Deep learning for medical image reconstruction Models, priors and data

Ruud van Sloun



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)



Computed Tomography (low-dose, sparse-view)



Ultrasound (high-quality, reduced data-rates)







- Echoes result from scattering in the tissue (Coherent & incoherent - speckle)
- The image is formed by estimating (reflected) signal amplitude from a set of spatial locations (i.e. pixels) using an array of sensors = **Beamforming**



Ultrasound imaging basics



Image from "Speckle reduction imaging" by Milkowski et al.



Ultrasound imaging basics

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Image quality is a function of:

1. Physics: array geometry and probe bandwidth

Angular plot: 4 sensors; Aperture L = 2λ Angular plot: 8 sensors; Aperture L = 4λ Angular plot: 16 sensors; Aperture L = 8λAngular plot: 32 sensors; Aperture L = 16λ

Increased array aperture – increased angular resolution



Better spatial selectivity, Better tissue contrast and resolution

2. Algorithms: powerful digital signal processing and beamforming on RF channel data





Ultrasound imaging AI opportunities

Focused transmit



Parallel ultrafast transmit



Parallel ultrafast acquisition

- High time-resolution
- Compromising spatial resolution and contrast
- Relies more heavily on receive spatial filtering/beamforming

High image quality under minimal data rates

- Improve tissue contrast (*accurate* contrast)
- Resolution depends on array aperture -> high-res with small/sparse aperture?
- Compressed sensing to reduce data rates at the probe

Fu Fu Fu Sr Sp

Full aperture

Small aperture (compact)

Sparse aperture (less data)



Image basics: MRI



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)



Image basics: MRI



p(y|x)?





Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)





Fast MRI

- Compressed sensing/fewer acquisitions
- Acceleration
- Aliasing artefacts

Low-field MRI

- Lower field strengths: compact MRI machines
- Low SNR k-space -> less clear high-frequencies -> low resolution









Computed Tomography (low-dose, sparse-view)

Low-dose CT

- Safer less ionizing radiation
- Low SNR -> limited fidelity

Sparse CT

- reduced scan time and improved time resolution
- Lower dose
- Undersampling artefacts









Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)



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What gaps can we fill by learning? Challenges in classical image recon based on models







Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise

Statistical image priors not sufficiently expressive/accurate Slow image reconstruction with high complexity (e.g. iterative, matrix inversions etc)





Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise (multiple scattering, aberration etc.) $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$: Likelihood of measurements \mathbf{y} given object \mathbf{x}

Across our imaging pipeline and set of applications, y can be:

(1) RF channel data (array response)

(2) Beamformed RF data

(3) Image data (beamformed + envelope detected)







Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise (multiple scattering, aberration etc.)



Array response (narrowband) single target:



= delay-and-sum (DAS) for wideband





Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise (multiple scattering, aberration etc.)



Array response (narrowband) single target:

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{a}(\theta) x(t) + \mathbf{n}(t)$$

$$\mathbf{Array response vector:}$$
(assumed constant SoS,
no aberration)
$$\mathbf{Array response vector:}$$

$$\mathbf{Array res$$

Model-based alternatives to DAS:

- MVDR (minimize total (noise) power but retain unity gain)
- **iMAP** (assume $x(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_x^2)$; iteratively estimate σ_x, σ_n per pixel)
- **ADMIRE** (aperture domain model of signal and

noise/interference/clutter; separate using optimization methods) Jensen *et al.* Eldar *et al.* Byram *et al.*





Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise (multiple scattering, aberration etc.)



Statistical image priors not sufficiently expressive/accurate

 $\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{a}(\theta)x(t) + \mathbf{n}(t)$

- DAS (matched filter)
- MVDR (minimize total (noise) power but retain unity gain)
- **iMAP** (assume $x(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_x^2)$; iteratively estimate σ_x , σ_n per pixel)
- ADMIRE (aperture domain model of signal and noise/interference/clutter; separate using optimization methods)

<u>General problem</u>: model p(y|x) too simple / incomplete / or hard to solve due to suboptimal prior $p(\mathbf{x})$





DAS (matched filter)



- **iMAP** (assume $x(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_x^2)$; iteratively estimate σ_x , σ_n per pixel)
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<u>General problem</u>: model p(y|x) too simple / incomplete / or hard to solve due to suboptimal prior $p(\mathbf{x})$



Acquisition model assumptions incorrect/imprecise (multiple scattering, aberration etc.)



