Tomographic Reconstruction and Wavefront Set

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Inverse problems in Imaging

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Recover parameters characterizing a system under investigation from measurements (recover image from data).

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where $y \in Y$,$\mathcal{T} : X \longrightarrow Y$ and $\delta g \in Y$.

- **Classical solution:** Minimization of the miss-fit against data:

  $$\min_{f \in X} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{T}(f), g)$$

  $\mathcal{L} : Y \times Y \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a transformation of the negative data log-likelihood, e.g. $L(f) = ||\mathcal{T}(f) - g||_2^2$.

Solving an inverse problem is known as regularization, and classically one can perform it by minimizing the miss-fit against data:

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In typical applications the forward operator $\mathcal{T}$ is ill-posed, that is, a solution (if it exists) is unstable with respect to the data g, small changes to data results in large changes to a reconstruction, hence finding a maximum likelihood solution may lead to overfitting. One then need to use other techniques.

Our problem: 2D X-ray tomography

In 2D X-ray tomography the forward operator is given by the Radon transform $\mathcal{R}$:

$$\mathcal{R}f(\theta, s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x,y)\delta(x\cos\theta + y\sin\theta - s)dxdy$$

in this parametrization $\mathcal{R}f$ is known as the **sinogram**.

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Ill-posedness:

- Filtered back projection (R^{-1}) involves differentiation $\longrightarrow$ increases singularities, even more with images with noise.
- R^{-1} is unbounded $\longrightarrow$ two far apart images can have very close Radon transform (a non-zero image can have a zero Radon transform).

Phantom


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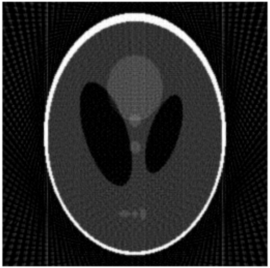
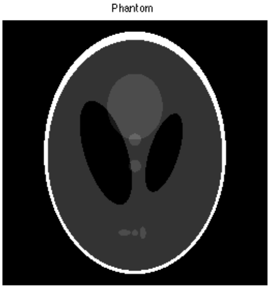

Phantom with measured lines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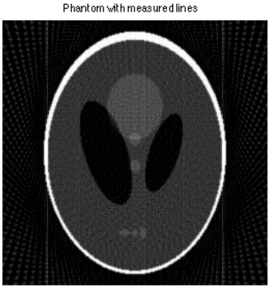
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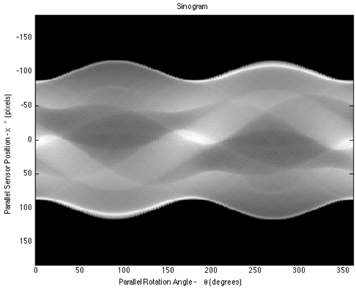
Sinogram
-150
-100
-50
0
50
100
150
Parallel Sensor Position - x ′ (pixels)
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350
Parallel Rotation Angle - θ (degrees)

How to solve ill-posed inverse problems?

Three classical techniques:

- Pseudo-inverse of $\mathcal{T}$ using a mollifier.
- Iterative regularization, starting with a fixed point iteration scheme for minimizing (iterative hard thresholding), and stop iterates before over-fitting.
- Variational regularization, by introducing a functional $\mathcal{S} : X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, that encodes a-priori information about f_{true}, e.g. sparsity under some dictionary.

  $$\min_{f \in X}[\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{T}f, g) + \lambda \mathcal{S}f] \quad \text{for fixed} \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

  λ (regularization parameter) governs the influence of the a priori knowledge, choosing it is a problem.

Learning comes into play

One could ask to learn a pseudo-inverse $\mathcal{T}_\Theta(g) \approx f_{\text{true}}$ and learn the parameters $\Theta \in Z$ through a loss functional.

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- If $\mathcal{T}$ is local (e.g. deblurring problem) $\longrightarrow$ convolutional neural network and known pairs (g, f_{true}).
- If $\mathcal{T}$ is global (e.g. Radon transform) $\longrightarrow$ CNN does not work, it becomes unfeasible to work with NN with fully connected layers.

