

# Machine learning for discovering sparse models of fluids, plasmas, and much more

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PySINDy Paper:

<https://joss.theoj.org/papers/10.21105/joss.03994>

Code:

[github.com/dynamicslab/pysindy](https://github.com/dynamicslab/pysindy)

Youtube lectures:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN90bHJU-JLoOfEk0KyBs2qLT  
V7OkMZ25](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN90bHJU-JLoOfEk0KyBs2qLTV7OkMZ25)



# Overview

- What is system identification and why is it a useful scientific tool?
- What is *sparse* system identification?
- Towards very sophisticated data-driven models: overview of advances in the SINDy method
- Implementation of the open-source Python package, PySINDy.

# System identification is used to identify dynamical models directly from data

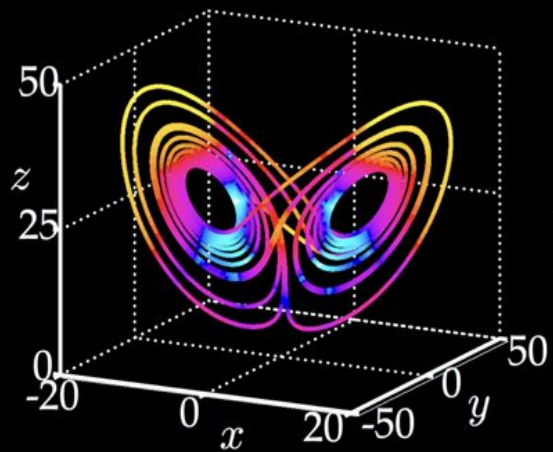
*“the art and science of building mathematical models of dynamic systems from observed input–output data”*



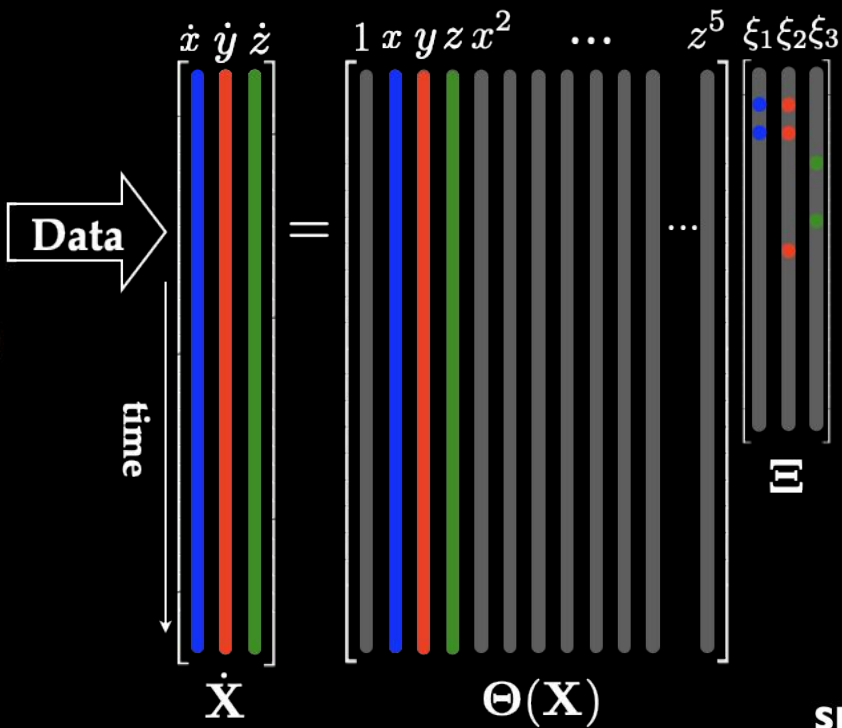
**Fig. 2** Modern autonomy leverages sensors to build data-driven models that are physics-based *inductive* models for robotics (a) and non-physics-based, deductive statistical models for self-driving cars (b)

$$\arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{\Theta} \boldsymbol{\xi} - \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\xi}\|_0 \right]$$

