

Lecture 4

# From theory to practice

Topics in Inverse Problems  
Fall 2021

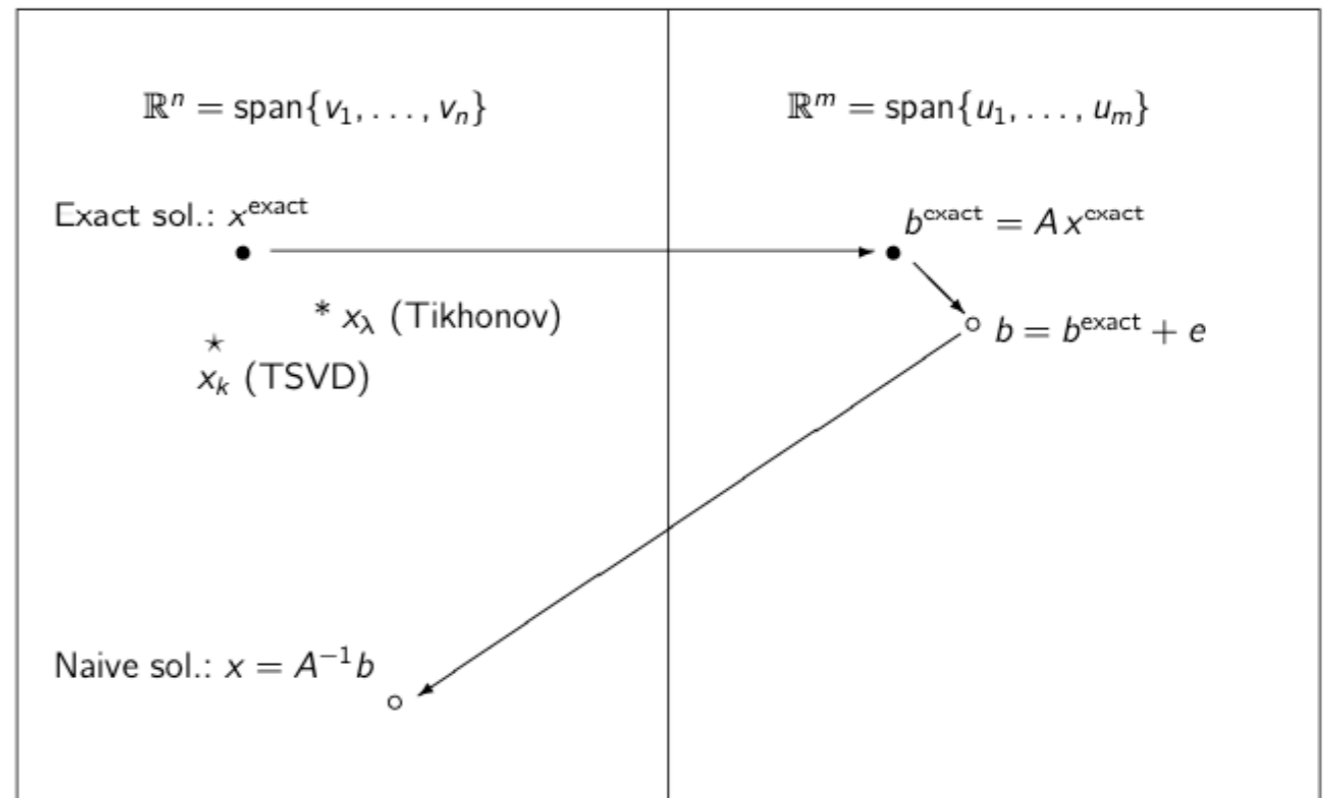
# Last time

1. Picard's theorem - solvability of  $Ax = y$ .

- Least squares solution:  $x = A^\dagger y$  (pseudo-inverse) is **unstable**

2. Regularisation: restoring stability in practice

3. Convergence and optimality



# Plan for today

- Discretization: constructing finite  $Ax = y$
- Tikhonov regularisation
- Choosing the regularisation parameter
- Iterative reconstruction schemes

# Literature

1. J. L. Mueller and S. Siltanen, *Linear and Nonlinear Inverse Problems with Practical Applications*. SIAM, 2012, **chapters 1-5**
2. Per Christian Hansen, *Discrete Inverse Problems: Insight and Algorithms*, SIAM, 2010
3. A. Kirsch, *An introduction to the mathematical theory of inverse problems*, vol. 120. Springer Science & Business Media, 2011, **chapters 1-3**
4. R. Kress, V. Maz'ya, and V. Kozlov, *Linear integral equations*, vol. 82. Springer, 1989, **chapters 15-17**
5. Heinz Werner Engl, Martin Hanke, A. Neubauer, *Regularization of Inverse Problems*, 1996

**1,2: mostly discrete setting, easier to read**

**3,4,5: heavier math, rigorous proofs**

**4: focused on integral equations**

# Discretisation

$$Af = g$$

- $Af = \int K(x, y)f(y)dy$  (1st kind)
- $(A^*A + \alpha^2 I)f = A^*g$  (2nd kind)

# “Direct” approximation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Continuous} & g(t) = (Af)(t) = \int_a^b K(t, s)f(s)ds, \quad t \in [c, d] \\ \text{Semi-discrete} & g(t_i) = (Af)(t_i) = \int_a^b K(t_i, s)f(s)ds, \quad t_i \in [c, d] \end{array}$$

- **Choose**  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in [a, b]$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in [c, d]$
- **Look for an approximate solution**  $\tilde{f}_j \approx f(s_j)$
- **Use a quadrature rule**  $\int_a^b \varphi(x)dx = \sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j \varphi(s_j) + E_n$

**Simple example: midpoint quadrature rule**

$$s_j = \frac{j - \frac{1}{2}}{n}, \quad \omega_j = \frac{1}{n}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

- **Solve the linear system**

**Ill-conditioned system**

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

# A few words about quadrature

**General idea: interpolate, then integrate the interpolant exactly**

- Equally spaced points: Newton-Cotes (Trapezoidal, Simpson)
- Gauss: weights, endpoint singularities etc. Hard to compute but very accurate.
- Clenshaw-Curtis: Tchebyshev polynomials (can use FFT) - **Chebfun**
- ...

**Best choice: depends on properties of  $K(t, s)f(s)$ , integration domain**

# Projection methods

$$Af = g, \quad A : X \rightarrow Y \text{ (general operator equation)}$$

**Replace with**  $Q_n Af_n = Q_n g, \quad Q_n A : X_n \rightarrow Y_n$

1.  $X_n = \text{span}\{\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_n\} \subset X, Y_n = \text{span}\{\hat{y}_1, \dots, \hat{y}_n\} \subset Y$  (**bases**)
2.  $Q_n : Y \rightarrow Y_n$  a **projection operator** ( $Q_n Q_n = Q_n$ ).
3. **Set**  $Q_n g = \sum_{j=1}^n g_{j,n} \hat{y}_j$
4. **Set**  $f_n = \sum_{j=1}^n \zeta_{j,n} \hat{x}_j$

$$Q_n A \hat{x}_j = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i,j} \hat{y}_i$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} \zeta_{j,n} = g_{i,n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$\tilde{A}_n \boldsymbol{\zeta}_n = \mathbf{g}_n$$

# Special case 1: collocation

$$(Af)(t) = \int K(t, s)f(s)ds = g(t) \quad A : X \rightarrow C[a, b]$$

- Force  $(Af_n)(t_i) = g(t_i)$  for *collocation points*  $\{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ .
- Define  $Y_n = \mathcal{S}_n(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  to be the space of linear splines (can be any linear space unisolvent w.r.t.  $\{t_i\}$ )
- Let  $Q_n : Y \rightarrow Y_n$  be the corresponding **interpolation operator** on  $\{t_i\}$
- Then  $Q_n Af_n = Q_n g$  is equivalent to  $(Af_n)(t_i) = g(t_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .
- In this case, the linear system becomes
$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} \zeta_{j,n} = g(t_i), \quad a_{i,j} = (A\hat{x}_j)(t_i) = \int K(t_i, s)\hat{x}_j(s)ds$$

# Special case 2: Galerkin method

- Key idea: enforce orthogonality of the residual to  $Y_n$
- $Q_n Af_n = Q_n g$  and  $Q_n : Y \rightarrow Y_n$  is an orthogonal projection
- $\langle Af_n - g, \hat{y}_i \rangle = 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . *(weak formulation)*

