

False positives detection in connectomics through hierarchical sparsity

...and résumé

by

Matteo Frigo

Curriculum Vitae

University of Verona (Italy)

2015 B.Sc. Applied Mathematics

2017 M.Sc. Mathematics



- Functional Analysis, Differential Geometry, Stochastic Analysis, ...
- Numerical Analysis, Polynomial approximation, Optimisation, ODE/PDE/SDE/BVP, ...
- Machine Learning, Digital Geometry Processing, Research and Modelling

Complementary activities

Internships:

- Image classification through time series analysis
- 3D Super Resolution of clinical MRI images

Others:

- Co-founder of the OctaveArena group
(dev of ODE solvers for GNU Octave)
- Student representative

Bachelor thesis

Maximum Likelihood versus Gibbs Sampling for regime switching analysis of financial time series

$$y_t - \mu_{S_t} = \varphi(y_{t-1} - \mu_{S_{t-1}}) + \varepsilon_t, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

$$\varepsilon_t = \text{i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{S_t}^2),$$

$$\mu_{S_t} = \mu_1 S_{1,t} + \mu_2 S_{2,t} + \mu_3 S_{3,t},$$

$$\sigma_{S_t} = \sigma_1 S_{1,t} + \sigma_2 S_{2,t} + \sigma_3 S_{3,t},$$

$$S_t \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$p_{ij} := \mathbb{P}(S_t = j | S_{t-1} = i) \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3.$$

- ❑ Di Persio and Frigo, 2015, WSEAS Transactions on Business and Economics
- ❑ Di Persio and Frigo, 2016, Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

Programming skills

Languages:

- ☛ Matlab/Octave proficient, Scilab basic knowledge
- ☛ Python+Numpy good knowledge, Cython basic knowledge
- ☛ Basic knowledge of Java, C and C++

Tools:

- ☛ Diffusion MRI analysis tool
- ☛ Pattern Recognition tools
- ☛ Freefem++

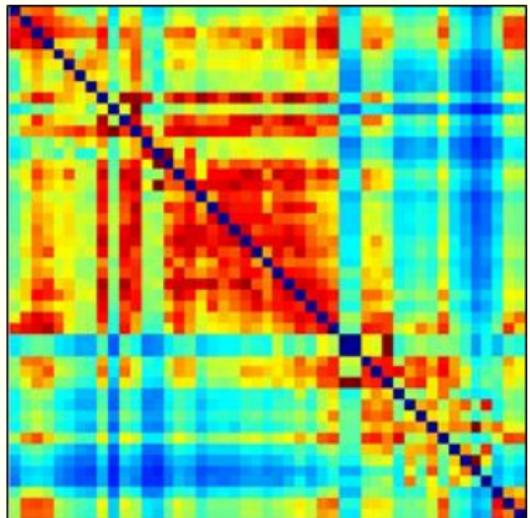
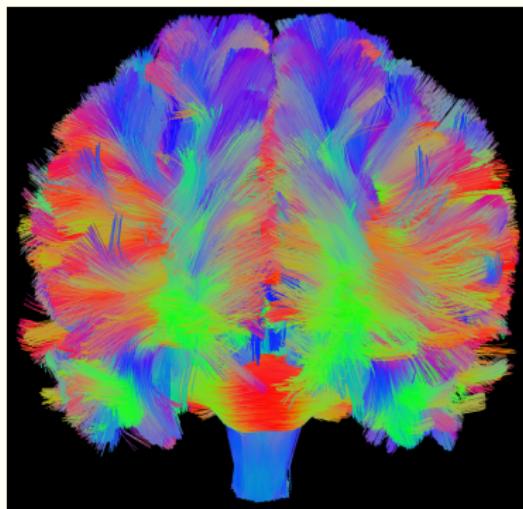
Master thesis

Joint work with...

- Prof. Giandomenico Orlandi
- Prof. Jean-Philippe Thiran
- Prof. Alessandro Daducci
- Muhamed Barakovic



The goal: structural connectivity



Quantify the connections within the brain

The problem: false positives

**Tractography-based connectomes are dominated by
false-positive connections**

Maier-Hein et al., 2016 (bioarxiv)

- ➊ 96 distinct tractography pipelines

The problem: false positives

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The problem: false positives

Tractography-based connectomes are dominated by
false-positive connections

Maier-Hein et al., 2016 (bioarxiv)

- 96 distinct tractography pipelines
- “*most algorithms routinely extracted many false positive bundles*”
- “*Tractography identifies more invalid than valid bundles*”
- “**Tractography is fundamentally ill-posed**”

The problem: false positives

Connectome sensitivity or specificity: which is more important?

- “the impact of FPs and FNs on empirical connectomes indicate that specificity is at least twice as important as sensitivity”

Zalesky, A. et al., 2016 (*NeuroImage*)

Anatomical accuracy of brain connections derived from diffusion MRI tractography is inherently limited

- “The methods that show the highest sensitivity show the lowest specificity, and vice versa”

Thomas, C. et al., 2014 (*PNAS*)

Forward model

$$y = Ax + \varepsilon$$

Given

x : vector of weights

A : dictionary for the fibres

ε : systematic+random error

Obtain

y : acquired dMRI data

Forward model: COMMIT

**Convex Optimisation Modelling
for Microstructure Informed Tractography**

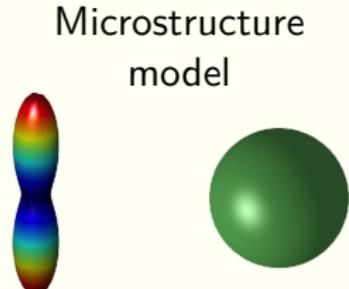
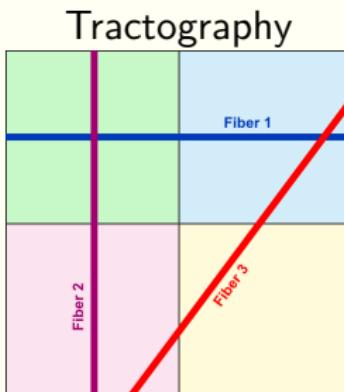
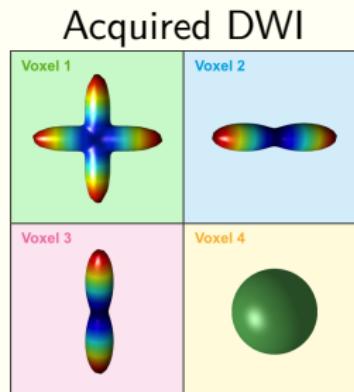
Daducci et al., 2015 (IEEE TMI)

