

Image Denoising

Learning Sparse Representations For Image and Signal
Modeling

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Problem Formulation

Denoising: The Issue

A Detail in Camera Raw Image z



Denoising: The Issue

Denoised \hat{y}



Denoising: The Issue

A Detail in Camera Raw Image z



Denoising: The Issue

Denoised \hat{y}



Image Formation Model

Observation model is

$$z(x) = y(x) + \eta(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{X}$$



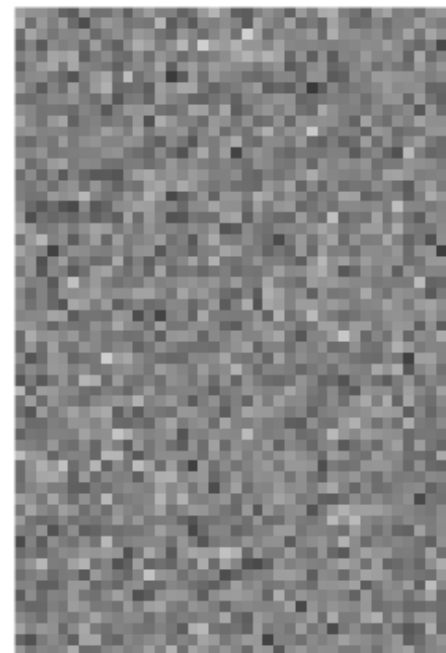
z

=



y

+



η

Image Formation Model

Observation model is

$$z(x) = y(x) + \eta(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{X}$$

Where

- x denotes the pixel coordinates in the domain $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$
- y is the original (noise-free and unknown) image, $y \in [0,1]$
- z is the noisy observation, $z \in [0,1]$ (clipping)
- η is the noise realization

For the sake of simplicity we assume Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN):

$\eta \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and $\eta(x)$ are all independent realizations.

The noise standard deviation σ is also assumed as known.

Goal of Image Denoising

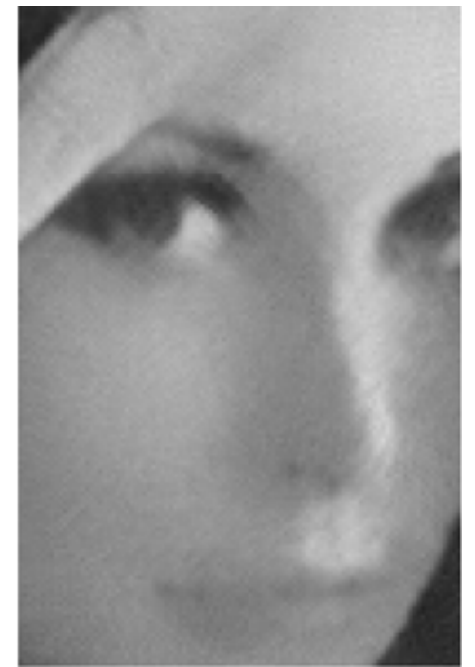
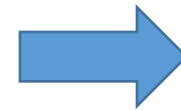
The goal of **image denoising** is to compute \hat{y} *realistic* estimate of the original image y , given the noisy observation z

Denoising is an **ill posed problem** and requires some form of **regularization** to promote outputs that are close to natural images.

Our Prior: **Sparsity w.r.t. DCT basis!**



z





\hat{y}

Image Denoising

Denoising is a fundamental step in image processing pipelines

- Improves the quality of digital images to the standard we are used to
- Eases the following algorithms in imaging pipelines from those solving low-level (e.g., edge detection), till high-level (recognition) problems
- It is also a tool to quantitatively assess the performance of a descriptive model for images.

DCT Denoising

Estimated Image, PSNR : 29.160      



Denoising by Convolution

Estimated Image (conv), PSNR : 22.093



Image Denoising By Sparsity Priors

Sliding DCT Denoising

A very powerful, yet simple denoising algorithm that can pair much more sophisticated alternatives

A description of the algorithm steps can be found here

Yu, Guoshen, and Guillermo Sapiro. "DCT image denoising: a simple and effective image denoising algorithm." *Image Processing On Line* 1 (2011): 292-296.

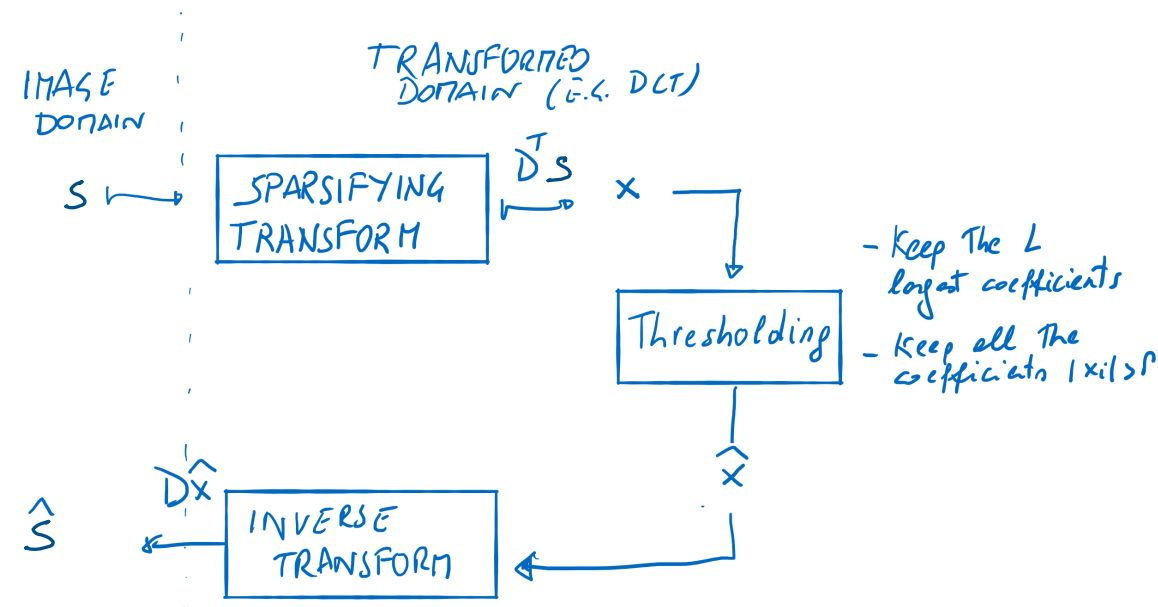
<https://www.ipol.im/pub/art/2011/ys-dct/article.pdf>

Assignment

Sliding DCT

Implement DCT denoising on a natural image

- Load the cameraman image
- Add additive white Gaussian noise having standard deviation σ
- For each patch over a tile, perform denoising in the DCT domain use $\tau = 3\sigma$ or $\tau = \sigma\sqrt{2 \ln p^2}$ as in [Donoho & Johnstone]
- Remember not to threshold the DC coefficient, which contains the average patch intensity
- Reconstruct the denoised patch \hat{s}



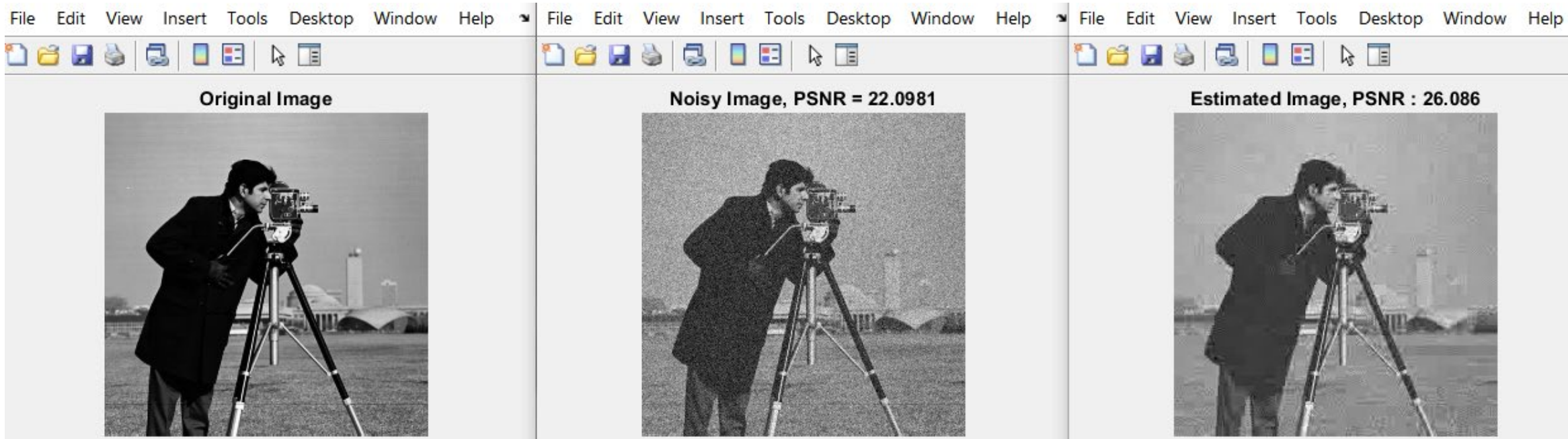
Assess Denoising Performance

Measure the PSNR of the denoised image

$$PSNR(\hat{y}, y) = 10 \log_{10} \frac{1}{MSE(\hat{y}, y)}$$

Where 1 stands for the signal peak (image is assumed to be in $[0,1]$)

```
sigma_noise = 20/255; img = im2double(imread('cameraman.tif'));
```



Assignment

Try the following

- Adopt no aggregation (take non-overlapping patches)
- Denoise a 16×16 checkerboard image
- Measure the PSNR
- Repeat the operation after shifting 1 right and 1 pixel down the checkerboard

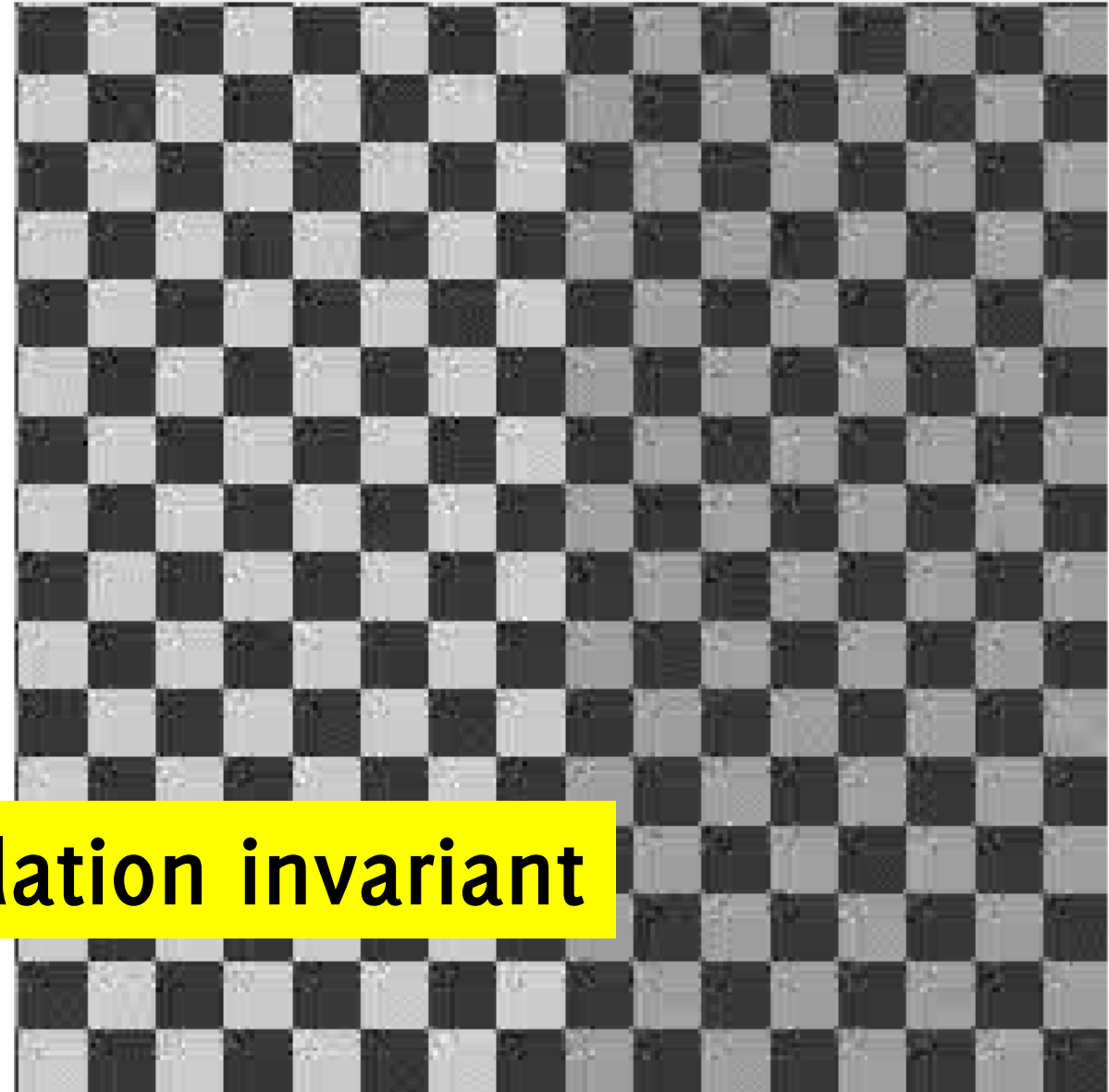
No shift

Estimated Image, PSNR : 35.747



Shift [1 row, 1 col]

