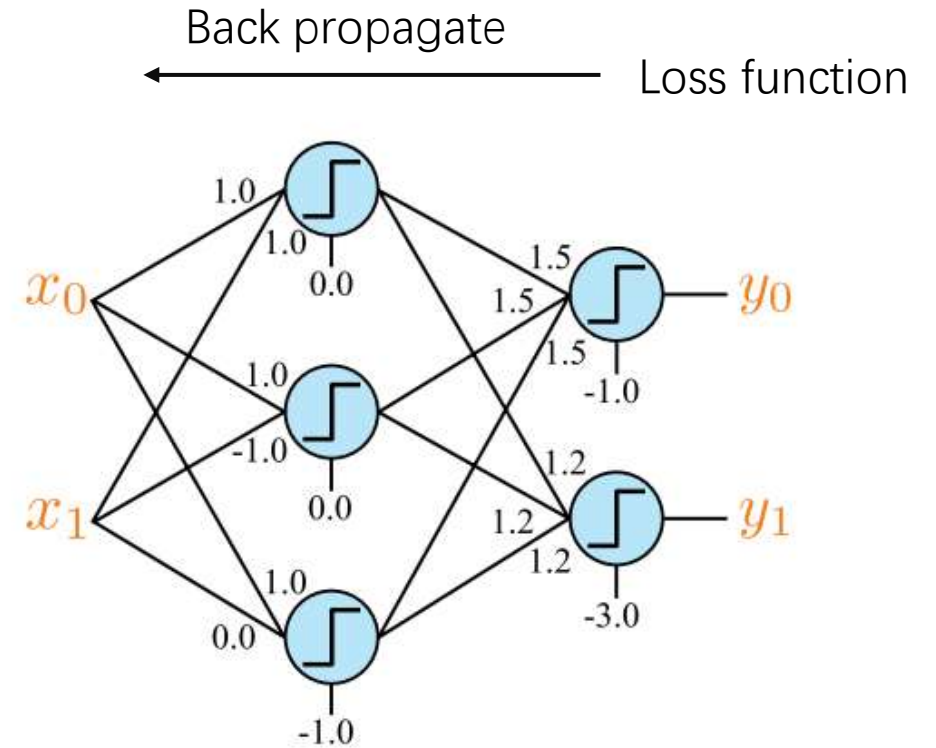
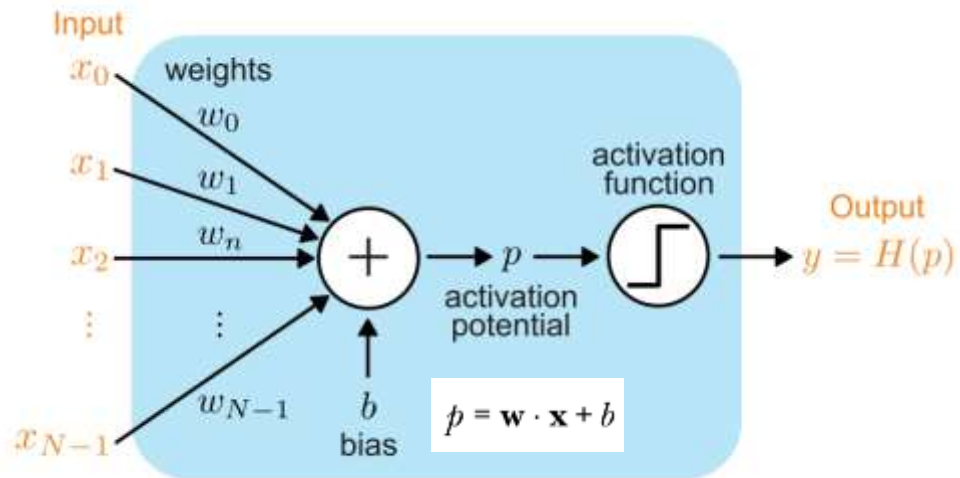
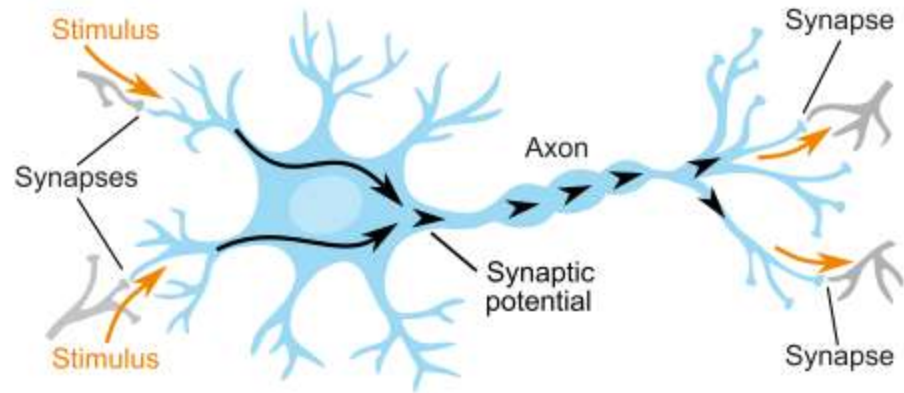


