

# Scientific Machine Learning - Theoretical aspects

Stéphane Descombes, Stéphane Lanteri

2025-2026

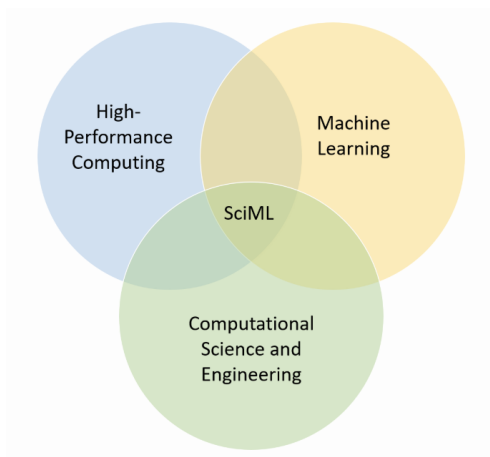
# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Scientific Machine Learning (SciML)
- 2 Several partial differential equations
- 3 Approximation of functions by neural networks

# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Scientific Machine Learning (SciML)
- 2 Several partial differential equations
- 3 Approximation of functions by neural networks

# Introduction to SciML



In recent years, the combination of numerical methods and machine learning has gained an ever increasing interest as a research field within Numerical Mathematics and Scientific Computing

# Introduction to SciML

## What is Scientific Machine Learning ?

- SciML is an emerging discipline within the data science community
- SciML seeks to address **domain-specific** data challenges and extract insights from scientific data sets through innovative methodological solutions
- SciML draws on tools from both Machine Learning (ML) and scientific computing to develop new methods for **robust** learning and data analysis
- SciML will be critical in driving the next wave of data-driven scientific discovery in the physical and engineering sciences
- SciML is multidisciplinary and leverages expertise from applied and computational mathematics, computer science, and the physical sciences

# Introduction to SciML

## Why Scientific Machine Learning ?

- New innovations in ML and Big Data are beginning to drive advances in scientific disciplines
- But the full potential of these techniques for data-driven discovery has yet to be fully realized
- One barrier to data-driven discovery is that existing methods often do not meet the needs of scientific users
- Application-agnostic algorithms, or those designed for more traditional ML applications such as image or natural language processing, can not typically be directly applied to scientific data sets and require non-trivial, task-specific modifications

# Introduction to SciML

## Why Scientific Machine Learning?

- In many applications only limited or low-quality labels are available, while massive unlabeled (often class imbalanced) data sets are common
- Scientific data are often high-dimensional, noisy, heterogeneous, low-signal-to-noise, and multiscale
- Models should **respect or incorporate physical laws**, constraints, and other scientific domain knowledge
- Robust methods and an ability to quantify uncertainty are required for scientific rigor

# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Scientific Machine Learning (SciML)
- 2 Several partial differential equations**
- 3 Approximation of functions by neural networks



# Poisson equation

## ■ Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) + c(x)u(x) = f(x), & x \in ]-1, 1[, \\ u(-1) = 0, u(1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Exact solution for  $c = 0$  and  $f(x) = \pi^2 \sin(\pi x)$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ,

$$u(x) = \sin(\pi x), \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1.$$

## ■ Dirichlet/Neumann boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) + c(x)u(x) = f(x), & x \in ]-1, 1[, \\ u(-1) = 0, u'(1) = 4. \end{cases}$$

Exact solution for  $c = 0$  and  $f(x) = -2$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ,

$$u(x) = (x + 1)^2, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1.$$

## ■ Dirichlet/Robin boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} -u''(x) = f(x), & x \in ]0, 1[, \\ u(-1) = 0, u'(1) = u(1). \end{cases}$$

Same exact solution for  $c = 0$  and  $f(x) = -2$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ .

# Heat equation

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(t, x) = 0, x \in ]-1, 1[, t > 0, \\ u(t, -1) = u(t, 1) = 0, t > 0, \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), x \in ]-1, 1[. \end{array} \right.$$

$u_0$  is the initial condition

# Advection equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) + a \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(t, x) = 0, (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

$u_0$  is the initial condition,  $a$  is a constant,  $a > 0$ .

