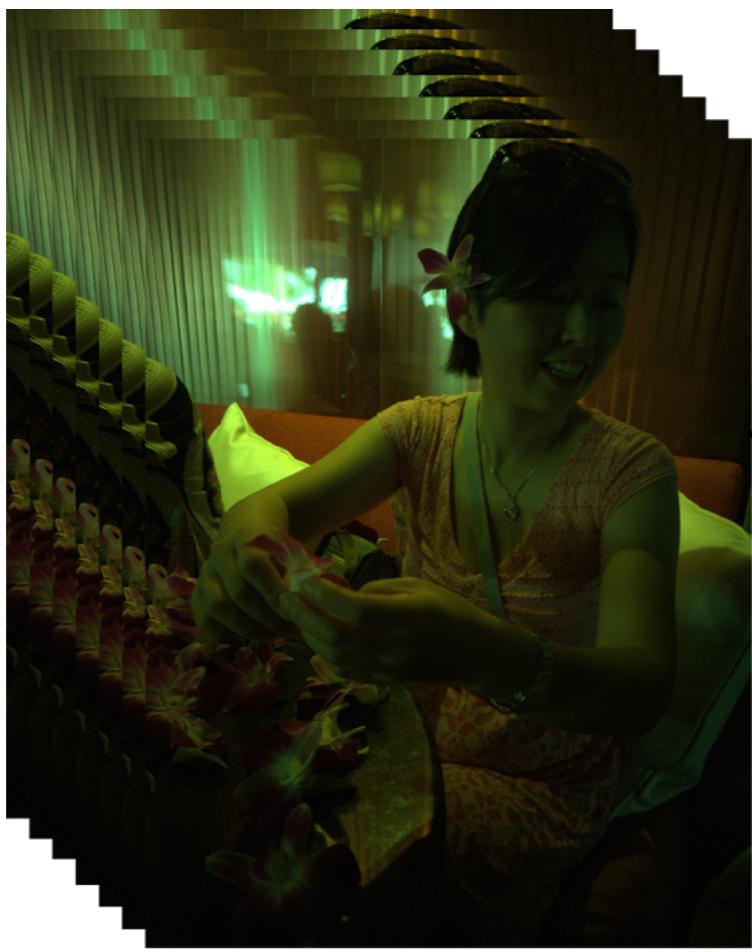

Iterative Residual Networks for Burst Photography Applications

Stamatis Lefkimiatis

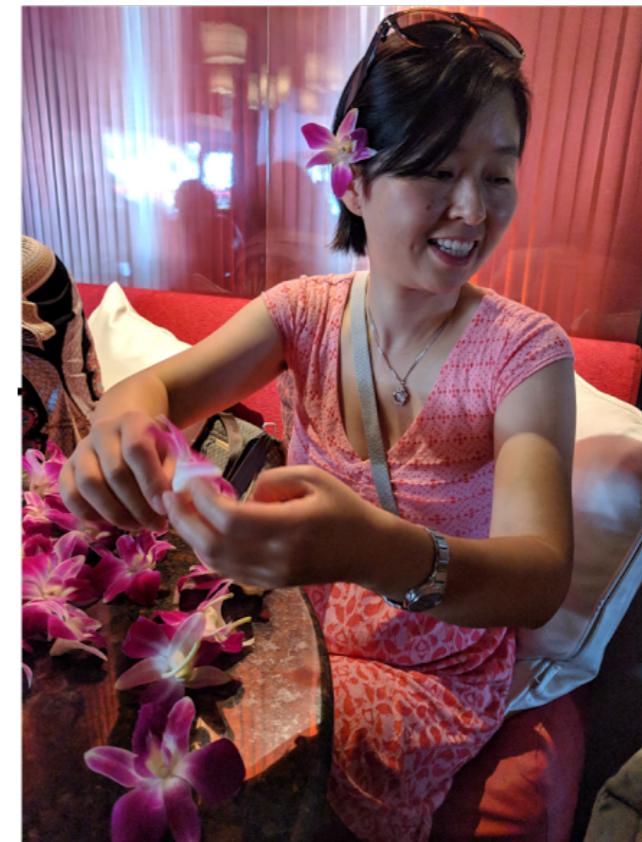
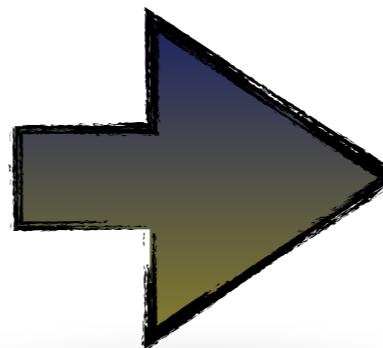
Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology

Burst Photography

- ▶ Nowadays smartphone cameras dominate the photography market (+ 1 Billion smartphone devices are sold every year)
- ▶ Mobile cameras are small and versatile but suffer from several hardware constraints (lack of aperture lenses, small sensors with fewer photodiodes)
- ▶ As a result image quality cannot match that of DSLR cameras
- ▶ To compensate for the hardware limitations focus is shifted towards the software of the camera.
- ▶ **Burst photography** : Fusion of several low-quality frames to produce a single high-quality image



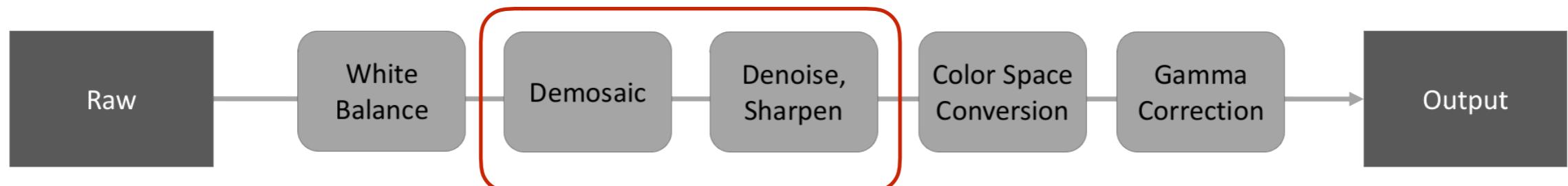
Burst of raw frames



Final high-quality result

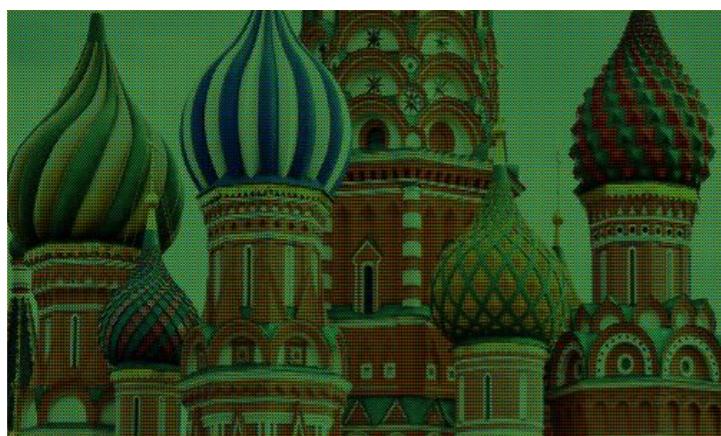
Camera Image-Signal Processing Pipeline

- ▶ First steps in the camera ISP :
 - ▶ Conversion of intensity readings to color images



- ▶ **Challenging** problem
 - ▶ Only one third of the intensities are known
 - ▶ Measurements are further distorted by noise

