# Physics-Informed Neural Networks for Nonsmooth PDE-Constrained Optimization Problems

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# **Background and Motivation**

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- A given objective functional has to be minimized subject to a PDE or a system of coupled PDEs, usually with other additional constraints.
- PDE-constrained optimization problems arise.

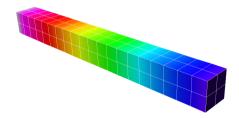


Figure 1: Control the heat distribution of a metal bar

$$\min_{u \in U, y \in Y} \mathcal{J}(u, y), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad e(u, y) = 0, u \in U_{ad}, y \in Y_{ad},$$

• A PDE-constrained optimization problem can be abstractly represented as

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- the variable  $u \in U$  is a parameter (e.g., source term) that shall be adapted in an optimal way;
- the constraints  $u \in U_{ad}$  and  $y \in Y_{ad}$  describe some physical restrictions and realistic requirements.

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- A parabolic sparse optimal control problem:

$$\min_{y,u \in L^2(Q)} \mathcal{J}(y,u) := \frac{1}{2} \|y - y_d\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \rho \|u\|_{L^1(Q)} + I_{U_{ad}}(u),$$

subject to

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta y + c_0 y = u + f \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \ y = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega \times (0, T), \ y(0) = \varphi.$$

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- Above,  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $d \geq 1$  and  $\partial \Omega$  is its boundary;  $Q = \Omega \times (0, T)$  with  $0 < T < +\infty$ ;  $y_d \in L^2(Q)$  and  $\phi \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $f \in L^2(Q)$  are given.
- The regularization parameters  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $\rho > 0$  and the coefficients  $\nu > 0$ ,  $c_0 \geq 0$  are constant.
- $I_{U_{ad}}(\cdot)$  is the indicator function of  $U_{ad}:=\{u\in L^2(\Omega)|a\leq u(x,t)\leq b, \text{ a.e. in } Q\}$ , where  $a,b\in L^2(\Omega)$  with a<0< b almost everywhere.

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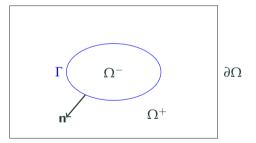


Figure 2: The geometry of an interface problem: an illustration

• An elliptic interface optimal control problem:

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subject to

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\beta \nabla y) = u + f & \text{in } \Omega \backslash \Gamma, \\ [y]_{\Gamma} = g_0, \ [\beta \partial_{\mathbf{n}} y]_{\Gamma} = g_1 & \text{on } \Gamma, \\ y = h_0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega, \end{cases}$$

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• The functions  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $g_0 \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma)$ ,  $g_1 \in L^2(\Gamma)$ , and  $h_0 \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\partial\Omega)$  are given, and  $\beta$  is a nonzero piecewise-constant in  $\Omega \setminus \Gamma$  such that  $\beta = \beta^-$  in  $\Omega^-$  and  $\beta = \beta^+$  in  $\Omega^+$  ( $\beta^+ \neq \beta^-$ ).

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- The jump discontinuity across  $\Gamma$ :  $[y]_{\Gamma}(x) := \lim_{\tilde{x} \to x \text{ in } \Omega^+} y(\tilde{x}) \lim_{\tilde{x} \to x \text{ in } \Omega^-} y(\tilde{x}), \forall x \in \Gamma.$

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- The operator  $\partial_n$  stands for the normal derivative on  $\Gamma$ , i.e.  $\partial_n y(x) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla y(x)$  with  $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  the outward unit normal vector of  $\Gamma$ . In particular, we have

$$[\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} y]_{\Gamma}(x) := \boldsymbol{n} \cdot (\beta^{+} \lim_{\tilde{x} \to x \text{ in } \Omega^{+}} \nabla y(\tilde{x}) - \beta^{-} \lim_{\tilde{x} \to x \text{ in } \Omega^{-}} \nabla y(\tilde{x})), \quad \forall x \in \Gamma.$$

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- Moreover, these methods are strongly problem-dependent, e.g., different types of PDEs entail different tailored numerical discretization schemes.

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  - Weak adversarial networks [Zang, Bao, Ye, Zhou, 2020]
  - Operator learning methods: DeepONets [Lu, Jin, Pang, Zhang, and Karniadakis, 2021],
     Fourier Neural Operator, Graph Neural Operator, [Li, Kovachki, Azizzadenesheli, Liu,
     Bhattacharya, Stuart, and Anandkumar, 2020] and Laplace Neural Operator [Cao, Goswami, and Karniadakis, 2023], etc.
  - ... ...

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- Given an input point in the domain, PINNs produce an approximate solution in that point of a PDE after training.

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where  $\mathcal{L}_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathcal{T}_i) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{T}_i|} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{T}_i} \|\mathcal{E}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}))\|^2$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_b(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathcal{T}_b) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{T}_b|} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{T}_b} \|\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}))\|^2$ , and  $w_i > 0$  are the weights.

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4. Train the neural network  $\hat{y}(x; \theta)$  to find the optimal parameters  $\theta^*$  by minimizing the loss function  $\mathcal{L}_{PDE}(\theta, \mathcal{T})$ . At the end of the training procedure, the trained neural network  $\hat{y}(x, \theta^*)$  approximately solves the PDE.

