

# On strong convexity for the understanding and design of (unfolded) algorithms

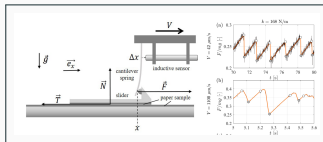
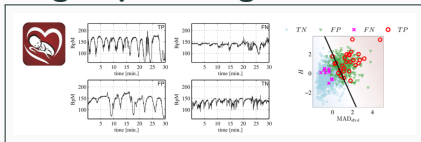
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**Nelly Pustelnik**

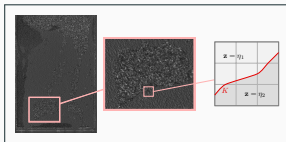
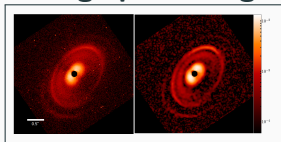
Challenges and advances in modern variational analysis  
Limoges – March 15th, 2023



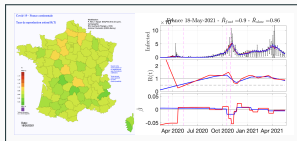
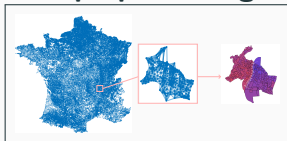
## • Signal processing

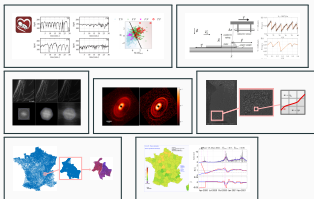


## • Image processing



## • Graph processing

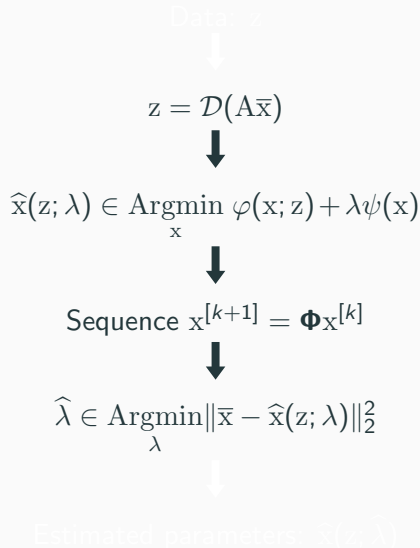
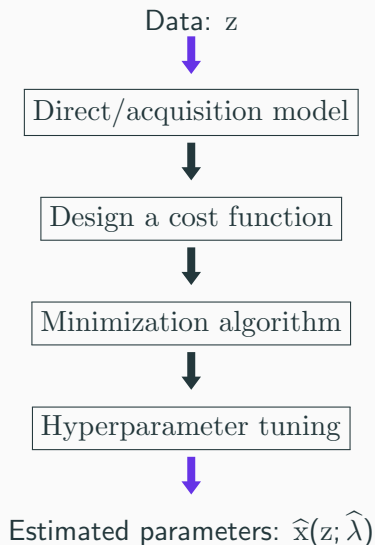




## → Three quantities of interest:

- $z \in \mathbb{R}^{\bar{N}}$ : Data/measures.
- $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ : True (unknown) parameters.
- $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ : Estimated parameters.

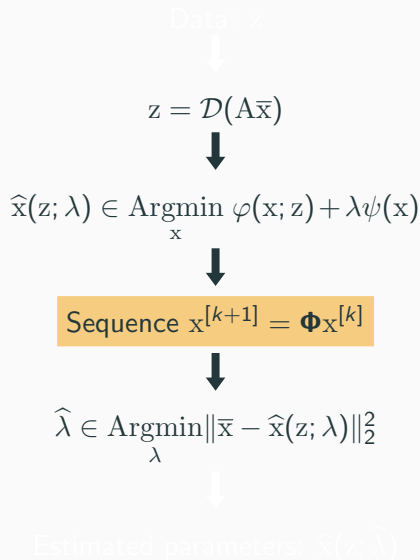
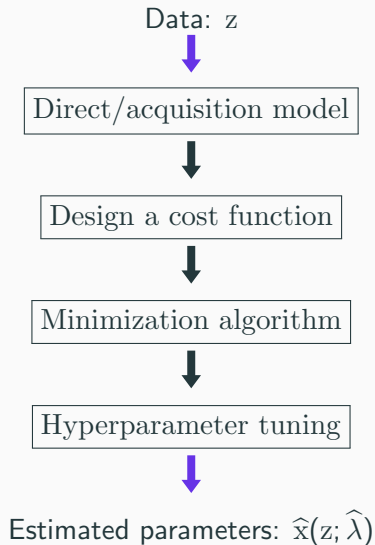
## Context



# On strong convexity for the understanding and design of algorithms

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# Context



# Iterative scheme

→ Minimization problem :

$$\hat{x} \in \underset{x}{\operatorname{Argmin}} f(x) + g(x)$$

→ Design of a recursive sequence of the form

$$(\forall k \in \mathbb{N}) \quad x^{[k+1]} = \Phi x^{[k]},$$

Gradient descent	$\Phi = \operatorname{Id} - \tau(\nabla f + \nabla g)$
Proximal point algorithm	$\Phi = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau(f+g)}$
Forward-Backward	$\Phi = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(\operatorname{Id} - \tau \nabla f)$
Peaceman-Rachford	$\Phi = (2\operatorname{prox}_{\tau g} - \operatorname{Id}) \circ (2\operatorname{prox}_{\tau f} - \operatorname{Id})$
Douglas-Rachford	$\Phi = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau g}(2\operatorname{prox}_{\tau f} - \operatorname{Id}) + \operatorname{Id} - \operatorname{prox}_{\tau f}$

# Iterative scheme

→ Minimization problem :

$$\hat{x} \in \underset{x}{\operatorname{Argmin}} f(x) + h(Dx)$$

- Require the computation of  $\operatorname{prox}_{h(D\cdot)}$ . **Few closed form.**
- Reformulation in the dual:  $\min_{w \in \mathcal{G}} f^*(-D^*w) + h^*(w)$ ,
- Primal-dual algorithms:  $\min_x f(x) + \tilde{f}(x) + h(Dx)$ ,  
→  $f$  has a  $\nu$ -Lipschitz gradient.

