Numerical Neural Network

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(NEw generation MEthods for numerical SImulationS)

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Finite element methods and neural networks

- 2 Approximation properties
- 3 Application to elliptic boundary value problems
- A Numerical experiments
- 5 Summary and Further Research

Finite element: Piecewise linear functions

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• Uniform grid T_h

$$0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{N+1} = 1, \quad x_j = \frac{j}{N+1} \ (j = 0 : N+1).$$

$$x_0 \qquad x_j \qquad x_{N+1}$$
Figure: 1D uniform grid

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Figure: 1D uniform grid

Linear finite element space

 $V_h = \{ v : v \text{ is continuous and piecewise linear w.r.t. } \mathcal{T}_h \}.$



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Finite element in multi-dimensions (k = 1)



FEM basis function in 1D

• Denote the basis function in \mathcal{T}_1

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} 2x & x \in [0, \frac{1}{2}] \\ 2(1-x) & x \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \\ 0, & \text{others} \end{cases}$$
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• All basis functions φ_i can be written as

$$\varphi_i = \varphi(\frac{x - x_{i-1}}{2h}) = \varphi(w_h x + b_i).$$
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with $w_h = \frac{1}{2h}$, $b_i = \frac{-(i-1)}{2}$.



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with $w_h = \frac{1}{2h}$, $b_i = \frac{-(i-1)}{2}$. • Let $x_+ = \max(0, x) = \operatorname{ReLU}(x)$,

$$\varphi(x) = 2x_+ - 4(x - 1/2)_+ + 2(x - 1)_+.$$

•
$$\varphi_i \in \operatorname{span}\left\{(wx+b)_+, w, b \in \mathbb{R}^1\right\}$$



$\mathsf{FEM} \Longrightarrow \Sigma_n^1$

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$$f \in \operatorname{span}\left\{(wx+b)_+, w, b \in \mathbb{R}^1\right\} \longleftrightarrow f = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j(w_j x + b_j)_+.$$
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f is one hidden layer "deep" neural network with activation function ReLU, n neurons.

Generalization to multi-dimension:

Higher dimension $d \ge 1$

$$\Sigma_n^1 = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_i (\omega_i \cdot x + b_i)_+ : \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, b_i \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$
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Shallow Neural Network: General activation function: $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^1 \mapsto \mathbb{R}^1$, namely

$$\Sigma_n^{\sigma} = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \sigma(\omega_i \cdot x + b_i) : \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, b_i \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$
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Common activation functions:

- Heaviside $\sigma = \begin{cases} 0 & x \le 0 \\ 1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$
- Sigmoidal $\sigma = (1 + e^{-x})^{-1}$
- Rectified Linear with $\sigma = \max(0, x)$
- Power of a ReLU $\sigma = [\max(0, x)]^k$
- Cosine $\sigma = \cos(x)$

$\sigma\text{-}\mathsf{DNN}\text{:}$ Linears, activation and composition

Start from a linear function

 $W^0x + b^0$

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Compose with the activation function:

$$x^{(1)} = \sigma(W^0 x + b^0)$$

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Compose with another linear function:

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$$f(x;\Theta) = W^2 x^{(2)} + b^2$$

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 $\mathbf{6}$... Deep neural network functions with ℓ -hidden layers

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{n}_{1:\ell}} = \{ \boldsymbol{W}^{\ell} \boldsymbol{x}^{(\ell)} + \boldsymbol{b}^{\ell}, \ \boldsymbol{W}^{i} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{i}}, \ \boldsymbol{b}_{i} \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

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$$\Sigma_{n_{1:\ell}}^{\sigma} = \{ W^{\ell} x^{(\ell)} + b^{\ell}, W^{i} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{i}}, b_{i} \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

$$\Sigma_{n_{1:\ell}}^k = \Sigma_{n_{1:\ell}}^{ReLU^k}$$

What does a function in ReLU-DNN look like?

Obviously:

 $\Sigma_{n_{1,\ell}}^1$ = a space of continuous piecewise linear functions!

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 $\Sigma^1_{n_{1,\ell}} = a$ space of continuous piecewise linear functions!



