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# Data Driven Hybrid Algorithms for Preprocessing of Manually Acquired Ultrasound NDT Data

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Sayako Koderä  
Technische Universität Ilmenau

# Assisted Manual Ultrasonic Testing

Conventional manual UT

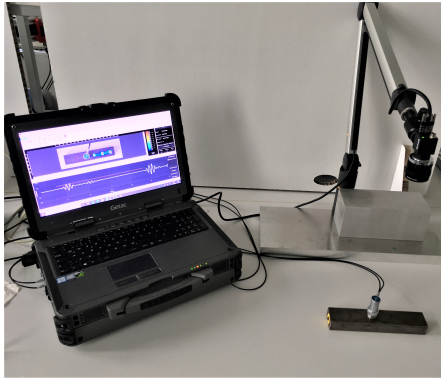
Problem: reliability



Source: Quality Magazine

# Assisted Manual Ultrasonic Testing

## 3D SmartInspect <sup>1</sup>



Problem: reliability

→ Assistance system

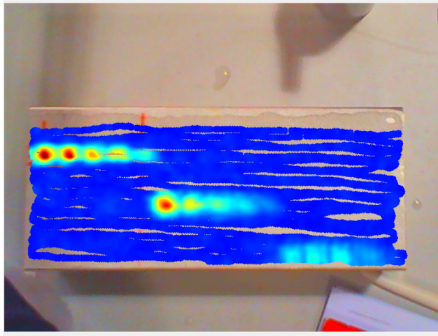
- Position recognition
- Data recording
- Data visualization
- Visual feedback
- Post-processing

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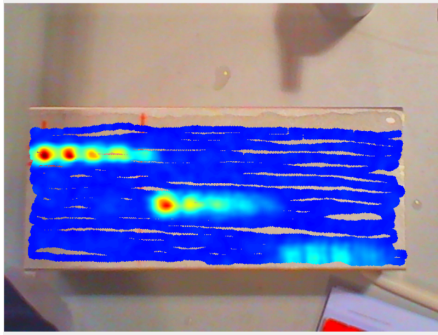
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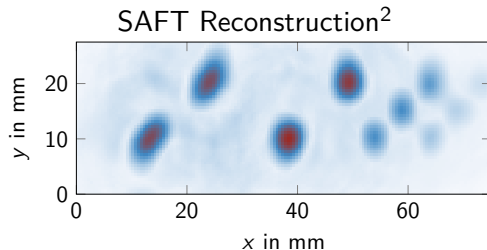
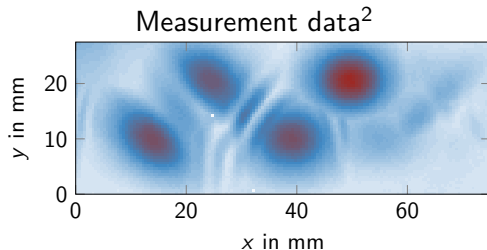
→ Degraded resolution

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# Motivation: Image Quality Improvement

## Automatic measurement

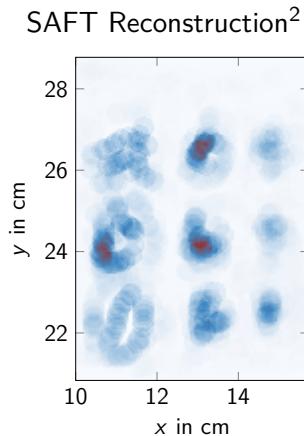
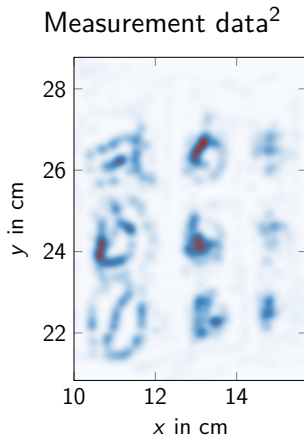


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<sup>2</sup>F. Krieg et al., SAFT processing for manually acquired ultrasonic measurement data with 3D SmartInspect, *SHM-NDT*, 2018

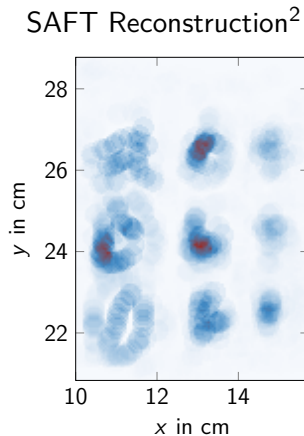
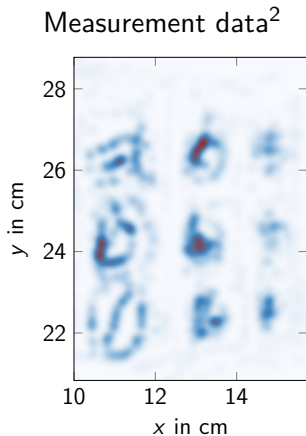
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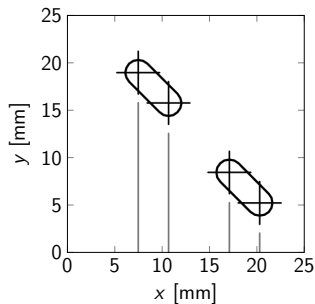
Manual measurement ∴ accumulation of random factors





# Impact of Missing Data

ROI

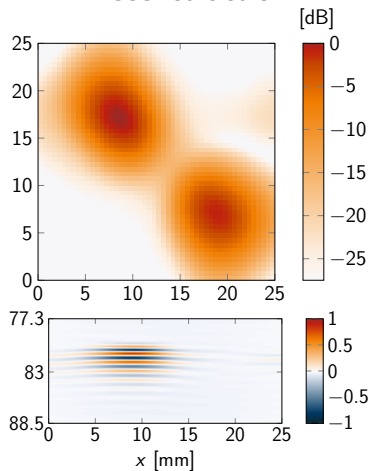
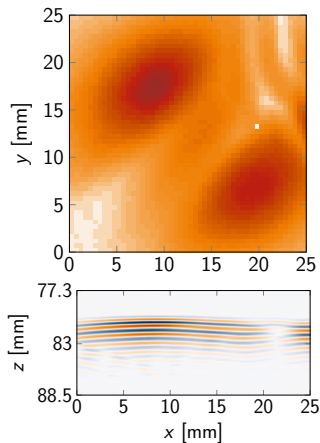


# Impact of Missing Data

## Full sampling

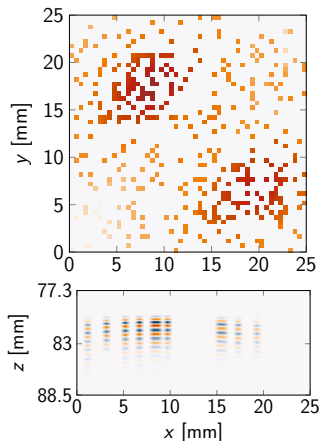


## Reconstruction

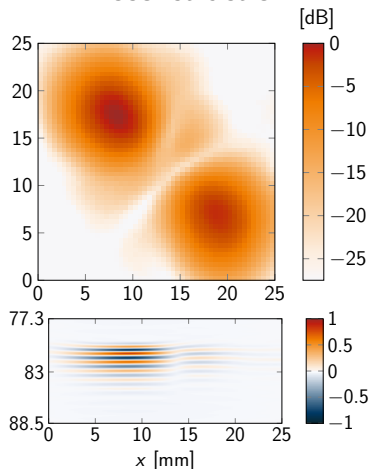


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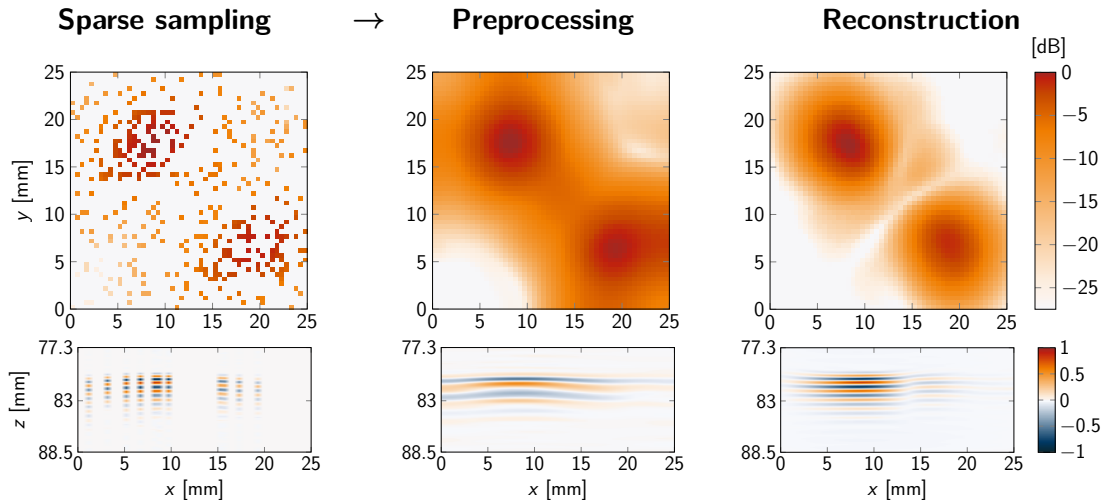
## Sparse sampling



