

# Machine learning for inverse problems, learning from noisy data, and DNA storage

Reinhard Heckel

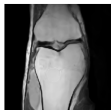
reinhard.heckel@tum.de

# Research

Machine learning, statistics, and signal processing.

Current focus:

- i. Deep learning for inverse problems



- ii. Learning from unlabeled data or noisy labels

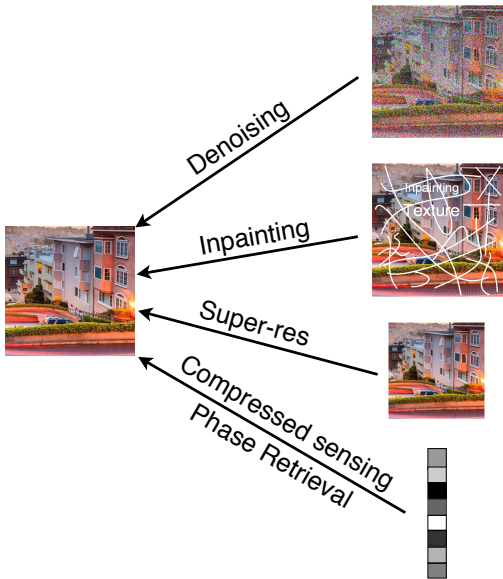


- iii. DNA data storage



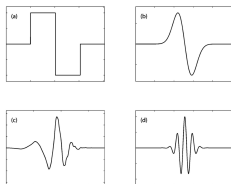
i. Deep learning for inverse problems

# Example of inverse problems



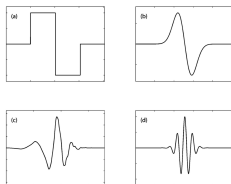
# Inverse problems

Traditionally solved with **handcrafted** models like wavelets/sparsity

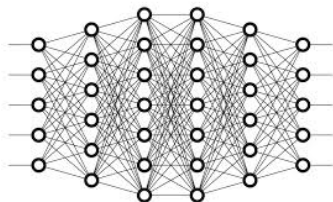


# Inverse problems

Traditionally solved with **handcrafted** models like wavelets/sparsity

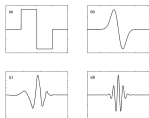


Now state-of-the-art based on **image-generating deep neural networks**



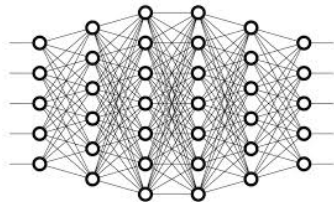
# The deep decoder

handcrafted

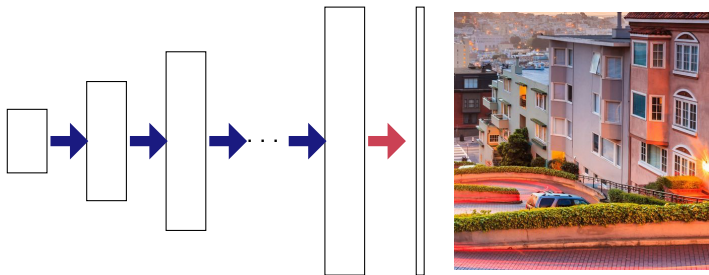


+

deep neural networks



# The deep decoder: handcrafted neural network

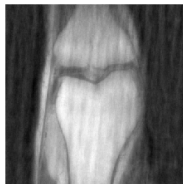


An image generating network that is

- not trained
- yields state-of-the-art compression and image restoration performance, for example for MRI imaging
- is underparameterized



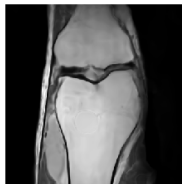
## Deep decoder for MRI



LS  
25.82dB



L1-Wav  
29.04dB



DD  
30.08dB

ii. Learning from unlabeled data or noisy labels

# Learning from examples

- 1 Collect candidate examples for example via google image search
- 2 Labeling the candidate images
- 3 Training a deep network

# An AI company - what do these people do?



## An AI company - what do these people do?



Yan Cong for The NYT. “Workers at the headquarters of Ruijin Technology Company. They identify objects in images to help artificial intelligence make sense of the world.”

Labeling is the most expensive step

Labeling is the most expensive step

Labeling is the most expensive step

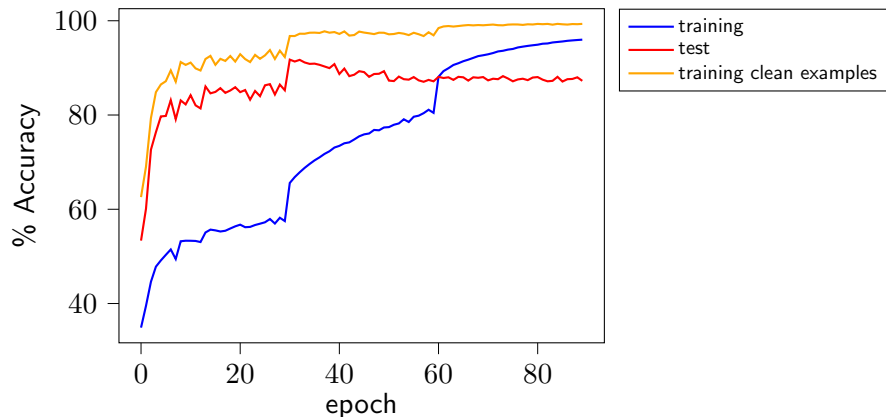
- How to use the human workers most efficiently with active learning?



Labeling is the most expensive step

- How to use the human workers most efficiently with active learning?
- Don't label - learn from noisy candidates

## Training a deep network on noisy candidates



- Deep nets fit correct examples faster than wrong ones
- Early stopping enables training on noisy examples!

## ii. DNA data storage

# DNA data storage



# DNA data storage



Leads to interesting coding/clustering/reconstructions problems

A Journal of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker

# Angewandte Chemie

International Edition

www.angewandte.org

2015-54/8



Water Separation  
Review by S. Senger et al.

ACEPS 54 (II) 2293-2562 (2015) | ISSN 1433-7851 | Vol. 54 | No. 8

WILEY-VCH


# A commercial application: Storing information for eternity?



## Our first customer: Massive attack







MATT BLACK

**MEZZANINE  
DNA**

CONTAINS

1 million copies of the  
Mezzanine album encoded<sup>1</sup>  
in 901'085 DNA sequences,  
each 146 basepairs long  
and encapsulated in silicone  
particles for long-term  
storage stability<sup>2</sup>

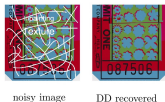
<sup>1</sup> Grass et al. *Angew. Chem.  
Int. Ed.* 54, 2552 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> Paunescu et al. *Nat. Protoc.* 8,  
2440 (2013).

# Research focus

Machine learning, statistics, and signal processing.

i. Deep learning for inverse problems



ii. Learning from few or noisy labels



iii. DNA data storage



# Thank you!