

Learning Hierarchical Image Segmentation For Recognition and By Recognition



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*Equal Contribution



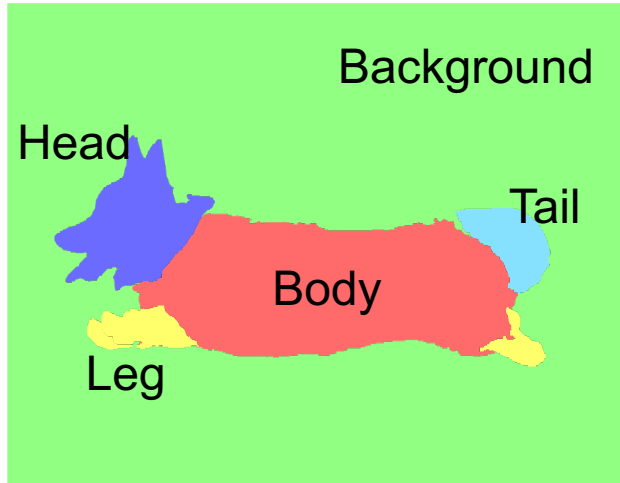
ICLR

Image understanding happens at multiple levels: Image recognition vs. Pixel segmentation

Image



Part-level
segmentation



Object-level
segmentation

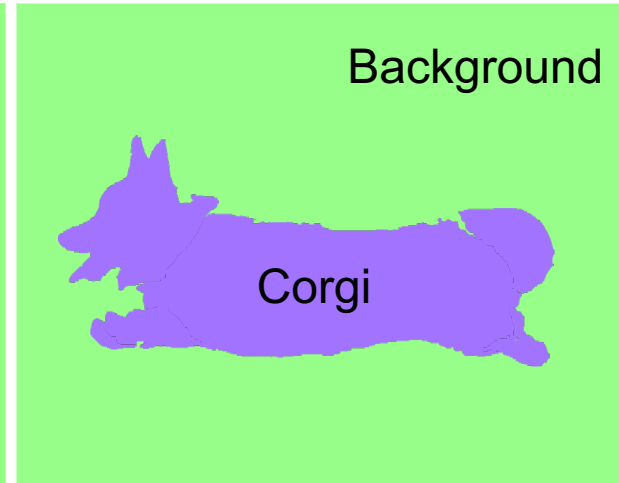
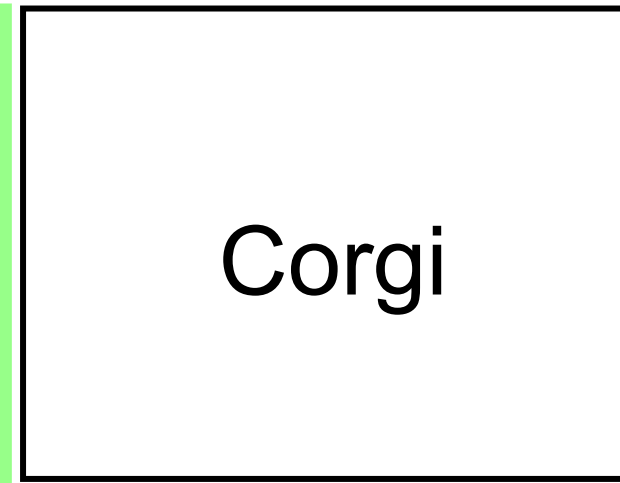
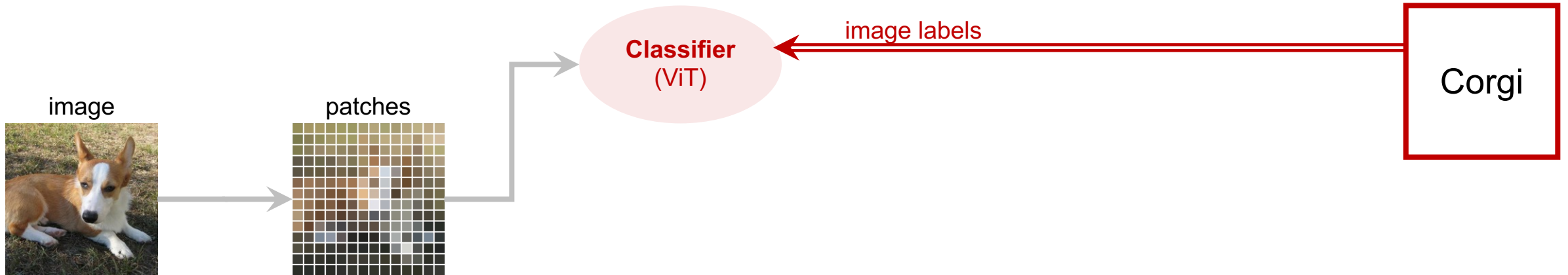


Image-level
recognition



Prior works: Build separate models and supervision

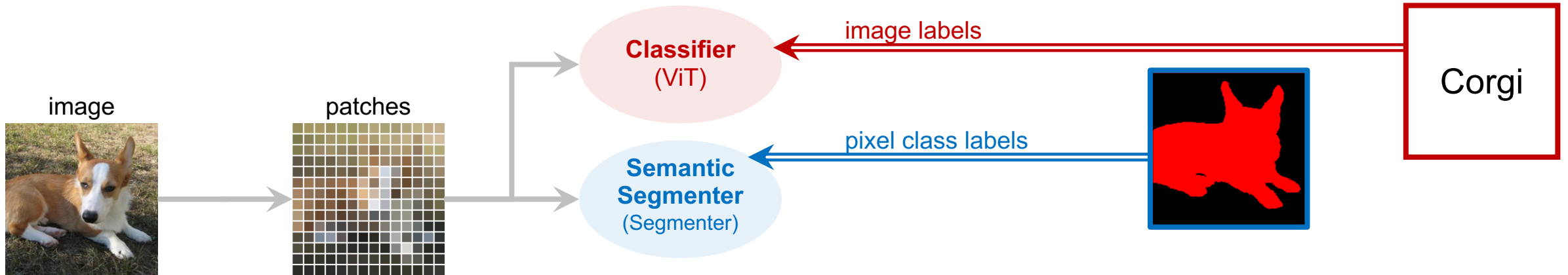


Imagenet: A large-scale hierarchical image database. Deng et al. *CVPR 2009*

Sun database: Large-scale scene recognition from abbey to zoo. Xiao et al. *CVPR 2010*

