

Inverse Problems, Sparsity and Neural Networks Priors

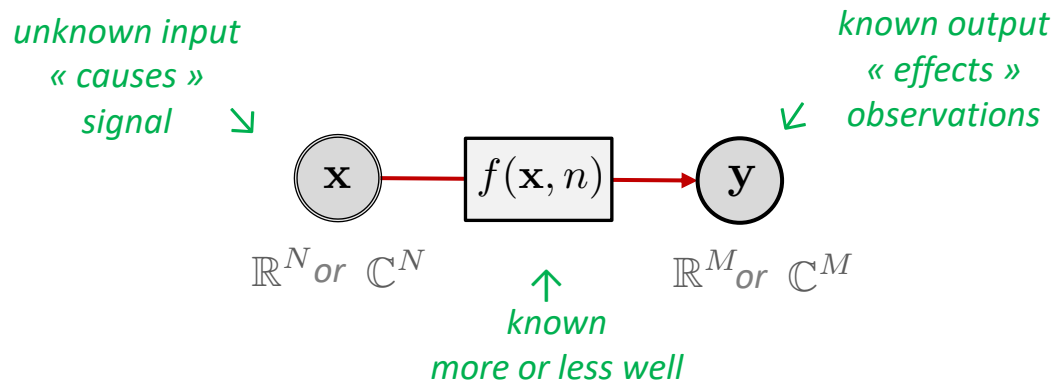
October 20th 2020

FWAM

Marylou Gabrié
(FI CCM & Center for Data Science NYU)

General setting: Inverse problems

“An inverse problem in science is the process of calculating from a set of observations the causal factors that produced them.” (Wikipedia)



▷ **Forward problem : get \mathbf{y} from \mathbf{x}**

▷ **Inverse problem : get \mathbf{x} from \mathbf{y}**

- ▷ Perfect “recovery”, invertible function
- ▷ Imperfect/partial recovery if information lost by forward model

Today: Incorporate prior knowledge on the signal to help reconstruction

1. Sparsity
2. Neural networks

Examples: Linear Inverse problems

Mathematical formulation:

$$y = Ax + n$$

Challenges:

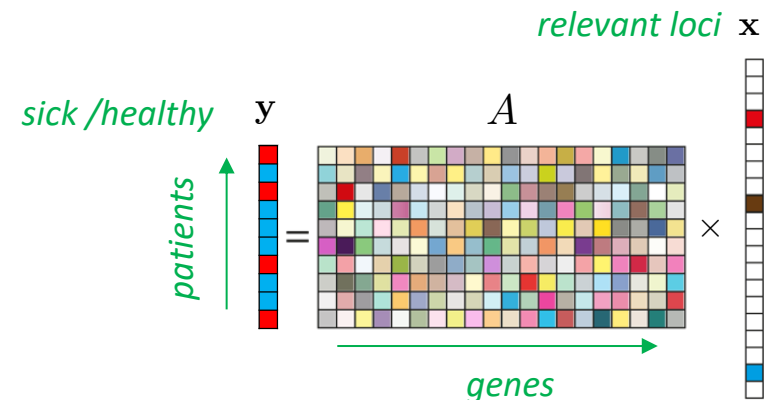
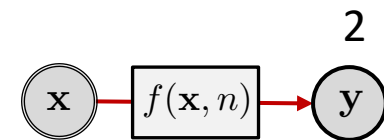
- **poor signal-to-noise ratio (SNR)**
- **overdetermined / underdetermined**
- **non-invertible / badly conditioned A**

▷ Genomics:

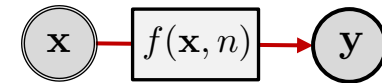
- i -th row of A gene sequence of an individual
- y_i indicator of healthy / sick patient
- x indicator of relevant loci in the genome to the disease

▷ Image processing: deblurring

- A convolution with a translation inv. Gaussian kernel
- y blurred image
- x original image



Examples: Non-Linear Inverse problems



Mathematical formulation:

$$y = f(x, n)$$

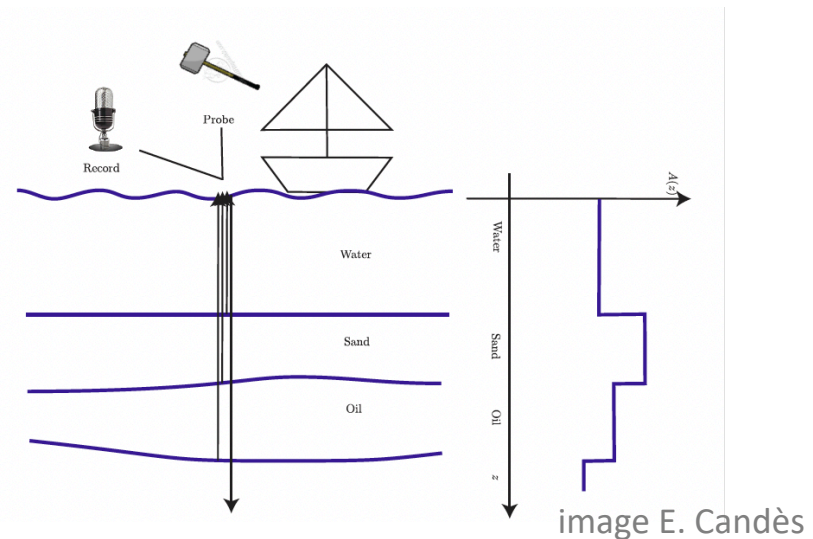
PDE solution, quadratic system etc...

Challenges:

- “well-posedness”
- non-convexity
- ...

▷ Seismology

- x density profile
- perturbation + wave propagation
- y waves reflected at the surface



▷ Phase retrieval for instance in imaging (coherence diffraction, astronomy)

- A Fourier operator (oversampled)
- y noisy CCD measurements
- x specimen of interest

$$y = |Ax| + n$$

SPARSITY

Sparse representation

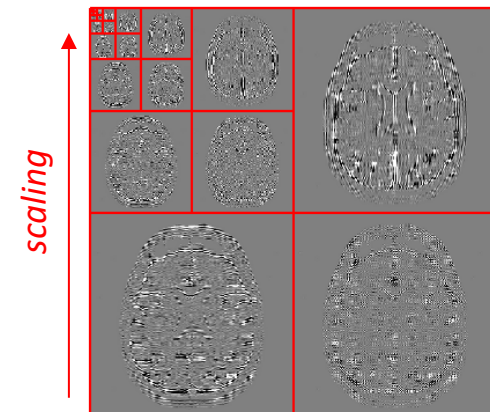
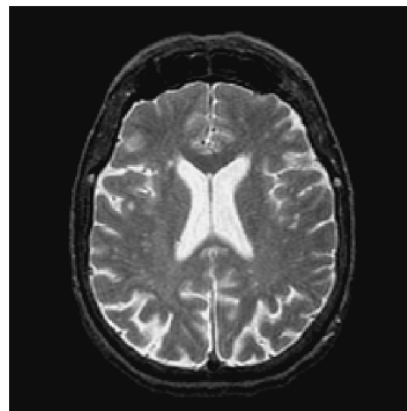
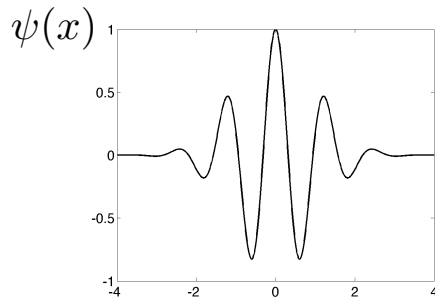
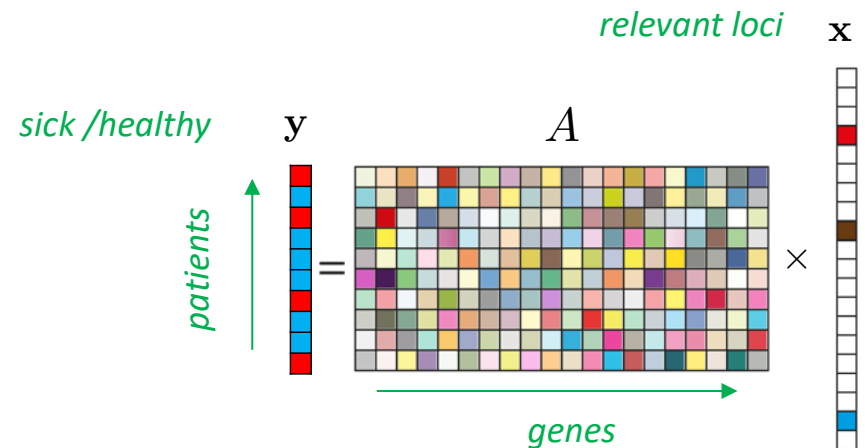
... with respect to a basis

