

Inverse problem regularization using adaptive signal models



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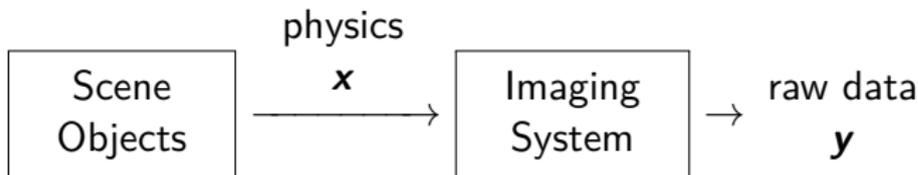
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Work with Sai Ravishankar, Il Yong Chun, Raj Nadakuditi, Yong
Long, Xuehang Zheng, ...

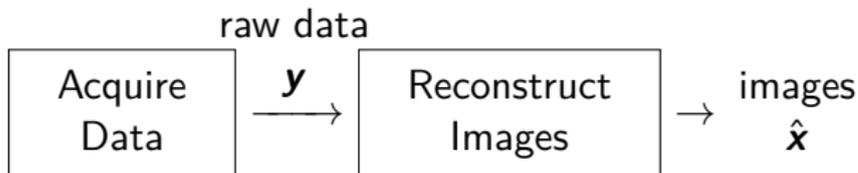
IMACCS
2018-06-04

- ▶ 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.

1. “Analytical” methods
FBP for SPECT / PET / X-ray CT, IFFT for MRI, ...
2. Iterative / statistical methods
 - LS / ML methods
 - regularized / Bayesian methods
3. **Adaptive / data-driven** methods

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**

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

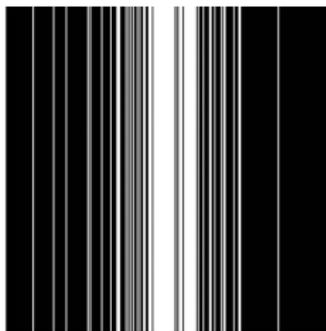
Regularized EM variant (Q.Clear) 2014-03-21

- ▶ MRI

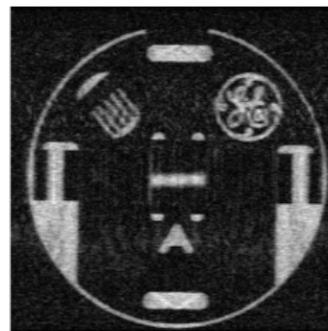
Compressed sensing! (Sparsity-based regularization)
[2017-01-27 for Siemens Cardiac Cine]
[2017-04-20 for GE HyperSense]

- ▶ Ultrasound?

Accelerating MR imaging using adaptive regularization



(a)



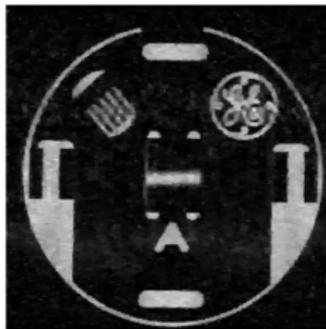
(b)

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

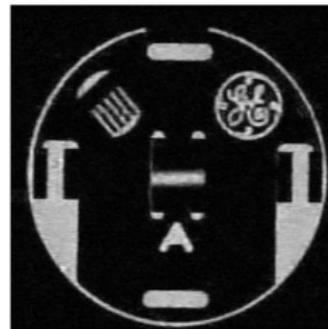
(b) zero-filled reconstruction

(c) “compressed sensing” reconstruction with TV regularization

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



(c)



(d)

Background

Ill-posed problems and regularization

- Classical “hand crafted” regularizers

Adaptive regularization

- Patch-based adaptive regularizers

- Convolutional adaptive regularizers

- Blind dictionary learning

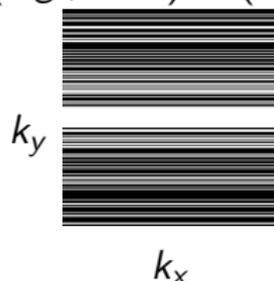
Summary

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

\mathbf{y} : measurements $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$: noise

\mathbf{x} : unknown image \mathbf{A} : system matrix (typically wide)

- ▶ compressed sensing (e.g., MRI) (\mathbf{A} “random” rows of DFT)



- ▶ deblurring (restoration) (\mathbf{A} Toeplitz)
- ▶ in-painting (\mathbf{A} subset of rows of \mathbf{I})
- ▶ denoising (not ill posed) ($\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{I}$)

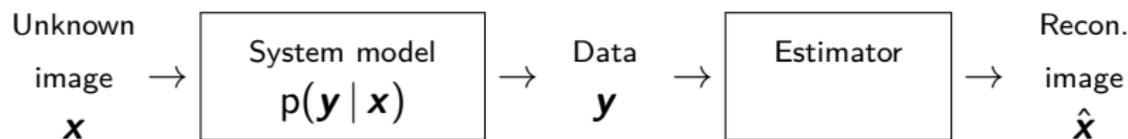
Why under-sample in MRI?

