Hybrid models for Active Noise Reduction

M. J. Bryan mib314 @cam.ac.uk

## Hybrid models for Active Noise Reduction IOP PEML Workshop

Matt J. Bryan<sup>1</sup>, Dr Ole M. Nielsen<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr Tore Butlin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cambridge University Engineering Department <sup>2</sup>Bose Corporation

1st October 2025







# Active Noise Reduction (ANR)





M. J. Bryan mjb314 @cam.ac.uk

Introduction
Active Noise
Reduction (AN

Reduction (ANR)
Complex systems

Hybrid models

Benchmark system

Results

Comparison with

data driven metho

Conclusions

- Active Noise Reduction (ANR) describes the use of secondary sources and control schemes to reduce unwanted noise.
- The technology is mature in headphones:

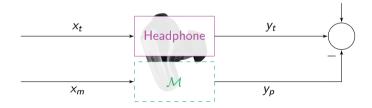


Figure 2: The modelling problem in an ANR system.

## Complex systems





M. J. Bryan mjb314 @cam.ac.uk

Introduction

Reduction (ANR)

Complex systems

Hybrid models

Benchmark system

Results

Comparison with data driven method

Conclusion

- Modelling the reference signal for ANR is more challenging for complex systems.
- Coherence is significantly reduced in cases like automotive systems.
- This is due to the presence of **nonlinearity** and **multiple connections**.

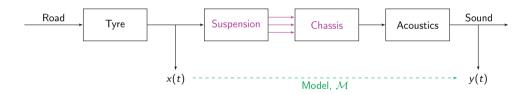


Figure 3: Block diagram of a transmission pathway.

Such a system is an ideal candidate for physics-informed machine learning (PIML) approaches: low latency and high accuracy are both essential.



# Benchmark system





M. J. Bryan mib314 @cam.ac.uk

Benchmark system

- PIML methods can be used to separate linear and nonlinear system behaviours.
  - ...which can be used to focus model complexity.
  - An abstraction of the car model is used as a benchmark system to test schemes:

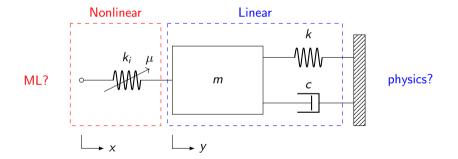


Figure 4: Benchmark nonlinear system with displacement input.

# Case study





M. J. Bryan mjb314 @cam.ac.uk

Introduction

Active Noise

Reduction (ANR) Complex systems

Hybrid models

Benchmark system

Benchmark system

Results

Case study

lata driven method

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusions

• Two black box models (CNN, RNN) and a PIML model were trained on simulated time-series data (N = 2000) from the benchmark system with moderate nonlinearity:

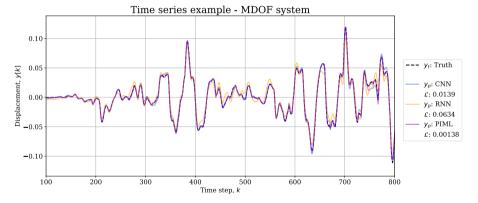


Figure 5: Time domain case study with final validation loss.



### Comparison with data driven methods





M. J. Bryan mib314 @cam.ac.uk

Comparison with

data driven methods

- The benefit is most apparent in the nonlinear coherence:
  - Linear coherence between the model prediction  $y_p$  and true output  $y_t$ .
  - 'how much of the nonlinearity is captured by the model'

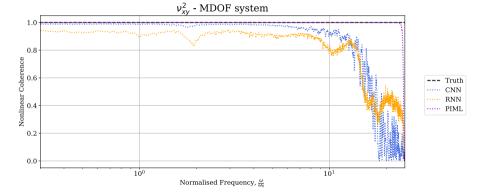


Figure 6: Performance comparison via nonlinear coherence.

#### Conclusions





M. J. Bryan mib314 @cam.ac.uk

Conclusions

- Hybrid models can be used to separate linear and nonlinear behaviour in an abstracted benchmark system.
- Using this physics-informed approach can improve model accuracy compared to purely data-driven methods.
  - ...provided that the form of the nonlinearity is well understood.

**PIML models** are a promising approach for ANR in complex systems.

#### Future work:

- More complex systems.
- Experimental validation.



Hybrid models for Active Noise Reduction

M. J. Bryan mib314 @cam.ac.uk

Conclusions

## Hybrid models for Active Noise Reduction IOP PEML Workshop

Matt J. Bryan<sup>1</sup>, Dr Ole M. Nielsen<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr Tore Butlin<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cambridge University Engineering Department <sup>2</sup>Bose Corporation

1st October 2025







#### Nonlinear coherence definition





M. J. Bryan mjb314 @cam.ac.uk

#### Introduct

Active Noise Reduction (ANR Complex systems

Hybrid models

Benchmark system

Results

Case study

Comparison with data driven methods

Conclusions

#### Linear coherence

Linear coherence = 
$$\gamma_{xy}^2 = \frac{|\mathcal{S}_{xy}|^2}{\mathcal{S}_{xx}\mathcal{S}_{yy}}$$

where  $\mathcal{S}_{xy}$  is the cross-spectral density between signals x and y.

This describes 'how much of the behaviour can be described by a linear model'.

#### Nonlinear coherence

Nonlinear coherence = 
$$\nu_{xy}^2 = \gamma_{y_t y_\rho}^2 = \frac{|\mathcal{S}_{y_t y_\rho}|^2}{\mathcal{S}_{y_t y_t} \mathcal{S}_{y_0 y_0}}$$

• which describes 'how much of the nonlinearity is captured by the model'.