

# Inference of Partial Differential Equations via Constrained Gaussian Processes

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# Introduction

- Partial differential equations (PDEs) are widely employed to describe the physical and engineering phenomenon.
- Some *parameters*, which are determined by material properties, engineering properties, etc., are very important for prediction of PDE.
- In real world applications, directly measuring of these parameters are sometimes impossible.
- Estimating these parameters from physical experiment data are important task, known as model calibration, inverse problems, etc.
- We propose a new method for PDE parameter inference, called **PDE-Informed Gaussian Process Inference (PIGPI)**.

## Motivation Example

- As a motivation example, we consider the long-range infrared light detection and ranging (LIDAR) equation.
- The received signal over time  $t$  and range  $z$  can be predicted by the PDE solution:

$$\frac{\partial u(t, s)}{\partial t} - \theta_D \frac{\partial^2 u(t, s)}{\partial s^2} - \theta_S \frac{\partial u(t, s)}{\partial s} = \theta_A u(t, s), 0 \leq t \leq 20, 0 \leq s \leq 40,$$

with specified boundary and initial conditions.

- The task is to estimate the parameters  $\theta_D, \theta_S, \theta_A$  from the observation data  $y(\mathbf{x}_i) = u(\mathbf{x}_i) + \varepsilon_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_i = (t_i, s_i)$ ,  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$  is random error.
- Let  $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \{\mathbf{x}_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = (y(\mathbf{x}_i), i = 1, \dots, n)$ .

# Problem Formulation

In general, let's start with a semi-linear partial differential equation (PDE):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}),$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_p)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x})$  denotes a *linear* differential operator on  $u \in \mathcal{F}$  (some Hilbert space) of order  $a$ .

In the motivation example,

- $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial t} - \theta_D \frac{\partial^2 u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial s^2} - \theta_S \frac{\partial u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial s}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} = (t, s)$ .
- $f(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \theta_A u(\mathbf{x})$ .

## Problem Formulation

In general, we can assume that the *PDE operator* has the form

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i \in A} c_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial^{|\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i|} u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial^{\alpha_{i1}} x_1 \cdots \partial^{\alpha_{ip}} x_p},$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i = (\alpha_{i1}, \dots, \alpha_{ip})$ ,  $\alpha_{ij} = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i| = \sum_{j=1}^p \alpha_{ij} > 0$ .  $A = \{\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i, i = 1, \dots, l\}$ . The order of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  is defined by  $a = \max_i \|\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i\|_1$ .

In the motivation example,

- $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial t} - \theta_D \frac{\partial^2 u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial s^2} - \theta_S \frac{\partial u(\mathbf{x})}{\partial s}$ .
- $c_1 = 1, c_2 = -\theta_D, c_3 = -\theta_S, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_1 = (1, 0), \boldsymbol{\alpha}_2 = (0, 2), \boldsymbol{\alpha}_3 = (0, 1)$ .
- $a = 2$ , a second order PDE.

# Basic Idea of PIGPI

- The task is to estimate the parameters  $\theta$  from the observation data  $y(\mathbf{x}_i) = u(\mathbf{x}_i) + \varepsilon_i, i = 1, \dots, n_\tau$ . Let  $\tau = \{\mathbf{x}_i, i = 1, \dots, n_\tau\}$ .
- We assign a Gaussian process (GP) prior on  $u(\mathbf{x})$  denoted by  $U(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{GP}(\mu, \sigma^2 \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \cdot))$ .
- To incorporate PDE constraints into GP prior, define a random variable  $W$  quantifying the difference between GP  $U(\mathbf{x})$  and the PDE structure with given  $\theta$ , i.e.,

$$W = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} \|\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} U(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}, U(\mathbf{x}), \theta)\|.$$

- $W \equiv 0$  if and only if  $U$  is the solution of PDE with specified parameter  $\theta$ .