- Pros of PINNs:
  - little or even no labeled data is required
  - easy to implement
  - mesh-free
  - flexible to different problem settings

## PINNs for Smooth PDE-Constrained Optimization

• PINNs for smooth PDE-Constrained Optimization, see e.g., [Mowlavi and Nabi, 2023; Barry-Straume, Sarshar, Popov, and Sandu, 2022; Jin, Sau, Yin, and Zhou, 2023]

## PINNs for Smooth PDE-Constrained Optimization

- PINNs for smooth PDE-Constrained Optimization, see e.g., [Mowlavi and Nabi, 2023; Barry-Straume, Sarshar, Popov, and Sandu, 2022; Jin, Sau, Yin, and Zhou, 2023]
- Consider the smooth PDE-constrained optimization problems modeled by

$$\min \mathcal{J}(u, y)$$
, s.t.  $e(u, y) = 0$ .

- Let  $\hat{y}(x; \theta_y)$  parameterized by  $\theta_y$  and  $\hat{u}(x; \theta_u)$  parameterized by  $\theta_u$  be two neural networks to approximate y and u, respectively.
- Specify the residual points  $\mathcal{T} \subset \Omega \cup \partial \Omega$  and a loss function by summing the PDE's residual and the objective functional:

$$\mathcal{L}_{total}(\theta_y, \theta_u, \mathcal{T}) = w_o \mathcal{J}(\theta_y, \theta_u, \mathcal{T}) + w_p \mathcal{L}_{PDE}(\theta_y, \theta_u, \mathcal{T}),$$

where  $w_o$  and  $w_p$  are the weights.

• Train the neural networks  $\hat{y}(x; \theta_y)$  and  $\hat{u}(x; \theta_u)$  by minimizing the loss function  $\mathcal{L}_{total}(\theta_y, \theta_u, \mathcal{T})$ . At the end of the training procedure, we obtain the solution  $\hat{y}(x, \theta_y^*)$  and  $\hat{u}(x, \theta_u^*)$ 

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- For the elliptic interface optimal control problem:

- For the parabolic sparse optimal control problem:
  - the nonsmooth term  $\rho \|\hat{u}(x; \theta_u)\|_{L^1(Q)} + I_{U_{ad}}(\hat{u}(x; \theta_u))$  appears in the loss function.
  - commonly used neural network training technologies (e.g., back-propagation and stochastic gradient methods) cannot be applied directly.
- For the elliptic interface optimal control problem:
  - the discontinuity or nonsmoothness of y cannot be well captured by the neural network  $\hat{y}(x; \theta_y)$  because the activation functions used in a DNN are in general smooth (e.g., the sigmoid function) or at least continuous (e.g., the rectified linear unit (ReLU) function).

The ADMM-PINNs for Parabolic

**Sparse Optimal Control Problems** 

# Parabolic Sparse Optimal Control: Revisit

• We first recall the parabolic sparse optimal control problem under investigation:

$$\min_{y,u \in L^2(Q)} \frac{1}{2} \|y - y_d\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \rho \|u\|_{L^1(Q)} + I_{U_{ad}}(u),$$

subject to

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta y + c_0 y = u + f \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \ y = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega \times (0, T), \ y(0) = \varphi.$$

- Above,  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $d \geq 1$  and  $\partial \Omega$  is its boundary;  $Q = \Omega \times (0, T)$  with  $0 < T < +\infty$ ;  $y_d \in L^2(Q)$  and  $\phi \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $f \in L^2(Q)$  are given.
- The regularization parameters  $\alpha>0$ ,  $\rho>0$  and the coefficients  $\nu>0$ ,  $c_0\leq 0$  are assumed to be constant.
- $I_{\mathcal{U}_{ad}}(\cdot)$  the indicator function of  $U_{ad}:=\{u\in L^\infty(\Omega)|a\leq u(x,t)\leq b, \text{ a.e. in }Q\}\subset L^2(Q),$  where  $a,b\in L^2(\Omega)$  with a<0< b almost everywhere.

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- The PDE constraint and the nonsmooth regularization are treated individually.
- The nonsmooth PDE-constrained optimization problem is decoupled into two simpler subproblems:
  - one smooth PDE-constrained optimization which can be efficiently solved by PINNs
  - the other is a simple nonsmooth optimization problem which usually has a closed-form solution or can be efficiently solved by various standard optimization algorithms or pre-trained neural networks.

## **ADMM**

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- Let y(u) be the solution of the parabolic state equation corresponding to u. Introduce  $z \in L^2(Q)$  satisfying u = z, we then have

$$\min_{u,z \in L^2(Q)} \frac{1}{2} \|y(u) - y_d\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \rho \|z\|_{L^1(Q)} + I_{U_{ad}}(z), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad u = z.$$

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• The augmented Lagrangian functional reads as

$$L_{\beta}^{SC}(u,z;\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \|y(u) - y_d\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 - (\lambda, u - z)_{L^2(Q)} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|u - z\|_{L^2(Q)}^2,$$

where  $\lambda \in L^2(Q)$  is the Lagrange multiplier associated with u=z and  $\beta>0$  is a penalty parameter.

#### ADMM-Cont'd

• The ADMM iterative scheme:

$$\begin{cases} u^{k+1} = \arg\min_{u \in L^2(Q)} L^{SC}_{\beta}(u, z^k; \lambda^k), \\ z^{k+1} = \arg\min_{z \in L^2(Q)} L^{SC}_{\beta}(u^{k+1}, z; \lambda^k), \\ \lambda^{k+1} = \lambda^k - \beta(u^{k+1} - z^{k+1}). \end{cases}$$

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• The z-subproblem is

$$z^{k+1} = \arg\min_{z \in L^2(Q)} I_{\mathcal{U}_{\mathrm{ad}}}(z) + \rho \|z\|_{L^1(Q)} - (\lambda^k, u^{k+1} - z)_{L^2(Q)} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|u^{k+1} - z\|_{L^2(Q)}^2.$$

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• The solution  $z^{k+1}$  can be computed by

$$z^{k+1} = \mathbb{P}_{U_{ad}}\left(\mathbb{S}_{rac{
ho}{eta}}\left(u^{k+1} - rac{\lambda^k}{eta}
ight)\right),$$

where  $\mathbb{S}_{\zeta}$  is the Shrinkage operator:  $\mathbb{S}_{\zeta}(v)(x) = \operatorname{sgn}(v(x))(|v(x)| - \zeta)_+, \forall \zeta > 0$ .

