

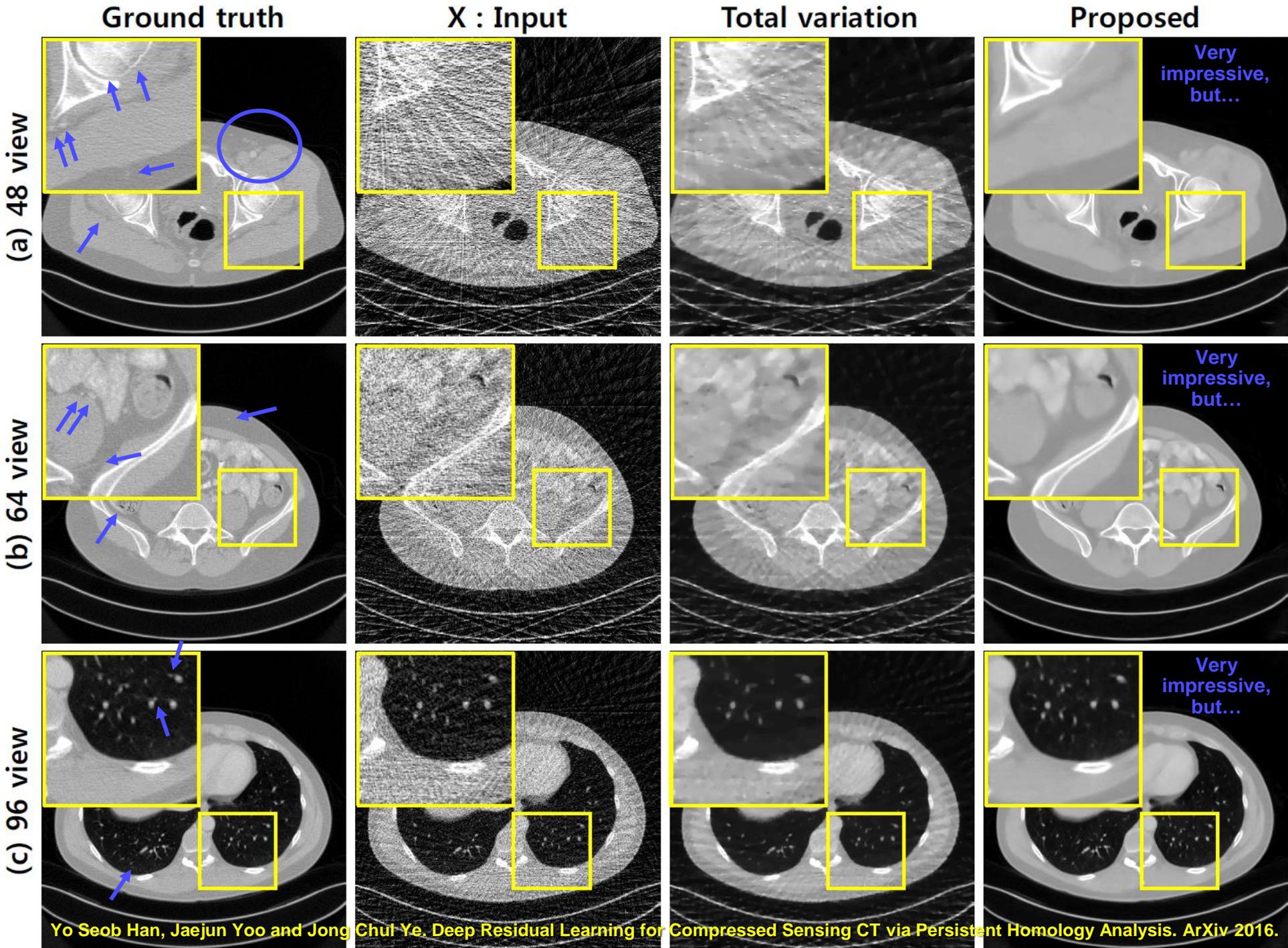
# Invarianzen Neuronaler Netze am Beispiel der CT Rauschreduktion

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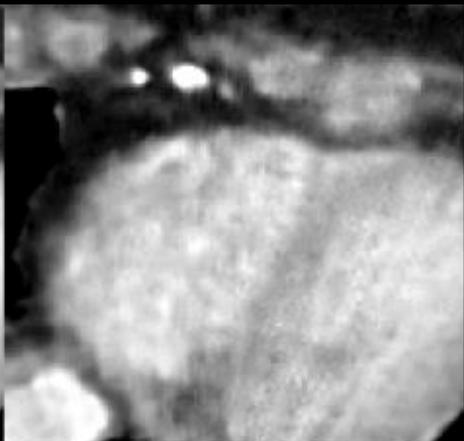
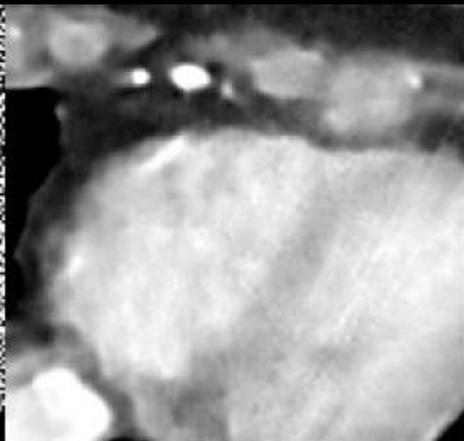
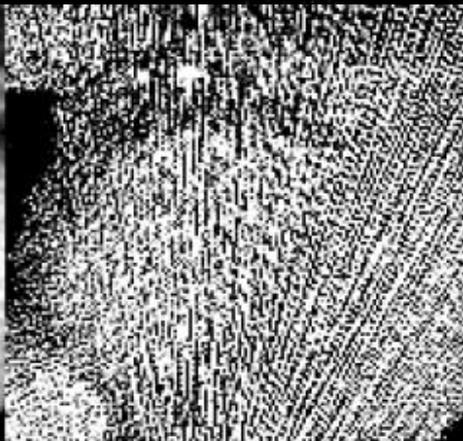
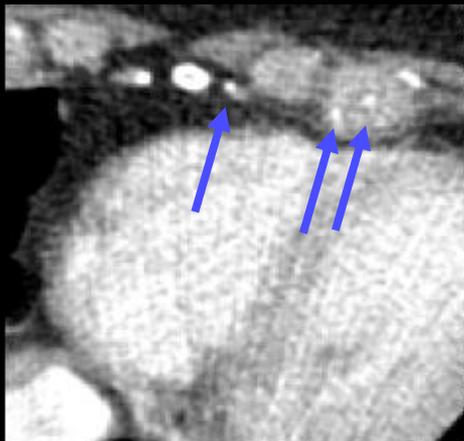
FBP(200 mAs)

