

Joint optimization of learning-based image reconstruction and sampling for MRI

J. Fessler
Joint Opt

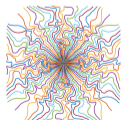


Jeffrey A. Fessler

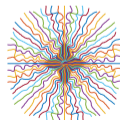
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EE Department, Bilkent University
2023-11-06



Brain



Knee

Acknowledgments:

Guanhua Wang, Tianrui Luo, Jon Nielsen, Doug Noll

Introduction

- Machine learning in imaging

- MRI k-space sampling

Deep-learning approaches for image reconstruction

Supervised learning of k-space sampling

Joint optimization of k-space sampling and image reconstruction

- Problem formulation

- Results

Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

Introduction

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Deep-learning approaches for image reconstruction

Supervised learning of k-space sampling

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Adaptive sampling

Bibliography





Most obvious place for machine learning is in post-processing (image analysis).
Numerous special issues and surveys in medical imaging journals, e.g., [1–9].



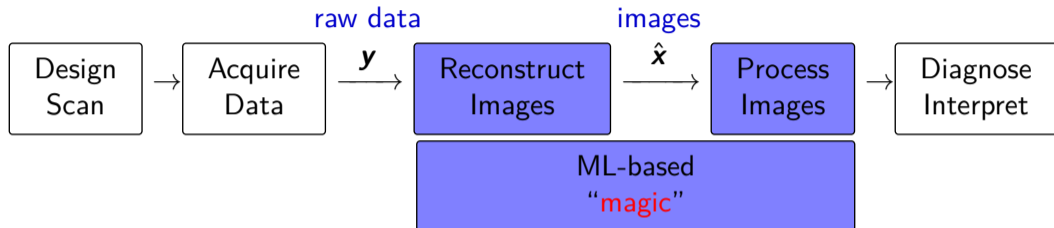
Machine learning for scan design (k-space sampling):

- ▶ Choose best k-space phase encoding locations (usually Cartesian sampling)
- ▶ Uses “ground truth” (fully sampled) training images
- ▶ Hot topic in MRI research recently, e.g., [10–15]
- ▶ Precursor by Yue Cao and David Levin, MRM Sep. 1993 [16–18]



Machine learning in medical image reconstruction:

- ▶ June 2018 special issue of IEEE Trans. on Medical Imaging [19].
- ▶ Surveys: [20–27]
- ▶ Possibly easier than diagnosis due to lower bar:
 - current reconstruction methods based on simplistic image models;
 - human eyes are better at detection than at solving inverse problems.



A holy grail for machine learning in medical imaging?

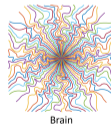
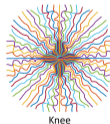
- ▶ CT sinogram to vessel diameter [28, 29]
- ▶ k-space to prostate cancer detection and knee diagnosis [30]



“B-spline parameterized joint optimization of reconstruction and k-space trajectories (BJORK) for accelerated 2D MRI,” arXiv 2101.11369 [31] IEEE T-MI 2022 [32]
Guanhua Wang, T. Luo, J.-F. Nielsen, D. Noll, J. Fessler

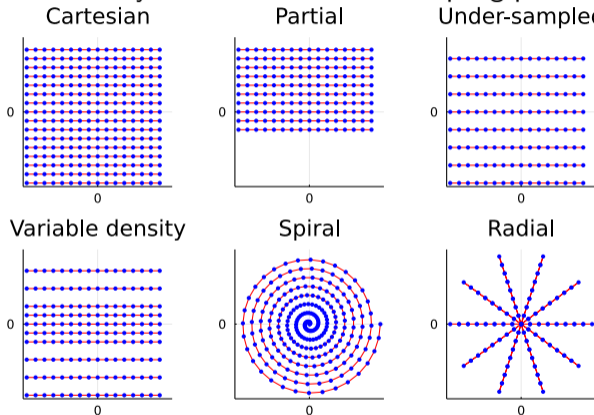
“Stochastic optimization of 3D non-Cartesian sampling trajectory (SNOPI),” MRM 2023 (in press)

Preview:



Related work: “PILOT” by Weiss et al. [33]; J-MoDL work of Aggarwal et al. [14].

All clinical MRI scans currently use “hand-crafted” sampling patterns:



- ▶ Reducing k-space sampling \implies reduced scan time / improved temporal resolution
- ▶ Under-sampled data benefits from advanced reconstruction methods

Introduction

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Supervised learning of k-space sampling

Joint optimization of k-space sampling and image reconstruction

Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

Overview:

- ▶ image-domain learning [34–36]...
- ▶ k-space or data-domain learning
e.g., [37], [38], [39]
- ▶ transform learning (direct from k-space to image)
e.g., AUTOMAP [40], [41–43]
- ▶ hybrid-domain learning (unrolled loop, *e.g.*, variational network)
alternate between denoising/dealiasing and reconstruction from k-space
e.g., [38, 44–48] ...

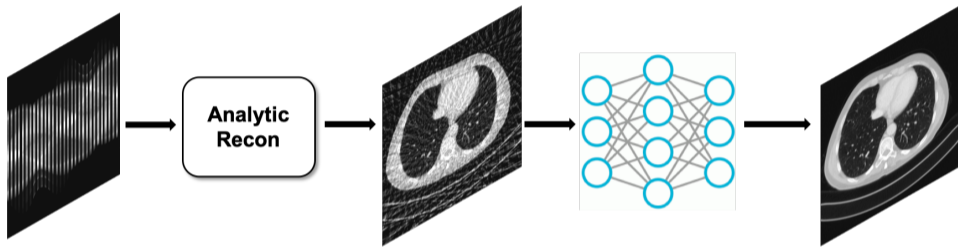


Figure courtesy of Jong Chul Ye, KAIST University.

