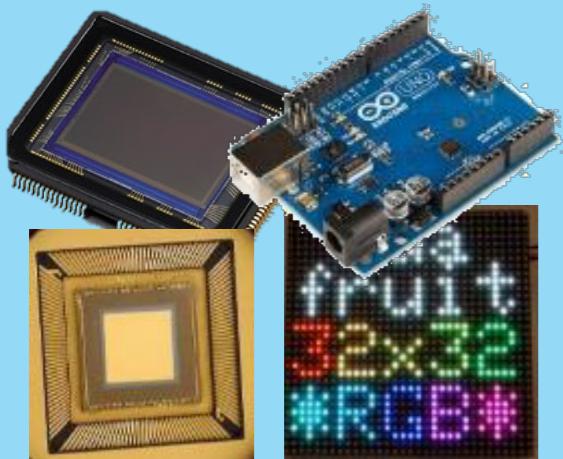




Optics



Sensors  
&  
devices



Signal  
processing  
&  
algorithms

# COMPUTATIONAL METHODS FOR IMAGING (AND VISION)

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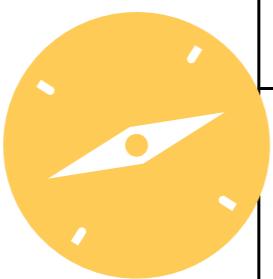
LECTURE 24: NONLINEAR INVERSION  
- BEYOND  $\ell_2$  REGULARIZATION

PROF. JOHN MURRAY-BRUCE

# WHERE ARE WE



**WE ARE HERE!**



10	15-Mar-21	Forward Models and Inverse Problems	Linear Inversion - Inverse problems - Deconvolution and Denoising	IIP 4, Appendix E	<b>HW 4</b>
	17-Mar-21		Intro to Regularized Inversion I - Tikhonov	IIP 5, Appendix E	
11	22-Mar-21	Regularization	Intro to Regularized Inversion II - Iterative methods - Steepest descent	IIP 6	
	24-Mar-21		Statistical methods I - ML estimation - Bayesian estimation	IIP 7.1 - 7.5	
12	29-Mar-21	Forward models and Inverse Problems II	LSV imaging systems: Forward problem - SVD - Inversion	IIP 8.1, 9, 10	
	31-Mar-21		Beyond $L_2$ -regularization - Sparsity ( $l_0$ - and $l_1$ -priors) - TV prior	SMIV 1.1 - 1.5 Papers & Handout	
13	5-Apr-21	Non-linear Regularization	Algorithms overview - IST/ISTA - ADMM	Papers & Handout	<b>HW 4</b>
	7-Apr-21		<b>Beyond <math>L_2</math> regularization</b>		
14	12-Apr-21 14-Apr-21			Spring Break (no classes)	
15	19-Apr-21 21-Apr-21	Applications of Comp. Imaging		<b>Intro to optics &amp; Applications</b>	
16	26-Apr-21 28-Apr-21			<b>Group Presentations (Teams)</b>	
17	3-May-21			*no class	
	5-May-21			<b>Final Exam: 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM</b>	

# NONLINEAR REGULARIZATION OUTLINE

- ▶ **Beyond  $\ell_2$  regularization**

- ▶  $\ell_1$ -norm regularization

- ▶ TV regularization

- ▶ **Robustness to noise**

- ▶ **Matlab demonstrations**

# NONLINEAR REGULARIZATION

## LEARNING OUTCOME

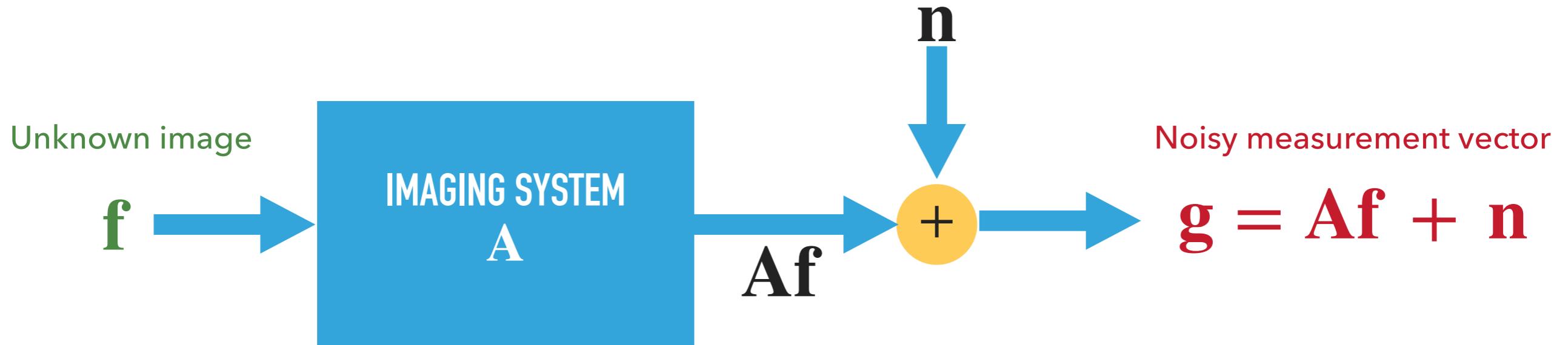
- ▶ Identify the key benefits of  $\ell_1$  regularization
- ▶ Identify the key benefits of TV regularization
- ▶ Solve linear inverse imaging problems with  $\ell_1$  and TV regularization

BRIEF REVIEW OF LINEAR INVERSION

---

$\ell_2$  REGULARIZATION

# DISCRETE MODEL FOR IMAGING SYSTEMS



- ▶ Given the measurements  $\mathbf{g}$ , we wish to recover an estimate of the input  $\mathbf{f}$ 
  - ▶ This is a discrete **linear inverse problem**
- ▶ Discussed different linear inverses:
  - ▶ Standard inverse (square matrix), Pseudo-inverse, Tikhonov regularized inverse

# DISCRETE MODEL FOR IMAGING SYSTEMS

## LINEAR INVERSION

- ▶ **Discrete model:** linear imaging systems modeled as,  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{n}$
- ▶ **Standard Inverse:** works only if  $\mathbf{A}$  can be inverted
- ▶ **Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse:**

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}\|^2$$

- ▶ Solution:  $\mathbf{f}_{\text{est}} = \mathbf{A}^\dagger \mathbf{g}$ , where  $\mathbf{A}^\dagger = (\mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^H$

- ▶ **Tikhonov regularized inverse**

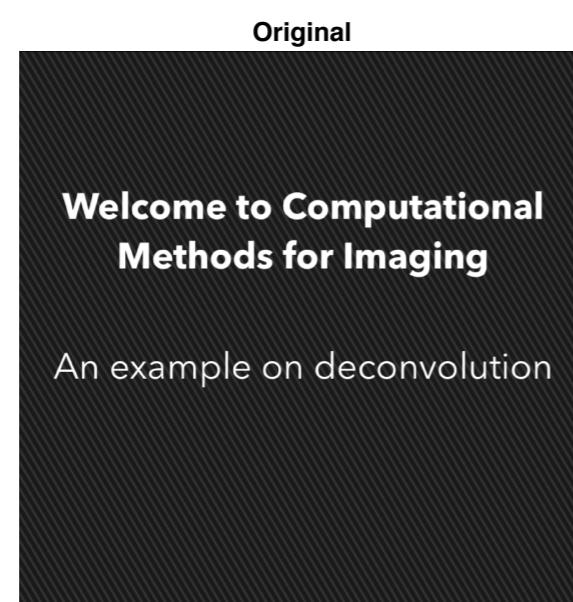
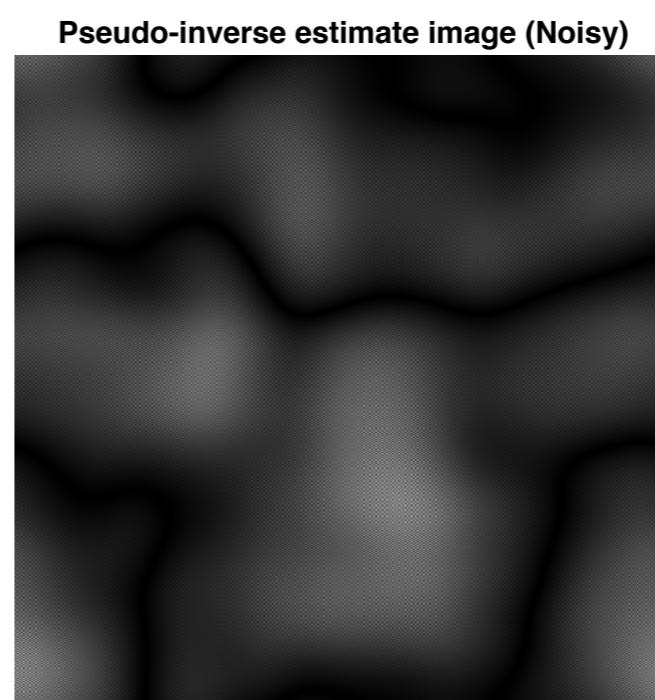
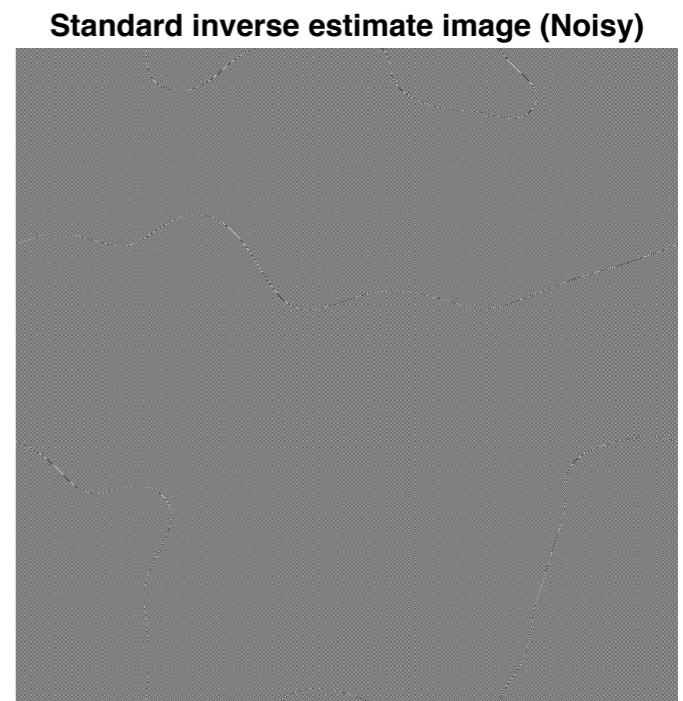
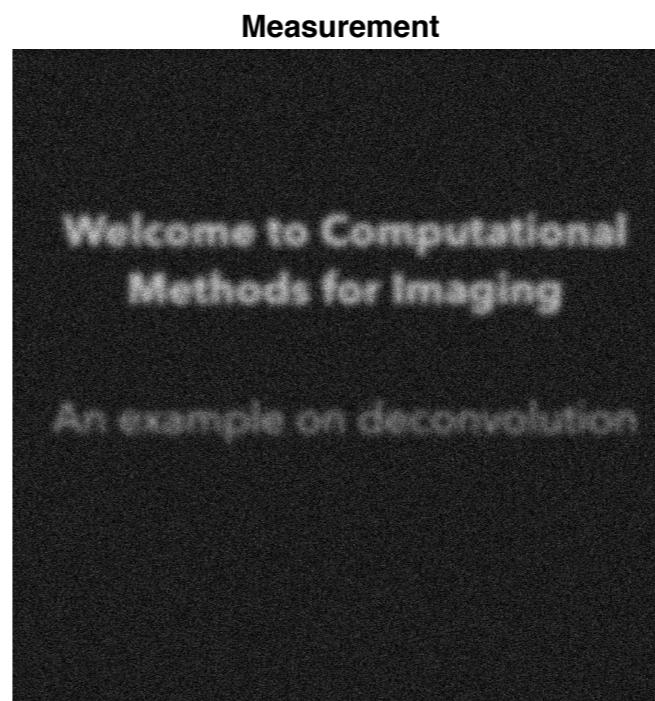
$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{f}\|_2^2$$

