



2023 NORTH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF INFORMATION THEORY

# DISTORTION, REALISM, & LEARNED COMPRESSION

LUCAS THEIS, GOOGLE

JPEG: 0.1102 bpp

HFD: 0.0295 bpp



[files.theis.io/nasit2023\\_slides.pdf](https://files.theis.io/nasit2023_slides.pdf)

# Overview

## Part I

Learned compression I:

Variational auto-encoders (VAEs)

Realism I:

Realism-distortion trade-off

Learned compression II:

Adversarial losses and diffusion

## Part II

Realism II:

Channel simulation

Learned compression III:

Diffusion-based compression

# Motivation

Learned compression specializes easily to different types of content

- Video games
- Video calls
- Medical images

...

and new forms of media

- AR/VR
- 360 video
- Light fields

...



Magic Pony Technology



Google Meet

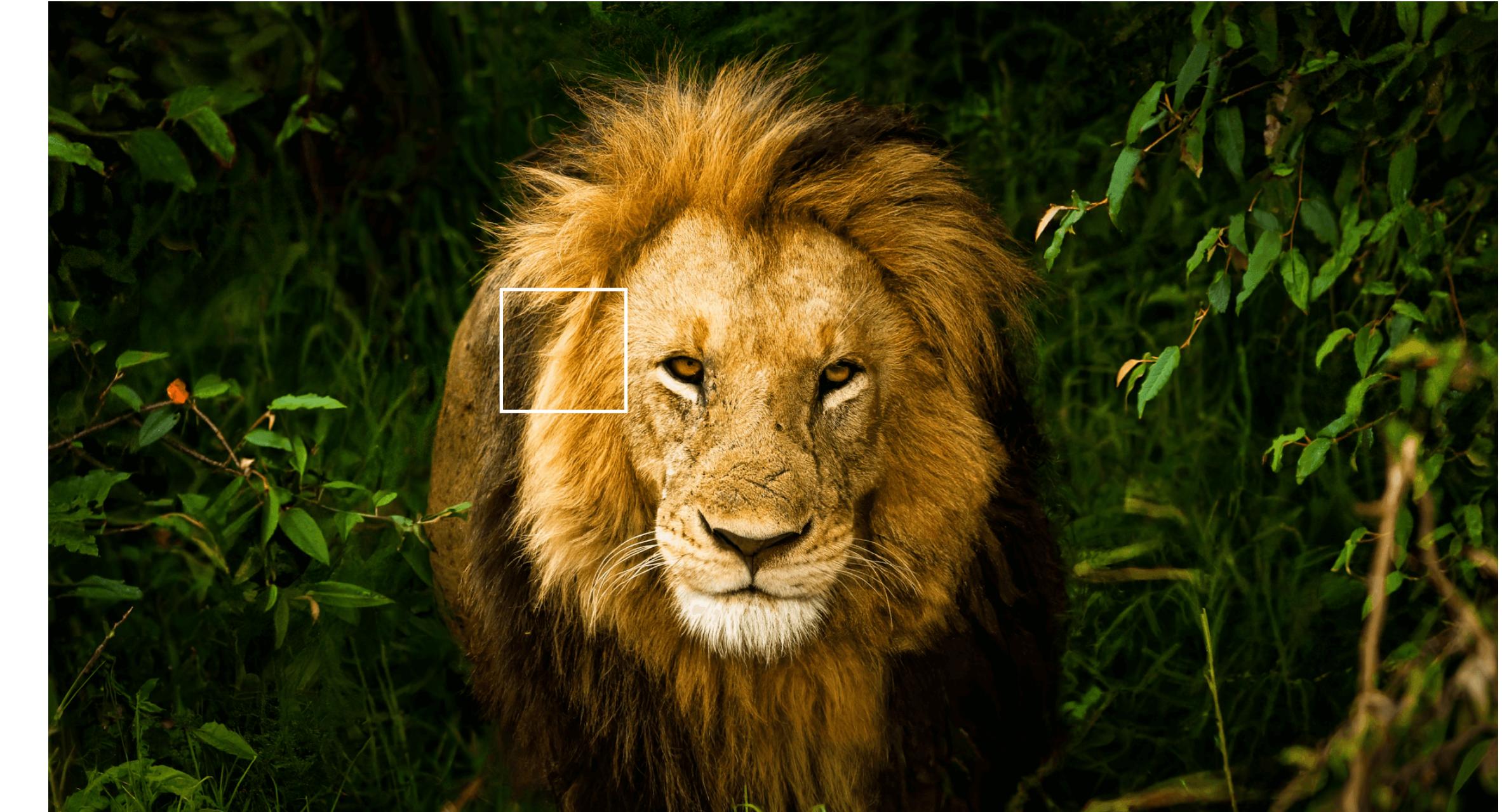


Lytro light field camera

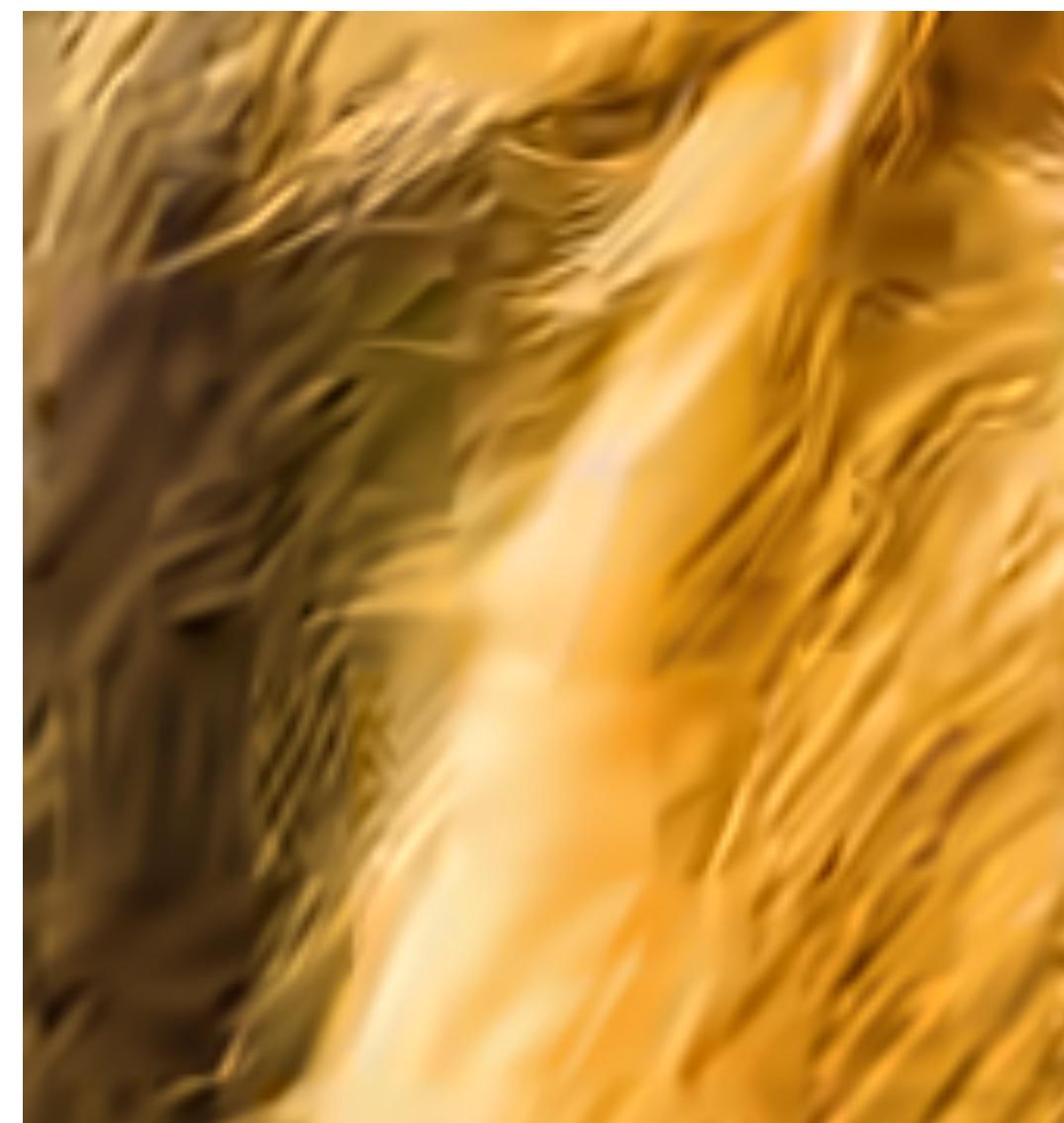
# Motivation

**Learned compression with *realism constraints* enable extremely low bit-rates...**

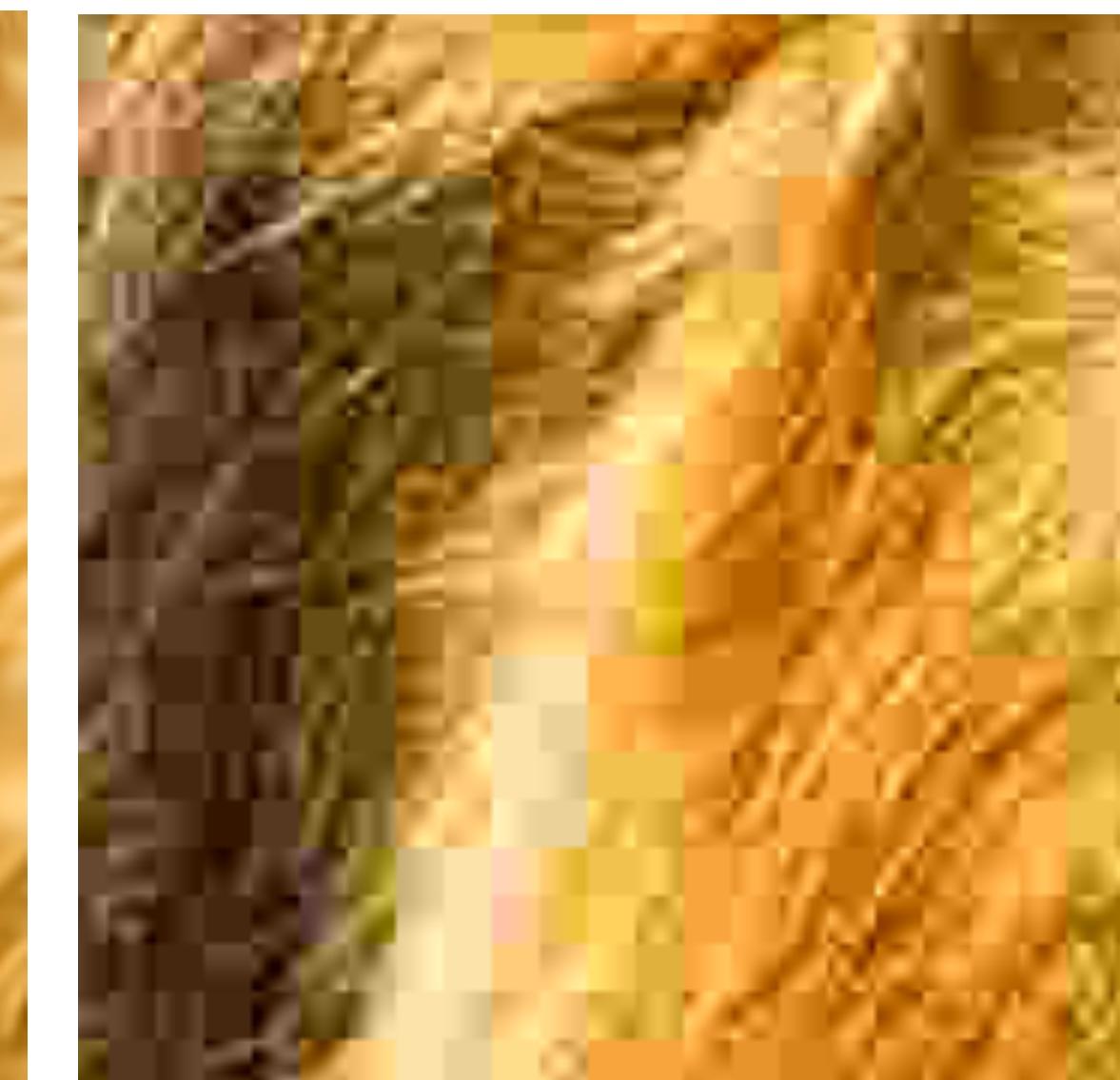
... but many open questions remain.



**HFD:** 0.0562 bpp



**VVC:** 0.0687 bpp

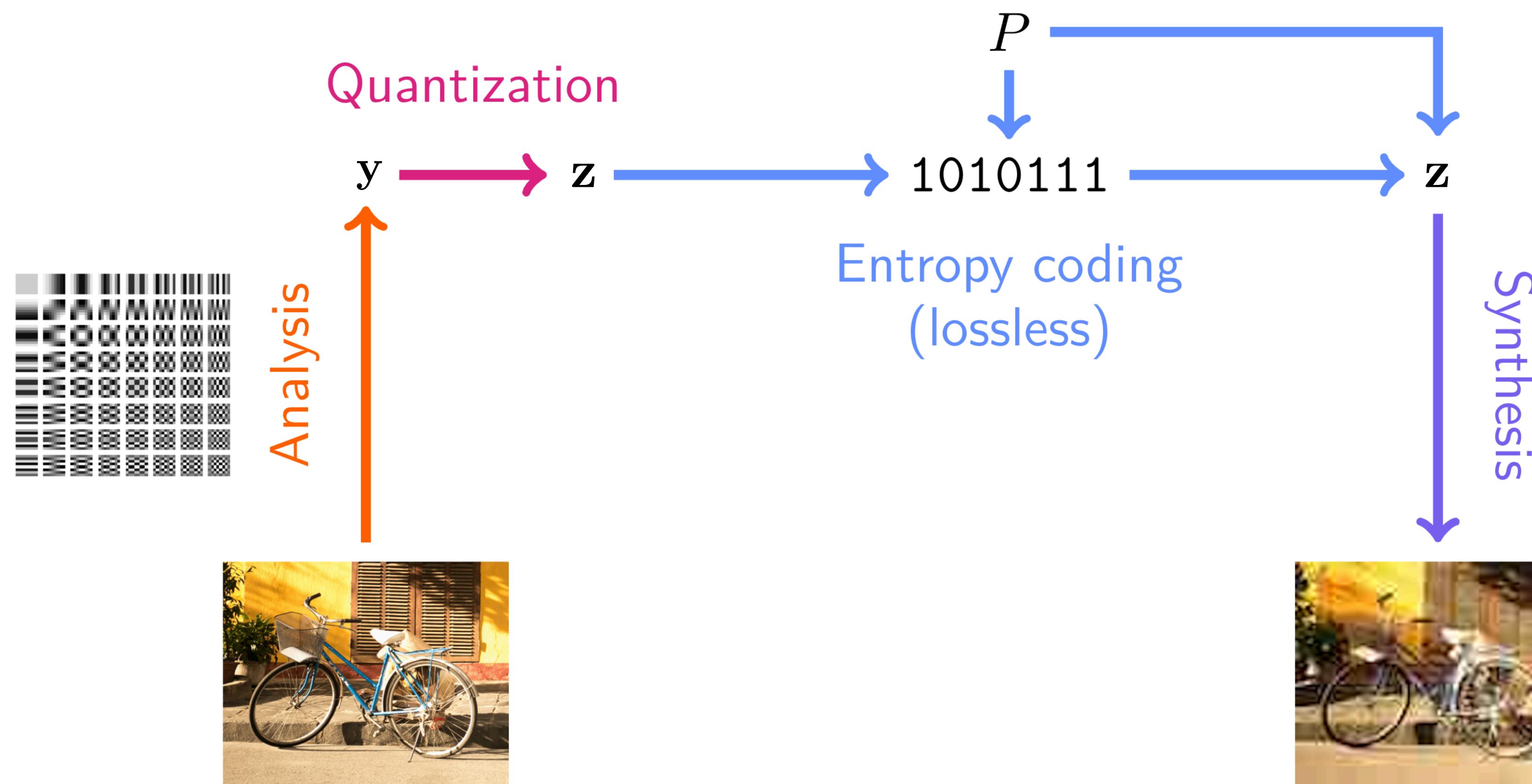


**JPEG:** 0.1251 bpp

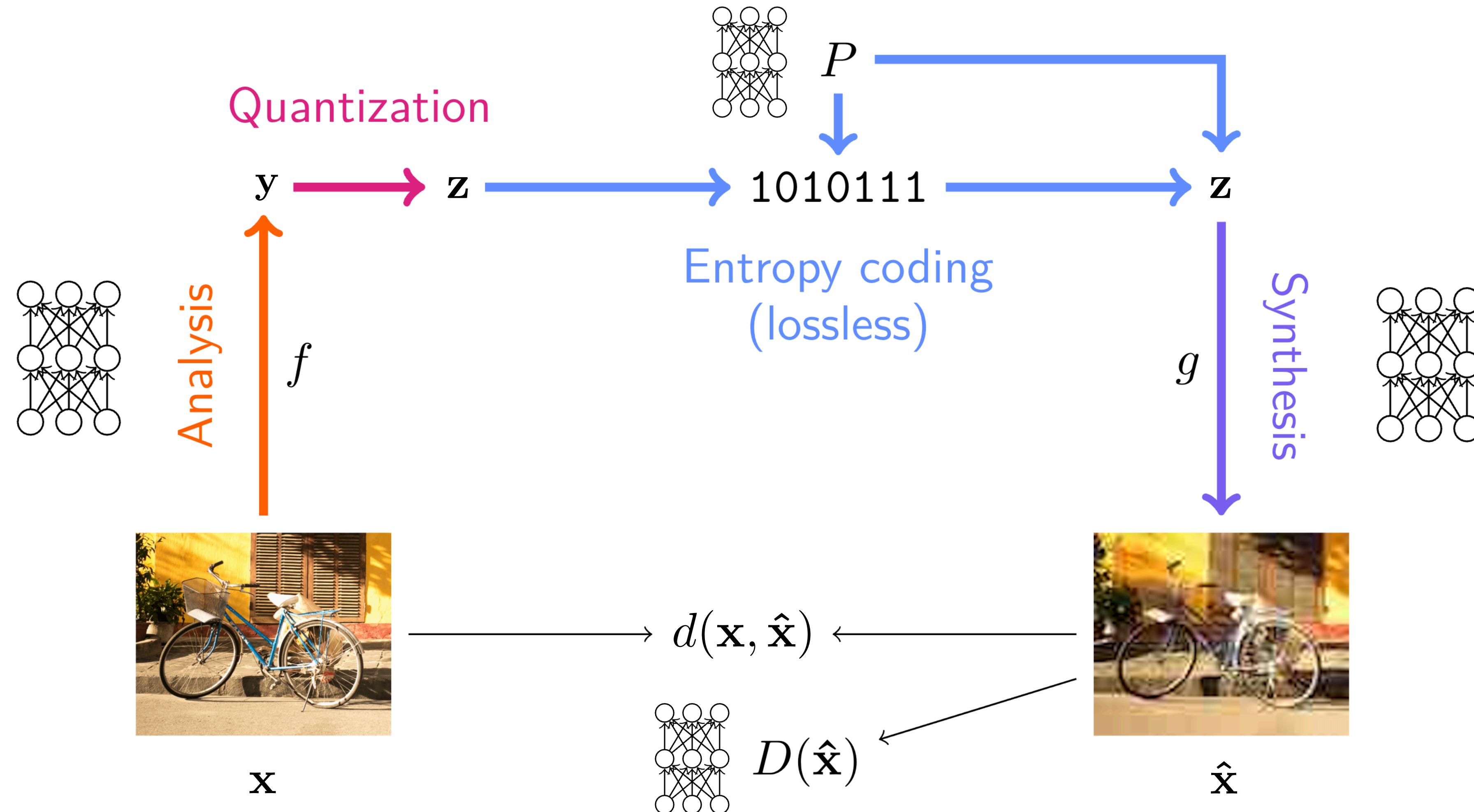
LEARNED COMPRESSION I:

# Variational auto-encoders (VAEs)

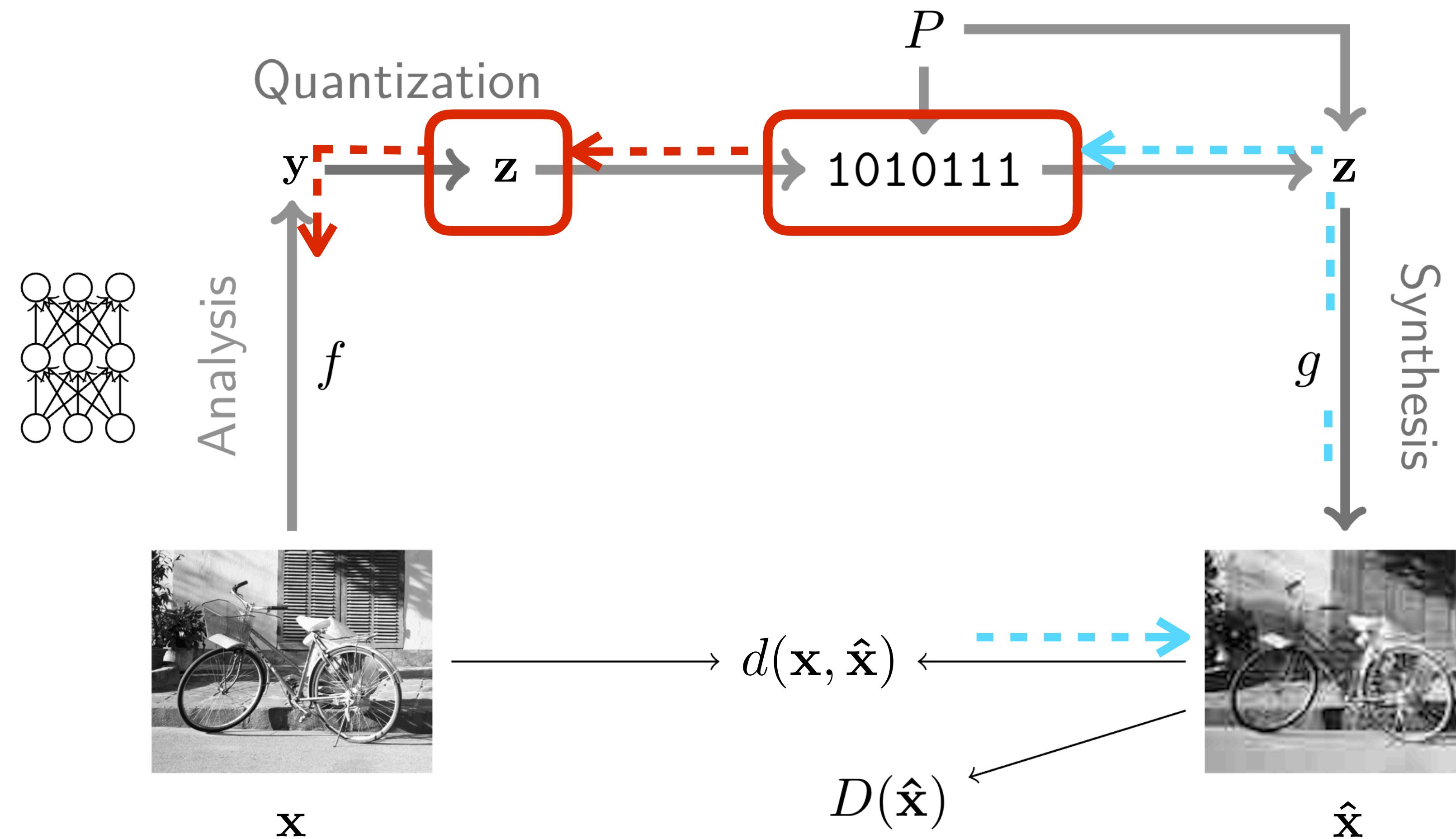
# JPEG



# Learned compression

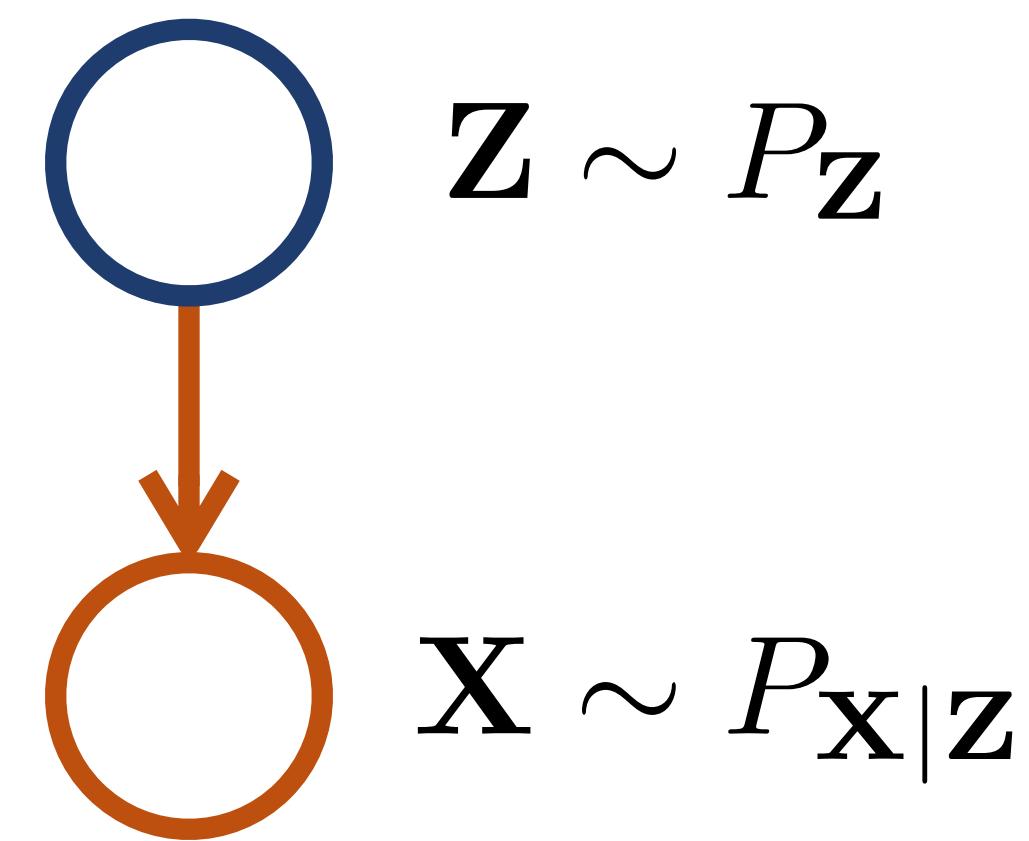


# Backpropagation



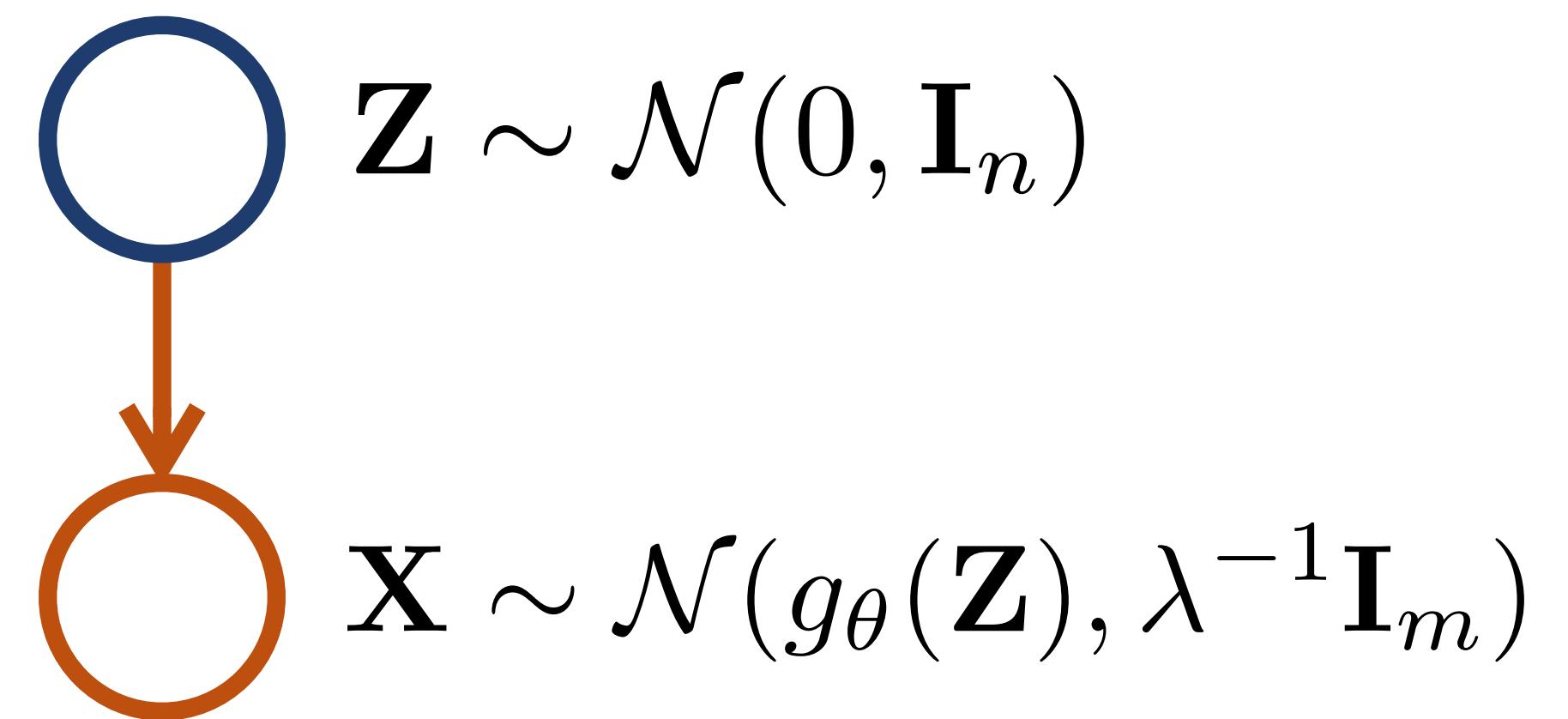
# Variational autoencoders (VAEs)

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}$$

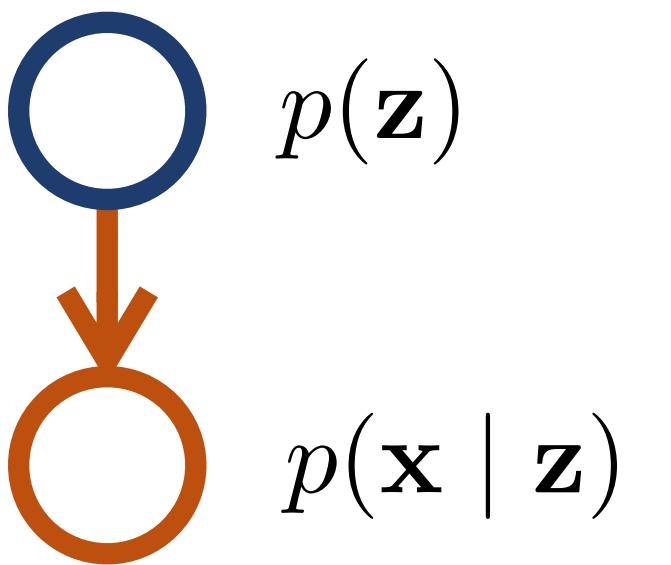


# Variational autoencoders (VAEs)

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}$$

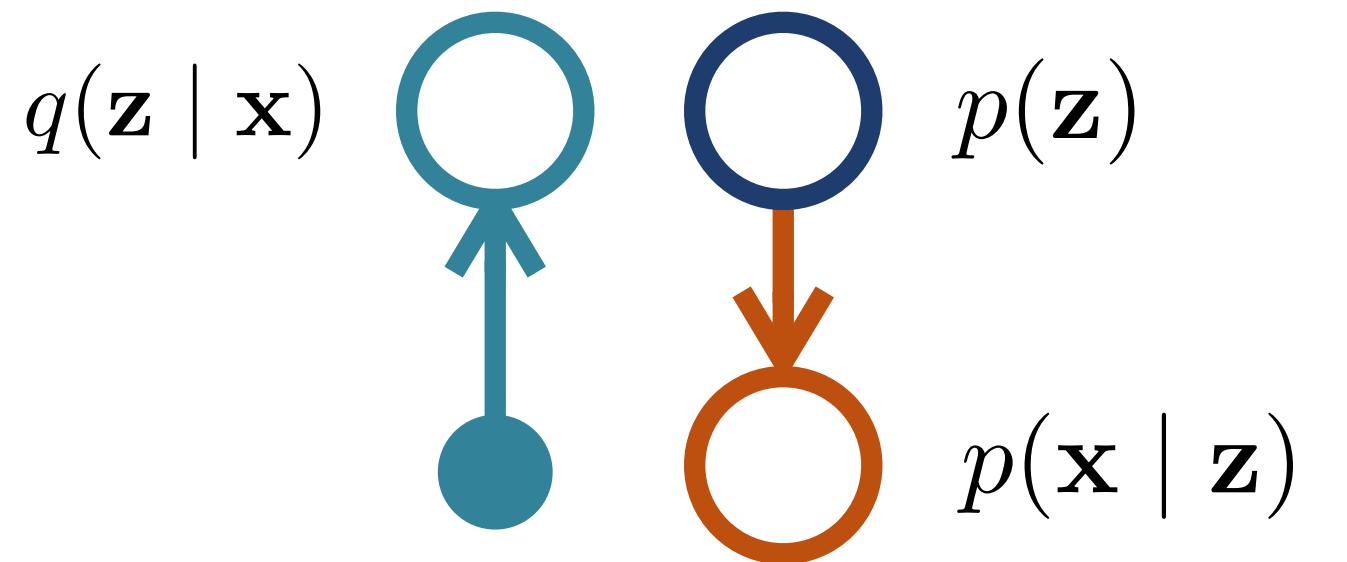


Maximum likelihood



$$\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \log \int p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}$$

# Evidence lower bound (ELBO)



$$\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \geq \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z}$$

# Evidence lower bound (ELBO)

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) &= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \left( p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \frac{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z} + \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \left( \frac{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z} + D_{\text{KL}}[q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \| p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})] \\&\geq \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z}\end{aligned}$$

## Evidence lower bound (ELBO)

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) &= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \left( p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \frac{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z} + \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \left( \frac{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})}{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right) d\mathbf{z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z} + D_{\text{KL}}[q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \| p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})] \\&\geq \int q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x}) \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{z}\end{aligned}$$

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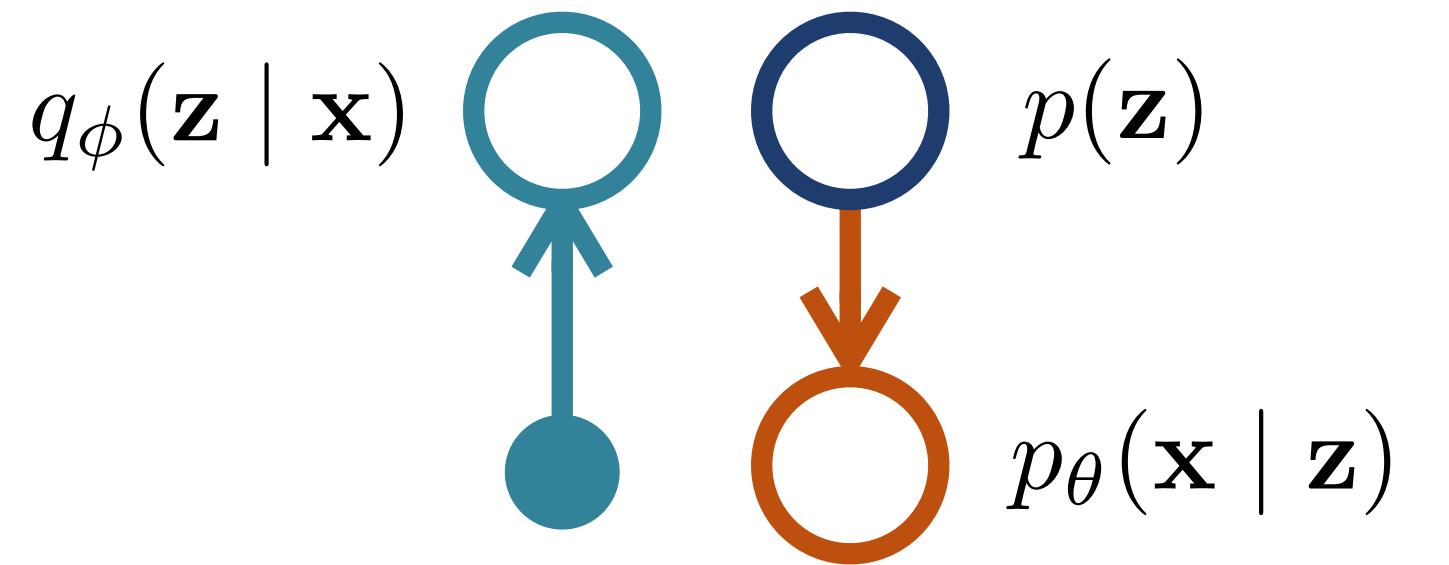
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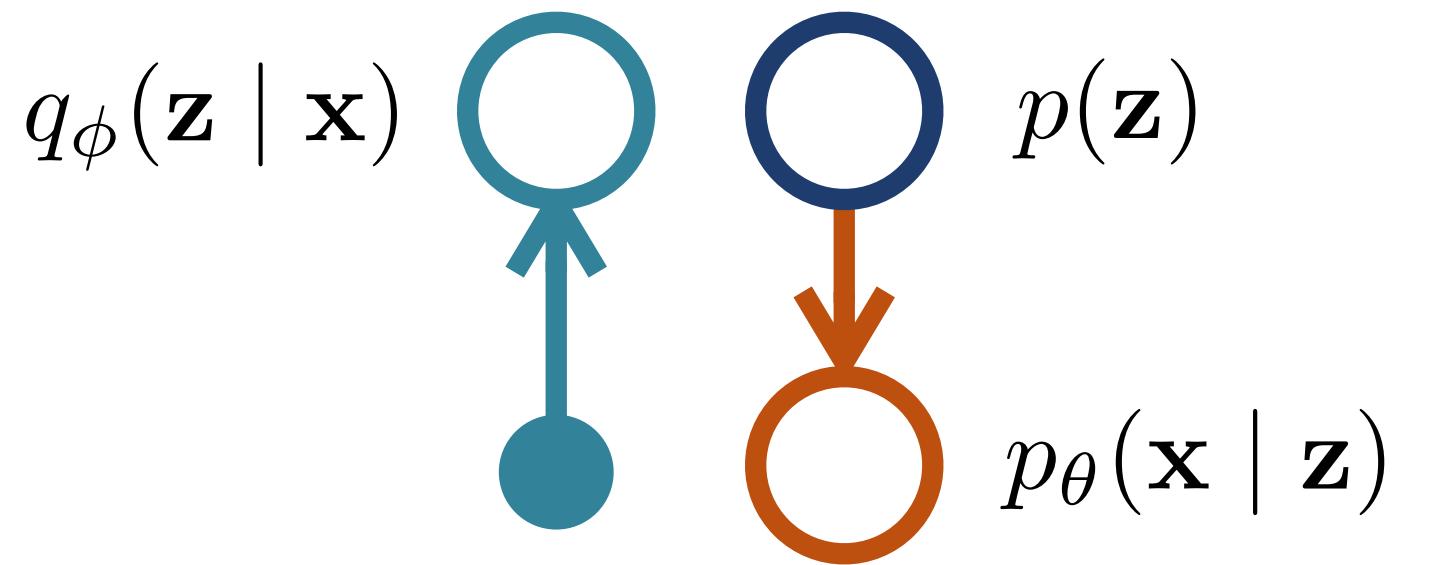
# Evidence lower bound (ELBO)



