# Artificial Neural Networks For Solving Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations



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The roadmap for today



#### Introduction

Idea and Description of the Method

Numerical experiments

Conclusion



What will you learn today?



## Problem: Initial value or boundary value problem

## Methods to solve this problem:

- ► Runge Kutta
- Finite element methods

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Neural networks



# Universal Approximation Theorem (Cybenko, 1989)

Every continuous function on a compact set can be arbitrarily well approximated with a neural network with one single hidden layer.

#### Why neural networks?



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- solution is differentiable, and in closed analytic form
- ▶ few number of parameters to tune ~> memory efficient
- ▶ very general method → applicable on ODEs, system of ODEs and PDEs
- ► takes advantage of hardware architecture  $\leadsto$  use of neural processors, method is parallelizable, ...



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▶ Problem:  $G(x, u(x), \nabla u(x), \nabla^2 u(x)) = 0$  for all  $x \in D$  such that u fulfills boundary condition, with domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and boundary  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ 



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- Goal: reformulate the original problem to an unconstrained optimization problem
- ▶ Idea: discretize D and S to  $\hat{D}$  and  $\hat{S}$
- use the collocation method to obtain

$$G(x_i, u(x_i), \nabla u(x_i), \nabla^2 u(x_i)) = 0 \quad \forall x_i \in \hat{D}$$

such that u fulfills the boundary conditions





Let  $u_N$  be the trial solution of the following form:

$$u_N(x) = A(x) + F(x, N_p(x))$$

- A contains no trainable parameters and satisfies boundary conditions
- F does not contribute to the boundary conditions
- $\triangleright$   $N_p$  is a neural network with trainable parameters p





▶ formulate to an *unconstrained* optimization problem:

$$\min_{p} \sum_{x_i \in \hat{D}} (G(x_i, u_N(x_i), \nabla u_N(x_i), \nabla^2 u_N(x_i)))^2$$

▶ train  $N_p$  such that  $u_N$  minimizes the optimization problem by using any gradient method:

$$u_N(x) = A(x) + F(x, \underbrace{N_p(x)}_{\text{to be trained}})$$





► Consider the following differential equation

$$\begin{cases} u'(x) &= f(x, u(x)) \\ u(0) &= u_0 \end{cases}$$



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 $\triangleright$  F prevents  $N_p$  from contributing to the boundaries



## Idea and Description of the Method

Compute the gradient of the trial solution  $u_N$  for minimization



Remember our goal is solving

$$\min_{p} E(p) = \min_{p} \sum_{x_{i} \in \hat{D}} (G(x_{i}, u_{N}(x_{i}), \nabla u_{N}(x_{i}), \nabla^{2} u_{N}(x_{i})))^{2}$$

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#### Compute the gradient of the trial solution $u_N$ for minimization



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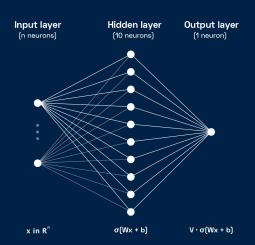
$$\min_{p} E(p) = \min_{p} \sum_{x_{i} \in \hat{D}} (G(x_{i}, u_{N}(x_{i}), \nabla u_{N}(x_{i}), \nabla^{2} u_{N}(x_{i})))^{2}$$

- ► N<sub>p</sub> is a multilayer perceptron with *n* input units, one hidden layer with *h* hidden units and one linear output unit
- For  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the neural network outputs  $N_p(x) = \sum_{i=1}^h v_i \sigma(z_i)$  with  $z_i = \sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j} x_j + b_i$ 
  - the weights w<sub>i,j</sub> for input unit j to hidden unit i
  - bias b<sub>i</sub> at the hidden unit i
  - weights v<sub>i</sub> of the hidden layer
  - ▶ sigmoid function  $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$