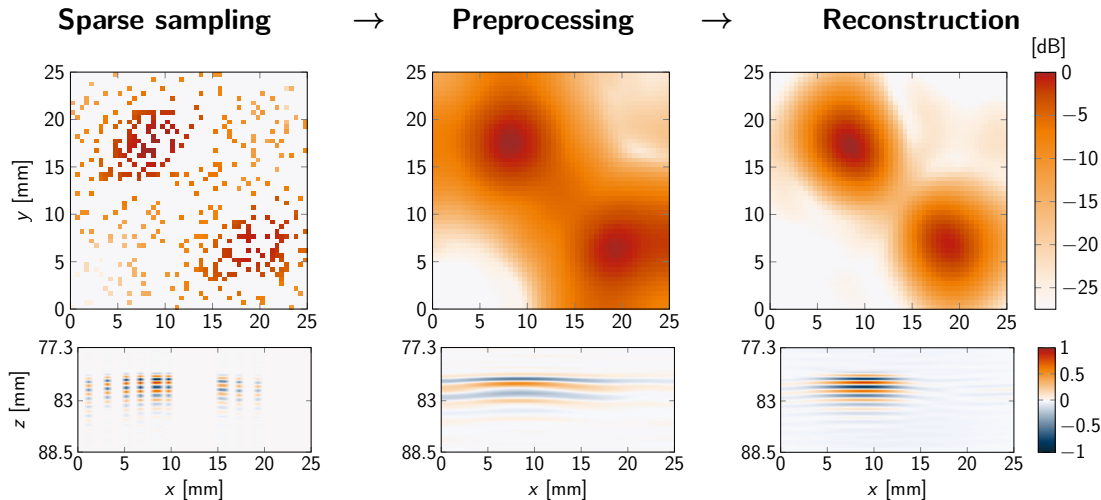
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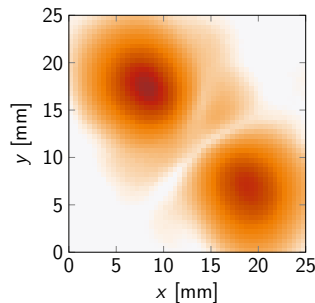


# Objectives and Contributions

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- Artefacts reduction in reconstructions
  - Interpolate missing data as preprocessing
    - $\hat{=}$  Interpolation of nonlinear spatio-temporal data
- Fast yet interpretable method

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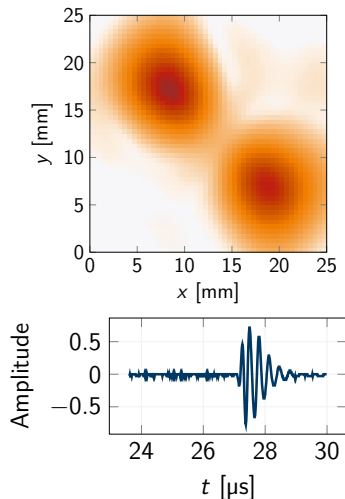


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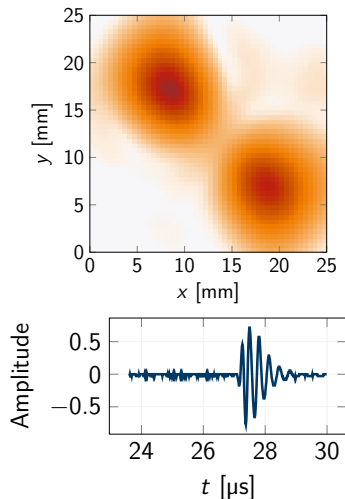
## Objectives

- Artefacts reduction in reconstructions  
→ Interpolate missing data as preprocessing  
≡ Interpolation of nonlinear spatio-temporal data
- Fast yet interpretable method

## Solutions

- Spatial statistical interpolation
- Batch-wise interpolation
- Perform in space-frequency domain
- Incorporate DNN for fast on-site execution

### Preprocessed



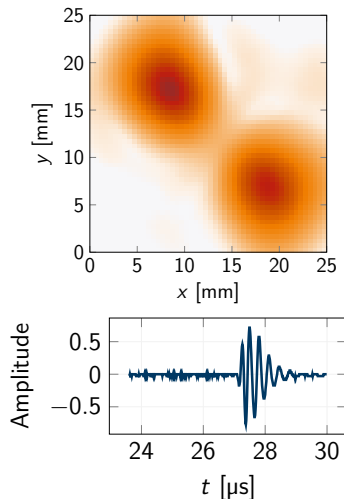


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## Contributions

- Spatial statistical modeling of UT data in space-frequency (SF) domain
- Develop a hybrid interpolation scheme in SF-domain
  - (i) Interpolation via a MMSE estimator  
→ **SF-Kriging**
  - (ii) Estimation of spatial statistics via DNN  
≐ Vector-valued regression  
→ **FVnet**
- Feedback feature for experimental design

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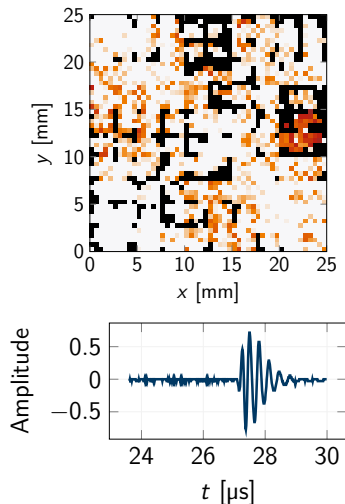


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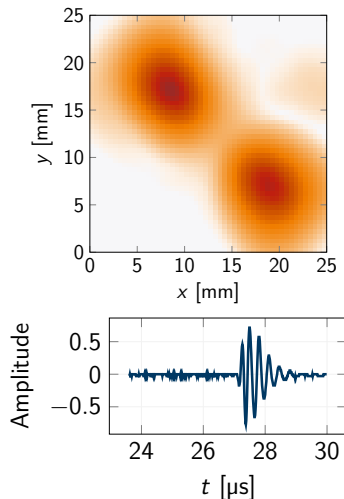


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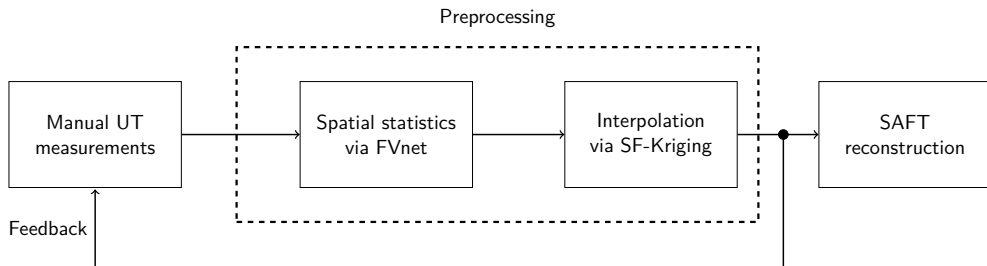
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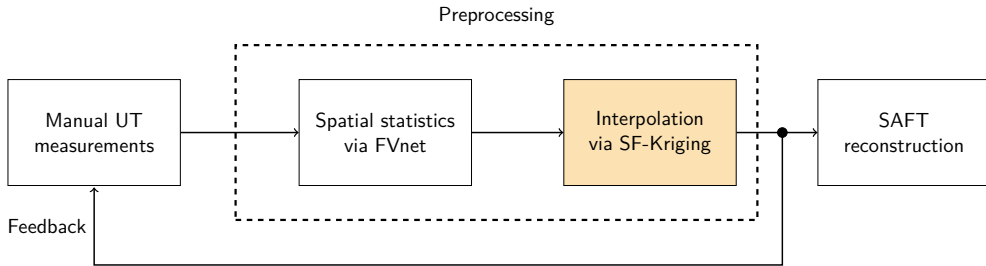
## Resmpl. + preproc.



# Preprocessing Scheme



# ST-Interpolation in SF-domain



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**ST-domain:** temp. correlation  $\rightarrow$  vector-valued pred.

