#### Outline

History

Modelling X-ray attenuation

Matrix model approach to tomography

Continuous vs. discrete tomography

Visibility and invisibility

### X-ray tomography: Continuum model



### X-ray tomography: Practical measurement model



 $m \in \mathbb{R}^k$ 



#### X-ray tomography: Computational model



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Unknown:  $f \in \mathbb{R}^{32 \times 32}$ 

Data:  $Sf \in \mathbb{R}^{49 \times 32}$ 

## Inverse problem of X-ray tomography: given noisy sinogram, find a stable approximation to *f*



Consider the measurement model  $m = Sf + \varepsilon$ . We want to know f, but all we can do is measure m that depends indirectly on f. Moreover, the measurement is corrupted with additive noise  $\varepsilon$ .

#### Nonuniqueness in X-ray tomography

It was noted already in [Cormack 1963], and later analyzed in [Smith, Solmon & Wagner 1977, Theorem 4.2], that a finite number of line integrals does not determine the target uniquely since the measurement operator has a nontrivial nullspace.

**THEOREM 4.2.** A finite set of radiographs tells nothing at all.

For some reason this theorem provokes merriment. It is so plainly one of those mathematical ideals untainted by any possibility of practical application.

However, the *ghosts*, or the objects invisible in the tomographic data, are high-frequency functions and can be effectively suppressed by regularization.

#### These phantoms have almost the same sinogram

#### Original phantom



1%



#### 0.2%



0.05%



0.02%



0.002%