FBP(10 mAs)

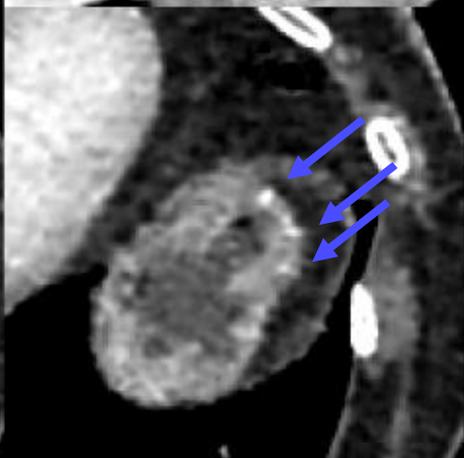
IRLNet(10 mAs, T-Net)

IRLNet(10 mAs, A-Net)

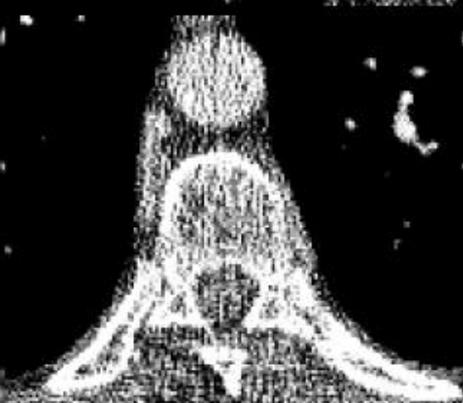
ROI 1



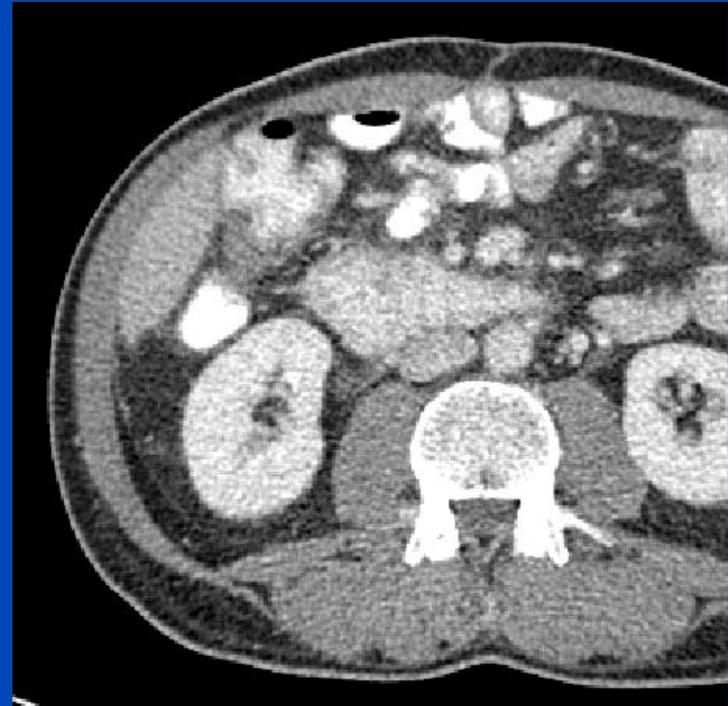
ROI 2



ROI 3

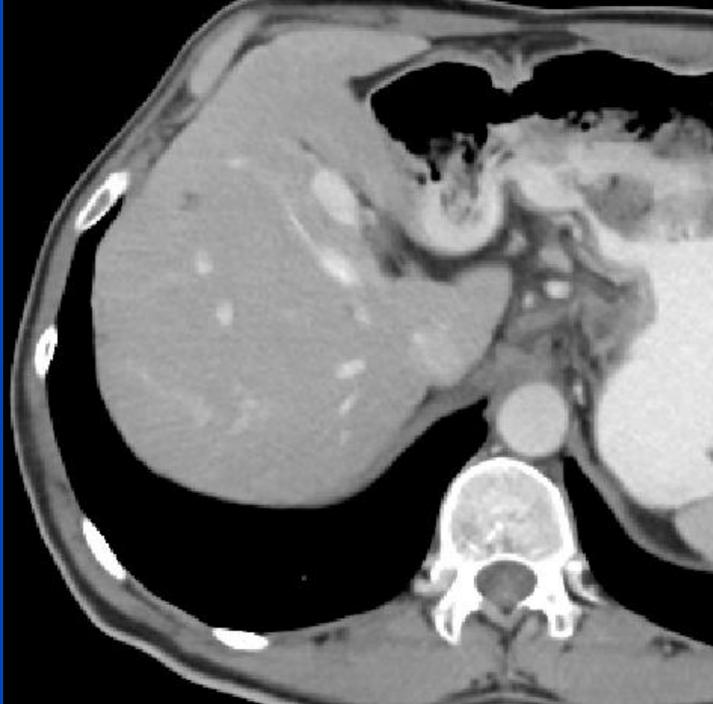


# Noise Removal Example 3



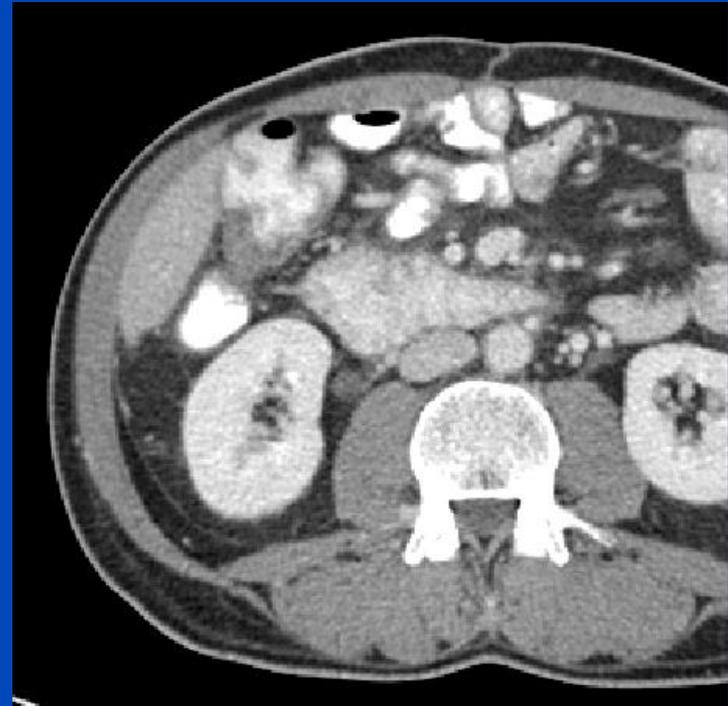
Low dose images (1/4 of full dose)

# Noise Removal Example 3



Denoised low dose

# Noise Removal Example 3



Full dose

# Motivation

## In general:

- Deep learning methods are employed for many problems.
- However, they lack interpretability (black-box).
- Recent advancement in generative modelling signal false confidence.

## Aim:

- Lay fundamentals for post-hoc interpretability and robustness analysis of denoising DNNs.