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} \zeta_{j,n} = \langle \hat{y}_i, g \rangle, \quad a_{i,j} = \langle \hat{y}_i, A \hat{x}_j \rangle = \iint K(s, t) \hat{y}_i(t) \hat{x}_j(s) ds dt$$

Note: collocation is computationally equivalent to Galerkin with  $\hat{y}_j = \delta(t - t_j)$

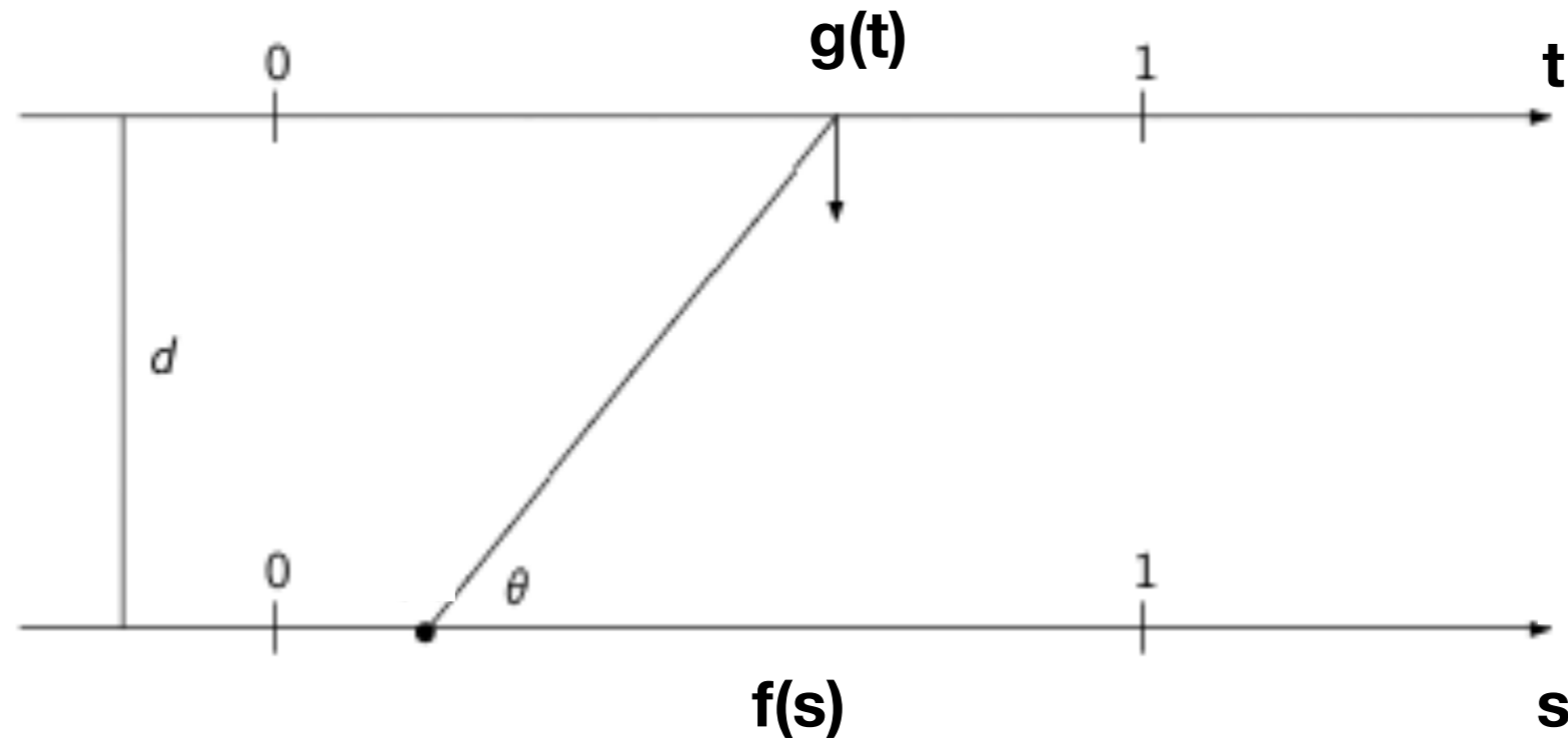
# How to choose?

	Quadrature	Collocation	Galerkin
	$\sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j K(t_i, s_j) \tilde{f}_j = g(t_i)$	$a_{i,j} = (A\hat{x}_j)(t_i) = \int K(t_i, s) \hat{x}_j(s) ds$ $g_{i,n} = g(t_i)$	$a_{i,j} = \langle \hat{y}_i, A\hat{x}_j \rangle = \iint K(s, t) \hat{y}_i(t) \hat{x}_j(s) ds dt$ $g_{i,n} = \langle \hat{y}_i, g \rangle = \int g(t) \hat{y}_i(t) dt$
<b>For</b>			
<b>Against</b>			

# How to choose?

	<b>Quadrature</b> $\sum_{j=1}^n \omega_j K(t_i, s_j) \tilde{f}_j = g(t_i)$	<b>Collocation</b> $a_{i,j} = (A\hat{x}_j)(t_i) = \int K(t_i, s) \hat{x}_j(s) ds$ $g_{i,n} = g(t_i)$	<b>Galerkin</b> $a_{i,j} = \langle \hat{y}_i, A\hat{x}_j \rangle = \iint K(s, t) \hat{y}_i(t) \hat{x}_j(s) ds dt$ $g_{i,n} = \langle \hat{y}_i, g \rangle = \int g(t) \hat{y}_i(t) dt$
<b>For</b>	++Implementation	+Implementation +Data availability	+Accuracy
<b>Against</b>	-Analysis (convergence etc.)	- Implementation	- - Implementation

# Example



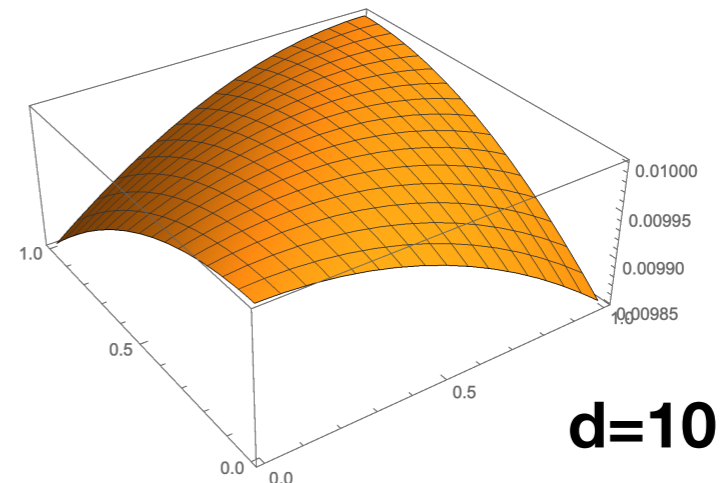
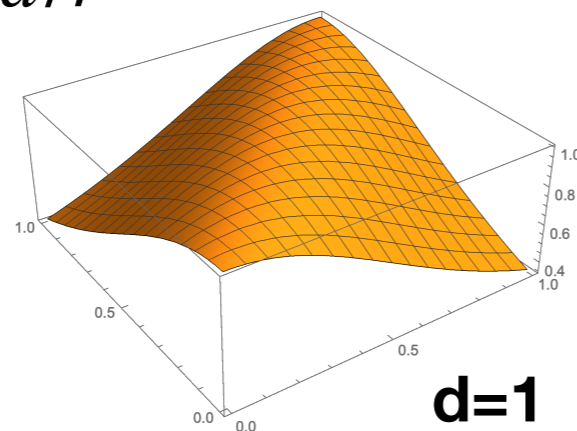
- $f(s)$  - unknown mass distribution
- $g(t)$  - measured gravitational force

