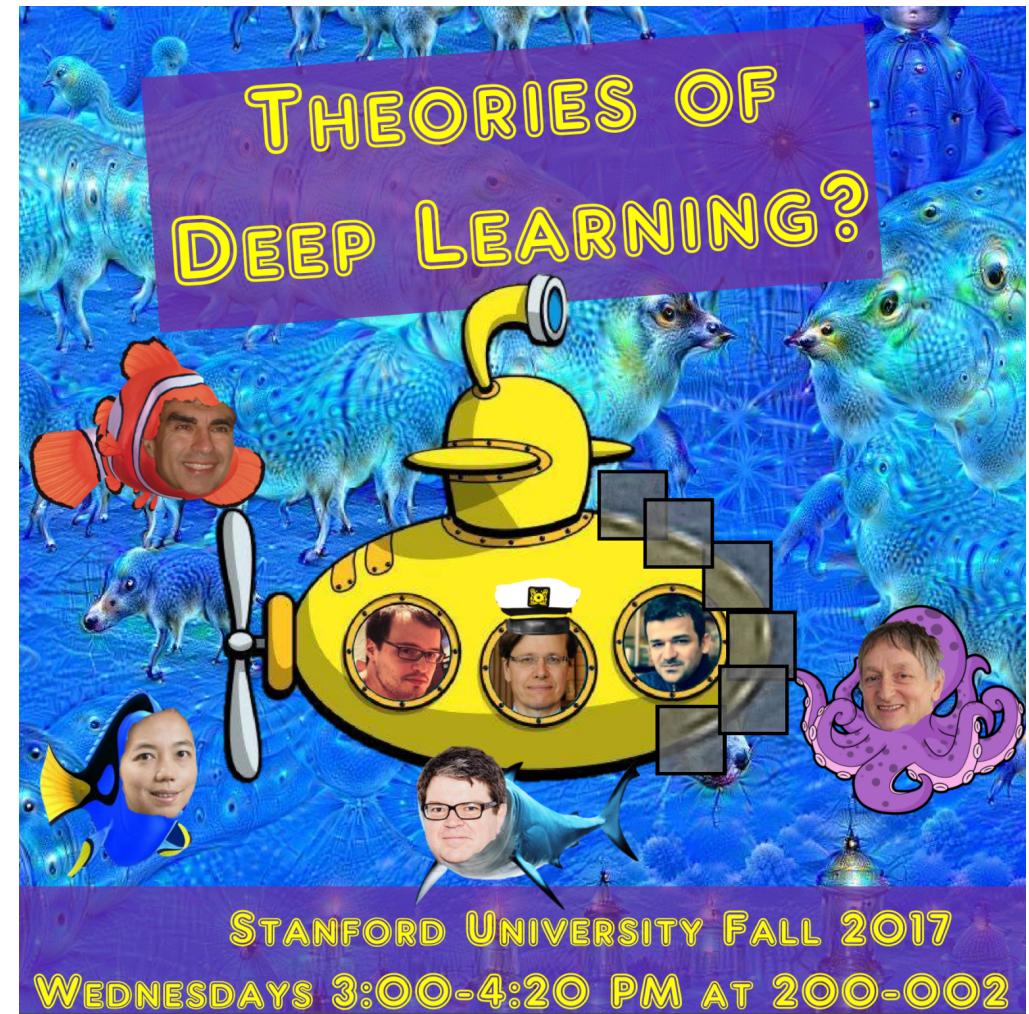


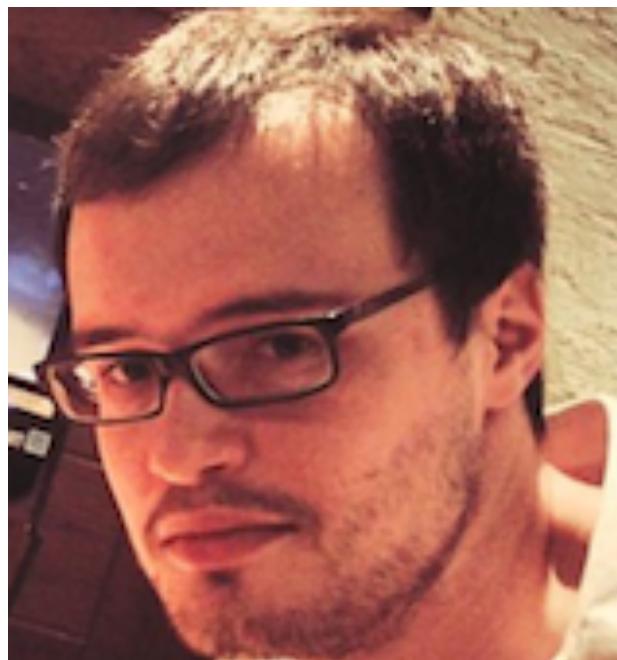
# Sparsity in Convolutional Neural Networks

Speaker: Qingyun Sun  
Math PhD @ Stanford

Acknowledgement:  
Stats 385 @ Stanford  
<https://stats385.github.io/>



The talk is based on:  
Convolutional Neural Networks in View of Sparse Coding,  
Vardan Petyan @ Stats 385, Stanford



Based on work of:  
Vardan Petyan, Jeremias Sulam, Yaniv Romano,  
Michael Elad



# Sparsity: Central idea in Stats

Compressive Sensing:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$$

# Sparsity: Central idea in Stats

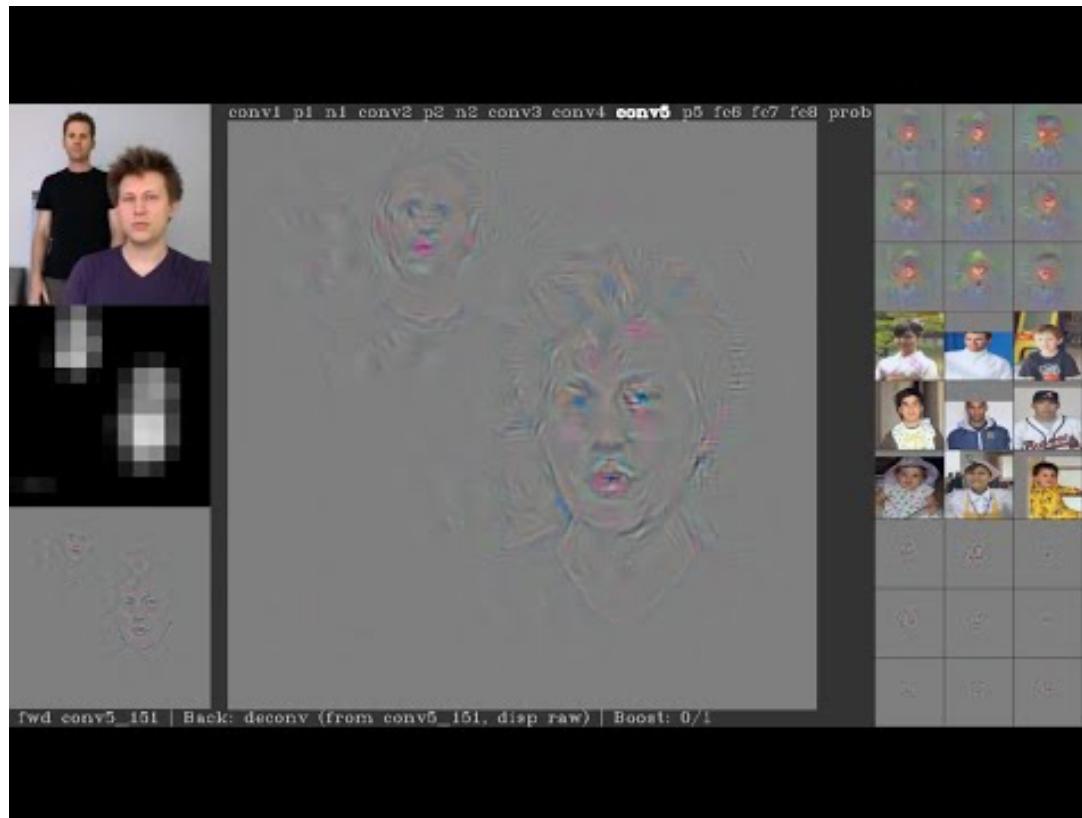
Lasso:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma} + \mathbf{E}$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_1$$

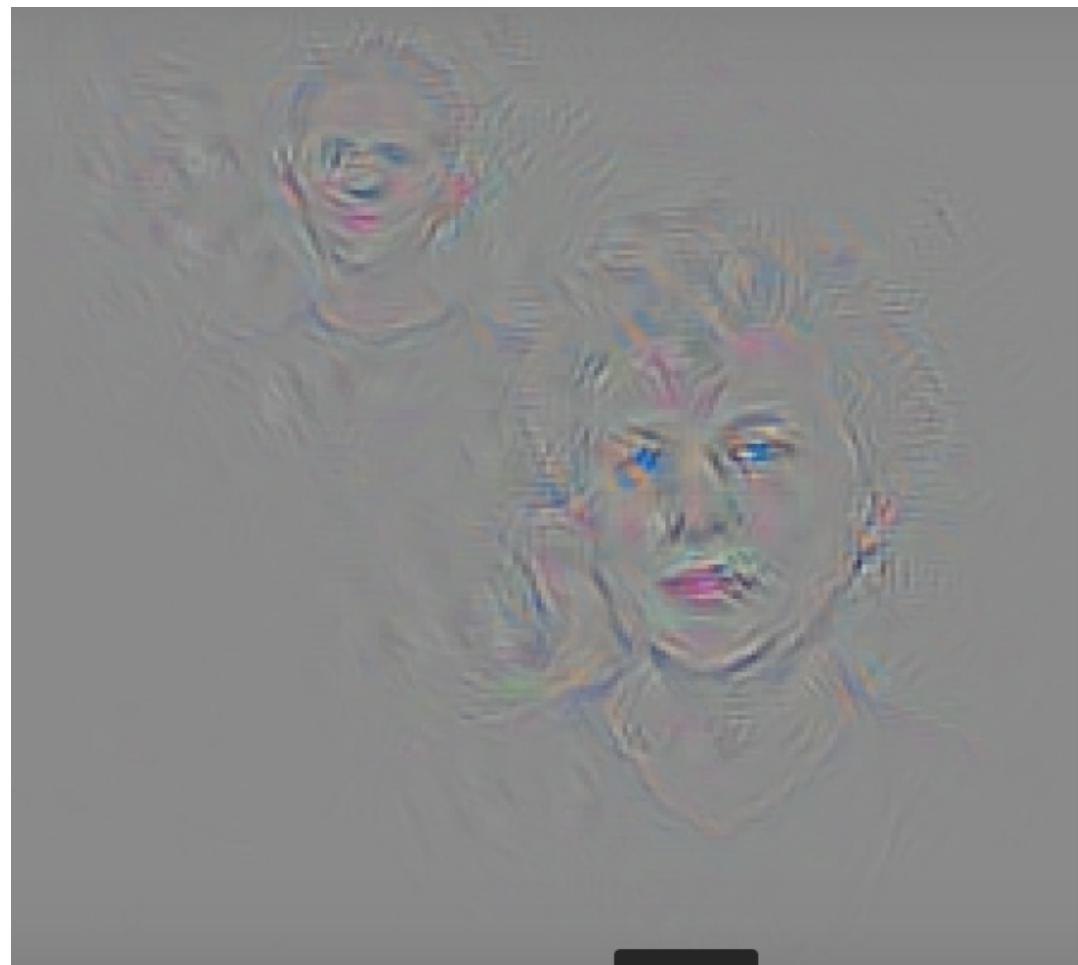
After Deep Revolution, is  
sparsity still important?

# Sparsity observed in CNN



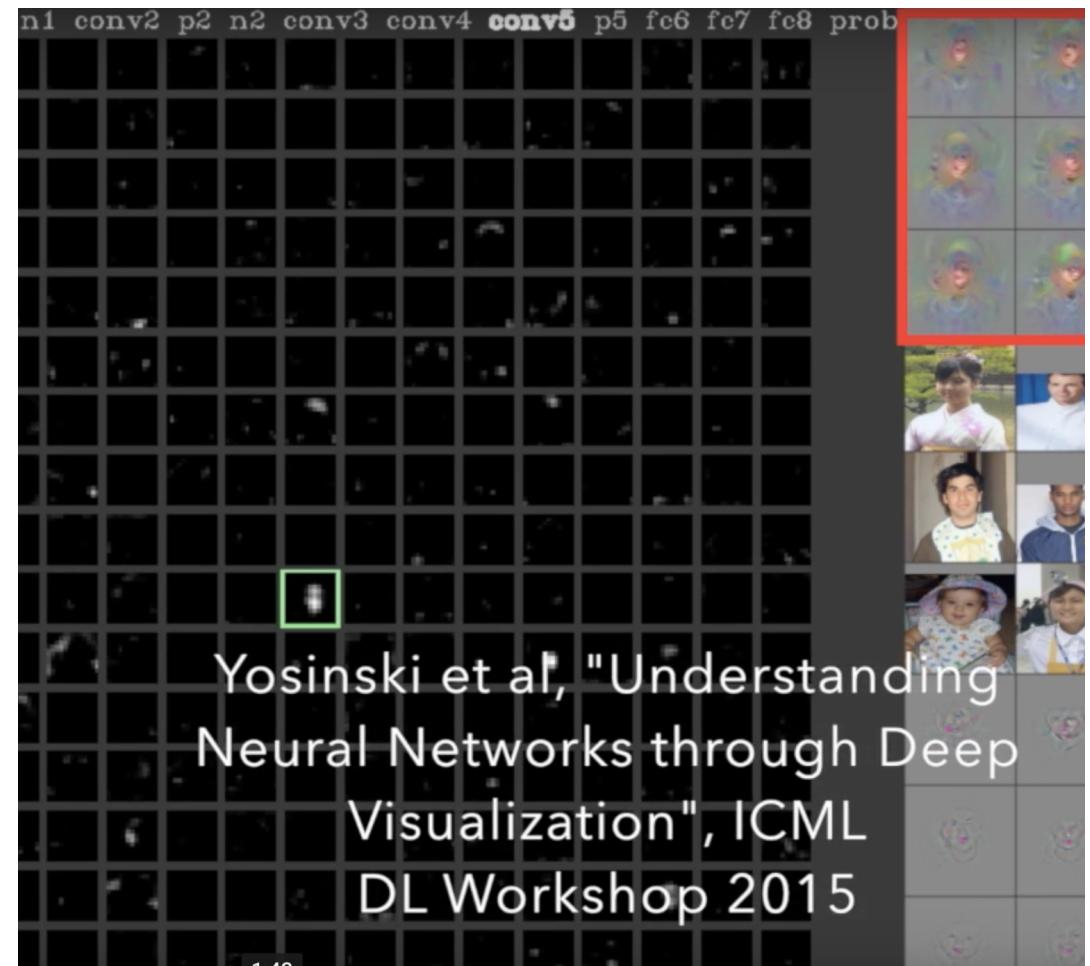
# Sparsity in Practice

The activation of RELU layer is sparse.