An Introduction of Physics- informed machine learning

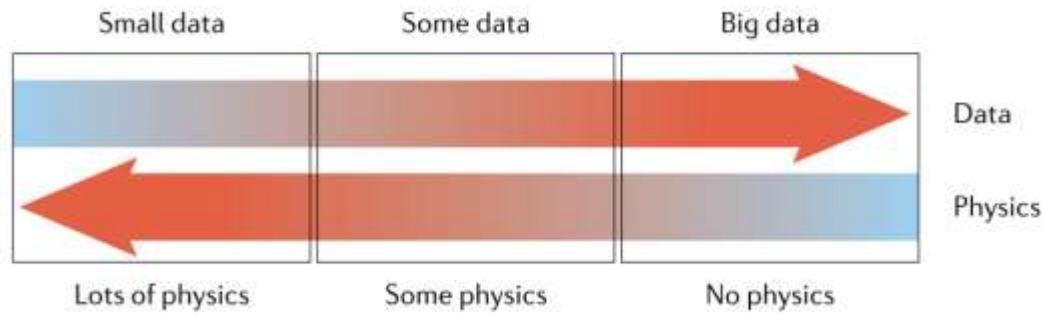
Xinwen Zhang
2026/03/21

Artificial Neural Networks

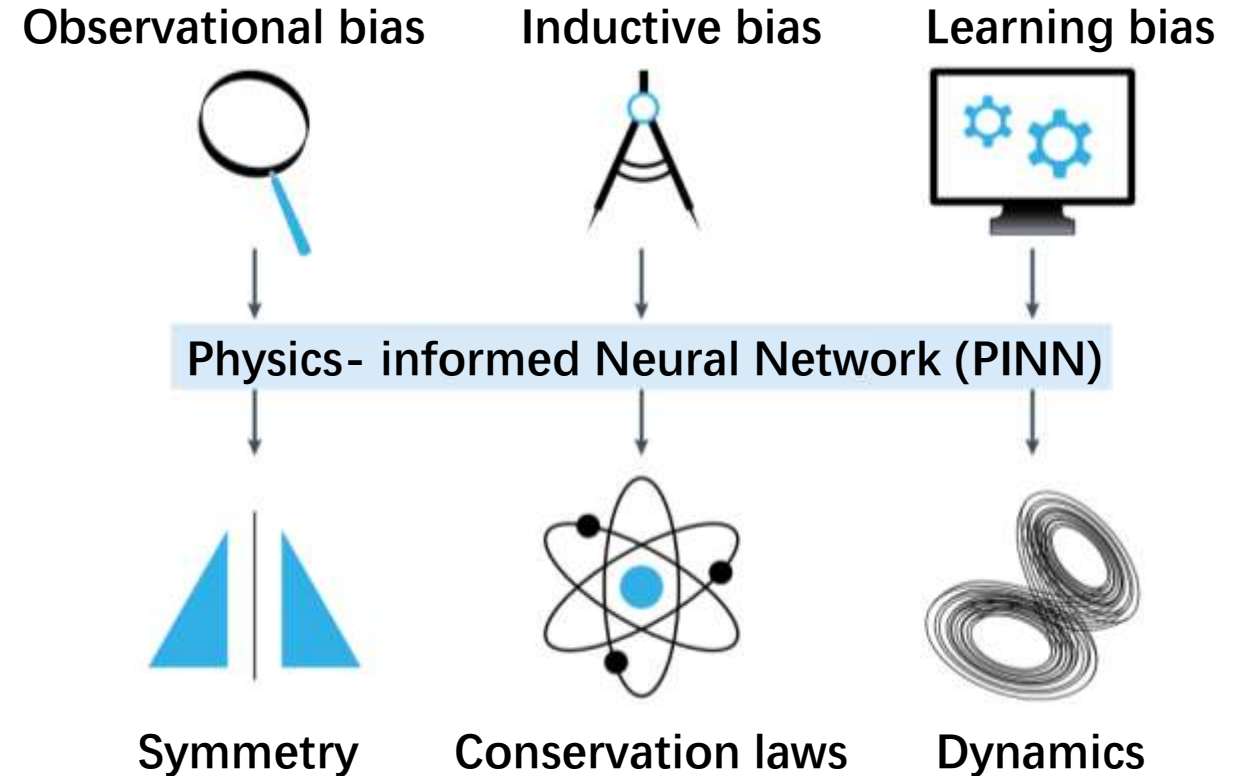


A two-layer dense neural network, fully connected neural networks or multi-layer perceptrons (MLP).

Principles of physics-informed learning



- Small data: e. g. PDE + known parameters
- Intermediate: e. g. PDE + unknown parameters
- Big data : e. g. unknown PDE



The standard framework of Physics-informed neural networks

Viscous Burgers' equation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = v \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

