



Chapter 2

Multiscale Methods

Nonlinear Multiscale Methods for Image and Signal Analysis
SS 2015

Linear Filtering

Spectral Theory

- Nonlinear singular vectors
- 1-homogeneous functions
- Existence questions
- Error estimates

Multiscale Methods

- Variational methods
- Gradient flow

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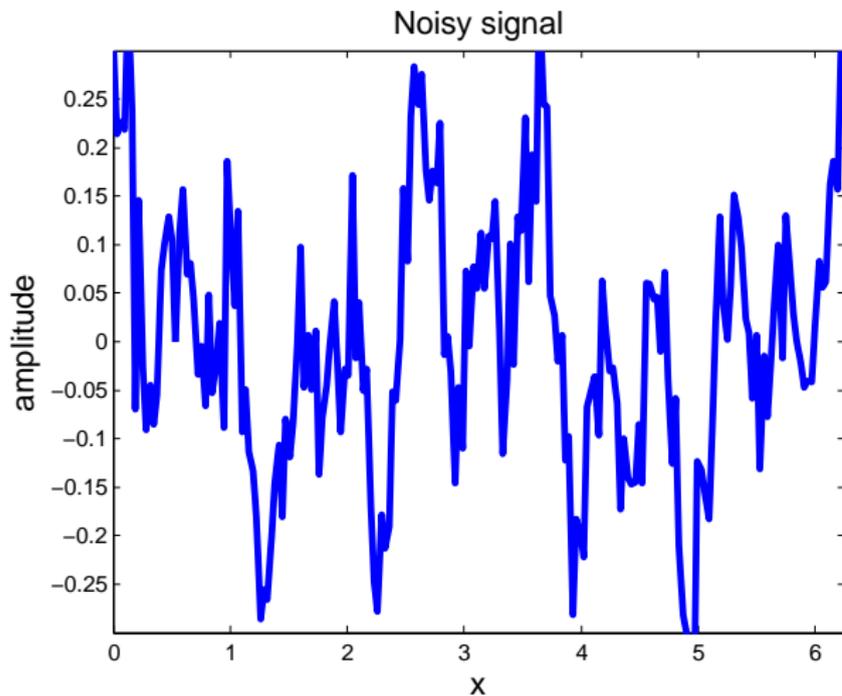


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Linear image and signal filtering

Linear signal denoising



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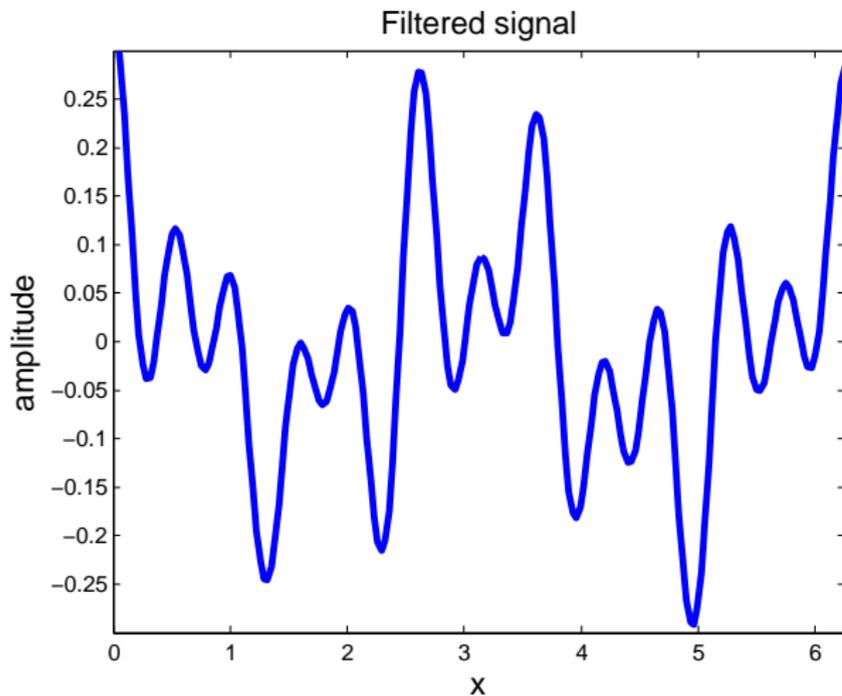
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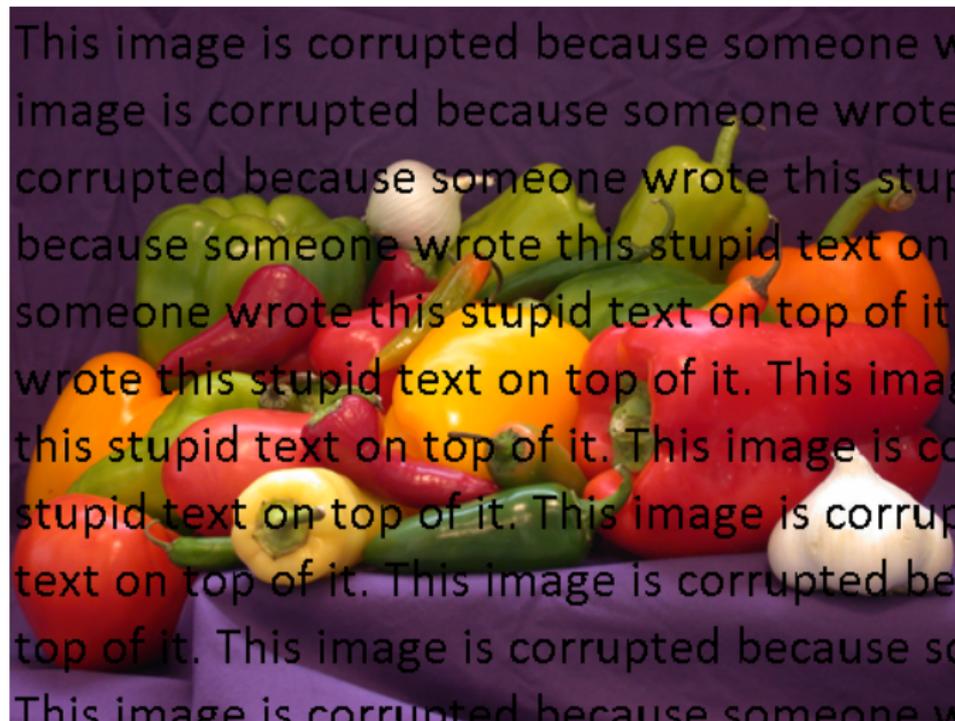
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Linear image inpainting



