



# **An Introduction to the Mathematics of Tomography**

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# References:

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- Na Frank Natterer, *The Mathematics of Computerized Tomography*, (SIAM 2001).
- NaW Frank Natterer, Frank Wuebbli, *Mathematical Methods in Image Reconstruction*, SIAM, 2001.
- NAC *Mathematics and Physics of emerging biomedical Imaging* National Academy Press, 1996
- OQ G. Ólafsson and E.T. Quinto, editors, *Lecture Notes in Appl. Math.*, Vol 63, 2006.
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# Outline:

- ▶ X-ray tomography and the Radon transform
- ▶ Limited Data Tomography and Lambda CT
- ▶ Singularity detection in tomography

# X-ray Computed Tomography (CT)

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where the total attenuation along  $L$ :

$$Rf(L) := \int_{x \in L} f(x) ds$$

— the total “material” along  $L$  — The **Radon Transform** of  $f$  on  $L$  (pure math: [Radon 1917]).

# The Goal of CT:

Recover an approximation to  $f(x)$  from X-ray CT data over a finite number of lines.

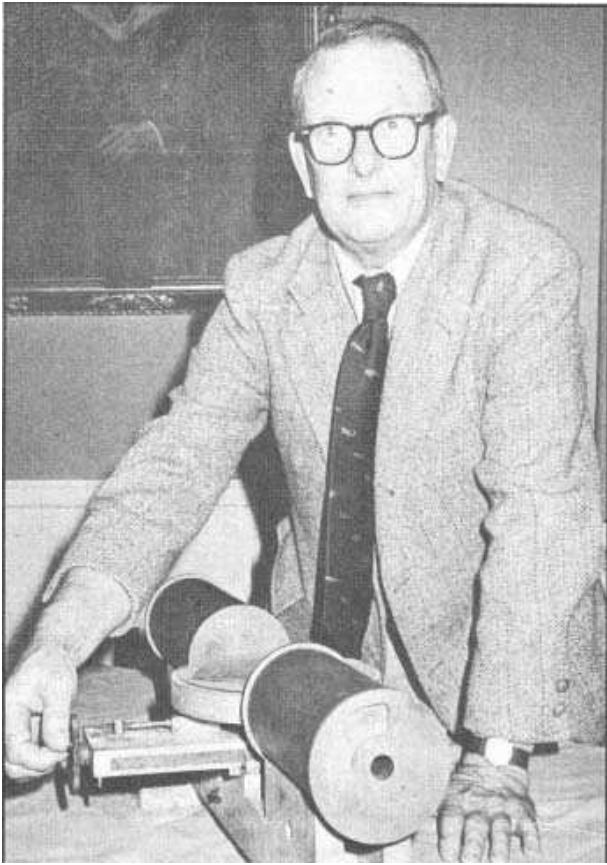
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**With uniformly distributed data (lines throughout the object with fairly evenly spaced angles), good, stable reconstruction methods exist, such as Filtered Backprojection [Na, NaW] (Faridani).**