$$dg = f(t)\sin(\theta)/r^2 dt$$

$$r^2 = d^2 + (s - t)^2$$

$$\sin(\theta) = d/r$$

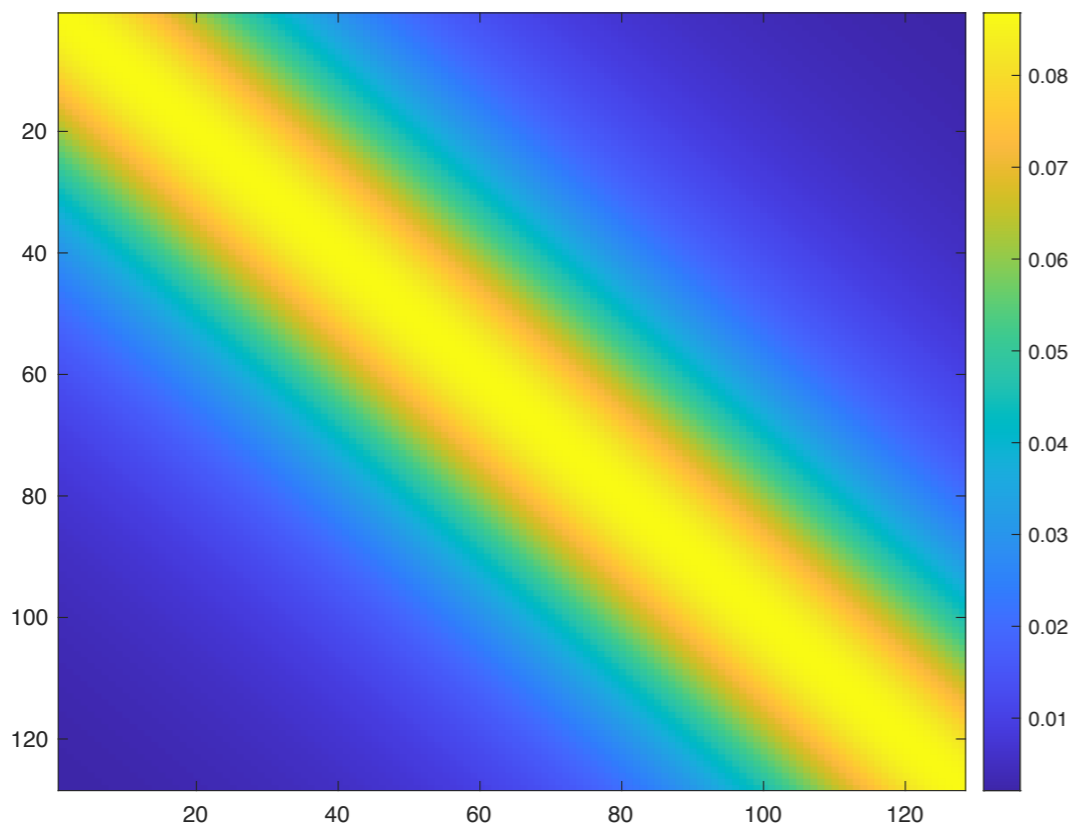
$$g(t) = \int_0^1 \frac{d}{(d^2 + (t - s)^2)^{3/2}} f(s) ds$$



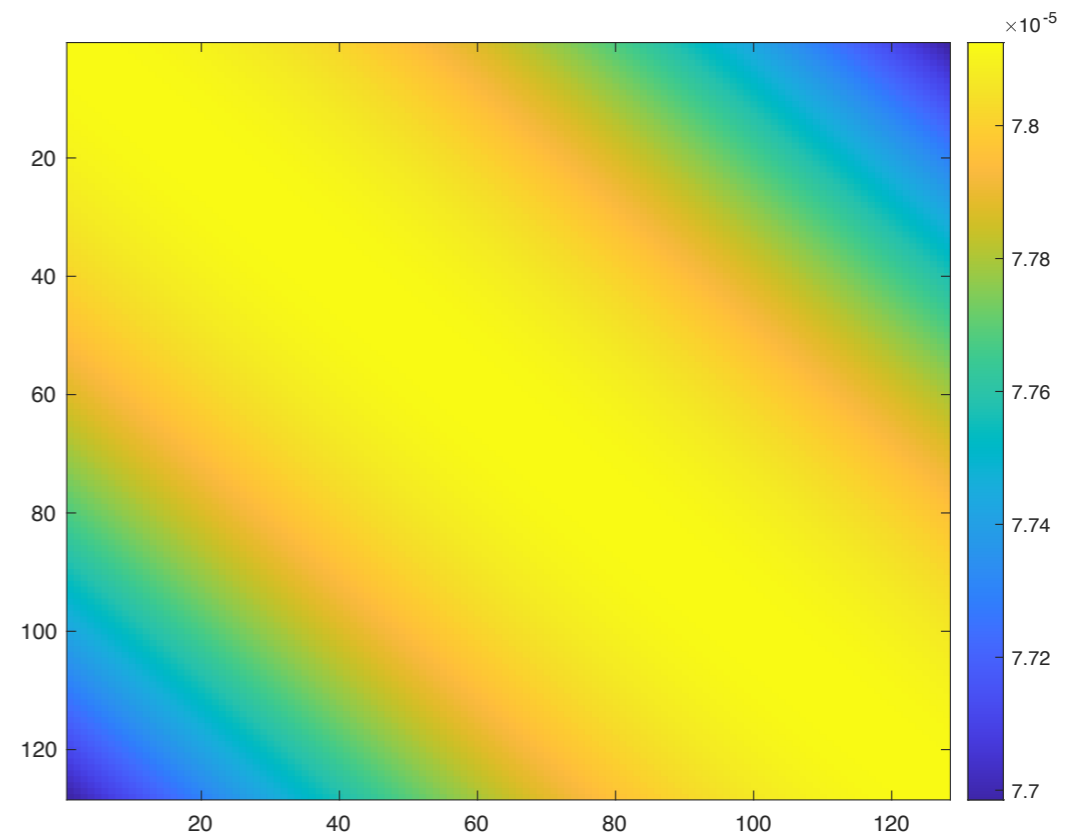
# Quadrature

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

$$t_j = s_j = \frac{j - \frac{1}{2}}{n}, \quad \omega_j = \frac{1}{n}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad \longrightarrow \quad a_{i,j} = \frac{d}{n} \left( d^2 + \left( \frac{i-j}{n} \right)^2 \right)^{-3/2}$$



