

# Inverse problems for PDEs with $L^\infty$ data fitting

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Inverse Problems: Modeling and Simulation  
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# Motivation

## Inverse problem

$$Kx = y^\delta$$

Here: data  $y^\delta$  subject to **uniformly distributed** noise

- frequently used in synthetic test data for algorithms
- statistical model for **quantization errors** in digital data acquisition and processing
- appropriate Tikhonov functional involves  $L^\infty$  discrepancy
- more robust than  $L^2$ , but not differentiable  
     $\rightsquigarrow$  **semi-smooth Newton method** for numerical solution

# Problem formulation

$$\min_{x \in X} \frac{1}{p} \|Kx - y^\delta\|_{L^\infty}^p + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|x\|_X^2$$

- $K : X \rightarrow L^\infty(\Omega)$  bounded linear operator  
(here: solution operator for PDE  $Ay = x$ )
- $y^\delta \in L^\infty(\Omega), 1 \leq p < \infty$
- $X$  Hilbert space
- **Assumption:**  $x_n \rightharpoonup x^\dagger$  in  $X$  implies  $Kx_n \rightarrow Kx^\dagger$  in  $L^\infty(\Omega)$

# Well-posedness

## Theorem

- (i) Existence of unique minimizer  $x_{\alpha}^{\delta}$ ;
- (ii) Stability:  $y_n \rightarrow y^{\delta}$  in  $L^{\infty}$  implies  $x_{\alpha}^n \rightarrow x_{\alpha}^{\delta}$  (subsequence);
- (iii) Convergence: If  $\alpha = \alpha(\delta)$  satisfies

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \alpha(\delta) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta}{\alpha(\delta)} = 0,$$

then  $x_{\alpha(\delta)}^{\delta}$  converges to true solution  $x^{\dagger}$  (subsequence);

- (iv) Convergence rates (under source condition)

Proof: standard [Engl/Hanke/Neubauer '96, Engl/Kunisch/Neubauer '89, Hofmann/Kaltenbacher/Pöschl/Scherzer '07]

# Automatic parameter choice

Noise level  $\delta$  **unknown**: choose  $\alpha^*$  such that

## Balancing principle

$$\sigma \|Kx_{\alpha^*}^\delta - y^\delta\|_{L^\infty} = \frac{\alpha^*}{2} \|x_{\alpha^*}^\delta\|_X^2$$

is satisfied ( $\sigma$  fixed, depends on  $K, X$ , **not noise**)

## Fixed point iteration

$$\alpha_{k+1} = \sigma \frac{\|Kx_{\alpha_k}^\delta - y^\delta\|_{L^\infty}}{\frac{1}{2} \|x_{\alpha_k}^\delta\|_X^2}$$

# Automatic parameter choice

## Theorem

If initial guess  $\alpha_0$  satisfies

$$\sigma \|Kx_{\alpha_0}^\delta - y^\delta\|_{L^\infty} - \frac{\alpha_0}{2} \|x_{\alpha_0}^\delta\|_X^2 < 0,$$

sequence  $\{\alpha_k\}$

- *is monotonically decreasing,*
- *converges to solution of balancing equation*

**Constructive:** Fix  $\alpha_0$ , choose  $\sigma$  sufficiently small

# Relaxation

$$\min_{(x,c) \in X \times \mathbb{R}} \frac{c^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|x\|_X^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|Kx - y^\delta\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq c.$$

- equivalent reformulation for  $p = 2$   
[Grund/Rösch '01, Prüfert/Schiela '09, C/Ito/Kunisch '10]
- unique minimizer  $(x^*, c^*)$
- optimality conditions (Maurer–Zowe regular point condition)  
but: Lagrange multipliers are in  $L^\infty(\Omega)^*$

# Moreau–Yosida approximation

$$\min_{(x,c) \in X \times \mathbb{R}} \frac{c^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|x\|_X^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\max(0, Kx - y^\delta - c)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\min(0, Kx - y^\delta + c)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2,$$

- unique solution  $(x_\gamma, c_\gamma) \in X \times \mathbb{R}$
- strong convergence to  $(x^*, c^*)$  as  $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$



# Moreau–Yosida approximation

Set

$$\lambda_\gamma^1 = \gamma \max(0, Kx_\gamma - y^\delta - c_\gamma), \quad \lambda_\gamma^2 = \gamma \min(0, Kx_\gamma - y^\delta + c_\gamma),$$

Optimality system

$$\begin{cases} \alpha \left( \frac{1}{2} \|\cdot\|_X^2 \right)'(x_\gamma) + K^* (\lambda_\gamma^1 + \lambda_\gamma^2) = 0, \\ c_\gamma + \int_\Omega -\lambda_\gamma^1 + \lambda_\gamma^2 ds = 0. \end{cases}$$

