



University of Stuttgart
Institute for Parallel and Distributed Systems
Analytic Computing



December 23, 2022

ML in the Science

Deep Equilibrium Models

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Motivation

1



Equilibrium Networks in Deep Learning

Where do they come from?

Deep Equilibrium Models

Shaojie Bai
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Bosch Center for AI

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Abstract

We present a new approach to modeling sequential data: the deep equilibrium model (DEQ). Motivated by an observation that the hidden layers of many existing deep sequence models converge towards some fixed point, we propose the DEQ approach that directly finds these equilibrium points via root-finding. Such a method is *equivalent to training an infinite depth (unrolled) feedforward network*.

Figure 1: From NeurIPS 2019, *about 400 citations* [Bai et al., 2019]



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Monotone operator equilibrium networks

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Implicit-depth models such as Deep Equilibrium Networks have recently been shown to match or exceed the performance of traditional deep networks while being much more memory efficient. However, these models suffer from unstable convergence to a solution and lack guarantees that a solution exists. On the other hand, Neural ODEs, another class of implicit-depth models, do guarantee existence of a unique solution but perform poorly compared with traditional net-

Figure 2: From NeurIPS 2020, *about 70 citations* [Winston and Kolter, 2020]

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2021 49th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)
December 15-16, 2021, Austin, Texas

Recurrent Equilibrium Networks: Unconstrained Learning of Stable and Robust Dynamical Models

Max Revay, Ruigang Wang, Ian R. Manchester

Abstract—This paper introduces *recurrent equilibrium networks (RENs)*, a new class of *nonlinear dynamical models* for applications in machine learning and system identification. The new model class has “built in” guarantees of *stability* and *robustness*: all models in the class are *contracting* – a strong form of *nonlinear stability* – and models can have *prescribed Lipschitz bounds*. RENs are otherwise very *flexible*: they can

the works [10], [11], [13], [14], [15] are guaranteed to find contracting models.

Beyond stability, model *robustness* can be characterised in terms of sensitivity to small perturbations in the input. It has recently been shown that recurrent neural network models can be extremely *fragile* [17], i.e. small changes to

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Figure 1: From NeurIPS 2019, *about 400 citations* [Bai et al., 2019]

Monotone operator equilibrium networks

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Connection between recurrent neural networks and linear time-invariant (LTI) systems

- Recurrent neural networks are a special case of LTI systems with nonlinear disturbance
- Equilibrium networks further generalize the network structure
- Robustness analysis known from robust control can be applied to such systems



Inverted pendulum with torque input

Classical toy example in control

Difference equation of pendulum dynamics

$$\mathcal{G} \begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \delta \\ \frac{g\delta}{l} & 1 - \frac{\mu\delta}{ml^2} \end{pmatrix} x^k + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{g\delta}{l} \end{pmatrix} u^k + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\delta}{ml^2} \end{pmatrix} w^k \\ y^k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x^k \\ z^k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x^k \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

$$w^k = \Delta(z^k) = z^k - \sin(z^k) \tag{2}$$

- The states $x^k = [\phi, \dot{\phi}]^T$ represents the *angle* and *angular velocity*, friction is denoted by μ and sample time by $\delta = 0.01$
- Input u^k represents a torque
- Output y^k is the *angle* ϕ
- One stable and one unstable equilibrium point

Nonlinear pendulum dynamics

time = 0.0s

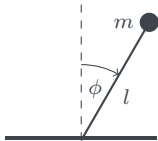


Figure 4: Parameters of single pendulum.



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Linearized system can be used to design a controller that stabilizes the unstable equilibrium point

Controlled nonlinear pendulum dynamics

time = 0.0s

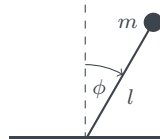


Figure 4: Parameters of single pendulum.

Background

2

Generalization of Recurrent Neural Networks



LTI system with nonlinear disturbance

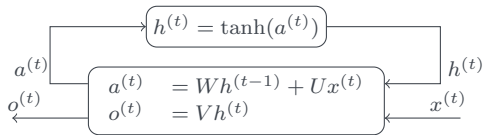


Figure 5: Recurrent neural network from [Goodfellow et al., 2016]

Generalization of Recurrent Neural Networks



LTI system with nonlinear disturbance

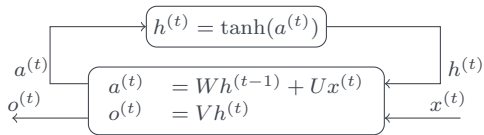


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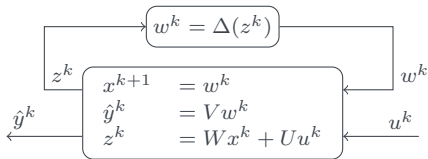


Figure 6: Using common notation from system theory.

Generalization of Recurrent Neural Networks



LTI system with nonlinear disturbance

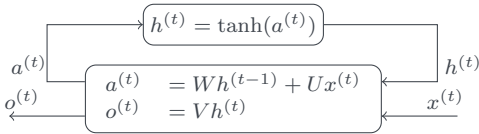


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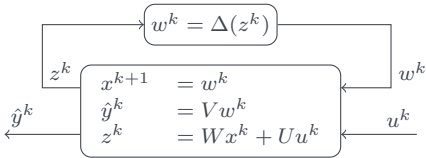


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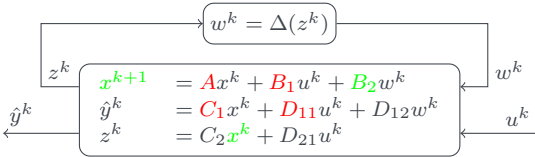


Figure 7: LTI with non-linear disturbance.

