

Principles of Robot Autonomy I

Deep learning for computer vision

Guest Lecture by Dr. Boris Ivanovic

Today's itinerary

- Stats/ML review
- Neural network basics
- **Convolutional neural networks**
- Robotic applications

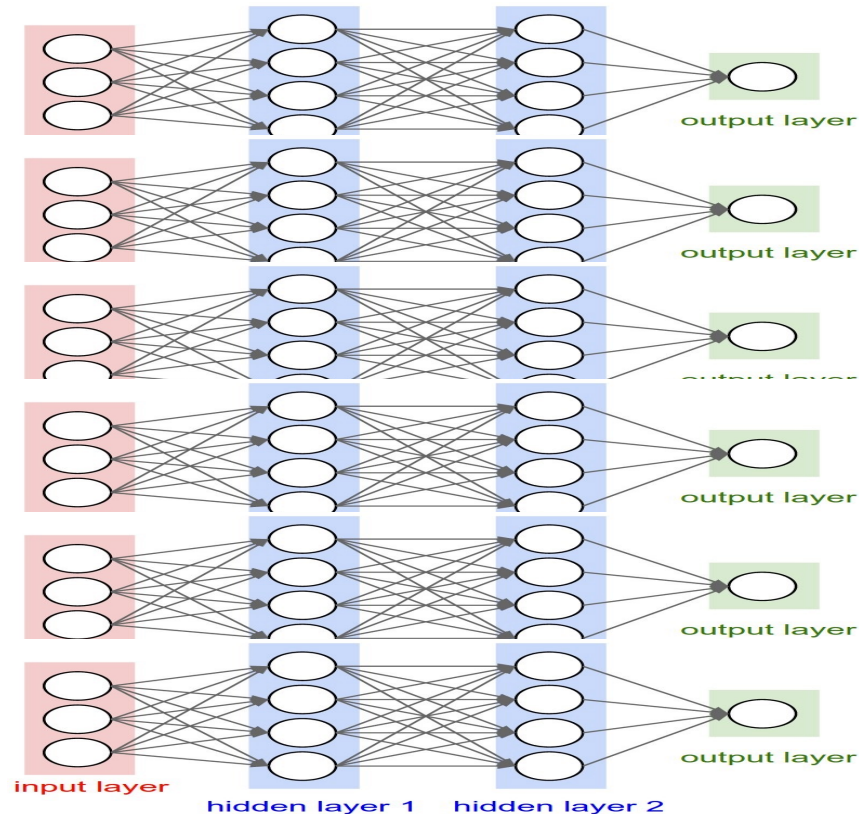
Efficient feature extraction



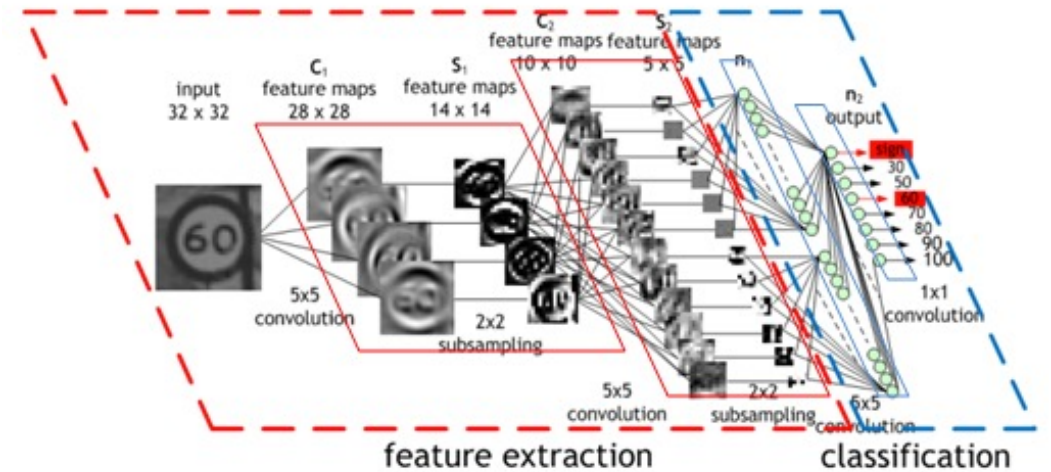
CIFAR-10
32x32x3



Inception-v3
299x299x3



VS.

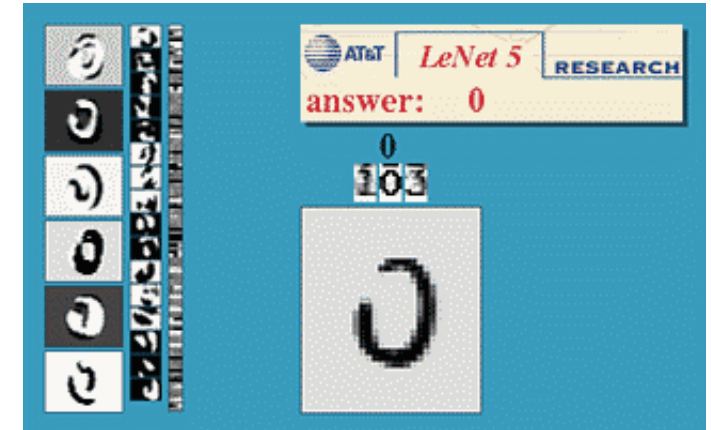


If we know the input is image data, we can assume some spatial locality
→ weight sharing

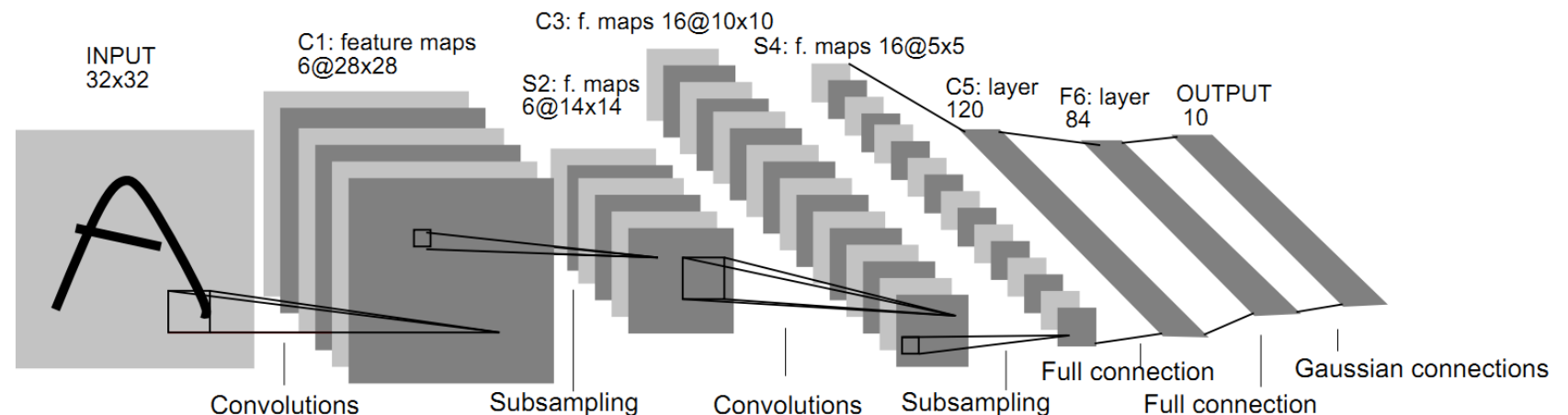
Convolutional neural networks (CNN)

Traditionally consist of 4 types of layers:

- Convolutional layers (CONV)
- Nonlinearity layers (RELU)
- Pooling layers (POOL)
- Fully-connected layers (FC)

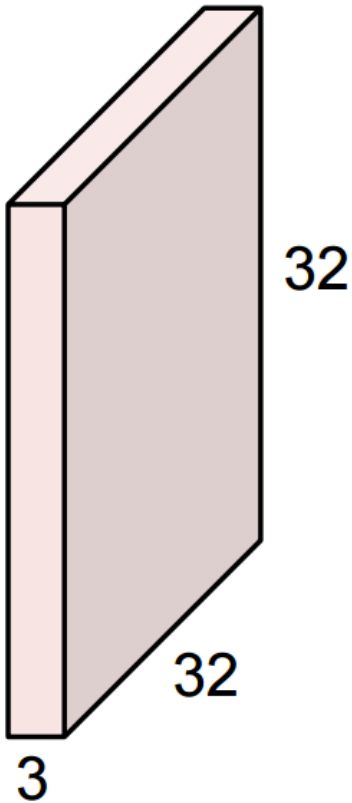


LeNet
(1998)



