

D2SA: Dual-Stage Distribution and Slice Adaptation for Efficient Test-Time Adaptation in MRI Reconstruction

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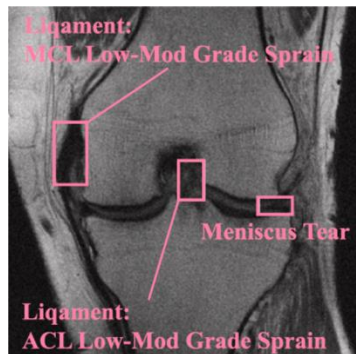
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Outline

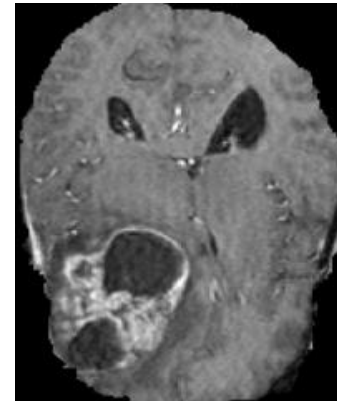
- Background
 - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
 - Problem setup in MRI Reconstruction
 - Domain shift in MRI Reconstruction
- Related works
- Proposed Method and Mathematical Analysis
- Experimental Results
- Conclusion

Background

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
 - Invasive, harmless
 - Accurate, high-resolution, reproducible
 - Providing various contrasts and functional information



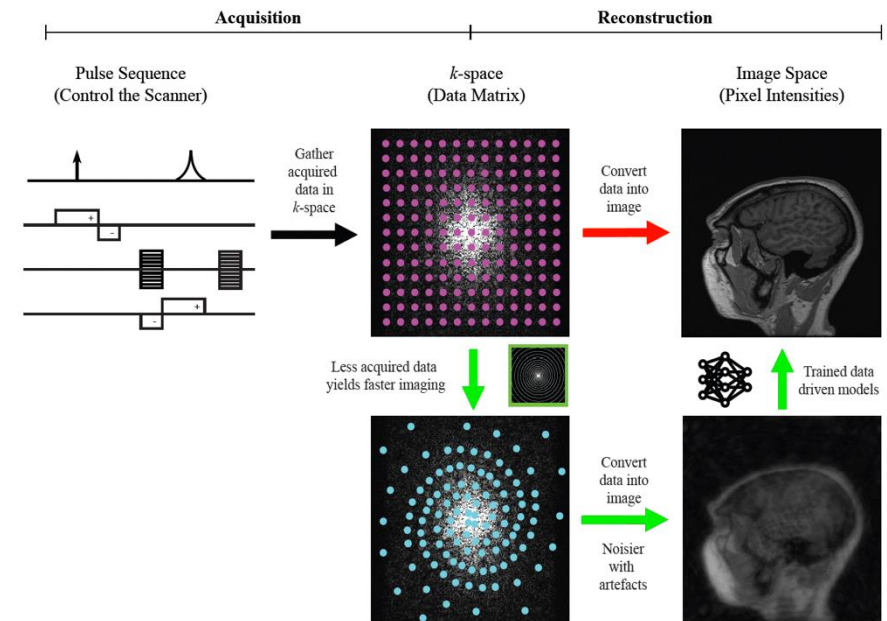
Knee MRI [1,2]



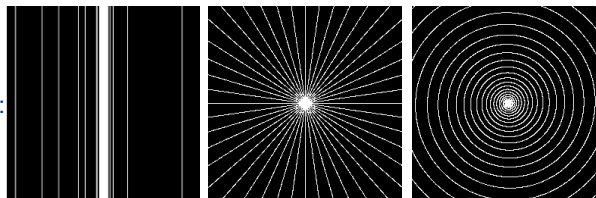
Brain MRI [3]
(Glioma)

Background

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Raw data Collection: in Fourier space (k-space)
- **Fully Sample: Time-consuming, artefact**
- **Undersample + Reconstruction:**
 - Parallel Imaging: SENSE, GRAPPA.....
 - Compressed Sensing: TV, ADMM.....
 - Deep Learning



Sampling masks:



Cartesian
(Commonly used)

Radial

Spiral

Background

- Problem in MRI Reconstruction

- **MRI reconstruction** is formulated as an **inverse problem**:

Recover $x^* \in \mathbb{C}^n$ from $y \in \mathbb{C}^m$, $M \ll N$, A is the measurement operator, and ϵ represents noise.

$$y = A x^* + \epsilon$$

- **For Multi-coil MRI**, we can expand A containing S coil sensitivity maps, F is the 2D Fourier transform, and M is the undersampling mask.

$$y_i = M F S_i x^* + \epsilon, \quad i = 1, \dots, n_c$$

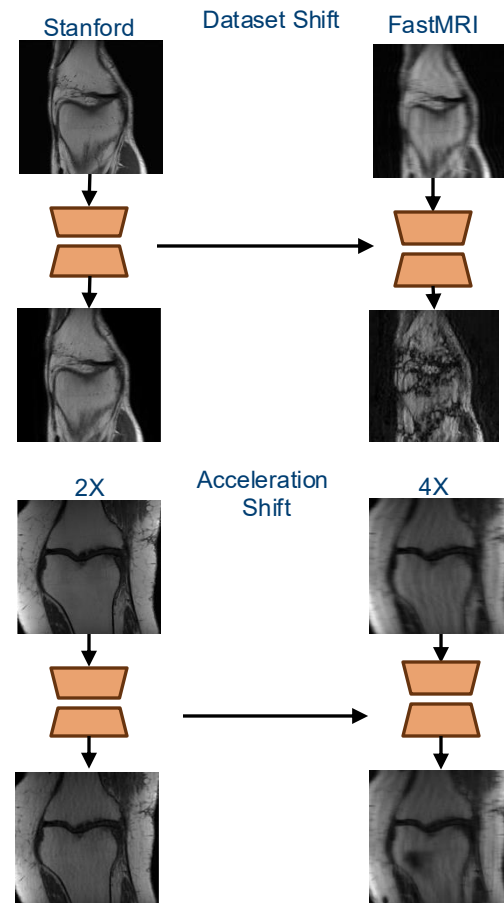
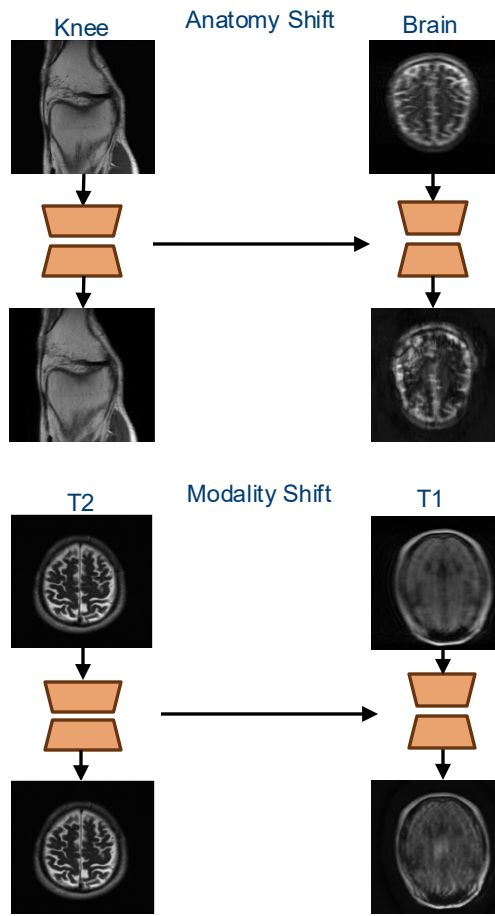
- **Optimisation for reconstruction**

$$\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|A x - y\|_2^2 + \lambda R(x)$$

where $R(x)$ encodes prior knowledge (e.g., wavelet ℓ_1 , total variation, or CNN-based priors), and λ controls the balance between data fidelity and regularisation.

