

Inverse Problems for Integro-differential Operators

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2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 26A33, 35R30

Key words and phrases. Inverse problems, integro-differential operators, unique continuation, Runge approximation, uniqueness, stability, reconstruction

To our families and all who have supported us

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Preface

Inverse problems are concerned with determining causes by knowledge of consequences. They lie at the heart of scientific inquiry and technological development and remain a central topic to mathematical sciences. The mathematical research of inverse problems has its own philosophy and methodologies. This book is devoted to a frontier topic on the inverse problems for integro-differential operators, a.k.a. nonlocal operators. Due to its theoretical particularity and practical significance, the corresponding study has received considerable attention and growing interest in the inverse problems community. Hence, it is a timely moment for a research monograph devoted to this intriguing and important field of mathematical research.

It is known the nonlocality may occur in time or space or both. This book is mainly concerned with the nonlocality in space. It covers the fundamental aspects of both the forward and inverse problems associated with integro-differential operators. For the forward problems, we introduce several useful properties, such as the well-posedness, maximum principles and unique continuation property. For the inverse problems, we cover the modelling, unique identifiability and stability issues as well as reconstruction methods for a variety of nonlocal inverse problems and connect them to physical applications. There are some pioneering contributions as well as growing results in the literature in this field.

On the one hand, we summarize and review the pioneering developments in a systematic and comprehensive manner. On the other hand, we present overviews on some new developments, especially those by the two authors as well as their coauthors. This field is still being under fast development. It is replenished with challenging problems, and moreover new applications keep giving rise to new nonlocal inverse problems. It is our aim to introduce a frontier field of research as well as to inspire further developments with novel perspectives and new insights. This book can serve as a textbook for graduate students or beginning researchers who are interested in this active field of research, and it can also serve as a handy reference for active researchers.

Acknowledgment

During the writing of the book, many people have helped us. We would like to extend our deep gratitude to all of them including Dr. Longyue Tao. We want to express our gratitude to our collaborators and friends including Xinlin Cao, Mihajlo Cekić, Ali Feizmohammadi, Tuhin Ghosh, Bastian Harrach, Pu-Zhao Kow, Katya Krupchyk, Ru-Yu Lai, Matti Lassas, Tony Liimatainen, Ching-Lung Lin, Gen Nakamura, Jesse Railo, Angkana Rüland, Mikko Salo, Teemu Tyni, Gunther Uhlmann, Jenn-Nan Wang, Jingni Xiao and Philipp Zimmermann (in alphabetical order), and this book is based on some of our joint research topics and fruitful discussions.

Yi-Hsuan Lin would like to acknowledge the research support from the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in Taiwan (No. 113-2628-M-A49-003 and 113-2115-M-A49-017-MY3), and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for the prestigious Humboldt research fellowship in Germany. Hongyu Liu would like to acknowledge the research support from the Hong Kong RGC General Research Funds (No. 11311122, 11304224 and 11300821), the NSFC/RGC Joint Research Fund (No. N_CityU101/21), and the ANR/RGC Joint Research Grant (No. A_CityU203/19).

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