- + simple and fast
- aliasing is spatially widespread, requires deep network

Investigating Robustness to Unseen Pathologies in Model-Free Deep Multicoil Reconstruction

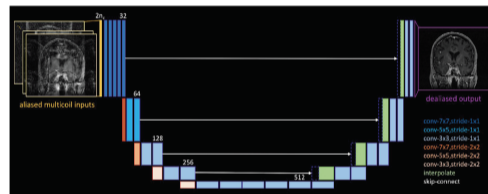
Gopal Nataraj¹ and Ricardo Otazo^{1,2}

¹Dept. of Medical Physics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Introduction

Speed is often claimed as a key advantage of deep learning (DL) for undersampled parallel MRI reconstruction [1]. However, the only DL approach that to our knowledge has studied generalizability to pathologies unseen in training [2] requires repeated application of the MR acquisition model and its adjoint, just as in iterative methods. In contrast, model-free DL reconstruction has the potential to be much faster. Prior model-free DL work [3] proposes to learn a mapping directly from k-space, but with



[49] ISMRM 2020 Workshop on Data Sampling & Image Reconstruction

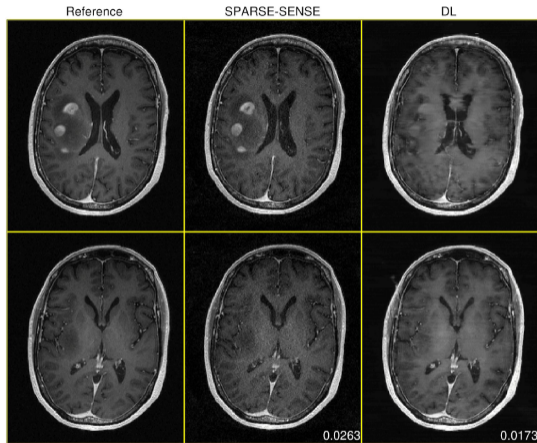


Figure 3: Reconstructions in a case of anaplastic astrocytoma, a rare malignant brain tumor. SPARSE-SENSE and DL reconstructions are from the same 4x-accelerated retrospectively undersampled acquisition. DL achieves lower whole-volume MAE than SPARSE-SENSE, but fails to properly reconstruct regions near the tumor.

- ▶ Use NN output as a “prior” for iterative reconstruction [34, 50]:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\beta} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \beta \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{\text{NN}}\|_2^2 = (\mathbf{A}'\mathbf{A} + \beta\mathbf{I})^{-1}(\mathbf{A}'\mathbf{y} + \beta\mathbf{x}_{\text{NN}})$$

- ▶ For single-coil Cartesian case:
 - no iterations are needed (solve with FFTs)
 - $\lim_{\beta \rightarrow 0} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\beta}$ replaces missing k-space data with FFT of \mathbf{x}_{NN}
- ▶ Iterations needed for parallel MRI and/or non-Cartesian sampling (PCG)

- ▶ Learn residual (aliasing artifacts), then subtract [51, 52]

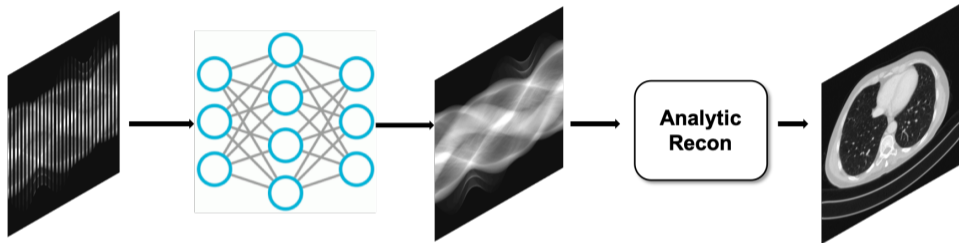


Figure courtesy of Jong Chul Ye, KAIST University.

- + simple and fast (“nonlinear GRAPPA”)
- + “database-free” : learn from auto-calibration data [37], [38], [39]
- perhaps harder to represent local image features?

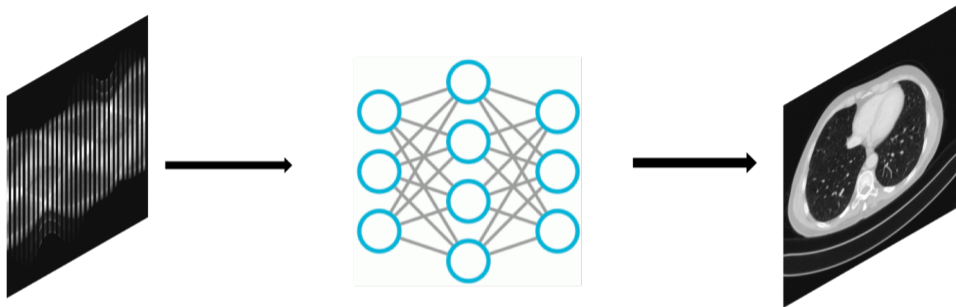


Figure courtesy of Jong Chul Ye, KAIST University.