Forward model: COMMIT

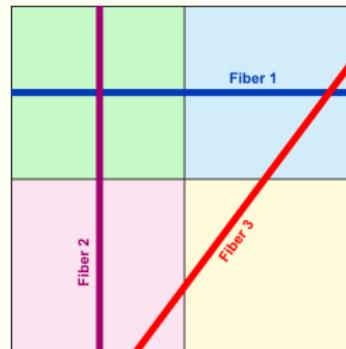
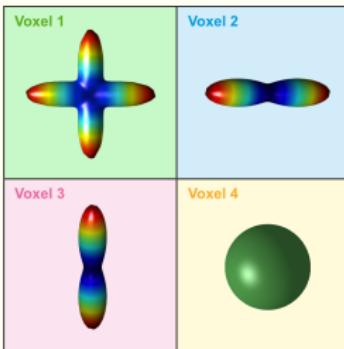
Convex Optimisation Modelling for Microstructure Informed Tractography

Daducci et al., 2015 (IEEE TMI)

Input:



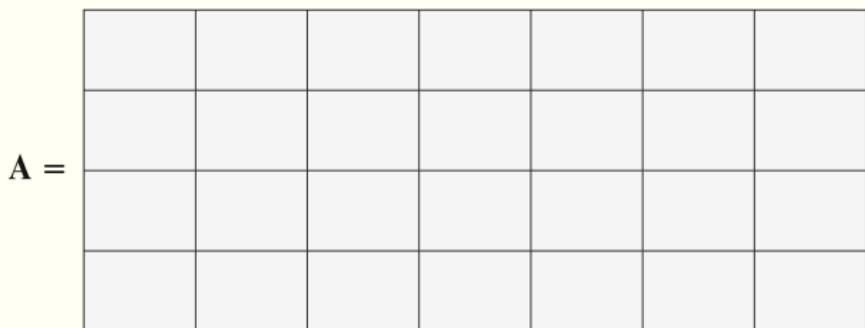
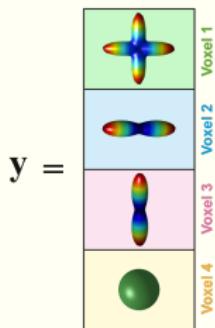
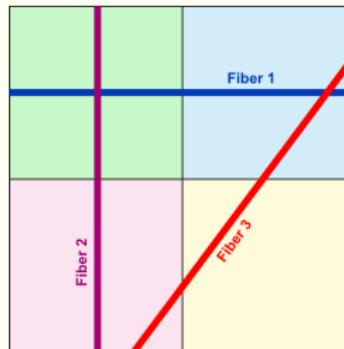
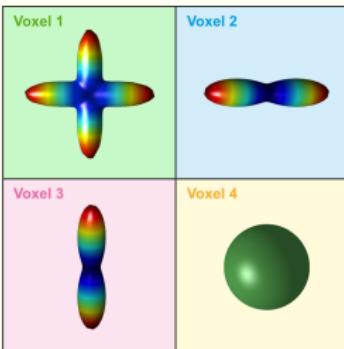
Forward model: COMMIT



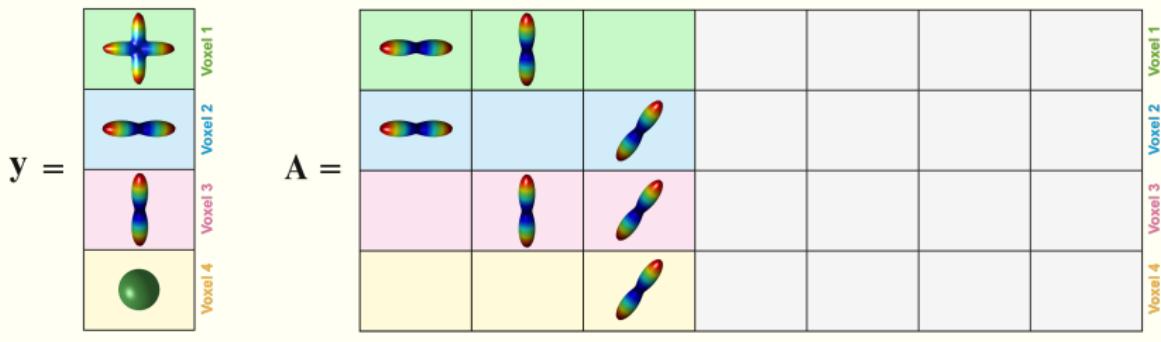
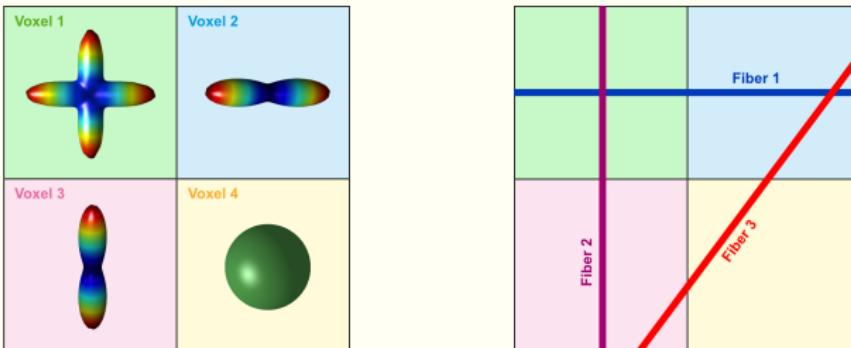
$$y =$$

$$X = \begin{matrix} ? & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \end{matrix}$$

