

**STATISTICAL ALGORITHMS  
FOR IMAGE RESTORATION FROM PROJECTIONS**  
or  
**Explorations of the heart**

alternative title for  
those close call  
competition f with afternoon  
soapies on TV

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Basilis Gidas, Brown**

TITLE:

When a picture is represented by pixels, ie ~~a~~ <sup>pictur</sup> a 2-d histogram

of the activity being generated, we naturally have a choice as to which level of resolution or scale to represent it.  
may help Keep in mind the analogy  
Analogies Correspondence to density estimation via histograms is close.

**1.1** Some ways in which we can make use of multiple scales  
2 & 3 are related to methods from multigrid solution of PDE's, elegant review is reference

OHP 2.1 Application is ~~SPECT~~ with one group of

MacQuarie is studying is SPECT, a medical imaging technique.

OHP 2.2 5x5 prototype, design probabilities  $p$ , ~~the~~  $\mu$  &  $\lambda$  notation  
activity in patient circle

**2.3** Restoration method studied here is EM

**2.4** May assess a restoration by CSQ or MSE.

We assess use of multiple scales

We evaluate the methods above in simulations <sup>plot activity</sup> ~~traverse~~  
using a myocardium-lung phantom. Cross sections  
It's translated into gray levels.

**4.1** EM restoration, 6 iterations

**4.2 - 4.4**

64 x 64 image, 32 proj  
~~64~~ matching res.  
about 10,000 scintillate counts per projection

**5.1** Nested iteration. Persistence of grid squares.

**5.2 - 5.4**

Introduce smoothing.

**6.1**

7. Smoothness trade off against fit to data.

Why does smoothing improve the fit to the data here? CSQ  
Persistence.

## 8. Coarse grid correction

- 8. OHP 8.1 Correction principle
- OHP 8.2 Two grid method
- OHP 8.3 5x5 prototype two grid experiment.
- OHP 8.4 Full multi grid

8.1

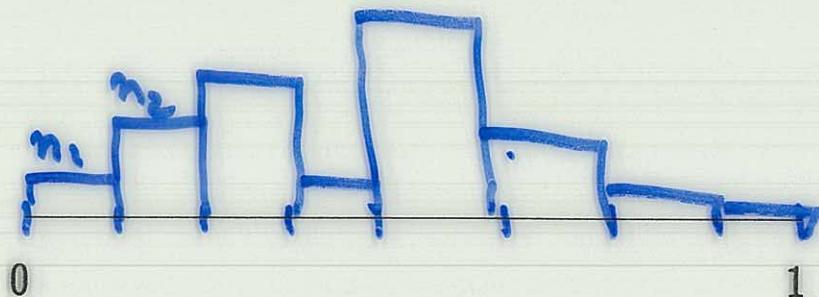
Full multi grid solution restoration.

8.2 - 8.4

Note: resolution of data basis was  
~~also~~

## 9. Review.

## 1 DIMENSIONAL ANALOGUE



A large number  $N$  of realisations of  $X$   
provide binned counts  $n_1, \dots, n_I$  (a histogram)

When  $X$  has convolution density  $a*f$  (with known  
error distribution  $a$ ), we wish to recover the underlying  
density  $f$ . "Deconvolution"

Example: deblur the Hubble telescope photos

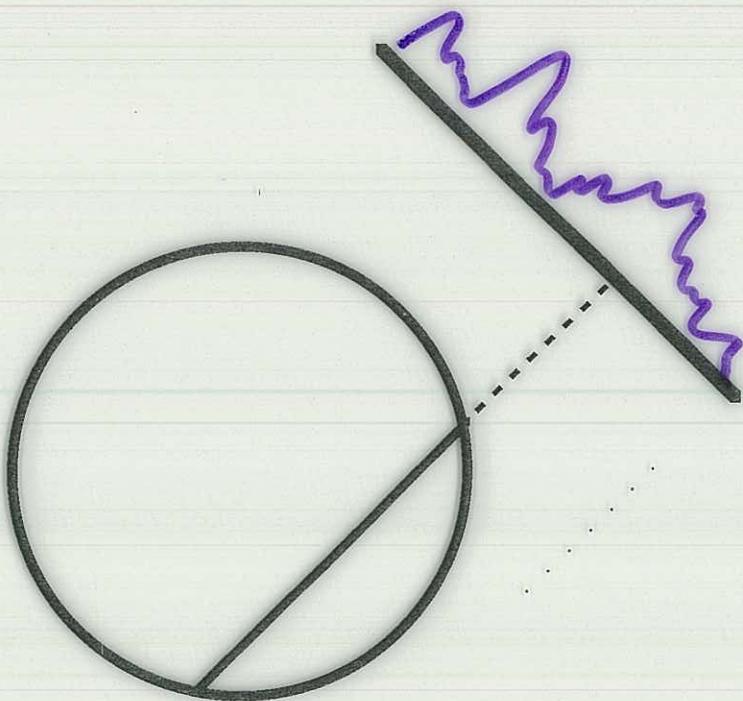
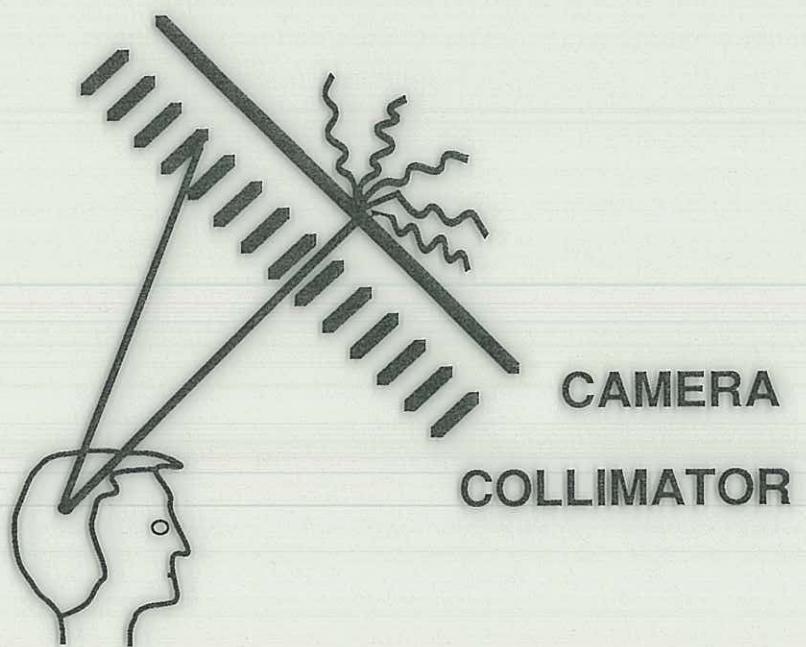
One approach is to write  $E(n_i) = \sum a_{ij} \lambda_j$

Estimating  $\{\lambda_j\}$  will then provide  
a discretised estimate of  $f$ .



## **OUTLINE**

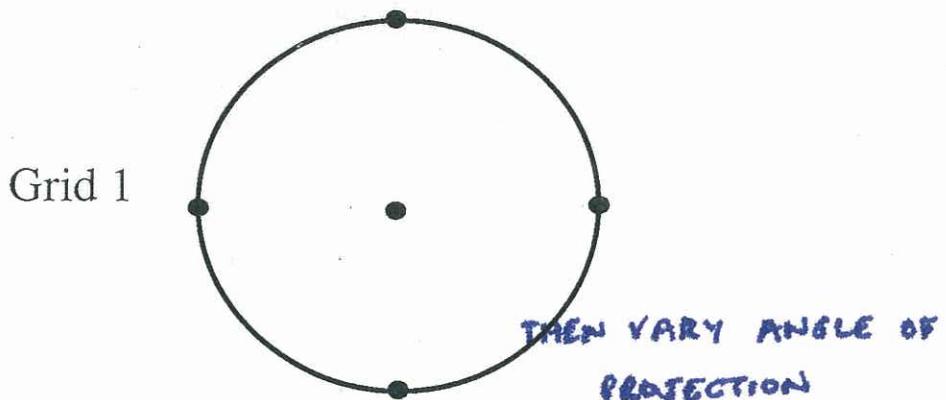
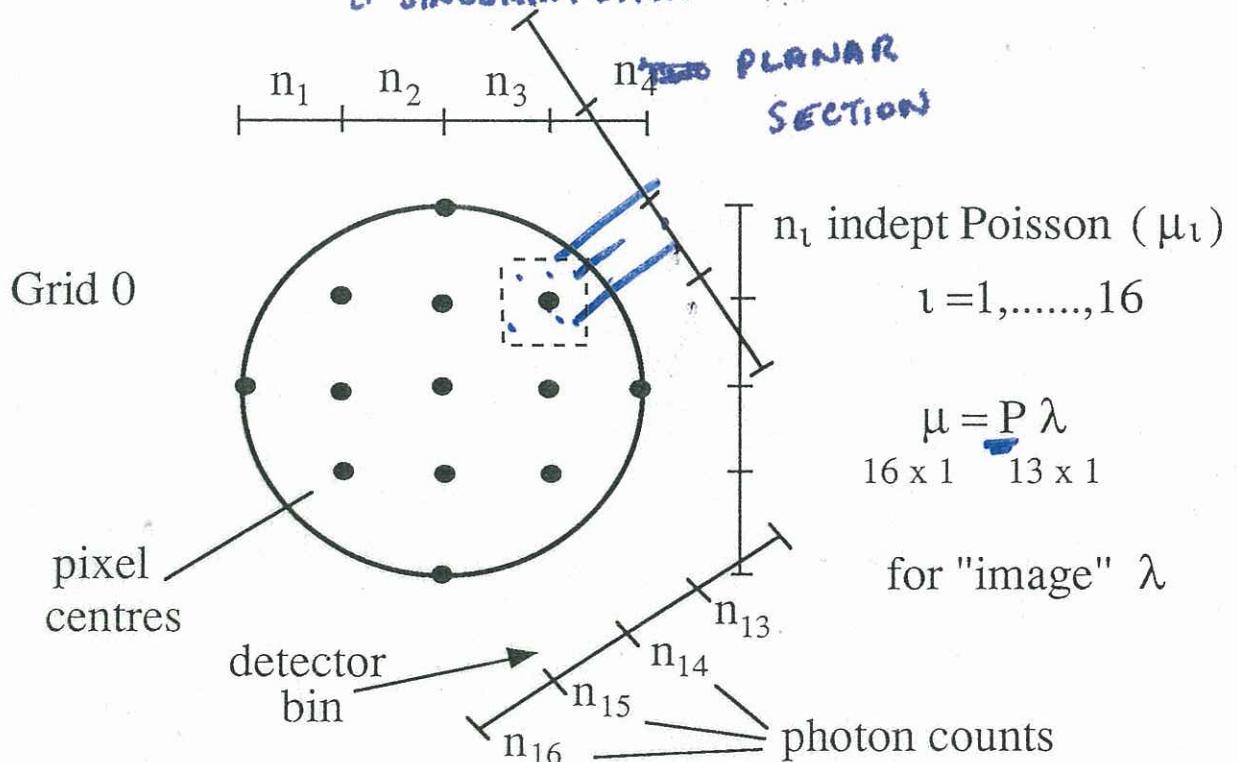
- o     **SPECT background,  
sinograms and restorations**
- o     **EM algorithm as an iterative reallocation  
("backprojection") of counts**
- o     **multi-scale versions and simulation results**
- o     **the 2-stage EM algorithm**
- o     **some other algorithms**
  - MFS**
  - dynamic EM**