- If  $u_0$  belongs to  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ , existence and uniqueness of a classical solution  $u$  belonging to  $C^1(\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R})$

$$u(t, x) = u_0(x - at).$$

# Inviscid Burgers equation / Viscid Burgers equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) + u(t, x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(t, x) = 0, (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

$u_0$  is the initial condition.

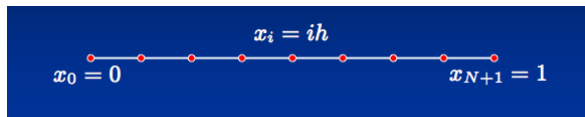
- If  $u_0$  belongs to  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ , bounded over  $\mathbb{R}$  with a derivative bounded over  $\mathbb{R}$ , if  $u'_0 \geq 0$  : existence and uniqueness of a classical solution  $u$  belonging to  $C^1(\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R})$ .

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) + u(t, x) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(t, x) = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(t, x), (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

$u_0$  is the initial condition,  $\nu$  is a constant,  $\nu > 0$ .

**Hopf-Cole transformation**, transform the viscous Burgers equation into a linear heat equation.

# Forward Euler scheme

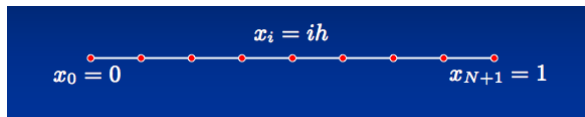


## Forward Euler scheme

1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 0, \dots, M-1,$$

# Forward Euler scheme



## Forward Euler scheme

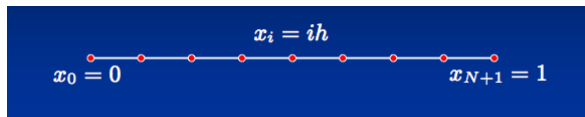
1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 0, \dots, M-1,$$

2

$$u_i^0 = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

# Forward Euler scheme



## Forward Euler scheme

1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 0, \dots, M-1,$$

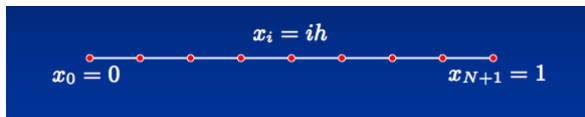
2

$$u_i^0 = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

3

$$u_0^n = u_{N+1}^n = 0, \quad n = 0, \dots, M.$$

# Forward Euler scheme



## Forward Euler scheme

1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^n - 2u_i^n + u_{i-1}^n}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 0, \dots, M-1,$$

2

$$u_i^0 = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

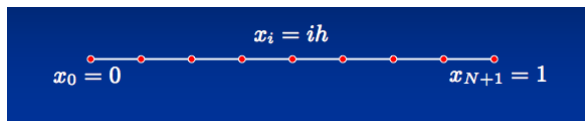
3

$$u_0^n = u_{N+1}^n = 0, \quad n = 0, \dots, M.$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta t}{h^2}$$



# Backward Euler scheme

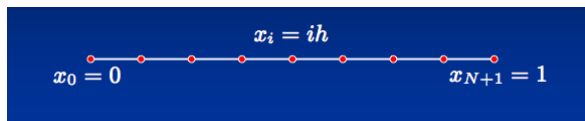


## Backward Euler scheme

1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2u_i^{n+1} + u_{i-1}^{n+1}}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

# Backward Euler scheme



## Backward Euler scheme

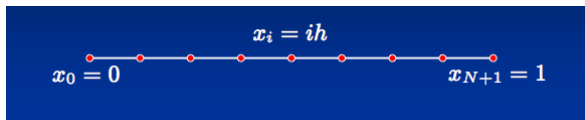
1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2u_i^{n+1} + u_{i-1}^{n+1}}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

2

$$u_i^0 = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

# Backward Euler scheme



## Backward Euler scheme

1

$$\frac{u_i^{n+1} - u_i^n}{\Delta t} - \frac{u_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2u_i^{n+1} + u_{i-1}^{n+1}}{h^2} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad n = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