Laion-5b: An open large-scale dataset for training next generation image-text models. Schuhmann et al. *NeuRIPS 2022*

Prior works: Build separate models and supervision

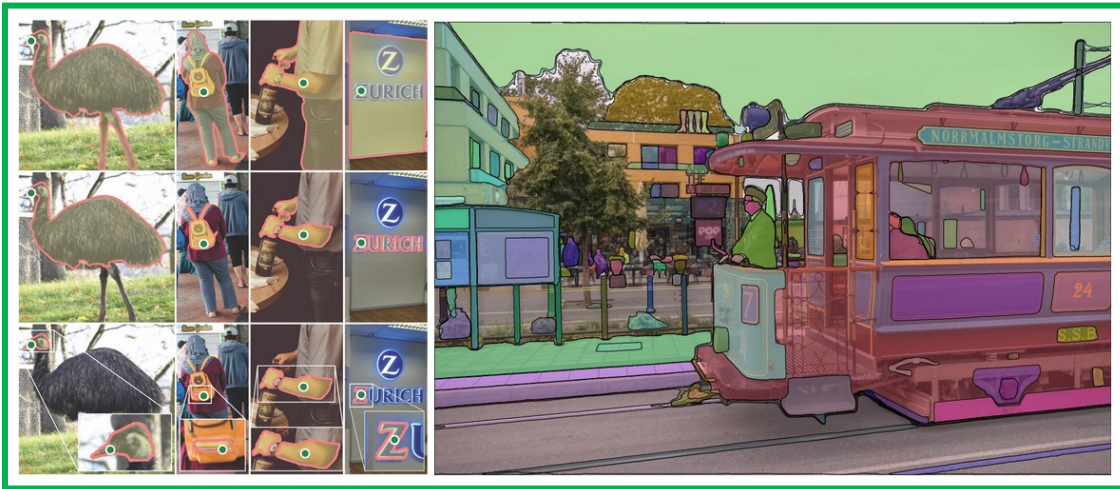
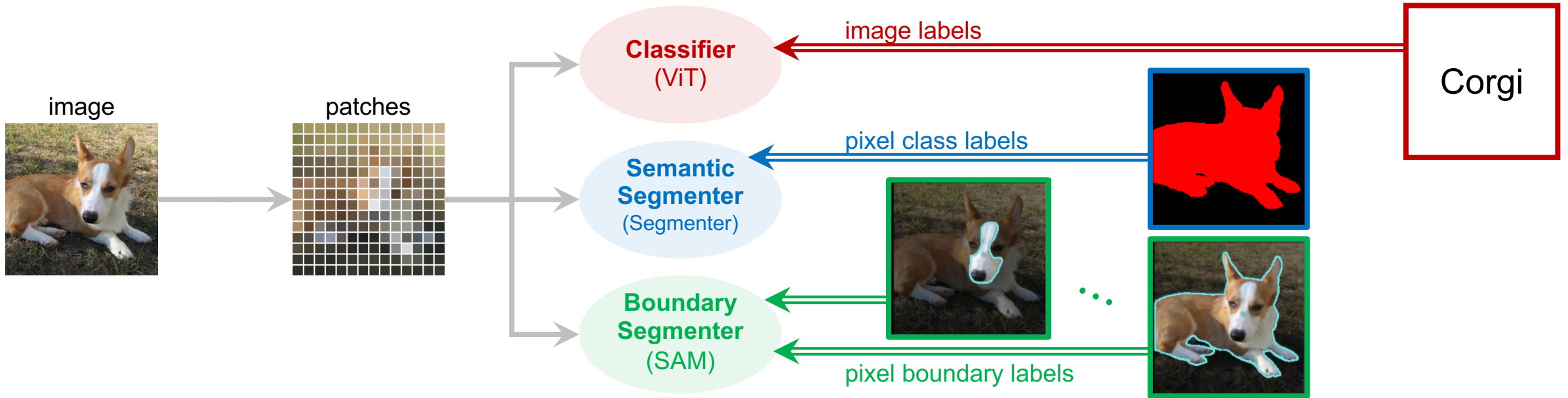


Microsoft coco: Common objects in context. Lin, et al. ECCV 2014

The cityscapes dataset for semantic urban scene understanding. Cordts et al. CVPR 2016

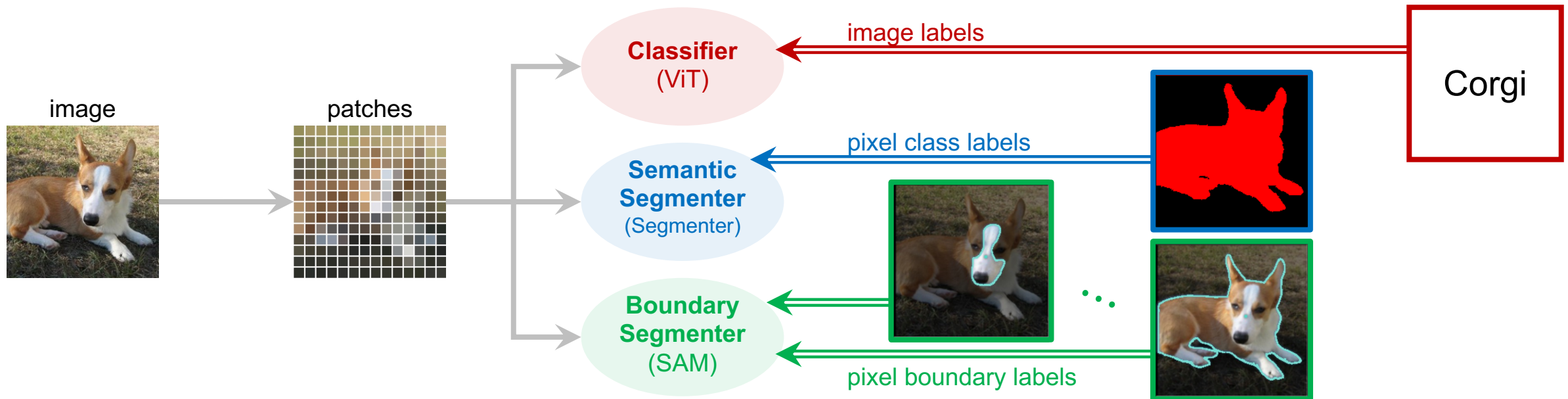
Scene parsing through ade20k dataset. Zhou et al. CVPR 2017

