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# **Mathematical Analysis for several inverse problems for fractional diffusion equations**

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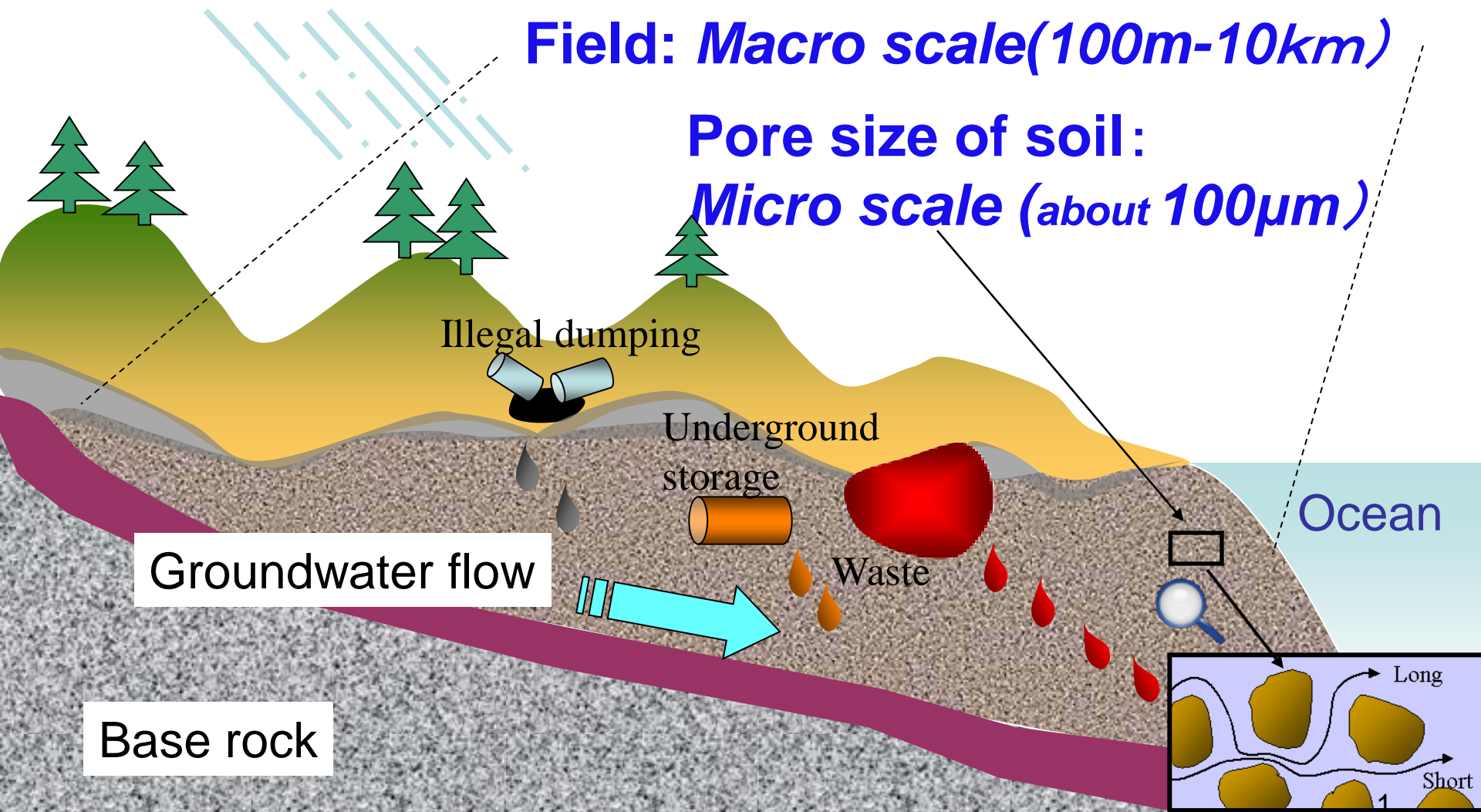
**Masahiro Yamamoto** (The University of Tokyo)