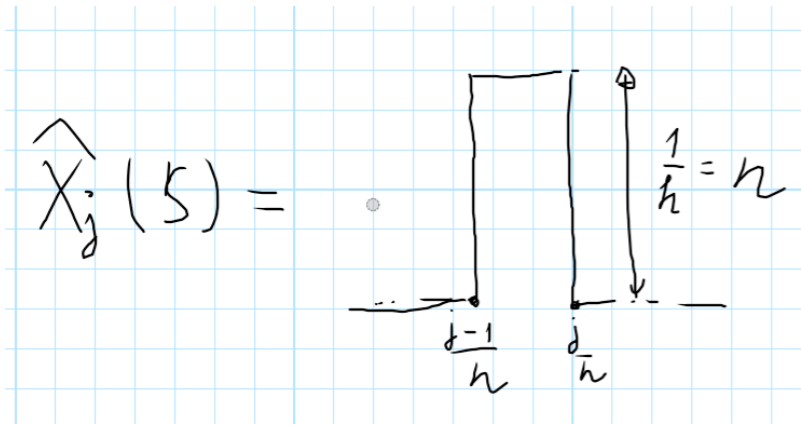
**d=0.3**



**d=10**

# Galerkin/collocation

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



$$\hat{y}_i(t) = \delta(t - t_i), \quad t_i = \frac{i - 1/2}{n}$$

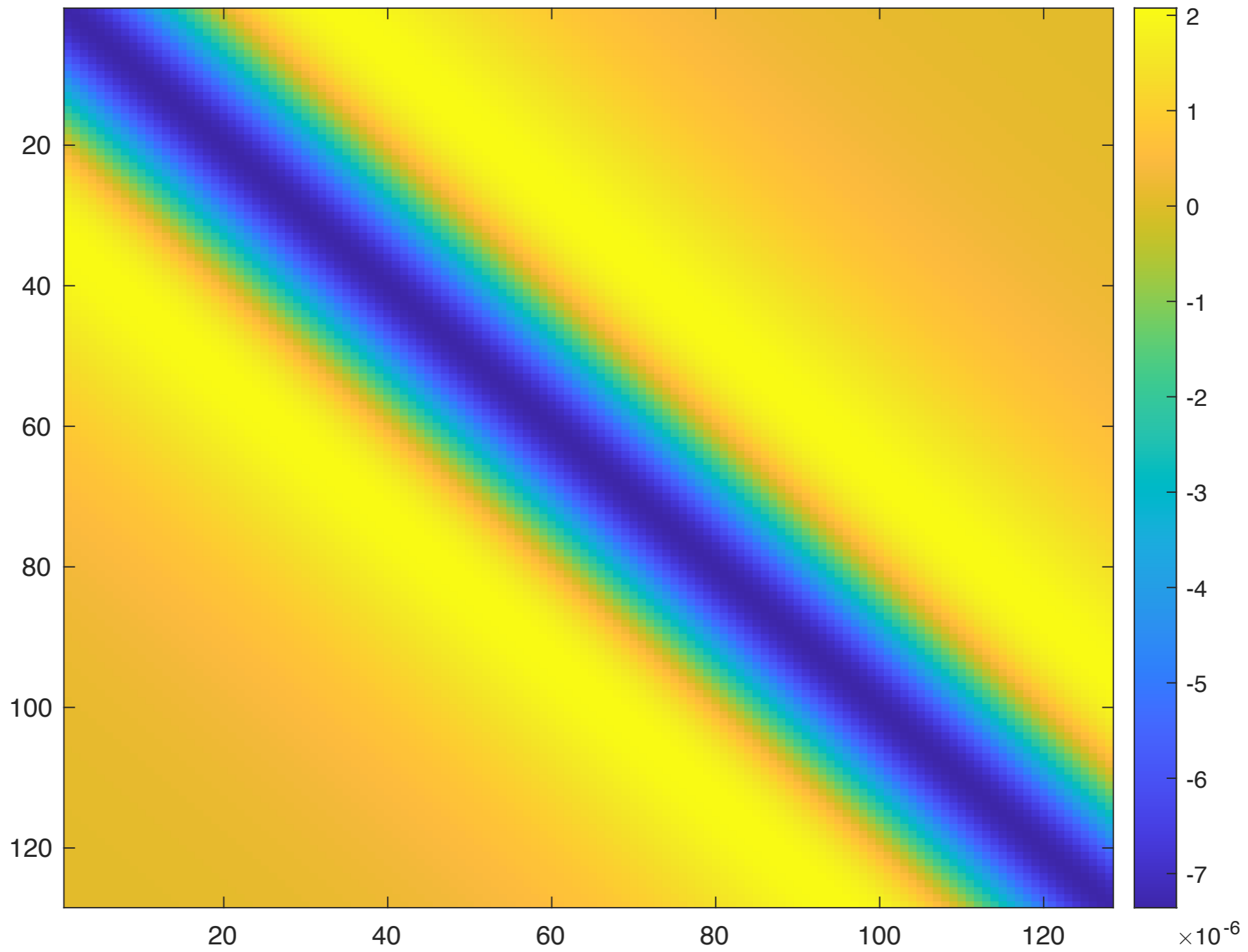
$$a_{i,j} = \int_0^1 K(t_i, s) \hat{x}_j(s) ds$$

$$= \int_{\frac{j-1}{n}}^{\frac{j}{n}} K(t_i, s) ds$$

...

$$= \frac{\frac{-2i + 2j + 1}{\sqrt{4d^2 + \frac{(-2i + 2j + 1)^2}{n^2}}}}{dn} + \frac{\frac{2i - 2j + 1}{\sqrt{4d^2 + \frac{(2i - 2j + 1)^2}{n^2}}}}{dn}$$

**Poll:**  
**should the matrices be  
equal?**



**Difference matrix for  $d=0.3$**

# Galerkin/collocation

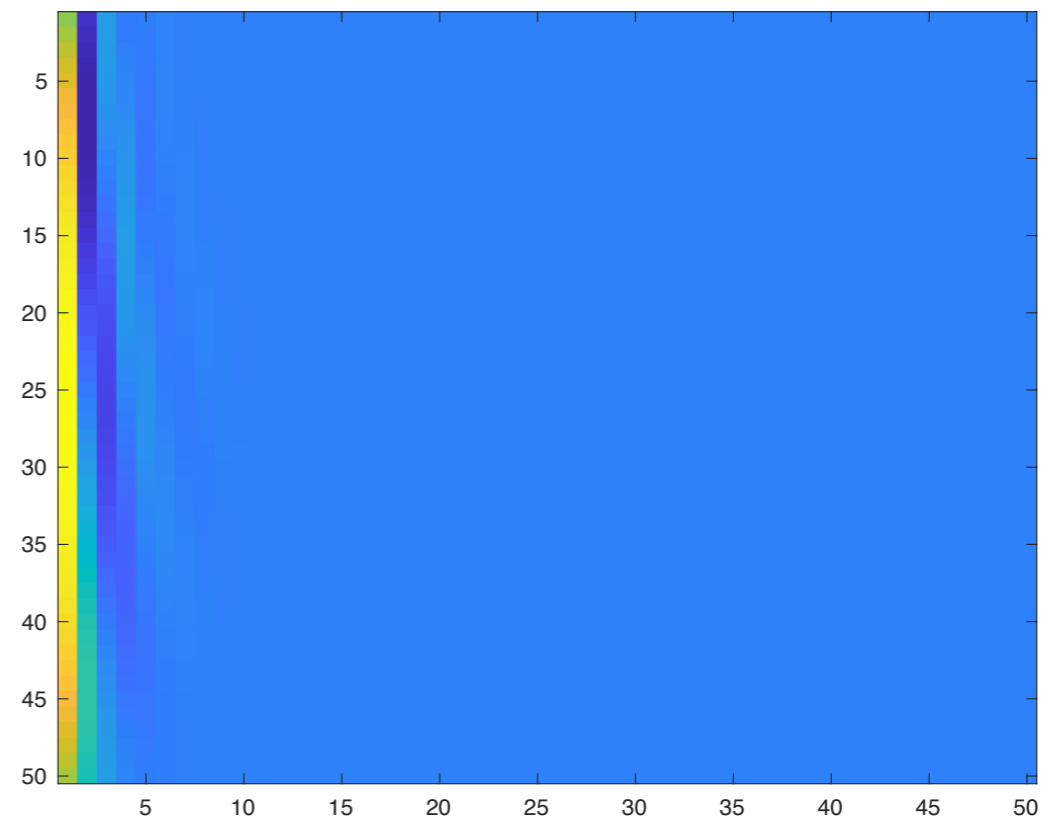
$$g(t) = \int_0^1 \frac{d}{(d^2 + (t-s)^2)^{3/2}} f(s) ds$$

