

Computational Imaging: Reconciling Physical and Learned Models

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**Machine learning will change imaging technology,
but the current technology is still in its infancy**

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People with no idea about AI saying it will take over the world:

My Neural Network:



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 **Bomze**
@tg_bomze

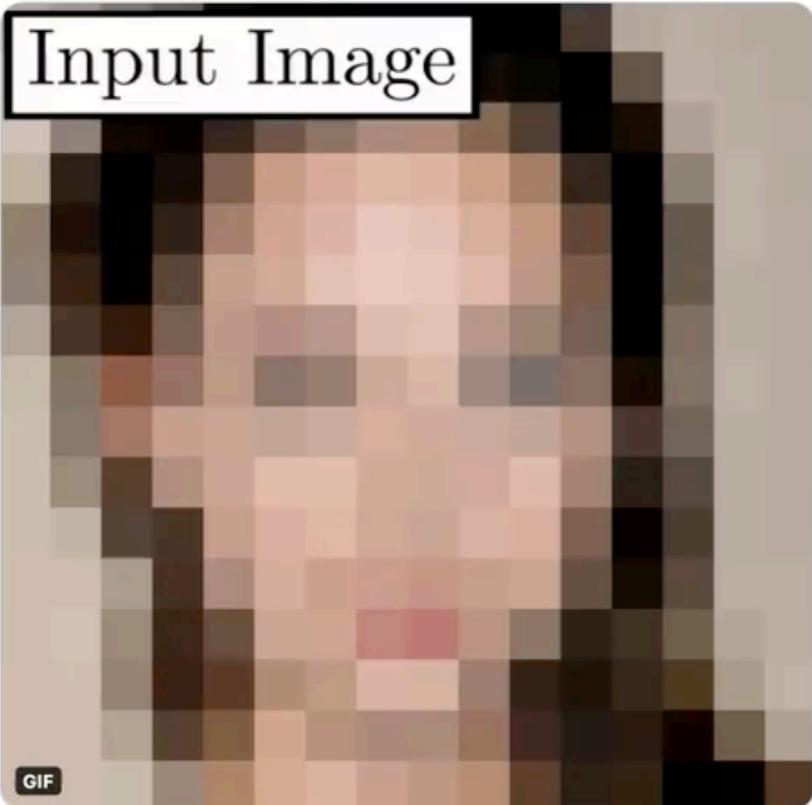
Face Depixelizer

Given a low-resolution input image, model generates high-resolution images that are perceptually realistic and downscale correctly.

 GitHub: github.com/tg-bomze/Face-...
 Colab: colab.research.google.com/github/tg-bomz...

P.S. Colab is based on the github.com/adamian98/pulse

Input Image



GIF

4:56 PM · Jun 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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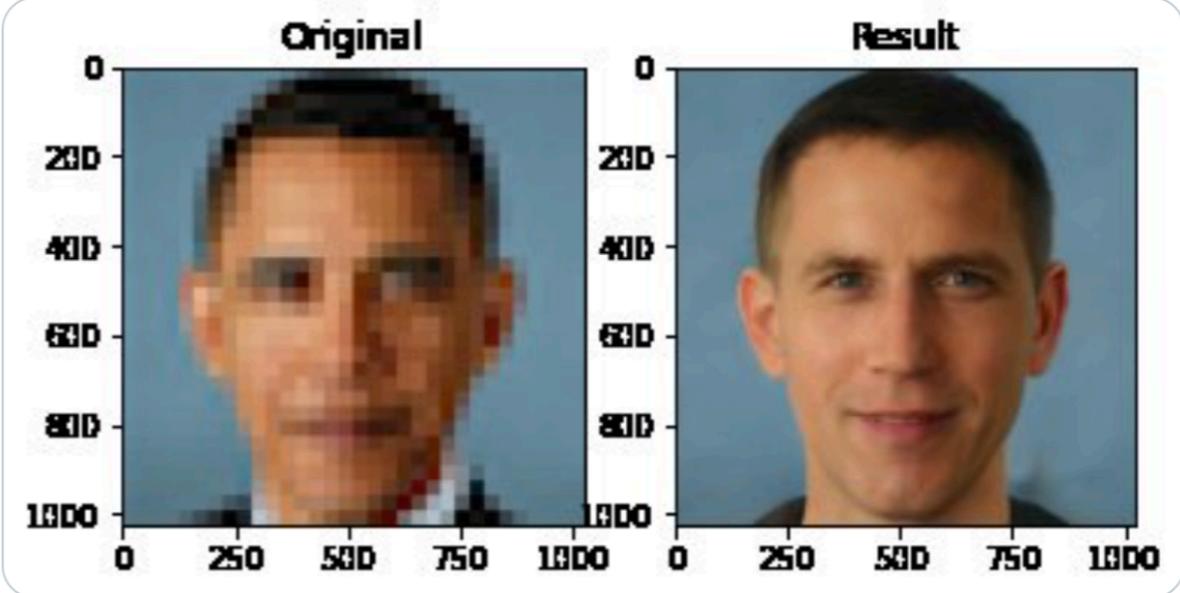
4:56 PM · Jun 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Counter example:

Chicken3gg
@Chicken3gg

Replying to @tg_bomze

🤔 🤔 🤔

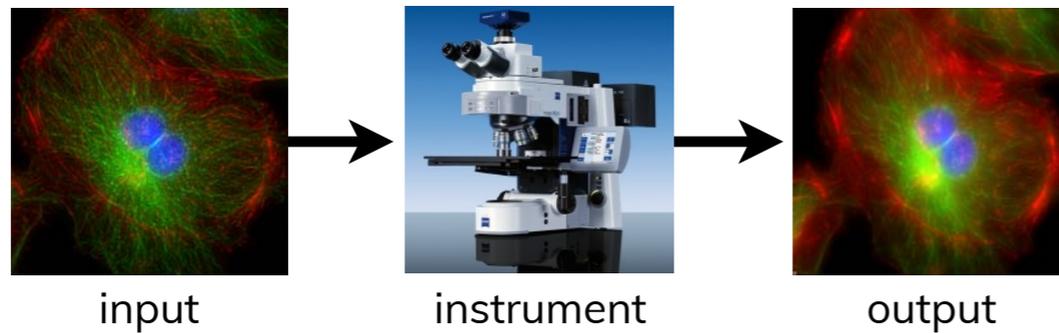


7:14 AM · Jun 20, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Biomedical imaging is going through a
paradigm shift driven by machine learning

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Past: Focus on hardware for image formation

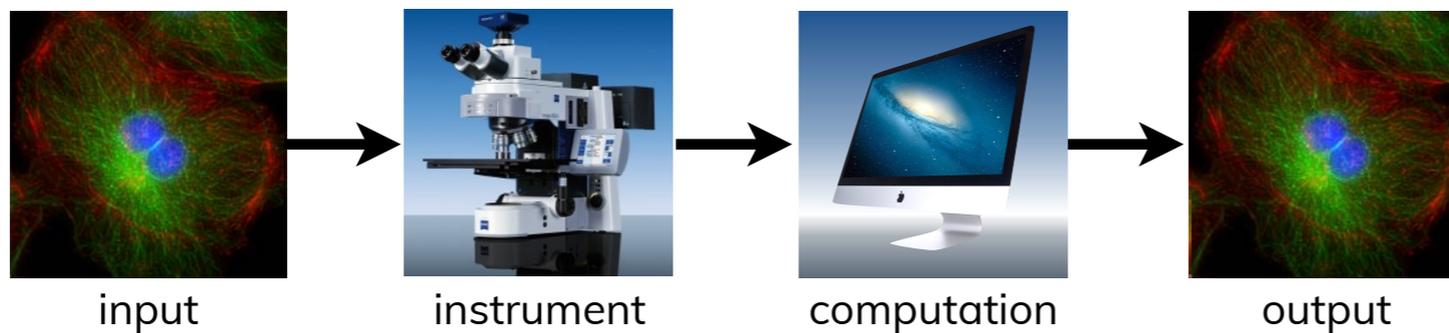


Biomedical imaging is going through a paradigm shift driven by machine learning

Past: Focus on hardware for image formation



Present: Use digital image processing for better performance

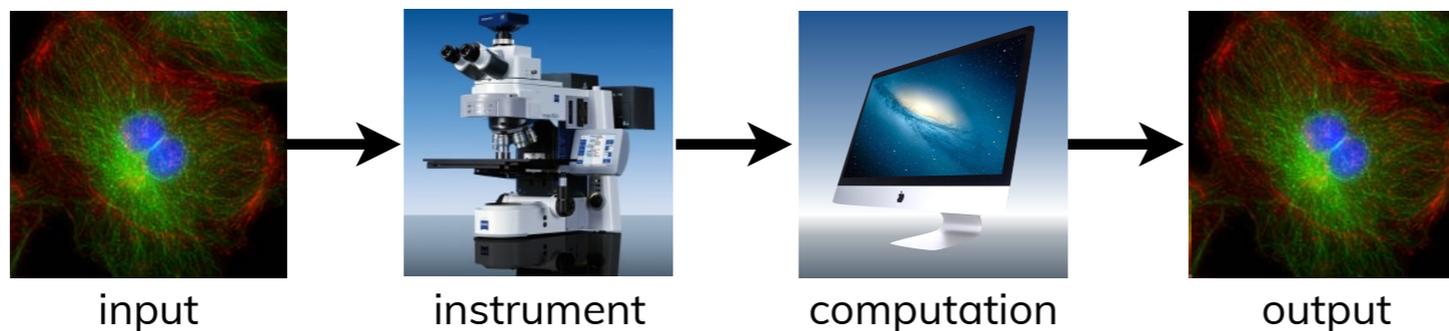


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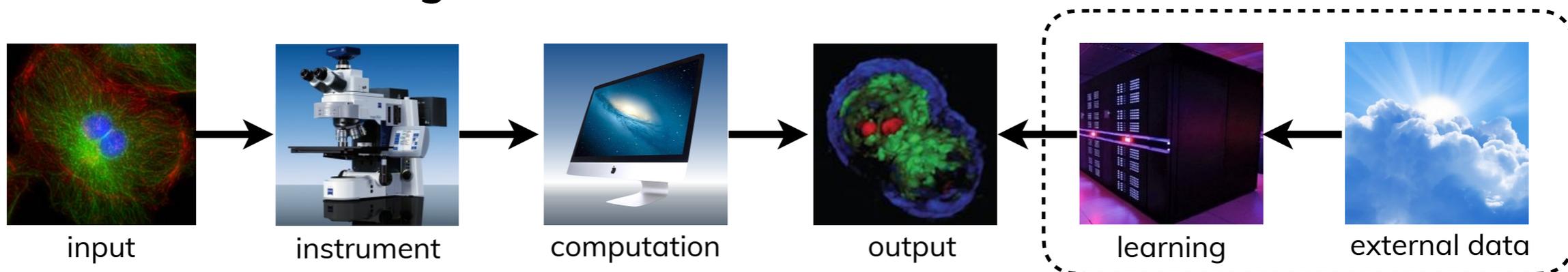
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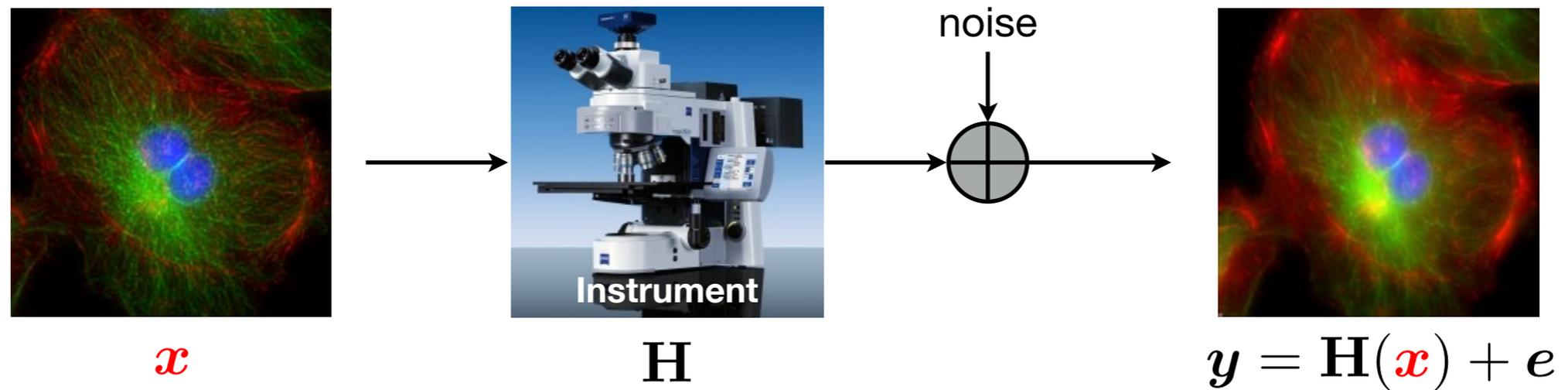


Future: AI for retrieving *hidden* information



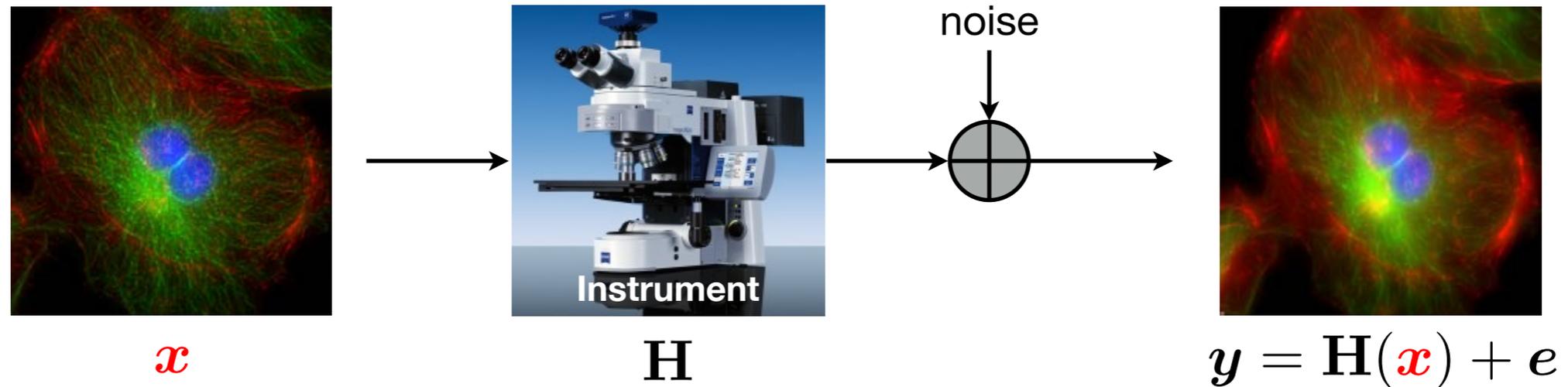
The vast majority of imaging problems
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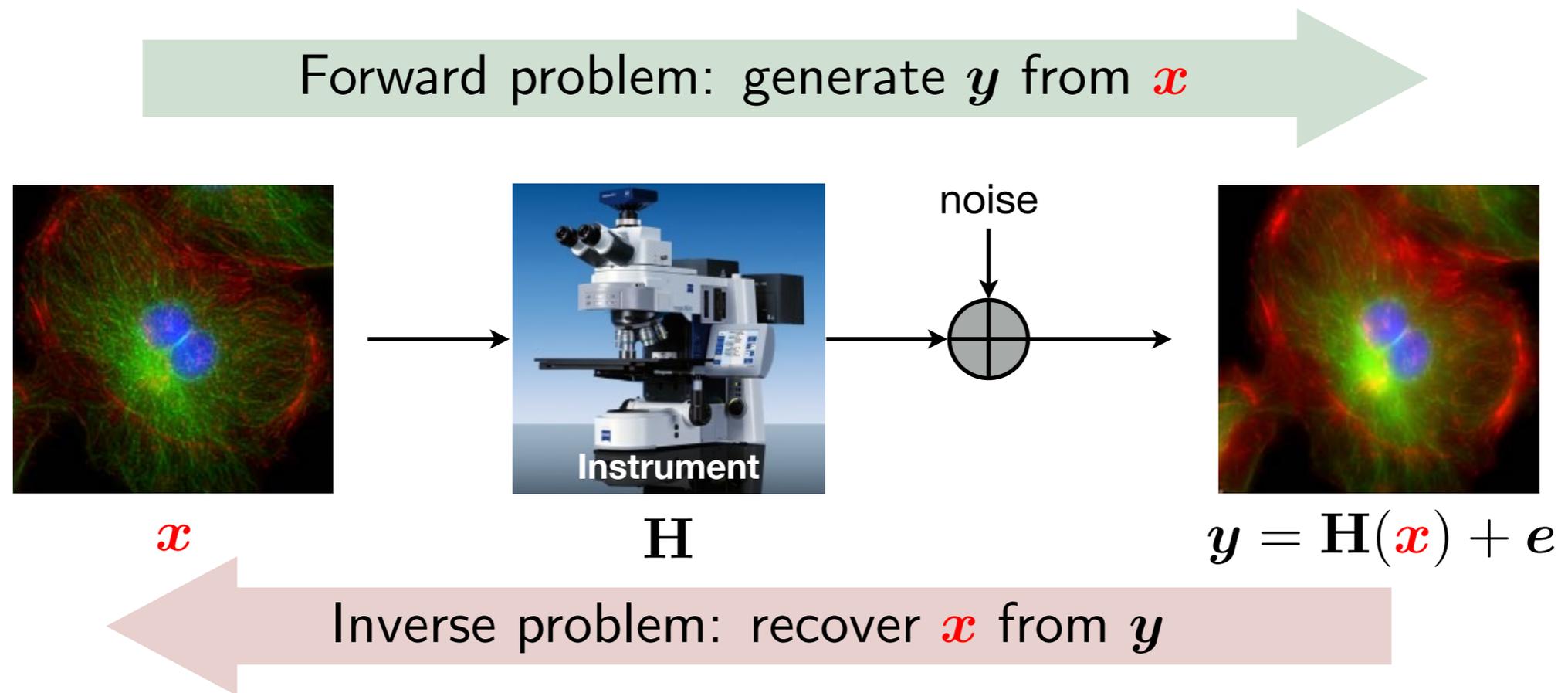


