ENRICHING CONTINUOUS LAGRANGE FINITE ELEMENT APPROXIMATION SPACES USING NEURAL NETWORKS







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Ínria MIMESIS

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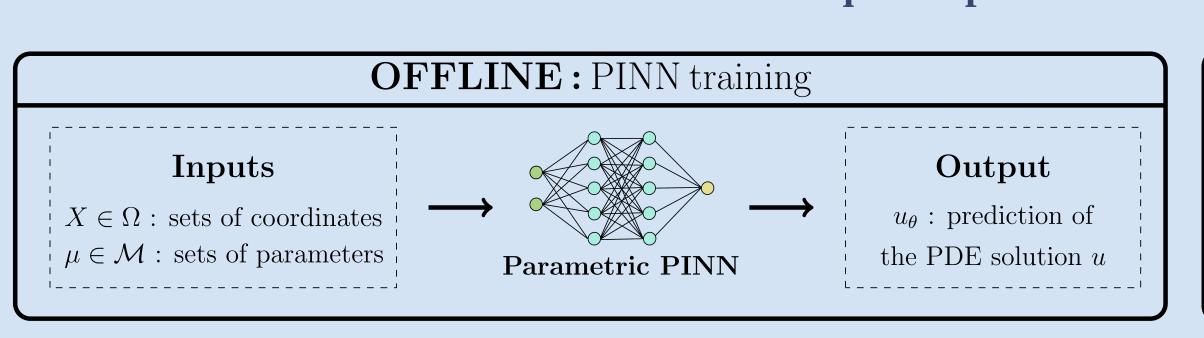
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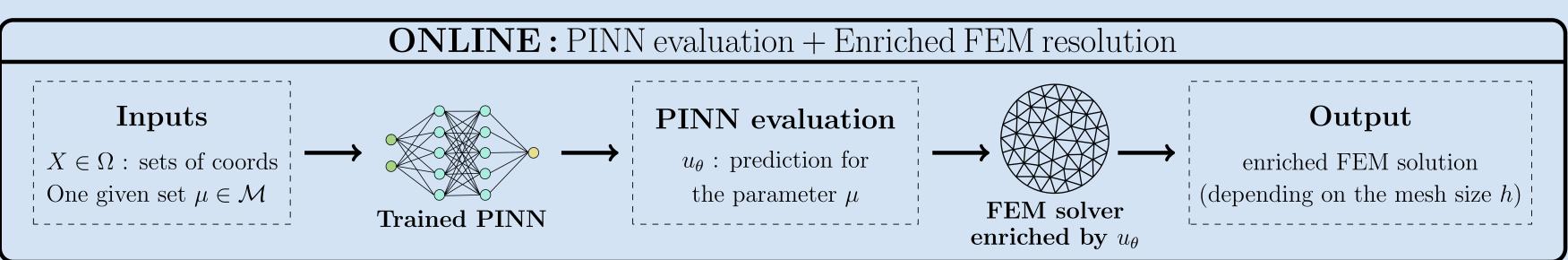
Motivations

Current Objective: Develop hybrid finite element / neural network methods.

accurate quick + parameterized

Problem considered : $-\Delta u(X,\mu) = f(X,\mu)$ in $\Omega \times \mathcal{M}$, $u(x,\mu) = 0$ on $\Gamma \times \mathcal{M}$. Poisson problem with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions (BC).





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

How improve PINN prediction? - Using enriched FEM

Additive approach

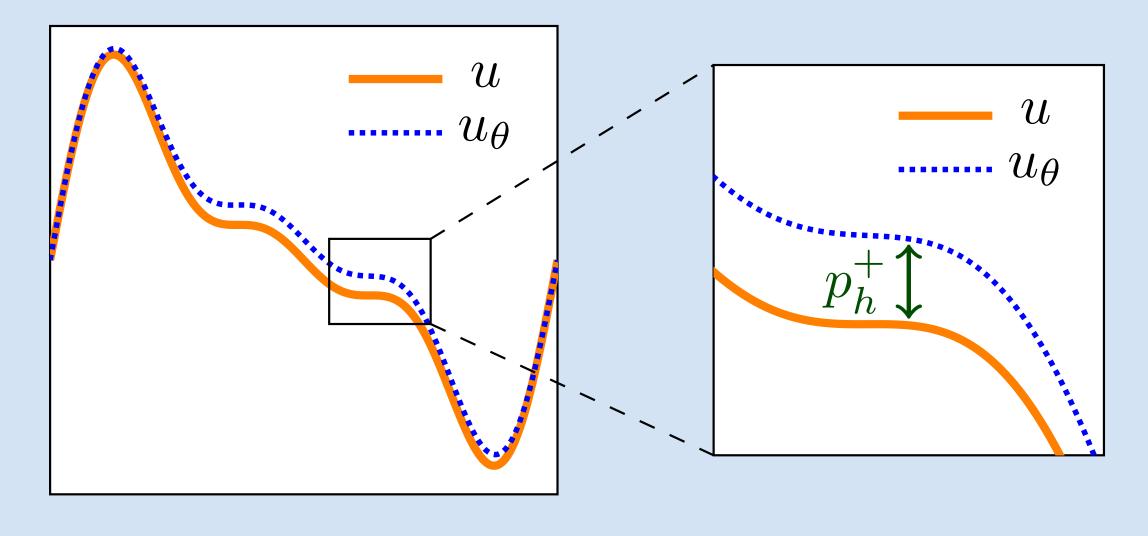
The enriched approximation space is defined by