$$\hat{x}_i(t) = P_i(t) \quad \text{(Legendre)}$$

$$\hat{y}_i(t) = \delta(t - t_i), \quad t_i = \frac{i - 1/2}{n}$$

$$a_{i,j} = \int_0^1 K(t_i, s) \hat{x}_j(s) ds = ?$$

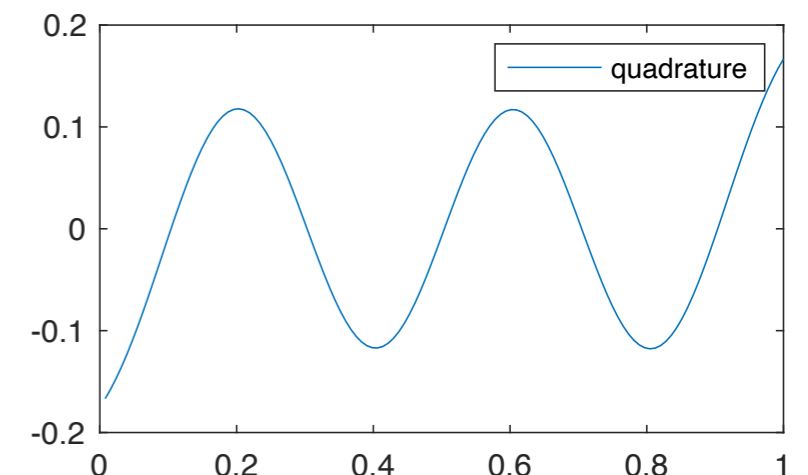
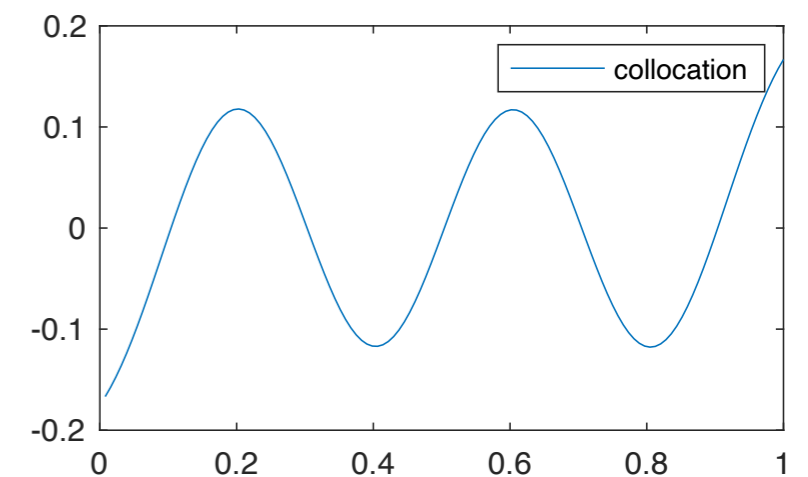
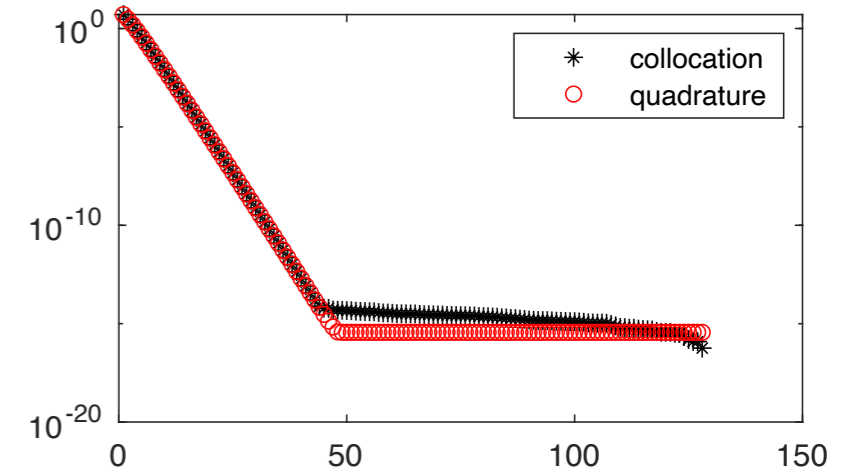
```
n = 50;  
d = 0.3;  
  
k = 1:n;  
  
K = @(s,t) d./((d^2+(t-s).^2).^1.5);  
  
A_leg = zeros(n,n);  
  
for i=1:n  
    fprintf('i=%d\n',i);  
    ti = (i-1)/n;  
    for j=0:n-1  
        fprintf('\t j=%d\n',j+1);  
        fj = @(x) K(ti,x).*legendreP(j,2*x-1);  
        A_leg(i,j+1) = quadgk(fj,0,1);  
    end  
end  
end
```



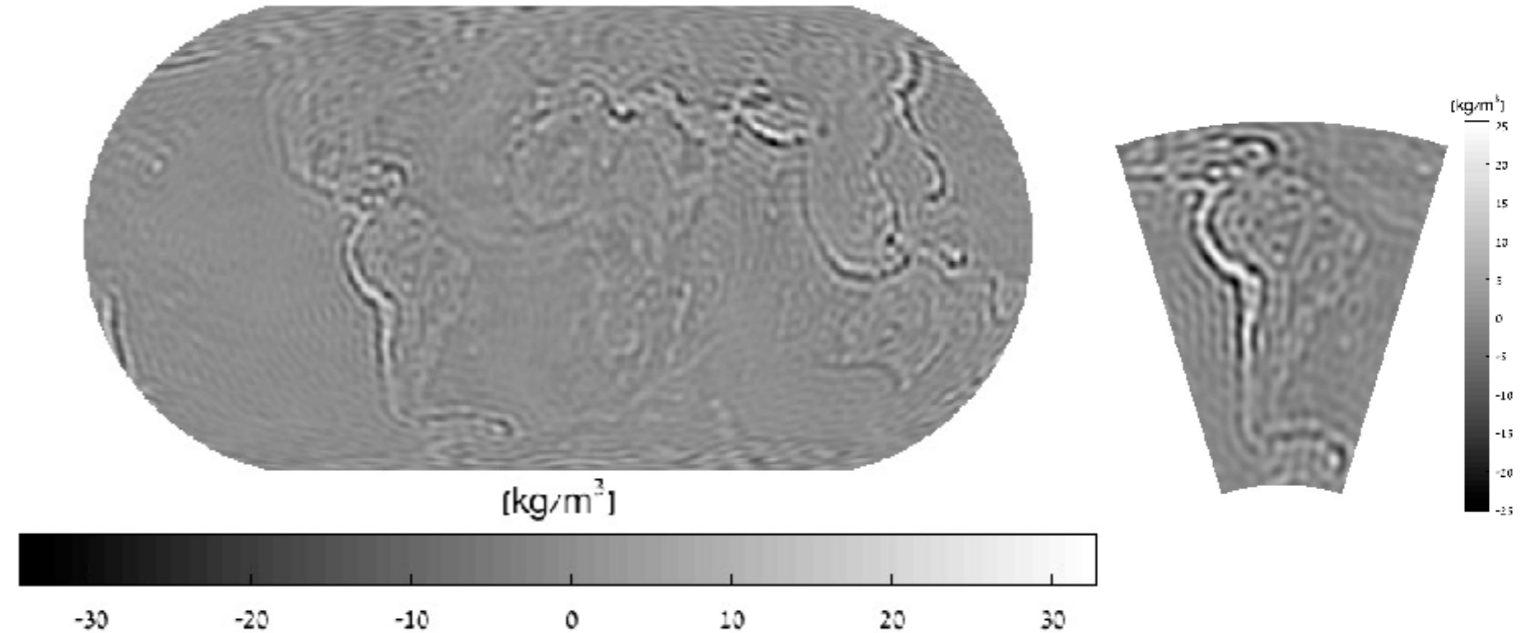
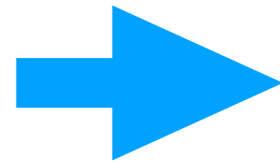
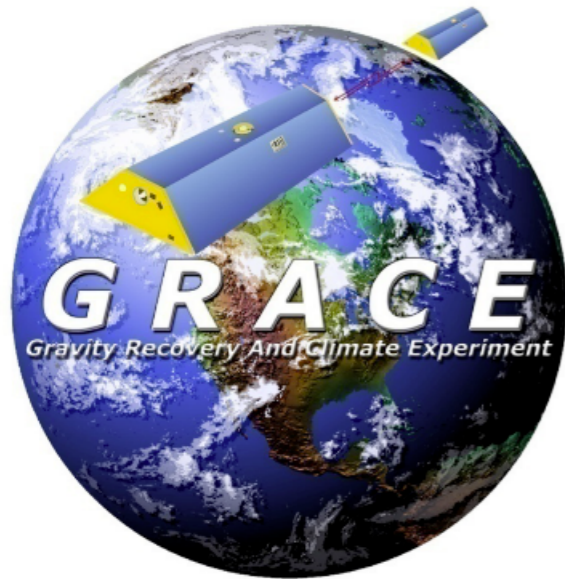
# Approximating SVD

- For most operators  $A$ , the SVD cannot be computed analytically
- We can use Galerkin with  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and **orthonormal basis**  $\{\hat{x}_j\}, \{\hat{y}_i\}$  to get accurate estimates

P. C. Hansen, "Computation of the singular value expansion," *Computing*, vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 185–199, Sep. 1988, doi: [10/btjhsm](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01292000).



# More complicated example



Measurements: gravitational potential

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

Basis for Y

$$\mathcal{F}_k(\rho) = -G \int_B \frac{\rho(\vec{y})}{|\vec{y} - \vec{x}_k|} d^3y, \quad \vec{x}_k \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{B}. \quad \hat{y}_j = \delta(t - t_j)$$

Basis for X

$$\mathcal{F}_k K_{\mathcal{H}_J}(\cdot, \vec{y}) \quad K_{\mathcal{H}_J}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-n}^n \varphi_J^2(n) H_{n,m}^B(\vec{x}) H_{n,m}^B(\vec{y})$$

Matrix elements

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_J^2(n) \frac{4\pi\beta^3 G^2}{(2n+1)(2n+3)} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}_i||\vec{x}_j|} \left( \frac{\beta^2}{|\vec{x}_i||\vec{x}_j|} \right)^n P_n \left( \frac{\vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j}{|\vec{x}_i||\vec{x}_j|} \right).$$

- V. Michel and K. Wolf, Numerical aspects of a spline-based multiresolution recovery of the harmonic mass density out of gravity functionals, Geophysical Journal International 173, 1 (2008).  
 - M. Fengler, D. Michel, and V. Michel, Harmonic spline-wavelets on the 3-dimensional ball and their application to the reconstruction of the earth's density distribution from gravitational data at arbitrarily shaped satellite orbits, ZAMM 86, 856 (2006).

