

# SKA machine learning perspectives for imaging, processing and analysis

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# Outline

- ▶ Machine learning challenges in SKA
- ▶ Challenge 1 – imaging-reconstruction
- ▶ Challenge 2 – data compression for transfer and storage
- ▶ Challenge 3 – analytics and processing of big data
- ▶ Conclusions

# Remark

- **Compilation of expertise from**



Computer Science department  
Section of mathematics  
Observatory



# Machine learning realities and SKA

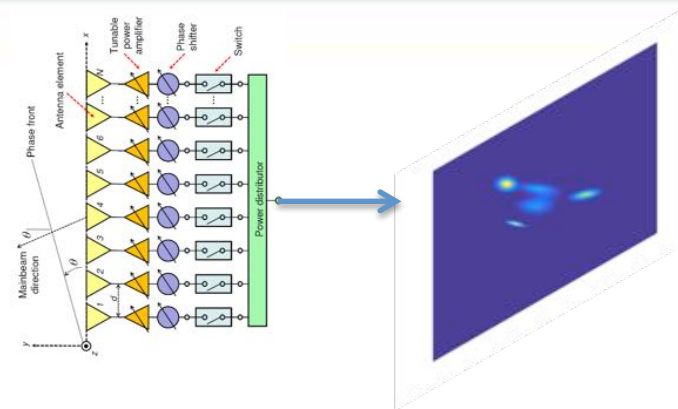
**New perspectives of machine learning based image processing** due to:

- large amount of collected observations (training data)
- new powerful computational facilities
- modern phased antenna arrays
- optimisation algorithms

# Main SKA challenges

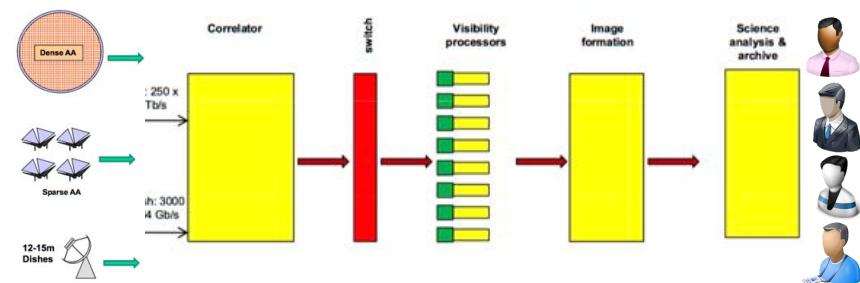
## ■ Challenge 1: Imaging-reconstruction

- Huge amount of computation for pair-wise correlations, calibration, reconstruction



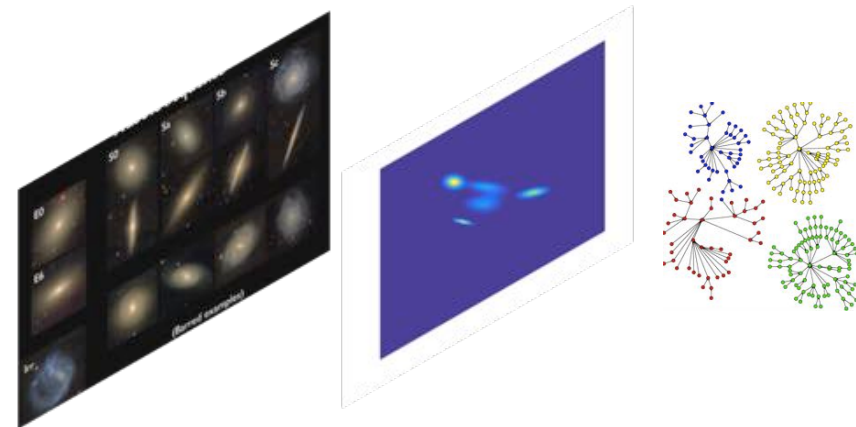
## ■ Challenge 2: Data transfer and storage

- Data transfer from correlators to reconstruction servers, data centers, SDP and end users

