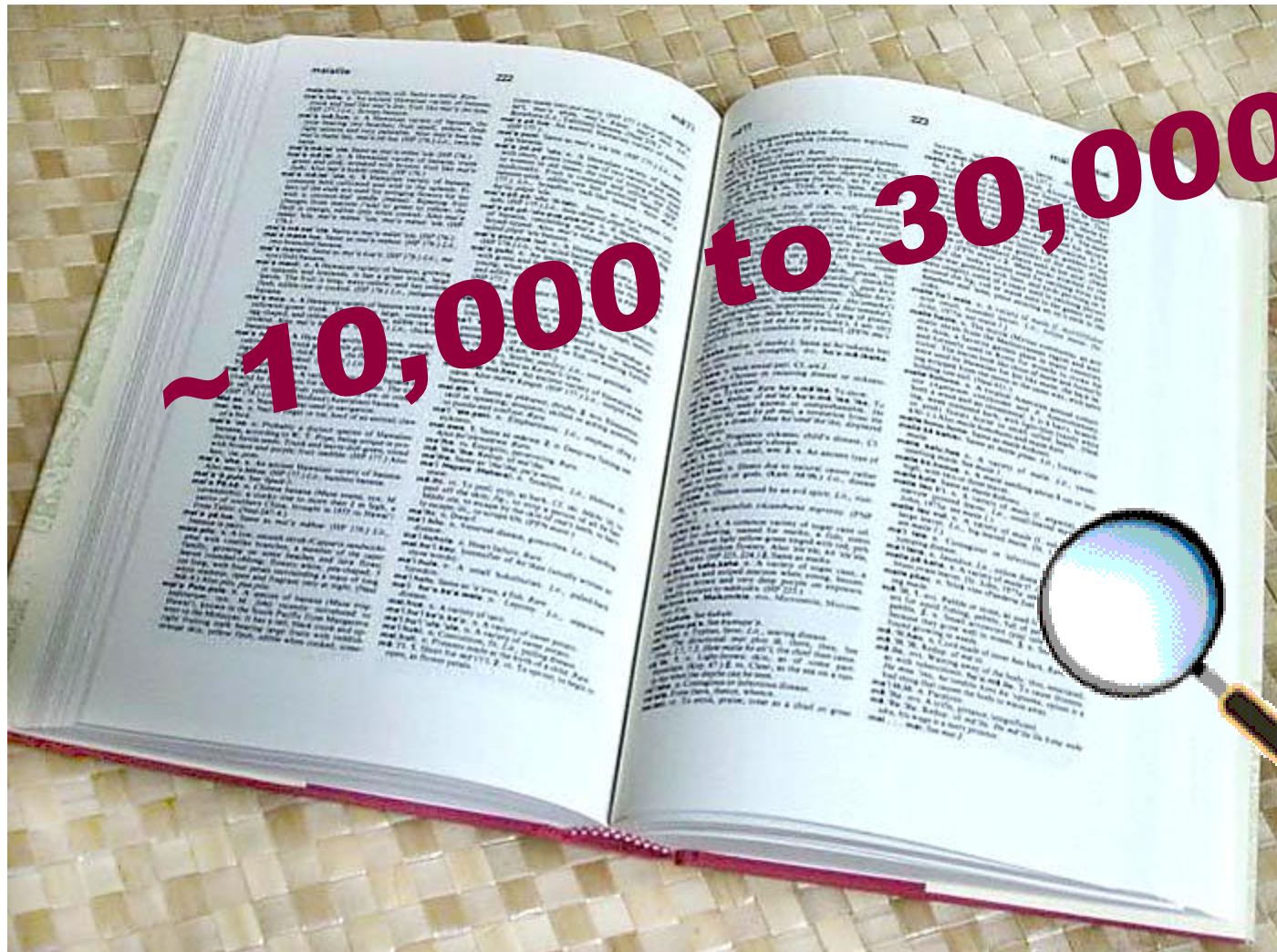
- Ordinary objects are classified together if they 'participate' in the same abstract Form, such as the Form of a Human or the Form of Quartz.
- Forms are proper subjects of philosophical investigation, for they have the highest degree of reality.
- Ordinary objects, such as humans, trees, and stones, have a lower degree of reality than the Forms.
- Fictions, shadows, and the like have a still lower degree of reality than ordinary objects and so are not proper subjects of philosophical enquiry.





Bruegel, 1564

How many object categories are there?



Why do we care about recognition?

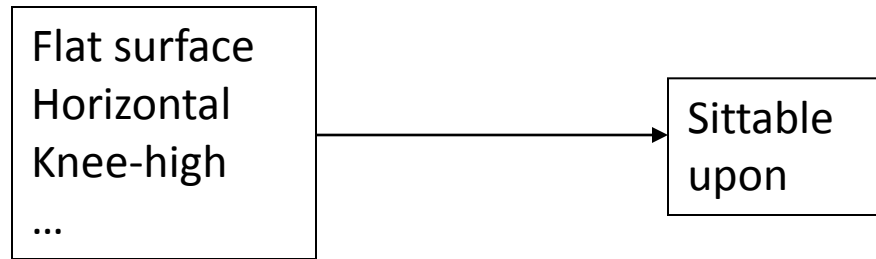
Perception of function: We can perceive the 3D shape, texture, material properties, without knowing about objects. **But, the concept of category encapsulates also information about what can we do with those objects.**



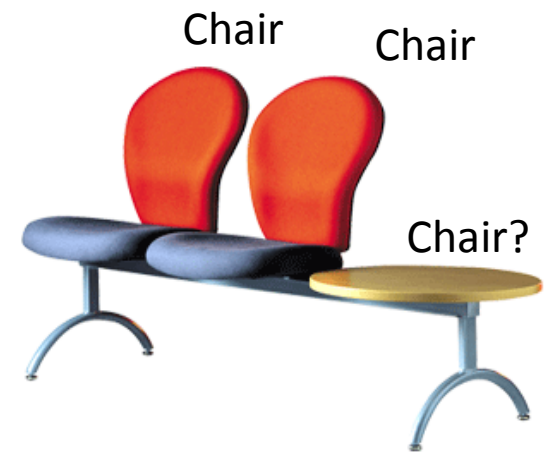
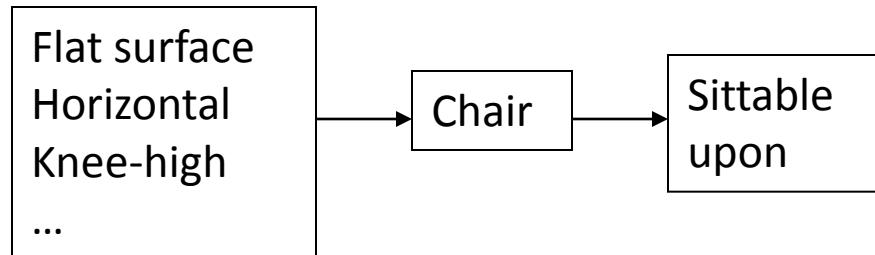
“We therefore include the perception of function as a proper –indeed, crucial- subject for vision science”, from *Vision Science*, chapter 9, Palmer.

The perception of function

- Direct perception (affordances): Gibson



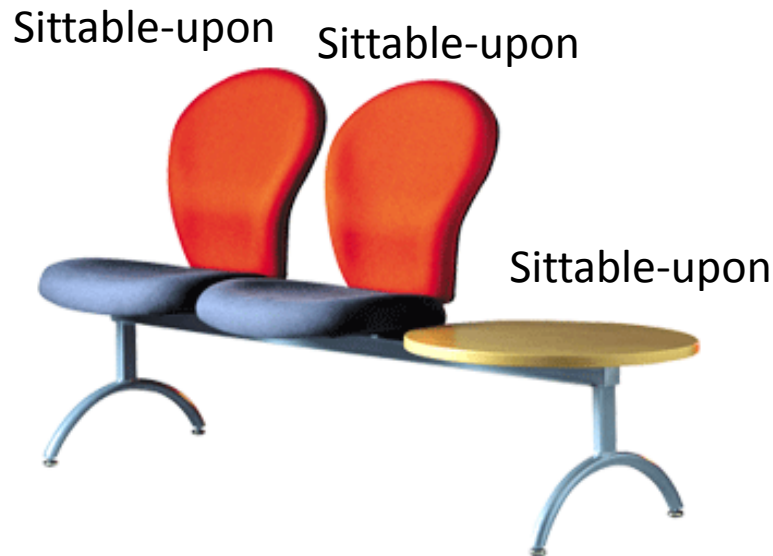
- Mediated perception (Categorization)



Direct perception

Some aspects of an object function can be perceived directly

- Functional form: Some forms clearly indicate to a function (“sittable-upon”, container, cutting device, ...)



It does not seem easy to sit-upon this...



Direct perception

Some aspects of an object function can be perceived directly

- Observer relativity: Function is observer dependent



Limitations of Direct Perception

Objects of similar structure might have very different functions



Figure 9.1.2 Objects with similar structure but different functions. Mailboxes afford letter mailing, whereas trash cans do not, even though they have many similar physical features, such as size, location, and presence of an opening large enough to insert letters and medium-sized packages.



Not all functions seem to be available from direct visual information only.

The functions are the same at some level of description: we can put things inside in both and somebody will come later to empty them. However, we are not expected to put inside the same kinds of things...

How do we achieve Mediated perception?

Well... this requires object recognition (for more details, see entire course)

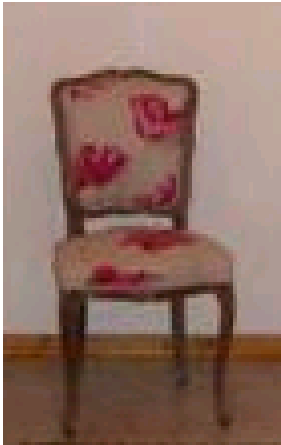
Object recognition

Is it really so hard?

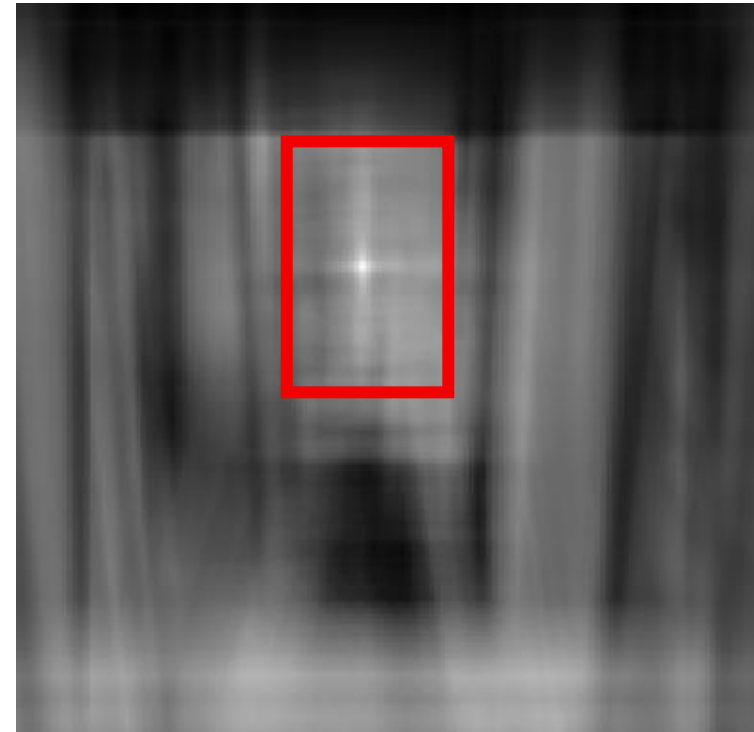
Find the chair in this image

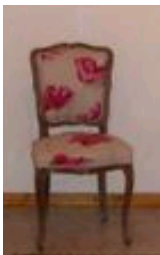


This is a chair



Output of normalized correlation

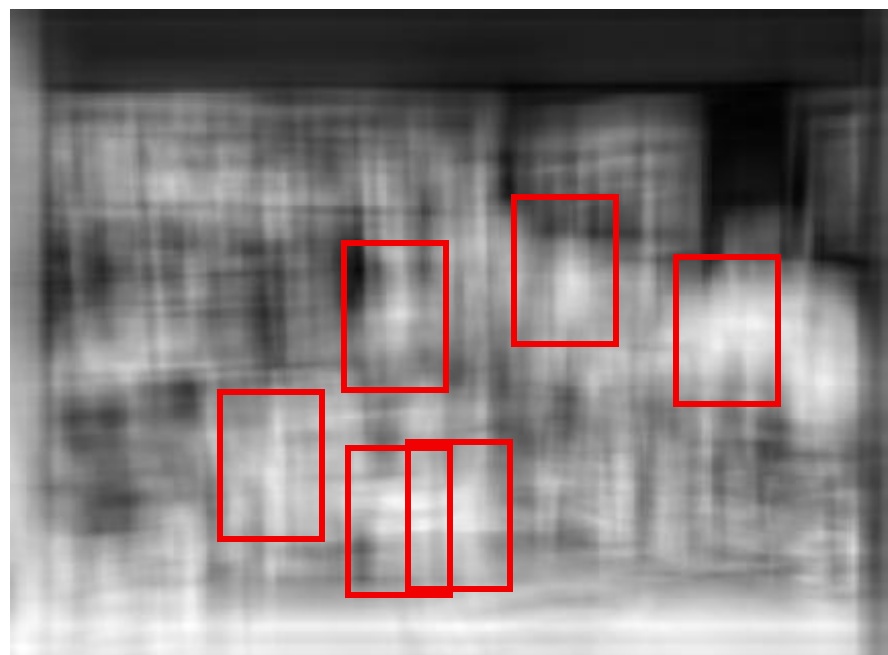
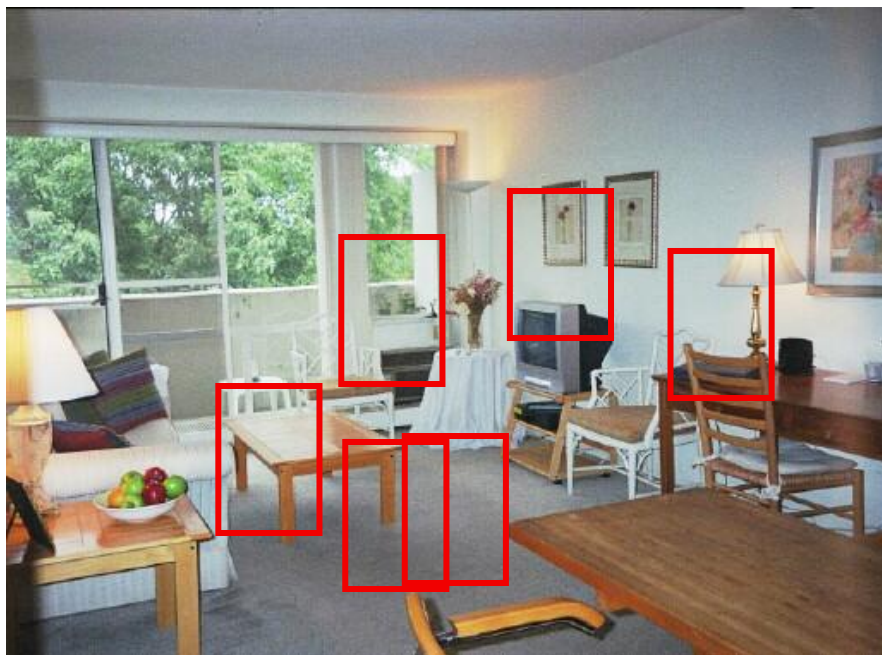




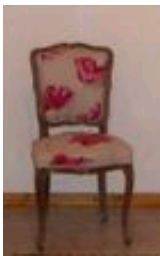
Object recognition

Is it really so hard?

Find the chair in this image



Pretty much garbage
Simple template matching is not going to make it



Object recognition

Is it really so hard?

Find the chair in this image



A “popular method is that of template matching, by point to point correlation of a model pattern with the image pattern. These techniques are inadequate for three-dimensional scene analysis for many reasons, such as occlusion, changes in viewing angle, and articulation of parts.” Nivatia & Binford, 1977.

And it can get a lot harder



Brady, M. J., & Kersten, D. (2003). Bootstrapped learning of novel objects. *J Vis*, 3(6), 413-422

So what does object recognition involve?



Verification: is that a lamp?



Detection: are there people?



Identification: is that Potala Palace?



Object categorization



mountain

tree

building

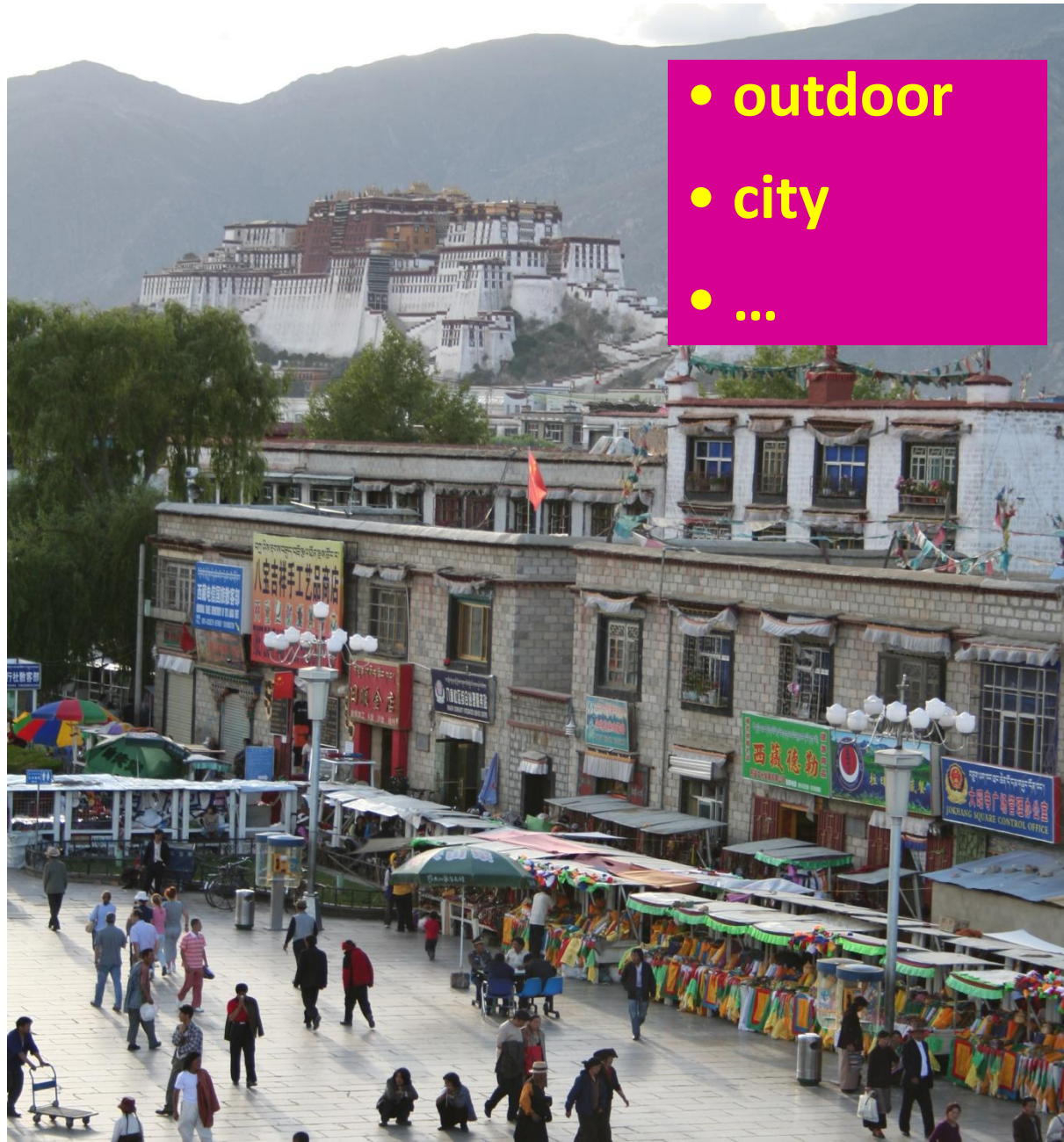
banner

street lamp

vendor

people

Scene and context categorization



- outdoor

- city

- ...