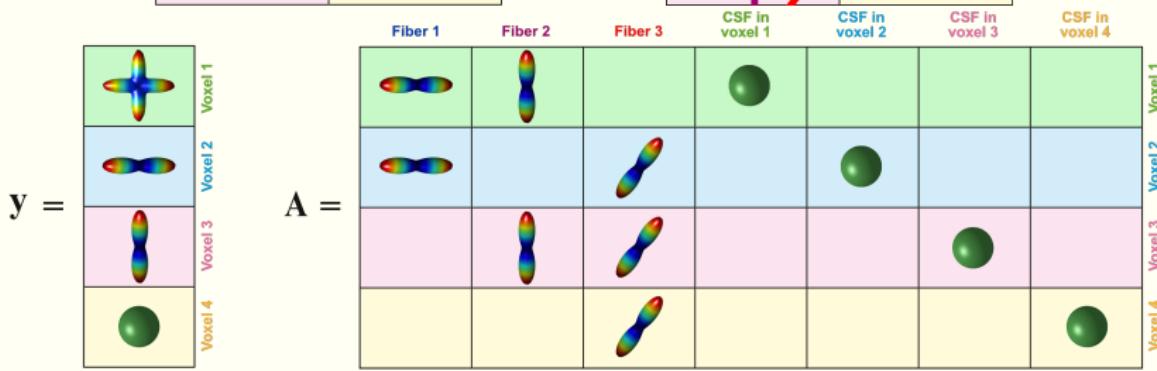
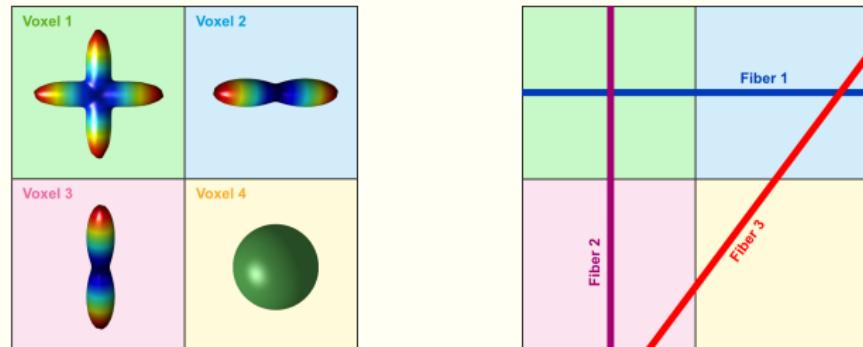
Forward model: COMMIT



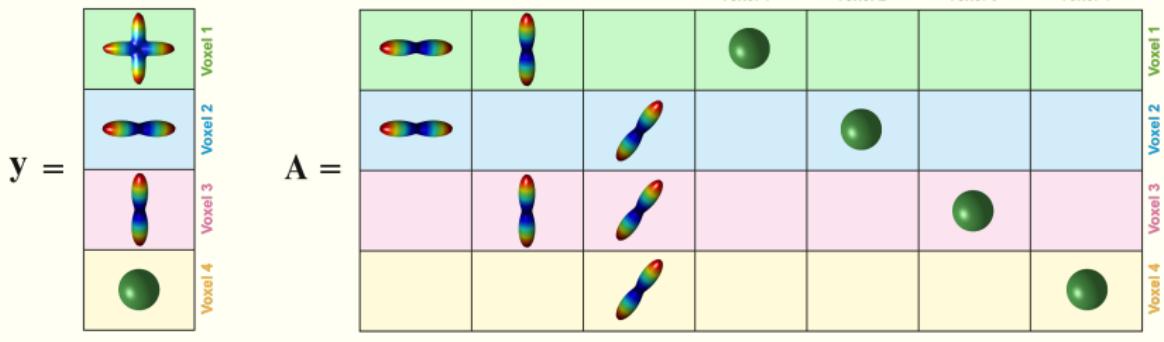
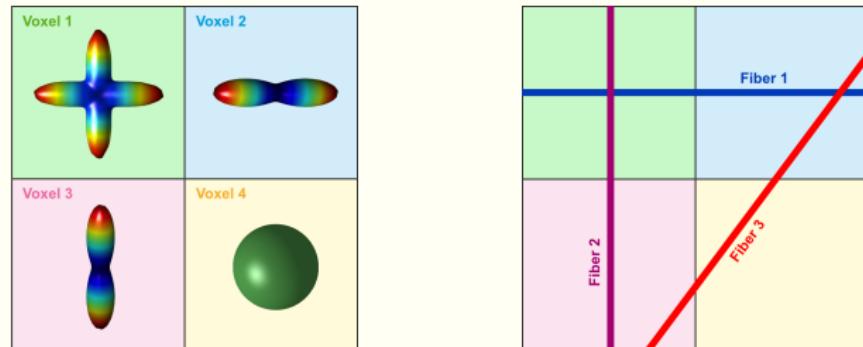
Forward model: COMMIT



Forward model: COMMIT



Forward model: COMMIT



Inverse problem

$$y = Ax + \varepsilon$$

Recover x from the acquired data y

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^c} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - y\|_2^2$$

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Recover x from the acquired data y

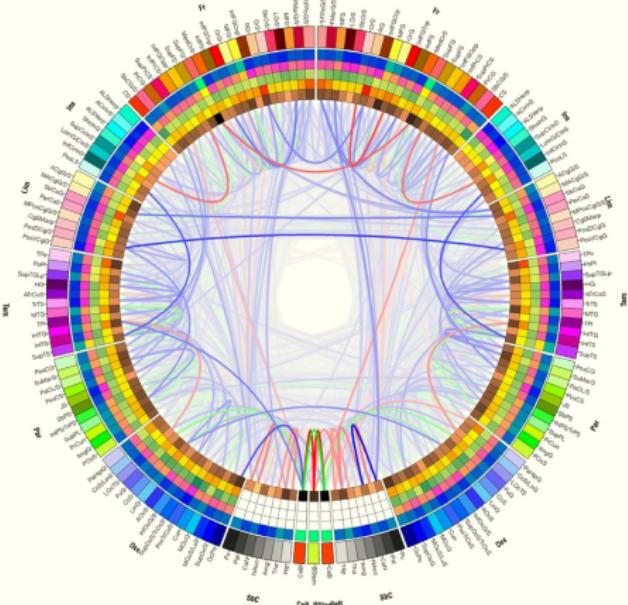
$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^c} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - y\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(x)$$

$\Omega : \mathbb{R}^c \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ anatomy-based penalty

