TITLE SLIDE

Hello, we are Gloria Diederich, Alyson Grassi, and Molly Nichols.

We have chosen to discuss image deblurring and its relationship to matrix theory and to practical applications. In particular, we will focus on a topic of practical interest in real-world applications – blind image deconvolution.

OUTLINE SLIDE

We’ll first walk through a quick introduction to the problem and why it is significant, along with introducing some terminology. We’ll then move into more details about the model of the problem. Finally, we’ll show some results using Matlab and our conclusions.

WHAT IS IMAGE DEBLURRING SLIDE

First we ask – what is image deblurring? Essentially, it is what it sounds like. Given some degraded or blurred image, we would like to recover as much information as possible about the original image and restore that quality to it.

Images have become so ubiquitous, for personal, public, and scientific purposes. Images are extremely useful for things like security footage, medical screening, remote sensing and astronomical exploration. Of course, we’d like the best possible quality images for these applications, but there are numerous issues that could occur, such as motion blur, incorrect system calibration, unexpected environmental effects, transmission errors, and many more. Ultimately clarity in images can define the results in certain fields of research. Image deblurring can help us achieve the necessary image quality for serious applications like these.

As we’ve seen already, matrices can represent images and therefore the theory behind matrices is interwoven in this application.

WHAT IS BLIND DECONVOLUTION SLIDE

If we think of the blurred image as a convolution of two sources (the image of desired quality and the blur), we can begin to develop a mathematical process of acquiring the ideal image. This is more straightforward when we know the degradation of the image – we could use the convolution and the degradation to find the ideal image, basically reversing the blur’s affects. A more prevalent problem in real world applications is when the degradation of the images is not known, when perhaps multiple effects are at play, and in different magnitudes. This is a harder, but very relevant, problem: the convolution of the two sources is known, but neither the blur nor the ideal image is known. This makes acquiring the ideal image more difficult. The separating the blur and the image, is called the “deconvolution”, and achieving this without knowledge of either sources of the signal is known as blind deconvolution. The solution to this problem generally involves some sort of iterative process or algorithm to find the maximum likelihood estimate of the two sources.

MODEL TERMINOLOGY

In order to construct our model, we define g as the convoluted signal of the ideal image and blur, f as the image source or ideal image, h as the Point Spread Function or blur and n as additional noise. The basis of our model is shown in the first equation. The bottom graphic shows how g is created. Our goal is to go backwards to find both h and f ultimately. These functions have 3 dimensions, x, y, for pixel location and a z for the image data in that pixel.

MODEL ALGORITHMS

The collected image data has a likelihood of being produced by a particular source because of the random nature of quantum photon emissions. The Maximum likelihood estimation is a method of creating best estimates of data effected by random noise by finding the estimate of f from the convolution equation that is most likely to have given rise to the data collected.

This is achieved by creating a ``logarithmic-likelihood function'' representative of the likelihood that a certain level of noise is measured in the collection of data. This functional, a function of f(), h() and g(), is solved iteratively to calculate its maximum value. A reconstructed image, f(), and reconstructed PSF, h(), are found using an iterative search. A more detailed look on this algorithm, called the expectation-maximation (EM) algorithm, is given in Holmes.

MAtlab uses the Richardson-Lucy algorithm in its software for blind deconvolution. This algorithm operates under the assumption that the original image was degraded due to any of the aforementioned causes and these can be represented with a PSF. The R-L algorithm employs the expectation-maximization algorithm in order to determine a restored image that most accurately represents the original image. Thus, this algorithm assumes that the degraded image was formed through a Poisson process meaning the degraded image has signal-dependent noise corruption

MATLAB IMPLEMENTATION

In order to show the significance of deblurring, we investigated Matlab’s function deconvblind and have prepared some results from using it. Using a small amount of code, you can find restore an image to a more ideal form. The key to using the algorithms is a good initial guess at the blur. Otherwise, it’s hard to restore the image. Below is an example from one of the papers we’ve referenced. On the left is their deblurred image and on the right is our deblurred image using Matlab.

CONLCUSION

By thinking of a blurred image as a convolution of the blur and the clear image, we use algorithms that find the maximum likelihood estimations for image and blur from initial guesses. Image deblurring is essential in specific fields of research and matrix theory is an essential part of it. With matrix theory we are able to construct the image data and use the algorithms to enhance or restore images. With the availability of built-in functions with Matlab or other software packages, researchers can get the needed clarity to adequately categorize their findings. Blurred images negatively affect many fields including astronomy, security, biology, or history, and Image deblurring through blind deconvolution is essential for gathering data and information in each.