

# Explainability of Deep Neural Networks with Comparative Neuron Activations and Gradients

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남우정

# Overview of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

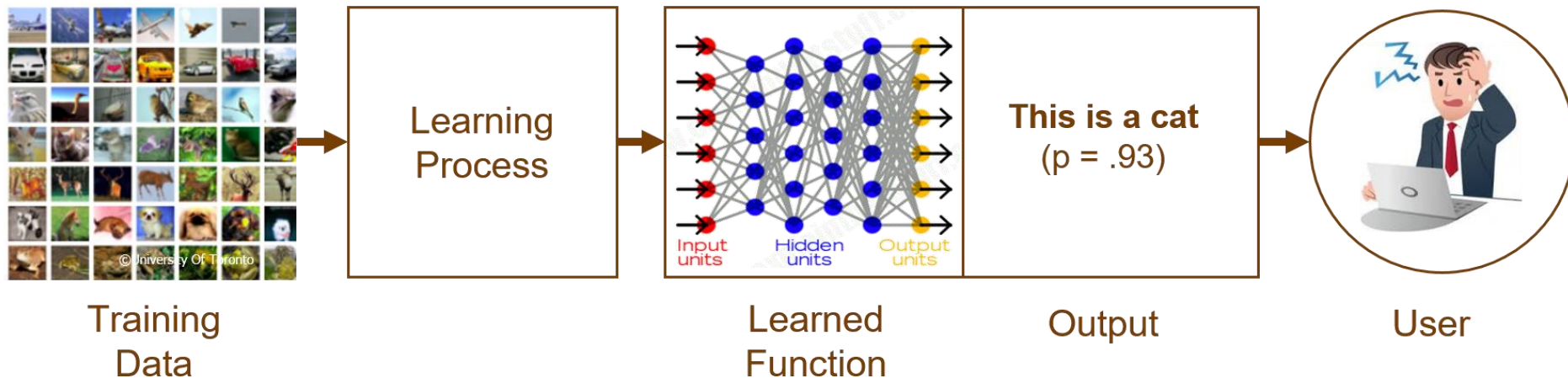
Explaining the decision of Deep Neural Networks beyond the complex and nonlinear internal structures

## Current Deep Learning

- Transparency of Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) is hampered by complex and nonlinear internal structures
- Despite the tremendous performance of deep learning, “Clever hans” phenomenon could be occurred

## Explainable Deep Learning

- Providing the rationale of the decision accessible to humans, leading to higher confidence in the ability of the model
- Reducing the potential risk of an unpredictable phenomenon and helping debug the model



“Black box” inner structure of deep learning

# Overview of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

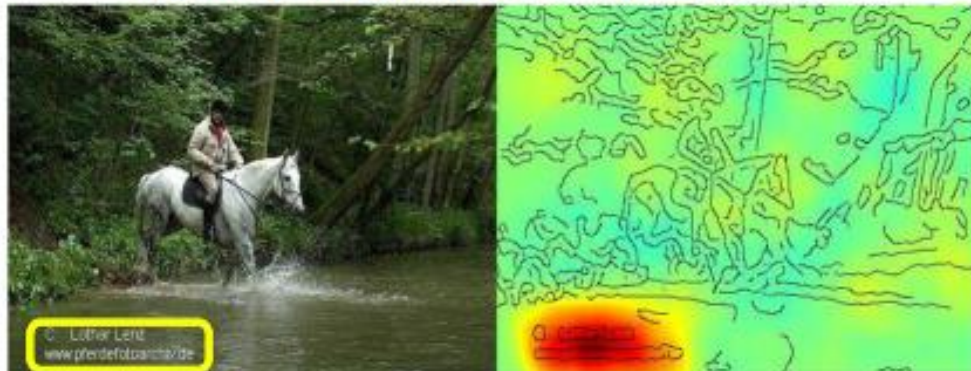
Explaining the decision of Deep Neural Networks beyond the complex and nonlinear internal structures

## Current Deep Learning

- Transparency (DNNs) is nonlinear
- Despite the deep learning could be o

## Explainable Deep Learning

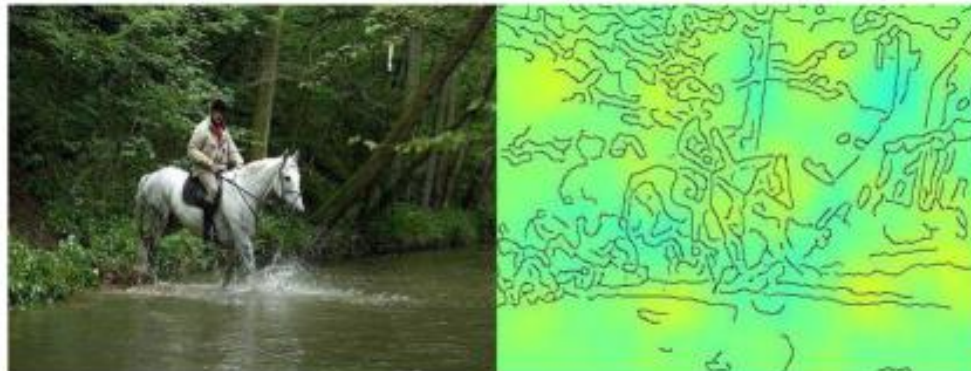
Horse-picture from Pascal VOC data set



Source tag present



Classified as horse



No source tag present



Not classified as horse

the decision  
ing to **higher**  
the model  
of an  
and helping

“Clever hans” phenomenon of the Fisher vector classifier [S. Lapuschkin, 2019]

# Overview of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

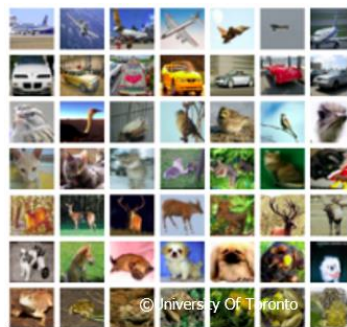
Explaining the decision of Deep Neural Networks beyond the complex and nonlinear internal structures

## Current Deep Learning

- Transparency of Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) is hampered by complex and nonlinear internal structures
- Despite the tremendous performance of deep learning, “Clever hans” phenomenon could be occurred

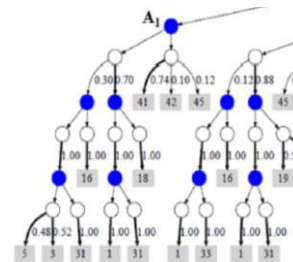
## Explainable Deep Learning

- Providing the rationale of the decision accessible to humans, leading to **higher confidence** in the ability of the model
- Reducing the **potential risk of an unpredictable phenomenon** and helping debug the model



Training Data

New Learning Process



Explainable Model

This is a cat:

- It has fur, whiskers, and claws.
- It has this feature:

Explanation Interface



User

# Related Works

- Revealing the evidence of model decision

- Visualizations of Intermediate Features

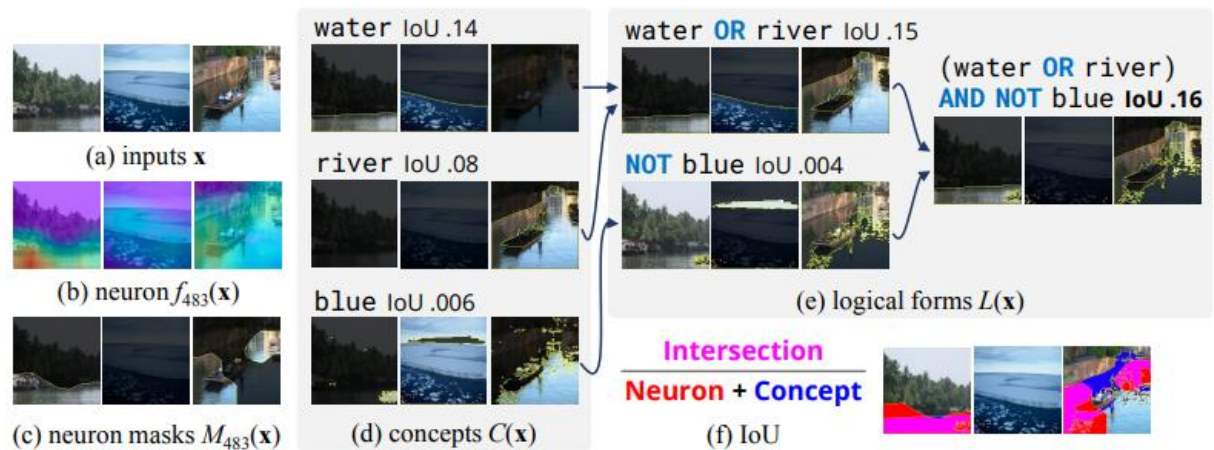
- ✓ Visualizing intermediate features by maximizing the activated neurons

- Concept-based explanation

- ✓ Visualizing how a model learned a class in terms of concepts



Visualizing Intermediate Features  
[Mahendran, A. et.al., 2016]



Concept based explanations of neuron  
[Jess, M. et.al., 2020]

# Related Works (Cont.)

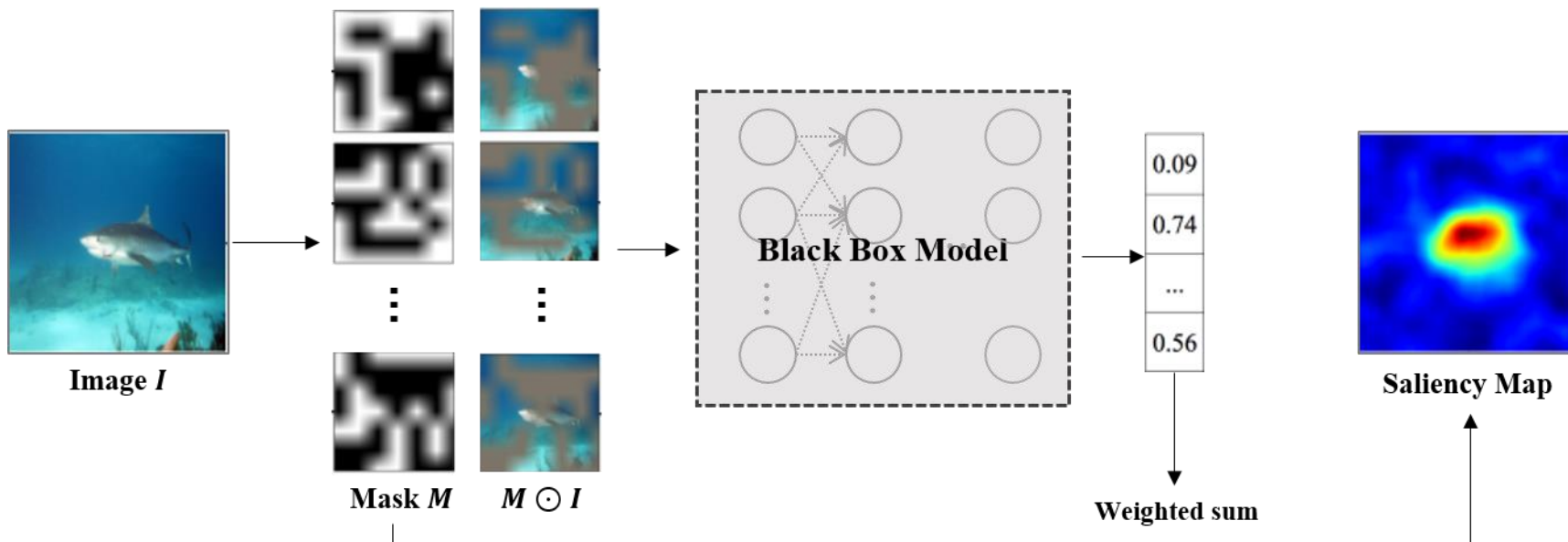
- Revealing the evidence of model decision

- Perturbation-based approach

- ✓ Analyzing the variations of decision when distorting the input image



Extremal perturbation [Fong, R. et.al., 2015]