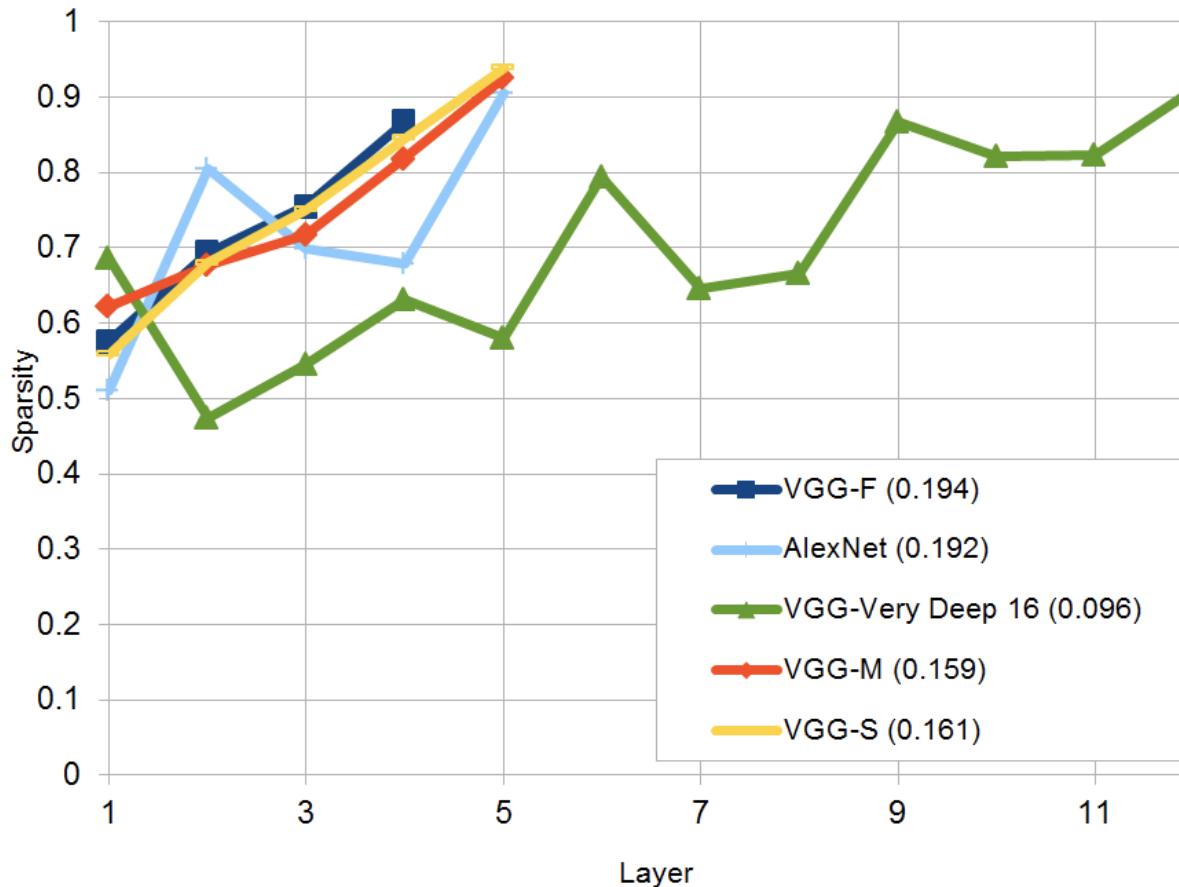


# Sparsity in Practice

The activation of RELU layer is sparse.

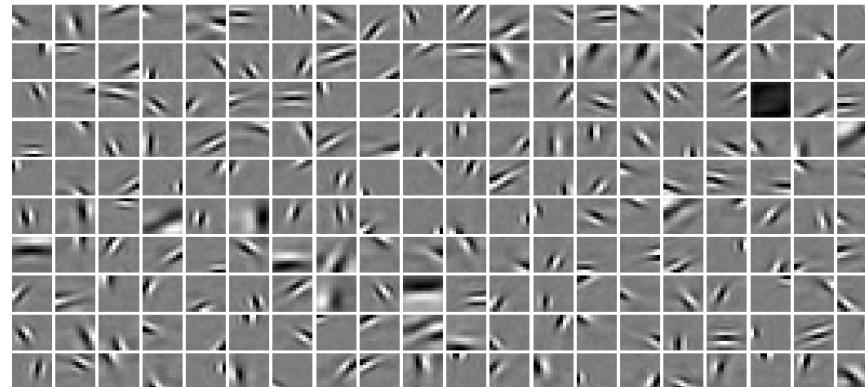


# Sparsity in Practice



# Olshausen & Field and AlexNet

Olshausen & Field



explicit sparsity

AlexNet



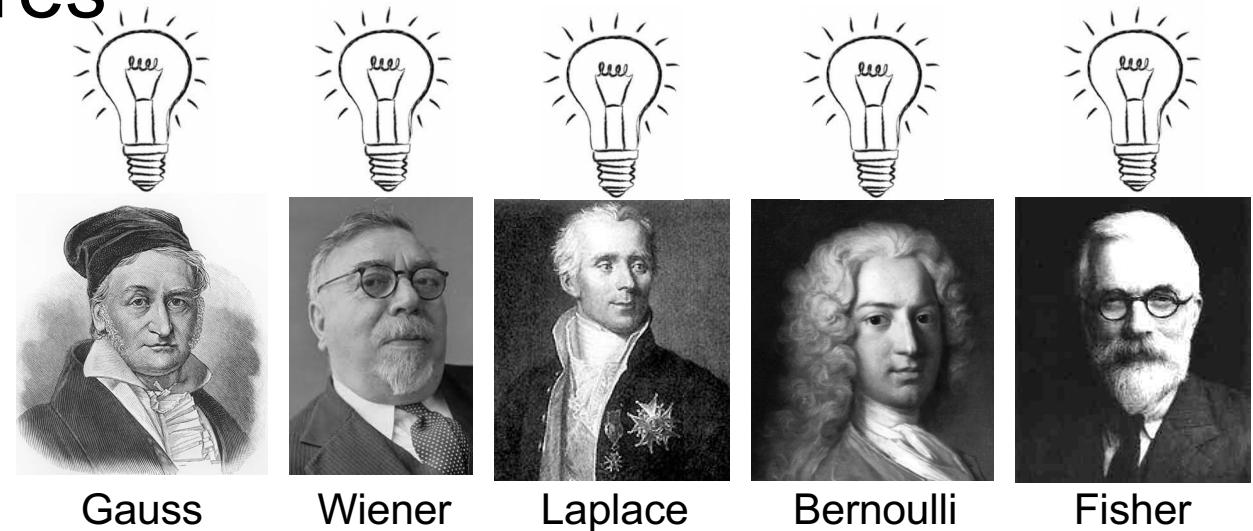
implicit sparsity

Credit to: Vardan, Stats385@Stanford

# Theory of sparsity in CNN?

# Breiman's “Two Cultures”

Generative modeling



Predictive modeling



## Generative modeling

Seeks to develop stochastic models which fit the data, and then make inferences about the data-generating mechanism based on the structure of those models.

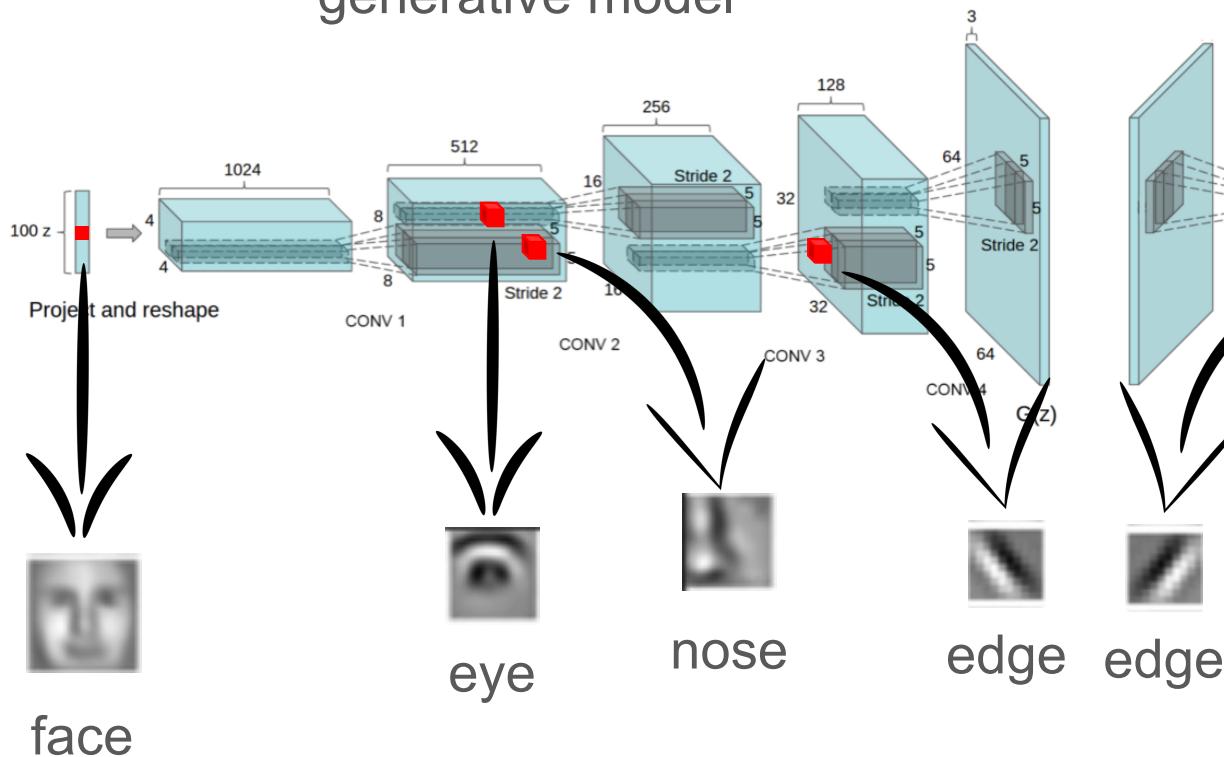
## Predictive modeling

Predictive modeling is effectively silent about the underlying mechanism generating the data, and allows for many different predictive algorithms, preferring to discuss only accuracy of prediction made by different algorithm on various datasets.

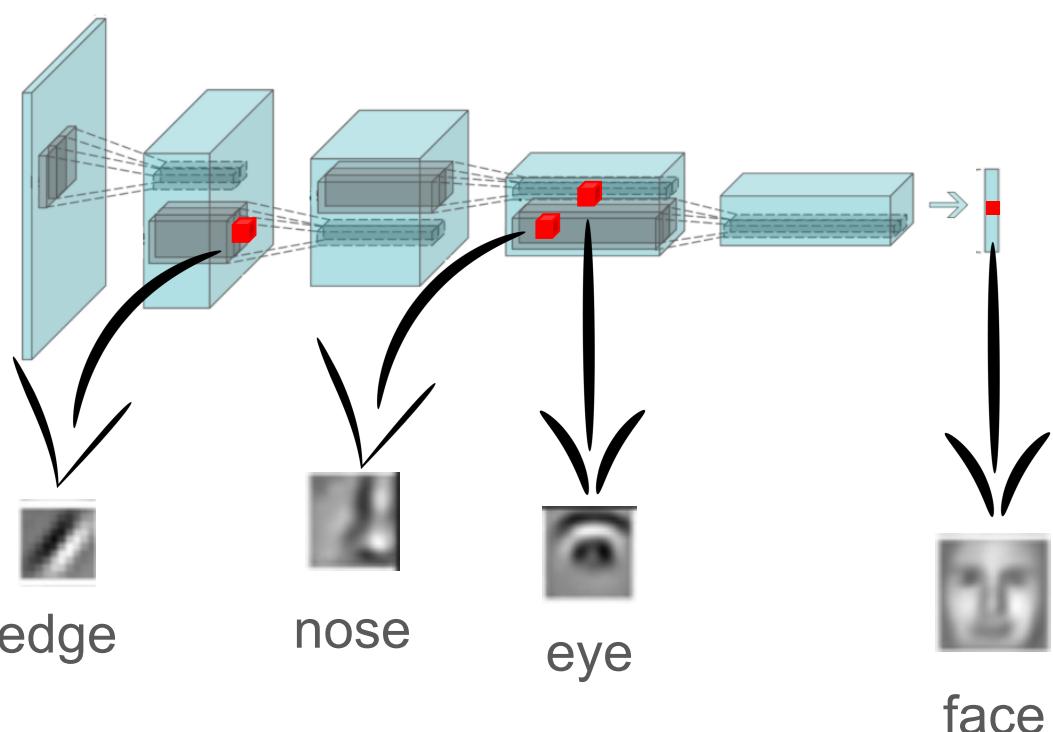
# Generative Modeling



generative model

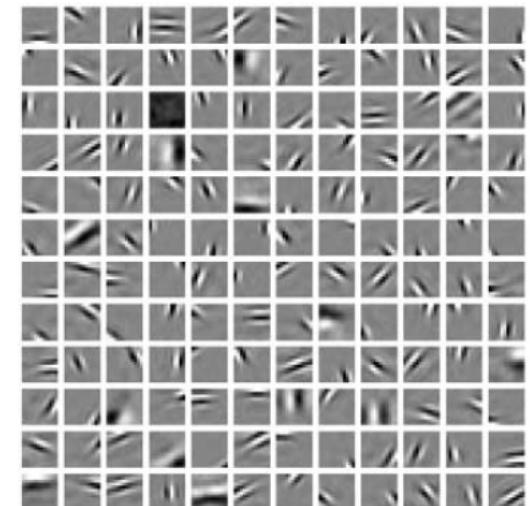


forward pass of CNN



# Sparse Representation Generative Model

- Receptive fields in visual cortex are spatially localized, oriented and bandpass
- Coding natural images while promoting sparse solutions results in a set of filters satisfying these properties  
[Olshausen and Field 1996]
- Two decades later...
  - vast theoretical study
  - different inference algorithms
  - different ways to train the model



# Evolution of Models

Multi-Layered  
Convolutional  
Neural  
Network

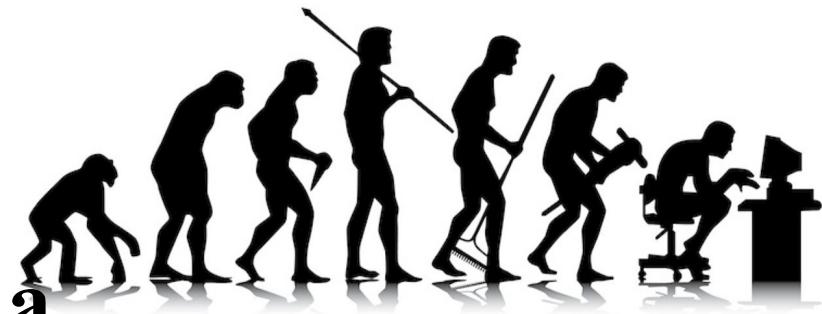
Multi-Layered  
Convolutional  
Sparse  
Representation