▷ **Directly in natural basis of the problem:**

- ▷ Genomics example
- ▷ Interfaces in the seismology example

▷ **In a specifically chosen basis:**

- ▷ Fourier analysis
- ▷ Orthonormal wavelet
 - ▷ mother wavelet $\psi(x)$
 - ▷ translations m , scaling factor ℓ $\psi(x)_m^\ell = 2^{-\ell/2} \psi(2^{-\ell} x - m)$, rotations



Leveraging sparsity: Constrained optimization

(Linear inverse problems $\textcircled{\mathbf{x}} \rightarrow \boxed{A\mathbf{x} + n} \rightarrow \textcircled{\mathbf{y}}$)

“Sparse regression”

assumed sparsity



$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \{ \|\mathbf{y} - A\mathbf{x}\|_2 ; \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq K \}$$



*observation
fidelity term*



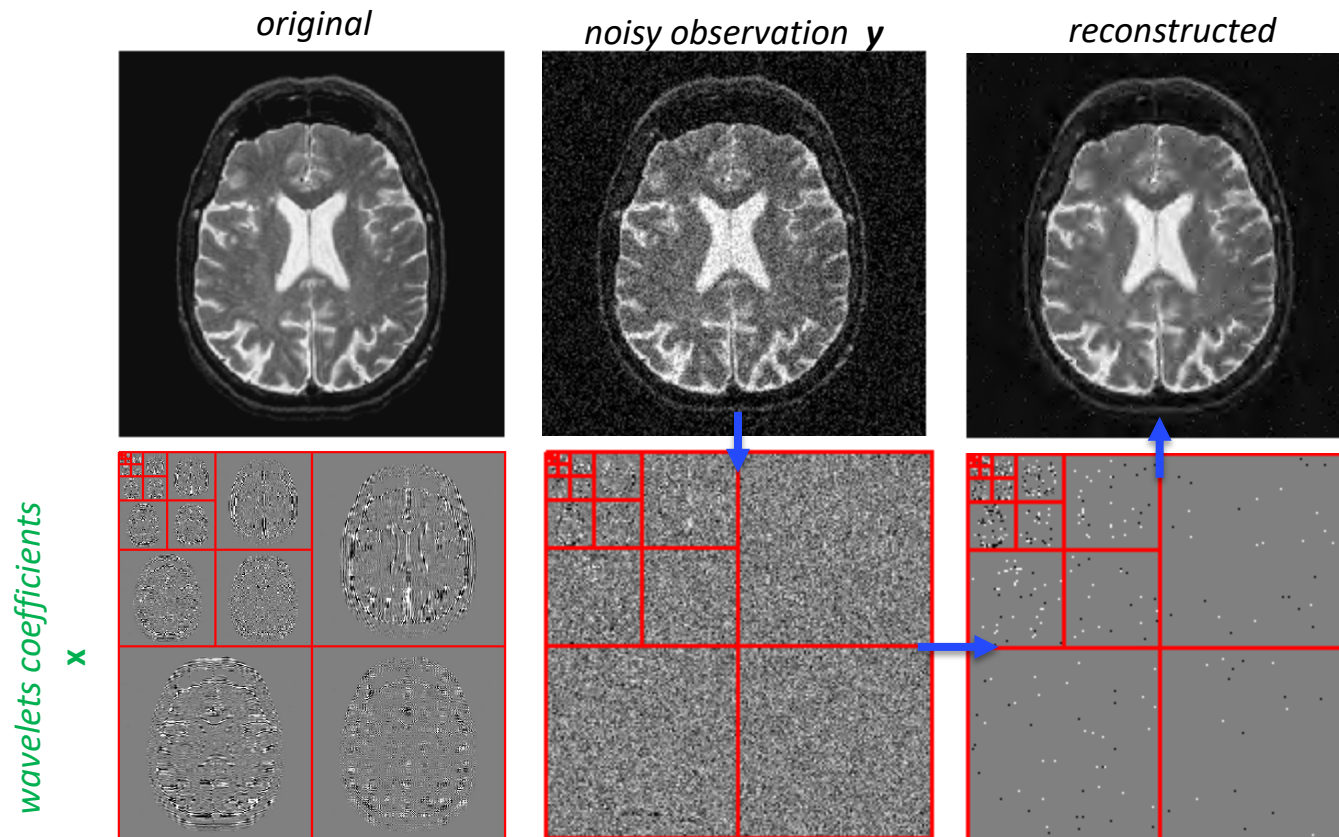
*ℓ_0 -norm counting
non-zero coefficients*

Leveraging sparsity: Constrained optimization (Linear inverse problems)

Example: Image denoising with wavelets $y = Ax + n$

A = wavelet orthonormal basis
 x = wavelet components coef.

- Algorithm:**
- Decompose y over the wavelet basis
 - Keep the K wavelets with largest coefficients



Leveraging sparsity: Constrained optimization

(Linear inverse problems $\textcircled{x} \rightarrow \boxed{Ax + n} \rightarrow \textcircled{y}$)

“Sparse regression”

assumed sparsity



$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \{ \|\mathbf{y} - A\mathbf{x}\|_2 ; \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq K \}$$



*observation
fidelity term*

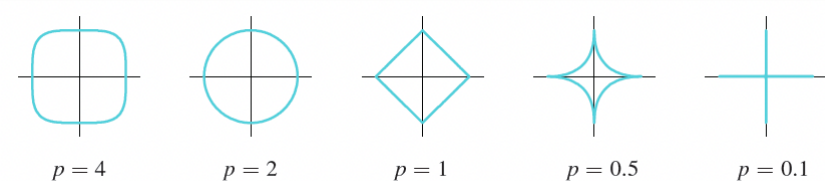


*ℓ_0 -norm counting
non-zero coefficients*

NP hard problem – No efficient (polynomial time) algorithm in general!

**Very active research topic in signal processing in general,
many different methods**

- ▷ Greedy algorithms
- ▷ Bayesian methods
- ▷ Convex relaxation methods ← *let's focus here*

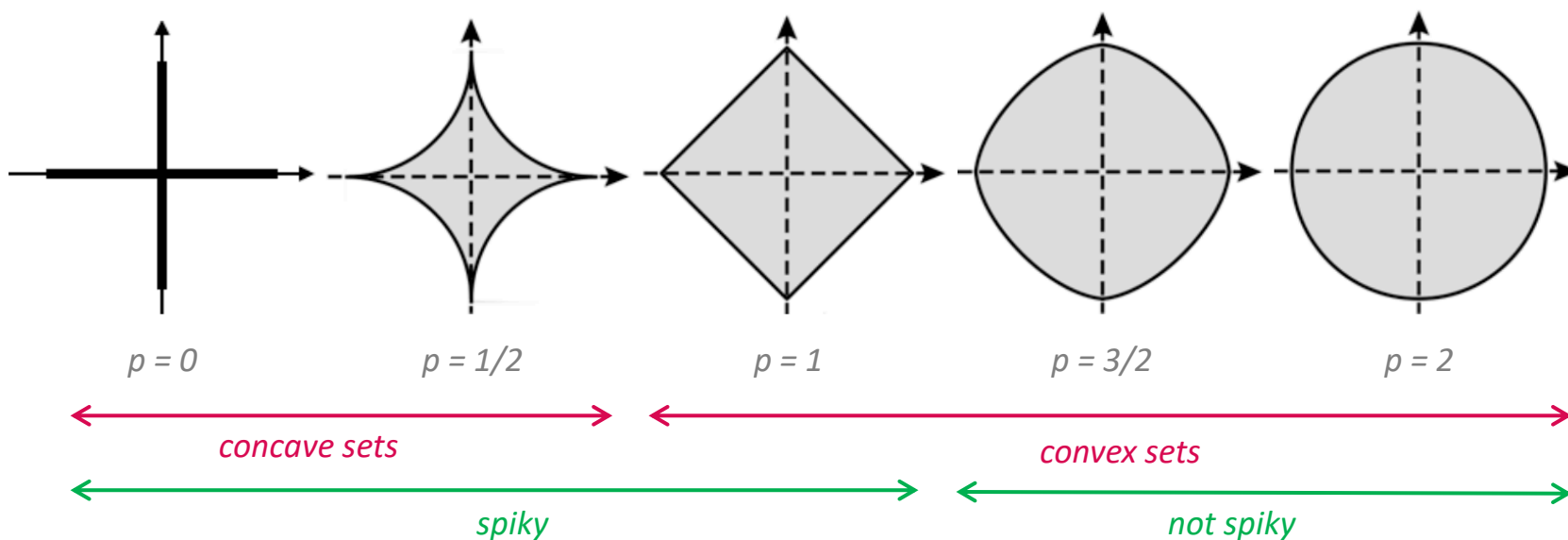


Definition:

For a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$,
$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^p \right)^{1/p}$$

examples: $\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 = \# \text{ of non-zero}$, $\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|$, $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2}$