**Seoul-Tokyo Conference**

**KIAS, Seoul, Korea, 1 December 2012**

# Issues Seen by Academia Engineering Researchers

## “The Prediction of the Progress of Soil Contamination”



# Physical backgrounds

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Anomalous diffusion in heterogeneous media

e.g., soil

Fractional diffusion equation:

$$\partial_t^\alpha u - \Delta u = 0$$

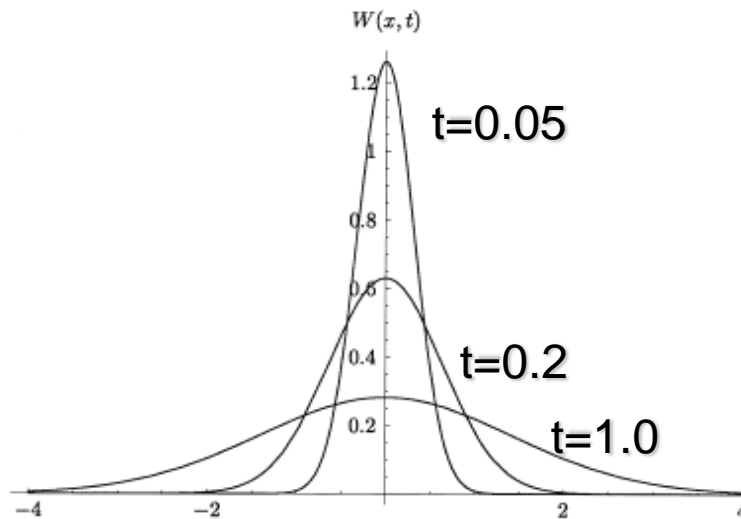
One good macroscopic model for slow diffusion

# Long tail profile

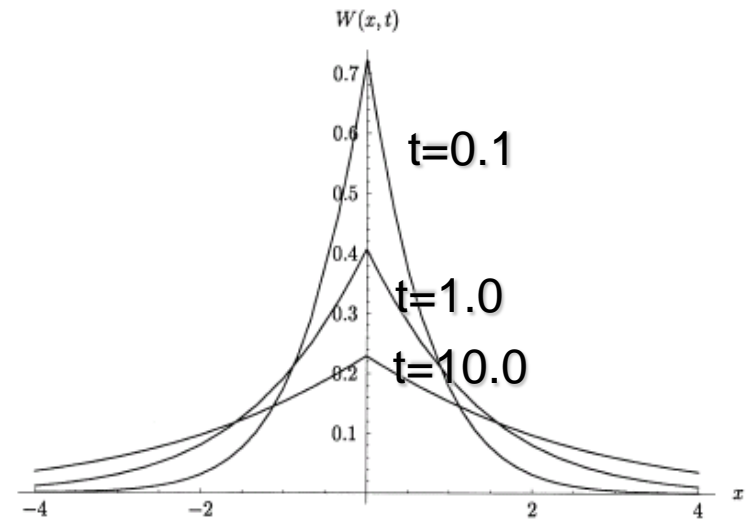
$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \frac{C}{1 + \lambda_1 t^\alpha} \|a\|_{L^2(\Omega)}, \quad t \geq 0.$$

$0 < \alpha < 1$ : subdiffusion

$\alpha$ : small  $\iff$  Slow diffusion



Normal-diffusion ( $\alpha=1$ )



Sub-diffusion ( $\alpha=0.5$ )

# Contents

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- Backward problems
- Unique continuation: 1D case
- determination of fractional orders:  
$$\partial_t^\alpha u + r \partial_t^\beta u = \Delta u$$
- 1D inverse problem of determining order and one coefficient
- coefficient inverse problems
- determination of nonlinear terms

# Motivation

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For parabolic or hyperbolic equations, we have classical inverse problem:

- Backward problems
- Unique continuation
- coefficient inverse problems
- determination of nonlinear terms