### PINNs for the *u*-Subproblem

• The *u*-subproblem can be reformulated as

$$\min_{y,u} \mathcal{J}_{SC}^{k}(y,u) := \frac{1}{2} \|y(u) - y_d\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 - (\lambda^k, u - z^k)_{L^2(Q)} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|u - z^k\|_{L^2(Q)}^2$$

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• The first-order optimality system reads as

$$\begin{cases} p + (\alpha + \beta)u - \lambda^k - \beta z^k = 0, \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta y + c_0 y = u + f \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad y = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega \times (0, T), \quad y(0) = \varphi, \\ -\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta p + c_0 p = y - y_d \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad p = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega \times (0, T), \quad p(T) = 0, \end{cases}$$

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where p is the corresponding adjoint variable.

• Eliminate the variable u, and then construct two neural networks  $\hat{y}(x; \theta_y)$  parameterized by  $\theta_y$  and  $\hat{p}(x; \theta_p)$  parameterized by  $\theta_p$  to approximate y and p, respectively.

### PINNs for the *u*-Subproblem-Cont'd

- Choose residual points  $\mathcal{T}_i \subset \Omega \times (0, T)$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_{b_1} \subset \partial \Omega \times (0, T)$ , and  $\mathcal{T}_{b_2} \subset \Omega$ .
- Specify a loss function by summing the residuals of the first-order optimality system

$$\mathcal{L}_{OS}(\theta_{y}, \theta_{p}) = w_{y} \left( \frac{w_{i}}{|\mathcal{T}_{i}|} \sum_{\{x,t\} \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \left| \frac{\partial \hat{y}(x,t;\theta_{y})}{\partial t} - \nu \frac{\partial^{2} \hat{y}(x,t;\theta_{y})}{\partial x^{2}} + c_{0} \hat{y}(x,t;\theta_{y}) \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta} \left( - \hat{p}(x,t;\theta_{p}) + \lambda^{k}(x,t) + \beta z^{k}(x,t) \right) - f(x,t) \right|^{2} \\ \left. + \frac{w_{b_{1}}}{|\mathcal{T}_{b_{1}}|} \sum_{\{x,t\} \in \mathcal{T}_{b_{1}}} \left| \hat{y}(x,t;\theta_{y}) \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{b_{2}}}{|\mathcal{T}_{b_{2}}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{T}_{b_{2}}} \left| \hat{y}(x,0;\theta_{y}) - \varphi(x) \right|^{2} \right) \\ \left. + w_{p} \left( \frac{w_{i}}{|\mathcal{T}_{i}|} \sum_{\{x,t\} \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \left| - \frac{\partial \hat{p}(x,t;\theta_{p})}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta \hat{p}(x,t;\theta_{p}) + c_{0} \hat{p}(x,t;\theta_{p}) - \hat{y}(x,t;\theta_{y}) + y_{d}(x,t) \right|^{2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{w_{b_{1}}}{|\mathcal{T}_{b_{1}}|} \sum_{\{x,t\} \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \left| \hat{p}(x,t;\theta_{p}) \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{b_{2}}}{|\mathcal{T}_{b_{2}}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{T}_{i}} \left| \hat{p}(x,0;\theta_{p}) \right|^{2} \right)$$

• Train the neural networks to update the parameters  $\theta_y^{k+1}$  and  $\theta_p^{k+1}$ , and update  $u^{k+1}$  by  $u^{k+1}(x,t) = \frac{1}{\alpha+\beta}(-\hat{\rho}(x,t;\theta_p^{k+1}) + \lambda^k(x,t) + \beta z^k(x,t)).$ 

#### **ADMM-PINNs**

- Input:  $\beta > 0$ ,  $z^0$ ,  $\lambda^0$ ,  $\theta_v^0$ ,  $\theta_p^0$ .
- For  $k \geq 1$
- Update  $u^{k+1}$  by the above PINNs.
- Update  $z^{k+1}$  by  $z^{k+1}(x,t) = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{U}_{ad}}\left(\mathbb{S}_{\frac{\rho}{\beta}}\left(u^{k+1}(x,t) \frac{\lambda^k(x,t)}{\beta}\right)\right)$ .
- $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{Update} \ \lambda^{k+1}(\mathbf{x},t) = \lambda^k(\mathbf{x},t) \beta(u^{k+1}(\mathbf{x},t) z^{k+1}(\mathbf{x},t)).$
- **Output:** Parameters  $(\theta_y^*, \theta_p^*)$  and hence approximate solutions  $\hat{y}(x, t; \theta_y^*)$  and  $\hat{u}(x, t) = \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta} (-\hat{\rho}(x, t; \theta_p^*) + \lambda^k(x, t) + \beta z^k(x, t))$ .

