



JOHNS HOPKINS

WHITING SCHOOL
of ENGINEERING

Safe Physics-Informed Learning in Dynamics and Control

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Safe Physics-Informed Machine Learning for Dynamics and Control

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II. SAFE LEARNING FOR DYNAMICS

- A. Stability Guarantees
- B. Constraints Satisfaction
- C. Uncertainty Quantification

III. SAFE LEARNING FOR CONTROL

- A. Learning-based Model Predictive Control and Predictive Safety Filters
- B. Control Barrier and Control Lyapunov Functions

IV. SAFETY VERIFICATION METHODS

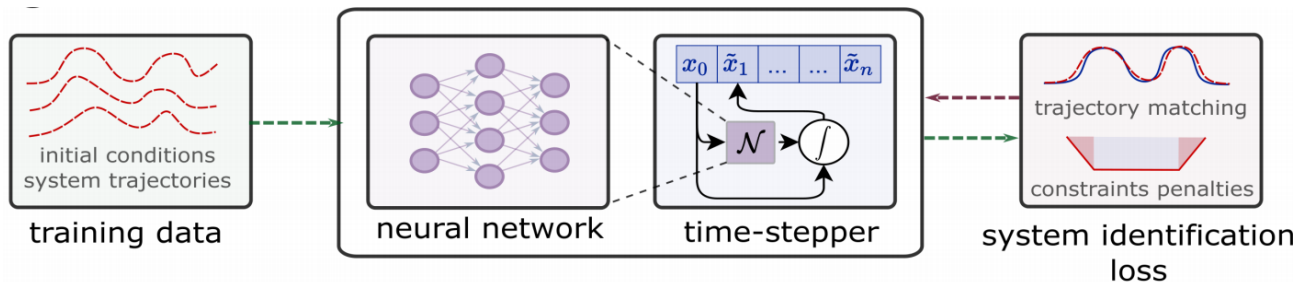
- A. Reachability Analysis Methods
- B. Constrained Optimization-based Methods
- C. Simulation and Sampling-based Methods

V. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



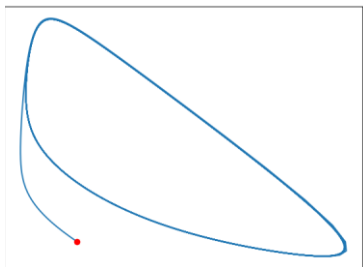
[arXiv:2504.12952](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.12952)

Learning to Model (L2M) Dynamical Systems



Dataset: batched time-series of states and inputs.

$$\hat{X} = [\hat{x}_0^i, \dots, \hat{x}_N^i], i \in [1, \dots, m]$$



Architecture: differentiable ODE solver with neural network model.

$$x_{k+1} = \text{ODESolve}(NN_{\theta}(x_k))$$

Architecture: Koopman operator with neural network basis functions.

$$y_k = NN_{\theta}(x_k)$$

$$y_{k+1} = K_{\theta}(y_k)$$

$$x_{k+1} = NN_{\theta}^{-1}(y_{k+1})$$

Loss function: trajectory matching, regularizations, and constraints penalties.

$$\ell_1 = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^N Q_x \|x_k^i - \hat{x}_k^i\|_2^2$$

$$\ell_2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} Q_{dx} \|\Delta x_k^i - \Delta \hat{x}_k^i\|_2^2$$

$$\ell_{L2M} = \ell_1 + \ell_2$$

https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/blob/master/examples/ODEs/Part_1_NODE.ipynb

https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/blob/master/examples/ODEs/Part_7_DeepKoopman.ipynb