First Layer of a  
Convolutional  
Neural Network

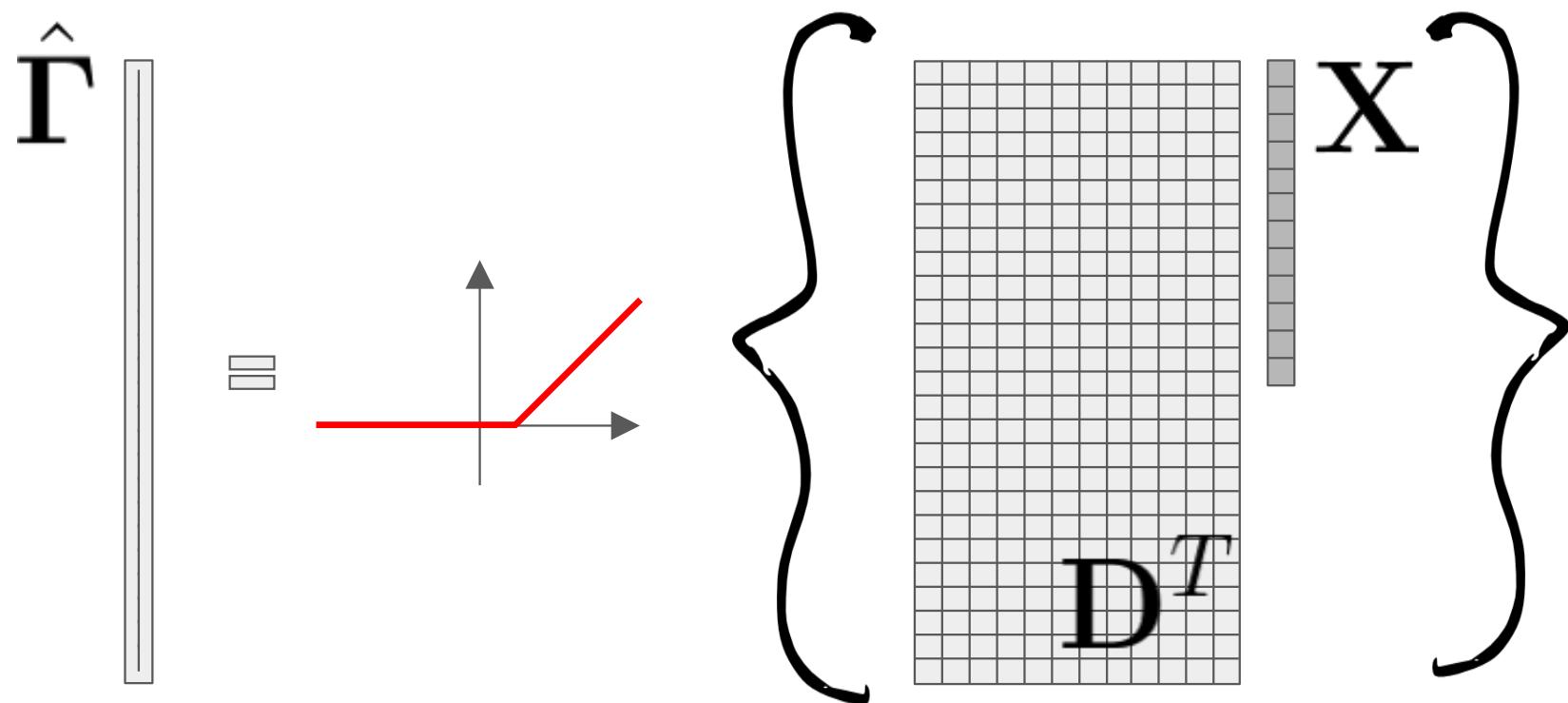
First Layer of a  
Neural Network

Convolutional  
sparse  
representation

Sparse  
representations

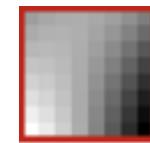


# First Layer of a Neural Network



# Sparse Modeling

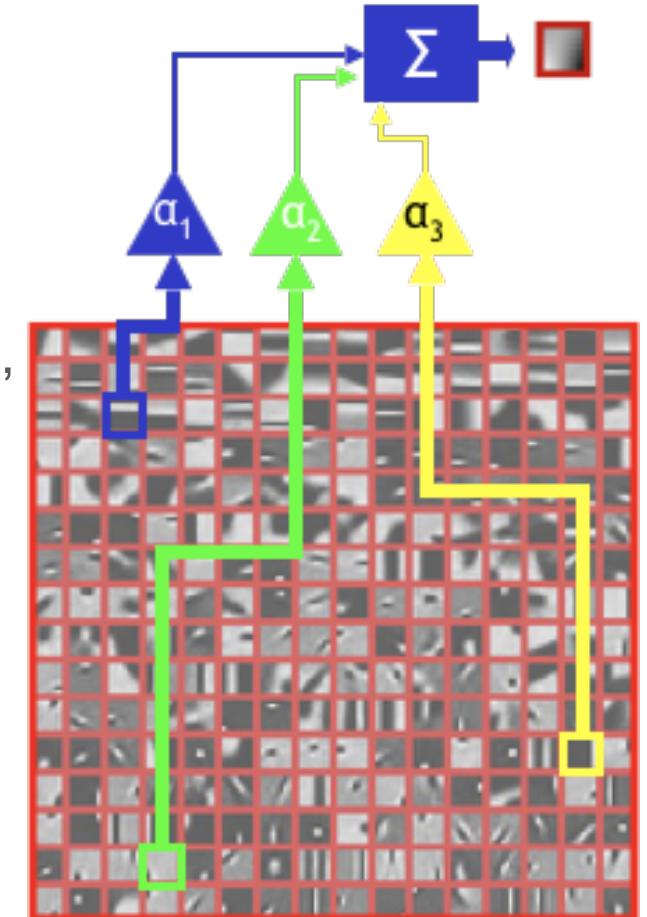
Task: model image patches of size 8x8 pixels



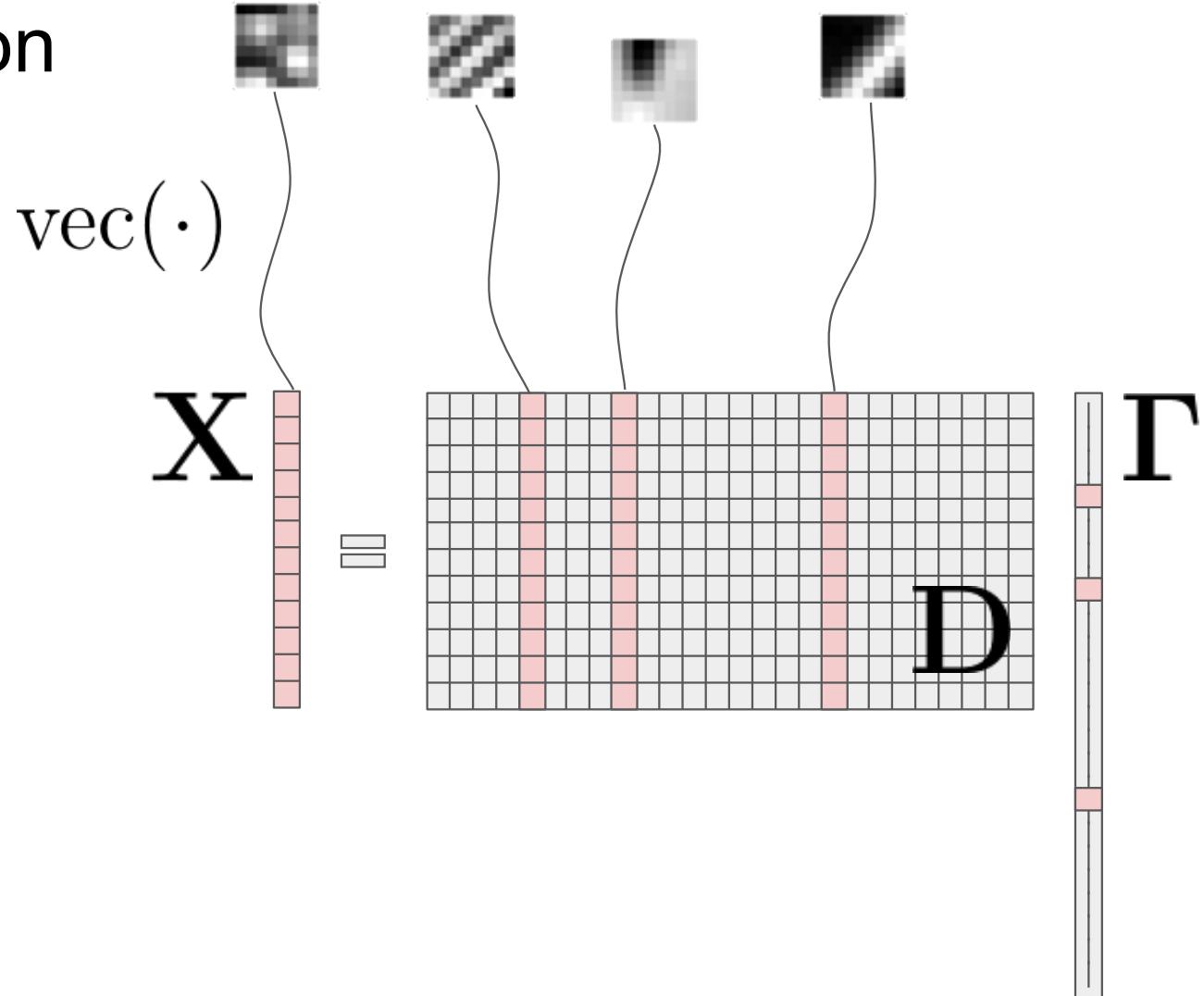
We assume a dictionary of such image patches is given,  
containing 256 atoms

Assumption: every patch can be described as a linear  
combination of a few atoms

Key properties: sparsity and redundancy



# Matrix Notation



# Sparse Coding

Given a signal, we would like to find its sparse representation

Convexify 

$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_0 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\Gamma$$
$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\Gamma$$

# Sparse Coding

Given a signal, we would like to find its sparse representation

$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_0 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\Gamma$$