Noisy Light Intensity Measurements



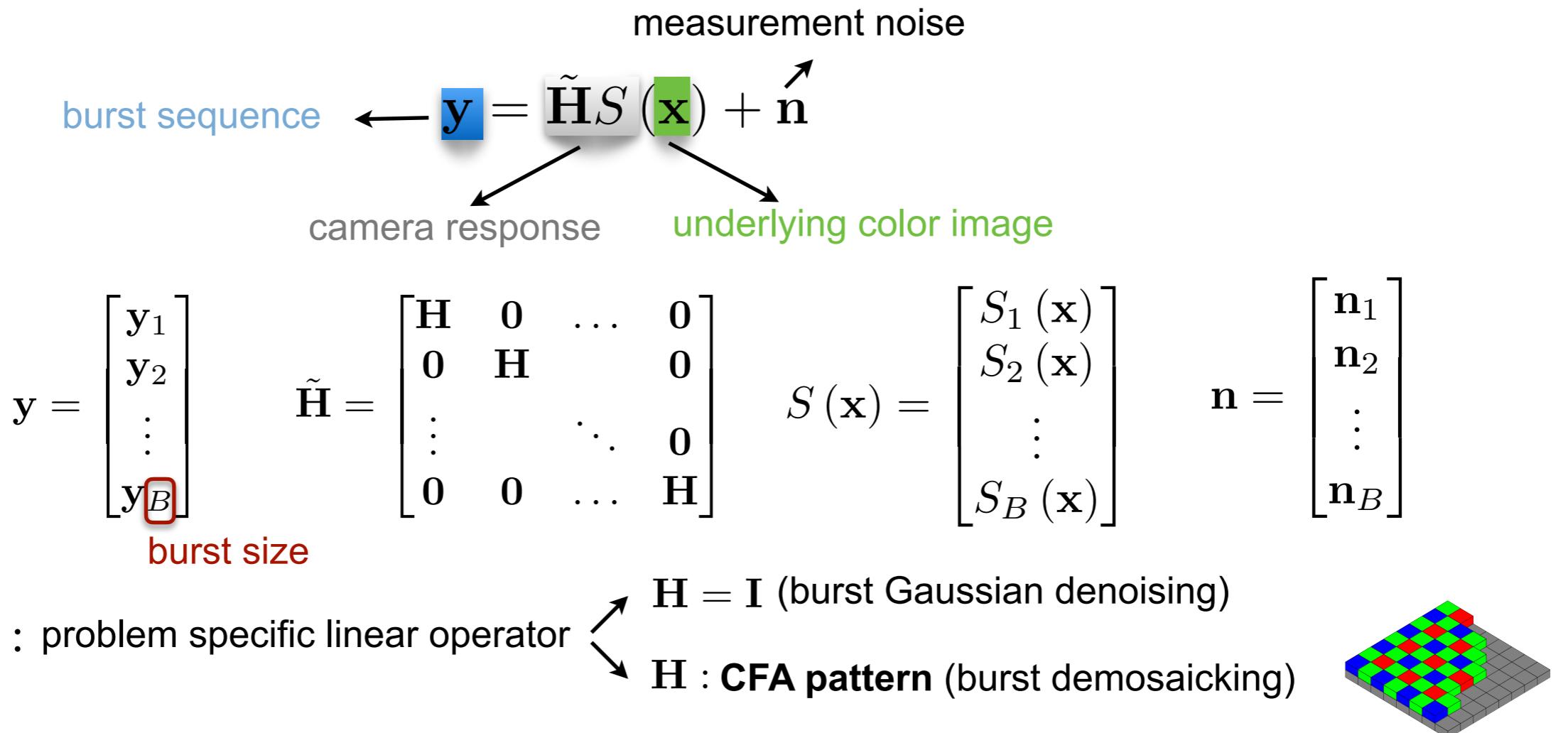
Demosaick
&
Denoise

End Result



Problem Formulation

- ▶ **Forward model** : Image acquisition can be accurately described as

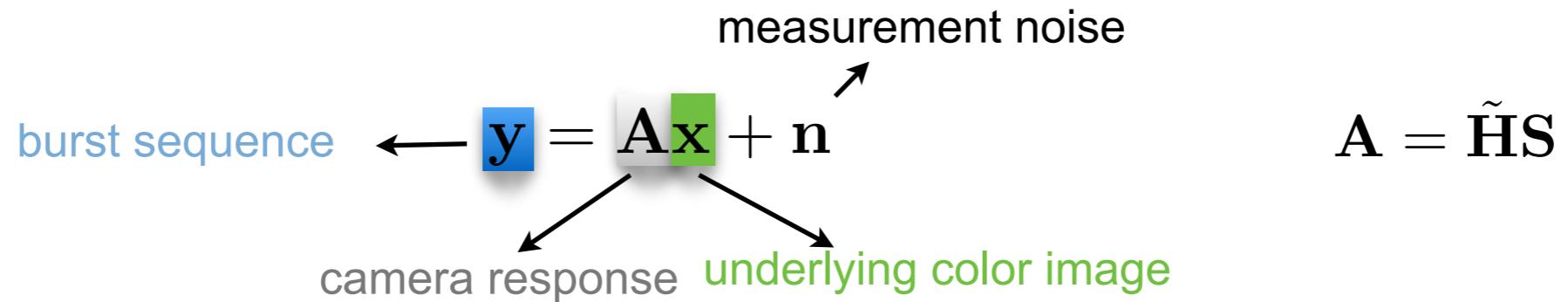


$S_i : \mathbb{R}^N \mapsto \mathbb{R}^N$ affine transformation of the image coordinates (**rotation + translation**)

- ▶ **Useful observation** : Given the warping matrix (estimated by the ECC method) the operator S_i corresponds to a linear interpolation (e.g bilinear) and can be linearized

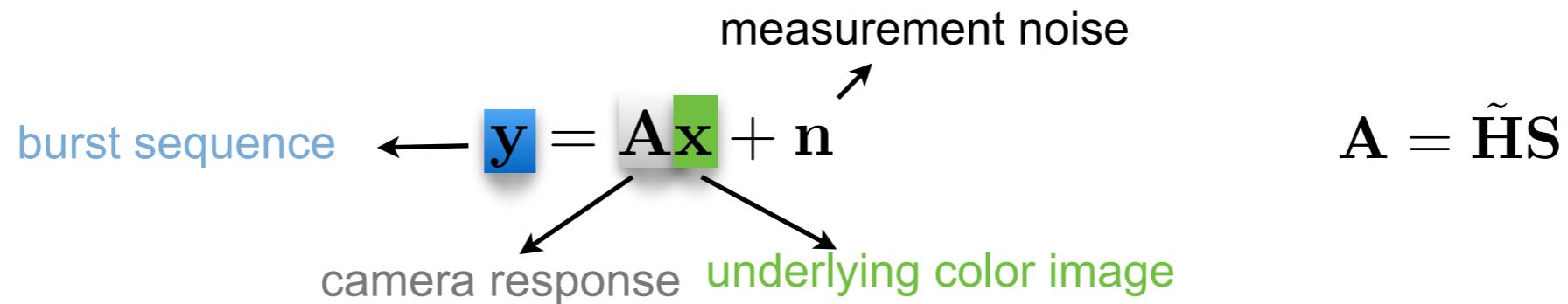
$$S_i(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{x}$$

Variational / Bayesian Approach : Overview



- ▶ Burst Image restoration
 - ▶ Ill-posed problem
 - ▶ Unique solution **does not exist**

Variational / Bayesian Approach : Overview

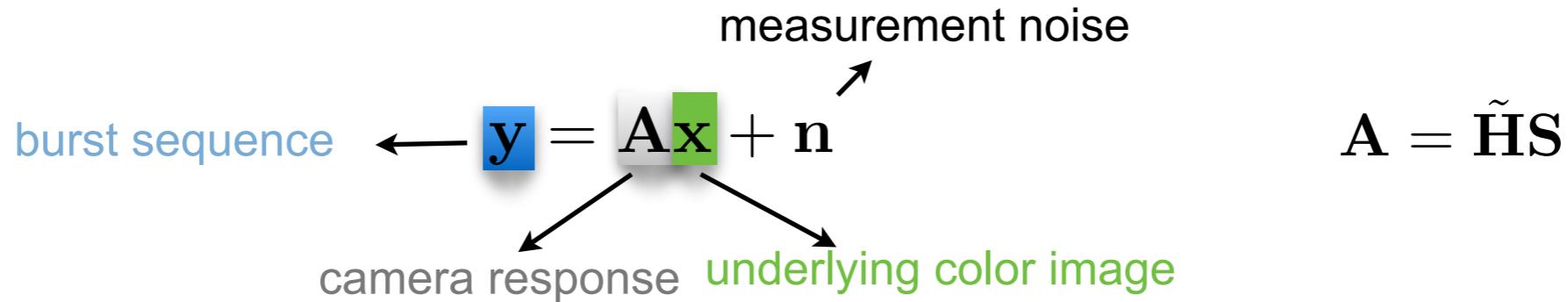


- ▶ Burst Image restoration
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 - ▶ Variational framework - Energy Minimization

data fidelity

$$E(\mathbf{x}) = d(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}) + \lambda \cdot r(\mathbf{x}) \text{ regularizer}$$

Variational / Bayesian Approach : Overview



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data fidelity regularizer

- ▶ Direct relation to Bayesian methods :
 - ▶ data fidelity \Rightarrow observation log-likelihood
 - ▶ regularizer \Rightarrow prior distribution
 - ▶ minimizer \Rightarrow MAP estimate

Image Regularization

- ▶ Regularizer : key component of the reconstruction
 - ▶ Constrains the set of plausible solutions
 - ▶ Prior knowledge of desirable image properties

Image Regularization

- ▶ Regularizer : key component of the reconstruction
 - ▶ Constrains the set of plausible solutions
 - ▶ Prior knowledge of desirable image properties
- ▶ Generic form of regularization functionals :

$$r(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \phi(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x})$$

potential function
regularization operator

- ▶ $\mathbf{L} : \mathbb{R}^N \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{K \times D}$, linear operator (gradient, Hessian, wavelets, ...)
- ▶ ϕ : ℓ_2 squared norm (Tikhonov-Miller regularization) , ℓ_1 -norm, log function, pseudo ℓ_0 -norm, Schatten-norms, etc ...
- ▶ Quadratic regularizers
 - ▶ mathematical simplicity
 - ▶ computational tractability
- ▶ Non-quadratic regularizers
 - ▶ less sensitive to outliers
 - ▶ improved reconstruction results

Total Variation

- ▶ One of the most popular regularizers for imaging applications [ROF '92]
 - ▶ Provides a global measure of the image intensity variations

Continuous-domain definition	Discrete-domain definition
$\text{TV} (u) = \int_{\Omega} \ \nabla u (\mathbf{r})\ _2 d\mathbf{r}$	$\text{TV} (\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \ (\nabla \mathbf{u})_n\ _2$

- ▶ Numerous applications in image processing and computer vision
 - ✓ Invariance properties w.r.t transformations of the coordinate system
 - ✓ L₁ type of behavior that does not over-penalize large intensity variations
 - ✓ Reconstructed images with sharp edges
 - ✓ Convex functional - Efficient minimization techniques
 - ✗ Promotes piecewise constant reconstructions
 - ✗ Presence of staircase artifacts in smooth regions

