## Sparse Modeling in Image Processing and Deep Learning

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### This Lecture



Another underlying idea that will accompany us

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Generative modeling of data sources enables
A systematic algorithm development, &
A theoretical analysis of their performance



# Multi-Layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling





### Model?



Effective removal of noise (and many other tasks) relies on an proper modeling of the signal



### Which Model to Choose?

- A model: a mathematical description of the underlying signal of interest, describing our beliefs regarding its structure
- The following is a partial list of commonly used models for images
- Good models should be simple while matching the signals



• Models are almost always imperfect





### An Example: JPEG and DCT



#### How & why does it works?







The model assumption: after DCT, the top left coefficients to be dominant and the rest zeros



### Research in Signal/Image Processing





### What This Talk is all About?

### Data Models and Their Use

- Almost any task in data processing requires a model true for denoising, deblurring, super-resolution, inpainting, compression, anomaly-detection, sampling, recognition, separation, and more
- Sparse and Redundant Representations offer a new and highly effective model – we call it

### Sparseland

 We shall describe this and descendant versions of it that lead all the way to ... deep-learning



# Multi-Layered Convolutional

Sparse Modeling



### A New Emerging Model



## The Sparseland Model

- Task: model image patches of size 8×8 pixels
- We assume that a dictionary of such image patches is given, containing 256 atom images
- The Sparseland model assumption:
   every image patch can be described as a linear
   combination of few atoms





## The Sparseland Model

### Properties of this model: Sparsity and Redundancy

- We start with a 8-by-8 pixels patch and represent it using 256 numbers

   This is a redundant representation
- However, out of those 256 elements in the representation, only 3 are non-zeros
   This is a sparse representation
- Bottom line in this case: 64 numbers representing the patch are replaced by 6 (3 for the indices of the non-zeros, and 3 for their entries)





### **Chemistry of Data**

We could refer to the *Sparseland* model as the chemistry of information:

- Our dictionary stands for the Periodic Table containing all the elements
- Our model follows a similar rationale:
   Every molecule is built of few elements







### Sparseland: A Formal Description





### Difficulties with Sparseland

- Problem 1: Given a signal, how can we find its atom decomposition?
- A simple example:
  - There are 2000 atoms in the dictionary
  - The signal is known to be built of 15 atoms

 $\begin{pmatrix} 2000\\ 15 \end{pmatrix} \approx 2.4e + 37 \text{ possibilities}$ 

- If each of these takes 1nano-sec to test, will take ~7.5e20 years to finish !!!!!!
- So, are we stuck?





### **Atom Decomposition Made Formal**





### Pursuit Algorithms



### Difficulties with Sparseland

- There are various pursuit algorithms
- Here is an example using the Basis Pursuit  $(L_1)$ :



 Surprising fact: Many of these algorithms are often accompanied by theoretical guarantees for their success, if the unknown is sparse enough





### The Mutual Coherence

o Compute



- $\circ~$  The Mutual Coherence  $\mu(D)$  is the largest off-diagonal entry in absolute value
- We will pose all the theoretical results in this talk using this property, due to its simplicity
- You may have heard of other ways to characterize the dictionary (Restricted Isometry Property - RIP, Exact Recovery Condition - ERC, Babel function, Spark, ...)



### **Basis-Pursuit Success**

Theorem: Given a noisy signal  $y = \mathbf{D}\alpha + v$  where  $\|v\|_2 \le \varepsilon$ and  $\alpha$  is sufficiently sparse,  $\|\alpha\|_0 < \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$ then Basis-Pursuit:  $\min_{\alpha} \|\alpha\|_1$  s.t.  $\|\mathbf{D}\alpha - y\|_2 \le \varepsilon$ 

leads to a stable result:  $\|\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha\|_2^2 \le \frac{4\varepsilon^2}{1 - \mu(4\|\alpha\|_0 - 1)}$ 

#### Donoho, Elad & Temlyakov ('06)



#### Comments:

- o If  $\varepsilon=0 \rightarrow \widehat{\alpha} = \alpha$
- This is a worst-case analysis – better bounds exist
- Similar theorems exist for many other pursuit algorithms



## Difficulties with Sparseland

- Problem 2: Given a family of signals, how do we find the dictionary to represent it well?
- Solution: Learn! Gather a large set of signals (many thousands), and find the dictionary that sparsifies them
- Such algorithms were developed in the past 10 years (e.g., K-SVD), and their performance is surprisingly good
- We will not discuss this matter further in this talk due to lack of time





