Cours 8

Image restoration in large dimension

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Inverse problems in imaging



Inverse problems in imaging: various applications



Astronomy



SPHERE/IRDIS







Outline

Model the problem

Data fidelity Regularization Quality metrics

Optimization

Applications

Neural networks in imaging

Direct model





Degraded image \boldsymbol{z}



Original image \overline{x}

Examples of degradation



Inpainting: A diagonal binary Delurring: A convolution with a blur kernel

Direct model: convolution

$$z = Ax \iff z = \phi \star x$$

- φ ★ x: convolution product with the Point Spread Function (PSF) φ of size Q₁ × Q₂.
- A is a block-circulant matrix with circulant blocks related to ϕ : $A = F^* \Lambda F$ where
 - Λ: diagonal matrix,
 - F: represents the discrete Fourier transform, * denotes here the transpose conjugate and F* = F⁻¹.
- Efficient computation of Ax by means of the Fourier transform of x:

$$A\bar{x} = F^*\Lambda F\bar{x} = F^*\Lambda \bar{X}$$

Direct model: convolution



Direct model: convolution



Direct model



- © A is known or can be approximated
- ☺ A is sparse
- A is ill-conditioned

The problem $z = A\bar{x}$ is said to be well-posed if it fulfils the **Hadamard conditions**:

- 1. existence of a solution: range(A) = \mathbb{R}^{M}
- 2. uniqueness of the solution: Ker(A) = 0
- 3. stability of the solution \hat{x} relatively to the observation: $\forall (z, z') \in \mathbb{R}^M$, $||z - z'|| \to 0 \implies ||\hat{x}(z) - \hat{x}(z')|| \to 0$

Inverse problem solving

Direct inversion

$$\hat{x} = A^{-1}z = A^{-1}(A\bar{x} + \epsilon) = \bar{x} + A^{-1}\epsilon$$

Noise amplification if A is ill-conditioned

1922 Maximum likelihood

$$\hat{x} \in \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} ||Ax - z||_{2}^{2} = (A^{T}A)^{-1}A^{T}z$$

1963 Regularization

$$\hat{x} \in \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \theta \|Dx\|_{2}^{2}$$

2000 Sparsity

$$\hat{x} \in \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \theta \|Dx\|_{1}$$

2010 "End-to-end" neural networks

$$\hat{x} = NN_{\theta}(z)$$

2020 Model based neural networks: PnP or Unfolded

Variational problem formulation

Estimating \hat{x} close to \bar{x} from the observation z and the forward operator A. Optimization formulation:

$$\widehat{x} \in \underset{x}{\arg\min} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2}}_{\text{data fidelity}} + \underbrace{\lambda \|Lx\|_{\star}}_{\text{regularization}}$$

with $||Lx||_{\star}$ usually sparsity inducing norm.

The regularization permits to cope with the ill-posed nature of the inverse problem by assuming a priori knowledge about the ground-truth solution.

Examples

- L_1 norm $||x||_1$ to enforce sparsity
- Total Variation ||Dx||₁ for promoting spacial smoothness (D differential operator)

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Maximum A Posteriori (MAP) estimation

Let x and z be realizations of random variables X and Z

$$x^{MAP} = \arg \max_{x} \underbrace{p_{X|Z=z}(x)}_{\text{posterior distribution}}$$

By Bayes formula, the posterior distribution is given by

$$p_{X|Z=z}(x) = \frac{p_X(x)p_{Z|X=x}(z|x)}{p_Z(z)}$$

and the MAP writes as

$$x^{MAP} = \arg\min_{x} \underbrace{-\log p_{Z|X=x}(z)}_{\text{Data-fidelity}} \underbrace{-\log p_X(x)}_{\text{A priori}} = \arg\min_{x} f(x) + g(x)$$

The MAP estimator relates the data-fidelity term to the conditional distribution $p_{Z|X}$ and the regularization term to the prior distribution p_X .

