Image Reconstruction in Optical Interferometry

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Interferometric Observables

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Instantaneous output of an interferometer



instantaneous output = complex visibility:

$$V_{j_1,j_2}(\lambda,t) = g_{j_1}^{\star}(\lambda,t) g_{j_2}(\lambda,t) \widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{b}_{j_1,j_2}(t)/\lambda)$$

with:

- $g_j(\lambda, t) =$ instantaneous complex amplitude transmission for *j*th telescope;
- $\widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\nu)$ = angular Fourier transform of the specific brightness distribution $I_{\lambda}(\alpha)$ of the observed object in angular direction α ;
- projected *baseline*:

$$\boldsymbol{b}_{j_1,j_2}(t) = \boldsymbol{r}_{j_2}(t) - \boldsymbol{r}_{j_1}(t)$$

 $r_j(t) =$ position of *j*th telescope projected on a plane perpendicular to the line of sight;

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• $\lambda =$ wavelength;

Interferometric Observables

Easy case: image reconstruction \sim deconvolution

At any observed frequency, $oldsymbol{
u}_k=oldsymbol{b}_{j_1,j_2}(t_m)/\lambda_\ell$, the data is given by:

 $z_k = \widehat{h}_k \, \widehat{I}_{\lambda_\ell}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_k) + \mathsf{noise}$

with the transfer function (the Fourier transform of the *dirty beam*):

$$\widehat{h}_k = g_{j_1}^\star(\lambda_\ell, t_m) \, g_{j_2}(\lambda_\ell, t_m)$$



when the complex visibilities and the complex throughput are available:

image reconstruction \sim deconvolution

many missing values (very sparse data)

 \Rightarrow other constraints (*priors*) than the data are required

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The effects of turbulence

Because of the *atmospheric turbulence*, averaging during an exposure yields:

 \Rightarrow we need to integrate observables which are *insensitive to phase delay errors*:

owerspectrum

$$\langle |V_{j_1,j_2}(\lambda,t)|^2 \rangle_m \approx \underbrace{\langle |g_{j_1}(\lambda,t)|^2 \rangle_m \langle |g_{j_2}(\lambda,t)|^2 \rangle_m}_{>0} |\widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{b}_{j_1,j_2,m}/\lambda)|^2$$

• bispectrum

Issues in image reconstruction from optical interferometry data

 sparsity of the data (holes in the spatial frequency coverage ►)
 ⇒ additional prior needed

Inon-linear data

powerspectrum $\propto |\widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k})|^{2}$ bispectrum $\propto \widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k_{1}}) \ \widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k_{2}}) \ \widehat{I}_{\lambda}^{\star}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k_{1}} + \boldsymbol{\nu}_{k_{2}})$



- Output is a set of the effective transfer functions
- missing Fourier phases
 - powerspectrum provides no phase
 - *phase closure* (the phase of the bispectrum) only provide 1 phase out of 3

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Inverse Approach

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Inverse approach provides a very general framework to describe most (if not all) image reconstruction algorithms (le Besnerais et al. 2008; Thiébaut 2009; Thiébaut and Giovannelli 2010).

The recipes involves:

- **()** a **direct model**: model of the brightness distribution and its Fourier transform;
- a criterion to determine a unique and stable solution;
- **an optimization strategy** to find the solution.

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Image and complex visibilities models

Image model

The specific brightness distribution in angular direction lpha is approximated by:

$$I_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) \approx \sum_{n} b_{n}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) x_{n} \quad \stackrel{\text{F.T.}}{\longmapsto} \quad \widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\nu}) \approx \sum_{n} \widehat{b}_{n}(\boldsymbol{\nu}) x_{n}$$

with $\{b_n : \mathbb{R}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{R}\}_{n=1}^N$ a basis of functions and $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ the *image parameters*.

