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Optimal selection of diffusion-weighting gradient waveforms using compressed sensing and dictionary learning

Raphaël Truffet supervised by Emmanuel Caruyer

Introduction

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive technique for the observation of the tissue in vivo.
- Diffusion MRI measures the movement of water molecules and gives information about white matter microstructure.
- The acquisition sequences rely on magnetic field gradients.
- While pulsed gradient waveforms are the most used because of their simplicity, it has been shown that oscillating arbitrary waveforms provide better estimation of microstructure parameters.
- Since every function of the time that respect a few constraints provides a possible gradient waveform, the sampling remains largely unexploited.
- Here are several possible gradient waveforms:

Data generation

- Many signals are simulated for several gradient waveforms and several microstructure parameters using CAMINO.
- 180 different microstructure are generated with parallel fibers and different densities, radii distributions. These microstructure are rotated to represent several orientations.
- 2600 gradients are used in the simulations. Their direction is constant and they are piecewise constant with 4 steps of time.
- The gradients are spread over 40 directions that cover the unit sphere.

Dictionary learning

- We want to find a sparse representation for the signal.
- Dictionary learning is made over the families of signals previously generated.
- The learning is made by updating alternatively the dictionary and the sparse signals to minimize:

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \| x_i - D \gamma_i \|_2^2 + \lambda \| \gamma_i \|_1 \right)
$$

Results

Concluding remarks and further work

- Encouraging results that show an efficient reconstruction
- Our gradient selection heuristic performs better than randomness (often used in compressed sensing)
- We can still improve:
  - The gradients given in input
  - The learning and reconstruction parameters
  - The criterion to optimize for the subsampling (for example, the incoherence of the columns)