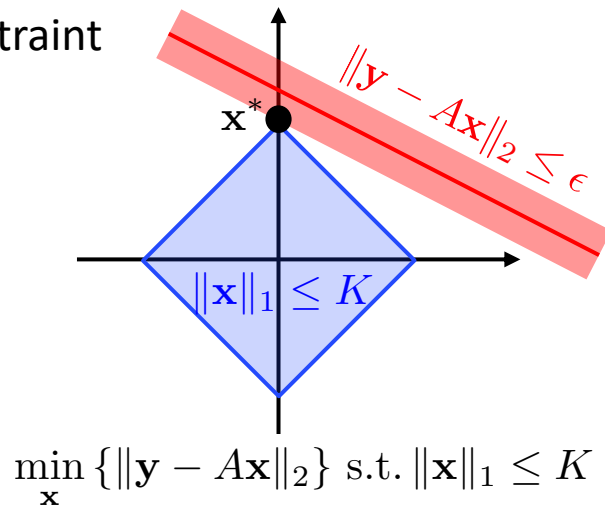
1-balls for the different norms: $\|\mathbf{x}\|_p \leq 1$



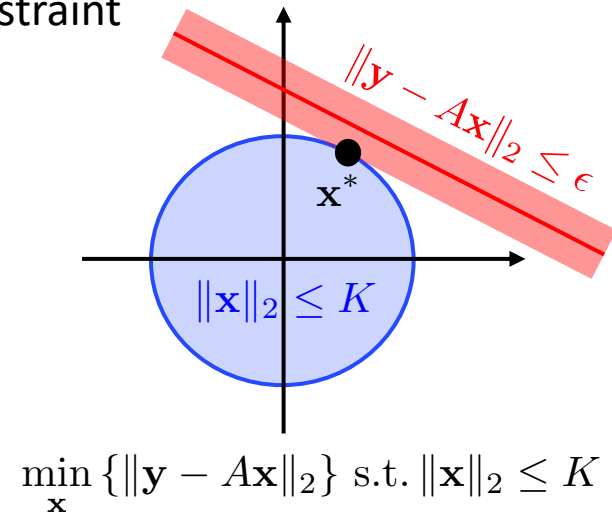
ℓ_1 -constraint or ℓ_1 -regularization

Convex sets intersections

ℓ_1 -constraint



ℓ_2 -constraint



LASSO (Tibshirani '96), Basis pursuit (Chen et al. '98)

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \{\|\mathbf{y} - A\mathbf{x}\|_2 ; \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \leq K\} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \{\|\mathbf{y} - A\mathbf{x}\|_2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1\}$$

- ▷ under structural assumptions on A returns the same as ℓ_0 norm
- ▷ still harder than ℓ_2 because ℓ_1 non-differentiable
- ▷ but a lot easier than ℓ_0
- ▷ finding efficient algorithms very active direction of research

`sklearn.linear_model.Lasso`

```
class sklearn.linear_model.Lasso(alpha=1.0, *, fit_intercept=True,
    normalize=False, precompute=False, copy_X=True, max_iter=1000,
    tol=0.0001, warm_start=False, positive=False, random_state=None,
    selection='cyclic')
```

[\[source\]](#)

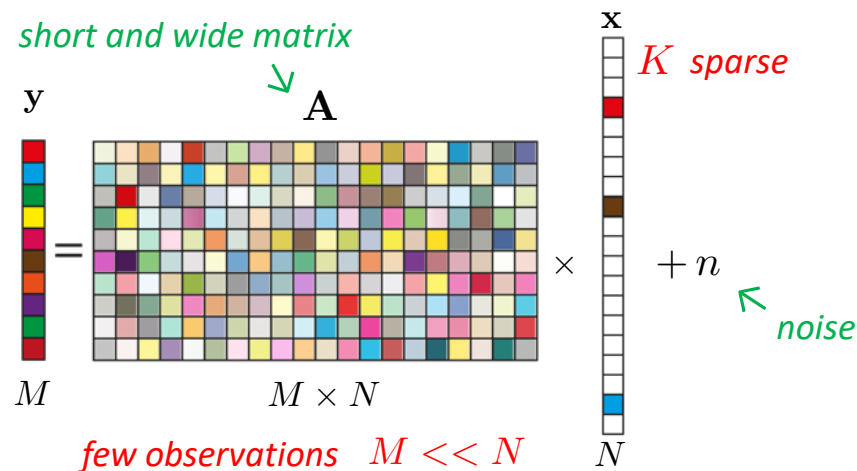
Compressive sensing

Idea: [Donoho, Candès, Romberg, and Tao in early 2000s]

- ▷ **Signals which admit sparse representations are compressible**
- ▷ **Design an acquisition of the signal already compressed**

Implementation:

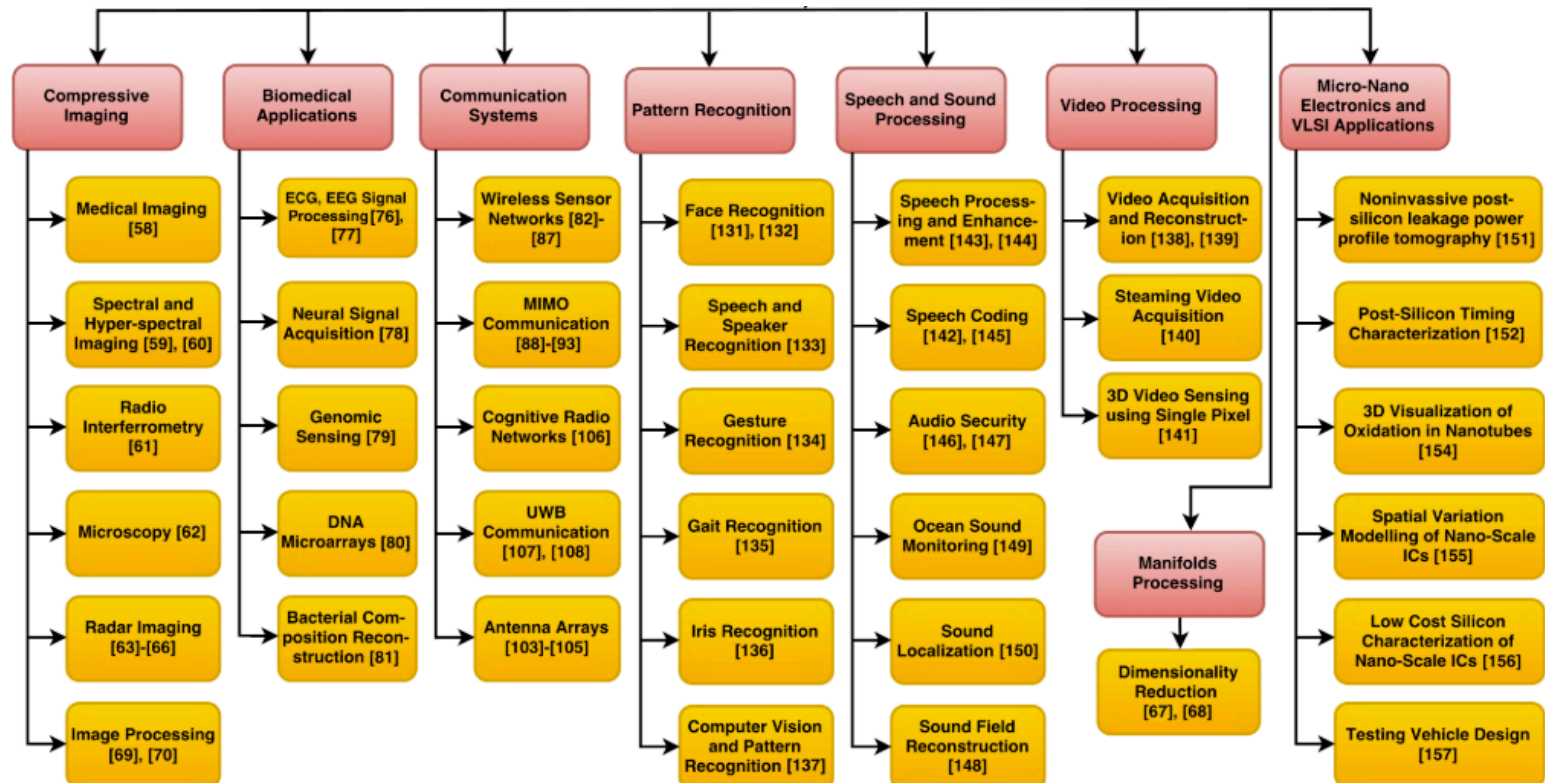
- ▷ **Sub Nyquist sampling:** Number of measurements proportional to sparsity



