

Thermal characterisation by Scanning Photothermal Radiometry using a random undersampled measurement scheme

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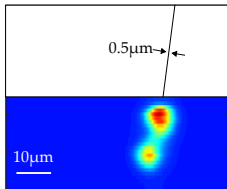


2026-06-30

Scanning Photothermal Radiometry

Very **precise** ($0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$)

But quite **slow** (1 h per image)



In this presentation: Acceleration of $\sim 6\times$ using undersampling techniques

Summary

1 Introduction**2** Scanning Photothermal Radiometry

- MPtR
- SPR

3 Undersampling techniques

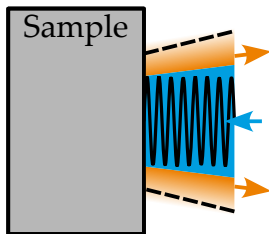
- Sample studied
- Compressive Sensing
- Radial Basis Interpolation

4 Results

- Sampling ratios
- Noise levels
- 3D

5 Conclusion

Modulated Photothermal Radiometry (MPtR)



Stefan-Boltzmann law

$$M = \epsilon \sigma T^4$$

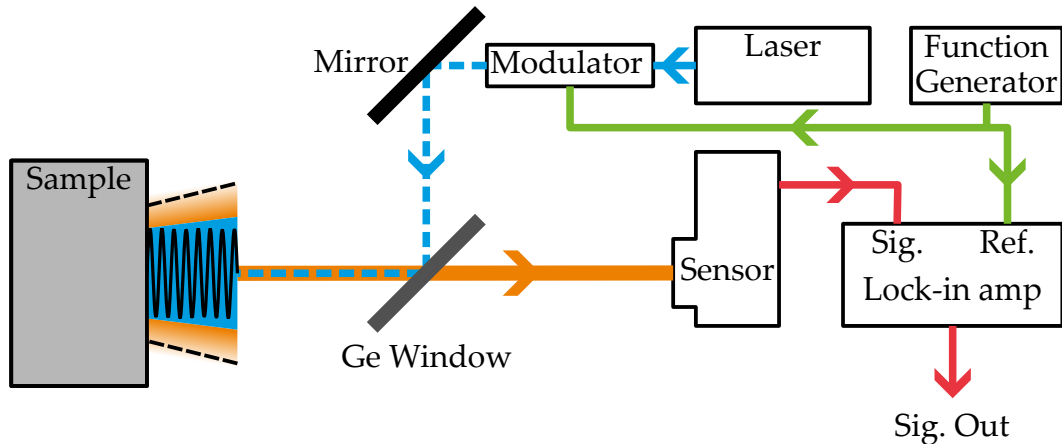
