

Learning Physical Laws with AI

Energy Days 2025

Prague - 7 Nov 2025

Florian Sobieczky – SCCH

(Software Competence Center Hagenberg)

Overview

- 1. Different Qualities of Physics Informedness**
- 2. Zoo of Methods**
- 3. Proposition of a Method for Learning Physical Laws**
- 4. Experiment**

Physics and Predictive Modeling

In the **Supervised Learning** Universe, Predictive Models are parametrized functions of type

$$u: X \times \Theta \rightarrow Y$$

which, by a training process on a given data-set $D = \{(x(j), y(j))\}_{j < N}$, allow estimation of the loss-minimizing parameter $\hat{\theta} \in \Theta$ and associated trained model ('approximator')

$$\hat{u}: X \rightarrow Y, \hat{u}(x) := u(x, \hat{\theta}).$$

If this model describes a physical process fulfilling a differential equation (ODE, PDE)

$$L[u] = f,$$

then it is desirable (Property D) that approaching f by an approximator \hat{f} implies

$$L[\hat{u}] \rightarrow f.$$

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Physics and Predictive Modeling

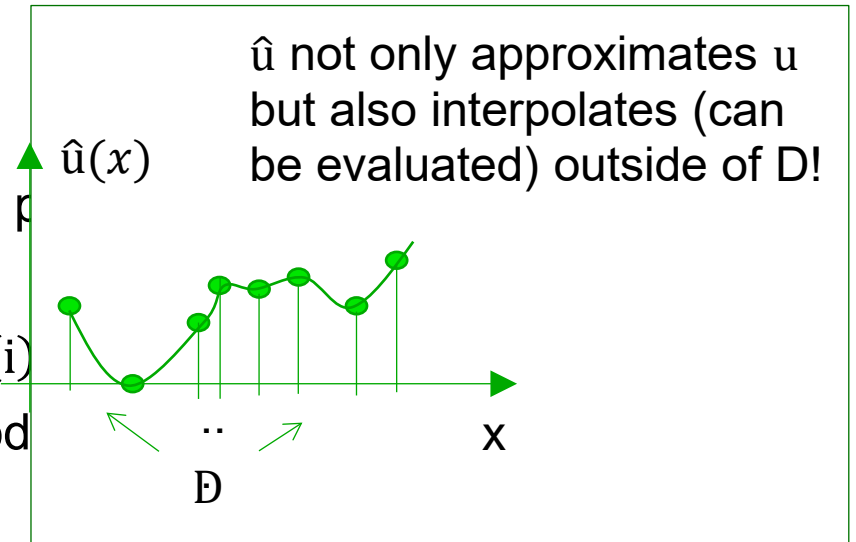
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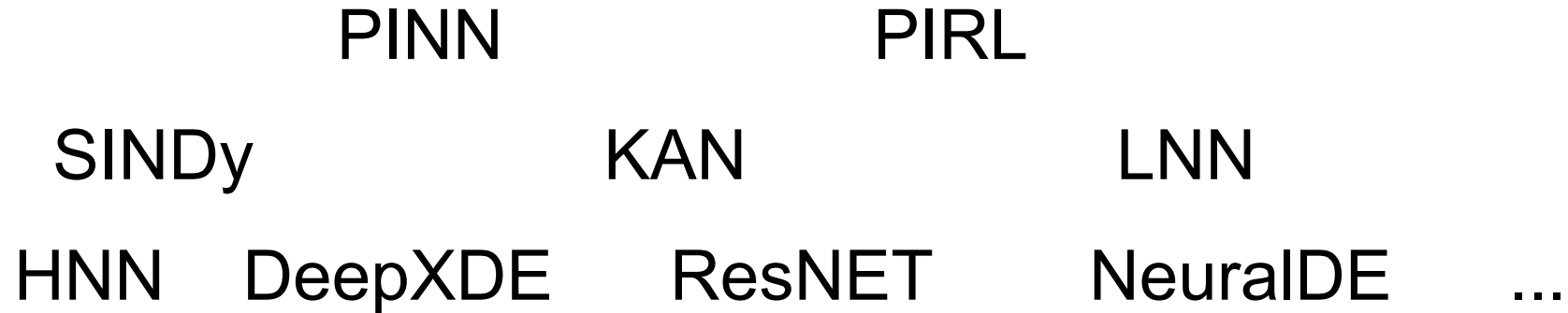
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Different Approaches



Three different Qualities:

- (A) Physical Knowledge is put into predictive model,
- (B) Physical Knowledge is derived from predictive model,
- (C) Physical Knowledge is explained using an underlying base model.

PINN (Physics Informed Neural Networks)

Idea: Use **Physical Loss** l_{ph} in addition to **Prediction Loss** l_{pr} in total loss function $(1 - \lambda)l_{pr} + \lambda l_{ph}$ during training of neural network to condition on 'physical solutions'.

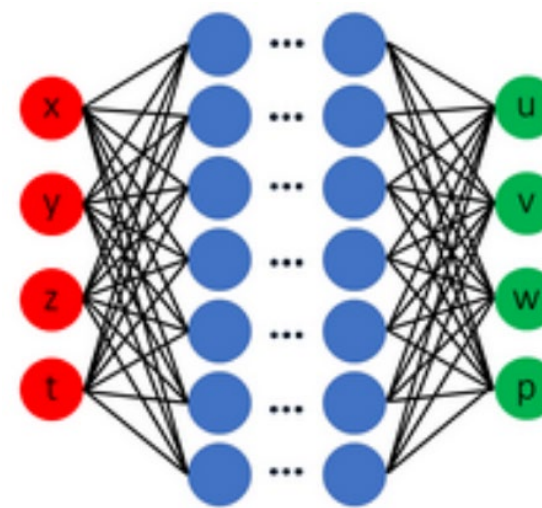
λ : Regularization Parameter

l_{pr} : Evaluated on D: $||u - u_{obs}||$

l_{ph} : Evaluated on functions on X
using automatic differentiation

E.G. $l_{ph}(u) = ||\kappa \cdot u'' - \dot{u}||$

κ is treated as optimization parameter like neural weights.