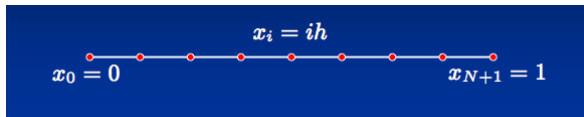
2

$$u_i^0 = u_0(x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

3

$$u_0^n = u_{N+1}^n = 0, \quad n = 0, \dots, M.$$

# Upwind scheme / Lax-Wendroff scheme



1

$$\frac{u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_j^n - u_{j-1}^n}{h} = 0,$$

2

$$\frac{u_j^{n+1} - u_j^n}{\Delta t} + a \frac{u_{j+1}^{n+1} - u_{j-1}^{n+1}}{2h} - \frac{a^2 \Delta t}{2} \frac{u_{j+1}^n - 2u_j^n + u_{j-1}^n}{h^2} = 0.$$

# $L^2$ stability analysis

- 1 Let  $u$  be a 1-periodic function, the Fourier coefficients  $\hat{u}(k)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  are complex numbers defined by the integrals

$$\hat{u}(k) = \int_0^1 u(x) e^{-2\pi i k x} dx.$$

- 2 Parseval formula

$$\|u\|_2^2 = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |\hat{u}(k)|^2.$$

- 3 Von Neumann analysis, there exists a constant  $K > 0$  independent of  $\Delta t$  and  $h$  such that for all  $n$ ,  $1 \leq n \leq M$ ,

$$\|u^n\|_2 = \left( \sum_{j=1}^N h |u_j^n|^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq K \|u^0\|_2 = \left( \sum_{j=1}^N h |u_j^0|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

- 4 Stability, consistency, convergence - Lax-Richtmyer theorem.

# Outline

- 1 Introduction to Scientific Machine Learning (SciML)
- 2 Several partial differential equations
- 3 Approximation of functions by neural networks

# Back to the future

Let  $n$  in  $\mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\sigma$  a function from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $M([0, 1]^n)$  the space of finite, signed regular Borel measures and  $C([0, 1]^n)$  the space of continuous functions on  $[0, 1]^n$ .

## Definition.

We say that  $\sigma$  is **sigmoidal** if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \sigma(t) = 0, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma(t) = 1,$$

we say that  $\sigma$  is **discriminatory** if for a measure  $\mu$  in  $M([0, 1]^n)$

$$\int_{[0, 1]^n} \sigma(y^t x + \theta) d\mu(x) = 0$$

for all  $y$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\theta$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  implies that  $\mu = 0$ . □

A sigmoidal function **can not be** a polynomial function.

# Back to the future

Let  $n$  in  $\mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $\sigma$  a function from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $M([0, 1]^n)$  the space of finite, signed regular Borel measures and  $C([0, 1]^n)$  the space of continuous functions on  $[0, 1]^n$ .

Theorem 1, Cybenko (1989).

Let  $\sigma$  be any continuous discriminatory function. The finite sums of the form

$$G(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \sigma(y_j^t x + \theta_j)$$

are dense in  $C([0, 1]^n)$ . □

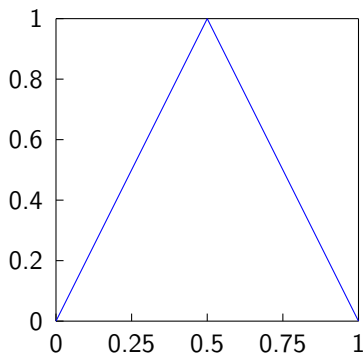
Lemma 1, Cybenko (1989).