Background

- Domain shifts in MRI Reconstruction



Background

- Three key goals for overcoming domain shifts
 1. Strong adaptation to new distributions
 - ✓ Maintaining high performance despite distribution shifts.
 2. Robustness to limited data
 - ✓ Preventing overfitting in medical data-scarce scenarios
 3. Fast convergence
 - ✓ Minimizing adaptation time
- Solution: Test-time Adaptation
 - ✓ No label in test-time
 - ✓ No access to source dataset (distribution information or images)
 - ✓ Adapt multiple domain shifts

Background

• Test-time Adaptation

○ Previous works

- **Single** iterative sampling
 - Score-based prior and Langevin dynamic [3]
 - Hyperparameters may not generalize well to test settings and strong assumption
- **Single-shot** iterative method
 - Deep image prior based method (c; [4])
 - Repeated test-time trainings
- **Batch** unrolled adaptation for inverse optimisation (a[1]; b[2])
 - Only suitable for parametric changes (mask and acc ratio)
- **Batch** self-supervised method
 - FINE[5], Noiser2Noise [6], SSDU (d; [7])
 - Over-smoothing; require enough data

a. (a) Original reconstruction network.

$$y \xrightarrow{f_0} \hat{x} = f_0(y) = f(y; \theta_0, A_0)$$

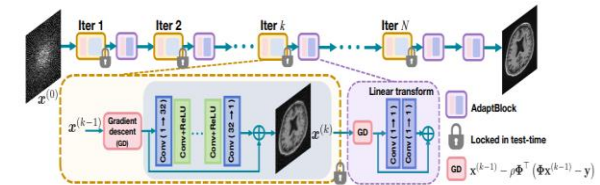
(b) Model adaptation by Parametrize and Perturb (P&P).

$$y \xrightarrow{f_1} \hat{x} = f_1(y) = f(y; \theta_0 + \delta, A_1)$$

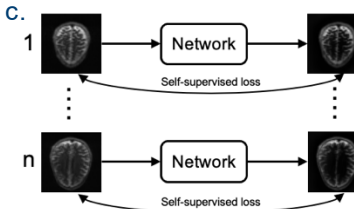
(c) Model adaptation by Reuse & Regularize (R&R).

$$y \xrightarrow{A_1} x^{(0)} \xrightarrow{f_0 \circ A_0} x^{(1)} \xrightarrow{f_0 \circ A_0} x^{(2)} \dots \xrightarrow{f_0 \circ A_0} \hat{x} = x^{(K)}$$

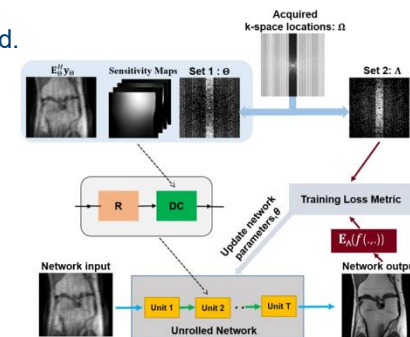
b.



c.



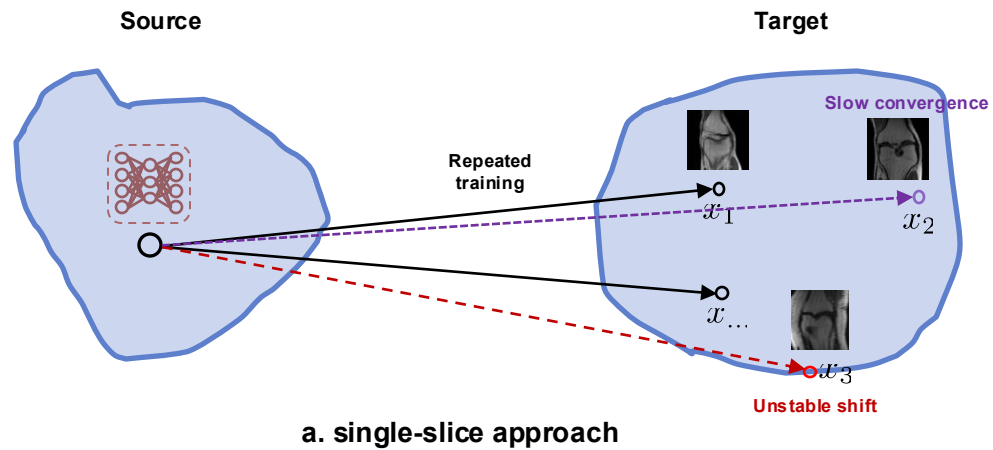
d.