Benefits:

- Faster Training (A) due to stronger 'guiding' constraints
- Makes NNet applicable to small Datasets D as evaluation of l_{ph} possible on all of X.
- During training (=optimization) also infer physical constants (B).

[1] Karniadakis, G. E. et al. Physics-informed machine learning. *Nat. Rev. Phys.* **3**, 422–440 (2021)

PINN (Physics Informed Neural Networks)

Or by a more general approach:

$$u_t = \sum_k \lambda_k \Phi_k(u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots)$$

and find λ_k by Symbolic Regression.

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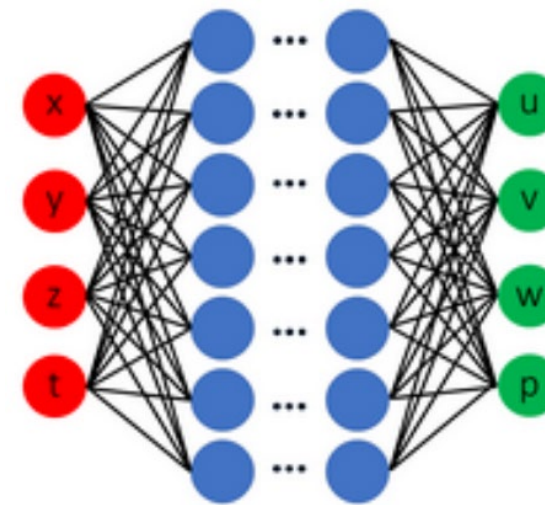
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[2] Heteroscedastic uncertainty quantification in Physics-Informed Neural Networks.

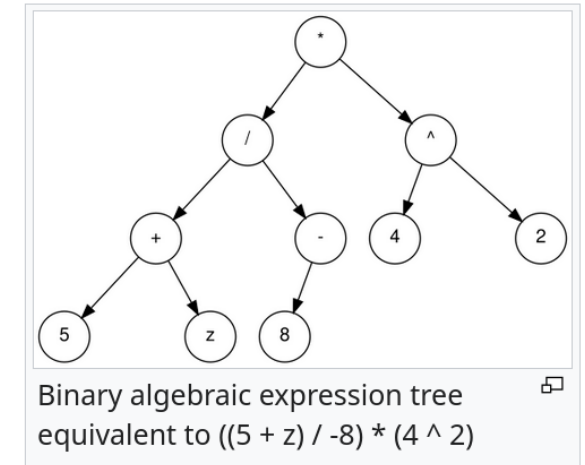
Claessen, O., Shapovalova, Y. & Heskes, T. (2024). In *ICLR 2024 Workshop on AI4DifferentialEquations In Science*, Vienna, Austria, May 11, 2024 (pp. 1-6). S.l.: OpenReview

Sindy (Sparse Identification of Non-Linear Dynamics)

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^T(t_1) \\ \mathbf{x}^T(t_2) \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^T(t_m) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t_1) & x_2(t_1) & \cdots & x_n(t_1) \\ x_1(t_2) & x_2(t_2) & \cdots & x_n(t_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1(t_m) & x_2(t_m) & \cdots & x_n(t_m) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Theta(\mathbf{X}) = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | & | & & | & | \\ 1 & \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{X}^2 & \mathbf{X}^3 & \cdots & \sin(\mathbf{X}) & \cos(\mathbf{X}) & \cdots \\ | & | & | & | & & | & | \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \Theta(\mathbf{X})\Xi$$



$$\xi_k = \arg \min_{\xi'_k} \left\| \dot{\mathbf{X}}_k - \Theta(\mathbf{X})\xi'_k \right\|_2 + \lambda \left\| \xi'_k \right\|_1$$

Dynamical System: $\mathbf{x}'(t) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}(t))$

$$\dot{x}_k = \Theta(\mathbf{x})\xi_k$$

Linear Regression on data points

Potential candidates for solutions to differential equation: 'Library', Combinations via binary expressions

L1-Regression: Sparseness

"Discovering governing equations from data by sparse identification of nonlinear dynamical systems" arXiv1509.03580

Brunton, Steven L.; Proctor, Joshua L.; Kutz, J. Nathan (2016-04-12). . *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. **113** (15): 3932–3937. :

Sindy (Sparse Identification of Non-Linear Dynamics)

From: L. Ibadullayeva. Mastering Overfitting: A Deep Dive into Lasso and Ridge Regularization with Python and R, <https://medium.com/@lala.ibadullayeva/mastering-overfitting-a-deep-dive-into-lasso-and-ridge-regularization-with-python-and-r-p-d0bd2a7a9328>