For input periodic laser heating

$$I_{laser} = A \cos(2\pi f t)$$

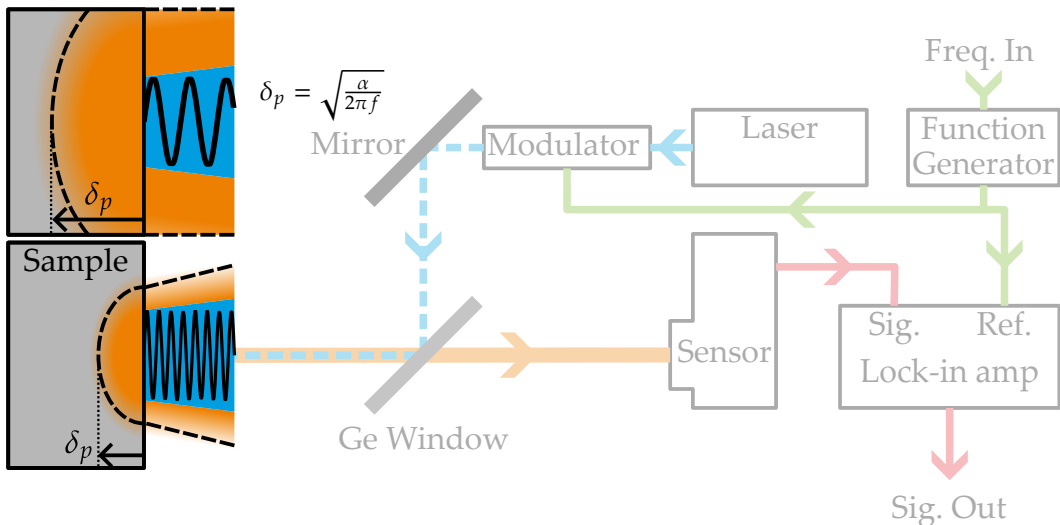
And small ΔT

$$\Delta M \simeq 4\epsilon\sigma T_0^3 \Delta T_f \cos(2\pi f t + \phi)$$

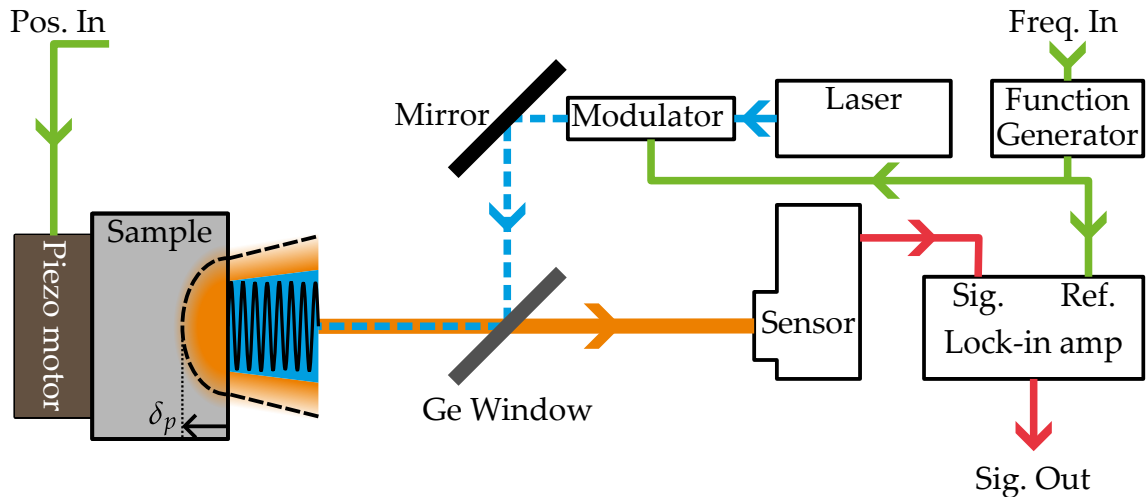
Modulated Photothermal Radiometry (MPtR)



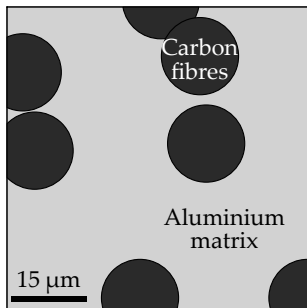
MPtR Frequencies



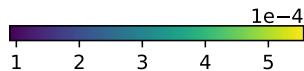
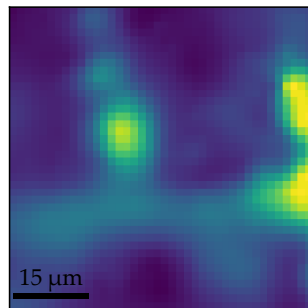
Scanning Photothermal Radiometry



Sample studied: Carbon fibre - Aluminium matrix



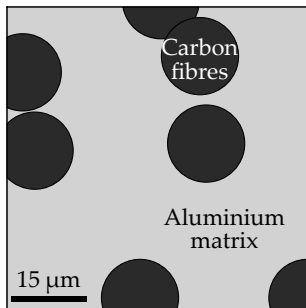
(a) Schematic



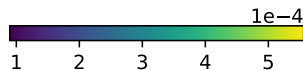
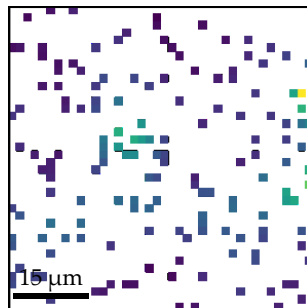
(b) Amplitude (a.u.)

Figure: Reference image 40x40 points (1600) @ 6kHz, time ~ 1h

Sample studied: Carbon fibre - Aluminium matrix



(a) Schematic



(b) Amplitude (a.u.)

