



Continual Semantic Segmentation via Repulsion-Attraction of Sparse and Disentangled Latent Representations

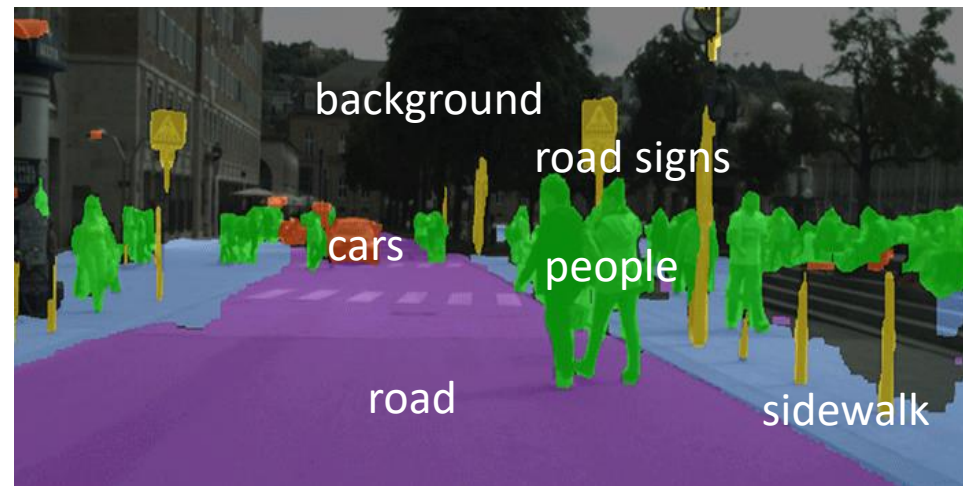
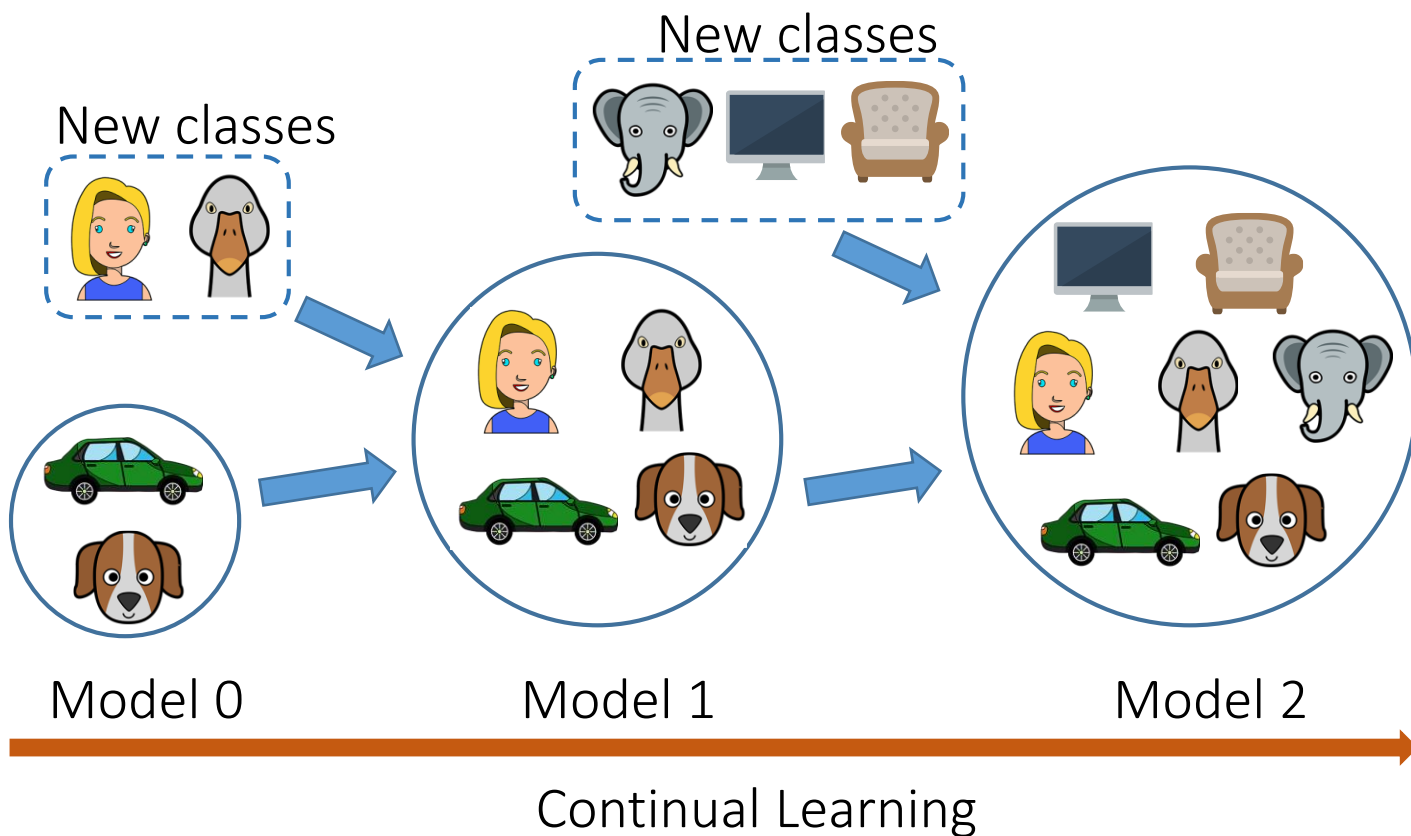
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Continual Learning in Semantic Segmentation