Any bounded, measurable sigmoidal function,  $\sigma$ , is discriminatory. In particular, any continuous sigmoidal function is discriminatory. □



# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 2x, & 0 \leq x \leq 1/2, \\ 2(1-x), & 1/2 < x < 1. \end{cases}$$



# Approximation of a one dimensional function by a Neural Networks (NN)

Let us suppose we want to approximate a one dimensional function  $f \in C^n([0, 1])$  with to simplify  $\|f^{(k)}\|_\infty \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , by Neural Networks. The main idea with the ReLU is to replace the piecewise linear functions by piecewise polynomials and we need the following ingredients :

- A NN  $f_1^*$  approximating linear functions

$$\sup_{x \in [0,1]} |f_1^*(x) - x| \leq \varepsilon$$

- A NN  $f_2^*$  approximating quadratic functions

$$\sup_{x \in [0,1]} |f_2^*(x) - x^2| \leq \varepsilon$$

- Approximate a partition of unity :

$$\psi_j \geq 0, \sum_{j=1}^N \psi_j = 1, \text{supp } \psi_j \subset \left[ \frac{j-1}{N}, \frac{j+1}{N} \right] \cap [0, 1], j = 0, \dots, N.$$

# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

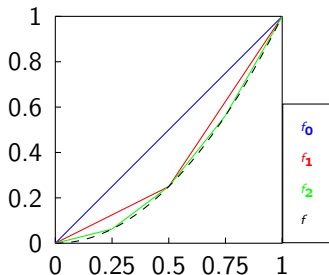
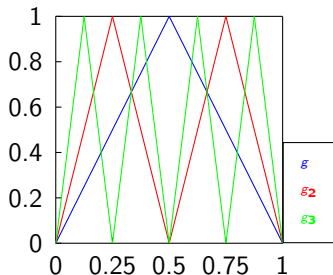
**Step 1 :**  $x = \max(x, 0) - \max(-x, 0) = \text{ReLU}(x) - \text{ReLU}(-x) = \sigma(x) - \sigma(-x)$ .

*Remark :*  $\max(x, 0) + \max(-x, 0) = |x|$ .

**Step 2 :**

Proposition 1, Yarotsky (2017).

The function  $x \mapsto f(x) = x^2$  on the segment  $[0, 1]$  can be approximated with any error  $\varepsilon > 0$  by a ReLU network. □

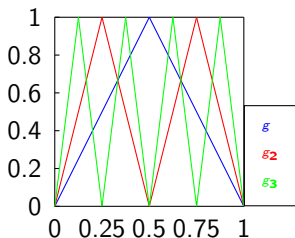


# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

Lemma 2, Telgarsky (2015).

Let real  $x \in [0, 1]$  and positive integer  $m$  be given, and choose the unique nonnegative integer  $i_m \in \{0, \dots, 2^m - 1\}$  and real  $x_m \in [0, 1[$  so that  $x = (i_m + x_m)2^{1-m}$ . Then

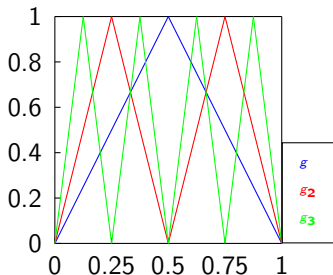
$$g_m(x) = \begin{cases} 2x_m, & 0 \leq x_m \leq 1/2, \\ 2(1 - x_m), & 1/2 < x_m < 1. \end{cases}$$



# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

Lemma 3, Telgarsky (2015).

$$g_m(x) = \begin{cases} 2^m \left( x - \frac{2k}{2^m} \right), & x \in \left[ \frac{2k}{2^m}, \frac{2k+1}{2^m} \right], k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^{m-1} - 1 \\ 2^m \left( \frac{2k}{2^m} - x \right), & x \in \left[ \frac{2k-1}{2^m}, \frac{2k}{2^m} \right], k = 1, 2, \dots, 2^{m-1}. \end{cases}$$



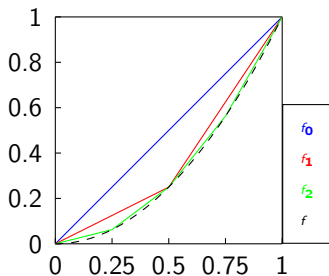
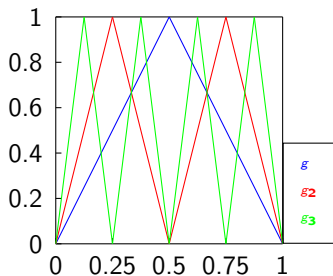
# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

