

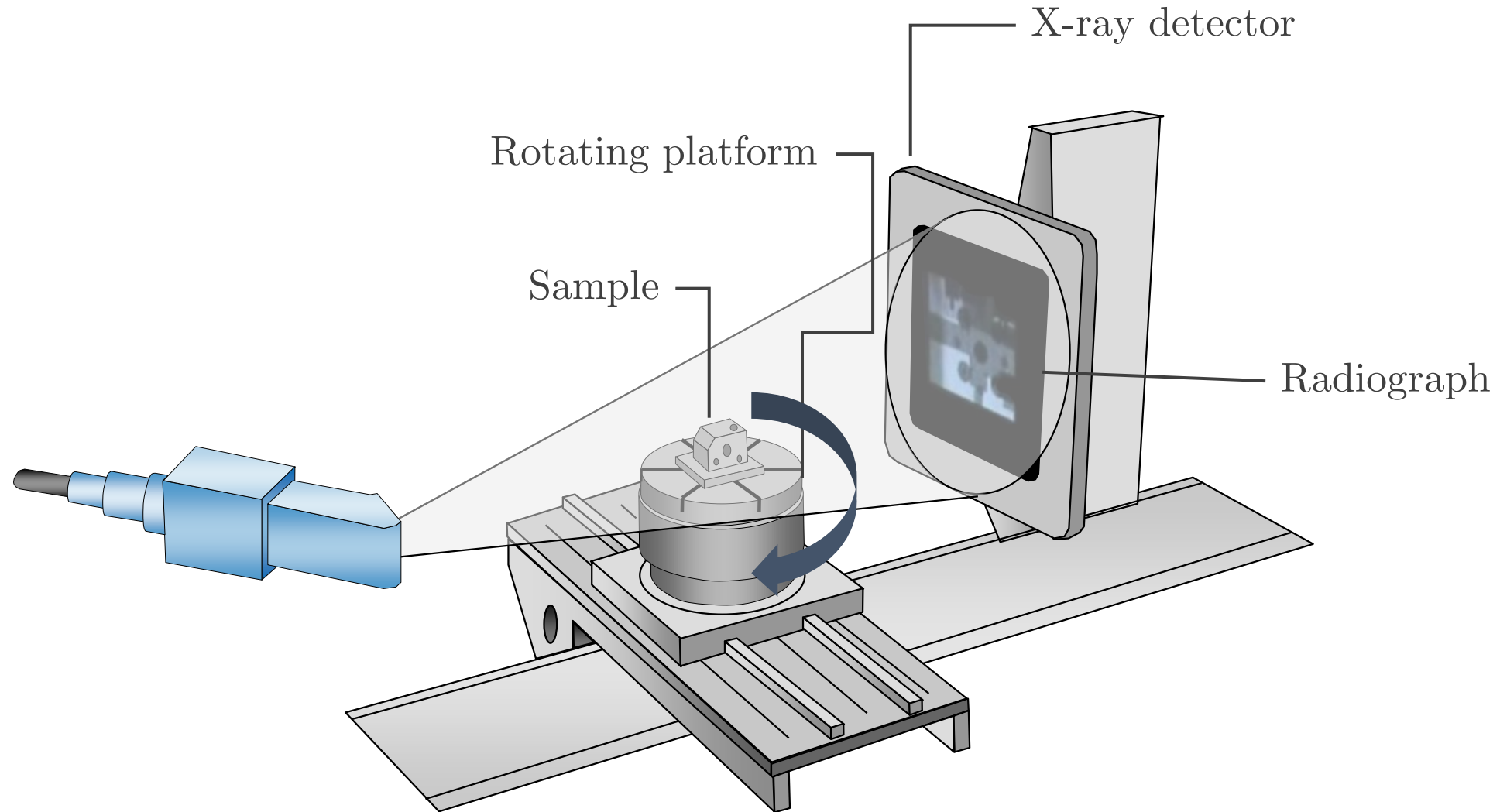
Memory-efficient reconstruction for 3D sparse-view X-ray CT

Romain Vo
POPILSS 2025



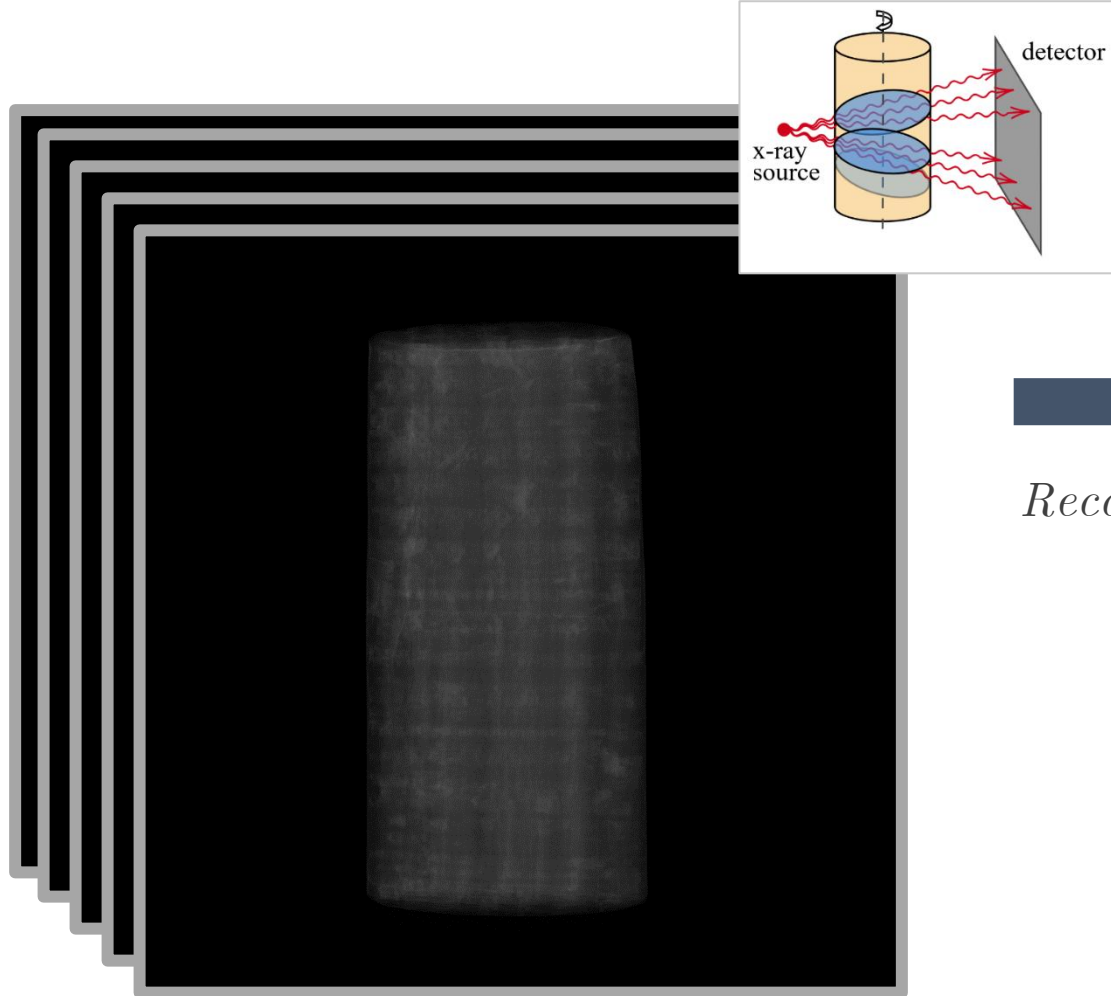
X-Ray Tomography

X-Ray Computed Tomography

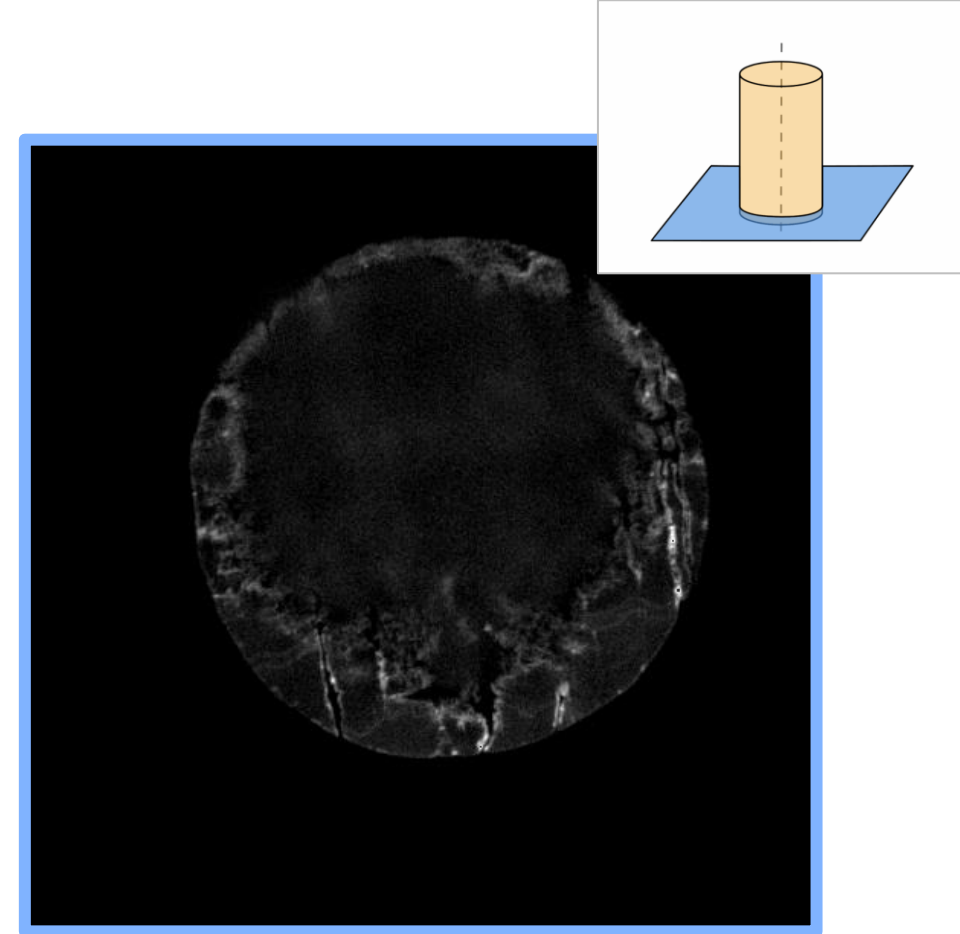


[Liu 2023]