Figure: $\ell = 1$ and $\ell = 2$

How is \mathcal{N}_{ℓ}^{1} compared with (adaptive) linear FEM?



Connection of ReLU DNN and Linear FEM



$$FE \subset \Sigma_n^1$$
.

Connection of ReLU DNN and Linear FEM



Connection of ReLU DNN and Linear FEM



Refs: R. Arora, A. Basu, P. Mianjy & A. Mukherjee, 2016, J. He, L. Li, J. Xu & C. Zheng, 2018

A 2D example: FE basis function

Consider a 2D FE basis function, $\phi(x)$:



¹Juncai He et al. "ReLU Deep Neural Networks and Linear Finite Elements". In: *Journal of Computational Mathematics* 38.3 (2020), pp. 502–527, Raman Arora et al. "Understanding deep neural networks with rectified linear units". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1611.01491* (2016).

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Consider a 2D FE basis function, $\phi(x)$:



Here g_i is linear in Domain *i*, and $x_7 = x_1$, satisfying

 $g_i(x_0) = 1$ $g_i(x_i) = 0$ $g_i(x_{i+1}) = 0$

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} g_i(x), & x \in \text{Domain } i \\ 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^2 - \overline{x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5 x_6} \end{cases}$$
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It is non-obvious, but in fact we have1

$$\phi(x) \in \mathsf{DNN}_2(\mathsf{ReLU}) \tag{7}$$

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ReLU-DNN and Linear FEM for H^1

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$ReLU-DNN = \Sigma_{n_{1:\ell}}^1 = Linear \ FEM \subset H^1(\Omega)$
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$$\Sigma_n^{\sigma} := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \sigma(\omega_i \cdot x + b_i), \; a_i \in \mathbb{R}, \; \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, \; b_i \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

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Is

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \Sigma_{r}^{a}$$

dense in $L^2(\Omega)$ or C^k ?

- Yes, if and only if σ is NOT a polynomial!
- Our interest: When can this approximation be done in a stable manner?

(8)

Stable Neural Network Approximation

Consider approximation from the class

$$\Sigma_{n,M}^{\sigma} := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i \sigma(\omega_i \cdot x + b_i), \ \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ b_i \in \mathbb{R}, \sum_{i=1}^{n} |a_i| \le M \right\}$$
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of neural networks with ℓ^1 -bounded outer coefficients.

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• More generally for a dictionary $\mathbb{D} \subset H = L^2(\Omega)$, consider

$$\Sigma_{n,M}(\mathbb{D}) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i h_i, \ h_i \in \mathbb{D}, \ \sum_{i=1}^{n} |a_i| \le M \right\}$$
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• Let $M < \infty$ be fixed and consider approximation as $n \to \infty$.

Siegel & Xu, 2021²:

Define a closed convex hull of ±D:

$$\mathcal{B}_{1}(\mathbb{D}) = \overline{\left\{\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}h_{j}: n \in \mathbb{N}, h_{j} \in \mathbb{D}, \sum_{i=1}^{n} |a_{i}| \leq 1\right\}},$$
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Define a norm

$$f\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} = \inf\{r > 0 : f \in r\mathcal{B}_1(\mathbb{D})\},\tag{12}$$

as the guage of the set $B_1(\mathbb{D})$.

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The unit ball is

$$\{f \in H : \|f\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le 1\} = B_1(\mathbb{D}).$$
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We have

$$\{f \in H : \|f\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} < \infty\}$$
(14)

is a Banach space.

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Thus the norm is given by

$$\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D}) = \ell^1 \subset \ell^2. \tag{16}$$

Theorem (Siegel & Xu 2021)

A function $f \in H = L^2(\Omega)$ can be approximated at all, i.e.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \inf_{f_n \in \Sigma_{n,M}(\mathbb{D})} \|f - f_n\|_H = 0,$$
(17)

for a fixed $M < \infty$ if and only if

 $f \in MB_1(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D}).$

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Furthermore, if $\ \mathbb{D}\ \equiv \sup_{h \in \mathbb{D}} \ h\ _{H} < \infty$	
we have $\inf_{f_n\in\Sigma_{n,M}(\mathbb{D})}\ f-f_n\ _H\leq n^{-\frac{1}{2}}\ \mathbb{D}\ \ f\ _{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})}.$	(18)

