# Towards Reverse Engineering of PDF Documents

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# Motivation

- Accessibility of many scientific PDF documents is poor
  - Poor internal search
  - No integration with other software
- Although many modern articles are published in PDF they rarely (never?) make full use of functionality available in PDF
  - No structure, tags or marked content
- In particular there is no pdf2latex tool!



- Overview of previous work
  - Parsing and extraction of formulae from PDF
- Improvements
  - Full document extraction
  - Layout analysis
- Evaluation
  - Comparison to Infty
- Conclusions

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- PDF analysis potentially offers more than OCR
- Unicode names, fonts, sizes, baselines are available
- However,

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- However,
- Key information may be absent
- Precise spatial information is not available
- Image analysis also required

# Previous Work: Character Extraction



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• PDF Analysis

... 10.882 0.199 1 S Q 1 0 0 1 1.307 -9.125 cm BT
/F11 9.963 Tf 0 0 Td[(k)]TJ/F8 9.963 Tf 5.5 0
Td[(!)]TJ 5.27 6.834 Td[(050)]TJ/F11 9.963 Tf 3.874 0
Td[(k)]TJ/F14 9.963 Tf 7.715 0 Td[(000)]TJ/F11 9.963
Tf 9.962 ...

4 B 6 4 B

#### Linearization

matrix(<parenleftbigg, CMEX10, 9.963>)(row(col(<A, CMMI10, 9.963>)col(<v, CMMI10, 9.963>))row(col(<zero, CMR10, 9.963>)col (<one, CMR10, 9.963>)))(<parenrightbigg, CMEX10, 9.963>) w3 <comma, CMMI10, 9.963> w4 sup <A A, CMMI10, 9.963>)(<dagger, CMSY7, 6.974>) ...

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• Parsing and output

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc} A & v \\ 0 & 1 \end{array} 
ight), \quad AA^{\dagger} = I, \,\, v \in {f R}^3?$$

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- Complete page and document extraction
  - No need for manual intervention
  - Suitable for much larger scale conversion
- Structural analysis
  - Math segmentation
  - Layout analysis

- Extraction and matching extended to whole pages and documents
- Projection Profile Cutting used for line and column detection
  - Efficient and offers good results with many layouts
- Linearization extended for layout analysis
  - Inclusion of line bounding boxes

- Lines are parsed with LALR parser
- Accumulate individual components in each line by
  - assemble single words
  - assemble sequences of mathematical expressions into inline math formulae
- Seperate text lines from display style math based on some heuristics (e.g., number of words vs number of math expressions)

# Improvements: Assembling Vertical Areas

- Put together paragraphs of parsed lines from previous step plus bounding box information of lines.
- Assemble multiline math expressions by combining consecutive display-style math lines.
- Detect some special features for math paragraphs such as
  - formula enumeration,
  - vertical alignment etc.
- Detect special properties of paragraphs such as
  - alignment, indentation,
  - headers etc.

- Translation into output formats is achieved by specialist drivers
- LATEX and MathML drivers for single lines using line analysis information
- LATEX driver for entire pages using information on vertical areas plus some spacing information on the layout (MathML still in development).

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## Improvements: Example

Original Page

11.7. CONVERGENCE OF SEMIGROUPS. 317 Proof.  $\||exp(n(B - I)) - B^n|x|| = \|e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} (B^k - B^n)x\|$   $\leq e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} \|(B^k - B^n)x\|$   $\leq e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} \|(B^{k-n|} - I)x\|$   $= e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} \|(B - I)(I + B + \dots + B^{(|k-n|-1})x\|)$   $\leq e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} \|e - n\|(B - I)x\|.$ 

So to prove (11.22) it is enough establish the inequality

$$e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} |k-n| \le \sqrt{n}.$$
 (11.23)

Consider the space of all sequences  $\mathbf{a} = \{a_0, a_1, ...\}$  with finite norm relative to scalar product

$$(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) := e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k!} a_k \overline{b_k}.$$

The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality applied to a with  $a_k = |k - n|$  and b with  $b_k \equiv 1$  gives

$$e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^k}{k!}|k-n| \leq \sqrt{e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^k}{k!}(k-n)^2} \cdot \sqrt{e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^k}{k!}}.$$

