

From Innerspace to Outer Space: Why? A Preamble

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Conflicts of Interest

• None relevant

Overview

- Medical imaging and astronomy work at vastly different scales; however, there are many parallels between them:
- "Remote sensing" of regions where cannot directly sample
- Reliance on Fourier methods
- Inverse problems to find underlying structure from data/observations
- Reliance on modeling; need for calibration, deconvolution of "psf"
- Need to account for effects of intervening "medium"
- Multispectral/multimodality/multidimensional imaging in both
- Associated visualization issues
- Potential for machine learning approaches

My Background



- PhD in Astrophysics from Princeton (1971)
 - Thesis on modeling the atmosphere of Jupiter from observations (combining UV, visible, IR data)
 - However, I wanted to do work more directly related to people
 - I was also fascinated by the concept of the body as a mechanism- e.g., Leonardo, Descartes, Helmholtz...
- MD and radiology residency at UCSF
 - Research on modeling perfusion from dynamic CT enhancement data
- Subsequent clinical and research work on cardiovascular MRI
 - Quantitative perfusion and function imaging with MRI

Some of my Research Approaches/Activities

- Astronomers were early users of digital imaging, "multispectral" data
- Trying to model quantitative imaging of Jupiter for my thesis, I found discrepancies between visible (terrestrial) and far-UV (space) data
- I showed that these data could be reconciled if there were suitable small absorbing particles high in the atmosphere of Jupiter; these were subsequently found to be present by tracking a space probe fly-by
- In radiology, most people have approached imaging as qualitative pattern recognition; I was trained to see images as spatially distributed data
- My subsequent research has focused on using quantitative imaging to better understand physiology/pathophysiology, particularly cardiovascular

Medical Imaging and Astronomy Work at Vastly Different Scales ("Heavenly and Human Bodies")

- Human perception (initial observations of both):
 - Visual spectrum, about 380 to about 750 nanometers
 - Times: ~fractions of a second to seconds
 - Angular resolution ~ 0.017° (augmented by optics)
 - Dynamic range depends on overall brightness
- Astronomical structures ("heavenly bodies"):
 - Solar system: cms (through remote probes) to orbits (AU ~1.5 x 10^8 km)
 - Galaxies: light years to billions of light years
 - Times: seconds to billions of years
- Human structures ("bodies"):
 - Organs ~cms; cells ~microns
 - Times ~fractions of a second to years

However, Both Depend on "Remote Sensing" to Explore Inaccessible Regions

- Direct sampling of solar system possible only where can reach with probes; otherwise dependent on passively received signals
- Invasive imaging of humans has risks, changes the nature of the system being studied; so medicine primarily relies on indirect imaging
- Even "invasive" sampling methods rely heavily on imaging guidance
- Suitable analysis of imaging data for both can reveal underlying structures and aspects of their nature
- Both domains rely on modeling of underlying structures, and on physics of imaging, to gain understanding

M87 Elliptical Galaxy with Jet and Black Hole



Hubble Space Telescope (optical image)

Chandra X-ray Observatory (x-ray space telescope) Event Horizon Telescope (radio waves)

Cardiac Imaging Examples



Radionuclide



Cine MRI





Quantitative MRI perfusion

LGE MRI

Resolution Limits (Spatial and Temporal)

• Astronomy:

- "Lens" apertures; detector arrays (size, spacing)
- Interferometry baselines
- Data sampling rates (limited by SNR)
- Observation durations limited by resources
- Medical Imaging:
 - Can use MRI detector arrays (size, spacing)
 - Gradient limits in MRI
 - Data sampling rates (limited by SNR)
 - Imaging durations limited by resources, patient tolerance

Inverse Problems in Both Kinds of Imaging

- How to study underlying structures and their properties from limited indirect observations?
- Need calibration of detectors
- Limited by undersampling of available data
 - Rely on "regularization" to make problems tractable
- Can use modeling of structures and imaging processes
 - Relate "forward" and "backward" propagation of data; can iterate
- Need to account for effects of intervening/surrounding medium
 - Absorption, scattering, "refraction"/distortion
- Need deconvolution of "point spread functions" in space and time
- "Big data"-scale (terabyte) data processing challenges

Multispectral, Multidimensional, and Multimodality Imaging in Both Domains

- Multispectral/spectroscopic imaging
 - "Color"/brightness, spectrum for star classification
 - "Relaxation times" and spectra for MRI tissue classification
- Data can extend well beyond visual spectrum (x-ray to UV; IR to RF)
- Combine data from different kinds of sources
 - Overlay astronomical observations ranging from gamma ray to radio astronomy
 - Radionuclide tracer imaging overlaid with anatomic images from MRI or CT
- Can turn temporal series data into underlying time-related variables
 - Orbits of exoplanets or around black holes; gravitational radiation effects
 - MRI contrast kinetics for modeling tissue perfusion, delayed enhancement
 - MRI of tissue kinetics or deformation

