# Alternating Minimization Algorithms for X-Ray CT Imaging

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# Outline

- X-Ray CT
  - Transmission Tomography
  - Maximum Likelihood Viewpoint
  - General Problem
- Alternating Minimization Algorithms
  - Information Geometry
  - Projections of I-Divergence
- X-Ray CT
  - Phantom Experiments
  - Physical Considerations
  - Extensions
- Conclusions





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### CT Imaging in Presence of High Density Attenuators

Brachytherapy applicators After-loading colpostats for radiation oncology

**Cervical cancer: 50% survival rate Dose prediction important** 

**Object-Constrained Computed Tomography (OCCT)** 



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## **Filtered Back Projection**

#### **FBP: inverse Radon transform**





# **Transmission Tomography**

- Source-detector pairs indexed by y; pixels indexed by x
- Data d(y) Poisson, means g(y:µ), log likelihood function

$$l(d \mid g(\cdot : \mu)) = \sum_{y \in \mathbf{Y}} d(y) \ln g(y : \mu) - g(y : \mu)$$

$$g(y:\mu) = \sum_{E} I_0(y,E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x\in\mathsf{X}} h(y,x)\mu(x,E)\right) + \beta(y)$$



- Mean unattenuated counts *I<sub>o</sub>*, mean background β
- Attenuation function  $\mu(x, E)$ , *E* energies

$$\mu(x, E) = \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x) \mu_i(E)$$



Maximize over μ or c<sub>i</sub>; equivalently minimize I-divergence

## Maximum-Likelihood → Minimum I-divergence

Poisson distribution

$$P(N=k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$$

 Poisson distributed data → loglikelihood function

$$\ln P(N=k) = k \ln \lambda - \lambda - \ln k!$$

$$I(k \parallel \lambda) = k \ln \frac{k}{\lambda} - k + \lambda$$

 Maximization over μ equivalent to minimization of I-divergence

$$l(d \mid g(\cdot; \mu)) = \sum_{y \in \mathsf{Y}} d(y) \ln g(y; \mu) - g(y; \mu)$$
$$I(d \mid \mid g(\cdot; \mu)) = \sum_{y \in \mathsf{Y}} d(y) \ln \frac{d(y)}{g(y; \mu)} - d(y) + g(y; \mu)$$

$$g(y:\mu) = \sum_{E} I_0(y,E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x\in\mathsf{X}} h(y,x)\mu(x,E)\right) + \beta(y)$$
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## Maximum Likelihood → Minimum I-Divergence

$$\begin{split} &l(d \mid g(\cdot; \mu)) = \sum_{y \in \mathsf{Y}} d(y) \ln g(y; \mu) - g(y; \mu) \\ &I(d \mid |g(\cdot; \mu)) = \sum_{y \in \mathsf{Y}} d(y) \ln \frac{d(y)}{g(y; \mu)} - d(y) + g(y; \mu) \\ &g(y; \mu) = \sum_{E} I_0(y, E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x \in \mathsf{X}} h(y, x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x) \mu_i(E)\right) + \beta(y) \end{split}$$

**Difficulties: log of sum, sums in exponent** 

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## **Information Geometry: Properties of I-Divergence**

$$I(p || q) = \sum_{i} p_{i} \ln \frac{p_{i}}{q_{i}} - p_{i} + q_{i}$$

- I-divergence is nonnegative, convex in pair (p,q)
- Generalization of relative entropy; not symmetric; example of f-divergence (Csiszár)
- Let *P* be a probability matrix. Then  $I(Pp || Pq) \le I(p || q)$
- First projection property

$$A = \sum_{i} p_{i} \quad B = \sum_{i} q_{i}$$

 $I(p \parallel q) = I(A \parallel B) + AI(p / A \parallel q / B)$ 

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## **Variational Representations**

Convex Decomposition Lemma.

$$\ln\left(\sum_{i} q_{i}\right) = -\min_{p \in \mathsf{P}} \sum_{i} p_{i} \ln \frac{p_{i}}{q_{i}}$$
$$\mathsf{P} = \left\{p : p_{i} \ge 0, \sum_{i} p_{i} = 1\right\}$$