R. T. Q. Chen, et al., *Neural Ordinary Differential Equations*, 2019

B. Lusch, et al., *Deep learning for universal linear embeddings of nonlinear dynamics*, 2018

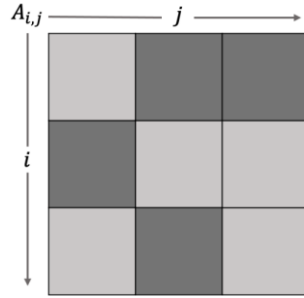
Learning Networked Dynamical Systems via Universal Differential Equations

$$\frac{d\bar{x}_i}{dt} = NN_1(\bar{x}_i; \theta_1) + \sum_{j \neq i}^N A_{i,j} NN_2(\bar{x}_i, \bar{x}_j; \theta_2)$$

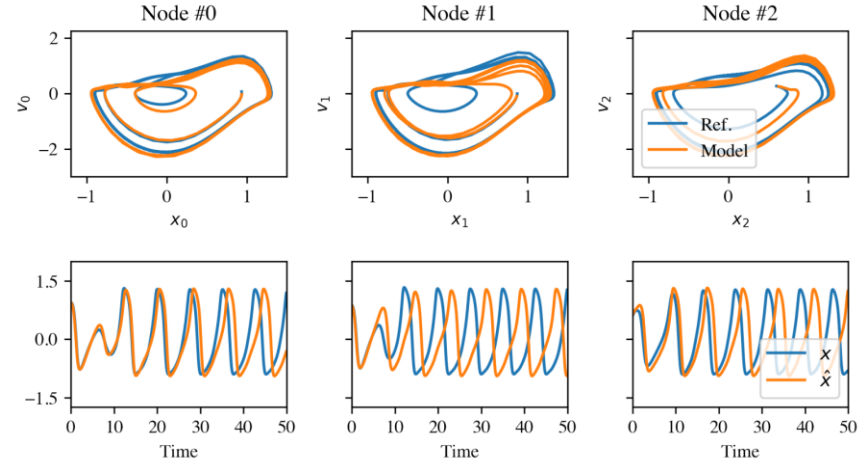
$i=1$



Network of unknown oscillators



Coupling adjacency



Ground truth system: $\frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} = -x_i - a_1 \frac{dx_i}{dt} (a_2 x_i^4 - a_3 x_i + a_4) + \sum_{j=1}^N A_{i,j} \left(\frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} - \frac{d^2 x_j}{dt^2} \right),$

