

MA3111: Mathematical Image Processing

Image Inpainting



Suh-Yuh Yang (楊肅煜)

Department of Mathematics, National Central University
Jhongli District, Taoyuan City 320317, Taiwan

First version: October 08, 2021/Last updated: November 25, 2024

Outline of “image inpainting”

In this lecture, we will introduce image inpainting

- *using the variational method (VM) with split Bregman and*
- *using sparse representation and dictionary learning (SRDL).*

The material of this lecture is based on

- (VM) P. Getreuer, Total variation inpainting using split Bregman, *Image Processing On Line*, 2 (2012), pp. 147-157.
- (SRDL) Y. Sharon, J. Wright, and Y. Ma, Computation and relaxation of conditions for equivalence between ℓ^1 and ℓ^0 minimization, *UIUC Technical Report UILU-ENG-07-2008*, 2007.

Image inpainting:

<https://www.nvidia.com/research/inpainting/index.html>

Matlab codes: <http://brendt.wohlberg.net/software/SPORCO/>

Basic ideas of image inpainting

- Given an image where a specified region is unknown, *image inpainting or image completion* is the problem of inferring the image content in this region (無中生有).
- Image inpainting is an interpolation problem, filling the unknown region with a condition to agree with the known image on the boundary.
- A classical solution for such an interpolation is to solve Laplace's equation. However, *Laplace's equation is usually unsatisfactory for images since it is overly smooth.*
It cannot recover a step edge passing through the region.

H^1 inpainting (Laplace's equation)

- Let $f : \overline{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a given grayscale image and let $D \subset \Omega$ be an open set representing the region to be inpainted. In other words, *it is supposed that f is known in $\overline{\Omega} \setminus D$ and unknown in D .*
- The inpainting solution by Laplace's equation is to solve

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u &= 0 & \text{in } D, \\ u &= f & \text{on } \partial D, \end{cases}$$

and $u = f$ in $\overline{\Omega} \setminus D$.

- By Dirichlet's principle, if the Laplace inpainting solution u is in $C^2(D)$, then u is the minimizer of the Dirichlet energy:

$$E[v] := \int_D \left(\frac{1}{2} |\nabla v|^2 - v \times 0 \right) dx,$$

for all $v \in C^2(D)$ satisfying the boundary condition $u = f$ on ∂D .

- Note that $-\Delta u = 0$ in D is the Euler-Lagrange equation of the energy functional $E[v]$.

The bounded variation space $BV(\Omega)$

Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^2 . The space of functions of bounded variation $BV(\Omega)$ is defined as the space of real-valued function $u \in L^1(\Omega)$ such that the total variation is finite, i.e.,

$$BV(\Omega) = \{u \in L^1(\Omega) : \|u\|_{TV(\Omega)} < \infty\},$$

where the semi-norm $\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)}$ is defined as

$$\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)} := \sup \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u(\nabla \cdot \varphi) \, dx : \varphi \in C_c^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2), \|\varphi\|_{(L^\infty(\Omega))^2} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

- $BV(\Omega)$ is a Banach space with the norm,

$$\|u\|_{BV(\Omega)} = \|u\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|u\|_{TV(\Omega)}.$$

- If u is smooth, then $\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u| \, dx$.

The ROF total-variation model for image denoising

Let $f : \overline{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a given noisy image. Rudin, Osher, and Fatemi (*Physica D*, 1992) proposed the model for image denoising:

$$\min_{u \in BV(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} \left\{ \underbrace{\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)}}_{\text{regularizer}} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \underbrace{\int_{\Omega} (u(x) - f(x))^2 dx}_{\text{data fidelity}} \right\},$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a tuning parameter which controls the regularization strength. Notice that

- A smaller value of λ will lead to a more regular solution.
- The space of functions with bounded variation help remove spurious oscillations (noise) and preserve sharp signals (edges).
- The TV term allows the solution to have discontinuities.

