

# The Neural Galerkin Method

CSE Semester Project – Spring 2024

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25 June 2024

# Presentation outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Neural Galerkin method
- 3 Adaptive sampling
- 4 Optimal sampling
- 5 Conclusion

# Introduction

## Goal

Approximate the solution of high-dimensional or advection-dominated PDEs via a nonlinear parametrization, e.g., a deep neural network.

- Global residual minimization  $\rightarrow$  Physics-informed neural networks<sup>1</sup>
- Local-in-time residual minimization  $\rightarrow$  Neural Galerkin method<sup>2</sup>

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# Problem formulation

- Time-dependent function  $u \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $u : \mathcal{X} \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  characterized by

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(\mathbf{x}, t) = f(\mathbf{x}, t, u) & (\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathcal{X} \times [0, \infty), \\ u(\mathbf{x}, 0) = u_0(\mathbf{x}) & \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \end{cases} \quad (\text{PDE})$$

where  $f : \mathcal{X} \times [0, \infty) \times \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the source term and  $u_0 : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the initial condition.

- Nonlinear parametrization  $\hat{u} : \mathcal{X} \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with parameters  $\theta = \theta(t) \in \Theta$ :

$$u(\mathbf{x}, t) = \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta(t)) \quad \forall (\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathcal{X} \times [0, \infty).$$

- Local-in-time residual  $r_t : \mathcal{X} \times \Theta \times \dot{\Theta} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

$$r_t(\mathbf{x}, \theta, \dot{\theta}) = \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \cdot \dot{\theta} - f(\mathbf{x}, t, \hat{u}(\theta)). \quad (\text{RES})$$

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# Optimization problem

We approximate the solution of (PDE) by solving the optimization problem

$$\dot{\theta} \in \arg \min_{\eta \in \dot{\Theta}} J_t(\theta, \eta), \quad (\text{MIN})$$

where the objective function  $J_t : \Theta \times \dot{\Theta} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined as:

$$J_t(\theta, \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{X}} |r_t(\mathbf{x}, \theta, \eta)|^2 \, d\mu_t(\mathbf{x}). \quad (\text{OBJ})$$

In (OBJ),  $\mu_t$  is a positive measure with support on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

- Static measure:  $\mu_t = \mu$  (e.g., uniform distribution over  $\mathcal{X}$ )
- Adaptive measure

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# System of ODEs

From (MIN), we can derive the system of ODEs

$$\begin{cases} M(\theta)\dot{\theta} = F(t, \theta), \\ \theta(0) = \theta_0, \end{cases} \quad (\text{SYS})$$

$$M(\theta) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \otimes \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \, d\mu_t(\mathbf{x}), \quad F(t, \theta) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) f(\mathbf{x}, t, \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)) \, d\mu_t(\mathbf{x}).$$

In practice, we draw a set of samples  $\{\mathbf{x}_i^t\}_{i=1}^n$  from  $\mu_t$  to assemble the Monte Carlo estimators

$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \theta) \otimes \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \theta), \quad \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla_{\theta} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \theta) f(\mathbf{x}_i^t, t, \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \theta)),$$

and we solve (SYS) using a numerical integrator (e.g., Runge-Kutta-Fehlberg<sup>3</sup>).

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# Test cases – Korteweg-de Vries (KdV) equation

## 1D KdV equation

$$\partial_t u + \partial_x^3 u + 6u\partial_x u = 0, \quad (\text{KdV})$$

where  $u = u(x, t)$ ,  $x \in \mathcal{X} = [-20, 40]$  with periodic boundary conditions,  $t \in [0, 4]$ .

Nonlinear parametrization:

$$\hat{u}(x, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^m c_i \phi_G^L(x, w_i, b_i),$$

where  $\phi_G^L(x, w, b)$  is a periodic unit (with period  $L = |\mathcal{X}|$ ).

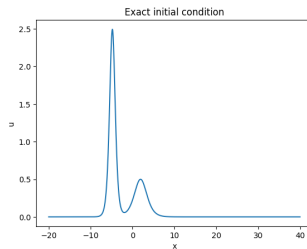


Figure: KdV –  $u(x, 0)$

# Test cases – Allen-Cahn (AC) equation

## 1D AC equation

$$\partial_t u = \epsilon \partial_x^2 u + a(x, t)(u - u^3), \quad (\text{AC})$$

where  $u = u(x, t)$ ,  $x \in \mathcal{X} = [0, 2\pi)$  with periodic boundary conditions,  $t \in [0, 12]$ ,  $\epsilon = 5 \cdot 10^{-2}$ ,  $a(x, t) = 1.05 + t \sin(x)$ .