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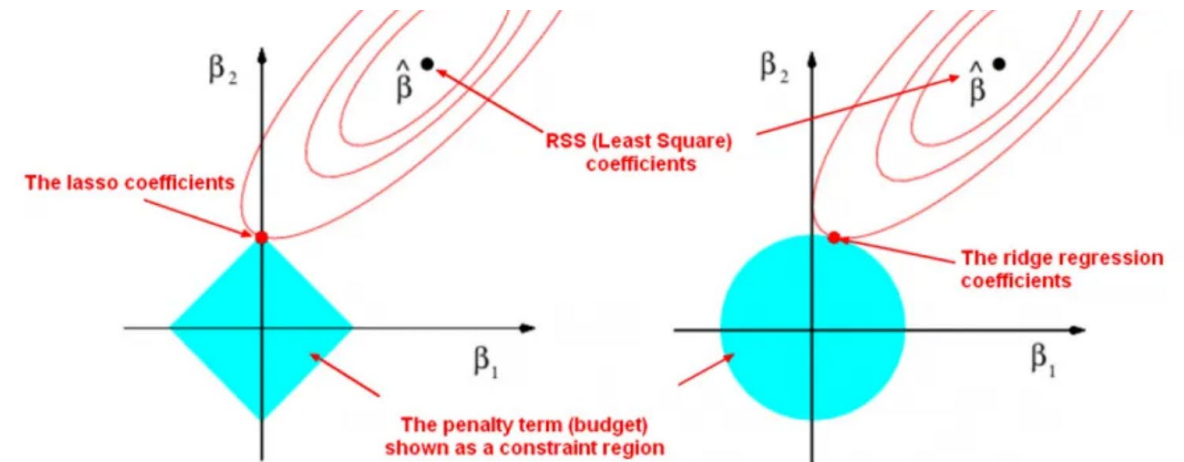
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KAN (Kolmogorov Arnold Networks)

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{q=1}^{2n+1} \Phi_q \left(\sum_{p=1}^n \phi_{q,p}(x_p) \right)$$

Idea: Neural Network acts on input layer also by summing univariate functions -> they need not be relu's.

V. Arnold , A. Kolmogorov (1956)

Every continuous function of n variables on bounded domain is composition of continuous *univariate* functions by addition.

Composition of n functions

- Activation function *not* $\text{relu}(x)$, but arbitrary.
- Symbolic Regression done by KAM where nodes represent sums of univariate (activation) functions of former layer.

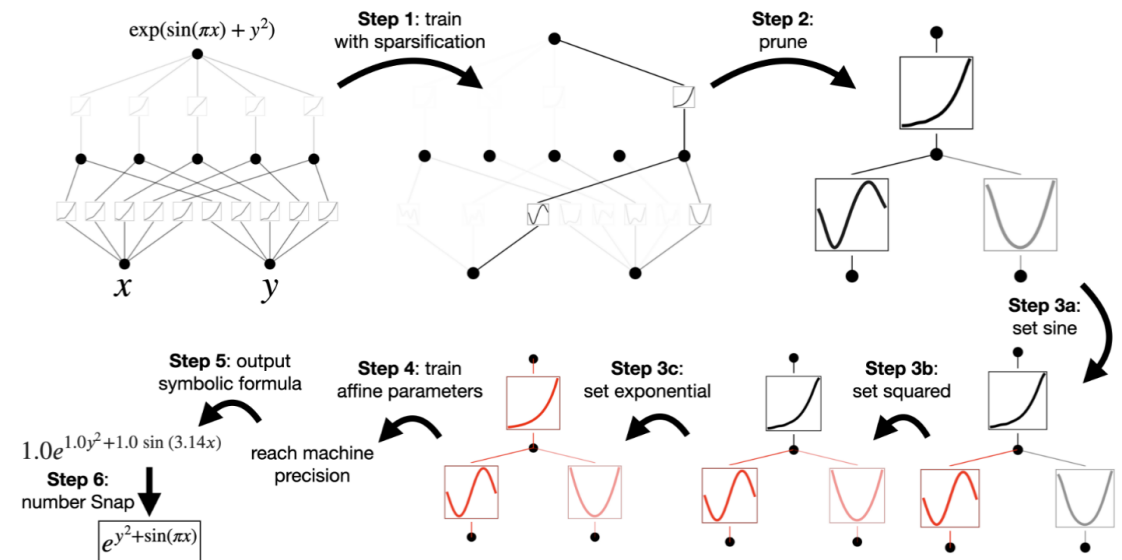
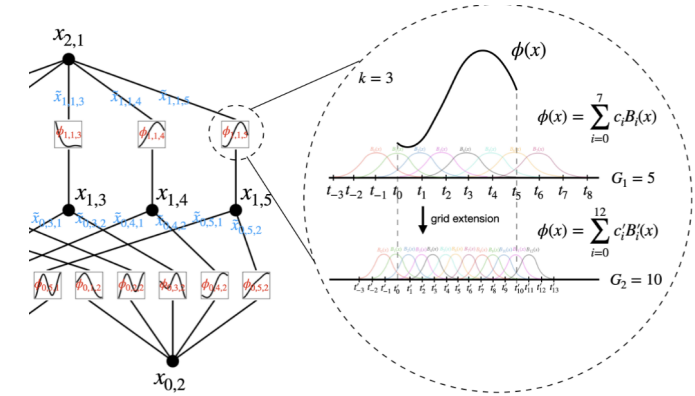


Figure 2.4: An example of how to do symbolic regression with KAN.

