

Topics in Inverse Problems and Super-Resolution

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Time&Place: Wednesdays 10-13, Dan David 204

Moodle: <https://moodle.tau.ac.il/course/view.php?id=372402501>

Reception hours: by appointment / after class

What is an inverse problem?

- Two problems are inverses of one another if the formulation of each involves all or part of the solution of the other.
- Often, for historical reasons, one of the two problems has been studied extensively for some time, while the other has never been studied and is not so well understood.
- In such cases, the former is called the direct problem, while the latter is the inverse problem.

(Keller J B 1976 Am. Math. Monthly 83 107)

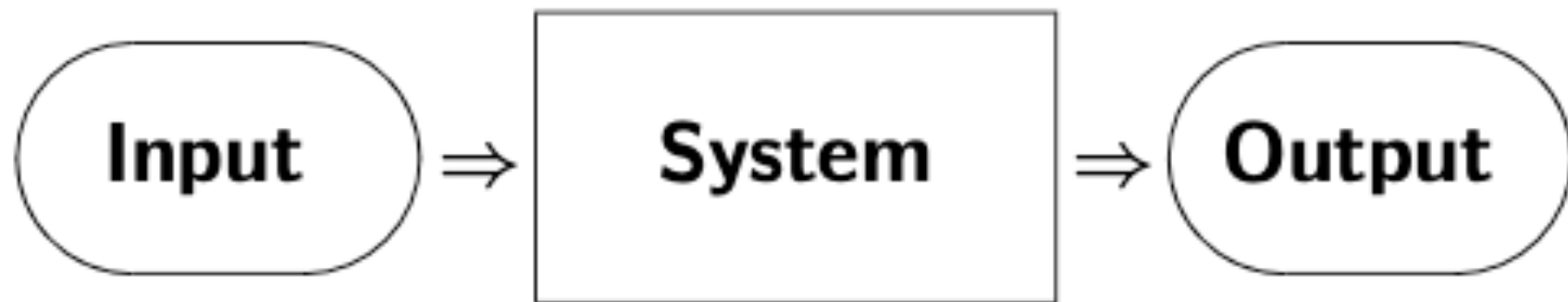
For a Mathematician: choice is arbitrary

For a Physicist: direct problem follows **cause**→**effect**.

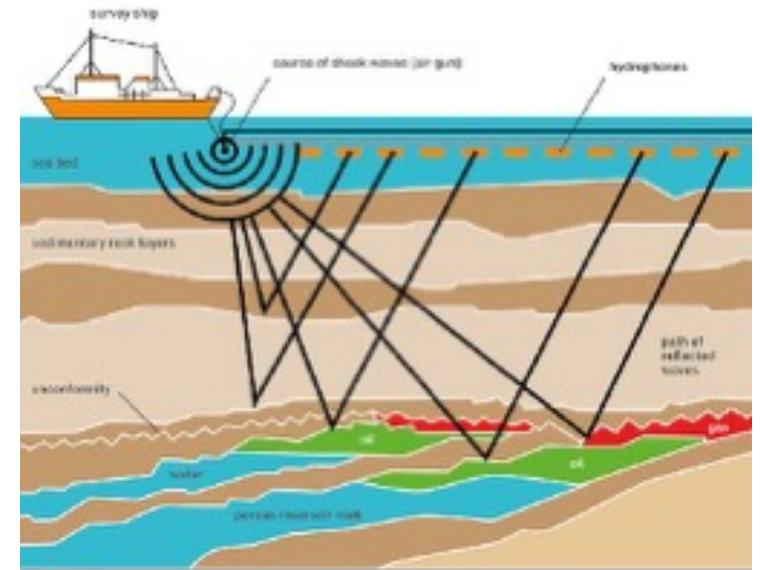
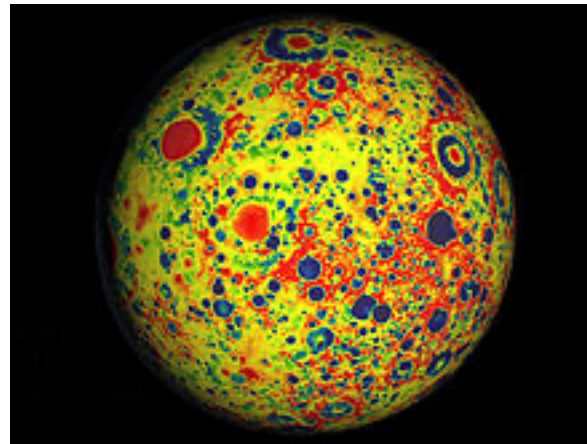
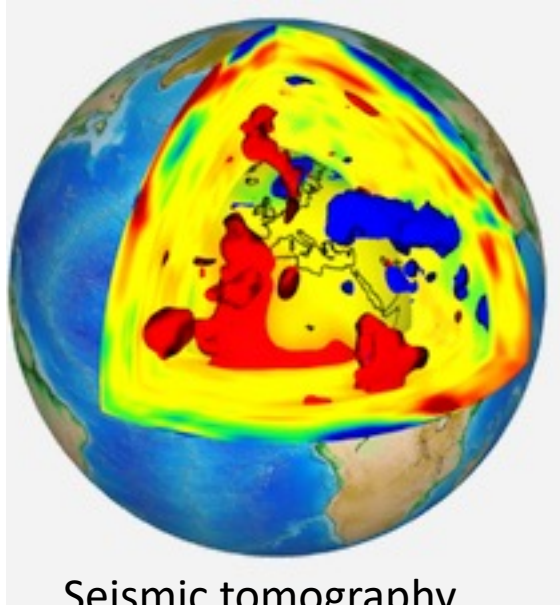
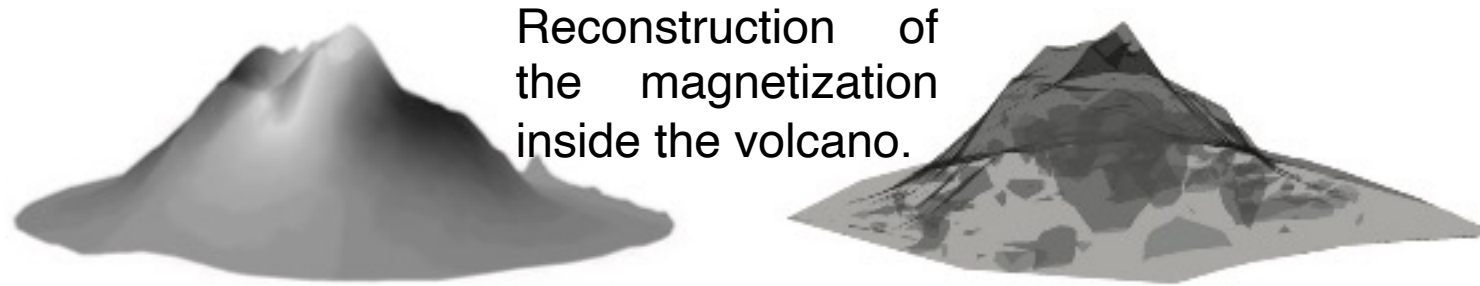
Inverse Problem

One of these is known

Known
but with
errors



Geophysical inversion



Diffraction-limited imaging

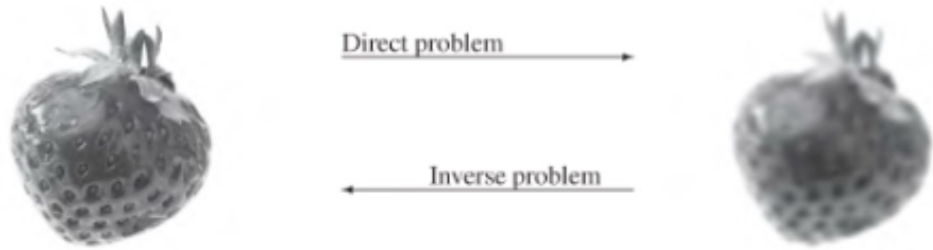
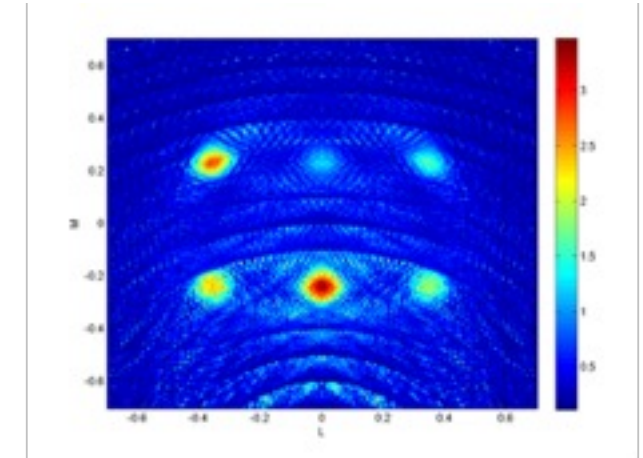
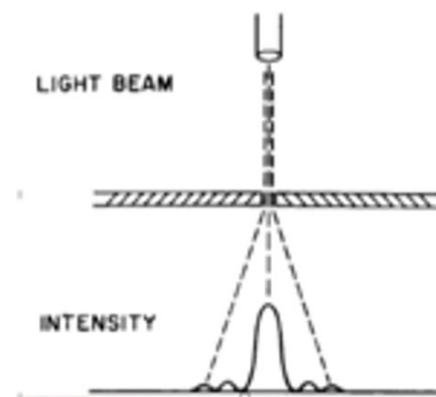
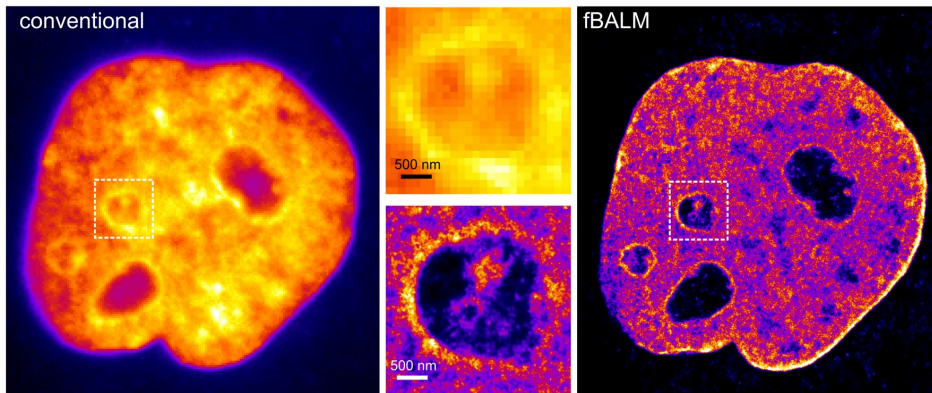


