

Equivariant splitting: self-supervised learning from incomplete data



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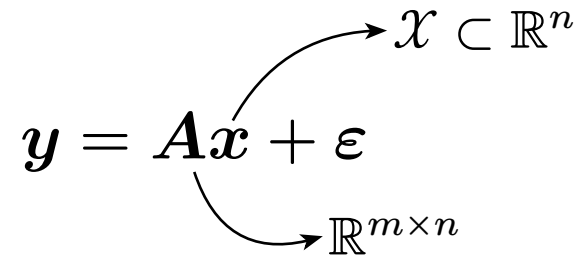
2025-11-07

^{*}Equal contribution

$$y = Ax + \varepsilon$$

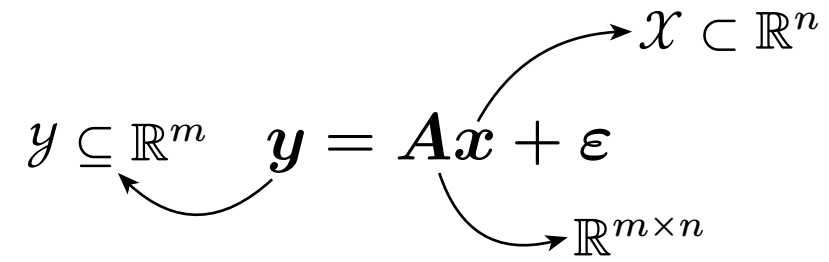
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$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

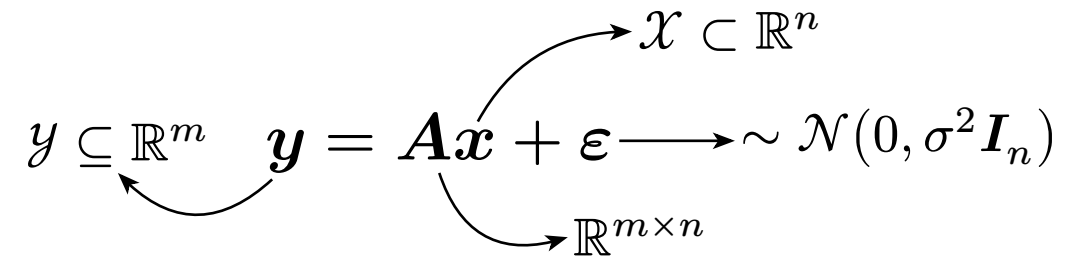
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$x \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

$\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

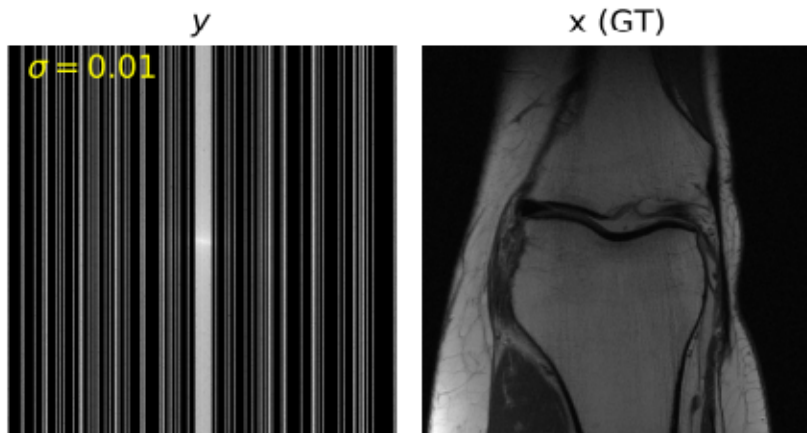
$$y \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m \quad y = Ax + \varepsilon$$


The diagram illustrates the relationship between the variables in the equation $y = Ax + \varepsilon$. A curved arrow points from y to x , indicating that y is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^m$ and x is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Another curved arrow points from A to $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, indicating that A is a matrix in $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.

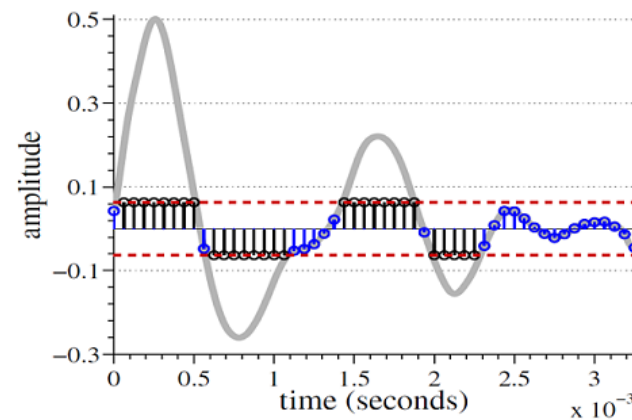
$$y \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m \quad y = Ax + \varepsilon \longrightarrow \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I_n)$$


The diagram illustrates the relationship between the variables in the equation $y = Ax + \varepsilon$. A curved arrow points from $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to the equation, indicating that x is an input. Another curved arrow points from the equation to $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, indicating that A is a parameter. A third curved arrow points from $y \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ to the equation, indicating that y is the output.

$$y \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m \quad y = Ax + \varepsilon \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^n} \\ \xrightarrow{\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}} \end{matrix} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I_n)$$



Linear: MRI, inpainting, ...

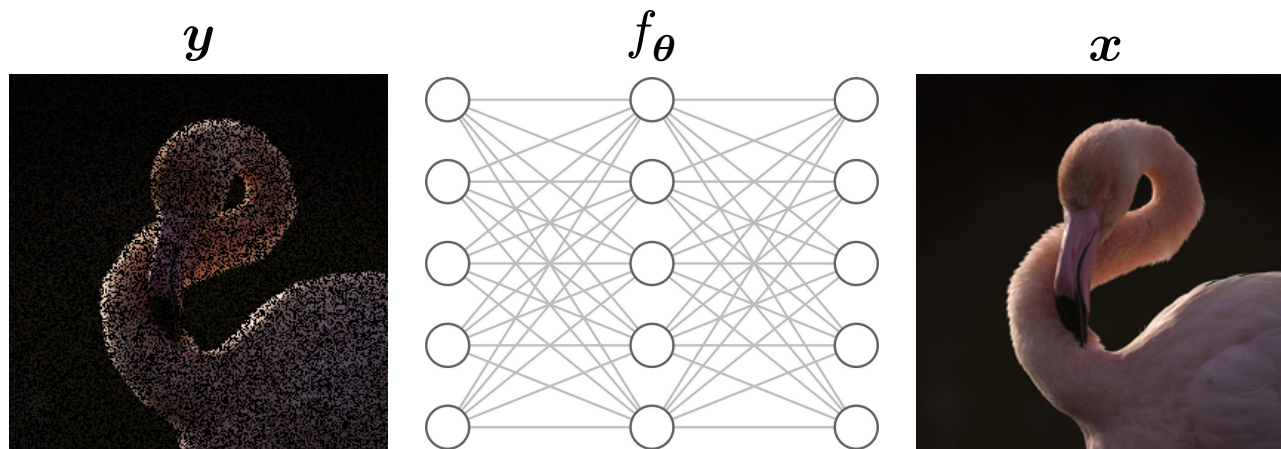


Non-linear: declipping, phase retrieval

- Deep learning is now the state of the art.