Our Focus: Class-Incremental Continual Learning in Semantic Segmentation



Continual Segmentation - Different Setups

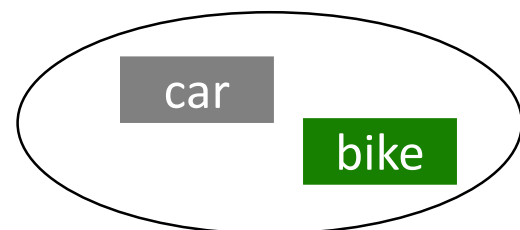
Image

Ground Truth

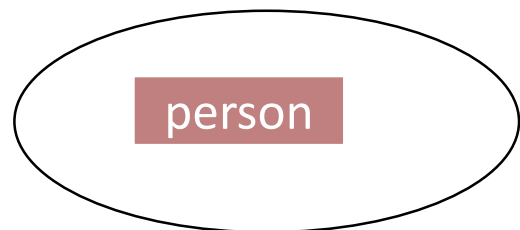
Sequential

Disjoint

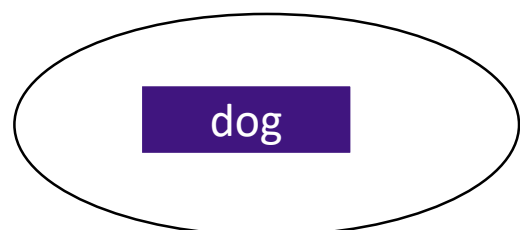
Overlapped



learned

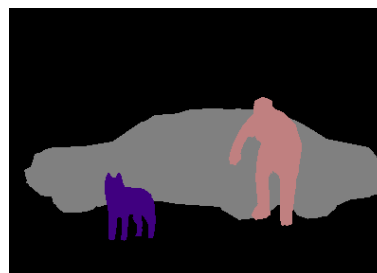
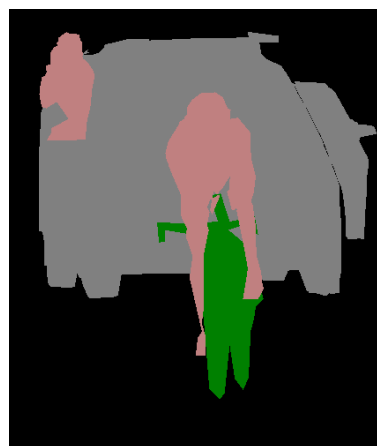