- Use two simple denoising networks  $f$  as initial examples:
  - Chen's simple 3-layer CNN trained with  $\mathcal{L}_2$  loss<sup>1</sup>
  - Yang's Wasserstein GAN with additional perceptual loss<sup>2</sup>
- See what they have learned to represent and what to ignore: For a given output  $x'$  there are many inputs  $x$  that produce the same output  $x' = f(x)$ .
- Employ low dose CT image and projection dataset for all studies.<sup>3</sup>

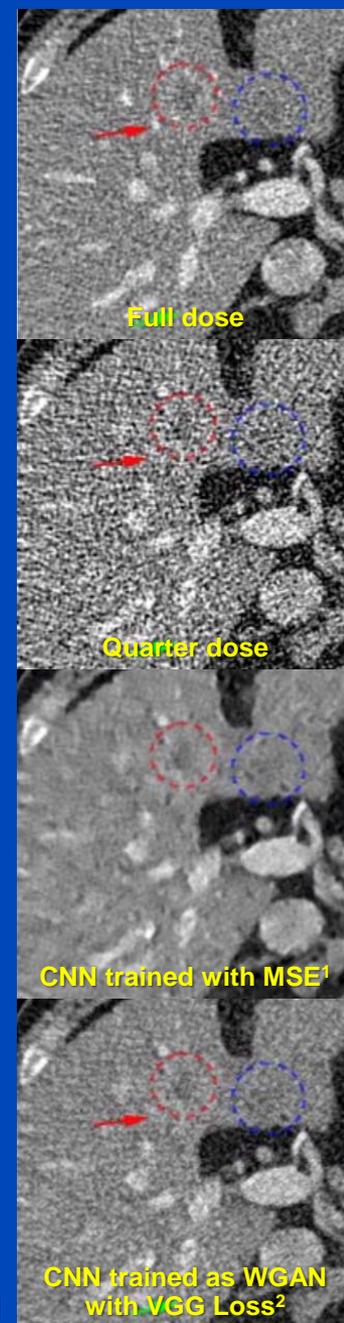


Figure from reference [2]

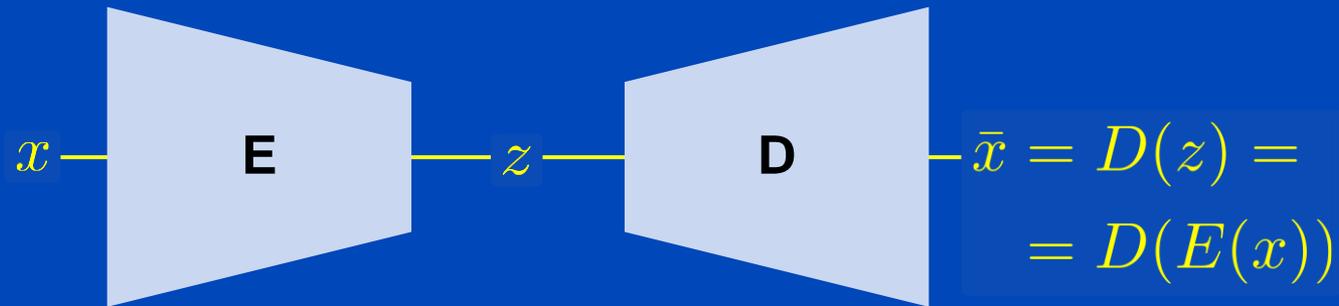
<sup>1</sup>H. Chen et al., "Low-dose CT denoising with convolutional neural network", ISBI 2017, 2017.

<sup>2</sup>Q. Yang et al., "Low-Dose CT Image Denoising Using a Generative Adversarial Network [...]", in *IEEE TMI*, vol. 37, no. 6, 2018.

