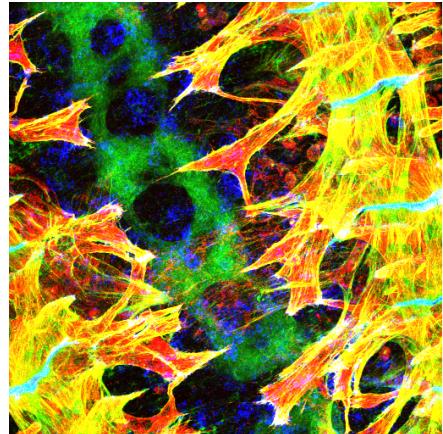


# Image Processing II

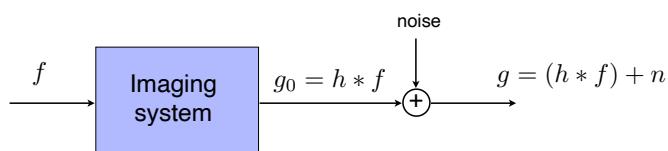
## Chapter 9 Image reconstruction in the continuum

Prof. Michael Unser, LIB



April 2024

## Measurement system



### ■ Assumption of linearity and shift-invariance

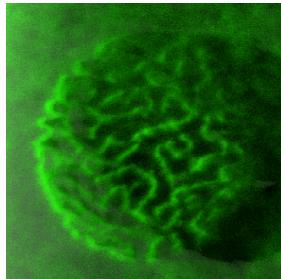
$$g(\mathbf{x}) = (h * f)(\mathbf{x}) + n(\mathbf{x})$$

$$H(\omega) = \mathcal{F}\{h\}(\omega) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} h(\mathbf{x}) e^{-j\langle \omega, \mathbf{x} \rangle} d\mathbf{x}_1 \cdots d\mathbf{x}_d \quad (\text{optical transfer function})$$

### ■ Noise

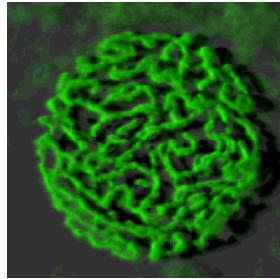
- Sources: counting statistics (shot noise), dark current (thermal noise), charge-to-voltage conversion errors (CCD read-out noise)
- Statistical distribution: white Gaussian, Poisson (fluorescence, confocal microscopy), or speckle (ultrasound, coherent imaging)

## Deconvolution challenge



Original 3D data

Deconvolution



Max. likelihood deconv (30 iterations)  
(Huygens software)

DNA in the nucleus of a sea-urchin cell. The images are of size 512 x 512 x 80

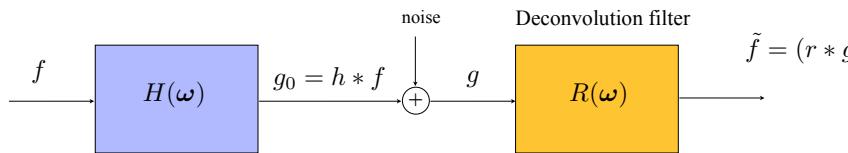
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  - Inverse filter
  - Wiener filter
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  - Radon transform
  - Sinogram
  - Backprojection
  - Inverse Radon transform
  - Filtered backprojection
  - Sampling considerations

## 9.1 DECONVOLUTION BY LSI FILTERING

### ■ Restoration algorithm: linear, space-invariant filter



$$\begin{aligned}
 G_0(\omega) &= H(\omega) \cdot F(\omega) \\
 \tilde{F}(\omega) &= R(\omega) \cdot G(\omega) \\
 &= \underbrace{R(\omega) \cdot G_0(\omega)}_{\text{signal contribution}} + \underbrace{R(\omega) \cdot N(\omega)}_{\text{noise contribution}}
 \end{aligned}$$

### ■ Problems

- How to select the optimal filter
- How to balance signal recovery versus noise amplification

9-5

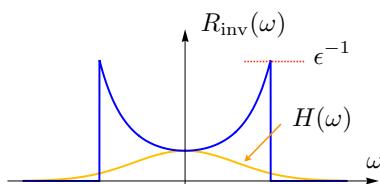
## Restoration by inverse filtering

### ■ Inverse-filtering solution

Assumption: measurement noise is negligible

$$G(\omega) \simeq H(\omega) \cdot F(\omega)$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{\text{inv}}(\omega) = \frac{1}{H(\omega)}$$



