

# Step-by-Step Reconstruction Using Learned Dictionaries

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ISMIRM 2020 Virtual Conference





**ONE COMMUNITY**  
ISMRM & SMRT  
Virtual Conference & Exhibition  
08-14 August 2020



# **Declaration of Financial Interests or Relationships**

Speaker Name: Jonathan I Tamir

I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose with regard to the subject matter of this presentation.

# Links

- Compressed sensing MRI overview:

[https://www.ismrm.org/19/program\\_files/WE22.htm](https://www.ismrm.org/19/program_files/WE22.htm)



CS-MRI Talk

- Hands-on examples:

[https://github.com/utcsilab/dictionary\\_learning\\_ismrm\\_2020](https://github.com/utcsilab/dictionary_learning_ismrm_2020)



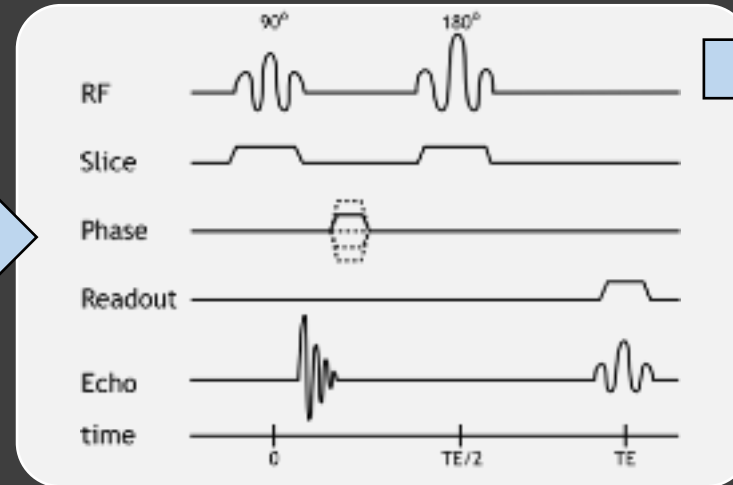
Hands-on code

# MRI Background

Patient in MRI scanner



Pulse sequence controls MRI signal



Measurements are collected

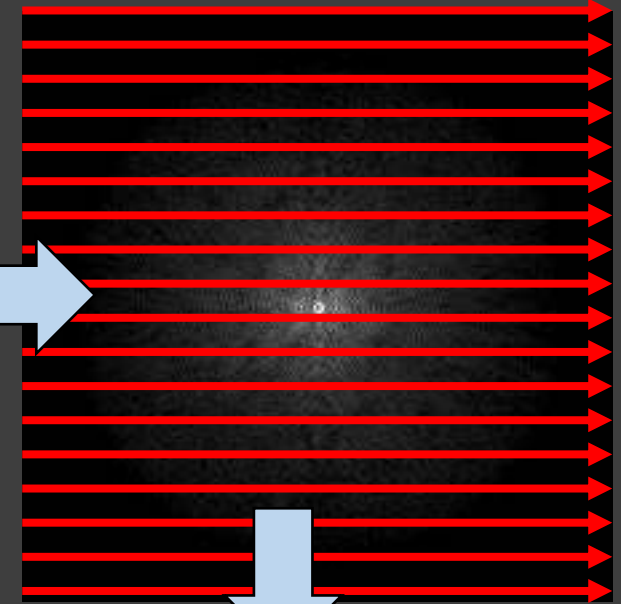
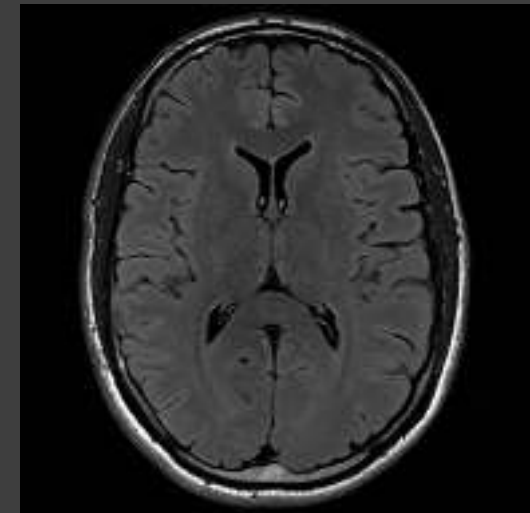
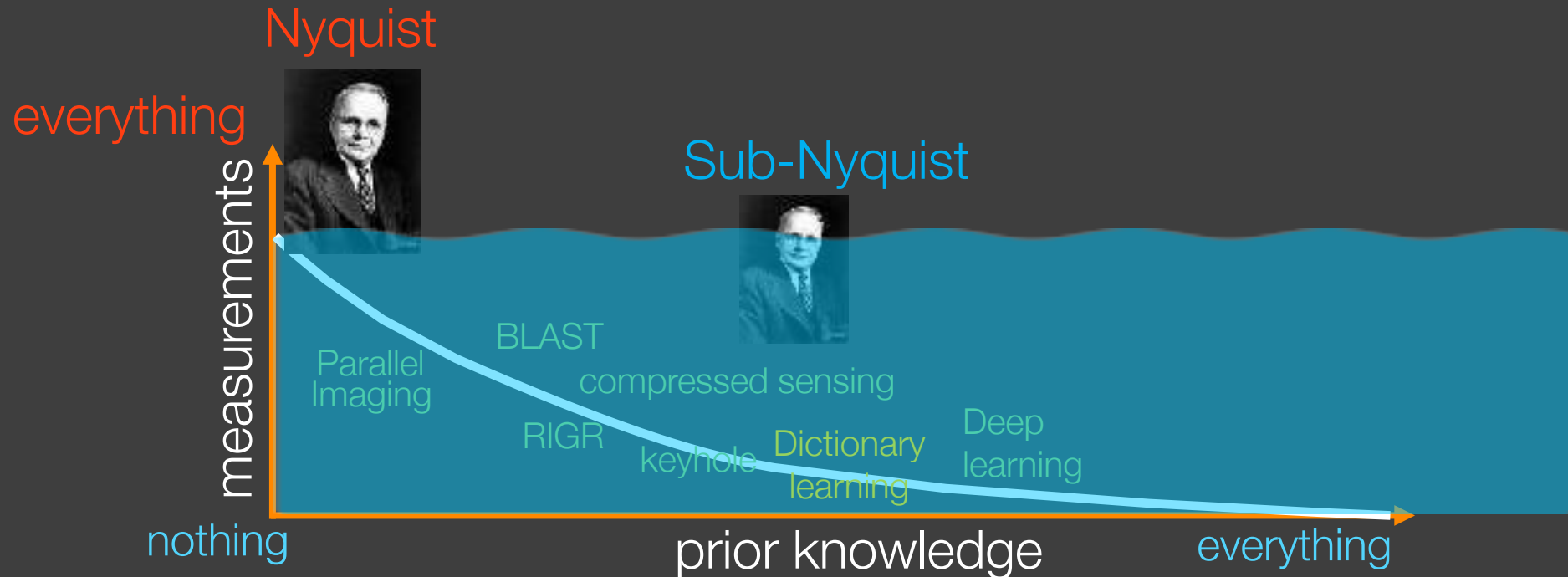


Image is reconstructed

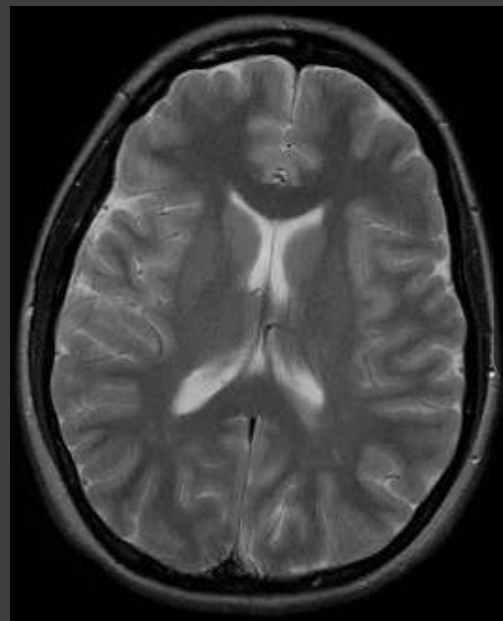


# Data redundancy

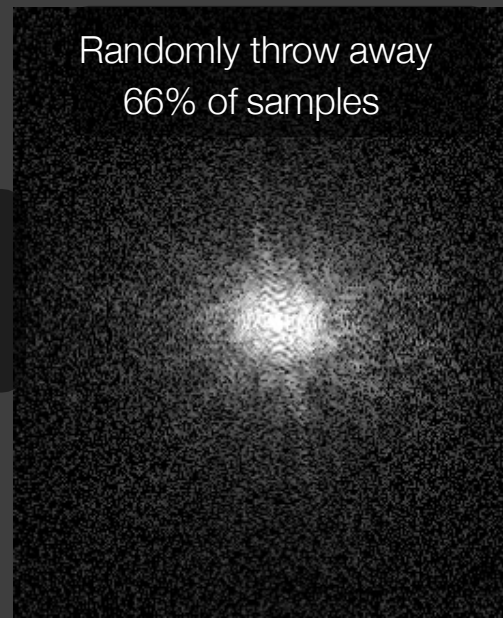
Redundancy reduces sampling requirements  
(The more you know, the less you need)