### Difficulties with Sparseland

- Problem 3: Why is this model suitable to describe various sources? e.g., Is it good for images? Audio? Stocks? ...
- General answer: Yes, this model is extremely effective in representing various sources
  - Theoretical answer: Clear connection to other models
  - Empirical answer: In a large variety of signal and image processing (and later machine learning), this model has been shown to lead to state-of-the-art results





## Difficulties with Sparseland?





# This Field has been rapidly $\mathsf{GROWING}$ ...

- *Sparseland* has a great success in signal & image processing and machine learning tasks
- In the past 8-9 years, many books were published on this and closely related fields







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## Sparseland for Image Processing

When handling images, Sparseland is typically deployed on small overlapping patches due to the desire to train the model to fit the data better



- The model assumption is: each patch in the image is believed to have a sparse representation w.r.t. a common local dictionary
- What is the corresponding global model? This brings us to ... the Convolutional Sparse Coding (CSC)



# Multi-Layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling

#### Joint work with







Yaniv Romano

Vardan Papyan

Jeremias Sulam



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## Convolutional Sparse Coding (CSC)



i-th feature-map:
An image of the
same size as X
holding the sparse
representation
related to the i-filter





o Here is an alternative global sparsity-based model formulation

$$\mathbf{X} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathbf{C}^{i} \mathbf{\Gamma}^{i} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}^{1} \cdots \mathbf{C}^{m} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Gamma}^{1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}^{m} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{\Gamma}$$

 $\circ \mathbf{C}^{i} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is a banded and Circulant matrix containing a single atom with all of its shifts

$$\mathbf{C}^{i} =$$

 $\circ \mathbf{\Gamma}^{i} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$  are the corresponding coefficients ordered as column vectors





### The CSC Dictionary





### Why CSC?





### Classical Sparse Theory for CSC ?

$$\min_{\mathbf{\Gamma}} \|\mathbf{\Gamma}\|_0 \quad \text{s. t. } \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{\Gamma}\|_2 \le \varepsilon$$

Theorem: BP is guaranteed to "succeed" .... if  $\|\Gamma\|_0 < \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)$ 

 $\odot$  Assuming that m=2 and n=64 we have that [Welch, '74]

 $\mu \ge 0.063$ 







### Moving to Local Sparsity: Stripes

$$\ell_{0,\infty} \text{ Norm: } \|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty}^{s} = \max_{i} \|\gamma_{i}\|_{0}$$

$$\min_{\Gamma} \|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \text{ s.t. } \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\Gamma\|_{2} \leq \varepsilon$$

 $\|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty}^{s}$  is low  $\rightarrow$  all  $\gamma_{i}$  are sparse  $\rightarrow$  every patch has a sparse representation over  $\Omega$ 

### The main question we aim to address is this:

Can we generalize the vast theory of *Sparseland* to this new notion of local sparsity? For example, could we provide guarantees for success for pursuit algorithms?



**Y**i+1

### Success of OMP



This is a much better result – it allows few non-zeros locally in each stripe, implying a permitted O(N) non-zeros globally



### Success of the Basis Pursuit

$$\Gamma_{\rm BP} = \min_{\Gamma} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\Gamma\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\Gamma\|_1$$

Theorem: For  $Y = D\Gamma + E$ , if  $\lambda = 4 ||E||_{2,\infty}^p$  , if

$$\|\Gamma\|_{0,\infty}^{s} < \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$$

### then Basis Pursuit performs very-

- 1. The support of  $\Gamma_{\rm BP}$  is contained
- 2.  $\|\Gamma_{\rm BP} \Gamma\|_{\infty} \le 7.5 \|E\|_{2,\infty}^{\rm p}$
- 3. Every entry greater than 7.5
- 4.  $\Gamma_{\rm BP}$  is unique

Recent works tackling the convolutional sparse coding problem via BP [Bristow, Eriksson & Lucey '13] [Wohlberg '14] [Kong & Fowlkes '14] [Bristow & Lucey '14] [Heide, Heidrich & Wetzstein '15] [Šorel & Šroubek '16]


# Global Pursuit via Local Processing

- Could we suggest a solution of the global Basis Pursuit using only local (e.g. patch-based) operations ?
- The answer is positive !!
- We define image slices:  $s_i \equiv \mathbf{D}_L \alpha_i$   $\mathbf{D}_L \alpha_i$   $\mathbf{D}_L$



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 $\alpha_i$ 

 $\Gamma_{\text{BP}} = \min_{\Gamma} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}\Gamma\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda \|\Gamma\|_{1}$ 

SKIP ?