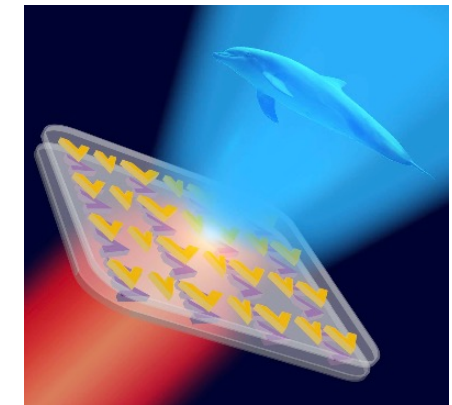
Image deblurring



Astronomical imaging

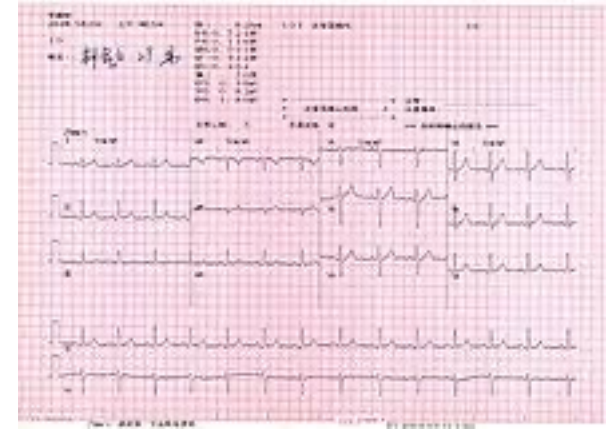


Super-resolution imaging

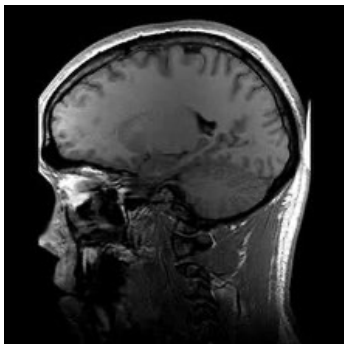


holography

Medical imaging



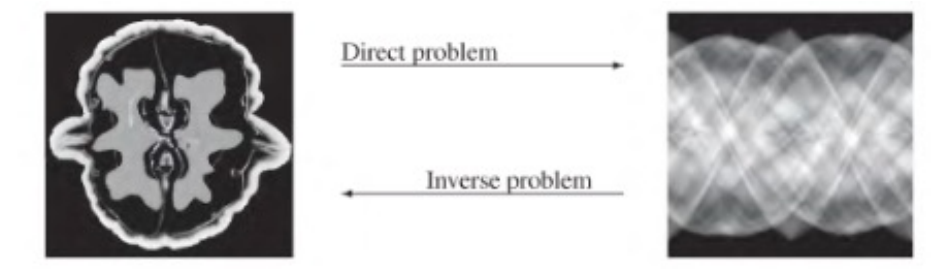
ECG



MRI

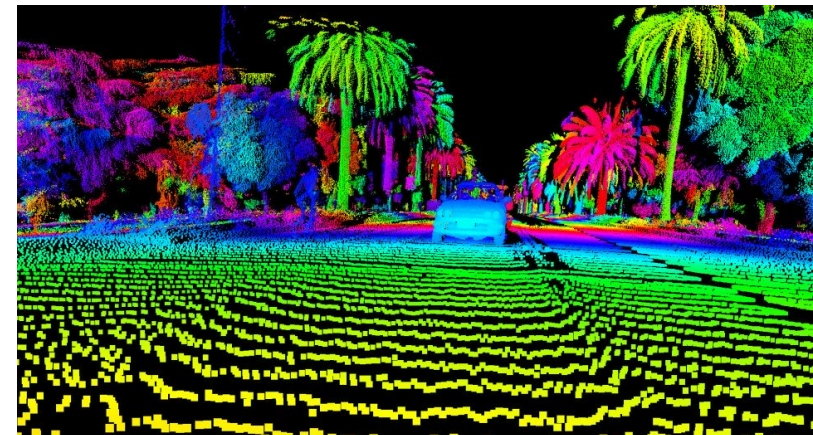
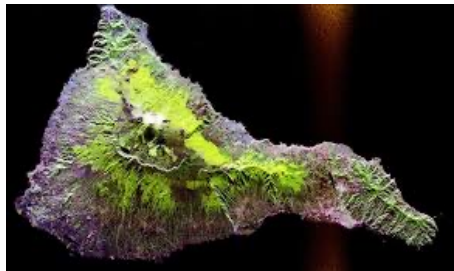
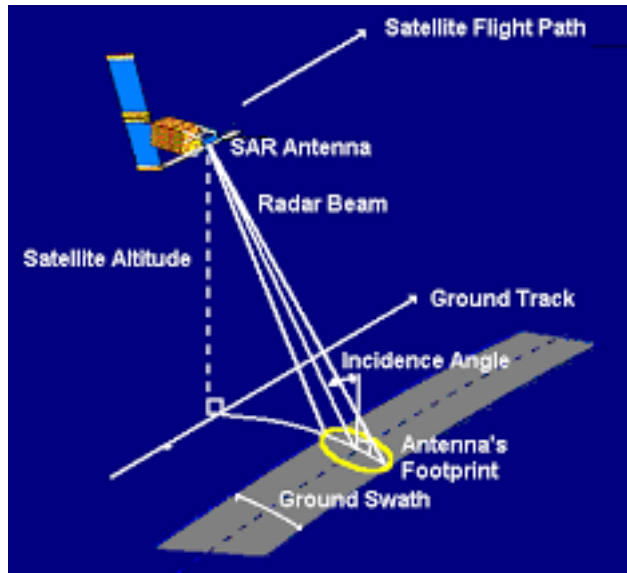


Ultrasound



Computerized Tomography

Remote sensing

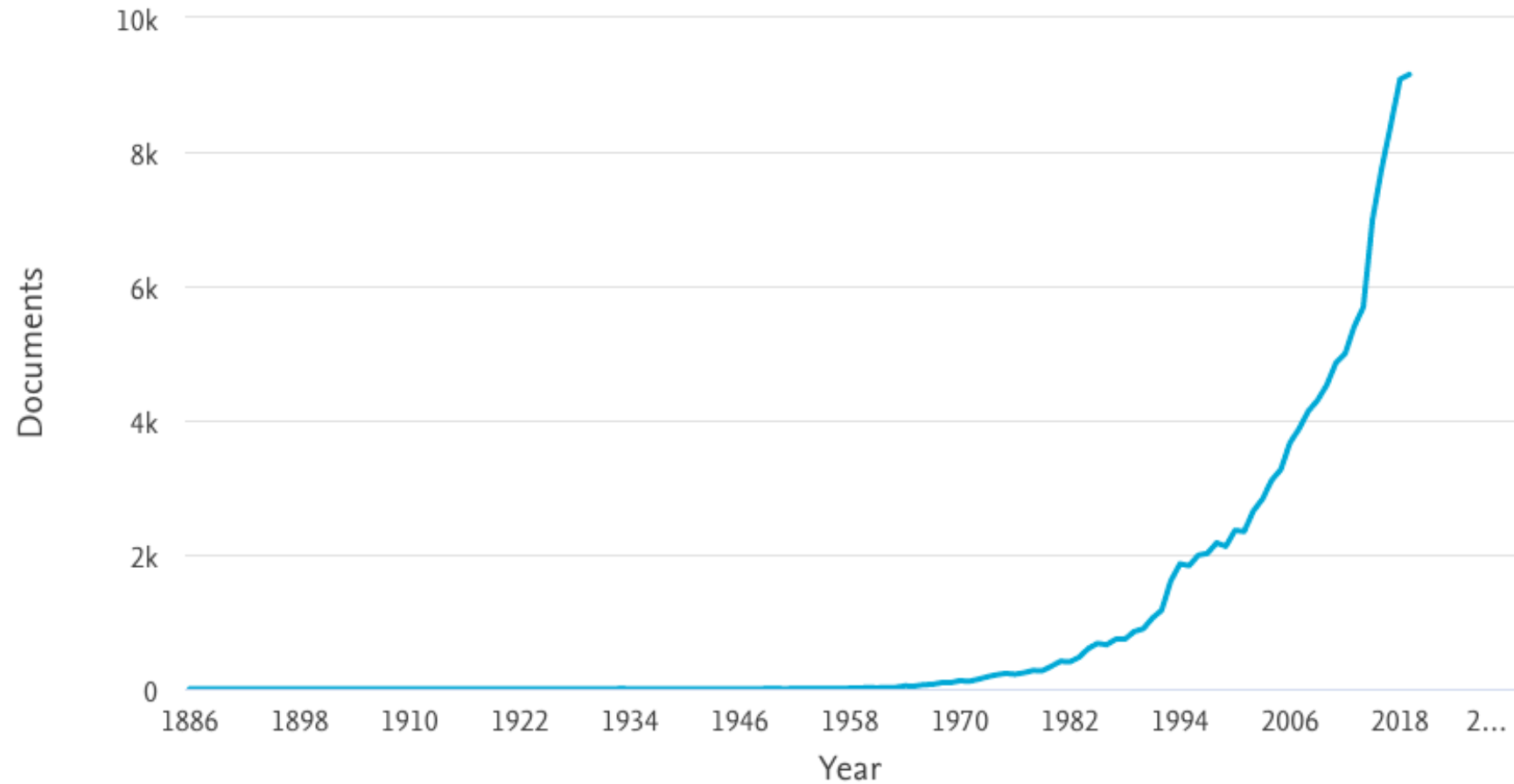


Past, present and future (very inaccurate)

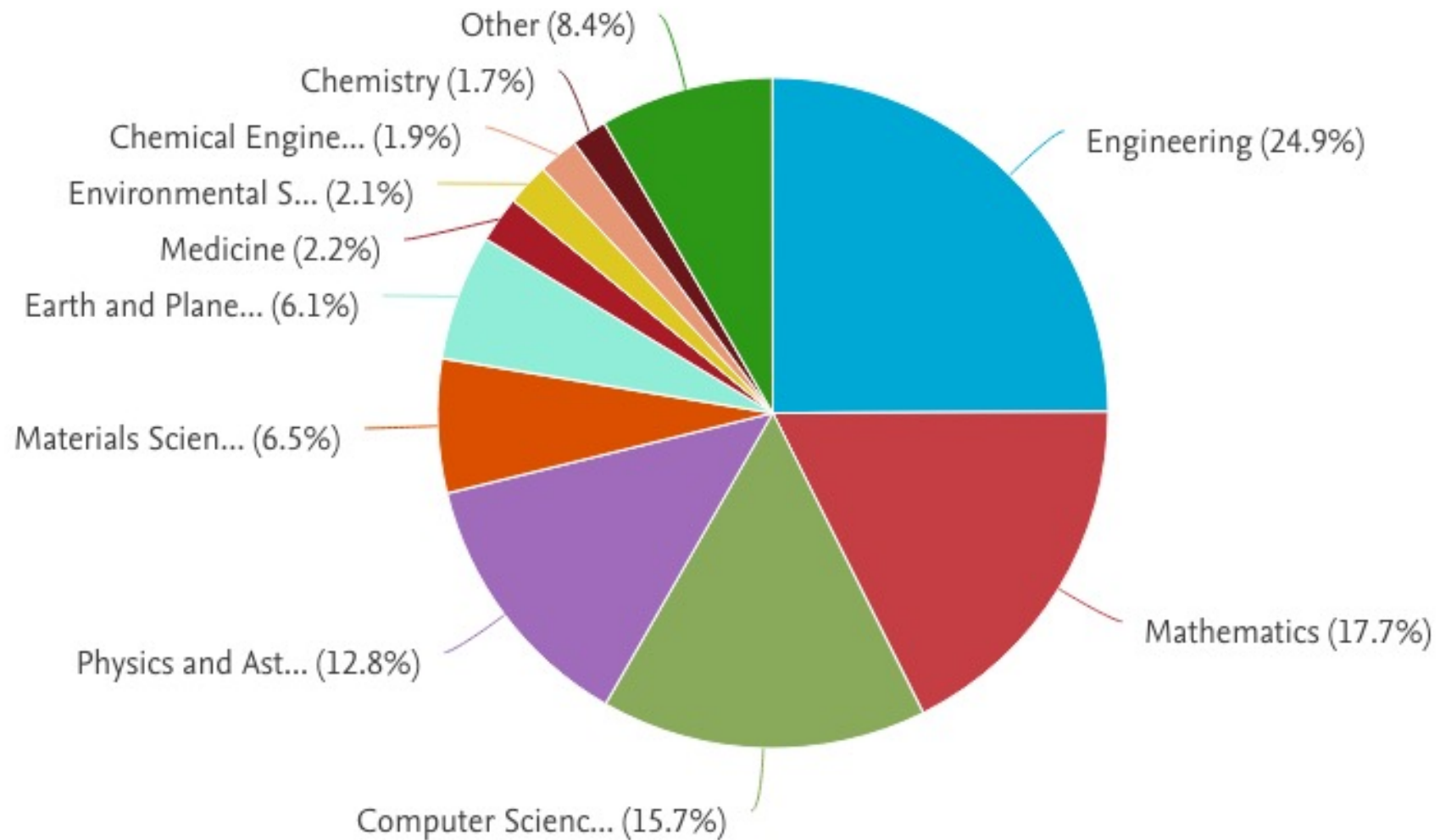
- 19th century: differential equations (forward problems)
- 20th century: mathematical physics, many theoretical developments, “classical” results
- 2000-2010 : sparsity, compressed sensing
- Today: large scale computations, deep learning, “data science”

Inverse Problems - today

Documents by year



By subject area



Math/computational questions

$$y = K(x) + e$$

Modeling!!