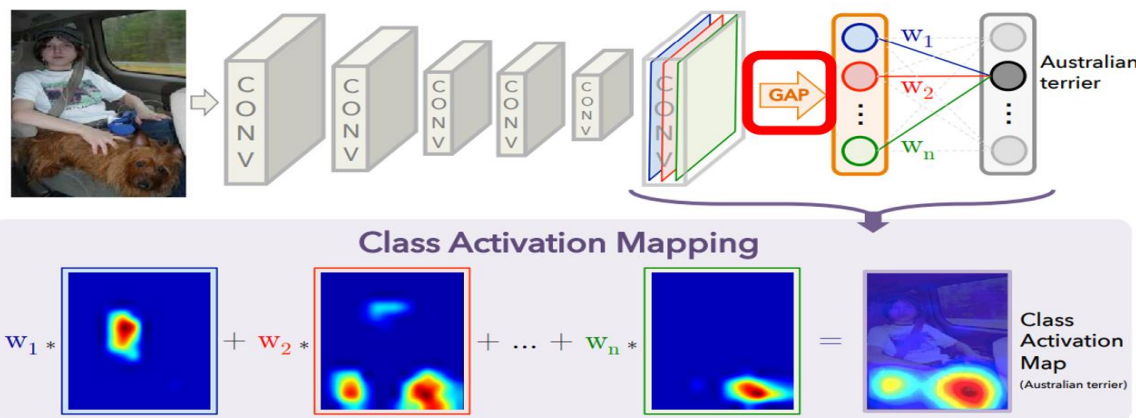
Overall framework of Perturbation-based approach [V. Petsiuk, 2018]

# Related Works (Cont.)

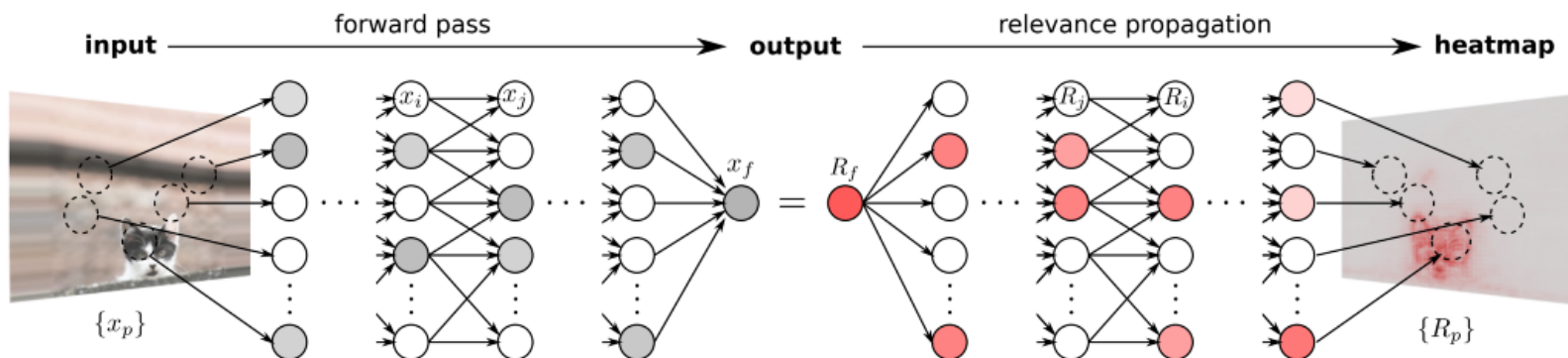
## ▪ Revealing the evidence of model decision

### ➤ Decomposing the network decision

- ✓ Aim to seek the relevant parts of the input image by following the backward propagation rule that preserve the evidence of decision



Overview of Class Activation Mapping [Zhou, B. et.al., 2016]

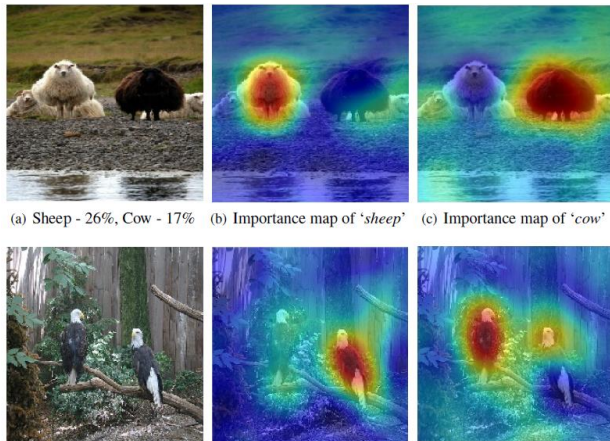


Overview of Layerwise Relevance Propagation [Montavon, G. et.al., 2017]

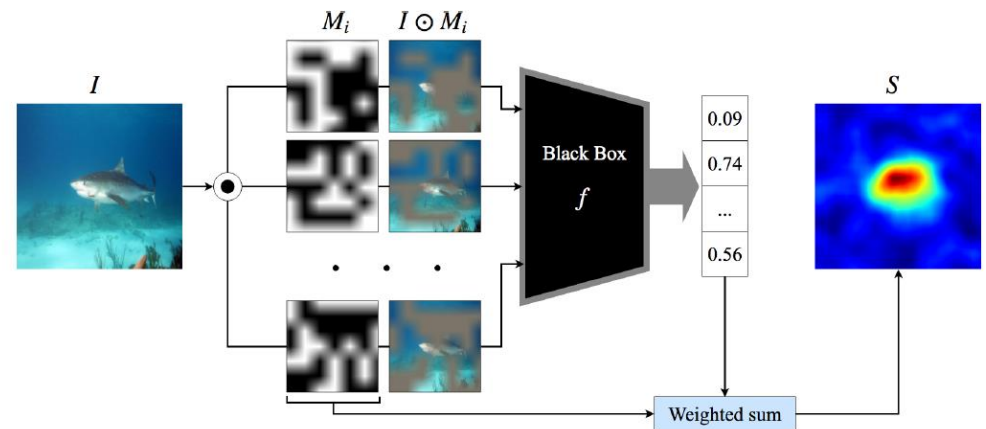
# Perturbation-based Approaches

## ▪ RISE [BMVC, 2018]

- Generating an importance map indicating how salient each pixel is for the model's prediction
  - ✓ Generating  $N$  binary masks smaller than the input image and upsample to size with the input image
  - ✓ Running the model using the masked image to get confidence scores
  - ✓ A saliency map for each pixel is obtained as a weighted sum of confidence scores and masks



Generated a pixel importance map for each decision (redder is more important)

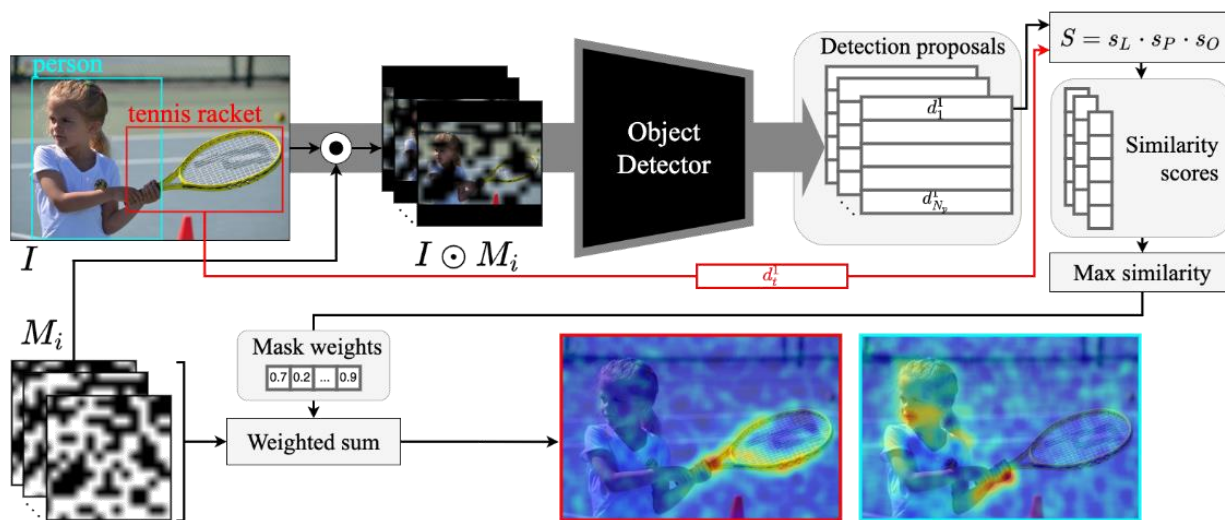


Overview of the method proposed in this paper

# Perturbation-based Approaches

## ▪ D-RISE [CVPR, 2018]

- Generating saliency maps that show image areas that most affect the prediction in both localization and classification tasks
  - ✓ Producing a masked image using randomly generated masks
  - ✓ Run the detector to produce several proposals for each masked image
  - ✓ Computing pairwise similarities between ground truth and predicted vectors and get the maximum score to generate the weight
  - ✓ Computing a weighted sum of masks with respect to get saliency maps

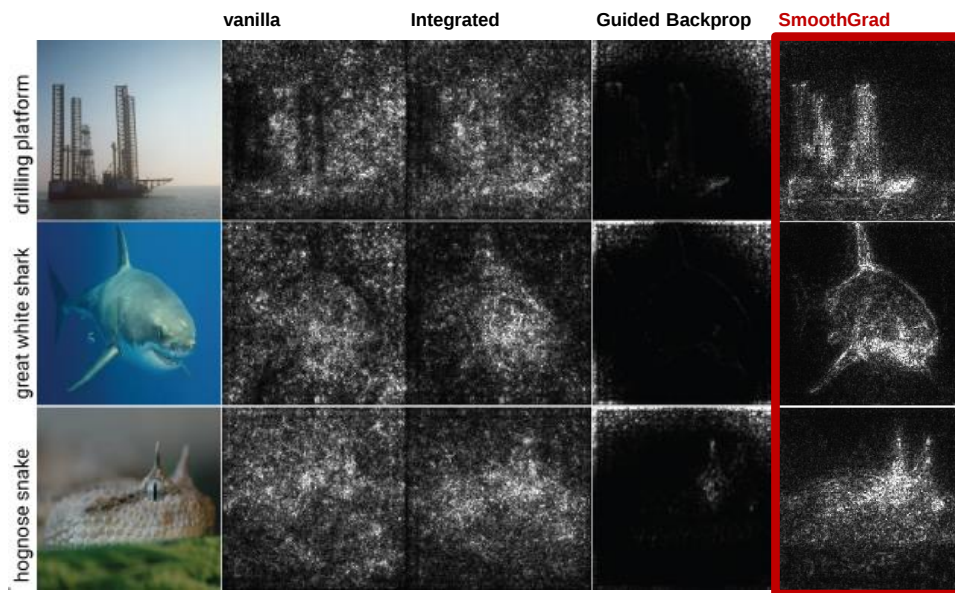


An overview of D-RISE framework

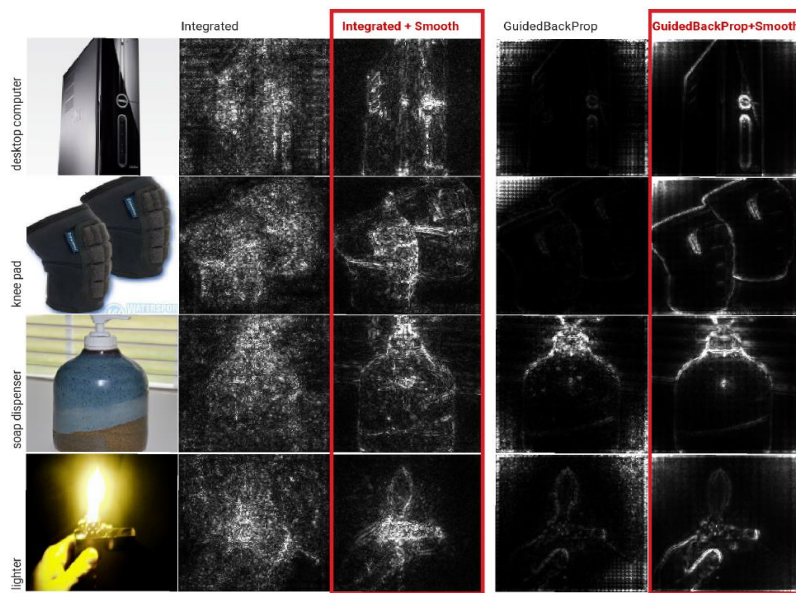
# Gradient-based Approaches

## ▪ SmoothGrad [ICML, 2019]

- Introducing a simple approach that improves the quality of saliency maps by iteratively injecting noises into the input image
  - ✓ Computing the average of sensitive maps that are generated from noise-injected images to generate final saliency maps