$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = -\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi} \left[ \log \frac{p_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{Z})}{q_\phi(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi} [-\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{Z})] + \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi} [-\log p(\mathbf{Z})] - \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi} [-\log q_\phi(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{x})]$$

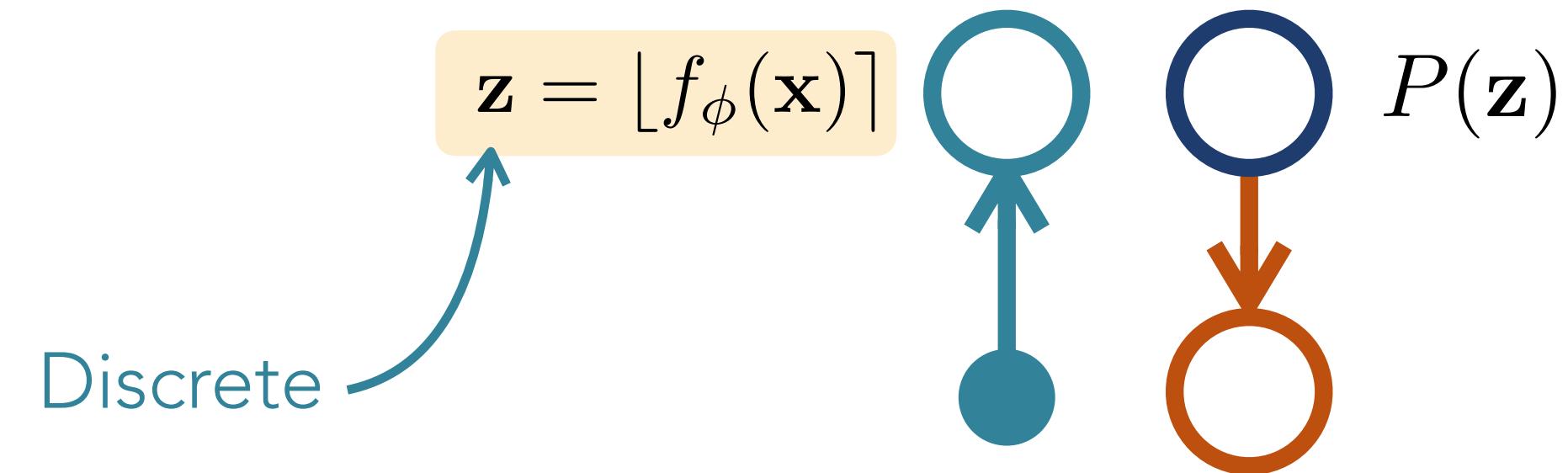
## Evidence lower bound (ELBO)



$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = -\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi} \left[ \log \frac{p_\theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{Z})}{q_\phi(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right]$$

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# Evidence lower bound (ELBO)



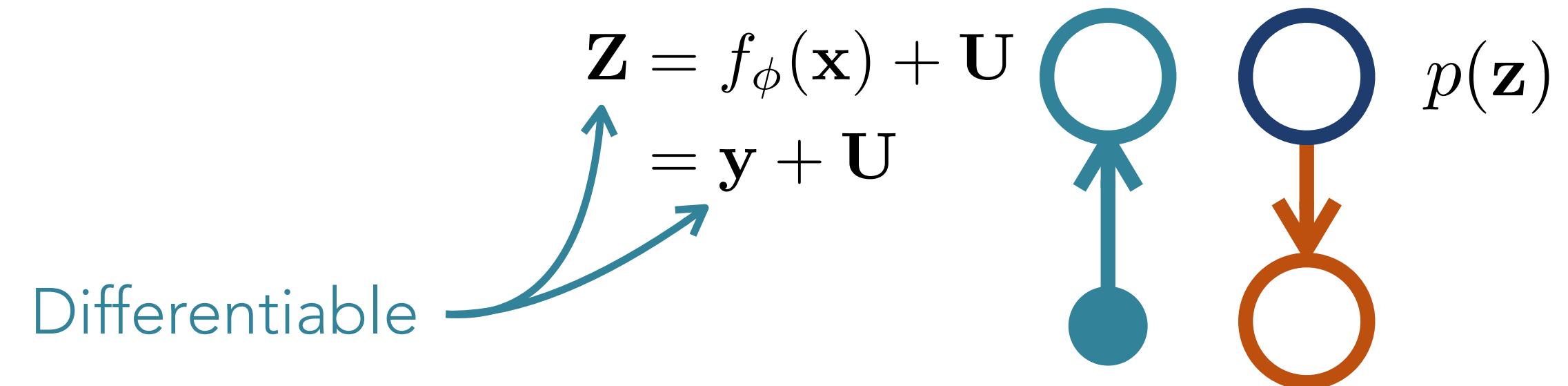
$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = -\mathbb{E}_{Q_\phi} \left[ \log \frac{p_\theta(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{Z})P(\mathbf{Z})}{Q_\phi(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right]$$

$$p_\theta(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; g_\theta(\mathbf{z}), \lambda^{-1}\mathbf{I})$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{Q_\phi} [-\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{Z})] + \mathbb{E}_{Q_\phi} [-\log P(\mathbf{Z})] - \mathbb{E}_{Q_\phi} [-\log Q_\phi(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{x})]$$

$$= \frac{\lambda}{2} \underbrace{\|\mathbf{x} - g_\theta(\mathbf{z})\|^2}_{\text{Distortion}} - \underbrace{\log P(\mathbf{z})}_{\text{Coding cost}} + \text{const}$$

# Evidence lower bound (ELBO)



$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; g_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}), \lambda^{-1} \mathbf{I})$$

$$\ell(\phi, \theta) = -\mathbb{E}_q \left[ \log \frac{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})}{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})} \right]$$

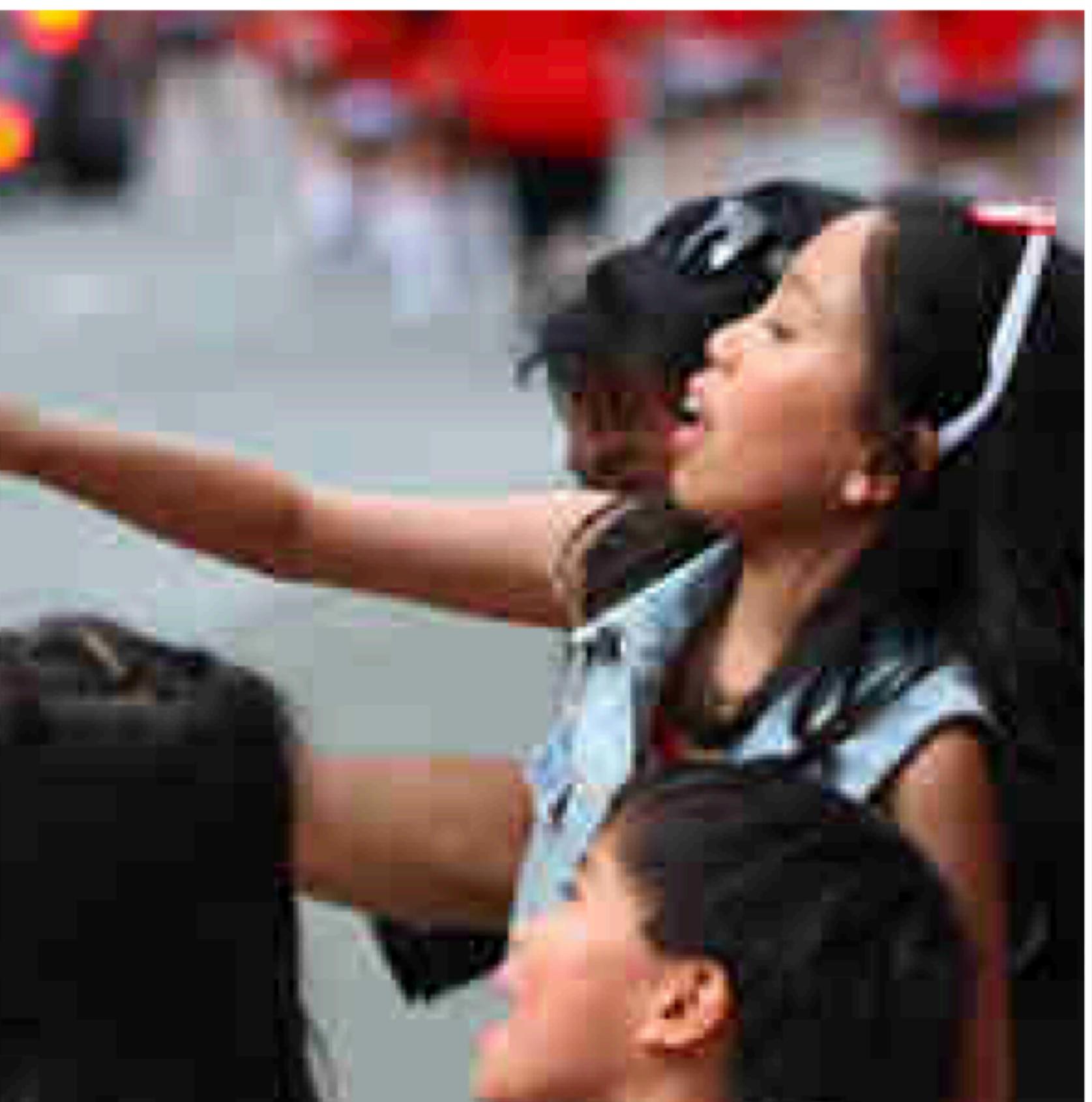
$$= -\mathbb{E}_q [-\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z})] - \mathbb{E}_q [\log p(\mathbf{z})] - \mathbb{E}_q [-\log q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})]$$

$$= \frac{\lambda}{2} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{x} - g_{\theta}(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{U})\|^2]}_{\text{Distortion}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[-\log p(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{U})]}_{\text{Coding cost}} + \text{const}$$

**Input**



**JPEG**



**Dithered JPEG**

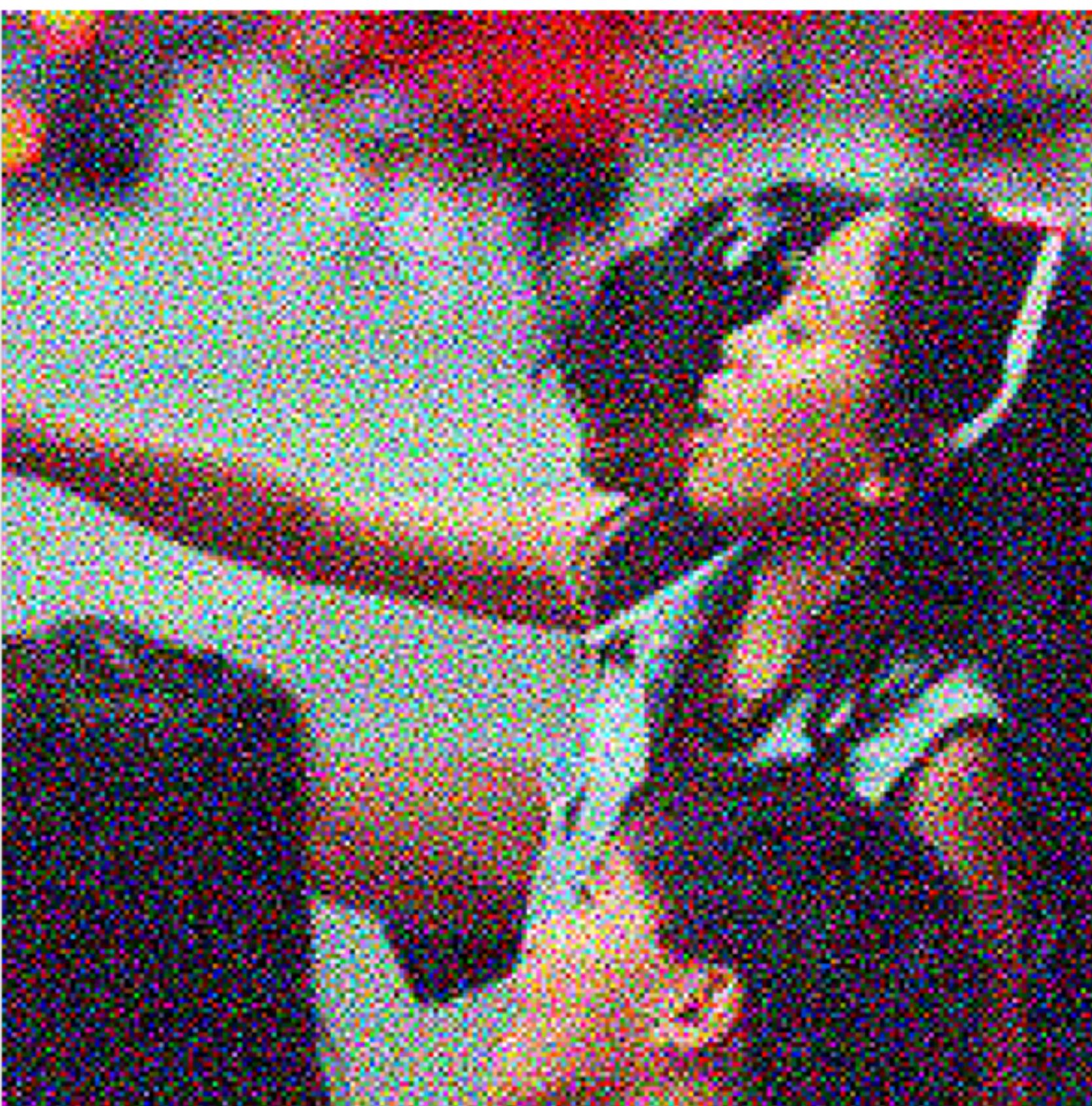


Photo: GoToVan, 2014

$$\mathbf{z} = [\mathbf{Ax}]$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{u}$$

Theis et al. (2017)

# Example: Linear VAE

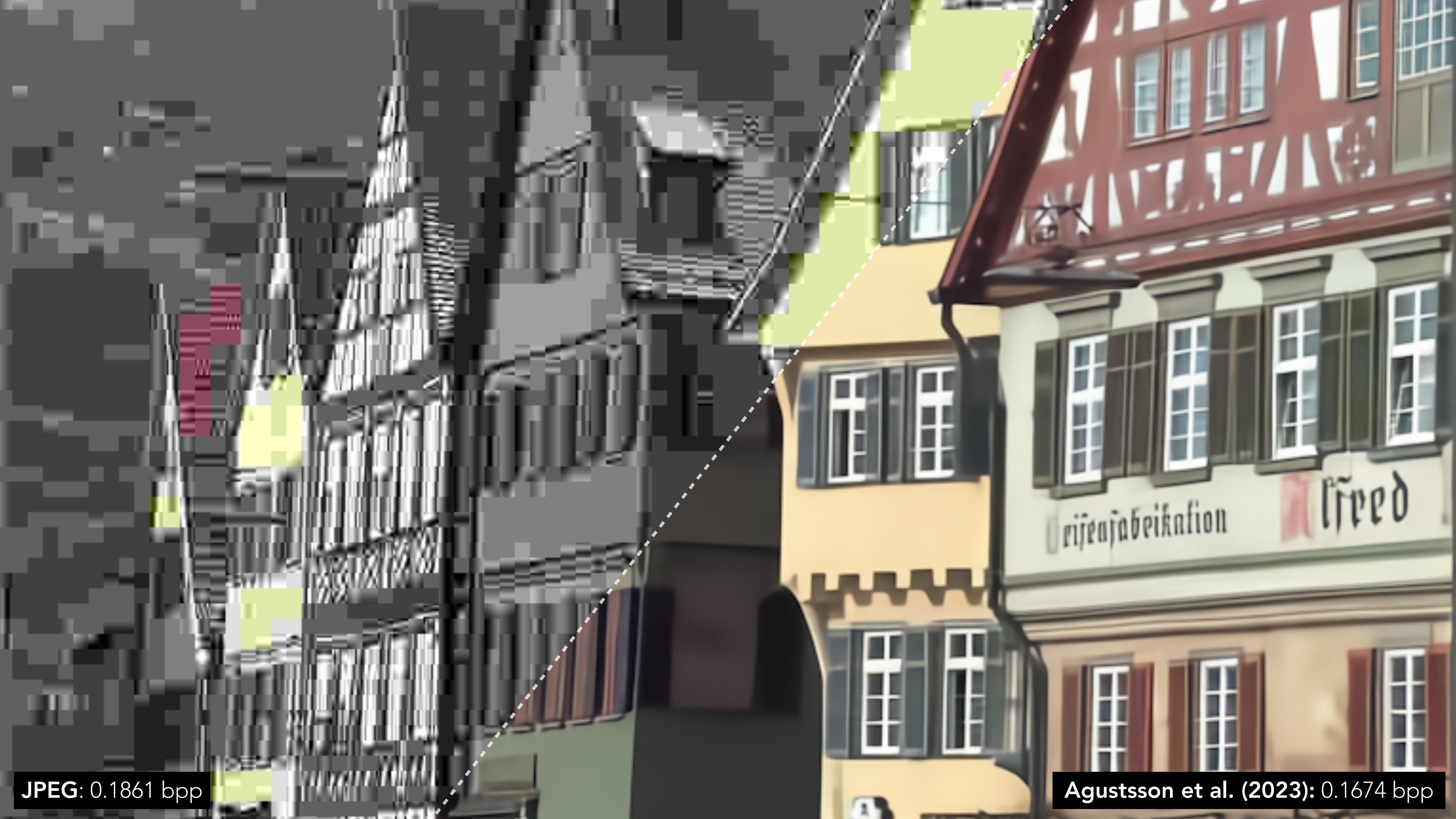
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{Ax}$$



$$g(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{Bz}$$



Learned analysis transform



JPEG: 0.1861 bpp

Agustsson et al. (2023): 0.1674 bpp

# Example: ELIC (He et al., 2022)

Analyzer $f_\phi$	Synthesizer $g_\theta$
in: 3-channel image	in: $M$ -channel symbols
Conv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$	Attention
ResBottleneck $\times 3$	TConv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$
Conv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$	ResBottleneck $\times 3$
ResBottleneck $\times 3$	TConv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$
Attention	Attention
Conv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$	ResBottleneck $\times 3$
ResBottleneck $\times 3$	TConv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $N$
Conv $5 \times 5$ , s2, $M$	ResBottleneck $\times 3$
Attention	TConv $5 \times 5$ , s2, 3

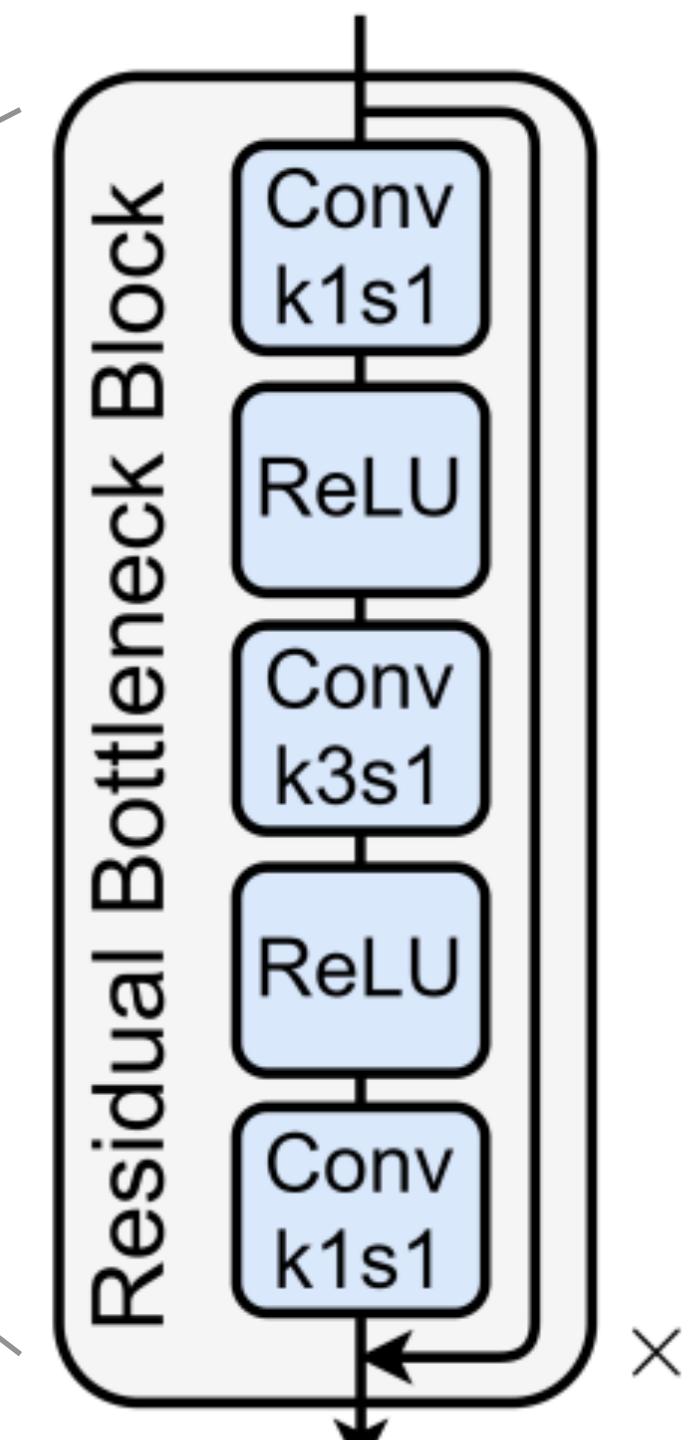
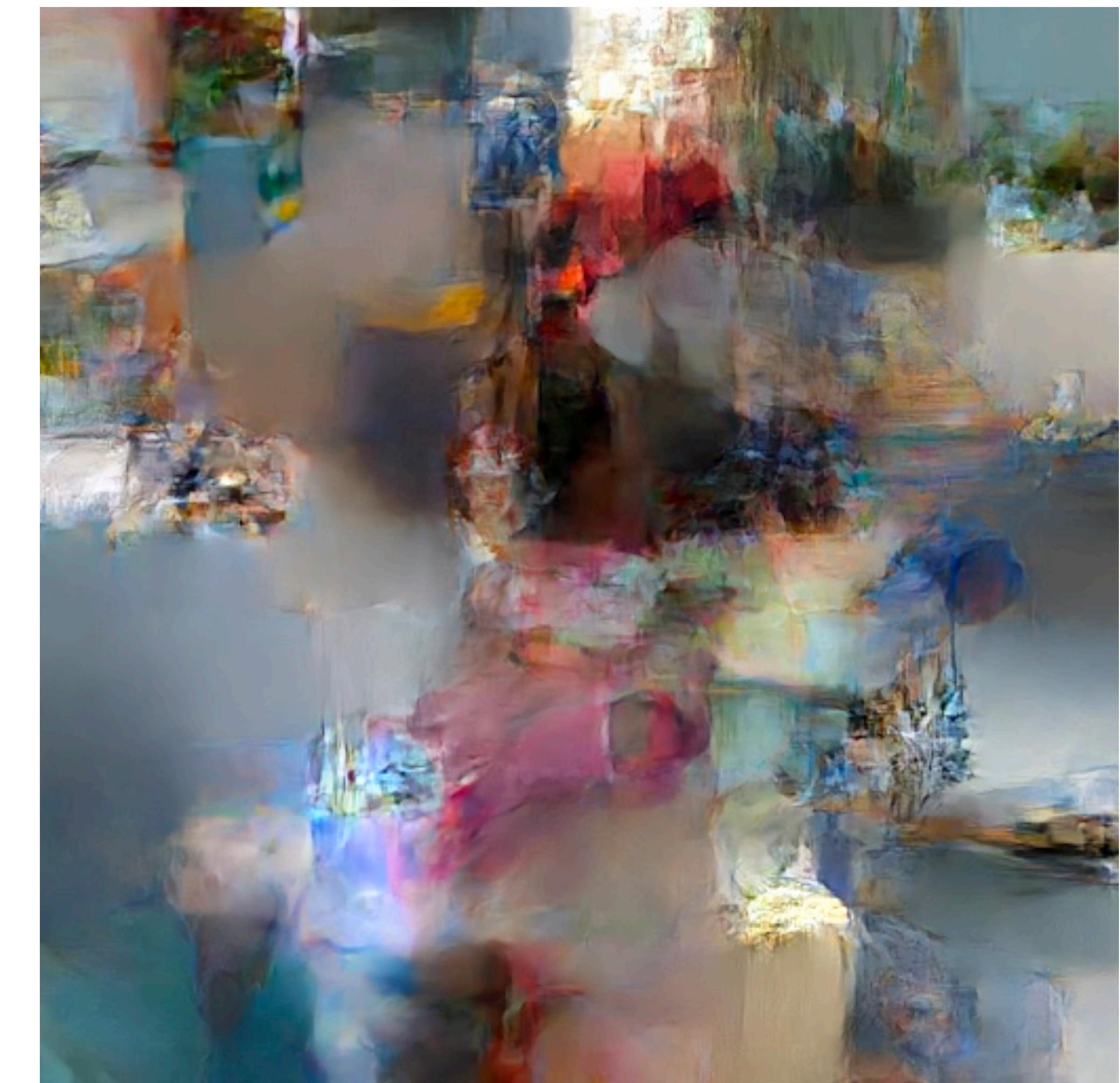


Table 1. Architecture of ELIC main transform networks.



JPEG/JFIF



Minnen et al. (2020)

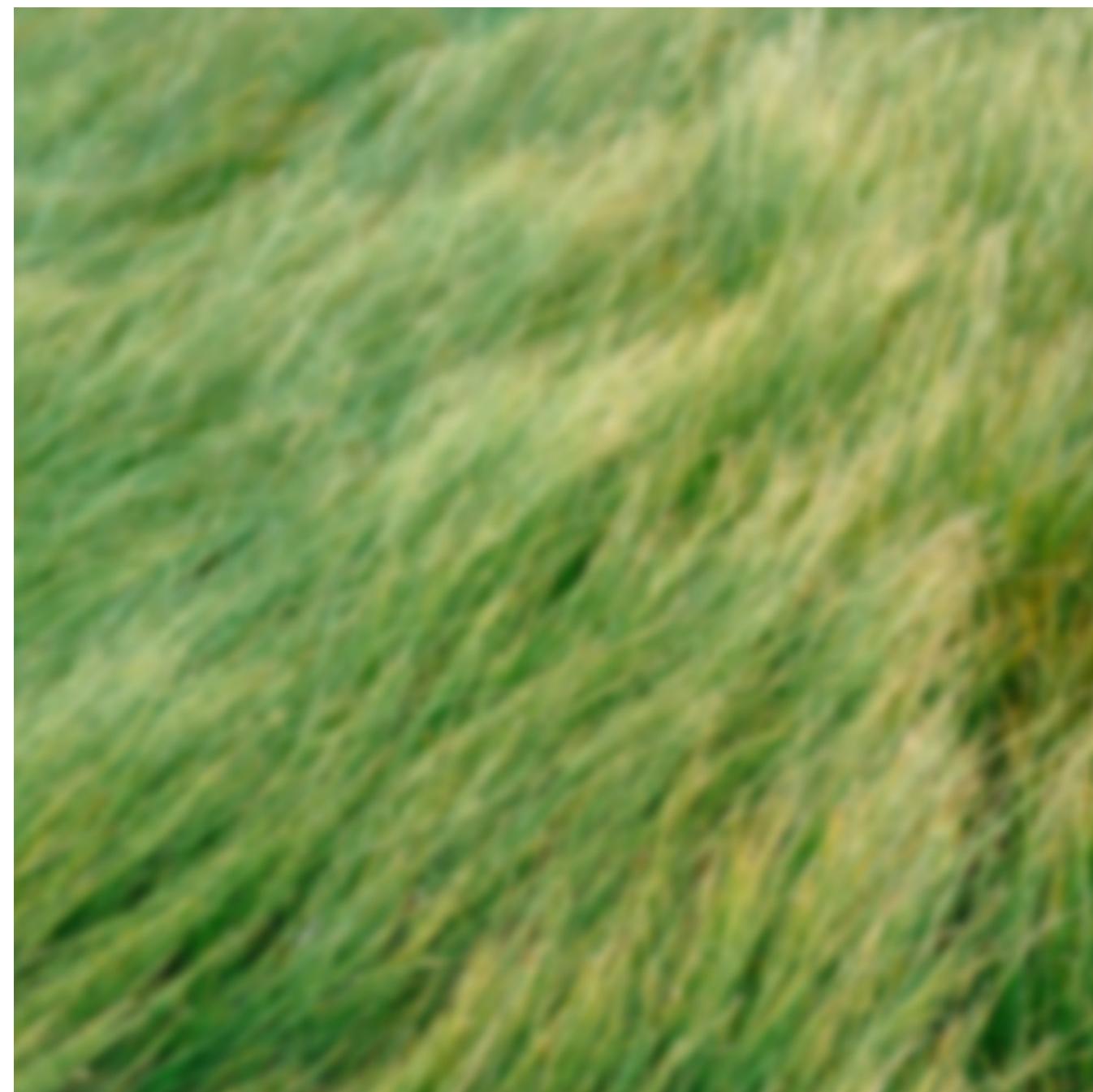
REALISM I:

# Realism-distortion trade-off

# Realism-distortion trade-off



→ 1110010 →



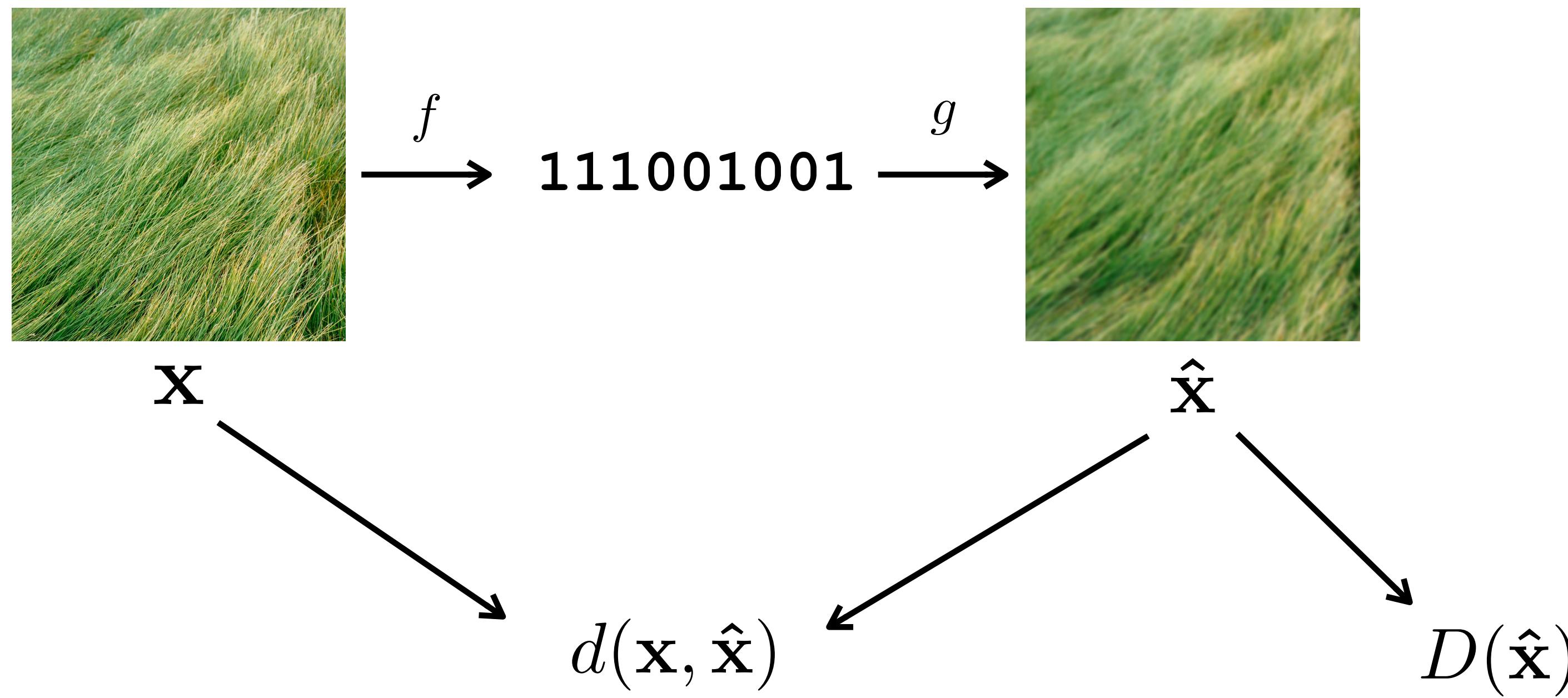
# Realism-distortion trade-off



→ 1110010 →



# How to measure realism?



Example:  $d(x, \hat{x}) = \mathbb{E}[||x - \hat{x}||^2]$

# How to measure realism?



$$P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$$



# How to measure realism?

Divergence:

$$D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \geq 0$$

$$D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] = 0 \Leftrightarrow P_{\mathbf{X}} = P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$$

Example: Total variation distance

$$D_{\text{TV}}[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] = \sup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} |P_{\mathbf{X}}(A) - P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}(A)|$$

Real? Fake?