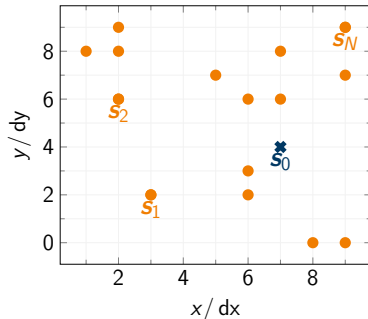
Sought:

$$\mathbf{a}_{s_0} \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

Given:

$$\mathbf{A}_S = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{s_1} & \mathbf{a}_{s_2} & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_{s_N} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$$

Samp. and pred. positions



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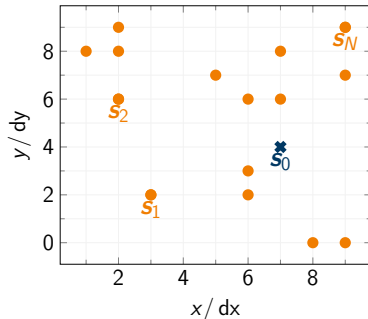
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**SF-domain:** orthogonal Fourier bases

$\Rightarrow$  individual prediction for a single frequency

$$\mathbf{p}_{s_0} = \mathbf{F}_M \mathbf{a}_{s_0} \in \mathbb{C}^M$$

Samp. and pred. positions



# ST-Interpolation in SF-domain

**SF-domain:**  $\rightarrow$  set of scalar-valued pred.  $\forall \omega_m$

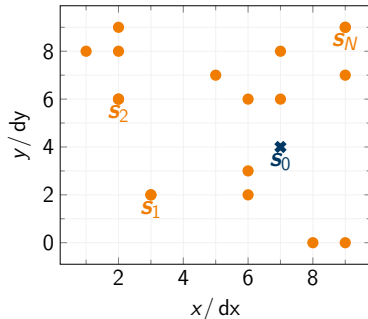
Sought:

$$p_{s_0 m} \in \mathbb{C}$$

Given:

$$\pi_m^S = \begin{bmatrix} p_{s_1 m} & p_{s_2 m} & \cdots & p_{s_N m} \end{bmatrix}^T \in \mathbb{C}^M$$

Samp. and pred. positions





# Spatial Statistical Approach: SF-Kriging

## Assumptions: intrinsic stationarity

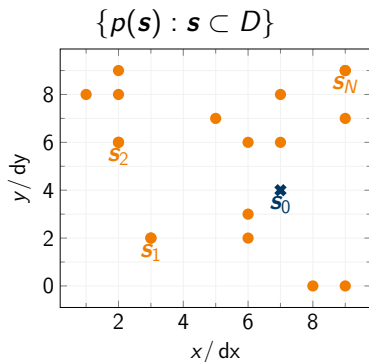
$\hat{=}$  Stationary assumptions for the increments

(1) Mean of the increments is 0

$$E \{p(\mathbf{s}) - p(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})\} = 0$$

(2) Variance of the increments is shift invariant  
→ function of the spatial lag

$$\text{Var} \{p(\mathbf{s}) - p(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})\} := 2\gamma(\mathbf{h})$$



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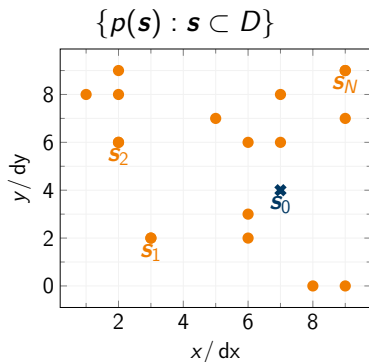
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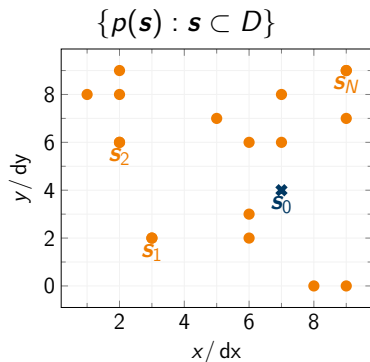
$2\gamma(\mathbf{h}) =$  **Frequency variogram (FV)**  
(nonnegative, real-valued)



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Linear unbiased MMSE predictor (Kriging):

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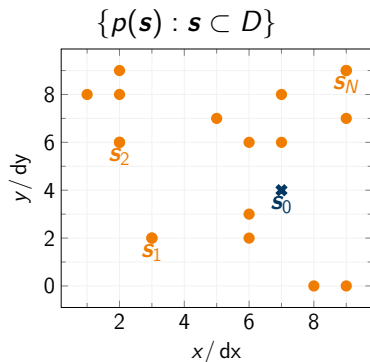


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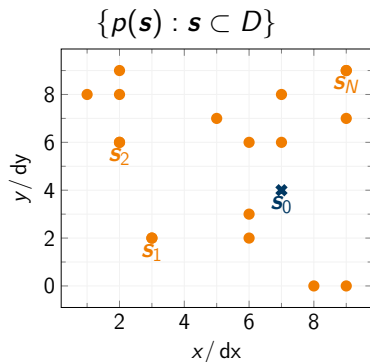
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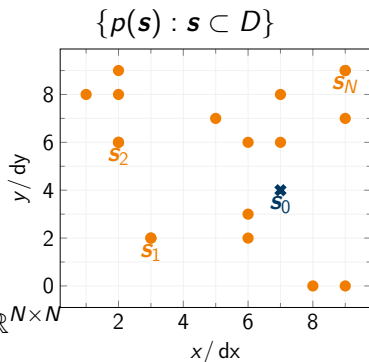
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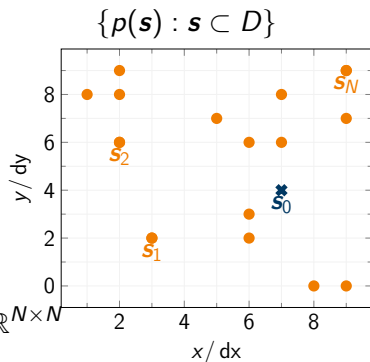
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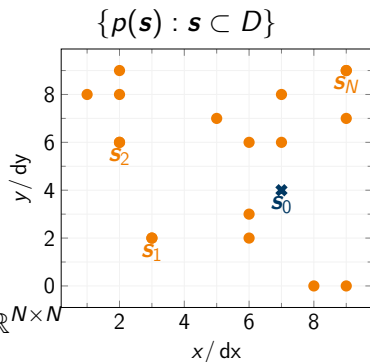
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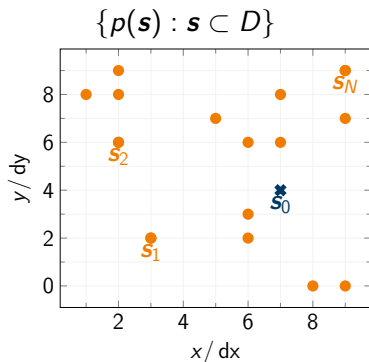
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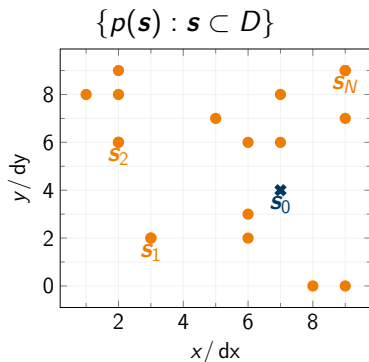
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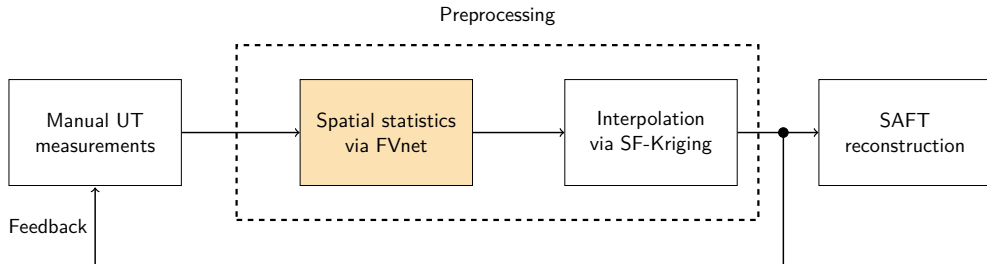
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$\Rightarrow$  **Estimate of  $\gamma_m(h)$**

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(I) Nonparametric estimation

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## (I) Nonparametric estimation

- Method-of-moments estimate
- (—) requires adequate samples  
∴ some lags may be missing

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## (III) Data driven approach via DNN (FVnet)

- Property: lattice data within a small batch  
→ Vector-valued lags and frequency variograms
- Method-of-moments estimates are available  
⇒ Vector-valued regression problem

# Hybrid Preprocessing: Performance

## Simulation studies

- Batch interpolation
- Reconstruction of subsampled data



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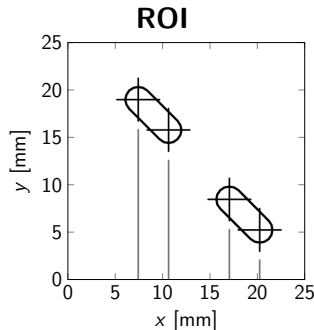
## Purpose

- Resolution of reconstructed images
- Effectiveness of experimental design

# Hybrid Preprocessing: Performance

## Scenario and Assumptions

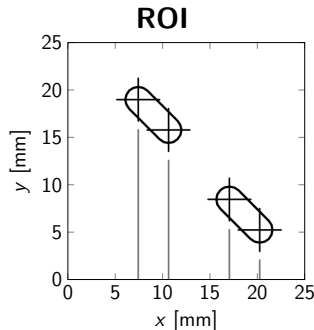
- Base data = densely scanned measurements (0.5 mm grids  $\hat{=}$  8.7 samples /  $\lambda^2$ )
- ROI = 25 mm  $\times$  25 mm
- Subsampling in ROI: 5 ... 17% ( $\hat{=}$  0.44 ... 1.48 samples /  $\lambda^2$ )
- Moving window interpolation (50% overlap)
- Single batch = 5 mm  $\times$  5 mm



# Hybrid Preprocessing: Performance

## Comparison

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= Reconstruction of fully sampled data
- Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW)