# More CT Scanners:

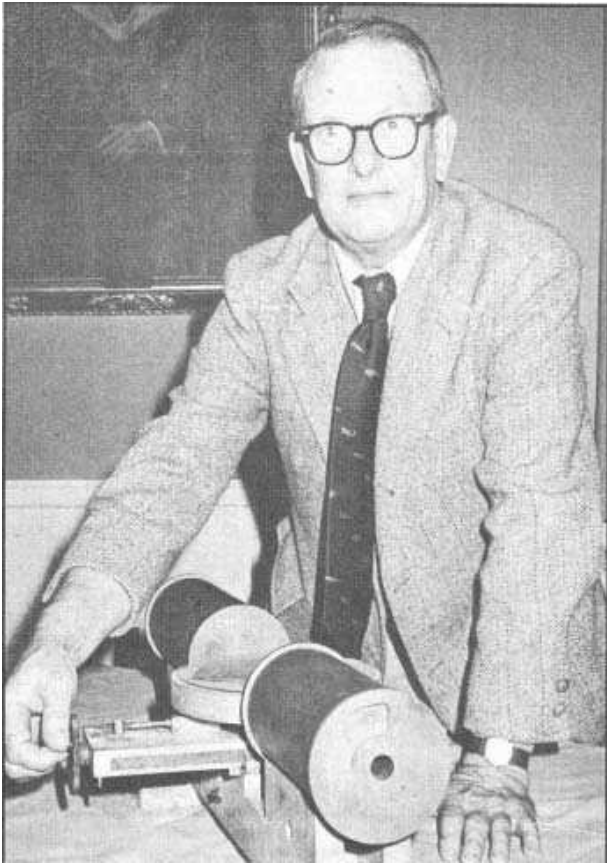
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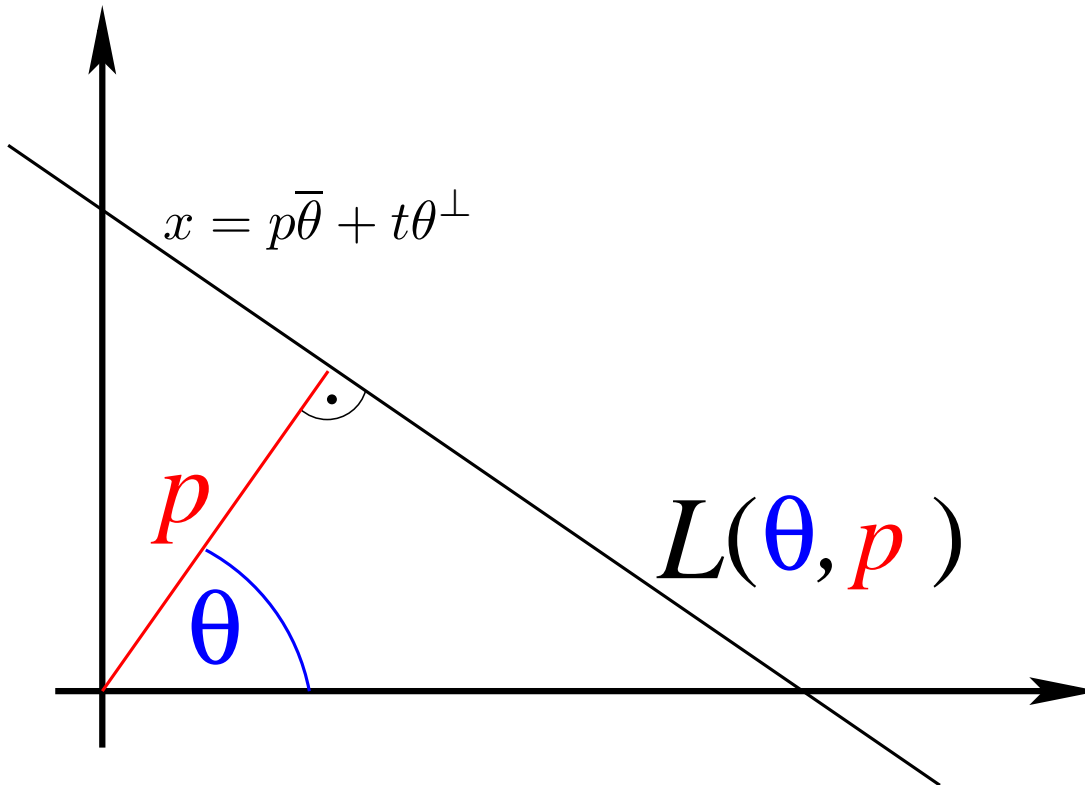
Modern GE Scanner (©GE):