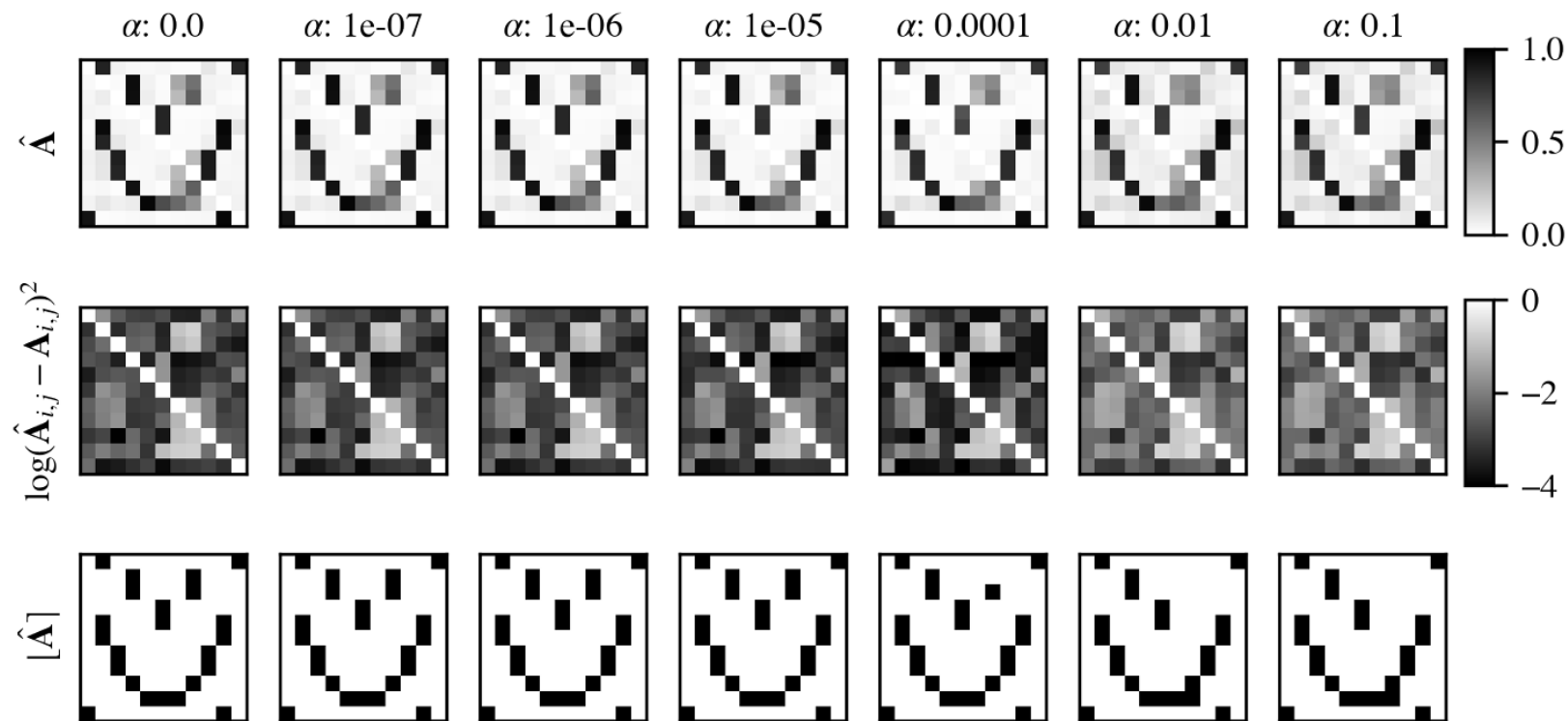
Networked NODE: $\frac{dx_i}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta_f) + \sum_{j \neq i}^N \mathbf{A}_{i,j} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j; \theta_g), \quad A_{i,j}(\theta_3) = \sigma(\text{vec}^{-1}(\theta_3) - I/\varepsilon)$

Sparsity-promoting loss: $\mathcal{L}(\Theta, \mathbf{A}) = \frac{1}{N_b \cdot N_f \cdot N \cdot d} \|\hat{\mathbf{X}}^{(k)}(t; \Theta) - \mathbf{X}^{(k)}(t)\|_2^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{A}\|_1,$

Generalization of learned dynamics on never-seen network topology.

Learned dynamics qualitatively retains the attractor shape even **on out of distribution data.**

Learning Networked Dynamical Systems via Universal Differential Equations



Learning adjacency matrix of the unknown network ODE system.

Learning Neural Differential Algebraic Equations via Operator Splitting

DAE parameter estimation problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Theta} \quad & \int_{t_0}^{t_N} \left(\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2 + \|y - \hat{y}\|_2^2 \right) \\ \text{s.t} \quad & \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, y, u; \Theta), \\ & 0 = g(x, y, u; \Theta), \\ & x(t_0) = x_0, \quad y(t_0) = y_0, \end{aligned}$$

The **Picard–Lindelöf theorem** (also called the Cauchy–Lipschitz theorem) gives **sufficient conditions** under which an **initial value problem** (IVP) for an ordinary differential equation (ODE) has a **unique solution**.

Assumptions:

1. f is continuous in both t and x
2. f is Lipschitz continuous in x on some neighborhood of initial conditions

Theorem 3.1 (Picard-Lindelöf for index-1 DAEs [30]):

Under the above assumptions, there exists a unique, continuously differentiable solution $(x^{(t)}, y^{(t)})$ defined on an interval $[t_0, t_0 + \Delta t)$, for some $\Delta t > 0$, such that the DAE system is satisfied and $(x^{(t_0)}, y^{(t_0)}) = (x_0, y_0)$. Furthermore, the algebraic constraint can be locally solved for y as a function of x and u , thereby reducing DAEs into a system of ODEs $\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = f(x, h(x, u), u)$ to which the classical Picard-Lindelöf Theorem 3.2 applies.