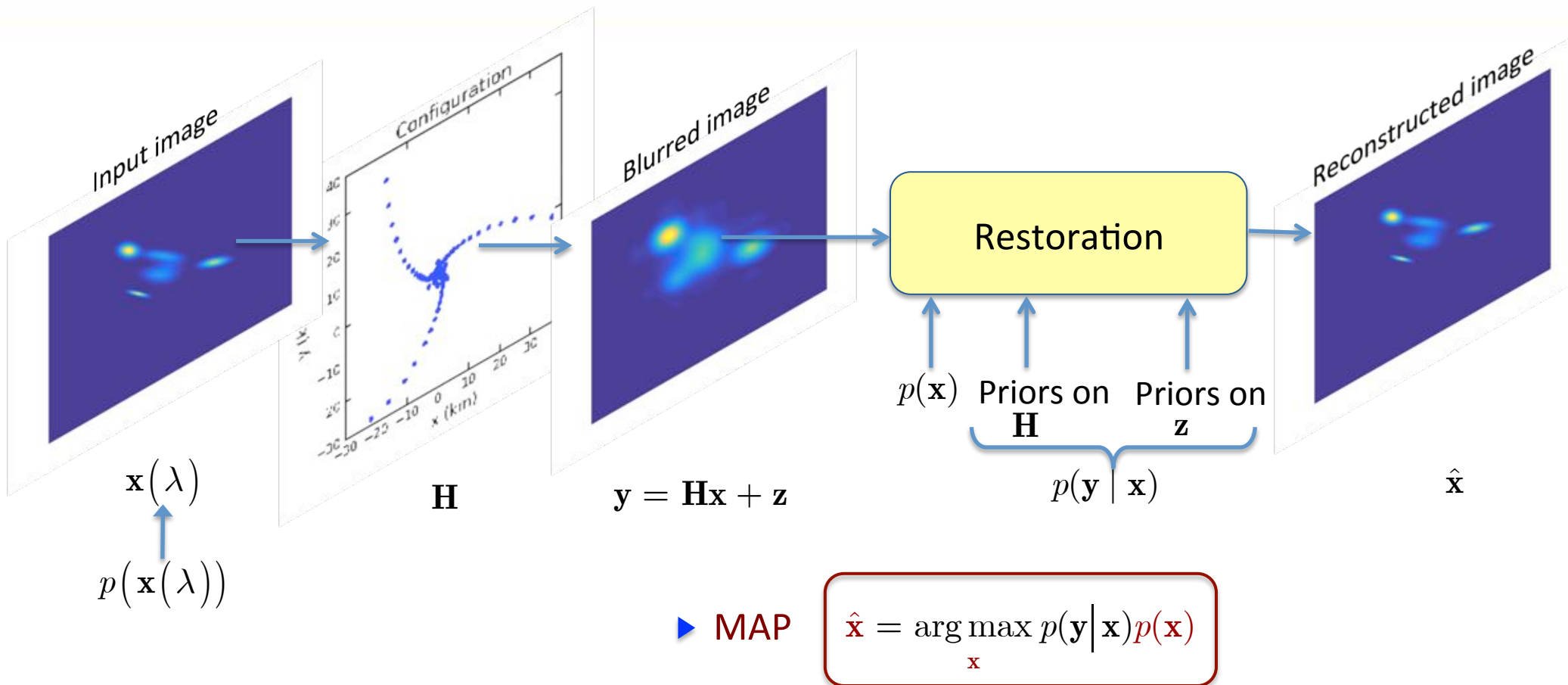


## ■ Challenge 3: Analytics

- Automatic processing of produced data (recognition, mining, search, tracking,...)



# Challenge 1: Imaging – generic approach



## ► Main issue:

How to model  $p(\mathbf{x})$  to obtain

**accurate**, **tractable** and **low-complexity** solution?

# Challenge 1: Imaging – “hand-crafted” approach

## Traditional approaches to definition of $p(\mathbf{x})$

### ► Statistical/deterministic approaches

#### Direct domain

Smoothness of solution, local correlations.....

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{a}} \left\| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\Omega(\mathbf{x}) = -\ln p(\mathbf{x})$$

#### Transform domain

(decorrelation, energy compaction, directivity, ...)

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{a}} \left\| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{a} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{a})$$

►  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{D}\hat{\mathbf{a}}$   
fixed, signal independent (DCT, DWT....)

►  $\Omega(\mathbf{a}) = -\ln p(\mathbf{a})$

i.i.d. GGD

i.i.d. Student

i.i.d. Mixture of Gaussians

etc

### ► Sparsity-based approach

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{a}} \left\| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\Psi\mathbf{a} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{a}) \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \Psi\hat{\mathbf{a}}$$

Overcomplete and can be learned

$$\Omega(\mathbf{a}) = \|\mathbf{a}\|_0$$



Nonconvex and NP-hard problem: relaxation/greedy approaches

Complex optimization tools:

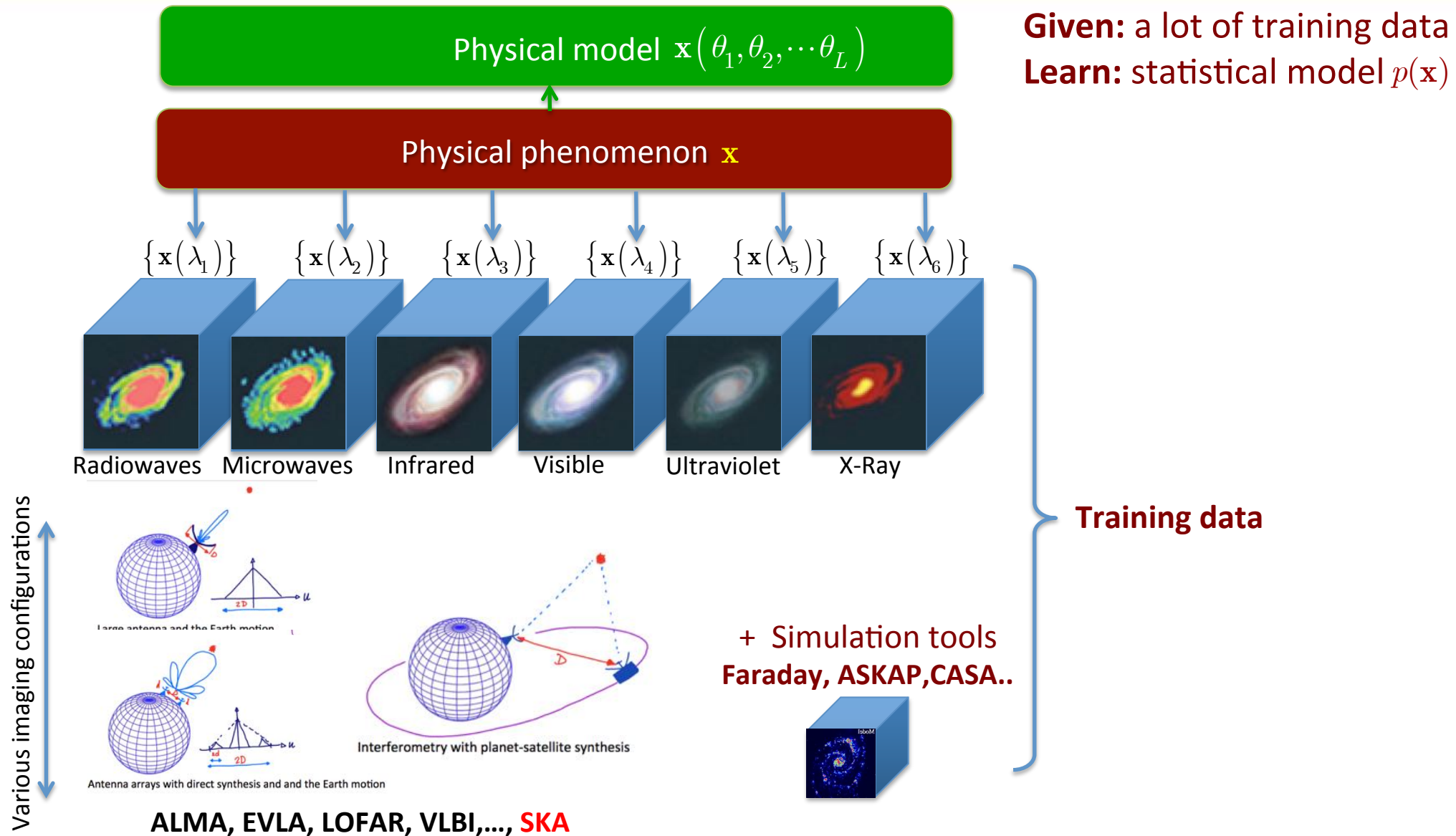
► proximal algorithms

► prime-dual methods

► augmented Lagrangian .....leading to parallel and distributed solutions

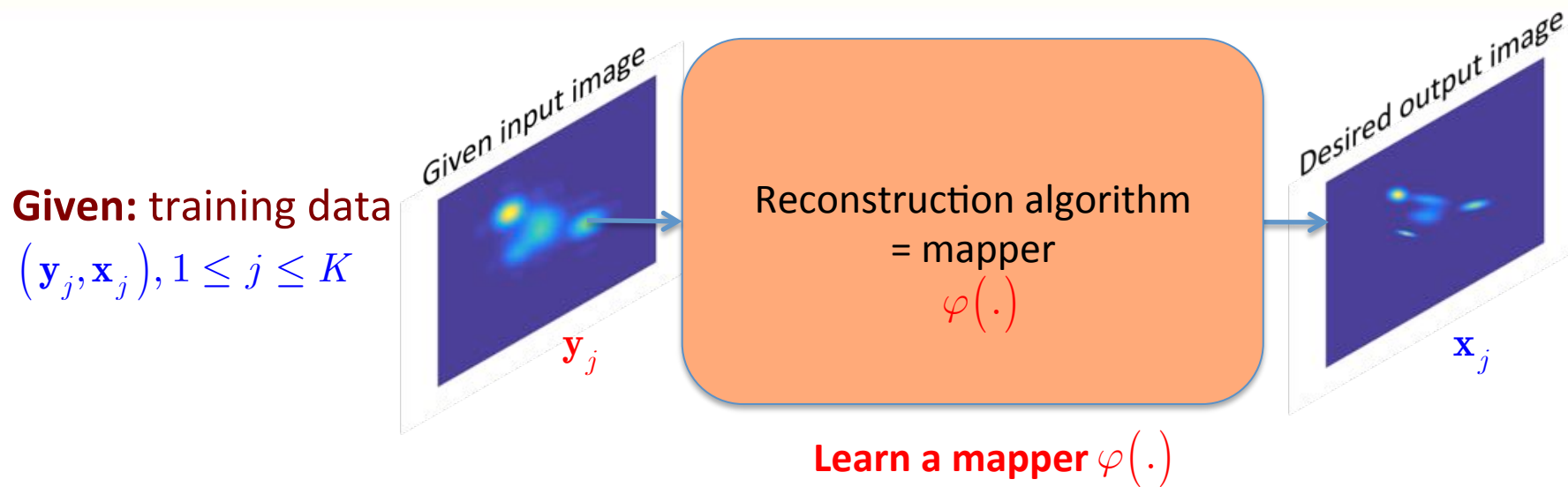
$$\Omega(\mathbf{a}) = \|\mathbf{a}\|_1$$

# Challenge 1: Imaging – “machine learning” approach





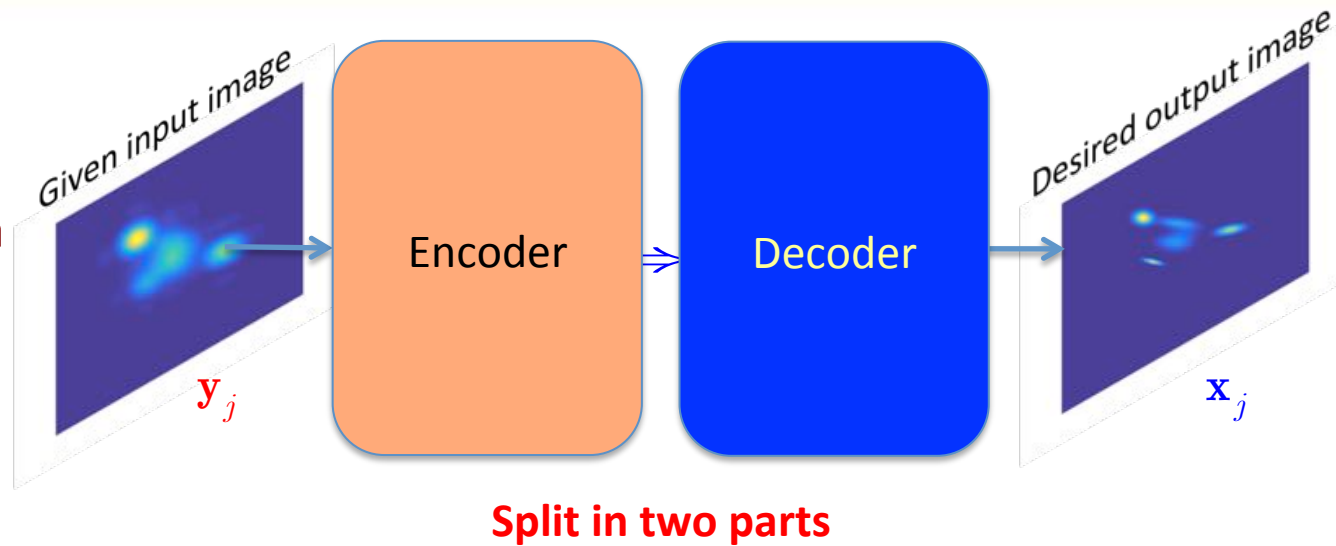
# Challenge 1: Imaging – as learning problem