<sup>3</sup>C. McCollough et al., "Data from low dose CT image and projection data [data set]," The Cancer Imaging Archive, 2020.

# Recap 1: What is an Autoencoder (AE)?

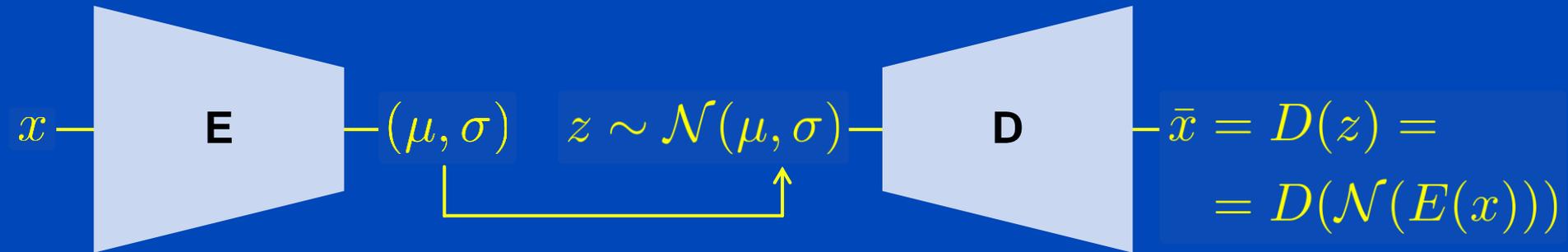
- In and output domain are the same, here  $x$ .
- Bottleneck  $z$  enforces the encoder and decoder to do a good job.



- **Examples:**
  - Principal component analysis (linear autoencoder), lossless
  - PCA with dimensionality reduction (nonlinear due to clipping), lossy
  - Image compression and decoding, e.g. jpeg, lossy
- Latent space typically not interpretable.

# Recap 2: What is a Variational AE (VAE)?

- Make latent space regular.
- Allow to sample in latent space from a given distribution, here: normal distribution.



- The VAE is a generative model.
- It allows to generate new data by sampling new values from the multivariate normal distribution.

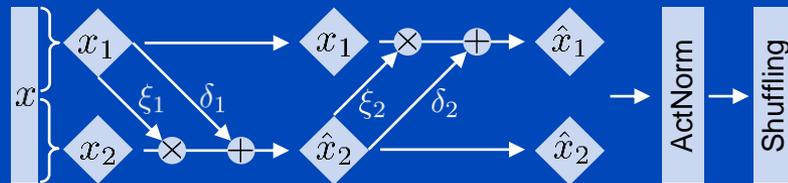
# Method

## Recovering Invariances

1. Our work is based on Rombach et al.<sup>1</sup>
2. Use denoising methods Chen et al. & Yang et al.
3. Train VAE to learn a complete data representation of the low dose images  $x$ .
4. For each denoising method and layer in the network we wish to evaluate, train a cINN to recover the invariances.
5. For a given test image, sample 250 invariances  $v$ , apply the inverse mapping  $t^{-1}$  and apply the pretrained decoder  $D$ .

$t^{-1}$  maps  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  onto  $p(\bar{z}|z)$ .

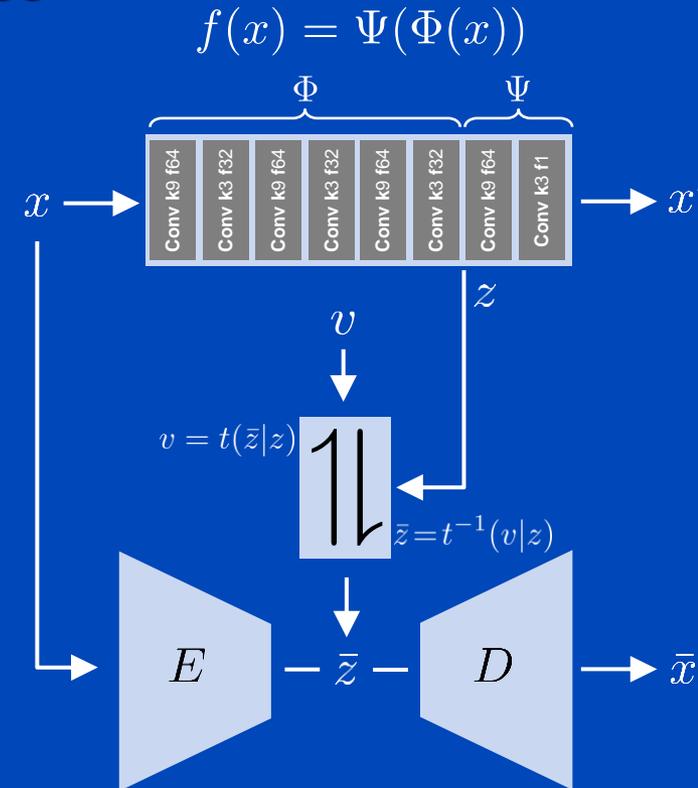
Thus it produces only images that are likely under the training distribution of the AE.



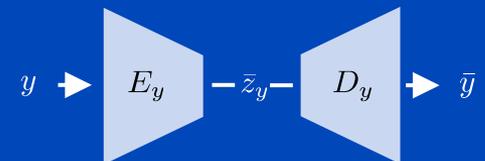
Building block of INN: Invertible block,  $\xi_{12}$  and  $\delta_{12}$  are CNNs or NNs

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 \exp(\xi_2(\hat{x}_2)) + \delta_2(\hat{x}_2) &= \hat{x}_1 \\ x_2 \exp(\xi_1(x_2)) + \delta_1(x_1) &= \hat{x}_2 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>Rombach et al. "Making sense of CNNs: Interpreting deep representations and their invariances with INNs", ECCV 2020.