The Spectral Barron Space

• Let
$$f \in B_1(\mathbb{D})$$
, $H = L^2(\Omega)$, $\Omega = B_1^d = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x| \le 1\}$, and

$$\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{F}_s^d := \{ (1 + |\omega|)^{-s} e^{2\pi i \omega \cdot x} : \omega \in \mathbb{R}^d \}$$
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In this case the norm is characterized by³

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{K}_{1}(\mathbb{F}_{s}^{d})} = \inf_{f_{e}|_{B_{1}^{d}} = f} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d}} (1 + |\xi|)^{s} |\hat{f}_{e}(\xi)| d\xi,$$
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where the infimum is taken over all extensions $f_e \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

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Property:

$$H^{s+\frac{d}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow B^{s}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow W^{s,\infty}(\Omega).$$
(21)

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The results are proved in Siegel and Xu 2021⁴

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where $\sigma_k = [\max(0, x)]^k$.

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Numerical Neural Networks

⁴ Jonathan W. Siegel and Jinchao Xu. Optimal Approximation Rates and Metric Entropy of ReLU^k and Cosine Networks. 2021.

⁵W. E, Chao Ma, and Lei Wu. "Barron spaces and the compositional function spaces for neural network models". In: *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:1906.08039 (2019).

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• When k = 1, $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k)$ is equivalent to the Barron space (introduced in⁵).

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- When k = 1, $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k)$ is equivalent to the Barron space (introduced in⁵).
- When $k = 0, d = 1, \mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k) = BV([-1, 1]).$

⁴Jonathan W. Siegel and Jinchao Xu. Optimal Approximation Rates and Metric Entropy of ReLU^k and Cosine Networks. 2021.

⁵W. E, Chao Ma, and Lei Wu. "Barron spaces and the compositional function spaces for neural network models". In: *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:1906.08039 (2019).

⁶Andrew R Barron. "Universal approximation bounds for superpositions of a sigmoidal function". In: *IEEE Transactions on Information theory* 39.3 (1993), pp. 930–945.

The results are proved in Siegel and Xu 2021⁴

• Let $H = L^2(\Omega)$, $\Omega = B_1^d = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x| \le 1\}$, and

$$\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{P}_k^d := \{ \sigma_k(\omega \cdot \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}) : \ \omega \in S^{d-1}, \ \mathbf{b} \in [-2, 2] \},$$
(22)

where $\sigma_k = [\max(0, x)]^k$.

• When k = 1, $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k)$ is equivalent to the Barron space (introduced in⁵).

• We have $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k) \supset \mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{F}^d_{k+1})$ (for k = 0, Barron 1993⁶)

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Previous State-of-the-art Results

For some dictionaries \mathbb{D} , the $n^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ approximation rate can be improved! • For $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{P}_0^d$, we have⁷

$$\sup_{f \in B_1(\mathbb{D})} \inf_{f_n \in \Sigma_{n,M}} \|f - f_n\|_{L^2(B_1^d)} \lesssim n^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2d}}.$$
 (23)

• For $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{P}_k^d$ for $k \ge 1$, we have⁸,⁹, if *f* is in some spectral Barron space:

$$\inf_{f_n \in \Sigma_{n,M}} \|f - f_n\|_{L^2(B_1^d)} \lesssim n^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{d}}.$$
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What are the optimal approximation rates?