Alternative solutions

1. Recast to image-to-image problem: perform some initial (non machine-learning) reconstruction (e.g. FBP), and then use standard CNN to denoise the initial reconstruction. Upside: it outperforms previous state of the art methods. Donwside: it does not give you more information than using just non-machine learning reconstruction.

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2. Incorporate enough a-priori information to make the problem tractable and learn the rest (Learned Primal-dual algorithm): First use CNN to update the data (dual step), then apply $\mathcal{T}^*$ and use the result as input to another neural network which updates the reconstruction (primal step), then apply $\mathcal{T}$ and use it as input to a neural network that updates the data, and so on. Upside: it separates the global aspect of the problem into the forward model and its adjoint and only need to learn local aspects. Downside: to train the NN one needs to perform back-propagation through this NN severak times.

Wavefront set as extra information

Definition (N-Wavefront set)

Let $N \in \mathbb{R}$ and f a distribution on $\mathbb{R}^2$. We say $(x, \lambda)\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ is a $N-$regular directed point if there exists a nbd. of U_x of x, a smooth cutoff function Φ with $\Phi \equiv 1$ on U_x and a nbd. V_λ of λ such that:

$$(\Phi f)^\wedge(\eta) = O((1 - |\eta|)^{-N}) \quad \text{for all} \quad \eta = (\eta_1, \eta_2) \quad \text{such that} \quad \frac{\eta_2}{\eta_1} \in V_\lambda$$

The $N-$Wavefront set $WF^N(f)$ is the complement of the $N-$regular directed point. The Wavefront Set $WF(f)$ is defined as

$$WF(f) = \cup_{N>0} WF^N(f)$$

Question? How can one incorporate extra information from the $N-$Wavefront set of an image by knowing just its Radon Transform.

Answer: Canonical shearlet transform of the sinogram

Classical Shearlet Transform

$$\langle f, \psi_{a,s,t} \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(x)\overline{\psi_{a,s,t}(x)}dx$$

where

$$\mathcal{SH}(\psi) = \{\psi_{a,s,t}(x) := a^{-3/4}\psi(S_s A_a x - t) : (a, s, t) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2\}$$

and

$$A_a := \begin{pmatrix} a^1 & 0 \\ 0 & a^{1/2} \end{pmatrix} \quad S_s := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Theorem (Resolution of the Wavefront set by continuous shearlet frames; Grohs, 2011)

Let Ψ *be a Schwartz function with infinitely many vanishing moments in* x_2*−direction. Let* f *be a tempered distribution and* $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \cup \mathcal{D}_2$*, where*
$\mathcal{D}_1 = \{(t_0, s_0) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times [-1, 1]$: *for* (s, t) *in a nbd.* U *fo* (s_0, t_0),
$|\mathcal{SH}_\psi f(a, s, t)| = O(a^k)$ *for all* $k \in \mathbb{N}$*, with the implied constant uniform over* $U\}$ *and*
$\mathcal{D}_2 = \{ (t_0, s_0) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times (1, \infty]$: *for* $(1/s, t)$ *in a nbd.* U *of* (s_0, t_0),
$|\mathcal{SH}_{\psi^\nu} f(a, s, t)| = O(a^k)$ *for all* $k \in \mathcal{N}$*, with the implied constant uniform over* $U\}$*. Then*

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Theorem (O. Ötkem et al., 2008)

Broadly speaking, a point on the $N-$*Wavefront set of a distribution corresponds to a point on the* $N + 1/2-$*Wavefront set of its Radon transform, with the corresponding directions.*

Only thing left: Shearlets on the sinogram

- Using results of compactly supported shearlets and shearlets on bounded domains, one can construct a shearlet frame on the space of the sinogram $L^2_{x_1-2\pi}([0,2\pi)\times\mathbb{R})$, given by

$$\psi^{x_1-2\pi}_{a,s,t}(x_1,x_2) := \sum_{\ell\in\{-1,0,1\}} \psi_{a,s,t}(x_1+2\pi\ell, x_2)$$

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- Then in the learned primal-dual algorithm one can incorporate as extra information the $N-$Wavefront set of the image by pulling back the $N+1/2-$Wavefront set captured by the proposed shearlet frame. This will let us to get a solution with minimum lost of the important features of the images.

Thanks!

Questions?