Nonlinear parametrization:

$$\hat{u}(x, \theta) = \mathbf{w}_l^T \tanh(\mathbf{W}_{l-1} \tanh(\dots \mathbf{W}_1 (\tanh(\Psi(x))) \dots) + \mathbf{p}_{l-1}),$$

where  $\Psi(x) = (\psi(x, a_k, b_k, c_k))_{k=1}^m$  and  $\psi(x, a, b, c)$  is a periodic unit (with period  $L = |\mathcal{X}|$ ).

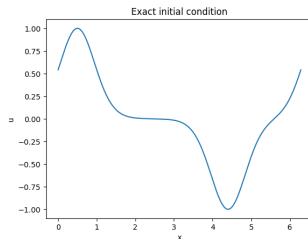
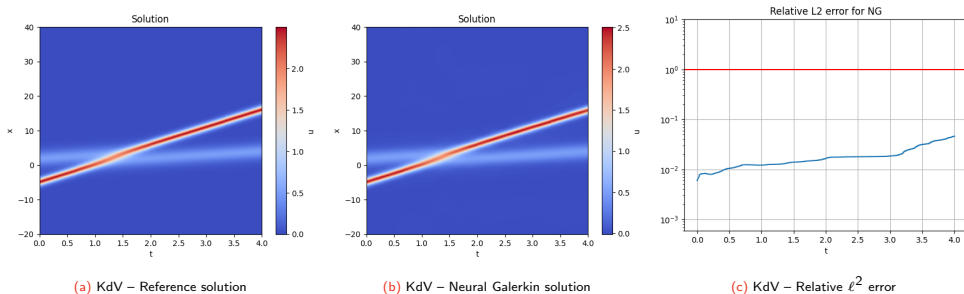


Figure: AC –  $u(x, 0)$

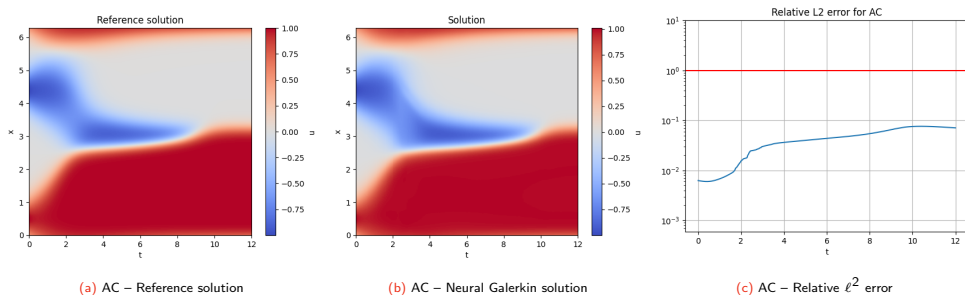
# Numerical experiments – KdV with static sampling



**Figure:** KdV – Results for Neural Galerkin with static sampling from a uniform distribution over  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $n = 1000$  samples.



# Numerical experiments – AC with static sampling



**Figure:** AC – Results for Neural Galerkin with static sampling from a uniform distribution over  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $n = 1000$  samples.

# Adaptive measure

- Time-dependent Gibbs measure<sup>4</sup>:

$$\mu_t^G(d\mathbf{x}) = Z_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}^{-1} \exp\left(-V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}(\mathbf{x})\right) d\mathbf{x}, \quad (\text{GIB})$$

where  $V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a potential and  $Z_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} \in \mathbb{R}$  is the normalization constant.

- Adaptive measure as a function of the PDE residual (RES)<sup>5</sup>:

$$\mu_t^G(d\mathbf{x}) \propto \left| r_t(\mathbf{x}, \theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)) \right|^{2\gamma} \nu(d\mathbf{x})^\gamma, \quad (\text{ADP})$$

where  $\gamma > 0$  is a tempering parameter and  $\nu$  is a static distribution with support on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

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# Particle dynamics for adaptive sampling

The dynamics of a set of particles  $\{\mathbf{x}_i(t)\}_{i=1}^n$  can be described by the Langevin SDE:

$$d\mathbf{x}_i(t) = -\alpha \nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} \mathbf{x}_i(t) dt + \sqrt{2\alpha} dW_i(t), \quad (\text{LAN})$$

where  $V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}$  is a potential,  $\{W_i(t)\}_{i=1}^n$  are i.i.d. Wiener processes in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\alpha > 0$ .

The Fokker-Planck equation associated with (LAN) is:

$$\partial_t \mu_t = \alpha \nabla \cdot \left( \nabla \mu_t + \mu_t \nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} \right).$$

Under suitable assumptions on  $V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}$ ,  $\mu_t$  converges to the Gibbs measure (GIB)<sup>6</sup>.