The vast majority of imaging problems can be formulated as inverse problems

Forward problem: generate y from x



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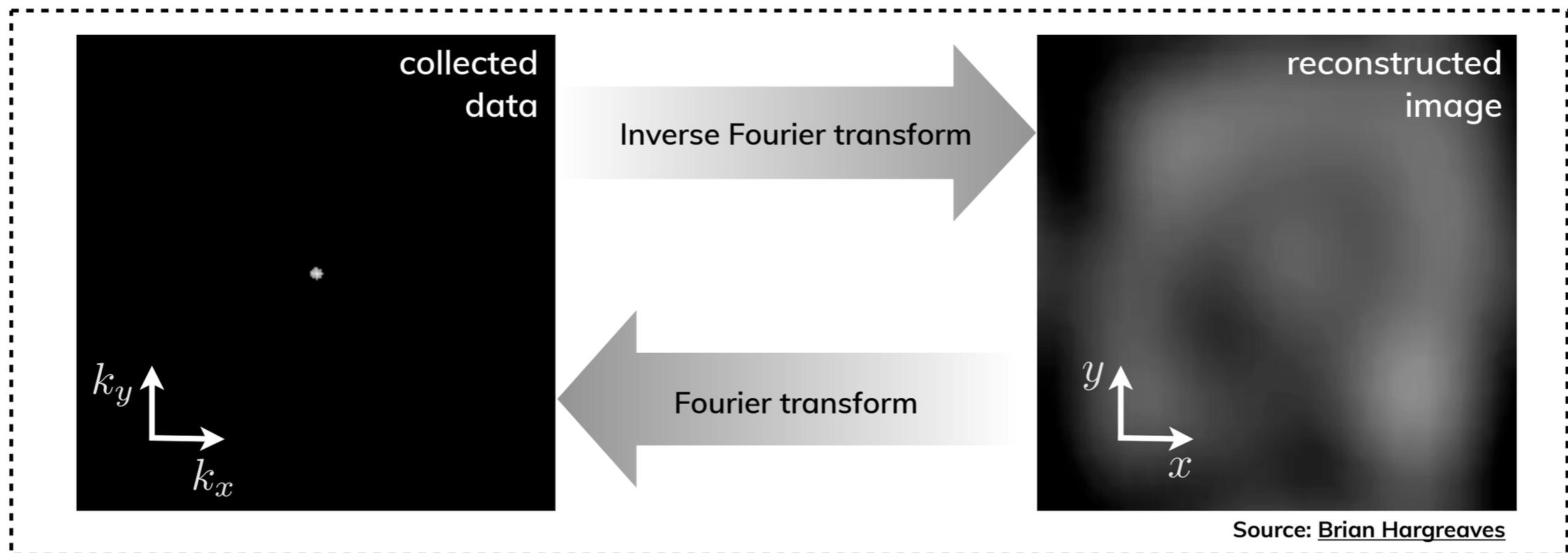
Imaging Problem	Light Source	Forward Model	Variations
2D or 3D tomography	coherent x-ray	$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{R}_{\theta_i} \mathbf{x}$	parallel, cone beam
3D deconvolution microscopy	fluorescence	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}$	brightfield, confocal, light sheet
structured illumination microscopy (SIM)	fluorescence	$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{x}$	full 3D reconstruction, non-sinusoidal patterns
positron emission tomography (PET)	gamma rays	$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{H}_{\theta_i} \mathbf{x}$	list mode with time-of-flight
magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	radio frequency	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{S} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$	uniform or nonuniform sampling in k-space
Cardiac MRI (parallel, nonuniform)	radio frequency	$\mathbf{y}_{t,i} = \mathbf{S}_t \mathbf{F} \mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{x}$	gated or nongated, retrospective registration
optical diffraction tomography (ODT)	coherent light	$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}$	with holography or gating interferometry

Example: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
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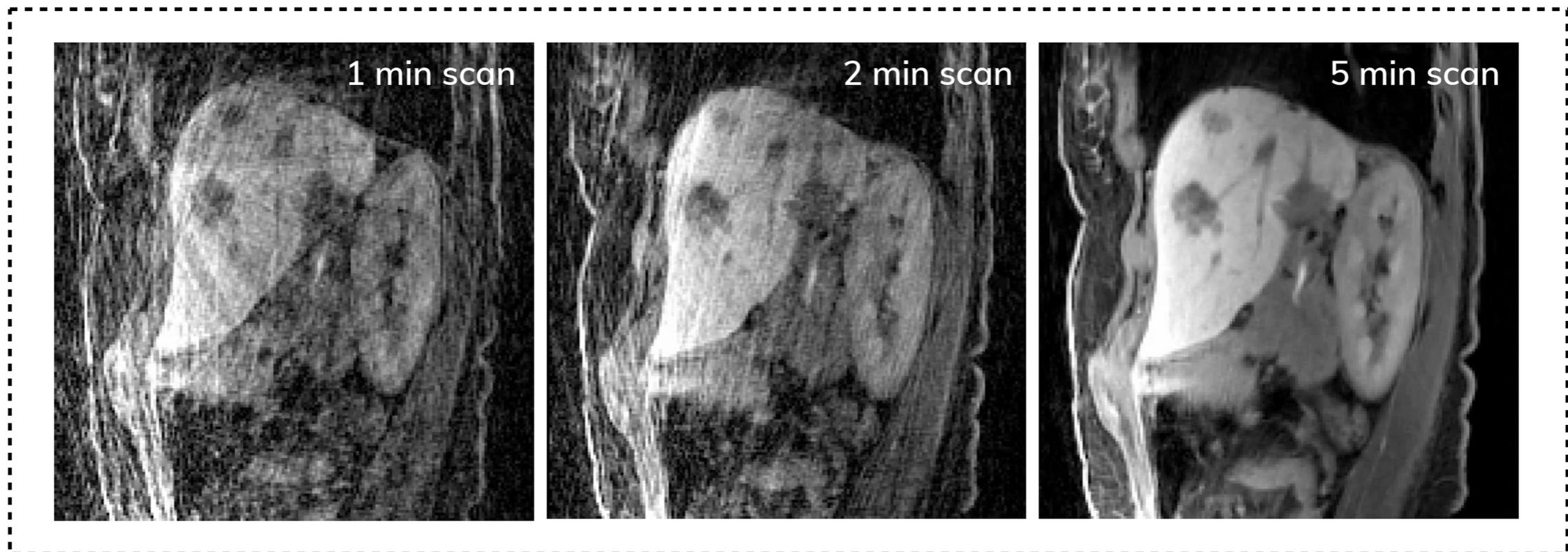
Example: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) collects data in the spatial-frequency domain



Longer data collection leads to **better images**,
but it implies more **discomfort for patients**



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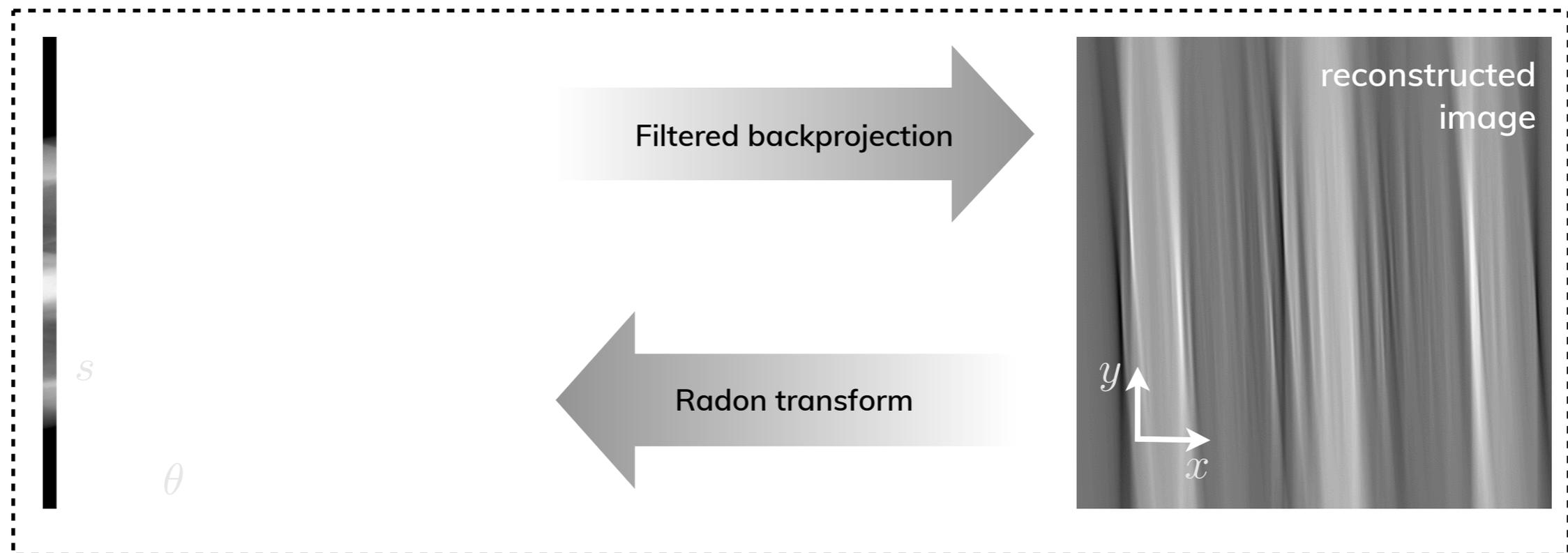


Longer data collection leads to **better images**,
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Example: Tomographic imaging forms a single volumetric image from multiple projections

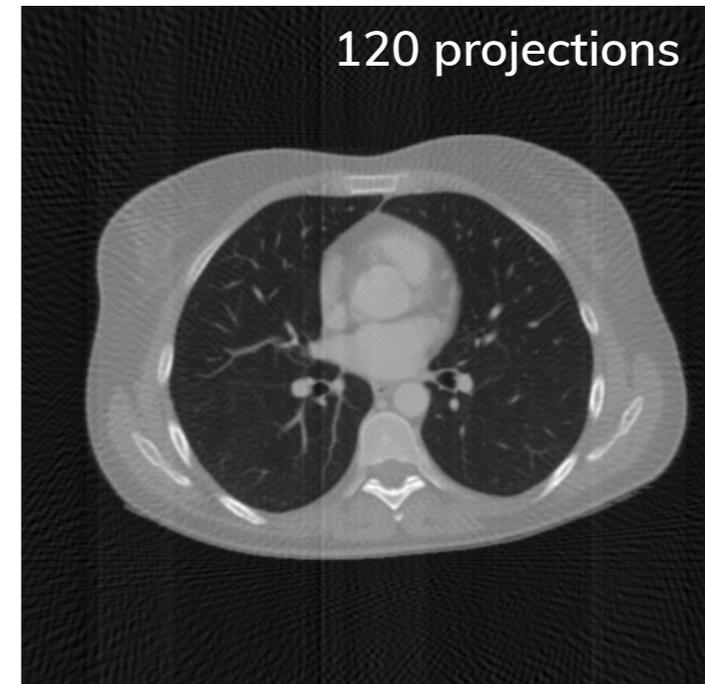
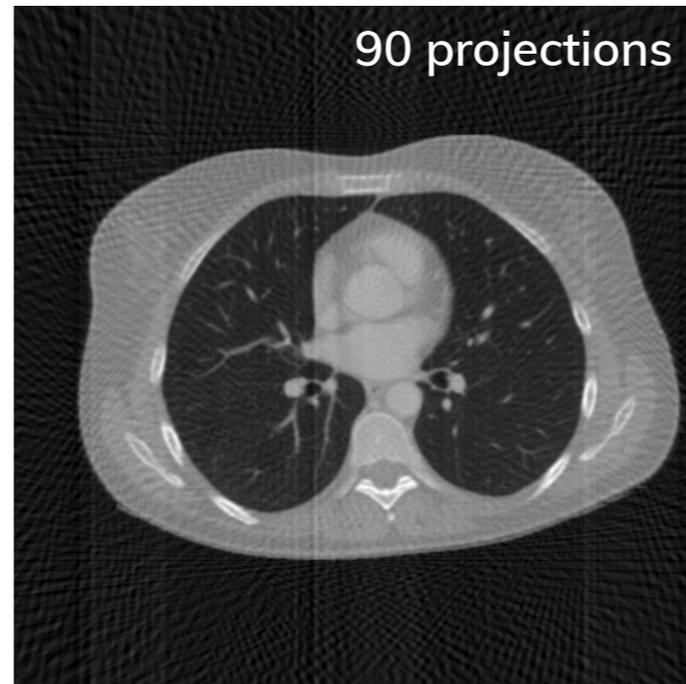
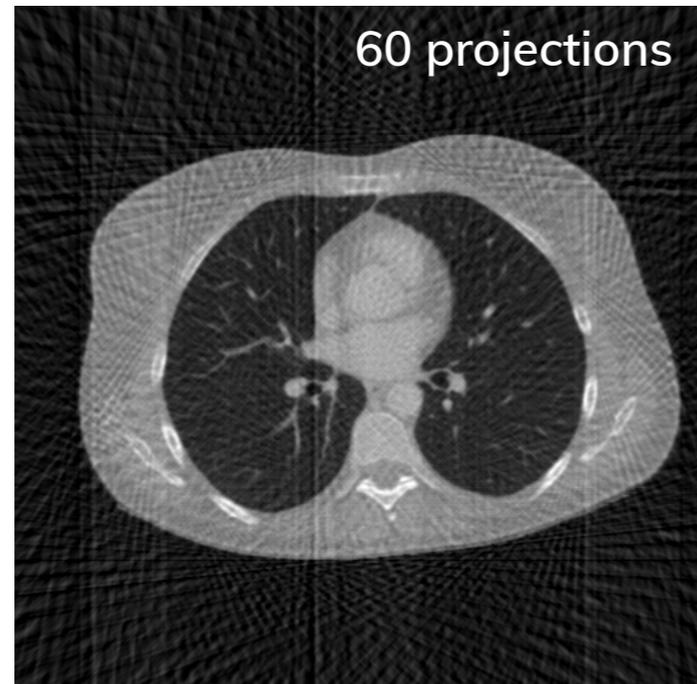
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More projections lead to **better images**,
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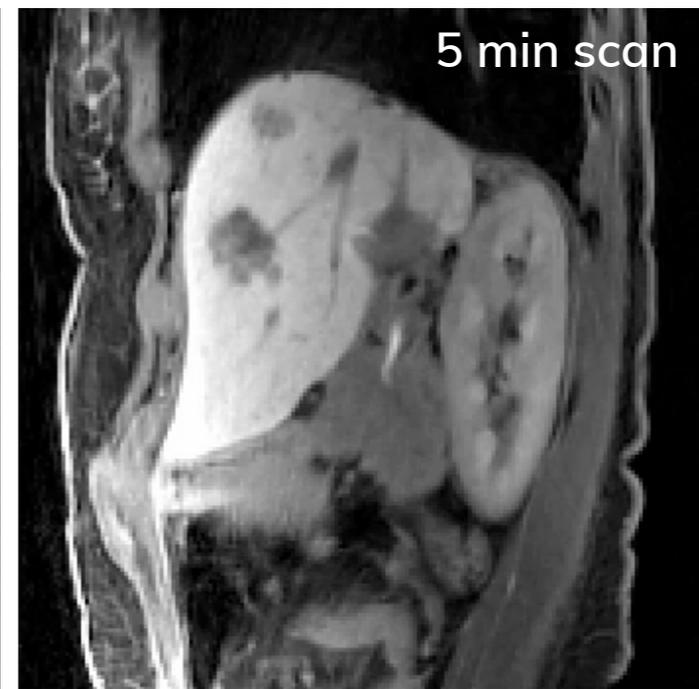
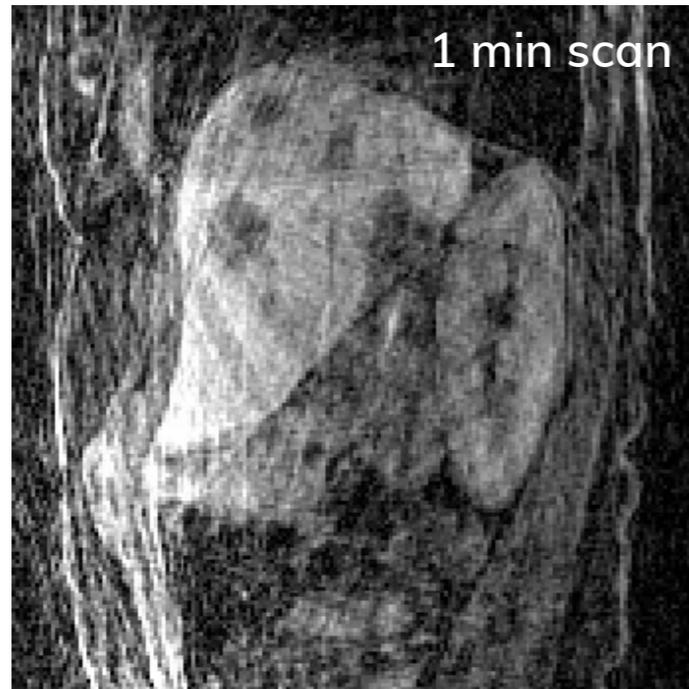


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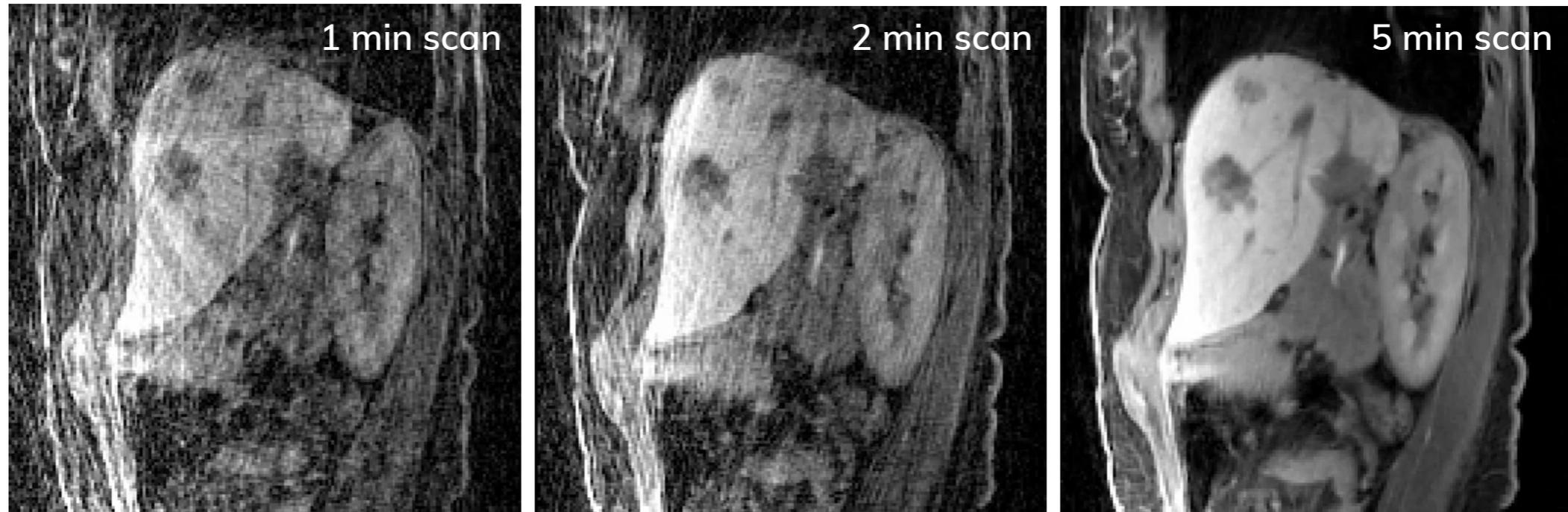


