

# Inverse Problems for Distributions of Parameters in PDE Systems

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Reed College Mathematics Colloquium  
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# Outline

## 1 Inverse Problems

- Preliminaries
- Distributions

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## 2 Maxwell's Equations

- Description
- Simplifications
- Discretization

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## A General First Order Linear PDE System

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \mathcal{A}u = f$$

where  $u$  is called a state variable,  $\mathcal{A}$  is a linear operator depending on a set of parameters  $q$ , and  $f$  is a source term.

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- $u = [v, w]^T$  and

$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\ \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- $u = [H, E, P]^T$  and  $c = \sqrt{(1/\epsilon\mu)}$

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{1}{\tau} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \epsilon & c \\ 0 & \frac{\epsilon - 1}{c} & -1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

yields 1D Maxwell's equations with Debye polarization.

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An example of a numerical method is to replace  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$  at  $(t_j, x_i)$  with

$$\frac{U_{i,j} - U_{i-1,j}}{\Delta x}$$

for some fixed  $\Delta x = x_i - x_{i-1}$ . Called a **finite difference**.

# Inverse Problems

## Definition

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For example, a **parameter estimation** inverse problem attempts to determine values of a parameter set given (discrete) observations of (some) state variables.

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- Mathematically, find

$$\min_{q \in Q_{ad}} \left\| \text{error} \left( E(q), \hat{E} \right) \right\|.$$

For example, with data measured at fixed  $x$  and discrete times  $t_j$

$$\min_{q \in Q_{ad}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \left( E(t_j; q) - \hat{E}_j \right)^2$$

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In many systems, the dynamics are not completely described by a single parameter set. Often there are many different values of the parameters at work, and we only see the *average effect*.

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Example: population growth  $y' = -ry$  with  $r \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

Expected value of solutions is given by

$$u(t, x; F) = \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{U}(t, x; q) dF(q),$$

where  $\mathcal{Q}$  is some admissible set and  $F \in \mathfrak{P}(\mathcal{Q})$ .



## Inverse Problem for $F$

- Given data  $\{\hat{E}_j\}_j$  we seek to determine a probability distribution  $F^*$ , such that

$$F^* = \min_{F \in \mathfrak{P}(\mathcal{Q})} \mathcal{J}(F),$$

where, for example,

$$\mathcal{J}(F) = \sum_j \left( E(t_j; F) - \hat{E}_j \right)^2.$$

- Given a trial distribution  $F_k$  we compute  $E(t_j; F_k)$  and test  $\mathcal{J}(F_k)$ , then update  $F_{k+1}$  as necessary to find a minimum.
- Need either a parametrization or a discretization of  $F_k$  to have a finite dimensional problem.
- Need a (fast) method for computing  $E(x, t; F)$ .

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# Maxwell's Equations



- Maxwell's Equations were formulated circa 1870.
- They represent a fundamental unification of electric and magnetic fields predicting electromagnetic wave phenomenon.

# Maxwell's Equations

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{H} \quad (\text{Ampere})$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \quad (\text{Faraday})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho \quad (\text{Poisson})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad (\text{Gauss})$$

$\mathbf{E}$  = Electric field vector

$\mathbf{D}$  = Electric displacement

$\mathbf{H}$  = Magnetic field vector

$\mathbf{B}$  = Magnetic flux density

$\rho$  = Electric charge density

$\mathbf{J}$  = Current density

Note: Need initial conditions and boundary conditions.

## Constitutive Laws

Maxwell's equations are completed by constitutive laws that describe the response of the medium to the electromagnetic field.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{D} &= \epsilon \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \mu \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M} \\ \mathbf{J} &= \sigma \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{J}_s\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{P}$  = Polarization                       $\epsilon$  = Electric permittivity

$\mathbf{M}$  = Magnetization                     $\mu$  = Magnetic permeability

$\mathbf{J}_s$  = Source Current                     $\sigma$  = Electric Conductivity

## Linear, Isotropic, Non-dispersive and Non-conductive media

Assume no material dispersion, i.e., speed of propagation is not frequency dependent.