- + in principle, purely data driven; potential to avoid model mismatch
- high memory requirement for fully connected layers [40]

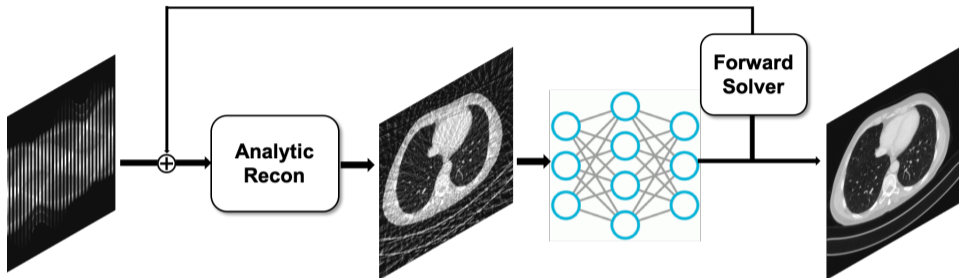
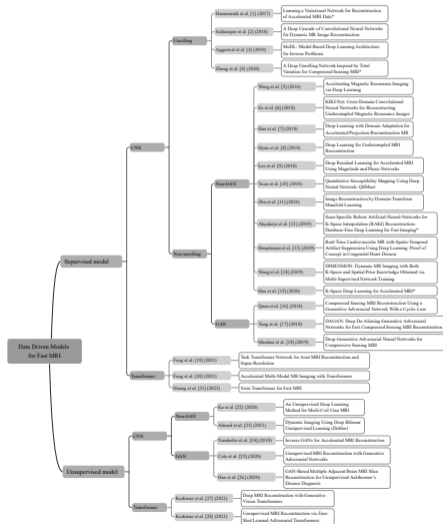


Figure courtesy of Jong Chul Ye, KAIST University.

- + physics-based use of k-space data & image-domain priors, e.g., [38, 44–48, 53, 54] ...
- + interpretable connections to optimization approaches
- + best results in MRI recon challenges [55–57]
- more computation to due to “iterations” (hyper-layers) and repeated \mathbf{Ax} , $\mathbf{A}'r$

Huang et al., arXiv 2204.01706,
Apr. 2022 [58]



Introduction

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Joint optimization of k-space sampling and image reconstruction

Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

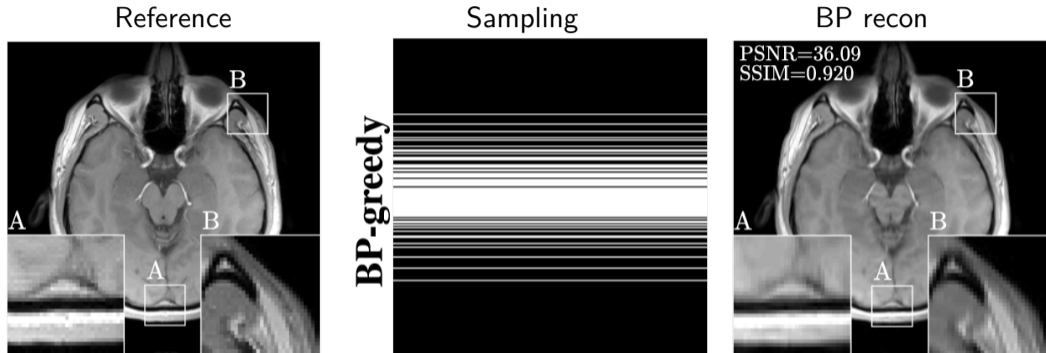
Pre-specified image reconstruction methods

Cartesian sampling pattern optimization

- ▶ Yue Cao & David Levin, MRM Sep. 1993 [16–18]
Feature recognizing MRI
- ▶ Seeger et al., MRM 2010 [59]
Single coil, 1D Cartesian, 2D spiral angles, CS-type recon, Bayesian information gain
- ▶ Ravishankar & Bresler, EMBS 2011 [10]
Single coil, 1D & 2D sampling, DLMRI recon (DL = dictionary learning), weighted k-space loss
- ▶ Baldassarre ... Cevher, IEEE J-STSP 2016 [11]
Single coil, 2D sampling, energy preserving criterion
- ▶ Sherry ... Ehrhardt, IEEE T-MI 2020 [60]
Single coil, 2D sampling, various regularizers
- ▶ ...

Joint learning of sampling and reconstruction

- ▶ Gözcü . . . Cevher, IEEE T-MI 2018 [12]
Single coil, 1D sampling, several fixed recon methods (TV, BP, BM3D, image-domain NN), image-domain training loss
- ▶ Aggarwal & Jacob IEEE J-STSP 2020 [14] (J-MoDL)
Multi-coil, 1D (horizontal and vertical) sampling, MoDL recon
- ▶ Bahadir . . . Sabuncu, IEEE T-CI 2020 [15] (LOUPE)
Single coil, 1D & 2D sampling, IFFT/U-Net recon
- ▶ Weiss et al., arXiv 1909.05773 (2019, 2020, 2021) (PILOT) [33]
Single coil, Non-Cartesian sampling, IFFT/U-Net recon
- ▶ Wang . . . Fessler, ISMRM 2021, arXiv 2021 (BJORK) [31, 61]
Multi-coil, Non-Cartesian sampling, MoDL-type recon
Fast and efficient DFT Jacobian approximations [62, 63]



- ▶ Sampling designed to optimize PSNR for basis pursuit (BP) reconstruction using shearlet transform, at 25% sampling rate.
- ▶ Sampling design considers both the training data and the reconstruction method.
- ▶ No high spatial frequencies!?

(Images from Gözcü et al. [12].)