## Ideal sensing

- would locate the source (e.g., pixel of origin) of each emission sensed  
level I data
- approximated by PET with time of flight recording
- observable data is a "histogram" of emission counts
- different pixels within a region of uniform activity may record different counts (Poisson variability).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACTIVITY INSIDE BODY  
& SINOGRAM DATA



CONVERT TO GRAY LEVELS IN SINOGRAM

OVERSIMPLIFICATION

Key: Data is Radon transform of image

Counts on projections must be reweight

PRIVILEGED  
THIS TALK:  
EXPLORING POTENTIAL  
IN EMISSION MEDICAL IMAGING APPLICATION.

## APPROACHES WITH MULTIPLE SCALES

1. NESTED ITERATION
2. COARSE GRID CORRECTION
3. FULL MULTI GRID

High Resolution  
Inexpensive, Very slow to settle  
MULTI SCALE GRID: SHORTCUT  
Low Res. Coarse Grid  
Settles down w/ fast, before iteration / & A.  
BEHAVIOR

## EM ALGORITHM IN SPECT

**Principle:** Redistribute detector bin counts of photons to pixels from which the photons may have originated . . . "back-projection"

**Mechanism:** Bayes rule

Let  $\tilde{x}$  be the (discretised) pixel of origin and  $\tilde{y}$  the bin location of a sensed emission

Then,

$$P(\tilde{x}=j \mid \tilde{y}=i) = \frac{\lambda_j p_{ij}}{\mu_i}$$

EM iteratively "improves" any image, creating a new image more consistent with the data.

← KEY  
TODAY

EM algorithm may be applied on any grid scale

## CRITERIA ASSESSING QUALITY OF RECONSTRUCTION

1. Agreement of projections with observed projection counts

e.g. 
$$\text{CSQ} = \sum \frac{(n_i - \mu_i)^2}{\mu_i}$$

2. Agreement on pixels (given the true picture)

e.g. 
$$\text{MSE} = \sum (\hat{\lambda}_j - \lambda_j)^2 / \sum \lambda_j$$

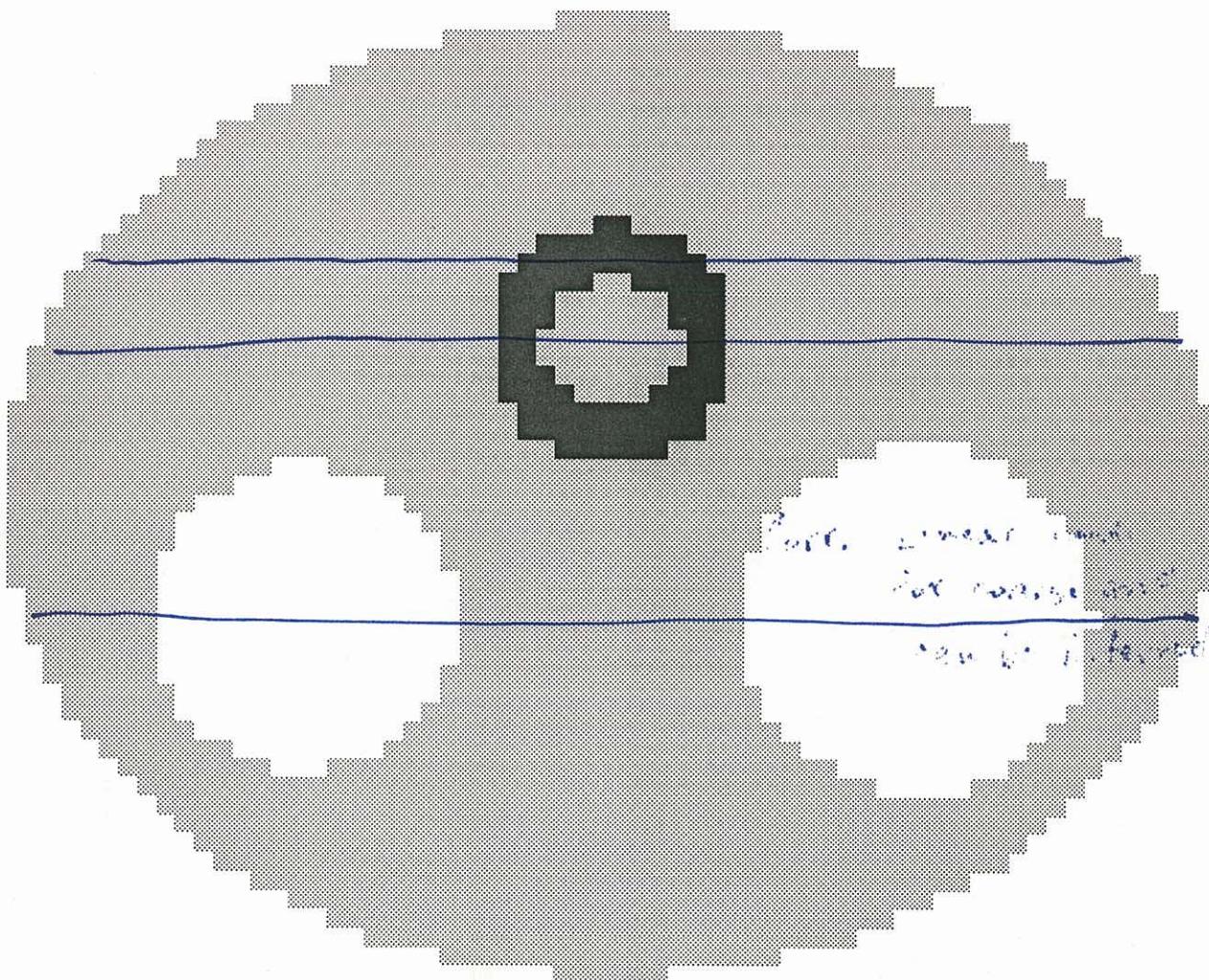
Our goal . . .