Background

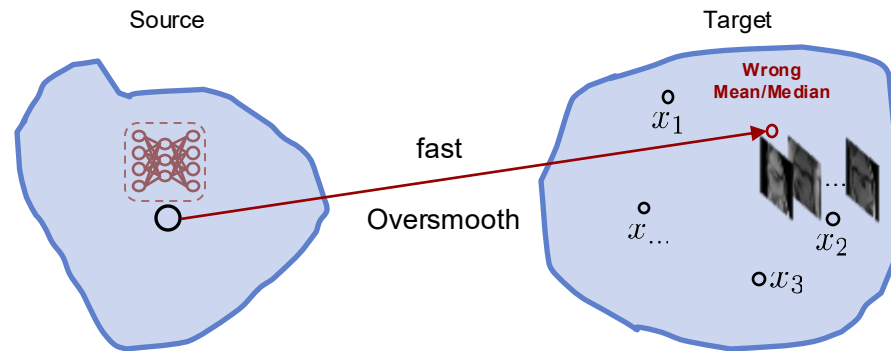
- Test-time Adaptation

- Single-slice training



Background

- Test-time Adaptation
 - Batch/mini-batch training

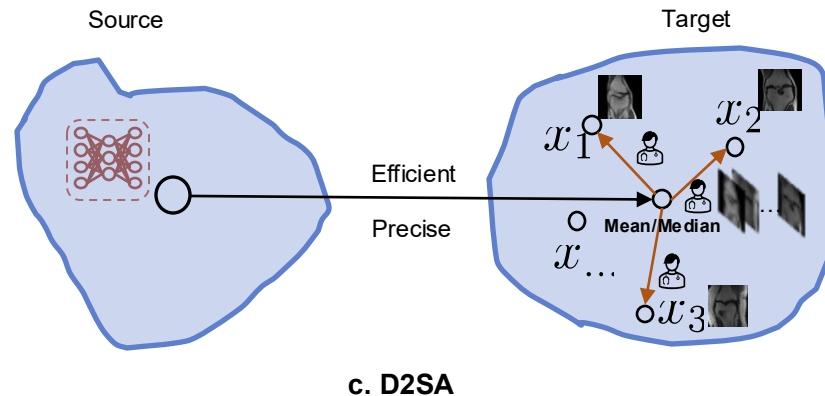


b. Self-supervised approach with few data

Background

- Test-time Adaptation

- Can we use Batch training + single training?
 - ✓ Good pretrained weight [1]
 - ✓ Meta-learning [2]
 - ✓ Faster convergence [3]
- Our proposed test-time adaptation (D2SA: Dual-Stage Distribution and Slice Adaptation)
 1. Patient-level Adaptation
 2. Single-Slice Refinement



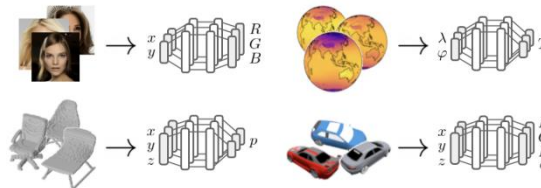
Related Works

- Implicit Neural Network (INR)

- Model single data as **continuous** implicit functions, providing critical advantages such as **resolution independence, no label, memory efficiency, and generalisation** beyond discretised data structures. [1]

- Function-level Domain Representation Learning

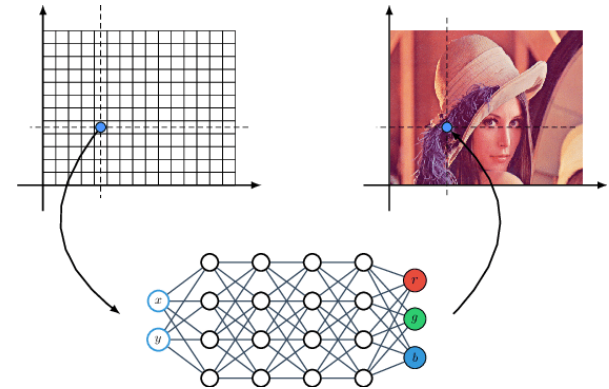
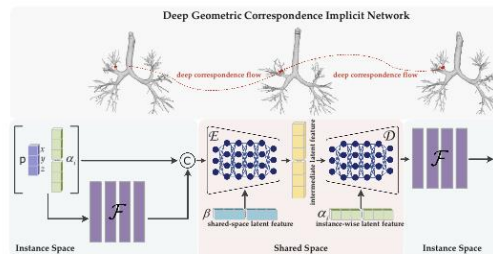
- From data to functa [2]: latent modulations (**latent vector** + coordinate)



- DeepSDF learns continuous signed distance functions (SDFs) [3]



- INR for topological features in medical field [4]



Related Works

- Anisotropic Diffusion (AD) Equation (Perona-Malik equation)

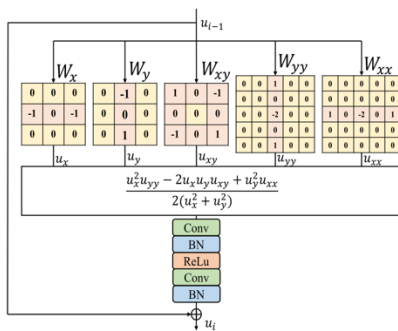
- A non-linear image smoothing technique that reduces noise while preserving sharp edges and other important features [1]

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right) = \text{div} (g(|\nabla u|) \nabla u) \\ g(|\nabla u|) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{k^2}} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

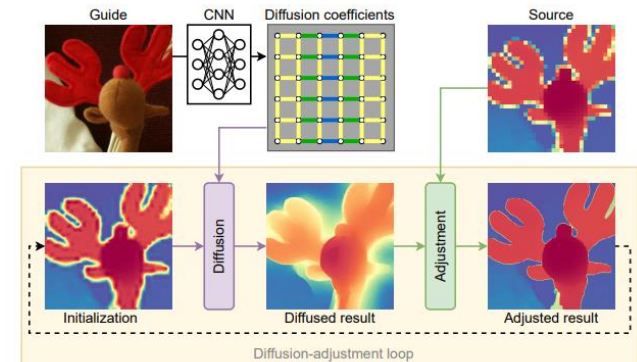
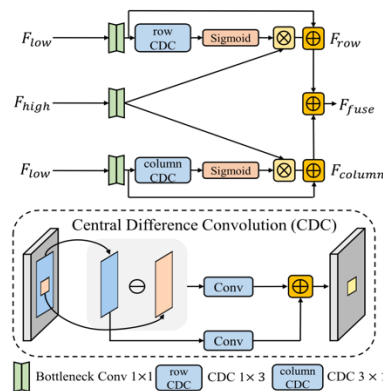
When the gradient magnitude is small ($|\nabla u| \rightarrow 0$), the diffusion coefficient g approaches one, leading to isotropic smoothing. Near object boundaries, where $|\nabla u| \rightarrow 1$, g approaches zero, preventing diffusion and preserving fine details.

- Applications in deep learning methods

1. Small Target Detection [2]



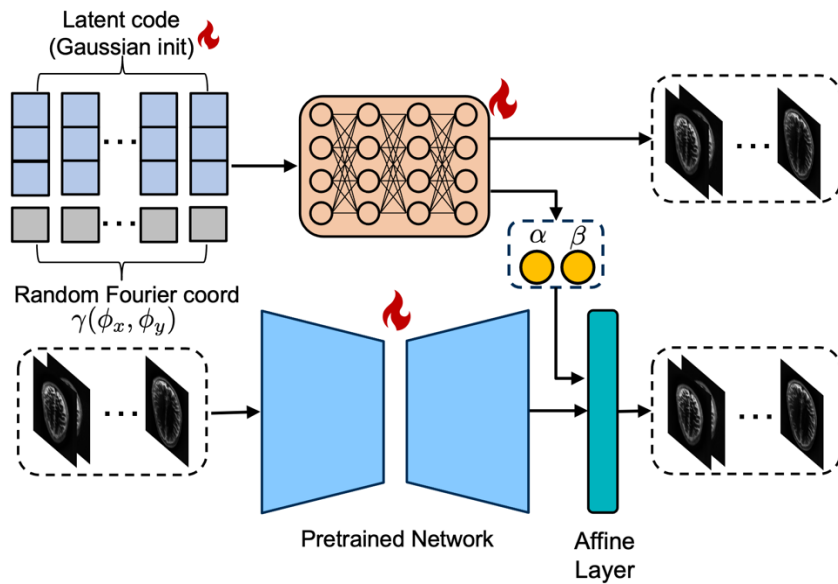
2. Super-resolution [3]



