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Work with Sai Ravishankar, II Yong Chun, Raj Nadakuditi, Yong Long, Xuehang Zheng, ...

ECE informal faculty seminar

2019-04-19







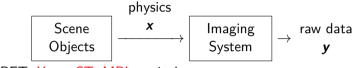
medical			
		machine	
	learning		

## Background



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Forward problem (data acquisition):



SPECT, PET, X-ray CT, MRI, optical

Inverse problem (image formation):



Image reconstruction topics: physics models, measurement statistical models, regularization / object priors, optimization.

## Generations of medical image reconstruction methods

- 1. 70's "Analytical" methods (integral equations) FBP for SPECT / PET / X-ray CT, IFFT for MRI, ...
- 80's Algebraic methods (as in "linear algebra") Solve y = Ax
- 3. 90's Statistical methods
  - LS / ML methods
  - regularized / Bayesian methods
- 4. 00's Compressed sensing methods (mathematical sparsity models)
- 5. 10's Adaptive / data-driven methods machine learning, deep learning, ...



# Improving X-ray CT image reconstruction



- A picture is worth 1000 words
- (and perhaps several 1000 seconds of computation?)



### Thin-slice FBP Seconds

ASIR (denoise) A bit longer Statistical Much longer

Today's talk: less about computation, more about image quality Right image used edge-preserving regularization

Safety / health relevance: X-ray dose and diagnostic accuracy

# History: Milestones in iterative image reconstruction

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Commercial availability of iterative methods for human scanners per FDA 510(k) dates:

► PET/SPECT

Unregularized OS-EM  $\approx$  1997

► X-ray CT

Regularized MBIR [2011-11-09 for GE Veo] (Installed at UM in Jan. 2012)

► PET

Regularized EM variant (Q.Clear) 2014-03-21

## MRI

Compressed sensing! (Sparsity-based regularization) [2017-01-27 for Siemens Cardiac Cine] [2017-04-20 for GE HyperSense]

### ► Ultrasound?

# Accelerating MR imaging using adaptive regularization



(a)  $4 \times$  under-sampled MR k-space

(b) zero-filled reconstruction

(c) "compressed sensing" reconstruction with  $\mathsf{TV}$  regularization

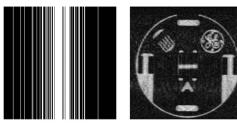
(d) adaptive dictionary learning regularization [1, Fig. 10]

Safety / health relevance:

 $\circ$  scan time

 $\circ$  motion

 $\circ$  image quality









(b)





### Background

### $\ensuremath{\mathsf{III}}\xspace$ problems and regularization

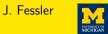
Classical "hand crafted" regularizers

#### Adaptive regularization

Patch-based adaptive regularizers Convolutional adaptive regularizers Blind dictionary learning

#### Summary

## Ill-posed inverse problems

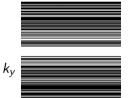






x : unknown image A : system matrix (typically wide)

compressed sensing (*e.g.*, MRI)



(**A** "random" rows of DFT)

 $k_x$ 

- deblurring (restoration)
- in-painting
- denoising (not ill posed)

(A Toeplitz)(A subset of rows of I)(A = I)



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### Why under-sample in MRI?

- Reduce scan time (?)
  - Patient comfort
  - Scan cost / throughput
  - Motion artifacts (Philips at ISMRM 2017)
- Improve spatial resolution (collect higher k-space lines)
- Improve scan diversity for quantitative MRI
- Improve temporal resolution trade-off in dynamic MRI

### Why under-sample or reduce intensity in CT?

Reduce X-ray dose

(But under-sampling leads to ill-posed inverse problems...)



If we have a prior p(x), then the MAP estimate is:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} = \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \operatorname{p}(\boldsymbol{x} \mid \boldsymbol{y}) = \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \log \operatorname{p}(\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{x}) + \log \operatorname{p}(\boldsymbol{x}).$$

For gaussian measurement errors and a linear forward model:

$$-\log p(\boldsymbol{y} | \boldsymbol{x}) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \| \boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{x} \|_{\boldsymbol{W}}^2$$

where  $\|\boldsymbol{y}\|_{\boldsymbol{W}}^2 = \boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{W} \boldsymbol{y}$ 

and  $\boldsymbol{W}^{-1} = \text{Cov}\{\boldsymbol{y} \mid \boldsymbol{x}\}$  is known (**A** from physics, **W** from statistics)