- ▷ **Reconstruction from the observations:** sparse regression (discussed above)
- ▷ **Measurement matrix design:**
 - a lot of theoretical work on guarantees for M vs K depending on properties of A
 - randomness particularly efficient:
 - e.g. Gaussian random i.i.di, randomly subsampled Fourier*

Applications of compressed sensing

Expensive and/or time-consuming measurements

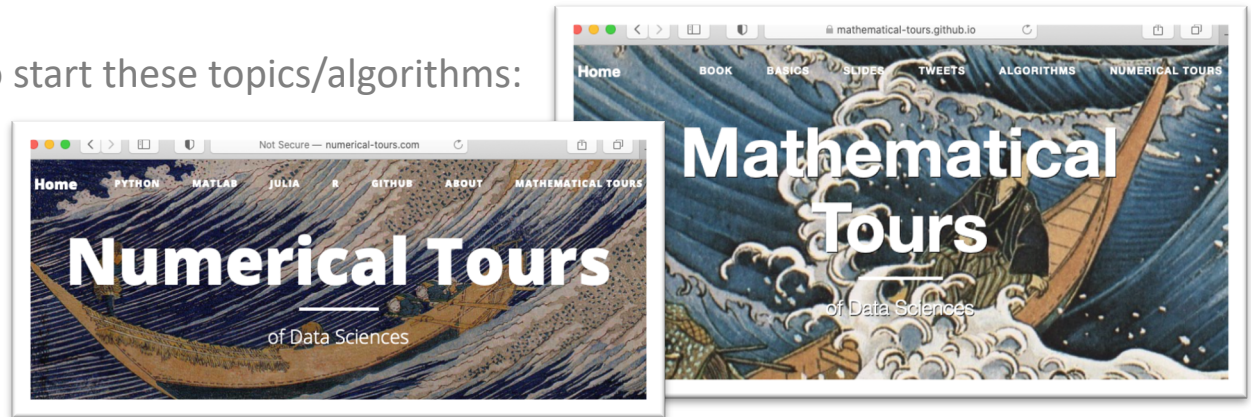


Sparsity and Beyond

What we have seen:

- ▷ Exploiting sparsity really had a tremendous impact
- ▷ Focused on linear inverse problems: but intuition similar for non-linear inverse problems

Nice reference to start these topics/algorithms:



[websites by G. Peyré]

Now:

- ▷ Neural networks as more sophisticated models of signals
- ▷ How to use them in inverse problems

NEURAL NETWORK PRIORS

Learning Data representation with Generative models

Idea:

Use expressivity of neural networks to model non-trivial high dimensional data distributions

▷ **Sampling - Architectures**

▷ Restricted Boltzmann Machines

▷ Deep generative model

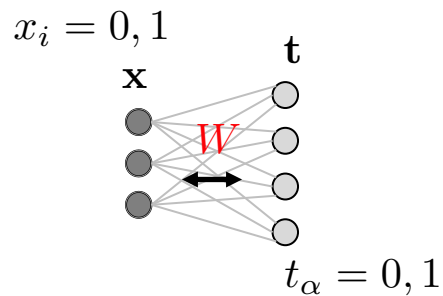
▷ **Unsupervised learning – Training procedures**

▷ Maximum likelihood

▷ Adversarial training

Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM)

Definition: RBM are energy based models



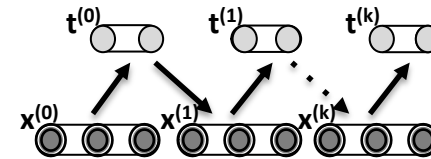
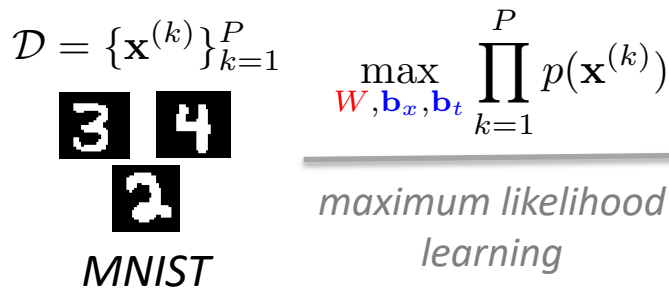
$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\sum_{i=1}^N b_{x,i} x_i + \sum_{\alpha=1}^M b_{t,\alpha} t_{\alpha} + \sum_{\alpha,i} W_{i\alpha} x_i t_{\alpha}}$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \int d\mathbf{t} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{effective interactions all orders}$$

pairwise interactions input-hidden units



Unsupervised learning:



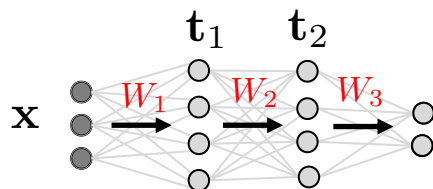
$$\theta = \{b_x, b_t, W\}$$

Markov Chain sampling



Applications:

Pretraining of deep networks



Biophysics models

Quantum physics

RESEARCH

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MANY-BODY PHYSICS

Solving the quantum many-body problem with artificial neural networks

Giuseppe Carleo^{1*} and Matthias Troyer^{1,2}

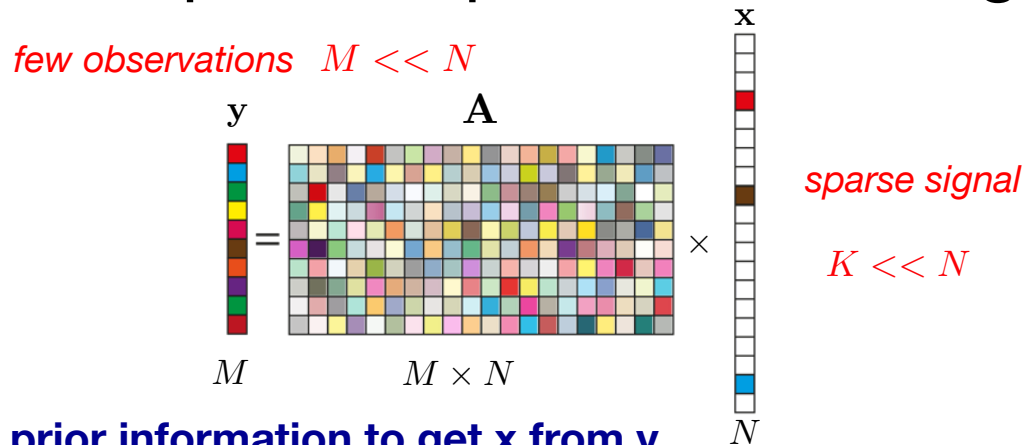
om

PSL

Generative priors for inverse problems:

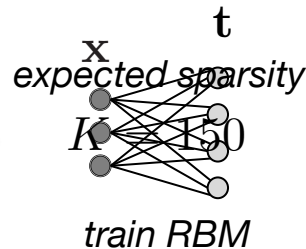
First example Compressed Sensing

▷ Recall



▷ Exploit prior information to get x from y

typical signals



observations y

$+$

CS algorithm:

AMP

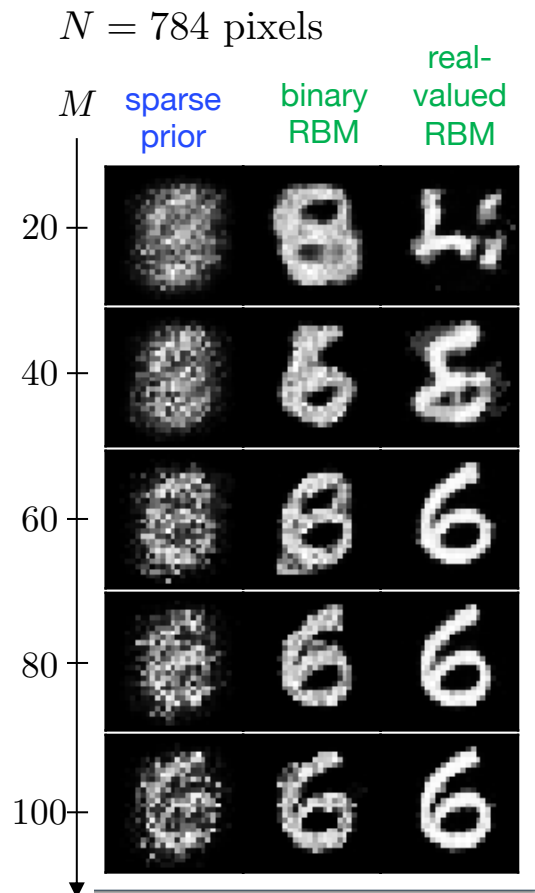
$+$

RBM AMP

observations

▷ RBM learns spatial correlations greatly improves reconstruction

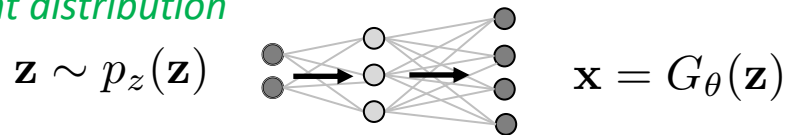
▷ « Neural networks are the new sparsity ? »