We will study such kinds of inverse problems for fractional diffusion equations

# Fractional diffusion equations

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$x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ : bounded domain

$n - 1 < \alpha < n, n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^\alpha u + \sum_{k=1}^N a_k(x) \partial_t^{\alpha_k} u &= -Au \\ &:= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \partial_i(a_{ij}(x) \partial_j u) + c(x)u, \quad t > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\partial_t^\alpha g(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n - \alpha)} \int_0^t (t - \tau)^{n-\alpha-1} \frac{d^n}{d\tau^n} g(\tau) d\tau.$$

for  $n - 1 < \alpha < n, n \in \mathbb{N}$

$a_{ij} \in C^1(\bar{\Omega}), c \leq 0, \in C(\bar{\Omega})$



# Characteristics of $\partial_t^\alpha u + \dots$

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$\partial_t^\alpha$  is with memory effect  $\implies$

1. not strong smoothing property
2. infinite propagation speed

# IBVP for fractional diffusion equations

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intermediate regularity between parabolic and hyperbolic equations

- Hölder maximal regularity:

$$\partial_t^\alpha u + Au = F(x, t)$$

- Maximum principle
- Nonlinear dynamical system

# Glance at comprehensive project

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- **Mathematics**
  - Partial differential equation
  - Fractal structure of medium
  - Multiscale modelling, homogenization,....
- **Engineering:**  
risk management, environmental science,...
- **Industry:** many anomalous diffusions

# Engine for project

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Study Group for Solving Industrial Problems

actual working place by industry,  
mathematicians,...

17 January - 23 January 2013

Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences

The University of Tokyo

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Now mathematics!

# 1. Backward problem

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Backward problem for  $\alpha = 1$  severely ill-posed

Backward problem for  $\alpha = 2$  well-posed

Backward problem for  $\alpha \neq 1, \neq 2 \implies$   
moderately ill-posed!

Theorem 1 (i) Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = -Au(x, t), \quad u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0,$$

$$u(x, T) = a_1(x), \quad x \in \Omega.$$

For  $\forall T > 0$  and  $\forall a_1 \in H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)$ , there exists a unique solution

$$\exists! u \in C([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)) \cap C((0, T]; H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega))$$

and  $\|u(\cdot, 0)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \sim \|u(\cdot, T)\|_{H^2(\Omega)}$ .

Remark:  $\sim$  means both-sided estimate

(ii) Let  $1 < \alpha < 2$ .

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = -Au(x, t), \quad u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$$

Then  $\exists C > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(\cdot, 0)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} + \|\partial_t u(\cdot, 0)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C(\|u(\cdot, T)\|_{H^2(\Omega)} + \|\partial_t u(\cdot, T)\|_{H^2(\Omega)}) \end{aligned}$$

with K. Ito (North Carolina State Univ.)  
and K. Sakamoto



## 2. Unique continuation

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With J. Liu and L. Yan (Southeast Univ.)

Unique continuation:

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = -Au \text{ in } Q := \Omega \times (0, T)$$

$$u = \partial_\nu u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma \times (0, T)$$

$$\implies \exists D \subset\subset Q \text{ where } u = 0.$$

Main tool for  $\alpha = 1$

Carleman estimate  $\Leftarrow$  integration by part

## Main differences from $\alpha = 1$

- Integration by part **fails** for  $\partial_t^\alpha$
- $\partial_t^\alpha$  has memory effect

# Unique continuation

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Theorem  $\partial_t^{\frac{1}{2}} u - \partial_1^2 u = 0$  in  $Q$ ,  $u(x, 0) = 0$ ,  $0 < x < \ell$   
 $u(0, t) = \partial_1 u(0, t) = 0$ ,  $0 < t < T$  implies  $u = 0$  in  $Q$

Remark: Also conditional stability

Key: Carleman estimate (=  $L^2$ -weighted estimate)

- infinite propagation speed
- **we need initial condition**
- only 1D case.
- No Carleman estimate for general  $\alpha$

# Unique continuation for general $\alpha$

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$$\partial_t^\alpha u = u_{xx}, \quad 0 < x < 1, t > 0,$$

$$u(0, t) = f(t), \quad t > 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = 0, \quad 0 < x < 1.$$

**Inverse problem** Let  $\omega \subset (0, \ell)$  be fixed. Determine  $u(1, t)$ ,  $0 < t < T$  by  $u|_{\omega \times (0, T)}$ .