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## Priors for MAP estimation

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▶ If all images **x** are "plausible" (have non-zero probability) then

$$\mathsf{p}(\boldsymbol{x}) \propto \mathrm{e}^{-\,\mathsf{R}(\boldsymbol{x})} \Longrightarrow -\log\mathsf{p}(\boldsymbol{x}) \equiv \mathsf{R}(\boldsymbol{x})$$

(from fantasy / imagination / wishful thinking / data)

• MAP  $\equiv$  regularized weighted least-squares (WLS) estimation:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{x}} \log p(\boldsymbol{y} | \boldsymbol{x}) + \log p(\boldsymbol{x})$$
$$= \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x}\|_{\boldsymbol{W}}^2 + \mathsf{R}(\boldsymbol{x})$$

- A regularizer R(x), aka log prior, is essential for high-quality solutions to ill-conditioned / ill-posed inverse problems.
- ▶ Why ill-posed? Often high ambitions...

- Tikhonov regularization (IID gaussian prior)
- Roughness penalty (Basic MRF prior)
- Sparsity in ambient space
- Edge-preserving regularization
- ► Total-variation (TV) regularization
- Black-box denoiser like NLM



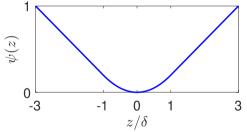
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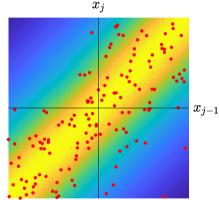
## Edge-preserving regularization

Neighboring pixels tend to have similar values except near edges:

$$\mathsf{R}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \beta \sum_{j} \psi(x_j - x_{j-1})$$

Potential function  $\psi$ :





- Equivalent to improper prior (agnostic to DC value)
- Accounts for spatial correlations, but only very locally
- Used clinically now for low-dose X-ray CT image reconstruction



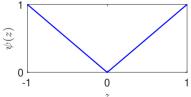
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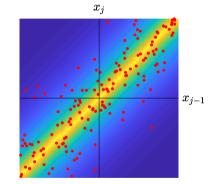
# Total-variation (TV) regularization

Neighboring pixels tend to have similar values except near edges ("gradient sparsity"):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{R}(\boldsymbol{x}) &= \beta \operatorname{TV}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \beta \left\| \boldsymbol{\Delta} \boldsymbol{x} \right\|_{1} \\ &= \beta \sum_{j} |x_{j} - x_{j-1}| \end{aligned}$$

Potential function  $\psi$ :





- Equivalent to improper prior (agnostic to DC value)
- Accounts for correlations, but only very locally
- Well-suited to piece-wise constant Shepp-Logan phantom!
- Used in many academic publications...



- Transforms: wavelets, curvelets, ...
- Markov random field models
- Graphical models
- • •

All "hand crafted" ...



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### Background

Ill-posed problems and regularization

### Adaptive regularization

Patch-based adaptive regularizers Convolutional adaptive regularizers Blind dictionary learning

#### Summary

#### 🕨 Data

- Population adaptive methods (*e.g.*, X-ray CT)
- Patient adaptive methods (e.g., dynamic MRI?)
- Spatial structure
  - Patch-based models
  - Convolutional models
- Regularizer formulation
  - Synthesis (dictionary) approach
  - Analysis (sparsifying transforms) approach

Many options...









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# X-ray CT with learned sparsifying transforms

#### Data

- Population adaptive methods
- Patient adaptive methods
- Spatial structure
  - Patch-based models
  - Convolutional models
- Regularizer formulation
  - Synthesis (dictionary) approach
  - Analysis (sparsifying transform) approach

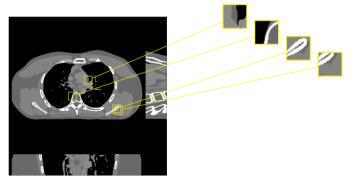


## Patch-wise transform sparsity model

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Assumption: if  $\boldsymbol{x}$  is a plausible image, then each  $\Omega \boldsymbol{P}_m \boldsymbol{x}$  is sparse.