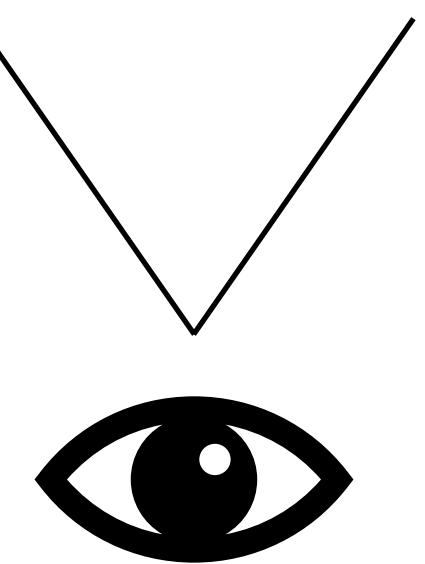
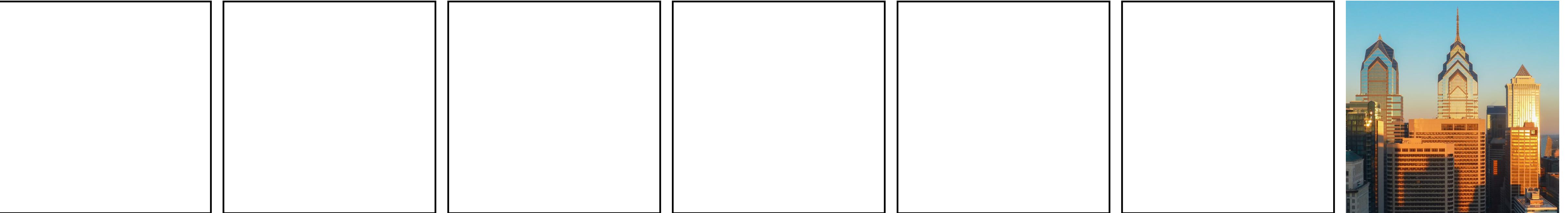
# Divergences vs no-reference metrics



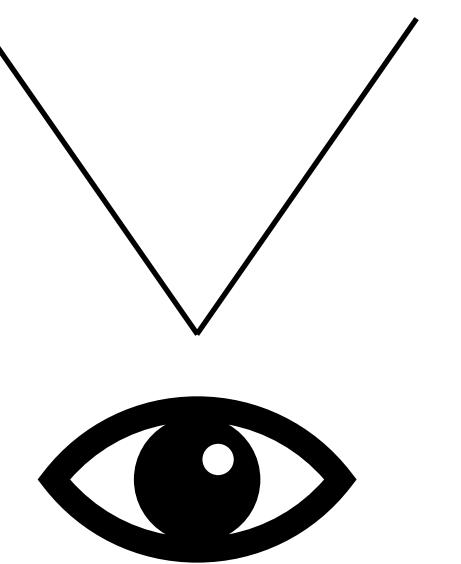
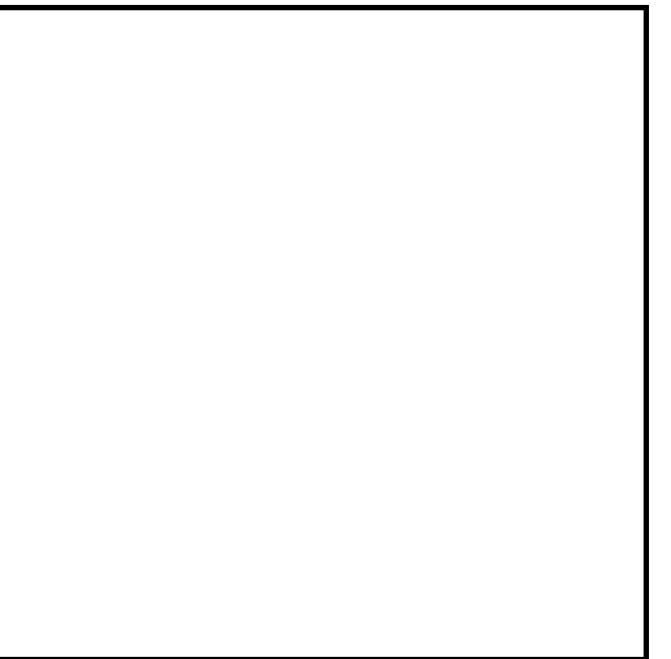
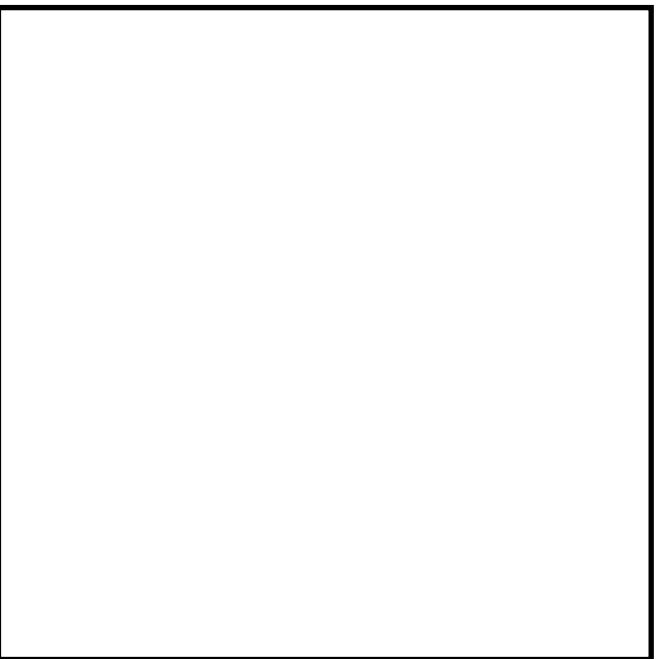
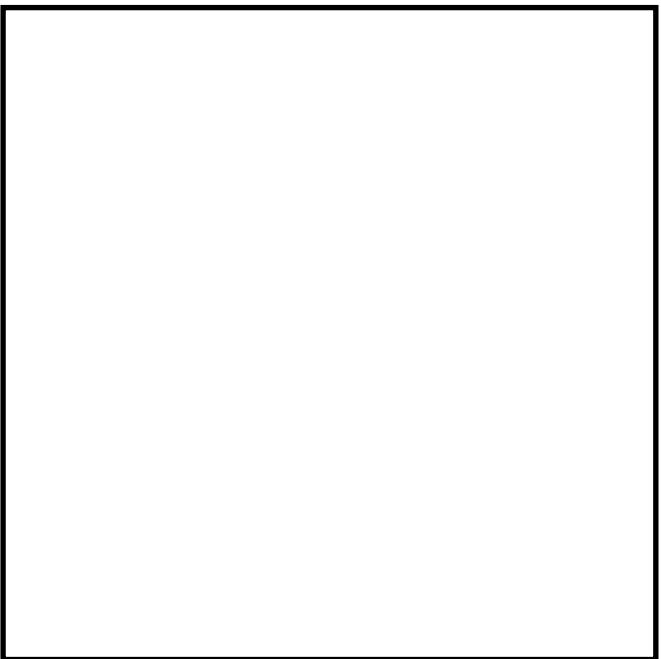
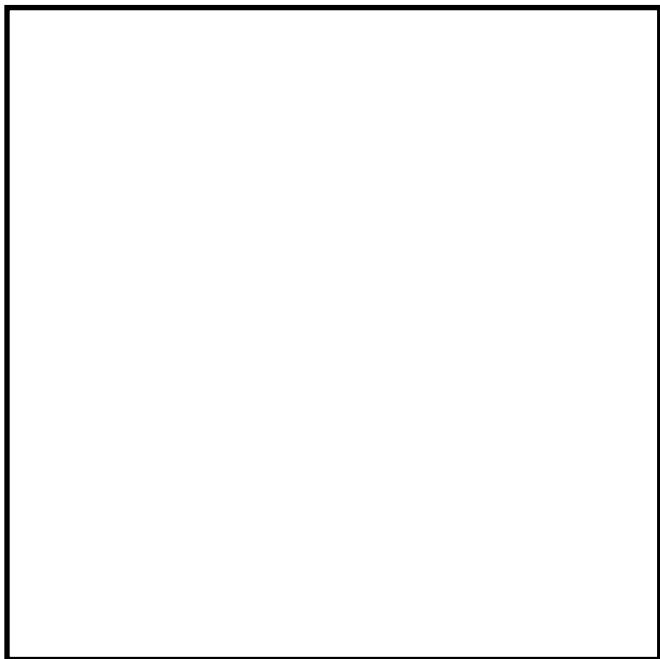
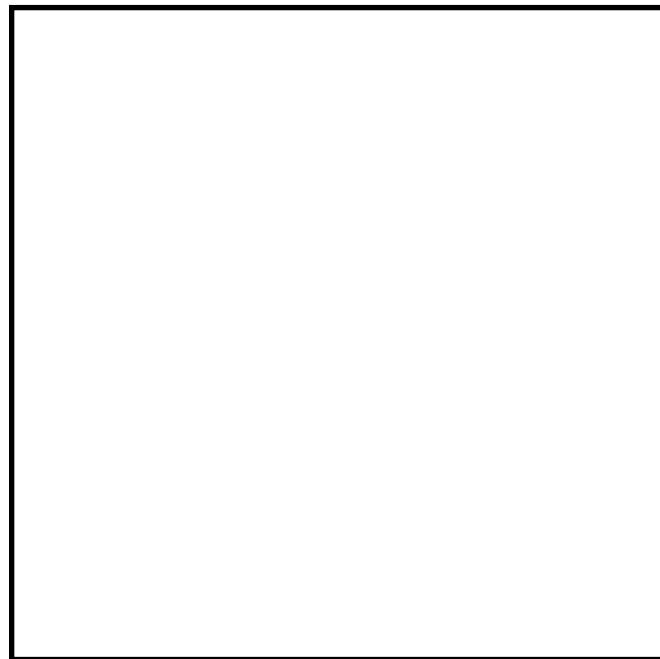
$$\nu(\tilde{X})$$



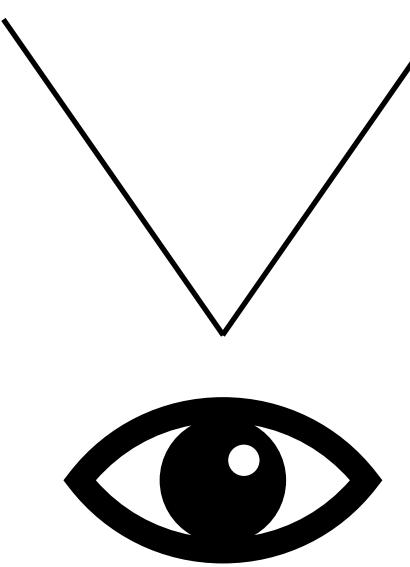
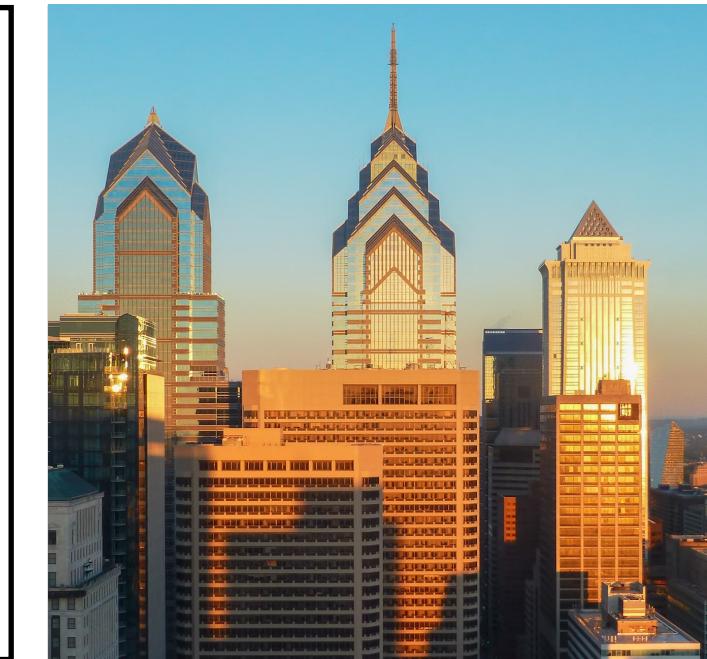
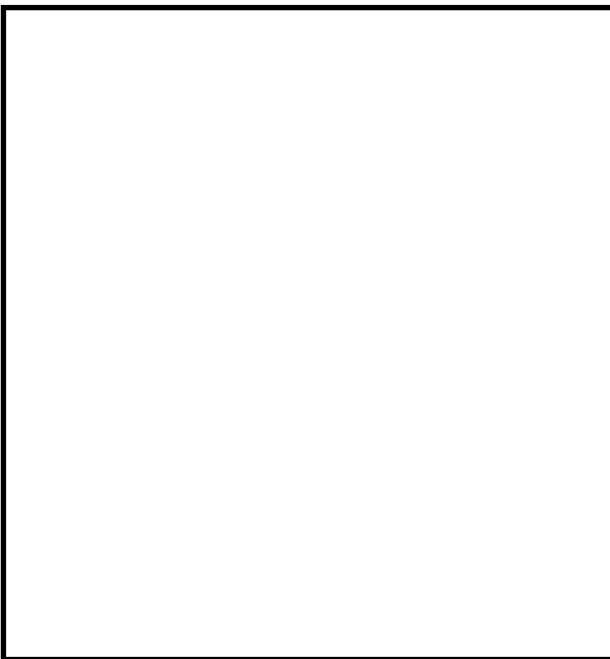
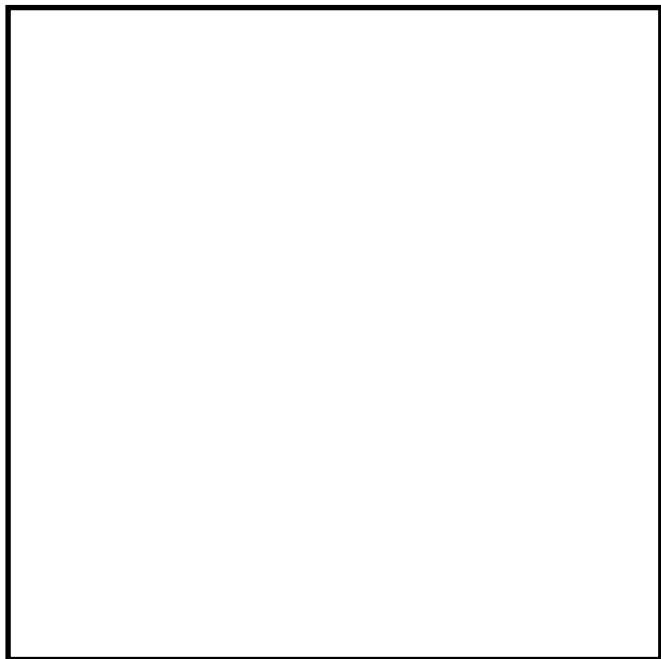
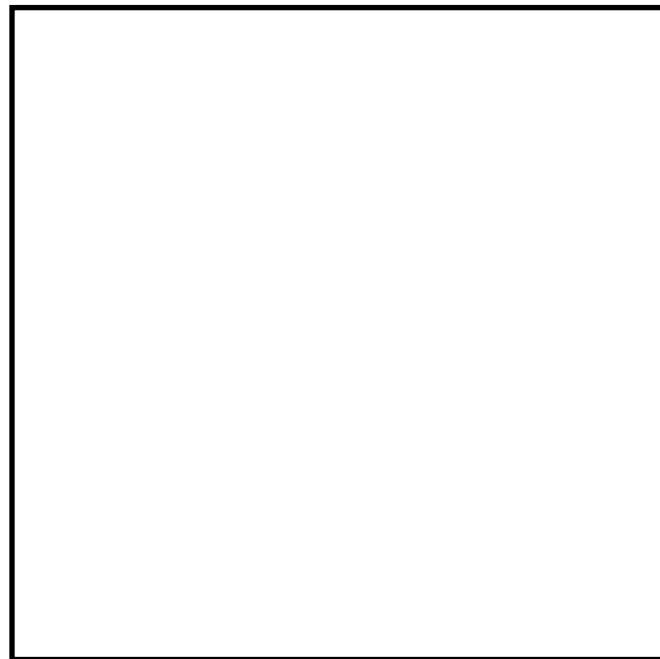
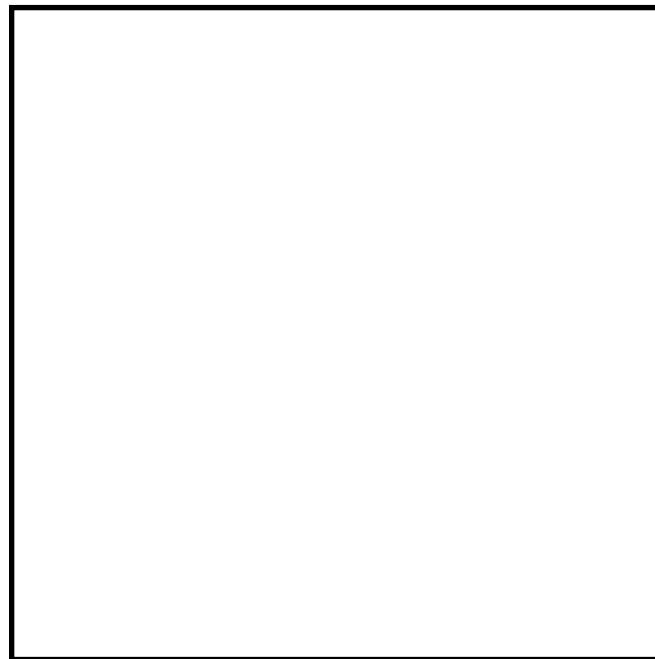
# Divergences vs no-reference metrics



# Divergences vs no-reference metrics



# Divergences vs no-reference metrics



# Divergences vs no-reference metrics

$\hat{X}$



X



X



$\hat{X}$



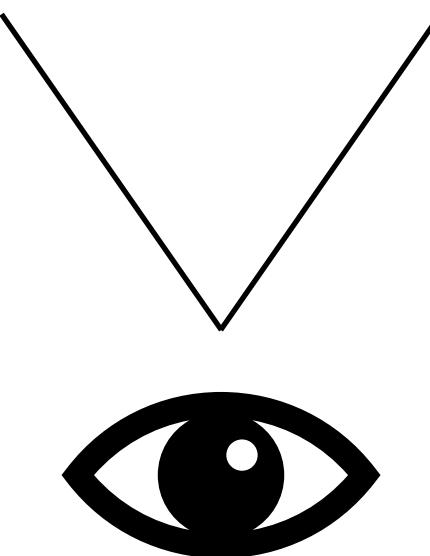
$\hat{X}$



X



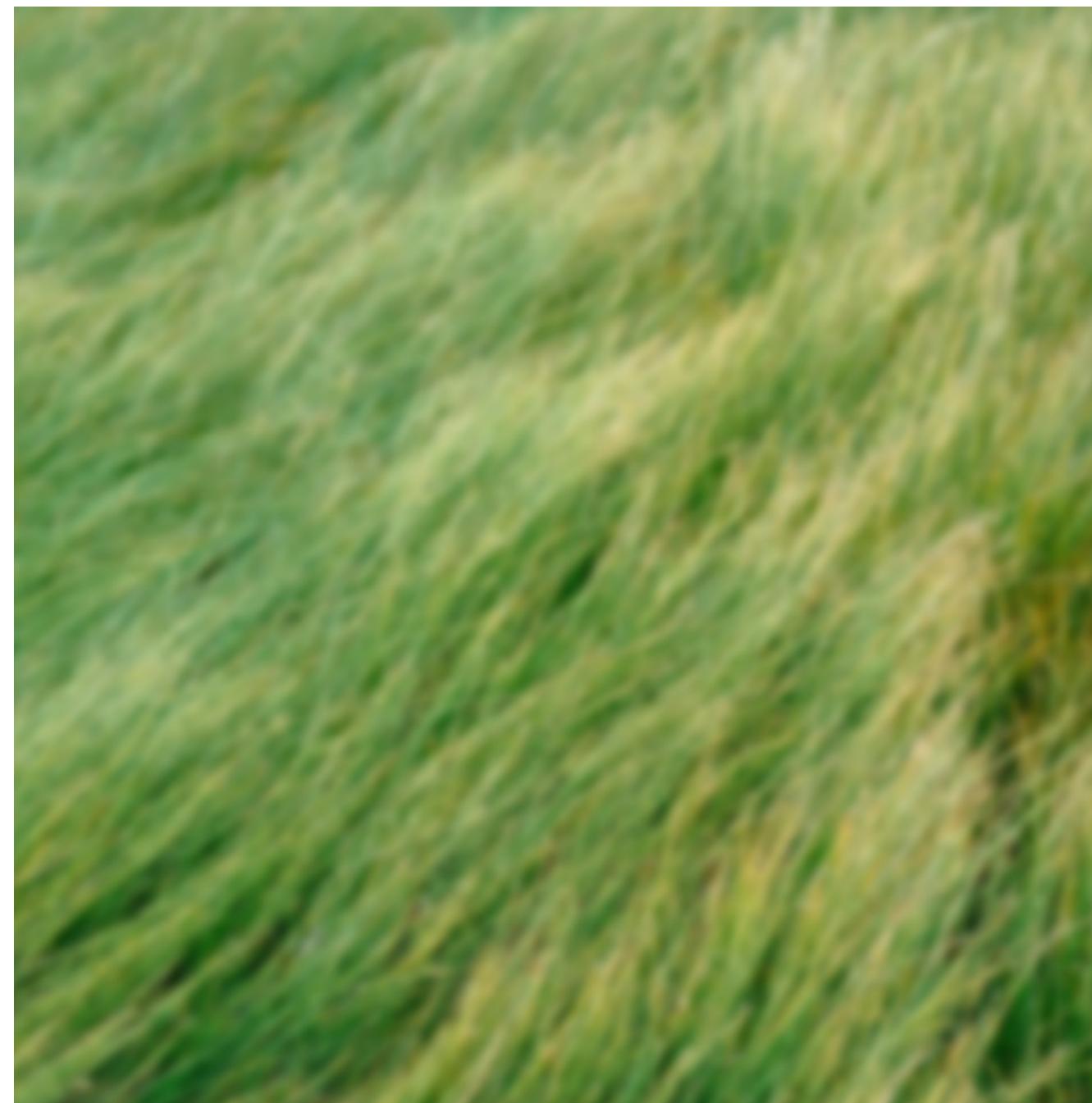
$\hat{X}$



# Realism-distortion trade-off



→ 1110010 →



$\mathbf{x}$

$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

Distortion

# Realism-distortion trade-off



Rate

→ 1110010 →



$\mathbf{x}$

$$D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}]$$

$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$

Realism

# Realism-distortion trade-off



Rate

$$\longrightarrow \text{1110010} \longrightarrow$$



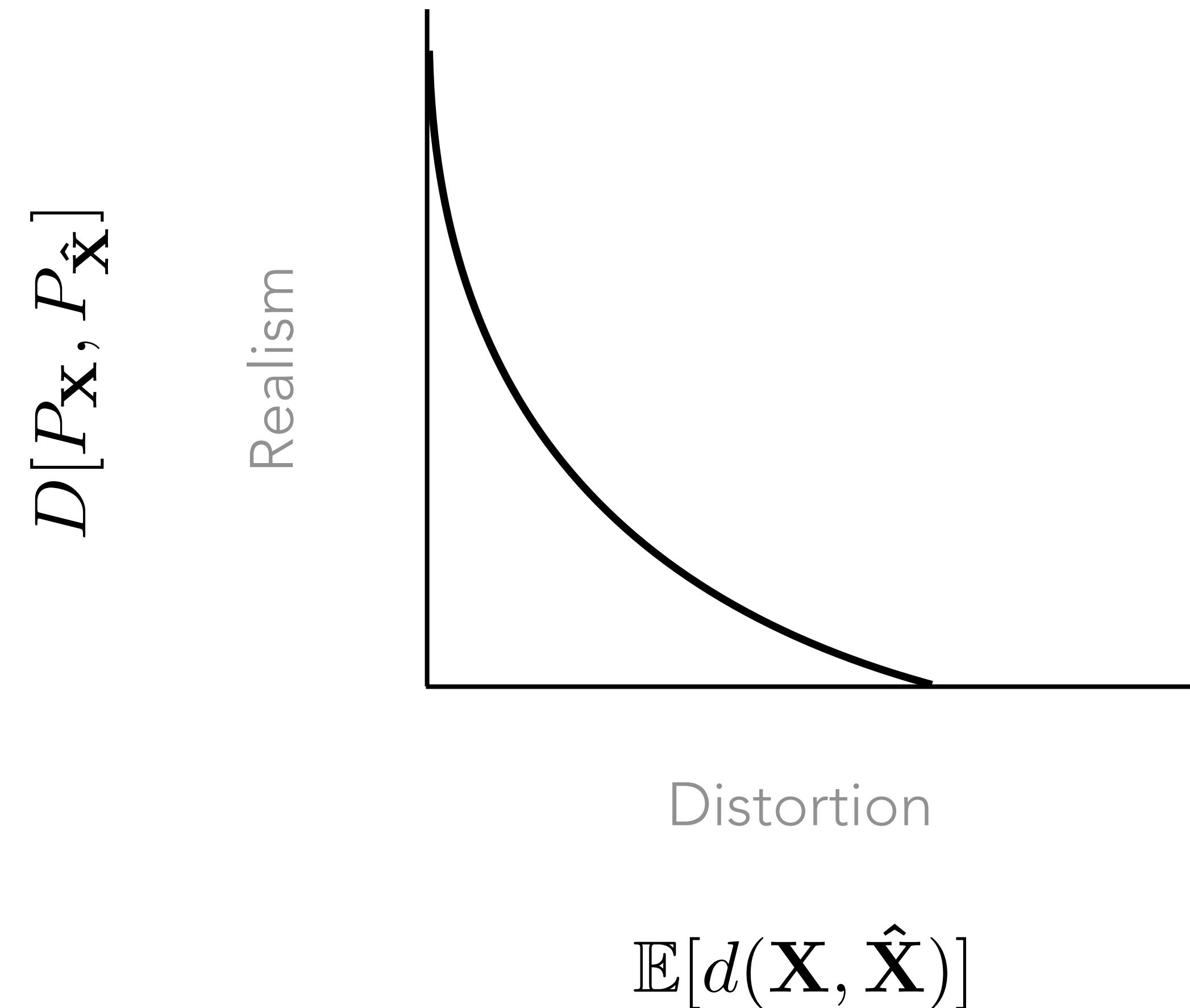
$\mathbf{x}$

$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$

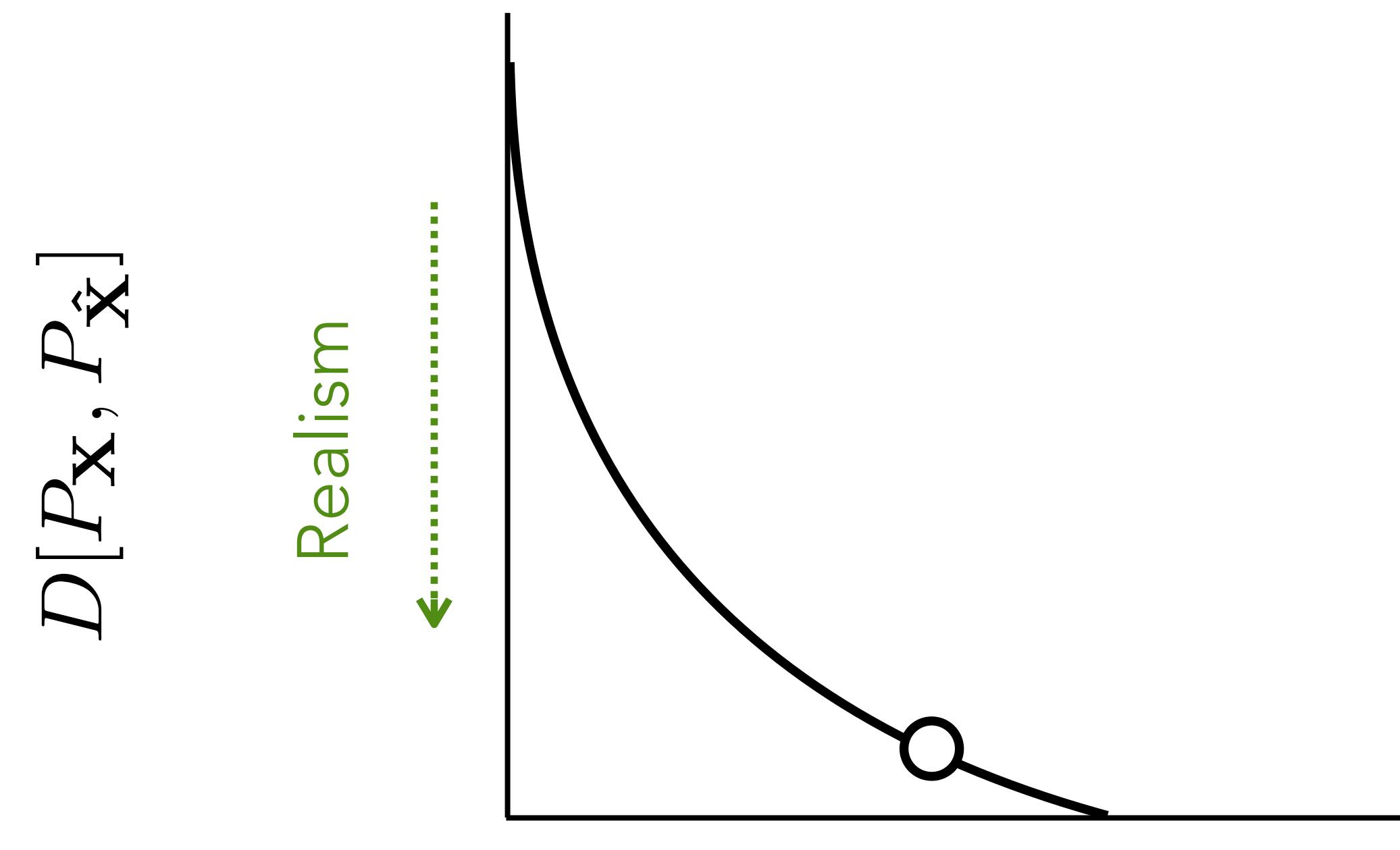
$$\mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})] + \lambda D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}]$$

Realism-distortion trade-off

# Realism-distortion trade-off

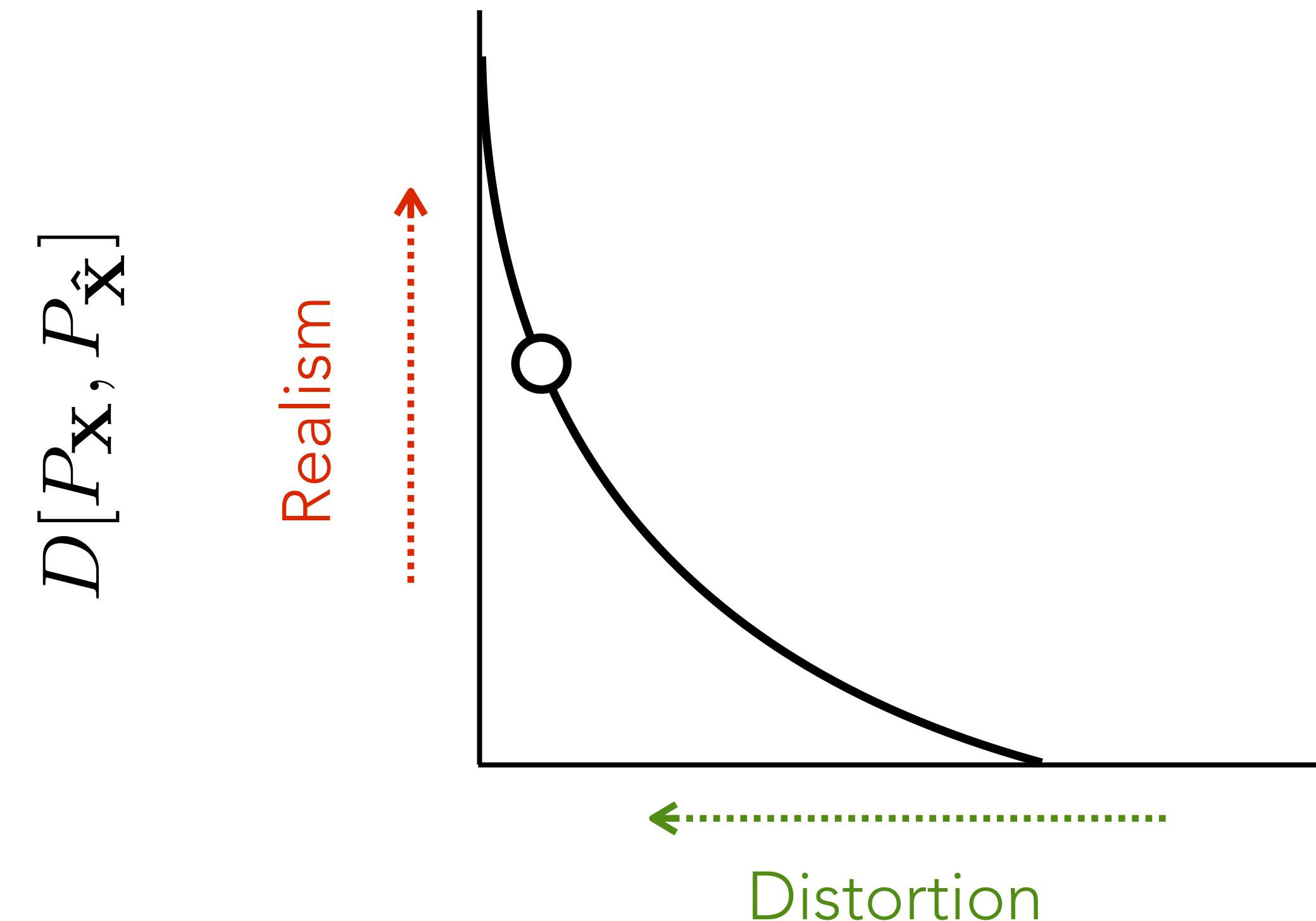


# Realism-distortion trade-off



$$\mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})]$$

# Realism-distortion trade-off

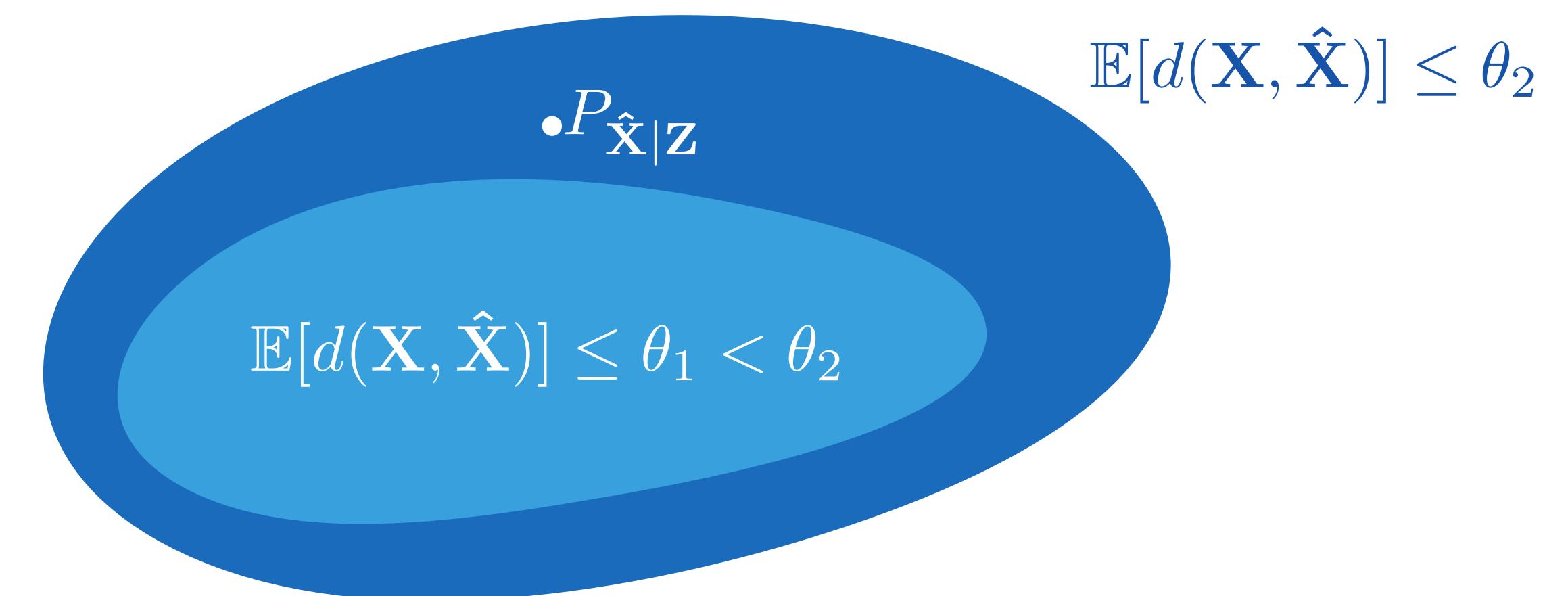


$$\mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})]$$

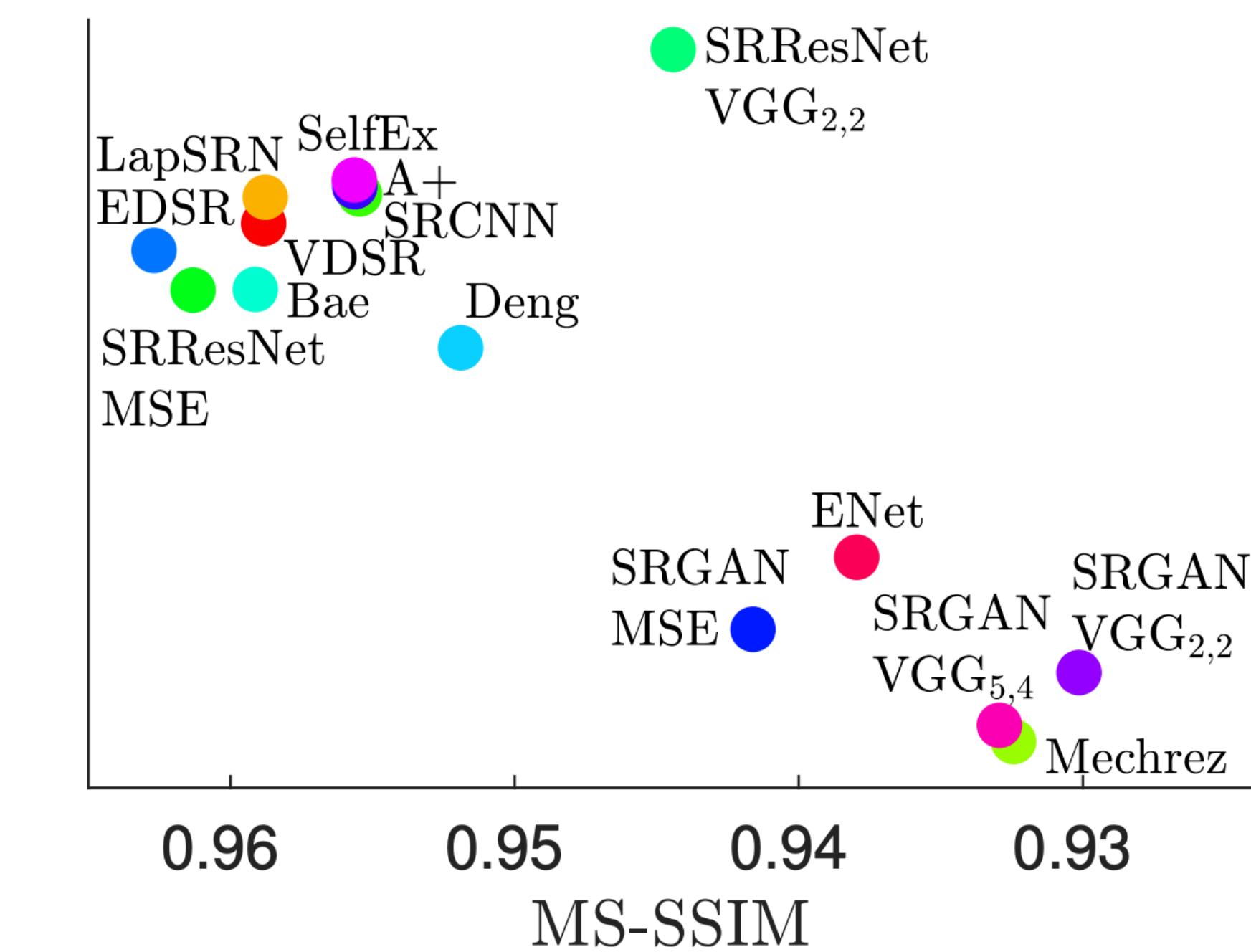
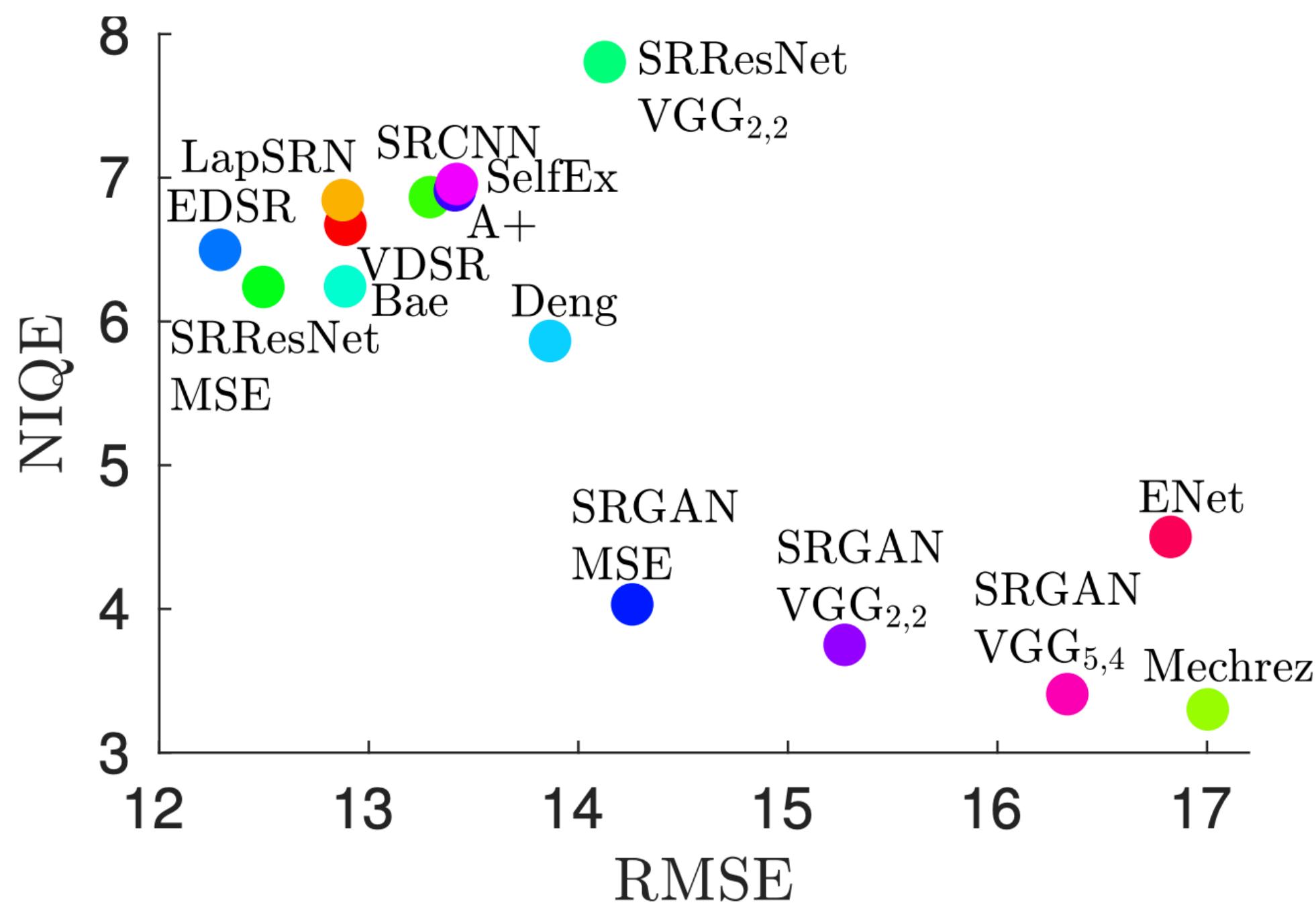
## Realism-distortion trade-off

$$D(\theta_d) = \inf_{P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}|\mathbf{Z}}} D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})] \leq \theta_d$$

**Theorem.** If  $D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}]$  is a divergence which is convex in its second argument, then the *perception-distortion function*  $D(\theta_d)$  is (1) monotonically non-increasing and (2) convex.