## Basic Idea of PIGPI

- However, in reality  $W$  is not computable. We approximate  $W$  by finite discretization on the set  $\mathbf{I} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{n_I}\} \subset \Omega$  such that  $\boldsymbol{\tau} \subset \mathbf{I} \subset \Omega$  and similarly define  $W_{\mathbf{I}}$  as

$$W_{\mathbf{I}} = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{I}} \|\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}} U(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}, U(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta})\|.$$

- When  $\mathbf{I}$  is dense,  $W_{\mathbf{I}}$  can well approximate  $W$ .
- Will discuss the choice of  $\mathbf{I}$  later.



# Basic Idea of PIGPI

- An important property for Gaussian process:
- If  $U(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{GP}(\mu, \sigma^2 \mathcal{K}(\cdot, \cdot))$ ;
- Given enough order of differentiable to  $\mathcal{K}$  ( $2a$  order derivative exists).
- Then  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} U(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{GP}(\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} \mu(\mathbf{x}), \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}'} \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))$ .
- Recall

$$W_I = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in I} \|\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} U(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}, U(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta})\|.$$

- $W_I = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} U(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, U(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta})$ ;
- $W_I = 0 | (U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I})) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}^{\theta} U(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta})$ .

## Basic Idea of PIGPI

- By treating  $W_{\mathbf{I}}$  as an approximation of  $W$  and assigning a noninformative prior for  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ , Jeffrey's prior on  $\sigma_e^2$ , the posterior is immediately obtained

$$\begin{aligned} & p_{\sigma_e^2, \Theta, U(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}}, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau})}(\sigma_e^2, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau})) \\ & \propto P(\sigma_e^2, \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}, U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau})) \\ & = \pi(\sigma_e^2) \times \pi_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \times P(U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I})|\Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ & \quad \times P(Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau})|\sigma_e^2, U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ & \quad \times P(W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0|Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}). \\ & = \frac{1}{\sigma_e^2} \pi_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ n_{\mathbf{I}} \log(2\pi) + \log(|C|) + \|u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I})\|_{C^{-1}} \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + n \log(2\pi) + n \log(\sigma_e^2) + \|u(\boldsymbol{\tau}) - y(\boldsymbol{\tau})\|_{\sigma_e^{-2}} \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + n_{\mathbf{I}} \log(2\pi) + \log |K| + \|f(\mathbf{I}, u(\mathbf{I}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}\mu(\mathbf{I}) - m\{u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I})\}\|_{K^{-1}} \right] \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

- Posterior inference for both  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  and  $u(\mathbf{I})$  can be done by sampling from/optimizing this (unnormalized) posterior density.

## Basic Idea of PIGPI

where

$$\begin{cases} C = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}) \\ m = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})^{-1} \\ K = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}) - \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}) \end{cases},$$

- When  $\mathcal{L}$  depends on  $\theta$ ,  $m$  and  $K$  need to be updated when  $\theta$  changes.
- Till now, we assume the PDE operator is linear. Although covers a group of nonlinear-PDE cases, **parameter inference from complex nonlinear PDEs are very important and challenging**.
- To solve these problems, we propose a novel method that
  - can **decouple the dependence between parameter  $\theta$  and covariance matrix  $K$** . Thus  $K$  is fixed once  $\mathbf{I}$  is given, i.e., no need to update when evaluating posterior density.
  - can deal with a wide range of **nonlinear PDEs**.

# Handling Non-linear and Parameter-dependent Operators

To demonstrate, we consider a nonlinear PDE,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}) = \theta_1 u(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}(\mathbf{x}).$$

This PDE is called Burger's equation, the PDE operator is  $\mathcal{L}u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \theta_1 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \theta_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}$ . It is

- Nonlinear:  $u(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(\mathbf{x})$  term;
- Parameter-operator dependent:  $-\theta_1 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \theta_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}$  term.

# Handling Non-linear and Parameter-dependent Operators

Recall the Burger's equation,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}) = \theta_1 u(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2}(\mathbf{x}).$$

First, we define an equivalent PDE system,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial s}(\mathbf{x}) &= u_2(\mathbf{x}), \\ \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial s}(\mathbf{x}) &= u_3(\mathbf{x}), \\ \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}) &= \theta_1 u_1(\mathbf{x}) u_2(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_2 u_3(\mathbf{x}),\end{aligned}$$

- This system of PDEs is called augmented PDE.
- The augmented PDE system has a *linear, parameter independent* operator.
- PDE is still nonlinear.

