



Panoptic FCN

October 6th, 2021

Overview

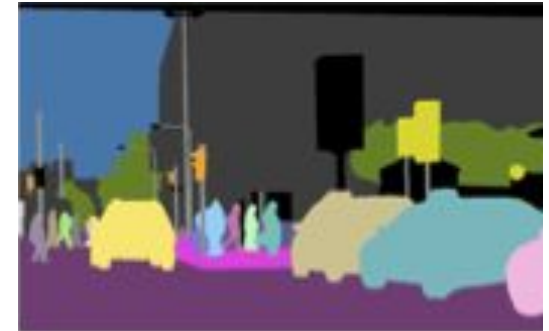
Model

Experiments

Recall:

Panoptic Segmentation

- Study of *stuff* and *things*
- Assign one class label and instance id to each pixel in an image
- Evaluated by Panoptic Quality (PQ)



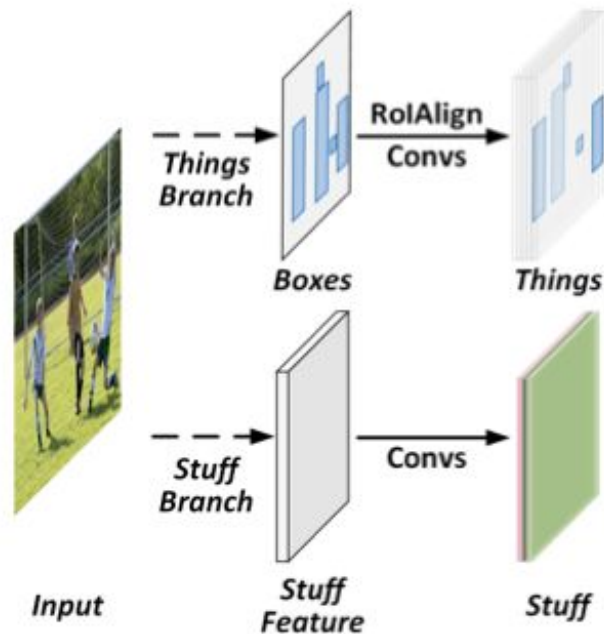
Difficulty of unifying segmentation

- Countable things are discovered through instance-aware features to distinguish entities
- Stuff regions are found through semantically consistent features



Separate branches

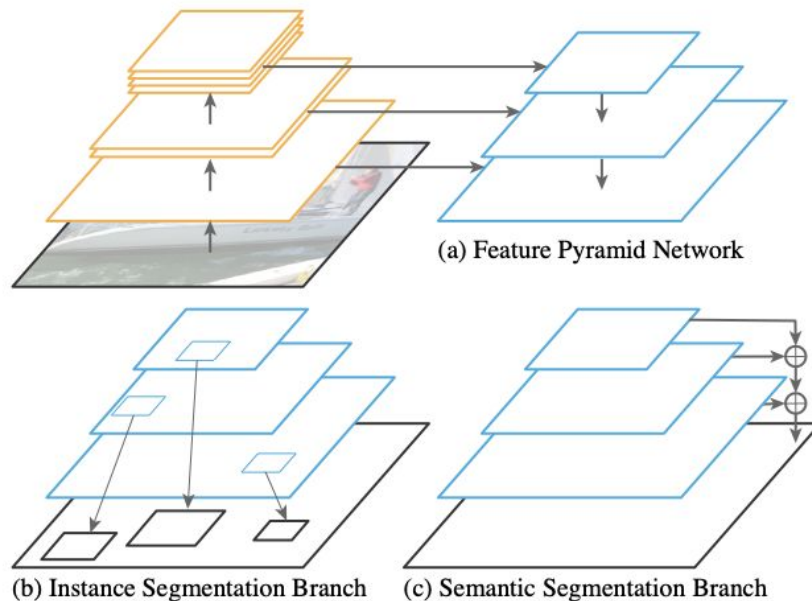
- Differing feature needs led to models with separate branches
- Things were addressed by box-based and box-free branches
- Stuff was addressed by pixel-by-pixel branches



Separate branches

Panoptic FPN

- Mask R-CNN for things
- FCN for stuff





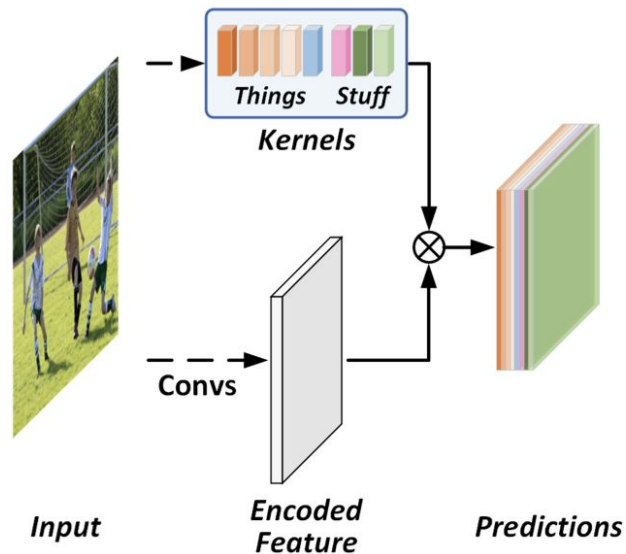
Separate branches

An ununified workflow

- Separate branches don't handle prediction uniformly
- Not in the spirit of PS

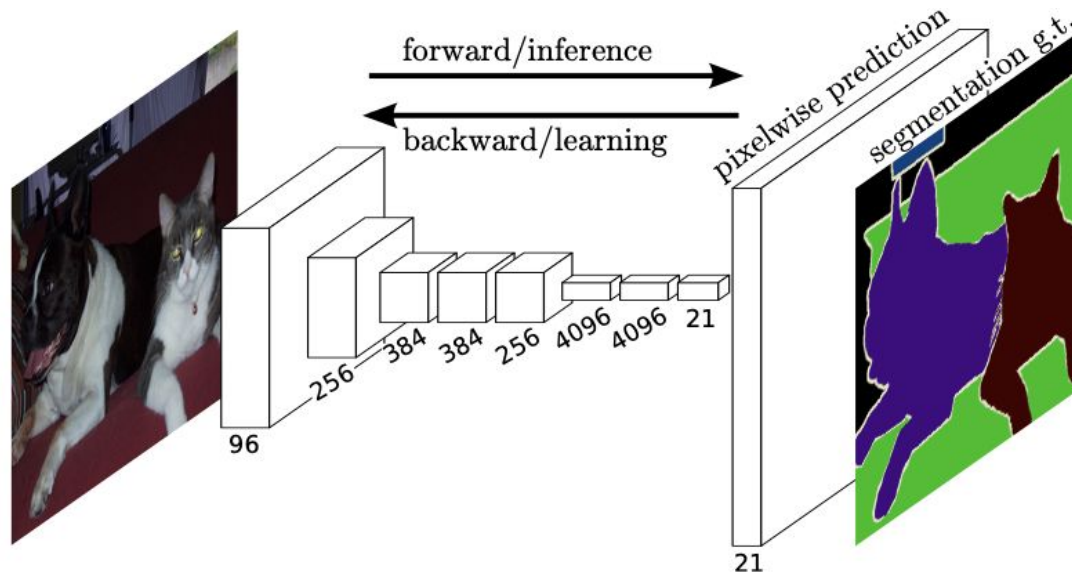
Unification

- Represent things and stuff features in the same way
- Predict things and stuff together



Recall:

FCN for Semantic Segmentation



Overview

Model

Experiments

Architecture

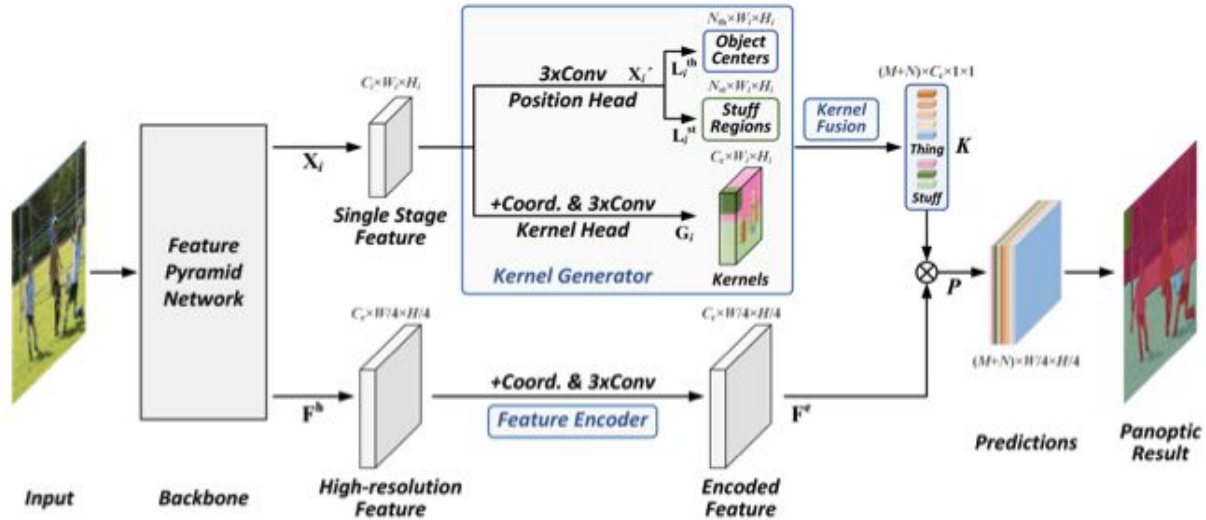


Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

Architecture

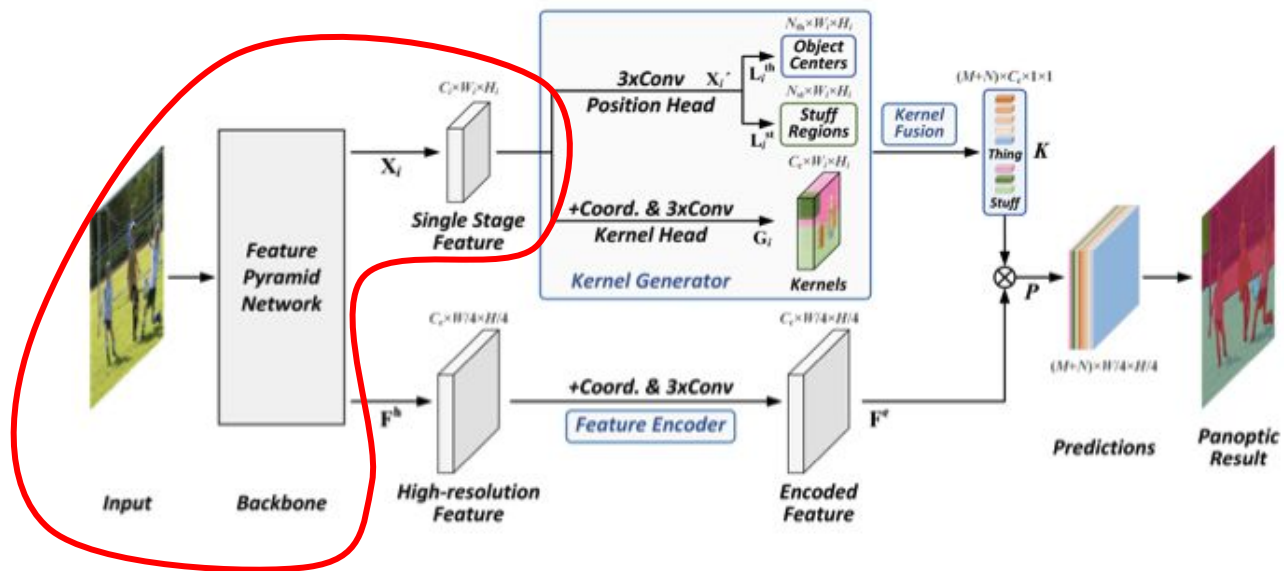


Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

Architecture

Feature Pyramid Network

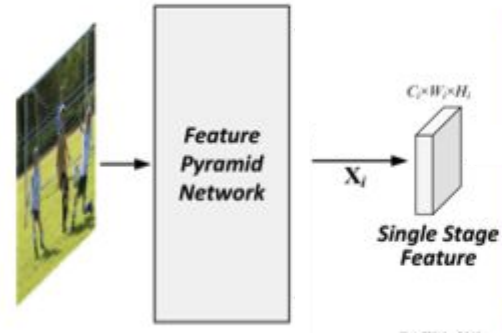
- FPNs proven to be a very effective feature extraction method
- Utilize FPN to help detect objects at different scales
- Compute feature map at each stage of the FPN



Architecture

Feature Pyramid Network

- Pass each feature map in separately to the Kernel Generator module



Architecture

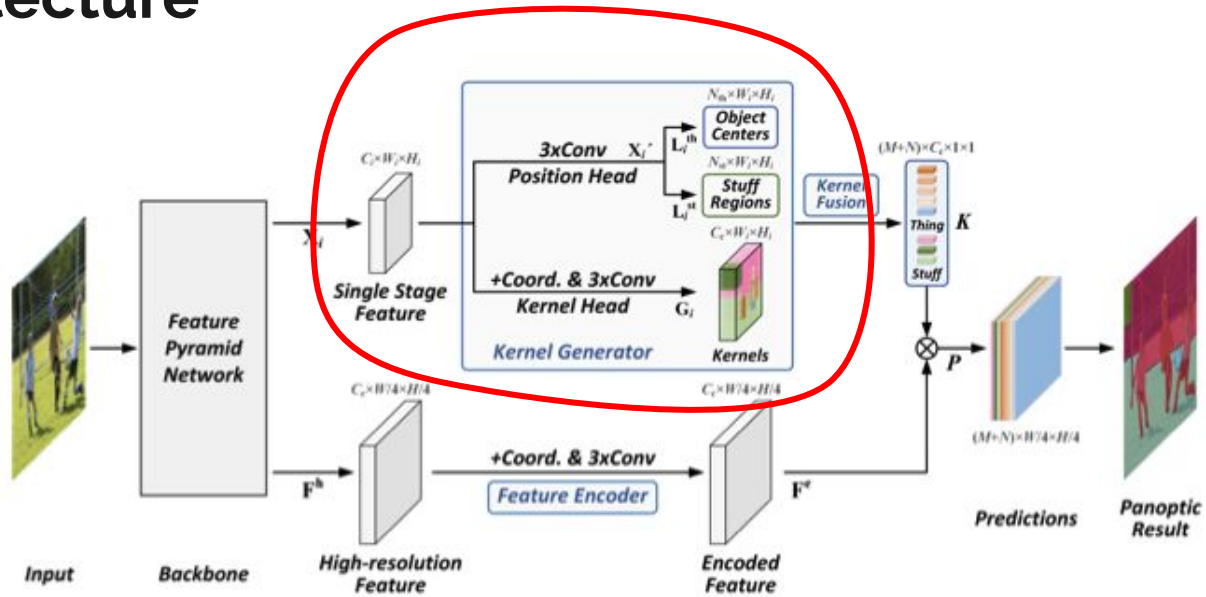
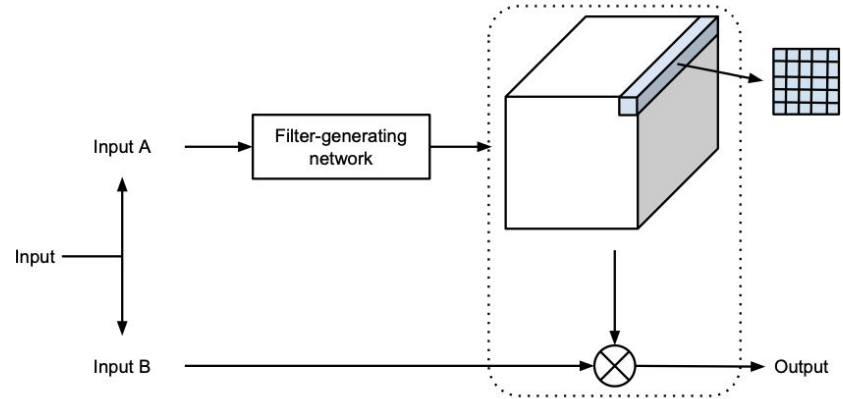


Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

Architecture

Kernel Generator?

- Traditional convolutional layers uses static filters
- But this dynamically generates filters based on the current input
- See *Dynamic Filter Networks*



Architecture

Why use dynamic filters?

- We can extract features specific to the objects in the image
- Can adjust number of output tensor channels for varying amounts of instances



Figures from:

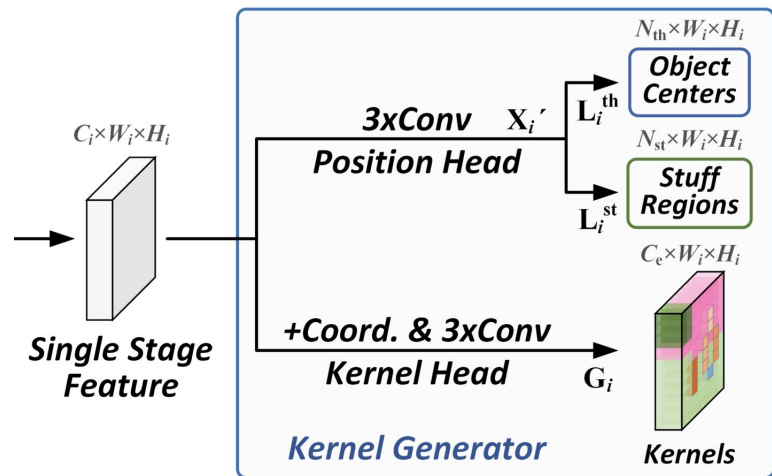
1. <https://coachart.org/blog/4-benefits-of-soccer-for-kids-with-adaptations-for-disability-inclusion/>
2. <https://www.activekids.com/sports/articles/the-most-inexpensive-sports-for-kids>

Architecture

Kernel Generator

From each single stage feature, a...

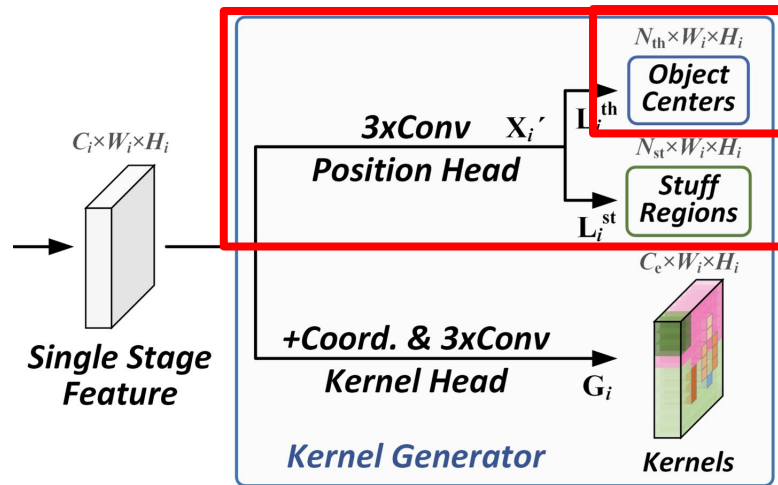
- **Position head** performs localization and classification
- **Kernel head** generates kernel weights



Architecture: Kernel Generator

Position Head

- Run input feature map through stacks of convolutions
- Generate a map for **object centers** and another for **stuff regions** through 2 branches



Kernel Generator: Position Head

Object Centers

- Similar to *CenterNet*
 - Generates heat maps with the likelihood each pixel is an object center
 - Fully convolutional network
- Training requires us to generate ground truths



Figure from: Zhou, X., Wang, D., & Krähenbühl, P. (2019). Objects as points. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1904.07850*.