# Realism-distortion trade-off



(Information) rate-distortion function

$$R(\theta_d) = \inf_{P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}|\mathbf{X}}} I[\mathbf{X}; \hat{\mathbf{X}}]$$

s.t.  $\mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})] \leq \theta_d$

## (Information) rate-distortion-perception function (RDPF)

$$R(\theta_d, \theta_D) = \inf_{P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}|\mathbf{X}}} I[\mathbf{X}; \hat{\mathbf{X}}]$$

s.t.  $\mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})] \leq \theta_d$  and  $D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \leq \theta_D$

## General rate functions

E.g.,  $D_1[P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}] = \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})]$

Vector



$$R(\theta) = \inf_{P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}|\mathbf{X}}} I[\mathbf{X}; \hat{\mathbf{X}}]$$

s.t.  $\forall i : D_i[P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \leq \theta_i$

# Shannon (1948)

equal fidelity. This means that a criterion of fidelity can be represented by a numerically valued function:

$$v(P(x,y))$$

whose argument ranges over possible probability functions  $P(x,y)$ .

We will now show that under very general and reasonable assumptions the function  $v(P(x,y))$  can be written in a seemingly much more specialized form, namely as an average of a function  $\rho(x,y)$  over the set of possible values of  $x$  and  $y$ :

$$v(P(x,y)) = \iint P(x,y) \rho(x,y) dx dy.$$

To obtain this we need only assume (1) that the source and system are ergodic so that a very long sample will be, with probability nearly 1, typical of the ensemble, and (2) that the evaluation is “reasonable” in the sense that it is possible, by observing a typical input and output  $x_1$  and  $y_1$ , to form a tentative evaluation on the basis of these samples; and if these samples are increased in duration the tentative evaluation will, with probability 1, approach the exact evaluation based on a full knowledge of  $P(x,y)$ . Let the tentative

# Perfect realism

$$\mathbf{X}^* \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$$

Arbitrary reconstruction

# Perfect realism

$$\mathbf{X}^* \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$$

Corrupted data, e.g.,  
reconstruction with minimal distortion

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\mathbf{X}^*}(\mathbf{x}^*) &= \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) P_{\mathbf{X}|\hat{\mathbf{X}}}(\mathbf{x}^* \mid \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ &= \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}, \mathbf{X}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}^*) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}^*) \end{aligned}$$

# Perfect realism

$$\mathbf{X}^* \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|\hat{\mathbf{X}}}$$

Corrupted data, e.g.,  
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$$\begin{aligned} P_{\mathbf{X}^*}(\mathbf{x}^*) &= \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) P_{\mathbf{X}|\hat{\mathbf{X}}}(\mathbf{x}^* \mid \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ &= \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}, \mathbf{X}}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}^*) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}^*) \end{aligned}$$

$$D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\mathbf{X}^*}] = 0$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}^*\|^2] \leq 2 \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|^2]$$

At most **2x** increase

# Perfect realism

Proof:

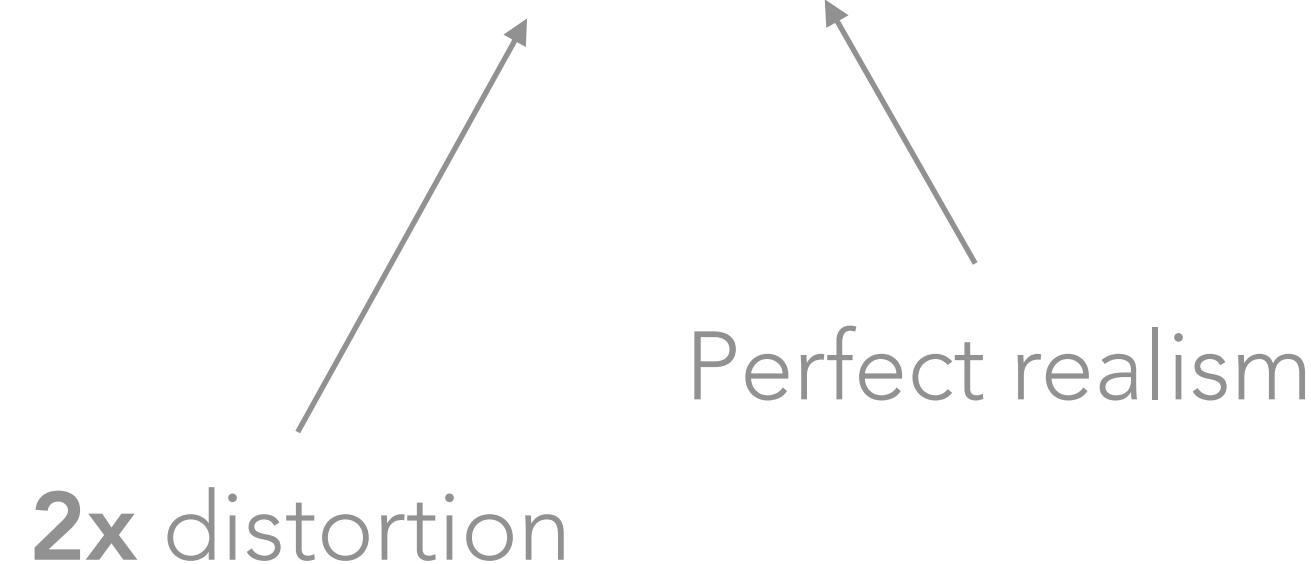
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}^*\|^2] &= \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X}^* - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] + \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] - \mathbf{X}\|^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X}^* - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}]\|^2 + \|\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] - \mathbf{X}\|^2] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E}[2(\mathbf{X}^* - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}])^\top (\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] - \mathbf{X})] \\ (\mathbf{X}^*, \hat{\mathbf{X}}) \sim (\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}) \rightarrow &= \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}]\|^2 + \|\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] - \mathbf{X}\|^2] \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}} [2 \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}^* - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] | \hat{\mathbf{X}}]^\top \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}] - \mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}]] \\ &= 2\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}]\|^2] \\ &\leq 2\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|^2]\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{X}^* \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{X} | \hat{\mathbf{X}}$       0

## Bounds on the RDPF

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}^*\|^2] \leq 2 \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|^2]$$

$$R(2\theta_d, 0) \leq R(\theta_d, \infty) = R(\theta_d)$$



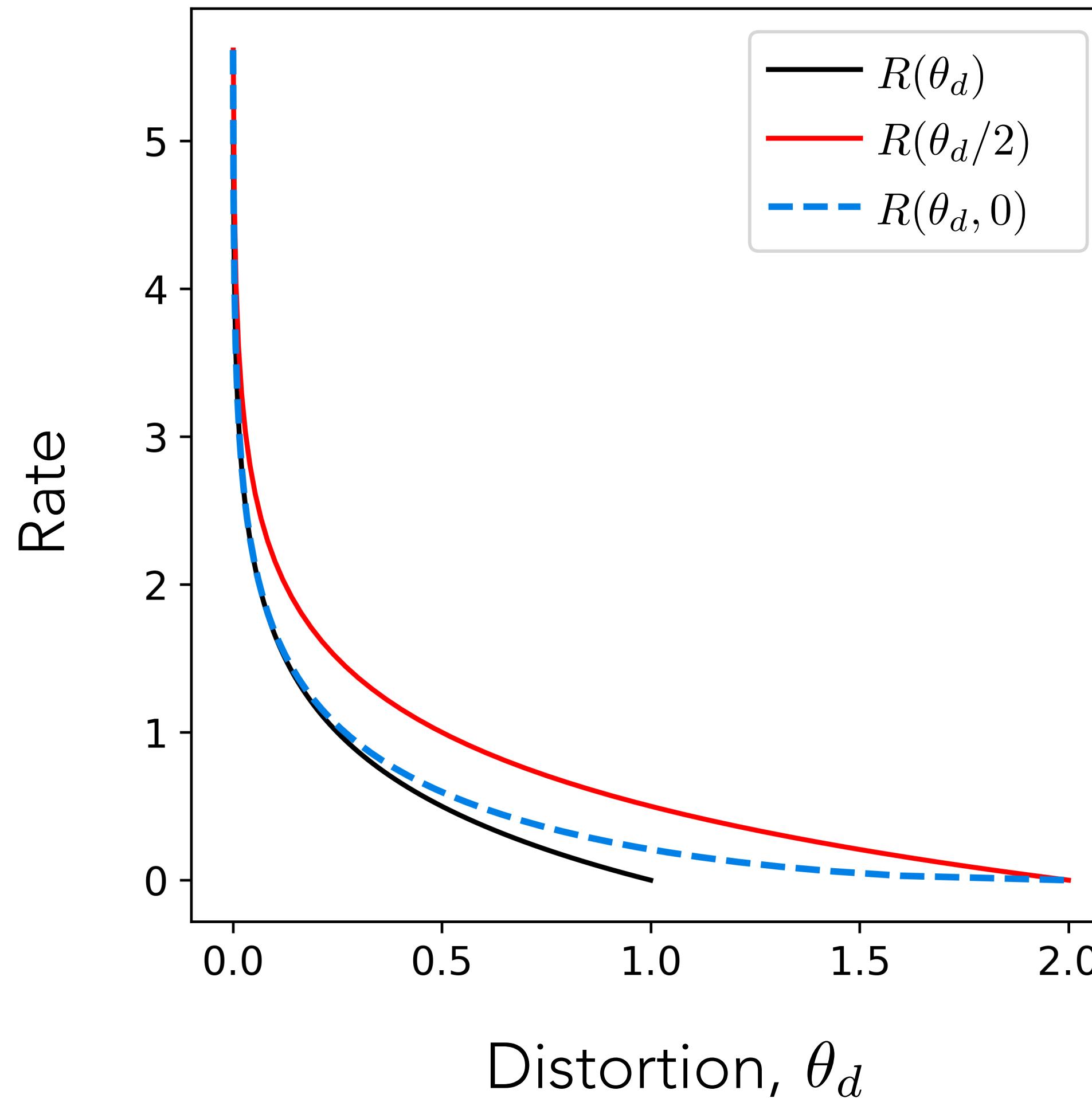
## Bounds on the RDPF

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}^*\|^2] \leq 2 \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|^2]$$

$$R(\theta_d, 0) \leq R(\theta_d/2, \infty) = R(\theta_d/2)$$



# Bounds on the RDPF



How meaningful is  $R(\theta_d, \theta_D)$ ?

## General rate functions

E.g.,  $D_1[P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}] = \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})]$

Vector

$$R(\theta) = \inf_{P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}|\mathbf{X}}} I[\mathbf{X}; \hat{\mathbf{X}}]$$

s.t.  $\forall i : D_i[P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \leq \theta_i$

# One-shot achievability

**Definition.** For a source  $\mathbf{X} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}}$  and a given set of constraints, we say that a rate  $R$  is *one-shot achievable* if an encoder  $f : \mathcal{X} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$ , a decoder  $g : \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ , and a random variable  $U$  (indep. of  $\mathbf{X}$ ) exist with

$$K = f(\mathbf{X}, U) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{X}} = g(K, U)$$

such that the joint distribution  $P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}$  satisfies the constraints and the conditional entropy of  $K$  is not more than  $R$ ,  $H[K \mid U] \leq R$ .

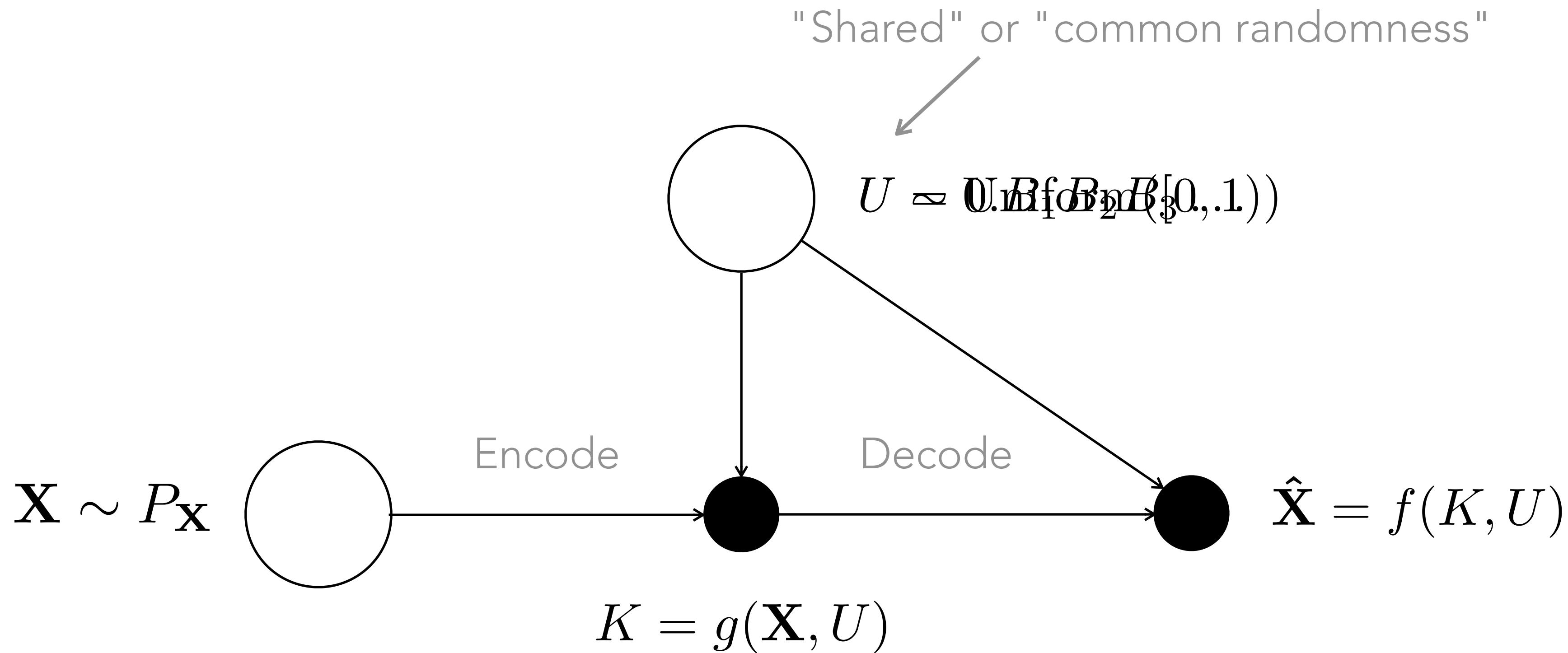
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such that the joint distribution  $P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}$  satisfies the constraints and the conditional entropy of  $K$  is not more than  $R$ ,  $H[K | U] \leq R$ .

# Shared randomness



# Achievability

**Definition.** For a source  $\mathbf{X} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}}$  and a given set of constraints, we say that a rate  $R$  is *(asymptotically) achievable* if there exists a random variable  $U$  independent of  $\mathbf{X}$  and a sequence of encoders  $f_N : \mathcal{X}^N \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$  and decoders  $g_N : \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}^N$  with

$$K_N = f(\mathbf{X}^N, U) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{X}}^N = g(K_N, U)$$

such that each joint distribution  $P_{\mathbf{X}_n, \hat{\mathbf{X}}_n}$  ( $n = 1, \dots, N$ ) satisfies the constraints and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} H[K_N \mid U]/N \leq R.$$

# Achievability

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$$K_N = f(\mathbf{X}^N, U) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{X}}^N = g(K_N, U)$$

such that each joint distribution  $P_{\mathbf{X}_n, \hat{\mathbf{X}}_n}$  ( $n = 1, \dots, N$ ) satisfies the constraints and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} H[K_N \mid U]/N \leq R.$$

# One-shot achievability

**Theorem.** Let an arbitrary source  $\mathbf{X} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}}$  and constraints  $D_i[P_{\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}}}] \leq \theta_i$  be given. If

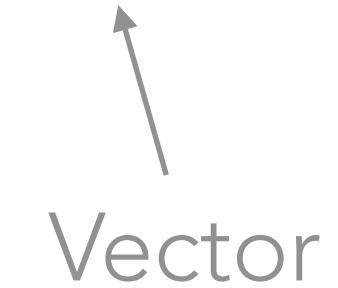
$$R > R(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log(R(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + 1) + 4,$$

↑  
Vector

then  $R$  is one-shot achievable.

# Achievability

**Theorem.** Let an arbitrary source  $\mathbf{X} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}}$  and constraints  $D_i[P_{\mathbf{X}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}] \leq \theta_i$  be given. Then  $R < \infty$  is achievable if and only if  $R \geq R(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ .



LEARNED COMPRESSION II:

# Adversarial losses and diffusion

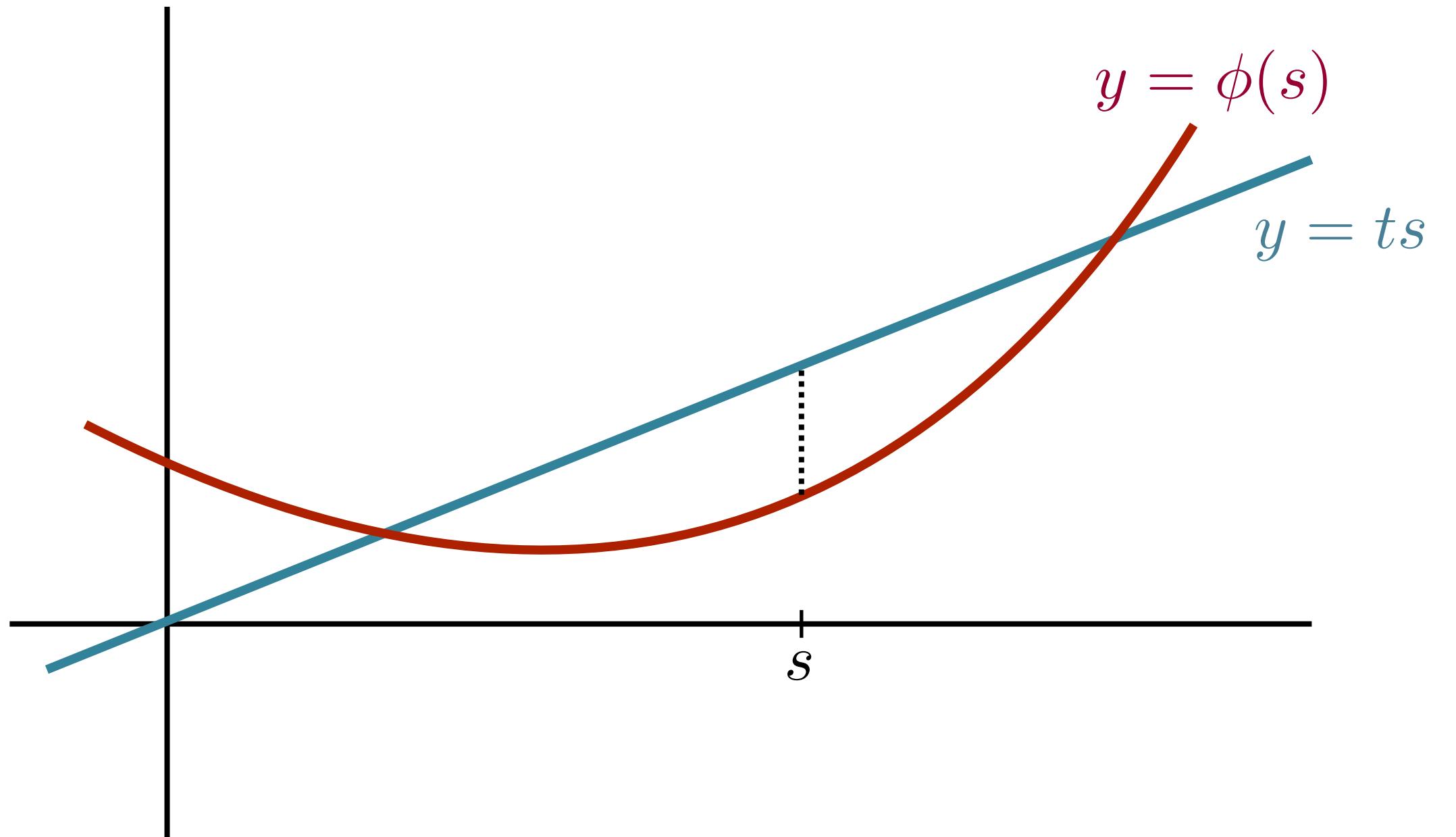
## Legendre transform (convex conjugate)

$$\phi : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\phi^* : I^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$\phi^*(t) = \sup_{s \in I} \{st - \phi(s)\}$$

$$\phi(s) = \sup_{t \in I^*} \{st - \phi^*(t)\}$$



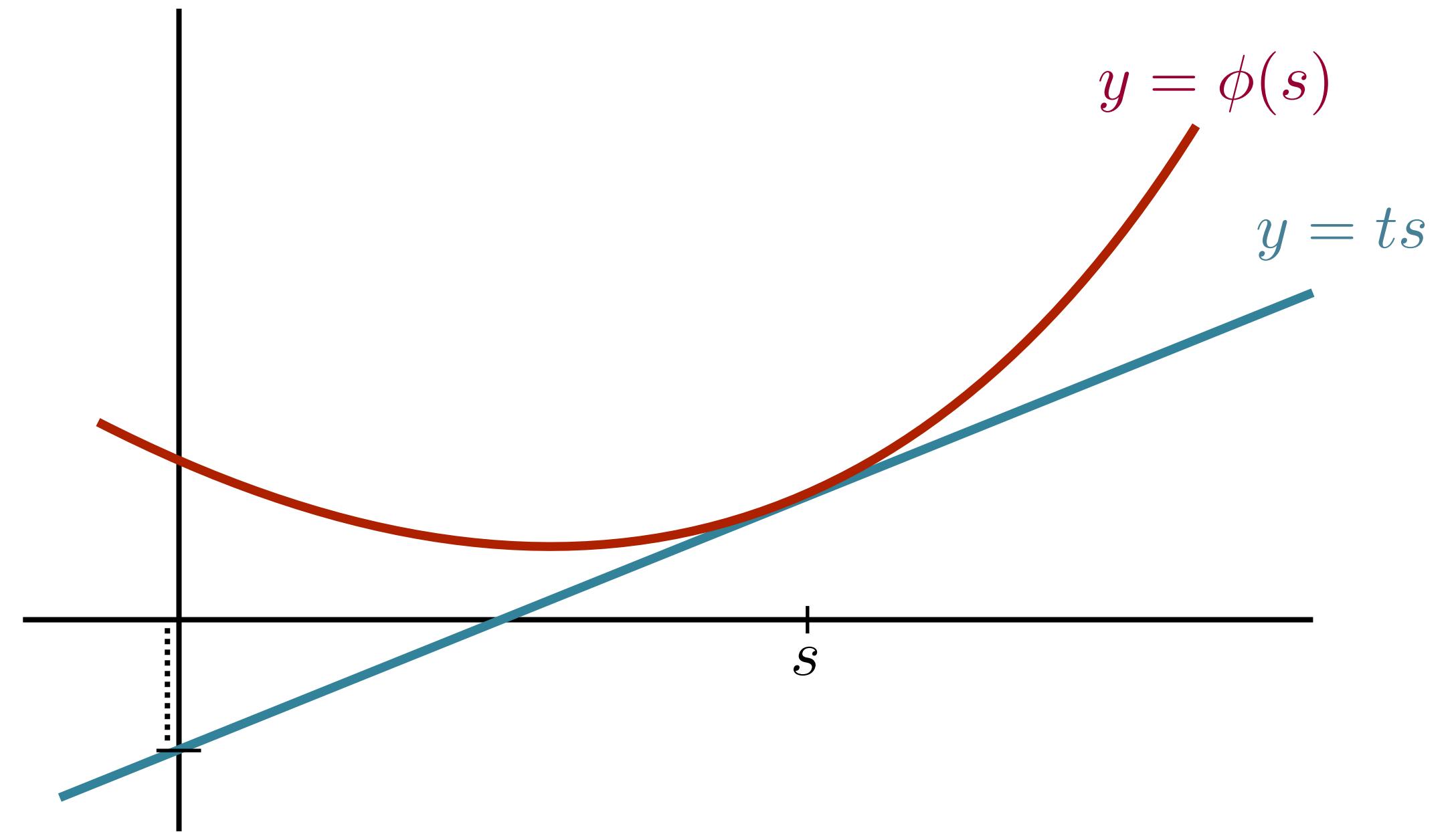
## Legendre transform (convex conjugate)

$$\phi : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\phi^* : I^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$\phi^*(t) = \sup_{s \in I} \{st - \phi(s)\}$$

$$\phi(s) = \sup_{t \in I^*} \{st - \phi^*(t)\}$$



## Legendre transform (convex conjugate)

$$\phi(s) = s \log(s)$$

$$\phi^*(t) = \exp(t - 1)$$

$$\phi(s) = \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} (st - \exp(t - 1))$$

# $f$ -divergences

$$D_\phi[P, Q] = \int \phi\left(\frac{dP}{dQ}\right) dQ$$

Convex function



## $f$ -divergences

$$D_\phi[p, q] = \int q(\mathbf{x})\phi\left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})}\right) d\mathbf{x}$$

E.g., KL divergences:  $\phi(s) = -\log s$  or  $\phi(s) = s \log s$

## Adversarial losses

$$\begin{aligned} D_\phi[p, q] &= \int q(\mathbf{x}) \phi \left( \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} \right) \\ &= \int q(\mathbf{x}) \sup_t \left\{ \textcolor{teal}{t} \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} - \phi^*(\textcolor{teal}{t}) \right\} d\mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

## Adversarial losses

$$\begin{aligned} D_\phi[p, q] &= \int q(\mathbf{x}) \phi \left( \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} \right) \\ &= \int q(\mathbf{x}) \sup_t \left\{ \textcolor{teal}{t} \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} - \phi^*(\textcolor{teal}{t}) \right\} d\mathbf{x} \\ &\geq \sup_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \int q(\mathbf{x}) \left( \textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x}) \frac{p(\mathbf{x})}{q(\mathbf{x})} - \phi^*(\textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x})) \right) d\mathbf{x} \\ &= \sup_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \int p(\mathbf{x}) \textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} - \int q(\mathbf{x}) \phi^*(\textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x})) d\mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

# Adversarial losses

$$\sup_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \int p(\mathbf{x}) \textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} - \int q(\mathbf{x}) \phi^*(\textcolor{teal}{T}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{x})) d\mathbf{x}$$

# Adversarial losses

$$\sup_{\eta} \mathbb{E}[T_{\eta}(\mathbf{X})] - \mathbb{E}[\phi^*(T_{\eta}(\hat{\mathbf{X}}))]$$

"Adversary" or "critic"



# Adversarial losses

$$\mathbf{Z} = f_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{U}$$

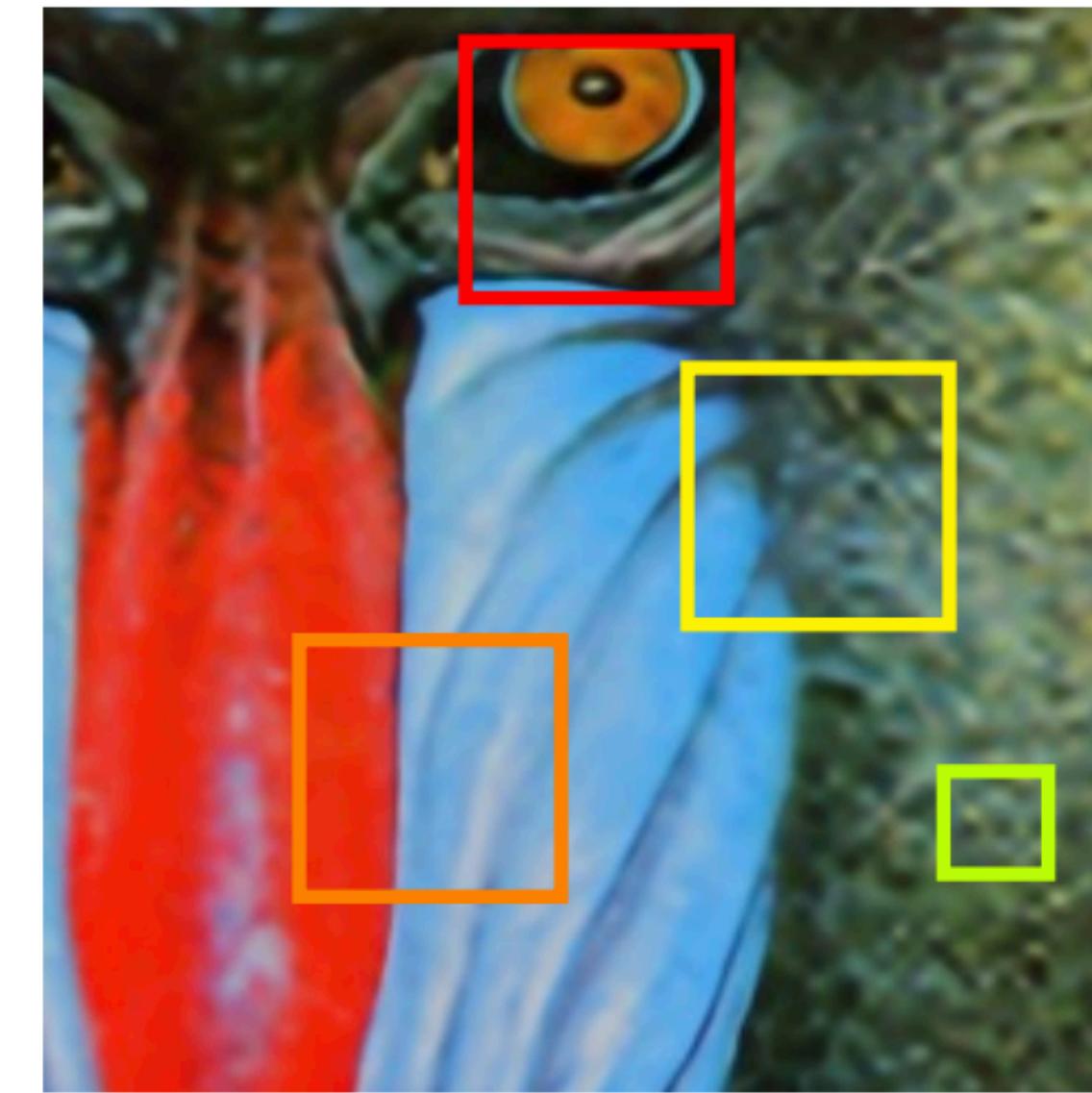
$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = g_{\theta}(\mathbf{Z})$$

Repeat:

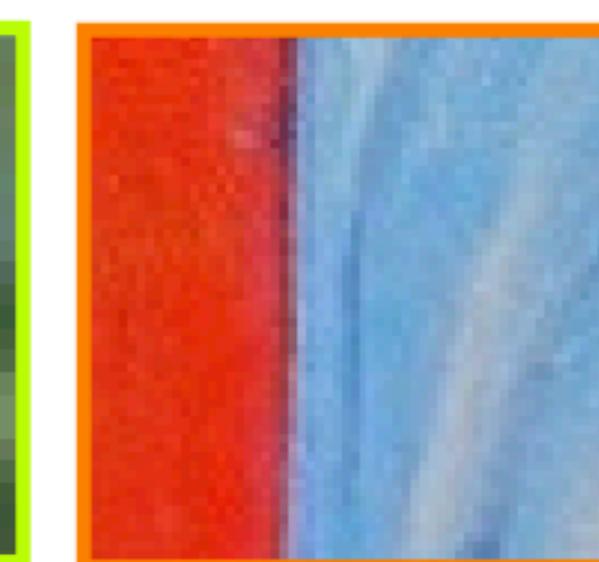
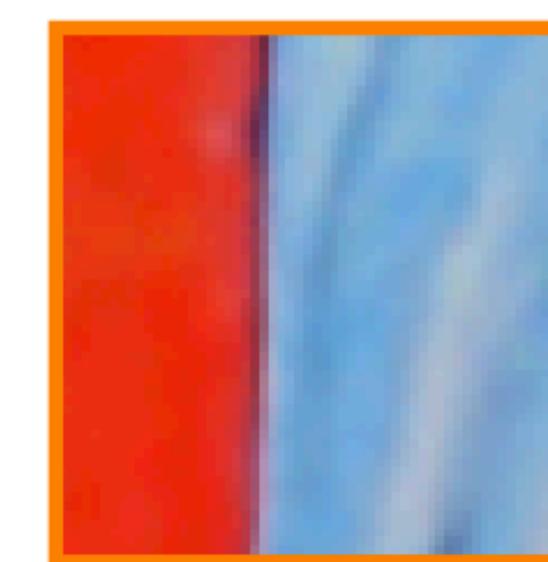
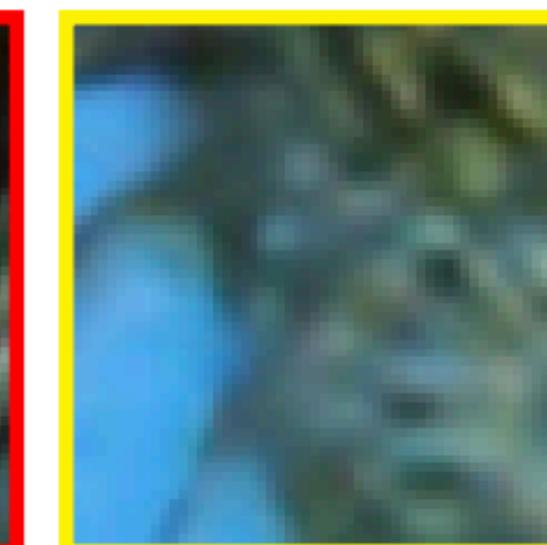
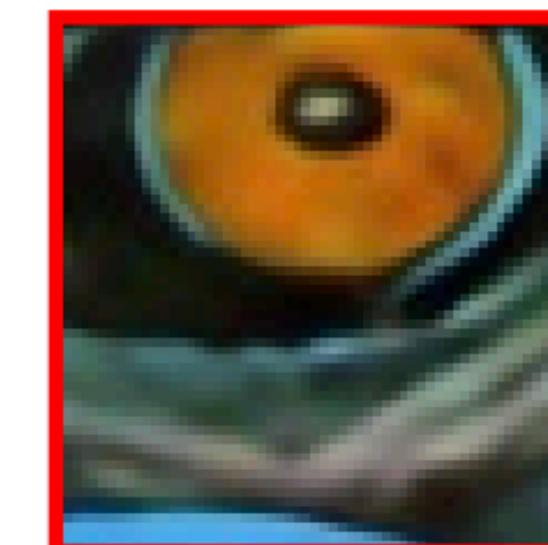
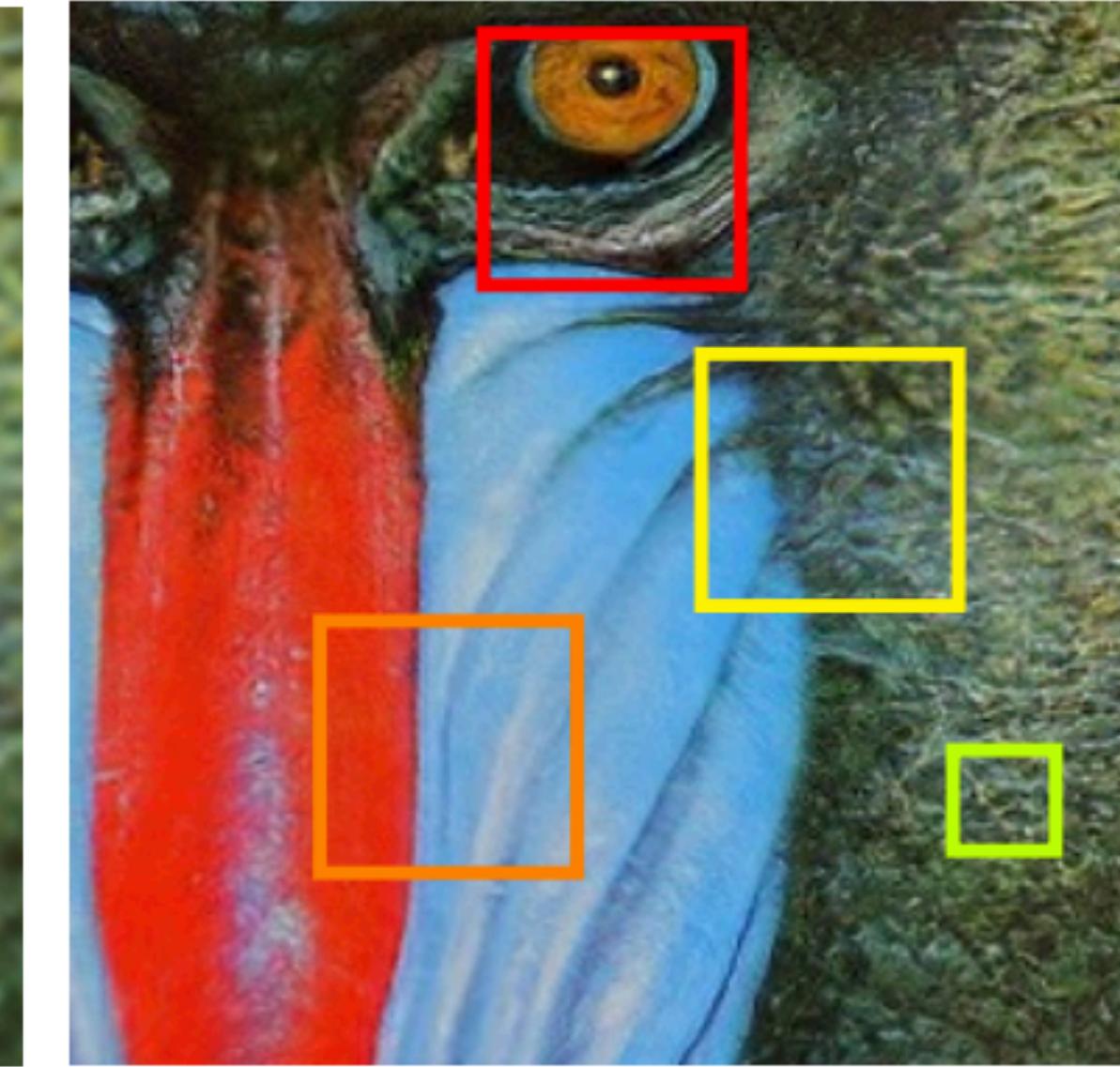
$$\boldsymbol{\eta} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \left( \mathbb{E}[T_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\mathbf{X})] - \mathbb{E}[\phi^*(T_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\hat{\mathbf{X}}))] \right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\theta} + \varepsilon \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left( \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[-\log p(\mathbf{Z})]}_{\text{Rate}} + \lambda \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[-\log \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})]]}_{\text{Distortion}} + \beta \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[-\phi^*(T_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(\hat{\mathbf{X}}))]}_{\text{Realism}} \right)$$