# **Numerical Experiments-Problem Setting**

• Set  $\Omega=(0,1)^2$ , T=1,  $\nu=1$ ,  $c_0=0$ , a=-1, b=2,  $\bar{y}=5\sqrt{\rho}t\sin(3\pi x_1)\sin(\pi x_2)$ ,  $\bar{p}=5\sqrt{\rho}(t-1)\sin(\pi x_1)\sin(\pi x_2)$ , and

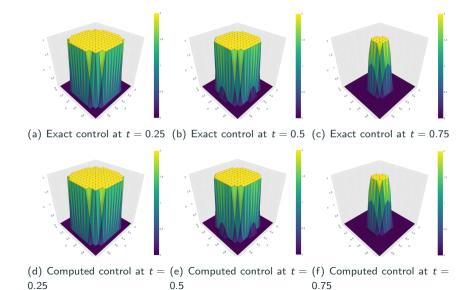
$$\bar{u} = \begin{cases} \max\{\frac{-\bar{p} + \rho}{\alpha}, a\} & \text{in } \{(x, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T) : \bar{p}(x, t) > \rho\}, \\ \min\{\frac{-\bar{p} - \rho}{\alpha}, b\} & \text{in } \{(x, t) \in \Omega \times (0, T) : \bar{p}(x, t) < -\rho\}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- We further set  $f = \frac{\partial \bar{y}}{\partial t} \Delta \bar{y} u$  and  $y_d = \bar{y} (-\frac{\partial \bar{p}}{\partial t} \Delta \bar{p})$ .
- Then it can be shown that  $\bar{u}$  is the optimal control and  $\bar{y}$  is the corresponding optimal state.

# Numerical Experiments- Neural Networks and Training

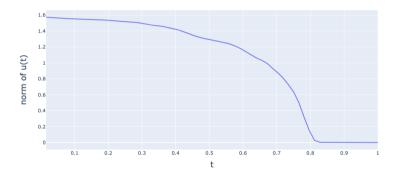
- We approximate y and p with fully-connected feed-forward neural networks containing 3
  hidden layers of 32 neurons each. The hyperbolic tangent activation function is used in all
  the neural networks.
- We uniformly sample  $|\mathcal{T}_i|=4096$  residual points in the spatial-temporal domain  $\Omega \times (0,T)$ , and  $|\mathcal{T}_{b_1}|=1024$  points in  $\partial\Omega \times (0,T)$  and  $|\mathcal{T}_{b_2}|=256$  points in  $\Omega$  for the boundary and initial conditions.
- The weights are set as  $w_y = w_p = 1$ ,  $w_i = 1$  and  $w_{b1} = w_{b2} = 5$ .
- To train the neural networks, we first use the Adam optimizer with learning rate  $\eta=10^{-3}$  for 10000 iterations, and then switch to the L-BFGS for 10 iterations.
- We execute 10 ADMM iterations with  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $\rho = 0.8$ ,  $\beta = 0.1$ ,  $z^0 = 0$  and  $\lambda^0 = 0$ .

# **Numerical Results - Spatial Sparsity**



# **Numerical Results - Temporal Sparsity**

• It is easy to see  $\bar{u}=0$  in  $\{(x,t)\in\Omega\times(0,T):\bar{p}(x,t)<\rho\}$  and we can show that when  $t>t^*=0.8211,\;u(x,t)=0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .



 $\bullet \ \ \text{The relative error} \ \frac{\|u^k(x,t) - \bar{u}(x,t)\|_{L^2(Q)}}{\|\bar{u}(x,t)\|_{L^2(Q)}} = 1.45 \times 10^{-2}.$ 

#### **Comments on ADMM-PINNs**

- The ADMM-PINNs approach substantially enlarges the applicable range of PINNs to nonsmooth PDE-constrained optimization problems.
- No need to solve PDEs repeatedly.
- Mesh-free, easy to implement, and scalable to different PDE-constrained optimization problems.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Y. S, Y. Yuan, and H. Yue, "The ADMM-PINNs algorithmic framework for nonsmooth PDE-constrained optimization: a deep learning approach", arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.08309,2023.

# Elliptic Interface Optimal Control

**Problems** 

The Hard-Constraint PINNs for

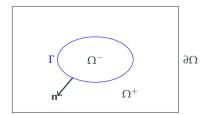
### **Elliptic Interface Optimal Control-Revisit**

• An elliptic interface optimal control problem:

$$\min_{y \in L^2(\Omega), u \in L^2(\Omega)} J(y, u) := \frac{1}{2} \|y - y_d\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2,$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\beta \nabla y) = u + f & \text{in } \Omega \backslash \Gamma, \\ [y]_{\Gamma} = g_0, \ [\beta \partial_n y]_{\Gamma} = g_1 & \text{on } \Gamma, \\ y = h_0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega, \end{cases}$$



# First-Order Optimality Systems

• Let  $(u^*, y^*)^{\top}$  be the solution to the elliptic interface optimal control problem and  $p^*$  be the corresponding adjoint variable, then the following first-order optimality system holds:

$$u^* = -\frac{1}{\alpha}p^*,$$
 
$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\beta \nabla y^*) = u^* + f & \text{in } \Omega \backslash \Gamma, \\ [y^*]_{\Gamma} = g_0, \ [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} y^*]_{\Gamma} = g_1 & \text{on } \Gamma, \\ y^* = h_0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega, \end{cases}$$
 
$$\begin{cases} -\nabla \cdot (\beta \nabla p^*) = y^* - y_d & \text{in } \Omega \backslash \Gamma, \\ [p^*]_{\Gamma} = 0, \ [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} p^*]_{\Gamma} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma, \\ p^* = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

• First, the function  $y:\Omega\to\mathbb{R}$  is only piecewise-smooth, but it can be extended to a (d+1)-dimensional function  $\tilde{y}(x,z):\Omega\times\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$ , which is smooth on the domain  $\Omega\times\mathbb{R}$  and satisfies

$$y(x) = \begin{cases} \tilde{y}(x,1), & \text{if } x \in \Omega^+, \\ \tilde{y}(x,-1), & \text{if } x \in \Omega^-, \end{cases}$$

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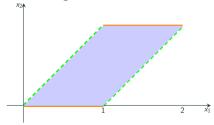
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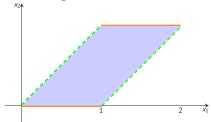
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• Similarly, one can extend p to a (d+1)-dimensional smooth function  $\tilde{p}(x,z)$ .