Introduction

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 Problem formulation

 Results

Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

► MRI measurement model:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

- $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{C}^M$: k-space data; $M \sim 10 - 30\text{K}$
- $\boldsymbol{\omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 2}$: k-space sampling pattern (“trajectory”): 2D in BJORK, 3D in SNOPI
- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N$: unknown true image, $N \sim 100\text{K}$
- $\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$: encoding matrix (coil sensitivity, etc.)
- $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \in \mathbb{C}^M$: measurement noise

► Reconstruction method:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\omega}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- $\boldsymbol{\theta}$: model parameters of reconstruction method (e.g., CNN weights)
- Deep iterative down-up CNN (DIDN) has $\sim 165\text{M}$ learned parameters [64]

► Image quality goal:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\omega}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = f(\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}; \boldsymbol{\omega}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \mathbf{x}$$

- ▶ Define training loss function such as $\ell(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}) = \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}\|_1 + \alpha \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}\|_2$
- ▶ Select N_{train} fully sampled training images $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots$
- ▶ Jointly optimize k-space trajectory ω and image reconstruction method θ

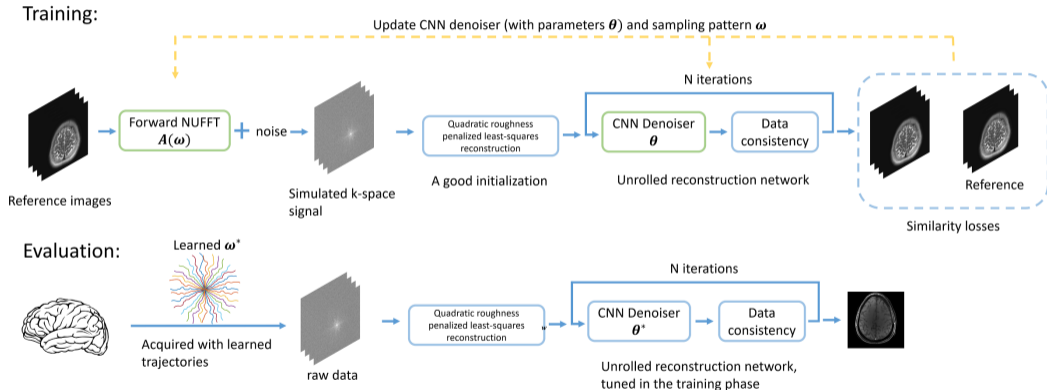
$$(\hat{\omega}, \hat{\theta}) = \arg \min_{\omega, \theta} \frac{1}{N_{\text{train}}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{train}}} \ell(f(\mathbf{A}(\omega)\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon_n; \omega, \theta), \mathbf{x}_n)$$



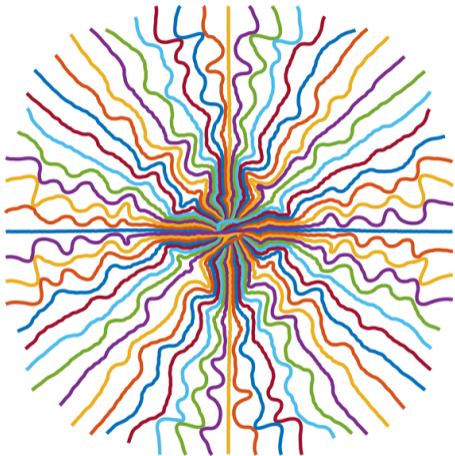
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- ▶ Select N_{train} fully sampled training images $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots$
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$$(\hat{\omega}, \hat{\theta}) = \arg \min_{\omega, \theta} \frac{1}{N_{\text{train}}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{train}}} \ell(f(\mathbf{A}(\omega)\mathbf{x}_n + \varepsilon_{ni}, \omega, \theta), \mathbf{x}_n)$$

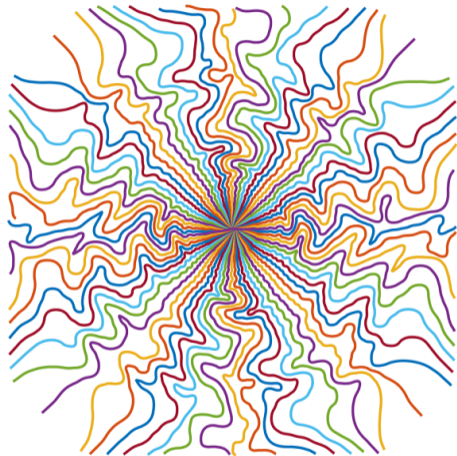
- ▶ Details:
 - Reconstruction using MoDL method [53]
 - Can use multiple noise realizations ε per training image
 - Enforce gradient amplitude and slew-rate limits for ω
 - Use B-spline parameterization of k-space trajectory
 - Coarse-to-fine search of trajectory to avoid poor local minimizers
 - Eddy current correction
 - Fast NUFFT Jacobian approximation [62, 63, 65]



- ▶ NYU/FAIR fastMRI brain and knee data
- ▶ 16/24/32 radial spokes of 1280 points for trajectory initialization ($\approx 10\text{-}20 \times$ acceleration for 320×320 image)
- ▶ 22cm FOV, $G_{\max} = 5$ Gauss/cm, slew rate ≤ 15 Gauss/cm/ms
- ▶ 5ms readout duration radial, 16ms spiral
- ▶ Comparison with SPARKLING approach of [66] using its default density



