

# A Convex Variational Approach for Restoring Data Corrupted with Poisson-Gaussian Noise

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# POISSON-GAUSSIAN NOISE

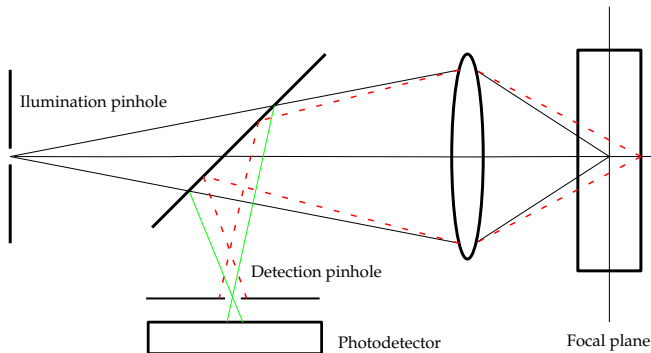
## Physical acquisition process:

- ▶ *Various noise sources*
  - ▶ *Some are signal dependent, e.g. photon noise*
  - ▶ *Some are signal independent, e.g. electronic noise, thermal noise etc.*
- ▶ *Too complex for either Poisson or additive Gaussian noise models*
- ▶ *Next simplest model: sum of Poisson and Gaussian models for signal dependent and signal independent components, respectively.*
- ▶ *A recent topic of interest in the literature [Snyder et al. 1993] [Delpretti et al. 2008] [Benvenuto et al. 2008] [Luisier et al. 2011] [Gil-Rodrigo et al. 2011] [Chakrabarti and Zickler 2012] [Li et al. 2012]*

## Imaging related application areas:

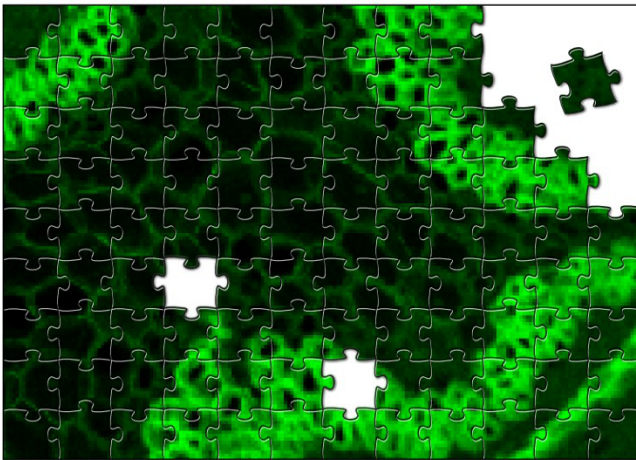
- ▶ *Biology (Fluorescence imaging systems)*
- ▶ *Astronomy*
- ▶ *CCD camera imaging*

# OUR MAIN MOTIVATION: CONFOCAL IMAGING



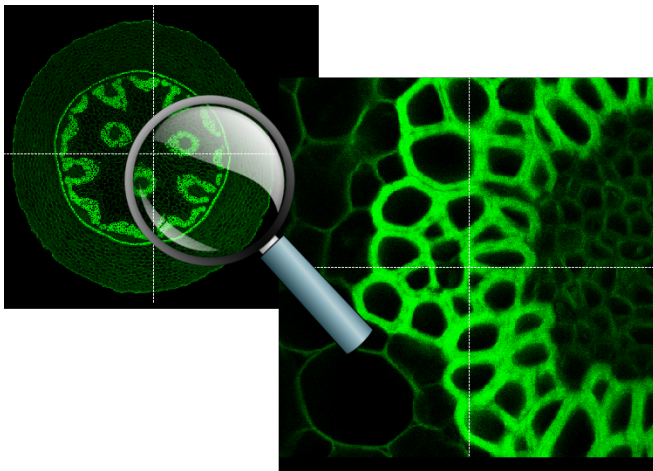
- ▶ *Much of the out-of-focus light eliminated from detection*
- ▶ *High optical resolution (sample depth direction)*
- ▶ *Image acquired point-by-point (small number of detectable photons: down to 8-12 photons per highest intensity pixel)*
- ▶ *Application area: biomedical research*

# SEEING THE WOOD FOR THE TREES



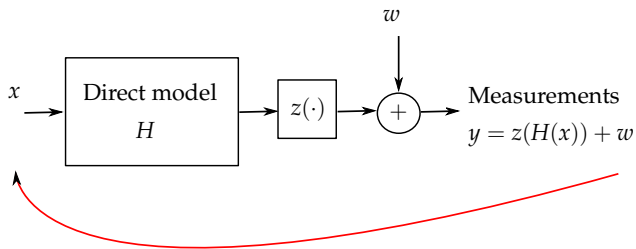
*Confocal microscopy*

# SEEING THE WOOD FOR THE TREES



*Confocal macroscopy*

# DEGRADATION MODEL

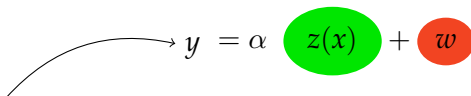


Which strategy for restoring image  $x$  corrupted by Poisson-Gaussian noise?

Method grounded on approximations  
of the noise statistics

Method based on the true  
Poisson-Gaussian neg-log likelihood

# DEGRADATION MODEL


$$y = \alpha \, z(x) + w$$

## Observations

$$y \in \mathcal{Y}$$

$$y = (y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Y}}$$

[Zhang '07] [Boulanger *et al.* '08] [Delpretti *et al.* '08] [Luisier *et al.* '11]



# DEGRADATION MODEL

## Poisson noise

$x \in \mathcal{X}$  - original signal

$x = (x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$   $x_i \in [0, +\infty)$   $Z_i(x) \sim \mathcal{P}([Hx]_i)$

$H : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Y}$  - blur

$z(x) = (z_i(x))_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$  - realization of  $(Z_i(x))_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$

$\alpha \in (0, +\infty)$  - scale parameter

$$y = \alpha \quad \textcolor{blue}{z(x)} + \textcolor{red}{w}$$

## Observations

$y \in \mathcal{Y}$

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[Zhang '07] [Boulanger *et al.* '08] [Delpretti *et al.* '08] [Luisier *et al.* '11]

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$\alpha \in (0, +\infty)$  - scale parameter

$$y = \alpha \quad \text{z(x)} + w$$

## Observations

$y \in \mathcal{Y}$

$y = (y_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Y}}$

## White Gaussian noise

$W_i \sim \mathcal{N}(c, \sigma^2)$

$w = (w_i)_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$  - realization of  $(W_i)_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$

$c \in \mathbb{R}$  - mean  $\sigma^2$  - variance

[Zhang '07] [Boulanger *et al.* '08] [Delpretti *et al.* '08] [Luisier *et al.* '11]

# POISSON-GAUSSIAN DATA FIDELITY TERM

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(x) &= -\log(p_Y(y; x)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^Q \Phi_i([Hx]_i)\end{aligned}$$

Where

$\Phi_i([Hx]_i)$  is given by

$$-\log \left( \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{e^{-[Hx]_i} ([Hx]_i)^n}{n!} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{y_i - c - n}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)^2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} \right)$$

## Important questions:

- ▶ Is  $\Phi$  convex?
- ▶ What is the explicit form of the proximity operator of  $\Phi$ ?
- ▶ Is  $\Phi$   $\mu$ -Lipschitz differentiable?

# CONVEXITY

## Theorem 5.2.2

The neg-log likelihood  $\Phi^{(\beta)}$  of a mixture of Generalized-Gaussian and Poisson variables defined over the positive orthant as

$$\Phi^{(\beta)}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^Q \Phi_i^{(\beta)}([Hx]_i)$$

where for all,  $i \in \{1, \dots, Q\}$

$$\Phi_i^{(\beta)}([Hx]_i) = -\log \left( \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{e^{-[Hx]_i} ([Hx]_i)^n}{n!} \frac{\beta}{2\sqrt{2}\sigma\Gamma(\frac{1}{\beta})} e^{-\left(\frac{|y_i - c - n|}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)^\beta} \right)$$

is strictly convex if  $\beta > 1$  and convex if  $\beta = 1$ .

As a special case we have the convexity of Poisson-Gaussian neg-log likelihood

# LIPSCHITZ DIFFERENTIABILITY

## Theorem 5.2.1

The function  $\Phi$  is  $\mu$ -Lipschitz differentiable on  $[0, +\infty)^N$  with

$$\mu = \|H\|^2 \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\sigma^2}}\right) \exp \left( \left(2 \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, Q\}} \{y_i\} - 2c - 1\right) / \sigma^2 \right)$$

**Gradient:**

$$\nabla \Phi(x) = H^\top (\mathbf{1} - \xi(Hx))$$

**Hessian:**

$$\nabla^2 \Phi(x) =$$

$$H^\top \text{diag}(\eta_i([Hx]_i)) H$$

$$\forall z = (z_i)_{1 \leq i \leq Q} \in [0, +\infty)^Q,$$

$$\xi(z) = (\xi_i(z_i))_{1 \leq i \leq Q},$$

$$\eta(z) = (\eta_i(z_i))_{1 \leq i \leq Q}$$

$$\xi_i(z_i) = s(z_i, y_i - c - 1) / s(z_i, y_i - c)$$

$$\eta_i(z_i) = \frac{(s(z_i, y_i - c - 1))^2 - s(z_i, y_i - c)s(z_i, y_i - c - 2)}{(s(z_i, y_i - c))^2}$$

$$\forall (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2,$$

$$s(a, b) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{a^n}{n!} e^{-\left(\frac{b-n}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)^2}$$

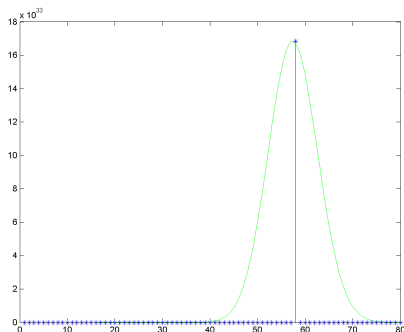
**Problem:** Infinite sums

## INFINITE SUMS PROBLEM [JEZIERSKA ET AL., 2013]

$$s(a, b) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \pi(a, b, n)$$

where

$$\Pi(a, b, n) = \frac{a^n}{n!} e^{-\left(\frac{b-n}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)^2}$$



## Lemma 3.4.1

Unique maximizer

$$n^* = \sigma^2 \mathcal{W}\left(\frac{a}{\sigma^2} e^{b/\sigma^2}\right)$$

## Proposition 3.4.2

Bounding function:  $\mathcal{N}(q_s^*, \frac{\sigma}{\alpha})$ 

Bounds:

$$n^- = \lfloor n^* - \Delta\sigma \rfloor$$

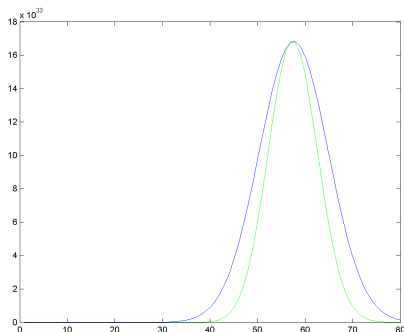
$$n^+ = \lceil n^* + \Delta\sigma \rceil$$

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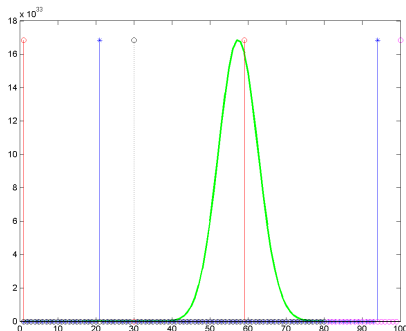
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$$n^- = \lfloor n^* - \Delta\sigma \rfloor$$

$$n^+ = \lceil n^* + \Delta\sigma \rceil$$



# PROBLEM FORMULATION

Find

$$\hat{x} \in \operatorname{argmin}_x f(x)$$

Where

$$f(x) = h(x) + \psi_0(x) + \sum_{r=1}^R \psi_r(V_r x)$$

- $\psi_r(V_r x)$  - convex regularization term with linear operator  $V_r \in \mathbb{R}^{P_r \times N}$
- $\psi_0 \in \Gamma_0(\mathbb{R}^N)$  - indicator function of a closed convex subset of  $[0, +\infty)^N$
- $h(x)$  - for non-negative values defined as  $-\log(p_Y(y | x))$  and defined as a quadratic function on  $(-\infty, 0]^N$

# PROXIMAL METHODS

## Proximity operator

The proximity operator of a function  $f \in \Gamma_0(\mathcal{X})$  (lower semi-continuous proper convex function) at  $x$  is defined as:

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \quad \text{prox}_f(x) := \underset{p \in \mathcal{X}}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(p) + \frac{1}{2} \|x - p\|^2$$



Proximal methods incorporating functions either via their proximity operator or via their gradient:

- ▶ Forward-backward algorithm ( $R = 2$ ) [Chen and Rockafellar, 1997]
- ▶ Forward-backward-forward algorithm ( $R = 2$ ) [Tseng, 2000]
- ▶ Generalized forward-backward algorithm ( $R \geq 2$ ) [Raguet *et al.* 2013]
- ▶ Primal-dual algorithm ( $R \geq 2$ ) [Vu, 2011] [Condat, 2013] [Combettes and Pesquet, 2012]

## Primal-dual splitting approach [Combettes and Pesquet, 2012]

**Initialization:**  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , and  $(\forall r \in \{1, \dots, R\}) v_{r,0} \in \mathbb{R}^{P_r}$   
**for**  $k = 0, \dots$  **do**

$$y_{1,k} = x_k - \gamma \left( \nabla h(x_k) + \sum_{r=1}^R V_r^\top v_{r,k} \right) + a_k$$

$$p_{1,k} = \text{prox}_{\gamma\psi_0}(y_{1,k})$$

**for**  $r = 1, \dots, R$  **do**

$$y_{2,r,k} = v_{r,k} + \gamma V_r x_k$$

$$p_{2,r,k} = y_{2,r,k} - \gamma \text{prox}_{\gamma^{-1}\psi_r}(\gamma^{-1} y_{2,r,k})$$

$$q_{2,r,k} = p_{2,r,k} + \gamma V_r p_{1,k}$$

$$v_{r,k+1} = v_{r,k} - y_{2,r,k} + q_{2,r,k}$$

**end for**

$$q_{1,k} = p_{1,k} - \gamma \left( \nabla h(p_{1,k}) + \sum_{r=1}^R V_r^\top p_{2,r,k} \right) + c_k$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - y_{1,k} + q_{1,k}$$

**end for**

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$$x_{k+1} = x_k - y_{1,k} + q_{1,k}$$

**end for**

# CONVERGENCE

## Assumptions:

- ❶  $f$  is coercive, i.e.  $\lim_{\|x\| \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$ ,
- ❷ for every  $r \in \{1, \dots, R\}$ ,  $\psi_r$  is finite valued,
- ❸  $\gamma \in [\epsilon, (1 - \epsilon)/\delta]$  where  $\epsilon \in (0, 1/(\delta + 1))$  and  $\delta = \mu + \sqrt{\sum_{r=1}^R \|V_r\|^2}$ ,
- ❹  $(a_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(c_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  are absolutely summable sequences.

### Result

There exists a minimizer  $\bar{x}$  of  $f(x)$  such that the sequences  $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(p_{1,k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  converge to  $\bar{x}$ .



# DATA FIDELITY TERMS

- ▶ Exact Poisson-Gaussian model

$$-\log(p_Y(y; x)) = \sum_{i=1}^Q -\log \left( \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{e^{-[Hx]_i} ([Hx]_i)^n}{n!} \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{y_i-n}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)^2}}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \right)$$

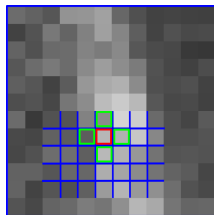
Compared with

- ▶ Poisson model
- ▶ Gaussian model
- ▶ Generalized Anscombe transform (GAST) model [Murtagh *et al.* 1995]

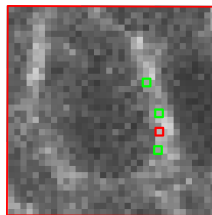
$$-\log(p_Y(y; x)) = \sum_{i=1}^Q (\nu([Hx]_i) - \nu(y))^2, \quad \nu(\theta) = \sqrt{\theta + \frac{3}{8} + \sigma^2}$$

Flexibility: Large range of data fidelity terms can be applied

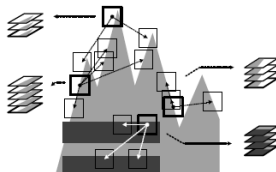
# WIDE RANGE OF PENALIZATION STRATEGIES



TV



NLTV



BM3D

TV

[Rudin *et al.* 1992]

NLTV

[Gilboa and Osher *et al.* 2008]

Hessian-TV

[Lefkimmatis *et al.* 2012]

BM3D frames

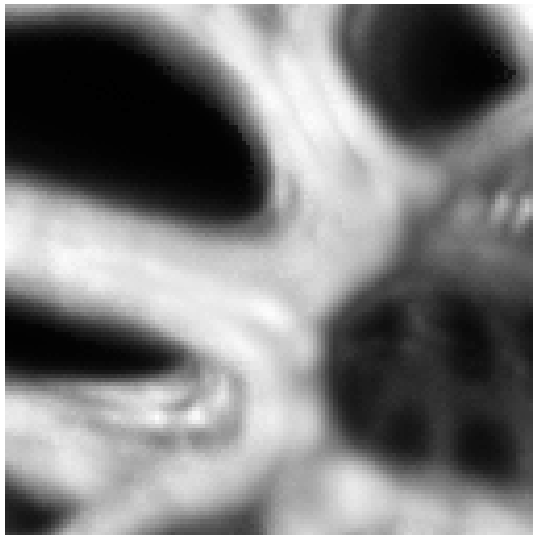
[Danielyan *et al.* 2012]

...

Flexibility: Large range of penalization strategies can be applied

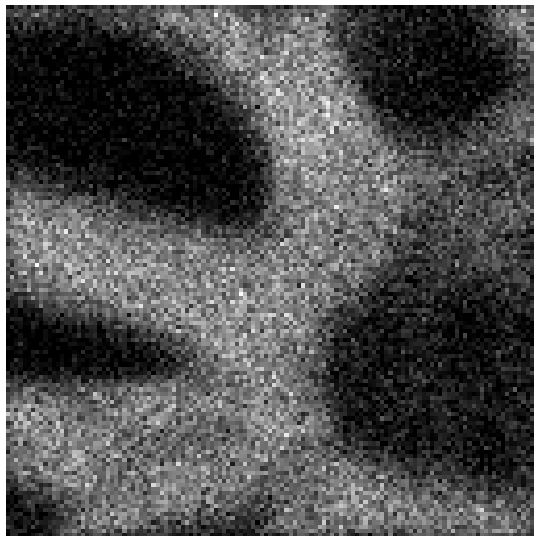


# RESULTS



**Original image:**  
size  $128 \times 128$

# RESULTS



**Original image:**

size  $128 \times 128$

**Noisy blurred image:**

$25 \times 25$  truncated Gaussian

blur with std 1.6

$\sigma^2 = 12$

MAE = 35

SNR = 10.07

# RESULTS

**Original image:**

size  $128 \times 128$

**Noisy blurred image:**

$25 \times 25$  truncated Gaussian

blur with std 1.6

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MAE = 35

SNR = 10.07

**Reconstructed image  
(Hessian-TV prior):**

MAE = 7.91

SNR = 21.52

# RESULTS

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size  $128 \times 128$

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**Reconstructed image**

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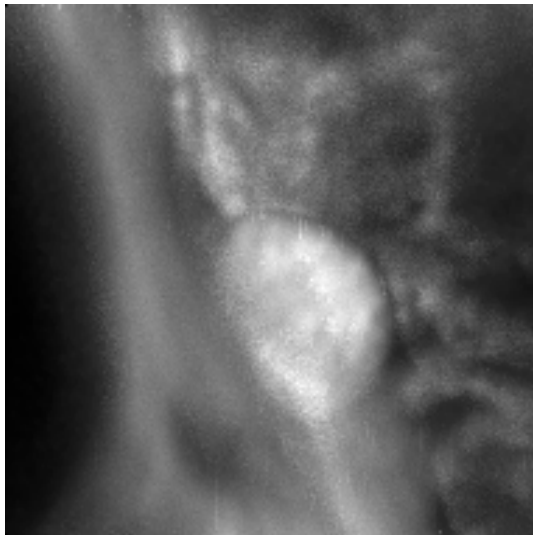
**(BM3D prior):**

ongoing work

MAE = 7.99

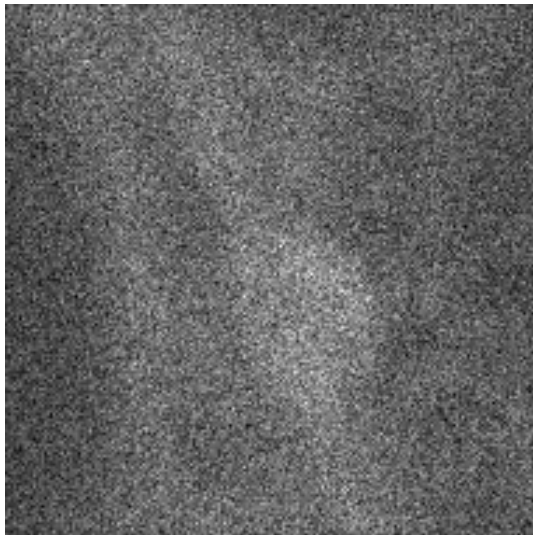
SNR = 21.86

# RESULTS



**Original image:**  
size  $190 \times 190$

# RESULTS



**Original image:**

size  $190 \times 190$

**Noisy blurred image:**

$25 \times 25$  truncated Gaussian

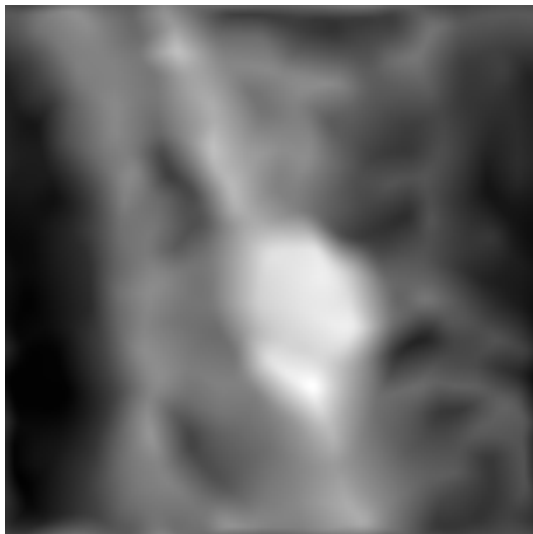
blur with std 1.6

$\sigma^2 = 9$

MAE = 61

SNR = 2.19

# RESULTS

**Original image:**

size  $190 \times 190$

**Noisy blurred image:**

$25 \times 25$  truncated Gaussian  
blur with std 1.6

$$\sigma^2 = 9$$

$$\text{MAE} = 61$$

$$\text{SNR} = 2.19$$

**Reconstructed image  
(Hessian-TV prior):**

$$\text{MAE} = 7.79$$

$$\text{SNR} = 19.53$$

		Poiss.	Gauss.	GAST	Exact
TV	$\lambda$	0.163	0.197	0.093	0.083
	MAE	10.71	9.42	9.70	<b>8.90</b>
	SNR	20.21	20.6	20.55	<b>21.22</b>
	SSIM	0.715	0.777	0.782	<b>0.802</b>
NLTV	$\lambda$	0.105	0.120	0.056	0.048
	MAE	9.60	8.46	8.71	<b>8.25</b>
	SNR	21.13	21.60	21.41	<b>21.85</b>
	SSIM	0.752	0.811	0.807	<b>0.812</b>
TV + Hessian	$\lambda_{TV}$	0.042	0.258	0.026	0.032
	$\lambda_H$	0.148	0.376	0.070	0.082
	MAE	8.99	7.92	8.10	<b>7.91</b>
	SNR	21.09	<b>21.52</b>	21.40	<b>21.52</b>
	SSIM	0.794	<b>0.854</b>	0.851	<b>0.854</b>



		Poiss.	Gauss.	GAST	Exact
TV	$\lambda$	0.394	0.254	0.176	0.158
	MAE	11.58	9.02	10.16	<b>8.66</b>
	SNR	16.7	18.49	17.49	<b>18.81</b>
	SSIM	0.643	0.670	0.660	<b>0.679</b>
NLTV	$\lambda$	0.283	0.197	0.138	0.138
	MAE	11.80	9.33	10.35	<b>9.27</b>
	SNR	16.69	18.28	17.37	<b>18.29</b>
	SSIM	0.622	0.643	0.632	<b>0.644</b>
TV + Hessian	$\lambda_{TV}$	0.079	0.167	0.125	0.119
	$\lambda_H$	0.856	0.690	0.582	0.346
	MAE	10.69	7.84	9.13	<b>7.79</b>
	SNR	17.32	19.48	18.38	<b>19.53</b>
	SSIM	0.726	<b>0.755</b>	0.742	<b>0.755</b>

# CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Properties of Poisson-Gaussian neg-log-likelihood
  - ↪ Convexity
  - ↪ Lipschitz differentiability
  
- ▶ Primal-dual splitting algorithm
  - ↪ High flexibility
  - ↪ Robust to computational errors
  
- ▶ Future work
  - ↪ Variable metric acceleration for primal-dual algorithm
  - ↪ Non-convex regularization strategies for Poisson-Gaussian data
  - ↪ Comparison with other approximation of Poisson-Gaussian data fidelity term present in the literature

# VARIOUS APPROXIMATIONS OF POISSON-GAUSSIAN DATA FIDELITY TERM

Scaled gradient method [Benvenuto *et al.* 2008]

Gradient of neg-log likelihood approximated by:

$$H^T \left( 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{1 + 2([Hx]_i) - y_i}{2([Hx]_i) + \sigma^2} \right) \right)_{i \in \mathbb{X}}$$

Alternating-minimization alg. [Gil-Rodrigo *et al.* 2011]

Neg-log likelihood approximated by:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\| \left( D_{\tilde{\sigma}^2}(Hx) \right)^{-1/2} (y - Hx) \right\|_2^2$$

Covariance matrix  $D_{\tilde{\sigma}^2}$  depends on noise parameters

Augmented Lagrangian method  
[Chakrabarti and Zickler 2012]

Neg-log likelihood approximated by:

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{X}} [Hx]_i + \sigma^2 - (y_i + \sigma^2) \log ([Hx]_i + \sigma^2)$$

Augmented Lagrangian method [Li *et al.* 2012]

Neg-log likelihood approximated by:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\| \left( \tilde{\sigma}^2 I + (Hx) \right)^{-1/2} (y - Hx) \right\|_2^2$$

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