### Smooth Extension -Cont'd

• Substituting  $\tilde{y}$  and  $\tilde{p}$  into the first-order optimality system, we obtain that

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_x \tilde{y}(x,z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta^+} \left( f(x) + \left( -\frac{1}{\alpha} \tilde{p}(x,z) \right) \right) & \text{if } x \in \Omega^+, z = 1 \\ \frac{1}{\beta^-} \left( f(x) + \left( -\frac{1}{\alpha} \tilde{p}(x,z) \right) \right) & \text{if } x \in \Omega^-, z = -1 \end{cases} \\ \tilde{y}(x,1) - \tilde{y}(x,-1) = g_0(x), \quad \boldsymbol{n} \cdot \left( \beta^+ \nabla_x \tilde{y}(x,1) - \beta^- \nabla_x \tilde{y}(x,-1) \right) = g_1(x), \quad \text{if } x \in \Gamma, \\ -\Delta_x \tilde{p}(x,z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta^+} (\tilde{y}(x,z) - y_d(x)) & \text{if } x \in \Omega^+, z = 1 \\ \frac{1}{\beta^-} (\tilde{y}(x,z) - y_d(x)) & \text{if } x \in \Omega^-, z = -1 \end{cases} \\ \tilde{p}(x,1) - \tilde{p}(x,-1) = 0, \quad \boldsymbol{n} \cdot \left( \beta^+ \nabla_x \tilde{p}(x,1) - \beta^- \nabla_x \tilde{p}(x,-1) \right) = 0, \quad \text{if } x \in \Gamma, \\ \tilde{y}(x,1) = h_0(x), \quad \tilde{p}(x,1) = 0 \quad \text{if } x \in \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

# **Discontinuity Capturing Shallow Neural Networks**

• Since  $\tilde{y}$  and  $\tilde{\rho}$  are continuous in  $\Omega \times \mathbb{R}$ , it follows from the universal approximation theorem [Cybenko,1989] that one can approximate them by two shallow neural networks  $\hat{y}(x,z;\theta_y)$  and  $\hat{p}(x,z;\theta_p)$ .

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- Such neural networks are referred to as the Discontinuity Capturing Shallow Neural Networks (DCSNN) [Hu, Lin, and Lai, 2022].

# **Discontinuity Capturing Shallow Neural Networks**

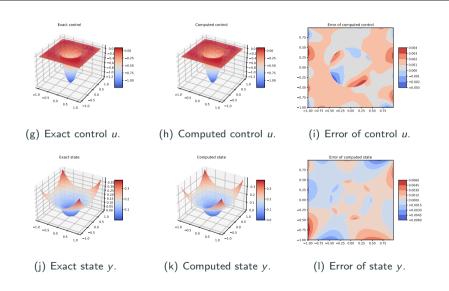
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- Such neural networks are referred to as the Discontinuity Capturing Shallow Neural Networks (DCSNN) [Hu, Lin, and Lai, 2022].
- PINNs can be applied!

#### **PINNs**

- Sample  $\mathcal{T} := \{(x^i, z^i)\}_{i=1}^M \subset (\Omega^+ \times \{1\}) \cup (\Omega^- \times \{-1\}), \mathcal{T}_B := \{x_B^i\}_{i=1}^{M_B} \subset \partial \Omega$ , and  $\mathcal{T}_\Gamma := \{x_\Gamma^i\}_{i=1}^{M_\Gamma} \subset \Gamma$ .
- Train the neural networks  $\hat{y}(x, z; \theta_y)$  and  $\hat{p}(x, z; \theta_p)$  by minimizing the loss function:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}(\theta_{y},\theta_{p}) &= \frac{w_{y,r}}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \left| -\Delta_{x} \hat{y}(x^{i},z^{i};\theta_{y}) - \frac{\left(-\frac{1}{\alpha}\hat{\rho}(x^{i},z^{i};\theta_{p})\right) + f(x^{i})}{\beta^{\pm}} \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{y,b}}{M_{b}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{b}} \left| \hat{y}(x_{B}^{i},1;\theta_{y}) - h_{0}(x_{B}^{i}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ \frac{w_{y,\Gamma}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| \hat{y}(x_{\Gamma}^{i},1;\theta_{y}) - \hat{y}(x_{\Gamma}^{i},-1;\theta_{y}) - g_{0}(x_{\Gamma}^{i}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ \frac{w_{y,\Gamma_{n}}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| \mathbf{n} \cdot (\beta^{+} \nabla_{x} \hat{y}(x_{i}^{\Gamma},1;\theta_{y}) - \beta^{-} \nabla_{x} \hat{y}(x_{i}^{\Gamma},-1;\theta_{y})) - g_{1}(x_{\Gamma}^{i}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ \frac{w_{p,r}}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \left| -\Delta_{x} \hat{\rho}(x_{i},z_{i};\theta_{p}) - \frac{\hat{y}(x_{i},z_{i};\theta_{y}) - y_{d}(x_{i})}{\beta^{\pm}} \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{p,b}}{M_{b}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{b}} \left| \hat{\rho}(x_{i}^{b},1;\theta_{p}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ \frac{w_{p,\Gamma}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| \hat{\rho}(x_{\Gamma}^{i},1;\theta_{p}) - \hat{\rho}(x_{\Gamma}^{i},-1;\theta_{p}) \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{p,\Gamma_{n}}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| \mathbf{n} \cdot (\beta^{+} \nabla_{x} \hat{\rho}(x_{i}^{\Gamma},1;\theta_{p}) - \beta^{-} \nabla_{x} \hat{\rho}(x_{i}^{\Gamma},-1;\theta_{p})) \right|^{2} \end{split}$$

#### **Numerical Results**



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  - Modify the output of the neural network to impose the boundary condition.
  - Construct an auxiliary function for the interface as an additional feature input of the neural network to impose the interface condition.