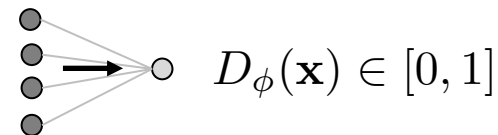
Deep Generative Models

Definition:

latent distribution



Discriminator



Unsupervised learning: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^P$

▷ Minimum KL /maximum log-likelihood
Variational auto-encoders (VAEs)

$$\min_{\theta} \text{KL}(p_d(\mathbf{x}) || p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) \quad \text{or} \quad \max_{\theta} \sum_{k=1}^P \ln p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$$

▷ Adversarial training

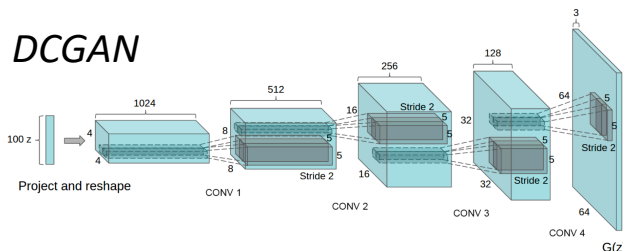
$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi} [\mathbb{E}_{p_d} [\ln D_{\phi}(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{p_z} [\ln(1 - D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})))]]$$

Generative Adversarial networks (GANs)

prob of being genuine prob of being fake

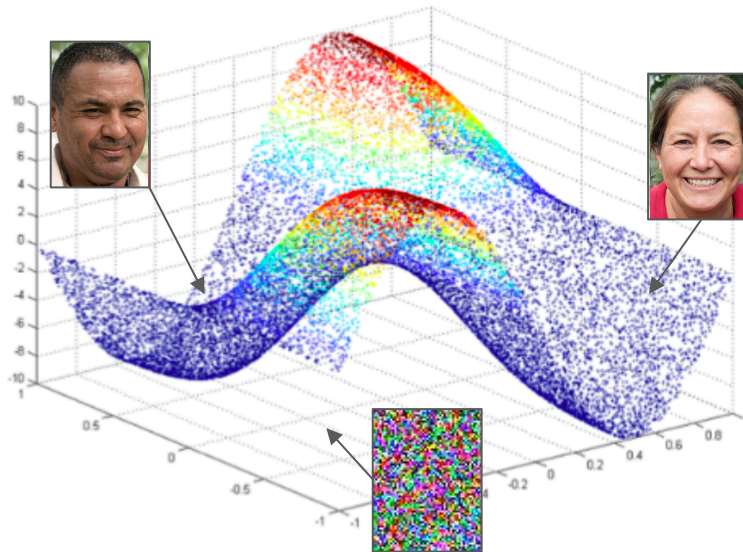
Applications:

- Can include some convolutions
- First generative models able to generate sharp images of great complexity



Intuition of the smaller dimensional manifold

Low dimensional manifold

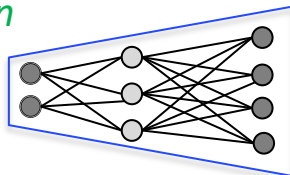


→ learning low dimensional embedding

Generator

latent distribution

$$\mathbf{z} \sim p_z(\mathbf{z})$$



$$\mathbf{x} = G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})$$

Interpolating in the latent space

$$\mathbf{z}_O^A$$



$$\mathbf{z}_O^B$$



$$\mathbf{z}_I^A$$



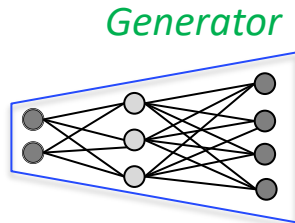
$$\mathbf{z}_I^B$$



Compressed sensing on faces images

20

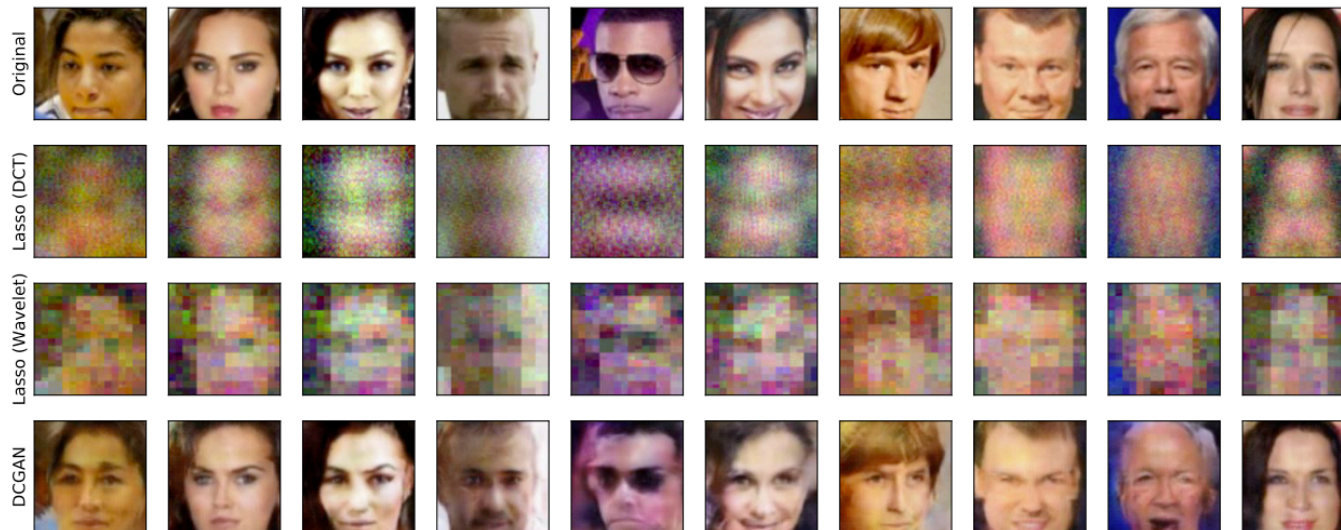
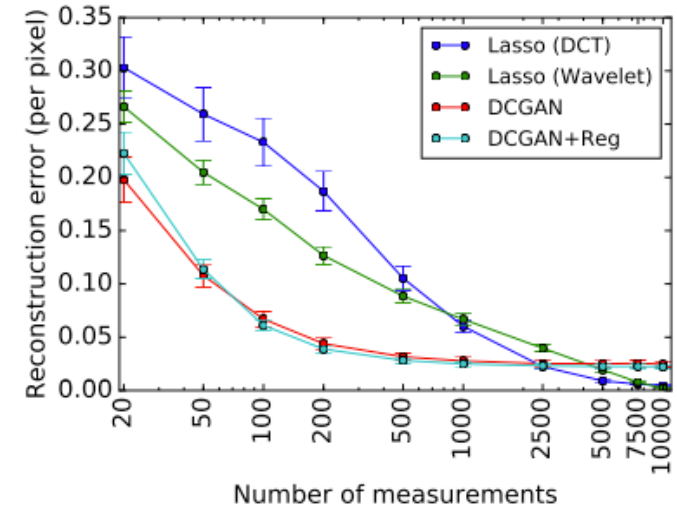
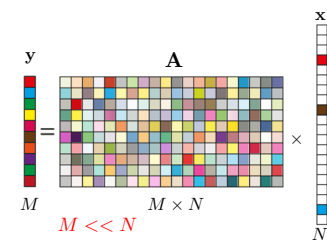
- ▷ Find image in the range of the generator
- ▷ In accordance with the observations



$$\mathbf{x} = G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}^*)$$

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{y} - A G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})\|_2$$

↙
Gradient descent
(Pytorch or Tensorflow)



$N = 12288$ pixels, $M = 2500$ measures

General Strategy : Inverse problem solving with Deep Generative models

▷ **Original problem:**

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - f(\mathbf{x}, n)\|_2$$

▷ **New strategy**

▷ Train a generative model on typical signals $G_\theta(\mathbf{z})$

▷ Solve inverse problem in the range of generative model

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{y} - f(G_\theta(\mathbf{z}), n)\|_2$$