Complex visibility model

For any sampled spatial frequency $m{
u}_k=m{b}_{j_1,j_2,m}/\lambda$ the model complex visibility writes:

$$\widehat{I}_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\nu}_k) \approx y_k = \sum_n \widehat{b}_n(\boldsymbol{\nu}_k) x_n = \sum_n H_{k,n} x_n$$

with $H_{k,n} = \widehat{b}_n(\boldsymbol{\nu}_k)$, in matrix notation:

$$y = \mathbf{H} \cdot x$$

with $\boldsymbol{y} \in \mathbb{C}^K$ and $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{K imes N}$ is a sub-sampled Fourier transform operator.

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Image constraints

Image reconstruction is a compromise between various constraints (Thiébaut 2009).

Data constraints

The image must be *compatible with the data z* (powerspectrum, bispectrum, *etc.*):

$$f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\log \mathrm{pdf}(\boldsymbol{z} | \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) + c \leq \eta$$

with $pdf(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{H}\cdot\mathbf{x})$ the *likelihood* of the data given the model and $\eta > 0$.

Even with $\eta = 0$, this is insufficient to define a unique (and stable) solution, we need additional a priori constraints:

Strict priors Loose priors e.g. the image must be non-negative and normalized $\forall n, x_n \ge 0$ and $\sum_n x_n = 1$ e.g. the image must be simple or smooth $\forall n, x_n \ge 0$ and $\sum_n x_n = 1$ $\min_n f_{prior}(x)$ $\Leftrightarrow x \in \mathbb{X}$ (the feasible set) $\min_{x \in \mathbb{X}} f_{prior}(x)$

Inverse problem formulation

We want to follow the priors as far as possible providing the image remains compatible with the data:

$$oldsymbol{x}^+ = rgmin_{oldsymbol{x}\in\mathbb{X}} f_{ extsf{prior}}(oldsymbol{x}) \quad extsf{s.t.} \quad f_{ extsf{data}}(\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}) \leq \eta$$

which can be solved via the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{x}; \ell) = f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) + \ell f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x})$$

with $\ell \geq 0$ the Lagrange multiplier for the inequality constraint $f_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) \leq \eta$. The inequality constraint must be active, hence $\ell > 0$ and, taking $\mu = 1/\ell$, leads to solve:



Likelihood of the Data

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Likelihood of the data

• should be based on the noise statistics of the data:

$$f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) \stackrel{\text{\tiny def}}{=} -\log \mathrm{pdf}(\boldsymbol{z} | \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) + c$$

- can be very complicated (non-convex, phase wrapping, etc.)
- various approximations have been proposed (e.g., Meimon et al. 2005a)
- in general this does not amounts to least-squares (even weighted ones!)



Regularization

Which are the best regularization methods?

Practical comparison of regularization methods:

- a study made by S. Renard, É. Thiébaut and F. Malbet (to appear in Astron. & Astrophys., 2011);
- about 1000 simulations:
 - 10 different objects;
 - 11 different regularizations;
 - 3 different (u, v) coverages: *poor* (31 freq.), *medium* (88 freq.), and *rich* (245 freq.);
 - 3 different signal-to-noise ratii (SNR): high (1%), medium (5%), and low (10%);
- assumptions: complex visibilities available
 - \implies *convex* constrained non-linear optimization problem;
- algorithm: MiRA (Thiébaut, 2008, 2009);

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Regularization



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Various regularizations

We consider the following regularizations:

1. Quadratic smoothness:

$$f_{\mathsf{prior}}({m{x}}) = \left\| {m{x}} - {m{S}} \cdot {m{x}}
ight\|^2$$

where \mathbf{S} is a smoothing operator (by finite differences).

2-3. Compactness (le Besnerais et al. 2008):

$$f_{\text{prior}}(\pmb{x}) = \sum\nolimits_n w_n^{\text{prior}} \pmb{x}_n^2$$

with $w_n^{\text{prior}} = \|\boldsymbol{\theta}_n\|^{\beta}$ and $\beta = 2$ or 3 yields *spectral smoothness*.

