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Reconstruction from Radon projections and orthogonal expansion on a ball*

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Abstract

The relation between Radon transform and orthogonal expansions of a function on the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^d is exploited. A compact formula for the partial sums of the expansion is given in terms of the Radon transform, which leads to algorithms for image reconstruction from Radon data. The relation between orthogonal expansion and the singular value decomposition of the Radon transform is also exploited.

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1. Introduction

Reconstruction of an image from its Radon projections is the central theme in x-ray tomography and has spectacular applications in medical imaging. Mathematically the problem is to find a good approximation to a function based on a finite collection of its Radon projections (see, for example, [9, 10, 19]).

The main topic of this paper is the connection between the Radon transform and the orthogonal expansion of the function on a unit ball. This connection was initiated in the classical paper [4] with an inversion formula of the Radon transform based on spherical harmonic expansions. The relation between the Radon transform of a function, supported on the unit ball, and its orthogonal expansion was studied or used in [5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17], among others (see [19] for further references). The papers [5, 6, 12] studied also the singular value decomposition (SVD) of the Radon transform using an orthogonal basis. Since then SVD has become an important tool for studying the stability of the inversion problem, the resolution of the reconstruction and the incomplete data problem; see, for example, [3, 6, 13, 14, 19]. The truncated SVD also provides an algorithm for reconstruction of images. Because

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of the complicated formulae involved in the orthogonal or SVD expansions (see, for example, [5, 12, 19]), the algorithms did not seem to be used in practical applications.

Recently a new reconstruction algorithm was proposed in [27] and further studied in [28, 29]. The new algorithm is called OPED, as it is based on orthogonal polynomial expansion on the unit disc. The algorithm reproduces polynomials of high degrees and allows a fast implementation ([28]). The numerical tests show that the algorithm is fast, stable, and produces high quality images ([28, 29]). The key ingredient for deriving the algorithm is the following formula for the partial sum $S_{2m}f$ of the orthogonal expansion of f on the unit disk:

$$S_{2m}f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2m+1} \sum_{v=0}^{2m} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}_{\phi_v} f(t) \Phi_{2m}(t, x \cos \phi_v + y \sin \phi_v) dt, \quad (1.1)$$

where $\phi_v = \frac{2v\pi}{2m+1}$ and $\mathcal{R}_\theta f(t)$ is the Radon projection on the line $x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta = t$ (see section 3). It turns out that there is a natural extension of this formula to the unit ball of higher dimension, which shows that the orthogonal polynomial expansion of f can be expressed in terms of the Radon transforms and allows us to extend the OPED algorithm in the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^d . Furthermore, there is a close relation between SVD and the extension of formula (1.1). In fact, they can be brought together by the use of a compact formula of the reproducing kernel of orthogonal polynomials in [24]. The orthogonal expansion on the unit ball has been studied recently in [24, 26], which can be used, in particular, to derive the uniform convergence of the algorithms.

The purpose of this paper is two folds. Firstly, we will clarify the relation between orthogonal expansion on the ball and the Radon projections and derive the extension of the OPED algorithm in higher dimensions. Secondly, we will explain the connection between SVD of the Radon transform and orthogonal expansions. In particular, we shall show that using truncated SVD to reconstruct the image is the same as using OPED algorithm.

The paper is organized as follows. The following section contains a succinct account of the basic results on orthogonal polynomials on the unit ball. The orthogonal expansions in terms of the Radon projections are developed in section 3. The extension of the OPED algorithms and a convergence result are given in section 4. Finally, the SVD of the Radon transform is discussed in section 5.

2. Preliminaries on orthogonal polynomials

Let $B^d := \{x : \|x\| \leq 1\}$ and $S^{d-1} := \{x : \|x\| = 1\}$ be the unit ball and the unit sphere of \mathbb{R}^d , respectively. We denote the surface area of S^{d-1} by σ_d and the volume of B^d by b_d . Then

$$\sigma_d = \frac{2\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2)} \quad \text{and} \quad b_d = \frac{\sigma_d}{d} = \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma((d+2)/2)}.$$

Inner product on the ball. For later discussion, let us introduce a weight function W_μ on the unit ball

$$W_\mu(x) = (1 - \|x\|^2)^{\mu-1/2}, \quad x \in B^d.$$

The inner product on the unit ball is denoted by

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{L^2(B^d)} = a_\mu \int_{B^d} f(x)g(x)W_\mu(x) dx,$$

where a_μ is the normalization constant of W_μ , that is, $a_\mu = 1/\int_{B^d} W_\mu(x) dx$. For $\mu = 1/2$, it is the unit weight (Lebesgue measure) and a_μ is equal to b_d^{-1} . We will mainly work with

the Lebesgue measure, so the inner product $\langle f, g \rangle_{L^2(B^d)}$ should be regarded as with $\mu = 1/2$ unless specified otherwise.

Polynomial spaces. Let Π_n^d denote the space of polynomials of degree n in d variables. We say that $P \in \Pi_n^d$ is an orthogonal polynomial on B^d if $\langle P, Q \rangle_{L^2(B^d)} = 0$, for all $Q \in \Pi_{n-1}^d$. Let \mathcal{V}_n^d denote the space of orthogonal polynomials. It is well known that

$$\dim \Pi_n^d = \binom{n+d}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad \dim \mathcal{V}_n^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n}.$$

Several explicit orthonormal bases of \mathcal{V}_n^d are known (see, for example, [7]). We will need one given in terms of the Jacobi polynomials and spherical harmonics.

