Fourier Reconstruction from Non-Uniform Spectral Data

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1 Introduction

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Sampling Patterns in MR Imaging
- Challenges in Cartesian Reconstruction
 - Spectral Reprojection
- 2 The Non-Uniform Data Problem
 - Problem Formulation
 - The Non-harmonic Kernel
 - Reconstruction Results using the Non-harmonic Kernel

3 Current Methods

- Reconstruction Methods
- Error Characteristics

4 Alternate Approaches

- Spectral reprojection
- Incorporating Edge Information
- Spectral reprojection for Fourier Frames

MR Imaging Process

An acquired MR signal can be written as (2D slice)

$$S(k_x, k_y) = \int \int \rho(x, y) e^{-i(k_x x + k_y y)} dx dy$$

 $\rho(x,y)$ is a measure of the concentration of MR relevant nuclei (spins) and

$$k_x = \frac{\gamma}{2\pi} \int_0^t G_x(\tau) d\tau, \quad k_y = \frac{\gamma}{2\pi} \int_0^t G_y(\tau) d\tau$$

• G_x and G_y are the applied gradient fields • We denote the signal acquisition space $\mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y)$ as "k-space"



Sampling Patterns



Figure: MR Imaging Sampling Patterns¹

 $^{^1 {\}rm Spiral}$ sampling pattern courtesy Dr. Jim Pipe, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, Arizona

Advantages and Disadvantages of each Pattern

Cartesian Imaging

Advantages

- Well understood and often used in equipment
- Simple reconstruction procedure
- Computationally efficient through use of the standard FFT

Disadvantages

- Susceptible to undersampling causes aliased images
- Gradient field waveforms can mean sharp transitions in collection

Non-Cartesian Imaging

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- Less susceptible to aliasing artifacts aliased images are of "diagnostic quality"
- Easier to generate gradient field waveforms

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- Complex reconstruction procedure (if possible!)
- Computationally demanding FFT algorithm no longer applies

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Challenges in Cartesian Reconstruction

The Gibbs Phenomenon

- affects the reconstruction of piecewise-smooth functions.
- occurs when data is sampled uniformly or non-uniformly.
- Two important consequences:
 - Gibbs ringing artifact presence of non-physical oscillations in the vicinity of discontinuities.
 - Reduced rate of convergence to first order even in smooth regions of the reconstruction.
- Why is this important?
 - Oscillations cause post-processing problems in tasks like segmentation, edge detection etc. Filtering oscillations may cause loss of important information.
 - The reduced order of convergence means more Fourier coefficients are needed to obtain a good reconstruction.

The Gibbs Phenomenon – An Example



Figure: Gibbs Phenomenon, N = 32

The Gibbs Phenomenon – An Example

$$S_N f(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^{N} \hat{f}(k) e^{ikx}, \quad \hat{f}(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$



Figure: Gibbs Phenomenon

Anne Gelb Fourier R

Shepp Logan MRI



Reconstruction from Fourier Data by Spectral Reprojection (Gottlieb, Shu et. al.)

- Assume that Fourier coefficients $\{\hat{f}_k\}_{k=-N}^N$ are given for a piecewise analytic function f(x) in [-1,1]
- $\hfill\blacksquare$ Use edge detection to determine sub-intervals of smoothness [a,b]
- Compute the Fourier partial sum in [a,b]: $S_N f(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k e^{ik\pi x}$
- Reproject $S_N f(x)$ onto a new basis for $x \in [a, b]$:

$$P_M(S_N f(x)) \to f(x)$$

 Many other algorithms available (Banerjee & Geer, Driscoll & Fornberg, Eckhoff, Jung & Shizgal, Solomonoff, Tadmor & Tanner, more ...)