# Handling Non-linear and Parameter-dependent Operators

In general, we consider the nonlinear PDE of the form

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}u(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}, u, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \stackrel{\text{rewrite}}{\iff} \nabla^{\alpha_1}u = \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u, \nabla^{\alpha_2}u, \dots, \nabla^{\alpha_l}u) + f(\mathbf{x}, u, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is a nonlinear function of  $(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u, \nabla^{\alpha_2}u, \dots, \nabla^{\alpha_l}u)$ , which is the remaining part of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}$ .  $\mathcal{L}_1$  may contain parameter dependent components and nonlinear components. Then one method for defining augmented PDE is to rewrite (1) as

$$\nabla^{\alpha_1}u = \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \underbrace{u}_{u_1}, \underbrace{\nabla^{\alpha_2}u}_{u_2}, \dots, \underbrace{\nabla^{\alpha_l}u}_{u_l}) + f(\mathbf{x}, u, \boldsymbol{\theta}),$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^{\alpha_2}u_1(\mathbf{x}) &= u_2(\mathbf{x}), \\ &\dots \\ \nabla^{\alpha_l}u_1(\mathbf{x}) &= u_l(\mathbf{x}), \\ \nabla^{\alpha_1}u_1(\mathbf{x}) &= f(\mathbf{x}, u_1(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathcal{L}_1(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_l). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

# Handling Non-linear and Parameter-dependent Operators

Several properties are helpful for constructing PIGPI method based on augmented PDE:

- It can be shown these two PDE (systems) are equivalent:
  - Classical solution of original PDE can generalize to a classical solution of augmented PDE;
  - Classical solution of augmented PDE is also a classical solution of original PDE;
- The augmented PDE contains no parameters in left hand side, i.e., the PDE operator is independent to parameters;
- PDE operator for augmented PDE is linear operator.

After augmentation, the idea is natural to apply the proposed PIGPI to the augmented multi-variate PDE.

## Discussion - Non-uniqueness of Augmentation

**Lowest degree of derivative (LDD) principal:** It is easy to see that the augmentation is not unique. As an example, consider equation  $u_t - \theta_1 uu_x - \theta_2 u_{xx} = 0$ , the augmentation can be

$$\begin{aligned}u_t(\mathbf{x}) &= \theta_1 u(\mathbf{x})u_1(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_2 u_2(\mathbf{x}), \\u_x(\mathbf{x}) &= u_1(\mathbf{x}), \\u_{xx}(\mathbf{x}) &= u_2(\mathbf{x}),\end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}u_t(\mathbf{x}) &= \theta_1 u(\mathbf{x})u_1(\mathbf{x}) - \theta_2 u_2(\mathbf{x}), \\u_x(\mathbf{x}) &= u_1(\mathbf{x}), \\u_{1x}(\mathbf{x}) &= u_2(\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

While in this paper, we recommend to use the **second** augmentation. The main reasons are (a). the second augmented PDE system is a 1-order PDE while the first one is 2-order PDE. We prefer to use a lower order PDE. (b). the second augmented PDE system produce simpler covariance matrix  $K$ .



## Construction of $\mathbf{I}$

For many PDE based problems,  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ , where  $p = 2, 3$ , or 4. It is vital to choose proper discretization  $\mathbf{I}$ :

- $\mathbf{I}$  should be dense in  $\Omega$ , i.e.,  $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ , distance between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{I}$  should be as small as possible.  $\mathbf{I}$  should be space filling.
- From a computational point of view,  $|\mathbf{I}|$  should be as small as possible.

In practical applications, it is a common situation that the observation data are collected ahead of data analysis. Thus, we assume that  $\tau$  is known and fixed. Method for constructing  $\mathbf{I}$ :

- 0 Construct a (large) candidate point set  $\mathcal{D}$  of size  $N$  ( $N \gg n_{\mathbf{I}}$ );
- 1 Start with  $\mathbf{I} = \tau$ .
- 2 For  $i = n_{\tau} + 1, \dots, n_{\mathbf{I}}$ , repeat
  - 2.1 Find  $\mathbf{x}_i = \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{I})$ ;
  - 2.2  $\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{x}_i$ .
- 3 Output  $\mathbf{I}$ .