CONDUCTED A <sup>LARGE</sup>  
FULL SCALE SIMULATION  
REPRESENTS <sup>FE STUDY</sup>  
SMALL SCALE MODEL

USE A GEOMETRY

LAYER MODEL FOR DATA

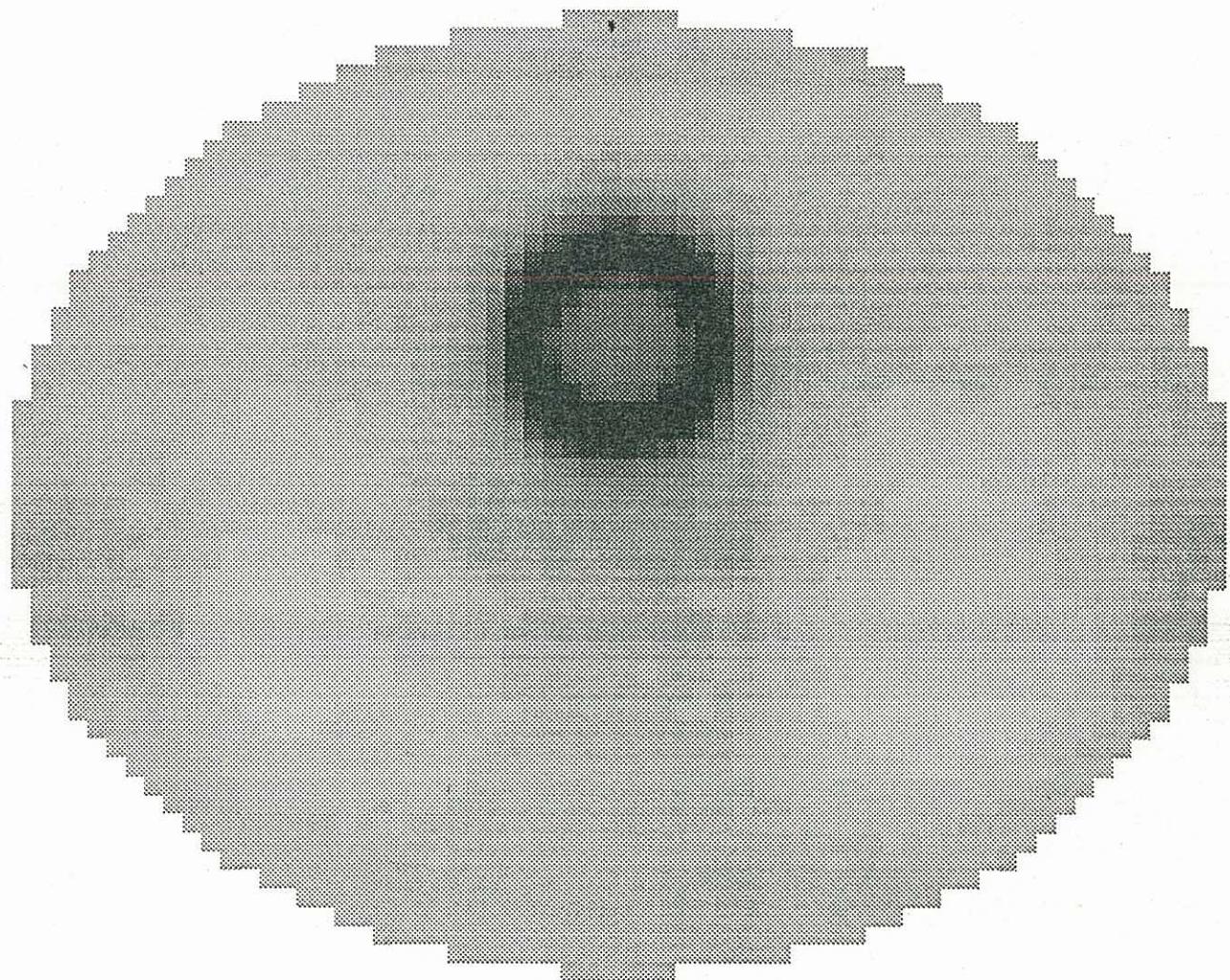
RD1.P - Original picture



$64 \times 64$   
draw the lines

RD1EM.PR - 6] 98s CSQ: 8244.019 MSE: 86.443

==



No cross sections yet

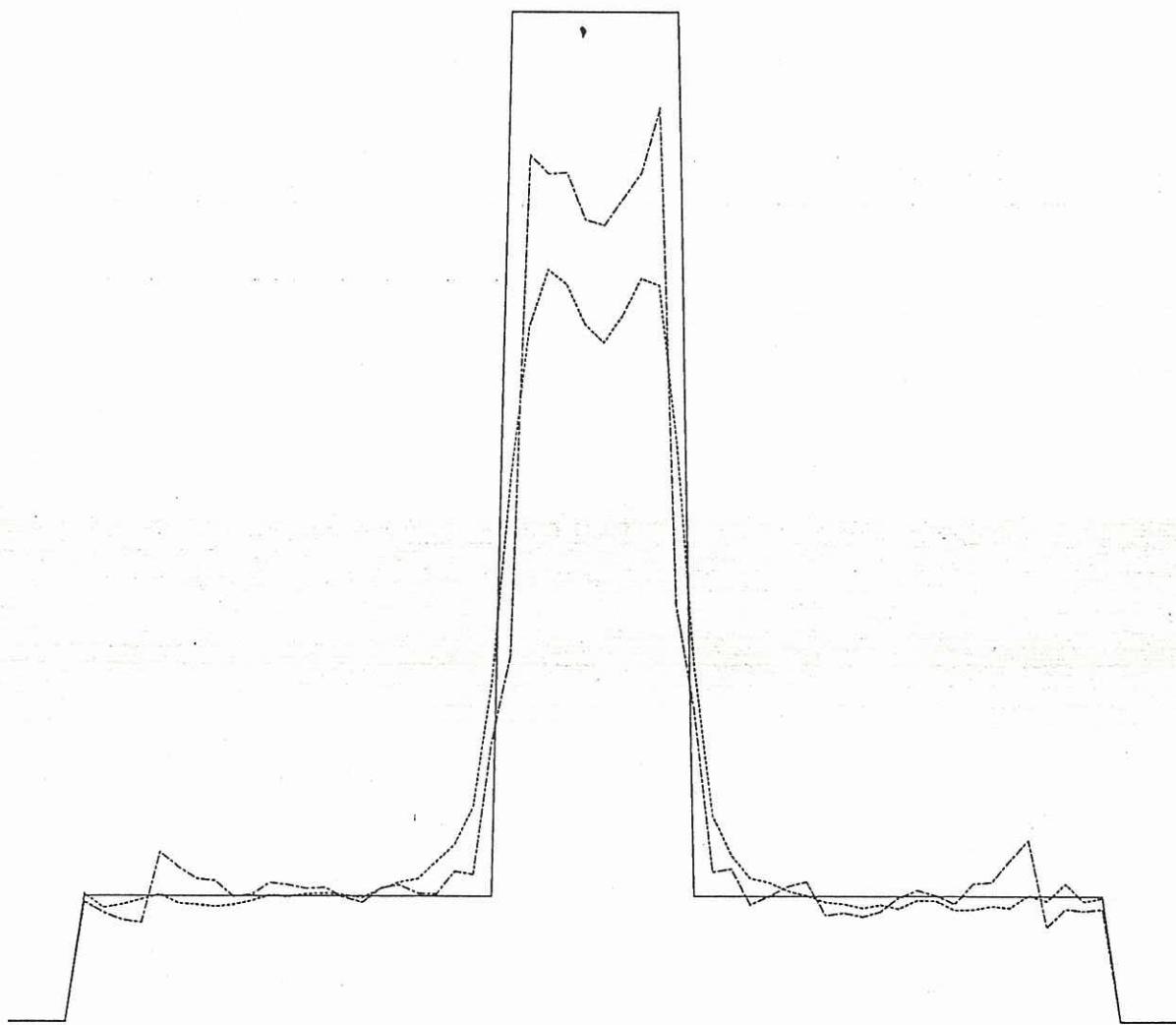
Next slide RD1M1

nested iteration  
(no smoothing)