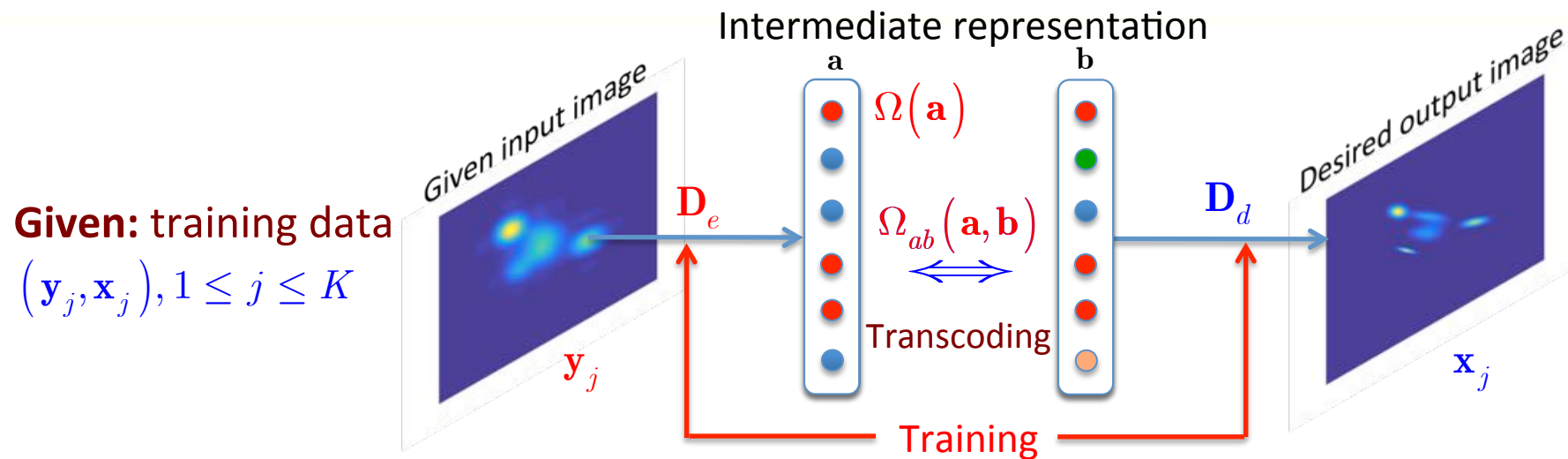
# Challenge 1: Imaging – learning as encoding-decoding

**Given:** training data

$$(\mathbf{y}_j, \mathbf{x}_j), 1 \leq j \leq K$$



# Challenge 1: Imaging – learning as encoding-decoding



## Encoder-decoder training

$$(\hat{\mathbf{D}}_e, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_d) = \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{D}}_e, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_d} \sum_{j=1}^K \underbrace{\left\| \mathbf{a}_j - \mathbf{D}_e \mathbf{y}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \Omega_a(\mathbf{a}_j)}_{\text{Encoder}} + \underbrace{\lambda_2 \Omega_{ab}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{b}_j) + \lambda_3 \left\| \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{D}_d \mathbf{b}_j \right\|_2^2}_{\text{Decoder}} \Upsilon(\mathbf{D}_e, \mathbf{D}_d)$$

## Projection problem

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{a}} \left\| \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{D}_e \mathbf{y} \right\|_2^2 + \gamma_1 \Omega_a(\mathbf{a}) + \gamma_2 \Omega_{ab}(\mathbf{a}, \hat{\mathbf{b}})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \psi(\mathbf{D}_e \mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{b}})$$

