

Wavelets, sparsity and biomedical image reconstruction

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OUTLINE

- Short wavelet primer
 - From legos to wavelets
 - Sparsity
- Wavelet-domain image denoising
 - Soft-thresholding
 - SURELETS
- Image reconstruction with sparsity constraints
 - Compressed sensing
 - ISTA and faster variants
 - 3-D deconvolution microscopy
 - MRI

 $s_1(x)$

 $s_2(x)$

 $s_3(x)$



 $s_0(x) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c[k] \varphi(x-k)$

Scaling function



Multi-scale signal representation

$$s_i(x) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_i[k] \varphi_{i,k}(x)$$

Multi-scale basis functions

$$\varphi_{i,k}(x) = \varphi\left(\frac{x-2^ik}{2^i}\right)$$

3





Haar wavelet and 2D basis functions Expansion coefficients $f(x,y) = \sum_{i,k} w_{i,k} \psi_{i,k}(x,y)$ $f(x,y) = \sum_{i,k} w_{i,k} \psi_{i,k}(x,y)$

Sparsity of wavelet decomposition: example

Wavelet transform

Higher-order wavelets (splines)

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i,\boldsymbol{k}} \psi_{i,\boldsymbol{k}}(\boldsymbol{x}) \, w_{i,\boldsymbol{k}}$$

Space-domain representation: $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{w}$

Wavelet-domain representation: $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{W}^{-1} \mathbf{f}$

Ar Ar Ar Ar Ar

 $\neg \land \neg \land \neg \land$





Beyond legos: Fractional B-spline wavelets





(Unser & Blu, SIAM Rev, 2000)

Remarkable property

Each of these wavelets generates a Riesz basis of $L_2(\mathbb{R})$

$$\psi_{+}^{\alpha}(x/2) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{(-1)^{k}}{2^{\alpha}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \binom{\alpha+1}{n} \beta_{*}^{2\alpha+1}(n+k-1) \frac{\Delta_{+}^{\alpha+1}(x-k)_{+}^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}$$

Only known wavelet bases that have an explicit time-domain formula !

WAVELETS in Medicine and Biology	Image proce
	Filtering
Edited by Akram Aldroubi and Michael Unser	Feature extr
Wavelets in medical imaging:	
Survey 1991-1999	Wavelet enc
References • Unser and Aldroubi, <i>Proc IEEE</i> , 1996 Laine Annual Bay Biamod Eng. 2000	Image recon
• Laine, Annual Hev Blomed Eng, 2000	Statistical da
• Special issue, IEEE Trans Med Im, 2003	Multi-scale F
	3D visualiza

Image processing task	Application / modality	Principal Authors		
Image compression	• MRI • Mammograms • CT • Angiograms, etc	Angelis 94; DeVore 95; Manduca 95; Wang 96; etc		
Filtering	Image enhancement • Digital radiograms • MRI • Mammograms • Lung X-rays, CT	Laine 94, 95; Lu, 94; Qian 95; Guang 97; etc		
	Denoising • MRI • Ultrasound (speckle) • SPECT	Weaver 91; Xu 94; Coifman 95; Abdel-Malek 97; Laine 98; Novak 98, 99		
Feature extraction	Detection of micro-calcifications • Mammograms	Qian 95; Yoshida 94; Strickland 96; Dhawan 96; Baoyu 96; Heine 97; Wang 98		
	Texture analysis and classification • Ultrasound • CT, MRI • Mammograms	Barman 93; Laine 94; Unser 95; Wei 95; Yung 95; Busch 97; Mojsilovic 97		
	Snakes and active contours • Ultrasound	Chuang-Kuo 96		
Wavelet encoding	Magnetic resonance imaging	Weaver-Healy 92; Panych 94, 96; Geman 96; Shimizu 96; Jian 97		
Image reconstruction	Computer tomography Limited angle data Optical tomography PET, SPECT	Olson 93, 94; Peyrin 94; Walnut 93; Delaney 95; Sahiner 96; Zhu 97; Kolaczyk 94; Raheja 99		
Statistical data analysis	Functional imaging • PET • fMRI	Ruttimann 93, 94, 98; Unser 95; Feilner 99; Raz 99		
Multi-scale Registration	Motion correction • fMRI, angiography Multi-modality imaging • CT, PET, MRI	Unser 93; Thévenaz 95, 98; Kybic 99		
3D visualization	• CT, MRI	Gross 95, 97; Muraki 95; Kamath 98; Horbelt 99		

First published paper on biomedical applications

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN MEDICINE 21, 288-295 (1991)

COMMUNICATIONS

Filtering Noise from Images with Wavelet Transforms

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Received April 12, 1991

A new method of filtering MR images is presented that uses wavelet transforms instead of Fourier transforms. The new filtering method does not reduce the sharpness of edges. However, the new method does eliminate any small structures that are similar in size to the noise eliminated. There are many possible extensions of the filter. © 1991 Academic Press, Inc.