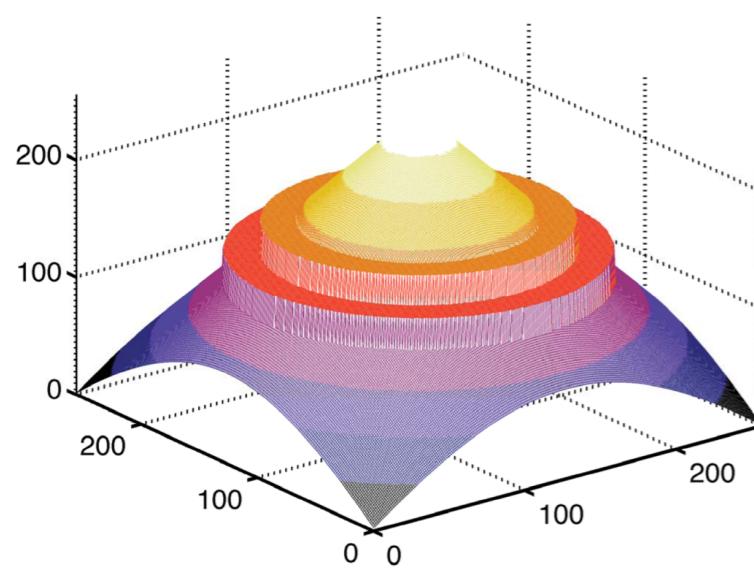
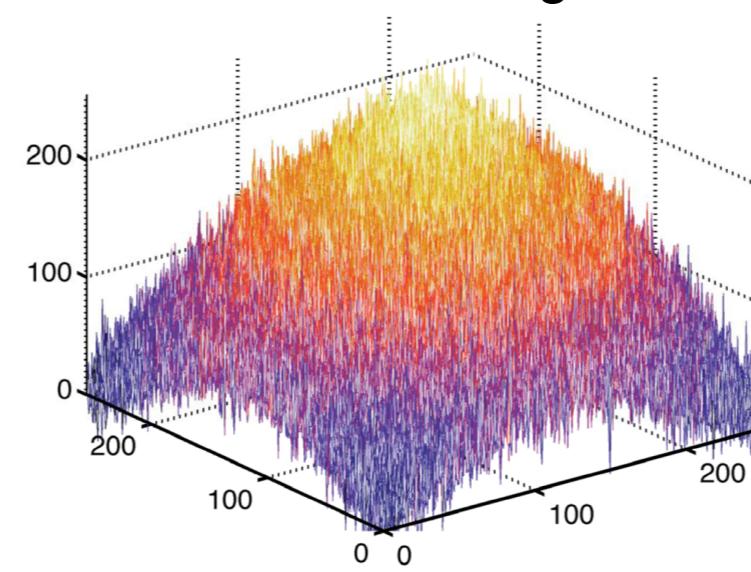
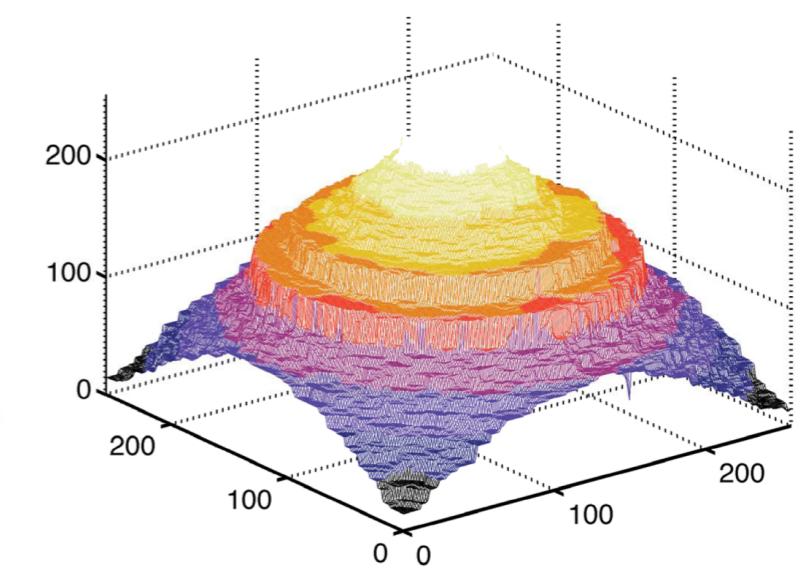


Image intensity profile



Noisy intensity profile



TV reconstruction

Machine Learning for Inverse Problems

- ▶ Two major challenges under the variational / minimization framework
 - ▶ Specify the exact form of the regularization operator and potential function
 - ▶ Recover the solution using an iterative approach which possibly requires a large number of updates

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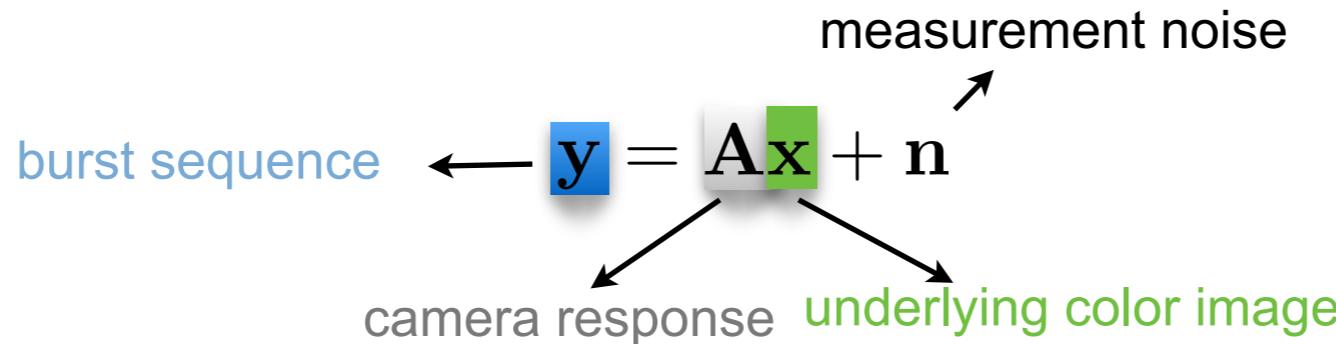
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- ▶ **Main challenge for ML**
 - ▶ How to choose a proper architecture for the graph of the network?
 - ▶ Principled approach for defining the network graph
 - ▶ Unroll an iterative optimization method
 - ▶ Use a limited number of updates to construct the network
 - ▶ Parametrize the regularization operator and the potential function

Variational Approach Revisited



- ▶ Image restoration as the solution of a minimization problem

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2\sigma^2 B} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2}_{Q(\mathbf{x})} + r(\mathbf{x})$$

- ▶ Challenges to deal with :
 - ▶ coupling of the camera's impulse response with the solution
 - ▶ non-trivial way to minimize the objective function
 - ▶ choice of an appropriate regularizer

Majorization-Minimization framework

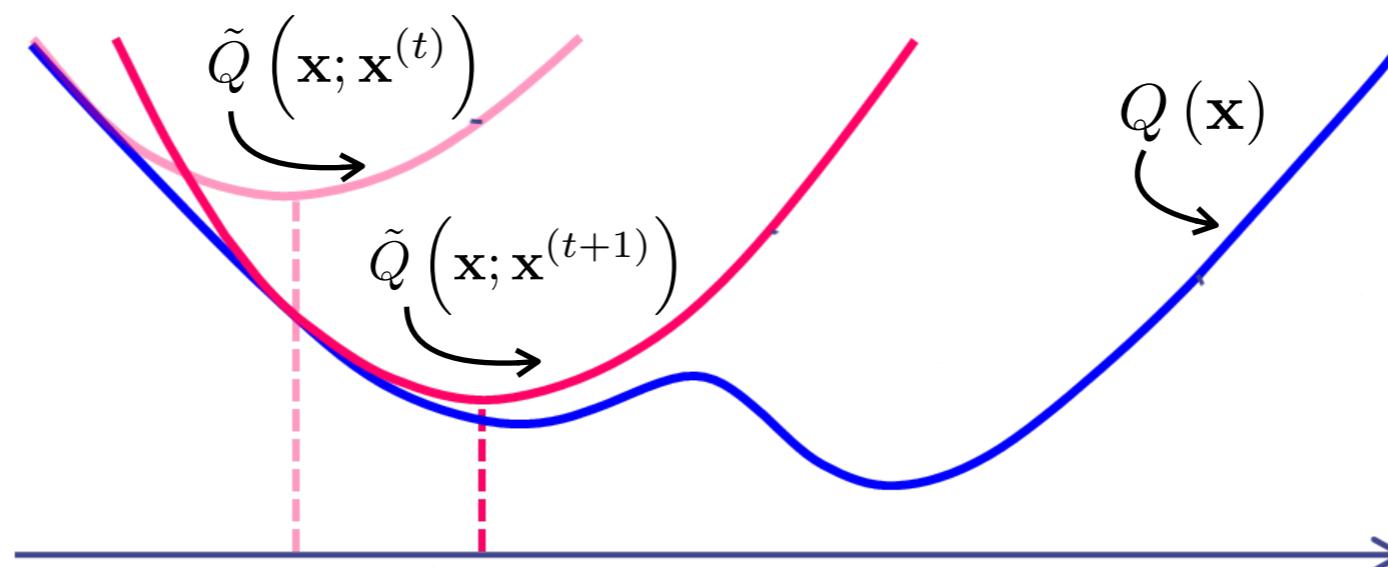
- ▶ Iterative minimization approach of the form :

$$\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \tilde{Q} (\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

- ▶ $\tilde{Q} (\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$ is a **majorizer** of the objective function that satisfies the conditions:

$$(\alpha) \quad \tilde{Q} (\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) > Q (\mathbf{x}), \forall \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}^{(t)}$$

$$(\beta) \quad \tilde{Q} (\mathbf{x}^{(t)}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) = Q (\mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$



MM for Burst Image Restoration

- ▶ Derive a majorizer by upper-bounding the data fidelity term

$$\tilde{d}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2\sigma^2 B} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2}_{d(\mathbf{x})} + g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

$$g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2 B} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(t)})^T [\alpha \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}] (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

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- ▶ $\tilde{d}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a **valid majorizer** iff $g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) > 0, \forall \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}$ and $g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) = 0$
- ▶ $\alpha \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is positive definite $\Rightarrow \alpha > \|\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}\|$

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- ▶ Overall majorizer is of the form :

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{Q}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) &= \tilde{d}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) + r(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \frac{\alpha}{2\sigma^2 B} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + r(\mathbf{x}) + \text{const.}\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^B \mathbf{S}_i^T \mathbf{H}^T (\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{HS}_i \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{Q}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) &= \tilde{d}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) + r(\mathbf{x}) && \text{denoising objective function} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{\alpha}{2\sigma^2 B} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + r(\mathbf{x}) + \text{const.}}\end{aligned}$$

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MM-based Burst Image Restoration

- ▶ Derive a majorizer by upper-bounding the data fidelity term

$$\tilde{d}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2\sigma^2 B} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2}_{d(\mathbf{x})} + g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

$$g(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^{(t)}) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2 B} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(t)})^T [\alpha \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}] (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{(t)})$$

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Image Denoising Networks

- ▶ Image denoising solution (**P1**)

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{k=1}^K \phi(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x})$$

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- ▶ Regularization parameter λ : “free” parameter
 - ▶ Different values lead to different restoration results of varying image quality
 - ▶ **No direct way** to *a priori* relate the value of λ with the restoration quality
 - ▶ Networks derived based on this formulation are **noise-level specific** [Schmidt & Roth `14, Chen et al. `16, Lefkimiatis `17]
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- ▶ **Alternative way** : Constrained problem formulation (**P2**)

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|_2 \leq \varepsilon} \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \phi(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x}) \equiv r(\mathbf{x}) \right)$$

- ▶ $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{n}\|_2 \propto \sigma$
- ▶ Free parameter ε is easier to tune - directly related to the noise std
- ▶ Several available methods for estimating the noise level from observed data

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- ▶ Free parameter ε is easier to tune - directly related to the noise std
- ▶ Several available methods for estimating the noise level from observed data
- ▶ The two problems are equivalent in the following sense :
 - ▶ For any $\varepsilon > 0$ such that **P2** is feasible, the solution of **P2** is either the null vector or else it is a solution of **P1** for some $\lambda > 0$