$$V_h^+ = \{u_h^+ = u_\theta + p_h^+, p_h^+ \in V_h^0\}$$

with V_h^0 the standard continuous Lagrange FE space and the weak problem becomes Find $p_h^+ \in V_h^0$, $\forall v_h \in V_h^0$, $a(p_h^+, v_h) = l(v_h) - a(u_\theta, v_h)$, (\mathcal{P}_h^+)

with modified boundary conditions and

$$a(u,v) = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \cdot \nabla v, \quad l(v) = \int_{\Omega} f v.$$



Convergence analysis

u: solution of the Poisson problem. u_{θ} : prediction of the PINN [RPK19].

Theorem 1: Convergence analysis of the standard FEM [EG]

We denote $u_h \in V_h^0$ the discrete solution of standard FEM with V_h^0 a \mathbb{P}_k Lagrange space. Thus,

$$|u-u_h|_{H^1} \le C_{H^1} h^k |u|_{H^{k+1}},$$

 $||u-u_h||_{L^2} \le C_{L^2} h^{k+1} |u|_{H^{k+1}}.$

Theorem 2: Convergence analysis of the enriched FEM [F L+25]

We denote $u_h^+ \in V_h^+$ the discrete solution of (\mathscr{P}_h^+) with V_h^+ a \mathbb{P}_k Lagrange space. Thus

$$|u-u_h^+|_{H^1} \le \frac{|u-u_\theta|_{H^{k+1}}}{|u|_{H^{k+1}}} \left(C_{H^1} h^k |u|_{H^{k+1}}\right),$$

and

$$\|u-u_h^+\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{|u-u_\theta|_{H^{k+1}}}{|u|_{H^{k+1}}} \left(C_{L^2} h^{k+1} |u|_{H^{k+1}}\right).$$

Theoretical gain of the additive approach.

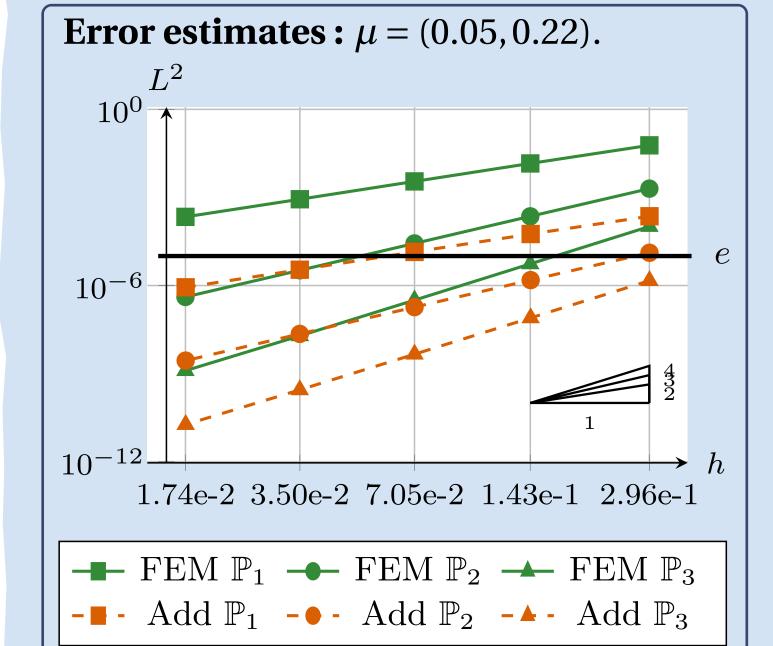
Numerical results - Considered problem

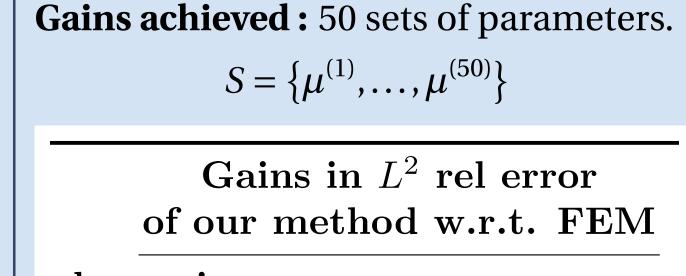
- → Spatial domain : $\Omega = [-0.5\pi, 0.5\pi]^2$
- → Parametric domain : $\mathcal{M} = [-0.5, 0.5]^2$
- → Analytical solution :

$$u_{ex}((x,y),\mu) = \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2 + (y-\mu_2)^2}{2}\right)\sin(2x)\sin(2y)$$

with $\mu = (\mu_1, \mu_2) \in \mathcal{M}$ (**parametric**) and the associated source term f.