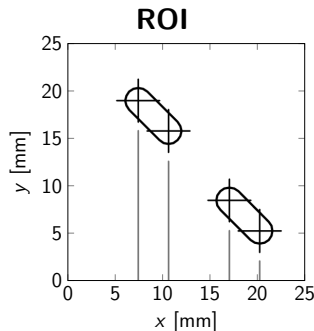
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- Normalized squared error
- *Generalized Contrast-to-Noise Ratio (gCNR)*



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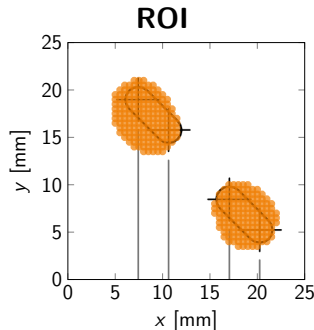
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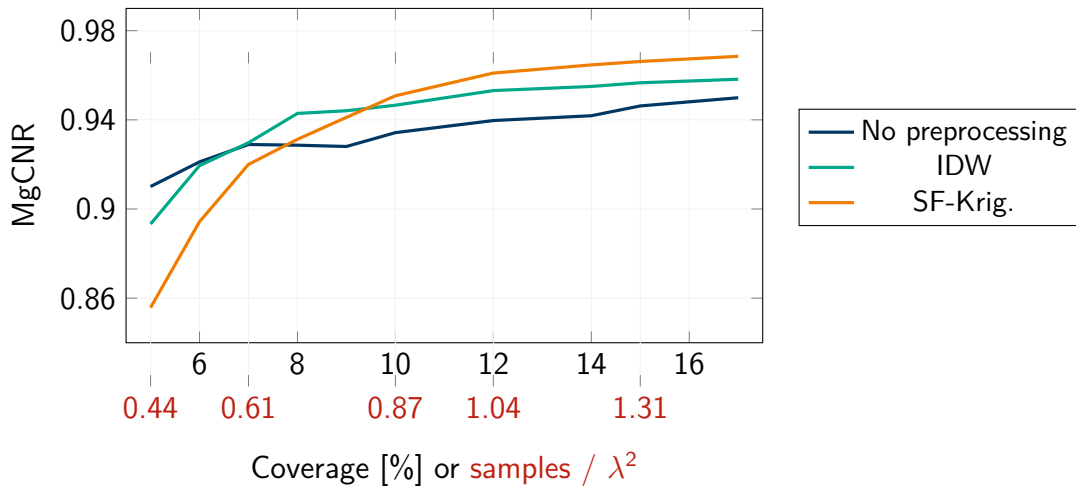
- Normalized squared error
- *Generalized Contrast-to-Noise Ratio (gCNR)*

$$\text{gCNR} = 1 - P(\text{false detection})$$

⇒ higher gCNR  $\hat{=}$  better resolution



# Performance Evaluation for Varying Coverage



# Experimental Design: Strategic Resampling

## Feedback for experimental design

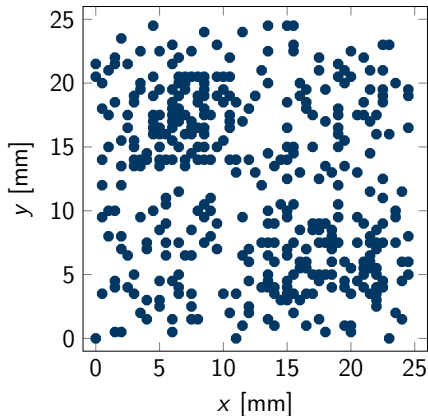
- (1) Initial sampling ( $= N$ )
- (2) Interpolation via SF-Kriging
- (3) Variance map as feedback
- (4) Prioritized resampling  
+ random resampling  
( $= 2N$ )



# Experimental Design: Strategic Resampling

## Feedback for experimental design

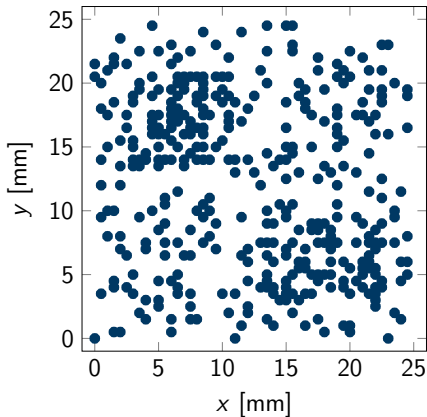
- (1) Initial sampling ( $= N$ )
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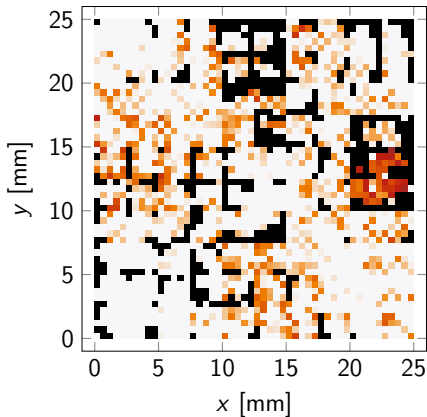
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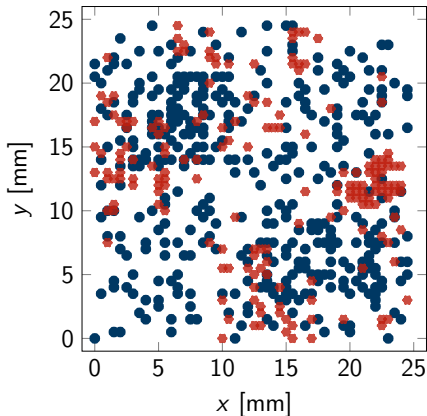
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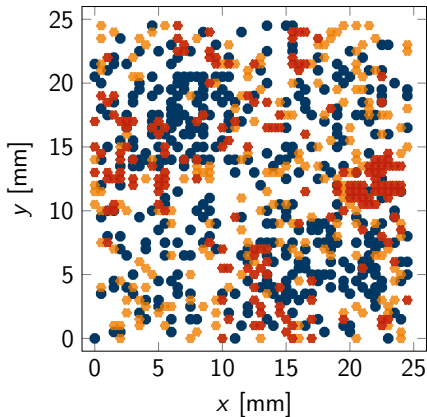
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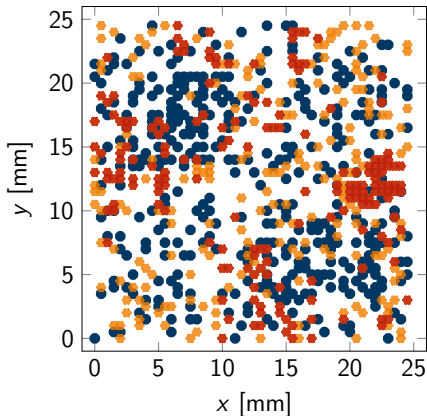


# Experimental Design: Strategic Resampling

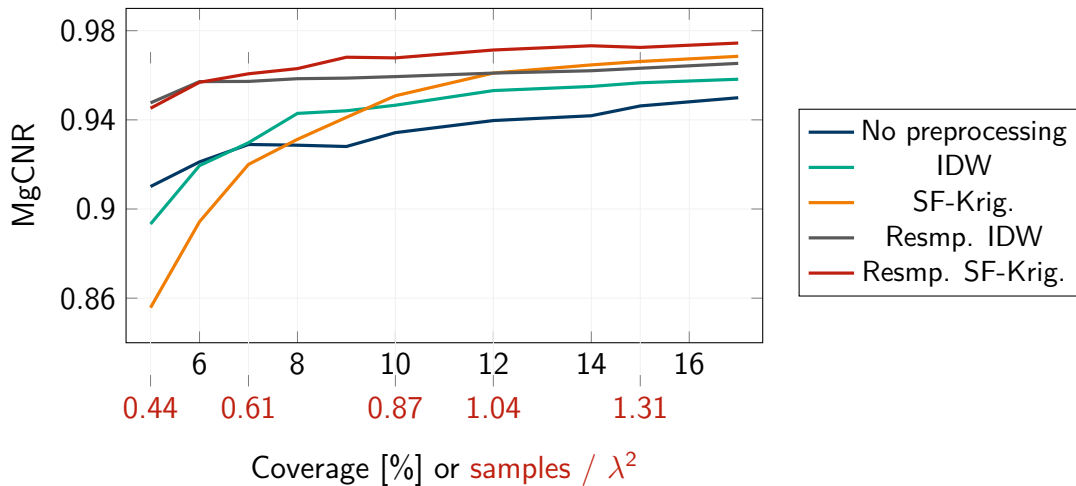
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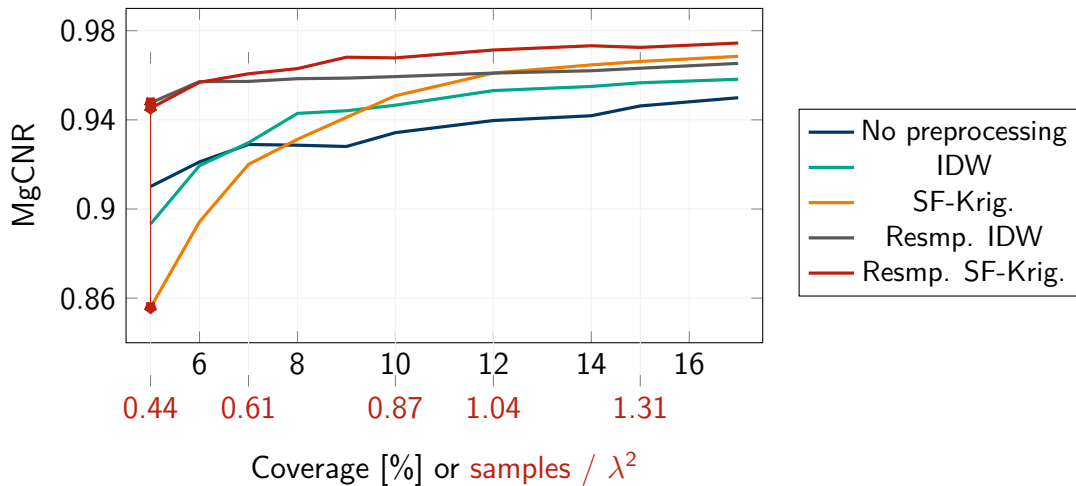
→ Effect on reconstruction resolution



# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling



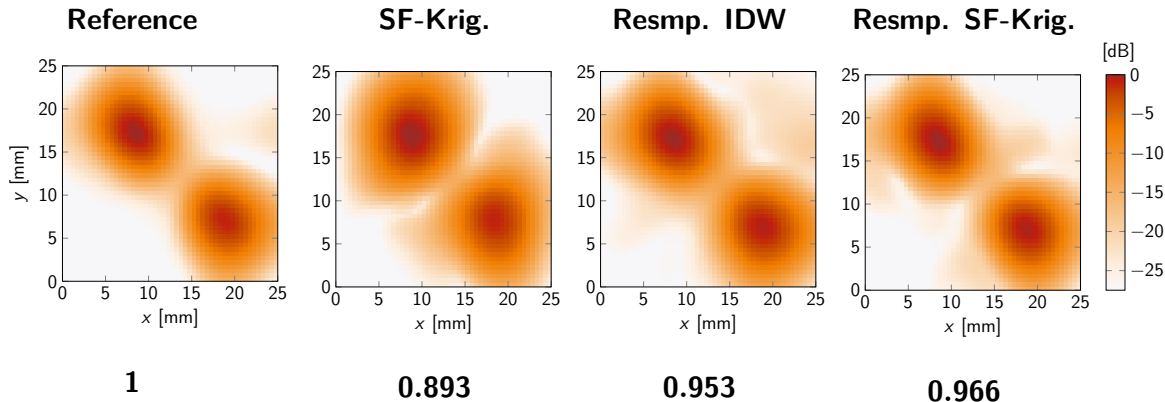
# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling



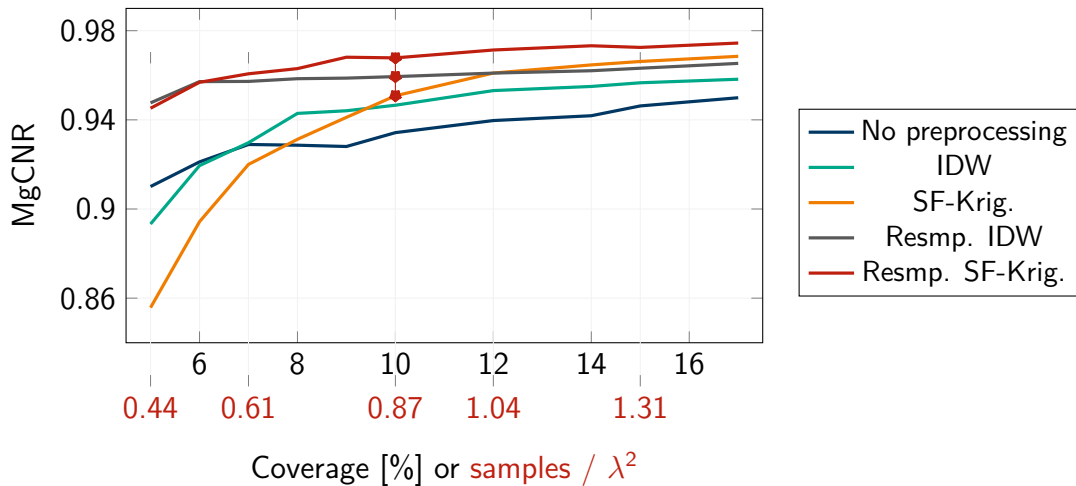


# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling

$$N = 0.44 \text{ samples } / \lambda^2$$

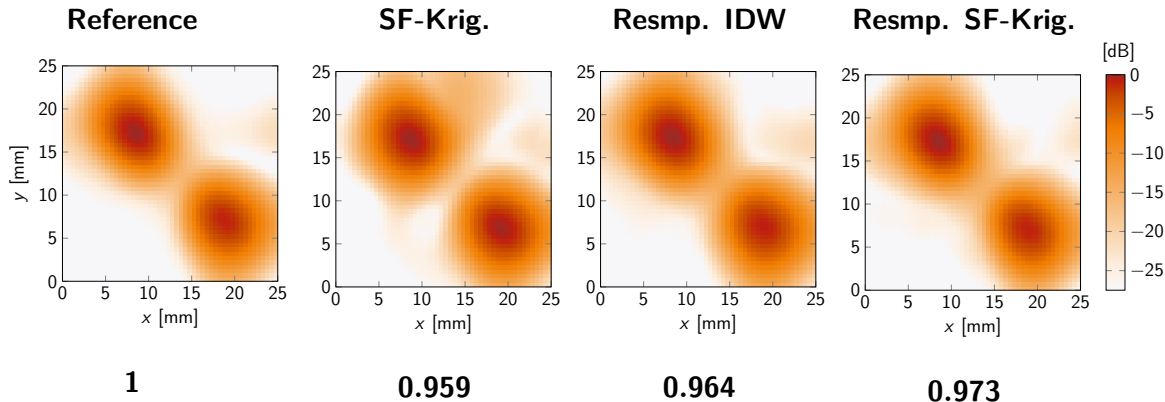


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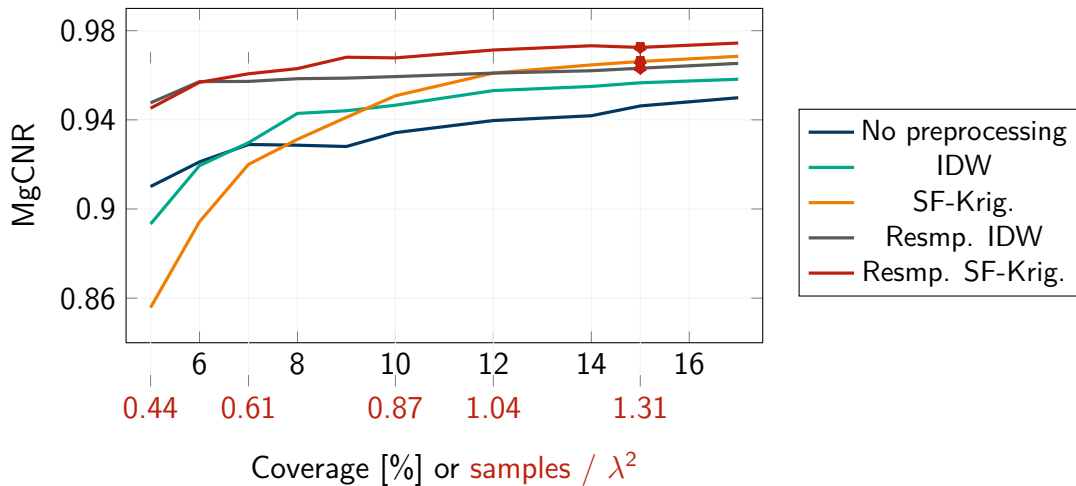


# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling

$$N = 0.87 \text{ samples } / \lambda^2$$

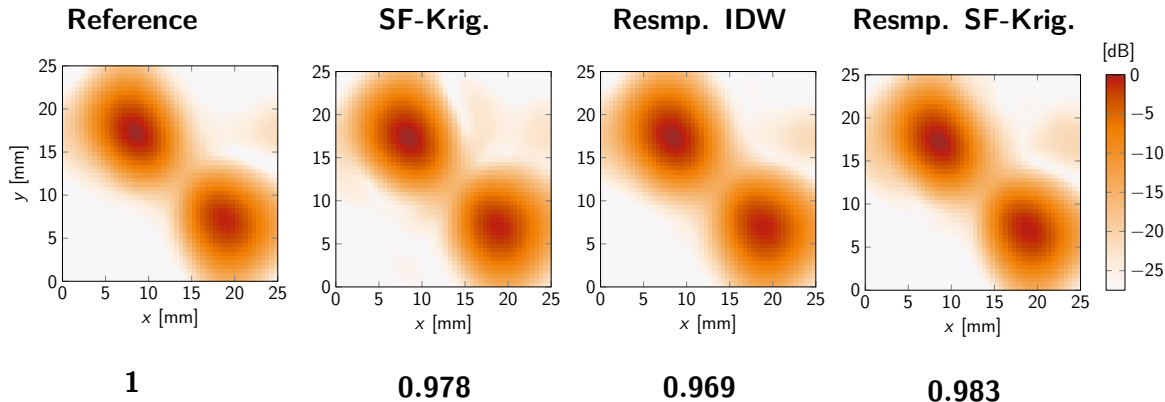


# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling



# Effectiveness of Strategic Resampling

$$N = 1.31 \text{ samples } / \lambda^2$$



# Conclusion (1)

## Research problem and objectives

- Direct SAFT reconstruction of manual UT data
  - Degraded resolution
  - ∴ Accumulation of random factors
- Sparse and/or irregular spatial subsampling of UT data
  - Spatial aliasing in SAFT reconstructions
  - ⇒ Appearance of artefacts
- Goal = artefacts reduction by preventing spatial aliasing
  - Interpolate missing UT data
  - ≐ Interpolation of nonlinear spatio-temporal data
- Fast yet interpretable method