Data-fidelity: Gaussian noise

- $z = A\bar{x} + \epsilon$ with $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma)$
- Gaussian likelihood:

$$p_{Z|X=x}(z) = \prod_{n=1}^{M} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \exp(-((Ax)_n - z_n)^2/(2\sigma))$$

► *L*₂ data-fidelity:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{M} \frac{1}{2\sigma} ((AX)_n - z_n)^2$$

Model the problem Data fidelity Regularization Quality metrics

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Total variation (TV)

$$[i,j] i,j+1$$

$$i+1,j i+1,j+1$$

g(x) = g(D(x)) contains the differences

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} x_{i,j} - x_{i,j+1} \\ x_{i,j} - x_{i+1,j} \end{bmatrix} \right\|$$

Non-local total variation (NLTV)



g(x) = g(D(x)) contains the differences in the patches

Wavelets



Wavelets



$$x = a_0 \rightarrow \begin{cases} a_{-1} = (a_0 \star \overbrace{g) \downarrow 2}^{G} \\ d_{-1} = (a_0 \star \overbrace{h) \downarrow 2}^{H} \end{cases}$$

$$a_{-1} \rightarrow \begin{cases} a_{-2} = (a_{-1} \star \overbrace{g) \downarrow 2}^{G} \\ H \\ d_{-2} = (a_{-1} \star \overbrace{h) \downarrow 2}^{G} \end{cases}$$

- g: low pass filter
- h: high pass filter

Comparison of regularizations



Original



 $\begin{array}{l} {\sf Degraded} \\ {\sf SNR} = 13.4 \ {\sf dB} \end{array}$



Tikhonov SNR = 16.4 dB







TVSNR = 18.8 dB

NLTVSNR = 19.4 dB

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{DTT}\\ \mathsf{SNR}=16.6 \; \mathsf{dB} \end{array}$

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Image quality metrics

- Visual quality of the reconstruction
- Mean Squared Error (MSE) (should be as low as possible):

$$MSE(x, \hat{x}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\hat{x}_i - x_i)^2$$

 Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR): compares the energy of the original image to the energy of the noise (dB=decibel)

$$SNR_{dB}(x, \hat{x}) = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P_{\text{signal}}}{P_{\text{noise}}} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{\|\hat{x}\|^2}{\|\hat{x} - x\|^2}$$

should be as high as possible.

Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR):

$$PSNR(x, \hat{x}) = 10 \log_{10} \frac{N \max^2 x}{\|\hat{x} - x\|^2}$$

ratio between the maximum intensity and the mean squared error. It can be useful when images have high dynamic range (i.e., large differences in intensity).

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Problem formulation

The image restoration problem can be generally stated as

 $\min_{x} f(x) + g(x)$

- f differentiable with Lipschitz gradient
- g possibly non-smooth but proximable

Classical solution methods:

Proximal methods

Proximal methods

 $\min_{x} f(x) + \lambda g(x)$

Assumptions:

- $f + \lambda g$ admits a minimizer
- ▶ f,g are convex
- f is L_f -smooth: $\|\nabla f(x) \nabla f(y)\| \le L_f \|x y\|$ for all x, y
- g is possibly non-differentiable

Smooth case

If g = 0

Gradient descent: $x_{k+1} = x_k + p_k := x_k - \frac{1}{L_f} \nabla f(x_k)$

Why?

Gradient step minimizes an upper bound on the function:

$$f(x) \leq f(y) + \nabla f(y)^{\mathsf{T}}(x-y) + \frac{L_f}{2} \|x-y\|^2, \quad \forall x, y$$

$$f(x_{k+1}) \leq f(x_k) + \nabla f(x_k)^T p_k + \frac{L_f}{2} \|p_k\|^2 \xrightarrow{\arg\min_{p_k}} p_k = -\frac{\nabla f(x_k)}{L_f}$$

Proximal methods

If there is g: add λg to the upper bound:

$$f(x) + \lambda g(x) \le f(y) + \nabla f(y)^T (x - y) + \frac{L_f}{2} \|x - y\|^2 + \lambda g(x), \quad \forall x, y$$

Can we minimize the upper bound?

$$\arg\min_{x} f(y) + \nabla f(y)^{T} (x - y) + \frac{L_{f}}{2} ||x - y||^{2} + \lambda g(x) =$$

$$\arg\min_{x} \nabla f(y)^{T} (x - y) + \frac{L_{f}}{2} ||x - y||^{2} + \lambda g(x) =$$

$$\arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} ||x - (y - \frac{1}{L_{f}} \nabla f(y))||^{2} + \frac{\lambda}{L_{f}} g(x) :=$$

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\frac{\lambda}{L_{f}}g} (y - \frac{1}{L_{f}} \nabla f(y)).$$

Proximal operator

If g is a proper, lower semi-continuous convex function from a Hilbert space X to [-∞, +∞] the proximal operator is defined as :

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(y) = \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} \|x - y\|^2 + \tau g(x)$$

The proximal operator can be seen as a generalization of the projection operator: if f is the characteristic function u_C of a nonempty, closed, convex set C

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\iota_{C}}(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_{y} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \|x - y\|_{2}^{2} & \text{if } y \in C \\ +\infty & \text{if } y \notin C \end{cases}$$
$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in C} \frac{1}{2} \|x - y\|_{2}^{2}$$

Example: Thresholding

$$H_t(x) = x \cdot I(|x| > t)$$
 $S_t(x) = sign(x)(|x| - t)_+$

are the Hard and soft thresholding functions.



