Fluorescence Tomography and the Generalized Attenuated Radon Transform Under Capricorn

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- Eduardo Xavier Miqueles, IMECC-UNICAMP *
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Articles: Physics in Medicine & Biology, 55 (2010), IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, 30, 2, (2011), Studies in Applied Mathematics, to appear, Computer Physics Communications, to appear,

http://www.ime.unicamp.br/~milab (software and papers).

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The Problem and the Model

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The Problem and the Data

We want to reconstruct the concentration distribution of a heavy metal (Copper, Zinc, Iron,..), or other element like lodine, inside a body.

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- This concentration distribution could indicate malignancy in a tissue, for example. Another application is determination of 3D rock structure in mineralogy.

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- We want to reconstruct the concentration distribution of a heavy metal (Copper, Zinc, Iron,..), or other element like lodine, inside a body.
- This concentration distribution could indicate malignancy in a tissue, for example. Another application is determination of 3D rock structure in mineralogy.
- Irradiation by high intensity monochromatic synchrotron X rays at a specific energy of the element stimulates fluorescence emission (data).

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The Synchrotron



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The Synchrotron: Data Acquisition



Inside a synchrotron gate

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X-Rays Fluorescence Computed Tomography (XFCT)

Aims at reconstructing fluorescence emitted by the body when bombarded by high intensity X-rays at a given energy.



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The Generalized Attenuated Radon Transform

And the model is

$$d(t,\theta) = \mathscr{R}_W f(t,\theta) = \int_{x \cdot \xi = t} f(x) W(x,\theta) dx$$

where f(x) is the emission (fluorescence) density at x, μ is the fluorescence attenuation, λ is the attenuation of the X-rays,

$$\mathcal{W}(x, heta)=\omega_\lambda(x, heta)\omega_\mu(x, heta)$$
 ,

$$\omega_{\mu}(x, heta)=\int_{\Gamma}e^{-\mathscr{D}\mu(x, heta+\gamma)}d\gamma$$
 , and

$$\omega_{\lambda}(x, heta)=e^{-\mathscr{D}\lambda(x, heta+\pi)},\ \mathscr{D}h(x, heta)=\int_{\mathbb{R}}h(x+q\xi^{\perp})dq$$

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What do we know?: CT and SPECT

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X-Rays Computed Tomography (CT)



CT data collection

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SPECT Scanner



SPECT Scanner

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Detection



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SPECT

SPECT= Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography, aims at reconstructing a tagged process inside the body, for example, blood flow tagged with T^{99} .



If no attenuation is considered, the Radon Transform is the model for both problems (CT and SPECT)

$$d(t, \theta) = \mathcal{R}f(t, \theta) = \int_{x \cdot \xi = t} f(x) dx$$

where $(t, \theta) \in [-1, 1] \times (0, 2\pi)$, $\xi = \xi(\theta)$ is a direction vector defined by an angle θ , $\xi = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ and ξ^{\perp} is such that $\xi \cdot \xi^{\perp} = 0$

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The Projection Theorem and the Inversion of the Radon Transform

${\cal R}^{-1} \;=\; {\cal F}_2^{-1} \; {\cal F}_1$

where \mathcal{F}_2 and \mathcal{F}_1 stand for the two and one dimensional Fourier Transforms.

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$$d(t, \theta) = \mathbb{R}_{\omega} f(t, \theta) = \int_{x \cdot \xi = t} f(x) \omega_{\mu}(x, \theta) dx$$

where μ is the attenuation, and

$$\omega_{\mu}(x, heta)=e^{-\mathscr{D}\mu(x, heta)}$$

where, as before, $\mathscr{D}h(x,\theta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x+q\xi^{\perp}) dq$

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No Projection Theorem !!!!!!!!!

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Alternatives:

 Discretize and solve an optimization model. Too computationally intensive (hours for a single reconstruction if we regularize). Not our option.

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- Approximate by a scaled Radon Inverse and Iterate.