Cost: \$1,500,000

# Parallel beam parameterization of line

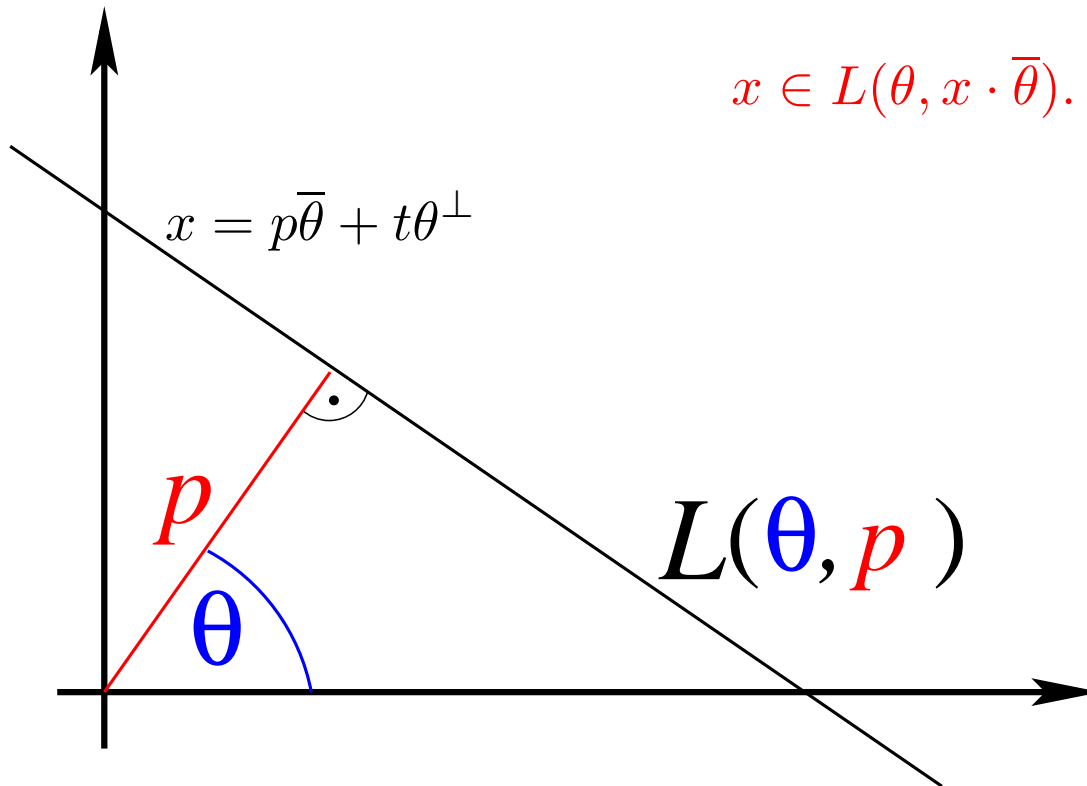
$$L(\theta, p) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x \cdot \bar{\theta} = p\} \quad \bar{\theta} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta) \quad \theta^\perp = (-\sin \theta, \cos \theta).$$



# Identity for points and lines:

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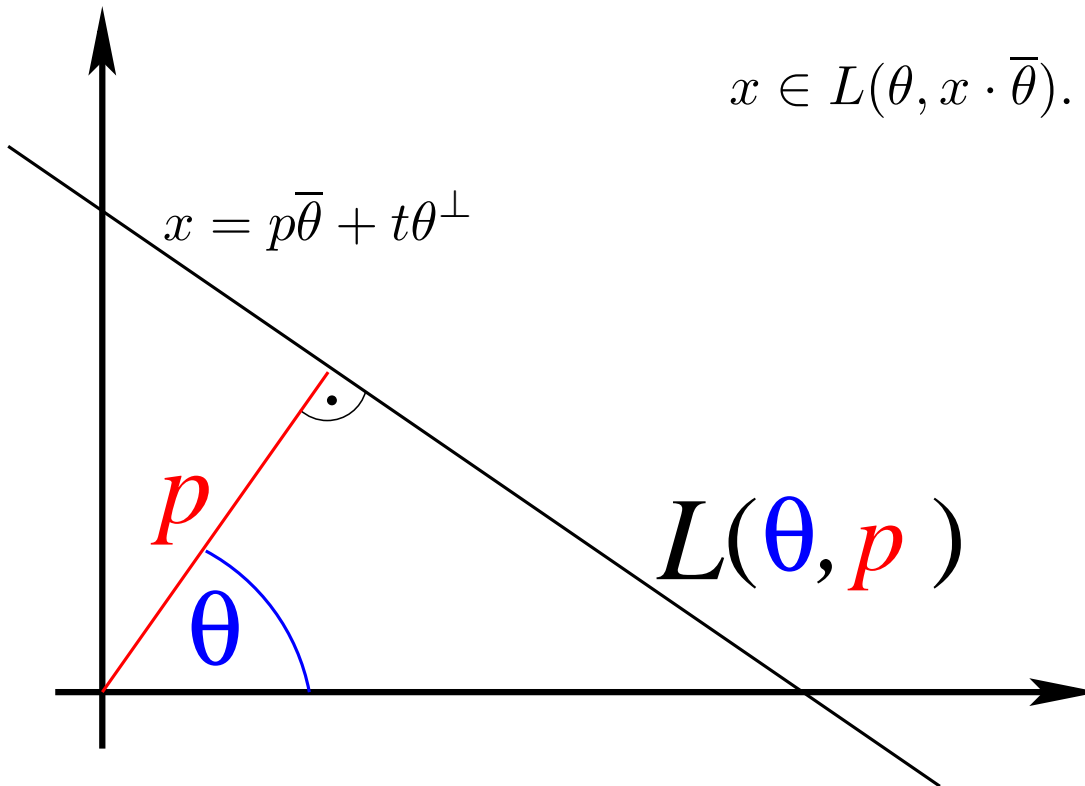
$$x \in L(\theta, x \cdot \bar{\theta}).$$