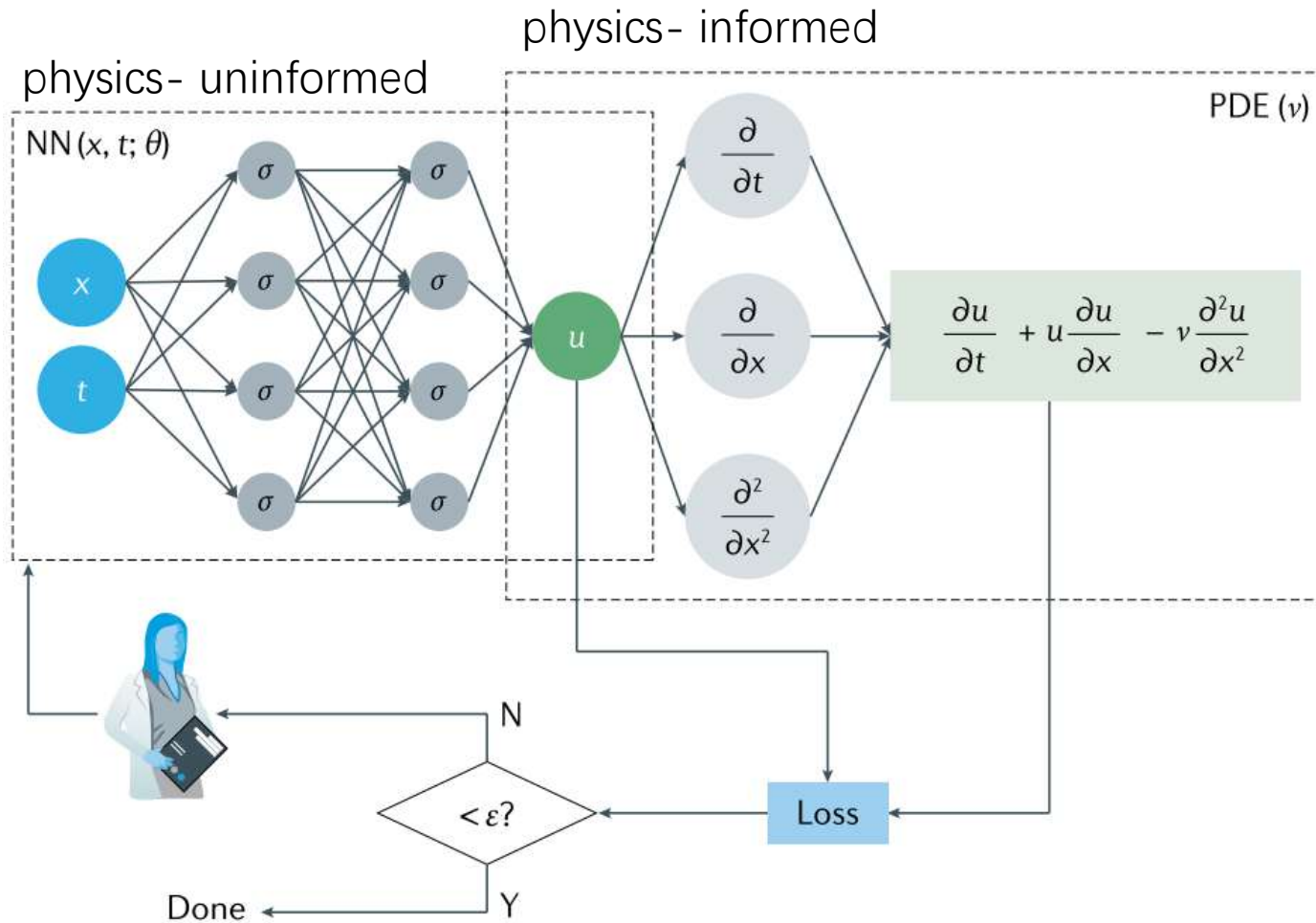
Loss function

$$\mathcal{L} = w_{\text{data}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} + w_{\text{PDE}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}},$$

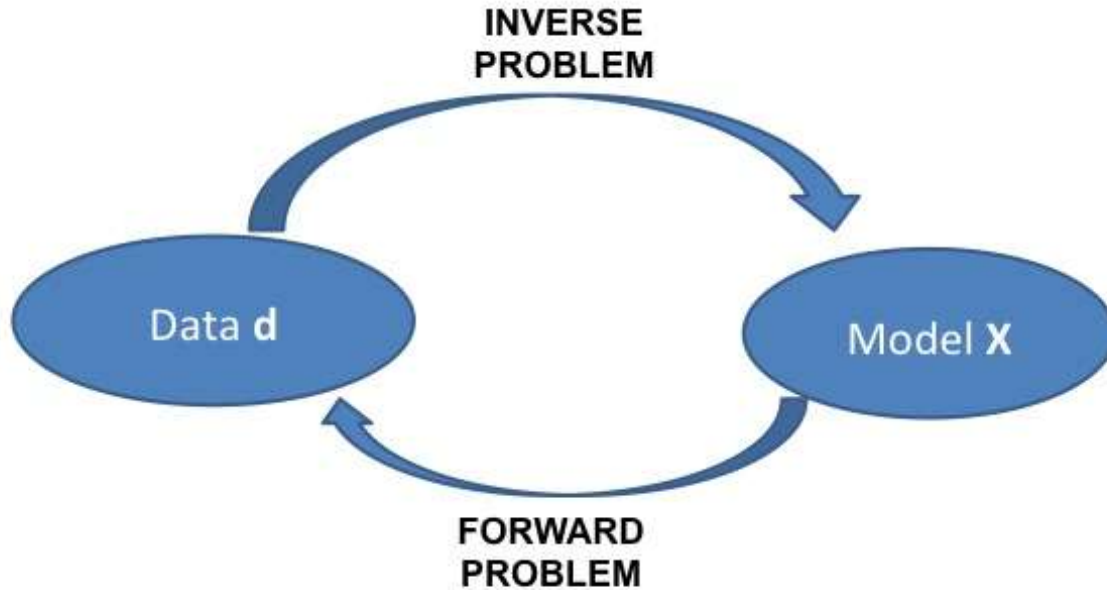
$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{data}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} (u(x_i, t_i) - u_i)^2 & \text{and} \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{PDE}}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\text{PDE}}} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - v \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)^2 \Big|_{(x_j, t_j)}. \end{cases}$$

Note: L_{data} is from the points under initial conditions and boundary conditions

Optimization: Adam or L-BFGS



Forward problem and Inverse problem



Forward Problem: Given the model, parameters, and boundary conditions, how can we predict the state or time evolution of a system through simulation?

Inverse Problem: Given the observation results, how can we deduce the equation parameters?