Jacobi polynomials. The k th Jacobi polynomial is denoted by $P_k^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ and they satisfy the orthogonal relation ([23])

$$c_{\alpha,\beta} \int_{-1}^1 P_k^{(\alpha,\beta)}(t) P_l^{(\alpha,\beta)}(t) w_{\alpha,\beta}(t) dt = \frac{(\alpha+1)_k (\beta+1)_k (\alpha+\beta+k+1)}{k! (\alpha+\beta+2)_k (\alpha+\beta+2k+1)} \delta_{k,l} := h_k^{(\alpha,\beta)} \delta_{k,l}, \tag{2.1}$$

where $w_{\alpha,\beta}(t) = (1-t)^\alpha (1+t)^\beta$: $c_{\alpha,\beta}$ is the normalization constant of $w_{\alpha,\beta}$,

$$[c_{\alpha,\beta}]^{-1} = \int_{-1}^1 w_{\alpha,\beta}(t) dt = 2^{\alpha+\beta+1} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)\Gamma(\beta+1)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta+2)},$$

and the notation $(a)_k := a(a+1) \cdots (a+k-1)$ denotes the shifted factorial (Pochhammer symbol). From (2.1) the orthonormal Jacobi polynomials are given by $p_n^{(\alpha,\beta)}(t) := [h_n^{(\alpha,\beta)}]^{-1/2} P_n^{(\alpha,\beta)}(t)$.

Gegenbauer polynomials and Chebyshev polynomials. When $\alpha = \beta = \lambda - 1/2$, the Jacobi polynomials become the Gegenbauer polynomials, usually denoted by C_k^λ and normalized by

$$c_\lambda \int_{-1}^1 C_k^\lambda(t) C_l^\lambda(t) (1-t^2)^{\lambda-1/2} dt = \frac{\lambda(2\lambda)_k}{(k+\lambda)k!} \delta_{k,l} := h_k^{(\lambda)} \delta_{k,l}, \tag{2.2}$$

where $c_\lambda = \Gamma(1/2)\Gamma(\lambda+1/2)/\Gamma(\lambda+1)$. When $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = 0$, $C_k^\lambda(t)$ becomes the Chebyshev polynomial of the second kind, $U_k(t)$, and the first kind, $T_k(t)$, respectively, and

$$U_k(t) = \frac{\sin(k+1)\theta}{\sin\theta} \quad \text{and} \quad T_k(t) = \cos k\theta, \quad \text{where } t = \cos\theta. \tag{2.3}$$

Spherical harmonics. These are defined as the restriction of the homogeneous harmonic polynomials on the sphere. Let \mathcal{H}_n^d denote the space of spherical harmonics of degree n in d variables. It is known that

$$\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n} - \binom{n+d-3}{n}.$$

Let $\{Y_{k,n} : 1 \leq k \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d\}$ denote an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H}_n^d . Then

$$\sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} Y_{k,n}(\xi) Y_{l,n}(\xi) d\omega(\xi) = \delta_{k,l}, \quad 1 \leq k, \quad l \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d.$$

We emphasize that $Y_{k,n}(x)$ are in fact homogeneous polynomials in Π_n^d .

An orthonormal basis for \mathcal{V}_n^d . We give the basis for inner product defined in terms of $W_\mu(x)$. Setting $\mu = 1/2$ gives the basis for the Lebesgue measure. Let $Y_{j,m}$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H}_m^d . Define

$$f_{k,j}^n(x) = [h_{n,k}]^{-1} p_k^{(\mu-\frac{1}{2}, n-2k+\frac{d-2}{2})} (2\|x\|^2 - 1) Y_{j,n-2k}(x), \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$[h_{n,k}]^2 := \frac{\Gamma(\mu + \frac{d+1}{2})\Gamma(n - 2k + \frac{d}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})\Gamma(n - 2k + \mu + \frac{d+1}{2})}.$$

Then the set $\{f_{k,j}^n : 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_{n-2k}^d, 0 \leq 2k \leq n\}$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{V}_n^d ; that is, $f_{k,j}^n \in \mathcal{V}_n^d$ and $\langle f_{k,j}^n, f_{k',j'}^n \rangle_{L^2(B^d)} = \delta_{k,k'}\delta_{j,j'}$ (see [7, p 39]).

Reproducing kernel of \mathcal{V}_n^d . The reproducing kernel $P_n(\cdot, \cdot)$ of \mathcal{V}_n^d satisfies

$$a_\mu \int_{B^d} f(y) P_n(x, y) W_\mu(y) dy = f(x), \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{V}_n^d. \quad (2.5)$$

Let $\{P_k^n : 1 \leq k \leq \dim \mathcal{V}_n^d\}$ denote any orthonormal basis of \mathcal{V}_n^d . Then

$$P_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_n} P_k^n(x) P_k^n(y), \quad N_n = \dim \mathcal{V}_n^d.$$

The definition of $P_n(\cdot, \cdot)$, however, is independent of the particular choice of bases. In particular, we can take the orthonormal basis in (2.6) and get

$$P_n(x, y) = \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_{n-2k}^d} f_{k,j}^n(x) f_{k,j}^n(y). \quad (2.6)$$

The reproducing kernel satisfies a compact formula that will play a fundamental role in our study; it is given by ([24])

$$P_n(x, y) = \frac{n + \lambda}{\lambda} c_{\mu - \frac{1}{2}} \int_{-1}^1 C_n^\lambda(\langle x, y \rangle + \sqrt{1 - \|x\|^2} \sqrt{1 - \|y\|^2} s) (1 - s^2)^{\mu-1} ds,$$

where $\lambda = \mu + \frac{d-1}{2}$, $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the Euclidean inner product in \mathbb{R}^d , and c_λ is defined in (2.2). In particular, it implies that

$$P_n(x, \xi) = \frac{n + \lambda}{\lambda} C_n^\lambda(\langle x, \xi \rangle), \quad \xi \in S^{d-1}, \quad x \in B^d. \quad (2.7)$$

