

# Nonlinear Poisson Equation

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## 1 Problem

Reference Paper: [https://bertoldi.seas.harvard.edu/files/bertoldi/files/jmps\\_bas.pdf](https://bertoldi.seas.harvard.edu/files/bertoldi/files/jmps_bas.pdf)  
PDE formulation:

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot [(1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u] &= f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u &= g \text{ on } \partial\Omega\end{aligned}$$

The domain  $\Omega$  is defined in polar coordinates using geometric parameters  $r_\Omega = (c_1, c_2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\theta &\in [0, 2\pi] \\ r &\in [0, r_0], \quad r_0 = 1 + c_1 \cos(4\theta) + c_2 \sin(8\theta)\end{aligned}$$

The source term  $f$  is determined given source parameters  $r_S \in \mathbb{R}^{(2,3)}$ :

$$r_S = \begin{bmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & r_{13} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & r_{23} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x, y) = r_{13} \cdot \exp[-(x - r_{11})^2 - (y - r_{12})^2] + r_{23} \cdot \exp[-(x - r_{21})^2 - (y - r_{22})^2]$$

The Dirichlet boundary condition (in polar coordinates)  $g$  takes 4 parameters  $r_B = (r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4)$ :

$$g(\theta) = r_0 + \frac{1}{4} (r_1 \cos \theta + r_2 \sin \theta + r_3 \cos 2\theta + r_4 \sin 2\theta)$$

## 2 Variational Formulation

We multiply the PDE by a test function  $v \in \hat{V}$  ( $\hat{V} = \{v \in H^1(\Omega) : v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$ ), integrate over the domain, and integrate by parts:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Omega} v \nabla \cdot [(1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u] \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx \\ \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot [v (1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u] \, dx - \int_{\Omega} [(1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u] \cdot \nabla v \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx\end{aligned}$$

Apply divergence theorem on the first term of the LHS:

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot [v (1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u] \, dx = \oint_{\partial\Omega} v (1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

Since we force  $v$  to be 0 on the domain boundary, the term evaluates to 0. We then obtain the variational formulation for nonlinear poisson equation.

$$\int_{\Omega} (1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} v f \, dx$$

Therefore, we need to find  $F(u; v) = 0 \, \forall v \in \hat{V}$  where:

$$F(u; v) = \int_{\Omega} [(1 + 0.1 \times u^2) \nabla u \cdot \nabla v - v f] \, dx$$

### 3 NN Loss Function

#### Loss in the domain

For estimated potential function  $\hat{\phi}(x, y)$ , the loss in the domain is calculated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Omega} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{\Omega}} \{ \nabla \cdot [ (1 + 0.1 \times \hat{\phi}^2(x, y)) \nabla \hat{\phi}(x, y) ] - f(x, y) \}^2$$

where  $S_{\Omega}$  is the set of the randomly sampled points in the domain ( $|S_{\Omega}| = n$ ).

#### Loss on the boundary

For estimated potential function  $\hat{\phi}(x, y)$ , the loss on the boundary is calculated as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\partial\Omega} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{(x,y) \in S_{\partial\Omega}} [g(x, y) - \hat{\phi}(x, y)]^2$$

where  $S_{\partial\Omega}$  is the set of the randomly sampled points in the domain ( $|S_{\partial\Omega}| = |S_{\Omega}| = n$ ).

#### Total Loss Function

Total loss function used in training is the sum of  $\mathcal{L}_{\Omega}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{\partial\Omega}$  with  $\mathcal{L}_{\partial\Omega}$  scaled (optionally) by hyper-parameter `bc_weight`:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\Omega} + \text{bc\_weight} \times \mathcal{L}_{\partial\Omega}$$