## Handling Boundary/Initial Conditions

In particular, we divide the IBCs into two categories, i.e., Dirichlet IBCs and Non-Dirichlet IBCs. Dirichlet IBCs are given by the known value of PDE solution on the specific boundary regions, i.e.,

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = b_1(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_1. \quad (3)$$

In many applications, the initial conditions have the same form with Dirichlet boundary condition, i.e., known value of PDE solution at time  $t = 0$ . The Non-Dirichlet boundary condition can be represented by an differential operator

$$\mathcal{B}_{\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}} u(\mathbf{x}) = b_2(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_2, \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathcal{B}$  is a differential operator with order  $b > 0$ , which has the similar form with  $\mathcal{L}$  that we defined in previous sections.

## Handling Boundary/Initial Conditions

For non-Dirichlet Boundary conditions, we define the comprehensive operator

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\theta}}u(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\theta}}u(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \setminus \Gamma_2 \\ \mathcal{B}_{\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\theta}}u(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_2 \end{cases}.$$

Similarly, define the comprehensive source term

$$f(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{cases} f(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \setminus \Gamma_2 \\ b_2(\mathbf{x}, u(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_2 \end{cases}.$$

For non-Dirichlet boundary condition, it is natural to incorporate the boundary information by including several proper chosen boundary points and replacing  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $f$  with their comprehensive forms.

## Handling Boundary/Initial Conditions

Let  $\mathbf{I}_1 \subset \Gamma_1$  and  $\mathbf{I}_2 \subset \Gamma_2$  denote the discretization subset of  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ , respectively. For non-Dirichlet boundary condition, it is natural to incorporate the boundary information by replacing  $\mathbf{I}$  with  $\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_2$  and replacing  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $f$  with their comprehensive forms. For Dirichlet boundary condition, we assume the value of PDE solution is known a priori on  $\Gamma_1$  ahead of inference.

## Handling Boundary/Initial Conditions

The posterior now is modified as follows,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & p_{\sigma_e^2, \Theta, U(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}}, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau})=y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}_1)=b_1(\mathbf{I}_1)}(\sigma_e^2, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}}=0, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau})=y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}_1)=b_1(\mathbf{I}_1)) \\
 & \propto P(\sigma_e^2, \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}, U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b_1(\mathbf{I}_1)) \\
 & = \pi(\sigma_e^2) \times \pi_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \times P(U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I})) \\
 & \quad \times P(Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau})|U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \pi_{\Theta}) \\
 & \quad \times P(U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b_1(\mathbf{I}_1)|U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I})) \\
 & \quad \times P(W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0|U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b_1(\mathbf{I}_1), U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta}). \\
 & \propto \frac{1}{\sigma_e^2} \times \pi_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ n_{\mathbf{I}} \log(2\pi) + \log(|C|) + \|u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I})\|_{C^{-1}} \right. \right. \\
 & \quad + n \log(2\pi) + n \log(\sigma_e^2) + \|y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) - u(\boldsymbol{\tau})\|_{\sigma_e^{-2}} \\
 & \quad + n_{\mathbf{I}_1} \log(2\pi) + \log|C_b| + \|b_1(\mathbf{I}_1) - \mu(\mathbf{I}_1) - \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I})\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})^{-1}(u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I}))\|_{C_b^{-1}} \\
 & \quad \left. \left. + n_{\mathbf{I}} \log(2\pi) + \log|K_b| + \|f(\mathbf{I}, u(\mathbf{I}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{x}}\mu(\mathbf{I}) - m_b\{u(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1) - \mu(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1)\}\|_{K_b^{-1}} \right] \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_b = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I}_1) - \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I})\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}_1)$ ,

$K_b = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I}) - \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1)\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1)^{-1}\mathcal{K}\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I})$  and

$m_b = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1)\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1, \mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{I}_1)^{-1}$ .