Prior works: Build separate models and supervision



Problems of prior works:

1. Need separate annotations
2. Need separate models
3. One task does not help the other



Our idea: put segmentation in the loop of recognition



Strengths of our idea

1. Learn hierarchical segmentation FOR FREE from image labels



×



×

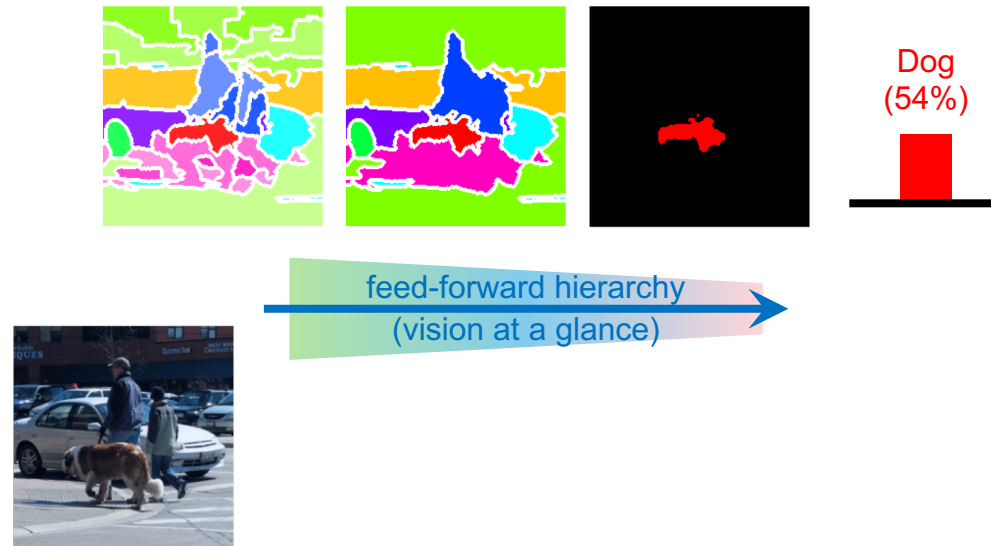


✓



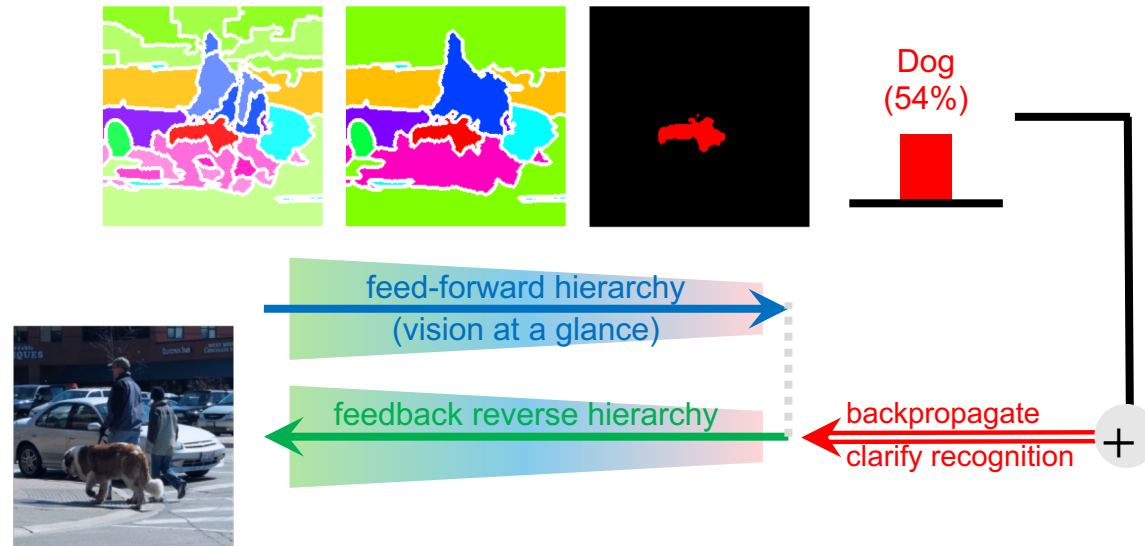
Strengths of our idea