# Compressed sensing MRI



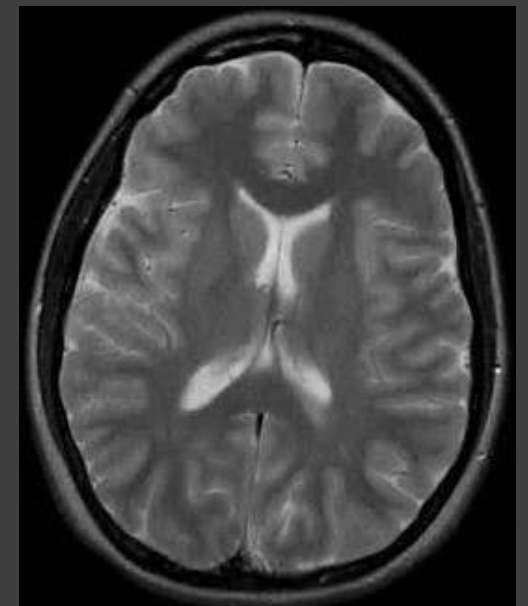
Fourier  
→  
transform



standard  
→  
recon

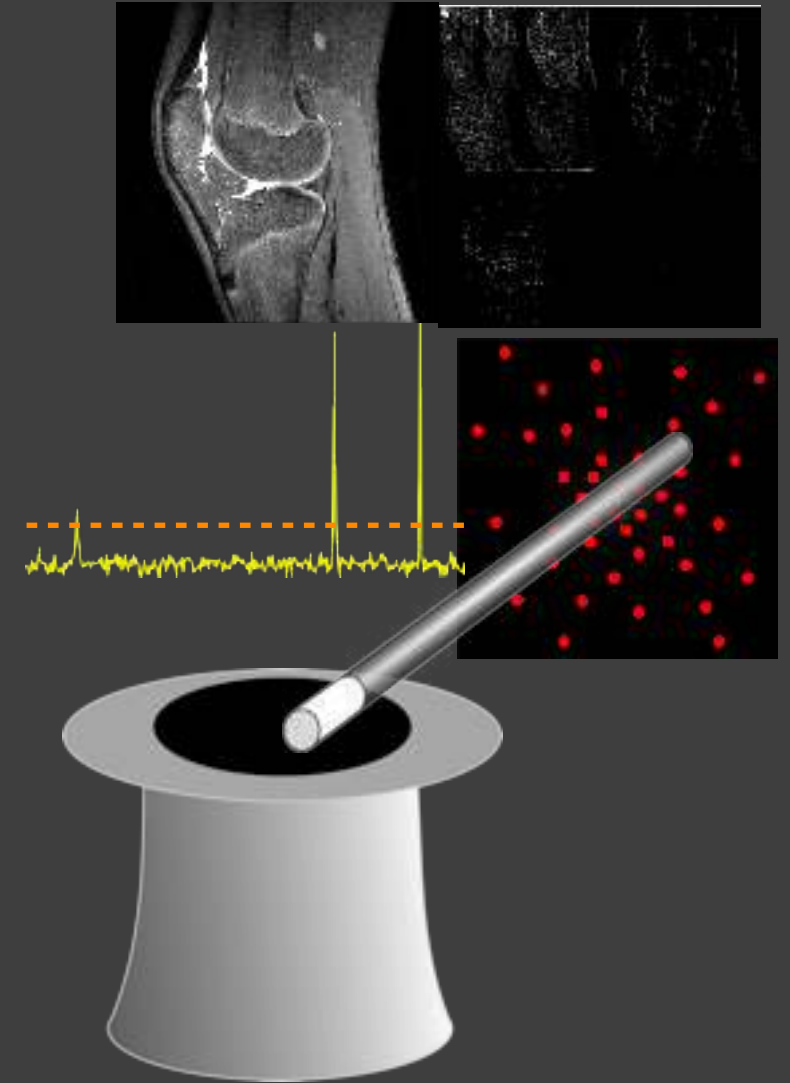


compressed  
→  
sensing



# Compressed sensing recipe

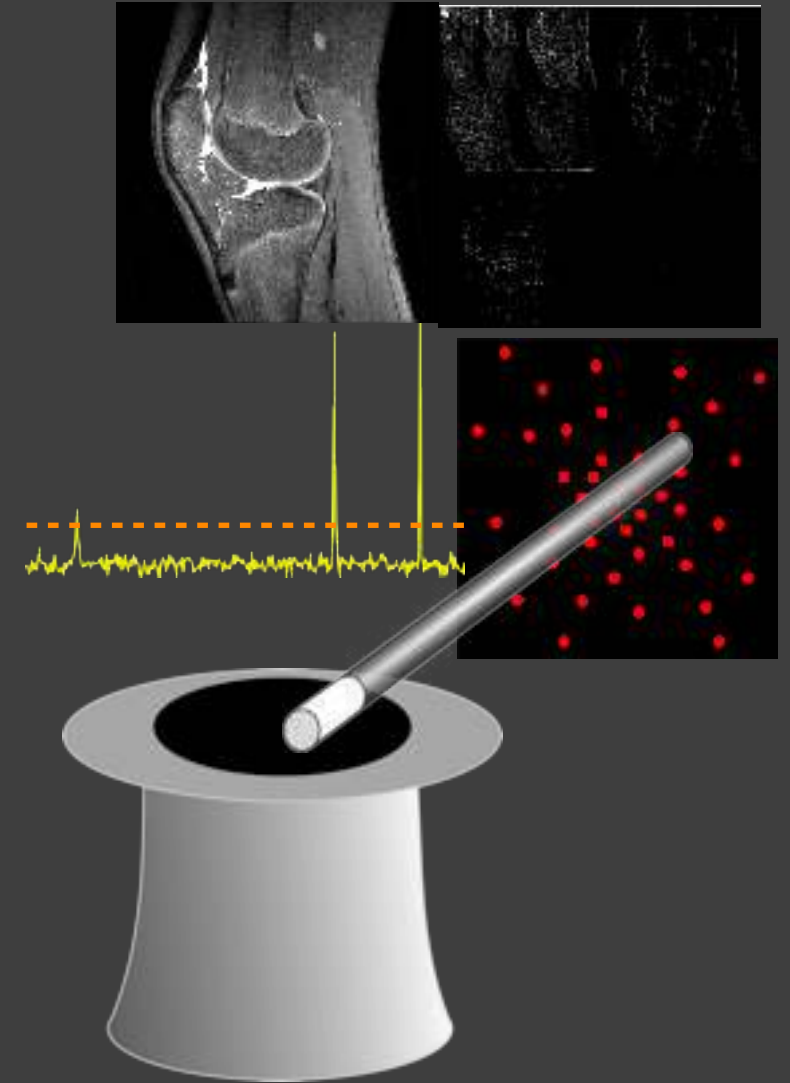
1. Sparse signal model
2. Incoherent sensing operator
3. Non-linear reconstruction algorithm





# Compressed sensing recipe

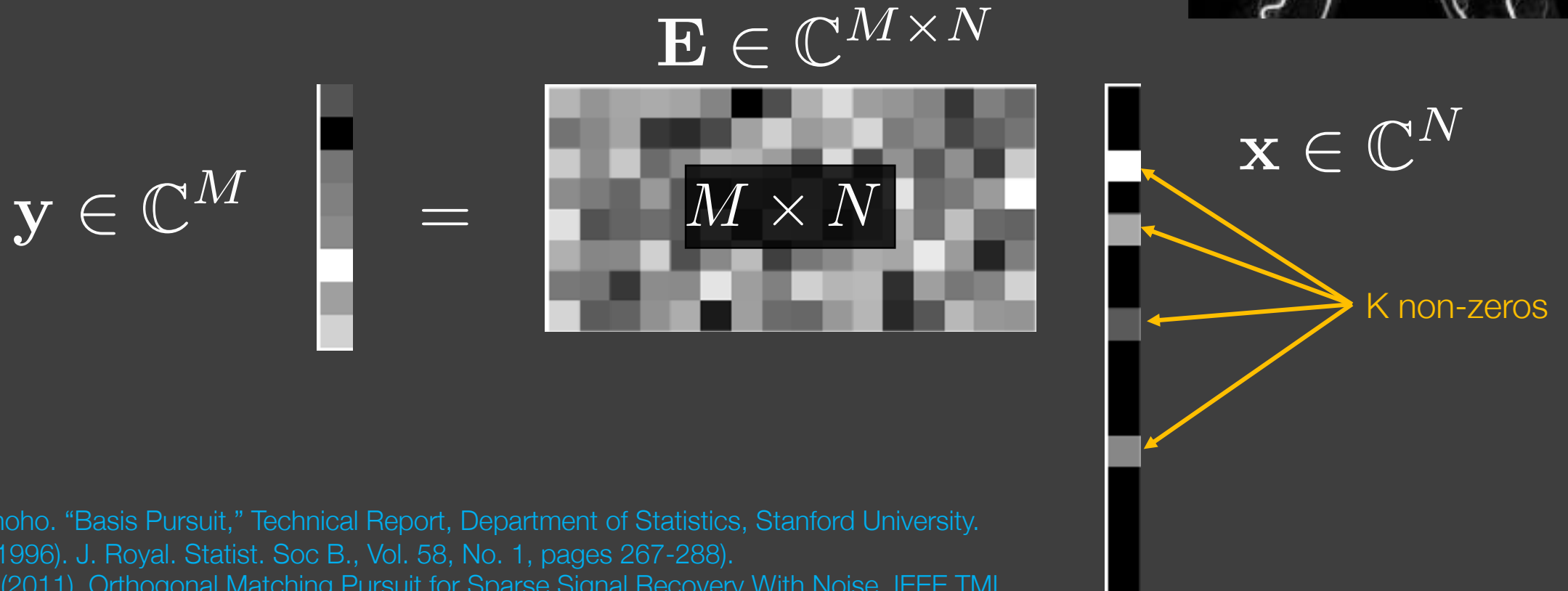
1. Sparse signal model
2. Incoherent sensing operator
3. Non-linear reconstruction algorithm





# Sparse signal modeling

- Assumption:  $\mathbf{x}$  is a **K-sparse** signal ( $K \ll N$ )
  - Make **M** ( $K < M < N$ ) **incoherent** linear measurements



# Sparse signal modeling

- Assumption:  $\mathbf{x}$  is a **K-sparse** signal ( $K \ll N$ )
  - Make **M** ( $K < M < N$ ) **incoherent** linear measurements
  - Enforce sparsity during reconstruction

## Greedy methods

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq K$

## Relaxation methods

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

# Sparse signal modeling

- What if the signal is not sparse?

