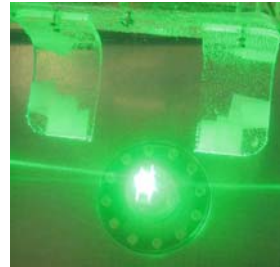




# Image Reconstruction in Photoacoustic Tomography taking acoustic attenuation into account



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Till February 2009: Upper Austrian Research GmbH, Linz, Austria



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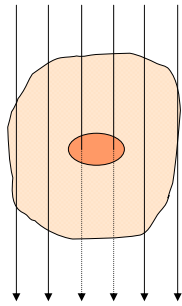
## Outline

- Photoacoustic Imaging
- Acoustic attenuation
  - Stokes equation
  - Attenuation in tissue: power law dependence
  - Inversion
- Heat diffusion equation
  - Solution in k-space
  - Inversion
  - Regularization methods
  - Entropy production and information loss
- Conclusion and Outlook

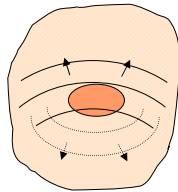


## Imaging techniques

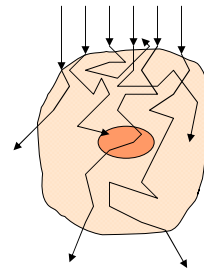
X-ray



ultrasound



light



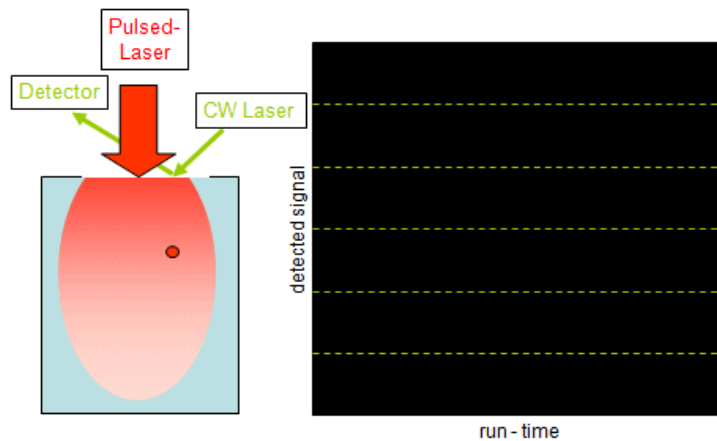
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## Photoacoustic Imaging