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- Discretize and solve an optimization model. Too computationally intensive (hours for a single reconstruction if we regularize). Not our option.
- Approximate by a scaled Radon Inverse and Iterate.
- Try to find an analytic inverse, but how?, what direction?

Iterative Inversion

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First Option: Iterated Inversion

We have a reasonable (fast, accurate if there is not too much noise) inverse for \mathscr{R} , so, let us try a fixed point iteration !!!!

$$f^{(k+1)} = f^{(k)} + e^{(k)} =$$

$$(I - \frac{1}{a}\mathscr{R}^{-1}\mathscr{R}_W)f^{(k)} + \frac{\mathscr{R}^{-1}}{a}a$$

$$e^{(k)} = \frac{\mathscr{R}^{-1}(d - \mathscr{R}_W f^{(k)})}{a}$$

And what is a?

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Clearly, convergence depends on how close $\frac{1}{a} \mathscr{R}^{-1} \mathscr{R}_W$ is to the identity, equivalently, how well \mathscr{R}^{-1} approximates \mathscr{R}_W^{-1} and this depends on the attenuation. If it is too large, it will not work. To compensate for that, Chang (IEEE TNS 78) suggested for SPECT a reasonable value for *a* is the average attenuation given by

$$a(x) = rac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} W(x,\theta) d\theta.$$

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The Contraction constant for

$$\mathcal{K}f = \frac{1}{a} \left(\mathscr{R}^{-1} (\mathscr{R} - \mathscr{R}_W)f - (1 - a)f \right) = f - \frac{1}{a} \mathscr{R}^{-1} \mathscr{R}_W f \quad (1)$$

is given by

$$\mathbf{c}(\kappa_a) = \sup_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^2} \sup_{\theta \in [0,2\pi]} \left| 1 - \frac{1}{2 \|\boldsymbol{a}\|_{\infty}} \left[W(\mathbf{u},\theta) + W(\mathbf{u},\theta+\pi) \right] \right| \quad (2)$$

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And

Sequences $\mathbf{c}(\kappa)$ and $\mathbf{c}(\kappa_a)$ for different (increasing) values of attenuation μ , meaning that, we have a reasonable computable value measuring convergence rate and ill-conditioning.



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The Expectation Maximization (EM) can also be applied to the linear part of our problem, assuming a known attenuation function. For the EM we have the following iteration (continuous version):

$$f^{(k+1)}(x) = f^{(k)}(x) \frac{\mathscr{B}_W d^{(k)}(x)}{\mathscr{B}_W e(x)},$$

where $d^{(k)}(t,\theta) = d(t,\theta)/\mathscr{R}_W f^{(k)}(t,\theta)$, $\mathscr{B}_W d(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} W(x,\theta) d(x \cdot \xi, \theta) d\theta$ is the attenuated backprojection, and e = 1 in **V**.

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New Problem: Given $d \in V$, find $\{f, \mu\} \in U$ such that

$$\mathcal{Y}(f,\mu) = \mathscr{R}_{W(\mu)}f - d = 0 \in \mathbf{V}.$$
(3)

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Iterate:

$$f^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{L}\left(d, f^{(k)}, \mu^{(k)}\right), \quad \mu^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{N}\left(d, f^{(k+1)}, \mu^{(k)}\right).$$

L stands for an approximate inversion of \mathscr{R}_W given $\mu^{(k)}$ and **N** for the application of (say) Newton's method to equation (1) for $f^{(k+1)}$ given.

Some Experiments: Simulated Data

Figure below shows a 32x32 representation of functions $\{f, \mu, \lambda\}$ and the simulated attenuated Radon transform with 80 projections views and 60 rays per view.



Simulated data for XFCT. From left to right: density function f, fluorescence attenuation μ , transmission attenuation λ and attenuated Radon transform.

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Some Experiments: Real Data

A microscopic sample with a distribution of Copper and Zinc inside. For the Copper sample, each projection view had 23 rays, while 20 rays for the Zinc sample. The total number of views was 60 for both samples. Figure below shows the functions $\{\Re\mu, \Re_W f\}$.



Real data. From left to right: transmission data for Cu sample, XFCT data for Cu sample, transmission data for Zn sample and XFCT data for Zn sample.