Convolution layer

32x32x3 image

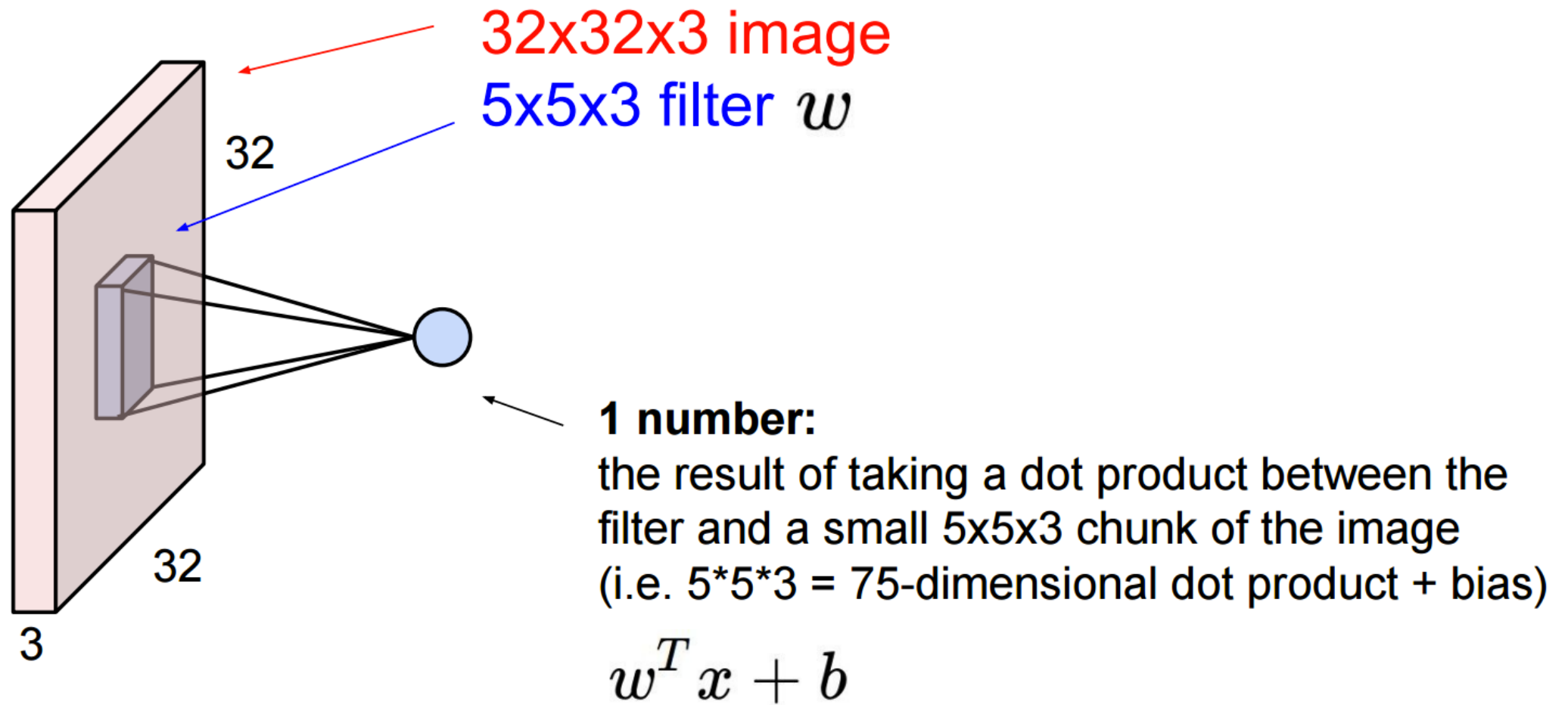


5x5x3 filter

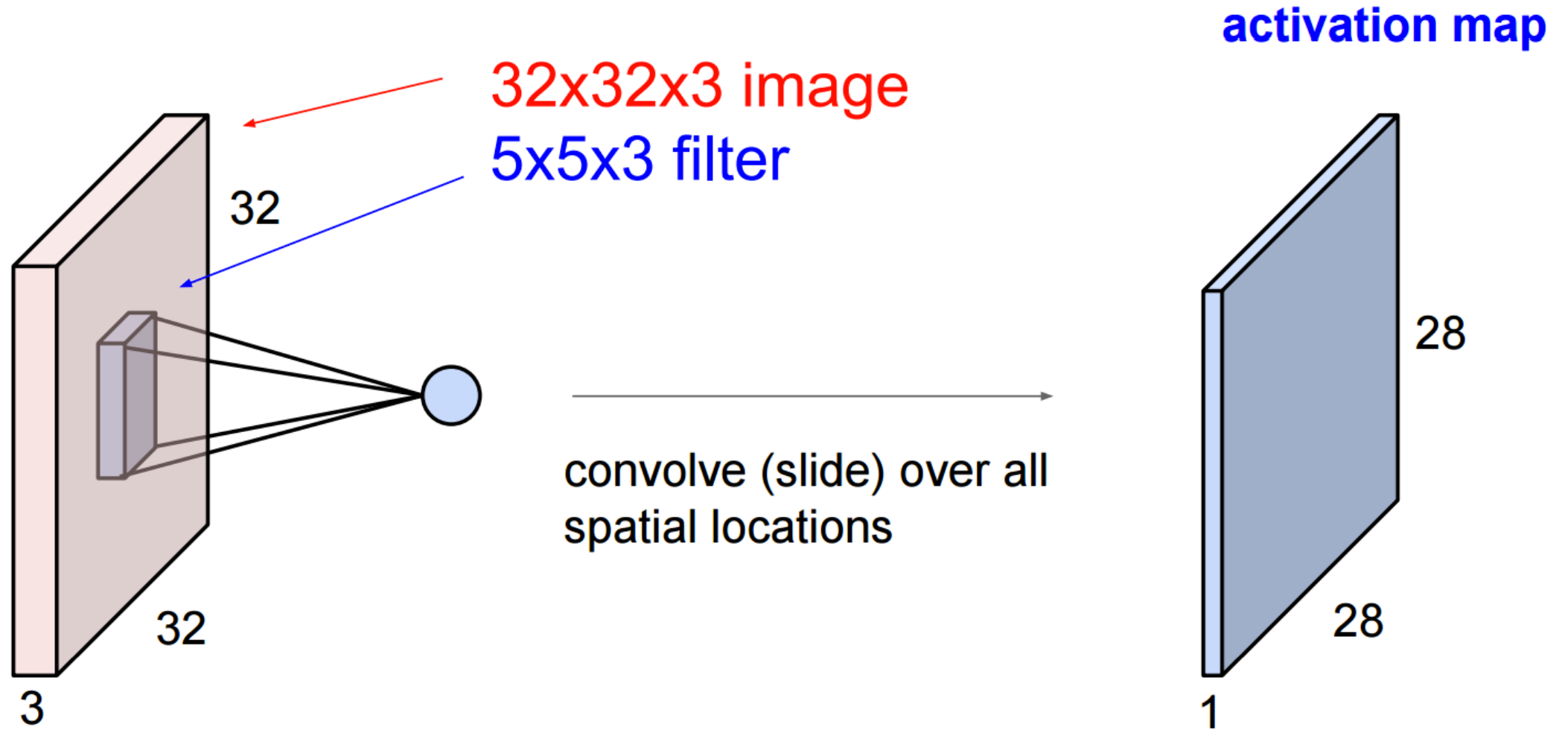


Convolve the filter with the image
i.e. “slide over the image spatially,
computing dot products”