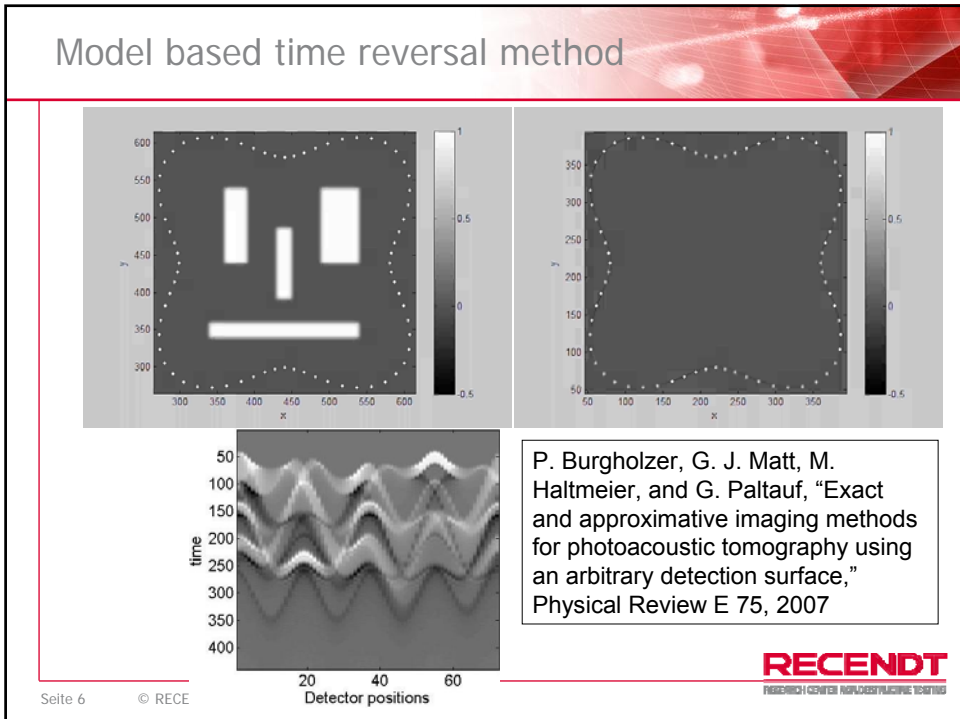
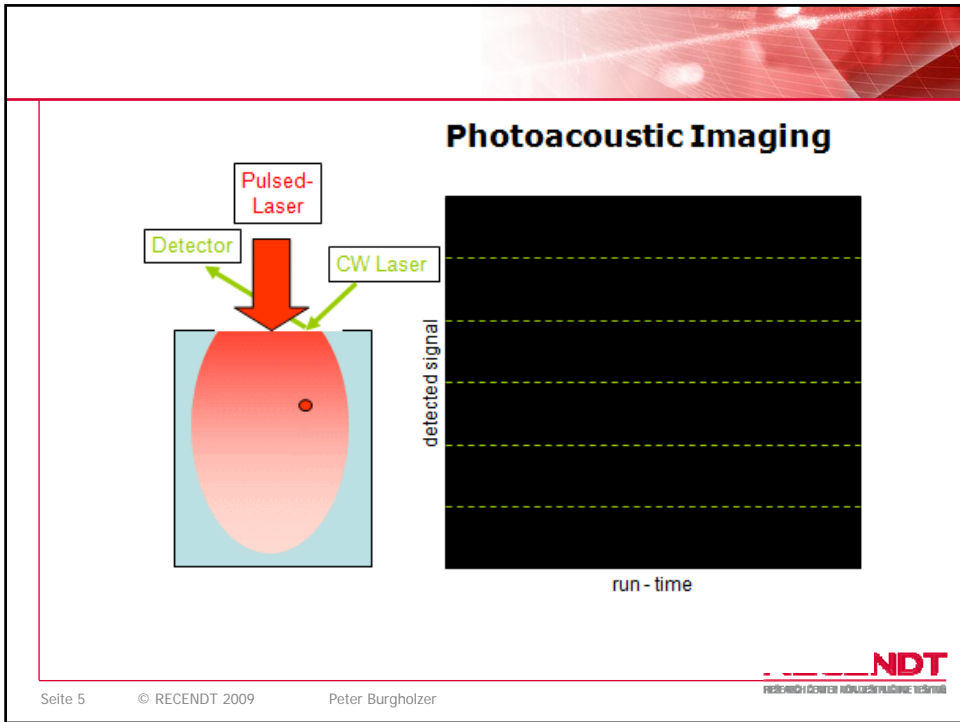


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## Stokes' equation

- plane waves:  $p = p_0 e^{i(Kx - \omega t)} = p_0 e^{ikx} e^{-i\omega t} e^{-\alpha x}$
- With complex  $K(\omega) = k(\omega) + i \alpha(\omega) = \omega/c(\omega) + i \alpha(\omega)$
- $k(\omega)$ ,  $\alpha(\omega)$  have to satisfy Kramers-Krönig-Relations
- e.g. Stokes equation: density change follows pressure change with a relaxation time  $\tau$

$$\Delta p - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial t^2} + \tau \Delta \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = \frac{p_0}{c^2} \frac{\partial \delta(t)}{\partial t}$$

Stokes equation  
Relaxation time  $\tau$

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{2c^2} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{A}} - \frac{1}{A} \right)$$

for  $\omega\tau \ll 1$ :  $\alpha \cong \frac{\omega^2 \tau}{2c}$

$$k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{2c^2} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{A}} + \frac{1}{A} \right)$$