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H} \end{array}$$

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \quad \epsilon_r = \text{Relative Permittivity}$$

$$\mu = \mu_0 \mu_r \quad \mu_r = \text{Relative Permeability}$$

# Maxwell's Equations in One Space Dimension

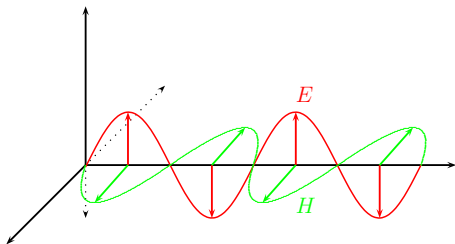
- The time evolution of the fields is thus completely specified by the curl equations

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} &= \nabla \times \mathbf{H} \\ \mu \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial t} &= -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}\end{aligned}$$

- Assuming that the electric field is **polarized** to oscillate only in the  $y$  direction, propagate in the  $x$  direction, and there is **uniformity** in the  $z$  direction:

Equations involving  $E_y$  and  $H_z$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial t} &= -\frac{\partial H_z}{\partial x} \\ \mu \frac{\partial H_z}{\partial t} &= -\frac{\partial E_y}{\partial x}\end{aligned}$$



## The Yee Scheme

In 1966 Kane Yee originated a set of finite-difference equations for the time dependent Maxwell's curl equations (**finite difference time domain or FDTD**)

- **Staggered Grids:** Choose  $E$  components on integer points in space and time, and  $H$  components on the half-grids in both variables.
- **Idea:** First order derivatives are much more accurately evaluated on staggered grids, such that if a variable is located on the integer grid, its first derivative is best evaluated on the half-grid and vice-versa.



## Yee Scheme in One Space Dimension

$$\frac{H_z|_{r+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - H_z|_{r+\frac{1}{2}}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{E_y|_{r+1}^n - E_y|_r^n}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{E_y|_r^{n+1} - E_y|_r^n}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{H_z|_{r+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - H_z|_{r-\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta x}$$

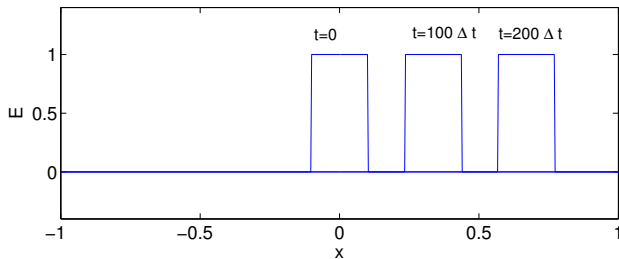
- This method is an explicit second order scheme in both space and time.
- It is conditionally stable with the CFL condition

$$\nu = \frac{c\Delta t}{\Delta x} \leq 1$$

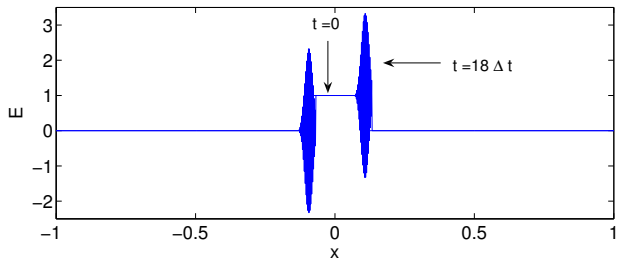
where  $\nu$  is called the Courant number and  $c = 1/\sqrt{\epsilon\mu}$ .