## Theorem (J.Liu-L.Yan-Yamamoto)

Let  $\frac{1}{2} < \alpha < 1$  and  $u(\mathbf{1}, 0) = 0$ .

$\exists C > 0$  such that

$$\|u(\mathbf{1}, \cdot)\|_{L^2(0,T)} \leq C(\|h\|_{L^2(\omega \times (0,T))} + \|f\|_{L^2(0,T)}).$$

- **Case  $\alpha = 1$ :** severely ill-posed,  
logarithmic conditional stability
- **Case  $\frac{1}{2} < \alpha < 1$ :**  
unconditional Lipschitz stability

$$\|u(\mathbf{1}, \cdot)\|_{L^2(0,T)} \sim \|u\|_{L^2(\omega \times (0,T))} \text{ if } f = 0.$$

⇐ regularity in non-homogeneous boundary  
value problem

(by K. Fujishiro)

# Interpretation

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Fractional diffusions equation:  
no strong smoothing property

The inverse problem is more well-posed than the classical diffusion equation.



# 3. Determination of fractional orders

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Let  $0 < \beta < \alpha < 1$ .

$u_{\alpha,\beta}$ :

$$\partial_t^\alpha u + r_0 \partial_t^\beta u = -Au \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T)$$

$$u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = a(x), x \in \Omega$$

**Inverse Problem:** Let  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,  $T > 0$  be fixed.

Determine  $(\alpha, \beta)$  by  $u_{\alpha,\beta}(x_0, t)$ ,  $0 < t < T$ .

**Theorem (uniqueness)** Let:  $a \not\equiv 0, \geq 0$ , smooth (e.g.,  $a \in H_0^3(\Omega)$  in 3D case). Then  $u_{\alpha_1, \beta_1}(x_0, t) = u_{\alpha_2, \beta_2}(x_0, t), 0 < t < T$  implies  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$  and  $\beta_1 = \beta_2$ .

**Remark ??** Uniqueness for

$$\partial_t^{\alpha_0} + \sum_{k=1}^N r_k \partial_t^{\alpha_k}$$

# Other determination of orders

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$u_{\alpha,\gamma}$ :

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = -A^\gamma u \text{ in } Q$$

$$u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, u(\cdot, 0) = a$$

**Theorem (uniqueness)** Let:  $a \not\equiv 0, \geq 0$ , smooth (e.g.,  $a \in H_0^3(\Omega)$  in 3D case). If

$u_{\alpha_1,\gamma_1}(x_0, t) = u_{\alpha_2,\gamma_2}(x_0, t), 0 < t < T$ , then  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$  and  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$ .

# 4. Determination of one derivative order and coefficient

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J.Cheng (Fudan Univ.) -

J. Nakagawa (Nippon Steel)

- Yamamoto - T.Yamazaki

$$\partial_t^\alpha u(x, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( p(x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right), \quad 0 < x < \ell, \quad 0 < t < T,$$

$u(x, 0) = \delta$  : delta function,  $u_x(0, t) = u_x(\ell, t) = 0$

**Inverse problem:** Determine  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $p(x)$  by  $u(0, t)$ ,  $0 < t < T$ .

Answer: Uniqueness holds.

Key to proof: Gel'fanf-Levitan theory + eigenfunction expansion

G. Li, D. Zhang, X. Jia (Shandong Univ. Tech.)  
and M. Yamamoto:

Numerical reconstruction of  $p$  and  $\alpha$

# 5. Inverse source problem

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with K. Sakamoto, Z. Li

$$\partial_t^\alpha u(x, t) = -Au(x, t) + \mu(t)f(x), \quad (x, t) \in Q$$

$A$ : symmetric uniformly elliptic with  $x$ -dependent coefficients, e.g.,  $A = -\Delta$

Let:  $u(\cdot, 0)$ ,  $\partial_A u|_{\partial\Omega \times (0, T)}$ : conormal: given.