Problem Setup

- Parameterized, nonlinear PDE(s)

$$u_t + \mathcal{N}[u; \lambda] = 0, x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^D, t \in [0, T]; \quad (\cdot)_t = \frac{\partial(\cdot)}{\partial t}$$

- where $u(t, x)$ denotes the latent (hidden) solution, $\mathcal{N}[\cdot; \lambda]$ is a nonlinear operator parametrized by λ
- The above setup covers a wide range of PDEs in math. physics, including conservation laws, diffusion, reac-diff-advec. PDE, kinetics etc. E.g., [Burger's equation in 2D](#)

$$\mathcal{N}[u; \lambda] = \lambda_1 uu_x - \lambda_2 u_{xx} \text{ and } \lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2); \quad (\cdot)_x = \frac{\partial(\cdot)}{\partial x} \quad (\cdot)_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2(\cdot)}{\partial x^2}$$

- Given λ what is $u(t, x)$ (Inference, filtering and smoothing or simply **data-driven solutions of PDEs**)  Forward problem
- Find λ that best describes observations $u(t_i, x_j)$ (Learning, system identification, or **data-driven discovery of PDEs**)  Backward problem

Data-driven solutions of partial differential equations (Forward problem)

- Rewrite the PDE as $f(u; t, x) = 0$

$$f(u; t, x) \doteq u_t + \mathcal{N}[u], \quad \text{along with} \quad u = u_\theta(t, x)$$

- Along with the above constraint this gives *Physics-informed neural network* **parameterized by θ**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_u + \mathcal{L}_f$$

$$\mathcal{L}_u = \frac{1}{N_u} \sum_{i=1}^{N_u} |u(t_u^i, x_u^i) - u^i|^2; \quad \mathcal{L}_f = \frac{1}{N_f} \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} |f(t_f^i, x_f^i)|^2$$

- $\{t_u^i, x_u^i, u^i\}_{i=1}^{N_u}$ denote the **initial and boundary training data** on $u(t, x)$
- $\{t_f^i, x_f^i\}_{i=1}^{N_f}$ specify the **collocation points** for $f(u; t, x)$
- \mathcal{L}_u helps to enforce initial and boundary data accurately, while \mathcal{L}_f imposes the structure of the PDE into the total loss

Data-driven discovery of partial differential equations (Inverse problem)

Define a PDE residual:

$$f := u_t + \mathcal{N}[u; \lambda]$$

The difference from forward problems is that the parameters in the differential operator directly become learnable parameters of the PINN.

Navier-Stokes Equations

- Describe the physics of many phenomena, such as weather, ocean currents, water flow in a pipe and air flow around a wing.

$$\begin{aligned} u_t + \lambda_1 (uu_x + vu_y) &= -p_x + \lambda_2 (u_{xx} + u_{yy}); \\ v_t + \lambda_1 (uv_x + vv_y) &= -p_y + \lambda_2 (v_{xx} + v_{yy}); \end{aligned} \quad \text{where } (\cdot)_x = \frac{\partial(\cdot)}{\partial x}$$

- $u(t, x, y)$ denotes the x -component of the velocity, $v(t, x, y)$ denotes the y component and $p(t, x, y)$ the pressure
- Conservation of mass: $u_x + v_y = 0 \implies u = \psi_y, \quad v = -\psi_x$
- Given a set of observations: $\{t^i, x^i, y^i, u^i, v^i\}_{i=1}^N$

$$\begin{aligned} f &\doteq u_t + \lambda_1 (uu_x + vu_y) + p_x - \lambda_2 (u_{xx} + u_{yy}) \\ g &\doteq v_t + \lambda_1 (uv_x + vv_y) + p_y - \lambda_2 (v_{xx} + v_{yy}) \end{aligned}$$

- Learn $\lambda = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\}$, and pressure field $p(t, x, y)$ by jointly approximating $[\psi(t, x, y) \quad p(t, x, y)]$ with a single NN with two outputs