• If $g(x) = ||x||_1$, $\operatorname{prox}_{\lambda g}(x) = S_{\lambda}(x)$ • If $h(x) = ||x||_0$, $\operatorname{prox}_{\lambda g}(x) = H_{\lambda}(x)$

Gradient methods

Differentiable case

Proximal gradient descent

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{1}{L_f} \nabla f(x_k)$$

$$x_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda g/L_f}(x_k - 1/L_f \nabla f(x_k))$$

Convergence

If f is differentiable, L_f -smooth and convex:

$$f(x_{K}) - f(x^{*}) \leq \frac{2L_{f} ||x_{1} - x^{*}||}{K - 1}$$

Convergence

If f is differentiable, L_f -smooth, convex and g is convex:

$$f(x_{K}) - f(x^{*}) \leq \frac{L_{f} ||x_{1} - x^{*}||}{2K}$$

In both cases $f(x_K) - f(x^*) = O(\frac{1}{K})$.

Accelerated proximal methods: FISTA

ISTA (Iterative Shrinkage-Thresholding Algorithm):

$$x_{k+1} = \underbrace{\operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}}_{\text{step on } g} \underbrace{(x_k - \tau \nabla f(x_k))}_{\text{step on } f}$$

Rate: O(1/k) if $\tau \leq \frac{1}{L_f}$ FISTA (Fast ISTA):

$$x_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g} (y_k - \tau \nabla f(y_k))$$
$$y_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

where α_k is chosen as $\alpha_k = \frac{t_k - 1}{t_{k+1}}$, with $t_{k+1} = \left(\frac{k+a}{a}\right)^d$. Rate: $O(1/k^2)$ if $\tau \leq \frac{1}{L_f}$

Limitations of proximal methods

- require prox computation (usually not available in closed form: TV, NLTV)
- suitable for problems of reasonable size: high dimensional problems → high computation time.

Main goal : provide acceleration for high dimensional problems.

Alternatives:

- FISTA [Beck & Teboulle, 2009],
- Preconditioning [Donatelli, 2019],
- Block methods [Liu, 1996],
- Exploit the problem structure with a multiresolution strategy

ML to leverage large dimensions?

Rappel: multilevel methods

ML approaches for nonlinear smooth problems

- S.G. Nash, MG/Opt (2000)
- S. Gratton, A. Sartenaer, and P. Toint, RMTR (2008)
Multilevel methods for imaging problems?

smooth ML approaches on smoothed image problems

- A. Javaherian and S. Holman, (tomography, 2017)
- S. W. Fung and Z. Wendy, (phase retrieval, 2020)
- J. Plier, F. Savarino, M. Kocvara, and S. Petra, (tomography, 2021)

Idea

$$\min_{x} f(x) + g(x) \sim \min_{x} f(x) + g_{\gamma}(x)$$

with g_{γ} differentiable \implies not SOTA reconstruction

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Idea

$$\min_{x} f(x) + g(x) \sim \min_{x} f(x) + g_{\gamma}(x)$$

with g_γ differentiable \implies not SOTA reconstruction

Extension of ML to a non-smooth setting?

An iteration of a multilevel procedure

$$\min_{x} F(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$



An iteration of a multilevel procedure

$$\min_{x} F(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$



 $R(=I_h^H), P=(I_H^h)?$

 F_H ?

An iteration of a multilevel procedure



A hierarchy of images





Coarse model definition F_H

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|Lx\|_{1}$$

$$F_{H}(x) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{2} \|A_{H}x_{H} - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|L_{H}x_{H}\|_{1}$$

Coarse model definition F_H

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|Lx\|_{1}$$

$$F_{H}(x) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{2} \|A_{H}x_{H} - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|L_{H}x_{H}\|_{1}$$

Is this model useful in minimizing F?

