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# Gradient-free Decoder Inversion in Latent Diffusion Models

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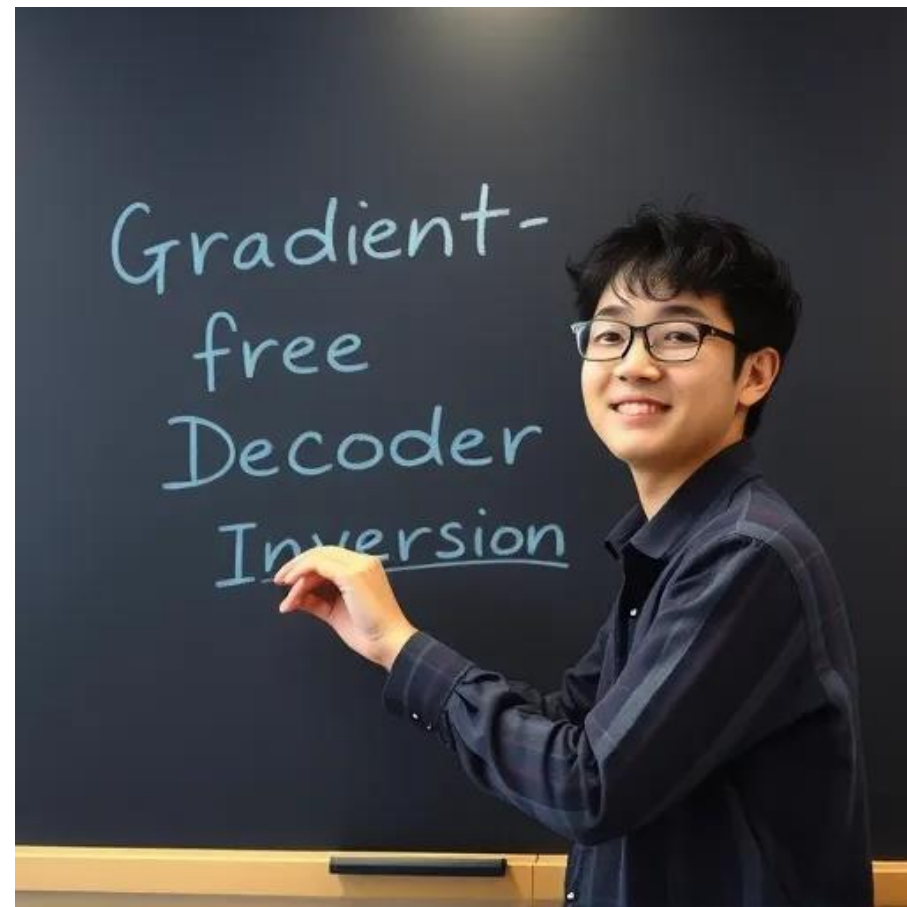
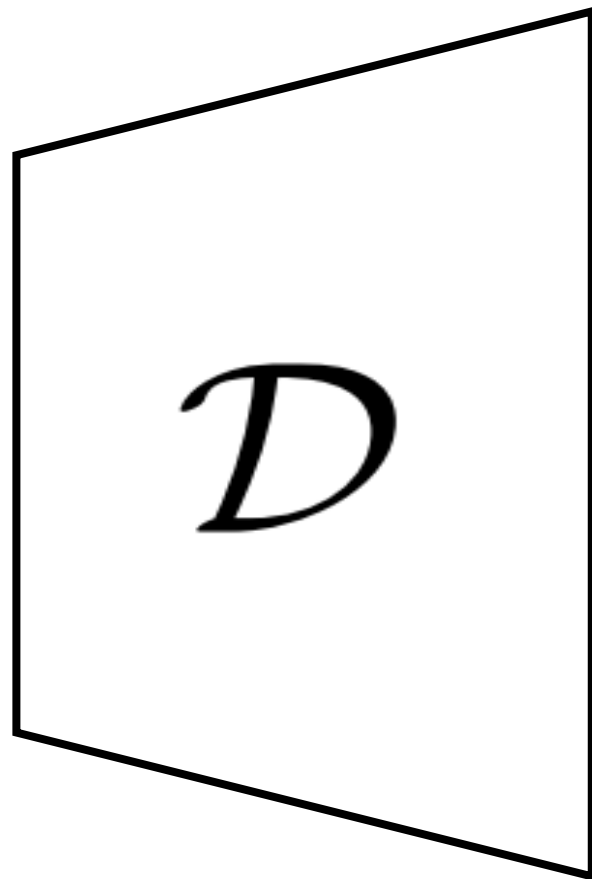
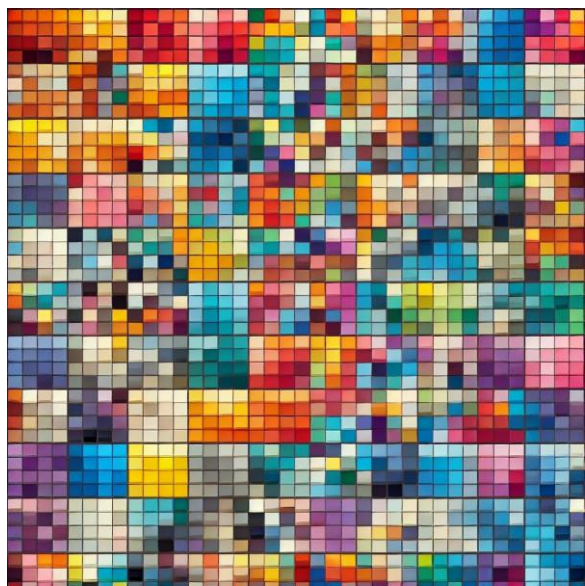
{smhongok, euniejeon, litiphysics, sychun}@snu.ac.kr, eryl@math.ucla.edu