Generalization of Recurrent Neural Networks



LTI system with nonlinear disturbance

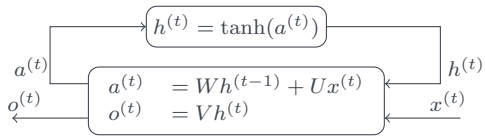


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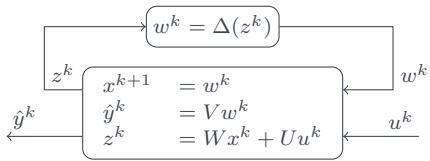


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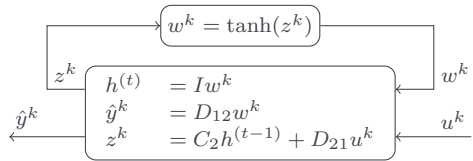


Figure 7: LTI with non-linear disturbance.

- For $A = B_1 = C_1 = D_{11} = 0$, $B_2 = I$, $\Delta(\cdot) = \tanh(\cdot)$ and $h^{t-1} = x^k$ the networks in Figure 5 and Figure ?? are equivalent



Pendulum is also in LTI structure

Same representation as RNNs

Difference equation of pendulum dynamics

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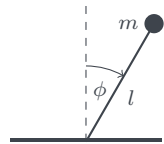


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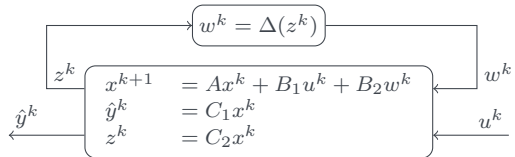


Figure 9: Pendulum dynamics in LTI structure with nonlinearity $\Delta(\cdot)$

Why is this connection interesting?



Linear systems are well understood

- Stability depends on eigenvalues of A matrix
- Well established controller design techniques

Regelungstechnik 1

Systemtheoretische Grundlagen, Analyse

Figure 10: [Lunze and Lunze, 1996]



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Linear system with disturbances

- For known disturbances robust control methods can be applied
- Activation function of neural networks can be seen as disturbance

System Identification Problem

If the equations of the pendulum are not available but we are given data $\mathcal{D} = \{(u, y)_i\}_i^N$, which contains input output measurements. Finding the parameters A, B_1, B_2, C_1, C_2 can be seen as a deep learning problem.

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Dissipative Dynamical Systems *Part I: General Theory*

JAN C. WILLEMS

Communicated by C. TRUESDELL

Figure 11: [Willems, 1972]



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Neural networks that can be represented in LTI structure with nonlinear disturbances can be analyzed with well established tools from robust control.

Regelungstechnik 1

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Dissipative Dynamical Systems Part I: General Theory

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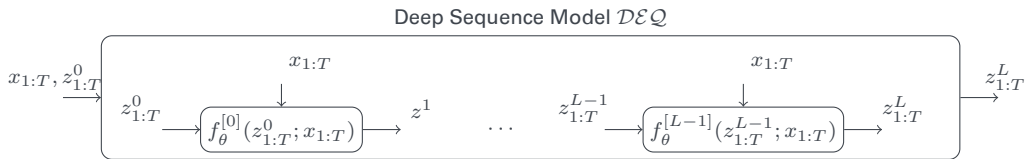
Figure 11: [Willems, 1972]

Deep Equilibrium Models



[Bai et al., 2019]

- Deep sequence model \mathcal{DEQ} that maps an input sequence $x_{1:T}$ to an output sequence $z_{1:T}^L$

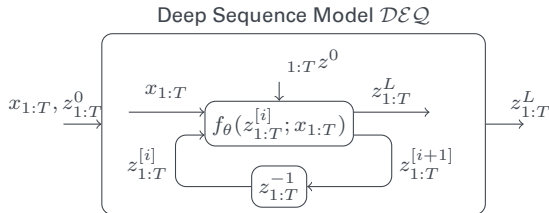


Deep Equilibrium Models

[Bai et al., 2019]



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- Layers are weight tied $f_{\theta}(z_{1:T}^0; x) = f_{\theta}^{[i]}(z_{1:T}^0; x_{1:T})$ for all $i = 0, \dots, L - 1$

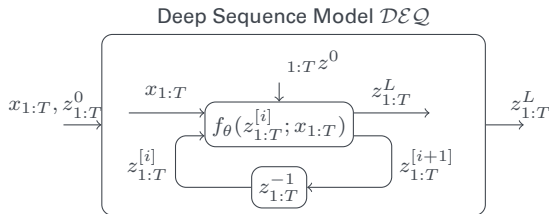




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Core idea of deep equilibrium models

- Equilibrium point $z_{1:T}^* = f_\theta(z_{1:T}^*; x_{1:T})$
- Find equilibrium point via root finding method e.g. *Newton's method*

$$z_{1:T}^* = \text{RootFind}(g_\theta; x_{1:T}), \quad (3)$$

where $g_\theta(z_{1:T}^*; x_{1:T}) = f_\theta(z_{1:T}^*; x_{1:T}) - z_{1:T}^*$

- No gradients on each layer, classical backpropagation not possible.

Equilibrium Models for System Identification

3

Conclusion



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