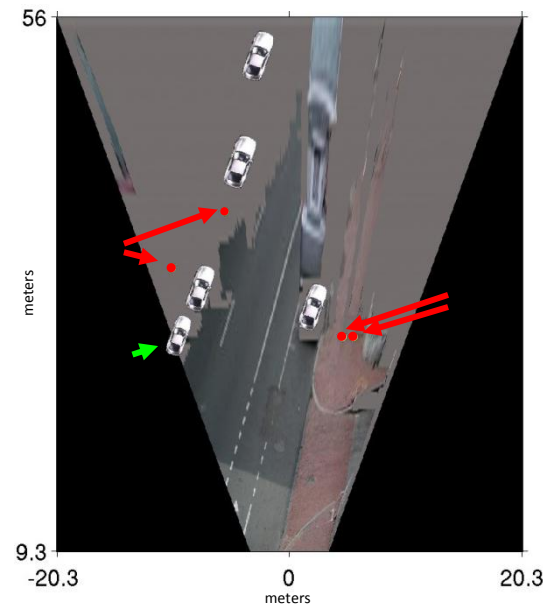
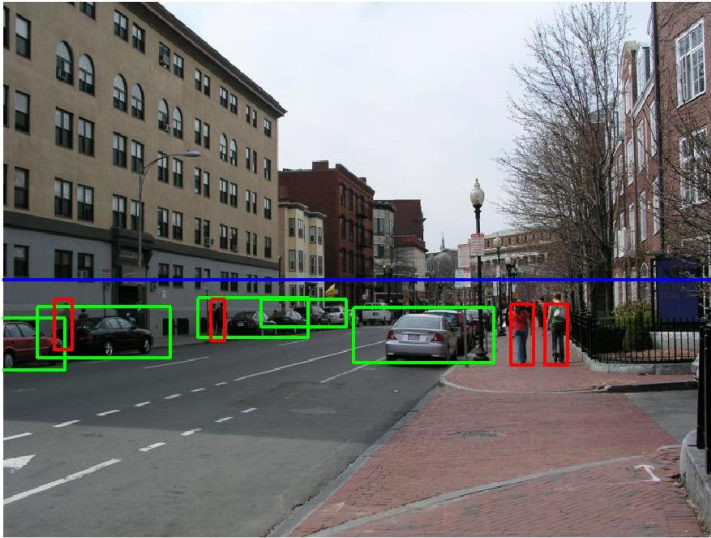
Computational photography



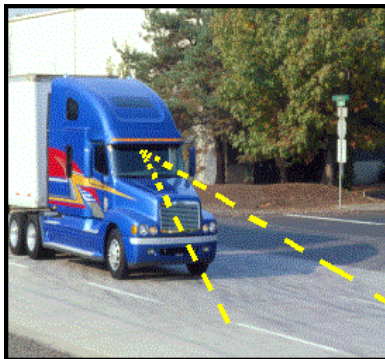
[Face priority AE] When a bright part of the face is too bright

Assisted driving

Pedestrian and car detection



Lane detection

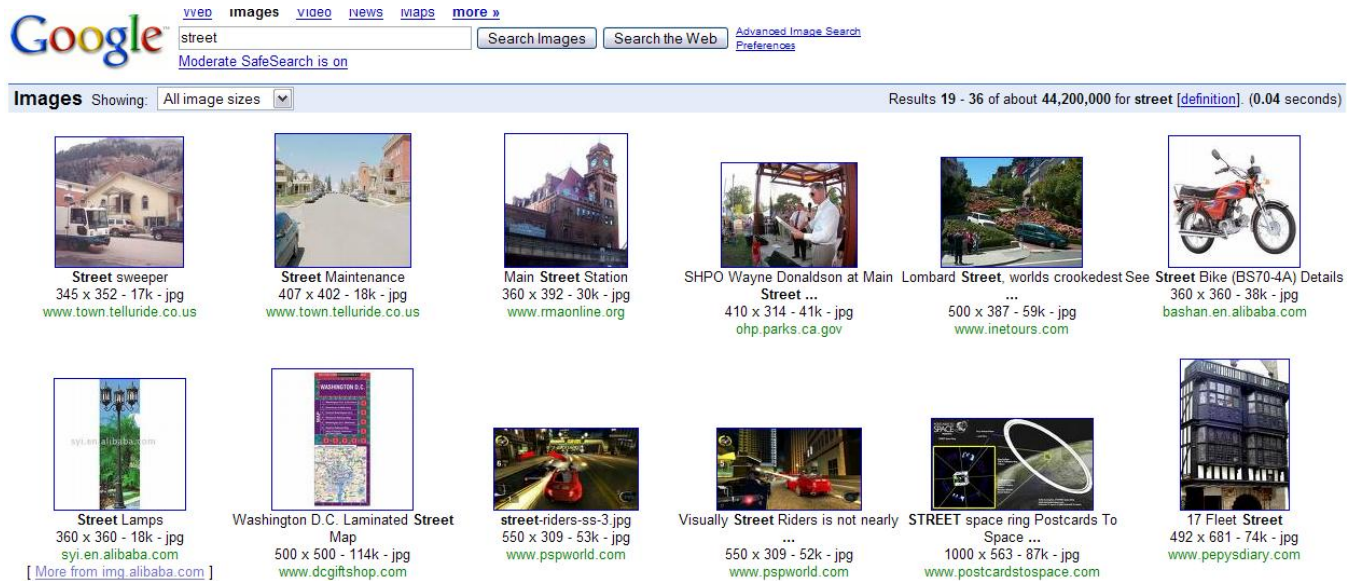


- Collision warning systems with adaptive cruise control,
- Lane departure warning systems,
- Rear object detection systems,

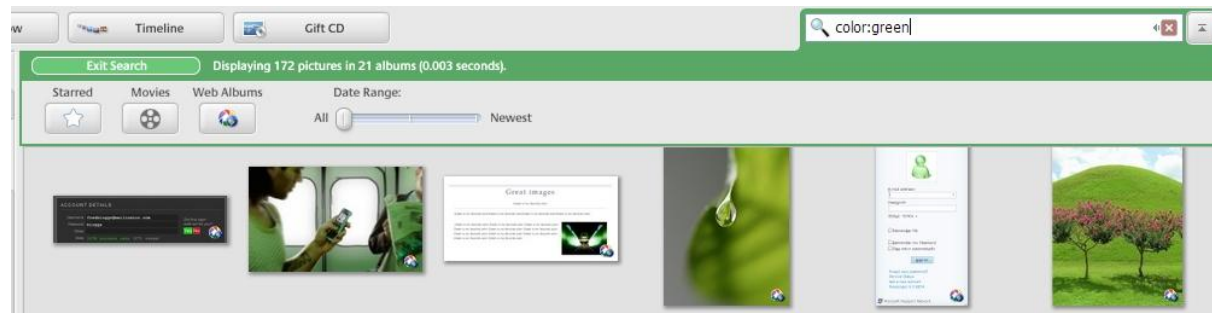
Improving online search



Query:
STREET



Organizing photo collections



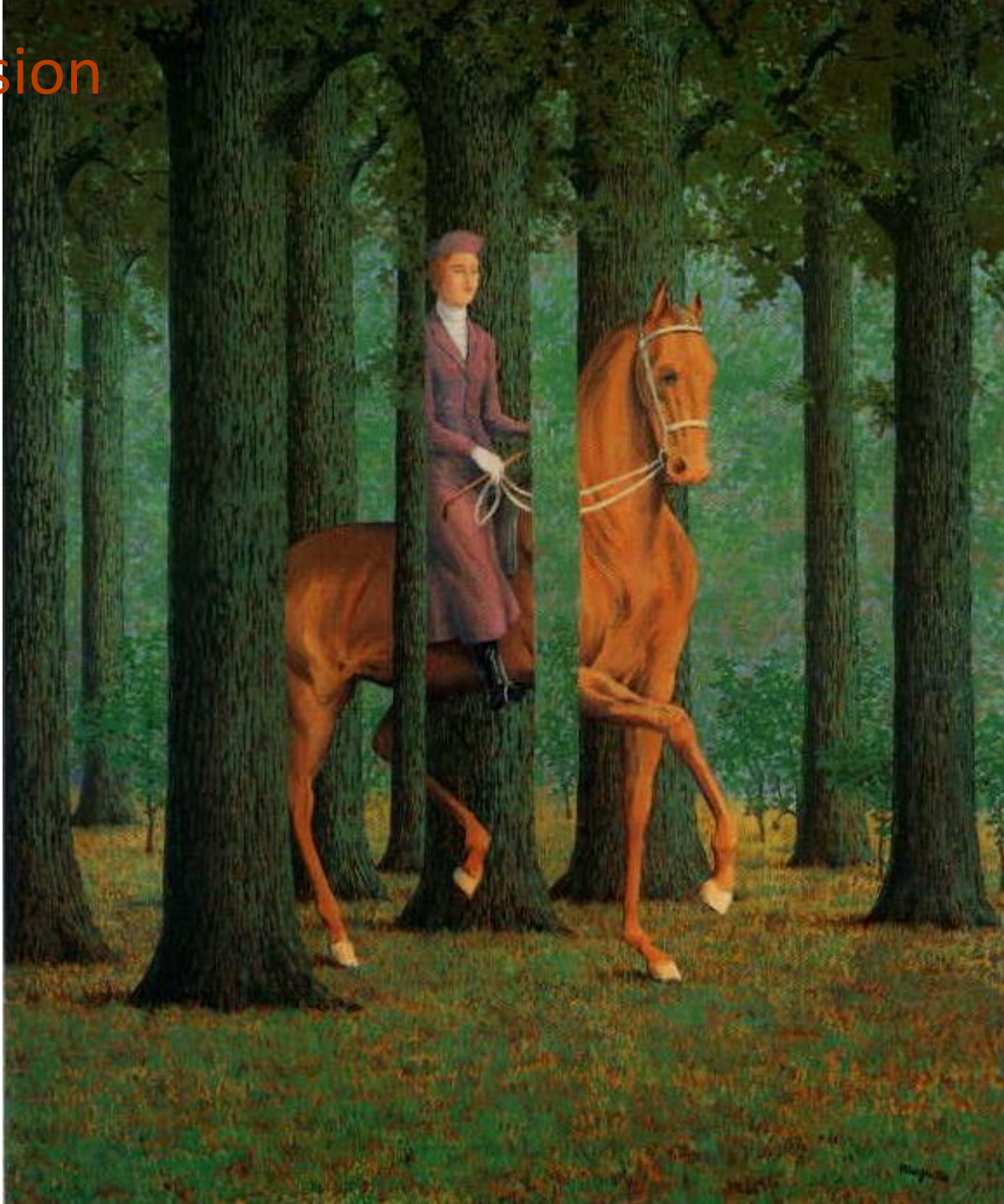
Challenges 1: view point variation



Challenges 2: illumination



Challenges 3: occlusion

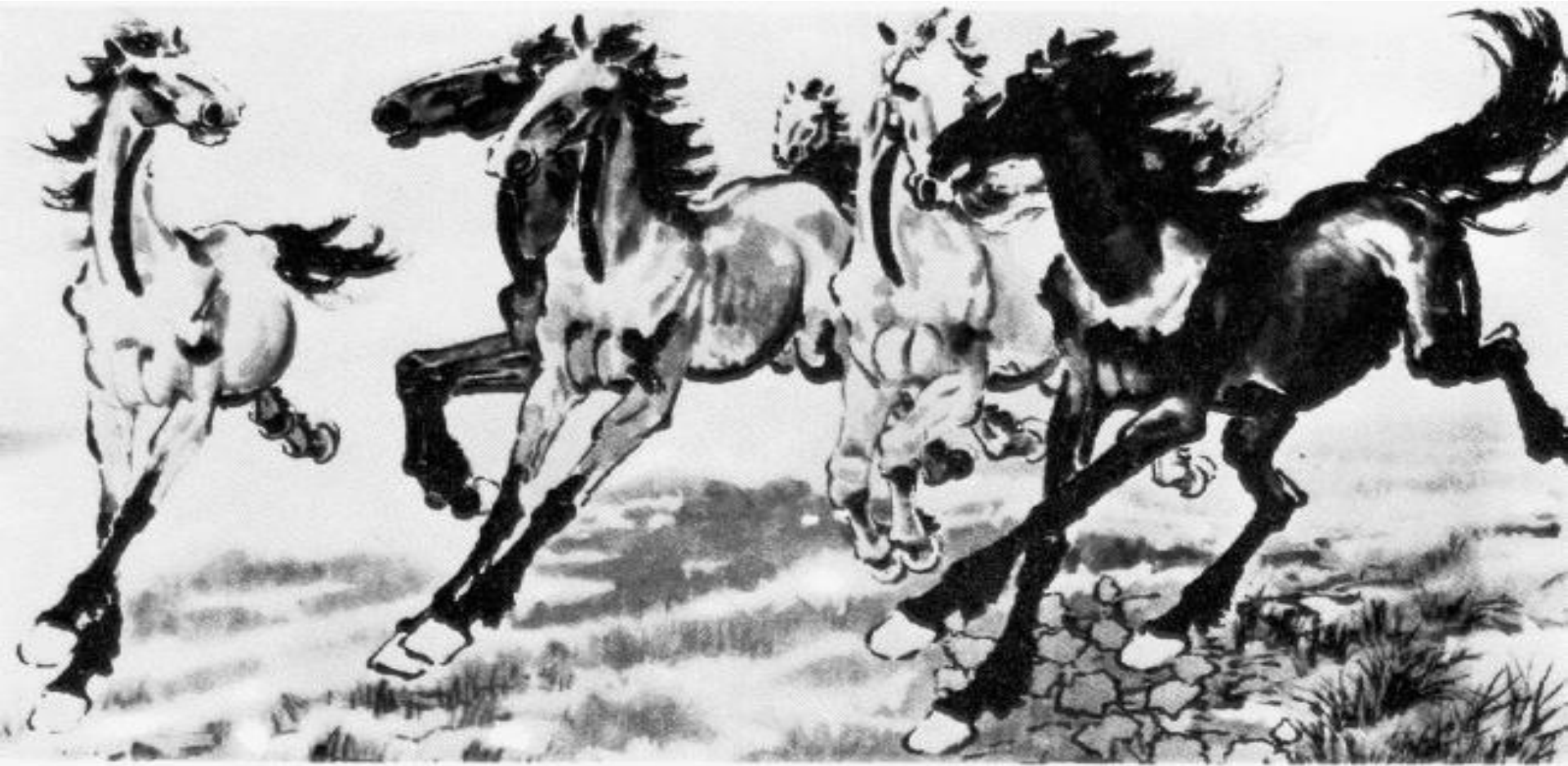


Magritte, 1957

Challenges 4: scale



Challenges 5: deformation



Xu, Beihong 1943

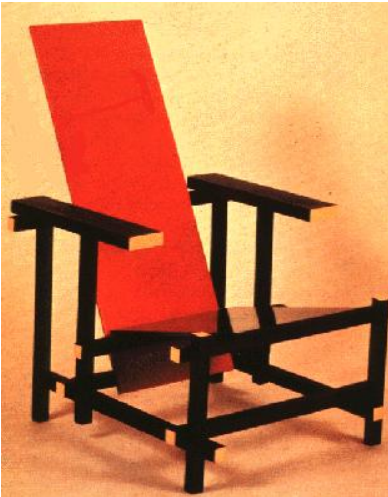
Challenges 6: background clutter



Klimt, 1913



Challenges 7: intra-class variation





1 7 9 6
 7 8 6 3
 2 1 7 9 7 1 2
 4 8 1 9 0 1 8
 7 6 1 8 6 4 1 5 0 0
 7 5 9 2 6 5 8 1 9 7
 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 4 8 0
 0 2 3 8 0 7 3 8 5 7
 0 1 4 6 4 6 0 2 4 3
 7 1 2 8 7 6 9 8 6 1



~10,000 to 30,000

Object categorization: the statistical viewpoint



$$p(\textit{zebra} | \textit{image})$$

vs.

$$p(\textit{no zebra} | \textit{image})$$

- Bayes rule:

$$\underbrace{\frac{p(\textit{zebra} | \textit{image})}{p(\textit{no zebra} | \textit{image})}}_{\text{posterior ratio}} = \underbrace{\frac{p(\textit{image} | \textit{zebra})}{p(\textit{image} | \textit{no zebra})}}_{\text{likelihood ratio}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{p(\textit{zebra})}{p(\textit{no zebra})}}_{\text{prior ratio}}$$

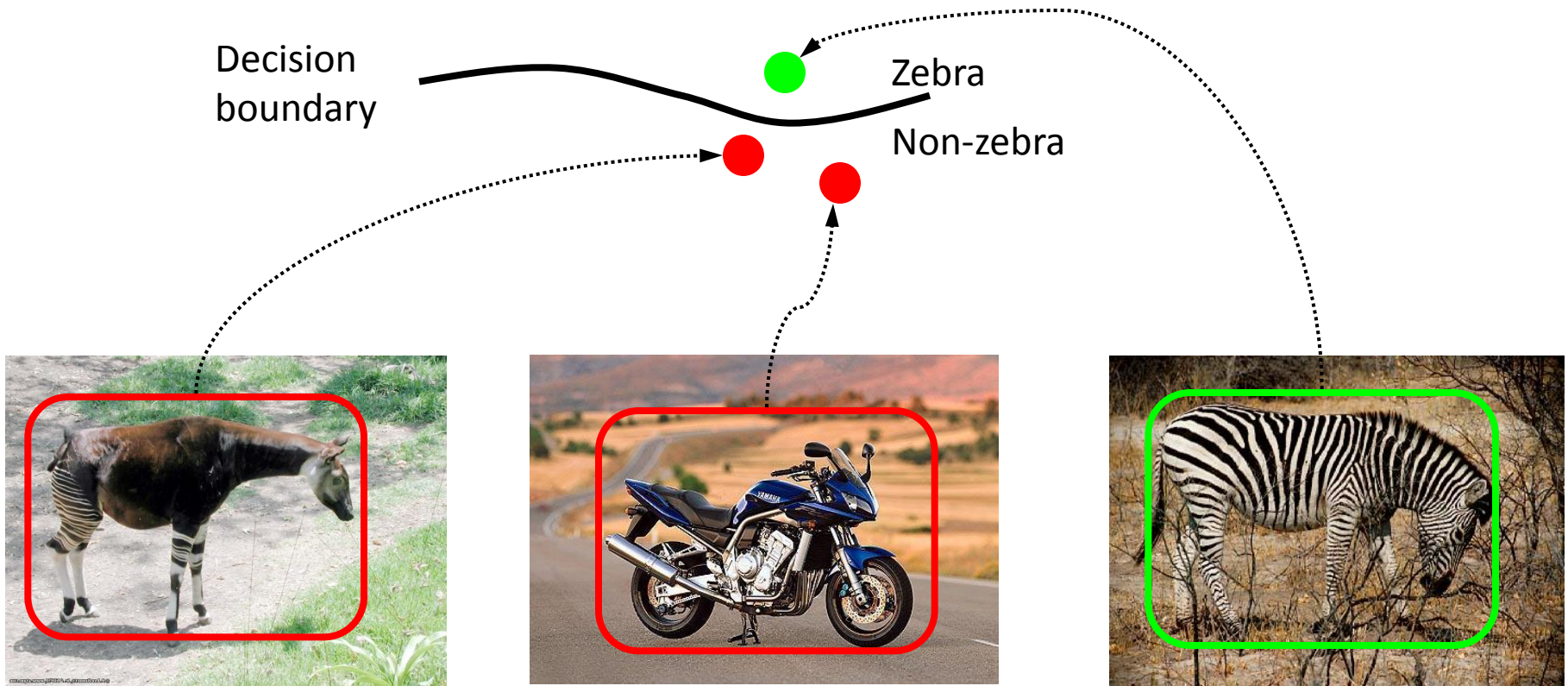
Object categorization: the statistical viewpoint

$$\underbrace{\frac{p(\text{zebra} | \text{image})}{p(\text{no zebra} | \text{image})}}_{\text{posterior ratio}} = \underbrace{\frac{p(\text{image} | \text{zebra})}{p(\text{image} | \text{no zebra})}}_{\text{likelihood ratio}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{p(\text{zebra})}{p(\text{no zebra})}}_{\text{prior ratio}}$$

- Discriminative methods model posterior
- Generative methods model likelihood and prior

Discriminative

- Direct modeling of $\frac{p(\text{zebra} | \text{image})}{p(\text{no zebra} | \text{image})}$



Generative

- Model $p(\text{image} | \text{zebra})$



$p(\text{image} | \text{no zebra})$



$p(\text{image} \text{zebra})$	$p(\text{image} \text{no zebra})$
Low	Middle
High	Middle \rightarrow Low

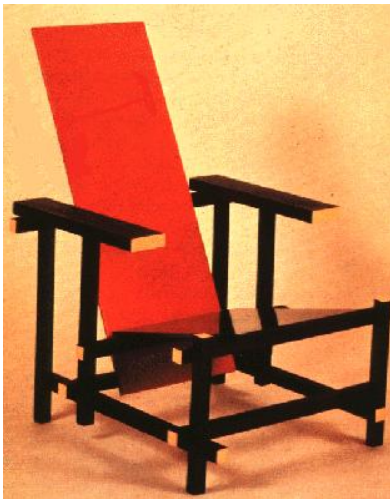


Three main issues

- Representation
 - How to represent an object category
- Learning
 - How to form the classifier, given training data
- Recognition
 - How the classifier is to be used on novel data