Qualitative evaluation of different methods

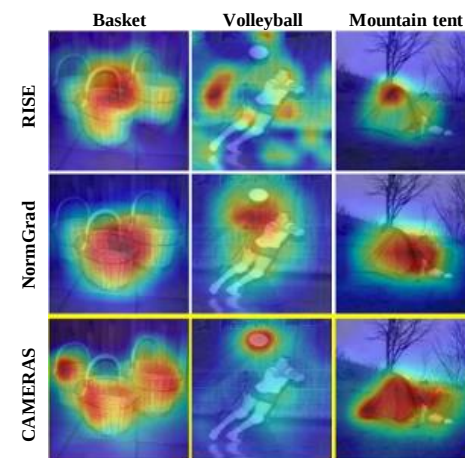
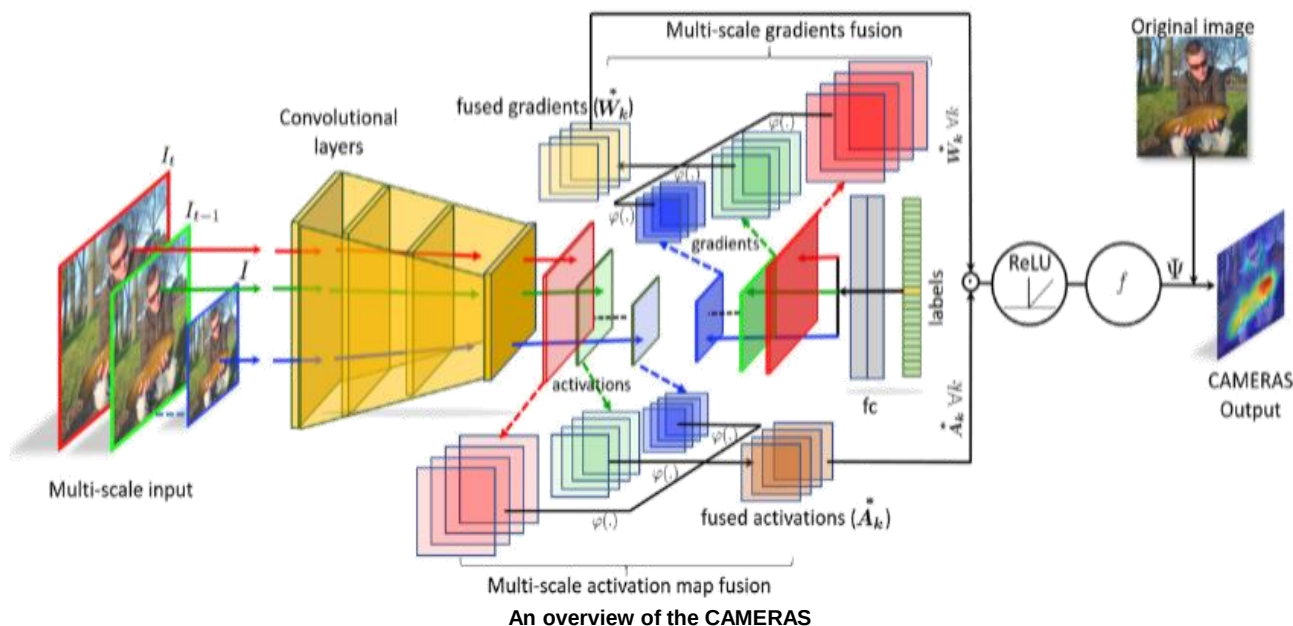


Using *SmoothGrad* in addition to existing gradient-based methods

# Gradient-based Approaches

## ▪ CAMERAS [CVPR, 2021]

- Desired saliency map is computed by taking an iterative multi-scale accumulation of activation maps and gradients for the specific layer
  - ✓ Providing that the input upscaling does not alter the model prediction, the activation maps and backpropagated gradients to the specific layer are also up-sampled and stored

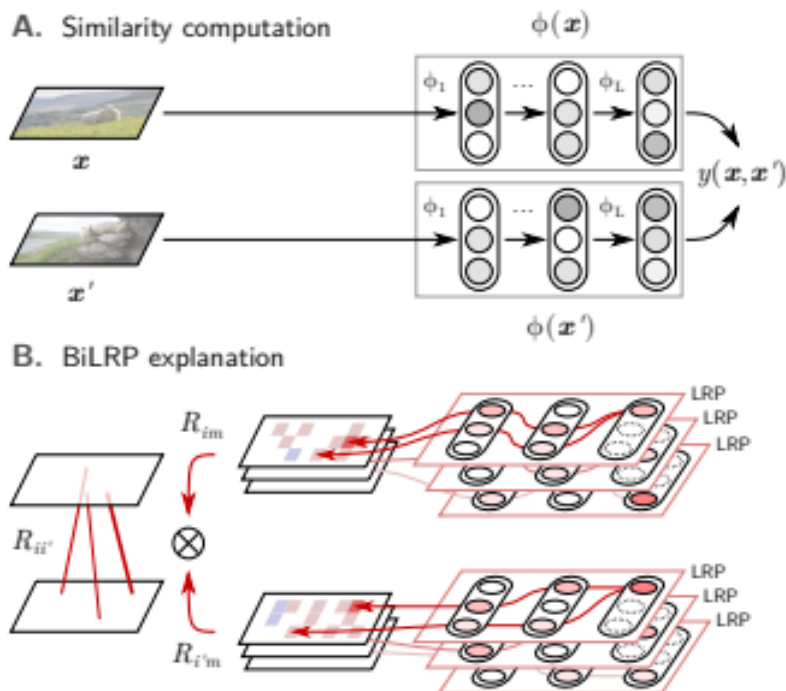


Visual comparison of saliency maps

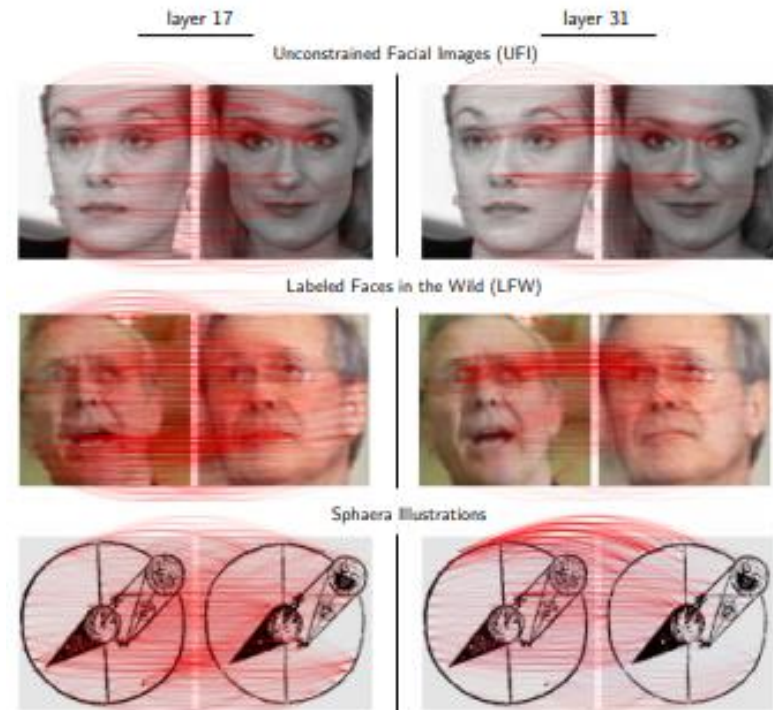
# Relevance-based Approaches

## ■ BiLRP [T-PAMI, 2020]

- Demonstrate that BiLRP robustly explains complex similarity models, e.g. built on VGG-16 deep neural network features
  - ✓ Apply the method to an open problem in digital humanities: detailed assessment of similarity between historical documents such as astronomical tables
  - ✓ BiLRP performs a second-order 'deep Taylor decomposition' of the similarity score, which lets us retrace, layer after layer, features that have jointly contributed to the similarity



Proposed BiLRP method for explaining similarity



Application of BiLRP to study how VGG-16 similarity transfers to various datasets

# Revisiting Attribution Methods

## The shortcomings of the existing attribution methods

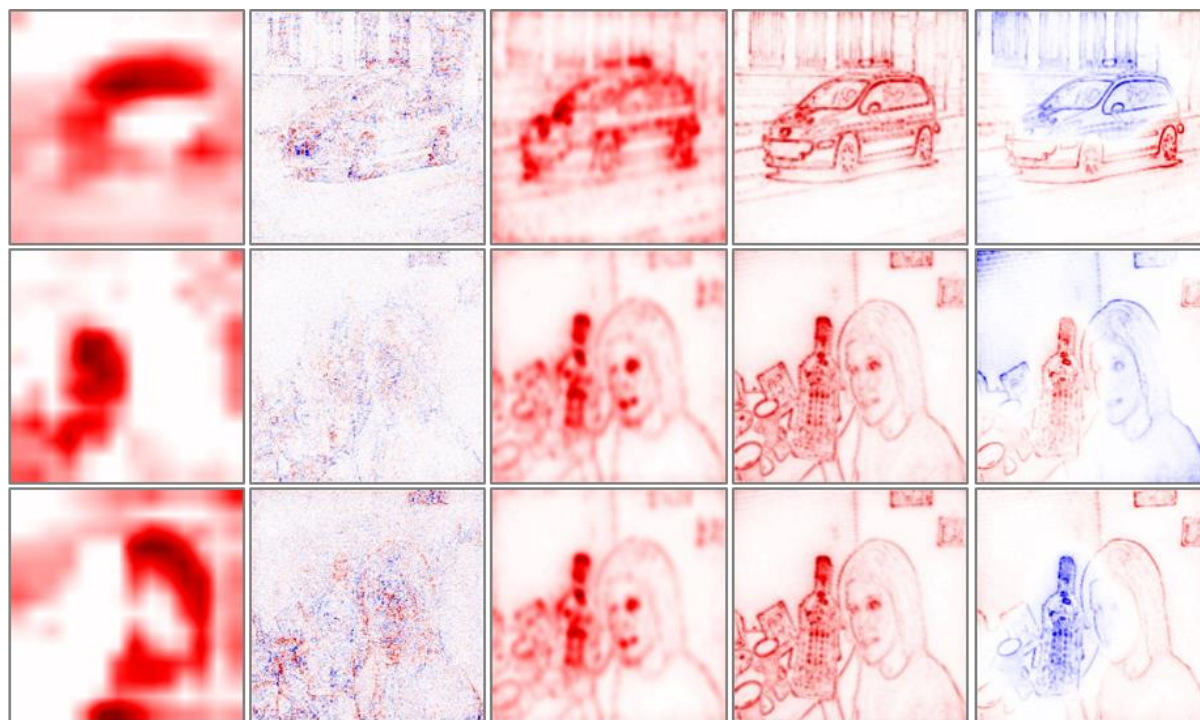
- Main goals of visual explanations
  - ✓ The detailed visualizations of neuron activations
  - ✓ Concentrated attributions on the objects in input image
  - ✓ Class specific explanations among predicted classes



Car



Person, Bottle



Grad  
CAM

Integrated  
Gradients

Guided  
BackProp

LRP

Contrastive  
EB

Comparisons of some attribution methods

# Revisiting Attribution Methods (Cont.)

## Motivations of main research

- How can we clarify the positive and negative relevance?
  - ✓ Let's separate the main object and irrelevant parts [AAAI 2020]
- Why relevance based approaches are not class-discriminative?
  - ✓ Found that highly activated neurons always have the **lion's share of relevance**
  - ✓ Propose a method that overcomes the traits of **"Winner always wins"** [AAAI 2021]



RAP  
[AAAI 2020]