Let  $f_m$  be the piecewise linear interpolation of  $f$  with  $2^m + 1$  uniformly distributed breakpoints  $k/2^m$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, 2^m$ ,

$$f_m\left(\frac{k}{2^m}\right) = \left(\frac{k}{2^m}\right)^2, \quad k = 0, \dots, 2^m.$$

We have for all  $x \in [0, 1]$

$$f_{m-1}(x) - f_m(x) = \frac{g_m(x)}{2^{2m}}, \quad f_m(x) = x - \sum_{\ell=1}^m \frac{g_\ell(x)}{2^{2\ell}}$$



# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

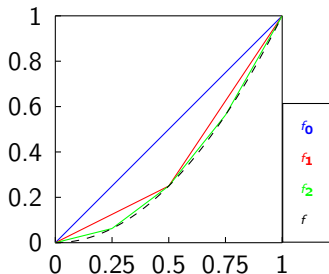
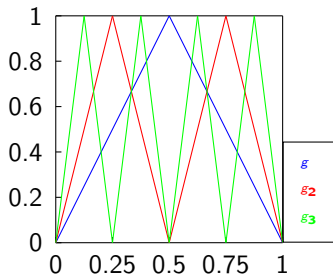
We have (for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ ) - (Exercices)

■

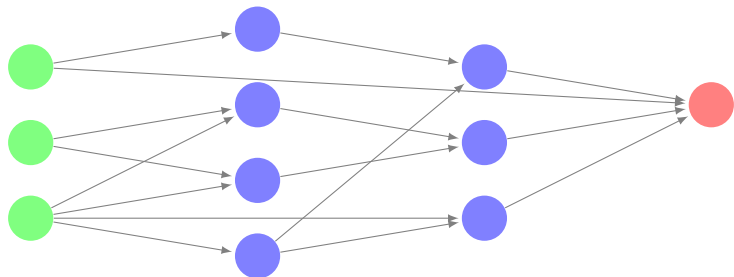
$$\|f_m - f\|_{[0,1]} \leq 2^{-2m},$$

■

$$g(x) = 2\sigma(x) - 4\sigma\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right) + 2\sigma(x - 1).$$



# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks



A feedforward neural network having 3 input units, 1 output unit, and 7 computation units with nonlinear activation. The network has 4 layers and  $16 + 8 = 24$  weights.

Proposition 2, Yarotsky (2017).

Given  $M > 0$  and  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1[$ , there exists a ReLU network  $\eta$  with two input units that implements a function  $\omega : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

- 1 for any inputs  $x, y$  if  $|x| \leq M$  and  $|y| \leq M$ , then  $|\omega(x, y) - xy| \leq \varepsilon$ ,
- 2 if  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$  then  $\omega(x, y) = 0$ .



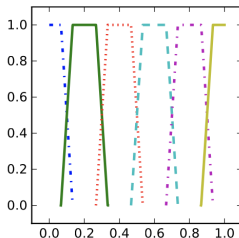
# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

## Step 3 : Partition of unity

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| < 1, \\ 0 & 2 < |x|, \\ 2 - |x| & 1 \leq |x| \leq 2. \end{cases}$$

Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $x \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\psi_j(x) = \psi(3N(x - j/N))$ ,  $j = 0, \dots, N$ ,

$$\sum_{j=0}^N \psi_j(x) = 1.$$



# Approximation by ReLU Neural Networks

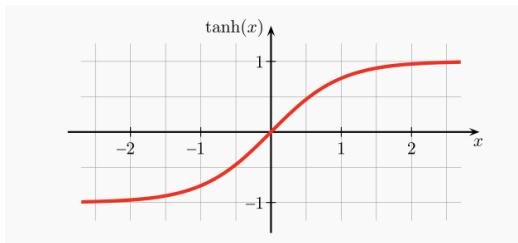
## Theorem 2, Yarotsky (2017) - Upper bounds.