# Parameterization of Radon Transform

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$$x \in L(\theta, x \cdot \bar{\theta}).$$



$$Rf(\theta, p) = \int_{x \in L(\theta, p)} f(x) ds = \int_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} f(p\bar{\theta} + t\theta^\perp) dt.$$

# Transforms:

**2-D Fourier Transform:**  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$

$$\hat{f}(\xi) = \mathcal{F}f(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} e^{-ix \cdot \xi} f(x) dx .$$

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**1-D Fourier Transform:**  $g \in L^1([0, 2\pi] \times \mathbb{R})$

$$\mathcal{F}_1g(\theta, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{p=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\tau p} g(\theta, p) dp .$$

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Therefore,  $R$  is injective on domain  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ .

# Proof: Fubini's Theorem!

$\bar{\theta} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$ ,  $\theta^\perp = (-\sin \theta, \cos \theta)$ . Slide 3

First calculate  $\widehat{f}(\tau\bar{\theta})$ ,  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ , by integrating over lines perpendicular to  $\bar{\theta}$ , then in the  $\bar{\theta}$  direction,  $x = p\bar{\theta} + t\theta^\perp$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi \widehat{f}(\tau\bar{\theta}) &= \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} e^{-i(\tau\bar{\theta}) \cdot x} f(x) dx \\ &= \int_{p=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\tau p} f(p\bar{\theta} + t\theta^\perp) dt dp \end{aligned}$$

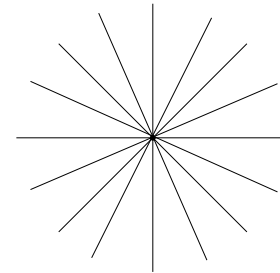
since  $\tau\bar{\theta} \cdot (p\bar{\theta} + t\theta^\perp) = \tau p$ . So,

$$2\pi \widehat{f}(\tau\bar{\theta}) = \int_{p=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\tau p} Rf(\theta, p) dp = \sqrt{2\pi} \mathcal{F}_1 Rf(\theta, \tau).$$

# Inversion Theorem

**Dual Radon transform:**  $g \in C([0, 2\pi] \times \mathbb{R})$

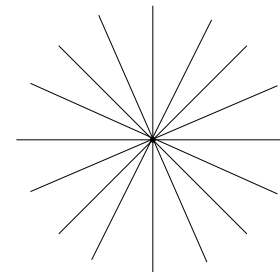
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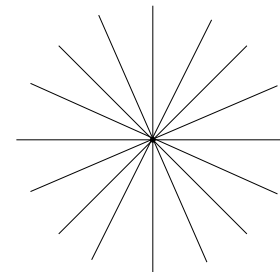
**Lambda Operator:**  $g \in C_c^\infty([0, 2\pi] \times \mathbb{R})$

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**Filtered Backprojection:**  $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$ ,

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi} R^*(\Lambda_p R f)(x).$$

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Implement FBP by choosing an approximation to  $\Lambda_p$ :

$$f(x) \equiv R^*(\phi *_{p} R f)(x)$$

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- ▶ Reconstructions look great since  $\Lambda_x$  preserves and emphasizes singularities.
- ▶ Lambda CT is made for ROI CT and easy to adapt to other limited data problems.....

