## Introduction to sparse-data X-ray tomography: Part B

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Markus Juvonen

**Alexander Meaney** 

Matlab instruction: please ask Alexander or Markus! The session is after Friday's lecture.

### Links to open computational resources

Open CT datasets:

• Finnish Inverse Problems Society (FIPS) dataset page

Matrix-based parallel-beam reconstruction algorithms: FIPS Computational Blog

- Truncated SVD
- Total Variation regularization

Matrix-free large-scale reconstruction algorithms:

- Matlab page of Mueller-S 2012 book
- <u>ASTRA toolbox</u>
- TVReg: Software for 3D Total Variation Regularization

### Outline

### Hospital case study: diagnosing osteoarthritis

Controlled wavelet-domain sparsity (CWDS)

From wavelet bases to shearlet frames

Remark on back-projection, or the transpose matrix  $A^{T}$ 

Limited angle tomography

Industrial case study: low-dose 3D dental X-ray imaging

### This is a joint work with

Tatiana Bubba, University of Helsinki, Finland

Sakari Karhula, Oulu University Hospital, Finland

Juuso Ketola, Oulu University Hospital, Finland

Maximilian März, TU Berlin

Miika T. Nieminen, University of Oulu, Finland

Zenith Purisha, University of Helsinki, Finland

Juho Rimpeläinen, University of Helsinki, Finland

Simo Saarakkala, Oulu University Hospital, Finland

### Normal Knee



### Osteoarthritis



Image by Bruce Blaus, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44968165

# We consider small specimens of human bone imaged using microtomography





Slice of 3D reconstruction by FDK based on **596 angles** 

Three-dimensional structure

# We pick out a smaller region of interest for osteoarthritis analysis



Slice of 3D reconstruction by FDK based on **596 angles** 

Slice of 3D region of interest after binary thresholding

We use two numerical quality measures applied to segmented three-dimensional bone structure

Trabecular thickness

Trabecular separation



[Bouxsein, Boyd, Christiansen, Guldberg, Jepsen, & Müller 2010]

## The goal is to reduce measurement time by recording fewer radiographs



3D FDK reconstruction based on 40 angles

3D shearlet-sparsity reconstruction based on 40 angles

## Bone quality parameters from ground truth



[Purisha, Karhula, Rimpeläinen, Nieminen, Saarakkala & S, submitted]

### **Results from FDK reconstructions**



[Purisha, Karhula, Rimpeläinen, Nieminen, Saarakkala & S, submitted]

### Results from 3D shearlet-sparsity reconstructions





[Purisha, Karhula, Rimpeläinen, Nieminen, Saarakkala & S, submitted]

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### Daubechies, Defrise and de Mol introduced a revolutionary inversion method in 2004

Consider the sparsity-promoting variational regularization

$$\underset{f \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\arg\min} \left\{ \|Af - m\|_2^2 + \mu \|Wf\|_1 \right\},\$$

where W is an orthonormal wavelet transform. The minimizer can be computed using the iteration

$$f_{j+1} = W^{-1}S_{\mu}W\left(f_j + A^T(m - Af_j)\right),$$

where the soft-thresholding operation

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mu}(x) = \left\{egin{array}{ll} x+rac{\mu}{2} & ext{if } x \leq -rac{\mu}{2}, \ 0 & ext{if } |x| < rac{\mu}{2}, \ x-rac{\mu}{2} & ext{if } x \geq rac{\mu}{2}, \end{array}
ight.$$

is applied to each wavelet coefficient separately.

## We modify the method so that non-negativity constraint has rigorous mathematical foundation

The minimizer

$$\underset{f \in \mathbb{R}^n_+}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|Af - m\|_2^2 + \mu \|Wf\|_1 \right\}$$

can be computed using this iteration:

$$y^{(i+1)} = \mathbb{P}_{C}\left(f^{(i)} - \tau \nabla g(f^{(i)}) - \lambda W^{T} v^{(i)}\right)$$
$$v^{(i+1)} = \left(I - S_{\mu}\right) \left(Wy^{(i+1)} + v^{(i)}\right)$$
$$f^{(i+1)} = \mathbb{P}_{C}\left(f^{(i)} - \tau \nabla g(f^{(i)}) - \lambda W^{T} v^{(i+1)}\right)$$

where  $\tau > 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$  and  $g(f) = \frac{1}{2} ||Af - m||_2^2$ . Here  $\mathbb{P}_C$  denotes projection to the non-negative "quadrant."