### ■ Limitations

- Inverse filter may be unstable

⇒ stabilized version

$$R_{\text{inv}}(\omega) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{H(\omega)}, & |H(\omega)| \geq \epsilon > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Amplification of noise

$$\tilde{F}(\omega) = R_{\text{inv}}(\omega) \cdot (G_0(\omega) + N(\omega)) = \underbrace{F(\omega)}_{\text{signal}} + \underbrace{R_{\text{inv}}(\omega) \cdot N(\omega)}_{\text{amplified noise}}$$

9-6

## Inverse filtering (Cont'd)

- Blur (noise-free)



- Original image



- Blur + additive noise



Inverse filtering (stabilized version)

9-7

## Wiener filter

- Basic hypothesis:  $g = (h * f) + n$

Signal  $f$  = realization of a wide-sense stationary process with known 2<sup>nd</sup>-order statistics

Spatial autocorrelation function:  $E\{f(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{y})\} = c_f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$

- A priori knowledge

$H(\omega)$ : optical transfer function

$\Phi_f(\omega) = \mathcal{F}\{c_f(\mathbf{x})\}(\omega)$ : Power spectrum of signal

$\Phi_n(\omega) = \mathcal{F}\{c_n(\mathbf{x})\}(\omega)$ : Power spectrum of noise; typ.,  $\Phi_n(\omega) = \sigma^2$  (white noise)

- Optimal Wiener filter

Minimum mean-square error (MMSE) estimator

$$R_{\text{Wiener}}(\omega) = \frac{\Phi_f(\omega)H^*(\omega)}{\Phi_f(\omega)|H(\omega)|^2 + \Phi_n(\omega)}$$

9-8

## Wiener filter (Cont'd)

### ■ Wiener filter: extreme cases

Noise is negligible

$$\Phi_n(\omega) \ll \Phi_f(\omega) \cdot |H(\omega)|^2$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$R_{\text{Wiener}}(\omega) \approx \frac{1}{H(\omega)} \quad (\text{inverse filter})$$

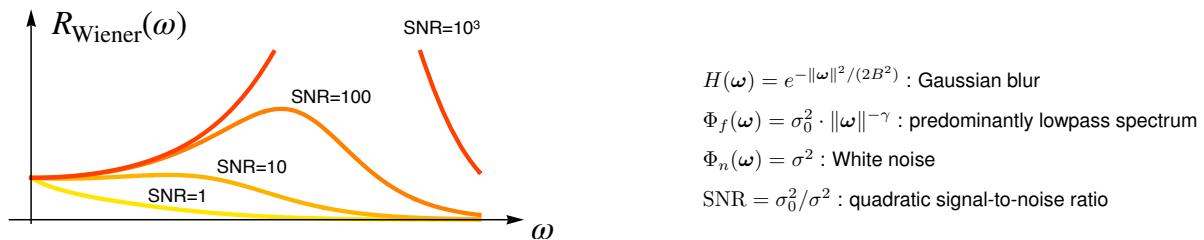
Noise is dominant

$$\Phi_n(\omega) \gg \Phi_f(\omega) \cdot |H(\omega)|^2$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$R_{\text{Wiener}}(\omega) \approx 0 \quad (\text{suppression})$$

### ■ Example



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## Derivation of the Wiener filter

Hypothesis:  $\tilde{f} = r * \overbrace{(h * f + n)}^g$  where  $f$  and  $n$  are realizations of stationary processes

$$\text{MSE} = \mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{f} - f|^2\} = \mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{f}|^2\} - 2\mathbb{E}\{\tilde{f} \cdot f\} + \mathbb{E}\{|f|^2\}$$