Kernel Generator: Position Head

Object Centers: GTs

- Two approaches to get center keypoints from annotated images:
 - Center of mass for each mask
 - Center of bounding box

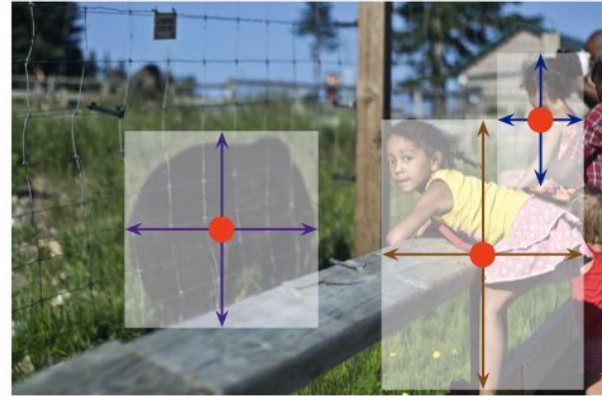


Figure from: Zhou, X., Wang, D., & Krähenbühl, P. (2019). Objects as points. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1904.07850*.

Kernel Generator: Position Head

Object Centers: GTs

- Pass center keypoints to a Gaussian kernel to generate ground truth heat map

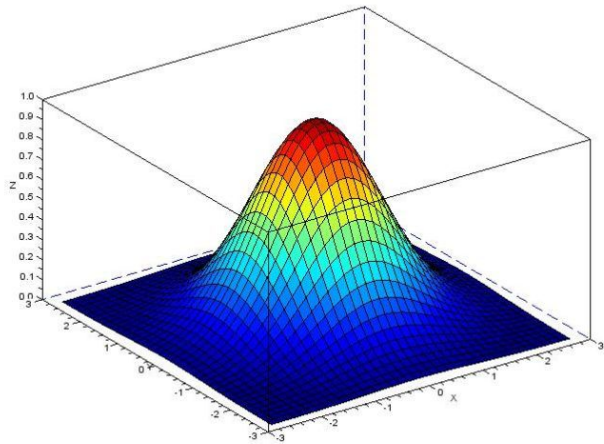


Figure from: <https://zbigatron.com/generating-heatmaps-from-coordinates/>



Kernel Generator: Position Head

Object Centers: Loss

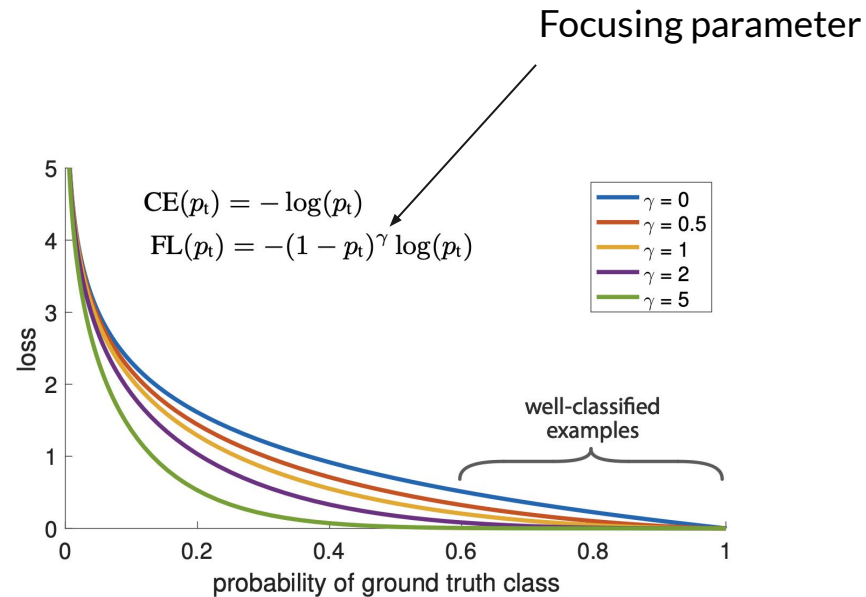
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}^{\text{th}} = \sum_i \text{FL}(\mathbf{L}_i^{\text{th}}, \mathbf{Y}_i^{\text{th}}) / N_{\text{th}},$$

Focal Loss



Focal Loss

- Enhance *Cross-Entropy Loss* by reducing loss impact from well-classified examples
- Adds a tunable **focusing** parameter



Kernel Generator: Position Head

Object Centers: Loss

Object Centers map

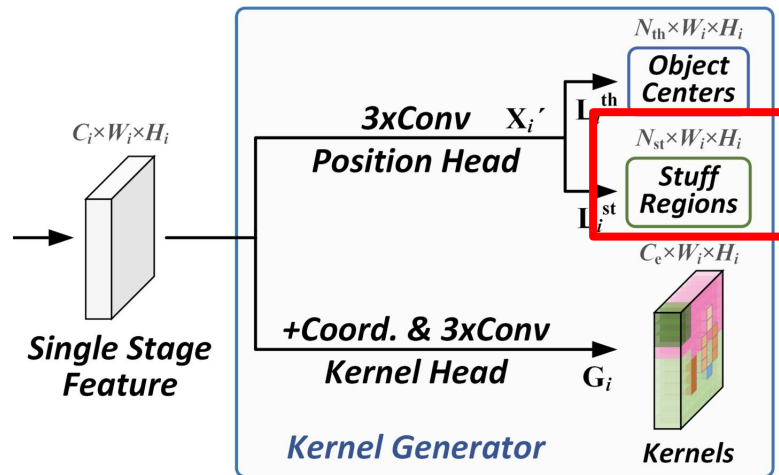
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}^{\text{th}} = \sum_i \text{FL}(\mathbf{L}_i^{\text{th}}, \mathbf{Y}_i^{\text{th}}) / N_{\text{th}},$$

Focal Loss

Center keypoint heatmap

Architecture: Kernel Generator

Position Head



Kernel Generator: Position Head

Stuff Regions

- Fully convolutional network
- Training requires us to generate ground truths
 - Bilinear interpolate semantic labels from the annotated images
 - Same resolution as feature map

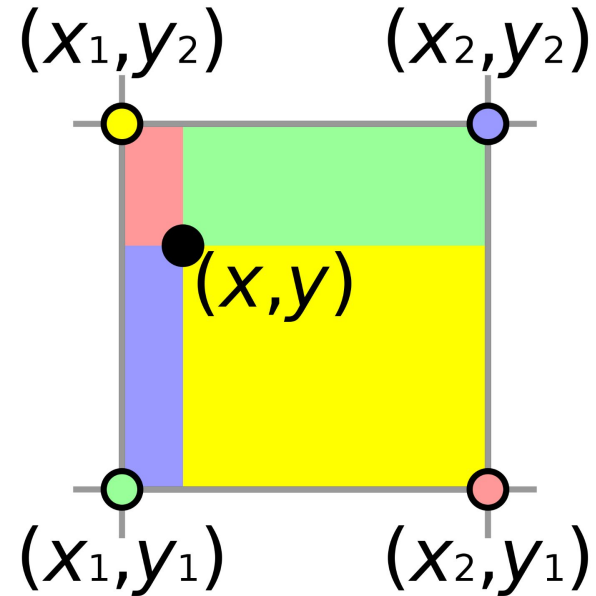


Figure from:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/91/Bilinear_interpolation_visualisation.svg

Kernel Generator: Position Head

Stuff Regions: Loss

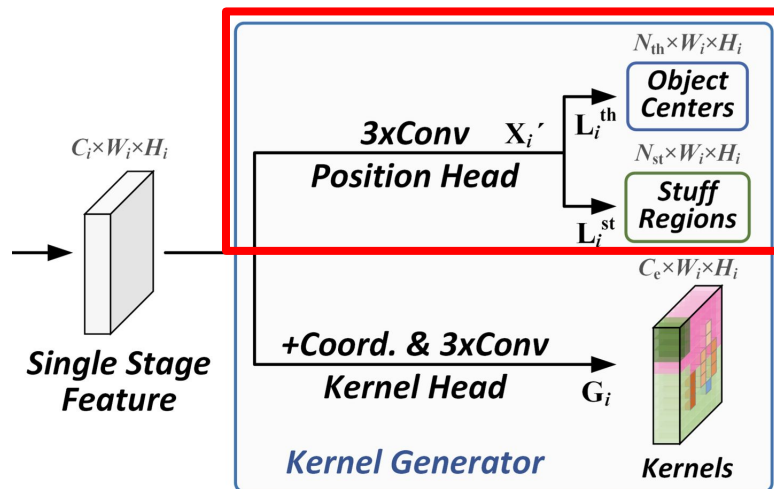
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}^{\text{st}} = \sum_i \text{FL}(\mathbf{L}_i^{\text{st}}, \mathbf{Y}_i^{\text{st}}) / W_i H_i,$$

Diagram illustrating the loss function for Stuff Regions:

- The term \mathbf{L}_i^{st} is labeled as **Focal Loss**.
- The term \mathbf{Y}_i^{st} is labeled as **Bilinear interpolated segmentation masks**.
- The overall expression is labeled as **Stuff Regions map**.