▷ **What can go wrong?**

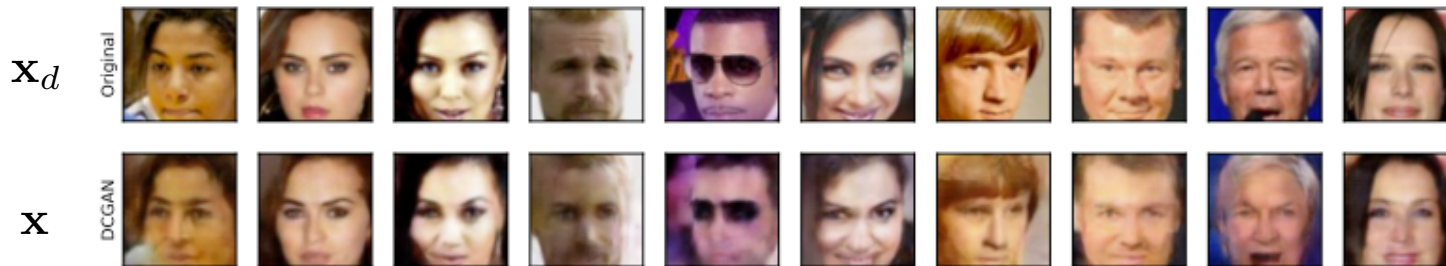
▷ Representation error

▷ Generalization out of the training set

▷ Access to a training set

Limitations of the strategy

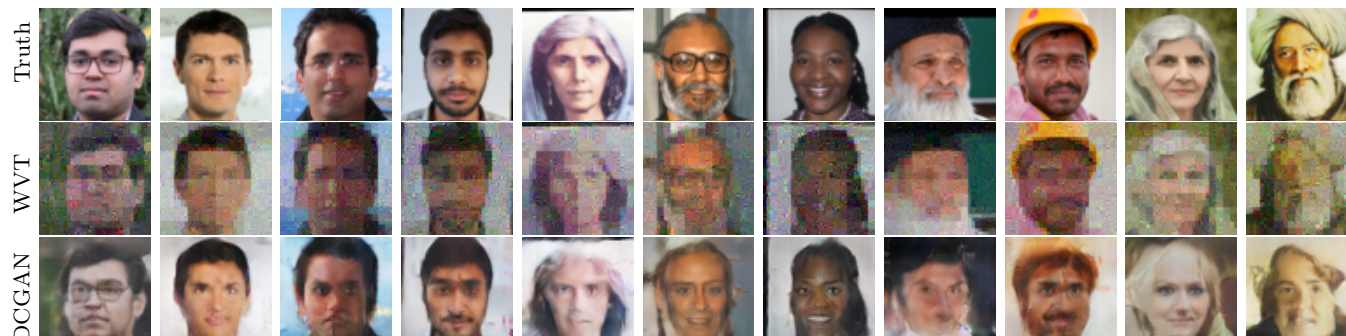
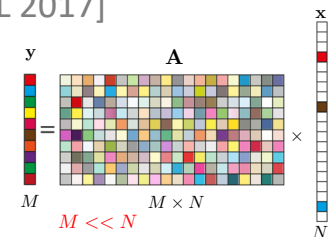
Representation error: $\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{x}_d - G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})\|_2 \quad \mathbf{x} = G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}^*)$



[Bora et al, ICML 2017]

Generalization out of sample:

celebA training data

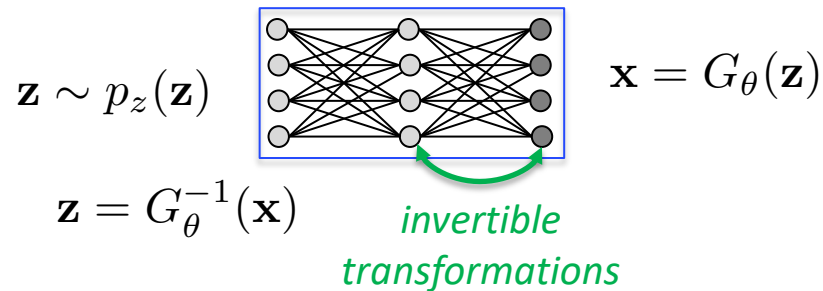


$N = 12288$ pixels, $M = 2500$ measures

[Asim et al, ICML 2019]

Another kind of generative models: Normalizing flows

▷ Bijective networks:



▷ Maximum likelihood training

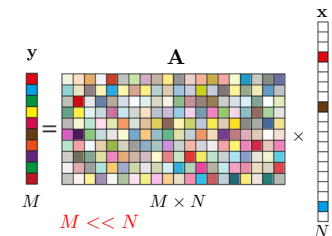
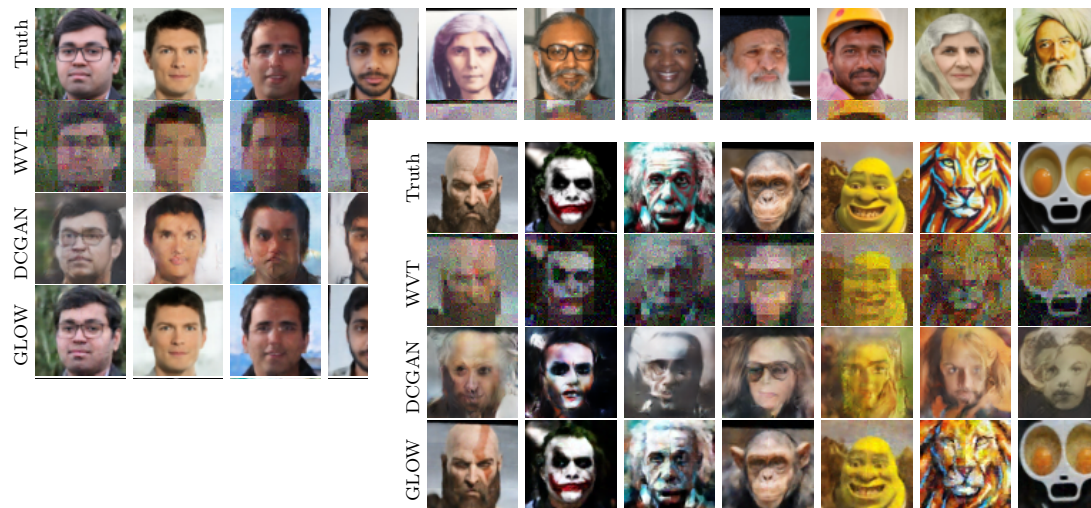
$$\max_{\theta} \sum_{k=1}^K \ln p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

tractable expression

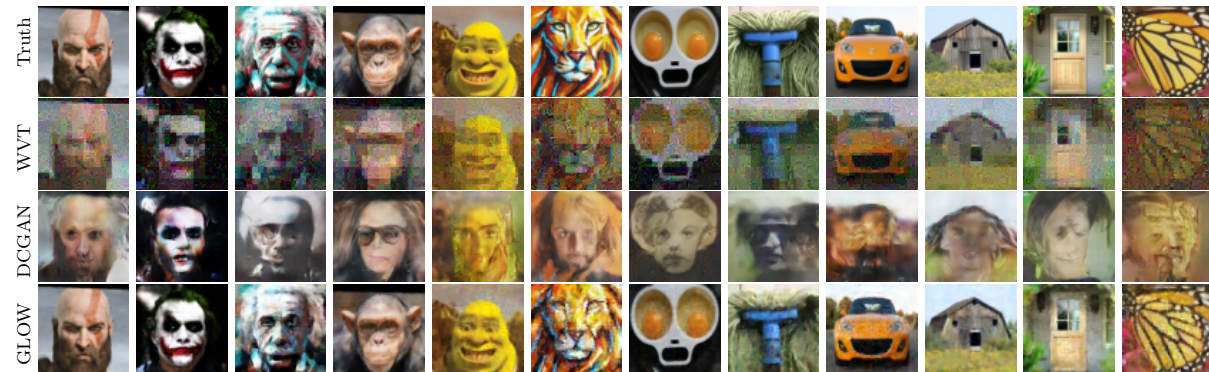
$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p_z(G_{\theta}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}))}{|\nabla_z G_{\theta}(G_{\theta}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}))|}$$

Compressing example:

▷ Zero representation error



▷ Generalizes out of sample



$N = 12288$ pixels, $M = 2500$ measures

General Strategy : Inverse problem solving with Deep Generative models

▷ Original problem:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - f(\mathbf{x}, n)\|_2$$

▷ New strategy

- ▷ Train a generative model on typical signals
- ▷ Solve inverse problem in the range of generative model

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{y} - f(G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}), n)\|_2$$

▷ What can go wrong?