### Global Pursuit via Local Processing





# Two Comments About this Scheme

#### We work with Slices and not Patches

Patches extracted from natural images, and their corresponding slices. Observe how the slices are far simpler, and contained by their corresponding patches



The Proposed Scheme can be used for Dictionary ( $D_L$ ) Learning

Slice-based DL algorithm using standard patch-based tools, leading to a faster and simpler method, compared to existing methods





# Multi-Layered Convolutional Sparse Modeling



# CSC and CNN

• There is a rough analogy between CSC and CNN:

- Convolutional structure
- Data driven models
- ReLU is a sparsifying operator

We shall now propose a principled way to analyze CNN

○ But first, a brief review of CNN...





### CNN



[LeCun, Bottou, Bengio and Haffner '98] [Krizhevsky, Sutskever & Hinton '12] [Simonyan & Zisserman '14] [He, Zhang, Ren & Sun '15]





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### CNN



[LeCun, Bottou, Bengio and Haffner '98] [Krizhevsky, Sutskever & Hinton '12] [Simonyan & Zisserman '14] [He, Zhang, Ren & Sun '15]



Michael Elad The Computer-Science Department The Technion ReLU(z) = max(Thr, z)

#### Mathematically...

$$f(\mathbf{Y}) = \operatorname{ReLU}\left(\mathbf{b}_{2} + \mathbf{W}_{2}^{\mathrm{T}}\operatorname{ReLU}\left(\mathbf{b}_{1} + \mathbf{W}_{1}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{Y}\right)\right)$$

 $\mathbf{Z}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{Nm_2} \quad \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{Nm_2} \quad \mathbf{W}_2^{\mathrm{T}} \in \mathbb{R}^{Nm_2 \times Nm_1}$ 





### From CSC to Multi-Layered CSC





### Intuition: From Atoms to Molecules



- A key property in this model: sparsity of the intermediate representations
- The effective atoms: atoms



# A Small Taste: Model Training (MNIST)





#### ML-CSC: Pursuit

• **Deep–Coding Problem** (**DCP** $_{\lambda}$ ) (dictionaries are known):

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}_{1}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{1} \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{1} = \mathbf{D}_{2}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{2} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{K-1} = \mathbf{D}_{K}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{K} \end{cases}$$

• Or, more realistically for noisy signals,

Find 
$$\{\mathbf{\Gamma}_{j}\}_{j=1}^{K}$$
 s.t. 
$$\begin{cases} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}_{1}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{2} \leq \mathcal{E} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{1} \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{1} = \mathbf{D}_{2}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{2} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{K-1} = \mathbf{D}_{K}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{K} \end{cases}$$



#### A Small Taste: Pursuit





# ML-CSC: The Simplest Pursuit

Keep it simple! The simplest pursuit algorithm (single-layer case) is the THR algorithm, which operates on a given input signal Y by:





# Consider this for Solving the DCP

 $\circ$  Layered thresholding (LT): Estimate  $\Gamma_1$  via the THR algorithm

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}}_{2} = \mathcal{P}_{\beta_{2}} \left( \boldsymbol{D}_{2}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathcal{P}_{\beta_{1}} \left( \boldsymbol{D}_{1}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{Y} \right) \right)$$

Estimate  $\Gamma_2$  via the THR algorithm

 $\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{P}_{\lambda}^{\mathcal{E}} \end{pmatrix}: \text{ Find } \left\{ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j} \right\}_{j=1}^{K} s.t. \\ \begin{cases} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}_{1}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{2} \leq \mathcal{E} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{1} \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{1} = \mathbf{D}_{2}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{2} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{K-1} = \mathbf{D}_{K}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{K} \end{cases}$ 

• Now let's take a look at how Conv. Neural Network operates:  $f(\mathbf{Y}) = \text{ReLU}\left(\mathbf{b}_{2} + \mathbf{W}_{2}^{T} \text{ReLU}\left(\mathbf{b}_{1} + \mathbf{W}_{1}^{T}\mathbf{Y}\right)\right)$ 

> The layered (soft nonnegative) thresholding and the CNN forward pass algorithm are the very same thing !!!



#### Theoretical Path



Armed with this view of a generative source model, we may ask new and daring questions



#### Theoretical Path: Possible Questions

 Having established the importance of the ML-CSC model and its associated pursuit, the DCP problem, we now turn to its analysis

• The main questions we aim to address:

- I. Stability of the solution obtained via the hard layered THR algorithm (forward pass) ?
- II. Limitations of this (very simple) algorithm and alternative pursuit?

#### ... and here are questions we will not touch today:

III. Algorithms for training the dictionaries  $\{\mathbf{D}_i\}_{i=1}^K$  vs. CNN ? IV. New insights on how to operate on signals via CNN ?