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Hyperparameters setting:  $\tau > 0$ ,  $\gamma > 0$ , such that  $\frac{1}{\tau} - \gamma\|D\|^2 > \frac{\nu}{2}$

For  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\begin{cases} w^{[k+1]} = \operatorname{prox}_{\tau\tilde{f}}(w^{[k]} - \tau\nabla f(w^{[k]}) - \tau D^*x^{[k]}) \\ x^{[k+1]} = \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma h^*}(x^{[k]} + \gamma D(2w^{[k+1]} - w^{[k]})) \end{cases}$$



# Iterative scheme

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$$\hat{x} \in \underset{x}{\text{Argmin}} f(x) + h(Dx)$$

- Require the computation of  $\text{prox}_{h(D\cdot)}$ . **Few closed form.**
- Reformulation in the dual:  $\min_{w \in \mathcal{G}} f^*(-D^*w) + h^*(w)$ ,
- Primal-dual algorithms:  $\min_x f(x) + \tilde{f}(x) + h(Dx)$ ,  
→ Acceleration when  $\tilde{f}$  **strongly convex.**

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Hyperparameters setting:  $\tau > 0$ ,  $\gamma > 0$ , such that  $\frac{1}{\tau} - \gamma \|D\|^2 > \frac{\nu}{2}$

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## Preliminary remarks

### → Minimization problem :

$$\hat{x} \in \underset{x}{\operatorname{Argmin}} f(x) + g(x)$$

- Smooth and strongly convex.
- Focus on (linear) convergence of the iterates, i.e.

$$(\forall k \in \mathbb{N}) \quad \|x^{[k]} - \hat{x}\| \leq r^k \|x^{[0]} - \hat{x}\|.$$

### Questions:

- Proximal step or gradient step ?
- Design efficiency region diagram ?

**Notations:**  $C_L^{1,1}$  models the class of differentiable functions having a  $L$ -Lipschitz gradient.

## Theoretical comparisons

**Proposition** (see [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021] for detailed references)

In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ . Then, the following holds:

- **Gradient descent** Suppose that  $\tau \in ]0, 2L_f^{-1}L_g^{-1}/(L_g^{-1} + L_f^{-1})[$ . Then,  $\text{Id} - \tau(\nabla g + \nabla f)$  is  $r_G(\tau)$ -Lipschitz continuous, where

$$r_G(\tau) := \max \{ |1 - \tau\rho|, |1 - \tau(L_f + L_g)| \} \in ]0, 1[.$$

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$$r_G(\tau) := \max \{ |1 - \tau\rho|, |1 - \tau(L_f + L_g)| \} \in ]0, 1[.$$

In particular, the minimum is achieved at

$$\tau^* = \frac{2}{\rho + L_f + L_g}$$

and

$$r_G(\tau^*) = \frac{L_f + L_g - \rho}{L_f + L_g + \rho}.$$

# Theoretical comparisons

**Proposition** (see [[Briceno-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021](#)] for detailed references)

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- **FBS** Suppose that  $\tau \in ]0, 2L_f^{-1}[$ . Then  $\text{prox}_{\tau g}(\text{Id} - \tau \nabla f)$  is  $r_{T_1}(\tau)$ -Lipschitz continuous, where

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$$r_{T_1}(\tau) := \max \{ |1 - \tau\rho|, |1 - \tau L_f| \} \in ]0, 1[.$$

In particular, the minimum in (1) is achieved at

$$\tau^* = \frac{2}{\rho + L_f} \quad \text{and} \quad r_{T_1}(\tau^*) = \frac{L_f - \rho}{L_f + \rho}.$$

**Proposition** (see [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021] for detailed references)

In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ .

- **FBS (v2)** Suppose that  $\tau \in ]0, 2L_g^{-1}]$ . Then  $\text{prox}_{\tau f}(\text{Id} - \tau \nabla g)$  is  $r_{T_2}(\tau)$ -Lipschitz continuous, where

$$r_{T_2}(\tau) := \frac{1}{1 + \tau \rho} \in ]0, 1[.$$

## Theoretical comparisons

**Proposition** (see [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021] for detailed references)

In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ .

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In particular, the minimum is achieved at

$$\tau^* = 2L_g^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad r_{T_2}(\tau^*) = \frac{1}{1 + 2L_g^{-1}\rho}.$$



## Theoretical comparisons

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In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ .

• **PRS**  $(2\text{prox}_{\tau g} - \text{Id}) \circ (2\text{prox}_{\tau f} - \text{Id})$  and  $(2\text{prox}_{\tau f} - \text{Id}) \circ (2\text{prox}_{\tau g} - \text{Id})$  are  $r_R(\tau)$ -Lipschitz continuous, where

$$r_R(\tau) = \max \left\{ \frac{1 - \tau\rho}{1 + \tau\rho}, \frac{\tau L_f - 1}{\tau L_f + 1} \right\} \in ]0, 1[.$$

## Theoretical comparisons

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In particular, the minimum is achieved at

$$\tau^* = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\rho L_f}} \quad \text{and} \quad r_R(\tau^*) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{L_f^{-1}\rho}}{1 + \sqrt{L_f^{-1}\rho}}.$$

**Proposition** (see [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021] for detailed references)

In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$  and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , suppose that  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ . Then, the following holds:

- **DRS**  $S_{\tau \nabla g, \tau \nabla f}$  and  $S_{\tau \nabla f, \tau \nabla g}$  are  $r_S(\tau)$ -Lipschitz continuous, where

$$r_S(\tau) = \min \left\{ \frac{1 + r_R(\tau)}{2}, \frac{L_g^{-1} + \tau^2 \rho}{L_g^{-1} + \tau L_g^{-1} \rho + \tau^2 \rho} \right\} \in ]0, 1[$$

and  $r_R$  is defined in p.21.

**Proposition** (see [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021] for detailed references)

In the context of  $\min f + g$  where  $f, g \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $f \in C_{L_f}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$  and  $g \in C_{L_g}^{1,1}(\mathcal{H})$ , suppose that  $f$  is  $\rho$ -strongly convex, for some  $\rho \in ]0, L_f[$ , and let  $\tau > 0$ . Then, the following holds:

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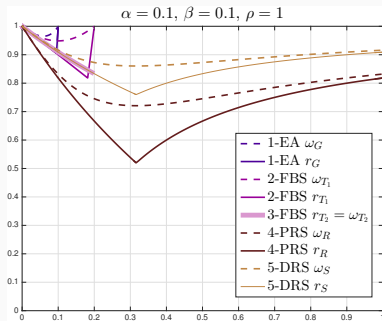
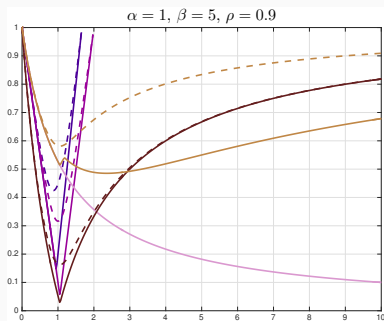
$$r_S(\tau) = \min \left\{ \frac{1 + r_R(\tau)}{2}, \frac{L_g^{-1} + \tau^2 \rho}{L_g^{-1} + \tau L_g^{-1} \rho + \tau^2 \rho} \right\} \in ]0, 1[$$

and  $r_R$  is defined in p.21.