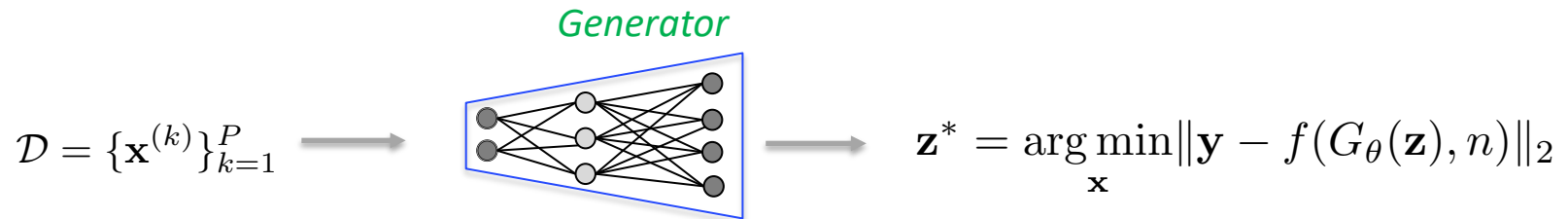
- ▷ Representation error
- ▷ Generalization out of the training set
- ▷ Access to a training set



*Normalizing flows
part of the answer*

Untrained image priors

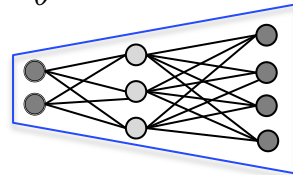
▷ Trained model



▷ Data-set free strategy

1. draw (random) \mathbf{z}
2. adjust parameters of the generator to fit one observation \mathbf{y}
3. apply adjusted G to get \mathbf{x}

$$\mathbf{z} \sim p_z(\mathbf{z}) \xrightarrow{\text{fixed!}} \theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \|\mathbf{y} - f(G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}), n)\|_2 \longrightarrow \mathbf{x}^* = G_{\theta^*}(\mathbf{z})$$

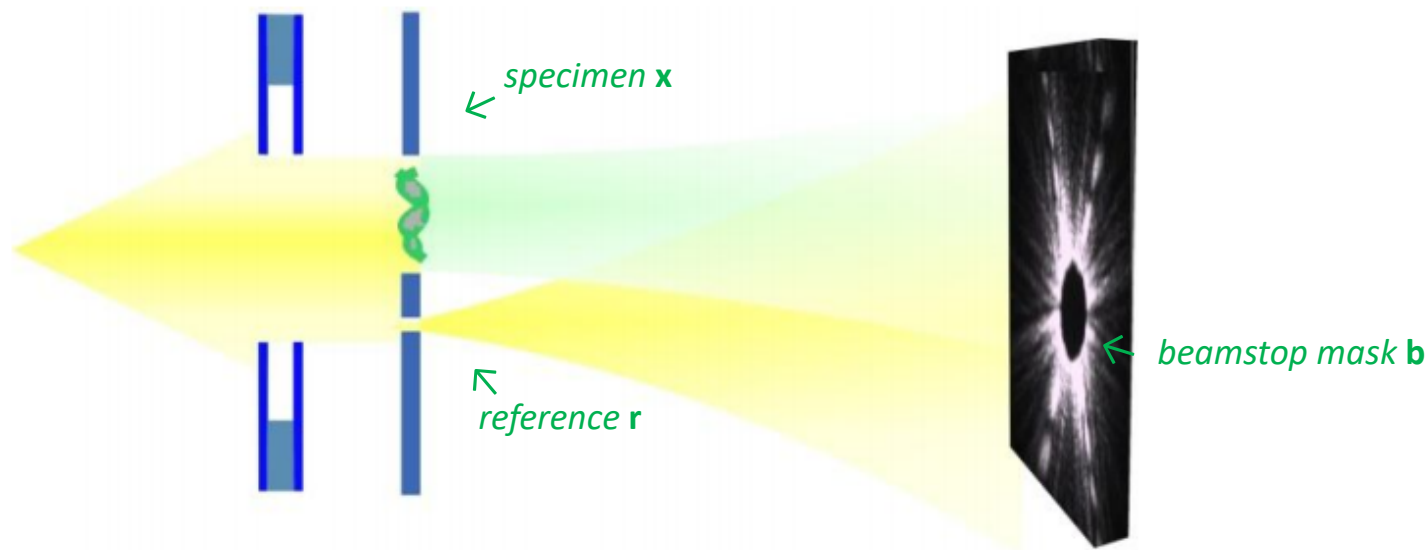


← *neural network architecture
(convolutions) biases reconstruction
to natural images !*

▷ Promising for experimental applications! → *Let's see 2 examples: CDI and MRI*

Applications example I: Coherent Diffraction Imaging (CDI)

- ▷ **CDI:** Imaging technique for nanoscale X-ray imaging
- ▷ **Holography:** Add a known reference in the beam to help the reconstruction



- ▷ **Noiseless forward model** $\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x}) = |\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}) \odot \mathbf{b}|^2$

- ▷ **Low-photon regime** $y_{ij} \sim \text{Poisson} \left(N_p \frac{I_{ij}(\mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x})\|_1} \right)$

N_p = photons/pixel

Holographic phase retrieval: Proposed strategy

- ▷ **Incorporate forward model in objective**
(Poisson likelihood \neq squared loss)

forward model:

- $y_{ij} \sim \text{Poisson} \left(N_p \frac{I_{ij}(\mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x})\|_1} \right)$
- $\mathbf{I}(\mathbf{x}) = |\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}) \odot \mathbf{b}|^2$

- ▷ **Reconstruction with an untrained prior (Deep Decoder)**

$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{ij | \mathbf{b}_{ij}=1} y_{ij} \log I_{ij}(G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})) - I_{ij}(G_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}))$$

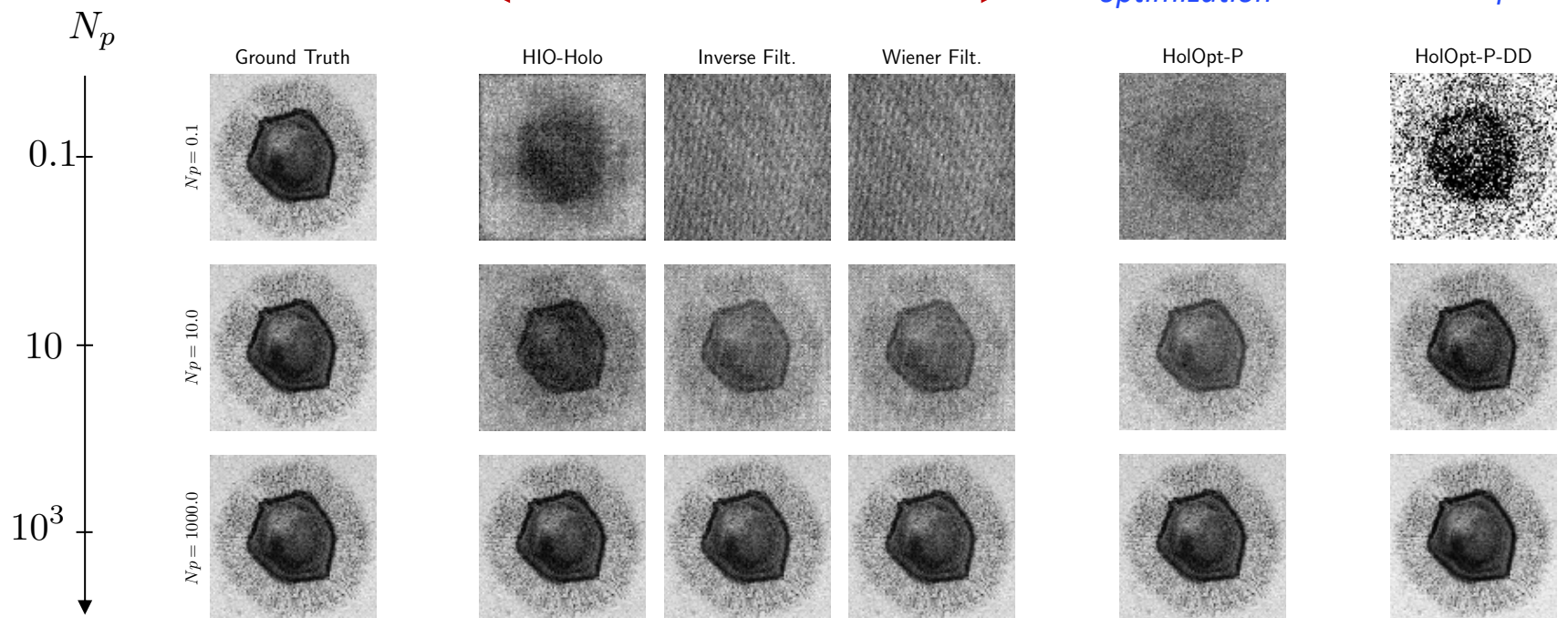
$$\mathbf{x}^* = G_{\theta^*}(\mathbf{z})$$