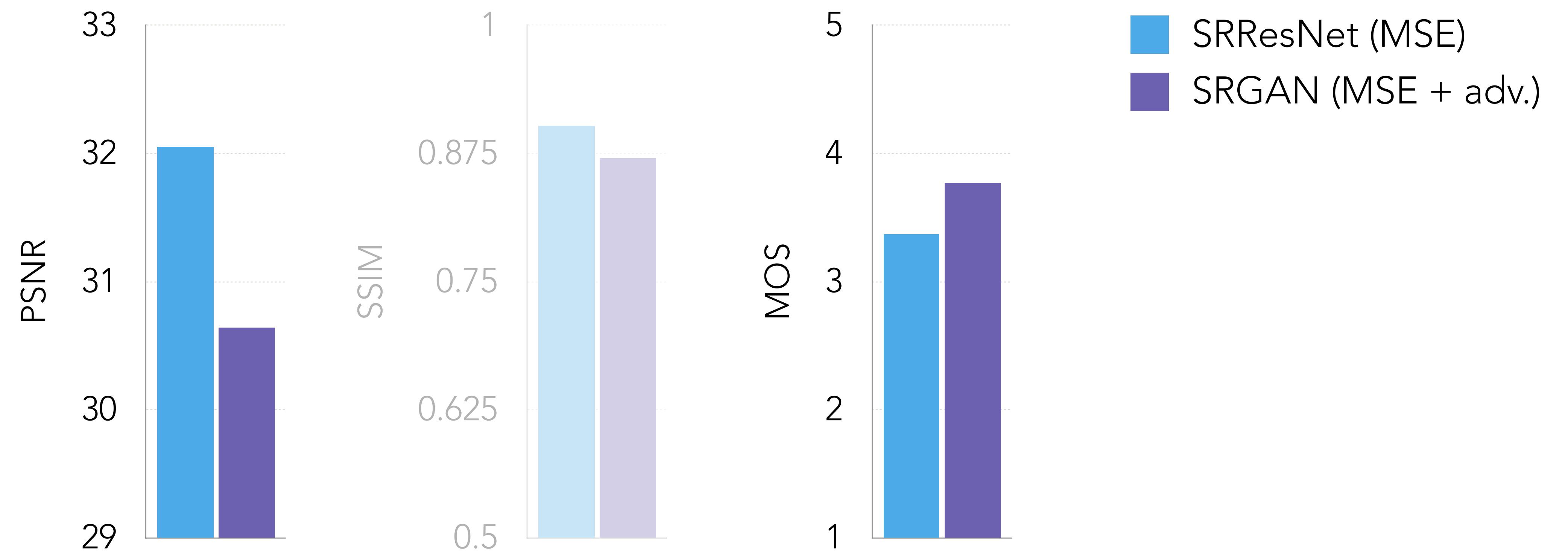
SRResNet



SRGAN



# Example: SRGAN



A first approach using *diffusion*

# Perfect realism

Powerful (conditional) generative model

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Z}}$$

Rate-constrained representation  
②

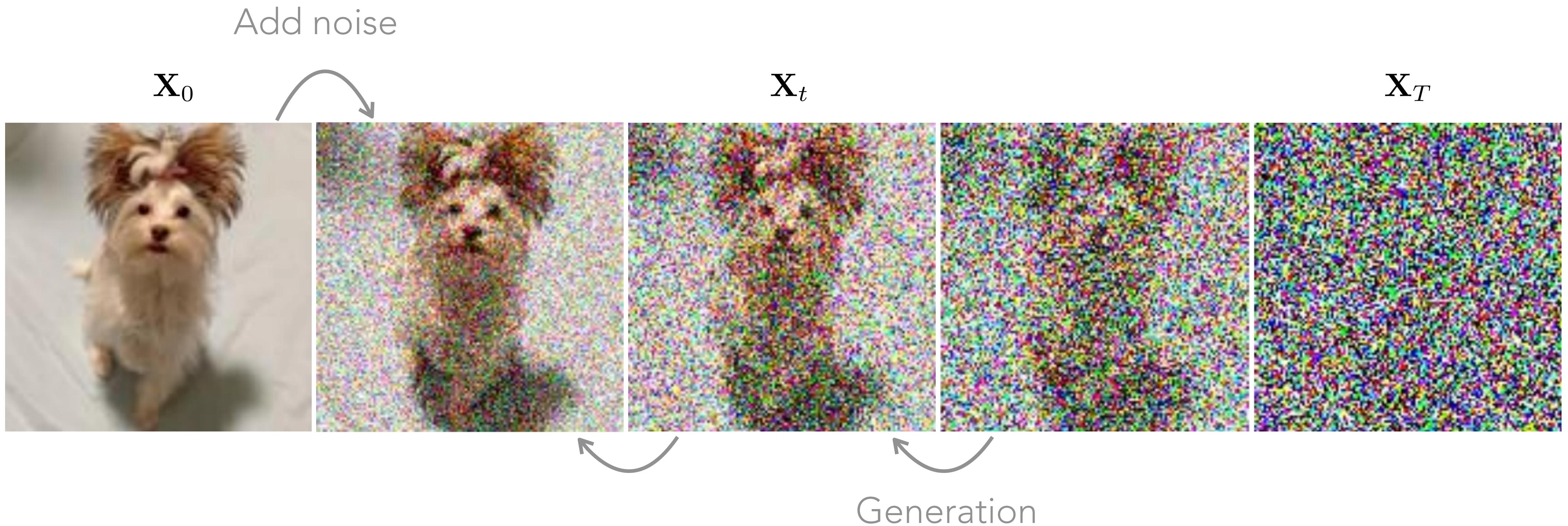
$$D[P_{\mathbf{X}}, P_{\hat{\mathbf{X}}}] = 0$$

$$\mathbb{E}[||\hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}||^2] = 2 \mathbb{E}[||\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Z}] - \mathbf{X}||^2] \quad ①$$

Difficult to optimize

Easy to optimize

# Diffusion



Sohl-Dickstein et al. (2015); Song et al. (2021)

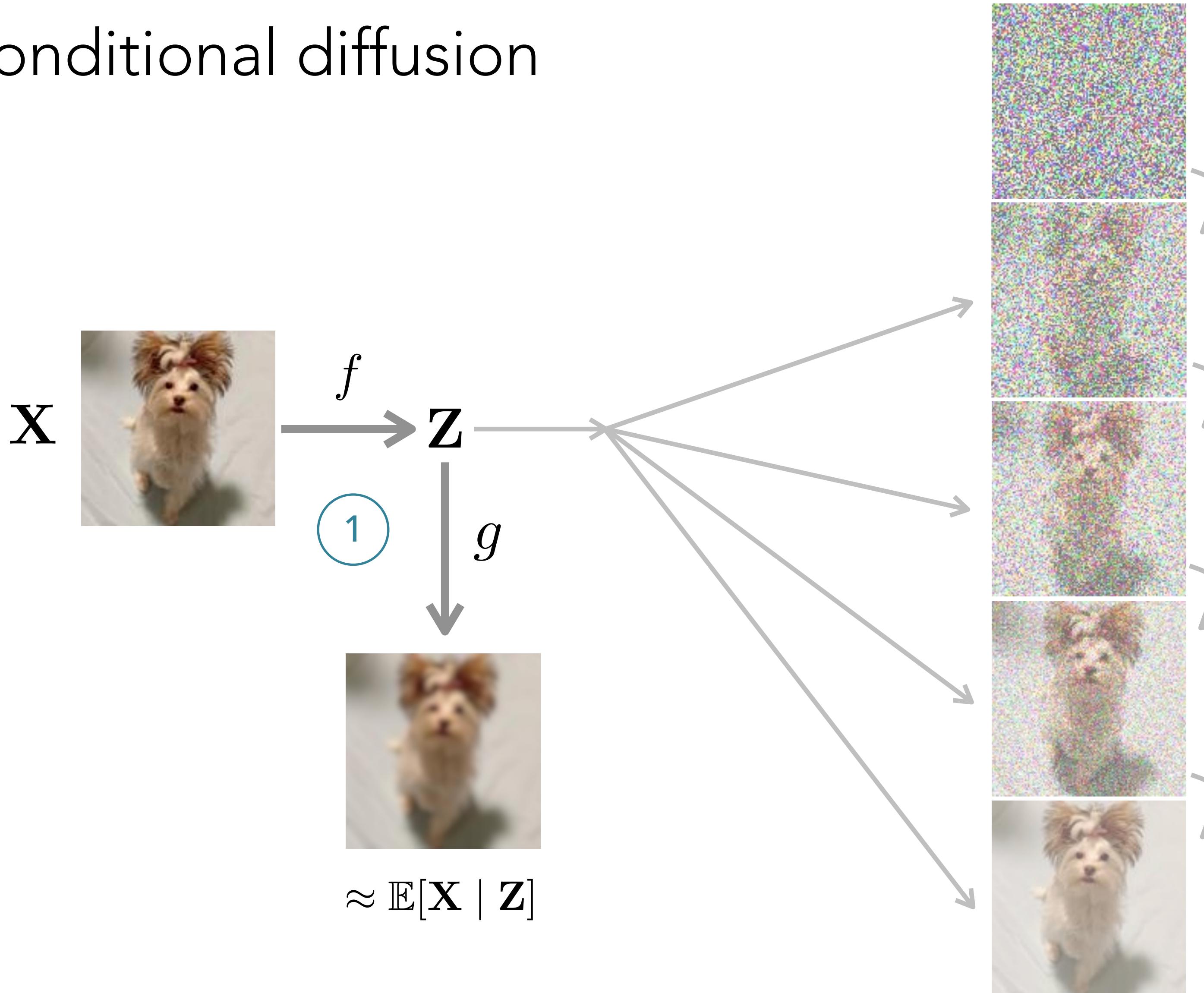
# Diffusion

- 💡  $P_{\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} | \mathbf{X}_t}$  is approximately Gaussian (e.g., Feller, 1949; Anderson, 1982).
- 💡 Optimize  $\mathbb{E}[||\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} - m_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{X}_t)||^2]$  so that  $m_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{X}_t) \approx \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} | \mathbf{X}_t]$ .

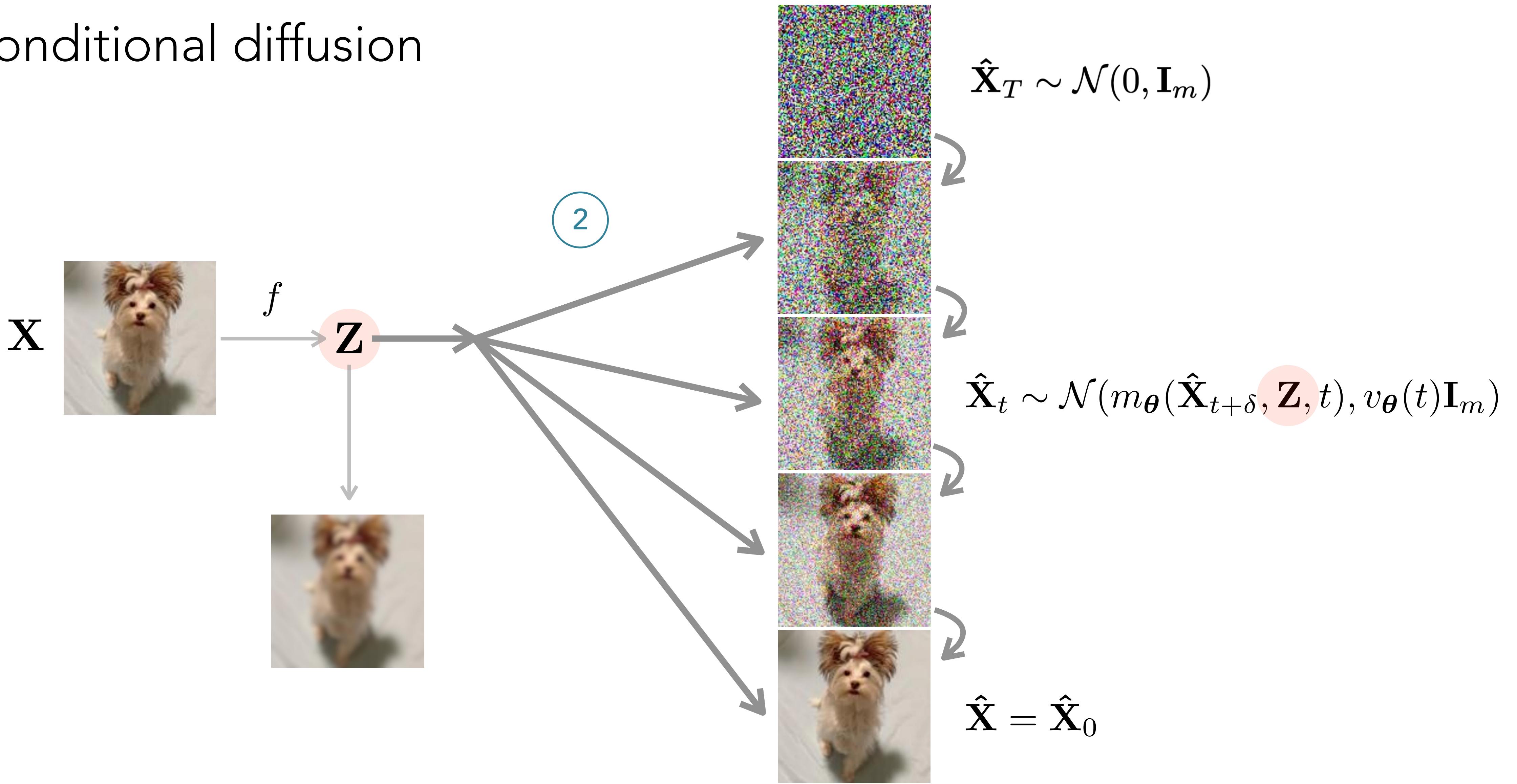
# Diffusion

- 💡  $P_{\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} | \mathbf{X}_t}$  is approximately Gaussian (e.g., Feller, 1949; Anderson, 1982).
- 💡 Optimize  $\sum_t w_t \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} - m_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{X}_t, t)\|^2]$  so that  $m_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{X}_t, t) \approx \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}_{t-\delta} | \mathbf{X}_t]$ .

# Conditional diffusion



# Conditional diffusion





MSE

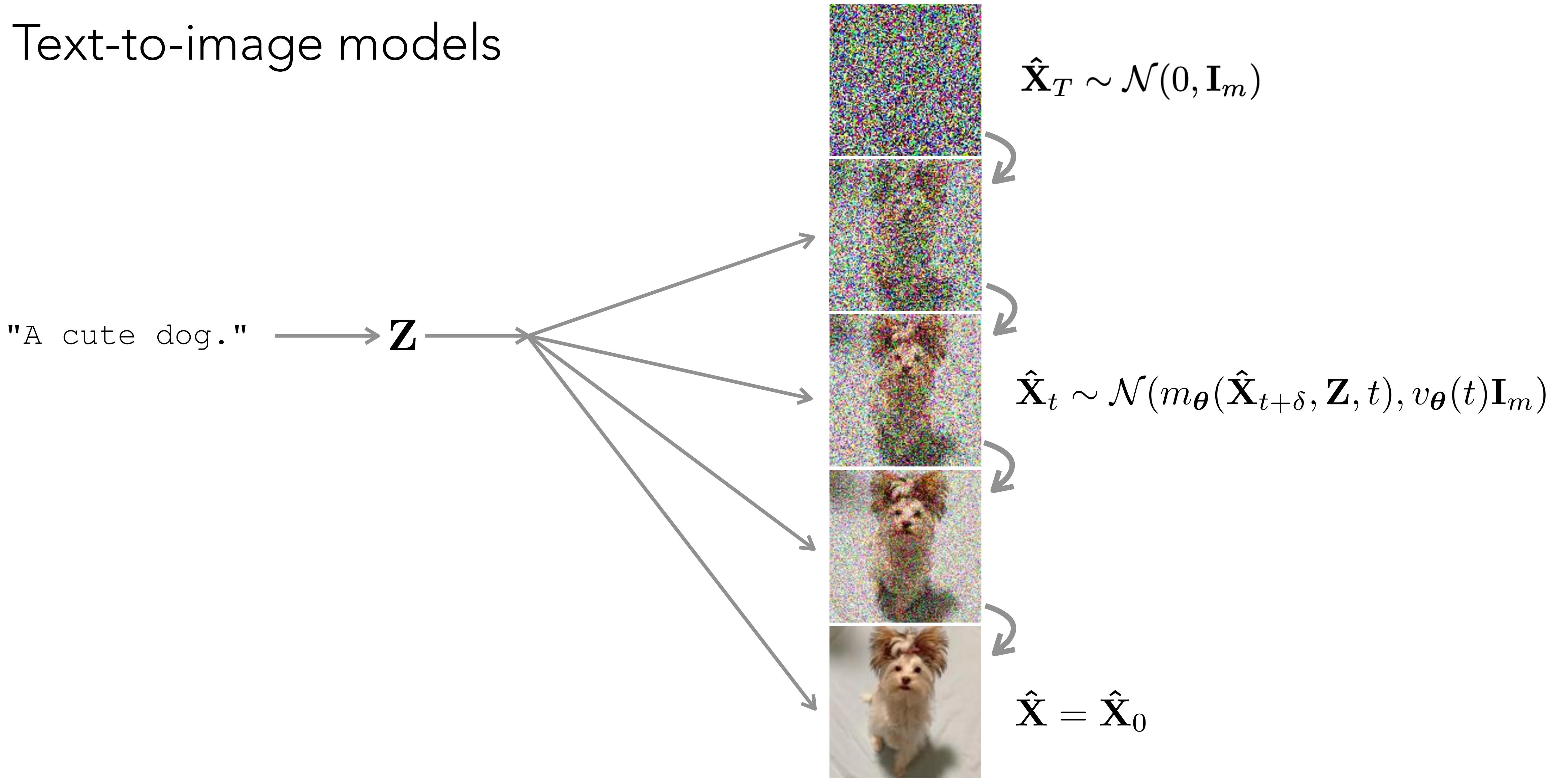
0.0562 bpp



MSE + diffusion

0.0562 bpp

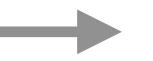
# Text-to-image models



# Text-to-image models



kodim05.png  
(Kodak, 1993)



"seven motocross  
bikes facing  
right at the  
starting line"



**Z**



**Imagen**  
(Saharia et al., 2022)



Hoogeboom et al. (2023)

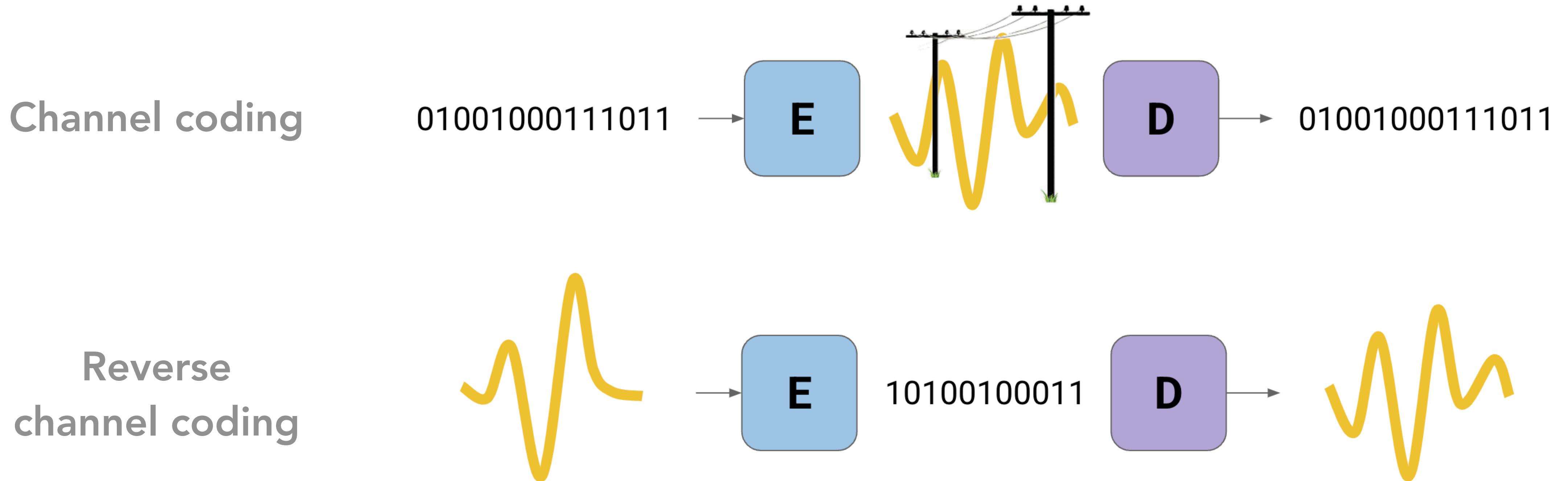


Rombach et al. (2022)

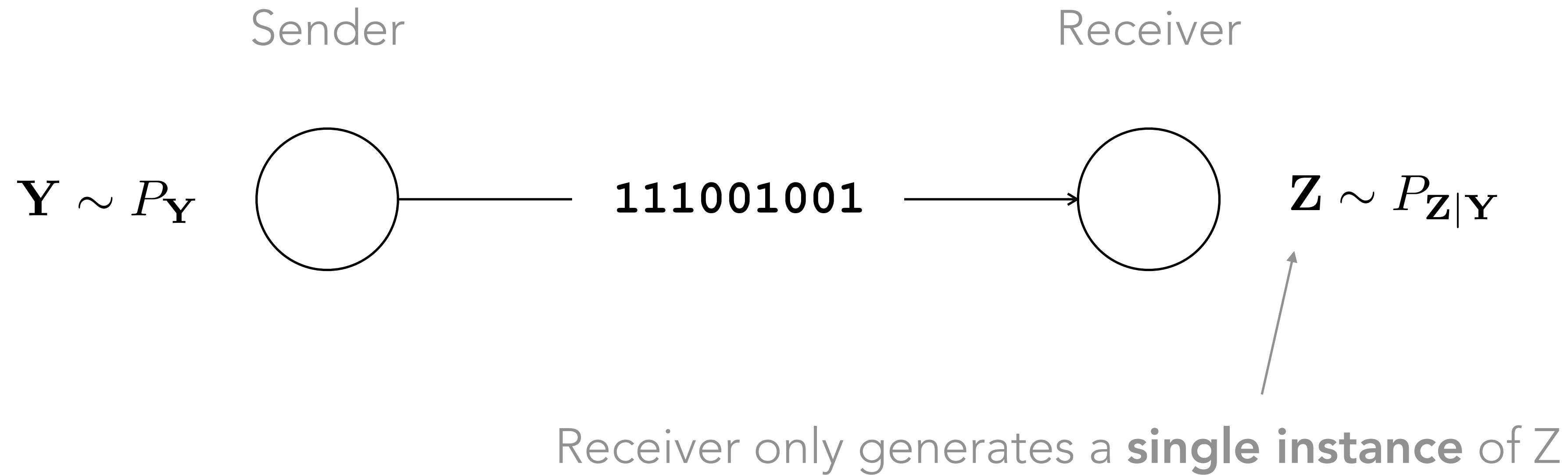
REALISM II:

# Channel simulation

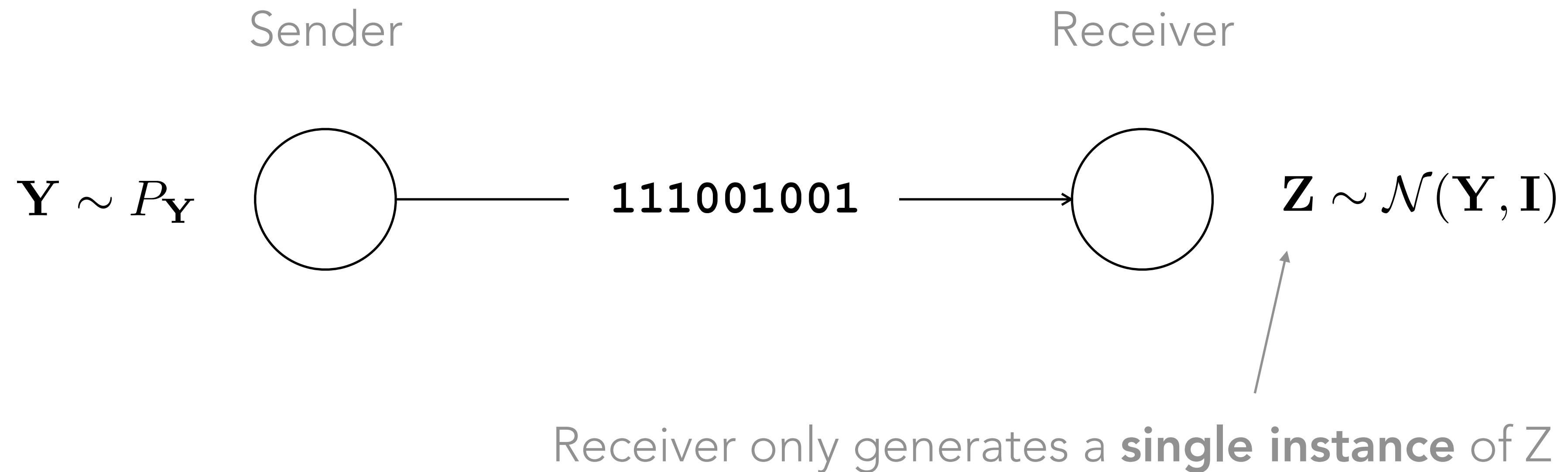
# Channel simulation (or *reverse channel coding*)



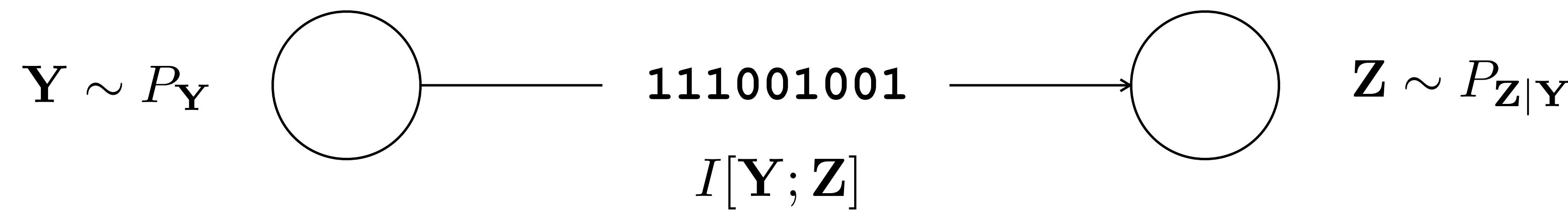
# Channel simulation (or *reverse* channel coding)



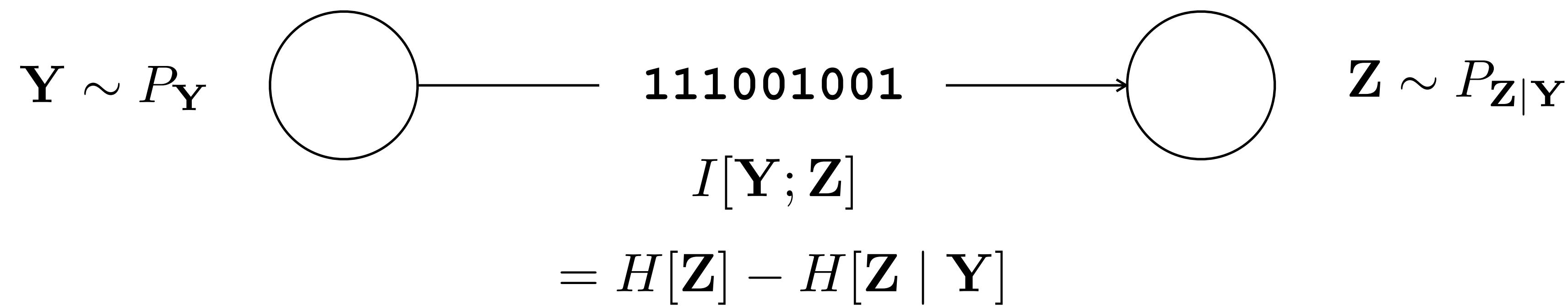
# Channel simulation (or *reverse channel coding*)



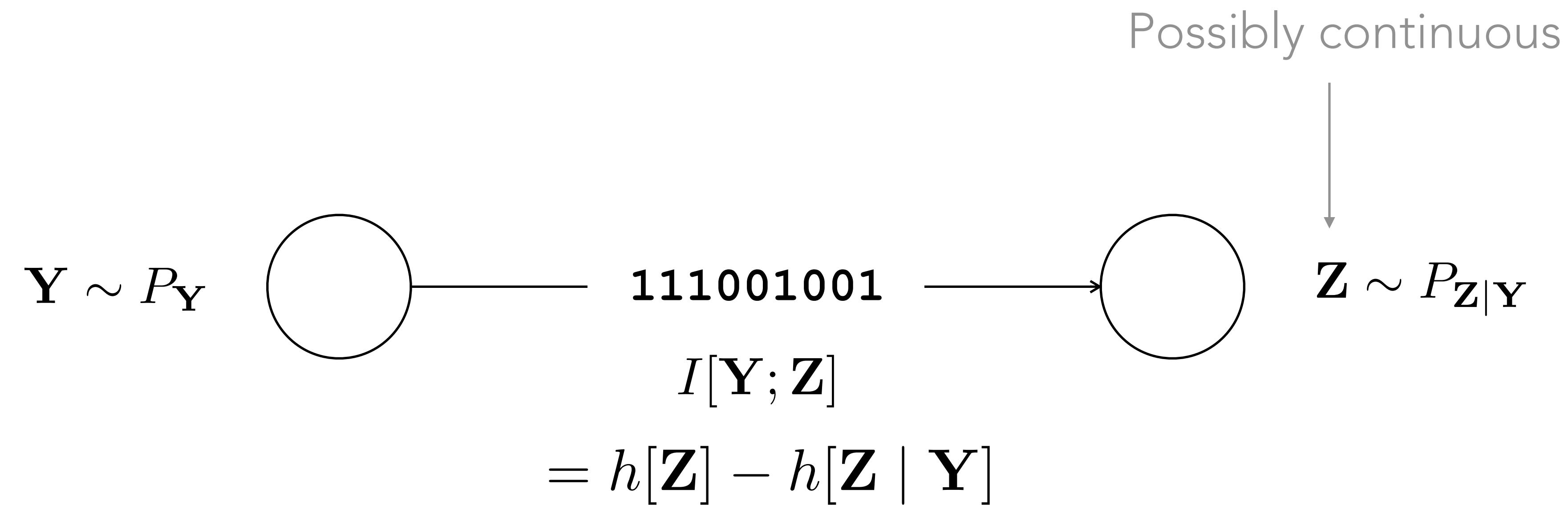
# Channel simulation (or *reverse channel coding*)



# Channel simulation (or *reverse channel coding*)

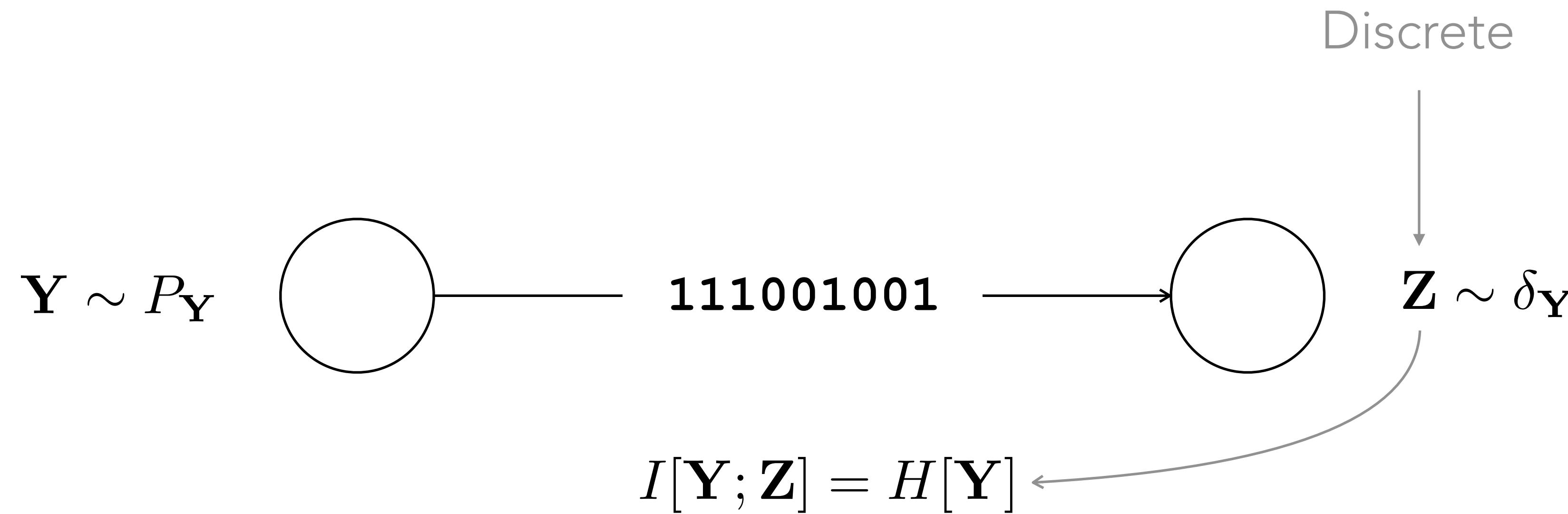


# Channel simulation (or *reverse channel coding*)

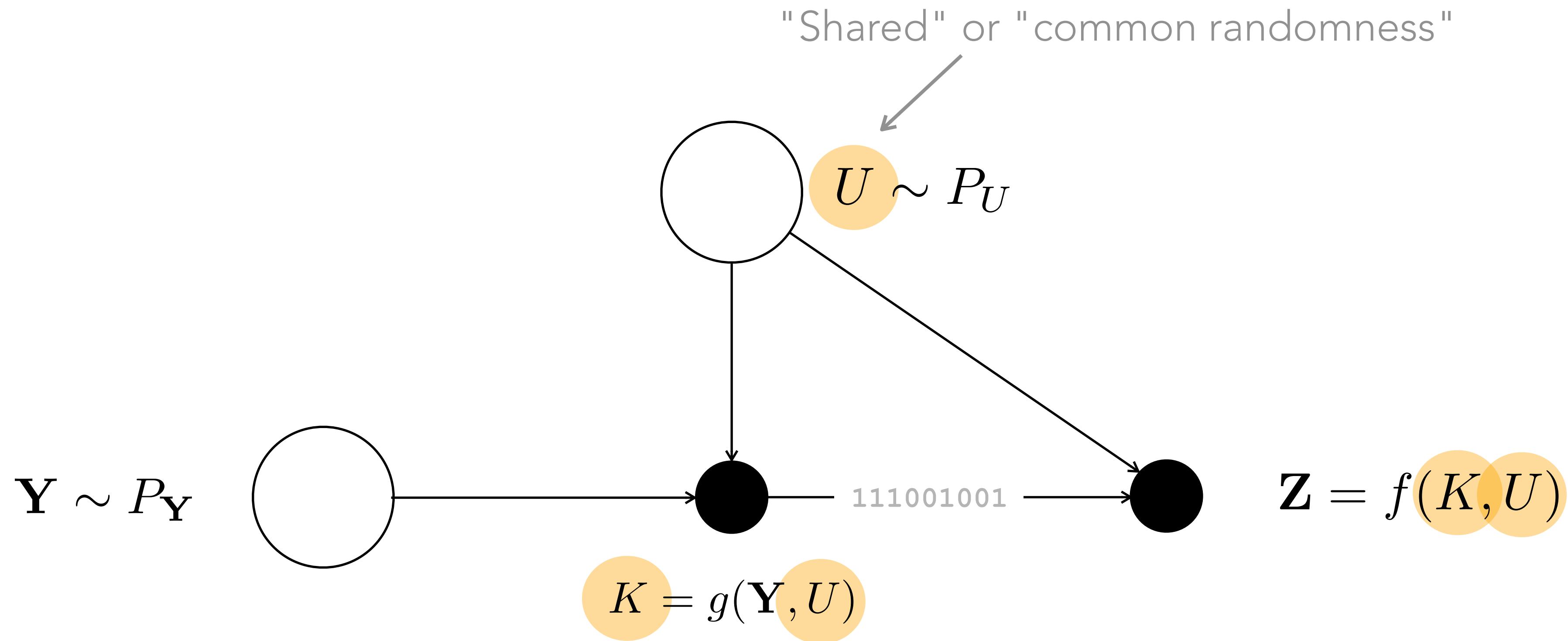


Channel simulation...