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# Stein Variational Gradient Descent<sup>8</sup>

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## Algorithm 1: Stein Variational Gradient Descent (SVGD)

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**Input:** Target distribution  $p$ , kernel function  $k(\cdot, \cdot)$ , initial particles  $\{\mathbf{x}_i^0\}_{i=1}^n$

**Output:** Final particles  $\{\mathbf{x}_i^L\}_{i=1}^n$  that approximate the target distribution  $p$

**for**  $l = 1, \dots, L$  **do**

$$\mathbf{x}_i^{l+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_i^l + \epsilon_l \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \left[ k(\mathbf{x}_j^l, \mathbf{x}_i^l) \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_j^l} \log p(\mathbf{x}_j^l) + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_j^l} k(\mathbf{x}_j^l, \mathbf{x}_i^l) \right] \right)$$

**end**

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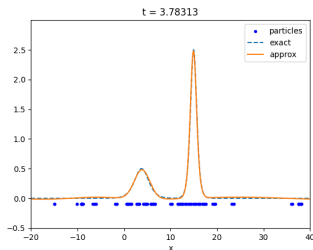
Alternatively, we can consider an SVGD variant with the addition of a noise term<sup>7</sup>  
 $\eta^l \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, 2\epsilon_l \mathbf{D}/n)$ , where  $\mathbf{D}_{i,j}(\mathbf{x}^l) = k(\mathbf{x}_i^l, \mathbf{x}_j^l)$ .

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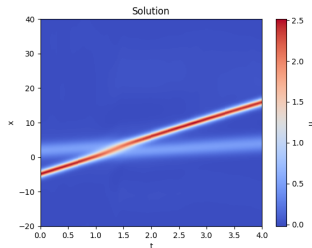
<sup>7</sup>Gallego and Insua, "Stochastic gradient MCMC with repulsive forces"

<sup>8</sup>Liu and Wang, "Stein variational gradient descent: A general purpose bayesian inference algorithm"

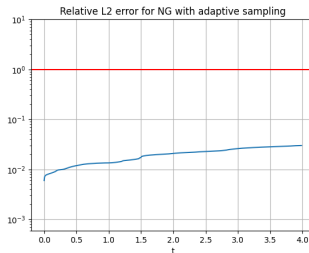
# Numerical experiments – KdV with adaptive sampling (SVGD)



(a) KdV – Solution at final time



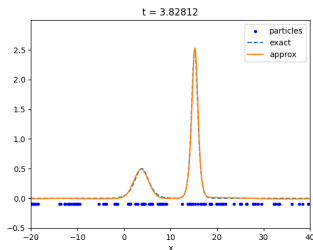
(b) KdV – Space-time solution



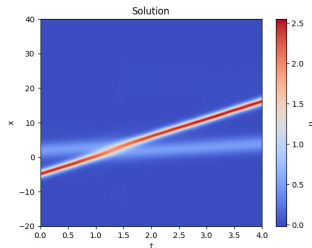
(c) KdV – Relative  $\ell^2$  error

**Figure:** KdV – Results for Neural Galerkin with adaptive sampling (SVGD) from the residual-dependent measure (ADP),  $n = 100$  samples.

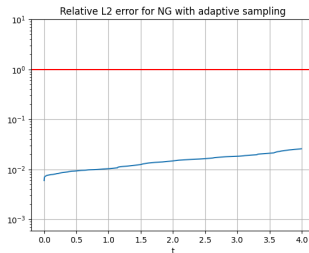
# Numerical experiments – KdV with adaptive sampling (SVGD with noise)



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(b) KdV – Space-time solution



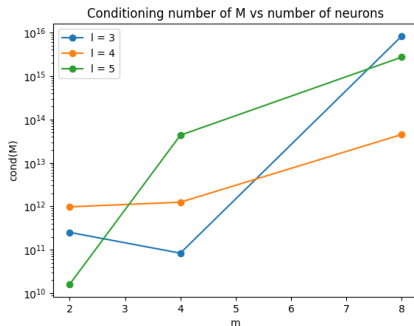
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**Figure:** KdV – Results for Neural Galerkin with adaptive sampling (SVGD with noise) from the residual-dependent measure (ADP),  $n = 100$  samples.



# Conditioning

The system of ODEs (SYS) is typically ill-conditioned. The condition number of the mass matrix  $\kappa(\mathbf{M})$  tends to increase with the size of the neural network (i.e., the dimension of  $\theta$ ).



**Figure:** AC – Trend of the condition number of the mass matrix as a function of the number of layers  $l$  and number of neurons per layer  $m$

# Optimal sampling outline

## Goal

Define a sampling measure leading to a better-conditioned problem.