• Basis for EM; see also De Pierro, Lange, Fessler

$$\ln\left[g(y:\mu)\right] = \ln\left[\sum_{E} I_0(y,E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x\in\mathsf{X}} h(y,x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x)\mu_i(E)\right)\right]$$
$$= \min_{p\in\mathsf{L}} \sum_{E} p(y,E) \ln\frac{p(y,E)}{q(y,E)}$$
$$q(y,E) = I_0(y,E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x\in\mathsf{X}} h(y,x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x)\mu_i(E)\right)$$

## Information Geometry: Projections Using I-Divergence

Define the linear family

$$\mathsf{L}(A,b) = \left\{ p \in \mathfrak{R}^n_+ : Ap = b \right\}$$

• Theorem. Suppose that q and L are given. Let  $p^*$  in L achieve  $p^* = \underset{p \in L(A,b)}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} I(p || q)$ 

then for all *p* in L  $I(p || q) = I(p || p^*) + I(p^* || q)$ 

## Information Geometry: Projections Using I-Divergence

Define the exponential family

$$\mathsf{E}(\pi, B) = \left\{ q \in \mathfrak{R}^n_+ : q_i = \pi_i \exp\left(\sum_k b_{ki} \nu_k\right), \text{ for some } \nu \right\}$$

 Theorem. Suppose that p and E are given. Let q\* in E achieve

$$q^* = \underset{q \in \mathsf{E}(\pi, B)}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} I(p \parallel q)$$

• then for all *q* in *E*,  $I(p || q) = I(p || q^*) + I(q^* || q)$ 

### **Comment on Proofs**

**Duality Theorem: the two problems below are** (Fenchel) dual, with solutions  $q^* = p^*$ .

> min  $I(d \parallel q)$  $q \in \mathsf{E}(\pi, B)$  $\min_{p \in \mathsf{L}(B^{T}, B^{T}d)} I(p \| \pi)$

The resulting values of the objective functions satisfy  $I(d || \pi) = I(d || q^*) + I(q^* || \pi)$ 

## More Information Geometry...

- Shun-ichi Amari, Imre Csiszár
- Two types of information geodesics:
  - Linear, m-projections
  - Exponential, e-projections
- Differential geometry on manifold of probability density functions
- Fisher Information is the Riemannian metric
- Exponential family  $\rightarrow$  e-flat manifold  $\rightarrow$  dually flat Riemannian space
- Dual parameterization: mean and exponential family parameter

## **Alternating Minimization Algorithms**

- Define problem as  $\min_q \phi(q)$
- Derive variational representation:  $\phi(q) = \min_{p} J(p,q)$
- J is an auxiliary function; p is in auxiliary set P
- Result: double minimization min<sub>q</sub> min<sub>p</sub> J(p,q)
- Alternating minimization algorithm

$$p^{(l+1)} = \underset{p \in P}{\operatorname{arg min}} J(p, q^{(l)})$$
$$q^{(l+1)} = \underset{q \in Q}{\operatorname{arg min}} J(p^{(l+1)}, q)$$

**Comments:** Guaranteed Monotonicity; J selected carefully

### **Alternating Minimization Algorithms:** I-Divergence, Linear, Exponential Families

- Special Case of Interest: J is I-divergence
- Families of Interest: Linear Family L(A,b) = {p: Ap = b} Exponential Family E(π,B) = {q: q<sub>i</sub> = π<sub>i</sub> exp[Σ<sub>j</sub> b<sub>ij</sub> v<sub>j</sub>]}

$$p^{(l+1)} = \underset{p \in L(A,b)}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} I(p \| q^{(l)})$$

$$q^{(l+1)} = \underset{q \in \mathsf{E}(\pi, B)}{\arg\min} I(p^{(l+1)} || q)$$

Csiszár and Tusnády; Dempster, Laird, Rubin; Blahut; Richardson; Lucy; Vardi, Shepp, and Kaufman; Cover; Miller and Snyder; O'Sullivan

## **Alternating Minimization Example**

- Linear family:  $p_1 + 2 p_2 = 2$
- Exponential family:  $q_1 = \exp(v)$ ,  $q_2 = \exp(-v)$