- ▶ Solution:  $\mathbf{f}_{\text{est}} = \mathbf{A}_{\text{Tik}}^\dagger \mathbf{g}$ , where  $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Tik}}^\dagger = (\mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{A} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^H$

Represents our prior/initial beliefs about the structure of  $\mathbf{f}$ , i.e. **Bounded 2-norm**

# COMPARISON

- ▶ Standard inverse and pseudo-inverse produce garbage
- ▶ Tikhonov-regularized estimate provides some improvement



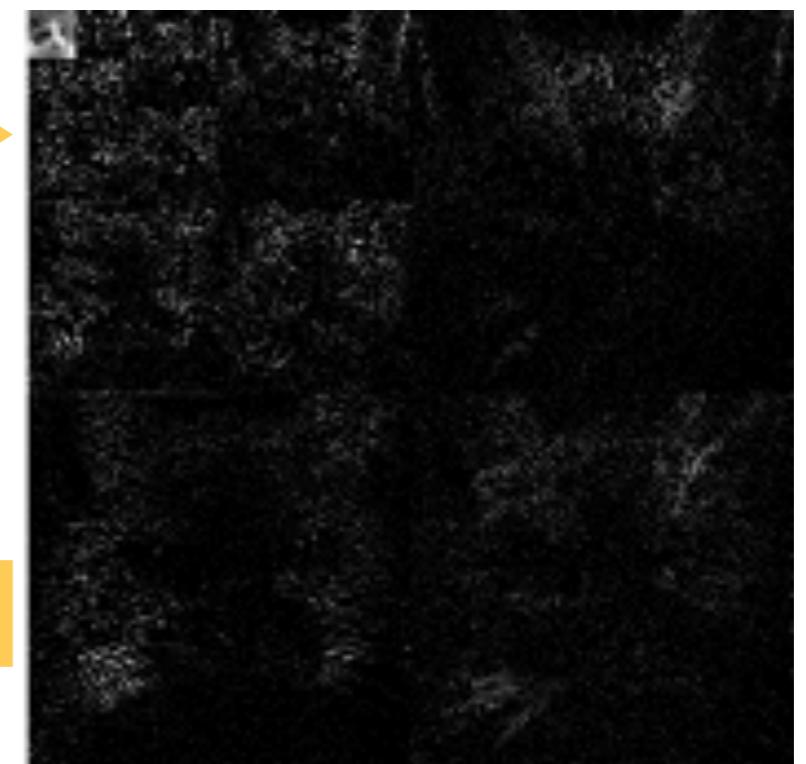
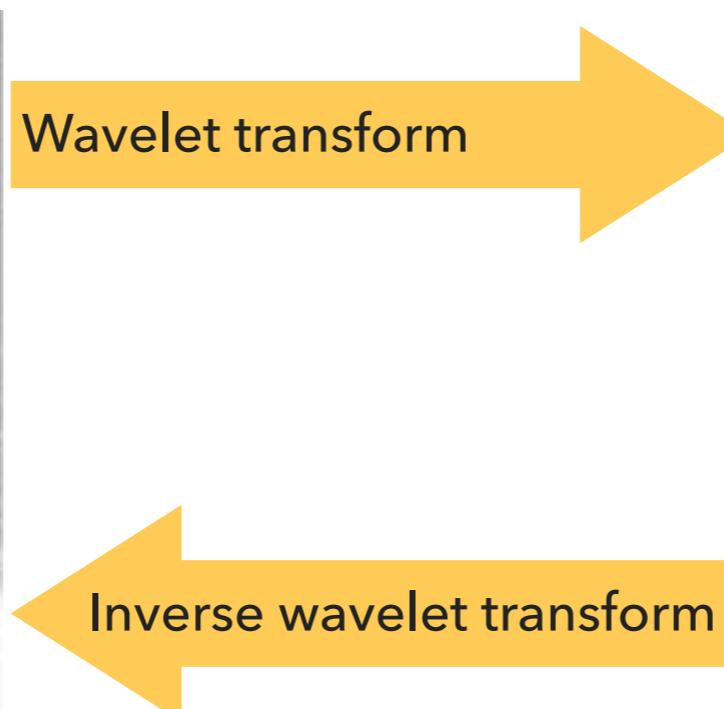
NONLINEAR INVERSION

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BEYOND  $\ell^2$   
REGULARIZATION

## SPARSITY IS A NATURAL PRIOR FOR IMAGES

- ▶ A vector/matrix is said to be **sparse** if an overwhelming majority of its entries are equal to zero
- ▶ **Example:** sparsity in a *wavelet* basis (wavelet domain)



$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{c}$$

$$\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{f}$$

# SPARSITY IS A NATURAL PRIOR FOR IMAGES

- ▶ **Example 2:** sparsity in of the image *gradient*



Gradient magnitudes



**f**

**u = Df**

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## A SPARSITY ENFORCING PRIORS

- ▶ **Idea:** Incorporate that information as a prior when estimating images
  - ▶ Seek estimates that are sparse in some transform domain
  - ▶ For natural images, sparsity in the wavelet domain or gradient is common
  - ▶ One could try to learn the transforms (**Dictionary Learning**)
    - ▶ But, in general, a basis where the object is sparse is a bit of an art form

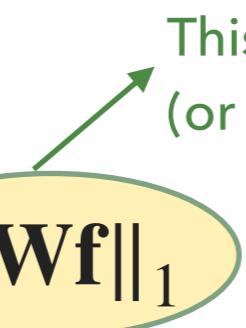
THE ASSOCIATED MINIMIZATION  
PROBLEMS

---

ENFORCING SPARSITY

# A SPARSITY ENFORCING PRIOR

## THE $\ell_1$ -NORM

- ▶ **Sparse solutions:** the  $\ell_1$ -norm constraint (under certain mathematical conditions) leads to sparse solutions
- ▶ Specifically,
$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{f}\|_1$$


This is the  $\ell_1$  regularization term (or sparsity promoting term).
- ▶  $\mathbf{W}$  is some *a priori* chosen basis, the wavelet, Fourier, DCT

# A SPARSITY ENFORCING PRIOR THE $\ell_1$ -NORM

## ► $\ell_1$ -regularized inversion:

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Af}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{Wf}\|_1$$

- $\mathbf{W}$  is some *a priori* chosen basis, the wavelet, Fourier, DCT
- **No closed form solution, unfortunately :-)**
- Must solve numerically using (iterative optimization methods). E.g.:
  - Conjugate gradient methods (like FISTA, ISTA)
  - Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)
  - Many implementations exist in pretty much any programming language.
  - We will use it as a black box! ;-)

# A SPARSITY ENFORCING PRIOR

## THE $\ell_1$ -NORM INTUITION

- ▶  **$\ell_1$ -regularized inversion:**

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{f}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{f}\|_1$$

- ▶  $\mathbf{W}$  is some *a priori* chosen basis, the wavelet, Fourier, DCT
- ▶ It could also be the identity matrix  $\mathbf{I}$
- ▶ Recall the definition for  $\ell_p$ -norm of a vector  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

$$\|\mathbf{f}\|_p = \left( |f_0|^p + |f_1|^p + \cdots + |f_{N-1}|^p \right)^{1/p},$$

where  $|f_n|$  is the absolute value of  $f_n$

- ▶ **Sparse solutions intuition:** Let's look at a simple linear system

WHY DOES THIS WORK?