- **P\_m x** extracts the *m*th of *M* patches from *x*
- $\blacktriangleright~\Omega$  is a square sparsifying transform matrix



# Sparsifying transform learning (population adaptive)

Given training images  $x_1, \ldots, x_L$  from a representative population, find transform  $\Omega_*$  that best sparsifies their patches:

$$\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{*} = \mathop{\arg\min}_{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \min_{\text{unitary}} \min_{\left\{\boldsymbol{z}_{l,m}\right\}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left\|\boldsymbol{\Omega}\boldsymbol{P}_{m}\boldsymbol{x}_{l} - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,m}\right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\|\boldsymbol{z}_{l,m}\right\|_{0}$$

- Encourage aggregate sparsity, not patch-wise sparsity (cf K-SVD [2])
- Non-convex due to unitary constraint and  $\|\cdot\|_0$
- Efficient alternating minimization algorithm [3]
  - z update : simple hard thresholding
  - $\Omega$  update : orthogonal Procrustes problem (SVD)
  - Subsequence convergence guarantees [3]

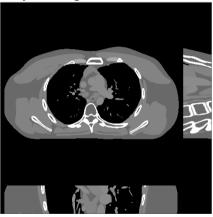


# Example of learned sparsifying transform

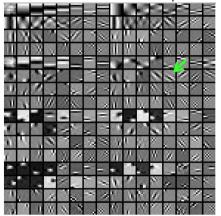




#### 3D X-ray training data







(2D slices in x-y, x-z, y-z, from 3D image volume)  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  patches  $\implies \Omega_*$  is  $8^3 \times 8^3 = 512 \times 512$ top  $8 \times 8$  slice of 256 of the 512 rows of  $\Omega_* \uparrow$ 

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## Regularizer based on learned sparsifying transform

Regularized inverse problem [4]:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\boldsymbol{x}} \|\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}\|_{\boldsymbol{W}}^2 + \beta \operatorname{\mathsf{R}}(\boldsymbol{x})$$

$$\mathsf{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_m\}} \sum_{m=1}^M \|\mathbf{\Omega}_* \mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}_m\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_m\|_0.$$

 $\Omega_{\ast}$  adapted to population training data

Alternating minimization optimizer:

- z<sub>m</sub> update : simple hard thresholding
- x update : quadratic problem (many options) Linearized augmented Lagrangian method (LALM) [5]



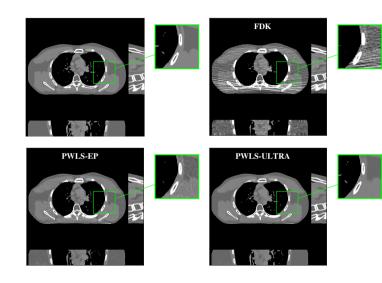
## Example: low-dose 3D X-ray CT simulation



X. Zheng, S. Ravishankar,

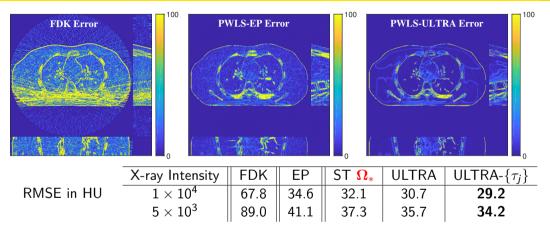
Y. Long, JF:

IEEE T-MI, June 2018 [4]

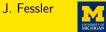


## 3D X-ray CT simulation Error maps





- Physics / statistics provides dramatic improvement
- Data adaptive regularization further reduces RMSE



Given training images  $x_1, \ldots, x_L$  from a representative population, find a set of transforms  $\{\hat{\Omega}_k\}_{k=1}^{K}$  that best sparsify image patches:

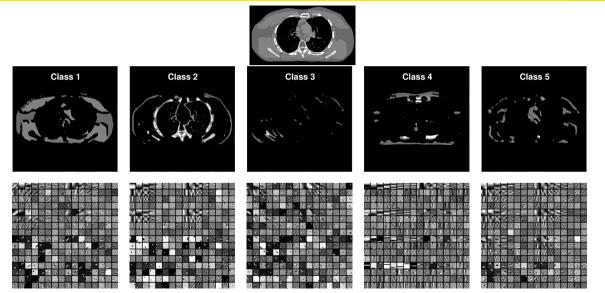
$$\begin{cases} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}_{k} \end{cases} = \underset{\{\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{k} \text{ unitary}\}}{\arg\min} \underset{\{k_{l,m} \in \{1,...,\mathcal{K}\}\}}{\min} \underset{\{\boldsymbol{z}_{l,m}\}}{\min} \\ \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left\| \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{k_{l,m}} \boldsymbol{P}_{m} \boldsymbol{x}_{l} - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,m} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\| \boldsymbol{z}_{l,m} \right\|_{0}$$

