Scattering from corners and other singularities

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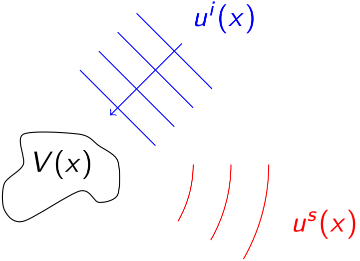
Scattering theory

Fixed frequency scattering



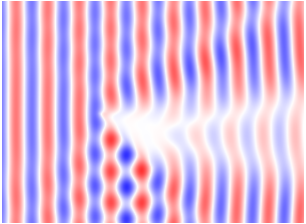
The total wave u satisfies

$$\left(\Delta + k^2(1+V)\right)u = 0,$$

V models a perturbation of the background,

$$u = \underbrace{u^i(x)}_{\text{incident wave}} + \underbrace{u^s(x)}_{\text{scattered wave}}$$

Scattering theory



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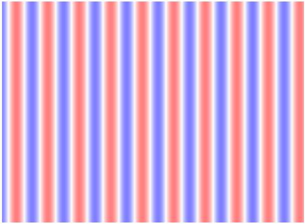

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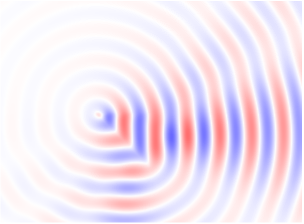
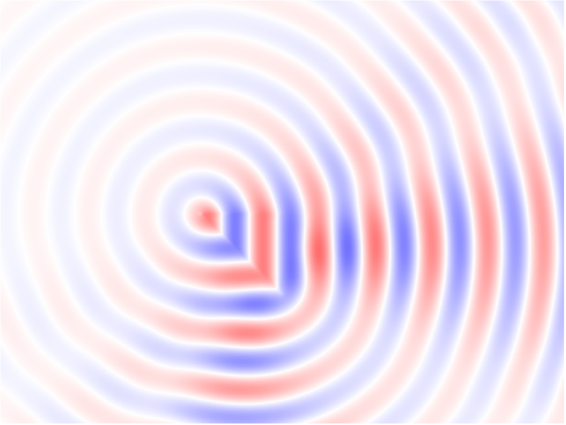


$$u = u^i + u^s$$

Fixed frequency scattering theory: measurements



Measurement: A_{u^i} is the far-field pattern of the scattered wave

$$u^s(x) = \frac{e^{ik|x|}}{|x|^{(n-1)/2}} A_{u^i}\left(\frac{x}{|x|}\right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{|x|^{n/2}}\right)$$

Different inverse scattering problems

Given the far-field map $u^i \mapsto A_{u^i}$, recover the scattering potential V or its support Ω.

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- full far-field map given for all large frequencies (Saito 1984)
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  - Sylvester–Uhlmann 1987: 3D Calderón problem
  - R. Novikov 1988: 3D scattering
  - Bukhgeim 2007: 2D scattering
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My focus is on single measurement: A_{u^i} given only for a single u^i.

Schiffer's problem: can a single measurement determine Ω?

Why one measurement only?

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Example: Lord Rutherford's gold-foil experiment

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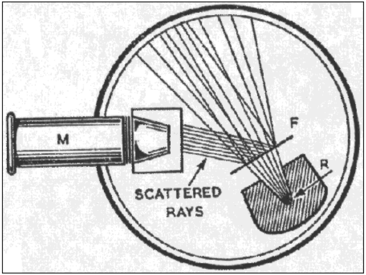

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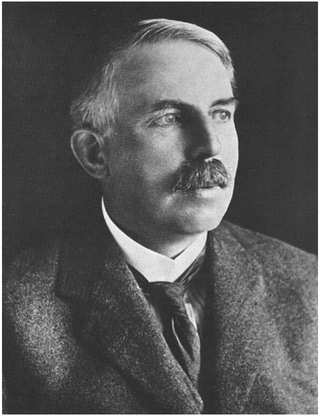