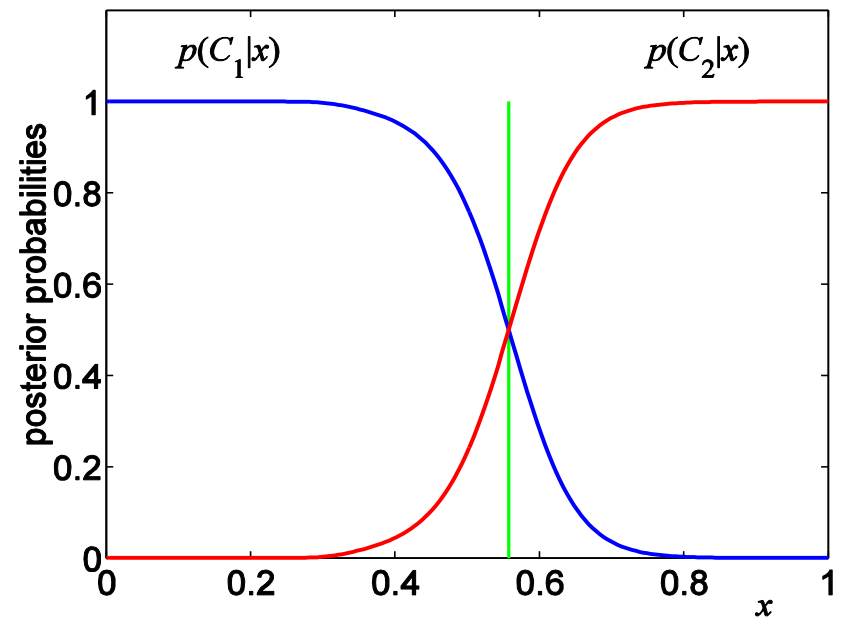
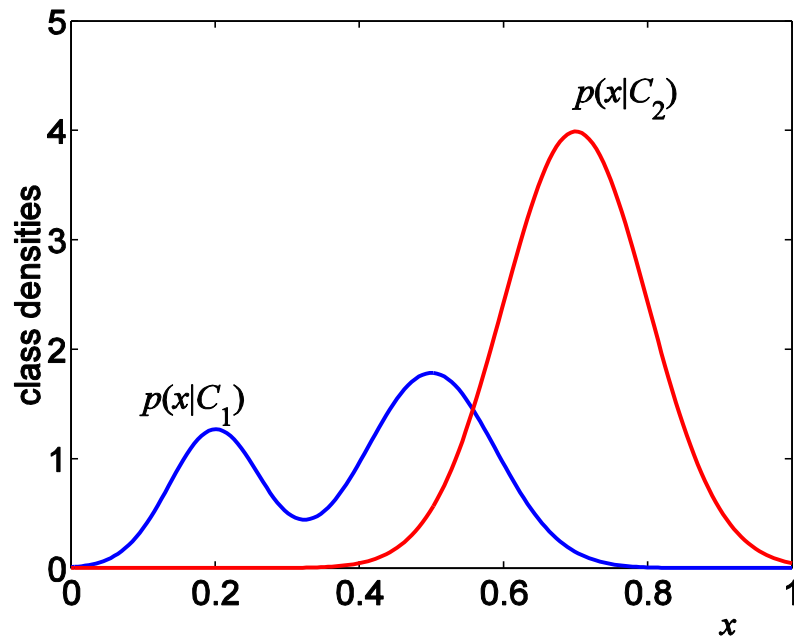
Learning

- Unclear how to model categories, so we learn what distinguishes them rather than manually specify the difference -- hence current interest in machine learning



Learning

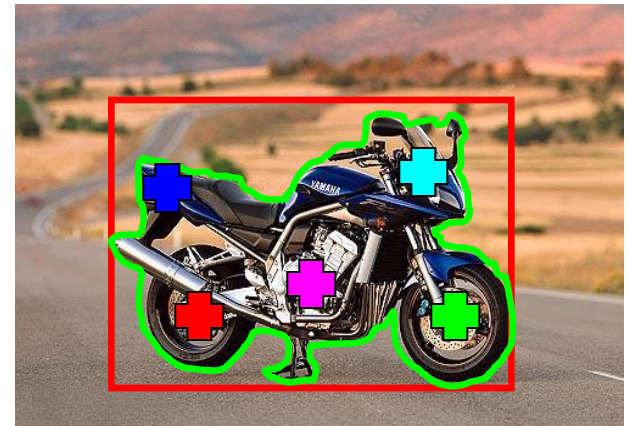
- Unclear how to model categories, so we learn what distinguishes them rather than manually specify the difference -- hence current interest in machine learning)
- Methods of training: generative vs. discriminative



Learning

- Unclear how to model categories, so we learn what distinguishes them rather than manually specify the difference -- hence current interest in machine learning)
- What are you maximizing? Likelihood (Gen.) or performances on train/validation set (Disc.)
- Level of supervision
 - Manual segmentation; bounding box; image labels; noisy labels

Contains a motorbike



Recognition

- Scale / orientation range to search over
- Speed
- Context



OBJECTS

ANIMALS

PLANTS

INANIMATE

.....

VERTEBRATE

NATURAL

MAN-MADE

MAMMALS

BIRDS

TAPIR

BOAR

GROUSE

CAMERA



Classical Methods

1. Bag of words approaches
2. Parts and structure approaches
3. Discriminative methods



Bag of Words Models

Object

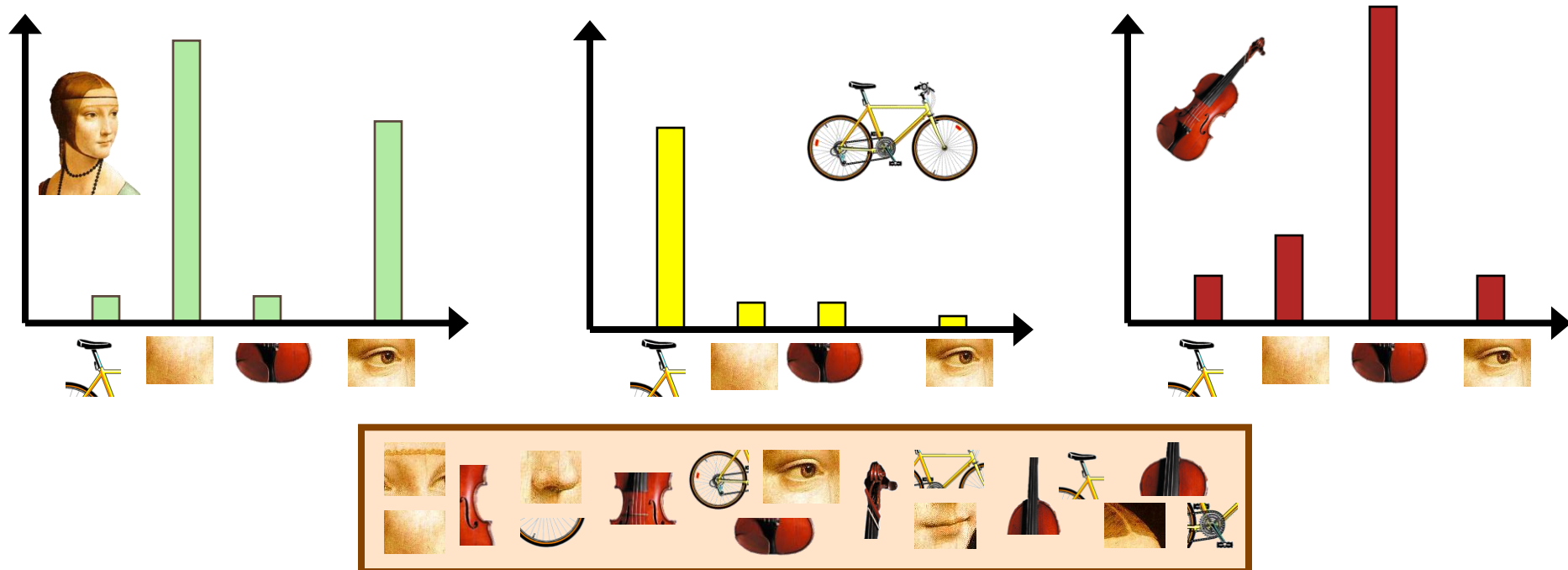


Bag of 'words'

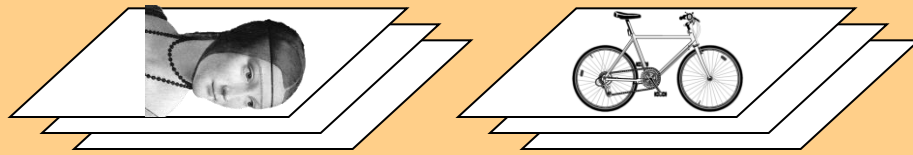


Bag of Words

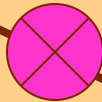
- Independent features
- Histogram representation



learning



feature detection
& representation



codewords dictionary

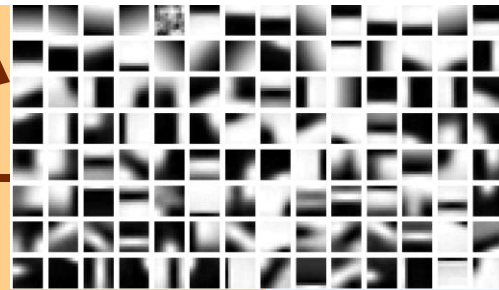
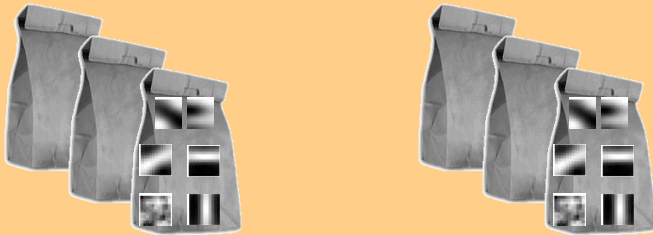
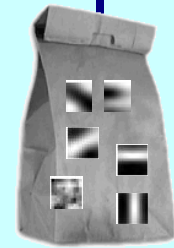
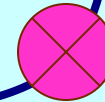


image representation



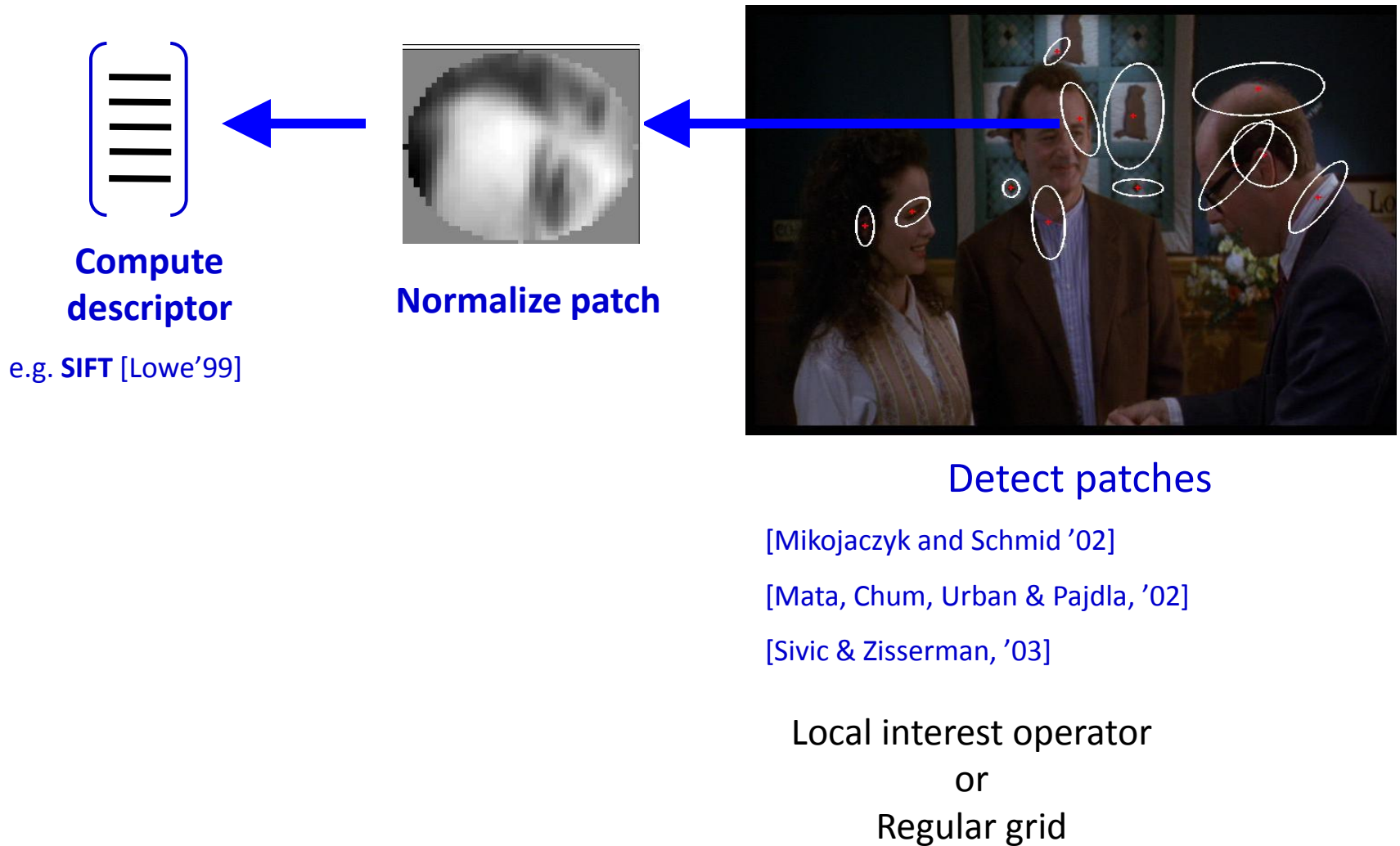
**category models
(and/or) classifiers**

recognition

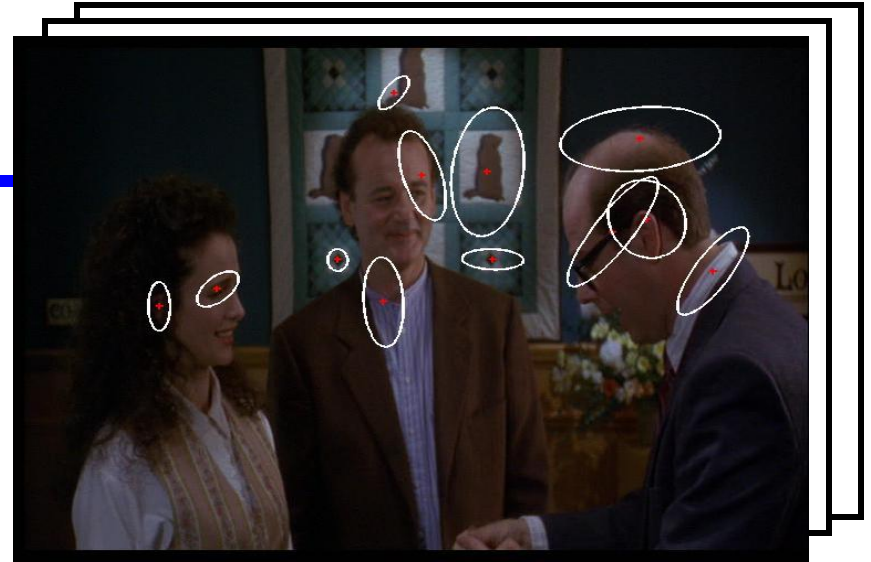
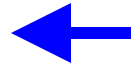
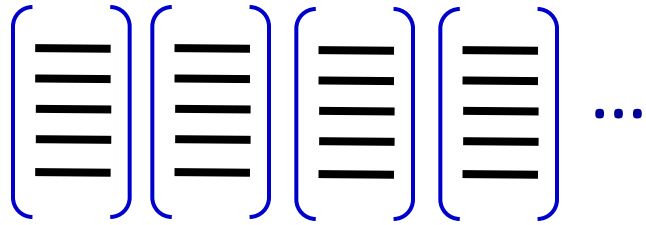


