

Erratum

An implementation of the reconstruction algorithm of A Nachman for the 2D inverse conductivity problem

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In theorem 3.1 of this paper we presented an estimate for $t(k)$ and $\mu(x, k)$ for k near zero. The statement of theorem 3.1 holds, but the proof contains two errors.

- We incorrectly stated that $S_0 = R_1$ for a general C^2 domain Ω . This led to an erroneous formula (24). We prove below that the identity $S_0 = \frac{1}{2}R_1$ holds when Ω is the unit disc. The proof of theorem 3.1 can then be corrected by reducing it to that case.
- We proved the (correct) estimate $\|\mathcal{H}_k\|_{L(H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega))} \leq C|k|$ for small $|k|$. However, in the original proof \mathcal{H}_k is an operator from $H^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ to $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. We provide a new argument showing that the above estimate can be used.

Define the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map corresponding to γ by $\Lambda_\gamma : H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$,

$$\langle \Lambda_\gamma f, h \rangle = \int_\Omega \gamma \nabla u \cdot \nabla v,$$

where v is any $H^1(\Omega)$ function with trace h on the boundary and $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ solves the Dirichlet problem

$$\nabla \cdot \gamma \nabla u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad u = f \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

Let $R_\gamma : \tilde{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow \tilde{H}^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ denote the Neumann-to-Dirichlet map of γ , where \tilde{H}^s spaces consist of H^s functions with mean value zero. We have $R_\gamma g = u|_{\partial\Omega}$, where u is the unique $H^1(\Omega)$ solution of the Neumann problem

$$\nabla \cdot \gamma \nabla u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \gamma \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = g \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

satisfying $\int_{\partial\Omega} u d\sigma = 0$. We note two key equalities concerning Λ_γ and R_γ . Define a projection operator $P\phi := |\partial\Omega|^{-1} \int_{\partial\Omega} \phi$. Then for any $f \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ we have $P\Lambda_\gamma f = |\partial\Omega|^{-1} \int_{\partial\Omega} \gamma \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = \int_\Omega \nabla \cdot \gamma \nabla u = 0$, so actually $\Lambda_\gamma : H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow \tilde{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. From the definitions of Λ_γ and R_γ we now have

$$\Lambda_\gamma R_\gamma = I \quad : \tilde{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow \tilde{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega), \tag{1}$$

$$R_\gamma \Lambda_\gamma = I - P \quad : H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow \tilde{H}^{1/2}(\partial\Omega). \tag{2}$$

Definition. Let $S_0 : H^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ denote the standard single layer operator

$$(S_0\phi)(x) := \int_{\partial\Omega} \Phi(x, y)\phi(y)d\sigma(y),$$

where $\Phi(x, y) = G_0(x - y) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \log|x - y|$.

Lemma. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be the unit disc and $f \in \tilde{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. Then $S_0 f = \frac{1}{2}R_1 f$.

Proof. By theorem 3.1 of [1] in dimension 2,

$$(S_0 f)(x) = u(x) + (D_0 u)(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad (3)$$

where u satisfies

$$\Delta u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = f \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

and

$$(D_0 \phi)(x) := \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\partial \Phi(x, y)}{\partial \nu(y)} \phi(y) d\sigma(y)$$

is the double layer potential with $x \in \Omega$.

We let x approach $\partial\Omega$ in (3) using jump relations. First, by theorem 2.13 of [1] $D_0 \phi$ can be continuously extended from Ω to $\bar{\Omega}$ with

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \tilde{x}} (D_0 \phi)(x) = \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\partial \Phi(\tilde{x}, y)}{\partial \nu(y)} \phi(y) d\sigma(y) - \frac{1}{2} \phi(\tilde{x}), \quad \tilde{x} \in \partial\Omega, \quad (4)$$

where $x \in \Omega$. Second, $S_0 \phi$ is continuous in \mathbb{R}^2 by theorem 2.12 of [1].