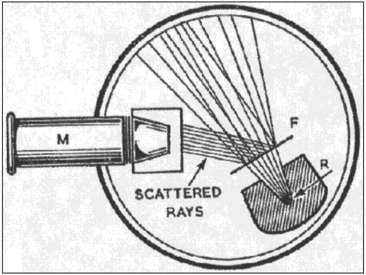

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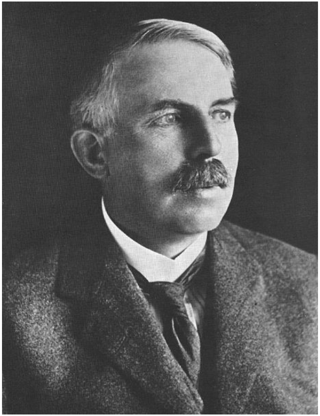
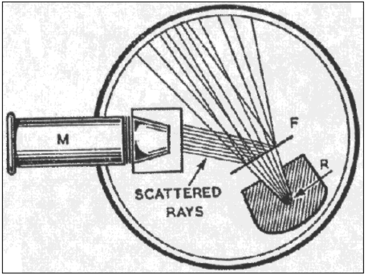
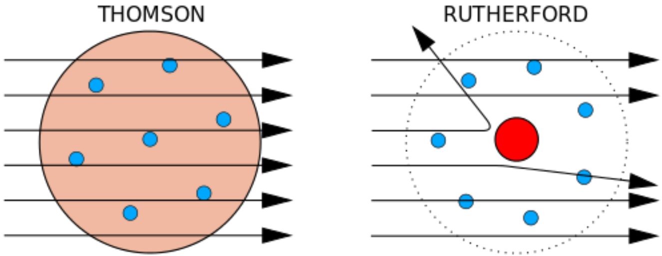




Single incident wave

Scattering theory

Rutherford experiment's conclusions



measurement + a-priori information = conclusion

What if the measurement gives nothing?

It is very unfortunate if the far-field map is not injective. Most scattering potentials do have interior transmission eigenvalues. These exist when the map is non-injective. So it looks like the situation is unfortunate?

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However, if k is a transmission eigenvalue A_{u^i} can become arbitrarily small with $\|u^i\| \geq 1$.

Proof sketch

Rellich's theorem and unique continuation imply $u = u^i$ in $\Omega^{\complement}$ so

$$k^2 \int V u^i u_0 dx = -\int_\Omega u_0 (\Delta + k^2(1+V))(u - u^i) dx = 0$$

if $(\Delta + k^2(1+V))u_0 = 0$ in Ω.

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In simple case

$$\begin{aligned} u^i(x) &= u^i(0) + u^i_r(x) \\ u_0(x) &= e^{\rho\cdot x}(1+\psi(x)) \\ V(x) &= \chi_{[0,\infty[^n}(x)(\varphi(0) + \varphi_r(x)) \end{aligned}$$

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Hölder estimates give

$$C\left|\varphi(0)u^i(0)\right| |\rho|^{-n} \leq \left|\varphi(0)u^i(0)\int_{[0,\infty[^n} e^{\rho\cdot x}dx\right| \leq C|\rho|^{-n-\delta}$$

if $\|\psi\|_p \leq C|\rho|^{-n/p-\varepsilon}$.

Some follow-up corner scattering results by others

- Päivärinta–Salo–Vesalainen 2017: 2D any angle, 3D almost any spherical cone
- Hu–Salo–Vesalainen 2016: smoothness reduction, new arguments, polygonal scatterer probing
- Elschner–Hu 2015, 2018: 3D any domain having two faces meet at an angle, and also curved edges
- Liu–Xiao 2017: electromagnetic waves
- ...
- free boundary methods:
  - Cakoni–Vogelius 2021: border singularities
  - Salo–Shahgholian 2021: analytic boundary non-scattering
  - ...

Lower bound for far-field pattern

Arbitrary Herglotz wave

Theorem (B.–Liu 2017)

Let u^i be a normalized Herglotz wave,

$$u^i(x) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} e^{ik\theta\cdot x} g(\theta) d\sigma(\theta), \qquad \|g\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})} = 1,$$

and let $V = \chi_P \varphi$ be admissible with x_c a corner of P. Then

$$\|A_{u^i}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})} \geq C_{\|P_N\|, V} > 0$$

where

$$u^i(x_c + r\theta) = r^N P_N(\theta) + \mathcal{O}(r^{N+1}),$$
$$\|P_N\| = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} |P_N(\theta)|\, d\sigma(\theta) > 0.$$

Mistake?