Spectral Reprojection (Gottlieb & Shu)

- Goal: approximate a function that is smooth but *not periodic* for $\xi \in [-1, 1]$ (after linear transformation from $x \in [a, b]$)
- We *could* use an orthogonal polynomial expansion,

$$P_M f(x(\xi)) = \sum_{l=0}^M a_l \psi_l(\xi), \qquad a_l = \frac{1}{\gamma_l} < f, \psi_l >_{\omega}$$

but we have the Fourier expansion

$$S_N f(x(\xi)) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k e^{ik\pi x(\xi)}$$

• Can we use $S_N f$ to approximate a_l ? What should P_M look like?

Spectral Reprojection (Gottlieb & Shu)

- Determine appropriate orthogonal polynomial basis $\{\psi_l(\xi)\}_{l=0}^M$ on [-1,1]
- Build Fourier approximation inside smooth region [a, b]:

$$S_N f(x(\xi)) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k e^{ik\pi x(\xi)}, \quad x(\xi) = \epsilon \xi + \delta$$

- Expansion coefficients for $\psi_l(\xi)$ are approximated by $b_l = \frac{1}{\gamma_l} < S_n f, \psi_l >_{\omega} \approx a_l$
- Reprojection in smooth region [*a*, *b*]:

$$P_m(S_N f(x(\xi))) = \sum_{l=0}^m b_l \psi_l(\xi)$$

Spectral Reprojection (Gottlieb & Shu)

Definition: A Gibbs Complementary Reprojection Basis, $\{\psi_l\}_{l=0}^N$, has the properties:

- For an analytic function on [-1, 1], the function's expansion in the orthogonal reprojection basis is exponentially convergent, $P_m f(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ exponentially for smooth f(x).
- The projection of the high modes in the original basis on the low modes in the new basis is exponentially small.

If these conditions are met, then

 $P_m(S_N f(x(\xi))) \to f(x)$ exponentially for $x \in [a, b]$

Error Analysis For Spectral Reprojection

$$Err(m, N, f, \omega) := ||f - P_m(S_N f)|| \le ||f - P_m f|| + ||P_m(f - S_N f)||$$

= Trunc(m, f, \omega) + Proj(m, N, f, \omega)

- $Trunc(m, f, \omega)$ measures the convergence properties of the reprojection basis for m expansion coefficients (reflects first Gibbs complementary basis property)
 - Converges exponentially for $\omega(x) \ge 0$
 - $\blacksquare \ m=\beta N$ expansion terms, $0<\beta<1,$ resolves the function
- $Proj(m, N, f, \omega)$ measures the near orthogonality of the reprojection space P_m and the space containing the information about the function that is not known, $I S_N$ (reflects second Gibbs complementary basis property)

Look at Projection Error

The projection error corresponds to the decay rate of the coefficients b_l :

$$\begin{aligned} Proj(m, N, f, \omega) &= P_m(f - S_N f) \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^m \psi_l(\xi) \frac{1}{\gamma_l} \left\langle f - S_N f, \psi_l \right\rangle_\omega \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^m \psi_l(\xi) \frac{1}{\gamma_l} \int_{-1}^1 \omega(y) \psi_l(y) (f(x(y)) - S_N f(x(y))) dy \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^m \frac{1}{\gamma_l} \sum_{|k| > N} \hat{f}_k \psi_l(\xi) \int_{-1}^1 e^{i\pi k x(y)} \omega(y) \psi_l(y) dy \end{aligned}$$

• Error will be small if the weight function ω is chosen so that the corresponding integral is very small.

Reprojection using the Gegenbauer polynomial basis (Gottlieb, Shu, et. al)

- Define the weight function ω as: $\omega_{\lambda}(\xi) = (1 \xi^2)^{\lambda \frac{1}{2}}$. Large λ ensures that $\int_{-1}^{1} e^{i\pi kx(y)} \omega(y) \psi_l(y) dy$ is small. Subsequently, the errors from the boundaries do not enter the approximation
- Corresponding reprojection basis, $\psi_l(\xi)$ for $\omega_\lambda(\xi)$, are the Gegenbauer polynomials, $C_l^\lambda(\xi)$ with $\langle C_l^\lambda, C_m^\lambda \rangle_{\omega_\lambda} = \frac{1}{\gamma_l} \delta_{lm}$
- Note that Chebyshev $(\lambda = 0)$ and Legendre $(\lambda = \frac{1}{2})$ do not make good reprojection bases.

