

Extremizers and Near-extremizers  
for the Radon Transform  
—  
A Tale of Three Operators

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# Radon Transform

The Radon transform takes a function

$$f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

and transforms it to a function

$$\mathcal{R}f : G_d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

where  $G_d =$  Grassmann manifold of all **affine** hyperplanes  $\pi \subset \mathbb{R}^d$   
by

$$\mathcal{R}(\pi) = \int_{\pi} f.$$

# A Radon Transform Inequality

- ▶ Identify Grassmann manifold  $G_d$  with  $\{(r, \theta) \in \mathbb{R} \times S^{d-1}\}$ ;  $(r, \theta) \leftrightarrow$  hyperplane with normal vector  $\theta$ , at signed distance  $r$  from 0. Essentially a two to one map.
- ▶ Equip  $G_d$  with measure  $d\mu = dr d\theta$ .
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  maps  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  to  $L^1(G_d)$ . (Trivial; Fubini)
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  maps  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$  to  $L^q(G_d)$  for

$$\mathbf{p} = \frac{\mathbf{d} + \mathbf{1}}{\mathbf{d}} \text{ and } \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{d} + \mathbf{1}.$$

([Oberlin-Stein 1981], [Calderón 1983], ...)

- ▶ A one-parameter family of inequalities follows from these two. No others are true.
- ▶ Therefore: most interesting inequality is  $L^{(d+1)/d} \rightarrow L^{d+1}$ .

# Inverse Problems

Let  $\mathbb{A}$  be the optimal constant in the inequality

$$\|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1} \leq \mathbb{A} \|f\|_{(d+1)/d}.$$

What is the nature of those functions which **extremize**, or nearly extremize, or extremize it to within a small factor?

In this talk I will

- ▶ First review results on various versions of this question, obtained over several years.
- ▶ Then focus on a result obtained in recent weeks.

# Symmetry

- ▶ The  $L^{(d+1)/d} \rightarrow L^{d+1}$  inequality for  $\mathcal{R}$  has an extraordinarily

**large group of symmetries.**

- ▶ Indeed,

$$\frac{\|\mathcal{R}(f \circ \phi)\|_{d+1}}{\|f \circ \phi\|_{(d+1)/d}} = \frac{\|\mathcal{R}(f)\|_{d+1}}{\|f\|_{(d+1)/d}}$$

for any invertible **affine transformation**  $\phi$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

- ▶ This high degree of symmetry gives the inequality a special interest.

The endpoint inequality is not particularly difficult to prove. One proof (Calderón, Oberlin-Stein circa 1981) uses the  $L^2$  identity  $\mathcal{R}^* \circ \mathcal{R} = (-\Delta)^{-(d-1)/4}$  together with Sobolev embedding, mixed norm spaces, and interpolation.

# Quasiextremals

A combinatorial proof ([C 2006, 2011]) leads naturally to this conclusion:

**Theorem.** [C 2006/2011] If  $\|\mathcal{R}\mathbf{1}_E\|_{d+1} \geq \delta \|\mathbf{1}_E\|_{(d+1)/d}$  then

there exists a **convex** set  $\mathcal{C}$

which is not large:

$$|\mathcal{C}| = |\mathbf{E}|,$$

but which contains a significant fraction of  $E$ :

$$|\mathcal{C} \cap \mathbf{E}| \geq c\delta^C |\mathbf{E}|.$$

Here  $c, C$  are constants which depend only on the dimension  $d$ .

# Extremizers Exist

- ▶ **Theorem.** There exists a function satisfying

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- ▶ A natural way to prove this is by establishing **(Pre)compactness of extremizing sequences**:  
If

$$\|f_n\|_{(d+1)/d} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|\mathcal{R}f_n\|_{d+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}.$$

then

Some subsequence converges in  $L^{(d+1)/d}$  norm.

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**there exist invertible affine transformations  $\phi_n \in G$**

such that some subsequence of  $\{c_n f_n \circ \phi_n\}$  converges, in  $L^{(d+1)/d}$  norm.

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**Corollary. (Near-extremizers.)** If

$$\|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1} \geq (\mathbb{A} - \varepsilon)\|f\|_{(d+1)/d},$$

then  $f$  is  $\delta(\varepsilon)$ -close to some extremizer.