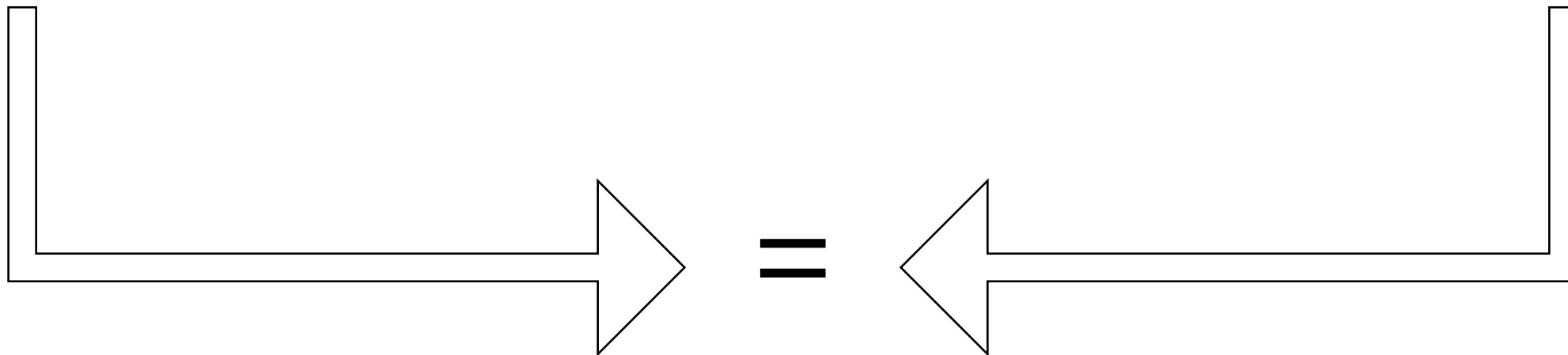
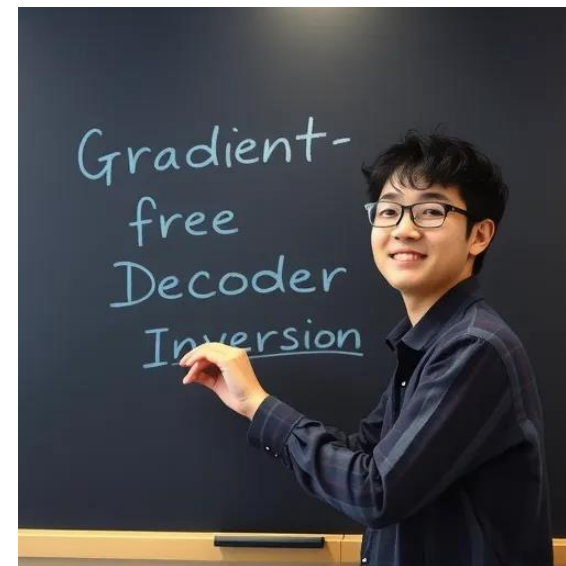
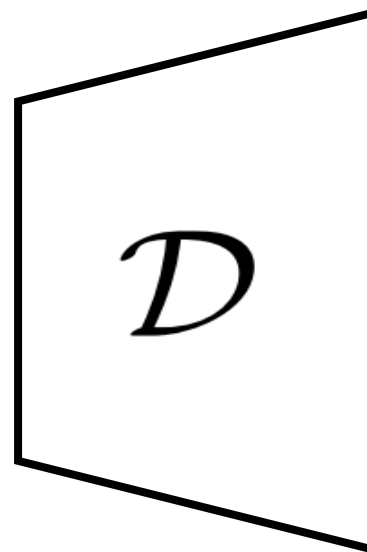
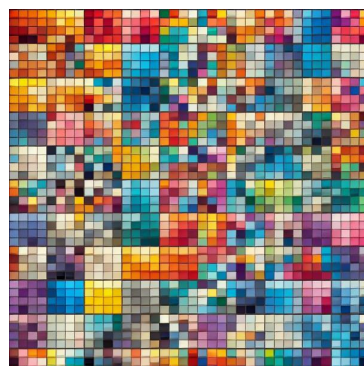
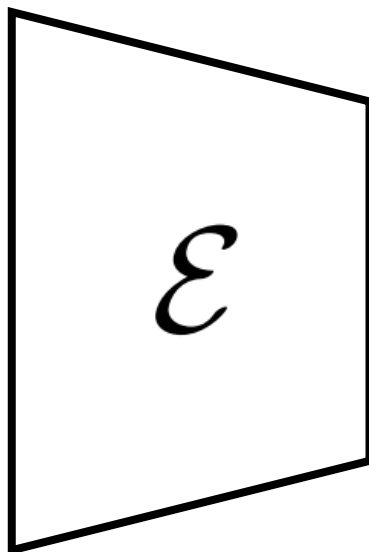
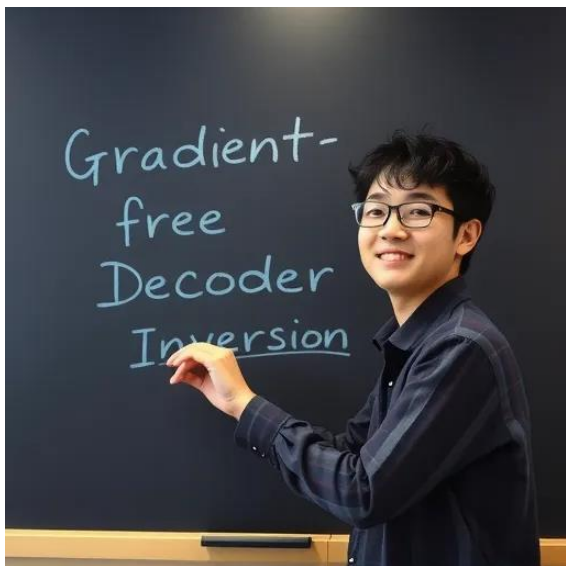
Intelligent Computational imaging Lab.



Decoder is used in latent diffusion models.