Wiener-Khinchin theorem

$$\mathbb{E}\{|\tilde{f}|^2\} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |R(\omega)|^2 \Phi_g(\omega) d\omega_1 \cdots d\omega_d \quad \Phi_g(\omega) = |H(\omega)|^2 \Phi_f(\omega) + \Phi_n(\omega)$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{|f|^2\} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_f(\omega) d\omega_1 \cdots d\omega_d$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{\tilde{f} \cdot f\} = \text{Re} \left( \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} R^*(\omega) H^*(\omega) \Phi_f(\omega) d\omega_1 \cdots d\omega_d \right) \quad (\text{hyp: } \Phi_{fn}(\omega) = 0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{MSE} &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |R(\omega)|^2 \Phi_g(\omega) - 2\text{Re}(R^*(\omega) H^*(\omega) \Phi_f(\omega)) + \Phi_f(\omega) d\omega_1 \cdots d\omega_d \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \Phi_g(\omega) \left| R(\omega) - \frac{H^*(\omega) \Phi_f(\omega)}{\Phi_g(\omega)} \right|^2 - \frac{|H(\omega)|^2 |\Phi_f(\omega)|^2}{\Phi_g(\omega)} + \Phi_f(\omega) \right) d\omega_1 \cdots d\omega_d \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\Phi_g(\omega) \geq 0, \forall \omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\text{MSE minimum when } R(\omega) - \frac{H^*(\omega) \Phi_f(\omega)}{\Phi_f(\omega) |H(\omega)|^2 + \Phi_n(\omega)} = 0$$

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## Wiener filter: properties

- Factorization: MMSE denoising of  $g$  followed by inverse filtering

$$R_{\text{Wiener}}(\omega) = \frac{\Phi_f(\omega) |H(\omega)|^2}{\Phi_f(\omega) |H(\omega)|^2 + \Phi_n(\omega)} \cdot \frac{1}{H(\omega)} = \frac{\Phi_{h*f}(\omega)}{\Phi_{h*f}(\omega) + \Phi_n(\omega)} \cdot \frac{1}{H(\omega)}$$

- Optimality properties

- MMSE space-invariant restoration filter
- MMSE linear estimator for stationary processes
- MMSE estimator for Gaussian stationary processes

- Limitations

- Spectral power densities are not always known
- Can be outperformed by space-variant and/or nonlinear algorithms

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## 9.2 RADON TRANSFORM AND FILTERED BACKPROJECTION

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- Radon transform
- Sinogram
- Backprojection
- Inverse Radon transform
- Filtered backprojection
- Sampling considerations

# Projection and Radon transform



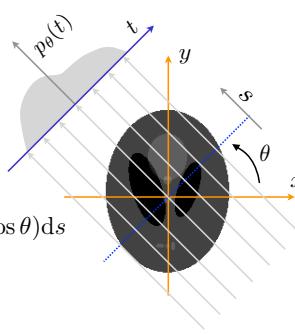
Johann Radon 1887-1956

## ■ Radon transform

$$\mathcal{R} : L_1(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L_1(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi])$$

$$p_\theta(t) = \mathcal{R}\{f\}(t, \theta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(t \cos \theta - s \sin \theta, t \sin \theta + s \cos \theta) ds$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{x}) \delta(t - \theta^\top \mathbf{x}) dx dy$$



$$\text{Unit vector along } t\text{-axis: } \theta = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta) \Rightarrow t = \theta^\top \mathbf{x}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ s \end{pmatrix}$$

⇓

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

Boundedness:  $f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^2) \Rightarrow p_\theta = \mathcal{R}\{f\}(\cdot, \theta) \in L_1(\mathbb{R}) \text{ for all } \theta \in [0, \pi]$

$$\Rightarrow \|\mathcal{R}\{f\}(\cdot, \theta)\|_{L_1(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi])} = \int_0^\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\mathcal{R}\{f\}(t, \theta)| dt d\theta \leq \pi \|f\|_{L_1(\mathbb{R}^2)}$$