 $\min_{q \in E} \min_{p \in L} I(p \parallel q)$ 



# **Alternating Minimization Algorithms**

Projections and triangle equality

$$I(p^{(l)} \| q^{(l)}) = I(p^{(l)} \| p^{(l+1)}) + I(p^{(l+1)} \| q^{(l)})$$
$$I(p^{(l+1)} \| q^{(l)}) = I(p^{(l+1)} \| q^{(l+1)}) + I(q^{(l+1)} \| q^{(l)})$$

Bounded sums (depending on initial condition)

$$\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} I(p^{(l)} || p^{(l+1)})$$
$$\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} I(q^{(l+1)} || q^{(l)})$$

Monotonicity; limit points exist, form connected set

## New Alternating Minimization Algorithm for Transmission Tomography

$$\begin{split} \min_{q} \min_{p \in \mathsf{L}} I(p \parallel q) &= \sum_{y \in \mathsf{Y}} \sum_{E} p(y, E) \ln \frac{p(y, E)}{q(y, E)} - p(y, E) + q(y, E) \\ q(y, E) &= I_0(y, E) \exp \left( -\sum_{x \in \mathsf{X}} h(y, x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x) \mu_i(E) \right) \\ \mathsf{L} &= \left\{ p(y, E) : \sum_{E} p(y, E) = d(y) \right\} \end{split}$$

Data determine the linear family Exponential family parameters are image(s)

### Alternating Minimization Algorithm Image update

$$\hat{c}_i^{(l+1)}(x) = \hat{c}_i^{(l)}(x) - \frac{1}{Z_i(x)} \ln \frac{\tilde{b}_i^{(l)}(x)}{\hat{b}_i^{(l)}(x)}$$

Interpretation:

- compare predicted data to measured data via ratio of backprojections
- update estimate using a normalization constant

$$\widetilde{b}_{i}^{(l)}(x) = \sum_{y} \sum_{E} \mu_{i}(E)h(y,x)\hat{p}^{(l)}(y,E)$$
$$\hat{b}_{i}^{(l)}(x) = \sum_{y} \sum_{E} \mu_{i}(E)h(y,x)\hat{q}^{(l)}(y,E)$$

### Alternating Minimization Algorithm Image update

$$\hat{c}_i^{(l+1)}(x) = \hat{c}_i^{(l)}(x) - \frac{1}{Z_i(x)} \ln \frac{\tilde{b}_i^{(l)}(x)}{\hat{b}_i^{(l)}(x)}$$

Interpretation:

- compare predicted data to measured data via ratio of backprojections
- update estimate using a normalization constant Comments:
- choice for constants
- monotonic convergence
- constraints easily incorporated
- computationally expensive:

N forward, 2 N backward projections per iteration

### **Derivation of Iterations**

$$\begin{split} \min_{q} \min_{p \in L} I(p \parallel q) &= \sum_{y \in Y} \sum_{E} p(y, E) \ln \frac{p(y, E)}{q(y, E)} - p(y, E) + q(y, E) \\ q(y, E) &= I_0(y, E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x \in X} h(y, x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i(x) \frac{Z_i(x)}{Z_i(x)} \mu_i(E)\right) \leq \\ I_0(y, E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x \in X} h(y, x) \sum_{i=1}^{I} c_i^{(k)}(x) \mu_i(E)\right) \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \frac{h(y, x) \mu_i(E)}{Z_i(x)} \exp\left(-Z_i(x) \Delta c_i^{(k+1)}(x)\right) \\ I(p^{(k)} \parallel q) &\leq \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{i=1}^{I} \widetilde{b}_i(x) \left[ c_i^{(k)}(x) + \Delta c_i^{(k+1)}(x) \right] + \hat{b}_i(x) \frac{1}{Z_i(x)} \exp\left(-Z_i(x) \Delta c_i^{(k+1)}(x)\right) \\ &+ \text{other terms} \end{split}$$

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No Ordered Subsets 22 Ordered Subsets 132 Ordered Subsets 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> e 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> **10<sup>-2</sup> 1** 10<sup>-6</sup> 10<sup>-8</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> **10**<sup>1</sup> Iteration Number David G. Politte