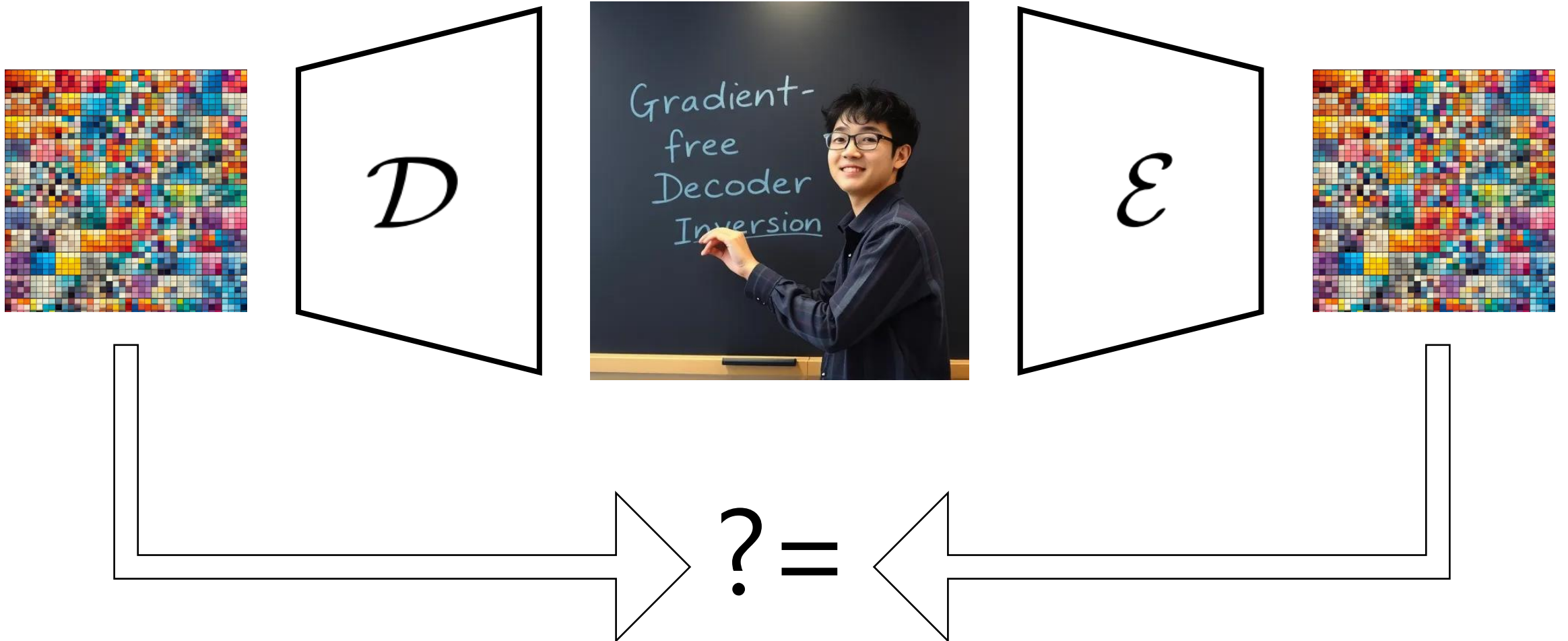


Encoder is the right-inverse of the decoder.



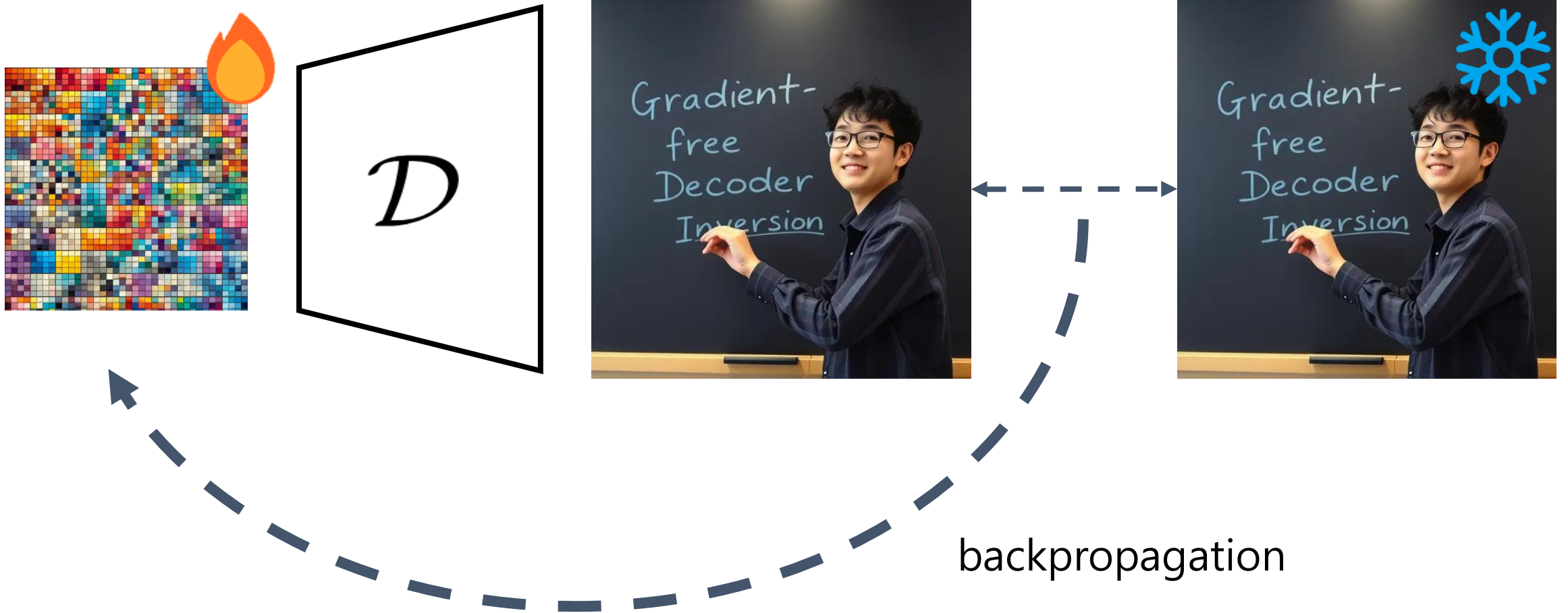
What is the left-inverse of  
the Decoder?

# Encoder? No.



\* Equality holds if the encoder and decoder are linear. (Remark 2)

# Gradient descent? Heavy.



We propose a gradient-free  
decoder inversion algorithm!

# Motivation of our grad-free method

find  $\mathbf{x} = \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{z})$  is difficult.

find  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{z}))$  is easier (Remark 1).

This is equivalent to:

find  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z} - \rho(\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{z})) - \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x})), \quad \forall \rho \in \mathbb{R} \cap \{0\}^C$

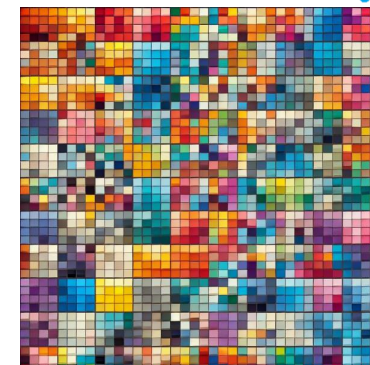
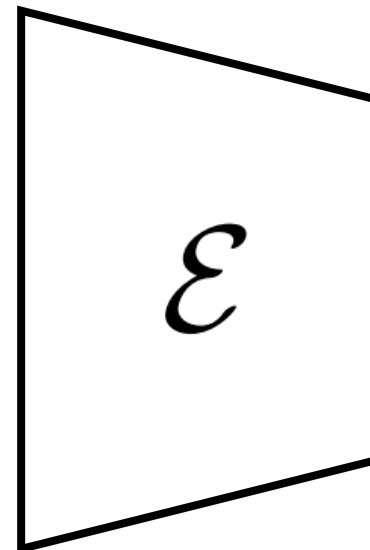
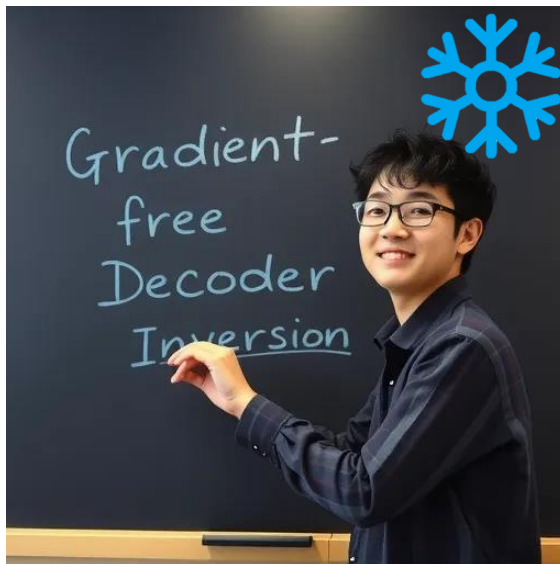
Fixed point iteration:

$$\mathbf{z}^{k+1} = \mathbf{z}^k - \rho(\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{z}^k)) - \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}))$$

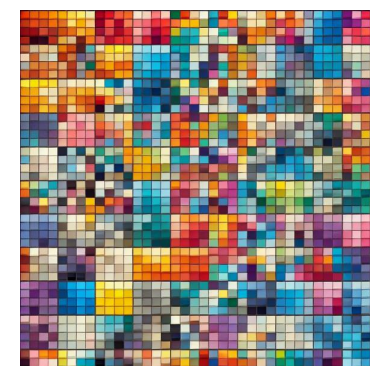
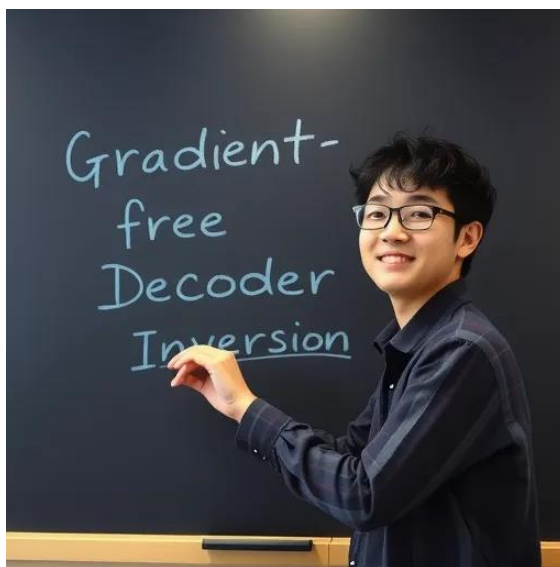
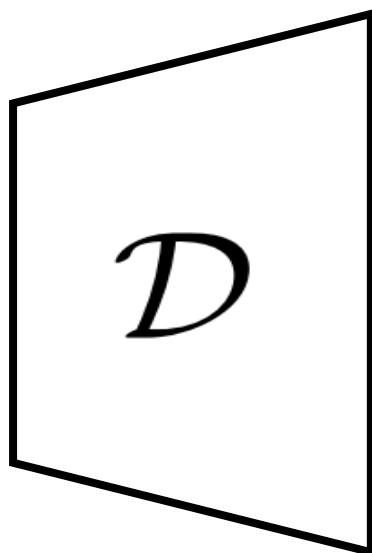
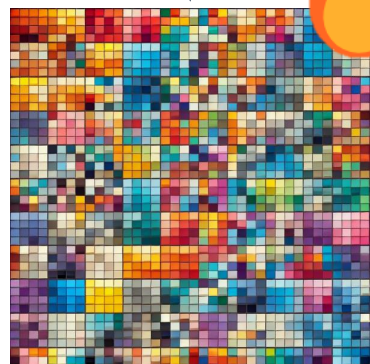


# Gradient-free (ours)

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \rho(\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{D}(z^k)) - \mathcal{E}(x))$$

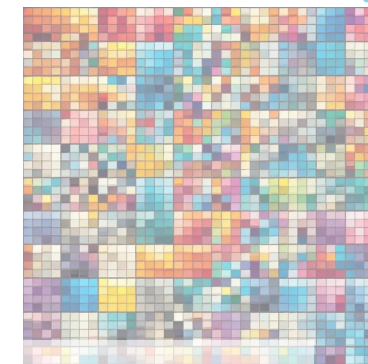
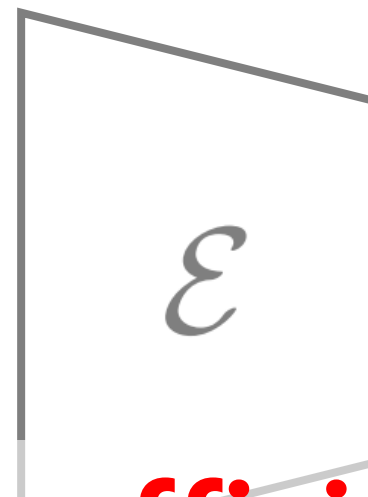


$-\rho$

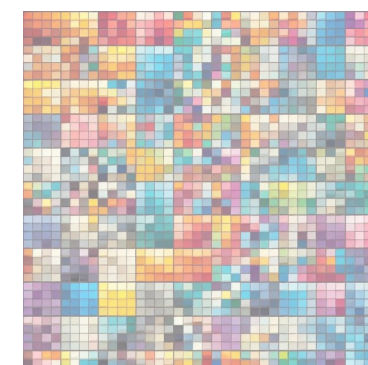
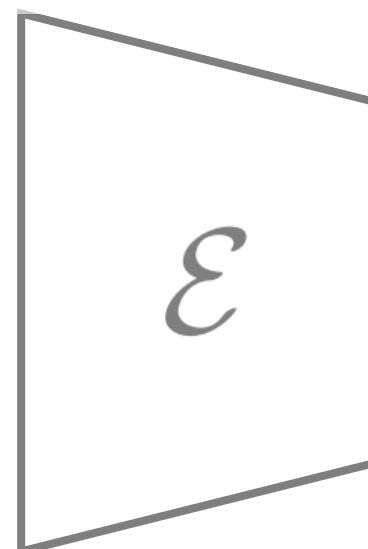
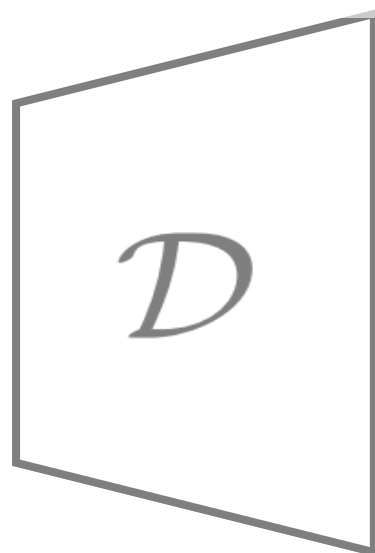
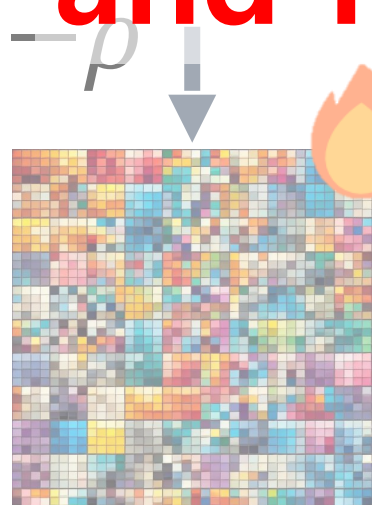


