
February 28, 2024

Manuel Cañizares
mcanizares@bcamath.org
BCAM (Basque Center for Applied Mathematics)
48003. Bilbao, Spain

Professor Dr. Matti Lassas
University of Helsinki

Dear Prof. Lassas,

I am writing to express my interest in the postdoctoral position on inverse problems at the University of Helsinki.

I would like to tell you a little bit about my background and motivations.

In 2018, I obtained bachelor's degrees in both physics and mathematics through a double bachelor's program at the Universidad de Sevilla. I wrote my bachelor thesis while taking part in the Erasmus program at WWU Münster, Germany. The thesis laid in the field of computational physics, I mainly conducted computer simulations to study phase transitions and the appearance of interfaces in the two dimensional Ising model with anti-periodic boundary conditions. This work resulted in a joint paper with my supervisor, Gernot Münster, published in 2020 in the *Journal of Statistical Physics*.

I then went on to study a master degree on mathematical physics at Universidad de Granada, from which I graduated in 2020. I decided to shift my focus towards mathematical analysis, driven by a strong interest in understanding crowd dynamics. Consequently, I contacted Juan Soler, who supervised my thesis on the Strogatz model of swarmallators. This model aims to explain systems in which there is an interplay between synchronization and aggregation phenomena, from a kinetic point of view.

Following that, I had the opportunity to start a PhD under the supervision of Pedro Caro and Ioannis Parissis at the Basque Center for Applied Mathematics. They let me choose between focusing either on inverse problems or on more pure harmonic analysis. I chose the first one, since I feel like I am greatly motivated by the study of physical phenomena through mathematics.

Prior to this experience, I had not been exposed to inverse problems. Therefore, my first year primarily focused on studying the background and techniques in analytical inverse problems. Pedro then proposed me that I extend a result that he and Andoni Garcia had published on 2020, on the identifiability of rough electric potentials via the near-field scattering pattern.

I recently submitted the result of my work as a paper for which I am the sole author. In this work, I obtained an inverse uniqueness result in a similar setting, in this case using local data. On the one hand, I used some harmonic analysis techniques to extend the class of potentials to consider. On the other hand, I proved runge approximation and interior regularity results to make use of the local data to obtain a suitable orthogonality relation.

At the moment, I am working with Pedro on a generalization of a result that he and Alberto Ruiz published recently. We hope to obtain identifiability on exponentially decreasing potentials in the setting of the initial-to-final value inverse problem for the time-dependent Schrödinger equation. This relies in obtaining analytic dependence of the resolvent for the solutions that play the role of CGO solutions, and in proving a local smoothness estimate for the corresponding equation.

From April to July, I will be on an international stay at Université de Bordeaux under the supervision of Sylvain Ervedoza. We plan on studying applications of Carleman estimates either to inverse problems or to control theory. All this will be part of my PhD thesis, which I plan on defending in September, at the latest.

With all honesty, sometimes I wish it had taken me less time to complete my first work. However, I am grateful that Pedro gave me such freedom, for I am confident that this has allowed me to reach a high level of independence, intuition and maturity in my research. Overall, I feel like my motivation and my work ethic is still growing every day.

Last, but not least, I would like to emphasize that I feel energized by and about research dissemination. I feel like I can convey mathematical ideas in an intuitive way. Besides short talks at the Inverse Days in Kuopio and at the HAPDEGMT conference in Bilbao, I have given long form talks at the Analysis Seminar in Barcelona and at the Mathematical Analysis Days in Logroño, Spain. However, I would say that another important part of my experience comes from the fact that I have been giving reinforcement classes at high school and university levels for several years, both one-on-one and to classes of up to 30 students. I always give them passionately, and find a lot of enjoyment in it.

I am really eager to keep fostering my career as a researcher, and look forward to meeting a new group of like-minded people with whom I can work and develop new knowledge. I have several ideas for problems that I want to tackle in the future, specially in the realm of analytical inverse problems. However, I am driven by the possibility of learning new techniques and working in new domains of research, either in the field of inverse problems or otherwise.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely yours,

Manuel Cañizares