## ■ Sinogram

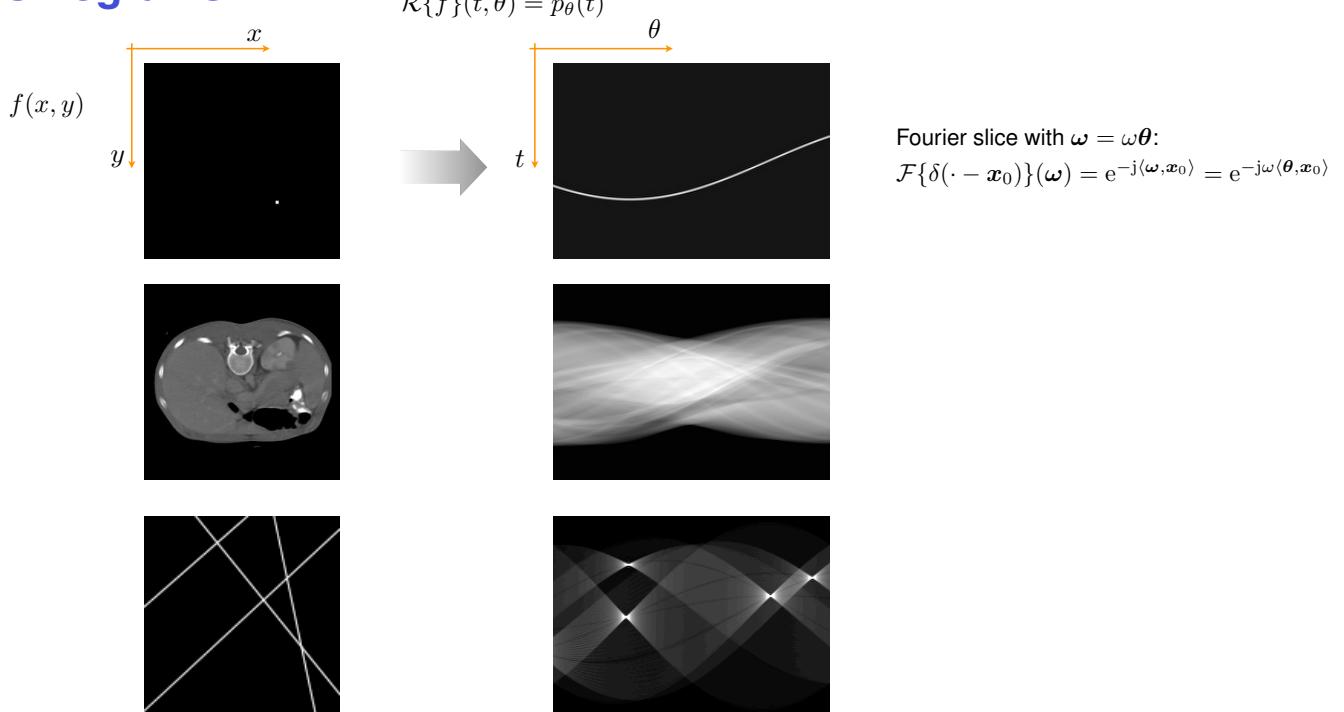
Trajectory of a point  $(x_0, y_0)$  in Radon space:

$$t_0(\theta) = x_0 \cos \theta + y_0 \sin \theta \Leftrightarrow t_0 = \theta^\top \mathbf{x}_0$$

$$\text{In polar coordinates: } x_0 = r \cos \phi, \quad y_0 = r \sin \phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad t_0 = r \cos(\theta - \phi)$$

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# Sinograms



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## Properties of the Radon transform

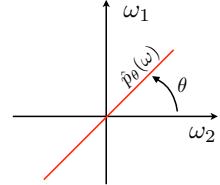
Context:  $f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^2) \Rightarrow \hat{f} = \mathcal{F}\{f\} \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^2)$  (i.e.,  $\hat{f}(\omega)$  is bounded and continuous)

Polar representation of Fourier transform:

$$\hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(\omega, \theta) = \hat{f}(\omega)|_{\omega=(\omega \cos \theta, \omega \sin \theta)} \quad \text{where} \quad \hat{f}(\omega) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(x) e^{-j\langle \omega, x \rangle} dx$$

$$p_\theta(t) = \mathcal{R}\{\varphi\}(t, \theta) \quad (\text{projection at angle } \theta)$$

■ Fourier-slice theorem:  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{R}\{\varphi\}(t, \theta) e^{-j\omega t} dt = \hat{\varphi}(\omega)|_{\omega=\omega_\theta}$   $\hat{p}_\theta(\omega) = \hat{\varphi}(\omega \cos \theta, \omega \sin \theta)$



■ Projected translation invariance:  $\mathcal{R}\{\varphi(\cdot - x_0)\}(t, \theta) = \mathcal{R}\{\varphi\}(t - \langle \theta, x_0 \rangle, \theta)$