- Joint unsupervised clustering / sparsification
- Further nonconvexity due to clustering
- Efficient alternating minimization algorithm [6]

## Example: 3D X-ray CT learned set of transforms

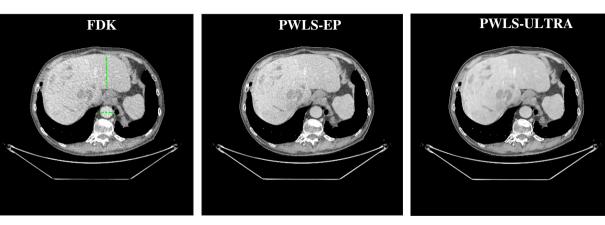






## Example: 3D X-ray CT ULTRA for chest scan





Zheng et al., IEEE T-MI, June 2018 [4]

Matlab code: http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler/irt/reproduce/

 ${\tt https://github.com/xuehangzheng/PWLS-ULTRA-for-Low-Dose-3D-CT-Image-Reconstruction}$ 







### Background

Ill-posed problems and regularization

### Adaptive regularization

Patch-based adaptive regularizers Convolutional adaptive regularizers Blind dictionary learning

#### Summary

# X-ray CT with learned convolutional filters



#### Data

- Population adaptive methods
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  - Analysis (sparsifying transform) approach

Drawback of basic patch-based methods:  $512 \times 512 \times 512$  3D X-ray CT image volume  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  patches  $\implies 512^3 \cdot 8^3 \cdot 4 = 256$  Gbyte of patch data for stride=1

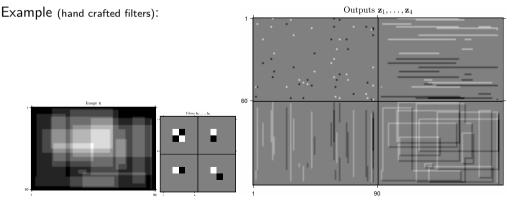
## Convolutional sparsity: analysis model

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Assumption: For a plausible image x, the filter outputs  $\{h_k * x\}$  are sparse, for some filters  $\{h_k\}_{k=1}^{K}$  [7]

- For more plausible images, the outputs  $\{h_k * x\}$  are more sparse.
- \* denotes convolution
- Inherently shift invariant and no patches



# Sparsifying filter learning (population adaptive)

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Given training images  $x_1, \ldots, x_L$  from a representative population, find filters  $\{\hat{h}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  that best sparsify them:

$$\left\{ \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{k} \right\} = \underset{\{\boldsymbol{h}_{k}\}\in\mathcal{H}}{\arg\min} \min_{\{\boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}\}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \left\| \boldsymbol{h}_{k} * \boldsymbol{x}_{l} - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\| \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k} \right\|_{0}$$

To encourage filter diversity:

• 
$$\mathcal{H} = \{\boldsymbol{H} : \boldsymbol{H}\boldsymbol{H}' = \boldsymbol{I}\}, \ \boldsymbol{H} = [\boldsymbol{h}_1 \ \dots \ \boldsymbol{h}_K]$$

• cf. tight-frame condition  $\sum_{k=1}^{K} \| \boldsymbol{h}_k * \boldsymbol{x} \|_2^2 \propto \| \boldsymbol{x} \|_2^2$ 

Encourage aggregate sparsity, period

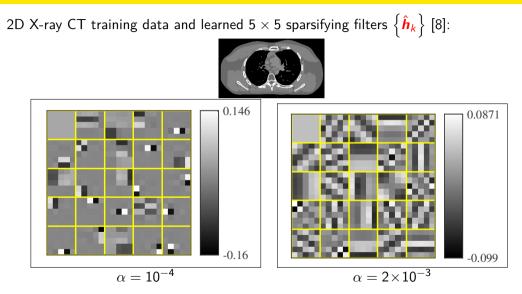
Non-convex due to constraint  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_0$ 

- Efficient alternating minimization algorithm [8]
  - z update is simply hard thresholding
  - Filter update uses diagonal majorizer, proximal map (SVD)
  - Subsequence convergence guarantees [8]