sq grid artifacts

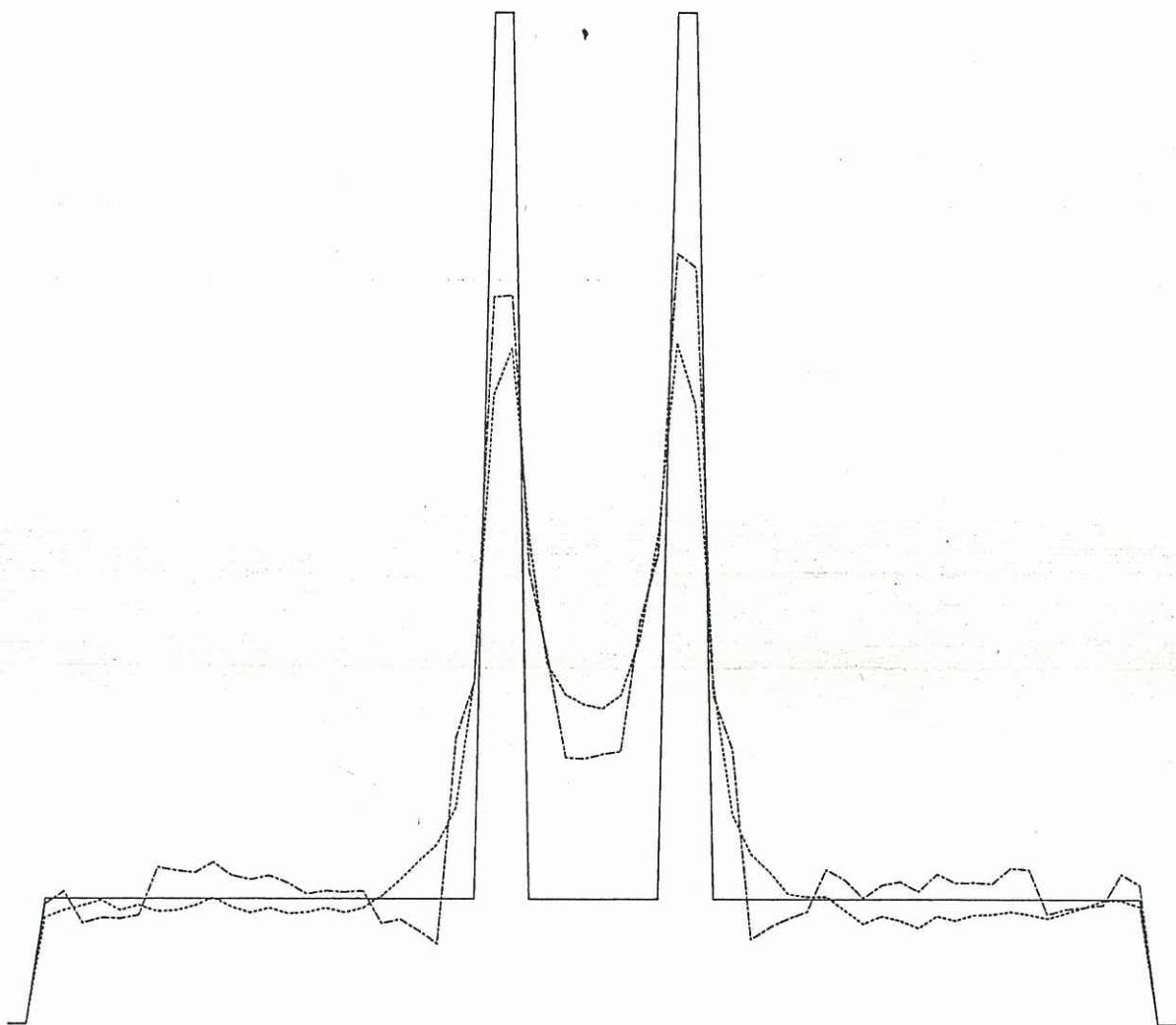
— RD1.P ..... RD1EM.PR --- RD1M1.PR

(1,20) EastWest



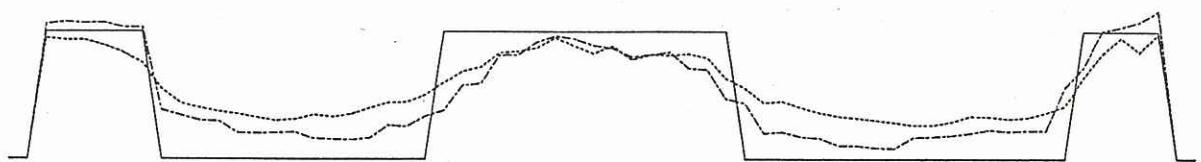
— RD1.P ..... RD1EM.PR ---- RD1M1.PR

(1,24) EastWest



— RD1.P ..... RD1EM.PR --- RD1M1.PR

(1, 42) EastWest



## CORRECTION PRINCIPLE

SUPPOSE  $x$  AND  $y$  ARE IMAGES,  
 $y$  OBSERVABLE, RELATED BY

$$y = Ax$$

RELAXATION METHODS PROVIDE SUCCESSIVE IMPROVEMENTS ON AN ESTIMATED SOLUTION

THE CORRECTION  $\xi$  SATISFIES THE  
DEFECT EQUATION

$$A\xi = \tau \quad \text{WHERE } \tau = y -$$

SOLVING THE DEFECT EQUATION  
PROVIDES AN IMPROVED SOLUTION

$$x = x_0 + \xi$$

TO SOLVE ON A COARSE GRID WE DO BET

# TWO GRID METHOD

Fine

Coarse



$\circ = \nabla$  RELAXATION STEPS

$\square =$  SOLVE EXA

$\backslash =$  FINE TO COAR RESTRI

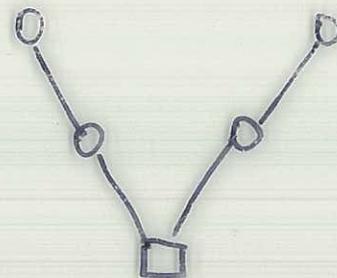
$/ =$  COARSE TO FINE INTERPOLA

# THREE GRID

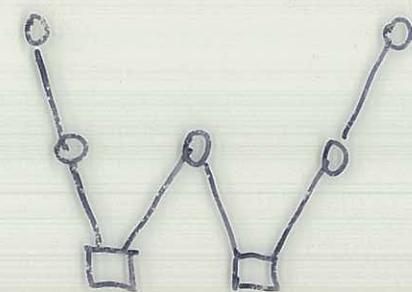
$l=2$

1

0



$\delta=1$



$\delta=2$

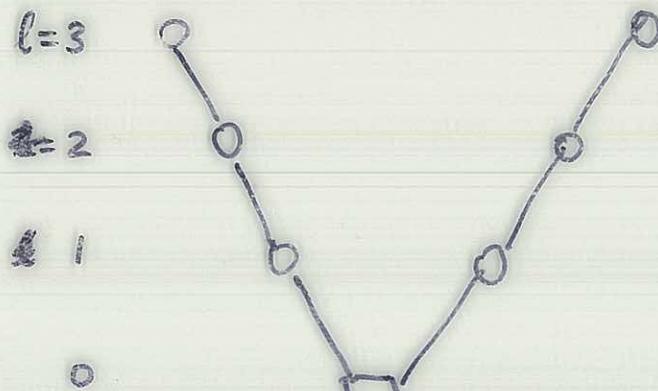
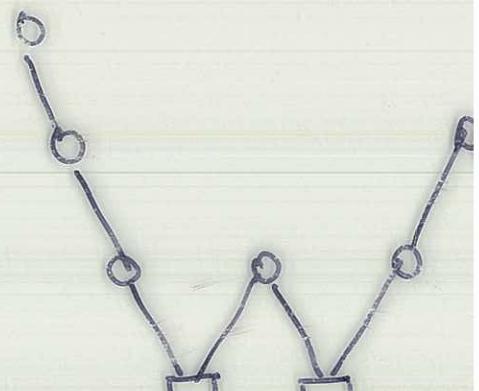
# FOUR GRID

$l=3$

$\delta=2$

$\delta=1$

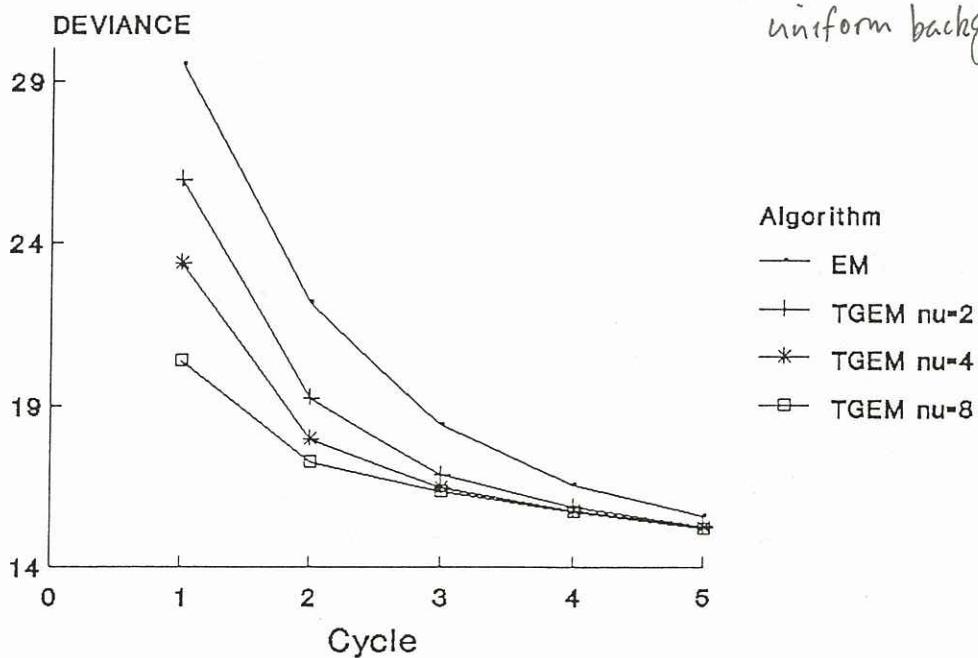
0



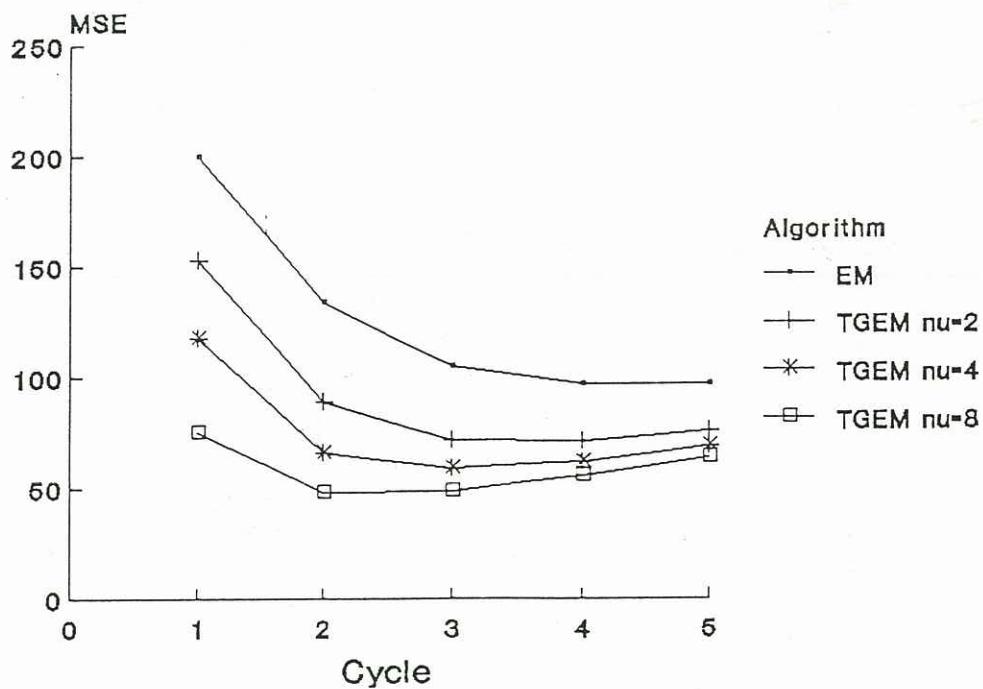
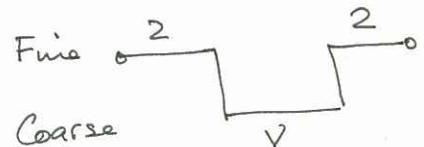
Results - two grid experiment on the ~~be~~  $5 \times 5$  prototype

Figure 8: Lack of fit of EM and TGEM restorations in small scale simulations

image here was  
point source on  
uniform background.



