

Level-set approaches of L_2 type for recovering shape and contrast in ill-posed problems

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Inverse Problems under Capricorn

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Plans

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- 2 Our Approaches
 - Standard level set approach (sLS)
 - Piecewise constant level set approach (pcLS)
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- Look in the model

$$F(u) = y \quad F \text{ operator.} \quad (1)$$

- The **direct problem**:
given the parameter u , solve (1)
- The **inverse problem**:
given a set of data y , recover u in (1).
- set of data $y \in Y$ is obtained by indirect measurements of the parameter
- measurements \implies data corrupted by noise $y^\delta \in Y$ satisfying

$$\|y - y^\delta\|_Y \leq \delta. \quad (2)$$

- **Direct problems:** are well posed \longleftrightarrow existence, uniqueness, stability.
- **Inverse problem:** are ill posed
- **Inverse Problems** call for regularization strategies !!!!!

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- **Inverse Problems** call for regularization strategies !!!!!

The inverse problems that we are looking ...

- Several inverse problems of interest consist of identifying an unknown physical quantity $u \in X$
- u represented by a **piecewise constant** real function over a bounded given domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
- Ex: image problems (u represent the grey scale) , EIT problems, inverse potential problems, ...
- The relation between the unknown parameter function and the problem data is described by the model

$$F(u) = y \quad F : \mathcal{D}(F) \subset X \longrightarrow Y \quad (3)$$

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- If the unknown function u is piecewise constant distinguishing between **two or several given values**, level-set approaches were considered by several authors (Osher, Tai, Burger, ...)
- In this case, we only need to identify the level sets of u \iff shape identification problem.
- If the level values of u are also unknown, the inverse problem becomes harder, since one has to identify both the level sets as well as the level values of the unknown parameter u .

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- assumption that the parameter function u is a piecewise constant function assuming two distinct unknown values
- $u(x) \in \{c^1, c^2\}$ a.e. in Ω
- In this case one can assume the existence of an open measurable set $D \subset \Omega$, s.t.

$$u(x) = c^1, x \in D =: D_1 \quad u(x) = c^2, x \in \Omega/D =: D_2$$

Standard level set approach (sLS)

- consists in introducing the level set function $\phi \in L_2(\Omega)$ that acts as a regularization in the parameter space

u can be represented as

$$u = c^2 H(\phi) + c^1 (1 - H(\phi)) =: P_s(\phi, c^j)$$

- $u(x) = c^j$, $x \in D_j$, where $D_2 = \{x \in \Omega : \phi(x) > 0\}$ and $D_1 = \{x \in \Omega : \phi(x) \leq 0\}$

Some remarks:

- i) The operator P_s establishes a straightforward relation between the level sets of ϕ and the sets D_j
- ii) representing our a priori knowledge about the solution u .

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Standard level set approach (sLS)

$$F(u) = y \quad (3) \quad \|y - y^\delta\|_Y \leq \delta \quad (2)$$

- With the (sLS) approach the inverse problem (3), with data given by (2), can be written in the form of the operator equation

$$F(P_s(\phi, c^j)) = y^\delta. \quad (4)$$

- To obtain an approximated solution of (4), we propose the minimization of the Tikhonov functional

$$G_{s,\alpha}(\phi, c^j) = \|F(P_s(\phi, c^j)) - y^\delta\|_Y^2 + \alpha R_s(\phi, c^j) \quad (5)$$

with a **TV- L_2 regularization**

$$R_s(\phi, c^j) := \beta_1 |H(\phi)|_{BV} + \beta_2 \|\phi\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2 + \beta_2 \|c^j\|_{\mathbb{R}^2}^2.$$

Piecewise constant level set approach (pCLS)

