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Let $C\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{k}$ be an underdetermined linear system generated by the strip-based projection model in discrete tomography, where C is row-rank deficient. In the case of one scanning direction the linear dependency of the rows of C is studied in this paper. An index set H is specified such that if all rows of C with row indices in H are deleted then the rows of resultant matrix F are maximum linearly independent rows of C . Therefore, the corresponding system $F\mathbf{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{k}}$ is equivalent to $C\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{k}$ and consequently, the cost of an image reconstruction from $F\mathbf{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{k}}$ is reduced. (Received August 10, 2010)