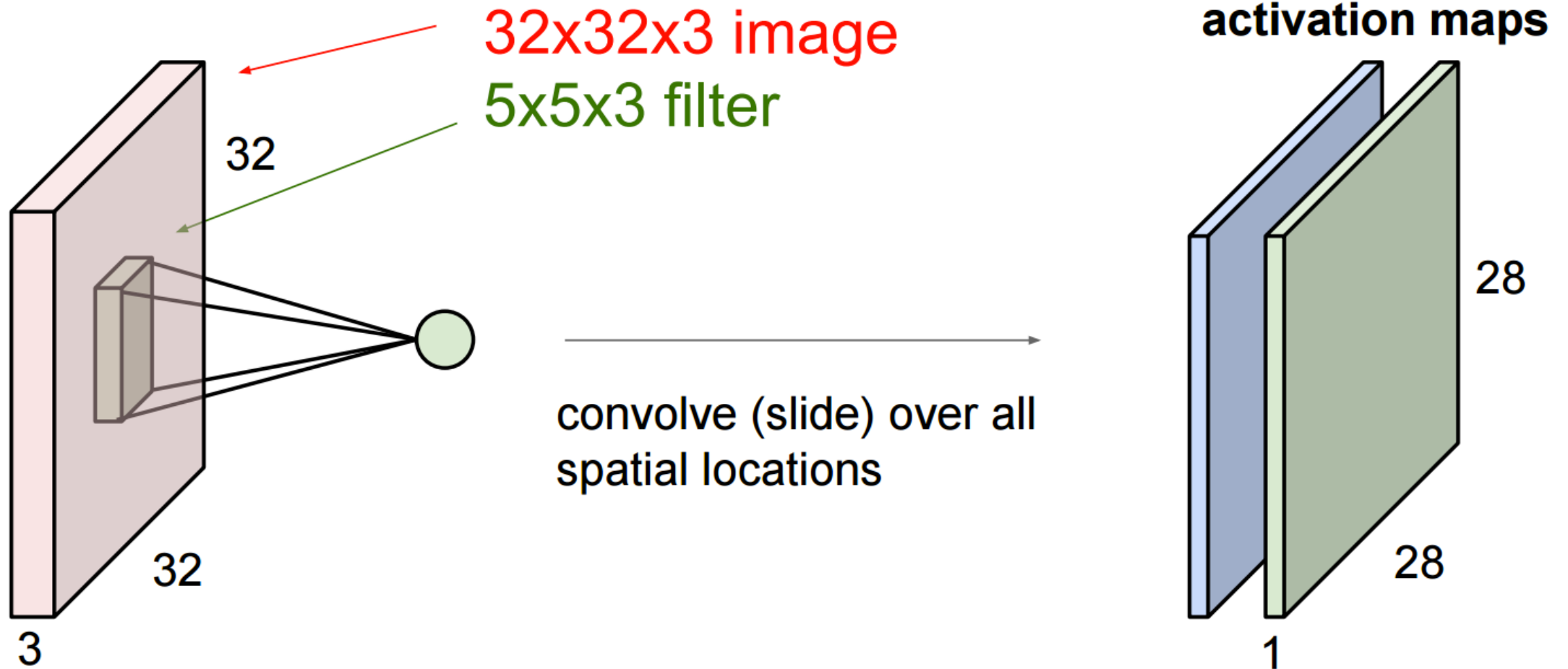
Convolution layer



Convolution layer

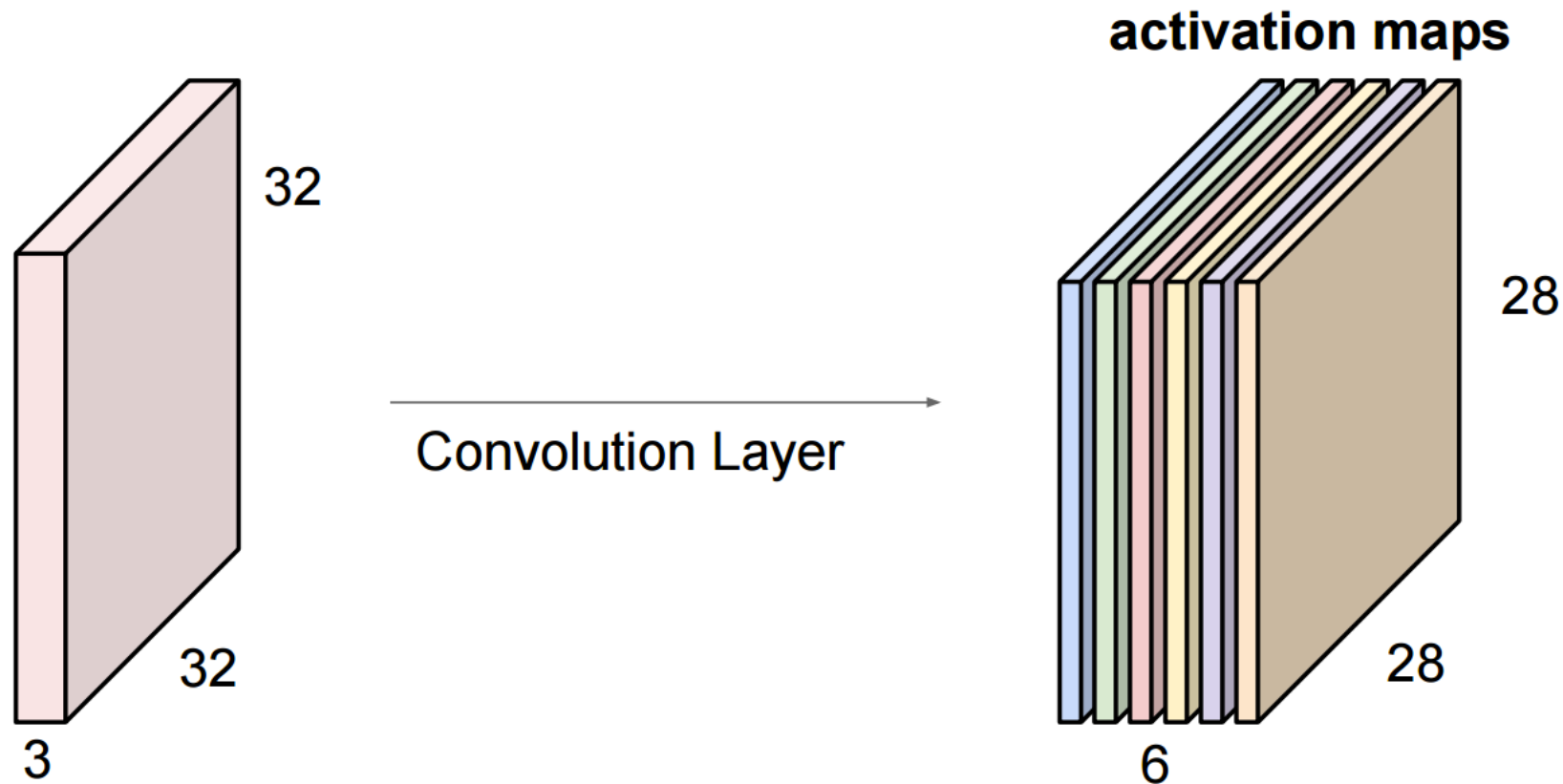


Convolution layer



Convolution layer

For example, if we had 6 5x5 filters, we'll get 6 separate activation maps:

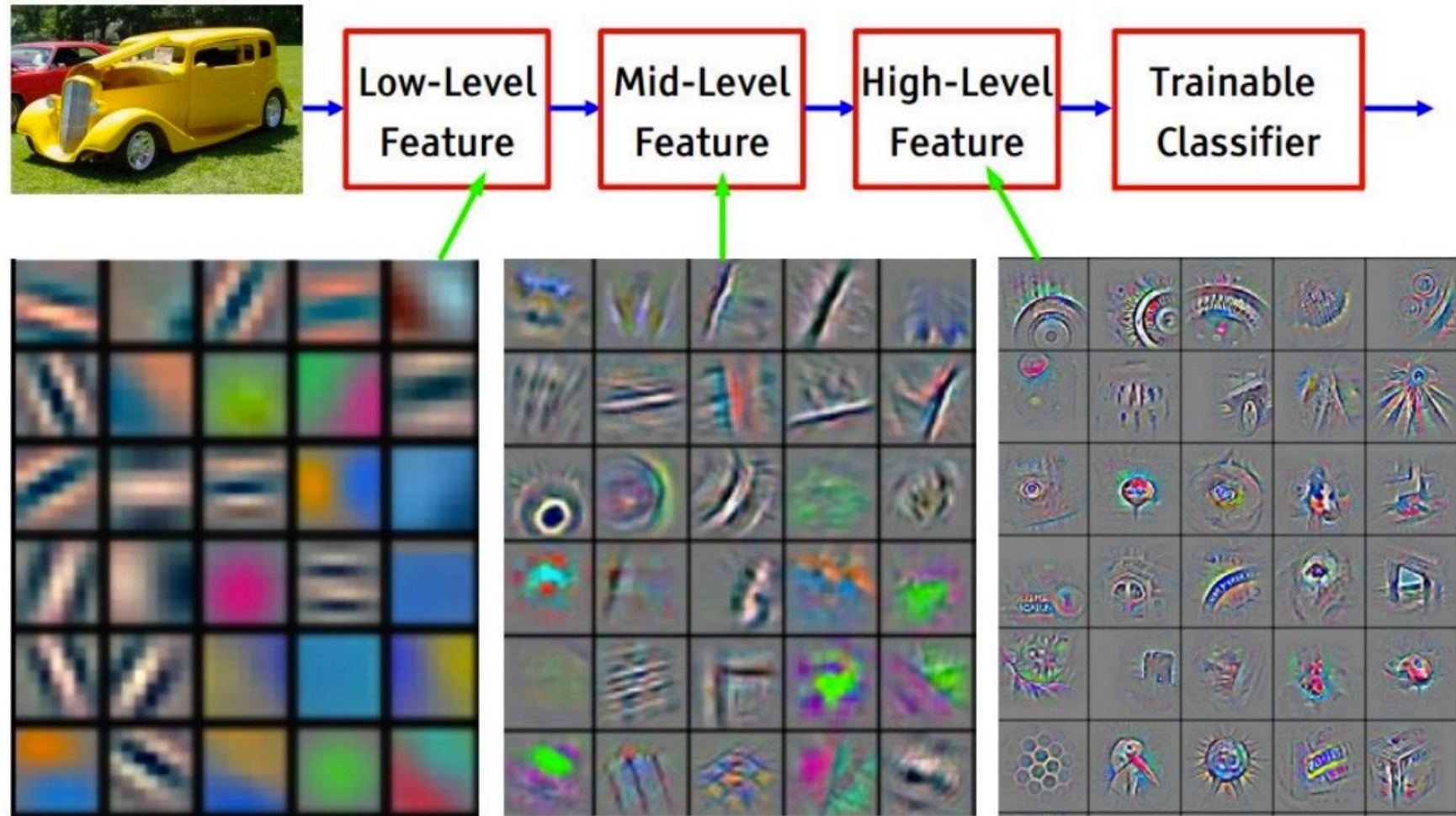


We stack these up to get a “new image” of size 28x28x6!

Convolution Layer Visualization

<http://cs231n.github.io/convolutional-networks/>

Feature hierarchy



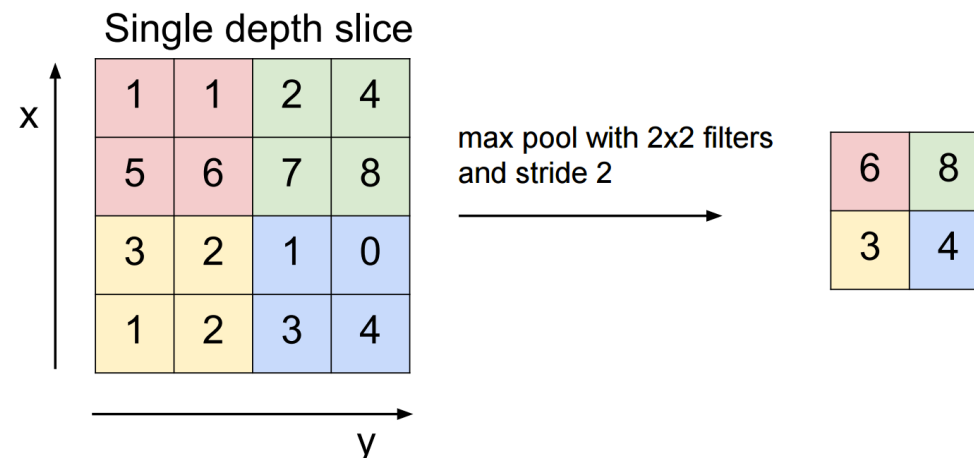
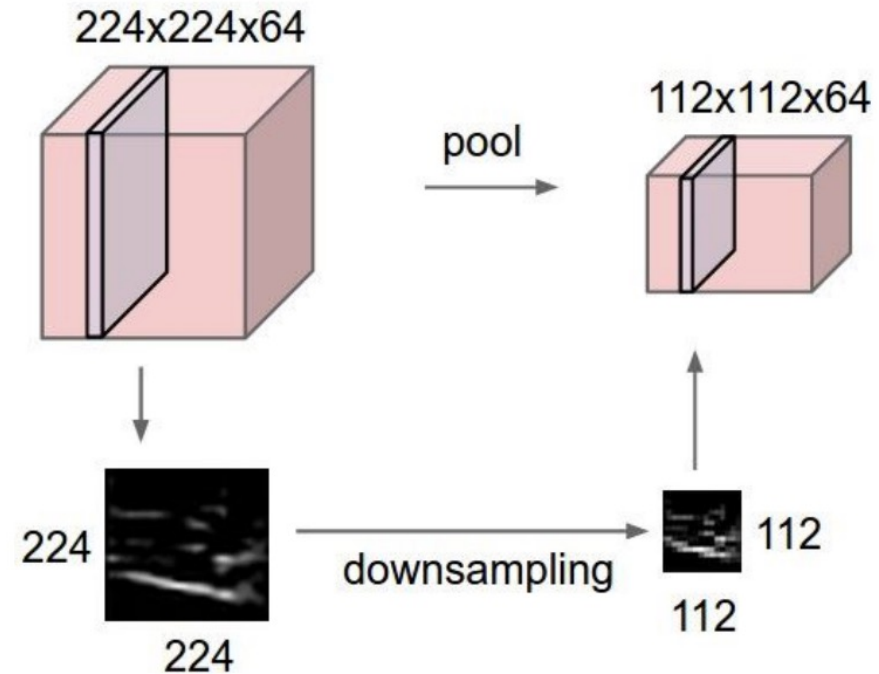
Feature visualization of convolutional net trained on ImageNet from [Zeiler & Fergus 2013]