---

**ENFORCING SPARSITY**

## SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR SYSTEMS USING DIFFERENT NORMS

- ▶ Consider a very simple linear system (i.e.  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{Af}$ )
- ▶ The solutions behave very differently under different **norm constraints** on  $\mathbf{f}$
- ▶ Let the linear system be:  
$$g_0 = (1/5)f_0 + (2/5)f_1$$
- ▶ Or, in matrix-vector form

$$\begin{matrix} g_0 \\ \mathbf{g} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} [1/5 & 2/5] \\ \mathbf{A} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} [f_0 \\ f_1] \\ \mathbf{f} \end{matrix}$$

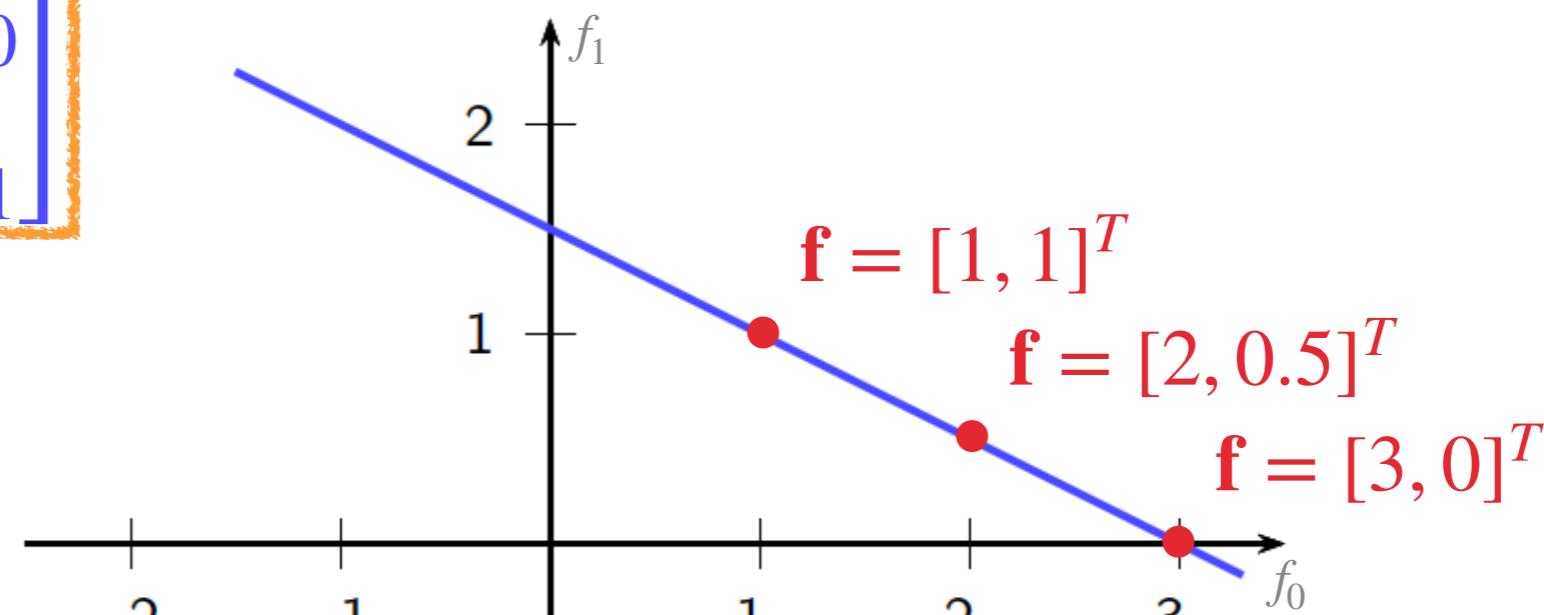
## SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR SYSTEMS USING DIFFERENT NORMS

- Consider a very simple linear system (i.e.  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{Af}$ )
- The solutions behave very differently under different **norm constraints** on  $\mathbf{f}$

**constraints on  $\mathbf{f}$**

$$g_0 = [1/5 \quad 2/5] \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$g_0 = 3/5$$



INVESTIGATE SOLUTIONS UNDER  
DIFFERENT NORM CONSTRAINTS

$$\Rightarrow g_0 = (1/5 \times 1) + (2/5 \times 1) = 3/5$$

$$\Rightarrow g_0 = (1/5 \times 2) + (2/5 \times 0.5) = 3/5$$

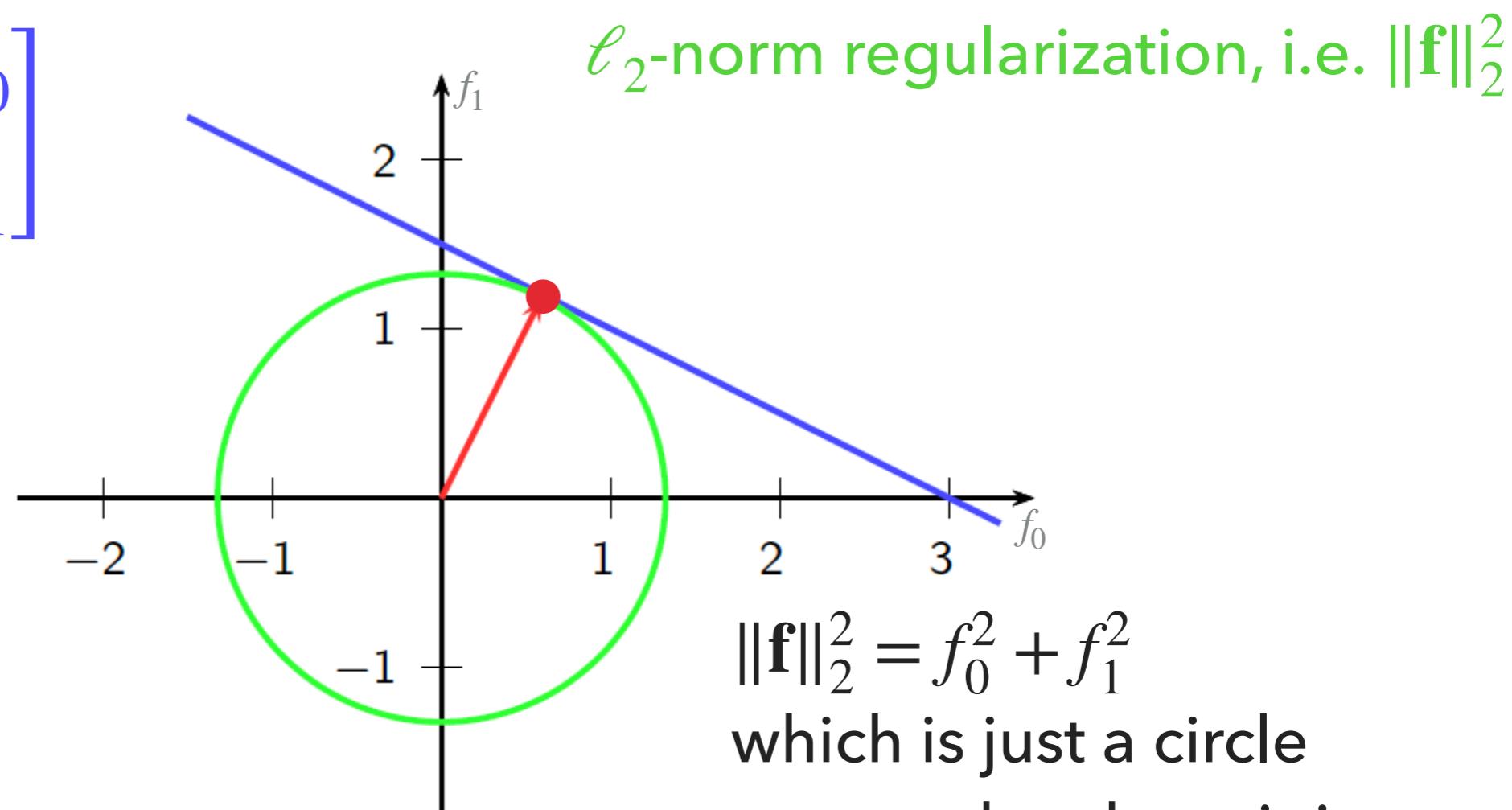
$$\Rightarrow g_0 = (1/5 \times 3) + (2/5 \times 0) = 3/5$$

## SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR SYSTEMS USING DIFFERENT NORMS

- ▶ Consider a very simple linear system (i.e.  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{Af}$ )
- ▶ The solutions behave very differently under different **norm constraints** on  $\mathbf{f}$

$$g_0 = [1/5 \quad 2/5] \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$g_0 = 3/5$$