# Gradient-free (ours)

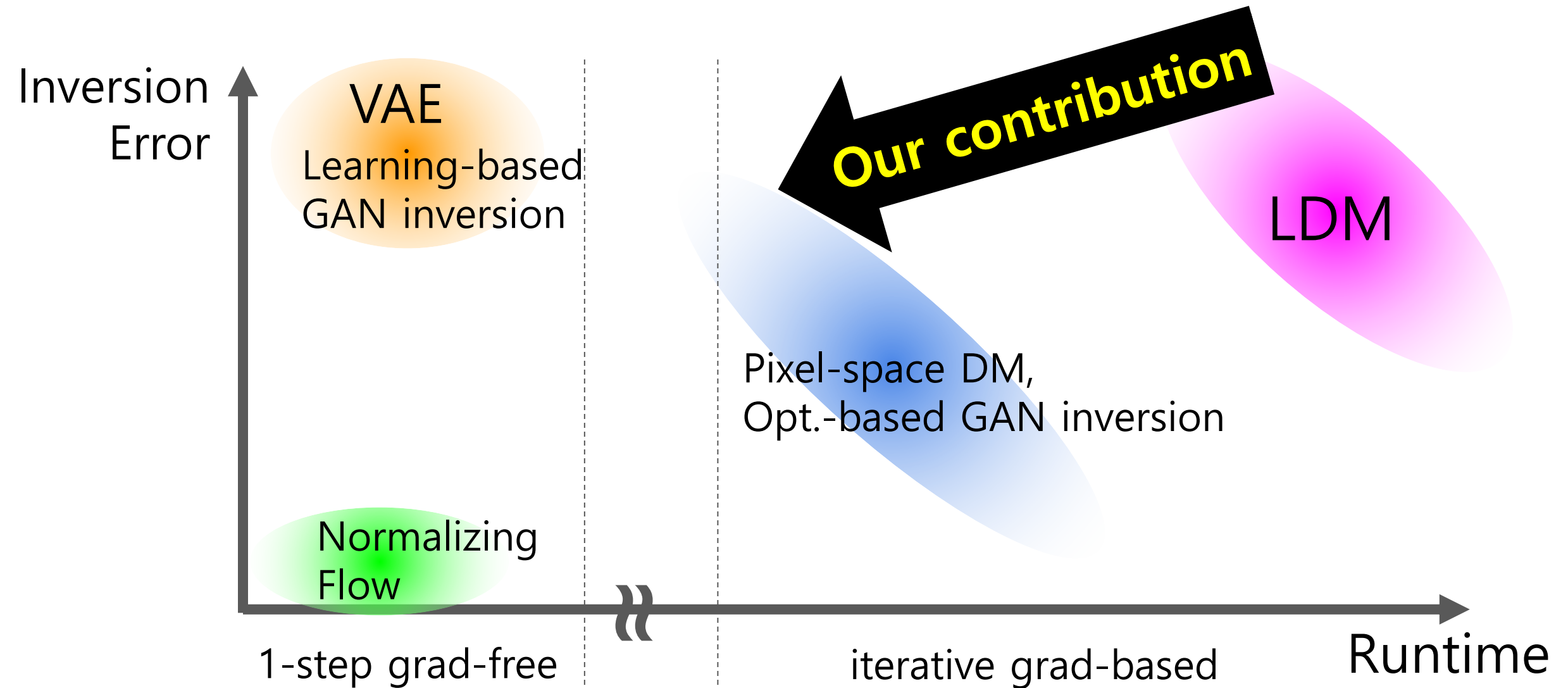
$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \rho(\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{D}(z^k)) - \mathcal{E}(x))$$



## Fast, Accurate, Memory-efficient, and Precision-flexible.



# We make LDM more inversion-friendly!



# Convergence Analysis

# Our method provably converges.

**Theorem 1** (Convergence of the forward step method). *Let  $\beta > 0$ ,  $0 < \rho < 2\beta$ , and  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Assume  $\mathcal{T}(\cdot) = \mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{D}(\cdot) - \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x})$  is continuous. Consider the iteration*

$$\mathbf{z}^{k+1} = \mathbf{z}^k - \rho \mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^k \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, \dots \quad (8)$$

*Assume  $\mathbf{z}^*$  is a zero of  $\mathcal{T}$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^* = 0$ ) and*

$$\langle \mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^k, \mathbf{z}^k - \mathbf{z}^* \rangle \geq \beta \|\mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^k\|_2^2 \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, \dots \quad (9)$$

*Then,  $\mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^k \rightarrow 0$ . If, furthermore,  $\mathbf{z}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{z}^\infty$ , then  $\mathbf{z}^\infty$  is a zero of  $\mathcal{T}$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{T} \mathbf{z}^\infty = 0$ ).*

# Our method provably converges

## with momentum:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}^k &= \mathbf{z}^k + \alpha(\mathbf{z}^k - \mathbf{z}^{k-1}) \\ \mathbf{z}^{k+1} &= \mathbf{y}^k - 2\lambda\beta\mathcal{T}\mathbf{y}^k, \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 2** (Convergence of the inertial KM iterations). *Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Assume  $\mathcal{T}(\cdot) = \mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{D}(\cdot) - \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x})$  is continuous. Let  $(\mathbf{z}^k, \mathbf{y}^k)$  satisfy (10) and (11). Assume  $\mathbf{z}^*$  is a zero of  $\mathcal{T}$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{T}\mathbf{z}^* = 0$ ) and the following holds:*

$$\langle \mathcal{T}\mathbf{y}^k, \mathbf{y}^k - \mathbf{z}^* \rangle \geq \beta \|\mathcal{T}\mathbf{y}^k\|_2^2 \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, \dots \quad (12)$$