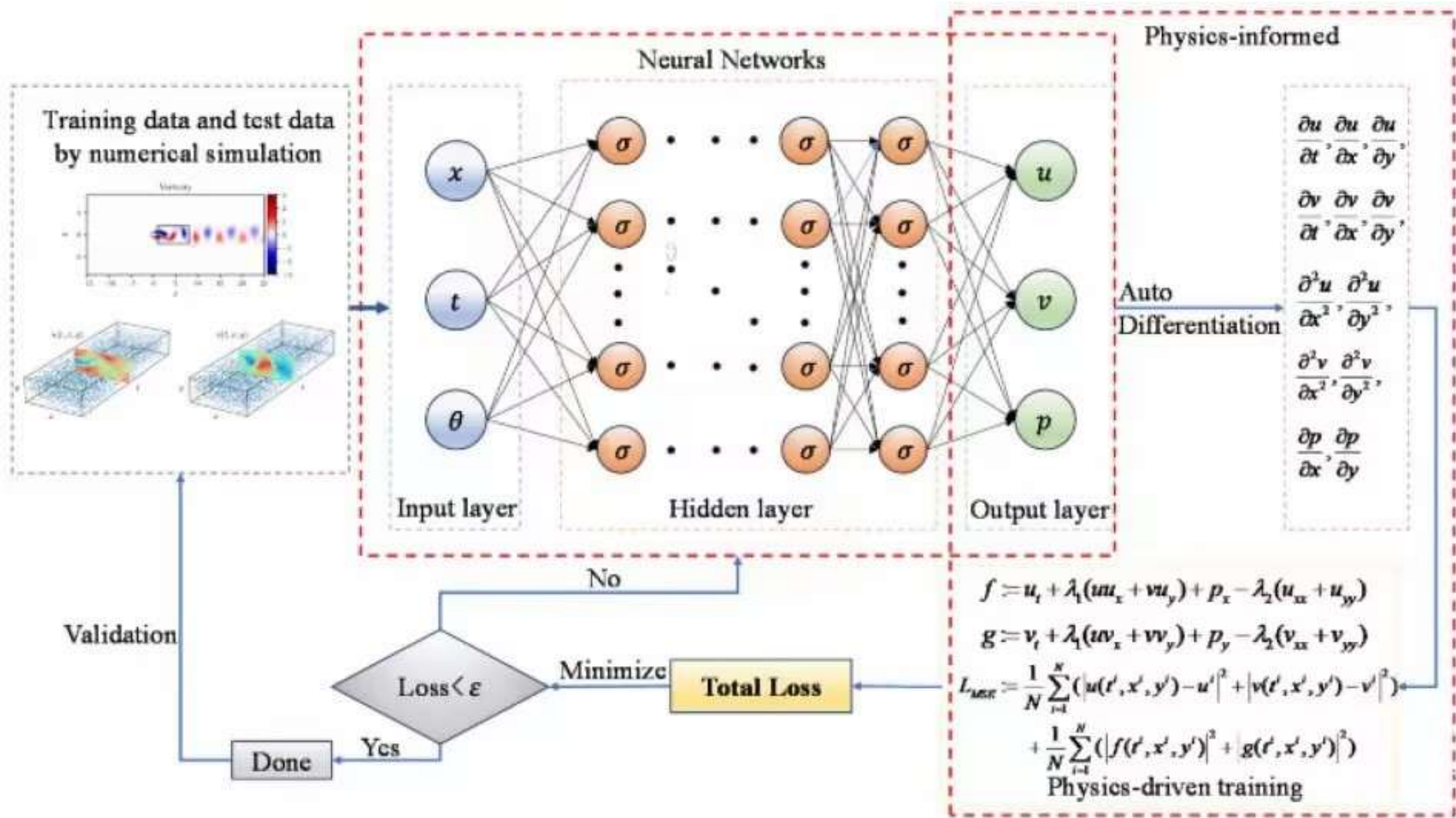
Navier-Stokes Equations

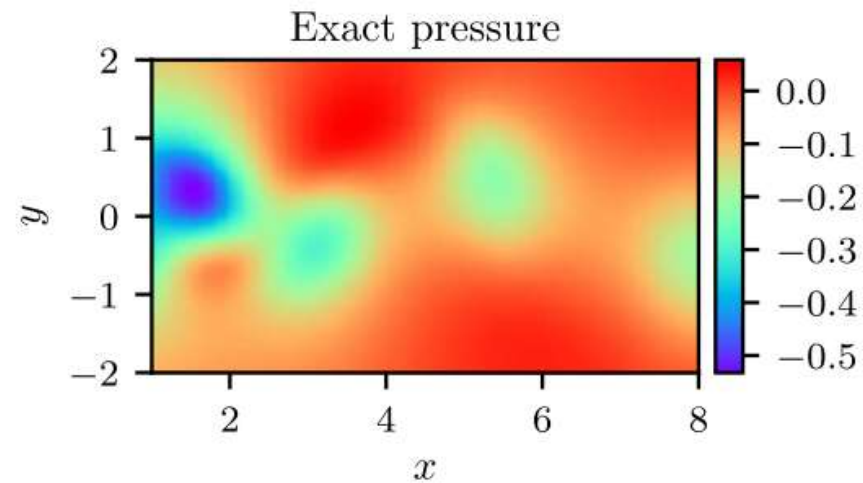
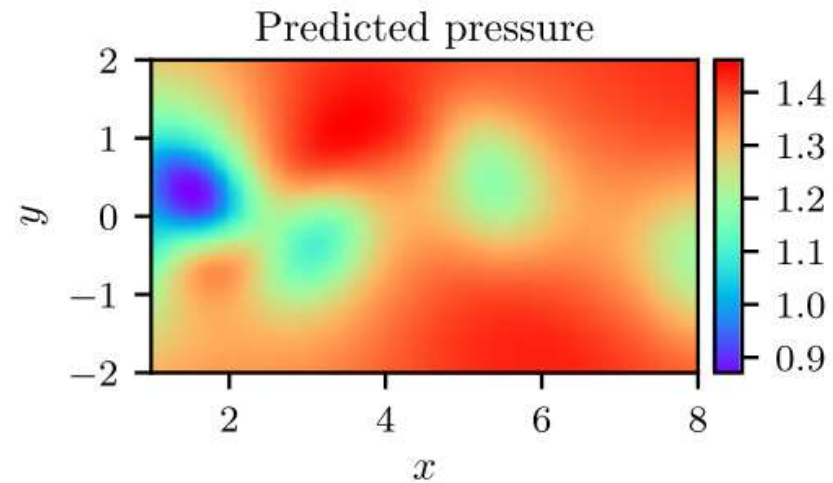
- Train by minimizing the total loss

$$\mathcal{L} \doteq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(|u(t^i, x^i, y^i) - u^i|^2 + |v(t^i, x^i, y^i) - v^i|^2 \right) \\ + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(|f(t^i, x^i, y^i)|^2 + |g(t^i, x^i, y^i)|^2 \right)$$

- Consider the prototypical problem of an incompressible flow past a (rigid) cylinder, with various values of the Reynolds number $Re = u_\infty D / \nu$
- Training data is generated using a high-res spectral solver ([NekTar](#))

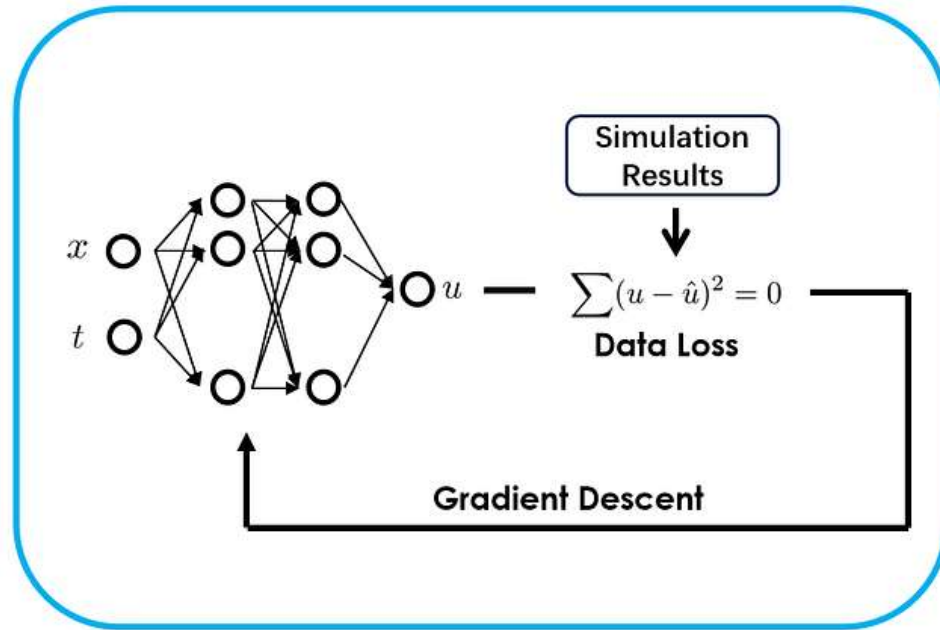
Navier-Stokes Inverse Problem (PINN structure)