[Loris & Verhoeven 2011], [Chen, Huang & Zhang 2016]

### Illustration of the Haar wavelet transform



# Sparse-data reconstruction of the walnut using Haar wavelet sparsity



Filtered back-projection



Constrained Besov regularization  $\underset{f \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n}}{\arg\min} \left\{ \|Af - m\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \|f\|_{B_{11}^{1}} \right\}$ 

### How to choose the thresholding parameter $\mu$ ? Here it is too small.





How to choose the thresholding parameter  $\mu$ ? Here it is too large.



## Automatic parameter choice using controlled wavelet-domain sparsity (CWDS)

Assume given the *a priori* sparsity level  $0 \leq C_{pr} \leq 1$ . Denote by  $C_j$  the sparsity of the *j*th iterate  $f_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

 $\mathcal{C}_j = (\text{number of nonzero elements in } Wf_j \in \mathbb{R}^n)/n.$ 

The CWDS iteration is based on proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controllers:

$$\mu^{(i+1)} = \mu^{(i)} + \beta(\mathcal{C}^{(i)} - \mathcal{C}_{pr}).$$

[Purisha, Rimpeläinen, Bubba & S, arXiv:1703.09798, to appear in *Measurement Science and Technology*.]

### CWDS choice of the thresholding parameter $\mu$





### CWDS choice of the thresholding parameter $\mu$





### CWDS choice of the thresholding parameter $\mu$





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### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 1/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 2/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 3/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 4/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 5/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 6/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 7/8



### Shearlet coefficients at coarse scale 8/8



### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 1/8



### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 2/8


#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 3/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 4/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 5/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 6/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 7/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at medium scale 8/8



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 1/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 2/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 3/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 4/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 5/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 6/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 7/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 8/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 9/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 10/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 11/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 12/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 13/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 14/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 15/16



#### Shearlet coefficients at fine scale 16/16



# The shearlet transform gives multi-resolution and orientation-aware building blocks for image data



Schematic diagram of the frequency plane tiling of several elements of a 2D shearlet system, for different values of dilation and shearing parameters.

# Sparse-data reconstruction of the walnut using shearlet sparsity



Filtered back-projection



Shearlet-sparse reconstruction, with transform code from http://www.shearlab.org/

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# The transpose matrix $A^T$ appears in many inversion methods, including Tikhonov regularization

Write a penalty functional

$$\Phi(f) = \|Af - m\|_2^2 + \alpha \|f\|_2^2,$$

where  $0 < \alpha < \infty$  is a regularization parameter. Define  $\Gamma_{\alpha}(m)$  by

$$\Phi(\Gamma_{\alpha}(m)) = \min_{f \in X} \{\Phi(f)\}.$$

We denote

$$\Gamma_{\alpha}(m) = \underset{f \in X}{\arg\min} \{ \|Af - m\|_2^2 + \alpha \|f\|_2^2 \}.$$

In large-scale computations it is better to use the formula

$$\Gamma_{\alpha}(\boldsymbol{m}) = (\boldsymbol{A}^{T}\boldsymbol{A} + \alpha \boldsymbol{I})^{-1}\boldsymbol{A}^{T}\boldsymbol{m}.$$

#### Projected Barzilai-Borwein minimization

Denote 
$$\|f\|_{\beta} := \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{(f_i)^2 + \beta}$$
 with  $\beta > 0$ . Minimize  
 $G_{\beta}(f) := \frac{1}{2} \|Af - \widetilde{\mathbf{g}}\|_2^2 + \alpha \left(\|L_H f\|_{\beta} + \|L_V f\|_{\beta}\right),$ 

with a non-negativity constraint:

$$f^{k+1} = P\left(f^k - \lambda_k \nabla G_\beta(f^k)\right), \quad k = 0, \dots, k_{max} - 1.$$

The step size is

$$\lambda_{k} = \frac{(f^{k} - f^{k-1})^{T} (f^{k} - f^{k-1})}{(f^{k} - f^{k-1})^{T} (\nabla G_{\beta}(f^{k}) - \nabla G_{\beta}(f^{k-1}))}$$

and  $P: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$  is the projection

$$(P(f))_i = \begin{cases} f_i & iff_i \geq 0\\ 0 & iff_i < 0 \end{cases}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

Matlab code available at this page.