## Inverse source problems: $\Gamma \subset \partial\Omega$ :

- **Type I**: Determine  $f(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ , from  $u|_{\Gamma \times (0,T)}$ , for given  $\mu(t)$ .
- **Type II**: Determine  $\mu(t)$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq T$ , from  $u|_{\Gamma \times (0,T)}$  for given  $f(x)$ .



## Uniqueness for Type I

Let:  $f \in H_0^3(\Omega)$ ,  $\mu \in C^1[0, T]$ ,  $\mu \not\equiv 0$ ,

$\Gamma \subset \partial\Omega$ : arbitrary sub-boundary

Then  $u(x, t) = 0$ ,  $x \in \Gamma$ ,  $0 < t < T$

implies  $f = 0$  in  $Q$ .

# Sketch of Proof

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1. We can prove:

$$\partial_t^\alpha v = -Av \text{ in } Q,$$

$$v|_{\Gamma \times (0,T)} = \partial_A v|_{\partial\Omega \times (0,T)} = 0$$

$$\implies v = 0 \text{ in } Q$$

## 2. Duhamel's principle

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = -Au + \mu(t)f, \quad u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \quad u(\cdot, 0) = 0$$

$$\partial_t^\alpha v = -Av, \quad v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \quad v(\cdot, 0) = f$$

$$u(x, t) = \int_0^t \theta(t-s)v(x, s)ds \quad \text{in } Q$$

$$\text{Here } \theta(t) = D_t^{\alpha-1}\mu(t) := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^t \frac{\mu(s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} ds$$

## Stability for Type II

Let  $f$  be smooth and  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ . Then

$$\|\partial_t^\alpha u(x_0, \cdot)\|_{C[0,T]} \sim \|\mu\|_{C[0,T]}.$$

Without  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ ?

**Uniqueness** Let  $\Gamma$  be arbitrary subboundary and  $f \not\equiv 0$ .

Then  $u|_{\Gamma \times (0,T)} = 0 \Rightarrow \mu = 0$  in  $(0, T)$

Counter-example for data  $u(x_0, t)$  with  
 $f(x_0) = 0$ :

$$\Omega = (0, 1), f(x) = \cos \pi x, x_0 = \frac{1}{2}$$

And  $u(x_0, t) = 0, 0 < t < T$  for any  $\mu(t)$ .

One point observation does not guarantee the  
uniqueness!

## 6. Inverse coefficient problem by Carleman estimate

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by Y. Zhang (Fudan Univ.) and M. Yamamoto

$u(p)(x, t)$ :

$$\partial_t^{1/2} u = \partial_x^2 u(x, t) + p(x)u(x, t) \text{ in } Q$$

$u(\cdot, 0), u(0, t)$ : given

**Inverse Problem:** fixed  $t_0 \in (0, T)$ , determine  $p(x)$  by  $\partial_x u(0, \cdot), u(\cdot, t_0)$ .

# Conditional stability in inverse coefficient problem

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Assume a priori boundedness for  $p, q$  and  $u(p), u(q)$  and  $u(p)(x, t_0), u(q)(x, t_0) \neq 0$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq \ell$ .

For small  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\exists C = C(\delta) > 0$  and  $\exists \kappa = \kappa(\delta) \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\|p - q\|_{H^2(0, \ell - \delta)} \leq C(\|(u(p) - u(q))(\cdot, t_0)\|_{L^2(0, \ell)} + \|\partial_x(u(p) - u(q))(0, \cdot)\|_{L^2(0, T)})^\kappa$$

## Key to the proof

- Carleman estimate
- Bukhgeim-Klibanov method

Carleman estimate can be proved for  $\alpha = 1/[\text{natural number}]$ .