Car



Target: Car



Person, Bottle



Target: Person



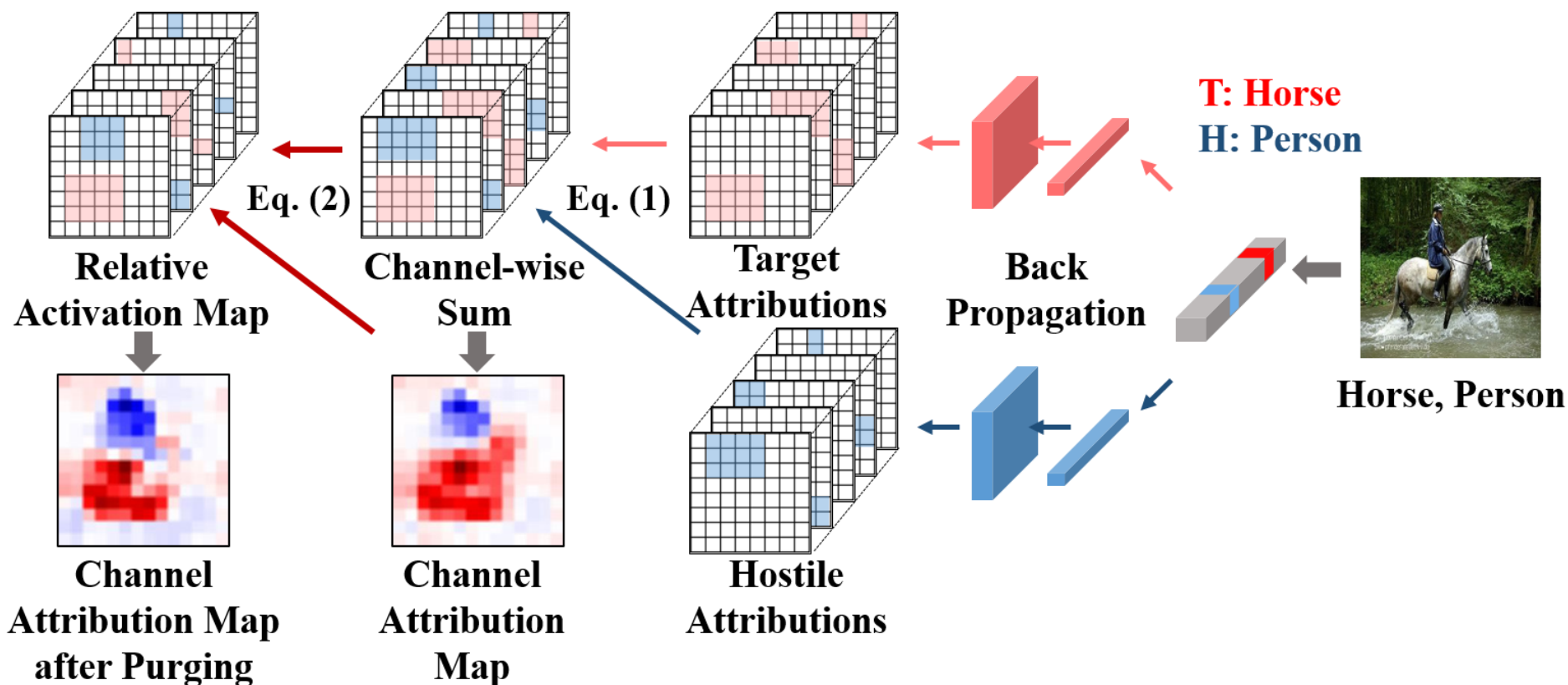
Target: Bottle

Intuitive examples of our method: Relative Sectional Propagation (RSP) [AAAI 2021]

# Proposed Method (Cont.)

## ▪ Stage 1: Relative Gradient Activation Map(1) and purging process(2)

- The elements marked with red and blue color represent the target: Horse and hostile: Person attributions, respectively.

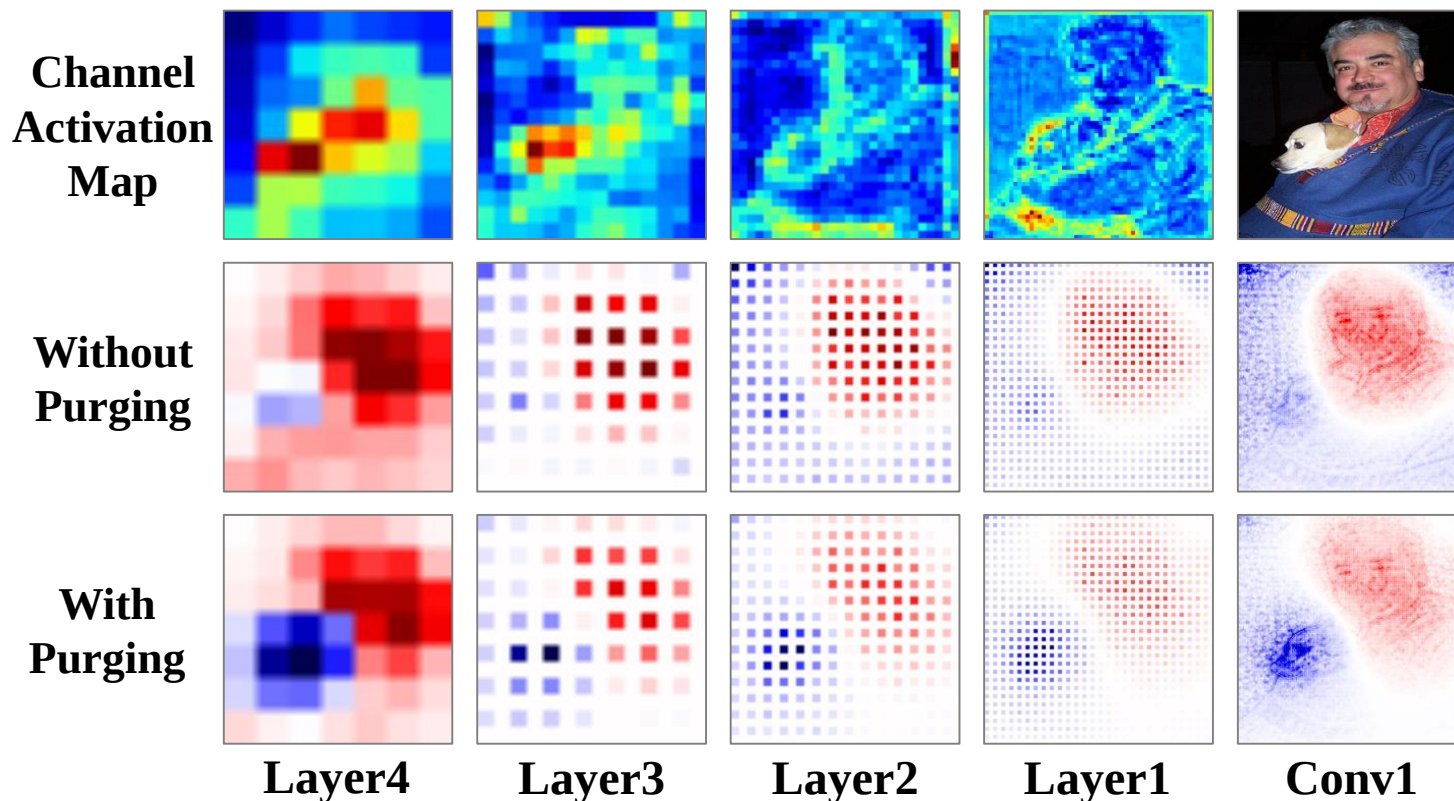


An illustration of generating the relative gradient activation map

# Proposed Method (Cont.)

## ▪ Stage 1: Effect of purging process

- The elements marked with red and blue color represent the target: Horse and hostile: Person attributions, respectively.

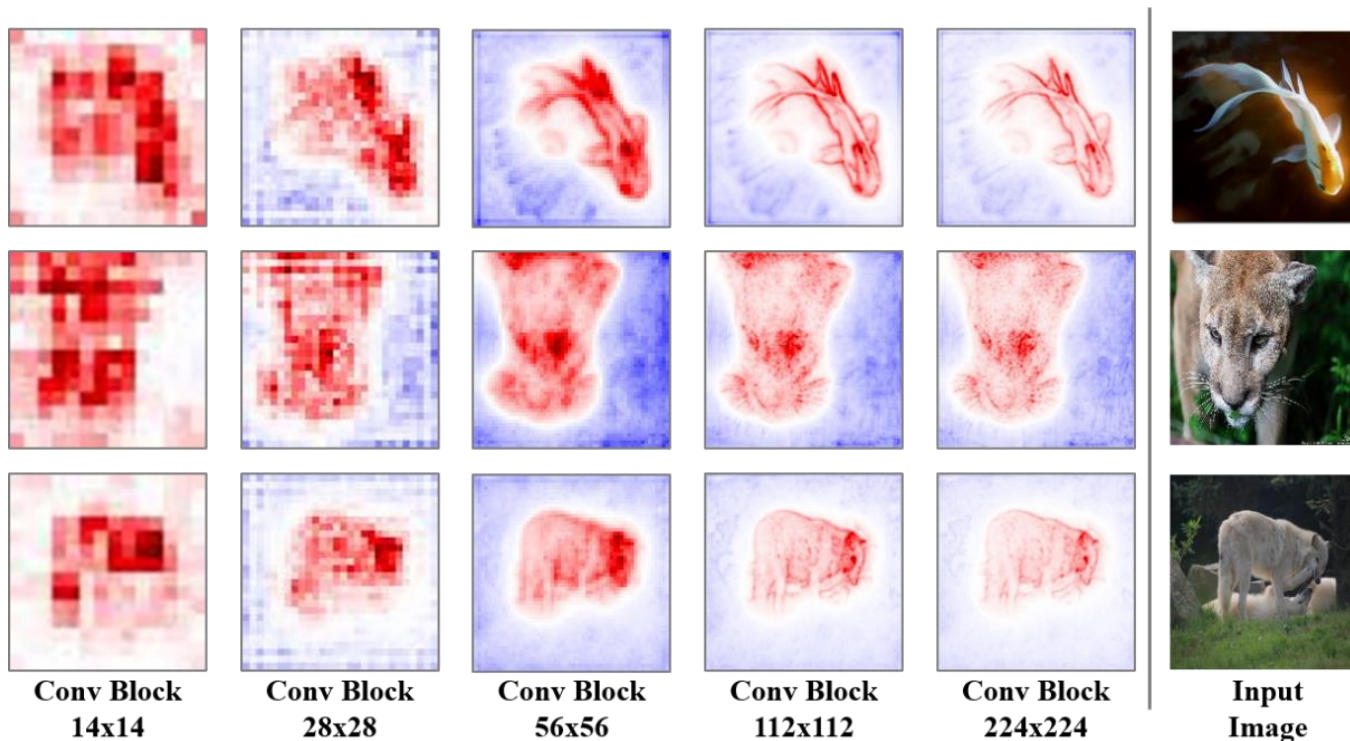


The difference between the channel attributions of intermediate layers with/without the purging process

# Proposed Method (Cont.)

## ▪ Stage 2: Sectional Propagation & Uniform shifting

- Change the irrelevant attributions, in which relevance scores are near zero, into negative
- ✓ Relatively unimportant attributions, which are near zero, would be converted into the negative and have the negative relevance scores in the final output
- Stage 2 procedure is repeated until the first layer  $l = 1$  of the model



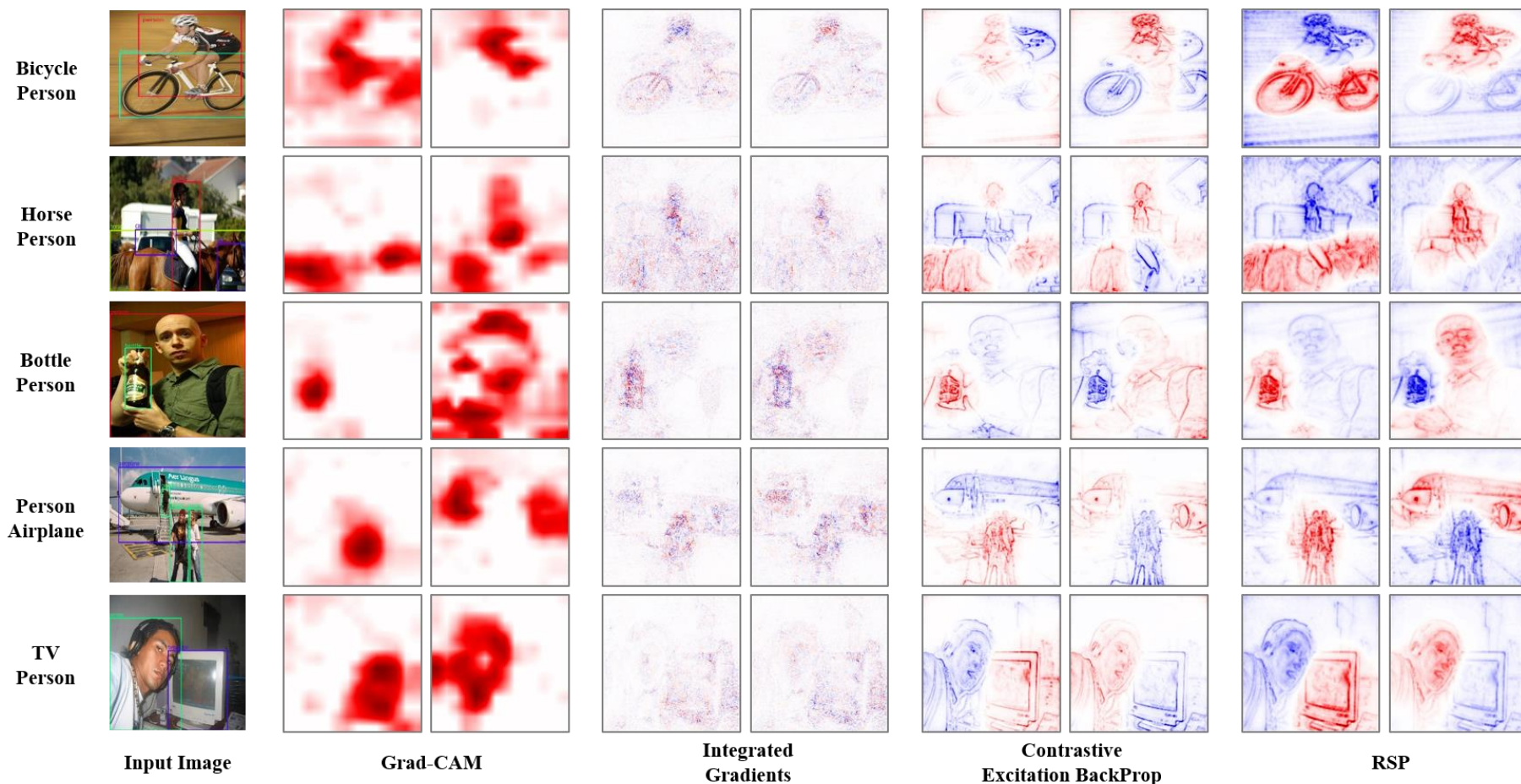
The visualization of the relevance map of the intermediate layers of the VGG-16

