

The Factorization Method for Inverse Scattering Problems Part I

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 - The Direct Scattering Problem, Inhomogeneous Medium
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Introduction

Propagation of (acoustic) waves is modelled by **scalar wave equation** in \mathbb{R}^d for $d = 2$ or 3 :

$$\frac{\partial^2 U(x, t)}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \Delta_x U(x, t), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad t \geq 0,$$

where $U(x, t)$ is potential at location x and time t .

Speed of sound: c

Velocity: $\nabla_x U(x, t)$

Pressure: $-\partial U(x, t)/\partial t$

Special Case: Time harmonic (=periodic) waves, in complex form:

$$U(x, t) = u(x) e^{-i\omega t}$$

with circular frequency $\omega > 0$; that is $\lambda = 2\pi/\omega$ is wavelength.

Physical wave: $\operatorname{Re} U(x, t) = \operatorname{Re} u(x) \cos(\omega t) + \operatorname{Im} u(x) \sin(\omega t)$.

Introduction

u satisfies **Helmholtz equation** (reduced wave equation)

$$\Delta u(x) + k^2 u(x) = 0 \quad \text{in (part of) } \mathbb{R}^d,$$

with **wave number** $k = \omega/c > 0$.

Examples:

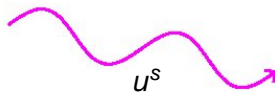
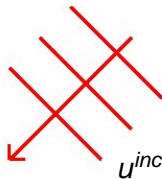
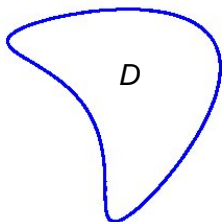
(a) **Plane wave** of direction $\hat{\theta} \in S^{d-1}$ (= unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^d):

$$u(x) = e^{ik\hat{\theta} \cdot x}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

(b) **Spherical wave** with source point $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$:

$$u(x) = \Phi(x, y) := \begin{cases} \frac{i}{4} H_0^{(1)}(k|x-y|), & d = 2, \\ \frac{\exp(ik|x-y|)}{4\pi|x-y|}, & d = 3, \end{cases} \quad x \neq y.$$

For a general scattering problem
a given (“incident”) wave u^{inc}
is disturbed by a medium D
and produces a scattered field u^s
Total field: $u = u^{inc} + u^s$



The **direct scattering problem** is to determine the scattered and total field when the wave number $k > 0$, the incident field u^{inc} , and the scattering medium D is given.

In the **inverse scattering problem** the incident and the scattered fields are known (“measured”), and the medium D has to be determined.

Literature on time harmonic (inverse) scattering theory:

- D. Colton, R. Kress: Inverse Acoustic and Electromagnetic Scattering Theory. 2nd edition, Springer, 1998.
- A. Kirsch: Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Inverse Problems. Springer 1996, 2011.
- J.-C. Nédélec: Acoustic and Electromagnetic Equations. Springer, 2001.

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

Simple **model** for scattering problem:

Helmholtz equation: $\Delta u + k^2 u = 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}$

Boundary condition: $u = 0$ on ∂D

Sommerfeld's radiation condition (SRC):

$$\frac{\partial u^s(x)}{\partial r} - ik u^s(x) = \mathcal{O}(r^{-(d+1)/2}), \quad r = |x| \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to $\hat{x} = x/|x| \in \mathcal{S}^{d-1}$.

This is a classical **boundary value problem** in the (unbounded) exterior domain $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}$ for u^s of the type:

$$\Delta v + k^2 v = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}, \quad v = f \text{ on } \partial D, \quad v \text{ satisfies SRC}$$

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

How to solve this exterior boundary value problem

$$\Delta v + k^2 v = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}, \quad v = f \text{ on } \partial D, \quad v \text{ satisfies SRC ?}$$

First **uniqueness**: This is based on **Lemma of Rellich**:

For $k > 0$ (real valued) and $\Delta v + k^2 v = 0$ for $|x| > R_0$ it holds that

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{|x|=R} |v|^2 ds = 0 \quad \text{implies} \quad v = 0 \text{ for } |x| > R_0$$

Proof of uniqueness: Assume $f = 0$. Green's theorem yields

$$o(1) = \int_{|x|=R} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} - ikv \right|^2 ds = \int_{|x|=R} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} \right|^2 + k^2 |v|^2 ds$$

$$+ \underbrace{2k \operatorname{Im} \int_{|x|=R} v \frac{\partial \bar{v}}{\partial r} ds}_{= 0}$$

by Green's theorem in $B_R \setminus D$
and $v = 0$ on ∂D .