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Linear image inpainting



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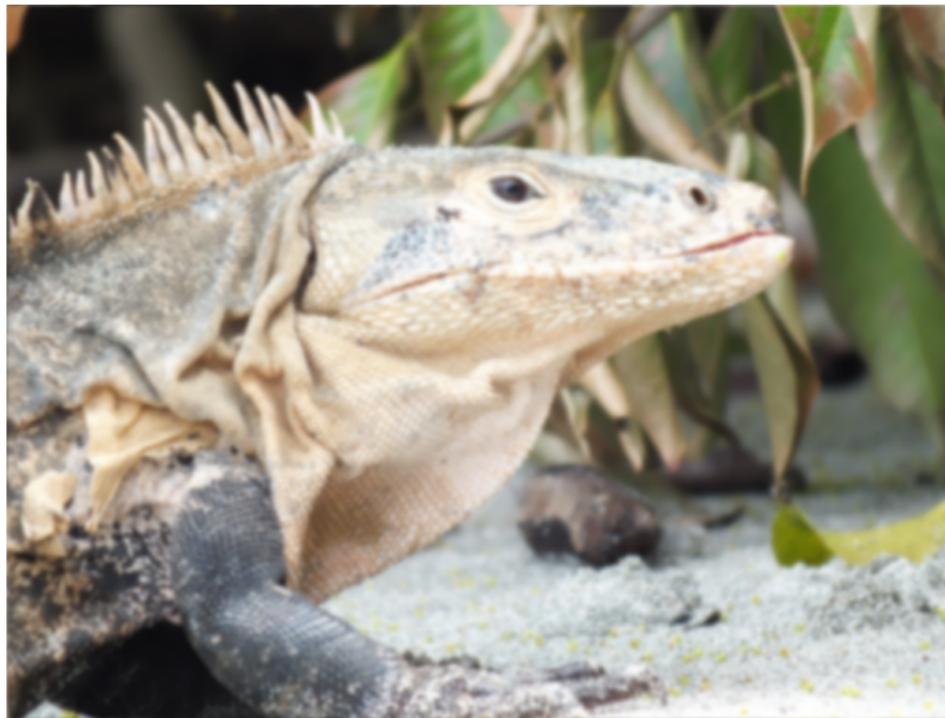
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How can we understand the behavior of linear filters?

Consider for instance the simple linear sharpening

$$\hat{u} = \text{imfilter}(f, k) = k * f$$

with a kernel

$$k = \text{fspecial}('unsharp') = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1667 & -0.6667 & -0.1667 \\ -0.6667 & 4.3333 & -0.6667 \\ -0.1667 & -0.6667 & -0.1667 \end{bmatrix}.$$