4-5. Non-linear smoothness:

$$f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\pmb{x}) = \sum\nolimits_n \sqrt{\| \nabla x_n \|^2 + \epsilon^2}$$

where $\|\nabla x_n\|^2$ is the squared magnitude of the spatial gradient in the image at *n*th pixel and $\epsilon \to 0$ yields total variation (Strong and Chan 2003) while $\epsilon > 0$ yields edge-preserving smoothness (Charbonnier et al. 1997).

Various regularizations (continued)

6-8. Separable norms (ℓ_p):

$$f_{\text{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum\nolimits_{n} \left(x_{n}^{2} + \epsilon^{2} \right)^{p/2} \approx \sum\nolimits_{n} |x_{n}|^{p}$$

where $\epsilon > 0$ and p = 1.5, 2, and 3. Note that p = 1 is what is advocated in *compress sensing* (Candes et al. 2006) while p = 2 corresponds to regular *Tikhonov regularization*.

9-11. Maximum entropy methods (Narayan and Nityananda 1986):

$$f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = -\sum_n h(x_n; \bar{x}_n).$$

Here the prior is to assume that the image is drawn toward a prior model \bar{x} according to a non quadratic potential h, called the **entropy**:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{MEM}\text{-sqrt:} & h(x;\bar{x}) = \sqrt{x} \, ; \\ \mathsf{MEM}\text{-log:} & h(x;\bar{x}) = \log(x) \, ; \\ \mathsf{MEM}\text{-prior:} & h(x;\bar{x}) = x - \bar{x} - x \, \log{(x/\bar{x})} \end{array}$$

Tuning the regularization level

We choose the regularization level μ^+ by minimizing the *mean squared error* (MSE) of the reconstruction versus the true image:

$$\mu^+ = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\mu>0} \left\| oldsymbol{x}(\mu) - oldsymbol{x}^{\mathsf{true}}
ight\|_2$$

where

$$oldsymbol{x}(\mu) \stackrel{ ext{def}}{=} rgmin_{oldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{X}} \left\{ f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot oldsymbol{x}) + \mu \, f_{\mathsf{prior}}(oldsymbol{x})
ight\}$$



Is the MSE⁺ a good figure of merit?

For a given object, MSE^+ is the MSE divided by the best MSE achieved for that object.

The distribution of MSE⁺ has 2 spikes corresponding to *good* and *bad* reconstructions.



600

all objects

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Regularization

And the winner is ...



Based on cumulative rank, *TV* and *compactness* are the most successful.

However the best prior depend on the particular case (object type, SNR and coverage).

Optimization Strategy

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Image reconstruction = optimization problem

Assuming $\mu^+ = 1$, image reconstruction amounts to solve:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{X}} \underbrace{\{f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) + f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x})\}}_{f(\boldsymbol{x})}$$

For optical interferometric data, the joint criterion f(x) is:

- highly non-linear (means non-quadratic);
- depending on a very large number of parameters (the image pixels);
- multimodal \implies in principle, needs *global optimization* or a good starting point followed by continuous optimization;

Proposed methods:

- matching-pursuit: CLEAN (Fomalont 1973; Högbom 1974), the building-blocks method (Hofmann and Weigelt 1993)
- self-calibration: Wisard (Meimon et al. 2005b);
- direct optimization: BSMEM (Baron and Young 2008), MiRA (Thiébaut 2008);
- global optimization: MACIM (Markov Chain Imager, Ireland et al. 2008);

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Self-calibration

Self-calibration (Readhead and Wilkinson 1978; Schwab 1980; Cornwell and Wilkinson 1981) proposed to solve for missing calibration of the transfer function or missing Fourier phases.

Self-calibration algorithm

Choose an initial image $\pmb{x}^{[0]}$ and repeat the following steps for $k=0,1,\ldots$ until convergence:

self-calibration step:

$$m{y}^{[k+1]} = rgmin_{m{y}} f_{\mathsf{data}}(m{y}) \quad \mathsf{s.t.} \quad m{y} pprox \mathbf{H} \cdot m{x}^{[k]}$$

image reconstruction step (deconvolution):

$$oldsymbol{x}^{[k+1]} = rgmin_{oldsymbol{x}\in\mathbb{X}} f_{\mathsf{prior}}(oldsymbol{x}) \quad \mathsf{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}pproxoldsymbol{y}^{[k+1]}$$

Issues:

- What is the meaning of pprox (depends on the algorithm)?
- How to consistently tune the balance between prior and data?
- Not rigorously equivalent to minimizing a given criterion.