Estimated Image, PSNR : 23.645

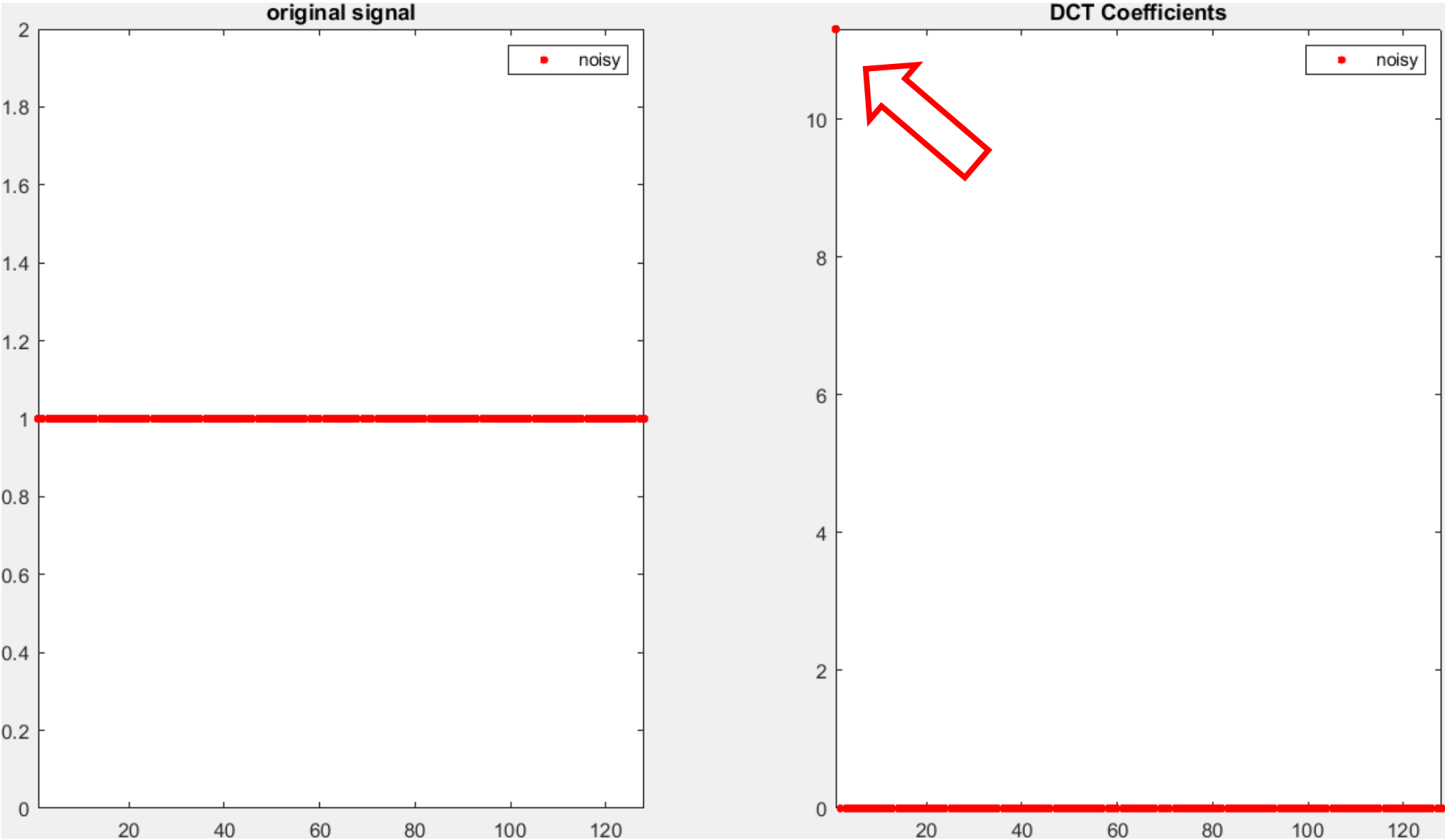


DCT is not translation invariant

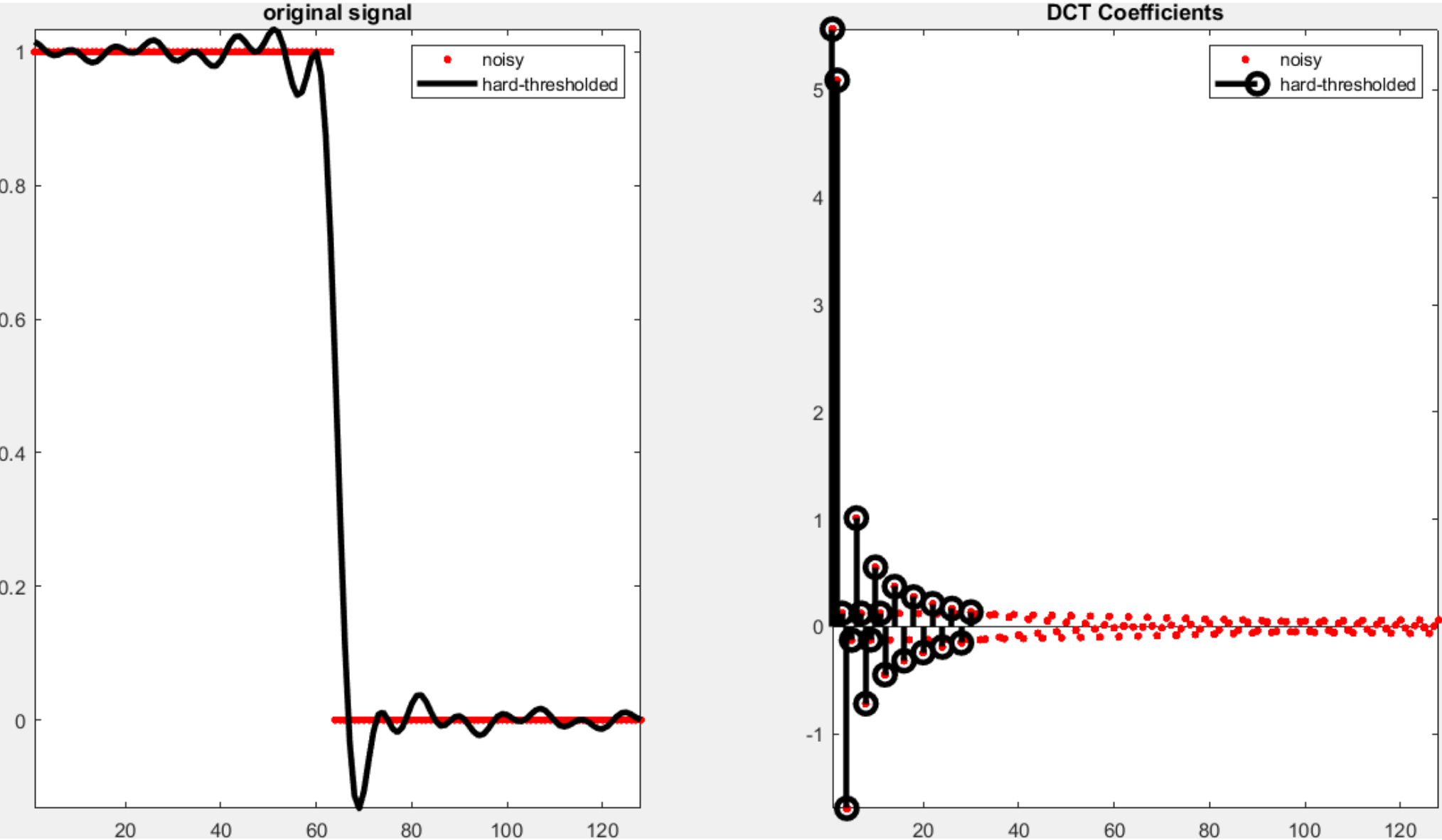
Let's investigate this further...

You might want to go back to the 1D signal and check what happens when transforming in DCT domain a constant signal or a shifted version of it (thus including two different levels)

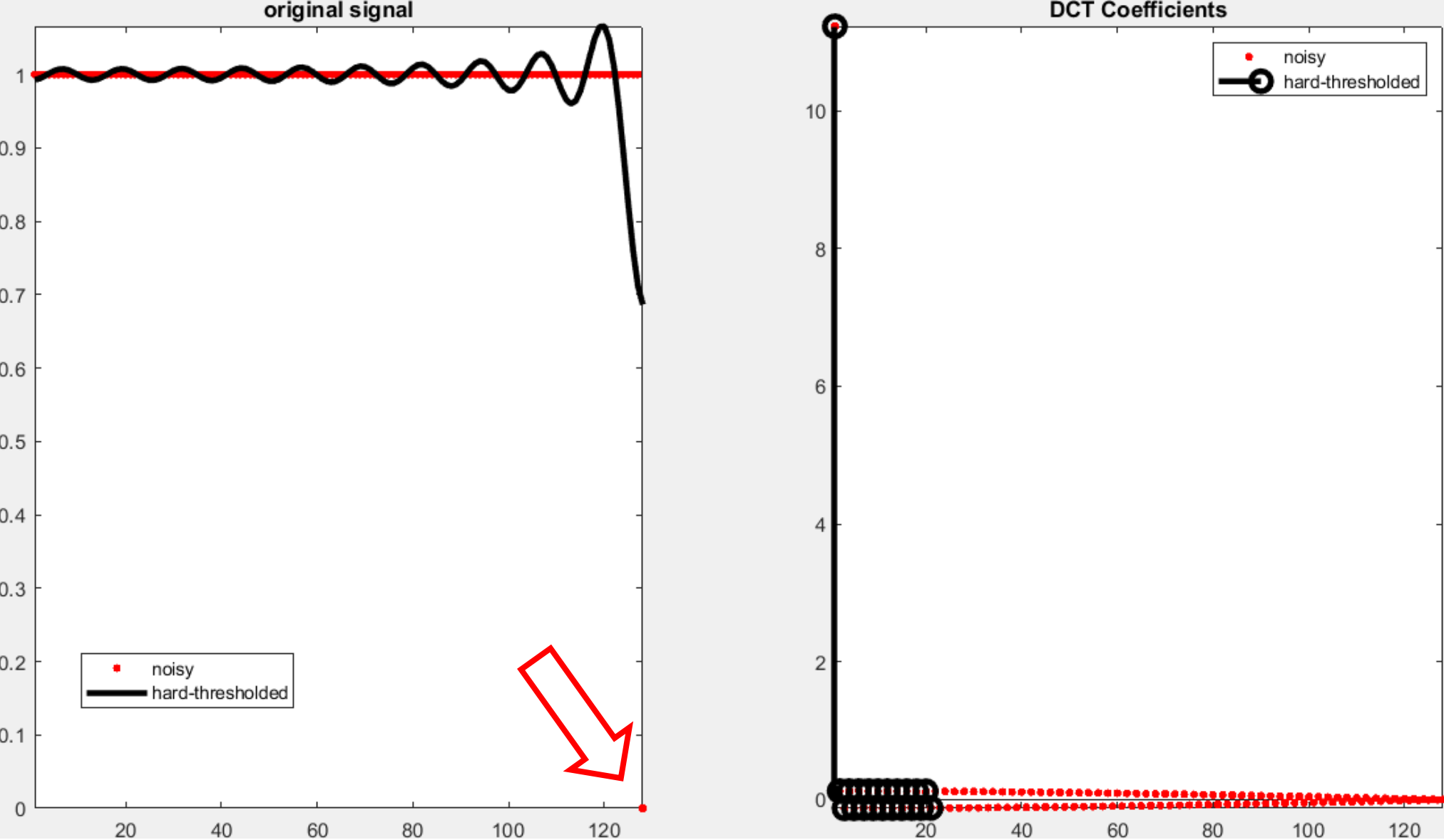
A Very Sparse Signal



A Shift breaks sparsity!



A Shift breaks sparsity!



Assignment: Move to Sliding DCT

Provide an estimate for each block centered in a pixel.

-> each pixel receives and aggregates p^2 estimates

Adopt simple averaging for aggregation

Aggregation

Aggregation considers all the possible shifts, thus **make the DCT translation invariant**

However, not all the shifted versions of the input are good at the same!

The Benefit of Aggregation

Estimated Image, PSNR : 26.158



Estimated Image, PSNR : 29.212



Aggregation helps

Use Sliding DCT with 2 different types of aggregation weights

- Uniform

$$w(x) = 1$$

- Sparsity-aware

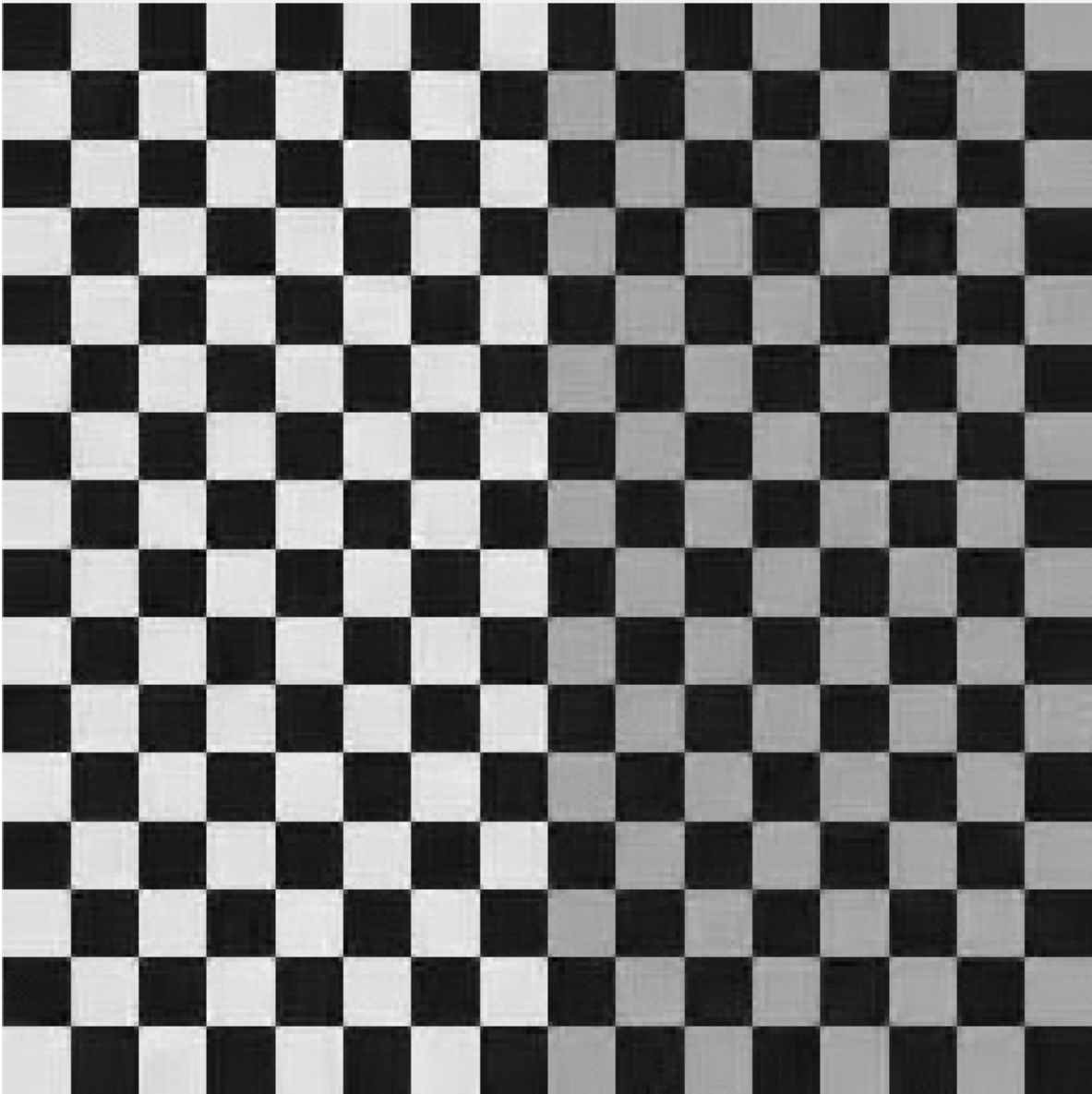
$$w(x) = \frac{1}{\|\hat{x}\|_0}$$

Make sure that when the DC coefficient is zero, $\|\hat{x}\|_0$ is set to 1

Sparsity-aware weights are larger to those blocks that are sparser. As these achieve superior performance

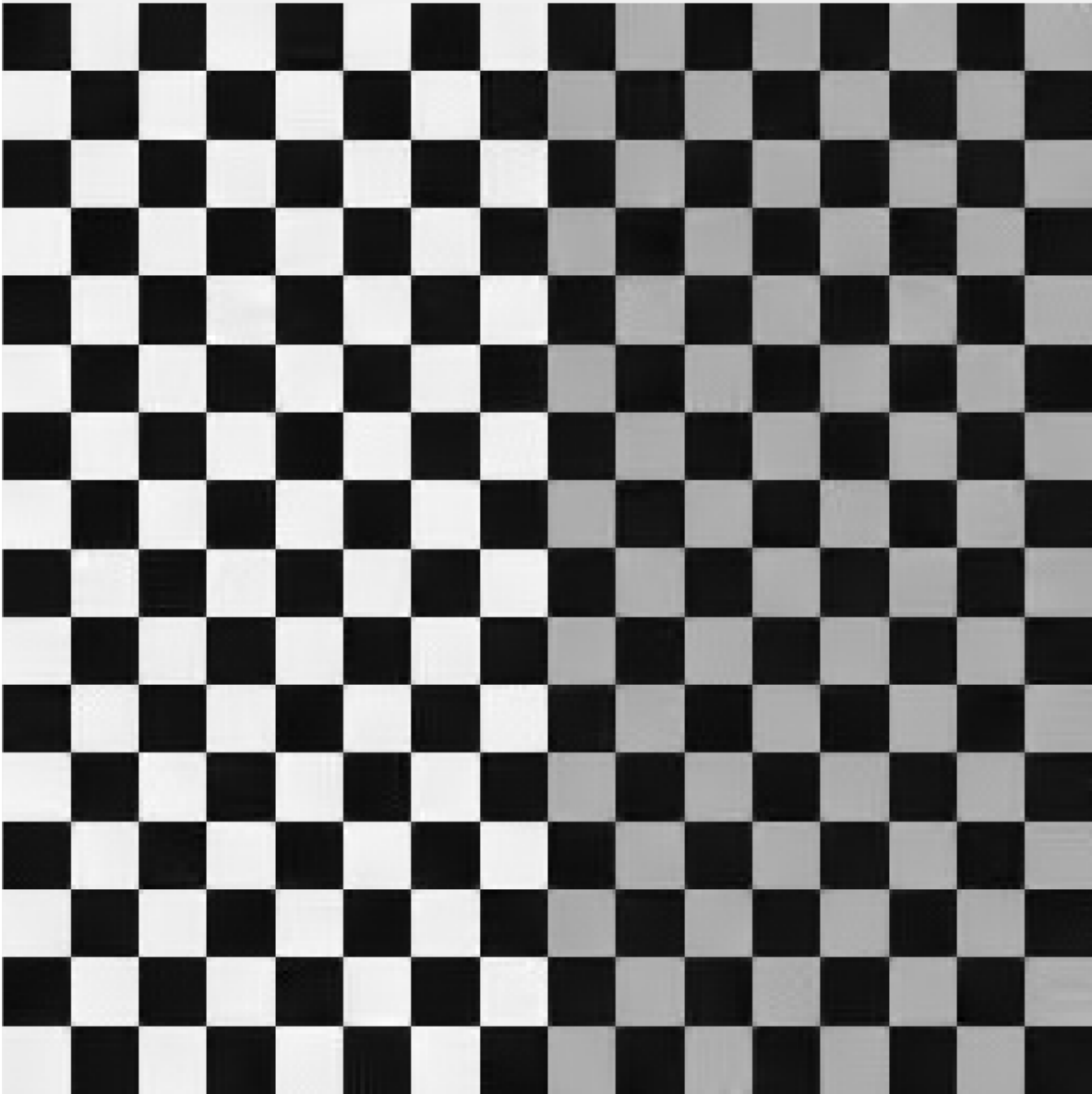
Uniform Weights

Estimated Image, PSNR : 30.582



Sparsity-aware

Estimated Image, PSNR : 35.656



Assignment

Implement both forms of aggregation and

- Test both on natural images
- Test both on checkerboard

Finally, test how much the choice of the threshold τ influences the denoising performance. Observe the resulting image when:

- $\tau \ll 3\sigma$
- $\tau \gg 3\sigma$

This is very important to understand how important is the choice of the threshold

Noise Estimation

Estimating σ

The value of σ plays a crucial role in Sliding DCT denoising (and in sparsity promoting algorithms in general)

You can notice this when changing the threshold τ

... but how to estimate the noise standard deviation, provided only a noisy image?