Pooling layer

As we move higher up the feature “food chain” we can save ourselves some computational effort by lowering the resolution

Types of pooling:

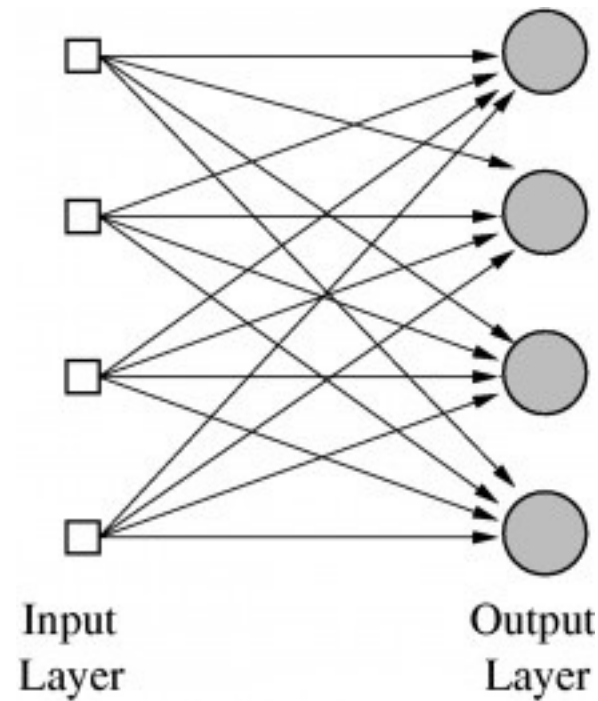
- MAX pooling
- MEAN pooling



Fully connected layer

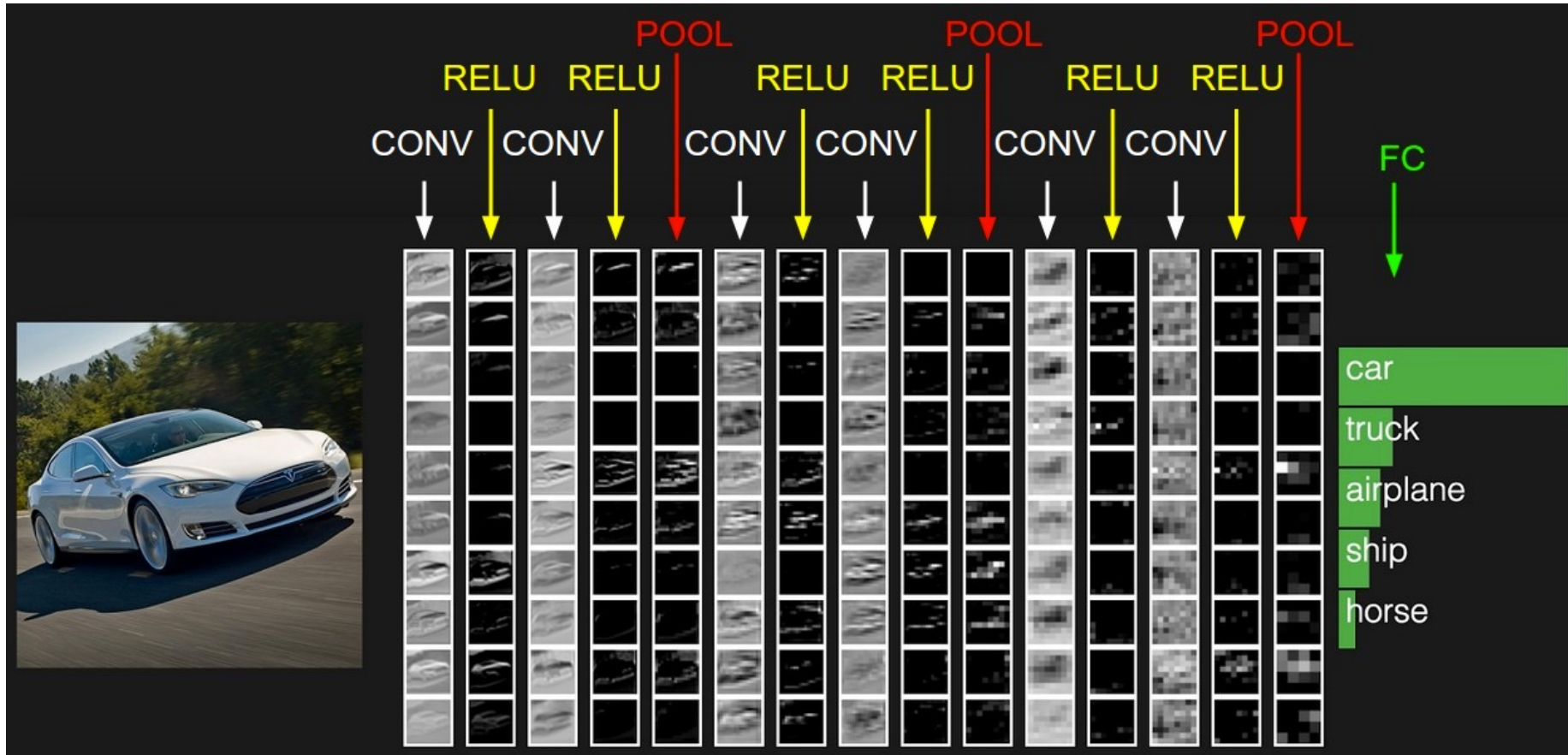
We've seen this one before!

Image “summary
vector” with all of
the redundant
pixel info boiled
out



Linear classifier
(softmax)

Putting it all together – CNN



<http://cs231n.stanford.edu/>

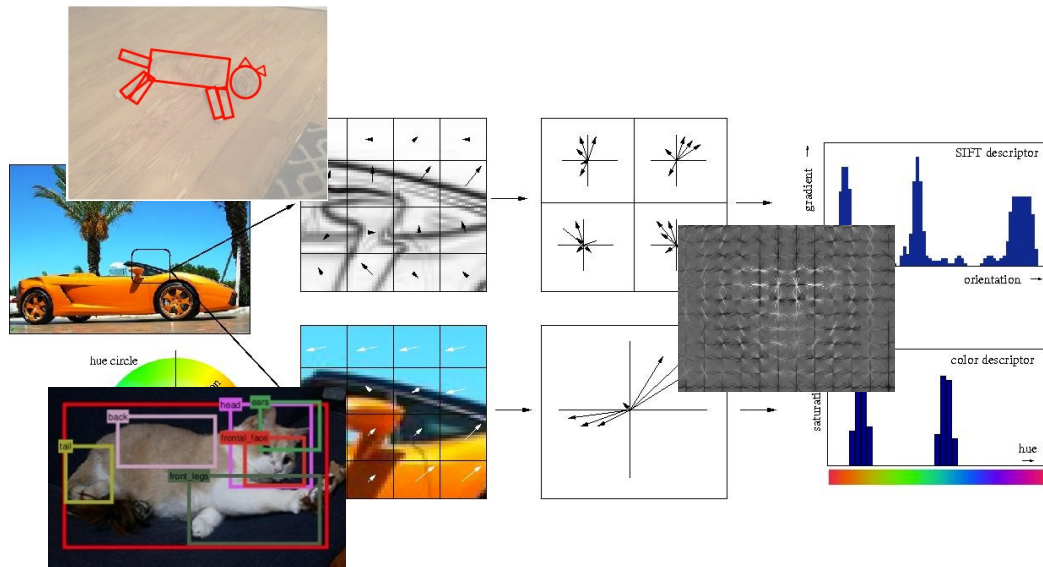
Live Demo - Inner Workings of a CNN

https://adamharley.com/nn_vis/cnn/3d.html

There's also a 2D version:

https://adamharley.com/nn_vis/cnn/2d.html

Classification showdown



vector describing various
image statistics



Feature
Extraction

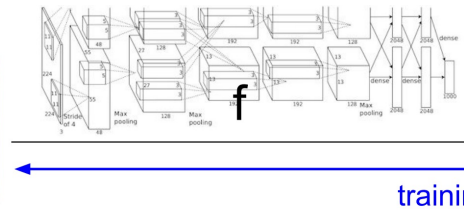
f

training

10 numbers, indicating
class scores

vs.