# Numerical Stability: A Square Wave

- Case  $c\Delta t = \Delta x$

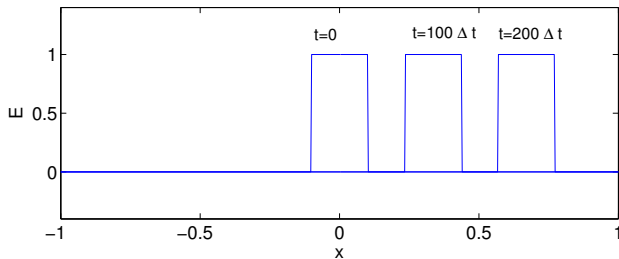


- Case  $c\Delta t > \Delta x$

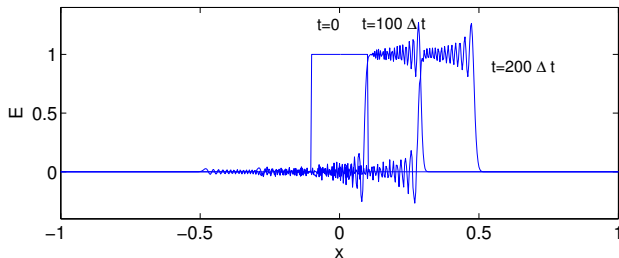


# Numerical Dispersion: A Square Wave

- Case  $c\Delta t = \Delta x$



- Case  $c\Delta t < \Delta x$



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# Dispersive Dielectrics

- Recall

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}$$

where  $\mathbf{P}$  is the dielectric polarization.

- Debye model

$$\tau \dot{\mathbf{P}} + \mathbf{P} = \epsilon_0 (\epsilon_s - \epsilon_\infty) \mathbf{E}$$

where  $q = \{\epsilon_\infty, \epsilon_s, \tau\}$  and, in particular,  $\tau$  is called the relaxation time.

## Frequency Domain

- Converting to frequency domain via **Fourier transforms**

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}$$

becomes

$$\hat{\mathbf{D}} = \epsilon(\omega) \hat{\mathbf{E}}$$

where  $\epsilon(\omega)$  is called the **complex permittivity**.

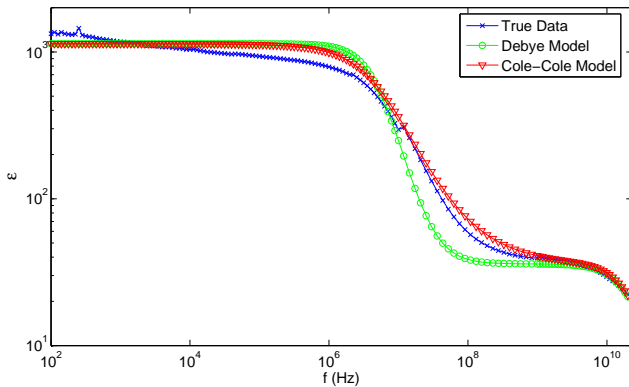
- Debye model gives

$$\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_{\infty} + \frac{\epsilon_s - \epsilon_{\infty}}{1 + i\omega\tau}$$

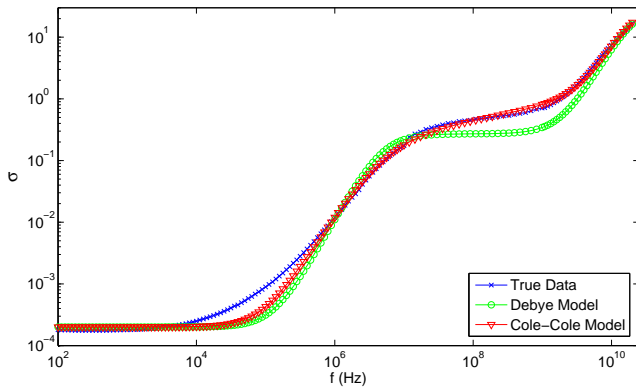
- Cole-Cole model (heuristic generalization)

$$\epsilon(\omega) = \epsilon_{\infty} + \frac{\epsilon_s - \epsilon_{\infty}}{1 + (i\omega\tau)^{1-\alpha}}$$

Unfortunately, the Cole-Cole model corresponds to a fractional order differential equation in the time domain, and simulation is not straight-forward.