X-Ray Computed Tomography

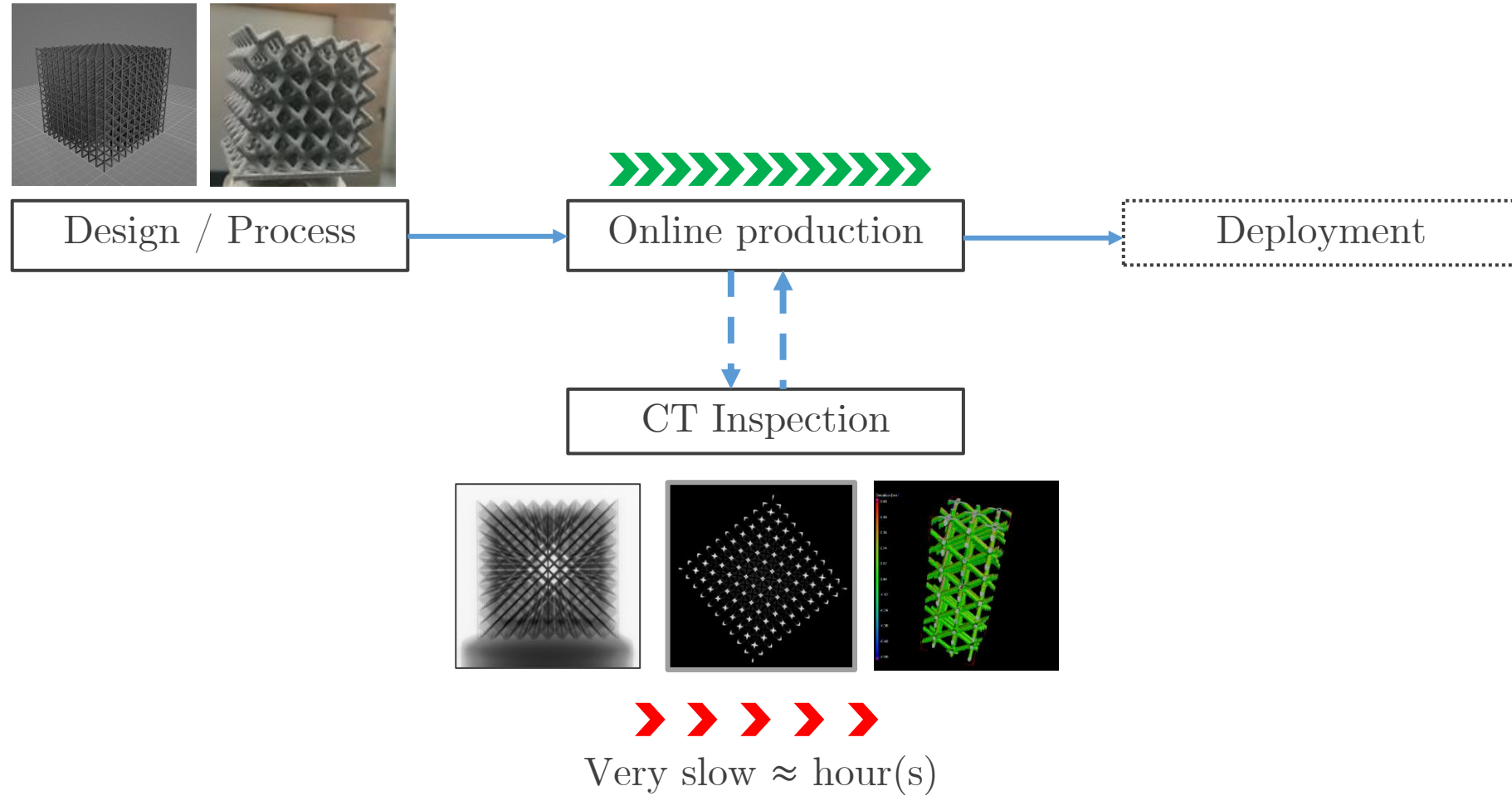


X-ray Radiographs (2D)



Slices of the 3D attenuation map

CT inspection – online monitoring

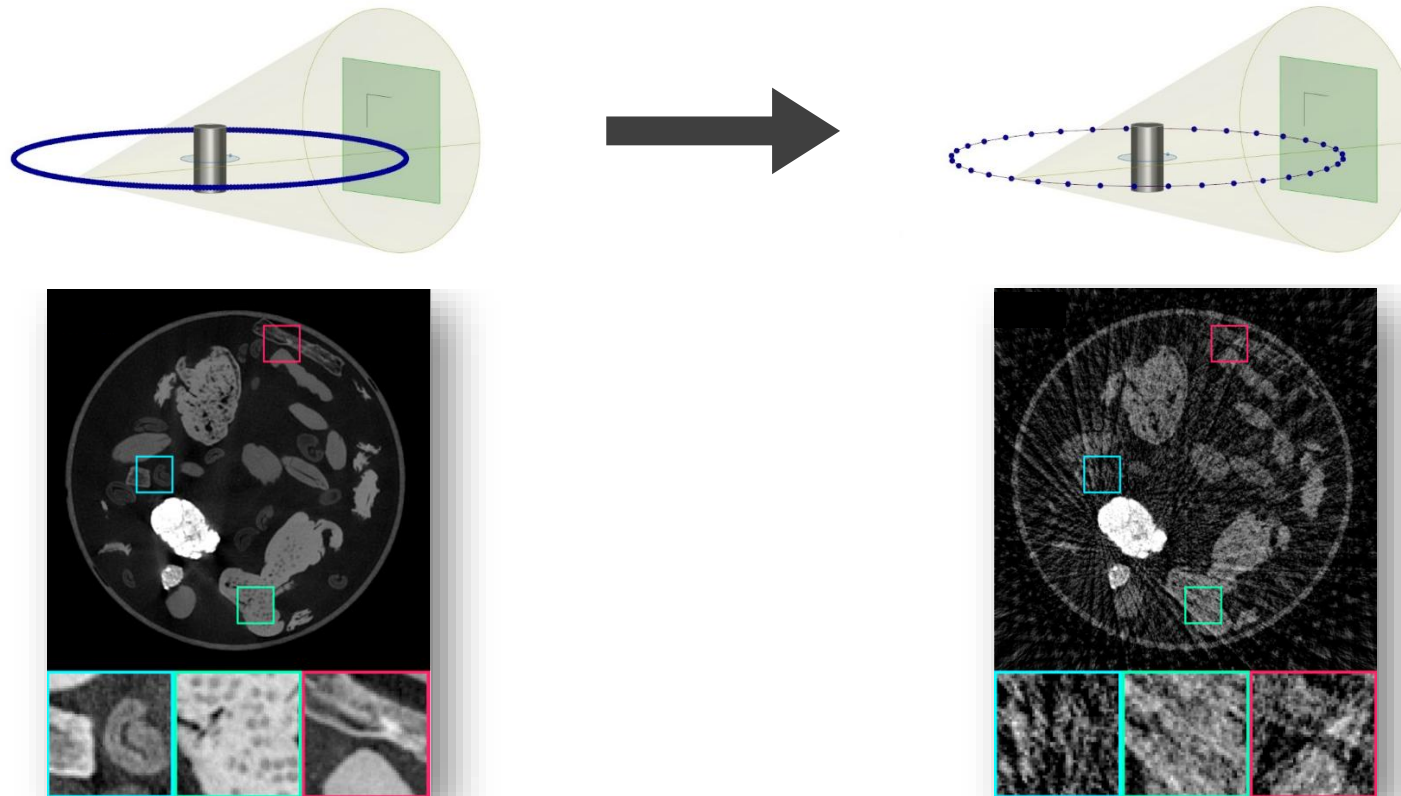


Speeding up CT

Application

→ sparse-view CT

Decrease the number of angular **measurements** to reduce the acquisition time



2DeteCT - [Kiss 2024]

Fine-grained inspection

Application

→ sparse-view CT

Decrease the number of angular **measurements** to reduce the acquisition time

*Reducing the number of measurements leads to **artifacts** in the reconstruction*

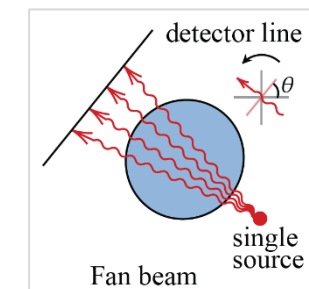
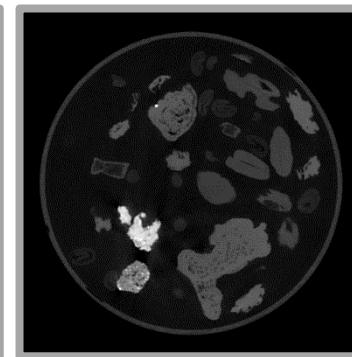
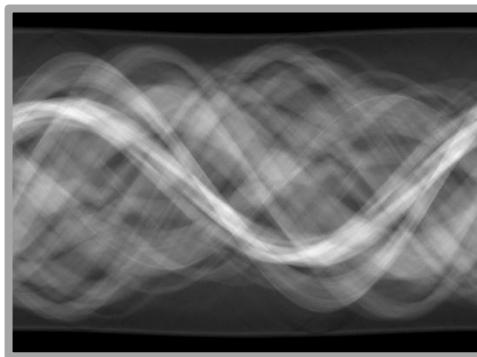
→ 3D high-resolution inspection

We typically deal with **high-resoluted 3D object**, to be able to observe and control fine-grained details of the part we inspect

- Volume $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ $n = 1024^3$ voxels (= 4 GigaBytes in float32)
- Radiographs $b \in \mathbb{R}^m = p \times 1024^2$ (< 1 GB depending on p the number of *angular positions*)

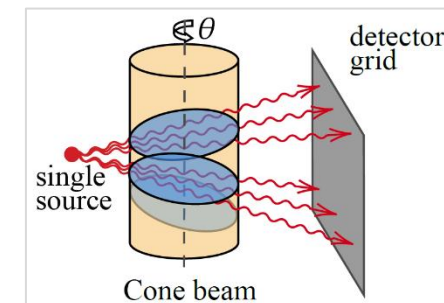
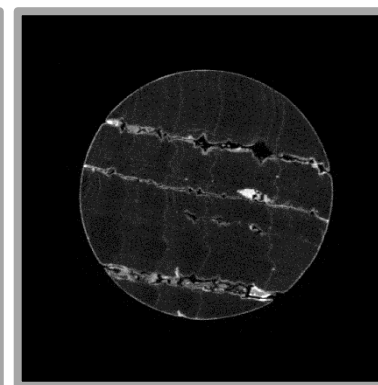
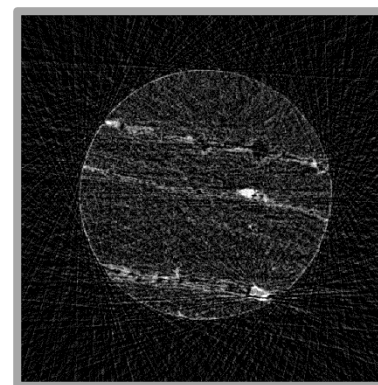
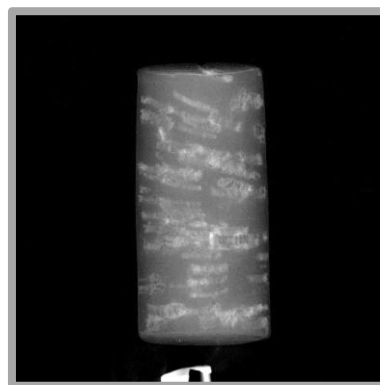
2DeteCT [2D]