- ▶ 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 $p(\mathbf{x})$, then the MAP estimate is:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y}) = \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) + \log p(\mathbf{x}).$$

For gaussian measurement errors and a linear forward model:

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

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

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

- ▶ If all images \mathbf{x} are “plausible” (have non-zero probability) then

$$p(\mathbf{x}) \propto e^{-R(\mathbf{x})} \implies -\log p(\mathbf{x}) \equiv R(\mathbf{x})$$

(from fantasy / imagination / wishful thinking / data)

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

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}} &= \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) + \log p(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 + R(\mathbf{x})\end{aligned}$$

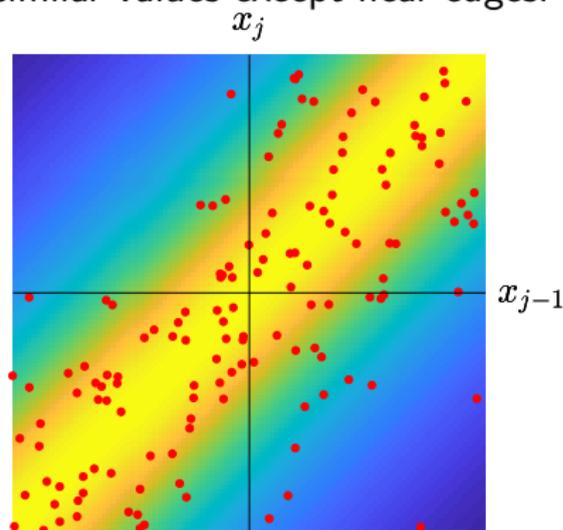
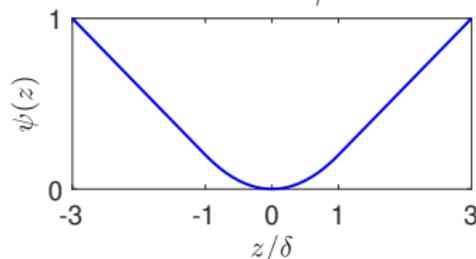
- ▶ A regularizer $R(\mathbf{x})$, aka log prior, is essential for high-quality solutions to ill-conditioned / ill-posed inverse problems.
- ▶ Why ill-posed? Often high ambitions...

- ▶ 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

Neighboring pixels tend to have similar values except near edges:

$$R(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \sum_j \psi(x_j - x_{j-1})$$

Potential function ψ :



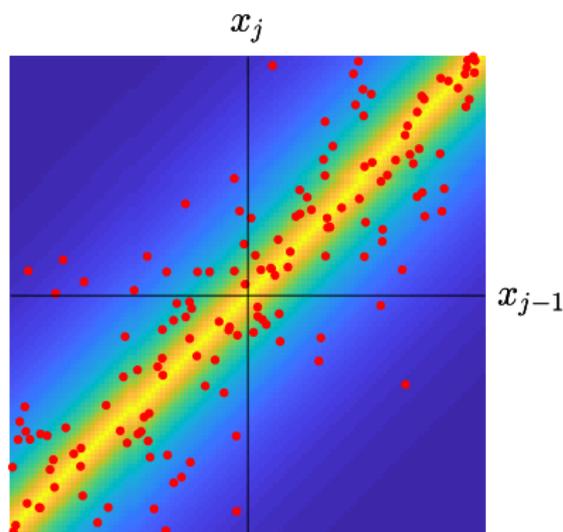
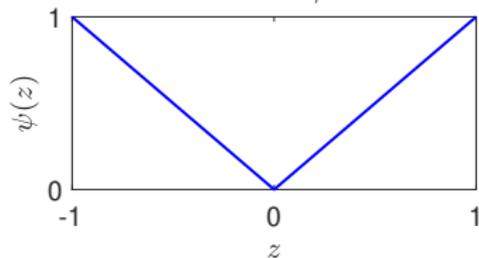
- Equivalent to improper prior (agnostic to DC value)
- Accounts for spatial correlations, but only very locally
- Used clinically now for low-dose X-ray CT image reconstruction

Total-variation (TV) regularization

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 R(\mathbf{x}) &= \beta \text{TV}(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \|\Delta \mathbf{x}\|_1 \\
 &= \beta \sum_j |x_j - x_{j-1}|
 \end{aligned}$$

Potential function ψ :



- ▶ 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” ...

Background

Ill-posed problems and regularization

Classical “hand crafted” regularizers

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
- ▶ Spatial structure
 - ▶ Patch-based models
 - ▶ Convolutional models
- ▶ Regularizer formulation
 - ▶ Synthesis (dictionary) approach
 - ▶ Analysis (sparsifying transforms) approach

Many options...

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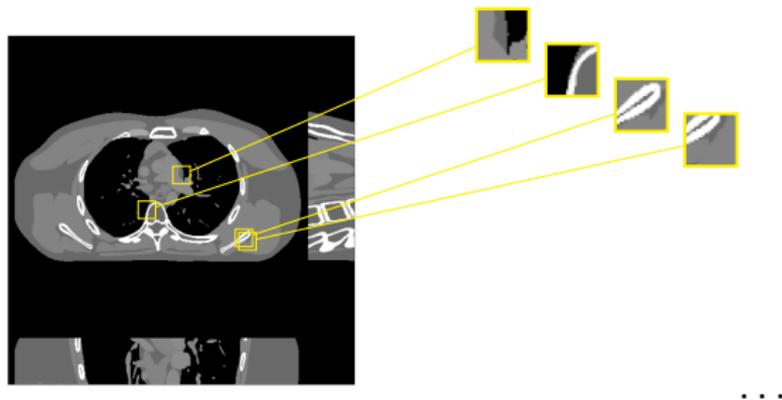
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Assumption: if \mathbf{x} is a plausible image, then each $\Omega \mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x}$ is sparse.