not sparse



not sparse



not sparse



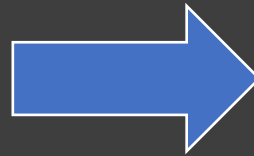
not sparse



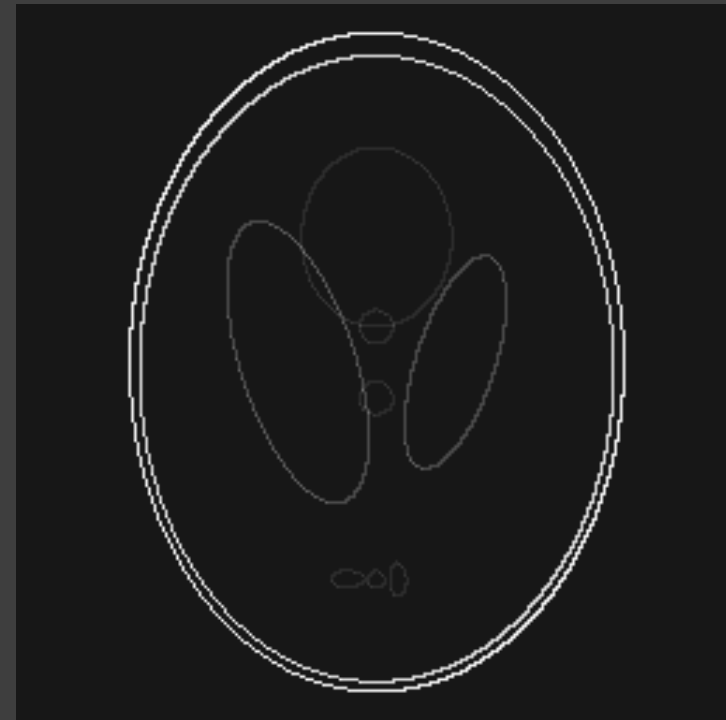
# Transform sparsity

- Most medical images are sparse in an alternative representation

not sparse



sparse edges



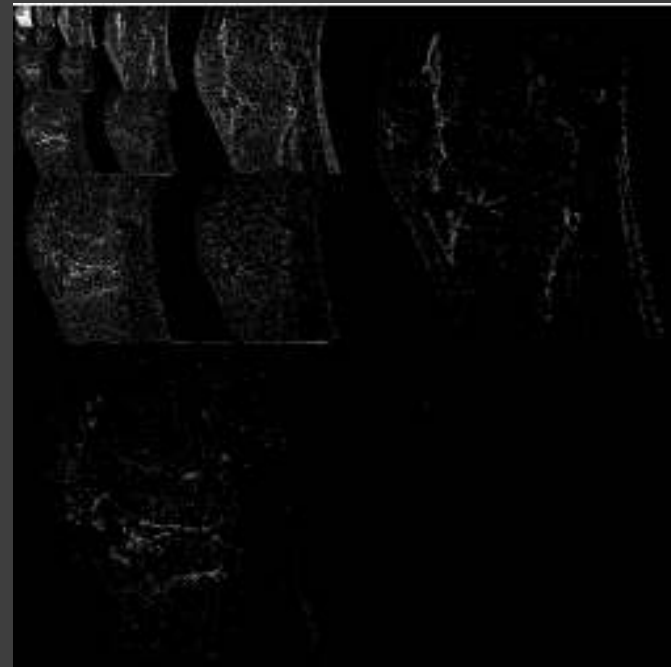
# Transform sparsity

- Most medical images are sparse in an alternative representation

not sparse



sparse wavelet



# Transform sparsity

- Most medical images are sparse in an alternative representation

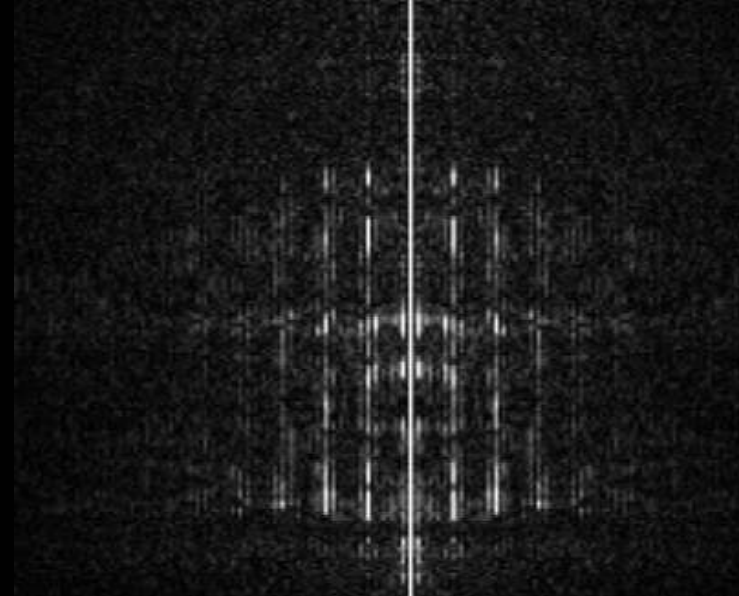
not sparse



sparse temporal  
finite differences

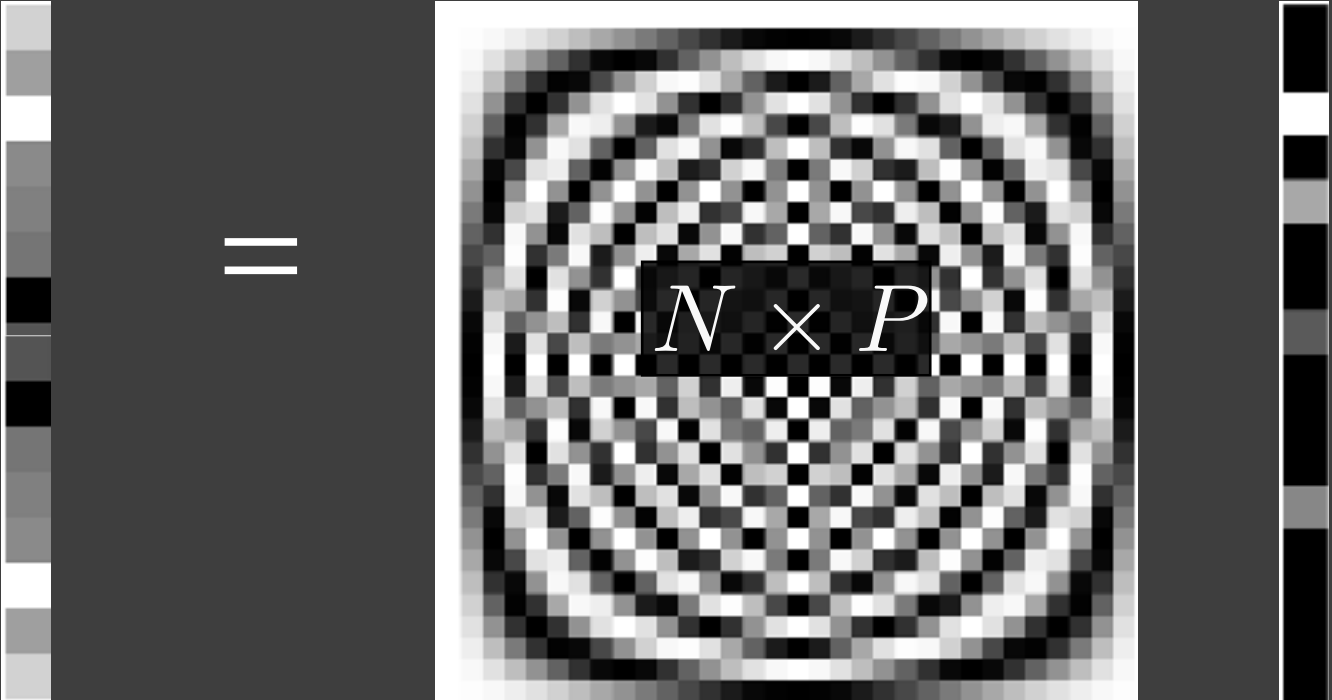


sparse temporal  
frequency



# Transform sparsity

- Represent the original signal as sparse in a transform domain

$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N \quad = \quad \mathbf{D} \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{C}^P$$


The diagram illustrates the concept of transform sparsity. It shows a vertical vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N$  on the left, followed by an equals sign, a square matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  in the center, and a vertical vector  $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{C}^P$  on the right. The matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  is labeled with  $N \times P$  in the center. The vector  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  is shown as a vertical bar with many black segments and a few white segments, indicating that only a small number of coefficients are non-zero, which is the essence of sparsity.



# Transform sparsity

- Represent the original signal as sparse in a transform domain
- Enforce sparsity on transformed coefficients

$$\min_{\alpha} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{ED}\alpha\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_1$$

$$\min_{\alpha} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{ED}\alpha\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\alpha\|_0 \leq K$$

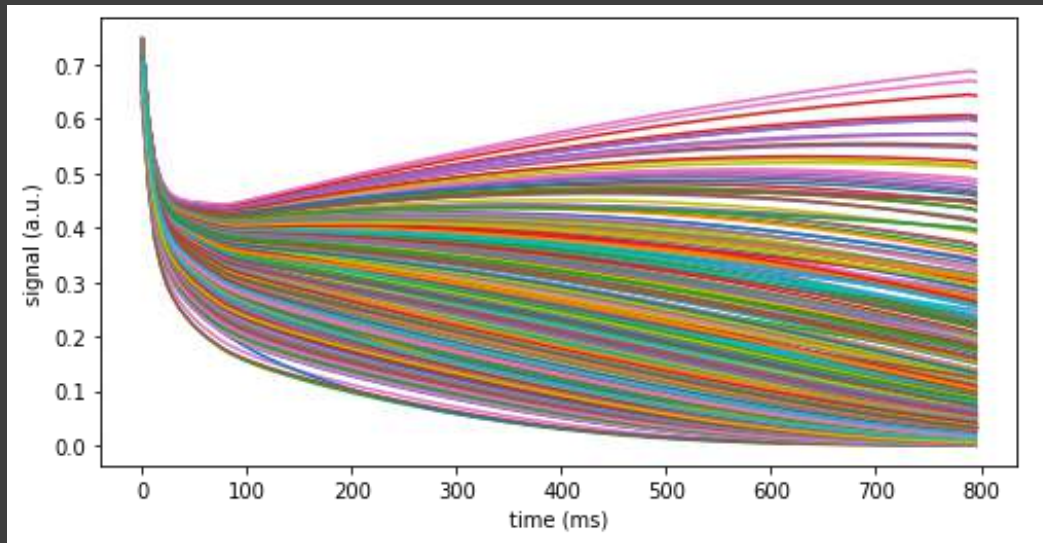
# Transform sparsity

- Problem:
  - Sparsity is only as good as our transform
  - Need to choose the right transform for each signal
- Solution?
  - Learn the transform! → Dictionary Learning

# Dictionary learning

Given training data:

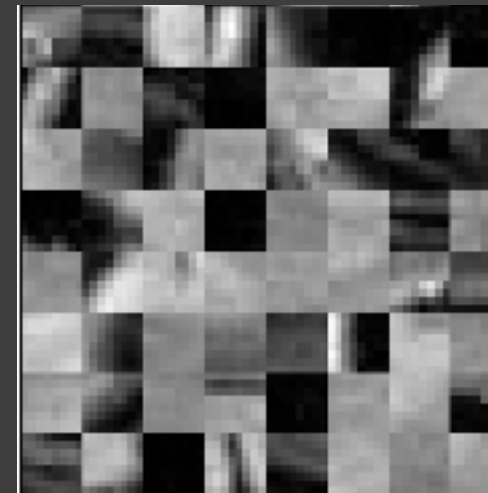
Temporal relaxation curves



Images



Patches

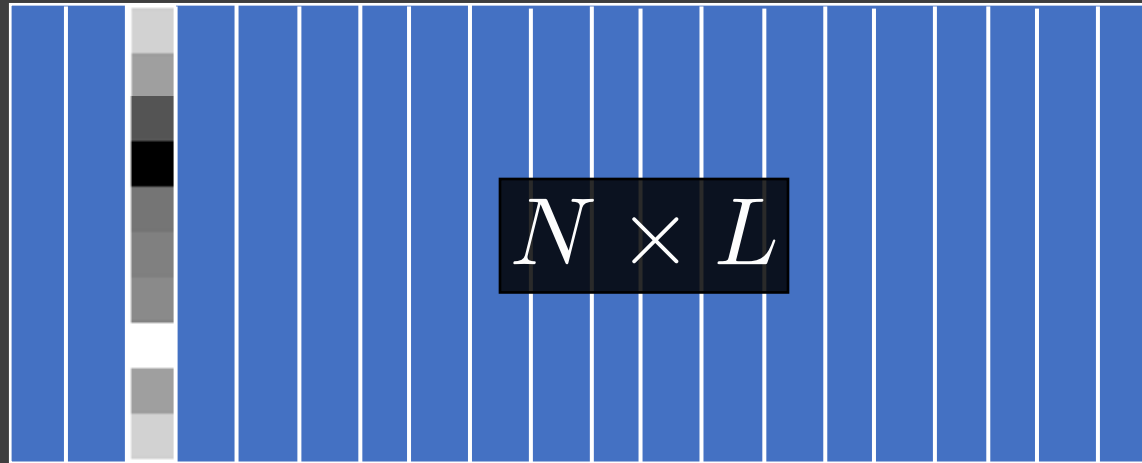


# Dictionary learning

Given training data: form a data matrix

Data matrix

$\mathbf{X}$

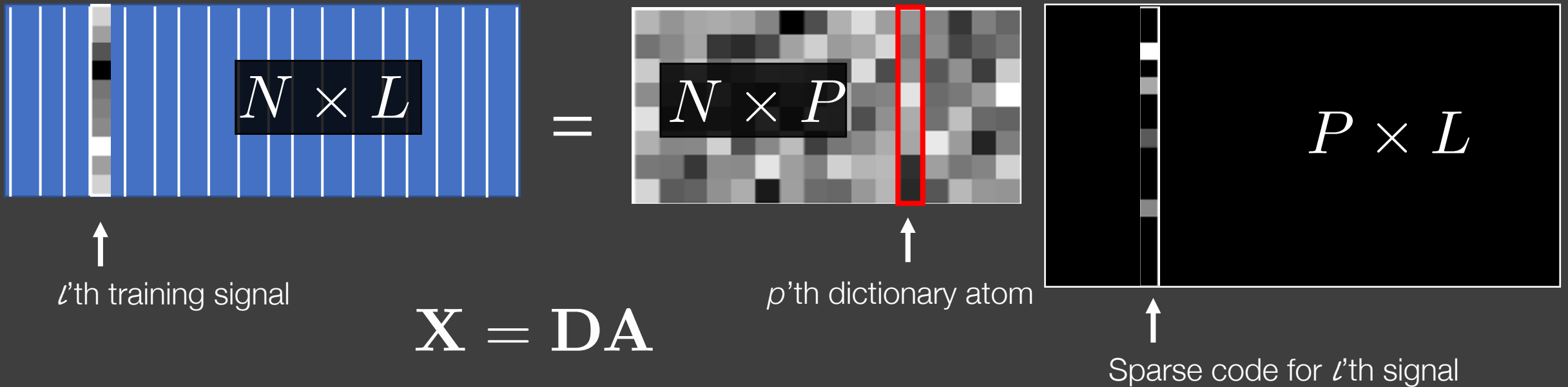


$L$  training examples  
Each length- $N$

# Dictionary learning

Given training data: form a data matrix

- Jointly learn the dictionary and the sparse representation



# Dictionary learning

Given training data: form a data matrix

- Jointly learn the dictionary and the sparse representation

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{A}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{DA}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\alpha_l\|_0 \leq K \quad l = 1, \dots, L$$
$$\|\mathbf{d}_p\|_2 \leq 1 \quad p = 1, \dots, P$$

# Dictionary learning

Given training data: form a data matrix

- Jointly learn the dictionary and the sparse representation
- Approach: alternating minimization

Step 1: Update coefficients (sparse coding)

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\alpha_l\|_0 \leq K \\ l = 1, \dots, L$$

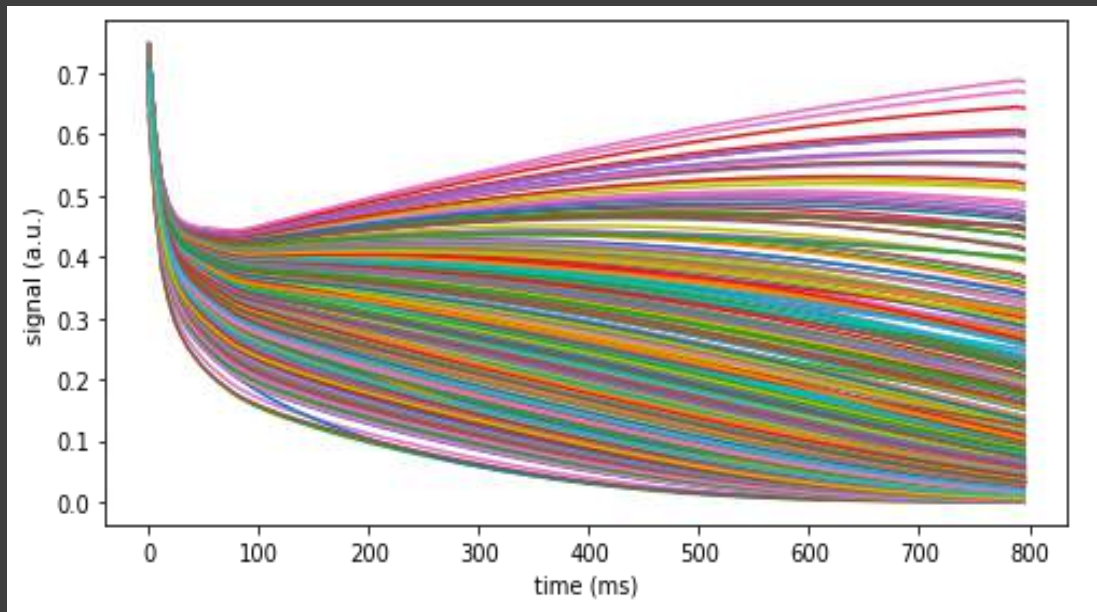
Step 2: Update dictionary

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_p\|_2 \leq 1 \\ p = 1, \dots, P$$