$$k \cong \frac{\omega}{c} \left( 1 - \frac{3}{8} \omega^2 \tau^2 \right)$$

with  $A \equiv 1 + \omega^2 \tau^2$

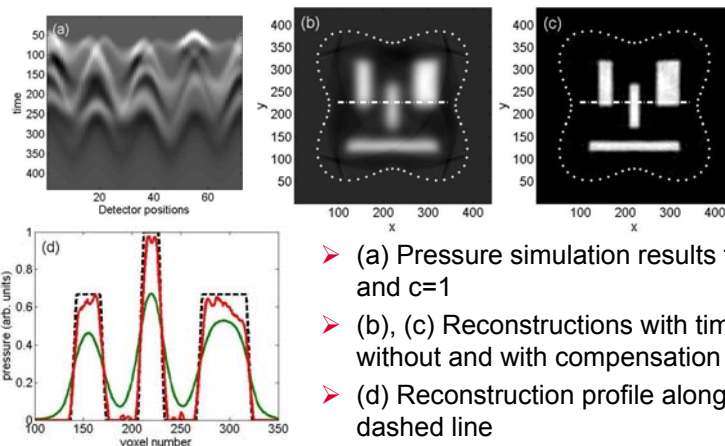
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## Photoacoustic imaging with time reversal accounting for acoustic attenuation



- (a) Pressure simulation results for  $\tau = 0.2$  and  $c=1$
- (b), (c) Reconstructions with time reversal without and with compensation of attenuation
- (d) Reconstruction profile along horizontal dashed line

P. Burgholzer et al., "Compensation of acoustic attenuation for high-resolution photoacoustic imaging with line detectors using time reversal" Proc. SPIE 6437-75, Photonics West, BIOS 2007

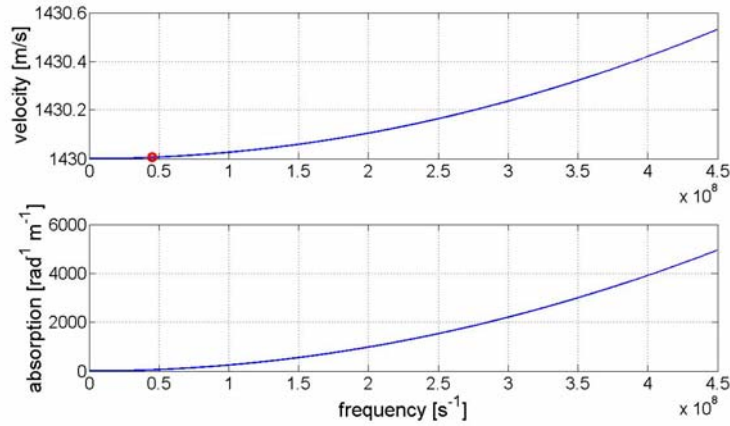
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## Example for Stokes' equation: Oil



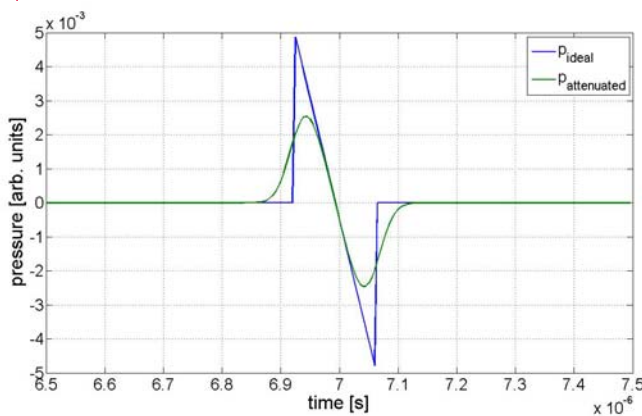
Michael J. Buckingham., "Causality, Stokes' wave equation, and acoustic pulse propagation in a viscous fluid", Phys. Rev. E 72, 2005

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## PA signals in oil 10 mm from inclusion