Gegenbauer Reconstruction

• If $\lambda = \lambda(N)$ then the reprojection coefficients

$$b_l := \frac{1}{\gamma_l} \int_{-1}^1 S_N f(x(\xi)) C_l^{\lambda}(\xi) (1-\xi^2)^{\lambda(N)-\frac{1}{2}} d\xi,$$

decay exponentially.

- Can rewrite implementation to avoid quadrature (use FFT)
- \blacksquare For many imaging applications, small m and λ work well
- Robust with respect to noise in imaging data (Archibald & Gelb)

Shepp Logan Phantom (Archibald & Gelb)



Improvement of image quality for segmentation (Archibald, Chen, Gelb & Renaut)

Gray matter segmented probability maps

- 256 × 256 randomly generated MNI digital brain
- 9% noise level
- non-uniform tissue intensity

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- What accuracy can we achieve given a finite (usually small) number of coefficients?
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Let f be defined on $\mathbb R$ and supported in $(-\pi,\pi)$ with Fourier transform

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{-i\omega x} dx, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{R}$$

Objective

Recover f given a finite number of its non-harmonic Fourier coefficients,

$$\hat{f}(\omega_k), \quad k = -N, ..., N \quad \omega_k \text{ not necessarily} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

- We are particularly interested in sampling patterns with variable sampling density
- The underlying function *f* is piecewise-smooth

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Sampling Patterns

- If Jittered Sampling: $\omega_k = k \pm \tau_k$, $\tau_k \sim U[0, \theta]$, k = -N, -(N-1), ..., N
- Log Sampling: $|\omega_k|$ is logarithmically distributed between 10^{-v} and N, with v > 0 and 2N + 1 being the total number of samples.

Figure: Non-uniform Sampling Schemes (right half plane), N = 16

The Non-harmonic Reconstruction Kernel

$$S_N f(x) = \sum_{\substack{|k| \le N}} \hat{f}(k) e^{ikx} = (f * D_N)(x) \text{ where}$$
$$D_N(x) = \sum_{\substack{|k| \le N}} e^{ikx} \text{ is the Dirichlet kernel.}$$

The non-harmonic Fourier reconstruction: $S_N \tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{|k| \le N} \hat{f}(\omega_k) e^{i\omega_k x} = (f * A_N)(x) \text{ where}$ $A_N(x) = \sum_{|k| \le N} e^{i\omega_k x} \text{ is the non-harmonic kernel.}$

|k|≤N
 The non-harmonic kernels do not constitute an othoroonal basic for span {c^{ikx} |k| ≤ N}

Figure: The Dirichlet Kernel plotted on the right half plane, N = 64

The Non-harmonic Reconstruction Kernel

Standard (harmonic) Fourier reconstruction:

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- The non-harmonic kernels do not constitute an orthogonal basis for span { e^{ikx} , $|k| \le N$ }

Figure: Non-harmonic Kernel, N = 64

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- The non-harmonic Fourier reconstruction: $S_N \tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{\substack{|k| \le N \\ |k| \le N}} \hat{f}(\omega_k) e^{i\omega_k x} = (f * A_N)(x) \text{ where}$ $A_N(x) = \sum_{\substack{|k| < N \\ |k| < N}} e^{i\omega_k x} \text{ is the non-harmonic kernel.}$
- The non-harmonic kernels do not constitute an orthogonal basis for span $\{e^{ikx}, |k| \leq N\}$

(a) Jittered Sampling

(b) Log Sampling

Figure: Autocorrelation plot of the kernels

Non-harmonic Kernels

Reconstruction Examples

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Several approaches available to perform reconstruction

- Convolutional Gridding most popular
- Uniform Resampling
- Iterative Methods

– "Fix" the quadrature rule while evaluating the non-harmonic sum

$$S_N \tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \alpha_k \hat{f}(\omega_k) e^{i\omega_k x}$$

– α_k are density compensation factors

e.g., $\alpha_k = \omega_{k+1} - \omega_k$

- Evaluated using a "non-uniform" FFT

Although there are distinct difference in methodology and computational cost, reconstruction accuracy is similar in most schemes. We will look at convolutional gridding and uniform resampling to obtain an intuitive understanding of the problems in reconstruction.