Knee



Brain

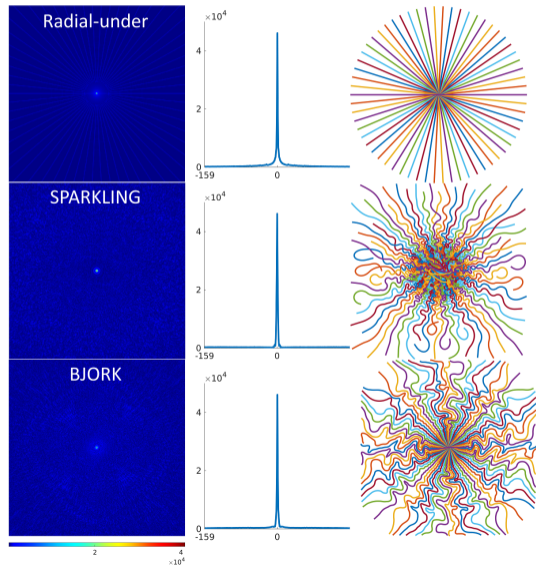
32-spoke results

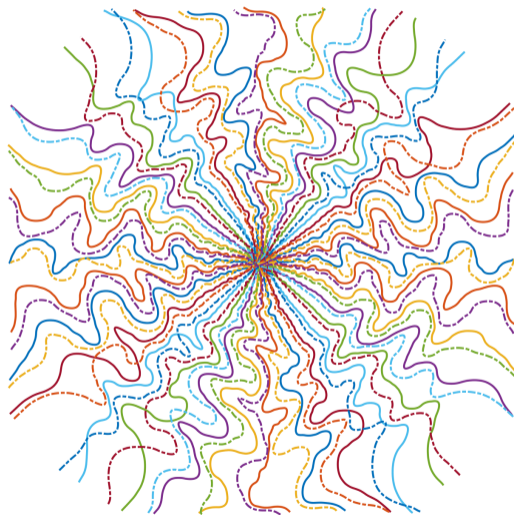
FWHM (pixels):

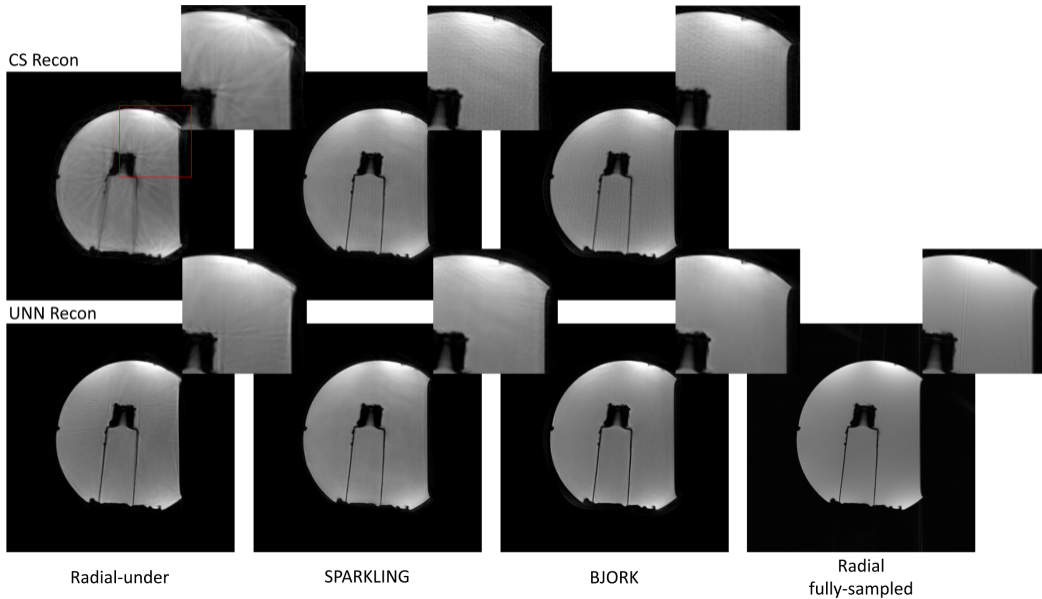
1.5

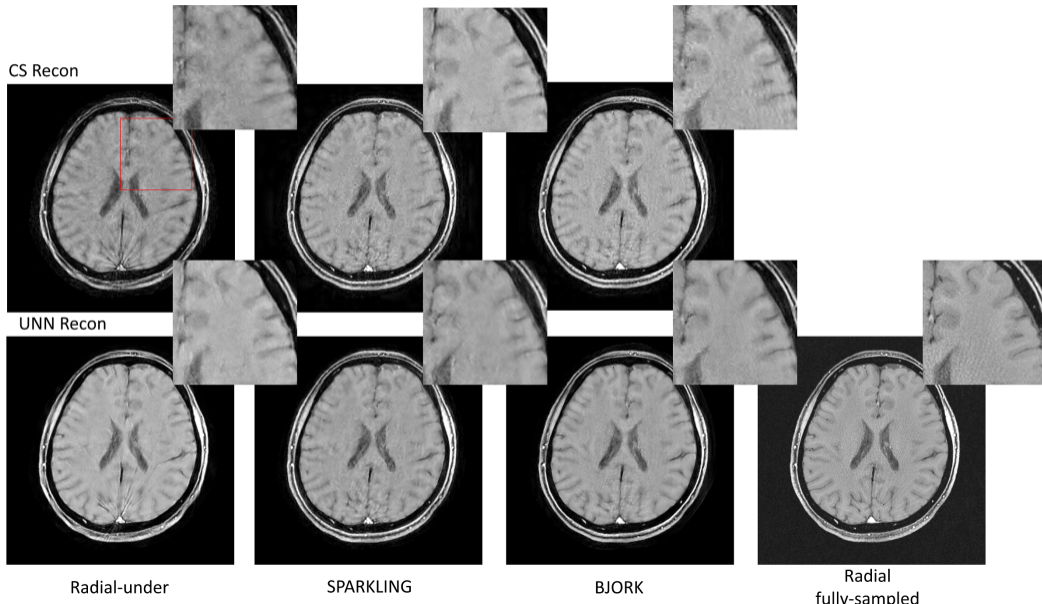
2.1

1.6









Radial-under

SPARKLING

BJORK

Radial
fully-sampled

PSNR (in dB):

		Standard	SPARKLING	BJORK
radial-like $N_s=16$	UNN	32.7	33.9	34.3
	CS	31.7	33.6	34.1
radial-like $N_s=24$	UNN	34.1	35.0	35.6
	CS	33.3	34.6	35.1
radial-like $N_s=32$	UNN	35.0	36.0	36.9
	CS	33.9	35.7	36.3
spiral-like $N_s=8$	UNN	40.9	41.7	41.9
	CS	39.9	40.4	40.7

N_s : the number of shots or spokes.

