



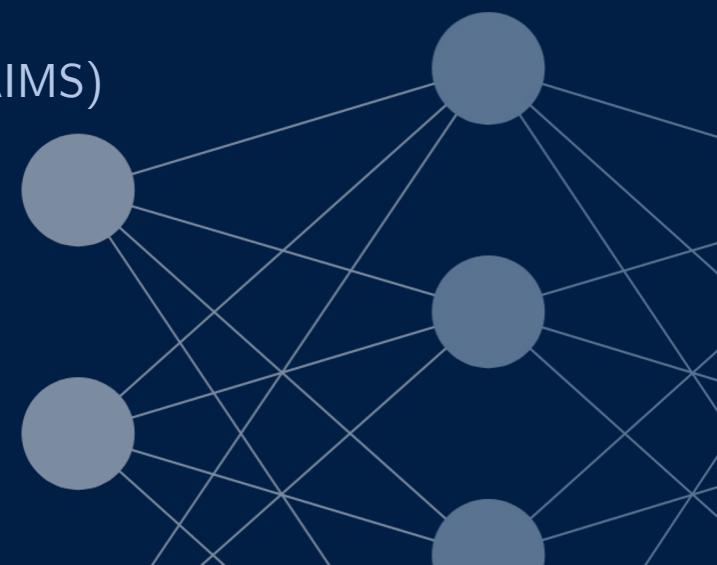
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Efficient Error Certification for Physics-Informed Neural Networks

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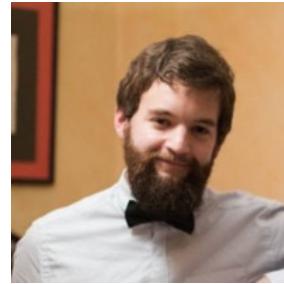
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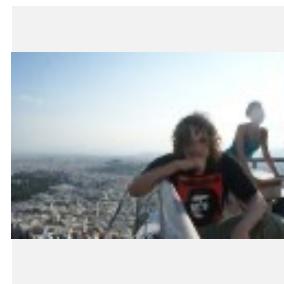
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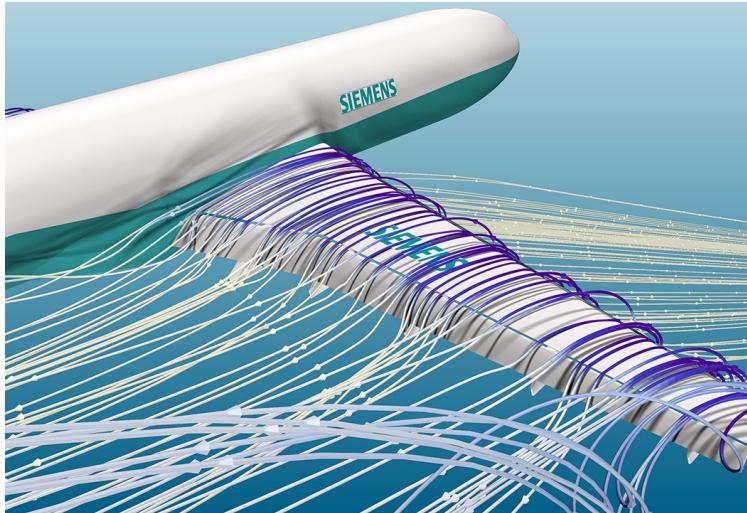
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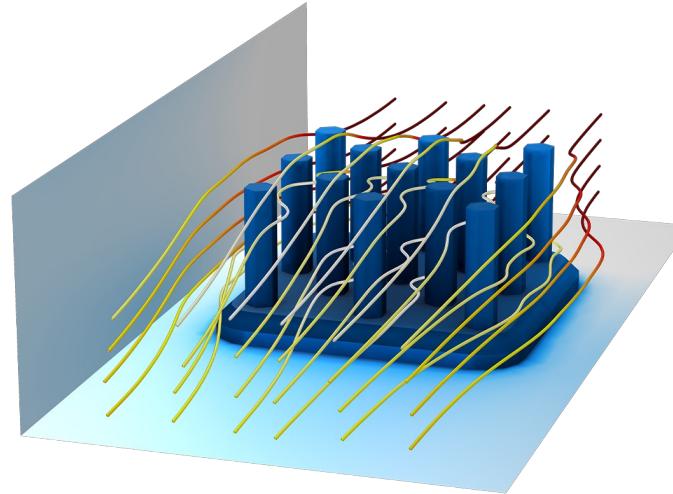
arXiv

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.10157>

Physical PDEs and Where to Find Them



Aerodynamics (e.g., Euler's equation)



Thermodynamics (e.g., Heat equation)



Earth and Space Sciences
(e.g., turbulence in 2-D Navier-Stokes)