Proximal Gradient Method

- ▶ Unconstrained form of P2

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{k=1}^K \phi(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x}) + \iota_{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)}(\mathbf{x})$$

indicator function $\iota_{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_2 \leq \varepsilon \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

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 - ▶ The objective is split into a smooth and a non-smooth part
 - ▶ Must be able to compute the proximal operator of the non-smooth functional

$$\text{prox}_{\iota_{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)}}(\mathbf{z}) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \iota_{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)}(\mathbf{x})$$

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- ▶ Updates of the solution using PGM (assuming a smooth regularizer)

adaptive step size

$$\mathbf{x}^t = \text{prox}_{\gamma^t \iota_C}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - \gamma^t \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} r(\mathbf{x}^{t-1}))$$

Proximal Gradient Method Cont'd

- ▶ Gradient of the smooth part

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} r(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{L}_k^\top \psi(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x}) \equiv h(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{z}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{z}} \phi(\mathbf{z}), \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^D$$

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- ▶ Proximal map of the non-smooth part
 - ▶ Orthogonal projection onto the set $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)$

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathbf{z}) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon)} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2$$

Proximal Gradient Method Cont'd

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- ▶ Proximal gradient iterations

$$\mathbf{x}^t = \Pi_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - h^t(\mathbf{x}^{t-1})), \text{ where } h^t(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma^t h(\mathbf{x})$$

Normalized residual iterations

- ▶ PGM updates

$$\mathbf{x}^t = \Pi_{\mathcal{C}} (\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - h^t (\mathbf{x}^{t-1})) , \text{ where } h^t (\mathbf{x}) = \gamma^t \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} r (\mathbf{x})$$

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- ▶ Interpretation : Iterative residual denoising
 - ▶ The solution is obtained by recursively subtracting from the input refined estimates of the noise realization distorting the input

Normalized residual iterations

- ▶ PGM updates

$$\mathbf{x}^t = \Pi_{\mathcal{C}} (\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - h^t (\mathbf{x}^{t-1})) , \text{ where } h^t (\mathbf{x}) = \gamma^t \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} r (\mathbf{x})$$

- ▶ Interpretation : Iterative residual denoising

- ▶ The solution is obtained by recursively subtracting from the input refined estimates of the noise realization distorting the input

$$\mathbf{x}^1 = \mathbf{y} - \varepsilon \frac{h^1 (\mathbf{y})}{\max (\|h^1 (\mathbf{y})\|_2, \varepsilon)} = \mathbf{x} + (\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{n}^1)$$

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$$\mathbf{n}^k = \varepsilon \frac{\mathbf{n}^{k-1} + h^k(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})}{\max(\|\mathbf{n}^{k-1} + h^k(\mathbf{x}^{k-1})\|_2, \varepsilon)}$$


normalized noise realization estimate

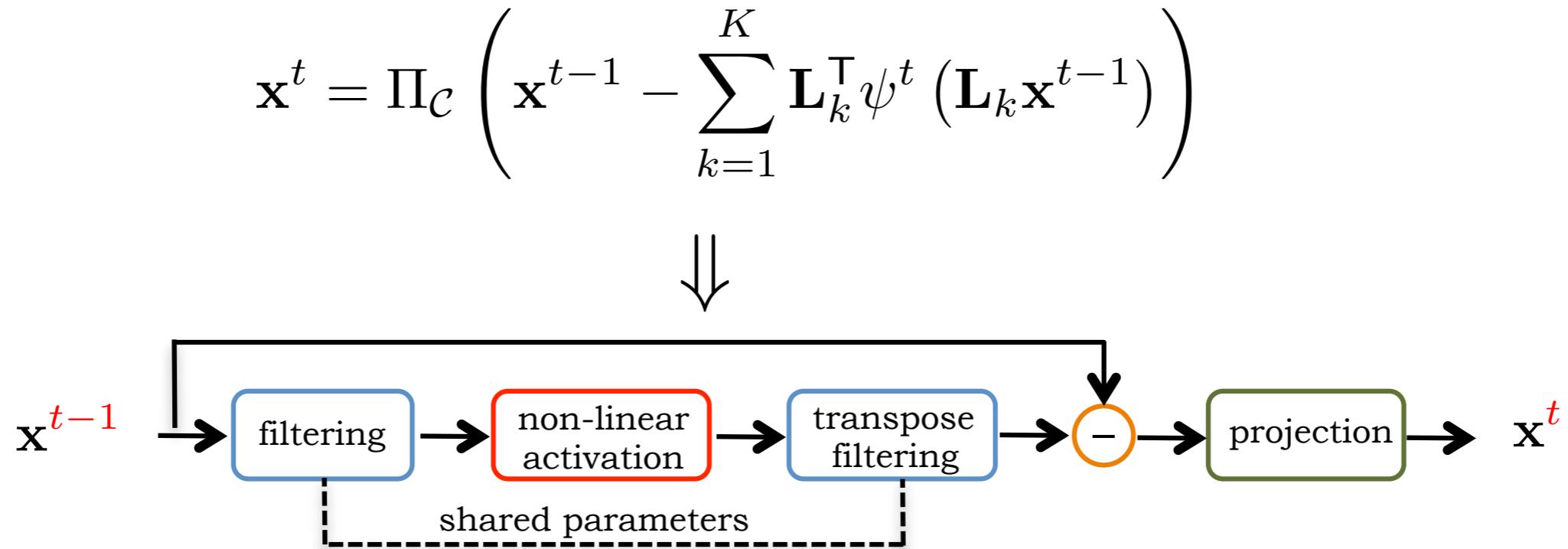
Universal Network Architecture

- ▶ Cascade of composite layers (“stages”)
- ▶ Each layer implements a single PGM update

$$\mathbf{x}^t = \Pi_{\mathcal{C}} \left(\mathbf{x}^{t-1} - \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{L}_k^\top \psi^t \left(\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{x}^{t-1} \right) \right)$$

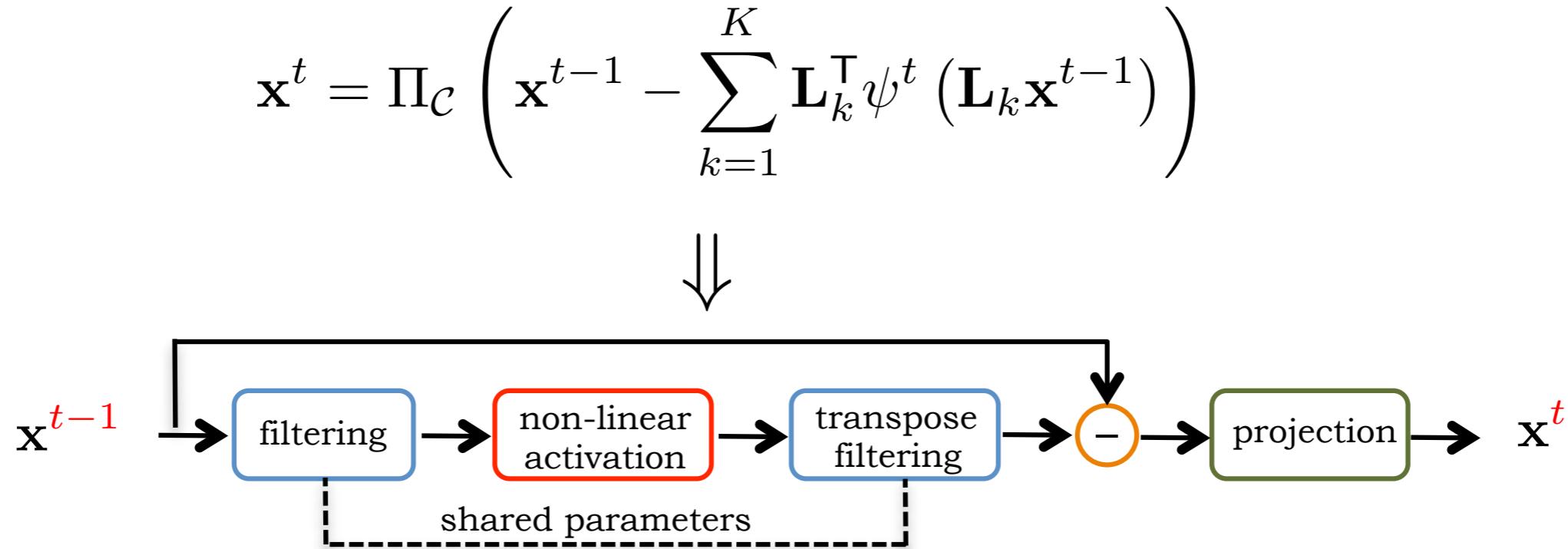
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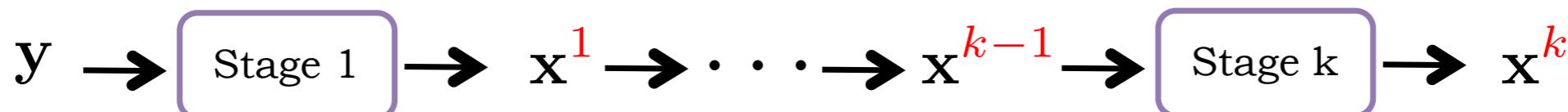


Universal Network Architecture

- ▶ Cascade of composite layers (“stages”)
- ▶ Each layer implements a single PGM update



- ▶ Feedforward network by iteration unrolling



One-Shot Residual Denoising Network

- ▶ In MM-based schemes denoising does not need to be exhaustive
- ▶ We employ a single-iteration variant of the UDNet network
- ▶ PGM updates reminder

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- ▶ For a single iteration with input the noisy image we have:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{y} - \varepsilon \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{L}_k^\top \psi^t (\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{y})}{\max \left(\left\| \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{L}_k^\top \psi^t (\mathbf{L}_k \mathbf{y}) \right\|_2, \varepsilon \right)}$$

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One-Shot Residual Denoising Network