512^2



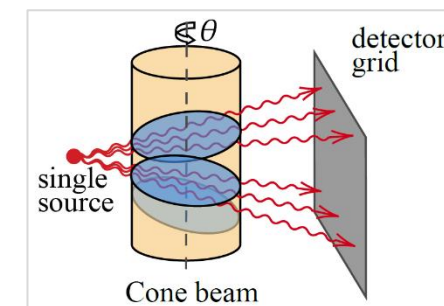
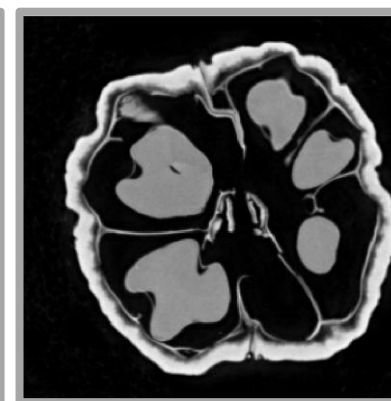
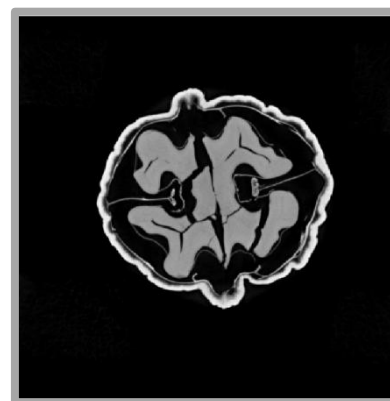
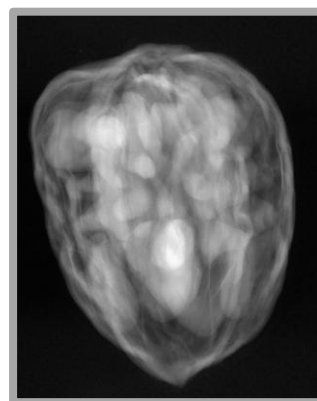
Cork-CBCT [3D]

1024^3



Walnut-CBCT [3D]

501^3

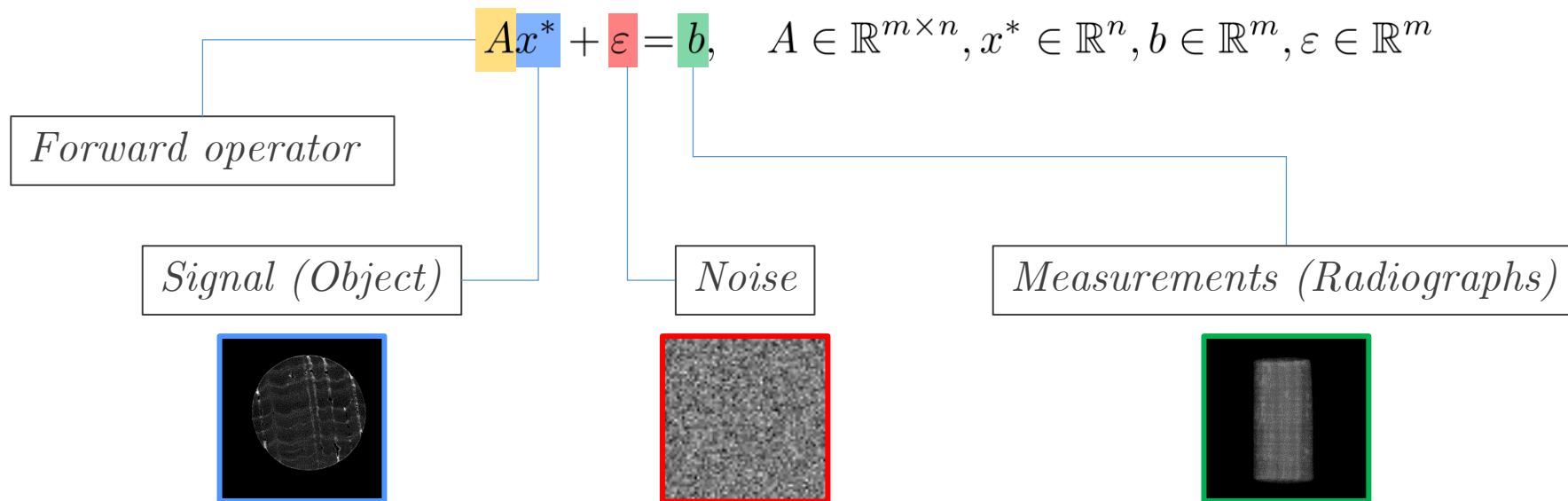
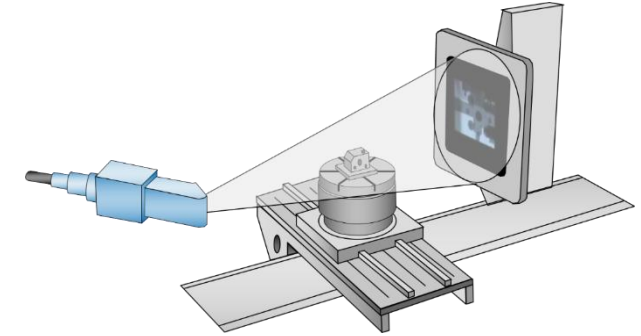


Linear Inverse Problem

Inverse problem

Forward model

The CT reconstruction problem can be formulated as solving a system of linear equations, **we want to find** x^* such that :



Ill-posed inverse problem

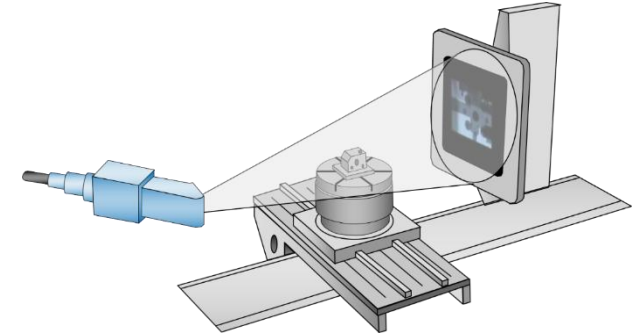
Forward model

The CT reconstruction problem can be formulated as solving a system of linear equations, **we want to find** x^* such that :

$$Ax^* + \varepsilon = b, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n, b \in \mathbb{R}^m, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

Sparse-view CT $\rightarrow$ *The problem is **ill-posed** :*

the number of measurements $m \ll$ size of the volume n



Standard methods

Direct/Analytical Inversion

$$\tilde{x} = A^+ b$$

→ Fast estimation¹ using

- *Filtered Back Projection* (FBP)
- *Feldkamp, Davis, Kress* (FDK) [Feldkamp1984]

¹Anastasio et al. 2001. 'Comments on the Filtered Backprojection Algorithm, Range Conditions, and the Pseudoinverse Solution'. *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*

Iterative Reconstruction

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2}_{\text{Data-fidelity}} + \underbrace{\lambda \mathcal{R}(x)}_{\text{Regularization}}$$

Proximal Gradient Descent

$$\begin{cases} z_{k+1} = x_k - \eta A^\top (Ax_k - b) \\ x_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta \lambda \mathcal{R}}(z_{k+1}) \end{cases} \quad (\text{PGD})$$

[Combettes & Pesquet 2010]

Standard methods

Direct/Analytical Inversion

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Iterative Reconstruction

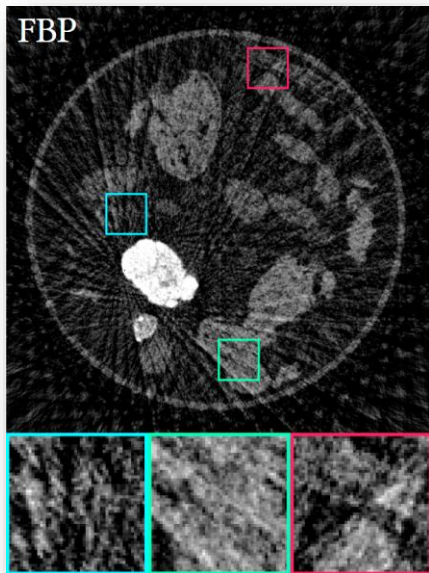
$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mathcal{D}(x) + \lambda \mathcal{R}(x)$$

➡ *Total Variation*: $\mathcal{R}(x) = \|\nabla x\|_1$

Standard methods

Direct/Analytical Inversion

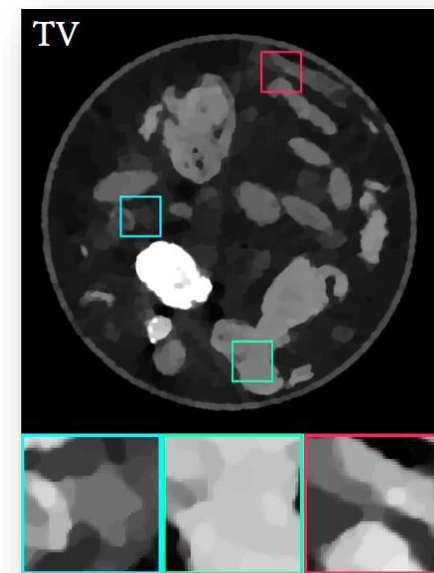
$$\tilde{x} = A^+ b$$



Iterative Reconstruction

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mathcal{D}(x) + \lambda \mathcal{R}(x)$$

➡ Total Variation: $\mathcal{R}(x) = \|\nabla x\|_1$



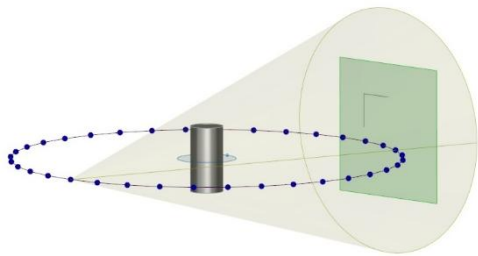
[Sidky & Pan 2008]

Standard methods - Limitations

Direct/Analytical Inversion

$$\tilde{x} = A^+ b$$

- *Fast but artifacts in sparse setup*



Iterative Reconstruction

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mathcal{D}(x) + \lambda \mathcal{R}(x)$$

- *Reduced artifacts but slow*
- *Explicit formulation*
- *Hand-crafted regularization*

Deep Learned Reconstruction

Model-agnostic formulation

Find the function $f_\phi : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that :

$$x = f_\phi(\mathbf{b})$$

Neural Network

Deep Learned Reconstruction

Find the function $f_\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that :

$$x = f_\phi(\tilde{x}), \quad \tilde{x} = A^+ b$$

image-translation mapping

Deep Learned Reconstruction

Given a collection of **degraded** and **reference** reconstruction pairs $\{(\tilde{x}_i, x_i^*)\}_{i=1}^N$

$$\textit{Training} : \min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}^*)} \|f_{\phi}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2$$

Parametrization ?