# Dictionary learning: example

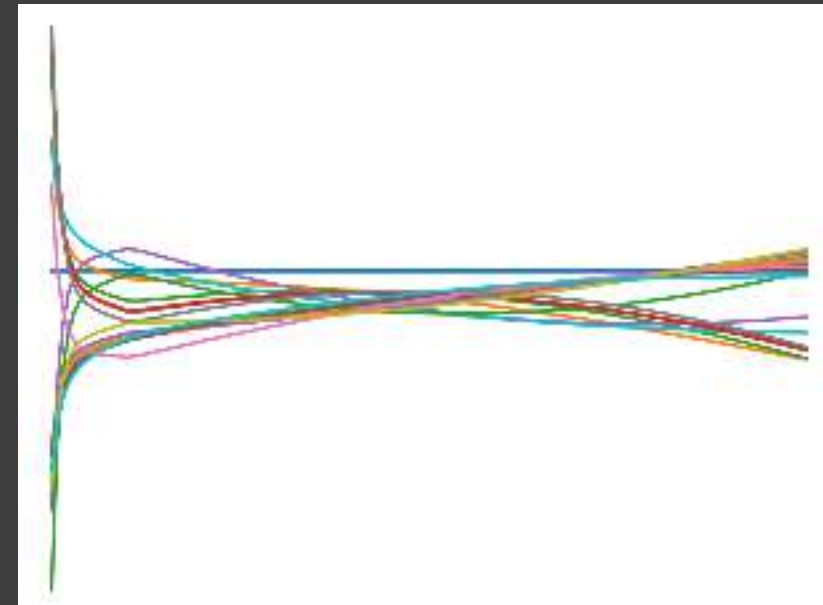
Temporal relaxation curves



$N = 130$

$\mathbf{X}$

$=$



$P = 20$

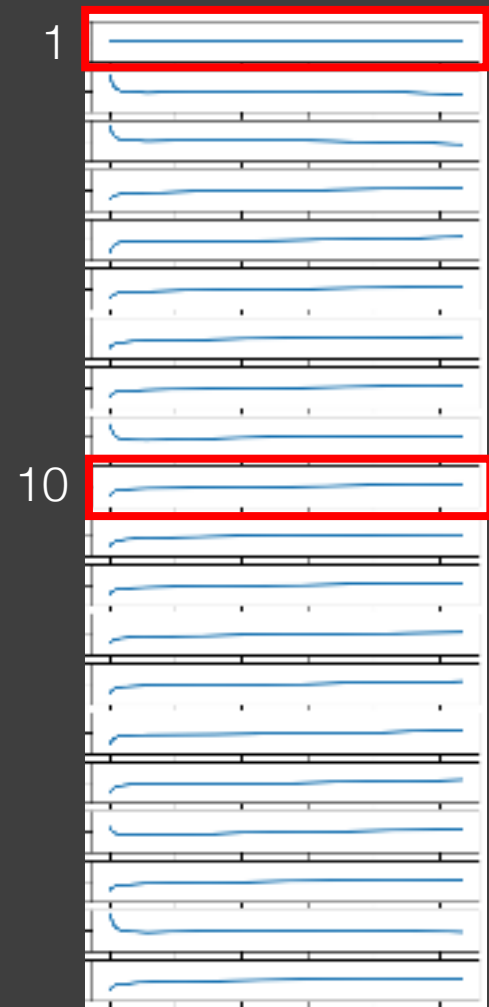
$\mathbf{D}$

$K=2$



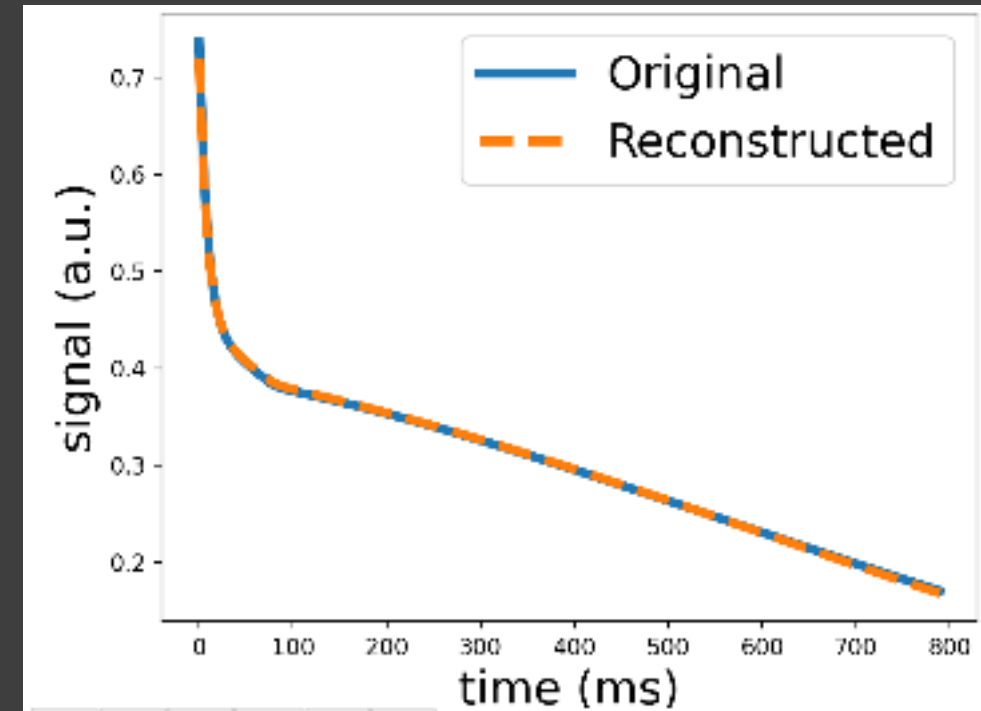
$\alpha$

# Dictionary learning: example



$\alpha$

$=$



$$\mathbf{d}_1 \alpha_1 + \mathbf{d}_{10} \alpha_{10} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

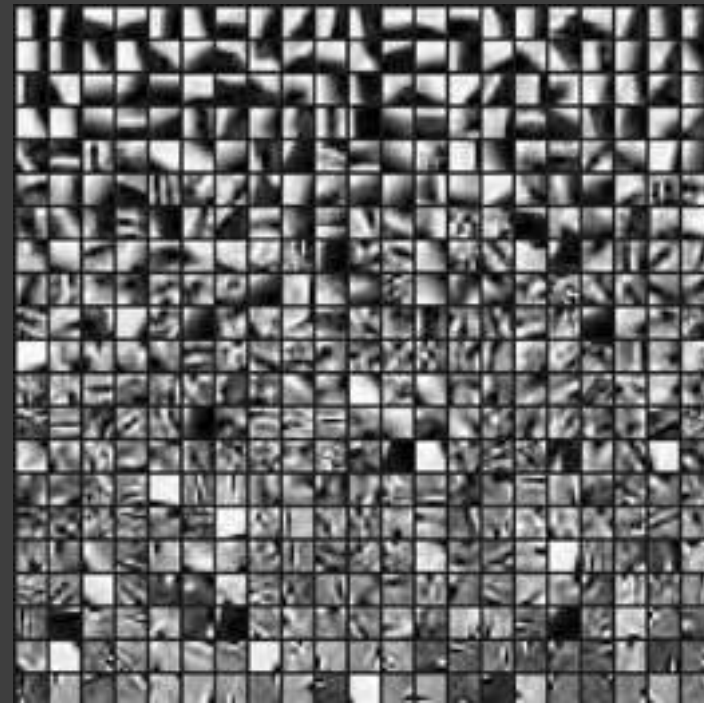
# Dictionary learning: example

Image patches



$\mathbf{X}$   $N = 8 \times 8$

=



$\mathbf{D}_\alpha$

$P=441$



$K=7$

# From image space to k-space

- We can learn the dictionary directly from training examples...
  - At “inference time”, solve the sparse coding problem
- But we can **also learn** the dictionary **directly from the MRI data!**

# Dictionary learning MRI

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{A}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{D}\mathbf{A})\|_2^2$$

Data consistency

Dictionary fit

Converts from data matrix (patches) to image

subject to

$$\|\alpha_l\|_0 \leq K$$

$$\|\mathbf{d}_p\|_2 \leq 1$$

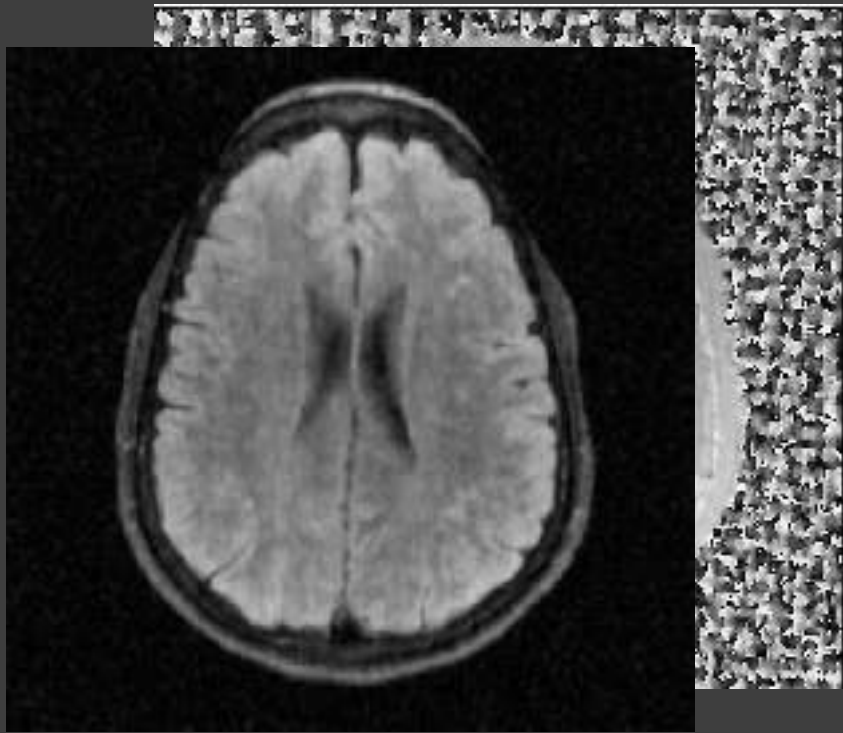
$$l = 1, \dots, L$$

$$p = 1, \dots, P$$

Solution: → Alternating minimization (again!)