current



future

background
unlabeled



not present

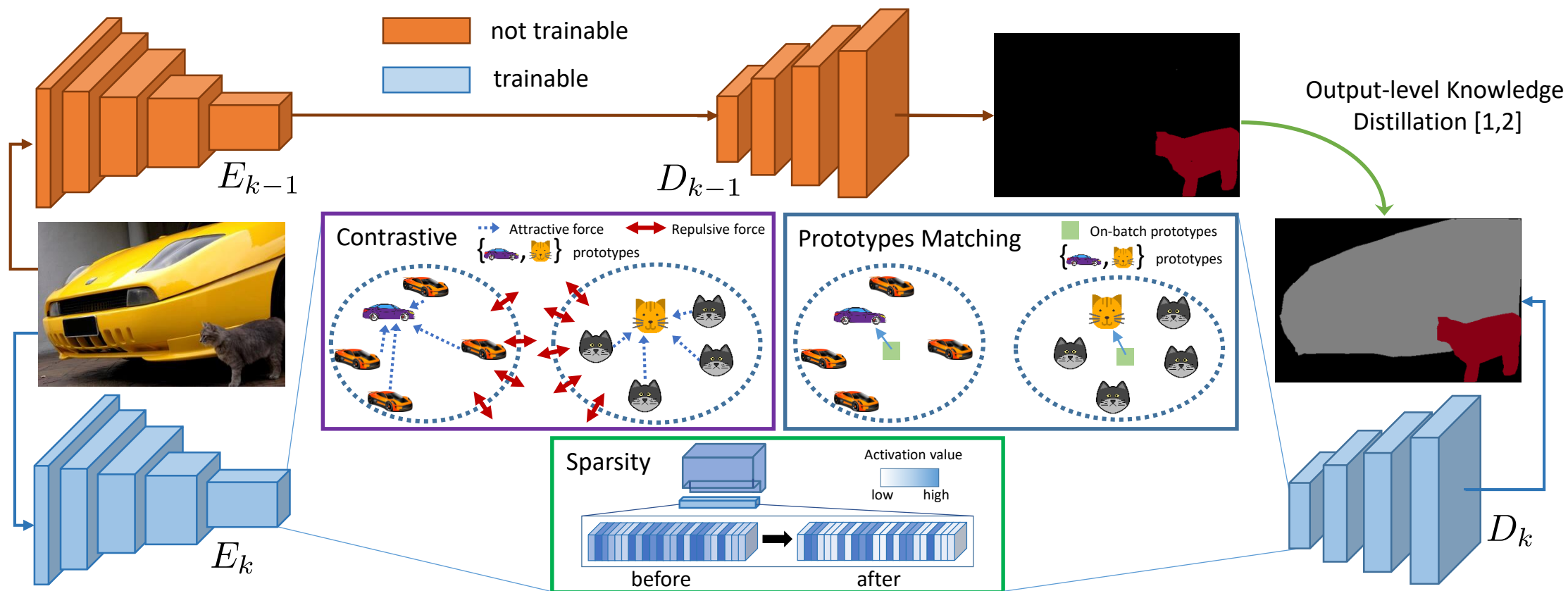
not present



SDR Architecture

SDR: Sparse and Disentangled Representations

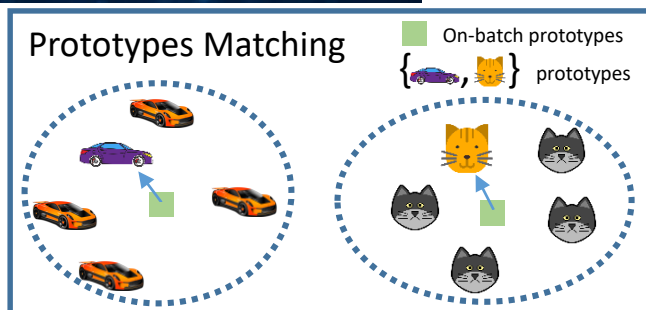
We combine task-related cross entropy loss with **4 constraints**:



[1] Michieli, U., et al., "Incremental learning techniques for semantic segmentation" ICCVW, 2019.

[2] Cermelli, F. et al., "Modeling the background for incremental learning in semantic segmentation" CVPR, 2020.

