Physics informed Neural Networks for solving PDEs in Plasma Physics

Nick McGreivy (Princeton/PPPL)
Phil Travis (UCLA)

How does it work?

- Represent the solution to your differential equation with a neural network. For example, if the solution is f(x,v,t) then your neural network's inputs are x, v, and t, and it's output is f.
- Write a loss function which is zero if the initial conditions, the boundary conditions, and the PDE are all satisfied at a selection of chosen points in the domain and boundary. Then minimize that loss function with optimization methods. This is a simple and elegant way of solving PDEs.

Successes:

A physics informed neural network (PINN) can be successful at solving:

- Non-coupled PDEs
- Parameter estimation in PDEs
- High-dimensional systems
- Arbitrary domains (no mesh!)

Example: Vlasov Free Streaming

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0 \qquad \mathbf{v}$$

Example: Boundary Layer

$$\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + (1+x)\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + u = 0 \qquad \mathsf{u}^{\frac{35}{30}}$$
Equipped PDFs

Failures: Coupled PDEs

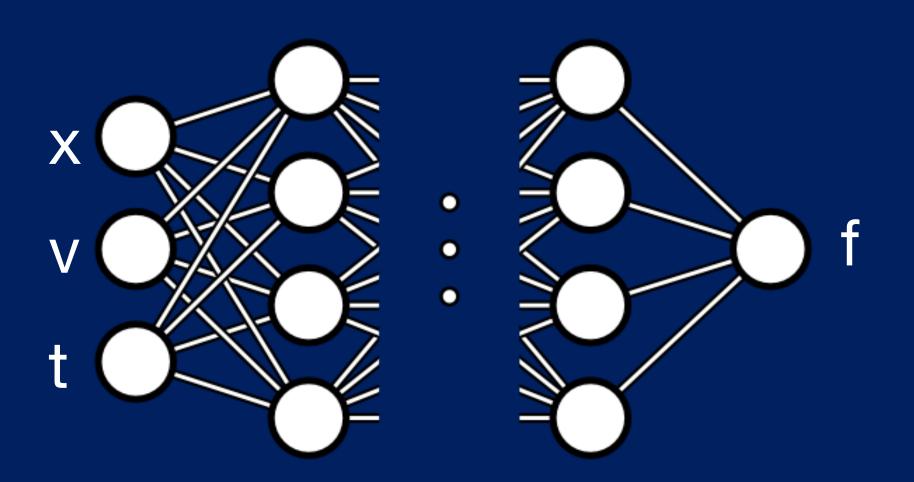
To represent the solution to a set of coupled PDEs, we need either multiple outputs or multiple neural networks. The additional equations regularize the solution, making optimization difficult.

Example: Vlasov-Maxwell

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} = 0 \qquad \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \int f(t, x, v) dv + \frac{e n_i}{\epsilon_0} = 0$$

Example: Cold Fluid Equations

$$mn\frac{du}{dt} = -enE$$
: $\epsilon_0 \frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = -en + en_i$ $\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(nu) = 0$