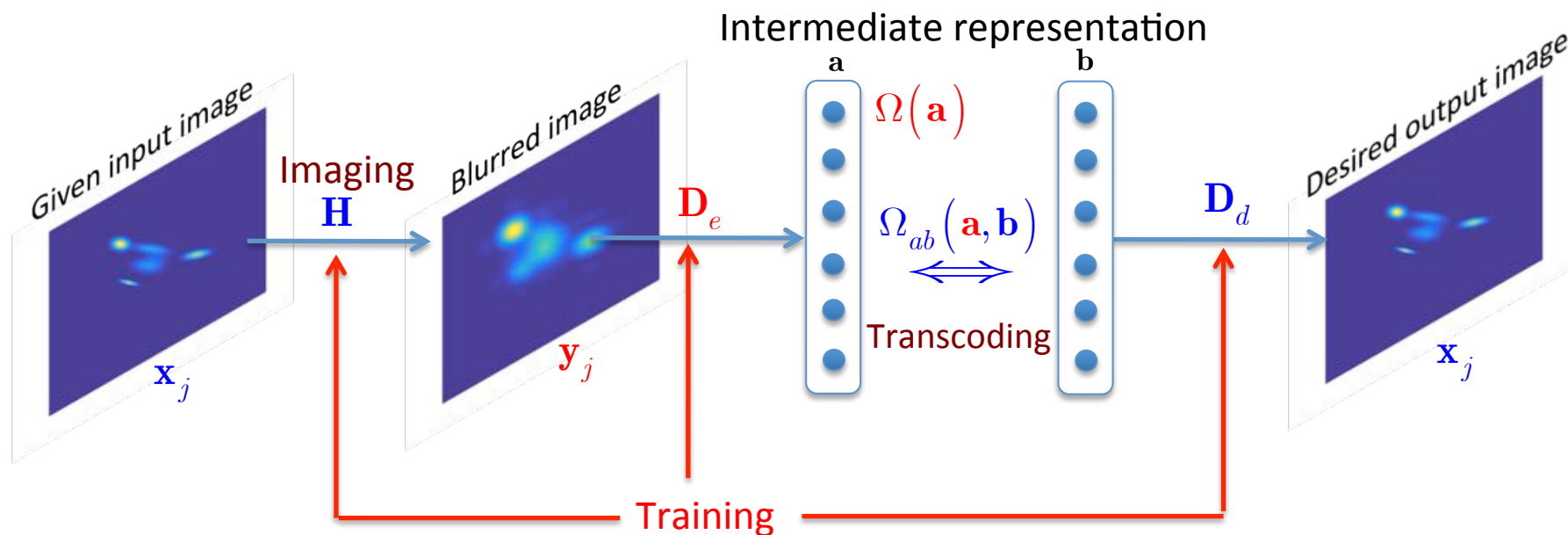
## Reconstruction problem

$$\hat{\mathbf{b}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{b}} \left\| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{D}_d \mathbf{b} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega_{ab}(\hat{\mathbf{a}}, \mathbf{b})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{D}_d \hat{\mathbf{b}}$$

# Challenge 1: Imaging – learning optimal imaging configurations

**Objective: joint optimization of reconstruction and imaging (CS – random sampling)**



**Imaging system-encoder-decoder training**

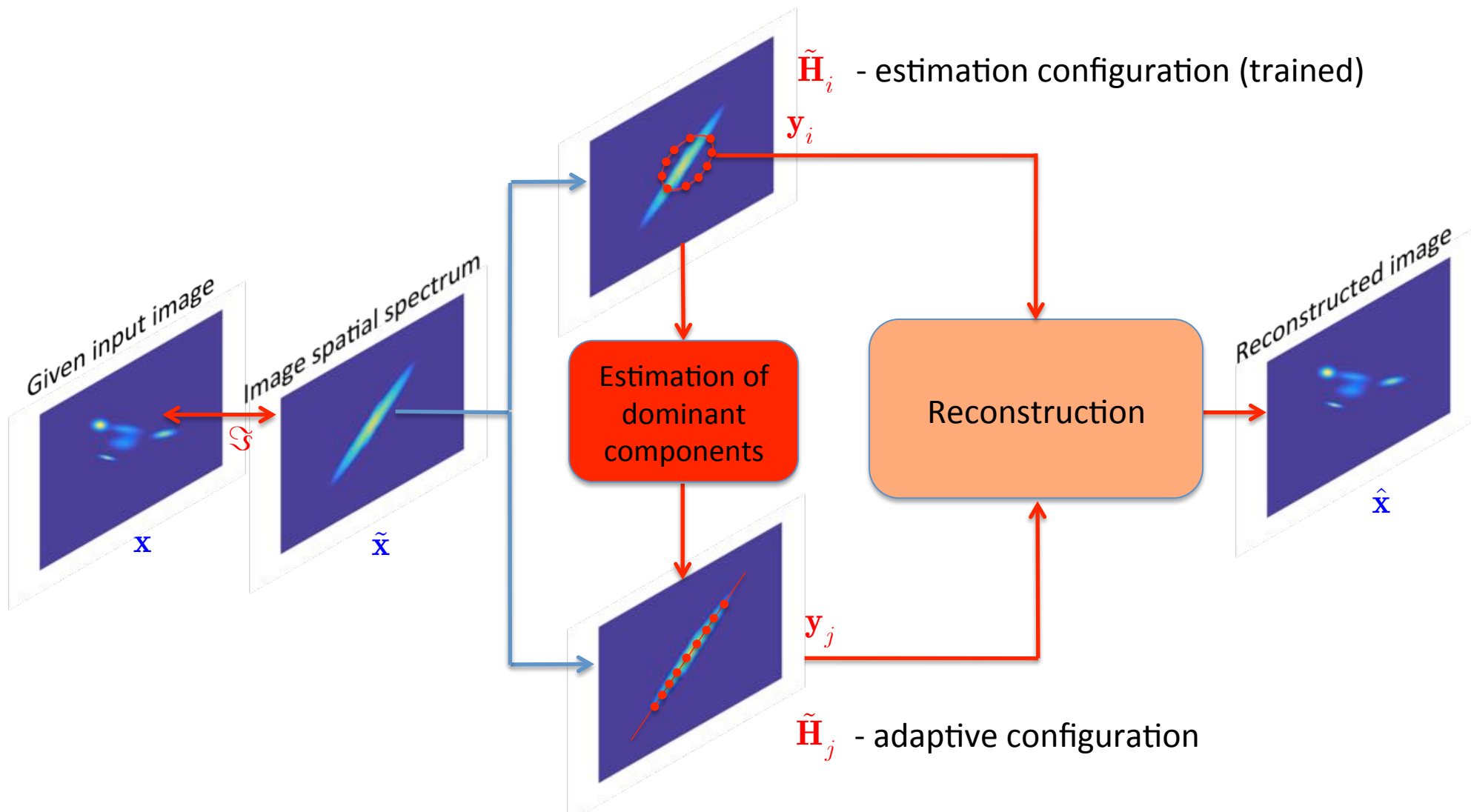
$$(\hat{\mathbf{H}}, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_e, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_d) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{D}_e, \mathbf{D}_d} \sum_{j=1}^K \left[ \underbrace{\left\| \mathbf{a}_j - \mathbf{D}_e \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \Omega_a(\mathbf{a}_j) + \lambda_2 \Omega_{ab}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{b}_j)}_{\text{Encoder}} + \underbrace{\lambda_3 \left\| \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{D}_d \mathbf{b}_j \right\|_2^2}_{\text{Decoder}} \right]$$