F. Cakoni: "Incident waves that approximate transmission eigenfunctions produce arbitrarily small far-field patterns."

From apparent contradiction to inspiration

Theorem (B.–Liu 2017)

Let the potential $V = \chi_\Omega \varphi$ *be admissible. Let* $v, w \neq 0$ *be transmission eigenfunctions:*

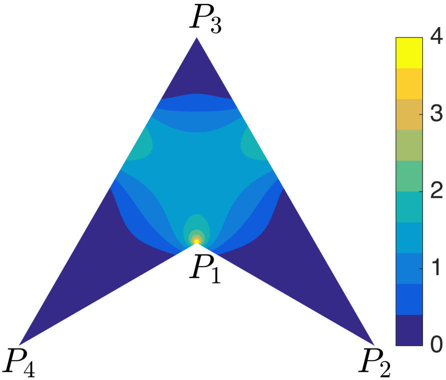
$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta + k^2) v &= 0, \qquad \Omega \\ (\Delta + k^2(1+V)) w &= 0, \qquad \Omega \\ w - v &\in H_0^2(\Omega). \end{aligned}$$

Under C^α-smoothness of v near a convex corner x_c we have

$$v(x_c) = w(x_c) = 0.$$

Transmission eigenfunction localization

B.–Li–Liu–Wang 2017



Non-scattering

Technically simpler than potential scattering: inverse source problem

$$(\Delta + k^2)u = f, \qquad \lim_{r\to\infty} (\partial_r - ikr)\, u = 0$$

Can one have $f \neq 0$ but $u_\infty = 0$?

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Yes: let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & |x| < r_0 \\ 0, & |x| \geq r_0 \end{cases}$$

where $r_0 > 0$.

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where $r_0 > 0$. Then

$$u_\infty(\theta) = c_{k,n}\hat{f}(k\theta) = c'_{k,n} J_{n/2}(kr_0) = 0$$

if kr_0 is a zero of the Bessel function of order $n/2$.

Always scattering

Smallness 1/2

A small uniform ball always scatters!

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Also: any source with small shape always scatters!

Theorem (B.–Liu, 2021)

Let $n \geq 2$, $R_m, k \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded Lipschitz domain of diameter at most R_m and whose complement is connected. Let Ω_c be a component of Ω. The source $f = \chi_\Omega \varphi$ radiates a non-zero far-field pattern at wavenumber k if

$$\big(\operatorname{diam}(\Omega_c)\big)^\alpha \leq C \frac{\sup_{\partial\Omega_c} |\varphi|}{\|\varphi\|_{C^\alpha(\overline{\Omega}_c)}},$$

for some $C = C(k, R_m, n) > 0$.

Always scattering

Smallness 2/2: Proof

Suppose $(\Delta + k^2)u = \chi_\Omega \varphi$ and $u_\infty = 0$. Then $u_{|\Omega^\complement} = 0$, so $u_{|\Omega_c} \in H_0^2(\Omega_c)$ and $(\Delta + k^2)u = \varphi$ in Ω_c.

Always scattering

Smallness 2/2: Proof

Suppose $(\Delta + k^2)u = \chi_\Omega \varphi$ and $u_\infty = 0$. Then $u_{|\Omega^\complement} = 0$, so $u_{|\Omega_c} \in H_0^2(\Omega_c)$ and $(\Delta + k^2)u = \varphi$ in Ω_c.
Set $g = \varphi - k^2 u$. Elliptic regularity implies $g \in C^\alpha(\overline{\Omega}_c)$ with $\|g\|_\alpha \leq C(n, k, R_m)\|\varphi\|_\alpha$. Moreover $g = \Delta u$ and so

$$\int_{\Omega_c} g(x)dx = \int_{\Omega_c} 1 \cdot \Delta u dx = 0$$

because $u = \partial_\nu u = 0$ in $\partial\Omega_c$.