**category
decision**

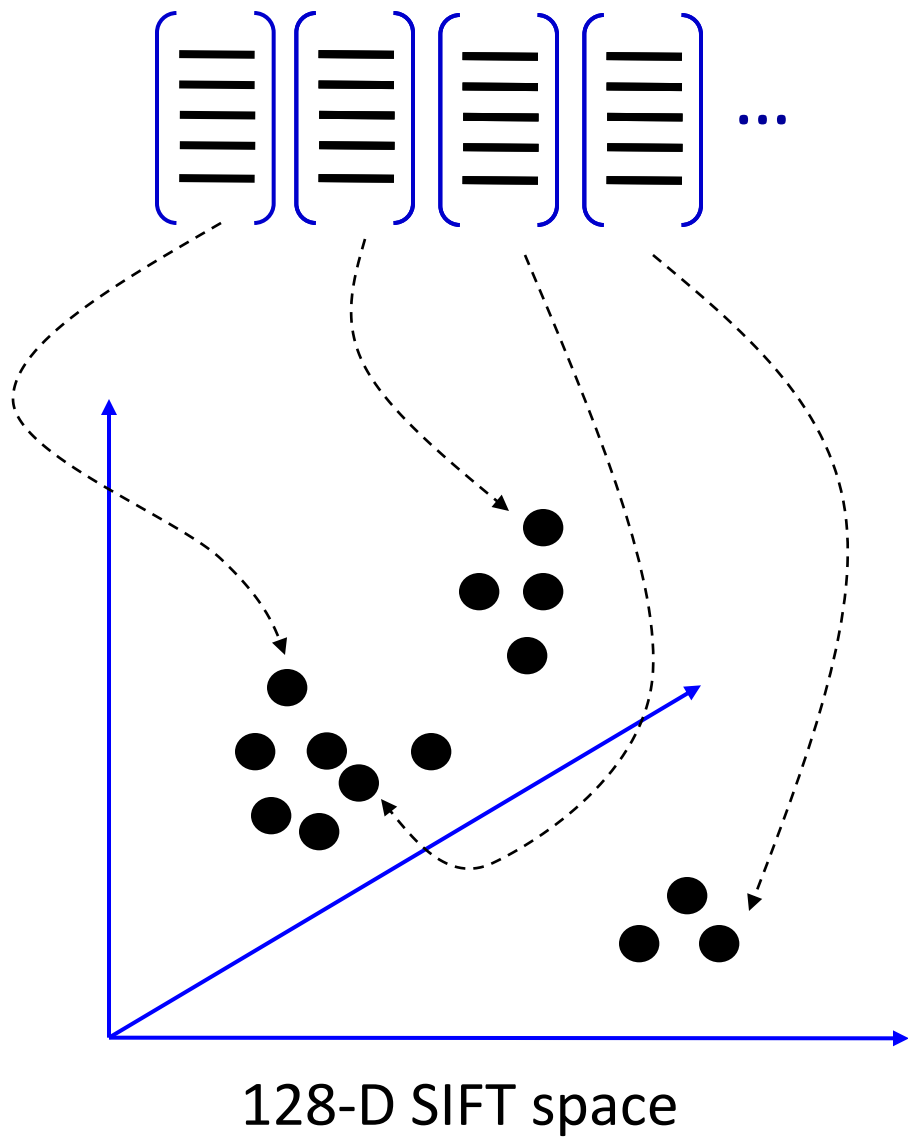
1.Feature detection and representation



1. Feature detection and representation



2. Codewords dictionary formation



2. Codewords dictionary formation

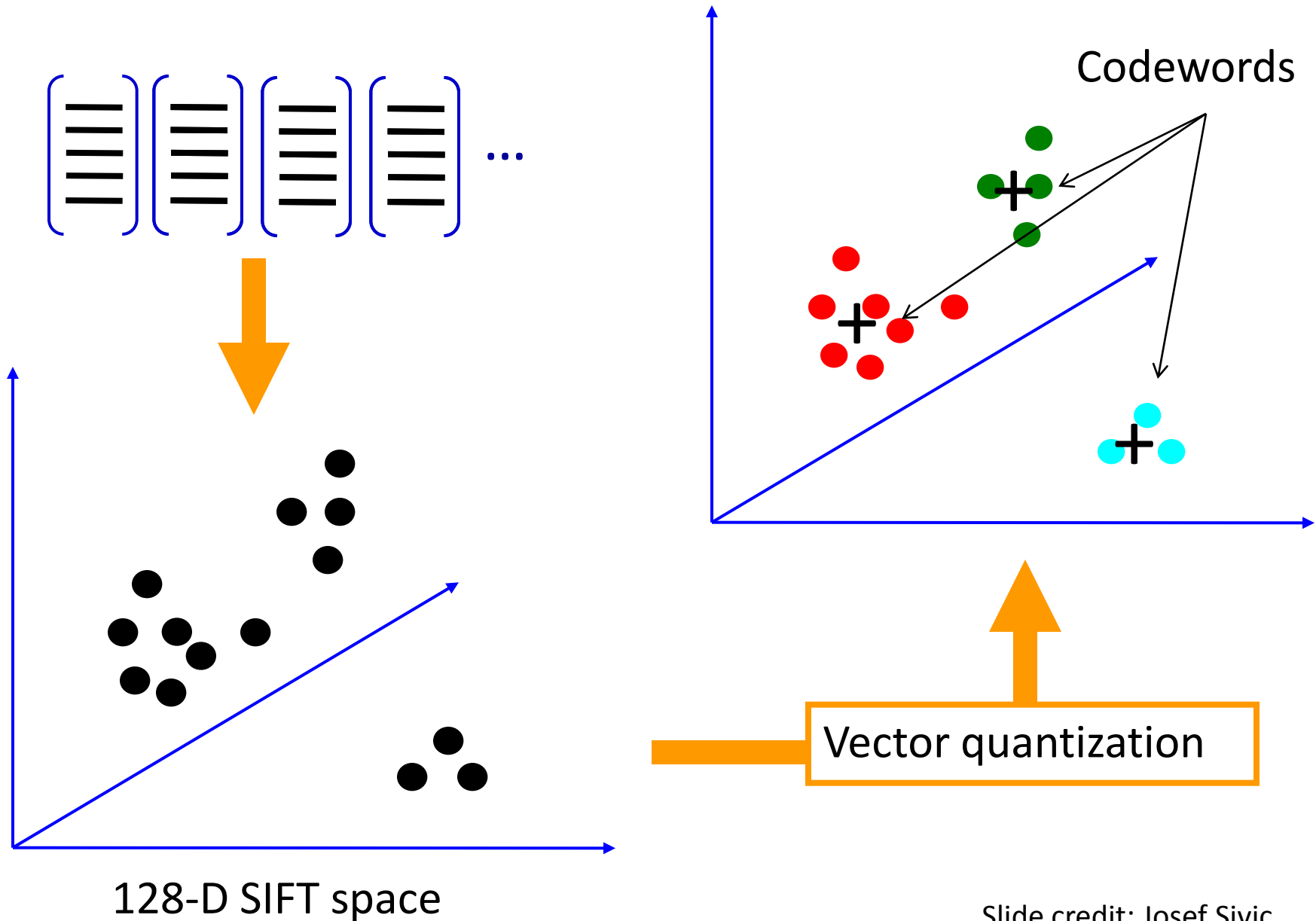


Image patch examples of codewords

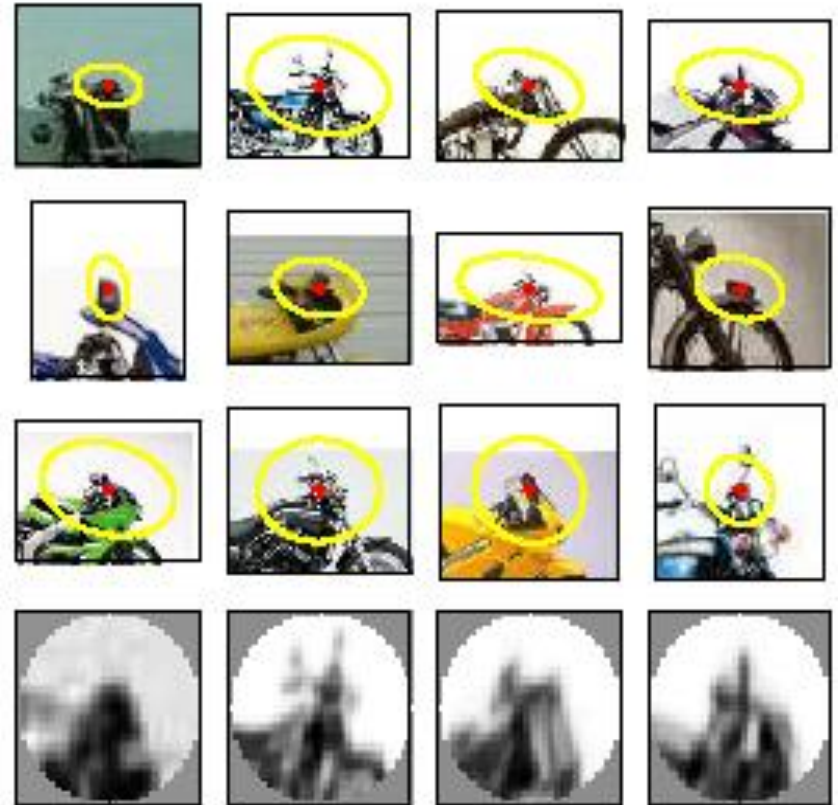
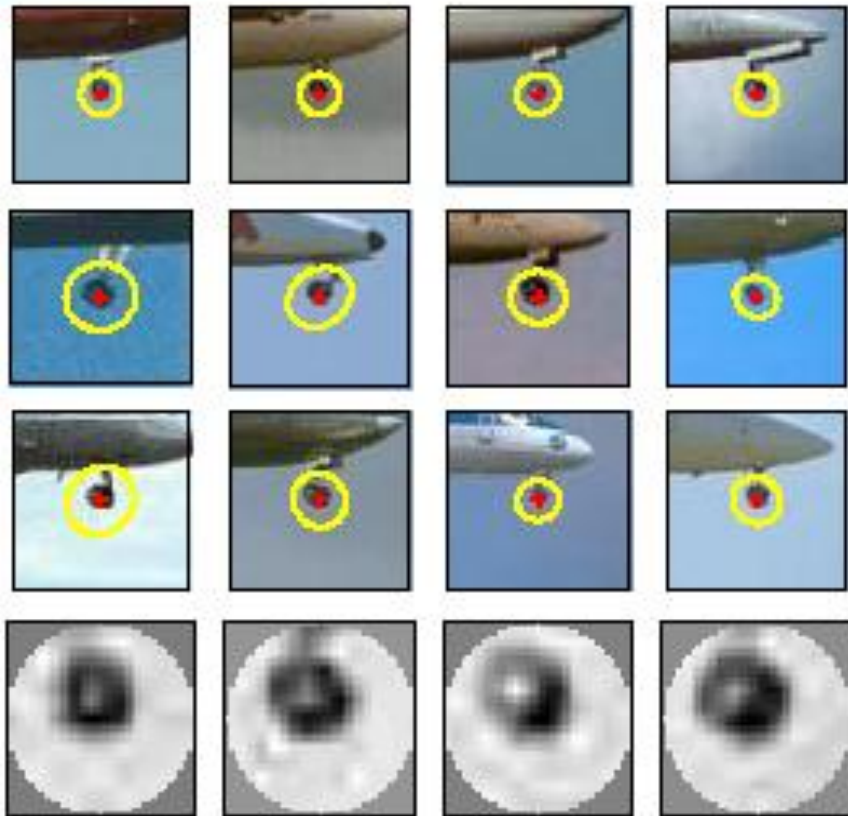
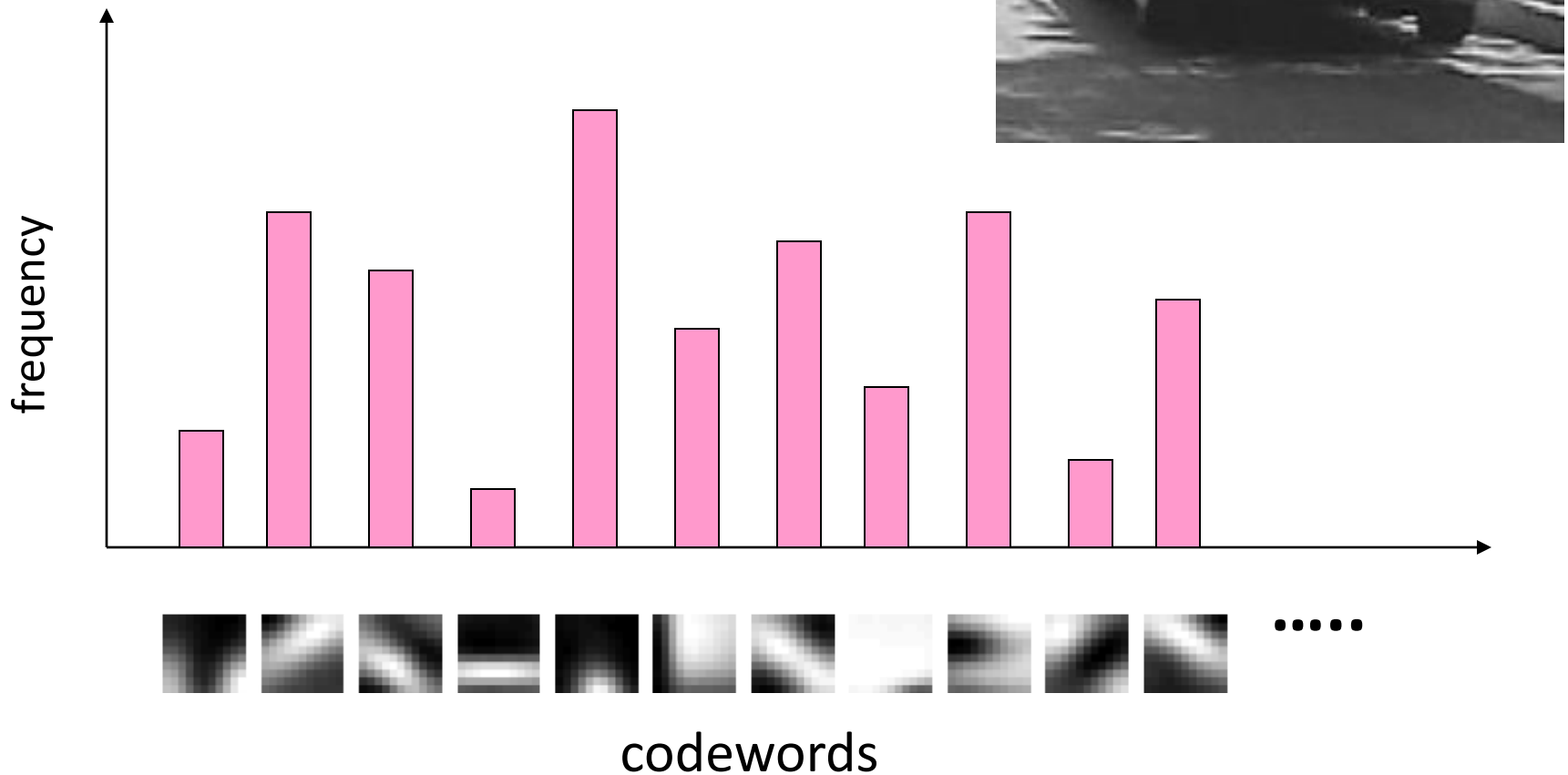


Image representation

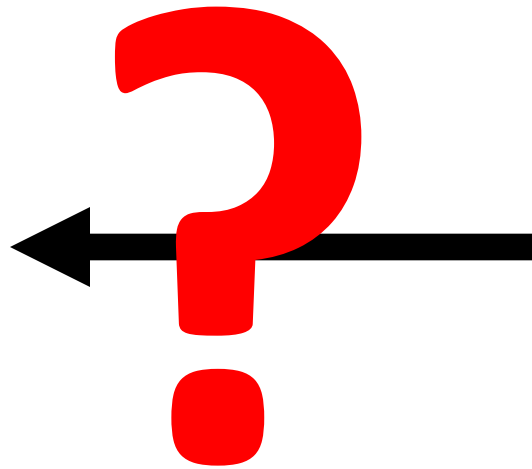
Histogram of features
assigned to each cluster



Uses of BoW representation

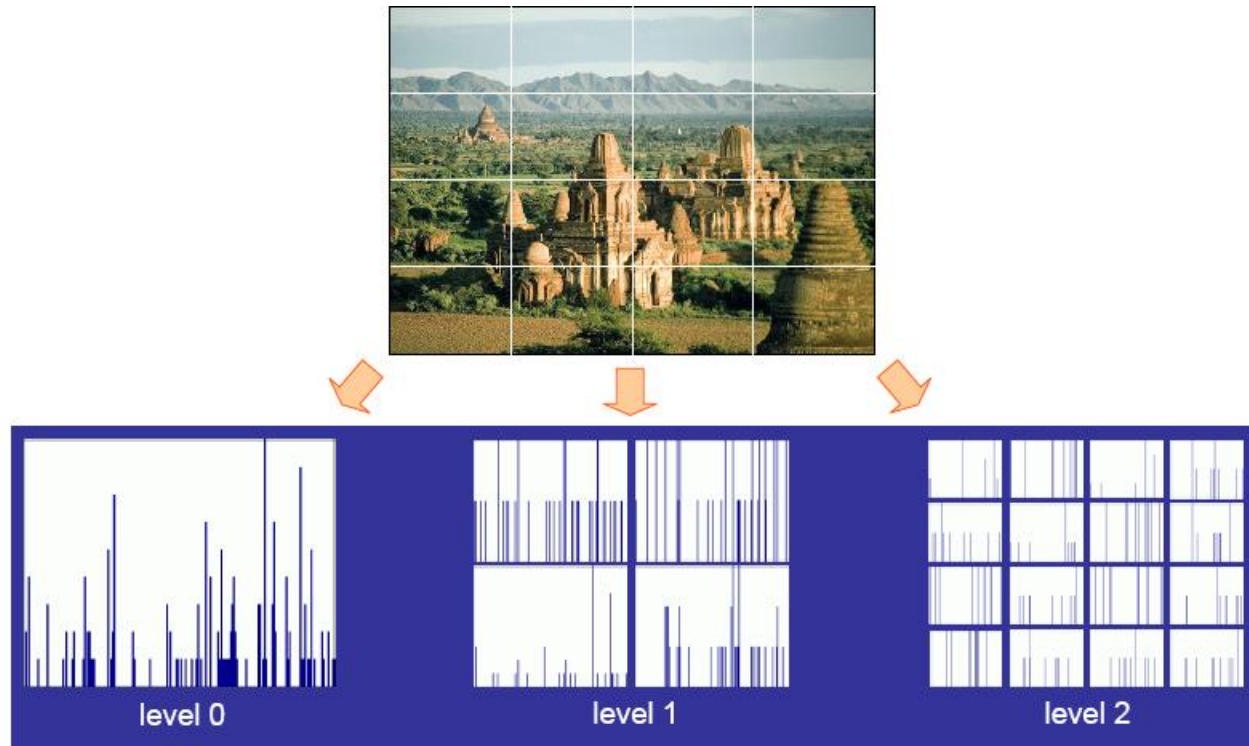
- Treat as feature vector for standard classifier
 - e.g SVM
- Cluster BoW vectors over image collection
 - Discover visual themes
- Hierarchical models
 - Decompose scene/object
- Scene

What about spatial info?

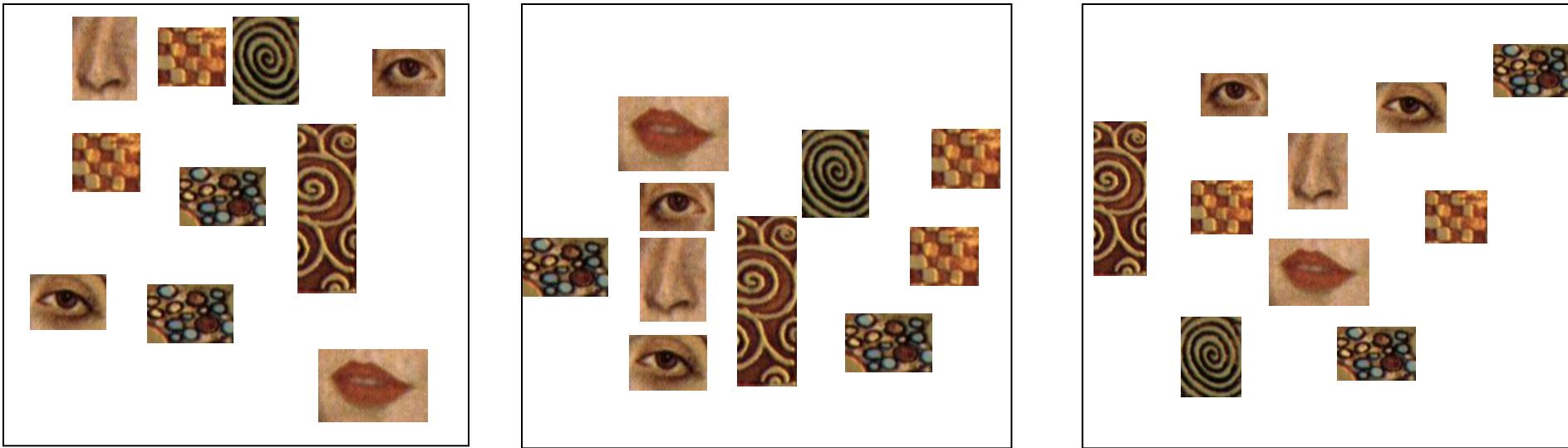


Adding spatial info. to BoW

- Feature level
- Generative models
- Discriminative methods
 - Lazebnik, Schmid & Ponce, 2006

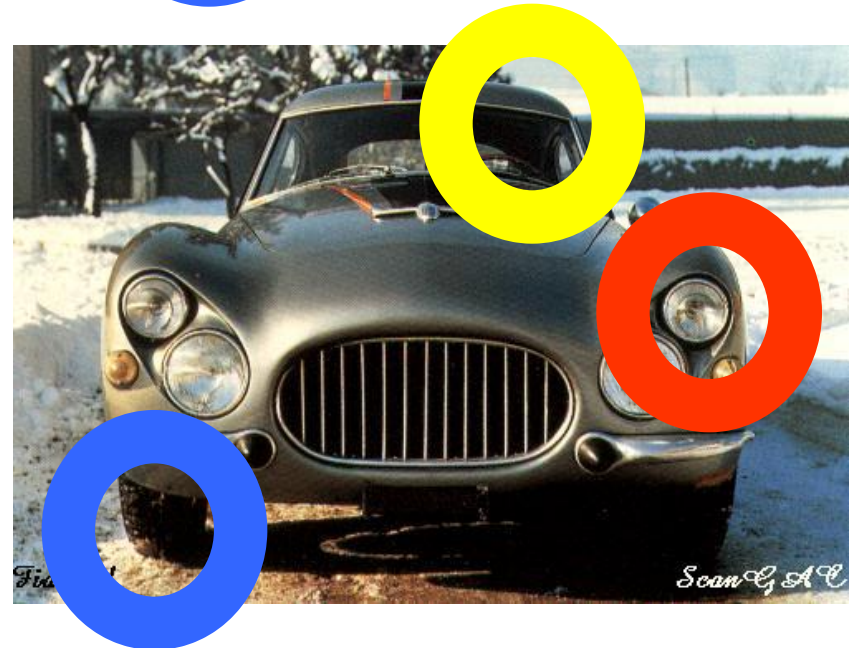


Problem with bag-of-words



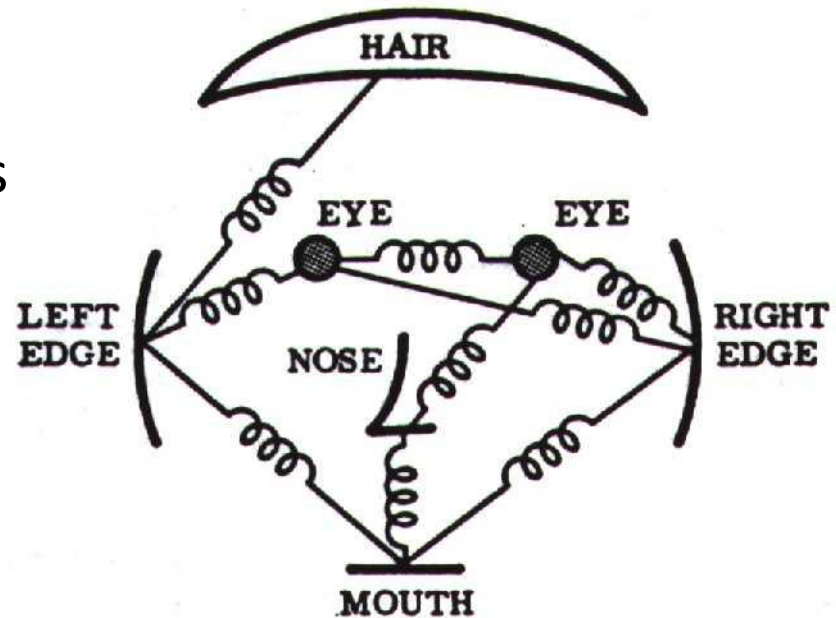
- All have equal probability for bag-of-words methods
- Location information is important
- BoW + location still doesn't give correspondence

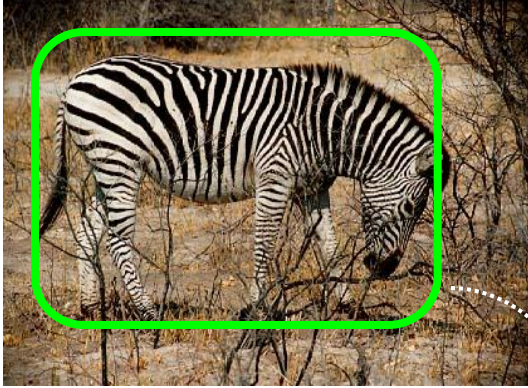
Model: Parts and Structure



Representation

- Object as set of parts
 - Generative representation
- Model:
 - Relative locations between parts
 - Appearance of part
- Issues:
 - How to model location
 - How to represent appearance
 - How to handle occlusion/clutter