Noise estimation by filtering

Idea: bring all the flat areas of an image «around zero», and then estimate the sample standard deviation.

$$\begin{aligned}(z \circledast [-1, 1]) &= ((y + \eta) \circledast [-1, 1]) = \\ &= y \circledast [-1, 1] + \eta \circledast [-1, 1]\end{aligned}$$

Now, the first term should be close to zero except at image boundaries. The second term corresponds to a random variable having distribution

$$\eta \circledast [-1, 1] \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2\sigma^2)$$

Therefore

$$\hat{\sigma} = \frac{\text{std}\{z \circledast [-1, 1]\}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Noise Estimation by Filtering + Robust Statistics

Using the sample variance $\text{std}\{\}$ might be heavily affected by outliers, which can result from the term $y \odot [-1, 1]$

$$\hat{\sigma} = \frac{\text{std}\{z \odot [-1, 1]\}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

A better estimate is provided by a robust estimator of the sample variance, namely the Median of Absolute Deviation

$$\hat{\sigma} = \frac{\text{MAD}\{z \odot [-1, 1]\}}{0.67449 * \sqrt{2}}$$

Being $\text{MAD}(X) = \text{median}\{|X - \text{median}\{X\}|\}$

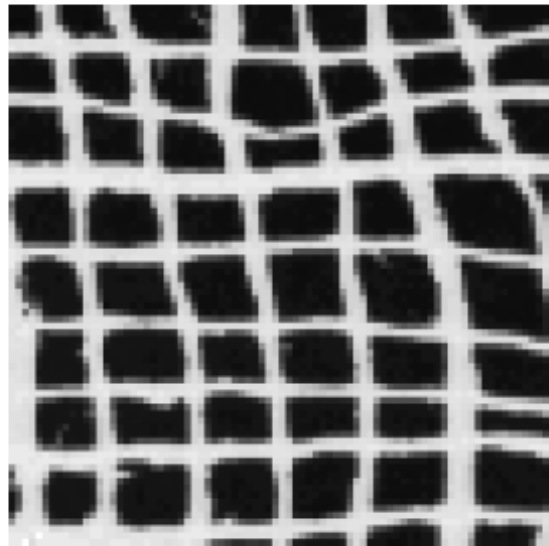
Assignment

Implement the noise estimation formula and use this in the denoising framework

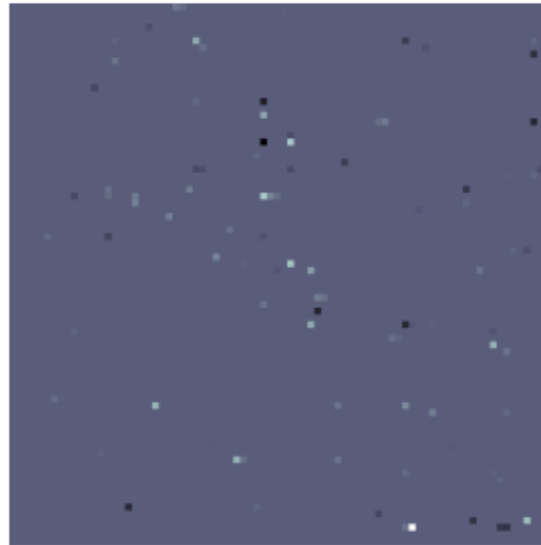
Convolutional Sparse Coding

Global Optimization vs Aggregation of Partial Estimates

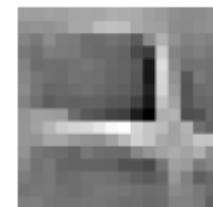
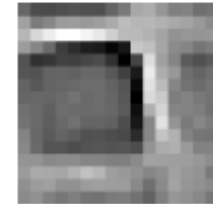
Test Image



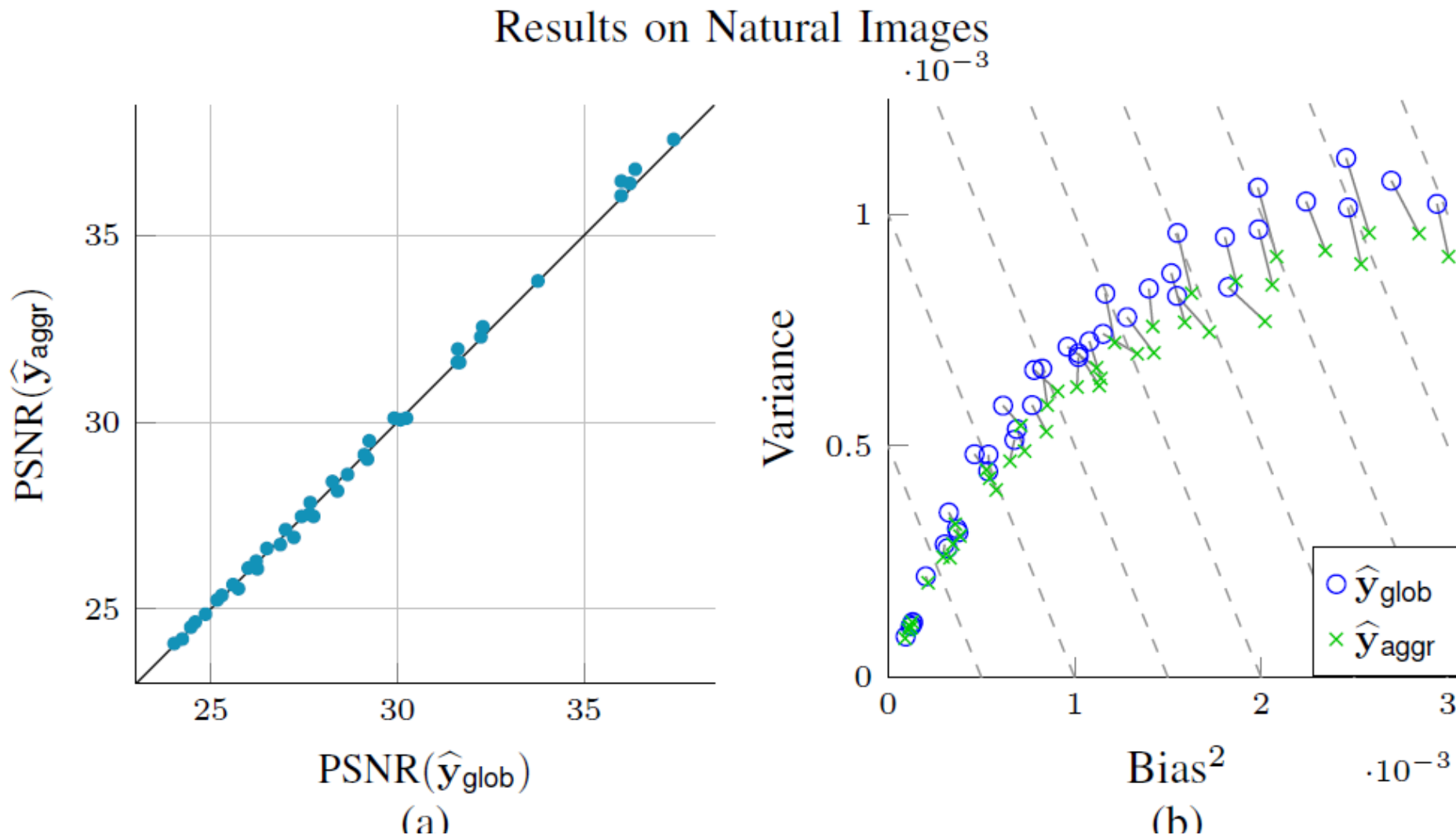
Feature maps



Filters



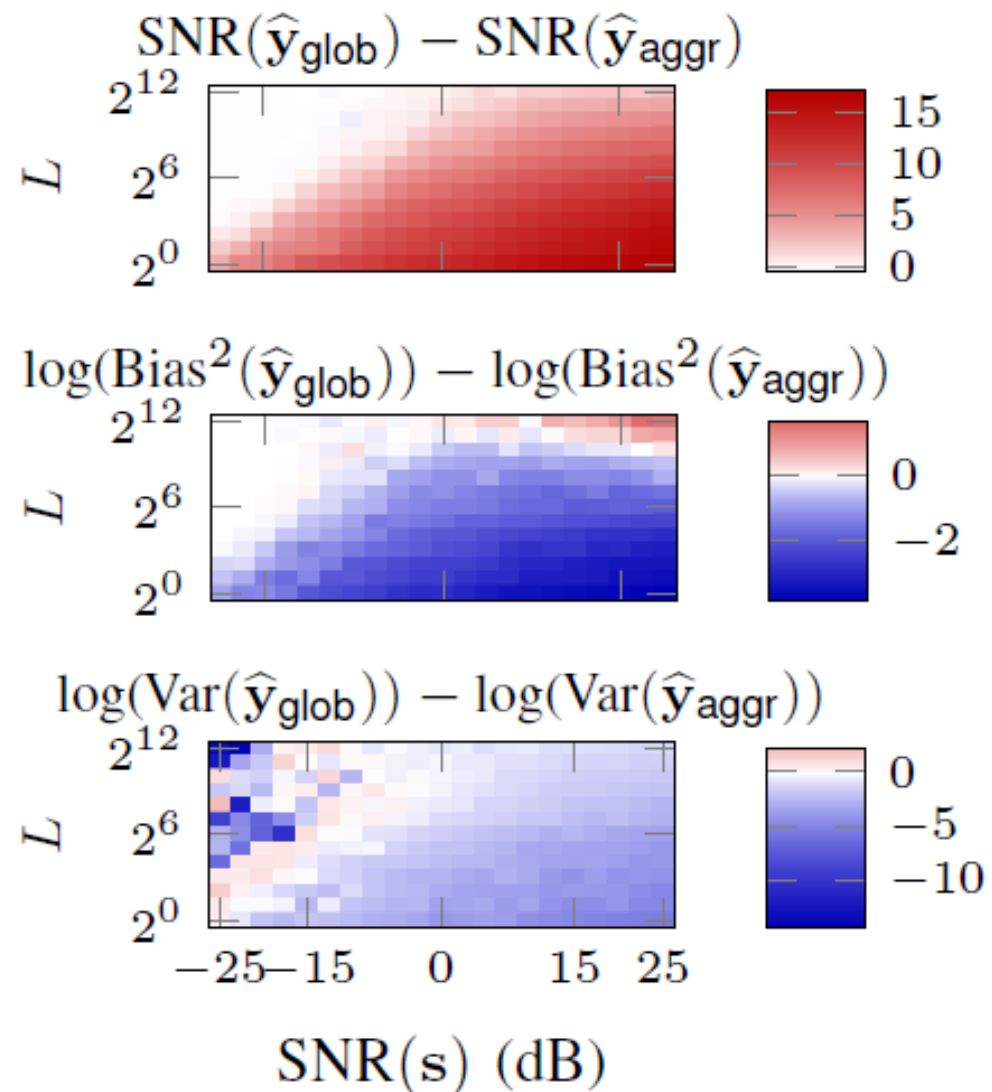
Global Optimization vs Partial Aggregation, ℓ_1 regularization, natural images



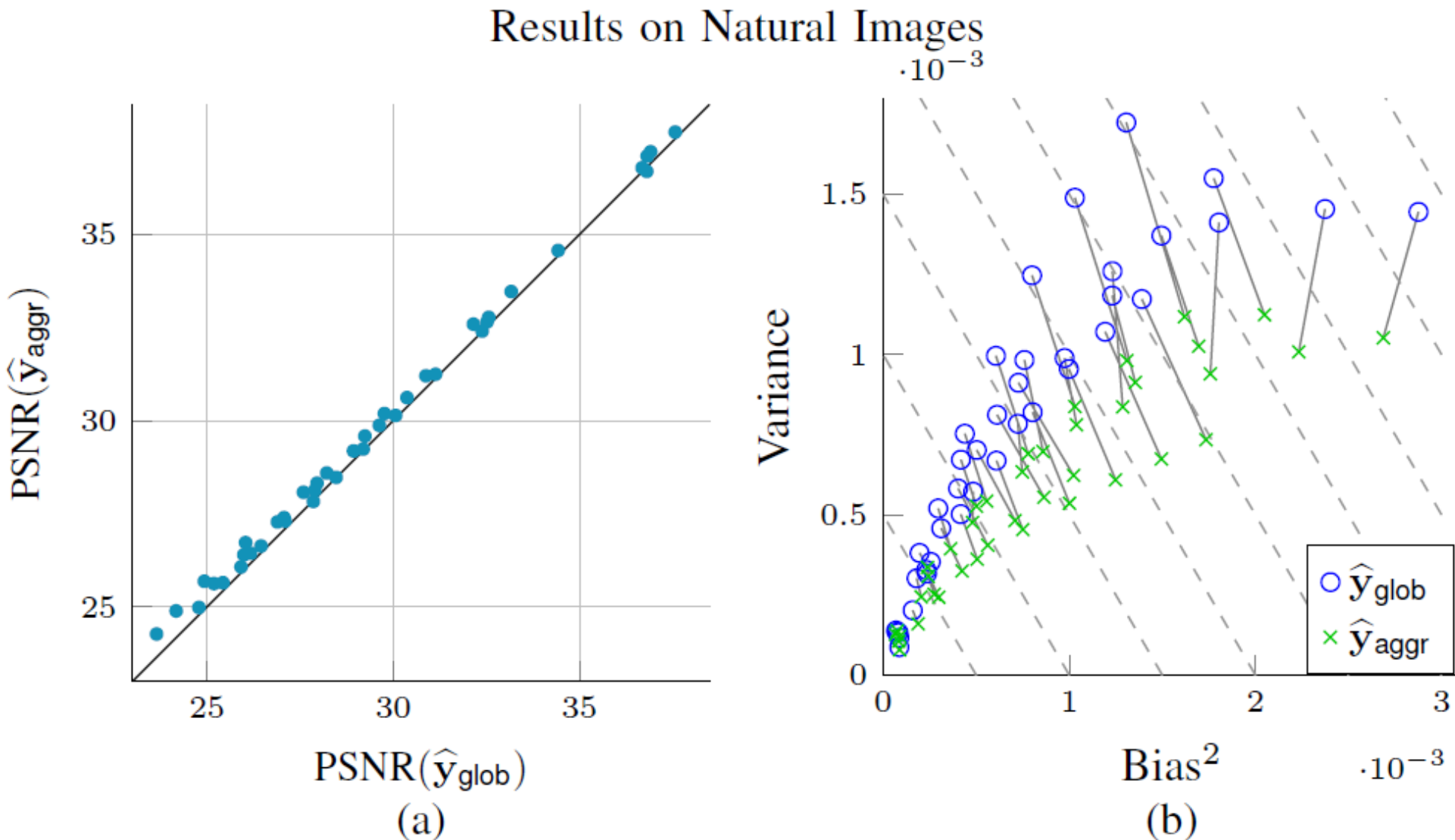
[SPARS 2017] D. Carrera, G. Boracchi, A. Foi and B. Wohlberg , “*Sparse denoising: aggregation versus global optimization*” SPARS 2017

Global Optimization vs Partial Aggregation, ℓ_1 regularization, synthetic and very sparse images

Results under Extreme Sparsity



Global Optimization vs Partial Aggregation, ell o regularization, natural images



Global Optimization vs Partial Aggregation, ello regularization, synthetic and very sparse images