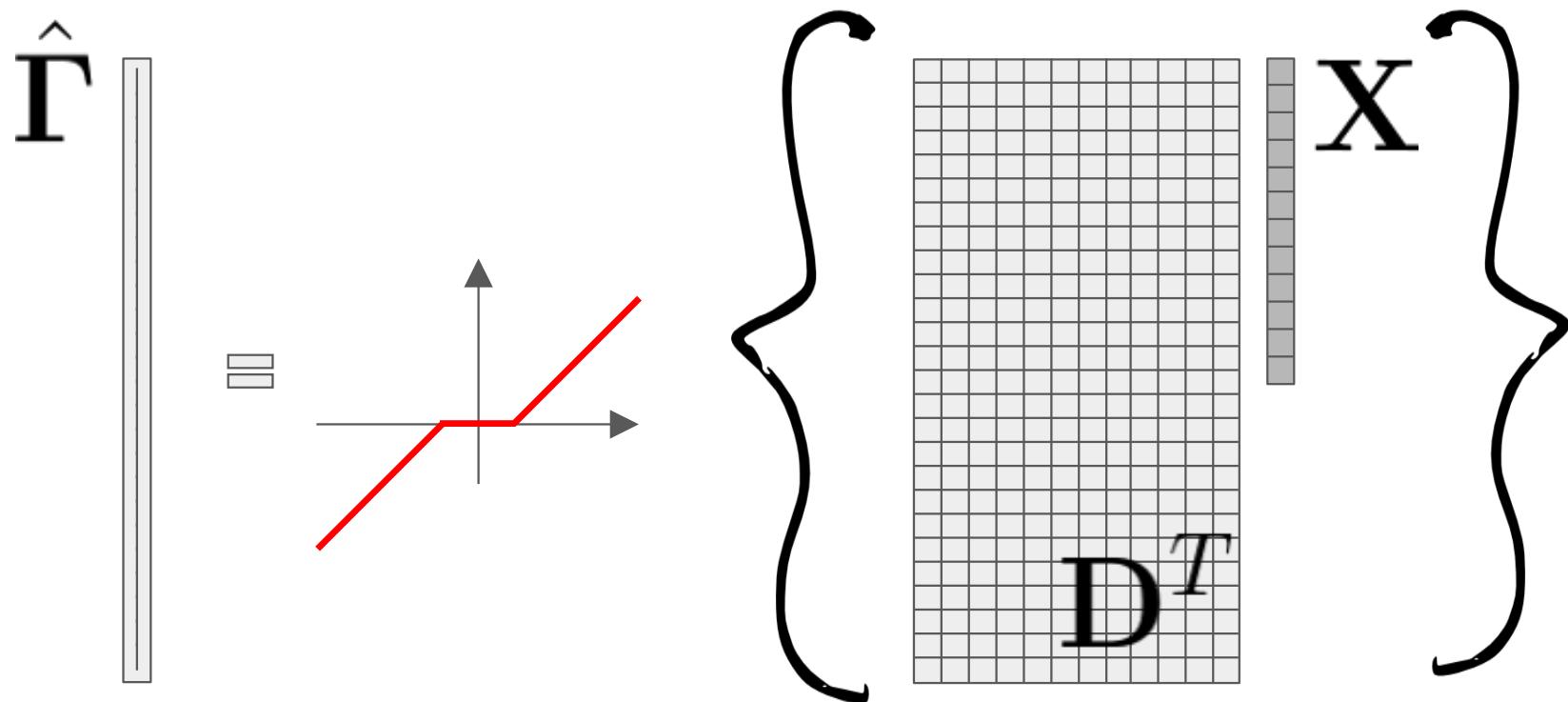
Convexify

$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\Gamma$$

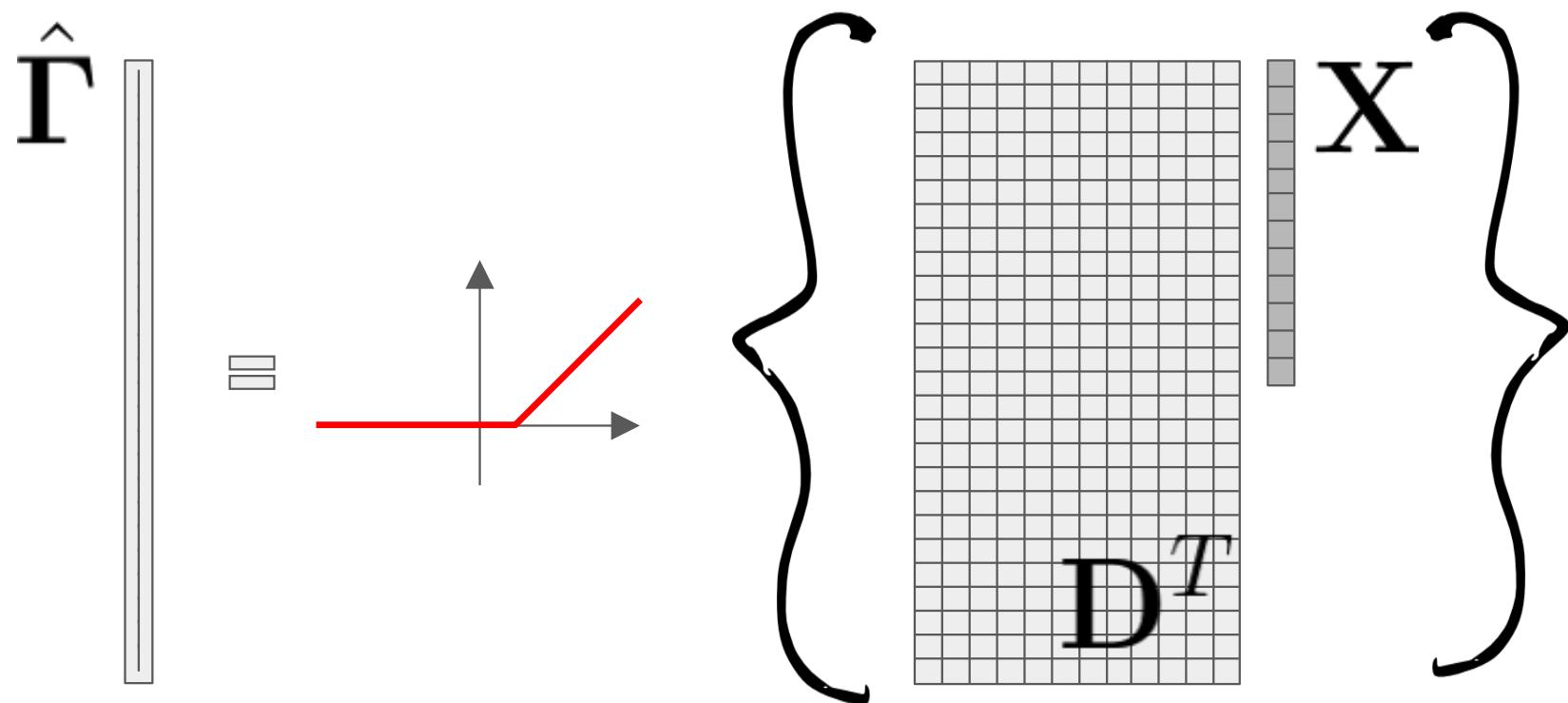
Crude  
approximation

$$S_{\beta}\{\mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{X}\}$$

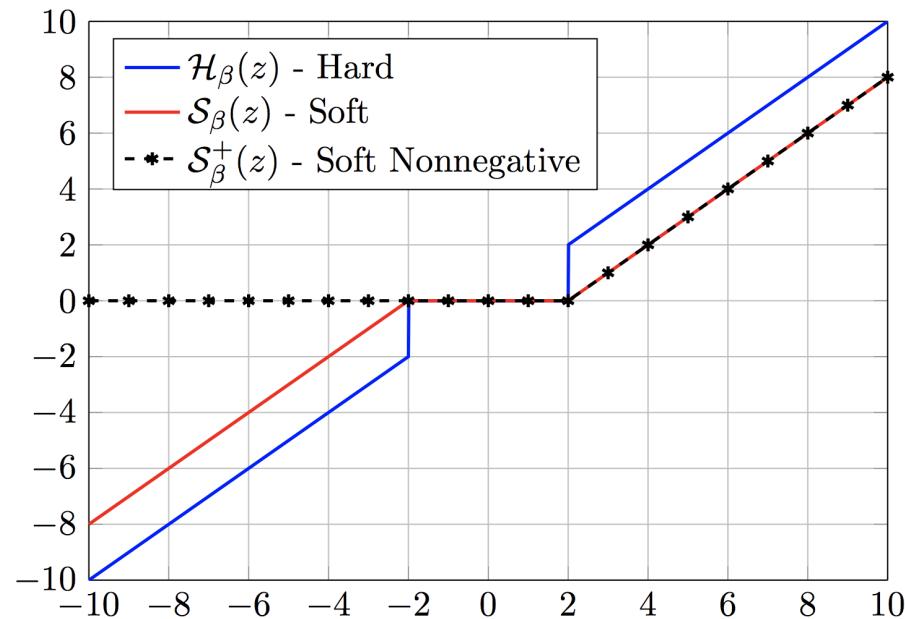
# Thresholding Algorithm



# First Layer of a Neural Network



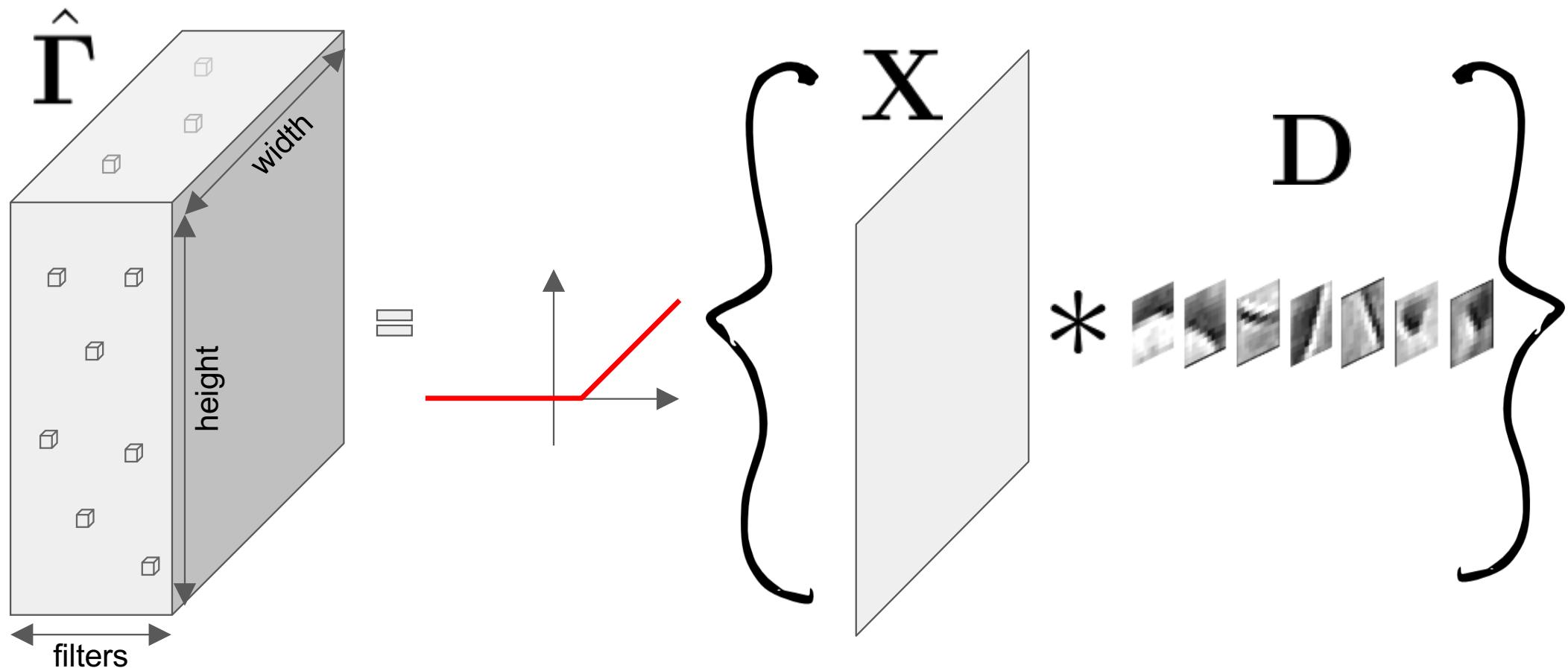
# ReLU = Soft Nonnegative Thresholding



ReLU is equivalent to soft nonnegative thresholding



# First layer of a **Convolutional Neural Network**



# Convolutional Sparse Modeling

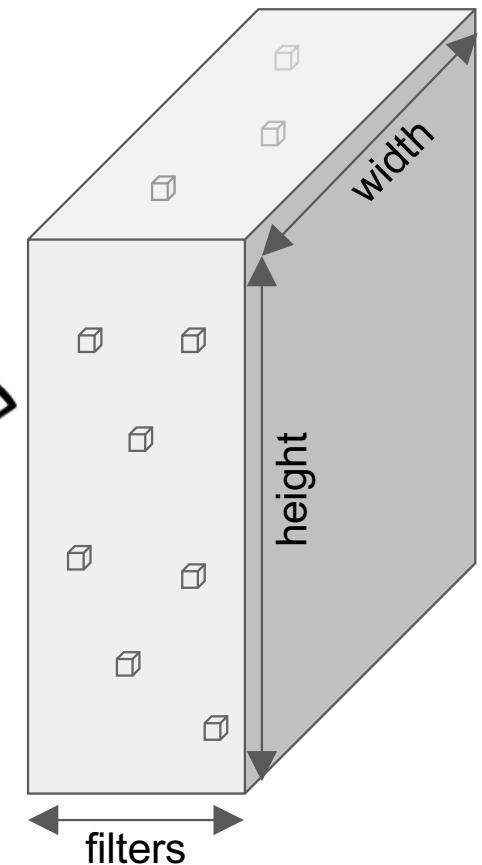
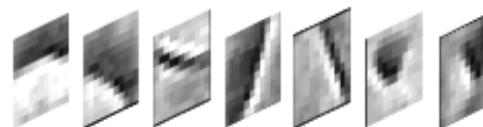
$$X = \Gamma D$$

The diagram illustrates the convolutional sparse modeling equation  $X = \Gamma D$ . On the left, the matrix  $X$  is shown as a grid with vertical lines on its left side. An equals sign follows. To the right of the equals sign is a large rectangular grid representing the product  $\Gamma D$ . This grid is filled with small colored rectangles (purple, blue, green) that form a diagonal band pattern, representing the convolutional kernel  $\Gamma$  applied to the sparse matrix  $D$ . On the far right, there is a vertical ellipsis consisting of three dots, indicating that the matrix  $\Gamma$  has many more columns than shown.