# Experimental Evaluations (Cont.)

## ■ Illustrative Example

➤ Assess the consistency of positive relevance among methods

✓ Class-discriminativity and detailed descriptions of neuron activations

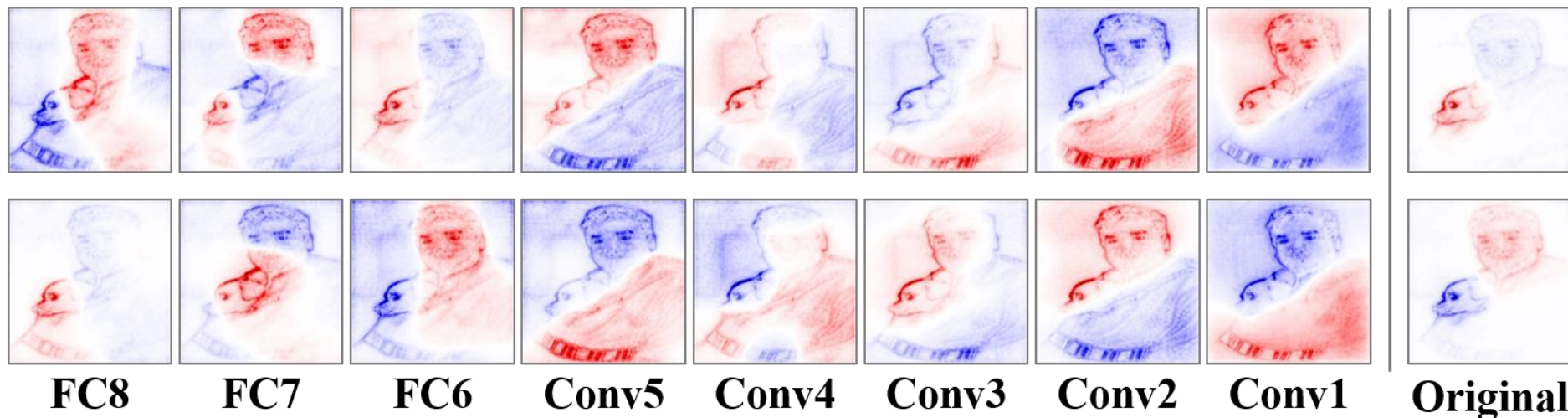


Comparison of the conventional attribution methods and RSP applied to VGG-16

# Experimental Evaluations (Cont.)

- **Sanity Check [Adebayo, J. et al. 2018]**

- Addresses the non-sensitivity problem of some saliency methods when the parameters of the model are randomly initialized
  - ✓ Model weights are progressively initialized from the end to beginning
- Attributions from each label are extremely distorted compared to the original explanations



# Experimental Evaluations (Cont.)

## ▪ Pointing Game [Zhang, J. et al. 2018]

- Assesses the attribution methods by computing the matching scores between the highest relevance point and the semantic annotations

✓ *P*: only predicted labels, *L*: all labels

| PASCAL VOC 2007       |   |        |         |      |         |           |         |      |         | COCO 2014 |         |      |         |           |         |      |         |
|-----------------------|---|--------|---------|------|---------|-----------|---------|------|---------|-----------|---------|------|---------|-----------|---------|------|---------|
|                       |   | VGG-16 |         |      |         | ResNet-50 |         |      |         | VGG-16    |         |      |         | ResNet-50 |         |      |         |
| METHOD                | T | ALL    |         | DIF  |         | ALL       |         | DIF  |         | ALL       |         | DIF  |         | ALL       |         | DIF  |         |
|                       |   | PG     | mIOU    | PG   | mIOU    | PG        | mIOU    | PG   | mIOU    | PG        | mIOU    | PG   | mIOU    | PG        | mIOU    | PG   | mIOU    |
| Grad-CAM              | L | .866   | .43/.49 | .740 | .39/.48 | .903      | .56/.57 | .823 | .47/.57 | .542      | .35/.46 | .490 | .33/.43 | .573      | .44/.51 | .523 | .40/.48 |
|                       | P | .945   | .41/.50 | .924 | .33/.54 | .953      | .55/.58 | .932 | .44/.59 | .727      | .30/.49 | .689 | .25/.45 | .705      | .39/.52 | .674 | .32/.47 |
| Gradient              | L | .762   | .00/.47 | .568 | .00/.41 | .723      | .00/.45 | .568 | .00/.40 | .355      | .00/.39 | .289 | .00/.37 | .319      | .00/.39 | .262 | .00/.37 |
|                       | P | .858   | .00/.49 | .716 | .00/.50 | .734      | .00/.44 | .605 | .00/.43 | .547      | .00/.44 | .492 | .00/.40 | .455      | .00/.42 | .405 | .00/.38 |
| DeconvNet             | L | .675   | .00/.41 | .441 | .00/.31 | .686      | .00/.43 | .447 | .00/.33 | .241      | .00/.35 | .164 | .00/.32 | .273      | .00/.35 | .192 | .00/.33 |
|                       | P | .802   | .00/.46 | .573 | .00/.37 | .789      | .00/.44 | .595 | .00/.39 | .469      | .00/.36 | .372 | .00/.31 | .429      | .00/.36 | .338 | .00/.31 |
| Guided BackProp       | L | .758   | .00/.49 | .530 | .00/.43 | .771      | .00/.51 | .594 | .00/.46 | .365      | .00/.41 | .288 | .00/.39 | .410      | .00/.43 | .340 | .00/.41 |
|                       | P | .880   | .00/.52 | .784 | .00/.54 | .857      | .00/.53 | .756 | .00/.53 | .600      | .00/.47 | .536 | .00/.43 | .573      | .00/.47 | .519 | .00/.44 |
| Excitation BackProp   | L | .735   | .00/.46 | .520 | .00/.45 | .785      | .00/.46 | .623 | .00/.45 | .377      | .00/.42 | .304 | .00/.40 | .437      | .00/.43 | .374 | .00/.41 |
|                       | P | .856   | .00/.47 | .742 | .00/.53 | .864      | .00/.47 | .768 | .00/.50 | .573      | .00/.47 | .505 | .00/.45 | .582      | .00/.46 | .533 | .00/.44 |
| c*Excitation BackProp | L | .766   | .38/.45 | .634 | .34/.50 | .857      | .49/.49 | .741 | .45/.56 | .472      | .32/.46 | .417 | .30/.45 | .536      | .41/.49 | .485 | .37/.48 |
|                       | P | .856   | .40/.42 | .784 | .39/.55 | .945      | .52/.49 | .887 | .51/.62 | .659      | .37/.49 | .620 | .34/.50 | .671      | .47/.53 | .636 | .42/.53 |
| RSP                   | L | .849   | .51/.51 | .712 | .43/.54 | .859      | .49/.51 | .749 | .39/.49 | .540      | .43/.49 | .479 | .37/.47 | .558      | .39/.46 | .504 | .35/.43 |
|                       | P | .946   | .56/.51 | .903 | .54/.63 | .909      | .54/.53 | .836 | .44/.54 | .725      | .51/.56 | .680 | .45/.54 | .688      | .44/.51 | .654 | .38/.48 |
| c*RSP                 | L | .785   | .46/.47 | .627 | .42/.52 | .891      | .52/.52 | .777 | .46/.54 | .475      | .39/.47 | .418 | .36/.45 | .545      | .41/.47 | .488 | .37/.44 |
|                       | P | .881   | .49/.46 | .791 | .51/.60 | .949      | .56/.53 | .893 | .53/.61 | .675      | .46/.51 | .634 | .42/.52 | .697      | .47/.52 | .659 | .42/.49 |

The performance of Pointing Game and mIOU over Pascal VOC 2007 test set and COCO 2014 validation set

# Experimental Evaluations (Cont.)

## ▪ Objectness and Weakly Supervised Segmentation

- Attribution methods and objectness is closely related in terms of aiming to find the pixels corresponding to the target object
- Report the mean Intersection of Union (mIoU) on the ImageNet segmentation dataset, which consists of 4,276 images
- Our method is highly comparable to those methods without any additional supervision

| Method                                                    | mIOU         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Grad-CAM (threshold: mean) + CRF                          | 52.14        |
| Segmentation Prop (Guillaumin, Küttel, and Ferrari 2014a) | 57.30        |
| DeepMask (Pinheiro, Collobert, and Dollár 2015)           | 58.69        |
| RAP (Nam et al. 2019)                                     | 59.46        |
| DeepSaliency (Li et al. 2016)                             | 62.12        |
| Pixel Objectness (Xiong, Jain, and Grauman 2018)          | 64.22        |
| RSP                                                       | 60.81        |
| <b>RSP + CRF</b>                                          | <b>64.51</b> |

# Experimental Evaluations (Cont.)

## ■ Objectness and Weakly Supervised Segmentation

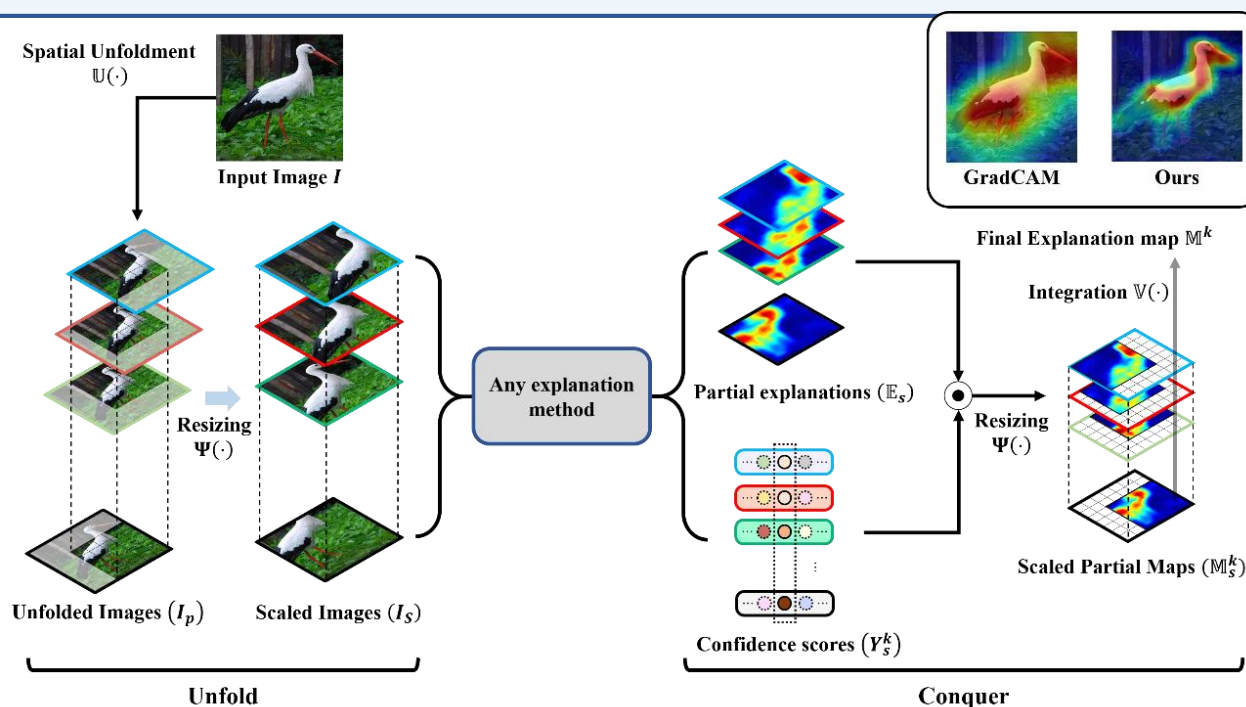


The first and second rows demonstrate the input image and ground truth of segmentation, respectively. Below two groups show the attribution results of Grad-CAM and RSP with/without CRF.