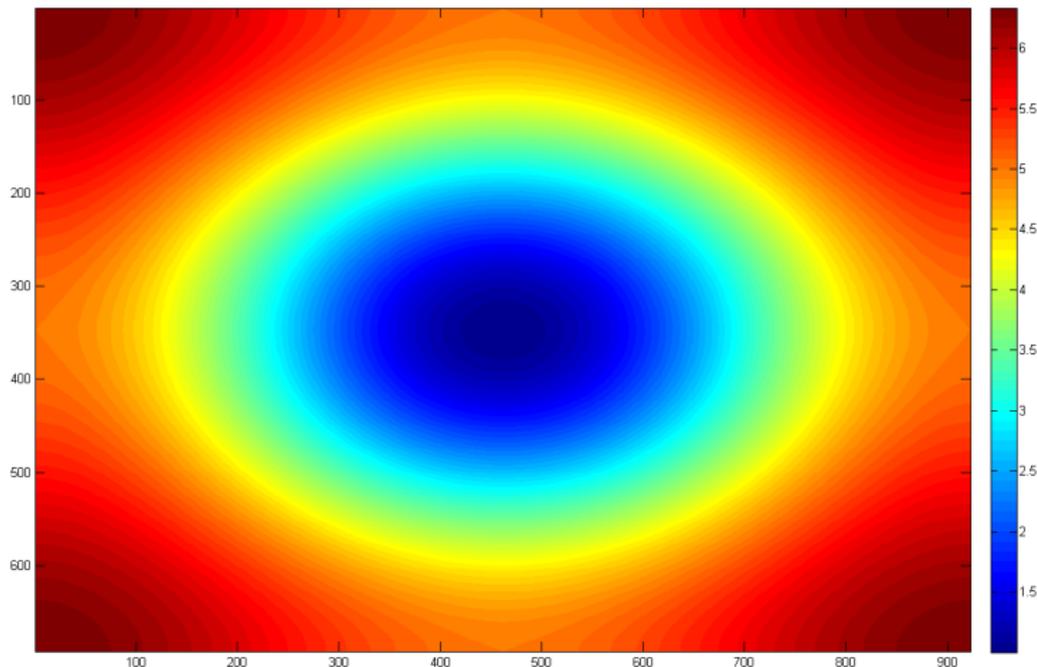
Remember the Convolution Theorem:

$$\hat{u} = k * f \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}(\hat{u}) = \mathcal{F}(k)\mathcal{F}(f)$$

Linear image and signal filtering



Absolute values of $\mathcal{F}(k)$.



Middle is 1 and corresponds to the lowest frequency

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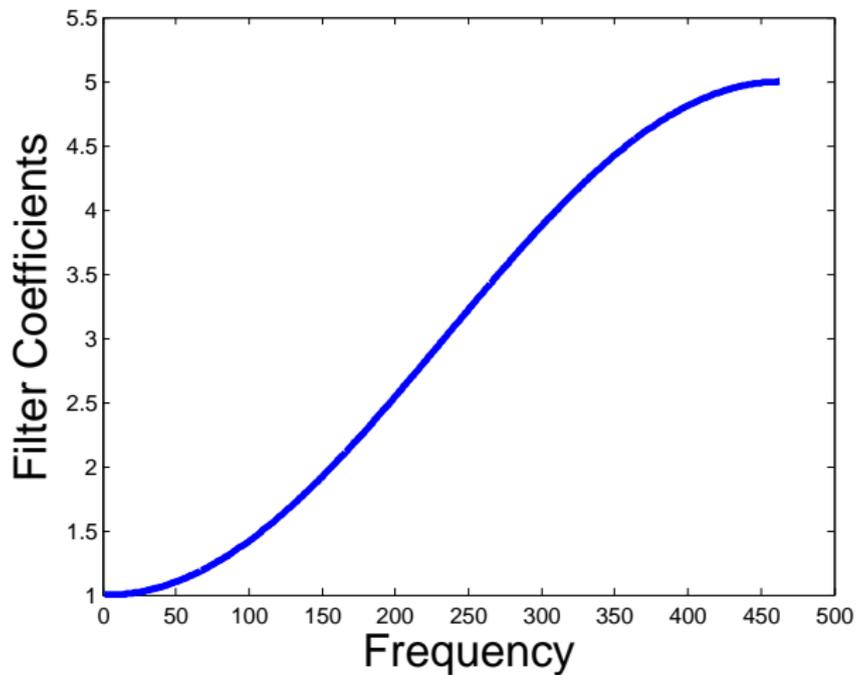
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Or in 1d:





This representation is very intuitive for us, since we have an understanding of frequencies and can look at filters.

But what does it mean mathematically?

What does $\mathcal{F}(\hat{u}) = \mathcal{F}(k)\mathcal{F}(f)$ do?

Pointwise (or componentwise) multiplication
→ $\mathcal{F}(k)$ is diagonal!

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Let us go back to linear algebra:

Consider

$$\hat{u} = Af$$

for some symmetric positive definite matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

Note that any linear operator can be written in this form!

There exists an orthonormal basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ of eigenvectors of A with eigenvalues $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$:

$$Av_j = \lambda_j v_j$$



We write

$$f = \sum_i a_i v_i.$$

Now

$$\hat{u} = Af = \sum_i a_i Av_i = \sum_i \lambda_i a_i v_i.$$

Let us represent \hat{u} in the eigenbasis of A and denote its coefficients by b_i . Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ b_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdot & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & \cdot & 0 & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

→ We have diagonalized A and you know this since > 3 years.



$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ b_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdot & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & \cdot & 0 & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Engineering interpretation:

- λ_i is the filter coefficients for the i -th *frequency*.
- $\lambda_i > 1$ means boosting the *frequency*, $\lambda_i < 1$ means damping the frequency.
- The interpretation of the *frequency* is given by the eigenvector v_i .
- Any convolution diagonalizes under sin/cos, which yields a classical frequency.
- Other linear operators lead to other meanings of frequencies.