Visualization Challenges for Both Domains

- Limits of human eye-brain combination for comprehending displays
 - Flat retinas- only stereo, shaded, interactive slice/angle displays available for adding depth information
 - Mapping other kinds of data to visual displays
 - Trichromatic color vision- limited information content of color
 - Nonlinear/uncalibrated subjective perception of color and brightness
 - Limited ability to integrate separately presented displays
- How to efficiently/effectively explore large multidimensional (space/time/"spectrum") data sets?

Both Have Potential for Using Machine-Learning Approaches

- Can learn automated classification from images (annotated data sets/"self-supervised")
- Can learn processes for image reconstruction from raw data
- Potential for "super-resolution" image reconstructions
- Potential for combined analysis of mixed data sets

Conclusions

- Despite the great apparent differences in their subjects, there is much in common between the tools of medical and astronomical imaging
- Solutions developed for data handling (e.g., image reconstruction/analysis/display) in one domain may have potential applications in the other
- More scientific exchange between the two domains may help lead to advances in the corresponding methods used in both



Thank you

NYU Langone Health



From Inner Space to Outer Space : How?





Klaas Prüssmann, PhD

Urvashi Rau, PhD







Imaging in Astronomy





Objects in space emit electromagnetic radiation

Imaging in Astronomy



Crab Nebula

Credit: G. Dubner (IAFE, CONICET-University of Buenos Aires) et al.; NRAO/AUI/NSF; A. Loll et al.; T. Temim et al.; F. Seward et al.; Chandra/CXC; Spitzer/JPL-Caltech; XMM-Newton/ESA; and Hubble/STScI

Center of the Milky Way galaxy

Credit : SARAO, Heywood et al (2022), J.C. Munoz-Mateos

What we measure :

Intensity of the received power EM Polarization Spectral structure Time-variability

Quantitative !

What we infer :

Temperature, Energetics, Emission Physics Chemical Composition Magnetic Fields Velocities , 3D structure Age of the source

Why? To study new Physics

MRI: Looking inward





NMR



- Spin states of of atomic nuclei in background magnetic field
- Transitions ('spin flips') can be induced by on-resonant exciation
- When coherent, the nuclei give off radio signals
- Discovered 1945, by Edward Purcell und Felix Bloch
- Shared Nobel Prize in 1952





Edward M. Purcell



Felix Bloch



RECEIVER

21 cm Hydrogen line.... from space





- Predicted by Van de Hulst (1945)
- Measured by Ewen & Purcell (1950)

→ The same Purcell (of NMR fame)

(Radio: Electron spin-flip transition)

Radio Waves from the Milky Way



Karl Jansky (1933)



First All-sky Radio Map



Grote Reber (1936) -90 -90 -00 Map B

Imaging different spatial scales



The M87 Radio Galaxy

0.006 light years

Credits : NRAO, ALMA,

Event Horizon Telescope collaboration

Spectral Encoding : Chemistry + Doppler Shifts





CO line : Tracer of star-formation



Star-Forming Clouds in Disk Galaxies

> Credits: ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO); NRAO/AUI/NSF, B. Saxton

3D structure (spatio-spectral encoding)



CO emission

Spiral-shell
structure around
the AGB star LL
Pegasi and its
stellar companion

(Kim et al, Nature Astro 2017.)

Hydrogen in the Milky Way



This HI4PI map was produced using data from the 100-m Max-Planck radio telescope in Effelsberg, Germany and the 64-m CSIRO radio telescope in Parkes, Australia. The image intensity reflects the total hydrogen content. The plane of the Milky Way Galaxy runs horizontally across the middle of the image. Image credit: Benjamin Winkel / HI4PI Collaboration.



B-field direction (polarization angle)



Polarised emission from plasma around our Milky Way supermassive black hole Sagittarius A*

Cr. Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration

Polarized emission from dust at the center of our Milky Way Cr. NASA/SOFIA, NASA/Hubble Space Telescope/NICMOS.

In-situ B-field strength (Zeeman effect)







B-field from OH Zeeman lines

NGC2024 star-forming region

Credits : Crutcher & Kemball, 2019

MRI from natural emission?

Natural emission = very convenient !