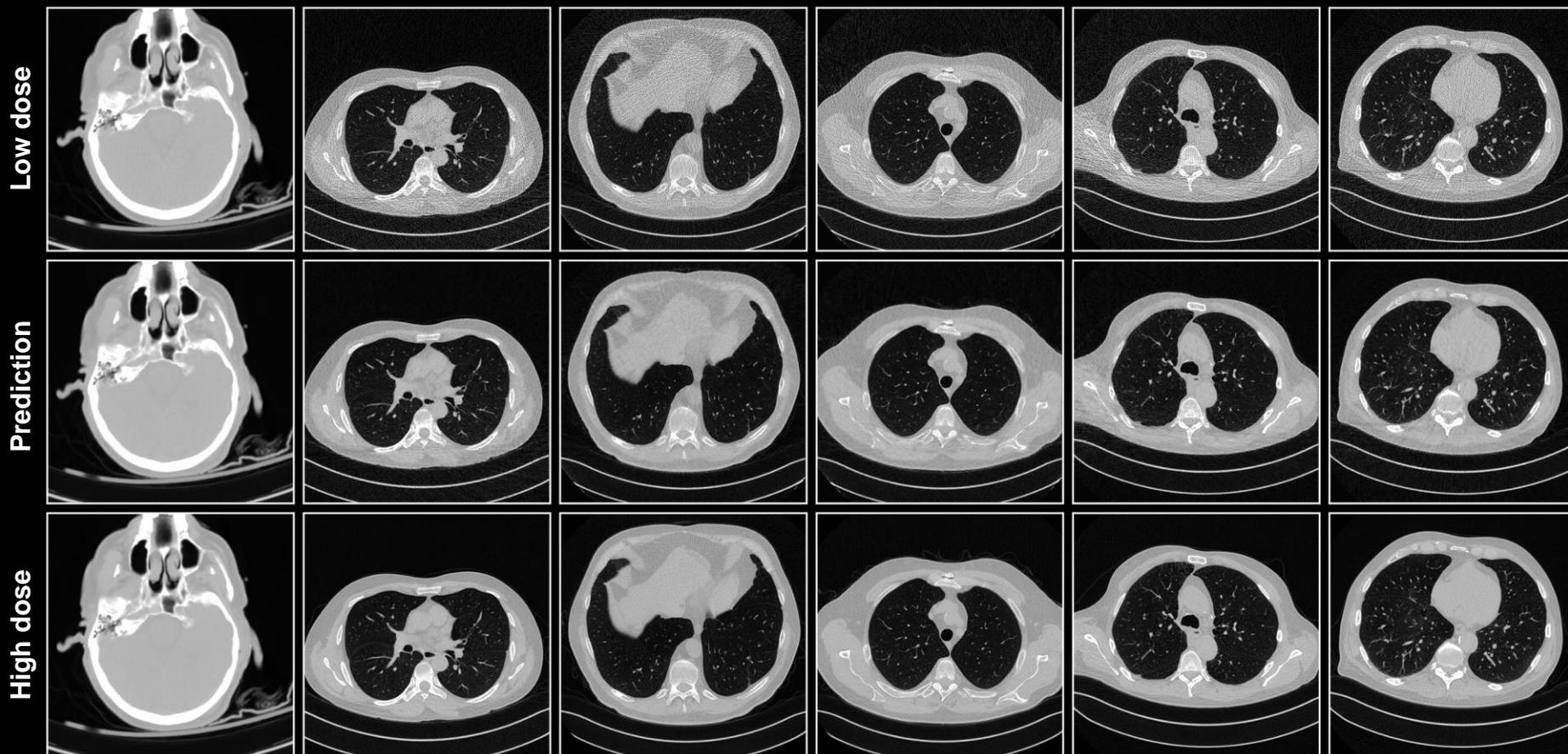


Alternative: Use VAE in high dose domain, i.e. VAE<sub>y</sub>, to visualize the invariances.



