Black Mathematics at Cambridge

Sibusiso Sibisi

Education

PhD, University of Cambridge, Churchill College, 1983
BSc, Imperial College, London, 1979

Academic Positions

Director, Wits Business School, Johannesburg (2018-)
Advisory Board member, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (2003-)
President and CEO, Council for Scientific an Industrial Research, Pretoria (2002-2017)
Co-founder and Director, iThemba Pharmaceuticals, 2001
Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, University of Cape Town (2000-2002)
Executive Director (R&D), Plessey SA, (1997-2000)
Co-founder and Director, Massive Inference Techniques Limited, Cambridge (1994-2000)
Research Associate, University of Cambridge (1989-1994)
Fulbright Research Fellowship, Caltech, 1988
Research Associate, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 1984

Profile

Dr Sibusiso Sibisi had been fascinated by science and technology since he was a child at Mariannhill, a Roman Catholic mission in KwaZulu-Natal. His mother, Harriet Ngubane, taught at the school and his father, Jethro Sibisi, was an educationist and school inspector. His mother worked hard at keeping her family of seven children intact, while also studying at the University of Natal. Later, she obtained a scholarship to Cambridge where she completed a PhD in Social Anthropology. Sibusiso joined her in Cambridge, after completing his BSc at Imperial College.
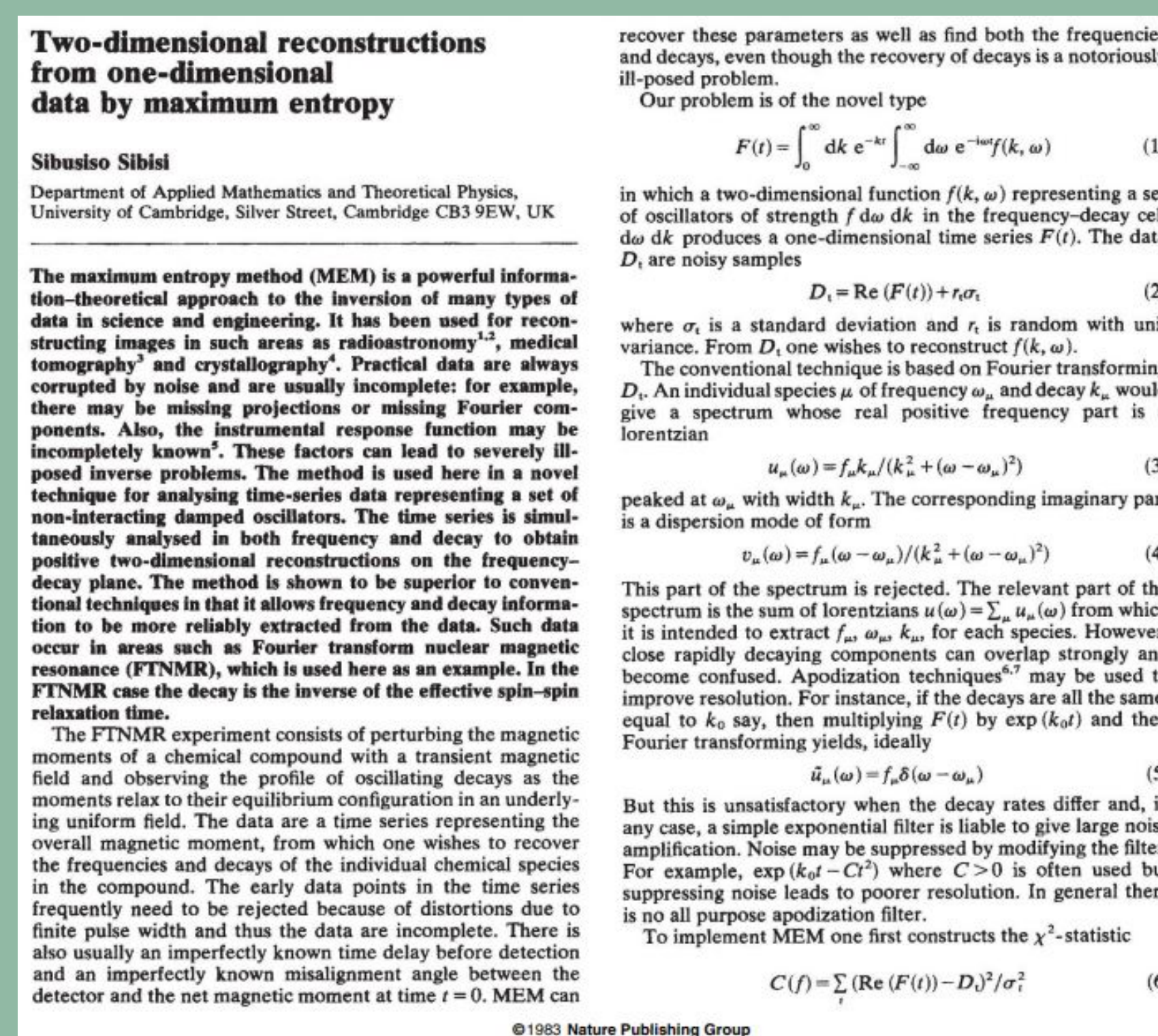
Sibusiso Sibisi's research focuses on Bayesian statistics, exploring both numerical applications and theoretical problems, including probabilistic interpretation of problems in number theory. He always combined the academic work with an interest for technological applications and business. "*I believe these [science and business] are not two separate worlds...*", he says.

Dr Sibusiso Sibisi and President Cyril Ramaphosa

Sibusiso Sibisi was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe: Silver by President Thabo Mbeki in September 2007. The official tribute accompanying this high award states: "*Sibisi is a physicist and a mathematician who is also well-versed with the workings of the corporate world. His work recognises the importance of linking the academic world of science and the commercial world of business. This is heavily influenced by where he started his work, which was at one of the world's highest-profile innovation hubs, Cambridge Science Park.*" He has been involved in techonology innovation in support of a range of national priorities, including education, throughout his life, and served on the Advisory Board of AIMS since its launch in 2003.