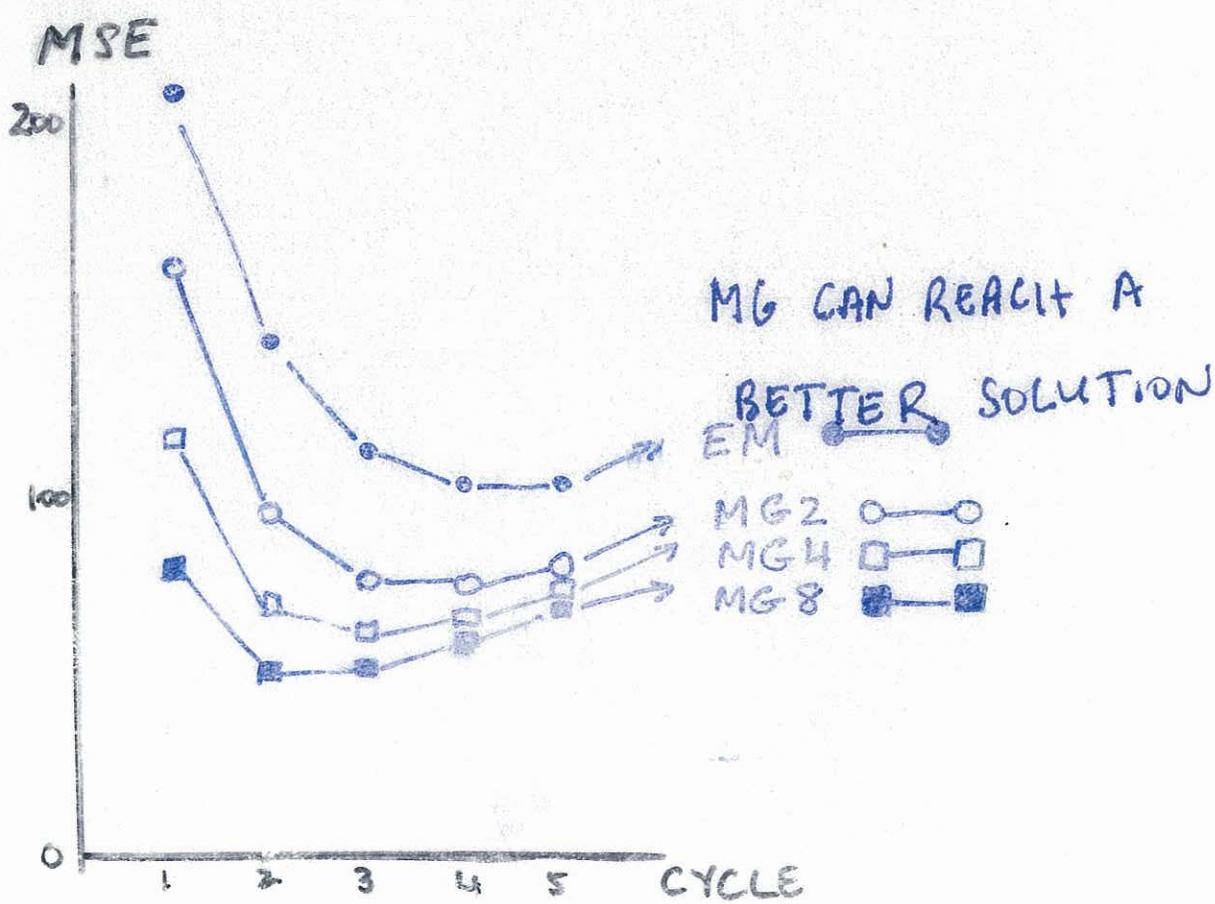
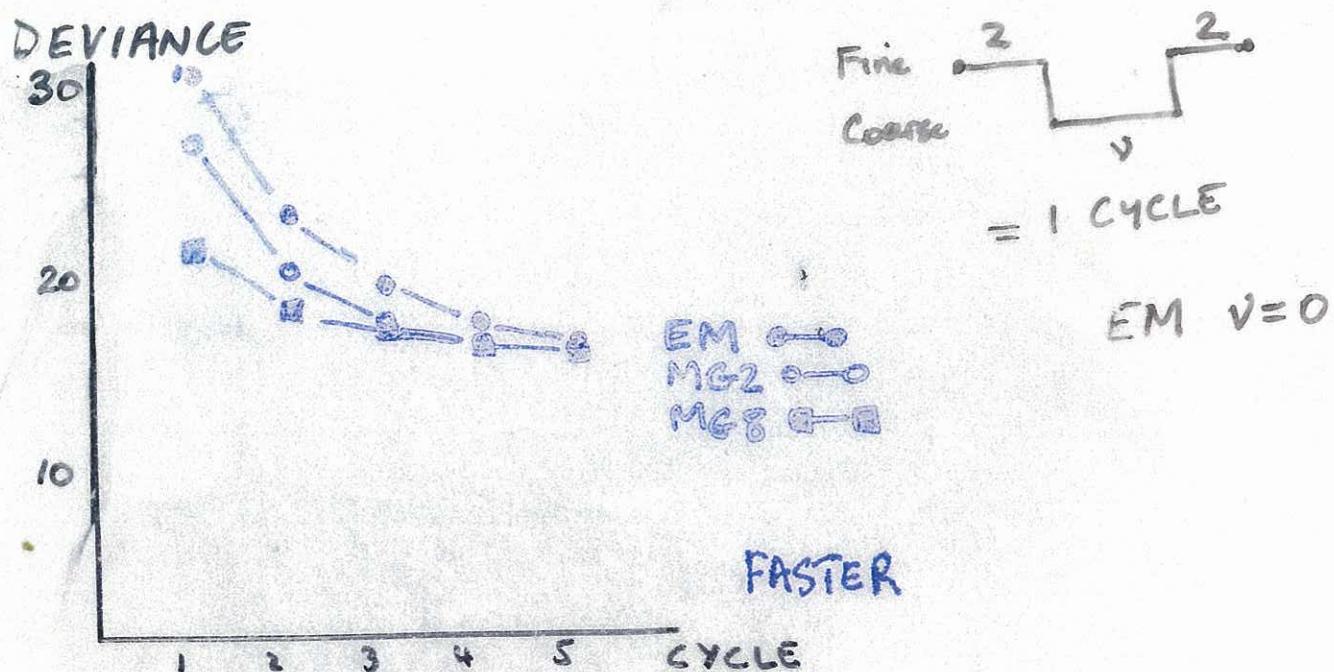
each Cycle



TAG can reach a  
better solution

# RESULTS - PROTOTYPE TWO GRID EXPT

Image: point source on uniform background



## SOME ISSUES RESOLVABLE BY PROTOTYPE INVESTIGATIONS

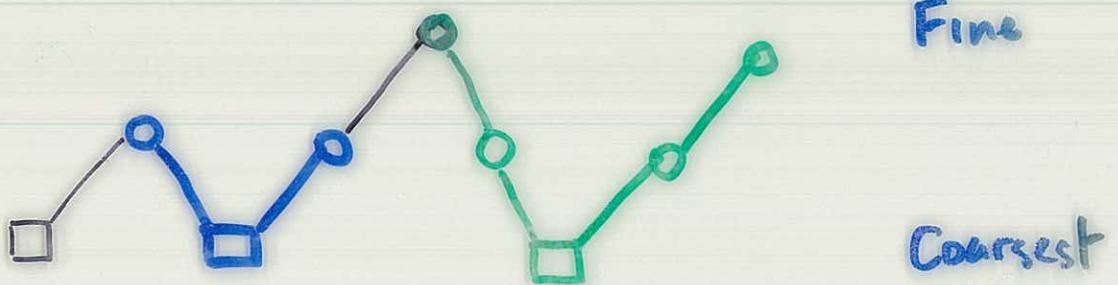
- o pixel grid choice:
  - relative efficiency of pixel grids (e.g. ring, square);
  - inestimable contrasts & model singularity.
- o projection data: how much information has been lost?
  - Variance of reconstruction can be compared with Poisson variation of the "ideal" tomograph.
  - (c.f. Silverman & Johnstone)
- o penalised likelihood benefits & methods for hyperparameter choice
  - (Pui Lam Leung & Khairil Notodiputro)
- o Evaluating and refining new procedures.
  - Three examples:
    - Modified Fisher Scoring algorithm (Notodiputro)
    - EMS (Jun Ma)
    - Twogrid & multigrid procedures (Hudson & Gidas)

## FULL MULTI GRID

(nested iteration of  
Multi grid )

$$l = 2$$

1  
0



Properties: For large  $l$

- the approximation  $\tilde{u}_h$  of the discrete solution  $u_h$  is computed to an error  $\|\tilde{u}_h - u_h\|$  which is smaller than the discretization error  $\|u - u_h\|$ .
- the number of arithmetic operations needed is proportional to the number of grid points of  $\Omega_h$  (with only a small constant of proportionality).