## Examples of learned sparsifying filters







## Regularizer based on learned sparsifying filters

Regularized inverse problem [8]:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\boldsymbol{x} \succeq \boldsymbol{0}} \|\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}\|_{\boldsymbol{W}}^2 + \beta \operatorname{\mathsf{R}}(\boldsymbol{x})$$
$$\operatorname{\mathsf{R}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\{\boldsymbol{z}_k\}} \sum_{k=1}^K \left\|\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_k * \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{z}_k\right\|_2^2 + \alpha \left\|\boldsymbol{z}_k\right\|_0.$$

 $\left\{ \hat{m{h}}_{m{k}} 
ight\}$  adapted to population training data

Block proximal gradient with majorizer (BPG-M) optimizer:

- $\triangleright$   $z_k$  update is simple hard thresholding
- x update is a quadratic problem: diagonal majorizer

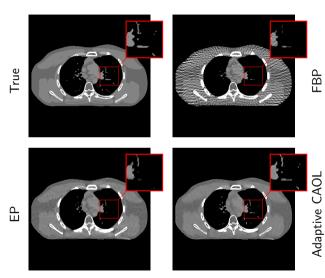
I. Y. Chun, JF, 2018, arXiv 1802.05584 [8]



# Example: sparse-view 2D X-ray CT simulation



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123 views (out of usual 984)  $\implies$  8× dose reduction

RMSE (in HU):							
FBP	82.8						
EP	40.8						
Adaptive filters	35.2						

- Physics / statistics provides dramatic improvement
- Data-adaptive regularization further reduces RMSE

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# Extension to multiple layers (cf CNN) I

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Convolutional sparsity model:  $h_k * x$  is sparse for  $k = 1, ..., K_1$ Learning 1 "layer" of filters:

$$\{\hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{k}^{[1]}\} = \underset{\{\boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[1]}\}\in\mathcal{H}}{\arg\min\min} \min_{\{\boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]}\}} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{k=1}^{K_{1}} \left\|\boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[1]} * \boldsymbol{x}_{l} - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]}\right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\|\boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]}\right\|_{0}$$



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Learning 2 layers of filters [8]:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \{ \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{k}^{[1]} \}, \{ \hat{\boldsymbol{h}}_{k}^{[2]} \} \end{pmatrix} = \arg\min_{\{\boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[1]} \}, \{ \boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[2]} \} \in \mathcal{H}} \min_{\{\boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \}, \{ \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[2]} \}} \\ \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{k=1}^{K_{1}} \left\| \boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[1]} * \boldsymbol{x}_{l} - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\| \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_{0}^{2} \\ + \sum_{l=1}^{L} \sum_{k=1}^{K_{2}} \left\| \boldsymbol{h}_{k}^{[2]} * \left( \boldsymbol{P}_{k} \boldsymbol{z}_{l}^{[1]} \right) - \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[2]} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \left\| \boldsymbol{z}_{l,k}^{[2]} \right\|_{0}^{2}$$

Here  $P_k$  is a pooling operator for the output of first layer Block proximal gradient with majorizer (BPG-M) optimizer

I. Y. Chun, JF, 2018, arXiv 1802.05584 [8]

Use multi-level learned filters as (interpretable?) regularizer for CT.







#### Background

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Patch-based adaptive regularizers Convolutional adaptive regularizers Blind dictionary learning

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# Patch-wise dictionary sparsity model

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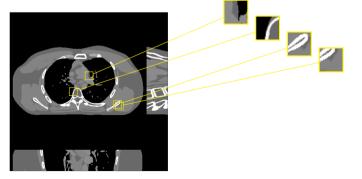
Assumption: if  $\boldsymbol{x}$  is a plausible image, then each patch has

 $P_{p}x \approx Dz_{p},$ 

for a sparse coefficient vector  $z_p$ . (Synthesis approach.)

**P**<sub>p</sub> $\boldsymbol{x}$  extracts the *p*th of *P* patches from  $\boldsymbol{x}$ 

**D** is a (typically overcomplete) dictionary for patches



# MR reconstruction using adaptive dictionary regularizer

Dictionary-blind MR image reconstruction:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y}\|_{2}^{2} + \beta R(\boldsymbol{x})$$
$$R(\boldsymbol{x}) = \min_{\boldsymbol{D} \in \mathcal{D}} \min_{\boldsymbol{z}} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left( \|\boldsymbol{P}_{m}\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{D}\boldsymbol{z}_{m}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda^{2} \|\boldsymbol{z}_{m}\|_{0} \right)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{P}_m$  extracts *m*th of *M* image patches.

In words: of the many images...

