Exploring Linear Elasticity: Unveiling the Power of Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

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Talk Abstract

Linear elasticity, a fundamental theory in solid mechanics, describes the deformation behavior of elastic materials under external forces. The governing equations, typically comprising partial differential equations (PDEs) such as the equilibrium equations, stress-strain relations, and boundary conditions, form the backbone of predicting stress and displacement fields within elastic bodies. Solving these equations analytically is often infeasible for complex geometries and loading conditions, necessitating the use of numerical methods. Traditional numerical methods like the Finite Element Method (FEM) have been extensively employed to tackle linear elasticity problems. However, these methods can be computationally intensive, particularly for high-dimensional and large-scale problems, and often require fine meshing to achieve accurate solutions. Moreover, they can struggle with incorporating datadriven insights seamlessly, which is increasingly important in modern engineering applications that leverage real-time data for predictive maintenance and optimization. Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs) have emerged as a promising alternative, offering a novel approach that integrates the power of deep learning with the rigor of physical laws. PINNs utilize neural networks to approximate the solution of PDEs, embedding the governing equations and boundary conditions into the loss function during training. This fusion of data-driven modeling and physics-based constraints enables PINNs to provide solutions that respect the underlying physical principles, potentially offering several advantages:

Mesh-free Solutions: Unlike FEM, PINNs do not require a mesh, which simplifies preprocessing and can handle complex geometries more flexibly;

Data Integration: PINNs can seamlessly integrate experimental data and simulation results, enhancing predictive accuracy and enabling real-time updates;

Scalability: The inherent parallelism of neural networks can lead to more scalable solutions for large-scale problems;

Adaptability: PINNs are easily adaptable to different types of boundary conditions and material behaviors without the need for significant reprogramming.

In the context of linear elasticity, PINNs can be particularly advantageous for solving problems where traditional methods face challenges. For example, in 2D elasticity problems involving irregular domains, varying material properties, or complex loading conditions, PINNs can provide robust and efficient solutions. With this talk, we present several applications of PINNs in 2D (and 3D) linear elasticity to demonstrate their effectiveness and versatility.

Keywords: Linear elasticity, Physics-Informed Neural Networks, Data-driven scientific computing, Machine learning, Predictive modeling.

Acknowledgements

This research was partially sponsored with national funds through the Fundação Nacional para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal-FCT, under CIMA project UIDB/04674/2020 (https://doi.org/10.54499/UIDB/04674/2020).

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