In particular, the optimal step-size and the minimum in (1) are

$$(\tau^*, r_S(\tau^*)) = \begin{cases} \left( \sqrt{\frac{1}{\rho L_f}}, \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{L_f^{-1} \rho}} \right), & \text{if } L_f \leq 4L_g; \\ \left( \sqrt{\frac{1}{\rho L_g}}, \frac{2}{2 + \sqrt{L_g^{-1} \rho}} \right), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Theoretical comparisons



Comparison of the convergence rates of EA, FBS, PRS, DRS for two choices of  $\alpha = L_f^{-1}$ ,  $\beta = L_g^{-1}$ , and  $\rho$ . Note that optimization rates are better than cocoercive rates in general.

**Proposition** [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021]

Let  $(L_g, \rho) \in ]0, +\infty[ \times ]0, 1[$ . Then  $r_G^*(L_g, \rho) > r_{T_1}^*(\rho) > r_R^*(\rho)$ .

➔ The linear convergence rate of PRS is always smaller than those of algorithms governed by operators EA (gradient descent) and FBS (forward-backward splitting).

# Theoretical comparisons

## Proposition [Briceño-Arias, Pustelnik, 2021]

Let  $(L_g, \rho) \in ]0, +\infty[ \times ]0, 1[$  and

$$\eta(L_g) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4L_g}}{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4L_g}} \in ]0, 1[.$$

. Then, the following holds:

- Suppose that  $L_g < \frac{1}{4}$  and that  $\rho \in I(L_g)$ , where  $I(\beta) = \left[ L_g \max\{1/16, \eta(L_g)\}, \frac{L_g}{\eta(L_g)} \right]$ .

Then

$$r_{T_2}^*(L_g, \rho) \leq \min\{r_S^*(L_g, \rho), r_R^*(\rho)\}.$$

- Suppose that  $L_g < \frac{1}{16}$  and that  $\rho < \chi(L_g)$ , where  $\chi(L_g) = \min\left\{\frac{L_g}{16}, 1 - 8L_g(\sqrt{L_g^{-1}} - 2)\right\}$ .

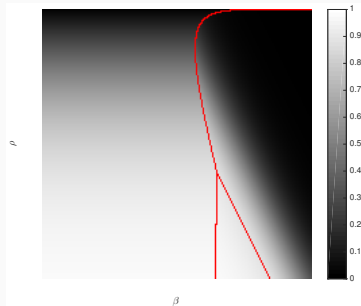
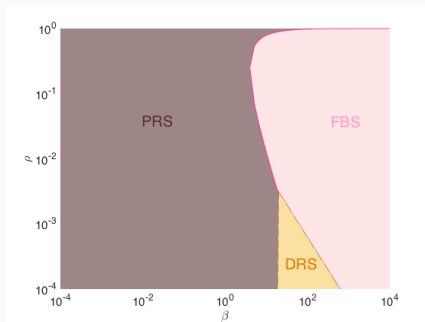
Then

$$r_S^*(L_g, \rho) < \min\{r_{T_2}^*(L_g, \rho), r_R^*(\rho)\}.$$

In any other case, we have

$$r_R^*(\rho) \leq \min\{r_{T_2}^*(L_g, \rho), r_S^*(L_g, \rho)\}.$$

# Theoretical comparisons



Comparison of the convergence rates of EA, FBS, PRS, DRS for two choices of  $\alpha = L_f^{-1}$ ,  $\beta = L_g^{-1}$ , and  $\rho$ .



# Numerical comparisons: Smooth TV1D denoising

**First formulation:** minimize  $\underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\|x - z\|_2^2}_{f(x)} + \underbrace{\chi h(Lx)}_{g(x)}$

$\rightarrow f$  is  $\rho = 1$  strongly convex,  $L_f = 1$ , and  $L_g = \frac{\chi\|L\|^2}{\mu}$ .

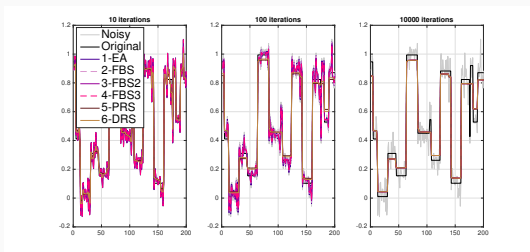
- 1- **EA:** Use  $G_{\tau(\nabla g + \nabla f)}$
- 2- **FBS:** Use  $T_{\tau\nabla f, \tau\nabla g}$

**Second formulation:**  $\min_{x \in \mathcal{H}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\|x - z\|_2^2}_{\tilde{f}(x)} + \underbrace{\chi h_{\mathbb{I}_1}(L_{\mathbb{I}_1}x)}_{\tilde{g}(x)} + \underbrace{\chi h_{\mathbb{I}_2}(L_{\mathbb{I}_2}x)}_{\tilde{g}(x)}$

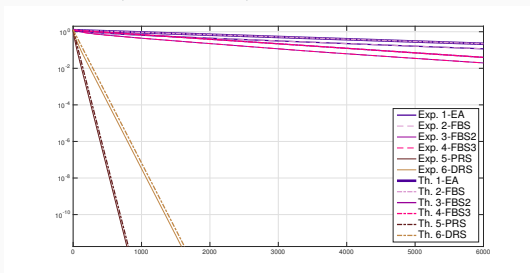
$\rightarrow \tilde{f}$  is  $\rho = 1$  strongly convex,  $L_{\tilde{f}} = \frac{\mu + \chi\|L_{\mathbb{I}_2}\|^2}{\mu}$  and  $L_{\tilde{g}} = \frac{\chi\|L_{\mathbb{I}_1}\|^2}{\mu}$

- 3- **FBS 2:** Use  $T_{\tau\nabla\tilde{g}, \tau\nabla\tilde{f}}$
- 4- **FBS 3:** Use  $T_{\tau\nabla\tilde{f}, \tau\nabla\tilde{g}}$
- 5- **PRS:** Use  $R_{\tau\nabla\tilde{f}, \tau\nabla\tilde{g}}$
- 6- **DRS:** Use  $S_{\tau\nabla\tilde{f}, \tau\nabla\tilde{g}}$

# Numerical comparisons: Smooth TV1D denoising

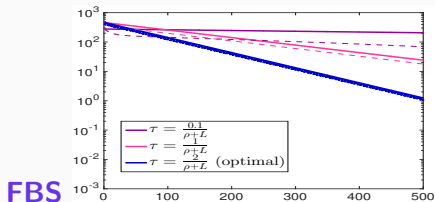


Original/degraded/reconstructed signals

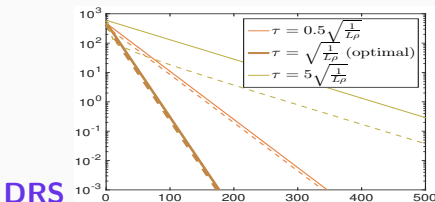


Errors vs Iterations

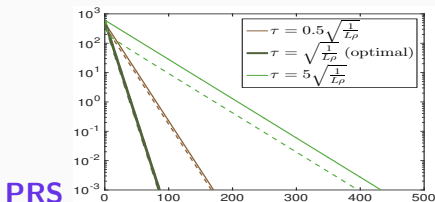
Numerical comparisons:  $\min_{v,h} \sum_j \|\log_2 \mathcal{L}_j - v - jh\|_2^2 + \lambda_v \|Dv\|_1 + \lambda_h \|Dh\|_1$