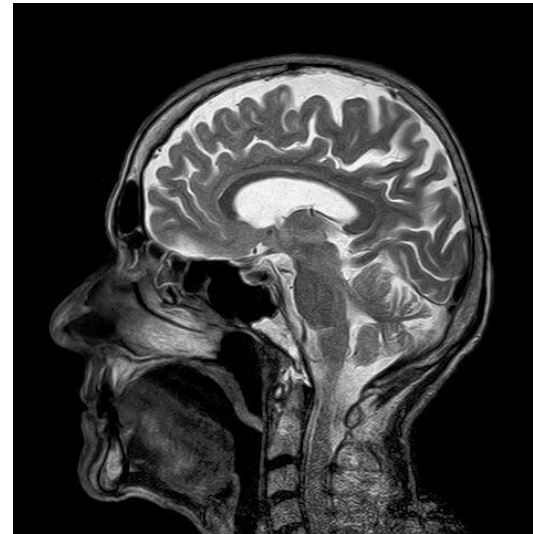
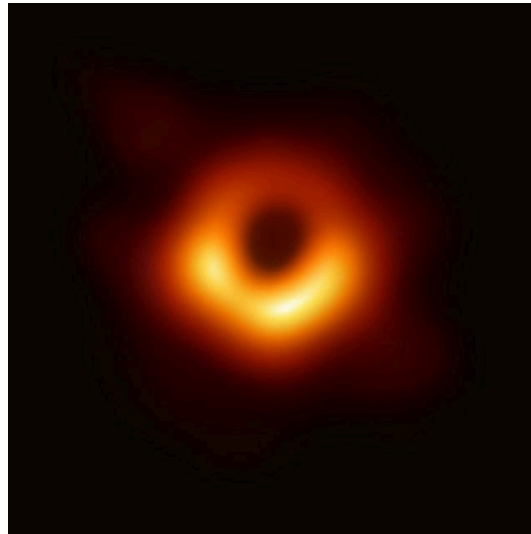
Objective

- **Learn** inverse forward operator of $\mathbf{A}$, $f_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) \approx \mathbf{x}$.
- **Using** a dataset $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)\}_{i \in I}$ + a neural network.



$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{i \in I} \|f_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{A}) - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2$$

- Training and testing datasets can be very different.
- We need a large set of $\{x_i\}_{i \in I}$ (ground-truth).



Astronomical and medical imaging.

- **Dataset:** $\overline{(x_i, y_i)_{i \in I}}$ only $(y_i)_{i \in I}$.
- What can we do with y_i ?

$$y = Ax \Rightarrow y \approx Af_{\theta}(y, A)$$

- **Dataset:** $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)_{i \in I}$ only $(\mathbf{y}_i)_{i \in I}$.
- What can we do with $\mathbf{y}_i$?

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \Rightarrow \mathbf{y} \approx \mathbf{A}f_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A})$$

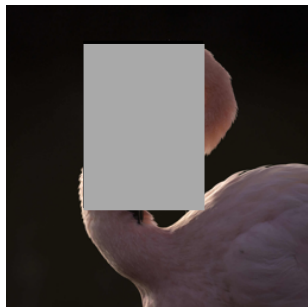
$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{i \in I} \|\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{A}f_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{A})\|^2$$

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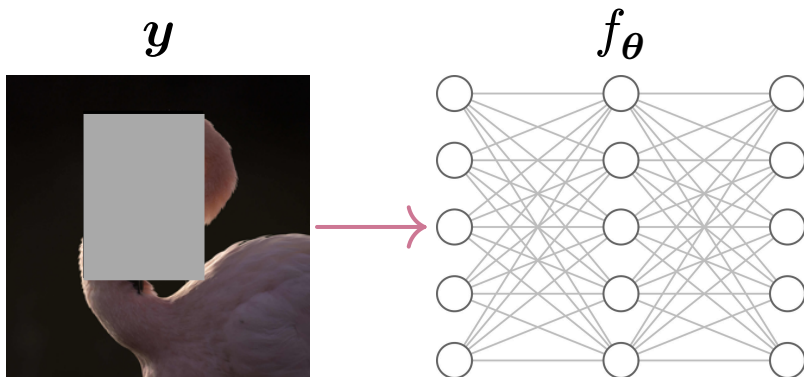
y