Justification: Fourier-slice Theorem + phase shift with  $e^{-j\langle \omega, x_0 \rangle} = e^{-j\omega \langle \theta, x_0 \rangle}$

■ Pseudo-distributivity with respect to convolution

For any fixed  $\theta$ :  $\mathcal{R}\{\varphi * \phi\}(t, \theta) = (p_\theta * q_\theta)(t)$  where  $p_\theta(t) = \mathcal{R}\{\varphi\}(t, \theta)$  and  $q_\theta(t) = \mathcal{R}\{\phi\}(t, \theta)$

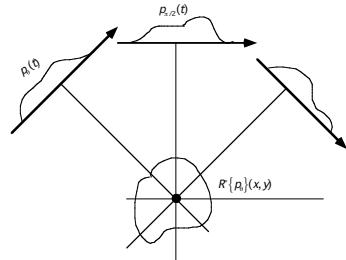
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## Backprojection

■ Backprojection operator

$$\mathcal{R}^* : L_\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi]) \rightarrow L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

$$b(x, y) = \mathcal{R}^*\{p_\theta(t)\}(x, y) = \int_0^\pi p_\theta(x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta) d\theta$$



Interpretation: accumulation of the ray-sums of all rays passing through the point  $(x, y)$

■ Adjoint property

The backprojection is the adjoint of the projection operator  $\mathcal{R}$

$$\forall f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^2), \forall p \in L_\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi]), \quad \langle \mathcal{R}f, p \rangle_{\text{Rad}} = \langle f, \mathcal{R}^*p \rangle$$

Duality products:

$$\forall (f, g) \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^2) : \quad \langle f, g \rangle \triangleq \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(x, y) g(x, y) dx dy$$

$$\forall (p, q) \in L_1(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi]) \times L_\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi]) : \quad \langle p, q \rangle_{\text{Rad}} \triangleq \int_0^\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}} p_\theta(t) q_\theta(t, \theta) dt d\theta$$

Interpretation

■  $\mathcal{R}^*$  is the flow-graph transpose of  $\mathcal{R}$

■ If  $\mathcal{R}$  is represented by a matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ , then its adjoint is  $\mathbf{R}^\top$

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{R}\mathbf{v} \rangle = \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{R}\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{R}^\top \mathbf{u})^\top \mathbf{v} = \langle \mathbf{R}^\top \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$$

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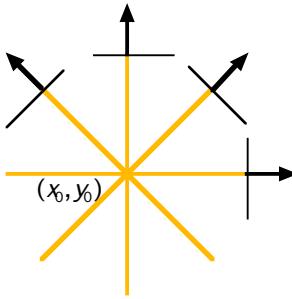
## Reconstruction by backprojection

### ■ Approximate reconstruction

$$g(x, y) = \mathcal{R}^* \{p_\theta(t)\}(x, y) = \mathcal{R}^* \mathcal{R} \{f\}(x, y)$$

You don't know where the contribution comes from; thus, you put it back everywhere!

⇒ Blurring effect!



### ■ Impulse response

$$\mathcal{R}^* \mathcal{R} \{\delta\}(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \quad \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \quad \frac{2\pi}{\|\omega\|} \quad (\text{isotropic})$$

### ■ Linear shift-invariant system

$$\mathcal{R}^* \mathcal{R} \{f\}(x, y) = \left( f * \frac{1}{\|\cdot\|} \right)(x, y)$$

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## Determination of impulse response

### ■ Projection of an impulse

$$\mathcal{R} \{\delta(\cdot - x_0, \cdot - y_0)\}(x, y) = \delta(t - x_0 \cos \theta - y_0 \sin \theta) \quad (\text{sinogram})$$

### ■ Backprojection of the impulse

$$\delta_\theta(t) = \delta(t - x_0 \cos \theta - y_0 \sin \theta)$$

$$\mathcal{R}^* \{\delta_\theta\}(x, y) = \int_0^\pi \delta(x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta - x_0 \cos \theta - y_0 \sin \theta) d\theta$$

$$\mathcal{R}^* \{\delta_\theta\}(x, y) = \int_0^\pi \delta((x - x_0) \cos \theta + (y - y_0) \sin \theta) d\theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2}}$$