Numerical results - Improve errors





min	max	mean
134.32	377.36	269.39
67.02	164.65	134.85
39.52	72.65	61.55

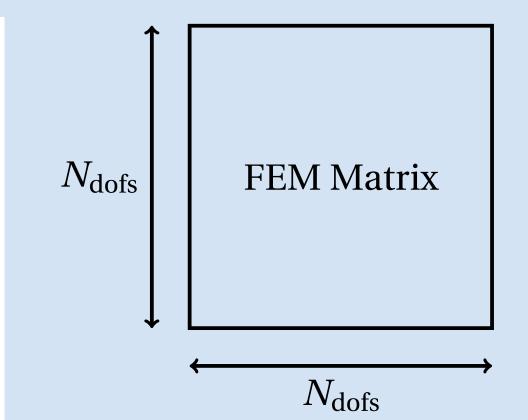
Gain: $||u - u_h||_{L^2} / ||u - u_h^+||_{L^2}$ Cartesian mesh: 20^2 nodes.

Numerical results - Improve numerical costs

 N_{dofs} required to reach the same error $e: \mu = (0.05, 0.22)$.

		$N_{\mathbf{dofs}}$		
\mathbf{k}	\mathbf{e}	$\overline{\mathbf{FEM}}$	\mathbf{Add}	
1	$1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	14,161	64	
	$\frac{1 \cdot 10^{-4}}{}$	$\frac{143,\!641}{}$	576	
2	$1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	6,889	225	
	$\frac{1 \cdot 10^{-5}}{}$	31,329	1,089	
3	$1\cdot 10^{-5}$	6,724	784	
	$1\cdot 10^{-6}$	$20,\!164$	2,704	