- Existence/uniqueness (sampling)
- How to solve efficiently?

$$\text{minimize}_x \|y - K(x)\| + \underbrace{\mathcal{R}(x)}_{\text{prior knowledge}}$$

- Uncertainty quantification / Bayesian IP

$$x \sim p(\theta) \Rightarrow \text{compute } p(x|y)$$

- **Stability/resolution**

$$\|\tilde{x} - x\| \leq \kappa(\|e\|), \kappa = ?$$

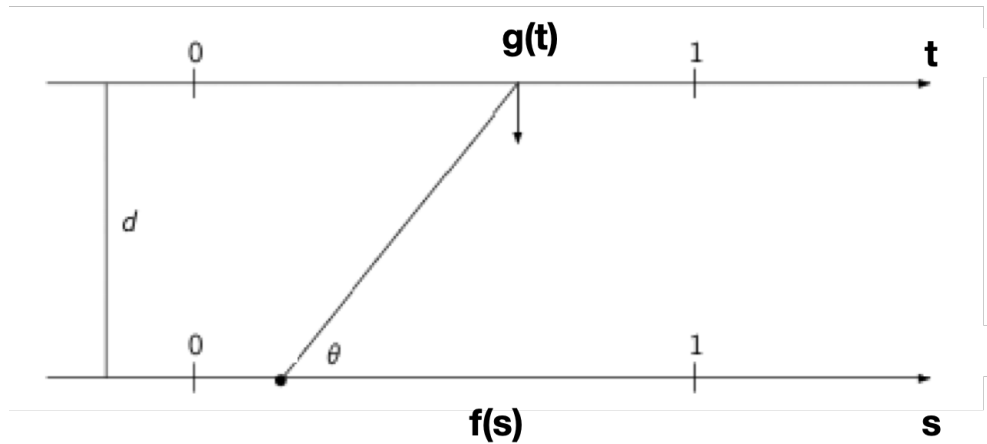
Course topics

1. General theory
2. Regularized solutions
3. Discretization
4. Resolution and super-resolution
5. Sparsity constraints
6. Applications / current research

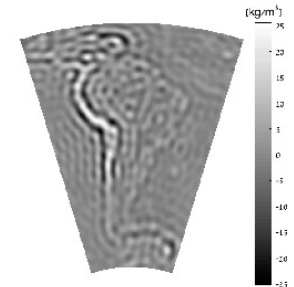
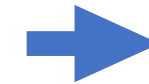
Linear integral equations

$$y(t) = \int K(s, t)x(s)ds + e(t)$$

- Accurate model for many IPs



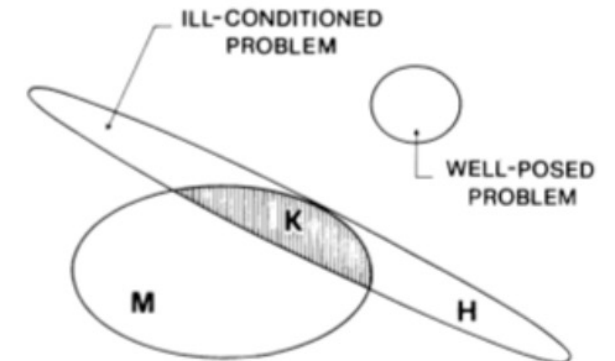
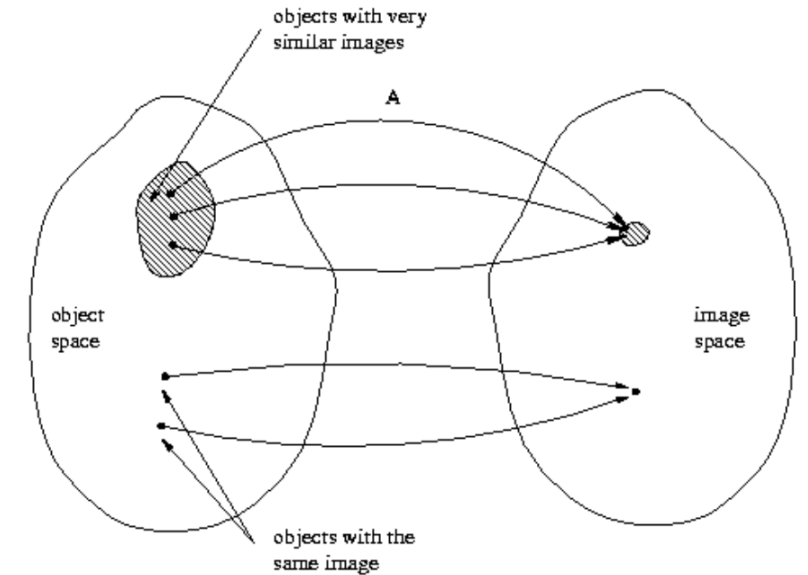
$$g(t) = \int_0^1 \frac{d}{(d^2 + (t-s)^2)^{3/2}} f(s) ds$$



$$(T\rho)(\vec{y}) = V(\vec{y}) = -G \int_{\oplus} \frac{\rho(\vec{x})}{|\vec{x} - \vec{y}|} d^3x$$

$$y(t) = \int K(s, t)x(s)ds + e(t)$$

- Singular value expansion of compact operators
- Problem always ill-posed: need prior information in order to solve
 - $\|x\| \leq E$ (size/energy)
 - $x(t) \sim \sum_k c_k \varphi_k(t)$ with $c_k \rightarrow 0$ sufficiently fast (e.g. smoothness)
- Worst case error $\|x - \tilde{x}\|$?



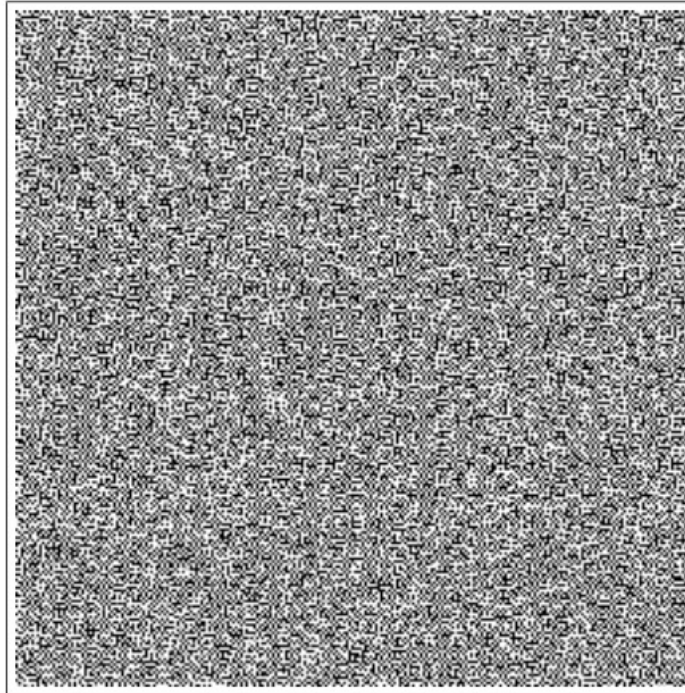
Ill-posed problems and regularization

$$y = Kx + e$$
$$x^0 = K^{-1}y$$

The ill-conditioning of a problem does not mean that a meaningful approximate solution cannot be computed. Rather the ill-conditioning implies that standard methods in numerical linear algebra cannot be used in a straightforward way to compute such a solution. Instead, more sophisticated methods must be applied in order to ensure the computation of a meaningful solution.

This is the essential goal of regularization methods.

Blurred image with noise



Inverse calculated by Fourier division, i.e., unregularized solution.

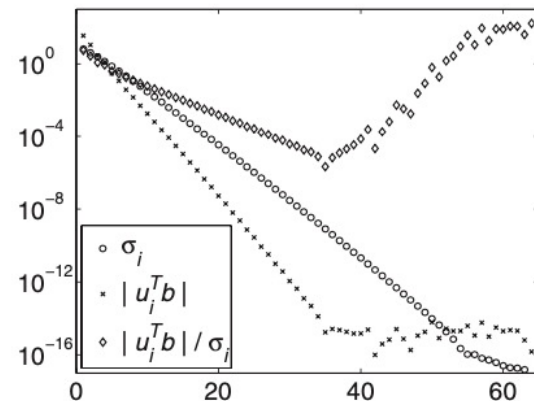
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This is the essential goal of regularization methods.

Regularized inverse image: $\lambda = 100$

Regularized solutions

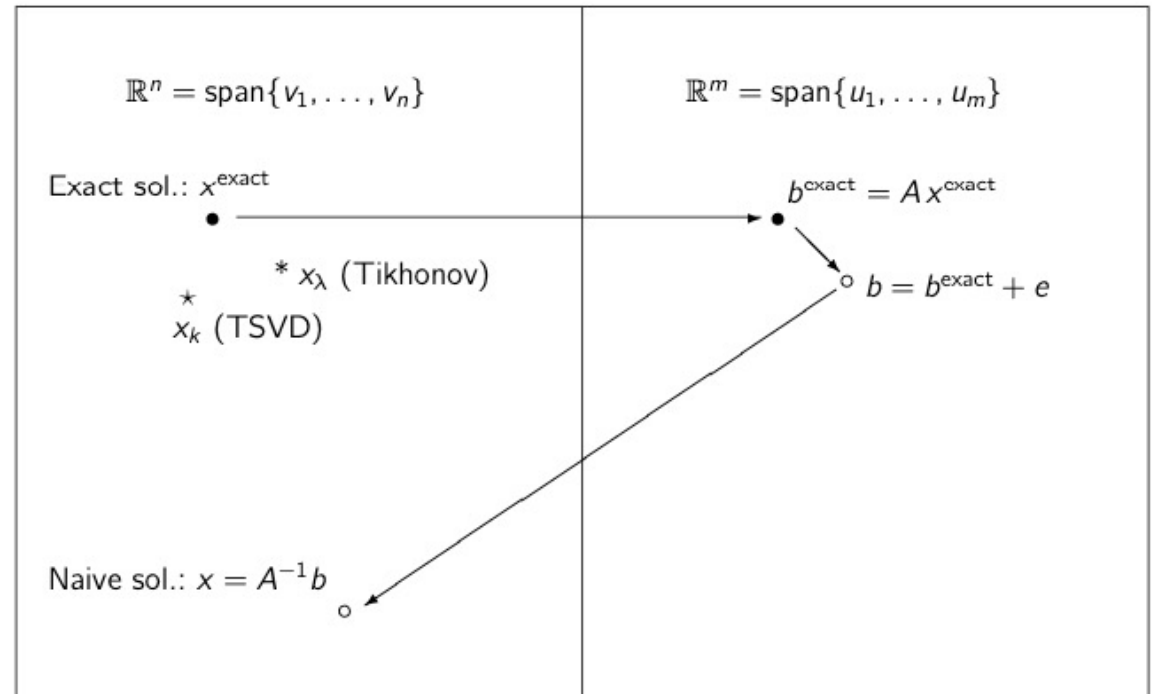
- Least squares
- Tikhonov regularization
- Truncated SVD
- Choice of reg. parameter
- Convergence analysis
- Optimality
- **Data-driven methods**



e 3.6. The Picard plot for the discretized gravity surveying

$$f(\lambda) = \arg \min_f \|y - Af\| + \lambda \mathcal{R}(f)$$

$$\tilde{f} = \arg \min \|y - Af\| \quad \text{subject to } \mathcal{R}(f) \leq E$$