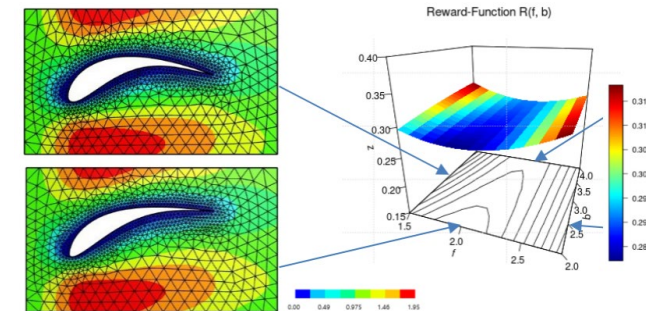
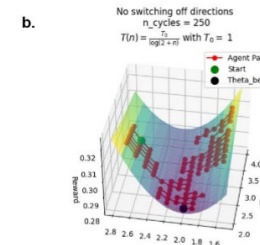
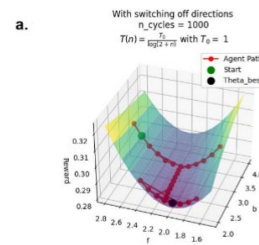
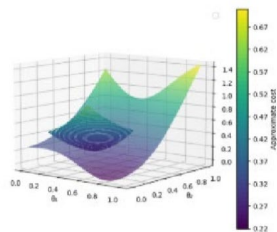
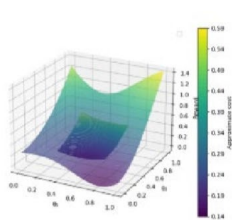
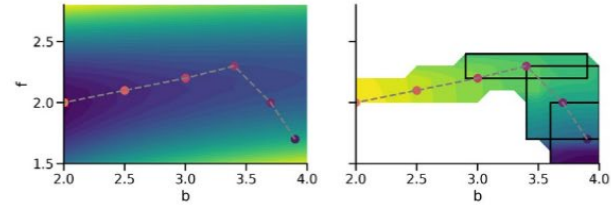
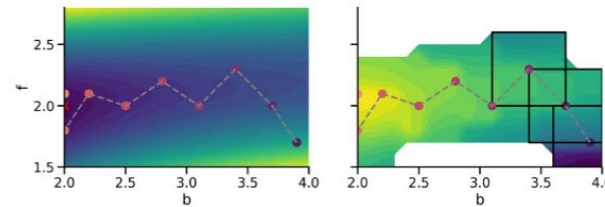
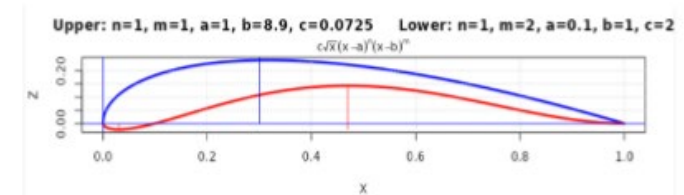
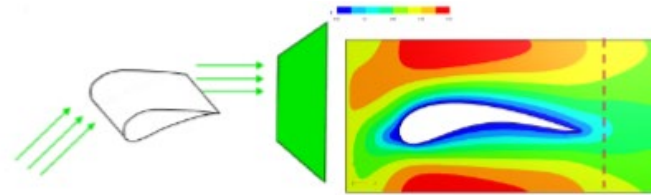
PIRL

Physics Informed Reinforcement Learning

MDP with (X, A, P, R)

Add Physics Information in

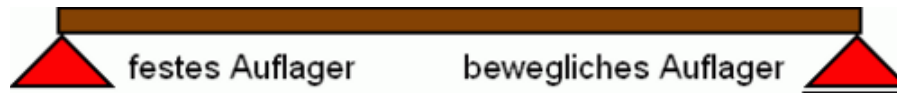
- the reward Function R,
- the transition measure P,
- the value function $V(x) = \mathbf{E}[R(x(j))]$.



Motivating Example: Beam Bending

$$(EI(x) w''(x))'' = q(x)$$

E: Young'modulus
I: Area moment of inertia
EI: 'Stiffness'



- Limiting Case: Bernoulli-Assumptions (No shearing/torsion):
- Reality slightly different: Moments of Deviation not zero
- Define surrogate (base-) model w_0 & consider residual error to w_0 -> Train model $\hat{\epsilon}$ predicting these errors
- Define hybrid model $\hat{w}(x, i) = w_0(x) + \hat{\epsilon}^{(i)}(x)$

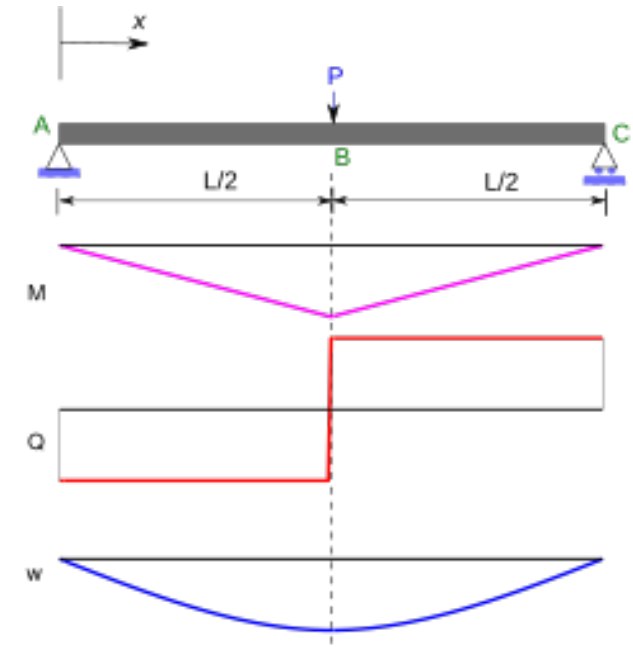
Deflection curve

('Biegelinie')

