

DTE 2025

Combining Finite Element Methods and Neural Networks to Solve Elliptic Problems on 2D Geometries

Hélène Barucq², Michel Duprez¹, Florian Faucher², Emmanuel Franck³,
Frédérique Lecourtier¹, Vanessa Lleras^{1,4}, Victor Michel-Dansac³ and
Nicolas Victorion²

¹Project-Team MIMESIS, Inria, Strasbourg, France

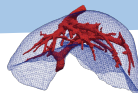
²Project-Team Makutu, Inria, TotalEnergies, Pau, France

³Project-Team MACARON, Inria, Strasbourg, France

⁴IMAG, University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France

February 20, 2025

Scientific context



Context : Create real-time digital twins of an organ (e.g. liver).

Objective : Develop an hybrid finite element / neural network method.

accurate quick + parameterized

Parametric linear elliptic PDE : For one or several $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$, find $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\mathcal{L}(u; \mathbf{x}, \mu) = f(\mathbf{x}, \mu),$$

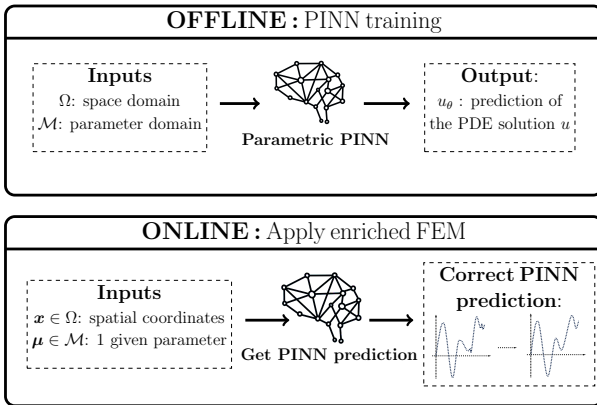
where \mathcal{L} is the parametric differential operator defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(\cdot; \mathbf{x}, \mu) : u \mapsto R(\mathbf{x}, \mu)u + C(\mu) \cdot \nabla u - \frac{1}{\text{Pe}} \nabla \cdot (D(\mathbf{x}, \mu) \nabla u),$$

and some Dirichlet, Neumann or Robin BC (which can also depend on μ).

Ω	Spatial domain	f	Right-hand side
d	Spatial dimension	R	Reaction coefficient
$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$	Spatial coordinates	C	Convection coefficient
\mathcal{M}	Parameter space	D	Diffusion matrix
p	Number of parameters	Pe	Péclet number
$\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p)$	Parameter vector		

Pipeline of the Enriched FEM



Correction : Enriched continuous Lagrange finite element approximation spaces using the PINN prediction.

Physics-Informed Neural Networks

Standard PINNs : Find the optimal weights θ^* that satisfy

$$\theta^* = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left(\omega_r J_r(\theta) + \omega_b J_b(\theta) \right), \quad (1)$$

with the residual loss function and the boundary loss function defined by

$$J_r(\theta) = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{L}(u_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mu); \mathbf{x}, \mu) - f(\mathbf{x}, \mu)|^2 d\mathbf{x} d\mu,$$

$$J_b(\theta) = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \int_{\partial\Omega} |u_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mu) - g(\mathbf{x}, \mu)|^2 d\mathbf{x} d\mu,$$

where u_{θ} is a neural network, g is the Dirichlet BC. In (1), the weights ω_r and ω_b (hyperparameters) are used to balance the different terms of the loss function.

Monte-Carlo method : Discretize the cost functions by random process.

Physics-Informed Neural Networks

Improved PINNs¹ : Find the optimal weights θ^* that satisfy

$$\theta^* = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left(\omega_r J_r(\theta) + \cancel{\omega_b J_b(\theta)} \right), \quad (2)$$

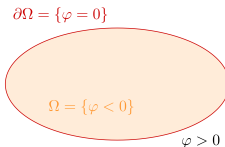
with $\omega_r = 1$ and the residual loss function defined by

$$J_r(\theta) = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{L}(u_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mu); \mathbf{x}, \mu) - f(\mathbf{x}, \mu)|^2 d\mathbf{x} d\mu,$$

where u_{θ} is a neural network defined by

$$u_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mu) = \varphi(\mathbf{x}) w_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}, \mu) + g(\mathbf{x}, \mu),$$

with φ a level-set function, w_{θ} a NN and g the Dirichlet BC.



Monte-Carlo method : Discretize the residual cost function by random process.

¹Lagaris et al. [1998]; Franck et al. [2024]

Finite Element Method

TODO

How improve PINN prediction with FEM ?

Additive approach

TODO

Theoretical results

TODO

Numerical results - 2D Poisson problem

2D Poisson problem

TODO

Numerical results - 2D anisotropic Elliptic problem

2D anisotropic Elliptic problem

TODO

Conclusion

Conclusion

TODO

References

- E. Franck, V. Michel-Dansac, and L. Navoret. Approximately well-balanced Discontinuous Galerkin methods using bases enriched with Physics-Informed Neural Networks. *J. Comput. Phys.*, 512:113144, 2024. ISSN 0021-9991. doi: [10.1016/j.jcp.2024.113144](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcp.2024.113144).
- I. E. Lagaris, A. Likas, and D. I. Fotiadis. Artificial neural networks for solving ordinary and partial differential equations. *IEEE Trans. Neural Netw.*, 9(5):987–1000, 1998. ISSN 1045-9227. doi: [10.1109/72.712178](https://doi.org/10.1109/72.712178).

Appendix

Appendix 1 : Standard FEM

Appendix 1 : General Idea

TODO