... generalizes lossless source coding



# Channel simulation



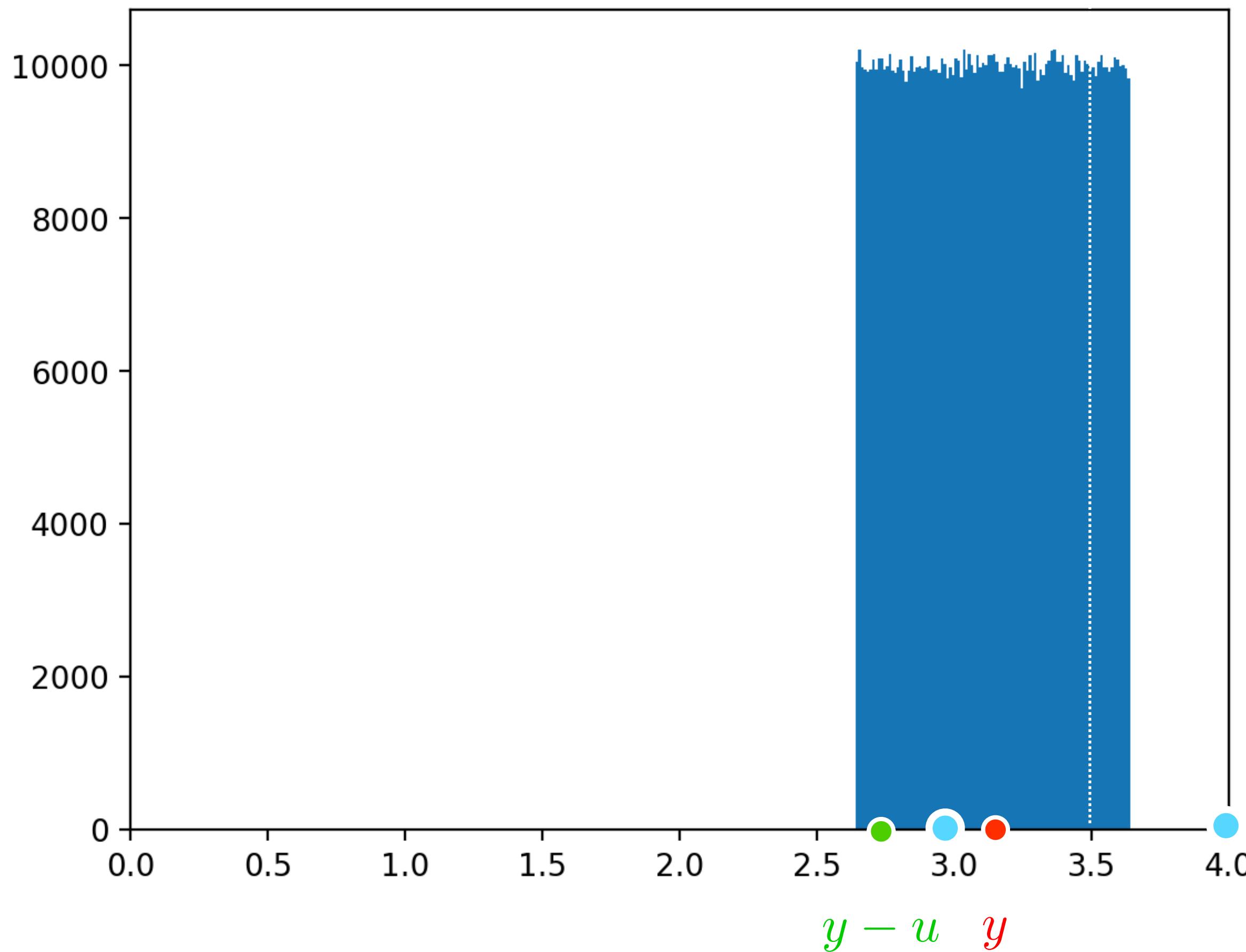
# Dithered quantization

Encoder      Decoder

$$Z = \underbrace{[Y - U]}_K + U \sim Y + U'$$
$$U, U' \sim \text{Uniform}([-1/2, 1/2))$$

```
y = 3.14
U = np.random.rand(1000000) - 0.5
K = np.round(y - U)
Z = K + U

plt.hist(Z, 100)
plt.xlim([0, 4]);
```



## Dithered quantization

$$\begin{array}{c} Z = K + U \\ \downarrow \\ P(K = k \mid U = u) = p_Z(k + u) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H[K \mid U] &= \mathbb{E}[-\log p_Z(K + U)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[-\log p_Z(Z)] \\ &= h[Z] \\ &= h[Z] - h[Z \mid Y] \\ &= I[Z, Y] \end{aligned}$$

0

## Dithered quantization

$$\begin{aligned} P(K = k \mid U = u) &= P(Y - u \in [k - 0.5, k + 0.5)) \\ &= P(Y \in [k + u - 0.5, k + u + 0.5)) \\ &= \int p_Y(k + u - u') \llbracket u' \in [-0.5, 0.5] \rrbracket du' \\ &= p_{Y+U'}(k + u) \\ &= p_Z(k + u) \end{aligned}$$



# Dithered quantization

$$Z = \lfloor Y - (U + b) \rceil + (U + b)$$

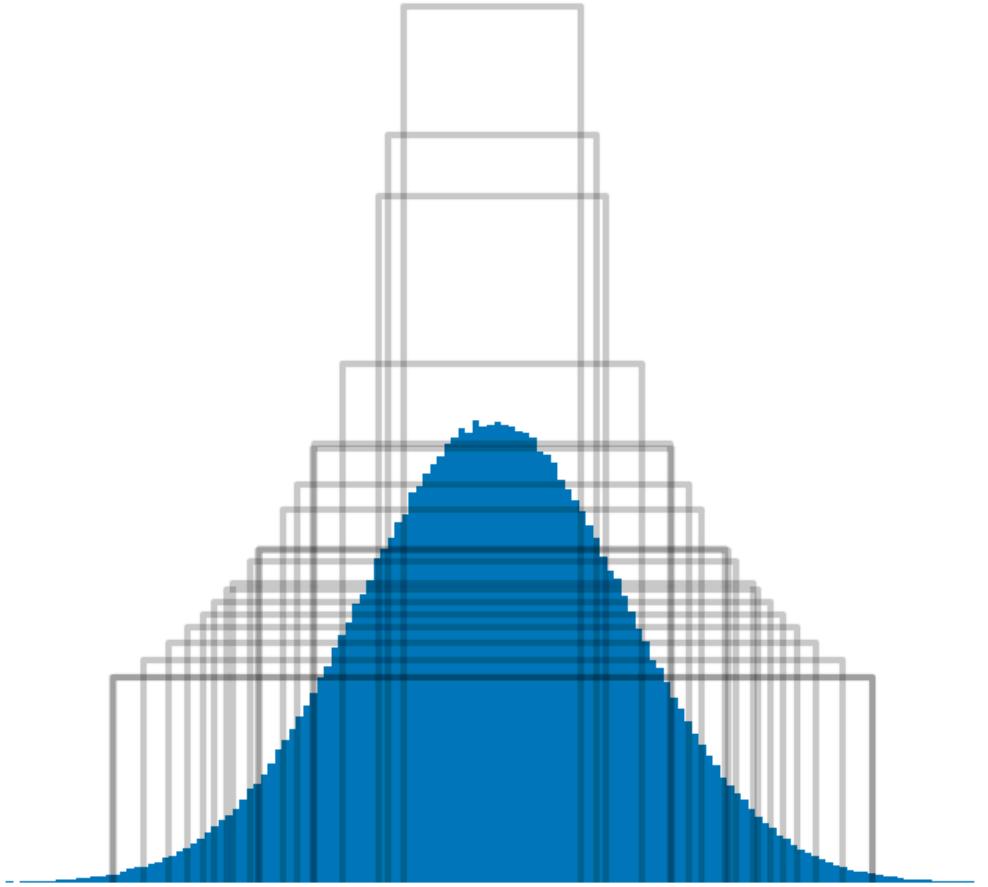
$$U' \sim \text{Uniform}([-0.5, 0.5))$$



# Dithered quantization

$$Z = (\lfloor Y/s - U \rfloor + U) s$$

## Gaussian channel



$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (\lfloor Y/S - U \rfloor + U) S \\ &\sim Y + SU' \end{aligned}$$

## Gaussian channel

$$K = \lfloor Y/S - U \rfloor$$

$$H[K \mid U, S] = I[Y; Z \mid S]$$

$$= h[Z \mid S] - h[Z \mid Y, S]$$

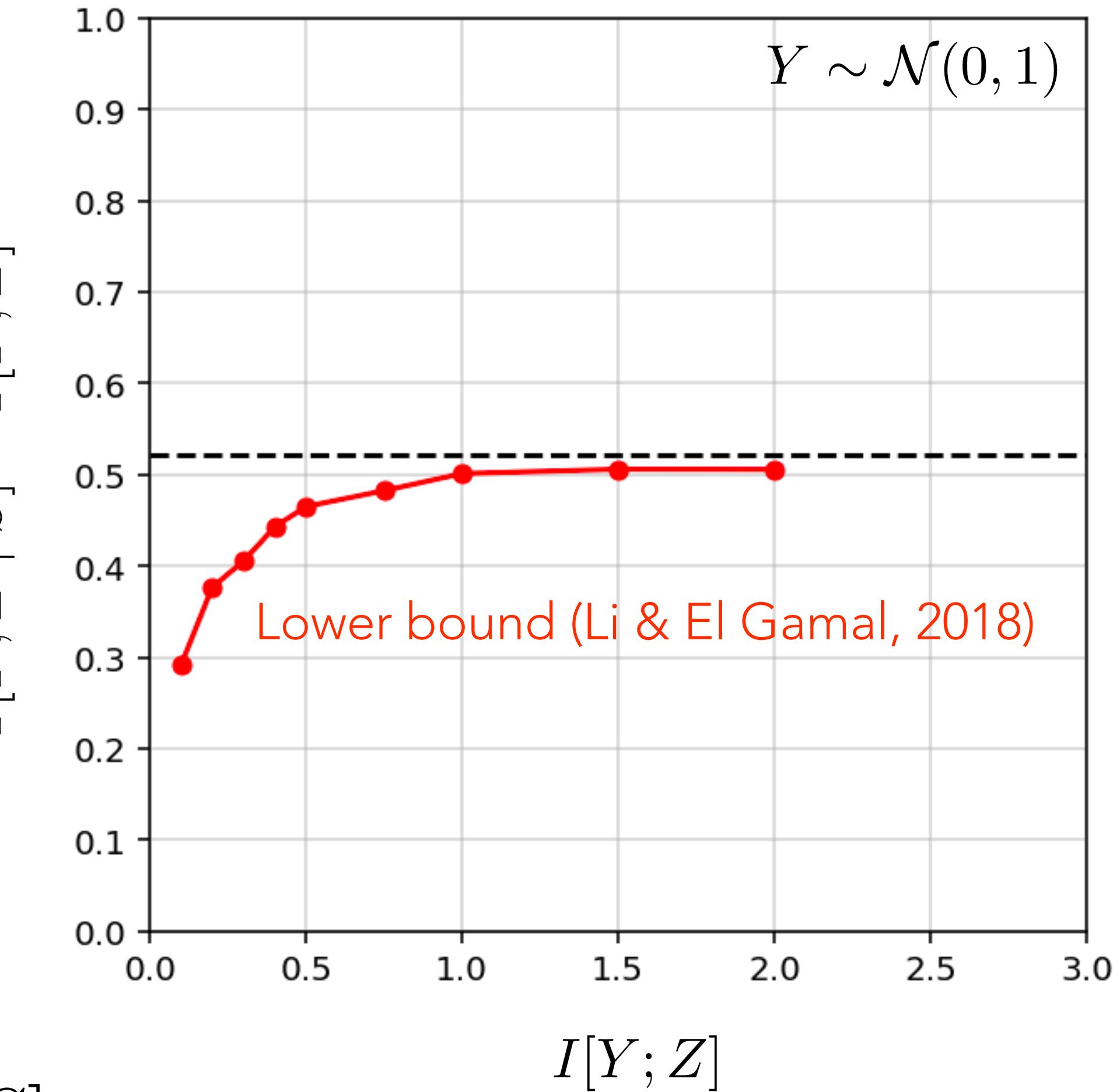
$$= h[Z \mid S] - \mathbb{E}[\log_2 S]$$

$$\leq h[Z] - \mathbb{E}[\log_2 S]$$

$$= I[Y; Z] + h[Z \mid Y] - \mathbb{E}[\log_2 S]$$

$$= I[Y; Z] + \frac{1}{2} \log_2(\pi) + \frac{1 - \psi(3/2)}{2 \ln 2}$$

$$\leq I[Y; Z] + 0.521$$



# Dithered quantization and VAEs

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Encoder} & & \text{Decoder} \\ \downarrow & & \swarrow \\ Z = \underbrace{[Y - U] + U}_{\text{Inference}} & \sim & \underbrace{Y + U'}_{\text{Training}} \end{array}$$
$$U, U' \sim \text{Uniform}([-1/2, 1/2))$$

# VAEs revisited

Inference:

$$\mathbf{z} = \lfloor f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \rceil$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = g_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})$$

Mismatch

Training:

$$\mathbf{z} = f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{u}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = g_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})$$

# VAEs revisited



Rate-distortion trade-off

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \lambda \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, g_{\theta}(\lfloor \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{U} \rfloor + \mathbf{U}))] + \mathbb{E}[-\log P(\mathbf{K} \mid \mathbf{U})]$$

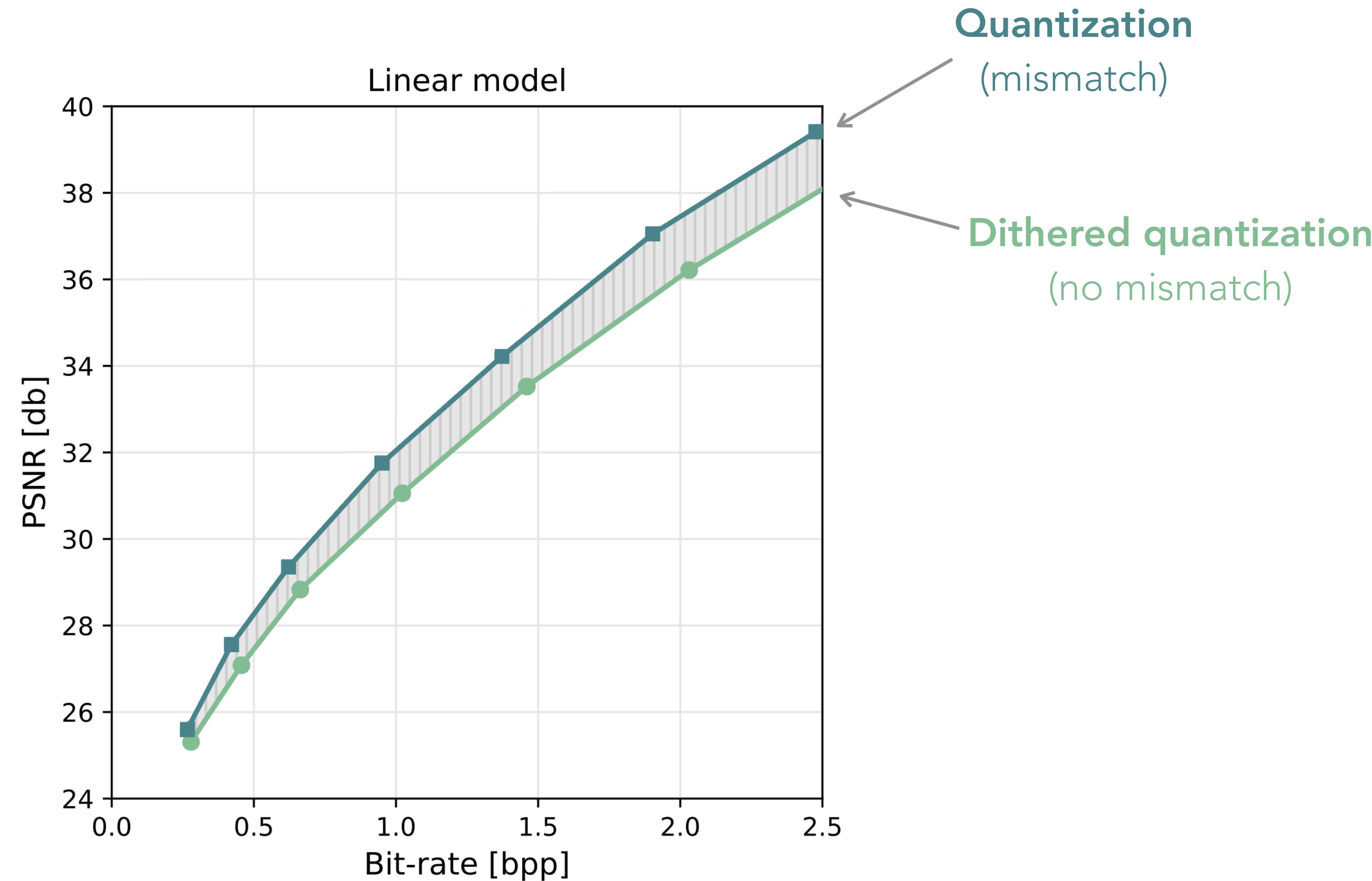
# VAEs revisited



**Rate-distortion trade-off = ELBO**

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \lambda \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{U}'))] + \mathbb{E}[-\log p_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{U}')]$$

# Variational autoencoders revisited



# Randomness and rate-distortion trade-offs

$$\mathbb{E}[\ell_\lambda(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U})] = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{U}}[\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}[\ell_\lambda(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U})]]$$

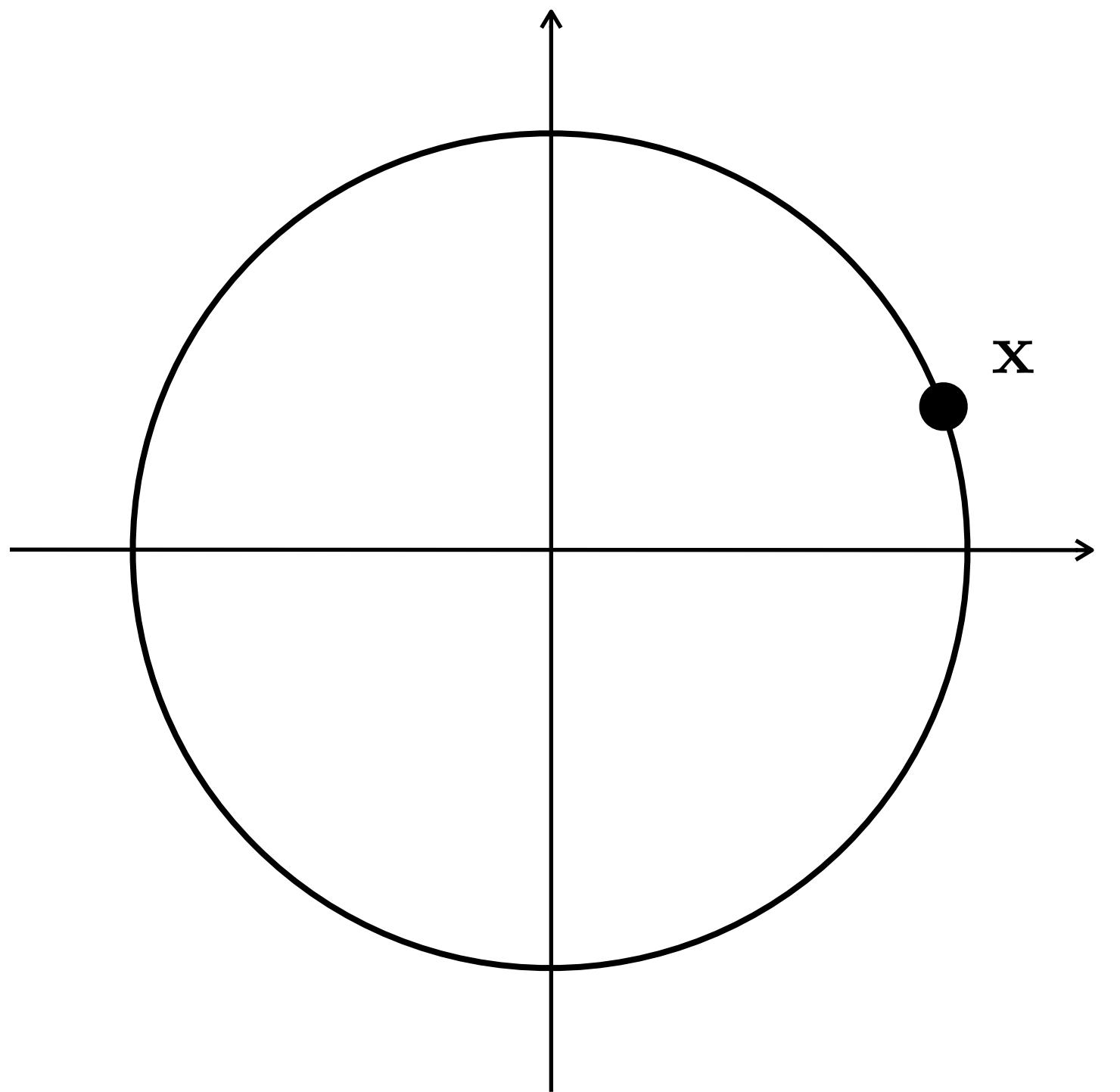
$$\geq \min_{\mathbf{U}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}[\ell_\lambda(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U})]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}[\ell_\lambda(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{u}^*)]$$



Fix randomness

# Randomness and realism

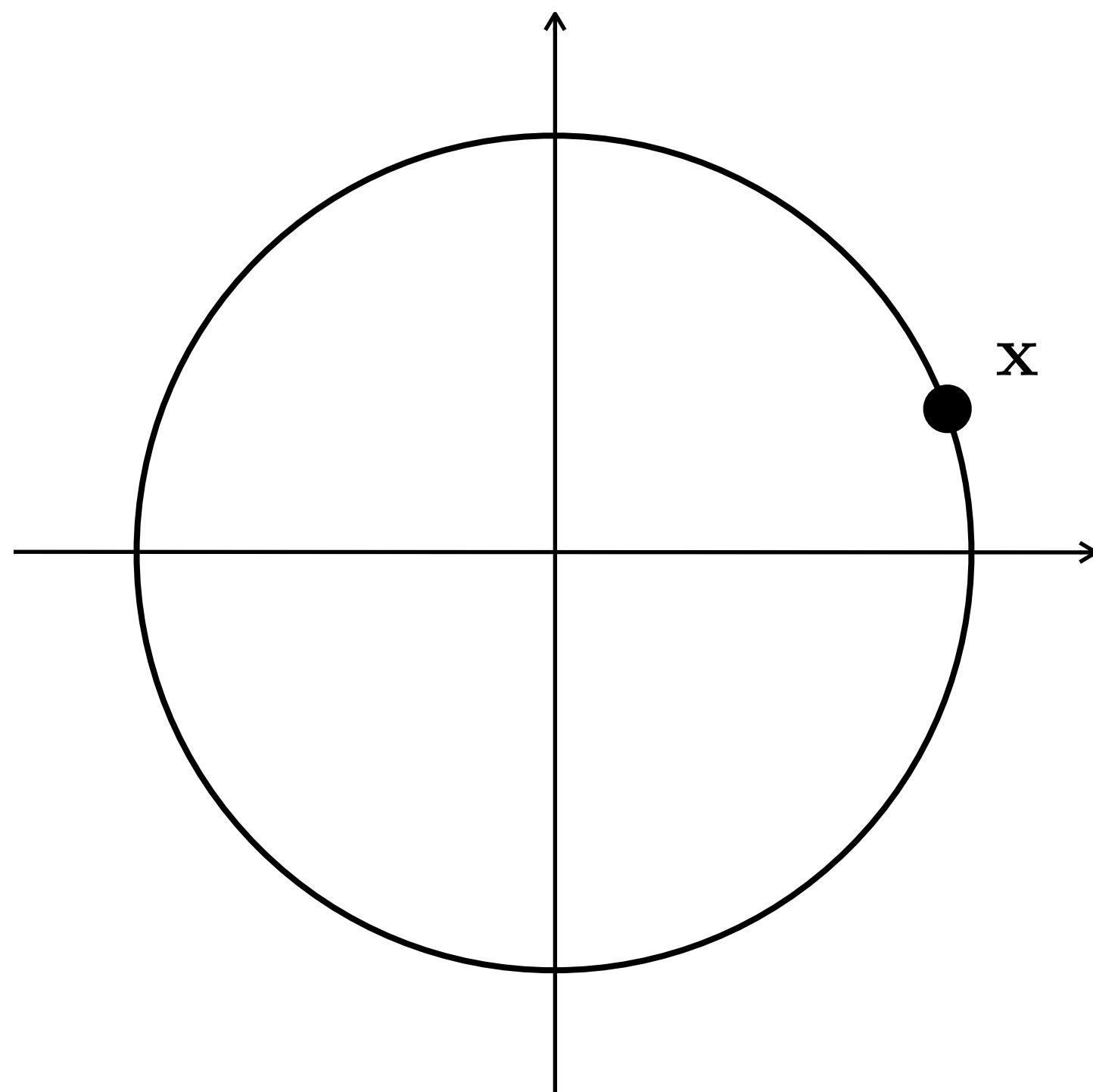


$$\Theta \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 2\pi)$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Theta \\ \sin \Theta \end{pmatrix}$$

## Randomness and realism

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 = 1 - \cos(\theta - \hat{\theta})$$



$$\Theta \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 2\pi)$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Theta \\ \sin \Theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$$

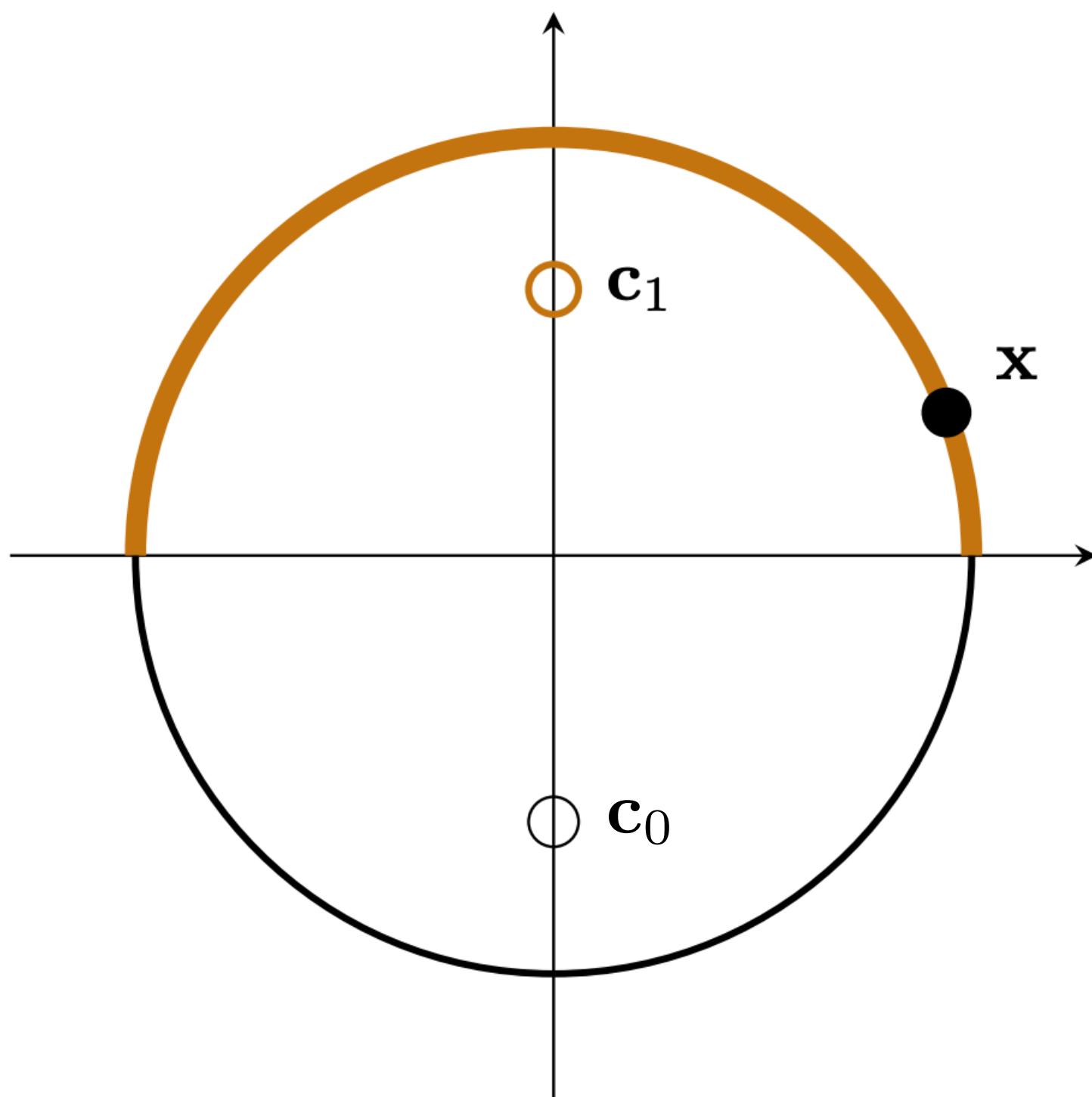
$$f : \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = g(f(\mathbf{X}, U), U)$$

$$g : \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\underset{f,g}{\text{minimize}} \quad \mathbb{E}[d(\mathbf{X}, \hat{\mathbf{X}})] \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \hat{\mathbf{X}} \sim \mathbf{X}$$

# Randomness and realism



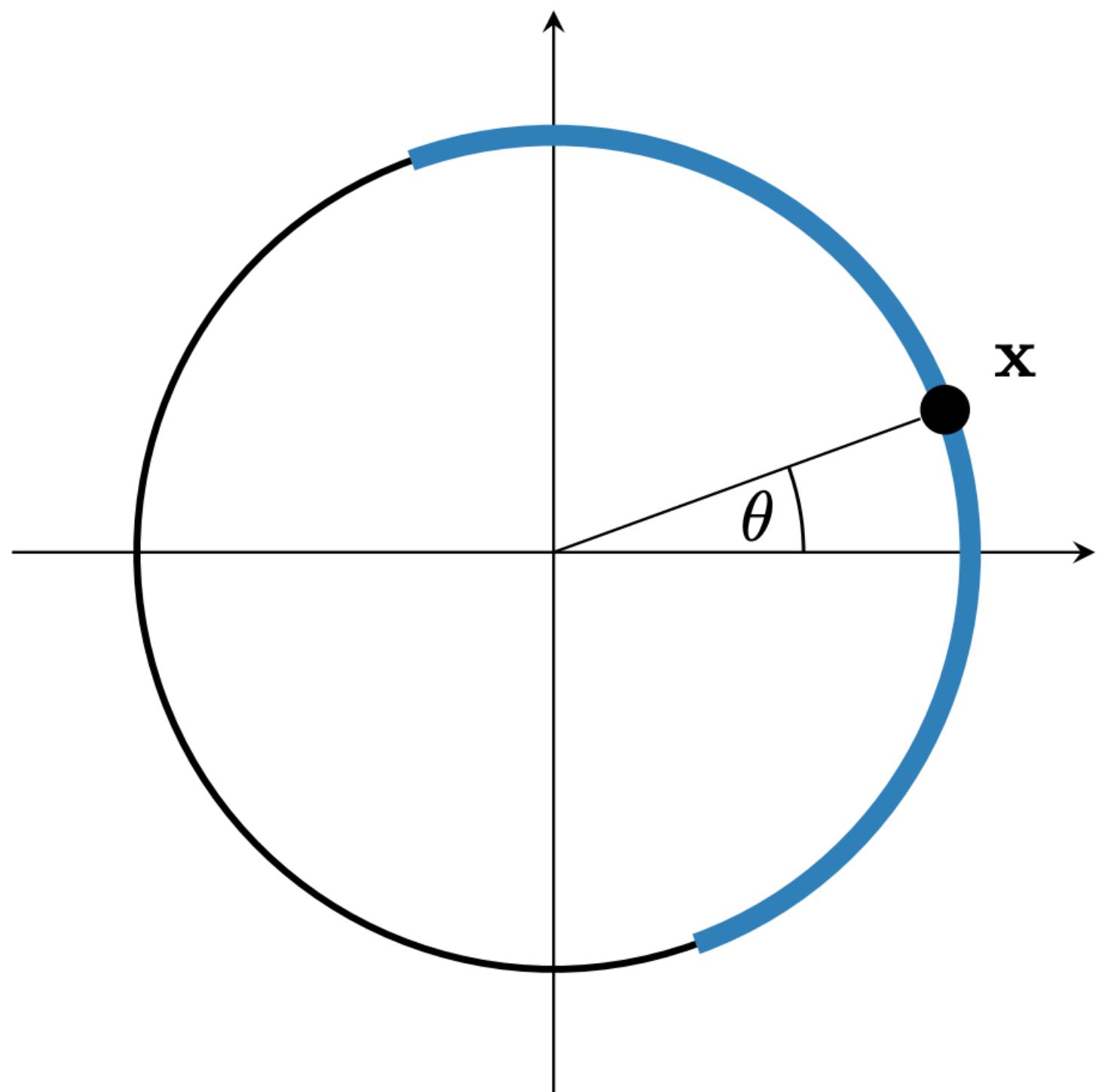
$$\Theta \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 2\pi)$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Theta \\ \sin \Theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = g(f(\mathbf{X}), U) \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|f(\mathbf{X})}$$

# Randomness and realism



$$\Theta \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 2\pi)$$

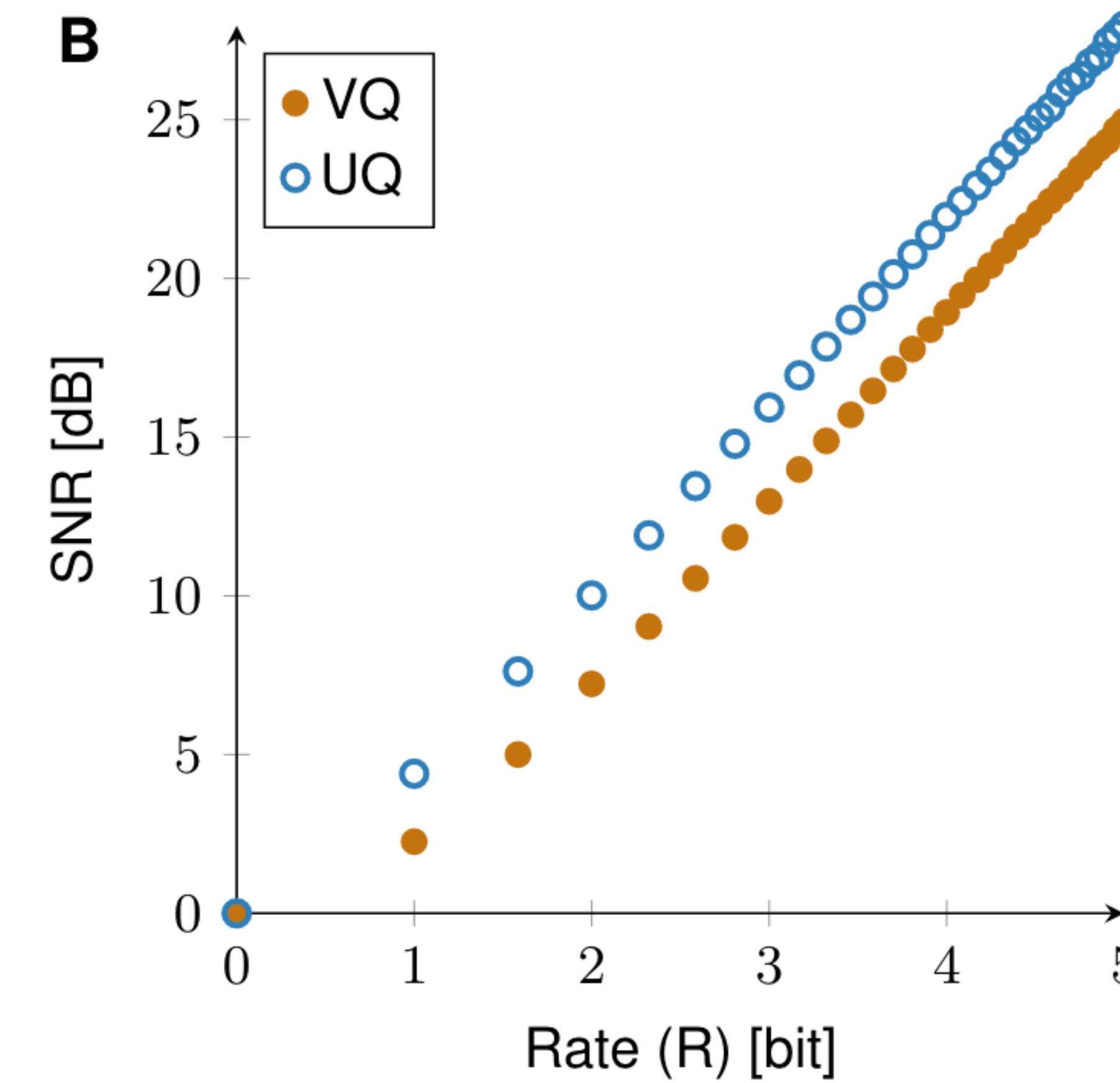
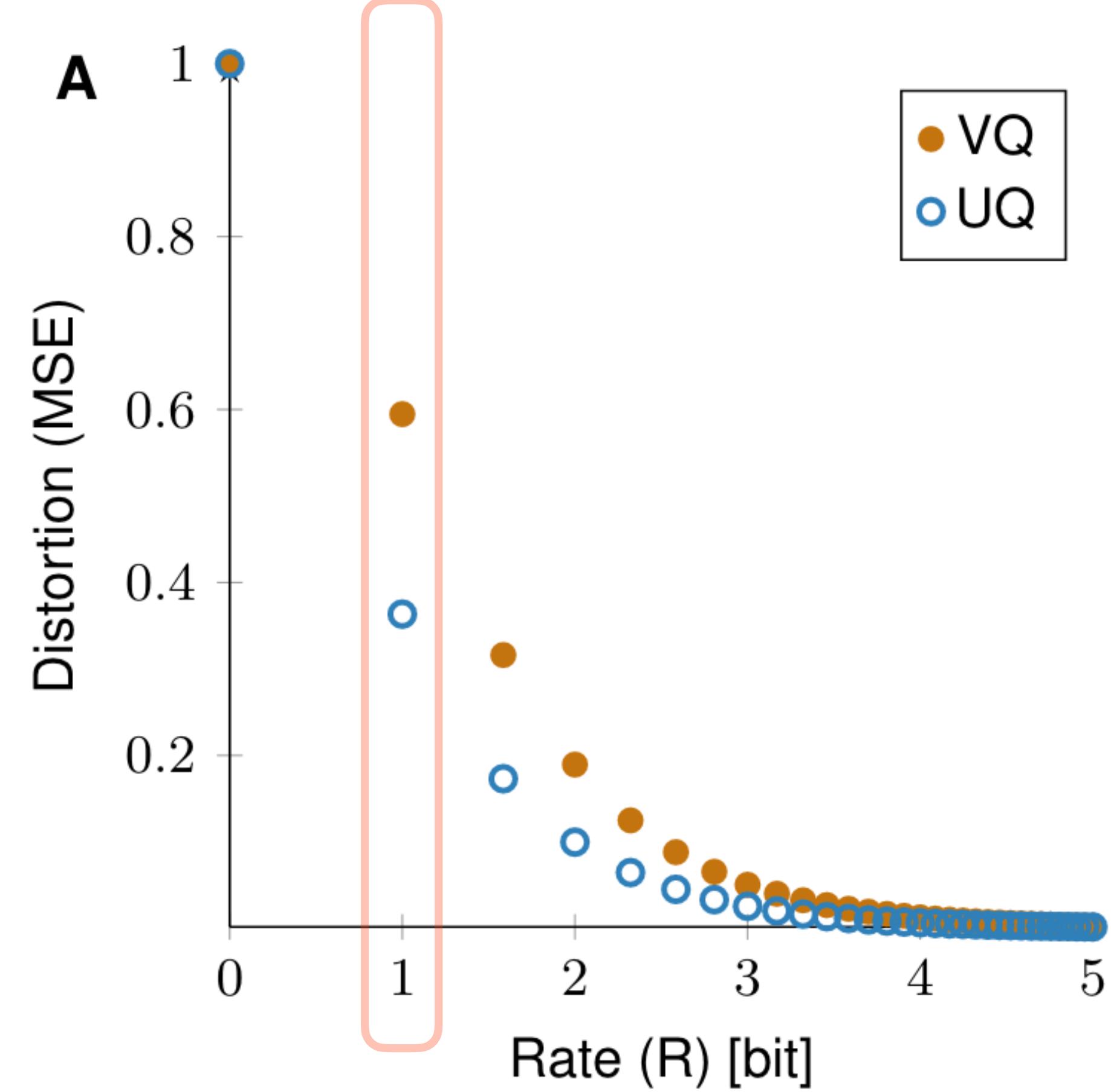
$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Theta \\ \sin \Theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$U \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$$

$$K = f(\mathbf{X}, U) = \left\lfloor \frac{\Theta}{\pi} - U \right\rfloor \bmod 2$$

$$\hat{\Theta} = \pi(K + U)$$

# Randomness and realism



# Rejection sampling

$k \leftarrow 0$

**repeat**

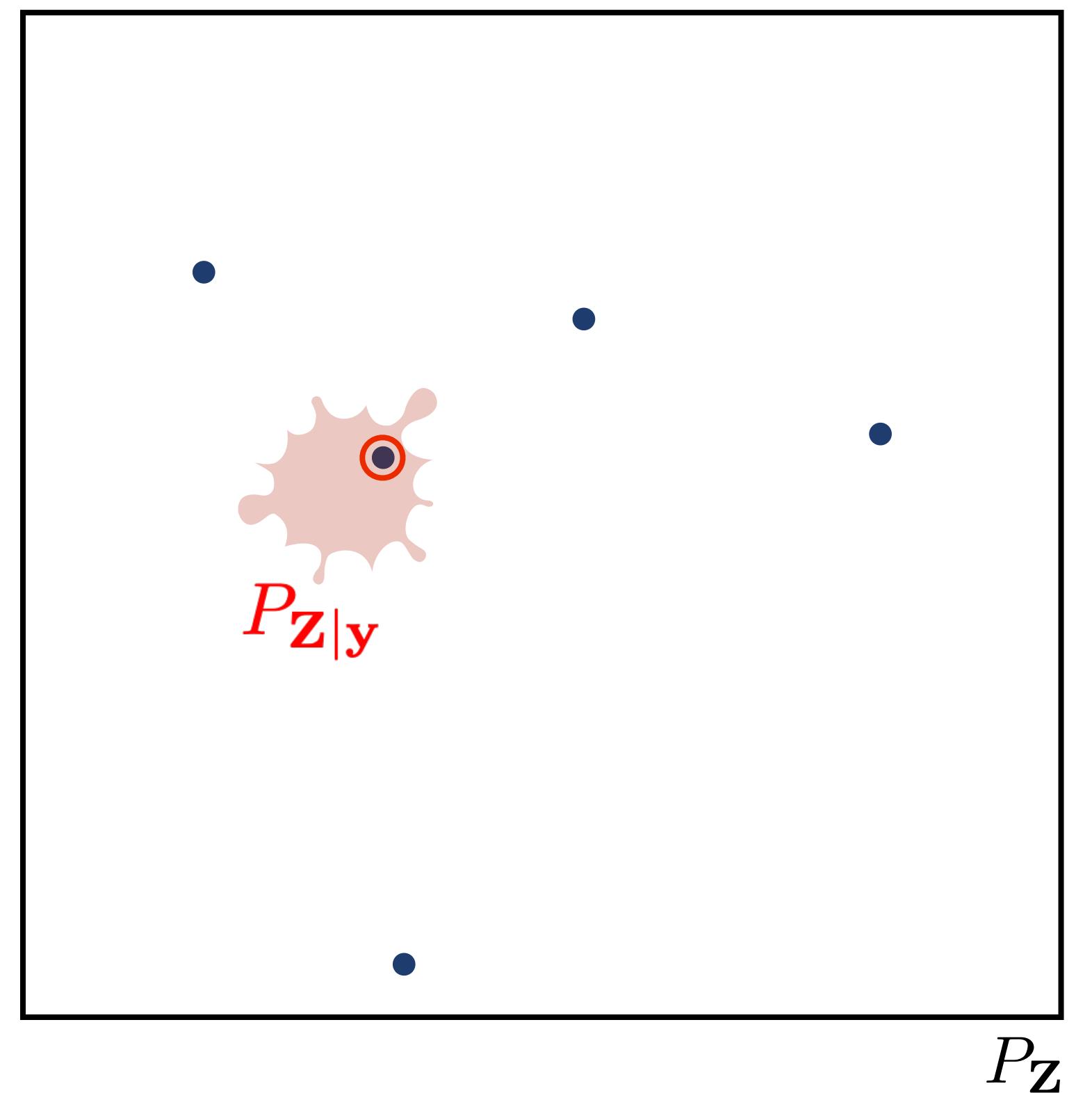
$k \leftarrow k + 1$       Using shared source  
of randomness

