



Carnegie Mellon University

# A short tutorial on the Adjoint Method

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**Varun Shankar**

Department of Mechanical Engineering

# Motivation

- Computing gradients

$$L = \text{MSE}(u, \hat{u}(p))$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} ?$$

In  $\rightarrow f \circ g \circ h \circ i \circ j \rightarrow$  Out



$$u = f_p(g_p(h_p(\dots x))) \dots$$

$$g(u, p) = 0 \quad = p_1 \frac{du}{dx} + p_1 \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} - f(p_3, x)$$

# Derivation

$$g(u, p) = 0 \quad L(u, p)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial p} + \frac{\partial L}{\partial p} = L_u u_p + L_p$$

$$dg = g_u u_p + g_p = 0$$

$$u_p = -g_u^{-1} g_p$$

Tangent Linear

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \swarrow & \searrow \\ & \text{N} \times \text{N} & \text{N} \times 1 \end{array}$$

# Derivation

$$g(u, p) = 0 \quad L(u, p)$$



$$p \rightarrow g \rightarrow u \rightarrow L$$



$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \underbrace{-L_u}_{\text{L} \times \text{N}} (g_u^{-1})^{\text{N} \times \text{P}} g_p + L_p$$

$$u_p = -g_u^{-1} g_p$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \underbrace{(-L_u g_u^{-1})}_{\lambda^T} g_p + L_p$$

# A Linear Example

$$g(u, p) = K\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{f} = 0$$

$$L(u, p) = \text{MSE}(u)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \lambda^T \mathbf{g}_p + L_p$$

$$\lambda^T = -L_u \mathbf{g}_u^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{g}_u^T \lambda = -L_u^T$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \lambda^T \mathbf{g}_p$$

$$\mathbf{K}^T \lambda = -L_u^T$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \lambda^T (\mathbf{K}_p \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{f}_p)$$

# Continuous Adjoint

$$Ku = f$$

$$K^T \lambda = b$$

$$\lambda^T K = b^T$$

$$\lambda^T Ku = b^T u$$

$$\lambda^T f = b^T u$$

# Continuous Adjoint

$$Lu = f$$

$$L^* \lambda = b$$

$$(\lambda, u) = \int_{\Omega} \lambda^T u$$

$$(\lambda, f) = b^T u$$

$$(\lambda, Lu) = (L^* \lambda, u)$$

# Continuous Adjoint Example

$$f = Lu = u' - u''$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial u} = L^* \lambda = -\lambda' - \lambda''$$

Use the same  
forward solver

$$(\lambda, Lu) = \int \lambda(u' - u'')$$

$$\vdots$$

$$= \int \underbrace{(-\lambda' - \lambda'')}_{L^* \lambda} u + BCs$$

$$(\lambda, Lu) = (L^* \lambda, u)$$



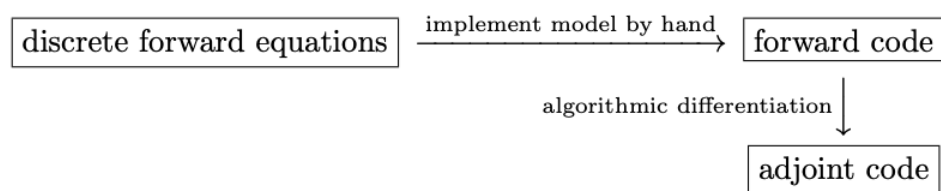


Fig. 1.1: The traditional approach to developing adjoint models. The forward model is implemented by hand, and its adjoint derived either by hand or with the assistance of an algorithmic differentiation tool.