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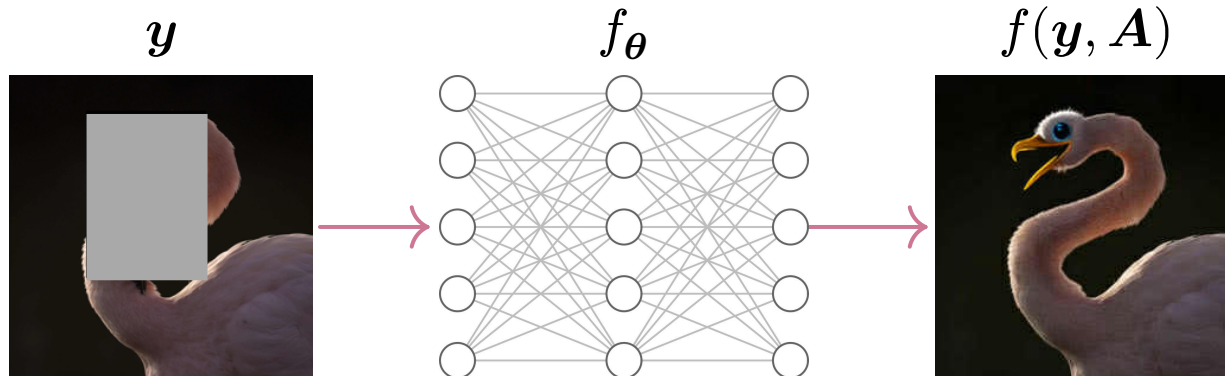
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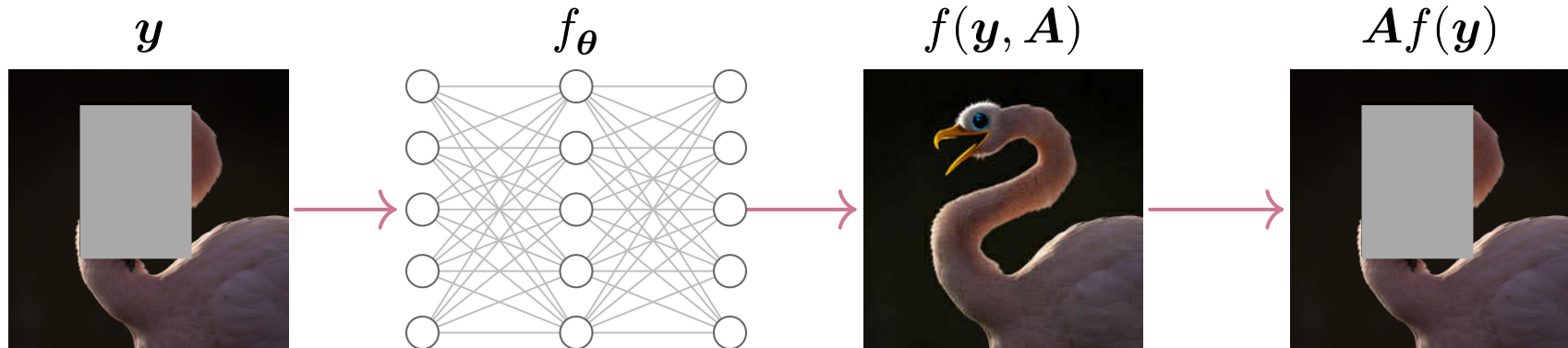
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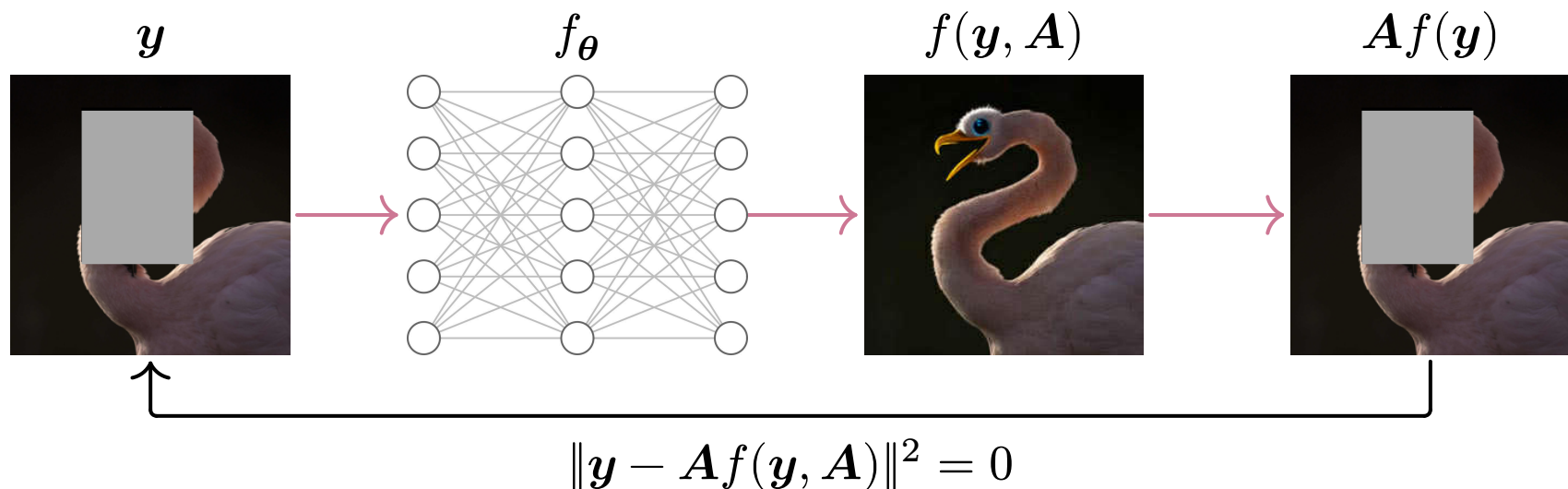
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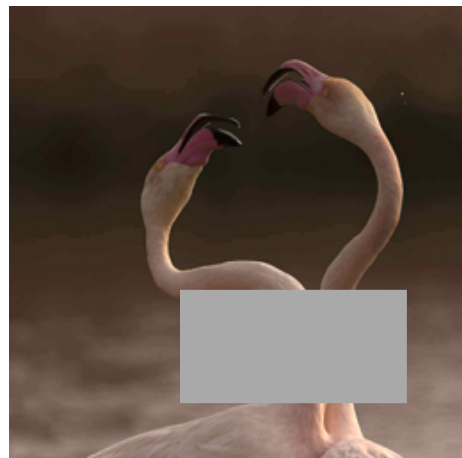
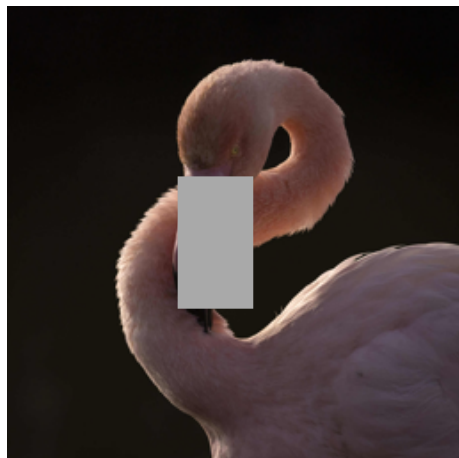
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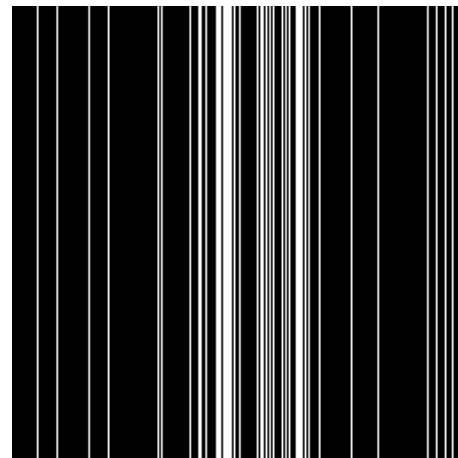
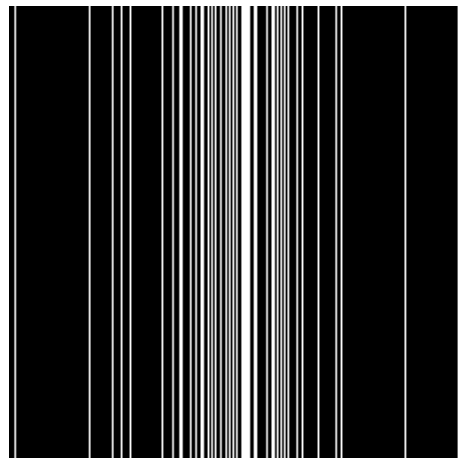


- Leveraging **multiple** operators: $\mathbf{A} \sim p(\mathbf{A})$.
- **Differ** for each measurements $\mathbf{y} \sim p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})$.

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- **Differ** for each measurements $y \sim p(y \mid Ax)$.



Inpainting

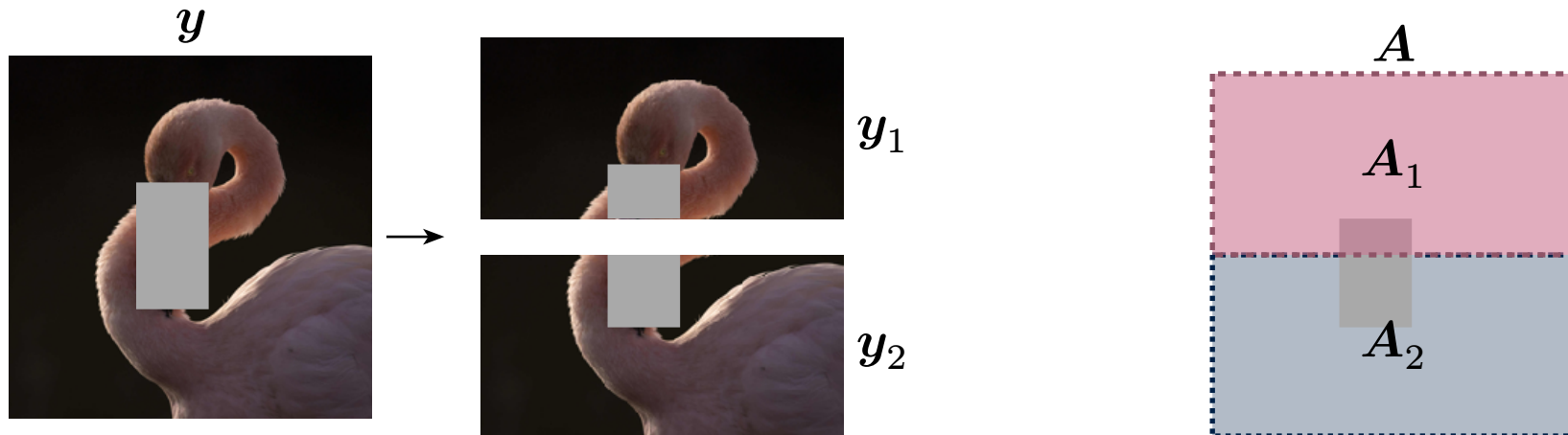


MRI

- Leveraging **multiple** operators: $\mathbf{y} \sim p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})$ with $\mathbf{A} \sim p(\mathbf{A})$.
- **Split** measurements $\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2]$ with **corresponding** operators $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{A}_2]$.