## Dimensional Reduction for $U(I)$

- The parameter space is of dimension  $ln_{\mathbf{I}} + d$ ,  $l$  is the number of PDE components. Thus, when  $n_{\mathbf{I}}$  is large, optimizing or sampling from posterior are challenging tasks.
- The Karhunen Loeve (KL) expansion to the GP  $U(\mathbf{x})$  is given by

$$U(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} Z_i \sqrt{\lambda_i} \psi_i(\mathbf{x}),$$

- $\sqrt{\lambda_i}$  are eigenvectors of kernel function of GP in decreasing order, we can choose an  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\lambda_i$  for  $i > M$  are negligible, then the GP  $U(\mathbf{x})$  is approximated by

$$U(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^M Z_i \sqrt{\lambda_i} \psi_i(\mathbf{x}).$$

$M$  is chosen such that  $\sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i / \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathbf{I}}} \lambda_i \geq 99.99\%$ .

- $U(\mathbf{x})$  is parametrized by  $(Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_M)$ .

## Prior Tempering - Balancing Contribution of Prior and Likelihood

- When  $\mathbf{I}$ , i.e., the discretization set, is a large set while  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  is relatively small, i.e., the observation is sparse.
- When  $\mathbf{I}_1$ , i.e., the discretization set for boundary region, is a large set while  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  is relatively small.

The contribution of prior of  $U(\mathbf{x})$  becomes too large. To mitigate this imbalance, we provide an idea of **tempering**. In particular

- We replace  $\log(|C|) + \|u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I})\|_{C^{-1}}$  with  $\log(|C|)/\beta + \|u(\mathbf{I}) - \mu(\mathbf{I})\|_{C^{-1}}/\beta$ , where  $\beta = n/n_{\mathbf{I}}$ .
- We replace  $\|m(\mathbf{I}_1) - y(\mathbf{I}_1)\|_{C_b^{-1}}$  by  $\frac{1}{n_1} \|m(\mathbf{I}_1) - y(\mathbf{I}_1)\|_{C_b^{-1}}$ .
- In summary, the posterior is modified to

$$\begin{aligned} & p_{\sigma_e^2, \Theta, U(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}}, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}_1)}^{(\beta)} (\sigma_e^2, \boldsymbol{\theta}, u(\mathbf{I})|W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0, Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau}), U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b(\mathbf{I}_1)) \\ & \propto \pi_{\Theta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \times [P(U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I})) \times P(W_{\mathbf{I}} = 0|U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b(\mathbf{I}_1), U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \Theta = \boldsymbol{\theta})]^{1/\beta} \\ & \quad \times P(U(\mathbf{I}_1) = b(\mathbf{I}_1)|U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}))^{1/n_1} \\ & \quad \times \pi(\sigma_e^2) \times P(Y(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = y(\boldsymbol{\tau})|U(\mathbf{I}) = u(\mathbf{I}), \Theta) \end{aligned}$$

# Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

- We apply the Hamiltonian Monte Carlo(HMC) algorithm to draw random sample from the posterior distribution.
- Compared to using a Gaussian random walk proposal distribution in the Metropolis–Hastings algorithm, Hamiltonian Monte Carlo reduces the correlation between successive sampled states by proposing moves to distant states which maintain a high probability of acceptance.
- Leapfrog method for HMC is adopted to draw proposal for parameters.



# Summary of PIGPI Procedure

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**Algorithm 1** Posterior Inference for PIGPI Procedure

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- 1: Input data  $\mathcal{D} = \{(y_i, \mathbf{x}_i), i = 1, \dots, n_{\tau}\}$ , selecting  $\mathbf{I}$  using method proposed in previous slides.
  - 2: Train Gaussian process model based on  $\mathcal{D}$ , obtain the posterior density.
  - 3: Optimize the posterior density to obtain MAP estimation of  $u(\mathbf{I})$ ,  $\sigma_e^2$  and  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ .
  - 4: Take MAP estimation obtained from Step 3 as a initial state. Draw posterior sample for  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ ,  $\sigma_e^2$  and  $u(\mathbf{I})$  using HMC algorithm.
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# Numerical Illustration - Preparation

## Proposed methods

- PIGPI

## Benchmark methods

- Two-Stage Method (TSM).
- Automated PDE identification (API) method (Liu et. al 2021).
- Methods (BM and PC) proposed by Xun et. al.(2013)

Xun, X., Cao, J., Mallick, B., Maity, A., & Carroll, R. J. (2013). *Parameter estimation of partial differential equation models*. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 108(503), 1009-1020.