**Figure:** Real part of  $\epsilon(\omega)$ ,  $\epsilon$ , or the permittivity.

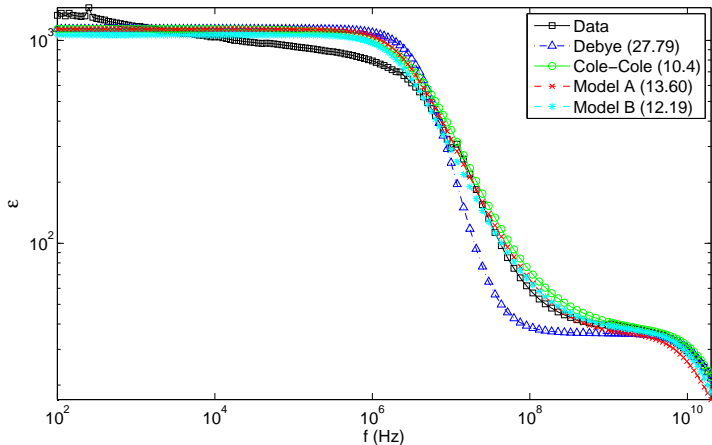


**Figure:** Imaginary part of  $\epsilon(\omega)$ ,  $\sigma$ , or the conductivity.



## Motivation

- The Cole-Cole model corresponds to a fractional order ODE in the time-domain and is difficult to simulate.
- Debye is efficient to simulate, but does not represent permittivity well.
- Better fits to data are obtained by taking linear combinations of Debye models (multi-pole Debye), idea comes from the known existence of multiple physical mechanisms.
- An alternative approach is to consider the Debye model but with a (continuous) distribution of relaxation times.
- Empirical measurements suggest a log-normal distribution.



**Figure:** Real part of  $\epsilon(\omega)$ , called simply  $\epsilon$ , or the permittivity. Model A refers to the Debye model with a **uniform distribution** on  $\tau$ .

## Random Polarization

We define the **random polarization**  $\mathcal{P}(x, t; \tau)$  to be the solution to

$$\tau \dot{\mathcal{P}} + \mathcal{P} = \epsilon_0(\epsilon_s - \epsilon_\infty)E$$

where  $\tau$  is a random variable with PDF  $f(\tau)$ , for example,

$$f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau_b - \tau_a}$$

for a uniform distribution.

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for a uniform distribution.

The electric field depends on the macroscopic polarization, which we take to be the **expected value** of the random polarization at each point  $(x, t)$

$$P(x, t; F) = \int_{\tau_a}^{\tau_b} \mathcal{P}(x, t; \tau) f(\tau) d\tau.$$

## Numerical Approximation of Random Polarization

Recall, to solve the inverse problem for the distribution of relaxation times, we need a method of accurately and efficiently simulating  $P(x, t; F)$ .

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## Numerical Approximation of Random Polarization

Recall, to solve the inverse problem for the distribution of relaxation times, we need a method of accurately and efficiently simulating  $P(x, t; F)$ .

- Could apply a quadrature rule to the integral in the expected value. Results in a linear combination of individual Debye solves.
- Alternatively, we can use a method which separates the time derivative from the randomness and applies a truncated expansion in random space, called **Polynomial Chaos**. Results in a linear system.

## Polynomial Chaos: Simple example

Consider the first order, constant coefficient, linear ODE

$$\dot{y} = -ky, \quad k = k(\xi) = \xi, \quad \xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$

We apply a Polynomial Chaos expansion in terms of orthogonal Hermite polynomials  $H_j$  to the solution  $y$ :

$$y(t, \xi) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha_j(t) \phi_j(\xi), \quad \phi_j(\xi) = H_j(\xi)$$

then the ODE becomes

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \dot{\alpha}_j(t) \phi_j(\xi) = - \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha_j(t) \xi \phi_j(\xi),$$



## Triple recursion formula

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \dot{\alpha}_j(t) \phi_j(\xi) = - \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \alpha_j(t) \xi \phi_j(\xi),$$

We can eliminate the explicit dependence on  $\xi$  by using the triple recursion formula for Hermite polynomials

$$\xi H_j = j H_{j-1} + H_{j+1}.$$

Thus

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \dot{\alpha}_j(t) \phi_j + \alpha_j(t) (j \phi_{j-1} + \phi_{j+1}) = 0.$$

## Galerkin Projection onto $\text{span}(\{\phi_i\}_{i=0}^p)$

Taking the weighted inner product with each basis gives

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \dot{\alpha}_j(t) \langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle_W + \alpha_j(t) (j \langle \phi_{j-1}, \phi_i \rangle_W + \langle \phi_{j+1}, \phi_i \rangle_W) = 0,$$

$$i = 0, \dots, p.$$

Where

$$\langle f(\xi), g(\xi) \rangle_W = \int f(\xi) g(\xi) W(\xi) d\xi.$$

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Where

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Using orthogonality,  $\langle \phi_j, \phi_i \rangle_W = \langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle_W \delta_{ij}$ , we have

$$\dot{\alpha}_i \langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle_W + (i+1) \alpha_{i+1} \langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle_W + \alpha_{i-1} \langle \phi_i, \phi_i \rangle_W = 0, \quad i = 0, \dots, p,$$



