

Bayesian Level Set Inversion

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Stony Brook University,
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EPSRC

Outline

- 1 **Examples of Inverse Problems**
- 2 **The Bayesian Approach to Inverse Problems**
- 3 **A Bayesian Level Set Approach**
- 4 **A Hierarchical Approach**
- 5 **Conclusions**

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- 1 **Examples of Inverse Problems**
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Linear Problem



H. W. Engl, M. Hanke and A. Neubauer
Regularization of Inverse Problems.
Kluwer (1994)

Forward Problem

Let $K \in \mathcal{L}(X, \mathbb{R}^J)$ for some Banach space X . Given $u \in X$

$$y = Ku.$$

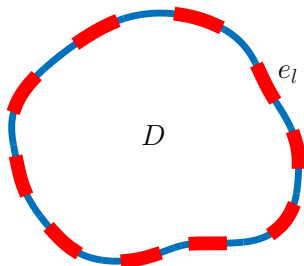
Let $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^J$ be a realisation of an observational **noise**.

Inverse Problem

Given prior information on $u \in X$, and given $y \in \mathbb{R}^J$, find u :

$$y = Ku + \eta.$$

Electrical Impedance Tomography



- Apply currents I_ℓ on $e_\ell, \ell = 1, \dots, L$.
- Induces voltages Θ_ℓ on $e_\ell, \ell = 1, \dots, L$.
- Input is (σ, I) , output is (θ, Θ) .
- We have an Ohm's law $\Theta = R(\sigma)I$.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\nabla \cdot (\sigma(x)\nabla\theta(x)) = 0 & x \in D \\ \int_{e_\ell} \sigma \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial\nu} dS = I_\ell & \ell = 1, \dots, L \\ \sigma(x) \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial\nu}(x) = 0 & x \in \partial D \setminus \bigcup_{\ell=1}^L e_\ell \\ \theta(x) + z_\ell \sigma(x) \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial\nu}(x) = \Theta_\ell & x \in e_\ell, \ell = 1, \dots, L \end{array} \right. \quad (\text{PDE})$$

Electrical Impedance Tomography



M. M. Dunlop and A. M. Stuart

The Bayesian Formulation of EIT.

arXiv:1509.03136

Inverse Problems and Imaging, Submitted, 2015.

Forward Problem

- Let $X \subseteq L^\infty(D)$, and denote $X^+ := \{u \in X : \text{ess\,inf}_{x \in D} u > 0\}$.
- Given $u \in X$, $F : X \rightarrow X^+$ and $\sigma = F(u)$, find $(\theta, \Theta) \in H^1(D) \times \mathbb{R}^L$ solving (PDE).
- This gives $\Theta = R(F(u))I$.

Let $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^L$ be a realisation of an observational **noise**.

Inverse Problem

Given prior information on u , and given currents I and $y \in \mathbb{R}^L$, find u :

$$y = R(F(u))I + \eta.$$

General Structure



A. M. Stuart

Inverse problems: a Bayesian approach.

Acta Numerica 19(2010)

Forward Problem

Let X , Y be separable Banach spaces, and let $\mathcal{G} : X \rightarrow Y$ be a measurable mapping. Given $u \in X$,

$$y = \mathcal{G}(u).$$

Let $\eta \in Y$ be a realisation of an observational **noise**.

Inverse Problem

Given prior information on u , and given $y \in Y$, find u :

$$y = \mathcal{G}(u) + \eta.$$

Outline

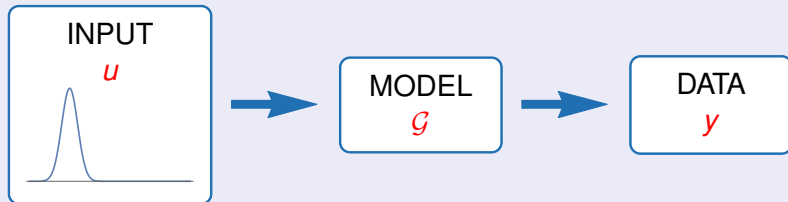
- 1 Examples of Inverse Problems
- 2 The Bayesian Approach to Inverse Problems**
- 3 A Bayesian Level Set Approach
- 4 A Hierarchical Approach
- 5 Conclusions

Bayesian Inversion: The Idea

The Idea: Words

Problem is **under-determined**; data is **noisy**. Probability delivers missing information and accounts for observational noise.