$$w(x) = - \frac{\int_0^x (\int_0^x M_y(\xi) d\xi + C_1) d\xi + C_2}{EI_y}$$

$$M = -EI \frac{d^2 w}{dx^2}$$

$$Q = -\frac{d}{dx} \left(EI \frac{d^2 w}{dx^2} \right)$$



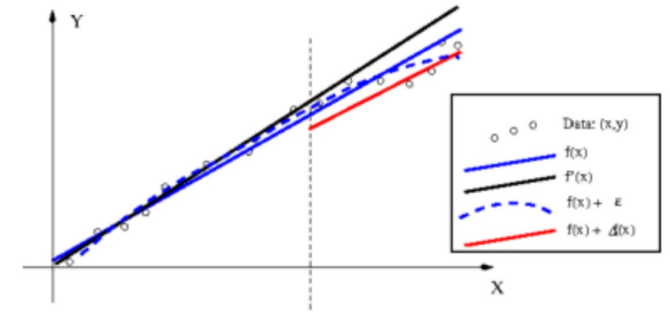
X-ODE: Calculate Source Term of Linear (inhomogeneous) ODEs

- BAPC: **B**efore and **A**fter prediction **P**arameter **C**omparison [1] - **If**

i.) $Y_i = f_\theta(X_i) + \epsilon_i$, ii.) $\epsilon_i = \hat{\epsilon}(X_i) + \Delta\epsilon_i$, iii.) $Y_i - \hat{\epsilon}(X_i) = f_{\theta'}(X_i) + \epsilon_i'$
(f_θ is the 'base model', $\hat{\epsilon}$ models anomaly, $Y_i - \hat{\epsilon}(X_i)$ is data-correction),
then $f_\theta(x_i) - f_{\theta'}(x_i)$ is an 'explanation' (interpretation/sketch) of $\hat{\epsilon}$ at x_i .

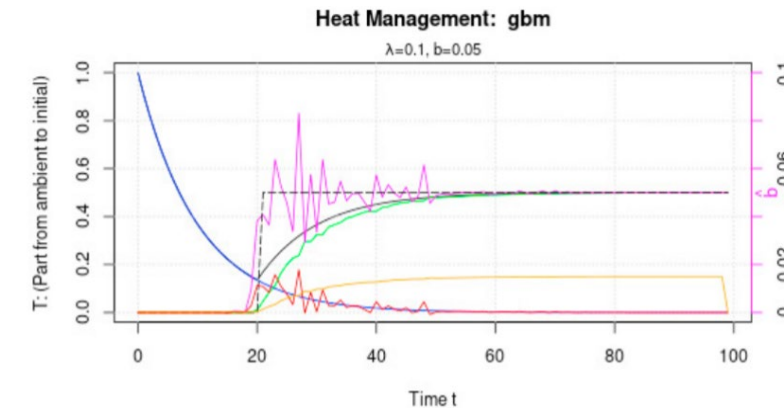
Now, consider the linear ODE $u' = a(x)u(x) + b(x)$.

- Considering the solution to the **homogeneous** ODE the base-model, from training the residual error there is a formular [2] for the source term, given the predictive model ($\hat{\epsilon}$): $\hat{b}(x) = \hat{\epsilon}'(x) - a(x)\hat{\epsilon}(x)$.



Discovering effect of air-friction:
Acceleration is not a constant!

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2103.07155>



[1] A. Lopez, F. Sobieczky, Surrogate Modeling for Explainable Predictive Time Series Corrections. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.1989>.

[2] Florian Sobieczky, Erika Dudkin, Jan Zenisek, Learning the inhomogenous term of a linear ODE, Procedia Computer Science, Volume 232, 2024, Pages 1548-1553, SSN 1877-0509, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2024.01.152>.

Given the trained corrector $\hat{\epsilon}$, what is the estimator of the source term?

$$y'_t = a_t \cdot y_t + b_t$$

$$y_t = e^{A_t} \left(Y_0 + \int_0^t e^{-A_s} b_s ds \right)$$

$$A_t = \int_0^t a_s ds$$

$$y_t^{(h)} = Y_0 e^{A_t}.$$

$$\widehat{\epsilon}_t = e^{A_t} \int_0^t e^{-A_s} \widehat{b}_s ds \quad \Rightarrow \quad \widehat{b}_t = \widehat{\epsilon}_t' - a_t \cdot \widehat{\epsilon}_t$$



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5th International Conference on Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing

Learning the inhomogenous term of a linear ODE

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^bUniversity of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

Learning physically explainable corrections

1. Observe a Phenomenon, explain it with a linear DE:

- $L[u_0] = 0$ (u_0 is the 'base'-model, or surrogat model)

2. Reality is different

- In truth, $L[u] = f$ holds, where $u = u_0 + \epsilon$.

3. Train a model $\hat{\epsilon}$ for the residual error $\epsilon_i(x)$ under conditions i

$$\epsilon_i(x) = \hat{\epsilon}(x, i) + \Delta\epsilon_i(x)$$

so that you can approximate the real solution u by $\hat{u}(x, i) = u_0(x) + \hat{\epsilon}(x, i)$ with an error of $\Delta\epsilon_i(x)$.

4. Define: $\hat{f} := L[\hat{u}]$. Then it follows from the linearity of $L[\cdot]$

$$L[\hat{\epsilon}] = L[u - u_0] = \hat{f} - L[u_0], \text{ and so: } \hat{f} = L[\hat{\epsilon}].$$

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5. Does it also fulfill Property (D)?