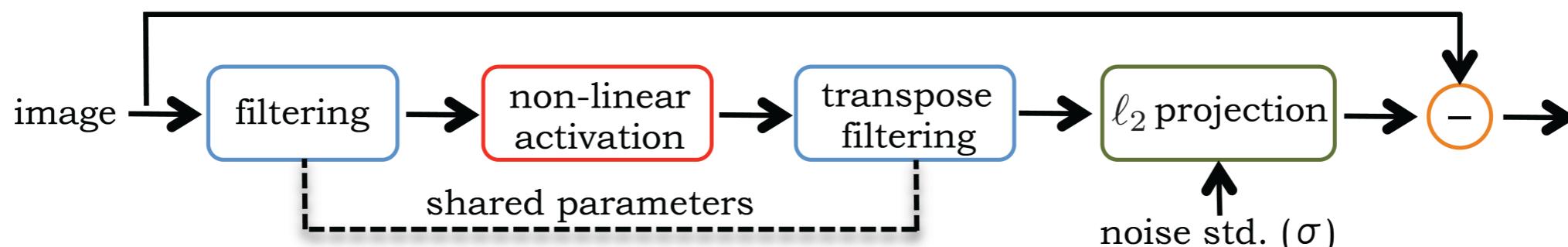
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↓



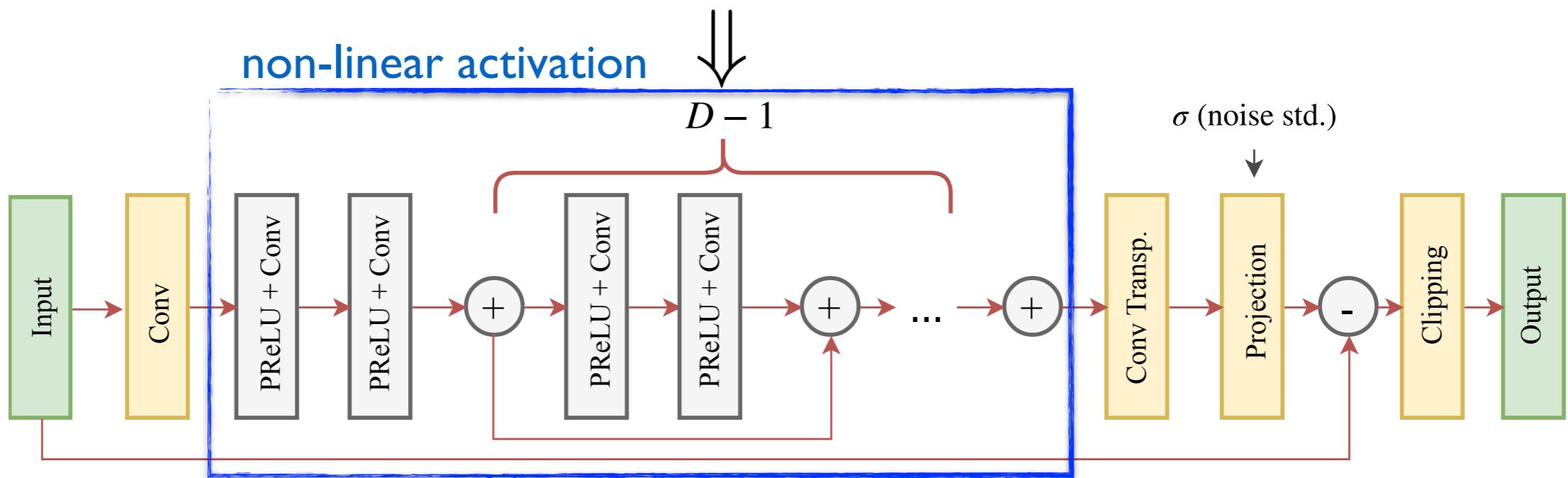
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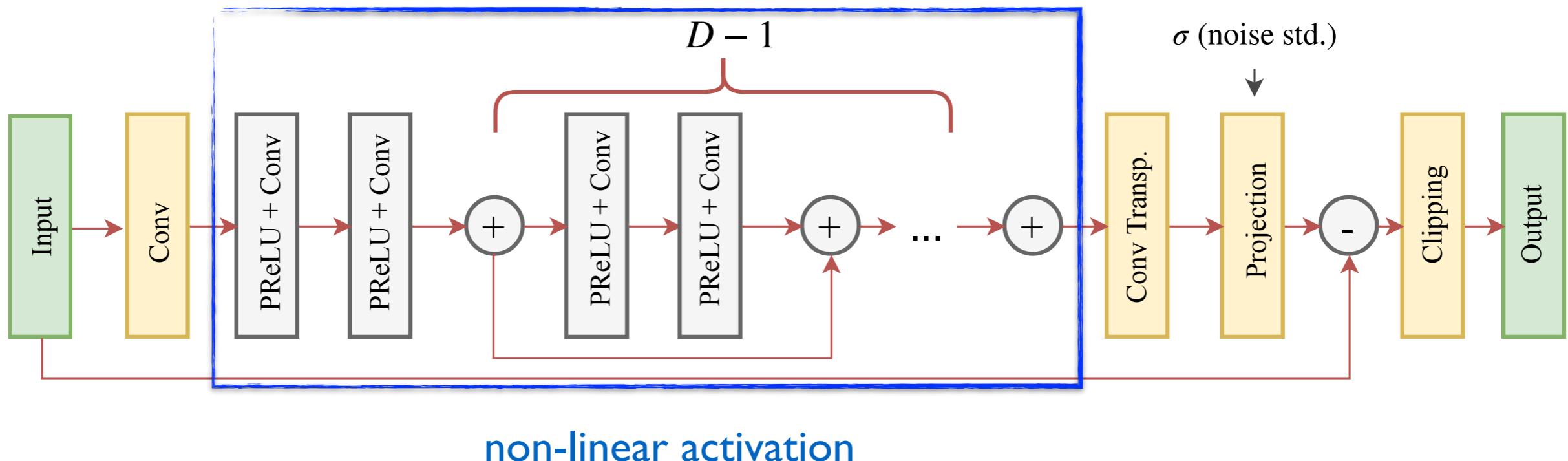
MM-based Burst Image Restoration Recap

- ▶ Recast the burst imaging problem to a series of **image denoising problems**

$$\tilde{Q} \left(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}^{(t)} \right) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + r(\mathbf{x}) + \text{const.}$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \frac{1}{B} \sum_{i=1}^B \mathbf{S}_i^T \mathbf{H}^T \left(\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{H} \mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{x}^{(t)} \right)$$

- ▶ In each iteration a refined estimate of the solution is computed
- ▶ Instead of solving an optimization problem we employ a **residual denoising network**



non-linear activation

Iterative Neural Network

Algorithm 1: Proposed Iterative Neural Network for burst photography applications

Input: \mathbf{H} : Degradation Operator, $\mathbf{y}_{\{1 \dots B\}}$: input burst, K : iterations, $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^K$: extrapolation weights, σ : estimated noise, $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^K$: projection parameters

$$\mathbf{x}^0 = \mathbf{0};$$

Initialize \mathbf{x}^1 using \mathbf{y}_{ref} ;

Estimate mappings $\mathbf{S}_{1 \dots B}$;

for $t \leftarrow 1$ **to** K **do**

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{x}^t + \mathbf{w}_t(\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x}^{t-1});$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0};$$

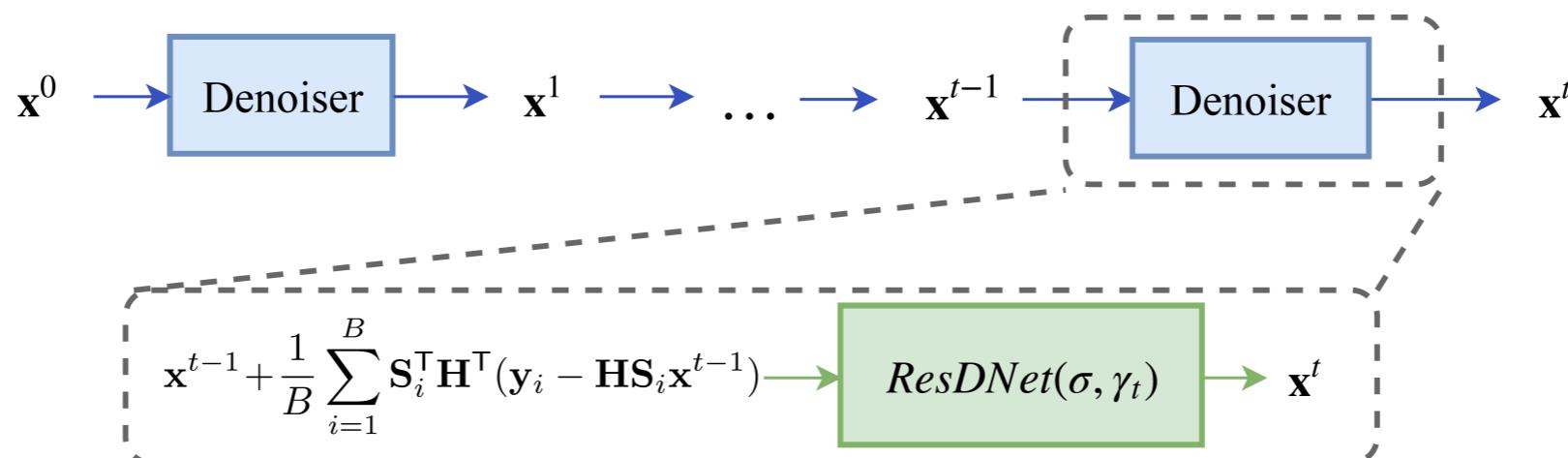
for $i \leftarrow 1$ **to** B **do**

$$| \quad \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{S}_i^\top \mathbf{H}^\top (-\mathbf{y}_i + \mathbf{H} \mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{u});$$