Orthogonal expansions on B^d . If $\{P_k^n : 1 \leq k \leq N_n\}$, $N_n = \dim \mathcal{V}_n^d$ is an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{V}_n^d , then the standard Hilbert space theory states that there is an orthogonal expansion

$$f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{N_n} \langle f, P_k^n \rangle_{L^2(B^d)} P_k^n, \quad \forall f \in L^2(B^d).$$

Let $\text{proj}_k : L^2(B^d) \mapsto \mathcal{V}_n^d$ denote the projection operator. Using the reproducing kernel, the orthogonal expansion can be stated as

$$f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \text{proj}_k f, \quad \text{where} \quad \text{proj}_k f = a_\mu \int_{B^d} f(y) P_n(x, y) W_\mu(y) dy, \quad (2.8)$$

which is independent of the particular choices of the bases of \mathcal{V}_n^d .

3. Radon transform and orthogonal polynomial expansion

Let $f \in L^1$ be a real valued function. For $\xi \in S^{d-1}$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, the Radon transform of f is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) := \int_{\langle \xi, x \rangle = t} f(x) \, dx = \int_{\xi^\perp} f(t\xi + y) \, dy,$$

where the integral is over a hyperplane of $(d - 1)$ dimension perpendicular to ξ and with minimum distance t to the origin. More general definition on other spaces or manifolds can be found in [8]. For properties of Radon transforms we refer to [8, 19]. We assume that f has compact support in B^d , so that the integral above should be understood as over $B^d \cap \{x : \langle \xi, x \rangle = t\}$. In particular, for $\xi \in S^{d-1}$, let Q_ξ denote an orthogonal matrix whose first row is ξ and let $B^d(r)$ denote the ball of radius r in \mathbb{R}^d ; then a change of variables $x \mapsto (t, y)Q_\xi$ shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) &= \int_{B^{d-1}(\sqrt{1-t^2})} f((t, y)Q_\xi) \, dy \\ &= (1 - t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \int_{B^{d-1}} f((t, \sqrt{1-t^2}y)Q_\xi) \, dy. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Since $\langle (t, y)Q_\xi, \xi \rangle = t$, an immediate consequence of (3.1) is the following identity:

$$\int_{B^d} f(x)g(\langle x, \xi \rangle) \, dx = \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t)g(t) \, dt, \quad \xi \in S^{d-1}, \tag{3.2}$$

whenever both integrals make sense. The definition of $\mathcal{R}f$ also implies that

$$\mathcal{R}f(-\xi, -t) = \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t), \quad \xi \in S^{d-1}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{3.3}$$

For fixed ξ and t , we also call $\mathcal{R}f(\xi, t)$ a Radon projection. The essential problem for x-ray imaging is to find a good approximation to the function f based on a given data set of its Radon projections.

We now derive the orthogonal expansion of f in terms of Radon projections. The following proposition plays a key role.

Proposition 3.1. *For $x, y \in B^d$, the reproducing kernel $P_n(\cdot, \cdot)$ satisfies*

$$P_n(x, y) = \frac{n + d/2}{d/2} \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} C_n^{d/2}(\langle x, \xi \rangle) C_n^{d/2}(\langle y, \xi \rangle) \, d\omega(\xi). \tag{3.4}$$

Proof. From the explicit formula of $f_{k,j}^n$ at (2.4) with $\mu = 1/2$, we deduce that

$$f_{k,j}^n(\xi) = H_n Y_{j,n-2k}(\xi), \quad \xi \in S^{d-1}, \tag{3.5}$$

where, using the fact that $p_k^{(0,\beta)}(t) = [h_k^{(0,\beta)}]^{-1/2} P_k^{(0,\beta)}(t)$, $P_k^{(0,\beta)}(1) = 1$, and the formula of $h_k^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ in (2.1), we have

$$H_n = [h_{n,k}]^{-1} p_k^{(0,n-2k+\frac{d-2}{2})}(1) = \sqrt{\frac{n + d/2}{d/2}}, \tag{3.6}$$

independent of k . Consequently, integrating over S^{d-1} we get

$$\sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} f_{k,j}^n(\xi) f_{k',j'}^n(\xi) \, d\omega(\xi) = H_n^2 \delta_{j,j'} \delta_{k,k'} = \frac{n + d/2}{d/2} \delta_{j,j'} \delta_{k,k'}.$$

Multiplying the above equation by $f_{k,j}^n(x)$ and $f_{k',j'}^n(y)$ and summing over all j, j', k, k' , the stated result follows from (2.6) and (2.7). \square

Theorem 3.2. For $n \geq 0$,

$$\text{proj}_n f(x) = \frac{n + d/2}{d/2} \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} b_d^{-1} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) C_n^{d/2}(t) dt C_n^{d/2}(\langle x, \xi \rangle) d\omega(\xi).$$

In particular, for $f \in L^2(B^d)$,

$$f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n + d/2}{d/2} \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} b_d^{-1} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) C_n^{d/2}(t) dt C_n^{d/2}(\langle \cdot, \xi \rangle) d\omega(\xi). \tag{3.7}$$

Proof. By formula (2.5) with $\mu = 1/2$ and formula (3.4) of $P_n(\cdot, \cdot)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_n f(x) &= b_d^{-1} \int_{B^d} f(y) P_n(x, y) dy \\ &= \frac{n + d/2}{d/2} \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} b_d^{-1} \int_{B^d} f(y) C_n^{d/2}(\langle y, \xi \rangle) dy C_n^{d/2}(\langle x, \xi \rangle) d\omega(\xi). \end{aligned}$$

Identity (3.2) shows that the inner integral is

$$\int_{B^d} f(y) C_n^{d/2}(\langle y, \xi \rangle) dy = \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) C_n^{d/2}(t) dt, \tag{3.8}$$

so that the stated formula follows. □

Formula (3.7) as stated here has already appeared in [20] in a study of the approximation by ridge functions. See also [1] for the case of $d = 2$. Although spherical harmonics expansions for $d = 2$ was used in the classical work of [4], its compact form in (3.7) is quite recent and not used for reconstructing images from Radon data until recently [27]. It should also be noted that for $d > 2$, the Gegenbauer polynomials and spherical harmonics were used for constructing Radon transforms already in [12].

