

Learning elastoplasticity with implicit layers

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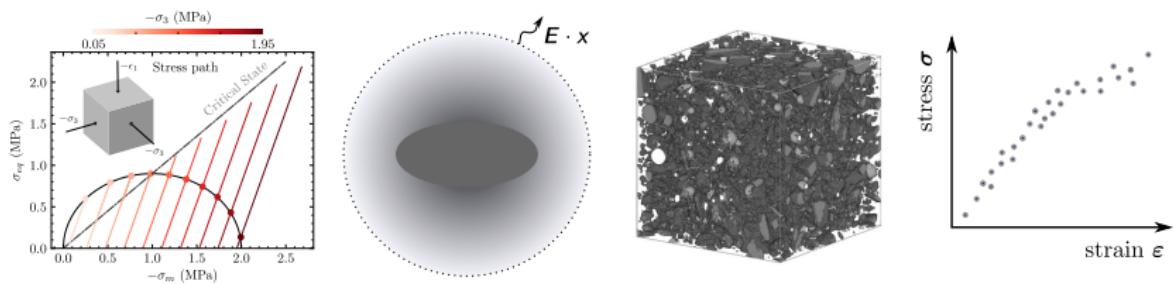


*CMCS 2025
Wednesday, May 14th 2025*

Constitutive modeling

Constitutive behavior: complements balance equations and kinematic relations

- phenomenological
- micromechanics/mean-field
- computational (FE², FFT, reduced models)
- data-driven/Machine-Learning techniques



Thermodynamics: path/history-dependence, internal state variables, evolution equations

Outline

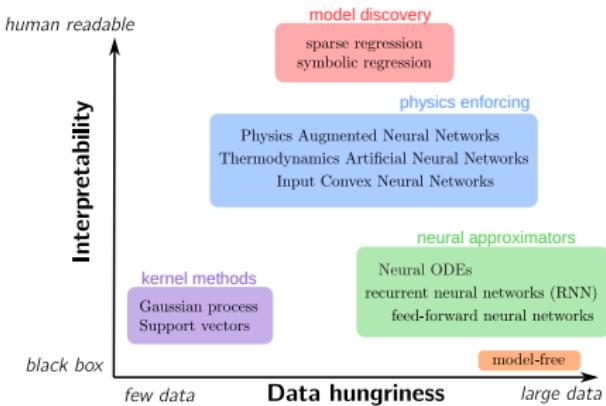
- ① Learning dissipative behaviors
- ② Convex optimization formulation of elastoplasticity
- ③ Learning with implicit layers
- ④ Applications

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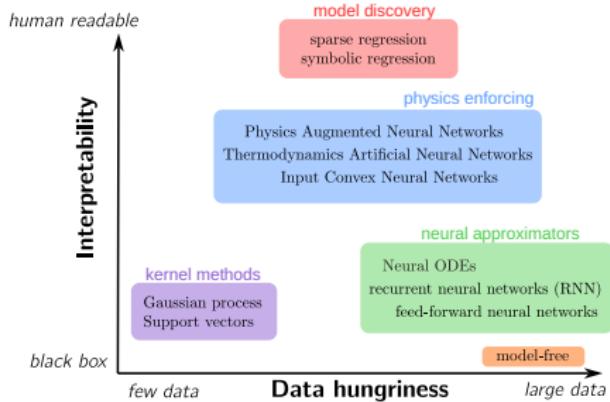
Existing approaches and challenges

Dilemma: High expressiveness and interpretability with good generalization outside limited data



