

# Bilinear operators and curvature

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# Bilinear analog of the spherical averaging operator

- This talk is mainly about a bilinear analog of the spherical averaging operator and its variable coefficient generalizations. Define

$$B_\theta(f, g)(x) = \int_{S^{d-1}} f(x - y)g(x - \theta y)d\sigma(y),$$

where  $\theta \in O_d(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\sigma$  is the surface measure on  $S^{d-1}$ .

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where  $\theta \in O_d(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\sigma$  is the surface measure on  $S^{d-1}$ .

- We shall see that in a variety of ways it is a natural bilinear analog of the spherical averaging operator

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- We shall state and prove sharp  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L^q(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^r(\mathbb{R}^2)$  for the spherical averaging operator in dimension two and describe the state of affairs in higher dimensions.

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- We shall state and prove sharp  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L^q(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^r(\mathbb{R}^2)$  for the spherical averaging operator in dimension two and describe the state of affairs in higher dimensions.
- We shall state and prove the corresponding sharp bounds for the variable coefficient analog of the spherical averaging operator in dimension two.



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- is solved by

$$u(x, t) = ctA_t f(x).$$

# A discrete analog of $A_t f(x)$

- Let  $P$  be a finite point set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \geq 2$ . Define a graph, called **the distance graph**, by taking points of  $P$  as vertices and connect two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  by an edge if  $|x - y| = t$ .

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- Hence it is reasonable to think of the spherical averaging operator  $A_t f(x)$  as the edge operator for the continuous version of the distance graph.
- This viewpoint has been used by many authors in recent decades to study discrete problems using analytic methods.

# Lebesgue space bounds for $A_t f(x)$

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- The exponents are best possible as demonstrated by taking  $f(x)$  to be the indicator function of a ball of radius  $\delta$ ,  $\delta$  small.

# Outline of the proof of Lebesgue space bounds for $A_t f(x)$

- Let

$$A_t^z f(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(z)} (1 - |\cdot|^2)_+^{z-1} \psi(\cdot) * f(x),$$

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- When  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = -\frac{d-1}{2}$ ,  $\widehat{A_t^z f}(\xi) = m(\xi)\widehat{f}(\xi)$ , where  $m$  is bounded, which allows us to conclude that

$$A_t^z : L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ for } \operatorname{Re}(z) = -\frac{d-1}{2}.$$

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- Stein's analytic interpolation theorem yields the claimed result.

# Generalized Radon transform

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- and

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \nabla_x \phi \\ -(\nabla_y \phi)^T & \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_i \partial y_j} \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

on the set  $\{(x, y) : \phi(x, y) = t\}$ .

# Generalized Radon transform (continued)

- A result due to Phong and Stein says that under the assumptions above,

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- for  $\left(\frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{q}\right)$  in the triangle with the endpoints  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1)$  and  $\left(\frac{d}{d+1}, \frac{1}{d+1}\right)$ , the same range as the spherical averaging operator.



# $L^p$ -improving measures

- In general, it is interesting to ask whether a given compactly supported Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is  $L^p$ -improving in the sense that

$$\|f * \mu\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)} \text{ for some } q > p.$$

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- Numerous authors examined this problem from a variety of points of view over the years. The point particularly relevant to our discussion is that

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- For example, the Cantor-Lebesgue measure associated with the Cantor set of constant dissection is  $L^p$ -improving (Christ; Oberlin).

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- $$= \sum_{y,z} K(y, z) f(x-y) g(x-z),$$

# What is the "right" bilinear analog of the spherical averaging operator? (continued)

- where  $K$  is the indicator function of the set

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- This puts the discrete operator in the form

$$H(f, g)(x) = \sum_{|u|=t} f(x - u)g(x - \theta^{\pm}u).$$

# The model bilinear generalized Radon transform

- This suggests that a reasonable model for the bilinear generalized Radon transform in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is

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- We will also discuss a natural variable coefficient analog of this operator in the style of the generalized Radon transforms studied by Phong, Stein and others in the 80s and 90s.

# Geometric configurations

- This operator has arisen before, in a more or less disguised form, in the work of Bourgain, Greenleaf, A.I., Furstenberg, Katznelson, Weiss, Ziegler and others in problems involving showing that a suitably "large" subset of Euclidean space contains vertices of an equilateral triangle.