Let us mention that there does not seem to be an analogous formula for the more general case of orthogonal expansion with respect to W_μ . In fact, in the general case, formula (2.4) gives

$$f_{k,j}^n(\xi) = H_{n,k} Y_{j,n-2k}(\xi), \quad \xi \in S^{d-1},$$

where

$$H_{n,k} := \frac{(\mu + 1/2)_k (\mu + \frac{d-1}{2})_{n-k} (n + \mu + \frac{d-1}{2})}{k! (\frac{d}{2})_{n-k} (\mu + \frac{d-1}{2})}, \tag{3.9}$$

which depends on both n and k (comparing with (3.6)), so that proposition 3.1 with $C_n^{d/2}$ replaced by $C_n^{\mu + \frac{d-1}{2}}$ does not hold.

Let $S_n f$ denote the partial sum operator of the orthogonal expansion (2.8),

$$S_n f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \text{proj}_k f(x). \tag{3.10}$$

Evidently, expansion (2.8) holds in the sense that $S_n f \rightarrow f$ in $L^2(B^d)$ norm.

Corollary 3.3. Let S_n be the partial sum operator defined in (3.10). Then

$$S_n f(x) = \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} b_d^{-1} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) \Phi_n(t, \langle x, \xi \rangle) dt d\omega(\xi), \tag{3.11}$$

where

$$\Phi_n(t, u) := \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k + d/2}{d/2} C_k^{d/2}(t) C_k^{d/2}(u). \tag{3.12}$$

A cubature formula on S^{d-1} of degree M is a discrete sum such that

$$\sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(\xi) \, d\omega(\xi) = \sum_{\nu=1}^N \lambda_\nu f(\xi_\nu), \quad f \in \Pi_M(S^{d-1}), \tag{3.13}$$

where $\Pi_M(S^{d-1})$ is the space of spherical polynomials, that is, the space of Π_M^d restricted on S^{d-1} . If all λ_k are positive, the cubature is called *positive*. We call a polynomial $P \in \Pi_M^d$ *even* if it satisfies $P(x) = P(-x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. The cubature formula (3.13) is called *symmetric*, if it is exact for all even polynomials in $\Pi_M(S^{d-1})$.

Proposition 3.4. *Suppose (3.13) is a symmetric cubature formula of degree $2n$. Then*

$$S_n f(x) = \sum_{\nu=1}^N \lambda_\nu b_d^{-1} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R} f(\xi_\nu, t) \Phi_n(t, \langle x, \xi_\nu \rangle) \, dt. \tag{3.14}$$

Proof. Equation (3.8) shows that $P_x(\xi) := \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R} f(\xi, t) \Phi_n(\xi, t; x) \, dt$ is a polynomial of degree at most $2n$ in ξ . Furthermore, using the fact that $\mathcal{R} f(-\xi, -t) = \mathcal{R} f(\xi, t)$, it is easy to see that P_x is even, so that the cubature formula on S^{d-1} is exact when applied to $P_x(\xi)$. \square

We consider some special cases of lower dimensions below.

The case $d=2$. For $\xi \in S^1$, we write $\xi = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ and we shall write $\mathcal{R}_\theta f(t)$, $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, instead of $\mathcal{R} f(\xi, t)$. Since $b_2 = \pi$ and the following cubature formula

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S^1} f(\xi) \, d\omega(\xi) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{\nu=0}^n f(\xi_\nu), \quad \xi_\nu = \left(\cos \frac{\nu\pi}{n+1}, \sin \frac{\nu\pi}{n+1} \right)$$

is symmetric and of degree $2n$, we conclude that

$$S_n f(x) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{\nu=0}^n \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}_{\theta_\nu} f(t) \Phi_n(t, x_1 \cos \theta_\nu + x_2 \sin \theta_\nu) \, dt, \tag{3.15}$$

where $\theta_\nu = \frac{\nu\pi}{n+1}$ and Φ_n is (3.12) for $d = 2$,

$$\Phi_n(t, u) = \sum_{k=0}^n (k+1) U_k(t) U_k(u).$$

This formula can be found implicitly in [11, (5.9), (4.3) and (3.7)]. In the case of $n = 2m$, we can use the elementary relations

$$\cos \frac{(2\nu+1)\pi}{2m+1} = -\cos \frac{(2(\nu+m)\pi)}{2m+1}, \quad \sin \frac{(2\nu+1)\pi}{2m+1} = -\sin \frac{(2(\nu+m)\pi)}{2m+1}$$

and the fact that $\mathcal{R}(\theta + \pi, -t) = \mathcal{R}(\theta, t)$ to rewrite (3.15) as

$$S_{2m} f(x) = \frac{1}{2m+1} \sum_{\nu=0}^{2m} \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}_{\phi_\nu} f(t) \Phi_{2m}(t, x_1 \cos \phi_\nu + x_2 \sin \phi_\nu) \, dt, \tag{3.16}$$

where $\phi_\nu = \frac{2\nu\pi}{2m+1}$. This is formula (1.1) proved in [27] from which the OPED algorithms are derived.

