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Botond Szabo- Linear methods for nonlinear inverse problems

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We consider recovering an unknown function f from a noisy observation of the solution u to a partial differential equation, where for the elliptic differential operator L , the map $L(u)$ can be written as a function of u and f , under Dirichlet boundary condition. A particular example is the time-independent Schrödinger equation. We transform this problem into the linear inverse problem of recovering $L(u)$, and show that Bayesian methods for this problem may yield optimal recovery rates not only for u , but also for f . The prior distribution may be placed on u or its elliptic operator. Adaptive priors are shown to yield adaptive contraction rates for f , thus eliminating the need to know the smoothness of this function. Known results on uncertainty quantification for the linear problem transfer to f as well. The results are illustrated by several numerical simulations. This is a joint work with Geerten Koers and Aad van der Vaart.