FBS



DRS



PRS

**Problem solved:**

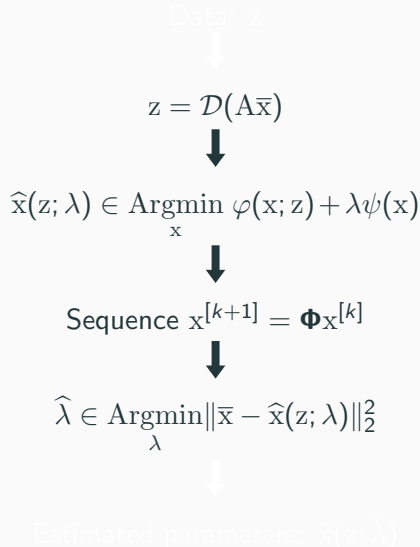
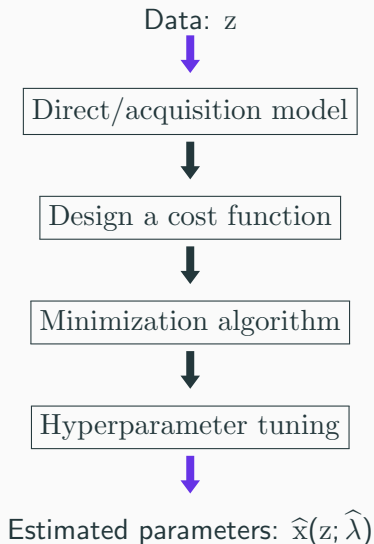
segmentation problem over the range  $j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ ,  $\lambda_v = 0.1$ , and  $\lambda_h = 200$ .

**Display:** Comparisons of the theoretical upper bound (i.e.,  $r_\Phi(\tau)^k \|x_0 - x_\infty\|_2$ ) versus the numerical error (i.e.,  $\|x_k - x_\infty\|_2$ ) w.r.t. the number of iterations.

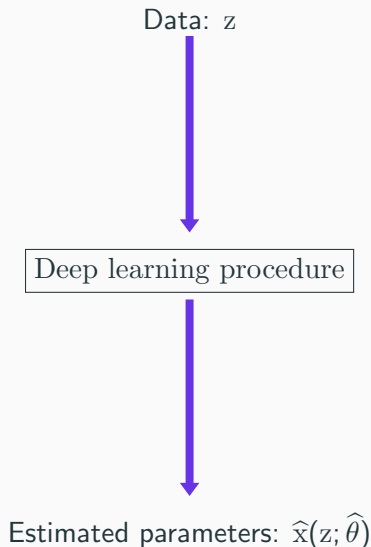
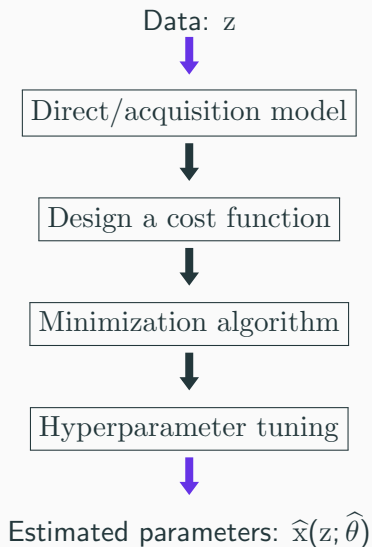
**Supervised deep image analysis:  
Strong convexity to design  
supervised deep proximal  
architectures**

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## Context



## Standard learning and deep learning



## Standard learning and deep learning

→ Create a database  $\mathcal{S} = \{(\bar{x}_\ell, z_\ell) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^{\bar{N}} \mid \ell \in \{1, \dots, L\}\}$

→ Learn a prediction function  $d_\Theta$

$$\hat{\Theta} \in \underset{\Theta}{\text{Argmin}} E(\Theta) := \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\ell=1}^L f_1(d_\Theta(z_\ell), \bar{x}_\ell) + f_2(\Theta)$$

- **Linear model:**  $d_\Theta(z_\ell) = \Theta^\top z_\ell$

# Standard learning and deep learning

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- **Linear model:**  $d_\Theta(z_\ell) = \Theta^\top z_\ell$

- **Non-linear model:**

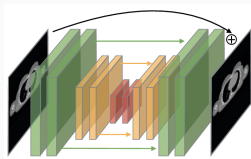
$$d_\Theta(z_\ell) = \eta^{[K]}(W^{[K]} \dots \eta^{[1]}(W^{[1]} z_\ell + b^{[1]}) \dots + b^{[K]})$$

where  $\Theta = \{W^{[k]}, b^{[k]}\}_{1 \leq k \leq K}$  with

$W^{[k]}$  denotes a weight matrix,

$b^{[k]}$  is a bias vector,

$\eta^{[k]}$  is the nonlinear activation function.





# Synthesis formulation and proximal gradient descent: LISTA

→ **Synthesis formulation:**  $\min_x \frac{1}{2} \|Hx - z\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$  where  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{\bar{N} \times N}$

→ **Forward-backward iterations:**

$$x^{[k+1]} = \text{prox}_{\tau\lambda\|\cdot\|_1}(x^{[k]} - \tau H^*(Hx^{[k]} - z))$$

→ **Reformulation:**

$$x^{[k+1]} = \text{prox}_{\tau\lambda\|\cdot\|_1}((\text{Id} - \tau H^*H)x^{[k]} + \tau H^*z)$$

→ **Layer network:**

$$x^{[k+1]} = \underbrace{\text{prox}_{\tau\lambda\|\cdot\|_1}}_{\eta^{[k]}} \left( \underbrace{\text{Id} - \tau H^*H}_{W^{[k]}} x^{[k]} + \underbrace{\tau H^*z}_{b^{[k]}} \right)$$

# Standard activation functions

➔ **Preliminary remarks** [Combettes, Pesquet, 2020]

- **Most of activation functions are proximity operator** :  
ReLU, Unimodal sigmoid, Softmax . . .
- For  $W^{[k]}$  bounded linear operators and  $\eta_k$  proximity operators,  $d_\Theta$  model allows to derive tight Lipschitz bounds for feedforward neural networks in order to evaluate **robustness**.

## Iterative scheme

→ **Minimization problem** :  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

→ **Dual reformulation**:  $\hat{w} \in \underset{w \in \mathcal{G}}{\text{Argmin}} \frac{1}{2} \|z - D^\top w\|^2 + \iota_{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}(w)$

- Primal solution:  $\hat{x} = z - D^\top \hat{w}$ .
- Solution obtained with proximal gradient based procedure.
- Accelerated schemes (e.g., FISTA).