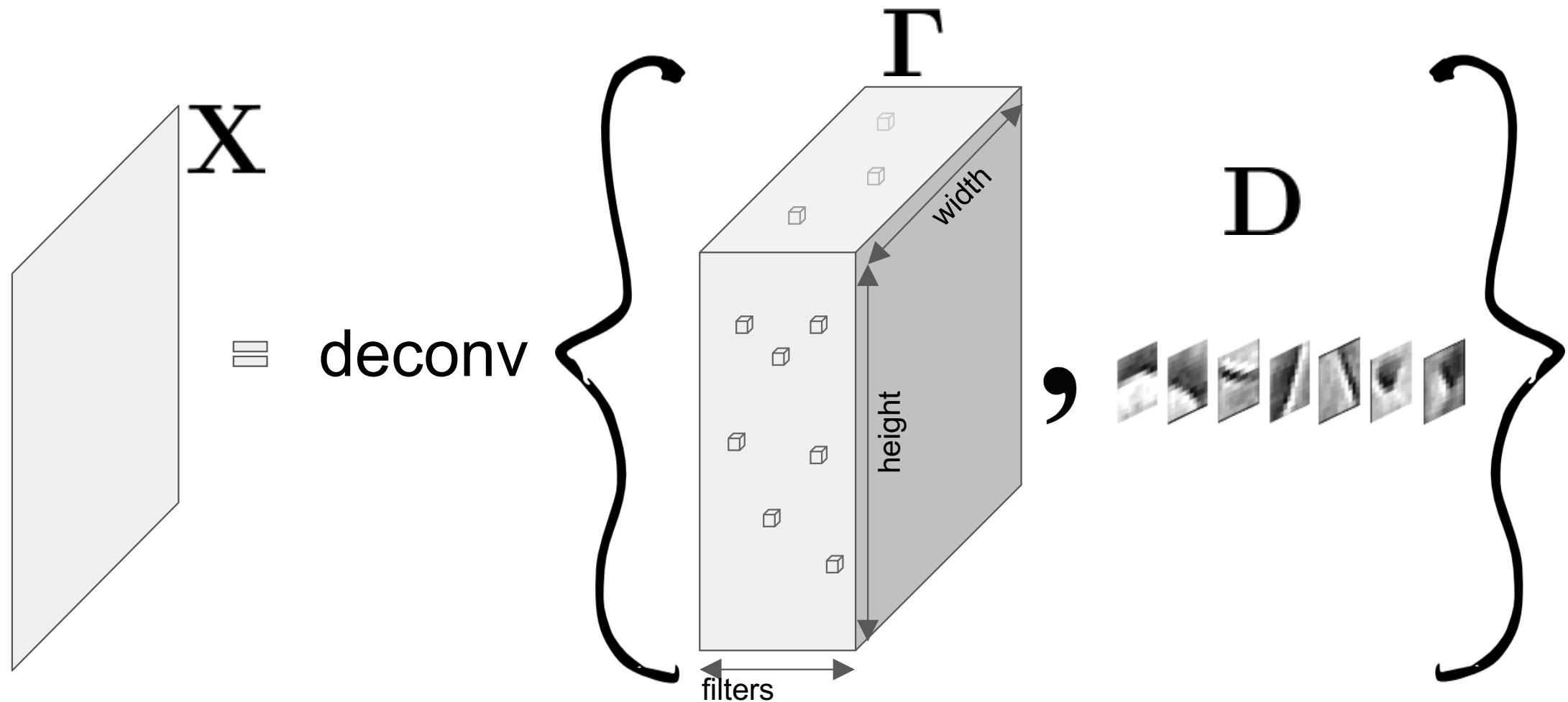
# Convolutional Sparse Modeling



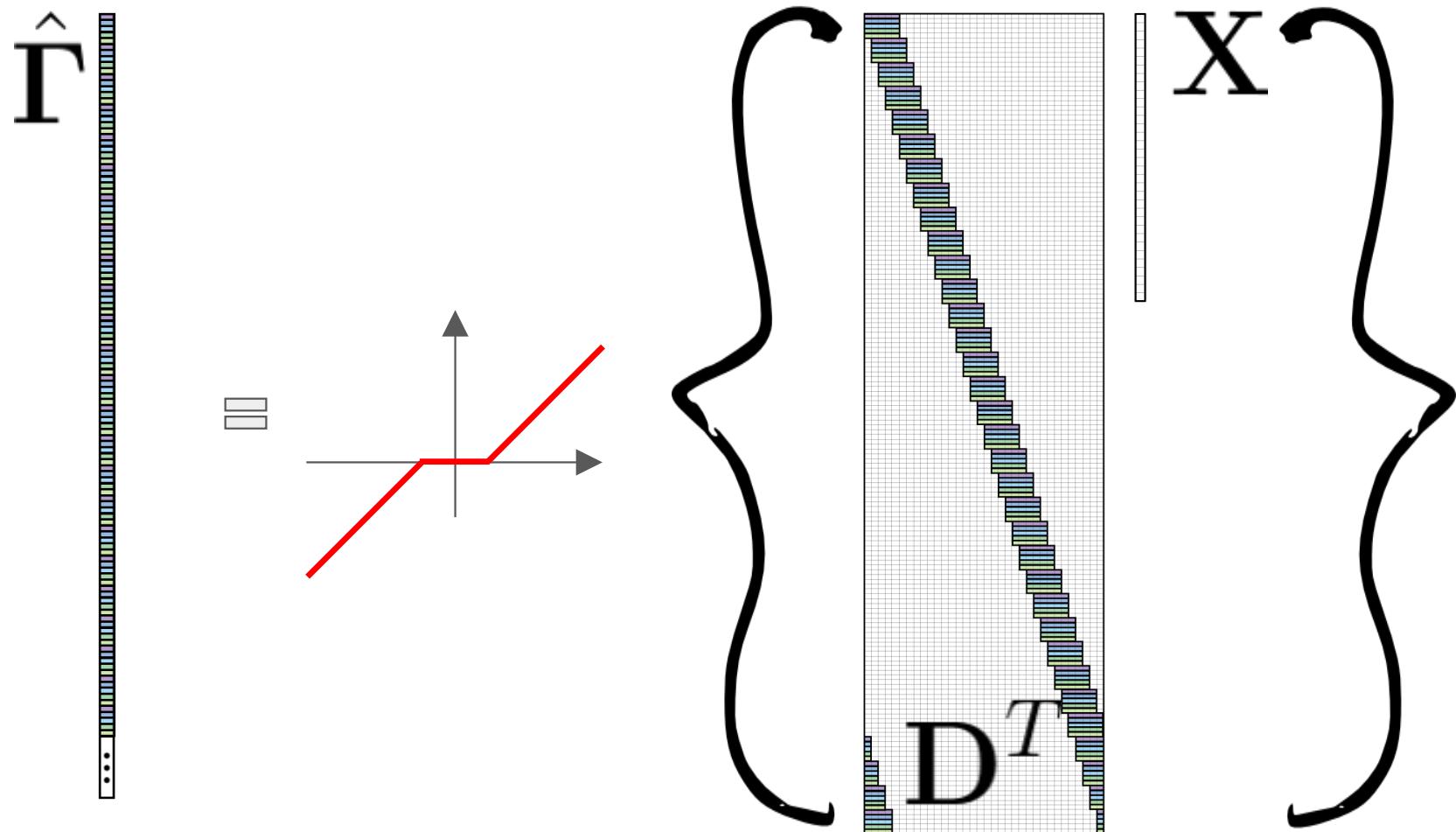
$$X = \sum_{k=1}^K d_k * z_k$$



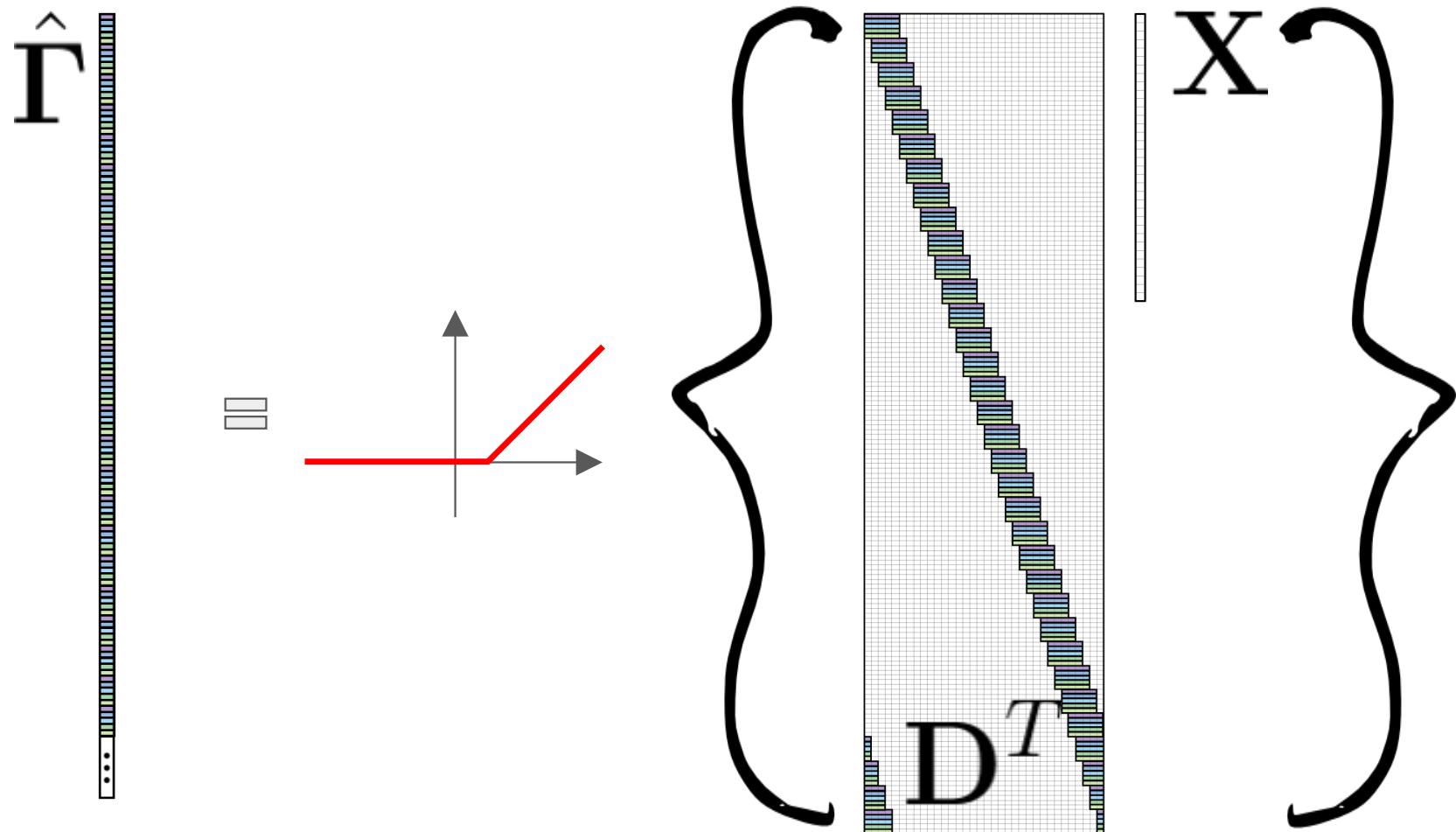
# Convolutional Sparse Modeling



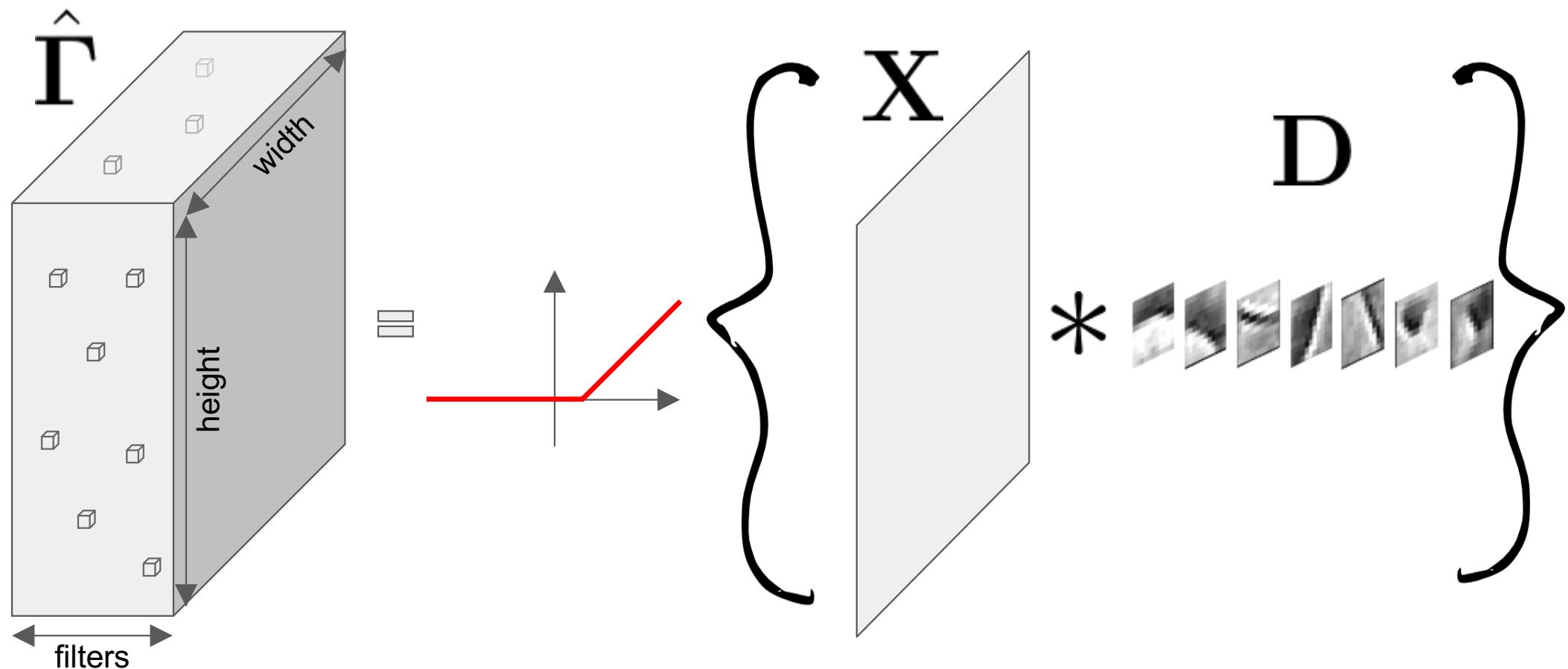
# Thresholding Algorithm

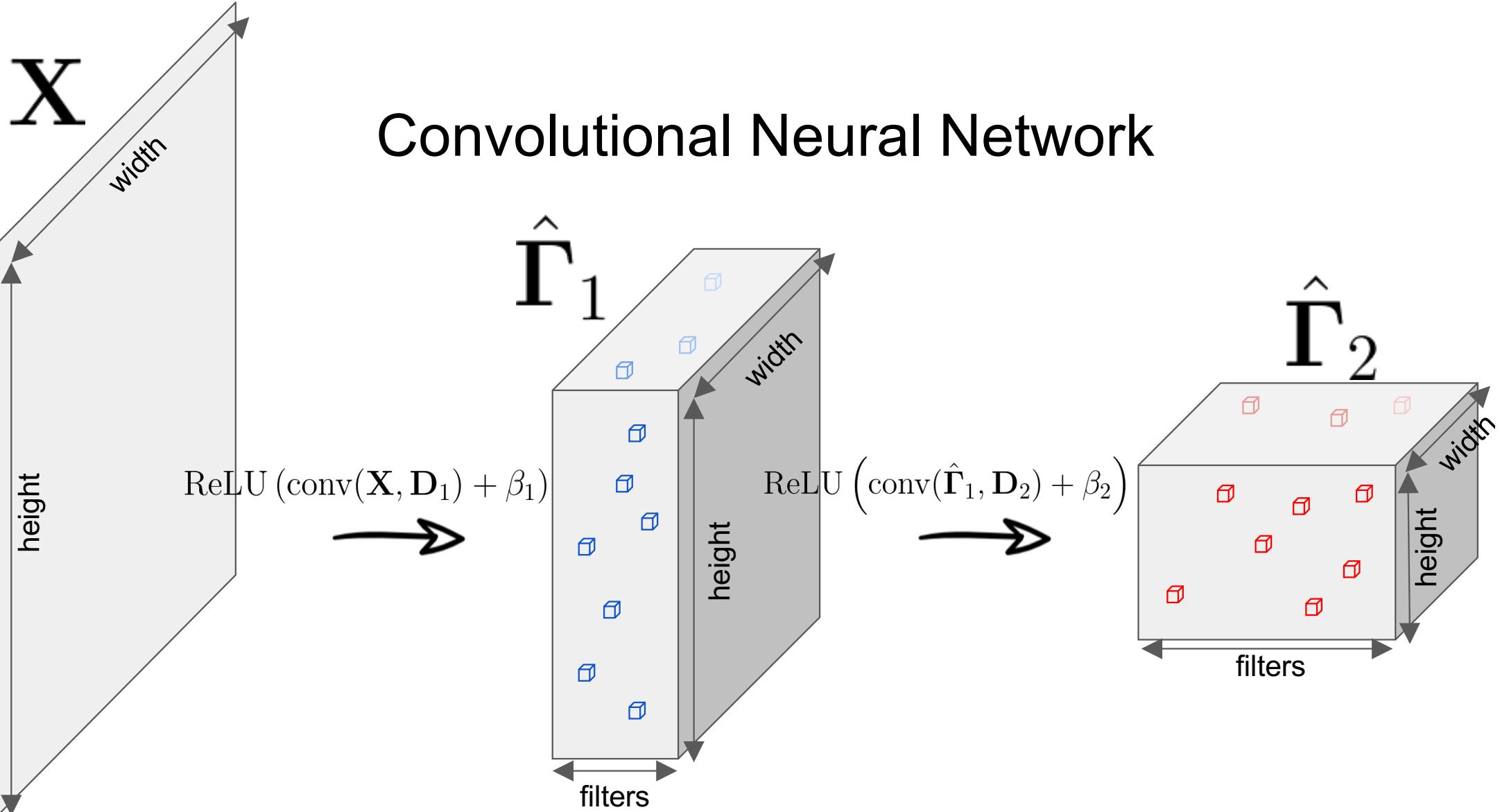


# First layer of a Convolutional Neural Network

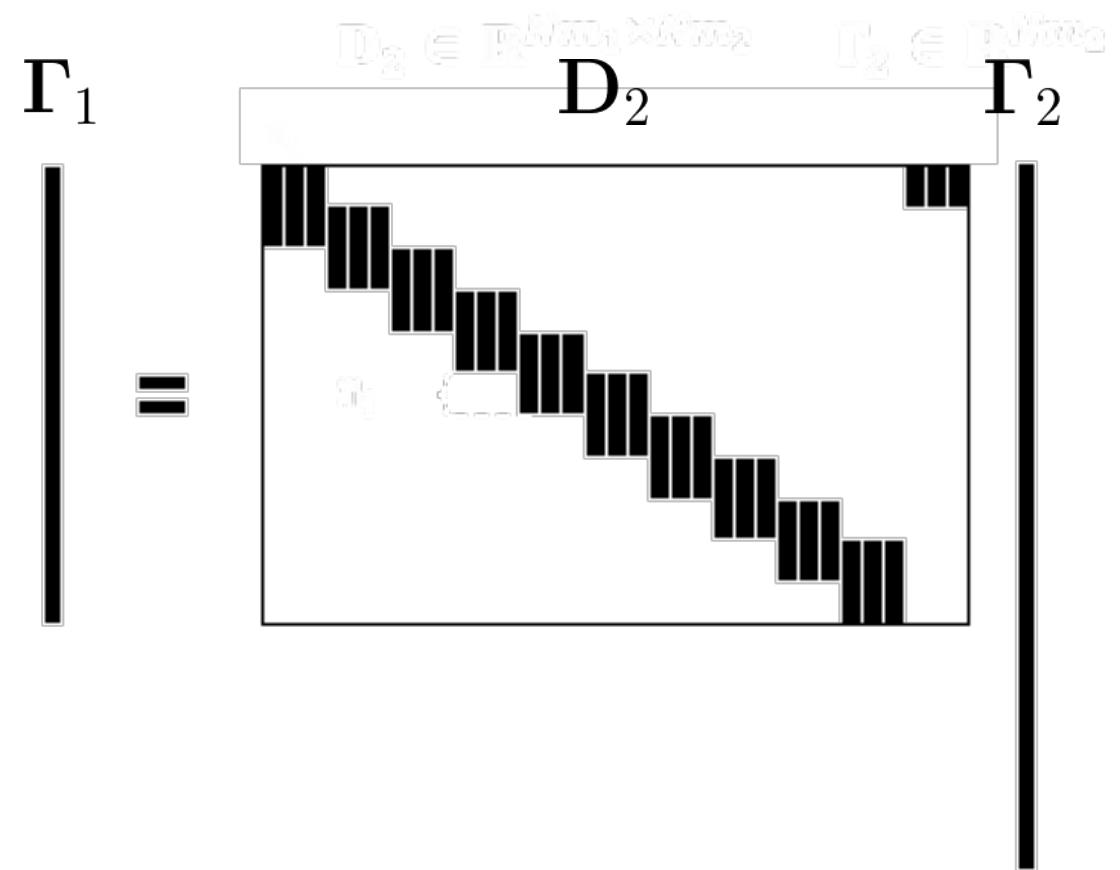
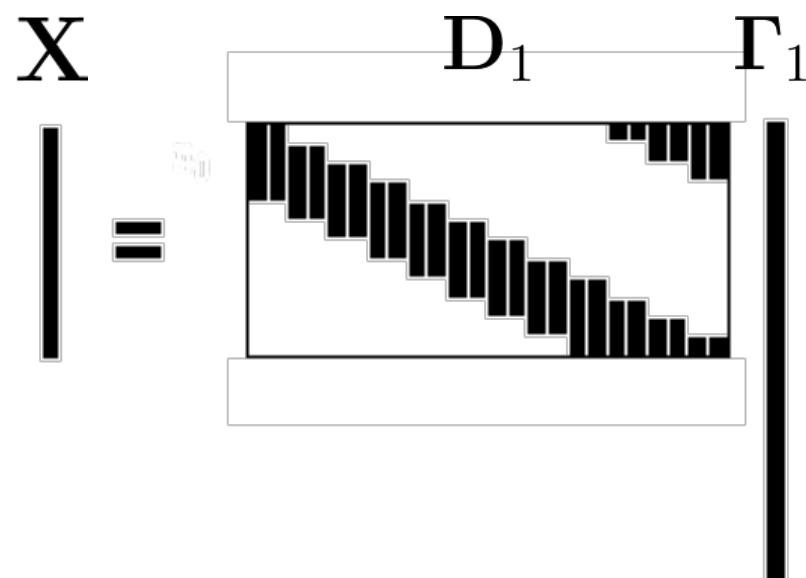