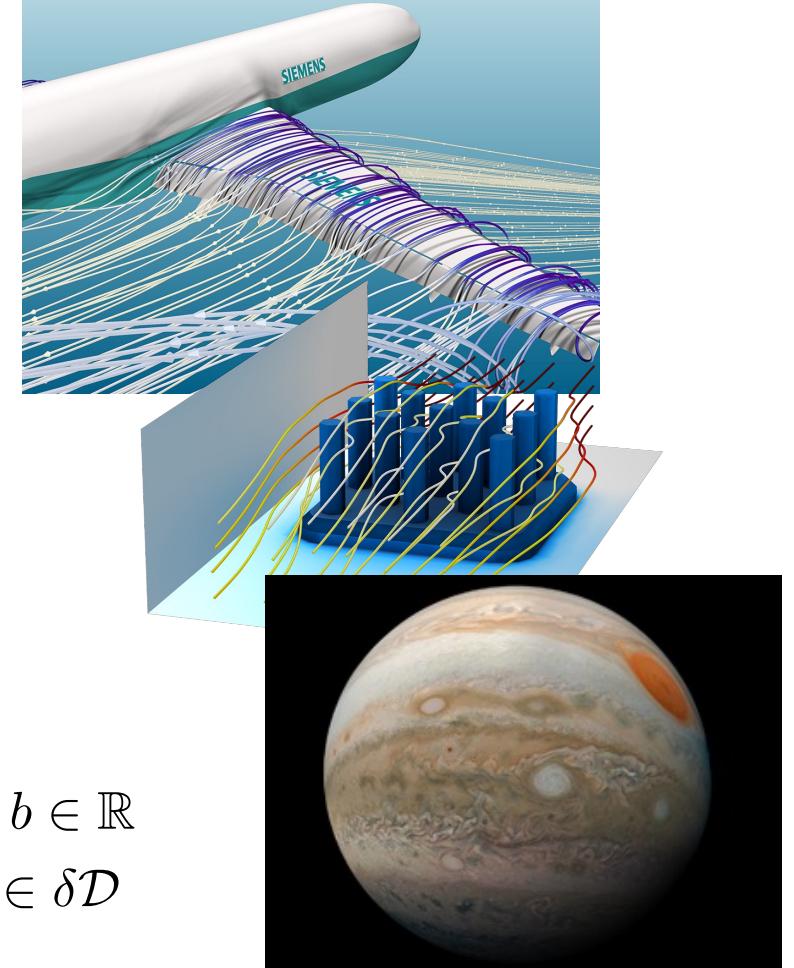
Among many others...

Nonlinear (Physical) Partial Differential Equations

$$\underbrace{\partial_t u(t, x) + \mathcal{N}[u](t, x)}_{\text{residual}} = 0, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}, t \in [0, T]$$

solution nonlinear spatial differential operator

domain



s.t.

1. **Initial condition:** $u(0, x) = u_0(x)$
2. **Robin boundary conditions:** $au(t, x) + b\partial_n u(t, x) = u_b(t, x) \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
 $x \in \delta\mathcal{D}$

PDE example: Diffusion-Sorption Equation

- Applications in groundwater contaminant transportation
- 1D Diffusion-Sorption:

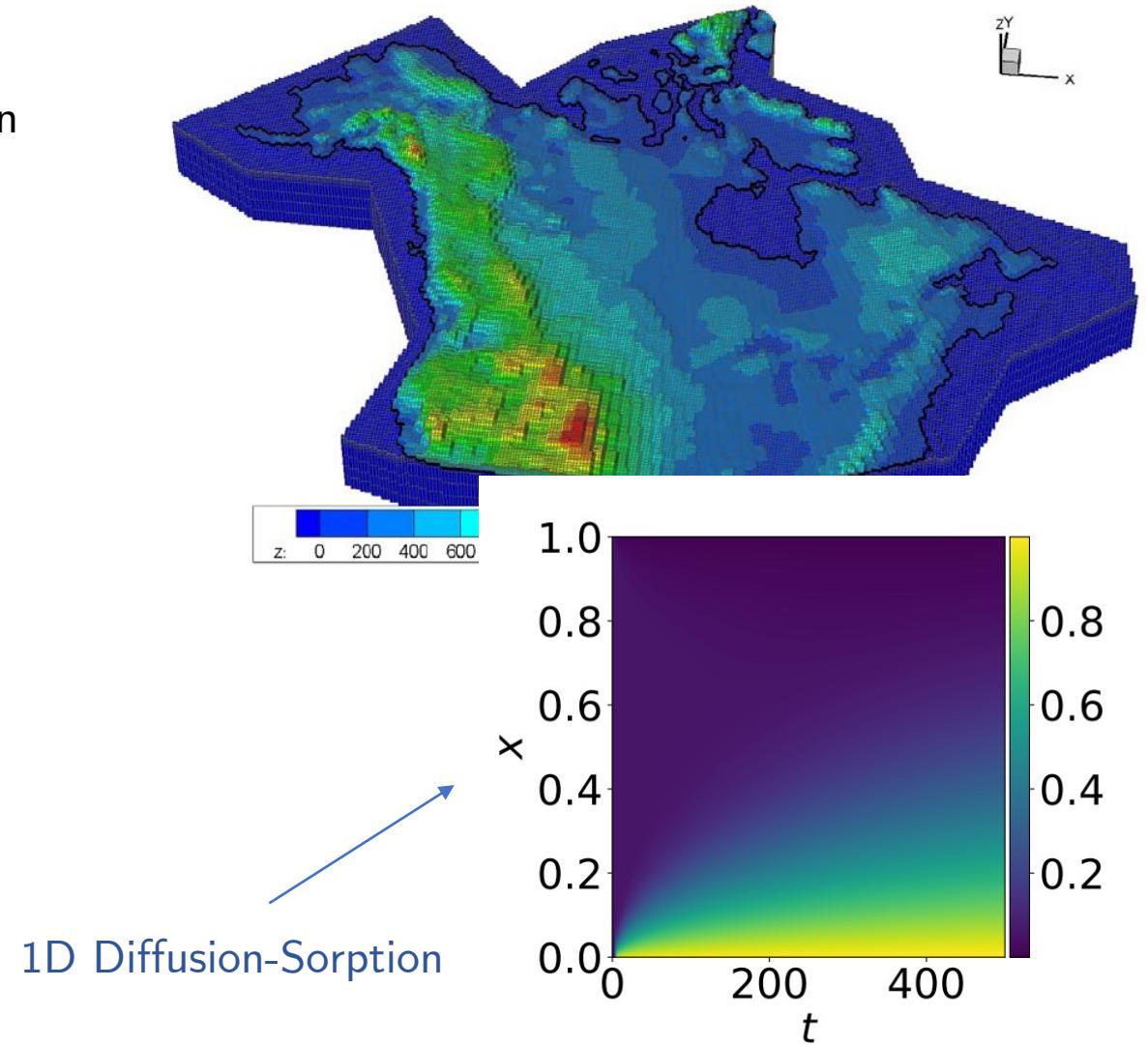
$$\partial_t u(t, x) - D/R(u(t, x)) \partial_{x^2} u(t, x) = 0$$

where

$$R(u(t, x)) = 1 + \frac{(1 - \phi)}{(\phi)} \rho_s k n_f u^{n_f - 1}(t, x)$$

for physical constants D, ϕ, ρ_s, k, n_f , and:

$$u(0, x) = u(t, 0) = 0, \quad u(t, 1) = D \partial_x u(t, 1)$$



Issue: Solving for $u(t, x)$ is computationally expensive

Solution: Use NNs to approximate it

Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

- Approximate solution using a neural network, $u_\theta(t, x) \simeq u(t, x)$
- Take the residual evaluated for u_θ as the network $f_\theta(t, x) = \partial_t u_\theta(t, x) + \mathcal{N}[u_\theta](t, x)$
- Train *both networks* jointly using a loss evaluated at collocation points \mathbb{P} (i.e. points in the domain):

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\sum_{x \in \mathbb{P}_0} |u(0, x) - u_\theta(0, x)|^2}_{\text{initial conditions}} + \underbrace{\sum_{(t, x) \in \mathbb{P}_b} |u(t, x) - u_\theta(t, x)|^2}_{\text{boundary conditions}} + \underbrace{\sum_{(t, x) \in \mathbb{P}_f} |f_\theta(t, x)|^2}_{\text{residual}}$$

PINN

- Evaluate empirically by comparing $u_\theta(t, x)$ to the solution obtained by a numerical solver

PINN: 1D Diffusion-Sorption Equation

- Inference times on 2 core CPU + 1 GPU (NVIDIA V100):

Numerical Solver	PINN [Takamoto et al. 2022]
------------------	-----------------------------

59.83s

PINN [Takamoto et al. 2022]