Recall the optimization problem

$$\dot{\theta} \in \arg \min_{\eta \in \dot{\Theta}} J_t(\theta, \eta), \quad (\text{MIN})$$

where the objective function  $J_t$  is defined as:

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- 1 Reinterpret (MIN) as a least squares problem in a *tangent space*
- 2 Generalize (MIN) via weighted least squares
- 3 Define a weighted sampling measure and exploit a theoretical bound on the conditioning

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# Geometric interpretation of Neural Galerkin

- Manifold induced by the nonlinear parametrization:

$$\mathcal{M}_\Theta = \{\hat{u}(\cdot, \theta) | \theta \in \Theta\}.$$

- Tangent space of  $\mathcal{M}_\Theta$  at a point  $\hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$ :

$$\mathcal{T}_\theta = \text{span}\{\partial_{\theta_1} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta), \dots, \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)\}.$$

For now, let  $\dim(\mathcal{T}_\theta) = p$  (this is not true in general  $\rightarrow$  collapsing tangent space<sup>9</sup>).

The minimization problem (MIN) can be rewritten as:

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\| \underbrace{\nabla_\theta \hat{u}(\cdot, \theta) \dot{\theta}}_{\in \mathcal{T}_\theta} - f(\cdot, \hat{u}(\cdot, \theta)) \right\|_{L^2(\mathcal{X}, d\mu_t)}^2.$$

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<sup>9</sup>Zhang et al., "Sequential-in-time training of nonlinear parametrizations for solving time-dependent partial differential equations"

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$$\mathcal{M}_\Theta = \{\hat{u}(\cdot, \theta) | \theta \in \Theta\}.$$

- Tangent space of  $\mathcal{M}_\Theta$  at a point  $\hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$ :

$$\mathcal{T}_\theta = \text{span}\{\partial_{\theta_1} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta), \dots, \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)\}.$$

For now, let  $\dim(\mathcal{T}_\theta) = p$  (this is not true in general  $\rightarrow$  collapsing tangent space<sup>9</sup>).

The minimization problem (MIN) can be rewritten as:

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\| \underbrace{\nabla_\theta \hat{u}(\cdot, \theta) \dot{\theta}}_{\in \mathcal{T}_\theta} - f(\cdot, \hat{u}(\cdot, \theta)) \right\|_{L^2(\mathcal{X}, d\mu_t)}^2.$$

---

<sup>9</sup>Zhang et al., "Sequential-in-time training of nonlinear parametrizations for solving time-dependent partial differential equations"

## Weighted least squares

If we draw a set of samples  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  from  $\mu_t$ , we can assemble:

$$\min_{\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\mathbf{J}(\theta)\dot{\theta} - \mathbf{f}(\theta)\|_2^2. \quad (\text{LS})$$

The normal equations associated to (LS) are:

$$\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{J} \dot{\theta} = \mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{f},$$

where  $\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{J}$  and  $\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{f}$  are the Monte Carlo estimators  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ , respectively.

We can generalize (LS) via weighted least squares:

$$\min_{\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\mathbf{J}(\theta)\dot{\theta} - \mathbf{f}(\theta)\|_w^2,$$
$$\|\mathbf{v}\|_w^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n w(\mathbf{x}_i) |v(\mathbf{x}_i)|^2, \quad \mathbf{v} := [v(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, v(\mathbf{x}_n)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where  $w : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a weight function.

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# Optimal sampling

Arbitrary basis  $\{\partial_{\theta_i} \hat{u}\}_{i=1}^p$  of  $\mathcal{T}_\theta$   $\rightarrow$  Orthonormal basis  $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^p$  of  $\mathcal{T}_\theta$

$$\min_{\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\mathbf{J}(\theta)\dot{\theta} - \mathbf{f}(\theta)\|_w^2 \rightarrow \min_{\tau \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\Lambda(\theta)\tau - \mathbf{f}(\theta)\|_w^2 \quad (\text{WLS})$$

We denote the normal equations associated with (WLS) as:

$$\mathbf{G}\tau = \mathbf{d}.$$

The condition number of  $\mathbf{G}$  can be controlled with high probability<sup>10</sup> if the points  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  are sampled from a measure  $d\mu_{t,\text{opt}}$  such that  $w d\mu_{t,\text{opt}} = d\mu_t$ , where

$$w(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p}{\sum_{j=1}^p |L_j(\mathbf{x}, \theta)|^2}.$$

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<sup>10</sup>Cohen and Migliorati, "Optimal weighted least-squares methods"

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## Two-step sampling strategy

For the tangent space  $\mathcal{T}_\theta$  in Neural Galerkin, no exact orthonormal basis is available a priori.

We can follow a two-step sampling strategy<sup>11</sup>:

- 1 Sample  $\{\mathbf{z}_i\}_{i=1}^m$  from  $d\mu_t$  to compute an (approximate) orthonormal basis  $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^p$ , e.g., by orthogonalizing  $\{\partial_{\theta_i} \hat{u}\}_{i=1}^p$  with the Gram-Schmidt algorithm;
- 2 Sample  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$  from  $d\mu_{t,\text{opt}}$  to solve the weighted least squares problem (WLS).