## REVIEW

1. Multi grid algorithms have widespread application in image restoration.

o EM widely applicable  
Stochastic relaxation  
Gibbs priors & posteriors

2. In SPECT:

REQUIRE ITERATIVE

- o EM is too slow to restore high frequency elements;
- o EM will not alter noisy restorations with good projections;
- o smoothing the algorithm may retain the fit to projections, while improving the restoration visually;
- o nested iterations and full multi grid do improve the image provided smoothing is incorporated.

## EM algorithm - Statistical formulation.

$x$  - complete, but unobserved data  
 $y$  - incomplete, but observed } distributions depending on  $\phi$

### Dempster, Laird and Rubin formulation

$y = y(x)$ , a many to one, mapping ;  
 deterministic for  $y$ , given  $x$ .

E step: Estimate complete data sufficient statistics

$$t^{(m)} = E_m \{ t(x) | y \}$$

M step: Obtain  $\phi^{(m+1)}$  from ML eqns with data  $x$

$$E_{m+1} ( t(x) ) = t^{(m)}$$

### Stochastic variant

TRIVIAL BUT CONCEPTUALLY INTERESTING VARIANT

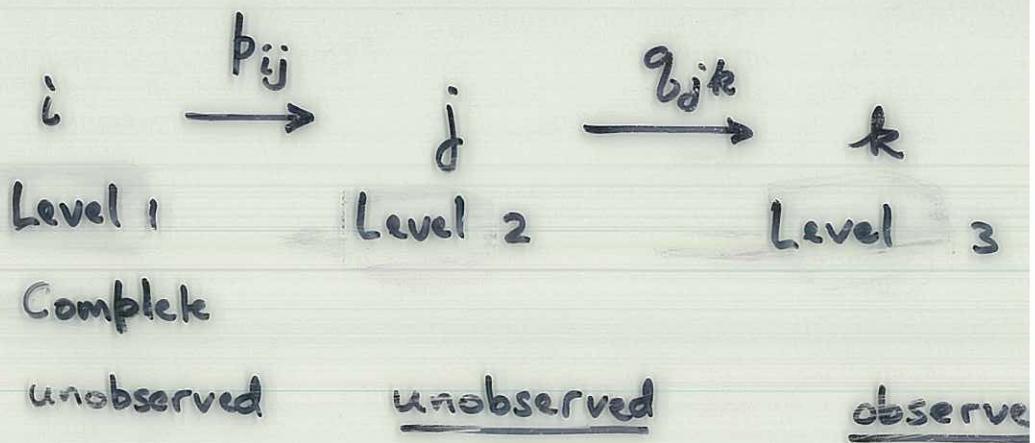
$(x, y)$  jointly distributed. Conditional distribution  $y|x$  specifies the dependence of  $y$  on  $x$ .

E, M steps as above. Same result.

Proof:  $X = (x, y)$     $y = y$

$(x, y) \mapsto y$  is the map from  $X$  to  $Y$ .

## Error in camera recordings



$q_{jk}$ 's determined by the p.s.f. of the camera.

corresponding to discretization of

x - location of photon emission

y - actual location of camera sensor

z - recorded location of camera  
scintillation

### Approaches

1. EM with appropriate transition form  
( $\tau = p * q$ )

2. 2-stage EM

## Two stage EM

- estimate the level 2 data

$$\hat{n}_j^{(2)} = E\{n_j^{(2)} | n^{(3)}, \phi^{(m)}\}$$

$$= \mu_j^{(2)} \sum_k \frac{q_{jk} n_k^{(3)}}{\mu_k^{(3)}}$$

'de b

- update  $\phi^{(m)}$  to  $\phi^{(m+1)}$  using the standard algorithm with estimated proj data

$$\phi_i^{(m+1)} = \phi_i^{(m)} \sum_j \frac{b_{ij} \hat{n}_j^{(2)}}{\mu_j^{(2)}}$$

- revise  $\mu^{(2)}$  and  $\mu^{(3)}$  in light of the change to  $\phi$  and continue to c through 1 - 3.

In Hudson & Gidas we generalize 2-stage and prove it proceeds uphill at each step.

## Alternatives to EM algorithm

Iterative reweighted least squares is the usual  
to optimization in exponential families

EM step :  $\lambda_j^{(m+1)} = \lambda_j^{(m)} + \lambda_j^{(m)} g_j$

$\lambda^{(m+1)} = \lambda^{(m)} + J^{-1} g$  Poisson natural variance J-diag

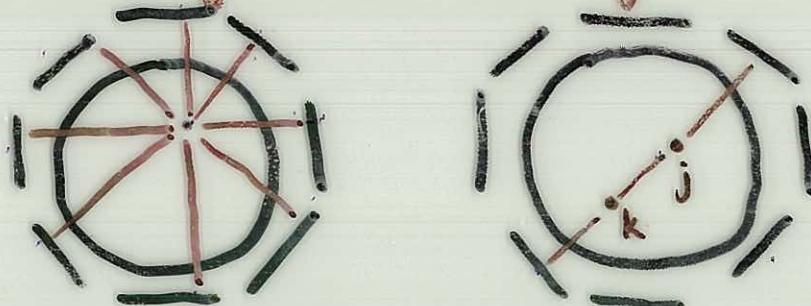
IRLS step :  $\lambda^{(m+1)} = \lambda^{(m)} + M^{-1} g$  Reconstruction variance M-Fisher

$m_{jk} = \sum_i p_i$

also preserves total cell count

Options available

(i) use diagonal elements only



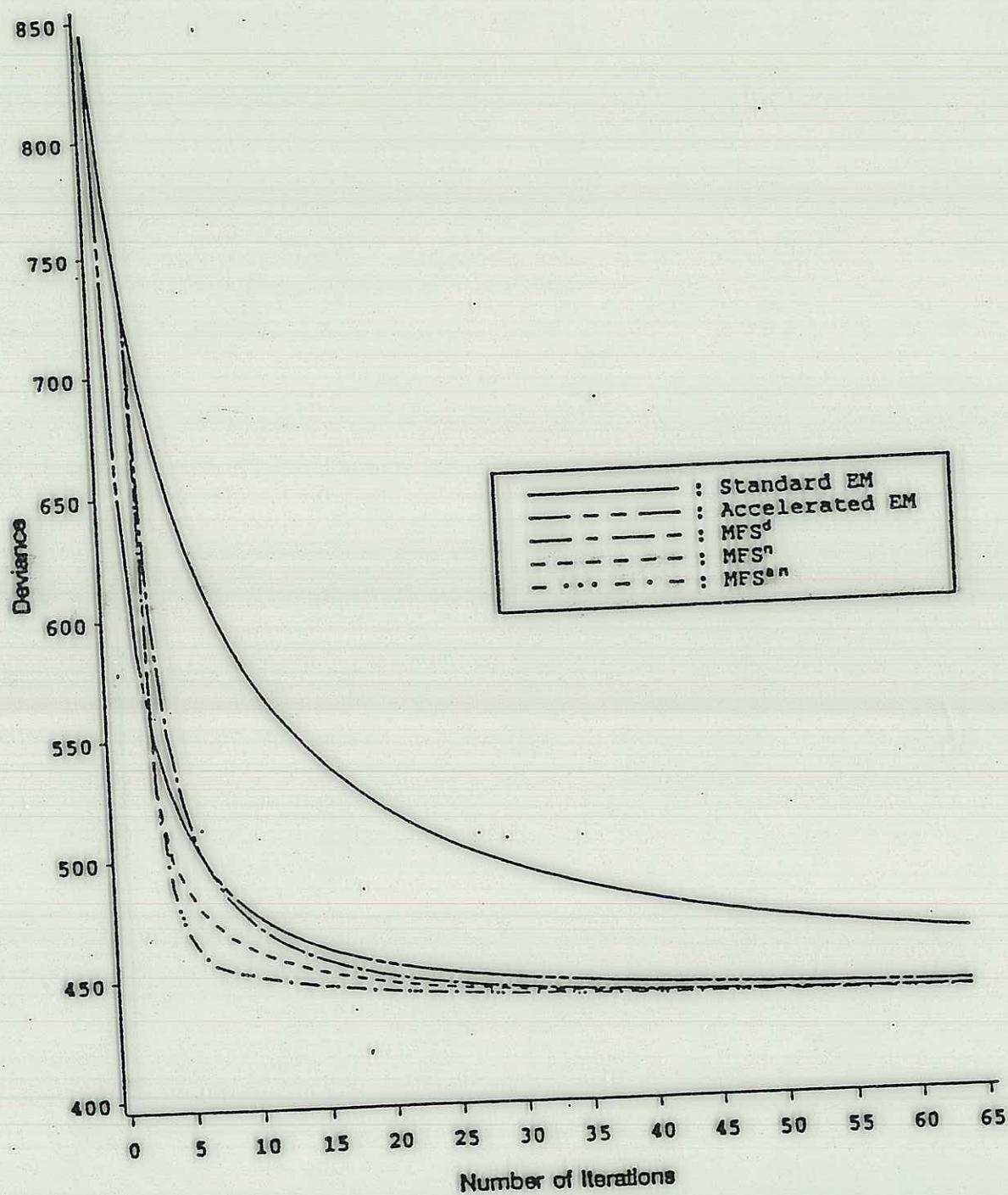
works because of the geometry

(ii) if necessary, because of limited detector resolution  
consider nearest neighbours also