SSIM:

		Standard	SPARKLING	BJORK
radial-like $N_s=16$	UNN	0.940	0.946	0.950
	CS	0.911	0.936	0.938
radial-like $N_s=24$	UNN	0.950	0.955	0.959
	CS	0.929	0.943	0.948
radial-like $N_s=32$	UNN	0.957	0.963	0.968
	CS	0.932	0.946	0.956
spiral-like $N_s=8$	UNN	0.986	0.989	0.990
	CS	0.976	0.978	0.981

MRI gradient amplifiers have maximum amplitude and slew rate

- ▶ gradient amplitude is 1st derivative of k-space trajectory:

$$\|D_1 \omega_d\|_\infty \leq g_{\max}$$

- ▶ slew rate is 2nd derivative of k-space trajectory:

$$\|D_2 \omega_d\|_\infty \leq s_{\max}$$

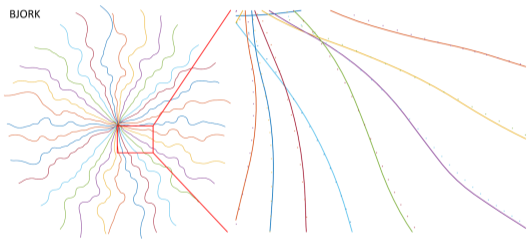
- ▶ Box constraints relaxed to penalty functions that rise rapidly above 1, on:

$$\|D_1 \omega_d\|_\infty / g_{\max} \text{ and } \|D_2 \omega_d\|_\infty / s_{\max}$$

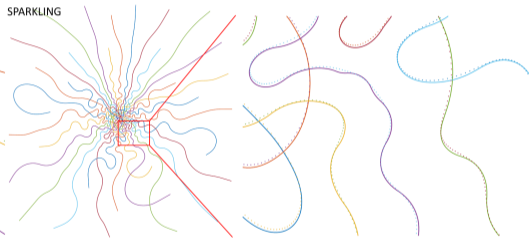


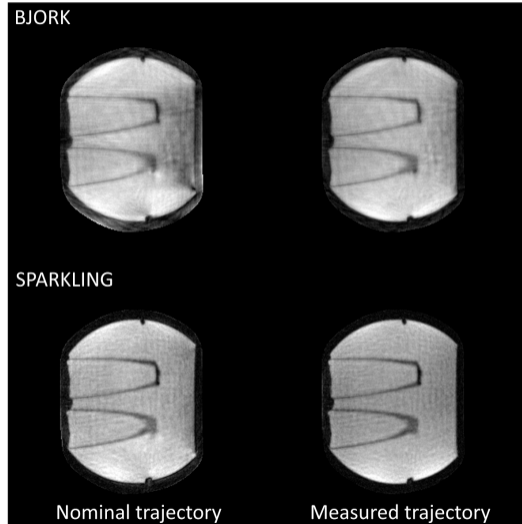
Facilitates (sub)gradient-based optimization using Adam

BJORK



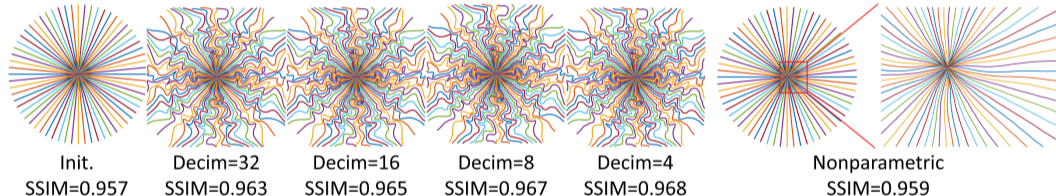
SPARKLING





Quadratic B-spline kernels for non-Cartesian k-space trajectory:

$$\omega_d = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{c}_d, \quad d = 1, 2, \mathbf{c}_d \in \mathbb{R}^{M/\text{Decim}}$$



Highly non-convex problem in ω .

- Coarse-to-fine search may find better local minimizers
- However, parameterization/decimation does not save much computation

Motivated by model-based image reconstruction with variable splitting of the form

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + R(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + R(\mathbf{z}), \quad \text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}\end{aligned}$$

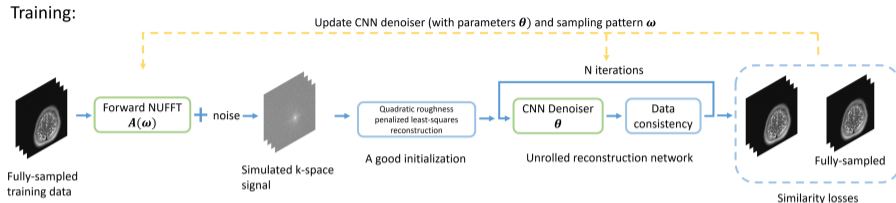
Alternating minimization:

$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}_t\|_2^2 \quad (\text{data consistency, solved via CG})$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{t+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} R(\mathbf{z}) + \mu \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 \quad (\text{denoising})$$

$$\text{"} = \text{"} \mathcal{D}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_{t+1}) \quad (\text{CNN denoiser})$$

- CNN weights $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ shared across iterations, per MODL [53]
- 6 outer iterations for results shown, with augmented Lagrangian parameter $\mu = 2$



Data consistency block has steps like

$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = \mathbf{x}_t + \alpha (\mathbf{A}'(\boldsymbol{\omega}) (\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) + \mu(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}_t))$$

$\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})$ is dense and huge:

$$a_{ij} = e^{-i\boldsymbol{\omega}_i \cdot \mathbf{r}_j} \quad (1)$$

- ▶ Fast approach to $\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\mathbf{x}$ uses NUFFT approximation: zero-padding, over-sampled FFT, interpolation [67, 68].
- ▶ Backpropagation for $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ update through NUFFT steps via autodifferentiation is slow.