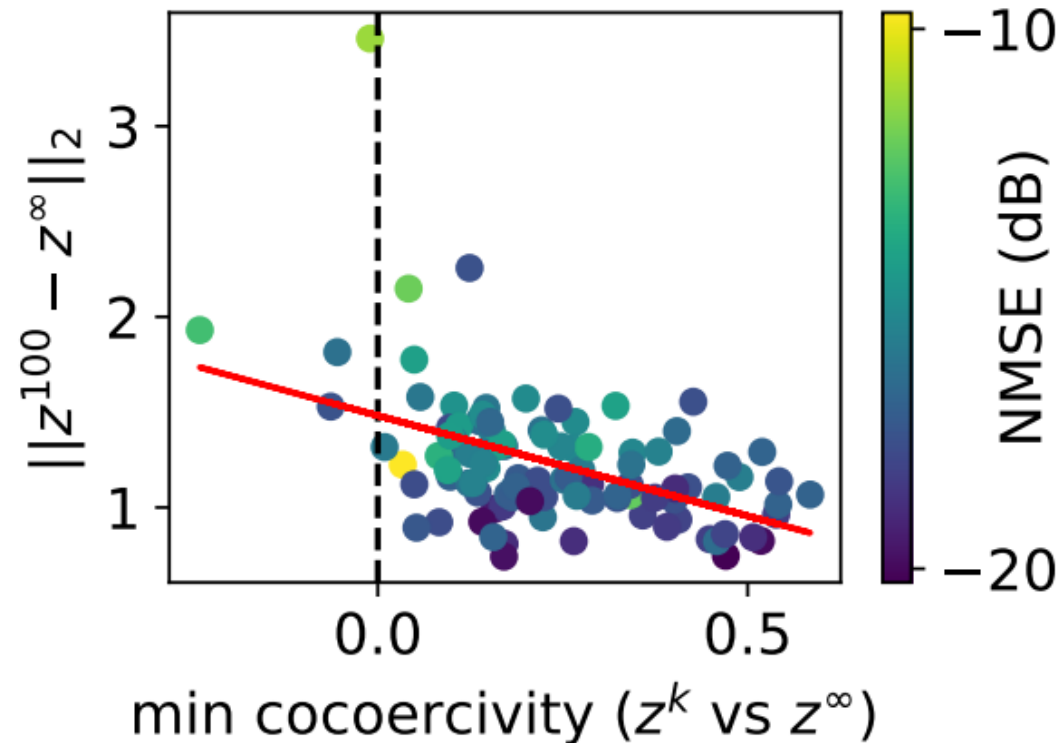
*If*

$$\lambda(1 - \alpha + 2\alpha^2) < (1 - \alpha)^2, \quad (13)$$

*then  $(\mathbf{y}^k)$  and  $(\mathbf{z}^k)$  converge to the same limit points.*

# Validation on the assumption

- Cocoercivity: 
$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{E}Dz^\infty - \mathcal{E}Dz^k, z^\infty - z^k \rangle}{\|\mathcal{E}Dz^\infty - \mathcal{E}Dz^k\|_2^2} \geq \beta > 0$$





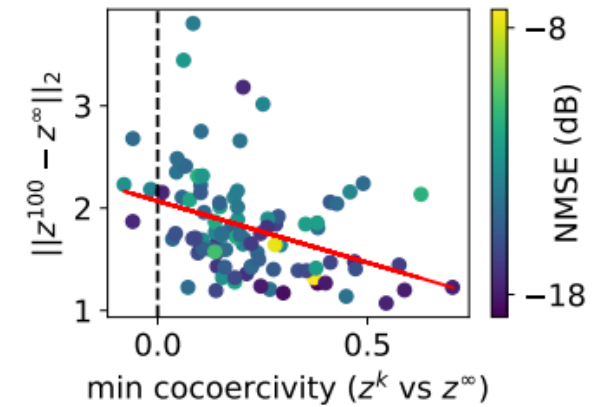
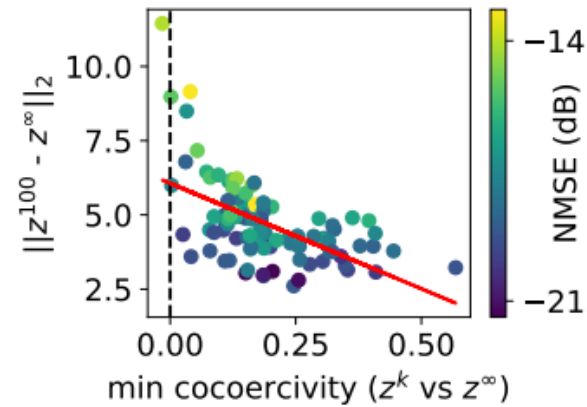
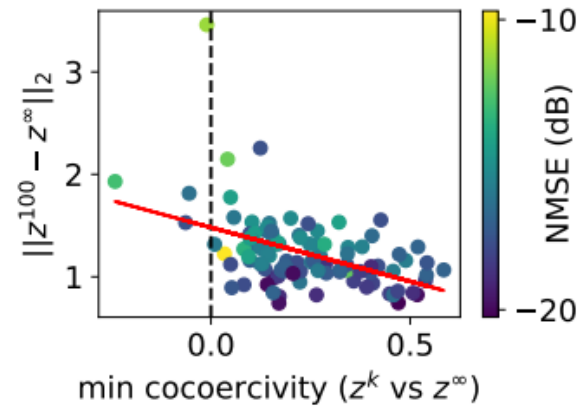
# Validation on the assumption in many models