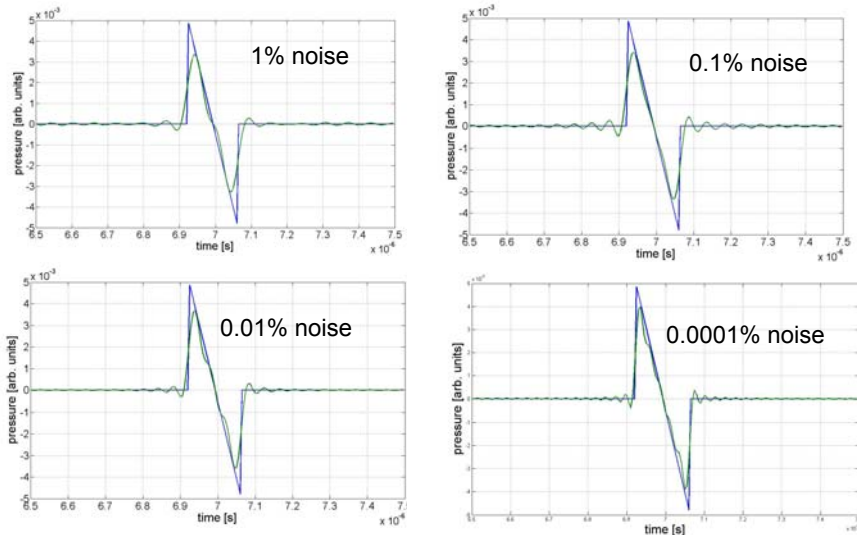
$$\tilde{p}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = \frac{\omega}{c_0 K(\omega)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p_{ideal}(\mathbf{r}, t) e^{i c_0 K(\omega) t} dt$$

Riviere, Zhang, and Anastasio, Optics Letters (2006).



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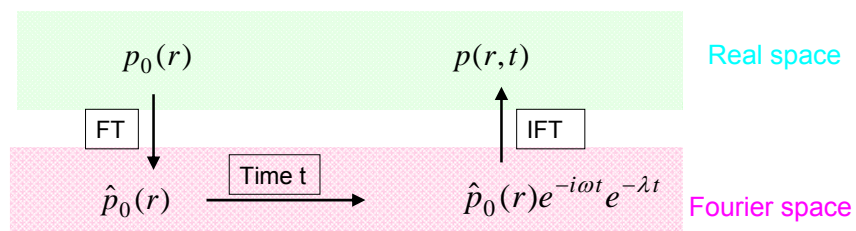
## Inversion: regularization with SVD for noisy signals



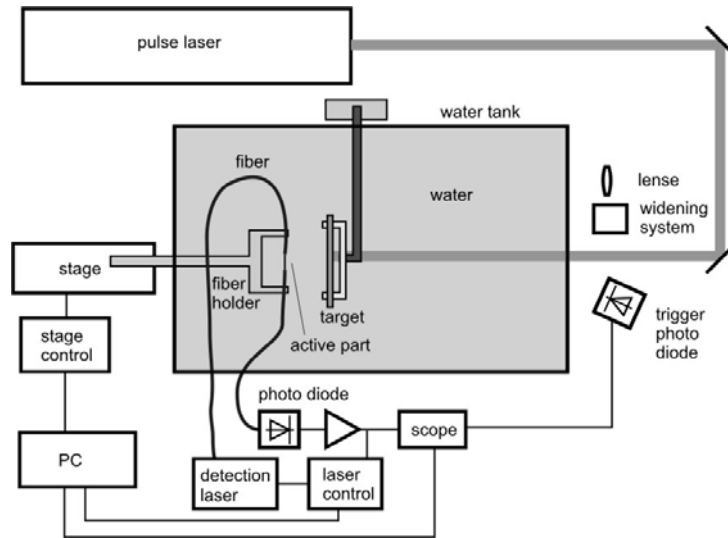
## Time damped solutions

Two possible solutions of the wave equation are:

- $\omega$  real,  $K(\omega) = k(\omega) + i \alpha(\omega) = \omega/c(\omega) + i \alpha(\omega)$  complex, describes a stationary wave damped in space.
- $k$  real,  $\Omega(k) = \omega(k) - i \lambda(k)$  complex, describes a standing wave (e.g. in a laser resonator) damped in time.



## Experimental Determination of Attenuation



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## Attenuation in tissue

- For tissue:  $\alpha(\omega) \approx \alpha_0 |\omega|^y$  with  $y \approx 1$

Kendall R. Waters, Michael S. Hughes, Joel Mobley & James G. Miller;  
Differential Forms of the Kramers-Krönig Dispersion Relations; IEEE  
Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control, Vol. 50,  
No. 1, January 2003, 68-76

$$\frac{1}{c(\omega)} = \frac{1}{c(\omega_0)} + \alpha_0 \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} y\right) \left( |\omega|^{y-1} - |\omega_0|^{y-1} \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{for } y=1} \frac{1}{c(\omega)} = \frac{1}{c(\omega_0)} - \frac{2}{\pi} \alpha_0 \ln \left| \frac{\omega}{\omega_0} \right|$$