The case $d=3$. For $\xi \in S^2$, we use the spherical coordinate

$$\xi = (\sin \phi \sin \theta, \sin \phi \cos \theta, \cos \phi), \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq \pi, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi.$$

Several explicit cubature formulae on the sphere are known, see, for example, [18, 21]. Let $t_k = \cos \theta_k$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$, denote the zeros of the Legendre polynomial of degree $n + 1$ and λ_k be the corresponding weights of the Legendre–Gaussian quadrature formula. Let

$$\xi_{k,v} = \left(\sin \frac{v\pi}{n+1} \sin \theta_k, \cos \frac{v}{n+1} \sin \theta_k, \cos \theta_k \right), \quad 0 \leq k, \quad v \leq n.$$

Then the product-type cubature formula

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S^2} f(\xi) d\omega(\xi) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k \sum_{v=0}^n f(\xi_{k,v})$$

is symmetric and of degree $2n$. Consequently, we have

$$S_n f(x) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k \sum_{v=0}^n \int_{-1}^1 \mathcal{R}f(\xi_{k,v}, t) \Phi_n(t, \langle \xi_{k,v}, x \rangle) dt, \quad (3.17)$$

where Φ_n is the function (3.12) for $d = 3$.

The formula of $S_n f$ in terms of Radon projections allows us to give an approximation to f based on finite Radon projections. The convergence of $S_n f$ to f holds in L^2 norm but does not hold in the uniform norm in general. In fact, it is known that [25]

$$\|S_n\|_\infty = \mathcal{O}(n^{\frac{d-1}{2}}), \quad d \geq 2, \quad (3.18)$$

where $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ is the operator norm of S_n in $C(B^d)$, and $A_n = \mathcal{O}(B_n)$ means $c_1 A_n \leq B_n \leq c_2 A_n$ for two constants c_1 and c_2 independent of n . There is, however, a simple construction that gives a better convergence result.

Let η be a $C^{d+2}(\mathbb{R})$ function such that $\eta(t) \geq 0$, $\eta(t) = 1$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ and η has compact support on $[0, 2]$. Define

$$S_n^\eta f(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{2n} \eta\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \text{proj}_k f(x). \quad (3.19)$$

The operator S_n^η satisfies the following properties [26].

Proposition 3.5. *Let $f \in L^p(B^d)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$ or $f \in C(B^d)$ for $p = \infty$. Then*

- (1) $S_n^\eta f = f$ if $f \in \Pi_n$;
- (2) for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\|\eta_n f\|_p \leq c \|f\|_p$;
- (3) for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\|f - \eta_n\|_p \leq c E_n(f)_p := \inf_{p \in \Pi_n^d} \|f - p\|_p$.

As $S_n^\eta f$ is a polynomial of degree $2n$, the last property shows that, up to a constant multiple, it is close to the polynomial of the best approximation to f . Since $\text{proj}_n f$ can be written in terms of Radon projections, so can $S_n^\eta f$.

4. OPED algorithms for reconstruction of images

The essential problem in computerized tomography is to find a good approximation to the function f based on a set of discrete Radon data. Expression (3.14) allows us to derive such an approximation by a simple quadrature formula on $[-1, 1]$. Because of (3.1), we choose the quadrature formula to be of the form

$$c_{d/2} \int_{-1}^1 f(t) (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} dt = \sum_{j=0}^n w_j f(t_j), \quad (4.1)$$

where $c_{d/2}$ is defined as in (2.2), and assume that it is exact for polynomials of degree M . In particular, we can choose the Gaussian quadrature, for which $t_j = t_{j,n}, 0 \leq j \leq n$, are zeros of the Gegenbauer polynomial $C_{n+1}^{d/2}(t)$ and w_j are all positive and given by explicit formula (see [23]). The Gaussian quadrature formula is exact for polynomials of degree up to $2n + 1$.

Proposition 4.1. *Let (3.13) be a positive symmetric cubature formula of degree $2n$ and (4.1) be the Gaussian quadrature formula. Define*

$$\mathcal{A}_n f(x) = b_d^{-1} \sum_{v=1}^N \lambda_\mu \sum_{j=0}^n w_j \mathcal{R}f(\xi_v, t_j) \Phi_n(t_j, \langle x, \xi_v \rangle). \tag{4.2}$$

Then $\mathcal{A}_n f$ preserves polynomials of degree n , that is, $\mathcal{A}_n f = f$ whenever $f \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$.

Proof. We start from (3.14). If f is a polynomial of degree at most n then, by (3.1), $(1 - t^2)^{-\frac{d-1}{2}} \mathcal{R}f(\xi_v, t)$ is a polynomial of degree n . As $\Phi_n(t, \langle x, \xi_v \rangle)$ is a polynomial of degree n in t and the Gaussian quadrature formula is of degree $2n + 1$, the fact that $\mathcal{A}_n f = f$ follows. \square

The functions $\mathcal{A}_n f$ are obtained from the orthogonal partial sums $S_n f$ of f by applying the Gaussian quadrature formula. They provide a sequence of approximation to f based on the set of discrete Radon data

$$\{\mathcal{R}f(\xi_v, t_j) : 1 \leq v \leq N, 0 \leq j \leq n\}.$$

In other word, \mathcal{A}_n provides an algorithm for reconstruction of images from the Radon data. We will show that $\mathcal{A}_n f$ converges to f uniformly if f is smooth enough. First, however, we consider some special cases.