Derive Jacobian matrix for exact form (1):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}_d} \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \mathbf{x} = -i \text{Diag}\{\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{r}_d)\}.$$

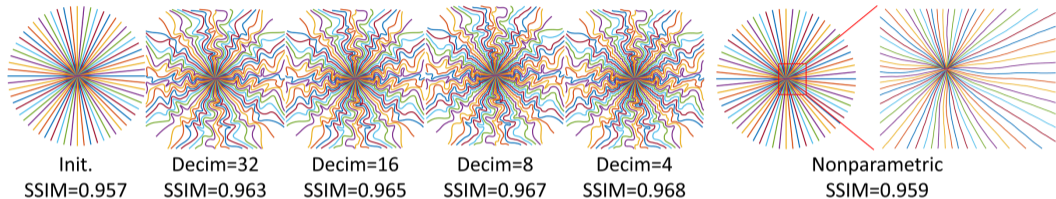
Applying this Jacobian to a vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{C}^M$ during backpropagation yields

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}_d} \mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \mathbf{x} \right) \mathbf{v} = -i \text{Diag}\{\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{r}_d)\} \mathbf{v} = -i (\mathbf{A}(\boldsymbol{\omega})(\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{r}_d)) \odot \mathbf{v}.$$

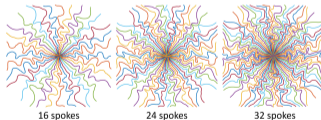
Implemented efficiently using NUFFT applied to $\mathbf{x} \odot \mathbf{r}_d$

Similar idea for Jacobian of adjoint of \mathbf{A} .

Even more important is accurately approximating Jacobian of CG solve of $(\mathbf{A}'\mathbf{A} + \mu\mathbf{I})^{-1}$



Different acceleration factors:



- ▶ Each contrast has 4500 training slices, 500 test slices
- ▶ No extra noise in training
- ▶ Testing variance is 10^{-3} mean test signal
- ▶ SSIM values

	training	T1w	T2w	FLAIR
test				
T1w+noise		0.981	0.980	0.981
T2w+noise		0.951	0.953	0.953
FLAIR+noise		0.974	0.974	0.975



- ▶ Each contrast has 4500 training slices, 500 test slices
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- ▶ SSIM values

	training	T1w	T2w	FLAIR
test				
T1w+noise	0.981	0.980	0.981	
T2w+noise	0.951	0.953	0.953	
FLAIR+noise	0.974	0.974	0.975	

- ▶ Approximately constant in each row!

Introduction

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Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

- ▶ Machine learning methods have much potential for both scan design and image reconstruction
- ▶ Quantitative results in paper demonstrate synergy of jointly optimizing both
- ▶ Anatomy specific trajectories: pro or con?
- ▶ Self-supervised methods when training data unavailable
- ▶ Extension to 3D accepted to MRM [69]
Also control of peripheral nerve stimulation (PNS)
- ▶ Extension to 3D+time is planned (and challenging)

2D code for BJORK: <https://github.com/guanhuaw/Bjork>

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Summary

Adaptive sampling

Bibliography

- ▶ Goal: shorten MRI scan by adaptive sampling
“Adaptive sampling for linear sensing systems via Langevin dynamics”
Guanhua Wang, D Noll, J Fessler, arXiv 2302.13468 2023 [70]

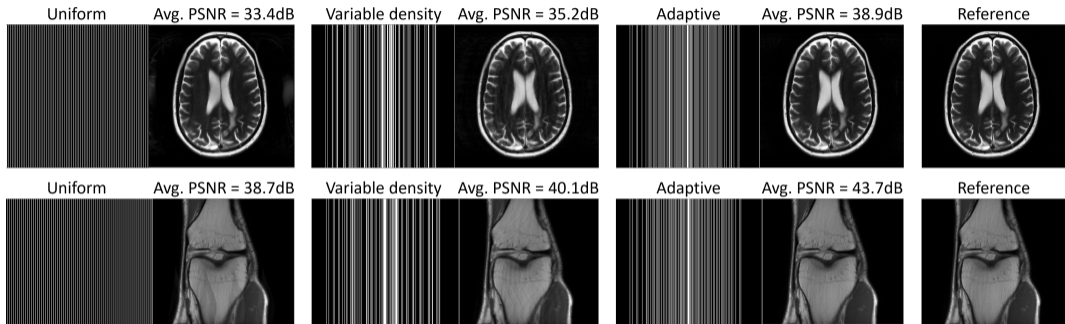


- ▶ Goal: shorten MRI scan by adaptive sampling
“Adaptive sampling for linear sensing systems via Langevin dynamics”
Guanhua Wang, D Noll, J Fessler, arXiv 2302.13468 2023 [70]
- ▶ Overview:
 - ▶ Pick image prior $p(\mathbf{x})$
 - ▶ Collect (incomplete) k-space data
 - ▶ Sample repeatedly from the posterior $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sim p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})$
 - ▶ Predict missing measurements $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}}$
 - ▶ Select new k-space samples where posterior variance is highest
 - ▶ Repeat