2.7×10^{-3}

- PINN average ℓ_2 solution error is 9.9×10^{-2} compared to numerical solver

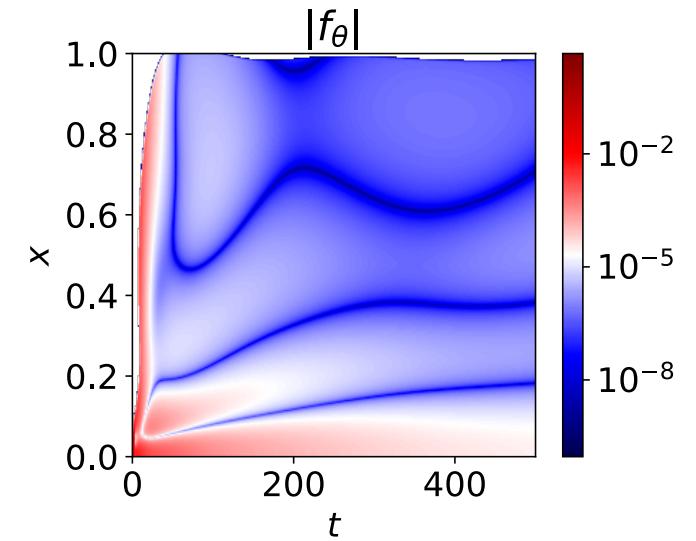
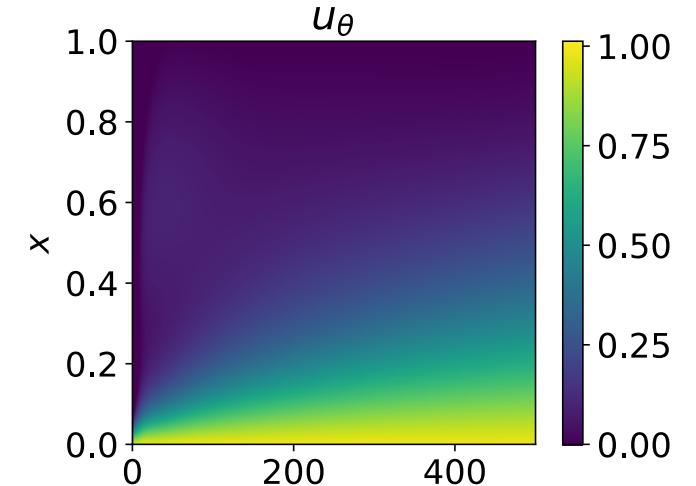
- Valid PDE solution **must** satisfy $f_\theta(t, x) = 0$

- Is it satisfied across the domain?*

10^4 Uniform Samples	10^6 Uniform Samples
$\max f_\theta ^2$	1.1×10^{-3}

$\max |f_\theta|^2$

1.1×10^{-3}



How can we be confident errors are small enough across the *entire* domain?

Defining Correctness Conditions for PINNs

- Intuitively, a PINN is a correct approximation of the underlying PDE if:
 1. *The solution satisfies the initial conditions* to a reasonable degree
 2. *The solution satisfies the boundary conditions* to a reasonable degree
 3. *The norm of the PINN output is small enough*
- Formally, for a D dimensional spatial input $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{D}$, and solution/PINN input $\mathbf{x} = (t, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$:

Definition 1 (Correctness Conditions for PINNs). $u_\theta : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a $\delta_0, \delta_b, \varepsilon$ -globally correct approximation of the exact solution $u : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if:

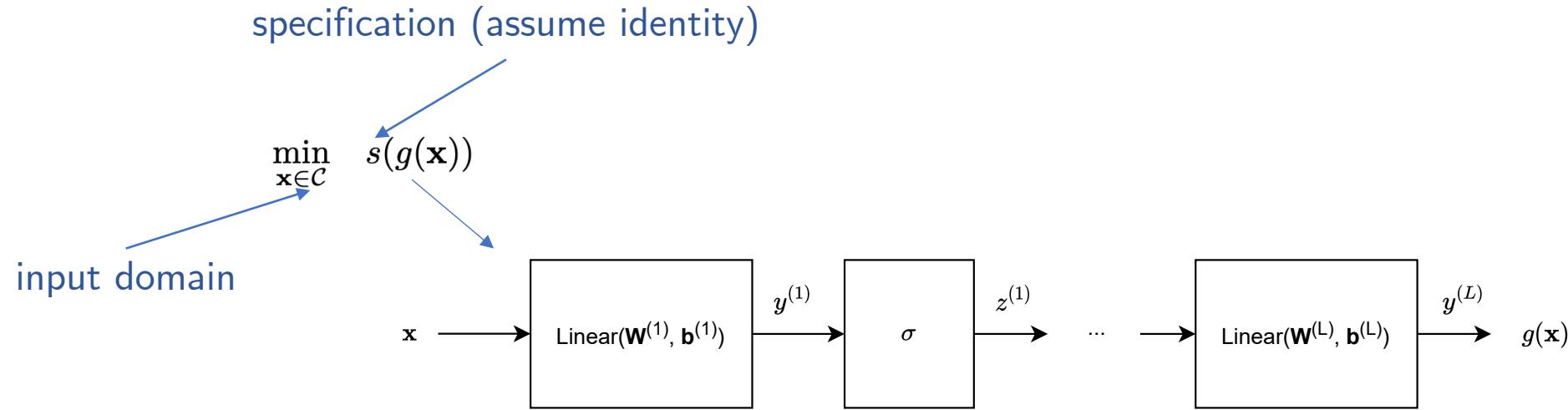
$$\textcircled{1} \quad \max_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{D}} |u_\theta(0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_0(\hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_0,$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \max_{t \in [0, T], \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \delta \mathcal{D}} |au_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) + b\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_b(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_b,$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} |f_\theta(\mathbf{x})|^2 \leq \varepsilon.$$

Verification of Neural Networks

- CROWN/α-CROWN [Zhang et. al 2018, Xu et. al 2020]



- Relax network to a linear program → solve it in closed form: $\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} g(\mathbf{x}) \geq u_b = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} \mathbf{A}^L \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}^L$
- Apply it to u_θ and f_θ using the previous specifications (?)