### Loris and Verhoeven introduced an algorithm applicable to shearlet-sparsifying inversion

[Loris & Verhoeven 2011] The minimization of

$$\underset{f \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\arg\min} \left\{ \|Af - m\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathcal{T}f\|_1 \right\}$$

can be computed using this iteration:

$$g_{j+1} = f_j + A^T (m - Af_j),$$
  

$$w_{j+1} = P_\mu \left( w_j + \mathcal{T}(g_{j+1} - \mathcal{T}^T w_j) \right),$$
  

$$f_{j+1} = g_{j+1} - \mathcal{T}^T w_{j+1},$$

where  $P_{\mu}(u) = u - S_{\mu}$ .

### Let's take a closer look at the transpose $A^T$ , also known as back-projection operator

Our tomographic matrix equation is Af = m, where

- $f \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the target, and
- $m \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is the sinogram.



### Example of the action of $A^T$ : point target







### This is why $A^{T}$ is called the back-projection







 $A^T$ 



### Example of the action of $A^T$ : point sinogram







#### Here is another point sinogram



#### $A^T$



# Rotating around the object allows us to form the so-called *sinogram*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vyc1TzmNI8

#### Radon transform



The most classical model for X-ray data is the Radon transform

$$Rf(\theta,s) = \int_{x\cdot\theta=s} f(x)dx = \int_{y\in\theta^{\perp}} f(s\theta+y)dy, \qquad \theta\in S^1, s\in\mathbb{R},$$

where  $S^1$  is the unit circle,  $\theta^{\perp}$  is the orthogonal complement of the unit vector  $\theta$ , and  $x \cdot \theta$  denotes vector inner product.

This is an illustration of the standard reconstruction by filtered back-projection

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddZeLNh9aac
#### The back-projection operator

To reconstruct f at a point x, the most obvious data related to f(x) are the integrals over lines passing through x. Let us sum them all together, call the result Tf(x) and see what we get by introducing polar coordinates:

$$Tf(x) = \int_0^{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x+t\theta) dt d\theta$$
  
$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{f(x+t\theta)}{t} t dt d\theta$$
  
$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{f(x+y)}{|y|} dy$$
  
$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{f(y)}{|x-y|} dy$$
  
$$= (f(y) * \frac{1}{|y|})(x),$$

where \* stands for convolution.

#### Filtered back-projection

We want to find an inverse operator for T. Note that



Furthermore, define the Calderón operator  $\Lambda$  in all dimensions  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by

$$\Lambda f(x) := \mathcal{F}^{-1}|\xi|\hat{f}(\xi) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{ix\cdot\xi}|\xi|\hat{f}(\xi)d\xi, \qquad (1)$$

where  $\mathcal{F}^{-1}$  is the inverse Fourier transform. Note that  $\Lambda$  can be thought of as a high-pass filter. Now we see that

$$\widehat{Tf}(\xi) = \frac{\widehat{f}(\xi)}{|\xi|},$$

and therefore  $f = \Lambda T f = \Lambda R^* R f$ , where  $R^*$  is a dual operator of the Radon transform R. See Chapter II.2 of [Natterer 1986].

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#### Singular value decomposition $A = U^T D V$



 $735 \times 1024$  system matrix *A*, only nonzero elements shown

Singular values of *A* (diagonal of *D*)

#### Limited data gives only part of the wavefront set



Stable part of wavefront setUnstable part of wavefront setSee [Greenleaf & Uhlmann 1989], [Quinto 1993], and [Frikel & Quinto 2013]

#### Filtered backprojection



Stable part of WF set



Reconstruction by FBP

### Constrained total variation (TV) regularization $\underset{f \in \mathbb{R}^{n}_{+}}{\operatorname{arg min}} \left\{ \|Af - m\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha \|\nabla f\|_{1} \right\}$



Stable part of WF set



TV regularized reconstruction

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#### The VT device was developed in 2001-2012 by

Nuutti Hyvönen Seppo Järvenpää Jari Kaipio Martti Kalke Petri Koistinen Ville Kolehmainen Matti Lassas Jan Moberg Kati Niinimäki Juha Pirttilä Maaria Rantala Eero Saksman Henri Setälä Erkki Somersalo Antti Vanne Simopekka Vänskä Richard I Webber





PALODEX GROUP



Application: dental implant planning, where a missing tooth is replaced with an implant



### Dental X-ray imaging 100 years ago



## It is tedious to interpret a mosaic of overlapping intraoral X-ray images



### Panoramic dental imaging shows all the teeth simultaneously



Panoramic imaging was invented by Yrjö Veli Paatero in the 1950's.