$$\nabla(f \circ g)(x) = ((Dg)(x))^T (\nabla f)(g(x))$$



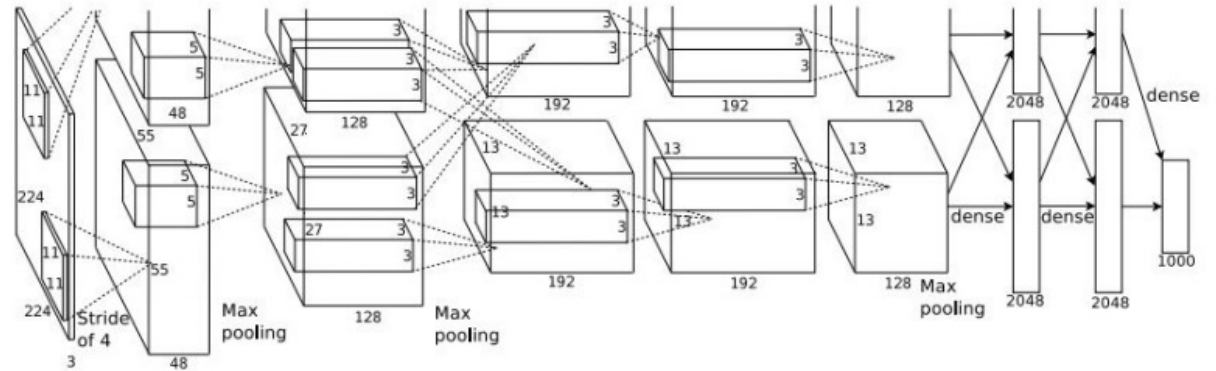
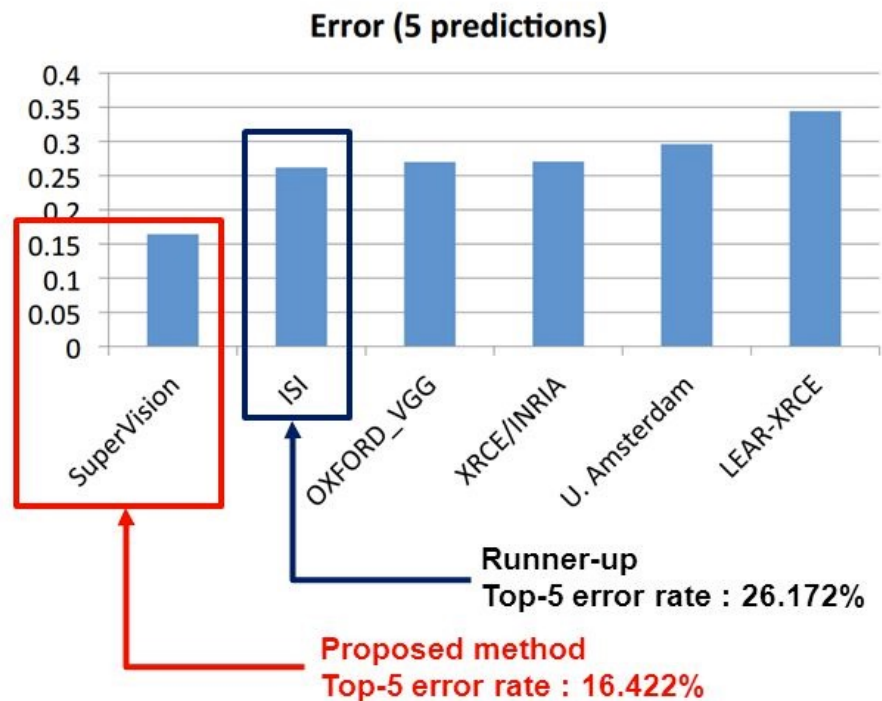
10 numbers, indicating
class scores

Who wins?

End-to-end learning wins!

Results

- ILSVRC-2012 results



AlexNet (2012)

Disclaimer: hand-crafted features may still be the right choice for your niche application

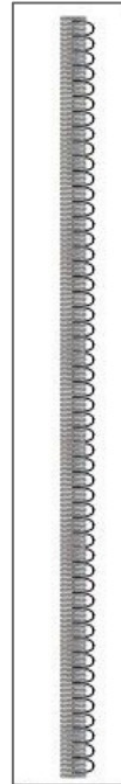
Modern architectures (deeper and deeper)

D	E
16 weight layers	19 weight layers
conv3-64 conv3-64	conv3-64 conv3-64
conv3-128 conv3-128	conv3-128 conv3-128
conv3-256 conv3-256 conv3-256	conv3-256 conv3-256 conv3-256
conv3-512 conv3-512 conv3-512	conv3-512 conv3-512 conv3-512
conv3-512 conv3-512 conv3-512	conv3-512 conv3-512 conv3-512
maxpool	
FC-4096	
FC-4096	
FC-1000	
soft-max	

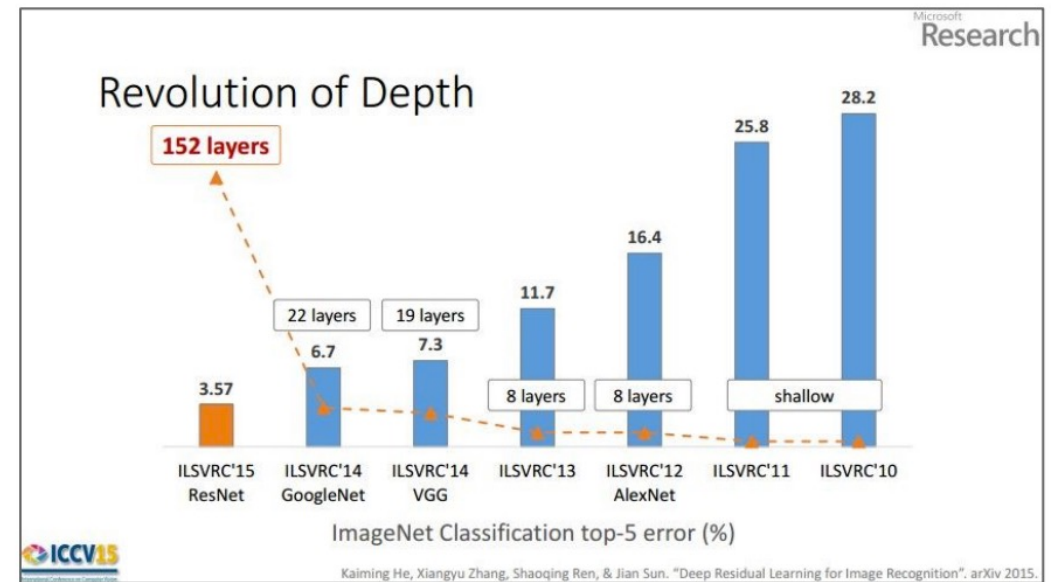
VGG
(2014)



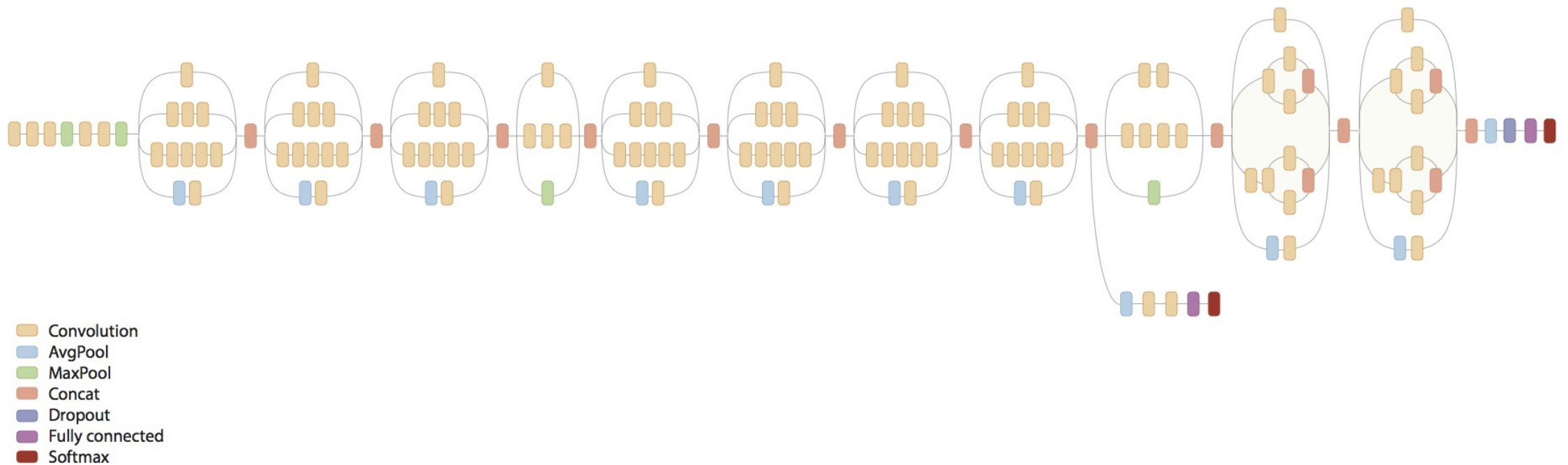
GoogLeNet
(2014)



ResNet
(2015)



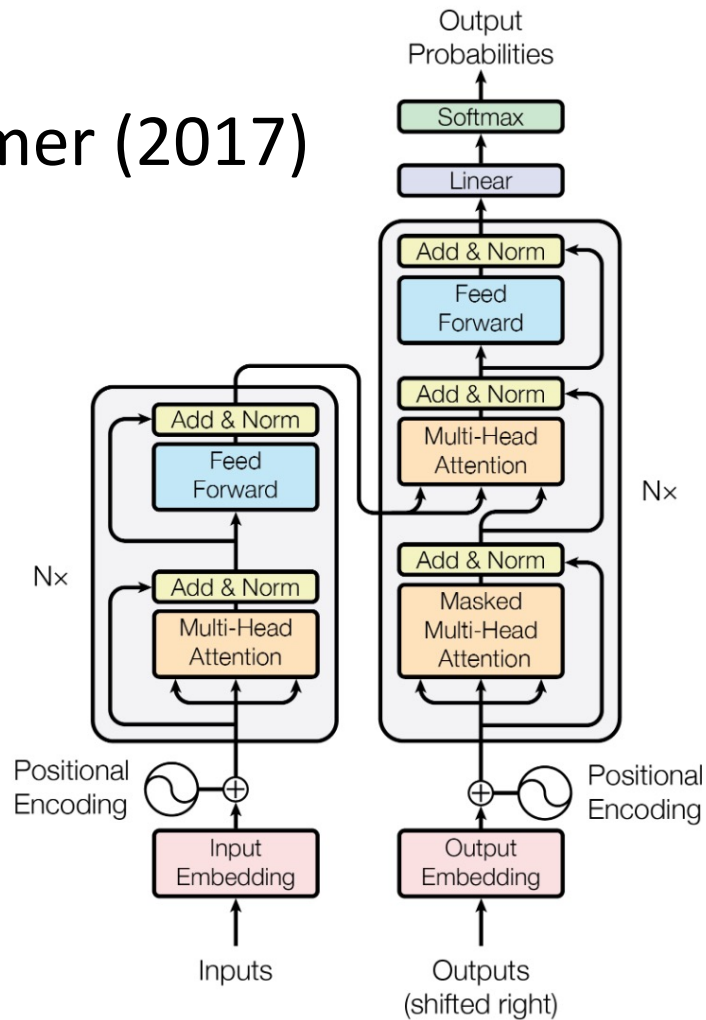
Modern architectures (deeper and deeper)