Figure: 160 random points within 40×40 (1600) @ 6kHz, time $\sim 10\text{min}$

Compressive Sensing

Objective:

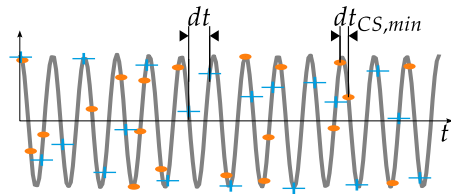
Solve an inverse problem $y = Hx$

With basis change $x = \Psi\xi$

And ξ sparse

Minimising using a ℓ_1 -norm promotes sparsity
(ie. sets values to 0)

$$\hat{\xi} = \min_{\xi} \|H\Psi\xi - y\|_2 + \lambda\|\xi\|_1$$



Compressive Sensing

Objective:

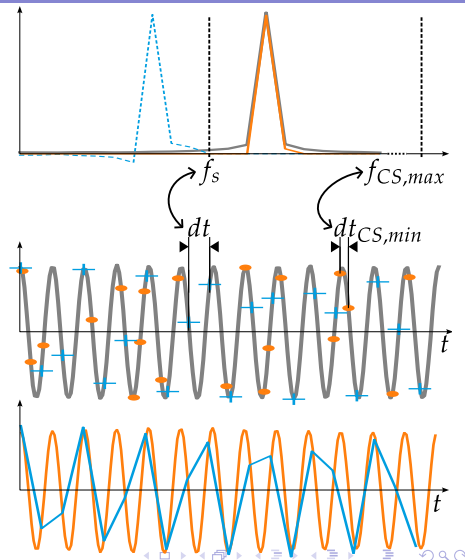
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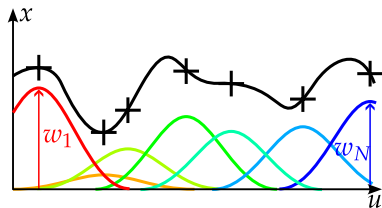
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Radial Basis Functions interpolation

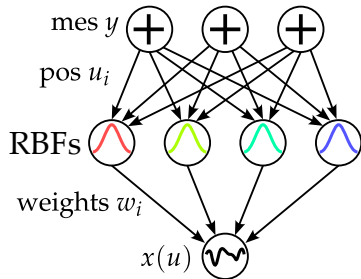


Objective:

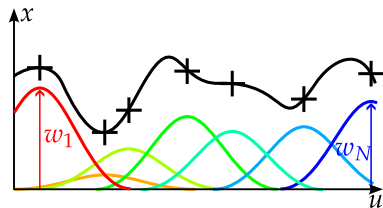
Find x from a set of measurements y at known positions u_i
ie. $y_i = x(u_i)$

$$y = \begin{pmatrix} A(|u_1 - u_1|) & A(|u_2 - u_1|) & \cdots & A(|u_N - u_1|) \\ A(|u_1 - u_2|) & A(|u_2 - u_2|) & \cdots & A(|u_N - u_2|) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A(|u_1 - u_N|) & A(|u_2 - u_N|) & \cdots & A(|u_N - u_N|) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Find weights w_i , then $x = \sum w_i A(|u - u_i|)$



Radial Basis Functions interpolation



Objective:

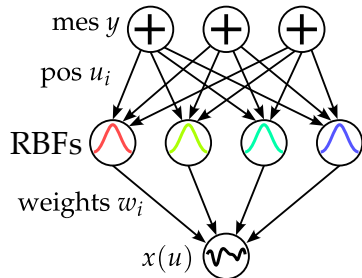
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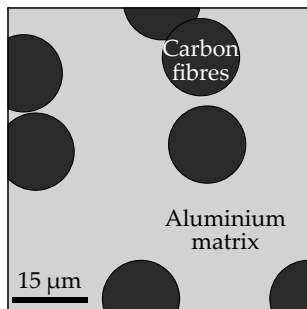
RBF Interpolation