Statistical image priors not sufficiently expressive/accurate

Models and Priors: MRI



Statistical image priors not sufficiently expressive/accurate $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$: Likelihood of measurements \mathbf{y} given object \mathbf{x} K-space measurement:

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{AFx} + \mathbf{n}$

A: Subsampling matrix F: 2D Fourier transform

For low-field: For fast-MRI: n is dominating higher frequencies
 A is sampling below Nyquist (compressed sensing)

Classical reconstruction: $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{F}^{-1}\mathbf{z}$ ($\mathbf{z} = \text{zero-filled}$ Inverse (MAP) problem: k-space \mathbf{y}) $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})p(\mathbf{x})$ $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{AFx}||_{2}^{2} - \log p(\mathbf{x})$ <u>General problem</u>: prior $p(\mathbf{x})$ not sufficiently expressive



What if we could improve our models using deep learning without ending up just trowing away what we do know about the problem?



Model-based deep learning



How to bring together to get the best of both?

Van Sloun *et al. Proceedings of the IEEE*, 2020 Luijten, ..., Van Sloun. *IEEE trans. med. im.*, 2020 Solomon, ... van Sloun, Eldar. *IEEE trans. med. im.*, 2019

General recipe: <u>construct a model-based optimization algorithm</u> based on a-priori knowledge of the measurement process and statistical priors

Define measurement model with image of interest \boldsymbol{x} :

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$

Formulate MAP optimization problem:

 $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x}} \ p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) \ p(\mathbf{x})$ $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \ -\log\left(\ p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) \ p(\mathbf{x}) \right)$

Likelihood model under Normal distribution:

 $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) = c e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}) - \log p(\mathbf{x})$$

(assume uncorrelated noise)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||_{2}^{2} - \log p(\mathbf{x})$$



Iterative model-based algorithm with input y and output x

Many iterative solvers (for particular choices of $p(\mathbf{x})$) ISTA, ADMM, etc.

General recipe: <u>construct a model-based optimization algorithm</u> based on a-priori knowledge of the measurement process and statistical priors

Define measurement model with image of interest \boldsymbol{x} :

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||_{2}^{2} - \log p(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||_{2}^{2} + g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \quad (\text{regularizer } g_{\theta} \text{ parameterized by } \theta)$$

Iterative proximal gradient solvers:

Prior Proximity function

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}^{k} - \mu \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \left| |\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}| \right|_{2}^{2} \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^{k}} = f_{1}(\mathbf{x}^{k})$$
$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \left| |\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}| \right|_{2}^{2} + g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{Prox}(\mathbf{z})$$

2-step factorized optimization



Iterative model-based algorithm with input y and output x

General recipe: <u>construct a model-based optimization algorithm</u> based on a-priori knowledge of the measurement process and statistical priors

Define measurement model with image of interest \boldsymbol{x} :



optimization algorithm

Example: sparse coding

Many applications: denoising, compressed sensing, image reconstruction, super-resolution, ...



Sparse coding problem

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$ with \mathbf{x} being sparse $(\mathbf{x} \sim \text{Laplace})$ MAP problem for \mathbf{x} : $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$ $-\log p(\mathbf{x}) \sim \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$

Example: sparse coding

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Sparse coding problem

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Iterative shrinkage and thresholding (ISTA)

1. Take a gradient step towards $\min_{\mathbf{x}} ||\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}||_2^2 \implies |\mathbf{x} - \mu \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} ||\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}||_2^2$

2. Move intermediate solution towards prior

Solve:
$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{(i)}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_{1}$$

$$= \text{soft thresholding function}$$

Example: sparse coding

Many applications: denoising, compressed sensing, image reconstruction, super-resolution, ...