Architecture: Kernel Generator

Position Head





Kernel Generator: Position Head

Multitask Loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}^{\text{th}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}^{\text{st}}$$

Kernel Generator: Position Head

Output

- Collect two sets of coordinates with corresponding labels for things and stuff
- Corresponding label will be the highest likelihood thing or stuff class for that point in the feature map
 - Must surpass threshold

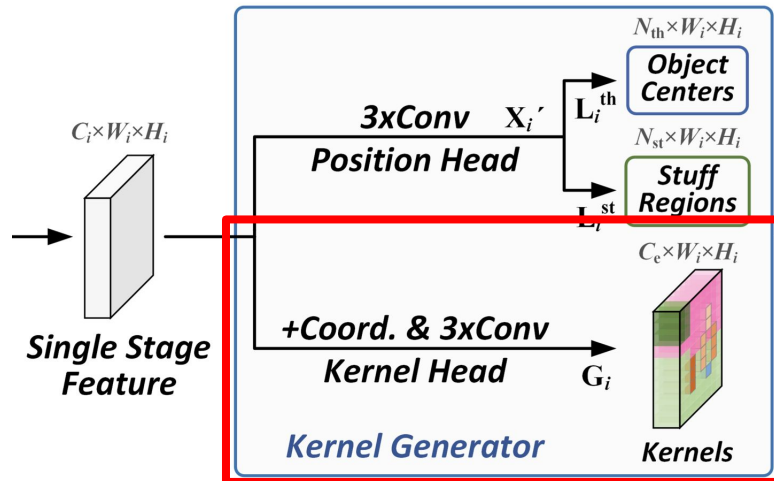
(10,8): [0 0 1 0]

“skier”



Architecture: Kernel Generator

Kernel Head



Architecture: Kernel Generator

Kernel Head

- Concatenate coordinates of each feature
 - *CoordConv* showed this to improve results related to coordinates in ConvNets
- Run map with coordinates through stacks of convolutions

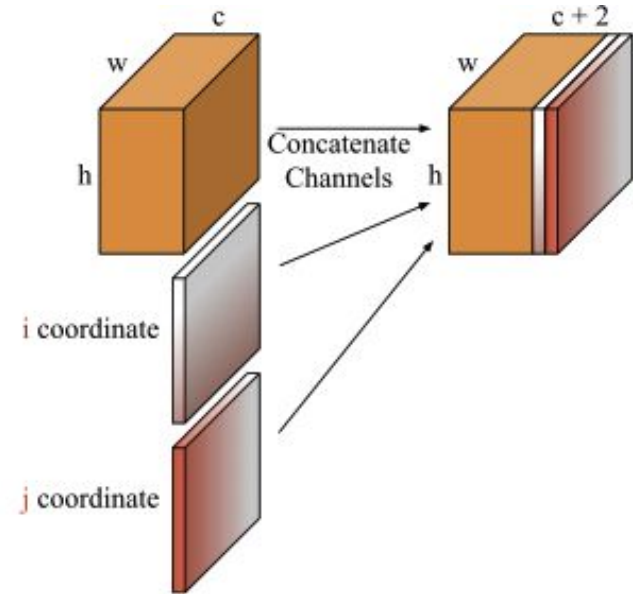
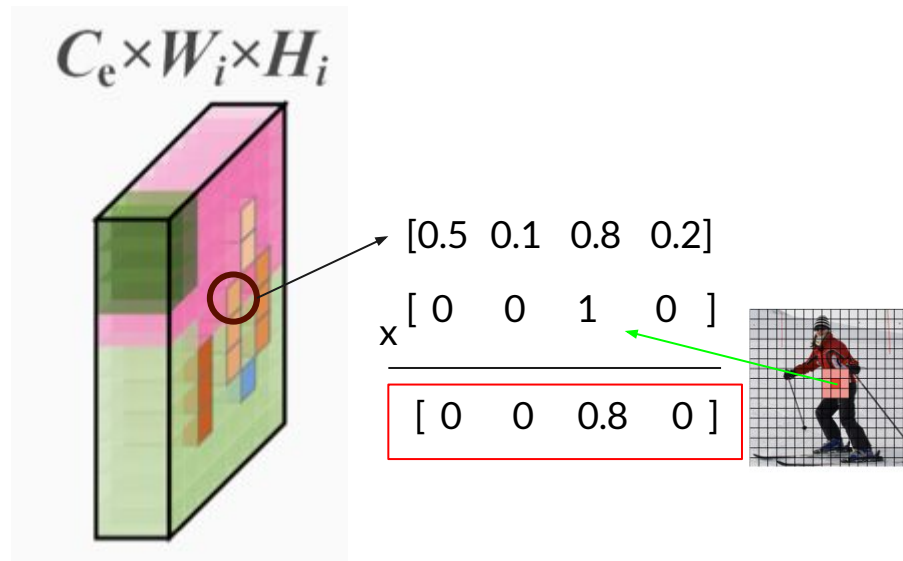


Figure from: Liu, R., Lehman, J., Molino, P., Such, F. P., Frank, E., Sergeev, A., & Yosinski, J. (2018). An intriguing failing of convolutional neural networks and the coordconv solution. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1807.03247*.

Architecture: Kernel Generator

Kernel Head

- Select weights from the feature map we just generated
- Find matching coordinates in the two sets created for things and stuff
- Create two separate kernel weight maps for things and stuff

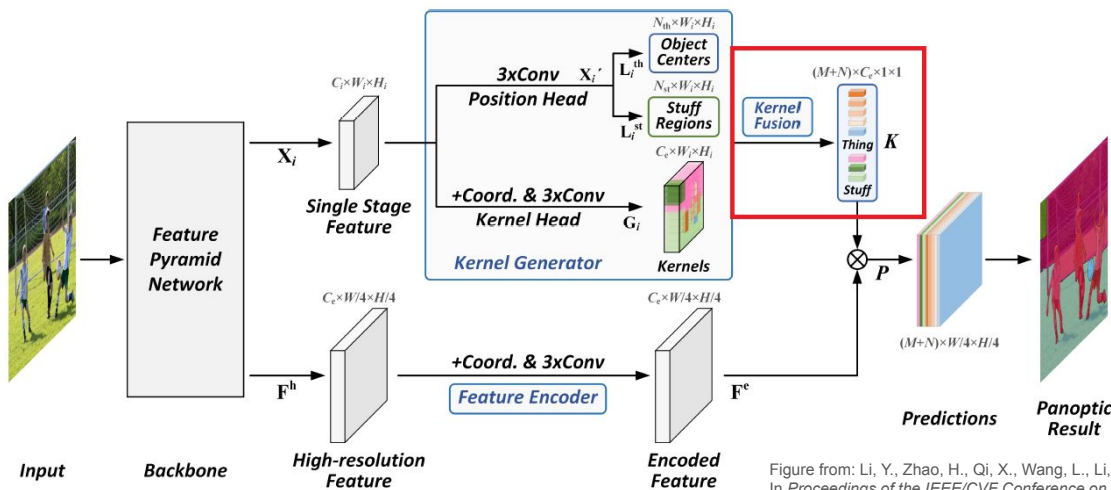


Figures from:

- Zhou, X., Wang, D., & Krähenbühl, P. (2019). Objects as points. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1904.07850*.
- Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

Kernel Fusion

To ensure instance awareness and semantic-consistency for things and stuff, respectively.



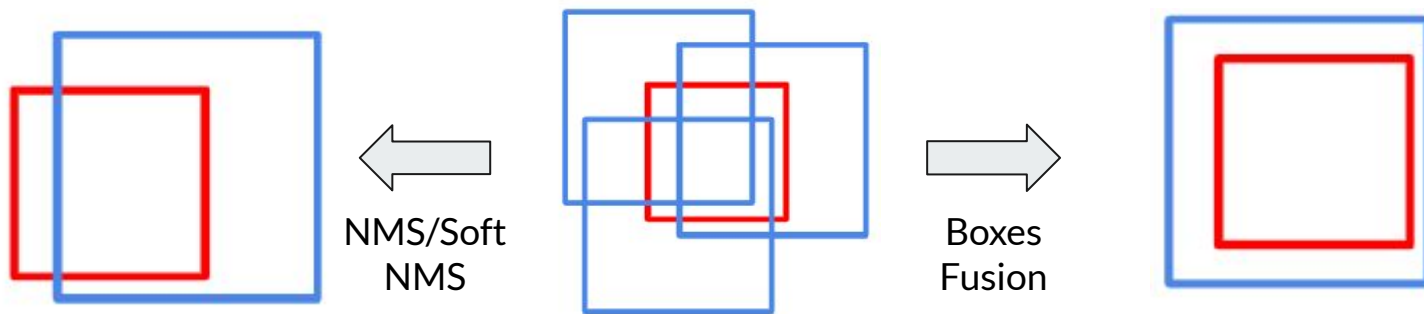
Merges repetitive kernel weights from multiple stages before final instance generation

How?

Weighted Boxes Fusion like procedure

Weighted Boxes Fusion

Note: Not used in Panoptic FCN



- Filters out BB with low IoU
- Eliminates boxes with low confidence scores

BB from multiple stages

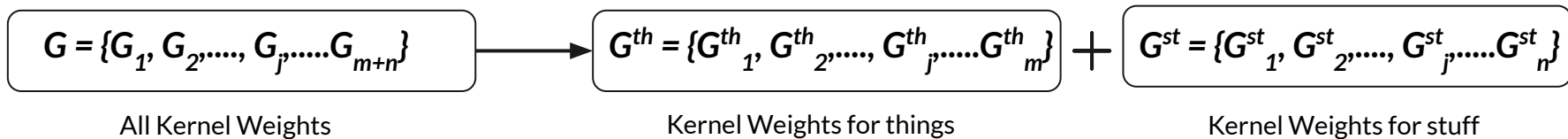
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13302>

Boxes Fusion

- Filters out BB with low IoU
- Weighted Average of filtered BB proposals

Kernel Fusion

How BB are in weighted box fusion, Kernel Weights are in Kernel Fusion



Kernel Weights when convolved with high resolution features gives predictions & segmentation outputs