#### This is the classical imaging procedure of the panoramic X-ray device

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFTXegPxC4U

## The resulting image shows a sharp layer positioned inside the dental arc



# Nowadays, a digital panoramic imaging device is standard equipment at dental clinics





A panoramic dental image offers a general overview showing all teeth and other structures simultaneously.

Panoramic images are not suitable for dental implant planning because of unavoidable geometric distortion. We reprogram the panoramic X-ray device so that it collects projection data by scanning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=motthjiP8ZQ

### We reprogram the panoramic X-ray device so that it collects projection data by scanning

Number of projection images: 11

Angle of view: 40 degrees

Image size: 1000  $\times 1000$  pixels

The unknown vector f has **7 000 000** elements.





# Here the CBCT reconstruction (right) gave 100 times more radiation than VT imaging (middle)



Kolehmainen, Vanne, S, Järvenpää, Kaipio, Lassas & Kalke Kolehmainen, Lassas & S Cederlund, Kalke & Welander Hyvönen, Kalke, Lassas, Setälä & S U.S. patent 7269241, thousands of VT units in use





### All Matlab codes freely available at this site!

#### Part I: Linear Inverse Problems

1 Introduction

2 Naïve reconstructions and inverse crimes

- 3 Ill-Posedness in Inverse Problems
- 4 Truncated singular value decomposition
- 5 Tikhonov regularization
- 6 Total variation regularization
- 7 Besov space regularization using wavelets
- 8 Discretization-invariance

9 Practical X-ray tomography with limited data 10 Projects

#### Part II: Nonlinear Inverse Problems

- 11 Nonlinear inversion
- 12 Electrical impedance tomography
- 13 Simulation of noisy EIT data
- 14 Complex geometrical optics solutions
- 15 A regularized D-bar method for direct EIT
- 16 Other direct solution methods for EIT
- 17 Projects

Finnish Inverse Problems Society offers open X-ray tomographic datasets



See the website https://www.fips.fi/dataset.php
## The ASTRA toolbox contains important algorithms

See the website http://www.astra-toolbox.com/

[W. van Aarle, W. J. Palenstijn, J. Cant, E. Janssens, F. Bleichrodt, A. Dabravolski, J. De Beenhouwer, K. J. Batenburg, and J. Sijbers 2016]

[W. van Aarle, W. J. Palenstijn, J. De Beenhouwer, T. Altantzis, S. Bals, K. J. Batenburg, and J. Sijbers 2015]

Another great resource is Per Christian Hansen's 3D tomography toolbox TVreg



**TVreg**: Software for 3D Total Variation Regularization (for Matlab Version 7.5 or later), developed by Tobias Lindstrøm Jensen, Jakob Heide Jørgensen, Per Christian Hansen, and Søren Holdt Jensen.

Website: http://www2.imm.dtu.dk/ pcha/TVReg/

## These books are recommended for learning the mathematics of practical X-ray tomography

1983 Deans: The Radon Transform and Some of Its Applications
1986 Natterer: The mathematics of computerized tomography
1988 Kak & Slaney: Principles of computerized tomographic imaging
1996 Engl, Hanke & Neubauer: Regularization of inverse problems
1998 Hansen: Rank-deficient and discrete ill-posed problems
2001 Natterer & Wübbeling: Mathematical Methods in Image
Reconstruction

**2008 Buzug:** Computed Tomography: From Photon Statistics to Modern Cone-Beam CT

2008 Epstein: Introduction to the mathematics of medical imaging

2010 Hansen: Discrete inverse problems

**2012 Mueller & S**: Linear and Nonlinear Inverse Problems with Practical Applications

2014 Kuchment: The Radon Transform and Medical Imaging

## Thank you for your attention!