Three challenges in biomedical imaging:
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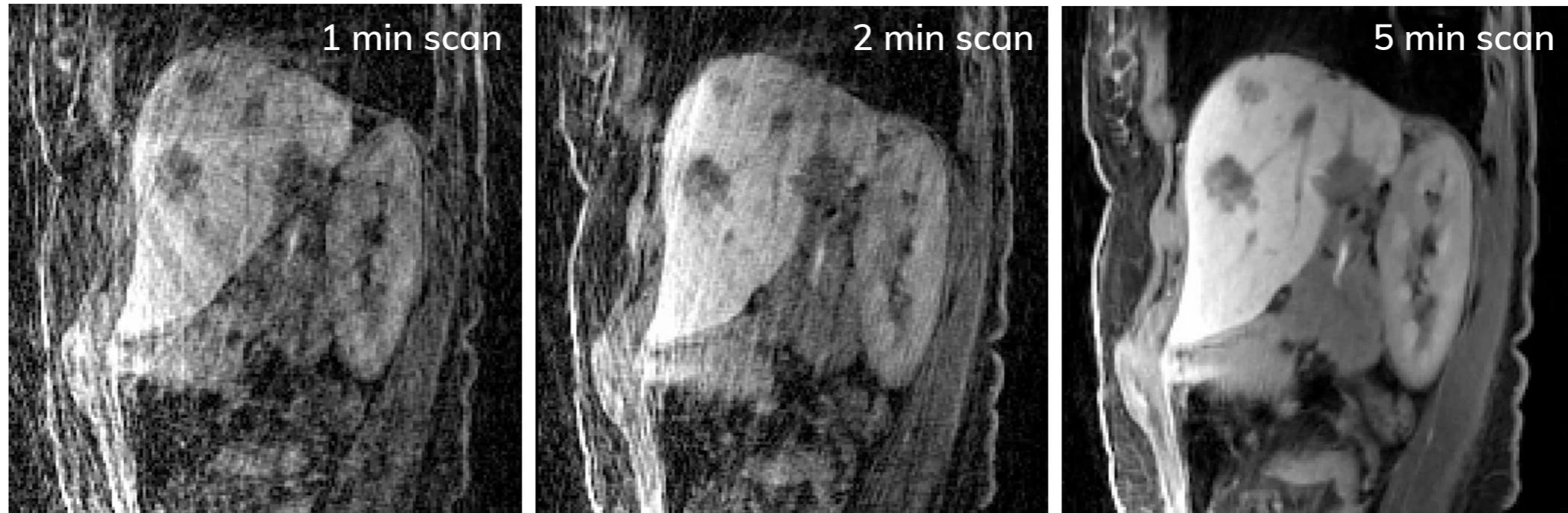


Three challenges in biomedical imaging: slow acquisition, imaging artifacts, and big data



Challenge #1: Acquisition is too slow for some applications
Due to sequential and indirect acquisition of data

Three challenges in biomedical imaging: slow acquisition, imaging artifacts, and big data



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Challenge #2: Reconstructed images contain artifacts:

Due to undersampling, model mismatch, and noise

Three challenges in biomedical imaging: slow acquisition, imaging artifacts, and big data



Challenge #1: Acquisition is too slow for some applications

Due to sequential and indirect acquisition of data

Challenge #2: Reconstructed images contain artifacts:

Due to undersampling, model mismatch, and noise

Challenge #3: High computational/memory requirements:

Due to large volumes of data to process

Outline for the rest of the talk

- ◉ Regularization by Artifact Removal (**RARE**)
Integrating physical models and learned deep priors
- ◉ Efficient model-based deep learning (**SGD-Net**)
Approximating physical layers for complexity gains

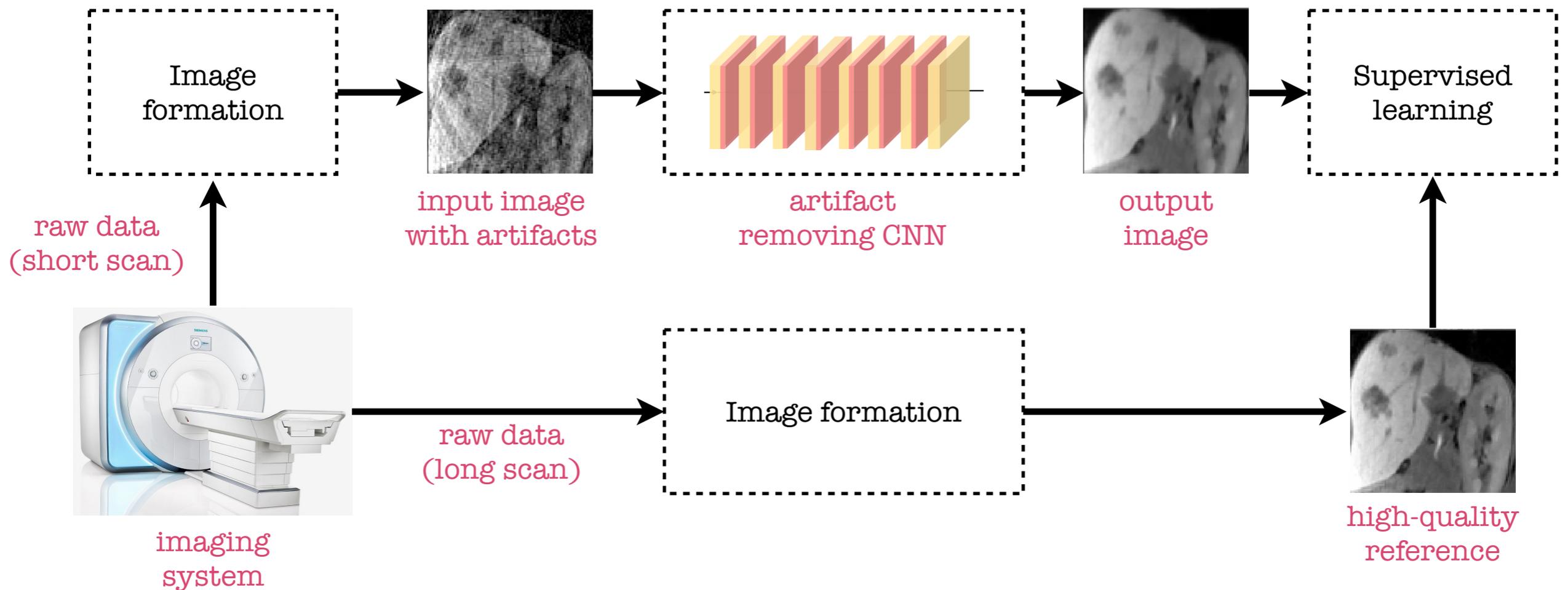
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Simple recipe for DL-based image formation: Train a **supervised artifact-removing CNN**

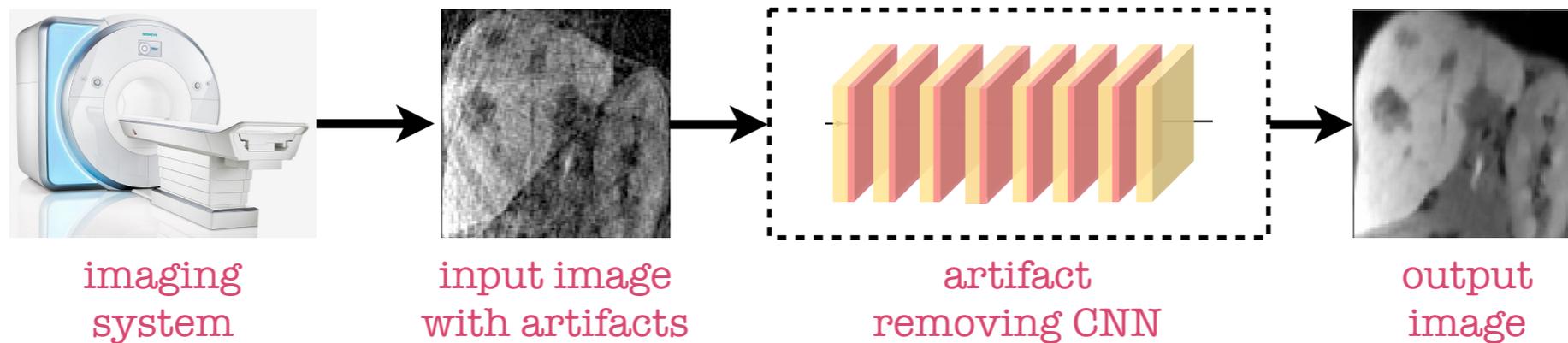
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Example: Train a deep neural net to remove artifacts from an image



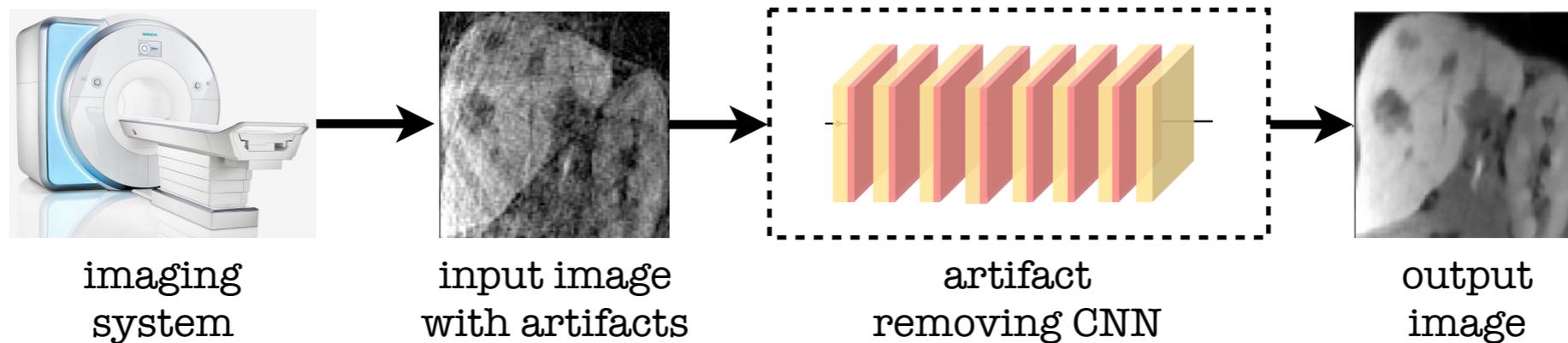
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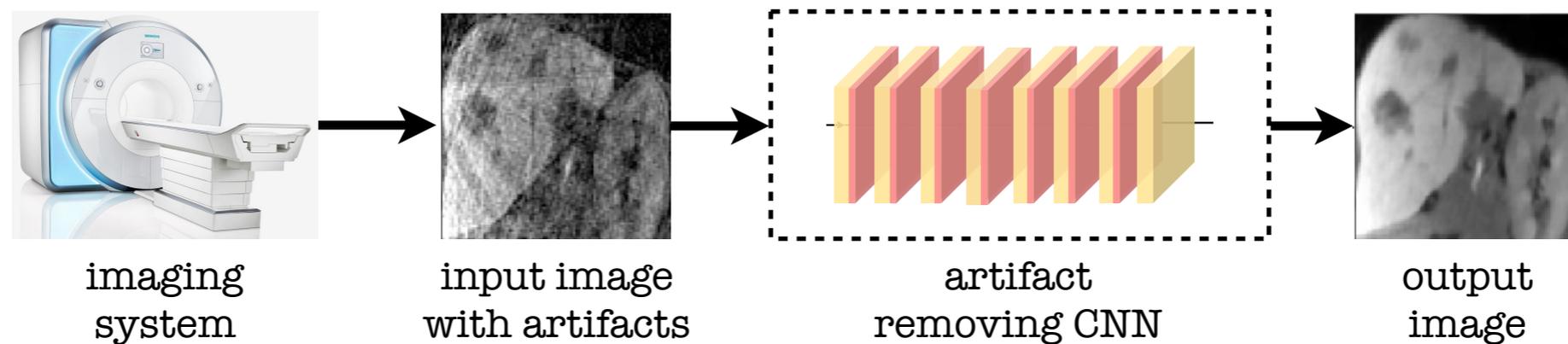
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Question: What are some **advantages** of this approach?

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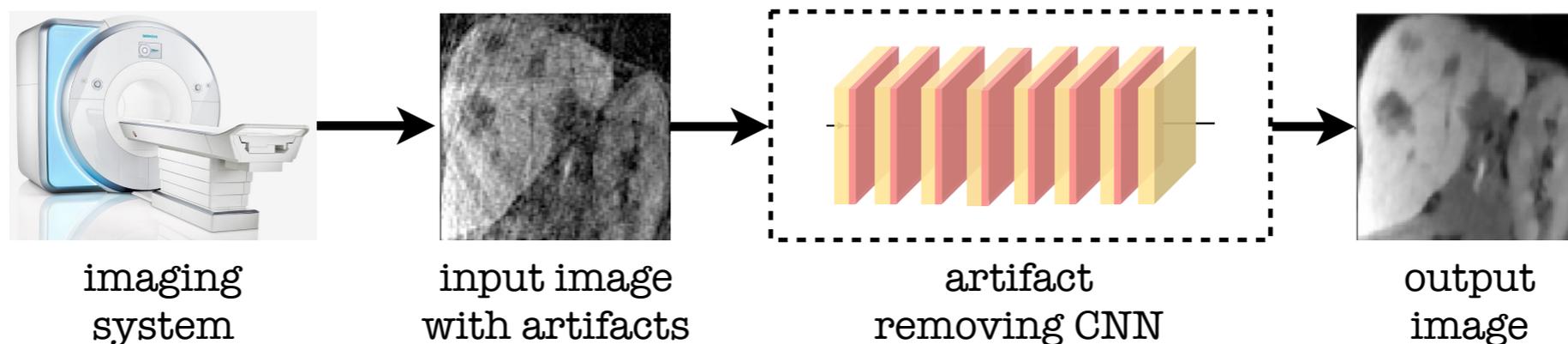
Question: What are some advantages of this approach?

Advantage #1: Very easy to implement and deploy

Use existing deep learning frameworks and architectures

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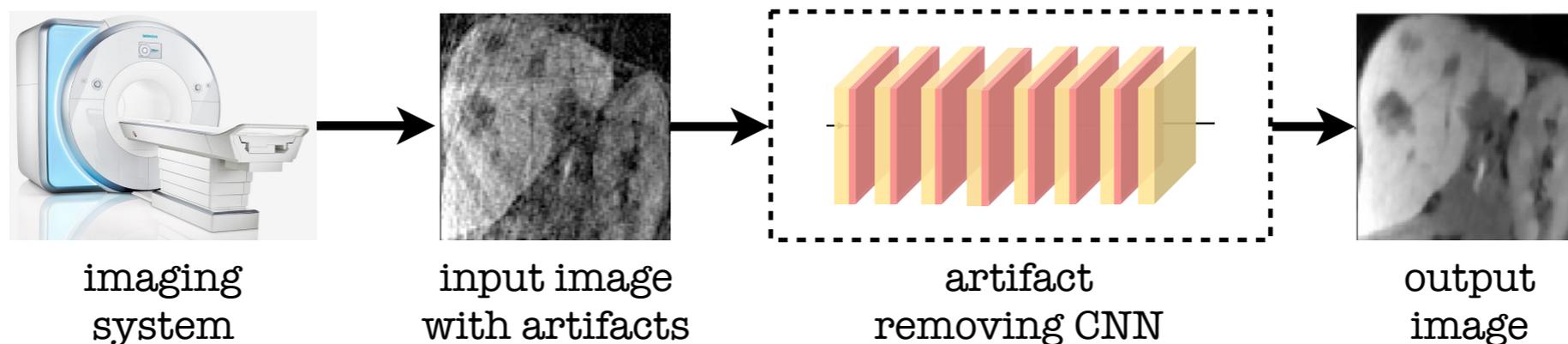
Advantage #1: Very easy to implement and deploy

Advantage #2: Very fast at test time

Simple pass through CNN (seconds) vs. optimization (hours)

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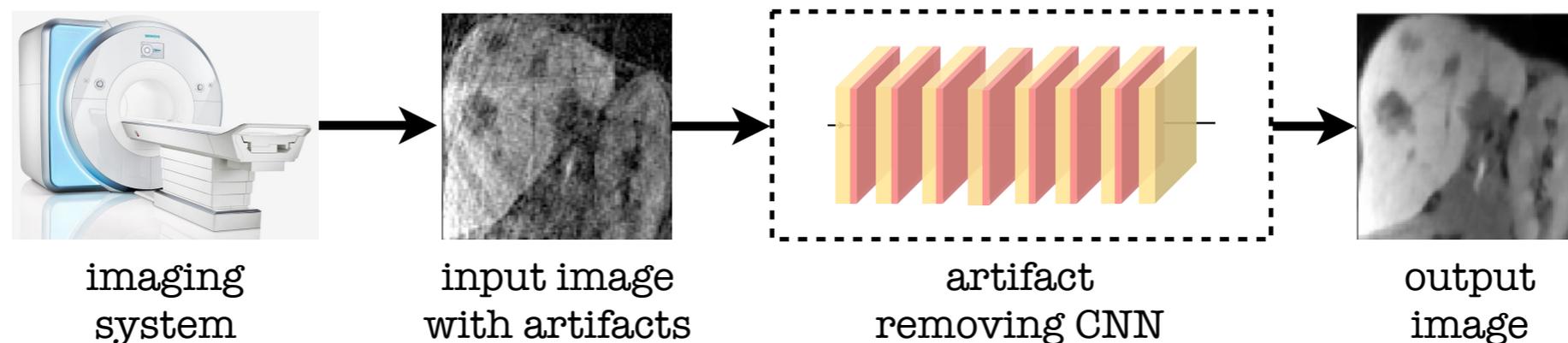
Advantage #2: Very fast at test time