Liu, R., Bianco, M. J., & Gerstoft, P. (2021). *Automated partial differential equation identification*. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 150(4), 2364-2374.

## Evaluation metrics

- Bias, Root mean square error (RMSE) of MAP of  $\theta$  (component-wise): Evaluate the accuracy of parameter estimation.
- Coverage rate of 95% credible intervals for  $\theta$  (component-wise): Evaluate the accuracy of uncertainty quantification.
- RMSE of MAP of  $u(\mathbf{x}_I)$ : Evaluate the ability of recovering PDE.
- Computation time for MAP optimization: Evaluate the efficiency of alternative methods.

## Example1-Contaminant Source Identification

- Consider a dimensionless diffusion equation on a square domain  $\mathbf{s} \in S = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  and time interval  $t \in [0, 1]$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 u = \frac{c}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{s} - \boldsymbol{\chi}|}{2\sigma^2}\right).$$

- The boundary and initial conditions are given by  $u(\mathbf{s}, t) = 0, \mathbf{s} \in \partial S, t \in [0, 1], u(\mathbf{s}, 0) = 0, \mathbf{s} \in S$ , where  $u$  is the dissolved concentration of contaminant,  $t$  is time,  $\mathbf{s}$  is the location.
- Observation:  $y(\mathbf{x}_i) = u(\mathbf{x}_i) + \varepsilon_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_i = (t_i, \mathbf{s}_i), \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_e)$ .
- The purpose is to estimate the parameter  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (c, \mathcal{X}_1, \mathcal{X}_2)$ .

## Example1-Contaminant Source Identification

By applying HMC, the posterior density and trace of posterior sample are shown in figure 1 and 2. Note that the corresponding true values for  $\theta = (5, 0.25, 0.75)$  and  $\sigma_e = 0.001$ .

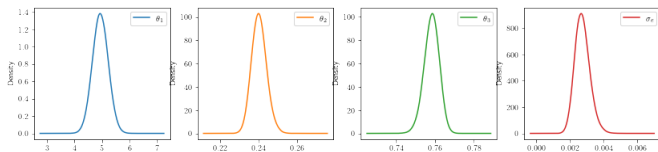


Figure 1: The density estimation of  $\theta$  and  $\sigma_e$ .

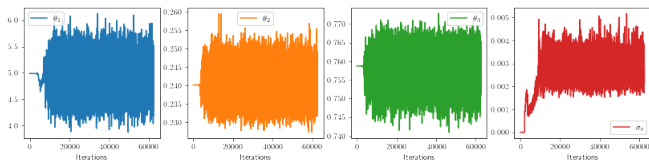


Figure 2: The trace plot of posterior sample for  $\theta$  and  $\sigma_e$ .

## Example1-Contaminant Source Identification

We compare the computational time of MAP optimization between using and not using KL expansion.