- consisting in introduce the piecewise constant level set function $\phi \in L_2(\Omega)$ such that $\phi(x) = j \quad x \in D_j$
- then define auxiliary functions $\psi_1(t) = (2 - t)$ and $\psi_2(t) = (t - 1)$. Hence, we represent the characteristic function of D_j as $\chi_{D_j}(x) = \psi_j(\phi)$
- the solution of (3) can be written in the form

$$u = c^1 \psi_1(\phi) + c^2 \psi_2(\phi) = P_{pc}(\phi, c^j). \quad (6)$$

Piecewise constant level set approach (pCLS)

$$F(u) = y \quad (3) \quad \|y - y^\delta\|_Y \leq \delta \quad (2)$$

- Remark: The piecewise constant assumption on ϕ corresponds to the constraint

$$\mathcal{K}(\phi) = (\phi - 1)(\phi - 2) = 0. \quad (7)$$

- With this framework, the inverse problem (3), with data given by (2), can be written as

$$F(P_{pc}(\phi, c^j)) = y^\delta, \quad (8)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \phi \in L_2(\Omega) : \mathcal{K}(\phi) = 0.$$

- Approximate solutions to (8) can be obtained by minimizing the Tikhonov functional

$$\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j) = \|F(P_{pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j)) - \mathbf{y}^\delta\|_Y^2 + \beta_3 \|\mathcal{K}(\phi)\|_{L_1(\Omega)} + \alpha R_{pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j) \quad (9)$$

where

$$R_{pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j) := \beta_1 |P_{pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j)|_{BV} + \beta_2 \|\mathbf{c}^j\|_{\mathbb{R}}^2.$$

Notice that the minimization of the functional $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}$ furnishes a regularized solution to the system of operator equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} F(P_{pc}(\phi, \mathbf{c}^j)) \\ \mathcal{K}(\phi) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}^\delta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- (A1) $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is bounded with piecewise C^1 boundary.
- (A2) The operator $F : \mathcal{D}(F) \subset L_p(\Omega) \longrightarrow Y$ is continuous on $\mathcal{D}(F)$ with respect to the L_p -topology, where $1 \leq p < 2$.
- (A3) α, β denote positive parameters.
- (A4) Equation (3) has a solution, i.e. there exists $u \in L_\infty(\Omega)$ satisfying $F(u) = y$; there exists a function $\phi \in L_2(\Omega)$ satisfying $|\nabla\phi| \neq 0$, in a neighborhood of $\{\phi = 0\}$ such that $H(\phi) = z \in L_1(\Omega)$ and there exist constants values $c^j \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $P_s(z, c^j) = u$.
- (A4') Equation (3) has a solution, i.e. there exists $u \in L_\infty(\Omega)$ satisfying $F(u) = y$; there exists a function $\phi \in BV(\Omega)$ and there exist constants values $c^1 \neq c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $P_{pc}(\phi, c^j) = u$.

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- (sLS) approach

The graph of $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,s}$ is not closed!

- We look for **generalized minimizers** of $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,s}$.
- Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Define the smooth approximation of H

$$H_\varepsilon(t) = \begin{cases} 1 + t/\varepsilon, & t \in [-\varepsilon, 0] \\ H(t), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

and

$$P_{\varepsilon,s}(\phi) = c^1 H_\varepsilon(\phi) + c^2 (1 - H_\varepsilon(\phi)).$$

■ Generalized Minimizers of $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,s}$:

- 1) A **vector** $(z, \phi, c^j) \in L_\infty(\Omega) \times L_2(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}^2$ is called **admissible** when there exists sequences
 - i) $\phi_k \in L_2(\Omega)$ with $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|\phi_k - \phi\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0$;
 - ii) $\exists \varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0^+$ such that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|H_{\varepsilon_k}(\phi_k) - z\|_{L_p(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0$;
- 2) A **generalized minimizer** of $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,s}$ is considered as any admissible vector (z, ϕ, c^j) minimizing

$$G_\alpha(z, \phi, c^j) = \|F(q(z, c^j)) - y^\delta\|_Y^2 + \alpha R(z, \phi, c^j), \quad (10)$$

where $q(z, c^j) = c^1 z + c^2(1 - z)$ and

$$R(z, \phi, c^j) = \inf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \{ \liminf (\beta_1 \|H_{\varepsilon_k}(\phi_k)\|_{BV} + \beta_2 \|\phi_k\|_{L_2(\Omega)}^2) \} + \beta_3 \|c^j\|_{\mathbb{R}^2}^2.$$