From infinite to finite

- How to discretize an operator equation?
- Rudimentary convergence analysis

Quadrature methods

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j K(s_i, t_j) \tilde{f}_j = g(s_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$f(\lambda) = \arg \min_f \|y - Af\| + \lambda \mathcal{R}(f)$$

$$\tilde{f} = \arg \min \|y - Af\| \quad \text{subject to } \mathcal{R}(f) \leq E$$

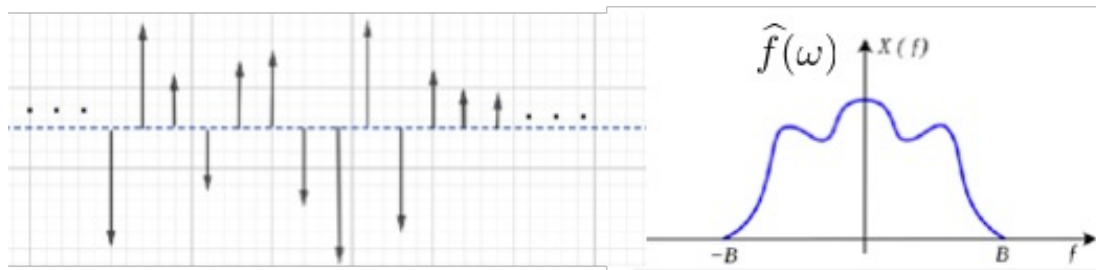
Galerkin / expansion methods

$$f^{(n)}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^n \zeta_j \phi_j(t)$$

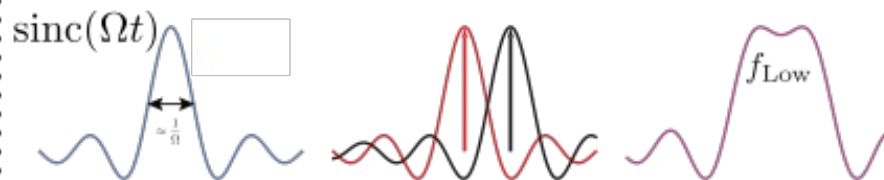
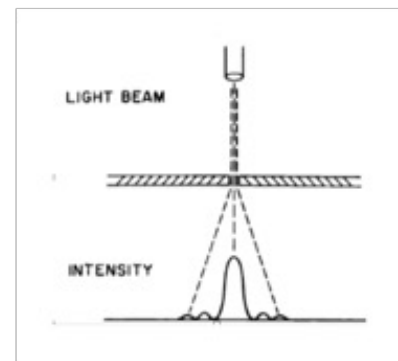
$$\langle \psi_i, g \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n \zeta_j \left\langle \psi_i, \int_0^1 K(s, t) \phi_j(t) dt \right\rangle, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Super-resolution theory(ies)

Rayleigh-Nyquist limit



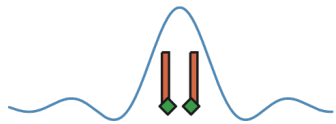
$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} f(nT) \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{t - nT}{T}\right) \text{ holds if } T < \frac{1}{2\Omega}$$



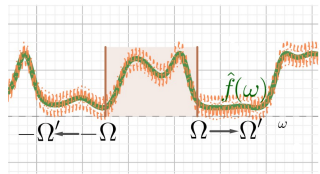
Classical resolution limit = inverse bandwidth

- Fast algorithms (FFT)
- Perfect stability

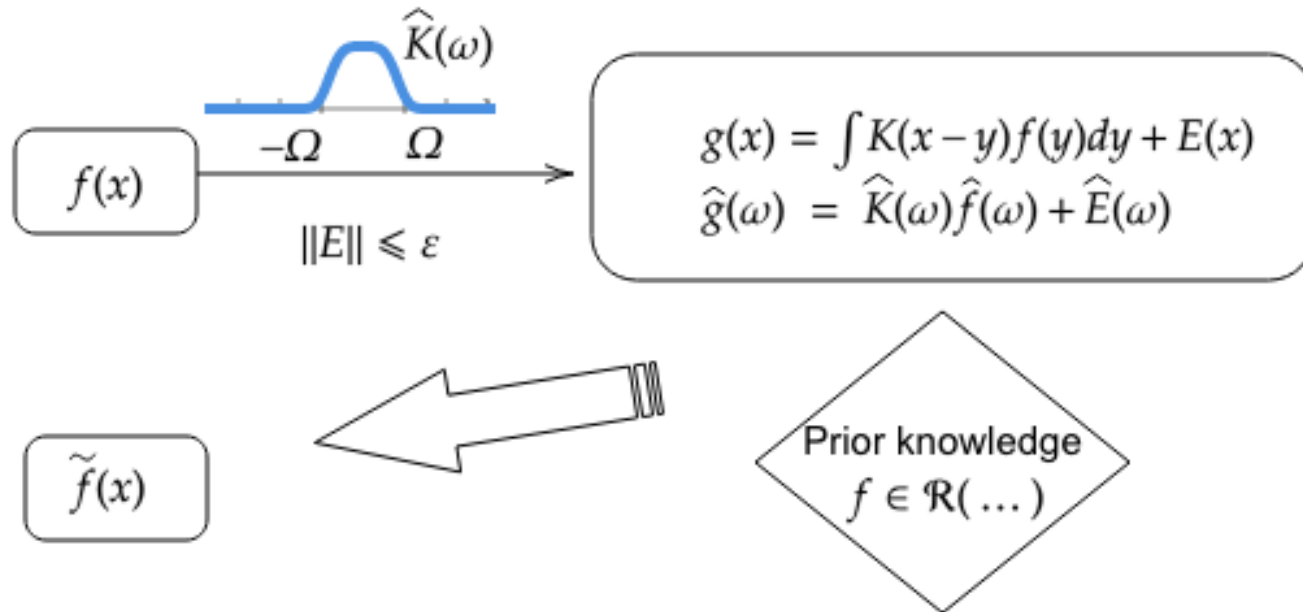
Inverse problems & Super-resolution



SR in time/space



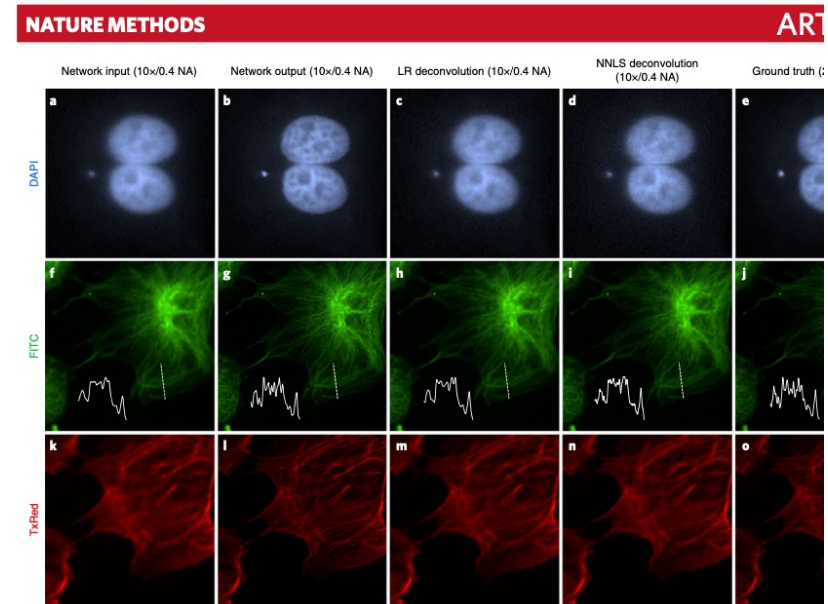
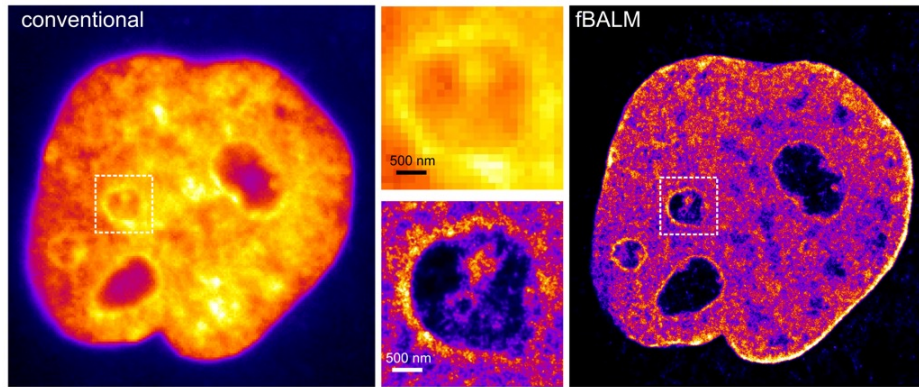
SR in frequency



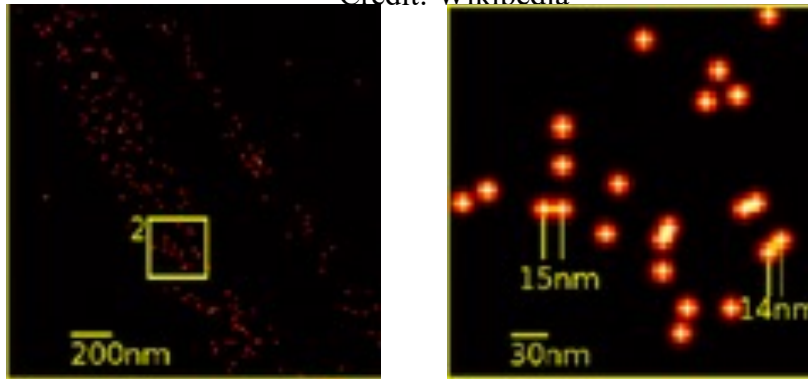
- Super-resolution (SR): recover $\hat{f}(\omega)$ for $|\omega| > \Omega$
- Eventual resolution limit depends on
 - Noise level $\|E\|$
 - Bandlimit Ω
 - Prior complexity/geometry...

Q: how and when can we reliably extract high-res. information?

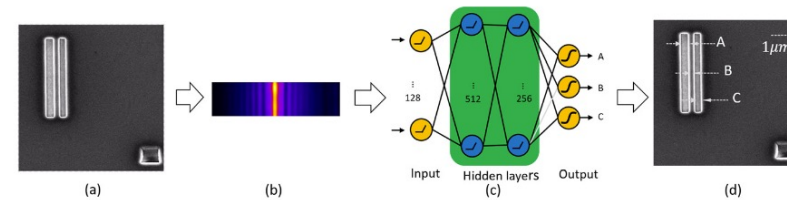
SR today



Credit: Wikipedia



Credit: *Nat. Methods* **16**, 103–110 (2019).