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Augmented Lagrangian approach

Solving the image reconstruction problem by *direct minimization* of the criterion, *i.e.*

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{X}} \left\{ f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) + f_{\mathsf{data}}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}) \right\}$$

is exactly the same as solving the *constrained problem*:

$$\min_{m{x}\in\mathbb{X},m{y}}\left\{f_{\mathsf{prior}}(m{x})+f_{\mathsf{data}}(m{y})
ight\}$$
 s.t. $\mathbf{H}\cdotm{x}=m{y}$

where the *model complex visibilities* $y = \mathbf{H} \cdot x$ have been explicitly introduced as *auxiliary variables*.

The *augmented Lagrangian* (Boyd et al. 2010) is a practical algorithm to solve this constrained problem:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{y},oldsymbol{u};eta) = f_{\mathsf{prior}}(oldsymbol{x}) + f_{\mathsf{data}}(oldsymbol{y}) - oldsymbol{u}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot [\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x} - oldsymbol{y}] + rac{eta}{2} \left\|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x} - oldsymbol{y}
ight\|^2,$$

with u the Lagrange multipliers related to the constraints $\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{y}$ and $\beta > 0$ the weight of the quadratic penalty to reinforce the constraints.

Advantages: explicit update formula for the Lagrange multipliers, strong convergence properties for β large enough (no needs for $\beta \rightarrow \infty$), etc.

Optimization Strategy

Augmented Lagrangian approach (continued)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{y},oldsymbol{u};eta) = f_{\mathsf{prior}}(oldsymbol{x}) + f_{\mathsf{data}}(oldsymbol{y}) - oldsymbol{u}^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot [\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}] + rac{eta}{2} \left\|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}
ight\|^2$$

Augmented Lagrangian algorithm (in our case)

Start with initial multipliers $u^{[0]}$ and $\beta^{[0]} > 0$ and repeat the following steps for k = 0, 1, ... until convergence:

improve the variables:

$$\{m{x},m{y}\}^{[k+1]}pprox rgmin_{m{x}\in\mathbb{X},m{y}}\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}\left(m{x},m{y},m{u}^{[k]};eta^{[k]}
ight)$$

e) update the multipliers:

or strengthen the constraints:

$$\begin{split} & \boldsymbol{u}^{[k+1]} = \boldsymbol{u}^{[k]} + \beta \, \left(\boldsymbol{y}^{[k+1]} - \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}^{[k+1]} \right) & \boldsymbol{u}^{[k+1]} = \boldsymbol{u}^{[k]} \\ & \beta^{[k+1]} = \beta^{[k]} & \beta^{[k+1]} = \gamma \, \beta^{[k]} \quad (\text{with } \gamma > 1) \end{split}$$

Step 1 can be implemented thanks to alternating minimization, e.g.:

$$m{x}^+ = rgmin_{m{x}\in\mathbb{X}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(m{x},m{y},m{u};eta) \hspace{1.5cm} ext{followed by} \hspace{1.5cm} m{y}^+ = rgmin_{\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}}(m{x}^+,m{y},m{u};eta)$$

Image reconstruction step in augmented Lagrangian approach

The augmented Lagrangian can be rewritten as:

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_\mathsf{A}(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{y},oldsymbol{u};eta) &= f_\mathsf{prior}(oldsymbol{x}) + f_\mathsf{data}(oldsymbol{y}) - oldsymbol{u}^\mathrm{T}\cdot [\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}] + rac{eta}{2} \, \|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}] + rac{eta}{2} \, \|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}] + rac{eta}{2} \, \|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}-oldsymbol{u}|^2 \, , \ &= f_\mathsf{prior}(oldsymbol{x}) + f_\mathsf{data}(oldsymbol{y}) + rac{eta}{2} \, \|\mathbf{H}\cdotoldsymbol{x}-oldsymbol{y}-oldsymbol{u}/eta \|^2 \, . \end{aligned}$$