The case $d = 2$. In this case we can start from the formula of S_{2m} at (3.16). The Gaussian quadrature formula is

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 f(t) \sqrt{1 - t^2} dt = \frac{1}{2m + 1} \sum_{j=1}^{2m} \sin^2 \psi_j f(\cos \theta_j), \quad \theta_j = \frac{j\pi}{2m + 1},$$

which leads to the OPED algorithm of type II,

$$\mathcal{A}_{2m} f(x) = \sum_{v=0}^{2m} \sum_{j=1}^{2m} \mathcal{R}_{\phi_v} f(\cos \theta_j) T_{j,v}(x), \tag{4.3}$$

where

$$T_{j,v}(x) = \frac{1}{(2m + 1)^2} \sum_{k=0}^{2m} (k + 1) \sin((k + 1)\theta_j) U_k(x_1 \cos \phi_v + x_2 \sin \phi_v).$$

The OPED of type II is closely related to an algorithm in [2], where the connection to orthogonal polynomial expansion was not considered. The formation of the lines on which the Radon projections take place is often referred to as scanning geometry, as it determines how the object being examined is scanned by the x-rays. We can use the Gaussian quadrature formula for the Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind,

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 f(t) \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}} = \frac{1}{2m + 1} \sum_{k=0}^{2m} f(\cos \psi_j), \quad \psi_j = \frac{(j + \frac{1}{2})\pi}{2m + 1},$$

to discretize the integral in (3.16) by applying it to the integrand multiplied by $1 - t^2$, leading to the OPED algorithm of type I with a different scanning geometry, which has the same formula

as (4.3) except that θ_j need to be replaced by ψ_j and the summation on j starts from $j = 0$. We refer to [29] for the discussions of these two scanning geometries and their implementation in practical problems.

Both types of these two OPED algorithms work well in our numerical testing [28, 29]. It should be mentioned that the explicit formula of $U_n(t)$ in (2.3) permits a fast implementation of the OPED algorithm, which uses fast Fourier sine transform and an interpolation step [28].

The case $d = 3$. In this case we can start from the formula of $S_n f$ at (3.17). We apply the Gaussian quadrature formula

$$\frac{3}{4} \int_{-1}^1 f(t)(1-t^2) dt = \sum_{j=0}^n w_j f(t_j),$$

where $t_j, 0 \leq j \leq n$, are zeors of $C_n^{3/2}(t)$. We can also apply the Gaussian quadrature formula for the Lebesgue measure. This leads to a three-dimensional OPED algorithm

$$\mathcal{A}_n f(x) = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{k=0}^n \lambda_k \sum_{v=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n w_j \mathcal{R}f(\xi_{k,v}, t_j) \Phi_n(t_j, \langle \xi_{k,v}, x \rangle). \quad (4.4)$$

The Radon data used in (4.4) are integrals over planes $\langle x, \xi_{k,v} \rangle = t_j$. Such data can be approximated by integrals over lines.

For $d = 3$, one can uses multiple 2D slices to reconstruct image on a cylindrical domain, as proposed in [27]. An interesting question is to see which of these two algorithms is more suitable for the 3D reconstruction.

Next we consider the convergence of $\mathcal{A}_n f$ in the uniform norm on B^d .

Theorem 4.2. *The uniform norm of the operator \mathcal{A}_n is given by*

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_\infty = \sup_{x \in B^d} \Lambda_n(x), \quad \Lambda_n(x) = \sum_{v=1}^N \lambda_v \sum_{j=0}^n w_j (1-t_j^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} |\Phi_n(t_j, \langle x, \xi_v \rangle)|. \quad (4.5)$$

Furthermore, there is a constant c independent of n , such that

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_\infty \leq cn^{2d}. \quad (4.6)$$

In particular, if f is smooth enough then $\mathcal{A}_{2n} f$ converges to f uniformly on B^d .

Proof. To estimate the norm of \mathcal{A}_n , we first observe that

$$|(1-t^2)^{-\frac{d-1}{2}} \mathcal{R}f(\xi_v, t)| \leq b_{d-1} \|f\|_\infty,$$

from which it follows that

$$\|\mathcal{A}_n f\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_\infty \sum_{v=1}^N \lambda_v \sum_{j=0}^n w_j (1-t_j^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} |\Phi_n(t_j, \langle x, \xi_v \rangle)|,$$

since $b_{d-1} b_d^{-1} = c_{d/2}$. Taking the maximum over B^d shows that $\|\mathcal{A}\|_\infty$ is bounded by the right-hand side of (4.5). To prove the equal sign, we construct a function f_ε for each $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\|f_\varepsilon\|_\infty = 1$ and $\|\mathcal{A}f_\varepsilon\|_\infty \geq \max_{x \in B^d} \Lambda_n(x) - c\varepsilon$. A moment of reflection shows that the construction can be carried out easily; see [27] for one special case of $d = 2$.

To prove (4.6), we use (3.12) and the fact that $|C_n^\lambda(t)| \leq C_n^\lambda(1) = \binom{n+2\lambda-1}{n} = \mathcal{O}(n^{2\lambda-1})$, which implies that

$$|\Phi_n(\xi, t)| \leq \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k+d/2}{d/2} [C_n^{d/2}(1)]^2 \leq c \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k+d/2}{d/2} k^{2d-2} \leq cn^{2d}.$$

Since λ_μ and w_j are all positive and, as the cubature and the quadrature are exactly for constant function, $\sum_{\nu=1}^N \lambda_\nu = 1$ and $\sum_{j=0}^n w_j = 1$, we conclude that $\|\mathcal{A}_n\| \leq cn^{2d}$. If $f \in C^{2d}$, then the fact that $\mathcal{A}_n p = p$ for $p \in \Pi_n^d$ and the triangle inequality shows that

$$\|\mathcal{A}_n f - f\|_\infty \leq (1 + \|\mathcal{A}\|_\infty) E_n(f)_\infty \leq cn^{2d} E_n(f)_\infty.$$