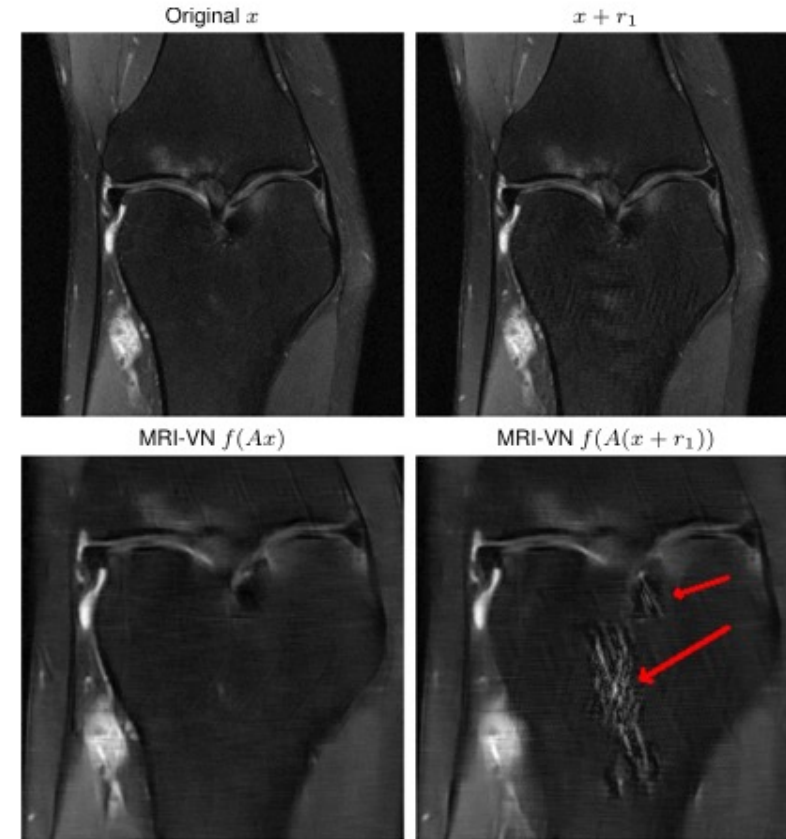


Credit: *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **116**, 131105 (2020)

HUGE SUCCESS! ...or is it??

Can we be sure?

- * Artifacts in reconstruction
- * Adversarial noise attacks



Credit: *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 201907377 (2020)

Rigorous SR guarantees largely lacking!

Classical/Linear SR

$$A\varphi = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_i \langle \varphi, \varphi_i \rangle \psi_i$$

- “Classical” theory: depends on spectral properties of A
 - Singular value decay rates
 - Oscillation properties of singular functions
- Analytic continuation
- Super-resolution of compactly supported objects

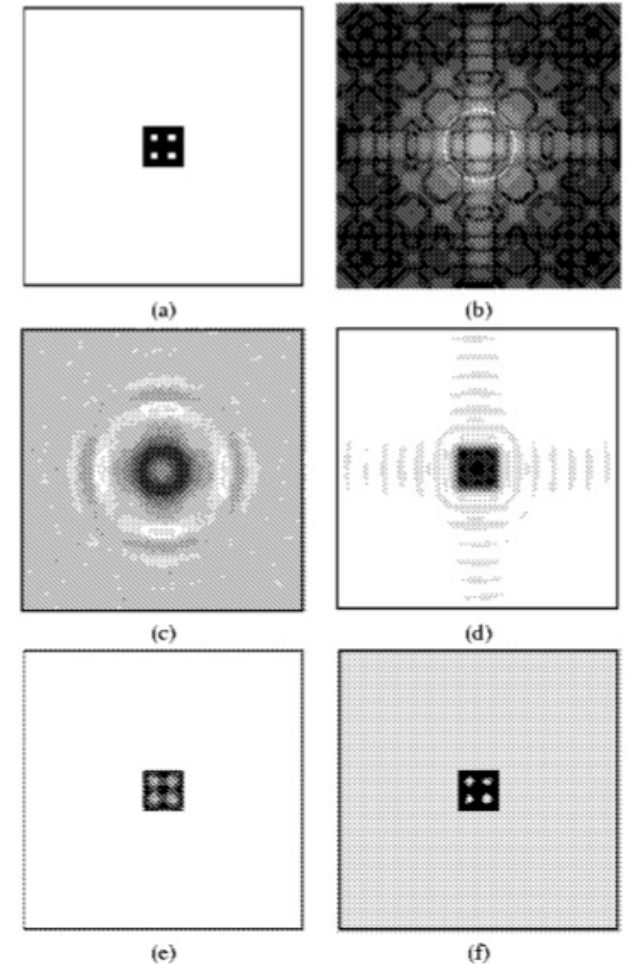


Figure 11.6. Example of super-resolution in far-field acoustic holography. (a) The object: a grid $2.5\lambda \times 2.5\lambda$ with bars 0.5λ wide. (b) The modulus of the FT of the object in (a); the white circle indicates the band of the far-field data. (c) The modulus of the noisy image at the distance 5λ from the object plane. (d) The reconstruction obtained by means of the inverse filtering method. (e) The reconstruction obtained by means of the iterative method with the constraint of bounded support. (f) The reconstruction obtained by means of the iterative method with the constraints of bounded support and positivity.

The linear setting for SR

- Unknown: $f \in L^2[-T, T]$ (prior information = compact support)

- Observe: Ω -bandlimited version of f

- $A_{\Omega, T}: L^2[-T, T] \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}) : A_{\Omega, T} f = \int_{-T}^T \frac{\sin(\Omega(t-s))}{\pi(t-s)} f(s) ds$

- $c = \Omega T, (B_c f)(t) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sin(c(t-s))}{\pi(t-s)} f(s) ds, |t| < 1.$

- Eigenvalue distribution of B_c determines SR bounds

Landau&Widom 1980

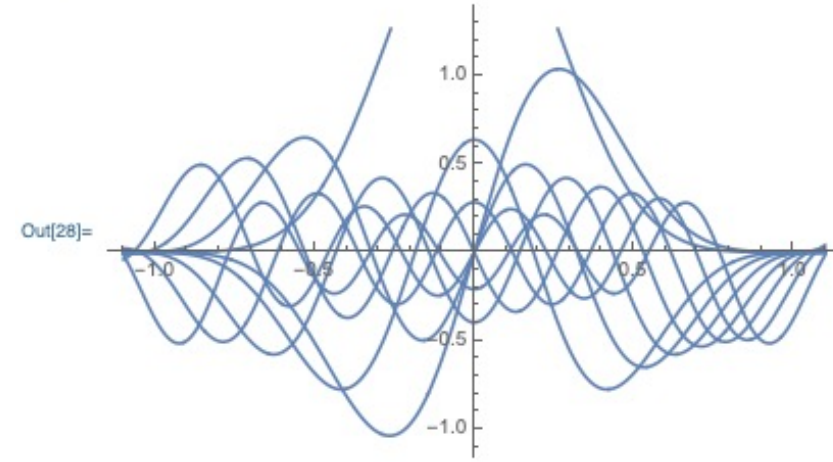


$$\#\{\lambda: \lambda > \epsilon\} = \frac{2c}{\pi} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \log \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon} \log \frac{2c}{\pi} + o(\log c) \quad 0 < \epsilon < 1, c \rightarrow \infty$$

- ΩT is precisely the number of points in $[-T, T]$ taken at Nyquist rate
- As $T \rightarrow \infty$, the “super-resolution factor” vanishes ($\approx O(\log T/T)$)
- For fixed $T \gg 1$, we expect $\log \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon} \approx \log \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ (as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$) extra degrees of freedom
- In practice, may obtain significant SR for small c (i.e. T)

Prolate Spheroidal Wave Functions

```
In[28]:= Plot[Table[SpheroidalPS[k, 0, 15, t], {k, 0, 8}], {t, -1.1, 1.1}]
```

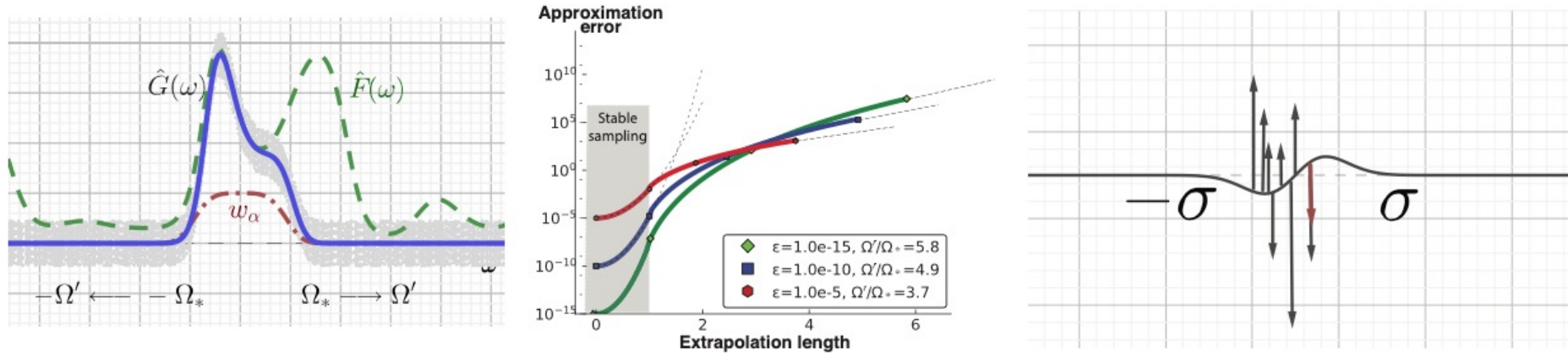


Sturm-Liouville theory

- $\frac{d}{dx} (1 - x^2) \frac{d\psi(c;x)}{dx} + (\chi - c^2 x^2) \psi(c;x) = 0$
- $\int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sin(c(t-s))}{\pi(t-s)} \psi_n(c;s) ds = \lambda_n \psi_n(c;t)$
- Can be extended to $t \in \mathbb{R}$ by the above formula
- Simultaneously orthogonal on \mathbb{R} and on $[-1,1]$
- $\widehat{\psi}_n$ is a rescaled copy of ψ_n

- Complete in $L^2[-1,1]$ and in PW_c (space of c -bandlimited functions)
- ψ_n has exactly n zeros in $[-1,1]$
- Can be computed efficiently
- Useful for extrapolation

“Soft” SR



$$G(y) = \int K(y - x)F(x)dx + E(x), \quad \|E\| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{supp } F \subset [-\sigma, \sigma]$$

- Gaussian-type kernels: $\hat{K}(\omega) = \exp(-|\omega|^\alpha)$
- Pointwise extrapolation estimate: $|\hat{F}(\omega) - \hat{F}_{rec}(\omega)| \asymp \varepsilon^{\gamma(\omega)}$
- Bandwidth extension $\Omega'/\Omega^* \asymp \frac{1}{\sigma} |\log \varepsilon|^{1-\frac{1}{\alpha}}$ (good for small objects)
- Bounds are minimax
- Key tools
 - ▶ Weighted approximation of bandlimited functions
 - ▶ Growth estimates of weighted polynomials

[DB, Demanet, Mhaskar, *Inverse Problems* 35, 015011 (2019).]