$\Upsilon(\mathbf{D}_e, \mathbf{D}_d)$

$\Phi(\mathbf{H})$  constraints on number and possible geometry of synthesized arrays

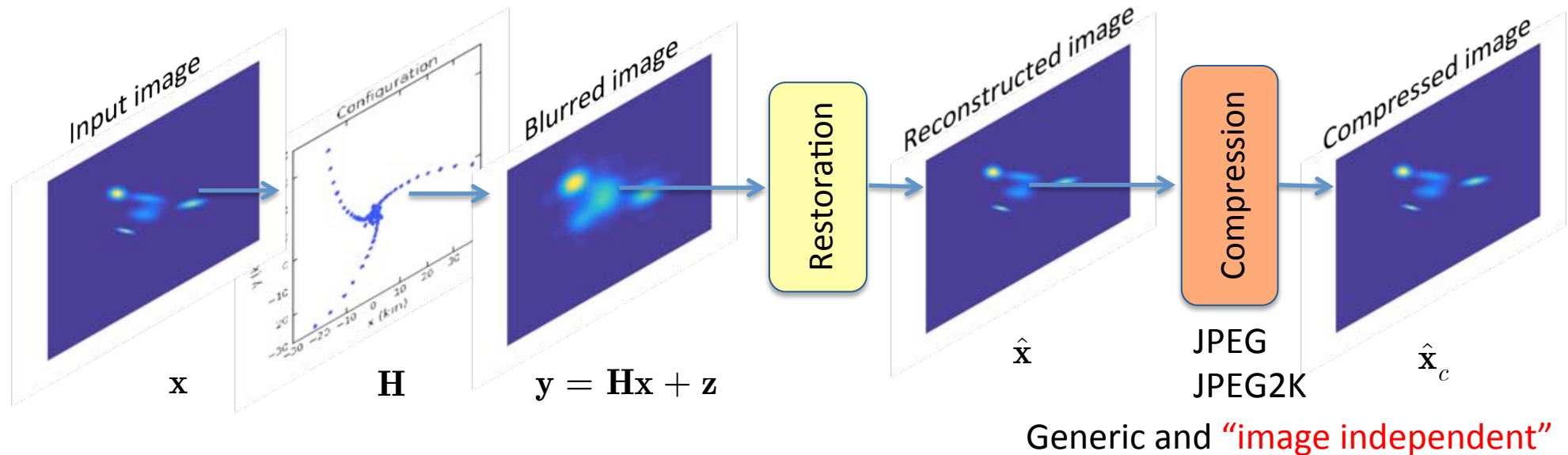
# Challenge 1: Imaging – learning for “adaptive” imaging

**Objective:** minimize the load on correlators  $\Rightarrow$  adaptive “light-weight” imaging



# Challenge 2: Compression for transfer, storage and distribution

## ► Traditional approach to compression



## ► Alternative - compressive sensing $\Rightarrow$ quantized compressive sensing

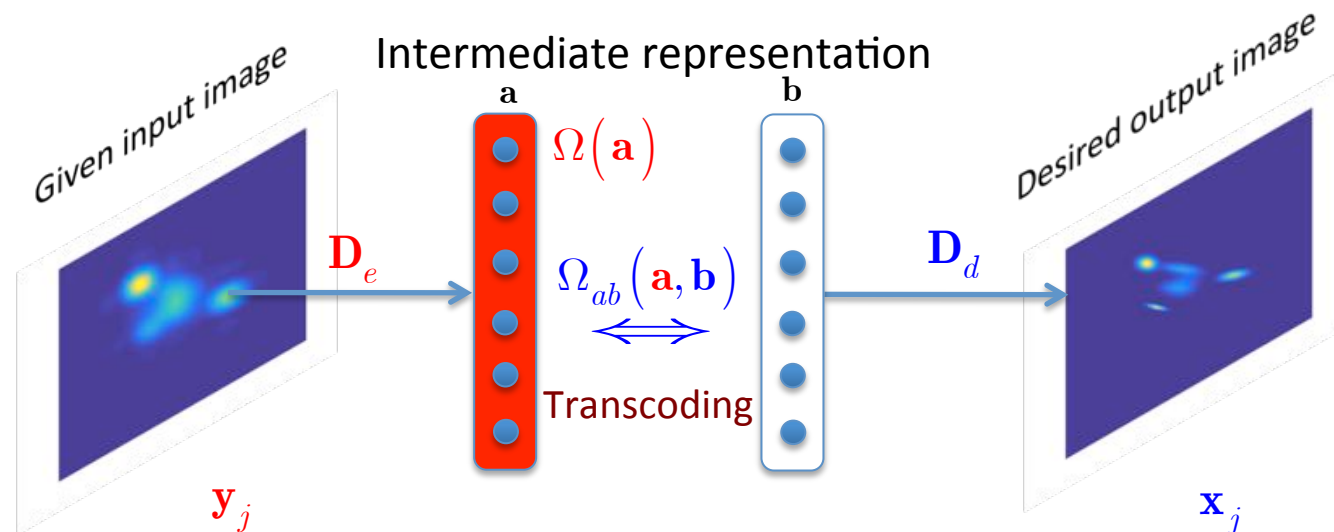
$$\mathbf{y} = Q(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z})$$

observations are quantized (even to several bits)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{a}} \left\| \mathbf{y} - Q(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}) \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{- inverse problem}$$