Denoising by wavelet thresholding

- Basic idea
 - \blacksquare Orthogonal WT: white noise \rightarrow white noise
 - Signal is concentrated in few coefficients, while noise is spread-out evenly
- \Rightarrow Noise attenuation is achieved by simple wavelet shrinkage/thresholding





References

The pioneers

B. Weaver, X. Yansun, D.M. Healy Jr., and L.D. Cromwell, "Filtering noise from images with wavelet transforms," *Magnet. Reson. in Med.*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 288-295, 1991.

Theoretical justification and link with sparsity
 D.L. Donoho, "De-noising by soft-thresholding," *IEEE Trans. Information Theory*, vol. 41, no. 3, pp. 613-627, May 1995. (> 4000 ISI citations)

13

Wavelet denoising: variational interpretation

Signal + noise model : $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{n}$

- Basic denoising algorithm
 - Compute wavelet transform of noisy signal: $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{y}$
 - Apply pointwise non-linearity: $\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = T_{\lambda} \{ \mathbf{w} \}$
 - \blacksquare Compute inverse wavelet transform: $~~\tilde{\mathbf{f}}=\mathbf{W}\tilde{\mathbf{w}}$

Equivalent optimization problem

 $\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}} \left\{ \|\mathbf{y} - \tilde{\mathbf{f}}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_{\ell_1} \right\} \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{f}} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{w}$

(LASSO Tibshirani J. Royal Statist. 1996; Chambolle et al., IEEE Trans. Im Proc. 1998)



BIG extension: SURE-LET

Key features of SURE-LET wavelet denoising algorithm

Generalized non-linearities: Linear Expansion of Thresholds:

 $T_{\lambda}(w) \rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k f_k(w)$

- Optimizes thresholding parameters a_k from noisy data using Stein's Unbiased Risk Estimate (SURE)
- Incorporates inter-scale dependencies via prediction tree
- Improved performance:
 - 1 to 1.5 dB better than basic soft thresholding
 - Very close to oracle performance
 - Outperforms standard Wiener filter

(Luisier et al., IEEE Trans. Image Proc. 2007)

0380

SURE-LET Demo

SNR improvement: + 15.73 dB



2009 Young Author Best Paper Award IEEE Signal Processing Society



Standard Color Image



Input PSNR=18.59 dB

Denoised with OWT SURE-LET



Output PSNR = 31.91 dB

Denoised with UWT SURE-LET



Output PSNR = 33.27 dB

17



2D PureDenoise (UWT): Tobacco cells



Ground truth (average over 500 acquisitions)



2D + time SURE-LET denoising (DWT) : C-elegance embryo



WAVELET-REGULARIZED IMAGE RECONSTRUCTION

- Imaging as an inverse problem
- Sparsity and wavelet regularization
 - Theory of compressed sensing
 - Sparsity and *l*₁-minimization
- ISTA (Iterative Shrinkage-thresholding)
- Faster algorithms: ML-ISTA, FISTA, FWISTA
- Applications
 - 3-D deconvolution fluorescence microscopy
 - MRI reconstruction



Theory of compressive sensing

Generalized sampling setting (after discretization)

- $\blacksquare \ \ \ Linear \ inverse \ problem: \quad u=Hf+n$
- Sparse representation of signal: $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{v}$ with $\|\mathbf{v}\|_0 = K \ll N_v$
- $\mathbf{N}_u \times N_v$ system matrix : $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{W}$

Formulation of ill-posed recovery problem when $2K < N_u \ll N_v$

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(P0) \min_{\mathbf{v}} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 subject to \|\mathbf{v}\|_0 \le K
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Theoretical result

Under suitable conditions on A (e.g., restricted isometry), the solution is unique and the recovery problem (P0) is equivalent to:

(P1) $\min_{\mathbf{v}} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}\|_2^2$ subject to $\|\mathbf{v}\|_1 \le C_1$

[Donoho et al., 2005 Candès-Tao, 2006, ...]