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Some Experiments: Simulated Data

AKT × EM with $\mu = \lambda$ and for iterations {1,2,3,4,20} (left to right). For each block, the EM reconstruction is shown in the first row and the AKT reconstruction in the second. Simulated case (32x32)



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AKT × EM with $\mu = \lambda$ and for iterations {1, 2, 3, 4, 20} (left to right). For each block, the EM reconstruction is shown in the first row and the AKT reconstruction in the second. Cu sample (60x60)



(b)

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AKT × EM with $\mu = \lambda$ and for iterations {1, 2, 3, 4, 20} (left to right). For each block, the EM reconstruction is shown in the first row and the AKT reconstruction in the second. Zn sample (60x60).



(c)

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Some Experiments: Simulated and Real Data



Iterates $\{\mu^{(0)}, \mu^{(1)}\}$, for AV, using AKT for $f^{(1)}$. Initial guess $\mu^{(0)}$ was obtained using FBP of transmission data.

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An Analytic Inverse

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About the Cover

A new Radon transform algorithm

This month's cover was suggested by the article of Fokas and Sung in this size. In an article mentioned there, Fokas, Iserfe and Marinakis describe a new algorithm for computing inverse Radon transforms, which I used to approximate the inverse transform of a simulated X-ray of the well-known head model traditionally called *phantomo-* logan and Shep. For the nonexpert, what is striking about such calculations is the odd mixnecessary by the awkward fit between the Radon transform and discrete approximation. Also the somewhat scary feeling involved in dealing even with phantom tumors.

> Bill Casselman, Graphics Editor (notices-covers@ams.org)

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Following Fokas, the spectral analysis of the differential equation:

$$\eta \cdot \nabla u(x) + a(x,\eta)u(x) = f(x)$$

$$\eta = \eta(\kappa) \in \mathbb{C}^2, \ \kappa \in \mathbb{C}.$$

allows us to to write the solution in terms of the GART. a = 0leads to the Radon Transform, $a(x) = \mu(x)$ to the Attenuated Radon Transform and $a(x, \eta)$ will be determined for the XFCT. In our case

$$\eta(\kappa) = \left[\frac{1}{2i}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa} + \kappa\right), \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{\kappa} - \kappa\right)\right].$$
 (4)

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 $\|\eta\| = o(\kappa)$ and each component of η is analytic in κ with a pole in zero.

Changing variables $x \mapsto (z, \overline{z})$, with $z \in \mathbb{C}$, defined by $z = v \cdot x$ and $v = v(\kappa) \in \mathbb{C}^2$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} z\\ \overline{z} \end{pmatrix} = Gx, \quad G = \begin{pmatrix} v^T\\ \overline{v}^T \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{J} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1\\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

The previous equation can be rewriten as

$$(\eta \cdot \mathbf{v})\partial_z u + (\eta \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}})\partial_{\bar{z}} u + a(x)u(x) = f(x).$$
(6)

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We choose vector $\{\eta, v\} \in C^2$ such that $\eta \cdot v = 0$ and $\eta \cdot \bar{v} = j(\lambda) = \det G = -v \cdot \mathbf{J} \bar{v}$. Put $v = -\mathbf{J} \eta$ and denote $\eta(\kappa) = (c(\kappa), b(\kappa))^T$, then

$$j(\kappa) = c(\kappa)\overline{b(\kappa)} - b(\kappa)\overline{c(\kappa)} = 2iJ(\kappa), \quad J(\kappa) = \operatorname{Imag}\left[c(\kappa)\overline{b(\kappa)}\right].$$
(7)

Choosing η and v so that $\eta \cdot v = 0$ and $\eta \cdot \bar{v} = j(\kappa)$ we get

$$j(\kappa)\partial_{\bar{z}}u + a(x,\eta)u(x) = f(x).$$

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Multiplying by an Euler factor $e^{q(x)}$ we decouple the equation obtaining two *d*-bar equations

$$\partial_{\bar{z}}\left(u(x)e^{q(x)}\right) = rac{f(x)}{j(\kappa)}e^{q(x)}, \quad \partial_{\bar{z}}q(x) = rac{a(x)}{j(\kappa)}$$