Advantage #3: No need to explicitly model anything

Everything is learned automatically from data

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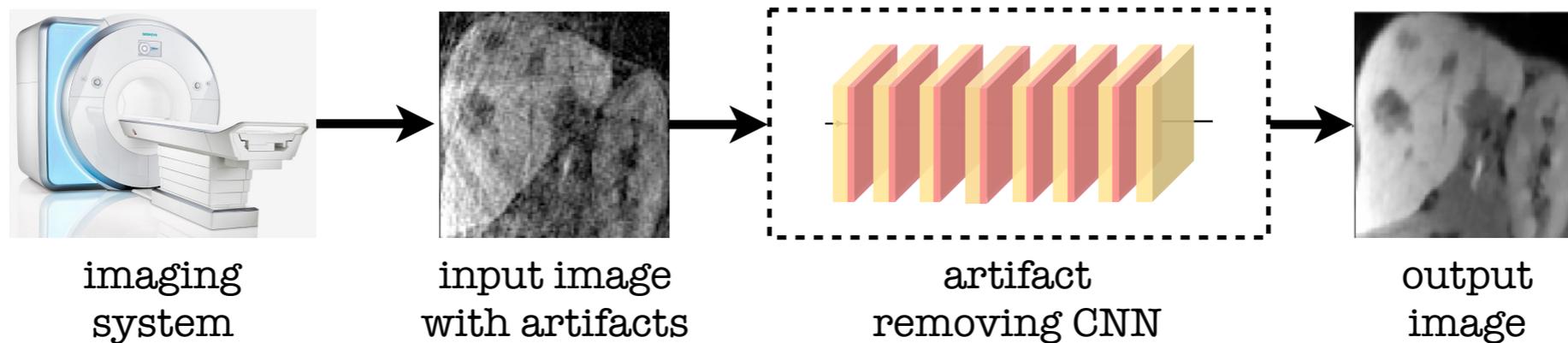
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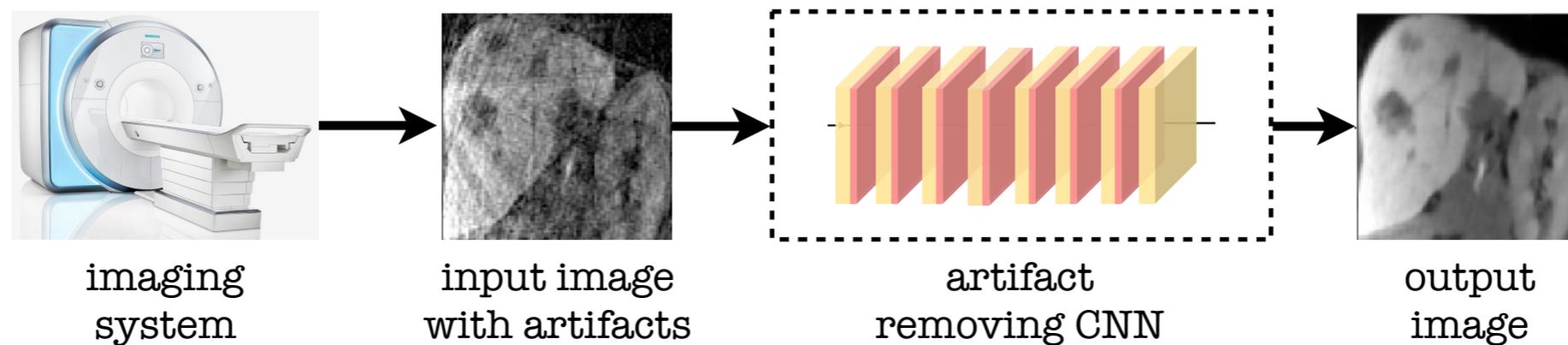
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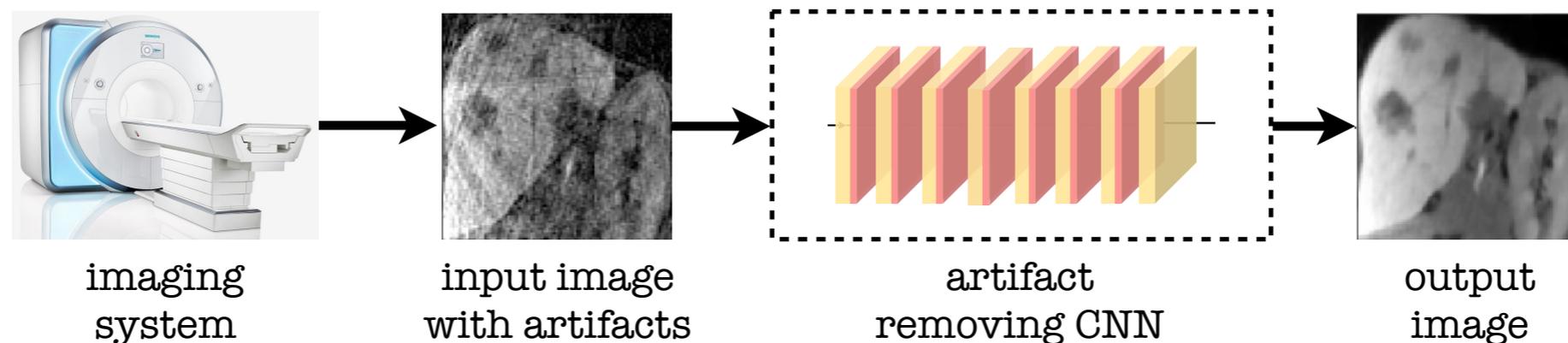
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Limitation #1: Does not allow for efficient **model adaptation**

One must **retrain** the model, which is computationally expensive!

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Question: What are some limitations of this approach?

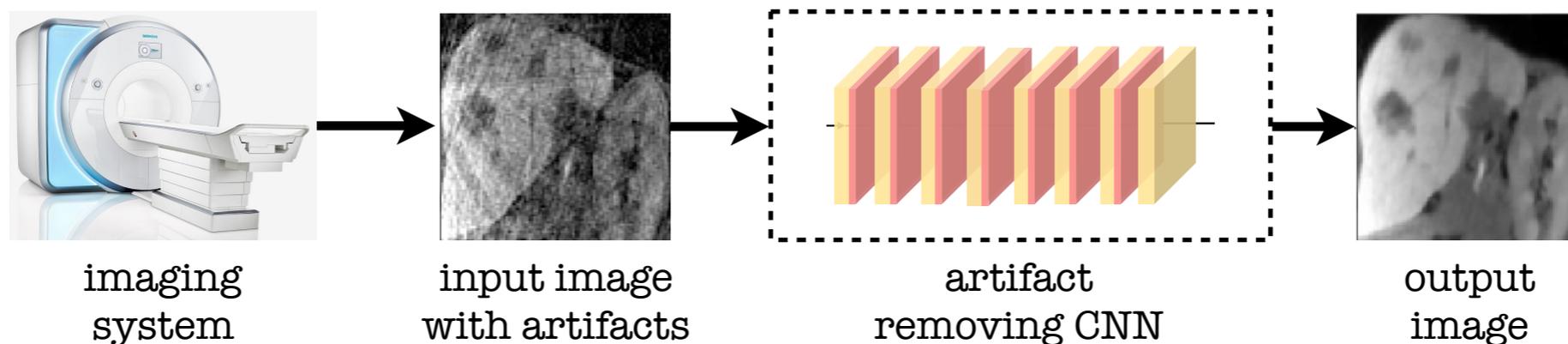
Limitation #1: Does not allow for efficient model adaptation

Limitation #2: Needs **ground truth** for training the CNN

Limits applicability to some important imaging problems

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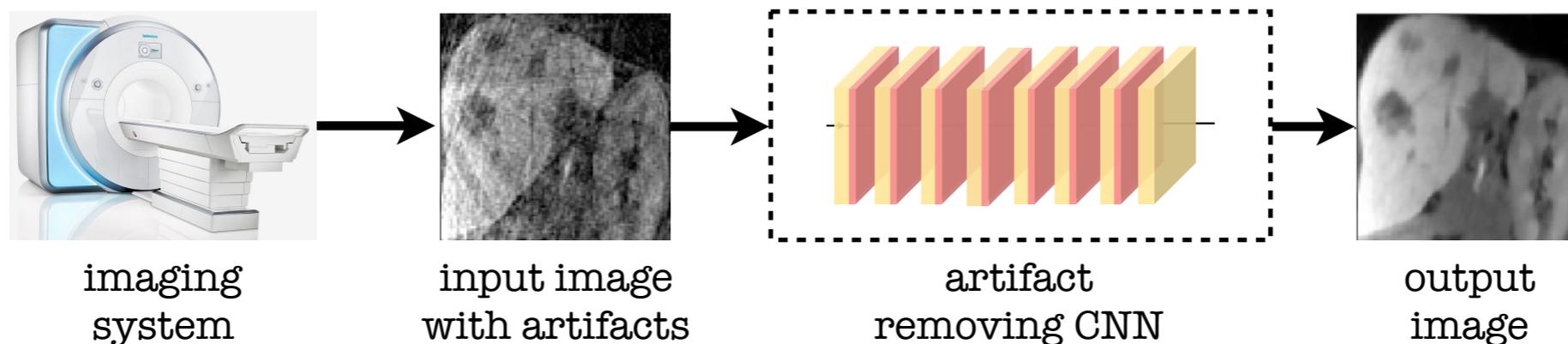
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Limitation #3: Does not exploit known **physical models**

Why re-learn something we know?

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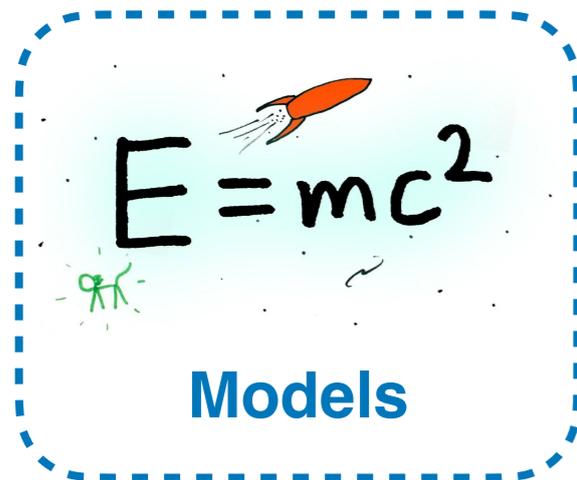
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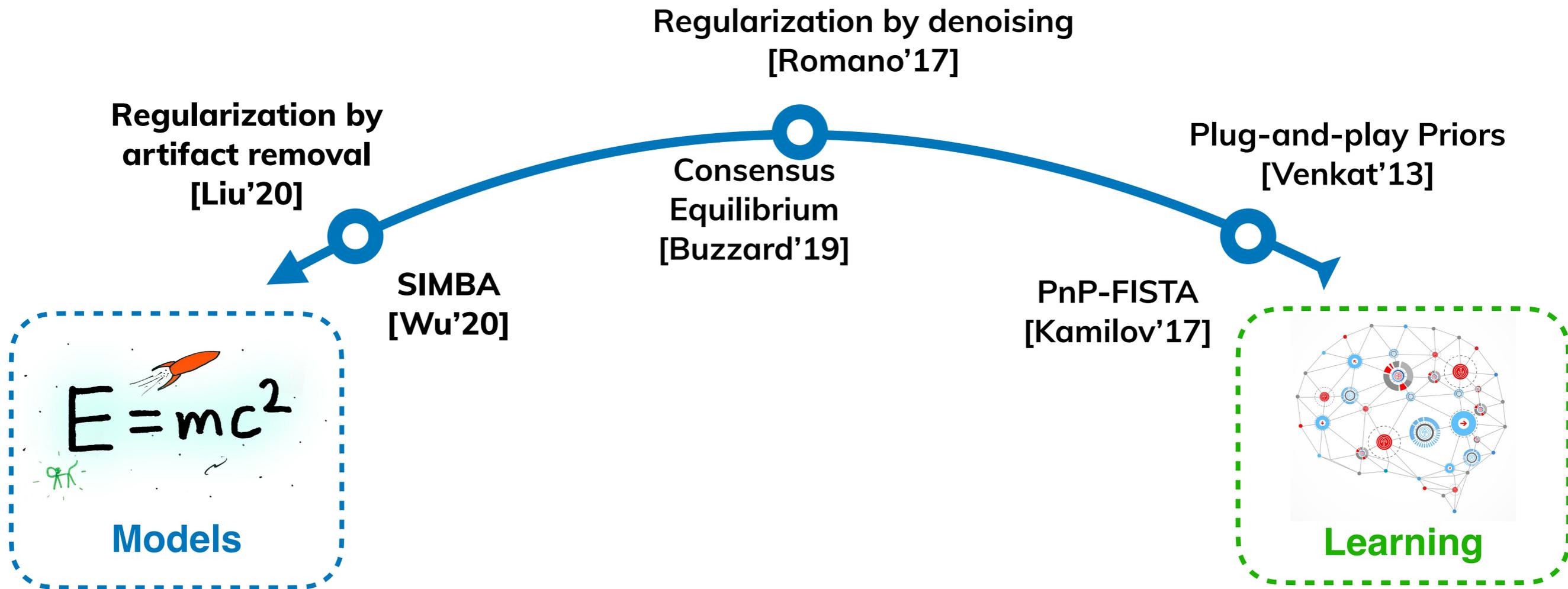
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Idea: Address limitations by combining **model-based optimization and deep learning**

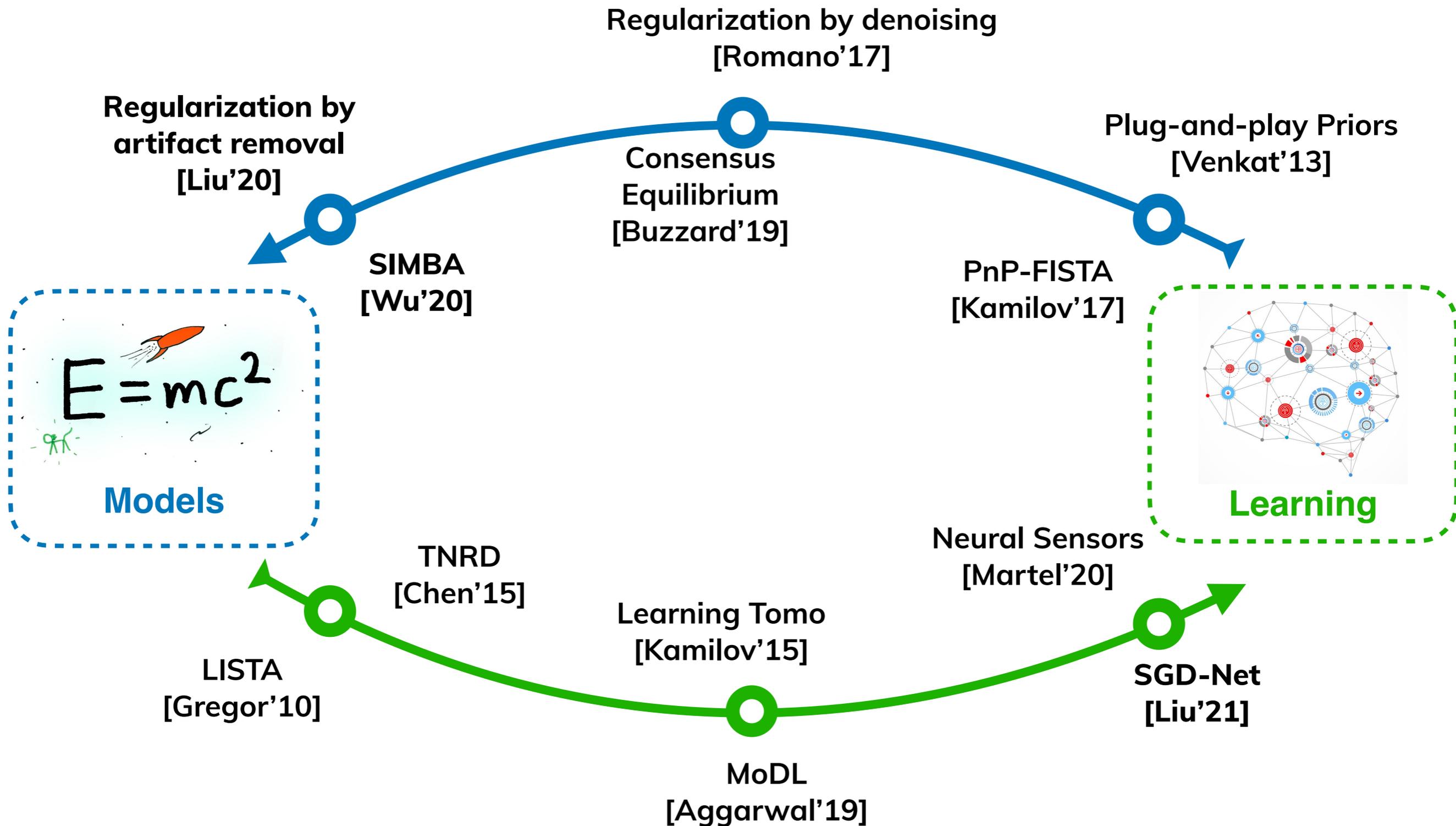
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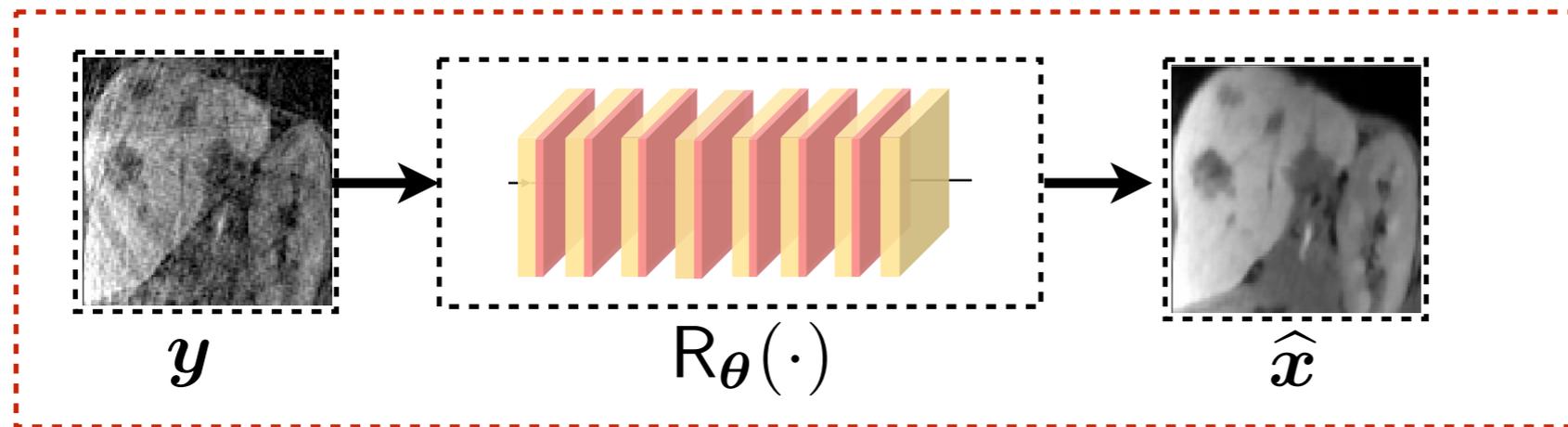


Regularization by Artifact Removal (RARE) uses
artifact removing deep networks as image priors

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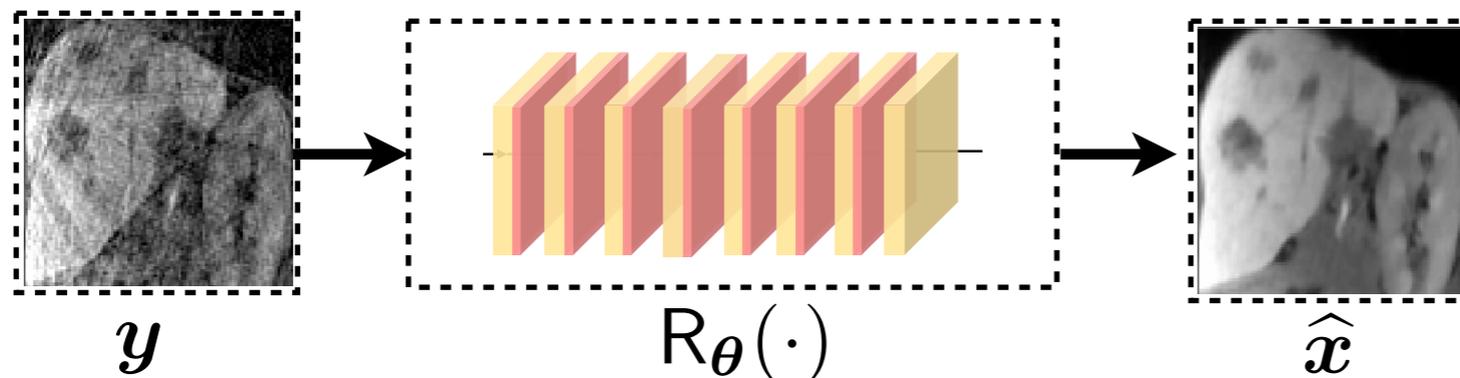
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Idea: Pre-train an artifact removing CNN on a dataset of images