# Properties of Extremizers

- ▶ Extremizers are critical points of the functional

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathbf{f}) = \frac{\|\mathcal{R}\mathbf{f}\|_{d+1}}{\|\mathbf{f}\|_{(d+1)/d}}.$$

- ▶ Critical points are characterized by a generalized Euler-Lagrange equation:

$$\mathbf{f} = \lambda \left( \mathcal{R}^* (\mathcal{R}\mathbf{f})^d \right)^d.$$

- ▶  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  is a Lagrange multiplier (a ratio of powers of norms of  $\mathcal{R}\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{f}$ ).
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}^*$  is the transpose of  $\mathcal{R}$  — a similar operator.
- ▶ **Theorem.** [C-Xue 2010] All critical points of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}$ , and in particular all extremizers, are  $C^\infty$ , and  $f(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ .

# Asymptotic Behavior of Critical Points at Infinity

**Theorem.** [C, May 2011]

Any critical point  $f$  of the functional  $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}$  admits an asymptotic expansion of the form

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|}\right) |\mathbf{x}|^{-d-k} \quad \text{as } |\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty$$

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with each  $g_k \in C^\infty(S^{d-1})$ .

- ▶ There do exist critical points which are not extremizers.
- ▶ There exist critical points which tend to zero faster, as  $|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty$ , than extremizers do.

# Obstructions to Proving the Regularity Theorem

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- ▶ Therefore one cannot prove the regularity theorem by a direct “bootstrapping” argument.
- ▶ It is not true that arbitrary solutions of the Euler-Lagrange equation are  $C^\infty$ ; **there are nonsmooth solutions in weak  $L^{(d+1)/d}$** .
- ▶ If time permits, I will briefly discuss the proof of this regularity theorem at the end of today’s talk.

# Identification of Extremizers

I turn now to the main topic of today's lecture, the identification of extremizers.

# Very few nontrivial inequalities have known extremizers

- ▶ Young's convolution inequality (Beckner [1975]; Lieb [1976]):

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{d+d}} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}) \, d\mathbf{x} \, d\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{A}_{p,q,r} \|\mathbf{f}\|_p \|\mathbf{g}\|_q \|\mathbf{h}\|_r$$

if  $p^{-1} + q^{-1} + r^{-1} = 2$ . Extremizers are certain triples  $(f, g, h)$  of (not necessarily radial) **Gaussians**  $e^{-Q(x)}$ .

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- ▶ Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality (Lieb [1983]):

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{d+d}} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{y})|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}|^{-d+\gamma} \, d\mathbf{x} \, d\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{A}_{p,q,\gamma} \|\mathbf{f}\|_p \|\mathbf{g}\|_q$$

if  $q = p$  and  $2p^{-1} = 1 + \gamma d^{-1}$ . Extremizers

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{1} + |\mathbf{x}|^2)^{-d/p}$$

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**$F(\mathbf{x}) = (1 + |\mathbf{x}|^2)^{-d/p}$**  and  $F \circ \phi$  for all  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = a + r\mathbf{x}$ ,  $0 \neq r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

# More Inequalities With Known Extremizers

- ▶ **Hausdorff-Young** inequality (Babenko, Beckner).  
Extremizers are Gaussians.
- ▶ **Strichartz** inequalities (Foschi): If

$$u(t, x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\xi) e^{ix \cdot \xi} e^{it|\xi|^2} d\xi$$

then

$$\|u\|_q \leq A_d \|f\|_2$$

for  $q = 2\frac{d+1}{d-1}$  and  $d = 2$  or  $d = 3$ . Extremizers are (complex, radial) Gaussians.

- ▶ **Hilbert transform** (Pichorides).
- ▶ Extremizers and optimal constants have been identified for a few other inequalities, by very interesting **exploitation of symmetries**, by Beckner, in an ongoing series of papers.

# Today's Main Result

## Theorem.

- ▶ The function

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = (1 + |\mathbf{x}|^2)^{-d/2}$$

is an extremizer for the Radon transform inequality.