## Full Simulation



$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x} &= -10x + 10y, \\ \dot{y} &= x(28 - z) - y, \\ \dot{z} &= xy - \frac{8}{3}z.\end{aligned}$$



```
' ' 'xi_1' 'xi_2' 'xi_3'
'1' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
'x' [-9.9996] [27.9980] [ 0]
'y' [ 9.9998] [-0.9997] [ 0]
'z' [ 0] [ 0] [-2.6665]
'xx' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
'xy' [ 0] [ 0] [ 1.0000]
'xz' [ 0] [-0.9999] [ 0]
'yy' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
'yz' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
'zz' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
... ..
'yzzzz' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
'zzzzz' [ 0] [ 0] [ 0]
```

# Sparse regression improves models

```
1 # Instantiate and fit the SINDy model
2 feature_names = ['x', 'y', 'z']
3 sparse_regression_optimizer = ps.STLSQ(threshold=0) # default is lambda = 0.1
4 model = ps.SINDy(feature_names=feature_names, optimizer=sparse_regression_optimizer)
5 model.fit(x_train, t=dt)
6 model.print()
```

$(x)' = -0.001 \cdot 1 + -10.005 x + 10.003 y$

$(y)' = -0.015 \cdot 1 + 27.991 x + -0.998 y + 0.002 z + -1.000 x z$

$(z)' = 0.008 \cdot 1 + 0.006 x + -0.004 y + -2.666 z + 0.001 x^2 + 0.999 x y$

```
1 sparse_regression_optimizer = ps.STLSQ(threshold=0.1)
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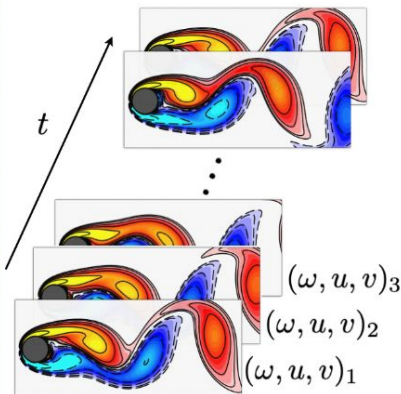