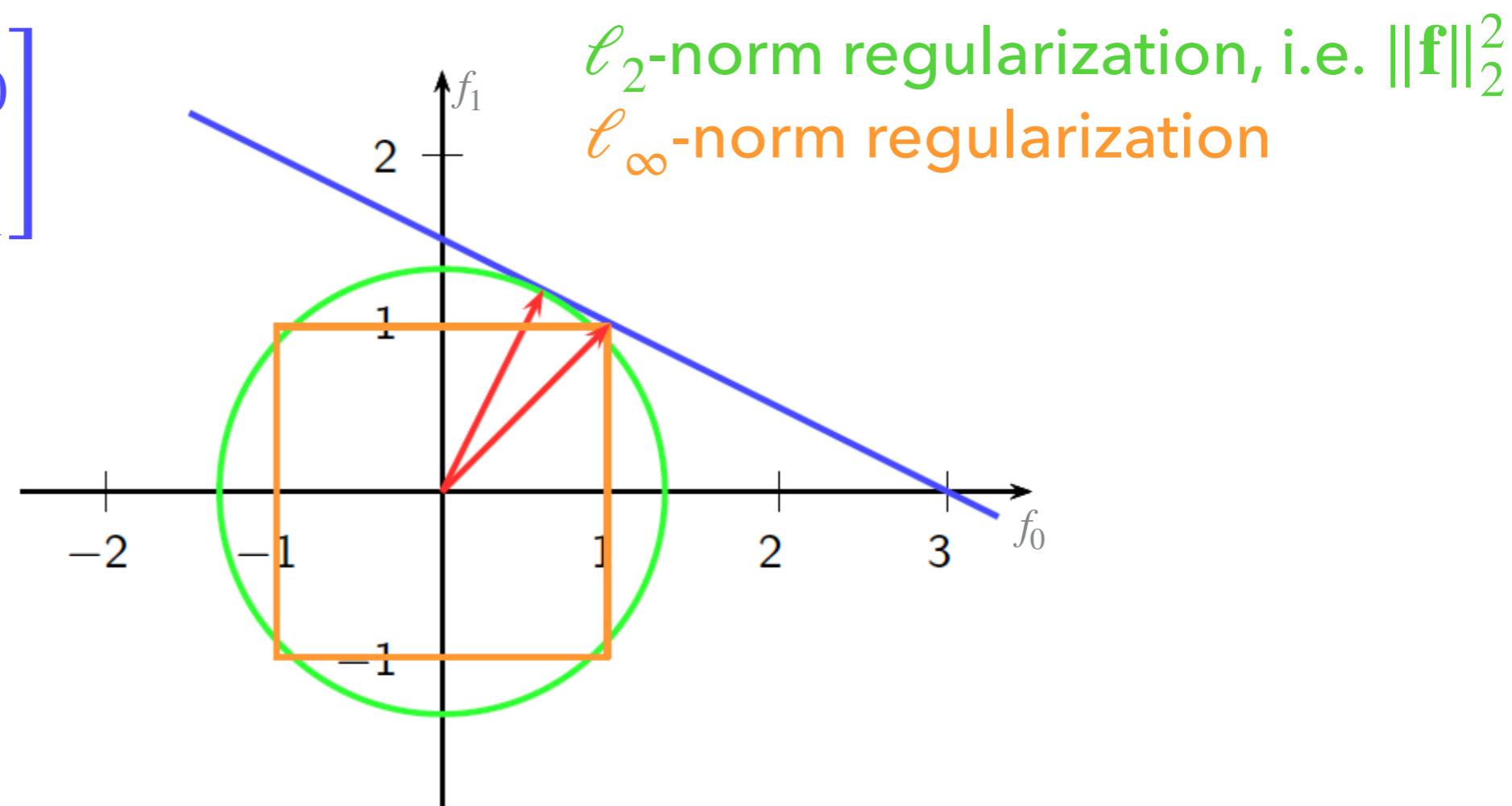


## SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR SYSTEMS USING DIFFERENT NORMS

- ▶ Consider a very simple linear system (i.e.  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{Af}$ )
- ▶ The solutions behave very differently under different **norm constraints** on  $\mathbf{f}$

$$g_0 = [1/5 \quad 2/5] \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$g_0 = 3/5$$



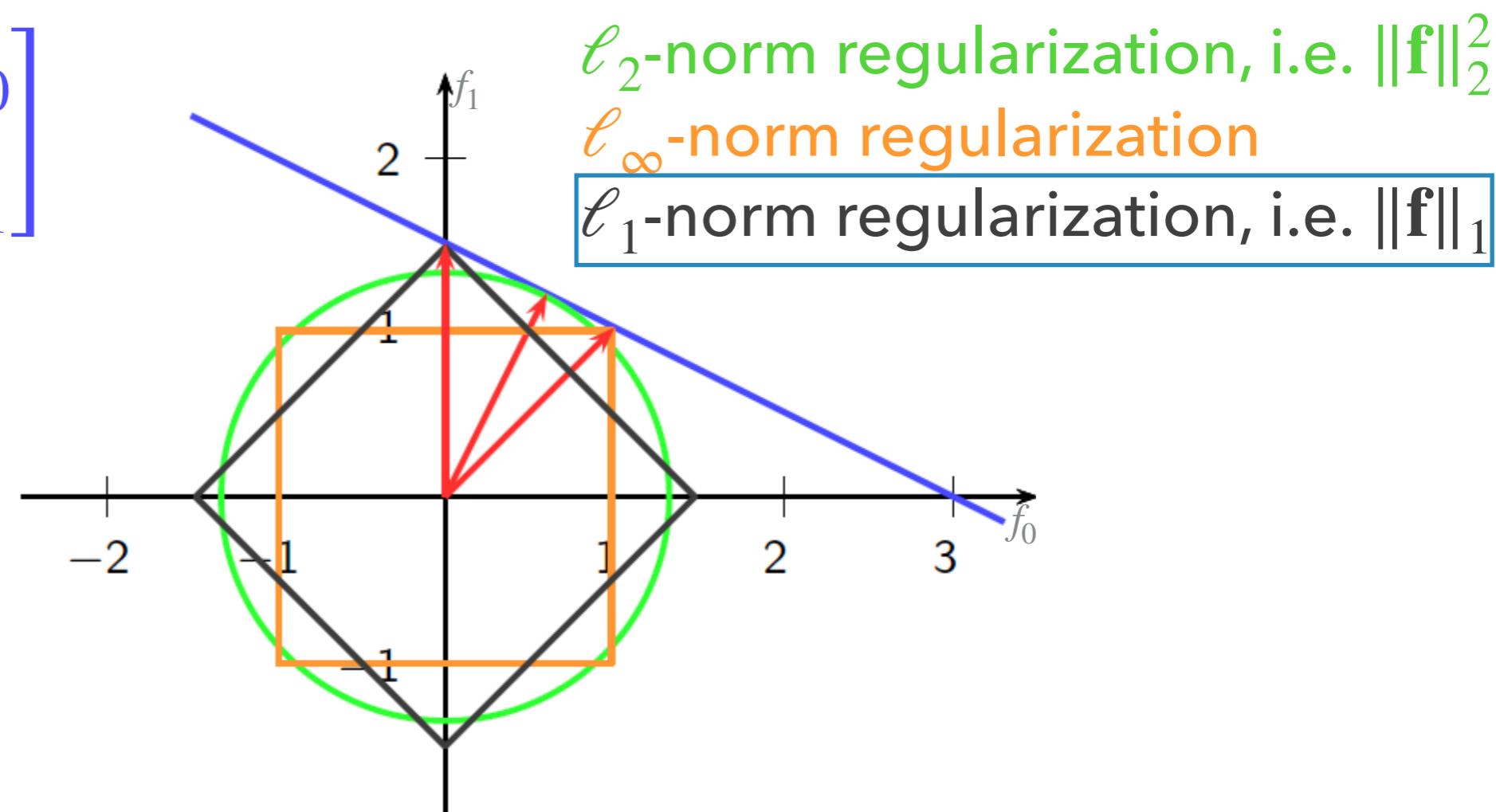
## SOLUTIONS TO LINEAR SYSTEMS USING DIFFERENT NORMS

- Consider a very simple linear system (i.e.  $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{Af}$ )
- The solutions behave very differently under different **norm constraints** on  $\mathbf{f}$

$$g_0 = [1/5 \quad 2/5] \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$g_0 = 3/5$$

ONE OF THESE  
NORMS GIVES  
THE SPARSEST  
SOLUTION!



ENFORCING SPARSITY IN THE GRADIENT  
- PIECEWISE SMOOTHNESS

---

**TOTAL VARIATION**

## TOTAL VARIATION PRIOR

- ▶ **Total Variation:** Here, the gradient of the image is assumed to be sparse
- ▶ This is called the total variation regularization



$f$

Gradient magnitudes



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{f}$$

# TOTAL VARIATION (TV) REGULARIZATION

## THE TV SEMI-NORM

- ▶  **$\ell_1$ -regularized inversion:**

$$\min_{\mathbf{f}} \|\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{Af}\|_2^2 + \lambda \text{TV}(\mathbf{f})$$

- ▶ The total variation (semi)-norm term is defined as:
- ▶  $\text{TV}(\mathbf{f}) = |f_1 - f_0| + |f_2 - f_1| + \dots + |f_{N-1} - f_{N-2}|$
- ▶ This constraint promotes piecewise constant reconstructions
- ▶ Does a better job at preserving edges (compared to Tikhonov)

