

# Mathematical Foundations of Data Sciences



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October 7, 2017



# Chapter 2

## Convex Duality

Main ref [5, 6, 3], [8, 2, 1]  
TODO.

### 2.1 Forward-backward on the Dual

**Chambolle's algorithm.** Chambolle in [4] detail an algorithm to minimize exactly the TV denoising problem

$$f_\lambda^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{g \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{2} \|f - g\|^2 + \lambda \|g\|_{\text{TV}}. \quad (2.1)$$

It uses a relationship between the vectorial  $\ell^1$  and  $\ell^\infty$  norms

$$\|v\|_1 = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \|v_m\| \quad \text{and} \quad \|v\|_\infty = \max_{0 \leq m < N} \|v_m\|$$

where each  $v_m \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $v \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 2}$ . One has

$$\|v\|_1 = \max_{\|w\|_\infty \leq 1} \langle w, v \rangle$$

which allows one to re-write the optimization (2.1) as

$$\min_{g \in \mathbb{R}^N} \max_{\|w\|_\infty \leq 1} \frac{1}{2} \|f - g\|^2 + \lambda \langle w, \nabla g \rangle.$$

Exchanging the roles of the min and the max, one proves that the solution of (2.1) is re-written as

$$f_\lambda^* = f + \lambda \operatorname{div}(w^*) \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$w^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\|w\|_\infty \leq 1} \|f + \lambda \operatorname{div}(w)\|^2. \quad (2.3)$$

The convex optimization problem (2.3) computes a dual vector field  $w^* \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 2}$ , from which the denoised image is recovered using (2.2).

The dual problem (2.3) is the minimization of a quadratic functional subject to a convex  $\ell^\infty$  constraint. It can thus be solved using for instance a projected gradient descent

$$w_m^{(k+1)} = \frac{\tilde{w}_m^{(k)}}{\max(|\tilde{w}_m^{(k)}|, 1)} \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{w}^{(k)} = w^{(k)} + \tau \nabla(f/\lambda + \operatorname{div}(w^{(k)})).$$

If the gradient step size satisfy  $0 < \tau < 1/4$ , one can prove that

$$f + \lambda \operatorname{div}(w^{(k)}) \longrightarrow f_{\lambda}^* \quad \text{when } k \rightarrow +\infty.$$

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