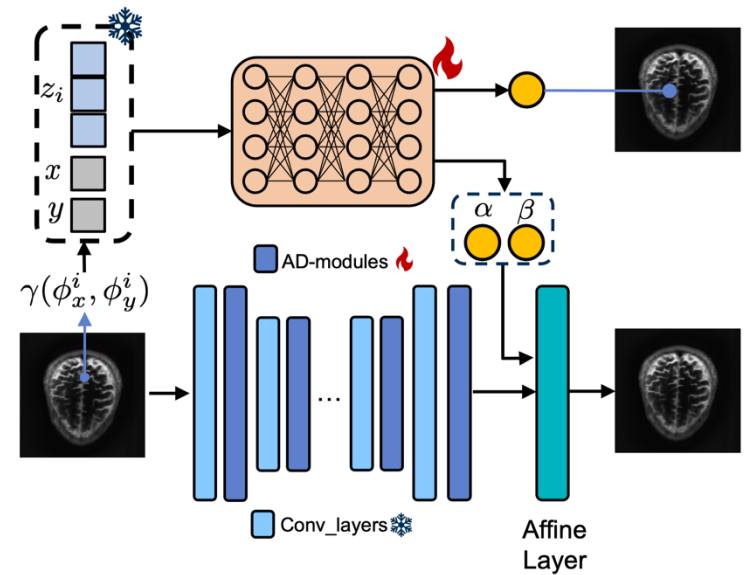
Proposed Method

- D2SA: TTA Framework-Overview

- a. Functional-Level Patient Adaptation



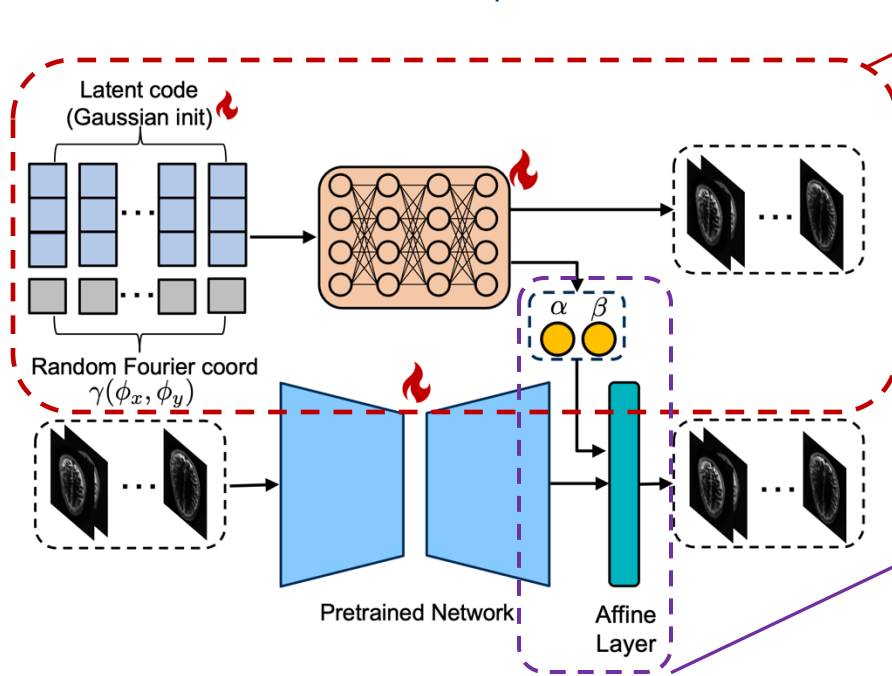
- b. Structural-Preserving Single-Slice Refinement (SST)



Proposed Method

- D2SA: patient-wise TTA framework

a. Functional-Level Patient Adaptation



➤ MR-INR

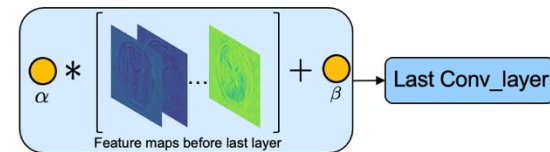
$$\tilde{\gamma}(\phi, z_i) = [z_i, \cos(2\pi B\phi), \sin(2\pi B\phi)],$$

Integrate Siren and Fourier feature

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{x}, \alpha, \beta] &= f_{\theta}(\tilde{\gamma}(\phi^i, z)) \\ &= W_n(\Gamma_{n-1} \circ \Gamma_{n-2} \circ \dots \circ \Gamma_0)(\tilde{\gamma}(\phi^i, z)) + b_n, \\ h^{(i+1)} &= \Gamma_i(h^{(i)}) = \sin(W_i h^{(i)} + b_i), \end{aligned}$$

➤ Affine Transformation

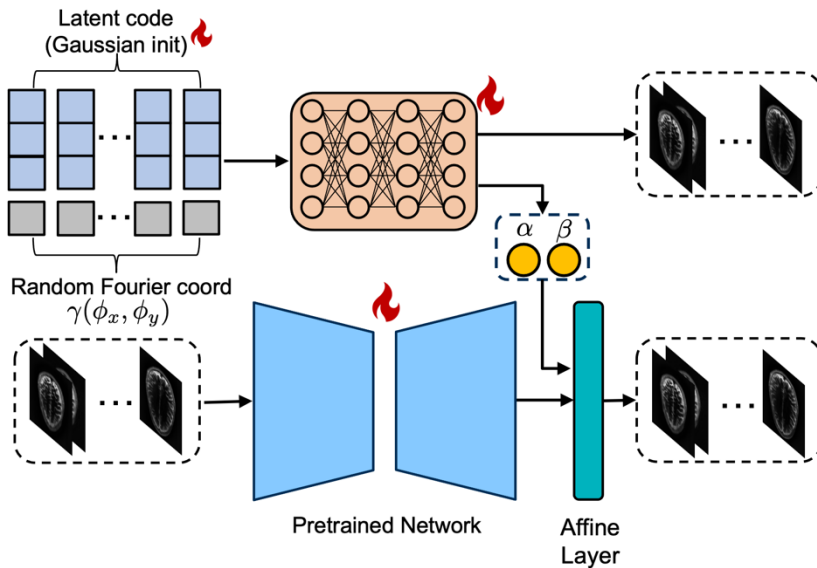
1. Learnable variance shifts α
2. Learnable nonzero-mean shifts β