Improving x given the other variables writes:

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{x}^{+} &= \mathop{\arg\min}_{\boldsymbol{x}\in\mathbb{X}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y},\boldsymbol{u};\beta) \\ &= \mathop{\arg\min}_{\boldsymbol{x}\in\mathbb{X}} \left\{ f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\| \mathbf{H}\cdot\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{v} \right\|^{2} \right\} \quad \text{with} \quad \boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{y} + \boldsymbol{u}/\beta \,. \end{split}$$

which is the analogous of *image reconstruction* given *pseudo-complex visibilities* $v = y + u/\beta$ with white noise of variance $\propto \beta^{-1/2}$ (unlike self-calibration which would try to fit y).

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Calibration step in augmented Lagrangian approach

Recalling that the augmented Lagrangian can be rewritten as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{u}; eta) = f_{\mathsf{prior}}(\boldsymbol{x}) + f_{\mathsf{data}}(\boldsymbol{y}) + rac{eta}{2} \left\| \mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{u}/eta
ight\|^2 - rac{1}{2\,eta} \left\| \boldsymbol{u}
ight\|^2,$$

improving y given the other variables writes:

$$egin{aligned} m{y}^+ &= rg\min_{m{y}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{A}}(m{x},m{y},m{u};eta) \ &= rg\min_{m{y}} \left\{ f_{\mathsf{data}}(m{y}) + rac{eta}{2} \, \|m{y} - m{w}\|^2
ight\} \quad ext{with} \quad m{w} = \mathbf{H}\cdotm{x} - m{u}/eta \,. \end{aligned}$$

which is similar to the self-calibration step in self-calibration methods except that the complex visibilities y are enforced to fit the actual data and the *shifted* model complex visibilities $w = \mathbf{H} \cdot x - u/\beta$ and not just $\mathbf{H} \cdot x$.

Conclusions about optimization strategy

- *direct optimization* is more consistent (the given criterion is minimized) and much faster and stable than *self-calibration* for finding missing Fourier phases (as in Wisard, Meimon et al. 2005b) or missing parameters in the OTF:
 - imposing u = 0 for the Lagrange multipliers yields the same method as *self-calibration*;
 - exactly matching $\mathbf{H} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{y}$ requires $\beta \to \infty$ which worsen the condition number of the problem and, thus slow down convergence;
 - direct optimization is more consistent (the given criterion is minimized) and much faster and stable;;
- *direct optimization* with ℓ_1 regularization (to impose sparsity) is superior to *matching pursuit* (Marsh and Richardson 1987) for imposing the sparsity in the CLEAN (Fomalont 1973; Högbom 1974) and *building-blocks* (Hofmann and Weigelt 1993) methods;
- the most successful algorithms *e.g.* BSMEM (Baron and Young 2008) and MiRA (Thiébaut 2008) use direct optimization;



global optimization is however required, *e.g.* attempt by the Markov Chain Imager (MACIM) algorithm (Ireland et al. 2008);

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Summary and perspectives

Summary and perspectives

- general *inverse problem* framework suitable to describe most methods;
- optimization
 - difficulties: *non-linearity*, lots of variables (as many as pixels), *constraints* (non-negativity), *etc.*
 - direct optimization of the criterion is more consistent and probably more efficient
 - global optimization is required
- a priori constraints:
 - regularization: TV and *compactness* appear to be the most effective $(\ell_2 \ell_1 \text{ probably} a \text{ better compromise for astronomical images})$
- the future: multi-spectral data
 - spectral regularization (Soulez et al. 2008)
 - much more parameters to fit, computational cost will be a big issue



(le Bouquin et al. 2009)

• other links: medical tomography, compressive sensing, etc.

Summary and perspectives

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