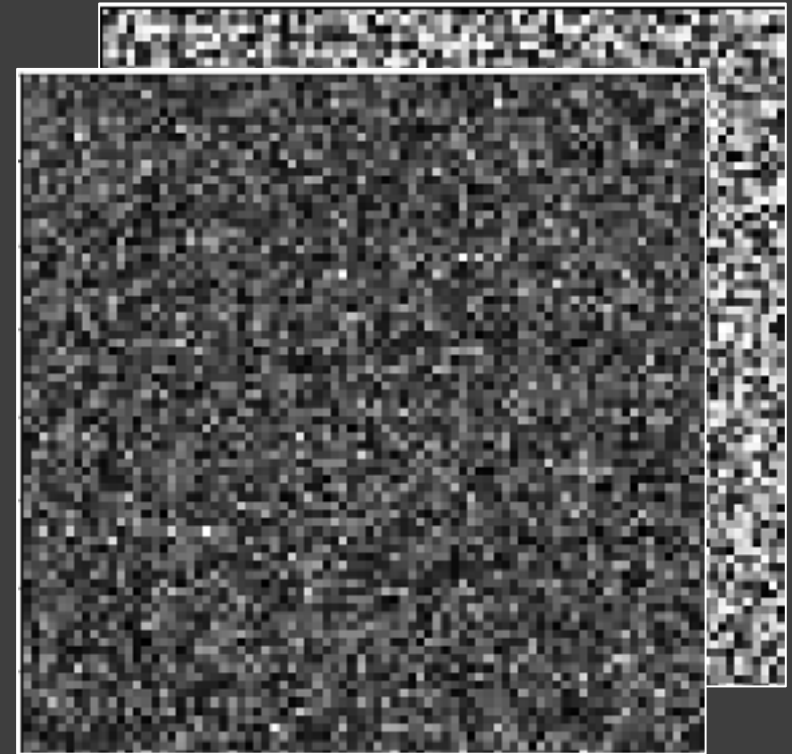
# Dictionary learning MRI

Step 0. Initialize image and dictionary



$X$

(mag + phase)



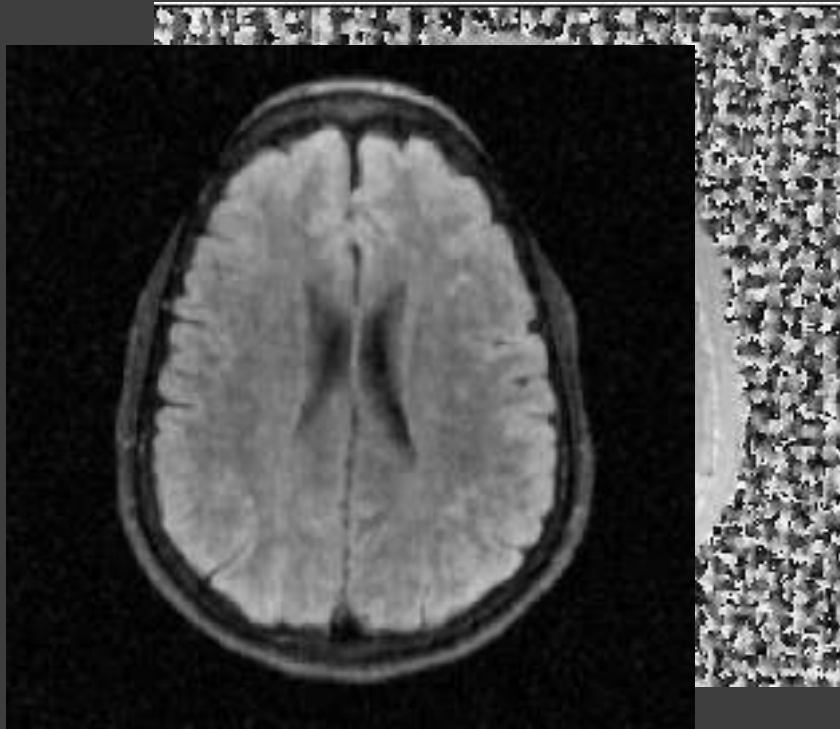
$D$

(mag + phase)

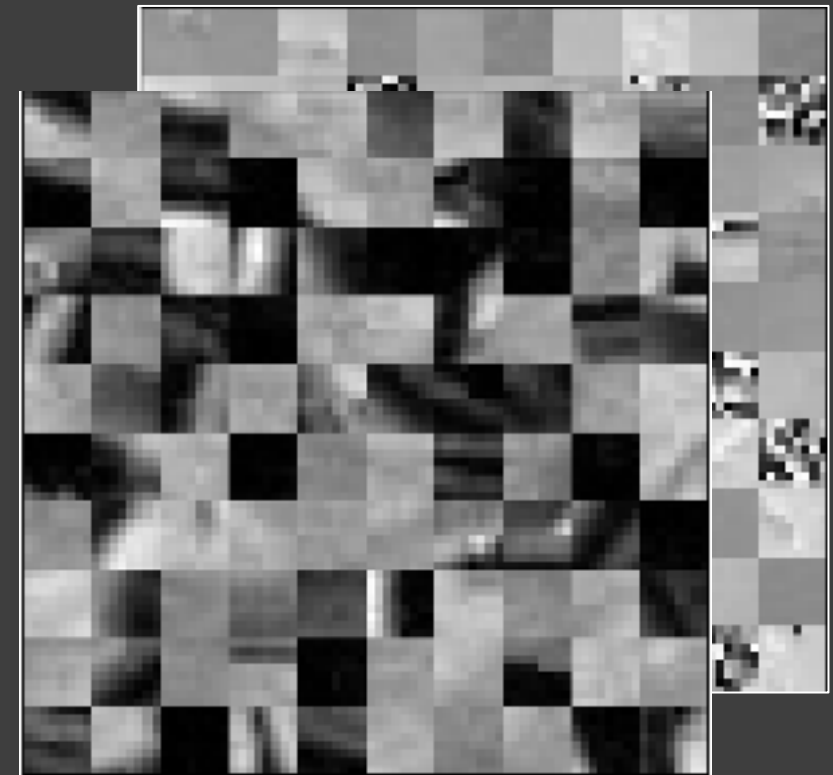
# Dictionary learning MRI

For iterations 1:T

Step 1. Extract patches from image



$\mathbf{x}$



$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{x}$

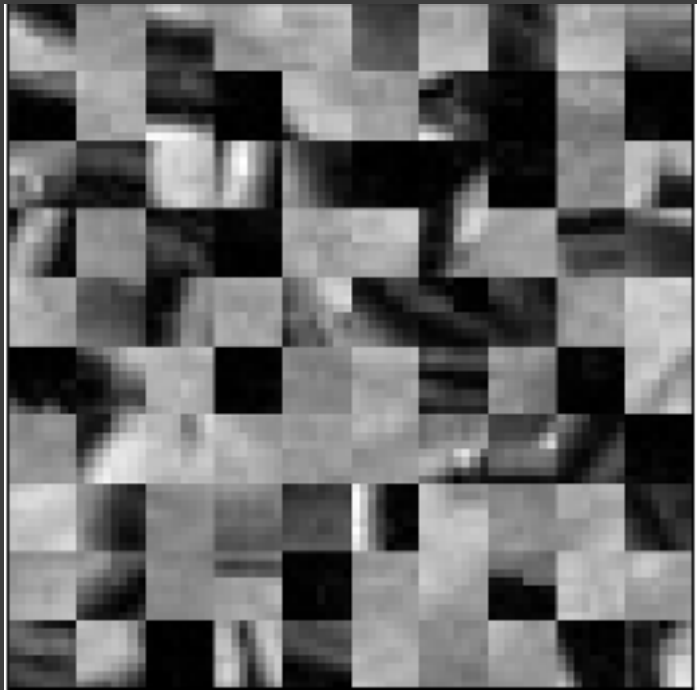
(mag + phase)



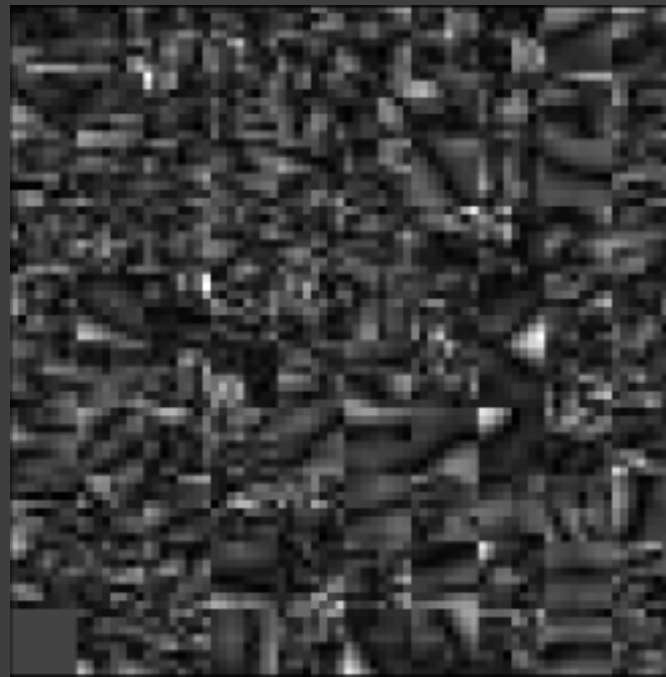
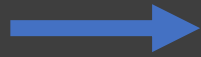
# Dictionary learning MRI

For iterations 1:T

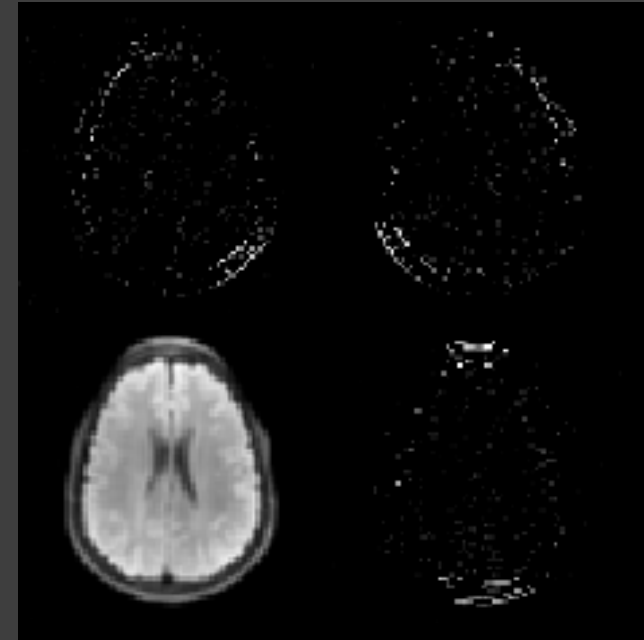
Step 2. Fit dictionary and sparse codes to patches



$X$



$D$

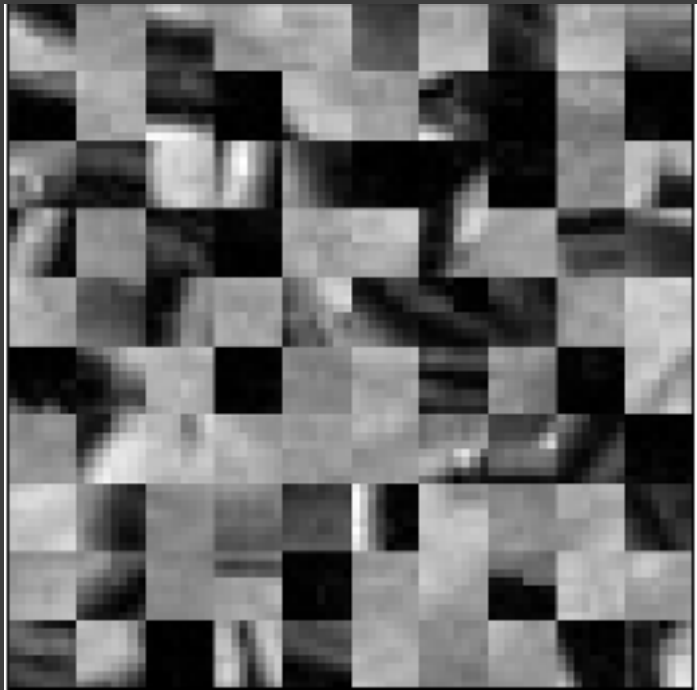


$A$

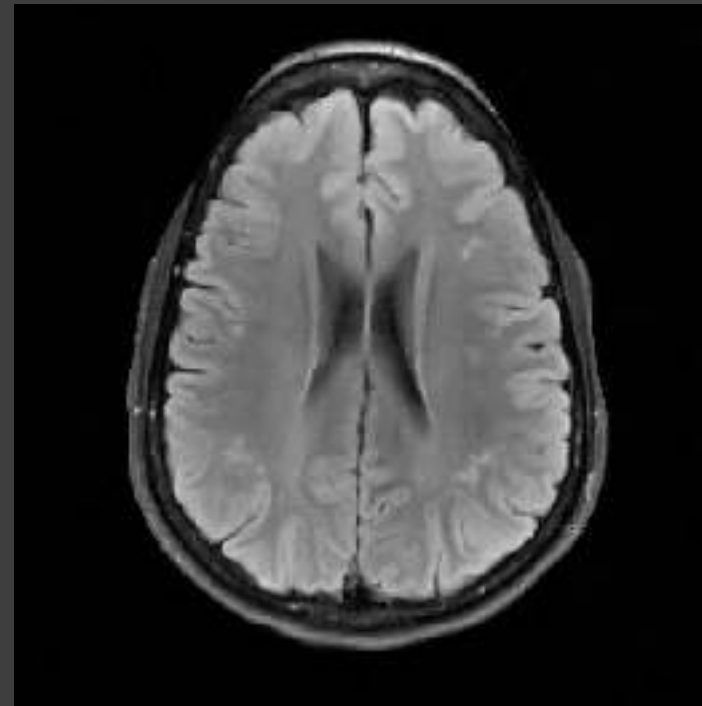
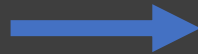
# Dictionary learning MRI