- ▶ $\mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x}$ extracts the m th of M patches from \mathbf{x}
- ▶ Ω is a square sparsifying transform matrix



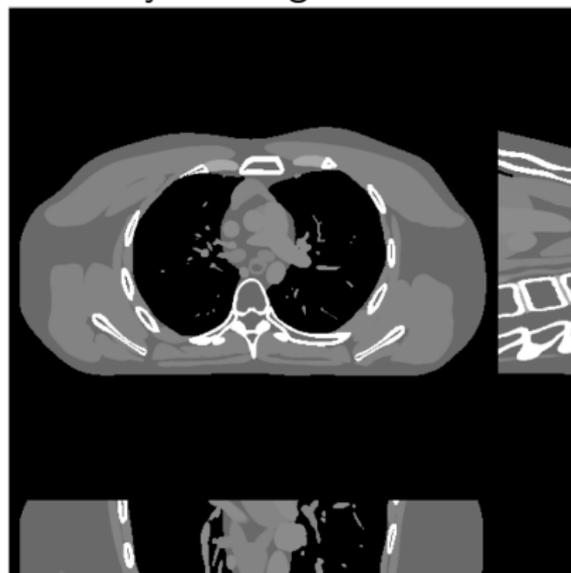
Given training images $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_L$ from a representative population, find transform Ω_* that best sparsifies their patches:

$$\Omega_* = \arg \min_{\Omega \text{ unitary}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,m}\}} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{m=1}^M \|\Omega \mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{z}_{l,m}\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_{l,m}\|_0$$

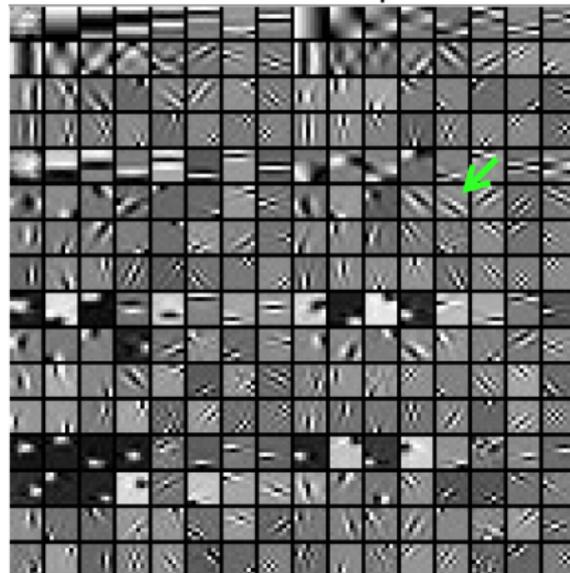
- ▶ Encourage aggregate sparsity, not patch-wise sparsity (cf K-SVD [2])
- ▶ Non-convex due to unitary constraint and $\|\cdot\|_0$
- ▶ Efficient alternating minimization algorithm [3]
 - \mathbf{z} update is simply hard thresholding
 - Ω update is an orthogonal Procrustes problem (SVD)
 - Subsequence convergence guarantees [3]

Example of learned sparsifying transform

3D X-ray training data



Parts of learned sparsifier Ω_*



(2D slices in x-y, x-z, y-z)

$8 \times 8 \times 8$ patches $\implies \Omega_*$ is $8^3 \times 8^3 = 512 \times 512$

top 8×8 slice of 256 of the 512 rows of Ω_* \uparrow

Regularized inverse problem [4]:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{y}\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 + \beta \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x})$$

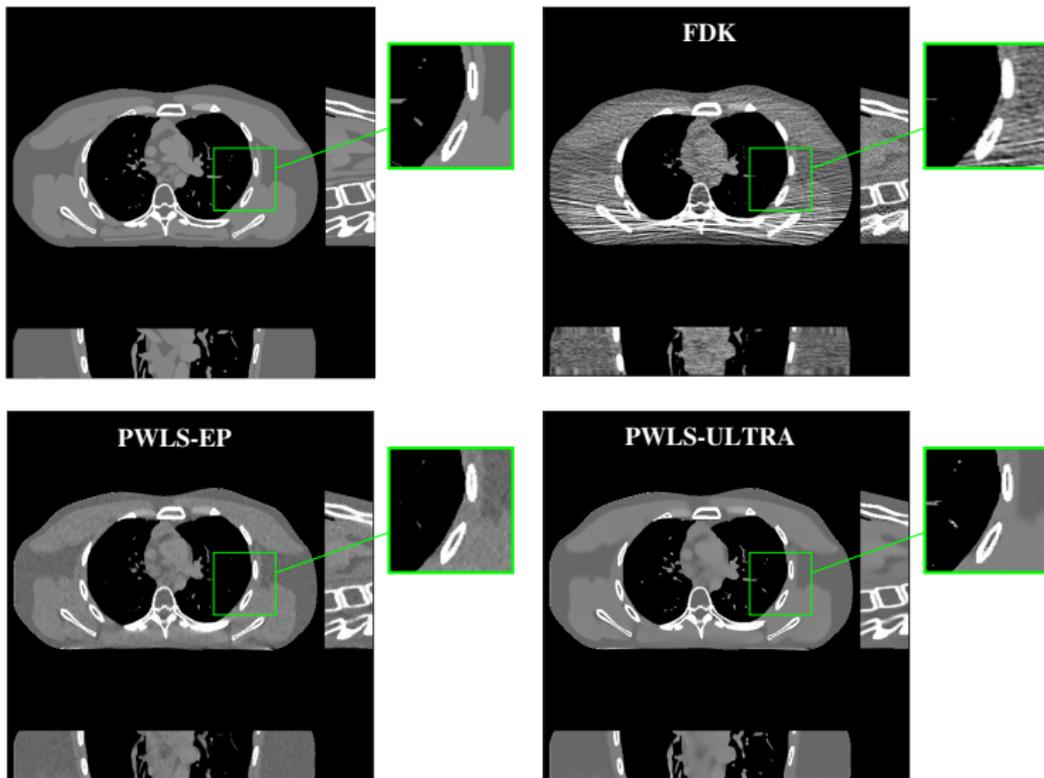
$$\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_m\}} \sum_{m=1}^M \|\Omega_* \mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}_m\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_m\|_0.$$