In general,  $\{\partial_{\theta_i} \hat{u}\}_{i=1}^p$  are *not* linearly independent (i.e.,  $\dim(\mathcal{T}_\theta) < p$ ).

Approximating the orthonormal basis with Gram-Schmidt introduces numerical errors and extra computational costs.

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## Regularized least squares

Alternatively, we can reduce the conditioning of (LS) by solving the ridge regression problem:

$$\min_{\dot{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\mathbf{J}(\theta)\dot{\theta} - \mathbf{f}(\theta)\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\dot{\theta}\|_2^2,$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  is the regularization parameter. The associated normal equations are:

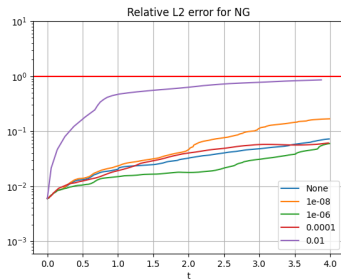
$$(\mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{J} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_{p \times p}) \dot{\theta} = \mathbf{J}^T \mathbf{f}.$$

Since  $\mathbf{M}$  is symmetric,  $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) = |\lambda_{\max}/\lambda_{\min}|$ , hence adding the regularization term leads to

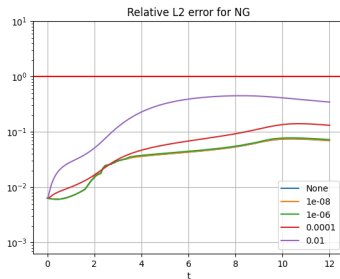
$$\kappa(\mathbf{M} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_{p \times p}) = \left| \frac{\lambda_{\max} + \lambda}{\lambda_{\min} + \lambda} \right|.$$

# Numerical experiments – Regularized least squares

- KdV:  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) \approx 10^{14} \rightarrow \lambda = 10^{-6}$ ,  $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) \approx 10^6$
- AC:  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) \approx 10^{10} \rightarrow \lambda = 10^{-6}$ ,  $\kappa(\mathbf{M}) \approx 10^6$



(a) KdV



(b) AC

Figure: Relative  $\ell^2$  error with regularization

# Conclusion

- 1 The Neural Galerkin method coupled with adaptive sampling can well represent the dynamics of advection-dominated problems  
→ Scalable to higher dimensions
- 2 The implementation of the optimal sampling strategy can become too expensive and affected by numerical errors if an orthonormal basis of the tangent space  $\mathcal{T}_\theta$  is not known  
→ Need theoretical results on the conditioning of the least squares problem in the case of an arbitrary (non-orthonormal) basis
- 3 The collapsing tangent space phenomenon may lead to a loss of representation power  
→ Experiment with other classes of architectures



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# Extra slides

# Test cases – Training details

## 1 KdV

- Gaussian periodic unit:

$$\phi_G^L(x, w, b) = \exp\left(-w^2 \left|\sin\left(\frac{\pi(x-b)}{L}\right)\right|^2\right),$$

where  $w, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- Network parameters:  $m = 10$ .
- Initial fit: batch size  $n_0 = 5000$ ,  $10^4$  epochs, Adam optimizer with initial learning rate  $\gamma = 0.1$  combined with an exponential scheduler (decay rate 0.9) for the first  $10^3$  epochs.

## 2 AC

- Periodic unit:

$$\psi(x, a, b, c) = a \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}x + b\right) + c,$$

where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- Network parameters:  $l = 3$ ,  $m = 2$
- Initial fit: batch size  $n_0 = 1000$ ,  $10^4$  epochs, Adam optimized with initial learning rate  $\gamma = 0.1$  combined with an exponential scheduler (decay rate 0.75) for the first  $10^3$  epochs.

## Test cases – Relative $\ell^2$ error

The relative  $\ell^2$  error is computed over  $N = 2048$  equidistant grid points  $x_1, \dots, x_N$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ .

We define  $\mathbf{u}(t) = [u(x_1, t), \dots, u(x_N, t)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(t) = [\hat{u}(x_1, t), \dots, \hat{u}(x_N, t)]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$  as the vectors of the exact solution and approximate solution at time  $t$ , respectively.