Sparse coding problem

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$ with \mathbf{x} being sparse MAP problem for \mathbf{x} : $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \min_{\mathbf{x}} ||\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}||_2^2 + \lambda ||\mathbf{x}||_1$

 $(\mathbf{x} \sim \text{Laplace})$ \mathbf{I} $-\log p(\mathbf{x}) \sim ||\mathbf{x}||_1$

Iterative shrinkage and thresholding (ISTA)



Proximity operator Soft thresholding $\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{(i)}\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_{1}$ $= S_{\lambda}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{(i)})$

```
Gradient update step w.r.t.
Likelihood term
\mathbf{x} - \mu \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} ||\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}||_2^2
```

Model-based DL: Deep unfolding

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, <u>unfold it as a fixed-</u> <u>complexity graph, learn parameters.</u>





Iterative model-based algorithm with input y and output x

Iterative algorithm

unfolded model-based algorithm with input y and output x

Learned iterative algorithm

Deep unfolding for sparse coding (LISTA)

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, <u>unfold it as a fixed-</u> <u>complexity graph, learn parameters</u>.

Learned(L)ISTA



Gregor & LeCun ICML 2010

Optimization with "plug and play priors"

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, what if we don't know the prior, or it is complex to describe/model?

Define measurement model with image of interest x :

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||_{2}^{2} - \log p(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||_{2}^{2} + f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \quad (\text{regularizer } f_{\theta} \text{ parameterized by } \theta)$$

Iterative proximal gradient methods:

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}^{k} - \mu \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \left| |\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}| \right|_{2}^{2} \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^{k}} = f_{1}(\mathbf{x}^{k})$$
$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \left| |\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}| \right|_{2}^{2} + f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{Prox}(\mathbf{z})$$

2-step factorized optimization

Meinhardt et al. ICCV 2017

Z

A --- 1 ---

Proximity function Prior

 \mathbf{x}_{k-1} **Typical structure**

 \mathbf{Z}_k '

Prox

optimization algorithm

Question: what is a good general choice for Prox(z) in structured signals if you don't know $p(\mathbf{x})$?

A high-performant denoiser

Optimization with "plug and play priors"

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, "plug in" a highperformant denoiser (e.g. trained deep neural network) as the Prox

Define measurement model with image of interest x :



Meinhardt et al. ICCV 2017

Deep unfolding & end-to-end training

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, <u>unfold it as a fixed-</u> <u>complexity graph, learn proximal parameters.</u>

Define measurement model with image of interest x :



Mardani et al. NeurIPS, 2018

Deep unfolding & end-to-end training

General recipe: take a model-based optimization algorithm, <u>unfold it as a fixed-</u> <u>complexity graph, learn all parameters.</u>

Define measurement model with image of interest x :



Combining models, priors and deep learning for image reconstruction: use-cases



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)



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Ultrasound (high-quality, reduced data-rates)



Combining models, priors and deep learning for image reconstruction: use-cases



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Opportunities for ultrasound



Deep Learning in Ultrasound Imaging

INVITED P A P E R

Deep learning is taking an ever more prominent role in medical imaging. This article discusses applications of this powerful approach in ultrasound imaging systems along with domain-specific opportunities and challenges.

By RUUD J. G. VAN SLOUN⁽⁰⁾, Member IEEE, REGEV COHEN, Graduate Student Member IEEE, AND YONINA C. ELDAR⁽⁰⁾, Fellow IEEE

ABSTRACT I In this article, we consider deep learning strategies in ultrasound systems, from the front end to advanced applications. Our goal is to provide the reader with a broad understanding of the possible impact of deep learning methodlogies on many aspects of ultrasound imaging. In particular, we discuss methods that lie at the interface of signal acquisition and machine learning, exploiting both data structure (e.g., but the structure (e.g., but the structure (e.g., but the structure (e.g., but the structure (e.g., but the structure (e.g., bu