October 31, 2002

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No Ordered Subsets



22 Ordered Subsets



132 Ordered Subsets





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Iteration Number



No Ordered Subsets 22 Ordered Subsets 132 Ordered Subsets 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> e 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup>, 10<sup>-6</sup> 10<sup>-8</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10<sup>0</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> **10**<sup>1</sup> Iteration Number David G. Politte October 31, 2002
















### Iterative Algorithm with Known Applicator Pose





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### **OCCT Iterations**



OCCT



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#### Magnified views around brachytherapy applicator







### Additional Algorithm/Detector Model Development

- Regularization
- Energy integrating detectors  $\int EdN(y, E)$
- Finite detector size, better source model
- Finite pixel, voxel size
- Average integral or average exponential (arithmetic vs. geometric average)
- Partial volume effects
- Motion
- Scattering
- Limited angle tomography
- Region of interest
- Scanner implementations: beam hardening correction, sampling, etc.

#### Real Data Experiments & Considerations of Region-of-Interest Tomography

#### LOW DENSITY ROD PHANTOM



(DLS, R. Murphy, 06/25/03)

Rods are: Air Teflon Water Aluminum









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### Real data reconstruction Replace rod projection via masking

50 it (22 OS)

500 it (22 OS)

200 it (22 OS)







Method 2—(replace with q(y))

I.C. just rods

I.C. water + rods

Method 1— (replace with 0)

#### Data reconstruction w/ pose search



**Precorrected real data** 

**Uses correct** attenuation values

**Uses incorrect** attenuation values

### AM performance with multicomponent tissue model

Data means:

$$g(y) = \sum_{E} I_0(y, E) \exp\left[-\sum_{X} h(y|x(\mu(x, E)) + \beta(y))\right]$$
$$\mu(x, E) = \sum_{i=1}^{I} \mu_i(E) c_i(x)$$

 $\mu_i(\mathbf{E})$  – linear attenuation coefficient [mm<sup>-1</sup>]  $c_i(\mathbf{x})$  – specific gravity [unitless]

AM update step: 
$$\hat{c}_{i}^{(k+1)} = \hat{c}_{i}^{(k+1)}(x) - \frac{1}{Z_{i}(x)} \ln \left( \frac{\tilde{b}_{i}^{(k)}(x)}{\hat{b}_{i}^{(k)}(x)} \right)$$

### **Multi-component experiment setup**

	Substance	True $c_{\underline{1}}(x)$	True $c_{\underline{2}}(x)$
	Water	0.9036	0.1357
	Lucite	1.14	0.0583
	Muscle	0.9399	0.1390
	Ethanol	0.7999	0.0337
	Teflon	1.4194	0.4878
	Х	0.0300	2.8613
$\mu_1(E)$ – Styrene		Jucerto	
$\mu_2(E)$ – Ca Chlori	de	11150115	

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### **Multi-component experiment setup**



True  $c_1(x)$ 

True  $c_2(x)$ 

$$g(y) = \sum_{E} I_0(y, E) \exp\left[-\sum_{X} h(y|x)\mu(x, E)\right] + \beta(y)$$

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## AM performance with multi-component tissue model



AM reconstructed images

100 iterations (22OS)



1.8

1.6

1.4

1.2

0.8

0.6

0.4

0.2







## AM performance with multi-component tissue model



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### **Dual Energy AM Algorithm**



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### **Alternative Dual Energy methods**

Basis Vector Model (BVM)\* → ESSRL Implementation

reconstructed  $\begin{bmatrix} \mu_x^{(1)} \\ \mu_x^{(2)} \\ \mu_x^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1^{(1)} & \mu_2^{(1)} \\ \mu_1^{(2)} & \mu_2^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$  unknown coefficients pre-computed

#### Calibration phantom:

- 2 water
- styrene
- CaCl<sub>2</sub>





\*On Two-Parameter Representations of Photon Cross Sections: Application to Dual Energy CT imaging, Williamson, et al.