Hint: Make change of variable  $\theta = \arctan(t)$

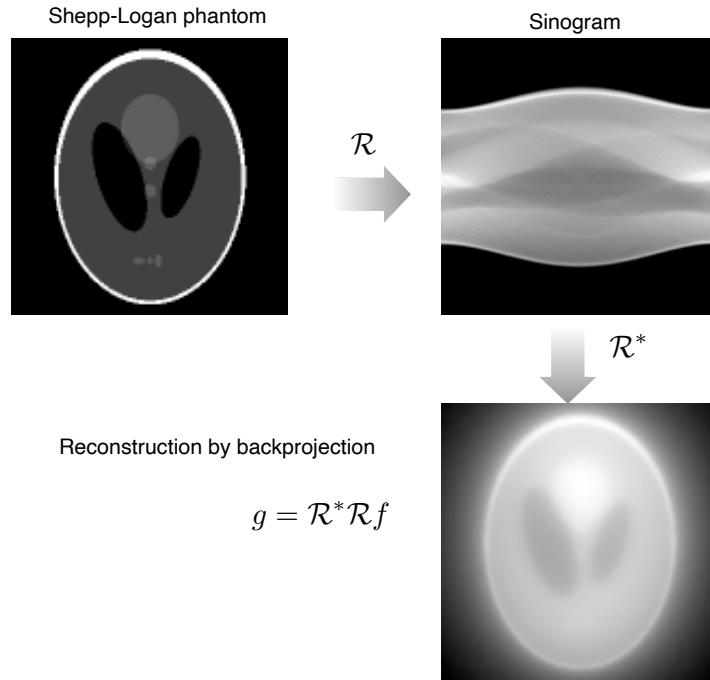
$$\Rightarrow \cos(\theta) = \frac{\text{sign}(t)}{\sqrt{1+t^2}}, \quad \sin(\theta) = \frac{|t|}{\sqrt{1+t^2}}, \quad d\theta = \frac{dt}{1+t^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{R}^* \{\delta_\theta\}(x, y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta((x - x_0) + t(y - y_0)) \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1+t^2}}$$

Let  $g(t)$  be such that  $g(t_n) = 0$ .  
Then,  $\delta(g(t)) = \sum_n \frac{\delta(t - t_n)}{g'(t_n)}$

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## Backprojection at work



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## Inverse Radon transform

Hypothesis:  $f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^2) \Rightarrow \hat{f} = \mathcal{F}\{f\} \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^2) \text{ and } \mathcal{R}\{f\} \in L_1(\mathbb{R} \times [0, \pi])$

- Central-slice theorem:  $\hat{p}_\theta(\omega) = \hat{f}(\omega \cos \theta, \omega \sin \theta) = \hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(\omega, \theta)$
- Fourier-based reconstruction:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \hat{f}(\omega) e^{i\langle \omega, \mathbf{x} \rangle} d\omega_x d\omega_y$
- Reconstruction by filtered backprojection:  $f(x, y) = \mathcal{R}^*\{q_\theta(t)\}(x, y)$

where  $q_\theta(t) = (h * p_\theta)(t)$  with  $h(t) \xleftarrow{\mathcal{F}} \frac{|\omega|}{2\pi}$

Proof: Fourier reconstruction in polar coordinates

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{+\infty} \underbrace{\hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(\omega, \theta)}_{\hat{p}_\theta(\omega)} e^{i\omega t} |\omega| d\omega d\theta \quad \text{with } t = x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta$$

Central-slice theorem + Fourier symmetry:  $\hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(\omega, \theta + \pi) = \hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(-\omega, \theta) = \hat{p}_\theta(-\omega)$

$$\Rightarrow f(x, y) = \int_0^\pi \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{p}_\theta(\omega) \cdot \frac{|\omega|}{2\pi} \cdot e^{i\omega t} d\omega \right) d\theta$$

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## Filtered backprojection

- Theoretical formula:  $f(x, y) = \mathcal{R}^* \{q_\theta(t)\}(x, y) = \int_0^\pi q_\theta(x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta) d\theta$   
where  $q_\theta(t) = (h * p_\theta)(t)$  and  $h(t) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \frac{|\omega|}{2\pi}$

- Discrete implementation

- Discrete data  $\Rightarrow$  Digital filtering & Interpolation
- Finite number of projections  $\Rightarrow$  Quadrature formula