relaxed problem

Correctness Certification of PINNs (2)

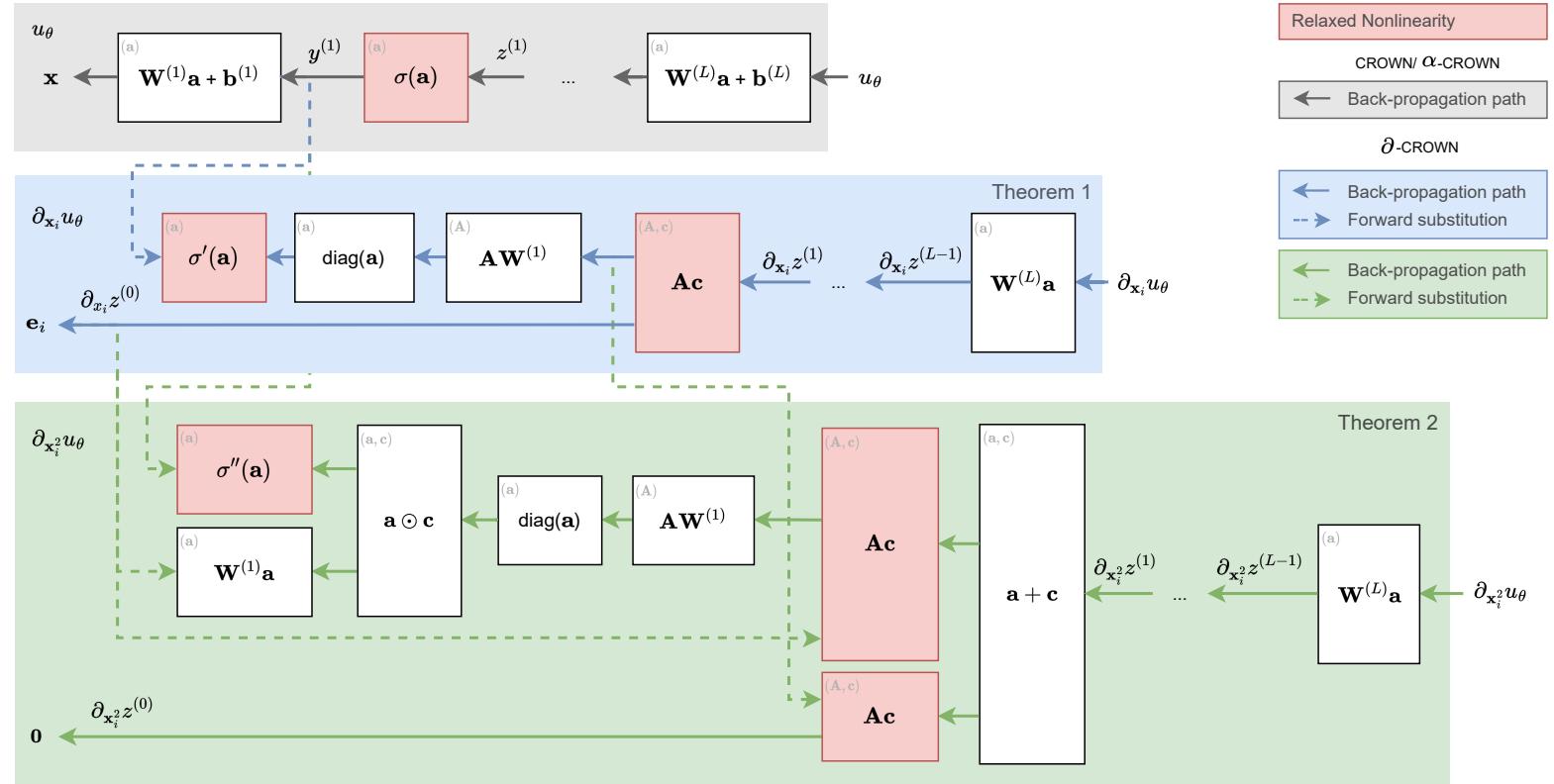
Definition 1 (Correctness Conditions for PINNs). $u_\theta : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a $\delta_0, \delta_b, \varepsilon$ -globally correct approximation of the exact solution $u : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if:

- ✓ $\max_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{D}} |u_\theta(0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_0(\hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_0,$
- ✗ $\max_{t \in [0, T], \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \delta \mathcal{D}} |au_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) + b\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_b(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_b,$
- ✗ $\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} |f_\theta(\mathbf{x})|^2 \leq \varepsilon.$

- Applying CROWN/ α -CROWN to boundary/residual conditions:
 - ✗ Architecture is completely different - f_θ is a nonlinear function of partial derivatives of u_θ
 - ✗ Regression problem – bounds might be too loose to be informative

∂ -CROWN: Bounding Partial Derivatives of u_θ and f_θ

- u_θ is bound using CROWN [Zhang et al. 2018]; partial derivatives require purpose-built efficient solution