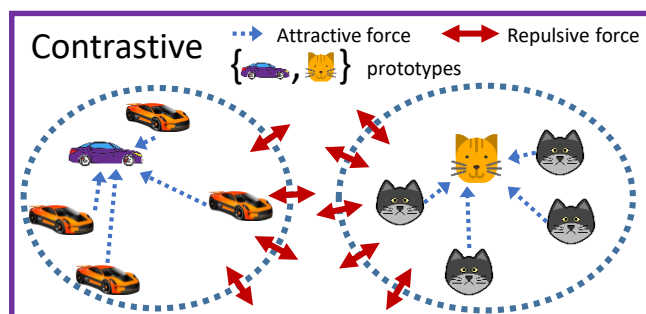
SDR Architecture



$$\mathcal{L}_{pm} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}_{k-1}|} \|\hat{\mathbf{p}}_c - \mathbf{p}_c\|_F \quad c \in \mathcal{C}_{k-1}$$

Set of previous classes

→ On-batch prototypes constrained to be close to representations learned from previous steps

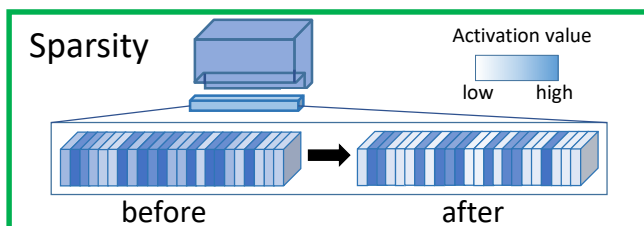


- **Attractive:** $\mathcal{L}_{cl}^a = \frac{1}{|c_j \in \mathbf{y}_n^*|} \sum_{c_j \in \mathbf{y}_n^*} \sum_{f_i \in F_n} \left\| \left(\mathbf{f}_i - \mathbf{p}_{c_j} \right) \mathbb{I}[y_i^* = c_j] \right\|_F$

Features of the same class tightly clustered around prototype

- **Repulsive:** $\mathcal{L}_{cl}^r = \frac{1}{|c_j \in \mathbf{y}_n^*|} \sum_{c_j \in \mathbf{y}_n^*} \sum_{c_k \in \mathbf{y}_n^*, c_k \neq c_j} \frac{1}{\|\hat{\mathbf{p}}_{c_j} - \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{c_k}\|_F}$