Design of F_H in smooth context: First order coherence



Design of F_H in smooth context: First order coherence



Coarse model definition F_H

If g was smooth:

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|Lx\|_{1}$$

$$F_{H}(x_{H}) = \frac{1}{2} \|A_{H}x_{H} - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|L_{H}x_{H}\|_{1} + \langle v_{H}, x_{H} \rangle$$

$$v_{H} = I_{h}^{H} \nabla F(x) - \nabla F_{H}(I_{h}^{H}x)$$

Coarse model definition F_H

If g was smooth:

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|Lx\|_{1}$$

$$F_{H}(x_{H}) = \frac{1}{2} \|A_{H}x_{H} - z\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|L_{H}x_{H}\|_{1} + \langle v_{H}, x_{H} \rangle$$

$$v_{H} = I_{h}^{H} \nabla F(x) - \nabla F_{H}(I_{h}^{H}x)$$

But g is nonsmooth \rightarrow smoothing! [Parpas 2017]

Smoothed convex function

Definition [Beck 2012, Definition 2.1]

Let g be a convex, l.s.c., and proper function on \mathbb{R}^N . For every $\gamma > 0$, g_{γ} is a smoothed convex function if there exist scalars η_1, η_2 satisfying $\eta_1 + \eta_2 > 0$ such that the following holds:

$$(\forall y \in \mathbb{R}^N)$$
 $g(y) - \eta_1 \gamma \leq g_\gamma(y) \leq g(y) + \eta_2 \gamma.$

Example: the Moreau envelope

$$g_{\gamma}(\cdot) = \inf_{y} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \| \cdot -y \|^2$$

First-order coherence in non-smooth case

$$F_{H}(x_{H}) = f_{H}(x_{H}) + g_{H,\gamma_{H}}(x_{H}) + \langle v_{H}, x_{H} \rangle$$
$$v_{H} = I_{h}^{H} \nabla \left(f_{h} + g_{h,\gamma_{h}} \right) (x_{h}) - \nabla \left(f_{H} + g_{H,\gamma_{H}} \right) (I_{h}^{H} x_{h}).$$

Smooth coarse model: allows for smooth optimizers at coarse level

Fine level function decrease

Lemma

Assume that $I_{H}^{h} = \alpha (I_{h}^{H})^{T}$, $\alpha > 0$. If $x_{H,m} - x_{H,0}$ is a descent direction for the coarse model and the first-order coherence holds, $I_{H}^{h}(x_{H,m} - x_{H,0})$ is a descent direction for $F_{h,\gamma_{h}} := f_{h} + g_{h,\gamma_{h}}$. Proof.

???

What happens to non-smooth objective function?

Lemma

Under the same assumptions as in the previous lemma,

$$F_h(x_h + \bar{\tau}I_h^H(x_{H,m} - x_{H,0})) \le F_h(x_h) + (\eta_1 + \eta_2)\gamma_h$$

for $\bar{\tau} > 0$.

Proof. ???

To summarize: a multilevel method for non-smooth problems

Fine function:

$$F_h = f_h + g_h$$

with g_h non-smooth.

Coarse model:

$$F_{H}(x_{H}) = f_{H}(x_{H}) + g_{H,\gamma_{H}}(x_{H}) + \langle v_{H}, x_{H} \rangle$$
$$v_{H} = I_{h}^{H} \nabla \left(f_{h} + g_{h,\gamma_{h}} \right) (x_{h}) - \nabla \left(f_{H} + g_{H,\gamma_{H}} \right) (I_{h}^{H} x_{h}).$$

Iterations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g} \left(\bar{x}_k - \tau \nabla f(\bar{x}_k) \right) \\ \bar{x}_k &= ML(x_k) \Longleftrightarrow \min F_H(\text{ smooth}) \end{aligned}$$

IML FISTA: inertial multilevel FISTA with inexact prox

•
$$g(x) = \varphi(Lx)$$

 Inexact proximal steps to handle state-of-the-art regularization: TV, NLTV

$$x_{k+1} \sim \operatorname{prox}_{\tau\varphi\circ L} \left(\overline{y}_k - \tau \nabla f(\overline{y}_k) \right)$$
$$y_{k+1} = x_{k+1} + \alpha_k (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

- FISTA acceleration
 - FISTA: $\overline{y}_k = y_k$
 - IML FISTA: $\overline{y}_k = ML(y_k) \iff \min F_H$
- Obtain state-of-the-art convergence guarantees (rate O(1/k²)) plus dimension reduction