RBF Approximation

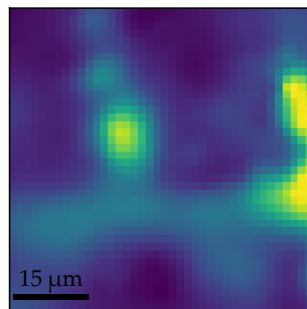


$$y = \mathbf{A}w$$

$$y = (\mathbf{A} + \lambda \mathbf{I})w$$



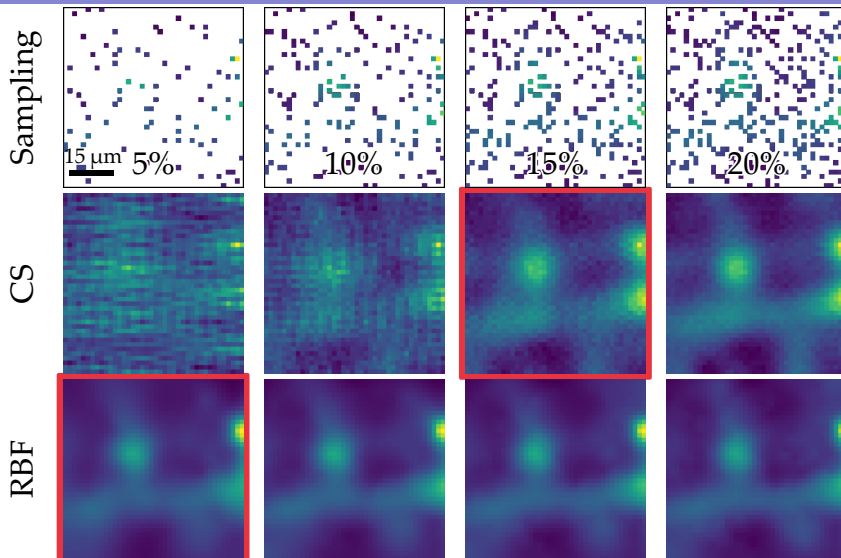
(a) Schematic



(b) Amplitude (a.u.)

Figure: Reference image 40x40 points (1600) @ 6kHz, time ~ 1h

Sampling ratios



Sampling ratios

In this study:

- Both methods allow for a significant reduction in the number of points
- RBF is better in this application

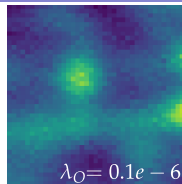
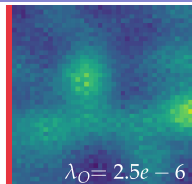
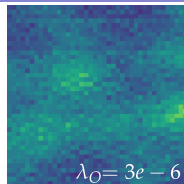
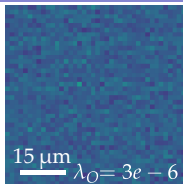
Is this still true with noisy data?

Noise levels

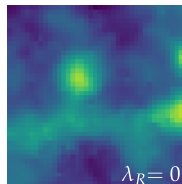
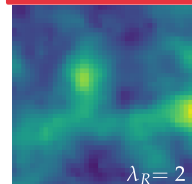
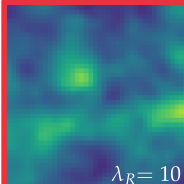
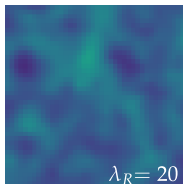
←
More
Noise

→
Less
Noise

CS

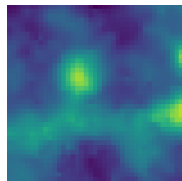
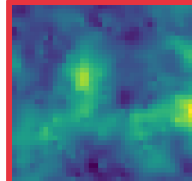
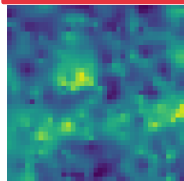
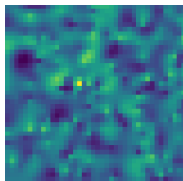


RBF (reg)