→ **Primal-dual algorithms**:

- Resolution with Chambolle-Pock iterations.

---

---

For  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\begin{cases} x^{[k+1]} = \text{prox}_{\frac{\tau}{2} \|\cdot - z\|_2^2} (x^{[k]} - \tau D^\top w^{[k]}) \\ w^{[k+1]} = \text{prox}_{\iota_{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}} (w^{[k]} + \gamma D(2x^{[k+1]} - x^{[k]})) \end{cases}$$

- 
- Acceleration when the data-term is **strongly convex**.

## (F)ISTA in the dual

→ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

→ **(F)ISTA to solve dual reformulation:**

Set  $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , and  $y_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ . For every iteration  $k$ ,

$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\ell_{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}} \left( (\text{Id} - \tau_k D D^\top) y_k + \tau_k D z \right) \\ y_{k+1} &= (1 + \alpha_k) w_{k+1} - \alpha_k w_k \end{cases}$$

→ **Preliminary remarks:**

- FISTA:  $(w_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to  $\hat{w}$  when  $\alpha_k = \frac{t_k - 1}{t_{k+1}}$  and  $t_{k+1} = \frac{k+a-1}{a}$ ,  $a > 2$ ,  $\tau < \frac{1}{\|D\|^2}$  and  $\tilde{F}(w_k) - \tilde{F}(\hat{w}) \leq \frac{\zeta}{k^2}$ .
- ISTA: When  $\alpha_k \equiv 0$ ,  $(w_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to  $\hat{w}$  when  $\tau < \frac{2}{\|D\|^2}$  for this limit case, and  $\tilde{F}(w_k) - \tilde{F}(\hat{w}) \leq \frac{\zeta}{k}$ .
- (F)ISTA:  $\hat{x} = z - D^\top \hat{w}$

## (F)ISTA in the dual

→ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

→ **(F)ISTA to solve dual reformulation:**

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$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\ell_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty} \leq 1}} \left( (\text{Id} - \tau_k DD^T) y_k + \tau_k Dz \right) \\ y_{k+1} &= (1 + \alpha_k) w_{k+1} - \alpha_k w_k \end{cases}$$

**Proposition** : The proximity operator of the conjugate of the  $\ell_1$ -norm scaled by parameter  $\lambda > 0$  fits the HardTanh activation function,:

$$(\forall x = (x_i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}) \quad P_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty} \leq \lambda}(x) = \text{HardTanh}_{\lambda}(x) = (p_i)_{1 \leq i \leq N}$$

where

$$p_i = \begin{cases} -\lambda & \text{if } p_i < -\lambda, \\ \lambda & \text{if } p_i > \lambda, \\ p_i & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## (F)ISTA in the dual

→ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

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Set  $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , and  $y_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ . For every iteration  $k$ ,

$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{HardTanh}_1 \left( (\text{Id} - \tau_k D D^\top) y_k + \tau_k D z \right) \\ y_{k+1} &= (1 + \alpha_k) w_{k+1} - \alpha_k w_k \end{cases}$$

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→ **Unfolded (F)ISTA:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} w^{[k]} \\ w^{[k+1]} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} \\ \text{HardTanh}_1 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\eta^{[k]}} \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} \\ -\alpha_{k-1}(\text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - D_1^{[k]} D_2^{[k]}) & (1 + \alpha_{k-1})(\text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - D_1^{[k]} D_2^{[k]}) \end{bmatrix}}_{W^{[k]}} \begin{bmatrix} w^{[k-1]} \\ w^{[k]} \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ D_1^{[k]} z_l \end{bmatrix}}_{b^{[k]}} \right)$$

# Network Deep-(F)ISTA-GD

→ **Network:** For every layer  $k \in \{2, \dots, K-1\}$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} W^{[1]} = \begin{bmatrix} D_1^{[1]} \\ (\text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - D_1^{[1]} D_2^{[1]}) D_1^{[1]} \end{bmatrix}, \\ b^{[1]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ D_1^{[1]} \mathbf{z}_I \end{bmatrix}, \eta^{[1]} = \begin{Bmatrix} \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} \\ \text{HardTanh}_\lambda \end{Bmatrix}, \\ W^{[k]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} \\ -\alpha_{k-1}(\text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - D_1^{[k]} D_2^{[k]}) & (1 + \alpha_{k-1})(\text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - D_1^{[k]} D_2^{[k]}) \end{bmatrix}, \\ b^{[k]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ D_1^{[k]} \mathbf{z}_I \end{bmatrix}, \eta^{[k]} = \begin{Bmatrix} \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} \\ \text{HardTanh}_\lambda \end{Bmatrix}, \\ W^{[K]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -D_2^{[K]} \end{bmatrix}, b^{[K]} = \mathbf{z}_I, \eta^{[K]} = \text{Id}_N. \end{array} \right.$$

→ **Proposition:** If  $D_1^{[k]} = \tau_k D$  and  $D_2^{[k]} = D^\top$ , then  
Deep-(F)ISTA-GD network fits the generic (F)ISTA scheme.



➔ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

➔ **(Sc)CP to solve the minimization problem:**

Set  $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , and  $x_1 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ . For every iteration  $k$ ,

$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\ell_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty} \leq 1}} \left( w_k + \tau_k D \left( (1 + \alpha_k) x_k - \alpha_k x_{k-1} \right) \right) \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\frac{\sigma_k}{2} \|\cdot - z\|_2^2} \left( x_k - \sigma_k D^\top w_{k+1} \right) \end{cases}$$

➔ **Remarks :**

- ScCP:  $\alpha_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+2\gamma\sigma_k}}$ ,  $\sigma_{k+1} = \alpha_k \sigma_k$ ,  $\tau_{k+1} = \frac{\tau_k}{\alpha_k}$ .
- CP:  $\gamma = 0$ ,  $\sigma_k \equiv \sigma$ ,  $\tau_k \equiv \tau$  and assuming  $\sigma\tau \|D\|^2 < 1$ .
- $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to  $\hat{x}$ .
- Convergence rate  $O(1/k)$  for CP and  $O(1/k^2)$  for ScCP.

➔ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

➔ **(Sc)CP to solve the minimization problem:**

Set  $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , and  $x_1 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ . For every iteration  $k$ ,

$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{HardTanh}_1 \left( w_k + \tau_k D \left( (1 + \alpha_k) x_k - \alpha_k x_{k-1} \right) \right) \\ x_{k+1} &= \frac{\sigma_k}{1 + \sigma_k} z + \frac{1}{1 + \sigma_k} x_k - \frac{\sigma_k}{1 + \sigma_k} D^\top w_{k+1} \end{cases}$$

➔ **Remarks :**

- ScCP:  $\alpha_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2\gamma\sigma_k}}$ ,  $\sigma_{k+1} = \alpha_k \sigma_k$ ,  $\tau_{k+1} = \frac{\tau_k}{\alpha_k}$ .
- CP:  $\gamma = 0$ ,  $\sigma_k \equiv \sigma$ ,  $\tau_k \equiv \tau$  and assuming  $\sigma\tau \|D\|^2 < 1$ .
- $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to  $\hat{x}$ .
- Convergence rate  $O(1/k)$  for CP and  $O(1/k^2)$  for ScCP.