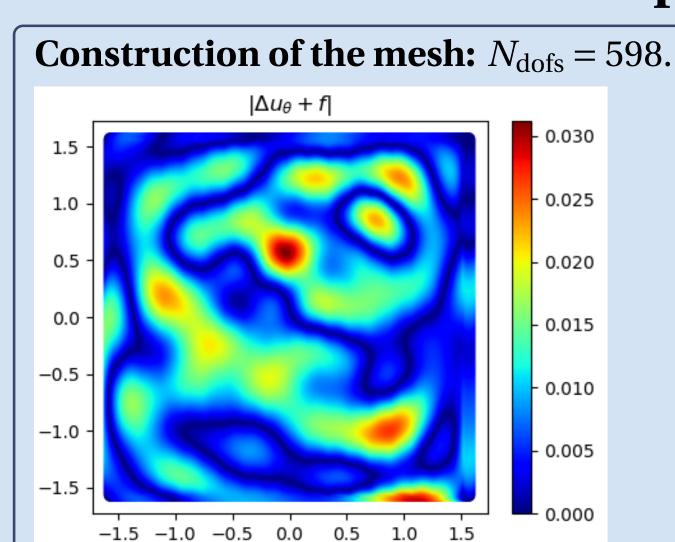
Less degrees of freedom ⇒

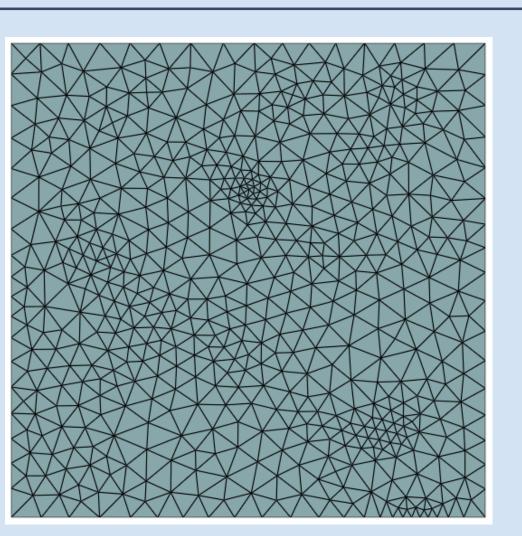


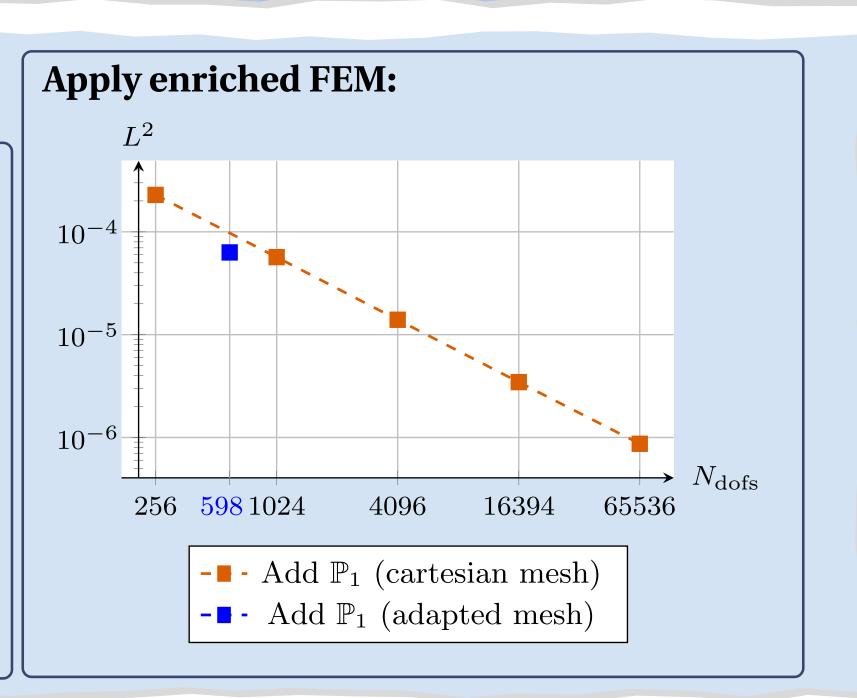
Lower numerical cost Faster simulation

Perspectives

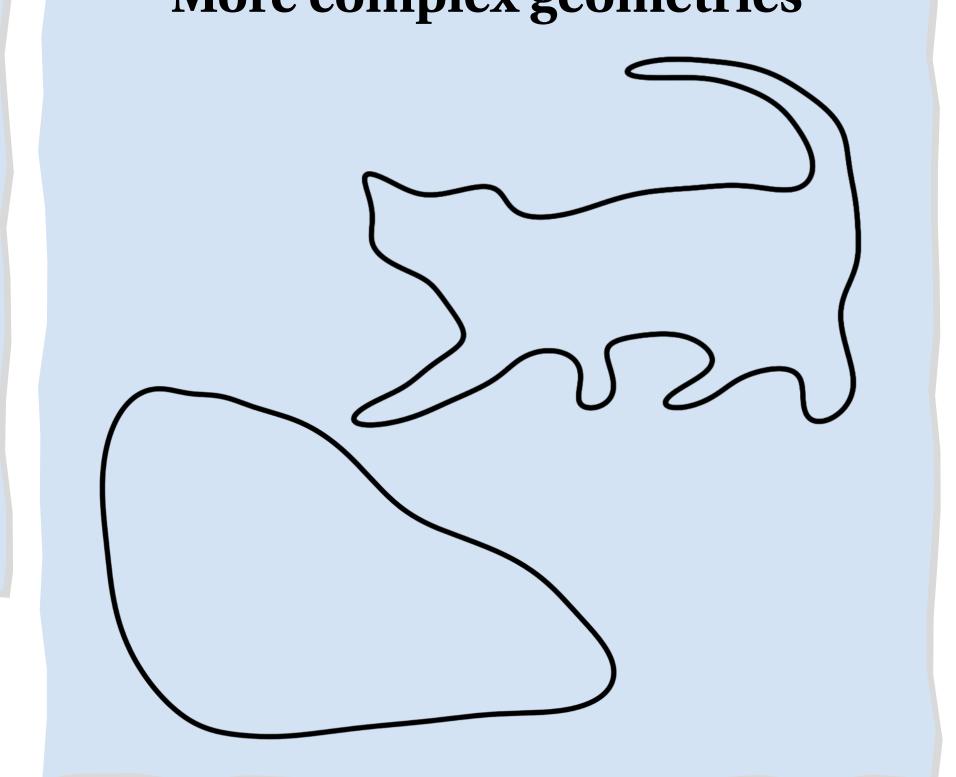
Mesh adaptation







More complex geometries



[EG] A. Ern and J.-L. Guermond. Theory and Practice of Finite Elements. Springer New York (2004).

[F L+25] **F. Lecourtier** et al. Enriching continuous Lagrange finite element approximation spaces using neural networks. 2025.

[RPK19] M. Raissi, P. Perdikaris, and G. E. Karniadakis. "Physics-informed neural networks: A deep learning framework for solving forward and inverse problems involving nonlinear partial differential equations". In: *J. Comput. Phys.* 378 (2019), pp. 686–707.