Results under Extreme Sparsity

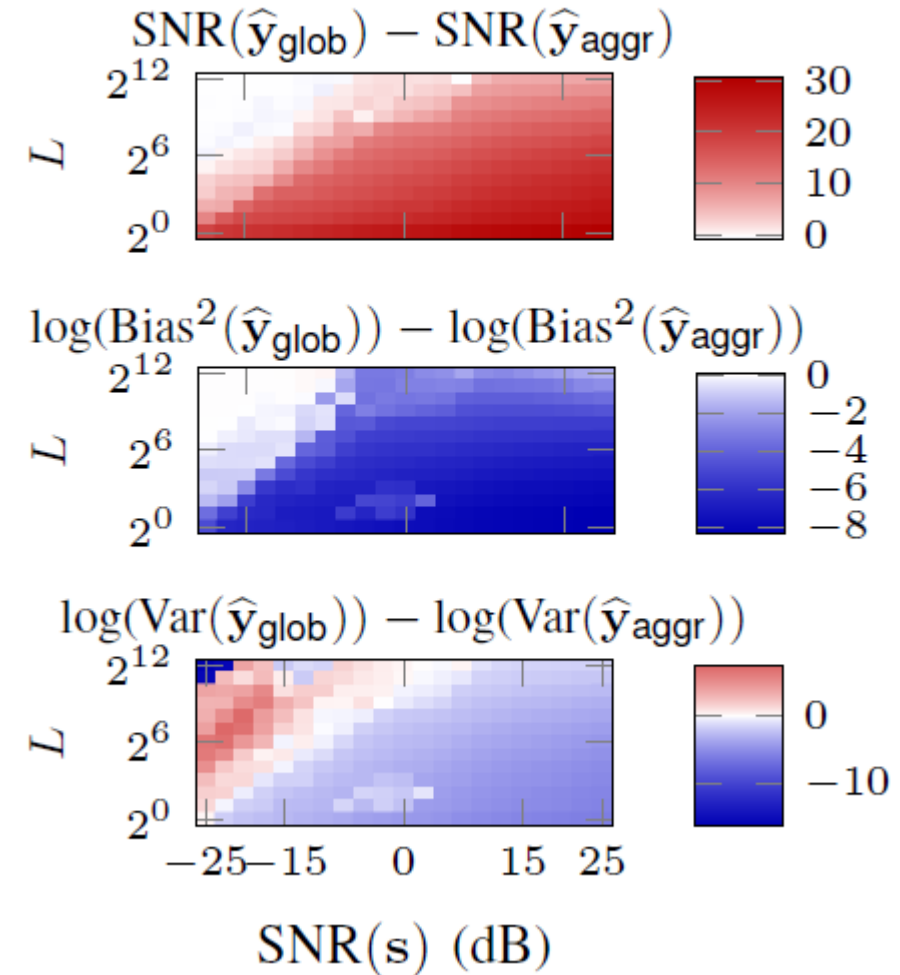


Image Inpainting

Image Inpainting



(a) Masked-Image

(b) Inpainted-Image

Image Formation Model

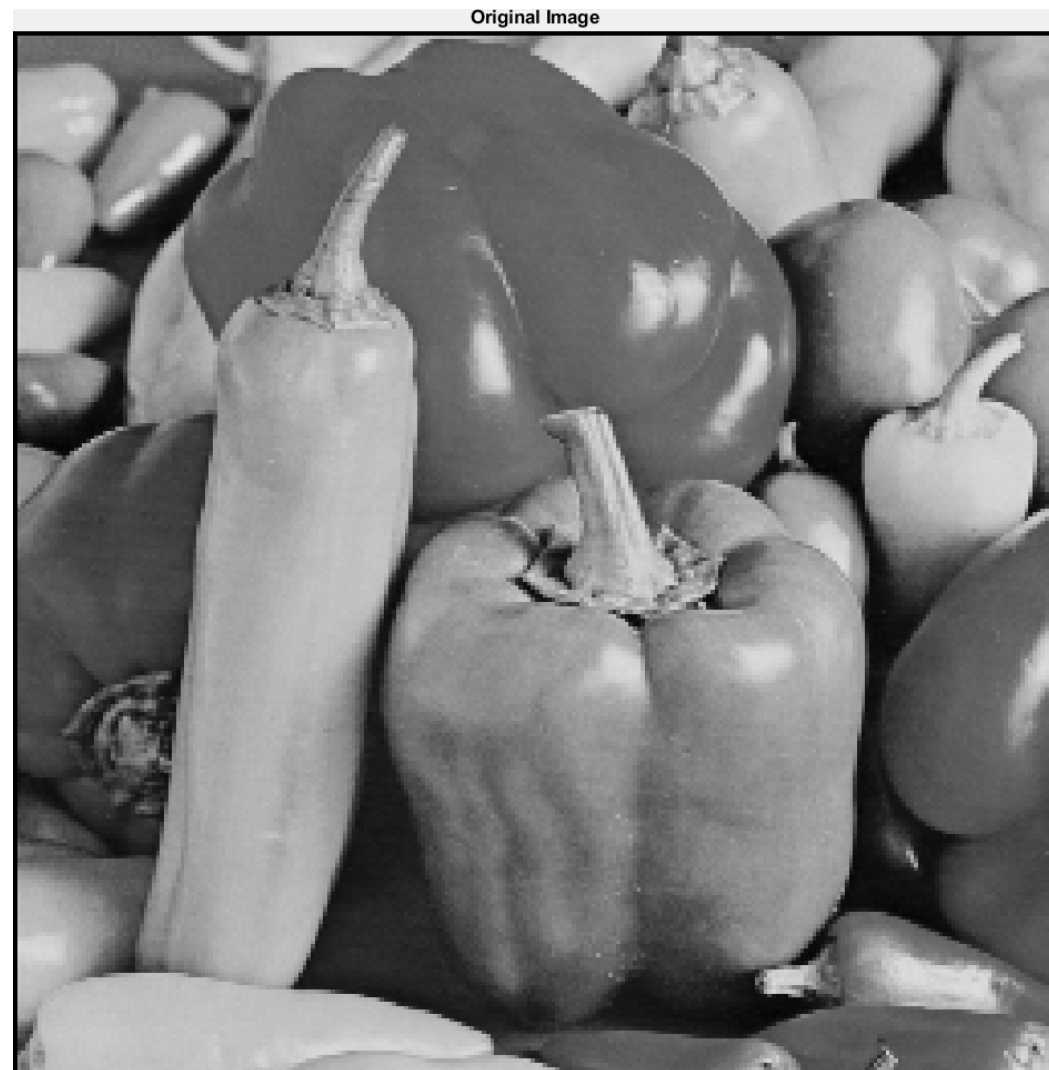
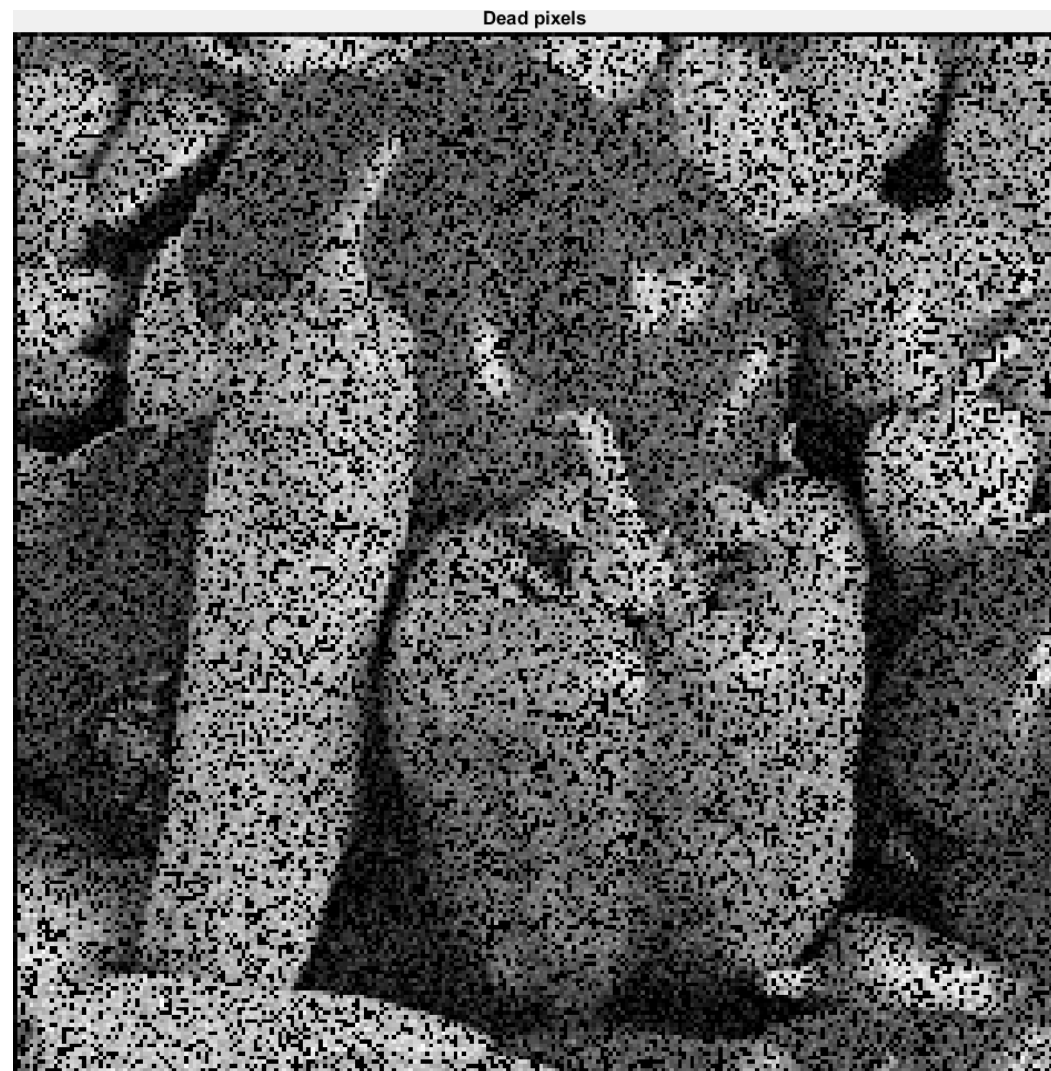


Image Inpainting



Assignment

Image Inpainting Enforcing Sparsity

Denoising via Sparse Coding

Take the setup of Assignment 3 (denoising via DCT)

- Load the dictionary provided (learned from natural images)
 - Add a constant atom and avoid average subtraction
- Replace the analysis and the thresholding of patch s_i with the sparse coding using the OMP with respect to the inpainted dictionary $P_i D$. Use as a threshold for residual

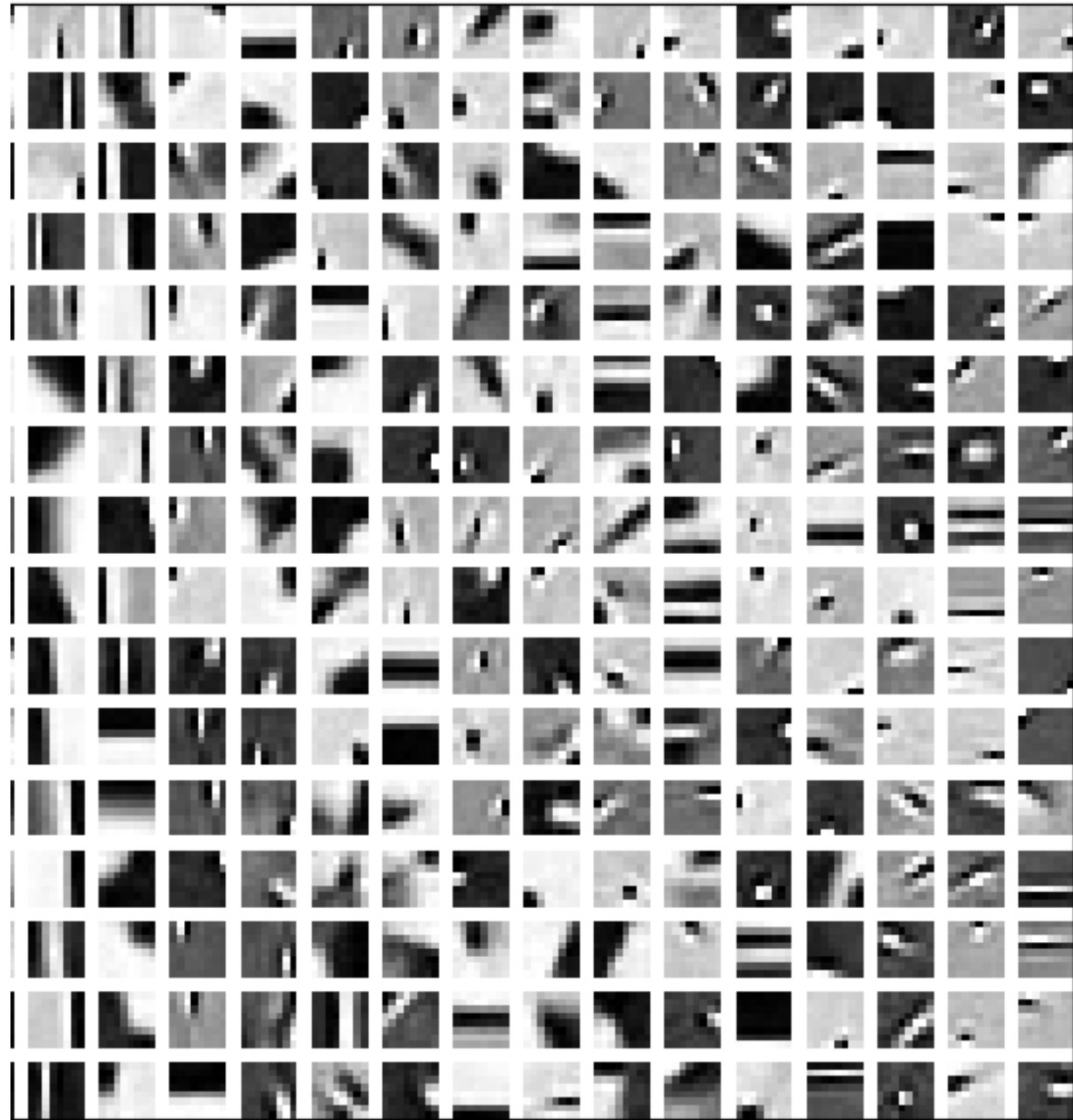
$$\delta_i = 1.15 \cdot p \cdot \sigma \cdot \sqrt{\frac{p^2 - m}{p^2}}$$

being m the number of zero entries in s_i

- Perform the synthesis of each patch using the original dictionary D

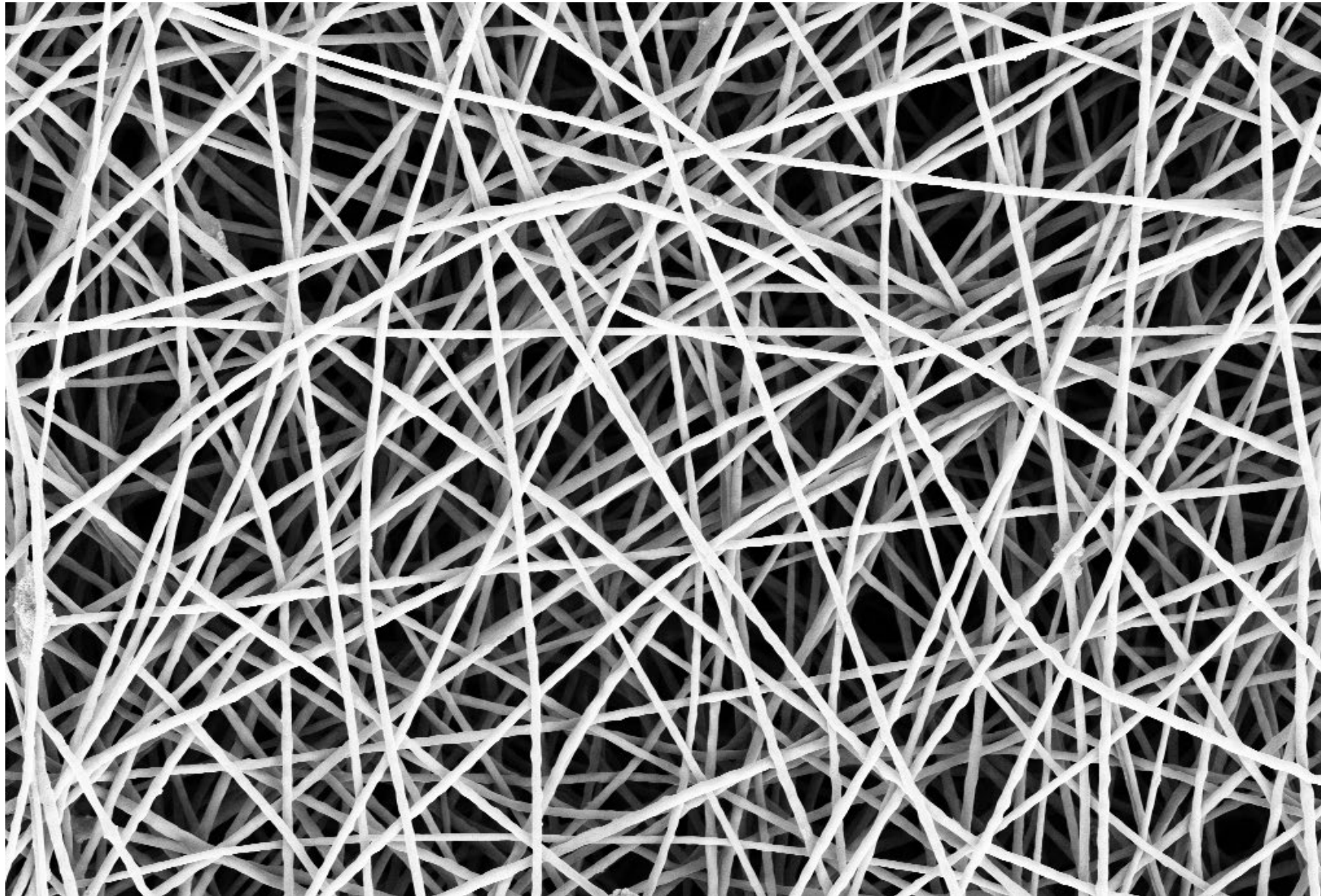
The Dictionary from KSVD

+ remember to add a constant atom!