Multilevel algorithm for nonsmooth optimization

1: Set
$$x_{h,0}, y_{h,0} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$
, $t_{h,0} = 1$
2: while Stopping criterion is not met do
3: if Descent condition and $r < p$ then
4: $r = r + 1$,
5: $x_{H,0} = l_h^H y_{h,k}$ Projection
6: $x_{H,m} = \Phi_H \circ ... \circ \Phi_H(x_{H,0})$ Coarse minimization
7: Set $\overline{\tau}_h > 0$,
8: $\overline{y}_{h,k} = y_{h,k} + \overline{\tau}_h l_h^H (x_{H,m} - x_{H,0})$ Coarse step update
9: else
10: $\overline{y}_{h,k} = y_{h,k}$
11: end if
12: $x_{h,k+1} = \Phi_i^{\epsilon_{h,k}}(\overline{y}_{h,k})$ Inexact Forward-backward step
13: $t_{h,k+1} = (\frac{k+a}{a})^d$, $\alpha_{h,k} = \frac{t_{h,k}-1}{t_{h,k+1}}$
14: $y_{h,k+1} = x_{h,k+1} + \alpha_{h,k}(x_{h,k+1} - x_{h,k})$. Inertial step
15: end while=0

Inexact proximal step

The ϵ -subdifferential of g at $z \in \text{dom } g$ is defined as:

$$\partial_{\epsilon}g(z) = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^{N} \mid g(x) \ge g(z) + \langle x - z, y \rangle - \epsilon, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{N} \}.$$

Type 0 **approximation** [Combettes, Wajs, 2005] $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is a type 0 approximation of $\operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$ with precision ϵ , and we write $z \simeq_0 \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$, if and only if $||z - \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)|| \le \sqrt{2\gamma\epsilon}$.

Type 1 approximation [Villa et al., 2013] $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is a type 1 approximation of $\operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$ ith precision ϵ , and we write $z \simeq_1 \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$, if and only if $0 \in \partial_{\epsilon} \left(g(z) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} ||z - y||^2 \right)$.

Type 2 **approximation** [Villa et al., 2013] $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is a type 2 approximation of $\operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$ with precision ϵ , and we write $z \simeq_2 \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma g}(y)$, if and only if $\frac{y-z}{\gamma} \in \partial_{\epsilon}g(z)$.

Example

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(y) = \arg\min_{x} \frac{1}{2} \|x - y\|^2 + \tau g(x)$$

Inexact solution via an iterative method

Convergence analysis

Theorem 1

Considering $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\alpha_{h,k} = 0$ and the sequence $(\epsilon_{h,k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is such that $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \sqrt{\|\epsilon_{h,k}\|} < +\infty$. Set $x_{h,0} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$ and choosing approximation of Type 0, the sequence $(x_{h,k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ generated by IML FISTA converges to a minimizer of F_h .

Theorem 2

Let $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $t_{h,k+1} = \left(\frac{k+a}{a}\right)^d$, with (a,d) satisfying the conditions in [Aujol, Dossal, 2015 – Definition 3.1]. Moreover, if we assume that:

- $\sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} k^d \sqrt{\epsilon_{h,k}} < +\infty$ in the case of Type 1 approximation,
- $\sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} k^{2d} \epsilon_{h,k} < +\infty$ in the case of Type 2 approximation.

Let $(x_{h,k})_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ the sequence generated by IML FISTA, then

- The sequence $(k^{2d} (F_h(x_{h,k}) F_h(x^*)))_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ belongs to $\ell_{\infty}(\mathbb{N})$.
- The sequence $(x_{h,k})_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ converges to a minimizer of F_h .

Outline

Model the problem

Data fidelity Regularization Quality metrics

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Applications

Neural networks in imaging

Hyperspectral images



How to build the coarse approximations?



Objective function evolution





2 iterations

end of optimization



Dimension bottleneck: number of observations



Coarse measurements



Coarser measurements





Reconstruction in log-scale of a region of the M31 galaxy



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Neural networks in imaging

How to exploit the great power of neural networks in imaging? Basically three approaches:

- 1. End-to-end
- 2. Plug and Play
- 3. Unrolled algorithms

Example



Original





Degraded SNR = 13.4 dB



TV NLTV SNR = 18.8 dBSNR = 19.4 dB



DTT SNR = 16.6 dB



PnP-ScCP SNR = 20.2 dB

Tikhonov SNR = 16.4 dB


1) End-to-end approaches

Problem: $z = A\bar{x} + \epsilon$

Idea: model \hat{x} by a neural network

- Build a dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{(\bar{x}^i, z^i)\}\ i = 1, \dots, m$, from the model $z = A\bar{x} + \epsilon$
- Model $\hat{x} = F_{\theta}(z)$ or $\hat{x} = F_{\theta}((A^{T}A)^{-1}A^{T}z)$ (CNN, Unet)
- Train F_{θ} on \mathcal{D} (loss: $\ell(\bar{x}^i, z^i)$)
- Feed F_{θ} a noisy image, get the denoised approximation
- © Very good denoising performance
- © Expensive, need new training for every model