We can actually do that, too: spin-noise imaging

- no RF excitation
- just random (thermal) coherence
- very insensitive though





N Müller, A Jerschow, PNAS 103:18 (2006)

But signals still only in the μ W range, compare to <u>kW for excitation</u>

Reflects the fact that <u>NMR is weak</u>

<u>Downside</u>: low SNR <u>Upside</u>: nuclei are largely transparent to signal from kin requirement for looking <u>into</u> the body

What do we measure ?

Spectral Power Flux Density

$$1 Jansky = \frac{10^{-26} W}{m^2 Hz}$$

Very weak signals...

Measured range : 10⁴ Jy to 10⁻⁶ Jy

(We also look through the atmosphere/ionosphere + RF interference)





... and noise

Increasing SNR



Accumulate data in time and frequency

• Use dishes to increase collecting area

- Cooled receivers
- Low noise amplifiers





Sky : 2.7K Ambient : 300K Current instruments : ~ 20 K

(Ref. CDL, NRAO)



How do we make an image ?





D is limited by structural constraints
The largest single-dish telescopes







Green Bank Telescope, USA

Arecibo, Puerto Rico, USA

The largest single-dish telescopes







Arecibo (1963 - 2020)

Green Bank Telescope, USA

The largest single-dish telescopes







Green Bank Telescope, USA

FAST, China



Diffraction limit: $\Delta x \ge \frac{\lambda}{2 NA}$ $\lambda = 10 - 100 cm \Rightarrow$ useless resolution

Propagation encodes source positions in <u>spatial</u> field patterns

Maxwell:
$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \Delta \vec{E}(\vec{r})$$
 limits their spatial frequency to $\frac{\omega}{c}$

Instead: Lauterbur's gradient encoding

Bloch:
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} M_{xy}(\vec{r},t) = i \gamma (B_0 + \vec{G}(t) \cdot \vec{r}) M_{xy}(\vec{r},t)$$

<u>Precession</u> encodes source positions in <u>temporal</u> field patterns



Paul C. Lauterbur Nobel Prize 2003

Enter k-space



Enter k-space





Resolution <u>not limited</u> by

- electrodynamics
- size of the equipment

But encoding takes time

Going beyond single dishes ?







Aperture Synthesis





Aperture = infinite pairs of slits

Each pair of slits sees 1 Fourier component



Measure the spatial coherence of the incident E-field at each pair of detectors





K-space encoding

First Fourier encoding





McReady, Pawsey, Payne-Scott (1946)

Sea-Cliff Interferometer

Time-series

 \rightarrow Interference pattern

 \rightarrow Angular size of the source

First Aperture Synthesis in Astronomy





Martin Ryle (1960+)

First intentional K-space sampling

Nobel Prize (1974)

Today's interferometers – dish arrays









ALMA, Chile







Today's interferometers – aperture arrays









Next generation (future) instruments





Designed for O(10) increase in : K-space coverage, Collecting Area

..... and computing cost.

Very long baseline interferometry



Very (very) long baseline interferometry









Space - VLBI









X Position (m)



X Position (m)

Spatial frequency : U (pixels)

















Imaging Quality ?



25[°]

20°

15[°]





$$\frac{d\vec{k}(t)}{dt} = \gamma \vec{G}(t) \quad \text{k-space velocity}$$

E.g., arcs, do you put dishes on rails?

aperture needed: $2\pi/\Delta x$



Image of the sky using 27 antennas

Observation : 1 second



Earth Rotation Synthesis



Image of the sky using 27 antennas

Observation : 2 hours

S(u,v)



 $I^{obs}(l,m)$





"Earth Rotation Synthesis"

Earth Rotation Synthesis



Image of the sky using 27 antennas

Observation : 4 hours

S(u, v)





"Earth Rotation Synthesis"



k-space velocity



Earth Rotation Synthesis



Image of the sky using 27 antennas **Observation : 4 hours** S(u, v)



 $I^{obs}(l,m)$



Channels: 1.5 GHz

Multi-Frequency synthesis



Image of the sky using 27 antennas Observation : 4 hours

Channels: 1.0 GHz, 1.5 GHz

S(u,v)



47' 46' 45' 44' 43' 42' 40°41' 19^h59^m45^s 35^s 30° 25^s 20^s 15^s J2000 Right Ascension

 $I^{obs}(l,m)$

"Multi-Frequency Synthesis"

Multi-Frequency synthesis



Image of the sky using 27 antennas Observation : 4 hours





 $I^{obs}(l,m)$

Channels : 1.0 GHz, 1.5 GHz, 2.0 GHz

"Multi-Frequency Synthesis"

The observed image



The "CLEAN" algorithm (Hogbom 1974, Clark 1980, Cotton-Schwab 1983, ...)