# Conclusion (2)

## Achievements and contributions

- Extensive study on spatial statistics
- Spatial statistical modeling of UT data in space-frequency domain
- Problem formulation for a hybrid approach
  - (i) Space-frequency domain Interpolation via SF-Kriging
  - (ii) Estimation of second order spatial statistics via FVnet
    - $\hat{=}$  Vector-valued regression
    - Applicable to other types of spatio-temporal lattice data
- Extension of point SF-Kriging to multi-point ones
- Establishing a preprocessing scheme with a feedback feature

# Conclusion (3)

## Findings

Samples / $\lambda^2$	... 0.61	0.61 ... 0.87	0.87 ...
FVnet SF-Krig.	X	✓	✓✓✓
Resamp. + SF-Krig.	≈	✓✓✓	✓



# Conclusion (3)

## Findings

Samples / $\lambda^2$	... 0.61	0.61 ... 0.87	0.87 ...
FVnet SF-Krig.	X	✓	✓✓✓
Resamp. + SF-Krig.	≈	✓✓✓	✓

## Future work

- Incorporate the neighboring batch information in FVnet
- Parametric estimation of frequency variogram via DNN
- Extension to a progressive approach

# Backup

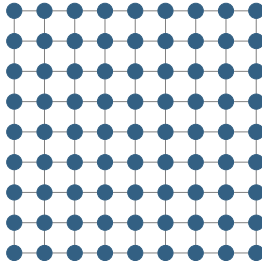
# Accumulation of randomness

## System inaccuracy

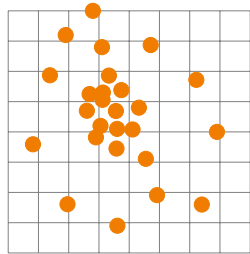
- Positional inaccuracy
- Inconsistent coupling

## Path selection

- Spatial undersampling



Automatic



Manual

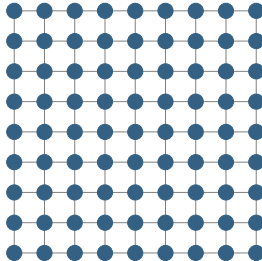
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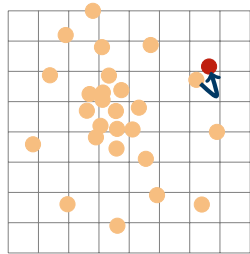
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Accurate



Inaccurate

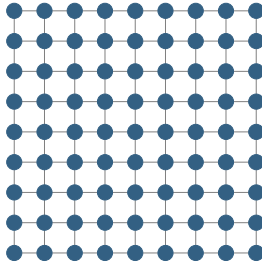
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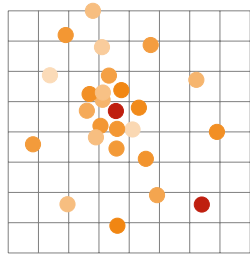
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Constant



Inconsistent

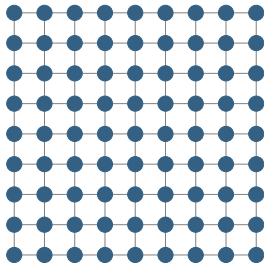
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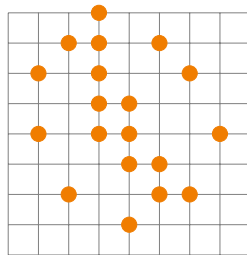
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Full



Incomplete

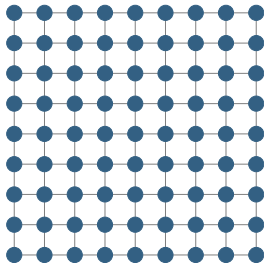
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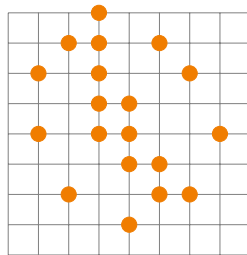
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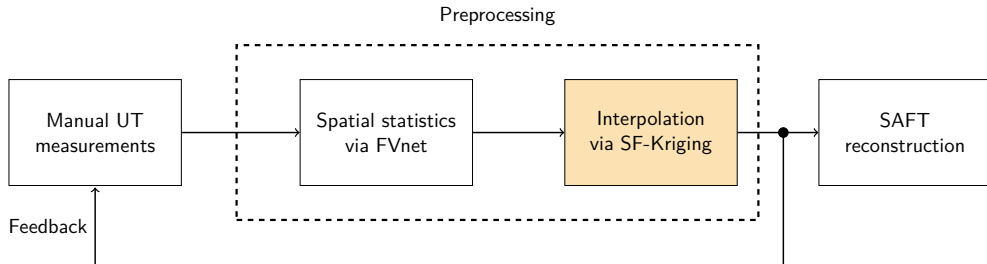


Full



Incomplete

# ST-Interpolation in SF-domain





# ST-Interpolation in SF-domain

**ST-domain:** temp. correlation  $\rightarrow$  vector-valued pred.

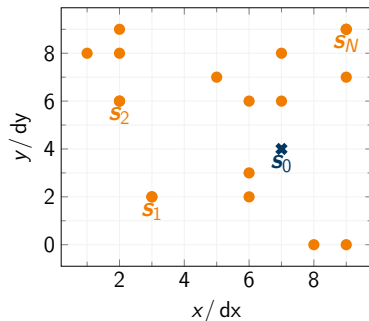
Sought:

$$\mathbf{a}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

Given:

$$\mathbf{A}_S = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$$

Samp. and pred. positions



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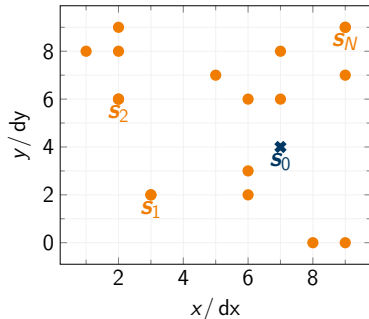
$$\mathbf{A}_S = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & \mathbf{a}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{a}_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$$

**SF-domain:** orthogonal Fourier bases

$\Rightarrow$  individual prediction for a single frequency

$$\mathbf{p}_0 = \mathbf{F}_M \mathbf{a}_0 \in \mathbb{C}^M$$

Samp. and pred. positions



# ST-Interpolation in SF-domain

**SF-domain:**  $\rightarrow$  set of scalar-valued pred.  $\forall \omega_m$

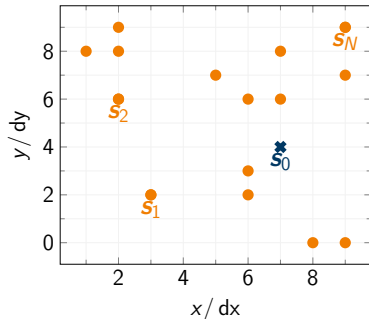
Sought:

$$p_{0m} \in \mathbb{C}$$

Given:

$$\pi_m^S = \begin{bmatrix} p_{1m} & p_{2m} & \cdots & p_{Nm} \end{bmatrix}^T \in \mathbb{C}^M$$

Samp. and pred. positions



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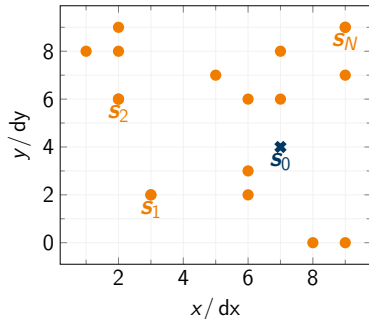
Given:

$$\pi_m^S = \begin{bmatrix} p_{1m} & p_{2m} & \cdots & p_{Nm} \end{bmatrix}^T \in \mathbb{C}^M$$

$\Rightarrow$  **Optimal prediction:**

$$\hat{p}_{0m} = E \left\{ p_{0m} \mid \pi_m^S \right\}$$

Samp. and pred. positions



# Spatial Statistical Approach: SF-Kriging

**Assumptions: intrinsic stationarity**

→ closer points  $\hat{=}$  similar values

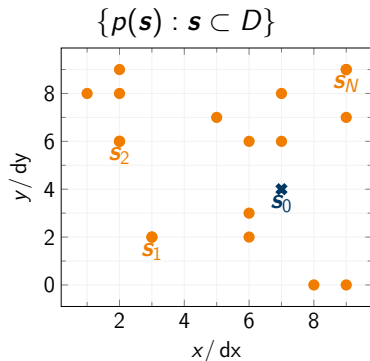
(1) Mean of the increments is 0

$$E \{p(\mathbf{s}) - p(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})\} = 0$$