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Use: medical CT and nondestructive evaluation of small parts of objects.
  - ▶ Inversion is not possible.
  - ▶ All singularities are visible!

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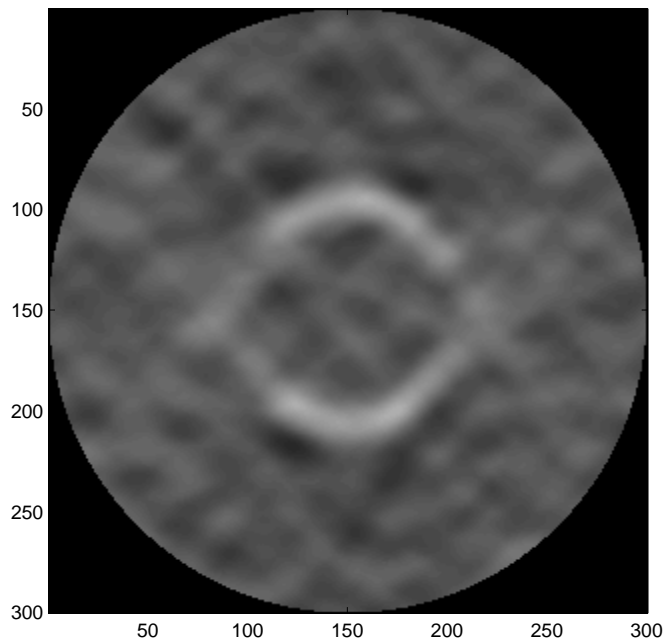
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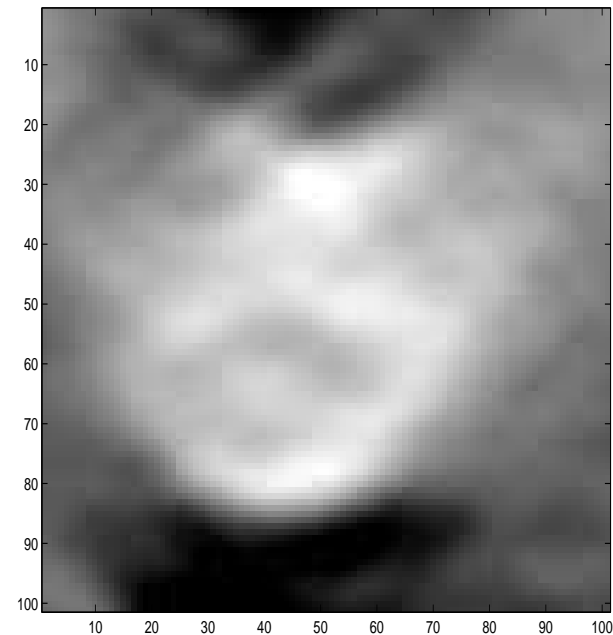
I developed a limited angle Lambda CT algorithm (see also [KLM]), and I'm working with Ulf Skoglund and Ozan Öktem of the Karolinska Institute/Sidec Technologies, Stockholm, applying it to electron tomography. [Slide 3](#)