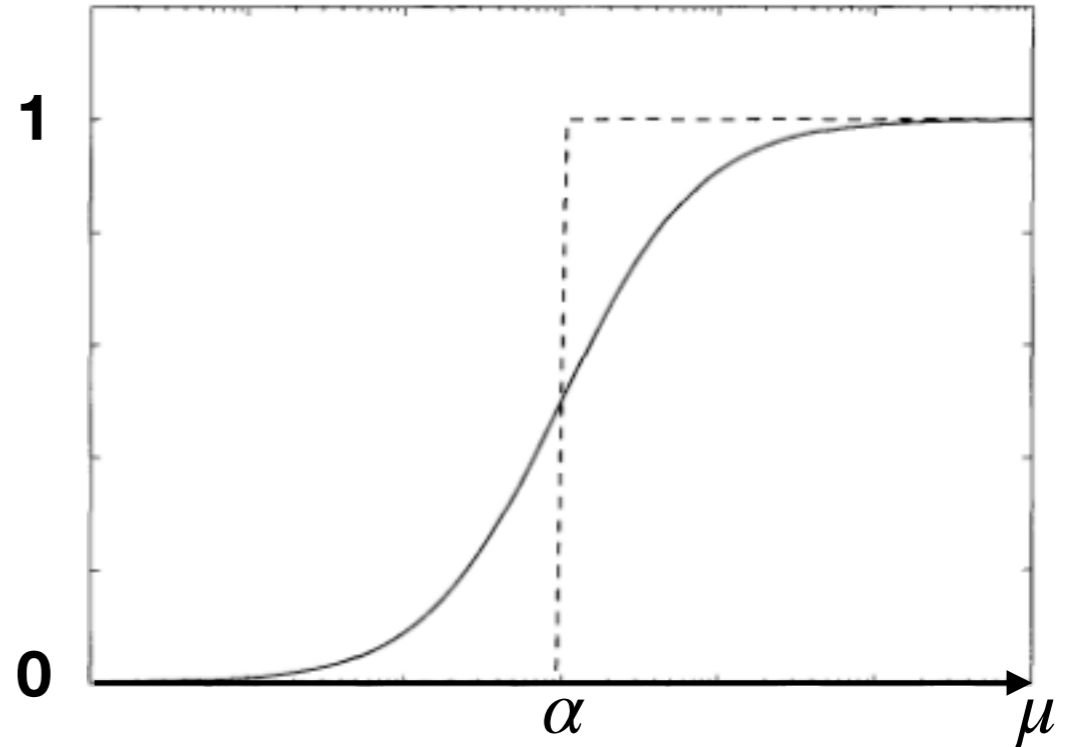
**A project done in the course**

# Tikhonov regularisation

# Three points of view

$$x^{\delta, \alpha} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(\alpha, \mu_i)}{\mu_i} \langle y^{\delta}, \psi_i \rangle \varphi_i =: R_{\alpha} y^{\delta}$$

$$q(\alpha, \mu) = \frac{\mu^2}{\mu^2 + \alpha^2}$$



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Replace ill-posed problem  $Ax^{\delta} = y^{\delta}$  whose solution is  $x^{\delta} = (A^*A)^{-1}A^*y^{\delta}$

with  $x^{\delta, \alpha} = (A^*A + \alpha^2 I)^{-1}A^*y^{\delta}$

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$$x^{\delta, \alpha} = \arg \min_x \|Ax - y^{\delta}\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|x\|^2$$

(penalize large  $x$ )

# Convergence & optimality

$$x^{\delta,\alpha} = (A^*A + \alpha^2 I)^{-1} A^* y^\delta$$

Can be shown that:

**Convergence:** any  $\alpha(\delta) \rightarrow 0$  such that  $\frac{\delta}{\alpha(\delta)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ .

**For example,**  $\alpha(\delta) = \delta^p$ ,  $0 < p < 1$ .

**Optimality under range conditions:**

$$\|(A^*)^{-1}x\| \leq E \quad \alpha(\delta) = c\sqrt{\frac{\delta}{E}} \quad \|\delta x\| \leq (c + 1/c)\sqrt{\delta E}.$$

# Tikhonov regularisation

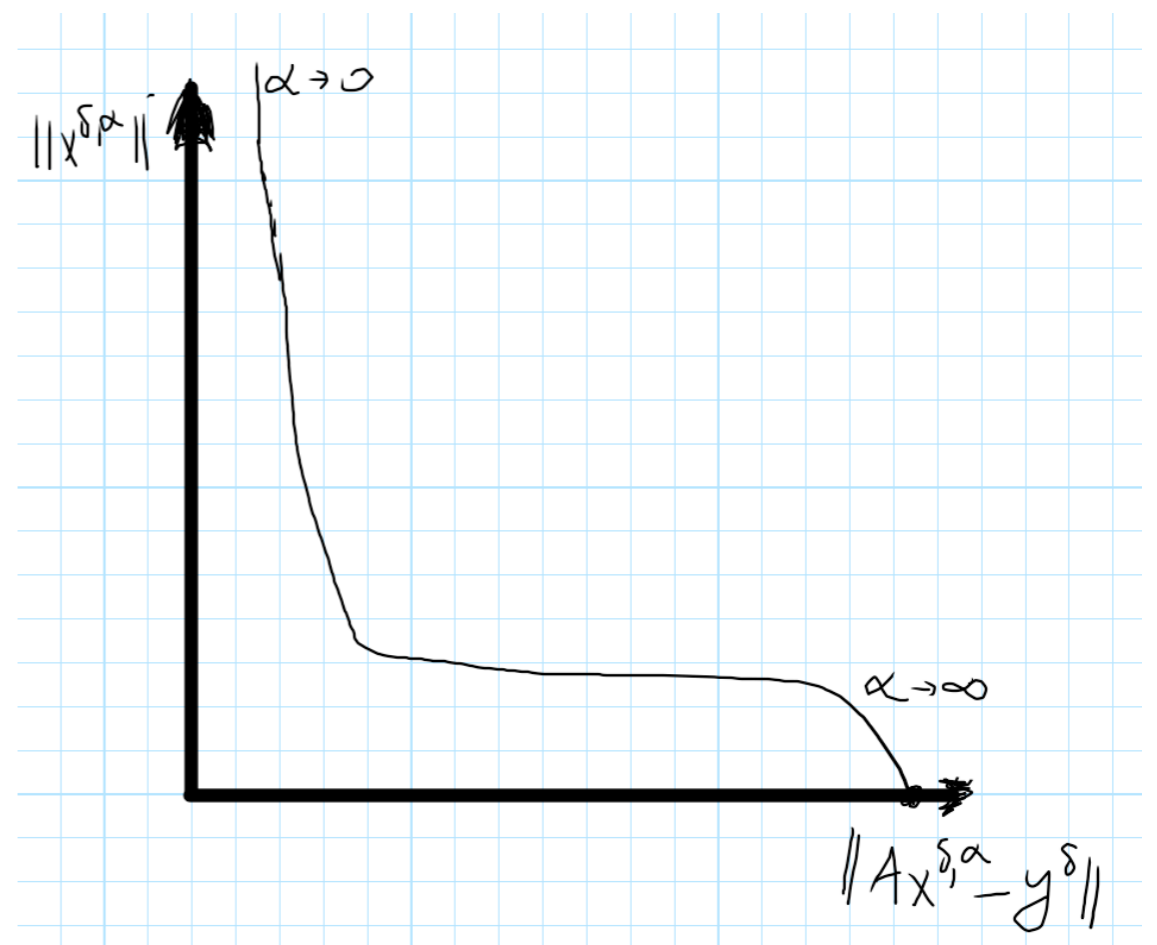
$$x^{\delta,\alpha} = \arg \min_x \|Ax - y^\delta\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|x\|^2$$