## Generalizations

For any choice of family of orthogonal polynomials, there exists a triple recursion formula. Given the arbitrary relation

$$\xi\phi_j = a_j\phi_{j-1} + b_j\phi_j + c_j\phi_{j+1}$$

(with  $\phi_{-1} = 0$ ) then the matrix above becomes

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 & a_1 & & & & & \\ c_0 & b_1 & a_2 & & & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & a_p & & \\ & & & c_{p-1} & b_p & & \end{bmatrix}$$

## Generalizations

Consider the non-homogeneous ODE

$$\dot{y} + ky = g(t), \quad k = k(\xi) = \sigma\xi + \mu, \quad \xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$

then

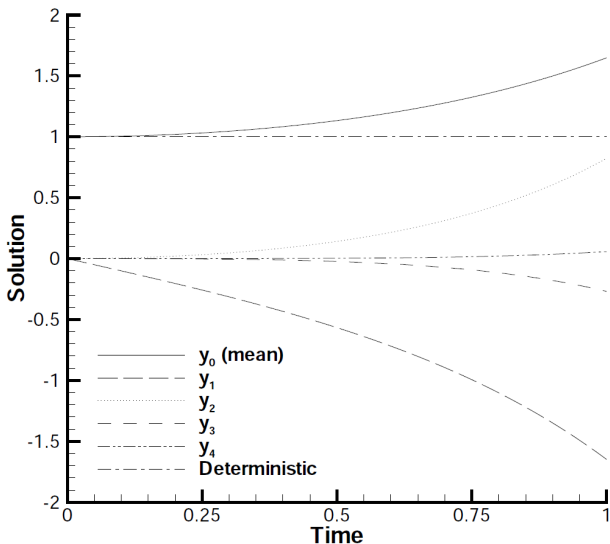
$$\dot{\alpha}_i + \sigma [(i + 1)\alpha_{i+1} + \alpha_{i-1}] + \mu\alpha_i = g(t)\delta_{0i}, \quad i = 0, \dots, p,$$

or the deterministic ODE system

$$\dot{\vec{\alpha}} + (\sigma M + \mu I)\vec{\alpha} = g(t)\vec{e}_1.$$

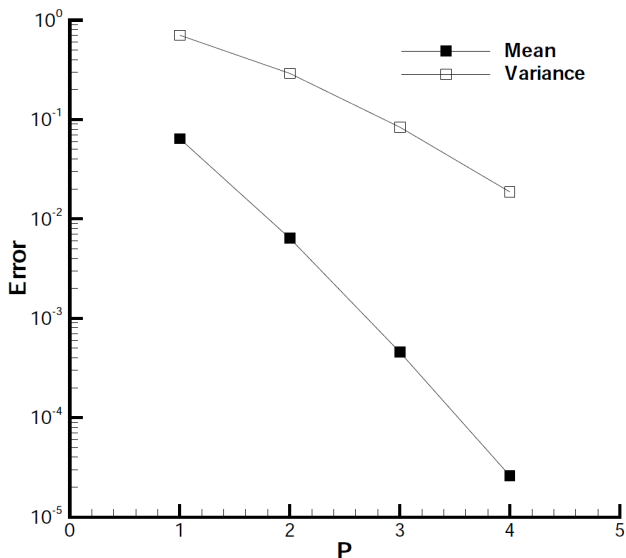
## Exponential convergence

- Any set of orthogonal polynomials can be used in the truncated expansion, but there may be an optimal choice.
- If the polynomials are orthogonal with respect to weighting function  $f(\xi)$ , and  $k$  has PDF  $f(k)$ , then it is known that the PC solution converges exponentially in terms of  $p$ .
- In practice, approximately 4 are generally sufficient.