- Discrete backprojection

Loop over pixels:  $\tilde{f}(x, y) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{\pi}{N}\right)}_{\Delta\theta} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N q_{\theta_i}(x \cos \theta_i + y \sin \theta_i)$

Use interpolation to evaluate  $q_{\theta_i}(t)$  for  $t$  non-integer (piecewise-linear or higher-order spline)

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## FBP filters

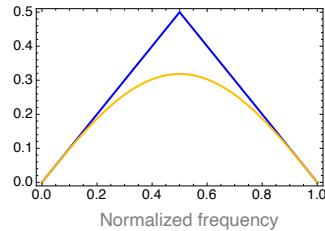
- 1D Filtering step

Loop over projections:  $(p_{\theta_i}[k], i = 1, \dots, N)$

FFT:  $p_{\theta_i}[k] \xrightarrow{\text{FFT}} P_{\theta_i}(e^{jn\omega_0})$

Filtering:  $Q_{\theta_i}(e^{jn\omega_0}) = H(e^{jn\omega_0}) \cdot P_{\theta_i}(e^{jn\omega_0})$

Inverse FFT:  $Q_{\theta_i}(e^{jn\omega_0}) \xrightarrow{\text{FFT}^{-1}} q_{\theta_i}[k]$



■ Ram-Lak filter

[Ramachandran & Lakshminarayanan, 1971]

$$\hat{h}_{RL}(\omega) = \frac{|\omega|}{2\pi} \cdot \text{rect}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\omega_{\max}}\right)$$

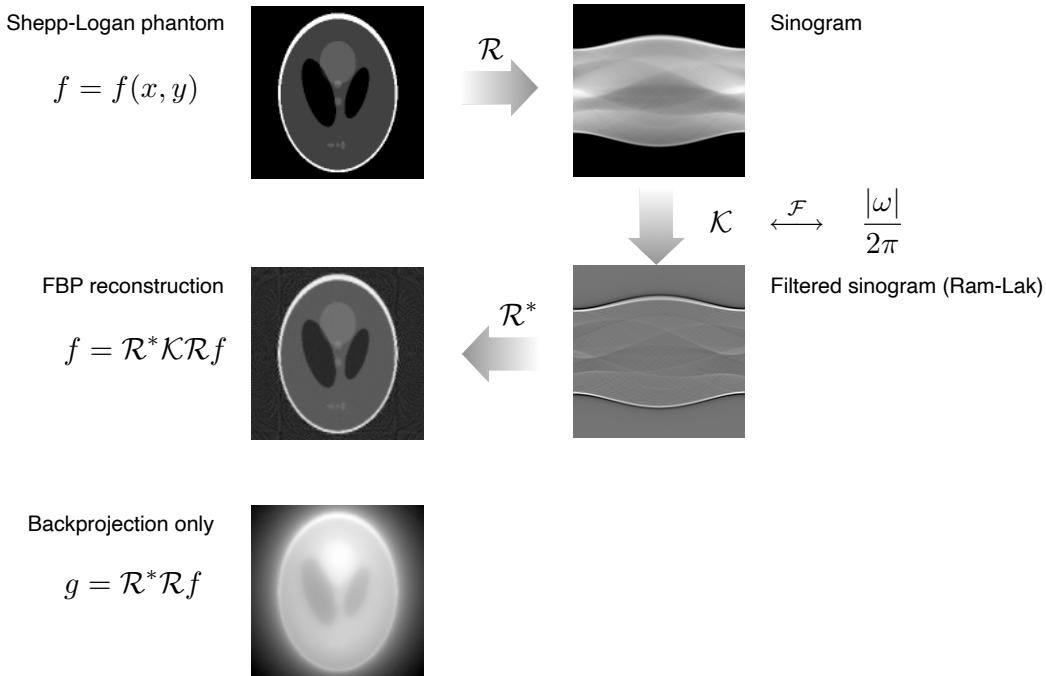
■ Shepp-Logan filter

[Shepp & Logan, 1974]

$$\hat{h}_{SL}(\omega) = \frac{|\omega|}{2\pi} \cdot \text{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\omega_{\max}}\right) \cdot \text{rect}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\omega_{\max}}\right)$$

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## FBP at work



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## FBP sampling considerations