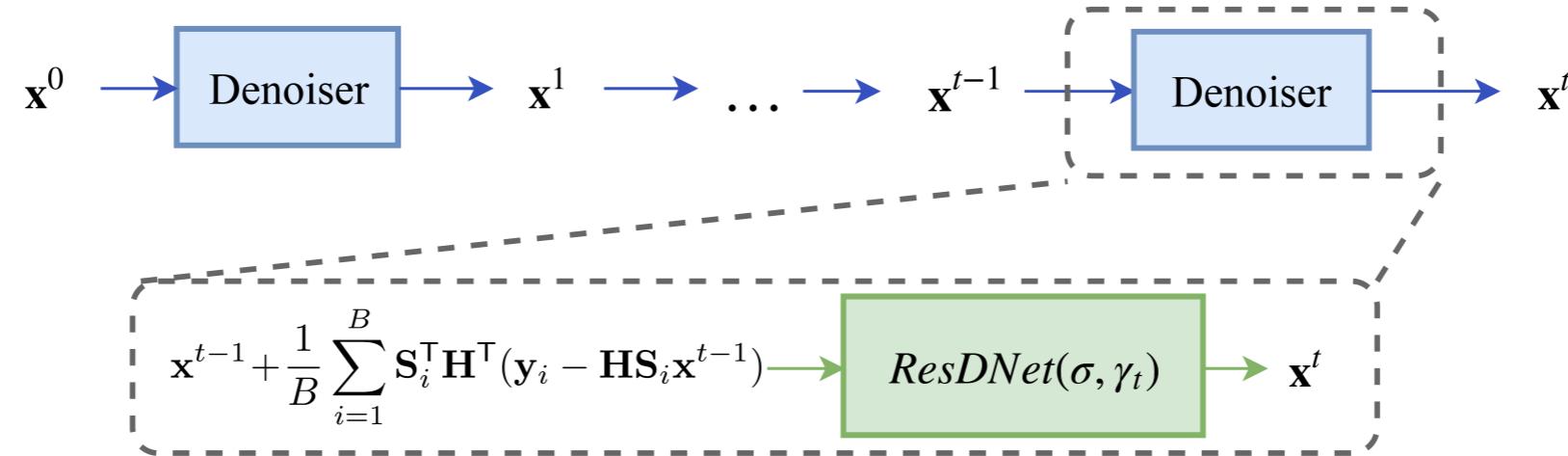
end

$$\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \text{ProxNet}(\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{z}/B, \sigma, \mathbf{s}_t);$$

end

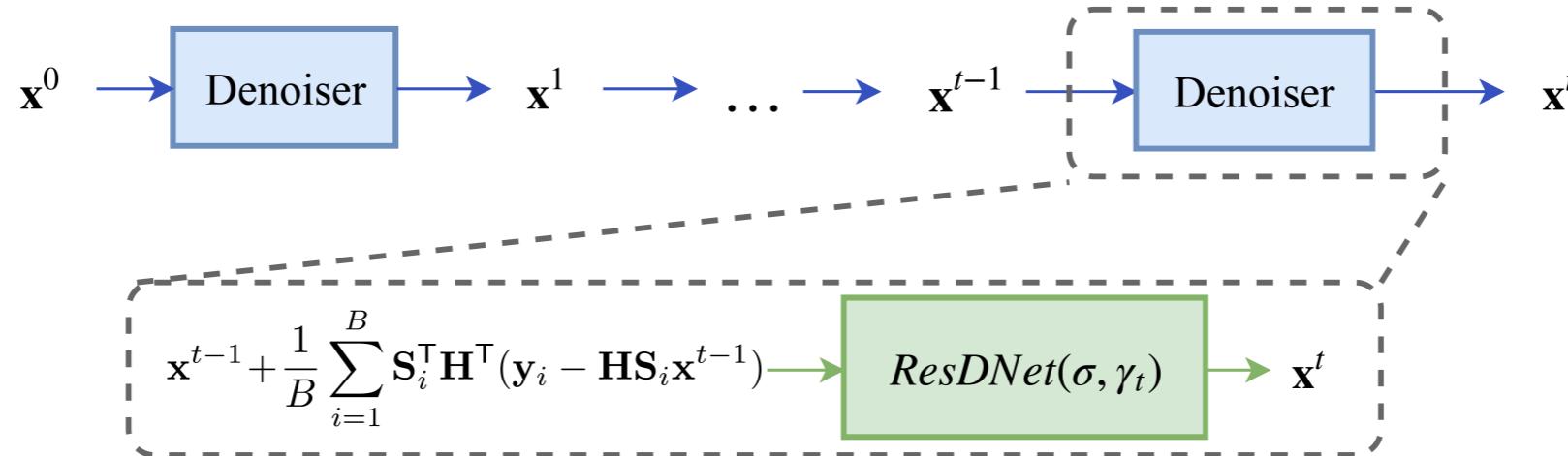


Iterative Neural Network - Training



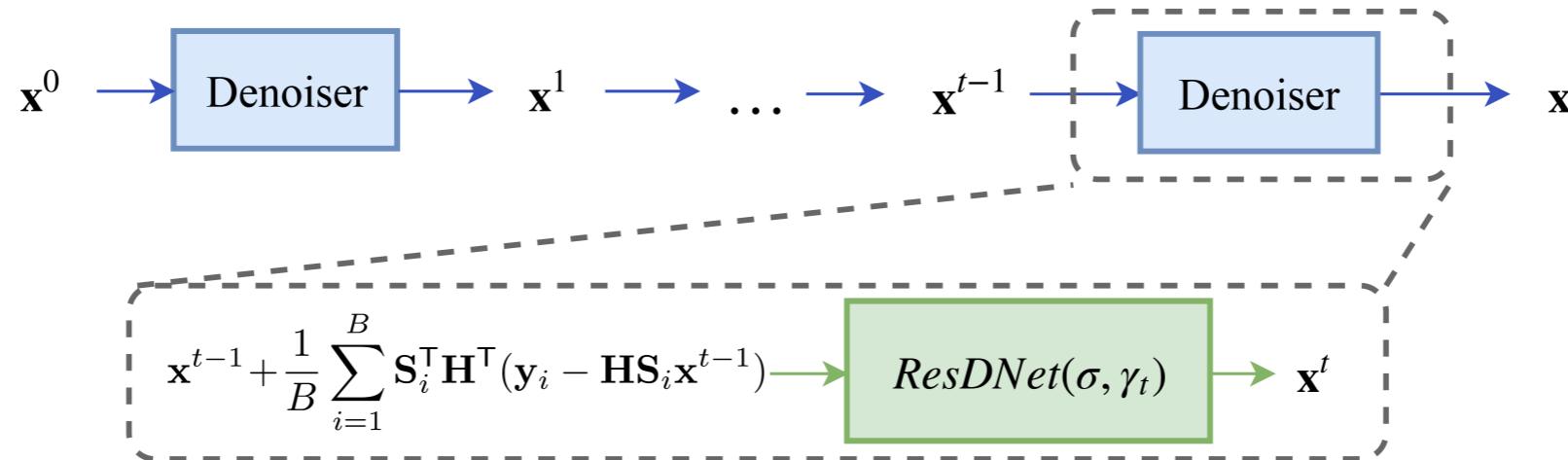
- ▶ The network parameters are **shared** across iterations
 - ✓ small memory footprint of the network

Iterative Neural Network - Training

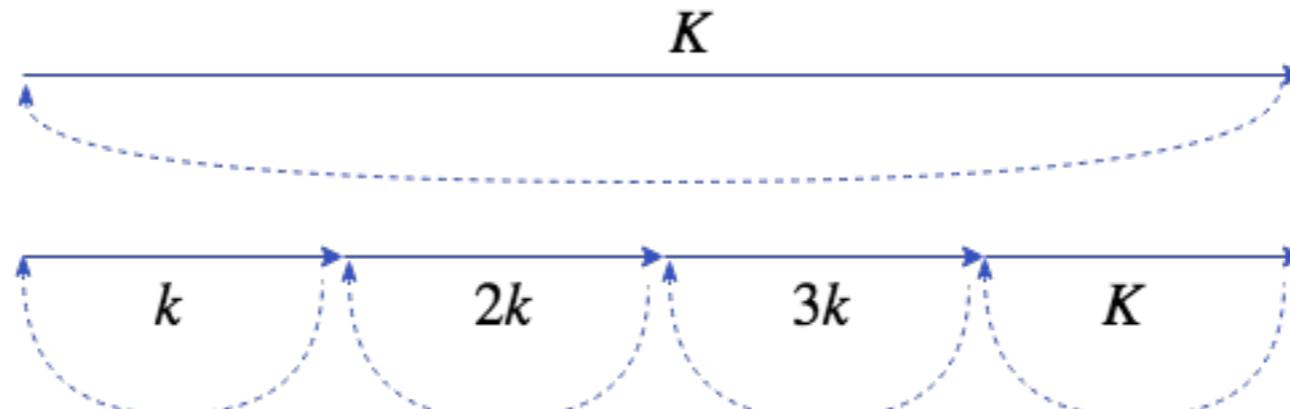


- ▶ The network parameters are **shared** across iterations
 - ✓ small memory footprint of the network
- ▶ **Challenge:** How to efficiently train the network by back-propagation?
 - ▶ Back propagation through time (BPTT) is **extremely memory demanding**

Iterative Neural Network - Training



- ▶ The network parameters are **shared** across iterations
 - ✓ small memory footprint of the network
- ▶ **Challenge:** How to efficiently train the network by back-propagation?
 - ▶ Back propagation through time (BPTT) is **extremely memory demanding**
- ▶ Use instead **Truncated BPTT**
 - ▶ adopted approach in natural language processing (NLP)
 - ▶ first to use in image restoration or computer vision problems
- ✓ We can train arbitrarily deep demosaicking networks



Comparisons - Evaluation

burst demosaicking (MSR dataset)

	noisy		noise-free	
	linRGB	sRGB	linRGB	sRGB
Bilinear				
- single	27.62	23.02	29.07	22.86
- burst	30.03	26.45	31.46	27.23
Gharbi [10]				
- single	36.52	31.37	41.08	34.46
- burst	37.14	31.87	39.74	34.39
Kokkinos [21]				
- single	38.48	33.41	41.03	34.37
- burst	38.06	33.06	38.93	33.02
BM3D-CFA[7]				
- single	35.63	30.49	-	-
- burst	35.36	30.30	-	-
Ours	39.64	34.56	42.40	36.24
Ours (oracle)	41.55	35.59	42.40	36.24

burst Gaussian denoising (Waterloo dataset)

Methods	$\sigma=5$	$\sigma=10$	$\sigma=15$	$\sigma=20$	$\sigma=25$
noisy ref. frame	34.26	28.37	24.95	22.55	20.71
BM3D	39.78	35.86	33.55	31.86	30.50
VBM4D	39.64	35.67	33.35	31.67	30.34
ResDNet:					
- single	40.19	36.65	34.55	33.03	31.82
- burst	39.69	37.65	36.06	34.89	33.86
Ours	40.08	38.71	37.36	36.24	35.28

Burst Gaussian Denoising ($\sigma = 25$)