$\mathbf{Z}_k \sim P_{\mathbf{Z}}$

$U_k \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1))$

**until**  $U_k < \frac{1}{M} \frac{dP_{\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{y}}}{dP_{\mathbf{Z}}}(\mathbf{Z}_k)$

**return**  $k$



# Rejection sampling

$k \leftarrow 0$

**repeat**

$k \leftarrow k + 1$       Using shared source  
of randomness

$\mathbf{Z}_k \sim P_{\mathbf{Z}}$

$U_k \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1))$

**until**  $U_k < \frac{1}{M} \frac{dP_{\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{y}}}{dP_{\mathbf{Z}}}(\mathbf{Z}_k)$

**return**  $k$

# Poisson functional representation

$$S_k \sim \text{Exp}(1)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_K \sim P_{\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{y}} \quad \checkmark$$

$$T_k = \sum_{i=1}^k S_i$$

$$H[K] < I[\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{Y}] + \log_2(I[\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{Y}] + 1) + 4 \quad \checkmark$$

Using shared source  
of randomness

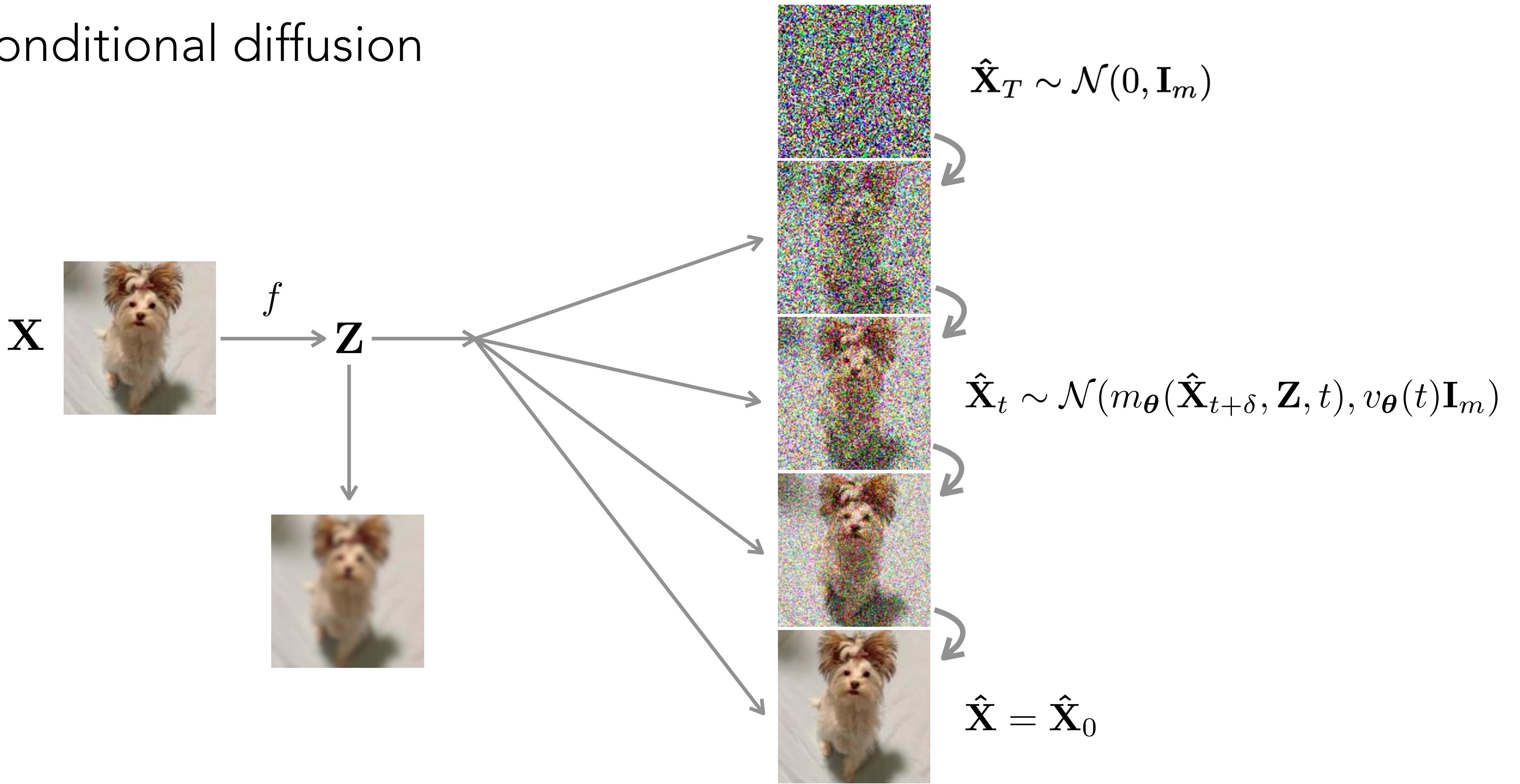
$$Z_k \sim P_{\mathbf{Z}}$$

$$K = \operatorname{argmin}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left\{ T_k \frac{dP_{\mathbf{Z}}}{dP_{\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{y}}}(\mathbf{Z}_k) \right\}$$

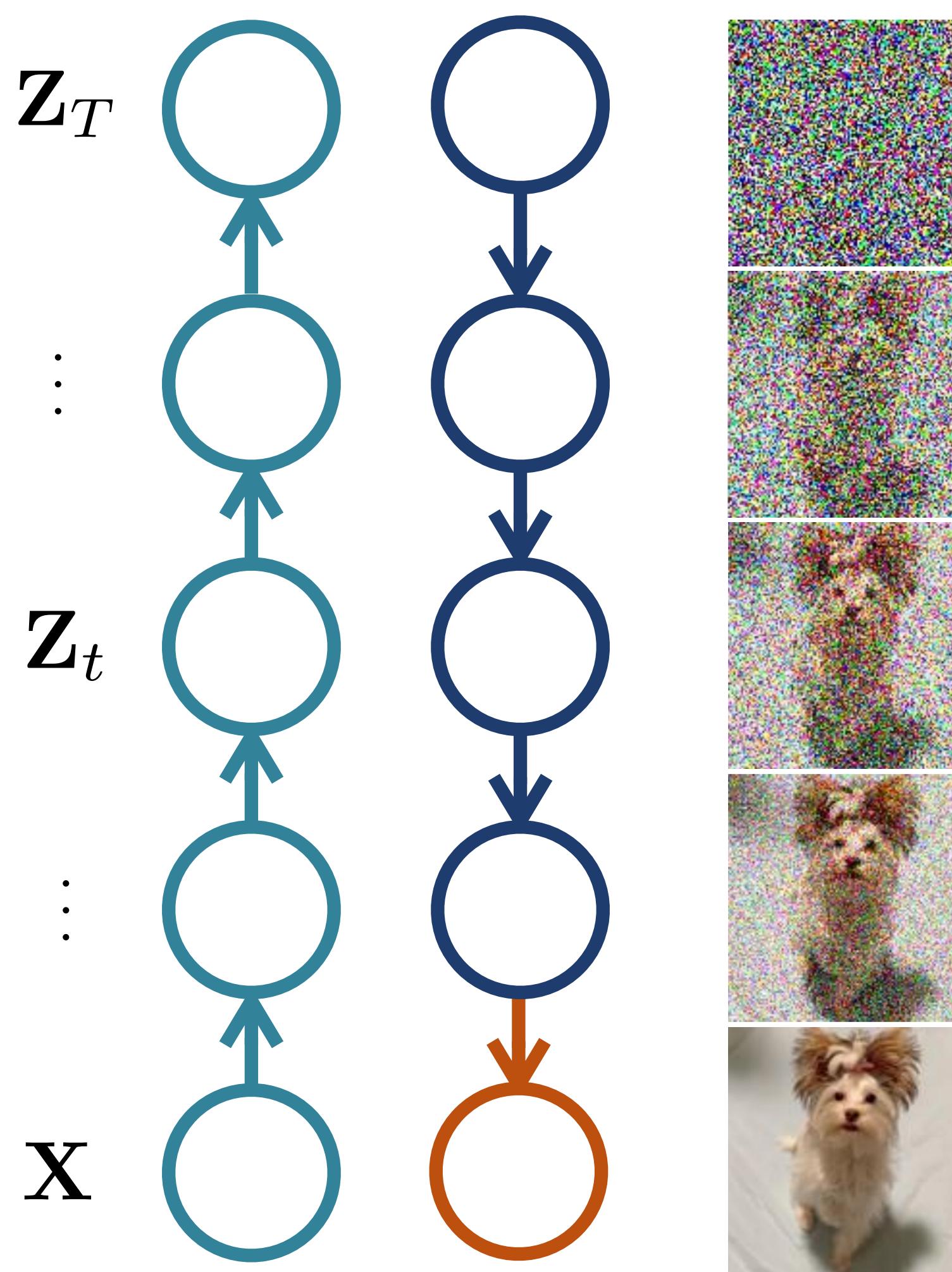
LEARNED COMPRESSION III:

# Diffusion-based compression

# Conditional diffusion



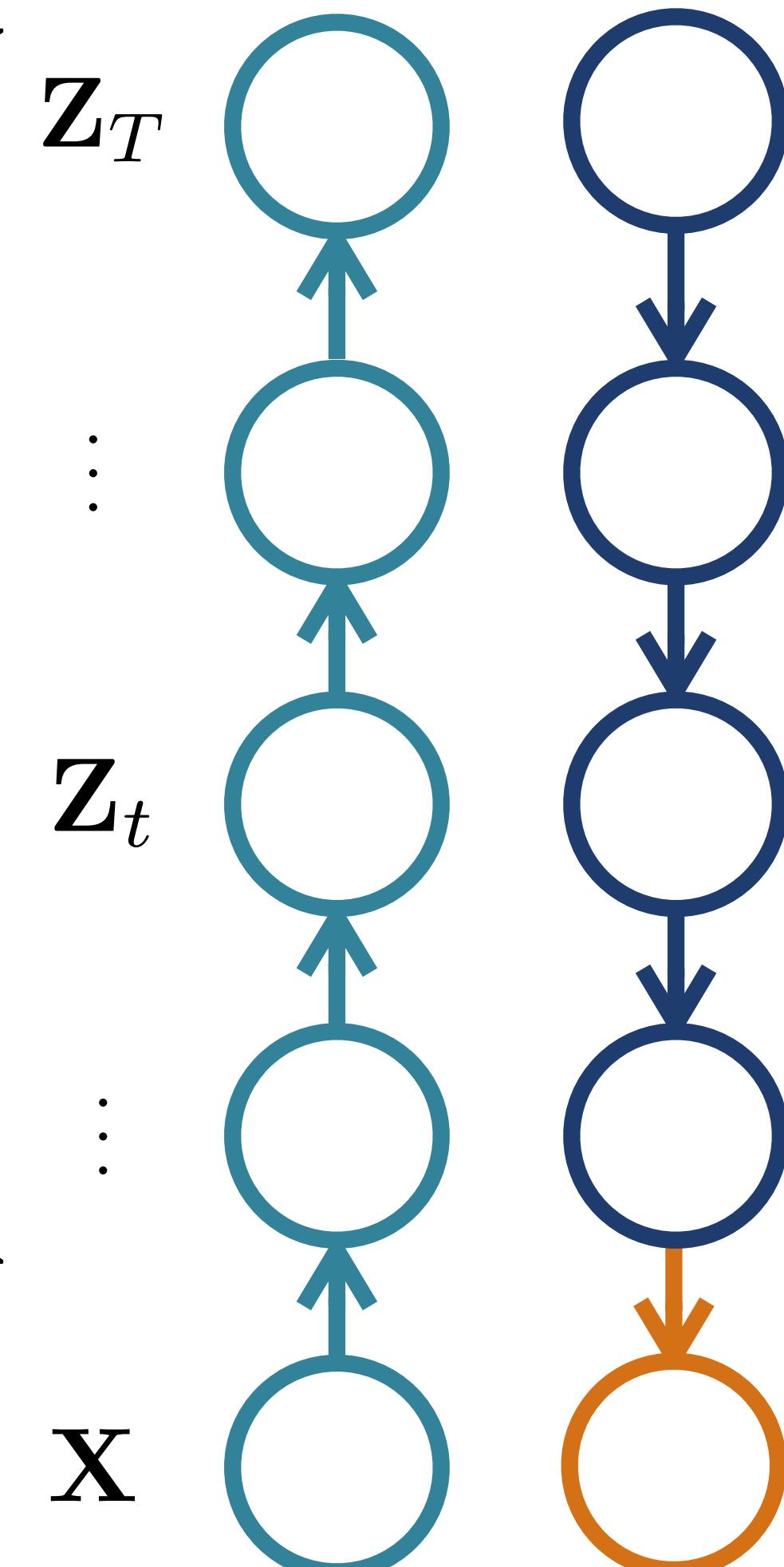
# Diffusion as a VAE



# Diffusion as a VAE

$$q(\mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{x})$$

$\mathbf{z}$

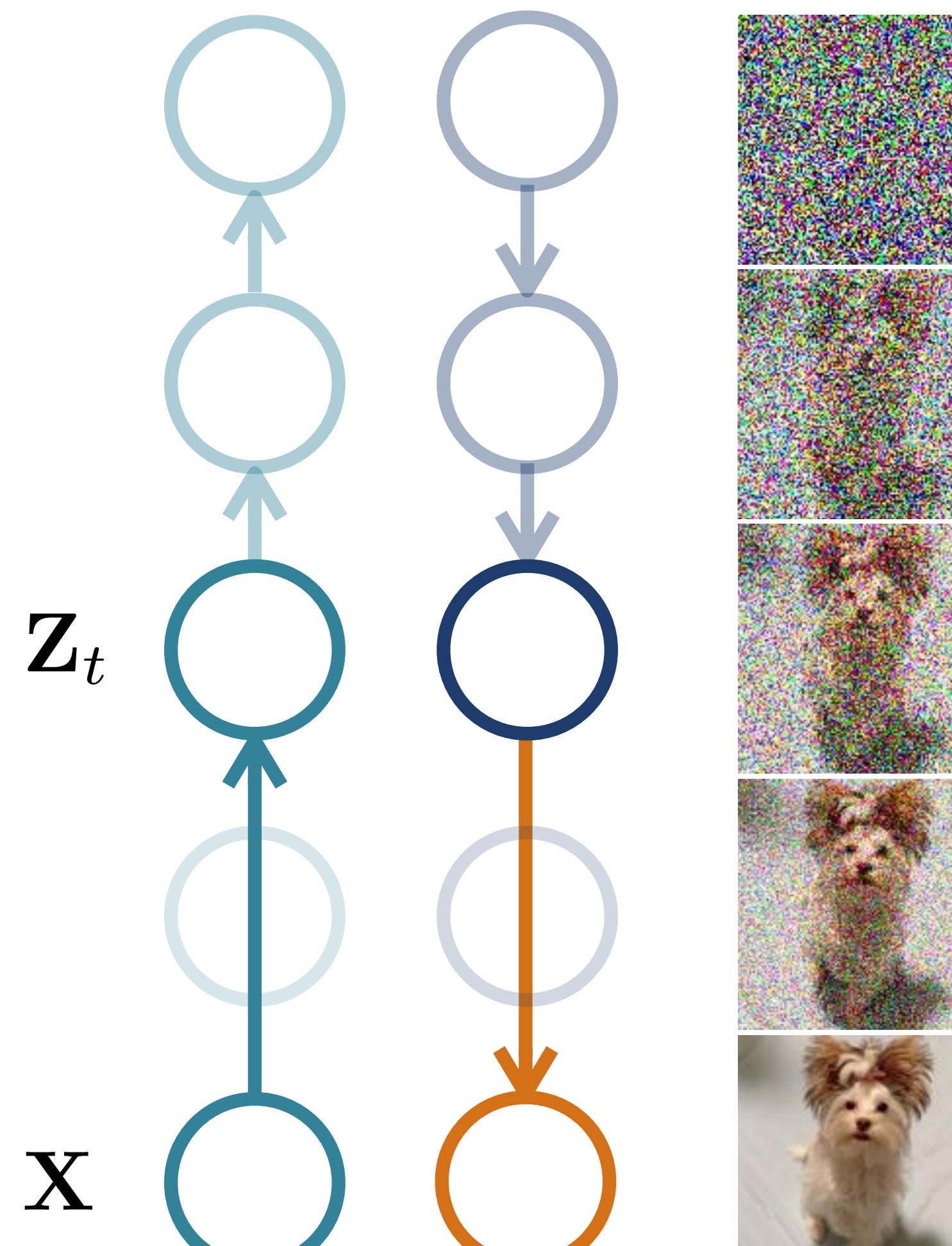


$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z})$$



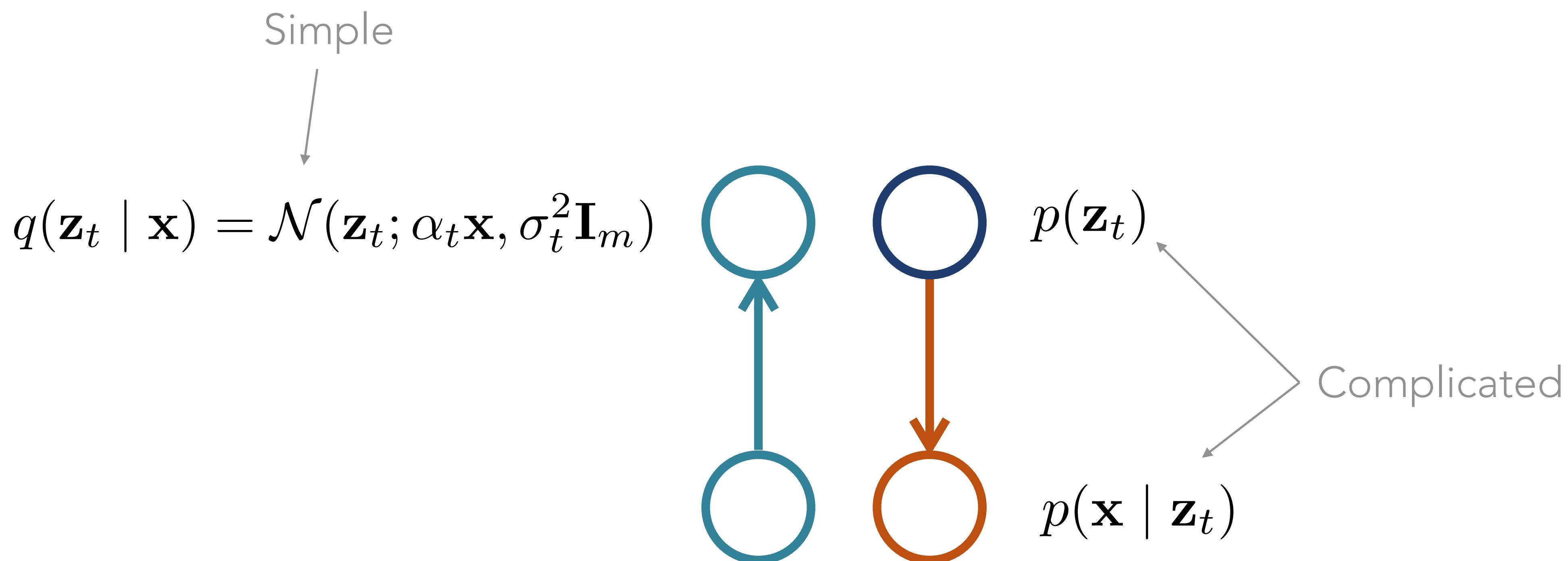
$$p(\mathbf{z}) = p(\mathbf{z}_T)p(\mathbf{z}_{T-1} \mid \mathbf{z}_T) \cdots$$

# Diffusion as a VAE

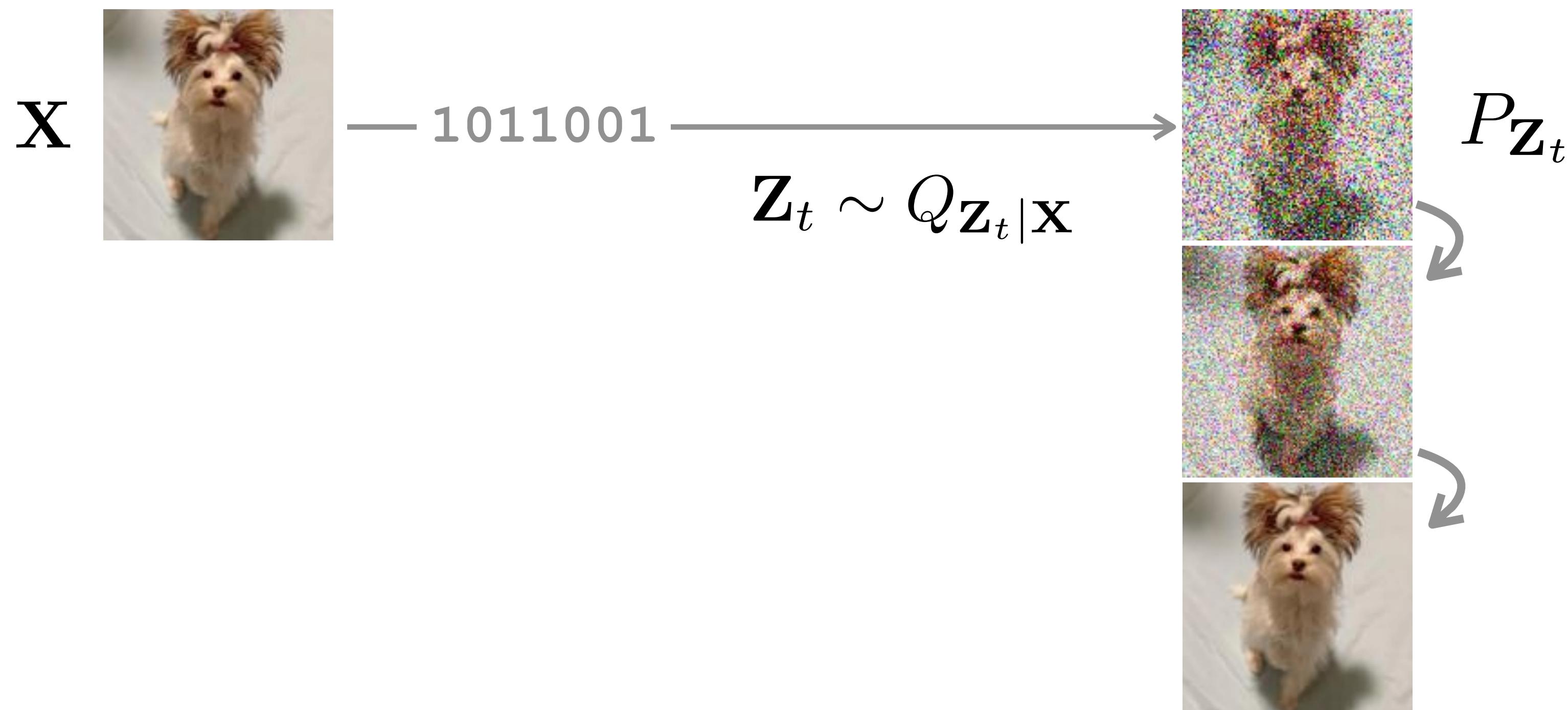


$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{z}_t)$$

# Diffusion as a VAE

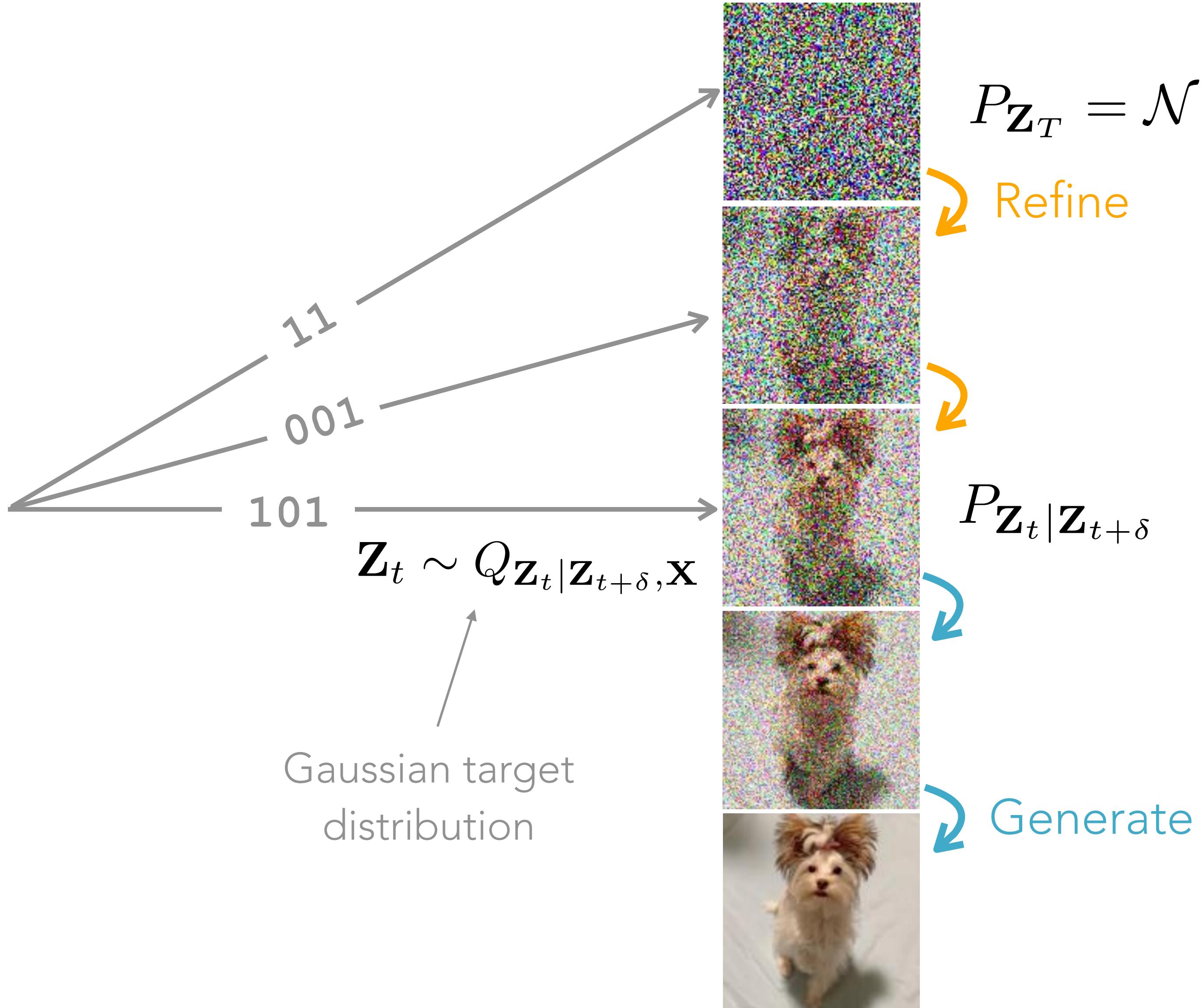


# Diffusion


$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} \sim P_{\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Z}_t}$$

Diffusion

$\mathbf{X}$



$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} \sim P_{\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{z}_t}$$

## Example: Normal

$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$Z_t = \sqrt{1 - \sigma^2} X + \sigma U \quad U \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (0 < \sigma \leq 1)$$

$$\hat{X} \sim P_{X|Z_t}$$

## Example: Normal

Already follows correct distribution

$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$
$$Z_t = \sqrt{1 - \sigma^2}X + \sigma U \quad U \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (0 < \sigma \leq 1)$$
$$\hat{X} = \sqrt{1 - \sigma^2}Z_t + \sigma V \quad V \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

Realism:  $D[P_X, P_{\hat{X}}] = 0$

Distortion:  $\mathbb{E}[(X - \hat{X})^2] = 2\sigma^2 = d$

Rate:  $I[X, Z_t] = -\log_2 \sigma = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{2}{d} = R(d/2)$

RD function of standard normal

$$R(d/2) = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{2}{d}$$

## Example: Normal

$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$Z_t = \sqrt{1 - \sigma^2} X + \sigma U \quad U \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (0 < \sigma \leq 1)$$

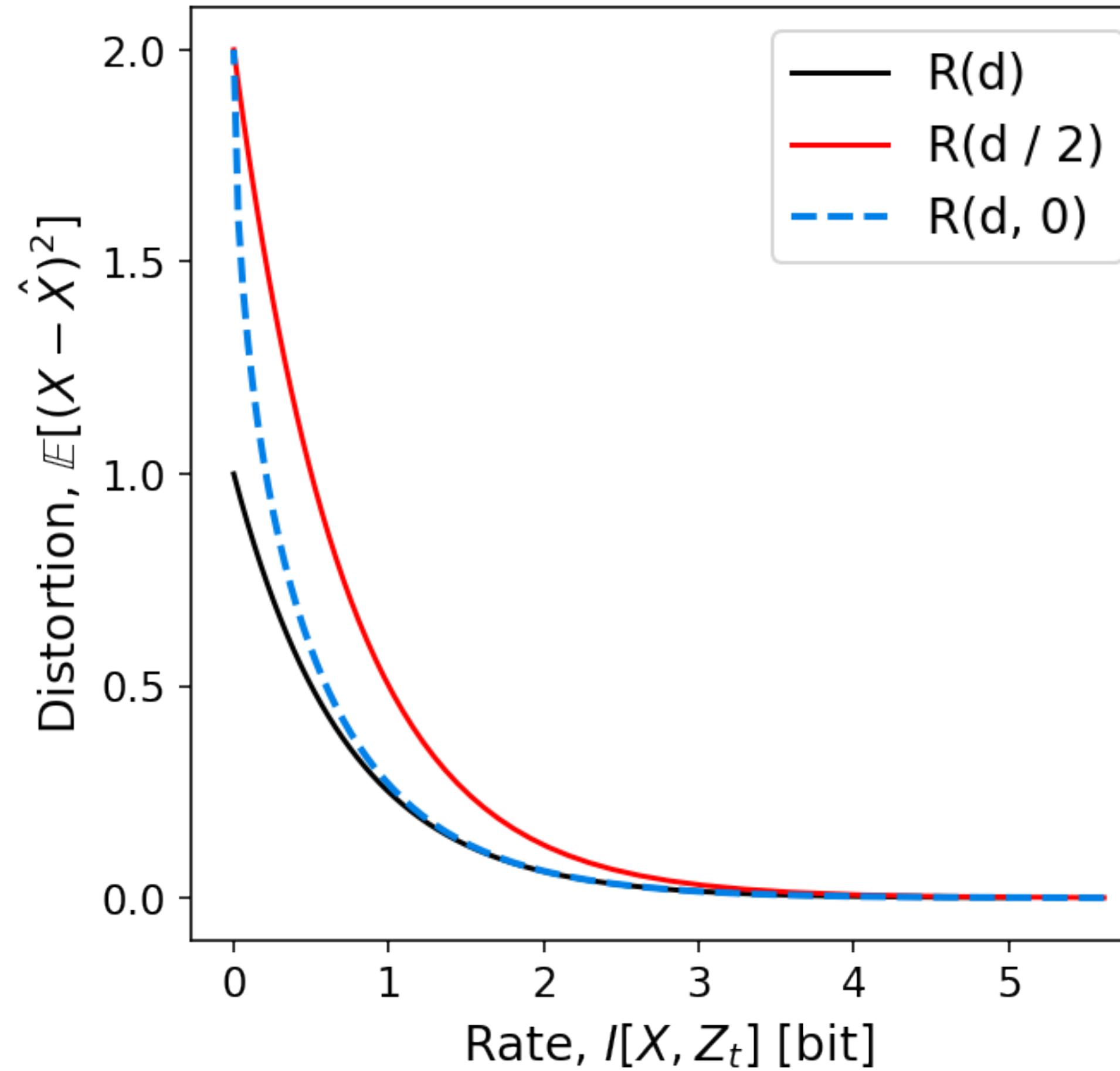
$$\hat{X} = Z_t$$

Realism:  $D[P_X, P_{\hat{X}}] = 0$

Distortion:  $\mathbb{E}[(X - \hat{X})^2] = 2 - 2\sqrt{1 - \sigma^2} < 2\sigma^2$

Rate:  $I[X, X_t] = -\log_2 \sigma = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{2}{d}$

## Example: Normal



# SDE / ODE

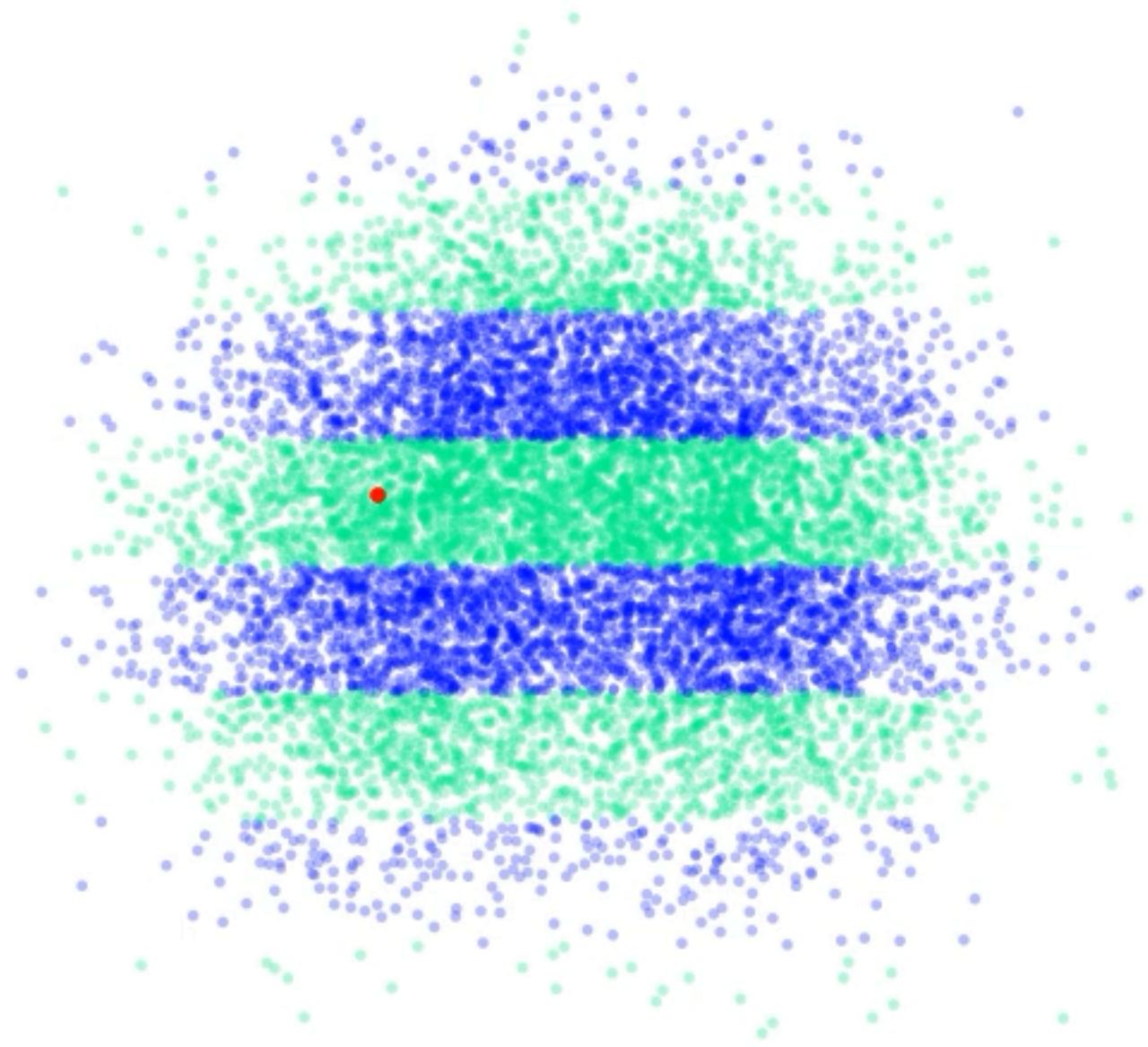
SDE:

$$d\mathbf{Z}_t = \left( -\frac{1}{2}\beta_t \mathbf{Z}_t - \beta_t \nabla \ln p_t(\mathbf{Z}_t) \right) dt + \sqrt{\beta_t} d\bar{\mathbf{W}}_t$$