(2) Variance of the increments is shift invariant

→ function of the spatial lag

$$\text{Var} \{p(\mathbf{s}) - p(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})\} := 2\gamma(\mathbf{h})$$



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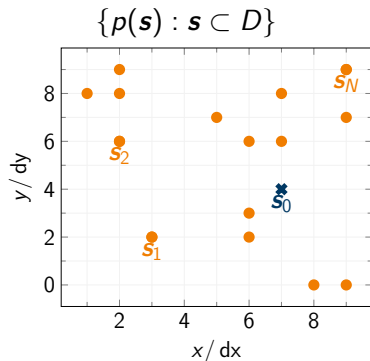
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$$2\gamma(\mathbf{h}) = \text{Frequency variogram (FV)}$$



# Spatial Statistical Approach: SF-Kriging

Linear predictor:

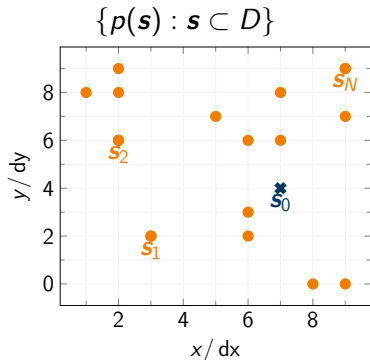
$$\hat{p}_{0m} = \mathbf{w}_m^H \boldsymbol{\pi}_m^S$$

Linear unbiased MMSE predictor (Kriging):

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}_m} f(\mathbf{w}_m) \text{ s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^N w_i = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{w}_m) &= \mathbb{E} \left\{ |p_{0m} - \hat{p}_{0m}|^2 \right\} \\ &= \text{Var} \{ p_{0m} - \hat{p}_{0m} \} \\ &= - \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N w_i w_j \gamma_m(\mathbf{h}_{ij}) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \gamma_m(\mathbf{h}_{0i}) \end{aligned}$$

with  $\mathbf{h}_{ij} = \mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j$  and  $\mathbf{h}_{0i} = \mathbf{s}_0 - \mathbf{s}_i$



# Spatial Statistical Approach: SF-Kriging

Linear predictor:

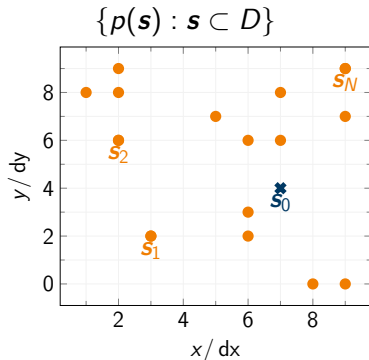
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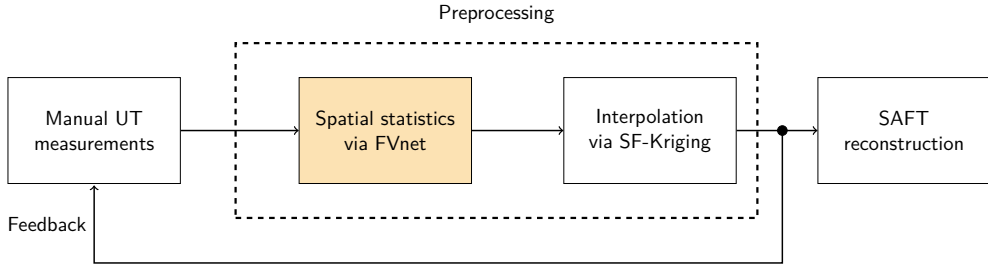
with  $\mathbf{h}_{ij} = \mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{s}_j$  and  $\mathbf{h}_{0i} = \mathbf{s}_0 - \mathbf{s}_i$



→ Estimate of  $\gamma_m(\mathbf{h})$



# FVnet: Estimation of Spatial Statistics



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## Properties and assumptions:

→ within a small batch

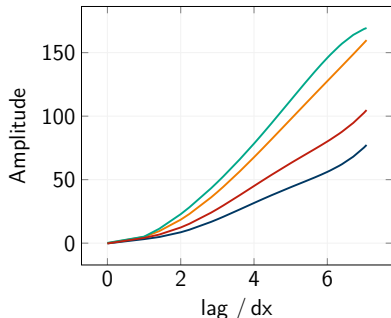
- Intrinsic stationary
- Variability in  $x$  and  $y$  is negligible  
→  $\gamma_m(\mathbf{h}) = \gamma_m(h)$
- Lattice data  
→ known vector-valued lags  $\in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$
- Vector-valued FV  $\gamma_m \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$
- There are certain structures in FVs  
→ similar within the neighboring bins

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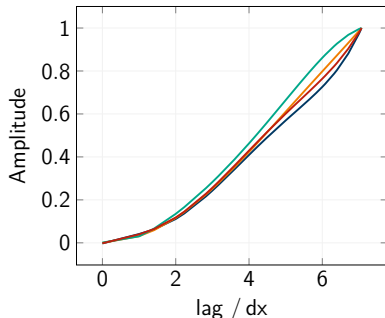


# FVnet: Estimation of Spatial Statistics

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→ known vector-valued lags  $\in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$
- Vector-valued FV  $\gamma_m \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$
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# FVnet: Estimation of Spatial Statistics

## Problem formulation for DNN

⇒ Estimate the structure of  $\gamma_m \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$

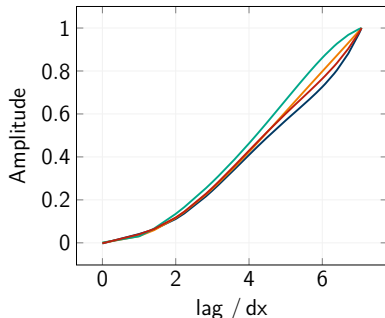
≐ Vector-valued regression problem

## Network inputs

- Input 1 = Fourier coefficients of 3 bins

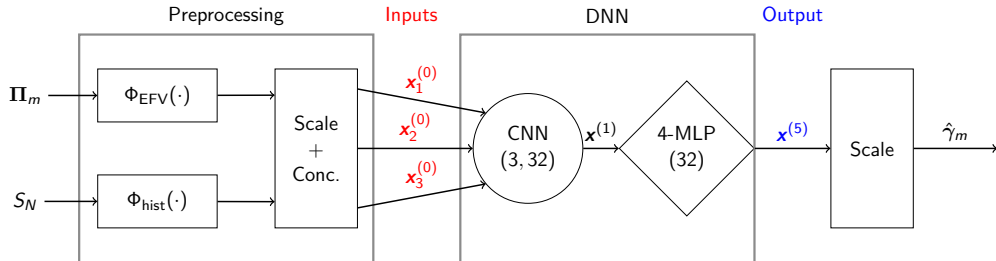
$$\Pi_m = [\pi_{m-1} \ \pi_{m-1} \ \pi_{m-1}] \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 3}$$

- Input 2 = Scan positions



# FVnet: Estimation of Spatial Statistics

## FVnet



(i)  $\Phi_{\text{EFV}} : \mathbb{C}^{M \times 3} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times 3}$

Fourier coeffs.  $\mapsto$  smoothed & normalized method-of-moments estimate of the FVs

(ii)  $\Phi_{\text{hist}} : \mathbb{R}^{N \times 2} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$

Sampling positions  $\mapsto$  distribution of the available lags

# Parameters: MUSE

	Parameter	Value/range
Specimen	Material	Steel
	Speed of sound $c_0$	5900 m/s
	Dimension ( $L \times D \times H$ )	200 mm $\times$ 140 mm $\times$ 90 mm
UT Probe	Manufacturer	KARL DEUTSCH
	Model	P 1462.1
	Diameter (transducer element)	10 mm
	Center frequency $f_C$	$4.0 \pm 0.4$ MHz
	Bandwidth ( $-6$ dB)	$2.6 \pm 0.5$ MHz
Measurements	Wavelength $\lambda$	$\approx 1.475$ mm
	Spacing along x-axis $dx$	0.5 mm
	Spacing along y-axis $dy$	0.5 mm
	Sampling frequency $f_S$	80 MHz
	Temporal interval $dt$	12.5 ns
	Spacing along z-axis $dz$	36.875 $\mu$ m

# Parameters: SF-Kriging

	Parameter	Value/range
For all schemes	Batch size ( $N_x \times N_y \times N_z$ )	$10 \times 10 \times 512$
	Maximal lag $h_{\max}$	$5\sqrt{2} \, dx \approx 7.071 \, dx$
For SF-Kriging	Minimal number of points	5
	Weights regularization $\lambda$	1.0