Features of different classes separated from each other

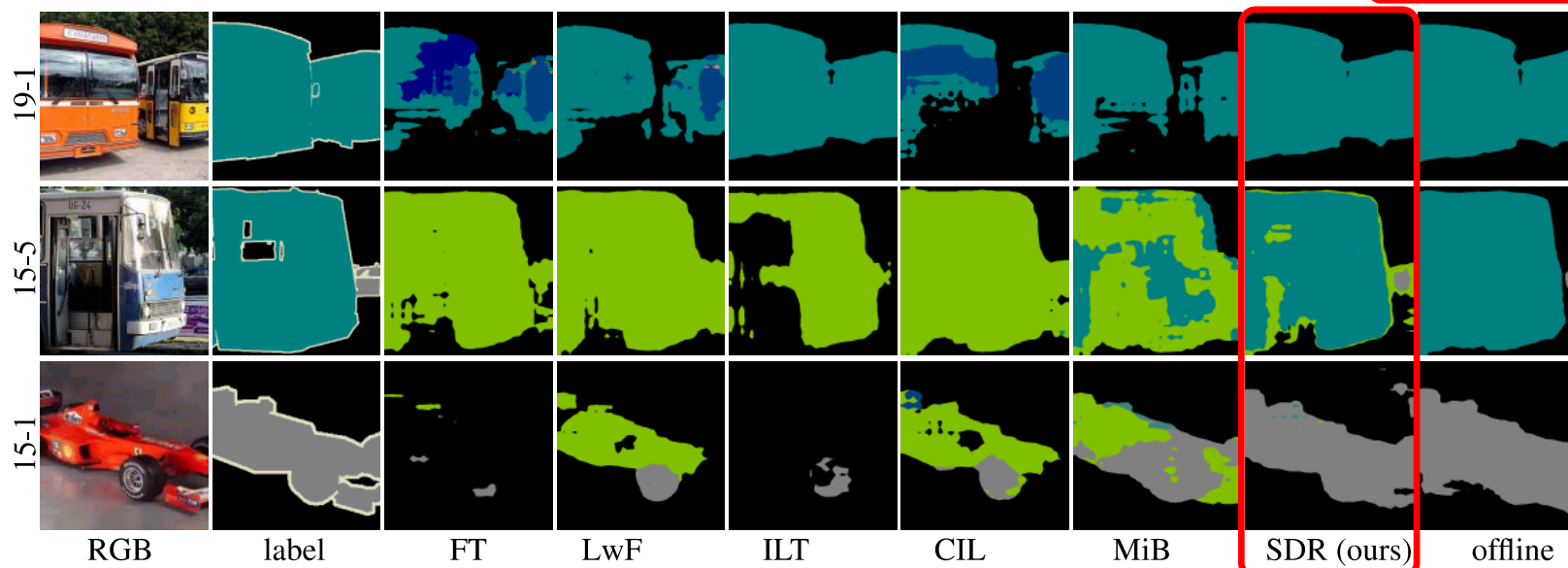
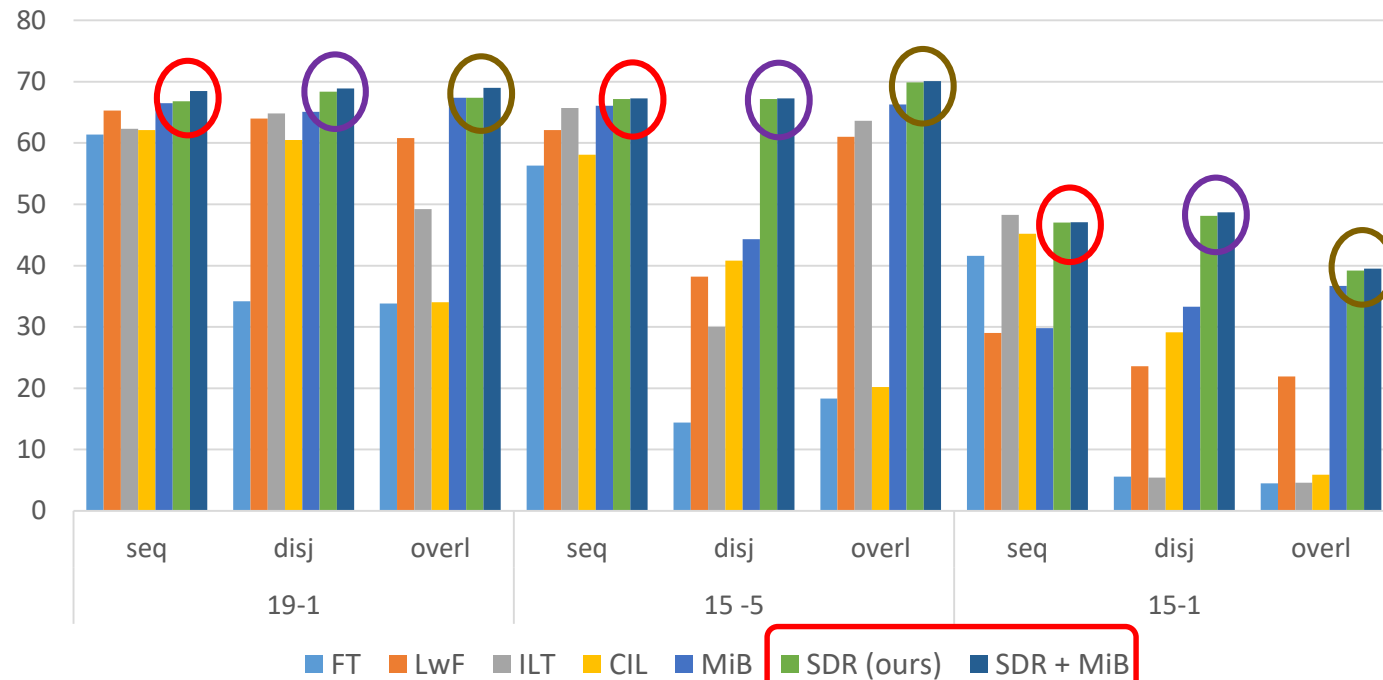
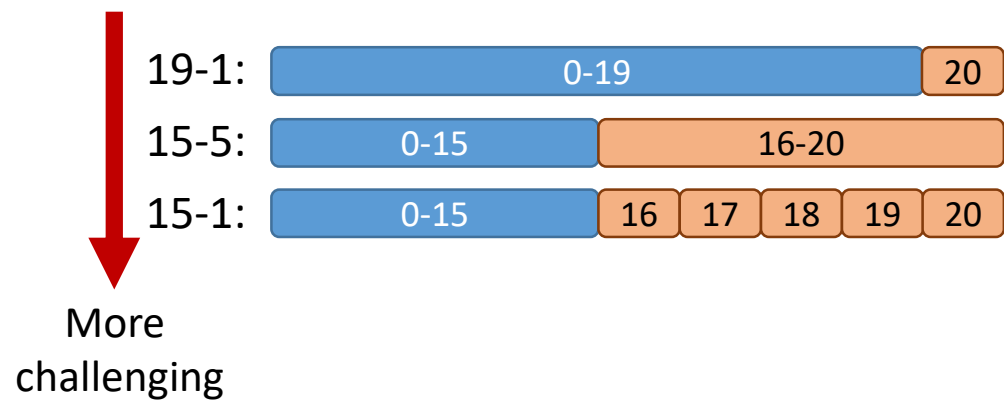