$$M^{-1} = (M_1 + M_{-1})^{-1} \approx M_1^{-1} - M_1^{-1} M_{-1} M_1^{-1}$$

K. Notodiputro & M.H.

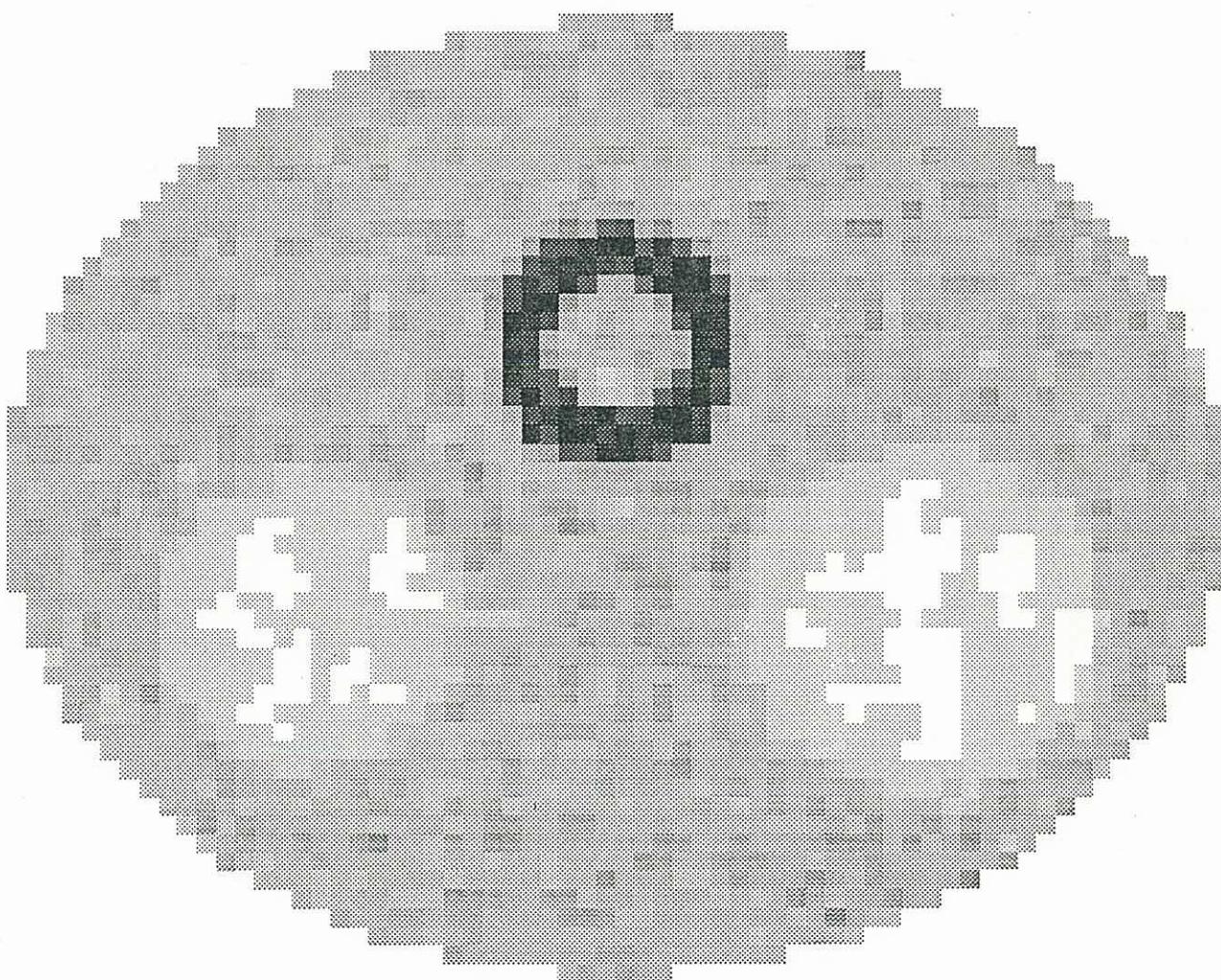
Convergence speed of the EM and MFS algorithms  
for ring image



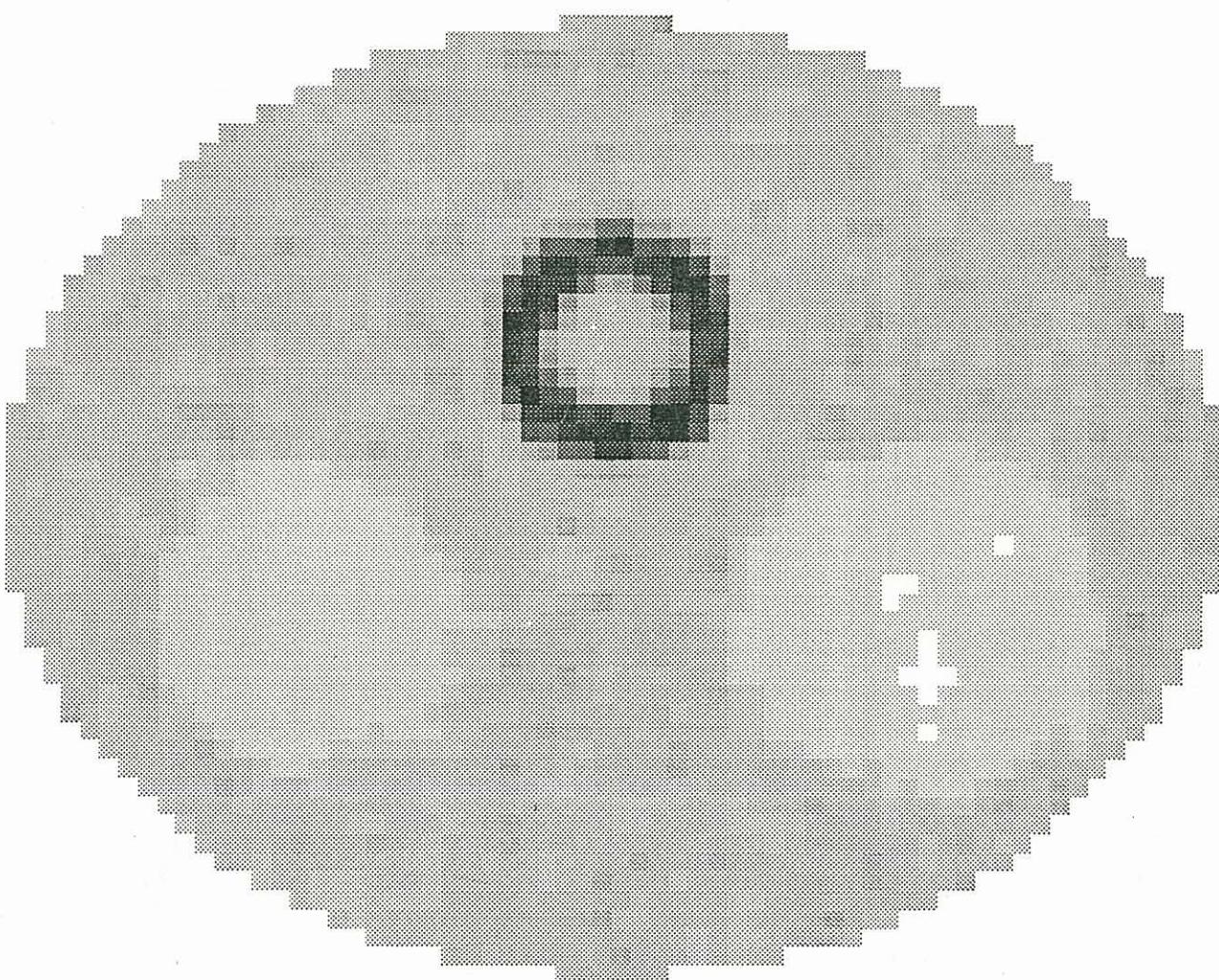
(b)

Fig 3.

RD1EM.PR - 128] 976s CSQ: 648.240 MSE: 31.164



RD1RF.PR - 1] 19s CSQ: 1601.954 MSE: 31.261



## Review

Some themes in what we have done:

1. small prototypes distill the essence and isolate the issues;
2. smoothing, as can be imposed through a penalised likelihood criterion, can improve image quality;
3. there are a number of ways of greatly reducing computations;
4. multi-grid methods may be applied widely in image reconstruction.

These studies provide continuing feedback on the effectiveness of statistical strategies for high dimensional data.

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## Statistical algorithms for image restoration

by Malcolm Hudson

Seminar: Sydney University — 16 November

This talk will be a potpourri of results evaluating statistical algorithms for medical image restoration. In particular we will consider:

- o the statistical model for single Photon emission tomography;
- o the two-stage EM algorithm;
- o multi-scale (multigrid) restorations;
- o dynamic image restoration.

M.H.  
30/10 .

## ~~Statistical~~ Statistical algorithms for image restoration.

Some topics by Malcolm Hudson

Seminar: Sydney University - 16 November

This talk will be a potpourri of ~~recent developments in initiatives~~ <sup>statistical methods/algorithms in</sup> topics in image analysis, results evaluating statistical algorithms for medical image restoration. In particular we will consider:

~~the statistical~~

~~the physical~~

- o the statistical model for Single Photon emission tomography;
- o ~~the~~ two-stage EM algorithm;  
<sup>(multigrid)</sup>
- o multi-scale/reconstruction; restorations;
- o dynamic ~~the~~ dynamic EIT ~~to~~ image restoration.

692.2222.