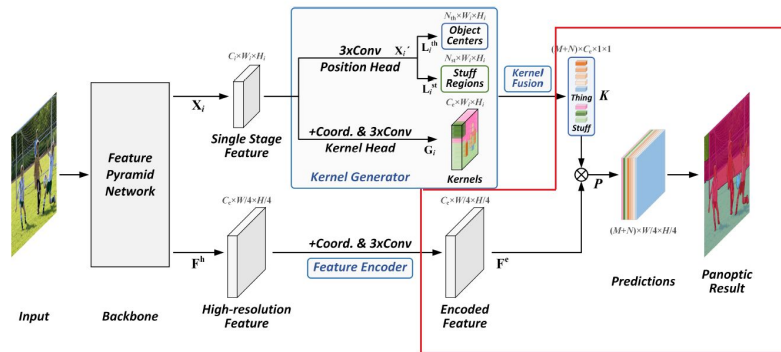


Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

Kernel Fusion

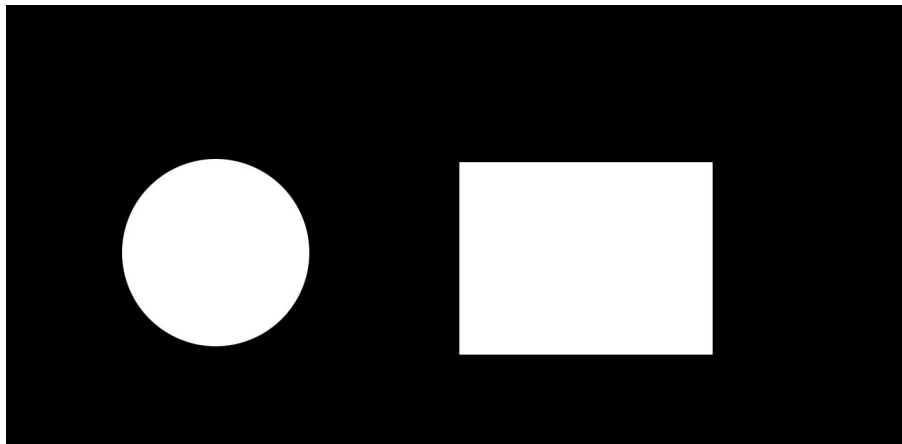
Intuition and illustration

$$G = \{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_j, \dots, G_{M+N}\}$$

$$G^{th} = \{G_1^{th}, G_2^{th}, \dots, G_j^{th}, \dots, G_M^{th}\}$$

$$G^{st} = \{G_1^{st}, G_2^{st}, \dots, G_j^{st}, \dots, G_N^{st}\}$$

Original Image



Let's visualize how these kernel weights look like after convolution

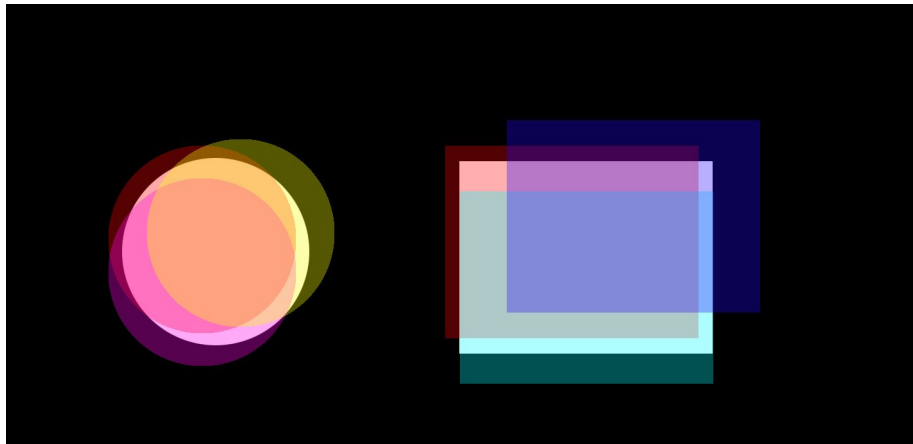


Kernel Fusion

Intuition

$$G^{th} = \{G^{th}_1, G^{th}_2, \dots, G^{th}_j, \dots, G^{th}_M\}$$

Predicted Kernels
(Visualized when convolved)





Kernel Fusion

Fusion Steps

$$G^{th} = \{G^{th}_1, G^{th}_2, \dots, G^{th}_j, \dots, G^{th}_M\}$$

Step1: Create 2 Empty sets

$G' = \{\text{Set of clusters}\}$

$K = \{\text{Set of fused kernel weights}\}$

Step 2: Iterate through the set G and update G'



Kernel Fusion

Step 2: Iterate through the set G and update G'

$G' = \{\text{Set of clusters}\}$

How to identify a cluster?

$$G'_j = \{G_m : \text{ID}(G_m) = \text{ID}(G_j)\}$$

How is ID determined?

Top scoring kernel weight



Things

If the cosine similarity surpasses a given threshold

Stuff

All kernel weights which share the same category are marked as one ID

Kernel Fusion

Step 2: Iterate through the set G and update G'

$$G'_j = \{G_m : \text{ID}(G_m) = \text{ID}(G_j)\}$$

Assume Thres = 0.9

$$G^{th} = \{G_1^{th}, G_2^{th}, \dots, G_8^{th}\}$$

G' = {Set of clusters}

$$G'_{th} = \{\{G1, G6, G8\}, \{G3, G4, G5\}\}$$

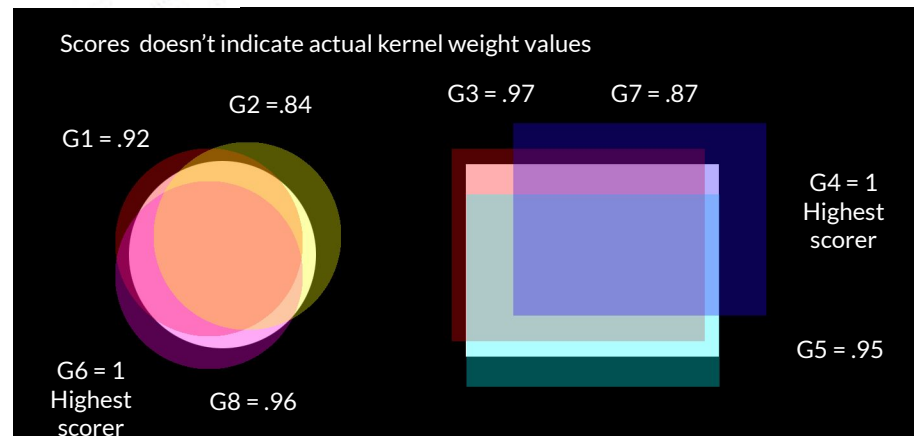


Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

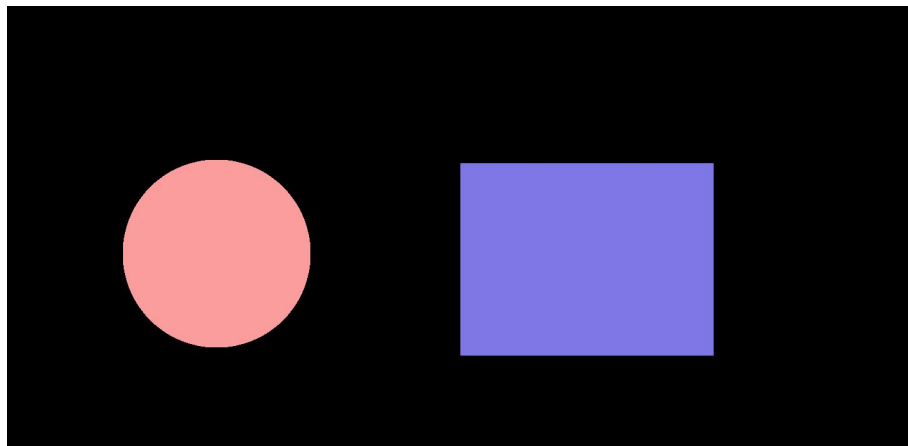
Kernel Fusion

Step 3: Generate final Kernel weights

$$G'_{th} = \{\{G1, G6, G8\}, \{G3, G4, G5\}\}$$

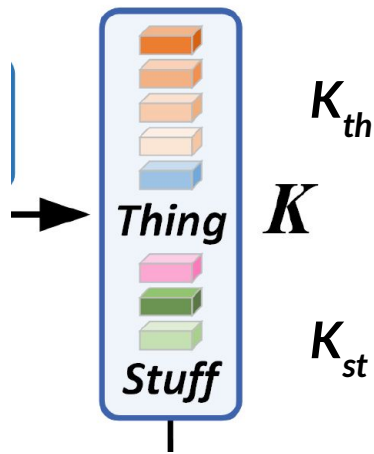
$$K_j = \text{AvgCluster}(G'_j),$$

$$K^{th} = \{K1, K2\}$$



Kernel Fusion

$$(M+N) \times C_e \times 1 \times 1$$



$$K^{st} = \{K^{st}_1, K^{st}_2, \dots, K^{st}_j, \dots, K^{st}_N\}$$

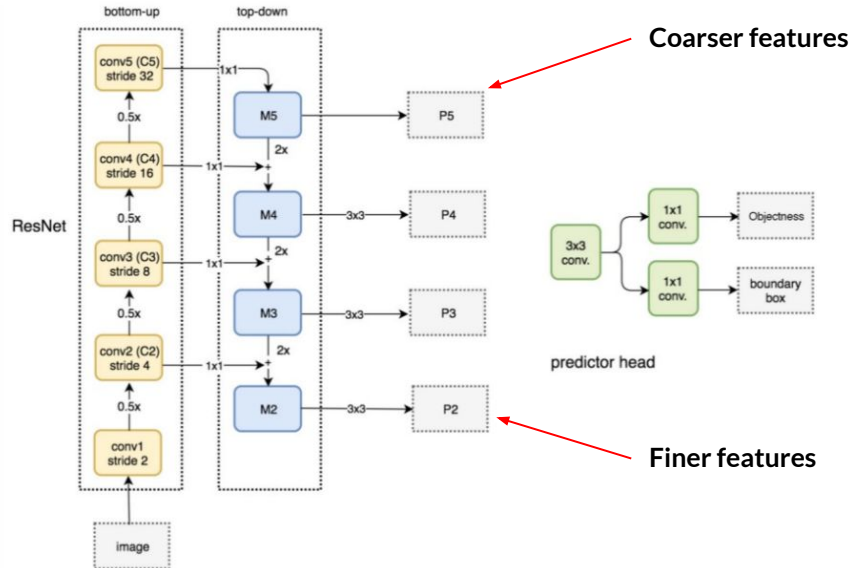
$$K^{th} = \{K^{th}_1, K^{th}_2, \dots, K^{th}_j, \dots, K^{th}_M\}$$

$$K = \{K_1, K_2, \dots, K_j, \dots, K_{M+N}\}$$

Each kernel weight can be viewed as an embedding of a single object or stuff

Feature Encoder

Which output from the FPN network to use for high resolution feature extraction?