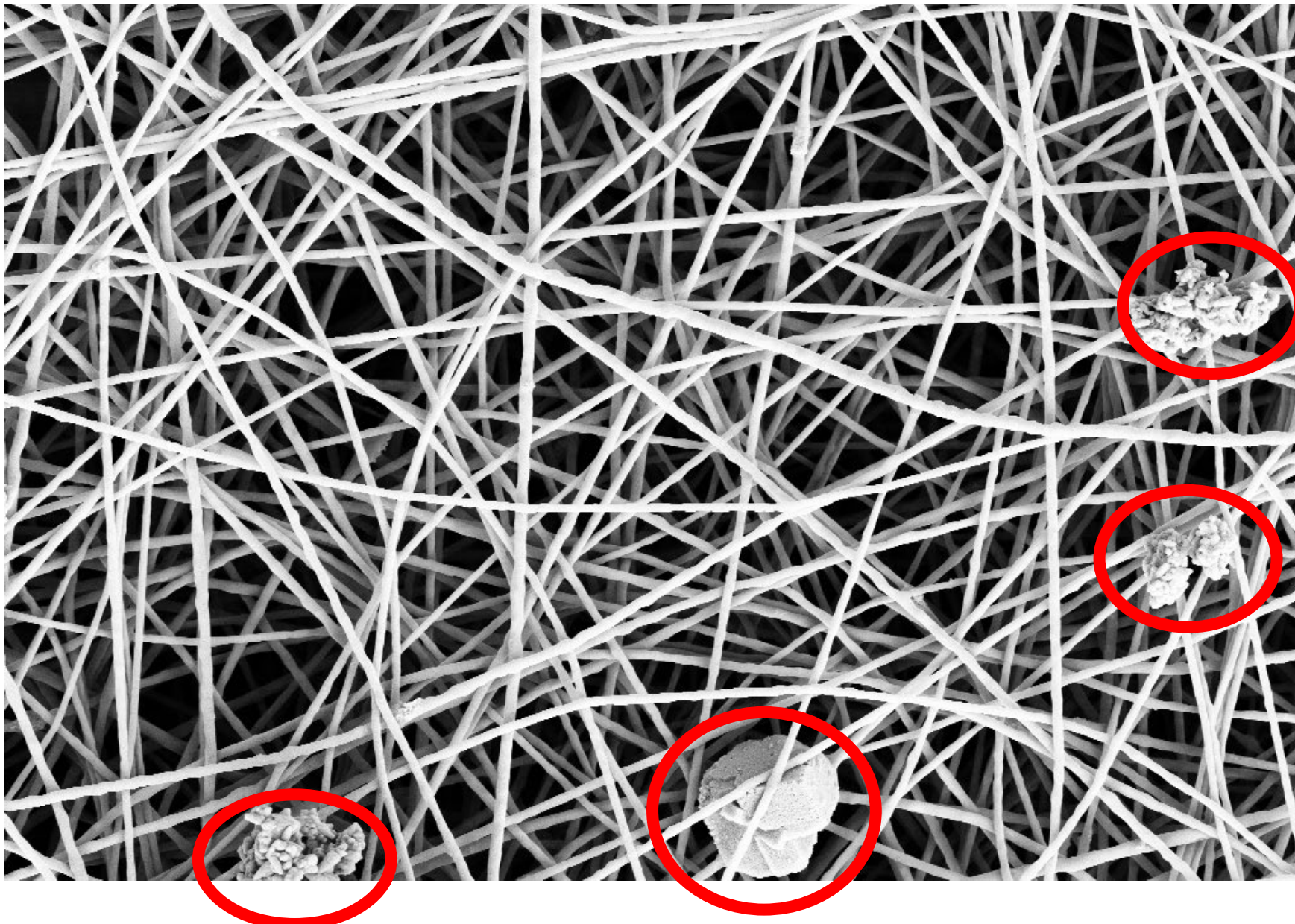


Anomaly Detection

The anomaly detection problem



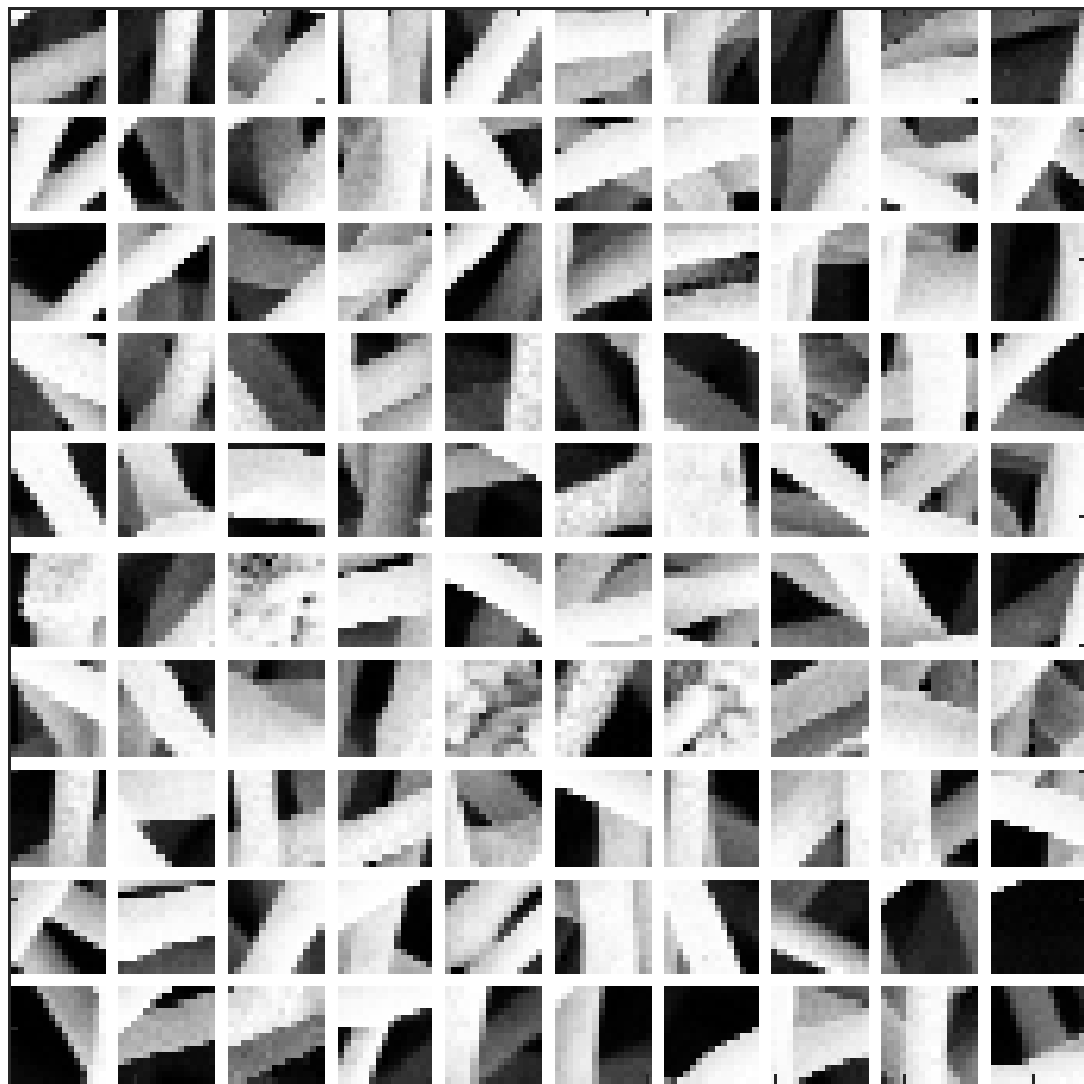
The anomaly detection problem



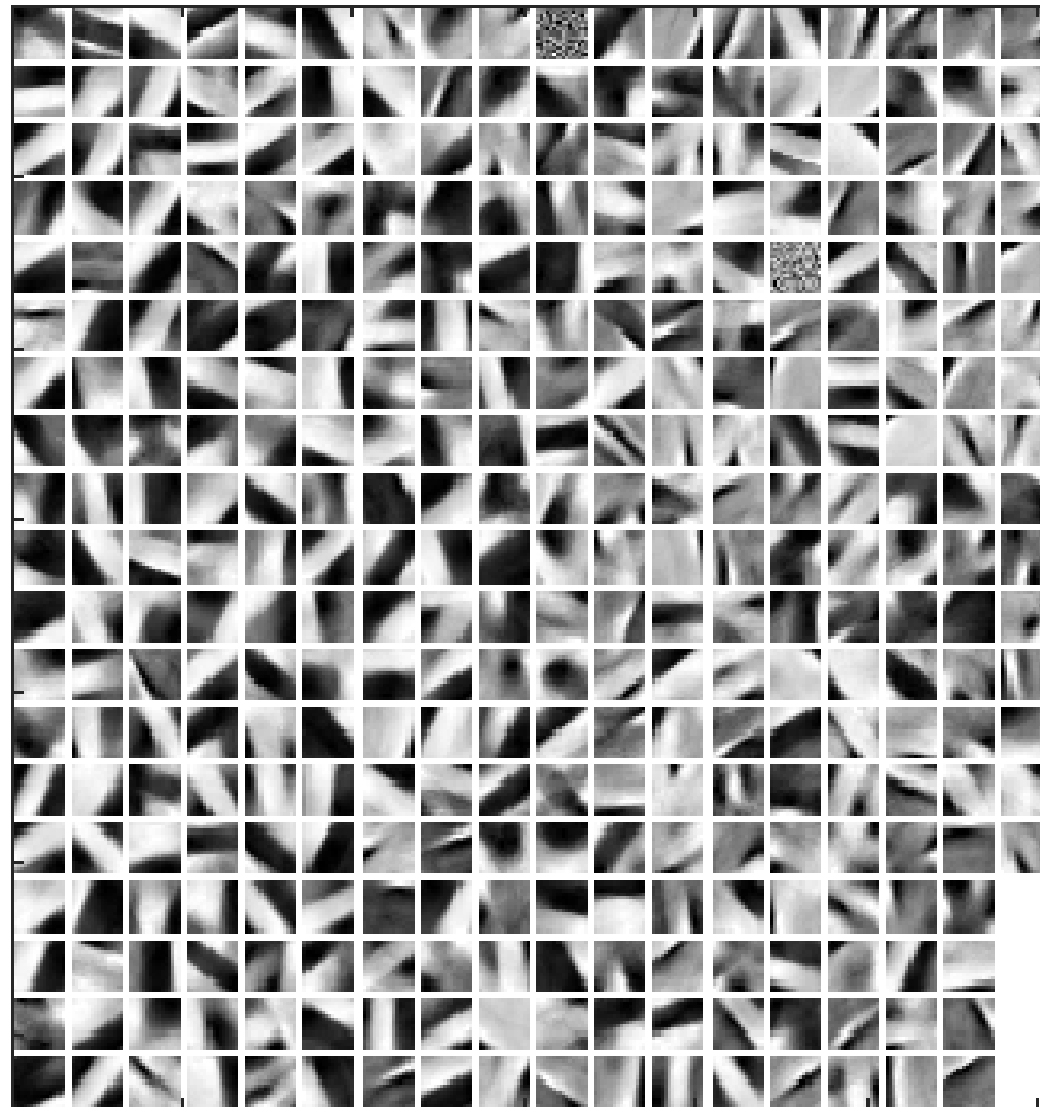
The anomaly mask



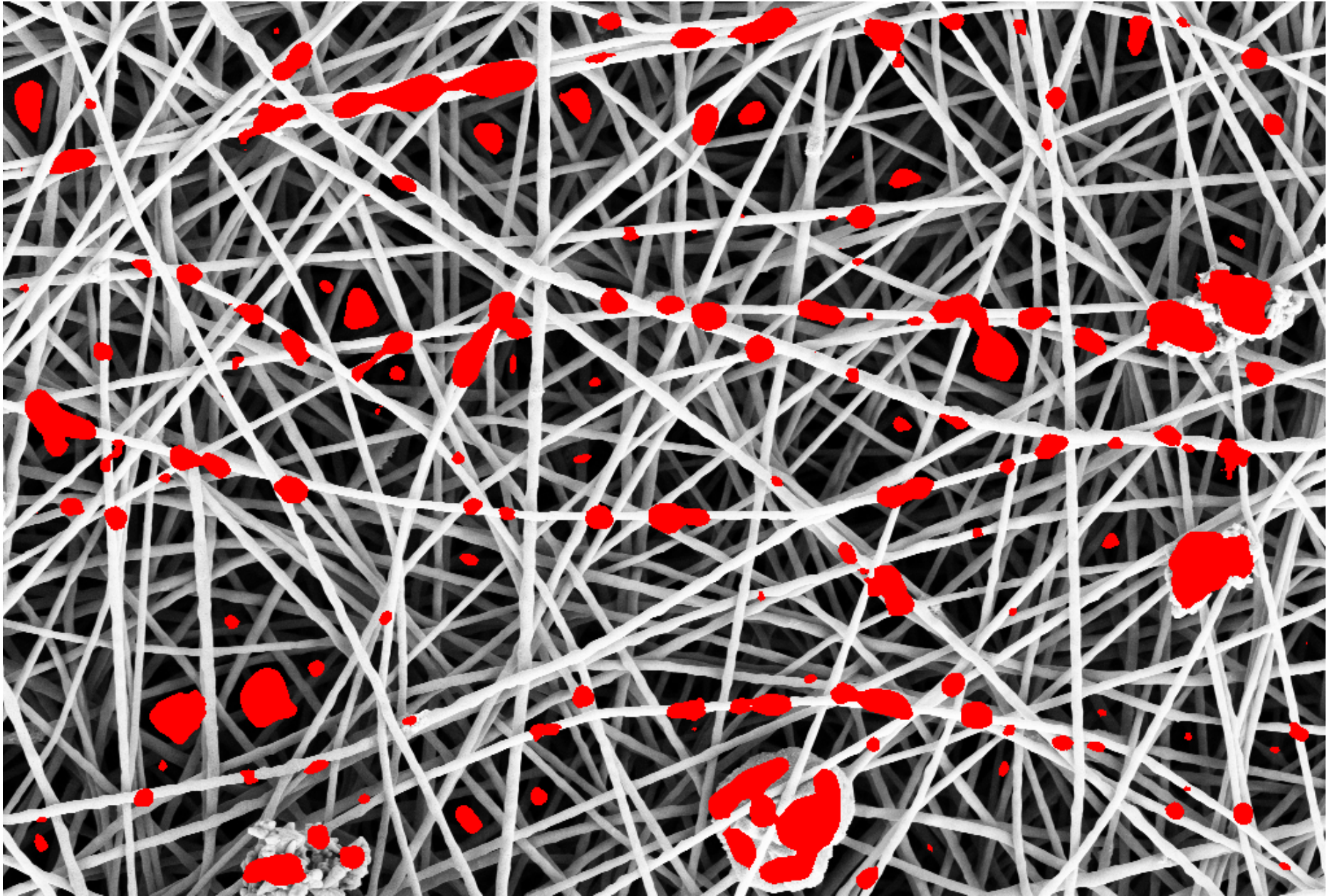
Normal Patches



Learned Dictionary



Detections



The Typical approach

Most of the considered methods

1. **Estimate a model** describing **normal data** (background model)
2. Use the background model to provide, for each test signal/patch, an **anomaly score**, or measure of rareness
3. Apply a **decision rule** to the anomaly score to detect anomalies (typically thresholding)
4. **[optional]** Perform **post-processing** operations to enforce smooth detections and avoid isolated pixels that are not consistent with neighbourhoods

Remark: Statistical-based approaches seen before uses as background model the statistical distribution $\hat{\phi}_0$ and a statistic as anomaly score

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4. [optional] Perform **post-processing** operations to enforce smooth detections and average over neighbourhoods

The background model is used to bring an image patch into the “random variable world” consistent with

Remark: Statistical-based approaches seen before uses as background model the statistical distribution $\hat{\phi}_0$ and a statistic as anomaly score

The Typical approach

Most of the considered methods

1. Estimate a model describing normal data (background model)
2. Use the background model to provide, for each test signal/patch, an **anomaly score**, or measure of rareness
3. Apply a **decision rule** to the anomaly score to detect anomalies (typically thresholding)

4. **[optional]** Perform **post-processing** operations to enforce smooth detections and neighbourhoods

Remark: Statistical-model the statistic

Once “having applied” the background model, one can use **anomaly detection methods for the “random variable world”**.

This might require fitting an **additional model**

background anomaly score

The Typical approach

Most of the considered methods

1. Estimate a model describing normal data (background model)
2. Use the background model to provide, for each test signal/patch, an **anomaly score**, or measure of rareness
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4. **[optional]** Perform **post-processing** operations to enforce smooth detections and avoid isolated pixels that are not consistent with neighbourhoods

Remark: Statistical-based approaches seen before uses as background model the statistical

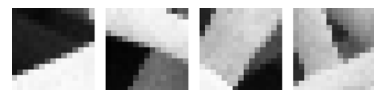
And it is important to control the anomaly score False Positive Rate

The three major ingredients

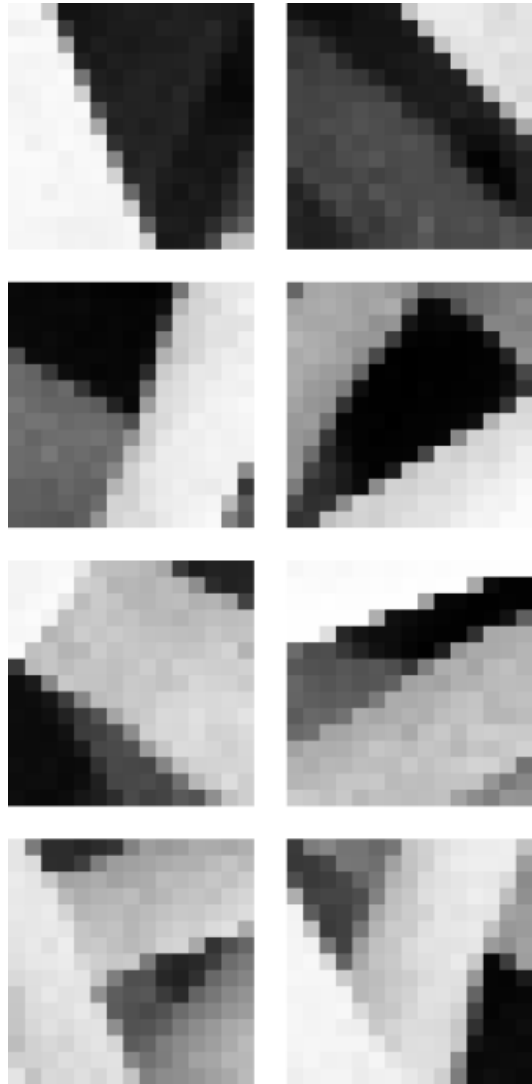
Most detection algorithms have three major ingredients:

- The **background model** \mathcal{M} , learned from normal data
- The **statistic / anomaly score**: $\text{err}(\mathbf{s})$, $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{s})$, $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{s})$, ...
- **Decision rule** to detect, e.g. $\text{err}(\mathbf{s}) \geq \gamma$ possibly controlling the FPR, as in other statistical detection methods

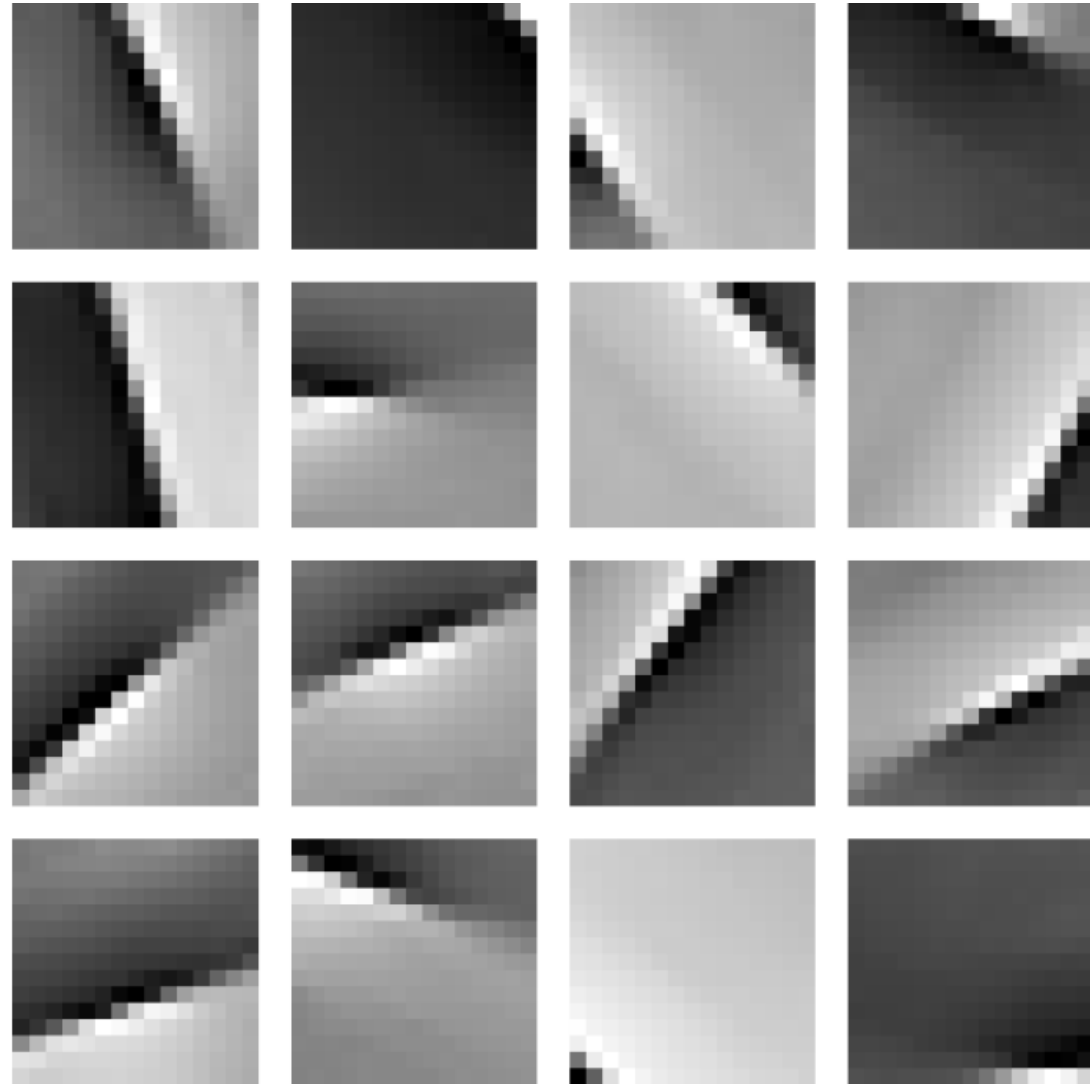
A Dictionary learned from normal patches



Example of training patches



Few learned atoms (BPDN-based learning)



SPARSE REPRESENTATIONS AS FEATURE EXTRACTORS

To assess the conformance of \mathbf{s}_c with D we solve the following

Sparse coding:

$$\mathbf{x}_c = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|\mathbf{D}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}_c\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1, \quad \lambda > 0$$

which is the BPDN formulation and we solve using ADMM.