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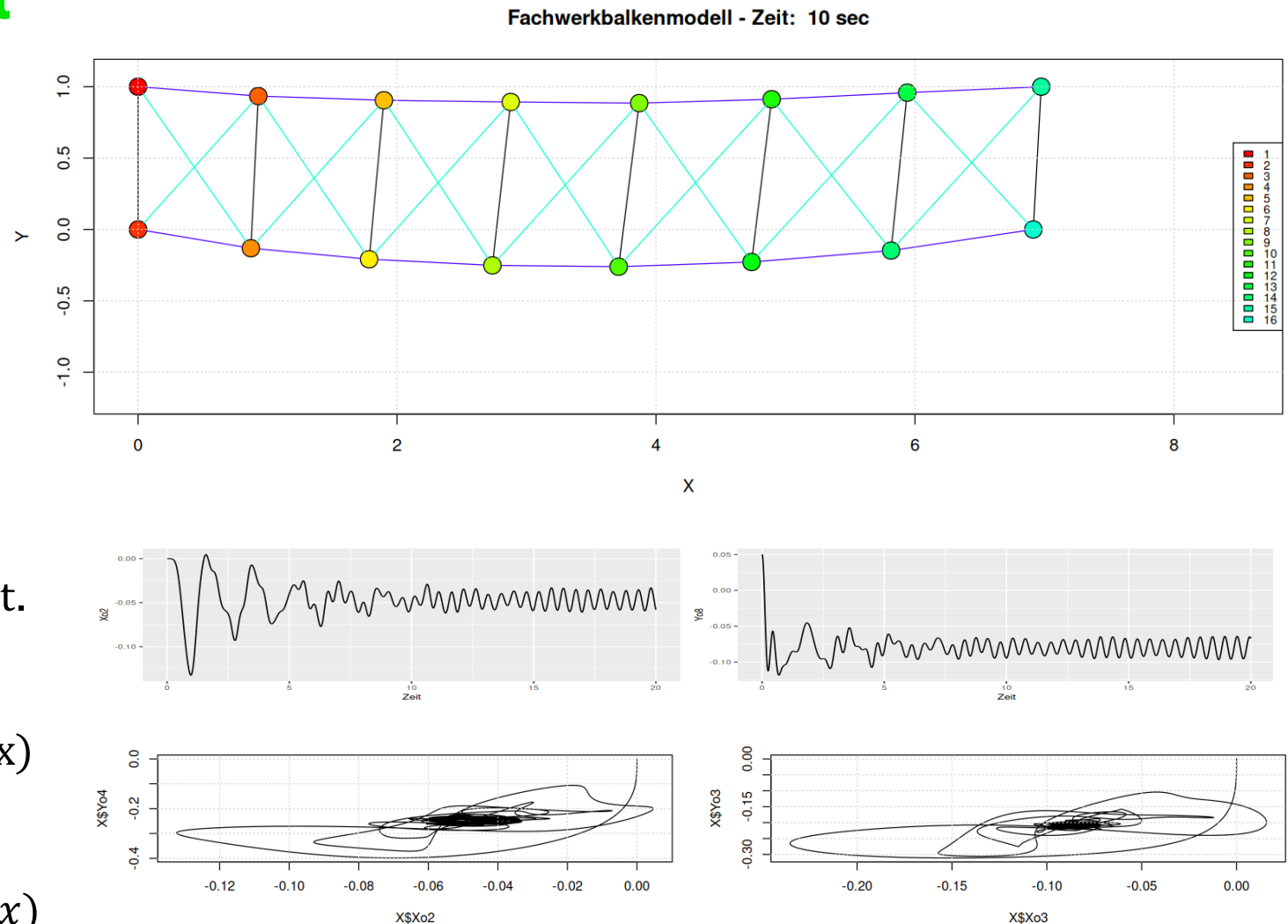
(D)?

Answer: Yes, since $L[\cdot]$ is *linear*, $\Delta\epsilon \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\epsilon} \rightarrow \epsilon \Rightarrow$

$$\hat{u} \rightarrow u \Rightarrow \hat{f} = L[\hat{u}] \rightarrow L[u] = f$$

Numerical Experiment

- 16 Points of Unit Mass ('Fachwerk')
- Linear Forces, springs' constants
- Initial arrangement: Lattice
- 'Static determ., 'Auflager' $Y_{u8} = \text{const.}$
- Influence of the Bending Moment
- Asymptotic Form = Deflection-line $u(x)$
- Compare with $w_0(x)$ (base-model)
- $w_0(x) = \frac{q}{24EI} (x^4 + C_3x^3 + C_2x^2 + C_1x)$