1. Hierarchical segmentation learned FOR FREE from image labels
2. Adaptive segmentation improved with image recognition



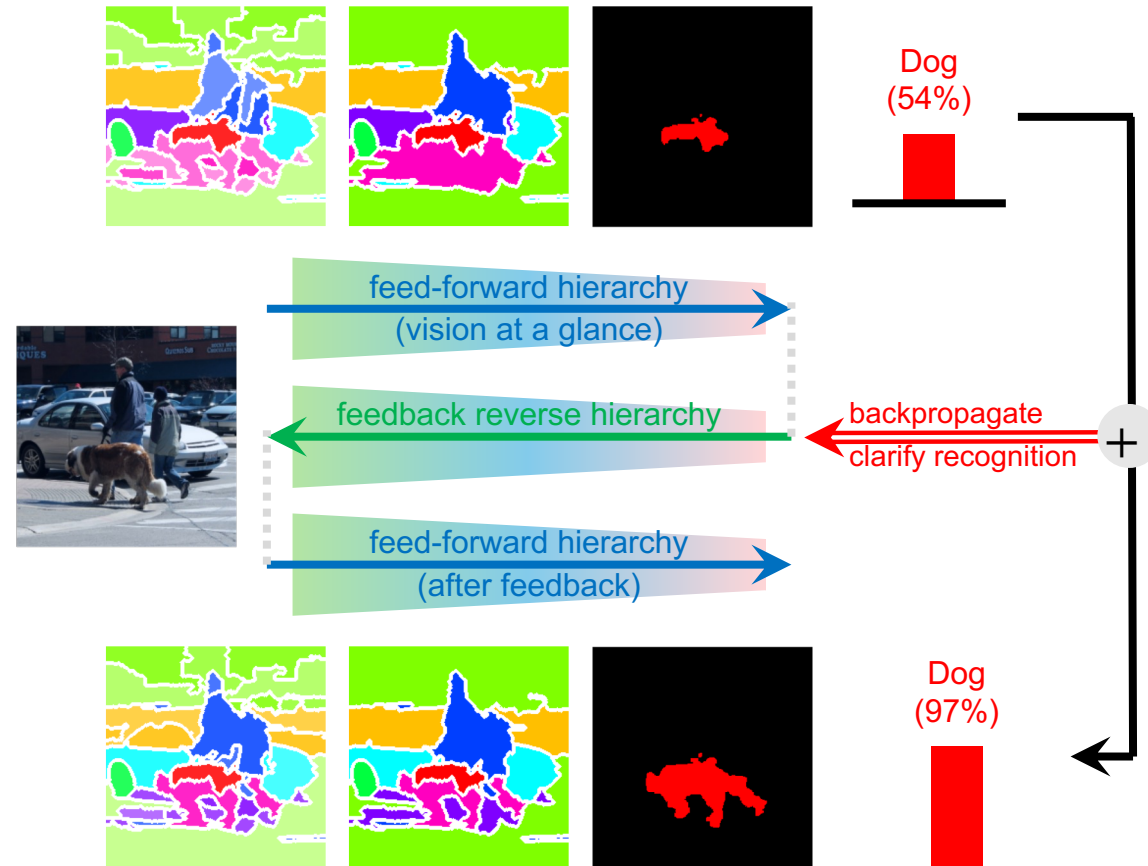
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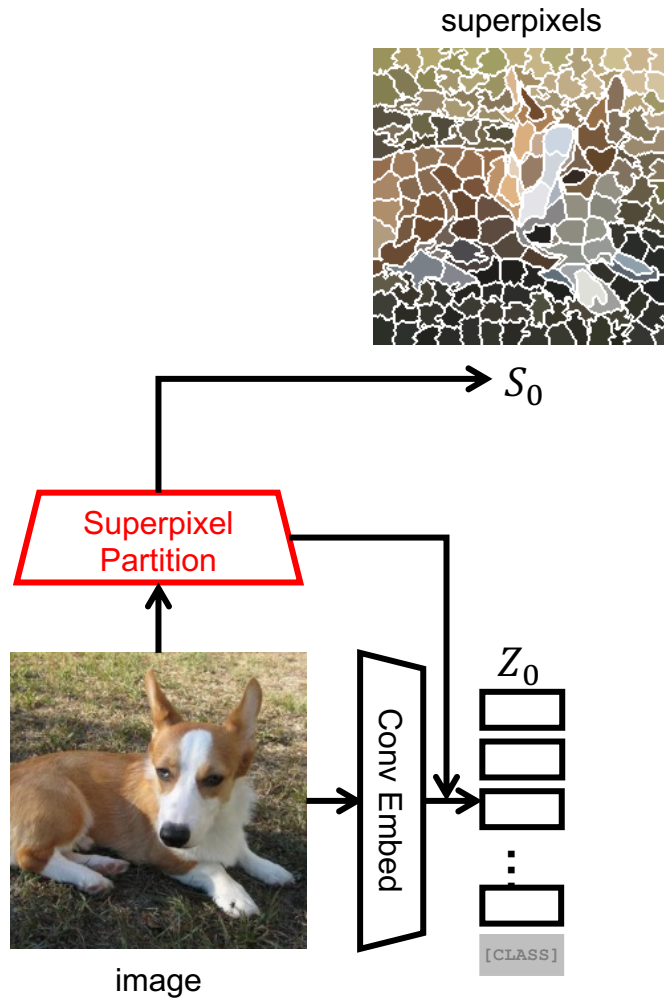


Strengths of our idea

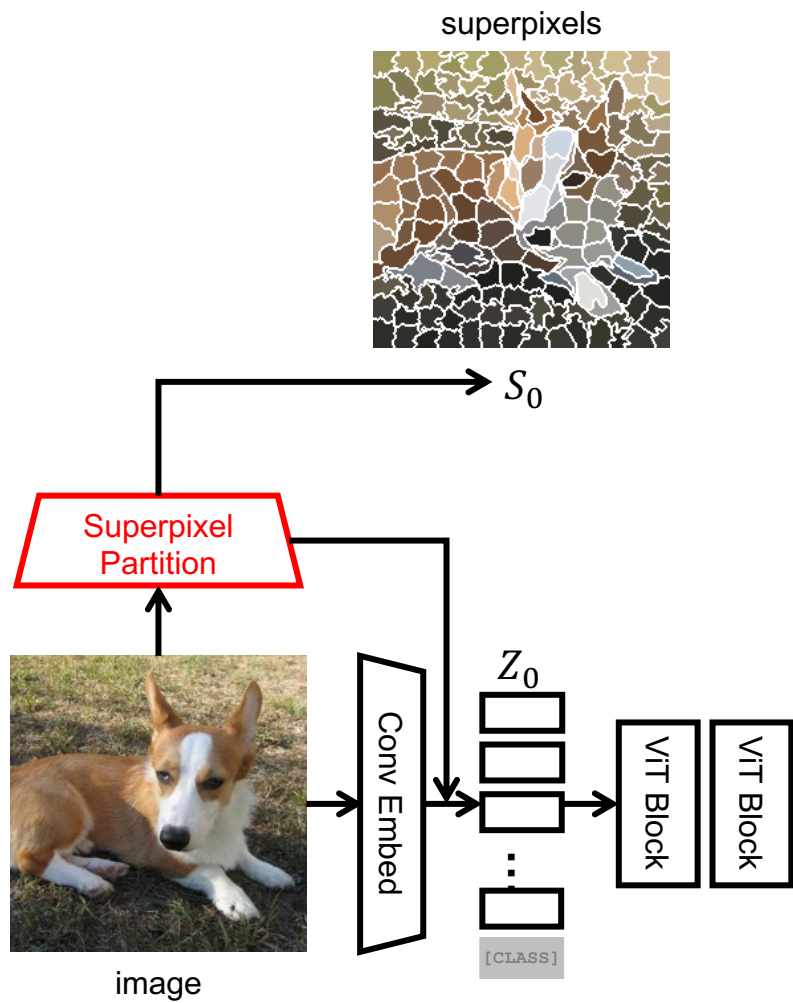
1. Hierarchical segmentation learned FOR FREE from image labels
2. Adaptive segmentation improved with image recognition