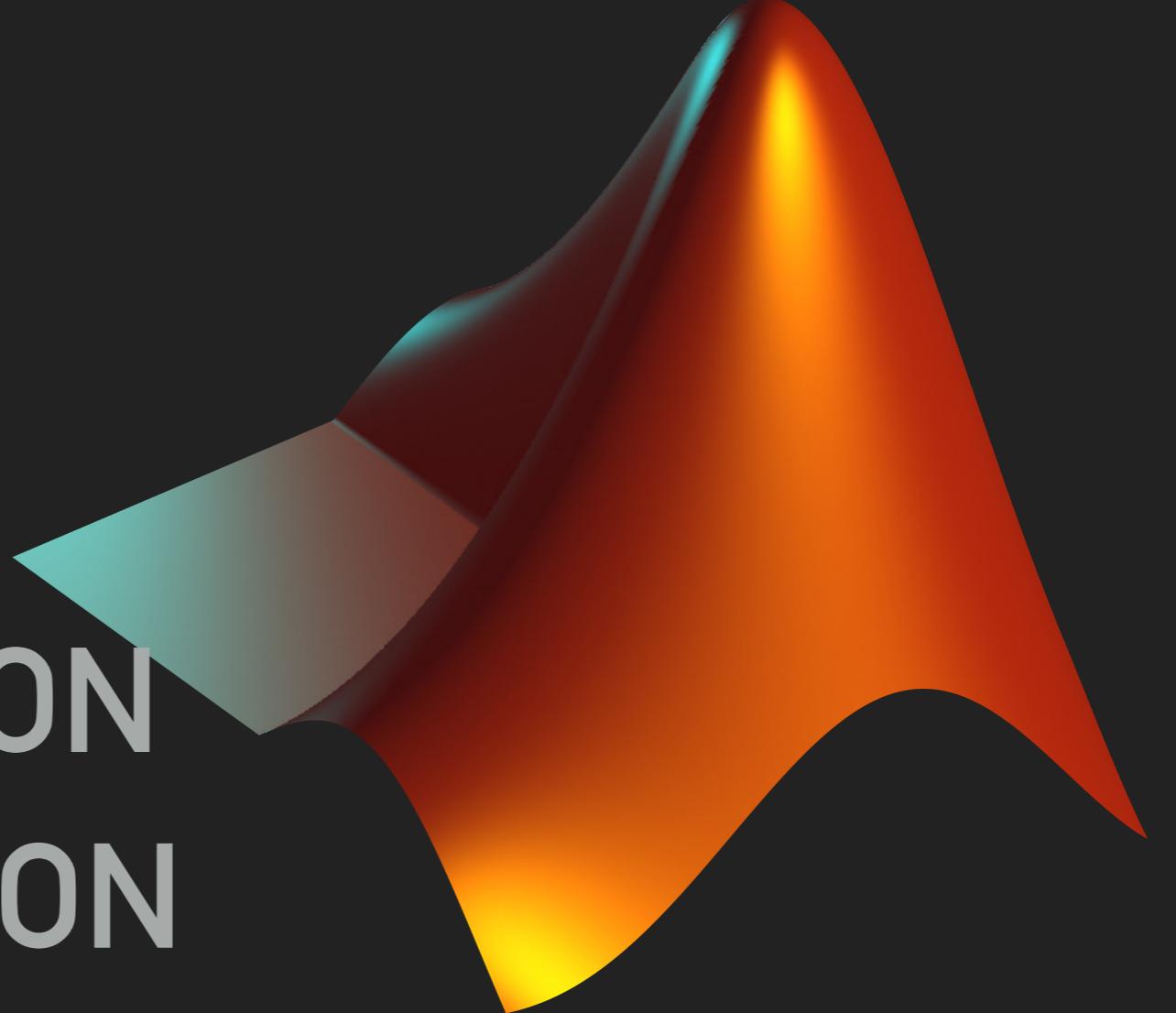
## MATLAB CODE

See '**Lecture24\_TVReg\_Inverse\_Prob.m**' on canvas under *Beyond L2 Regularization* module.

An implementation of FISTA algorithm for solving the TV regularized inverse problem is the function '**fistatvrecon.m**' also on canvas (Lecture 24).

For mathematical details of the algorithm, can look at the papers:

- [1] Amir Beck, and Marc Teboulle. "A fast iterative shrinkage-thresholding algorithm for linear inverse problems." *SIAM journal on imaging sciences*, 2(1), 183-202, 2009.
- [2] Amir Beck, and Marc Teboulle. "Fast gradient-based algorithms for constrained total variation image denoising and deblurring problems." *IEEE transactions on image processing*, 18(11), 2419-2434, 2009.



$\ell_1$  REGULARIZATION  
TV REGULARIZATION

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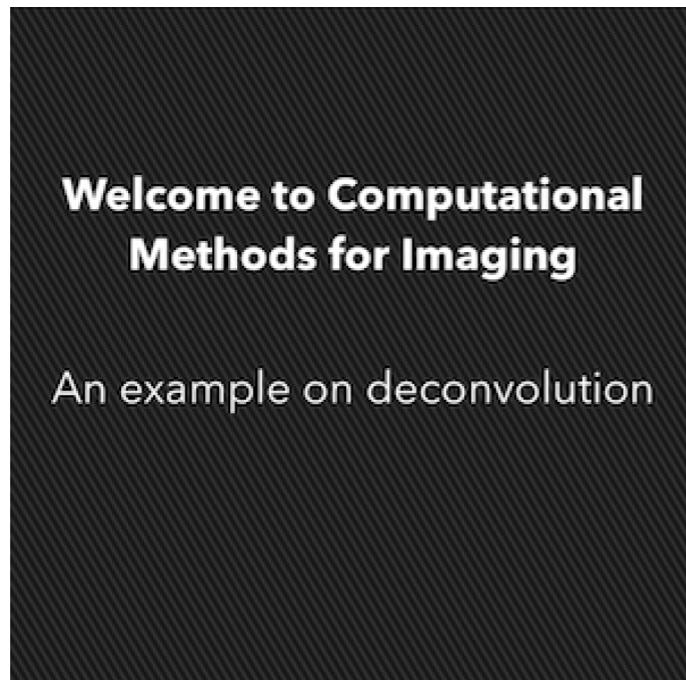
MATLAB PRACTICE 10:  
NONLINEAR INVERSION

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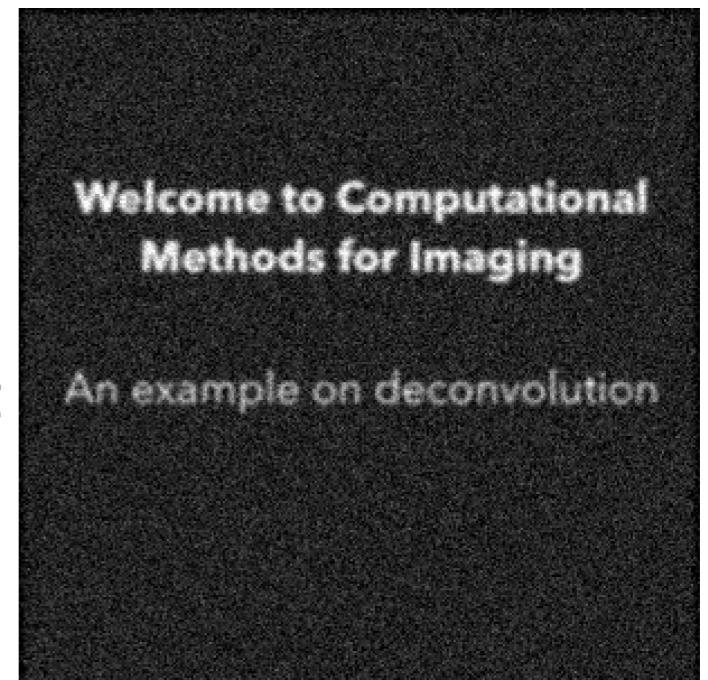
# NUMERICAL RECONSTRUCTIONS

# NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED

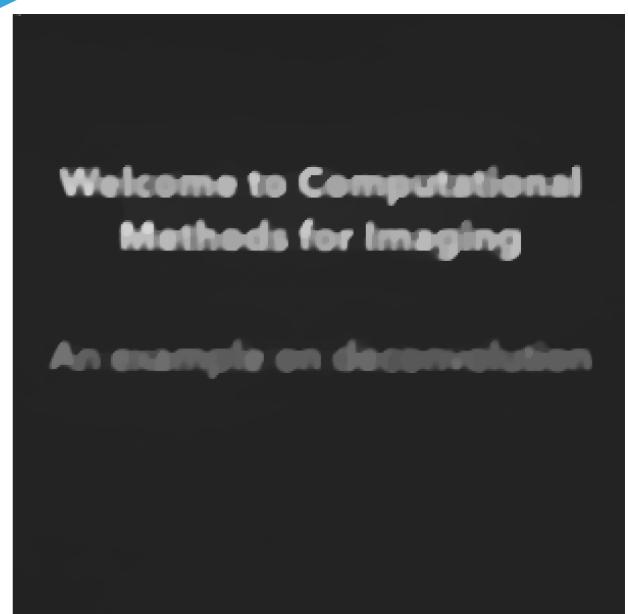
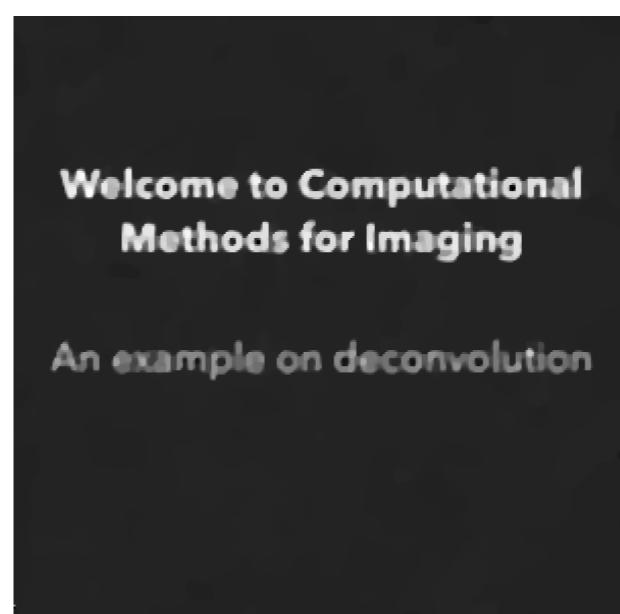
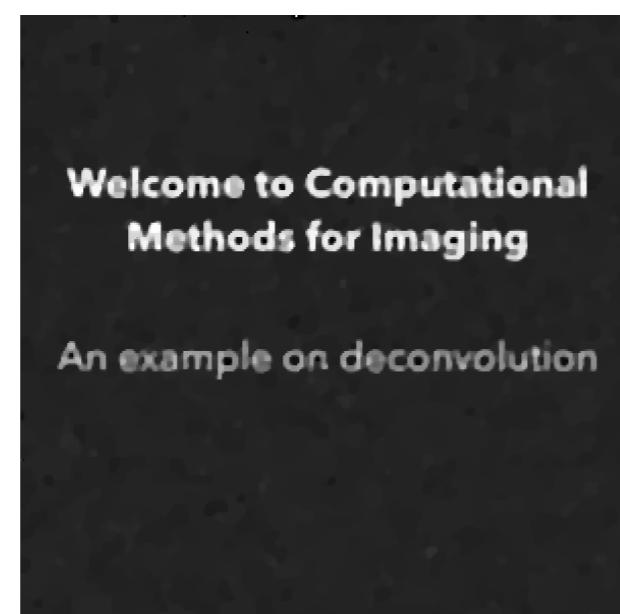
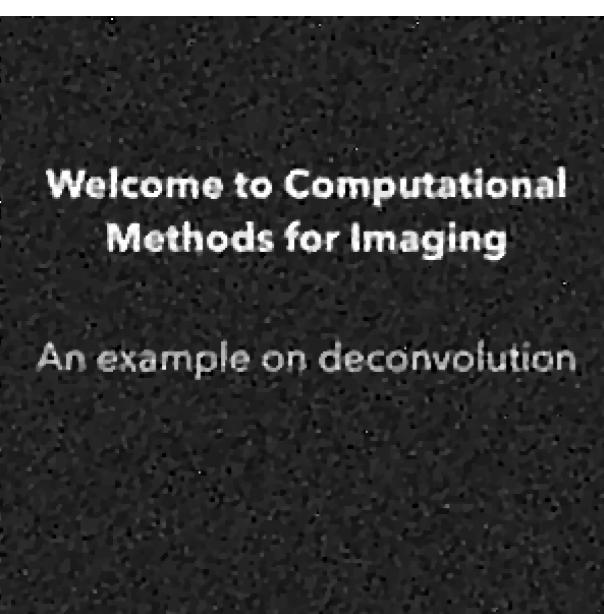
Ground  
truth



Blurred and  
Noisy  
Measurement  
(SNR = 10dB)