Then, given  $K$  points in time  $t^1, \dots, t^K$  determined adaptively by the Runge-Kutta-Fehlberg (RK45) method, we define the relative  $\ell^2$  error as:

$$e_{\ell^2} = \frac{\sum_{k=0}^K \|\hat{\mathbf{u}}(t^k) - \mathbf{u}(t^k)\|_2^2}{\sum_{k=0}^K \|\mathbf{u}(t^k)\|_2^2}.$$

# Numerical experiments – KdV linear

- 1 Linear fitted,  $m = 30$ : after training the network on the initial condition, the parameters  $w_i$  and  $b_i$  in the Gaussian periodic unit are frozen before evolving the system in time.
- 2 Linear equidistant,  $m = 30$ : the parameters  $w_i$  and  $b_i$  are frozen *before* training the neural network on the initial condition; they are initialized so that the corresponding Gaussian units have the same shape and are equispaced in the spatial domain.

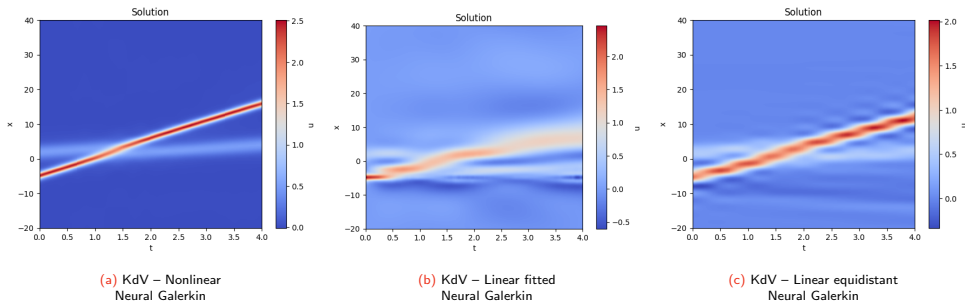
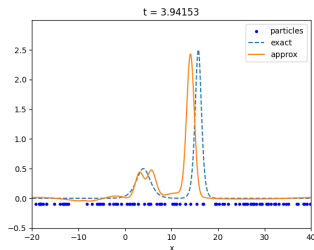
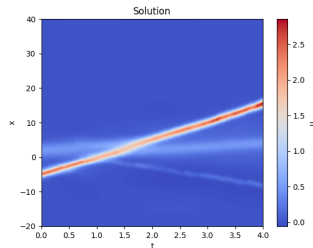


Figure: KdV – Comparison between the linear and nonlinear settings

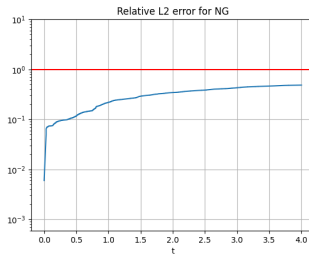
# Numerical experiments – KdV with static sampling



(a) KdV – Solution at final time



(b) KdV – Space-time solution



(c) KdV – Relative  $\ell^2$  error

**Figure:** KdV – Results for Neural Galerkin with static sampling from a uniform distribution over  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $n = 100$  samples. The number of samples is insufficient to accurately approximate the solution.



## SVGD algorithm (1)

Given an intractable distribution  $p$ , the SVGD algorithm searches for  $q^\star$  satisfying:

$$q^\star = \arg \min_{q \in Q} \text{KL}(q||p),$$

where  $\text{KL}(q||p) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim q}[\log q(\mathbf{x})] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim q}[\log p(\mathbf{x})]$ .

$Q$  is the set of distributions of random variables  $\mathbf{z}$  that can be written as  $\mathbf{z} = T(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x} + \epsilon \phi(\mathbf{x})$  is a small perturbation of the identity map, and  $\mathbf{x}$  is drawn from some tractable distribution  $q_0$ .

An explicit expression for the derivative of the KL divergence can be provided by exploiting a connection with the so-called Stein operator.

We also need to recall the definition of a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS):

$$\mathcal{H} = \left\{ f : f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_i), \ a_i \in \mathbb{R}, \ \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{X} \right\}.$$

## SVGD algorithm (2)

### Theorem (Gradient of the KL divergence)

Let  $T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x} + \epsilon \phi(\mathbf{x})$  and  $q_T$  the density of  $\mathbf{z} = T(\mathbf{x})$  when  $\mathbf{x} \sim q$ . Then:

$$\nabla_{\epsilon} KL(q_T || p)|_{\epsilon=0} = -\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim q}[\text{trace}(\mathcal{A}_p \phi(\mathbf{x}))],$$

where  $\mathcal{A}_p \phi(\mathbf{x}) := \nabla \log p(\mathbf{x}) \phi(\mathbf{x})^T + \nabla \phi(\mathbf{x})$  is the Stein operator.