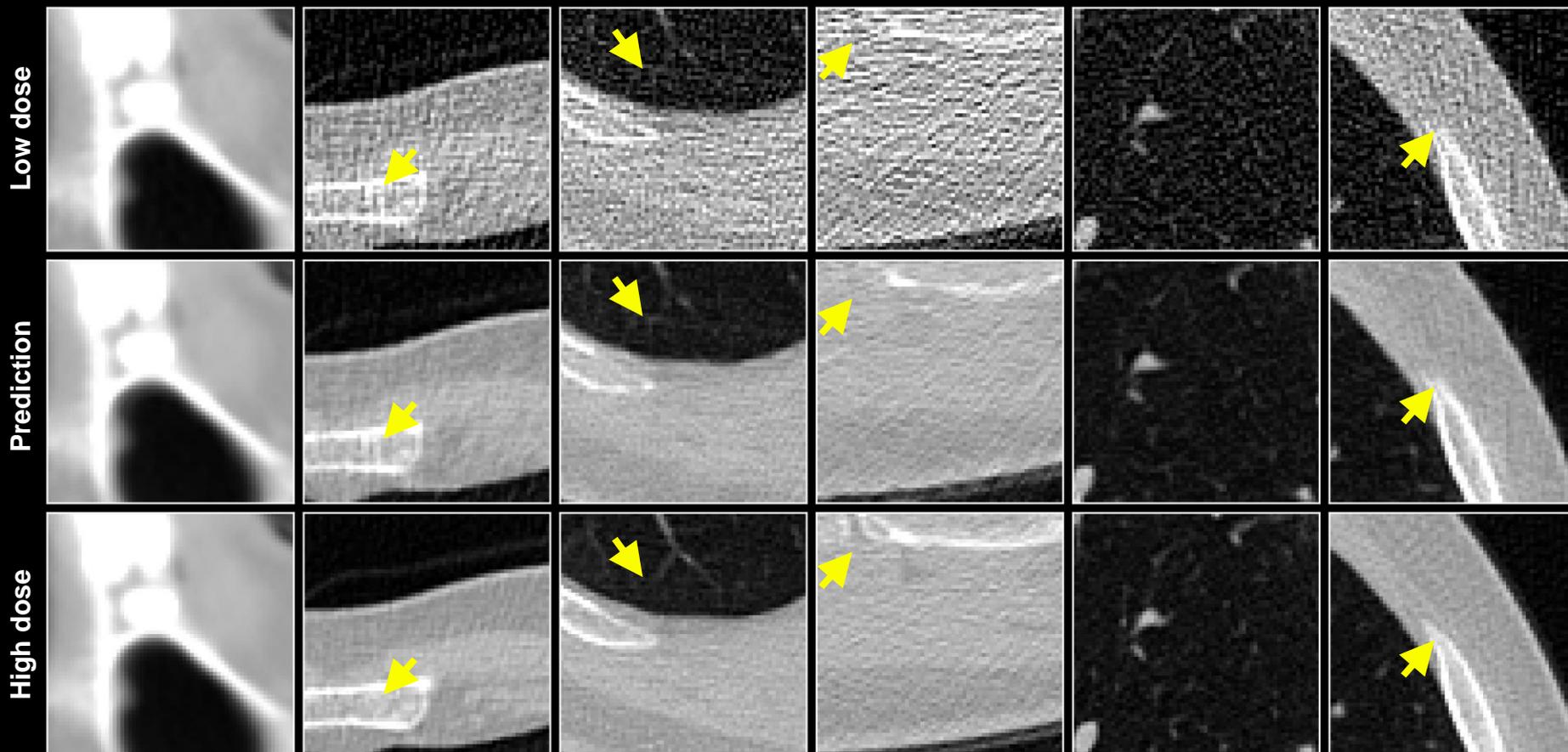
# Results

Denoising (Yang et al.)  $f = \Psi \circ \Phi$



# Results

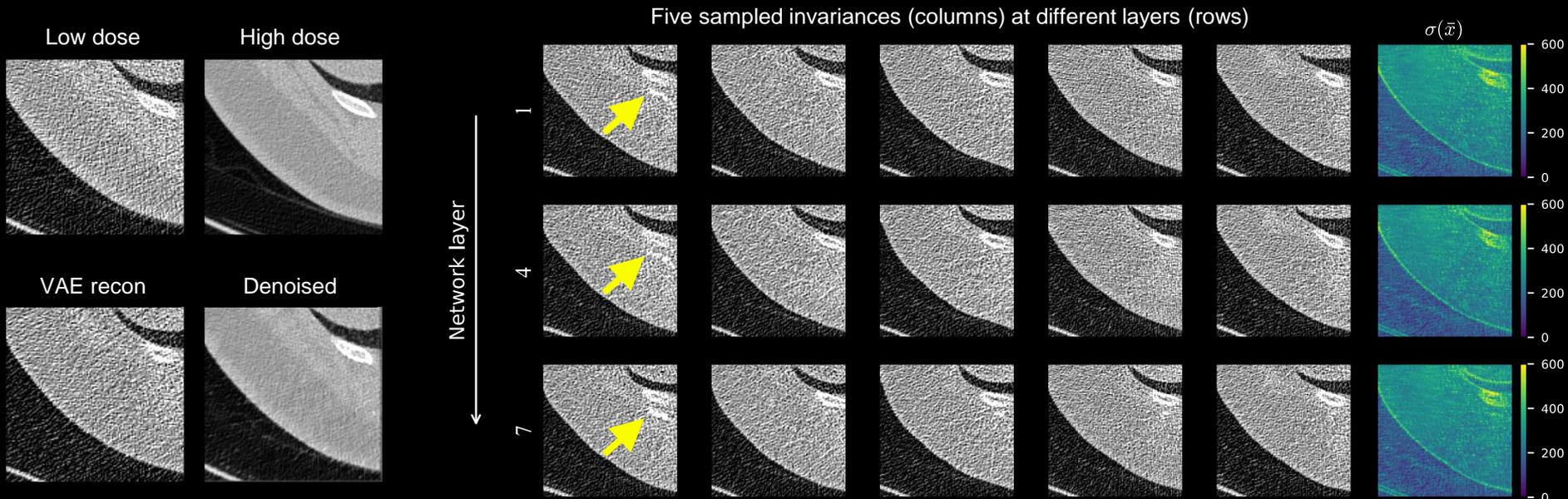
Denoising (Yang et al.)  $f = \Psi \circ \Phi$



- 1 Conv k3 f32
- 2 Conv k3 f32
- 3 Conv k3 f32
- 4 Conv k3 f32
- 5 Conv k3 f32
- 6 Conv k3 f32
- 7 Conv k3 f32
- 8 Conv k3 f1

# Results

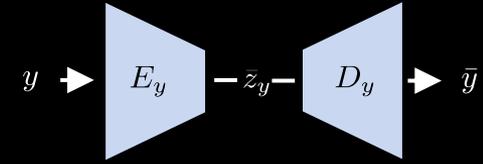
## Sampling Invariances (Yang et al.)