Ground Truth

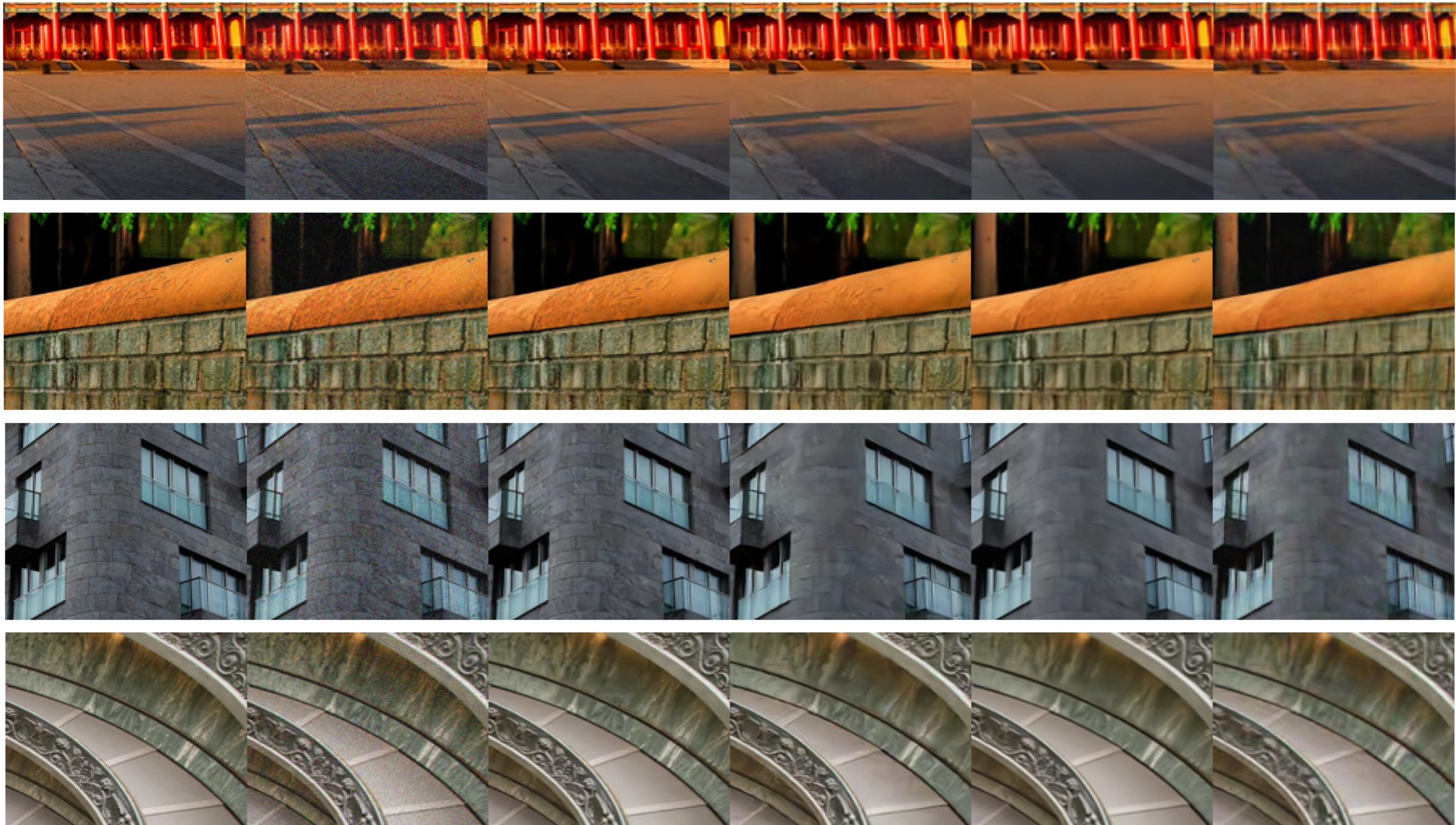
Average

Ours

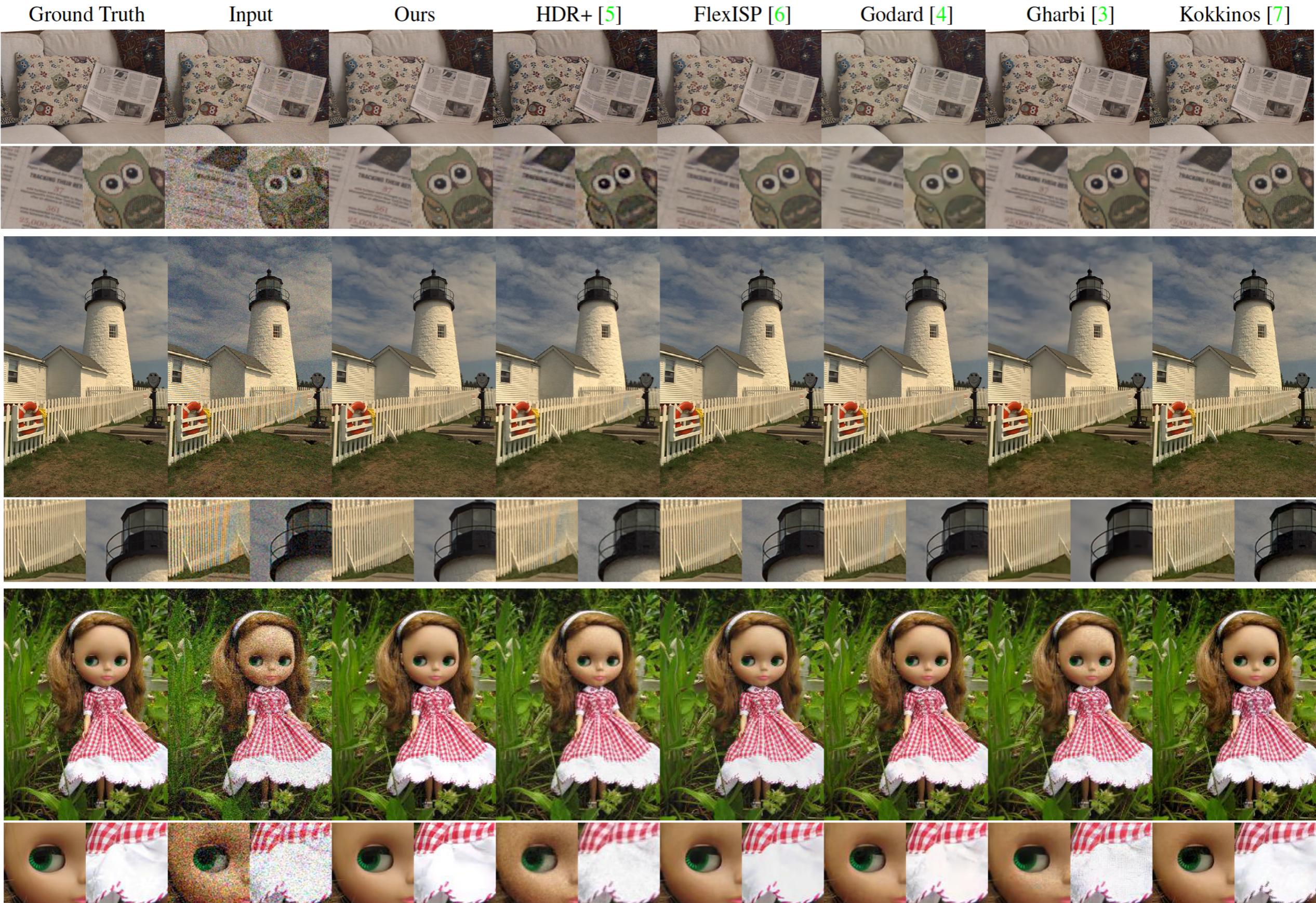
ResDNet

ResDNet Average

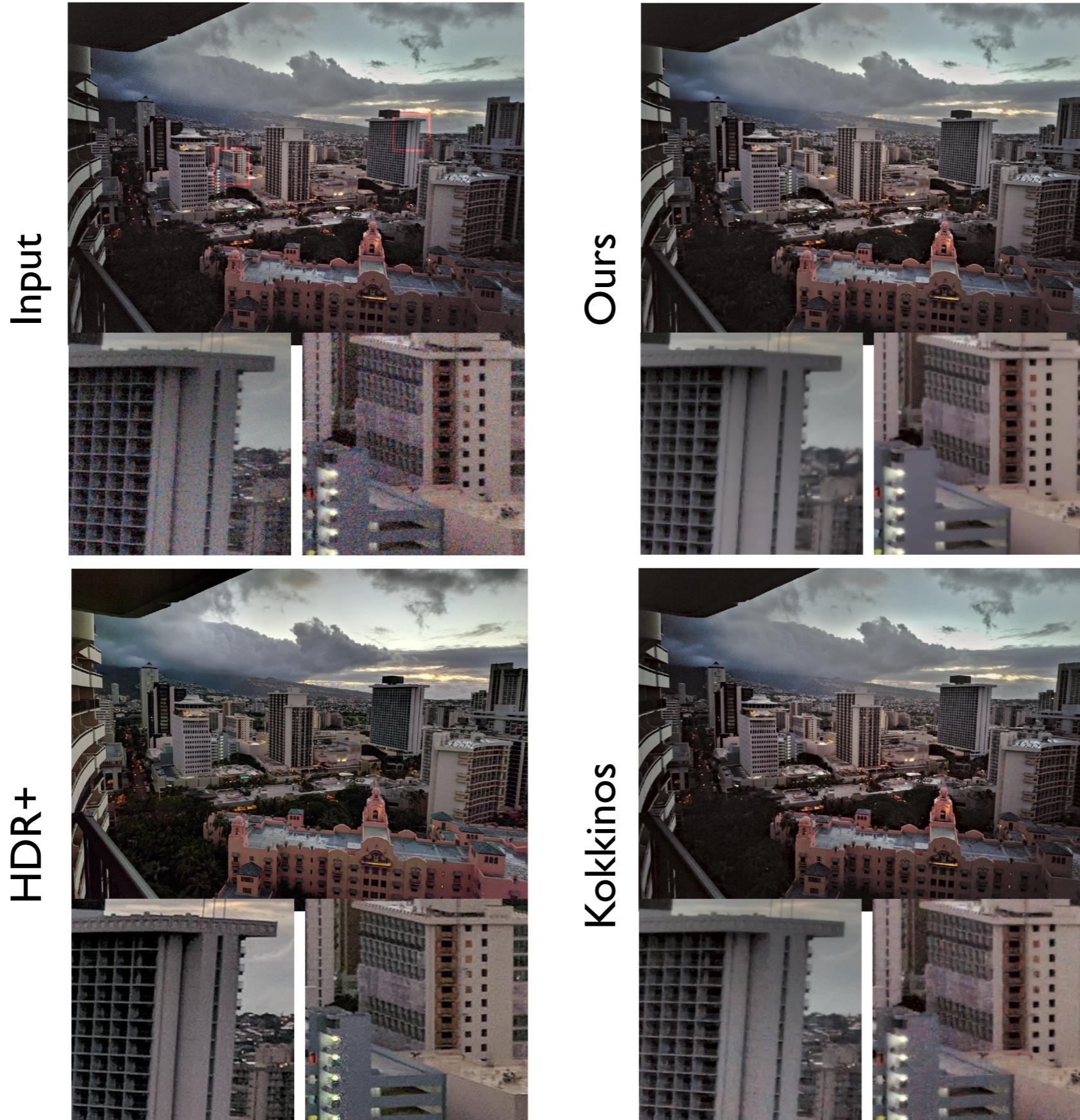
VBM4D [8]