The penalized ℓ^1 formulation has more degrees of freedom in the reconstruction, **the conformance of \mathbf{s} with D have to be assessed monitoring both terms of the functional**

Features extracted from sparse coding

Features then include both the **reconstruction error**

$$\text{err}(\mathbf{s}_c) = \|D\mathbf{x}_c - \mathbf{s}_c\|_2^2$$

and **the sparsity** of the representation

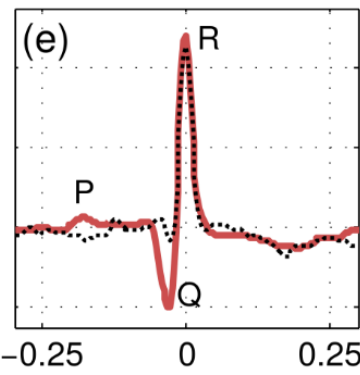
$$\|\mathbf{x}_c\|_1$$

Thus obtaining a **data-driven feature vector**

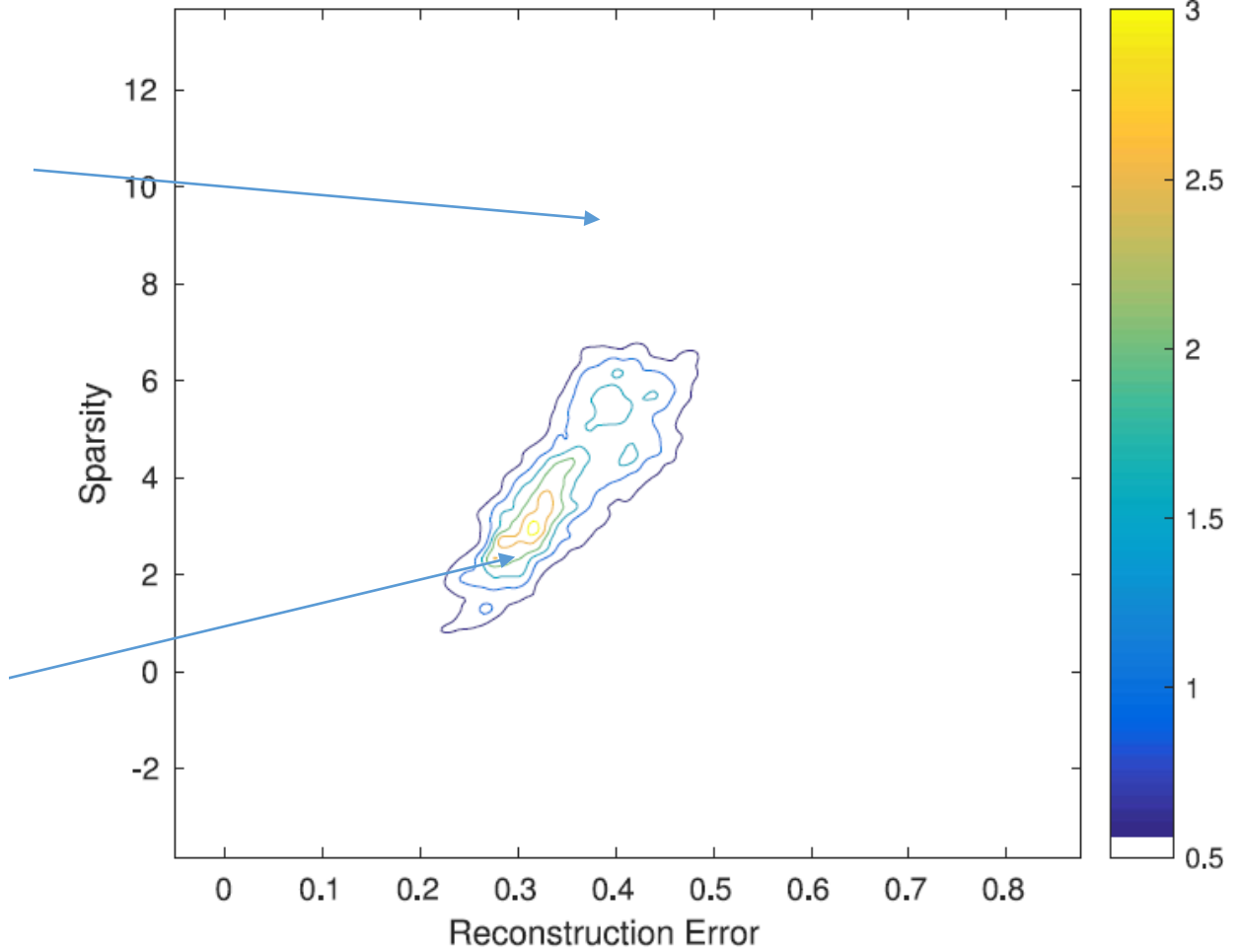
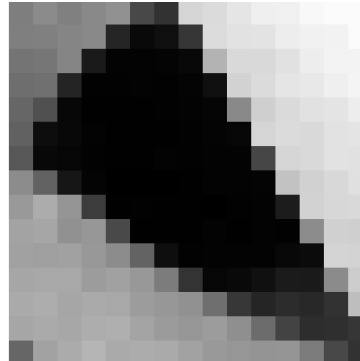
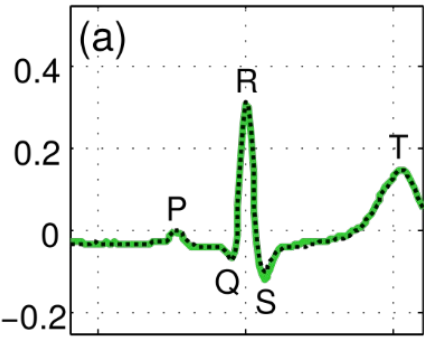
$$\mathbf{f}_c = \begin{bmatrix} \|D\mathbf{x}_c - \mathbf{s}\|_2^2 \\ \|\mathbf{x}_c\|_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Density-based monitoring

Anomalies



Normal data



FEATURES EXTRACTED FROM SPARSE CODING

Training:

- Learn from S the dictionary D
- **Compute** the sparse representation w.r.t. D , thus features \mathbf{x} over the validation set V , such that $V \cap S = \emptyset$
- Learn from V , the distribution $\hat{\phi}_0$ of normal features vectors \mathbf{x} and the threshold γ .

The model for anomaly detection is $(D, \hat{\phi}_0, \gamma)$

Testing:

- Perform sparse coding of a test signal \mathbf{s} , thus get the feature vector \mathbf{x}
- Detect anomalies when $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{s}) = \hat{\phi}_0(\mathbf{x}) < \gamma$

FEATURES EXTRACTED FROM SPARSE CODING

Training:

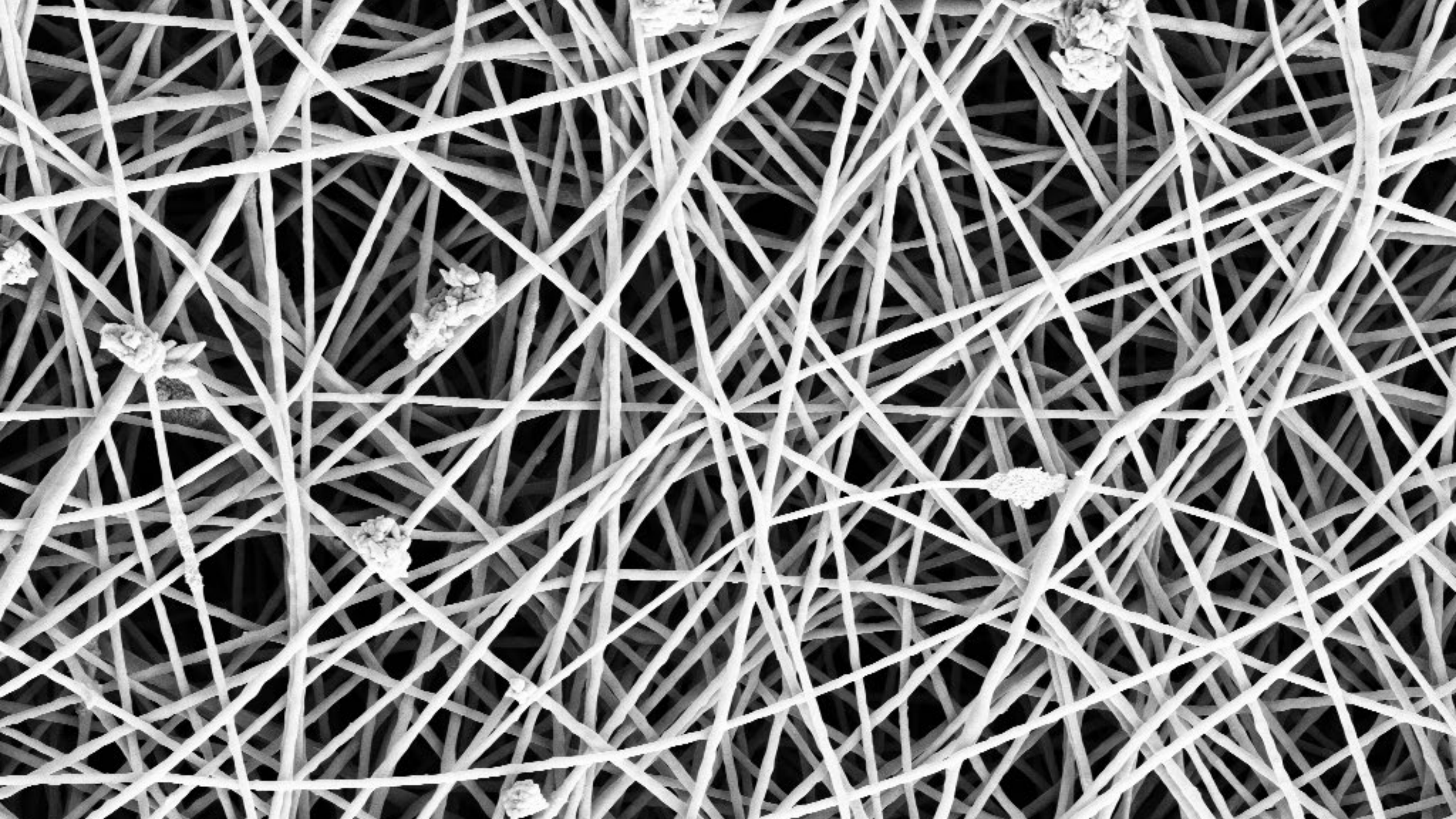
- Learn from S the dictionary D
- **Compute** the sparse representation w.r.t. D , thus features x over the validation set V , such that $V \cap S = \emptyset$
- Learn $\hat{\psi}_0(x)$ with $\hat{\psi}_0(x) = \arg \min_{\psi} \|\psi\|_1$ subject to $\|D\psi - x\|_2 \leq \gamma$ threshold γ .

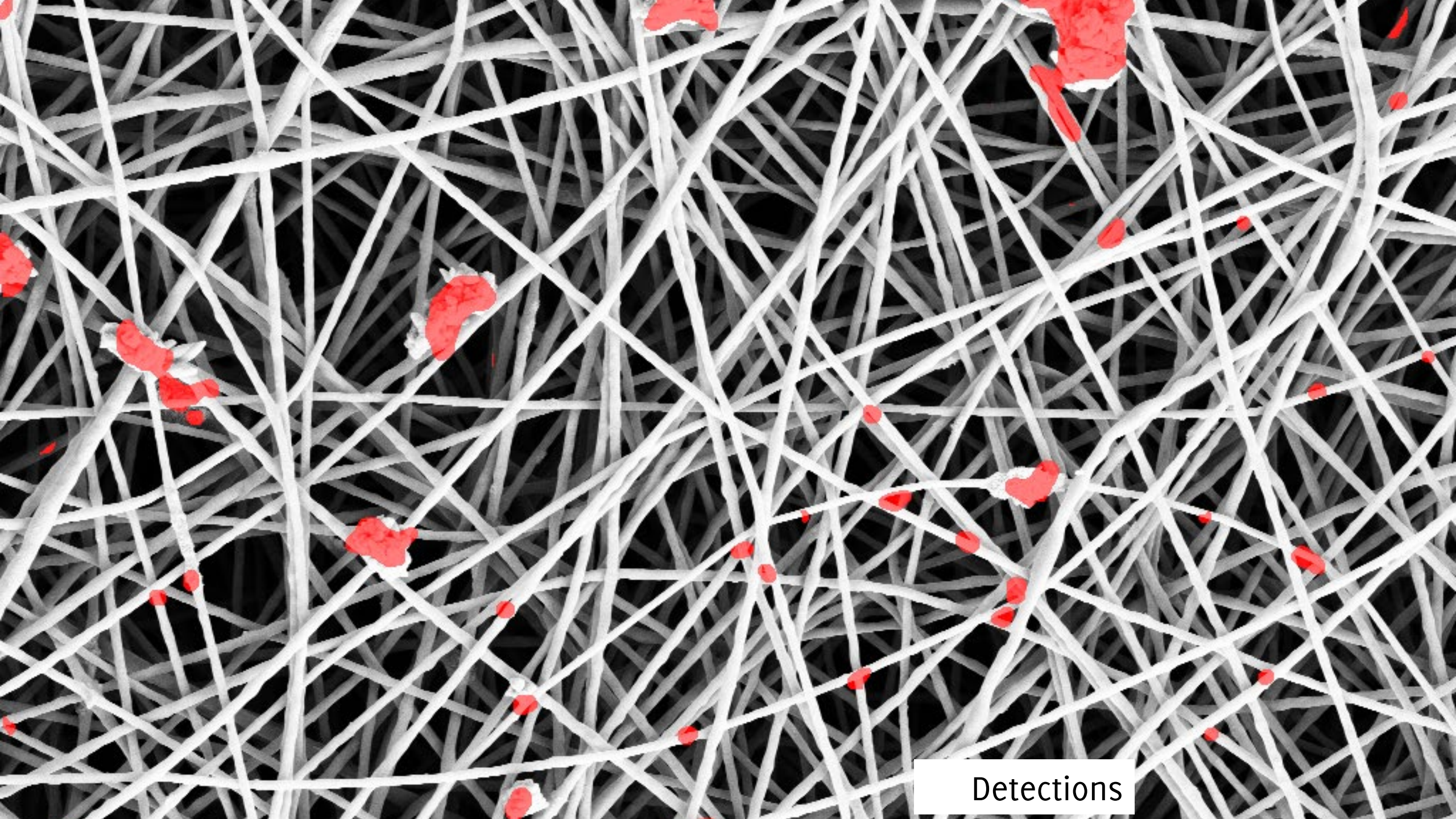
The model

Testing:

- Perform $\hat{\psi}_0(x)$
- Detect anomalies when $\|\hat{\psi}_0(x)\|_1 > \gamma$

This is rather a flexible solution and can be adapted when operating conditions changes (e.g. heartrate changes, images are acquired at different zooming level)





Detections

Convolutional Sparsity

Convolutional sparse models are a recent development of sparse representations

$$\mathbf{s} \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{d}_i \circledast \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i, \quad \text{s. t. } \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \text{ is sparse}$$