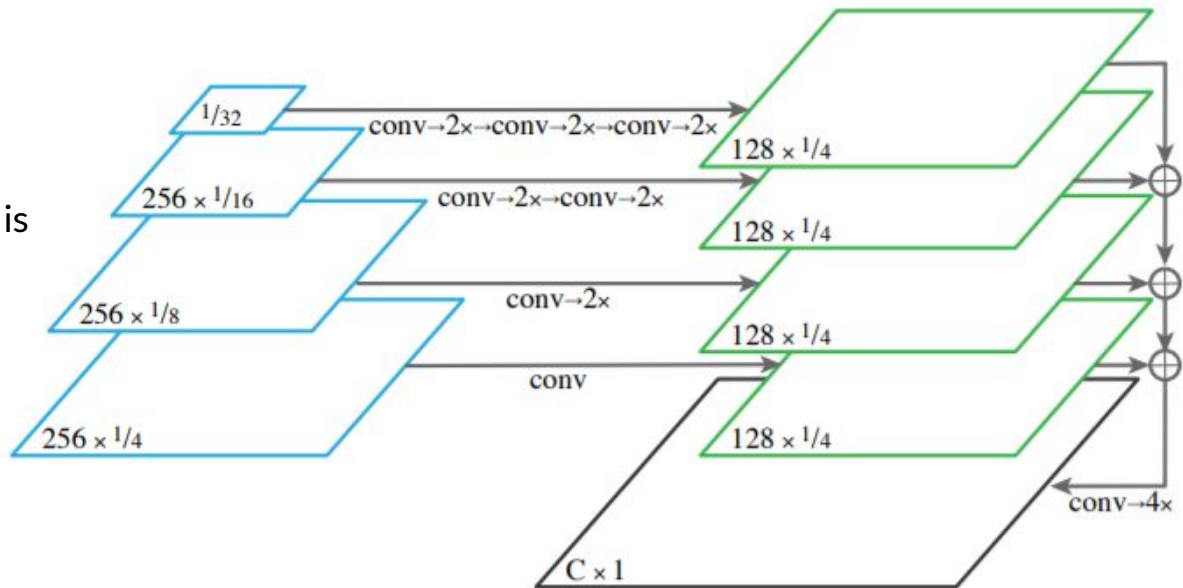


1. P2 stage feature
2. Summed up feature from all stages
3. **Features from semantic FPN ??**

Feature Encoder

Semantic FPN

- Each stage of downsampling is upsampled to $\frac{1}{4}$ size
- Outputs from feature pyramid is element wise summed up





Feature Encoder

Which output from the FPN network to use for high resolution feature extraction?

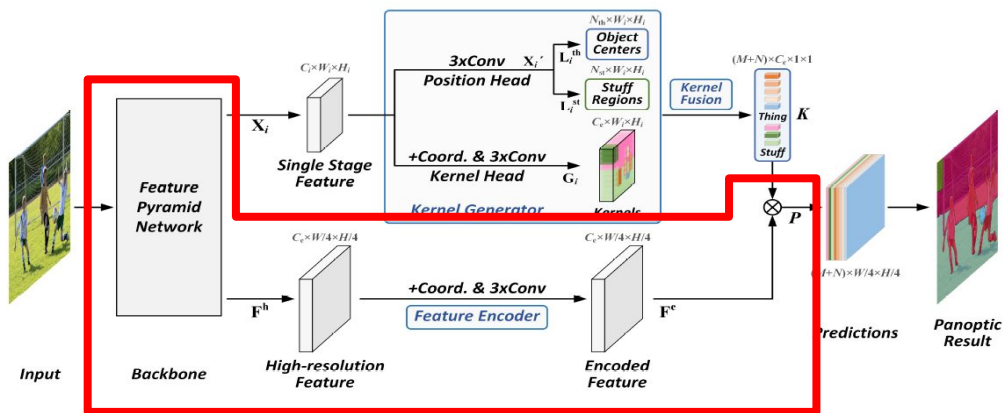
1. P2 stage feature
2. Summed up feature from all stages
3. Features from semantic FPN

<i>feature type</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
FPN-P2	40.6	46.0	32.4	31.6	41.3
FPN-Summed	40.5	46.0	32.1	31.7	41.1
Semantic FPN [18]	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7

**Semantic FPN output
performs the best**

Feature Encoder

Overview



1. Which output from the FPN network to use for high resolution feature extraction?
2. Why encode position information?
3. The convolution step

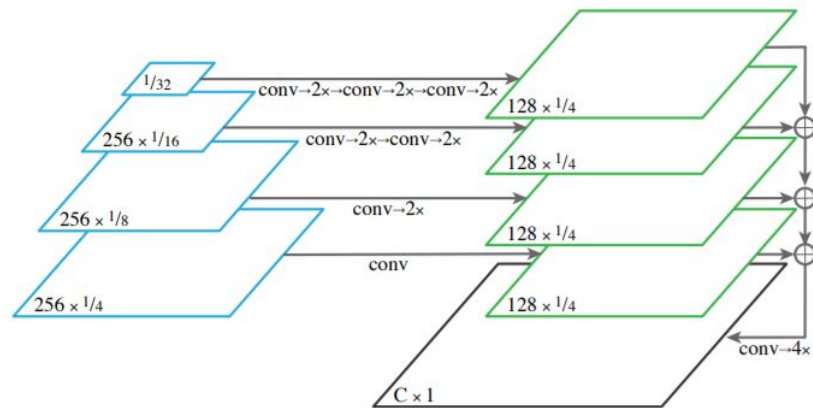
Feature Encoder

Why encode position information?

- We lose positional information due to multiple stages of upsampling and downsampling
- Encoding positional information brings better results

$coord_w$	$coord_f$	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
✗	✗	39.9	45.0	32.4	29.9	41.2
✓	✗	39.9	45.0	32.2	30.0	41.1
✗	✓	40.2	45.3	32.5	30.4	41.6
✓	✓	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7

Figure from: Li, Y., Zhao, H., Qi, X., Wang, L., Li, Z., Sun, J., & Jia, J. (2021). Fully Convolutional Networks for Panoptic Segmentation. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 214-223).

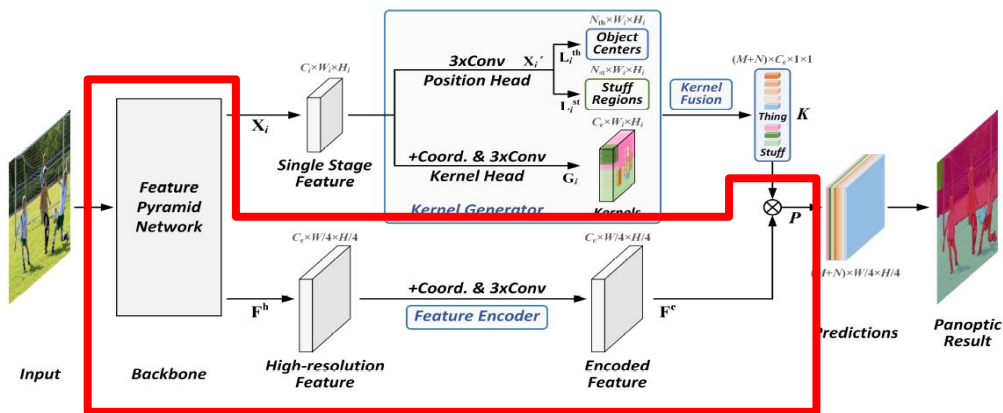


Semantic FPN

Figure_Source: <https://jonathan-hui.medium.com/understanding-feature-pyramid-networks-for-object-detection-n-fpn-45b227b9106c>

Feature Encoder

Overview

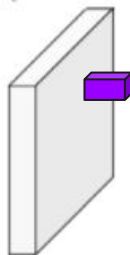


1. Which output from the FPN network to use for high resolution feature extraction?
2. Why encode position information?
3. The convolution step

Feature Encoder

Convolution

$C_e \times W/4 \times H/4$



F^e

Encoded
Feature

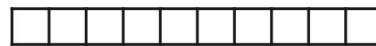
$(M+N) \times C_e \times 1 \times 1$



Thing K

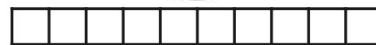
Stuff

Kernels



$C_e \times 1 \times 1$

*



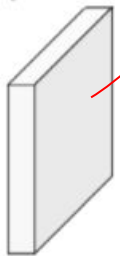
$C_e \times 1 \times 1$

Single convolution step here is a
dot product of vectors

Feature Encoder

Convolution

$C_e \times W/4 \times H/4$



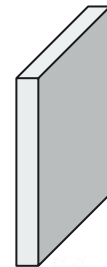
F^e

Encoded Feature

$(M+N) \times C_e \times 1 \times 1$

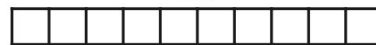


Kernels



$C_e \times W/4 \times H/4$

$*$



$C_e \times 1 \times 1$

First layer of prediction

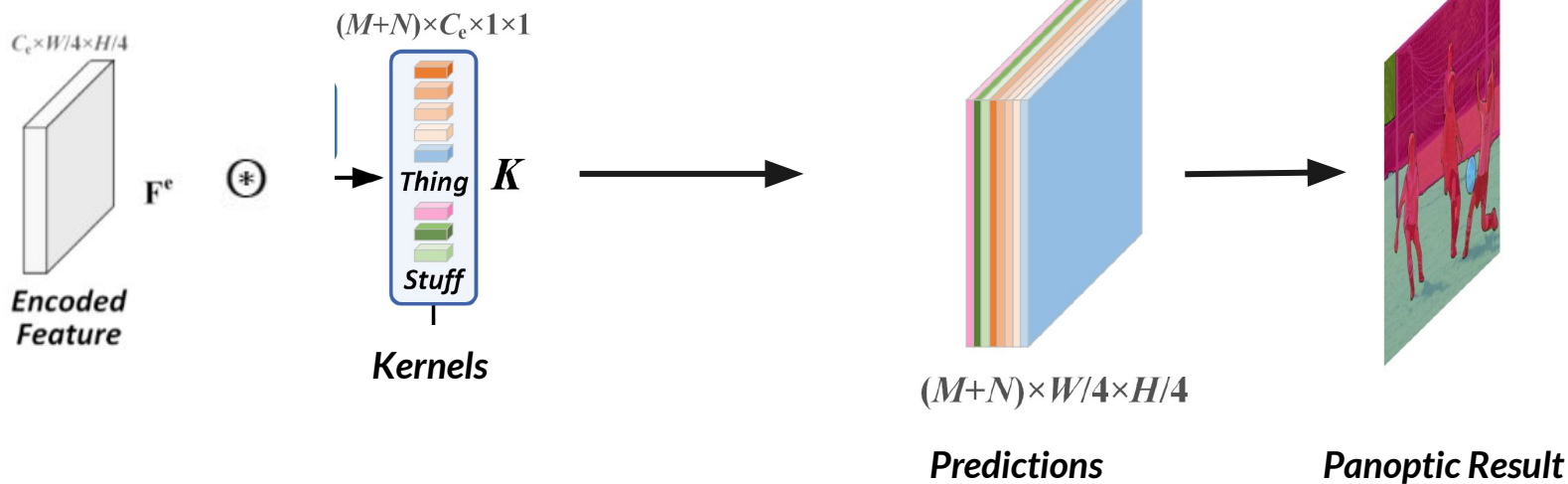


Output Dimension?