$$f^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_f \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}} \{ \mathcal{L}_{\text{SPLIT}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}, f) \}$$

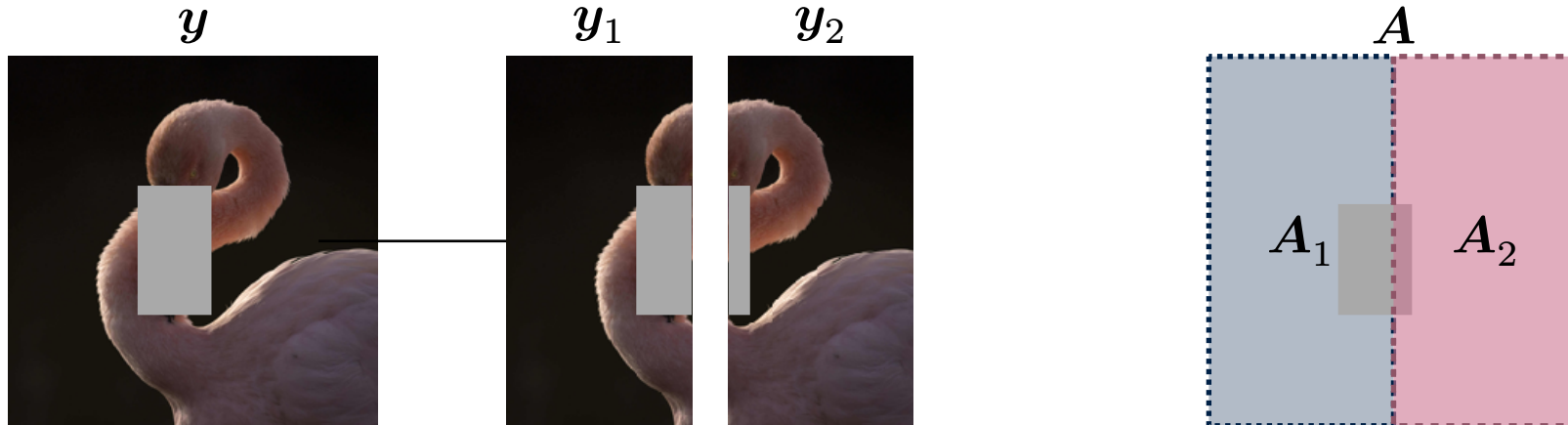
$$\text{with } \mathcal{L}_{\text{SPLIT}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}, f) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1 \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}} [\| \mathbf{A}f(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) - \mathbf{y} \|^2]$$



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Solution with $Q_{A_1} \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{A \mid A_1} \{A^\top A\}$ and v any function in:

$$f^*(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) = \underbrace{Q_{A_1}^\dagger Q_{A_1} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1} \{\mathbf{x}\}}_{\text{MMSE estimator}} + \underbrace{(I - Q_{A_1}^\dagger Q_{A_1}) v(\mathbf{y}_1)}_{\text{Error}}$$

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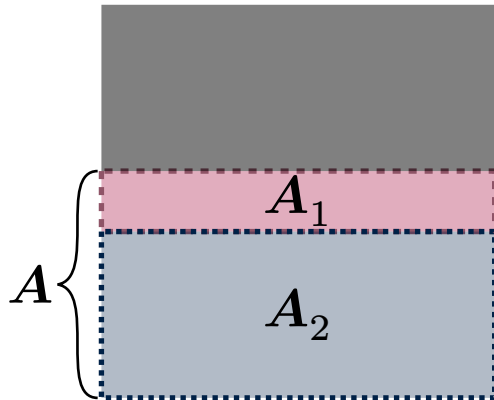
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A visual interpretation of Q_{A_1}

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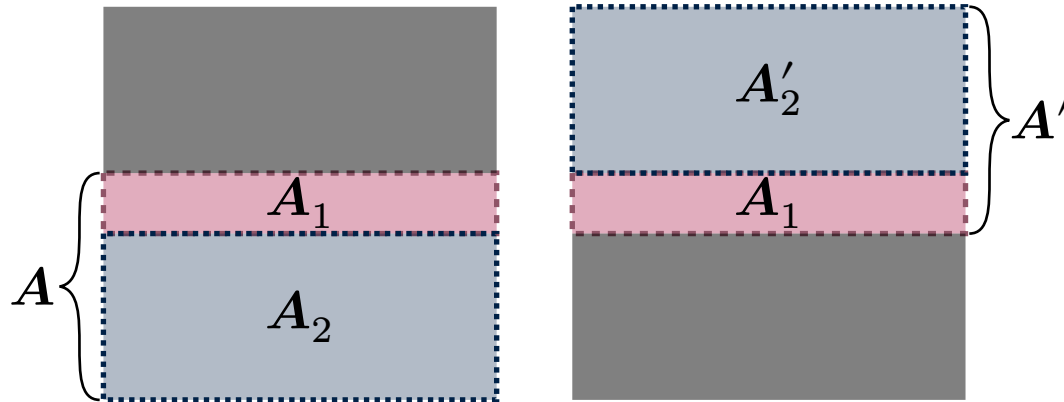


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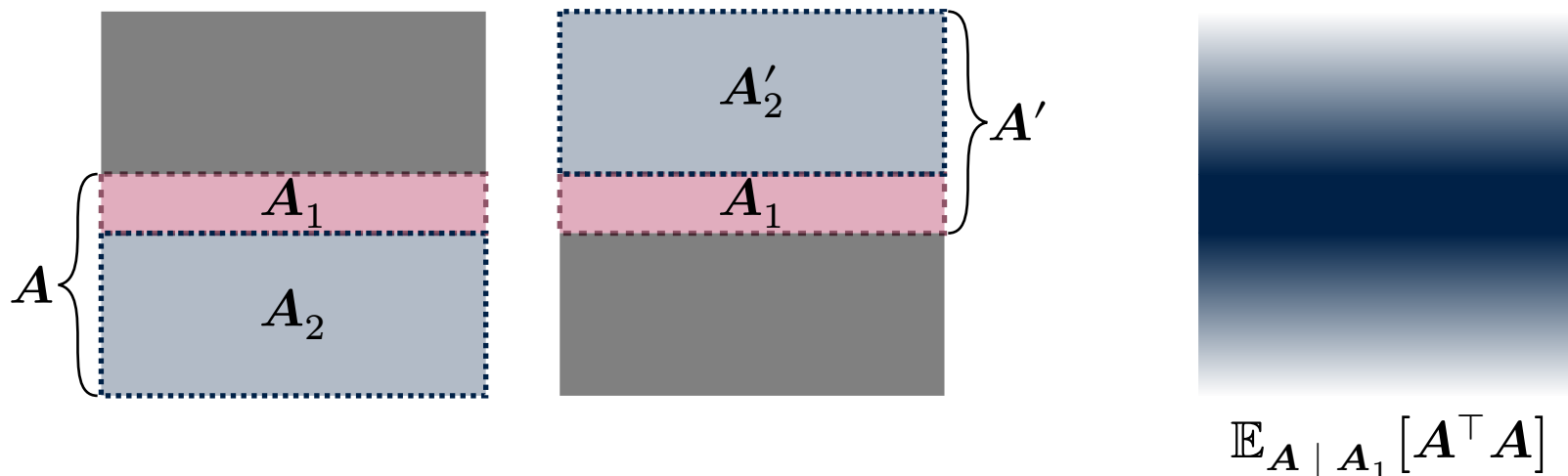