1  
Conv k9 f64

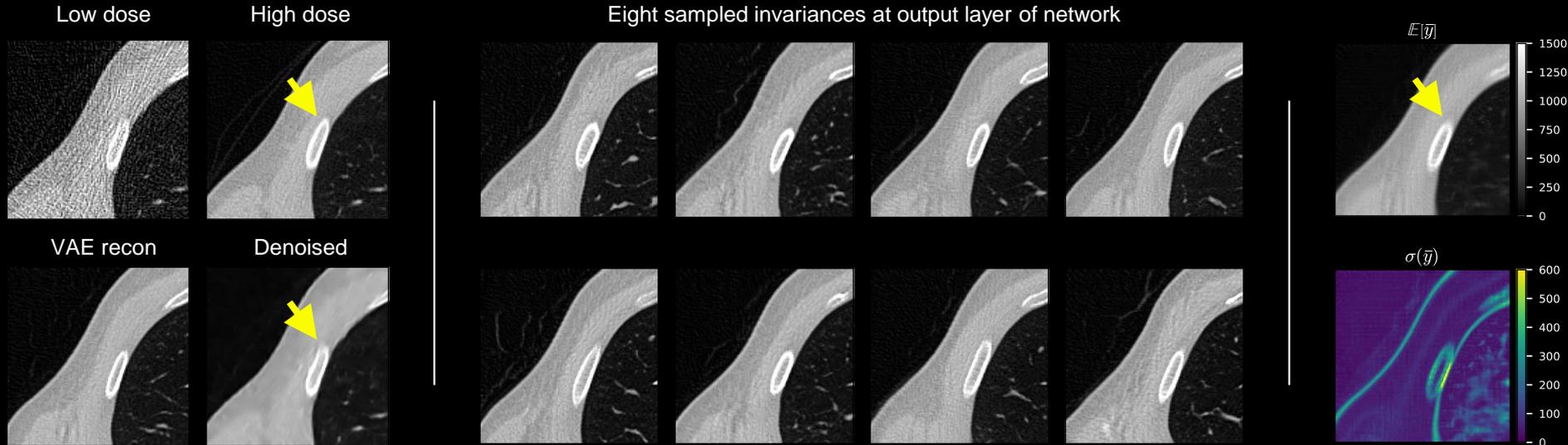
3  
Conv k3 f32

5  
Conv k3 f1



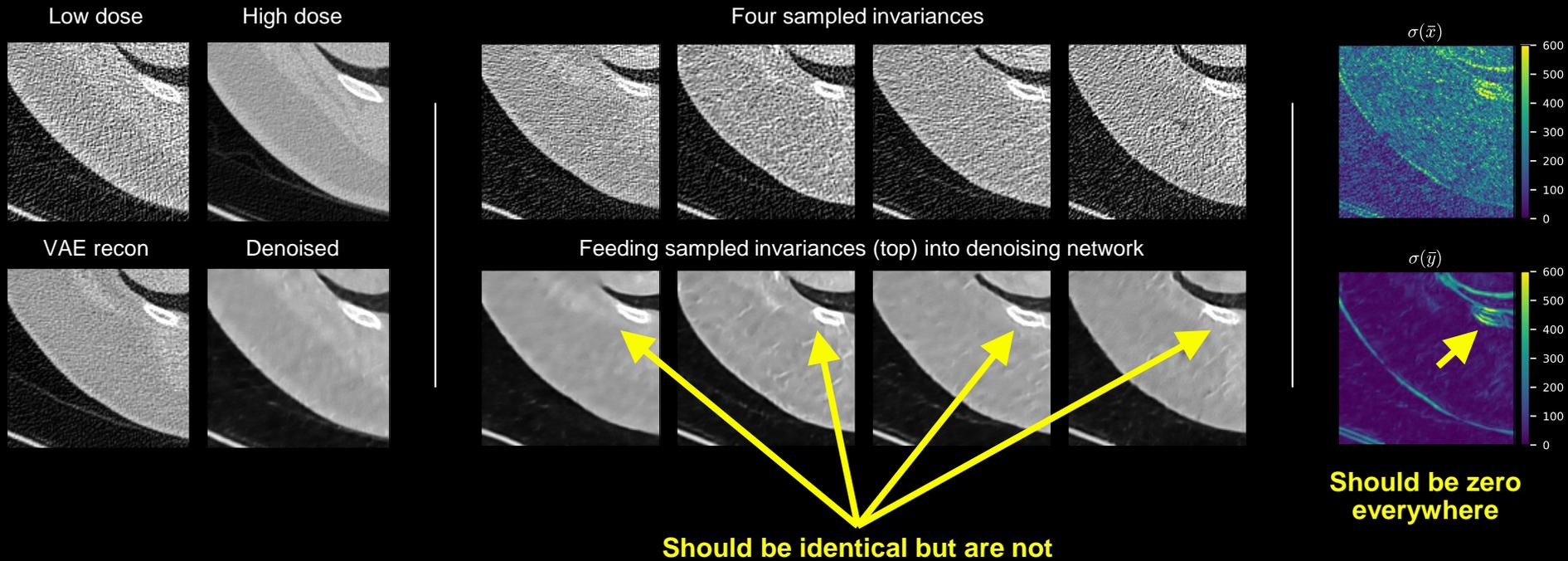
# Results

## Sampling Invariances in Target Domain (Chen et al.)



# Test

Feed sampled invariances back into the network

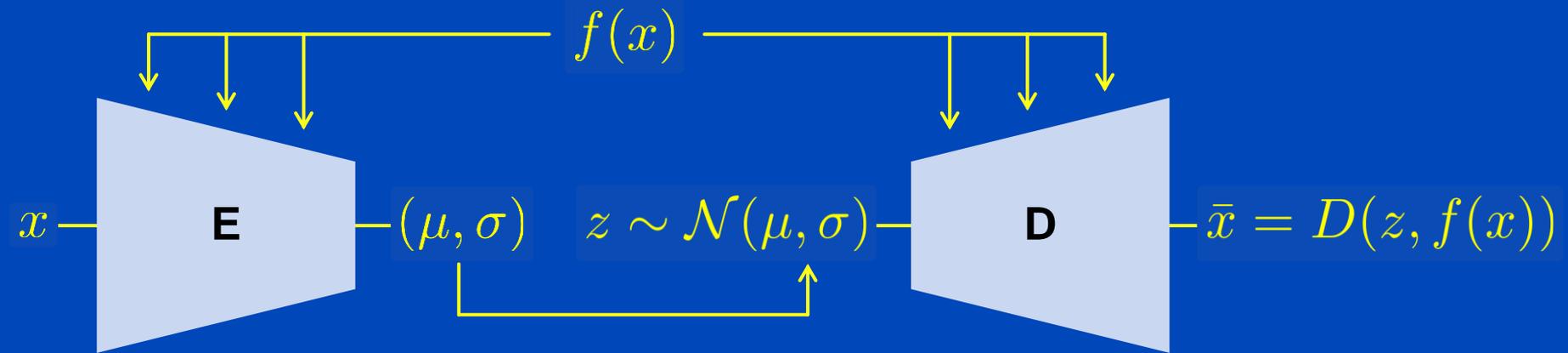


# Conclusion & Outlook

- Novel method to highlight invariances of a given denoising network
- Architecture-agnostic (also works for MRI, PET, ...)
- Feeding invariances back leads to different outputs  
→ VAE is a severe limitation
  
- Outlook
  - Improve VAE (use conditional VAE)
  - Further analyze sampled invariances
  - Only show “interesting” invariances to the reader

# Idea: Condition VAE on $f(x)$

- No need to encode what's in the denoised image  $f(x)$ .

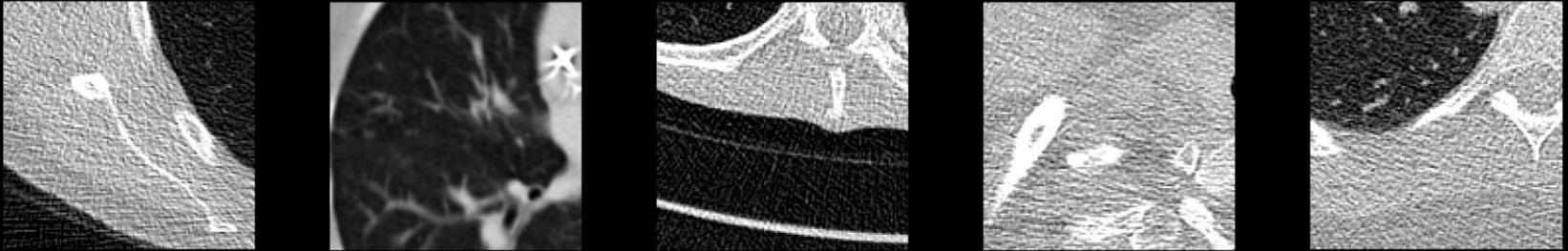