It is shown in [27] that $E_n(f) \leq cn^{-2r} \|\mathcal{D}^r f\|$, where \mathcal{D} is a second-order differential operator, so that the convergence of $\mathcal{A}_n f$ for functions smooth enough follows. \square

We should point out that the estimate (4.6) is a rough upper bound, the actual norm should be smaller. In fact, in the case of $d = 2$, the norm of \mathcal{A}_{2m} at (4.3) was estimated in [27] to be

$$\|\mathcal{A}_{2m}\|_\infty \sim m \log(m + 1),$$

which is sharp and is just slightly worse than the estimate (3.18) of the norm of the partial sum operator S_n from which \mathcal{A}_{2m} is obtained. The proof of such a sharp estimate is rather involved and requires detail knowledge of the zeros and weights of the quadrature and cubature formulae. On the other hand, a result in [22] shows that the norm of any projection operator from $C(B^d)$ to Π_n^d is at least $\mathcal{O}(n^{\frac{d-1}{2}})$ for $d \geq 2$. As \mathcal{A}_n in (4.2) is in fact a projection operator, its norm cannot be bounded. We expect that the norm is in the order of $\mathcal{O}(n^{d/2})$ multiplied by a log factor.

It should be mentioned that other polynomial based algorithms may have better approximation property [15, 16]. However, the polynomial preserving property seems to be an important characteristic of OPED, and using the partial sum also allows fast implementation of the algorithm. The numerical tests show that OPED works very well even for step functions such as Logan–Sheff head phantom [28, 29].

5. Singular value decomposition of the Radon transform

Let $A : H \mapsto K$ be a linear continuous operator, where H and K are Hilbert spaces. Let $\{f_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ and $\{g_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be orthonormal systems with respect to the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_H$ in H and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_K$ in K , respectively. The singular value decomposition of A is a representation

$$Af = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k \langle f, f_k \rangle_H g_k, \tag{5.1}$$

where γ_k are the singular values of A . Let A^* be the adjoint of A . Then

$$A^*g = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k \langle g, g_k \rangle_K f_k. \tag{5.2}$$

Evidently $Af_k = \gamma_k g_k$ and $A^*g_k = \gamma_k f_k$. Furthermore, the generalized inverse of A is given by

$$A^+g = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma_k^{-1} \langle f, f_k \rangle_H g_k. \tag{5.3}$$

The singular value decomposition of the Radon transform was developed in [5, 12] (see also [19]). Let $Z = S^{d-1} \times [-1, 1]$ and $w(t) = \sqrt{1 - t^2}$, and denote by $L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$ the space of Lebesgue integrable functions

$$L^2(Z, w^{1-d}) := \{g : g(-\xi, -t) = g(\xi, t), \|g\|_{L^2(Z)} < \infty\},$$

where $\|g\|_{L^2(Z)}^2 = \langle g, g \rangle_{L^2(Z)}$ and the inner product is defined by

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{L^2(Z)} := c_{d/2} \int_{-1}^1 \sigma_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(\xi, t) g(\xi, t) d\omega(\xi) (1 - t^2)^{\frac{1-d}{2}} dt,$$

in which $c_{d/2}$ is defined as in (2.2). Then it is known (see, for example, [19]) that

$$\mathcal{R} : L^2(B^d) \mapsto L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$$

is continuous. An orthonormal basis of $L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$ is readily available.

Proposition 5.1. *Let $\{Y_{j,m} : 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_m^d\}$ denote an orthogonal basis of \mathcal{H}_m^d and define*

$$g_{k,j}^n(\xi, t) = [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1/2} (1 - t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} C_n^{d/2}(t) Y_{j,n-2k}(\xi), \tag{5.4}$$

where $h_n^{(d/2)}$ is defined in (2.2). Then the functions $\{g_{k,j}^n : 0 \leq 2k \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_{n-2k}^d\}$ forms an orthonormal basis for $L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$.

Proof. It is straightforward to verify that $\{g_{k,j}^n\}$ form an orthonormal system of $L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$. Let $g \in L^2(Z, w^{1-d})$. Then $w^{2d-2}g$ can be expanded in terms of the product orthonormal basis $\{[h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1/2} C_n^{d/2}(t) Y_{j,n-m}(\xi) : 0 \leq m \leq n, 0 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_{n-m}^d\}$ of $L^2(Z, w^{d-1})$. The condition $g(-\xi, -t) = g(\xi, t)$ shows that the coefficients of the expansion are zero whenever m is odd, so that we can assume $m = 2k$ and the expansion is uniquely determined. \square

Using $f_{k,j}^n$ in (2.4) and $g_{k,j}^n$ (5.4), the singular value decomposition of the Radon transform at (5.1), (5.2) and (5.3) becomes the following.

Theorem 5.2. *Assume f is in the Schwartz space. The singular decomposition of $\mathcal{R}f$ is*

$$\mathcal{R}f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq n} \sum_{j=0}^{M_{n-2k}} \langle f, f_{k,j}^n \rangle_{L^2(B^d)} g_{k,j}^n, \tag{5.5}$$

where $M_m = \dim \mathcal{H}_m^d$, $c_{d/2}$ is defined at (2.2); and

$$\mathcal{R}^*g = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq n} \sum_{j=0}^{M_{n-2k}} \langle g, g_{k,j}^n \rangle_{L^2(Z)} f_{k,j}^n. \tag{5.6}$$

Furthermore,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^{-1} \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq n} \sum_{j=0}^{M_{n-2k}} \langle g, g_{k,j}^n \rangle_{L^2(Z)} f_{k,j}^n. \tag{5.7}$$

These equations are the realization of (5.1), (5.2) and (5.3) for the Radon transform. They are exactly the SVD derived in [5, 12], once the difference in notations is accounted for.