### Theorem (Steepest descent direction)

We consider all the perturbation directions  $\phi(\cdot)$  in the ball  $\mathcal{B} = \{\phi \in \mathcal{H}^d : \|\phi\|_{\mathcal{H}^d} \leq \mathbb{D}(q, p)\}$ , where  $\mathcal{H}^d$  is the RKHS associated to the kernel  $k(\cdot, \cdot)$ , and  $\mathbb{D}(q, p)$  is the kernelized Stein discrepancy

$$\mathbb{D}(q, p) = \max_{\phi \in \mathcal{H}^d} \{\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim q}[\text{trace}(\mathcal{A}_p \phi(\mathbf{x}))] \text{ s.t. } \|\phi\|_{\mathcal{H}^d} \leq 1\}.$$

Then, the steepest descent direction that minimizes the gradient of the KL divergence is

$$\phi^*(\cdot) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim q}[k(\mathbf{x}, \cdot) \nabla \log p(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla k(\mathbf{x}, \cdot)].$$

## SVGD and gradient flows

The Fokker-Planck equation associated with the Langevin SDE is related to the concept of *gradient flow*<sup>12</sup>. In particular, we can rewrite the Fokker-Planck as a continuity equation:

$$\partial_t \mu_t = \alpha \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \nabla \log \mu_t + \nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} \right) \mu_t \right],$$

where  $v_t := \left( \nabla \log \mu_t + \nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)} \right) \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .

The SVGD algorithm approximates the gradient flow in a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS). In particular, if we set our target distribution as  $\mu_t^G$ , we get  $\nabla \log \mu_t^G = -\nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}$ , so we can write:

$$\partial_t \mu_t \approx \alpha \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}' \sim \mu_t} \left[ k(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) \nabla V_{\theta(t), \dot{\theta}(t)}(\mathbf{x}') - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}'} k(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) \right] \mu_t \right).$$

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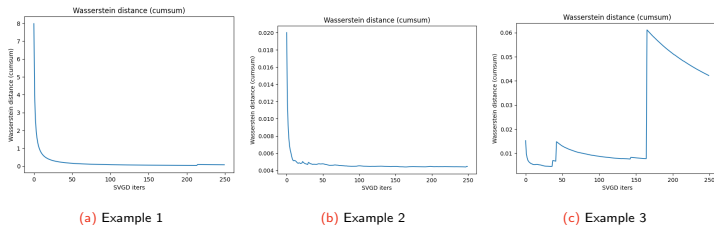
<sup>12</sup>Duncan, Nüsken, and Szpruch, "On the geometry of Stein variational gradient descent".

# SVGD convergence monitoring

Wasserstein distance estimate based on the empirical measures  $\hat{p}$ ,  $\hat{q}$  (1D case)<sup>13</sup>:

$$W_p(\hat{p}, \hat{q}) = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |x^{(i)} - y^{(i)}|^p \right)^{1/p},$$

where  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n \sim \hat{p}$  and  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n \sim \hat{q}$ , while  $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^n$  and  $\{y^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^n$  are the order statistics.



**Figure:** KdV – SVGD monitoring with the Wasserstein distance,  $\epsilon = 0.05$ ,  $L = 250$

<sup>13</sup>Peyré, Cuturi, et al., “Computational optimal transport: With applications to data science”.

# Conditioning (1)

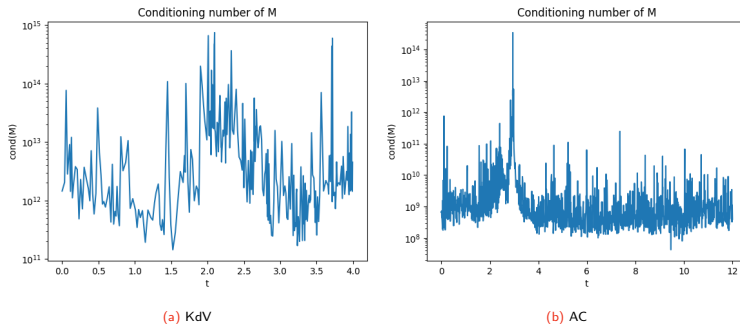


Figure: Condition number  $\kappa(\mathbf{M})$  as a function of time

## Conditioning (2)

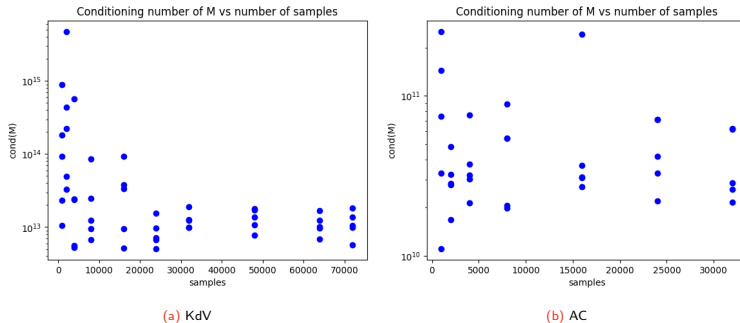


Figure: Condition number  $\kappa(\mathbf{M})$  as a function of the number of samples  $n$