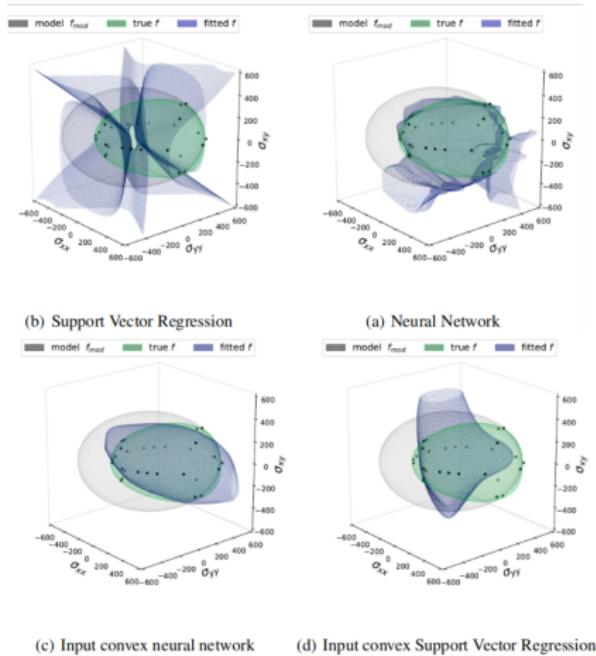
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Challenges in plasticity:

- non-smooth behavior
- convex yield surfaces
- high-dimensional, path dependent

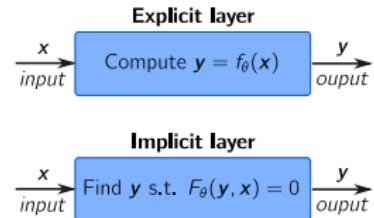


Adapted from [Fuhg et al., 2022]

Implicit Layers: a new paradigm

What are **Implicit Layers** [Amos, Kolter, El Ghaoui, 2017-2021] ?

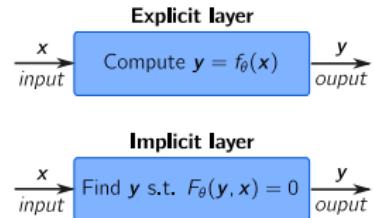
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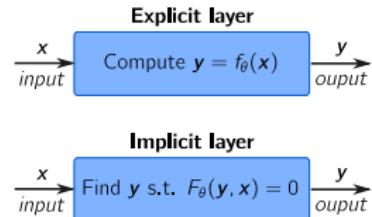
- Strong expressiveness/few parameters: *1 implicit layer is all you need* [Kolter et al., 2020]
- Backpropagation via **implicit differentiation**
- Can explicitly enforce **constraints** vs. loss or architecture crafting

Applications in ML: Neural ODEs, Deep Equilibrium (DEQ) models, Optimization Networks (OptNet)

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Application to constitutive modeling

- Constitutive updates (e.g. *return-mapping*) are formulated as **non-linear root finding**
- Can enforce **variational structure, convexity**, etc.

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Variational principle for dissipative media

Dissipative media as Generalized Standard Materials (GSM) [Halphen & Nguyen, 1983]

- state variables: ε, α with $\alpha = p, \varepsilon^P, d, f$, etc.
- free energy: $\psi(\varepsilon, \alpha)$
- pseudo-dissipation potential: $\phi(\dot{\varepsilon}, \dot{\alpha})$

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In duality to state variables: stress σ and thermodynamic forces Y

$$\sigma = \sigma^{\text{nd}} + \sigma^{\text{d}}$$

$$0 = Y^{\text{nd}} + Y^{\text{d}}$$

$$(\sigma^{\text{nd}}, Y^{\text{nd}}) \in \partial_{(\varepsilon, \alpha)} \psi(\varepsilon, \alpha) \quad (\varepsilon, \alpha) \in \partial_{(\sigma^{\text{nd}}, Y^{\text{nd}})} \psi^*(\sigma^{\text{nd}}, Y^{\text{nd}})$$

$$(\sigma^{\text{d}}, Y^{\text{d}}) \in \partial_{(\dot{\varepsilon}, \dot{\alpha})} \phi(\dot{\varepsilon}, \dot{\alpha}) \quad (\dot{\varepsilon}, \dot{\alpha}) \in \partial_{(\sigma^{\text{d}}, Y^{\text{d}})} \phi^*(\sigma^{\text{d}}, Y^{\text{d}})$$

sub-differential for non-smooth functions

e.g. $\partial \phi^*$ is a convex set when ϕ is 1-homogeneous (rate-independent behaviour)

Incremental variational principles

Evolution between t_n and $t_n + \Delta t$ is obtained by solving [Ortiz & Stainier, 1999; Mielke, 2005]:

Primal incremental variational problem

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{n+1}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{n+1}) = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{ad}}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}} \int_{\Omega} \left(\psi(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) + \Delta t \phi \left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_n}{\Delta t}, \frac{\boldsymbol{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}_n}{\Delta t} \right) \right) d\Omega - W_{\text{ext}, n+1}(\boldsymbol{u})$$

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e.g. **Plasticity**: $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ non-dissipative, rate-independent, elasticity and hardening $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p, p)$:

$$\psi(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \psi_{\text{el}}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p) + \psi_h(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p, p)$$

yields:

$$(\boldsymbol{u}_{n+1}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{n+1}) = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{ad}}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}} \int_{\Omega} (\psi_{\text{el}}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p) + \psi_h(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p, p) + \phi(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_n^p, p - p_n)) d\Omega - W_{\text{ext}, n+1}(\boldsymbol{u})$$

$$\text{with } \phi(\Delta \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p, \Delta p) = \begin{cases} \sigma_0 \Delta p & \text{s.t. } \pi_{\bar{G}}(\Delta \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^p) \leq \Delta p \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $\pi_{\bar{G}}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) = \sup_{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in \bar{G}} \boldsymbol{\sigma} : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ is the support function of the unit plastic domain \bar{G}

Auxiliary problem and dual principle

In a strain-driven setting, we solve the **local inner** problem at given ε :

$$\arg \min_{\varepsilon^P, p} \psi_{el}(\varepsilon - \varepsilon^P) + \psi_h(\varepsilon^P, p) + \phi(\varepsilon^P - \varepsilon_n^P, p - p_n)$$

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The latter enjoys the following **dual formulation**:

$$\begin{aligned} \arg \min_{\sigma, Y, R} \quad & \psi_{el}^*(\sigma) + \psi_h^*(Y, R) - \sigma(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_n^P) - Y\varepsilon_n^P - Rp_n \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sigma - Y \in (\sigma_0 + R)\bar{G} \end{aligned}$$

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Perfect-plastic case and linear elasticity:

$$\begin{aligned} \arg \min_{\sigma} \quad & \frac{1}{2}\sigma C^{-1}\sigma - \sigma(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_n^P) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \sigma_0 G \end{aligned} = \begin{aligned} \arg \min_{\sigma} \quad & \frac{1}{2}(\sigma - \sigma^{elas})C^{-1}(\sigma - \sigma^{elas}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \sigma_0 G \end{aligned}$$

is a **closest-point projection** [Simo & Hugues, 1998] of the elastic predictor
 $\sigma^{elas} = C(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_n^P) = \sigma_n + C\Delta\varepsilon$ onto the yield surface $\sigma_0 \bar{G}$

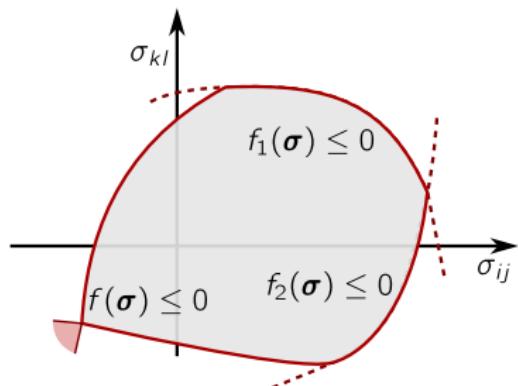
Return mapping and convex optimization solvers

Return mapping as a **convex optimization problem**

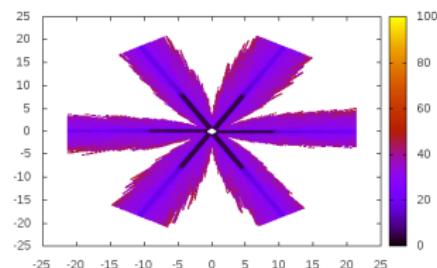
$$\sigma = F(\Delta \varepsilon; \sigma_n) = \arg \min_{\sigma} \quad \frac{1}{2} (\sigma - \sigma^{\text{elas}})^T C^{-1} (\sigma - \sigma^{\text{elas}})$$

s.t. $\sigma \in \mathcal{G}$

Newton method for smooth \mathcal{G} or **convex optimization solvers** for non-smooth/multisurface plasticity



(a) Non-smooth plastic yield surface



(b) RM iterations to project trial stress on Hosford surface [Helper, MFront doc.]