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New Optimal Bounds¹⁰

Theorem

For $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{P}_k^d$ for $k \ge 1$, we have $n^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2k+1}{2d}} \lesssim \sup_{f \in B_1(\mathbb{D})} \inf_{f_n \in \Sigma_{n,M}} \|f - f_n\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \lesssim n^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2k+1}{2d}}$

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(25)

In comparison: optimal bound for finite elements

Theorem

Assume that V_h^k is a finite element of degree k on quasi-uniform mesh $\{\mathcal{T}_h\}$ of $\mathcal{O}(N)$ elements. Assume u is sufficiently smooth and not piecewise polynomials, then we have

$$c(u)n^{-\frac{k}{d}} \leq \inf_{v_h \in V_h^k} \|u - v_h\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq C(u)n^{-\frac{k}{d}} = \mathcal{O}(h^k).$$
(26)

Ref: Q. Lin, H. Xie and J. Xu , Lower Bounds of the Discretization Error for Piecewise Polynomials, Math. Comp., 83, 1-13 (2014)

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Removing¹² the constraint that $\sum_{i=1}^{n} |a_i| \leq M$

Define

$$\Sigma_n^k := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \sigma_k (\omega_i \cdot x + b_i), \ \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ b_i \in \mathbb{R}, \right\}$$
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Theorem (Siegel and Xu)

$$\inf_{f_n \in \Sigma_n^k} \|f - f_n\|_{\Omega} \lesssim \begin{cases} n^{-\frac{1}{2}} & \|f\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{F}_s^d)} & \text{if } s = \frac{1}{2} \\ n^{-(k+1)} \log n & \|f\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{F}_s^d)} & \text{for some } s > 1 \end{cases}$$
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Improves result of Barron¹¹ by relaxing condition on f

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 Comparison with FEM:

$$\inf_{w \in V_n^k(NN)} \|u - w\| \approx \left\{ \inf_{v \in V_n^k(FE)} \|u - v\| \right\}^d$$

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Finite element methods and neural networks

2 Approximation properties

- Application to elliptic boundary value problems
- 4 Numerical experiments
- 5 Summary and Further Research

Model problem

(for any $d \ge 1, m \ge 1$)

Given $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, consider a 2*m*-th order elliptic problems

$$\sum_{\alpha|=m} (-1)^m \partial^{\alpha} (a_{\alpha}(x) \partial^{\alpha} u) + u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

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$$-\Delta u = f \quad (m = 1),$$
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Special cases:

$$-\Delta u = f$$
 (*m* = 1), $\Delta^2 u = f$ (*m* = 2).

Open Problem: For any $m, d \ge 1$, how to construct conforming finite element space

$$V_h \subset H^m(\Omega) \iff V_h \subset C^{m-1}(\Omega)$$
?

Variational "crime":

 $V_h \not\subseteq V$

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 $V_h \nsubseteq V$

• Bilinear form (with piecewise derivatives: $\partial_h^{\alpha} v_h$)

$$a_h(u_h, v_h) := \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}_h} (a_\alpha \partial^\alpha u_h, \partial^\alpha v_h)_{0,K} + (u_h, v_h).$$

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• Find $u_h \in V_h$ such that

 $a_h(u_h, v_h) = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h.$

Lowest order P_m nonconforming and DG with minimal stabilization

Universal construction



References:

Lowest order P_m nonconforming and DG with minimal stabilization

Universal construction



Lowest order P_m nonconforming and DG with minimal stabilization

Universal construction



DOF at different levels:



• The highest level (l = 1): preserve the crucial property

$$\int_{F} [\nabla^{m-1} u] = 0.$$

• NO weak continuity for the point value \Rightarrow interior-element-boundary penalty $(\nabla_h^3 u_h, \nabla_h^3 v_h) + \eta \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_h} h_e^{-5} \int_e \llbracket u_h \rrbracket \cdot \llbracket v_h \rrbracket = (f, v_h) \quad \forall v_h \in V_h.$

(Arnold 1982)

On the construction of smooth FEM

Question: For any $m, d \ge 1$, how to construct conforming finite element space

 $V_h \subset H^m(\Omega) \iff V_h \subset C^{m-1}(\Omega)$?

Refs: Argyris et al., (1968); Bramble & Zlámal, (1970); Zhang (2009); Hu & Zhang (2015); Fu, Guzmán & Neilan (2020).