Alternating (nested) minimization:

- Fixing x and D, update each row of  $Z = [z_1 \dots z_M]$  sequentially via hard-thresholding.
- Fixing *x* and *Z*, update *D* using SOUP-DIL [9].
- Fixing Z and D, updating x is a quadratic problem.
  - Efficient FFT solution for single-coil Cartesian MRI.
  - Use CG for non-Cartesian and/or parallel MRI.

Non-convex, but monotone decreasing and some convergence theory [9].

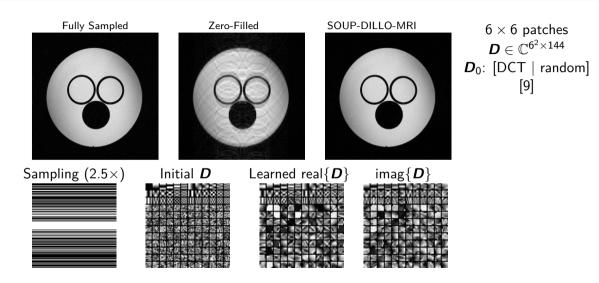


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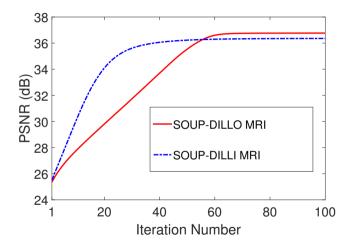
# 2D CS MRI results I

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# 2D CS MRI results II



(SNR vs fully sampled image.) Using  $\|\boldsymbol{z}_m\|_0$  leads to higher SNR than  $\|\boldsymbol{z}_m\|_1$ . Adaptive case is non-convex anyway...

Matlab code: http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler/irt/reproduce/ https://gitlab.eecs.umich.edu/fessler/soupdil\_dinokat

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## 2D CS MRI results III





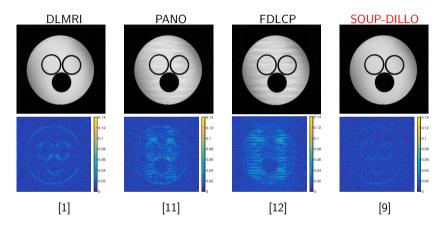
PSNR:

lm.	Samp.	Acc.	0-fill	Sparse MRI	PANO	DLMRI	SOUP- DILLI	SOUP- DILLO
а	Cart.	7×	27.9	28.6	31.1	31.1	30.8	31.1
b	Cart.	2.5×	27.7	31.6	41.3	40.2	38.5	42.3
с	Cart.	2.5×	24.9	29.9	34.8	36.7	36.6	37.3
с	Cart.	4x	25.9	28.8	32.3	32.1	32.2	32.3
d	Cart.	2.5×	29.5	32.1	36.9	38.1	36.7	38.4
e	Cart.	2.5×	28.1	31.7	40.0	38.0	37.9	41.5
f	2D rand.	5×	26.3	27.4	30.4	30.5	30.3	30.6
g	Cart.	2.5x	32.8	39.1	41.6	41.7	42.2	43.2
Ref.				[10]	[11]	[1]	[9]	[9]

# 2D CS MRI results IV

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Summary: 2D static MR reconstruction from under-sampled data with adaptive dictionary learning and convergent algorithm, faster than K-SVD approach of DLMRI.





#### Data-driven / adaptive regularization

- Beneficial for low-dose CT and under-sampled MRI reconstruction
- Dictionary atom structure (e.g., low rank) further helpful for dynamic MRI
- Block proximal methods provide reasonably computational efficiency
- Convergence theory (unlike KSVD)

#### Future work:

- Synthesis (*e.g.*, dictionary) vs analysis (*e.g.*, transform learning) formulations Begs for some principled model comparison...
- Online methods for reduced memory, better adaptation [13-16]
- Adaptive methods versus "deep" methods?
- Prospective use



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June 2018 special issue of IEEE Trans. on Medical Imaging [17]:



IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MEDICAL IMAGING, VOL. 37, NO. 6, JUNE 2018

Image Reconstruction Is a New Frontier

# of Machine Learning

Ge Wang<sup>10</sup>, *Fellow, IEEE*, Jong Chu Ye<sup>10</sup>, *Senior Member, IEEE*, Klaus Mueller<sup>10</sup>, *Senior Member, IEEE*, and Jeffrey A. Fessler<sup>10</sup>, *Fellow, IEEE* 

# **Bibliography I**



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