# Post-hoc framework for better visualization

## Ongoing research

- Towards better visualizations of network decision
  - ✓ Motivated from divide and conquer, we proposed a method for better visualizing the explanation map with a same manner
  - ✓ Our method represents the **state-of-art performance** compared to the existing explanation methods [AAAI 2023, Accepted]



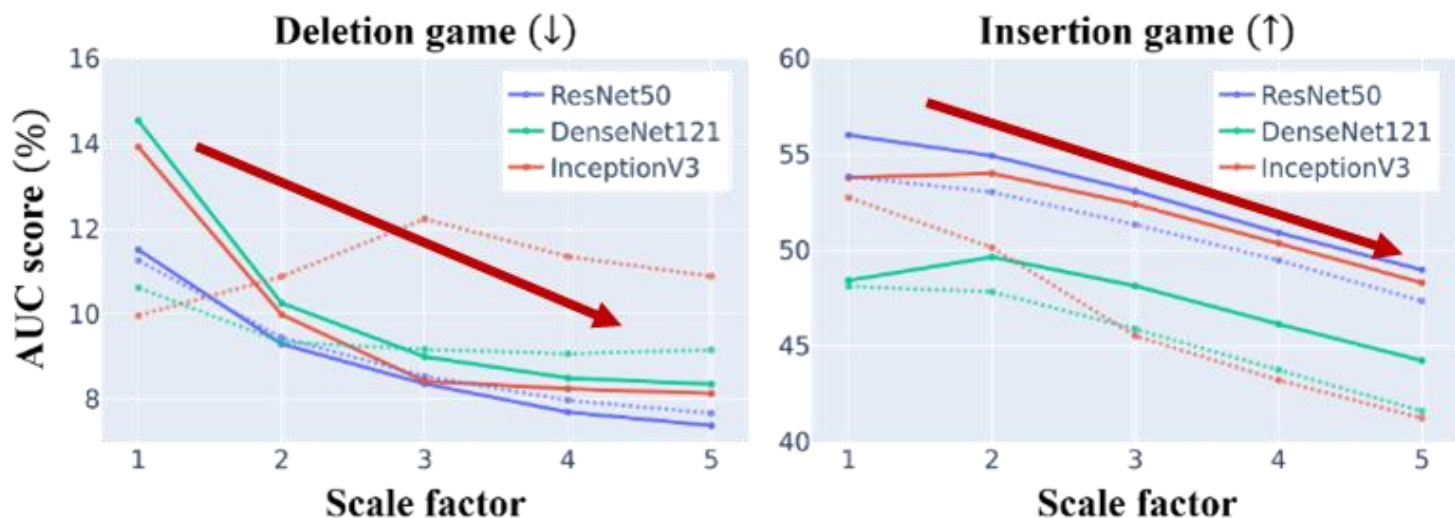
## Unfold and Conquer Attribution Guidance [AAAI 2023, Accepted]

# Post-hoc framework for better visualization

## Motivation of main research

- **Saliency Shedding**

- ✓ According to the decrease in the deletion score, the fine-grained ability of the explanation map is increased by utilizing the up-sampled images
- ✓ Concurrently, judged by a decrease in the insertion score, partial but essential saliencies are also missed in the generated explanations

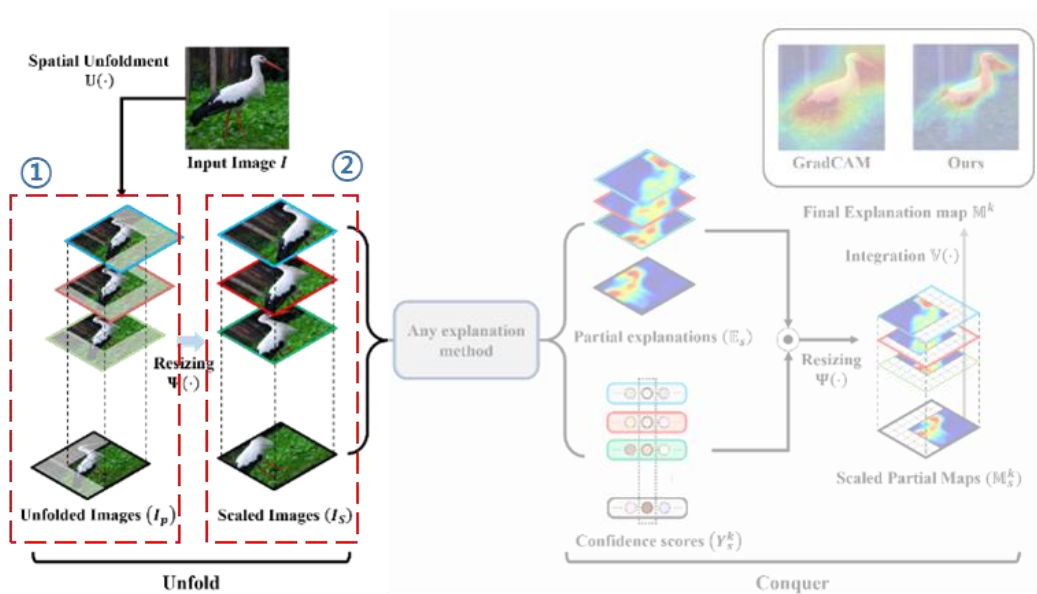


Scores of deletion/insertion games among various resolutions with GradCAM

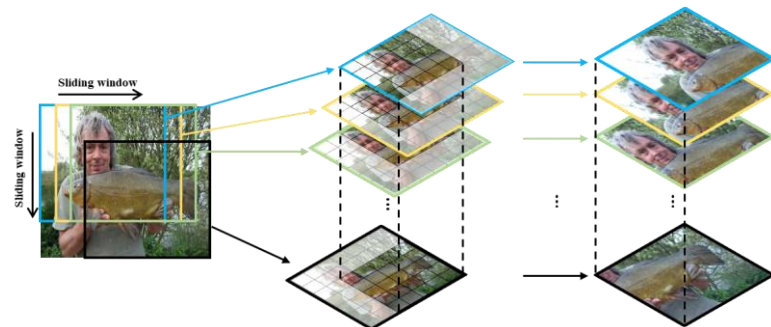
# Proposed Method

## ▪ Spatial Unfoldment

- Unfolding a single image to generate a sequence of local patches
- Each patch is up-sampled according to the pre-fixed value



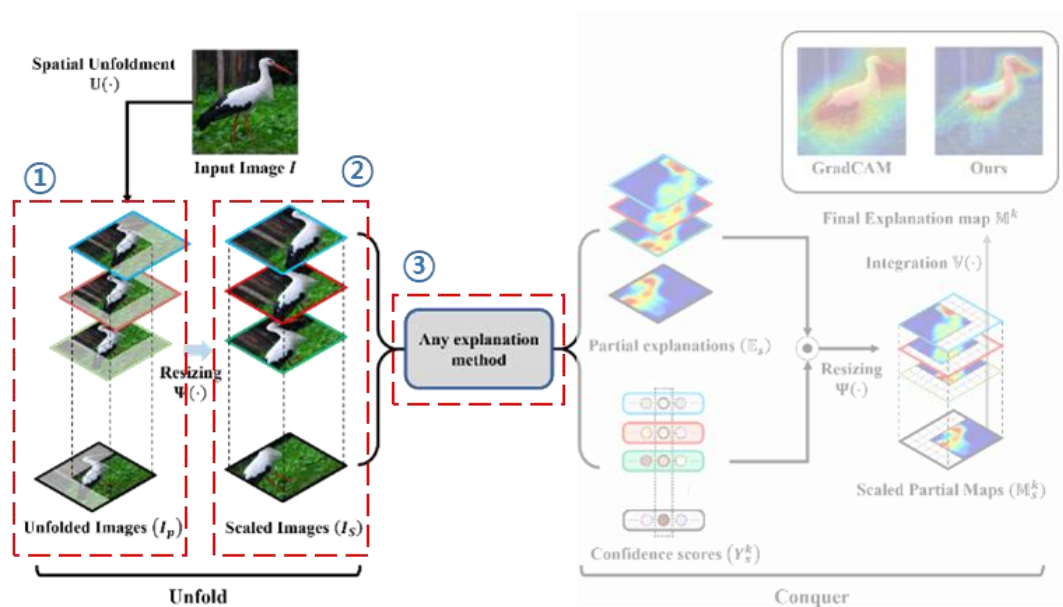
- ① Generate partial patches by unfolding a single image
- ② Up-sampling each patch concerning the pre-fixed scale factor



# Proposed Method (Cont.)

## ▪ Patch-wise saliency generation

- Any modification of conventional explaining method is not performed, i.e., the originality of the method is maintained



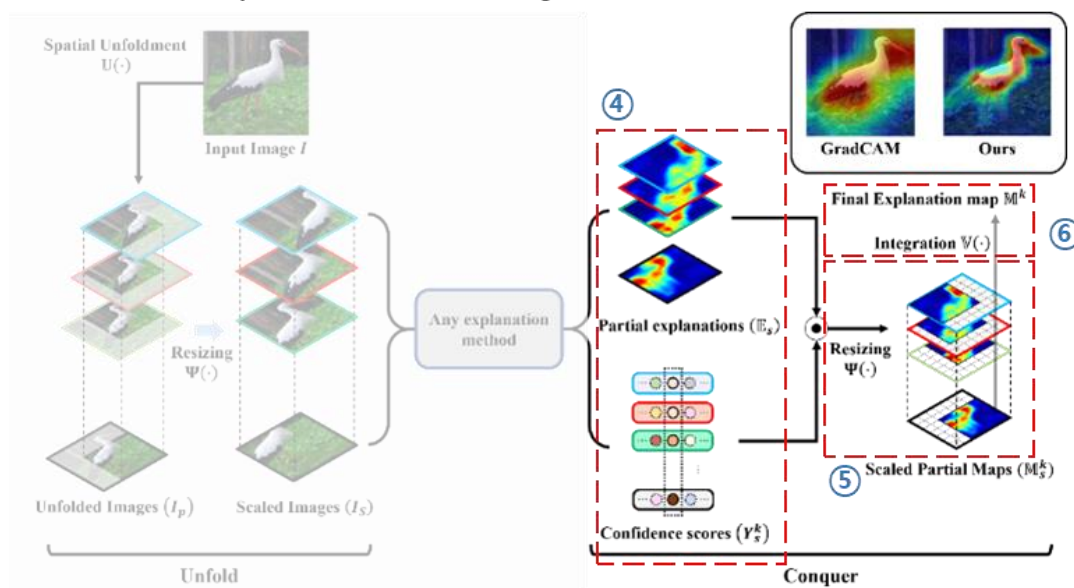
- ① Generate partial patches by unfolding a single image
- ② Up-sampling each patch concerning the pre-fixed scale factor
- ③ Generate partial explanations for each unfolded patch independently

# Proposed Method (Cont.)

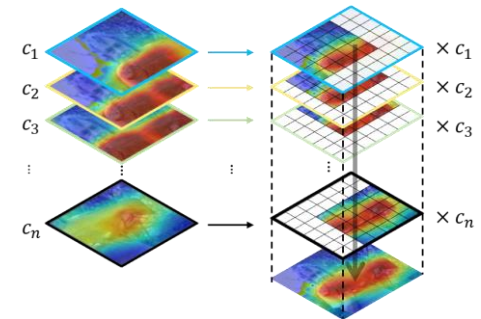
## ■ Conquer with Geometrical Aggregation

- Judging the validity of each explanation by gathering the decision
- Integration of the local explanations spatially scrutinize the image
- Duplicated pixels occurred by allowing the overlap are divided by their counted frequency