Thus $v = 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus D$.

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

Existence: At least two approaches. Let $f \in H^{1/2}(\partial D)$.

(A) Variational approach: Let B be ball with radius R such that $\overline{D} \subset B$. Solution of ext. bvp for B is given by series ($d = 2$):

$$v(r, \phi) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{f_n}{H_n^{(1)}(kR)} H_n^{(1)}(kr) e^{in\phi},$$

with

$$f_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(R\phi) e^{-in\phi} d\phi.$$

This defines **Dirichlet-Neumann operator** $\Lambda : f \mapsto \partial v / \partial r|_{\partial B}$.

Green's formula in $B \setminus \overline{D}$:

$$\iint_{B \setminus \overline{D}} [\nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi - k^2 v \psi] dx = \int_{\partial B} \psi \frac{\partial v}{\partial \nu} ds \quad \text{for all } \psi \in X,$$

where

$$X = \{ \psi \in H^1(B \setminus \overline{D}) : \psi = 0 \text{ on } \partial D \}.$$

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

Substituting $\partial v / \partial \nu|_{\partial B} = \Lambda v$ yields: Determine $v \in H^1(B \setminus \bar{D})$ with $v = f$ on ∂D and

$$\iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} [\nabla v \cdot \nabla \psi - k^2 v \psi] dx = \int_{\partial B} \psi \Lambda v ds \quad \text{for all } \psi \in X.$$

Transformation to homogeneous boundary data: Choose $F \in H^1(B \setminus \partial D)$ with $F = f$ on ∂D and $F = 0$ on ∂B and make ansatz $v = F + w$. Then $w \in X$ has to solve

$$\iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} [\nabla \bar{w} \cdot \nabla \psi - k^2 \bar{w} \psi] dx - \int_{\partial B} \psi \Lambda \bar{w} ds = \ell(\psi), \quad \psi \in X$$

where
$$\ell(\psi) = - \iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} [\nabla \bar{F} \cdot \nabla \psi - k^2 \bar{F} \psi] dx, \quad \psi \in X.$$

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

$$\iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} [\nabla \bar{w} \cdot \nabla \psi - k^2 \bar{w} \psi] \, dx - \int_{\partial B} \psi \overline{\Lambda w} \, ds = \ell(\psi), \quad \psi \in X.$$

Remark: $\Lambda f = \Lambda_k f = k \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f_n \frac{(H_n^{(1)})'(kR)}{H_n^{(1)}(kR)} e^{in\phi}$

is bounded from $H^{1/2}(\partial B)$ into $H^{-1/2}(\partial B)$. Integral over ∂B is dual form $\langle \Lambda_k w, \psi \rangle$. Difference $\Lambda_k - \Lambda_i$ compact, sesqui-linear forms:

$$a(w, \psi) = \iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} \nabla \bar{w} \cdot \nabla \psi \, dx - \langle \Lambda_i w, \psi \rangle \quad \text{is coercive,}$$

$$b(w, \psi) = k^2 \iint_{B \setminus \bar{D}} \bar{w} \psi \, dx - \langle (\Lambda_i - \Lambda_k) w, \psi \rangle \quad \text{is compact.}$$

Theorem of [Lax-Milgram](#) and [Riesz-theory](#) yield existence.

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

(B) Boundary integral equation approach:

Recall fundamental solution

$$\Phi(x, y) := \begin{cases} \frac{i}{4} H_0^{(1)}(k|x-y|), & d = 2, \\ \frac{\exp(ik|x-y|)}{4\pi|x-y|}, & d = 3, \end{cases} \quad x \neq y.$$

Make ansatz for v as combination of double and single layer:

$$v(x) = \int_{\partial D} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \nu(y)} \Phi(x, y) + i \Phi(x, y) \right] \varphi(y) ds(y), \quad x \notin \bar{D},$$

with density $\varphi \in H^{1/2}(\partial D)$. Then v satisfies SRC and $\Delta v + k^2 v = 0$ outside of \bar{D} . Continuity properties of single and double layer with $H^{1/2}(\partial D)$ -density yields boundary integral equation

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

$$\varphi + D\varphi + iS\varphi = f \quad \text{in } H^{1/2}(\partial D),$$

where

$$(D\varphi)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial D} \varphi(\mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \nu(\mathbf{y})} \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \, ds(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial D,$$

$$(S\varphi)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial D} \varphi(\mathbf{y}) \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \, ds(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial D,$$

are compact in $H^{1/2}(\partial D)$. Again, Riesz-theory yields existence.