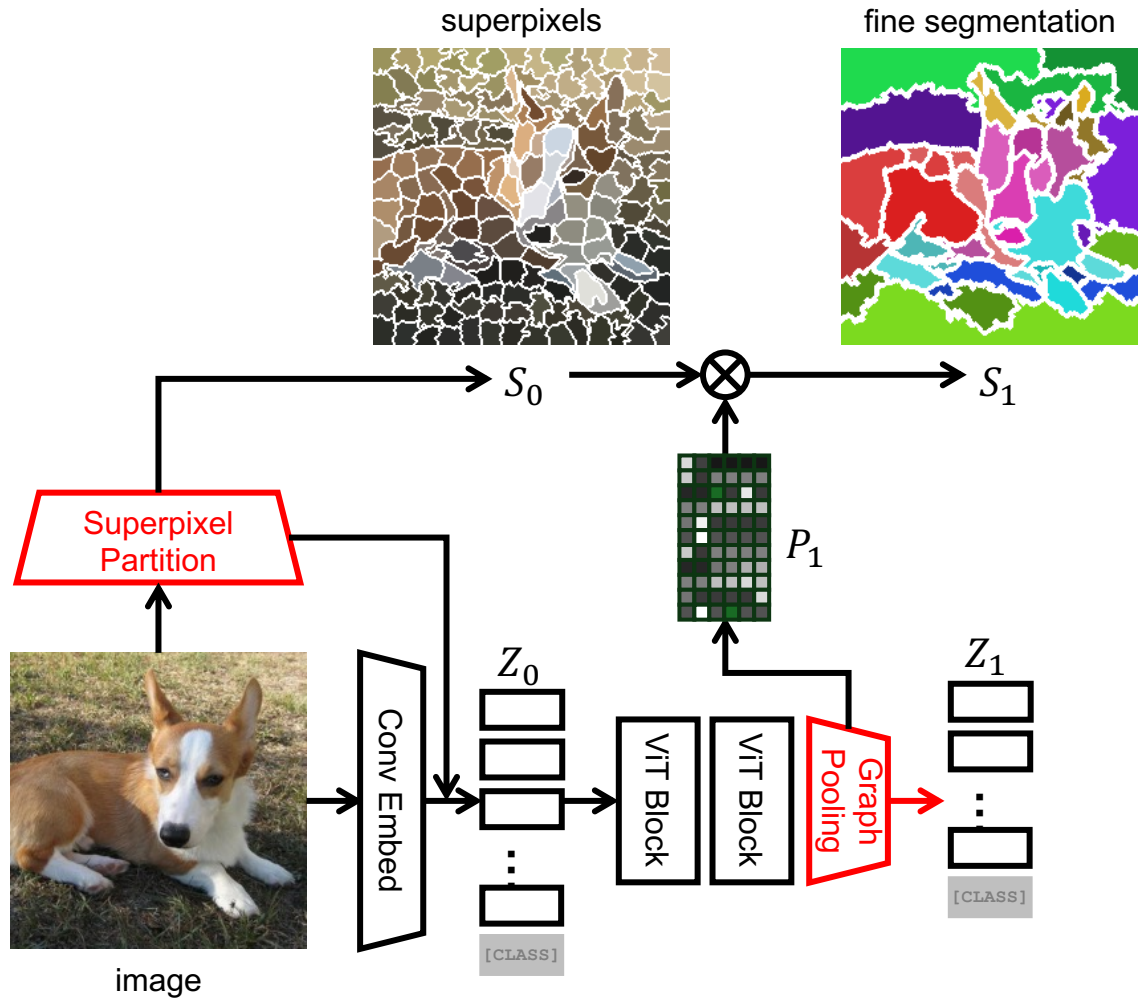
Step 1: begin with segment (superpixel) tokens



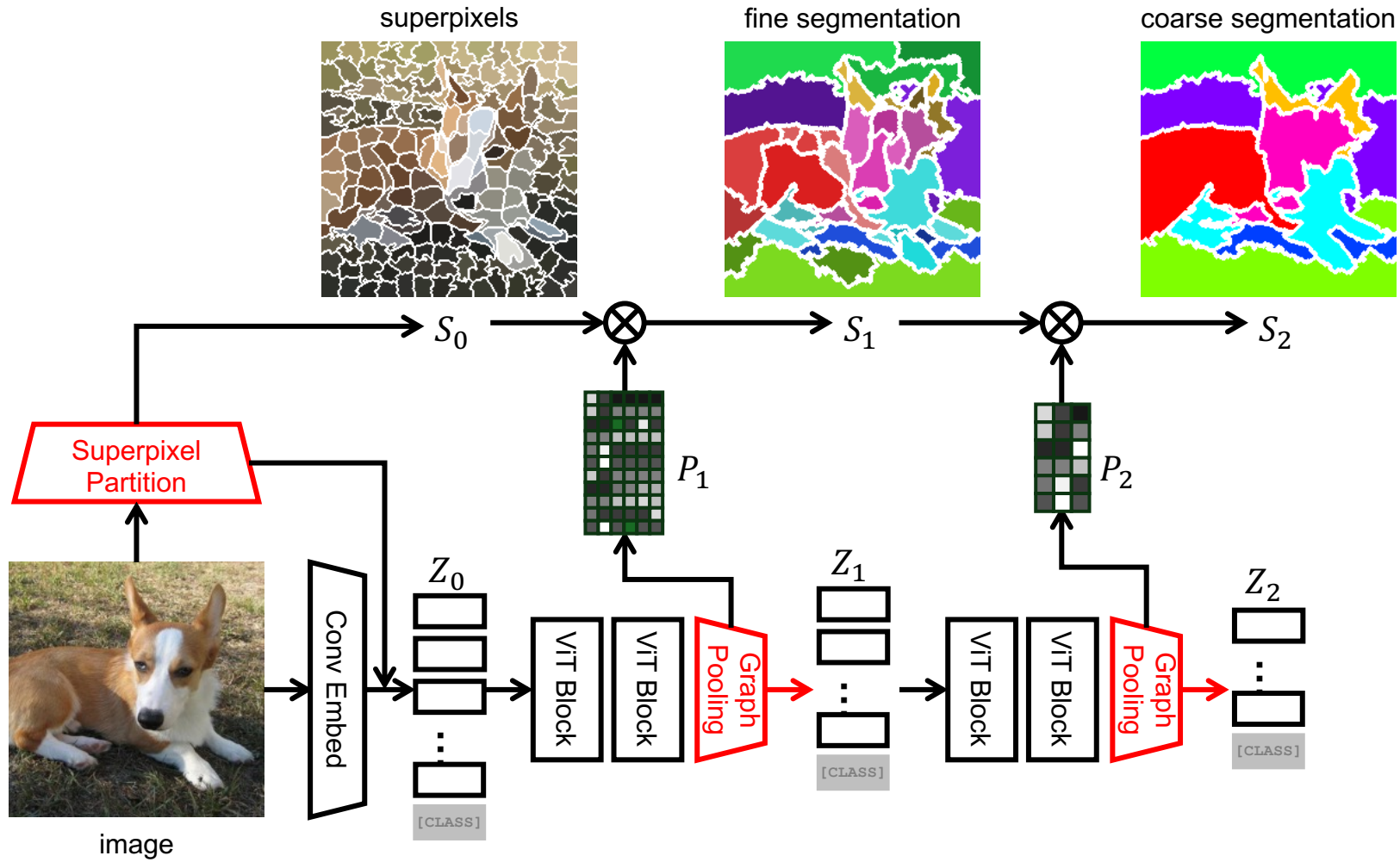
Step 2: contextualize tokens with transformer encoder