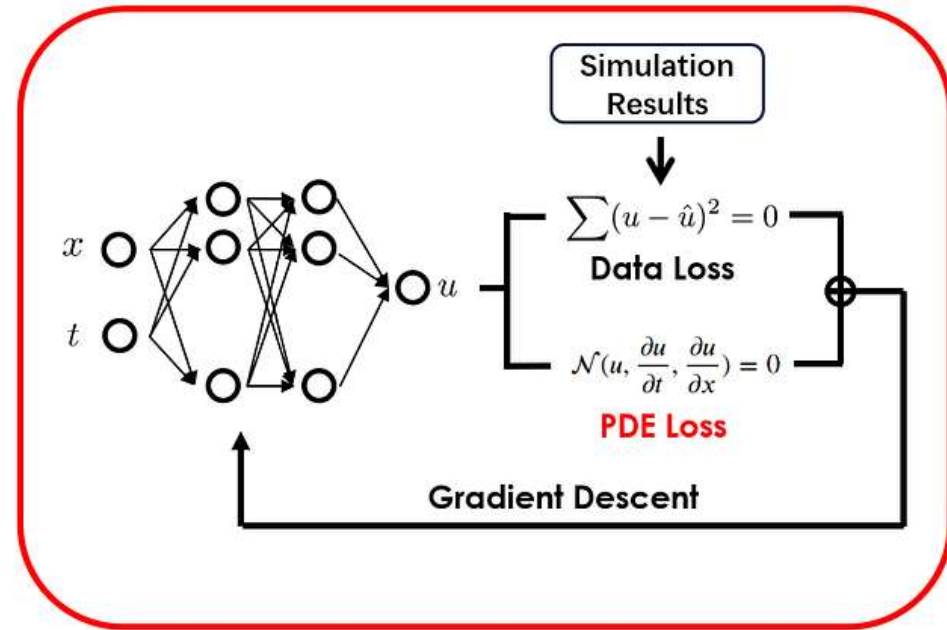


Correct PDE	$u_t + (uu_x + vv_y) = -p_x + 0.01(u_{xx} + u_{yy})$ $v_t + (uv_x + vv_y) = -p_y + 0.01(v_{xx} + v_{yy})$
Identified PDE (clean data)	$u_t + 0.999(uu_x + vv_y) = -p_x + 0.01047(u_{xx} + u_{yy})$ $v_t + 0.999(uv_x + vv_y) = -p_y + 0.01047(v_{xx} + v_{yy})$
Identified PDE (1% noise)	$u_t + 0.998(uu_x + vv_y) = -p_x + 0.01057(u_{xx} + u_{yy})$ $v_t + 0.998(uv_x + vv_y) = -p_y + 0.01057(v_{xx} + v_{yy})$

Summary



Traditional NN



Physics-informed NN

- Physics-informed neural networks is a class of universal function approximators that are capable of encoding any underlying physical laws that govern a given data-set
- They can be used to address two main types of problems: data-driven solution of partial differential equations and data-driven discovery of partial differential equations.

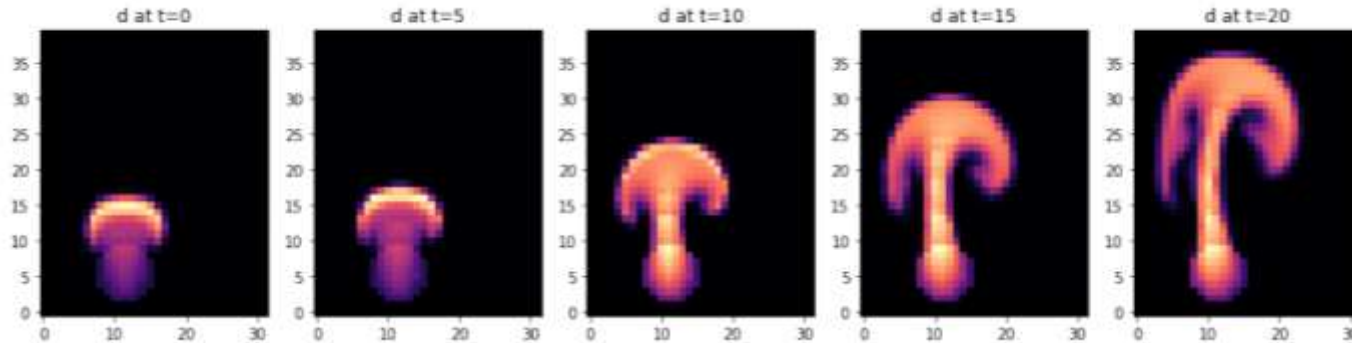
Navier-Stokes Forward Simulation (Classical)

```
steps = [[ smoke.values, velocity.values.vector[0], velocity.values.vector[1] ]]  
for time_step in range(20):  
    if time_step<3 or time_step%10==0:  
        print('Computing time step %d' % time_step)  
    velocity, smoke, pressure = step(velocity, smoke, pressure, dt=DT)  
    if time_step%5==0:  
        steps.append( [smoke.values, velocity.values.vector[0], velocity.values.vector[1]] )  
  
fig, axes = pylab.subplots(1, len(steps), figsize=(16, 5))  
for i in range(len(steps)):  
    axes[i].imshow(steps[i][0].numpy('y,x'), origin='lower', cmap='magma')  
    axes[i].set_title(f"d at t={i*5}")
```