# (Sc)CP

→ **Minimization problem:**  $\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$

→ **(Sc)CP to solve the minimization problem:**

Set  $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ , and  $x_1 = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathbb{F}|}$ . For every iteration  $k$ ,

$$\begin{cases} w_{k+1} &= \text{HardTanh}_1 \left( w_k + \tau_k D \left( (1 + \alpha_k) x_k - \alpha_k x_{k-1} \right) \right) \\ x_{k+1} &= \frac{\sigma_k}{1 + \sigma_k} z + \frac{1}{1 + \sigma_k} x_k - \frac{\sigma_k}{1 + \sigma_k} D^\top w_{k+1} \end{cases}$$

→ **Unfolded (Sc)CP:**

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ w_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{Bmatrix} \text{Id}_N \\ \text{HardTanh}_1 \end{Bmatrix}}_{\eta^{[k]}} \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} & -\frac{\sigma_{k-1}}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} D_2^{[k-1]} \\ \frac{1 + \alpha_k}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} D_1^{[k]} - \alpha_k D_1^{[k]} & \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} - \frac{(1 + \alpha_k) \sigma_{k-1}}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} D_1^{[k]} D_2^{[k-1]} \end{bmatrix}}_{W^{[k]}} \begin{bmatrix} x_{k-1} \\ w_k \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sigma_{k-1}}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} z \\ \frac{(1 + \alpha_k) \sigma_{k-1}}{1 + \sigma_{k-1}} D_1^{[k]} z \end{bmatrix}}_{b^{[k]} \right)$$

# Network Deep-(Sc)CP-GD

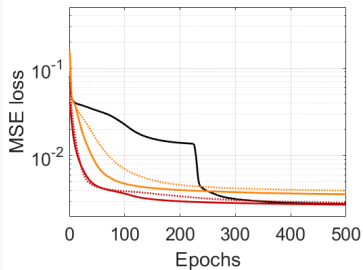
→ **Network:** For every layer  $k \in \{2, \dots, K-1\}$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} W^{[1]} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Id}_N \\ 2D_1^{[1]} \end{bmatrix}, b^{[1]} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \eta^{[1]} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Id}_N \\ \text{HardTanh}_\lambda \end{array} \right\}, \\ W^{[k]} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} & & & -\frac{\sigma_{k-1}}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} \frac{[k-1]}{2} \\ \frac{1+\alpha_k}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} D_1^{[k]} - \alpha_k \frac{[k]}{1} & \text{Id}_{|\mathbb{F}|} & & -\frac{(1+\alpha_k)\sigma_{k-1}}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} \frac{[k][k-1]}{1 \cdot 2} \end{bmatrix}, \\ b^{[k]} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sigma_{k-1}}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} \mathbf{z} \\ \frac{(1+\alpha_k)\sigma_{k-1}}{1+\sigma_{k-1}} \frac{[k]}{1} \mathbf{z} \end{bmatrix}, \eta^{[k]} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Id}_N \\ \text{HardTanh}_\lambda \end{array} \right\}, \\ W^{[K]} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Id}_N & 0 \end{bmatrix}, b^{[K]} = 0, \eta^{[K]} = \text{Id}_N. \end{array} \right.$$

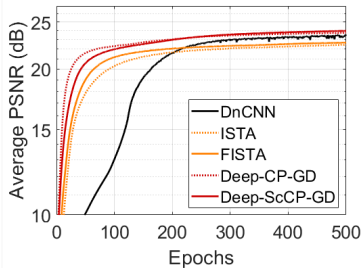
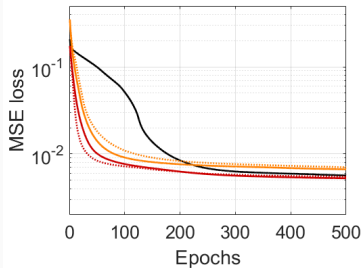
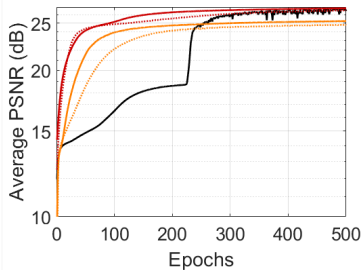
→ **Proposition:** If  $D_1^{[k]} = \tau_k D$  and  $D_2^{[k]} = D^\top$ , then the Deep-(Sc)CP-GD network fits the generic (Sc)CP scheme.

# Performance Gaussian image denoising

## Training loss



## PSNR on test dataset



Original



Noisy



TV



NL-TV



DnCNN



Proposed



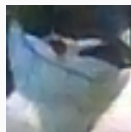
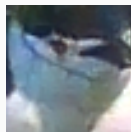
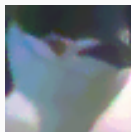
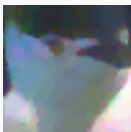
PSNR/SSIM

14.1/0.25

26.0/0.84

26.6/0.85

27.9/0.86

**28.2/0.87**

PSNR/SSIM

14.1/0.13

26.0/0.76

27.7/0.79

28.5/0.79

**28.8/0.81**

Original



Noisy



TV



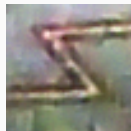
NL-TV



DnCNN



Proposed



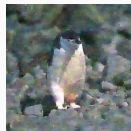
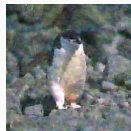
PSNR/SSIM

8.13/0.09

23.6/0.76

24.0/0.76

24.4/0.76

**25.2/0.80**

PSNR/SSIM

8.14/0.043

24.5/0.64

25.1/0.65

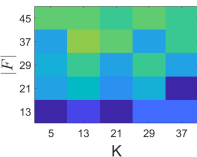
25.4/0.65

**25.9/0.70**

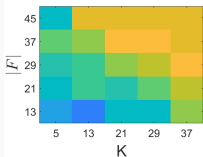
# Architecture comparisons for texture segmentation

- SNR

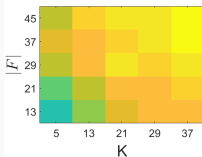
Deep-ISTA-GD



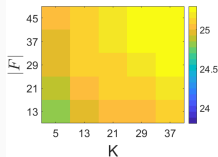
Deep-FISTA-GD



Deep-CP-GD

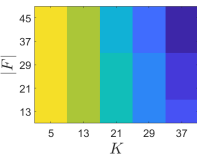


Deep-ScCP-GD

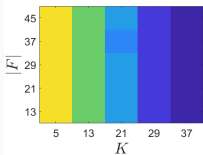


- Robustness:  $\|f_{\Theta}(\mathbf{z} + \epsilon) - f_{\Theta}(\mathbf{z})\| \leq \chi \|\epsilon\|$ .