Post-processing

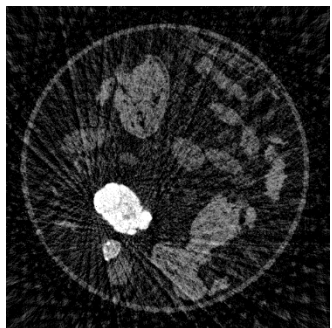
Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)

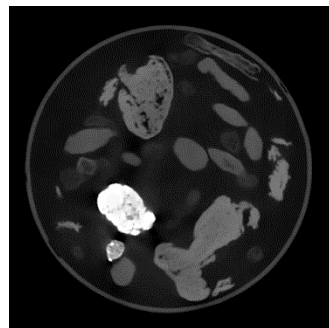
[Ronneberger 2015]

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|D_\phi(\tilde{x}) - x^*\|_2^2$$

[Han 2016]



D_ϕ
→
*remove
artifacts*



$$\tilde{x} = A^+ b$$

$$\hat{x} = D_\phi(\tilde{x})$$

Unrolled optimization

Post-processing

Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)

[Ronneberger 2015]

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|D_\phi(\tilde{x}) - x^*\|_2^2$$

[Han 2016]

→ What about minimizing $\|Ax - b\|_2^2$?

Unrolled optimization

Unrolled network

Post-processing

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→ What about minimizing $\|Ax - b\|_2^2$?

Unrolled optimization

$$\begin{cases} z_{k+1} = x_k - \eta \nabla \mathcal{D}(x) \\ x_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta \lambda \mathcal{R}}(z_{k+1}) \end{cases}$$

hand-crafted

Unrolled network

Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)
[Ronneberger 2015]

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|D_\phi(\tilde{x}) - x^*\|_2^2$$

[Han 2016]

→ What about minimizing $\|Ax - b\|_2^2$?

Unrolled optimization

$$\begin{cases} z_{k+1} = x_k - \eta \nabla \mathcal{D}(x) \\ x_{k+1} = D_\phi(z_{k+1}) \end{cases}$$

learned

Unrolled network w. parameters ϕ

$$G_\phi(\tilde{x}, K) = [D_\phi \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_\phi \circ g](\tilde{x})$$

K steps

with $g(x) = x - \eta \nabla \mathcal{D}(x)$

Unrolled network

Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)
[Ronneberger 2015]

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|D_\phi(\tilde{x}) - x^*\|_2^2$$

[Han 2016]

Unrolled optimization

Unrolled network w. parameters ϕ

$$G_\phi(\tilde{x}, K) = [D_\phi \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_\phi \circ g](\tilde{x})$$

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|G_\phi(\tilde{x}, K) - x^*\|_2^2$$

[Adler 2017]

« End-to-end iterative training »

Deep Reconstruction – Qualitative results

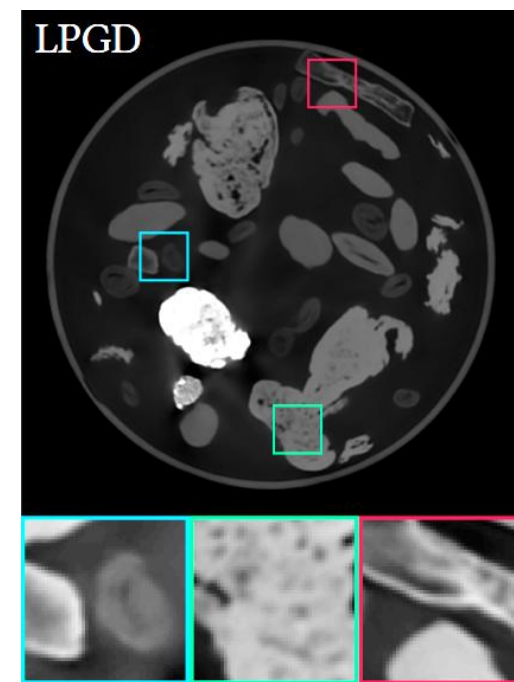
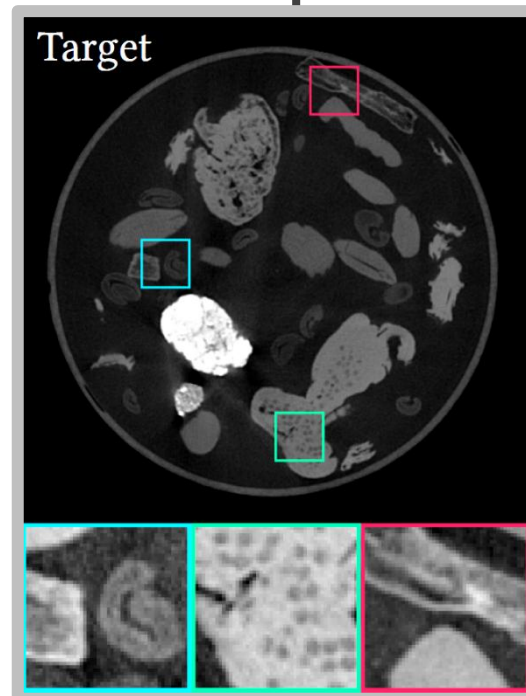
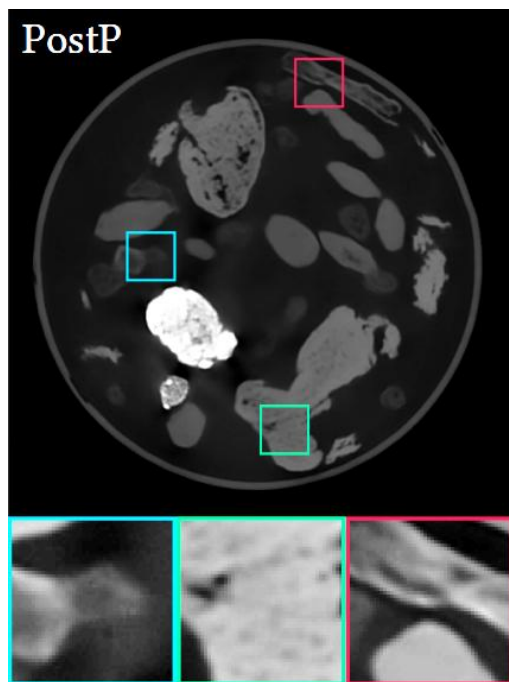
Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)
[Ronneberger 2015]

Unrolled optimization

Unrolled network w. parameters ϕ

$$G_\phi(\tilde{x}, K) = [D_\phi \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_\phi \circ g](\tilde{x})$$



Deep Reconstruction - Recap

Post-processing

D_ϕ : *single-pass* convolutional network (U-Net)

- Fast but does not ensure $AD_\phi(\tilde{x}) = b$
- Reduced performances in out-of-distribution settings [Vo 2025]

Unrolled optimization

Unrolled network w. parameters ϕ

$$G_\phi(\tilde{x}, K) = [D_\phi \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_\phi \circ g](\tilde{x})$$

- State-of-the-art since 2017 on every benchmarks
- « Interpretable »

Limitations

- Limited scalability for high-resolution 2D and 3D
 - 2DeteCT (512×512) – Training = **57GB VRAM** & 30mn/epoch

Alternative ?

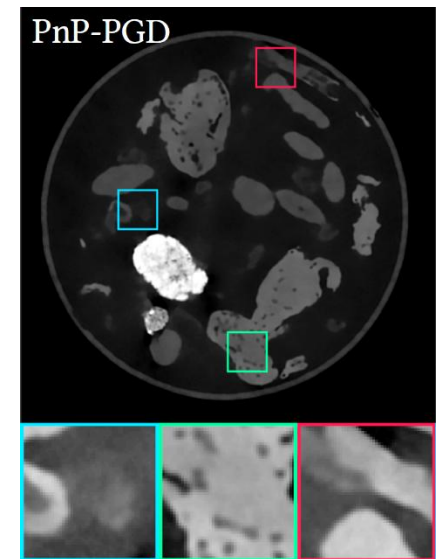
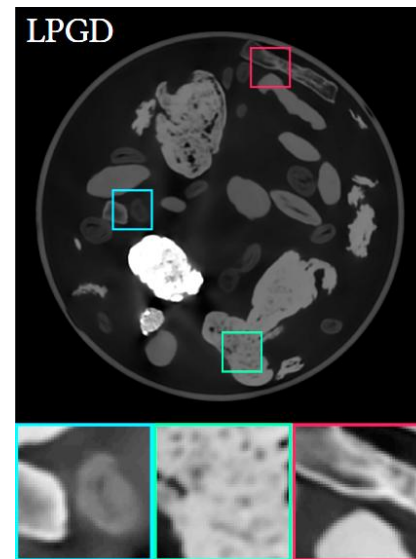
$$G_{\phi}(\tilde{x}, K) = \underbrace{[D_{\phi} \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_{\phi} \circ g]}_{K \text{ steps}}(\tilde{x})$$

K steps

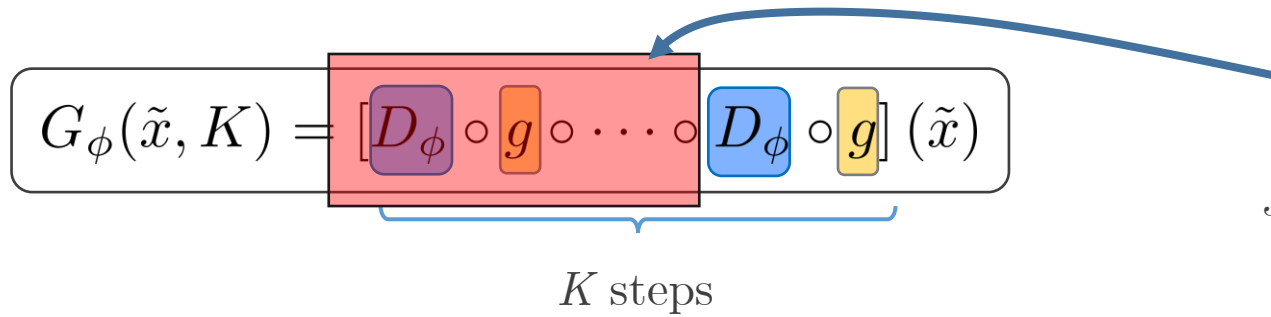
1. *Plug & Play (PnP)* [Venkatakrishnan 2013]
pre-trained denoiser

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^*} \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{\sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I)} \|D_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}^* + \xi_{\sigma}) - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2$$

[Zhang 2017]



Alternative ?