# Expanding SINDy for identifying PDEs from data

# PDEs

Rudy, SLB, Proctor, Kutz  
*Science Advances*, 2017

Full Data

## 1a. Data Collection



## 1b. Build Nonlinear Library of Data and Derivatives

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega_t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \omega & u & v & \omega_x & \omega_y & \dots & uv\omega_{xy} & uv\omega_{yy} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\omega_t = \Theta(\omega, u, v)\xi$$

## 1c. Solve Sparse Regression

$$\arg \min_{\xi} \|\Theta\xi - \omega_t\|_2^2 + \lambda\|\xi\|_0$$

## d. Identified Dynamics

$$\omega_t + 0.9931u\omega_x + 0.9910v\omega_y = 0.0099\omega_{xx} + 0.0099\omega_{yy}$$

Compare to True  
Navier Stokes ( $Re = 100$ )

$$\omega_t + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\omega = \frac{1}{Re}\nabla^2\omega$$

# Physical priors can be incorporated into system ID

**Innovation: Enforcing  
known constraints**

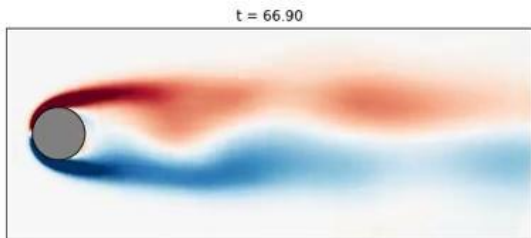
$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \, d\Omega = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{a}) = 0$$

- ▶ **Skew-symmetric quadratic nonlinearities to enforce energy conservation**
- ▶ **Improved stability**

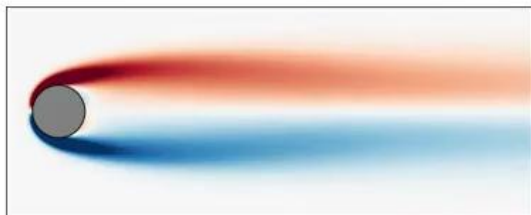
$$\min_{\xi, z} \|\Theta(\mathbf{X})\Xi - \dot{\mathbf{X}}\|_2^2 + z^T (C\xi - d)$$

*Additional skew-symmetric quadratic nonlinearities occur in magnetohydrodynamics!*