Define the singularity set $S = \{\kappa \in \mathbb{C} : j(\kappa) = 0\}$

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And we can use for each equation the following (Fokas-Iserles, J.R.Soc.Interface, 3, 45-54, 2006.),

Lemma

For all $\kappa \notin S$, the solution of the $\partial_{\bar{z}}\hat{u}(x) = g(x)/j(\kappa)$ is given by

$$\hat{u}(x;\kappa) \doteq \partial_{\bar{z}}^{-1} \left(\frac{g(x)}{j(\kappa)}\right) = \frac{\alpha(\kappa)}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{g(y)dy}{v(\kappa) \cdot (y-x)}.$$
$$\alpha(\kappa) = \operatorname{sign} J(\eta).$$

for
$$g(x) = \frac{f(x)}{j(\kappa)}e^{q(x)}$$
 or $g(x) = \frac{a(x)}{j(\kappa)}$.

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What is a scalar inhomogeneous Riemann-Hilbert (RH) problem? Given a closed contour S and Hölder continuous functions f and g

on S, find a sectionally analytic function Φ with finite degree at infinity $(\Phi(z) \sim c_m z^m + O(z^{m-1}) \text{ as } z \to \infty, c_m \neq 0, z \notin S)$ such that

$$\Phi^+(t) = g(t)\Phi^-(t) + f(t)$$

In our case g(t) = 1.

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An Analytic Inverse: a Riemann-Hilbert problem

S determines a curve, dividing the complex plane into two regions R^+ and R^- , where *d*-bar equations determine u^{\pm} for $\kappa \in R^{\pm}$. The solution for all κ is determined by the jump $\mathcal{J}(x) = u^+(x) - u^-(x)$ on the curve *S*. Since *u* is an analytic function of $\kappa \notin S$, there exist $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\delta > 0$ such that *S* is homotopic to a circle centered at z_0 and radius δ . Assuming without loss of generality that $\delta = 1$, the solution of our Riemann-Hilbert problem is given by (Ablowitz)

$$u(x;\kappa) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|z-z_0|=1} \frac{\mathcal{J}(x)}{z-\kappa} dz$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathcal{J}(x) e^{i\theta} \left\{ \frac{-1}{\kappa} + O\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^2}\right) \right\} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{1}{\kappa} h(x) + O\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^2}\right), \quad h(x) = \frac{-1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathcal{J}(x) e^{i\theta} d\theta$$

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Therefore, from the original equation, and with the boundary condition $u(x) = O(\kappa^{-1})$ as $\kappa \to \infty$, we have

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\kappa} \eta(\kappa) \cdot \nabla h(x) + a(x)O\left(\frac{1}{\kappa}\right) + O\left(\frac{1}{\kappa^2}\right), \quad \kappa \to \infty$$

It only remains to compute the jump function $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}(x)$ in order to evaluate *h* in the above equation. And after many, many,, many, too many, calculations

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9590.2011.00527.x/abstract

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} i \mathbf{O}(\eta, \xi_{\theta}) \left[e^{\mathcal{D}\mathbf{a}(x,\theta)} m\{\mathscr{R}\mathbf{a}, \mathscr{R}_{W}f\}(x \cdot \xi_{\theta}, \theta) \right] d\theta$$

$$\doteq \mathcal{I}_{\eta} \mathscr{R}_{W} f(x) \tag{9}$$

giving rise to the inverse operator \mathcal{I}_{η} . Where

$$m\{r,d\} = e^{-\frac{r}{2}} \left\{ h_c(r) \mathscr{H} \left(h_c(r) e^{\frac{r}{2}} d \right) + h_s(r) \mathscr{H} \left(h_s(r) e^{\frac{r}{2}} d \right) \right\}$$
(10)
where $h_c(r) = \cos(\frac{1}{2} \mathscr{H} r)$ and $h_s(r) = \sin(\frac{1}{2} \mathscr{H} r)$, and
 $\mathbf{O}(\eta, \xi_{\theta}) = [\mathbf{D}(\eta)\xi_{\theta}] \cdot \nabla - i[\mathbf{D}(\eta)\xi_{\theta}^{\perp}] \cdot \nabla$ (11)
and matrix $\mathbf{D}(\eta) = \operatorname{diag}(\eta_1(\kappa)/\kappa, i\eta_2(\kappa)/\kappa)$.