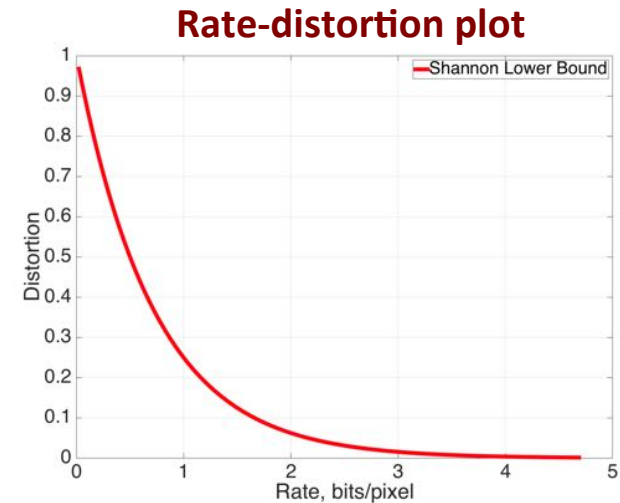
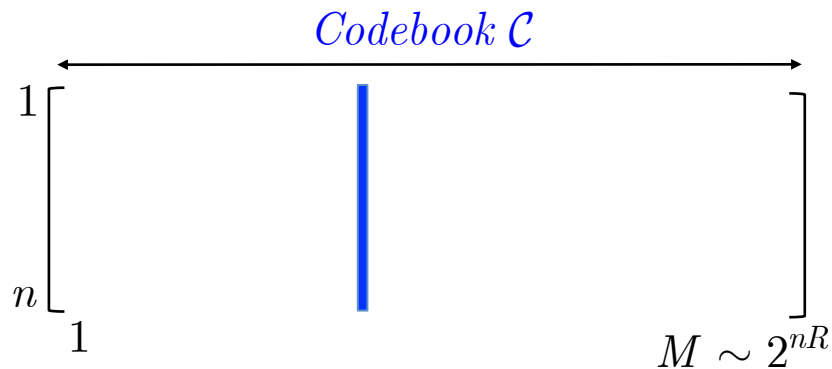
## Challenge 2: Compression – machine learning approach

- **Option 1: Replace generic JPEG/JPEG2K codecs by special algorithms trained on RI images**
  - We suppose that the image is already reconstructed and the problem is how to deliver it to the end users
- **Option 2: Sparse code representation between the Encoder-Decoder**
  - Encoder-decoder pairs in reconstruction are trained with the entropy constrained sparse code
  - Efficient coding based on **structured** codebooks vs **random** ones



## Challenge 2: Compression – information-theoretic approach

### Codebook training (like Shannon R(D) theory) from $p(\mathbf{x})$

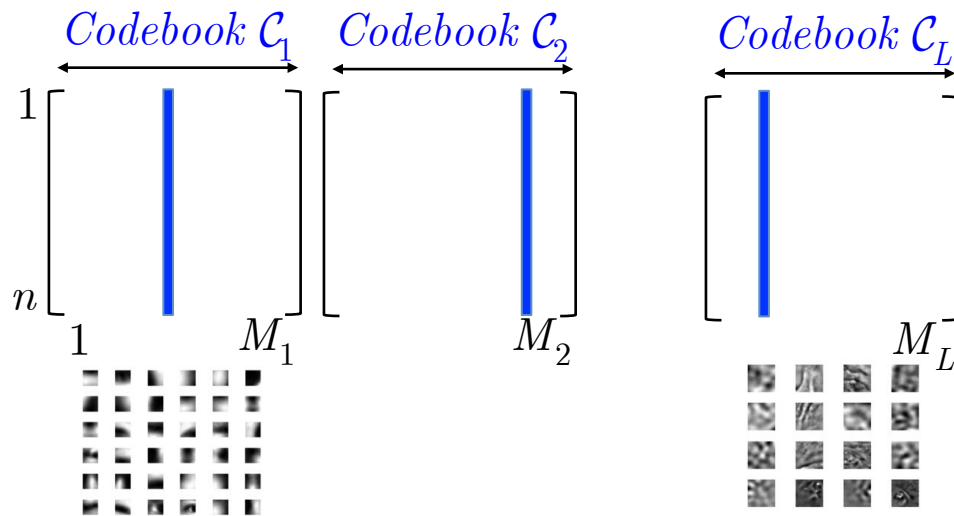


- Information-theoretic approach (limits)
- $p(\mathbf{x})$  is not known
- Codebook size is exponential in  $n$
- Codebook is unstructured
- High compression complexity and memory