# First layer of a Convolutional Neural Network

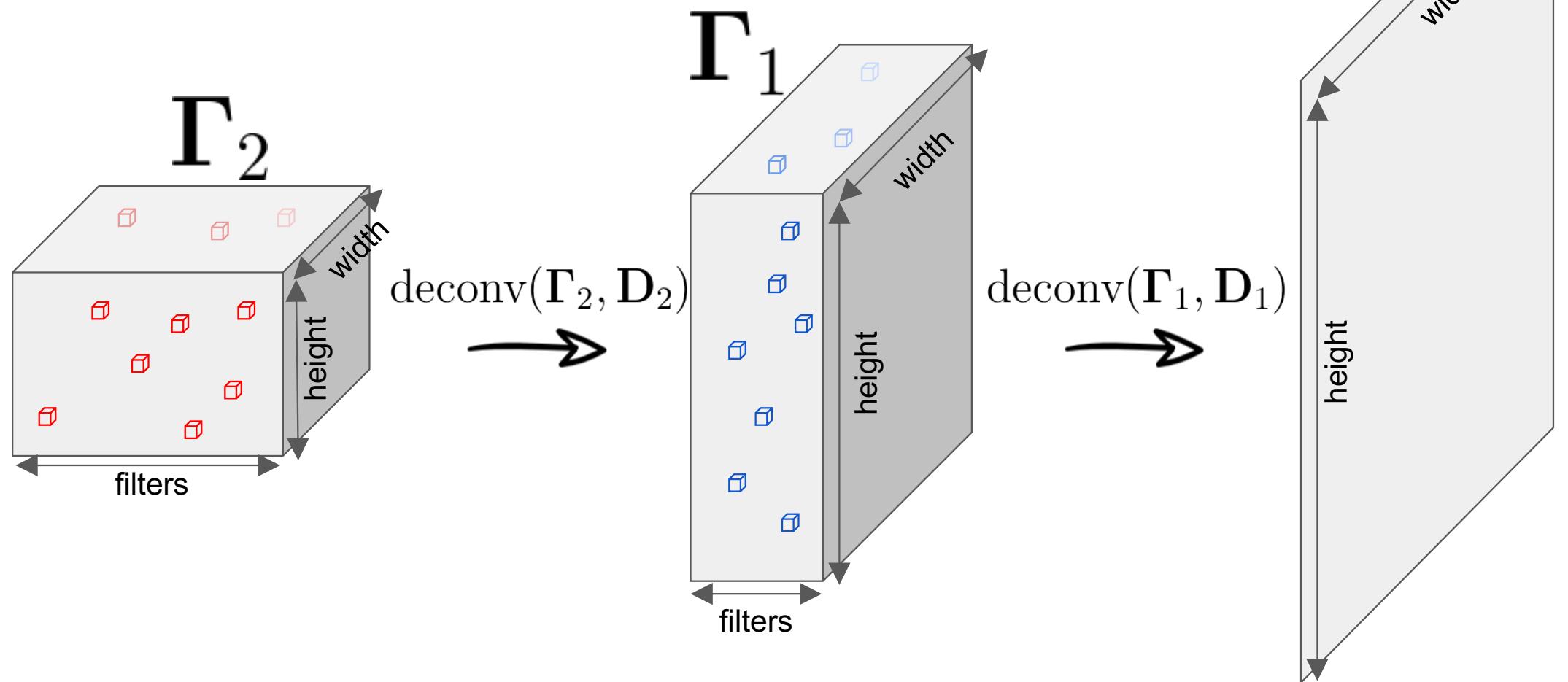




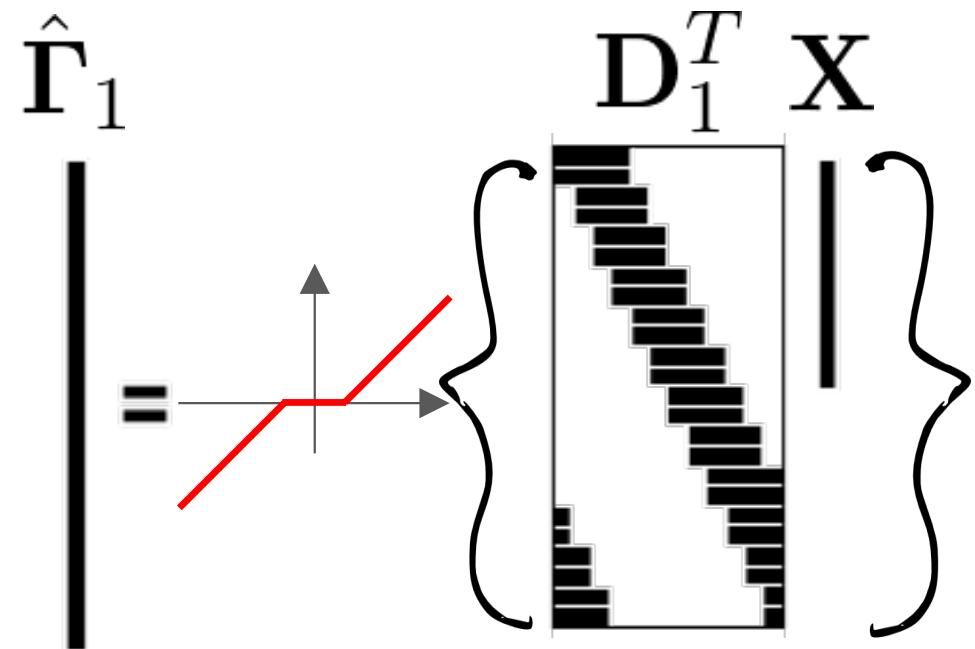
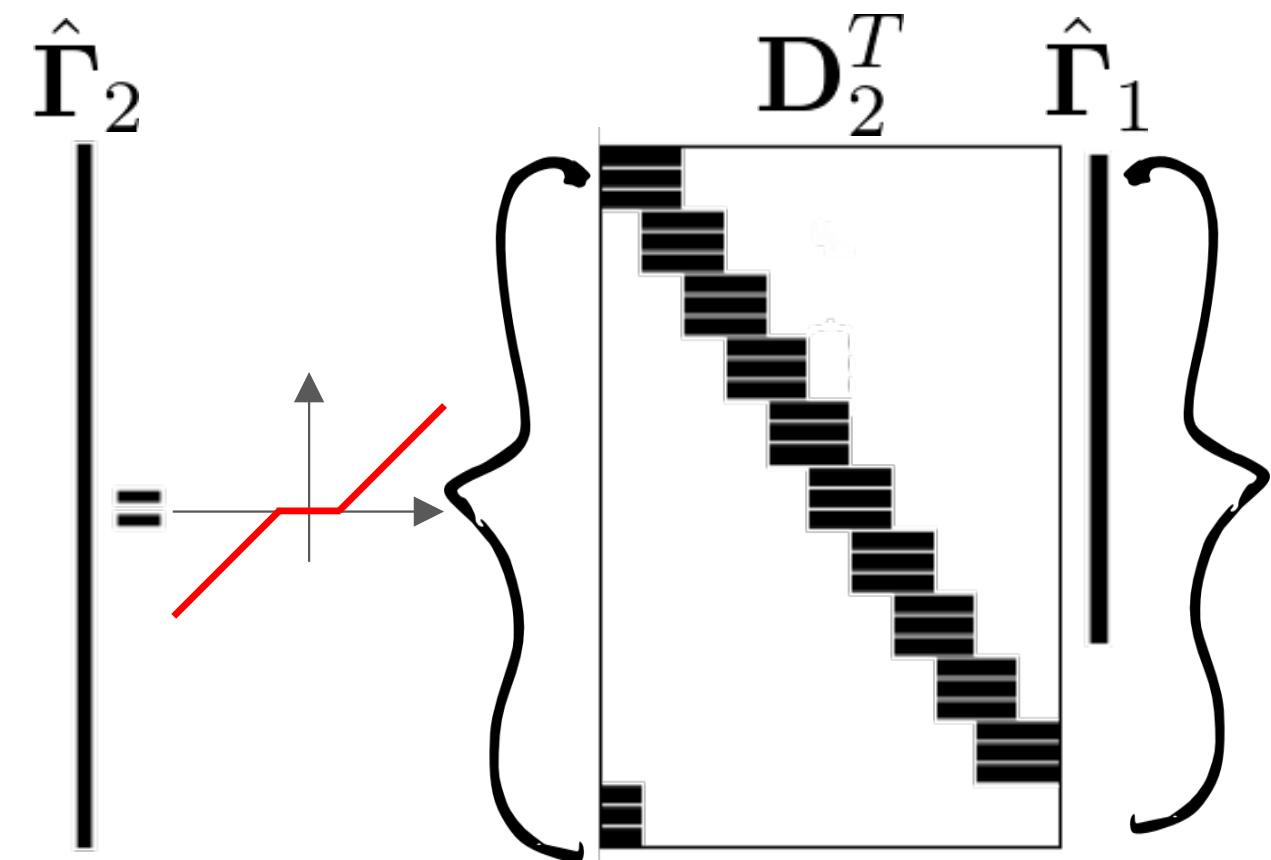
# Multi-layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling



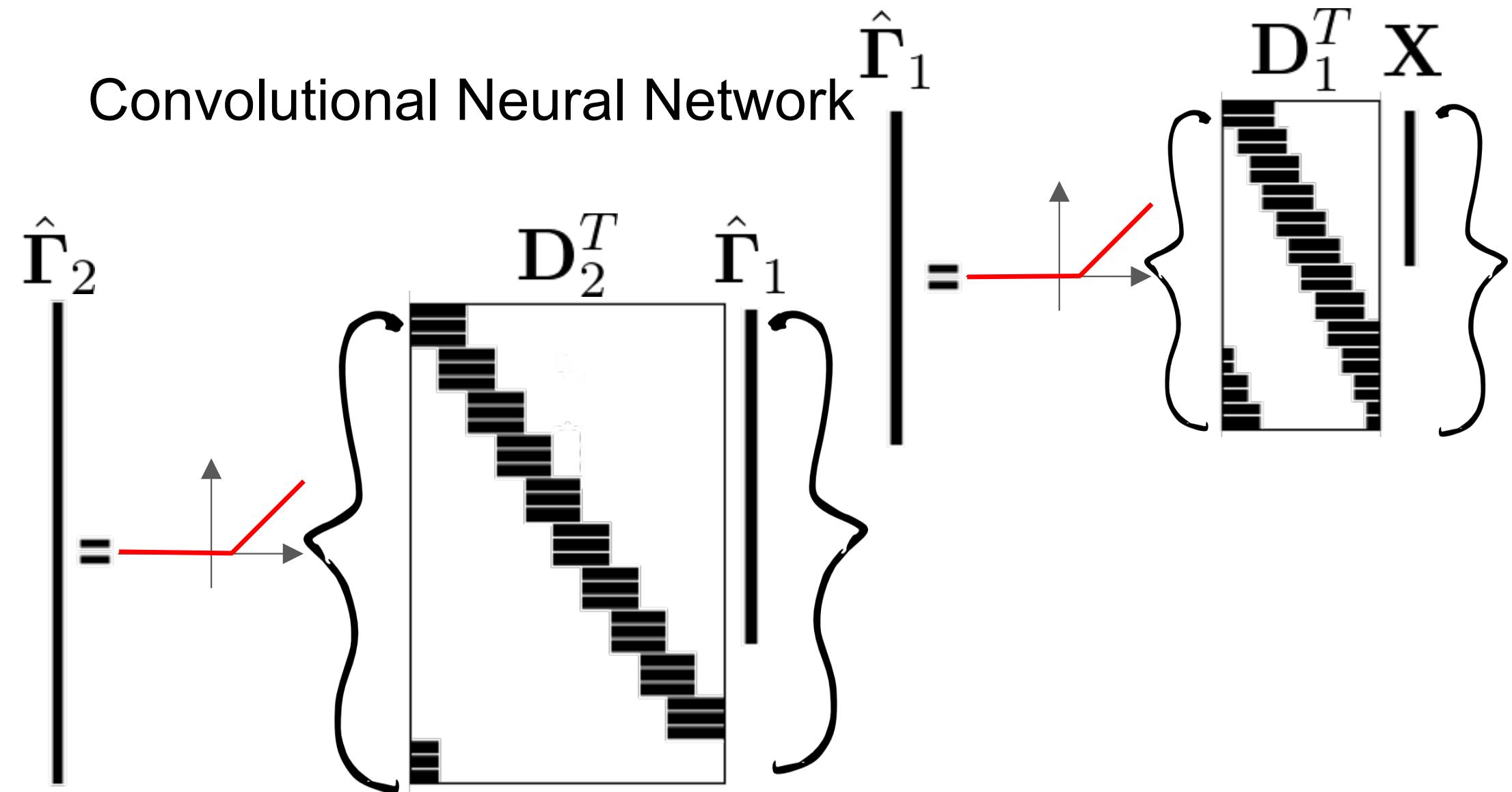
# Multi-layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling

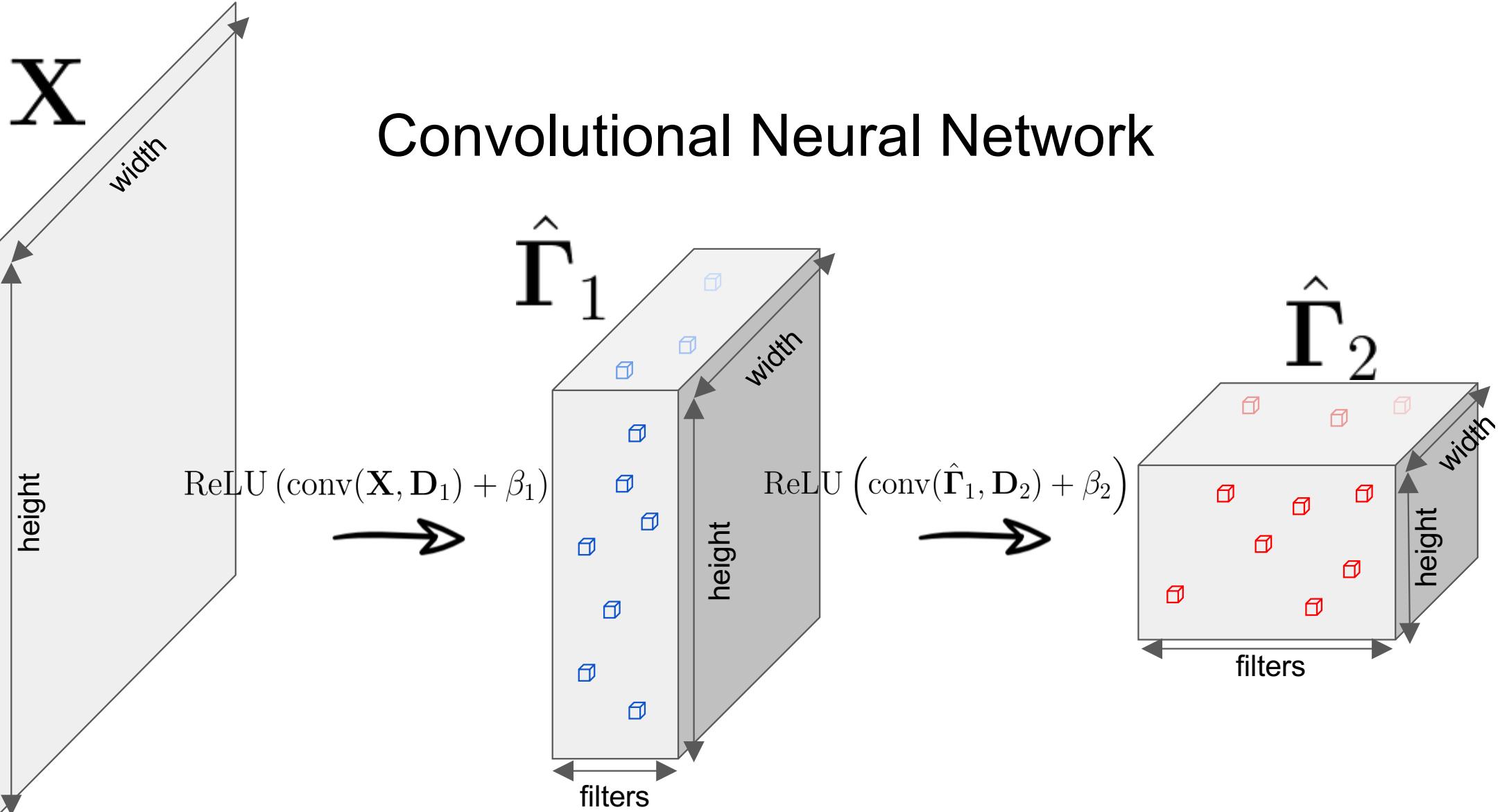


## Layered Thresholding



Convolutional Neural Network





# Theories of Deep Learning



# Evolution of Models

Multi-Layered  
Convolutional  
Neural  
Network

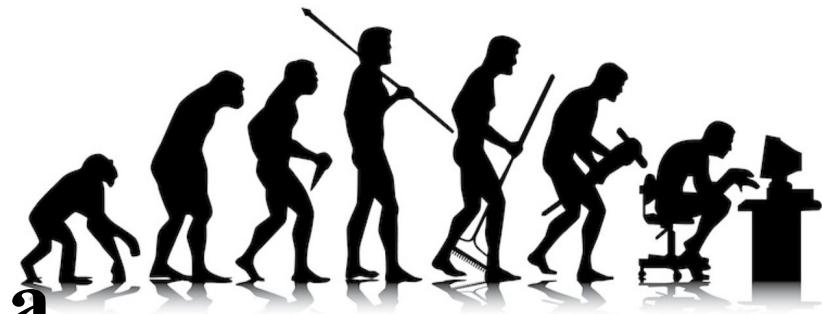
Multi-Layered  
Convolutional  
Sparse  
Representation

First Layer of a  
Convolutional  
Neural Network

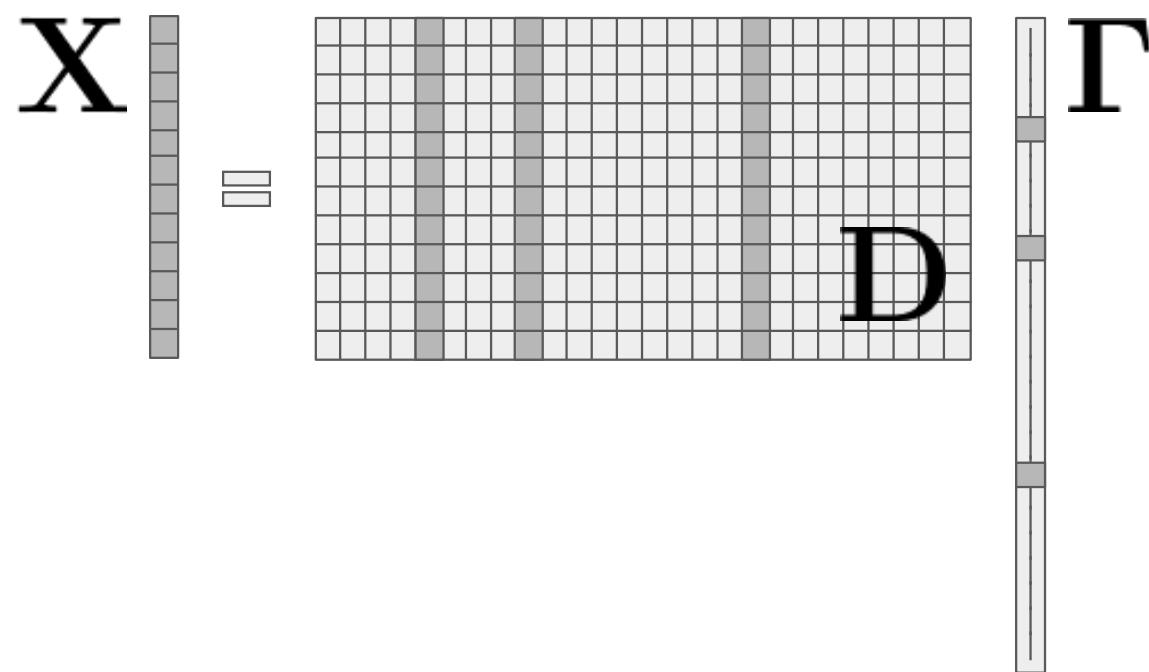
First Layer of a  
Neural Network

Convolutional  
sparse  
representation

Sparse  
representations



# Sparse Modeling



# Classic Sparse Theory

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$$

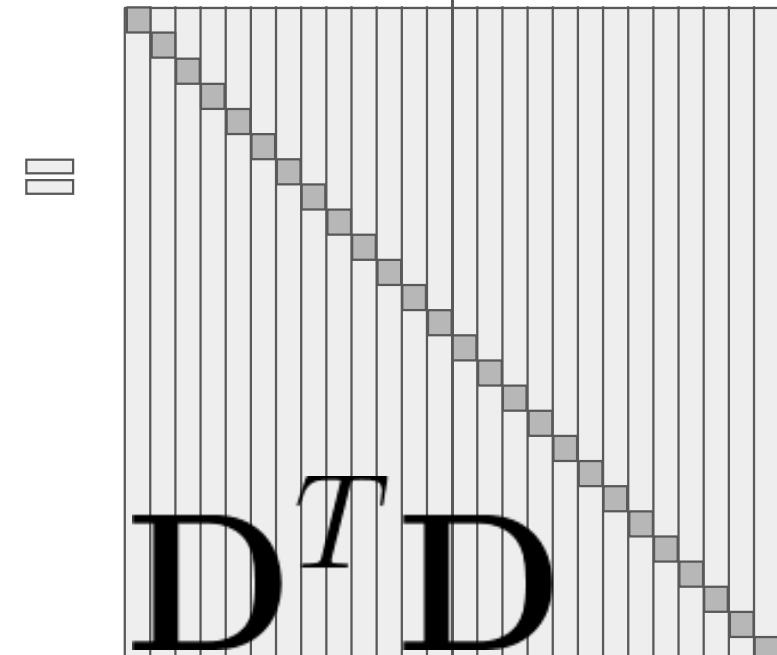
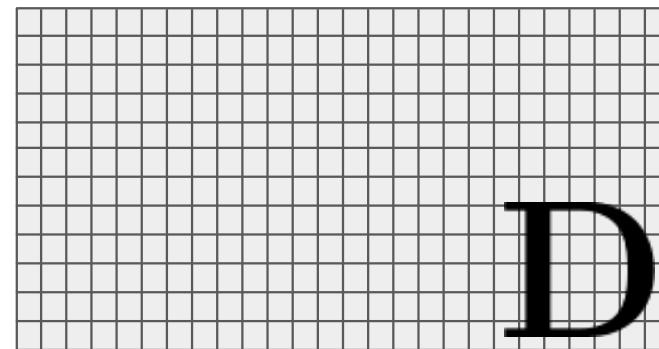
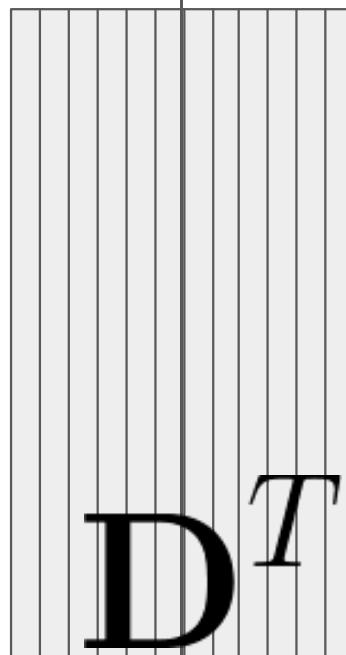
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$$

**Theorem:** [Donoho and Elad, 2003]

Basis pursuit is guaranteed to recover the true sparse vector assuming that

$$\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D})} \right)$$

Mutual Coherence:  $\mu(\mathbf{D}) = \max_{i \neq j} |(\mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{D})_{i,j}|$



# Convolutional Sparse Modeling

$$X = \Gamma D$$

The diagram illustrates the convolutional sparse modeling equation  $X = \Gamma D$ . On the left, the matrix  $X$  is shown as a grid with vertical lines on its left side. An equals sign follows. To the right of the equals sign is a large rectangular grid representing the product  $\Gamma D$ . This grid is filled with small colored rectangles (purple, blue, green) that form a diagonal band pattern, representing the convolutional kernel  $\Gamma$  applied to the sparse matrix  $D$ . On the far right of the grid, there are three dots indicating continuation.

# Classic Sparse Theory for Convolutional Case

Theorem: [Donoho and Elad, 2003]

Basis pursuit is guaranteed to recover the true sparse vector assuming that

$$\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D})} \right)$$

Assuming 2 atoms of length 64     $\mu(\mathbf{D}) \geq 0.063$  [Welch, 1974]

Success guaranteed when     $\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_0 < 8.43$

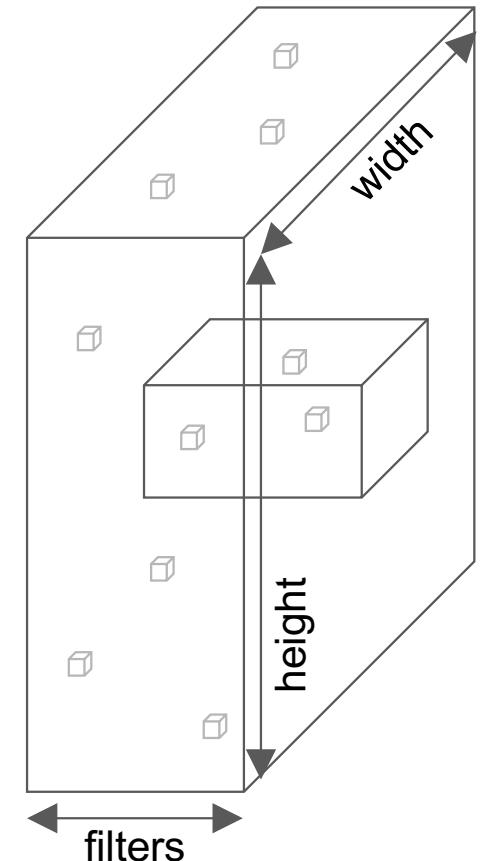


# Local Sparsity

$$\|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty}$$

maximal number of non-zeroes  
in a local neighborhood

$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty} \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}\Gamma$$



# Success of Basis Pursuit

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma} + \mathbf{E}$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_1$$

**Theorem:** [Papyan, Sulam and Elad, 2016]

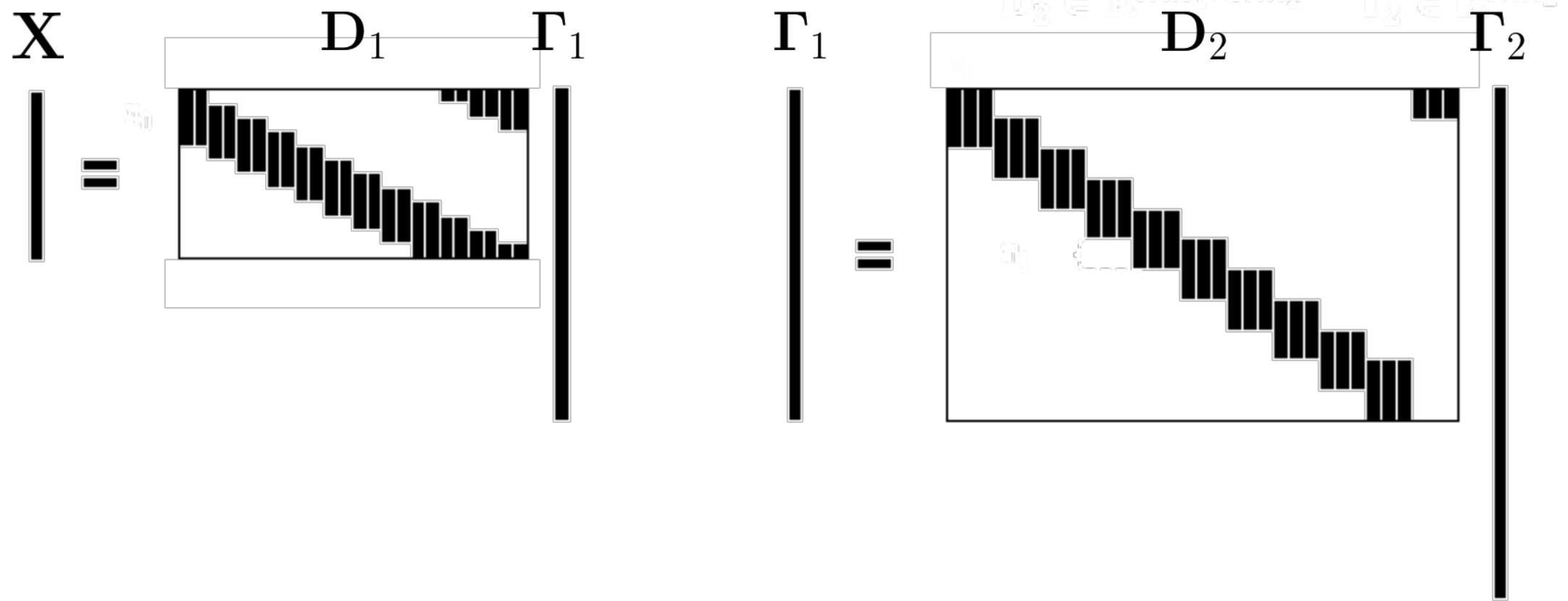
Assume:  $\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_{0,\infty} < \frac{1}{3} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D})} \right)$

Then:  $\|\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}\|_\infty \leq 7.5 \|\mathbf{E}\|_{2,\infty}$

Theoretical guarantee for:

- [Zeiler et. al 2010]
- [Wohlberg 2013]
- [Bristow et. al 2013]
- [Fowlkes and Kong 2014]
- [Zhou et. al 2014]
- [Kong and Fowlkes 2014]
- [Zhu and Lucey 2015]
- [Heide et. al 2015]
- [Gu et. al 2015]
- [Wohlberg 2016]
- [Šorel and Šroubek 2016]
- [Serrano et. al 2016]
- [Papyan et. al 2017]
- [Garcia-Cardona and Wohlberg 2017]
- [Wohlberg and Rodriguez 2017]
- ...