Literature on boundary integral equation approach:

- D. Colton, R. Kress: Inverse Acoustic and Electromagnetic Scattering Theory, 2nd edition, Springer, 1998.
- W. McLean: Strongly Elliptic Systems and Boundary Integral Operators, Cambridge University Press, 2000

Direct Scattering Problem, Dirichlet BC

Fundamental solution has asymptotic form

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \gamma_d \frac{\exp(ik|\mathbf{x}|)}{|\mathbf{x}|^{(d-1)/2}} \left[e^{-ik\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{y}} + \mathcal{O}(1/|\mathbf{x}|) \right], \quad |\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to $\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \mathbf{x}/|\mathbf{x}| \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ and $\mathbf{y} \in \partial D$, where $\gamma_2 = (1+i)/(4\sqrt{k\pi})$ and $\gamma_3 = 1/(4\pi)$. Ansatz yields

$$v(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_d \frac{\exp(ik|\mathbf{x}|)}{|\mathbf{x}|^{(d-1)/2}} \left[v^\infty(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \mathcal{O}(1/|\mathbf{x}|) \right], \quad |\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to $\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \mathbf{x}/|\mathbf{x}| \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$.

For special case $f(\mathbf{x}) = -u^{inc}(\mathbf{x}) = -\exp(ik\hat{\theta} \cdot \mathbf{x})$ the function $u^\infty = u^\infty(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\theta})$ is called **far field pattern** or **scattering amplitude**.

Direct Scattering Problem, Inhom. Medium

Medium penetrable with index of refraction $1 + q$.

Direct scattering problem: Given bounded domain D and $k > 0$ and $q \in L^\infty(D)$ with $q \geq \hat{q} > 0$ on D and $u^{inc}(x) = \exp(ik\hat{\theta} \cdot x)$, determine total field u and scattered field $u^s = u - u^{inc}$ such that

$$\Delta u + k^2(1 + q)u = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d, \quad u^s \text{ satisfies SRC.}$$

Uniqueness again by Rellich's Lemma and unique continuation.

Existence by, e.g., Lippmann-Schwinger integral equation

$$u(x) = u^{inc}(x) + k^2 \iint_D q(y) u(y) \Phi_k(x, y) dy, \quad x \in D.$$

Again:
$$u^s(x) = \gamma_d \frac{\exp(ik|x|)}{|x|^{(d-1)/2}} [u^\infty(\hat{x}) + \mathcal{O}(1/|x|)], \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to $\hat{x} := x/|x| \in S^{d-1}$ with **far field pattern**
 $u^\infty = u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})$.

Inverse Scattering Problem (Dirich. BC)

Recall: Incident plane wave $u^{inc}(x) = \exp(ik\hat{\theta} \cdot x)$ is scattered by obstacle $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and produces scattered field $u^s = u^s(x, \hat{\theta})$ and total field $u = u^{inc} + u^s$ satisfying

$$\Delta u + k^2 u = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}, \quad u = 0 \text{ on } \partial D,$$

and u^s satisfies Sommerfeld's radiation condition (SRC).

u^s has asymptotic behaviour

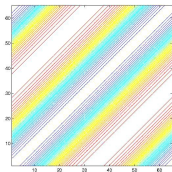
$$u^s(x, \hat{\theta}) = \gamma_d \frac{\exp(ik|x|)}{|x|^{(d-1)/2}} [u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}) + \mathcal{O}(1/|x|)], \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty,$$

uniformly with respect to $\hat{x} := x/|x| \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ and $\hat{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$.

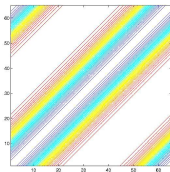
The **inverse scattering problem** is to determine the shape of D from the knowledge of the **far field pattern** $u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})$ for all $\hat{x}, \hat{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$.