Theorem

- 1) **Existence** $G_{\alpha,s}$ attain a minimizer in the set of admissible vector.
- 2) **Convergence for exact data $\delta = 0$** Let $(z_\alpha, \phi_\alpha, c_\alpha^j) \in \operatorname{argmin} G_\alpha$. If $\alpha_k \rightarrow 0$ then the corresponding sequence $(z_{\alpha_k}, \phi_{\alpha_k}, c_{\alpha_k}^j) \in \operatorname{argmin} G_{\alpha_k}$ is strongly convergent in $L_p(\Omega) \times L_2(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, the limit is a solution of (3).
- 2) **Convergence for noisy data $\delta \neq 0$** Let $\alpha = \alpha(\delta)$ satisfying $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ and $\delta^2/\alpha \rightarrow 0$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$. For $\delta_k \rightarrow 0$, there exists a sequence $(z_{\alpha_k}, \phi_{\alpha_k}, c_{\alpha_k}^j) \in \operatorname{argmin} G_{\alpha_k}$ is strongly convergent in $L_p(\Omega) \times L_2(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, the limit is a solution of (3).

- **pcLS approach:**

The admissible solution is not in a generalized setting!!!

- Let $\tau > 0$. A pair $(\phi, c^j) \in L_2(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}^2$ is called **admissible** if $\phi \in BV(\Omega)$ and $|c^1 - c^2| \geq \tau$.

Theorem

- 1) $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}$ attain an admissible minimizer.
- 2) **Convergence for exact data $\delta = 0$**
- 3) **Convergence for noisy data $\delta \neq 0$**

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- **The Direct Problem:** solving the Poisson boundary value problem

$$\Delta w = u, \in \Omega \quad w = 0, \in \partial\Omega, \quad (11)$$

with $u \in L_2(\Omega)$.

- **The Inverse Potential Problem (IPP):** consists of recovering the function u , from measurements of the Cauchy data of its corresponding potential w (the measurements are available only on the boundary of Ω).
- Operator equation

$$F : L_2(\Omega) \longrightarrow L_2(\partial\Omega) \quad F(u) = w|_{\partial\Omega}$$

Our Experiment

- $\Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 1)$
- $u = 1 + \chi_D, \quad D \subset\subset \Omega$
- For this class of parameters no unique identifiability result is known.
- Nevertheless, our methods prove the ability to detect the desired (piecewise constant) solutions.
- **Remarks about the forward operator:** $F : L_2(\Omega) \longrightarrow L_2(\partial\Omega)$ is continuous.

Since $u = 1 + \chi_D$ the operator F is continuous in $L_p(\Omega)$ for $1 \leq p \leq 2$. Therefore the assumption (A2) is satisfied.

- **sLS algorithm**
- These optimality conditions for the approximation of the Tikhonov functional $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,s}$ can be written in the form of the system

$$\alpha\phi = L_{\varepsilon,\alpha,\beta}(\phi, c^1, c^2) \quad \alpha c^j = L_{\varepsilon,\alpha,\beta}^j(\phi, c^1, c^2) \quad (12)$$

were $L_{\varepsilon,\alpha,\beta}(\phi, c^1, c^2)$ and $L_{\varepsilon,\alpha,\beta}^j(\phi, c^1, c^2)$ are the formal derivative of the functional $G_{\alpha,s}$ composed with H_{ε} .