Conic programming solvers

Falls into the class of **conic optimization** (**non-smooth** but **structured**)

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min\limits_x & c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} & Ax = b \\ & x \in \mathcal{K}\end{array}$$

where \mathcal{K} is made of elementary **cones** ($\mathbb{R}^{n,+}$, quadratic, SDP, etc.)
solved efficiently with **primal-dual interior-point methods** (e.g. cvxpy)

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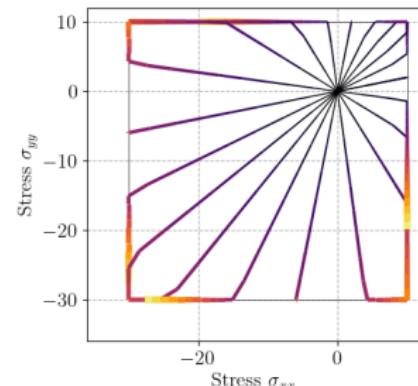
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e.g. **Rankine**: $f(\sigma) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \max \sigma_I \leq f_t \\ \min \sigma_I \geq -f_c \end{cases}$

```
import cvxpy as cp
...
def set_cvxpy_model(self):
    self.sig = cp.Variable((3,))
    self.sig_el = cp.Parameter((3,))
    obj = 0.5 * cp.quad_form(self.sig - self.sig_el, C_inv)
    Sig = to_mat(self.sig)
    cons = [cp.lambda_max(Sig) <= self.ft,
            cp.lambda_min(Sig) >= -self.fc]
    self.prob = cp.Problem(cp.Minimize(obj), cons)
```



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Learning the elastoplastic return mapping

Objective: learn the elastoplastic mapping F from data

Inputs = strain increment $\Delta\epsilon$ and previous stress σ_n

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Observation: F is a **complex activation function**

ReLU

ReLU is a **simple activation function**: $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max\{x, 0\} \dots$

but can also be characterized as:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{ReLU}(x) &= \min_y \quad \frac{1}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2 \\ &\text{s.t.} \quad y \geq 0\end{aligned}$$

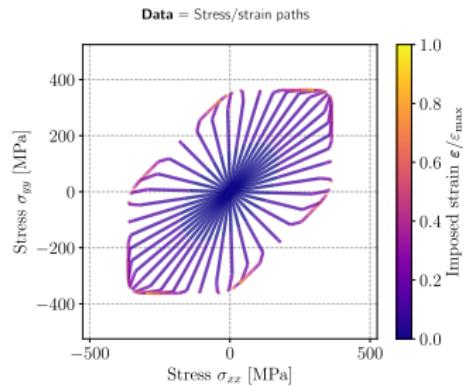
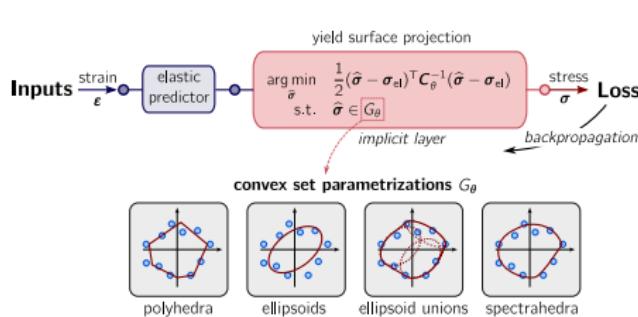
Implicit layer framework

Proposal: use convex optimization layers [Agrawal et al., 2019]

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\theta} = \mathcal{F}_{\theta}(\Delta\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n) = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\theta}^{\text{elas}})^T \mathbf{C}_{\theta}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\theta}^{\text{elas}})$$

s.t. $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in G_{\theta}$

- $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\theta}^{\text{elas}} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_n + \mathbf{C}_{\theta}\Delta\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$: elastic predictor
- \mathbf{C}_{θ} : parametrized elastic stiffness tensor
- G_{θ} is a parametrized convex set approximating ground-truth yield surface \mathcal{G}