The Idea: Picture

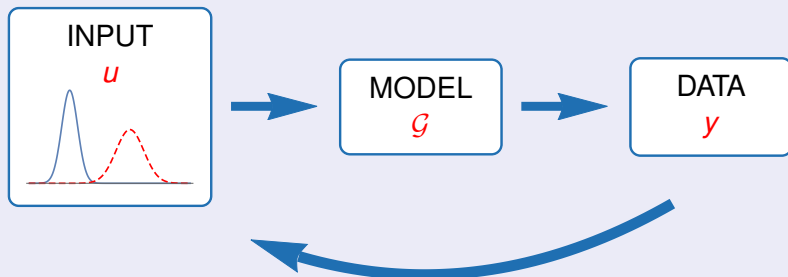


Bayesian Inversion: The Idea

The Idea: Words

Problem is **under-determined**; data is **noisy**. Probability delivers missing information and accounts for observational noise.

The Idea: Picture



Bayes' Formula

Prior

Probabilistic information about u **before** data is collected:

$$\mu_0(du)$$

Likelihood

Since $y = \mathcal{G}(u) + \eta$, if $\eta \sim N(0, \Gamma)$, then $y|u \sim N(\mathcal{G}(u), \Gamma)$. The **model-data misfit** Φ is the negative log-likelihood:

$$\mathbb{P}(y|u) \propto \exp(-\Phi(u; y)), \quad \Phi(u; y) = \frac{1}{2} \left| \Gamma^{-1/2} (y - \mathcal{G}(u)) \right|^2.$$

Posterior

Probabilistic information about u **after** data is collected:

$$\mu^y(du) \propto \exp(-\Phi(u; y)) \mu_0(du).$$

Well-posedness



A. M. Stuart

Inverse problems: a Bayesian approach.

Acta Numerica **19**(2010)

$$L_{\nu}^2(X; S) = \{f : X \rightarrow S : \mathbb{E}^{\nu} \|f(u)\|_S^2 < \infty\}.$$

Theorem

Assume that:

- $u \in X$ μ_0 -a.s.;
- $\mathcal{G} \in C(X, \mathbb{R}^J)$;
- $\mathcal{G} \in L_{\mu_0}^2(X; \mathbb{R}^J)$.

Then $y \mapsto \mu^y(du)$ is Lipschitz in the Hellinger metric. Furthermore, if S is a separable Banach space and $f \in L_{\mu_0}^2(X; S)$, then

$$\|\mathbb{E}^{\mu^{y_1}} f(u) - \mathbb{E}^{\mu^{y_2}} f(u)\|_S \leq C|y_1 - y_2|.$$

Probing the Posterior

We wish to get information about the structure of the posterior probability μ^y on unknown function u given data y . Possibilities:

- Best approximation by a Dirac: **MAP/Tikhonov**



M. Dashti, K. J. H. Law, A. M. Stuart and J. Voss

MAP estimators and their consistency in Bayesian nonparametric inverse problems.
Inverse Problems **29**(2013)

- Best approximation by a Gaussian: **variational/ML**



F. J. Pinski, G. Simpson, A. M. Stuart and H. Weber

Kullback-Leibler approximation for probability measures on infinite dimensional spaces.
SIAM J. Math. Analysis (to appear)

- Best approximation by many Diracs: **sampling/MCMC**



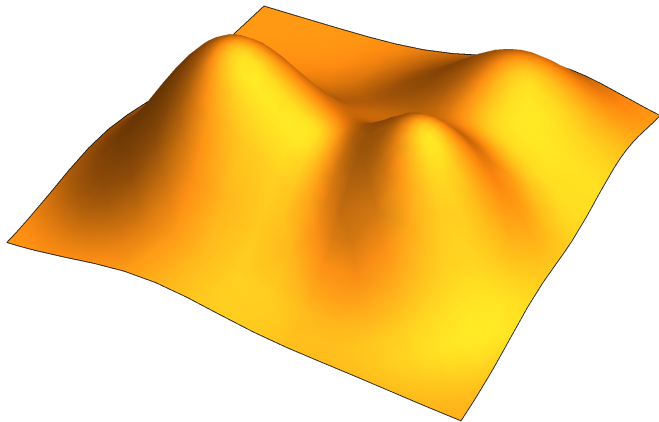
S. L. Cotter, G. O. Roberts, A. M. Stuart, and D. White.