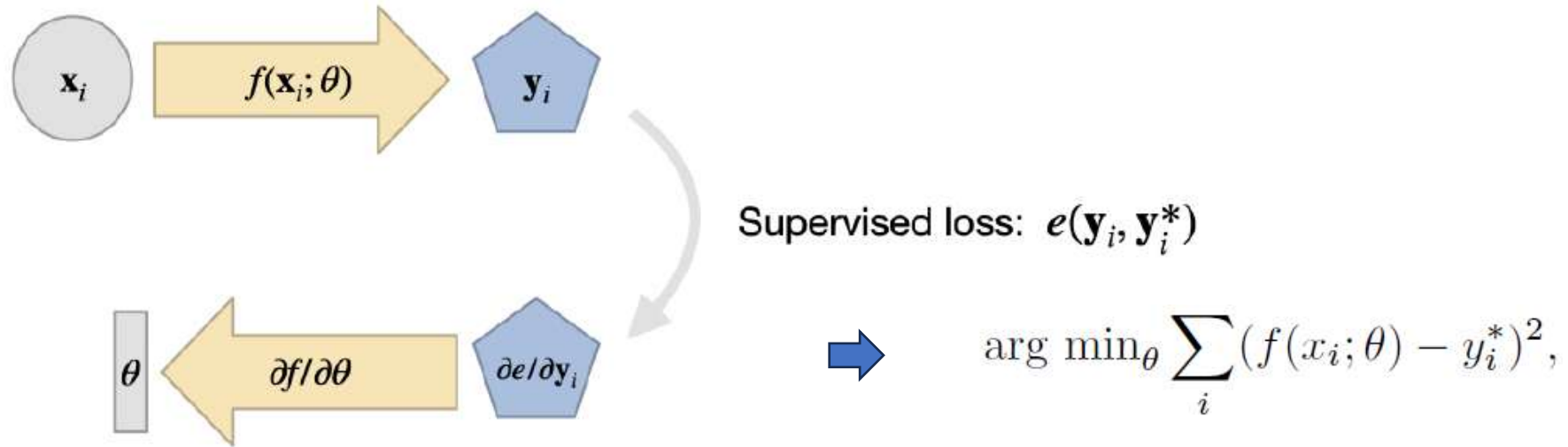
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + (0, 1)^T \xi d \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$
$$\frac{\partial d}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla d = 0$$



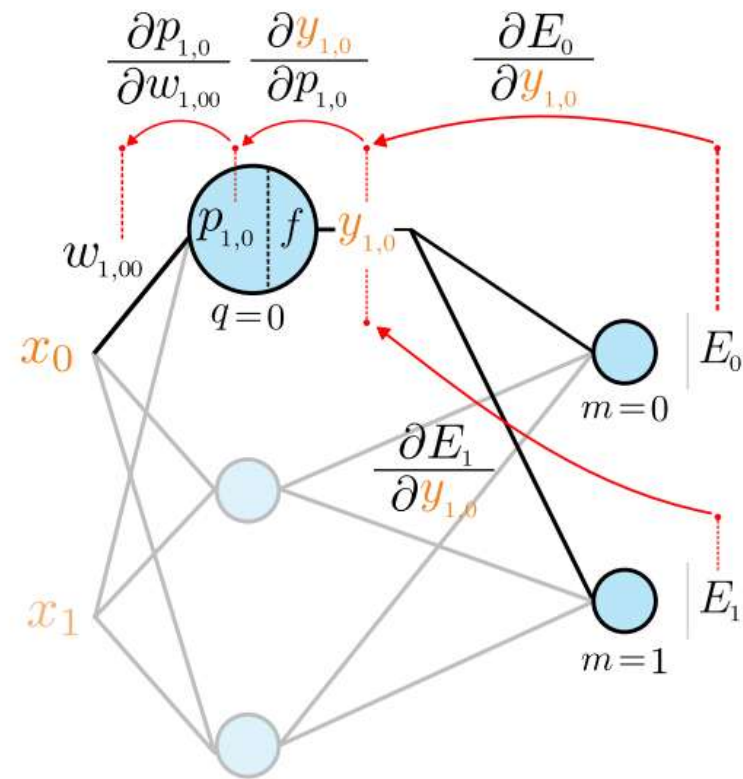
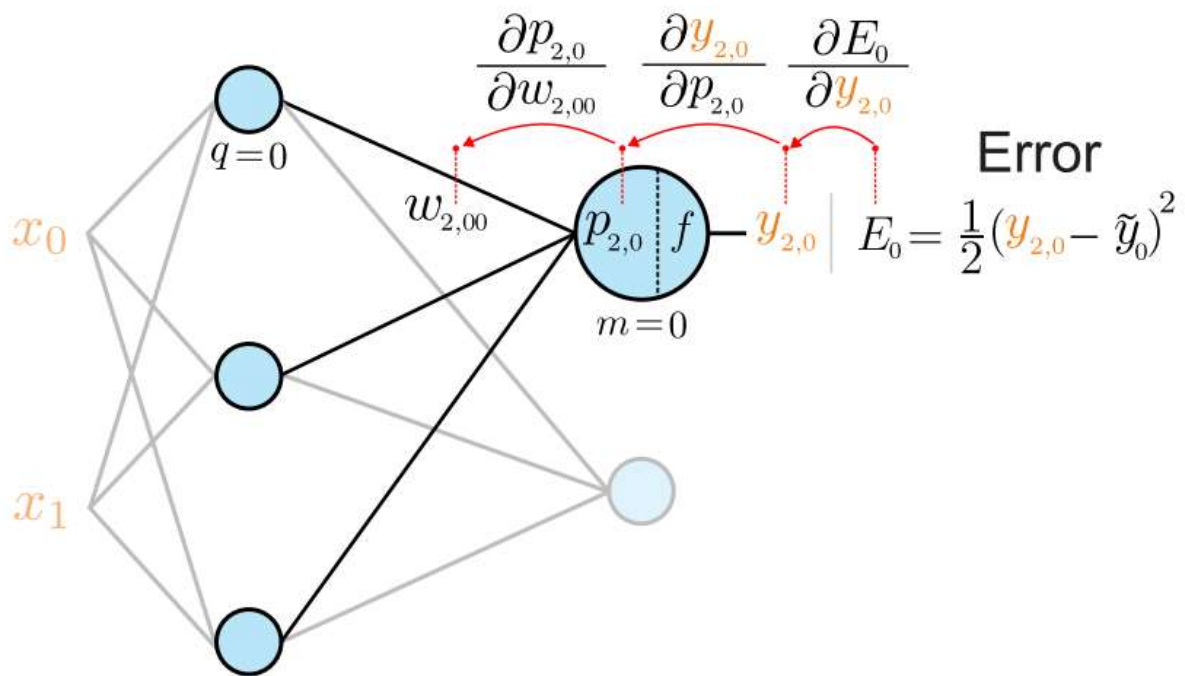
$$u_t + \lambda_1(uu_x + vu_y) = -p_x + \lambda_2(u_{xx} + u_{yy}),$$
$$v_t + \lambda_1(uv_x + vv_y) = -p_y + \lambda_2(v_{xx} + v_{yy}),$$