### **Hard Constraints - Neural Network Architectures**

• Recall that  $y = h_0$  on  $\partial \Omega$ , and  $[y]_{\Gamma} = g_0$ .

### Hard Constraints - Neural Network Architectures

- Recall that  $y = h_0$  on  $\partial \Omega$ , and  $[y]_{\Gamma} = g_0$ .
- We approximate y by

$$\hat{y}(x;\theta_y) = g(x) + h(x)\mathcal{N}_y(x,\phi(x);\theta_y).$$

ullet The function  $g:\overline{\Omega} 
ightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies

$$g|_{\partial\Omega}=h_0,\quad [g]_{\Gamma}=g_0,\quad g|_{\Omega^+}\in C^2(\overline{\Omega^+}),\quad g|_{\Omega^-}\in C^2(\overline{\Omega^-}).$$

• The function  $h:\overline{\Omega}\to\mathbb{R}$  satisfies

$$h \in C^2(\overline{\Omega}), \quad h(x) = 0 \text{ if and only if } x \in \partial\Omega.$$

ullet  $\phi:\overline{\Omega} o\mathbb{R}$  is an auxiliary function for the interface  $\Gamma$  and satisfies

$$\phi\in \mathcal{C}(\overline{\Omega}),\quad \phi|_{\Omega^+}\in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega^+}),\quad \phi|_{\Omega^-}\in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega^-}), \\ [\phi]_{\Gamma}=0,\quad [\beta\partial_n\phi]_{\Gamma}\neq 0 \text{ a.e. on } \Gamma$$

•  $\mathcal{N}_y(x,\phi(x);\theta_y)$  is a neural network with smooth activation functions.

# Hard Constraints - Verification

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- $\hat{y}|_{\partial\Omega}(x) = g|_{\partial\Omega}(x) + h|_{\partial\Omega}(x) \left(\mathcal{N}_y(\cdot,\phi(\cdot))|_{\partial\Omega}\right)(x) = h_0(x), \ \forall x \in \partial\Omega.$  The boundary condition is satisfied.

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- Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{split} [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} \hat{y}]_{\Gamma}(\boldsymbol{x}) &= [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} g]_{\Gamma}(\boldsymbol{x}) + [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} \mathcal{N}_{\boldsymbol{y}}(\cdot, \phi(\cdot))]_{\Gamma}(\boldsymbol{x}) \\ &= [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} g]_{\Gamma}(\boldsymbol{x}) + (\beta^{+} - \beta^{-}) \left( \mathcal{N}_{\boldsymbol{y}}(\boldsymbol{x}, \phi(\boldsymbol{x})) (\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \nabla h(\boldsymbol{x})) + h(\boldsymbol{x}) (\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{x}, \phi(\boldsymbol{x}))) \right) \\ &+ \frac{\partial \mathcal{N}_{\boldsymbol{y}}}{\partial \phi} \left( h(\boldsymbol{x}) [\beta \partial_{\boldsymbol{n}} \phi]_{\Gamma}(\boldsymbol{x}) \right), \quad \forall \boldsymbol{x} \in \Gamma, \end{split}$$

which implies that the interface-gradient condition  $[\beta \partial_{\mathbf{n}} y]_{\Gamma} = g_1$  cannot be exactly satisfied by  $\hat{y}(x;\theta_y)$  and should be penalized in the loss function of PINNs.

## Choices of g and h

- If the functions  $g_0$  and  $h_0$ , the interface  $\Gamma$ , and the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  admit analytic forms, it is usually easy to construct g and h with analytic expressions.
- For instance, if  $\Omega = (0,1) \times (0,1)$ , then we can choose  $h = x_1(1-x_1)x_2(1-x_2)$ .
- More discussions can be found in e.g., [Lagari, Tsoukalas, Safarkhani, and Lagaris, 2020; Lagaris, Likas, and Fotiadis, 1998; Lu, Pestourie, Yao, Wang, Verdugo, and, Johnson, 2021].

# Choice of $\phi$

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• If  $\Gamma$  is the zero level set of a function  $\psi(x) \in C^2(\Omega)$ , then we can define  $\phi(x)$  as follows:

$$\phi(x) = \left\{ egin{aligned} \psi(x), & ext{if } x \in \Omega^-, \\ 0, & ext{if } x \in \Omega^+ \cup \Gamma \cup \partial \Omega, \end{aligned} 
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• (Circle-shaped Interface) Consider a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and the interface  $\Gamma \subset \Omega$  is given by the circle  $\Gamma = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} : \|x\|_2 = r_0\}$ , with  $r_0 > 0$ . The domain  $\Omega$  is divided into two parts  $\Omega^- = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1} : \|x\|_2 < r_0\}$  and  $\Omega^+ = \{x \in \Omega : \|x\|_2 > r_0\}$ . In this case,  $\Gamma$  is the zero level set of  $\psi(x) = r_0^2 - \|x\|_2^2$ , and the auxiliary function  $\phi$  can be defined as

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} \psi(x), & \text{if } x \in \Omega^-\\ 0, & \text{if } x \in \Omega^+ \cup \Gamma \cup \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

• The above idea can be easily extended to the case where  $\Gamma$  is a finite union of the zero level sets of some functions  $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_n \in C^2(\overline{\Omega^-}) (n \geq 1)$ .