Inception-v3 (2016)

Even more modern architectures

Transformer (2017)



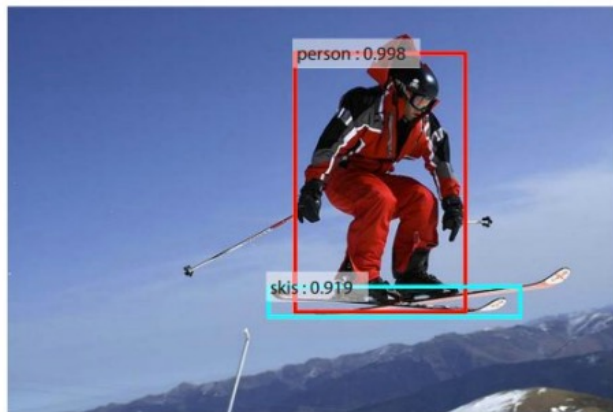
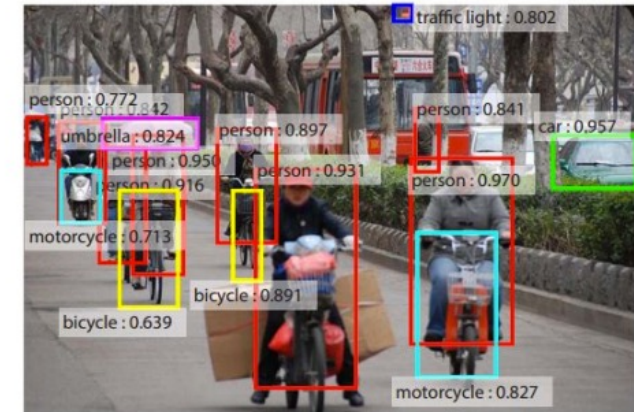
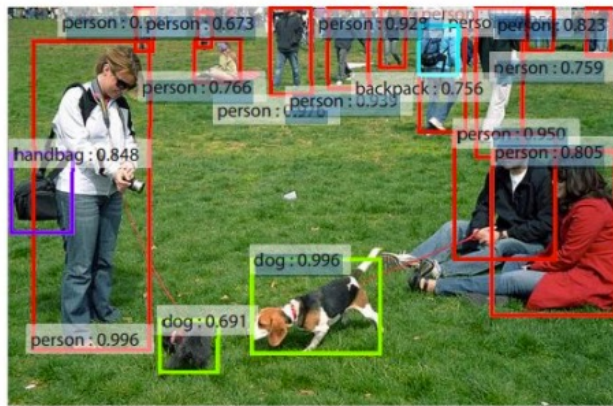
Vision Transformer (2020)

Transformers | Davide Cuccomini | 2021

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Object localization and detection



Results from Faster R-CNN, Ren et al 2015

Object localization

Instead of outputting only a class (with associated loss function), also regress on 4 numbers defining the edges of a bounding box

Input: image



Only one object,
simpler than detection

Neural Net
→

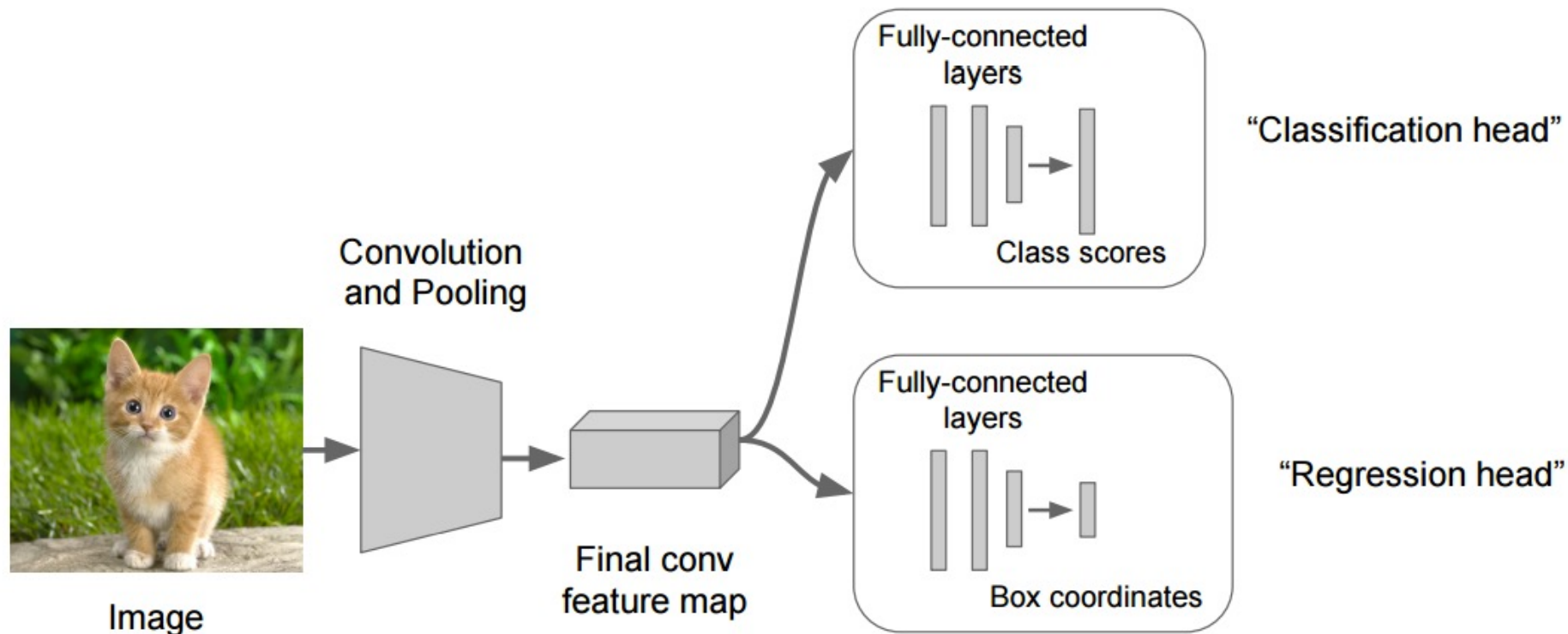
Output:
Box coordinates
(4 numbers)

Correct output:
box coordinates
(4 numbers)

Loss:
L2 distance

Localization and detection

Instead of outputting only a class (with associated loss function), also regress on 4 numbers defining the edges of a bounding box

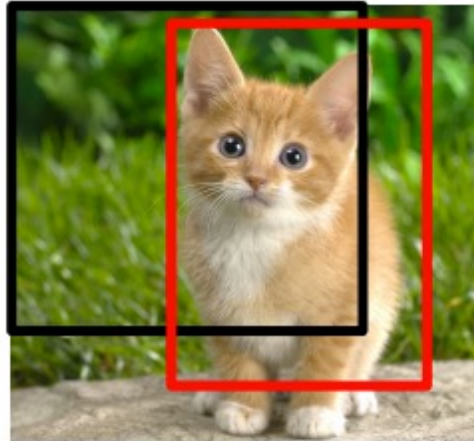


Object detection

Sliding window: using a classifier as the basis for a detector



Network input:
 $3 \times 221 \times 221$



Larger image:
 $3 \times 257 \times 257$

0.5	

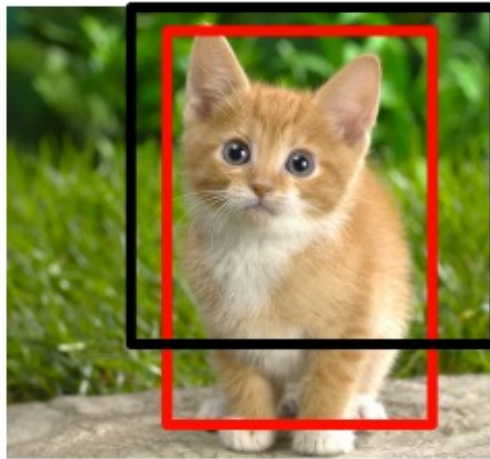
Classification scores:
 $P(\text{cat})$

Object detection

Sliding window: using a classifier as the basis for a detector



Network input:
 $3 \times 221 \times 221$



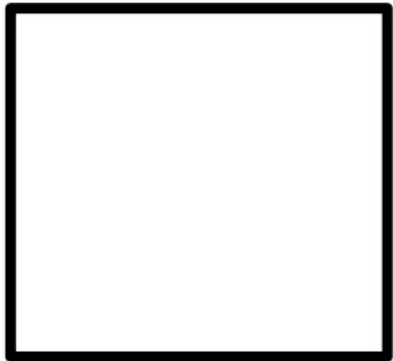
Larger image:
 $3 \times 257 \times 257$

0.5	0.75

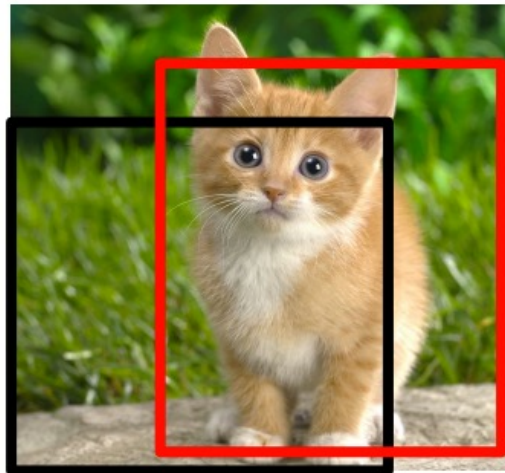
Classification scores:
 $P(\text{cat})$

Object detection

Sliding window: using a classifier as the basis for a detector



Network input:
 $3 \times 221 \times 221$



Larger image:
 $3 \times 257 \times 257$

0.5	0.75
0.6	

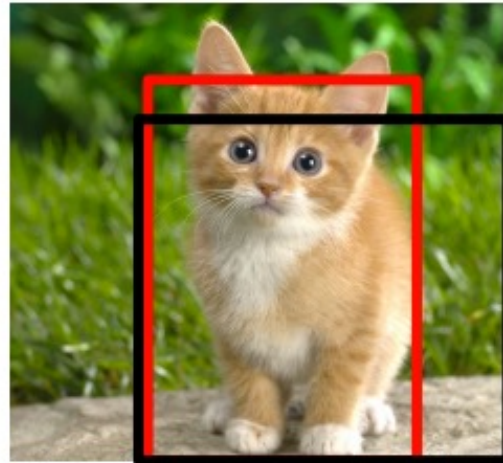
Classification scores:
 $P(\text{cat})$

Object detection

Sliding window: using a classifier as the basis for a detector



Network input:
 $3 \times 221 \times 221$

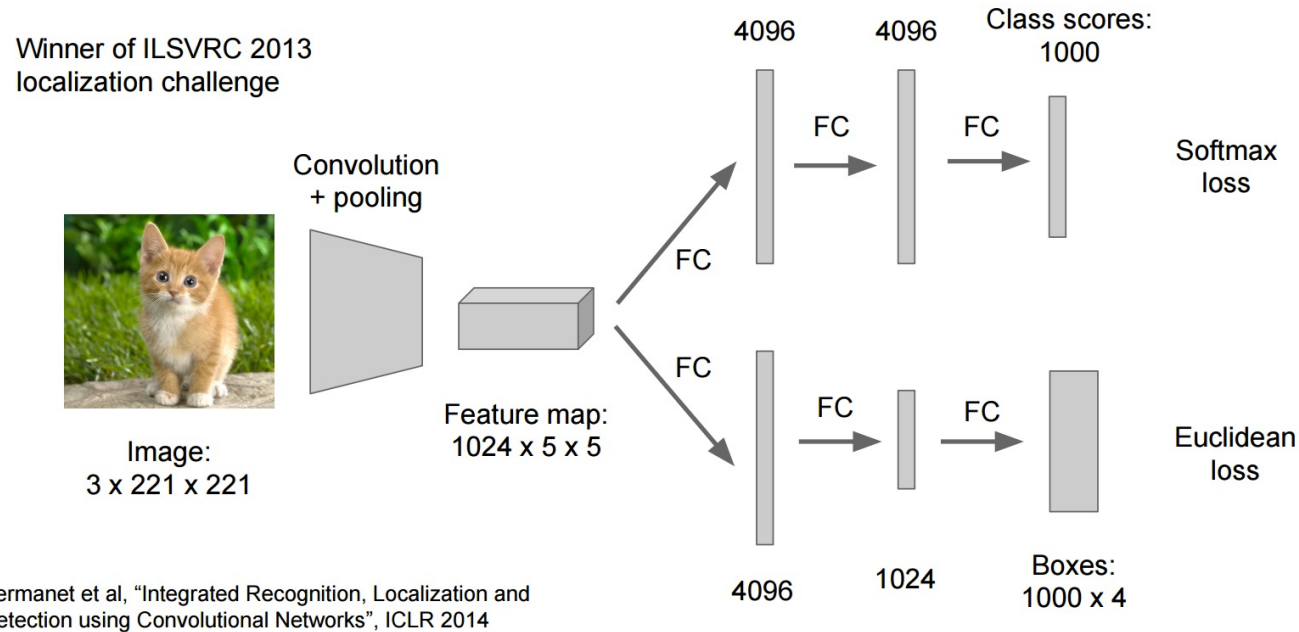


Larger image:
 $3 \times 257 \times 257$

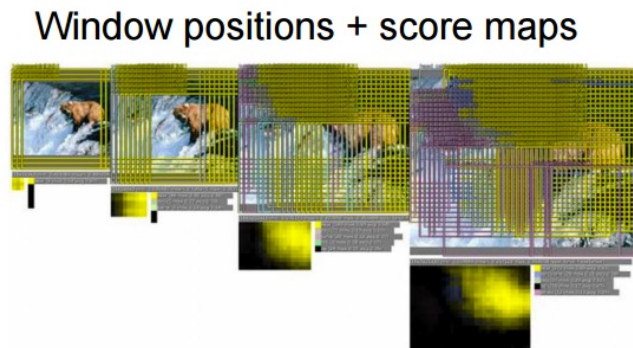
0.5	0.75
0.6	0.8

Classification scores:
 $P(\text{cat})$

Object detection – sliding window



Overfeat
(Sermanet
et al. 2014)

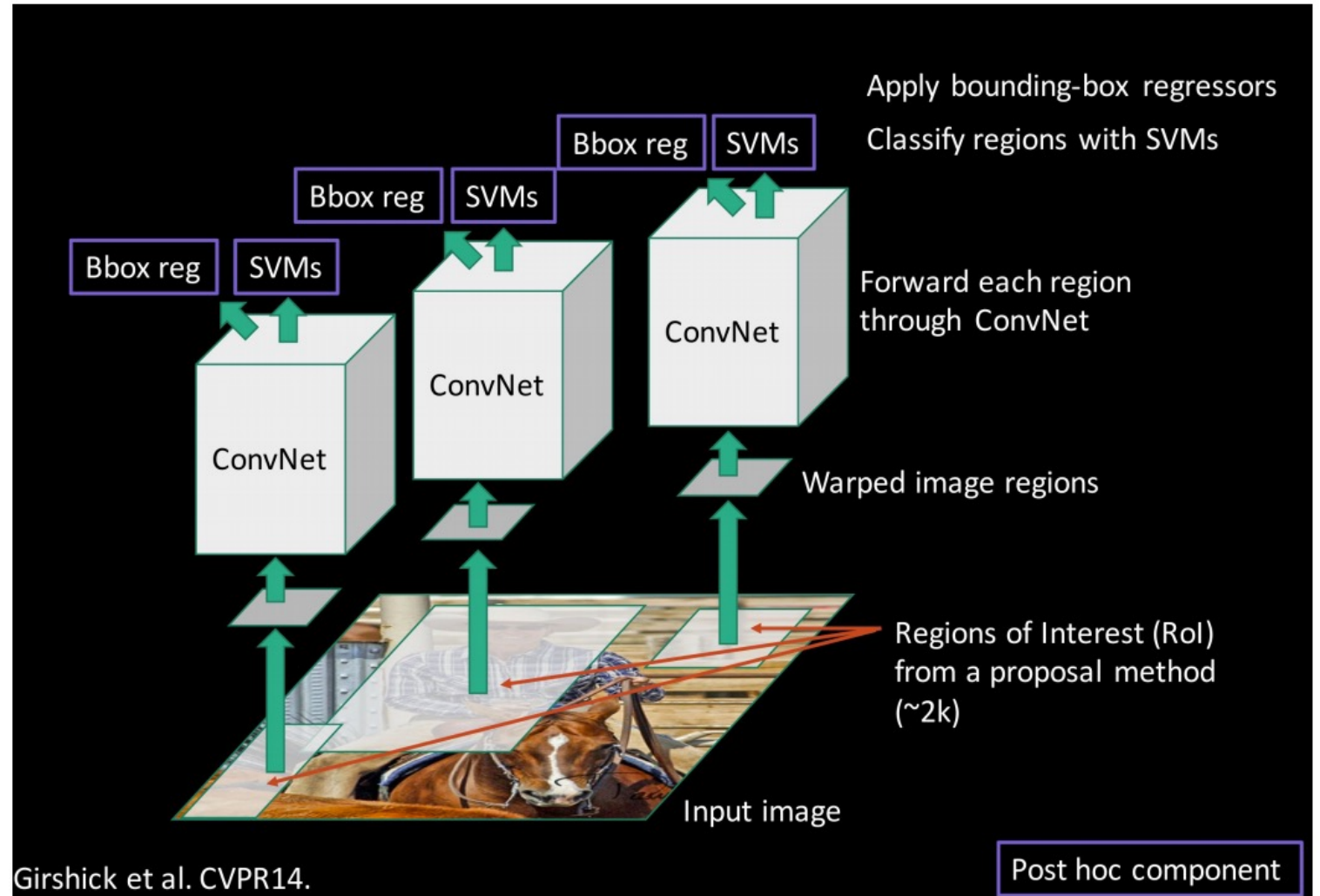


Object detection – more efficient approaches

“Proposal” method to identify “blobby” regions of interest
(could be another NN)



Two-headed
classifier/bounding box
regressor



Object detection – more efficient approaches

YOLO: You Only Look Once Detection as Regression

Divide image into $S \times S$ grid

Within each grid cell predict:

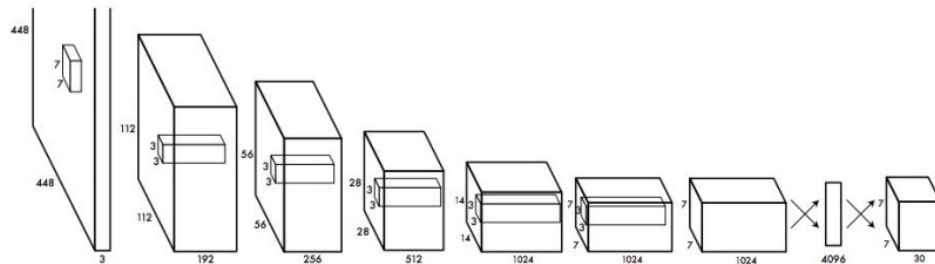
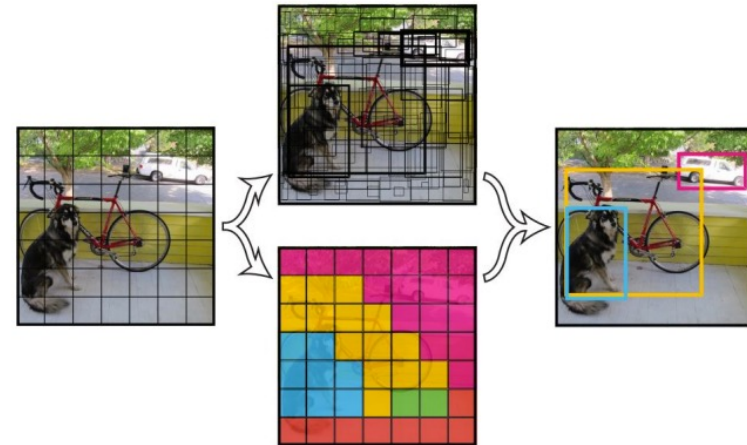
B Boxes: 4 coordinates + confidence

Class scores: C numbers

Regression from image to
 $7 \times 7 \times (5 * B + C)$ tensor

Direct prediction using a CNN

Redmon et al, "You Only Look Once:
Unified, Real-Time Object Detection", arXiv 2015



Robotics – need for speed!