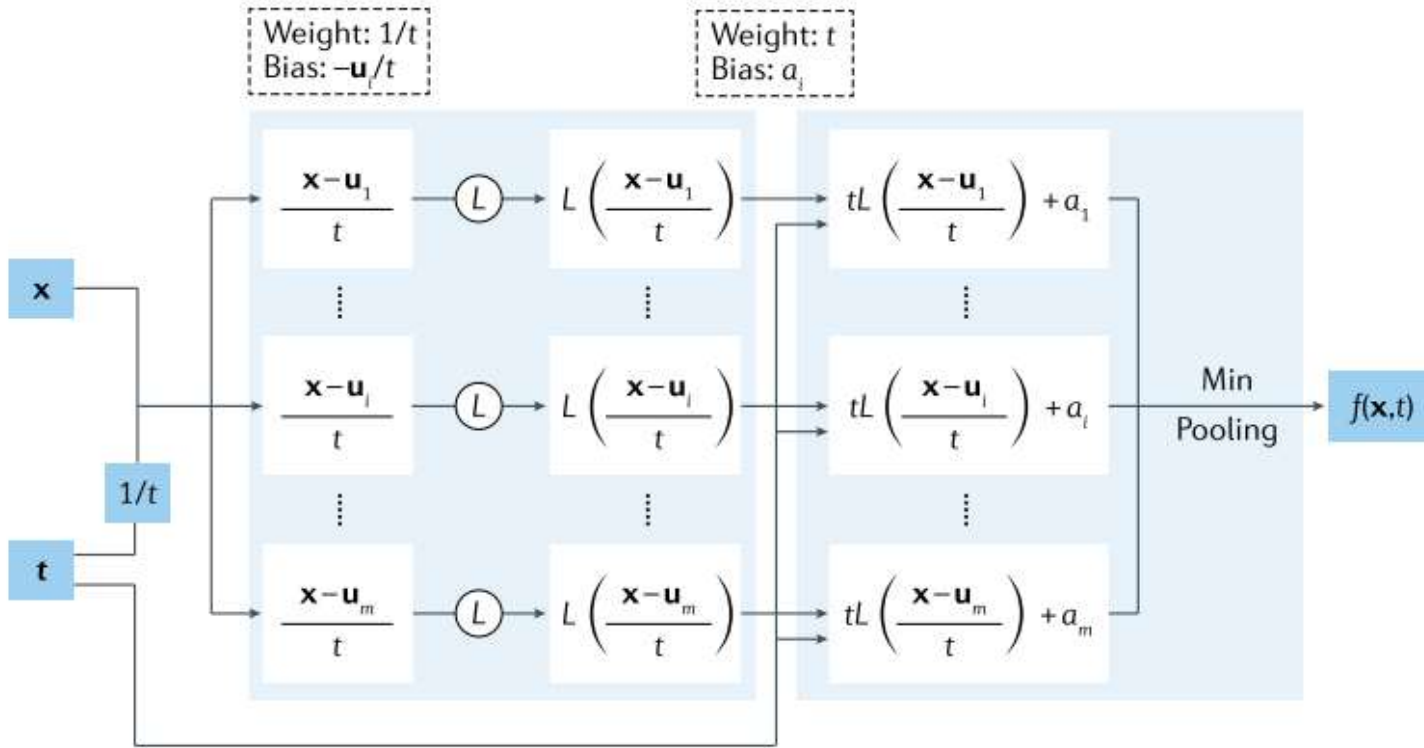
Supervised Training of PINN



The training process uses a set of model equations, and approximates them numerically, in order to train the NN representation f .



An example of Inductive bias in PINN



This two-layer architecture defines

$$f(x, t) := \min_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} \left\{ tL\left(\frac{x - u_i}{t}\right) + a_i \right\}$$

x, t : spatial and temporal variables

L : convex and Lipschitz activation function

a, u : NN parameters

m : number of neurons

$f(x, t)$ is the viscosity solution to the following Hamilton–Jacobi PDE:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(x, t) + H(\nabla_x f(x, t)) = 0 & x \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \in (0, +\infty), \\ f(x, 0) = J(x) & x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \end{cases}$$