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Theorem (Hu, Lin, & Wu 2021, ArXiv: 2103.14924))

For any $d \ge 1$, $r \ge 0$, a globally C^r finite element of degree $k \ge 2^d r + 1$ can be constructed on any simplicial mesh with locally defined DOF.

$$V_n^k = \left\{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i (w_i x + b_i)_+^k, w_i \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times d}, a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}^1\right\}$$

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Piecewise polynomials of degree k in the following grids



Consider

$$\begin{cases} Lu = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ B_N^k(u) = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad 0 \le k \le m - 1. \end{cases}$$
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$$J(u) = \min_{v \in V} J(v) \tag{30}$$

where

$$J(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_{\alpha} |\partial^{\alpha} v|^{2} + v^{2} dx - (f, v).$$
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(33)

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• K = 2
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Argyris: $||u - u_h||_2 = \mathcal{O}(h^4) = \mathcal{O}(n^{-2})$.

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► Argyris:
$$||u - u_h||_2 = \mathcal{O}(h^4) = \mathcal{O}(n^{-2}).$$

► NN-FEM: $||u - u_n||_2 = \mathcal{O}(h^8) = \mathcal{O}(n^{-4}).$

Properties of $[ReLU]^k$ -DNN $_\ell$

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Piecewise polynomials on "curved" elements

Properties of [ReLU]^k-DNN_ℓ



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2 Best possible error estimate $\mathcal{O}(n^{m-(k+1)} \log n)$

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Properties of [ReLU]^k-DNN_ℓ

- Piecewise polynomials on "curved" elements
- Best possible error estimate $\mathcal{O}(n^{m-(k+1)} \log n)$
- If $k \ge 2$, we have spectral accuracy for smooth solution as ℓ increase.
- Possible multi-scale adaptivity features (?):
 - local singularity.
 - global smoothness



Some challenges

• Discretization of the integral in J(u), i.e. how do we evaluate

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)u(x)dx?$$
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- How to analyze the convergence when numerical quadratures are used?
- Optimization of the discrete energy, i.e. how can we efficiently solve

$$\min J_N(u) \tag{35}$$

Discretization of the Integral

There are two approaches for discetizing J(u)

• Sample points $x_1, ..., x_N$ uniformly at random from Ω and form

$$J_N(u) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\nabla u(x_i)|^2 - f(x_i)u(x_i).$$
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Use a numerical quadrature rule such as Gaussian quadrature

$$J_N(u) = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (|\nabla u(x_i)|^2 - f(x_i)u(x_i)).$$
(37)

Error analysis

Numerical quadrature: for any g(x), $N = \frac{(k-1)d}{2}$

$$\left|\int_{\Omega} g(x)dx - |\Omega| \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i g(x_i)\right| \lesssim N^{-\frac{r+1}{d}} \|g\|_{r,1}.$$

Challenges: how to bound

$$\|g\|_{r,1} \leq ?$$
, for $g \in \Sigma_n^{\sigma}$

OK if the following Bernstein or inverse inequality holds for r > s

$$\|\boldsymbol{v}_n\|_r \lesssim n^{\beta} \|\boldsymbol{v}_n\|_s, \quad \forall \boldsymbol{v}_n \in \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_n^k.$$
(38)

Many attempts have been made in existing literature

Bad news: Bernstein inequalty does not hold for NN

Given any $\epsilon > 0$, consider an NN function with 3 neurons:

$$u_3(x) = \operatorname{ReLU}(x - \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon) - 2\operatorname{ReLU}(x - \frac{1}{2}) + \operatorname{ReLU}(x - \frac{1}{2} - \epsilon), \quad \forall x \in (0, 1).$$

A direct calculation shows that

$$\int_0^1 |u_3'(x)|^2 dx = 2\epsilon \text{ and } \int_0^1 |u_3(x)|^2 dx = \epsilon^2.$$

Therefore

$$|u_3|_{H^1} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\epsilon}} ||u_3||_{L^2}, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0$$

As a result, the following Bernstein inequality can not hold for any constant¹³ C(n)

$$\|v_n\|_{H^1} \leq C(n) \|v_n\|_{L^2}, \quad \forall v_n \in \Sigma_n^{\sigma}$$

¹³Qingguo Hong, Jonathan W Siegel, and Jinchao Xu. "A Priori Analysis of Stable Neural Network Solutions to Numerical PDEs". In: arXiv preprint arXiv:2104.02903 (2021).