[30] K. E. Brenan, S. L. Campbell, and L. R. Petzold, Numerical Solution of Initial-Value Problems in Differential-Algebraic Equations. SIAM, 1996.

<https://github.com/pnnl/NeuralDAEs>

Learning Neural Differential Algebraic Equations via Operator Splitting

Our neural DAE time stepper architecture is inspired by operator splitting methods for ODEs:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = A(x) + B(x),$$

Lie-Trotter splitting scheme for ODEs:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}^{(t+\Delta t)} &= \text{ODESolve}\left(A(x), x^{(t)}\right), \\ x^{(t+\Delta t)} &= \text{ODESolve}\left(B(x), \hat{x}^{(t+\Delta t)}\right).\end{aligned}$$

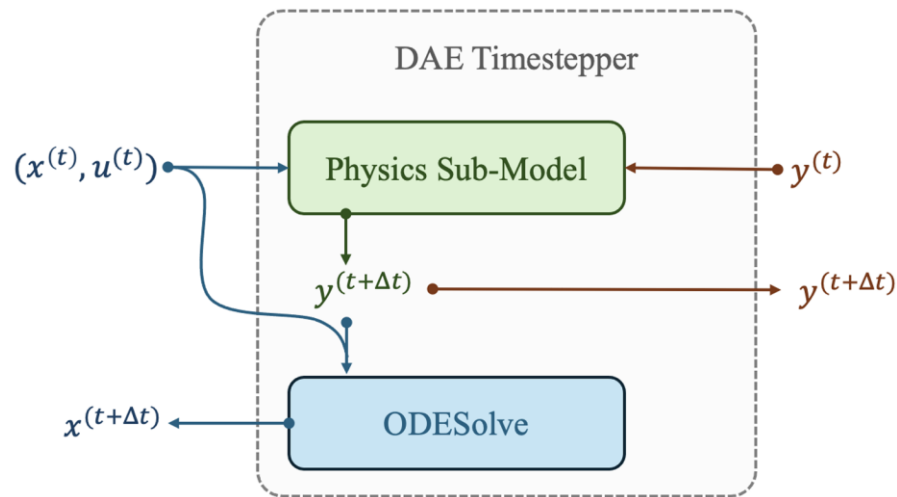
Operator splitting for DAEs:

$$\begin{aligned}y^{(t+\Delta t)} &= h\left(x^{(t)}, y^{(t)}, u^{(t)}; \theta_h\right) \\ x^{(t+\Delta t)} &= \text{ODESolve}\left(f, \{x^{(t)}, y^{(t+\Delta t)}, u^{(t)}\}; \theta_f\right)\end{aligned}$$