Given a starting point (ϕ_0, c_0^j) , each step of this iterative method consists of three parts

i) Evaluate the residual

$$r_k = F(P_{s,\varepsilon}(\phi_k, c_k^1, c_k^2)) - y^\delta = (w_k)_\nu|_{\partial\Omega} - y^\delta,$$

where w_k solves

$$\Delta w_k = P_{s,\varepsilon}(\phi_k, c_k^1, c_k^2) \text{ in } \Omega \quad w_k = 0 \text{ at } \partial\Omega.$$

ii) Evaluate $h_k = F'(P_{s,\varepsilon}(\phi_k, c_k^1, c_k^2))^*(r_k) \in L_2(\Omega)$ solving
 $\Delta h_k = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad h_k = r_k \text{ at } \partial\Omega$

iii) Calculate $\mu\phi_k$ and μc_k^j as in (12).

■ Update

$$\phi_{k+1} = \phi_k + \frac{1}{\alpha}\mu\phi_k \quad \text{and} \quad c_{k+1}^j = c_k^j + \frac{1}{\alpha}\mu c_k^j$$

- **pcLS algorithm**

- We consider an explicit iterative method based on the operator splitting technique and derived from the optimality conditions for the Tikhonov functional $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}$

- First $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}$ is splitted as

- i) $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^1(\phi, c^j) :=$

- $\|F(P_{pc}(\phi, c^j) - y^\delta)\|_Y^2 + \alpha\{\beta_1 |P_{pc}(\phi, c^j)|_{BV} + \beta_2 \|c^j\|_{\mathbb{R}}\}$

- ii) $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^2(\phi) = \beta_3 \|\mathcal{K}(\phi)\|_{L_1(\Omega)}$

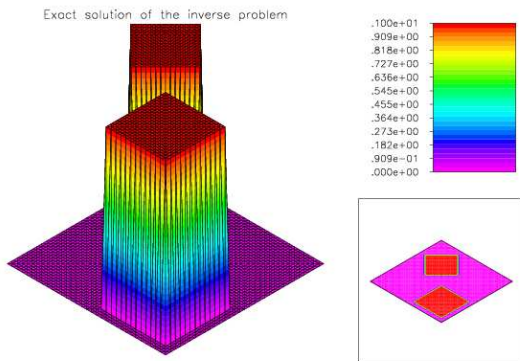
- Each step of the iterative method consists of two parts:
 - i) The iterate (ϕ_k, c_k^j) is updated using an explicit gradient step w.r.t. the operator $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^1(\phi, c^j)$, i.e.,

$$\phi_{k+1/2} = \phi_k - \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^1(\phi_k, c_k^j) \quad c_{k+1/2}^j = c_k^j - \frac{\partial}{\partial c_j} \mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^1(\phi_k, c_k^j).$$

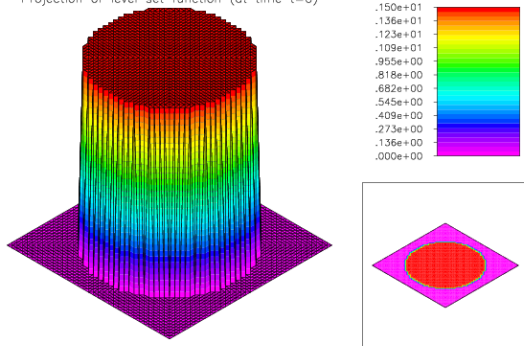
- ii) The obtained approximation $(\phi_{k+1/2}, c_{k+1/2}^j)$ is improved by giving a gradient step w.r.t. the operator $\mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^2(\phi_k, c_k^j)$, i.e.,

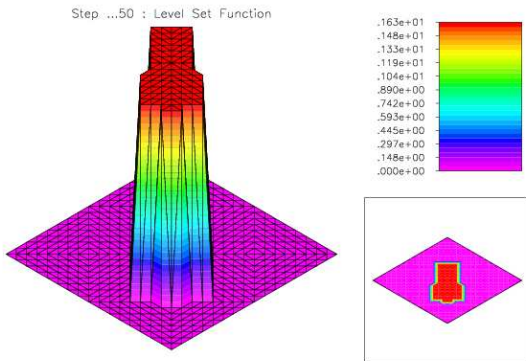
$$\phi_{k+1} = \phi_{k+1/2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \mathcal{G}_{\alpha,pc}^2(\phi_{k+1/2}, c_{k+1/2}^j) \quad c_{k+1}^j = c_{k+1/2}^j.$$