## Optimal sampling – Bound on $\kappa(\mathbf{G})$ <sup>14</sup>

### Theorem (Condition number with optimal sampling)

For any  $r > 0$ , if  $p$  and  $n$  are such that the condition

$$p \leq \kappa \frac{n}{\ln n}, \quad \text{with } \kappa := \frac{1 - \ln 2}{2 + 2r}$$

is satisfied, and the weight function  $w$  is defined as

$$w(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p}{\sum_{j=1}^p |L_j(\mathbf{x}, \theta)|^2},$$

then

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \|\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{I}\|_2 \geq \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq 2n^{-r},$$

which implies  $\kappa(\mathbf{G}) \leq 3$  with high probability.

<sup>14</sup>Cohen and Migliorati, "Optimal weighted least-squares methods".

# Gram-Schmidt algorithm

---

**Algorithm 2:** Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization

---

**Input:** Set of linearly independent vectors  $\{\partial_{\theta_i} \hat{u}\}_{i=1}^p$

**Output:** Set of orthonormal vectors  $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^p$

$$\tilde{L}_1 = \partial_{\theta_1} \hat{u},$$

$$L_1 = \tilde{L}_1 / \|\tilde{L}_1\|$$

$$\tilde{L}_2 = \partial_{\theta_2} \hat{u} - \langle \partial_{\theta_2} \hat{u}, L_1 \rangle L_1,$$

$$L_2 = \tilde{L}_2 / \|\tilde{L}_2\|$$

$$\tilde{L}_3 = \partial_{\theta_3} \hat{u} - \langle \partial_{\theta_3} \hat{u}, L_1 \rangle L_1 - \langle \partial_{\theta_3} \hat{u}, L_2 \rangle L_2,$$

$$L_3 = \tilde{L}_3 / \|\tilde{L}_3\|$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\tilde{L}_p = \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u} - \langle \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u}, L_1 \rangle L_1 - \dots - \langle \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u}, L_{p-1} \rangle L_{p-1},$$

$$L_p = \tilde{L}_p / \|\tilde{L}_p\|$$

---



## Optimal sampling – Recover $\dot{\theta}$ from $\tau$

We define an orthonormal basis  $\{L_i\}_{i=1}^p$  of  $\mathcal{T}_\theta$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^p \partial_{\theta_i} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \dot{\theta}_i = \sum_{i=1}^p L_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \tau_i$  for some  $\tau = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_p)^T \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .

The Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization procedure induces the change of basis  $L_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = \sum_{j=1}^p c_{i,j} \partial_{\theta_j} \hat{u}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$ , where  $c_{i,j} = (\mathbf{C}^{-T})_{i,j}$  and

$$\mathbf{C}^T = \begin{bmatrix} \|\tilde{L}_1\| & 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ \langle \partial_{\theta_2} \hat{u}, L_1 \rangle & \|\tilde{L}_2\| & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & & \ddots & 0 \\ \langle \partial_{\theta_p} \hat{u}, L_1 \rangle & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \|\tilde{L}_p\| \end{bmatrix}$$

The relation between the original parameters  $\dot{\theta}$  and the new parameters  $\tau$  is given by:

$$\mathbf{C} \dot{\theta} = \tau. \quad (1)$$

## Optimal sampling for polynomials

We define  $V_p$  as the space spanned by the first  $p$  monomials on a given domain  $\mathcal{X}$ ,

$$V_p = \text{span}\{x^k : k = 0, \dots, p-1\}.$$

From  $\{x^k\}_{k=0}^{p-1}$ , one can compute an orthonormal basis with respect to  $L^2(\mathcal{X}, d\mu)$  via Gram-Schmidt (obtaining the first  $p$  Legendre polynomials on  $\mathcal{X}$ ).

The least squares problem of interest is the following:

$$\min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|A(\cdot)\mathbf{v} - b(\cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathcal{X}, d\mu)}^2,$$

where  $A = [A_1, \dots, A_p] : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  is defined s.t.  $A_k(x) = x^k$ , and  $b : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $b(x) = \sin(x)$ .

	$p = 5, n = 100$	$p = 10, n = 100$	$p = 10, n = 1000$
$\kappa(\mathbf{M})$	$7.11 \cdot 10^7$	$1.15 \cdot 10^{15}$	$2.36 \cdot 10^{15}$
$\kappa(\mathbf{G})$	1.52	6.03	2.95
$\kappa(\mathbf{C})$	$7.28 \cdot 10^3$	$4.56 \cdot 10^{10}$	$4.56 \cdot 10^{10}$

**Table:** Results of optimal sampling for polynomials