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Figure: Uniform Resampling

(c) (Filtered) Fourier sum

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Instead of approximating
$$f$$
 by $\sum_{k=-N}^{N} \alpha_k \hat{f}(\omega_k) e^{i\omega_k x}$, we compute $S_N \tilde{g}(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^{N} \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) e^{ikx}$

Map the non-uniform modes to a uniform grid via convolution. The new coefficients on the uniform grid are therefore given by

$$\hat{\tilde{g}}(k) = \left. \hat{f} * \hat{\phi} \right|_{\omega = k} \approx \sum_{m \text{ st. } |k - \omega_m| \le q} \alpha_m \hat{f}(\omega_m) \hat{\phi}(k - \omega_m)$$

2 Compute a (filtered) Fourier partial sum.

- **3** "Compensate" for the mapping operation (divide by $\phi(x)$).
- **4** Choose the interpolating function ϕ to be essentially bandlimited, i.e.,

$$\begin{split} \bar{\phi}(\omega) &\approx 0 \quad |\omega| > q, \ q \in \mathbb{R}, \text{small} \\ \phi(x) &\approx 0 \quad |x| > \pi \\ \phi(x) &\neq 0 \quad x \in [-\pi, \pi] \end{split}$$

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Figure: Fourier Reconstruction of $g(x) = f(x)\phi(x)$

Figure: Compensation $f(x) = g(x)/\phi(x)$

Reconstruction Examples - Convolutional Gridding

Figure: Gridding reconstruction, ${\cal N}=128$ (processed by a fourth order exponential filter)

Uniform Resampling

Reconstruction is accomplished in two steps:

- **1** recover equispaced coefficients $\hat{f}(k)$
- 2 partial Fourier reconstruction using the FFT algorithm

Since f is compactly supported, we use the sampling theorem to relate $\hat{f}(\omega_k)$ and $\hat{f}(k)$.

$$\hat{f}(\omega) = \sum_{p=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(p)\operatorname{sinc}(\omega-p), \quad \omega \in \mathbb{R}, p \in \mathbb{N}$$

• To recover $\hat{f}(k)$, we have to invert the above system, i.e., solve

$$Ax = b, \quad A_{ij} = \operatorname{sinc}(\omega_i - j), \quad b = \left\{\hat{f}(\omega_k)\right\}_{k=-N}^N, \quad x = \left\{\hat{f}(p)\right\}_{p=-M}^M$$

- Any number of methods to do so iterative methods, pseudoinverse-based methods with regularization ...
- The condition number of the sinc matrix depends on the sampling pattern's deviation from equispaced nodes.

Representative Results - Uniform Resampling

Figure: URS solution, N = 128

- Solved a square 128×128 system
- Inverted the system by computing the pseudoinverse
- \blacksquare Pseudoinverse was computed using TSVD, with a SVD threshold of 10^{-5}

Convolutional Gridding Error

Theorem (Convolutional Gridding Error (Viswanathan, 2009))

Let $\hat{g} = \hat{f} * \hat{\phi}$ denote the true gridding coefficients and \hat{g} denote the approximate gridding coefficients. Let Δ_k be the maximum distance between sampling points and $d_k := \frac{1}{\Delta_k}$ be the minimum sample density in the q-vicinity of k. Then, the gridding error at mode k is bounded by $e(k) \leq C \cdot \frac{1}{d_k^2}, k = -N, ..., N$ for some positive constant C.