The Inverse Scattering Problem

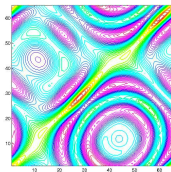
Which domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ corresponds to the following far fields $u^\infty(\phi, \theta)$, $\phi, \theta \in [0, 2\pi]$?



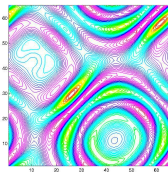
$\text{Re } u^\infty$



$\text{Im } u^\infty$



$\text{Re } u^\infty$



$\text{Im } u^\infty$

Left example simple:

Theorem of Karp: If $u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}) = \psi(\hat{x} \cdot \hat{\theta})$ for all $\hat{x}, \hat{\theta} \in S^{d-1}$, then D is a ball in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} .

The Inverse Scattering Problem

First **uniqueness**:

Theorem (Schiffer, before 1967)

The far field patterns $u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})$ determine D uniquely; that is, if $D_j \leftrightarrow u_j^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})$ for $j = 1, 2$, then:

$$u_1^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}) = u_2^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}) \text{ for all } \hat{x}, \hat{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1} \implies D_1 = D_2.$$

Second **stability**:

Theorem (Isakov 1991, 1993)

Let D_1, D_2 be star-shaped with respect to the origin; that is, $D_j = \{r\hat{x} : r < d_j(\hat{x}), \hat{x} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}\}$. Assume $\frac{1}{c_0} \leq \|d_j\|_{2+\tau} \leq c_0$ and

$$|u_1^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}) - u_2^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})| \leq \varepsilon \text{ for all } \hat{x} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1} \text{ and some } \hat{\theta} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}.$$

Then $\|d_1 - d_2\|_\infty \leq c \ln(-\ln \varepsilon)^{-1/c}$

where c depends only on c_0 .

The Inverse Scattering Problem

Third reconstruction techniques:

(A) **Iterative methods.** Define mapping (for fixed incident field) $\mathcal{F} : D \mapsto u^\infty$. Apply iterative method to solve $\mathcal{F}(D) = f$ for D where f is given (measured) far field pattern.

After parametrization (for, e.g., star-shaped obstacles) this leads to $\mathcal{F} : C^2(S^{d-1}, \mathbb{R}_{>0}) \rightarrow C(S^{d-1}, \mathbb{C})$. Possible members of this group: Newton-type methods, gradient-type methods, second order methods. Derivatives are computed via, e.g., **domain derivatives**.

Advantages: Very general, accurate, incorporation of a priori information possible.

Disadvantages: “Expensive”, only local convergence, a priori information necessary (number of components, type of boundary condition).

The Inverse Scattering Problem

(B) **Methods based on analytic continuation.** First step: Given (measured) far field pattern f on D^{d-1} determine (approximation of) scattered field u^s with $u^\infty = f$. Second step: Determine surface Γ such that $u^s + u^{inc} = 0$ on Γ . Usually, both steps are combined into one functional to be minimized. Members of this group: *Dual space method* by Colton/Monk, *continuation method* by Kirsch/Kress, *point source method* by Potthast, *contrast source inversion method* by Kleinman/van den Berg.

Advantages: Avoids computation of direct problems, quite general, incorporation of a priori information possible.

Disadvantages: Only local convergence since methods are based on minimization of non-quadratic functionals, a priori information necessary (number of components, type of boundary condition).

The Inverse Scattering Problem

(C) **Sampling Methods.** Choose set of *sampling objects*, e.g. points $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and construct binary criterium which uses only the data u^∞ to decide whether or not z belongs to D . Members of this group: *Linear sampling method* by Colton/Kirsch, *Factorization method* by Kirsch (both use points $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ as sampling objects), *Probe method* by Ikehata (curves), *No-response-test* by Luke/Potthast (domains), *Singular sources method* by Potthast (points, in combination with point source method)

We discuss only **Factorization method**.

Advantages: Fast, avoids computation of direct problems, no a priori information on type of boundary condition or number of components necessary, mathematically elegant and rigorous, gives characteristic function explicitly.

Disadvantages: Needs $u^\infty(\hat{x}, \hat{\theta})$ for many (in theory: all) $\hat{x}, \hat{\theta}$, no incorporation of a-priory information possible, very sensitive to noise