- Normal equations:  $(A^T A + \alpha^2 I)x^{\delta,\alpha} = A^T y^\delta$
- “Trick”: write this as  $\arg \min_x \left\| \begin{pmatrix} A \\ \alpha I \end{pmatrix} x - \begin{pmatrix} y^\delta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\|_2$
- We saw how to choose  $\alpha$  optimally if  $\|(A^*)^{-1}x\| \leq E$ , but this is a-priori choice
- Want a-posteriori choices (decide based on the actual computed solution(s))

# L-curve

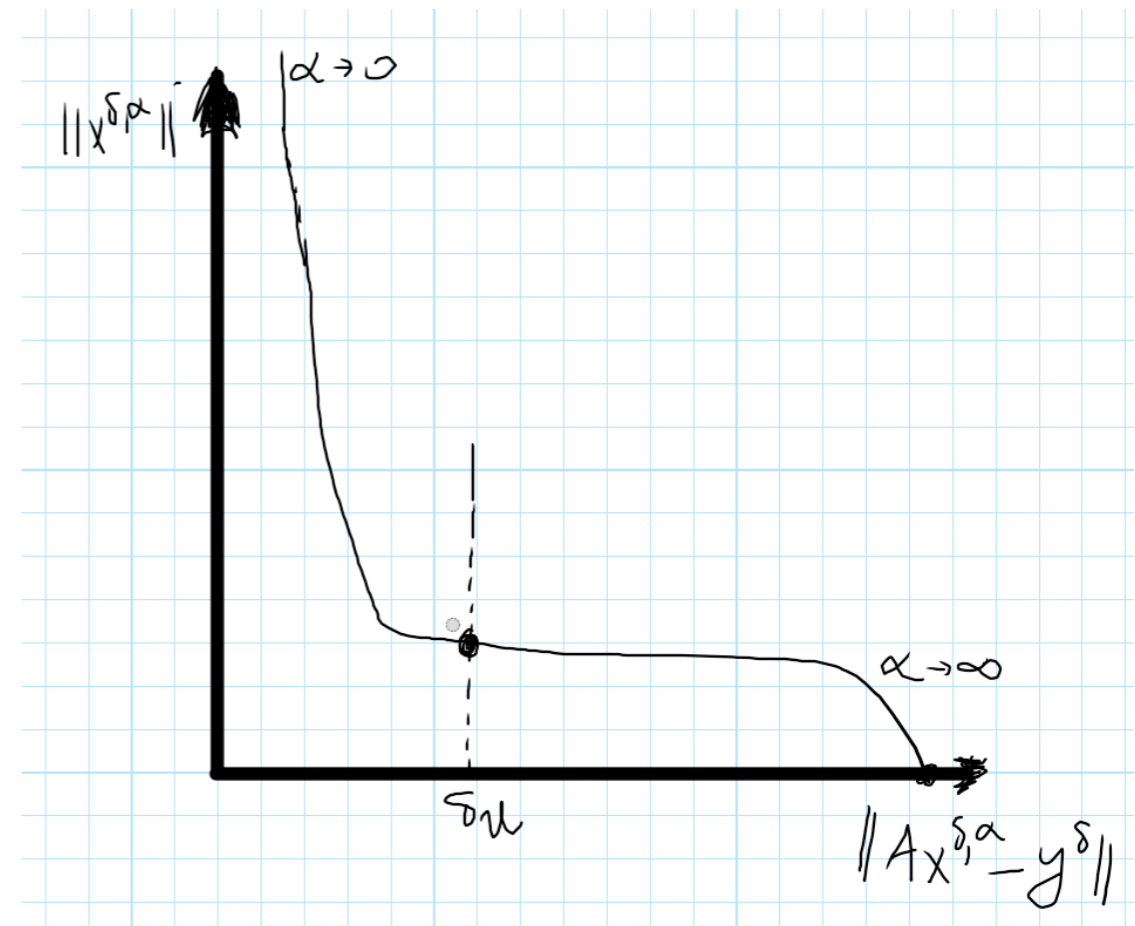
$$x^{\delta,\alpha} = \arg \min_x \|Ax - y^\delta\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|x\|^2$$

- We don't know  $x^0$ , but can compute
  1. Residual norm:  $\|Ax^{\delta,\alpha} - y^\delta\|^2$
  2. Current solution norm:  $\|x^{\delta,\alpha}\|^2$
- As  $\alpha$  goes from 0 to  $\infty$ , can show (using SVD) that
  3.  $\|x^{\delta,\alpha}\|^2$  monotonically decreases from  $\|A^\dagger y^\delta\|^2$  to 0
  4.  $\|Ax^{\delta,\alpha} - y^\delta\|^2$  monotonically increases from 0 to  $\|y^\delta\|^2$
- L-curve: plot one against the other (in log-log scale)
- Typically, it has two distinct regions
  - An almost vertical, for small  $\alpha$
  - An almost horizontal, for large  $\alpha$
- A heuristic rule: choose the “corner”. Not always works!



# Discrepancy principle

- Idea: make sure that  $\|Ax^{\delta,\alpha} - y^\delta\| = \delta_u$ , where  $\delta_u$  is an upper bound on the *discrepancy of the true solution*.
- Turns out that we can solve this nonlinear equation easily
- Can show convergence and optimality as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$



# Iterative methods

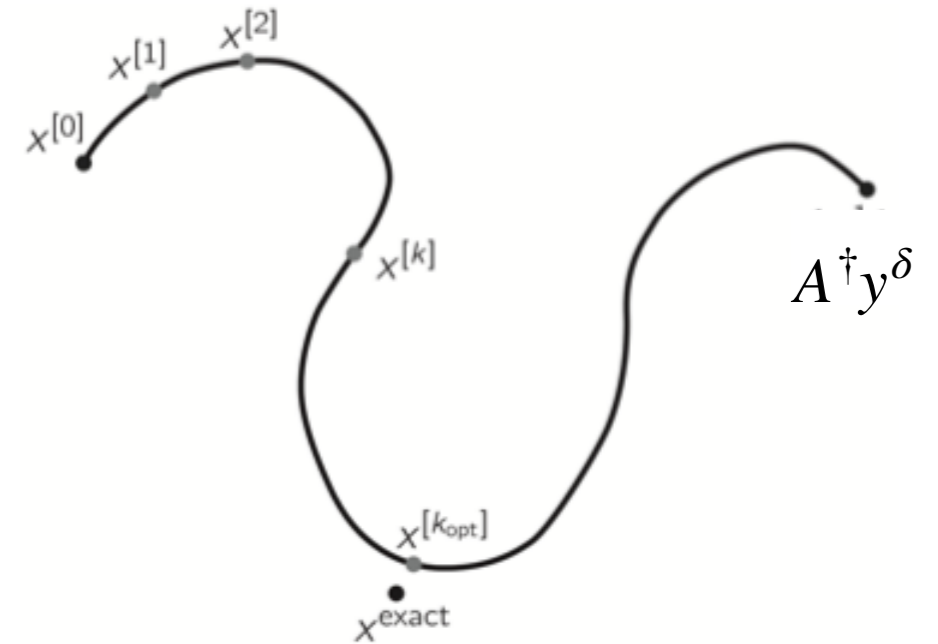
# Motivation

- For large-scale problems, cannot construct  $A$  and/or compute the SVD
- Do not want to solve for many  $\alpha$ 's
- Would like to use “black-box” functions computing multiplication by  $A$  or  $A^T$

# Iterative methods

$$Ax = y^\delta$$

- Start with some  $x^0$  (usually  $x^0 = 0$  is OK)
- Update  $x^{k+1} = F(x^k)$  according to some rule
- In principle, algorithm should converge to  $A^\dagger y^\delta$
- We stop at some  $k = k_{opt}$  - this plays the role of reg. parameter



# Gradient descent?

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - w \nabla f(x^k), \quad w = \text{step size}$$

- What is the gradient step for  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - y^\delta\|^2$ ?
- Using some matrix calculus, easy to show that
$$\nabla f(x) = A^T (Ax - y^\delta)$$
- **Landweber iteration:**  $x^{k+1} = x^k + wA^T(y^\delta - Ax^k)$
- Need to choose  $0 < w < \frac{2}{\|A^T A\|} = \frac{2}{\sigma_1^2}$  for convergence