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Variational methods can be linear, too...

$$\hat{u} = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\nabla u\|_2^2. \quad (1)$$

Optimality at

$$0 = \hat{u} - f - \alpha \Delta \hat{u},$$

or

$$\hat{u} = (I - \alpha \Delta)^{-1} f.$$

- Depends linearly on f .
- Also diagonalizes via FFT.
- Variational method (1) is nothing but a special frequency filter...
- ... and does not work very well.

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Now consider

$$\hat{u} = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\nabla u\|_1, \quad (2)$$

which is highly nonlinear.

Absolutely no eigenvector theory!

Or is there?

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Nonlinear Spectral Theory¹

¹Largely based on: M. Benning and M. Burger, *Ground States and Singular Vectors of Convex Variational Regularization Methods*, 2013



Let us start with the (general) previous observation that

$$\hat{u} = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|Ku\|_2^2,$$

leads to

$$(I + \alpha K'K)\hat{u} = f$$

such that the singular vectors v of the above problem are the eigenvectors of the symmetric, positive semi-definite matrix $K'K$, i.e. there exist $v_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\lambda v_\lambda = K'K v_\lambda$$

or

$$\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda)$$

for $J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ku\|_2^2$.

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The variational model

$$\hat{u} = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|Ku\|_2^2,$$

leads to the singular vector description that there exist $v_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda).$$

The latter makes sense for any convex regularization!

Can we study general J , e.g. TV regularization?



Notation

From now on we denote the set of all proper, convex, lower semi-continuous functions $J : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ by $\Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

Definition: One-homogeneous

We call $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ (absolutely) 1-homogeneous, if

$$J(\lambda u) = |\lambda| J(u)$$

holds for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Example: $J(u) = \|Ku\|$ is one-homogeneous for any norm.

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One-homogeneous functionals

Triangle inequality of 1-homogeneous functions

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-hom. Then J meets the triangle inequality.

Domain of 1-homogeneous functions

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous. Then $\text{dom}(J)$ is a linear subspace.

Convention: Domain of 1-homogeneous functions

Without restriction of generality (for variational problems), we will assume that any 1-homogeneous $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ maps from \mathbb{R}^n to \mathbb{R} .

Remark: Using the above convention we conclude that such a J is continuous and defines a semi-norm on \mathbb{R}^n .





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Kernel of 1-homogeneous functions

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous. Then

$$\ker(J) = \{u \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid J(u) = 0\}$$

is a linear subspace.

Remark: J defines a norm on $\ker(J)^\perp$.

Nonnegativity of 1-homogeneous functions

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-hom. Then $J(0) = 0$ and $J(u) \geq 0$ for all u .



Subdifferential of 1-homogeneous functions

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-hom. and subdifferentiable at u . Then

$$\partial J(u) = \{p \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid J(u) = \langle p, u \rangle, J(v) \geq \langle p, v \rangle \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$$

0-homogeneous subdifferential

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-hom. and subdifferentiable at u . Then

$$\partial J(au) = \partial J(u)$$

holds for all $a > 0$.



Let us return to

$$\lambda u \in \partial J(u).$$

What about normalization?

- Linear case: If v_λ meets $\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda)$, then $v = av_\lambda$ meets $\lambda v \in \partial J(v)$, too.
- One-homogeneous: If v_λ meets $\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda)$, then $v = av_\lambda$ meets $\frac{\lambda}{a} v \in \partial J(v)$.

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Definition: Generalized singular vector

For $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we call a v_λ with $\|v_\lambda\|_2 = 1$ a singular vector of J with singular value $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ if

$$\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda).$$

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Observations for J being one-homogeneous:

- If there exists a v_λ with

$$\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda)$$

then $\tilde{v}_\lambda = \frac{v_\lambda}{\|v_\lambda\|_2}$ is a singular vector to J .

- For a singular value λ it holds that $\lambda = J(v_\lambda) \geq 0$.
- Smaller singular values correspond to smaller “frequencies”.



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What about the existence of singular vectors?



Definition: Ground States

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous. A *ground state* of J is defined by

$$u_0 = \arg \min_{\substack{u \in \ker(J)^\perp \\ \|u\|_2=1}} J(u).$$

Ground states exist

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous, and let $\ker(J) + \text{dom}(J)^\perp \neq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then a ground state exists.

Proof: Board.

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Ground states are singular vectors

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be one-homogeneous with ground state u_0 .
Then u_0 is a singular vector with the singular value $\lambda_0 = J(u_0)$.

Proof: Board

Remark: A ground state is a singular vector with the smallest possible singular values: $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ for all singular values λ .



Examples:

- Ground states for $J(u) = \|u\|_1$.
- Singular vectors for $J(u) = \|u\|_1$.

Conclusion: Ground states do not need to be unique.

- Singular vectors for 1d-TV: $J(u) = \|D_x u\|_1$.

$$u_1 = 1/c$$

$$u_i = \begin{cases} u_{i-1} + 1/c & \text{for } i \leq c \\ u_{i-1} - 1/c & \text{for } c < i \leq n \end{cases}$$

Then $(D_x)^T u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a singular vector.