Sparsity constraints

From smoothness to sparsity

$$Ax = y, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \quad m < n$$

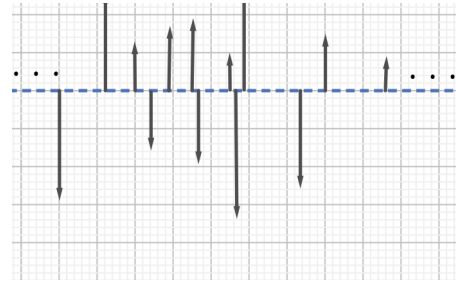
- Solution not unique in general
- Uniqueness restored if the number of nonzero elements of x is known to be small:

$$\|x\|_0 \leq k \ll n$$

- Compressed sensing: A is random

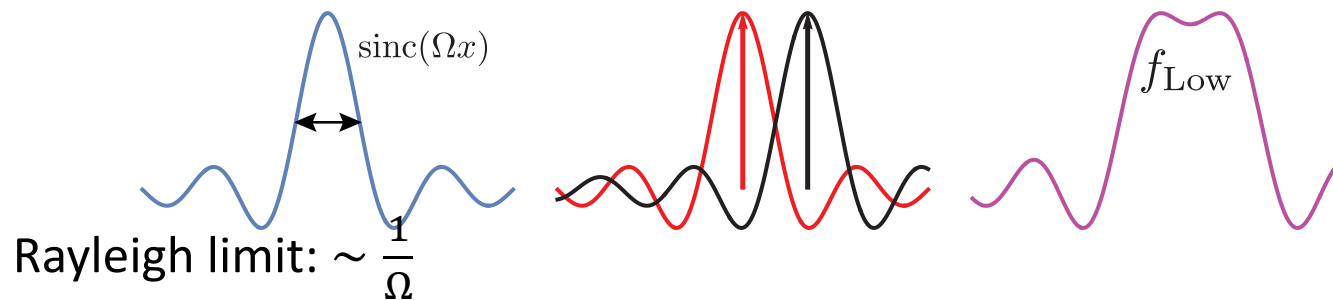
Model problem: spike deconvolution

High-resolution signal: $f_H = \sum_j \mu_j \delta(t - t_j)$



Bandlimited spectral measurements: $\hat{f}(\omega) = \sum_j \mu_j \exp(2\pi i \omega t_j), |\omega| \leq \Omega$

Low-resolution signal: $f_{\text{Low}} \approx \sum_j \mu_j \text{sinc}(\Omega(t - t_j))$



sharp

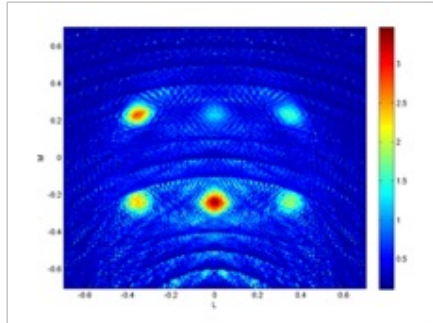


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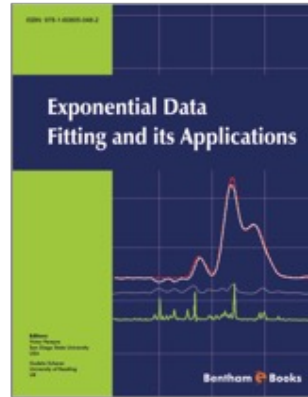


(One of) simplest nonlinear inverse problems

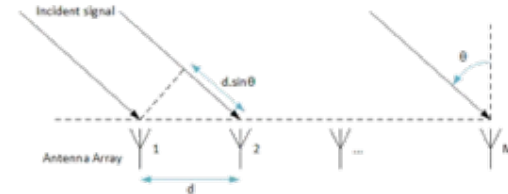
The sparsity prior



Astronomical imaging



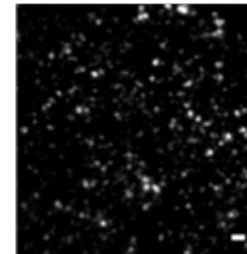
Exponential fitting



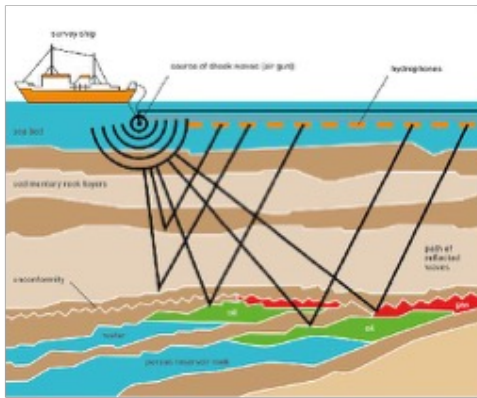
Direction of Arrival Estimation

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^R \alpha_k \delta(x - x_k)$$

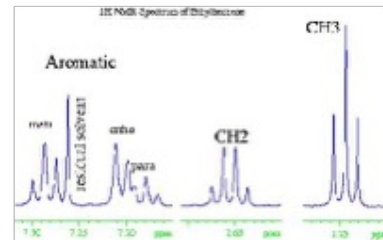
$$\hat{g}(\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^R \alpha_k e^{i\omega x_k} + e(\omega), \quad |\omega| \leq \Omega$$



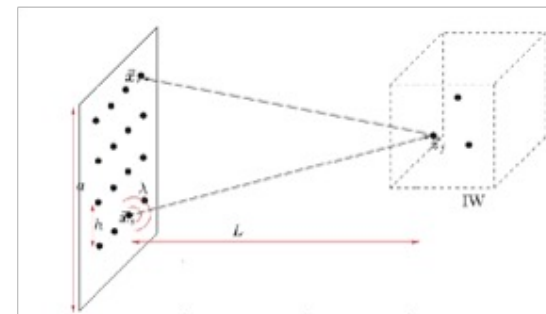
Fluorescence microscopy



Seismic inversion



NMR spectroscopy



Array Imaging

EXPERIMENTAL AND ANALYTICAL ESSAY
ON
THE EXPANSION PROPERTIES OF ELASTIC FLUIDS
AND ON THE FORCE OF EXPANSION OF
WATER VAPOR AND ALCOHOL VAPOR AT DIFFERENT
TEMPERATURES

By R. Prony, 1795
Translated by Dr. Ann Sanders/ETI

Prony's problem: recover $\{\mu_j, \rho_j\}$ from samples of

$$\tau(x) = \mu_1 \rho_1^x + \mu_2 \rho_2^x + \cdots \mu_n \rho_n^x$$



Gaspard-Clair-Francois-Marie
Riche de Prony
(1755-1839)

Gaspard Riche de Prony, *Essai experimental et analytique: sur les lois de la dilatabilite de fluides elastique et sur celles de la force expansive de la vapeur de l'alkool, a differentes temperatures*. *J. Ecole Polyt.* 1:24-76 (1795).

Prony's Insight

$$\tau(k) = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \rho_j^k, \quad \mu_j \neq 0, \rho_j \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$Q(x) = (x - \rho_1) \cdots (x - \rho_n) = x^n + c_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1x + c_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\ell=0}^n c_{\ell} \tau(k + \ell) = 0, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\text{Proof: } \sum_{\ell=0}^n c_{\ell} \tau(k + \ell) = \sum_{\ell=0}^n c_{\ell} \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \rho_j^{k+\ell} = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \rho_j^k Q(\rho_j) = 0$$

Prony's Method

$$\tau(k) = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \rho_j^k, \quad \mu_j \neq 0, \rho_j \in \mathbb{C}$$

2n unknowns

- Construct $n \times (n + 1)$ **Hankel** matrix

$$H = [\tau(k + \ell)]_{\substack{\ell=0,1,\dots,n \\ k=0,1,\dots,n-1}} = \begin{bmatrix} \tau(0) & \cdots & \tau(n) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tau(n-1) & \cdots & \tau(2n-1) \end{bmatrix}$$

2n samples

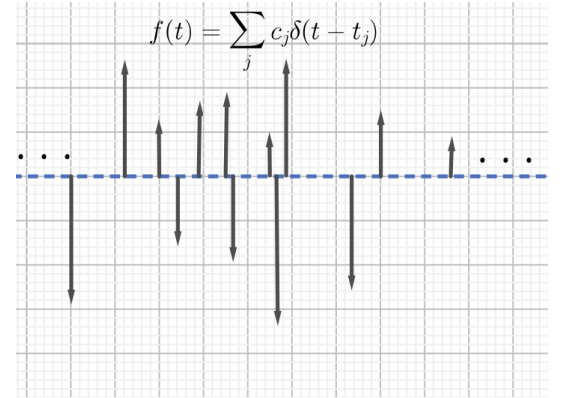
- Find $\mathbf{c} \in \ker(H)$, construct $Q_{\mathbf{c}}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n c_j x^j$
- $\{\rho_j\}$ are the roots of $Q_{\mathbf{c}}$
- $\{\mu_j\}$ are given by

Vandermonde matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \rho_1 & \cdots & \rho_n \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho_1^{n-1} & \cdots & \rho_n^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mu_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \tau(0) \\ \tau(1) \\ \vdots \\ \tau(n-1) \end{bmatrix}$$

Parametric super-resolution

$$m(k) = \sum_{j=1}^d c_j \exp(2\pi i k t_j) + e(k), \quad k = 0, \dots, N$$



- 1D extensions

- $m(k) \sim \sum_j f_j(k) \exp(ikt_j)$ for some parametric family $\{f_j\}$

- $\mathcal{D}(k)m(k) = 0$ for some difference operator $\mathcal{D}(k)$ with poly. coefficients

- $f = \sum_\lambda c_\lambda v_\lambda, Av_\lambda = \lambda v_\lambda, m(k) = F(A^k f)$

Existence/uniqueness?

Stability?

- N-D : $m(\mathbf{k}) \sim \sum_j c_j \exp(i\langle \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{t}_j \rangle)$

- "Algebraic data"

Golub et al. (1999)

Gustaffson et al. (2000)

Batenkov (2009)

Lasserre&Putinar (2015)

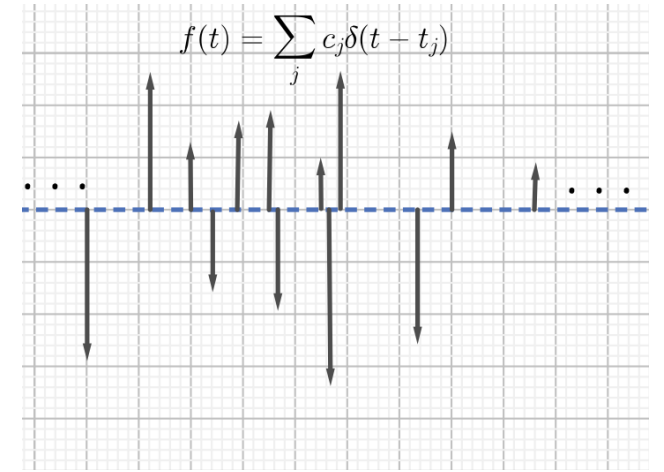
Kunis et al. (2015)

Comon&Usevich (2016)

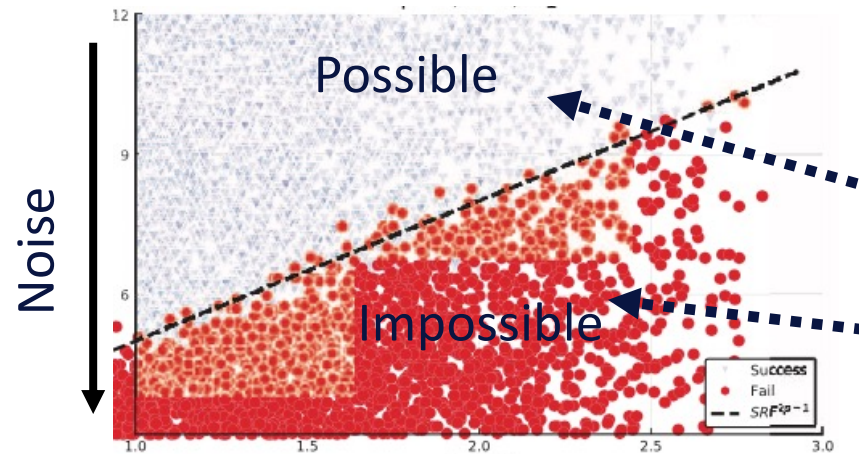
Stampfer&Plonka (2019)

...