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Combine the CNN with the **physical-model of the instrument**

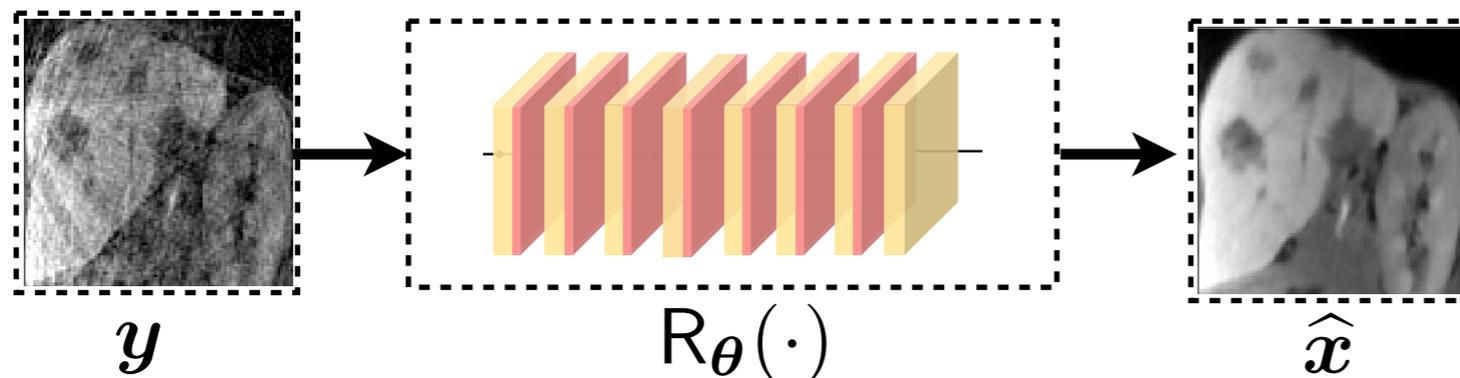
$$\text{Example data fit: } g_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_{\phi} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

Includes the physical model
of the imaging instrument

The **data-fidelity term** measures the distance between the actual measurements and predicted ones!

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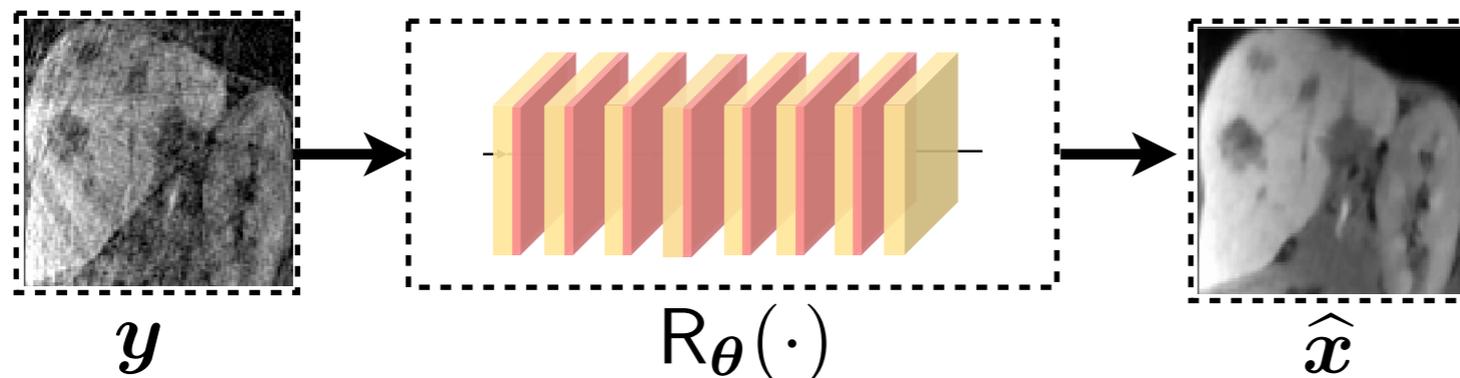
Question: How can we use information from both the data-fidelity term and the CNN?

$$\text{Example data fit: } g_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}_{\phi} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

ϕ = parameters of the measurement model
 θ = parameters of the CNN

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Idea: Pre-train an artifact removing CNN on a dataset of images



RARE #1: Based on Regularization by Denoising (RED)

$$\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{t-1} - \gamma \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1})$$

“gradient” descent

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}) := \nabla g_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) + \tau(\mathbf{x} - R_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}))$$

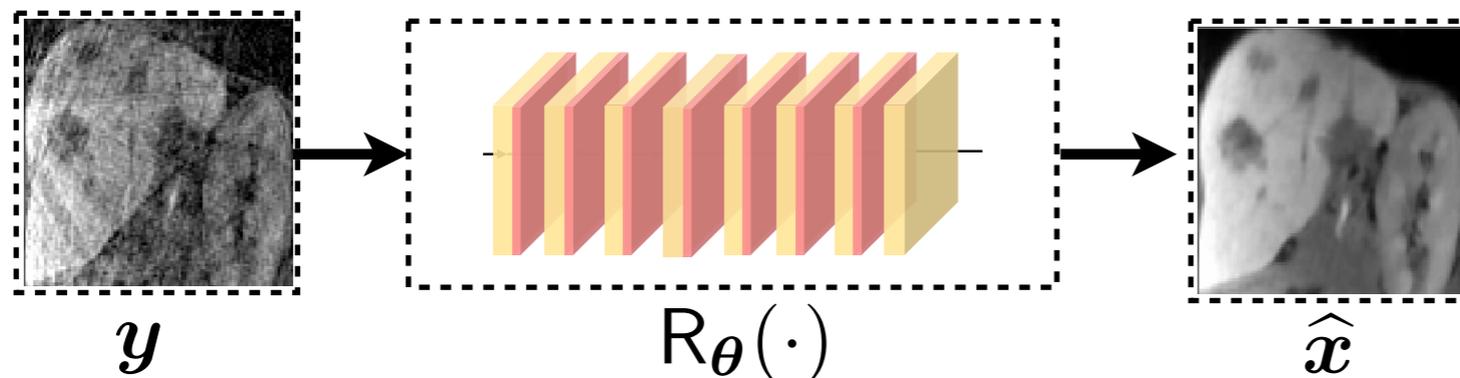
improve
data fit

reduce image
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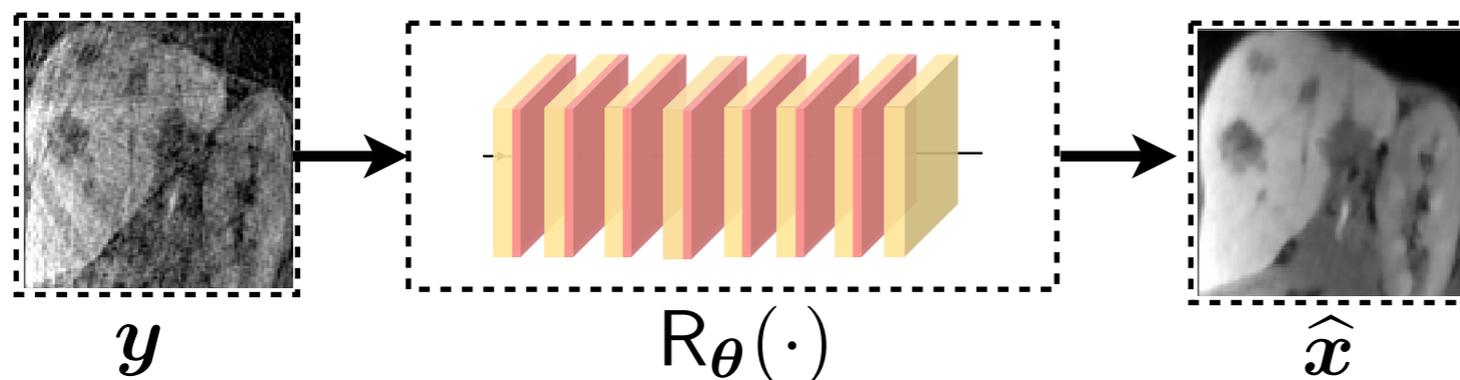
RARE #2: Based on **Plug-and-Play Priors (PnP)**

$$\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow R_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}^t) \quad \text{reduce image artifacts}$$

$$\mathbf{z}^t \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{t-1} - \gamma \nabla g_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}) \quad \text{improve data fit}$$

Regularization by Artifact Removal (RARE) uses artifact removing deep networks as image priors

Idea: Pre-train an artifact removing CNN on a dataset of images



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$$\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow R_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}^t) \quad \mathbf{z}^t \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{t-1} - \gamma \nabla g_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1})$$

RARE leverages **DL-priors** while controlling **fidelity to data!**

RARE might look heuristic, but it has a rigorous foundation in **monotone operator theory**

RARE might look heuristic, but it has a rigorous foundation in monotone operator theory

Suppose there exists a vector that satisfies

$$\mathbf{x}^* \in \text{Zer}(\nabla g) \cap \text{Fix}(\mathbf{R})$$

$$\text{Zer}(\nabla g) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \nabla g(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}\}$$

$$\text{Fix}(\mathbf{R}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x})\}$$

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Question: How can we interpret such a vector?

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Consistent with the measurements

$$\text{Fix}(\mathbf{R}) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x})\}$$

Artifact-free according to the prior

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$$\mathbf{x}^* \in \text{Zer}(\nabla g) \cap \text{Fix}(R)$$

Consider the following assumptions

Assumption 1. The function g is convex and L -Lipschitz continuous.

Assumption 2. The AR operator R is a contraction.

Definition 1. We say that an operator S is λ -Lipschitz continuous if $\|S(\mathbf{x}) - S(\mathbf{y})\|_2 \leq \lambda \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2$, for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

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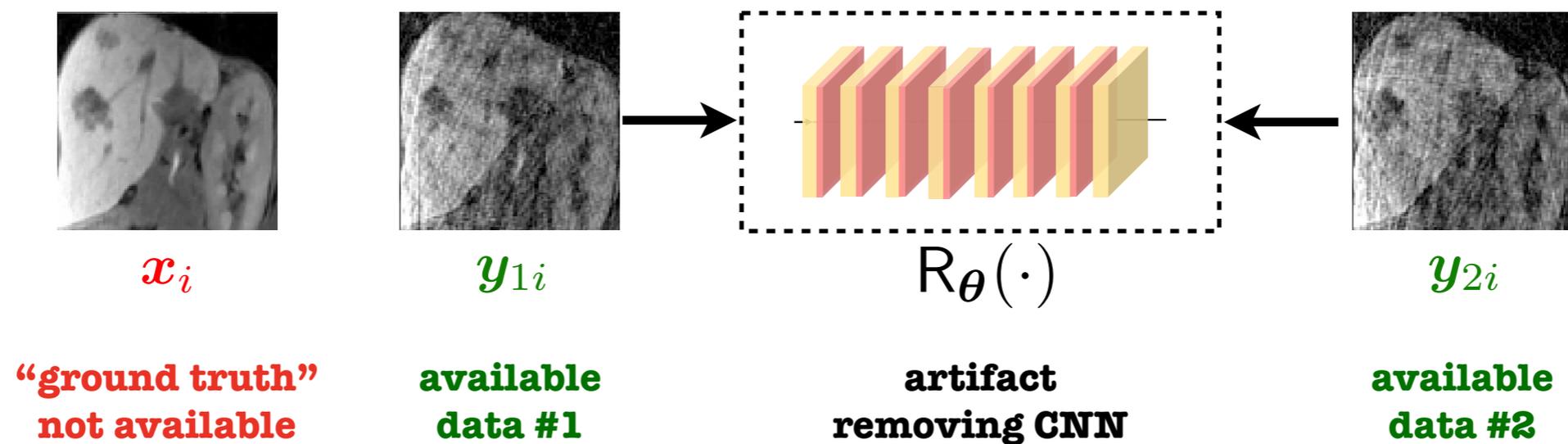
Theorem 1. Both variants of RARE (based on PnP and RED) converge to a vector in $\text{Zer}(\nabla g) \cap \text{Fix}(R) = \text{Fix}(T) = \text{Zer}(G)$, where $T = R(I - \gamma \nabla g)$.

PnP and RED are equivalent under the assumptions above!

Artifact2Artifact (A2A) is a technique for training
CNN priors for RARE **without ground truth**

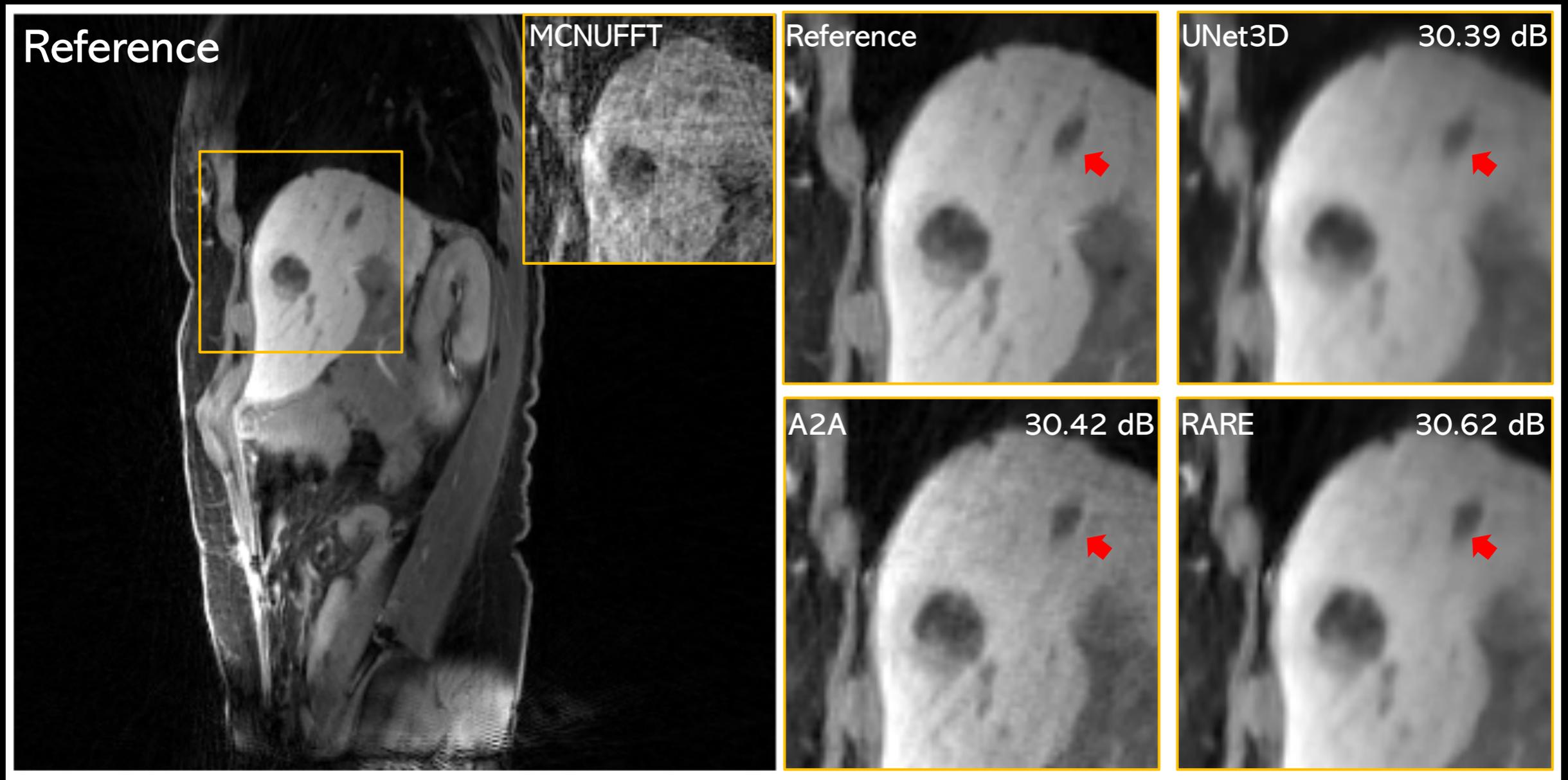
Artifact2Artifact (A2A) is a technique for training CNN priors for RARE without ground truth

Consider multiple independent views for each object
(**examples:** radial lines in MRI, projections in CT)

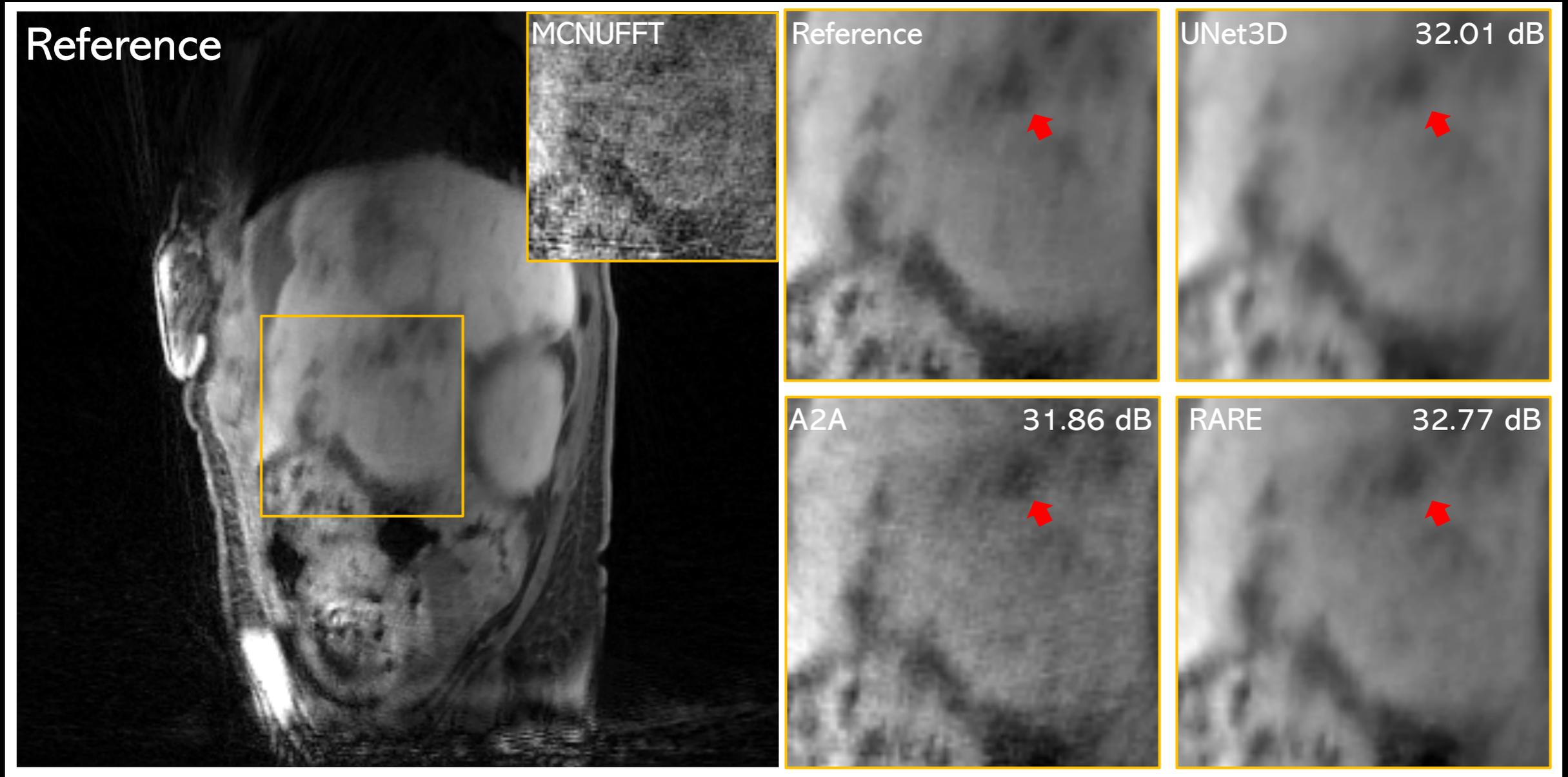


Artifact2Artifact (A2A) uses two independent acquisitions of the same object as training labels for the AR prior!