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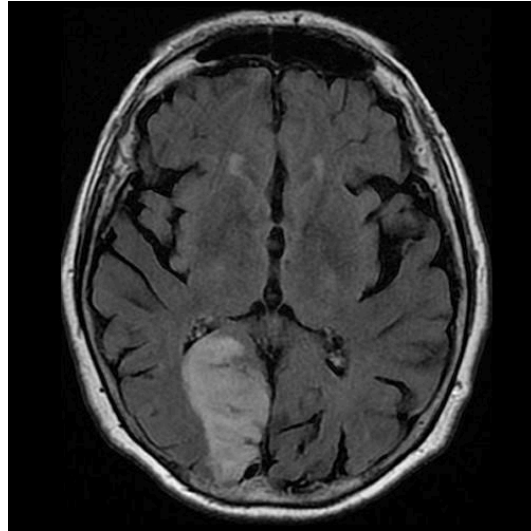


$$\mathbb{E}_{A \mid A_1} [A^\top A]$$

- **A priori:** Invariance to certain transformations: $\forall g \in \mathcal{G} : p(\mathbf{T}_g \mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{x})$.

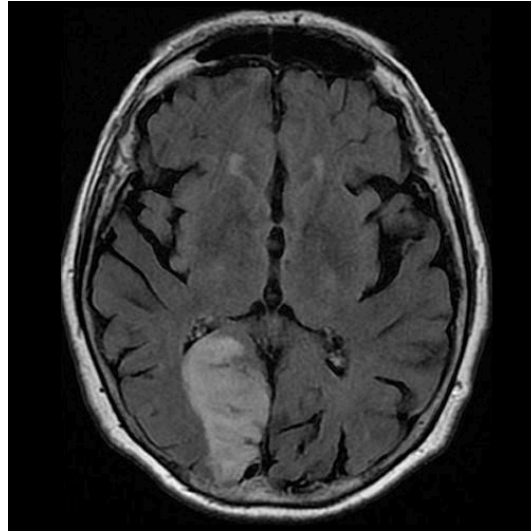
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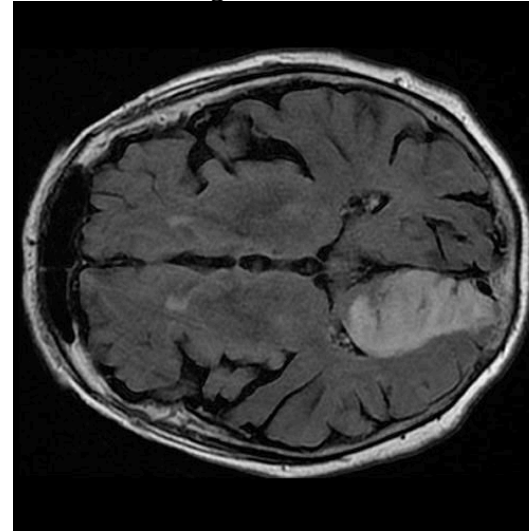


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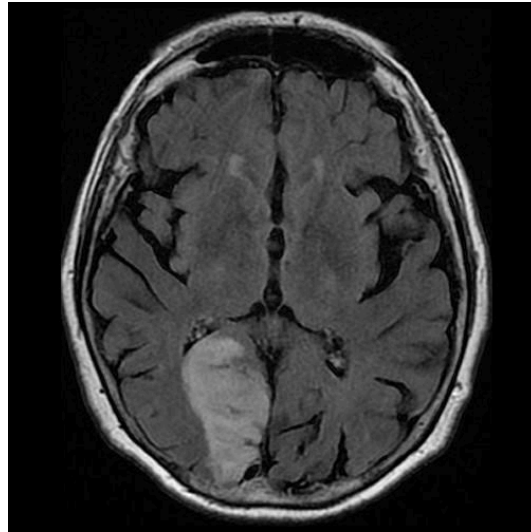


$\mathbf{T}_g \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$

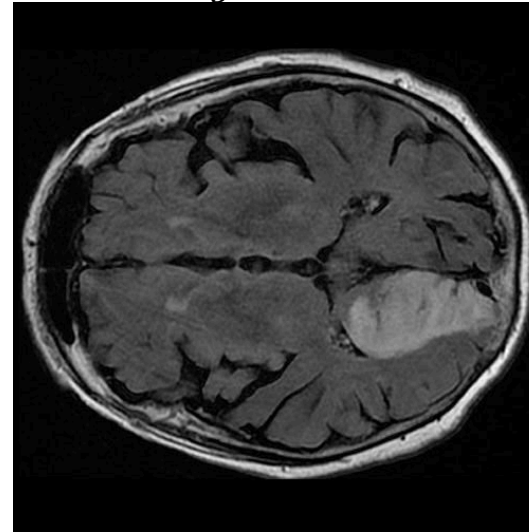


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$x \in \mathcal{X}$



$T_g x \in \mathcal{X}$



$$y = Ax = AT_g T_g^{-1} x = A_g x'$$

- **Assumptions:**
 - **Single** operator A .
 - **Noiseless** measurements: $y = Ax$.
-

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- **Method:**

- **Split** measurements $y = [y_1, y_2]$ for **different** operators $AT_g = [A_1, A_2]$.

$$f^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_f \mathbb{E}_y \{ \mathcal{L}_{\text{ES}}(y, A, f) \}$$