Ω_* adapted to population training data

Alternating minimization optimizer:

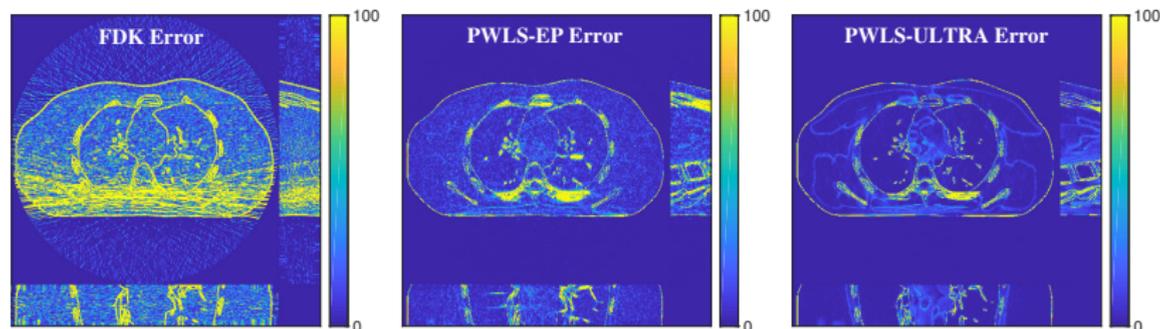
- ▶ \mathbf{z}_m update is simple hard thresholding
- ▶ \mathbf{x} update is a quadratic problem: many options
Linearized augmented Lagrangian method (LALM) [5]

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



X-ray Intensity	RMSE in HU				
	FDK	EP	ST Ω_*	ULTRA	ULTRA- $\{\tau_j\}$
1×10^4	67.8	34.6	32.1	30.7	29.2
5×10^3	89.0	41.1	37.3	35.7	34.2

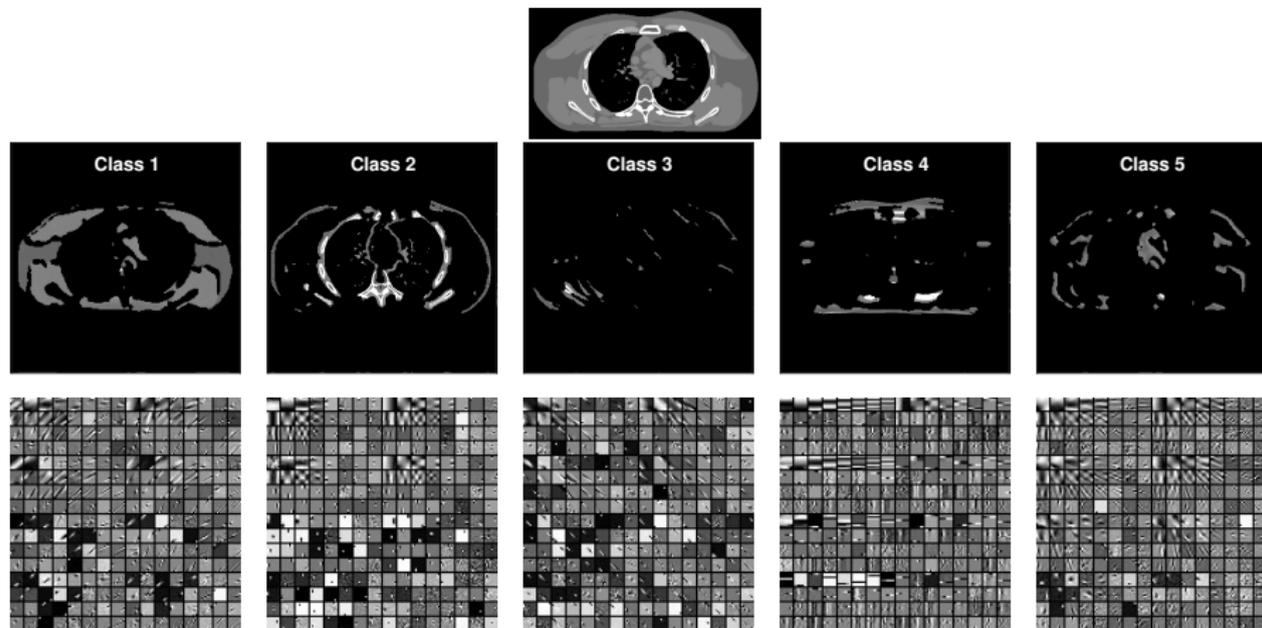
- ▶ Physics / statistics provides dramatic improvement
- ▶ Data adaptive regularization further reduces RMSE