Implementation aspects

- Learning framework using `cvxpylayers` in pytorch
- Stiffness parametrization: use upper-triangular Cholesky factor L_θ so that $C_\theta = L_\theta^T L_\theta \succeq 0$
- Loss function: stress MSE

$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{N_{\text{train}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{train}}} \|\sigma^{(k)} - \sigma_\theta(\Delta\varepsilon^{(k)}, \sigma_n^{(k)})\|_2^2$$

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- Gradient computations: computing $\partial_\theta \sigma_\theta$ is not trivial since there is no explicit expression \Rightarrow use implicit differentiation
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- G_θ : convex set parametrization ?
convex set regression is a hard problem [Goyal & Rademacher, 2009]

Parametric convex yield surfaces

Hypotheses: $G_\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$, convex and contains 0 in its interior

Objective: find an expressive family of approximations of convex sets with low number of parameters

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- polyhedra with m hyperplanes:

$$\mathcal{P}_\theta^m = \{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}_\theta \boldsymbol{\sigma} \leq 1\} \quad \dim \theta = nm$$

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- convex union of m ellipsoids [Bleyer & de Buhan, 2013]

$$\mathcal{E}_\theta = \{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } \|\mathbf{Q}_\theta(\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \mathbf{c}_\theta)\|_2 \leq 1\} \quad \dim \theta = mn(n+3)/2$$

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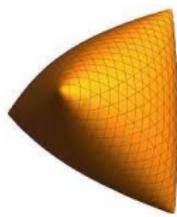
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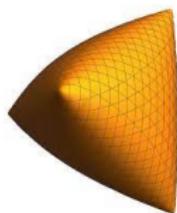
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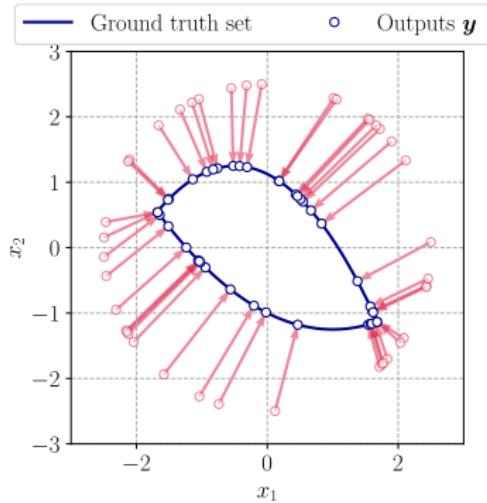
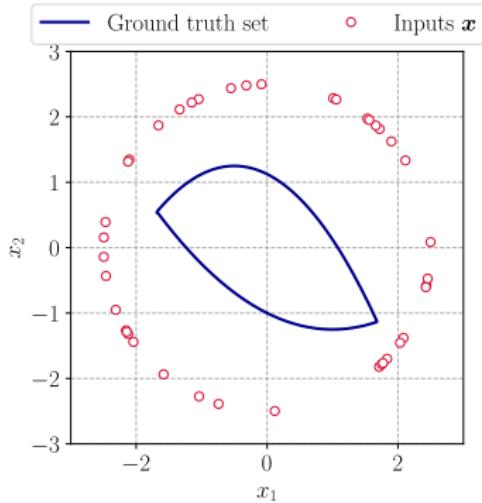
all are expressible using convex cones (linear, second-order, PSD resp.)