Samp. ratio
25%

RBF



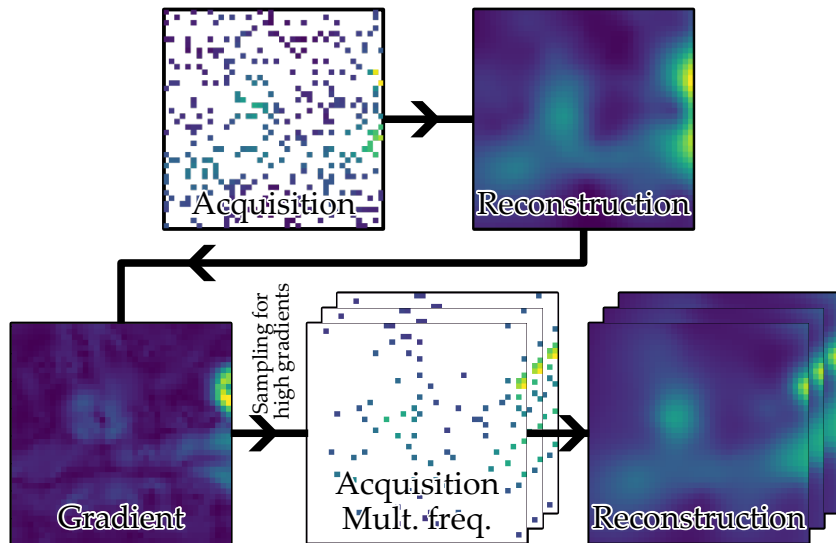
Noise levels

In this study:

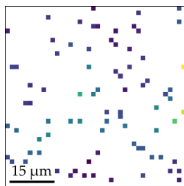
- All methods are quite sensitive to noise
- Adding a regularisation parameter to the RBF problem helps with denoising

Now, can we use this gain of time to scan at multiple frequencies?

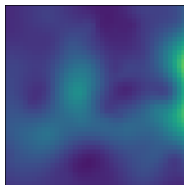
Multiple frequencies scan



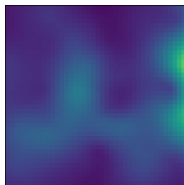
Multiple frequencies scan



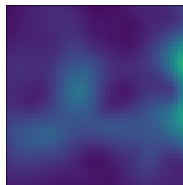
Random Sampling



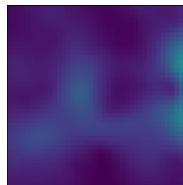
Random 1kHz



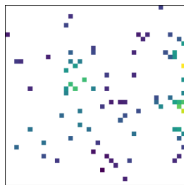
Random 10kHz



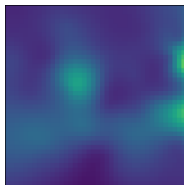
Random 40kHz



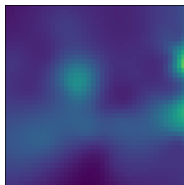
Random 100kHz



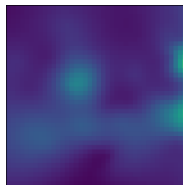
Weighted Random



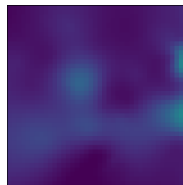
Weighted 1kHz



Weighted 10kHz

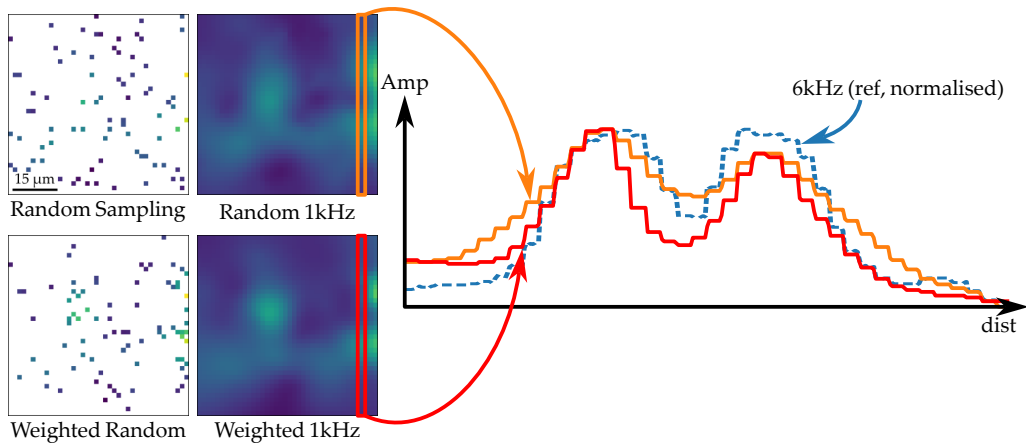


Weighted 40kHz



Weighted 100kHz

Multiple frequencies scan



Conclusion

For 1 frequency, 50×50 image: $1\text{h} \rightarrow 10\text{min}$

For 10 frequencies, 50×50 image: $10\text{h} \rightarrow 1\text{h}40$ (Detector autonomy of $\sim 8\text{h}$)

Applicable to a lot of point-by-point methods¹

¹Smoother images are usually better

Thank you!

Any questions?



See the QIRT program for the article