**Figure:** Solution of each mode with Gaussian random coefficient by fourth-order Hermitian-chaos.





**Figure:** Convergence of error with Gaussian random coefficient by fourth-order Hermitian-chaos.

# Generalized Polynomial Chaos

**Table:** Popular distributions and corresponding orthogonal polynomials.

Distribution	Polynomial	Support
Gaussian	Hermite	$(-\infty, \infty)$
gamma	Laguerre	$[0, \infty)$
beta	Jacobi	$[a, b]$
uniform	Legendre	$[a, b]$

Note: lognormal random variables may be handled as a non-linear function (e.g., Taylor expansion) of a normal random variable.

## Random Polarization

We can apply Polynomial Chaos method to our random polarization

$$\tau \dot{\mathcal{P}} + \mathcal{P} = \epsilon_0(\epsilon_s - \epsilon_\infty)E, \quad \tau = \tau(\xi) = r\xi + r$$

resulting in

$$(rM + ml)\dot{\vec{\alpha}} + \vec{\alpha} = \epsilon_0(\epsilon_s - \epsilon_\infty)E\vec{e}_1 =: \vec{g}$$

or

$$A\dot{\vec{\alpha}} + \vec{\alpha} = \vec{g}.$$

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or

$$A\dot{\vec{\alpha}} + \vec{\alpha} = \vec{g}.$$

The macroscopic polarization, the expected value of the random polarization at each point  $(t, x)$ , is simply

$$P(t, x; F) = \alpha_0(t, x).$$

Applying the central difference approximation, based on the Yee scheme, Maxwell's equations with conductivity and polarization included

$$\epsilon \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial z} - \sigma E - \frac{\partial P}{\partial t}$$

and

$$\mu \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial z}$$

become

$$\frac{E_k^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - E_k^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{H_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^n - H_{k-\frac{1}{2}}^n}{\Delta z} - \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon} \frac{E_k^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + E_k^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{2} - \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{P_k^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - P_k^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t}$$

and

$$\frac{H_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - H_{k+\frac{1}{2}}^n}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{E_{k+1}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - E_k^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta z}.$$

Note that while the electric field and magnetic field are staggered in time, the polarization updates simultaneously with the electric field.

Need a similar approach for discretizing the PC system

$$A\dot{\vec{\alpha}} + \vec{\alpha} = \vec{g}.$$

Applying second order central differences, as before, to  $\vec{\alpha} = \vec{\alpha}(z_k)$ :

$$A \frac{\vec{\alpha}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - \vec{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t} + \frac{\vec{\alpha}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \vec{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{2} = \frac{\vec{g}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \vec{g}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{2}.$$

Combining like terms gives

$$(2A + \Delta t) \vec{\alpha}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = (2A - \Delta t) \vec{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} + \Delta t \left( \vec{g}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + \vec{g}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

Note that we first solve the discrete electric field equation for  $E_k^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$  and plug in here (in  $\vec{g}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$ ) to update  $\vec{\alpha}$ .

## Comments on Polynomial Chaos

- Gives a simple and efficient method to simulate systems involving distributions of parameters.
- Works equally well in three spatial dimensions.
- Limitation: choice of polynomials depends on type of distribution.
- Need error estimates to be sure that a sufficient number of polynomials is used in the expansion.

# Outline

- 1 Inverse Problems
  - Preliminaries
  - Distributions
- 2 Maxwell's Equations
  - Description
  - Simplifications
  - Discretization
- 3 Polarization
  - Description
  - Random Polarization
  - Polynomial Chaos
- 4 Inverse Problem for Distribution**
  - Discrete Distribution Example
  - Continuous Distribution Examples



## Inverse Problem for RTD

Now that we have a numerical method for simulating Maxwell's equations with random polarization

$$P(x, t; F) = \int_{\tau_a}^{\tau_b} \mathcal{P}(x, t; \tau) dF(\tau)$$

we address the inverse problem for the **relaxation time distribution**  $F$ .