For iterations 1:T

Step 3. Reshape and average patches into image



$D$

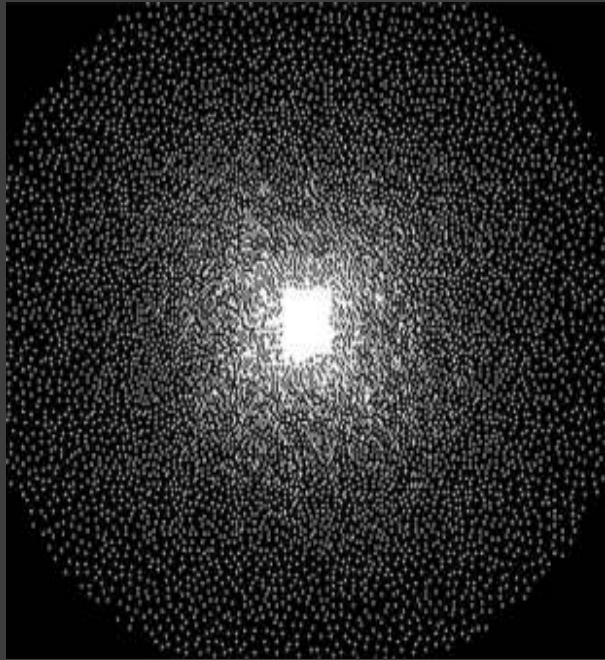


$x_D = RD$

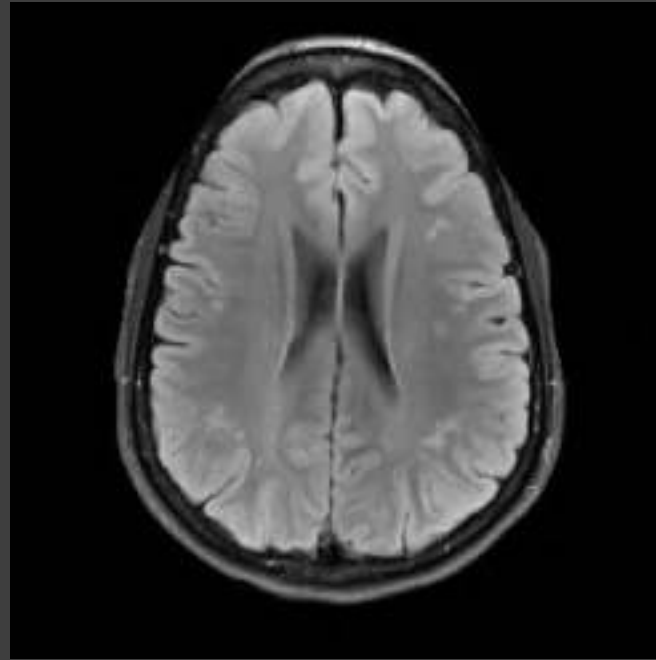
# Dictionary learning MRI

For iterations 1:T

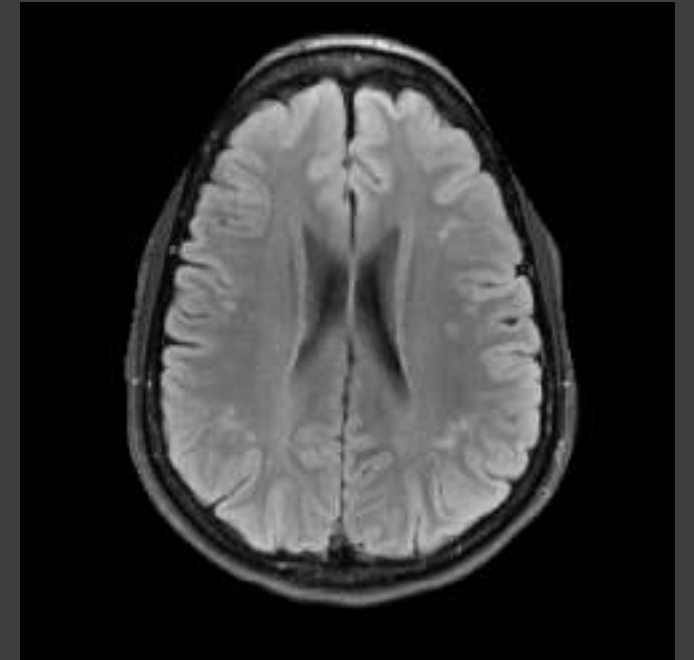
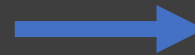
Step 4. Enforce data consistency with dictionary fit



$y$

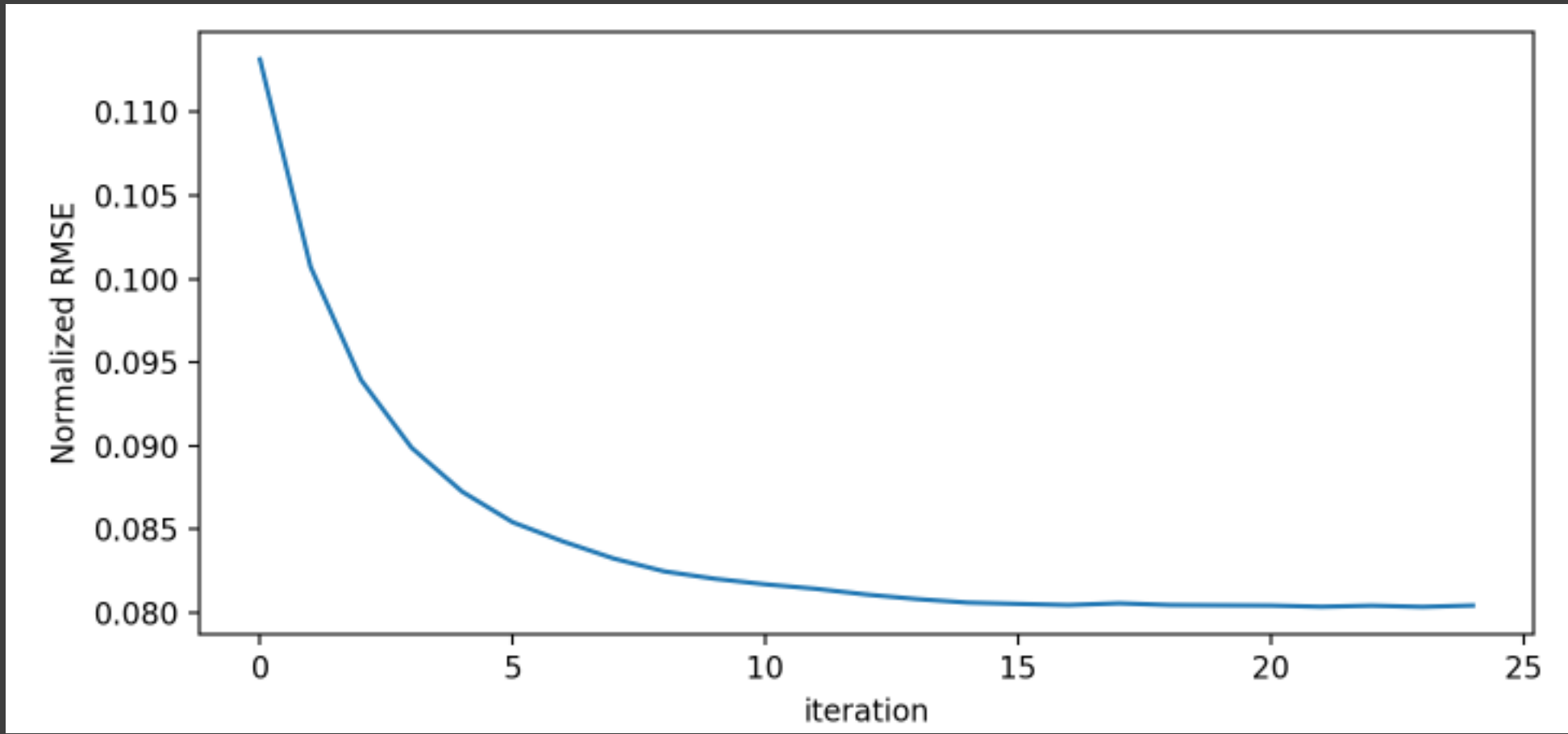


$x_D$



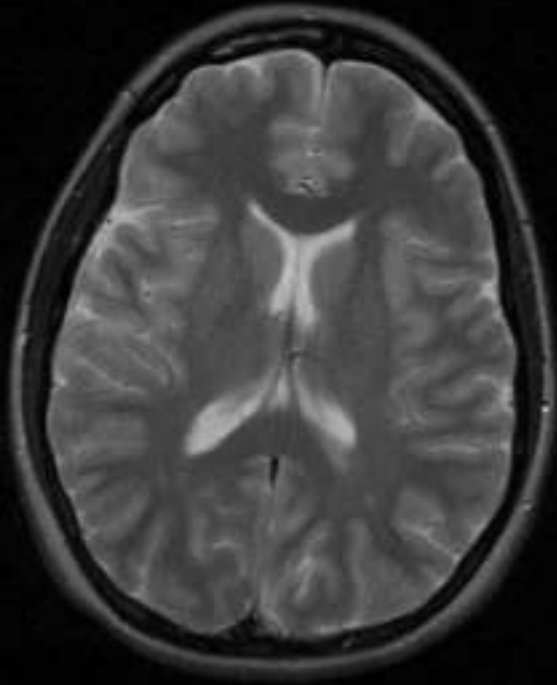
$x$

# Dictionary learning MRI

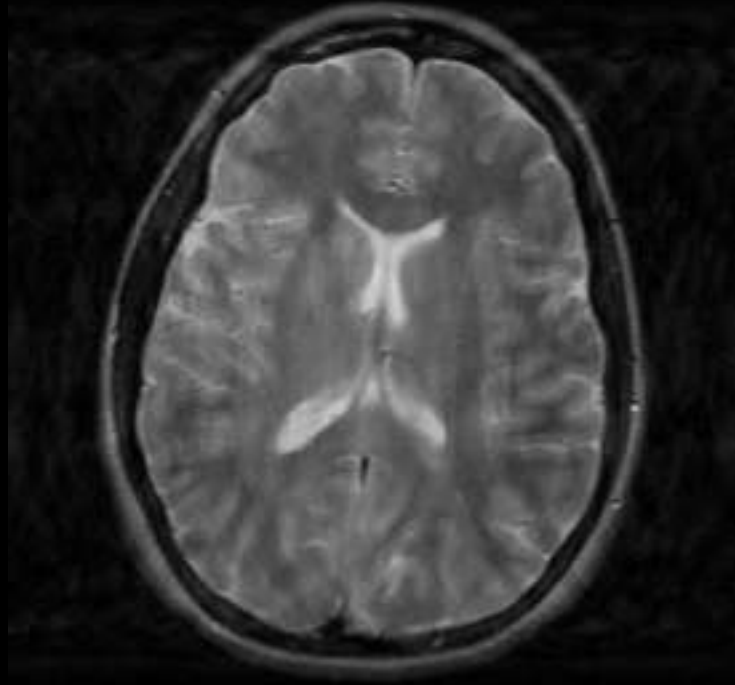


Error decreases with number of iterations

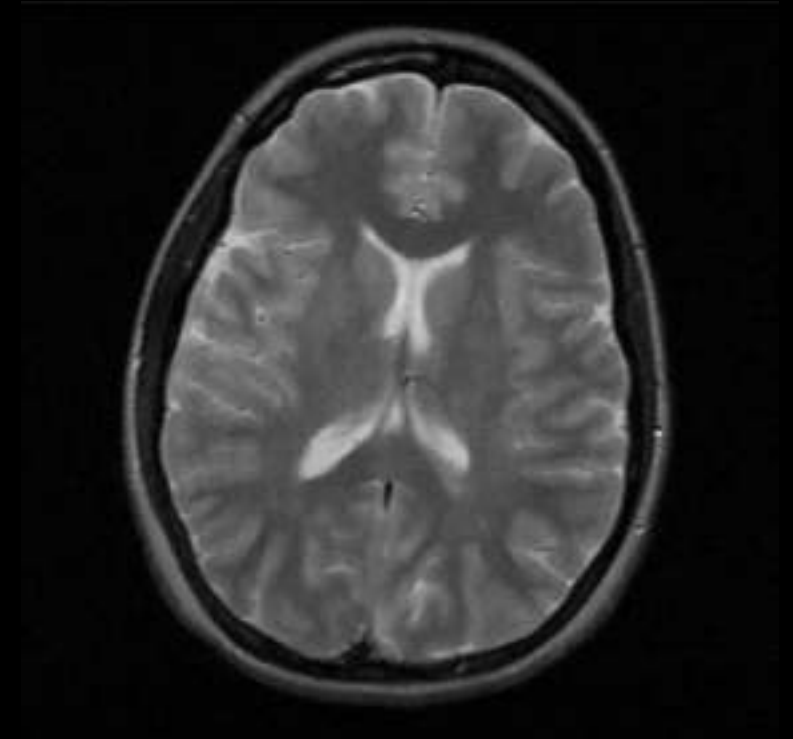
# Dictionary learning MRI



Ground-truth



CS-MRI



Dictionary Learning

# The Devil's in the details...

? How should I remove  
“bad” atoms?