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Illustrative 2D convex set learning example

\mathcal{G} : intersection of two parabolas, training with 50 points, random initialization



Results

Polyhedra

$$m = 8$$

$$m = 50$$

not very stable learning (many inactive inequalities), poor accuracy

Results

Union of ellipsoids

$$m = 1$$

$$m = 8$$

better accuracy, can still have inactive ellipsoids

Results

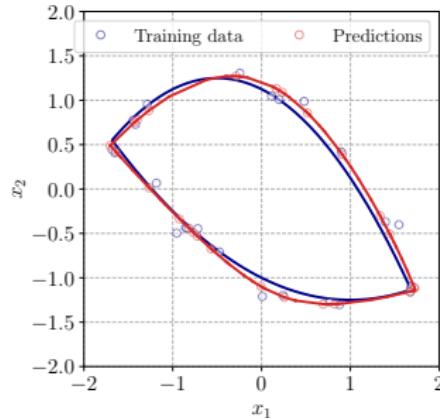
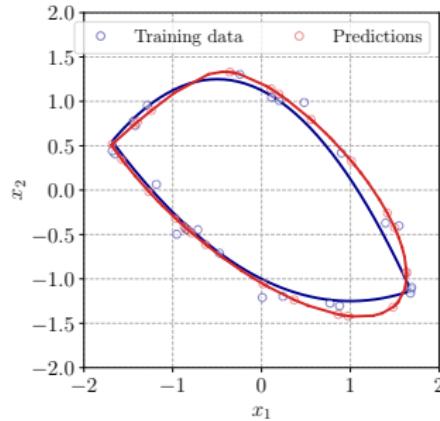
Spectrahedra

$m = 3$

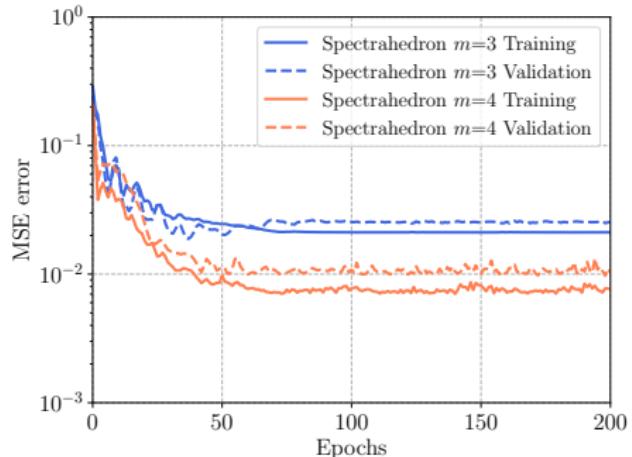
$m = 4$

even better accuracy, much smoother learning process

Training curves and noise



10% noise, only 25 data points



2D biaxial elasto-plasticity

Isotropic elasto-plasticity, **Hosford** yield surface:

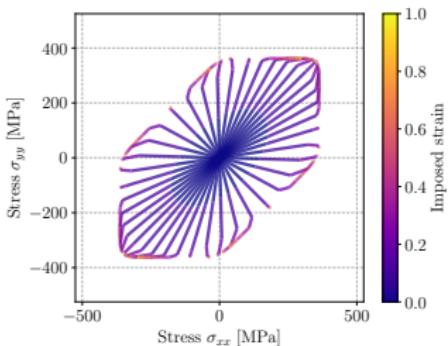
$$\left(\frac{1}{2} (|\sigma_I|^a + |\sigma_{II}|^a + |\sigma_I - \sigma_{II}|^a) \right)^{1/a} \leq \sigma_0$$

$N_{\text{path}} = 40$ radial strain paths

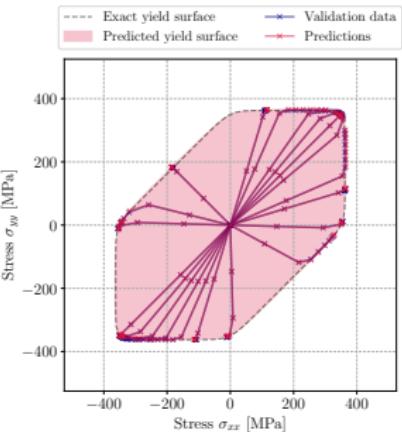
with $N_{\text{incr}} = 10$ increments

50% strain paths used for training

$m = 6$ Spectrahedron
45 training parameters



Validation on unseen paths



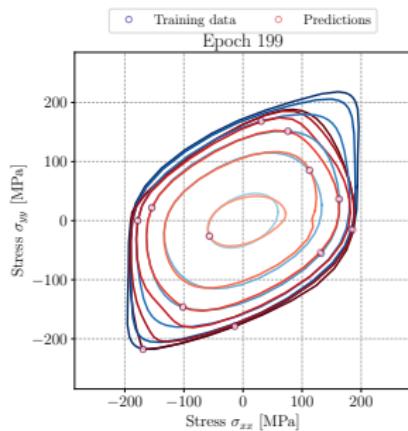
Anisotropic plasticity

3D plane stress yield surface: **anisotropic** 2090-T3 alloy sheet, **Cazacu 2001** yield surface