Proposed Method

- D2SA: patient-wise TTA framework

a. Functional-Level Patient Adaptation



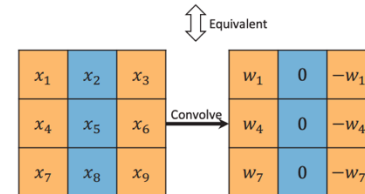
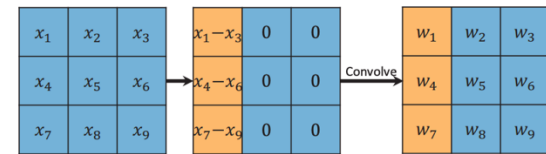
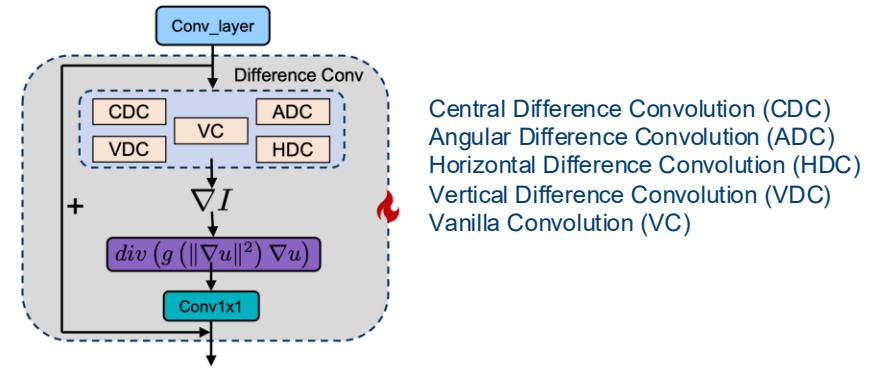
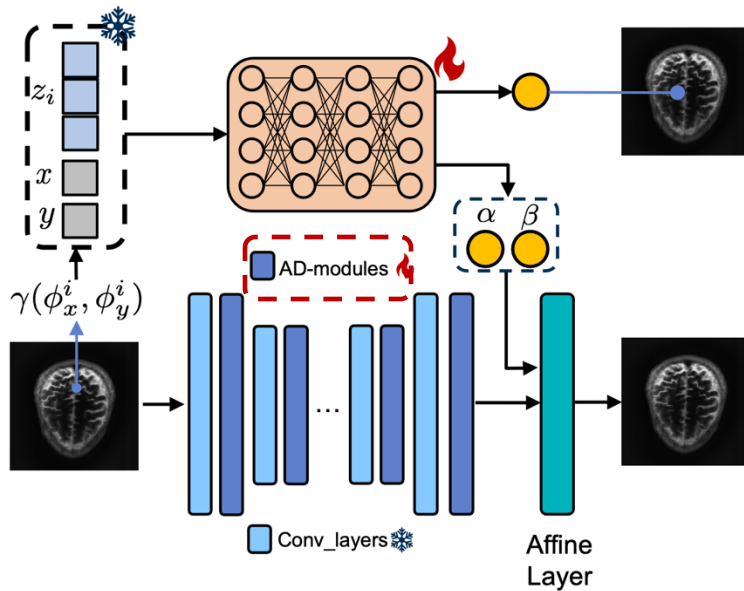
Loss Function:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\theta}, \hat{z}, \hat{\Delta} = \arg \min_{\theta, z, \Delta} & \lambda_{\text{INR}} \sum_{(x_j, z_j, y_j) \in X} \mathcal{L}_1(Af(\tilde{\gamma}(\phi^j, z), \theta), y_j) \\ & + \lambda_{\text{reg}} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|z\|_2^2 + \lambda_{\text{self}} \sum_{(x_j) \in X} \mathcal{L}_{\text{self}}(g(x_j, \alpha, \beta, \delta + \Delta)). \end{aligned}$$

Proposed Method

- D2SA: patient-wise TTA framework

b. Structural-Preserving Single-Slice Refinement (SST)

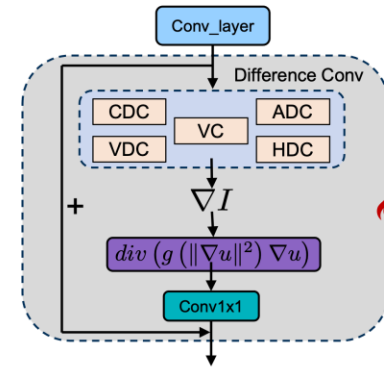
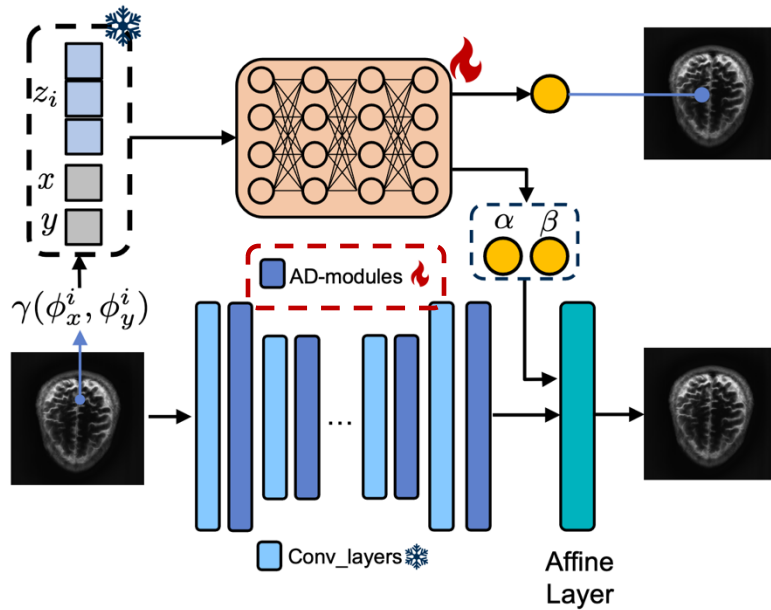


[1]

Proposed Method

- D2SA: patient-wise TTA framework

b. Structural-Preserving Single-Slice Refinement (SST)



Central Difference Convolution (CDC)
Angular Difference Convolution (ADC)
Horizontal Difference Convolution (HDC)
Vertical Difference Convolution (VDC)
Vanilla Convolution (VC)