Classifier-based methods

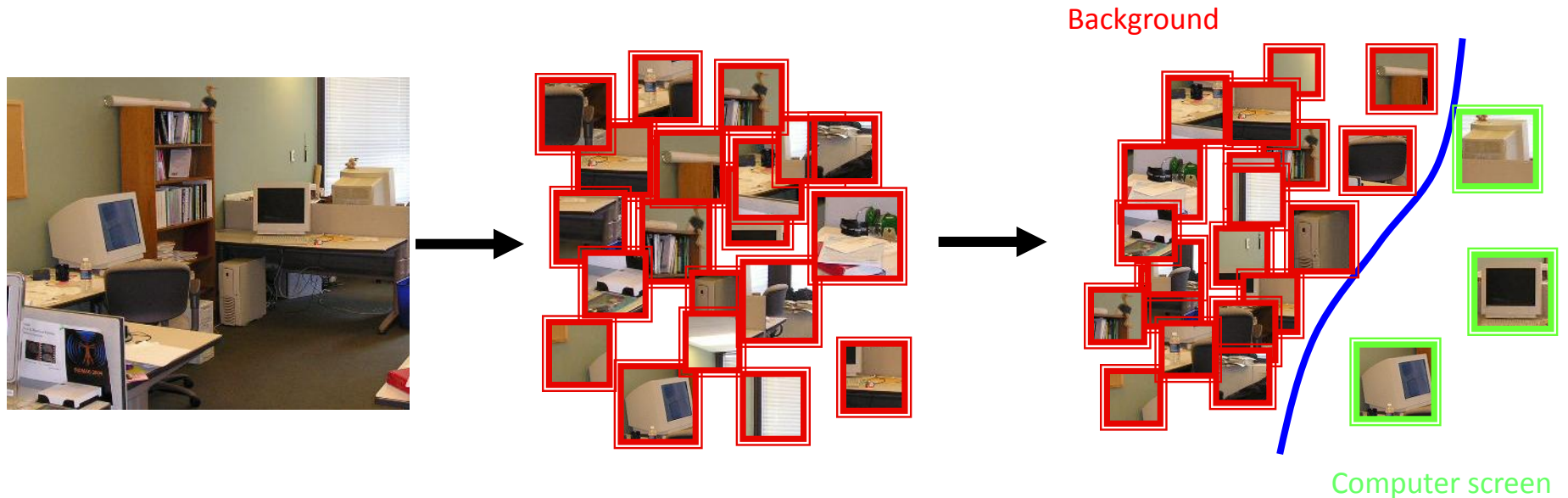


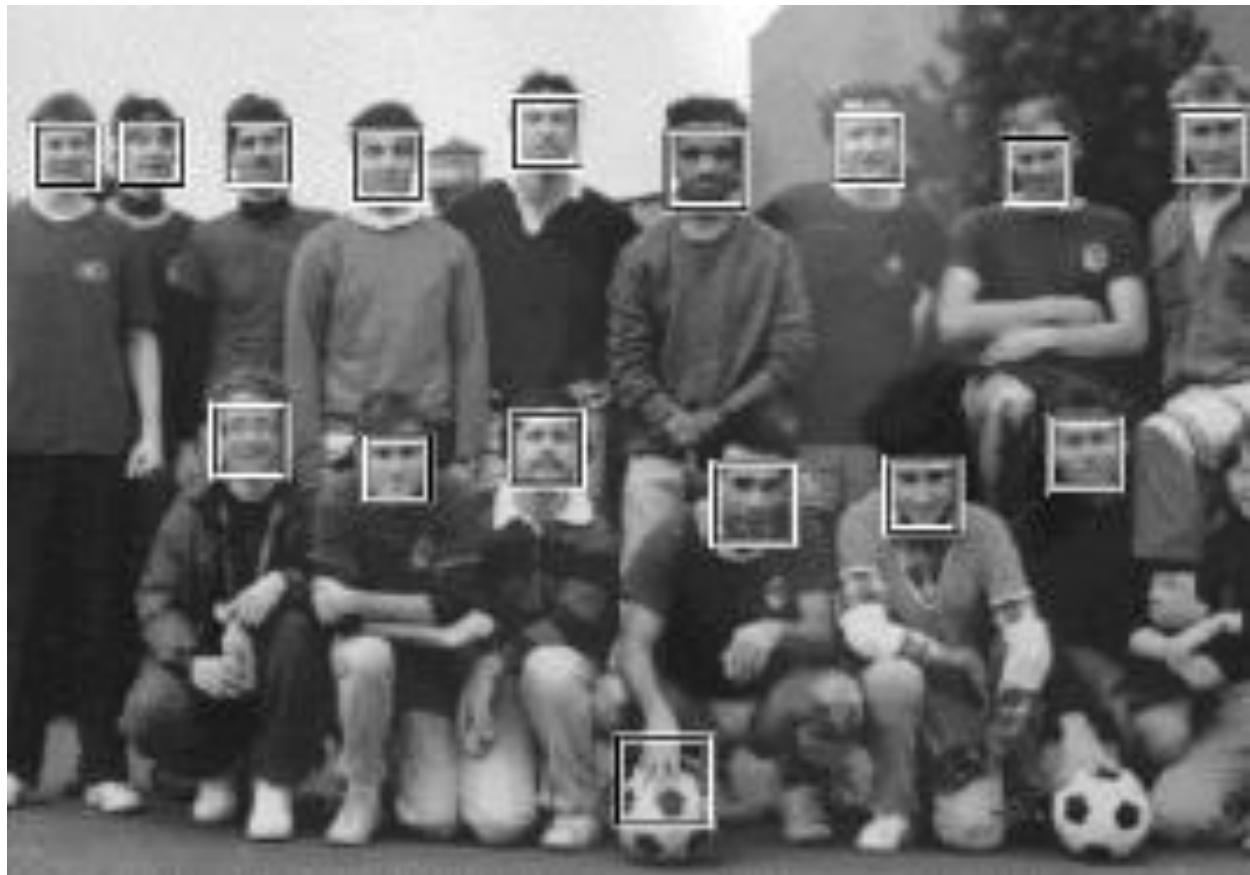
Classifier based methods

Object detection and recognition is formulated as a classification problem.

The image is partitioned into a set of overlapping windows

... and a decision is taken at each window about if it contains a target object or not.







Context for single object classes

Who needs context anyway?

We can recognize objects even out of context



Banksy

Why is context important?

- Changes the interpretation of an object (or its function)



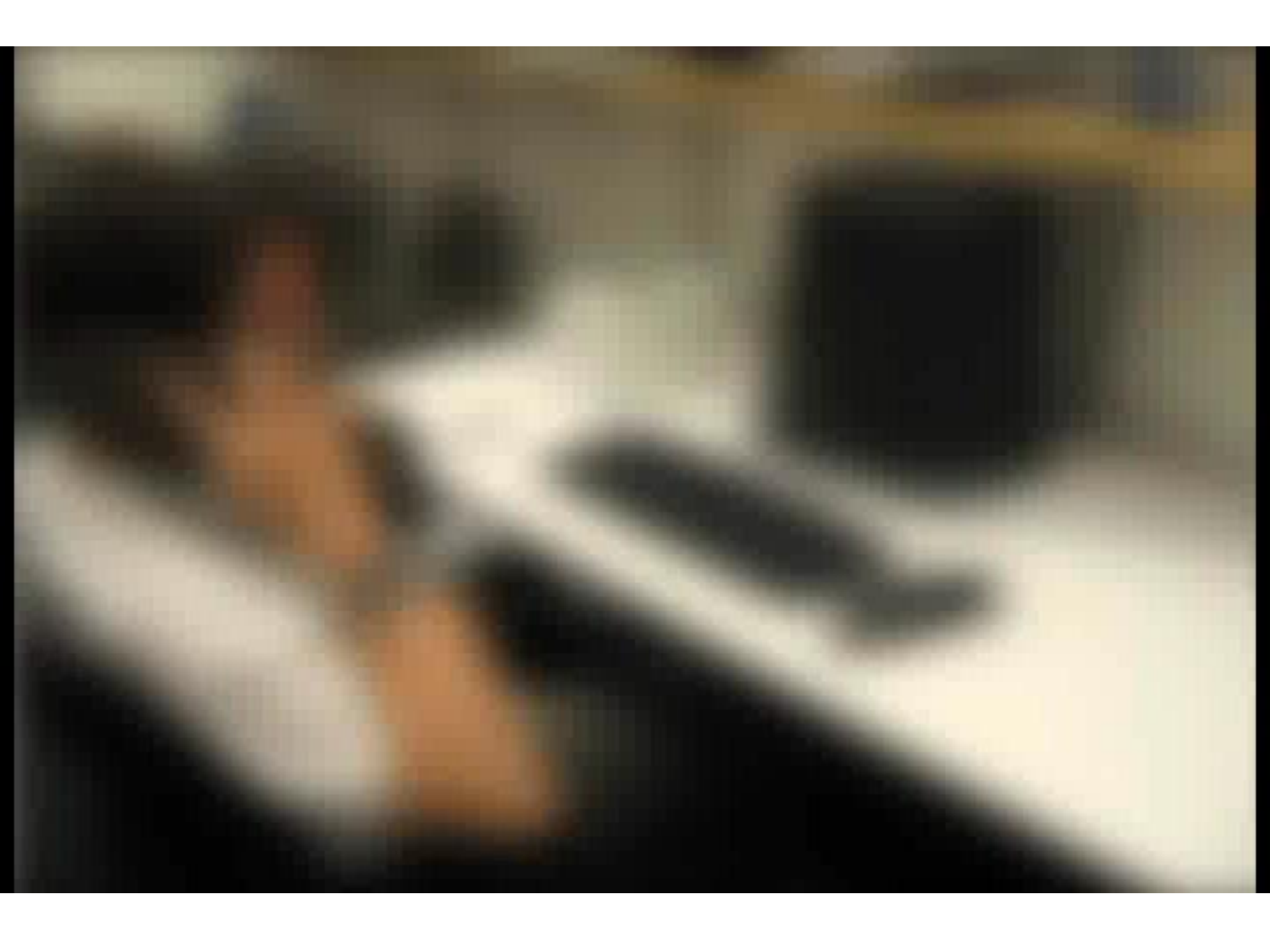
- Context defines what an unexpected event is



Look-Alikes by Joan Steiner

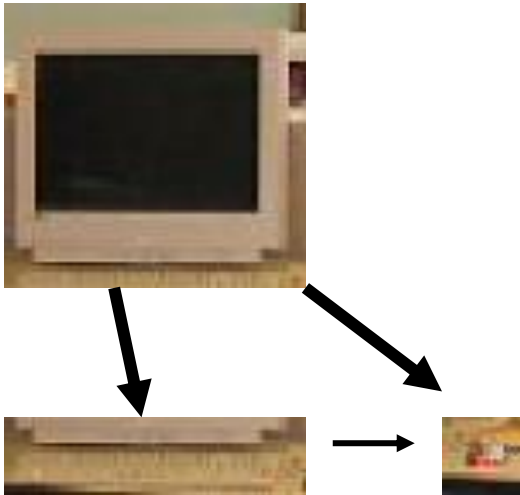


Even in high resolution, we can not shut down contextual processing and it is hard to recognize the true identities of the elements that compose this scene.

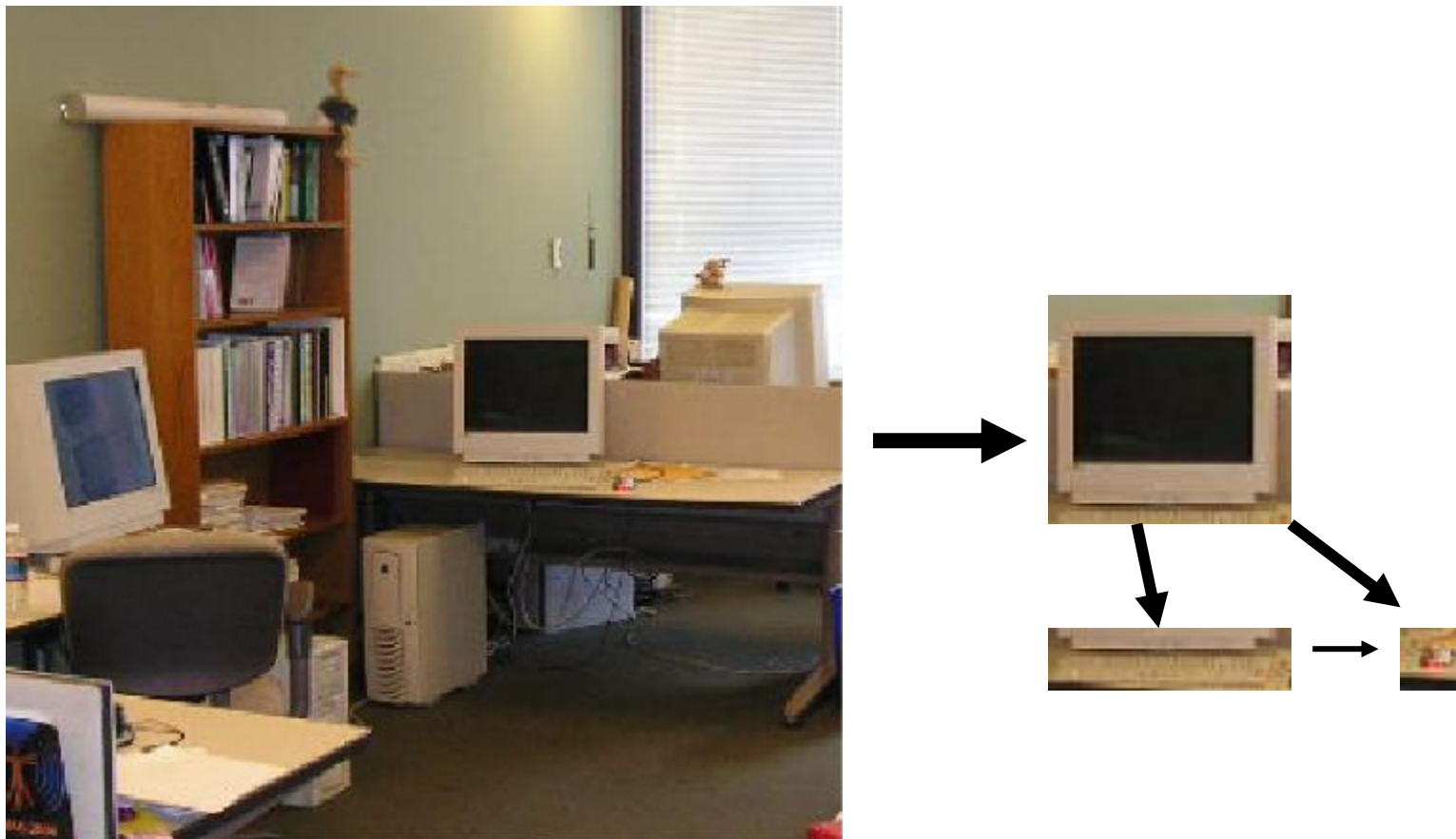




Modeling object relationships



Detecting difficult objects



Detect first simple objects (reliable detectors) that provide strong contextual constraints to the target (screen -> keyboard -> mouse)

$$p(O | I) \propto p(I | O) p(O)$$

Object model

Context model

Full joint

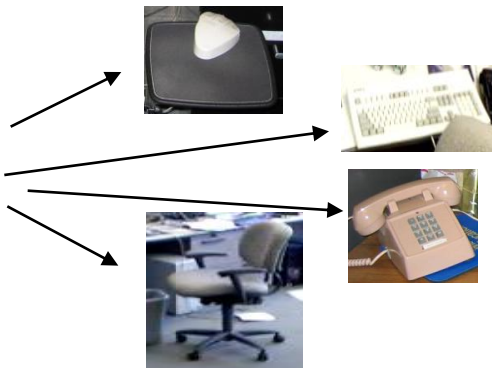
Scene model

Approx. joint

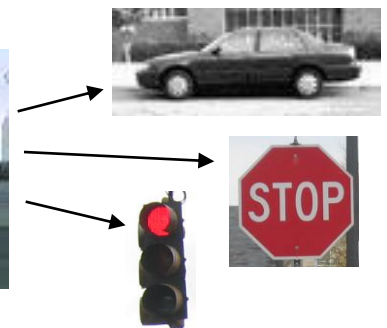
$$p(O) = \sum_s \prod_i p(O_i | S=s) p(S=s)$$



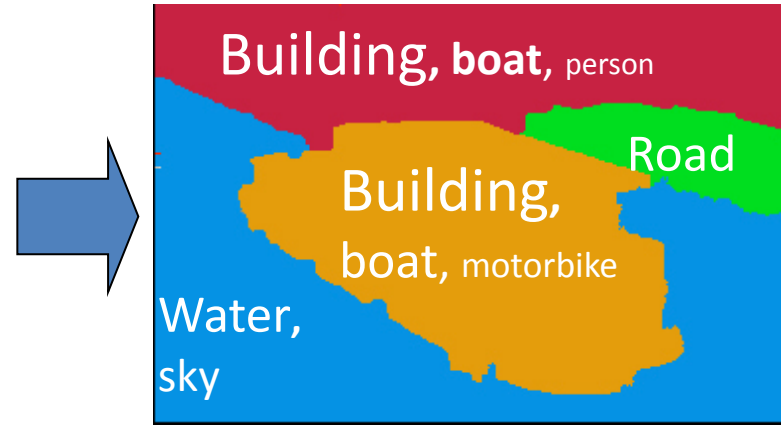
office



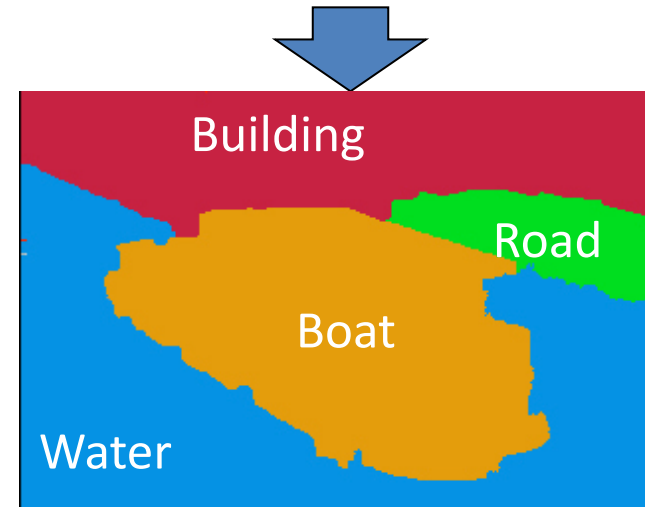
street



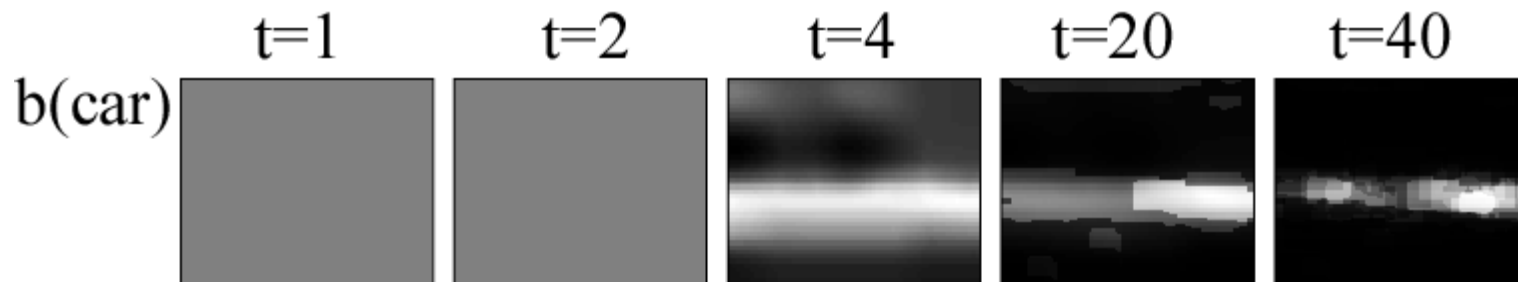
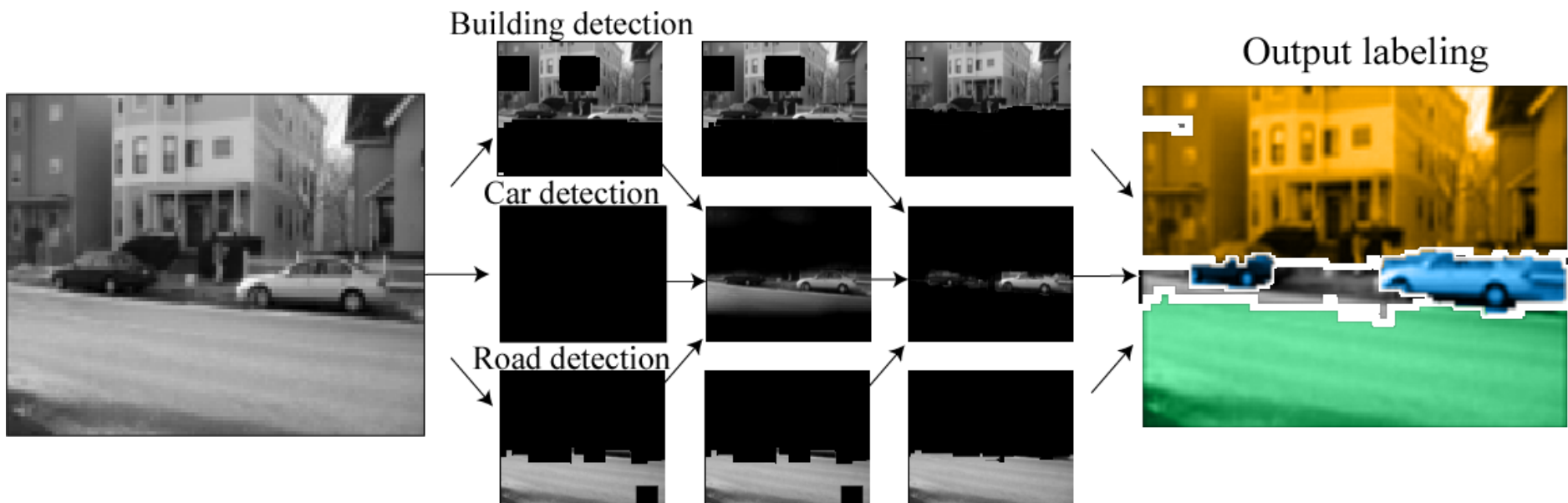
Objects in Context