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## Theorem

*Let  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , of positive upper Lebesgue density. Let  $E_\delta$  denote the  $\delta$ -neighborhood of  $E$ . Let  $V = \{\mathbf{0}, v^1, v^2, \dots, v^{k-1}\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , where  $k \geq 2$  is a positive integer. Then there exists  $l_0 > 0$  such that for any  $l > l_0$  and any  $\delta > 0$  there exists  $\{x^1, \dots, x^k\} \subset E_\delta$  congruent to  $lV = \{\mathbf{0}, lv^1, \dots, lv^{k-1}\}$ .*



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*(A.I. and B. Liu, 2016) There exists  $\epsilon_d > 0$  such that if the Hausdorff dimension of a compact set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \geq 3$ , is greater than  $d - \epsilon_d$ , then  $E$  contains vertices of an equilateral triangle.*



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- In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  this result is, in general, false (Falconer). Chan, Laba and Pramanik proved that a positive result is possible if one assumes that  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  carries a measure with a decaying Fourier transform.

## Theorem

(Greenleaf, Iosevich, Krause and Liu, 2016) With the notation above,  $\theta \neq \pi$ ,

$$B_\theta : L^p(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L^q(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^r(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

if  $(\frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{q}, \frac{1}{r})$  is in the polyhedron with the vertices  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,  $(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1)$ ,  $(0, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $(\frac{2}{3}, 0, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $(1, 0, 1)$ ,  $(0, 1, 1)$  and  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ .

If  $\theta = \pi$ , the vertices of the polyhedron are  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,  $(0, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $(\frac{2}{3}, 0, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $(1, 0, 1)$ ,  $(0, 1, 1)$  and  $(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, 1)$ .



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- These exponents are best possible, at least on the scale of normed spaces,  $p, q, r \geq 1$ .

# Typical difficulties with bilinear operators

- Let  $T_K f(x) = \int f(x-y)K(y)dy$ . Then Plancherel tells us that

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- Let  $B_K(f, g)(x) = \int \int f(x-u)g(x-v)K(u, v)dudv$ . The corresponding natural estimate in this setting is

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- It is known that  $\widehat{K} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)$  does not, in general, guarantee that this estimate holds. Just take  $T_K(f, g)(x) = H(fg)(x)$ , where  $H$  is the Hilbert transform.

# The bilinear multiplier of the model operator

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- $$m(\xi, \eta) = \widehat{\sigma}(\xi + \theta^T \eta) = J_0 \left( 2\pi|\xi + \theta^T \eta| \right).$$

# The bilinear multiplier of the model operator

- Since  $B_\theta(f, g)(x) = \int_{S^1} f(x - y)g(x - \theta y)d\sigma(y)$ , the bilinear multiplier is equal to

- $$m(\xi, \eta) = \widehat{\sigma}(\xi + \theta^T \eta) = J_0 \left( 2\pi |\xi + \theta^T \eta| \right).$$

- This multiplier does not decay at all along the 2-plane

$$\xi + \theta^T \eta = 0.$$

The  $L^{\frac{3}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L^{\frac{3}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$  bound

- We may take  $f, g \geq 0$  and obtain

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- The same argument yields the  $L^{\frac{d+1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d) \times L^{\frac{d+1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^{d+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  bound for  $d \geq 2$ .

# The $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2) \times L^2(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ bound

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$$S_\theta = \left\{ (y, y') \in S^1 \times S^1 : |\alpha - \alpha'| < \frac{\theta}{2} \right\}, \text{ with } y = e^{i\alpha}, y' = e^{i\alpha'}.$$

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- It follows that

$$\|B_\theta(\chi_E, \chi_F)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leq C(|E|^2 + |E||F|)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq 2C|E|^{\frac{1}{2}}|F|^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

for some constant  $C$  depending only on  $\theta$ .

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- $\frac{1}{r} \leq \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q}$ , (Large ball).

# The general case

- Let

$$B(f, g)(x) = \int \int \delta(\phi_1(x, y) - t_1) \cdot \delta(\phi_2(x, z) - t_2) \cdot \delta(\phi_3(y, z) - t_3) dy dz.$$

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- We obtain the same bounds for this operator as the ones we got for  $B_{\theta}(f, g)$  with  $\theta \neq \pi$  provided the following conditions hold.
- We need a **curvature** condition and a **transversality** condition.

- The **curvature** assumption is just the rotational curvature condition on  $\phi_3$ , namely

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \nabla_x \phi_3 \\ -(\nabla_y \phi_3)^T & \frac{\partial^2 \phi_3}{dx_i dy_j} \end{pmatrix} \neq 0$$

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$$\det \begin{bmatrix} d_y \phi_1(x, y) & 0 \\ d_y \phi_3(y, z) & 0 \\ 0 & d_{z'} \phi_3(x, z') \\ 0 & d_{z'} \phi_3(y, z') \end{bmatrix} \neq 0,$$



# Geometric conditions (continued)

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