

Yong Ding, Tuo Hu, 2017. Efficient scheme of low-dose CT reconstruction using TV minimization with an adaptive stopping strategy and sparse dictionary learning for post-processing. *Frontiers of Information Technology & Electronic Engineering*, 18(12):2001-2008. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1631/FITEE.1700287>

# Efficient scheme of low-dose CT reconstruction using TV minimization with an adaptive stopping strategy and sparse dictionary learning for post-processing

**Key words:** Low dose CT; CT imaging; Total variation; Sparse dictionary learning

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# Motivation

- low-dose CT has become highly desirable because of growing concern for the potential risks of excessive radiation. However, it is challenging to maintain image quality while reducing radiation dose.
- Compressed sensing based iterative reconstruction achieves excellent imaging performance, but requires a large number of iterations. To promote clinical application of the CS-based method for low-dose CT, the reconstruction speed must be increased.

# Main idea

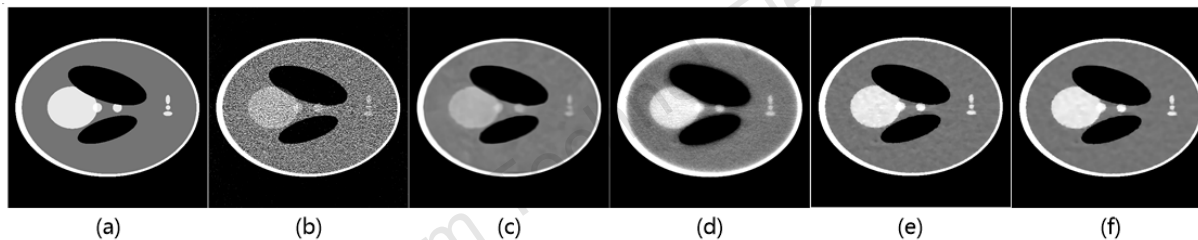
- Inspired by compressed sensing and sparse representation, we present a complementary method for low-dose CT reconstruction.
- Our goal is to reconstruct fine enough images from low dose projections, with reduced time overhead compared with CS-based iterative reconstruction.

# Method

1. TV minimization is employed to reconstruct an intermediate image, and then sparse coding is used for post processing to remove the remaining noise and yields a clinically acceptable CT image.
2. The computational cost is reduced by properly scheduling these two algorithms using an adaptive stopping strategy.

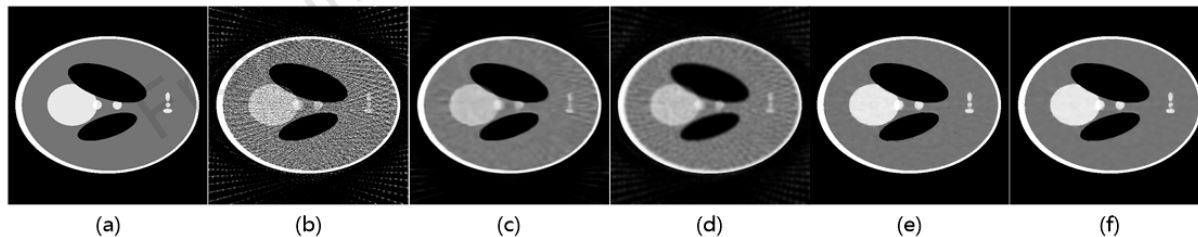
# Major results

- We test our method on Shepp-Logan digital phantom in both low-current case and few-view case.



**Fig. 2 Imaging results of different methods for low-current case on Shepp-logan**

(a) ground truth image; (b) FBP; (c) FBP-BM3D; (d) SART; (e) ABOCS; (f) proposed method. Display window is [-250 300] HU.



**Fig. 3 Imaging results of different methods for few-view case on Shepp-logan**

(a) ground truth image; (b) FBP; (c) FBP-BM3D; (d) SART; (e) ABOCS; (f) proposed method. Display window is [-250 300] HU.

# Major results (Cont'd)

- The proposed method achieves better visual and numeric results than other methods.
- Compared with ABOCS, the proposed method realizes an almost fourfold speed up because of the significant reduction of iterations.

Front Inform Technol Electron Eng

# Conclusions

- We present a novel solution for low-dose CT reconstruction by combining TV minimization and sparse dictionary learning.
- Experiments revealed that the proposed method achieves better imaging results than analytical algorithm, conventional iterative reconstruction, and a CS-based reconstruction method ABOCS.
- Specially, compared with ABOCS, the proposed method maintains better image quality with reduced time overhead.
- The performance of our method demonstrates its power and potential for low dose CT reconstruction.