- ▷ **Optimization using deep learning packages such as PyTorch**

→ package for Fourier Phase Retrieval on 2D images to be released

Holographic CDI: Robustness to noise

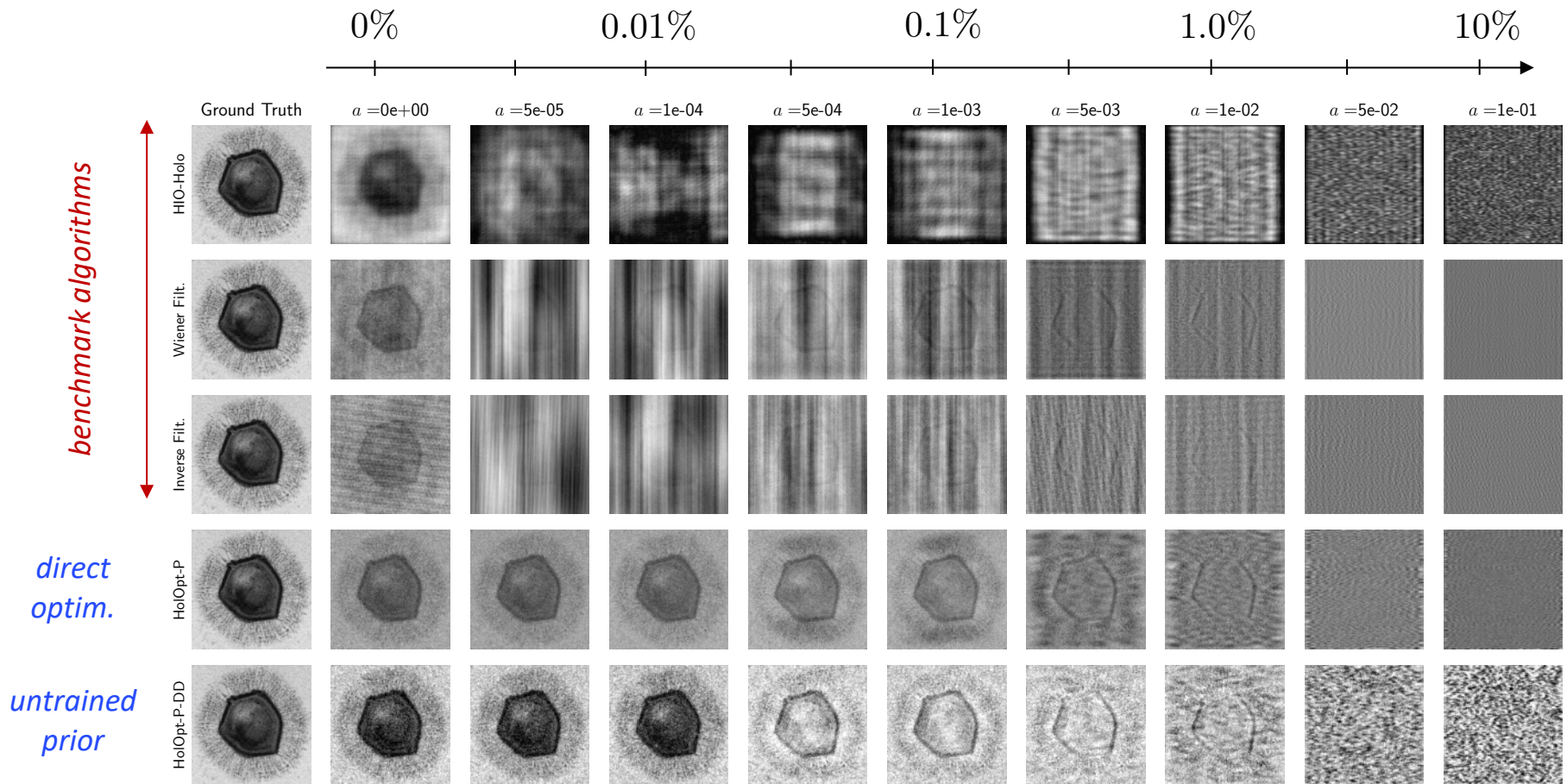
photons/pixel



Holographic CDI: Compensating for beamstop

$$N_p = 10 \quad N_p = 1$$

relative detector area
under beamstop

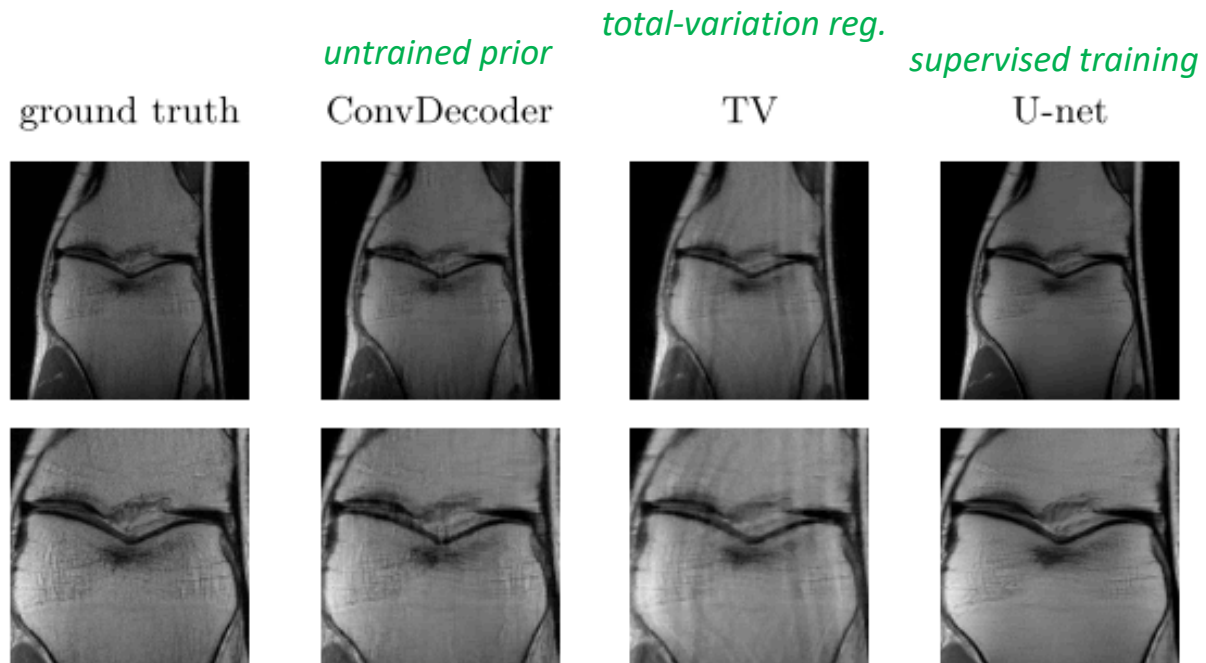


▷ **Practical tool under challenging experimental conditions**

Application example II: Accelerated Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

▷ **FastMRI dataset (<https://fastmri.org/>)**

- ▷ Experimental data
- ▷ Entire dataset with “ground truth”



▷ **Untrained prior here as good as trained ML methods**

Summary: A set of tools for inverse problems

- ▷ **Sparsity**
 - A wide literature on using sparse representation in inverse problems
- ▷ **Compressive sensing**
 - Designing measurements to acquire compressed signal
- ▷ **Generative neural nets**
 - A more sophisticated way to characterize typical signals
- ▷ **For images: Dataset free - Untrained image priors**
 - A dataset free strategy exploiting neural networks architectures

More ways to incorporate machine learning in inverse problems

- ▷ Learn directly the inverse map y to x
- ▷ Use denoising neural networks within other iterative algorithms
- ▷ Many other variants:

training data available

←—————→

information about forward model

↑—————↓

	Supervised with matched (x, y) pairs	Train from unpaired x 's and y 's (Unpaired ground truths and Measurements)	Train from x 's only (Ground truth only)	Train from y 's only (Measurements only)
\mathcal{A} fully known during training and testing (§4.1)	§4.1.1: Denoising auto-encoders [16], U-Net [78], Deep convolutional framelets [79] Unrolled optimization [80–83], Neumann networks [84]	<i>amounts to training from (x, y) pairs</i>	<i>amounts to training from (x, y) pairs</i>	§4.1.2: SURE LDAMP [85, 86], Deep Basis Pursuit [87]
\mathcal{A} known only at test time (§4.2)	§4.2.2	§4.2.2	§4.2.1: CSGM [25], LDAMP [88], OneNet [22], Plug-and-play [89], RED [90]	§4.2.2
\mathcal{A} partially known (§4.3)	§4.3.1	§4.3.2: CycleGAN [91]	§4.3.3: Blind deconvolution with GAN's [92–94]	§4.3.4: AmbientGAN [76], Noise2Noise [95], UAIR [96]
\mathcal{A} unknown (§4.4)	§4.4.1: AUTOMAP [97]	§4.4.2	§4.4.2	§4.4.2

Summary: A set of tools for inverse problems

- ▷ **Sparsity**
 - A wide literature on using sparse representation in inverse problems
- ▷ **Compressive sensing**
 - Designing measurements to acquire compressed signal
- ▷ **Generative neural nets**
 - A more sophisticated way to characterize typical signals
- ▷ **For images: Dataset free - Untrained image priors**
 - A dataset free strategy exploiting neural networks architectures