Sydney U. 16/11

- Outline → algorithms for medical image restoration.
- SPECT physics slide

Statistical description  
of sinogram data

$\frac{N_i}{g_{ij}} \sim \text{Poisson } (\mu_i) \text{ indept } i=1, \dots$

$\mu = A\alpha$ ,  $A$  known, transpose of probability matrix

$x$  is  $J \times 1$  image of interest  $\Leftrightarrow$  activity distribution

(discretisation of a continuous analogue both in  $y$  &  $x$ )

$$p(y|x) = \int p(\text{activity}(x)) dx$$

Summary of realizations of

$x$  = pixel of origin

$y$  = detector of scintillation

when  $p(y|x)$  is known. [Count reallocation by probabilities]

- Small scale & ~~general~~ phantom heart lung phantom (myocardium)
- EM algorithm & Bayesian iterative reallocation interpretation
- Criteria
- ~~Multilevel Nested EM~~
- Comparisons of EM, nested EM, nested EMS and multigrid restorations.
- Comparisons with ~~non-statistical regularity~~ filtered back projection  
~~-Role of smoothing projections.~~
- Two-grid Two stage EM:
- Other algorithms: MFS  
dynamic EM

carousel

plastic sleeve & hang in filing cabinet (24 slides) }

\$1.50 ea.

[audio]

Kodak carousels. Harold

Quote

7573

Exploratory findings re MG in SPECT.

## 1. Use of multiple grids in image reconstruction

### PROCEDURE FOR MULTIPLE SCALES

1. NESTED ITERATION

2. CALCULATION OF CORRECTIONS USING COARSER GRIDS

3. FULL MULTI GRID

## 2. Application: SPECT using EM algorithm

### SPECT SLIDES OHP

02.1

#### EM algorithm OHP

Quality of

Assessing a

Algorithm reconstruction - reconstruction with

projection counts observed & expected  $\sum (\hat{n}_i - n_i)^2 / \sum n_i$

• Provide Agreement of counts observed and projections of the reconstruction  $\chi^2$

• Agreement of pixel values MSE  $\sum (\hat{\lambda}_j - \lambda_j)^2 / \sum \lambda_j$

Ultimate goal to match ~~CB~~ on projection data by EM-style algorithm.

#### Example 5x5 prototype

OHP 02.2

#### Myocardium the Heart-lung phantom

X's translated into gray levels.

[3.1]

#### NESTED ITERATION

~~Segment~~

4. EM reconstruction after 6 iterations, myocardium

2-D [4.1]

• Cross section of ROI, RD1EM, RD1CB.

[4.2], [4.3]  
[4.4]

5. NESTED ITERATION Nested iteration reference

Suppose we use the results of coarser grids as starting values for EM.

Good Pictures & cross sections ROI, RD1EM, RD1MI

[5.1]

Cross section

[5.2]-[5.4]

6. Incorporating smoothing RD1MI MDH, PR

? [6.1]

N.B.  $\chi^2$  & MSE both reduced

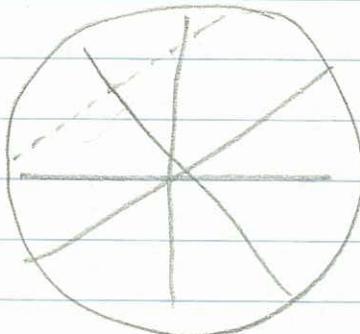
The general rule:

smoothing at the cost of fit to data  
having no effect on

7. Why is the smoothing improving the fit to the data?

A. persistence of ~~squares~~ grid squares  
angular Nyquist frequency — singularity

B. Grenander sieves,



8. Further ~~improving~~ improvements: coarse grid correction

QB

Correction principle

OHP

Two grid method

Two grid method OHP

Prototype two grid emtpy

OHP

Full multi grid

OHP

Myocardium lung phantom ~~M3MDH~~ M3MDH

cross sections

[8.1]

[8.2 - 8.4]

9. Review

# PROCEDURES FOR MULTIPLE SC

## 1. NESTED ITERATION

THE USE OF COARSER GRIDS TO OBTAIN GOOD INITIAL APPROXIMATIONS ON FINE GRIDS

FOR PROJECTION DATA SEE

RANGANATH, DHAWAN & MULLANI IEL

## 2. CALCULATION OF CORRECTIONS ON COARSER GRIDS

PARTICULARLY POWERFUL WHEN USED CONJUNCTION WITH ITERATIVE (RELAXATION) METHODS BECAUSE OF THEIR ERROR SMOOTHING PROPERTY

## 3. COMBINE 1 & 2 IN FULL MULTIGRID

SEE STUBEN & TROTTERBERG (1981)

## NESTED ITERATION

SOLVING  $y = A_0 x$  for observable  $y$

CAN BE APPROXIMATED BY INTERPOLATION

THE SOLUTION  $x$  (ON A COARSE GRID)

$$y' = A_1 x'$$

WHERE  $y'$  MAY BE A RESTRICTION (TO COARSER GRID) OF  $y$ , AND WE CAN CHOOSE  $A_1 = R A_0$ , WHERE  $R$  IS THE RESTRICTION OPERATOR.

INTERPOLATION IS PROVIDED BY A CORRESPONDING PROLONGATION OPERATOR.

# ALGORITHMS FOR MULTIPLE GRID L

## 1. HUDSON & GIDAS - TWO GRID EM

$$\lambda = \lambda_0 + V(\lambda_0)g(\lambda_0)$$

$$\lambda' = \lambda'_0 + V(\lambda'_0)g(T\lambda'_0)$$

Note : 1. Restriction uses injection  
2. Applies to EM algorithm only

## 2. REPARAMETERIZATION

Interpolation was used before projection to a  $E(n)$  for use in the gradient  $g$ , above.

$$E(n) \circ \mu^* = PT \lambda'$$

Is a model for data based on a coarse grid.

This is the standard model for data with  $P$  and there are corresponding ML equations!

Incorporating the correction principle the cri

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lambda_0 & & \lambda_0 + T(\lambda'_m - \lambda'_0) \\ R \downarrow & & \uparrow T \\ \lambda'_0 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \lambda'_m \\ & & \text{Any ML algo} \end{array}$$

### 3. ALGORITHM RESCALING

$(\lambda_0, n)$

R  
↓

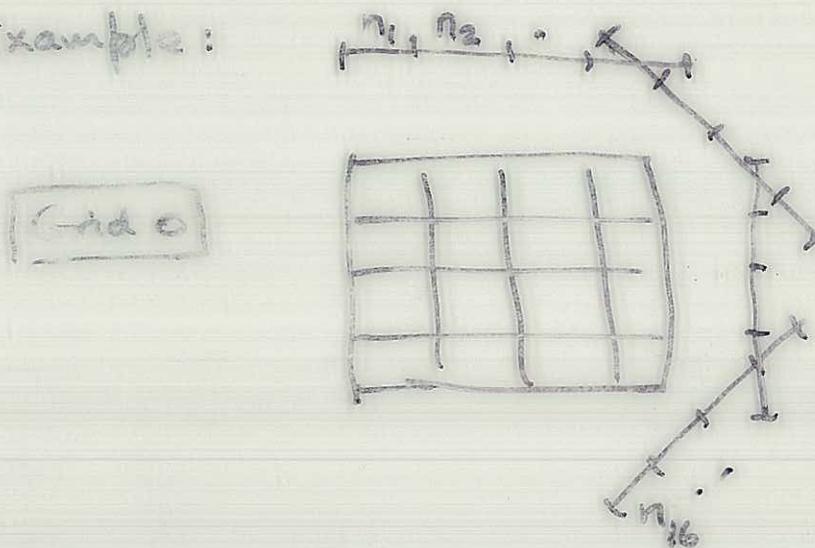
$(\lambda'_0, n')$

$(\lambda_0 + T(\lambda'_m - \lambda'_0), n)$

↑  
T

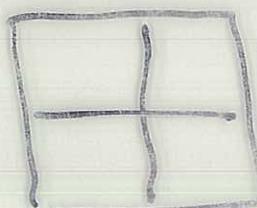
$(\lambda'_m, n')$

Example:

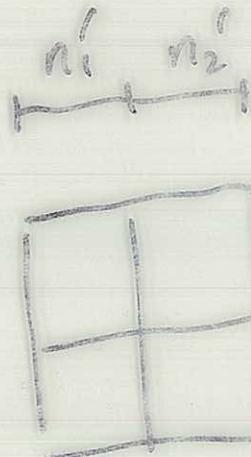


Grid 1

$n'_1, n'_2, \dots$



OR



## Multigrid algorithms (Uppsala)

Nested iteration in image reconstruction

Justification through Grenander's method of sieves ?

Example SPET Myocardium-lung phantom Up-down image

- [1] EM reconstruction (4 iterations, lambda and trace) demonstrates the failure to match high frequency components of the image
- [2] EM from a median smoothed CBP start (4 iterations, lambda & trace) demonstrates a better match to high frequency components after a better start for the low frequency component

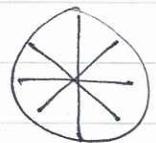
The use of coarse grid solutions to provide good starting points

Justification through Grenander's method of sieves ?

- [3] Nested iterations, (lambda and trace after 4 surface iterations)  
Failure due to persistence of the lower level grids ~~in the~~

Explanation of persistence through singularity of design

angular Nyquist frequency



Regularization via smoothing

- [4] Nested iterations of EMS, uniform start (lambda & trace, 4 its)

Improving further an existing fine grid reconstruction

defect equation & problem of low frequency component in the error.

- [5] MG iterations from [4] as starting point, descending & reascending<sup>3</sup>