For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ , a function  $f$  belonging to  $C^n([0, 1])$  can be approximated by a ReLU network with error  $\varepsilon$ . Moreover there exists a constant  $c(n)$  such that this ReLU network has the depth at most  $c(n)(\ln(1/\varepsilon) + 1)$  and at most  $c(n)\varepsilon^{-1/n}(\ln(1/\varepsilon) + 1)$  weights and computation units.  $\square$

# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

New activation function defined for all  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  by

$$\sigma(x) = \tanh(x).$$



$\sigma$  is a  $C^\infty$  function satisfying for  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\sigma'(x) = 1 - \sigma^2(x) = \frac{4}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$$

# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

Theorem 3, De Ryck, Lanthaler, Mishra (2021).

For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ , a function  $f$  belonging to  $C^n([0, 1])$  can be approximated by a tanh network with error  $\varepsilon$ . Moreover the tanh network has two hidden layers and there exists a constant  $c(n, f)$  such that one is of width at most

$$3 \min \left( p \in \mathbb{N} \mid p \geq \frac{n}{2} \right) + \frac{c(n, f)}{\sqrt[n]{\varepsilon}} - 1$$

and the other of width at most

$$\frac{6c(n, f)}{\sqrt[n]{\varepsilon}}.$$



# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

Proposition 3, De Ryck, Lanthaler, Mishra (2021).

Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , the function defined for all  $x$  in  $[0, 1]$  by  $x^p$  can be approximated with any error  $\varepsilon > 0$  by a tanh network. □

- $p = 1$ , **exercice**
- $p$  odd, use  $p$ th order central finite difference approximation with  $y$  in  $[0, 1]$ ,  $h > 0$ ,

$$\delta_{y,h}^p[\sigma] = \sum_{i=0}^p (-1)^i C_p^i \sigma \left( \left( \frac{p}{2} - i \right) y h \right).$$

- $p$  even,  $\sigma^{(p)}(0) = 0$ , use for  $y$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\alpha > 0$ ,

$$y^p = \frac{1}{2\alpha(p+1)} \left( (y+\alpha)^{p+1} - (y-\alpha)^{p+1} - 2 \sum_{k=0}^{p/2-1} C_{p+1}^{2k} \alpha^{p-2k+1} y^{2k} \right)$$

# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

Proposition 3, De Ryck, Lanthaler, Mishra (2021).

Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , the function defined for all  $x$  in  $[0, 1]$  by  $x^p$  can be approximated with any error  $\varepsilon > 0$  by a tanh network. □

Consequence.

Proposition 3 + Stone-Weirstrass theorem : A continuous function on  $[0, 1]$  by  $x^p$  can be approximated with any error  $\varepsilon > 0$  by a tanh network. □

Consequence 2.

Approximation with error  $\varepsilon$  of the product of two reals  $x$  and  $y$  by a tanh network. □

# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

**Step 3** : from "Partition of unity" to "Approximation of partition of unity"

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,

$$[0, 1] = \bigcup_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{j-1}{N}, \frac{j}{N} \right].$$

We fix  $\alpha > 0$  large enough such that

$$1 - \sigma\left(\frac{\alpha}{N}\right) \leq \varepsilon.$$

For  $j$ ,  $2 \leq j \leq N-1$  and  $y$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , we define

$$\rho_j^N(y) = \frac{1}{2} \sigma\left(\alpha\left(y - \frac{j-1}{N}\right)\right) - \frac{1}{2} \sigma\left(\alpha\left(y - \frac{j}{N}\right)\right)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_1^N(y) &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sigma\left(\alpha\left(y - \frac{1}{N}\right)\right), \\ \rho_N^N(y) &= \frac{1}{2} \sigma\left(\alpha\left(y - \frac{N-1}{N}\right)\right) + \frac{1}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

**Step 3** : from "Partition of unity" to "Approximation of partition of unity"

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,

$$[0, 1] = \bigcup_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{j-1}{N}, \frac{j}{N} \right].$$

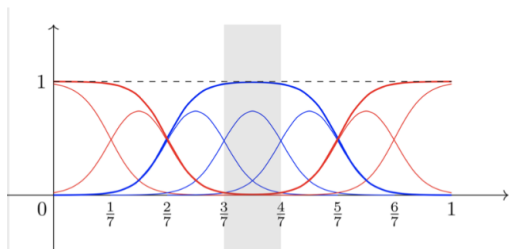


Figure – An example with  $N = 7$



# Towards PINNs : Approximation by tanh Neural Networks

Lemma 3, De Ryck, Lanthaler, Mishra (2021).