$$\mathcal{L}_{sp} = \frac{1}{|f_i \in F_n|} \sum_{f_i \in F_n} \frac{\sum_j \exp(\bar{f}_{i,j})}{\sum_j \bar{f}_{i,j}}$$

features normalized with respect to the class-conditional maximum value

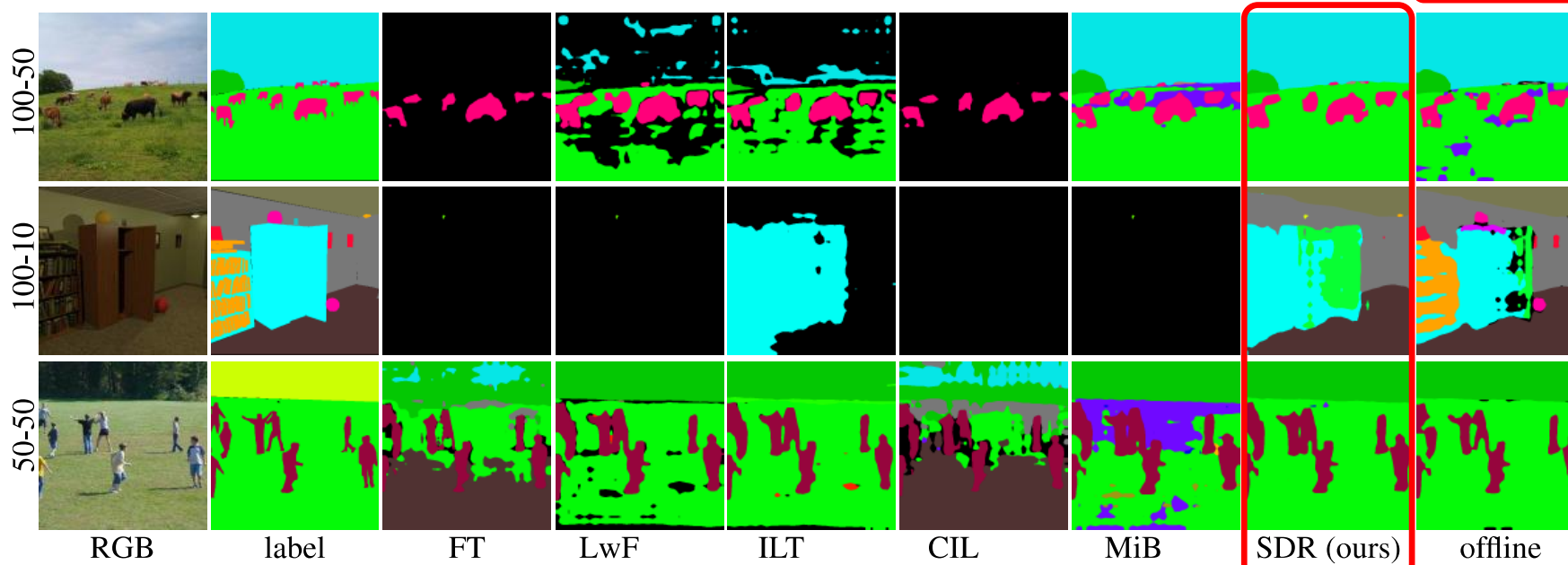
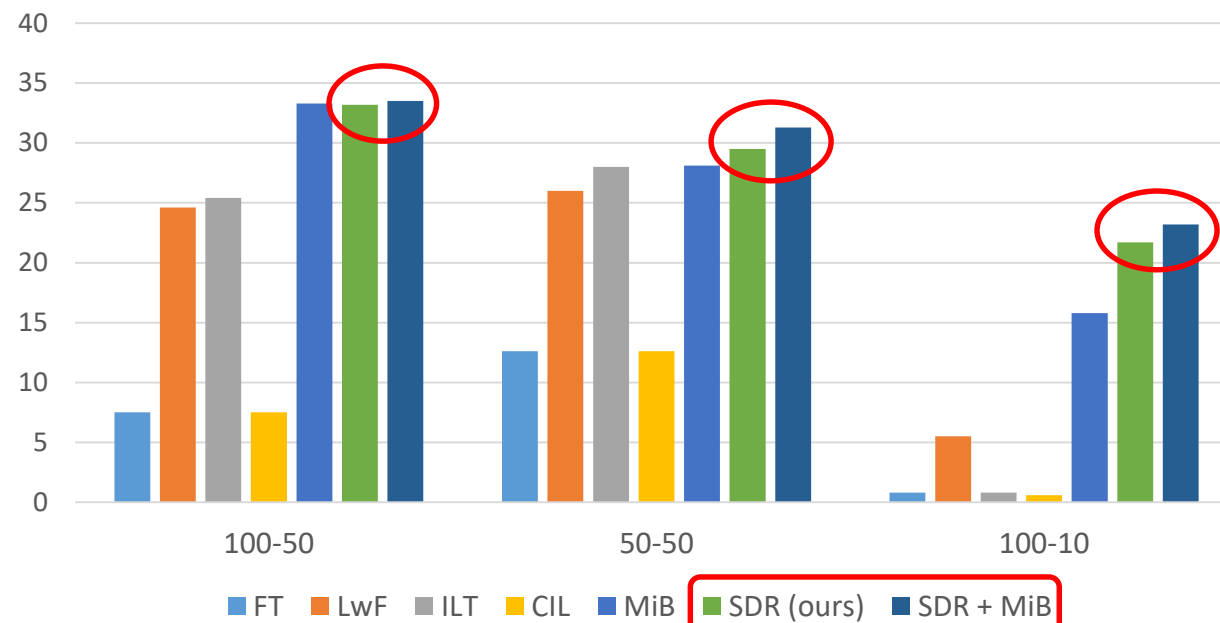
Set of active channels is narrowed, letting room for the representation of upcoming classes