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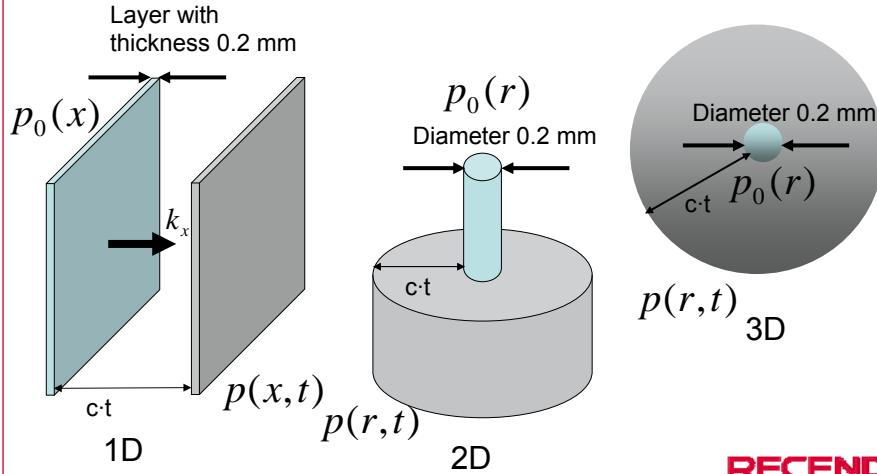
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## Influence of Attenuation in 1D, 2D and 3D

Attenuation in human fat:  $0.6 \text{ dB MHz}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; detector distance is 10 mm ( $3 \text{ dB MHz}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in human dermis)



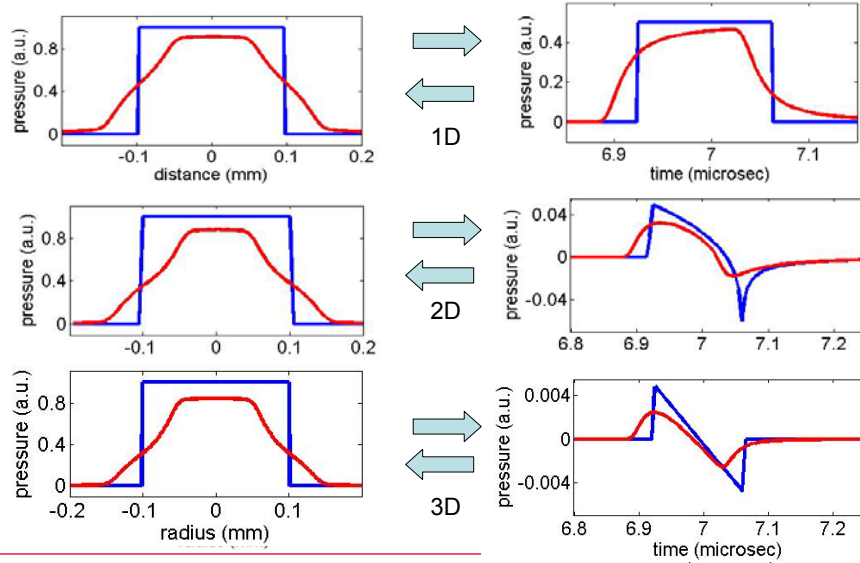
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## Acoustic attenuation in various dimensions



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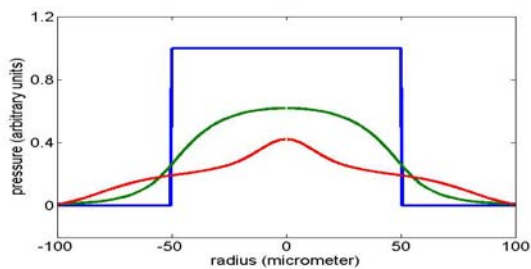
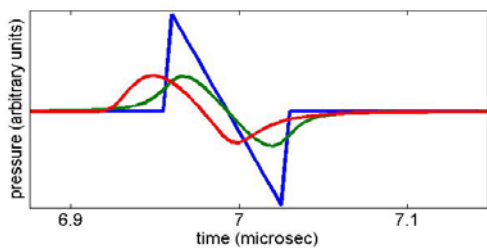
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## The influence of dispersion