Stable Diffusion 2.1

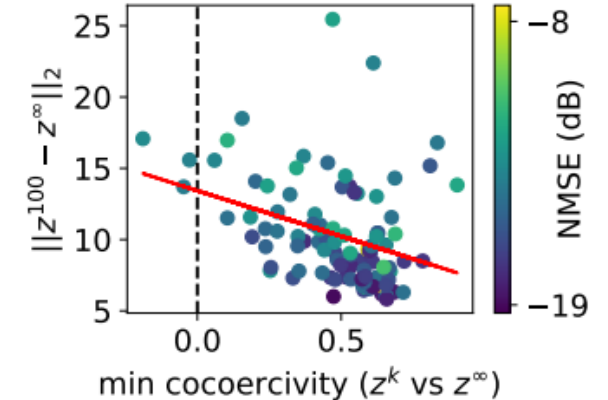
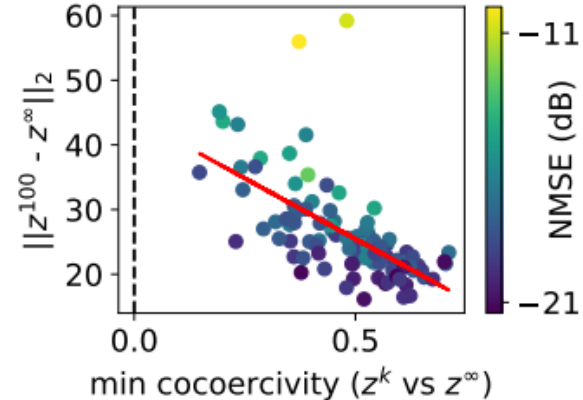
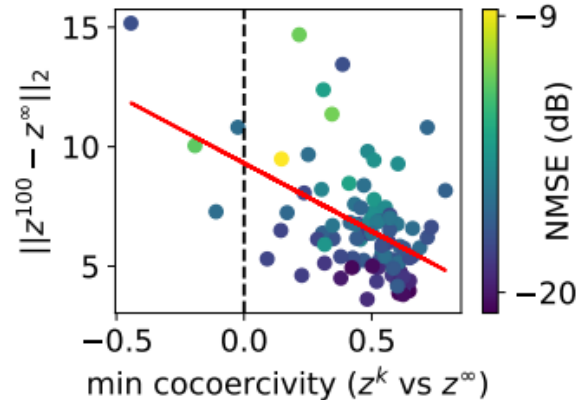
LaVie  
(Video DM)

InstaFlow  
(Rectified Flow)

Vanilla



Momentum

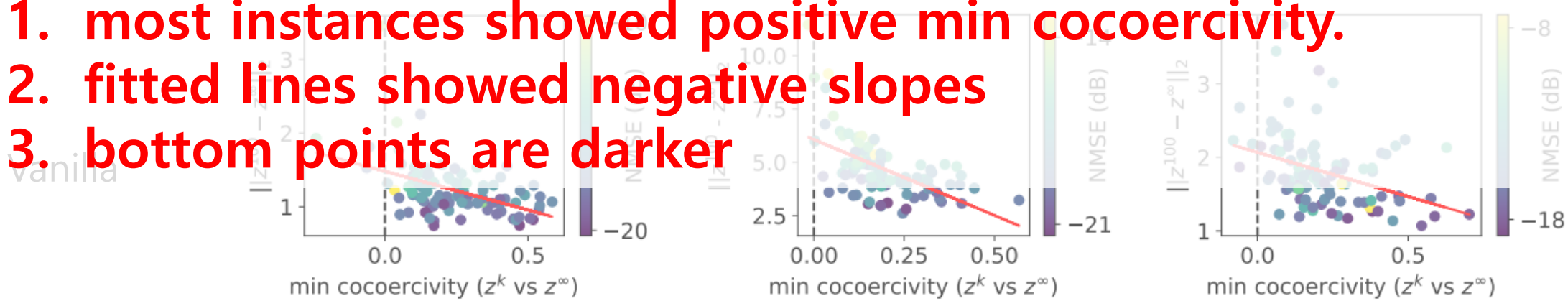




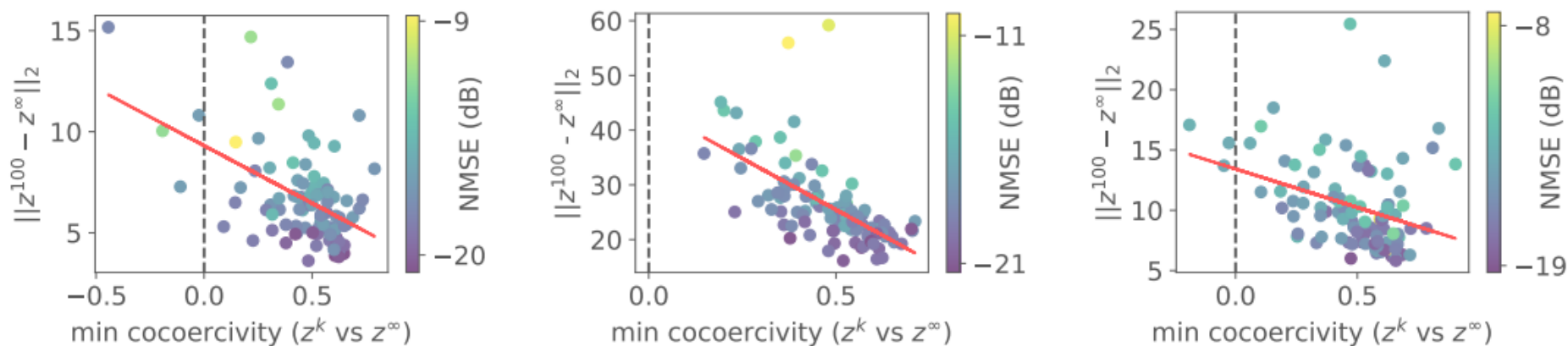
# Causality & Evidences

**Most instances  $\Rightarrow$  Cocoercivity  $\Rightarrow$  Convergence  $\Rightarrow$  Accuracy**

1. most instances showed positive min cocoercivity.
2. fitted lines showed negative slopes
3. bottom points are darker