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$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \partial_t \left[e^{\mathcal{D} a(x,\theta)} m\{\mathscr{R} a, \mathscr{R}_W f\} \right] (x \cdot \xi_\theta, \theta) d\theta$$
(12)

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First step is considering the case of a fixed angle and inverting the corresponding operator \mathscr{R}_{γ} for a fixed $\gamma \in \Gamma$. The inspiration is the nonrealistic case where $\gamma = \pi$, the exponentials are "parallel" and the solution of the problem is trivial, just considering $a(x,\theta) = \lambda(x,\theta+\pi) + \mu(x,\theta+\pi)$ and Fokas approach applies in a straightforward manner. This suggests the necessity of considering a rotation of angle γ for the next step towards a generalization.

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For every given point x, the line $\ell(x, v) = \{x + sv : s \ge 0\}$ can be mapped to the line $\ell(x, -v)$ through the rotation operator

$$\phi_x(y) = 2x - y \tag{13}$$

and also can be mapped to the line $\ell(x, G_{\gamma}\nu)$ (for a fixed angle γ , being $G_{\gamma}^{T} = (\xi_{\gamma}, \xi_{\gamma}^{\perp})$ a 2x2 rotation matrix) through the following rotation

$$\psi_{\gamma,x}(y) = G_{\gamma}(y-x) + x. \tag{14}$$

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Extending to XFCT. Single angle. Rotation



The attenuation that we have to consider will be derived from

$$a_{\gamma,x}(y) = \lambda(\phi_x(y)) + b_{\gamma,x}(y) \tag{15}$$

with $b_{\gamma,x}$ a function defined by

$$b_{\gamma,x}(y) = \mu(\psi_{\gamma,x}(y)). \tag{16}$$

And after several lemmas and lots of calculations, we get the inverse $\mathscr{R}_{\gamma}^{-1}$ for a fixed angle γ .

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Theorem

If the fluorescence attenuation map μ satisfies the inequality $\max_{(x,\theta)} |1 - \alpha(x,\theta,\beta^*)| < 1$, with α defined before, the inverse

operator \mathscr{R}_{xfct}^{-1} is given by the Neumann series

$$\mathscr{R}_{\mathsf{xfct}}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\mathsf{m}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\mathcal{I} - \frac{1}{\mathsf{m}} \mathscr{R}_{\beta^*}^{-1} \mathscr{R}_{\mathsf{xfct}} \right)^k \mathscr{R}_{\beta^*}^{-1}$$
(17)

with \mathcal{I} the identity operator, $\beta^* = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)$, $\mathbf{m} = \gamma_2 - \gamma_1$ and $\mathscr{R}_{\beta^*}^{-1}$ from before.

In practical experiments, the angle section Γ , is symmetrically chosen to verify $\Gamma \subseteq [0, \pi]$. So, the optimal angle β^* is $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and the condition above is always satisfied since there is a minimum in the amount of scattered photons at $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and therefore the total fluorescence attenuation (the divergent beam transform of μ) is stationary at this angle.

Now, using the same change of variables as before, we define the function a, for fixed but arbitrary values of x, by

$$a(x,\eta) = \lambda(\phi_x(x)) + b_{\eta,x}(x), \tag{18}$$

where $x = \phi_x(x)$ and $b = b_{\eta,x}(x)$ such that

$$\mathscr{D}b_{\eta,x}(x,\eta) = -\ln \frac{1}{m} \int_{\Gamma(x)} e^{-\mathscr{D}\mu(x,G_{\gamma}\eta)} d\gamma,$$
 (19)

Since $\mathscr{D}\mu$ is a positive function and $\int_{\Gamma} d\gamma \ e^{-\mathscr{D}\mu} < m$, the above logarithm is well defined, i.e., $\mathscr{D}b > 0$.