Van Sloun, Cohen, Eldar, Proceedings of the IEEE, 2019

Al opportunities across the entire imaging chain



Adaptive beamforming by MVDR

Geometry-based time-space migraton + model-based adaptive apodization



Luijten et al., IEEE ICASSP, 2019 Luijten et al., IEEE trans. Med. Imag., 2020

Adaptive beamforming by deep learning (ABLE)

Hybrid inference: Model-based computational graph with integrated NN



Adaptive beamforming by deep learning (ABLE)



Note: without post-processing and s-curve 60 dB, log-scale



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Adaptive beamforming by deep learning (ABLE)



Less clutter Higher resolution

High processing rates, and robustness

Note: without post-processing and s-curve 60 dB, log-scale





Chennakeshava et al., IEEE IUS, 2020

High-resolution plane-wave compounding



Deep unfolding with end-to-end training

Chennakeshava et al., IEEE IUS, 2020

High-resolution plane-wave compounding



Chennakeshava et al., IEEE IUS, 2020

High-resolution plane-wave compounding



Solomon *et al. IEEE trans. Med. Imag.,* 2019 van Sloun *et al. Proceedings of the IEEE,* 2020

Spatiotemporal source-extraction/dehazing



Solomon *et al. IEEE trans. Med. Imag.,* 2019 van Sloun *et al. Proceedings of the IEEE,* 2020

Spatiotemporal source-extraction/dehazing



Optimization problem:

Prox-grad solution: (iterative)

$$\begin{split} \min_{\mathbf{L},\mathbf{S}} \ \overline{2} ||\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{S}||_{F}^{-} + \lambda_{1}||\mathbf{L}||_{*} + \lambda_{2}||\mathbf{S}||_{1} \\ \mathbf{L}^{k+1} &= \mathcal{SVT}_{\lambda_{1}/2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{L}^{k} - \mathbf{S}^{k} + \mathbf{D}\right) \\ \mathbf{S}^{k+1} &= \mathcal{T}_{\lambda_{2}/2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{S}^{k} - \mathbf{L}^{k} + \mathbf{D}\right) \end{split}$$

 $\mathbf{2}$

Solomon *et al. IEEE trans. Med. Imag.,* 2019 van Sloun *et al. Proceedings of the IEEE,* 2020

Spatiotemporal source-extraction/dehazing



Optimization problem: $\min_{\mathbf{L},\mathbf{S}} \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{S}||_F^2 + \lambda_1 ||\mathbf{L}||_* + \lambda_2 ||\mathbf{S}||_{1,2}$

Prox-grad solution: (iterative)

$$egin{aligned} \mathbf{L}^{k+1} &= \mathcal{SVT}_{\lambda_1/2} \left(rac{1}{2} \mathbf{L}^k - \mathbf{S}^k + \mathbf{D}
ight) \ \mathbf{S}^{k+1} &= \mathcal{T}_{\lambda_2/2} \left(rac{1}{2} \mathbf{S}^k - \mathbf{L}^k + \mathbf{D}
ight) \end{aligned}$$



Standard contrast-ultrasound





Super-resolution contrast ultrsound by LISTA



Combining models, priors and deep learning for image reconstruction: use-cases



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (faster, low-field etc.)







Huijben *et al.*, ICASSP 2020 Huijben *et al.*, ICLR 2020

MRI: learning sampling density mask

Full k-space



Learned mask



Full sampling





PSNR: 35.8

Learned sampling





Van Gorp *et al.,* in review

MRI: learning active acquisition Factor 8 undersampling

Active line sampling (cumulative)

K-space





Reconstruction



Target (full acquisition)



| Method | NMSE | PSNR [dB] | SSIM |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Zhang et al., 2019 (active) | 0.0398 | 28.8 | 0.610 |
| Pineda et al., 2020 (active) | 0.0371 | 29.2 | 0.623 |
| Fixed learned sampling (ours) | 0.0360 | 30.1 | 0.650 |
| Active acquisition (ours) | 0.0342 | 30.2 | 0.654 |



Thanks!