The total variation model for image inpainting

- Let $f : \overline{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a given grayscale image and let $D \subset \Omega$ be an open set representing the region to be inpainted. In other words, *it is supposed that f is known in $\overline{\Omega} \setminus D$ and unknown in D .*
- The TV inpainting method is to find the BV function u that solves the minimization problem:

$$\min_{u \in BV(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} \left\{ \underbrace{\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)}}_{\text{regularizer}} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \underbrace{\int_{\Omega \setminus D} (u(x) - f(x))^2 dx}_{\text{data fidelity}} \right\},$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a regularization parameter.

- Under suitable assumptions, minimizers u exist but are generally not unique.

The TV inpainting model may be viewed as denoising

- Inpainting may be viewed as denoising with a *spatially-varying regularization strength* $\lambda(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$,

$$\min_{u \in BV(\Omega) \cap L^2(\Omega)} \left\{ \|u\|_{TV(\Omega)} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \lambda(\mathbf{x}) (u(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mathbf{x} \right\},$$

where $\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ for $\mathbf{x} \in D$ and $\lambda(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \setminus D$.

- For $\mathbf{x} \in D$ where $\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = 0$, the value $f(\mathbf{x})$ is unused and $u(\mathbf{x})$ is only influenced by the $\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)}$ term. Outside of D , the model performs TV-regularized denoising and $\lambda|_{\Omega \setminus D}$ specifies the denoising strength.
- This denoising behavior may be desirable when it is difficult to specify the inpainting domain accurately. *By setting λ to a very large value, the denoising effect is limited so that the image remains nearly unchanged outside of D .*

Discretization of the ROF model (matrix indices)

Total variation is approximated by $\|u\|_{TV(\Omega)} \approx h^2 \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N |\nabla u_{i,j}|$,
where the discrete gradient operator as $\nabla u_{i,j} = (\nabla_x^+ u_{i,j}, \nabla_y^+ u_{i,j})^\top$,

$$\nabla_x^+ u_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{i,j+1} - u_{i,j}}{h}, & 1 \leq j \leq N-1, \\ 0, & j = N; \end{cases} \quad \nabla_y^+ u_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{i+1,j} - u_{i,j}}{h}, & 1 \leq i \leq N-1, \\ 0, & i = N. \end{cases}$$

Applying the operator splitting technique, we obtain the constrained approximate minimization of the TV model:

$$\min_{d, u} \left(\sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j}| + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \lambda_{i,j} (f_{i,j} - u_{i,j})^2 \right) \quad \text{subject to } d_{i,j} = \nabla u_{i,j}.$$

Introducing a penalty parameter $\gamma > 0$, we obtain the unconstrained minimization problem:

$$\min_{d, u} \left(\sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j}| + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \lambda_{i,j} (f_{i,j} - u_{i,j})^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j} - \nabla u_{i,j} - b_{i,j}|^2 \right),$$

where b is an auxiliary variable related to the Bregman iteration.

An alternating direction approach: Split Bregman method

Goldstein and Osher (2009) proposed to solve the above-mentioned problem by an alternating direction approach: (see Getreuer 2012)

u -subproblem: With d fixed, we solve

$$u^{k+1} = \arg \min_u \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \lambda_{i,j} (f_{i,j} - u_{i,j})^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j}^k - \nabla u_{i,j} - b_{i,j}^k|^2 \right).$$

The optimal u satisfies a discrete screened Poisson equation,

$$\lambda(u - f) + \gamma \nabla \cdot (\nabla u - d + b) = 0,$$

or equivalently,

$$\lambda u - \gamma \Delta u = \lambda f - \gamma \nabla \cdot (d - b),$$

$\nabla \cdot$ and Δ are the discrete divergence and Laplacian, respectively.

It can be viewed as the EL equation of the minimization problem:

$$\min_u \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \lambda (f - u)^2 dx + \frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{\Omega} |d - \nabla u - b|^2 dx.$$

The discrete screened Poisson equation

The discrete screened Poisson equation

$$\lambda u - \gamma \Delta u = \lambda f - \gamma \nabla \cdot (d - b),$$

which is a symmetric and diagonally dominant linear system, may be solved for u in the Fourier domain or by the iterative matrix techniques such as the Gauss-Seidel iterative method:

$$(\lambda_{i,j} + 4\gamma)u_{i,j}^{k+1} = c_{i,j}^k + \gamma(u_{i-1,j}^{k+1} + u_{i+1,j}^k + u_{i,j-1}^{k+1} + u_{i,j+1}^k),$$

where

$$c_{i,j}^k := (\lambda f - \gamma \nabla \cdot (d - b))_{i,j}^k.$$

d -subproblem

d -subproblem: With u fixed, we solve

$$d^{k+1} = \arg \min_d \left(\sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j}| + \frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{i,j} |d_{i,j} - \nabla u_{i,j}^{k+1} - b_{i,j}^k|^2 \right),$$

which has a closed-form solution,

$$d_{i,j}^{k+1} = \frac{\nabla u_{i,j}^{k+1} + b_{i,j}^k}{|\nabla u_{i,j}^{k+1} + b_{i,j}^k|} \max \left\{ |\nabla u_{i,j}^{k+1} + b_{i,j}^k| - \frac{1}{\gamma}, 0 \right\}.$$

Note: The solution of d -subproblem can be found componentwisely. For each (i,j) , the minimizer is given below:

$$\begin{aligned} \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} \left\{ |x| + \frac{\gamma}{2} |x - y|^2 \right\} &= \begin{cases} \frac{y}{|y|} (|y| - \frac{1}{\gamma}), & |y| > \frac{1}{\gamma} \\ 0, & |y| \leq \frac{1}{\gamma} \end{cases} \\ &= \frac{y}{|y|} \max \left\{ |y| - \frac{1}{\gamma}, 0 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Updating b and selecting γ

- **Updating b :** The auxiliary variable b is initialized to zero and updated as $b^{k+1} = b^k + \nabla u^{k+1} - d^{k+1}$.
- **Selecting γ :** A good choice of γ is one for which both d and u subproblems converge quickly and are numerically well-conditioned.
 - In d subproblem, the shrinking effect is more dramatic when γ is small.
 - In u subproblem, the effect of Δ and $\nabla \cdot$ increase when γ gets larger. It is also ill-conditioned in the limit $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$.

Therefore, γ should be neither extremely large nor small for good convergence.

The split Bregman algorithm

The split Bregman algorithm:

initialize $u = f, d = b = \mathbf{0}$

while $\|u_{\text{current}} - u_{\text{previous}}\|_2 > \text{tolerance}$ do

solve the u -subproblem

solve the d -subproblem

$b = b + \nabla u - d$

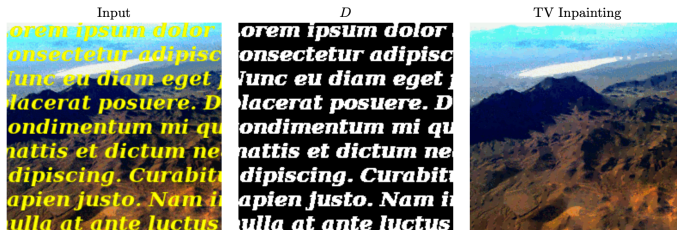
The default parameter values are: $\text{tolerance} = \|f\|_2/10^5$ and $\gamma = 5$.

Color images (RGB channels): The vectorial TV (VTV) is used in place of TV,

$$\|u\|_{\text{VTV}(\Omega)} := \int_{\Omega} \left(\sum_{i \in \text{channels}} |\nabla u_i(x)|^2 \right)^{1/2} dx.$$

The grayscale algorithm can be extended directly to VTV-regularized image inpainting.

Example: text removal, $\lambda = 10^4$



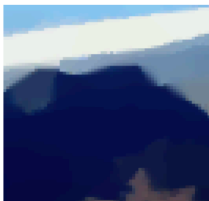
- TV inpainting (and inpainting in general) is most successful when the inpainting domain is thin.
- A good feature of TV inpainting is that it reconstructs edges rather than smoothing them.



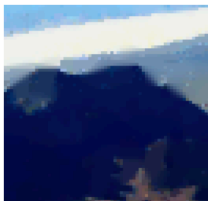
Example: effect of λ

- Outside of the inpainting region D , the TV inpainting model denoises the image. The denoising strength is controlled by the value of λ , where *a smaller value implies stronger denoising*.
- In the figure below, the previous experiment is repeated with three different values of λ .

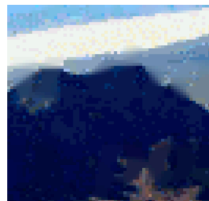
$\lambda = 10$



$\lambda = 40$



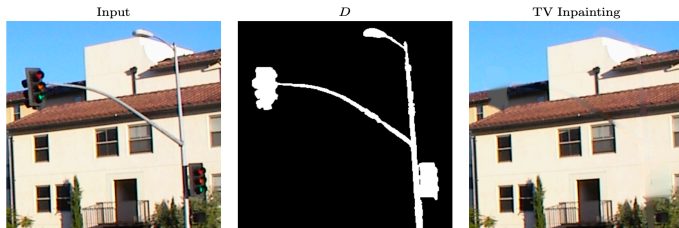
$\lambda = 10^4$



Example: object removal

In this example, *TV* inpainting is used to attempt to remove a lamppost from an image ($\lambda = 250$).

The result is reasonable over the pole where D is thin, but is poor over the signal where it is thicker.



Basic idea of the sparse representation

- The goal of sparse representation is to find *a sparse coefficient vector* $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (only a few of components of \mathbf{z} is nonzero) such that a given signal vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear combination of a few columns of *a dictionary* $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{x} = z_1 \mathbf{d}_1 + z_2 \mathbf{d}_2 + \dots + z_n \mathbf{d}_n = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}.$$

- Typically, we use a over-completed dictionary to deal with sparse representation problem. Therefore, there does not exist a unique \mathbf{z} such that $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}$.

The sparse representation problem

- The sparse representation problem can be modeled as the following optimization problem:

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \|z\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x = Dz,$$

where $\|z\|_0 := \#\{i : z_i \neq 0\}$. We call $\|z\|_0$ the ℓ^0 “norm” of z , even though ℓ^0 is not really a norm, since $\|\alpha z\|_0 \neq |\alpha| \|z\|_0$.

- We can relax it into the following unconstrained optimization problem:

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|x - Dz\|_2^2}_{\text{data fidelity}} + \underbrace{\lambda \|z\|_0}_{\text{regularizer}} \right\},$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a penalty parameter which controls the balance between the data fidelity term and the regularization term.

The sparse representation problem with ℓ^1 -norm

- The above optimization problem is an *NP*-hard problem, and thus it is inefficient to solve it when n is large.
- In [Donoho, CPAM 2006-2], if z is sufficiently sparse, then $\|z\|_1$ is a good approximation to $\|z\|_0$.
- From now on, we mainly consider the following

Sparse representation problem: Given a signal vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and a dictionary matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we seek a coefficient vector $z^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|x - Dz\|_2^2 + \lambda \|z\|_1 \right\}, \quad \lambda > 0.$$

Basic idea of the dictionary learning problem

- In the sparse representation problem, the solution of interest \mathbf{z}^* is the coefficient vector of a linear combination of over-complete basis elements (columns) from a given dictionary \mathbf{D} under some sparsity constraint. Therefore, it is typically accompanied by a dictionary learning mechanism.
- We are going to study a more general problem. The dictionary \mathbf{D} is unknown and needed to be sought together with the sparse solution \mathbf{z} .

The goal of sparse dictionary learning is to learn a dictionary $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ from a given dataset of signals $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, together with finding the sparse coefficient vectors $\{\mathbf{z}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, such that $\mathbf{x}_i \approx \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}_i$, $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, N$.

The sparse dictionary learning problem

Sparse dictionary learning (SDL) problem:

Let $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a given dataset of signals. We seek a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ together with the sparse coefficient vectors $\{\mathbf{z}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ that solve the minimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}, \{\mathbf{z}_i\}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}_i\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{z}_i\|_1 \right\}$$

subject to $\|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n,$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a penalty parameter.

Note: To prevent the columns of \mathbf{D} being arbitrarily large, we impose the constraints on them, since \mathbf{z}_i could be arbitrarily small.

Problem formulation in a more compact form

To simplify the formulation of the SDL problem, we define

$$\mathbf{X} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}, \quad \mathbf{Z} = [z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}.$$

Then the SDL problem can be posed as follows: *Given a training data matrix \mathbf{X} , find a dictionary matrix \mathbf{D} and a coefficient matrix \mathbf{Z} such that*

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1} \right)$$

subject to $\|d_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n$.

In the compact form, $\|\cdot\|_F$ denotes the Frobenius norm defined as follows: for a matrix $\mathbf{A} = [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$,

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 := \sum_{i=1}^N \|a_i\|_2^2$$

and $\|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1}$ is the $L_{1,1}$ -norm which is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1} := \sum_{i=1}^N \|z_i\|_1.$$

Image inpainting by SR & DL: step 1

Image inpainting aims to fill in the missing pixels. Below we first consider the grayscale image I .

Step 1: Given a corrupted image I , we divide the image domain into two disjoint regions, the target region Ω_t and the source region Ω_s , $\Omega_t := \{(i, j) \mid \text{the pixel } (i, j) \text{ need to be inpainted}\}$, Ω_s is the set of the remaining pixels (i, j) . Then $\Omega = \Omega_s \cup \Omega_t$. We assume Ω_t is thin.

- Define the mask image M whose size is the same as image I ,

$$M(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0, & (i, j) \in \Omega_t, \\ 1, & (i, j) \in \Omega_s. \end{cases}$$

- Given $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \gg 1$, we extract N patches (submatrices) $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ all with size $k \times k$ from the image (matrix) I and then define the corresponding submatrices $\{m_i\}_{i=1}^N$ from the mask matrix M .
- According to each m_i , we divide the collection of patches $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ into two parts, $\{x_{s,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_1}$ and $\{x_{t,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_2}$. If all entries in m_i are 1, then the corresponding $x_i \in \{x_{s,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_1}$; otherwise, $x_i \in \{x_{t,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_2}$.

Image inpainting by SR & DL: step 2

Training a dictionary with the patches (submatrices) $\{\mathbf{x}_{s,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_1}$:

- Let $m = k^2$. From now on, we rearrange each submatrix as a long column vector with m components in the natural way.
- Fixed $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we train a dictionary $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ with $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_{s,1}, \mathbf{x}_{s,2}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{s,N_1}] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N_1}$. That is, we solve the following constrained minimization problem:

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{Z}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1} \right\}$$

$$\text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n.$$

Image inpainting by SR & DL: step 3

First, note that some pixel values in $x_{t,i}$ are missing and needed to be inpainted! Next, we are going to find the sparse representations of the vectors in $\{x_{t,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_2}$.

- Let $\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ be the function defined by

$$\mathcal{M} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_m \end{pmatrix}.$$

- For $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_2$, we seek the sparse representation of $x_{t,i} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ by solving

$$z_i^* = \arg \min_{z_i} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{M}(m_{t,i})(x_{t,i} - Dz_i)\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathcal{M}(m_{t,i})z_i\|_1 \right\},$$

where $m_{t,i}$ is the corresponding mask vector of $x_{t,i}$.

Image inpainting by SR & DL: step 4

The final step is using the sparse representation vectors to inpaint the missing-pixel vectors $\mathbf{x}_{t,i}$:

- We replace $\mathbf{x}_{t,i}$ by $\mathbf{x}_{t,i}^*$ through the use of $D\mathbf{z}_i^*$. More specifically, we define

$$\mathbf{x}_{t,i}^* = \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{m}_{t,i})\mathbf{x}_{t,i} + (\mathcal{I} - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{m}_{t,i}))D\mathbf{z}_i^*,$$

where \mathcal{I} is the $m \times m$ identity matrix.

- The image can be reconstructed by $\{\mathbf{x}_{s,i}\}_{i=1}^{N_1}$ and $\{\mathbf{x}_{t,i}^*\}_{i=1}^{N_2}$.

Remark: For a color image, we can decompose it to RGB channels, each is a grayscale image. We use these three images to construct a common dictionary D and then use D to inpaint each channel.

Example 1: image inpainting using SR



corrupted image



inpainted image

$\lambda = 0.2$ for DL and $\lambda = 0.1$ for SR.

Example 2: image inpainting using SR



corrupted image



inpainted image



corrupted image



inpainted image

References

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