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### **AMDE experiment results**













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### **AMDE experiment results**













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### **AMDE experiment results**

















### **AMDE experiment results**

Relative error vs. iteration



### **AMDE experiment results**

Cost function vs. iteration



# Alternative Method experiment results



#### Data with noise AMDE results



#### 1000 (22OS) iterations


### Data with noise Alternative method results



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- X-Ray CT Imaging
- Likelihood Problem Formulation
- Information Geometry
- Alternating Minimization Algorithms
- Recent Progress: Limited Angle Tomography
- In Progress: 3D, Increased Convergence Rate, Dual Energy

AM Algorithms for X-Ray

## **Increased Convergence Rates**

### Ordered subsets

– Hudson and Larkin; Kamphuis and Beekman; etc.

- Separable Parabaloidal Surrogate functions
  - Fessler, et al.
- Multigrid Methods
  - Bouman, et al., 2001-2003
- Fast forward/backward projections
  - Bresler, et al.
- Other (see Sotthivirat, Ahn, Fessler, 2001-2003)

## Multigrid Approach Oh, Milstein, Bouman, Webb, et al.

- Objective functions at multiple grids
- Surrogate function view: match value and gradient at current estimate

$$\left. \operatorname{cost}^{(m+1)}(x^{(m+1)}) \right|_{x^{(m+1)} = J_m^{m+1} x^{(m)}} = \operatorname{cost}^{(m)}(x^{(m)})$$
$$\left. \nabla \operatorname{cost}^{(m+1)}(x^{(m+1)}) \right|_{x^{(m+1)} = J_m^{m+1} x^{(m)}} = \nabla \operatorname{cost}^{(m)}(x^{(m)}) J_{m+1}^m$$

 Our implementations: little speedup; not matched to AM approach (not monotonic); negative values in estimates inside of logarithms

## Multigrid AM Algorithm

# Approach: compute image correction, $\Delta c(x)$ , on coarse grid using AM

$$c(x) = c_{[0]}(x) + \Delta c(x)$$
$$\Delta c(x) = J_m^0 \Delta c_{[m]}(x)$$

$$m = 0$$
 Fine grid  
 $J_m^0$  Interpolating  
operator



## **Multigrid AM Algorithm**

$$\min_{q} \min_{p \in \mathcal{L}} I(p \parallel q) = \sum_{y \in Y} \sum_{E} p(y, E) \ln \frac{p(y, E)}{q(y, E)} - p(y, E) + q(y, E)$$
$$q(y, E) = I_0(y, E) \exp\left(-\sum_{x \in X} h(y, x) \sum_{i=1}^N \mu_i(E) \left[c_{i,[0]}(x) + J_m^0 \Delta c_{i,[m]}(x)\right]\right)$$

#### Comments:

- monotonicity guaranteed
- faster computations on coarser grids
- flexible grid sequence

### Multigrid AM Algorithm Iteration overview

On each grid m, run K<sub>m</sub> iterations:

$$\hat{\Delta}c_{[m]}^{(k_m+1)}(x) = \hat{\Delta}c_{[m]}^{(k_m)}(x) - \frac{1}{Z_m(x)} \ln\left(\frac{b_m(x)}{\hat{b}_{[m]}^{(k_m)}(x)}\right), \quad k_m = 0, \text{K}, K_m - 1$$

$$b_{[m]}(x) = \sum_{y} d(y)h(y, x)J_m^0$$

$$\hat{b}_{[m]}^{(k_m)}(x) = \sum_{y} \hat{q}^{(k)}(y) \exp\left(-\sum_{x'} h(y, x')J_m^0 \hat{\Delta}c_{[m]}^{(k_m)}(x')\right)h(y, x)J_m^0$$

$$\hat{q}^{(k)}(y) = I_0(y) \exp\left(-\sum_{x} h(y, x)\hat{c}^{(k)}(x)\right)$$

Fine grid image update:  $\hat{c}^{(k+1)}(x) = \hat{c}^{(k)}(x) + J_m^0 \hat{\Delta} c_{[m]}^{(K_m)}(x)$ 

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## **Preliminary Results**





Simulated data:

- Lucite core in water bath with four metallic inserts
- 4 grid levels
- Interpolation average of four neighbors

Comment: potential mismatch in projection operators

## **Conclusions and Future Work**

### Multigrid Alternating Minimization Algorithm

- potential for increasing convergence rate of single grid AM
- guaranteed monotonic convergence properties

### Future analysis

- Decimation operators in image space
- Incorporate decimation in measurement space
- Ordered subsets and multigrid combined

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