Convolutional Gridding Error

Physical space reconstruction error

$$\begin{split} e(x) \approx g(x) - S_N \tilde{g}(x) &= g(x) - S_N g(x) + S_N g(x) - S_N \tilde{g}(x) \\ &= \underbrace{\sum_{|k| > N} \hat{g}(k) e^{ikx}}_{\text{standard Fourier truncation}} + \underbrace{\sum_{|k| \le N} \left(\hat{g}(k) - \hat{g}(k) \right) e^{ikx}}_{\text{gridding}} \end{split}$$

- S_Ng suffers from Gibbs; the maximum error occurs in the vicinity of a jump (≈ 1.09 of the jump value). There is also a reduced rate of convergence with ||g − S_Ng|| = O(N).
- Gridding (sampling) error

$$|S_N g(x) - S_N \tilde{g}(x)| = \left| \sum_{|k| \le N} \left(\hat{g}(k) - \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) \right) e^{ikx} \right|$$
$$\leq \sum_{|k| \le N} \left| \hat{g}(k) - \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) \right|$$
$$\leq C \sum_{|k| \le N} \frac{1}{d_k^2}$$

Error Plots

Figure: Error Plots

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Error vs Sampling Density

The reconstruction error is

$$e(x) \approx \sum_{|k| > N} \hat{g}(k) e^{ikx} + \sum_{|k| \le N} \left(\hat{g}(k) - \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) \right) e^{ikx}$$

1st term decreases as N increases

• 2^{nd} term increases as N increases

Figure: Error in gridding coefficients

For a given sampling trajectory and function, there is a critical value $N_{\rm crit}$ beyond which adding coefficients does not improve the accuracy. While filtering decreases the error, the underlying problem is not solved.

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Figure: Error in uniform re-sampling

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Error vs Sampling Density

The reconstruction error is

$$e(x) \approx \sum_{|k|>N} \hat{g}(k) e^{ikx} + \sum_{|k|\leq N} \left(\hat{g}(k) - \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) \right) e^{ikx}$$

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Error in Recovered Coefficients - Uniform Resampling

Figure: URS solution, N = 128

The condition number of the resampling matrix is directly related to the error in the coefficients.

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Gibbs Phenomenon, non-uniform case

- We still have the "Gibbs phenomenon" non-physical oscillations at discontinuities, and a reduced rate of convergence (first order). Hence, we require a large number of coefficients to get acceptable reconstructions.
- However, by formulation of the sampling scheme and recovery procedure, the coefficients recovered at large ω are inaccurate.
- \implies we need more coefficients, but the coefficients we get are inaccurate!

Spectral Reprojection – High frequency modes of f in the original basis have exponentially small contributions on the low modes in the new basis

Reducing the Impact of the High Mode Coefficients using Spectral Reprojection (Viswanathan, Cochran, Gelb, & Renaut, 2010)

Spectral reprojection expansion coefficients:

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_l^{\lambda}} < S_N \tilde{g}, C_l^{\lambda} >_{\omega(\lambda)} = \frac{1}{\gamma_l^{\lambda}} \int_{-1}^1 (1-\eta^2)^{\lambda-1/2} C_l^{\lambda}(\eta) \sum_{|k| \le N} \hat{\tilde{g}}(k) e^{i\pi k\eta} d\eta$$

Figure: Decay of Gegenbauer coefficients

Spectral Reprojection Error of Gridded Coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} & = Err(m, N, g, \omega) := ||g - P_m(S_N \tilde{g})|| \leq \\ & ||g - P_m g|| + ||P_m(g - S_N g)|| + ||P_m S_N g - P_m S_N \tilde{g}|| \\ & = ||P_m S_N g - P_m S_N \tilde{g}||_{\infty} \leq \\ & Const \sum_{l=0}^m \sum_{|k| \leq N} \frac{1}{d_k^2} \left| \frac{C_l^{\lambda}(1)}{\gamma_l^{\lambda}} \int_{-1}^1 (1 - \eta^2)^{\lambda - 1/2} C_l^{\lambda}(\eta) e^{i\pi k\eta} d\eta \right| \\ & = \\ & \left| \frac{C_l^{\lambda}(1)}{\gamma_l^{\lambda}} \int_{-1}^1 (1 - \eta^2)^{\lambda - 1/2} C_l^{\lambda}(\eta) e^{i\pi k\eta} d\eta \right| \leq \frac{\Gamma(\lambda)(l + \lambda)\Gamma(l + 2\lambda)}{l!\Gamma(2\lambda)} \left(\frac{2}{\pi |k|} \right)^{\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