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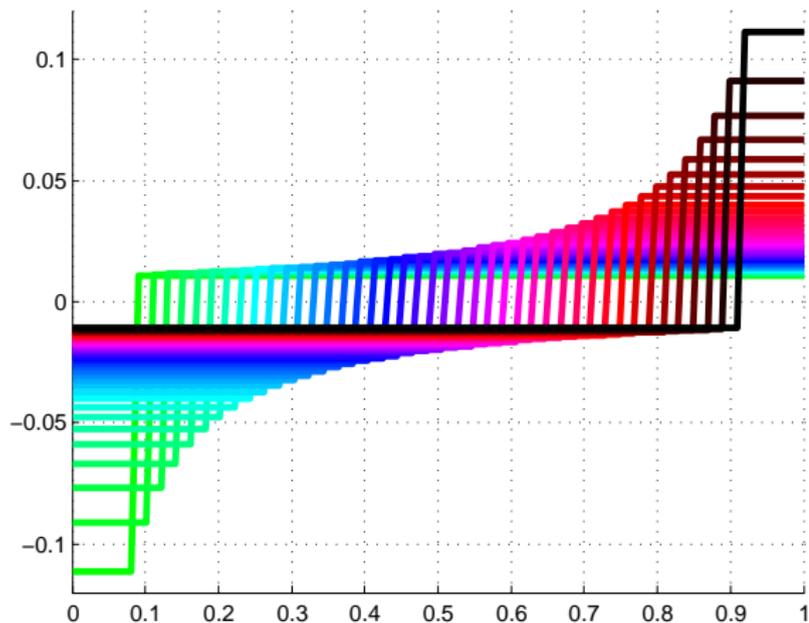
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Generalized singular vectors

Example: 1d TV



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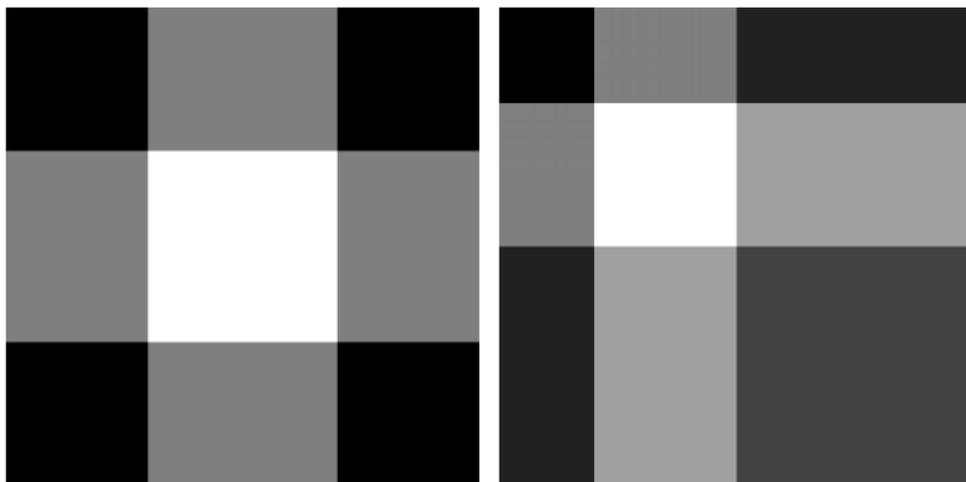
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Example: 2d TV



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Usual behavior in the linear case: For symmetric positive semi-definite matrices, there exists an orthonormal basis of singular vectors.

$$\lambda_1 \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = \langle Av_1, v_2 \rangle = \langle v_1, Av_2 \rangle = \lambda_2 \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$$

How about the generalized case?

→ Singular vectors to different singular values are NOT necessarily orthonormal! E.g. ℓ^1 .



Can we always find an orthonormal basis consisting of singular vectors?

Linear case, $J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ku\|_2^2$: Rayleigh Principle

Given $\{u_1, \dots, u_n\}$, compute

$$u_{n+1} = \arg \min_{\substack{u \in \ker(J)^\perp \\ \|u\|_2 = 1 \\ u \in \text{span}(u_1, \dots, u_n)^\perp}} J(u).$$

One can show: The u_n are singular vectors of K and form an orthonormal system. After completing with an orthonormal system that spans $\ker(K)$, one obtains an orthonormal basis.

Does the same strategy work in the nonlinear case?

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Failure of the Rayleigh Principle



Consider

$$J(u) = \|Ku\|_1 \quad \text{with} \quad K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -0.1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Easy to verify: $u_0 = (1, 0)^T$ is a ground state.

Orthogonal: $u_1 = (0, 1)^T$, but for $v = (1, 10)^T$ we have

$$\langle J(u_1)u_1, v \rangle = 1.1 \cdot 10 = 11$$

but $J(v) = 10$.

$\Rightarrow u_1 = (0, 1)^T$ cannot be a singular vector.

This does not mean there is no basis of singular vectors!

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Board computation:

In what way does the proof for showing that the ground state is a singular vector fail in the case of the Rayleigh principle?

A basis of singular vectors?