- Initial pressure distribution: spherical absorber (diameter 0.1mm)
- Simulation results at a distance of 10 mm in human fat neglecting dispersion (green) and taking dispersion into account (red)
- Reconstruction of the initial pressure distribution from above detector signals neglecting dispersion (green) and taking dispersion into account (red)



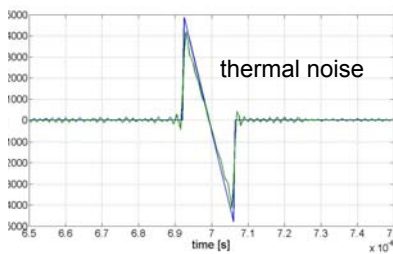
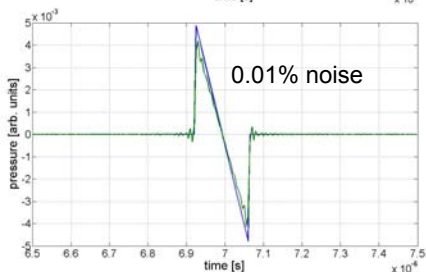
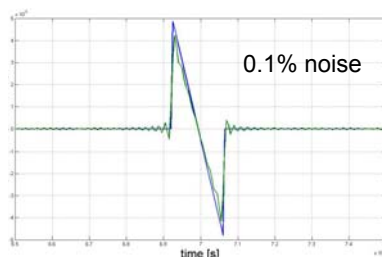
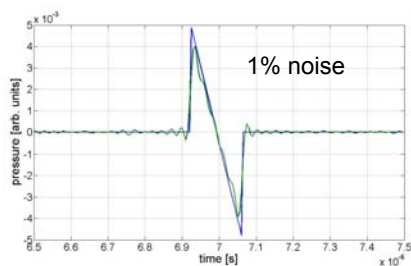
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## Inversion: regularization with SVD for noisy signals



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# 1 D heat diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} T = \alpha \Delta T$$

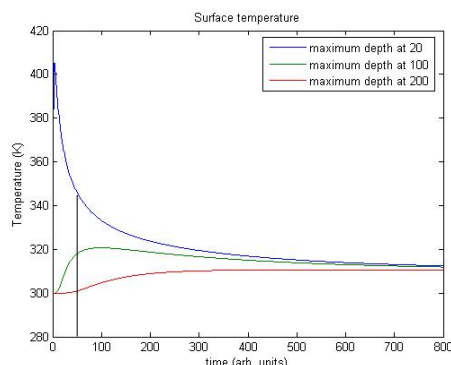
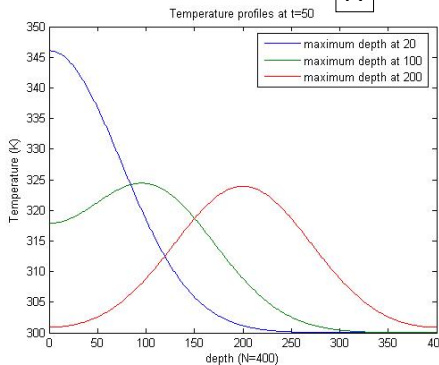
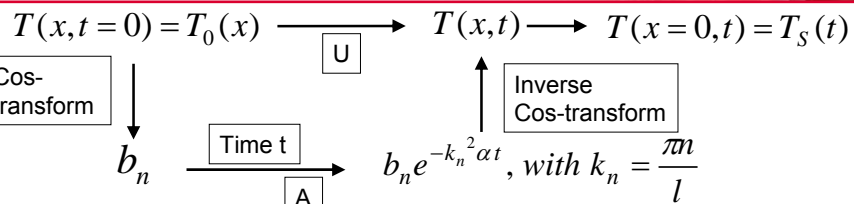
Fourier 1823,  
or e.g. Mandelis et al.  
 $\alpha$ ..thermal diffusivity

Initial values:  $T(x, t = 0) = T_0(x)$   
 Neumann boundary conditions:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} T = 0$  for  $x = 0$  and  $x = l$   
 Usually solved by temporal Fourier transform  $\rightarrow$