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1st (Theorem 1) and 2nd (Theorem 2) linear bounding of partial derivatives

Hybrid scheme with complexity $\mathcal{O}(L)$ instead of $\mathcal{O}(L^2)$ from [Xu et al. 2020]

Global bounds computed in close-form (similarly to [Zhang et al. 2018])

Theorem 1 (∂ -CROWN: Linear Bounding $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta$). *There exist two linear functions $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta^U$ and $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta^L$ s.t. it holds $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}: \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta^L \leq \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta \leq \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta^U$, with the linear coefficients computed recursively in closed-form in $\mathcal{O}(L)$ time.*

Theorem 2 (∂ -CROWN: Linear Bounding $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta$). *Assume that through a previous bounding of $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} u_\theta$, we have linear lower and upper bounds on $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i} z^{(k-1)}$ and $\partial_{z^{(k-1)}} z^{(k)}$. There exist two linear functions $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta^U$ and $\partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta^L$ s.t. it holds $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}: \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta^L \leq \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta \leq \partial_{\mathbf{x}_i^2} u_\theta^U$, with the coefficients computed recursively in closed-form in $\mathcal{O}(L)$ time.*

- f_θ is linearly bounded using McCormick envelopes; global bounds computed in close-form

Correctness Certification of PINNs (3)

Definition 1 (Correctness Conditions for PINNs). $u_\theta : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a $\delta_0, \delta_b, \varepsilon$ -globally correct approximation of the exact solution $u : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if:

✓ $\max_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{D}} |u_\theta(0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_0(\hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_0,$

✗ $\max_{t \in [0, T], \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \delta \mathcal{D}} |au_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) + b\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_b(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_b,$

✗ $\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} |f_\theta(\mathbf{x})|^2 \leq \varepsilon.$

- Applying CROWN/ α -CROWN to boundary/residual conditions:
 - ✓ Architecture is completely different - f_θ is a nonlinear function of partial derivatives of u_θ
 - ✗ Regression problem – bounds might be too loose to be informative



Greedy Input Branching

Correctness Certification of PINNs (4)

Definition 1 (Correctness Conditions for PINNs). $u_\theta : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a $\delta_0, \delta_b, \varepsilon$ -globally correct approximation of the exact solution $u : [0, T] \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if:

✓ $\max_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathcal{D}} |u_\theta(0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_0(\hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_0,$

✓ $\max_{t \in [0, T], \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \delta \mathcal{D}} |au_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) + b\partial_{\mathbf{n}} u_\theta(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) - u_b(t, \hat{\mathbf{x}})|^2 \leq \delta_b,$

✓ $\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} |f_\theta(\mathbf{x})|^2 \leq \varepsilon.$

- Applying CROWN/ α -CROWN to boundary/residual conditions:
 - ✓ Architecture is completely different - f_θ is a nonlinear function of partial derivatives of u_θ
 - ✓ Regression problem – bounds might be too loose to be informative