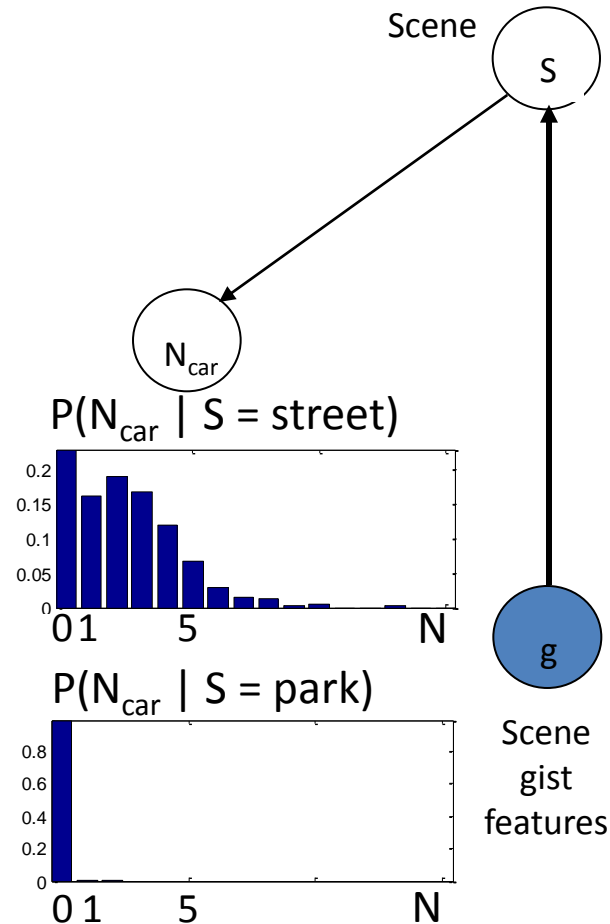
Most consistent labeling according to *object co-occurrences* & local label probabilities.



BRF for car detection: results

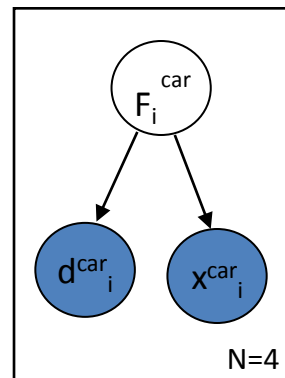
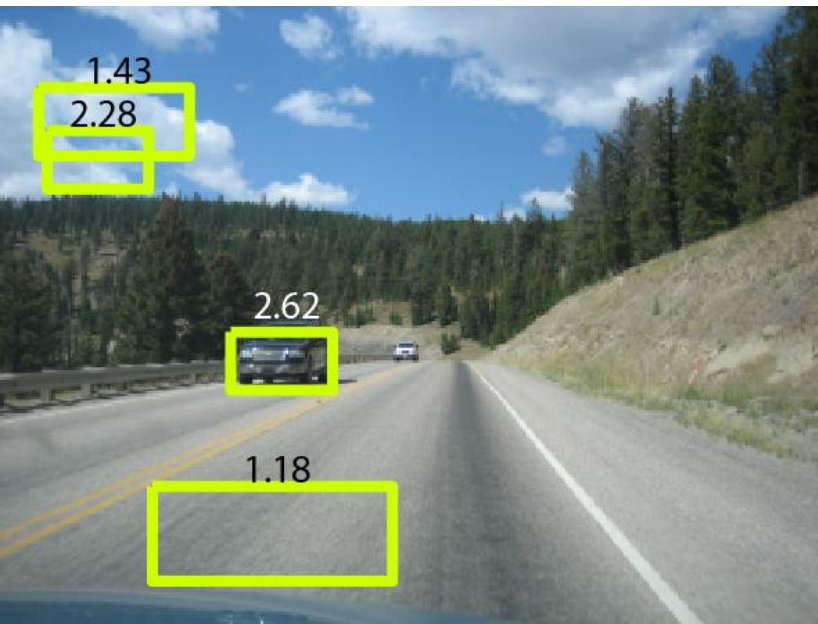


An integrated model of Scenes, Objects, and Parts



An integrated model of Scenes, Objects, and Parts

We train a multiview car detector.

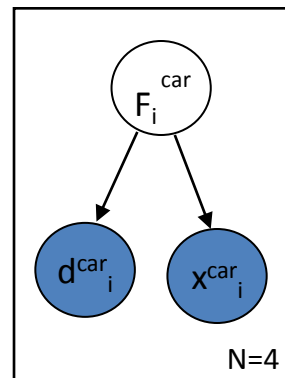
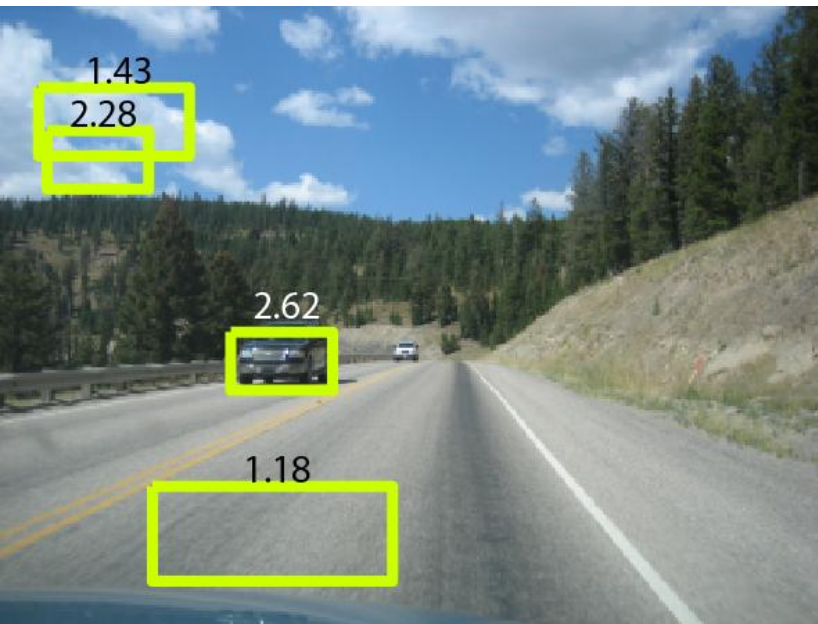


$$p(d \mid F=1) = N(d \mid \mu_1, \sigma_1)$$

$$p(d \mid F=0) = N(d \mid \mu_0, \sigma_0)$$

An integrated model of Scenes, Objects, and Parts

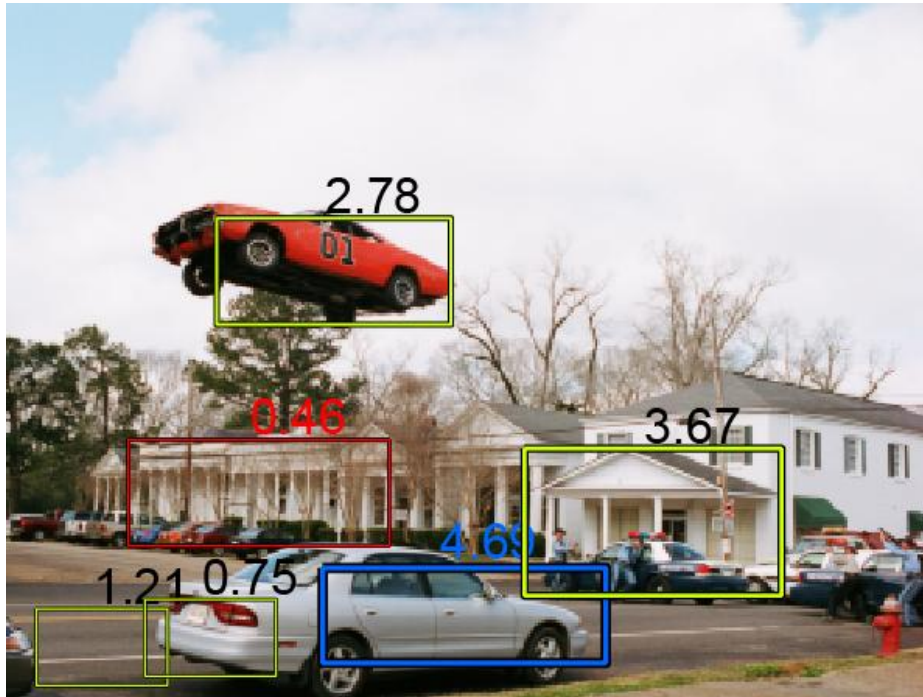
We train a multiview car detector.

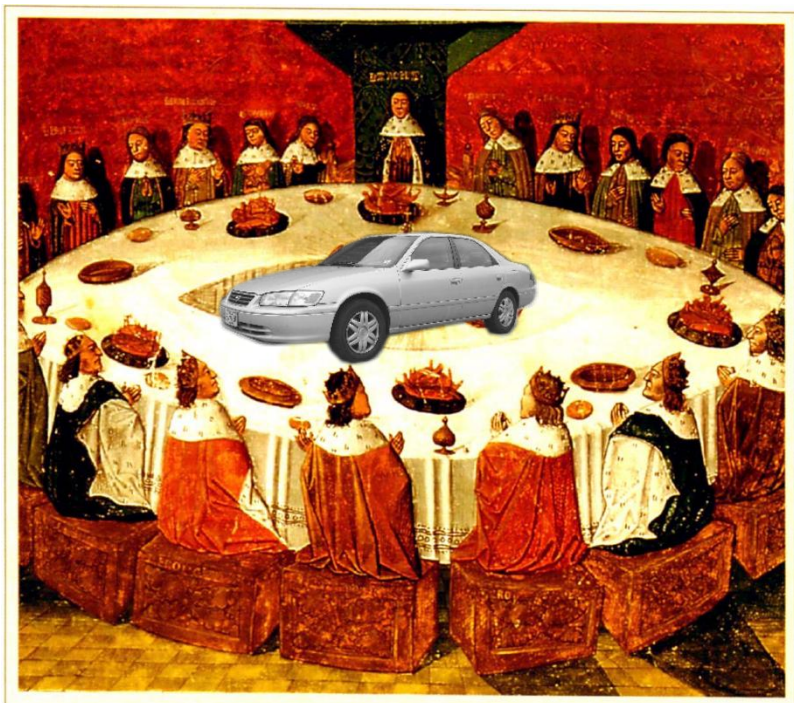


$$p(d \mid F=1) = N(d \mid \mu_1, \sigma_1)$$

$$p(d \mid F=0) = N(d \mid \mu_0, \sigma_0)$$

A car out of context ...





3D object categorization

Courtesy of Prof. Silvio Savarese (U. Michigan, Ann-Arbor)



3D Object Categorization



- Weber et al. '00
- Schneiderman et al. '01
- Capel et al '02
- Johnson & Herbert '99

- Bronstein et al, '03
- Ruiz-Correa et al. '03,
- Funkhouser et al '03
- Bart et al '04

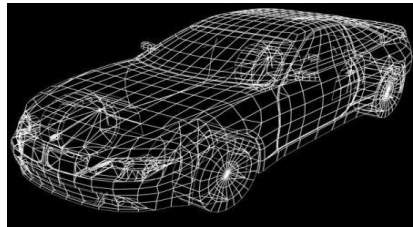
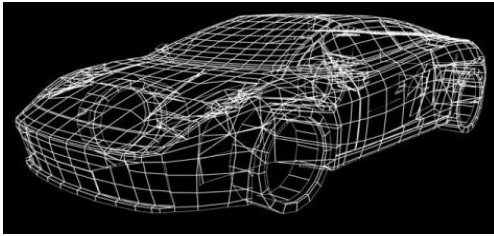
- Thomas et al. '06
- Kushal, et al., '07
- Savarese et al, 07, 08

- Chiu et al. '07
- Hoiem, et al., '07
- Yan, et al. '07

3D Object Categorization

Challenges

- how to model 3D shape variability?



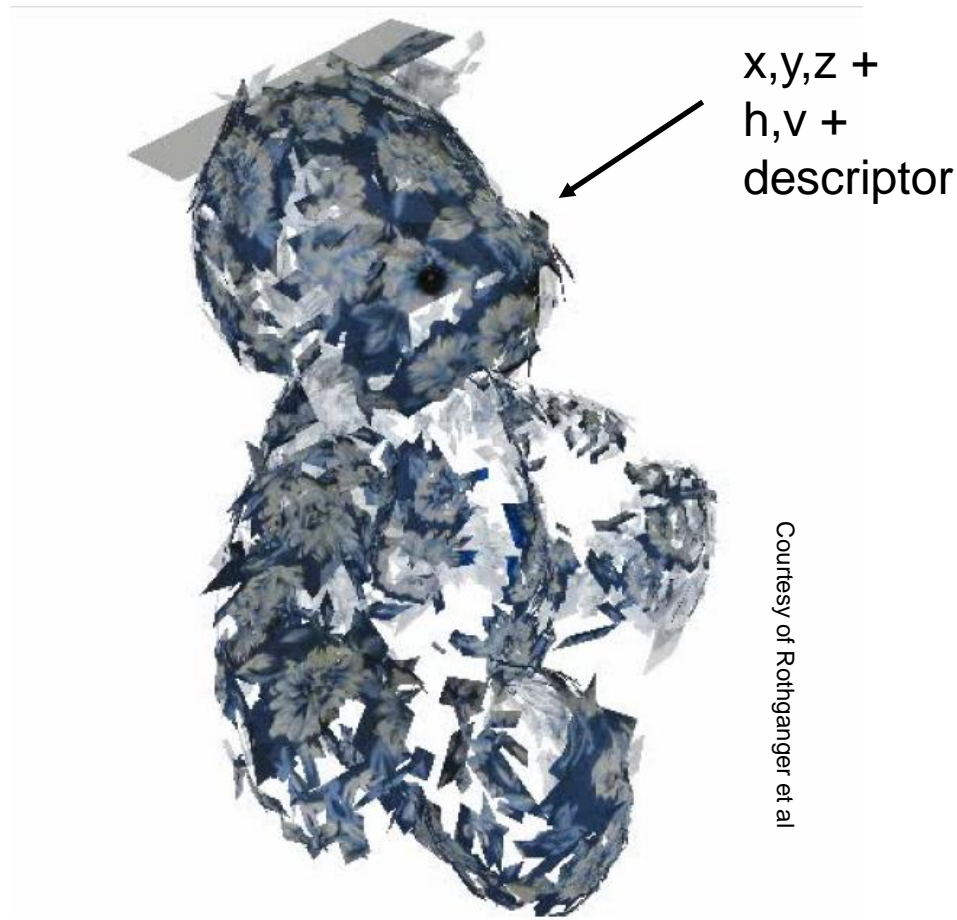
- How to model texture (appearance) variability?



- How to link texture (appearance) across views?

Object representation: Collection of patches in 3D

Rothganger et al. '06

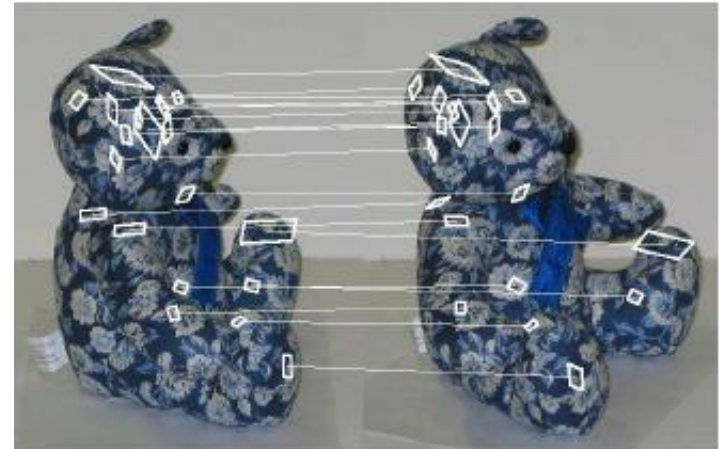


Model learning

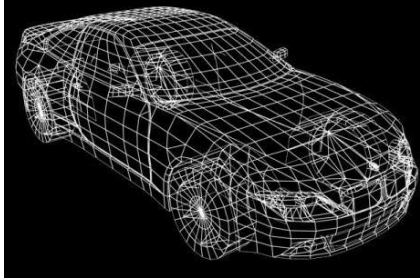
Rothganger et al. '03 '06

Build a 3D model:

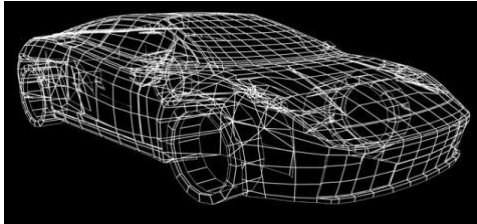
- N images of object from N different view points
- Match key points between consecutive views
[create sample set]
- Use affine structure from motion to compute 3D location and orientation + camera locations [RANSAC]
- Find connected components
- Use bundle adjustment to refine model
- Upgrade model to Euclidean assuming zero skew and square pixels



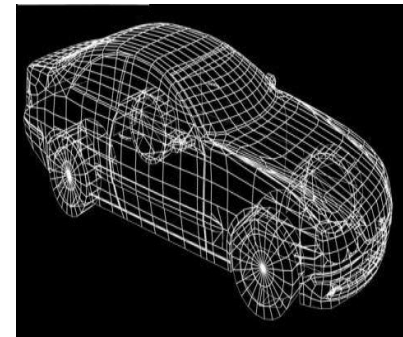
Full 3D models



**3D model
instance**



⋮



**3D model
instance**

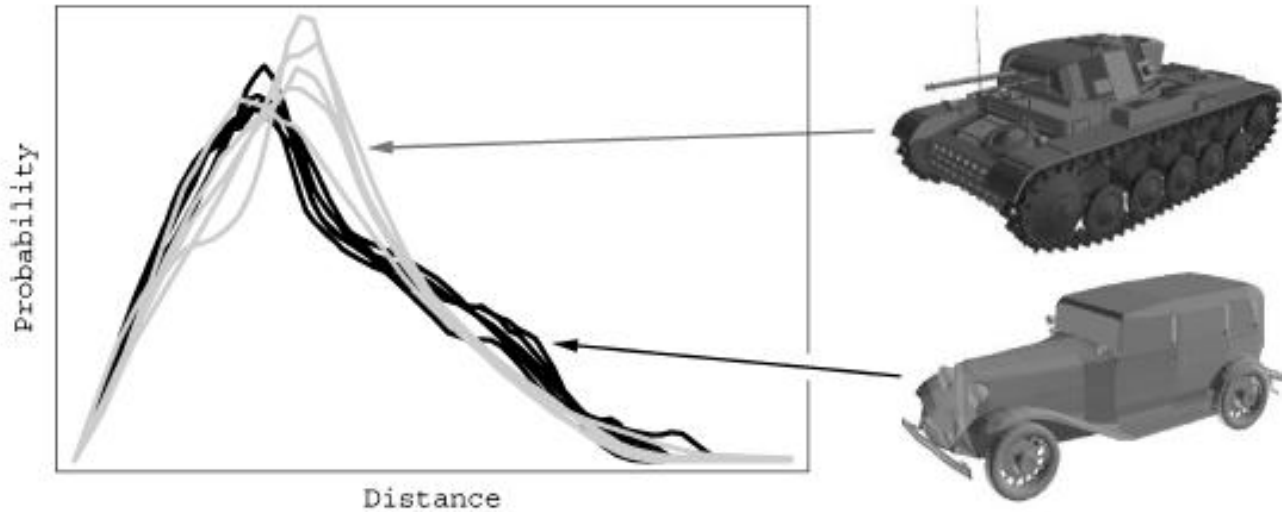
- Bronstein et al, '03
- Ruiz-Correa et al. '03,
- Funkhouser et al '03
- Kazhdan et al.03
- Osada et al '02
- Capel et al '02
- Johnson & Herbert '99
- Amberg et al '08