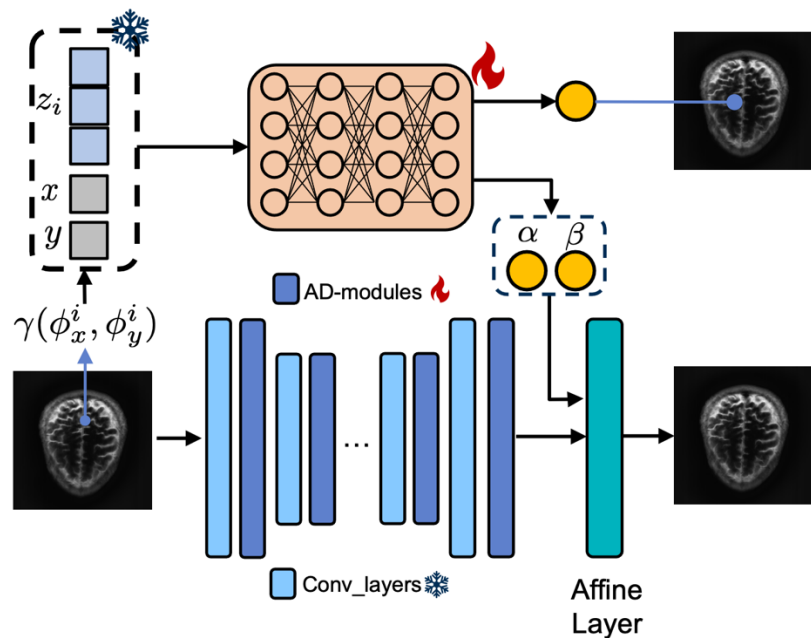
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \text{div} (g(|\nabla u|) \nabla u) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla u = F_{\text{out}} = \text{DConv}(F_{\text{in}}) = \sum_{i=1}^5 F_{\text{in}} * K_i \\ = F_{\text{in}} * K_{\text{cvt}}, \\ u_{i+1} = u_i + \Delta t \cdot \text{div} (g(|\nabla u_i|) \nabla u_i) \end{array} \right.$$

$$g(|\nabla u|) = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{|\nabla u|^2}{k^2}}$$

Proposed Method

- D2SA: patient-wise TTA framework

b. Structural-Preserving Single-Slice Refinement (SST)



Loss Function:

$$\hat{\theta}, \hat{\Delta} = \arg \min_{\theta, \Delta} \sum_{(x_j, y_j) \in X} \underbrace{\lambda_{\text{INR}} \mathcal{L}_1(Af(\tilde{\gamma}(\phi^j, \hat{z}), \theta), y_j)}_{\text{MR-INR Recon Loss}} + \sum_{(y_j) \in X} \underbrace{\lambda_{\text{self}} \frac{|y_j - Ag(\mathbf{A}^\dagger \mathbf{y}_i, \delta + \Delta)|_1}{|y_j|_1}}_{\text{Self-sup Loss}}.$$

Proposed Method

➤ Mathematical Analysis for Proposed Methods

- We provide a view how the learned parameters α and β enable effective adaptation under distribution shifts. First, consider a target distribution:

$$Q: \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{c} + \mu_Q, \mathbf{c} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I), \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, s^2 I).$$

- Here, $\mathbf{U} \in R^{n \times d}$ is an orthonormal basis for the signal subspace, and μ_Q represents the mean shift in the test distribution with small size. Our goal is to estimate \mathbf{x} under this shift. The optimal test-time adaptation estimator is:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \alpha \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} + \beta,$$

- Where α adjusts for variance shifts, and β corrects mean shifts. The self-supervised loss is formulated as:

$$L_{SS}(\alpha, \beta, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathbb{E}_Q [\|\mathbf{y} - \alpha \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{y} - \beta\|_2^2] + \frac{2\alpha d}{n-d} \mathbb{E}_Q [\|(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T)\mathbf{y}\|_2^2]$$

- Solving for the optimal α^* and β^* by first-order derivatives

$$\alpha^* = \frac{1}{1 + s^2}, \quad \beta^* = \mu_Q.$$

- Thus, α and β optimise independently, where α^* dynamically adapts to noise variance shifts, and β^* corrects mean shifts.

Experiment

- Domain shifts (S : Source; T : Target)
 - Anatomy shift (S : Knee and T : brain); FastMRI [1]
 - Dataset shift (S : Stanford-knee and T : FastMRI)
 - Acquisition shift (S : T2, and T : T1pre), FastMRI
 - Acceleration shift (S : 2x and T : 4x); FastMRI
- Compared Methods
 - Single-slice training (SST)
 - DIP-TTT [3]: A single-slice test-time training method based on Deep Image Prior (DIP).
 - Batch-level training (patient-wise training)
 - FINE [4]: A batch TTA technique using fidelity-based constraints
 - Noiser2noise (NR2N) [5, 6] and SSDU [35]: Self-supervised approaches suitable for patient-wise TTA
 - Batch-level training + SST
- Our Methods (pluggable)
 - Stage 1: Functional-Level Patient Adaptation
 - FINE + MR-INR/ NR2N + MR-INR/SSDU+MR-INR
 - Stage 2: Single-Slice Refinement (SST)
 - FINE + MR-INR+SST/ NR2N + MR-INR+SST/SSDU+MR-INR+SST

Experiment

Main Results

Method (UNet)	Anatomy Shift (\mathcal{S} : Knee, \mathcal{T} : Brain)	Dataset Shift (\mathcal{S} : Stanford, \mathcal{T} : fastMRI)	Modality Shift (\mathcal{S} : AXT2, \mathcal{T} : AXT1PRE)	Acceleration Shift (\mathcal{S} : 2x, \mathcal{T} : 4x)
Zero-filling	0.737/24.50/0.327/-	0.754/24.33/0.359/-	0.747/25.7/0.350/-	0.754/23.371/0.396/-
Non-TTA	0.625/21.77/0.458/-	0.559/21.87/0.454/-	0.794/27.18/0.391/-	0.726/23.37/0.396/-
DIP-TTT	0.859/27.05/0.322/42.1	0.810/28.08/0.298/40.8	0.846/27.61/0.361/31.5	0.815/27.93/0.299/95.3
FINE	0.834/25.98/0.351/4.9	0.796/26.54/0.319/6.4	0.825/26.71/0.377/5.6	0.782/25.75/0.333/6.6
FINE+MR-INR	0.845/26.37/0.346/5.5	0.807/26.84/0.314/6.6	0.835/26.51/0.373/6.0	0.793/26.29/0.326/7.0
FINE+SST	0.868/27.22/0.327/17.2	0.827/28.16/0.283/21.9	0.853/27.72/0.283/21.9	0.822/28.07/0.689/52.2
FINE+MR-INR+SST	0.876/27.71/0.320/12.1	0.829/28.34/0.279/18.7	0.861/27.93/0.279/15.7	0.825/28.54/0.286/31.9
NR2N	0.836/25.80/0.353/5.2	0.796/26.71/0.316/6.9	0.826/26.59/0.383/6.7	0.781/26.20/0.335/6.9
NR2N+MR-INR	0.849/26.11/0.346/5.7	0.798/26.42/0.317/7.4	0.829/26.64/0.380/7.3	0.791/26.37/0.332/7.5
NR2N+SST	0.868/27.38/0.323/21.7	0.825/28.23/0.284/22.5	0.854/27.69/0.284/22.6	0.822/28.07/0.291/52.7
NR2N+MR-INR+SST	0.871/27.32/0.323/12.2	0.830/28.43/0.279/16.4	0.862/27.98/0.279/14.5	0.825/28.86/0.287/31.7
SSDU	0.851/24.82/0.353/5.4	0.788/22.37/0.344/7.8	0.819/24.27/0.339/7.1	0.789/23.03/0.346/7.3
SSDU+MR-INR	0.861/25.18/0.348/5.6	0.789/22.45/0.339/8.0	0.832/24.97/0.385/7.4	0.797/23.78/0.344/7.7
SSDU+SST	0.871/25.17/0.349/25.3	0.825/28.35/0.284/30.6	0.854/27.71/0.287/25.7	0.823/28.07/0.293/139.8
SSDU+MR-INR+SST	0.877/27.46/0.322/11.5	0.828/28.36/0.287/18.9	0.860/28.04/0.287/17.4	0.826/28.62/0.286/44.2