- optimality system is semi-smooth  
↪ path-following semi-smooth Newton method
- reformulate in terms of  $y_\gamma = Kx_\gamma$  (avoid inversion of  $K = A^{-1}$ )

## Test problem: Inverse heat conduction

- $X = L^2(0, 1)$ ,  $K$  is Volterra integral operator of the first kind:

$$(Kx)(t) = \int_0^t k(s, t)x(s) ds, \quad k(s, t) = \frac{(s-t)^{-\frac{3}{2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{4(s-t)}}$$

- noise:

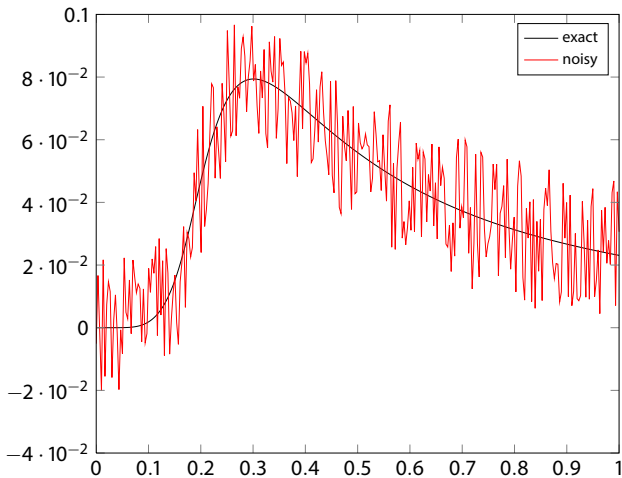
$$y^\delta(t) = (Kx^\dagger)(t) + \xi(t) \|Kx^\dagger\|_{L^\infty}$$

$\xi(t)$  uniformly distributed between  $\left[-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}\right]$

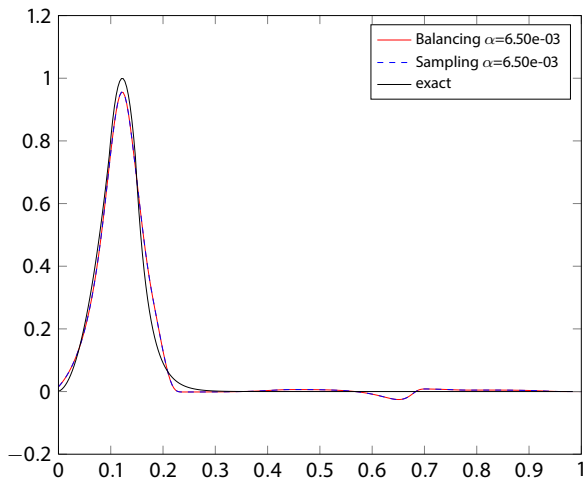
- Comparison with best parameter,  $L^2$  fitting

$$x_{L^2} = (\alpha I + K^*K)^{-1}(K^*y^\delta)$$

# Data ( $d = 0.3$ )

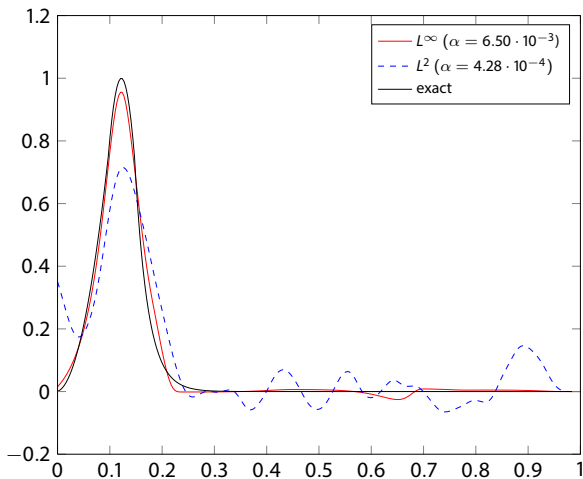


# Reconstruction ( $d = 0.3$ )



(a) comparison with sampling

# Reconstruction ( $d = 0.3$ )



(b) comparison with  $L^2$  fitting

# Test problem: Inverse source problem

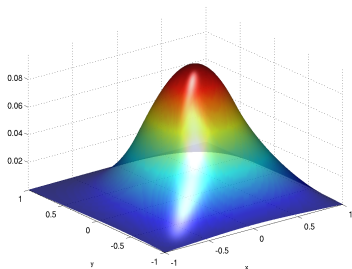
- $X = L^2(\Omega), \Omega = (0, 1)^2,$
- $K = A^{-1}$  is solution operator for PDE

$$Ay = -\Delta y - \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \nabla y$$