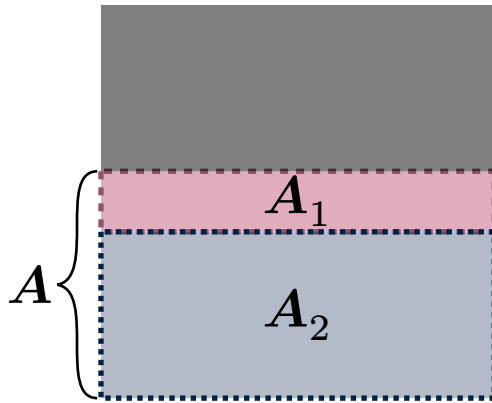
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{ES}}(y, A, f) &\triangleq \mathbb{E}_g \{ \mathcal{L}_{\text{SPLIT}}(y, AT_g, f) \} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_g \mathbb{E}_{y_1, A_1 \mid y, AT_g} \left\{ \| AT_g f(y_1, A_1) - y \|^2 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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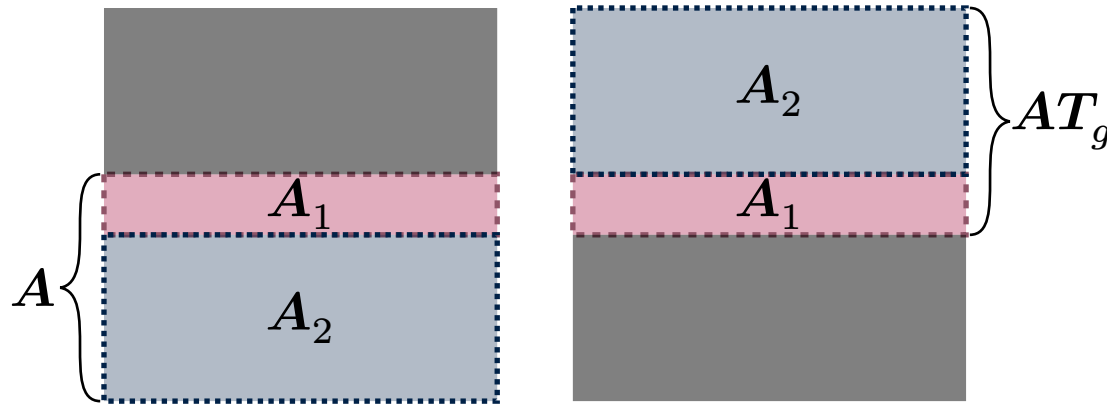
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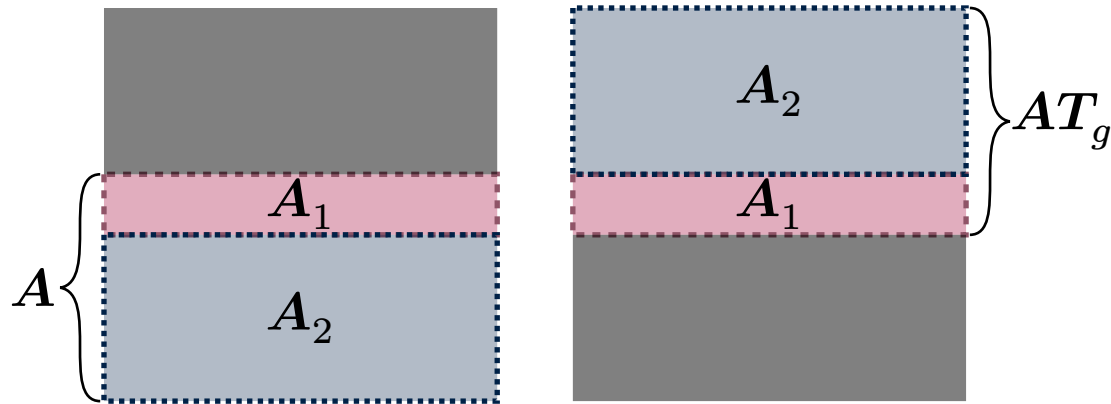
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A heatmap visualization of the matrix $\mathbb{E}_{g | A_1} \left[(AT_g)^\top AT_g \right]$. The matrix is square and shows a horizontal band of high intensity (dark blue) in the center, with the intensity fading to light blue at the top and bottom edges.

$$f^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_f \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}} \{ \mathcal{L}_{\text{ES}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}, f) \}$$

- **At test time:** several splits $\mathbf{A}_1 \longrightarrow$ **Average** the reconstructions.

-

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- If the average $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{\mathbf{A}} \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{A}_1 | \mathbf{A}} \{ \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}_1} \}$ **is invertible**:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{f}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) &\triangleq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1 | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}} \{ \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}_1} f^*(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) \} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1 | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}} \{ \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}_1} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1} \{ \mathbf{x} \} \}}_{\text{Convex combination of MMSE estimators}}. \end{aligned}$$

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- If $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_{\mathbf{A}}$ cannot be computed efficiently $\longrightarrow$ **non-weighted average:**

$$\overline{f}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J f^* \left(\mathbf{y}_1^{(j)}, \mathbf{A}_1^{(j)} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \left(\mathbf{y}_1^{(j)}, \mathbf{A}_1^{(j)} \right) \sim p(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1 | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A} \mathbf{T}_g).$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \varepsilon$$

- **Divide** the $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ES}}$ into 2 terms:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ES}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}, f) = \mathbb{E}_g \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1 \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A} T_g} \left\{ \underbrace{\|\mathbf{A}_1 f(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) - \mathbf{y}_1\|^2}_{\text{Measurement consistency (MC)}} + \underbrace{\|\mathbf{A}_2 f(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) - \mathbf{y}_2\|^2}_{\text{prediction accuracy}} \right\}.$$

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- **Replace** MC by a self-supervised **denoising** loss:

$$\mathbb{E}_g \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1, \omega \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A} T_g} \left\{ \underbrace{\left\| \mathbf{A}_1 f(\mathbf{y}_1 + \alpha \omega, \mathbf{A}_1) - \left(\mathbf{y}_1 - \frac{\omega}{\alpha} \right) \right\|^2}_{\text{R2R (denoising) loss}} + \|\mathbf{A}_2 f(\mathbf{y}_1 + \alpha \omega, \mathbf{A}_1) - \mathbf{y}_2\|^2 \right\}.$$

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- **Replace** MC by a self-supervised **denoising** loss:

$$\mathbb{E}_g \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1, \omega \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}T_g} \left\{ \underbrace{\left\| \mathbf{A}_1 f(\mathbf{y}_1 + \alpha\omega, \mathbf{A}_1) - \left(\mathbf{y}_1 - \frac{\omega}{\alpha} \right) \right\|^2}_{\text{R2R (denoising) loss}} + \|\mathbf{A}_2 f(\mathbf{y}_1 + \alpha\omega, \mathbf{A}_1) - \mathbf{y}_2\|^2 \right\}.$$

- $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}_1}$ invertible $\Rightarrow f^*(\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{A}_1} \{\mathbf{x}\}.$

- **In many methods:** $f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \varphi_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{A}^{\top} \mathbf{y})$ or $f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \varphi_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{A}^{\dagger} \mathbf{y})$
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Definition

We say that the reconstruction function $f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A})$ is an equivariant reconstructor if

$$f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}T_g) = T_g^{-1} f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}), \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{G}, \quad \forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}.$$

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- **Artifact removal and unrolled network.** $f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{x}_L$ with

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \varphi\left(\mathbf{x}_k - \gamma \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_k} d(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{y})\right).$$

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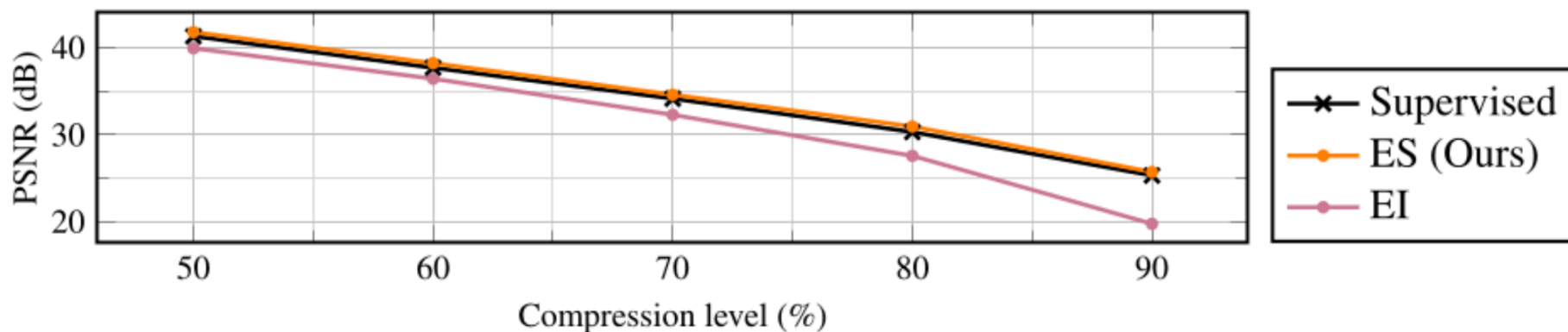
$$f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A})\}.$$