Burst Demosaicking (FlexISP Dataset)

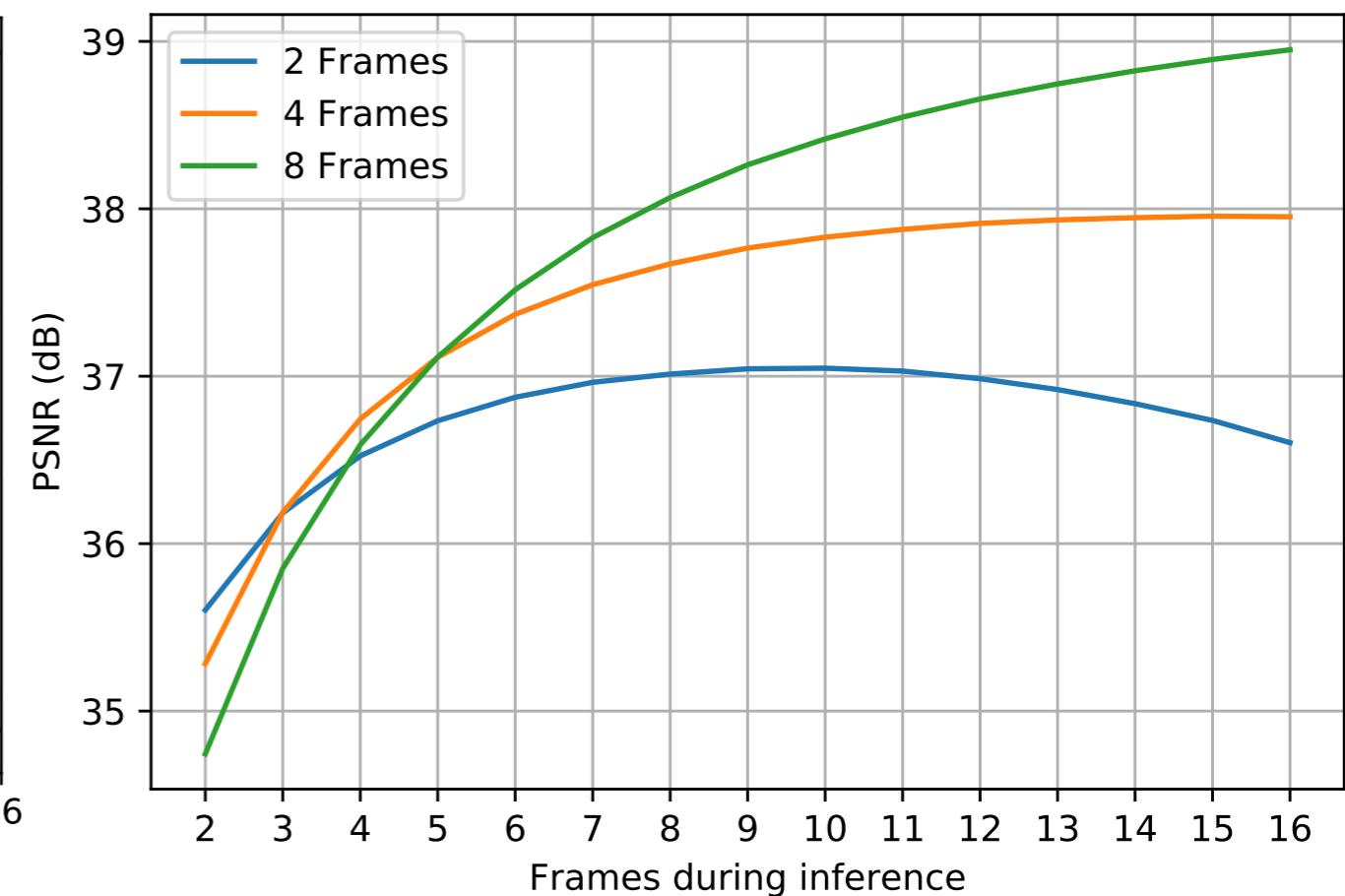
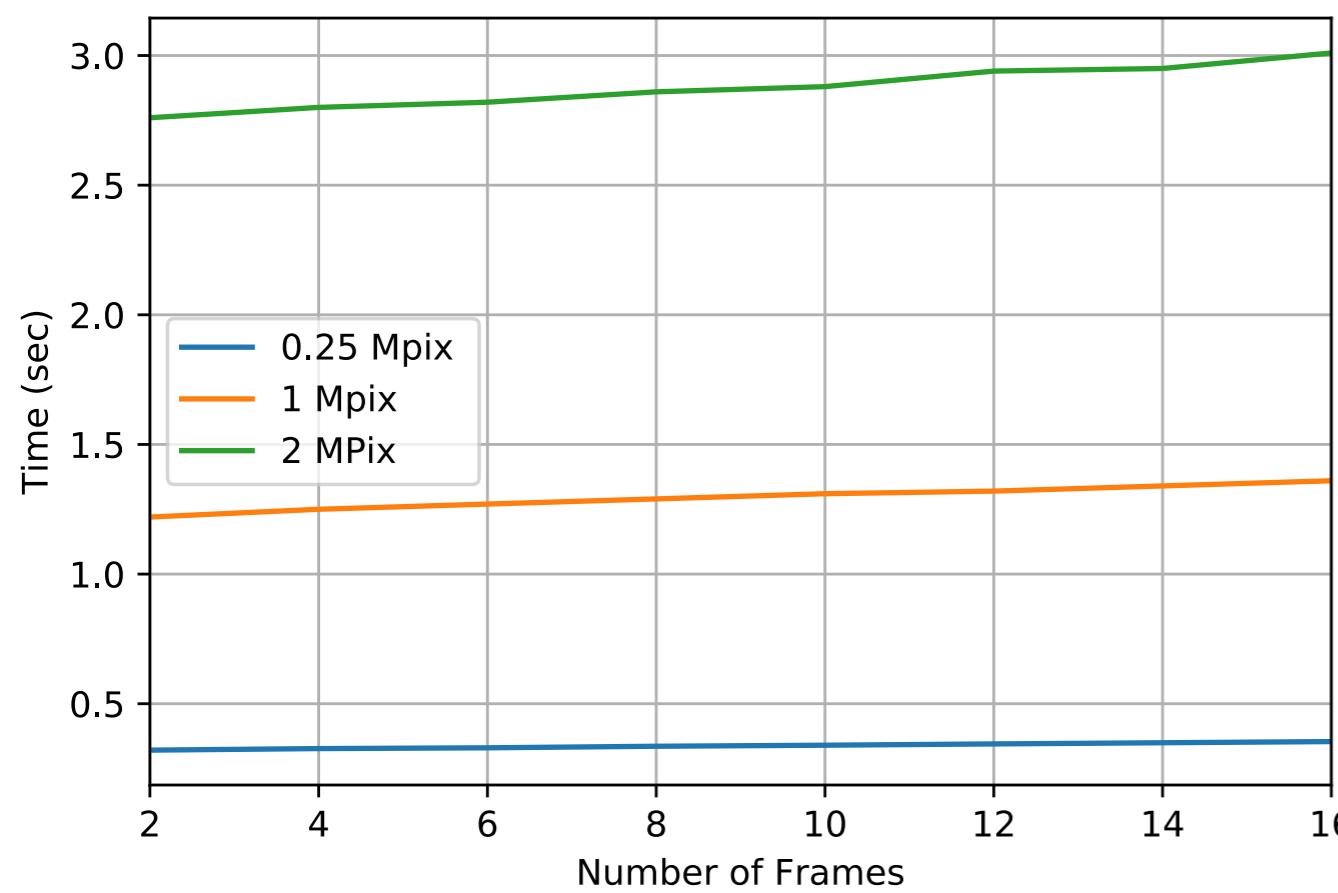


Burst Denoising-Demosaicking (real data)



Network Properties

- ▶ The proposed network architecture exhibits some important properties:
 - ✓ invariant to the ordering of the burst frames
 - ✓ good generalization ability to a different number of frames than those used for training
 - ✓ Minimal computational overhead if we increase the burst size



Summary and Future Research Directions

- ▶ **Deep Learning for inverse imaging problems**
 - ▶ **Principled network design** motivated by variational and optimization methods
 - ▶ Data-driven approach for learning the regularization operator
 - ▶ **Single set of network parameters** that handles a wide range of noise levels
 - ▶ Computational efficiency and increased robustness to degradation factors
 - ▶ Good generalization ability of the developed networks to real noise
 - ▶ **State-of-the-art** image restoration results using considerably smaller networks than previous approaches
 - ▶ Introduction of a generic framework that utilizes the proposed denoising networks as sub-solvers for dealing with other **general inverse problems**
 - ▶ Efficient training of iterative networks through **Truncated BBTT**

References and Main Collaborators

- S. Lefkimiatis, “Non-Local Color Image Denoising with Convolutional Neural Networks”, IEEE Int. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 2017
- S. Lefkimiatis, “Universal Denoising Networks : A Novel CNN Architecture for Image Denoising, IEEE Int. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, 2018
- F. Kokkinos and S. Lefkimiatis, “Deep Image Demosaicking using a Cascade of Convolutional Residual Denoising Networks”, European Conference on Computer Vision, 2018
- F. Kokkinos and S. Lefkimiatis, “Iterative Residual Network for Deep Joint Image Demosaicking and Denoising” , CoRR:1807.06403
- F. Kokkinos and S. Lefkimiatis, “Iterative Residual CNNs for Burst Photography Applications”, soon on Arxiv



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Thank you for your attention

software and publications available at: <http://cig.skoltech.ru>