MCMC methods for functions: modifying old algorithms to make them faster.
Statistical Science **28**(2013)

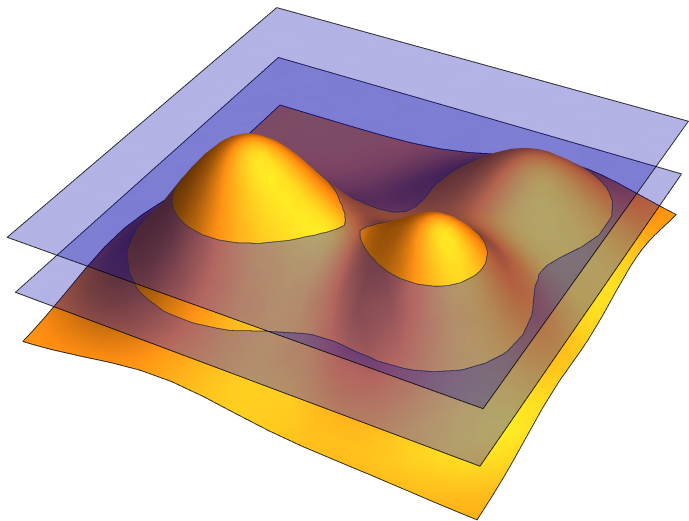
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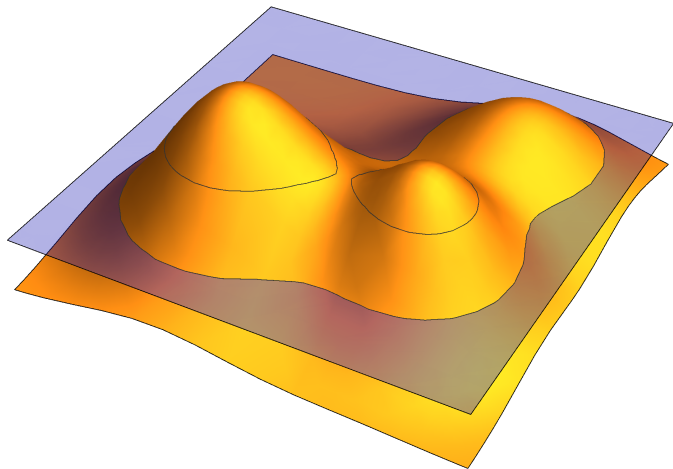
The Level Set Approach to Inverse Problems



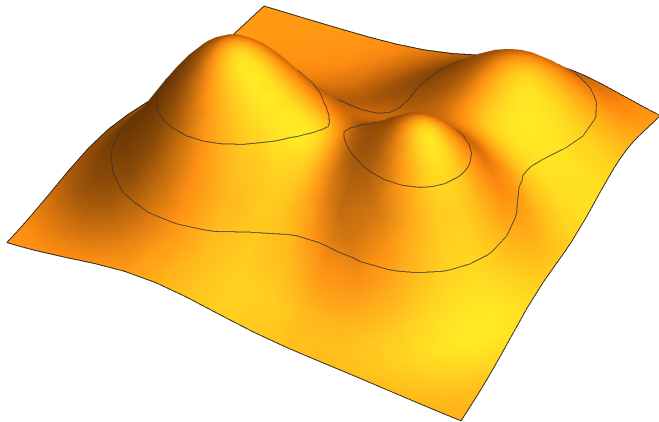
The Level Set Approach to Inverse Problems



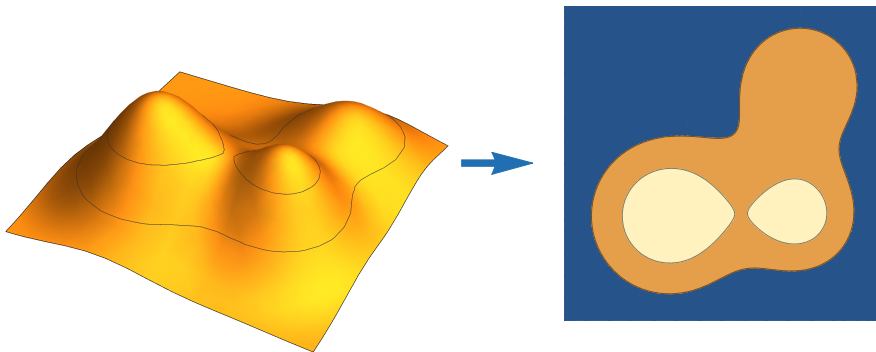
The Level Set Approach to Inverse Problems



The Level Set Approach to Inverse Problems



The Level Set Approach to Inverse Problems



- Recovery of a piecewise constant field now becomes recovery of a continuous field.