- Given data  $\{\hat{E}_j\}_j$  we seek to determine a probability distribution  $F^*$ , such that

$$F^* = \min_{F \in \mathfrak{P}(\mathcal{Q})} \mathcal{J}(F),$$

where

$$\mathcal{J}(F) = \sum_j k \left( E(t_j; F) - \hat{E}_j \right)^2.$$

## Discrete Distribution Example

- Mixture of two Debye materials with  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$
- Total polarization a weighted average

$$P = \alpha_1 P_1(\tau_1) + \alpha_2 P_2(\tau_2)$$

- Corresponds to the discrete probability distribution

$$dF(\tau) = [\alpha_1 \delta(\tau_1) + \alpha_2 \delta(\tau_2)] d\tau$$

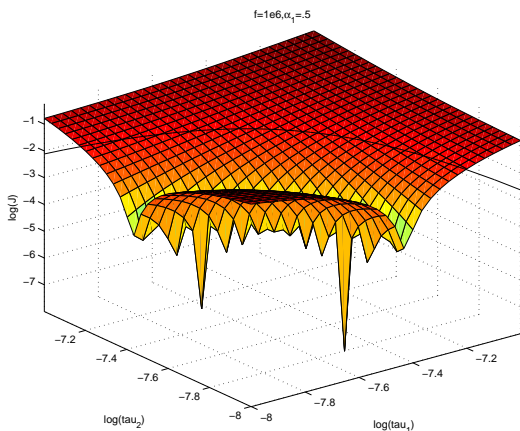
## Discrete Distribution Inverse Problem

- Assume the proportions  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2 = 1 - \alpha_1$  are known.
- Define the following least squares optimization problem:

$$\min_{(\tau_1, \tau_2)} \mathcal{J} = \min_{(\tau_1, \tau_2)} \sum_j \left| E(t_j, 0; (\tau_1, \tau_2)) - \hat{E}_j \right|^2,$$

where  $\hat{E}_j$  is *synthetic* data generated using  $(\tau_1^*, \tau_2^*)$  in our simulation routine.

# Discrete Distribution $J$ using $10^6$ Hz



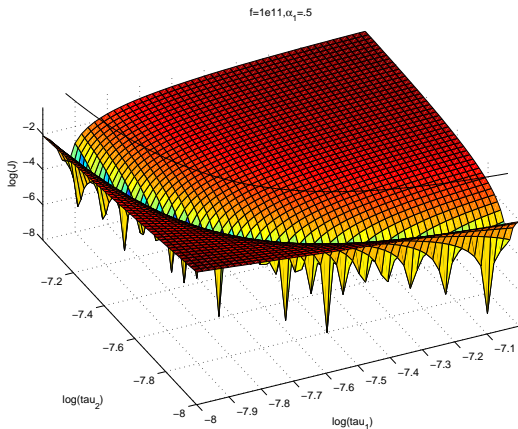
The solid line above the surface represents the curve of constant  $\tilde{\tau} := \alpha_1 \tau_1 + (1 - \alpha_1) \tau_2$ . Note:  $\omega \tilde{\tau} \approx .15 < 1$ .

Inverse Problem Results  $10^6 Hz$ 

	$\tau_1$	$\tau_2$	$\tilde{\tau}$
Initial	3.95000e-8	1.26400e-8	2.60700e-8
LM	3.19001e-8	1.55032e-8	2.37016e-8
Final	3.16039e-8	1.55744e-8	2.37016e-8
Exact	3.16000e-8	1.58000e-8	2.37000e-8

- Levenberg-Marquardt converges to curve of constant  $\tilde{\tau}$
- Traversing curve results in accurate final estimates

# Discrete Distribution $J$ using $10^{11}$ Hz



The solid line above the surface represents the curve of constant  $\tilde{\lambda} := \frac{1}{c\tilde{\tau}} = \frac{\alpha_1}{c\tau_1} + \frac{\alpha_2}{c\tau_2}$ . Note:  $\omega\tilde{\tau} \approx 15000 > 1$ .

Inverse Problem Results  $10^{11} Hz$ 

	$\tau_1$	$\tau_2$	$\tilde{\lambda}$
Initial	3.95000e-8	1.26400e-8	0.174167
LM	4.08413e-8	1.41942e-8	0.158333
Final	3.16038e-8	1.57991e-8	0.158333
Exact	3.16000e-8	1.58000e-8	0.158333

- Levenberg-Marquardt converges to curve of constant  $\tilde{\lambda}$
- Traversing curve results in accurate final estimates