For a fixed  $j$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\left\| \sum_{\ell=j-1}^{j+1} \rho_{\ell}^N - 1 \right\|_{\left[\frac{j-1}{N}, \frac{j}{N}\right]} \leq \varepsilon$$

and for  $\ell \neq j-1, j, j+1$ ,

$$\|\rho_{\ell}^N\|_{\left[\frac{j-1}{N}, \frac{j}{N}\right]} \leq \varepsilon.$$



Almost the same properties as the family of functions  $\psi_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq N$ .

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Back to the model of dynamics with frictions.

- $mu'' + \mu u' = 0$  on  $]0, T[$ ,  $T > 0$ .
- Challenge : the physical model is incomplete because the initial conditions **are unknown** but we have  $n$  noisy observations  $y_i$  at the points  $x_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
- Other data : a sample of independent and identically distributed random variables  $x_j^{(r)}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n_r$ , uniformly distributed on  $]0, T[$ .
- Loss function :

$$R_{n,n_r}(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |u_{NN}(x_i, \theta) - y_i|^2 + \frac{1}{n_r} \sum_{j=1}^{n_r} \left( (mu''_{NN} + \mu u'_{NN})(x_j^{(r)}, \theta) \right)^2$$



# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Theorem 3 (overfitting), Doumèche, Biau, Boyer (2023).

Consider the dynamics with friction model and assume that there are two observations such that  $y_i \neq y_j$ ,  $i \neq j$ . Then, whenever one hidden size  $L$  of the neural network satisfies  $L \geq n - 1$ , for any integer  $n_r$ , for all  $x_i^{(r)}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n_r$ , there exists a minimizing sequence  $(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta_p))_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} R_{n, n_r}(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta_p)) = 0$$

but

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \left( (mu''_{NN} + \mu u'_{NN})(x, \theta_p) \right)^2 dx = +\infty$$

So, this PINN estimator is not consistent. □

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Key ingredient : For  $\theta$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$

$$\tanh_{\theta}(x) = \tanh(\theta x).$$

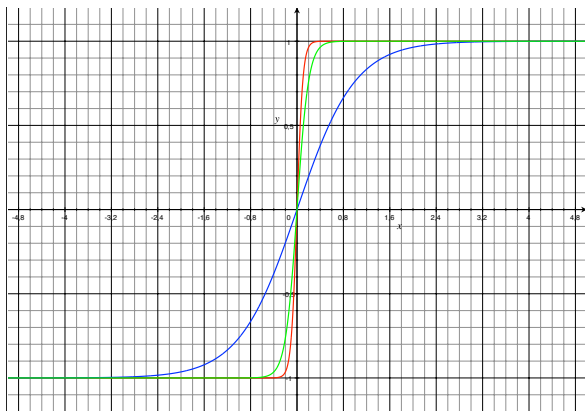


Figure – Graphs of  $\tanh_{\theta}$  for  $\theta = 1, 5, 10$

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Lemma 4, Doumèche, Biau, Boyer (2023).

Let the sign function defined for  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $\text{sign}(x) = \mathbb{1}_{\{x>0\}} - \mathbb{1}_{\{x<0\}}$ . Let  $K$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $H$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , then for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow +\infty} \|\tanh_{\theta}^{\circ H} - \text{sign}\|_{C^K(\mathbb{R} \setminus ]-\varepsilon, \varepsilon[)} = 0.$$



Proof :

- $H = 1$  **Exercise**
- $H \geq 2$ , by induction with the Faà di Bruno's formula (here with two regular functions  $f$  and  $g$ )

$$(D^n(f \circ g))(t) = \sum \frac{n!}{k_1! \dots k_n!} (D^k f)(g(t)) \left( \frac{(Dg)(t)}{1!} \right)^{k_1} \dots \left( \frac{(D^n g)(t)}{n!} \right)^{k_n}$$

where  $k = k_1 + \dots + k_n$  and the sum is over all partitions of  $n$ , i.e., values of  $k_1, \dots, k_n$  such that  $k_1 + 2k_2 + \dots + nk_n = n$ .