Our approach

Development and analysis of stable neural network!

The use of $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})$

• We consider the following variational form of Laplace's equation with Neumann boundary conditions

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{v}\in H^1(\Omega)} J(\boldsymbol{v}) := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{x})|^2 d\boldsymbol{x} - \int_{\Omega} f(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{x}) d\boldsymbol{x}.$$
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$$\min_{\nu \in H^1(\Omega)} J(\nu) := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \nu(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)\nu(x) dx.$$
(39)

We solve this problem by restricting

$$\min_{\|v\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le M} J(v) := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)v(x) dx,$$
(40)

for some M.

The use of $\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})$

 We consider the following variational form of Laplace's equation with Neumann boundary conditions

$$\min_{\nu \in H^1(\Omega)} J(\nu) := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \nu(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)\nu(x) dx.$$
(39)

We solve this problem by restricting

$$\min_{\|v\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le M} J(v) := \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)v(x) dx,$$
(40)

for some M.

With numerical quadrature

$$\min_{\|v\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le M} J_N(v) \approx \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v(x)|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} f(x)v(x) dx,$$
(41)

for some M.

Uniform Bound on the Error

• When using numerical quadrature, we require the dictionary $\mathbb D$ to satisfy

$$\|\mathbb{D}\|_{W^{k,\infty}(\Omega)} := \sup_{d \in \mathbb{D}} \|d\|_{W^{k,\infty}(\Omega)} \le C < \infty.$$
(42)

This means that $||u||_{W^{k,\infty}(\Omega)} \leq C ||u||_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})}$.

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So if we use r-th order quadrature, we will get¹⁴

$$|J_N(u) - J(u)| \lesssim N^{-\frac{r+1}{d}},\tag{43}$$

uniformly on $\{u : \|u\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \leq M\}$.

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Uniform Bound on the Error (cont.)

• The Rademacher complexity of a class of function \mathcal{F} on Ω is given by

$$R_N(F) = \mathbb{E}_{x_1, \dots, x_N} \mathbb{E}_{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_N} \left(\sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i f(x_i) \right), \tag{44}$$

where x_i are drawn uniformly at random from Ω and ξ_i are uniformly random signs.

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Uniform Bound on the Error (cont.)

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For Monte Carlo error analysis, we need to assume that

$$R_N(\mathbb{D}), R_N(\nabla \mathbb{D}) \lesssim N^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$
 (45)

Then we get¹⁵

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\sup_{\|u\|_{\mathcal{K}_{1}(\mathbb{D})}\leq M}|J_{N}(u)-J(u)|\right)\lesssim MN^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$
(46)

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Orthogonal Greedy Algorithm

The orthogonal greedy algorithm is given by:

Orthogonal greedy algorithm¹⁶:

$$f_0 = 0, \ g_k = \arg\max_{g \in \mathbb{D}} \langle f - f_{k-1}, g \rangle, \ f_k = P_k f,$$

$$\tag{47}$$

where P_k denotes the orthogonal projection onto the space spanned by $g_1, ..., g_k$.

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There are also the pure greedy and relaxed greedy algorithms

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The convergence rates of the orthogonal greedy algorithm is:

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Convergence Rate of the Orthogonal Greedy Algorithm¹⁸

Theorem

Let the iterates f_n be given by the orthogonal greedy algorithm, where $f \in \mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{P}^d_k)$. Then we have

$$\|f_n - f\| \lesssim n^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2k+1}{2d}}.$$
(48)

The orthogonal greedy algorithm can train optimal neural networks!

¹⁸Jonathan W. Siegel and Jinchao Xu. Optimal Approximation Rates and Metric Entropy of ReLU^k and Cosine Networks. 2021.