Again, consider

$$J(u) = \|Ku\|_1 \quad \text{with} \quad K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -0.1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then for $q = (-1, 1)^T$ we find

$$K^T q = (-1, 1.1), \quad KK^T q = (-1.11, 1.1)$$

such that

$$\langle K^T q, K^T q \rangle = \|K(K^T q)\|_1 = J(K^T q).$$

Moreover,

$$\langle K^T q, z \rangle = \langle q, Kz \rangle \leq \|Kz\|_1 = J(z).$$

Thus, $K^T q \in \partial J(K^T q)$, and after normalization, $K^T q$ is a singular vector.



A basis of singular vectors?

Again, consider

$$J(u) = \|Ku\|_1 \quad \text{with} \quad K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -0.1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then for $q_2 = (1, 1)^T$ we find

$$K^T q_2 = (1, 0.9), \quad KK^T q_2 = (0.91, 0.9)$$

such that

$$\langle K^T q_2, K^T q_2 \rangle = \|K(K^T q_2)\|_1 = J(K^T q_2).$$

Moreover,

$$\langle K^T q_2, z \rangle = \langle q_2, Kz \rangle \leq \|Kz\|_1 = J(z).$$

Thus, $K^T q_2 \in \partial J(K^T q_2)$, and after normalization, $K^T q_2$ is a singular vector which is orthogonal to q_1 !





Open problem 1: Existence of a basis

For any 1-homogeneous $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ there exists a basis of generalized singular vectors?

Remark: There are some particular cases for which the above provably holds, as we will see in the next chapter.

Open problem 2: Numerical computation of singular vectors²

The problem of finding elements that satisfy

$$\lambda v_\lambda \in \partial J(v_\lambda), \quad \|v_\lambda\|_2 = 1$$

is highly degenerate. How can we find such v_λ in practice?

²Also see Hein and Buehler, *An inverse power method for nonlinear eigenproblems with applications in 1-spectral clustering and sparse PCA*, 2010.



Orthogonality to kernel

For any 1-homogeneous $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$, if $v \in \text{kern}(J)$ and $p \in \partial J(0)$ then $p \perp v$. In particular, all singular vectors with nonzero singular values are in $\text{kern}(J)^\perp$.

Conclusion: Singular vectors with singular value 0 are orthogonal to those that have non-zero singular values.



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Error Estimates

What is the theory of nonlinear singular vectors good for?

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Error estimates – clean data

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous, and let v_λ be a singular vector with singular value λ . Then

$$u(t) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - \gamma v_\lambda\|^2 + tJ(u)$$

is explicitly given by

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} (\gamma - t\lambda)v_\lambda & \text{if } t\lambda \leq \gamma, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Proof: Board.



Error estimates – noisy data

Let $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be 1-homogeneous, and let v_λ be a singular vector with singular value λ . Let $f = \gamma v_\lambda + n$, and let there exist positive constants μ, η with $\frac{\mu}{\eta} < \gamma$ such that

$$\mu v_\lambda + \eta n \in \partial J(v_\lambda).$$

Then

$$u_\alpha = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|^2 + \alpha J(u)$$

is explicitly given by

$$u_\alpha = \left(\gamma - \alpha \lambda + \frac{\lambda - \mu}{\eta} \right) v_\lambda,$$

if $\alpha \in [1/\eta, 1/\eta + \gamma/\lambda[$.

Example: ℓ^1 regularization – Matlab. Polyhedral discussion.

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Remark: Generalizations

All concepts we discussed in this section can be generalized to problems of the form

$$\min_u \frac{1}{2} \|Au - f\|^2 + \alpha J(u)$$

with adapted definitions of ground states and singular vectors. See Benning, Burger, *Ground states and singular vectors of convex variational regularization methods*.

Open problem 3: Arbitrary data fidelity terms

Does the theory extend to even more general variational problems like

$$\min_u H_f(u) + \alpha J(u)?$$



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Can we use variational methods like

$$u(t) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|^2 + tJ(u)$$

to define a multiscale decomposition of f ?

(Throughout this chapter J is 1-homogeneous.)



For

$$u(t) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|^2 + tJ(u)$$

we have already seen: If $\frac{f}{\gamma}$ is a singular vector to singular value λ , then

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} (1 - \frac{\lambda t}{\gamma})f & \text{if } t\lambda \leq \gamma \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

How can we define a transformation that consists of a single peak if the data is a singular vector?

- $u(t)$ is piecewise linear in time.
- $\partial_t u(t)$ is piecewise constant in time.
- $\partial_{tt} u(t)$ consists of Dirac deltas (=is a measure).

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Multiscale Decompositions by Variational Methods

Let us consider the example of $\frac{f}{\gamma}$ being a singular vector again.

We know

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} (1 - \frac{\lambda t}{\gamma})f & \text{if } t\lambda \leq \gamma \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Thus,

$$\partial_t u(t) = \begin{cases} -\frac{\lambda}{\gamma}f & \text{if } t\lambda \leq \gamma \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

And therefore

$$\partial_{tt} u(t) = \frac{\lambda}{\gamma} \delta(\lambda t - \gamma) f = \frac{1}{t} \delta(\lambda t - \gamma) \cdot f$$

We find that in this case

$$f = \int_0^\infty t \partial_{tt} u(t) dt.$$



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The next lectures

- Today: Finish variational methods, do gradient flows.
- 30.06: No lecture!
- Monday 06.07. 14:00, Room 02.05.014 Hands-on code!
- Tuesday 07.07. 16:00, Room 02.05.014 Hands-on code!
- 07.07: Gradient flows + inverse scale space flows.
- 14.07: Inverse scale space flows, discussion + summary of the course.
- 28/29.07: Exams (Part 1)
- 17/18.09: Exams (Part 2)



Wavelength decomposition

We define

$$\phi(t) = t\partial_{tt}u(t)$$

and call it the *wavelength decomposition* of f with respect to J .