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

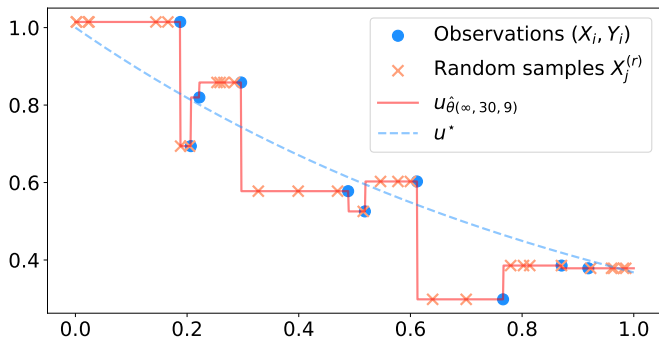


Figure – One example of an inconsistent PINNs in the model of dynamics with frictions

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Back to the heat equation.

- $\Omega = ]-1, 1[ \cup ]0, T[.$

- 

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}(t, x) = 0, x \in \Omega, \\ u(t, -1) = u(t, 1) = 0, t > 0, \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), x \in [-1, 1]. \end{array} \right.$$

- For  $x \in [-1, 1],$

$$u(x, 0) = \tanh^{\circ H}(x + 0.5) - \tanh^{\circ H}(x - 0.5) + \tanh^{\circ H}(0.5) - \tanh^{\circ H}(1.5).$$



# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Back to the heat equation.

- Data 1 : a sample of independent and identically distributed random variables  $x_i^{(e)}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n_e$ , on  $E = [-1, 1] \times \{0\} \cup (\{-1, 1\} \times [0, T])$  distributed according to  $\mu$ .
- Data 2 : a sample of independent and identically distributed random variables  $x_i^{(r)}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n_r$ , uniformly distributed on  $\Omega$ .
- Loss function :  $R_{n_e, n_r}(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta)) =$

$$\frac{\lambda_e}{n_e} \sum_{j=1}^{n_e} |u_{NN}(x_j^{(e)}, \theta) - h(x_j^{(e)})|^2 + \frac{1}{n_r} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n_r} \left( \left( \frac{\partial u_{NN}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^2 u_{NN}}{\partial x^2} \right) (x_j^{(r)}, \theta) \right)^2$$





# PINNs : Two disappointing results

Theorem 4 (overfitting), Doumèche, Biau, Boyer (2023).

Consider the heat equation, then, whenever  $D > 4$ , for any pair  $(n_e, n_r)$ , for all  $x_1^{(e)}, \dots, x_{n_e}^{(e)}$  and for all  $x_1^{(r)}, \dots, x_{n_r}^{(r)}$ , there exists a minimizing sequence  $(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta_p))_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} R_{n_e, n_r}(u_{NN}(\cdot, \theta_p)) = 0$$

but

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\Omega} \left( \left( \frac{\partial u_{NN}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^2 u_{NN}}{\partial x^2} \right) (t, x, \theta_p) \right)^2 dt dx = +\infty$$

So, this PINN estimator is not consistent. □

# PINNs : Two disappointing results

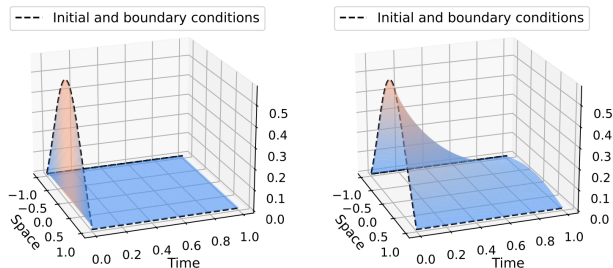


Figure – One example of an inconsistent PINNs with the heat equation