Table 1. Performance comparison of UNet methods under different domain shifts. Each cell presents (**SSIM** \uparrow / **PSNR** \uparrow / **LPIPS** \downarrow / **Time (mins/patient)** \downarrow). The family of **proposed methods** incorporates a self-supervised learning framework, combining MR-INR-based patient-wise adaptation with single-slice refinement using pre-trained patient-wise models.

Experiment

Main Results

Method (VarNet)	Anatomy Shift (\mathcal{S} : Knee, \mathcal{T} : Brain)	Dataset Shift (\mathcal{S} : Stanford, \mathcal{T} : fastMRI)	Modality Shift (\mathcal{S} : AXT2, \mathcal{T} : AXT1PRE)	Acceleration Shift (\mathcal{S} : 2x, \mathcal{T} : 4x)
Zero-filling Non-TTA	0.737/24.50/0.327/- 0.799/23.16/0.371/-	0.747/24.33/0.359/- 0.706/22.35/0.365/-	0.747/25.71/0.350/- 0.796/23.54/0.379/-	0.754/23.37/0.396/- 0.761/23.04/0.372/-
DIP-TTT	0.878/27.67/0.312/52.5	0.798/28.02/0.292/41.8	0.867/28.33/0.337/71.6	0.815/28.25/0.285/137.2
FINE	0.820/24.01/0.343/3.9	0.789/26.26/0.311/6.6	0.821/26.18/0.369/3.5	0.696/21.39/0.342/6.2
FINE+MR-INR	0.862/26.45/0.328/4.7	0.795/26.44/0.306/6.9	0.830/26.58/0.369/4.4	0.791/25.30/0.310/7.5
FINE+SST	0.862/27.57/0.311/53.5	0.794/27.72/0.294/20.3	0.857/28.08/0.345/79.8	0.823/28.17/0.288/63.8
FINE+MR-INR+SST	0.882/27.68/0.311/17.1	0.808/28.72/0.286/18.2	0.867/28.32/0.337/21.8	0.829/28.64/0.276/44.5
NR2N	0.827/23.95/0.334/4.9	0.798/26.59/0.299/6.8	0.827/25.60/0.368/4.1	0.718/20.97/0.327/6.6
NR2N+MR-INR	0.868/26.41/0.321/5.1	0.806/26.95/0.294/7.1	0.833/26.44/0.369/4.7	0.806/25.42/0.291/7.6
NR2N+SST	0.883/27.72/0.307/63.9	0.798/27.78/0.293/25.3	0.860/28.17/0.341/80.2	0.822/28.09/0.291/69.2
NR2N+MR-INR+SST	0.884/27.81/0.306/18.7	0.812/28.76/0.281/20.4	0.869/28.36/0.336/20.3	0.826/28.89/0.273/43.1
SSDU	0.738/20.87/0.375/5.1	0.737/20.43/0.349/7.2	0.746/22.59/0.391/4.4	0.556/16.93/0.421/7.4
SSDU+MR-INR	0.821/23.25/0.350/5.3	0.764/21.67/0.339/7.5	0.796/24.09/0.390/4.8	0.728/19.57/0.358/7.9
SSDU+SST	0.879/27.65/0.310/68.3	0.789/26.79/0.299/24.9	0.857/28.07/0.343/93.4	0.803/28.06/0.293/134.2
SSDU+MR-INR+SST	0.882/27.66/0.307/18.5	0.808/28.16/0.290/21.4	0.863/28.09/0.342/29.3	0.826/28.62/0.286/45.2

Table 2. Performance comparison of VarNet methods under different domain shifts. Each cell presents ((**SSIM** \uparrow / **PSNR** \uparrow / **LPIPS** \downarrow / **Time (mins/patient)** \downarrow). The family of proposed methods incorporates a self-supervised learning framework, combining MR-INR-based patient-wise adaptation with single-slice refinement using pre-trained patient-wise models.

Experiment

- Qualitative Results-UNet

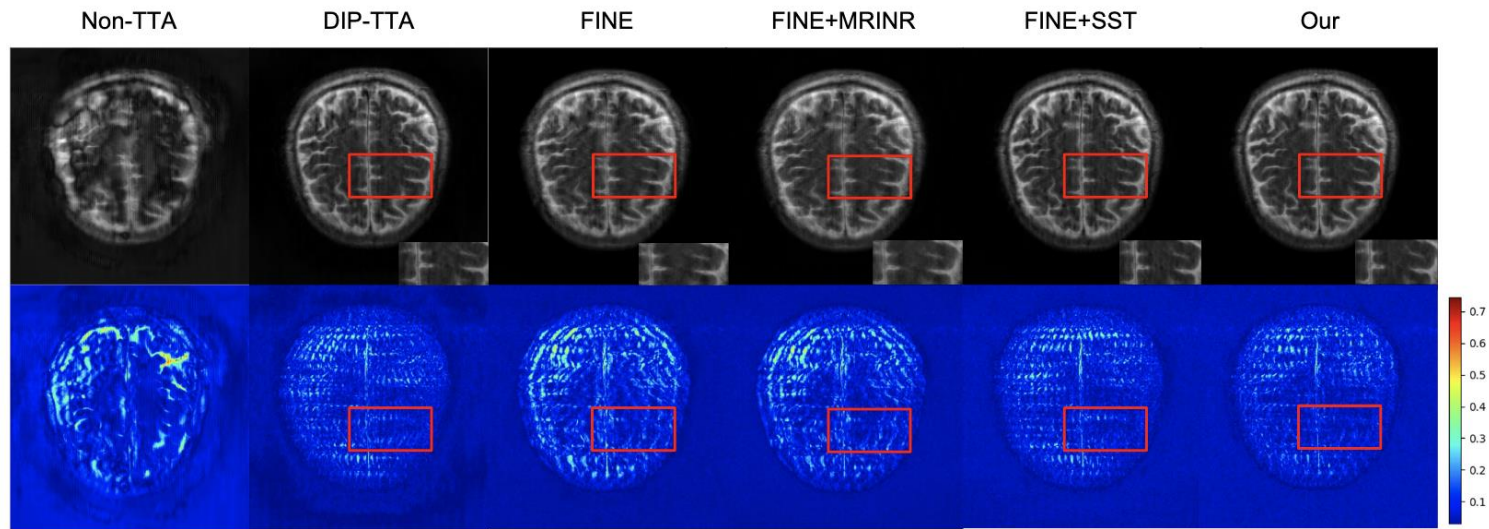


Figure 4. Comparison of different frameworks in UNet under anatomy shift (Knee to Brain) using the FINE method. The first row shows reconstructed MRI images, while the second row presents residual maps between reconstructions and full-sampled MRI. The proposed method (far right) achieves the lowest residuals, indicating improved reconstruction accuracy