**3D category
model**

A 3D model category is built from a collection of 3D range data or CAD models

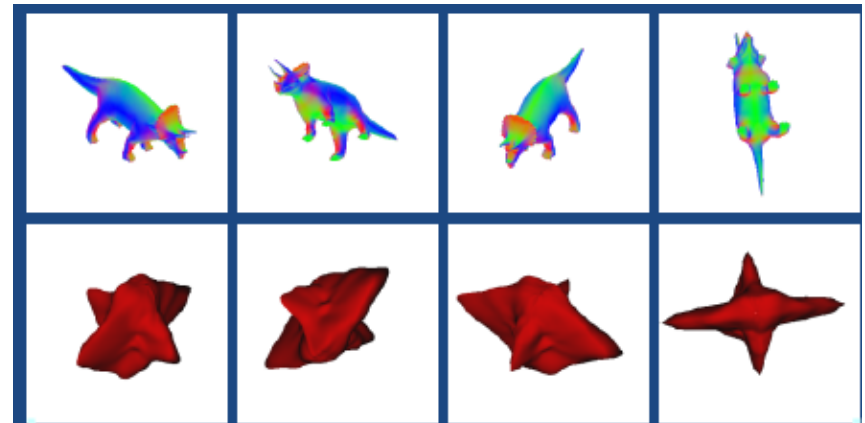
Shape distributions

Osada et al 02

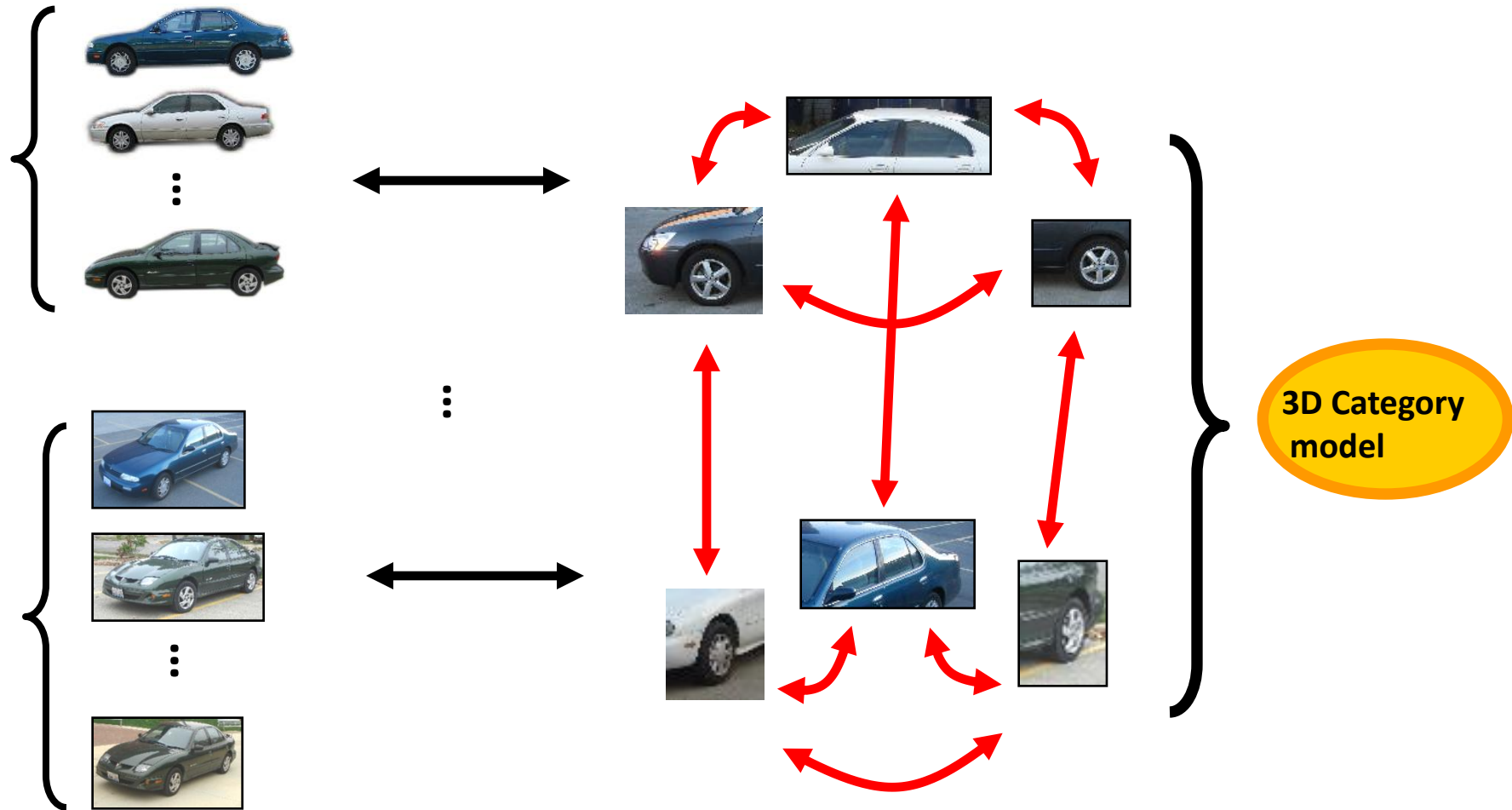


Spherical harmonics

Kazhdan et al. 03



Multi-view models



Sparse set of interest points or parts of the objects are linked across views.

Multi-view models by rough 3d shapes

Yan, et al. '07



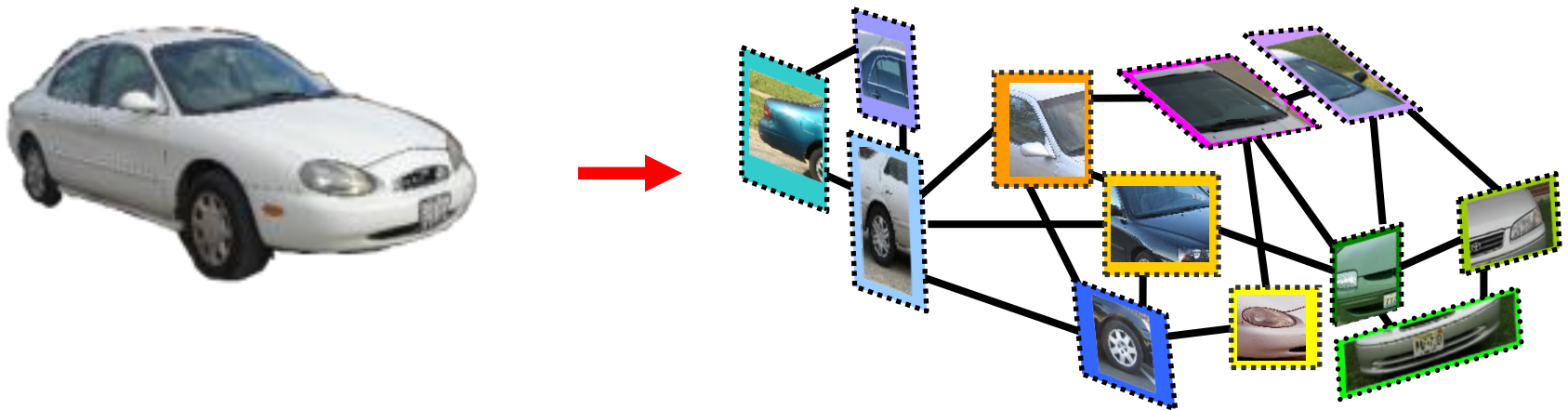
A unified framework for 3D object detection, pose classification, pose synthesis

Savarese, Fei-Fei, ICCV 07

Savarese, Fei-Fei, ECCV 08

Sun, Su, Savarese, Fei-Fei, CVPR 09

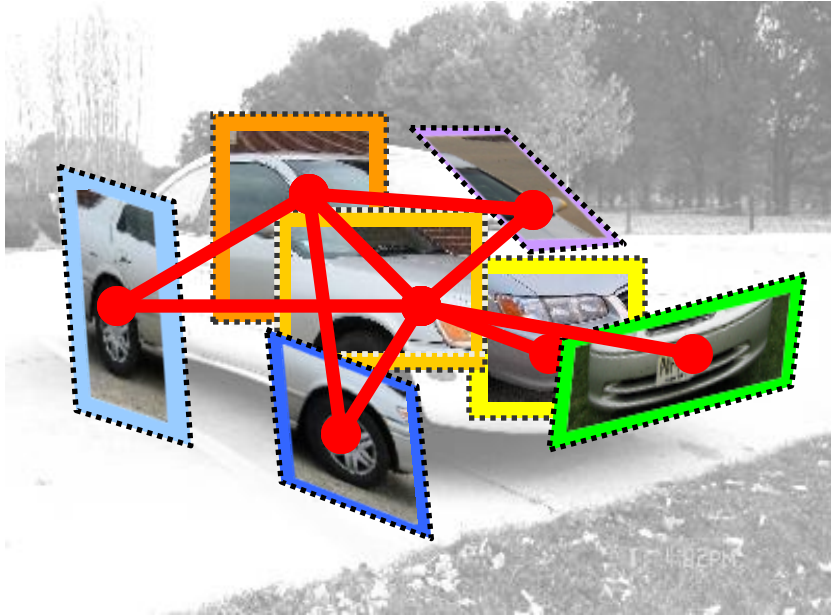
Su, Sun, Fei-Fei, Savarese, ICCV 09



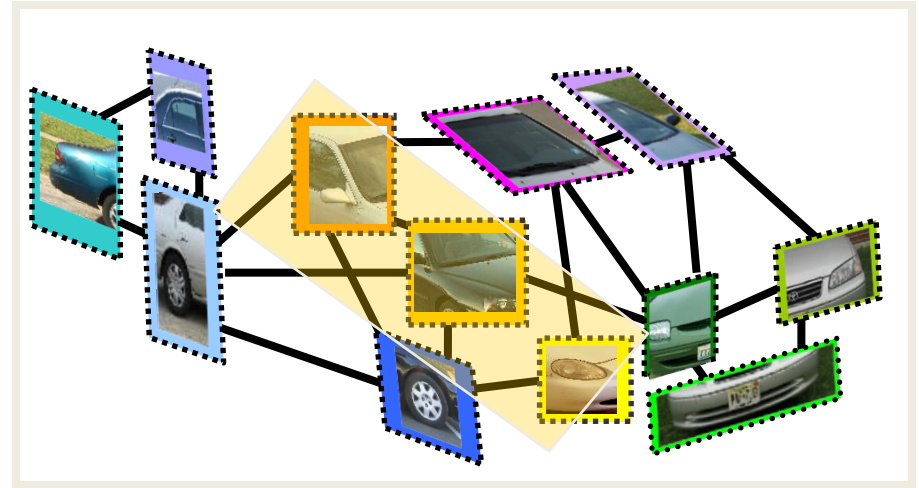
- Canonical parts captures diagnostic appearance information
- 2d $\frac{1}{2}$ structure linking parts via weak geometry

Object Recognition

Query image

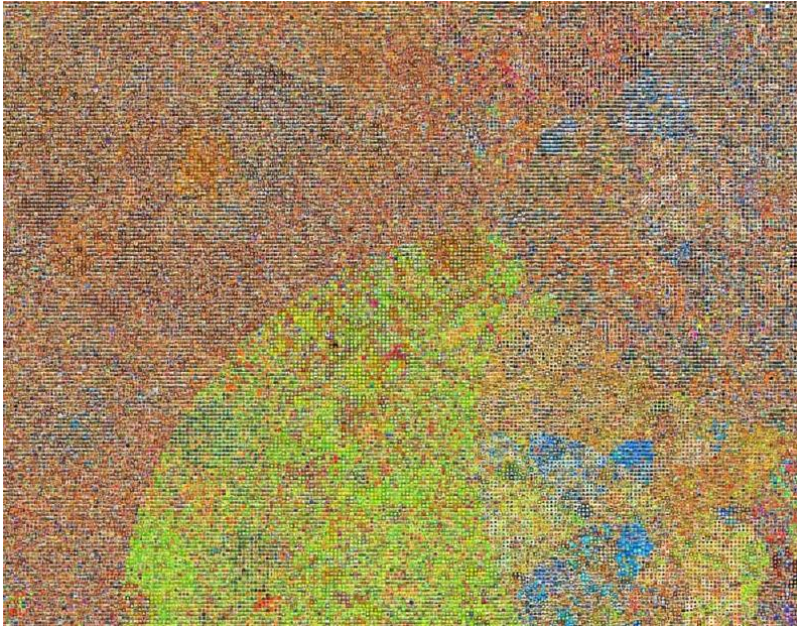


model

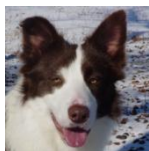


Algorithm

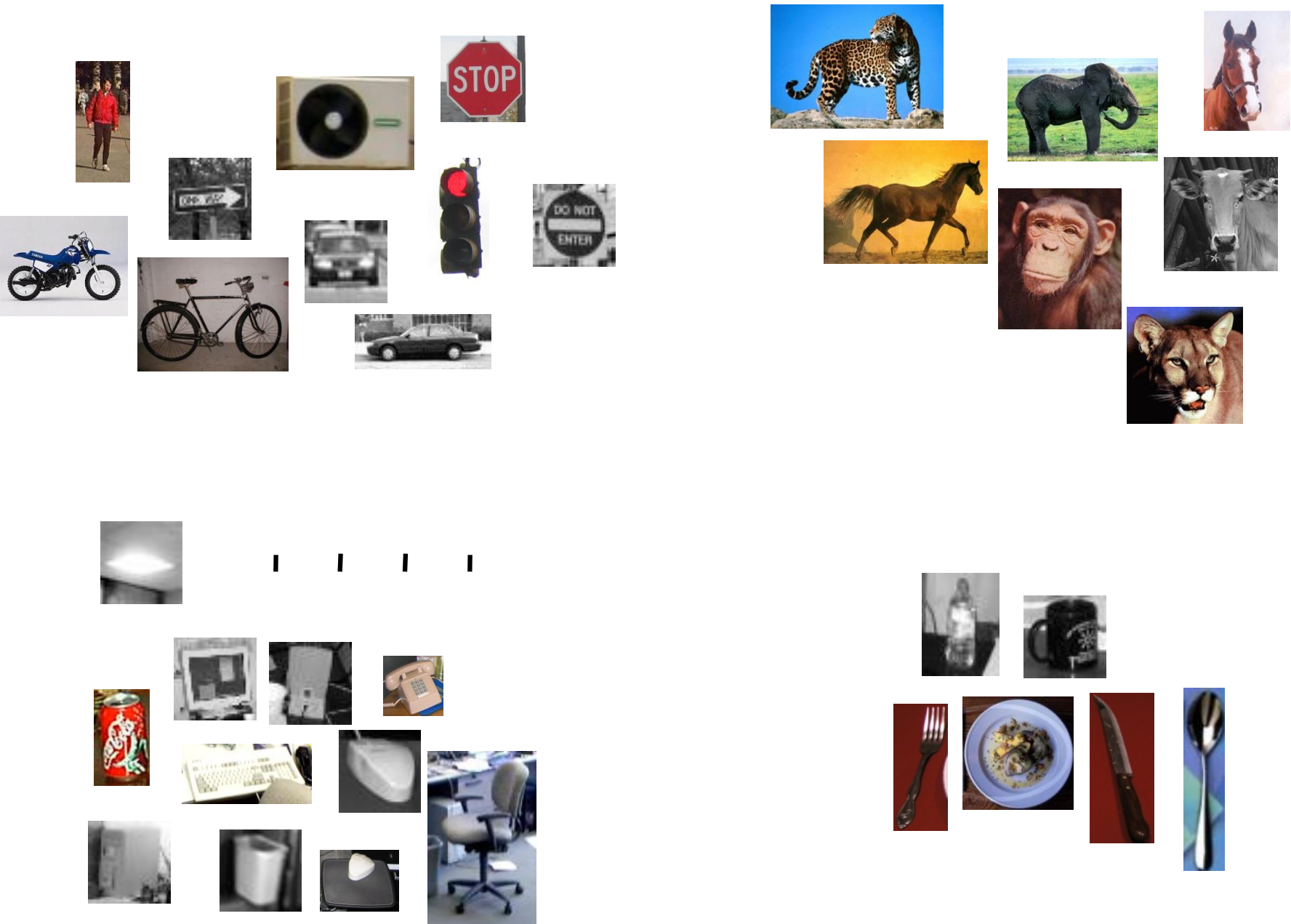
1. Find hypotheses of canonical parts consistent with a given pose
2. Infer position and pose of other canonical parts
3. Optimize over \mathbf{E} , \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{s} to find best combination of hypothesis
→ error



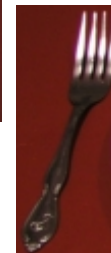
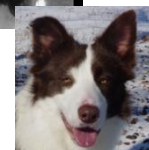
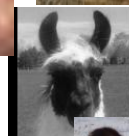
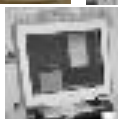
Multiclass object detection



Context: objects appear in configurations



Generalization: objects share parts



How many object categories are there?



We do not need to recognize the exact category

A new class can borrow information from similar categories



A bird



An ostrich

Scaling to billions of images

Object Recognition for large-scale search

Focus on scaling rather than understanding image



Content-Based Image Retrieval

- Variety of simple/hand-designed cues:
 - Color and/or Texture histograms, Shape, PCA, etc.
- Various distance metrics
 - Earth Movers Distance (Rubner et al. '98)



- QBIC from IBM (1999)
- Blobworld, Carson et al. 2002



Here is a shot of me and my brothers at my brother Jon's wedding to his first wife. I was 17, Garth was 19 and Jon was 21.

This photo has notes. Move your mouse over the photo to see them.

NEWS

[▶ Watch](#) ONE-MINUTE WORLD NEWS

News Front Page

[Africa](#)[Americas](#)[Asia-Pacific](#)[Europe](#)[Middle East](#)[South Asia](#)[UK](#)[Business](#)[Health](#)[Science & Environment](#)[Technology](#)[Entertainment](#)[Also in the news](#)[Video and Audio](#)[Programmes](#)[Have Your Say](#)[In Pictures](#)[Country Profiles](#)[Special Reports](#)[Related BBC sites](#)[Sport](#)[Weather](#)[On This Day](#)[Editors' Blog](#)[BBC World Service](#)

Page last updated at 14:45 GMT, Friday, 11 September 2009 15:45 UK

[✉ E-mail this to a friend](#)

Day in pictures

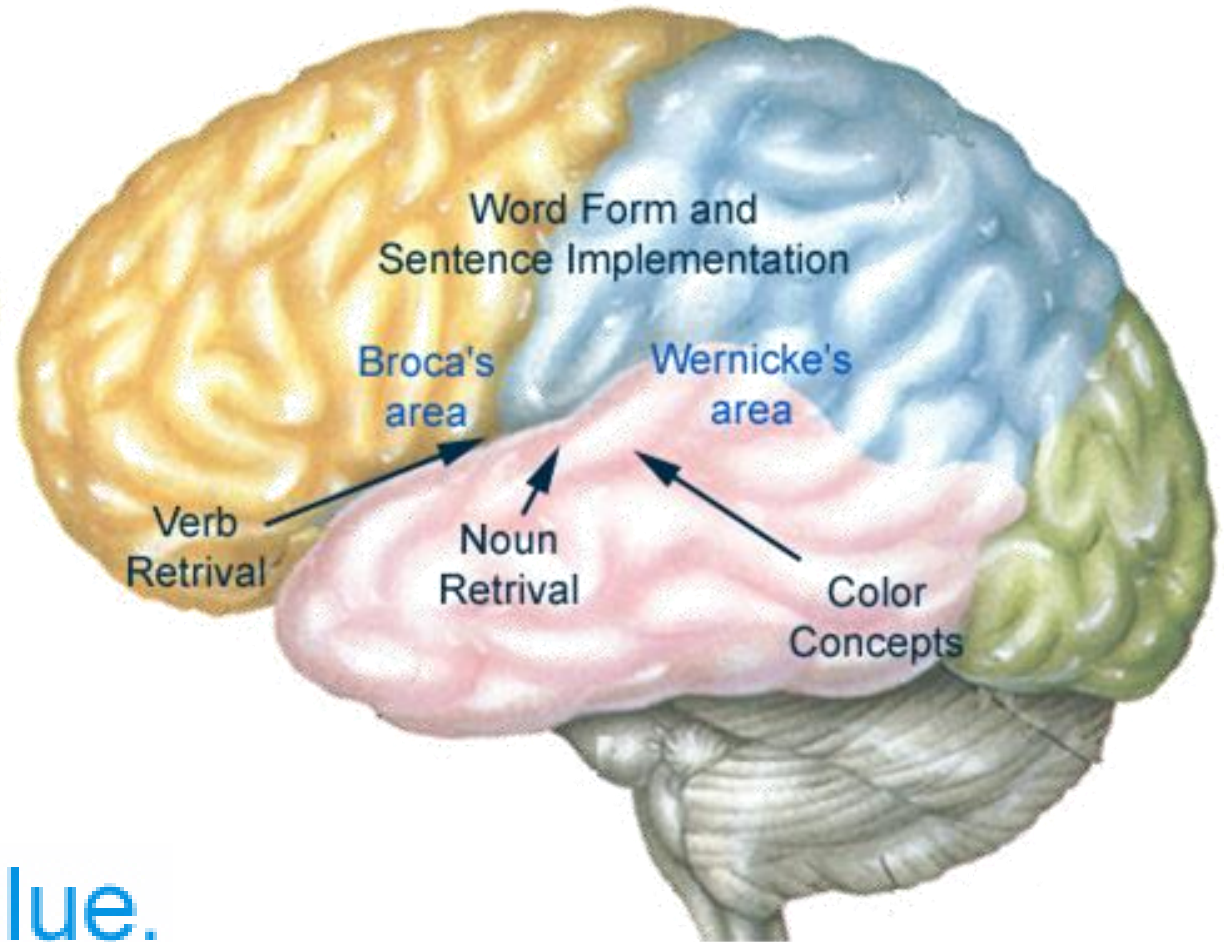


A Thai government employee risks a close up shot of a captive tiger in Ratchaburi province as part of a scheme to tackle illegal trading by creating a database of the animals.