# My limited angle ROI Reconstructions

Simulated electron microscope data  $\theta \in [30^\circ, 150^\circ]$



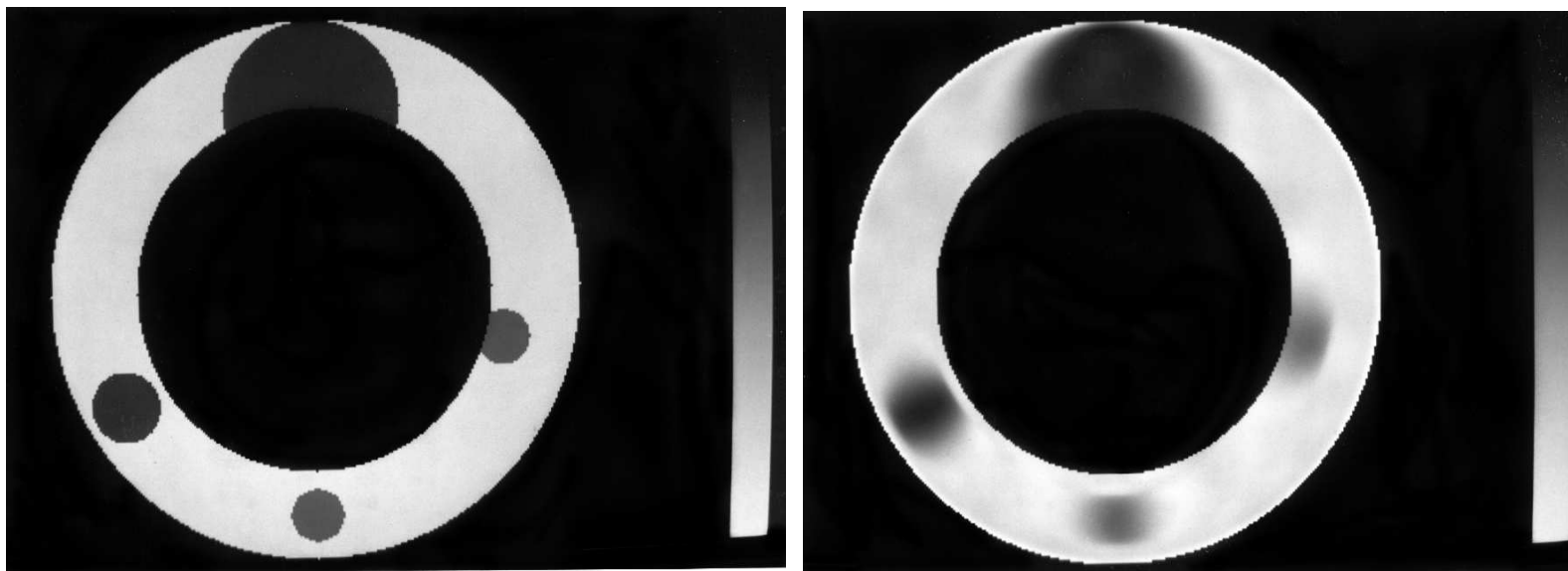
Reconstruction of real virus, 25 angles



From Sidec/Karolinska Institute data.

# Exterior reconstruction [Q1]:

**Exterior data:** lines that are exterior to (do not meet) the big black central circle.



Phantom (left) and ERA reconstruction from simulated data [Q1].

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Tools for our Answer:

- ▶ Characterize singularities of objects.
- ▶ Learn what the Radon transform does to singularities.

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**Key idea:** Rapid decrease (or  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, (1 + |\xi|)^2)^s$  integrability) of  $\mathcal{F}f \sim$  smoothness (or  $L^2$  derivatives) of  $f$ .....

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- ▶ **Singular Support:**  $f$  is not smooth at  $x_0$  iff for every smooth cut-off  $\varphi$  near  $x_0$  ( $\varphi(x_0) \neq 0$ ),  $\mathcal{F}(\varphi f)$  is **not** rapidly decreasing.

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- ▶ **Microlocalize:** Find *directions* where  $\mathcal{F}(\varphi f)$  is not rapidly decreasing:
  - ▶ **Wavefront Set [Hö, P]....**

# Wavefront Set:

**Definition 1:** Let  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\xi_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus 0$ . The function  $f$  is smooth at  $x_0$  in direction  $\xi_0$  **iff**  $\exists$  a cut-off function  $\varphi$  near  $x_0$  such that

$$\mathcal{F}(\varphi f)(\xi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} e^{-ix \cdot \xi} \varphi(x) f(x) dx \quad (3)$$

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On the other hand,  $(x_0, \xi_0) \in \text{WF}(f)$  **iff**  $f$  is **not** smooth at  $x_0$  in direction  $\xi_0$ . (Slide 5)

•  
•  
•

**Example:**  $f = 1$  inside a circle,  $f = 0$  outside.  
What is  $WF(f)$ ? *Slide 5*

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**MORAL:** If  $f$  has a jump singularity on a smooth curve  $C$ , then vectors (co)normal to  $C$  are in  $WF(f)$ .