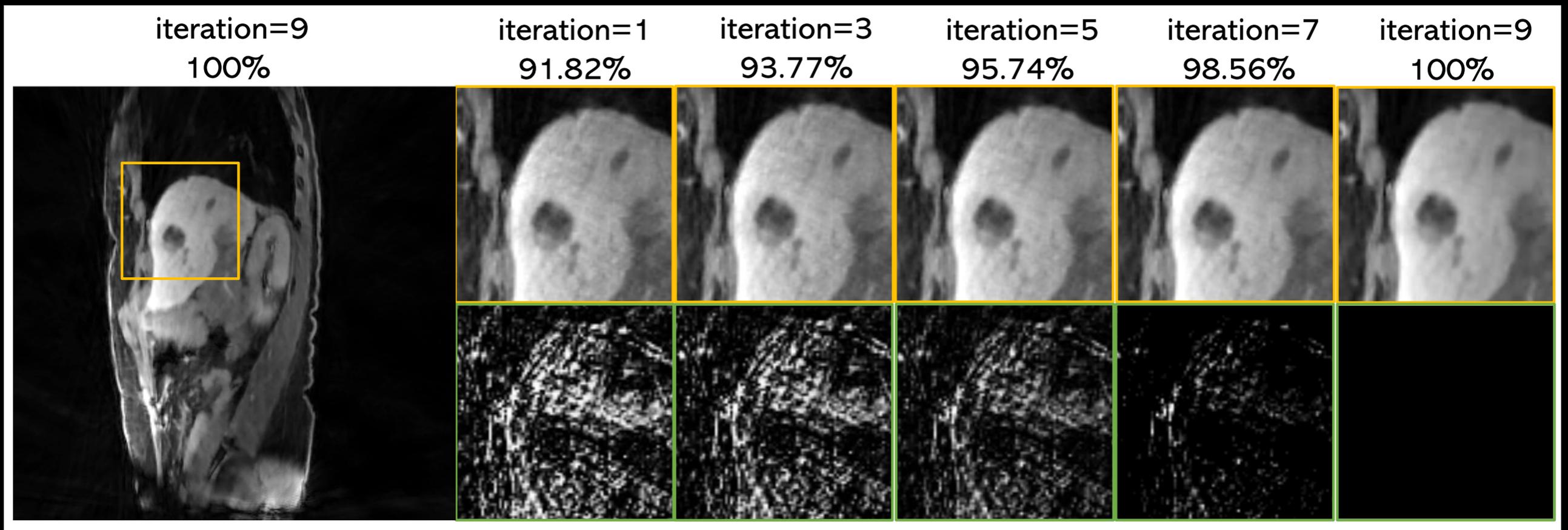
Application: Reconstructing 10 motion phases from a 1 minute free-breathing MRI scan



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Outline for the rest of the talk

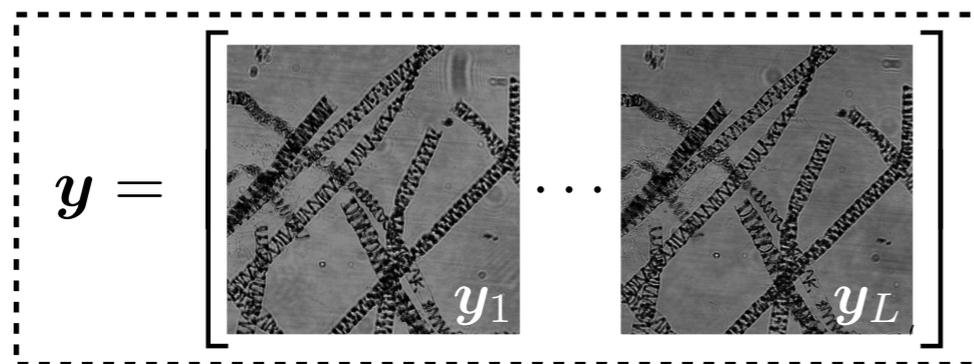
- ◉ Regularization by Artifact Removal (**RARE**)
Integrating physical models and learned deep priors
- ◉ Efficient model-based deep learning (**SGD-Net**)
Approximating physical layers for complexity gains

SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

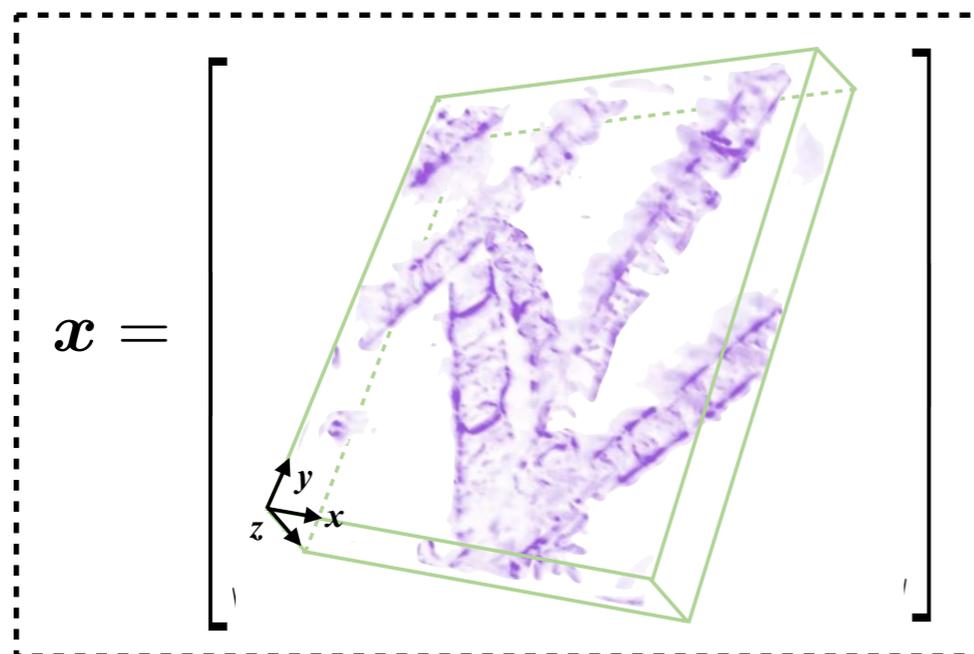
SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

Traditional PnP/RED algorithms use all the data at every iteration, which **significantly limits their scalability**



Large measurement challenge:
 10^2 – 10^6 measurements,
 each with 10^6 pixels



Large image challenge:
 3D (space), 4D (space, time),
 5D (space, time, spectrum)
 images with 10^6 – 10^{12} voxels

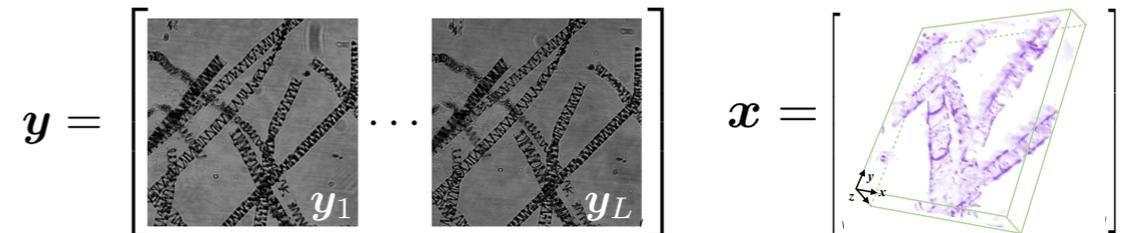
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Traditional PnP/RED algorithms use all the data at every iteration, which significantly limits their scalability

$$\text{Batch data-fidelity: } g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\ell=1}^L g_{\ell}(\mathbf{x})$$

Complexity grows with the # of measurements

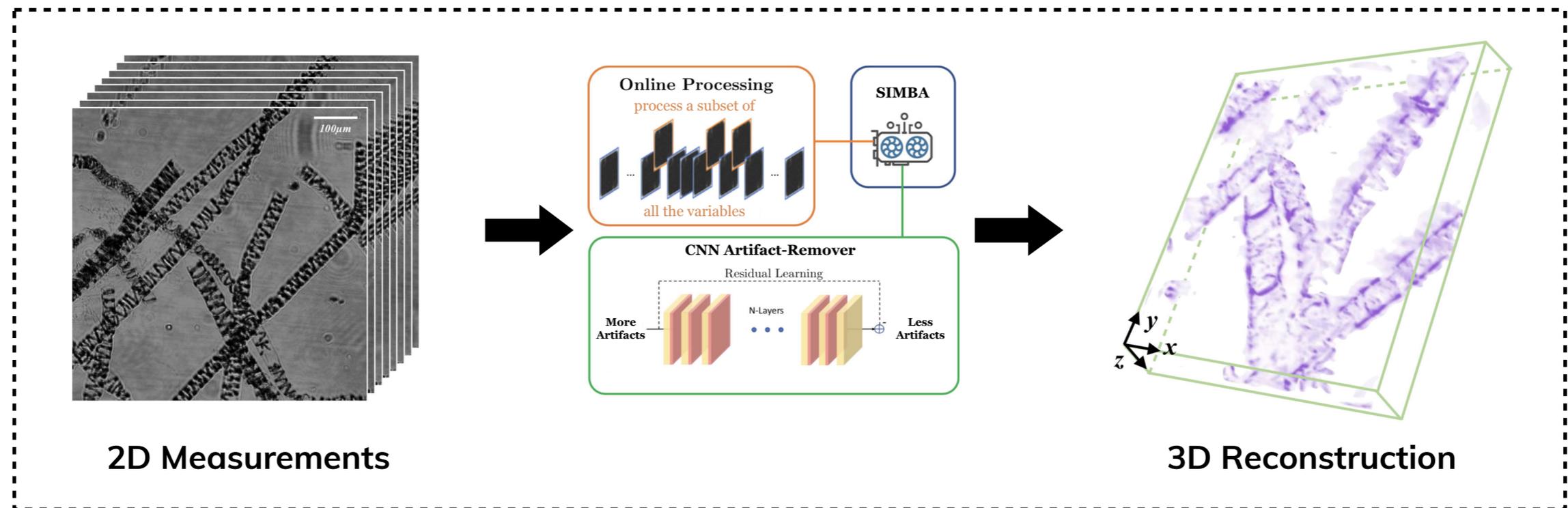
$$\text{Example term: } g_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_{\ell} - \mathbf{H}_{\ell} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$



SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

Traditional PnP/RED algorithms use all the data at every iteration, which significantly limits their scalability

SIMBA uses only a subset of variables at a time which makes it scalable to datasets that are too large for batch processing



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$$\text{Batch data-fidelity: } g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\ell=1}^L g_{\ell}(\mathbf{x})$$

Complexity grows with the # of measurements

$$\text{Online data-fidelity: } \hat{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B g_{\ell_b}(\mathbf{x})$$

Complexity independent from the # of measurements

$$\text{Example term: } g_{\ell}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_{\ell} - \mathbf{H}_{\ell} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

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RARE

$$\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) \leftarrow \text{FullGradient}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) \leftarrow \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) + \tau(\mathbf{x}^{k-1} - \mathbf{R}_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}))$$

$$\mathbf{x}^k \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{k-1} - \gamma \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})$$

SIMBA

SIMBA uses only $B \ll L$ measurements per iteration

$$\widehat{\nabla} g(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) \leftarrow \text{MinibatchGradient}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})$$

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) \leftarrow \widehat{\nabla} g(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) + \tau(\mathbf{x}^{k-1} - \mathbf{R}_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}))$$

$$\mathbf{x}^k \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^{k-1} - \gamma \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})$$

Example term: $g_\ell(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_\ell - \mathbf{H}_\ell \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$

SIMBA decomposes a large-scale imaging problem into a sequence of partial updates

Traditional PnP/RED algorithms use all the data at every iteration, which significantly limits their scalability

SIMBA uses only a subset of variables at a time which makes it scalable to datasets that are too large for batch processing

Theorem 1. Run SIMBA for $t \geq 1$ iterations under Assumptions 1-3 using a fixed step-size $0 < \gamma \leq 1/(L + 2\tau)$ and a fixed minibatch size $B = t$. Then, we have

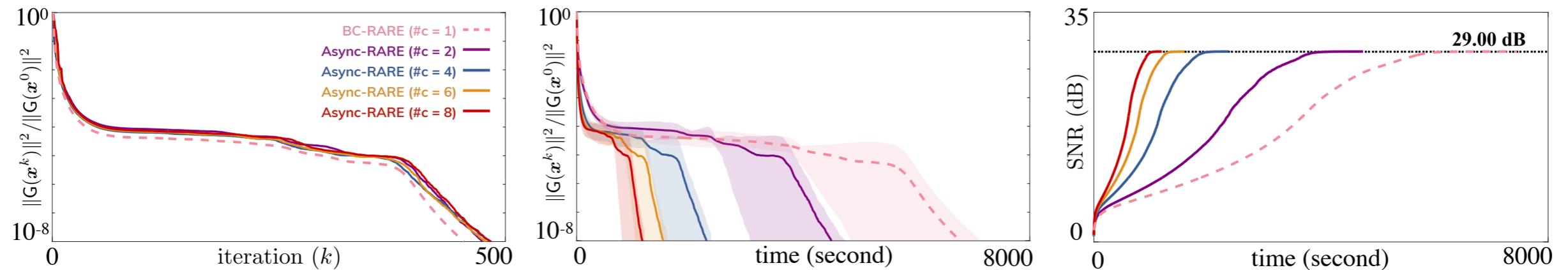
$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{t} \sum_{k=1}^t \|\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})\|_2^2 \right] \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{t}},$$

where $C > 0$ is a constant.

This convergence behavior is similar to that of SGD

SIMBA leads to faster image reconstruction when using several processing cores

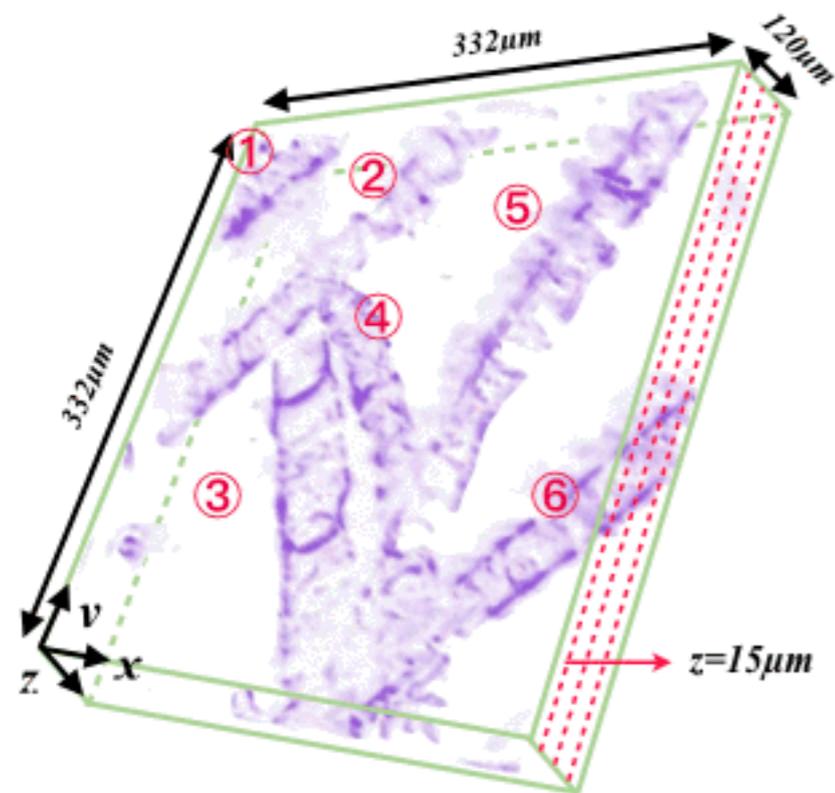
SIMBA leads to faster image reconstruction when using several processing cores



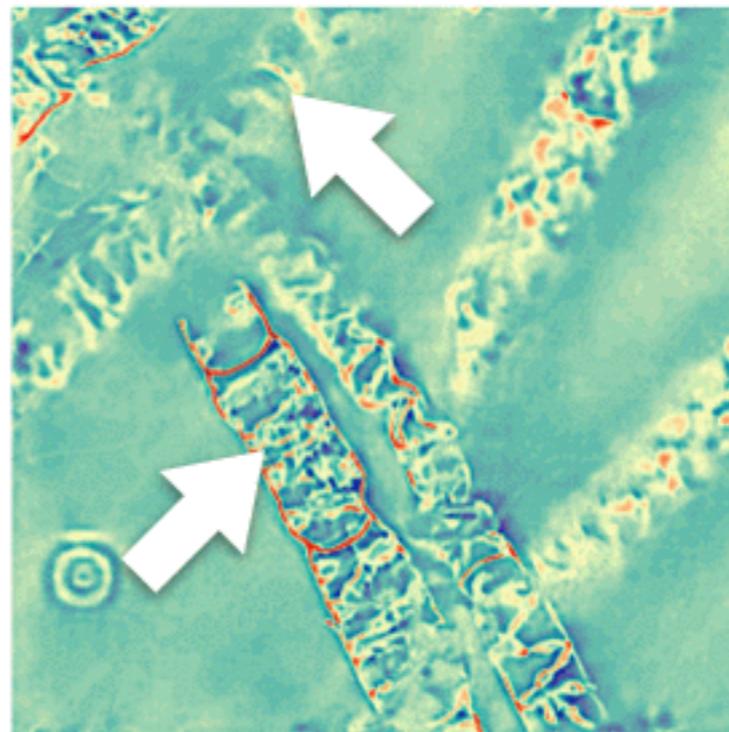
Method	SNR	Time	Speed-Up
RARE (1-core)	29.01 dB	1.8 hrs	-
Sync-SIMBA (8-core)	29.00 dB	38.9 mins	2.8x
Async-SIMBA-BG (8-core)	29.01 dB	17.9 mins	6.1x
Async-SIMBA-SG (8-core)	28.08 dB	13.0 mins	8.4x