The second square root is one, and we recognize the sum under the first square root as the variance of the Poisson distribution with parameter n, and we know that this variance is n. QED

#### 11.7 Convergence of semigroups.

We are going to be interested in the following type of result. We would like to know that if  $A_{n}$  is a sequence of operators generating equibounded one parameter semi-groups expt  $A_{n}$  and  $A_{n} - A$  where A generates an equibounded semi-group expt A then the semi-group converge, i.e.  $e_{1}e_{1}A_{n} - e_{2}A_{n}$  be semi-group expt A but the two semi-group converge. I.e.  $e_{2}e_{1}A_{n} - e_{2}A_{n}$ formulate the result, we have to do al with the fact that each  $A_{n}$  comes equipped with its own domain of definition,  $D(A_{n})$ . We do not want to make the overly

#### Rendered LATEX

1.1.7. CONVERGENCE OF SEMIGROUPS. 3 Proof.  $|| \exp(n(B-I)) - B^n |x|| = ||e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^k}{k} (B^k - B^n) x||$ 

$$\begin{split} &\leq \ e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^{k}}{k!}\|\left(B^{k}-B^{0}\right)x\|\\ &\leq \ e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^{k}}{k!}\|\left(B^{k-n}|-I\right)x\|\\ &= e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^{k}}{k!}\|(B-I)\left(I+B+\dots+B^{(k-n)-1)x!}\right.\\ &\leq \ e^{-n}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{n^{k}}{k!}\|k-n\||(B-I)x||. \end{split}$$

So to prove (11.22) it is enough establish the inequality

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- Comparison to Infty's current PDF to Latex conversion module
  - Leading scientific mathematical document analysis system
  - Uses commercial OCR software for standard text
  - Specialised OCR for mathematics
  - Performs full page analysis

This is joint work with Masakazu Suzuki [ICDAR 2011]

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- 5 scientific papers
  - 2 pages from each
- Wide selection of fonts, maths and layout
- Every page manually ground truthed by Infty
- Required new driver for appropriate output

# **Evaluation:** Character Recognition

#### • Infty character recognition results

|               | Artale | Durrett | Judson | Riemann | Sternberg |
|---------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Objects       | 11143  | 3233    | 1935   | 2418    | 2120      |
| Misrecognised | 53     | 5       | 5      | 1       | 3         |
| Extras        | 46     | 2       | 6      | 2       | 3         |
| Missing       | 10     | 5       | 4      | 0       | 5         |

#### • Maxtract character recognition results

|               | Artale | Durrett | Judson | Riemann | Sternberg |
|---------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Characters    | 9304   | 2799    | 1744   | 2094    | 1889      |
| Symbols       | 9282   | 2785    | 1729   | 2094    | 1868      |
| Misrecognised | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0       | 0         |
| Missing       | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0       | 0         |

Structure recognition rate wrt. 628 expression.

|                       | Infty | Maxtract |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| Expression found      | 635   | 850      |
| Correct               | 550   | 235      |
| Expression split      | 40    | 172      |
| Space differences     | 2     | 103      |
| Additional characters | 10    | 102      |
| Misrecognised         | 33    | 16       |
| Not recognised        | 7     | 0        |

# Evaluation: Formula Recognition

### Comparison of rendered $\[Mathbb{L}^{T}\]EX$ results

| Original                  | Infty                             | Maxtract                              |  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| $r \in N_{glo}.$          | $r \in \mathcal{N}_{g^{1\circ}}.$ | $r \in N_{glo}$ .                     |  |
| J                         | $\sim$ /!                         | J                                     |  |
| $\sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i x^i,$ | $\sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i x^i$          | $m$ $\sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i x^i,$ $i = 0$ |  |

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- We have developed a pdf2latex tool
- pdf2mathml also available
- Significant improvements over previous work
  - Now processes entire documents
  - Formulae automatically identified
  - Additional layout analysis
- Layout analysis still naive
- Performs well against leading document analysis system
- Looking forward to results of integration with Infty