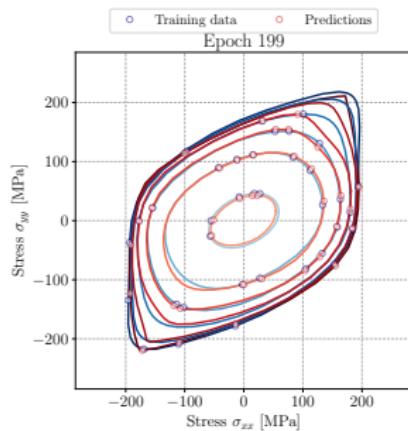
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3D plane stress yield surface: anisotropic 2090-T3 alloy sheet, Cazacu 2001 yield surface

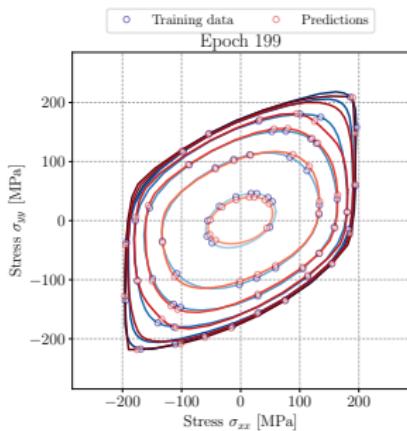
Low data regime



(a) $N_{\text{train}} = 12$ points



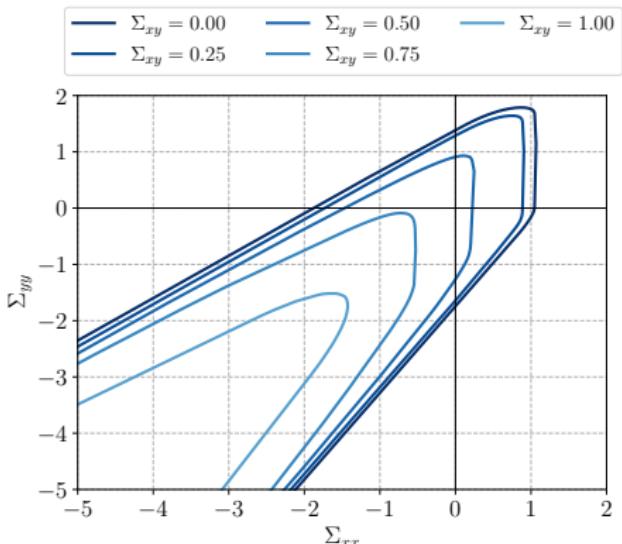
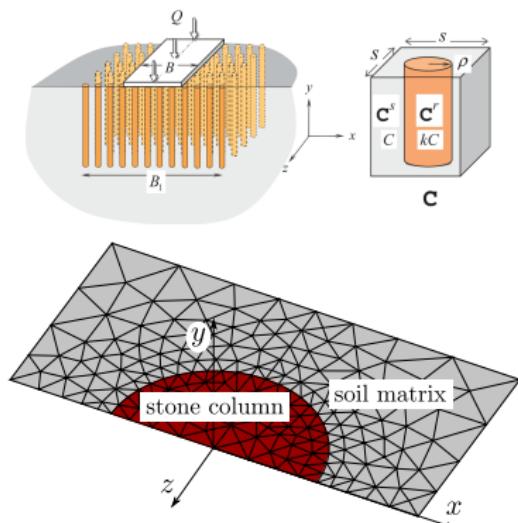
(b) $N_{\text{train}} = 36$ points