$\lambda \geq 0$ regularisation parameter

Anatomical prior knowledge

Brain hierarchy

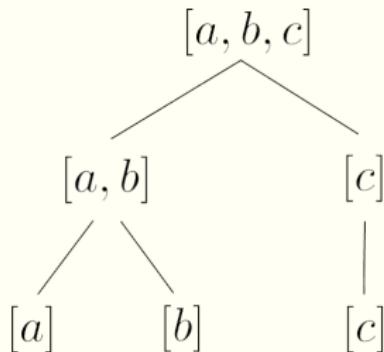
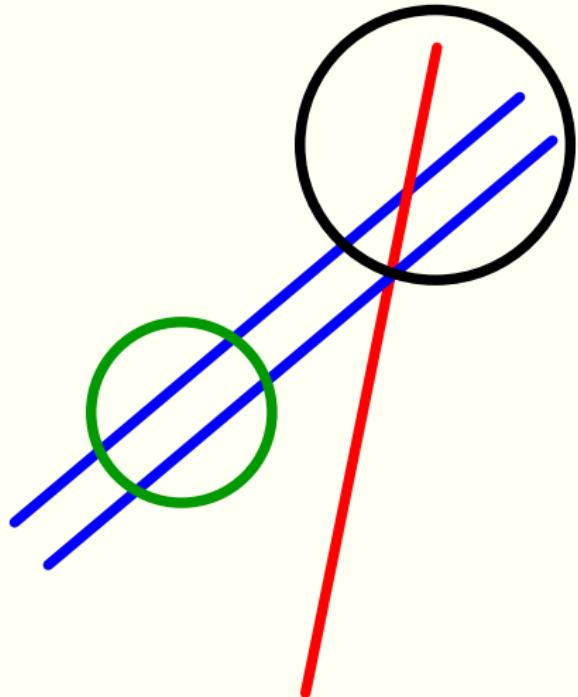


Connections within the brain are endowed with a hidden hierarchical pattern which should be exploited.

- Zhou et al., 2006
 - Duarte-Carvajalino et al., 2012
 - Moreno-Dominguez et al., 2012

© John Darrell Van Horn

Abstract model



$$\mathcal{G} = \left([[a], [b], [a, b], [c], [a, b, c]], \preceq \right)$$

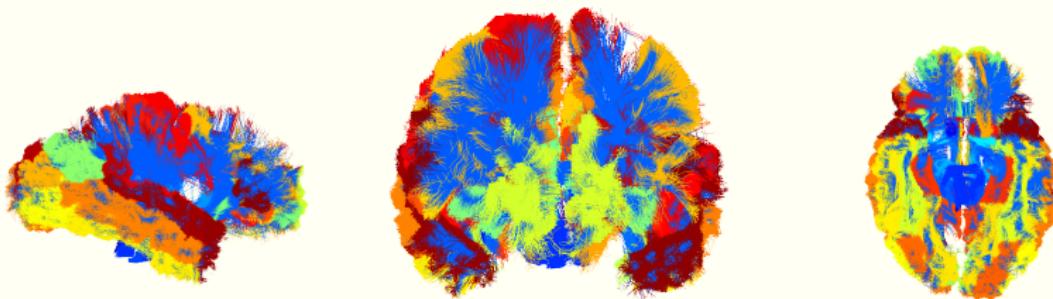
E.g.:

$$[a] \preceq [a, b] \preceq [c]$$

$$[a, b, c] \not\preceq [c]$$

Clustering

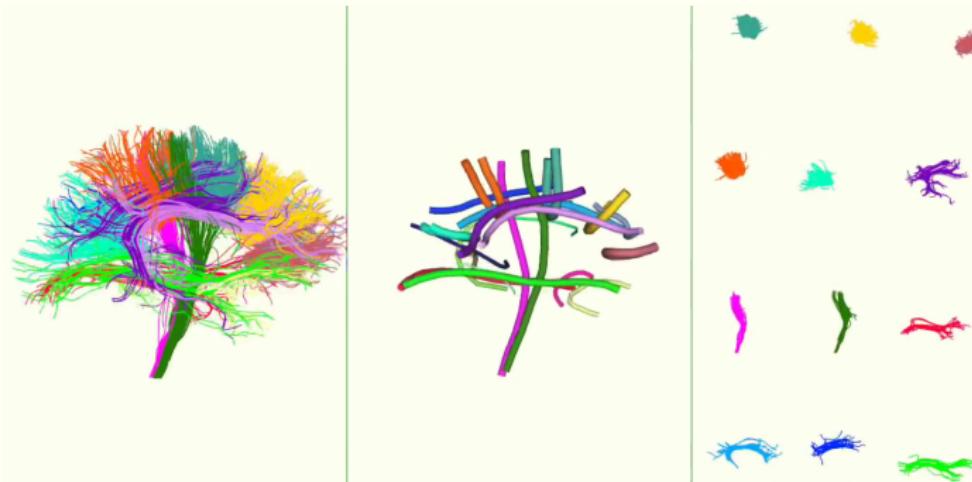
First level: Tract Querier



Wassermann et al., *The white matter query language: a novel approach for describing human white matter anatomy*, 2016

Clustering

Deeper levels: QuickBundlesX



Garyfallidis et al., "QuickBundlesX: Sequential clustering of millions of streamlines in multiple levels of detail at record execution time., 2016"

Nomenclature

- ❖ Valid/Invalid Bundle

- VB : fascicle belonging to the ground truth

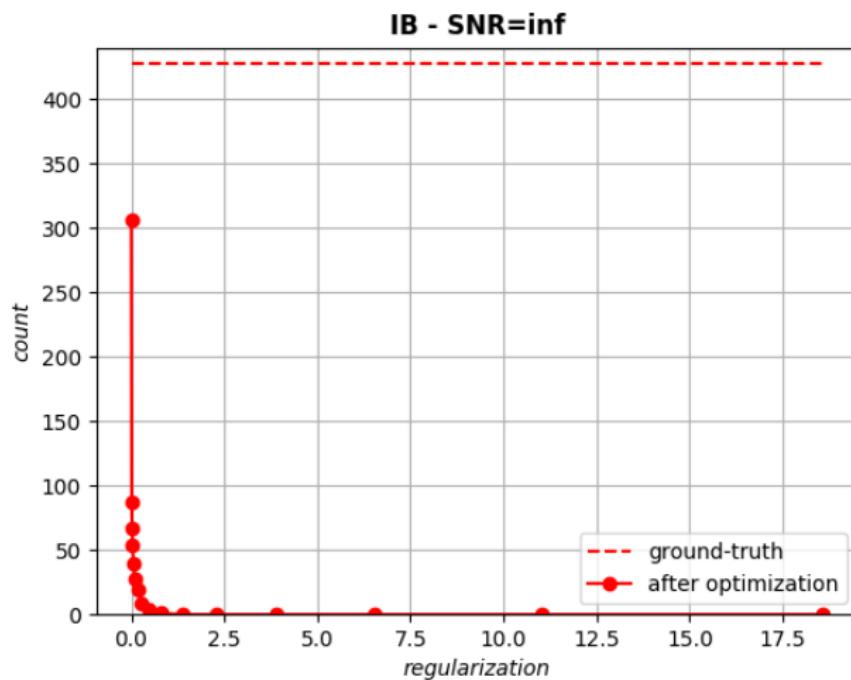
- IB : fascicle made of false positives

- ❖ Valid/Invalid Connection

- VC : fibre belonging to a VB

- IC : fibre belonging to an IB

Toy example



Formalisation

The problem

Find $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^c$ such that

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^c} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - y\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(x)$$

