

Title: Lecture - Scientific Machine Learning, PHYS 777

Speakers: Mohammad Kohandel

Collection/Series: Scientific Machine Learning (Elective), PHYS 777, February 23 - March 27, 2026

Subject: Condensed Matter, Other

Date: March 11, 2026 - 2:15 PM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/26030046>

Lecture 8

- Workflow for Training NNs
- Including Physics in NNs
- Physics-informed NNs

- Practical workflow
- 1) Data Pre-processing

- Practical workflow

1) Data Pre-processing

- Feature Normalization

(Batch normalization → in the
intermediate activation)

2) Initial model configuration

- Network architecture (number of layers and neurons)
- Activation func.

- Loss function

- optimization algorithm (e.g. mini-batch gradient descent)

- Learning rate

- Epochs

the
activation

3) Train the NN

- training loss

- validation loss

4) Hyper parameter optimization

10^{-4} , 10^{-3} , 10^{-2}

5) Evaluate the network

How can we include physics into a NN?

1) Physics in the loss function

$u(x, t)$: unknown physical quantity

↳ satisfies some governing equation

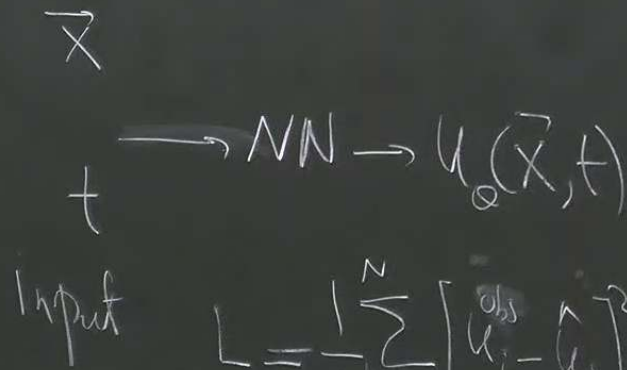
into a NN?

$$U(\vec{x}, t) \approx U_{\theta}(\vec{x}, t)$$

↳ Parameters of the NN

(i) Data: $\{(\vec{x}_i, t_i, u_i^{obs})\}_{i=1}^N$

(ii) Physics Law



$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [u_i^{obs} - \hat{u}_i]^2 + \lambda L_{\text{phys}} \quad \nabla \cdot u = 0$$

(Soft constraint)

5) Find the reference
 $10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}$

↳ Satisfies some governing equation

2) Hard Constraint

velocity vector

e.g. incompressible fluid $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

Instead of

2D $\vec{u} = \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right)$ ϕ : scalar

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(-\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) = 0$$

own physical quantity

Input

(Soft constraint)

some governing equation

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [u_i^{obs} - \hat{u}_i]^2 + \lambda L_{Phys}$$

(ii) Physics Law $\nabla \cdot \hat{u} = 0$

Instead of $u_0 \approx u(\vec{x}, t)$, we use

$$\varphi_0 \approx \varphi(\vec{x}, t)$$

Input $\vec{x} \rightarrow NN \rightarrow \varphi_0(\vec{x}, t) \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{cases} u_x = \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \\ u_y = -\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \nabla \cdot \hat{u} = 0$$

equation

Input

(ii) Physics Law

(Soft constraint)

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N [u_i^{obs} - \hat{u}_i]^2 + \lambda L_{phys} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$u_\theta \approx u(\vec{x}, t)$, where
 (\vec{x}, t)

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) u \right] = -\nabla P + \mu \nabla^2 u$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

Physics Loss

$$u(\vec{x}, t) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} u_x = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \\ u_y = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$$L = L_{Data} + L_{phys}$$

3) Physics in input features

choose a representation that makes learning easier

eg. Buckingham - Pi theorem

$$x = \frac{1}{2} g t^2 + v_0 t$$

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN \left(1 - \frac{N}{K}\right) \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\frac{d\tilde{N}}{d\tilde{t}} = \tilde{N}(1 - \tilde{N})}$$

Physical quantities x, v_0, g, t } $4 - 2 = 2 \rightarrow$ two dimensional quantities Π_1, Π_2

Fundamental units: T, L

$$\Rightarrow \Pi_2 = f(\Pi_1)$$

$$x = f(g, t, v_0)$$

Ex. $F_D = f(\rho, \mu, D, U)$

\downarrow drag force \downarrow density \downarrow viscosity $\underbrace{}$ characteristic length and velocity

ρ
 μ
 D
 U

$\rightarrow NN \rightarrow F_D \Rightarrow F_D = NN_{\rho}(\rho, \mu, D, U)$

$$Re = \frac{\rho U D}{\mu}, \quad C_D = \frac{F_D}{\rho U^2 D^2} \quad \text{Dimensionless}$$

$$C_D = C_D(Re)$$

$$Re \rightarrow \tilde{N}_0 \rightarrow C_D \Rightarrow C_D \approx \tilde{N}_0(Re)$$

$$\frac{\rho U D}{\mu}, C_D = \frac{F_D}{\rho U^2 D^2} \text{ Dimensionless}$$

$$= C_D(\text{Re})$$

$$\tilde{N}_{N_0} \rightarrow C_D \Rightarrow C_D \approx \tilde{N}_{N_0}(\text{Re})$$

We can also apply Symbolic Regression
to find the eq.