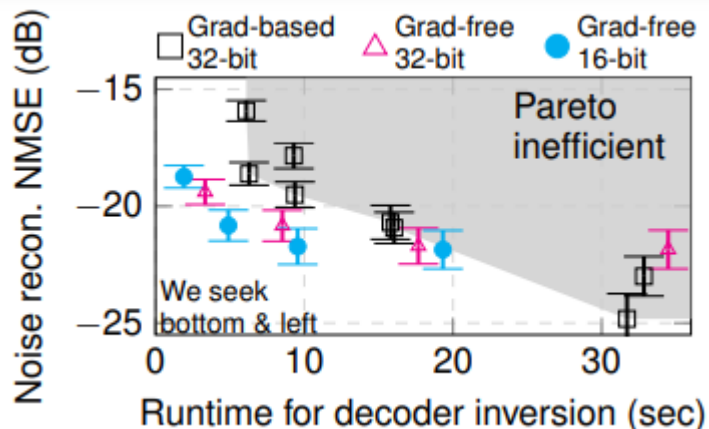
Momentum



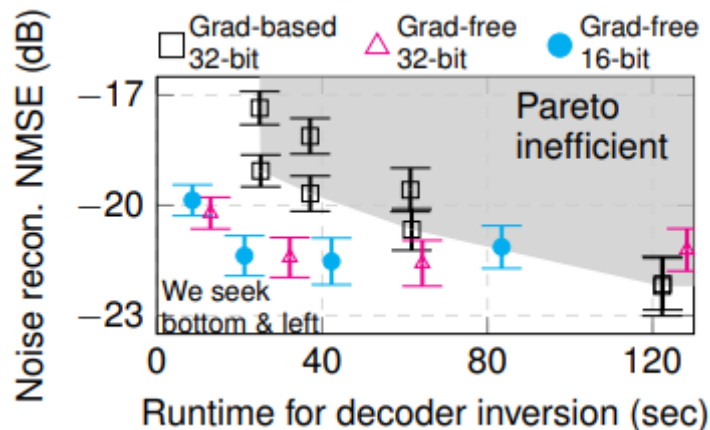
# Experiments & Applications

# Fast, Accurate, Memory-efficient, Precision-flexible

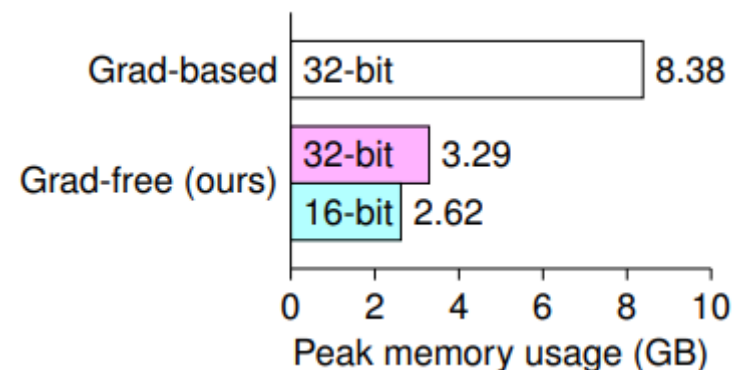
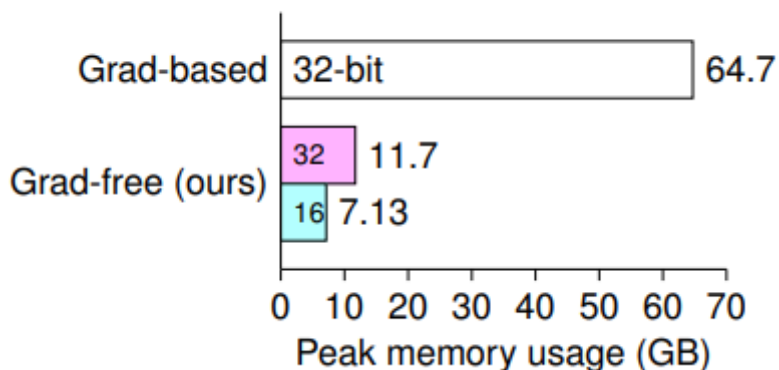
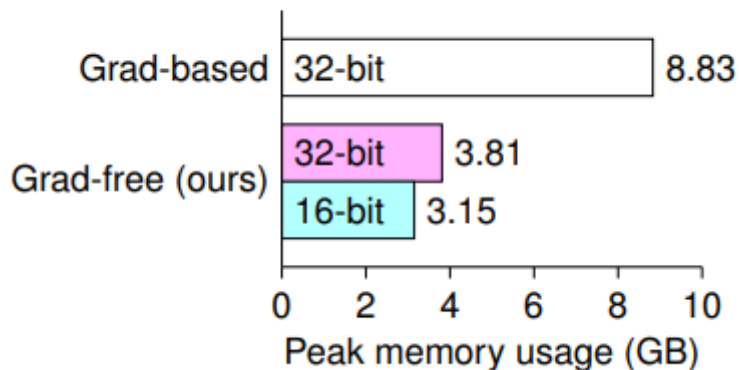
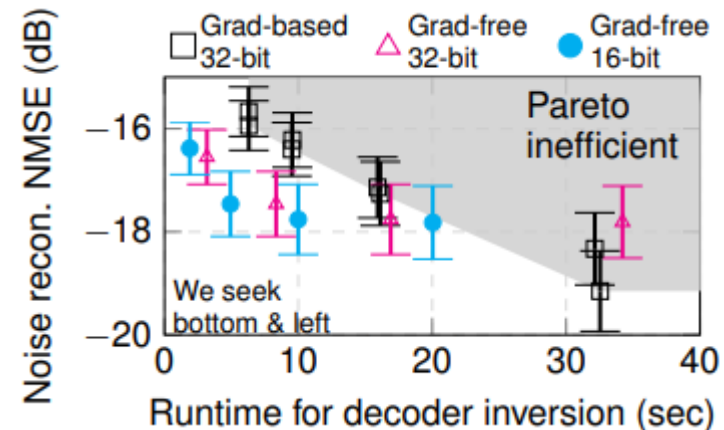
Stable Diffusion 2.1



LaVie  
(Video DM)



InstaFlow  
(Rectified Flow)



# Application: *tree-rings watermarking*

- Invisible, robust watermarking on the initial noise of LDM

LDM		Encoder	Gradient-based [14]	Gradient-free (ours)
SD2.1 [37]	Accuracy	186/300	207/300	202/300
	Peak memory (GB)	5.71	11.4	6.35
	Runtime (s)	5.66	38.0	22.9
InstaFlow [24]	Accuracy	149/300	227/300	227/300
	Peak memory (GB)	2.93	8.84	3.15
	Runtime (s)	3.55	35.9	13.6

# Application: Background-preserving editing

Method	# iter Runtime	Edited	Error map ( $\times 5$ )	Edited	Error map ( $\times 5$ )
Oracle [32]	-				
Grad-based	30 9.31s				
Grad-free 32bit (Ours)	50 8.53s				
Grad-free 16bit (Ours)	100 9.56s				

# Conclusion

- Proposed gradient-free decoder inversion for LDMs with guaranteed convergence, with or without momentum.
- Validated the assumptions and theorems for various LDMs.
- Experimentally showed advantages over gradient-based methods.
  - **Fast:** up to  $5\times$  faster
  - **Accurate:** up to 2.3 dB lower in NMSE
  - **Memory-efficient:** up to 89% saved
  - **Precision-flexible:** 16-bit vs 32-bit



See you on: Fri 13 Dec 11 a.m. PST — 2 p.m. PST

# Gradient-free Decoder Inversion in Latent Diffusion Models

Project: <https://smhongok.github.io/dec-inv.html>

arXiv: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.18442>

github: <https://github.com/smhongok/dec-inv>

mail: [smhongok@snu.ac.kr](mailto:smhongok@snu.ac.kr)

Lab: <https://icl.snu.ac.kr>



Project page



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