Model Checkpoint	Million MACs	Million Parameters	Top-1 Accuracy	Top-5 Accuracy
MobileNet_v1_1.0_224	569	4.24	70.7	89.5
MobileNet_v1_1.0_192	418	4.24	69.3	88.9
MobileNet_v1_1.0_160	291	4.24	67.2	87.5
MobileNet_v1_1.0_128	186	4.24	64.1	85.3
MobileNet_v1_0.75_224	317	2.59	68.4	88.2
MobileNet_v1_0.75_192	233	2.59	67.4	87.3
MobileNet_v1_0.75_160	162	2.59	65.2	86.1
MobileNet_v1_0.75_128	104	2.59	61.8	83.6
MobileNet_v1_0.50_224	150	1.34	64.0	85.4
MobileNet_v1_0.50_192	110	1.34	62.1	84.0
MobileNet_v1_0.50_160	77	1.34	59.9	82.5
MobileNet_v1_0.50_128	49	1.34	56.2	79.6
MobileNet_v1_0.25_224	41	0.47	50.6	75.0
MobileNet_v1_0.25_192	34	0.47	49.0	73.6
MobileNet_v1_0.25_160	21	0.47	46.0	70.7
MobileNet_v1_0.25_128	14	0.47	41.3	66.2

MobileNets (2017)



An Alaskan Malamute (left) and a Siberian Husky (right). Images from Wikipedia

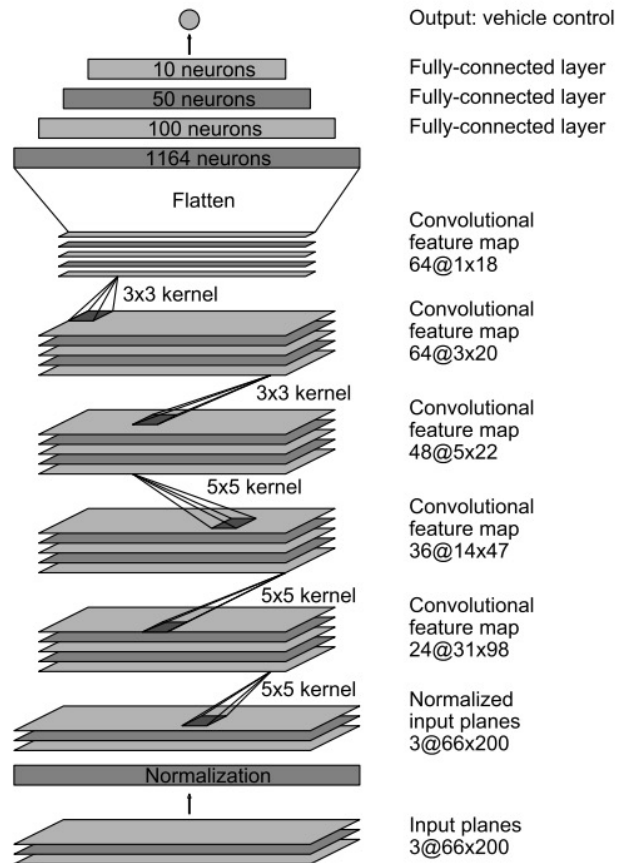
Inception-ResNet-v2

Model	Train	Test	mAP	FLOPS	FPS
Old YOLO	VOC 2007+2012	2007	63.4	40.19 Bn	45
SSD300	VOC 2007+2012	2007	74.3	-	46
SSD500	VOC 2007+2012	2007	76.8	-	19
YOLOv2	VOC 2007+2012	2007	76.8	34.90 Bn	67
YOLOv2 544x544	VOC 2007+2012	2007	78.6	59.68 Bn	40
Tiny YOLO	VOC 2007+2012	2007	57.1	6.97 Bn	207

Tiny YOLO (2017)

End-to-end: from pixels to motor commands

DAVE-2 (NVIDIA 2016)

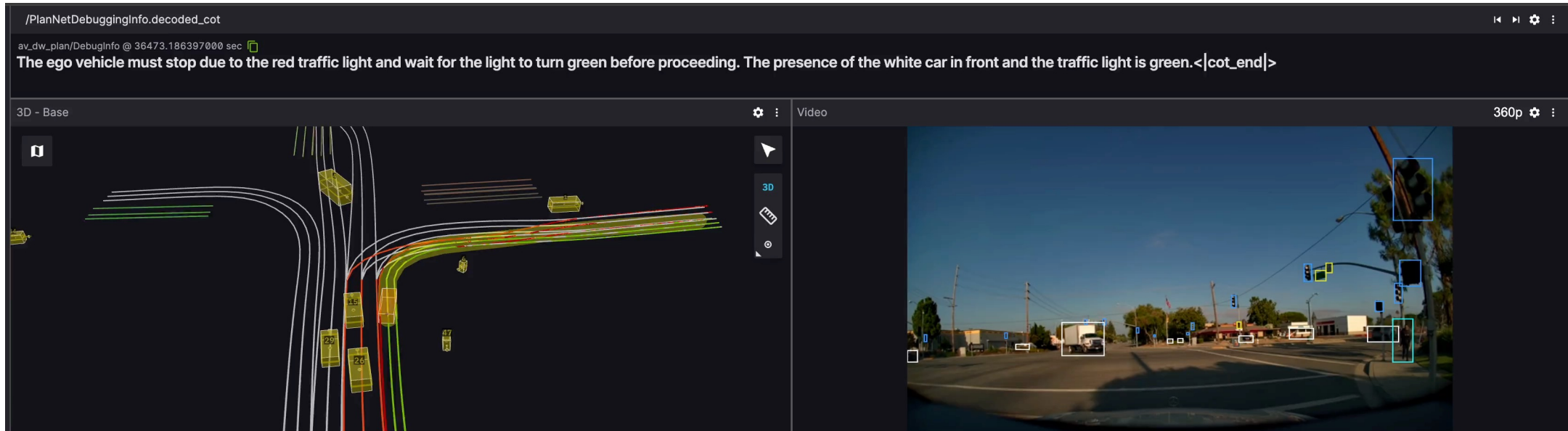


Somewhat less scary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ58dbd5g8g>

End-to-end: from sensors to reasoning+action

Alpamayo-R1 (NVIDIA 2025)



2025-10-30

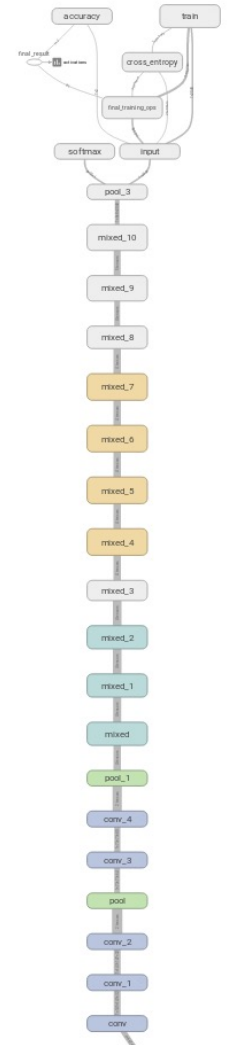
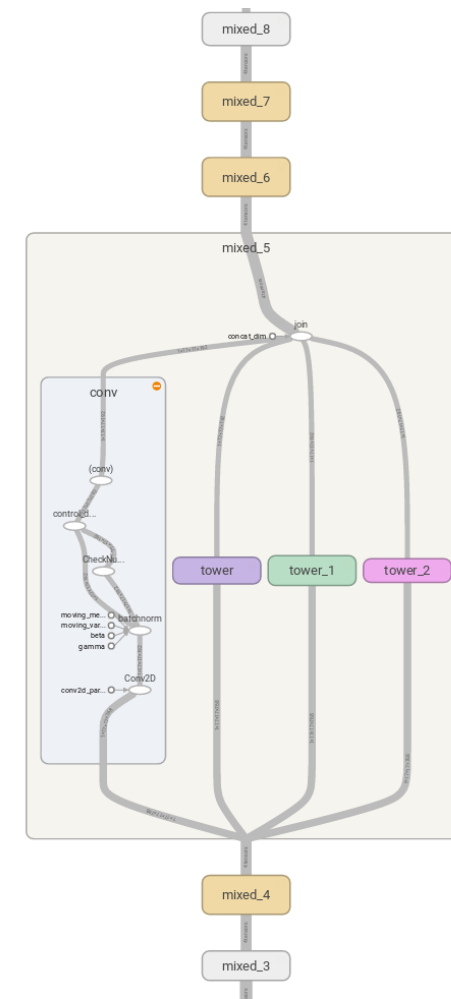
**Alpamayo-R1: Bridging Reasoning and Action Prediction
for Generalizable Autonomous Driving in the Long Tail**



https://research.nvidia.com/publication/2025-10_alpamayo-r1

Tools of the trade

- Software packages for automatic differentiation/gradient computation
 - Caffe (old)
 - Torch (old)
 - Theano (old)
 - PyTorch (Meta, Heavyweight #1)
 - TensorFlow (Google, Heavyweight #2)
 - MXNet/Chainer/... (Others, better at some things for specific applications)
- Specify an abstract computation graph (inputs and outputs of NN equations); software does the rest!



TensorFlow: a *lot* of chain rule in this picture

Lots of stuff left out

- Generative vs. discriminative models
- Train/validation/test sets
- Learning rate and other hyperparameter tuning
- Recurrent neural networks for sequential data (e.g., videos)
- Reinforcement learning and ML outside of purely visual recognition-focused tasks

Consider STATS216, CS229, CS231n, CS224n, CS331b to learn more!

Next time