# Analysis

$$x^{k+1} = x^k + wA^T(y^\delta - Ax^k), x^0 = 0$$

1. Show by induction that  $x^{k+1} = w \left( \sum_{j=0}^k S^j \right) A^T y^\delta$ , where

$$Sx = (I - wA^T A)x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1 - w\mu_i^2) \langle x, \varphi_i \rangle \varphi_i$$

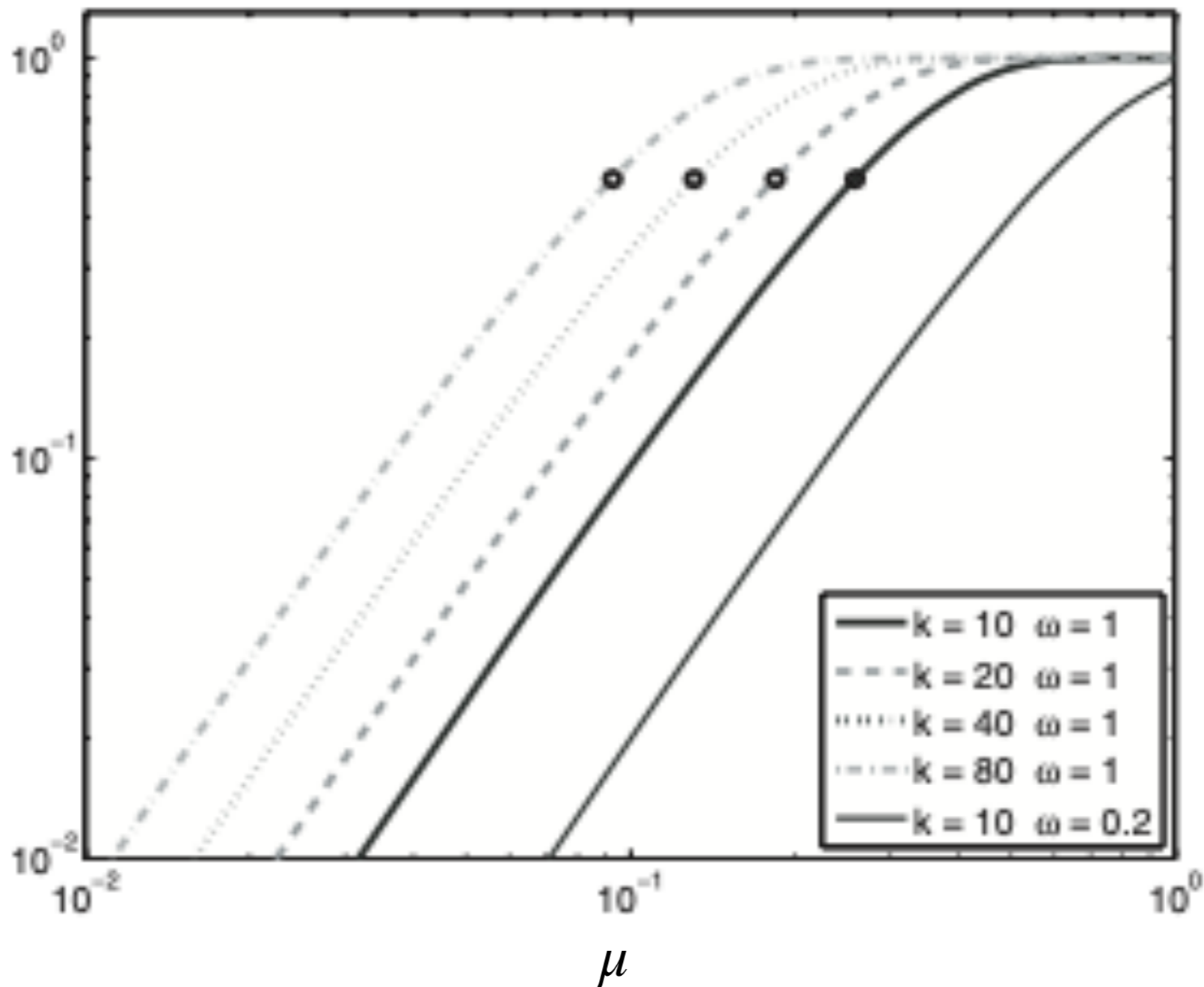
2. Then, with a little more work, can show that

$$x^{k+1} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{q_w(k, \mu_i)}{\mu_i} \langle y^\delta, \psi_i \rangle \varphi_i, \text{ where } q_w(k, \mu) = 1 - (1 - w\mu^2)^{k+1}$$

3. So this is a spectral filter, changing with each iteration

# Landweber filters

$$q_w(k, \mu) = 1 - (1 - w\mu^2)^{k+1}$$



# Landweber iteration: summary

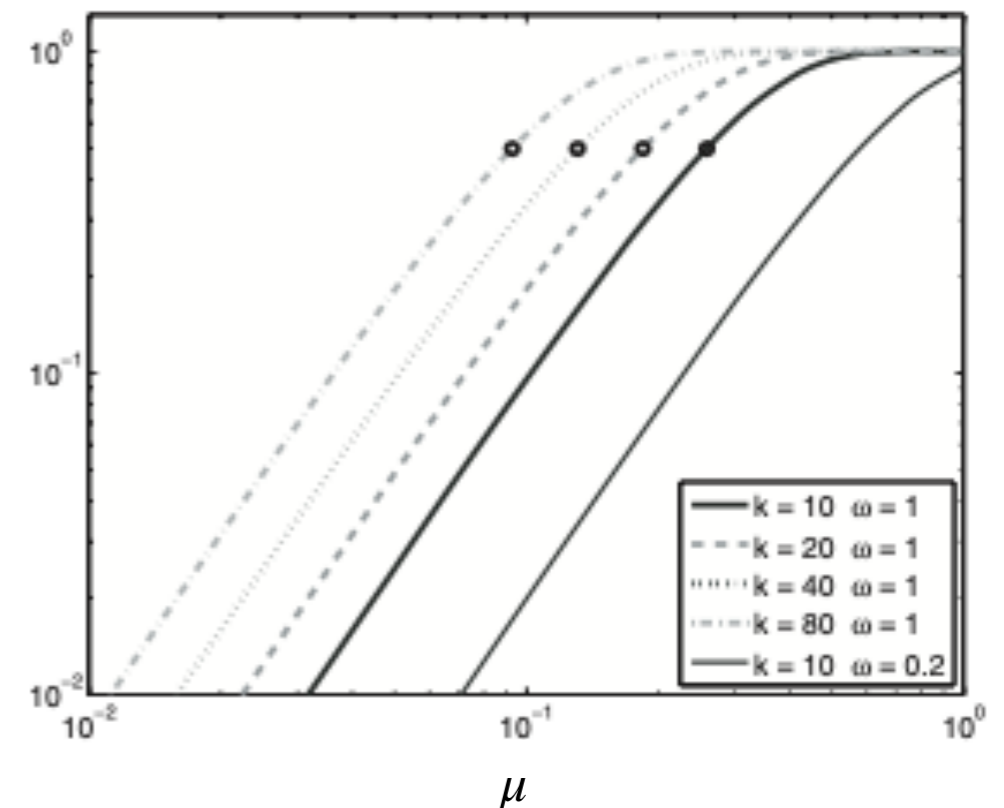
$$x^{k+1} = x^k + wA^T(y^\delta - Ax^k), x^0 = 0$$

$$x^{k+1} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{q_w(k, \mu_i)}{\mu_i} \langle y, \psi_i \rangle \varphi_i$$

$$q_w(k, \mu) = 1 - (1 - w\mu^2)^{k+1}$$

- Slow convergence
- Optimal strategy with stopping rule (e.g. discrepancy principle)
- Can augment with a **projection**

$$x^{k+1} = \mathcal{P}\{x^k + wA^T(y^\delta - Ax^k)\}$$



# Conjugate gradients

- Descent direction at step  $k$ :  
$$d_k = A^T r^k = A^T (y^\delta - Ax^k)$$
- Problem: descent directions can repeat themselves
- Idea: choose  $d_k$  which is linearly independent from  $\{d_1, \dots, d_{k-1}\}$
- Solution in at most  $n$  steps
- Tends to choose large singular components first, so can stop early