# Singularities and $R$ :

$$f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^2), \text{ Data: } Rf(\theta, p) = \int_{x \in L(\theta, p)} f(x) ds \text{ Slide 5}$$

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**Theorem 1.** [Q2] *There is a one-to-one correspondence between wavefront of  $f$  and wavefront of  $Rf$ .*

*Let  $L_0 = L(\theta_0, p_0)$ . If for some  $x_0 \in L_0$ ,  $(x_0, \bar{\theta}_0) \in \text{WF}(f)$ , then  $Rf$  is not smooth near  $(\theta_0, p_0)$ . If  $f$  is smooth in directions  $\pm \bar{\theta}_0$  at every point on  $L_0$ , then  $Rf$  is smooth near  $(\theta_0, p_0)$ . Undetected singularities (those not perpendicular to  $L_0$ ) are smoothed by data  $Rf(\theta, p)$  for  $(\theta, p)$  near  $(\theta_0, p_0)$ .*

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- ▶ The Projection Slice Theorem.
- ▶ This all is valid for  $\text{WF}^s(f)$  and  $\text{WF}^{s+1/2}(Rf)$  [Q2]! Slide 6

# Morals:

- I. Theorem 1  $\rightarrow$ : the Radon transform,  $R$ , with limited data does a good job detecting a singularity of  $f$  when the line is perpendicular to the singularity (e.g., tangent to a boundary of part of the object).

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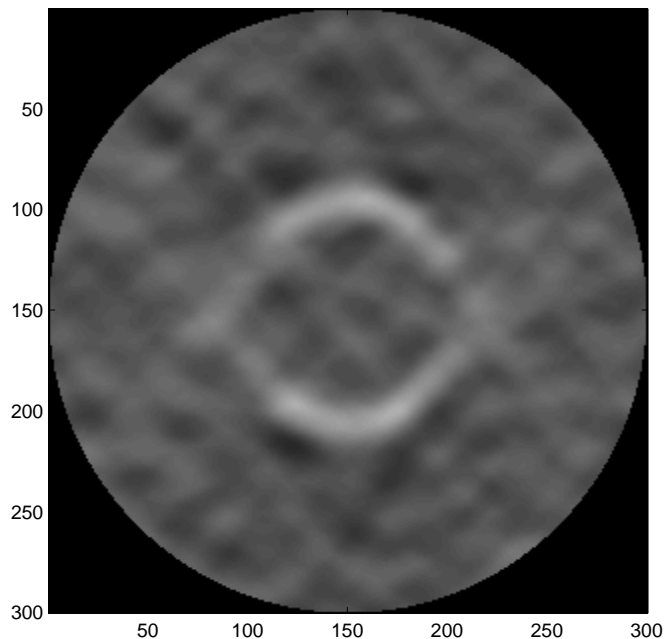
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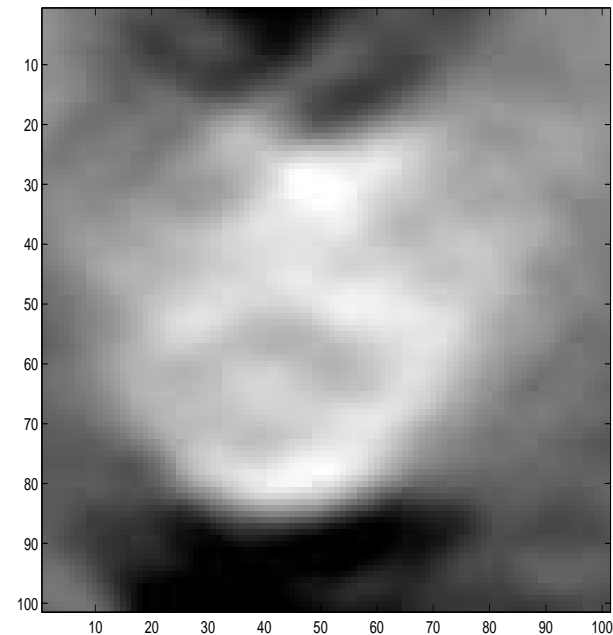
Examples:  $\rightarrow$