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RLS: Regularised Least Squares

Penalty term Ω

Objective:

Cancel invalid bundles



Sparsity in the space of fibres

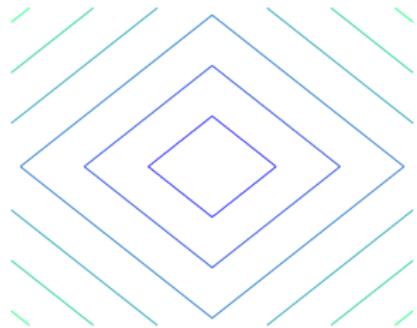
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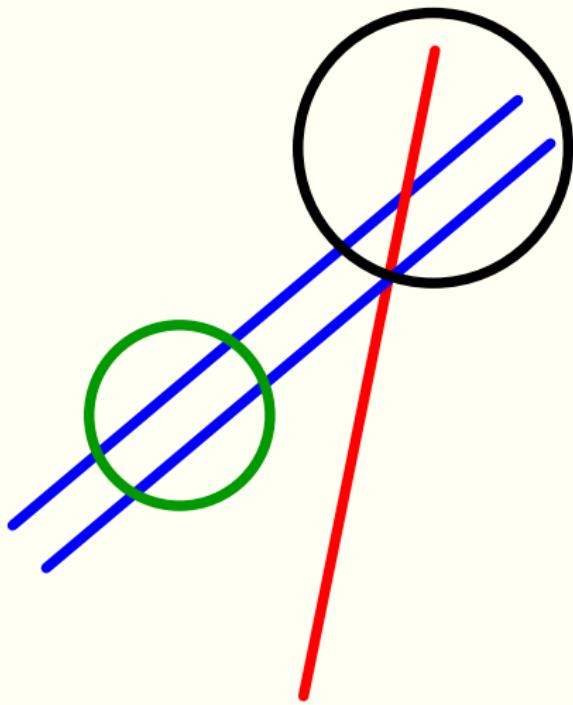


Sparsity in the space of fibres



Classical sparsity:
 $\Omega(x) = \|x\|_1$

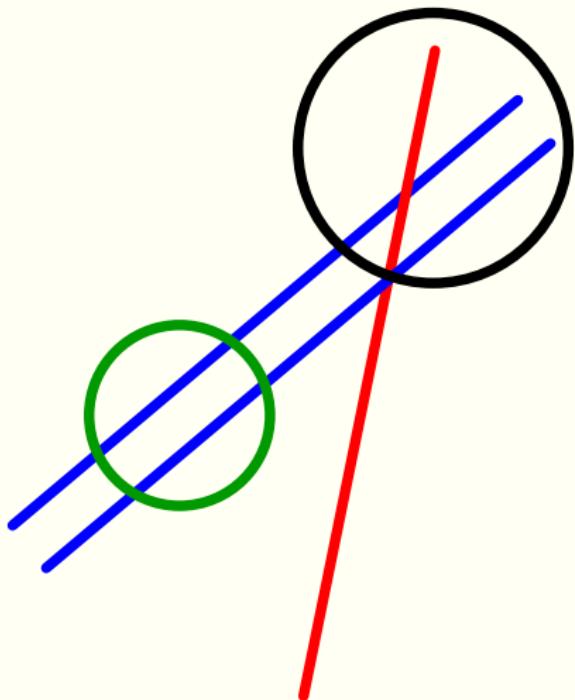
Hierarchical sparsity



$$\Omega(x) = \|X_{\mathcal{G}}\|_1 = \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \|x_{|g}\|_2$$

$$g = [a, b], \quad x = [x_a, x_b, x_c] \\ \Rightarrow x_{|g} = [x_a, x_b, 0]$$

Hierarchical sparsity



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$$\Omega(x) = \|[x_a, 0, 0]\|_2 + \|[0, x_b, 0]\|_2 + \\ \|[x_a, x_b, 0]\|_2 + \|[0, 0, x_c]\|_2 + \\ \|[x_a, x_b, x_c]\|_2$$

The problem

Find $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^c$ such that

$$x^* = \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^c}{\operatorname{argmin}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|Ax - y\|_2^2}_{\text{smooth}} + \underbrace{\lambda \Omega(x) + \iota_{\geq 0}(x)}_{\text{non smooth}}$$

HNNLS: Hierarchical Non Negative Least Squares

Numerical optimisation

Proximal operator

Proximal operator of f :

$$\text{prox}_f(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \mathbb{R}^c} \frac{1}{2} \|x - y\|_2^2 + f(y)$$

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If $f(x) = \iota_S(x)$ with S convex set:

$$\text{prox}_f(x) = \Pi_S(x)$$

Proximal operator

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If $f(x) = \iota_S(x)$ with S convex set:

$$\text{prox}_f(x) = \Pi_S(x)$$

$$\text{prox}_{\iota_{\geq 0}}(x) = \Pi_{\geq 0}(x)$$

Proximal of Ω

Let \mathcal{G} tree structure with order \preceq

$$\Omega(x) = \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \omega_g \|x_{|g}\|$$

Compute $\text{prox}_\Omega(x)$

1. Set $v = x$.
2. For $g \in \mathcal{G}$ following \preceq do

$$v_{|g} \longleftarrow v_{|g} - \Pi_{\|\cdot\|_* \leq \omega_g}(v_{|g}).$$

Jenatton et al., "Proximal methods for sparse hierarchical dictionary learning",
2010, ICML-10

Davis-Yin splitting scheme(2015)

Objective:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \mathbb{R}^c} \overbrace{f(y)}^{\text{s}} + \overbrace{g(y) + h(y)}^{\text{ns}}$$

Algorithm:

$$y = \mathbf{prox}_{\gamma g}(x)$$

$$z = \mathbf{prox}_{\gamma h}(2x - y - \gamma \nabla f(y))$$

$$x^+ = x - y + z$$

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Rate of convergence:

$$\mathcal{O}(1/k)$$

Non negativity

Definition (Absolute norm)

A norm $\Omega : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called *absolute* if $\forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}^N$ such that $|u_j| \leq |v_j|$ for all j implies $\Omega(u) \leq \Omega(v)$.