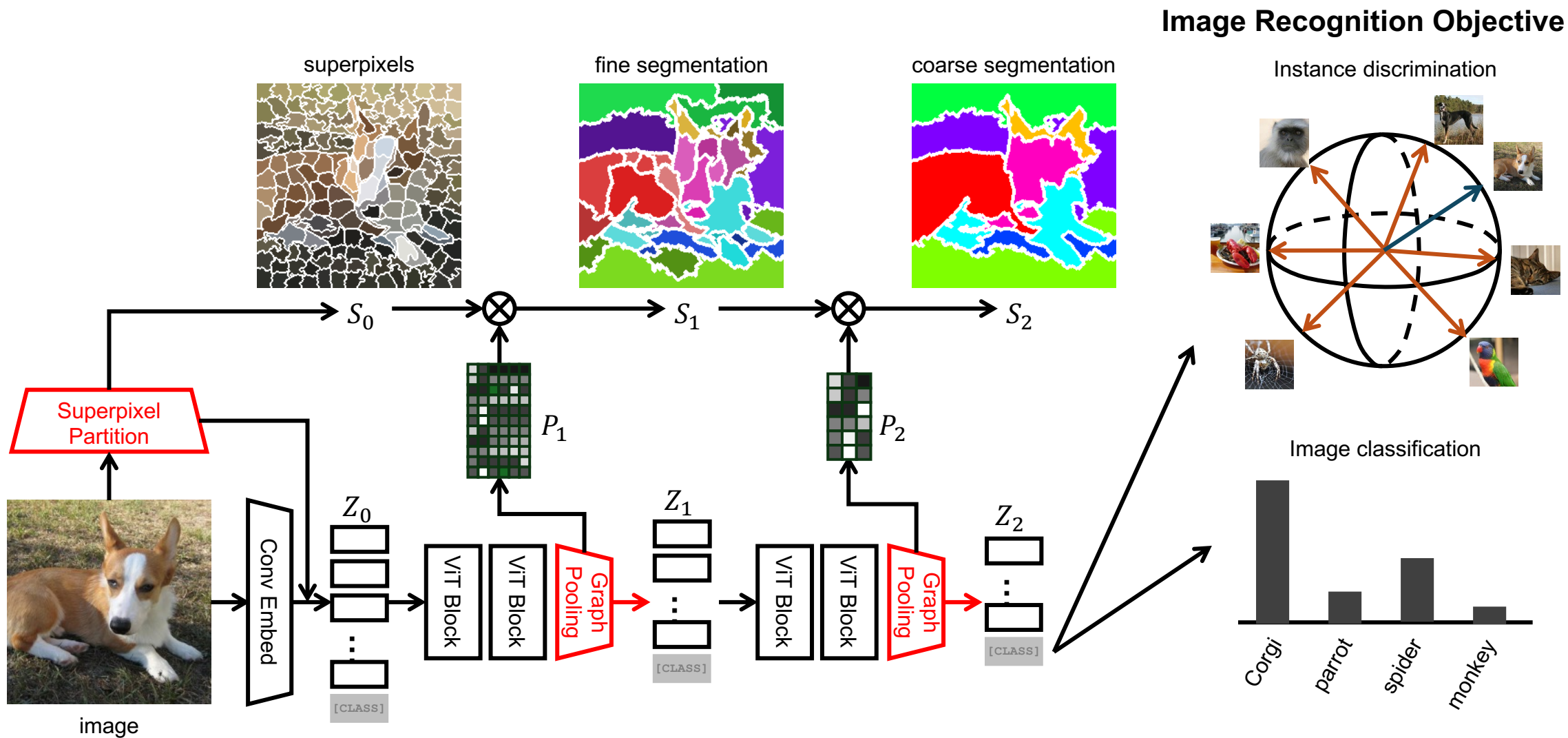
Step 3: group fine segments to coarse regions