Jacobian Free Backpropagation [Fung 2021]

1. *Plug & Play (PnP)* [Venkatakrishnan 2013]
pre-trained denoiser

2. *Deep Equilibrium Networks* [Bai 2019]
constant memory
training

$$\min_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{x}, x^*)} \|G_{\phi}(\tilde{x}, K) - x^*\|_2^2$$

- From 30mn/epoch, $\rightarrow$ $\sim$ 10mn/epoch
- 57 GB $\rightarrow$ 9 GB

Limitations

- You still need to compute the forward loop at train-time
- For non-separable $\mathbf{A}$, patch-training is not possible

Alternative ?

$$G_{\phi}(\tilde{x}, K) = \underbrace{[D_{\phi} \circ g \circ \dots \circ D_{\phi} \circ g]}_{K \text{ steps}}(\tilde{x})$$

1. *Plug & Play (PnP)* [Venkatakrishnan 2013]

pre-trained denoiser

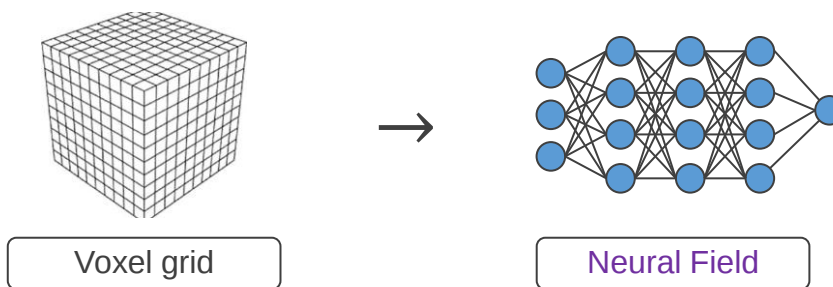
2. *Deep Equilibrium Networks* [Bai 2019]

constant memory

training

3. *Neural Fields*

compressed representation



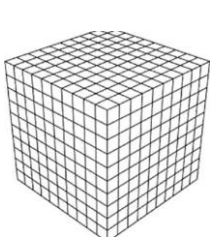
- Lightweight representation
 - lighter deep network ?
 - faster forward operator evaluation ?
- Inherent regularization
 - easy modulation of the information associated with a given frequency

Neural Fields

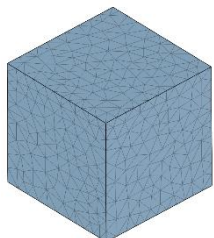
Efficient representation using Deep learning

« **Compress** » the parametrization of x

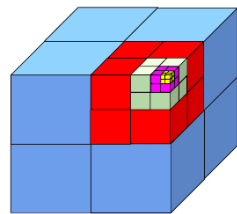
At the root, x is just a scalar field $\mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$



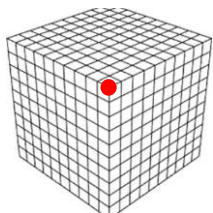
Voxel grid



Mesh

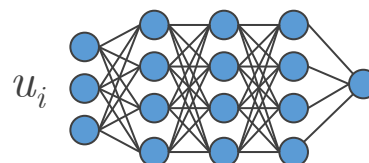


Octree



$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$x_i = F(x, u_i) \quad u_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$$



Neural Field

$$x_i = F(\Theta, u_i)$$

$$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad \text{and} \quad u_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

with F an interpolation function

u_i a coordinate in space

x_i the attenuation value at position u_i

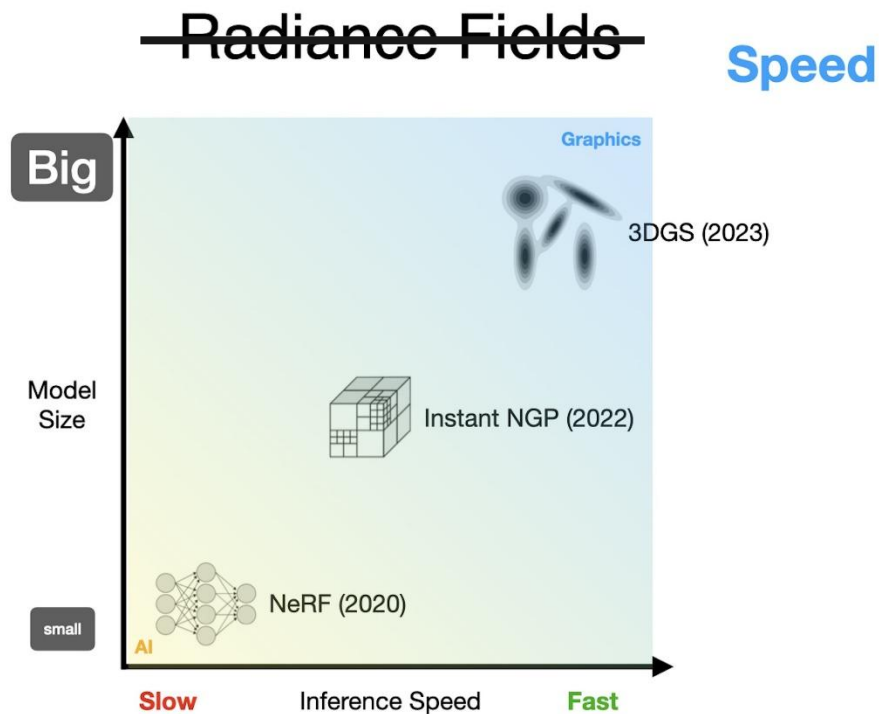
with F a **neural network**

and d the number of parameters

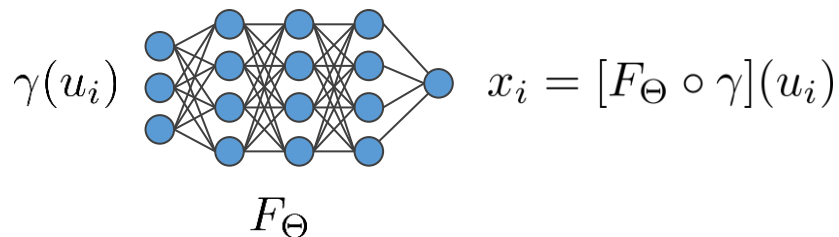
$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ “stores” the information about the object

Efficient representation using Deep learning

Neural Fields, INR, etc..

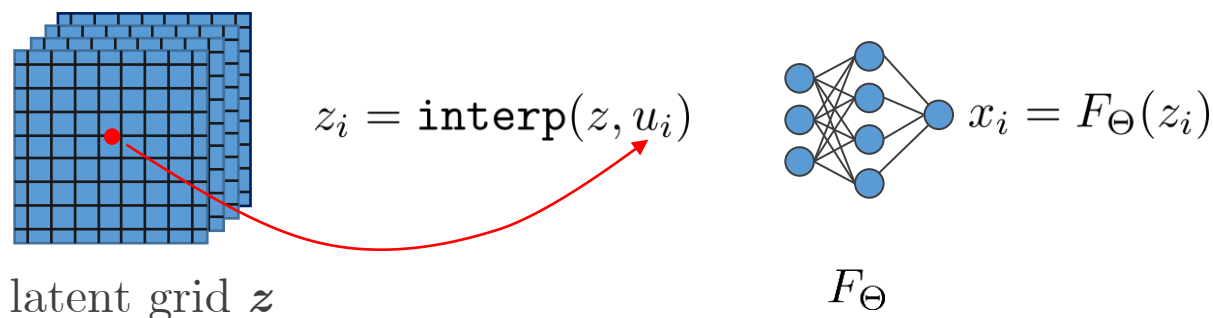


MLP-based



$$\gamma(u) = [a_1 \cos(2\pi b_1^T u), a_1 \sin(2\pi b_1^T u), \dots, a_m \cos(2\pi b_m^T u), a_m \sin(2\pi b_m^T u)]$$

Grid-based (+ shallow MLP)



lightweight representation of $x \rightarrow$ here we have $d \ll n$ (4 times lighter)

[Müller 2022]

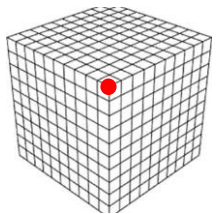
Optimizing a neural field

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(x)$$

→

$$\arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|AF_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}) - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}))$$

coordinates of the grid: $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 3}$

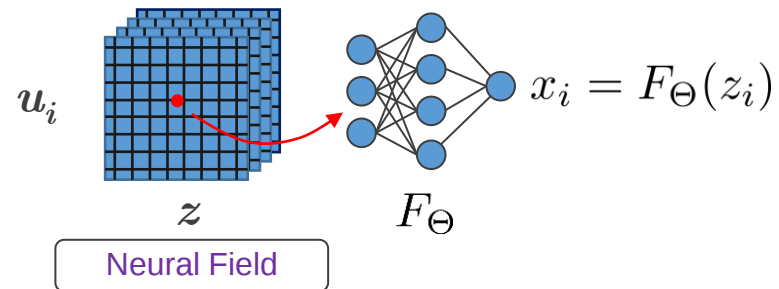


Voxel grid

$$x_i = F(x, u_i)$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } u_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

→

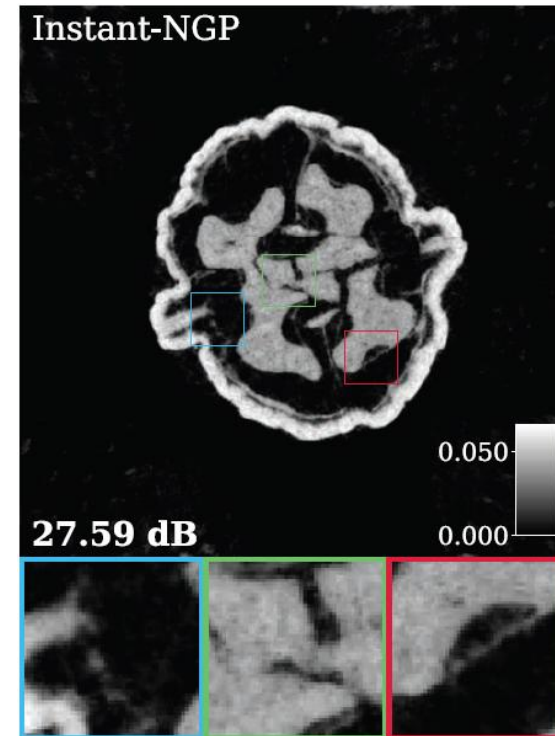
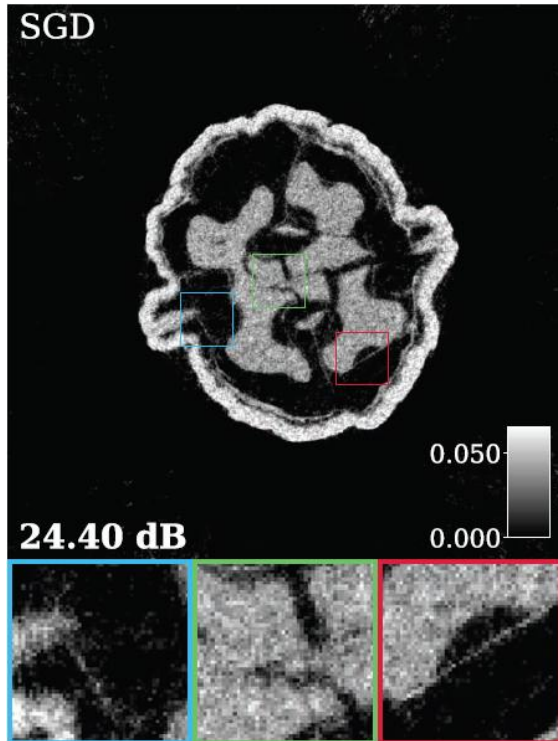