Vision and language in human brain



Sentence:
The sky is blue.





Automatic Image Annotation: ALIP

Annotation Process

- **Classification** results form the **basis**
- **Salient words** appearing in the classification **favored** more



Snow, animal,
wildlife, sky,
cloth, ice, people



Building, sky, lake,
landscape,
Europe, tree



Food, indoor, cuisine,
dessert

“Beyond nouns”



Car is on the Street



Bear in water



Bear is on the field

Co-occurrence:

Red Car/Street

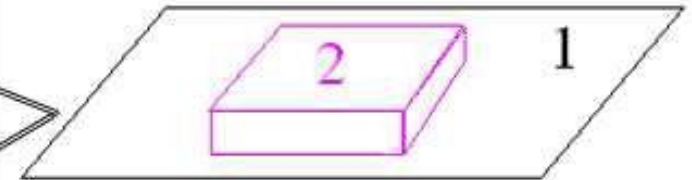
Blue Bear

Yellow Water

Green Car/Street

Orange Field

Our Approach:



2 is on 1

Red Street

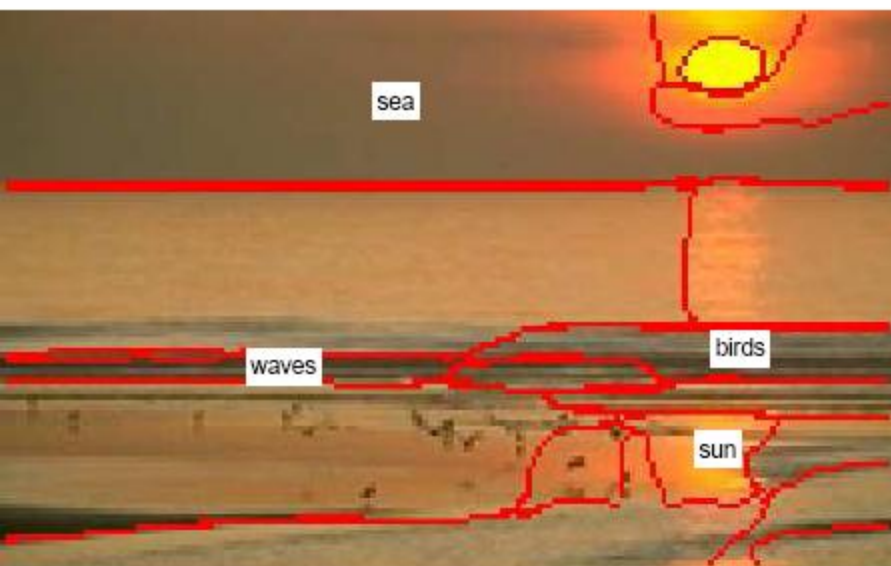
Blue Bear

Yellow Water

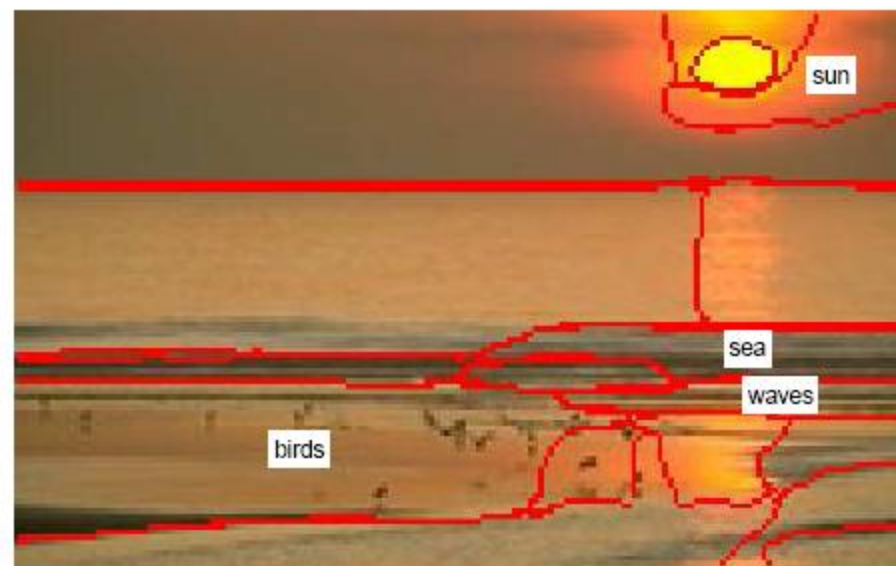
Green Car

Orange Field

(i) Duygulu et. al (2002)

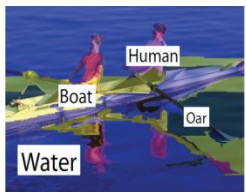


(ii) Our Approach



What, where and who? Classifying events by scene and object recognition



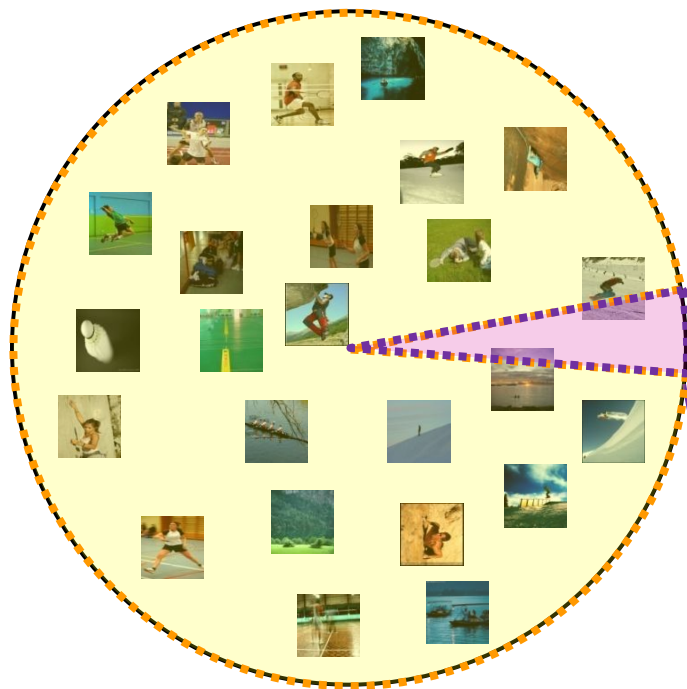


Auto-semi-supervised learning:

Small # of initialized images + Large # of uninitialized images

Total Scene

Scene/Event images
from the Internet

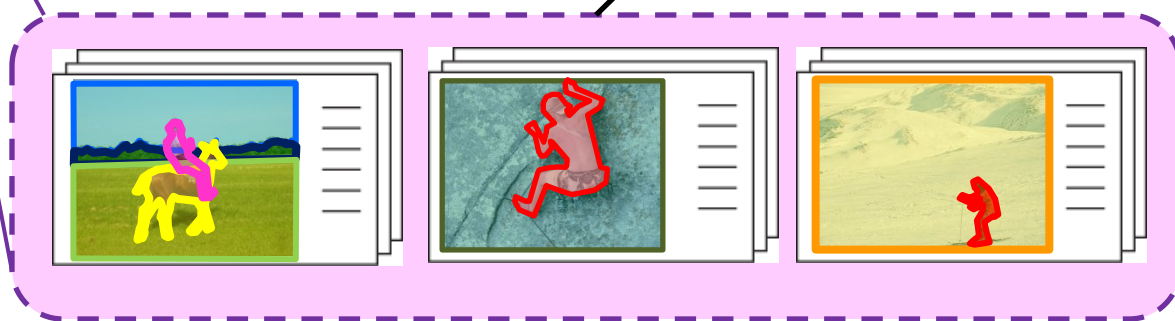


flickrTM



Large # of uninitialized images

+



Small # of initialized images

**Generative
Model**



Datasets

10^0
images



1972


10^0
images



1972

LabelMe

10^5
images



Please [contact us](#) if you find any bugs or have any suggestions.



[Show me another image](#)

Label as many objects and regions as you can in this image




[Sign in](#) ([why?](#))

With your help, there are **91348** labelled objects in the database ([more stats](#))

Instructions ([Get more help](#))

Use your mouse to click around the boundary of some objects in this image. You will then be asked to enter the name of the object (examples: car, window).

Good



Bad



Labeling tools



[Erase segment](#)



[Zoom](#)



[Fit image](#)

Polygons in this image ([XML](#))

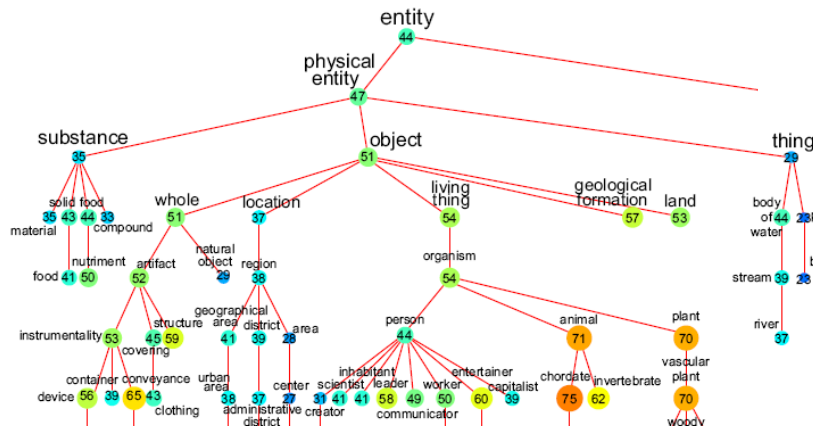
- [door](#)
- [door](#)
- [road](#)
- [stair](#)
- [window](#)
- [window](#)
- [sidewalk](#)
- [building region](#)
- [house](#)
- [window](#)
- [window](#)
- [window](#)

80.000.000 images

10^{6-7}
images

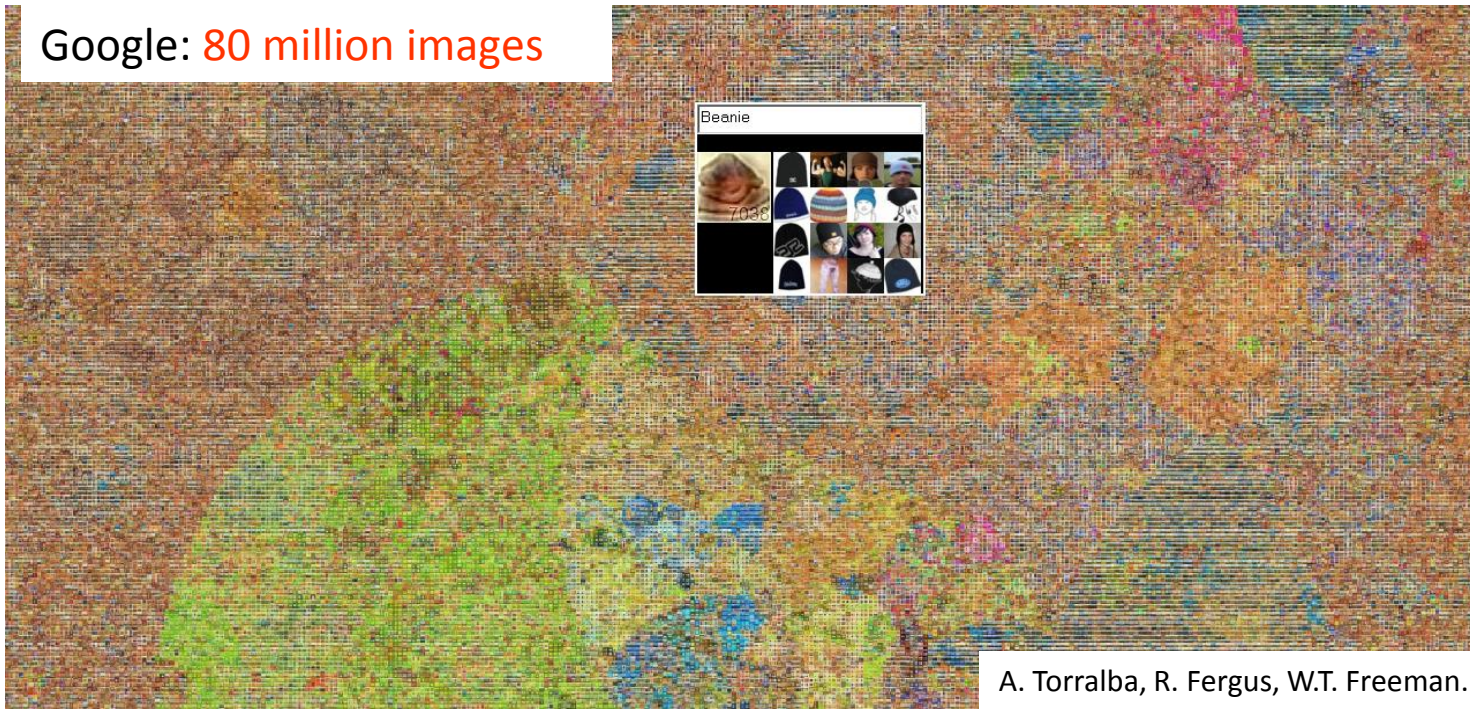
75.000 non-abstract nouns from WordNet

7 Online image search engines



And after 1 year downloading images

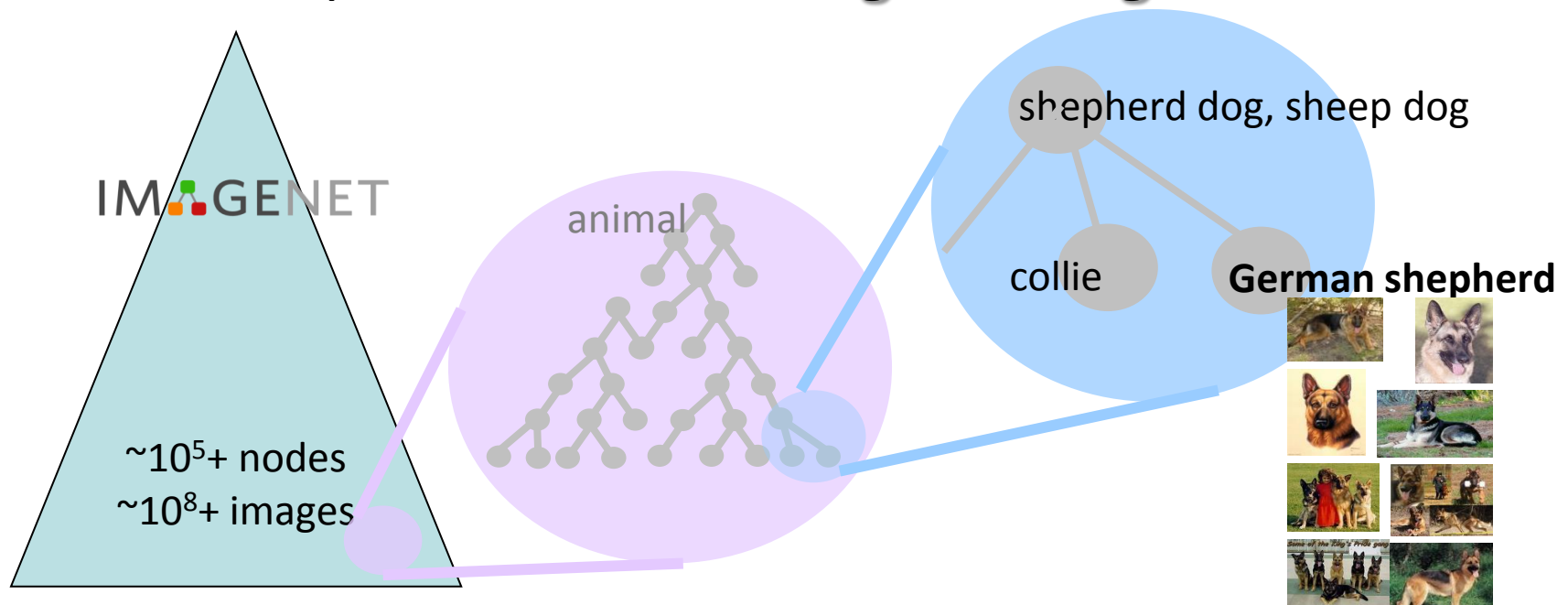
Google: 80 million images



IMAGENET

10^{6-7}
images

- An **ontology of images** based on WordNet
- ImageNet currently has
 - ~15,000 categories of visual concepts
 - 10 million human-cleaned images (~700im/categ)
 - Free to public @ **www.image-net.org**



Human vision

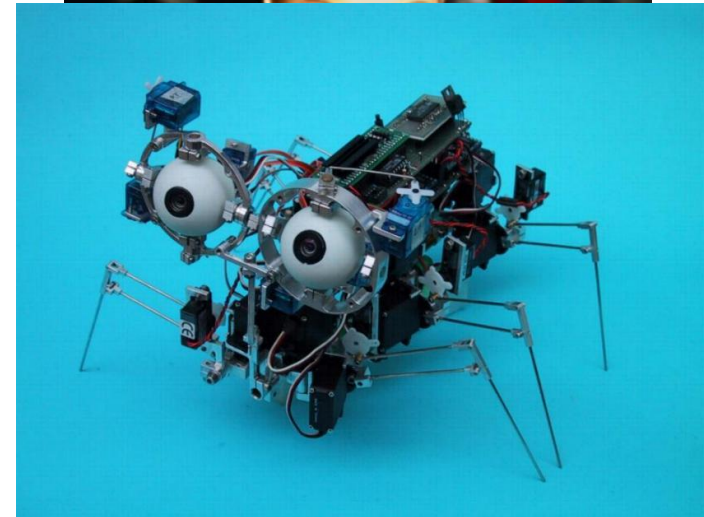
- Many input modalities
- Active
- Supervised, unsupervised, semi supervised learning. It can look for supervision.

Robot vision

- Many poor input modalities
- Active, but it does not go far

Internet vision

- Many input modalities
- It can reach everywhere
- Tons of data



Labeling to get a Ph.D.



Labeling for fun



Labeling for money



Labeling because it
gives you added value



Visipedia

Just labeling



Dataset labeling by crowd sourcing

Mechanical Turk is a marketplace for work.

We give businesses and developers access to an on-demand, scalable workforce.
Workers select from thousands of tasks and work whenever it's convenient.

90,040 HITs available. [View them now.](#)

Make Money by working on HITs

HITs - *Human Intelligence Tasks* - are individual tasks that you work on. [Find HITs now.](#)

As a Mechanical Turk Worker you:

- Can work from home
- Choose your own work hours
- Get paid for doing good work



or [learn more about being a Worker](#)

Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITs - *Human Intelligence Tasks* - and get results using Mechanical Turk. [Register Now](#)

As a Mechanical Turk Requester you:

- Have access to a global, on-demand, 24 x 7 workforce
- Get thousands of HITs completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results



or [learn more about being a Requester](#)

A word of warning of crowd sourcing

“We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare; now, thanks to the Internet, we know that is not true.”

-- Robert Wilensky, 1996