# Multi-layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling



# Deep Coding Problem

Given  $\mathbf{X}$ , find a set of representations satisfying:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}_1 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1, \quad \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_1$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1 = \mathbf{D}_2 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_2, \quad \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_2\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_2$$

⋮

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{L-1} = \mathbf{D}_L \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_L, \quad \|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_L\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_L$$

# Deep Coding Problem

Given  $\mathbf{Y}$ , find a set of representations satisfying:

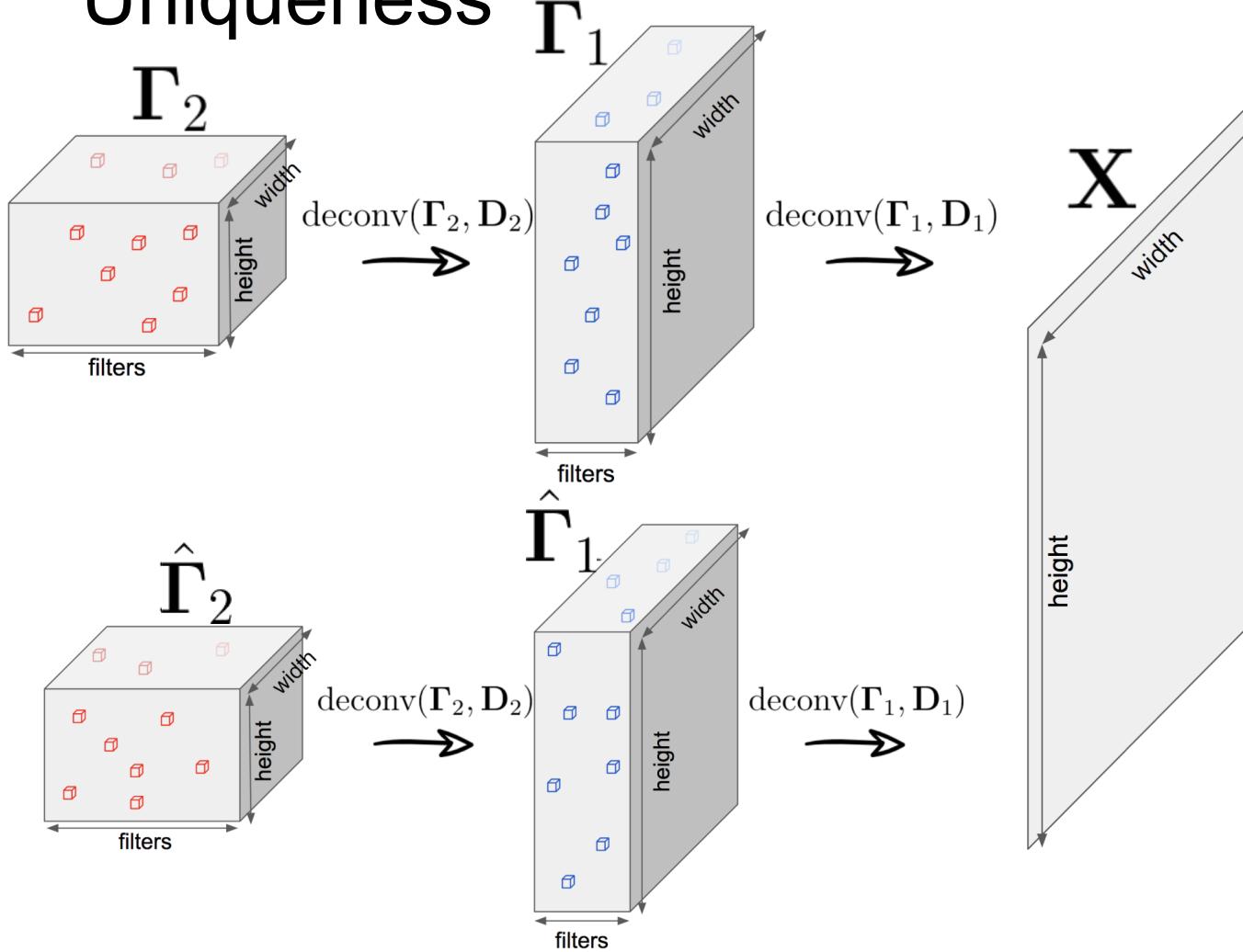
$$\|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}_1\Gamma_1\|_2 \leq \epsilon, \quad \|\Gamma_1\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_1$$

$$\Gamma_1 = \mathbf{D}_2\Gamma_2, \quad \|\Gamma_2\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_2$$

⋮

$$\Gamma_{L-1} = \mathbf{D}_L\Gamma_L, \quad \|\Gamma_L\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_L$$

# Uniqueness



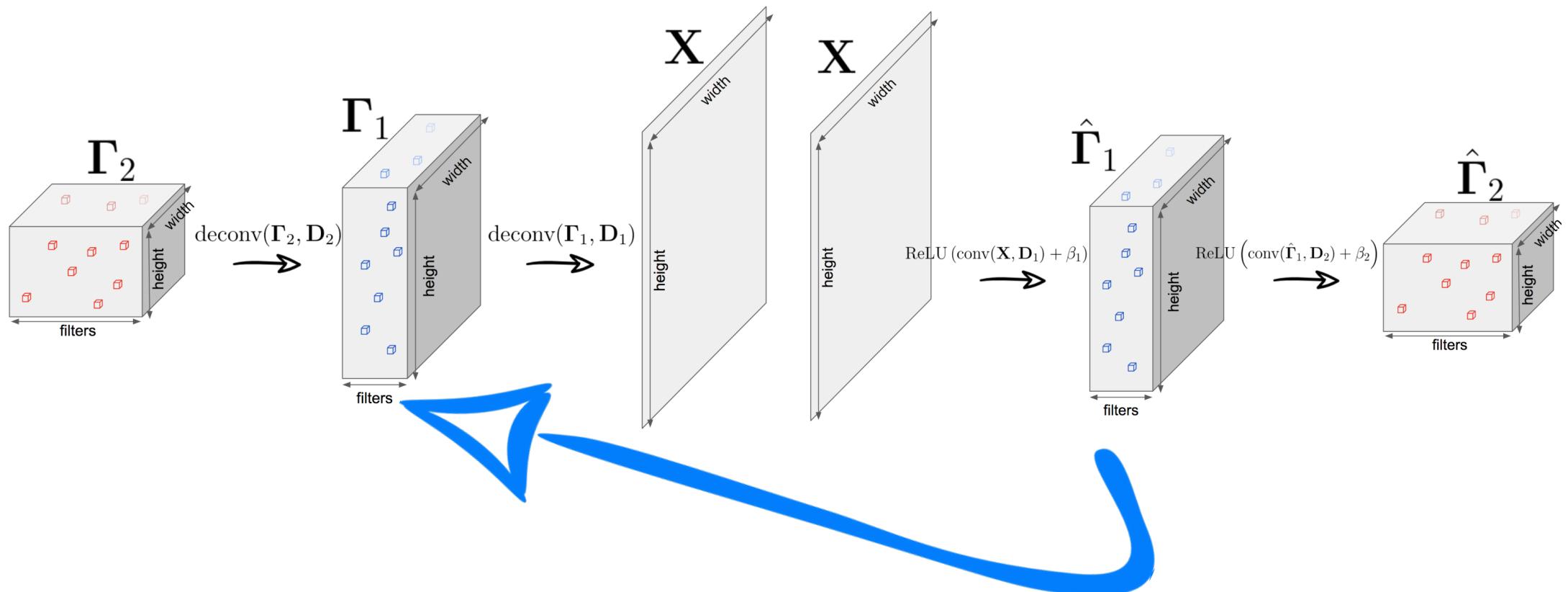
## Uniqueness Theorem

$$\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_l\|_{0,\infty} \leq \lambda_l < \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D}_l)} \right)$$



$\{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_l\}_{l=1}^L$  are the unique feature maps of  $\mathbf{X}$

# Success of Forward Pass



# Success of Forward Pass Theorem

$$\|\Gamma_l\|_{0,\infty} < \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D}_l)} \frac{|\Gamma_l^{\min}|}{|\Gamma_l^{\max}|} \right) - \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D}_l)} \frac{\epsilon_{l-1}}{|\Gamma_l^{\max}|}$$



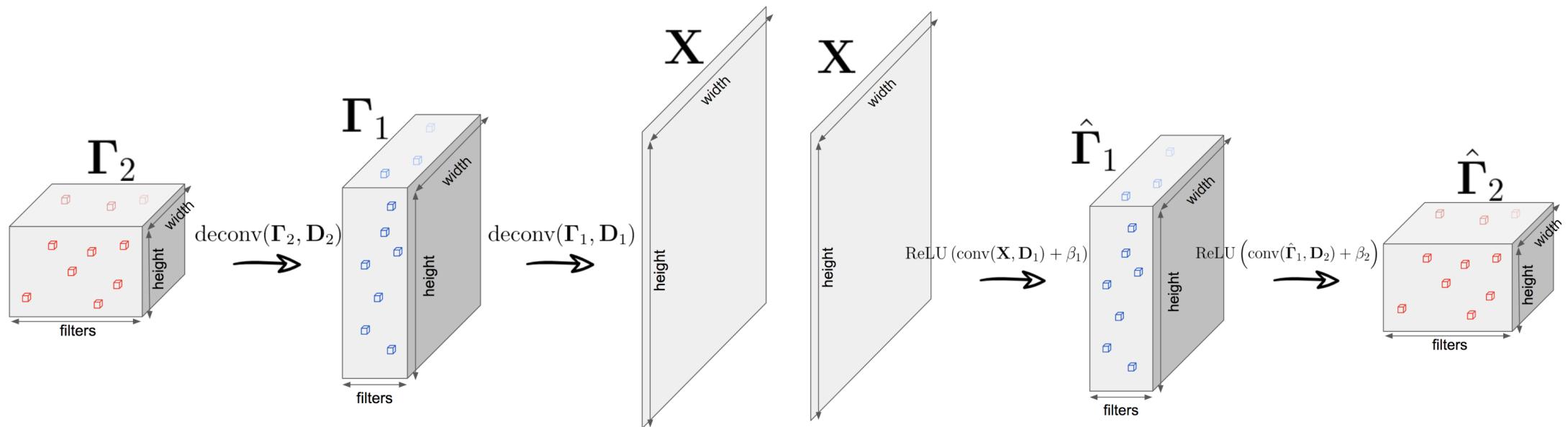
Layered thresholding guaranteed:

1. Find correct places of nonzeros

$$\|\hat{\Gamma}_l - \Gamma_l\|_{2,\infty} \leq \epsilon_l$$

- ✗ Forward pass always fails at recovering representations exactly
- ✗ Success depends on ratio
- ✗ Distance increases with layer

# Generative Model and Crude Inference



# Layered Lasso

 # StatsDepartment

$$\hat{\Gamma}_1 = \arg \min_{\Gamma_1} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}_1 \Gamma_1\|_2^2 + \alpha_1 \|\Gamma_1\|_1$$

$$\hat{\Gamma}_2 = \arg \min_{\Gamma_2} \frac{1}{2} \|\hat{\Gamma}_1 - \mathbf{D}_2 \Gamma_2\|_2^2 + \alpha_2 \|\Gamma_2\|_1$$

# Success of Layered Lasso

$$\|\Gamma_l\|_{0,\infty} < \frac{1}{3} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathbf{D}_L)} \right)$$



Layered Lasso guaranteed:

1. Find only correct places of nonzeros
2. Find all coefficients that are big enough

$$\|\hat{\Gamma}_l - \Gamma_l\|_{2,\infty} \leq \epsilon_l$$

- ✗ Forward pass always fails at recovering representations exactly
- ✗ Success depends on ratio
- ✗ Distance increases with layer

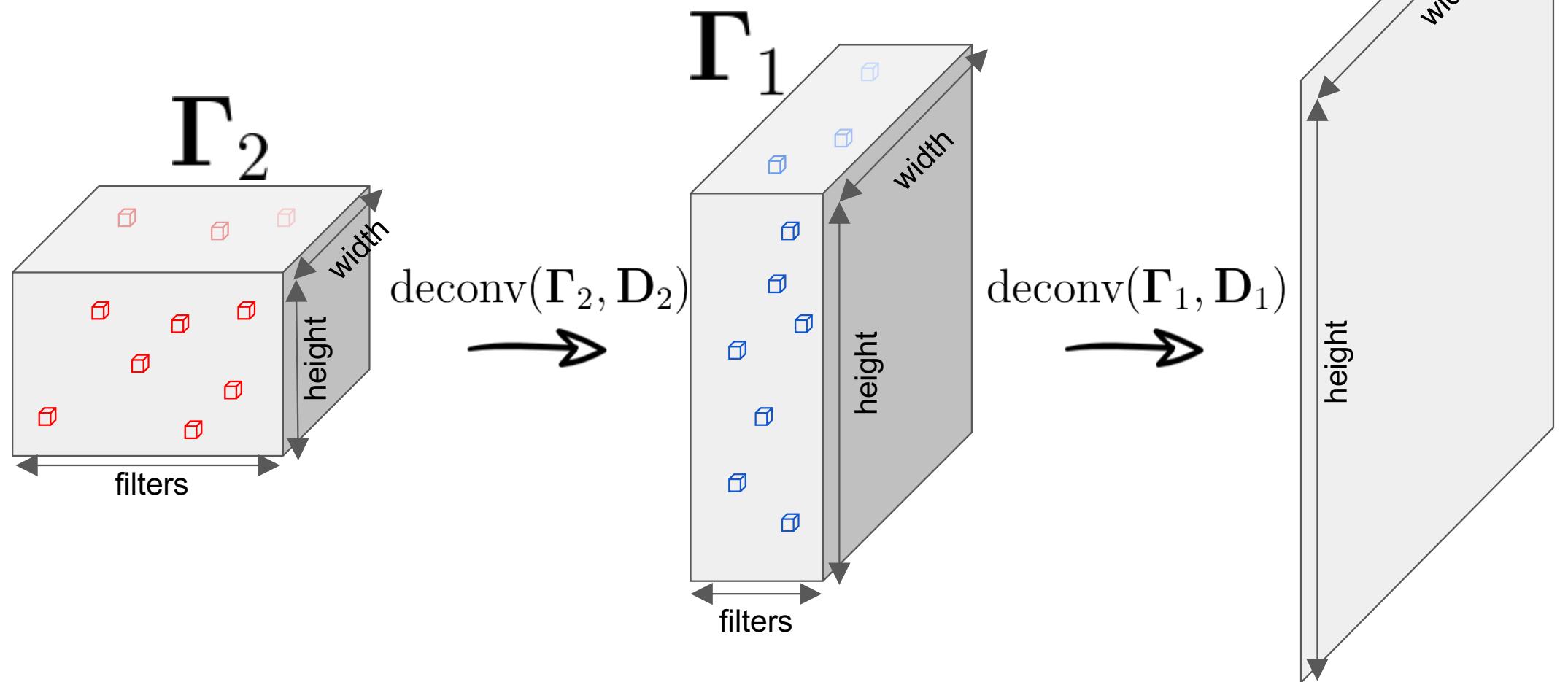
# Layered Iterative Thresholding

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1^t = \mathcal{S}_{\alpha_1} \left( \mathbf{D}_1^T \mathbf{Y} + \left( \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}_1^T \mathbf{D}_1 \right) \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1^{t-1} \right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_2^t = \mathcal{S}_{\alpha_2} \left( \mathbf{D}_2^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}}_1 + \left( \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{D}_2^T \mathbf{D}_2 \right) \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_2^{t-1} \right)$$



# Multi-layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling



# Summary

1



2



3



4



5



Sparsity well established theoretically

Sparsity is covertly exploited in practice:  
ReLU, dropout, stride, dilation, ...

Sparsity is the secret sauce behind CNN

Need to bring sparsity to the surface to better  
understand CNNs

Andrej Karpathy agrees



***PREACH!***