? How big should  
the dictionary be?

? How sparse should  
the signal be?

? Should I update the  
dictionary all at once?

? How should I initialize  
the dictionary?

? How should I  
enforce sparsity?

# Hands-on dictionary learning

- Tutorial code for dictionary learning:

[https://github.com/utcsilab/dictionary\\_learning\\_ismrm\\_2020](https://github.com/utcsilab/dictionary_learning_ismrm_2020)



Tutorial Code

- Based on SigPy, a Python toolbox for iterative signal processing

<https://sigpy.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>



SigPy

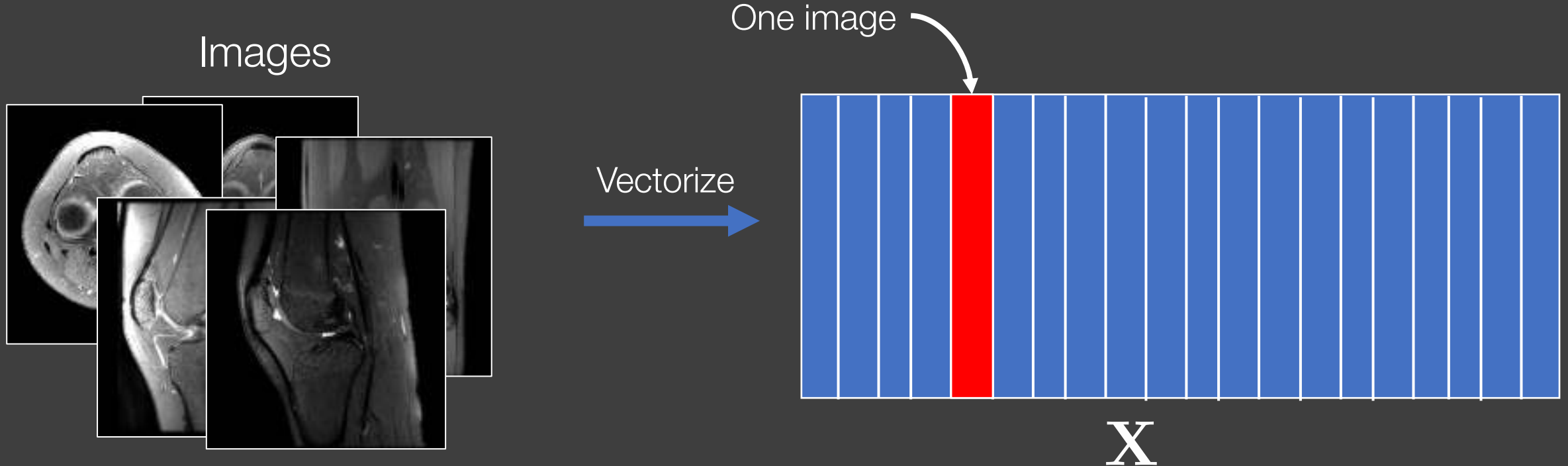


# From local to global modeling

- Dictionary learning: local representation
  - The dictionary is built to represent local patches
  - Each patch is a sparse combination of the dictionary
  - The patches are reshaped and averaged to form the image
- Can we create a sparse global model?

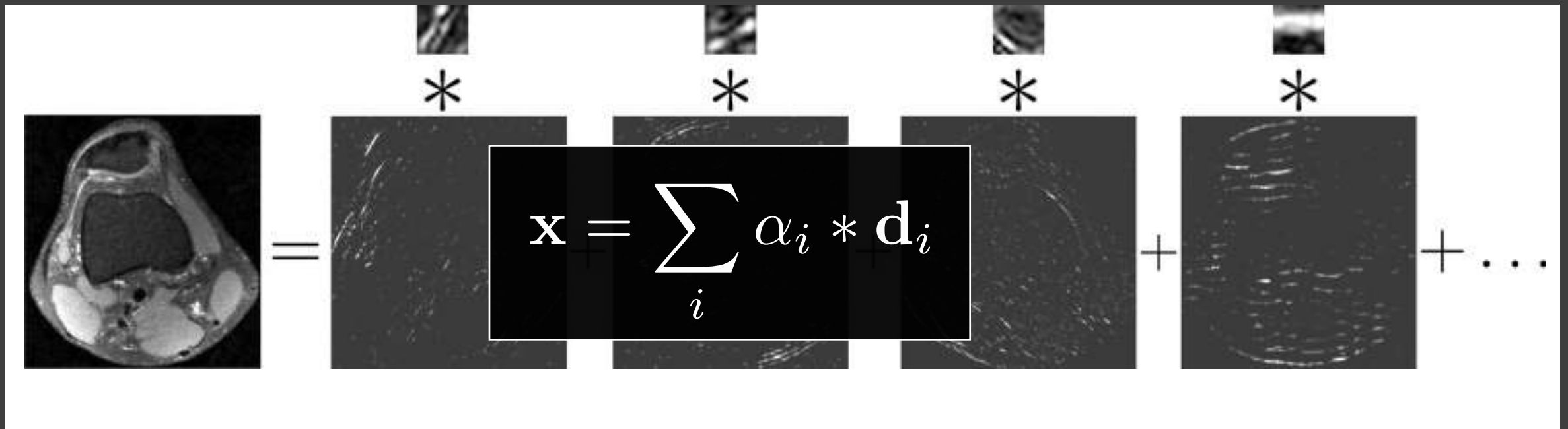
# From local to global modeling

- Can we create a sparse global model?
  - Could we represent the image as a sparse combination of *images*?
  - Our dictionary is  $N \times P$ , where  $N$  is the number of pixels!!  
→ Not feasible!



# Alternative: convolutional sparse coding

- Represent the full image as a sum of dictionary filters convolved with sparse coefficients



# Convolutional sparse coding (CSC)

- In k-space, over multiple data sets:

$$\min_{\alpha_j, \mathbf{D}} \sum_j \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_j - \mathbf{E}_j \sum_i \alpha_{ij} * \mathbf{d}_i\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\alpha_{ij}\|_1$$