Stability analysis



Super Resolution Factor = $\frac{\text{Coarse scale}}{\text{Fine scale}}$
 (SRF)

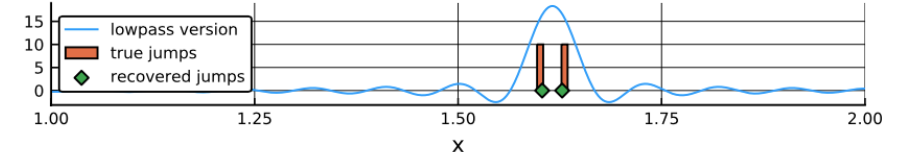


$$\Delta := \min_{j \neq k} |x_j - x_k|$$

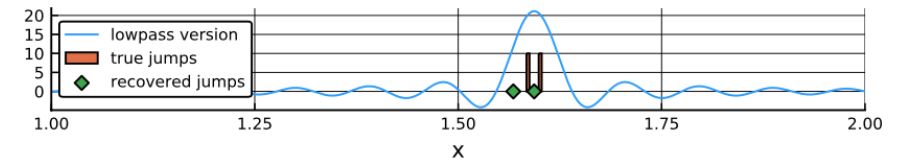
$$\text{SRF} := \frac{1}{\Delta \Omega} = \frac{\text{Rayleigh length}}{\Delta}$$

Optimal tradeoff

Error < separation/2
 SRF=1.5, $\epsilon=0.001$, Success

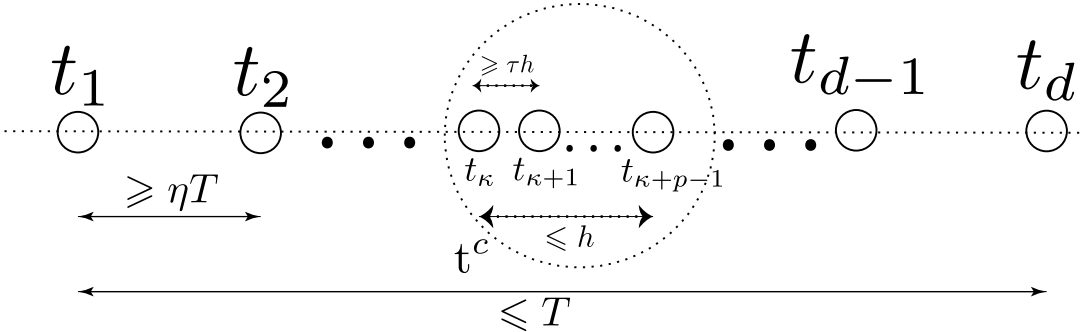


SRF=3.0, $\epsilon=0.001$, Fail



Error > separation/2

Main result



• Theorem: $\frac{c_1}{\eta T} \leq \Omega \leq \frac{c_2}{h}$, then with $\text{SRF} := (\Omega h)^{-1}$ and $\epsilon < c_3 \text{SRF}^{1-2p}$

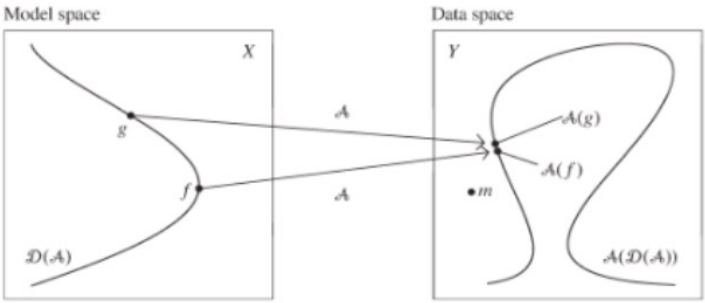
$$|\tilde{t}_j - t_j| \asymp \frac{\epsilon}{\Omega} \times \begin{cases} \text{SRF}^{2p-2}, & t_j \in t^c \\ 1 & t_j \notin t^c \end{cases}$$

$$|\tilde{c}_j - c_j| \asymp \epsilon \times \begin{cases} \text{SRF}^{2p-1}, & t_j \in t^c \\ 1 & t_j \notin t^c \end{cases}$$

• Corollary: $\text{SRF} \asymp \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{\frac{1}{2p-1}}$

• Main tools:

- Local properties of the inverse mapping (spectrum of the Jacobian)
- Quantitative Implicit function theorem

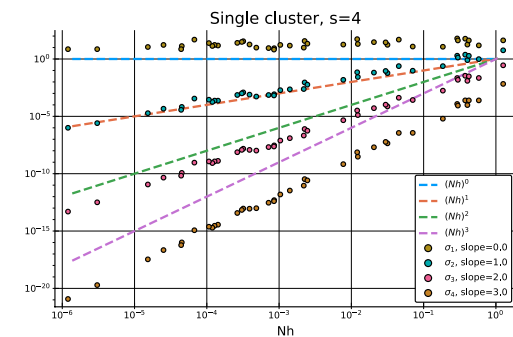


Vandermonde matrices

$$\mathbb{G}(\mathbf{x}, \Omega) := [\text{sinc}(\Omega(x_i - x_j))]_{1 \leq i, j \leq R}$$

- Spectral properties of \mathbb{G} , \mathbf{V}_N - crucial for SR

$$\mathbf{V}_N(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ e^{2ix_1} & e^{ix_2} & \dots & e^{ix_R} \\ e^{i2x_1} & e^{i2x_2} & \dots & e^{i2x_R} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ e^{iNx_1} & e^{iNx_2} & \dots & e^{iNx_R} \end{bmatrix}$$



Connections to harmonic analysis

$$\|p\|_{L^q(I)} \leq \left\{ \frac{A|I|}{\mu(E)} \right\}^{K-1} \|p\|_{L^q(E)}$$

$$p(t) = \sum_{j=1}^K c_j \exp(i\lambda_j t)$$

$$E \subset I$$

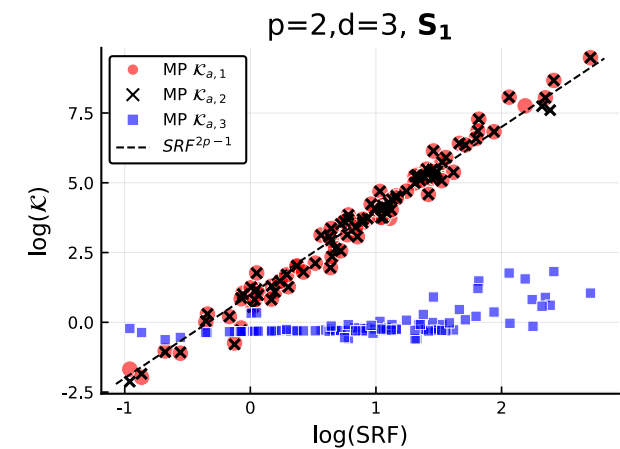
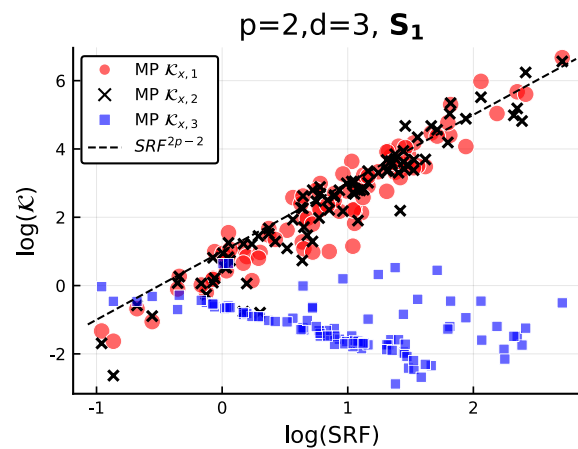
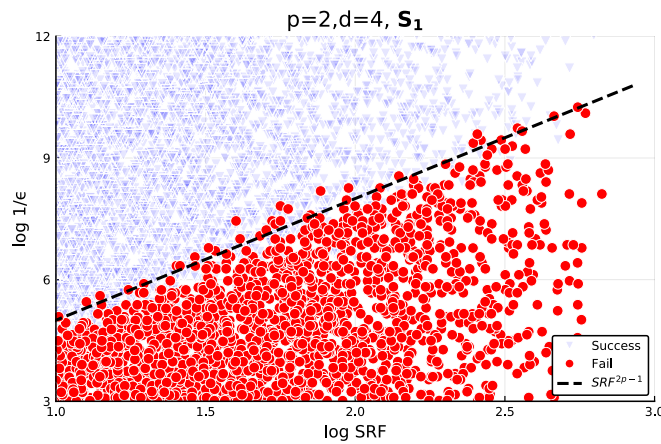
(Turán's Lemma)

Batenkov, D., Demanet, L., Goldman, G., & Yomdin, Y. *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications*, **2020**

Batenkov, D., Diederichs, B., Goldman, G., & Yomdin, Y. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, **2021**

Batenkov, D., Goldman, G., *Applied and Computational Harmonic Analysis*, **2021**

The search for optimal computational methods



- “Algebraic” (Prony-based)
- Nonlinear least squares
- Homotopy (solving polynomials systems)
- Total variation relaxation

$$\arg \min_{\mu=(\alpha, \mathbf{x})} \|\mu\|_{TV} \quad s.t. \quad \|\hat{\mu} - \hat{g}\| \leq \varepsilon$$

- “Subspace” methods from signal processing

Problem not solved!

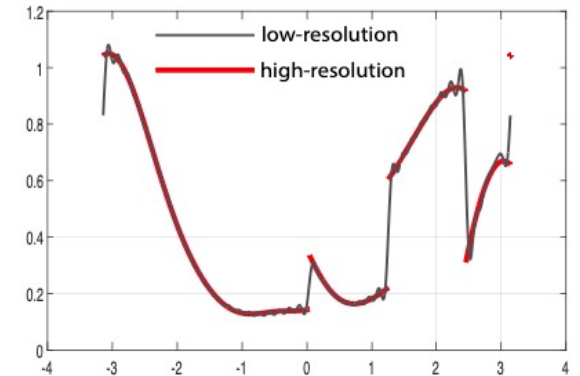
Candès, E. J., & Fernandez-Granda, C. (2014)
 Cuyt, A., & Lee, W. (2018).
 Morgenshtern, V. I. (2020).
 Li, W., Liao, W., & Fannjiang, A. (2020).
 Liu, P., & Zhang, H. (2020).

Towards hybrid modeling

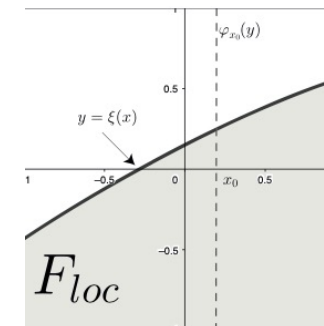
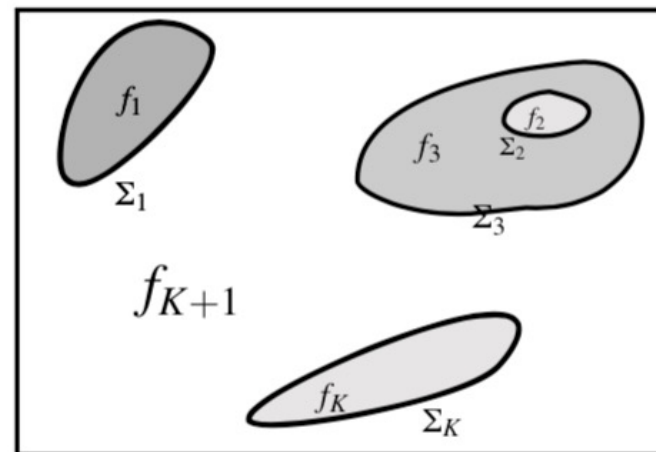
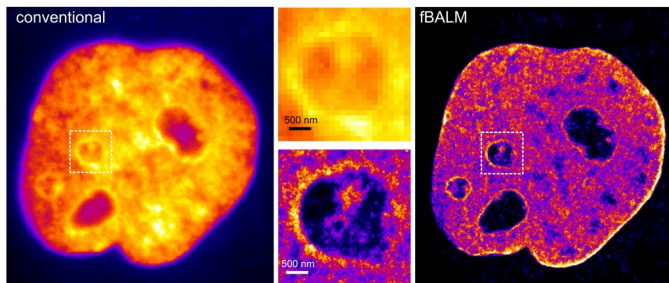
Piecewise-smooth functions

- If f is piecewise C^d then

$$\hat{f}(N) \sim \sum_j \left(c_{j,0} + \frac{c_{j,1}}{N} + \dots + \frac{c_{j,d}}{N^d} \right) e^{it_j N} + O(N^{-d-1})$$
 - “Sparse+smooth” structure \rightarrow cancellations
- Currently working on extension to 2D
- Next steps: applications for MRI imaging