Related image-domain adaptive sampling: Godaliyadda et al., ICASSP 2014 & IEEE T-CI 2018 [13, 71]

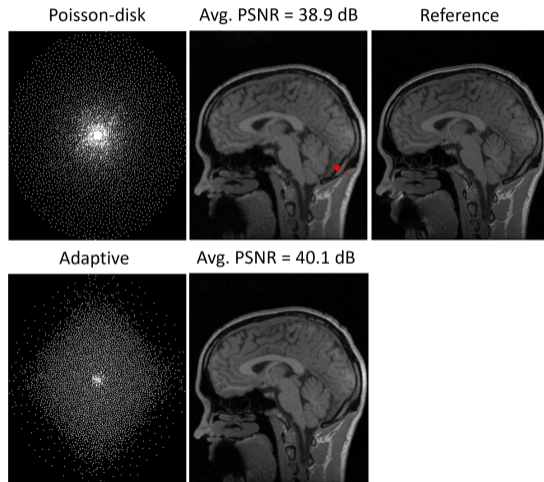
Require: Score function $f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \nabla \log p(\mathbf{x})$ (score matching or hand crafted)

- 1: Acquire initial k-space measurements \mathbf{y}^0
- 2: **for** $k = 1$ to N_{add} **do**
- 3: **for** $i = 1$ to N_{sample} **do**
- 4: **for** $t = 1$ to N_{step} **do**
- 5: Initialize $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_0$; sample from posterior via Langevin MC:
- 6:
$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_t = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1} + \mu_t f_{\theta}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1}) - \mu_t \eta_t \mathbf{A}'(\mathbf{A}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{t-1} - \mathbf{y}^{(k)}) + \sqrt{2\mu_t} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$
- 7: **end for**
- 8:
$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^{(k)} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{N_{\text{add}}}$$
- 9:
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_i^{(k)} = \mathbf{A} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_i^{(k)}$$
- 10: **end for**
- 11:
$$l = \arg \max_{n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N_{\text{sample}}\}} \text{Var}\{[\hat{\mathbf{y}}_1^{(k)}]_n, \dots, [\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{N_{\text{sample}}}^{(k)}]_n\}$$
- 12: Acquire measurement index l , concatenate with previous: $\mathbf{y}^{(k)} = [\mathbf{y}^{(k-1)}, y_l]$.
- 13: **end for**

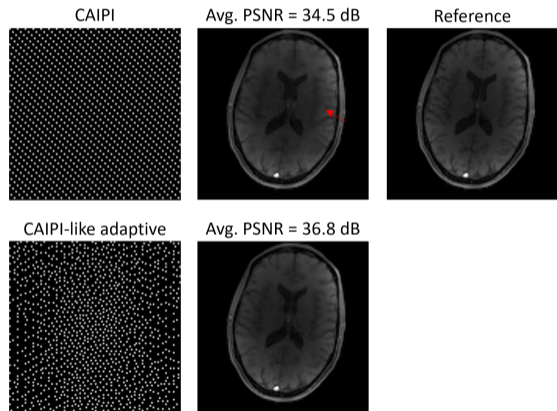


- ▶ $10\times$ acceleration, $N_{\text{add}} = 50$, $N_{\text{step}} = 200$, $N_{\text{sample}} = 8 - 10$
- ▶ PSNR averaged over 20 test cases
- ▶ Hand-crafted roughness regularizer: $\nabla \log p(\mathbf{x}) = \nabla \frac{\beta}{2} \|\mathbf{T}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \beta \mathbf{T}' \mathbf{T}\mathbf{x}$

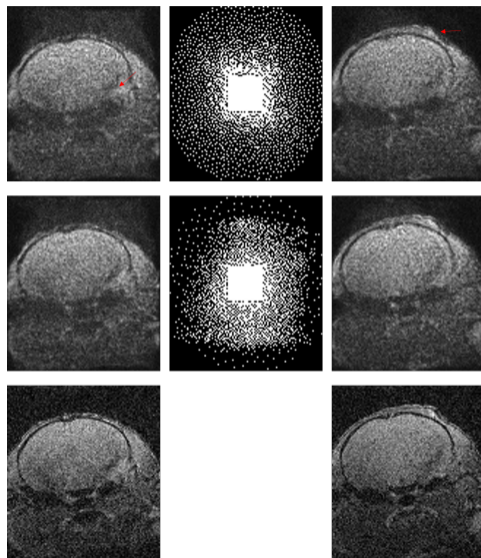
- ▶ $12\times$ acceleration
- ▶ Hand-crafted roughness regularizer
- ▶ PSNR for 10 test cases



- ▶ $10\times$ acceleration
- ▶ U-Net noise-conditional score model
Song et al., ICLR 2021 [72]
- ▶ Trained with fastMRI data
- ▶ PSNR for 16 test cases:
out-of-distribution GRE images



- ▶ 4× acceleration
- ▶ U-Net score model
- ▶ Very out-of-distribution!
- ▶ Adaptive sampling
 - optimized with 1st frame
 - applied to 17th frame
- ▶ Top to bottom:
 - Poisson disk
 - Adaptive
 - Reference



Frame 1

Sampling pattern

Frame 17

- ▶ Compare patient adaptive to population adaptive
- ▶ Accelerate sampling process, e.g., using a latent space [73–75]
- ▶ Find compelling applications. Dynamic imaging?
- ▶ Better criteria than posterior marginal variances?
- ▶ ...

Talk and code available online at
<http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler>



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