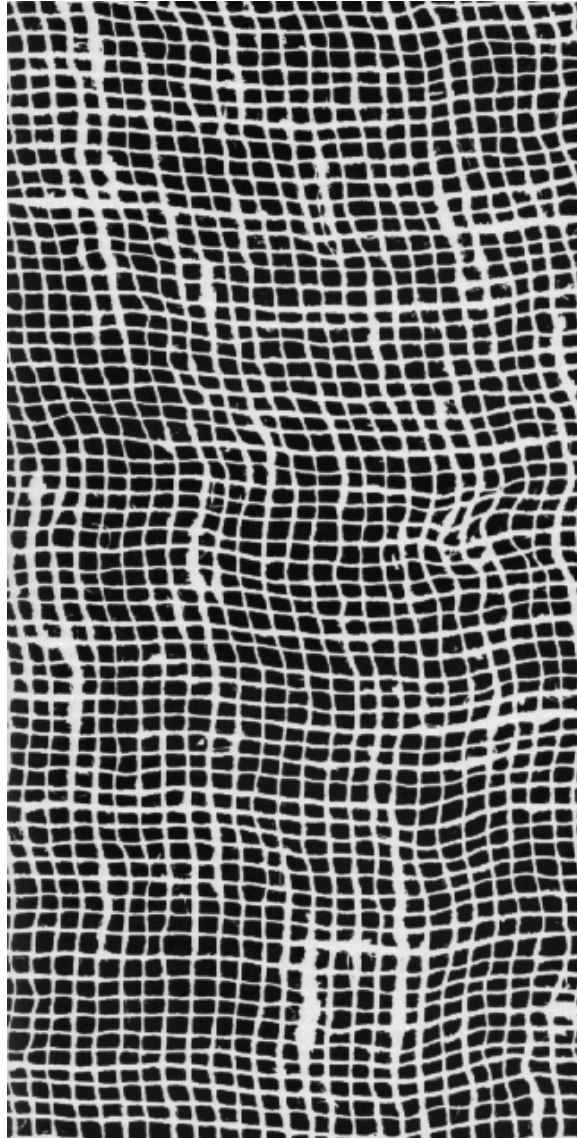
where a signal \mathbf{s} is **entirely encoded** as the sum of n convolutions between a filter \mathbf{d}_i and a coefficient map $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i$

Pros:

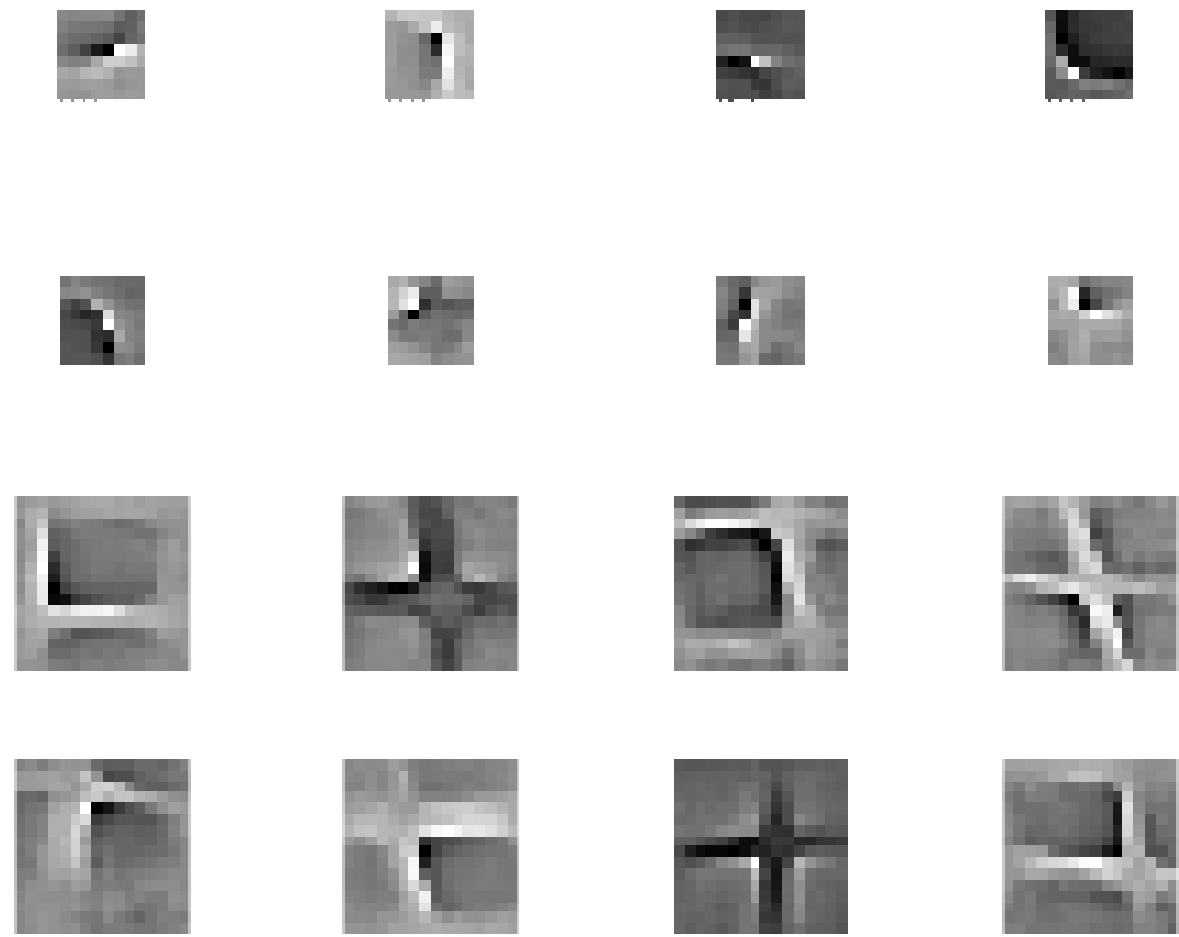
- Translation invariant representation
- Few small filters are typically required
- Filters exhibit very specific image structures
- Easy to use filters having different size

Example of Learned Filters

Training Image



Learned Filters



Convolutional Sparsity for Anomaly Detection

If we consider the convolutional sparse coding

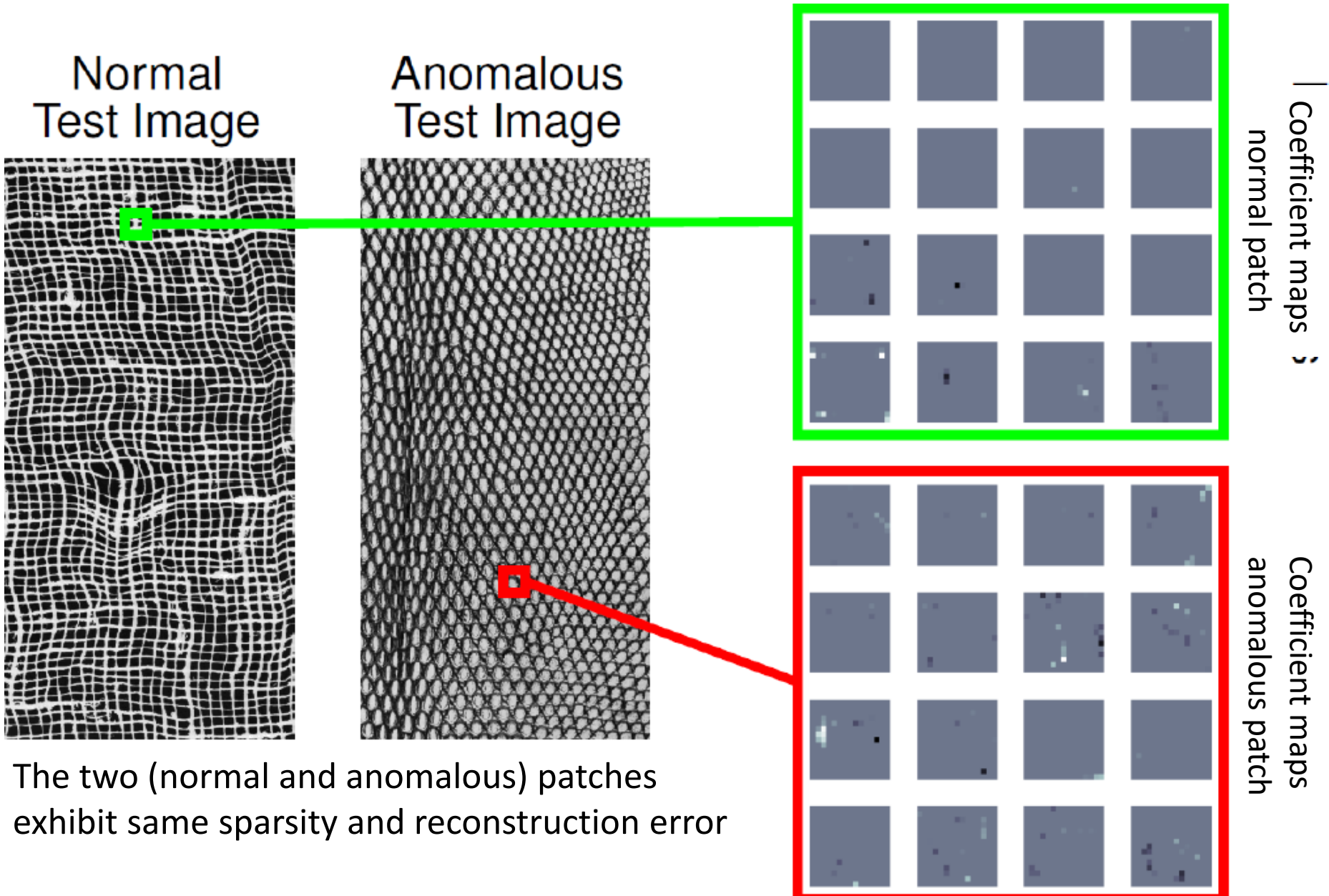
$$\{\hat{\alpha}\} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\{\alpha\}_n} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{d}_i \circledast \alpha_i - \mathbf{s} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \|\alpha_i\|_1$$

we can build the feature vector as:

$$\mathbf{x}_c = \begin{bmatrix} \left\| \prod_c \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{d}_i \circledast \hat{\alpha}_i - \mathbf{s} \right) \right\|_2^2 \\ \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \prod_c \hat{\alpha}_i \right\|_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

...but unfortunately, detection performance are rather poor

Sparsity is too loose a criterion for detection



Convolutional Sparsity for Anomaly Detection

Contributions:

- Design a **feature vector** that accounts for the number of filters that are activated within each region

$$x_c = \begin{bmatrix} \left\| \prod_c \left(\sum_{i=1}^m d_i \odot \hat{\alpha}_i - s \right) \right\|_2^2 \\ \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \prod_c \hat{\alpha}_i \right\|_1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \prod_c \hat{\alpha}_i \right\|_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Convolutional Sparsity for Anomaly Detection

Contributions:

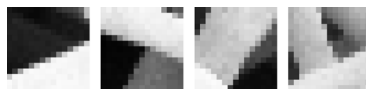
- Design a **feature vector** that accounts for the number of filters that are activated within each region
- Design an **efficient sparse coding** algorithm that includes a term penalizing the local group sparsity

$$\{\hat{\alpha}\} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\{\alpha\}_m} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{d}_i \odot \alpha_i - \mathbf{s} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^m \|\alpha_i\|_1 + \xi \sum_c \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \prod_c \alpha_i \right\|_2$$

Counteracting Domain Shift in Anomaly Detection

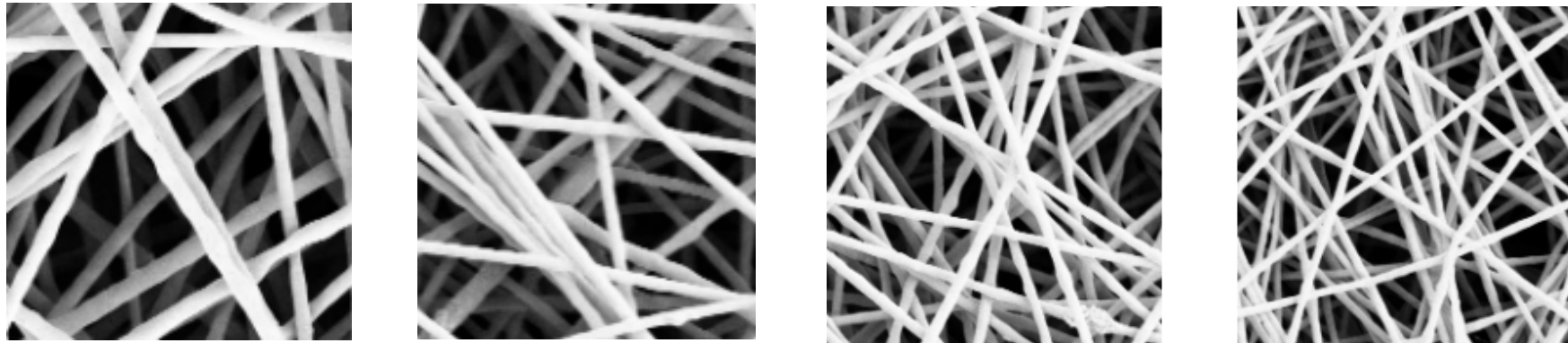
Adaptation Strategies

NEED FOR ADAPTATION



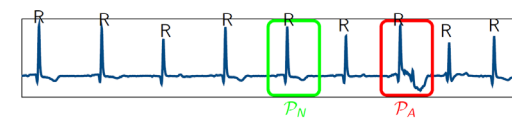
A challenge often occurring when performing online monitoring

Test data might differ from training data: need of adaptation, otherwise anomaly detection methods would be ineffective



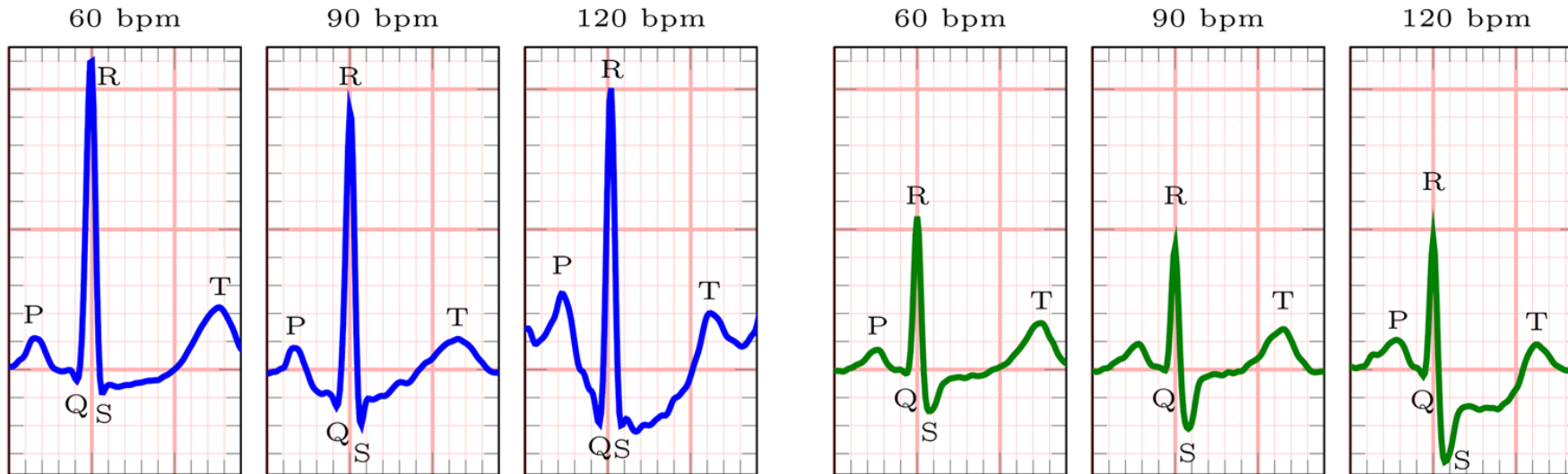
**Defects have to be detected at different zooming levels,
that might not be present in the training set.**

NEED FOR ADAPTATION



A challenge often occurring when performing online monitoring

Test data might differ from training data: need of adaptation, otherwise anomaly detection methods would be ineffective



The heartbeats get transformed when the heart rate changes: learned models have to be adapted according to the heart rate.

MODEL ADAPTATION

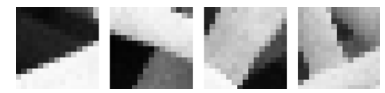
In the machine-learning literature these problems go under the name of transfer learning / domain adaptation

Transfer Learning (TL): adapt a model learned in the *source domain* (e.g. heartbeats at a given heartrate / fibers at a certain zoom level) to a *target domain* (e.g. heartbeats at an higher heartrate / fibers zoomed in or out)

Many TL methods have been designed for supervised / semi-supervised / unsupervised methods, depending on the availability of (annotated) data in the source and target domains.