### Success of the Layered-THR

Theorem: If  $\|\Gamma_{i}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} < \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(D_{i})} \cdot \frac{|\Gamma_{i}^{min}|}{|\Gamma_{i}^{max}|} \right) - \frac{1}{\mu(D_{i})} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_{L}^{i-1}}{|\Gamma_{i}^{max}|}$ then the Layered Hard THR (with the proper thresholds) finds the correct supports and  $\|\Gamma_{i}^{LT} - \Gamma_{i}\|_{2,\infty}^{p} \le \varepsilon_{L}^{i}$ , where we have defined  $\varepsilon_{L}^{0} = \|E\|_{2,\infty}^{p}$  and  $\varepsilon_{L}^{i} = \sqrt{\|\Gamma_{i}\|_{0,\infty}^{p}} \cdot (\varepsilon_{L}^{i-1} + \mu(D_{i})(\|\Gamma_{i}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} - 1)|\Gamma_{i}^{max}|)$ 

Papyan, Romano & Elad ('17)

The stability of the forward pass is guaranteed if the underlying representations are **locally** sparse and the noise is **locally** bounded Problems:

1. Contrast

- 2. Error growth
- 3. Error even if no noise



# Layered Basis Pursuit (BP)

 $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{1}^{\text{LBP}} = \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{1}} \frac{1}{2} \| \boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{D}_{1} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{1} \|_{2}^{2} + \lambda_{1} \| \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{1} \|_{1}^{2}$ 

 We chose the Thresholding algorithm due to its simplicity, but we do know that there are better pursuit methods – how about using them?

o Lets use the Basis Pursuit instead ...

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{P}_{\lambda}^{\mathcal{E}} \end{pmatrix}: \text{ Find } \left\{ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{j} \right\}_{j=1}^{K} \quad s. t. \\ \begin{cases} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{D}_{1}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{2} \leq \mathcal{E} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{1}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{1} \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{1} = \mathbf{D}_{2}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{2}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{2} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_{K-1} = \mathbf{D}_{K}\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K} & \|\mathbf{\Gamma}_{K}\|_{0,\infty}^{s} \leq \lambda_{K} \end{cases}$$

$$^{\mathrm{BP}} = \min_{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{2}} \frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{1}^{\mathrm{LBP}} - \boldsymbol{D}_{2} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{2} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \lambda_{2} \| \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{2} \|_{1}$$

Deconvolutional networks

[Zeiler, Krishnan, Taylor & Fergus '10]



 $\Gamma_2^L$ 

# Success of the Layered BP

Theorem: Assuming that  $\|\Gamma_i\|_{0,\infty}^s < \frac{1}{3}\left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(D_i)}\right)$ then the Basis Pursuit performs very well:

- 1. The support of  $\Gamma_i^{LBP}$  is contained in that of  $\Gamma_i$
- 2. The error is bounded:  $\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{i}^{LBP} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{i}\|_{2,\infty}^{p} \leq \varepsilon_{L}^{i}$ , where  $\varepsilon_{L}^{i} = 7.5^{i} \|\boldsymbol{E}\|_{2,\infty}^{p} \prod_{j=1}^{i} \sqrt{\|\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{j}\|_{0,\infty}^{p}}$
- 3. Every entry in  $\Gamma_i$  greater than  $\epsilon_L^i / \sqrt{\|\Gamma_i\|_{0,\infty}^p}$  will be found

Papyan, Romano & Elad ('17)

Problems:

- 1. <del>Contrast</del>
- 2. Error growth
- 3. Error even if no noise



### Layered Iterative Thresholding

Layered BP: 
$$\Gamma_{j}^{\text{LBP}} = \min_{\Gamma_{j}} \frac{1}{2} \left\| \Gamma_{j-1}^{\text{LBP}} - \mathbf{D}_{j} \Gamma_{j} \right\|_{2}^{2} + \xi_{j} \left\| \Gamma_{j} \right\|_{1}$$

Layered Iterative Soft-Thresholding:

t 
$$\Gamma_{j}^{t} = S_{\xi_{j}/c_{j}} \left( \Gamma_{j}^{t-1} + \mathbf{D}_{j}^{T} (\widehat{\Gamma}_{j-1} - \mathbf{D}_{j} \Gamma_{j}^{t-1}) \right)$$

Note that our suggestion implies that groups of layers share the same dictionaries



Michael Elad The Computer-Science Department The Technion Can be seen as a very deep recurrent neural network [Gregor & LeCun '10]

# Time to Conclude



# This Talk



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More on these (including these slides and the relevant papers) can be found in http://www.cs.technion.ac.il/~elad