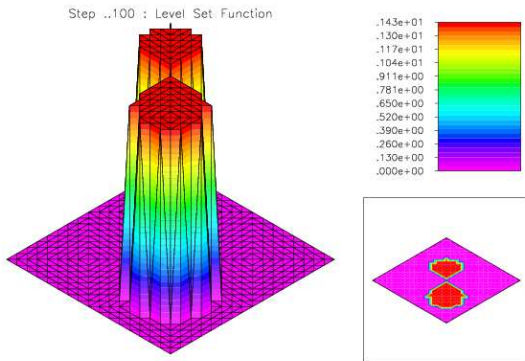
Level Set Algorithms

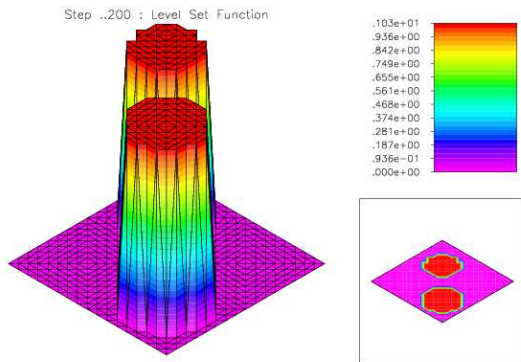


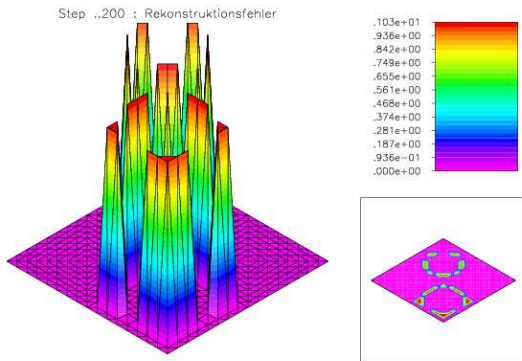
Level Set Algorithms

Projection of level set function (at time $t=0$)

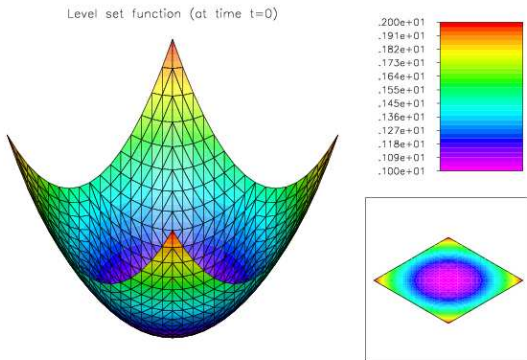
sLS iteration - $\delta = 0$ 

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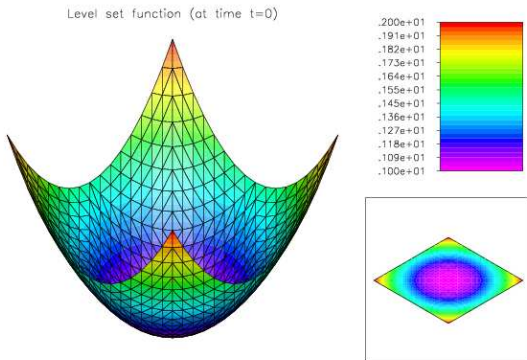
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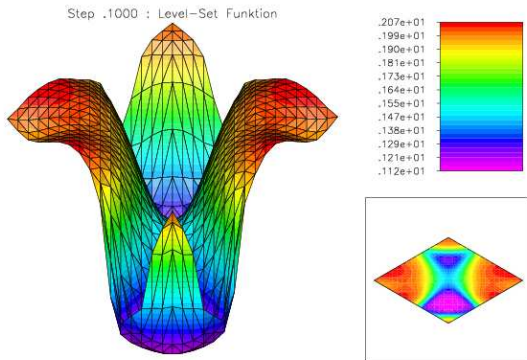
Level Set Algorithms