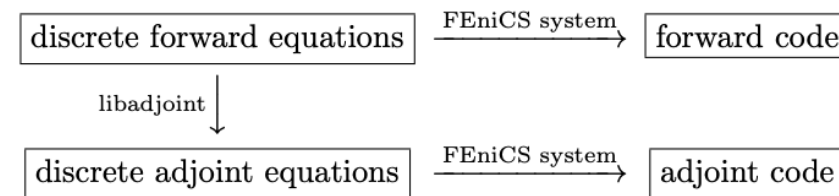
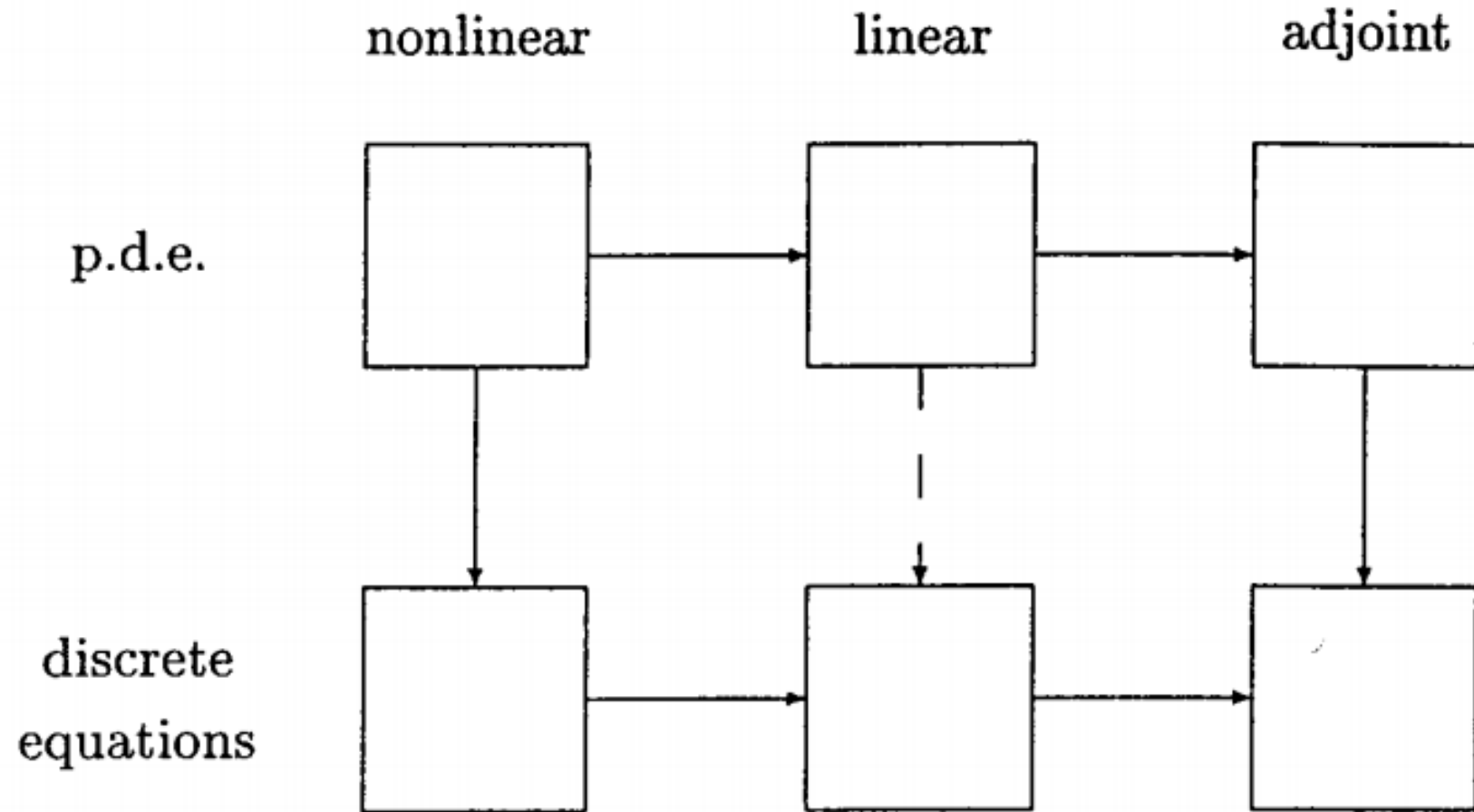


Fig. 1.2: The approach to adjoint model development advocated in this paper. The user specifies the discrete forward equations in a high-level language similar to mathematical notation; the discrete forward equations are explicitly represented in memory in the UFL format [2, 1]. libadjoint automatically derives the corresponding in-memory representation of the discrete adjoint equations, from the in-memory representation of the forward problem. Both the forward and adjoint equations are then passed to the FEniCS system, which automatically generates and executes the code necessary to compute the forward and adjoint solutions.



*Figure 1.* Alternative approaches to forming discrete adjoint equations.

# Time Dependent

$$g(u, p) = 0$$

$$g(u, p) = \dot{u}$$

$$g_u^T \lambda = -L_u^T$$

$$l_u + \lambda^T g_u = \dot{\lambda}^T$$

$$\lambda(T) = 0$$

$$L(u, p)$$

$$L(u, p) = \int_0^T l(u, p, t) dt$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \lambda^T g_p + L_p$$

$$\frac{dL}{dp} = \int_0^T \lambda^T g_p + l_p dt + \lambda^T u_p \Big|_{t=0}$$