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- (Box-shaped Interface) Consider a domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  containing the box  $B:=[a_1,b_1]\times \cdots \times [a_d,b_d]\in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Let the interface  $\Gamma=\partial B$ , which divides  $\Omega$  into  $\Omega^-=(a_1,b_1)\times \cdots \times (a_d,b_d)$  and  $\Omega^+=\Omega \backslash B$ . In this case, we define

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^{d} (x_i - a_i)(b_i - x_i), & \text{if } x \in \Omega^-, \\ 0, & \text{if } x \in \Omega^+ \cup \Gamma \cup \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

• Otherwise, we shall show that, if  $\Omega^+$ ,  $\Omega^-$ , and  $\Gamma$  satisfy the following assumptions, then we can construct an auxiliary function  $\phi(x)$  analytically.

#### **Assumptions**

- The sub-domain  $\Omega^-$  is the intersection of the interior of finitely many oriented, smooth, and embedded manifolds  $M_1, M_2, \ldots, M_n$ , where  $M_i \cap M_j$  is of measure zero whenever  $i \neq j$  and  $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ .
- There exists an open neighborhood  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  of  $\Gamma$ , such that for each  $M_i$  ( $i \in \{1, ..., n\}$ ), there exists smooth functions  $\psi_i : U \to \mathbb{R}$  satisfying  $\psi_i \in C^2(\overline{U})$  and

$$\psi_i(x) = 0 \text{ if } x \in \Gamma, \quad \psi_i(x) > 0 \text{ if } x \in U \cap \Omega^-, \quad \partial_n \psi_i \neq 0 \text{ on } M_i \cap \Gamma.$$

• There exists constants  $c_i > 0$  such that  $\psi_i(x) > c_i$  for all  $x \in \partial U \cap \overline{\Omega^-}$  and for all  $i \in \{1, ..., n\}$ .

#### Theorem

Suppose the above assumptions hold and we define  $\psi: U \to \mathbb{R}$  as  $\psi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n \psi_i(x)$ . For any constant c such that  $0 < c < \prod_{i=1}^n c_i$ , let

$$L_c := \{x \in U : \psi(x) \ge c\}.$$

Then the function  $\phi: \bar{\Omega} \to \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} c^3, & \text{if } x \in (\overline{\Omega^-} \setminus U) \cup (\overline{\Omega^-} \cap L_c), \\ c^3 - (c - \psi(x))^3, & \text{if } x \in (U \cap \overline{\Omega^-}) \setminus L_c, \\ 0, & \text{if } x \in \overline{\Omega^+} \end{cases}$$

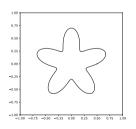
is well-defined and satisfies

$$\phi \in C(\overline{\Omega}), \quad \phi|_{\Omega^+} \in C^2(\overline{\Omega^+}), \quad \phi|_{\Omega^-} \in C^2(\overline{\Omega^-}), [\phi]_{\Gamma} = 0, \quad [\beta \partial_n \phi]_{\Gamma} \neq 0 \text{ a.e. on } \Gamma.$$

# An Example of $\phi$

- Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a bounded domain and the star-shaped interface  $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}$  be defined by the zero level set of the following function in polar coordinates  $\psi(r,\theta) = r a b\sin(5\theta)$  with constants b < a. The domain  $\Omega$  is divided into  $\Omega^- = \{(r,\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : r < a + b\sin(5\theta)\}$  and  $\Omega^+ = \{(r,\theta) \in \Omega : r > a + b\sin(5\theta)\}$ .
- Note that  $\psi(r,\theta)$  is not differentiable on  $\Omega$ , since the polar angle is not differentiable at the origin. In this case, we define

$$\phi(r,\theta) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right)^3, & \text{if } a+b\sin(5\theta) - r \ge \frac{a-b}{2}, & \frac{800}{25}, \\ \left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{a-b}{2} + \psi(r,\theta)\right)^3, & \text{if } 0 < a+b\sin(5\theta) - r < \frac{a-b}{2}, & \frac{800}{25}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



# Remarks on the Choices of Auxiliary Functions

• If the functions g, h, and  $\phi$  are difficult to construct analytically, we can construct them by training some neural networks.

# Remarks on the Choices of Auxiliary Functions

- If the functions g, h, and  $\phi$  are difficult to construct analytically, we can construct them by training some neural networks.
- For instance, we can train a DCSNN  $\hat{g}(x, z; \theta_g)$  and a neural network  $\hat{h}(x; \theta_h)$  with smooth activation functions by minimizing the following loss functions:

$$\frac{w_{1g}}{M_b} \sum_{i=1}^{M_b} |\hat{g}(x_B^i, 1; \theta_y) - h_0(x_B^i)|^2 + \frac{w_{2g}}{M_\Gamma} \sum_{i=1}^{M_\Gamma} \left| \hat{g}(x_\Gamma^i, 1; \theta_g) - \hat{g}(x_\Gamma^i, -1; \theta_g) - g_0(x_\Gamma^i) \right|^2,$$

and

$$\frac{w_{1h}}{M_b} \sum_{i=1}^{M_b} |\hat{h}(x_B^i; \theta_h)|^2 + \frac{w_{2h}}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} |\hat{h}(x^i; \theta_h) - \bar{h}(x^i)|^2,$$

- $w_{1g}$ ,  $w_{2g}$ ,  $w_{1h}$ , and  $w_{2h} > 0$  are the weights.
- $\{x^i\}_{i=1}^M \subset \Omega$ ,  $\{x_B^i\}_{i=1}^{M_B} \subset \partial \Omega$ , and  $\{x_\Gamma^i\}_{i=1}^{M_\Gamma} \subset \Gamma$  are the training points.
- $\bar{h}(x) \in C^2(\Omega)$  is a known function satisfying  $\bar{h}(x) \neq 0$  in  $\Omega$ , e.g.  $\bar{h}(x) = \min_{\hat{x} \in \partial \Omega} \{ \|x \hat{x}\|_2^4 \}.$

#### The Hard-Constraint PINNs

• We approximate y by the neural network  $\hat{y}(x;\theta_y) = g(x) + h(x)\mathcal{N}_y(x,\phi(x);\theta_y)$  defined above.