Results – Pascal VOC2012



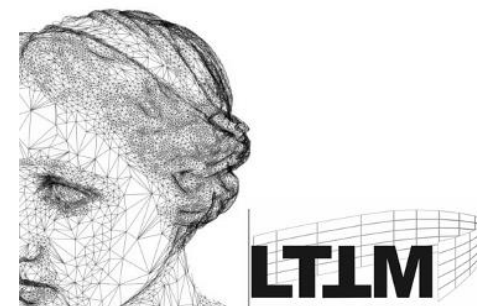
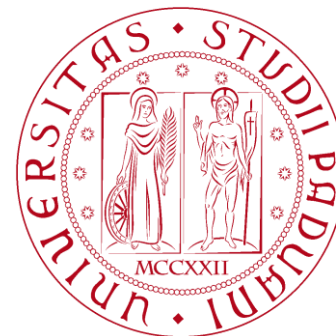
Results – ADE20K

→ SDR outperforms competitors, especially when multiple steps are involved



Conclusion

- ✓ We propose 3 novel latent space shaping techniques to avoid forgetting and promote learning of new concepts:
 - **prototype matching**
 - **contrastive learning**
 - **sparsity**
- ✓ We jointly tackle sequential, disjoint and overlapped scenarios
- ✓ We achieve state-of-the-art results on a variety of tasks and datasets



Paper website: https://lttm.dei.unipd.it/paper_data/SDR/

Code available: <https://github.com/LTTM/SDR>