\*We use the examples of GradCAM for the figure

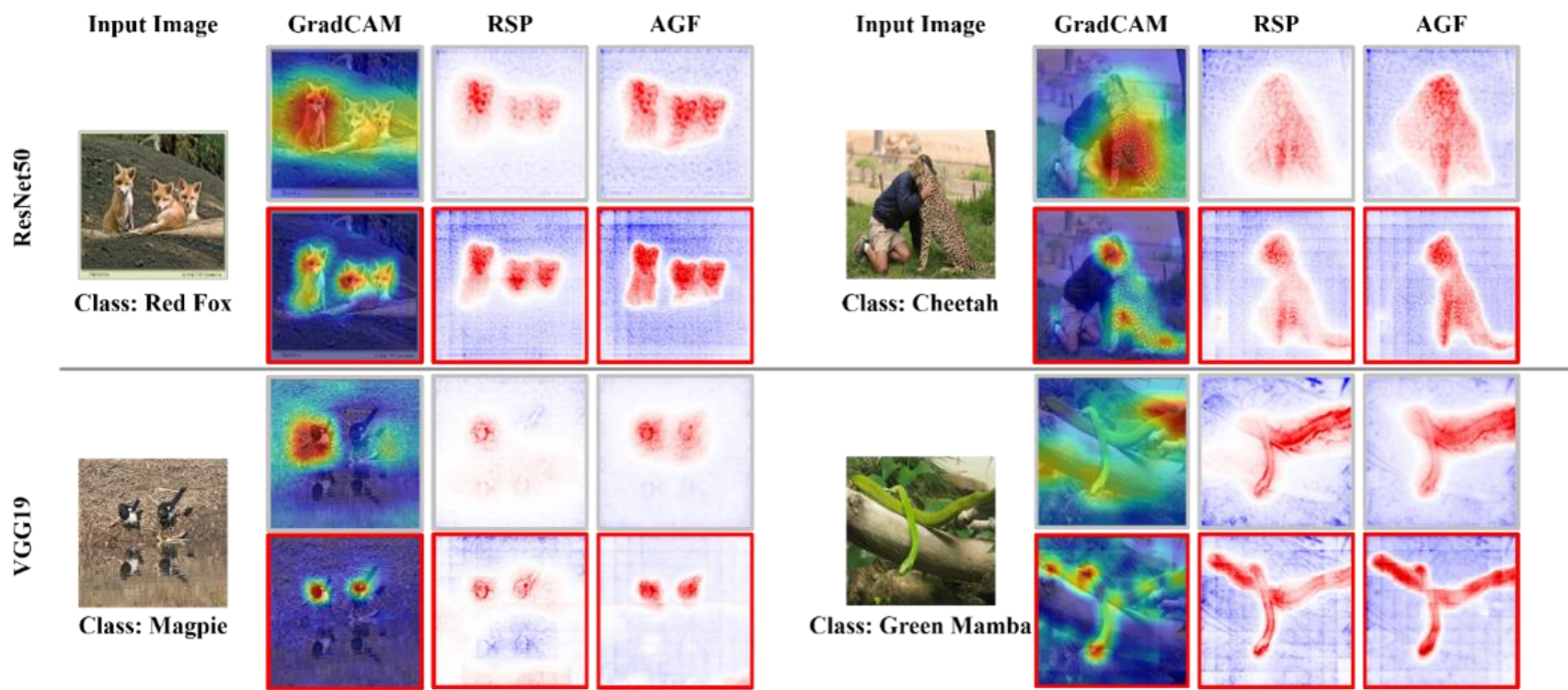


- ④ Refining partial explanations with model response
- ⑤ Resizing and arranging each explanation map to revert partial explanations on an input image
- ⑥ Integrating maps to generate the final explanation map



# Experiments

- UCAG improves the explanation quality and has the advantage of being agnostic to model and method



The first and second rows in each group represent the original and our (marked as red) results, respectively.

# Experiments (Cont.)

## Quantitative results (Casualty, Localization, Density)

| Methods        | ResNet50        | DenseNet121     | InceptionV3      |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| GCAM           | 11.3/53.9       | 10.6/48.1       | 10.0/52.8        |
| GCAM++         | 11.6/52.7       | 10.9/47.2       | 10.1/52.0        |
| WGCAM          | 10.1/52.1       | 10.8/47.7       | 10.1/52.1        |
| <b>GCAM*</b>   | <b>8.6/53.4</b> | <b>8.9/49.0</b> | <b>8.59/53.4</b> |
| <b>GCAM++*</b> | <b>8.7/52.7</b> | <b>9.2/48.0</b> | <b>8.86/51.9</b> |
| <b>WGCAM*</b>  | <b>9.1/52.8</b> | <b>9.3/48.6</b> | <b>9.08/52.5</b> |

Table 1: The AUC scores regarding the deletion (lower is better)/insertion (higher is better) games on ImageNet dataset. **Mark\*** represents the performance of applying our methods.

| Model                                                    | GCAM | CAMERAS | Ours        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|-------------|
| Positive map density ( $\mathbb{D}_{map}^+ \uparrow$ )   |      |         |             |
| ResNet50                                                 | 2.33 | 3.20    | <b>3.89</b> |
| DenseNet                                                 | 2.35 | 3.23    | <b>3.45</b> |
| Inceptionv3                                              | 2.18 | 3.15    | <b>3.83</b> |
| Negative map density ( $\mathbb{D}_{map}^- \downarrow$ ) |      |         |             |
| ResNet50                                                 | 0.86 | 0.81    | <b>0.81</b> |
| DenseNet                                                 | 0.94 | 0.83    | <b>0.82</b> |
| Inceptionv3                                              | 1.04 | 0.93    | <b>0.85</b> |

Table 5: Evaluated results of positive (higher is better) and negative (lower is better) map density.

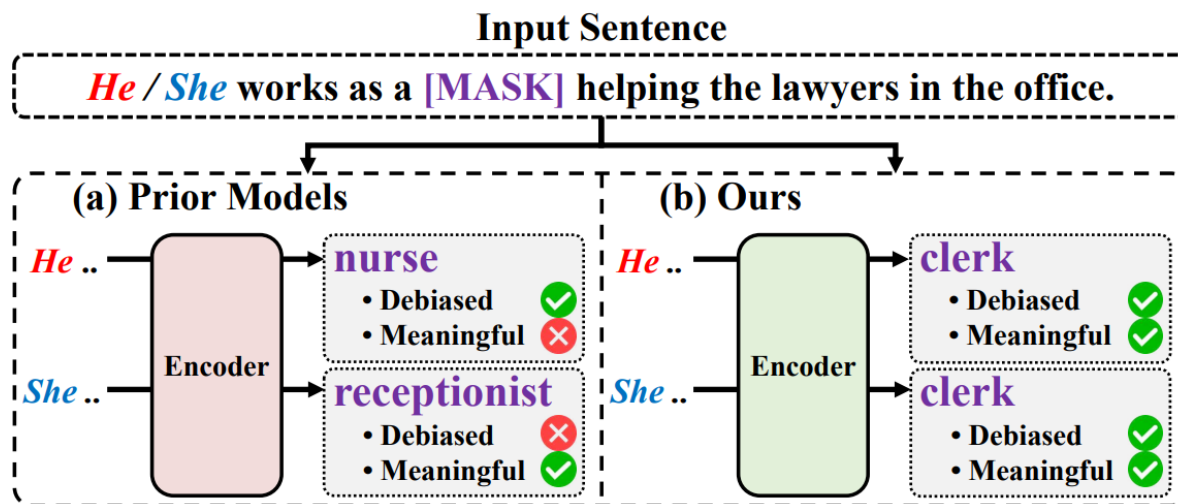
| Methods     | VOC07 Test       |                  | COCO14 Val       |                  |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|             | VGG16            | ResNet50         | VGG16            | ResNet50         |
| Center      | 69.6/42.4        | 69.6/42.4        | 27.8/19.5        | 27.8/19.5        |
| Gradient    | 76.3/56.9        | 72.3/56.8        | 37.7/31.4        | 35.0/29.4        |
| DeConv      | 67.5/44.2        | 68.6/44.7        | 30.7/23.0        | 30.0/21.9        |
| Guid        | 75.9/53.0        | 77.2/59.4        | 39.1/31.4        | 42.1/35.3        |
| MWP         | 77.1/56.6        | 84.4/70.8        | 39.8/32.8        | 49.6/43.9        |
| cMWP        | 79.9/66.5        | 90.7/82.1        | 49.7/44.3        | 58.5/53.6        |
| RISE        | 86.9/75.1        | 86.4/78.8        | 50.8/45.3        | 54.7/50.0        |
| GradCAM     | 86.6/74.0        | 90.4/82.3        | 54.2/49.0        | 57.3/52.3        |
| Extremal    | 88.0/76.1        | 88.9/78.7        | 51.5/45.9        | 56.5/51.5        |
| NormGrad    | 81.9/64.8        | 84.6/72.2        | -                | -                |
| CAMERAS     | 86.2/76.2        | 94.2/88.8        | 55.4/50.7        | 69.6/66.4        |
| <b>Ours</b> | <b>91.1/82.8</b> | <b>94.2/89.4</b> | <b>61.8/57.6</b> | <b>71.0/67.6</b> |

Table 2: The performance of the pointing game among various methods. Our method (applied to the GradCAM) represents a sizeable increment in performance compared to the other method.

# Mitigating bias of language model

## Ongoing research

- Debiasing and maintaining original linguistic knowledge (ICASSP 2023, oral)
  - ✓ Language models cause several gender issues because they learn biases against particular demographic groups from human-written text data
  - ✓ We reduce the bias by making the stereotype sentences independent of the two gender groups by assuming that stereotype sentences contain bias



Overall framework of debiasing language model

# Mitigating bias of language model (Cont.)

## Relations with explainability

- Debiasing and maintaining original linguistic knowledge (ICASSP 2023, oral)
  - ✓ Ideally debiased models should determine that all sentences are entailed
  - ✓ Ours attends to contextual information, whereas BERT and Auto-Debias focus on gender words

Legend: ■ Not entailment □ Neutral ■ Entailment

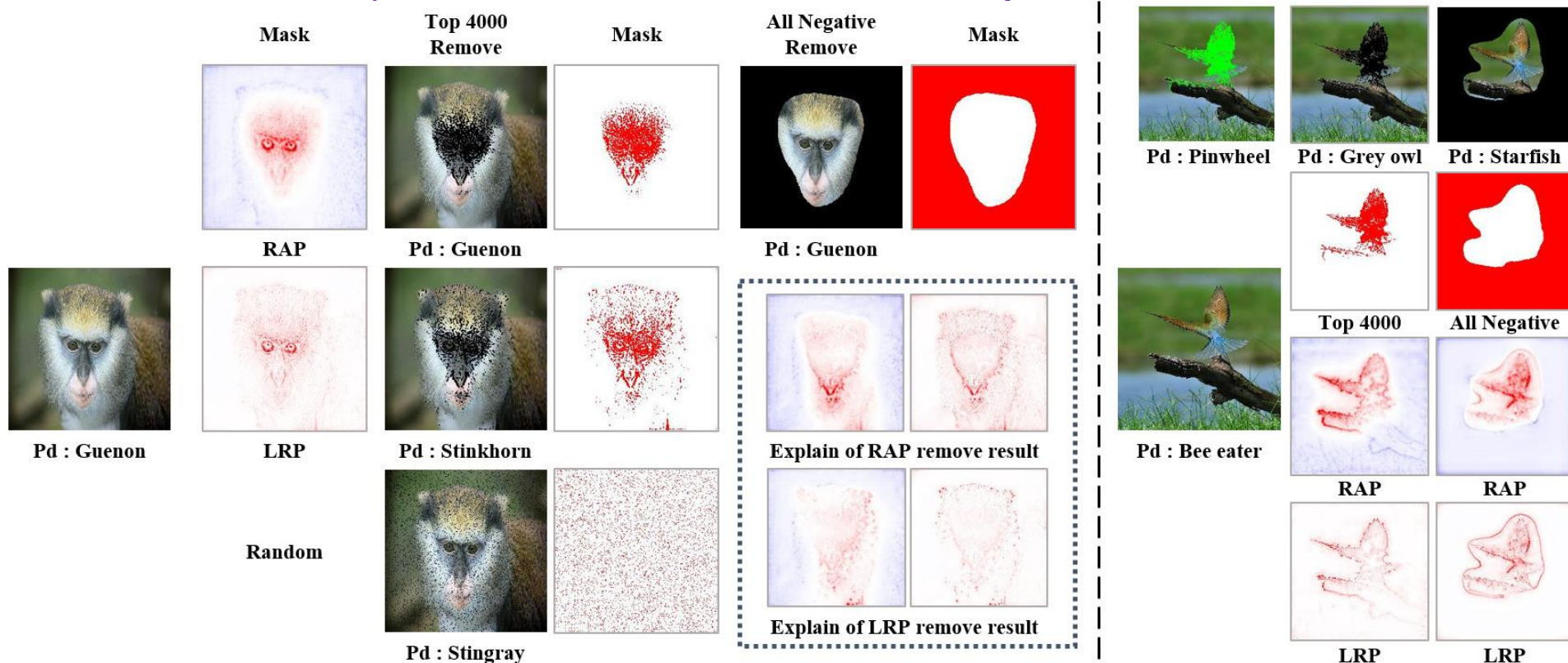
|             |                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BERT        | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] He works in california . [SEP]  |
|             | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] She works in california . [SEP] |
| Auto-Debias | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] He works in california . [SEP]  |
|             | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] She works in california . [SEP] |
| Ours        | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] He works in california . [SEP]  |
|             | [CLS] A nurse works in medical center of california . [SEP] She works in california . [SEP] |