Optimizing a neural field

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(x)$$

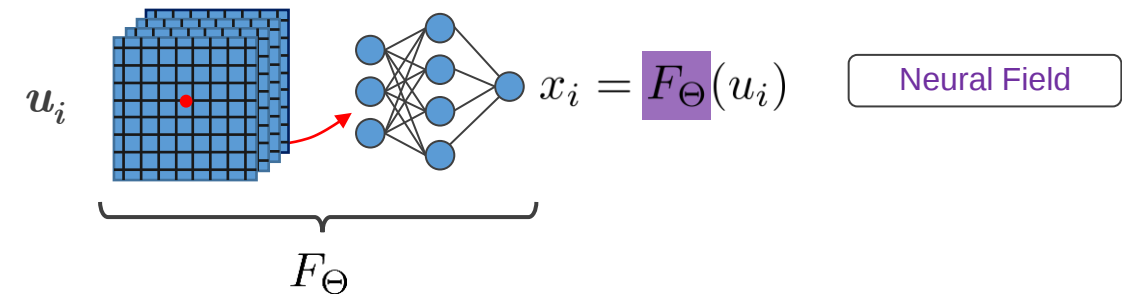
→

$$\arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|AF_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}) - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}))$$



Regularized Neural Field

$$\arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|A F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}) - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}))$$



Proximal Gradient Descent

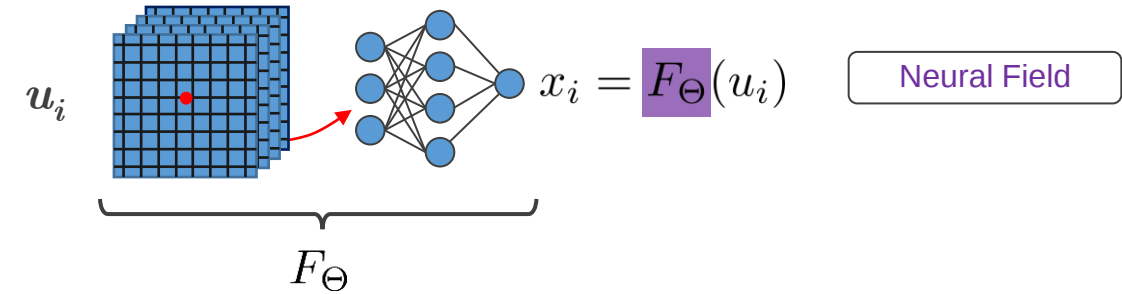
$$\begin{cases} z_{k+1} = x_k - \eta \nabla \mathcal{D}(x) \\ x_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta \lambda \mathcal{R}}(z_{k+1}) \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \Theta_{k+\frac{1}{2}} = \Theta_k - \eta \nabla \mathcal{D}(\Theta_k) \\ \Theta_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta \lambda \mathcal{R}}(\Theta_{k+\frac{1}{2}}) \end{cases} ?$$

Using a **gradient descent** instead:

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \eta \nabla_x \mathcal{D}(x^{(k)}) - \eta \lambda \nabla \mathcal{R}(x^{(k)}) \rightarrow \Theta^{(k+1)} = \Theta^{(k)} - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta} - \eta \lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta}$$

Regularized Neural Field

$$\arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \| \mathbf{A} F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}) - \mathbf{b} \|_2^2 + \lambda \mathcal{R}(F_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}))$$



$$\Theta^{(k+1)} = \Theta^{(k)} - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta} - \eta \lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta}$$

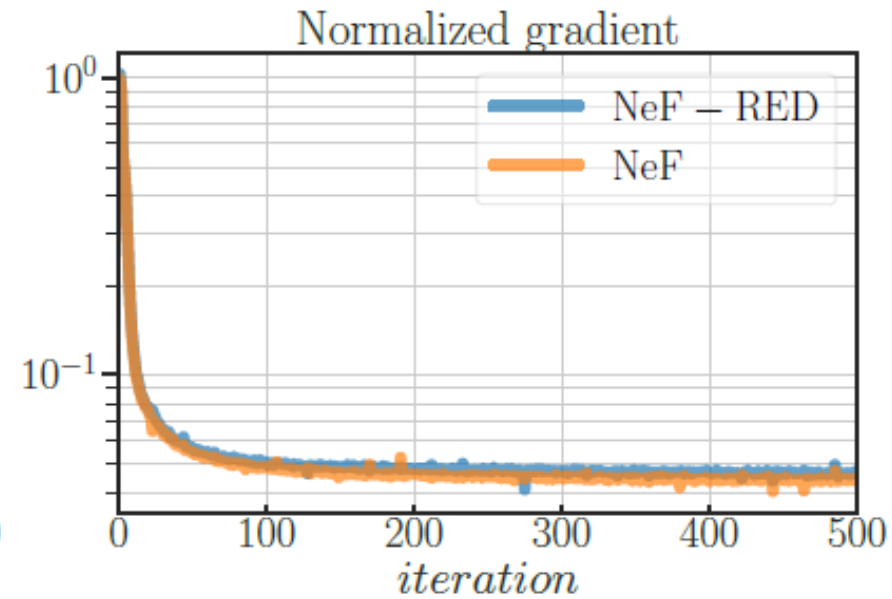
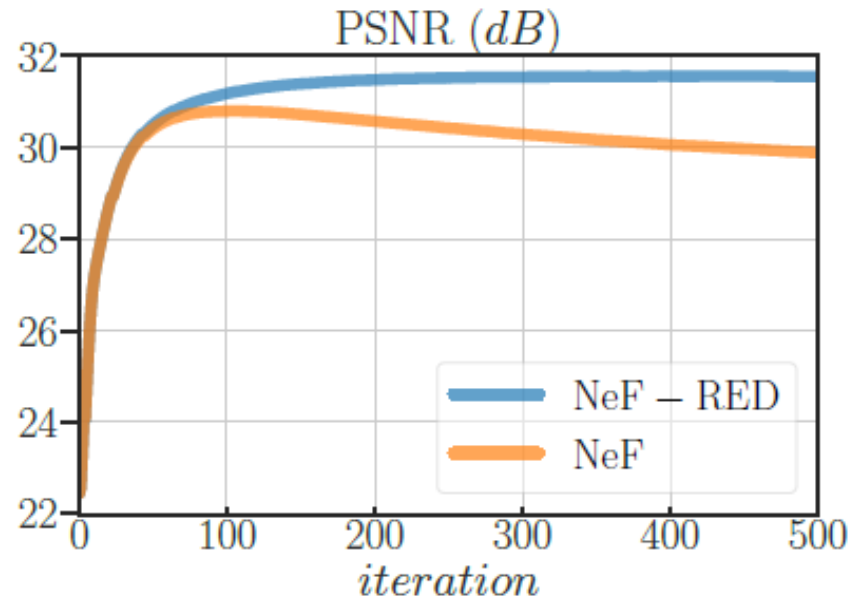
We use *Regularization by Denoising* (**RED**)

[Romano 2017]

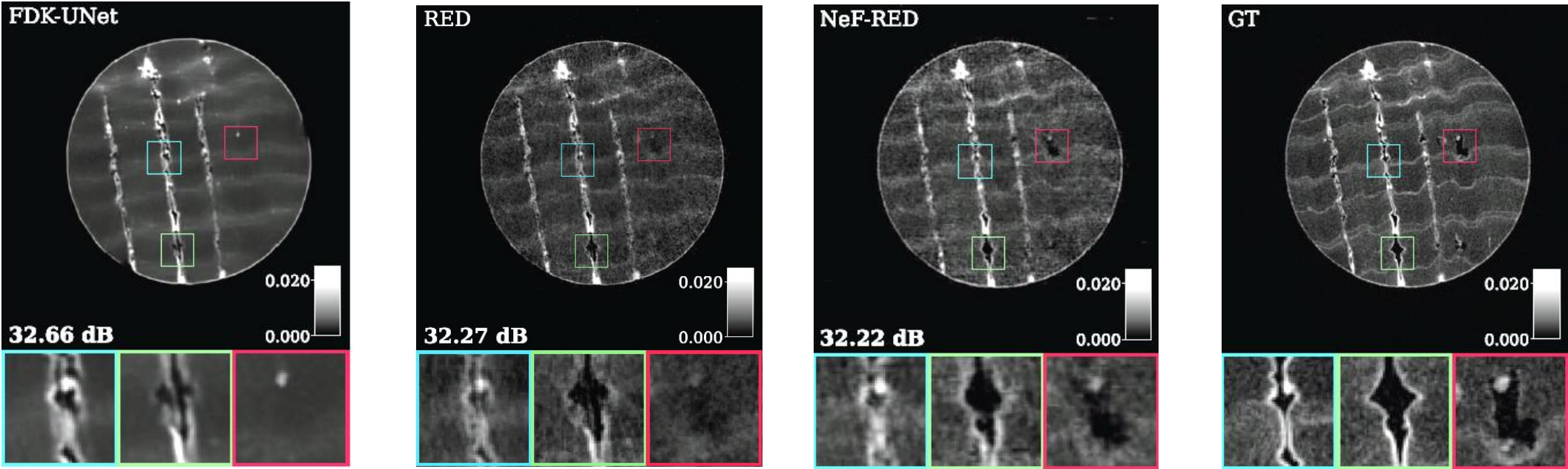
$$\nabla \mathcal{R}(x) \approx h(x) = x - D_{\phi}(x)$$

Results – empirical convergence

$$\hat{\Theta} \in \arg \min_{\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{D}(F_{\Theta}) + \lambda \mathcal{R}(F_{\Theta})$$