Questions:

- Why is it really a *decomposition*?
- Why do we call it *wavelength*?

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Spectral decomposition

It holds that

$$f = \text{proj}_{\text{kern}(J)}(f) + \int_0^\infty \phi(t) dt.$$

Multiscale Decompositions by Variational Methods

We should verify that our investigations are reasonable:

Continuity

For any 1-homogeneous $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and any $f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the solution

$$u(t) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + tJ(u), \quad t \geq 0$$

is Lipschitz continuous in t .

<i>Function</i>	<i>Weak Derivative</i>
Smooth (C^1) Lipschitz Absolutely Continuous Bounded Variation	Continuous (C^0) Bounded (L^∞) Integrable (L^1) Distributional derivative is Radon measure

https://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~hunter/m218a_09/ch3A.pdf



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Interpretation of ϕ

Our definition of $\phi(t) = t\partial_{tt}u(t)$ can be understood in the way that each component ϕ_i is as an element of the space $(W^{1,1})^*$ dual to the Sobolev space $W^{1,1}$. It acts via

$$w \mapsto - \int_0^T u'_i(t) (w(t) + t w'(t)) dt$$

where T is the finite extinction time.



Finite time extinction

For any 1-homogeneous $J \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and any $f \in \mathbb{R}^n$ there exist a $T \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$u(t) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - f\|_2^2 + tJ(u)$$

meets $u(t) = \text{proj}_{\text{kern}(J)}(f)$ for all $t \geq T$.

Conclusion: $\partial_t u(t) = 0$ for all $t \geq T$.

We can now proof the spectral decomposition theorem.

Remark: For $\text{proj}_{\text{kern}(J)}(f) = 0$ we have

$$f = \int_0^\infty \phi(t) dt.$$

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How does it look for data f that is not a singular vector?

Show videos!



How should we measure the spectral response, i.e. the energy concentrated at a particular frequency/time?

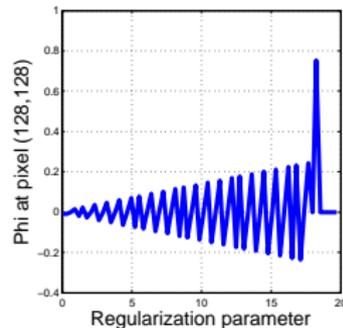
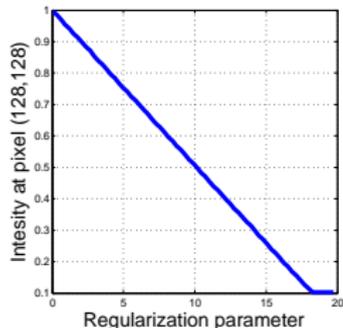
First option: $S(t) = \|\phi(t)\|_1$.

E.g. for f being a singular vector, we have $S(t) = \delta(\lambda t - \gamma) \|f\|_1$



General advice: Be careful in the computation of $\phi(t)$!

Differentiation is an ill-posed problem!



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Linear Filtering

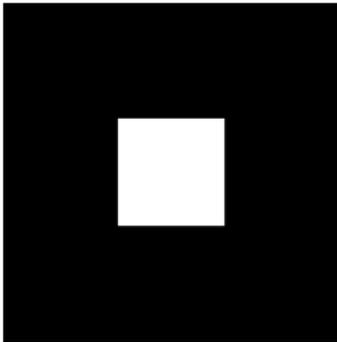
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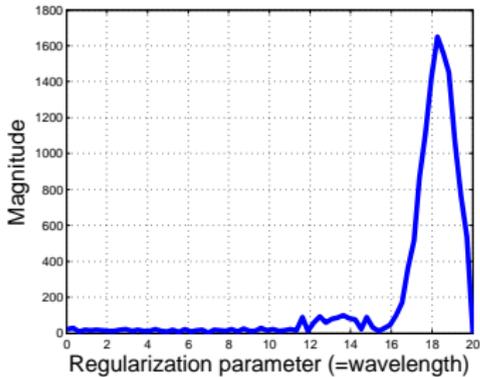
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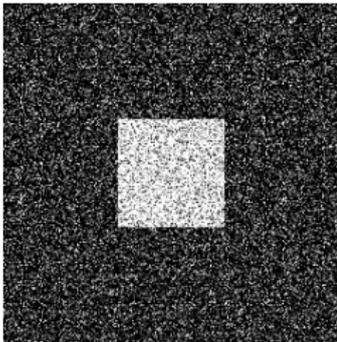
Gradient flow



