

# **Electronics and Computer Science**

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

University of Southampton

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**An AI Approach to Chaotic Physical Systems:**

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Second examiner: **TBD**

Progress report submitted for the award of  
**Bachelors of Science**

# Abstract

Physical laws are generalisation established through empirical observations of the physical world. It has taken humans centuries to discover, requires huge amounts of research, repeated experiments and plenty of scientists to produce an universally accepted law in the scientific community. Thanks to recent advances in neural networks and increased computational power, we can now train models to replicate and fasten our discovery of physical laws such as the laws of motion,also including chaotic systems such as the double pendulum, drastically shortening the time required to find new physical laws. Furthermore human's have a cognitive bias when looking at data, find it difficult to spot patterns in chaotic systems. This report explores how an AI without any bias or prior knowledge views the physical world, how it is capable of spotting chaotic patterns and how it is a tool that can reduce the time taken to make new discoveries.

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# 1 Introduction:

## 1.1 Goals:

It took humans centuries to derive physical laws, can this process be sped up through AI, by feeding it data and letting the model derive complex laws for us. I aim to derive physical laws, from experimental data. I will explore deriving simpler physical laws such as acceleration without air resistance, and move onto to complex chaotic systems such as pendulums, and explore how an unbiased AI views the physical world, compared to humans who's views of physical systems are naturally biased through systematic learning.

Can this lead to perhaps different perspectives of viewing the physical world around us, allowing for further progress?

## 1.2 Scope:

- Aim to derive simple laws of motions (ie acceleration) through AI frameworks.
- Move onto more complex systems such as pendulums, and initially explore smaller initial values, moving onto larger initial values, thereby increasing the chaos, and difficulty of spotting patterns.
- To explore using various AI techniques, (Graph Neural Networks, Deep learning, Neural Networks) in combination with no prior knowledge and observe how and in what form the physical laws are derived.
- Simulate physical data required using pymunk, and perhaps use real world data from physics labs.

# 2 Background Research:

## 2.1 Symbolic Regression:

## 2.2 Neural Networks:

## 2.3 Symbolic Neural Networks:

## 2.4 Linear Systems:

## 2.5 Double Pendulum, Chaotic System:

# 3 Progress:

placeholder

# 4 Project Planning:

placeholder

# 5 Project Management:

## 5.1 Risk Assessment:

| <i>Issue</i>  | Impact | Prob | Risk | Mitigation   |
|---|--------|------|------|--|
| Unexpected delays and accidents   | 3      | 3    | 7    | Include contingency plans and a 3 week break between major stages of the project, to allow for unexpected incidents.of the project, to allow for unexpected incidents. |
| Unable to generate enough experimental data due to lack of computational power. | 4      | 1    | 14   | Explore alternate more efficient ways of simulating data, consider using cloud infrastructure or potentially the Universities HPC facilities.                          |
| Challenges learning the double pendulum laws and the derivation.                | 2      | 4    | 5    | Seek other resources from the Physics Department to learn the Physics required. Look up explanations online to learn.  |
| Interpretability Challenges   | 3      | 2    | 10   | Challenges in interpreting how the model works, can be mitigated through visualising the data, plotting results and through seeking ways to explain the model.         |

## 5.2 Project Planning:

A Gantt chart along with a rough outline of the relevent dates for various submission was made towards the beginning of this project, this alose included contengency planning and short yet frequent breaks every couple weeks.

blah blah

## 5.3 Gantt Chart:

### Part3Project

20 Oct 2024

#### Tasks

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| Name                      | Begin date | End date   |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Background Research       | 17/10/2024 | 15/11/2024 |
| Literature Review         | 17/10/2024 | 25/10/2024 |
| Learning Required Tools   | 21/10/2024 | 01/11/2024 |
| Research Motion Laws      | 25/10/2024 | 04/11/2024 |
| Research Pendulum Laws    | 04/11/2024 | 15/11/2024 |
| Design and Planning       | 18/11/2024 | 06/12/2024 |
| Goals: need/want/optional | 18/11/2024 | 26/11/2024 |
| Costs/Development Time    | 28/11/2024 | 06/12/2024 |
| Progress Report           | 09/12/2024 | 30/12/2024 |
| Draft/Log                 | 17/10/2024 | 06/12/2024 |
| Write + Evaluate          | 09/12/2024 | 30/12/2024 |
| Implementation            | 31/12/2024 | 07/03/2025 |
| Generate Data Sets        | 31/12/2024 | 07/01/2025 |
| Train Models              | 08/01/2025 | 07/02/2025 |
| Evaluation                | 10/02/2025 | 21/02/2025 |
| Fine Tuning               | 24/02/2025 | 07/03/2025 |
| Testing                   | 10/03/2025 | 24/03/2025 |
| Test                      | 10/03/2025 | 17/03/2025 |
| Improvements              | 18/03/2025 | 24/03/2025 |
| Final Report              | 25/03/2025 | 08/04/2025 |
| Log Progress              | 31/12/2024 | 24/03/2025 |
| Write + Evaluate          | 25/03/2025 | 08/04/2025 |

### Part3Project

20 Oct 2024

#### Gantt Chart

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