$\implies$  **very limited!**



# 7. Inverse coefficient problem by integral transform

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with L. Miller (Univ. Paris Ouest)

Let  $0 < \alpha < 2$ .

$$u(p): \partial_t^\alpha u = \Delta u + p(x)u, u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0,$$

$$u(\cdot, 0) = a, \partial_t u(\cdot, 0) = 0 \text{ (if } 1 < \alpha < 2)$$

$$w(p): \partial_t^2 w = \Delta w + p(x)w, w|_{\partial\Omega} = 0,$$

$$w(\cdot, 0) = a, \partial_t w(\cdot, 0) = 0$$

Theorem (Bazhlekova 2001)

$$u(p)(x, t) = \int_0^\infty K_\alpha(t, s)w(p)(x, s)ds \text{ in } Q$$

Here  $K_\alpha(t, s) = \frac{1}{t^\gamma} \Phi_\gamma\left(\frac{s}{t^\gamma}\right)$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{\alpha}{2}$ ,

$\Phi_\gamma(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-z)^n}{n! \Gamma(-\gamma n + 1 - \gamma)}$ : Wright function

### Lemma 1 (Miller-Yamamoto)

$\int_0^\infty K_\alpha(t, s) f(x, s) ds = 0$  for  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $t > 0$  and  
 $\|f(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \exists M e^{t\omega}$  with  $\omega > 0 \implies f = 0$  in  
 $Q$ .

### Lemma 2 (Sakamoto-Yamamoto)

$u : (0, T] \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  is analytic in  
 $\left\{ z \in \mathbb{C}, z \neq 0, |\arg z| < \frac{\pi}{2} \right\}$ .

## Theorem (Miller and Yamamoto)

Let  $\exists \omega \subset \Omega$  with  $\partial\omega \supset \partial\Omega$  and  $p = q$  in  $\omega$ .

Assume that  $\inf_{\Omega \setminus \bar{\omega}} |a| > 0$ .

Then  $u(p) = u(q)$  in  $\omega \times (0, T)$

implies  $p = q$  in  $\Omega$ .

# Sketch of Proof

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$$u(p) \iff w(p), u(q) \iff w(q)$$

$$u(p) = u(q) \text{ in } \omega \times (0, T) \implies$$

$$u(p) = u(q) \text{ in } \omega \times (0, \infty) \text{ by Lemma 2}$$

$\implies$

$$\int_0^\infty K_\alpha(t, s)(w(p) - w(q))(x, s) ds = 0,$$

$$x \in \omega, t > 0$$

$$\implies w(p) = w(q) \text{ in } \omega \times (0, T)$$

$$\implies p = q \text{ in } \Omega$$

by Imanuvilov and Yamamoto: 2001

# 8. Determination of nonlinearity

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With Y. Luchko (Beuth Tech. Hochschule  
Berlin) -

W. Rundell, L.Zuo (Texas A&M Univ.)

Let  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

$$u(f): \partial_t^\alpha u = \Delta u + f(u(x, t)) \text{ in } Q$$

$$\partial_\nu u(x, t) = g(x, t), \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad 0 < t < T,$$

$$u(x, 0) = a(x), \quad x \in \Omega.$$

We set

$$\mathcal{F} = \{f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}) : f'(r) < 0, \quad r \in (m, M)\},$$

$$m = \inf_{x \in \Omega} a(x), \quad M = \sup_{x \in \Omega} a(x).$$

**Uniqueness** Let  $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{F}$ . If  $u(f_1)(x_0, t) = u(f_2)(x_0, t)$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq T$  with some  $x_0 \in \Omega$  and  $T > 0$ , then there exist constants  $m_1, M_1$  with  $m \leq m_1 < M_1 \leq M$  such that  $f_1(r) = f_2(r)$  for  $m_1 \leq r \leq M_1$



## Remark

- For analytic  $f_1, f_2$ , we have global uniqueness.
- numerical method

Thank you very much!