Level Set Inversion: The Level Set Map



M. A. Iglesias, Y. Lu and A. M. Stuart

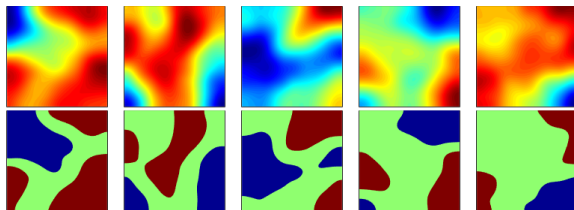
A level-set approach to Bayesian geometric inverse problems

arXiv:1504.00313

Interfaces and Free Boundaries, Submitted, 2015.

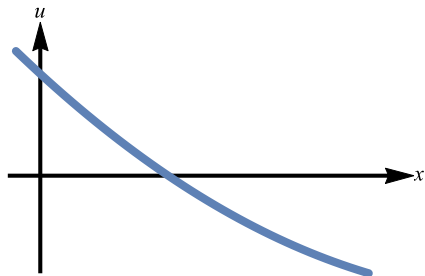
Piecewise constant conductivity σ (EIT example) defined through thresholding a level set function u :

$$\sigma(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i \mathbb{I}_{\{c_{i-1} < u \leq c_i\}}(x).$$

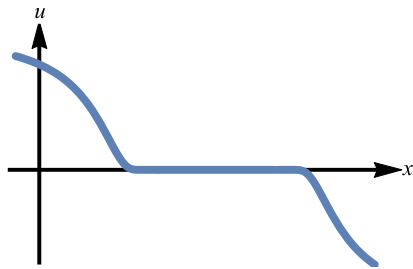


$\sigma = F(u)$, **u** is now the **unknown**.

Level Set Inversion: A Continuity Issue



$F(\cdot)$ is continuous at u



$F(\cdot)$ is discontinuous at u

$$\sigma = F(u) := \sigma^+ \mathbb{1}_{\{u \geq 0\}}(x) + \sigma^- \mathbb{1}_{\{u < 0\}}(x)$$

Level Set Inversion: Well-posedness



M. Iglesias, Y. Lu and A. M. Stuart

A level-set approach to Bayesian geometric inverse problems. (above)



M. M. Dunlop and A. M. Stuart

The Bayesian formulation of EIT: analysis and algorithms. (above)

Level Set Measurement Set-Up

- $F : X \rightarrow Z$, $X = C(D; \mathbb{R})$, $Z = L^\infty(D; \mathbb{R})$; **level-set map.**
- $G : Z \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, \mathcal{H} Hilbert space; **PDE solve/linear map.**
- $\mathcal{O} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^J$; **linear functionals of solution.**

Theorem

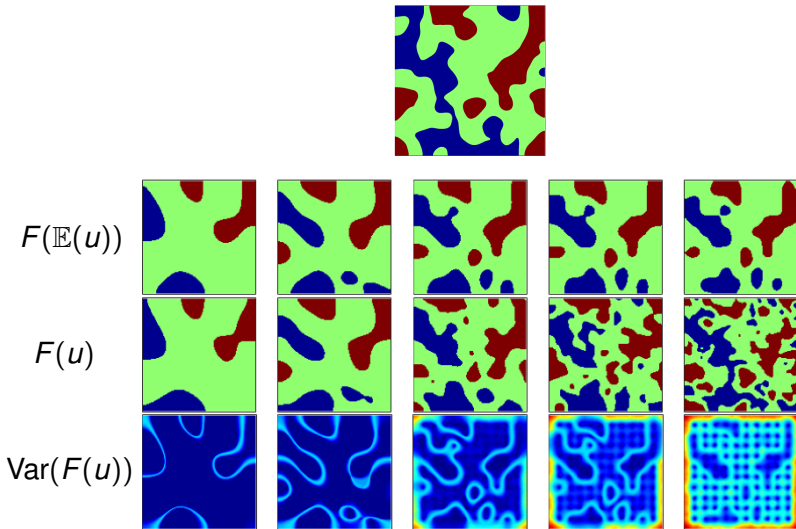
Assume that $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{O} \circ G \circ F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^J$ and, for Gaussian prior μ_0 , $u \in X$ with probability 1. Then, for the linear and EIT examples, $y \mapsto \mu^y(du)$ is Lipschitz in the Hellinger metric. Furthermore, if S is a separable Banach space and $f \in L^2_{\mu_0}(X; S)$, then

$$\|\mathbb{E}^{\mu^{y_1}} f(u) - \mathbb{E}^{\mu^{y_2}} f(u)\|_S \leq C|y_1 - y_2|.$$