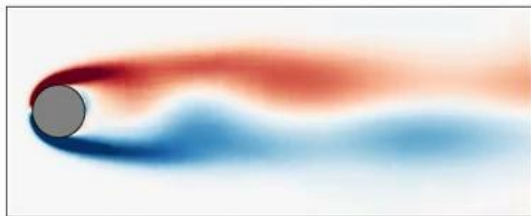
# Trapping SINDy – globally stable models by construction



Ground truth



9-mode Galerkin model  
from Noack et al.  
(2003)

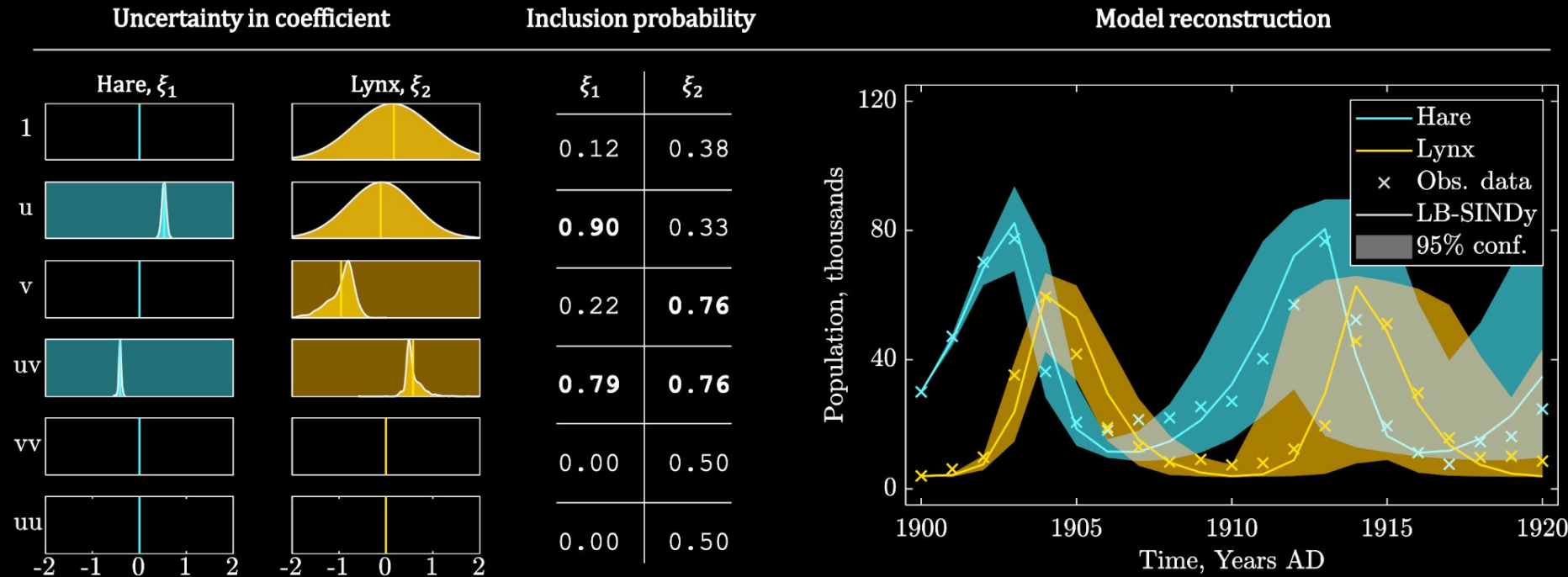


Trapping SINDy model

- Skew-symmetry constraint helps for obtaining more stable, accurate data-driven models.
- Schlegel & Noack - conditions for globally stable, quadratic, reduced-order models.
- Idea of Trapping SINDy – build these conditions directly into the SINDy objective function and therefore obtain a-priori globally stable models.



# Model ensembles reduce model sensitivity to noise and allow for UQ



Identifying weak formulations  
drastically reduces sensitivity  
of system ID to noise

$$\partial_t \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t) \approx \Theta(\mathbf{x}, t) \Xi$$



$$\int_{\Omega_k} \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \partial_t \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}, t) dS \approx \left( \int_{\Omega_k} \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \Theta(\mathbf{x}, t) dS \right) \Xi := \Theta_Q \Xi$$

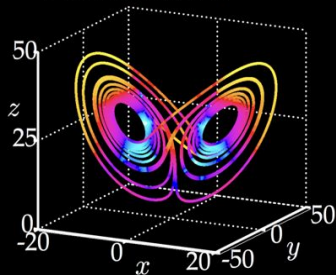


$$\dot{\mathbf{Q}} \approx \Theta_Q \Xi$$

# Identifying weak formulations drastically reduces sensitivity of system ID to noise

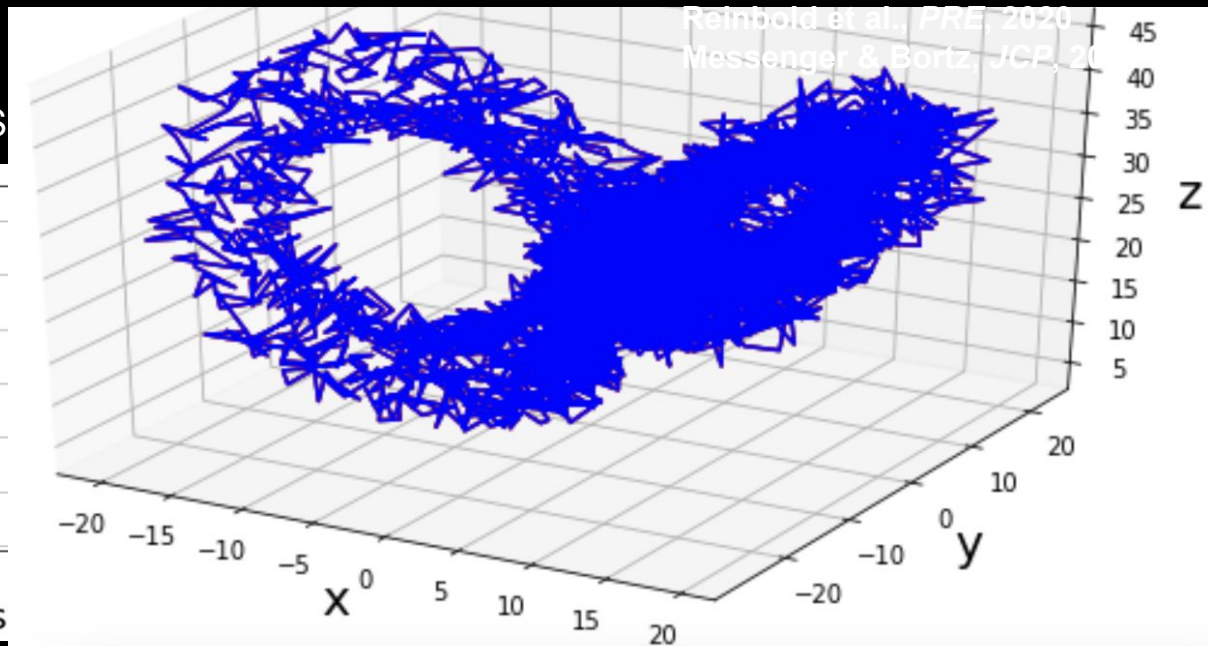
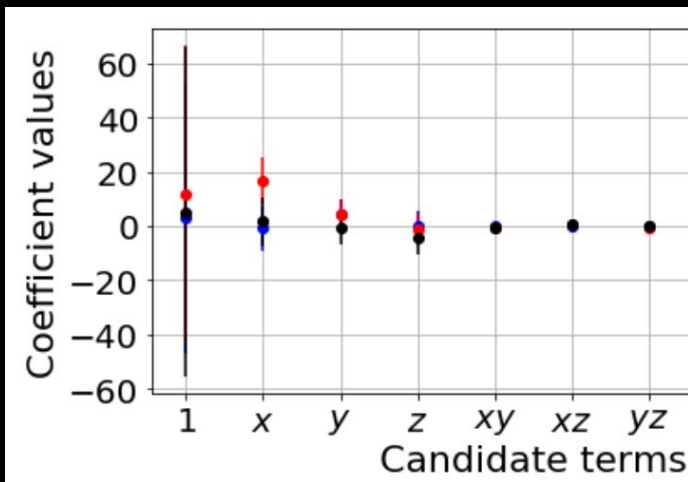