Optimization of the Discrete Energy: Greedy Algorithm

We solve the optimization problem

$$\min_{\|u\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le M} J_N(u) \tag{49}$$

using the following greedy algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_0 &= 0\\ g_k &= \arg\max_{g\in\mathbb{D}} \langle \nabla J_N(u_{k-1}), g \rangle \\ \mu_k &= (1 - s_k) u_{k-1} - M s_k q. \end{aligned}$$
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Theorem

 $||u_n||_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \leq M$ for all k and

$$J_N(u_n) - \min_{\|u\|_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \le M} J_N(u) \lesssim \frac{1}{n}.$$
(51)

Main Theorem¹⁹

Theorem

Suppose that the dictionary $\mathbb D$ satisfies $\sup_{d\in\mathbb D}\|d\|_{W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)}<\infty$ and the Rademacher complexity bound

$$R_N(\nabla \mathbb{D}), R_N(\mathbb{D}) \lesssim N^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$
 (52)

Assume that the true solution $u \in \mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})$ satisfies $||u||_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \leq M$ and let the numerical solution $u_{n,M,N} \in \Sigma_{n,M}(\mathbb{D})$ be obtained by the greedy algorithm for n steps. Then we have

$$\mathbb{E}_{x_1,\ldots,x_N}(J(u_{n,M,N}) - J(u)) \le M \left[C_1(1 + \|f\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}) N^{-\frac{1}{2}} + C_2 M n^{-1} \right].$$
(53)

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• Need to know *M* such that the true solution *u* satisfies $||u||_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \leq M$

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- Need to know *M* such that the true solution *u* satisfies $||u||_{\mathcal{K}_1(\mathbb{D})} \leq M$
- Choose number of sample points $N = \Theta(M^2 \epsilon^{-1})$ and number of iterations $n = \Theta(M^2 \epsilon^{-1})$

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- Need to know M such that the true solution u satisfies ||u||_{K₁(D)} ≤ M
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- Form the discrete energy J_N by randomly sampling points x_i:

$$J_N(u) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\nabla u(x_i)|^2 - f(x_i)u(x_i)$$
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- Optimize J_N using the relaxed greedy algorithm for n steps
- Error will be $O(\epsilon)$
- Next we will present some numerical experiments²⁰

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inite element methods and neural networks

Approximation properties

Application to elliptic boundary value problems





Example (2D approximation, OGA)

We consider approximating the following 2D function

 $f(x, y) = \cos(2\pi x)\cos(2\pi y), (x, y) \in (0, 1)^2.$

By fixing ||w|| = 1 and $b \in [-2, 2]$, the convergence order of OGA is shown in Table below for ReLU^k neural networks. Theoretical order is shown in parenthesis.

Ν	$k = 1 (O(n^{-1.25}))$		$k = 2 (O(n^{-1.75}))$		$k = 3 (O(n^{-2.25}))$	
	L ² -error	order	L ² -error	order	L ² -error	order
2	4.969e-01	-	4.998e-01	-	4.976e-01	-
4	4.883e-01	0.025	4.992e-01	0.002	4.957e-01	0.006
8	2.423e-01	1.011	3.233e-01	0.627	4.193e-01	0.242
16	6.632e-02	1.869	4.911e-02	2.719	1.099e-01	1.932
32	2.206e-02	1.588	1.688e-02	1.541	8.075e-03	3.767
64	1.060e-02	1.058	4.156e-03	2.022	1.149e-03	2.813
128	4.284e-03	1.306	9.773e-04	2.088	2.185e-04	2.395
256	1.703e-03	1.331	2.622e-04	1.898	4.718e-05	2.211

Table: Convergence order of OGA with ReLU^k activation function

Example (1D elliptic equation, OGA)

We solve a 1D elliptic equation with the source term $f = (1 + \pi^2) \cos(\pi x)$ on [-1, 1] then the analytical solution is $u(x) = \cos(\pi x)$, $x \in (-1, 1)$. The activation function is ReLU².

Ν	$ u - u_N _{L^2}$	order (n^{-3})	$ u - u_N _{H^1}$	order (n^{-2})
2	1.312179e+00	-	3.123769e+00	-
4	3.809296e-01	1.78	1.795590e+00	0.80
8	7.900097e-03	5.59	1.239320e-01	3.86
16	6.253874e-04	3.66	2.431156e-02	2.35
32	7.539756e-05	3.05	5.645258e-03	2.11
64	8.098691e-06	3.22	1.351523e-03	2.06
128	9.655067e-07	3.07	3.200813e-04	2.08
256	1.209074e-07	3.00	7.899931e-05	2.02

Table: L^2 and H^1 numerical error of the numerical solution, u_N , where N denotes the number of basis functions.