Given training images $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_L$ from a representative population, find a **set** of transforms $\{\hat{\Omega}_k\}_{k=1}^K$ that best sparsify image patches:

$$\{\hat{\Omega}_k\} = \arg \min_{\{\Omega_k \text{ unitary}\}} \min_{\{k_{l,m} \in \{1, \dots, K\}\}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,m}\}} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{m=1}^M \left\| \Omega_{k_{l,m}} \mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{z}_{l,m} \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_{l,m}\|_0$$

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

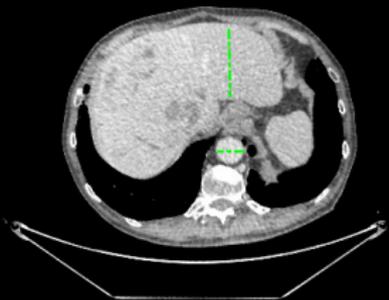
Example: 3D X-ray CT learned set of transforms



X. Zheng, S. Ravishankar, Y. Long, JF: IEEE T-MI, June 2018 [4]

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

FDK



PWLS-EP



PWLS-ULTRA



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Drawback of basic patch-based methods:

$512 \times 512 \times 512$ 3D X-ray CT image volume

$8 \times 8 \times 8$ patches

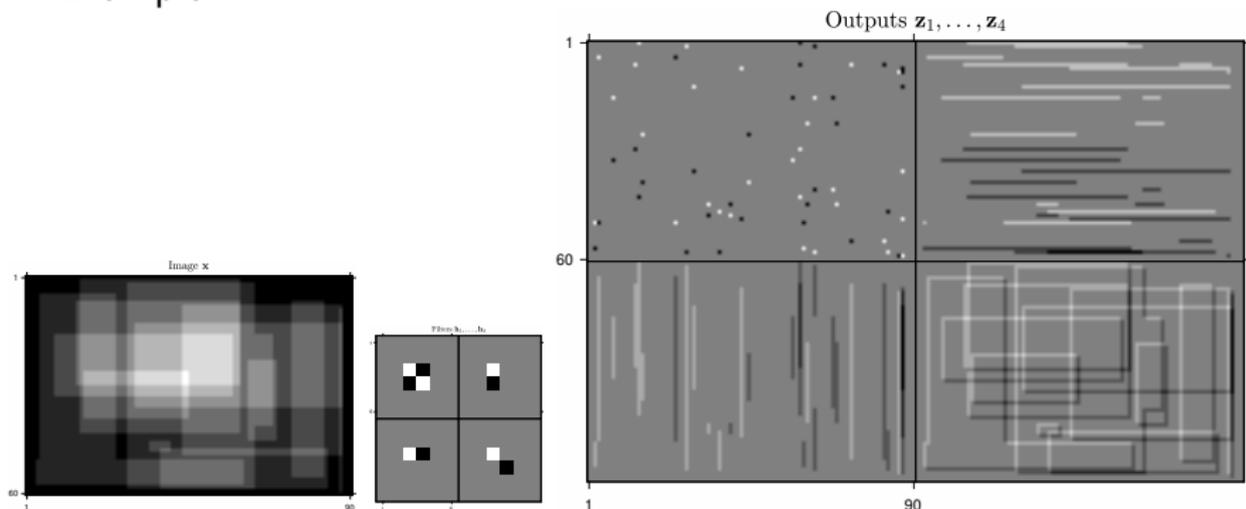
$\implies 512^3 \cdot 8^3 \cdot 4 = 256$ Gbyte of patch data for stride=1

Convolutional sparsity model

Assumption: There is a set of filters $\{\mathbf{h}_k\}_{k=1}^K$ such that $\{\mathbf{h}_k * \mathbf{x}\}$ are sparse for a plausible image \mathbf{x} .

- ▶ For more plausible images, $\{\mathbf{h}_k * \mathbf{x}\}$ is more sparse.
- ▶ $*$ denotes convolution
- ▶ Inherently shift invariant and no patches

Example:



Sparsifying filter learning (population adaptive)

Given training images $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_L$ from a representative population, find filters $\{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k\}_{k=1}^K$ that best sparsify them:

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k\} = \arg \min_{\{\mathbf{h}_k\} \in \mathcal{H}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,k}\}} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{k=1}^K \|\mathbf{h}_k * \mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{z}_{l,k}\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_{l,k}\|_0$$