- + White noise added  $N(0, 0.1 * \text{mean}(\text{abs}(\text{training data})))$  to every single data point in the training data

Full Simulation

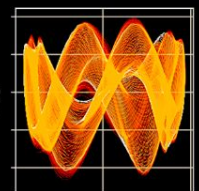
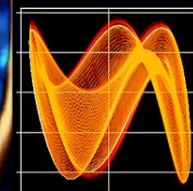
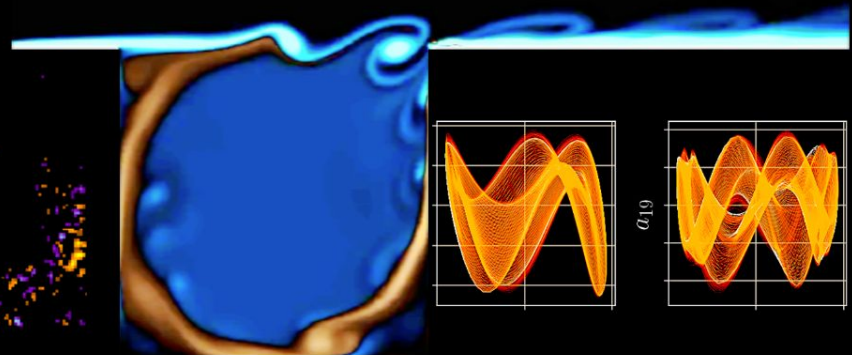
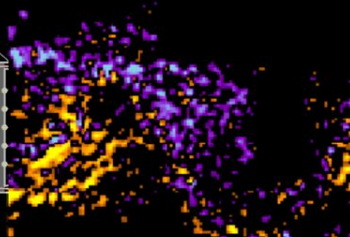
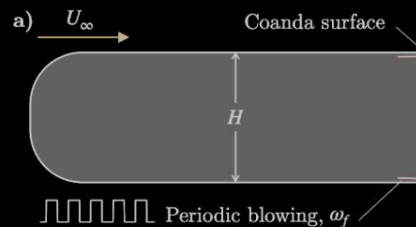
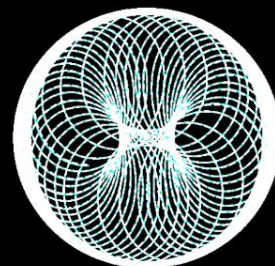
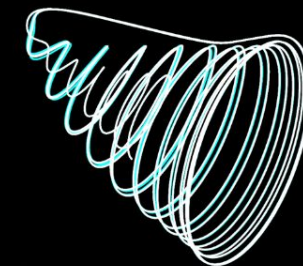
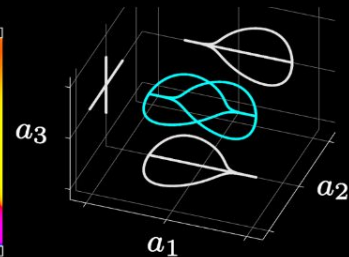
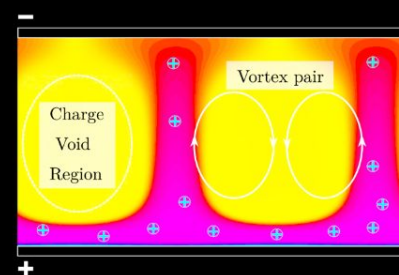
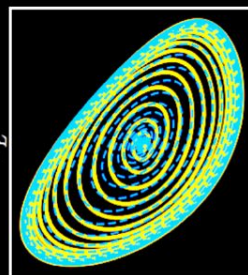
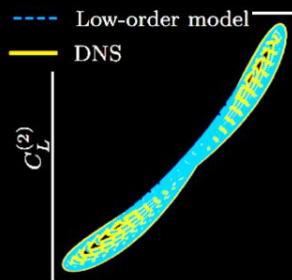
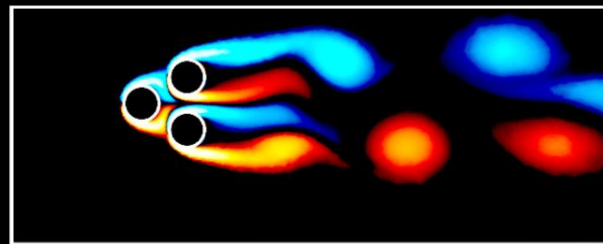
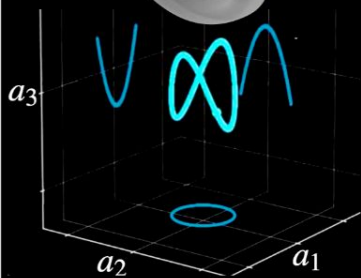
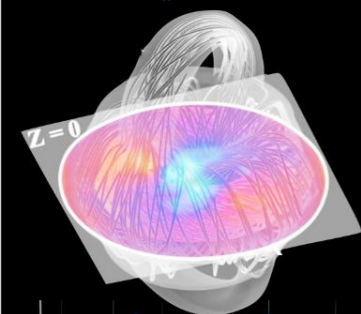
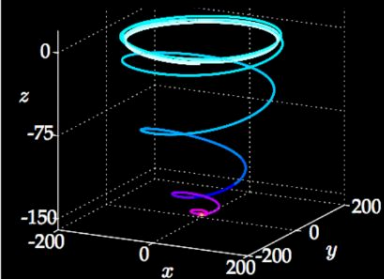
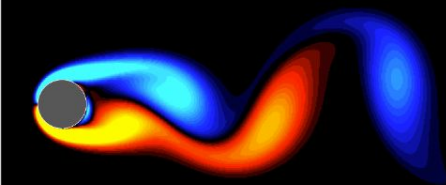


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Regular S



# SPARSE NONLINEAR MODELS OF FLUID DYNAMICS





# PySINDy: a python code for using SINDy

- Python code built by the data-driven dynamics lab at UW that originally implemented only the traditional SINDy method.
- Why use PySINDy?
  - open-source, high-quality code (PEP8 stylistic standards, unit tests, etc.), many examples, and reproduces some SINDy papers in the literature
  - PySINDy developers can check code for bugs, code quality, etc.
  - Very easy to use
  - Lots of advanced functionality