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- ▶ That  $(1 + |\mathbf{x}|^2)^{-d/2}$  is an extremizer, had been conjectured by Baernstein and Loss [1997].
- ▶ They proved this for dimension  $d = 3$  (and treated the 2-plane transform for all  $d$ ).

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- ▶ **Additional symmetry.**

The inequality has additional symmetries, beyond the affine group.

# Three Main Steps

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- ▶ The general scheme is along the lines introduced by **Lieb** in his work on the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality.

# A Convolution Operator

Before we go on, I need to tell you about a different operator.

- ▶  $T : L^{(d+1)/d}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^{d+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

$$Tf(x) = f * \sigma(x) = \int f(x - y) d\sigma(y)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the “affine surface measure”  $d\mathbf{y}'$  on the parabola

$$\mathbf{y}_d = \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{y}'|^2 \quad \text{with } \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}', \mathbf{y}_d) \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}^1.$$

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- ▶  $T$  is a canonical representative of the large class of operators defined by convolution with generalized surface measures on submanifolds. All of the theorems about quasiextremals, existence of extremizers, precompactness of extremizing sequences, and regularity of critical points of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}$ , were originally proved for  $T$ .

## A Third Operator

- ▶  $\mathcal{R}^\# : L^{(d+1)/d}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^{d+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

$$\mathcal{R}^\# f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} f(y', x_d + x' \cdot y') dy'.$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{R}^\#$  is essentially the Radon transform  $\mathcal{R}$ , but with different normalizations in two different respects.

# A rose by any other name . . .

- ▶ Fact: For all functions  $f$ ,

$$\|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1} = \|Tf\|_{d+1} = \|\mathcal{R}^\#f\|_{d+1}.$$

These identities rely on **(nonaffine)** changes of coordinates, Jacobian factors, and the particular exponents  $p = \frac{d+1}{d}$  and  $q = d + 1$ .

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$$(x', x_d) \mapsto (x', x_d \pm \frac{1}{2}|x'|^2)$$

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- ▶  $\mathcal{R}^\sharp$  is less famous, but is the bridge between  $T$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ . The proof of today's theorem relies on a symmetry which was discovered for  $\mathcal{R}^\sharp$ , rather than for  $\mathcal{R}$ .



## Step 2: The Non-Affine Symmetry

- ▶  $\mathcal{R}^\sharp$  is a scaling limit (under a parabolic rescaling) of  $\mathcal{R}$ . Yet a casual glance suggests that  $\mathcal{R}^\sharp$  enjoys a smaller symmetry group than  $\mathcal{R}$ . A search for the missing symmetries led to:
- ▶ Set

$$Jf(x'', s, t) = |s|^{-d} f(s^{-1}x'', s^{-1}, s^{-1}t)$$

$$Lf(x'', s, t) = f(x'', t, s)$$

▶

$$L \circ \mathcal{R}^\sharp = \mathcal{R}^\sharp \circ J.$$

Thus  $J$  arises naturally, being dual to the affine symmetry  $L$ .

- ▶ The equivalence between  $\mathcal{R}^\sharp$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  involves a non-affine change of variables.

- ▶ All theorems in this talk have versions for all three operators, in particular, for the convolution operator  $T$  associated to the paraboloid.
- ▶ Among the extremizers for  $T$  are all functions

$$c \left( 1 + a|x'|^2 + b \left| x_d - \frac{1}{2}|x'|^2 \right| \right)^{-d}$$

with coordinates  $(x', x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}^1$ .

We next discuss Step 1: Every extremizer has “ellipsoidal” symmetry.

# An Identity (Drury [1983,1984]; C [2011])

$$\|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1}^{d+1} = \int_{(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})^{d+1}} \text{Inner integral}(x'_0, \dots, x'_d) \prod_{j=0}^d dx'_j$$

where  $x_j = (x'_j, t_j) \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}^1$ , and the inner integral is

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Delta_{d-1}(x'_1, \dots, x'_d)^{-1} \mathbf{f}(x'_0, \mathbf{v}(x') \cdot \mathbf{t}) \prod_{j=1}^d \mathbf{f}(x'_j, t_j) dt_j$$

with  $t = (t_1, \dots, t_d)$ ,

$\Delta_{d-1}$  = volume of  $d - 1$ -simplex in  $\mathbb{R}^{d-1}$  with indicated vertices,

$\mathbf{v}(x') = \mathbf{v}(x'_1, \dots, x'_d)$  = unique vector such that

$(x'_0, \mathbf{v}(x') \cdot \mathbf{t})$  is coplanar with  $(x'_j, t_j)$  for all  $j \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ .

# Radial Nonincreasing Rearrangement

If  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is finite a.e. then there exists essentially unique  $f^* : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying:

- ▶ **Radial**
- ▶ **Nonincreasing:**  $r > r' \Rightarrow f^*(r) \leq f^*(r')$
- ▶ **Equimeasurable** with  $f$ :

$$|\{x : f^*(x) > \lambda\}| = |\{x : f(x) > \lambda\}|$$

for all  $\lambda$ .

# Rearrangement Inequalities

- ▶ Riesz [1930]; Sobolev [1936]

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x)g(y)h(x+y) \, dx \, dy \\ \leq \iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbf{f}^*(x)\mathbf{g}^*(y)\mathbf{h}^*(x+y) \, dx \, dy. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Brascamp-Lieb-Luttinger [1974]

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_j \mathbf{f}_j(L_j(x)) \, dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_j \mathbf{f}_j^*(L_j(x)) \, dx$$

for any linear mappings  $L_j : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^1$ .

# Rearrangement and the Radon Transform [C 1984]

- ▶ The inner integrals in the Drury/C identity are of the Brascamp-Lieb-Luttinger form.
- ▶ **Consequence:** Let  $f^{**}(x', x_d)$  be nondecreasing rearrangement of  $f(x', x_d)$  **with respect to the  $x_d$  variable for each  $x'$** . Then

$$\|\mathcal{R}f^{**}\|_{d+1} \geq \|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1}.$$

- ▶ Doing this repeatedly with respect to a dense set of directions in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and extracting limit of a subsequence, one obtains for the **radial**  $f^*$

$$\frac{\|\mathcal{R}f^*\|_{d+1}}{\|f^*\|_{(d+1)/d}} \geq \frac{\|\mathcal{R}f\|_{d+1}}{\|f\|_{(d+1)/d}}.$$

(Justification: Brascamp-Lieb-Luttinger [1974]; Carlen-Loss [1990])

# Consequence

**Corollary.** There exist radial extremizers for our Radon transform inequality.

- Use previously known existence of extremizers for an equivalent problem

OR

- Extremize within class of all radial functions.

# Burchard's Inverse Theorem [1996]

If

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_{j=0}^m f_j(L_j(x)) dx \equiv \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_{j=0}^m f_j^*(L_j(x)) dx$$

then there exist  $c_j$  such that

$$f_j(x) \equiv f_j^*(x - c_j)$$

and moreover  $\{c_j\}$  **are compatible** in the sense that there exists  $v \in \mathbb{R}^m$  such that

$$c_j = L_j(v) \text{ for all } j \in \{0, \dots, m\} \text{ —}$$



# Burchard's Inverse Theorem [1996]

If

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_{j=0}^m f_j(L_j(x)) dx \equiv \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \prod_{j=0}^m f_j^*(L_j(x)) dx$$

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**provided** that all level sets of all  $f_j$  are null sets: For all  $\lambda$ ,

$$|\{x : f_j(x) = \lambda\}| = 0.$$

# Scholium

- ▶ Burchard's theorem, as stated, does not apply directly, because it requires that level sets be null sets, which is not obvious here.
- ▶ I believe that it is possible to refine the analysis of [C-Xue 2010] to show that all critical points of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{R}}$  are real analytic. This implies the null condition.
- ▶ Burchard proved a more fundamental inverse theorem, characterizing cases of equality in Young's inequality, when all functions are characteristic functions of sets. When the measures of these sets satisfy certain inequalities, the same characterization of equality holds.
- ▶ A tedious direct argument supplements this inverse theorem, allowing one to draw the desired conclusion in our application to the Radon transform. I will spare you all these details.