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Length-scale is Important



A Family of Prior Distributions

- Whittle-Matérn distributions allow for control over sample regularity and length scale.
- These are stationary Gaussian distributions with covariance function

$$c_{\nu,\ell}(x, y) = \frac{2^{1-\nu}}{\Gamma(\nu)} \left(\frac{|x - y|}{\ell} \right)^\nu K_\nu \left(\frac{|x - y|}{\ell} \right).$$

- Special cases are exponential ($\nu = 1/2$) and Gaussian ($\nu \rightarrow \infty$) covariance functions.
- Ignoring boundary conditions, the covariance **operator** $\mathcal{D}_{\nu,\ell}$ corresponding to the covariance **function** $c_{\nu,\ell}$ is given by

$$\mathcal{D}_{\nu,\ell} = \beta \ell^d (I - \ell^2 \Delta)^{-\nu-d/2}.$$

We Need to Re-scale

- The factor ℓ^d leads to problems when finding algorithms that are robust with respect to mesh refinement (lack of absolute continuity).
- Hence re-scale the covariances as $C_{\nu,\ell} = (\ell^{-2}I - \Delta)^{-\nu-d/2}$.
- For $u \sim N(m_0, C_{\nu,\ell})$, we have $\mathbb{E}\|u - m_0\|^2 \propto \ell^{2\nu}$.
- To counter this, scale levels c_i with ℓ as well:

$$c_i(\ell) = m_0 + \ell^\nu (c_i - m_0).$$

- This means we must explicitly pass the length scale parameter ℓ to the level set map.

The New Level Set Map



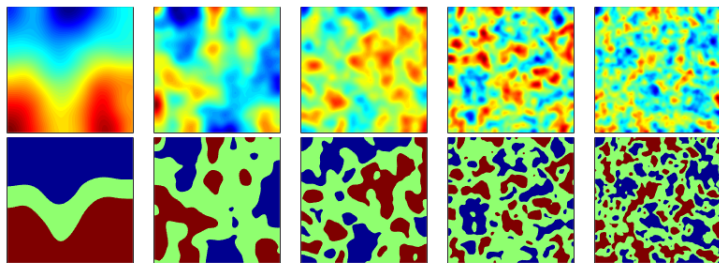
M. M. Dunlop, M. A. Iglesias and A. M. Stuart

Hierarchical Bayesian Level Set Inversion

In preparation

Let $X = C^0(D)$ and $Z = L^p(D)$. $F : X \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow Z$ is defined by

$$F(u, \ell) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sigma_k \mathbb{1}_{\{c_{k-1}(\ell) \leq u < c_k(\ell)\}}.$$



A Sampling Algorithm

We can sample the posterior $\mu^y(du, d\ell)$ using a Metropolis-within-Gibbs MCMC method:

Algorithm

- 1 Set $k = 0$ and pick initial state $(u^{(0)}, \ell^{(0)}) \in X \times \mathbb{R}^+$.
- 2 Update $u^{(k+1)} \sim u | (\ell^{(k)}, y)$ using a dimension robust MCMC.
- 3 Update $\ell^{(k+1)} \sim \ell | (u^{(k+1)}, y)$ using a scalar sampling algorithm.
- 4 $k \rightarrow k + 1$ and return to 2.

Step 3 above requires knowledge of the conditional distribution $\pi^{u,y}$ of $\ell | (u, y)$. The absolute continuity of the family $\{\mu_0^\ell\}_{\ell > 0}$ allows us to write down an expression for this.

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Summary

- Overview of the recent development of a theoretical and computational framework for infinite dimensional Bayesian inversion.
 - ① Probabilistic well-posedness.
 - ② Leads to new algorithms (defined on Banach space).
 - ③ Mesh-independent convergence rates for MCMC.
- A Bayesian level set method overcomes some challenges with classical level set methods.
 - ① Probabilistic well-posedness follows from the general theory.
 - ② Algorithms which update the level set implicitly via MCMC methods on level set function – no explicit velocity field required for level set interface.
- A hierarchical approach improves the effectiveness of the level set method.
 - ① Relies on a family of equivalent Gaussian measures parameterised by the length scale of their samples.
 - ② Variation of sample amplitude compensated for by passing the length scale parameter to level set map.

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MCMC methods for functions: modifying old algorithms to make them faster.
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M. Dashti and A. M. Stuart
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Editors: R. Ghanem, D.Higdon and H. Owhadi, Springer, 2017.
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Ann. App. Prob. **24**(2014)



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Acta Numerica, 19(2010) 451–559.
<http://homepages.warwick.ac.uk/~masdr/BOOKCHAPTERS/stuart15c.pdf>