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}_t, \mathbf{q}_x, \mathbf{q}_y, \mathbf{q}_{xx}, \dots, \mathbf{u}) = 0$$



# Possible applications in plasma physics

- Lots of system ID work in plasma physics – most of the work has been with linear control models or fully black-box neural networks, but have good reasons to want *interpretable* and *nonlinear* ROMs.
- Almost no one has started to use the recent system ID advancements for noisy data, UQ, stability, etc., although PySINDy tool is available, so lots of opportunities for papers:
  - Space physics: sophisticated nonlinear Dst models
  - Heliophysics: helicity-preserving ROMs
  - Gyrokinetics: ROMs for forecasting
  - Tokamaks: ROMs for divertor dynamics
  - LAPD: ROMs coupled with optimal sensor placement algorithms
  - + much more



# Summary

- System identification can be useful for physical insight, forecasting, and even real-time control of complex dynamical systems.
- *Sparse* system identification produces *parsimonious* dynamical models that reduce overfitting. Further advancements:
  - Identification of general PDEs, systems with control inputs, etc.
  - Constraints from dynamical symmetries
  - Trapping SINDy can build a-priori globally stable fluid models
  - Ensembles of models can be used to improve statistics + UQ
  - Weak formulation of SINDy drastically reduces noise sensitivity
- Open-source PySINDy code makes all of these new tools available and easy-to-use.