# Upshot for Radon Transform

- ▶ **Proposition.** If  $f$  is an extremizer for the Radon transform inequality then for each unit vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , there exists a **skew reflection**  $R_v$  in the direction  $v$  such that

$$f \equiv f \circ R_v.$$

- ▶ By a skew reflection  $R_v$  I mean an **affine involution** such that  $R_v(x) - x$  is **parallel to**  $v$  for every  $x$ .

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- ▶ The discussion so far provides a skew reflection  $R_v$  for every direction  $v$ , but no control over their relationship to one another.
- ▶ Burchard faced this same point in extending the inverse theorem to higher dimensions.

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Group Theory!

**Fact.** Any compact subgroup of the affine group, is **conjugate (by an element of the affine group) to a subgroup of the orthogonal group  $O(d)$** .

- ▶ Therefore after an affine change of variables, any extremizer  $f$  is invariant with respect to (orthogonal) reflection about every codimension one subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Thus  **$f$  has ellipsoidal symmetry.**



## Step 3

**Proposition.** If  $f$  is radial and  $|s|^{-d}f(s^{-1}u, s^{-1})$  is “ellipsoidal” then  $f(x) = c(1 + r|x|^2)^{-d/2}$  for some constants  $c, r$ .

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**Proof** for  $\mathbb{R}^2$  case:



$$s^{-2}f(s^{-1}t, s^{-1}) = h((s - a)^2 + \lambda t^2)$$

for some unknown function  $h$  and numbers  $a, \lambda$ . Writing  $f(x) = g(|x|^2)$ , get

$$g\left(\frac{t^2 + 1}{s^2}\right) = s^2 h((s - a)^2 + \lambda t^2).$$

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- ▶ Apply  $V$  to both sides.

► Algebra  $\Rightarrow$

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where  $\psi = (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{a})^2 + \lambda \mathbf{t}^2$ .

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- ▶ Therefore

$$\frac{h(\psi)}{h'(\psi)} \equiv -\psi.$$

- ▶ Solve ODE

$$\frac{d}{d\psi} \log h(\psi) = -\frac{1}{\psi}$$

to finish.



# Solving the Euler-Lagrange equation: **Broken Symmetry**

- ▶ Define  $S(f) = (T^*(Tf)^d)^d$ .
- ▶ The equation  $f = \lambda S(f)$  has critical scaling, viewed as an equation in the class  $L^{p_0}$ .
- ▶ But no individual function in  $L^{p_0}$  has critical scaling in any sense; the choice of a particular function  $f$  breaks all symmetry.
- ▶ The Euler-Lagrange equation has critical scaling only because of its particular degree of nonlinearity. The linearization of  $S$  about any  $L^{p_0}$  function is a better operator. Thus

**Nonlinearity works to our advantage.**

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- ▶ Use uniqueness of solutions to conclude that known solution equals one which belongs to the better space.
- ▶ Carrying this out requires inventing appropriate scale of Banach spaces, and proving various inequalities for  $S$  within this scale.

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- ▶ Interpolate between unweighted inequality for  $L^{(d+1)/d}$ , and weighted inequality for  $L^\infty$ .
- ▶ [C-Xue] had carried this out for the convolution operator  $T$ , without having observed the equivalent reformulation in terms of an operator with radial symmetry. The weights used there were powers of  $(1 + |x'| + |x_d \pm \frac{1}{2}|x'|)$ ; the proof of the  $L^\infty$  inequality took 6 pages of small print.

# Great Leap Strategy

- ▶ Let the multilinear operator  $\vec{S}$  be the “polarization” of  $S$ :  
 $S(f) = \vec{S}(f, f, \dots, f)$  where

$$\vec{S}\{f_{i,j} : 1 \leq i, j \leq d\} = \prod_i T^* \left( \prod_j T(f_{i,j}) \right).$$

- ▶ Goal: Prove if  $f \in L^{p_0}$  satisfies  $f = \lambda S(f)$ , then  $\langle x \rangle^{\delta} f \in L^{p_0}$ .  
( $\delta = \delta(f) > 0$ .)
- ▶ GL strategy requires inventing **a scale of Banach spaces**  $X_t$ ,  
for  $t \in [0, 1]$ , with certain properties.
- ▶ The proof will give no control on  $\delta$ ; it depends on the  
“profile” of  $f$  itself, not merely on  $\lambda$  and  $\|f\|_{p_0}$ .