In most anomaly detection settings, **no labels in the target data are provided** (typically they are not even provided in the source domain)

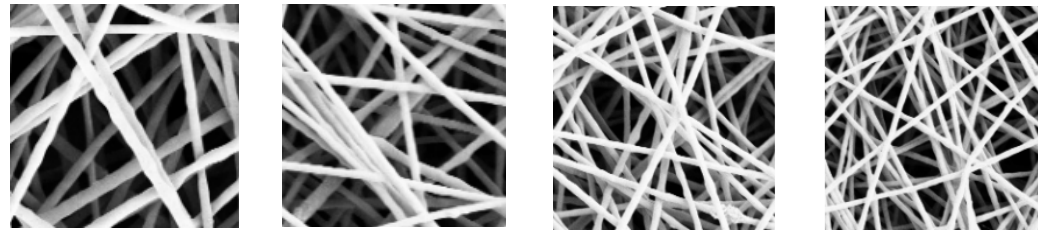
DOMAIN ADAPTATION ON QUALITY INSPECTION



SEM images can be acquired at different zooming levels

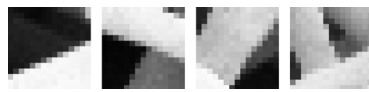
Solution:

- **Synthetically generate** training images at **different zooming levels**
- **Learn a dictionary D_i** at each scale
- Combine the learned dictionaries in a **multiscale dictionary D**



$$D = [D_1 \quad D_2 \quad D_3 \quad D_4]$$

DOMAIN ADAPTATION ON QUALITY INSPECTION



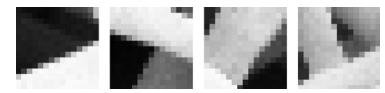
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Solution:

- **Synthetically generate** training images at **different zooming levels**
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- **Sparse-coding** including a penalized, **group sparsity term**

$$\alpha = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s} - D\mathbf{a}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{a}\|_1 + \mu \sum_i \|\mathbf{a}\|_2$$

DOMAIN ADAPTATION ON QUALITY INSPECTION



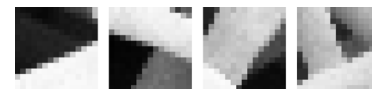
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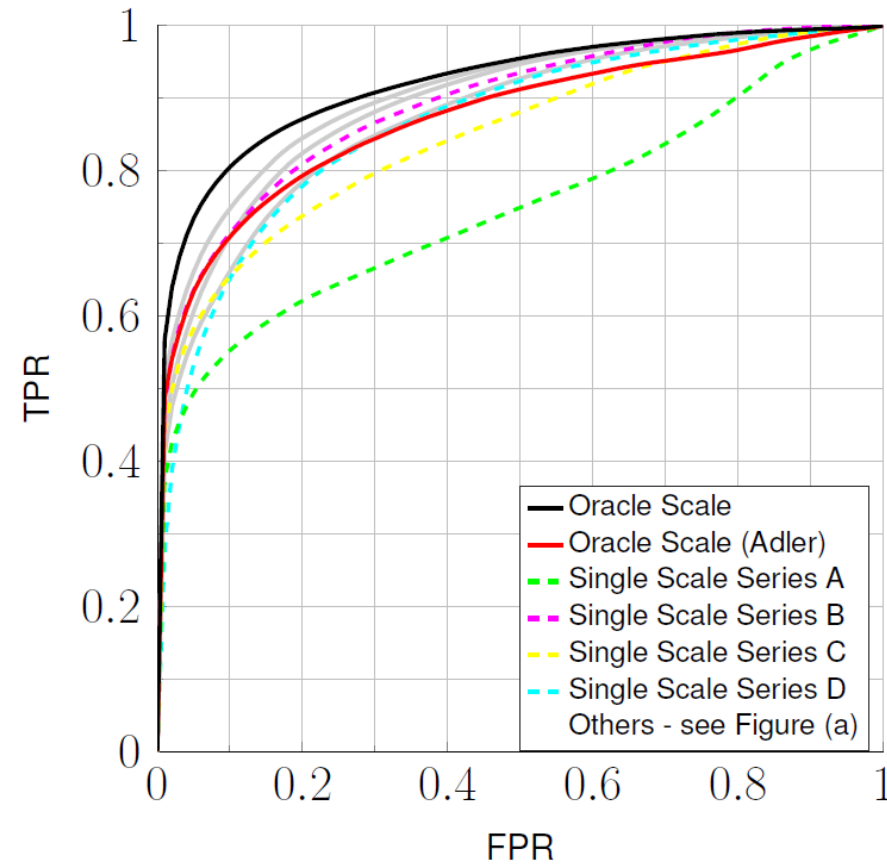
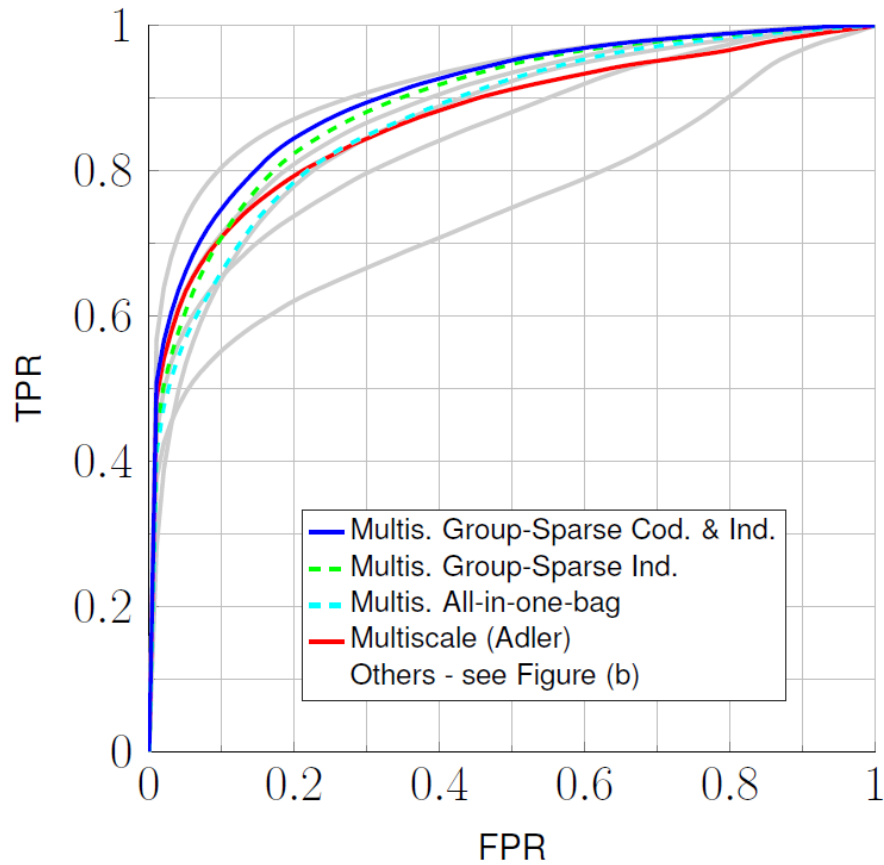
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- Combine the learned dictionaries in a **multiscale dictionary D**
- **Sparse-coding** including a penalized, **group sparsity term**
- Monitor a tri-variate feature vector

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} \|s - D\alpha\|_2^2 \\ \|\alpha\|_1 \\ \sum_i \|\alpha_i\|_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

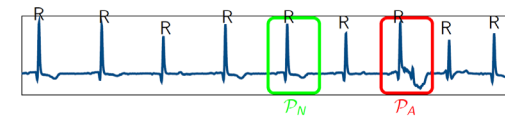
DOMAIN ADAPTATION ON QUALITY INSPECTION



Performance on SEM image dataset acquired at 4 different zooming levels (A,B,C,D). It is important to include group-sparsity regularization also in the sparse coding stage



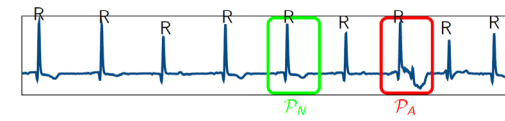
DOMAIN ADAPTATION FOR ONLINE ECG MONITORING



We propose to design linear transformations F_{r_1, r_0} to adapt user-specific dictionaries

$$D_{u, r_1} = F_{r_1, r_0} \cdot D_{u, r_0}, \quad F_{r_0, r_1} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

DOMAIN ADAPTATION FOR ONLINE ECG MONITORING

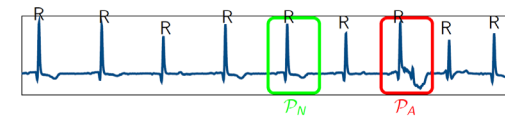


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Surprisingly **these transformations can be learned from a publicly available dataset** containing ECG recordings at different heart rates from several users.

LEARNING TRANSFORMATIONS



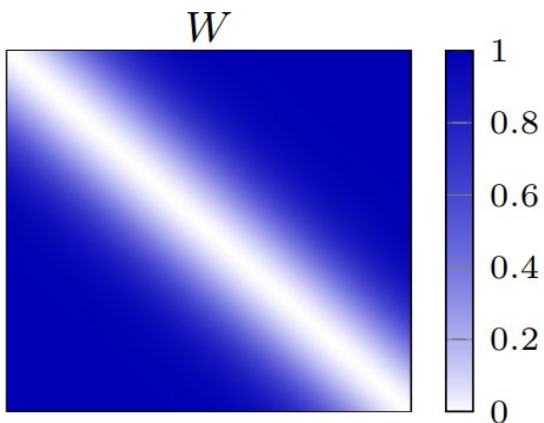
For each pair of heartrates (r_0, r_1) we learn F_{r_0, r_1} by solving the following optimization problem (involving data from L users of the LS-ST Dataset)

$$F_{r_1, r_0} = \operatorname{argmin}_{F, \{X_u\}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{u=1}^L \|S_{u, r_1} - F D_{u, r_0} X_u\|_F^2 + \mu \sum_{u=1}^L \|X_u\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W \odot F\|_2^2 + \xi \|W \odot F\|_1 \right)$$

Data-fidelity for heartbeats transformed by F , computed over all the L users

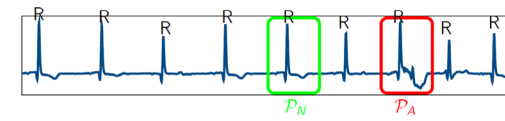
Sparsity

Weighted elastic net regularization to add stability and steer F towards desirable properties



The matrix W is penalizing less values along the diagonal of F , thus assuming transformation to be local, i.e., involving only neighbouring samples

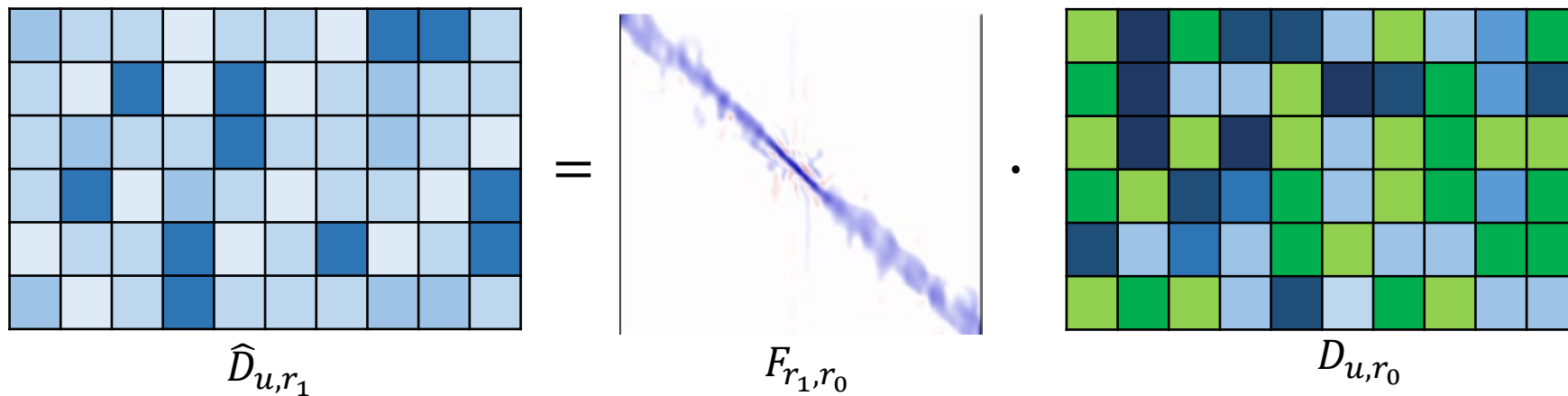
DOMAIN ADAPTATION FOR ONLINE ECG MONITORING



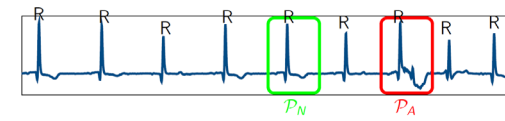
We adapt user-specific dictionaries through F_{r_1, r_0}

$$D_{u, r_1} = F_{r_1, r_0} \cdot D_{u, r_0}, \quad F_{r_0, r_1} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

User-independent transformations enable accurate mapping of user-specific dictionaries



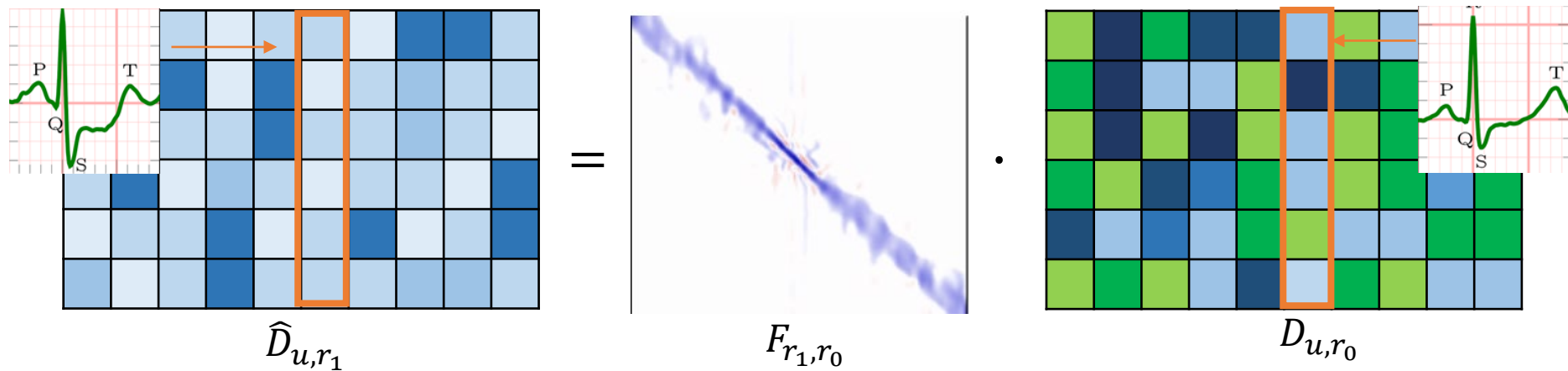
DOMAIN ADAPTATION FOR ONLINE ECG MONITORING



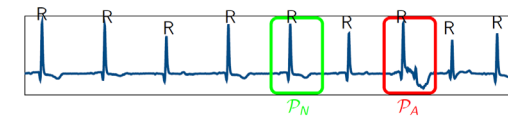
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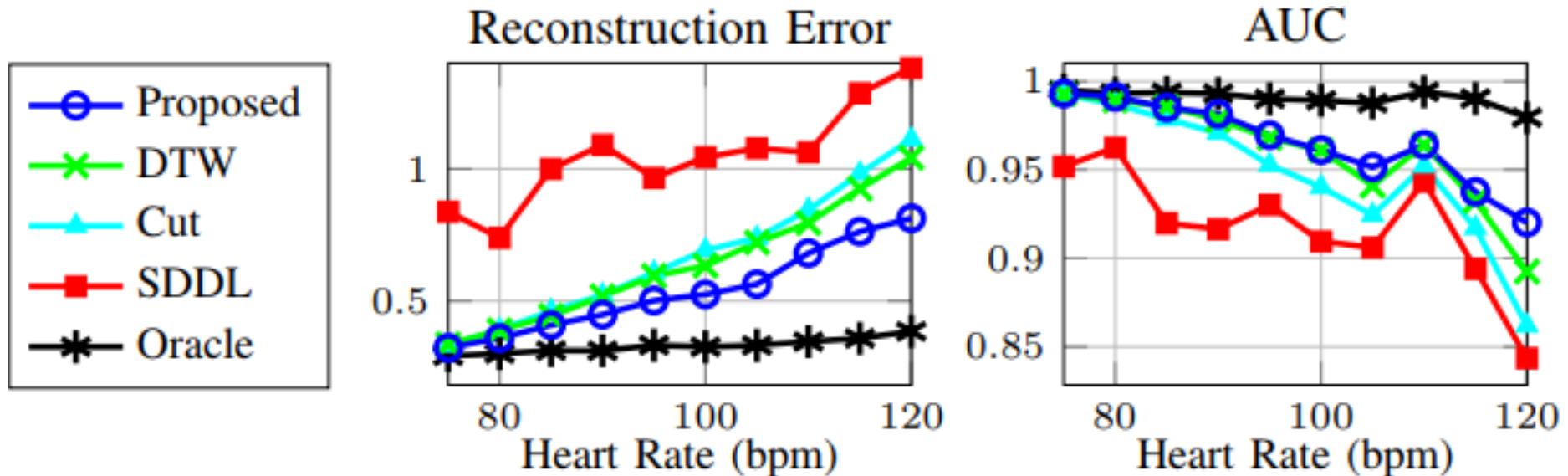
DICTIONARY ADAPTATION PERFORMANCE



The proposed domain adaptation solution achieves:

- lowest signal reconstruction error
- best anomaly detection performance (AUC)

Among alternative methods for dictionary adaptation



Assignments & References

Assignments

- Implement the anomaly detection based on l_1 sparse coding
 - Use 15×15 patches
 - You can improve the results by fine tuning all the parameters
- Implement the classification based on sparse representation

References

- ADMM: Wahlberg, Bo, et al. "An ADMM algorithm for a class of total variation regularized estimation problems." *IFAC Proceedings Volumes* 45.16 (2012): 83-88.
- Anomaly Detection:
 - Carrera, Diego, et al. "Defect detection in SEM images of nanofibrous materials." *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics* 13.2 (2016): 551-561.
 - Carrera, Diego, et al. "Scale-invariant anomaly detection with multiscale group-sparse models." *2016 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)*. IEEE, 2016.
- Classification: J. Wright, A. Y. Yang, A. Ganesh, S. S. Sastry, and Y. Ma, "Robust face recognition via sparse representation," *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 210–227, February 2009.
doi:10.1109/tpami.2008.79