# Example Neural Network







- $ightharpoonup N_p(x) = \sum_{i=1}^h v_i \sigma(z_i)$  with  $z_i = \sum_{j=1}^n w_{i,j} x_j + b_i$
- $\frac{d^k N_p(x)}{dx_j^k} = \sum_{i=1}^h v_i w_{i,j}^k \sigma^{(k)}(z_i)$  with  $\sigma^{(k)}$  the k-th order derivative of the sigmoid function
- we can conclude

$$\frac{d^{\lambda_1}}{dx_1^{\lambda_1}}\frac{d^{\lambda_2}}{dx_2^{\lambda_2}}...\frac{d^{\lambda_n}}{dx_n^{\lambda_n}}N_p(x)=\sum_{i=1}^n v_i P_i \sigma^{(\Lambda)}(z_i)$$

with 
$$P_i = \prod_{k=1}^n w_{i,k}^{\lambda_k}, \Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

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- ▶ In the following experiments a shallow neural network with one hidden layer was used
- ► The hidden layer contained ten neurons
- We ask the following questions:
  - ► How good is the approximation?
  - ► How long does the training take?
  - ► How well does it perform in comparison to other methods?





Consider the following differential equation

$$\begin{cases} u'(x) = -\frac{1}{5}u(x) + e^{-\frac{1}{5}x}\cos(x) \\ u(0) = 0 \end{cases}, \quad x \in [0, 2]$$

- exact solution is  $u_a(x) = e^{-\frac{1}{5}x} \sin(x)$
- trial solution is  $u_N(x) = xN_p(x)$
- loss function is

$$\sum_{x_i \in \hat{D}} \left( u'_N(x_i) + \frac{1}{5} u_N(x_i) - e^{-\frac{1}{5}x_i} \cos(x_i) \right)^2$$



## Numerical experiments

Code base

View code on https://cutt.ly/tu-berlin-nn-01



- Solution obtained through FEM is not in closed analytic form
- At training points FEM is more accurate than the NN approach
- NN approach performes better at interpolation point

TABLE I
MAXIMUM DEVIATION FROM THE EXACT SOLUTION
FOR THE NEURAL AND THE FINITE-ELEMENT METHODS

|             | Neural Method        |                      | Finite Element     |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Problem No. | Training set         | Interpolation set    | Training set       | Interpolation set    |
| 5           | $5 \times 10^{-7}$   | $5 \times 10^{-7}$   | $2 \times 10^{-8}$ | $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ |
| 6           | $6 \times 10^{-6}$   | $6 \times 10^{-6}$   | $7 \times 10^{-7}$ | $4 \times 10^{-5}$   |
| 7           | $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ | $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ | $6 \times 10^{-7}$ | $4 \times 10^{-5}$   |



## Comparison with Finite Element Method

Comparison of Parameters and Computation time



► FEM needs an excessive number of parameters  $\leadsto$  high memory requirements

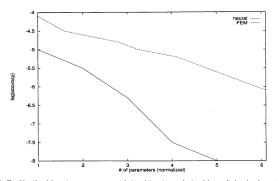


Fig. 16. Plot of logarithm of the maximum convergence error at the interpolation points as a function of the normalized number of parameters for the neural and the FEM approach.



## Comparison with Finite Element Method

Comparison of Parameters and Computation time



▶ The neural network approach converges faster for a larger number of parameters

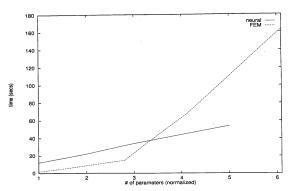


Fig. 17. Plot of the time to converge as a function of the normalized number of parameters for the neural and the FEM approach.



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- ► The presented method provides an accurate, differential solution in closed analytic form
- Accuracy of the approximated solution is based on the ability of Neural Networks to approximate any continuous function
- The choice of the trial solution leads to an unconstrained optimization problem which can be solved any minimization technique





- ▶ Does the neural network perform better if we increase the number of hidden layers or the number of hidden units in a layer?
- How do we chose optimal training points?
- How is the performance in a high dimensional setting?



#### Literature



Artificial Neural Networks for Solving Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations (I. E. Lagaris, A. Likas, D. I. Fotiadis, 1997)



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