Accelerations of up to 8.4x for image reconstruction in compressive sensing

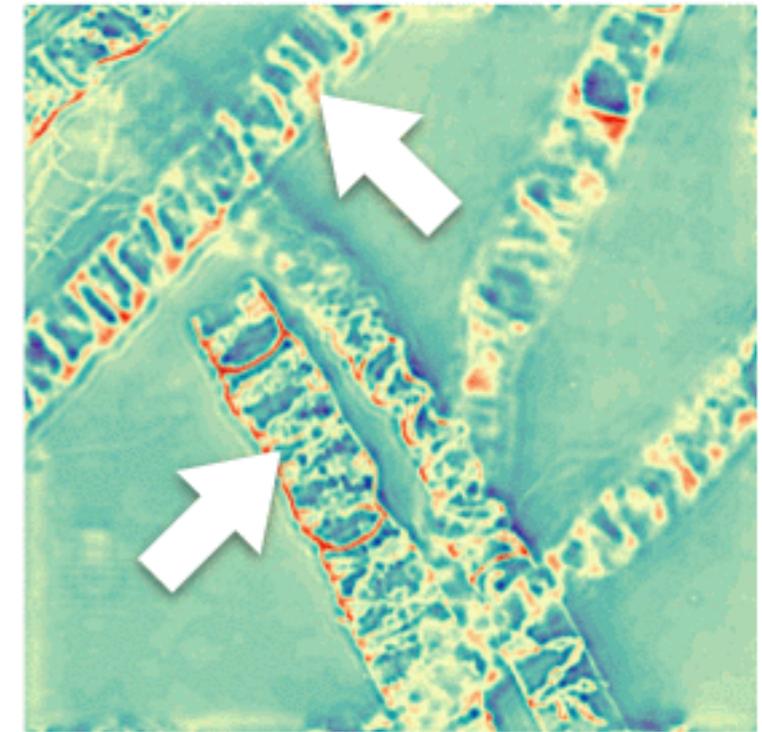
SIMBA leads to better image quality when combined with deep priors



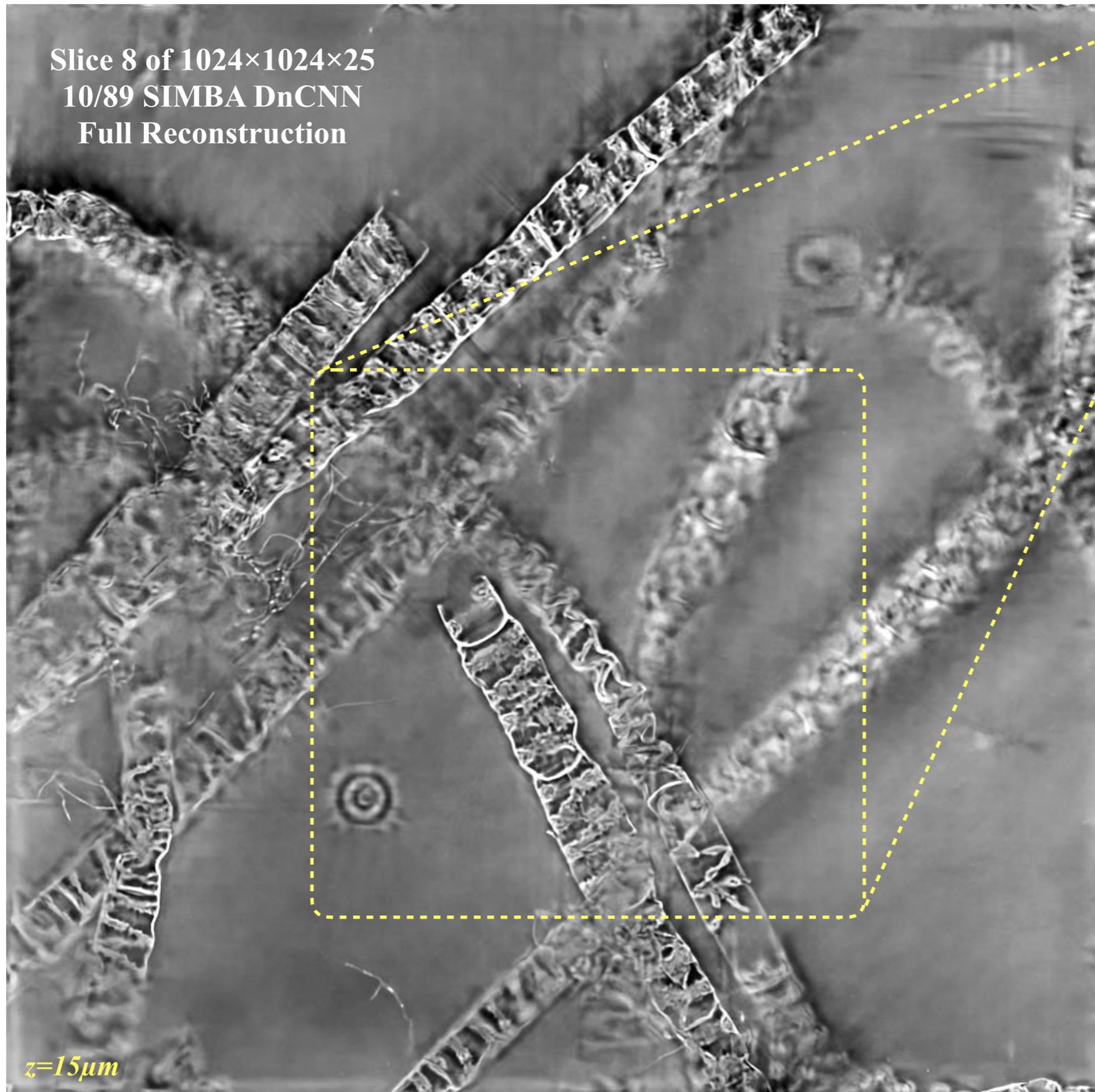
SIMBA w/ DnCNN



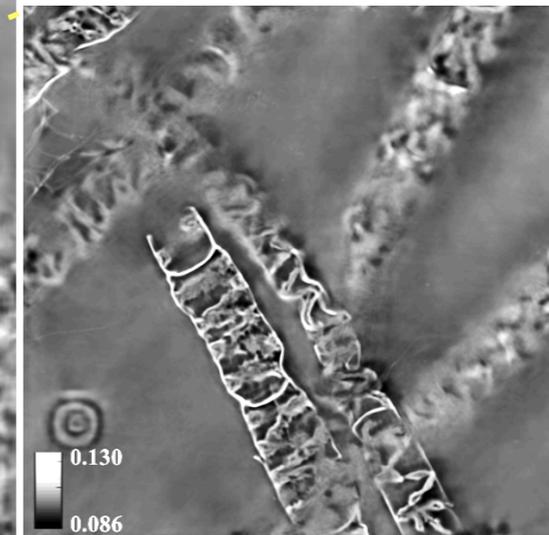
Ling et al., 2018



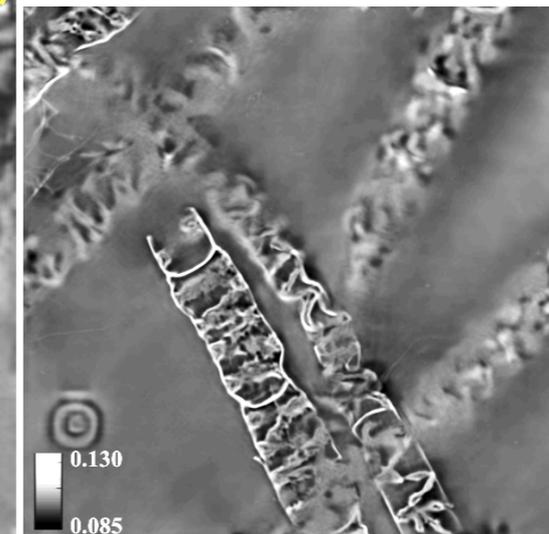
Significant improvements in sectioning capability in
Intensity Diffraction Tomography (IDT)



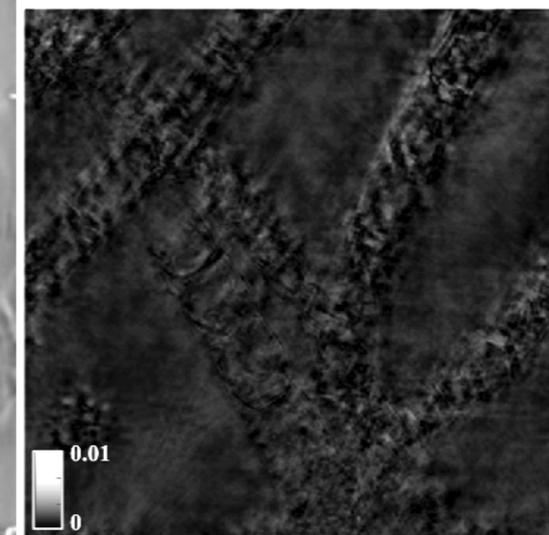
10/89 SIMBA DnCNN



89/89 RARE DnCNN



Abs. Value of Residual

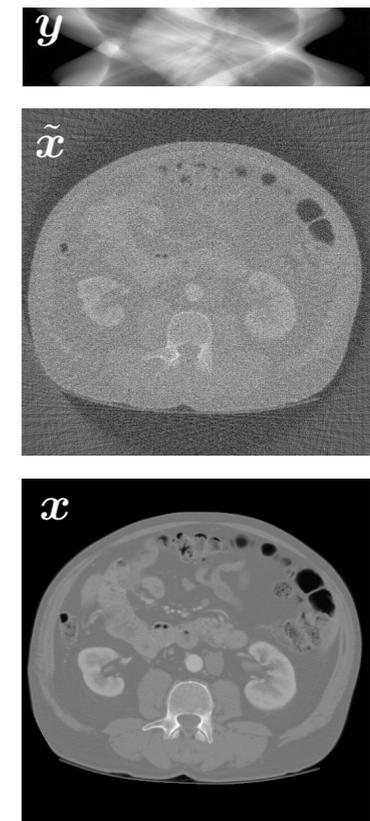
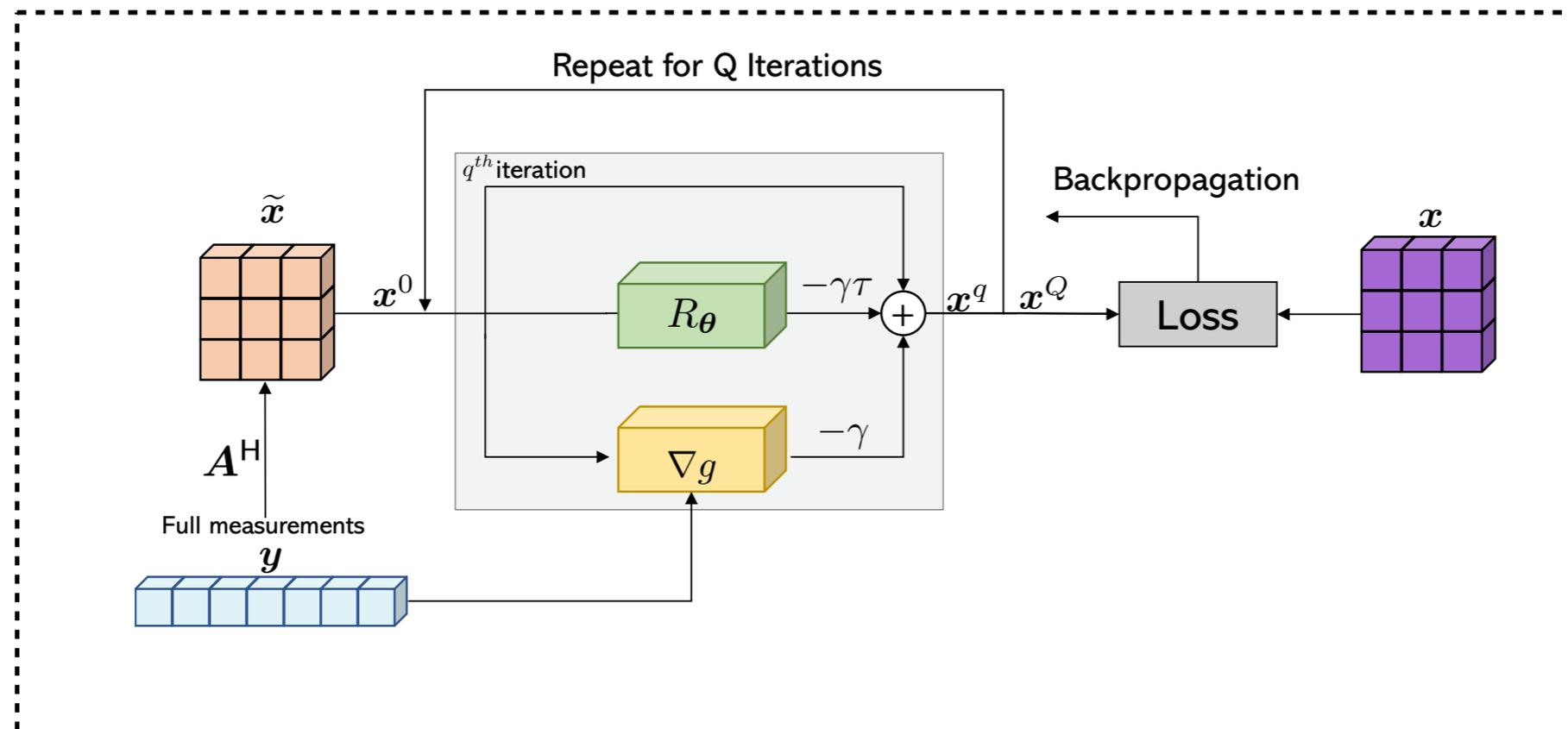


SIMBA is as good as full RARE

SGD-Net is a model-based deep network
obtained by “**unfolding**” iterations of SIMBA

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An “**optimal**” artifact-removal CNN can be designed by unfolding truncated RARE and training it end-to-end

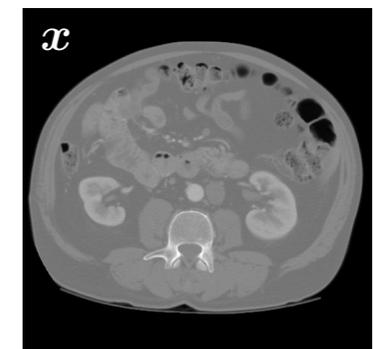
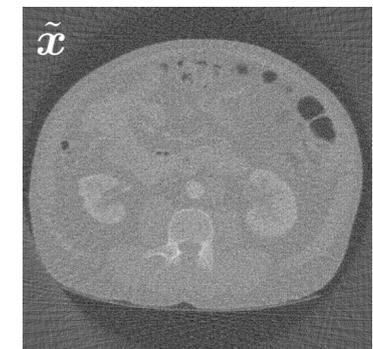
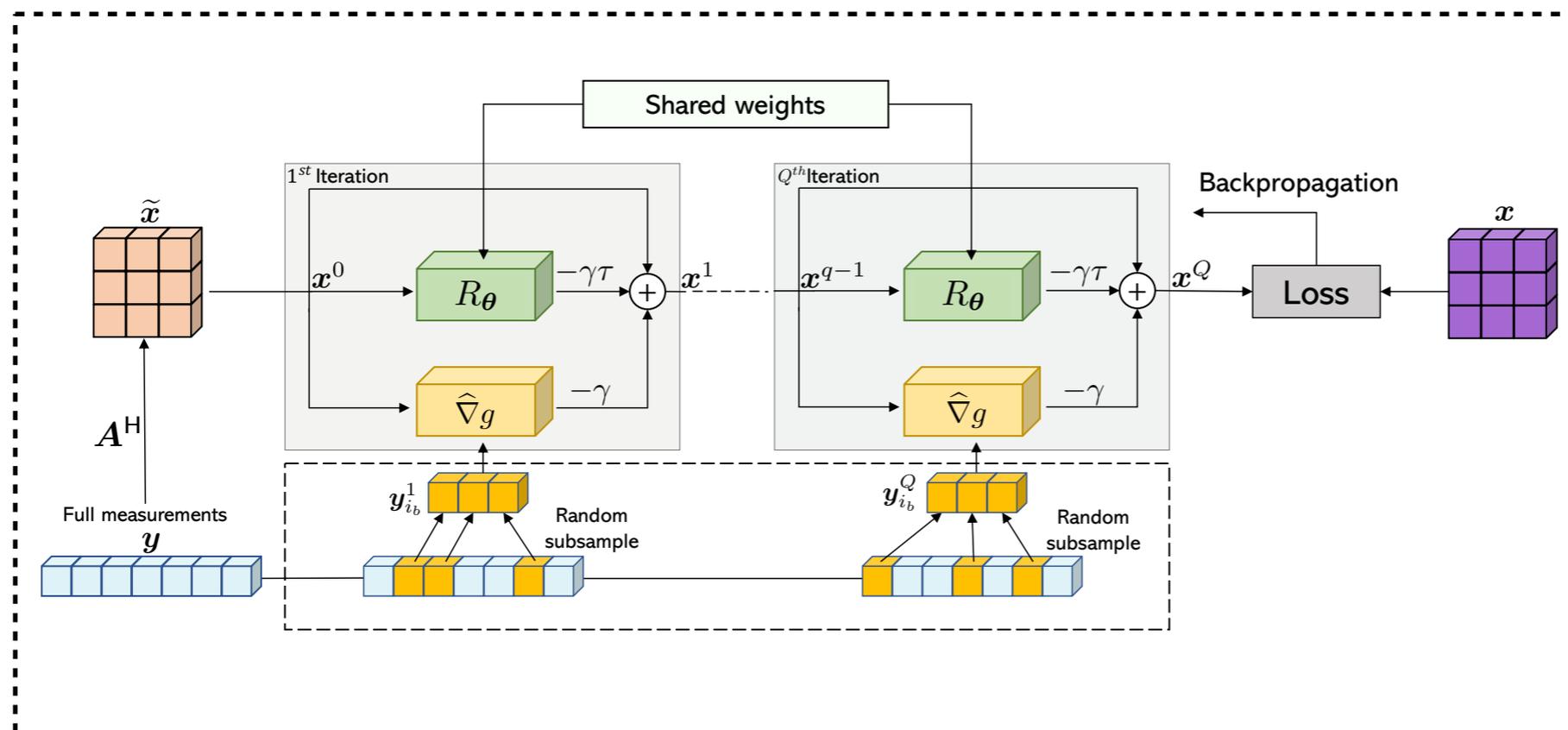


Limitation: Computational and GPU-memory complexities of data-consistency layers scale with the number of projections!