Repeat step 2 to 3

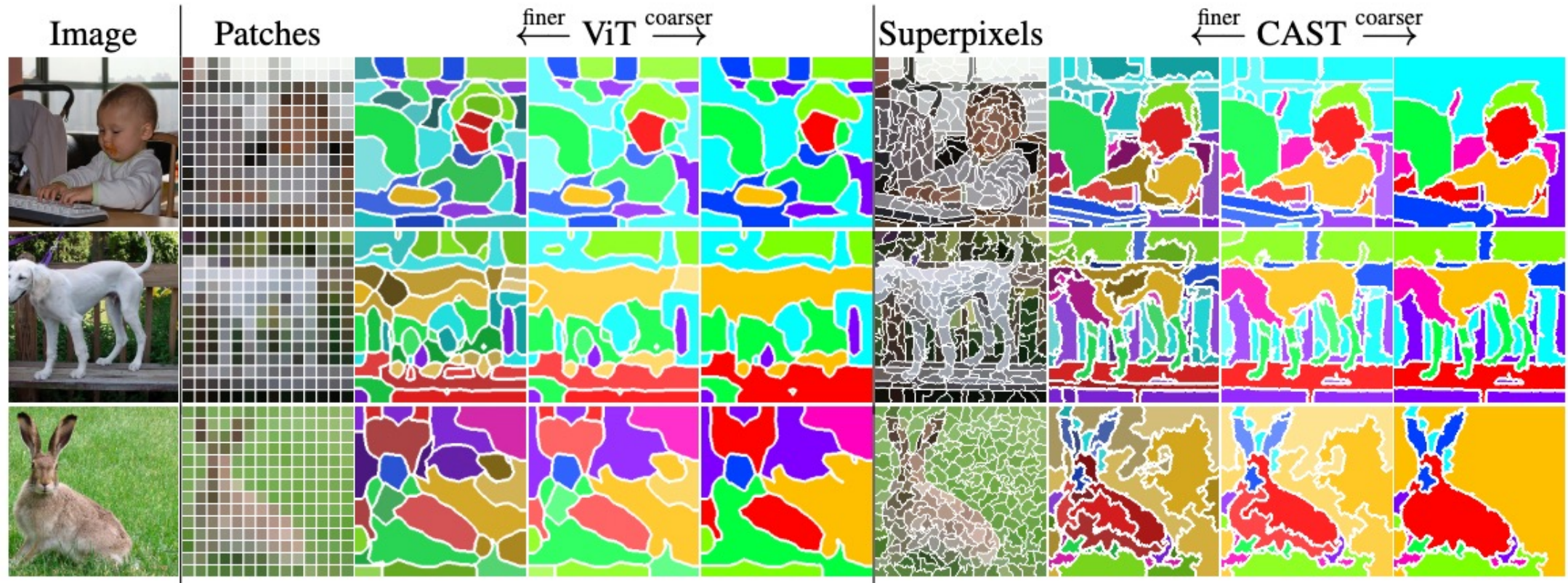


Step 4: predict image-level recognition



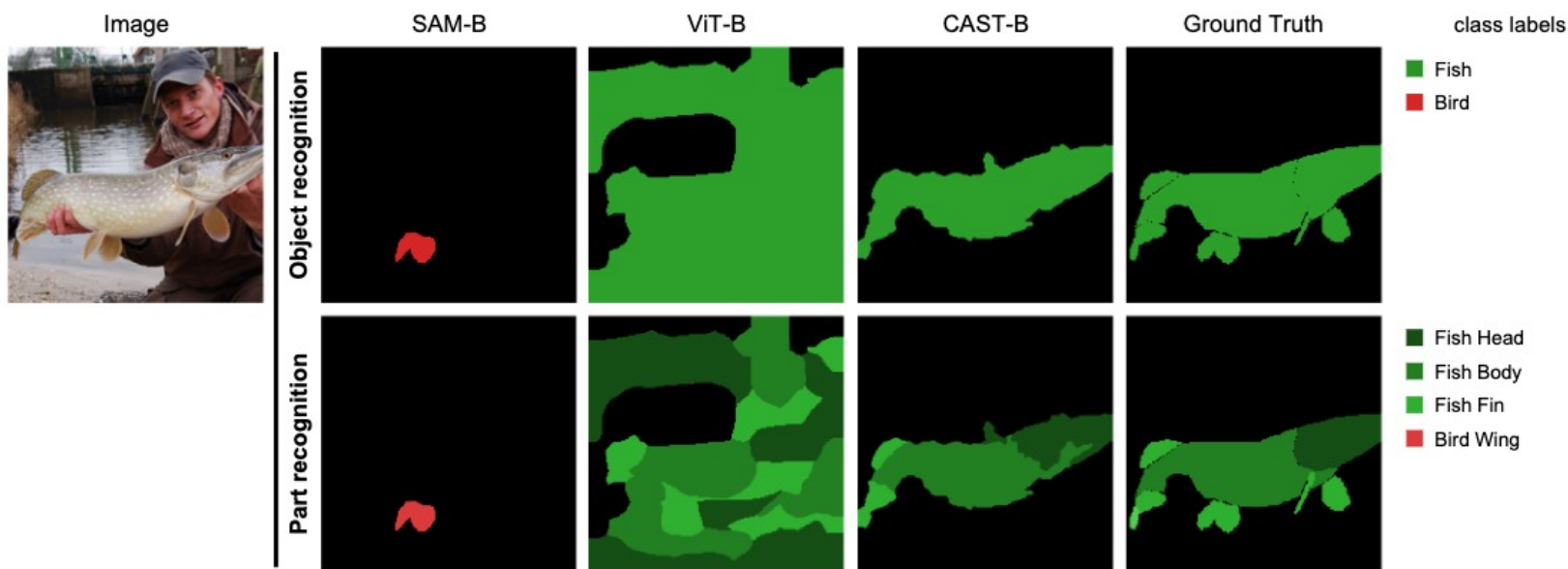
Benefits of CAST

1. Unsupervised discovery of hierarchical segmentations



Benefits of CAST

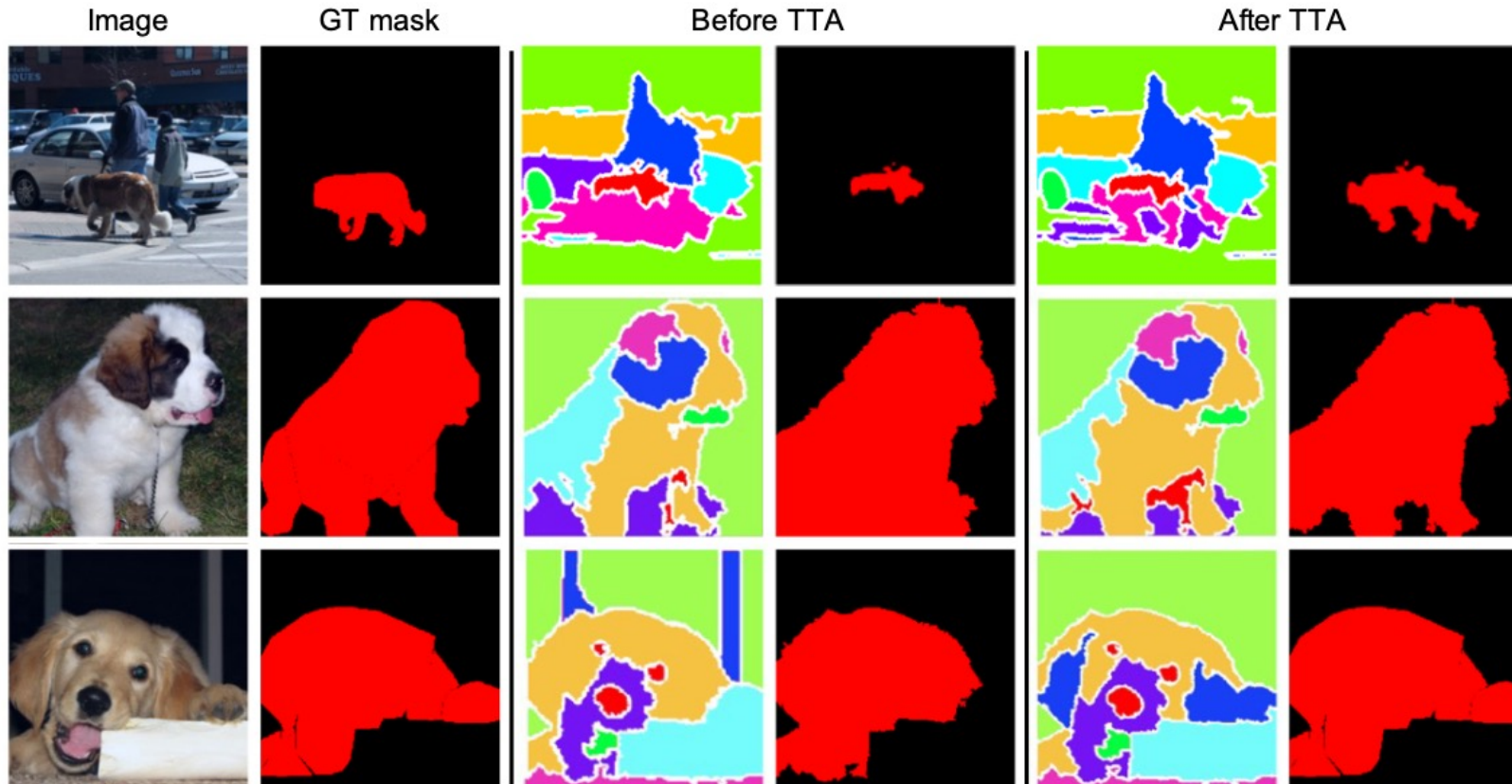
1. Unsupervised discovery of hierarchical segmentations
2. Unsupervised part / object segmentation beats Segment Anything



Model	Training data	Supervised	GFLOPS	Part $\xleftarrow{\text{finer}}$ Object $\xrightarrow{\text{coarser}}$ Category
SAM-B	SA-1B	✓	488.2	10.15 / 7.25 18.03 / 20.71 31.36 / 32.01
ViT-B	IN-1K	✗	17.8	11.74 / 4.64 25.34 / 10.92 36.68 / 13.28
CAST-B	IN-1K	✗	12.9	13.20 / 6.52 29.66 / 22.32 50.75 / 34.38

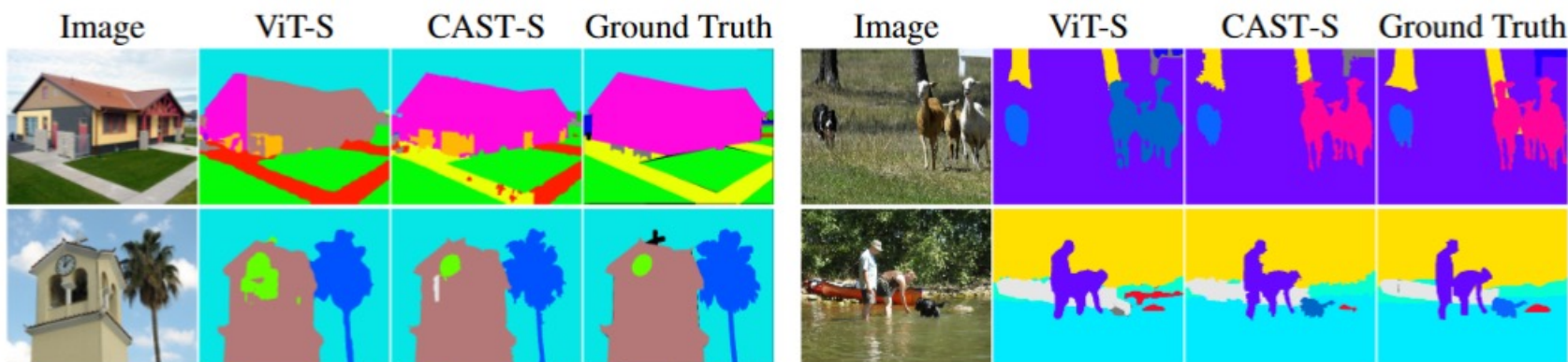
Benefits of CAST

1. Unsupervised discovery of hierarchical segmentations
2. Unsupervised part / object segmentation beats Segment Anything
3. Concurrent segmentation and recognition during inference



Benefits of CAST

1. Unsupervised discovery of hierarchical segmentations
2. Unsupervised part / object segmentation beats Segment Anything
3. Concurrent segmentation and recognition during inference
4. **Better performance and efficiency than ViT**



segmentation

(a) Pascal VOC	Token	Pooling	Before tuning	After tuning
ViT-S	Patch	✗	30.9 / 16.1	65.8 / 40.7
↓ ablation	Patch	✓	34.5 / 19.8	67.2 / 41.9
	Supapixel	✗	32.2 / 21.2	66.5 / 46.7
CAST-S	Supapixel	✓	38.4 / 27.0	67.6 / 48.1

classification & efficiency

Model	GFLOPS	IN-100	IN-1K
ViT-S	4.7	78.1	67.9
Swin-T	4.5	78.3	63.0
CAST-S	3.4	79.9	68.1

Thank you for your listening

Code available at:

<https://github.com/twke18/CAST>