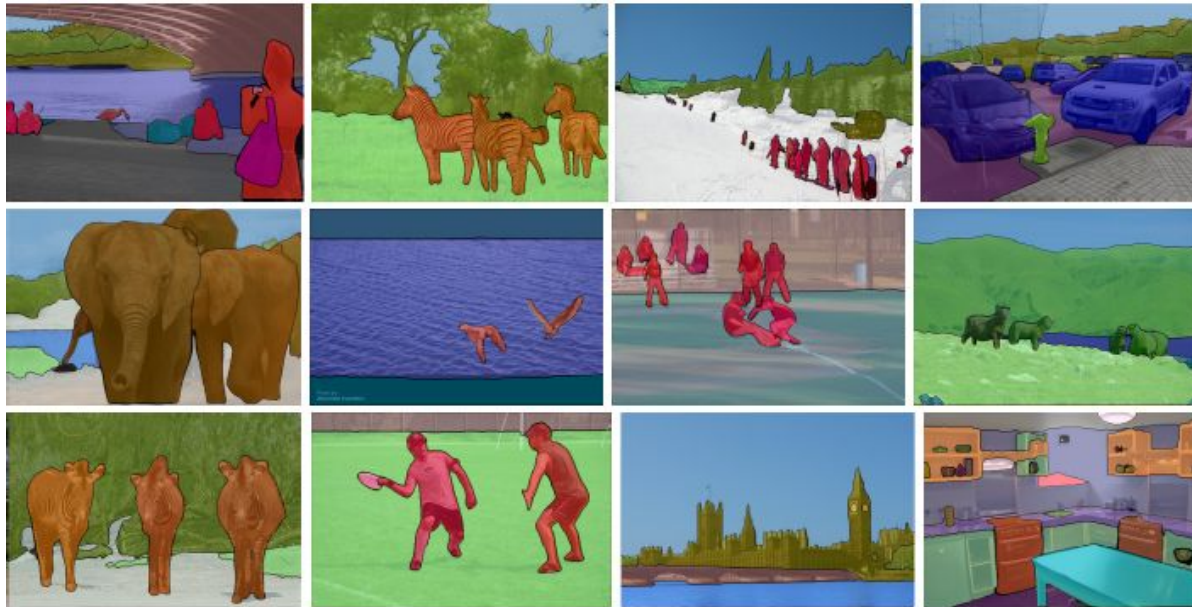
$1 \times W/4 \times H/4$

Feature Encoder

Convolution



Some Panoptic Segmentation Results - Visualization



Training and Inference - Training

Dice/F1 Loss - Recap

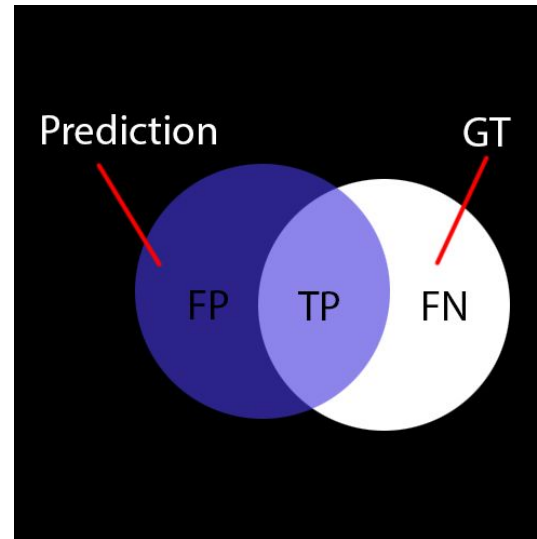
$$Dice\ score = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{Precision} + \frac{1}{Recall}}$$

$$Dice\ score = \frac{2\ TP}{2\ TP + FN + FP}$$

$$Dice\ score = \frac{2\ Intersection}{Intersection + Union}$$

$$Dice\ (For\ one\ instance) = \frac{2\ P_j\ Y_j^{seg}}{P_j + Y_j}$$

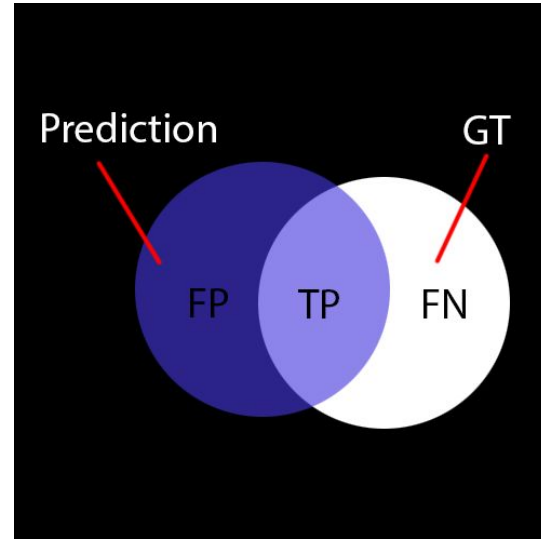
$$Dice\ Loss = 1 - \frac{2\ P_j\ Y_j^{seg}}{P_j + Y_j}$$



Training and Inference - Training

Dice/F1 Loss - Recap

$$\text{Dice Loss} = \text{Dice}(P_j, Y_j)$$





Training and Inference - Training

If there are M things and N stuff

Dice Loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{seg}} = \sum_j \text{Dice}(\mathbf{P}_j, \mathbf{Y}_j^{\text{seg}}) / (M + N),$$

To further release the potential of Kernel Generator - **Weighted Dice Loss**

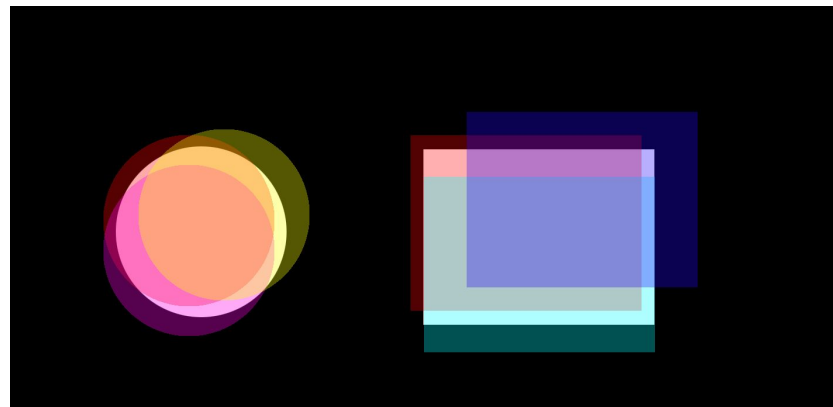
Training and Inference - Training

Weighted Dice Loss

- Multiple positives of each object is sampled.
- k positions of M things will be sampled in decreasing order of their scores

$$\text{WDice}(\mathbf{P}_j, \mathbf{Y}_j^{\text{seg}}) = \sum_k w_k \text{Dice}(\mathbf{P}_{j,k}, \mathbf{Y}_j^{\text{seg}}),$$

Where $w_k = s_k / \sum_i s_i$





Training and Inference - Training

Optimized target loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{seg}} = \sum_j \text{WDice}(\mathbf{P}_j, \mathbf{Y}_j^{\text{seg}}) / (M + N),$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \lambda_{\text{pos}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}} + \lambda_{\text{seg}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{seg}}.$$



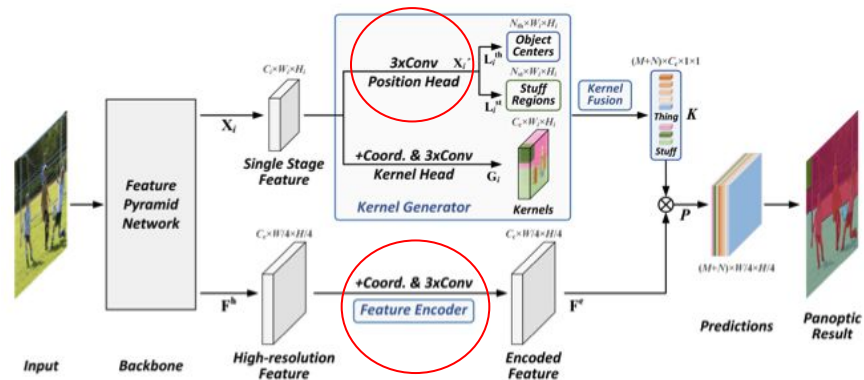
Optimization of the Model

How can the architecture be optimised to increase the panoptic quality?