- Note: This also eliminates the need for a cINN as we can now directly sample from  $p(x|z \sim \mathcal{N}(E(x)), f(x))$ .

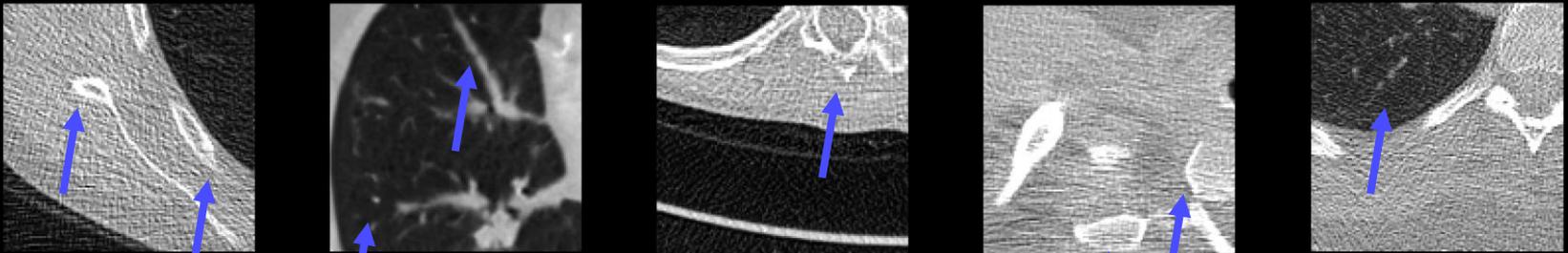
# Results

From VAE to conditional VAE

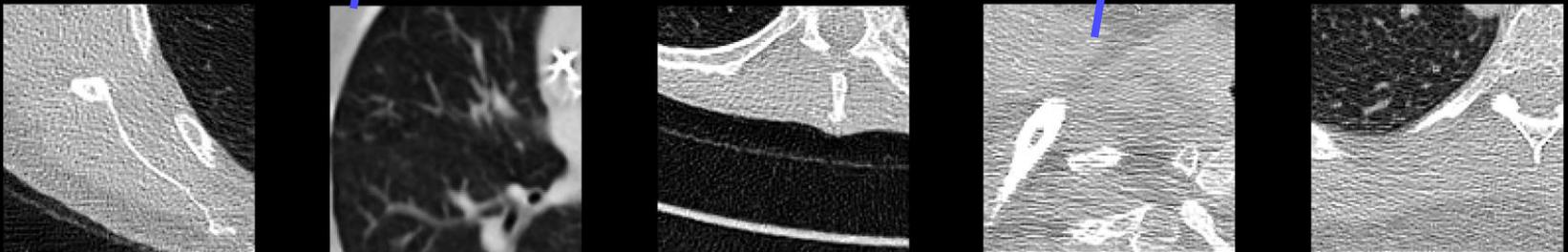
Quarter dose



VAE



cond. VAE



# Thank You!

This presentation will soon be available at [www.dkfz.de/ct](http://www.dkfz.de/ct).  
This work was supported in part by the Helmholtz International  
Graduate School for Cancer Research, Heidelberg, Germany.



## The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Image Formation in X-Ray Computed Tomography

August 5 – August 9, 2024, Bamberg, Germany  
[www.ct-meeting.org](http://www.ct-meeting.org)



Conference Chair

**Marc Kachelrieß**, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany