MA3111: Mathematical Image Processing Variational Image Deblurring



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Outline of "variational image deblurring"

In this lecture, we will give a brief introduction to the topics:

- The blurring kernels of motion blur and Gaussian blur.
- The standard total variation model for variational image deblurring.

The material of this lecture is mainly based on

- T. F. Chan and C.-K. Wong, Total variation blind deconvolution, *IEEE Transaction on Image Processing*, 7 (1998), pp. 370-375.
- Y. Wang, W. Yin, and Y. Zhang, A fast algorithm for image deblurring with total variation regularization, *CAAM Technical Report TR* 07-10, 2007, Rice University.

Blurry and noisy image restoration

• Image restoration (影像修復): One of the important tasks in image processing is to recover images from noisy and blurry observations.

To recover a sharp image from its blurry observation is the problem known as image deblurring (影像去模糊).

- These blurring artifacts may come from different sources, such as atmospheric turbulence, diffraction, optical defocusing, camera shaking, and more.
- The blurry and noisy observation is generally modeled as

 $f(\mathbf{x}) = (K\overline{u})(\mathbf{x}) + n(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \overline{\Omega},$

where \bar{u} is the clean image, n is the Gaussian noise, and K is a blurring operator.

We may assume the image domain is $\overline{\Omega}$ and zero-valued for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \overline{\Omega}$.

Linear and shift-invariant blurring operator *K*

The blurring operator *K* is typically assumed to be a *"linear" and "shift-invariant"* operator, expressed in the convolutional form:

$$(Ku)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\Omega} h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s})u(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s} =: (h \star u)(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \overline{\Omega},$$

where * *denotes the convolution operation and h is the so-called point spread function (blurring kernel) associated with the linear blurring operator K. Therefore, the image deblurring is also called the image deconvolution.*

• K is linear:

$$\begin{aligned} \big(K(\alpha u + \beta v)\big)(\mathbf{x}) &= \int_{\Omega} h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s}) \big(\alpha u(\mathbf{s}) + \beta v(\mathbf{s})\big) d\mathbf{s} \\ &= \cdots = \alpha (Ku)(\mathbf{x}) + \beta (Kv)(\mathbf{x}), \quad \forall \ \mathbf{x} \in \overline{\Omega}. \end{aligned}$$

• *K* is shift-invariant: Let $g(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{\tau})$ for $\mathbf{\tau} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (Kg)(\mathbf{x}) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s})g(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s} = (h \star g)(\mathbf{x}) = (g \star h)(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s})h(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{\tau} - \mathbf{s})h(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s} \\ &= (f \star h)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{\tau}) = (Kf)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{\tau}), \quad \forall \, \mathbf{x} \in \overline{\Omega}. \end{aligned}$$

Motion blur:

>> H = fspecial('motion', len, theta)

returns a filter to approximate the linear motion of a camera by the length of len pixels of the motion, with an angle of theta degrees in a counterclockwise direction.

The default len is 9 pixels and the default theta is 0 degree.

Examples:

```
>> H = fspecial('motion', 5, 45)
```

	0	0	0	0.0501	0.0304	1
	0	0	0.0519	0.1771	0.0501	
H =	0	0.0519	0.1771	0.0519	0	
	0.0501	0.1771	0.0519	0	0	
	0.0304	0.0501	0	0	0	

```
>> H = fspecial('motion', 5, 30)
```

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0.0268 & 0.1268 & 0.1464 \\ 0 & 0.1000 & 0.2000 & 0.1000 & 0 \\ 0.1464 & 0.1268 & 0.0268 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

>> H = fspecial('motion', 5, 60)

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0.1464 \\ 0 & 0.1000 & 0.1268 \\ 0.0268 & 0.2000 & 0.0268 \\ 0.1268 & 0.1000 & 0 \\ 0.1464 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

A motion filter and blurred image: cameraman

Read image cameraman.png and display it:

```
>> I = imread('cameraman.png');
>> imshow(I);
```

Create a motion filter and use it to blur the image:

>> H = fspecial('motion', 30, 45);
>> motion_blur = imfilter(I, H, 'replicate');

Display the blurred image:

>> imshow(motion_blur);





>> H = fspecial('gaussian', hsize, sigma)

returns a rotationally symmetric Gaussian lowpass filter of size hsize with standard deviation sigma.

Example:

```
>> H = fspecial('gaussian', 5, 1)
```

	0.0030	0.0133	0.0219	0.0133	0.0030]
	0.0133	0.0596	0.0983	0.0596	0.0133
H =	0.0219	0.0983	0.1621	0.0983	0.0219
	0.0133	0.0596	0.0983	0.0596	0.0133
	0.0030	0.0133	0.0219	0.0133	0.0030 0.0133 0.0219 0.0133 0.0030

Here fspecial creates Gaussian filters using

$$H_g(n_1, n_2) := e^{\frac{-(n_1^2 + n_2^2)}{2\sigma^2}}$$
 and $H(n_1, n_2) := \frac{H_g(n_1, n_2)}{\sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} H_g}$.

A Gaussian filter and blurred image: cameraman

Read image cameraman.png and display it:

```
>> I = imread('cameraman.png');
```

>> imshow(I);

Create a Gaussian filter and use it to blur the image:

>> H = fspecial('gaussian', 30, 5);
>> gaussian_blur = imfilter(I, H, 'replicate');

Display the blurred image:

>> imshow(gaussian_blur);





Blurry and noisy image restoration

The total variation (TV) regularization has become one of the standard techniques known for preserving sharp discontinuities such as edges and object boundaries.

Let $f : \overline{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ be a given blurry and noisy image in $L^2(\Omega)$. The standard total variation model recovers an image from f by solving the TV/L2 problem:

$$\min_{u} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(\mathbf{x})| d\mathbf{x} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\Omega} ((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mathbf{x},$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a model parameter, *K* is a linear blurring operator, *u* is the unknown image to be restored, and

$$|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})| := \|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})\|_2 = \sqrt{(\partial u/\partial x)^2 + (\partial u/\partial y)^2}$$

Here, we assume that $(Ku)(x) = (h \star u)(x)$ for all $x \in \overline{\Omega}$ and the point spread function *h* is given.

If both the blur kernel h and the latent sharp image u are unknown, the problem is called "blind image deblurring" or "blind image deconvolution."

The energy functional

Since the energy functional in the TV/L2 problem is convex, u is optimal if and only if it satisfies the first-order optimality condition. Define the energy functional

$$E[u] := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(\mathbf{x})| + \frac{\lambda}{2} ((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mathbf{x}.$$

For any smooth function η with $\eta = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$, let $\Phi(\varepsilon) := E[u + \varepsilon \eta]$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi'(0) &= \Phi'(0) = \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \Phi(\varepsilon) \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{E[u + \varepsilon\eta] - E[u]}{\varepsilon - 0} \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \Big(\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(\mathbf{x}) + \varepsilon \nabla \eta(\mathbf{x})| + \frac{\lambda}{2} \big((Ku + \varepsilon K\eta)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \big)^2 d\mathbf{x} \\ &- \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(\mathbf{x})| + \frac{\lambda}{2} \big((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \big)^2 d\mathbf{x} \Big) \\ &= \left(\int_{\Omega} \frac{\nabla u(\mathbf{x}) + \varepsilon \nabla \eta(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla u(\mathbf{x}) + \varepsilon \nabla \eta(\mathbf{x})|} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} \cdot \nabla \eta(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} \right) \\ &+ \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \frac{\lambda}{2} \Big(\int_{\Omega} \big(\varepsilon (K\eta)(\mathbf{x}) \big)^2 + 2\varepsilon (K\eta)(\mathbf{x}) \big((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \big) \Big). \end{aligned}$$

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The Euler-Lagrange equation

Then, by Green's formula, we obtain

$$D = \int_{\Omega} -\nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla u(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})|} \eta(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda(K\eta)(\mathbf{x}) ((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x})) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} -\nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla u(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})|} \eta(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda \eta(\mathbf{x}) K^* ((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x})) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \left(-\nabla \cdot \frac{\nabla u(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})|} + \lambda K^* ((Ku)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x})) \right) \eta(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

for any smooth function η with $\eta = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$, where K^* is the adjoint operator of *K*. Therefore, we attain the Euler-Lagrange equation,

$$-\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}\right) + \lambda K^*(Ku - f) = 0 \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega,$$

or equivalently,

(

$$abla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) - \lambda K^*(Ku - f) = 0 \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \Omega,$$

along with the Neumann boundary condition, $\partial u(x) / \partial n = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$.

The adjoint operator

Let \mathcal{V} be a real (or complex) Hilbert space with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, e.g., $L^2(\Omega)$ with the inner product $\langle f, g \rangle := \int_{\Omega} fg \, d\Omega$.

 Consider a continuous (i.e., bounded) linear operator *T* : *V* → *V*. Then the adjoint of *T* is the continuous linear operator *T*^{*} : *V* → *V* satisfying

$$\langle Tx, y \rangle = \langle x, T^*y \rangle, \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{V}.$$

- Existence and uniqueness of this operator follows from the Riesz representation theorem.
- This can be seen as a generalization of the adjoint matrix of a square matrix , i.e., the conjugate transpose of a square matrix. For example, let *A* ∈ ℝ^{3×3}. Then

$$\langle Ax, y \rangle = y^{\top}Ax = \langle x, A^{\top}y \rangle, \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

What is the adjoint operator *K*^{*} of *K*?

Suppose that the linear and shift-invariant blurring operator $K: L^2(\Omega) \to L^2(\Omega)$ is defined as

$$(Ku)(\mathbf{x}) := (h \star u)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\Omega} h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{s})u(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s} \quad \forall \, \mathbf{x} \in \overline{\Omega},$$

where h is the given kernel function.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \langle Ku,v\rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} &=& \int_{\Omega} \Bigl(\int_{\Omega} h(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{s})u(\mathbf{s})d\mathbf{s}\Bigr)v(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} \\ &=& \int_{\Omega} u(\mathbf{s})\Bigl(\int_{\Omega} h(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{s})v(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}\Bigr)d\mathbf{s}. \end{array}$$

Let $\tilde{h}(\mathbf{x}) = h(-\mathbf{x})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Then for all $u, v \in L^2(\Omega)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u, K^* v \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} &= \langle Ku, v \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} u(s) \Big(\int_{\Omega} \widetilde{h}(s-x) v(x) dx \Big) ds \\ &= \langle u, \widetilde{h} \star v \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $(K^*v)(\mathbf{x}) = (\widetilde{h} \star v)(\mathbf{x}).$

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Nonlinear PDE based image restoration

Consider the E-L equation with the homogeneous BC, $\frac{\partial u}{\partial u} = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$.

$$\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|_{\delta}}\right) - \lambda K^*(Ku - f) = 0,$$

where $|\cdot|_{\delta} := \sqrt{|\cdot|^2 + \delta^2}$, $0 < \delta \ll 1$, to avoid division by zero.

• Rudin-Osher (1994) used the artificial time marching method:

$$u \leftarrow u + \Delta t \Big\{ \nabla \cdot \Big(\frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|_{\delta}} \Big) - \lambda K^*(Ku - f) \Big\}.$$

This method is very easy to implement but converges slowly due to the nonlinearity of the diffusion operator.

• Vogel-Oman (1996) used *a lagged diffusivity procedure* to partially overcome this difficulty by solving the following equation for $u^{(n+1)}$ iteratively:

$$\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla u^{(n+1)}}{|\nabla u^{(n)}|_{\delta}}\right) - \lambda K^* (K u^{(n+1)} - f) = 0.$$

An equivalent constrained convex problem

By introducing a new variable $w(x) := \nabla u(x)$, we obtain an equivalent constrained convex minimization problem:

$$\min_{u,w} \int_{\Omega} |w(x)| dx + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\Omega} ((Ku)(x) - f(x))^2 dx,$$

subject to $w(x) = \nabla u(x), x \in \Omega.$

Wang-Yin-Zhang (2007) considered the L^2 -norm-square penalty formulation to obtain the unconstrained problem:

$$\min_{u,w} \int_{\Omega} |w(x)| dx + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\Omega} \left((Ku)(x) - f(x) \right)^2 dx + \frac{\beta}{2} \int_{\Omega} \left(w(x) - \nabla u(x) \right)^2 dx,$$

where $\beta > 0$ is a sufficiently large penalty parameter in order to approximate the solution of the original problem.

The discrete form of the unconstrained problem

Suppose that $f = [f_{ij}]$ is an $N \times N$ digital image. Let us consider the discrete form of the unconstrained problem:

$$\min_{u,w} \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} \|w_{ij}\| + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|Ku - f\|_{F}^{2} + \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} \|(\partial^{+}u)_{ij} - w_{ij}\|^{2},$$

where *K* is the discrete convolution operator, $\|\cdot\|$ is the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^2 , i.e., $\|\cdot\| := \|\cdot\|_2$, and $\|\cdot\|_F$ is the Frobenius norm,

$$oldsymbol{w}_{ij}=\left(egin{array}{c} (w_1)_{ij}\ (w_2)_{ij}\end{array}
ight)\in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Moreover, ∂^+ denotes the forward finite difference operator,

$$(\partial^+ u)_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} (\partial^+_1 u)_{ij} \\ (\partial^+_2 u)_{ij} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{i+1,j} - u_{ij} \\ u_{i,j+1} - u_{ij} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

An alternating method

We will solve the discrete problem by alternately minimizing the objective function with respect to w while fixing u, and vice versa.

w-subproblem: For a fixed *u*, we solve

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{w}}\sum_{i,j=1}^{N}\left(\|\boldsymbol{w}_{ij}\|+\frac{\beta}{2}\|\boldsymbol{w}_{ij}-(\partial^{+}\boldsymbol{u})_{ij}\|^{2}\right),$$

which permits a closed-form solution

$$w_{ij} = \max\left(\|(\partial^+ u)_{ij}\| - \frac{1}{\beta}, 0\right) \frac{(\partial^+ u)_{ij}}{\|(\partial^+ u)_{ij}\|}, \quad 1 \le i, j, \le N,$$

where we follow the convention that $0 \cdot (0/0) := 0$. The computation complexity is of order $O(N^2)$.

An alternating method (cont'd)

u-subproblem: For a fixed $w = (w_1, w_2)^\top$, we solve the following problem with a special structure:

$$\min_{u} \frac{\lambda}{2} \|Ku - f\|_{F}^{2} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|\partial_{1}^{+}u - w_{1}\|_{F}^{2} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|\partial_{2}^{+}u - w_{2}\|_{F}^{2},$$

where $Ku = H \star u$ with a given blurring filter H, $\partial_1^+ u = [(\partial_1^+ u)_{ij}]$, $w_1 = [(w_1)_{ij}]$, and so on, and all are matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$.

Therefore, we can solve a linear least-squares problem in the form:

$$\min_{u} \| \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \\ C \end{bmatrix} u - \begin{bmatrix} f \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \end{bmatrix} \|_2^2,$$

where u, f, w_1 , and w_2 are vectorization of $[u_{ij}], [f_{ij}], [w_{1ij}]$, and $[w_{2ij}]$, respectively. However, the linear least-squares solver (by solving the normal equations, or using the QR decomposition, or using the SVD) has high complexity, leading to significant costs!

u-subproblem: an FFT-based algorithm

We can use the FFT to solve the *u*-subproblem:

- Since K, ∂₁⁺, ∂₂⁺ are all discrete convolutions, if we transform the *u*-subproblem into the Fourier domain, then these operations become element-wise products, e.g., *F*(*H* ★ *u*) = *F*(*H*) ∘ *F*(*u*).
- Since the Fourier transform preserves the Frobenius norm, we obtain an equivalent problem (set *γ* := *β*/*λ*):

$$\begin{split} \min_{u} \|\mathcal{F}(H) \circ \mathcal{F}(u) - \mathcal{F}(f)\|_{F}^{2} + \gamma \|\mathcal{F}(\partial_{1}^{+}) \circ \mathcal{F}(u) - \mathcal{F}(w_{1})\|_{F}^{2} \\ + \gamma \|\mathcal{F}(\partial_{2}^{+}) \circ \mathcal{F}(u) - \mathcal{F}(w_{2})\|_{F}^{2}. \end{split}$$

• After solving for $\mathcal{F}(u)$ (using first-order optimality condition), we obtain the solution to the *u*-subproblem by

$$u = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\Big(\frac{\mathcal{F}(H)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(f) + \gamma\big(\mathcal{F}(\partial_1^+)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(w_1) + \mathcal{F}(\partial_2^+)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(w_2)\big)}{\mathcal{F}(H)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(H) + \gamma\big(\mathcal{F}(\partial_1^+)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(\partial_1^+) + \mathcal{F}(\partial_2^+)^* \circ \mathcal{F}(\partial_2^+)\big)}\Big),$$

where "*" denotes complex conjugacy and the division is element-wise. *Therefore, it requires two ffts and one ifft per iteration.*

Selection of model parameters

 Noisy level control parameter λ: An appropriate λ should give a solution *u* satisfying

$$||Ku - f||^2 \approx ||K\bar{u} - f||^2 = \sigma^2 = Var(n).$$

- **Constraint penalty parameter** β : Parameter β cannot be too small because it would allow $\nabla u = w$ to be violated excessively. However, β cannot be too large either because the larger the β is the less updates applied to w and u, making the algorithm take more iterations. Therefore, we should choose β in a continuation way to balance the speed and accuracy.
- **Prescribed maximum value** β_{max} : The initial value of β is relatively small (e.g., $\beta = 4$). Then β is increased (e.g., doubled) until a prescribed maximum value β_{max} is reached (e.g., 2^{20}).

Numerical experiments

% creat a blurring filter
>> H = fspecial('motion', 41, 135)
% add Gaussian white noise with mean 0 and variance 10⁻³
>> f = imnoise(original, 'gaussian', 0, 1e-3)

Original image size = 512x512



Blurry image (SNR 5.9065)



Blurry and noisy image (SNR 5.5328)



λ=10(SNR 7.2649)



λ =50(SNR 9.0242)



λ =250(SNR 10.9436)



(All the numerical experiments are performed by Pei-Chiang Shao)

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Numerical experiments

% creat a blurring filter
>> H = fspecial('gaussian', 41, 10)
% add Gaussian white noise with mean 0 and variance 10⁻⁶
>> f = imnoise(original, 'gaussian', 0, 1e-6)

Original image size = 512x512



Blurry image (SNR 6.2287)



Blurry and noisy image (SNR 6.2282)



λ =10000(SNR 9.6682)



λ =50000(SNR 10.5387)



x =250000(SNR 11.2205)



Total variation blind deconvolution

Chan-Wong (1998) formulated the blind deconvolution problem as

$$\min_{u,h}\frac{1}{2}\int_{\Omega}\left((h\star u)(x)-f(x)\right)^{2}dx+\alpha_{1}\int_{\Omega}|\nabla u(x)|dx+\alpha_{2}\int_{\Omega}|\nabla h(x)|dx,$$

where the use of TV regularization for the blurring kernel h is due to the fact that some blurring kernels can have edges.

The first-order optimality conditions give

$$u(-\mathbf{x}) \star \left((u \star h)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \right) - \alpha_2 \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla h(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla h(\mathbf{x})|} \right) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega,$$

$$h(-\mathbf{x}) \star \left((h \star u)(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}) \right) - \alpha_1 \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\nabla u(\mathbf{x})}{|\nabla u(\mathbf{x})|} \right) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega,$$

which are the associated Euler-Lagrange equations.

A further study is needed!

References

- T. F. Chan and C.-K. Wong, Total variation blind deconvolution, *IEEE Transaction on Image Processing*, 7 (1998), pp. 370-375.
- P. Getreuer, Total variation deconvolution using split Bregman, *Image Processing On Line*, 2 (2012), pp. 158-174.
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