PySR

Physics-informed NNs (PINNs) \rightarrow soft-constraint

Physical law: $\mathcal{N}(u(\vec{x}, t), \vec{\lambda}) = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{\text{PDE}}}$

operator \downarrow field \downarrow Parameters

+ IC + BC

$$u(\vec{x}, t) \approx u_\theta(\vec{x}, t)$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{NN}$

collocation or
virtual points

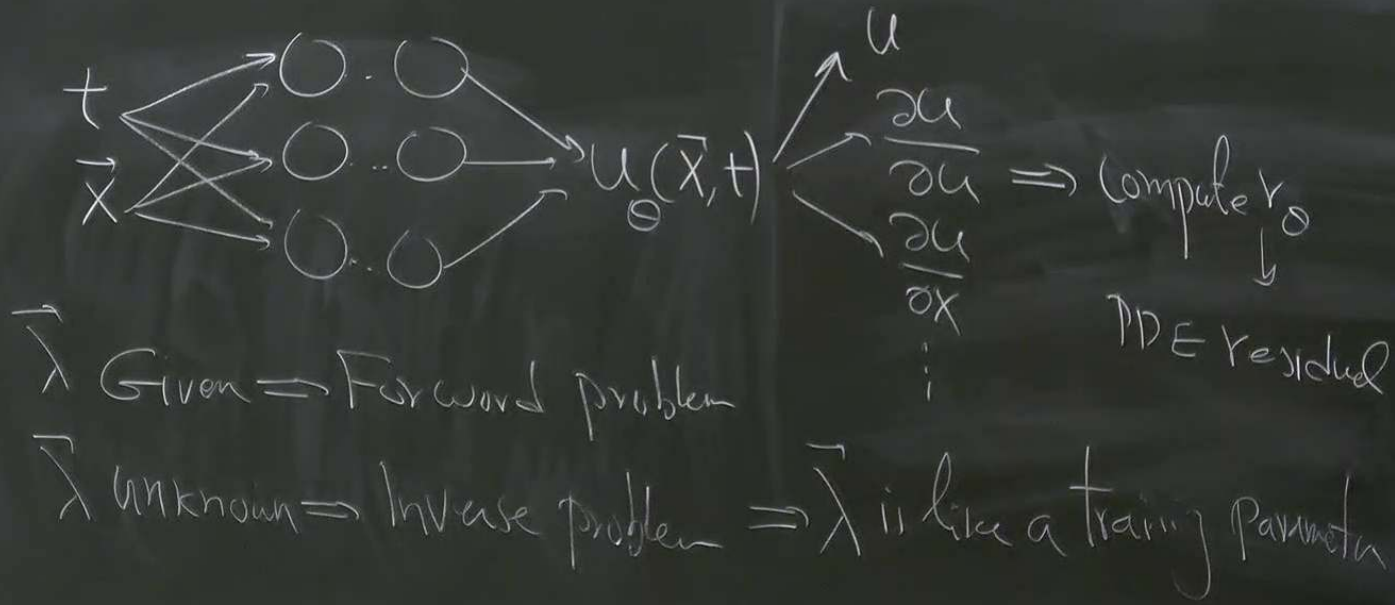
$$\partial_t u = \partial_{xx} u \Rightarrow r_\theta = \partial_t u - \partial_{xx} u$$

$$L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[u(\vec{x}_i, t) - u_\theta(\vec{x}_i, t) \right]^2 + \sum_{i=1}^M \left[N(u_\theta(\vec{x}_i, t), \lambda) \right]^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_K} \left[u_\theta(\vec{x}_i, 0) - u(\vec{x}_i, 0) \right]^2 + BC$$

$\vec{x} \in \Omega, t \in [0, T]$

data loss

$10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}$ | \hookrightarrow Satisfies some governing equation

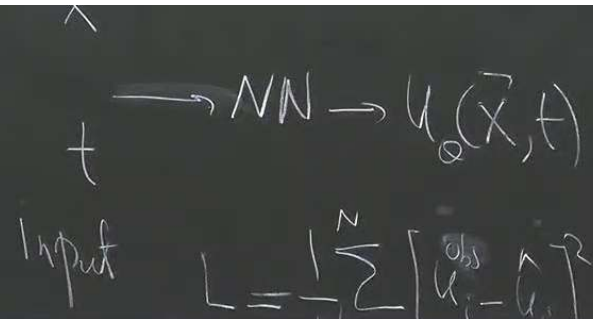


$\vec{\lambda} \leftarrow \vec{\lambda}$



physical quantity

governing equation



- (i) Data, $\{(\vec{x}_i, t_i, u_i^{obs})\}_{i=1}^N$
- (ii) Physics Law

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N |u_i^{obs} - u_i|^2 + \lambda L_{phys} \quad \nabla \cdot u = 0$$

$$\vec{\lambda} \leftarrow \vec{\lambda} - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial \vec{\lambda}}$$

EX. Damped pendulum

$$\theta'' + \gamma \theta' + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta = 0$$

$t \rightarrow NN \rightarrow \theta(t)$
 γ, L, g Given
 $\gamma \rightarrow$ Parameter

$$\Rightarrow L = L_{data} + \sum_{i=1}^M \left[\theta''_i + \gamma \theta'_i + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta_i \right]^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{M_c} \left[\theta_i(\omega) - \omega_0 \right]^2$$

If γ is unknown $\Rightarrow \gamma \leftarrow \gamma - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial \gamma}$

5) Finalize the network
 $10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}$

Satisfies some governing equation

We assumed $F_{\text{damping}} \sim \theta'$

$$\theta'' + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta + \underline{\underline{F_D(\theta, \theta')}} = 0$$

Data: $\{t_i, \theta_i, \theta'_i\}_{i=1}^N$

$$\theta = \theta(t), F_D = NN_{\phi}$$

Instead of u_{θ}

$$\tau_{\theta} \approx \tau(\bar{x})$$