Wavelet-regularized image reconstruction





Extension: General proximity operators

• Moreau's proximity operator with strengtht $\lambda > 0$

 $\operatorname{prox}_{\Phi}(\mathbf{u};\lambda) = \arg\min_{\mathbf{v}\in\mathbb{R}^{N}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u}-\mathbf{v}\|^{2} + \lambda \Phi(\mathbf{v})$

Lower semicontinuous, convex function $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^N \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

[Combettes-Pesquet, SIAM, 2007]

Scalar proximity operator = non-linear map

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\Phi}(u;\lambda) = \arg\min_{v} \frac{1}{2} \|u - v\|^2 + \lambda \Phi(v)$$

Potential function $\Phi(v)$

- Symmetric: $\Phi(v) = \Phi(-v)$
- Non-decreasing, but not necessarily convex
- Examples: $\Phi(v) = \lambda |v|^p$ with $0 \le p \le \infty$



Extended ISTA: Iterative Shrinkage/thresholding

Minimize: $J(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_n \Phi(v_n) \implies \mathbf{v}^* = \arg\min_{\mathbf{v}} J(\mathbf{v})$

Extended ISTA algorithm: wavelet-domain formulation

input: $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}_0, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$ Initialization: n = 0Repeat $\mathbf{v}_{n+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\Phi} (\mathbf{v}_n + \tau \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_n); \lambda \tau)$ $n \leftarrow n + 1$ until Stopping criterion return \mathbf{v}_n

 $\Phi:\mathbb{R}\mapsto\mathbb{R}$ (lower semicontinuous, convex)

Convergence guarantee: $J(\mathbf{v}_n) - J(\mathbf{v}^{\star}) \leq \frac{L}{n} \|\mathbf{v}_0 - \mathbf{v}^{\star}\|_2^2$

Characteristics of Shannon's wavelet basis

Orthonormality

Wavelet subspaces correspond

29

Faster scheme: deconvolution in a Shannon basis

 $W_4 W_3 W_2$

 W_1



Fast multilevel wavelet-regularized deconvolution

Key features of multilevel wavelet deconvolution algorithm (ML-ISTA)

- Acceleration by one order of magnitude with respect to ISTA (multigrid iteration strategy)
- Applicable in 2D or 3D: first wavelet attempt for the deconvolution of 3D fluorescence micrographs
- Works for any wavelet basis
- Typically outperforms oracle Wiener solution (best linear algorithm)



Wavelet-regularized 3-D deconvolution microscopy

Input data (open pinhole)





ML-ISTA 15 iterations



ISTA 15 iterations



Confocal reference

(Vonesch-U. IEEE Trans. Im. Proc. 2009)

Maximum-intensity projections of 512×352×96 image stacks;
Zeiss LSM 510 confocal microscope with a 63× oil-immersion objective;
C. Elegans embryo labeled with Hoechst, Alexa488, Alexa568;
each channel processed separately; computed PSF based on diffraction-limited model;
separable orthonormalized linear-spline/Haar basis.

3D deconvolution of widefield stack





Maximum intensity projections of $384 \times 448 \times 260$ image stacks; Leica DM 5500 widefield epifluorescence microscope with a $63 \times$ oil-immersion objective; C. Elegans embryo labeled with Hoechst, Alexa488, Alexa568; each channel processed separately; computed PSF based on diffraction-limited model; Haar basis, 3 decomposition levels for X-Y, 2 decomposition levels for Z.

FISTA: Fast ISTA

Wavelet expansi	ion: $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{w}$	Global system matrix: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{W}$			
ISTA: repetition of a simple fixed-point operation					
	$\mathbf{w}_{n+1} = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{w}_n)$				
Guaranteed	convergence	[Daubechies et al, 2004]			
	$\lim_{n o \infty} \mathbf{w}_n = \mathbf{w}^\star$ with	th $\mathbf{f}^{\star} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{w}^{\star}$			
but slow		[Beck and Teboulle, 2009]			
	$J(\mathbf{w}_n) - J(\mathbf{w}^\star) = \mathcal{O}\left(1\right)$	1/n)			
FISTA= conti	rolled over-relaxation	\mathbf{w}_{n-1}			
[Beck & Teboulle	e, 2009]	\mathbf{v}_n \mathbf{v}_n			
	$J(\mathbf{w}_n) - J(\mathbf{w}^\star) = \mathcal{O}(1/2)$	$/n^2$) \mathcal{P}			
		\mathbf{w}_{n+1}			
		34			

