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Inverse problems for non-linear partial differential equations

by

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ABSTRACT

In the talk we give an overview on how inverse problems can be used solved using non-linear interaction of the solutions. This method can be used for several different inverse problems for non-linear hyperbolic or elliptic equations. In this approach one does not consider the non-linearity as a troublesome perturbation term, but as an effect that aids in solving the problem. Using it, one can solve inverse problems for non-linear equations for which the corresponding problem for linear equations is still unsolved. For the hyperbolic equations, we consider the non-linear wave equation $\square_g u + u^m = f$ on a Lorentzian manifold $M \times \mathbb{R}$ and the source-to-solution map $\Lambda_V: f \mapsto u|_V$ that maps a source f , supported in an open domain $V \subset M \times \mathbb{R}$, to the restriction of u in V . Under suitable conditions, we show that the observations in V , that is, the map Λ_V , determine the metric g in a larger domain which is the maximal domain where signals sent from V can propagate and return back to V . We apply non-linear interaction of solutions of the linearized equation also to study non-linear elliptic equations. For example, we consider $\Delta_g u + qu^m = 0$ in $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ with the boundary condition $u|_{\partial\Omega} = f$. For this equation we define the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map $\Lambda_{\partial\Omega}: f \mapsto u|_V$. Using the high-order interaction of the solutions, we consider various inverse problems for the metric g and the potential q .

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