Experiments: Certifying with ∂ -CROWN

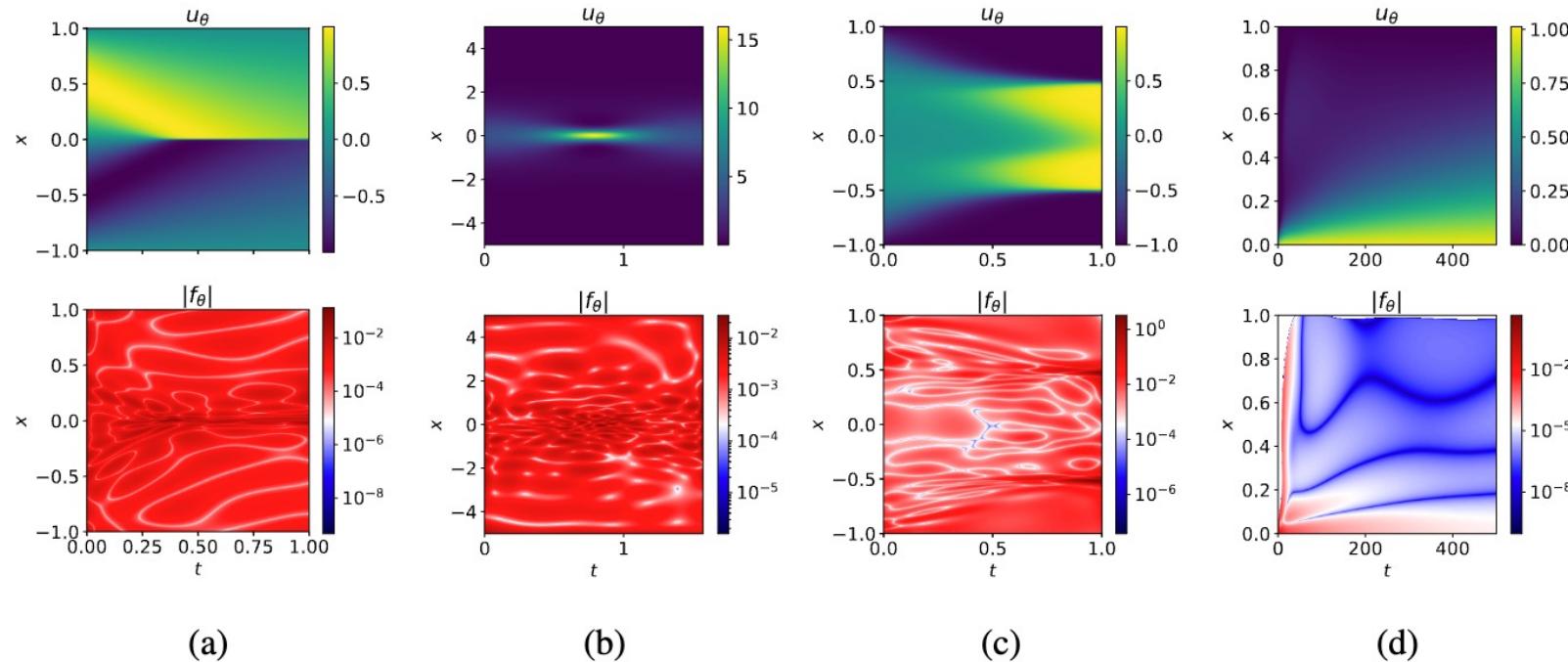


Figure 2: Certifying with ∂ -CROWN: visualization of the time evolution of u_θ , and the residual errors as a function of the spatial temporal domain (log-scale), $|f_\theta|$, for (a) Burgers' equation [Raissi et al., 2019b], (b) Schrödinger's equation [Raissi et al., 2019b], (c) Allan-Cahn's equation [Monaco and Apiletti, 2023], and (d) the Diffusion-Sorption equation [Takamoto et al., 2022].

Raissi, Maziar, Paris Perdikaris, and George E. Karniadakis. "Physics-informed neural networks: A deep learning framework for solving forward and inverse problems involving nonlinear partial differential equations." *Journal of Computational physics* 378 (2019): 686-707.

Monaco, Simone, and Daniele Apiletti. "Training physics-informed neural networks: One learning to rule them all?." *Results in Engineering* 18 (2023): 101023.

Takamoto, Makoto, et al. "PDEBench: An extensive benchmark for scientific machine learning." *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 35 (2022): 1596-1611.

Experiments: Certifying with ∂ -CROWN

			Empirical l_b	Certified u_b
			MC max (10^4)	MC max (10^6)
(a) Burgers	①	$ u_\theta(0, x) - u_0(x) ^2$	1.59×10^{-6}	1.59×10^{-6}
	②	$ u_\theta(t, -1) ^2$	8.08×10^{-8}	6.63×10^{-7} (86.7)
	③	$ u_\theta(t, 1) ^2$	6.54×10^{-8}	9.39×10^{-7} (89.8)
(b) Schrödinger	①	$ f_\theta(\mathbf{x}) ^2$	1.23×10^{-3}	1.80×10^{-2}
	②	$ u_\theta(0, x) - u_0(x) ^2$	7.06×10^{-5}	7.06×10^{-5}
	③	$ u_\theta(t, 5) - u_\theta(t, -5) ^2$	7.38×10^{-7}	7.38×10^{-7}
(c) Allen-Cahn	①	$ \partial_x u_\theta(t, 5) - \partial_x u_\theta(t, -5) ^2$	1.14×10^{-5}	5.31×10^{-5} (2.4×10^3)
	②	$ f_\theta(\mathbf{x}) ^2$	7.28×10^{-4}	7.67×10^{-4}
	③	$ u_\theta(0, x) - u_0(x) ^2$	1.60×10^{-3}	1.60×10^{-3}
(d) Diffusion-Sorption	①	$ u_\theta(t, -1) - u_\theta(t, 1) ^2$	5.66×10^{-6}	5.66×10^{-6} (95.4)
	②	$ u_\theta(0, x) - 1 ^2$	0.0	0.0 (0.2)
	③	$ u_\theta(t, 1) - D\partial_x u_\theta(t, 1) ^2$	4.22×10^{-4}	4.39×10^{-4}
	④	$ f_\theta(\mathbf{x}) ^2$	2.30×10^{-5}	2.34×10^{-5}
	⑤	$ u_\theta(t, 0) - 1 ^2$	1.10×10^{-3}	21.09
	⑥	$ u_\theta(t, 1) - D\partial_x u_\theta(t, 1) ^2$		21.34 (2.4×10^6)

Efficiency of ∂ -CROWN and Solution-Residual Errors

Table 2: **Efficiency of ∂ -CROWN:** comparison of ∂ -CROWN (Ours), Interval Bound Propagation (IBP) and LiRPA upper bounds obtained with greedy input branching (for N_b branches) in Burgers' equation for fixed runtime limits (150s, 100s, or 10^4 s). Lower is better.