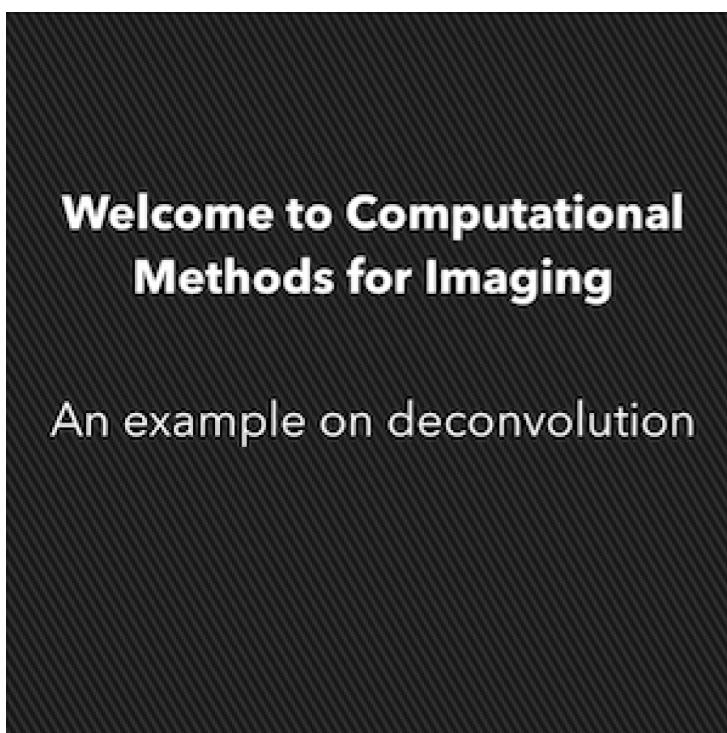


Increasing  $\lambda$

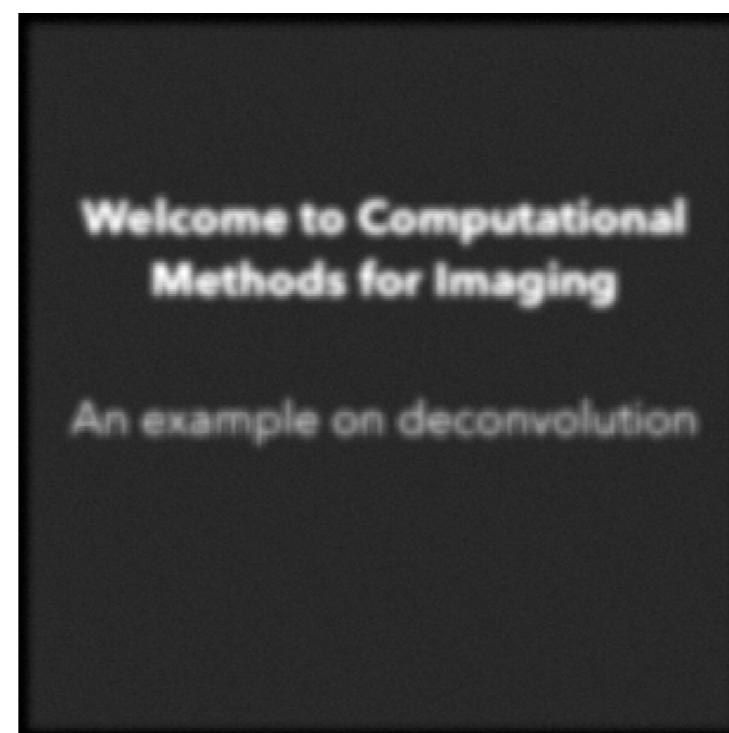


# NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED INCREASING LEVEL OF BLURRING

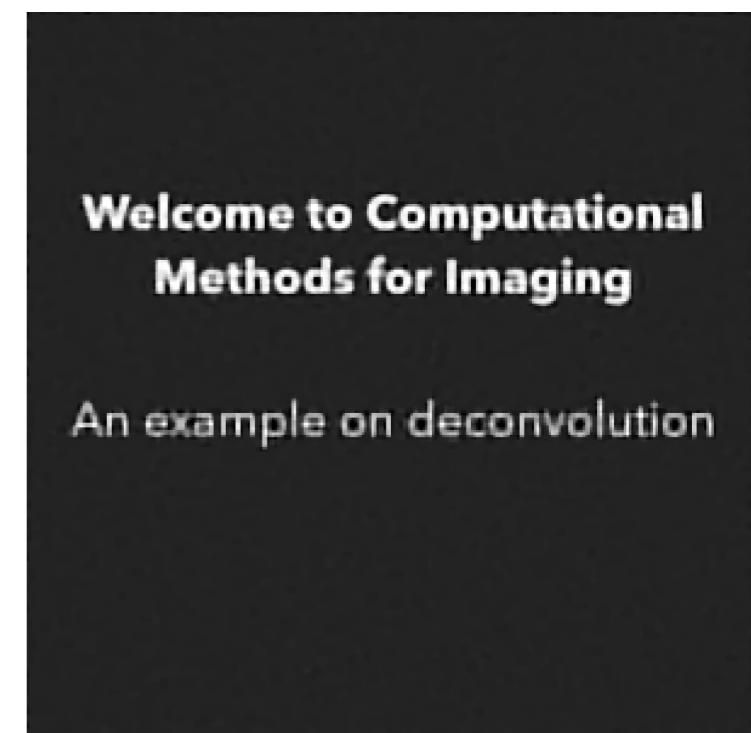
Ground truth



Measurement

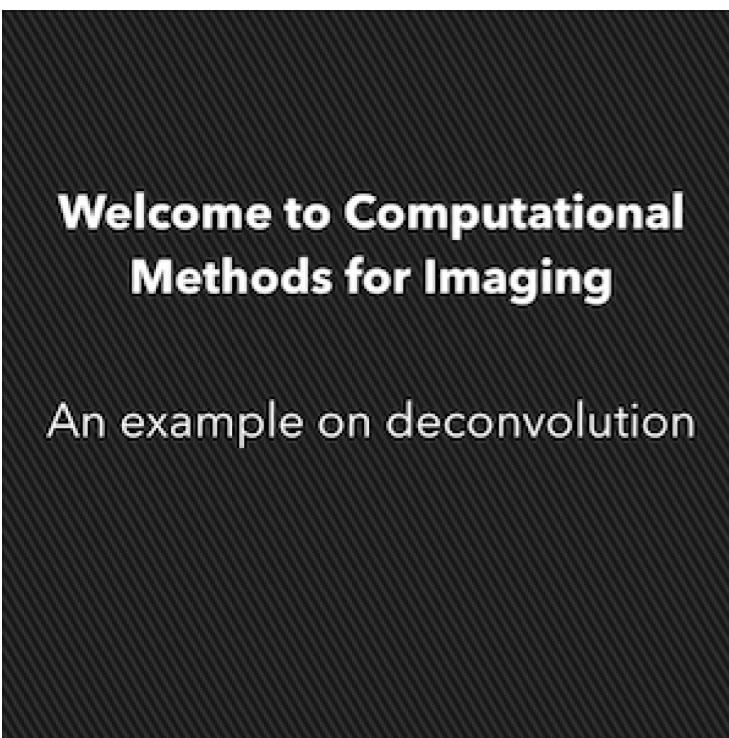


TV reconstruction

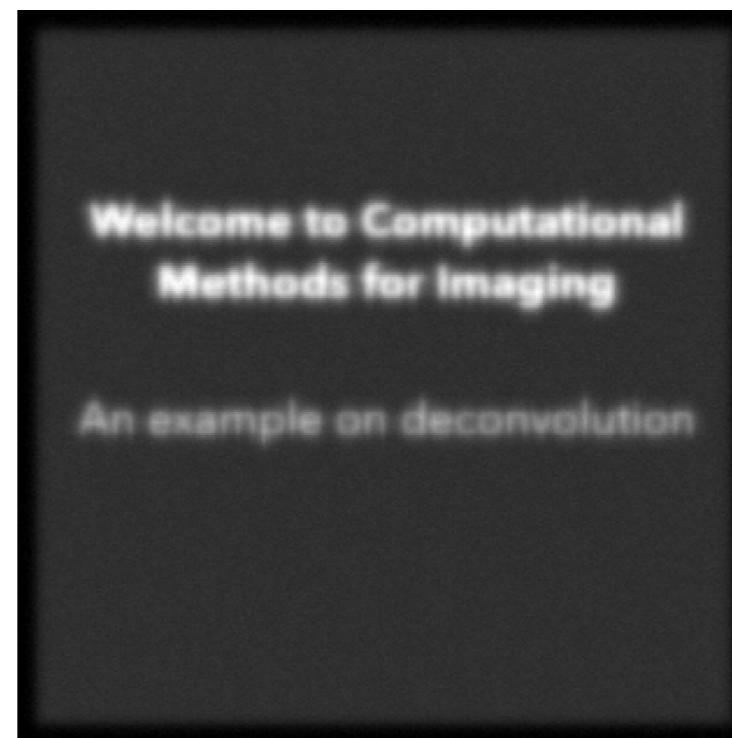


## NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED BLURRING INCREASED FURTHER

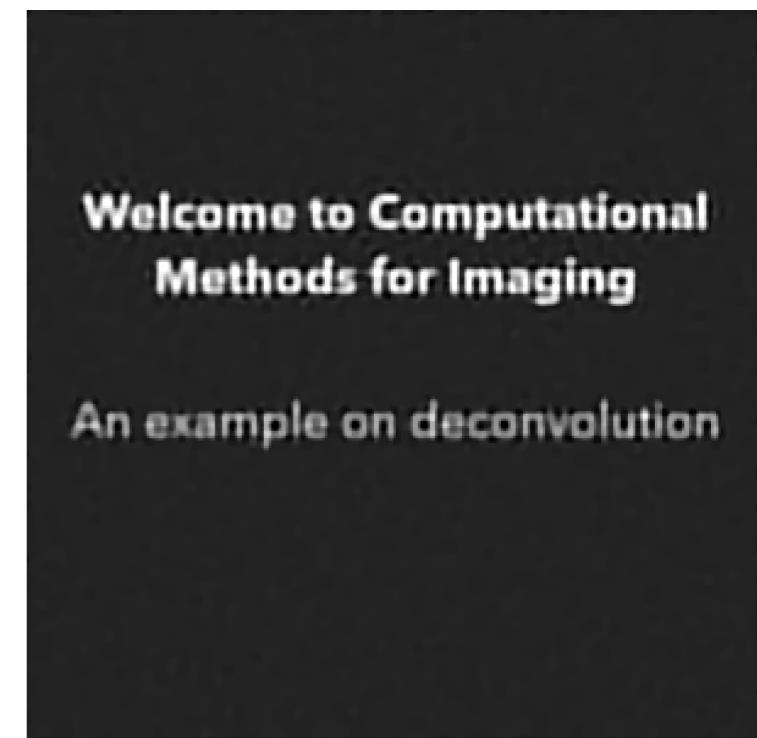
Ground truth



Measurement



TV reconstruction

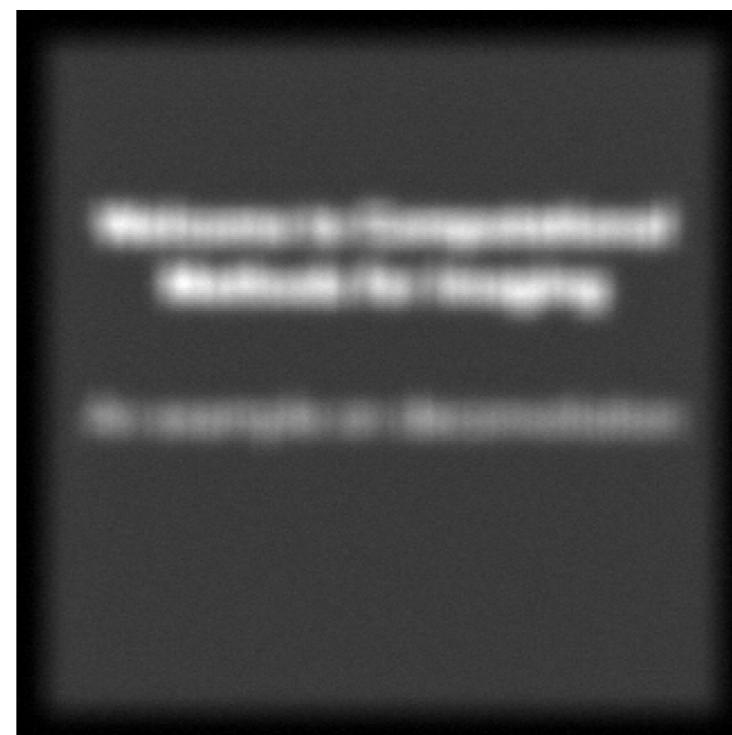


## NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED BLURRING INCREASED (EVEN) FURTHER

Ground truth



Measurement



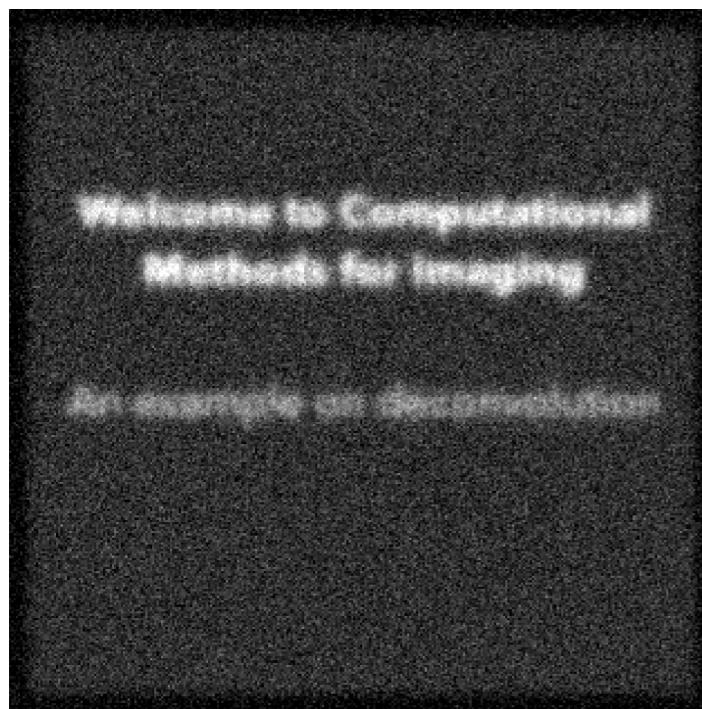
TV reconstruction



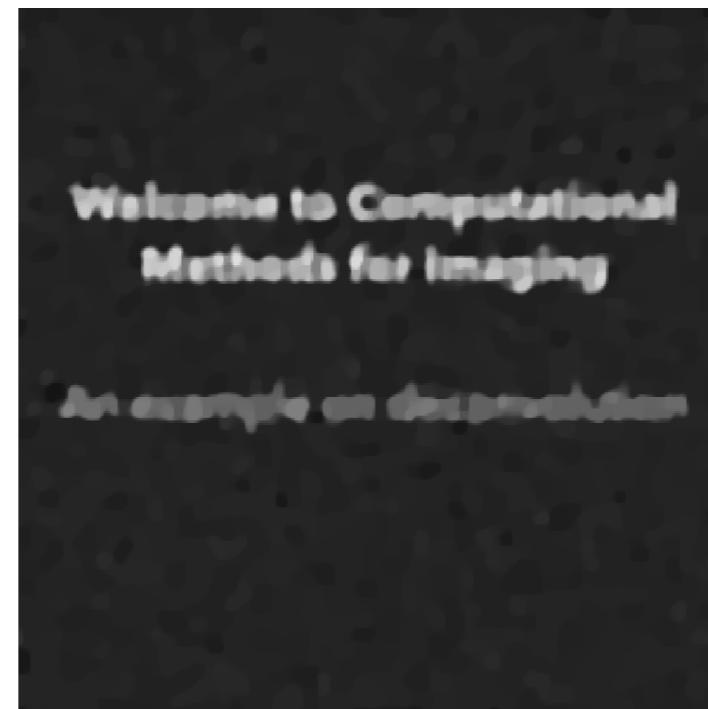
Severe blurring, TV struggles but text still somewhat legible

## NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED COMPARING TV AND TIKHONOV

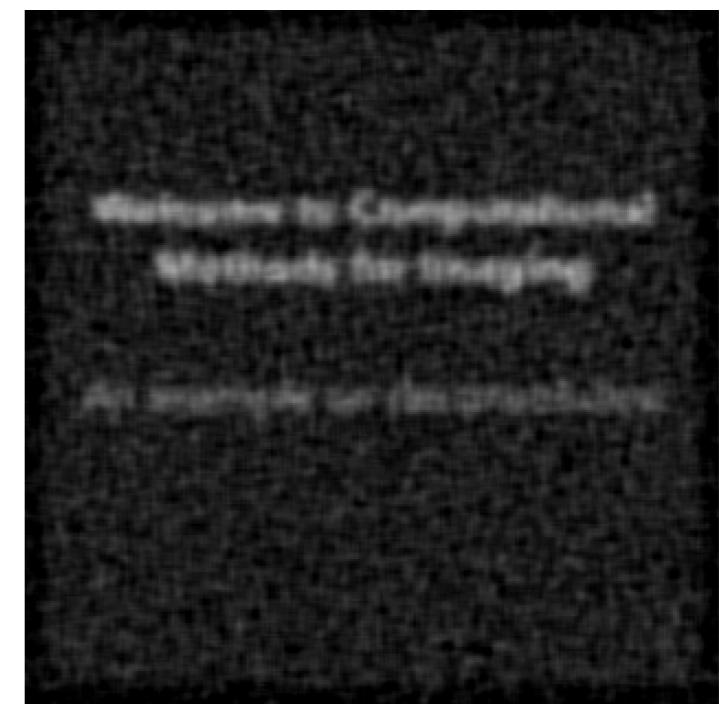
Measurement



TV reconstruction

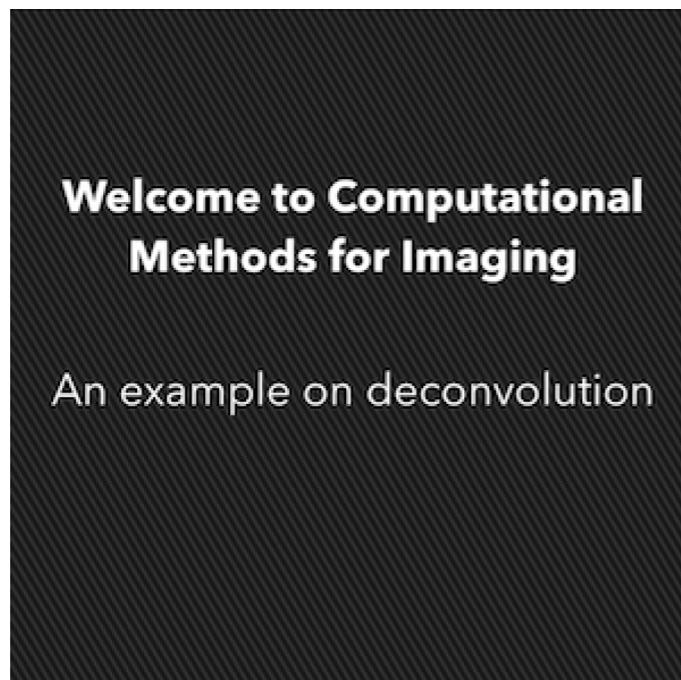


Tikhonov

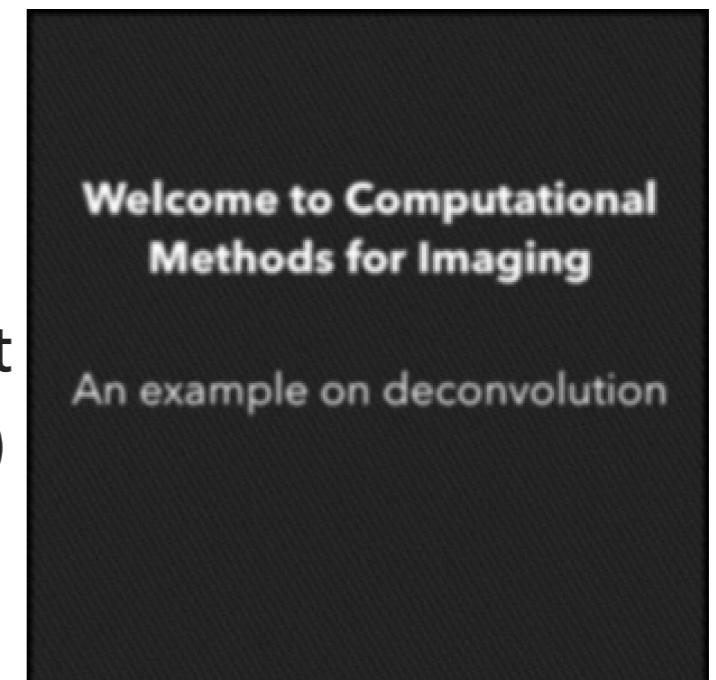


# NUMERICAL RESULTS: TOTAL VARIATION REGULARIZED

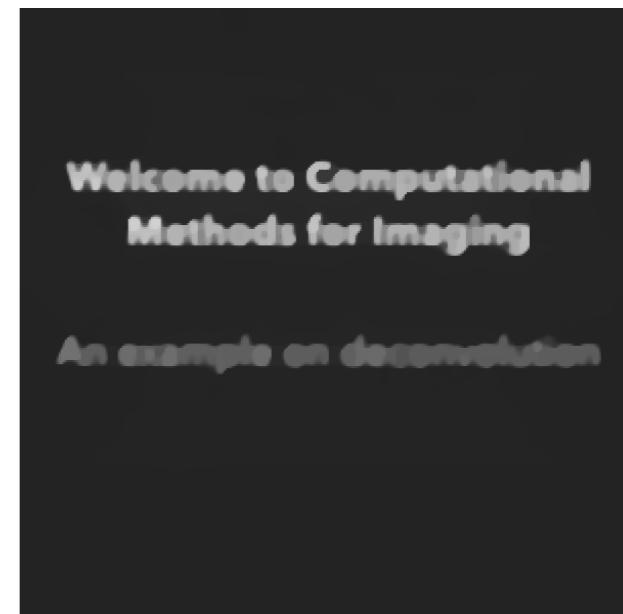
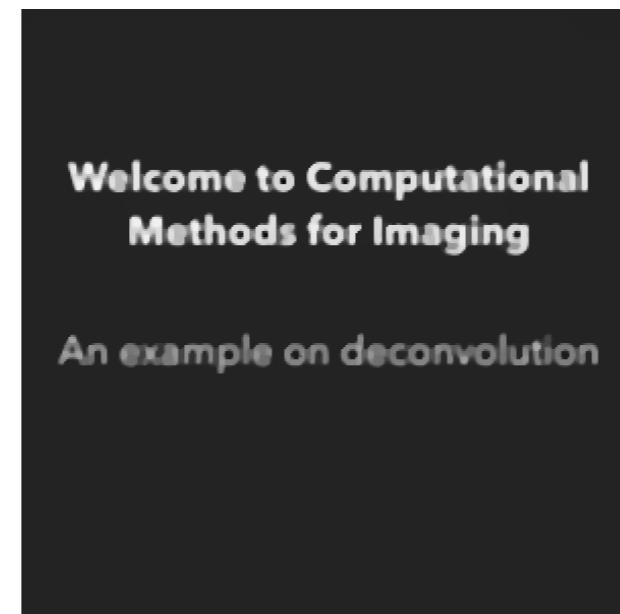
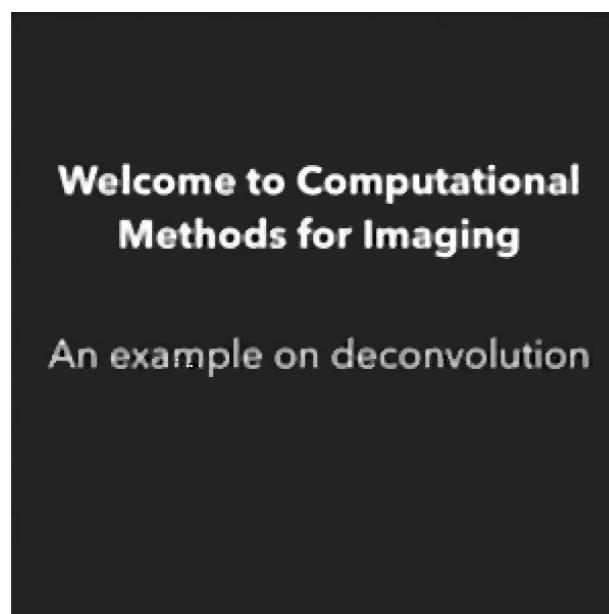
Ground  
truth



Noisy  
Measurement  
(SNR = 30dB)



Increasing  $\lambda$



## SUMMARY

- ▶ We learnt about LSI systems
  - ▶ Deriving continuous and discrete models
  - ▶ Discrete models enable computational/digital implementation
- ▶ Forward and inverse problems in imaging
- ▶ Solving inverse problems (examples on blurring)
  - ▶ Non-regularized inversion:
    - ▶ Standard inverse and Least squares (MP Pseudo-inverse)
  - ▶ Regularized inversion
    - ▶ **Linear:** Tikhonov regularization
    - ▶ **Non-linear:**  $\ell_1$  and total variation regularization

THIS LECTURE

REGULARIZATION IMPORTANT CONCEPT IN  
MACHINE LEARNING TOO!

# NEXT TIME!

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INTRO TO OPTICS