

Spectral properties of the Riemann-Hilbert problem and of Toeplitz operators are well understood in the case of piece-wise continuous coefficients. Unfortunately much less is known in the case of irregular (rough) coefficients and the existing methods do not seem to work in this setting. The talk is intended as a nontechnical survey of some recent results where Blaschke products have played a crucial role and of some open problems in the field.