- **Minimum mean squared error (MMSE).**

$$f(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}].$$

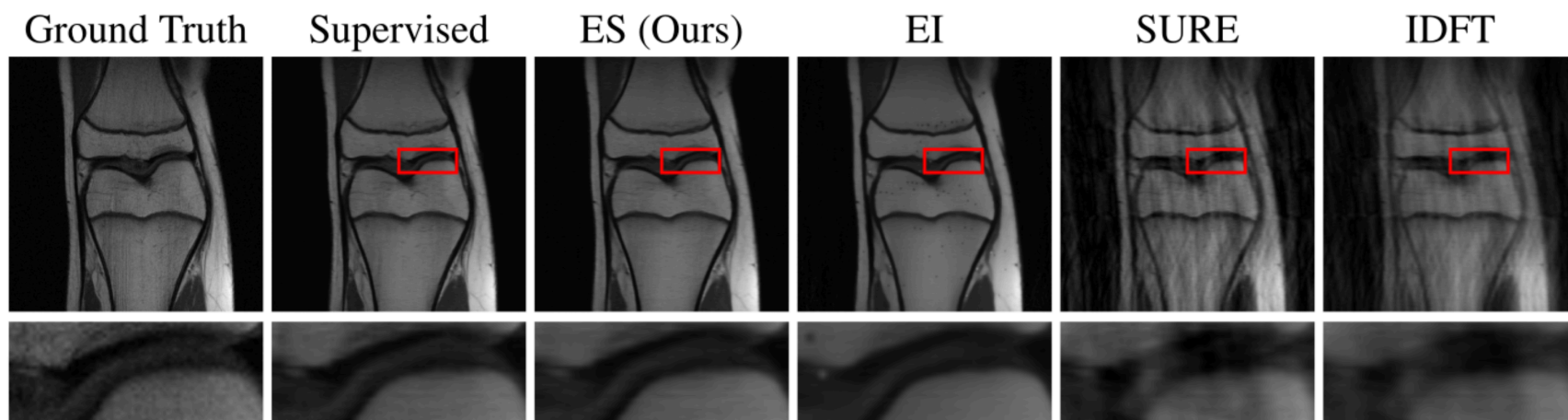
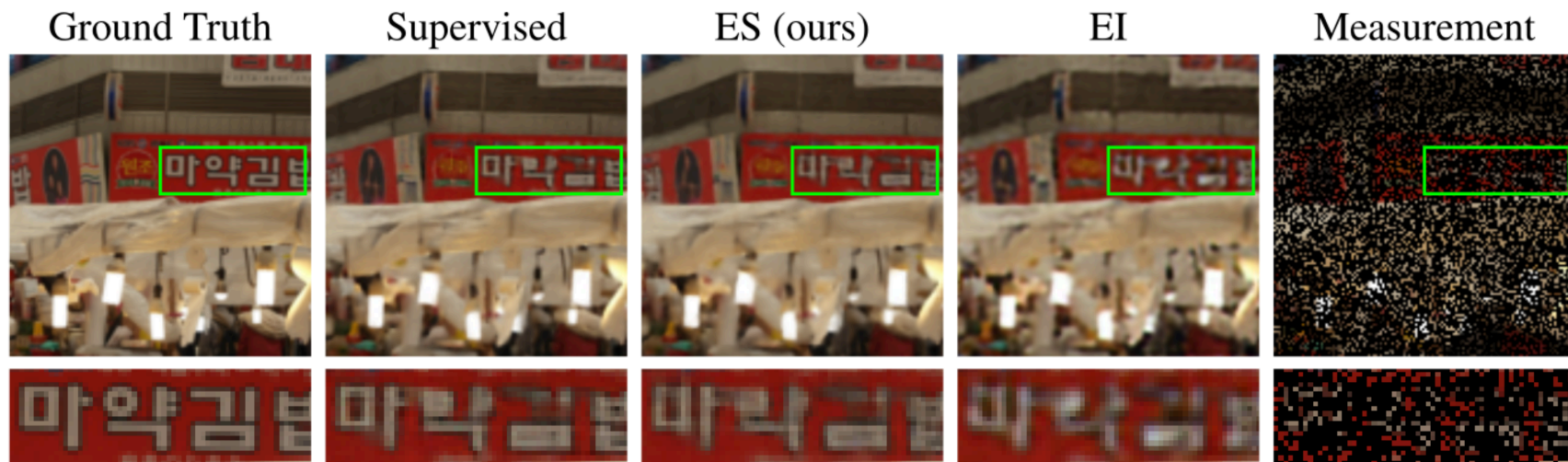
Problem	Equivariant architecture	Dataset	Transformation
Compressive sensing	Unrolled equivariant UNet	MNIST 20000 images	Translations
Image inpainting	Equivariant UNet	DIV2K 800 images	Translations
MRI	Unrolled UNet + reynold averaging	FastMRI 900 images	Rotation + Flip

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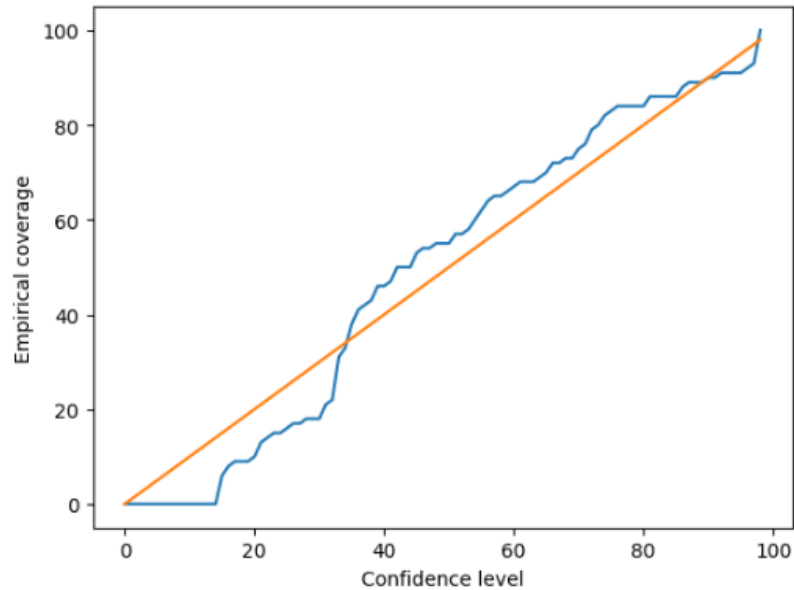


- **Inpainting:** image size: 128×128 , **A**: keep 30% of the pixels, no noise.
- **MRI:** image size: 265×256 , acceleration: $\times 8$, noise: $\sigma = 0.05$.