Example (Mesh adaptivity in 1D, OGA)

Let $\Omega = (-1, 1)$ and K = 0.01. The solution for 1D elliptic equation is taken with three peaks:

$$u(x) = (1+x)^2(1-x^2)\left(0.5\exp\left(-\frac{(x+0.5)^2}{\kappa}\right) + \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{\kappa}\right) + 0.5\exp\left(-\frac{(x-0.5)^2}{\kappa}\right)\right).$$

We illustrate the adaptivity by defining the grid points $x = (x_1, \dots, x_N)^T$ such that $w_1 x + b_1 = 0$.



Figure: Grid points of a 1-hidden layer neural network solution with N = 128

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Example (2D 4th order problem, OGA)

Consider the $\|\cdot\|_a$ and $\|\cdot\|_0$ error. We solve this forth-order equation numerically by using the ReLU³ dictionary

 $\mathbb{D} = \{ \mathsf{ReLU}^3(w \cdot x + b) \big| \|w\| = 1, b \in [-2, 2] \}.$

The exact solution is $(x^2 - 1)^4 (y^2 - 1)^4$, $(x, y) \in \Omega = (-1, 1)^2$.

Ν	$ u - u_N _{L^2}$	order	$\ u - u_N\ _a$	order (<i>n</i> ^{-1.25})
2	6.527642e-01	-	7.926637e+00	-
4	7.859126e-01	-0.27	7.592753e+00	0.06
8	9.906278e-01	-0.33	6.295085e+00	0.27
16	8.215047e-01	0.27	4.002859e+00	0.65
32	1.512860e-01	2.44	1.446132e+00	1.47
64	7.206241e-02	1.07	4.746744e-01	1.61
128	2.258788e-02	1.67	1.808527e-01	1.39
256	4.696294e-03	2.27	6.970084e-02	1.38

Table: The $\|\cdot\|_a$ and $\|\cdot\|_0$ error of the numerical solution

Example (A nonlinear 2D example, RGA)

Consider the 2D nonlinear PDE $-\Delta u + u^3 + u = f$ on $(0, 1)^2$ with $\partial u/\partial n = 0$ on the boundary. The analytical solution is $u = \cos(2\pi x) \cos(2\pi y)$ and the dictionary is taken as

 $\mathbb{D} = \{ \sigma(w_1 x + w_2 y + b) | (w_1, w_2, b) \in [-20, 20]^3 \},\$

where $\sigma(x)$ is the sigmoid function. The convergence is considered on the approximating space $B_M(\mathbb{D})$ where M = 15.

N	$ u - u_N _2$	order	$\ Du - Du_N\ _2$	order	$J(u_N) - J(u)$	order (n^{-1})
16	7.847118e-01	-	4.645084e+00	-	1.804723e+04	-
32	6.678914e-01	0.23	2.954645e+00	0.65	7.563223e+03	1.25
64	2.370456e-01	1.49	1.675239e+00	0.82	2.327894e+03	1.70
128	1.216064e-01	0.96	1.087479e+00	0.62	9.679782e+02	1.27
256	6.183769e-02	0.98	5.204851e-01	1.06	2.222200e+02	2.12
512	3.796748e-02	0.70	3.610805e-01	0.53	1.066532e+02	1.06
1024	2.687126e-02	0.50	2.110172e-01	0.77	3.661551e+01	1.54
2048	1.072196e-02	1.33	1.431628e-01	0.56	1.663444e+01	1.14

Table: Convergence order of RGA

A new generation of numerical methods?

Advantages:

- Highly flexible
- Works for high-dimensional problems
- Highly adaptive and parallelizable
- Rigorous convergence possible using greedy algorithms!
 - ★ For the first time, rigorous results are possible!
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Disadvantages:

- Greedy algorithms are currently expensive
- Much research must still be done!



inite element methods and neural networks

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Numerical experiments



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Deep ReLU neural networks contain finite element spaces

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- Numerical experiments

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Thank you!