### ■ Hypotheses

$\hat{f}_{\text{pol}}(\omega, \theta)$  is *essentially bandlimited* to  $\omega_{\text{max}}$

$f_{\text{pol}}(r, \phi)$  is *essentially space-limited* to  $R_{\text{max}}$

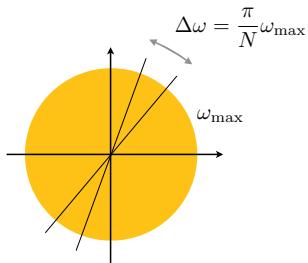
### ■ Maximum sampling step

$$\boxed{\Delta x \leq \frac{\pi}{\omega_{\text{max}}}} \quad (\text{Shannon})$$

$\Rightarrow M_{\text{min}} = \frac{2R_{\text{max}}}{\Delta x}$  samples per view

### ■ Minimum number of views

$$N_{\text{min}} = \frac{\pi \omega_{\text{max}}}{\Delta \omega} = \omega_{\text{max}} R_{\text{max}} \quad [\text{Brooks \& Weiss, 1978}]$$



$$\boxed{\Delta \omega \leq \frac{\pi}{R_{\text{max}}}} \quad (\text{Shannon in reverse})$$

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## Appendix A. X-ray computer (assisted) tomography (CT or CAT)



### GODFREY N. HOUNSFIELD

Developed computer-assisted tomography.  
Constructed first clinical CT-scan in 1972.  
1979 Nobel Prize in medicine



### ALAN M. CORMACK

Demonstrated the theoretical feasibility of X-ray computer-assisted tomography.  
[model experiment in 1963-64]  
1979 Nobel Prize in medicine



### AARON KLUG

Developed computational techniques for the 3D reconstruction of electron micrographs.  
[first 3D reconstruction in 1968]  
1982 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

And a few other pioneers...

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## Physical principle: Absorption law

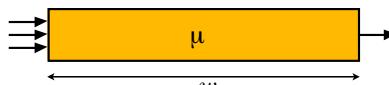
Interaction of EM radiation (X-rays or Gamma rays) with matter

⇒ Exponential law [Beer-Lambert]

$\mu$ : linear attenuation coefficient ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

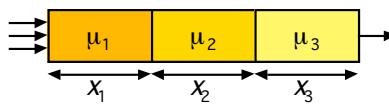
■ Homogeneous material

$$I = I_0 e^{-\mu w}$$



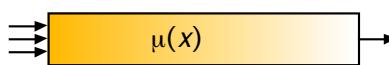
■ Discrete components

$$I = I_0 \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i x_i \right)$$



■ Continuous medium

$$I = I_0 \exp \left( - \int_0^w \mu(x) \, dx \right)$$

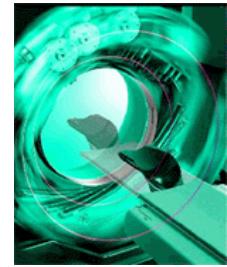
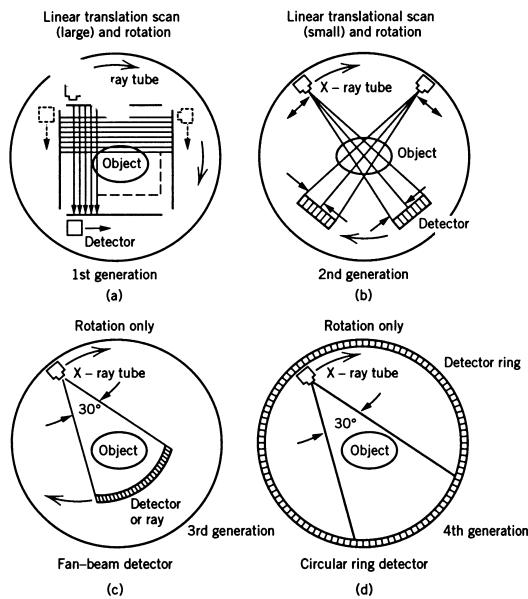


■ Projection value

$$p = -\log \left( \frac{I}{I_0} \right) = \int_0^w \mu(x) \, dx \quad \Rightarrow \text{ Line integral}$$

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## Computer-assisted tomography (CAT): measurement principle



Modern X-ray scanner (GE)