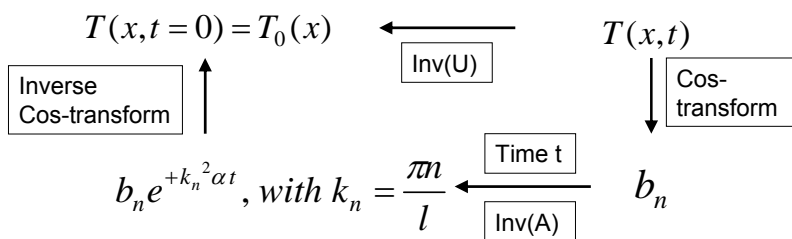
Helmholtz equation with solutions:  $\tilde{T} \propto \cos(\pm \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2\alpha}} x - \omega t) e^{\mp \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2\alpha}} x}$

or spatial Fourier transform, (cos-transform) e.g. by Bronstein:  $T(x, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n e^{-k_n^2 \alpha t} \cos(k_n x)$ , with  $k_n = \frac{\pi n}{l}$

$$b_0 = \frac{1}{l} \int_0^l T_0(x) dx \quad b_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l T_0(x) \cos(k_n x) dx, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$



## 1 D heat diffusion equation: "time reversal"



## SVD and Tikhonov regularization method in k-space

$$b_n(t) = e^{-k_n^2 \alpha t} b_n(0), \text{ with } k_n = \frac{\pi n}{l}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_t = \mathbf{A}_t \mathbf{b}_0 \quad \mathbf{A}_t = \text{diag}(\exp(-k_n^2 \alpha t))$$

SVD:

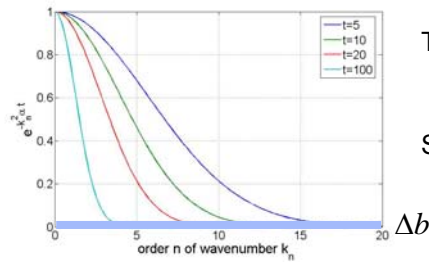
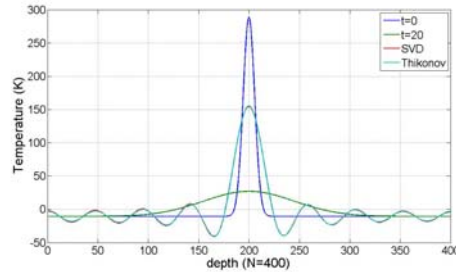
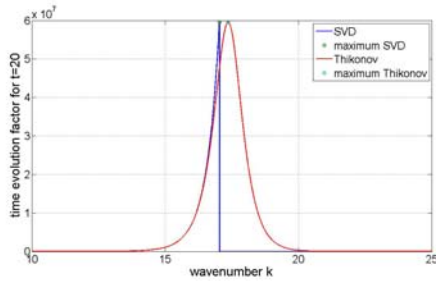
$$b_n(0) = \begin{cases} e^{+k_n^2 \alpha t} b_n(t), & \text{for } n \leq i \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Tikhonov:

$$\min((\mathbf{A}_t \mathbf{b}_0 - \mathbf{b}_t)^2 + \lambda \mathbf{b}_0^2) \Rightarrow \mathbf{A}_t^t \mathbf{b}_t = (\mathbf{A}_t^t \mathbf{A}_t + \lambda \mathbf{E}) \mathbf{b}_0$$

$$b_n(0) = \frac{e^{-k_n^2 \alpha t}}{e^{-2k_n^2 \alpha t} + \lambda} b_n(t)$$

## SVD and Tikhonov regularization method in k-space (2)



Temperature (and also pressure) are mean values

$$\text{Statistical fluctuations: } \langle (\Delta T)^2 \rangle = \frac{k_B T^2}{C}$$

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## Conclusions

Dissipation causes:

- ◆ Entropy production
- ◆ Fluctuations: using these as “noise” level the reconstructed image shows a loss of information which is equal to the entropy production (at least for the 1D heat diffusion equation).

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## Outlook

- Heat diffusion equation: 2D and 3D
- Pressure waves taking acoustic attenuation into account
- fluctuation – dissipation theorem from statistical physics describes in a very general way how fluctuations and entropy production are related. Therefore it should be possible to generalize the results found for 1 D temperature profiles.

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