Results – performances



Cork-CBCT - 3D	sampling optimization		SSIM $\uparrow$	PSNR $\uparrow$	VRAM $\downarrow$
FDK	-	-	0.258	24.11	4.9
SGD	-	<i>per-scene</i>	0.652	30.52	4.7
FDK-UNet	-	<i>generalized</i>	0.827	32.96	4.9
Instant-NGP [Mül+22; ZZL22]	-	<i>per-scene</i>	0.705	30.84	7.2
RED	<i>ours</i>	<i>per-scene</i>	0.790	33.24	33.2
Ours: NeF-RED	<i>ours</i>	<i>per-scene</i>	0.797	33.27	10.0

Regularization tradeoff

$$\Theta^{(k+1)} = \Theta^{(k)} - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta} - \eta \lambda h(F_{\Theta^{(k)}}) \frac{\partial F}{\partial \Theta}$$

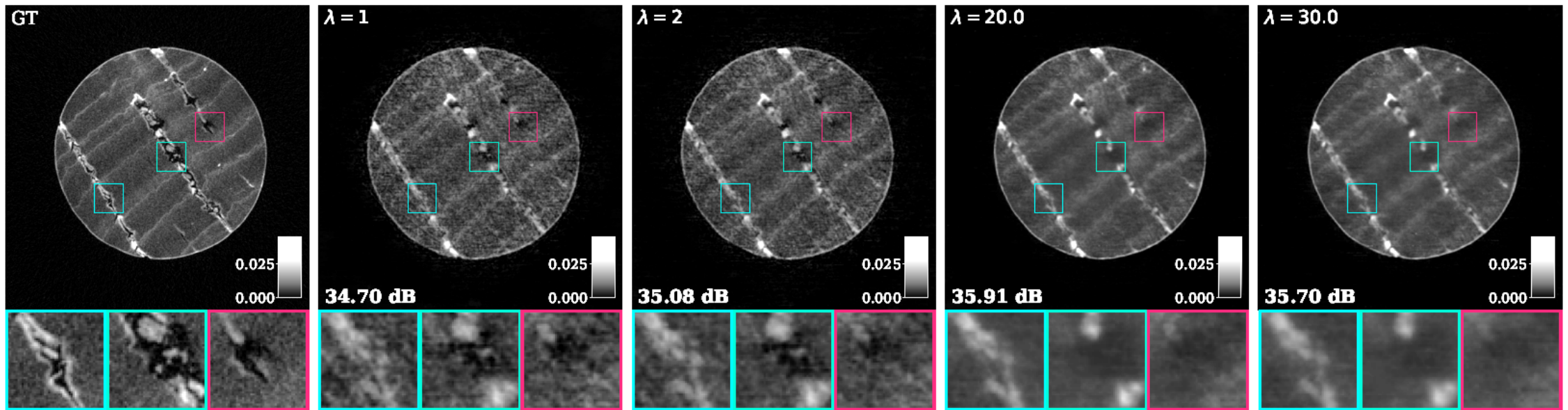
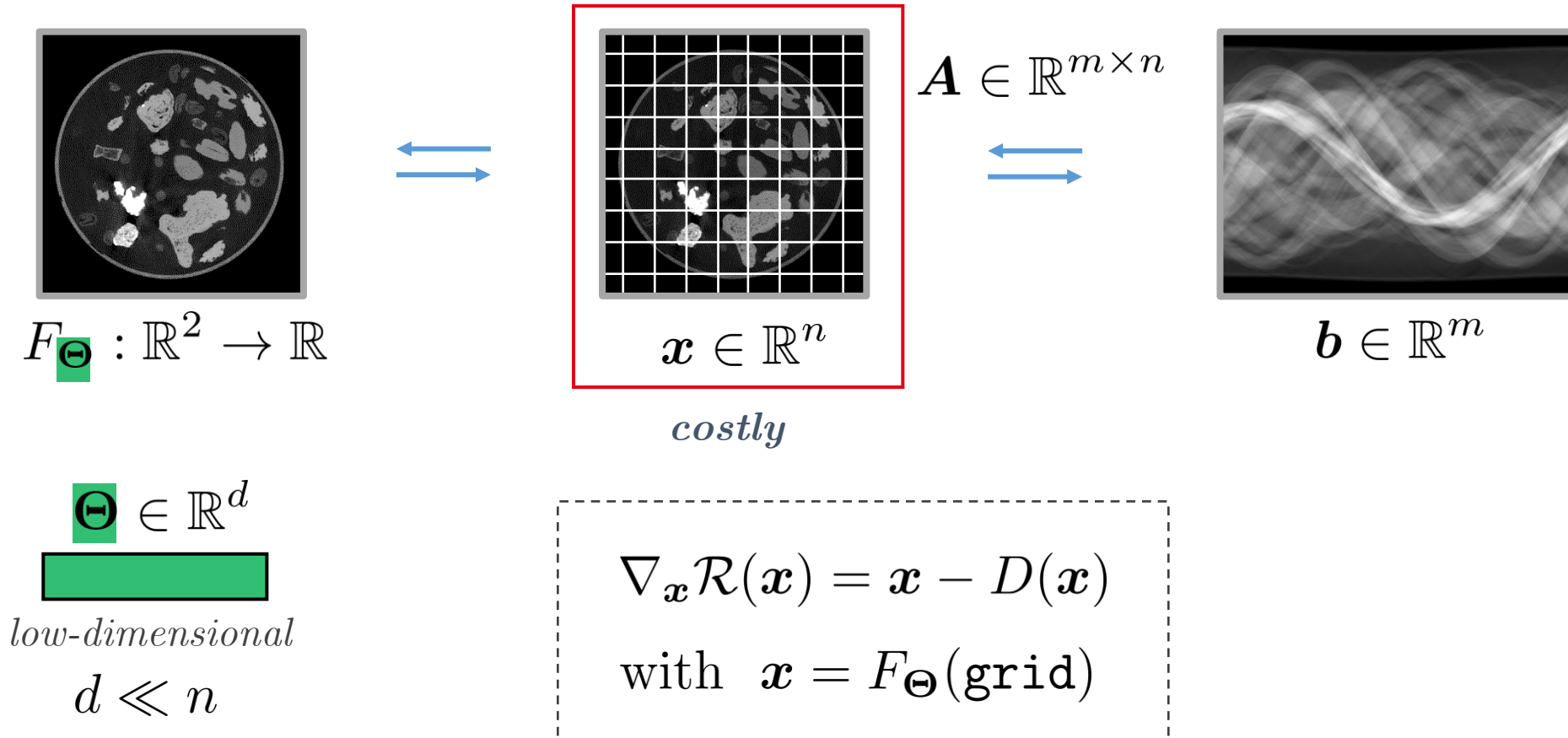


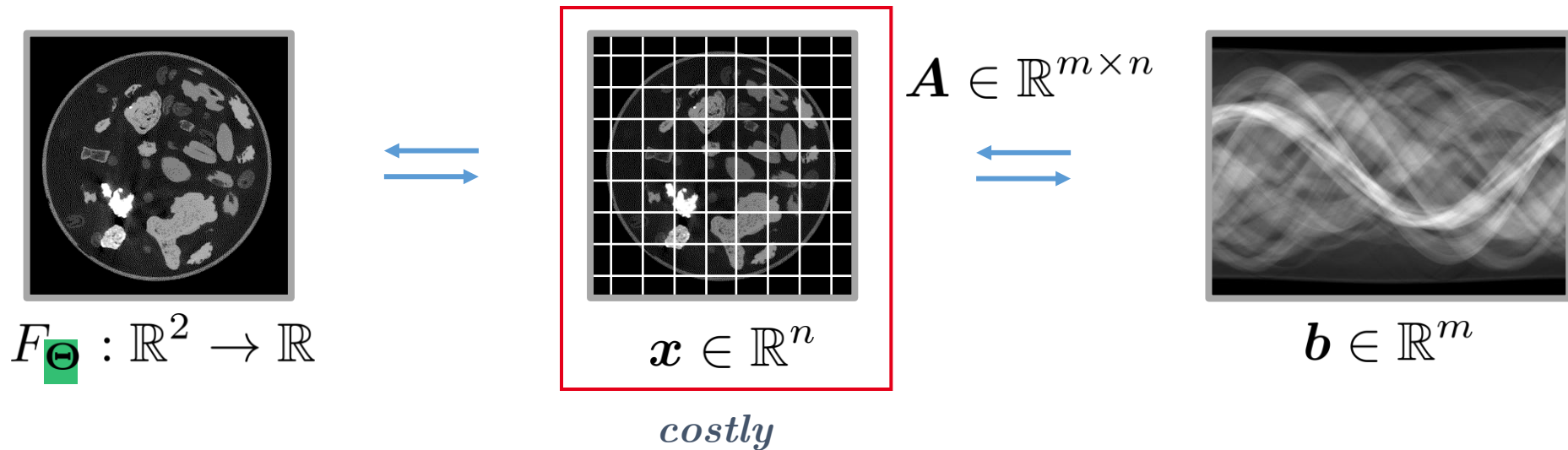
Figure 3.9: Effect of the regularization weight λ on the perceptual quality (qualitative quality) and distortion (quantitative quality / PSNR). The higher we set lambda, the smoother the reconstruction. However, the effect on the perception is not as clear (best-viewed zoomed-in).