Theorem (Proximal operator of absolute norms)

Let $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\lambda > 0$. Consider an absolute norm Ω . We have

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{z \in \mathbb{R}_+^n} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|w - z\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(z) \right] = \operatorname{argmin}_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left[\frac{1}{2} \|[w]_+ - z\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(z) \right].$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{prox}_{\lambda \Omega + \iota_{\geq 0}}(w) &= \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda \Omega}([w]_+) \\ &= \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda \Omega} \left(\operatorname{prox}_{\iota_{\geq 0}}(w) \right)\end{aligned}$$

Jenatton et al., "Proximal methods for hierarchical sparse coding", 2011, JMLR

FISTA

Fast Iterative Shrinkage Thresholding Algorithm (2009)

Objective:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^c} \overbrace{f(x)}^{\text{s}} + \overbrace{g(x)}^{\text{ns}}$$

Algorithm ($t_0 = 1$):

$$x_k = \operatorname{prox}_{t_k g}(x_{k-1} - t_k \nabla f(x_{k-1}))$$

$$t_{k+1} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2}}{2}$$

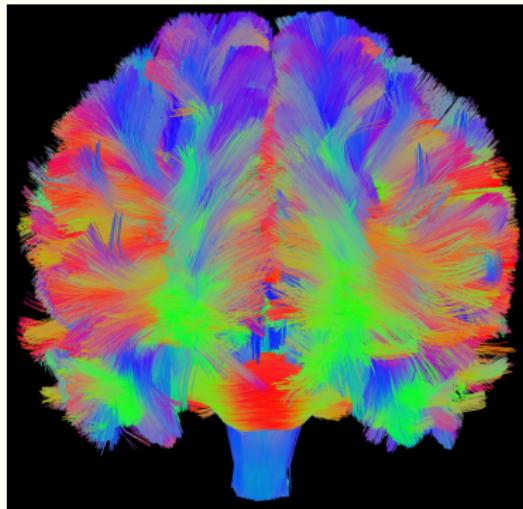
$$y_{k+1} = x_k + \left(\frac{t_k - 1}{t_{k+1}} \right) (x_k - x_{k-1})$$

Rate of convergence:

$$\mathcal{O}(1/k^2)$$

Results

Dataset



$$\|Ax - y\|_2^2$$

- A Tractography:
Particle Filtering¹
- y TDI map given by the
fibres belonging to VBs

¹ Girard and Descoteaux. *Online filtering tractography: tracking with anatomical priors*, ISMRM 2013

Competitors

SIFT2

Smith, Robert E., et al. "*SIFT2: Enabling dense quantitative assessment of brain white matter connectivity using streamlines tractography.*" *Neuroimage* 119 (2015): 338-351.

LiFE

Pestilli, Franco, et al. "*Evaluation and statistical inference for human connectomes.*" *Nature methods* 11.10 (2014): 1058-1063.

Same goal of HNNLS

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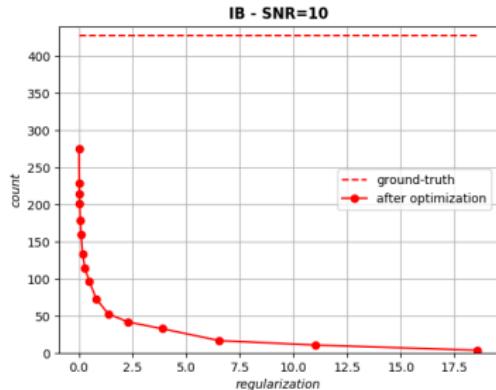
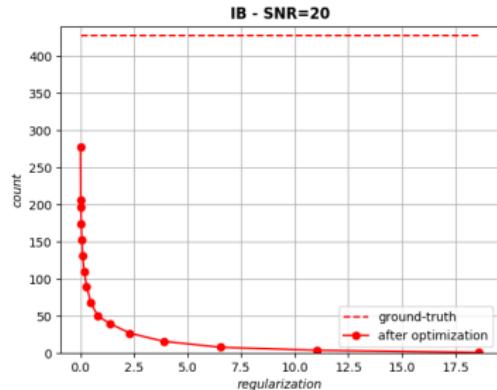
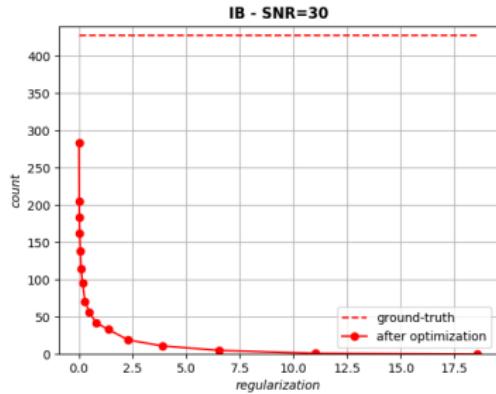
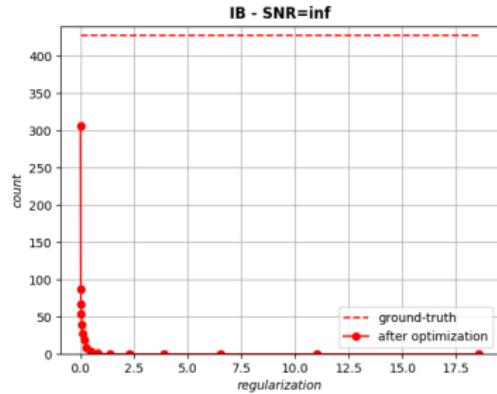
LiFE

Pestilli, Franco, et al. "*Evaluation and statistical inference for human connectomes.*" *Nature methods* 11.10 (2014): 1058-1063.