FISTA: Fast ISTA

[Beck and Teboulle, 2009]

35

Minimize: $J(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\mathbf{v}\|_{1}$

Solution:
$$\mathbf{v}^{\star} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{v}} J(\mathbf{v})$$

FISTA algorithm: wavelet-domain formulation

input: $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}_0, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$ Initialization: $n = 0, t_0 = 1, \mathbf{w}_0 = \mathbf{0}$ Repeat $\mathbf{w}_{n+1} = \operatorname{prox} \left(\mathbf{v}_n + \tau \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}_n); \lambda \tau \right)$ $t_{n+1} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_n^2}}{2}$ $\mathbf{v}_{n+1} = \mathbf{w}_{n+1} + \left(\frac{t_n - 1}{t_{n+1}} \right) (\mathbf{w}_{n+1} - \mathbf{w}_n)$ $n \leftarrow n + 1$ until Stopping criterion return \mathbf{v}_n

Convergence guarantee: $J(\mathbf{v}_n) - J(\mathbf{v}^{\star}) \leq \frac{4L}{(n+1)^2} \|\mathbf{v}_0 - \mathbf{v}^{\star}\|_2^2$







Simulated parallel MRI experiment

Shepp-Logan brain phantom 4 coils, undersampled spiral acquisition, 15dB noise



Backprojection



 L_2 regularization (CG)



 ℓ_1 wavelet regularization

[Guerquin-Kern et al., TMI 2011]

39

NCCBI collaboration with K. Prüssmann, ETHZ







Fig. 1. Reference images from left to right: in vivo brain, SL reference, and wrist.

 TABLE II

 Values of the Optimal SER and Corresponding Regularization Parameters are Shown for the Different Wavelet Bases

Experi	ment	SL simulation				Wrist simulation			
Wavelet basis		Haar	Spline 2	Spline 4	Spline 6	Haar	Spline 2	Spline 4	Spline 6
Without RS	SER (dB)	12.65	12.16	10.75	9.70	15.93	17.33	17.32	17.07
	λ	1 870	2 5 1 0	830	1 460	1 600	946	1 070	1 350
With RS	SER (dB)	13.38	12.53	11.58	10.38	18.70	18.24	18.05	17.87
	λ	5 650	3 900	7 770	1 370	1 4 9 0	850	1 1 9 0	1 260

 TABLE IV

 Results of the Algorithms CG (Linear), IRLS (TV), and Our Method (Wavelets) for Different Depths. Values of the Regularization

 Parameter, the Final SER, the Relative Maximal Spatial Domain Error, and the Time to Reach -0.5 dB of the Final SER

Experiment	SL simulation			Wrist simulation			Brain data		
Method	linear	TV	wavelets	linear	TV	wavelets	linear	TV	wavelets
λ opt.	0.0247	4 0 9 0	6380	0.436	760	1 620	0.471	6 0 5 0	16800
SER (dB) opt.	8.46	13.82	13.17	16.14	18.41	18.64	15.81	18.88	18.93
ℓ_{∞} error (%)	48	49	51	21	16	16	29	12	11
$t_{-0.5 dB}$ (s)	0.286	18.1	5.40	0.209	10.5	4.64	0.205	15.2	6.13



Fig. 5. Result of different reconstruction algorithms for the three experiments. For each reconstruction, the performance in SER with respect to the reference (top-left), the reconstruction time (top-right), and the number of iterations (bottom-right) are shown.

Wavelet-regularized reconstruction of MRI

 L_2 regularization (Laplacian)



Standard approach (CG)

 ℓ_1 wavelet regularization



WFISTA algorithm

(Guerquin-Kern et al. IEEE Trans. Med. Im. 2011)

CONCLUSION

Important wavelet features

- Simple, fast implementation: Mallat's filterbank algorithm
- Mathematical properties: Riesz basis, vanishing moments,...
- Simulates the organization of the primary visual system

Many successful applications

- Data compression
- Filtering, denoising
- Detection and feature extraction
- Inverse problems: wavelet regularization
- Current topics in wavelet research and "compressed sensing"
 - Better wavelet dictionaries (frames): steerable wavelets, ...
 - Better (model-based) regularization schemes
 - Automatic parameter adjustment (e.g., scale-dependent threshold)
 - Addressing harder inverse problems

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