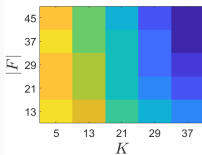
Deep-ISTA-GD



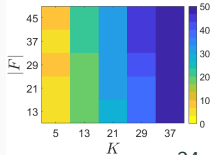
Deep-FISTA-GD



Deep-CP-GD



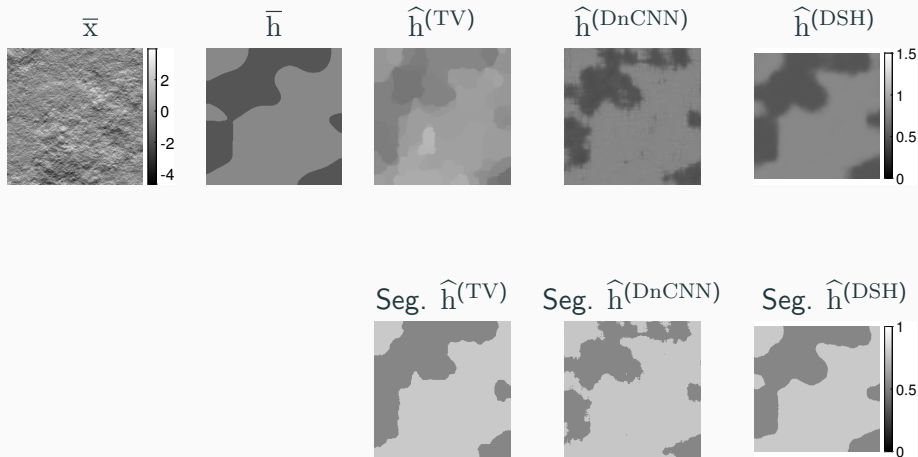
Deep-ScCP-GD



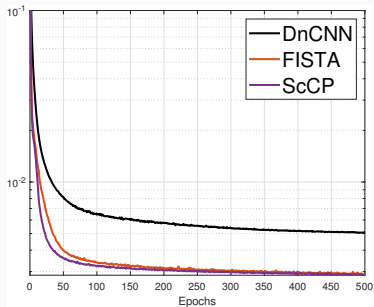


# Performance texture segmentation:

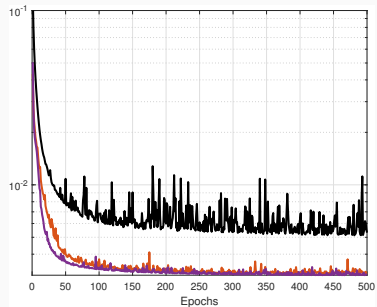
→ **Minimization problem:**  $\min_x \frac{1}{2} \|x - \sum_j w_{j,n} \log_2 \mathcal{L}_{j,n}\|^2 + \|Dx\|_1$



# Performance texture segmentation



(i)



(ii)

## Outline → Conclusions and perspectives

- I- **Model**: Strong convexity in unsupervised image processing.
  
- II- **Algorithmic**: Efficiency regions of strong convexity and Lipschitz parameters to identifying the most efficient first-order algorithm for image analysis.
  
- III- **Deep learning**: On strong convexity in the design of unfolded deep learning architectures.

## Outline → Conclusions and perspectives

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  - Denoising, texture segmentation.
  - **Require particular care for modeling.**
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  - **Extension to other schemes.**
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  - **Extension to other schemes.**
- III- **Deep learning**: On strong convexity in the design of unfolded deep learning architectures.
  - Deep-(F)ISTA and Deep-(Sc)CP in between standard image analysis and deep learning.
  - **Compute tight Lipschitz bounds.**

# References

## Model:

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## Convergence rate:

- L. M. Briceño-Arias and N. Pustelnik, Proximal or gradient steps for cocoercive operators, accepted to Signal Processing, 2022.

## Deep unfolded schemes:

- M. Jiu and N. Pustelnik, A deep primal-dual proximal network for image restoration, IEEE JSTSP Special Issue on Deep Learning for Image/Video Restoration and Compression, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 190–203, Feb. 2021.
- H.T.V. Le, N. Pustelnik, M. Foare, The faster proximal algorithm, the better unfolded deep learning architecture ? The study case of image denoising, EUSIPCO, Belgrade, Serbia, 2022.

# **Strong convexity in signal/image analysis**

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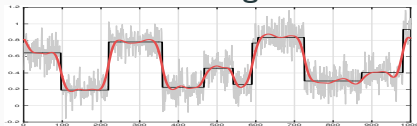


# Piecewise constant denoising: $z = \bar{x} + n$ with $n = \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \text{Id})$

→ Minimization problem:

$$\hat{x}(z; \hat{\lambda}) = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|_2^2 + \lambda \|Dx\|_{\bullet} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} Dx = d * x \\ \lambda > 0 \end{cases}$$

→ Linear denoising



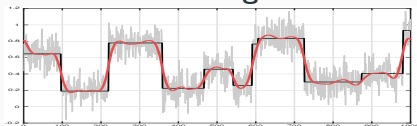
$$d = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}; \quad \|\cdot\|_{\bullet} = \|\cdot\|_2^2$$

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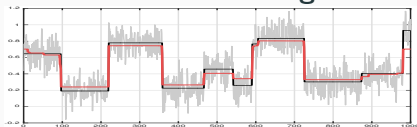
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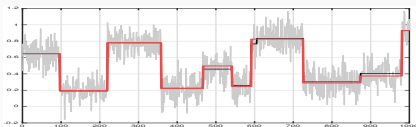


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→ Non-linear denoising.



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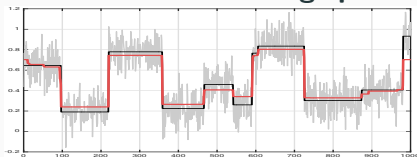
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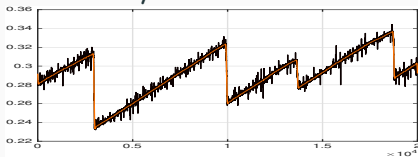
## → Minimization problem

$$\hat{x}(z; \hat{\lambda}) = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|_2^2 + \lambda \|Dx\|_{\bullet} \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} Dx = d * x \\ \lambda > 0 \end{cases}$$

## → Non-linear denoising: piecewise constant/linear



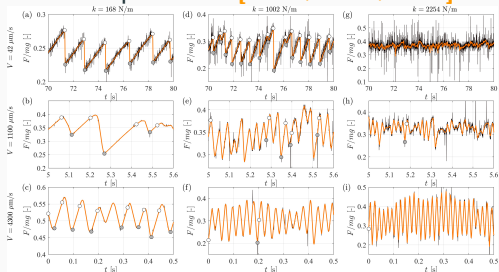
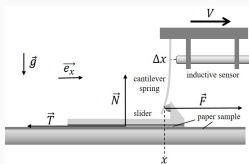
$$d = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\cdot\|_{\bullet} = \|\cdot\|_1$$



