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X-ray tomography in periodic slabs

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Based on joint work with
Gunther Uhlmann

- 1 X-ray tomography in a slab
 - The slab and rays through it
 - The kernel
 - The question
- 2 Periodicity
- 3 Proof

The slab and rays through it

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- The same tools work with the infinite strip $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.
- In general, we will consider the $(n + 1)$ -dimensional slab $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n$ for $n \geq 0$.

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- A line through the slab has endpoints at the opposite surfaces (boundary components).
- The aim is to reconstruct a function from its integrals over all these lines.
- This is partial data problem: We have no access to the lines parallel to the boundary.
- Even with a finite-sized slab we might only have data through the slab, not parallel to it. A good theoretical understanding of the idealized slab will hopefully help in more realistic settings.

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- All functions of the form $f(x, y) = h(x)$ with $\int_0^1 h = 0$ are in the kernel.

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If $f: [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ integrates to zero over all lines through the slab, is it of the form $f(x, y) = h(x)$ with $\int_0^1 h = 0$?

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Unless $h \equiv 0$, functions of this form have no decay at infinity and cannot be integrable.

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- 2 Periodicity
 - Periodic functions or slabs
 - Kernel characterization
 - Tensor tomography
- 3 Proof

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- After rescaling, all the periods can be assumed to be 1.
- A 1-periodic function $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ can be regarded as a function $\mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
- The quotient $\mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{Z}^n$ is the flat torus \mathbb{T}^n .

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- It is the same thing to consider periodic functions on \mathbb{R}^n as it is to consider all functions on $\mathbb{T}^n = \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{Z}^n$.
- The most familiar example is with $n = 1$, when $\mathbb{T}^1 = S^1$.
- When we assume periodicity in the functions, we are effectively doing X-ray tomography in the periodic slab $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}^n$.

Theorem (I.–Uhlmann, 2018)

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A scalar L^2 function $f : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ integrates to zero over all lines through the slab if and only if it is of the form $f(x, y) = h(x)$ with $\int_0^1 h(x) dx = 0$.

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Proof

Write the function as a Fourier series in all variables. Take a suitable Fourier transform of the data and show that \hat{f} vanishes in most places. \square

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Fun fact: Also true for the Möbius strip.

Tensor tomography

- The integral of a scalar function f over a line $\gamma: [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}^n$ is

$$\int_0^T f(\gamma(t)) dt \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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- If $f = \nabla u$, then the integral is $u(\gamma(T)) - u(\gamma(0))$.

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where

- $\tilde{h}(x, y) = h(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$,
- $h \in L^2([0, 1])$,
- $\int_0^1 h(x) dx = 0$,
- $u \in H^1([0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}^n)$, and
- u vanishes at the boundary.

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- There are two kinds of tensor fields in the kernel:
 - Symmetrized covariant derivatives of lower order tensor fields.
 - Tensor fields that are invariant under translations along the slab.
- The X-ray transform is not solenoidally injective in the slab for tensor fields, but the kernel can be characterized for any rank and dimension.

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- The same idea works for $L^2([0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}^n)$.

- Write f as Fourier series:

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{j, k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(j, k) e^{2\pi i(jx + ky)}.$$

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- Here $x \in [0, 1]$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$.
- The function is a sum of functions of the form

$$e_{jk}(x, y) = e^{2\pi i(jx + ky)}$$

and the X-ray transform of e_{jk} can be computed explicitly.

X-ray transform

- The X-ray transform of $f \in C^\infty([0, 1] \times S^1)$ is $If \in C^\infty(S^1 \times \mathbb{R})$ defined by

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- The parameters $(a, v) \in S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ parametrize all the geodesics through the periodic slab (strip) $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$. The initial position is $(0, a)$ and the velocity $(1, v)$.

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- The X-ray transform of $e_{jk}(x, y) = e^{2\pi i(jx + ky)}$ is

$$Ie_{jk}(a, v) = e^{2\pi ika} \phi(j + kv),$$

where $\phi(z) = (2\pi iz)^{-1}(e^{2\pi iz} - 1)$.

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- Using the Fourier series gives

$$0 = If(a, v) = \sum_{j, k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(j, k) \phi(j + kv) e^{2\pi i k a}$$

for all $a \in S^1$ and $v \in \mathbb{R}$.

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- We get $\hat{f}(-kv, k) = 0$ when $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $kv \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus $\hat{f}(j, k)$ can only be non-zero when $k = 0$ and $j \neq 0$.

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- We get $\hat{f}(-kv, k) = 0$ when $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $kv \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus $\hat{f}(j, k)$ can only be non-zero when $k = 0$ and $j \neq 0$.
- If $\hat{h}(j) = \hat{f}(j, 0)$, then $\int_0^1 h = 0$ and $f(x, y) = h(x)$.

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