When Ω is the unit disc, D_0 on the boundary takes the simple form

$$(D_0 \phi)(\tilde{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \phi(y) d\sigma(y), \quad \tilde{x} \in \partial\Omega, \quad (5)$$

since

$$-2\pi \frac{\partial \Phi(\tilde{x}, y)}{\partial \nu(y)} = \frac{y - \tilde{x}}{|y - \tilde{x}|^2} \cdot y = \frac{1 - \tilde{x} \cdot y}{(y - \tilde{x}) \cdot (y - \tilde{x})} = \frac{1 - \tilde{x} \cdot y}{2 - 2\tilde{x} \cdot y} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

The lemma follows now from (3), (4) and (5):

$$\begin{aligned} (S_0 f)|_{\partial\Omega} &= u|_{\partial\Omega} + \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\partial \Phi(\tilde{x}, y)}{\partial \nu(y)} u(y) d\sigma(y) - \frac{1}{2} u|_{\partial\Omega} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (u|_{\partial\Omega} - \frac{1}{|\partial\Omega|} \int_{\partial\Omega} u(y) d\sigma(y)) = \frac{1}{2} R_1 f. \end{aligned}$$

□

We are now ready to re-prove theorem 3.1 of the original paper.

Proof. With no loss of generality we can assume that Ω is the unit disc $D(0, 1) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$. Namely, by theorem 3.3 of the original paper, replacing γ by $\tilde{\gamma}(x) := \gamma(\lambda x)$ with large enough $\lambda > 0$ yields $\text{supp}(\tilde{\gamma} - 1) \subset D(0, 1)$ and $\tilde{t}(k) = t(k/\lambda)$. Thus the estimate $|t(k)| \leq C|k|^2$ holds for $|k| \leq \varepsilon$ if and only if $|\tilde{t}(k)| \leq \tilde{C}|k|^2$ holds for $|k| \leq \lambda\varepsilon$. Furthermore, by chapter 6 of [2] it is equivalent to work on $\partial D(0, 1)$ or on $\partial\Omega'$ for any $\Omega' \subset D(0, 1)$.

Write using the above lemma and equation (2)

$$A_\gamma := I + S_0(\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1) = \frac{1}{2}(I + R_1 \Lambda_\gamma + P). \quad (6)$$

The operator $\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1$ is infinitely smoothing (and thus compact from $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$ to $H^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$) since $\gamma \equiv 1$ in a neighbourhood of $\partial\Omega$. By the Fredholm alternative, injectivity of $I + R_1 \Lambda_\gamma + P$ implies invertibility of A_γ . Assume

$$(I + R_1 \Lambda_\gamma + P)\phi = 0 \quad (7)$$

for some $\phi \in H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. Integrating (7) over $\partial\Omega$ gives $P\phi = 0$. This yields $\phi = -R_1 \Lambda_\gamma \phi$, and using equation (1) we get

$$\Lambda_1 \phi = -\Lambda_1 R_1 \Lambda_\gamma \phi = -\Lambda_\gamma \phi.$$

Let $u, \tilde{u} \in H^1(\Omega)$ be weak solutions of $\Delta u = 0$ and $\nabla \cdot \gamma \nabla \tilde{u} = 0$ in Ω with trace ϕ . Then

$$0 \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 = \langle \Lambda_1 \phi, \phi \rangle = -\langle \Lambda_\gamma \phi, \phi \rangle = -\int_{\Omega} \gamma |\nabla \tilde{u}|^2 \leq 0.$$

Clearly u must be constant and since $P(u|_{\partial\Omega}) = P\phi = 0$, this constant is zero.

By (6) we have $A_\gamma 1 = 1$ and thus $A_\gamma^{-1} 1 = 1$.

Since $\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1$ is infinitely smoothing we can treat it as an element of $L(H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega))$ and the estimate $\|\mathcal{H}_k\|_{L(H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega))} \leq C|k|$ can again be used as in the original paper to prove the theorem. Note that the last displayed formula before formula (25) in the original paper should be

$$\begin{aligned} \psi|_{\partial\Omega} &= [I + S_k(\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1)]^{-1} e^{ikx} \\ &= 1 + A_\gamma^{-1}(e^{ikx} - 1) \\ &\quad - A_\gamma^{-1} \mathcal{H}_k(\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1) [I + A_\gamma^{-1} \mathcal{H}_k(\Lambda_\gamma - \Lambda_1)]^{-1} e^{ikx}. \end{aligned}$$

□

References

- [1] Colton D and Kress R 1983 *Integral Equation Methods in Scattering Theory* (New York: Wiley)
- [2] Nachman A I 1996 Global uniqueness for a two-dimensional inverse boundary value problem *Ann. Math.* **143** 71–96