SGD-Net is a model-based deep network obtained by “unfolding” iterations of SIMBA

An “optimal” artifact-removal CNN can be designed by unfolding truncated RARE and training it end-to-end

SGD-Net improves scalability of training and testing by directly unfolding SIMBA that processes data in minibatches



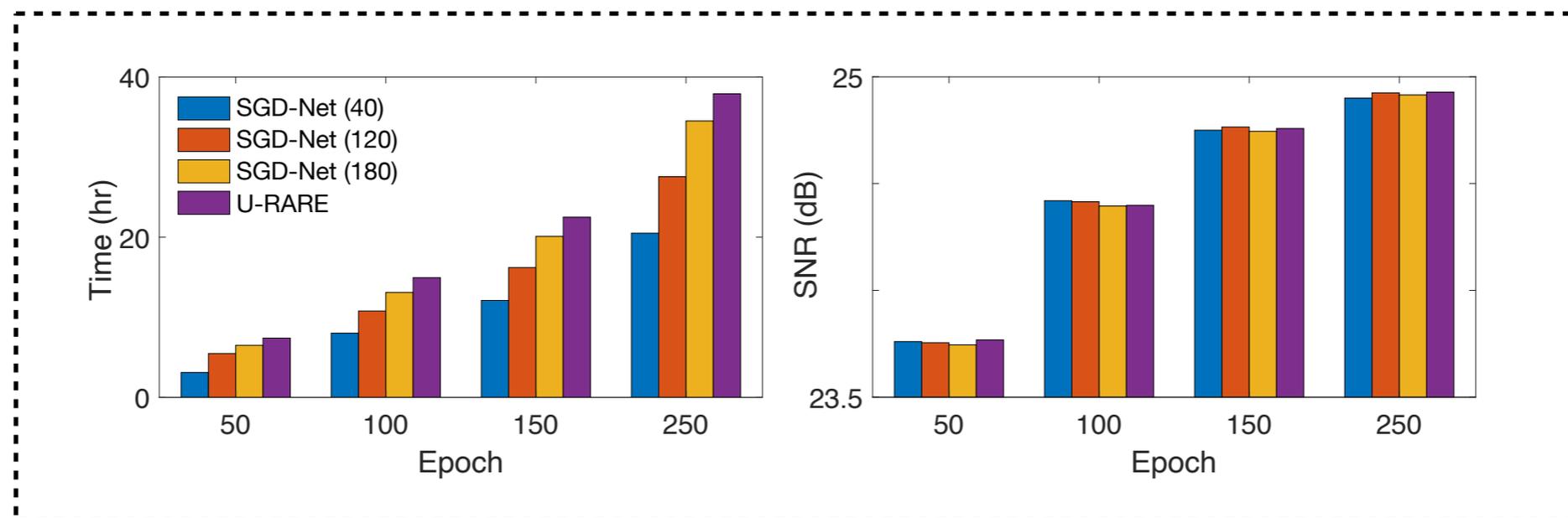
Key idea: Use minibatches in data-consistency layers!

SGD-Net is a model-based deep network obtained by “unfolding” iterations of SIMBA

An “optimal” artifact-removal CNN can be designed by unfolding truncated RARE and training it end-to-end

SGD-Net improves scalability of training and testing by directly unfolding SIMBA that processes data in minibatches

We **theoretically show** that SGD-Net can be trained to approximate the full unfolded RARE to any desired precision (see the paper)



Training accelerations of up to 2x for the same image quality in IDT and CT!

SGD-Net can significantly **reduce** the training time and the usage of GPU-memory

SGD-Net is competitive in terms of image quality with some of the best deep learning methods

Metric Input-SNR (dB) Method	SNR			SSIM			#Iterations	Size Model/Measurement	Time CPU/GPU
	20-5	20	20+5	20-5	20	20+5			
TV	24.26	24.31	24.39	0.887	0.890	0.891	250	—/1.01 GB	87.58s/10.66s
U-Net	24.27	24.33	24.35	0.887	0.889	0.889	–	118.2 MB/—	0.925s/0.012s
ISTA-Net ⁺	24.39	24.41	24.47	0.889	0.890	0.890	12	6.90 MB/1.01 GB	18.36s/0.402s
RED-DnCNN	24.54	24.61	24.67	0.890	0.892	0.893	220	2.29 MB/1.01 GB	197.5s/4.144s
SGD-Net (40)	24.84	24.94	24.96	0.896	0.899	0.901	8	29.6 MB/0.17 GB	7.443s/0.322s
SGD-Net (120)	24.87	24.93	24.94	0.898	0.899	0.900	8	29.6 MB/0.51 GB	16.51s/0.617s
U-RED	24.89	24.93	24.94	0.898	0.899	0.900	8	29.6 MB/1.01 GB	31.23s/0.943s

Intensity Diffraction Tomography (IDT) with 240 measurements!

SGD-Net reduces complexity of model-based deep learning, while offering comparable or better imaging quality

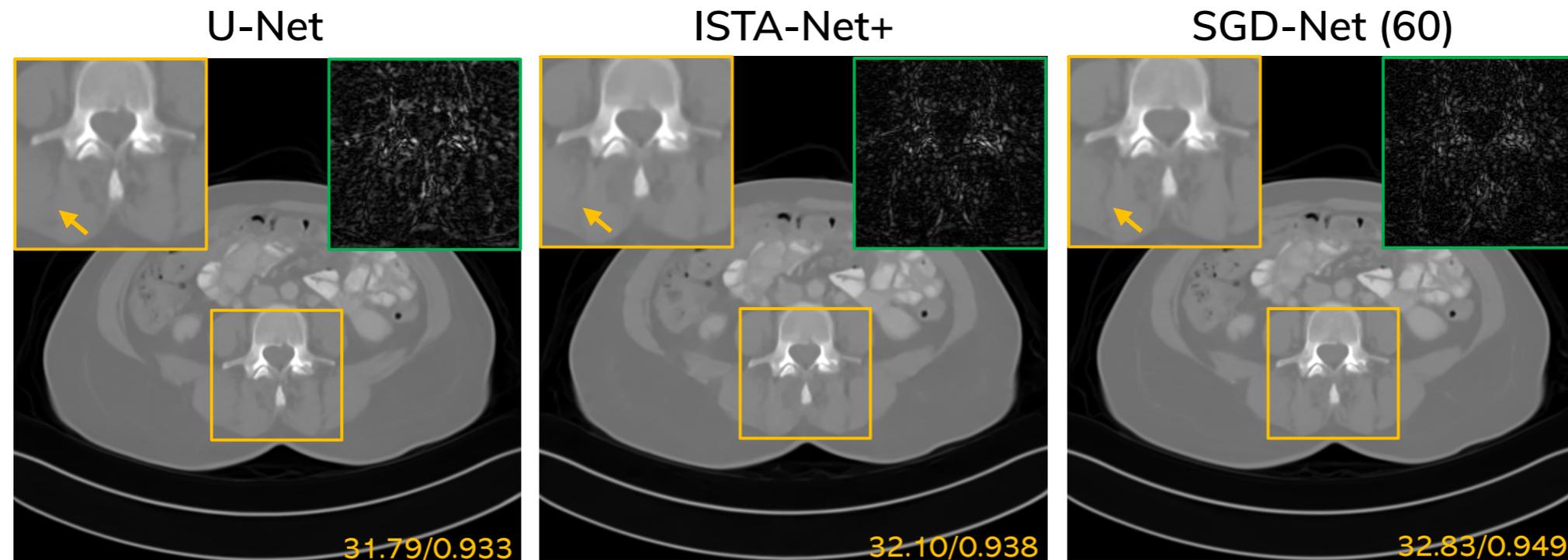
SGD-Net is competitive in terms of image quality with some of the best deep learning methods

Views	Metric	Method							
		FBP	TV	U-Net	RED-DnCNN	ISTA-Net ⁺	SGD-Net (30)	SGD-Net (60)	U-RED
90	SNR	17.56	30.09	31.17	31.93	32.01	32.76	32.88	32.87
	SSIM	0.362	0.924	0.930	0.935	0.934	0.942	0.943	0.943
120	SNR	20.03	31.23	32.54	33.13	33.17	33.91	33.95	34.01
	SSIM	0.449	0.929	0.936	0.941	0.940	0.948	0.949	0.950
180	SNR	23.19	32.97	34.04	34.49	34.61	35.44	35.46	35.46
	SSIM	0.582	0.940	0.948	0.950	0.951	0.957	0.958	0.958
Time (views=180)	CPU	0.859s	304.1s	2.061s	460.3s	15.95s	11.56s	13.31s	20.72s
	GPU	0.147s	13.58s	0.217s	5.177s	0.331s	0.269s	0.278s	0.325s

Sparse-view Computerized Tomography (CT)

SGD-Net reduces complexity of model-based deep learning, while offering comparable or better imaging quality

SGD-Net is competitive in terms of image quality with some of the best deep learning methods



SGD-Net significantly improves over several existing methods in terms of imaging quality!

Outline for the rest of the talk

- Regularization by Artifact Removal (**RARE**)
Integrating physical models and learned deep priors
- Efficient model-based deep learning (**SGD-Net**)
Approximating physical layers for complexity gains

One more thing: How does RARE compare with the methods based on using **generative models** as priors?

Artifact-removal (AR) priors improve over AWGN denoising priors when used in PnP/RED

Artifact-removal (AR) priors improve over AWGN denoising priors when used in PnP/RED

Recovery Analysis for Plug-and-Play Priors using the Restricted Eigenvalue Condition

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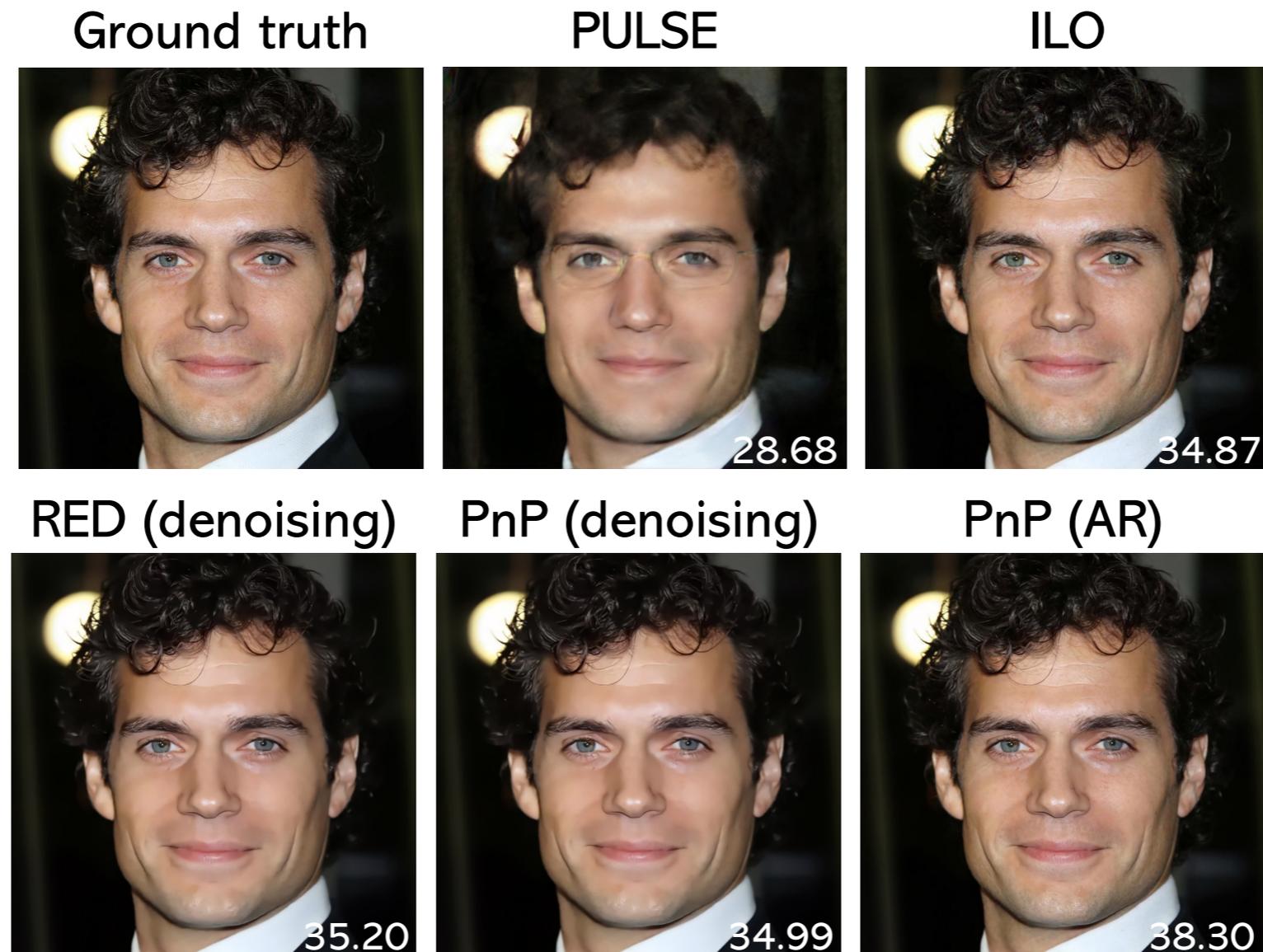
Brendt Wohlberg

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Washington University in St. Louis
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Artifact-removal (AR) priors improve over AWGN denoising priors when used in PnP/RED

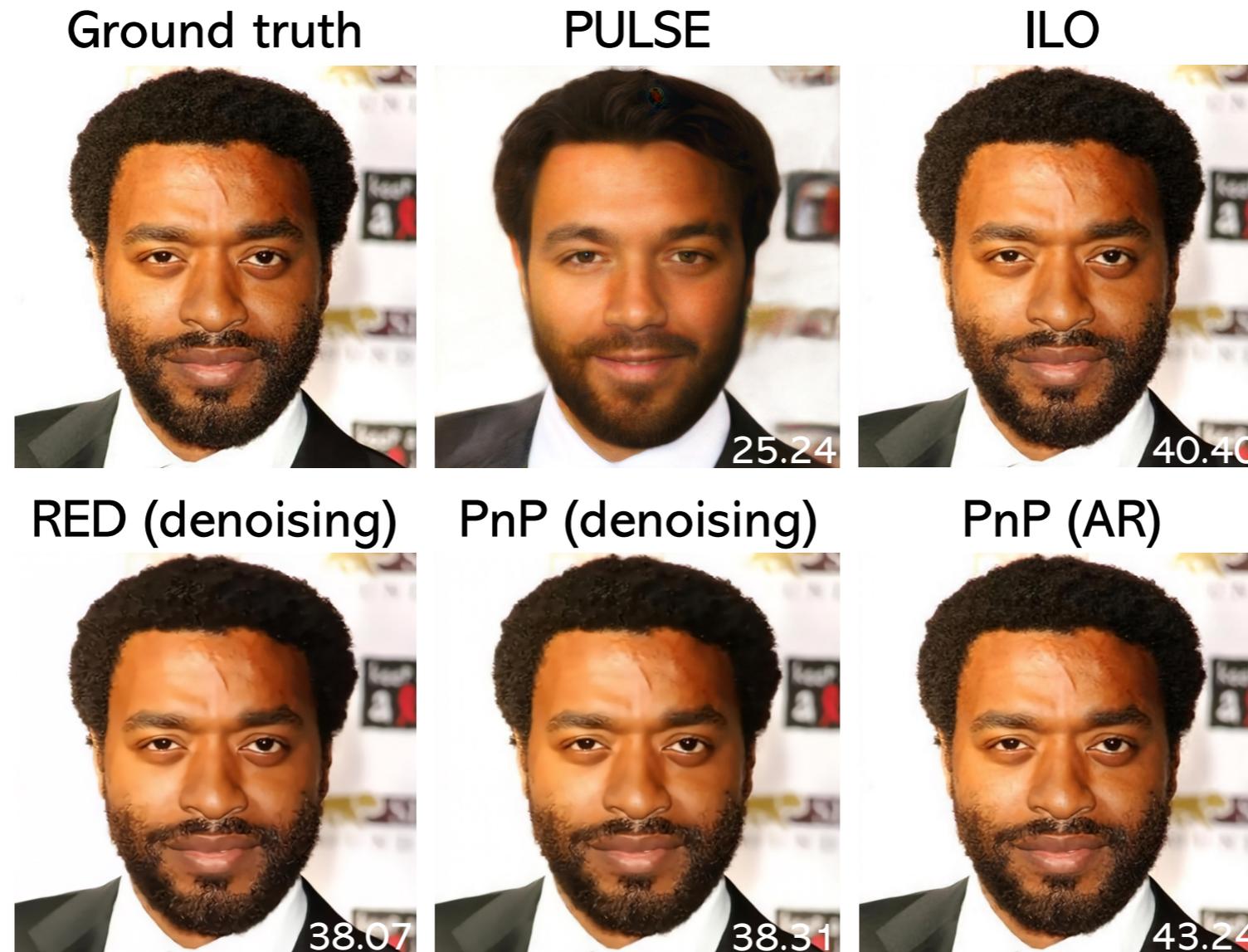


1. AR is better than AWGN (**expected!**)
2. RED is nearly equivalent to PnP (**somehow surprising!**)
3. PnP (AR) is competitive with PULSE and ILO (**surprising!**)

Table 3: Average PSNR (dB) values for several algorithms on test images from CelebA HQ.

Method	CS Ratio				
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%
TV	32.13	35.24	37.41	39.35	41.29
PULSE [34]	27.45	29.98	33.06	34.25	34.77
ILO [35]	36.15	40.98	43.46	47.89	48.21
RED (denoising)	35.46	41.59	45.65	48.13	52.17
PnP (denoising)	35.61	41.51	45.71	48.05	52.24
PnP (AR)	39.19	44.20	48.66	51.32	53.89

Artifact-removal (AR) priors improve over AWGN denoising priors when used in PnP/RED



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To conclude

- ◉ We increasingly rely on **deep learning** for characterizing complex high-dimensional statistical distributions
- ◉ **RARE** is a theoretically sound algorithm that combines an artifact removing CNN with data consistency
- ◉ **SGD-Net** is a model-based network that uses minibatches to reduce complexity of data-consistency layers

Computational Imaging Group (CIG) at WashU focuses on algorithms and math for imaging



Source: [WashU GIFs](#)

Learn more about what we do at: cigroup.wustl.edu

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Yu Sun

Jiaming Liu

Xiaojian Xu

Weijie Gan

Ray Wu

Dr. Brendt Wohlberg

Prof. Hongyu An

Prof. Lei Tian

Dr. Cihat Eldeniz

Dr. Hassan Mansour

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