2) Plug-and-Play (PnP)

Idea: replace proximal step by a trained denoiser

$$x_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(x_k - \tau \nabla f(x_k)) \to x_{k+1} = \mathcal{D}(x_k - \tau \nabla f(x_k))$$

- Build a dataset D = {(xⁱ, yⁱ)} i = 1,..., m, from the model y = x̄ + ϵ
- Train a denoiser D (loss: $\ell(\bar{x}^i, y^i)$)
- Perform optimization steps $x_{k+1} = D(x_k \tau \nabla f(x_k))$

No need of retraining *D* on your problem, works for general problems. Theoretical results
Less good results than end-to-end (but better than classical methods)

Convergence of PnP

$$x_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(x_k - \tau \nabla f(x_k)) \to x_{k+1} = D(x_k - \tau \nabla f(x_k))$$

- From monotone operator theory, if f convex, provided that $\tau < \frac{2}{L_f}$, FB is guaranteed to converge to a solution of f + g.
- If f non-convex, provided that $\tau < \frac{1}{L_f}$, FB is guaranteed to converge to a solution of f + g.
- If D is trained to be a firmly non-expansive operator (by regularizing the training loss) the algorithm converges

MMSE interpretation of PnP

By definition

$$\hat{x}_{MMSE} = \arg\min_{x} \mathbb{E}(x|Z=z)$$

If we train D_{θ} to minimize

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \|D_{\theta}(y^{i}) - \bar{x}^{i}\|^{2}$$

we can see that

 $D_{\theta^*} \sim \hat{x}_{MMSE}$

Background: structure of a neural network

$$F_{\theta}(x) = \eta_k (W_k \eta_{k-1} (W_{k-1} ... \eta_1 (W_1 x + b_1) ..) + b_k)$$

Most activation functions are proximity operators : $\eta_k = prox\Phi$ https://proximity-operator.net/

3) Unrolled algorithms

Problem formulation:

$$\arg\min_{\alpha} \frac{1}{2} \|AD^{T}\alpha - z\|^{2} + \lambda \|\alpha\|_{1}$$

Iterations:

$$\alpha_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau \parallel \cdot \parallel_{1}} (\alpha_{k} - \tau DA^{T} (AD\alpha_{k} - z))$$
$$= \underbrace{\operatorname{prox}_{\tau \parallel \cdot \parallel_{1}}}_{\eta_{k}} [\underbrace{(I - \tau DA^{T} AD^{T})}_{W_{k}} \alpha_{k} + \underbrace{\tau DA^{T} z}_{b_{k}})]$$

 $F_{\theta}(x) = \eta_k (W_k \eta_{k-1} (W_{k-1} ... \eta_1 (W_1 x + b_1) ..) + b_k)$

Towards multilevel PnP

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} ||Ax - b||^2$$

Fine level:

$$x_{k+1}^h = D^h(x_k^h - \tau \nabla f^h(x_k^h))$$

Coarse level:

• Reduce the image size: $x_{k+1}^H = D(x_k^H - \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$

Towards multilevel PnP

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} ||Ax - b||^2$$

Fine level:

$$x_{k+1}^h = D^h(x_k^h - \tau \nabla f^h(x_k^h))$$

Coarse level:

- Reduce the image size: $x_{k+1}^H = D(x_k^H \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$
- Reduce the network size: $x_{k+1}^H = D^H(x_k^H \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$

Towards multilevel PnP

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} ||Ax - b||^2$$

Fine level:

$$x_{k+1}^h = \mathbf{D}^h(x_k^h - \tau \nabla f^h(x_k^h))$$

Coarse level:

- Reduce the image size: $x_{k+1}^H = D(x_k^H \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$
- Reduce the network size: $x_{k+1}^H = D^H(x_k^H \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$
- Simplify coarse iterations: $x_{k+1}^H = \operatorname{prox}_g(x_k^H \tau \nabla f^H(x_k^H))$

Numerical tests: inpainting



Numerical tests: inpainting



Exercise

- 1. Complete the ??? proofs and type them in latex
- 2. Complete the notebook