	Ours (N_b)	IBP (N_b)	LiRPA (N_b)
$ u_\theta(0, x) ^2$ (150s)	2.63×10^{-6} (10^4)	4.12×10^{-3} (10^5)	2.23×10^{-6} (10^4)
$ u_\theta(t, -1) ^2$ (100s)	6.63×10^{-7} (10^4)	1.23×10^{-5} (10^5)	6.34×10^{-7} (10^4)
$ u_\theta(t, 1) ^2$ (100s)	9.39×10^{-7} (10^4)	5.69×10^{-5} (10^5)	9.12×10^{-7} (10^4)
$ f_\theta(x, t) ^2$ (10^4 s)	1.30×10^1 (1.3×10^5)	2.78×10^3 (5×10^6)	1.78×10^2 (1.9×10^4)

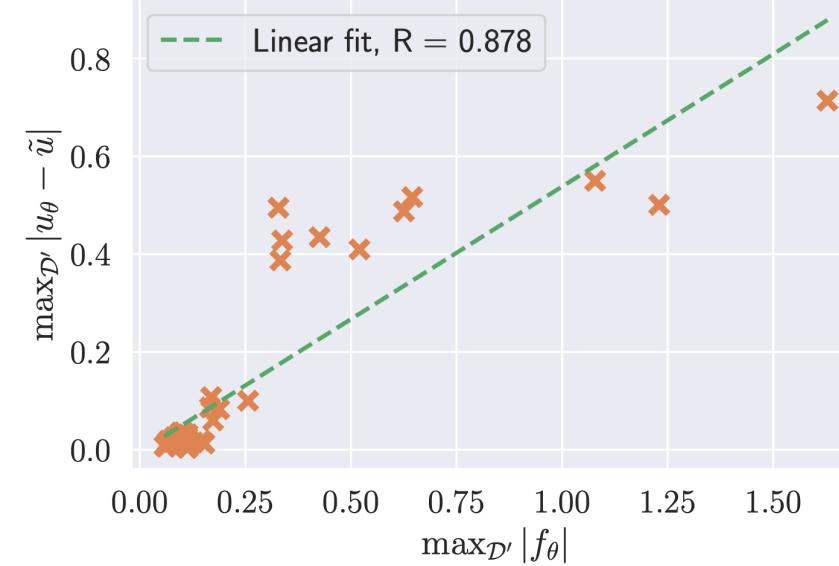


Figure 2: **Residual and solution errors:** connection of the maximum residual error ($\max_{\mathcal{S}'} |f_\theta|$) and the maximum solution error, $\max_{\mathcal{S}'} |u_\theta - \tilde{u}|$, for networks at different epochs of the training process (in orange).

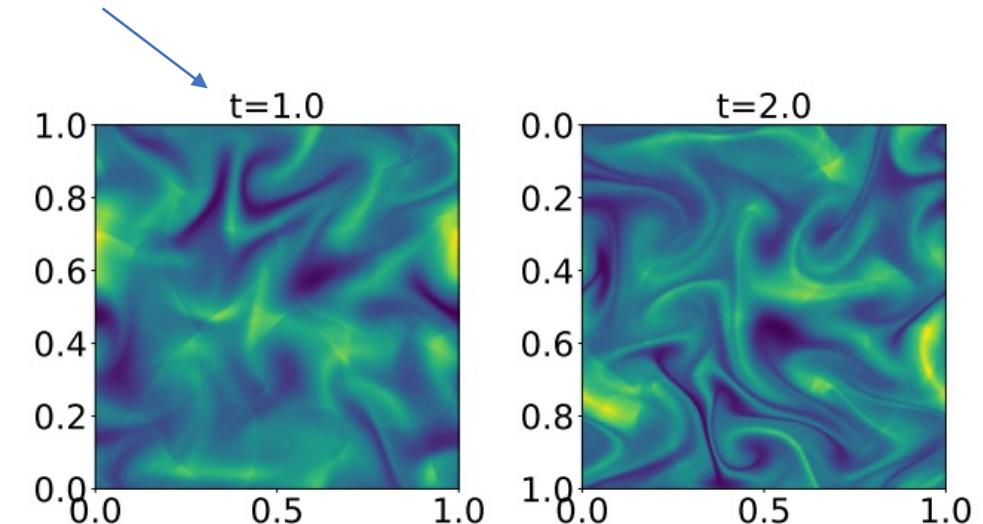
Future work

- Improve scalability of ∂ -CROWN to apply it to larger PINNs, e.g., from [Takamoto et al. 2022]
- Extend framework to other physics-informed neural operators [Li et al. 2021]
- ∂ -CROWN provides **post-training certification**:
 - Investigate further training methods to improve empirical/certified PINN accuracy



arXiv
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.10157>

2D Compressible Navier-Stokes equations



3D Turbulent Flow equations