Experiments

Experiments and Inference

<i>deform</i>	<i>conv num</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
X	1	38.4	43.4	31.0	28.3	39.9
X	2	38.9	44.1	31.1	28.9	40.1
X	3	39.2	44.7	31.0	29.6	40.2
X	4	39.2	44.9	30.8	29.4	39.9
✓	3	39.9	45.0	32.4	29.9	41.2



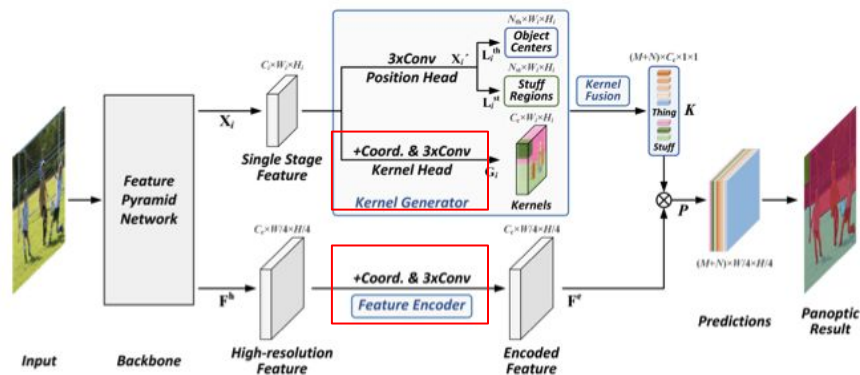
Achieves peak PQ at 3 stacked Conv3X3

Specifications of the model

# of convs						
3						

Experiments and Inference

$coord_w$	$coord_f$	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
✗	✗	39.9	45.0	32.4	29.9	41.2
✓	✗	39.9	45.0	32.2	30.0	41.1
✗	✓	40.2	45.3	32.5	30.4	41.6
✓	✓	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7



Specifications of the model

# of convs	Positional info encoding					
3	$Coord_w, coord_f$					

Experiments and Inference

<i>class-aware</i>	<i>thres</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
✓	0.80	39.7	44.3	32.9	29.9	41.7
✓	0.85	40.8	46.1	32.9	31.5	41.7
✓	0.90	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7
✓	0.95	41.3	47.0	32.9	31.1	41.7
✓	1.00	38.7	42.6	32.9	25.4	41.7
✗	0.90	41.2	46.7	32.9	30.9	41.7

The network attains the best performance with thres 0.90.

Specifications of the model

# of convs	Combining coordinates	Threshold of Kernel Fusion				
3	Coord _w , coord _f	0.90				

Experiments and Inference

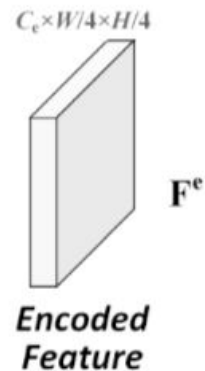
<i>kernel-fusion</i>	<i>nms</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
X	X	38.7	42.6	32.9	25.4	41.7
X	✓	38.7	42.6	32.9	27.8	41.7
✓	X	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7
✓	✓	41.3	46.9	32.8	32.3	41.7

Specifications of the model

# of convs	Combining coordinates	Threshold of Kernel Fusion	Method of removing repetitive predictions			
3	Coord _w , coord _f	0.90	Kernel Fusion only			

Experiments and Inference

<i>channel num</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
16	39.9	45.0	32.1	30.8	41.3
32	40.8	46.3	32.5	31.7	41.6
64	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7
128	41.3	47.0	32.6	32.6	41.7



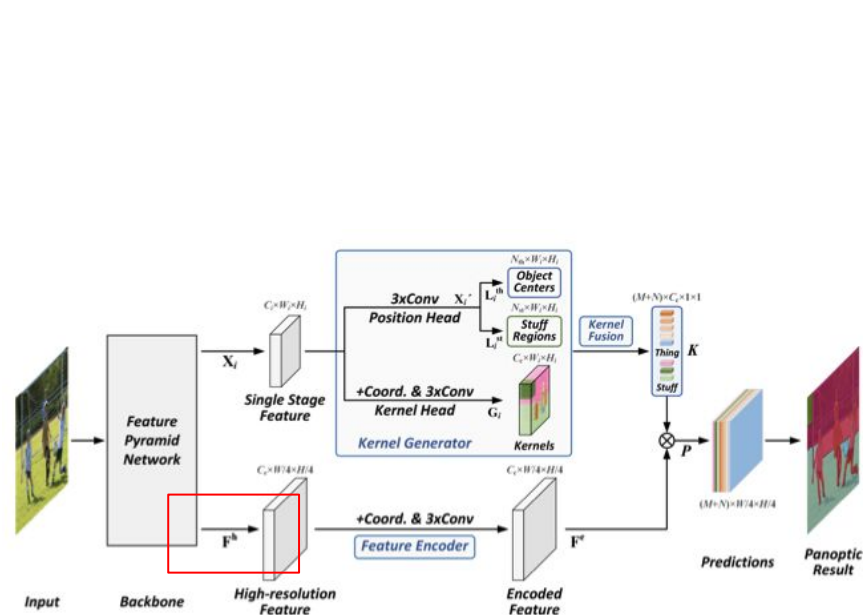
Highest PQ with 64 channels,
and extra channels contribute little improvement

Specifications of the model

# of convs	Combining coordinates	Threshold of Kernel Fusion	Method of removing repetitive predictions	# of channels		
3	Coord _w , coord _f	0.90	Kernel Fusion only	64		

Experiments and Inference

<i>feature type</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
FPN-P2	40.6	46.0	32.4	31.6	41.3
FPN-Summed	40.5	46.0	32.1	31.7	41.1
Semantic FPN [18]	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7



Specifications of the model

# of convs	Combining coordinates	Threshold of Kernel Fusion	Method of removing repetitive predictions	# of channels	High res feature generator method
3	Coord _w , coord _f	0.90	Kernel Fusion only	64	Semantic FPN

Experiments and Inference

<i>weighted</i>	<i>k</i>	PQ	PQ th	PQ st	AP	mIoU
\times	-	40.2	45.5	32.4	31.0	41.3
✓	1	40.0	45.1	32.4	30.9	41.4
✓	3	41.0	46.4	32.7	31.6	41.4
✓	5	41.0	46.5	32.9	32.1	41.7
✓	7	41.3	46.9	32.9	32.1	41.7
✓	9	41.3	46.8	32.9	32.1	41.8

Best PQ with 7
top-scoring kernels

Specifications of the model

# of convs	Combining coordinates	Threshold of Kernel Fusion	Method of removing repetitive predictions	# of channels	High res feature generator method	K in weighted Dice Loss
3	Coord _w , coord _f	0.90	Kernel Fusion only	64	Semantic FPN	7

Results for Panoptic FCN on COCO val-dev set

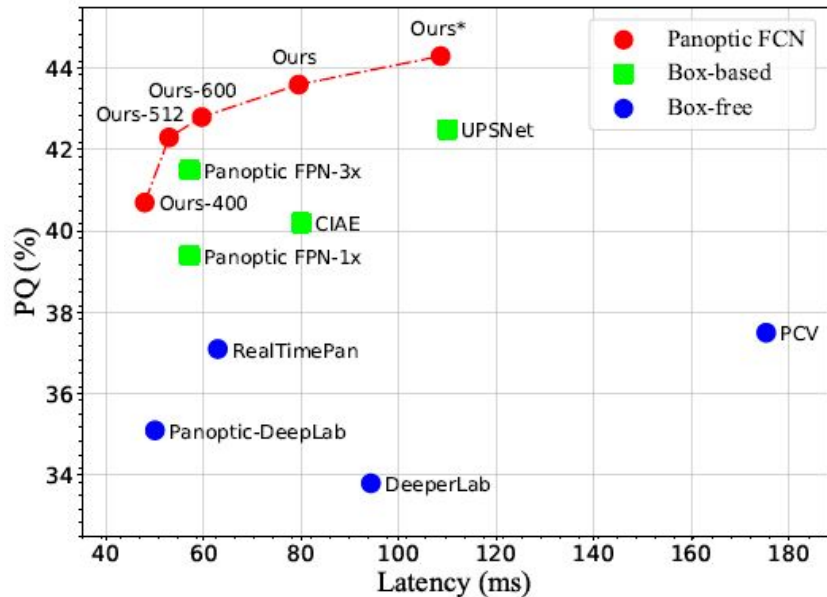
Method	Backbone	PQ	PQ th	PQ st
<i>box-based</i>				
Panoptic FPN [18]	Res101-FPN	40.9	48.3	29.7
CIAE [11]	DCN101-FPN	44.5	49.7	36.8
AUNet [25]	ResNeXt152-FPN	46.5	55.8	32.5
UPNet [50]	DCN101-FPN	46.6	53.2	36.7
Unifying [‡] [24]	DCN101-FPN	47.2	53.5	37.7
BANet [5]	DCN101-FPN	47.3	54.9	35.9
<i>box-free</i>				
DeeperLab [51]	Xception-71	34.3	37.5	29.6
SSAP [10]	Res101-FPN	36.9	40.1	32.0
PCV [43]	Res50-FPN	37.7	40.7	33.1
Panoptic-DeepLab [6]	Xception-71	39.7	43.9	33.2
AdaptIS [40]	ResNeXt-101	42.8	53.2	36.7
Axial-DeepLab [44]	Axial-ResNet-L	43.6	48.9	35.6
Panoptic FCN	Res101-FPN	45.5	51.4	36.4
Panoptic FCN	DCN101-FPN	47.0	53.0	37.8
Panoptic FCN*	DCN101-FPN	47.1	53.2	37.8
Panoptic FCN* [‡]	DCN101-FPN	47.5	53.7	38.2

Highest PQ value with the Enhanced Panoptic FCN model

Speed Accuracy Results

Speed Accuracy

Surpasses all previous models by a large margin in terms of speed-accuracy balance





Other Panoptic Segmentation Models

- Mask Former - July 2021
- Max-DeepLab - April 2021
- Panoptic Seg Former - September 2021

There is high momentum in the research of Panoptic Segmentation with the advent of Transformer Encoders!!



Thank You

Questions?