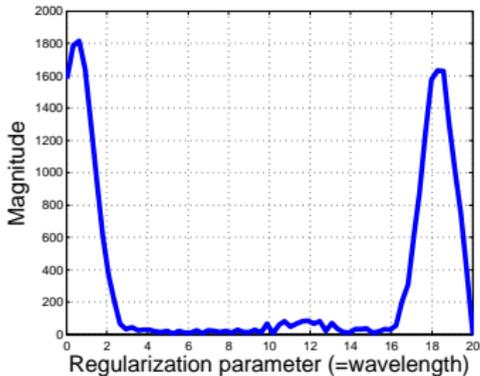
Input image



TV spectrum



Input image



TV spectrum



Spectral filtering

For a function $w : [0, \infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we define the spectral filtering as

$$u_w = \int_0^\infty w(t) \phi(t) dt.$$

Multiscale Decompositions by Variational Methods



Linear Filtering

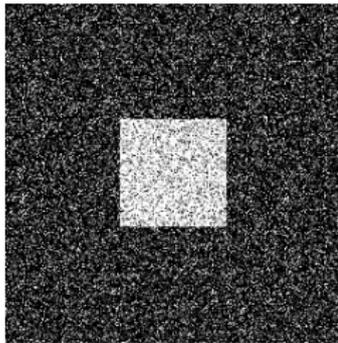
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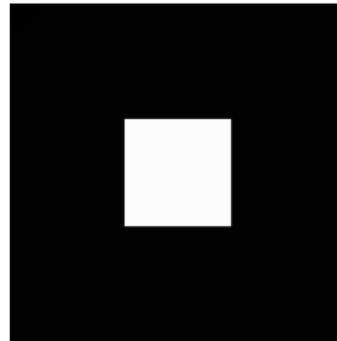
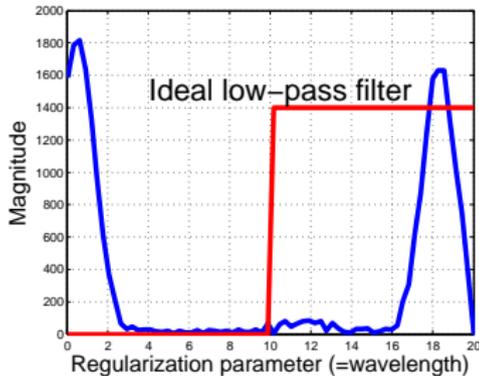
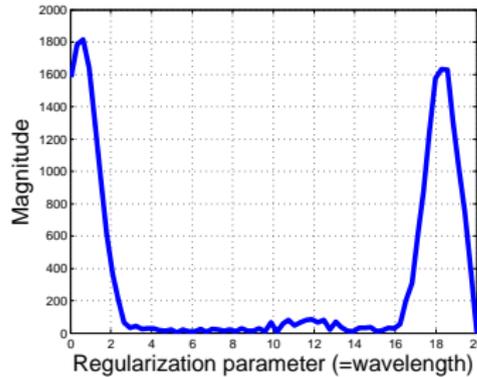
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Input image



Filtered Image



You know everything you need for implementing nonlinear multiscale methods based on variational regularization.

Your task: Implement it!

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Variational methods

Gradient flow

Can we use gradient flows like

$$\partial_t u(t) \in -\partial J(u(t)), \quad u(0) = f,$$

to define a multiscale decomposition of f ?



First step: Let $f/\gamma \in \partial J(f)$. Then the solution to

$$\partial_t u(t) \in -\partial J(u(t)), \quad u(0) = f,$$

is given by

$$u(t) = \left(1 - \frac{\lambda t}{\gamma}\right) f.$$

Exactly the same as for the variational method!

We can keep all definitions!

Details on the existence of solutions to the flow:

e.g. Aubin, Cellina: *Differential Inclusions*. p. 147, Theorem 1.

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Gradient flow multiscale decomposition

Wavelength representation:

$$\phi(t) = t \partial_{tt} u(t)$$

Reconstruction (assuming finite time extinction):

$$f = \int_0^\infty \phi(t) dt + \text{proj}_{\text{kern}(J)}(f)$$

Spectral response:

$$S(t) = \|\phi(t)\|_1 \quad \text{or} \quad S(t) = t^2 \sqrt{\partial_{tt} J(u(t))}$$

Filtering:

$$\hat{u} = \int_0^\infty w(t) \phi(t) dt + \text{proj}_{\text{kern}(J)}(f)$$



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Open problem 4: Finite time extinction

Under what assumptions does the gradient flow yield finite time extinction?

Open problem 5: Relation to variational method

Under what assumptions (on J or f) is the gradient flow equivalent to the variational method?

Multiscale Decompositions by Gradient Flows

For your numerical implementation:

$$\partial_t u(t) = -p(t), \quad p(t) \in \partial J(u(t)).$$

Discrete:

$$\frac{u(t^{k+1}) - u(t^k)}{\tau} = -p(t^{k+1}), \quad p(t^{k+1}) \in \partial J(u(t^{k+1})).$$

Or

$$0 = u(t^{k+1}) - u(t^k) + \tau p(t^{k+1}),$$

i.e.

$$u(t^{k+1}) = \arg \min_u \frac{1}{2} \|u - u(t^k)\|^2 + \tau J(u).$$

Implement it!



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