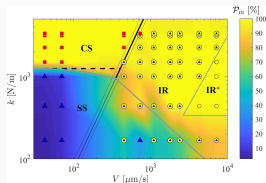
$$d = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\cdot\|_{\bullet} = \|\cdot\|_1$$

# Piecewise linear denoising: Stick-Slip

➔ Solid friction, LPENSL experiment [Colas, et al., 2019]

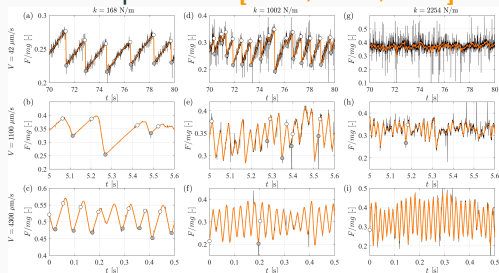
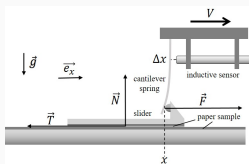


➔ Phase diagram:

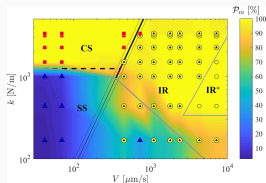


# Piecewise linear denoising: Stick-Slip

## → Solid friction, LPENSL experiment [Colas, et al., 2019]



## → Phase diagram:



### Limitations:

- Large dimensionality of each signal.
- Evaluation for different  $\lambda$  values.
- Large amount of signal to analyze.

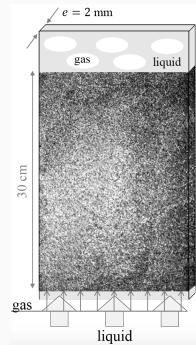
### Advantages:

- Strongly convex formulation.

# Texture segmentation: Multiphase flow

## → Gas/liquid flow in porous medium: LPENSL experiment

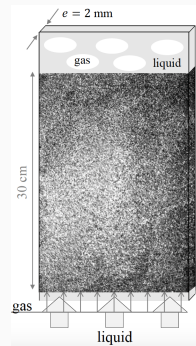
- Segment gas/liquid + accurate estimation of the interface.
- Large-scale data.



# Texture segmentation: Multiphase flow

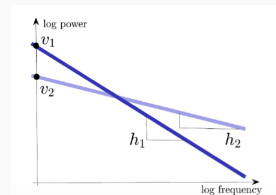
## → Gas/liquid flow in porous medium: LPENSL experiment

- Segment gas/liquid + accurate estimation of the interface.
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## → Texture segmentation:

- Scale-free descriptors.
- Require to compute the slope at each location.

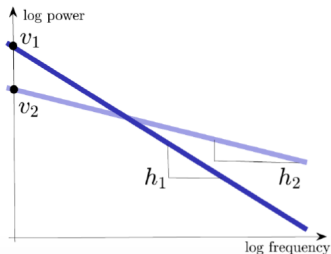


# Texture segmentation: Multiphase flow

→ PLOVER: [Pascal, Pustelnik, Abry, ACHA, 2021]

$$(\hat{v}, \hat{h}) \in \underset{v, h}{\text{Argmin}} \sum_j \|\log_2 \mathcal{L}_j - v - jh\|_2^2 + \lambda \|[Dv; \alpha Dh]\|^T\|_{2,1}$$

- Behavior through the scales  $\mathcal{L}_{j,n} \simeq s_n 2^{jh_n}$  when  $2^j \rightarrow 0$
- Wavelet coefficients/leaders  $\zeta_j = D_j z$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{j,n} = \sup_{\lambda_{j',n'} \subset \Lambda_{j,n}} |\zeta_{j',n'}|$



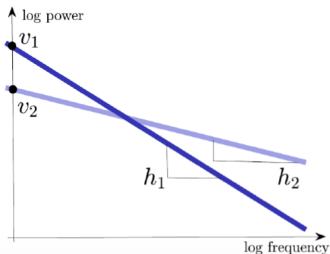


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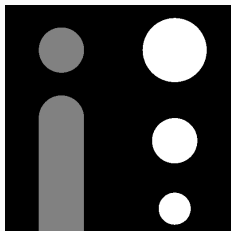
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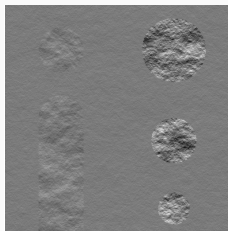
## Advantages:

- Combined estimation and segmentation.
- Joint estimation local variance/regularity.
- Strongly convex, closed form proximity operator for data-fidelity term, dual formulation possible.

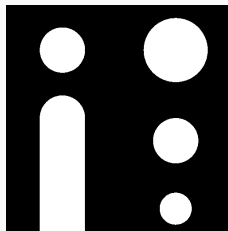
# Texture segmentation: Multiphase flow



Mask



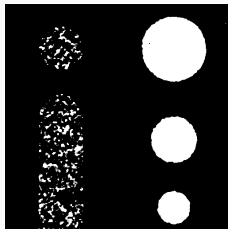
Synthetic texture



Optimal solution



T-ROF  
[Cai2013]

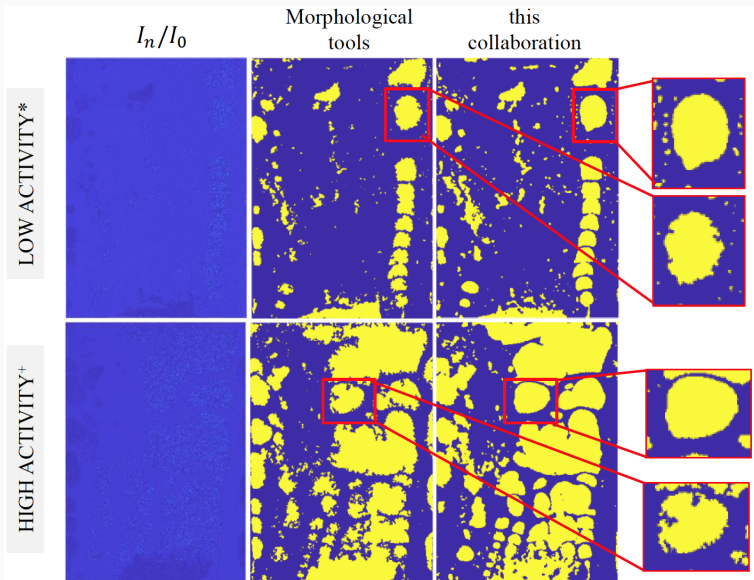


Matrix factorization  
[Yuan2015]



Proposed  
[Pascal2019]

# Results on multiphase flow data



\*  $(Q_G, Q_L) = (300, 300)$  mL/min

+  $(Q_G, Q_L) = (1200, 300)$  mL/min