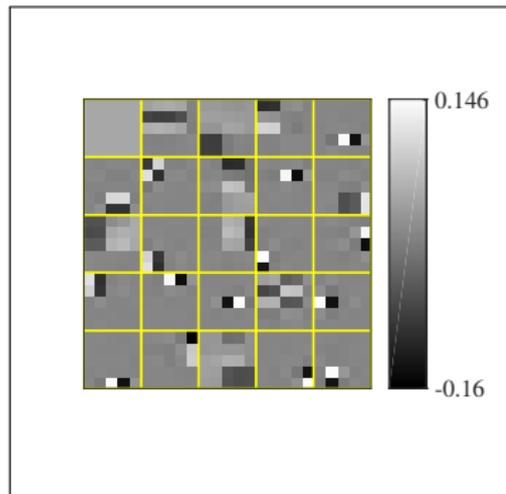
- ▶ To encourage filter diversity:
 - $\mathcal{H} = \{\mathbf{H} : \mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}' = \mathbf{I}\}$, $\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{h}_1 \dots \mathbf{h}_K]$
 - cf. tight-frame condition $\sum_{k=1}^K \|\mathbf{h}_k * \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \propto \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2$
- ▶ Encourage aggregate sparsity, period
- ▶ Non-convex due to constraint \mathcal{H} and $\|\cdot\|_0$
- ▶ Efficient alternating minimization algorithm [7]
 - \mathbf{z} update is simply hard thresholding
 - Filter update uses diagonal majorizer, proximal map (SVD)
 - Subsequence convergence guarantees [7]

Examples of learned sparsifying filters

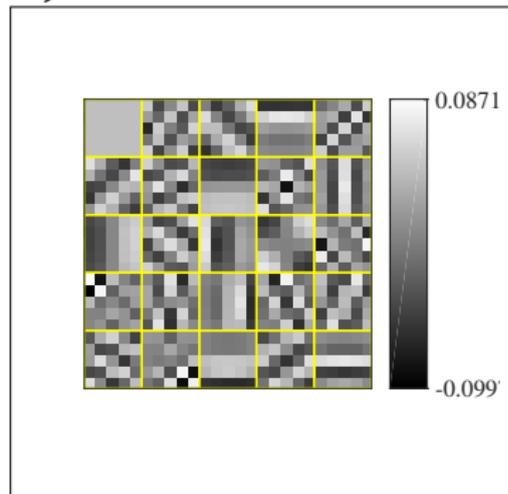
2D X-ray CT training data:



Learned 5×5 sparsifying filters $\{\hat{h}_k\}$ [7]:



$\alpha = 10^{-4}$



$\alpha = 2 \times 10^{-3}$

Regularized inverse problem [7]:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \succeq \mathbf{0}} \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{y}\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 + \beta \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_k\}} \sum_{k=1}^K \left\| \hat{\mathbf{h}}_k * \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}_k \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{z}_k\|_0.$$

$\{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k\}$ adapted to population training data

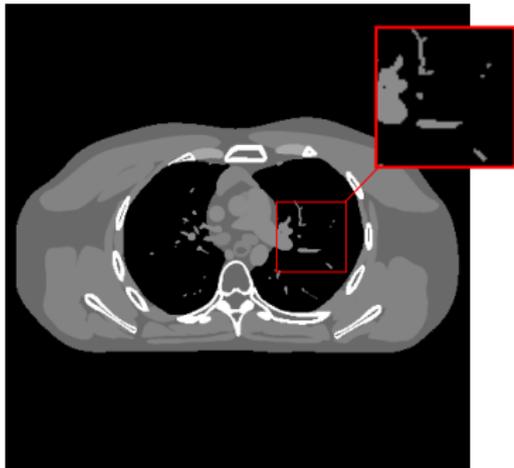
Block proximal gradient with majorizer (BPG-M) optimizer:

- ▶ \mathbf{z}_k update is simple hard thresholding
- ▶ \mathbf{x} update is a quadratic problem: diagonal majorizer

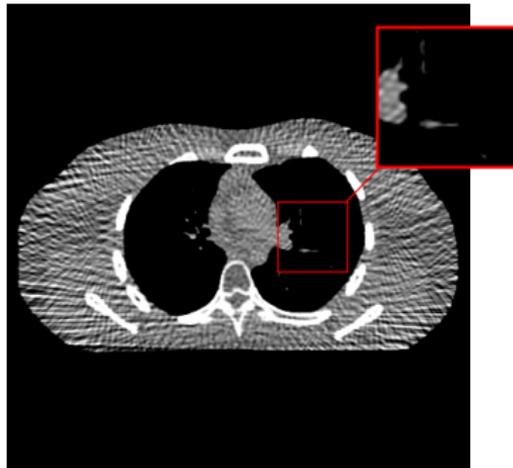
I. Y. Chun, JF, 2018, arXiv 1802.05584 [7]

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

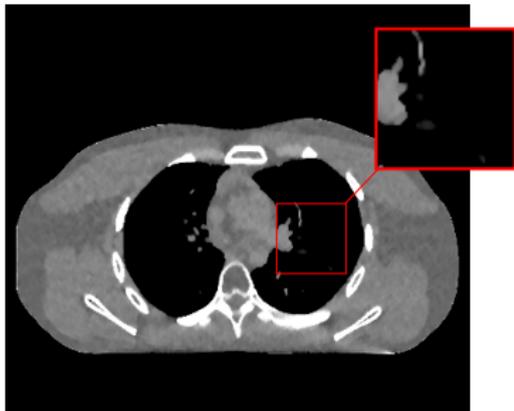
True



FBP



EP



Adaptive CAOL



123 views (out of usual 984) \implies $8\times$ 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