# My limited angle ROI Reconstructions

Simulated electron microscope data  $\theta \in [30^\circ, 150^\circ]$



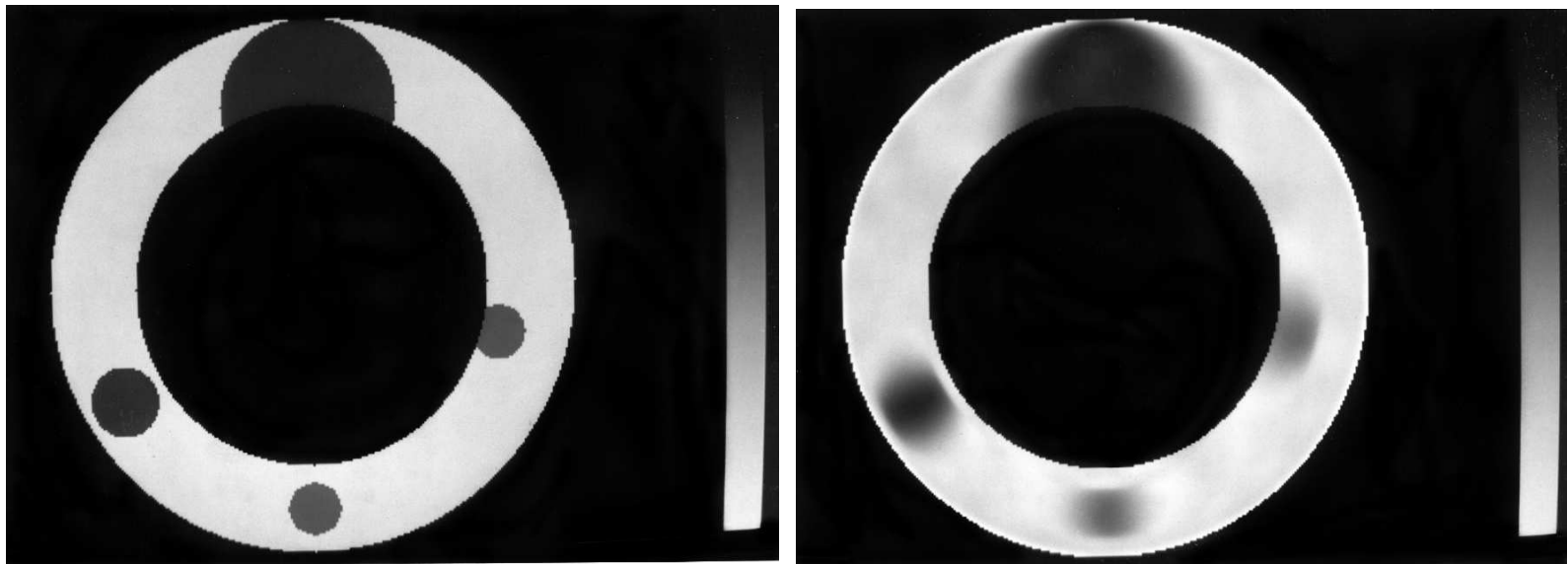
Reconstruction of real virus, 25 angles



From Sidec/Karolinska Institute data.

# Exterior reconstruction [Q1]:

**Exterior data:** lines that are exterior to (do not meet) the big black central circle.



Phantom (left) and ERA reconstruction from simulated data [Q1].

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- ▶ It is often easier to reconstruct object features (boundary shapes, etc.) than actual density values from limited data.
- ▶ Singularity detection methods reconstruct only the “visible” singularities so the visible singularities look as good as can be expected [Q2] (☺).
- ▶ **The Caveat:** However, “invisible” singularities can be blurred or distorted (**depending on the algorithm**).