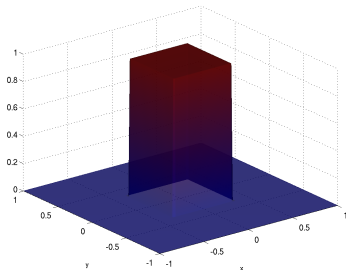
with homogeneous Dirichlet conditions

- illustrate structure with deterministic uniform “noise”:
  - 1 Quantization (rounding to  $n_b$  nearest values)
  - 2 Checkerboard (“best case noise”)

# Data

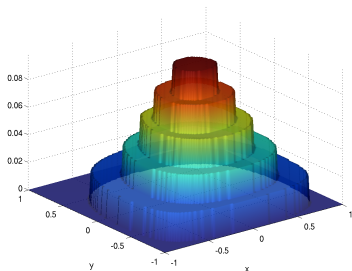


(a) true data  $Kx^\dagger$

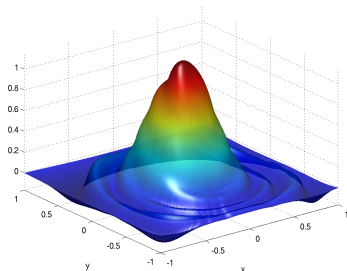


(b) true solution  $x^\dagger$

# Quantization ( $n_b = 5$ )



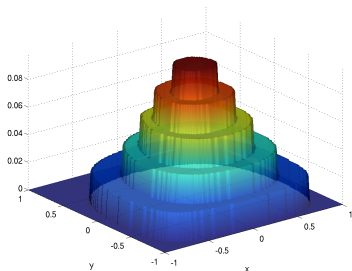
(a) data  $y^\delta$



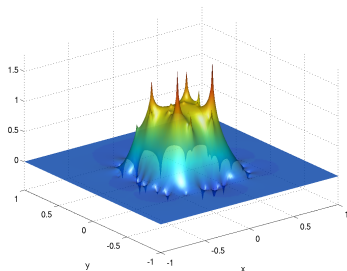
(b)  $L^2$  reconstruction  $x_\alpha$



# Quantization ( $n_b = 5$ )



(a) data  $y^\delta$



(b)  $L^\infty$  reconstruction  $x_\alpha$

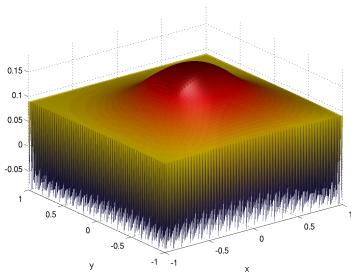
# Checkerboard noise

- Observation: Reconstruction error is large in regions where noise does **not change sign**
- $\rightsquigarrow$  “Best case noise”: constant magnitude, alternating sign

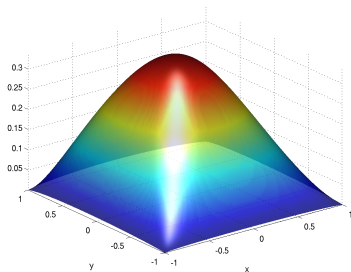
Grid points  $t_{ij} = (t_{1,i}, t_{2,j}), 1 \leq i, j \leq N,$

$$y^\delta(t_{ij}) = y^\dagger(t_{ij}) + (-1)^{i+j} d \|y^\dagger\|_\infty$$

# Checkerboard ( $d = 0.9$ )

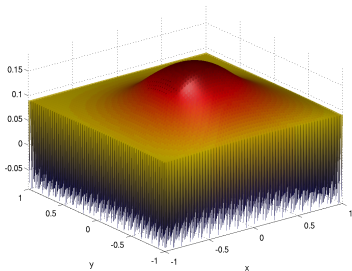


(a) data  $y^\delta$

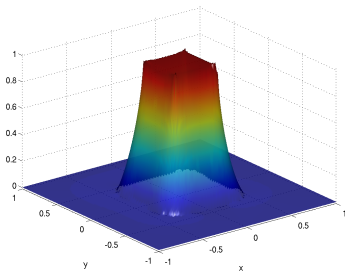


(b)  $L^2$  reconstruction  $x_\alpha$

# Checkerboard ( $d = 0.9$ )



(a) data  $y^\delta$



(b)  $L^\infty$  reconstruction  $x_\alpha$

## Conclusion

- $L^\infty$  fitting more robust for uniform noise
- Solution by semi-smooth Newton method
- For non-Gaussian noise: structure more important than level

## Outlook

- Nonlinear parameter identification
- $L^\infty$ - $L^1$  functional (“Dantzig selector”)

Preprint, MATLAB/Python code:

<http://www.uni-graz.at/~clason/publications.html>