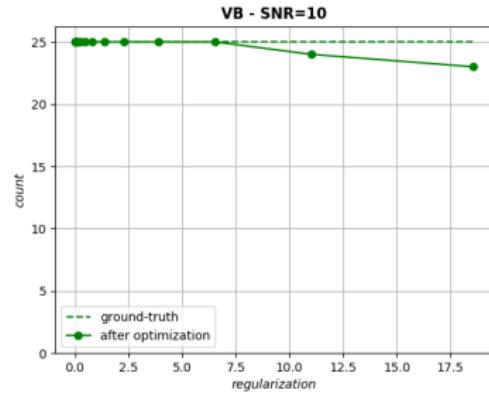
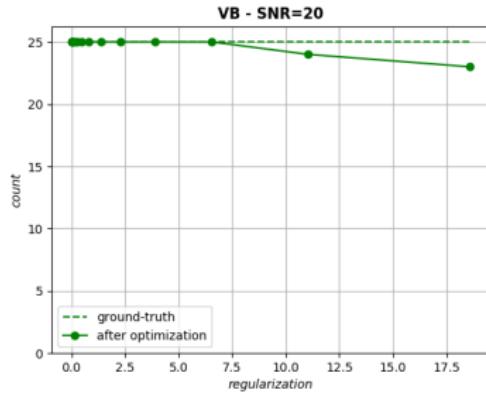
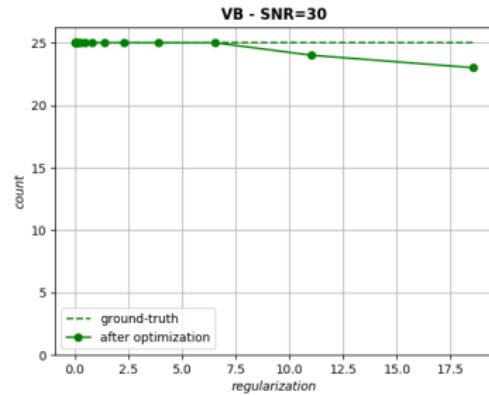
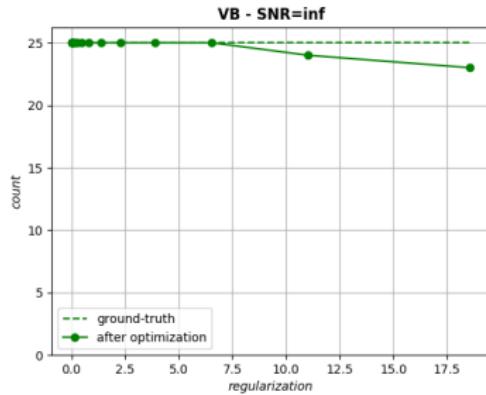
Same goal of HNNLS

No convexity, huge computational effort,
no microstructure information, ...

Results: Invalid Bundles (IB)



Results: Valid Bundles (VB)

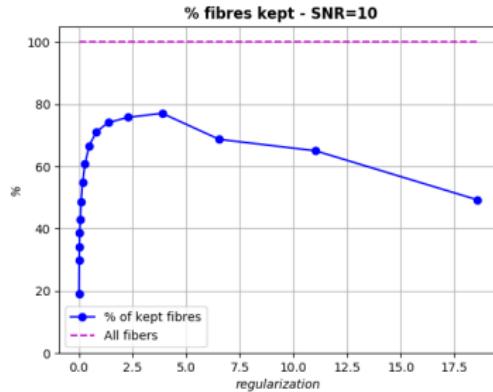
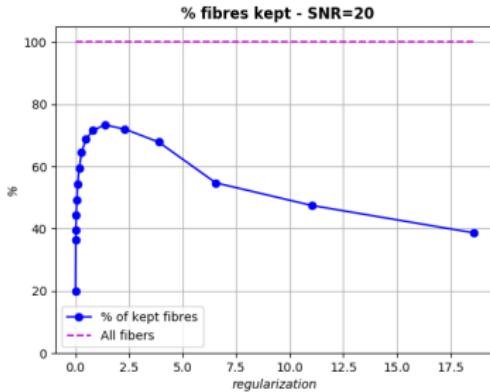
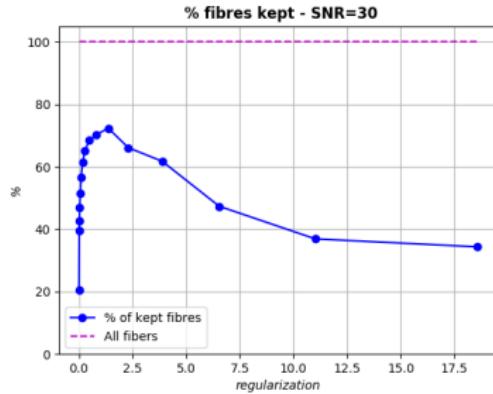
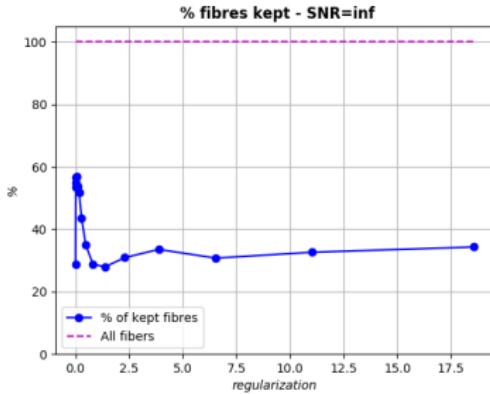