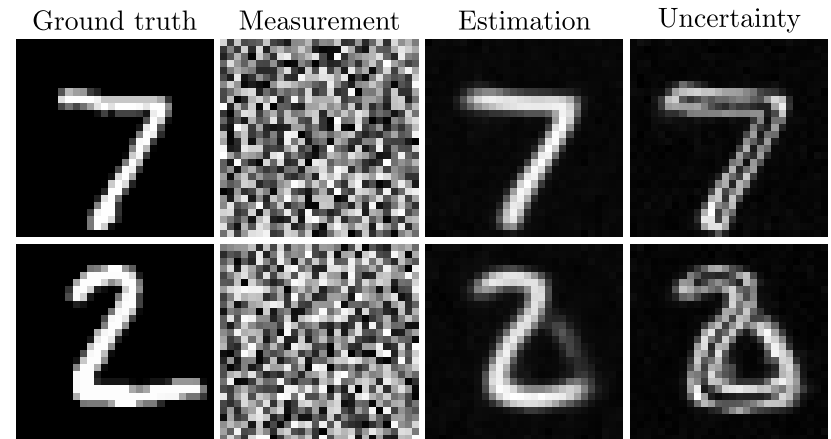
		PSNR $\uparrow$	
Training loss	Eq. arch.	Inpainting	MRI
Supervised	✓	28.46	28.74
	×	28.62	28.48
Splitting (Ours)	✓	27.45	28.54
	×	27.20	28.18
EI	✓	25.89	27.88
	×	26.33	-
Incomplete image/ IDFT	-	8.22	23.62



- Collaborative project with Marcelo Pereyra: **Uncertainty Quantification.**



Coverage plot



Predicted error

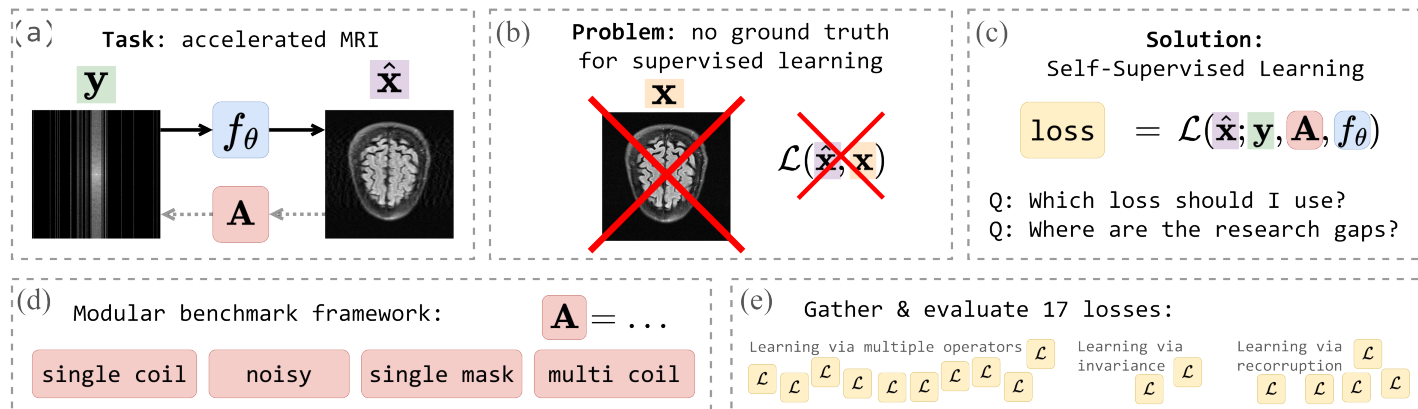
-Code: <https://github.com/vsechaud/Equivariant-Splitting>



-MRI:

SSIBench: Self-Supervised Imaging Benchmark

andrewwango.github.io/ssibench



-Photographs of flamingos: Émile Sechaud

Appendix

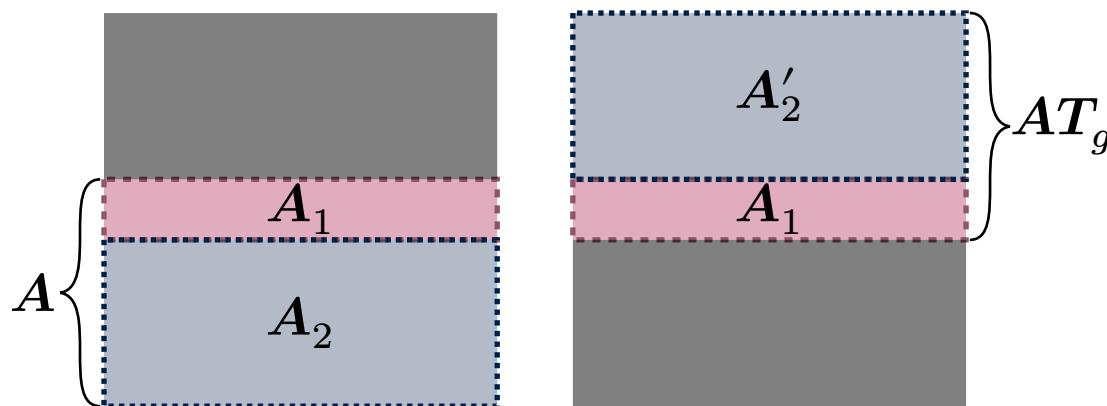
Method	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$
Supervised	28.46 ± 2.97	0.8982 ± 0.0411
ES (ours)	27.45 ± 2.86	0.8737 ± 0.0461
EI	25.89 ± 2.65	0.8332 ± 0.0521
Incomplete image	8.22 ± 2.47	0.0973 ± 0.0542

Method	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$
Supervised	28.74 ± 2.81	0.6445 ± 0.1094
ES (ours)	28.54 ± 2.75	0.6195 ± 0.1188
EI	27.88 ± 2.64	0.5731 ± 0.1299
SURE	24.45 ± 1.86	0.5479 ± 0.0740
IDFT	23.62 ± 1.90	0.5052 ± 0.0900

Image inpainting			
Training loss	Eq. arch.	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$
Supervised	$\checkmark$	28.46 ± 2.97	0.8982 ± 0.0411
	$\times$	28.62 ± 3.03	0.9002 ± 0.0414
Splitting (Ours)	$\checkmark$	27.45 ± 2.86	0.8737 ± 0.0461
	$\times$	27.20 ± 2.83	0.8652 ± 0.0461
MRI ($\times 8$ Accel.)			
Training loss	Eq. arch.	PSNR $\uparrow$	SSIM $\uparrow$
Supervised	$\checkmark$	28.74 ± 2.81	0.6445 ± 0.1094
	$\times$	28.48 ± 2.68	0.6381 ± 0.1082
Splitting (Ours)	$\checkmark$	28.54 ± 2.75	0.6195 ± 0.1188
	$\times$	28.18 ± 2.58	0.6104 ± 0.1176

What is Q_{A_1} for equivariant splitting?

- Q_{A_1} is a **weight** depending on all possible T_g , knowing A_1 .
- The more **probable** T_g is, the more it **impacts** Q_{A_1} .
- Q_{A_1} invertible $\Rightarrow$ the entire space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is covered by all $(AT_g)^\top AT_g$.



$$\mathbb{E}_{g \mid A_1} \left[(AT_g)^\top AT_g \right]$$