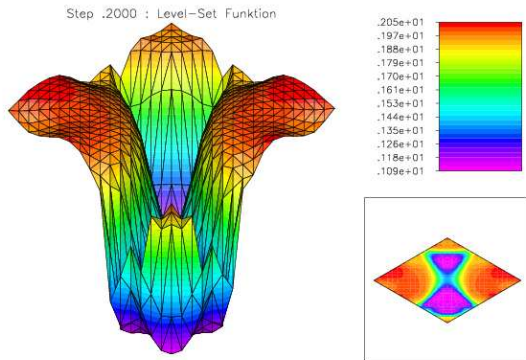
pcls iteration - $\delta = 0$ 

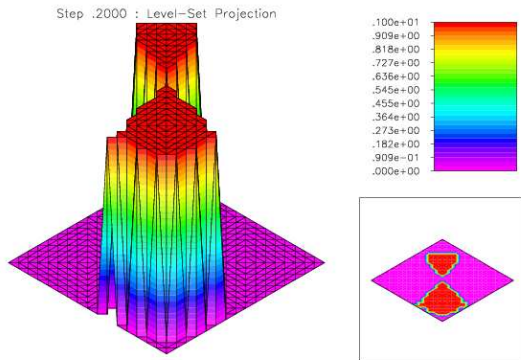
Level Set Algorithms

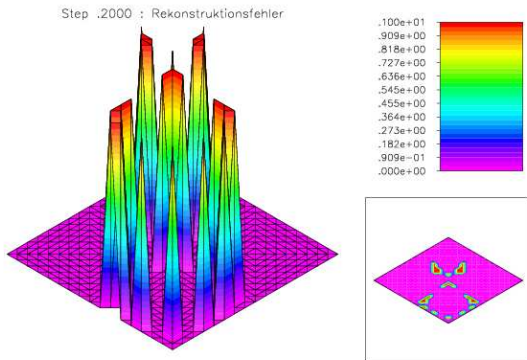
pcls iteration - $\delta = 0$ 

Level Set Algorithms

pcls iteration - $\delta = 0$ 

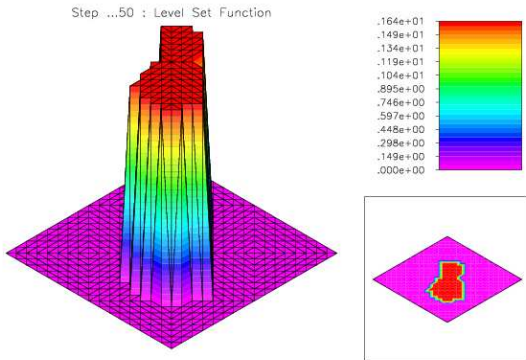
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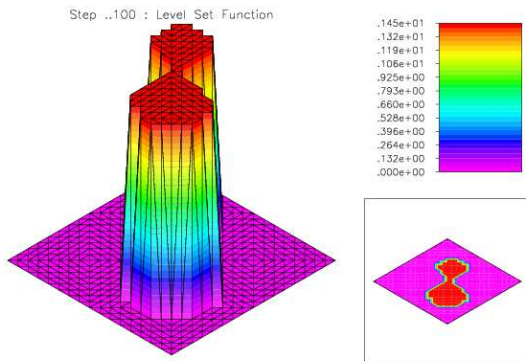
Level Set Algorithms