Results

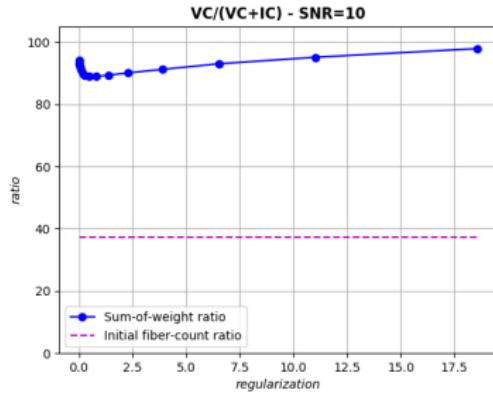
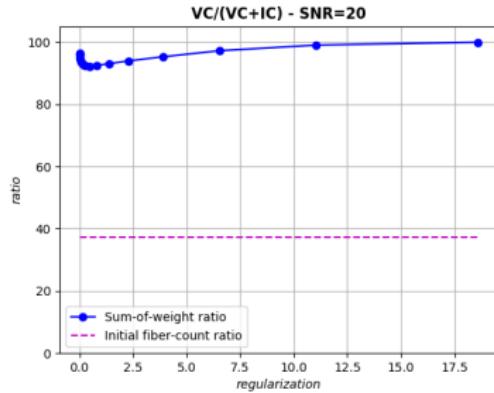
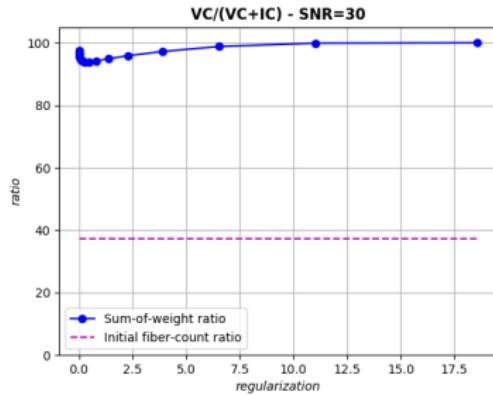
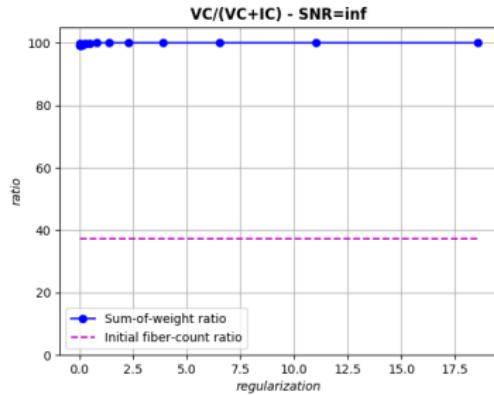
$$\lambda \in \{ 0 \quad 0.012 \quad 0.020 \quad 0.035 \quad 0.059 \quad 0.100 \quad 0.168 \quad 0.284 \\ 0.480 \quad 0.809 \quad 1.364 \quad 2.300 \quad 3.879 \quad 6.540 \quad 11.02 \quad 18.59 \}$$

	SIFT2	LiFE	$\lambda = 0$	λ_1	λ_2	λ_3	λ_4	λ_5	λ_6
VB	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
IB	427	423	284	205	184	162	138	115	95
	λ_7	λ_8	λ_9	λ_{10}	λ_{11}	λ_{12}	λ_{13}	λ_{14}	λ_{15}
VB	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	24	23
IB	71	56	42	33	19	11	5	1	0

Results: Kept fibres



Results: Valid Connections



Future work

Still to be done...

- ☛ Sensitivity analysis w.r.t. tractogram
- ☛ Sensitivity analysis w.r.t. clustering thresholds
- ☛ Set up a strategy for selecting λ
- ☛ Exploit more sophisticated solvers (Canales, 2015)

Thank you

regularisation restricted optimisation norm
sparsity model connections mri estimated
results

algorithm tractography zero iteration connectivity group image

defined sparse order
matrix brain
structure tree
linear argmin
recover solution acquired sift2 voxel local gradient invalid
bundles imaging hierarchical minimisation formulation neuroimaging
imaging remark fibre convergence data

false positives signal microstructure

The end

Reweighted ℓ_1

Objective:

Smart choice of w_g

Iteratively define

$$w_g = \frac{1}{\|x_g\|_1 + \varepsilon}$$

and restart the optimisation procedure.

Candes, Emmanuel J., Michael B. Wakin, and Stephen P. Boyd. "Enhancing sparsity by reweighted ℓ_1 minimization." *Journal of Fourier analysis and applications*, 2008

RUMBA

Robust and Unbiased Model-Based Spherical Deconvolution

$$\mathbb{P}(S_i | \bar{S}_i, \sigma^2, n) = \frac{\bar{S}_i}{\sigma^2} \left(\frac{S_i}{\bar{S}_i} \right)^n \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} [S_i^2 + \bar{S}_i^2] \right\} I_{n-1} \left(\frac{S_i \bar{S}_i}{\sigma^2} \right) u(S_i),$$
$$f = f \circ \frac{H^t \left[S \circ \frac{I_n(S \circ Hf / \sigma^2)}{I_{n-1}(S \circ Hf / \sigma^2)} \right]}{H^t H f}$$

where $S_i = (Hf)_i$.

Canales-Rodríguez, Erick J., et al. *Spherical deconvolution of multichannel diffusion MRI data with non-Gaussian noise models and spatial regularization*. PloS one 10.10 (2015).

Image classification

Supervisor: Prof. Manuele Bicego and Prof. Luca di Persio

Task: **classification of production of industrial butchery**

1. Edge detection
2. Parametrisation of the edge
3. Model identification (AR, ARMA, GARCH) on the parametrisation
4. Classification of the identified coefficients

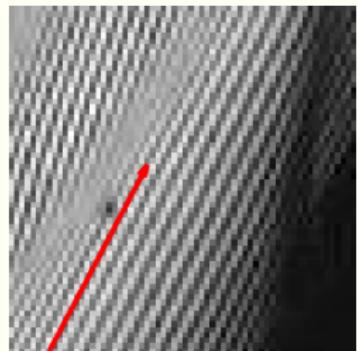
Super Resolution

Supervisors: Prof. Roberto Foroni and Prof. Giandomenico Orlandi

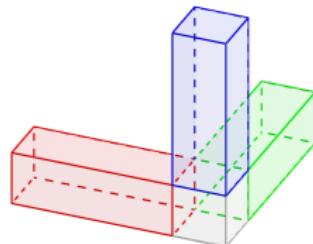
Task: **In-plane and through-plane SR of MRI scans**

• In-plane

1. Find the local scale
(Wavelet)
2. Detect the local orientation (TV)
3. Convolution with tilted anisotropic Gaussian kernel

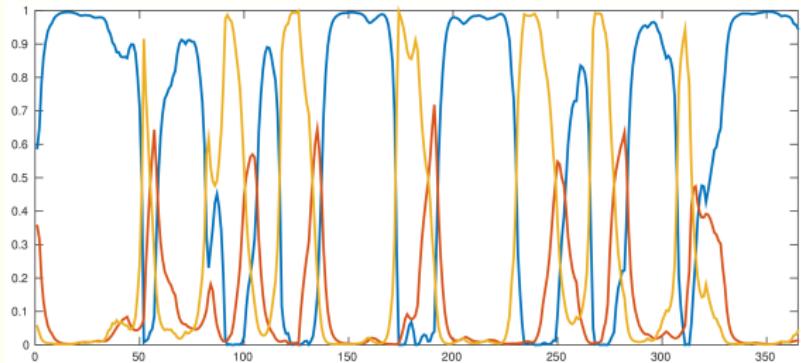


• Through-plane



Bachelor thesis

State probabilities $\mathbb{P}(S_t = j | \psi_t)$



Comparison with the benchmark