Sparse Sky Model, Non-linear reconstruction (iterative), L2 data normalization, Greedy regularization

Compressed sensing in MRI

- started in 2005
- permits deliberate undersampling \rightarrow <u>save time</u>
- widely deployed, in research and commercially
- favored sampling: random, center-heavy

Magnetic Resonance in Medicine 58:1182–1195 (2007)

Sparse MRI: The Application of Compressed Sensing for Rapid MR Imaging

Michael Lustig, 1* David Donoho, 2 and John M. Pauly 1

The sparsity which is implicit in MR images is exploited to significantly undersample k-space. Some MR images such as angiograms are already sparse in the pixel representation; other, more complicated images have a sparse representation in some transform domain-for example, in terms of spatial finite-differences or their wavelet coefficients. According to the recently developed mathematical theory of compressedsensing, images with a sparse representation can be recovgroups: (a) Methods generating artifacts that are incoherent or less visually apparent, at the expense of reduced apparent SNR (1-5); (b) Methods exploiting redundancy in *k*-space, such as partial-Fourier, parallel imaging, etc. (6–8); (c) Methods exploiting either spatial or temporal redundancy or both (9-13).

In this article we aim to exploit the sparsity which is


Parallel MRI



Parallel MRI:

- capture near-field by array detection
- broadens and samples aperture
- enables undersampling, saving time
- saves time / increases FOV
- taps into both temporal and spatial degrees of freedom of RF field
- widely deployed
- first conceived in 1988 by M. Hutchinson





aperture needed: $2\pi/\Delta x$



Instrument Response





 $I^{obs} = PSF * |PB \cdot I^{sky}|$





Angular Resolution

Field of View

Image a finite field-of-view

Image from

one "pointing"







Increase the field-of-view

Increase field-of-view

multiple "pointings"







Increase the field-of-view

Increase field-of-view

multiple "pointings"







Mosaic Imaging



Raster in time



Mosaic Imaging

Raster in time











Multiple Beams in parallel











System of equations in Radio Interferometry







antenna sky k-space trajectory 3D -> 2D sensitivity brightness k-space trajectory projection effects



Discretize signal model: $E \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{m}$

Minimize suitable cost function, default: $L = ||E\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}||_2^2$

For regularization, add cost term: $L = ||E\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m}||_2^2 + \lambda R(\boldsymbol{x})$

Or combine costs and constraints, e.g., $L = \|C\mathbf{x}\|_1 \ s.t. \|E\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{m}\|_2 < \epsilon$

Popular cost terms: $\|C\mathbf{x}\|_2$, $\|C\mathbf{x}\|_1$, $TV(\mathbf{x})$, trained networks

Popular transforms: Fourier, wavelet, low-rank modeling, ...



$$V^{obs} = [A] I^m + n \quad \longrightarrow \quad \min\left\{ \left\| V^{obs} - [A] I^m \right\|_2^2 + \lambda R(I^m) \right\}$$

Image Domain

Data/Instrument domain



Algorithm Ingredients

- Sky Model
- Priors & Regularizers
- Optimization Strategy
- Instrumental Corrections
- Knowns vs Unknowns

Algorithm Variability



Model

Residual

CLEAN

Point source model



MEM

Point source model with a smoothness constraint



MS-CLEAN

Multi-Scale model with a fixed set of scale sizes



ASP

Multi-Scale model with adaptive best-fit scale per component



elephAnt In the room





$$V_{b,c,t} = \int M_c(\vec{r}, b, t) I^{sky}(\vec{r}) e^{i\vec{k}_b \cdot \vec{r}} e^{i\Delta\phi(\vec{r})} d^3r$$

antenna sky
sensitivity brightness k-space trajectory projection effects

Personal take:

- Potential for ML supporting reconstruction is huge and in a wide-open, creative space
- Seems greatest for harnessing prior knowledge about imaging targets

e.g., image plausibility metrics for given anatomy

- Learning is tempting also for instrumental corrections (e.g. gradient heating, ...)
- Learning is data-hungry: minimize the degrees of freedom to address in this way
- Let's make sure we do not learn what we already know, can know, or can measure
- Let's keep in mind that ML-informed processing cannot add fresh information, only blend in prior knowledge.

Practical considerations when designing an AI/ML (or any!) algorithm

- Accuracy : What features can we trust ?
- Robustness : How does it handle imperfect input data ?
- Generalizability : Does it work for all types of source structures ?
- Interpretability : Can we understand its biases ?
- Compute Cost : Can we afford it ?
- Usability : How well can it fit within application workflows ?





Let's keep the conversation going ...