(c) $N_{\text{train}} = 60$ points

Multiscale plasticity

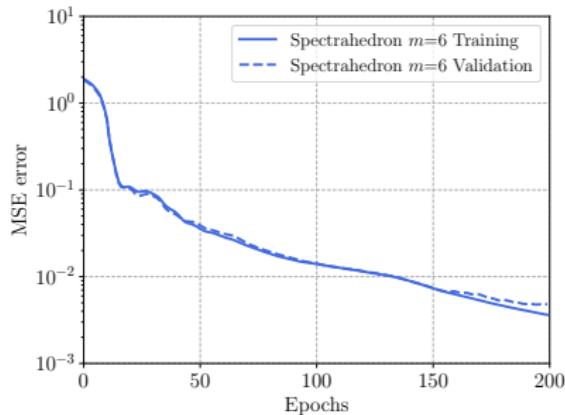
Multi-scale yield surface for a soil reinforced by stone columns
FE limit analysis simulations on RVE by [Gueguin et al., 2014]



purely cohesive soil reinforced with a periodic arrangement of stone columns made of a frictional granular material

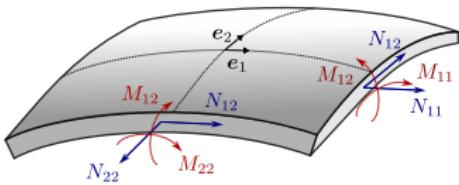
Training

250 data points for training with $m = 6$ **spectrahedron**

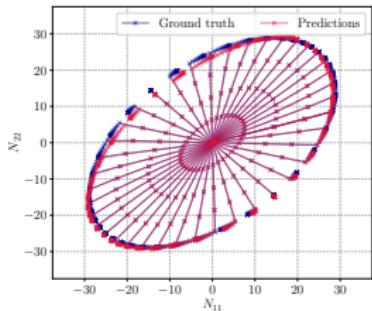


Stress-resultant shell plasticity

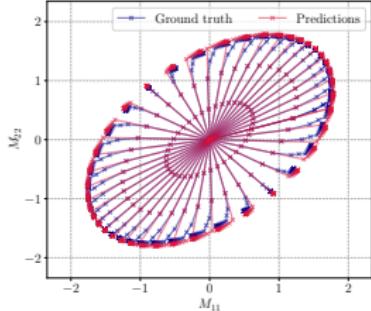
Goal: 6D plastic yield surface in normal force \mathbf{N} , bending moment \mathbf{M} space



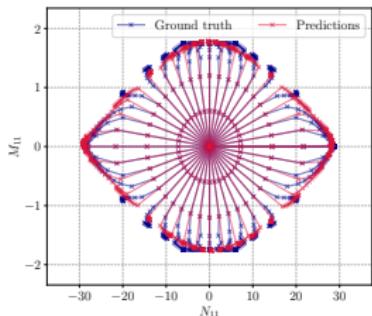
Ground-truth =
through-the-thickness integration
of homogeneous von Mises shell
Training on radial load paths with
random orientation



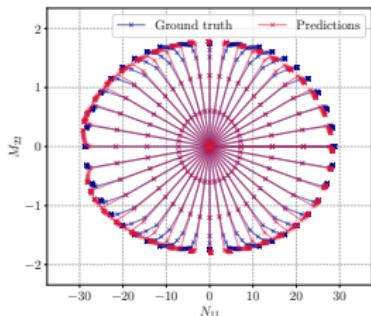
(a) $N_{11} - N_{22}$ plane



(b) $M_{11} - M_{22}$ plane



(c) $N_{11} - M_{11}$ plane



(d) $N_{11} - M_{22}$ plane

Conclusions & Outlook

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- elastoplastic integration formulated as a **convex optimization problem**
- learnt using an implicit **convex optimization layer**
- yield surfaces very well approximated using **parametrized spectrahedra**
- strong **robustness in low-data and noisy regimes** due to **embedded mathematical structure**

Preprint available: Jeremy Bleyer, *Learning Elastoplasticity with Implicit Layers*,
<https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5210734>

Perspectives

- including **hardening and viscoplasticity** by stacking implicit layers
- **non associative plasticity ?**
- material symmetries
- integration into **FE code**

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Thank you for your attention !