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because $u = \partial_\nu u = 0$ in $\partial\Omega_c$. Let $p \in \partial\Omega_c$. Then

$$\varphi(p) m(\Omega_c) = g(p) m(\Omega_c) = -\int_{\Omega_c} \big(g(x) - g(p)\big) dx$$

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Hence

$$|\varphi(p)| \, m(\Omega_c) \leq \|g\|_\alpha \int_{\Omega_c} |x - p|^\alpha \, dx \leq \|g\|_\alpha \, m(\Omega_c) \big(\operatorname{diam}(\Omega_c)\big)^\alpha.$$

Inverse source problem, Schiffer's problem

$$(\Delta + k^2)u = f = \chi_\Omega \varphi, \qquad \lim_{r\to\infty}(\partial_r - ikr)u = 0$$

Can $u_\infty(\theta) = c\hat{f}(k\theta)$ determine Ω when k is fixed?

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Unique determination:

- $u_\infty = u'_\infty \implies \Omega = \Omega'$ for convex polyhedral shapes (corner scattering). Assuming non-vanishing total waves, also for elasticity (B.–Lin 2018), electromagnetism (B.–Liu–Xiao 2021),
- $u_\infty = u'_\infty \implies \Omega \approx \Omega'$ for convex polyhedral shapes whose corners have been smoothened to admissible K-curvature points (high curvature scattering, B.–Liu 2021),
- $u_\infty = u'_\infty \implies \Omega \approx \Omega'$ for well-separated collections of small scatterers (small source scattering, B.–Liu 2021).

Non-spherical cones

Potential scattering

Let C be any cone whose cross-section K is star-shaped and $\chi_K \in H^\tau(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for some $\tau > 1/2$.

Theorem (B.–Pohjola 2022)

For any $\delta > 0$ there is a cone C_δ such that $d_H(C_\delta, C) < \delta$ and with the following property: potentials of the form

$$V = \chi_{C_\delta} \varphi$$

where φ is smooth enough (roughly $C^{1/4}$) and non-zero at the vertex always scatter.

Non-spherical cones

Source scattering (easier)

Theorem (B.–Pohjola 2022)

A source $f = \chi_C \varphi$ for $(\Delta + k^2)u = f$ scatters for any $k > 0$ when φ is smooth enough and non-zero at the vertex of the cone C when

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^2 \cap C} Y_2^m dS \neq 0$$

for $m \in \{-2, -1, 0, +1, +2\}$ and Y_2^m is the spherical harmonic of degree 2. This is true if C fits into a thin enough spherical cone.

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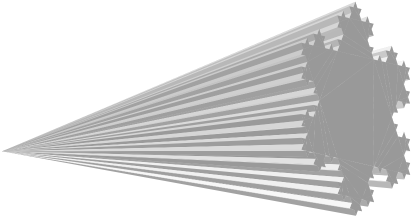
"Thin enough" means $\cos\theta \leq 1/\sqrt{3}$. The magic angle is $\approx 54.74^\circ$.



Scattering screens

A flat screen $\Omega = \Omega_0 \times \{0\}$ with $\Omega_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ simply connected, bounded and smooth. Scattering from such a screen:

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta + k^2)u^s &= 0, && \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \\ u^i + u^s &= 0, && \Omega, \\ r(\partial_r - ik)u^s &\to 0, && r = |x| \to \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Let Ω, Ω' be flat screens, $k > 0$, u^i an arbitary incident wave, and $u^s, u^{s\prime}$ corresponding scattered waves.

Theorem (B.–Päivärinta–Sadique 2020)

- *If* $u^i(x_1, x_2, x_3) + u^i(x_1, x_2, -x_3) \neq 0$ *for some* x *and* $u^s_\infty = {u^{s\prime}}_\infty$ *then* $\Omega = \Omega'$.
- *If* $u^i(x_1, x_2, x_3) + u^i(x_1, x_2, -x_3) = 0$ *for all* x *then* $u^s_\infty = {u^{s\prime}}_\infty = 0$.

Thank you!