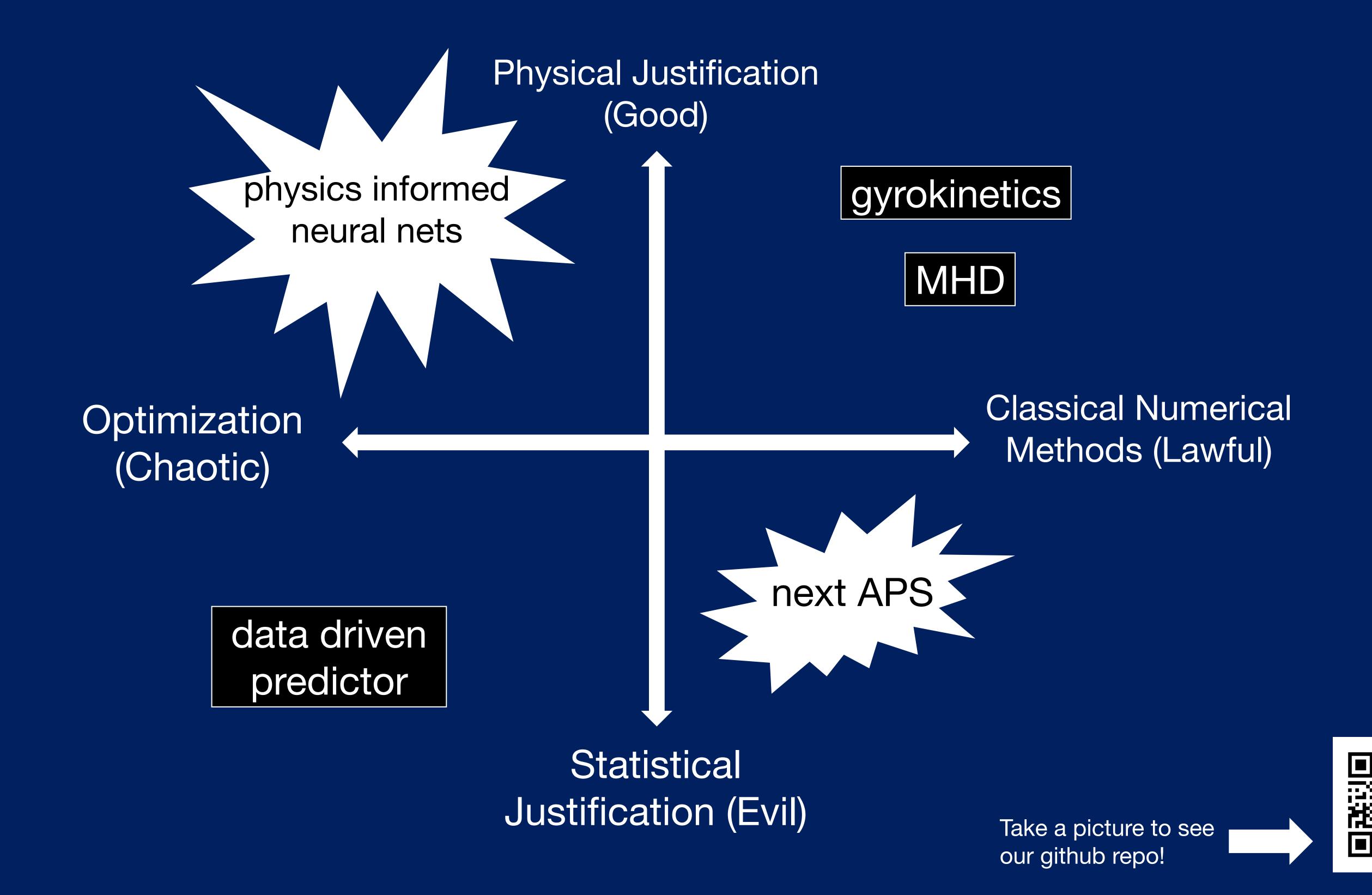


Neural networks can solve

challenging PDEs, but have

struggled to solve the ones we

care about.



Loss Function

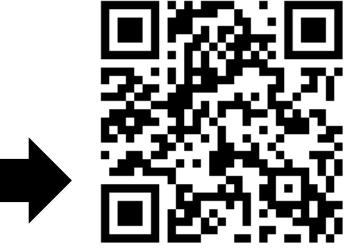
Loss = $L_{equation} + L_{init} + L_{boundary}$ $L_{equation} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathcal{N}_x \right] \hat{f}(t_i, x_i) \right)^2$ $L_{init} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{init}} \left(\hat{f}(t = 0, x_i) - f_0(x_i) \right)^2$ $L_{boundary} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_b} \left(\hat{f}(t_i, x_{max}) - \hat{f}(t_i, x_{min}) \right)$

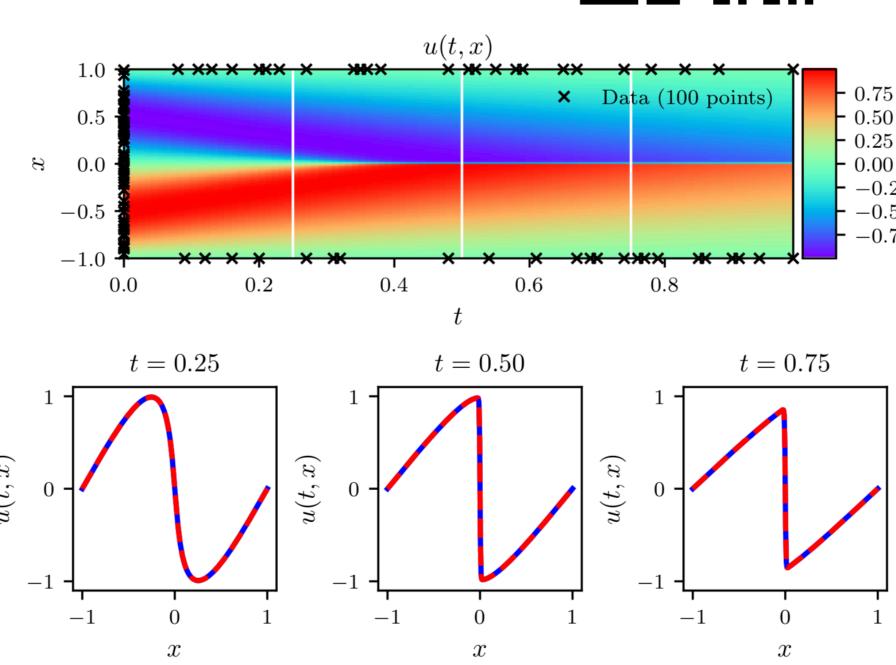
N: Number of training points in the domain N_{init} : Number of training points in the initial conditions N_b : Number of training points on the boundary \hat{f} : Prediction of Network

Who reintroduced this idea?

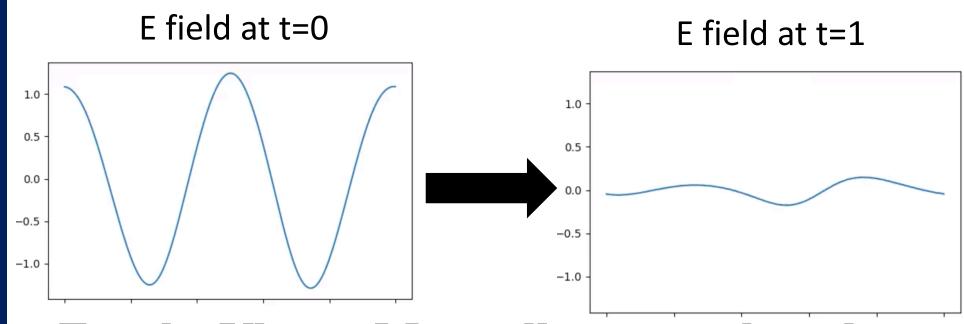
Mazair Raissi (Brown)

Take a picture to see his 2017 paper!





What does failure look like?



For the Vlasov-Maxwell system, the solver tries to minimize the loss function but does so in a way which breaks conservation laws while minimizing loss function.

Different idea: Hamiltonian Neural Networks

Neural networks can learn conservation properties if given the right inductive bias.