 \blacksquare The corresponding gridding error does not increase rapidly with N

Spectral Reprojection - Contribution from Gridding Error

Figure: Contribution from Gridding Error in Spectral Reprojection

Gegenbauer Reconstruction - Results

Figure: Gegenbauer reconstruction from log spectral samples

- Filtered Fourier (second-order exponential) reconstruction uses 256 coefficients
- Gegenbauer reconstruction uses 2N + 1 = 121 coefficients
- Edges detected using the concentration method (Gelb & Tadmor) with thresholding and non-linear post-processing.
- Parameters (m, λ) chosen proportional to size of reconstruction interval.

Error Plots

Figure: Error Plots - Filtered and Gegenbauer Reconstruction

Incorporating Edge Information into Reconstruction (Viswanathan, 2010)

Obtain edge information by

Using the concentration method on the recovered coefficients

$$S_N^{\sigma}[\tilde{f}](x) = i \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{\tilde{f}}(k) \operatorname{sgn}(k) \sigma\left(\frac{|k|}{N}\right) e^{ikx}$$

• Solving for the jump function directly from the non-harmonic Fourier data Let $\check{f}(\omega_k) = i \operatorname{sgn}(\omega_k) \hat{f}(\omega_k)$

$$\min_{p} \quad \| \mathcal{F}\{Wp\}|_{\omega_{k}} - \breve{f}(\omega_{k}) \|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \| p \|_{1}$$

Figure: Edge Detection using the iterative formulation

Methods Incorporating Edge Information

Compute the high frequency modes using the relation Compare

Figure: Reconstruction of a test function using edge information

Finite frame approximation: Assume $\{e^{i\omega_n x}\}_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ is a frame for $L^2(I)$.

- Given frame coefficients $\{\hat{f}(\omega_n)\}_{n=-N}^N = \{ < f(x), e^{i\omega_n x} > \}_{n=-N}^N$
- Compute $T_N f = \sum_{n=-N}^N \hat{f}(\omega_n) S^{-1} e^{i\omega_n x}$
- Filtering does not improve convergence: $T_{N}^{\sigma}f = \sum_{n=-N}^{N} \sigma(\omega_{n})\hat{f}(\omega_{n})S^{-1}e^{i\omega_{n}x} \nrightarrow f$
- Spectral reprojection yields exponential convergence.

Theorem (Gelb and Hines (2010)): Let $\{e^{i\omega_n x}\}_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}$ be a frame generated by a balanced sampling sequence. Suppose we are given the first 2N + 1 frame coefficients of $f \in L^2[-1,1]$. If $\lambda = \alpha N$ and $M = \beta N$ for $0 < \alpha < 1$ and $0 < \beta < 1$, then there exists a constant 0 < q < 1 such that

$$||P_M^{\lambda}(f - T_N f)||_{\infty} \le cN^2 q^N$$

Figure: Gegenbauer frame reconstruction

Figure: Gegenbauer frame reconstruction

Figure: Gegenbauer frame reconstruction

Summary

- Problem: Fourier reconstruction of piecewise smooth functions from non-uniform coefficients – MRI, SAR
- Conventional reconstruction methods from MRI community (density compensation, uniform resampling, iterative methods)
- Error analysis and characteristics related to sampling density
- Spectral reprojection mitigates the impact of the error from the high frequency coefficients
- Fourier based edge information can help to obtain better approximation to high frequency coefficients
- Fourier frames may provide a better alternative in reconstruction since no interpolation is needed
- Special thanks to Adityavikram Viswanathan, ASU EE PhD 2010, currently a postdoctoral fellow at ACM. California Institute of Technology.

Special thanks

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Figure: Sam and Josh Bagatell