# Properties required of the spaces $X_t$

The Banach spaces  $X_t$  must satisfy:

- ▶  $X_0 = L^{p_0}$ .
- ▶ For  $t > 0$ ,  $X_t \subset \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} X_0$  for some  $\delta = \delta(t) > 0$ .
- ▶  $s > t \Rightarrow X_s \subset X_t$ .
- ▶ If  $f \in X_s$  then  $t \mapsto \|f\|_{X_t}$  **is continuous** on  $[0, s]$ .
- ▶  $\vec{S} : X_t \otimes X_t \otimes \cdots \otimes X_t \rightarrow X_t$  for all  $t$ .
- ▶ **Wealth sharing property.** Let  $t > 0$ . If

$$f_{i,j} \in X_0 \quad \forall i, j$$

and at least one function  $f_{i,j}$  belongs to  $X_t$ ,

then

$\vec{S}\{f_{i,j}\}$  belongs to  $X_\tau$  for some  $\tau(t) > 0$ .

# Preparing to Leap

- ▶ For small  $\varepsilon > 0$  split

$$f = g_\varepsilon + b_\varepsilon$$

where the **good part**  $g_\varepsilon \in X_1$ , while the **bad part is small**:

$$\|b_\varepsilon\|_{p_0} < \varepsilon.$$

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- ▶ Rewrite equation as  $b_\varepsilon = \mathcal{L}(g_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon) + \lambda S(b_\varepsilon)$ , where the “linear” part  $\mathcal{L}(g_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon)$  has degree  $d - 1$  as a function of  $b_\varepsilon$ .

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- ▶ By wealth sharing,  $\mathcal{L}(g_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon) \in X_s$  for some  $s > 0$ .
- ▶ By continuity of norms,

$$\|\mathcal{L}(g_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon)\|_{X_{\tau(\varepsilon)}} < 2\varepsilon$$

provided  $\tau(\varepsilon) > 0$  is chosen to be sufficiently small.



# The bad term is also good

- ▶ The bad part  $b_\varepsilon$  has small norm.
- ▶ The most nonlinear term,  $\lambda S(b_\varepsilon)$ , is homogeneous of degree  $d^2 > 1$ .
- ▶ Therefore this worst term is  $\lll b_\varepsilon$  itself.

# The Leap

- ▶ For small  $\varepsilon > 0$ , solve fixed-point equation for unknown  $h_\varepsilon$ :

$$\mathbf{h}_\varepsilon = \mathcal{L}(g_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon) + \lambda S(\mathbf{h}_\varepsilon)$$

- ▶ Do this by contraction mapping principle, **simultaneously** in  $X_0$  and in  $X_{\mathcal{T}(\varepsilon)}$ . **This works for all sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$ .**
- ▶ Contraction mapping produces a unique solution. Since  $X_{\mathcal{T}(\varepsilon)} \subset X_0$ , the two solutions obtained in the two spaces must agree.
- ▶  $b_\varepsilon$  is the unique small solution in  $X_0$ .
- ▶ Therefore for all sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$ ,  $b_\varepsilon \in X_{\mathcal{T}(\varepsilon)}$ . Then  $f = b_\varepsilon + g_\varepsilon$  also  $\in X_{\mathcal{T}(\varepsilon)}$ .

- ▶ The spaces  $X_t$  used in the proof are weighted spaces  $L^{p_t}(w_t)$  where the weights  $w_t$  are appropriate positive powers of  $\langle x \rangle$ .
- ▶ The endpoints are  $L^{(d+1)/d} \rightarrow L^{d+1}$  with weight  $|x|^0$ , and  $L^\infty$  with weight  $\langle x \rangle^d$ .
- ▶ The Radon transform maps these boundedly to  $L^{q_t}$  with corresponding power weights.
- ▶ The  $L^\infty$  endpoint estimate is one line.
- ▶ [C-Xue] had carried this out for the convolution operator  $T$ , without having observed the equivalent reformulation in terms of an operator with radial symmetry. The weights used there were powers of  $(1 + |x'| + |x_d \pm \frac{1}{2}|x'|)$ ; the proof of the  $L^\infty$  inequality took 6 pages of small print.