# Parameters: FWM Constant

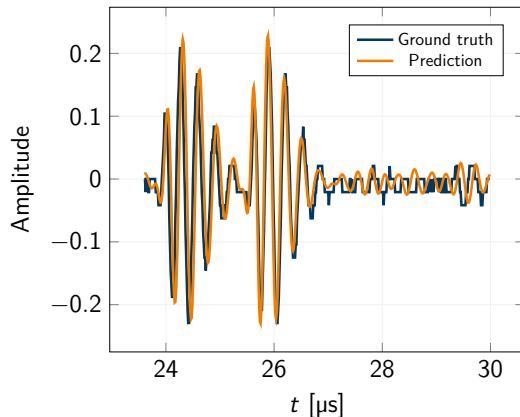
	Parameter	Value/range
Specimen / Measurements	Material	Steel
	Speed of sound $c_0$	5900 m/s
	Dimension ( $L \times D \times H$ )	45 mm $\times$ 45 mm $\times$ 90 mm
	Spacing along x-axis $dx$	0.5 mm
	Spacing along y-axis $dy$	0.5 mm
	Sampling frequency $f_s$	80 MHz
	Temporal interval $dt$	12.5 ns
	Spacing along z-axis $dz$	36.875 $\mu$ m
UT pulse	Transducer beam spread	25°
	Pulse model	Gabor
	SNR	20 dB

# Parameters: FWM Variables

	Parameter	Value/range
Synthetic data	ROI (I) ( $30 \times 30 \times 512$ )	$x = 10 \dots 35$ mm $y = 10 \dots 35$ mm $z = 24 \dots 43$ mm
	ROI (II) ( $30 \times 30 \times 512$ )	$x = 10 \dots 35$ mm $y = 10 \dots 35$ mm $z = 33 \dots 52$ mm
Scatterer configuration	Number of scatterers in ROI	[2, 5, 10]
	Reflectivity of each scatterer	0.1 ... 1
UT pulse	Center frequency $f_C$	$3.36 \pm 0.34$ MHz
	Bandwidth ( $-6$ dB)	$1.0 \pm 0.1$ MHz
	Wavelength $\lambda$	$\approx 1.756$ mm
Spatial subsampling	Block size ( $N_x \times N_y \times N_z$ )	$10 \times 10 \times 512$
	Number of scans / block	10 ... 100
	Scan distribution	Uniform or random walk

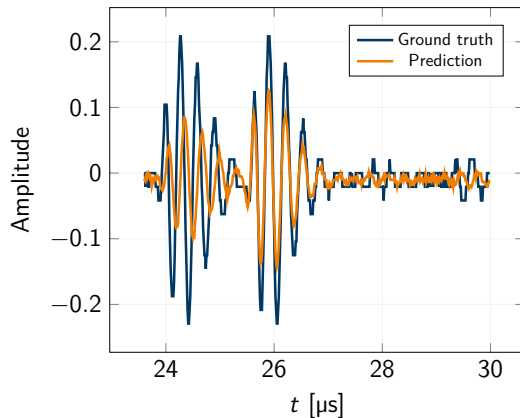
# Results: Batch Wise Interpolation

FVnet + SF-Kriging

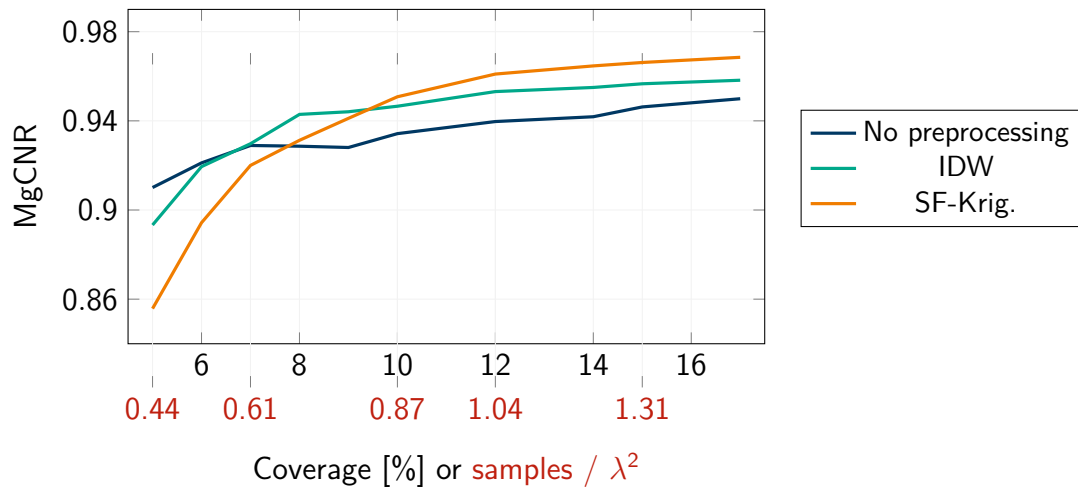


# Results: Batch Wise Interpolation

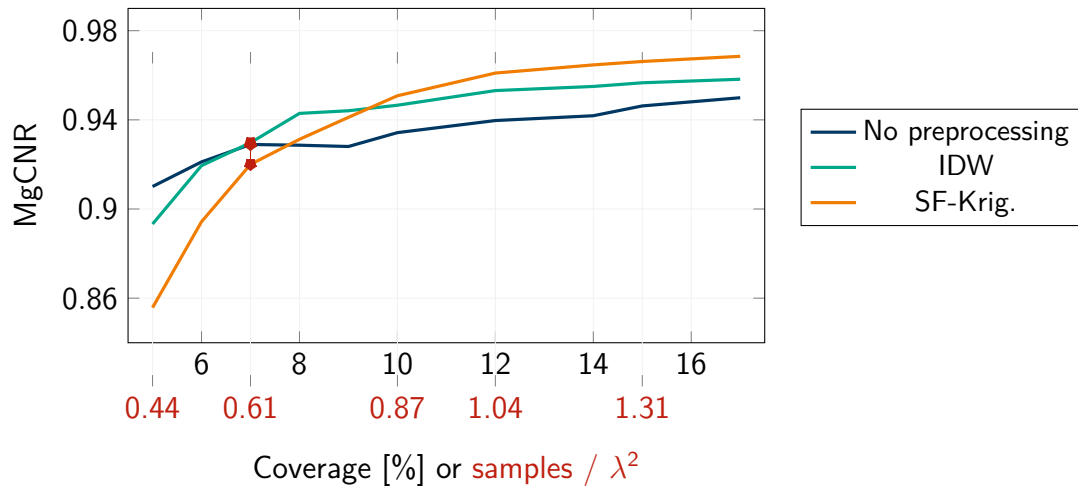
IDW



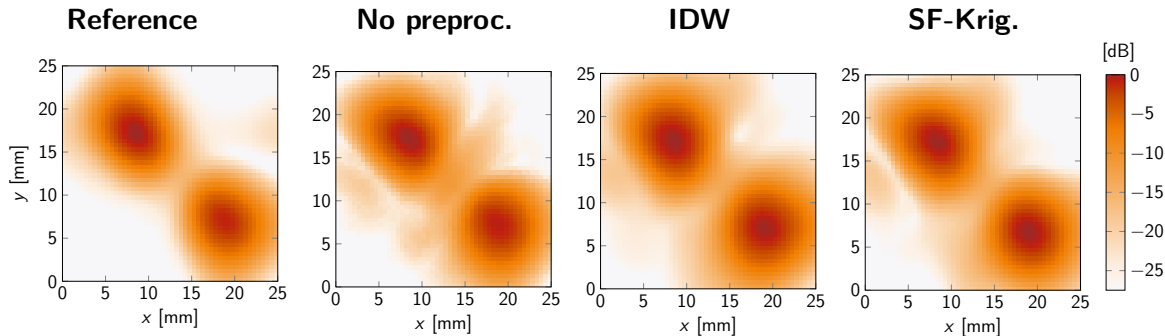
# Performance Evaluation for Varying Coverage



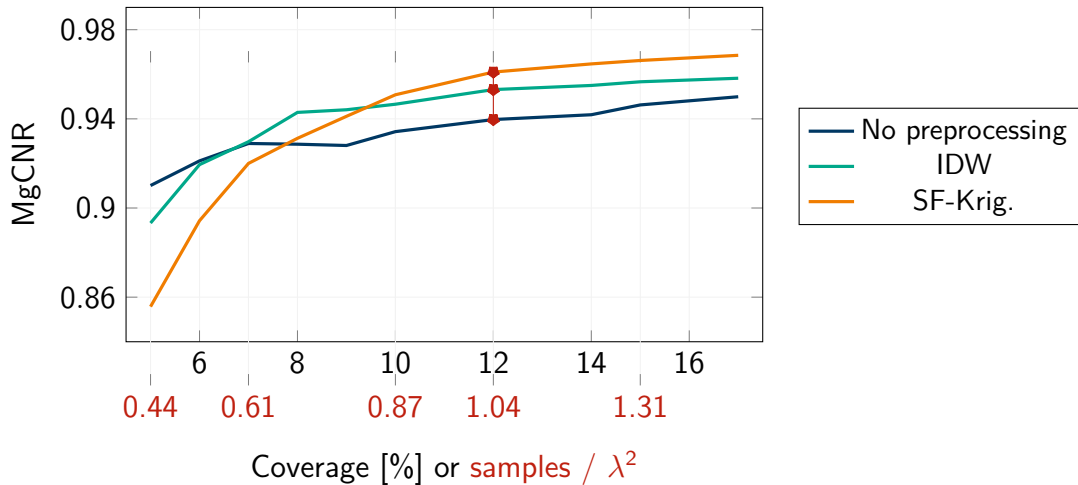
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