Below we derive the singular value decomposition using our notation here. We need a proposition that goes back to [17] when $d = 2$.

Proposition 5.3. *Let $P \in \mathcal{V}_n^d$. Then for each $t \in [-1, 1]$ and $\xi \in S^{d-1}$,*

$$\mathcal{R}P(\xi, t) = b_{d-1} (1 - t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \frac{C_n^{d/2}(t)}{C_n^{d/2}(1)} P(\xi). \tag{5.8}$$

In particular, the above formula applies to harmonic polynomials of degree n .

Proof. Let Q_ξ be an orthogonal matrix whose first row is ξ . Then (3.1) shows that

$$\mathcal{R}P(\xi, t) = (1 - t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \int_{B^{d-1}} P((t, \sqrt{1-t^2}y) Q_\xi) dy.$$

The integral is a polynomial of t since an odd power of $\sqrt{1-t^2}$ is always accompanied by y^α with $|\alpha|$ being odd, which has integral zero. Therefore, $g(t) = (1-t^2)^{-\frac{d-1}{2}} \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t)$ is of degree k in t . Furthermore, the integral shows that

$$g(1) = \text{vol}(B^{d-1})P(\xi) = b_{d-1}P(\xi).$$

If $g_j \in \Pi_j^d$ for $0 \leq j \leq n-1$, then equation (3.2) and the fact that $P \in \mathcal{V}_n^d$ lead to

$$\int_{-1}^1 g(t)g_j(t)(1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} dt = \int_{B^d} P(x)g_j(\langle x, \xi \rangle) dx = 0,$$

which shows immediately that the polynomial $g(t)$ is an orthogonal polynomial with respect to $(1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}}$ on $[-1, 1]$, that is,

$$g(t) = (1-t^2)^{-\frac{d-1}{2}} \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) = aC_n^{d/2}(t).$$

Setting $t = 1$ determines the constant a and completes the proof. Finally, (2.4) with $k = 0$ show that harmonic polynomials of degree n are in \mathcal{V}_n^d . \square

Corollary 5.4. *Let $f_{k,j}^n$ be the orthonormal basis of \mathcal{V}_n^d given in (2.4). Then*

$$\mathcal{R}f_{k,j}^n(\xi, t) = \gamma_n g_{k,j}^n(\xi, t),$$

where the singular values γ_n of $\mathcal{R}f$ are given by

$$\gamma_n = b_{d-1} \sqrt{n!/(d)_n}. \tag{5.9}$$

Proof. Using (3.5) and (5.4), equation (5.8) shows

$$\mathcal{R}f_{k,j}^n(\xi, t) = b_{d-1} [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{1/2} (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \frac{C_n^{d/2}(t)}{C_n^{d/2}(1)} = \gamma_n g_{k,j}^n(\xi, t),$$

where $\gamma_n = b_{d-1} [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1/2} H_n / C_n^{(d/2)}(1)$, which can be simplified by using (2.2), (3.6) and the fact that $C_n^{(d/2)}(1) = (d)_n / n!$. \square

Theorem 5.5. *The singular decomposition of $\mathcal{R}f$ satisfies*

$$\mathcal{R}f = c_{d/2} (1-s^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1} \int_{B^d} f(x) C_n^{d/2}(\langle x, \xi \rangle) dx C_n^{d/2}(t), \tag{5.10}$$

where $M_m = \dim \mathcal{H}_m^d$, $c_{d/2}$ is defined at (2.2), and

$$\mathcal{R}^*g = c \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1} \int_{-1}^1 \int_{S^{d-1}} \mathcal{R}f(\xi, t) C_n^{d/2}(\langle x, \xi \rangle) C_n^{d/2}(t) d\omega(\xi) dt, \tag{5.11}$$

where $c = c_{d/2} b_{d-1} \sigma_d^{-1}$.

Proof. To prove (5.10), we note that by (3.5),

$$f_{k,j}^n(x) g_{k,j}^n(\xi, t) = [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1/2} H_n^{-1} (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} C_n^{d/2}(t) f_{k,j}^n(x) f_{k,j}^n(\xi). \tag{5.12}$$

Since the constants are independent of k and j , we can use (2.7) to write the summations in k and j of (5.10) in a compact form. Collecting constants and using (3.6), (5.9) and (2.2), we easily verify that

$$\gamma_n [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1/2} H_n^{-1} f_{k,j}^n(x) \frac{n+d/2}{d/2} = b_{d-1} [h_n^{(d/2)}]^{-1}.$$

Finally, we note that $b_{d-1} b_d^{-1} = c_{d/2}$. The proof of (5.11) is similar. \square

It is worth commenting that the two expressions (5.10) and (5.11) are independent of the choice of orthonormal bases, and equation (2.7) implies that we can deduce the SVD from them using any orthonormal basis. In [5, 12], the SVD in terms of orthogonal basis with respect to W_μ is derived. In these more general cases, however, the simple analogue of the second equations of (5.5) and (5.6) do not hold. The reason again lies in the fact that the constant in (3.9) depends on k .

Finally, by (5.3), the truncation of the expansion of f becomes

$$S_n^* f(x) = \sum_{m=0}^n \gamma_m^{-1} \sum_{0 \leq 2k \leq m} \sum_{j=0}^{M_{m-2k}} \langle g, g_{k,j}^m \rangle_{L^2(Z)} f_{k,j}^m.$$

Just as in equations (5.5) and (5.6), we can use (5.12) and (2.7) to derive a compact formula. The formula, however, is exactly $S_n f$. As a consequence, we see that the truncated SVD algorithm agrees with formula (3.11). Hence, truncated SVD can be effectively implemented by using the OPED algorithm.

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