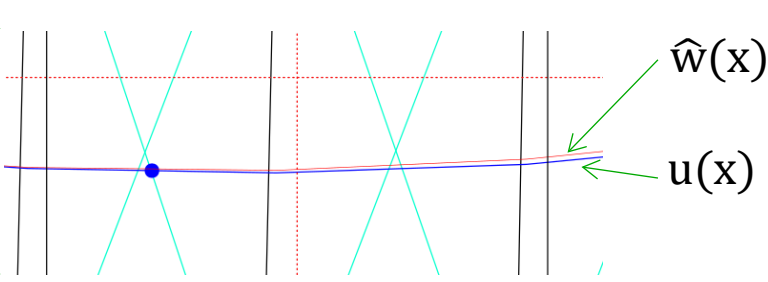
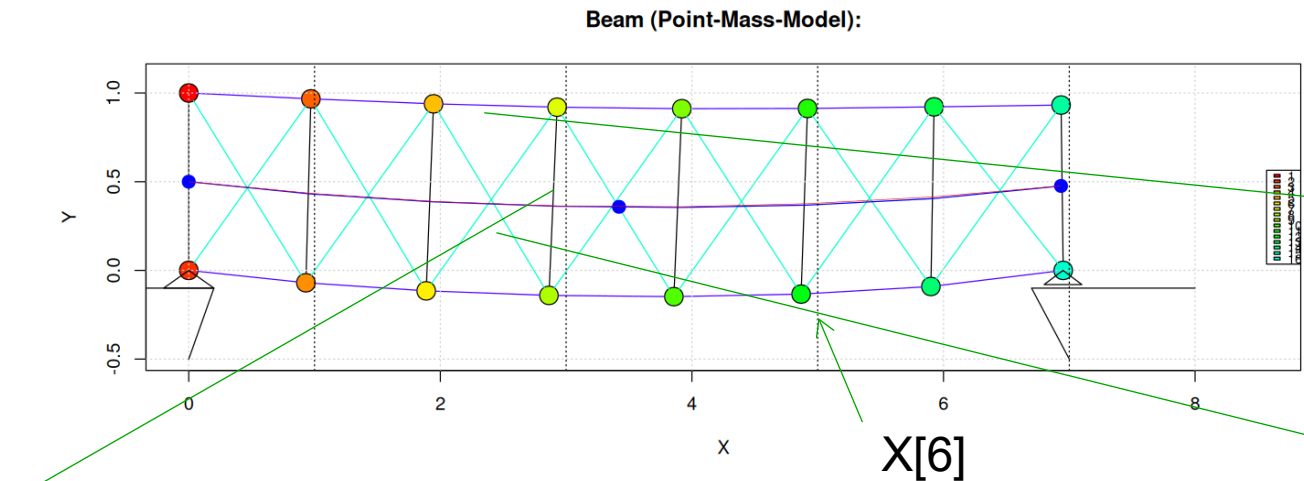


Evaluation of Experiment (Slide 7)

- Training a predictive model $\hat{\epsilon}$ as the corrector for the Bernoulli base-model given by the homogeneous solution of

$$EIw''(x) = M(x)$$

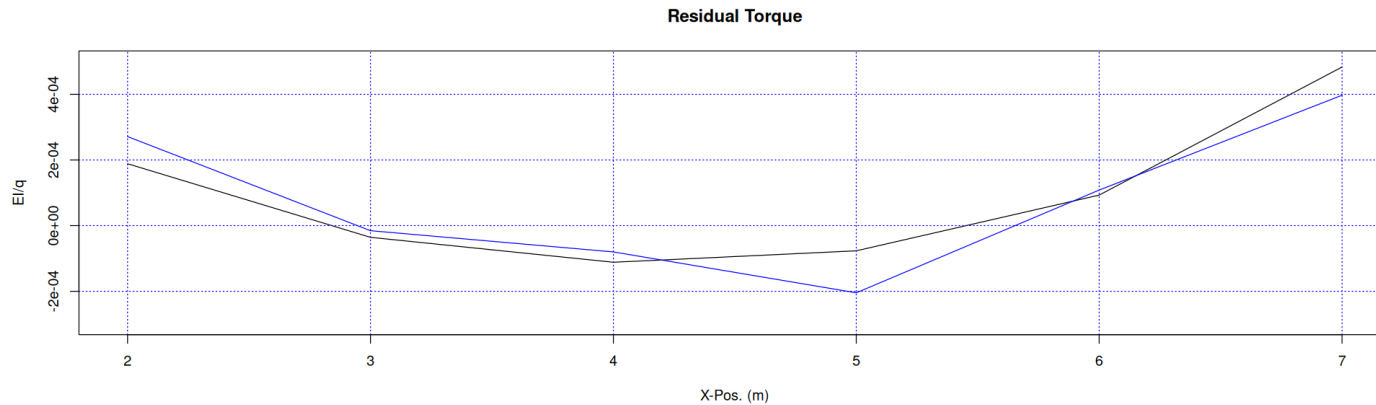
if $M(x) = mgx + \Delta M(x)$, where mgx is the bending moment of gravity acting on each mass-point, equally, what is the correcting torque $\Delta M(x)$ in the Bernoulli-picture to produce the observed correction $\hat{\epsilon}(x)$ in $(x) = w_0(x) + \hat{\epsilon}(x)\hat{w}$.



Mode	$\hat{\epsilon}(x_5)$ mm	$\hat{\epsilon}(x_6)$ mm	$\epsilon(x_7)$ mm
A: Unchanged k	3.78	7.96	9.72
B: Changed k	0.01	4.91	7.22

This Spring-Constant has been changed in Mode B to a value only one tenth of the original (Mode A) value (equal to all other spring constants).

Perturbation of a Spring Constant



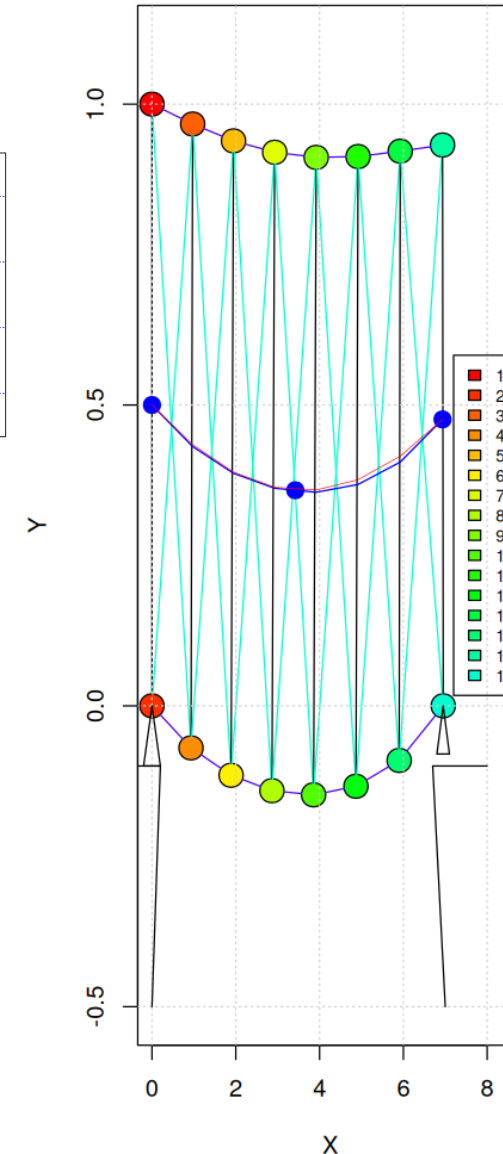
$$\hat{w}(x) = w_0(x) + \hat{\epsilon}(x)$$