<https://github.com/pnnl/NeuralDAEs>

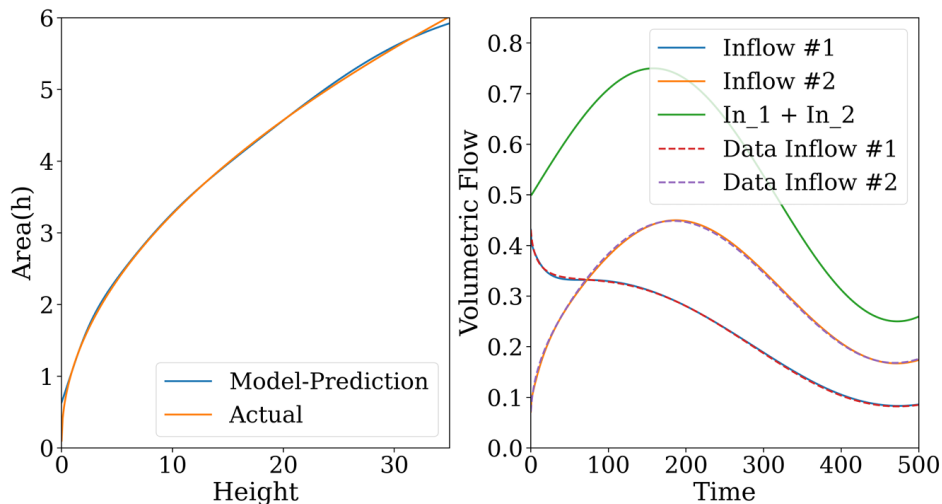
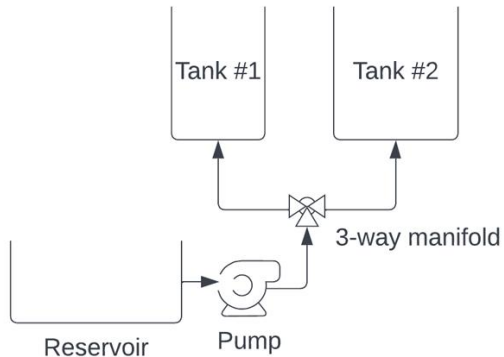
Neural DAE learning problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\min_{\theta_1, \theta_2} \quad & \lambda_1 \sum_{k=1}^N \|x^{(k)} - \hat{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \sum_{k=1}^N \|y^{(k)} - \hat{y}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \{x^{(k+1)}, y^{(k+1)}\} \\ & = \text{DAESolve}\left(f, h, \{x^{(k)}, y^{(k)}, u^{(k)}\}; \{\theta_1, \theta_2\}\right),\end{aligned}$$



Learning Neural Differential Algebraic Equations via Operator Splitting

Case study: coupled tank modeling



DAE with unknown components:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx_1}{dt} &= \frac{y_1}{\phi_1(x_1)} \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} &= \frac{y_2}{\phi_2(x_2)}\end{aligned}$$

$$0 = y_{\text{in}} - y_1 - y_2 \quad 0 = x_1 - x_2,$$

Neural DAE:

$$\begin{aligned}f &: \begin{cases} \frac{y_1}{3} \\ \frac{y_2}{\text{NN}_1(x_2; \theta_1)} \end{cases}, \\ h &: \begin{cases} u \text{NN}_2(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2; \theta_2) \\ u(1 - \text{NN}_2(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2; \theta_2)) \end{cases},\end{aligned}$$

**Inverse modeling,
robustness to noise and,
out of distribution
generalization.**

<https://github.com/pnnl/NeuralDAEs>

Learning Neural Lyapunov Functions from Time-series Data

We aim to find neural Lyapunov function candidate satisfying the following conditions:

$$V_{\theta}(x) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad V_{\theta}(0) = 0; \quad V_{\theta}(x) > 0, \forall x \neq 0$$

Neural Lyapunov function candidate via input-convex neural network (ICNN) architecture

$$\mathbf{z}_1 = \sigma_0 (\mathbf{W}_0 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_0),$$

$$\mathbf{z}_{i+1} = \sigma_i (\mathbf{U}_i \mathbf{z}_i + \mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i), i = 1, \dots, k-1,$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \mathbf{z}_k,$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}) = \sigma_{k+1}(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{0})) + \epsilon \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2,$$

Physics-informed loss function with discrete-time Lyapunov penalty:

$$p_V(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}, \mathbf{x}_k) = \|\text{ReLU}(V_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) - V_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_k))\|_2$$