Extension to multiple layers (cf CNN) I



Convolutional sparsity model: $\mathbf{h}_k * \mathbf{x}$ is sparse for $k = 1, \dots, K_1$
Learning 1 “layer” of filters:

$$\{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^{[1]}\} = \arg \min_{\{\mathbf{h}_k^{[1]}\} \in \mathcal{H}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]}\}} \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{k=1}^{K_1} \left\| \mathbf{h}_k^{[1]} * \mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \left\| \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_0$$

Learning 2 layers of filters [7]:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^{[1]}\}, \{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_k^{[2]}\} \right) &= \arg \min_{\{\mathbf{h}_k^{[1]}\}, \{\mathbf{h}_k^{[2]}\} \in \mathcal{H}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]}\}} \min_{\{\mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[2]}\}} \\ &\sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{k=1}^{K_1} \left\| \mathbf{h}_k^{[1]} * \mathbf{x}_l - \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \left\| \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[1]} \right\|_0 \\ &+ \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{k=1}^{K_2} \left\| \mathbf{h}_k^{[2]} * \left(\mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{z}_l^{[1]} \right) - \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[2]} \right\|_2^2 + \alpha \left\| \mathbf{z}_{l,k}^{[2]} \right\|_0 \end{aligned}$$

Here \mathbf{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 [7]

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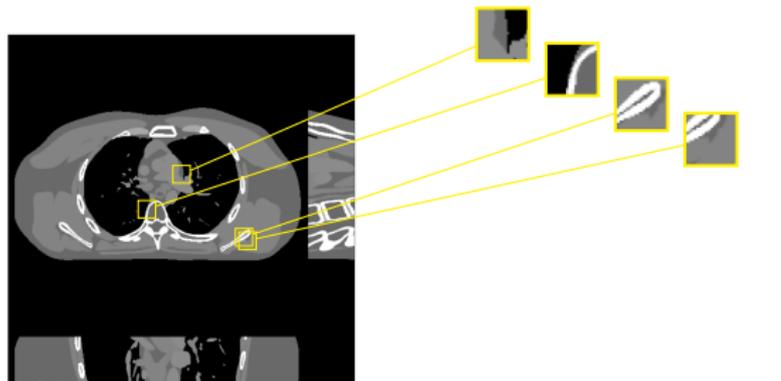
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Assumption: if \mathbf{x} is a plausible image, then each patch has

$$\mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{D} \mathbf{z}_m,$$

for a sparse coefficient vector \mathbf{z}_m . (Synthesis approach.)

- ▶ $\mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x}$ extracts the m th of M patches from \mathbf{x}
- ▶ \mathbf{D} is a (typically overcomplete) dictionary for patches



Dictionary-blind MR image reconstruction:

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

$$\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \min_{\mathbf{D} \in \mathcal{D}} \min_{\mathbf{Z}' \in \mathcal{C}} \sum_{m=1}^M \left(\|\mathbf{P}_m \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D} \mathbf{z}_m\|_2^2 + \lambda^2 \|\mathbf{z}_m\|_0 \right)$$

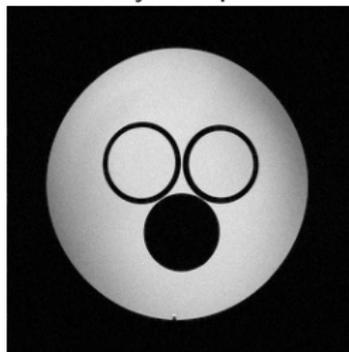
where \mathbf{P}_m extracts m th of M image patches.

In words: of the many images...

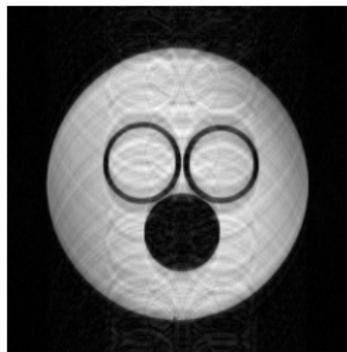
Alternating (nested) minimization:

- ▶ Fixing \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{D} , update each row of $\mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{z}_1 \ \dots \ \mathbf{z}_M]$ sequentially via hard-thresholding.
- ▶ Fixing \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{Z} , update \mathbf{D} using SOUP-DIL [8].
- ▶ Fixing \mathbf{Z} and \mathbf{D} , updating \mathbf{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 [8].