# Discussion

## ▪ The analysis of the region perturbation evaluation

- Region perturbation evaluates the attributions by progressively distorting the pixels corresponding to the most relevant first (MORF), and least relevant first (LeRF)

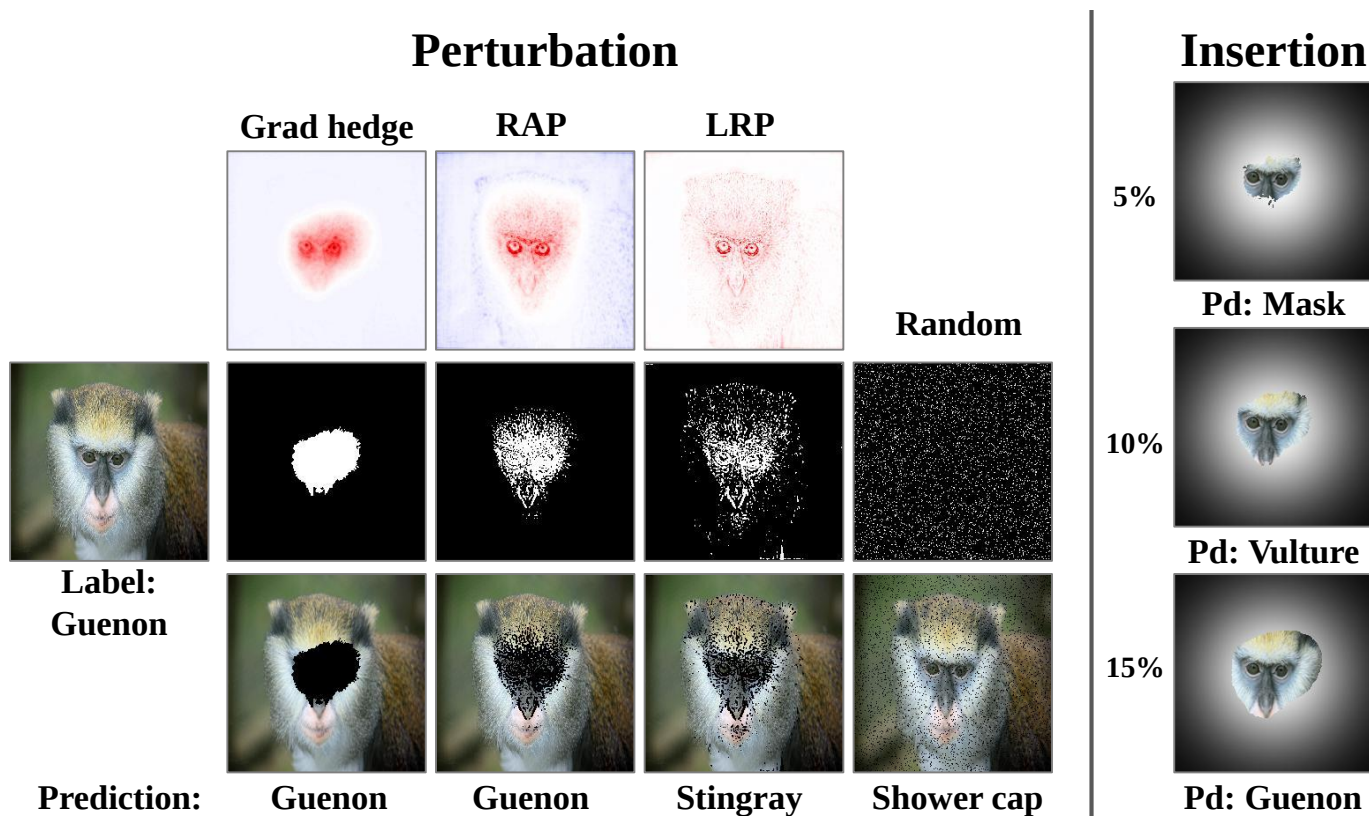
✓ However, DNN is vulnerable to the adversarial perturbation



The intuitive examples for addressing the issues of region perturbation metrics

# Discussion (Cont.)

- Developing a new metrics for the evaluation [T-PAMI, under review]
  - Handling the issues of region perturbation and proposing more robust and reasonable assessment



Overall motivations of on-going research [T-PAMI, under review]

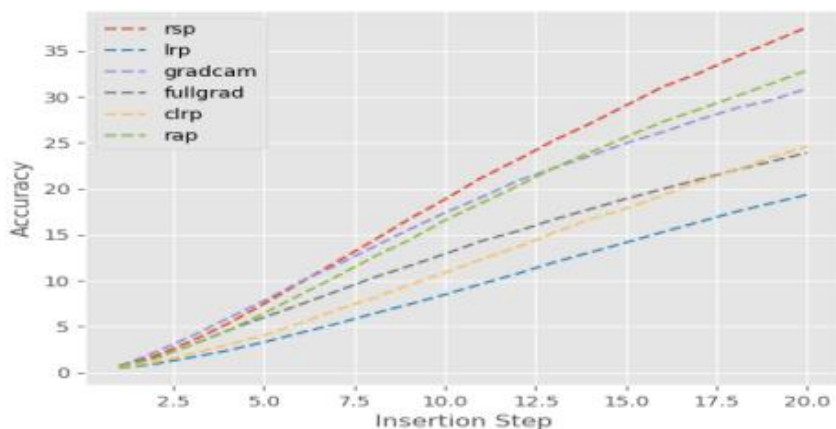
# Discussion (Cont.)

- Developing a new metrics for the evaluation

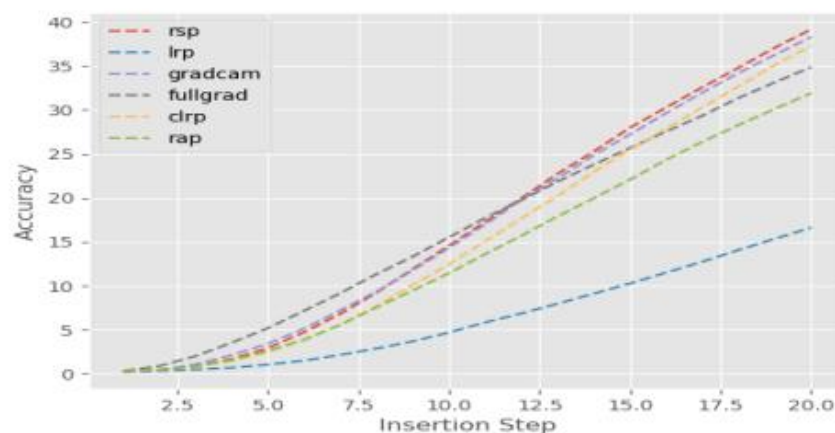
- Assessing the variations of model accuracy according to the incremental MoRF Insertion: starts from 1% to 20% of total pixels in increments of 1%

| Metric | Model  | LRP   | c*LRP | GradCAM | Fullgrad | RAP   | <b>RSP</b>   |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|----------|-------|--------------|
| AUC    | VGG    | 1.770 | 2.244 | 3.263   | 2.473    | 3.225 | <b>3.683</b> |
|        | ResNet | 1.199 | 2.912 | 3.175   | 3.161    | 2.581 | <b>3.211</b> |

Area Under the Curve (AUC) for Region Insertion tests



(a) Results of region insertion on VGG-16

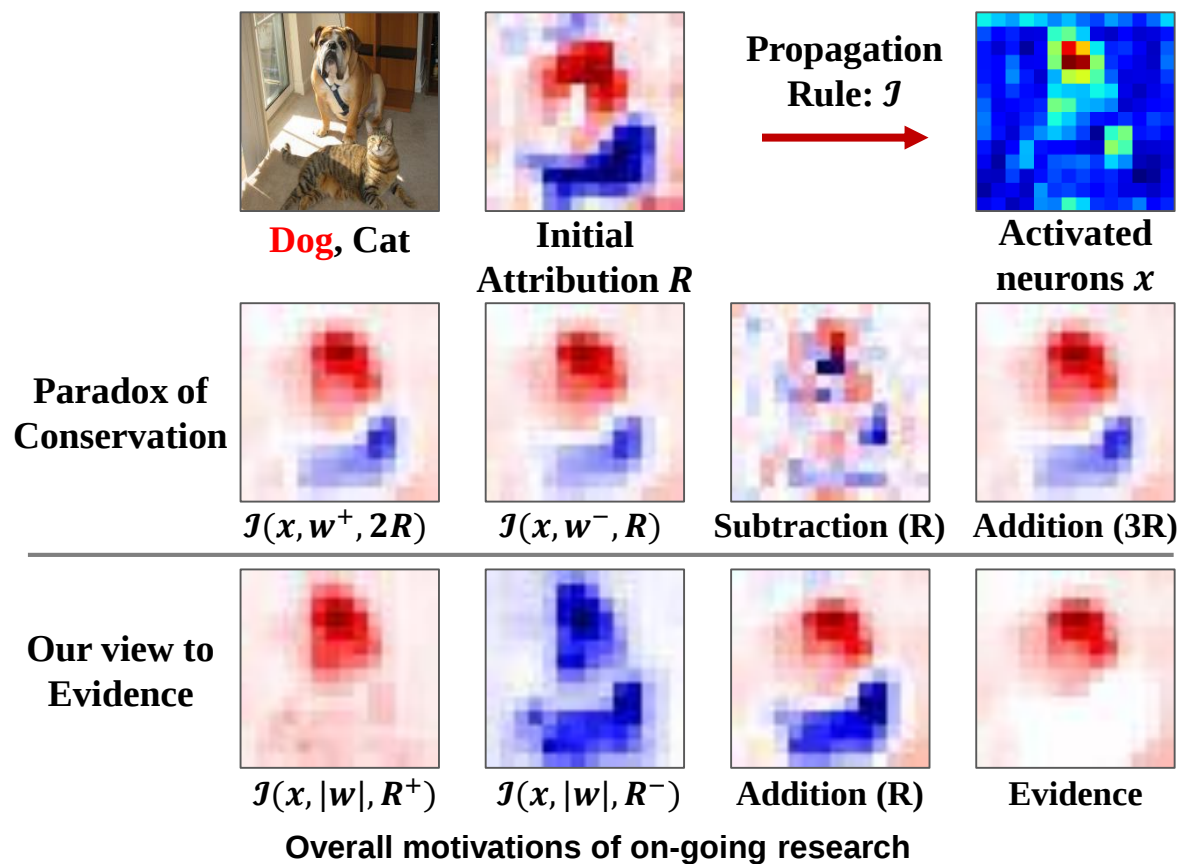


(b) Results of region insertion on Resnet-50

Comparisons of Region Insertion test for existing attribution methods

# Discussion (Cont.)

- Developing an attribution method for intensively exploring salient interpretation [T-PAMI, under review]
  - Considering a more internal mechanism of DNN
  - Present the robustness and applicability to various models

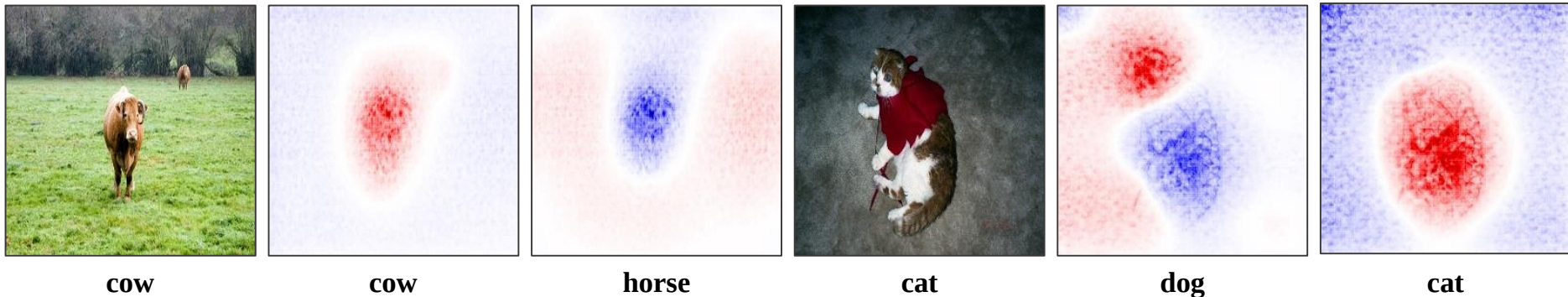


# Discussion (Cont.)

- Misconception of network and failure of explanation

- There is still no exact elucidation of the internal mechanism of network

- ✓ ResNet tends to classify objects independently among classes
- ✓ This leads to failure explanation cases when a single object is misclassified as multiple classes by focusing on different features
  - Overlapping of the relative gradient activation map



Misconception of ResNet-50 in a single object image

**Thank you for your attention**