Neural network goes in here



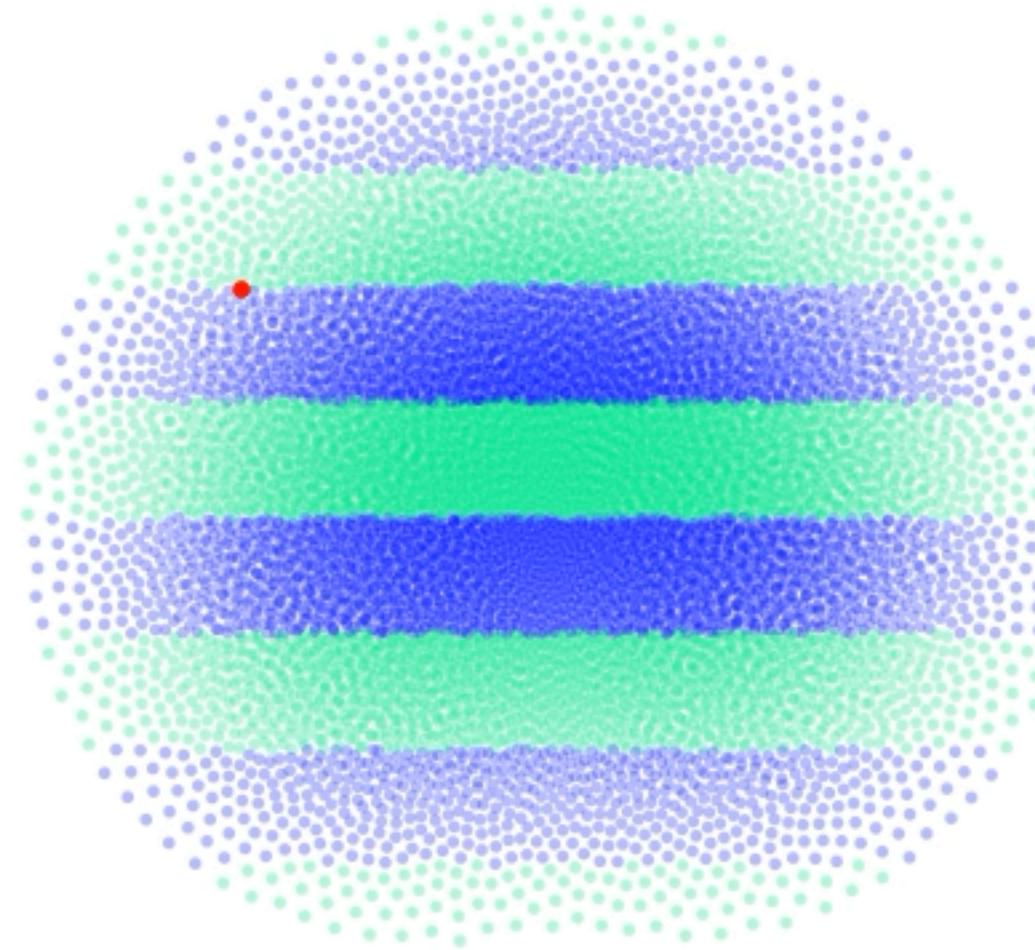
# SDE



$$d\mathbf{X}_t = \left( -\frac{1}{2}\beta_t \mathbf{X}_t - \beta_t \nabla \log p_t(\mathbf{X}_t) \right) dt + \sqrt{\beta_t} d\bar{\mathbf{W}}_t$$

(simulated in reverse)

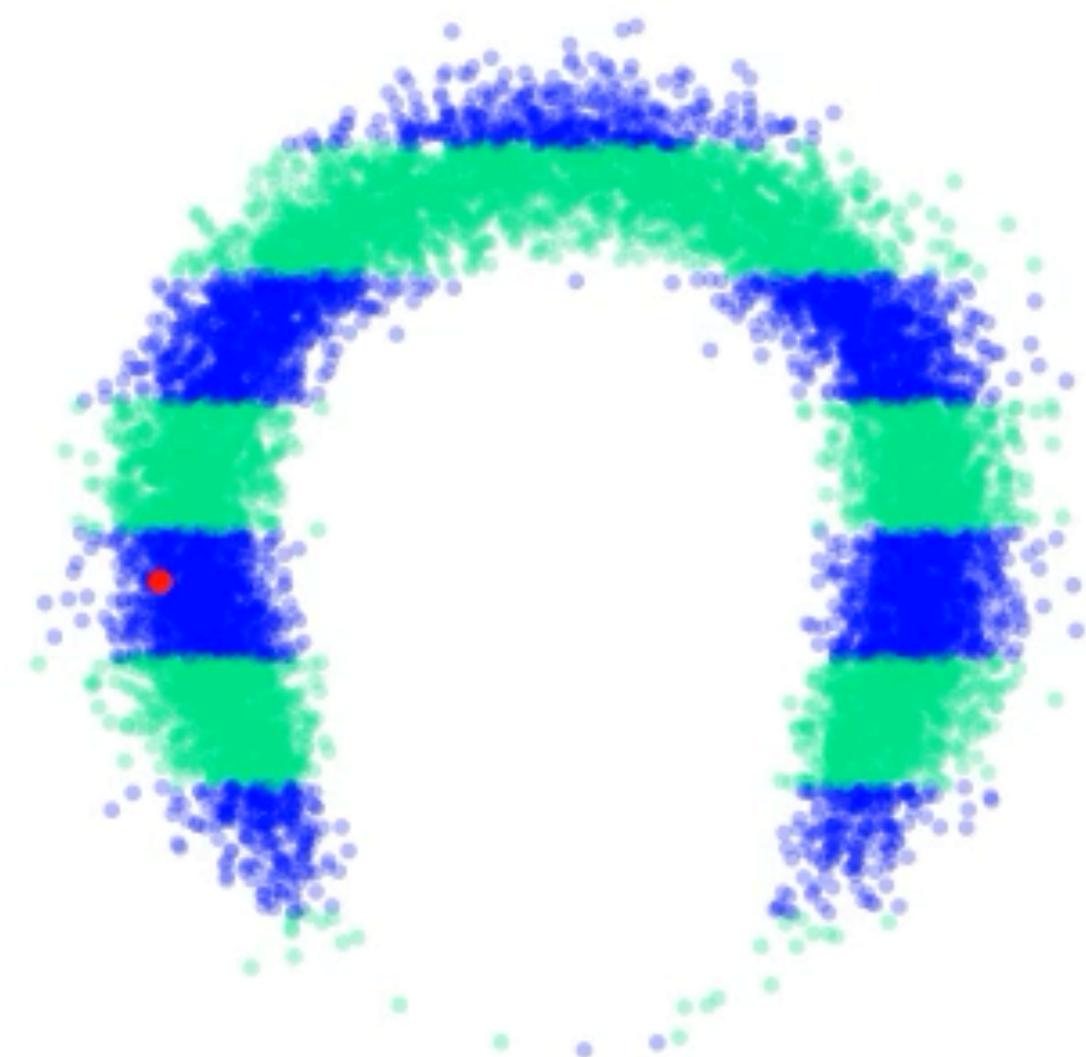
# ODE



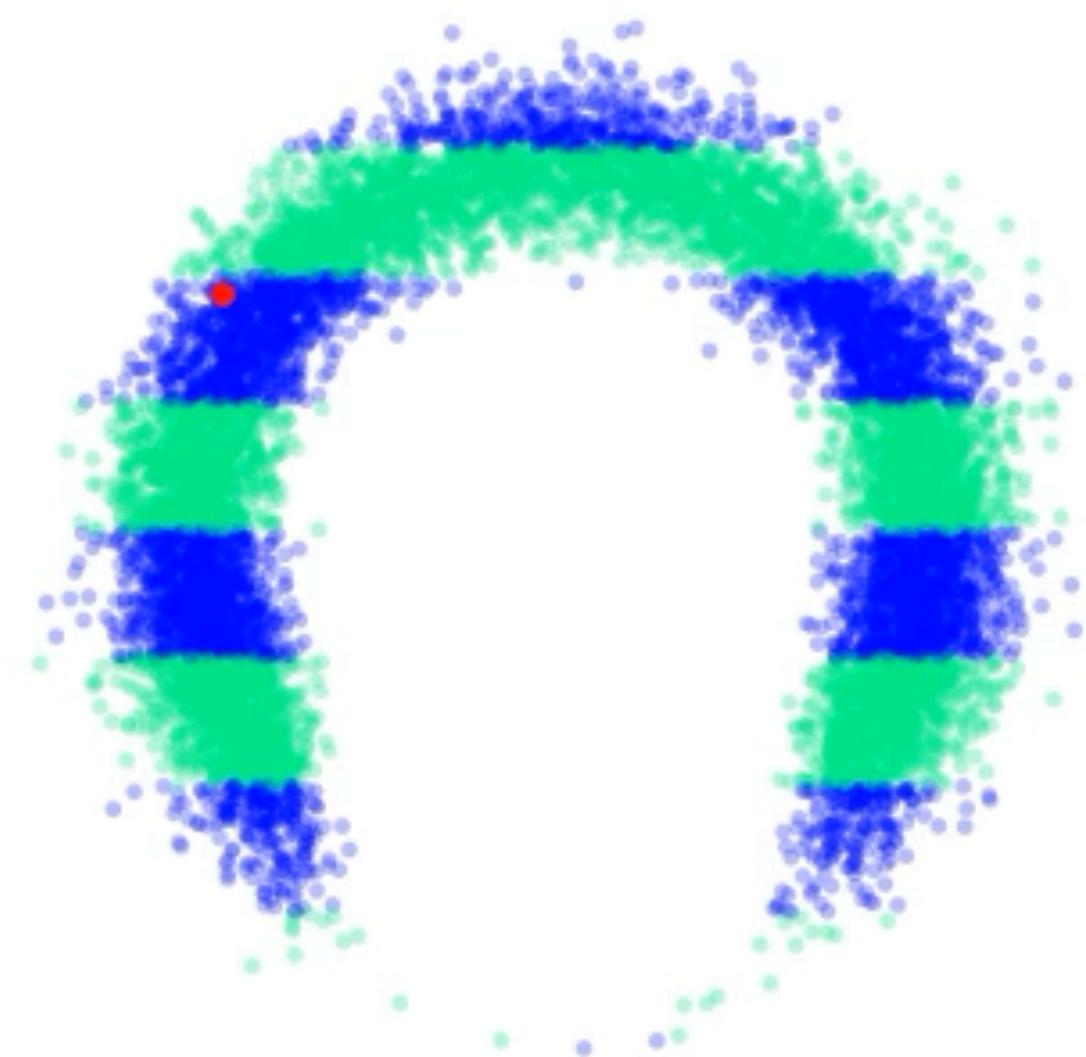
$$d\mathbf{x}_t = \left( -\frac{1}{2}\beta_t \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1}{2}\beta_t \nabla \log p_t(\mathbf{x}_t) \right) dt$$

(simulated in reverse)

# DiffC-A (SDE)



# DiffC-F (ODE)



Tweedie's formula

$$\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{X} + \sigma \mathbf{V}$$

$$\mathbf{V} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_m)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} | \mathbf{z}] = \mathbf{z} + \sigma^2 \nabla \ln p_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbf{z})$$

## DiffC-F (ODE)

9.1719 0.5654 0.2421 0.1916 0.1297 0.0538 0.0256

$\mathbf{z}_t$



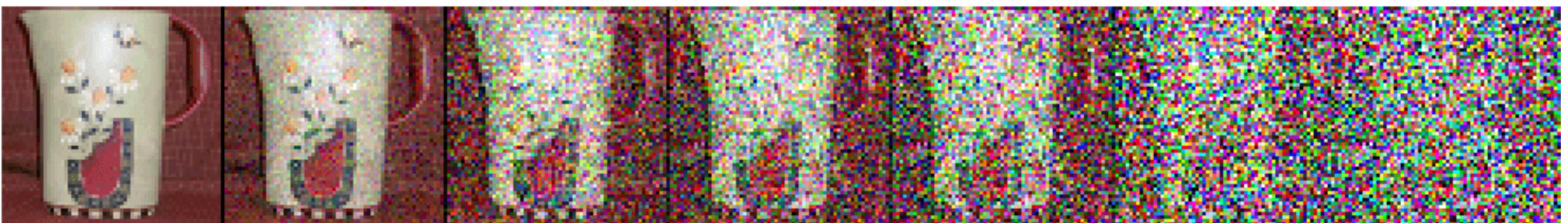
$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$

32.4dB 26.7dB 25.4dB 23.3dB 18.6dB 15.7dB

## DiffC-F (ODE)

10.4572 0.6486 0.2554 0.1974 0.1240 0.0429 0.0198

$\mathbf{z}_t$



$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$



31.7dB 25.8dB 24.7dB 22.4dB 19.3dB 16.3dB

## DiffC-F (ODE) vs DiffC-A (SDE)

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathbf{X} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M$  have a smooth density  $p$  with finite

$$G = \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla \ln p(\mathbf{X})\|^2].$$

Let  $\mathbf{Z}_t = \sqrt{1 - \sigma_t^2}\mathbf{X} + \sigma_t \mathbf{U}$  with  $\mathbf{U} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_A \sim P(\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{Z}_t)$  and let  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_F = \mathbf{Z}_0$  be the solution to the ODE with  $\mathbf{Z}_t$  as initial condition. Then

$$\lim_{\sigma_t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{\mathbf{X}}_F - \mathbf{X}\|^2]}{\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{\mathbf{X}}_A - \mathbf{X}\|^2]} = \frac{1}{2}$$

## DiffC-F (ODE)

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{QS}$  where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is an orthogonal matrix and  $\mathbf{S} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M$  is a random vector with smooth density and  $S_i \perp\!\!\!\perp S_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Define  $\mathbf{Z}_t$  as before. If  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_F = \mathbf{Z}_0$  is the solution to the ODE given  $\mathbf{Z}_t$  as initial condition, then

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{\mathbf{X}}_F - \mathbf{X}\|^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[\|\hat{\mathbf{X}}' - \mathbf{X}\|^2]$$

for any  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}'$  with  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}' \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{X} | \mathbf{Z}_t$  which achieves perfect realism,  $\hat{\mathbf{X}}' \sim \mathbf{X}$ .

# DiffC-F/A HiFiC BPG JPEG

0.2015

0.2052

0.2734

0.2793

0.2695



27.5dB

25.7dB

23.4dB

23.0dB

18.5dB

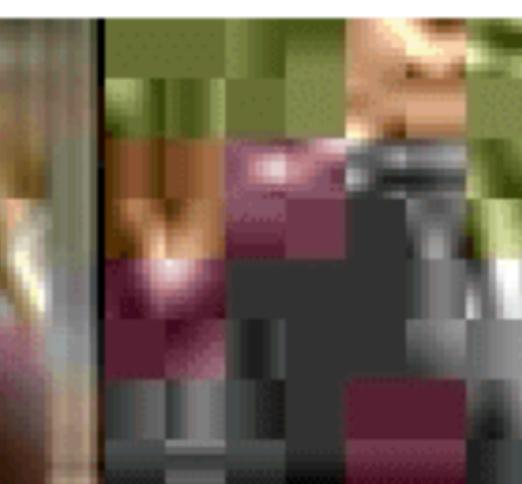
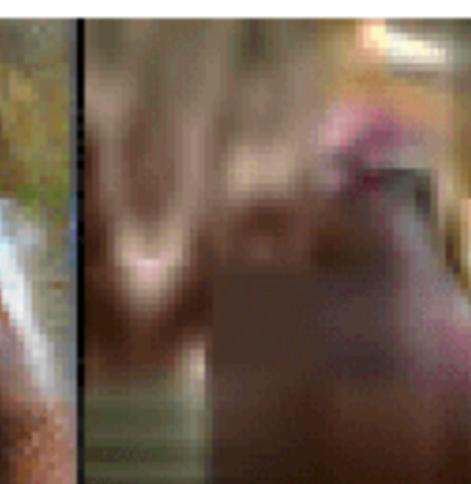
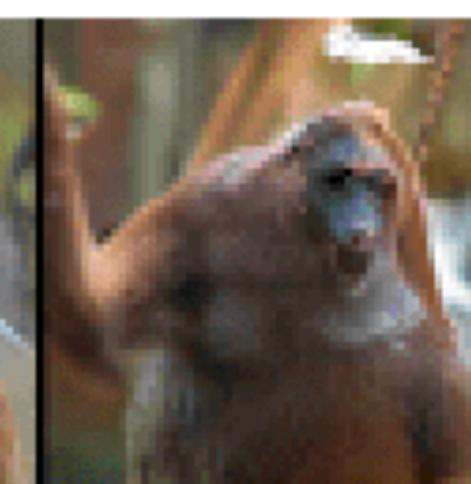
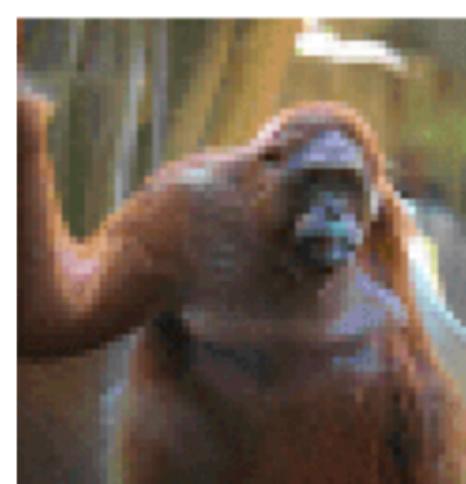
0.2785

0.2719

0.2754

0.2422

0.2852



25.4dB

23.7dB

22.8dB

22.1dB

19.8dB

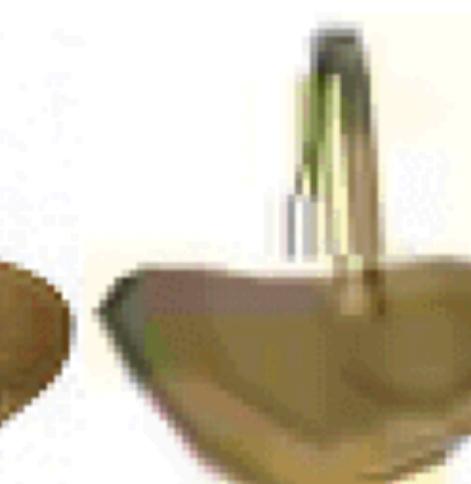
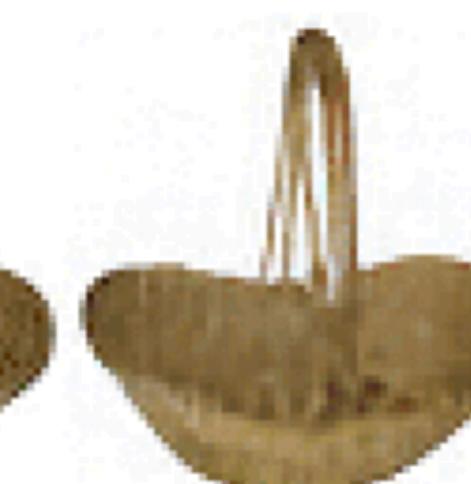
0.1661

0.1659

0.2246

0.2402

0.2363



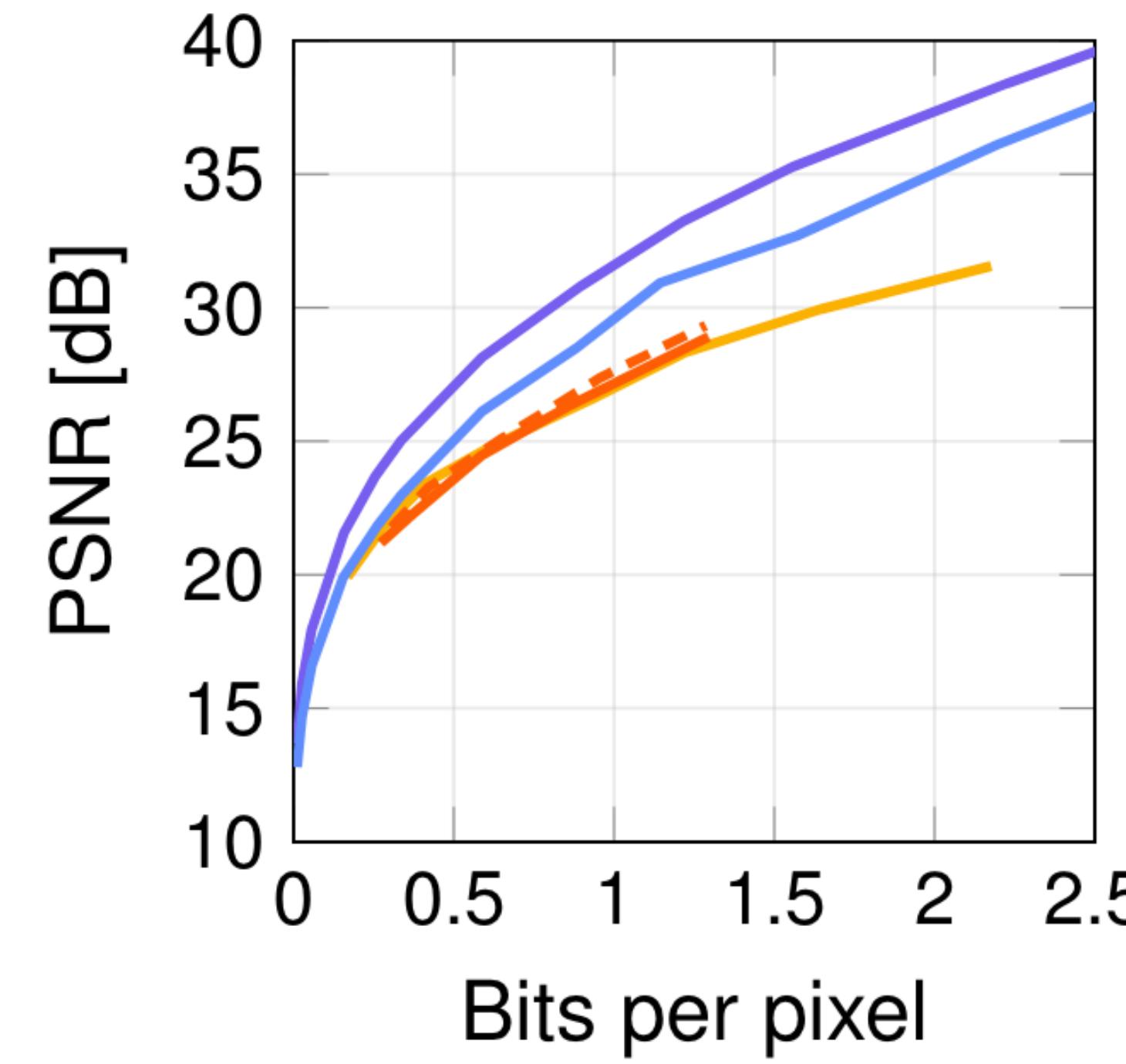
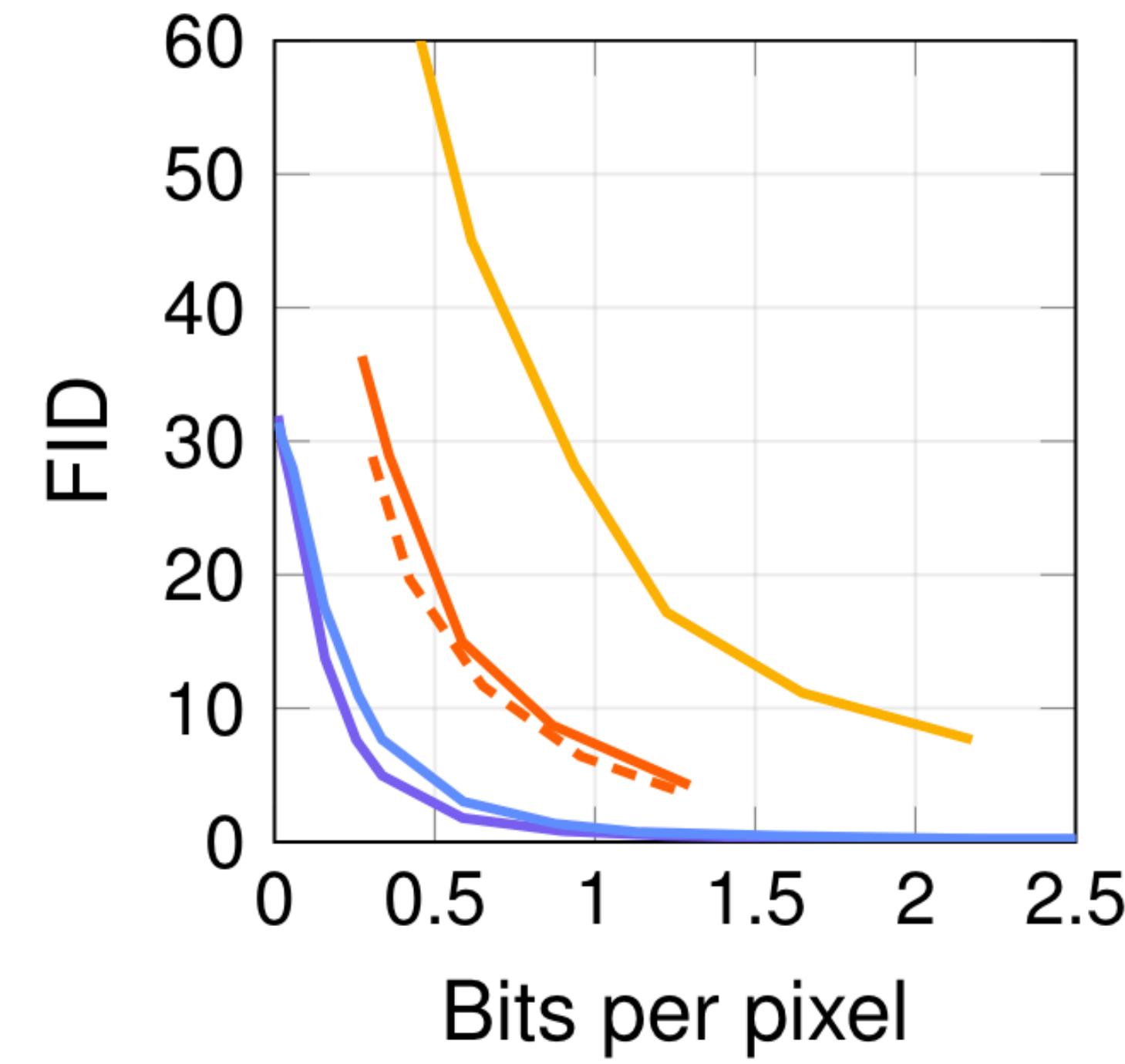
28.0dB

25.9dB

24.5dB

23.1dB

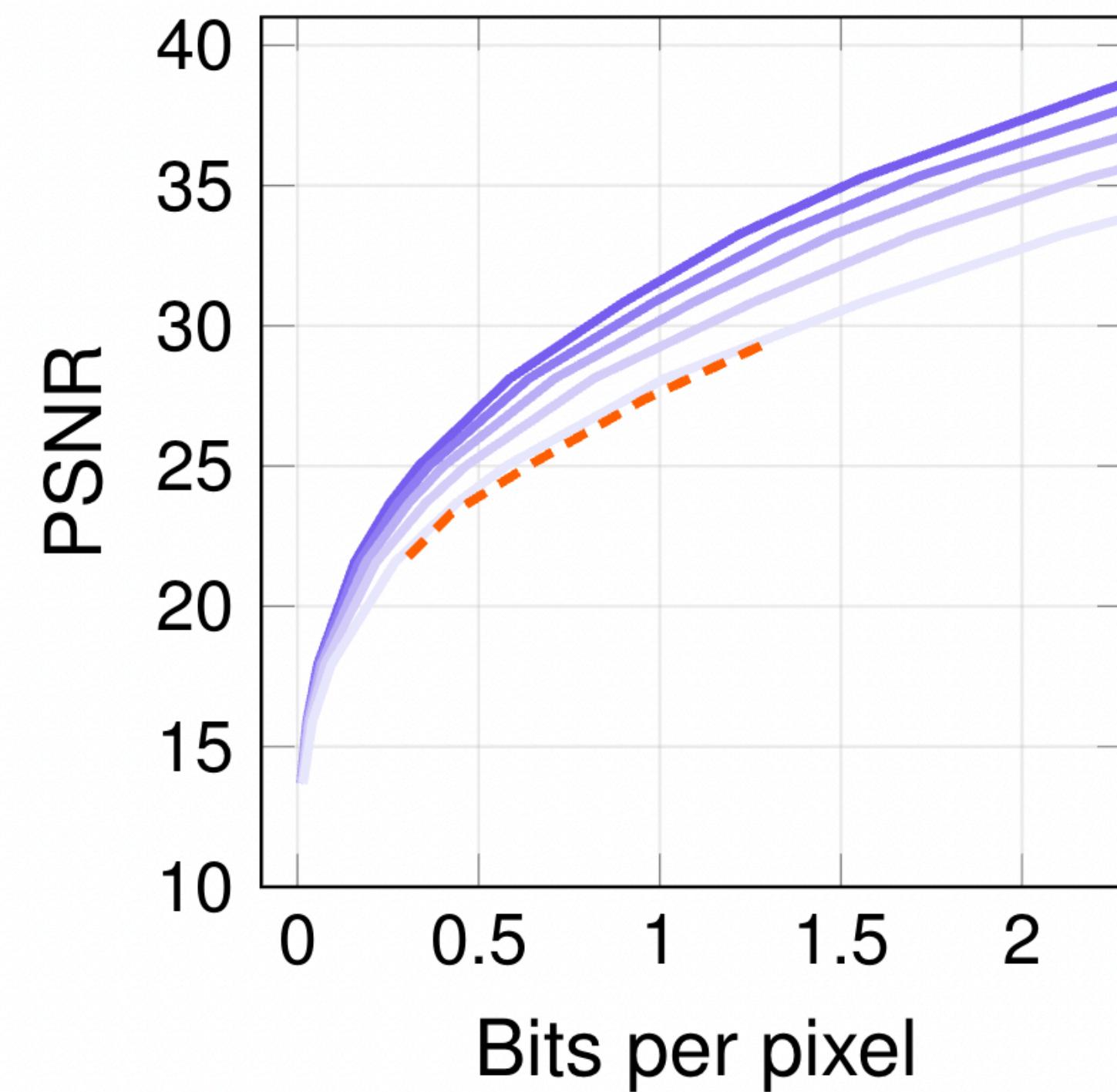
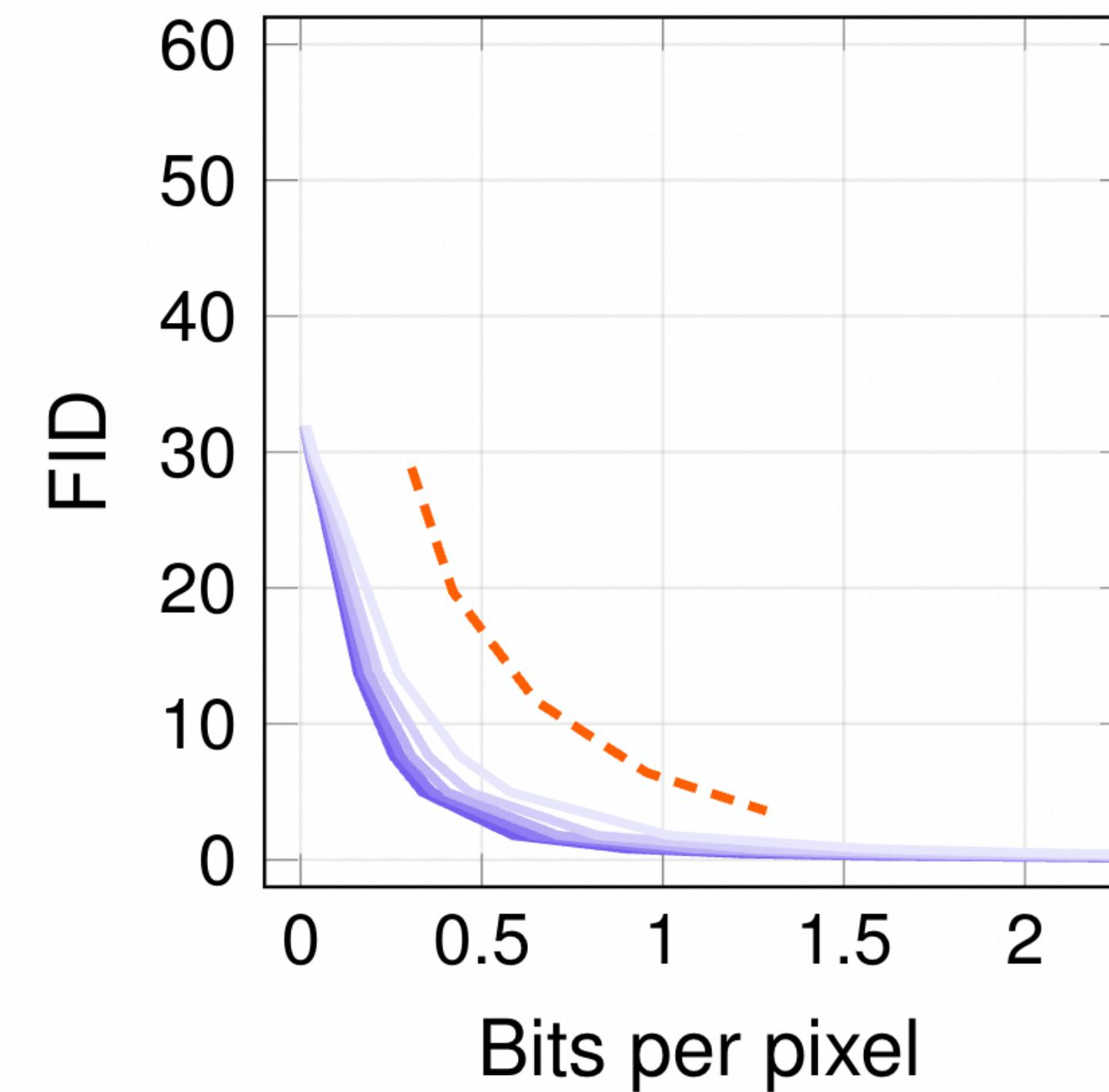
19.1dB



Legend:

- BPG
- HiFiC
- HiFiC (pretrained)
- DiffC-F
- DiffC-A

# Refinement



Bits communicated  
per refinement

- DiffC-F
- DiffC-F (100)
- DiffC-F (40)
- DiffC-F (20)
- DiffC-F (10)
- HiFiC (pretrained)

## Example: Multivariate Gaussian

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_t = \sqrt{1 - \sigma^2} \mathbf{X} + \sigma \mathbf{V}$$

$$\mathbf{V} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} \sim P_{\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Z}_t}$$

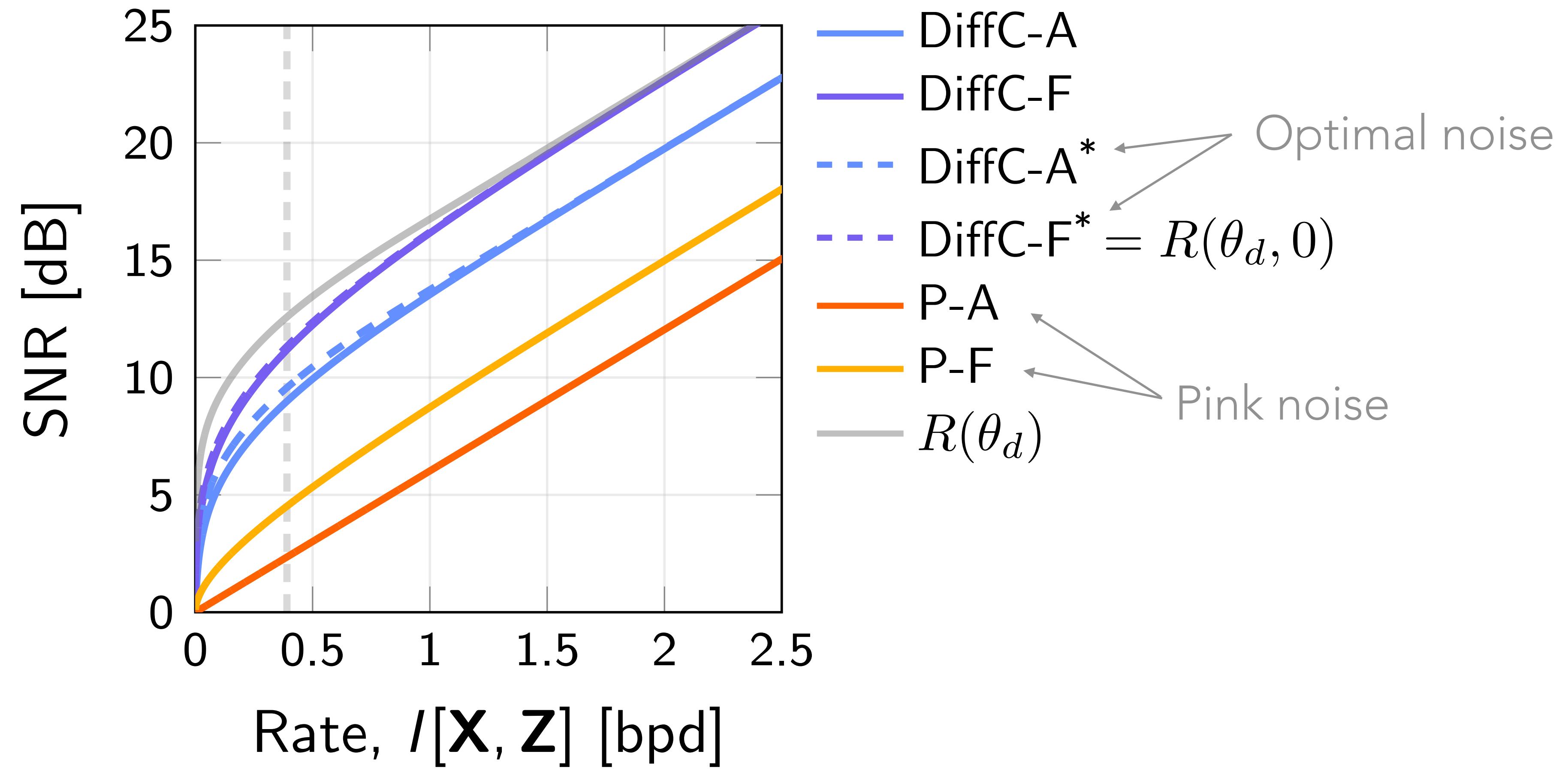
$$I[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}_t] \geq R(d/2)$$

$$d = \mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|^2]$$



Worse than 1D case

## Example: Multivariate Gaussian



# Open problems

## Channel simulation

### **Computational complexity**

- No general algorithm exists with runtime polynomial in  $D_{\text{KL}}$  (Agustsson & Theis, 2020).
- Existing algorithms' runtime is exponential in  $D_\infty$  (infinity divergence), can we find one that's exponential in  $D_{\text{KL}}$ ?
- What is the computational complexity of simulating Gaussian channels? What is the computational complexity of the closest-vector problem (CVP) for optimal lattices?
- Practical implementation of entropy-coded lattice quantization (e.g., for A2 or E8 lattice)?

### **Coding cost**

- Bounds for the one-shot coding cost of simulating multivariate Gaussian channels

# Open problems

## Learned compression

### **DiffC**

- Can we bound the rate-distortion-perception function of DiffC-A? (For DiffC-A\*, see Theis et al., 2022).
- How can we make DiffC computationally more efficient?
- What about other types of noise? Dithered quantization?

### **Generative compression**

- Training in two stages vs end-to-end training
- Better approaches targeting  $D(\theta_d, \theta_D)$  where  $0 < \theta_D < \infty$

# Open problems

## Realism

### **Shared randomness**

- The role of shared randomness (e.g., Wagner, 2022; Chen et al., 2022)

### **Universal critics**

- Adversarial losses can be challenging to optimize. Can we construct a "universal critic" (or a distortion over sequences) which encourages realistic reconstructions when optimized?

(Yes in theory, but how do we make it practical?)



[files.theis.io/nasit2023\\_solutions.pdf](https://files.theis.io/nasit2023_solutions.pdf)

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