Learning problem formulation for joint learning of neural Lyapunov functions and control policies via Differentiable Predictive Control (DPC)

$$\min_{\theta, \phi} \frac{1}{mN} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (\ell(\mathbf{x}_k^i, \mathbf{u}_k^i) + Q_V p_V(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}^i, \mathbf{x}_k^i) +$$

$$Q_x p_x(\mathbf{x}_k^i) + Q_u p_u(\mathbf{u}_k^i)),$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{k+1}^i = f(\mathbf{x}_k^i, \mathbf{u}_k^i), \quad k \in \mathbb{N}_0^{N-1},$$

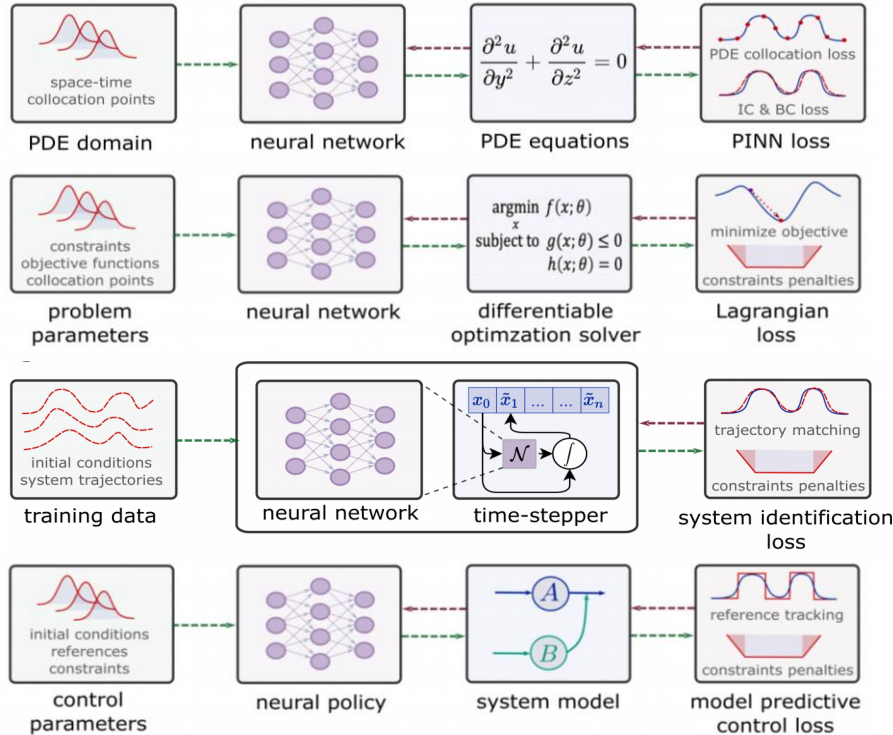
$$[\mathbf{u}_0, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{N-1}]^i = \boldsymbol{\pi}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_k^i),$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0^i \in \mathbb{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_x} \sim \mathcal{D}.$$

[https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/blob/master/examples/control/Part 5 neural Lyapunov.ipynb](https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/blob/master/examples/control/Part%205%20neural%20Lyapunov.ipynb)

[https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/tree/Lyapunov DPC](https://github.com/pnnl/neuromancer/tree/Lyapunov_DPC)

NeuroMANCER Scientific Machine Learning Library



Open-source library in PyTorch

- Physics-informed Neural Networks
- Learning to optimize
- Neural differential equations
- Learning to control



github.com/pnnl/neuromancer

Summary

- **Challenges**
 - Uncertainty Quantification (UQ)
 - Conservatism vs. performance tradeoff
 - Safe exploration in learning-based control
 - Scalability of guarantees and verification methods
- **Opportunities**
 - Integrated UQ and safety filters
 - Differentiable control theory-inspired learning architectures
 - Sample efficient safe learning-based control
 - Benchmarking and software tools
- **Follow up**
 - TuC04 Tutorial Session, Governor's Sq. 15, 15:30-17:00,

Energy at
Hopkins



NeuroMANCER Team



Aaron Tuor



James Koch



**Madelyn
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**Rahul
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**Bruno
Jacob**



**Draguna
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