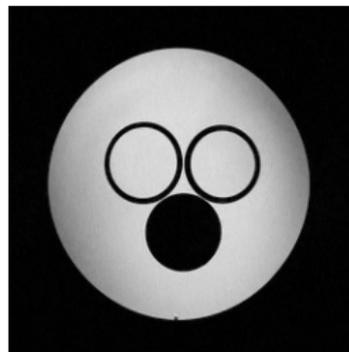
Fully Sampled



Zero-Filled



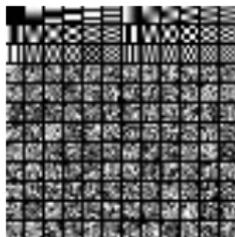
SOUP-DILLO-MRI



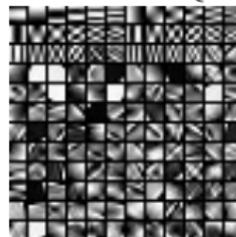
Sampling (2.5 \times)



Initial D



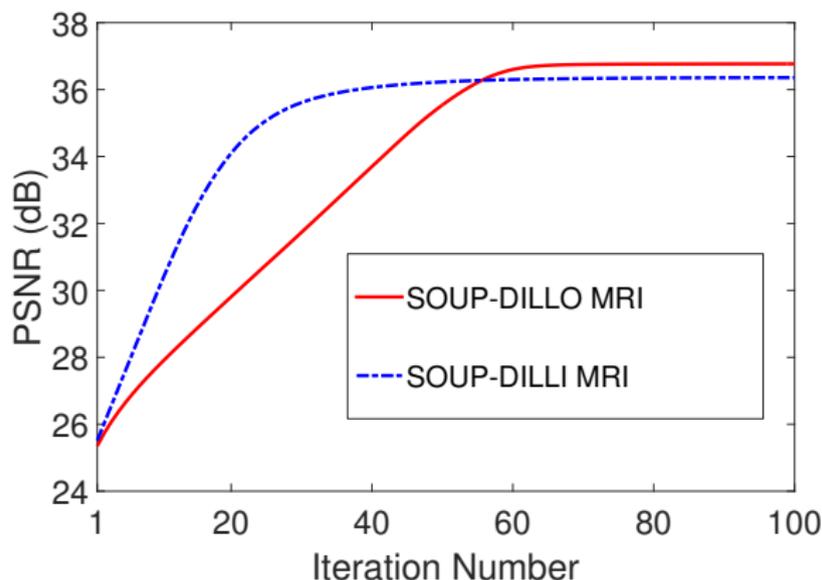
Learned real $\{D\}$



6×6 patches

$$D \in \mathbb{C}^{6^2 \times 144}$$

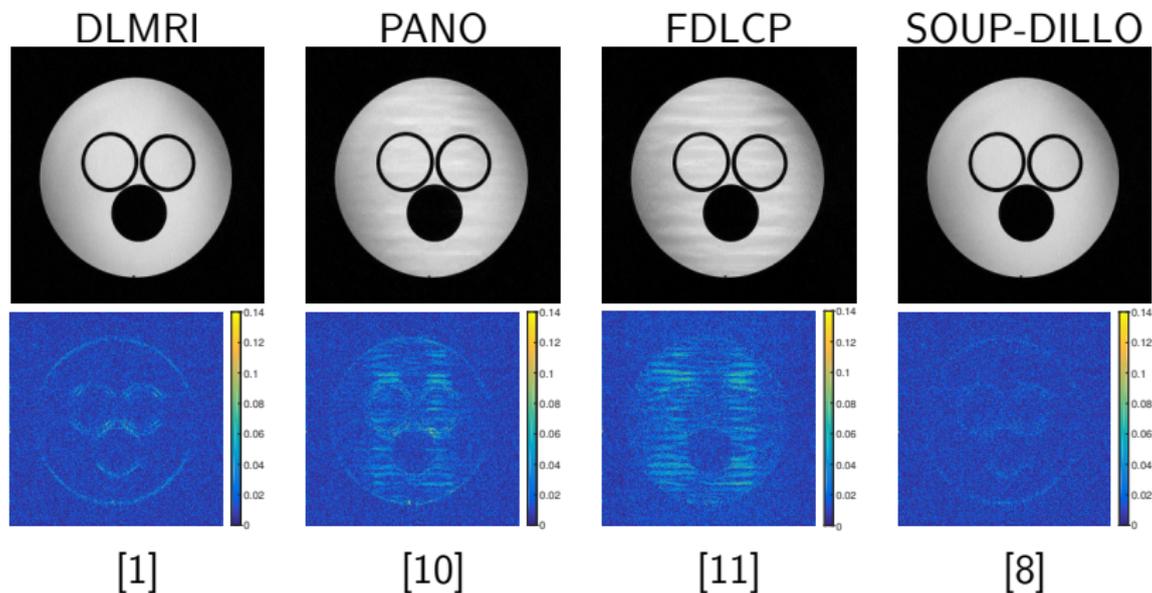
[8]



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



Im.	Samp.	Acc.	0-fill	Sparse MRI	PANO	DLMRI	SOUP-DILLI	SOUP-DILLO
a	Cart.	7x	27.9	28.6	31.1	31.1	30.8	31.1
b	Cart.	2.5x	27.7	31.6	41.3	40.2	38.5	42.3
c	Cart.	2.5x	24.9	29.9	34.8	36.7	36.6	37.3
c	Cart.	4x	25.9	28.8	32.3	32.1	32.2	32.3
d	Cart.	2.5x	29.5	32.1	36.9	38.1	36.7	38.4
e	Cart.	2.5x	28.1	31.7	40.0	38.0	37.9	41.5
f	2D rand.	5x	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.				[9]	[10]	[1]	[8]	[8]



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 [12–15]
 - Adaptive methods versus “deep” methods?
 - Prospective use

June 2016 special issue of IEEE Trans. on Medical Imaging [16]:



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Image Reconstruction Is a New Frontier of Machine Learning

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