Conclusions & Perspectives

Limitations & Perspectives



Limitations & Perspectives



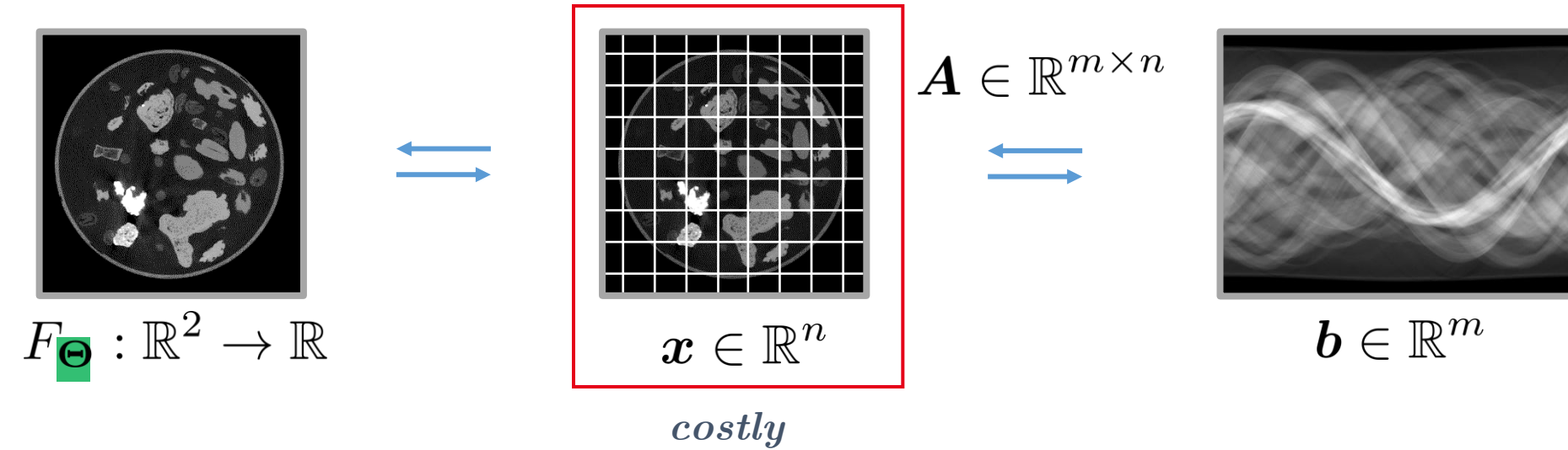
$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$

low-dimensional
 $d \ll n$

Latent denoising instead of grid denoising

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{R}(x) = x - D(x) \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla_{\Theta} \mathcal{R}(\Theta) = \Theta - D(\Theta)$$

Limitations & Perspectives



$$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

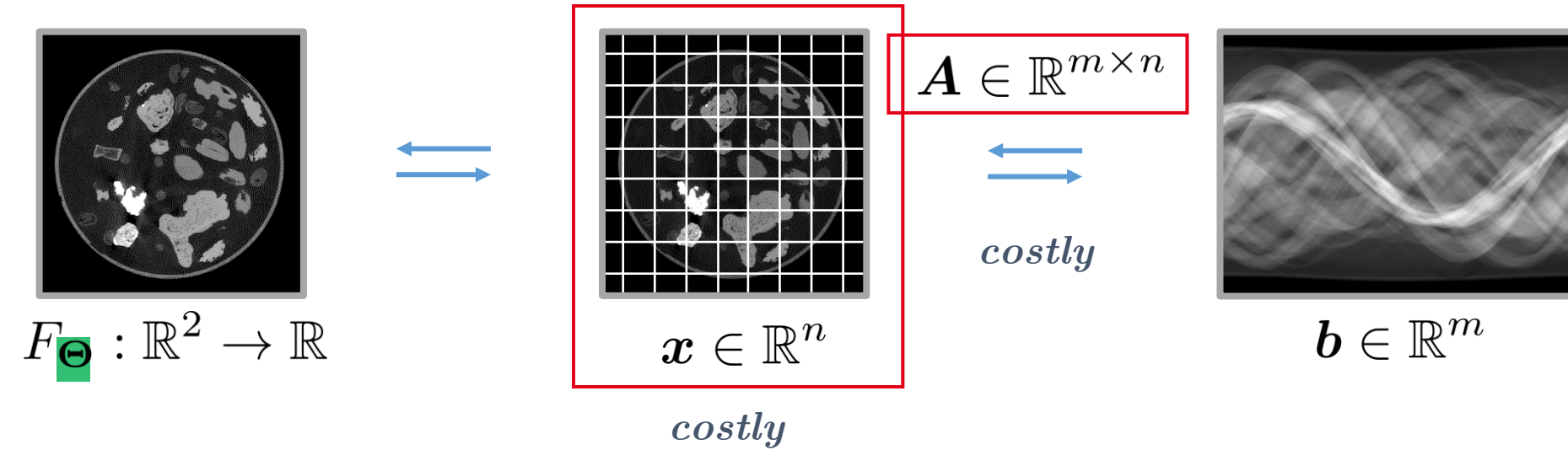

low-dimensional
 $d \ll n$

Latent denoising instead of grid denoising

- **build** operator acting on the latent
- **learning** this operator

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{R}(x) = x - D(x) \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla_{\Theta} \mathcal{R}(\Theta) = \Theta - D(\Theta)$$

Limitations & Perspectives



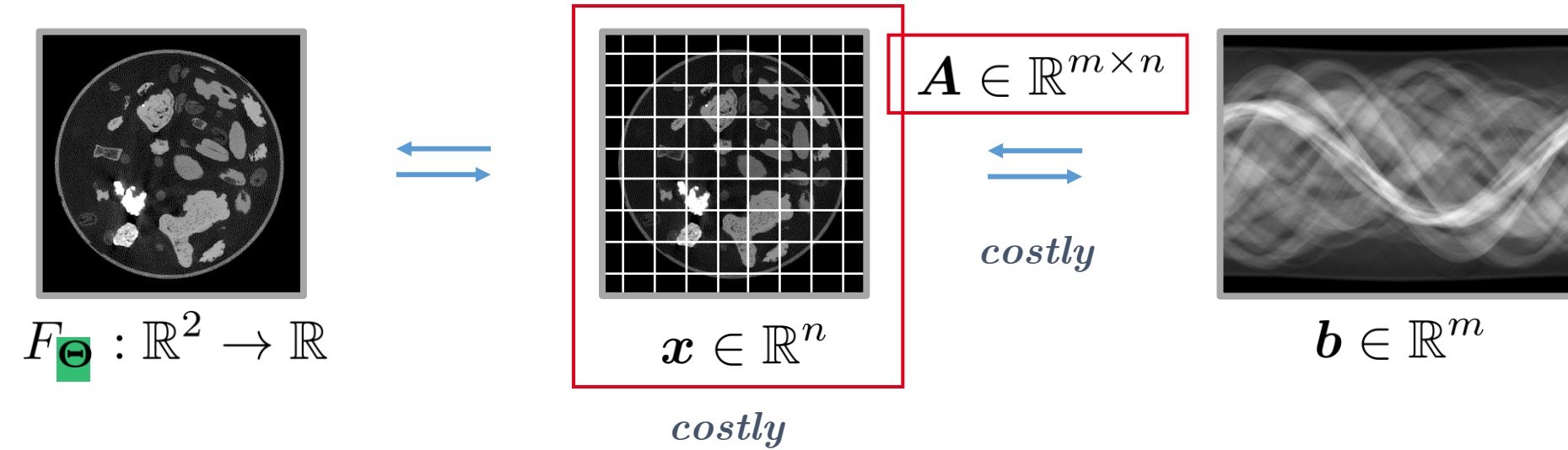
$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$
 $d \ll n$
low-dimensional

Data-fidelity

- ☐ Variational approach $\rightarrow \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}^\top$ [Venkatakrishnan 2013, Adler 2017]
- ☐ One-step conditioning [Terris 2025]

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = D_\phi(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b})$$

Limitations & Perspectives



$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$

low-dimensional

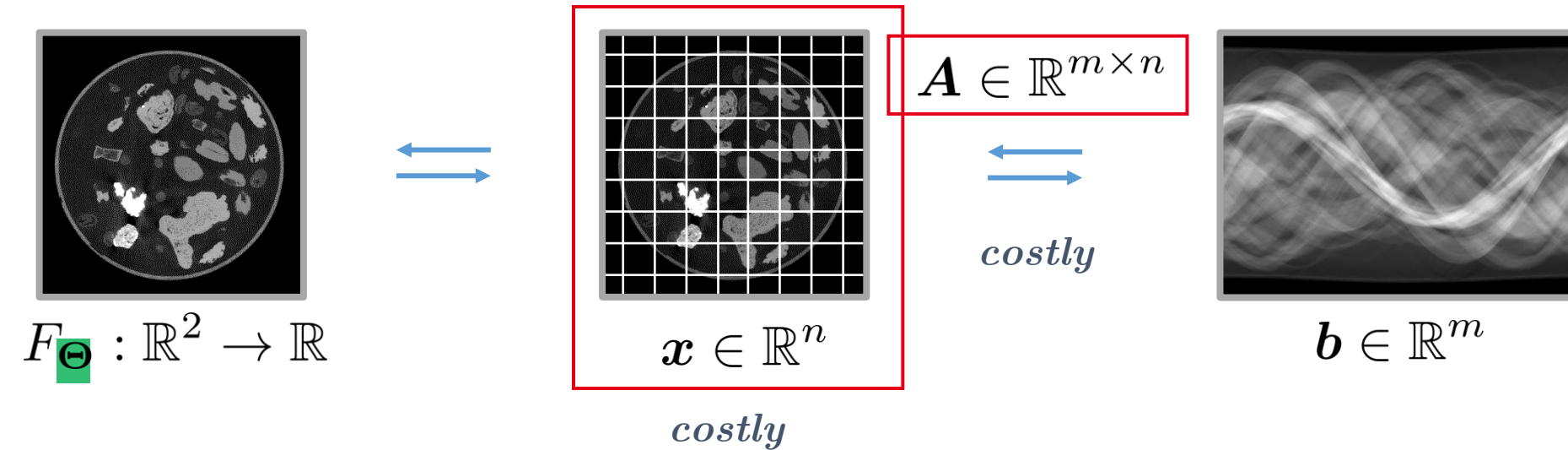
$d \ll n$

Data-fidelity

- ☐ **Variational approach** $\rightarrow A, A^T$ [Venkatakrishnan 2013, Adler 2017]
- ☐ **One-step** conditioning [Terris 2025]
- ☐ **Null-space** denoising [Schwab 2019]

$$\hat{x} = A^+ b + (I - A^+ A) D_{\phi}(\tilde{x})$$

Limitations & Perspectives



$$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

low-dimensional

$$d \ll n$$

Data-fidelity $\mathcal{D}(\Theta) = \frac{1}{2} \|AF_{\Theta}(\mathcal{X}) - b\|_2^2$

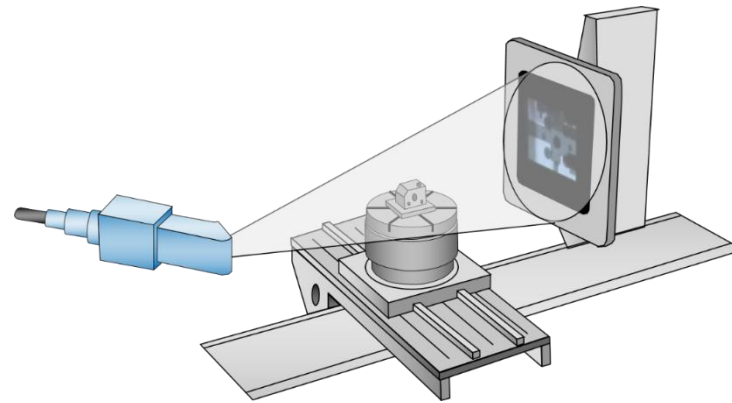
□ Approximation ? $f_{\phi}(\Theta) \approx \nabla \mathcal{D}(\Theta)$

[Lindell 2021]
[Raphaëli 2025]

Call for Data !

Develop solutions for **large-scale** imaging inverse problem in 3D

- ☐ 3D CT (ray-based partitioning)
- ☐ 3D MRI
- ☐ others ?



?

Thank you for your
attention



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