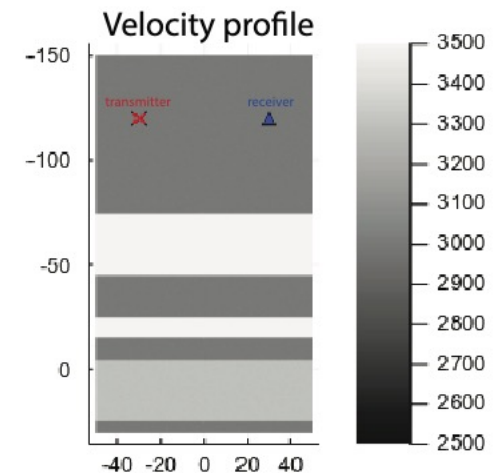
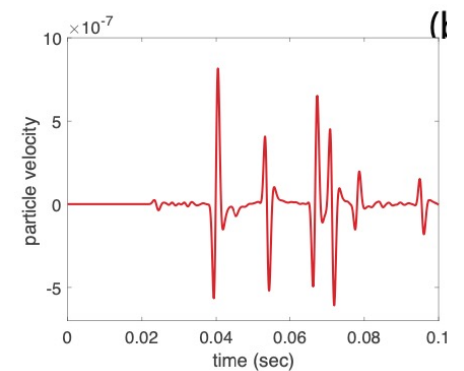
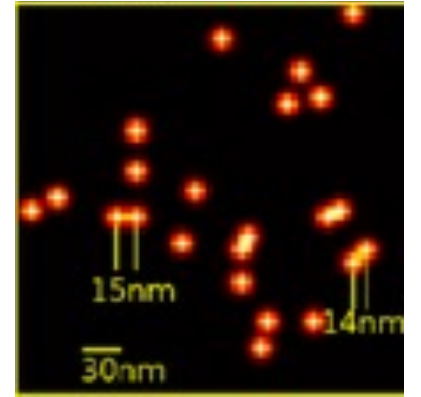
[DB, Yomdin, Math.Comp.(2012)]
 [DB, Math.Comp. (2015)]



“Quasi-spikes”

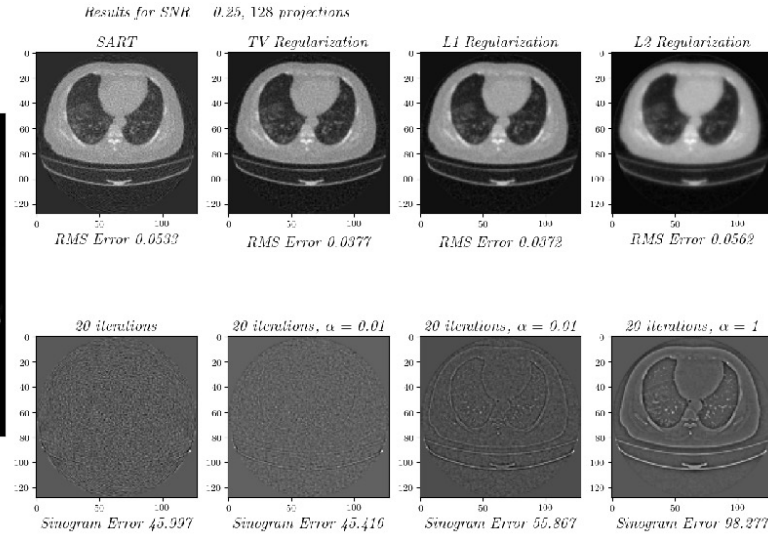
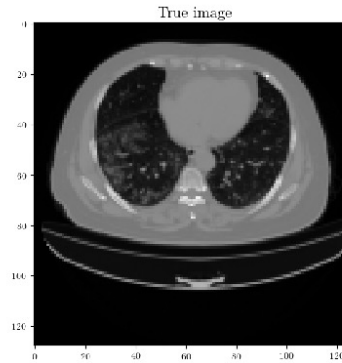
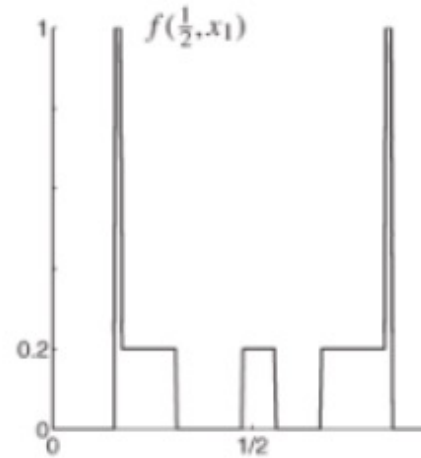
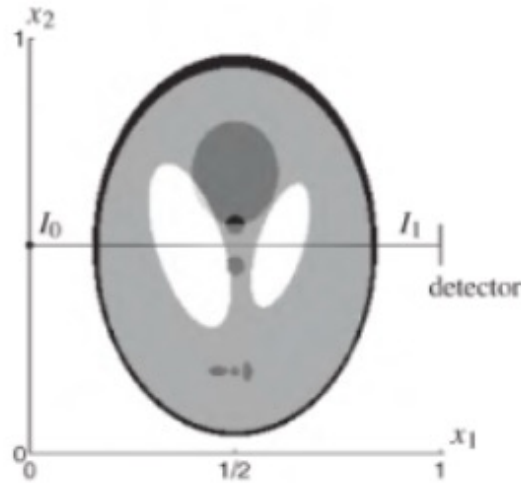
$$f \sim \sum_{k=1}^R f_k(x - x_k), \text{supp } f_k \subset [-\sigma, \sigma]$$
$$\Rightarrow d(\omega) \sim \sum_{k=1}^R \hat{f}_k(\omega) e^{1\omega x_k} + e(\omega), \hat{f}_k \in B_\sigma$$

“Sparse+smooth” structure \rightarrow cancellations



Applications

Transmission tomography (X-ray)

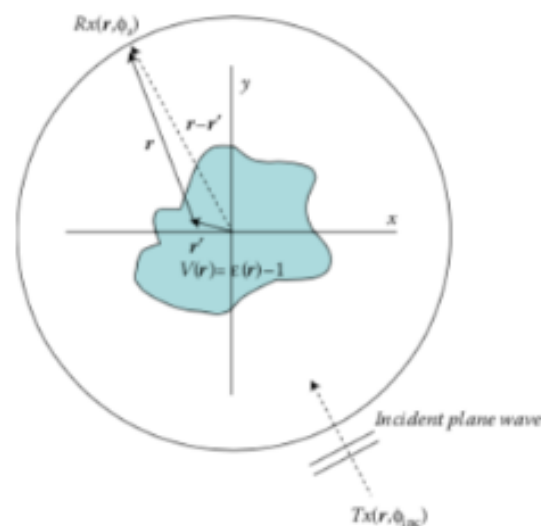


$$(Pf)(\omega, x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x + t\omega) dt, \quad x \in \omega^\perp$$

- Limited-angle data problem (not all ω 's are covered)

- Radon transform
- Filtered backprojection

Inverse scattering



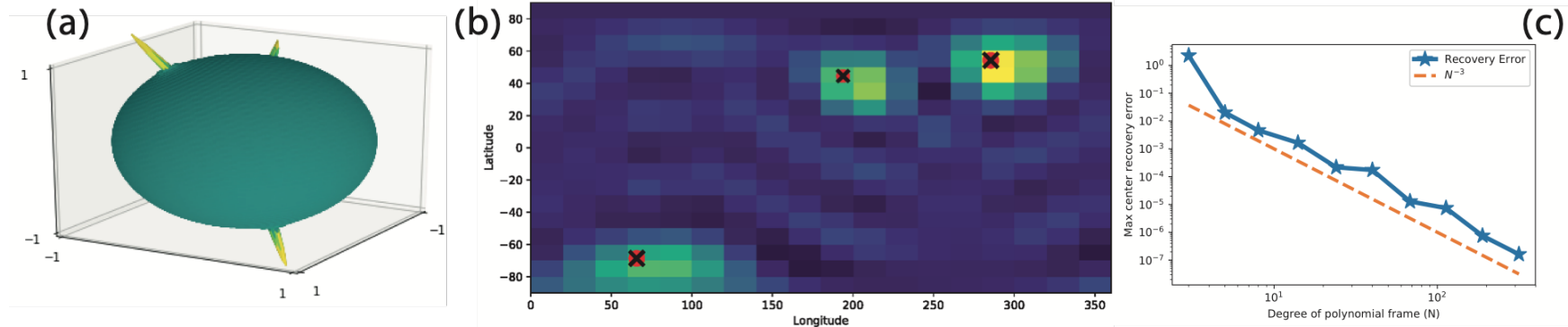
$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta + \omega^2 m(x)) u_{\omega, f} &= f(x), & + \text{ boundary conditions} \\ d_{r, \omega, f} &= u_{\omega, f}(x_r) \end{aligned}$$

- find $m(x)$ from $d_{r, \omega, f}$
- nonlinear in general
- no satisfactory solution in 3D

Data-driven models

- Can use a *neural network* to approximate the inverse mapping
- Excellent practical results given the correct architecture and sufficient training
- Super-resolution/accuracy bounds in general unknown
- Physics-informed Neural Networks

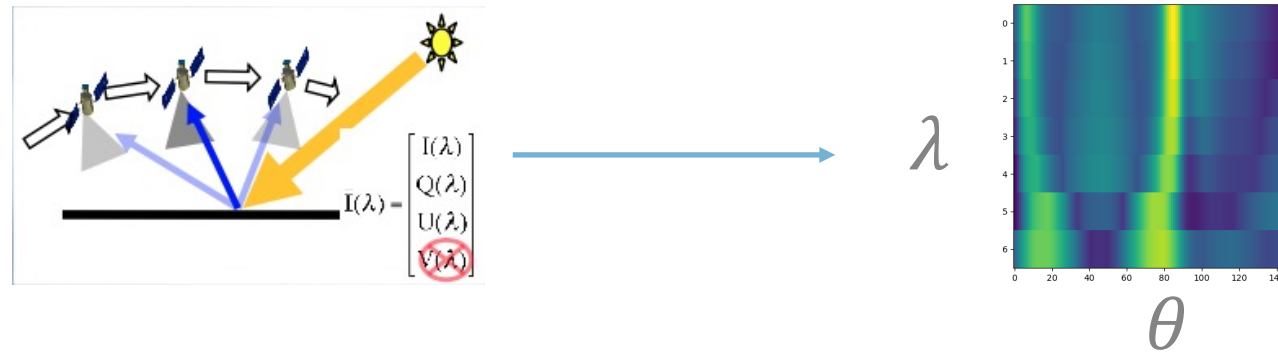
SR on manifolds



$$F \sim \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{r=0}^R a_{k,r} G_r(x; x_k) \quad G_r \text{ is the Green's function of } (I + \Delta)^{r/2}$$

- * Setup: homogeneous Riemannian manifold
- * Two-stage algorithm to recover F from low-frequency data
- * High-accuracy localization of point sources
- * Next steps: extensions to sub-manifolds

Remote sensing



- * The inverse problem: retrieve cloud & aerosol optical properties
- * Non-parametric approach: function approximation on unknown manifold

$$\hat{f}_k^{(n,q)}(x) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M y_i \tilde{\Phi}_{n,q}(\|x - x_i\|_{2,Q}), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^Q$$
- * Near state of the art results
- * Work in progress: Physics-based Machine Learning approach

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \nabla I + (\mu_a + \mu_s)I = \mu_s \int p(\mathbf{s}', \hat{\mathbf{s}}) I(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\mathbf{s}}') d\hat{\mathbf{s}}', \quad \mathbf{r} \in \Omega \quad + \text{B.C.}$$

Administration

- Assumed knowledge: linear algebra, analysis, Fourier series
- References: will be provided for each topic
- Grade: 2-3 homework assignments + project
- Homework
 - Purpose: get hands-on experience with the topics
 - Code in any language
- Project
 - Read and summarize papers on a particular topic
 - Implement/analyze an algorithm
 - Combination of the above
 - More info during the semester