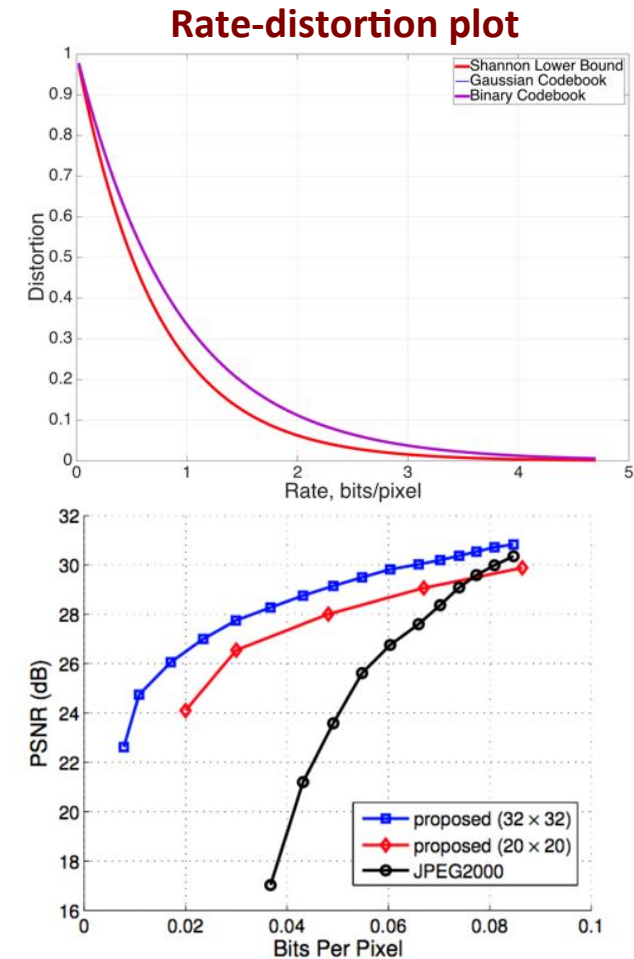


# Challenge 2: Compression – machine learning approach

## Structured codebooks with successive refinement

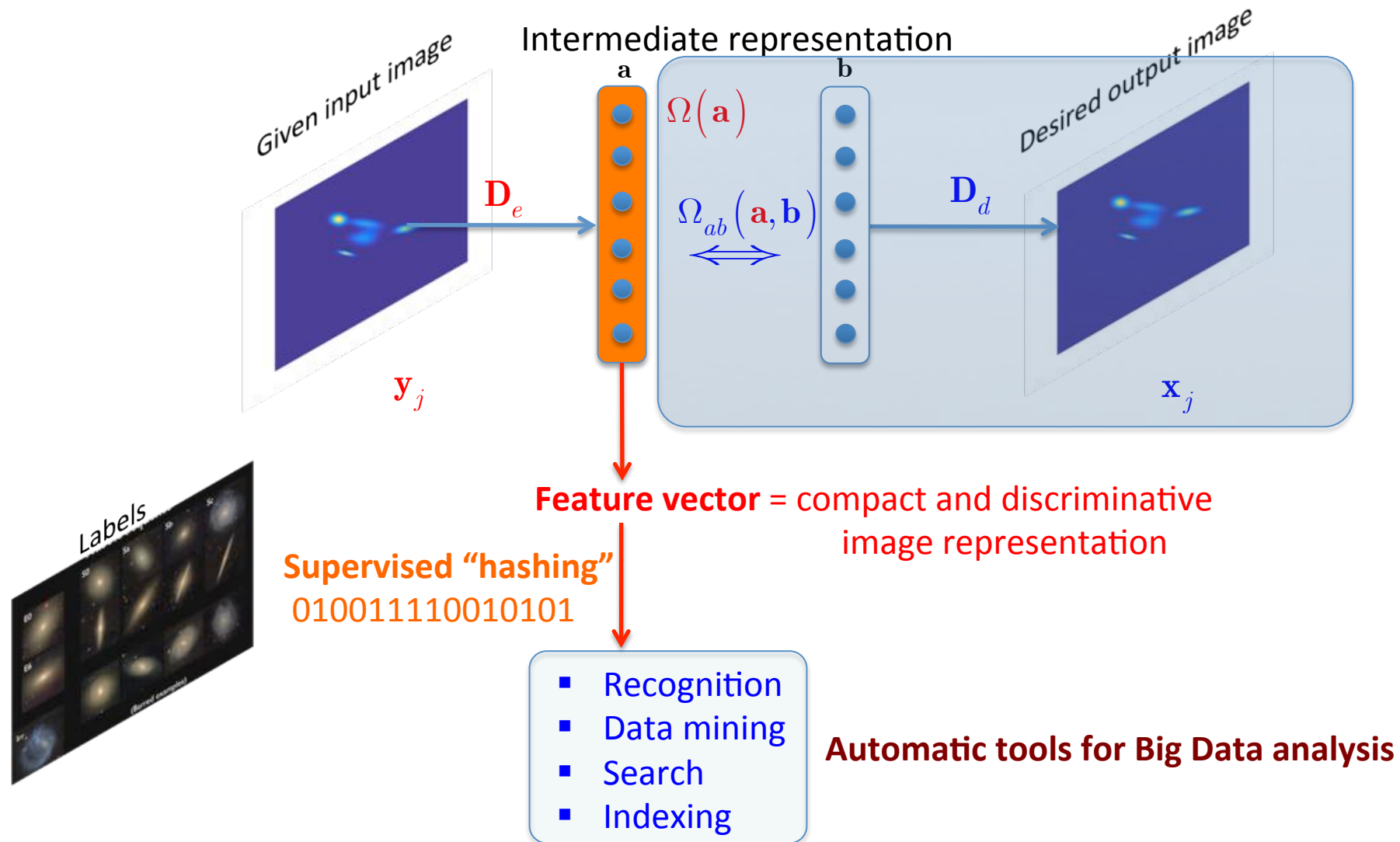


- $L$  **trained** codebooks (structured)
- Polynomial complexity
- Approaching Shannon lower bound
- Outperforming JPEG/JPEG2K for very low bit rates



# Challenge 3: Analytics – automatic processing of Big Data

**Main issue: dimensionality and amount of images for automatic processing**



# Conclusions

- **SKA is a great tool for research**
- .... and not only in astronomy and astro-physics
- It is a “test” platform for many ideas in **machine learning based image processing** thanks to **big data** and **flexible imaging**
- In turns, it will lead to new alternative approaches to three SKA challenges covering:
  - imaging and reconstruction algorithms
  - compression algorithms
  - automatic processing of big data