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- $\bullet$  Since the boundary and interface conditions for p are homogeneous, we approximate it by

$$\hat{p}(x;\theta_p) = h(x)\mathcal{N}_p(x,\phi(x);\theta_p).$$

#### The Hard-Constraint PINNs

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$$\hat{\rho}(x;\theta_p) = h(x) \mathcal{N}_p(x,\phi(x);\theta_p).$$

• The neural networks  $\hat{y}(x; \theta_y)$  and  $\hat{p}(x; \theta_p)$  are trained by minimizing

$$\mathcal{L}_{HC}(\theta_{y},\theta_{p}) = \frac{w_{y,r}}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \left| -\Delta_{x} \hat{y}(x^{i};\theta_{y}) - \frac{\left(-\frac{1}{\alpha} \hat{\rho}(x^{i};\theta_{p})\right) + f(x^{i})}{\beta^{\pm}} \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{y,\Gamma_{n}}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| [\beta \partial_{n} \hat{y}]_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}^{i};\theta_{y}) - g_{1}(x_{\Gamma}^{i}) \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{p,r}}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \left| -\Delta_{x} \hat{\rho}(x_{i};\theta_{p}) - \frac{\hat{y}(x_{i};\theta_{y}) - y_{d}(x_{i})}{\beta^{\pm}} \right|^{2} + \frac{w_{p,\Gamma_{n}}}{M_{\Gamma}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{\Gamma}} \left| [\beta \partial_{n} \hat{\rho}]_{\Gamma}(x_{\Gamma}^{\Gamma};\theta_{p}) \right|^{2}.$$

# **Numerical Comparisons**

- To test the accuracy, we select  $256 \times 256$  testing points  $\{x^i\}_{i=1}^{M_T} \subset \Omega$  following the Latin hypercube sampling.
- Then compute

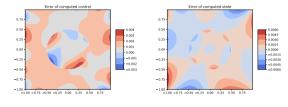
$$\varepsilon_{\rm abs} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{M_T} \sum_{i=1}^{M_T} (\hat{u}(x^i) - u^*(x^i))^2}, \text{ and } \varepsilon_{\rm rel} = \varepsilon_{\rm abs} \sqrt{A(\Omega)} / ||u^*||_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

where  $A(\Omega)$  is the area of  $\Omega$  (i.e. the Lebesgue measure of  $\Omega$ ), and  $||u^*||_{L^2(\Omega)}$  is computed using the numerical integration function dblquad implemented in the SciPy library of Python.

- The soft-constraint PINNs:  $\varepsilon_{abs} = 1.2360 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{rel} = 4.0461 \times 10^{-3}$
- The hard-constraint PINNs:  $\varepsilon_{abs} = 4.7652 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{rel} = 1.5599 \times 10^{-4}$
- The hard-constraint PINNs approach improves the accuracy by more than 20x.

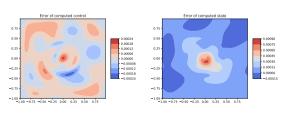
# **Numerical Comparisons**

• Numerical errors of the soft-constraint PINNs.



(m) Error of control u. (n) Error of state y.

• Numerical errors of the hard-constraint PINNs.



(o) Error of control u.

(p) Error of state y.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>M. Lai, Y. Song, X. Yuan, H. Yue, and T. Zeng. "The hard-constraint physics-informed neural networks for interface optimal control problems". arXiv preprint arXiv:2308.06709.

• The boundary and interface conditions can be satisfied exactly and they are decoupled from the learning of the PDEs.

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- The boundary and interface conditions can be satisfied exactly and they are decoupled from the learning of the PDEs.
- This hard-constraint approach significantly simplifies the training process and enhances the numerical accuracy.

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- The boundary and interface conditions can be satisfied exactly and they are decoupled from the learning of the PDEs.
- This hard-constraint approach significantly simplifies the training process and enhances the numerical accuracy.
- The resulting algorithm is mesh-free, easy to implement, and scalable to different interface optimal control problems.<sup>4</sup>

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# **Conclusions and Perspectives**

• It is challenging to apply the PINNs directly to nonsmooth PDE-constrained optimization problems.

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- Combine PINNs with classic operator splitting optimization techniques (e.g., ADMM) leads to implementable and efficient algorithms for PDE-constrained optimization problems with nonsmooth objective functional.

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- Leveraged by the discontinuity capturing neural networks, PINNs can be applied to solve interface optimal control problem.
- Imposing the boundary and interface conditions as hard constraints can improve the numerical accuracy and simplify the training procedure of PINNs.

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  justifies the necessity to investigate the underlying theoretical issues such as convergence
  analysis and error estimate.
- Develop new computational tools for data-driven/physics-informed modeling, combining machine learning and optimization techniques, motivated by relevant applications in physics engines and digital twins.
- Make a breakthrough on the mathematical foundations of machine learning-based computational methods, through the systematic development of new ideas and methods of control theoretical inspiration.