$$\hat{M} = M_0(x) + \Delta\hat{M}(x)$$

- Right hand side mounting 'moves', left hand side mounting fixed.
- Mode 1: Same Spring Constant for all Springs.
- Mode 2: 4th vertical Spring Constant reduced (factor 0.1).
- "Bend" in upper line of masses => Larger correction $\Delta M(x)$

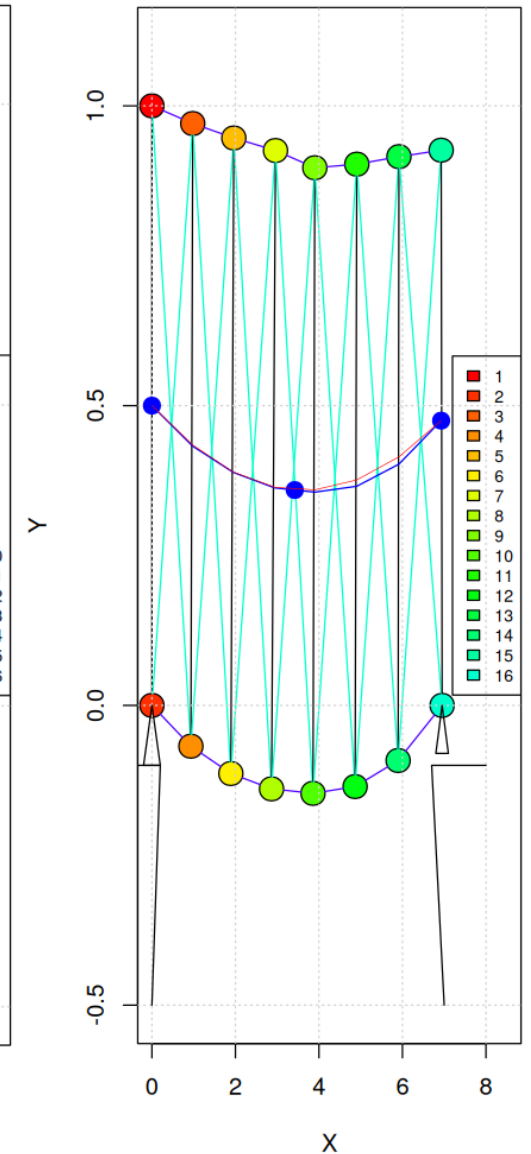
$$\hat{M}(x) = M_0(x) + \Delta\hat{M}(x) \text{ for } x \sim 5 \text{ and } 7.$$

Beam (Point-Mass-Model):



Mode 1

Beam (Point-Mass-Model):



Mode 2

Conclusion

Physics Informed Machine Learning is related to (physical) domain knowledge (conveyed in the form of differential equations, parameters or boundary conditions).

- (A) In the forward problem, can we obtain solutions to differential equations faster and more accurately?



- (B) In the inverse problem, can we determine parameters, and additional terms and boundary in the training process of the model?



- If using a hybrid (base-model + AI) approach, can we discover terms of the D.E. which were not previously suggested in a library of candidates?

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... if the D.E. is linear and the term is the source term (R.H.S.).

Thank you for your attention!

PINN:

Karniadakis, G. E. et al. Physics-informed machine learning. Nat. Rev. Phys. 3, 422–440 (2021)

SINDY:

Brunton, Steven L.; Proctor, Joshua L.; Kutz, J. Nathan (2016-04-12). Discovering governing equations from data by sparse identification of nonlinear dynamical systems. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 113 (15): 3932–393

KAN:

Ziming Liu, Yixuan Wang, Sachin Vaidya, Fabian Ruehle, James Halverson, Marin Soljačić, Thomas Y. Hou, Max Tegmark KAN: Kolmogorov-Arnold Networks <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.19756>

BAPC:

E. Dudkin, F. Sobieczky. Local Surrogate Modeling: BAPC by Error Emplification. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00521-025-11535-5>

A. Lopez, F. Sobieczky, Surrogate Modeling for Explainable Predictive Time Series Corrections. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2412.1989>,

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X-ODE:

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Supplement:

What if corrections of other than source term are observed?

- $L_0[u_0] = 0 \iff \sum a_i u_0^{(i)} = 0$
- $L[u] = 0 \iff (a_0 + a)_1 u^1 + \dots \left(+(a)_j + \Delta a_j\right) u^j + \dots a_n u^{(n)}$
- Then correction is of form $L_0[u] = -\Delta a_j u^{(j)}$... Coupling between solution and system.
- Cannot simply define $\hat{f} := L[\hat{e}]$ because there will be coupling between \hat{e} and Δa_j .
- However: Approximation possible – Take $\hat{f} := L_0[\hat{e}]$. Then: $\Delta a_j = \frac{L_0[\hat{e}]}{u_0^{(j)}}$. —> Outlook: New Paper!