An Analytic Inverse

If (t, ρ) is the change of variables in $x = t\xi + \rho\xi^{\perp}$, $m = \gamma_2 - \gamma_1$

$$\omega_{\mathsf{xfct}}(x,\theta) = e^{-\mathcal{D}\lambda(x,\theta+\pi)} \int_{\Gamma} e^{-\mathcal{D}\mu(x,\xi_{\theta+\gamma})} d\gamma.$$

and

 $p(t, heta) = \mathscr{R}\lambda(t, heta) + \mathscr{R}b(t, heta)$ and $\mathscr{R}b$ defined by.

$$\mathscr{R}b(x\cdot\xi_{\theta},\theta) = -\ln\left[\frac{1}{\mathsf{m}^{2}}\left(\int_{\Gamma} e^{-\mathcal{D}\mu(x,\theta+\gamma+\pi)}d\gamma\right)\left(\int_{\Gamma} e^{-\mathcal{D}\mu(x,\theta+\gamma)}d\gamma\right)\right]$$

and

$$m\{r,d\} = e^{-\frac{r}{2}} \left\{ h_c(r) \mathscr{H} \left(h_c(r) e^{\frac{r}{2}} d \right) + h_s(r) \mathscr{H} \left(h_s(r) e^{\frac{r}{2}} d \right) \right\}$$
(20)
with $h_c(r) = \cos(\frac{1}{2} \mathscr{H} r)$ and $h_s(r) = \sin(\frac{1}{2} \mathscr{H} r)$.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \partial_{t} \left[m\omega_{xfct}^{-1}(x,\theta) m\left\{ p, \frac{1}{m} \mathscr{R}_{xfct} f \right\} (x \cdot \xi, \theta) \right] (\partial \theta) \\ = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \partial_{t} \left[\omega_{xfct}^{-1}(x,\theta) m\{p, \mathscr{R}_{xfct} f\} (x \cdot \xi, \theta) \right] d\theta \quad (22) \\ = \mathscr{R}_{xfct}^{-1} \mathscr{R}_{xfct} f(x) \quad (23)$$

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Simulated data: $\{f_1, \lambda_1, \mu_1, \mathscr{R}_{xfct}f_1\}$, (256 × 256), sinograms obtained with M = 360 views and N = 400 rays per view.



Simulated data: $\{f_2, \lambda_2, \mu_2, \mathscr{R}_{xfct}f_2\}$, (80 × 80), sinograms obtained with M = 360 views and N = 400 rays per view.



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Some Experiments: Real Data



Sequence of partial sums of the approximating series for real data using $\mu=\lambda.$

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 An extended comparison of all the methods for different types of data (there are many combinations)

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- What is valid for SPECT?

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- ► Etc.....

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Thanks

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The Team



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Questions?



Sundown, Uraricoera River, North of the Amazon

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Publicity Section



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WORKSHOP ON IMAGE PROCESSING AND RECONSTRUCTION: MODELS AND METHODS

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WORKSHOP

Andrei Bronnikov, Mathematics of Phase-Contrast X-Ray Micro-Tomography Bronnikov Algorithms – The Netherlands

Ali Mohammad-Djafari, Sparsity Enforcing Prior Models and Bayesian Approach for Signal and Image Reconstruction

Laboratoire des Signaux e Systèmes, Univeristé Paris Sud – France

Patrick LaRiviere, Virtual X-Ray Histology Using Multiple Metal Stains and Multi-Energy Synchrotron microCT

Russell Luke, Imaging from Low-Count X-Ray Diffraction Data: Variational Analysis and Algorithms Institut für Numerische und Americandte Mathematik. Universität Göttingen – Germany

Emil Sidky, The Role of Compressive Sensing in Iterative Image Reconstruction for Computed Tomography Dept. of Radiology, University of Chicago Medical Center – USA

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The Workshop

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