sLS iteration with random noise = 25%

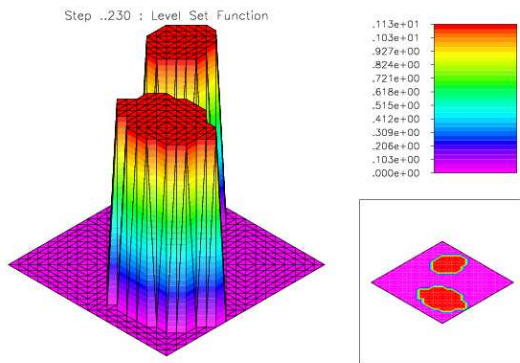


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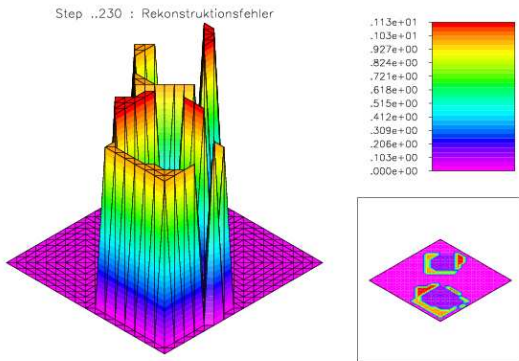
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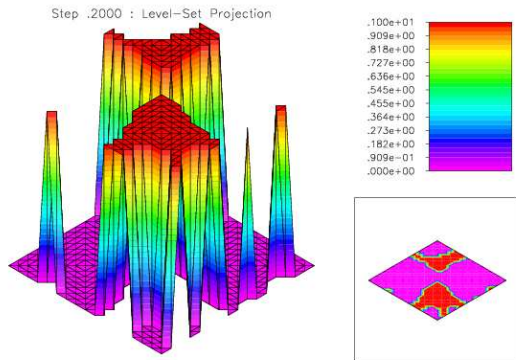


sLS iteration with random noise = 25%

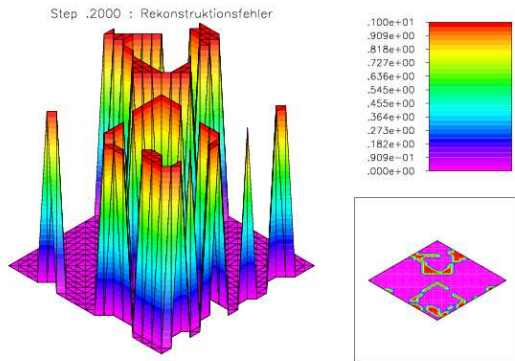


Level Set Algorithms

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- Two distinct level-set type approaches for solving ill-posed problems are proposed, where the level-set functions are chosen in L_2 -spaces.
- Based on each one of these two level-set approaches, corresponding Tikhonov functionals are derived. We provide convergence analysis for the resulting Tikhonov regularization methods.
- About the numerical???

- What concerns the numerical implementation of the level-set method based on the pcLS approach, some facts have to be observed:
- 1) Due to the operator splitting technique, we compute several times the step-part (i) before a single calculation of step-part (ii) is performed.
 - 2) Step-part (i) aims to minimize the misfit in the iteration and is the most relevant component of the iteration step.
 - 3) Step-part (ii) aims to drag the iterate ϕ_k to a piecewise constant (integer valued) function. If step-part (ii) is implemented too often, all the iterates ϕ_k become piecewise constant functions and the misfit becomes not monotony decreasing.

- On the other hand, if step-part (ii) is implemented only seldom, the iterates ϕ_k become too smooth and may be trapped in some local minimizer (due to the non-uniqueness of the inverse potential problem).
- Therefore, the determination of how often the step-part (ii) should be implemented is crucial for the good performance of the algorithm. In our numerical experiments the step-part (ii) was omitted in computation of the initial 100 iterations; then we started computing the step-part (ii) after every 20 iterations. For all test problems considered in our experiments, this strategy brought good results.
- 4) The constant β_3 should be chosen in such a way that $\beta_3 \ll 1$ in step-part (ii). This choice guarantees that the dragging effect resulting from step-part (ii) is not enforced too strongly.

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