Same filters for  
all datasets

j'th k-space dataset

i'th sparse channel for j'th dataset

## Training

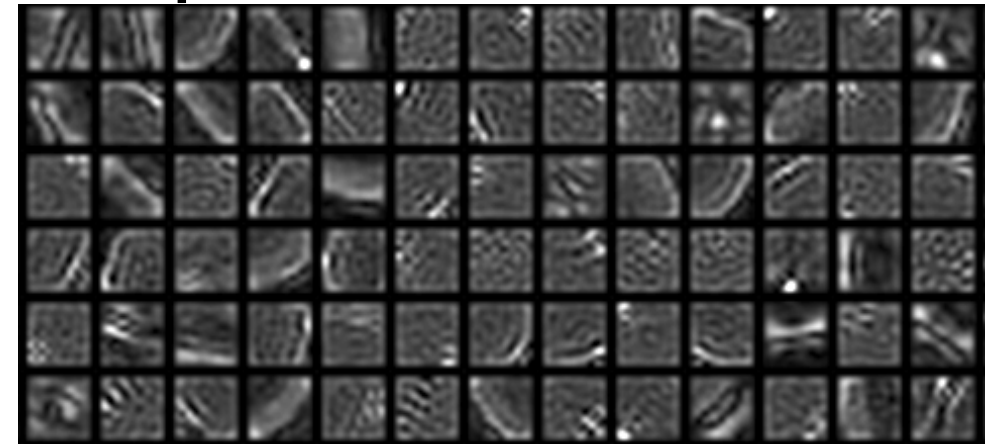
Randomly  
Select

k-space  
Database

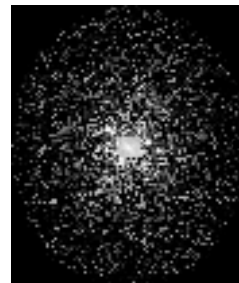
Sparse  
Reconstruction

Dictionary  
Update

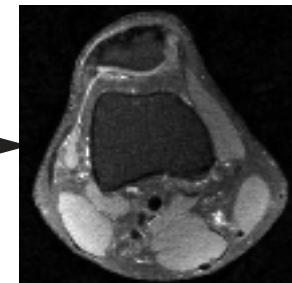
Dictionary



## Reconstruction

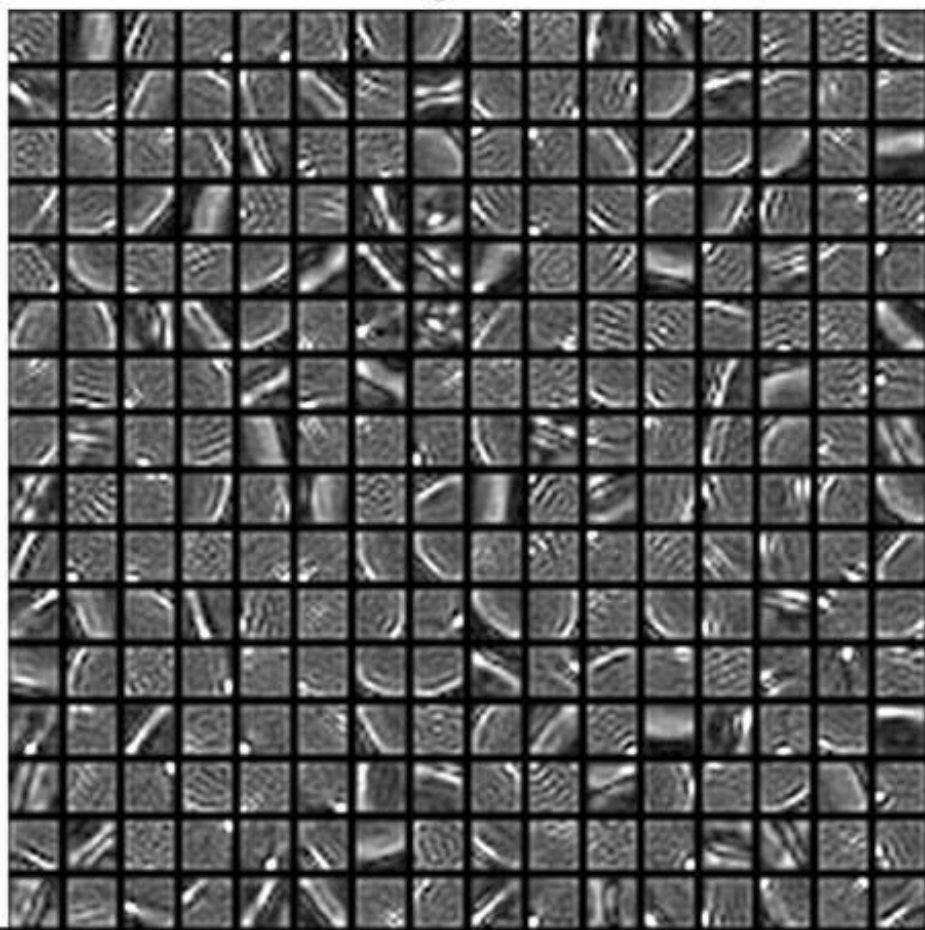


Sparse  
Reconstruction

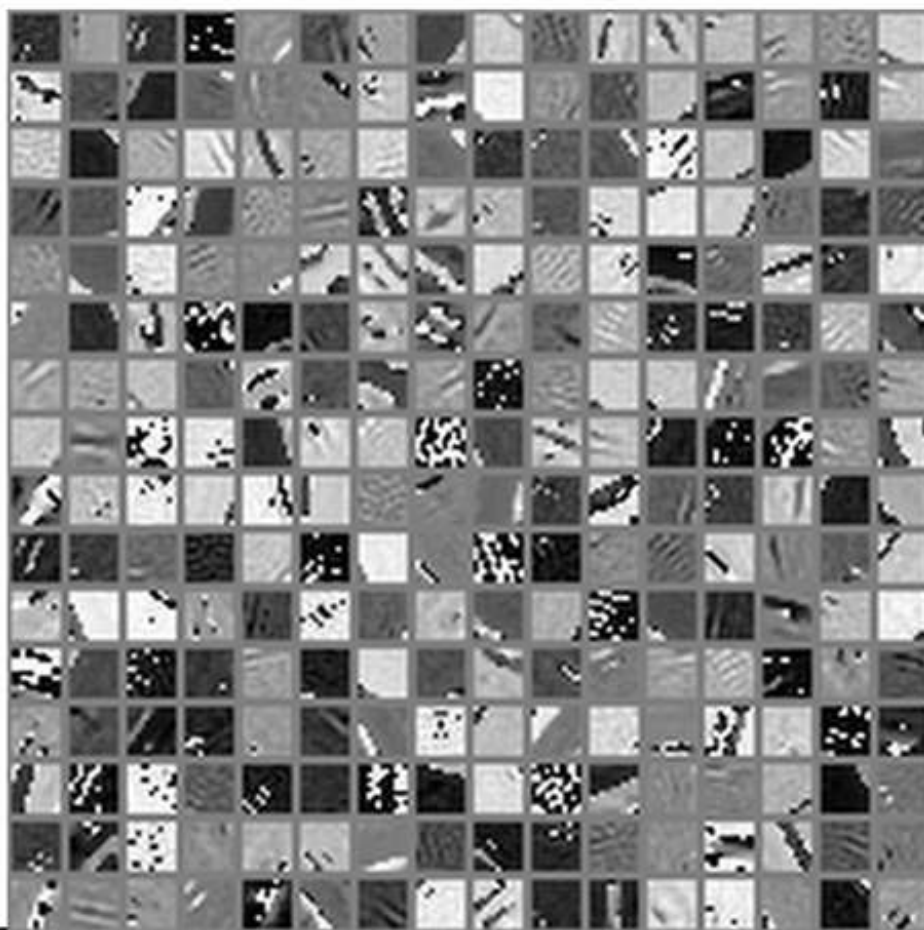


## Dictionary Learned from Under-sampled Datasets

Magnitude



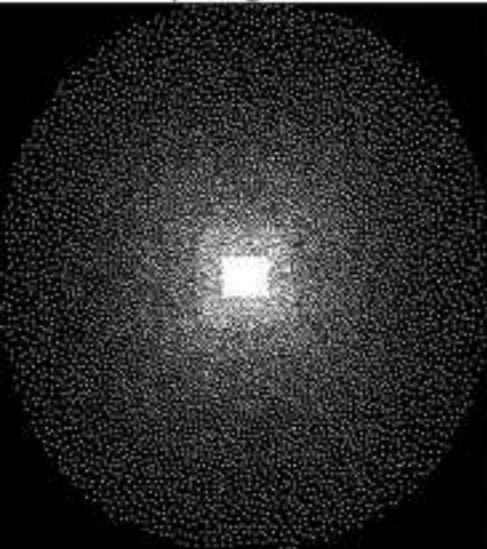
Phase



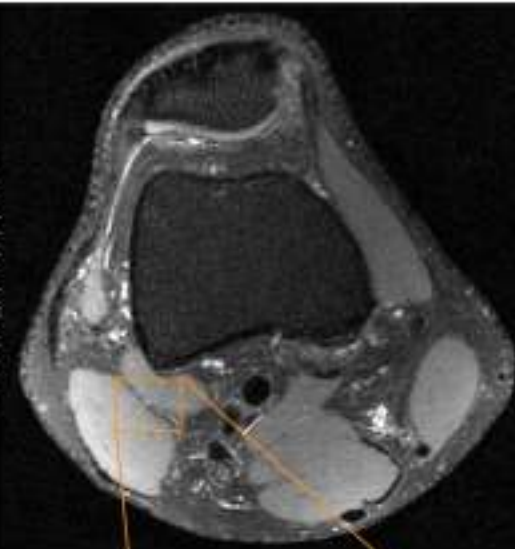


# CSC MRI

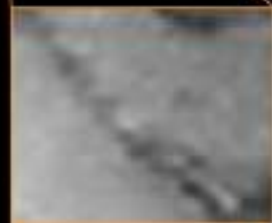
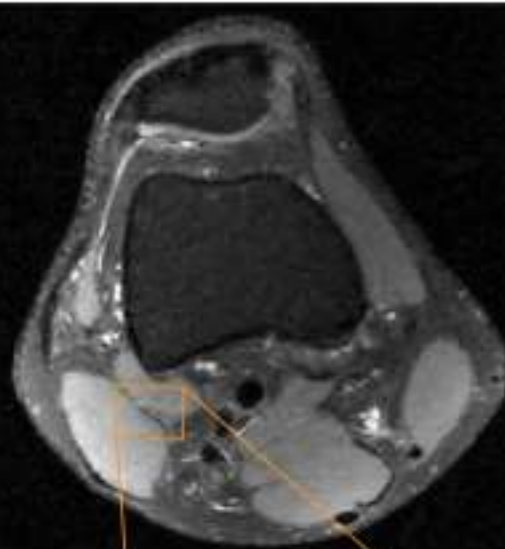
8x Poisson Disk  
Sampling Pattern



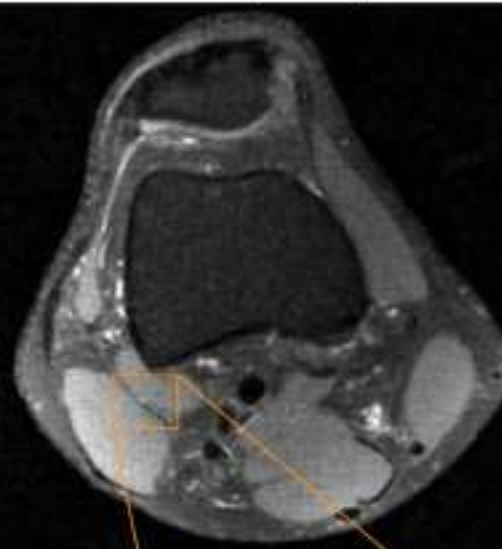
Ground Truth



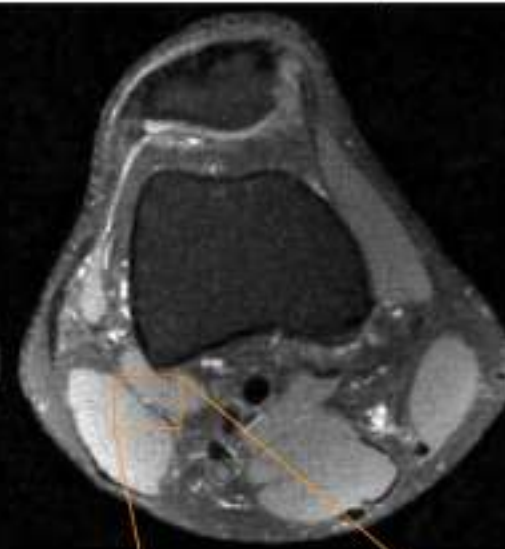
l1 Wavelet Recon



Recon w/ Dict. learned  
from fully-sampled



Recon w/ Dict. learned  
from under-sampled

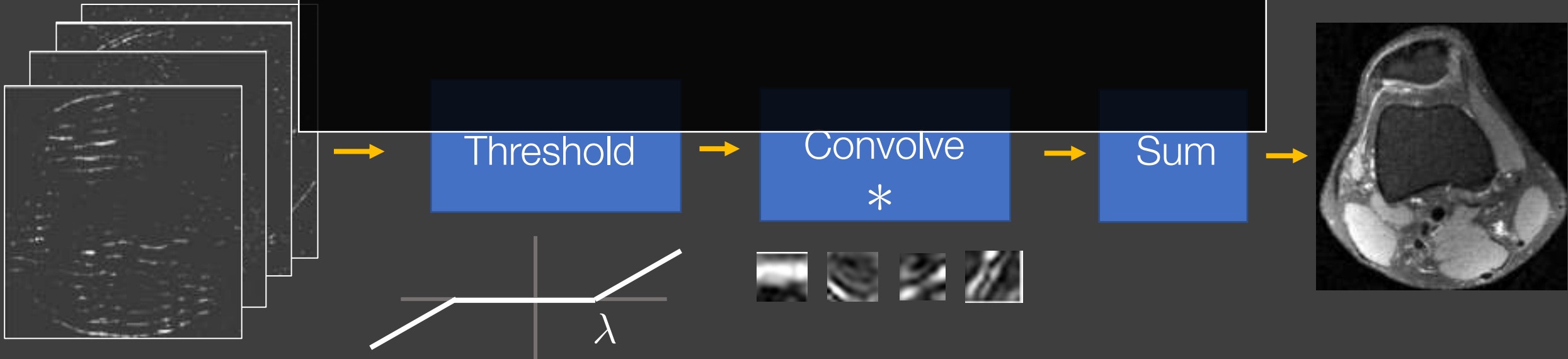


# From CSC to deep learning

CSC recovery algorithm:

- Threshold coefficients to enforce sparsity
- Convolve multi-channel coefficients with multi-channel filters
- Sum across channels to form the image
- Repeat for  $T$  iterations

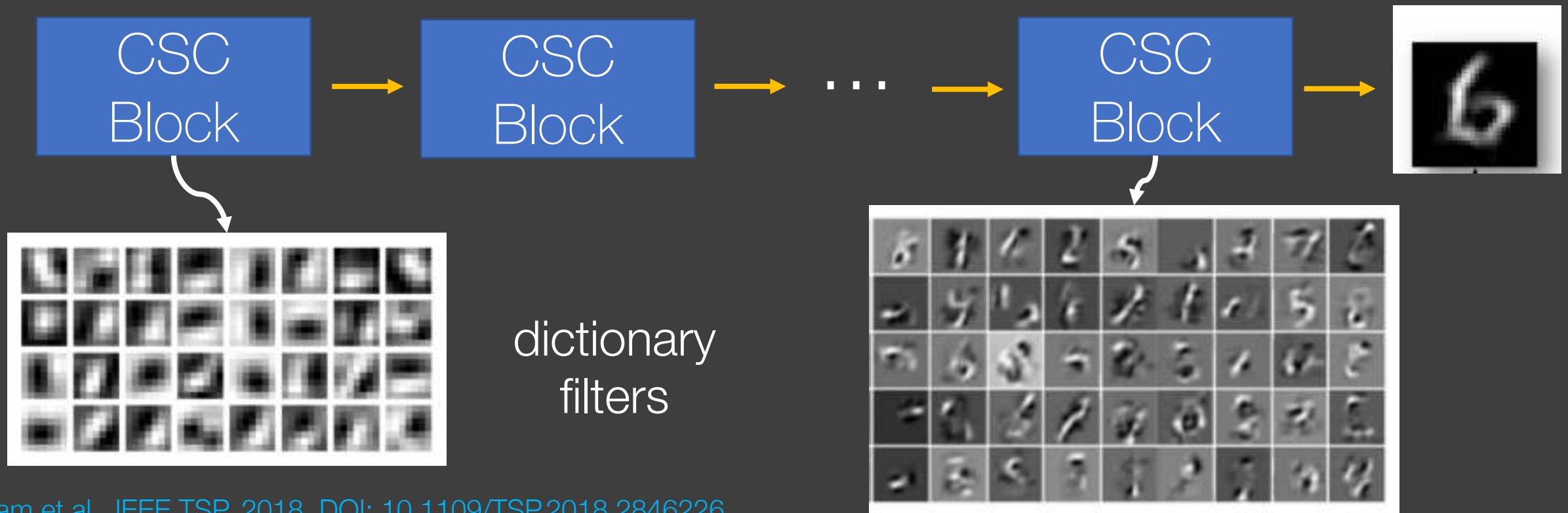
One layer of a convolutional neural network?





# Multi-layer convolutional sparse coding

- Apply CSC multiple times, learn filters at each stage
- Like deep learning, but with performance guarantees!!



# Summary

- Dictionary learning extends compressed sensing to learned sparsifying transforms
- Application to MRI is straightforward
- Choice of hyper-parameters greatly impacts performance
- Connections between Dictionary Learning (DL) and Deep Learning (DL) in more than just initials



Thanks!

Slides/images

Miki Lustig, Joseph Cheng,  
Josh Trzasko, Frank Ong