Experiment

- Qualitative Results-VarNet

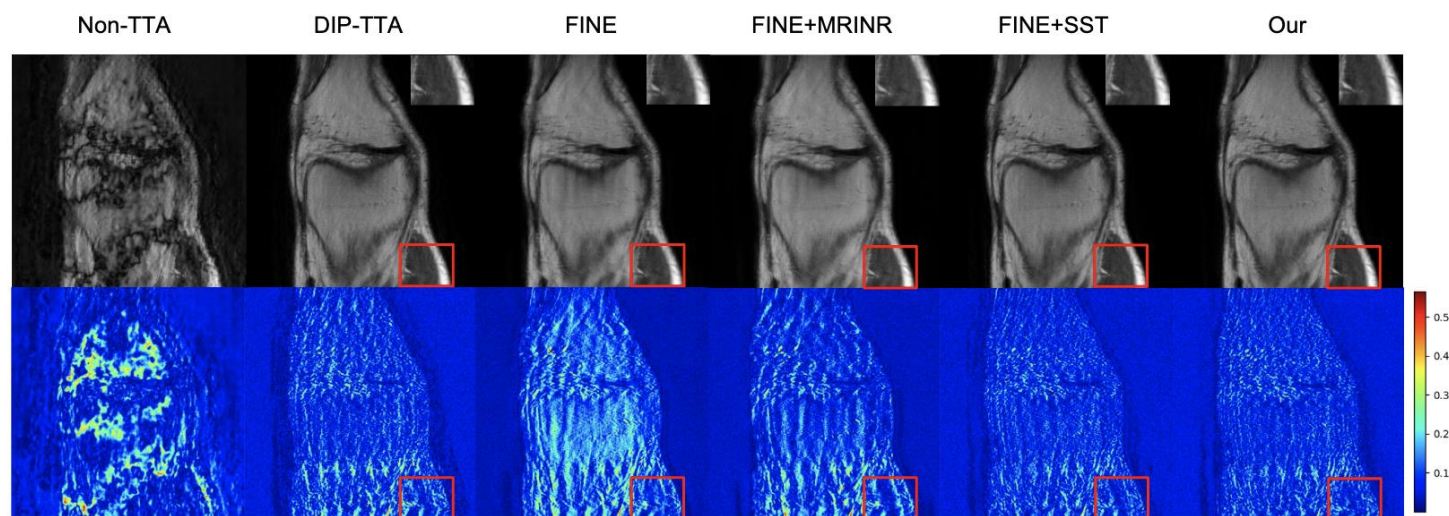


Figure 5. Comparison of different frameworks in VarNet under dataset shift (Stanford to fastMRI) using the FINE method. The first row shows reconstructed MRI images, while the second row presents residual maps between reconstructions and full-sampled MRI. The proposed method (far right) achieves the lowest residuals, indicating improved reconstruction accuracy

Experiment

Ablation studies-UNet (anatomy shift)

Stage	Method (UNet)	Knee → Brain
Patient-wise training	FINE	25.98/31.02/4.9
	+MR-INR + fixed latent code	26.37/31.29/5.3
	+MR-INR + learnable latent code	26.48/31.29/5.5
Single-slice training (SST)	+SST (learnable conv layers; no AD module)	27.22/31.02/17.2
	+MR-INR+SST (learnable conv layers; no AD module)	27.65/31.29/23.65
	+MR-INR+SST (learnable conv layers + AD module)	27.54/46.13/15.7
	+MR-INR+SST (Frozen conv layers + AD module)	27.71/17.89/12.1

Table 3. Ablation study on MR-INR and the AD module under anatomy shift (Knee to Brain) using UNet. Metrics are **PSNR/Number of Parameters (M, Millions) / Time per Patient (min)**. The first stage evaluates MR-INR with fixed and learnable latent codes (1408 parameters). The second stage compares SST configurations with MR-INR and AD.

Different INR-UNet (anatomy shift)

Stage	INR-Network	Knee → Brain
Patient-wise training (FINE+MR-INR)	Random PE+MLP	0.845/25.76/0.349
	WIRE	0.839/25.78/0.354
	Only SIREN	0.845/26.16/0.349
	Our (Random PE+SIREN)	0.845/26.37/0.346
Single-slice training (FINE+MR-INR+SST)	Random PE+MLP	0.864/27.22/0.326
	WIRE	0.872/27.44/0.321
	Only SIREN	0.874/27.51/0.322
	Our (Random PE+SIREN)	0.876/27.71/0.320

Table 1: Ablation study on INR design under anatomy shift (Knee to Brain) using UNet. Metrics are **SSIM/PSNR/LPIPS**. The first stage evaluates MR-INR with different implicit neural representations. The second stage compares SST configurations with MR-INR using different backbone architectures.

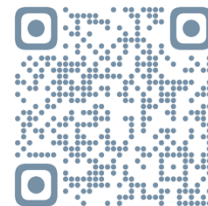
Impact of different learning rates

Table 1: UNet (Dataset Shift; Fine) — PSNR/SSIM/LPIPS

Learning Rate	Functional-Level Patient Adaptation		Structural-Preserving Single-Slice Refinement	
	FINE PSNR/SSIM/LPIPS	FINE+MR-INR PSNR/SSIM/LPIPS	FINE+SST PSNR/SSIM/LPIPS	FINE+MR-INR+SST PSNR/SSIM/LPIPS
1e-3	0.768/24.41/0.352	0.772/24.96/0.345	0.806/27.18/0.304	0.821/27.64/0.276
1e-4	0.796/26.54/0.319	0.807/26.84/0.314	0.827/28.16/0.283	0.829/28.34/0.279
1e-5	0.785/26.18/0.329	0.787/25.78/0.323	0.821/28.01/0.280	0.826/28.05/0.289

Conclusion

- More results in paper and supplementary
 - Quantitative results of same domain shifts
 - Qualitative results of other methods (NR2N, SSDU)
 - Detail of mathematical analysis
- **Dual-Stage Distribution and Slice Adaptation (D2SA)**, a test-time adaptation framework that enhances MRI reconstruction under distribution shifts.
- Leverage **MR-INR**, D2SA performs patient-wise adaptation to model **mean/variance shifts**
- Use a **learnable anisotropic diffusion (AD) module** in structure-preserving single-slice refinement.
- Extensive Validation on **multiple domain shifts**



Thank you!