## Log-Normal Distribution of $\tau$

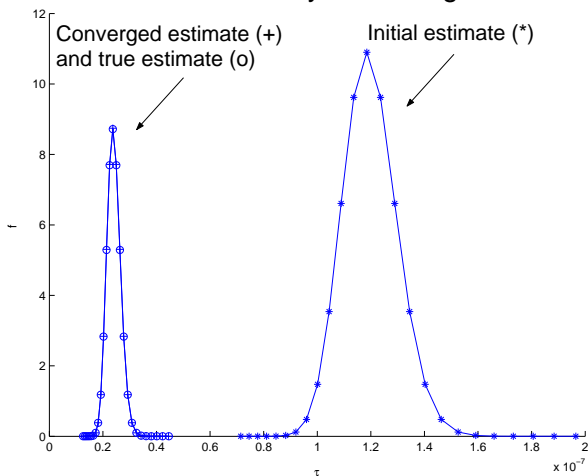
- Gaussian distribution of  $\log(\tau)$  with mean  $\mu$  and with standard deviation  $\sigma$ :

$$dF(\tau; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \frac{1}{\ln 10} \frac{1}{\tau} \exp\left(-\frac{(\log \tau - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) d\tau,$$

- Corresponding inverse problem:

$$\min_{q=(\mu, \sigma)} \sum_j \left| E(t_j, 0; (\mu, \sigma)) - \hat{E}_j \right|^2.$$



Estimated density of  $\tau$  as log normal

Shown are the initial density function, the minimizing density function and the true density function (the latter two being practically identical).

## Bi-Gaussian Distribution of $\log \tau$

- Bi-Gaussian distribution with means  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  and with standard deviations  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ :

$$dF(\tau) = \alpha_1 d\hat{F}(\tau; \mu_1, \sigma_1) + (1 - \alpha_1) d\hat{F}(\tau; \mu_2, \sigma_2),$$

where

$$d\hat{F}(\tau; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \frac{1}{\ln 10} \frac{1}{\tau} \exp\left(-\frac{(\log \tau - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) d\tau,$$

- Corresponding inverse problem:

$$\min_{q=(\mu_1, \sigma_1, \mu_2, \sigma_2)} \sum_j \left| |E(t_j, 0; q)| - |\hat{E}_j| \right|^2.$$

Bi-Gaussian Results with  $10^6 Hz$ 

case	$\mu_1$	$\sigma_1$	$\mu_2$	$\sigma_2$	$\tilde{\tau}$
Initial	1.58001e-7	0.036606	3.16002e-9	0.0571969	8.1201e-8
$\mu_1, \mu_2$	4.27129e-8	0.036606	4.24844e-9	0.0571969	2.36499e-8
Final	3.09079e-8	0.0136811	1.63897e-8	0.0663628	2.37978e-8
Exact	3.16000e-8	0.0457575	1.58000e-8	0.0457575	2.37957e-8

- Levenberg-Marquardt converges to curve of constant  $\tilde{\tau}$
- Traversing curve results in reasonable final estimates for  $\mu_k$  but worse for  $\sigma_k$ .

Note: for this continuous distribution,

$$\tilde{\tau} = \int_{\mathcal{T}} \tau dF(\tau).$$

Bi-Gaussian Results with  $10^{11} \text{ Hz}$ 

case	$\mu_1$	$\sigma_1$	$\mu_2$	$\sigma_2$	$\tilde{\lambda}$
Initial	1.58001e-7	0.036606	3.16002e-9	0.0571969	0.538786
$\mu_1, \mu_2$	1.58001e-7	0.036606	1.12595e-8	0.0571969	0.158863
Final	3.23914e-8	0.0366059	1.56020e-8	0.0571968	0.158863
Exact	3.16000e-8	0.0457575	1.58000e-8	0.0457575	0.158863

- Levenberg-Marquardt converges to curve of constant  $\tilde{\lambda}$
- Traversing curve results in reasonable final estimates for  $\mu_k$  but no change in  $\sigma_k$ .

Note: for this continuous distribution,

$$\tilde{\lambda} = \int_{\mathcal{T}} \frac{1}{c\tau} dF(\tau).$$

## Comments on Time-domain Inverse Problems

- Our estimation methods worked well for discrete distributions
- Our estimation methods worked well for the continuous uniform distribution and Gaussian distributions
- We are currently only able to determine the means in the bi-Gaussian distributions, this data is relatively insensitive to the standard deviations