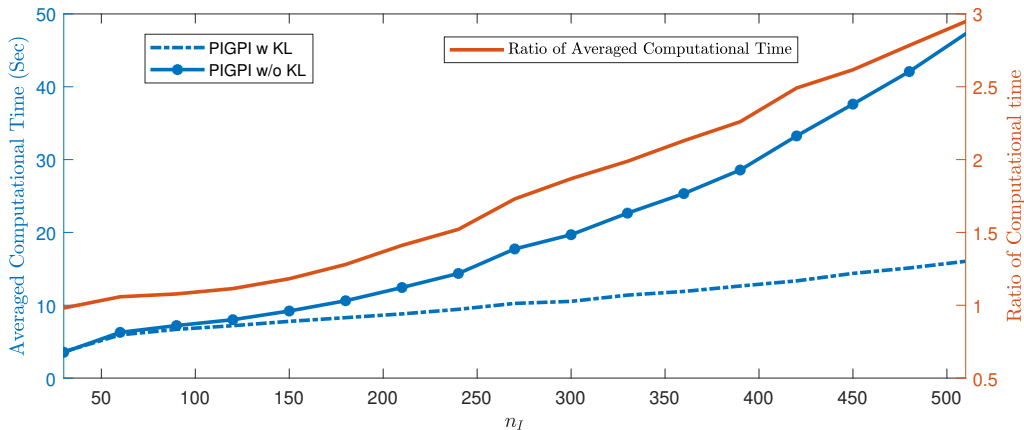


Figure 3: Comparison of computational time

## Example2-Long-Range Infrared Light Detection and Ranging

Recall the motivation example

$$\frac{\partial u(t, s)}{\partial t} - \theta_D \frac{\partial^2 u(t, s)}{\partial s^2} - \theta_S \frac{\partial u(t, s)}{\partial s} = \theta_A u(t, s), \quad t \in [0, 20], \quad s \in [0, 40].$$

- The boundary condition is given by  $u(t, 0) = 0$  and initial condition is  $u(0, s) = \{1 + 0.1 * (20 - s)^2\}^{-1}$ .
- Observation:  $y(\mathbf{x}_i) = u(\mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_0) + \varepsilon_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_e)$ . The true value for  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_0$  is  $(1, 0.1, 0.1)$ .
- $\theta_D$  and  $\theta_S$  are involved in the linear PDE operator.;
- This example can be found in the JASA paper:  
Xun, X., Cao, J., Mallick, B., Maity, A., & Carroll, R. J. (2013). *Parameter estimation of partial differential equation models*. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 108(503), 1009-1020.

## Example2-Long-Range Infrared Light Detection and Ranging

- PIGPI method can be applied but is possibly time consuming;
- Compare the computational time of PIGPI and PIGPI + PDE augmentation;
- Use Adam algorithm, 2500 iterations for each optimization.

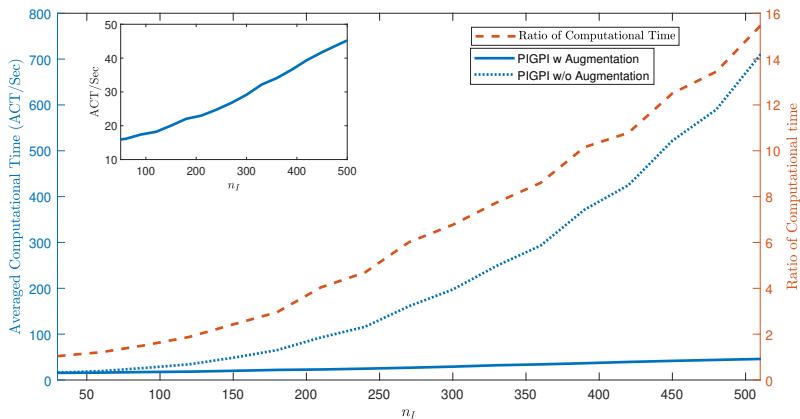


Figure 4: Comparison of computational time



## Example2-Long-Range Infrared Light Detection and Ranging

- Comparing with methods proposed in JASA paper:  
Xun, X., Cao, J., Mallick, B., Maity, A., & Carroll, R. J. (2013). *Parameter estimation of partial differential equation models*. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 108(503), 1009-1020.
- $\tau = \{(i, j), i = 1, 2, \dots, 20, j = 1, 2, \dots, 40\}$ .  $\mathbf{I} = \tau$ .
- Two methods are proposed in this paper, Bayesian method (BM) and parameter cascading method (PC).
- We compare with BM, PC and TSM.

## Example2-Long-Range Infrared Light Detection and Ranging

		$\sigma_e = 0.02$			$\sigma_e = 0.05$		
		$\theta_D$	$\theta_A$	$\theta_S$	$\theta_D$	$\theta_A$	$\theta_S$
Bias $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI</b>	<b>-14.00</b>	<b>-0.20</b>	<b>-0.12</b>	<b>-27.35</b>	<b>-0.34</b>	<b>-0.29</b>
	BM	-16.50	-0.40	-0.20	-35.60	1.00	0.60
	PC	-29.70	-0.10	-0.30	-55.90	-0.20	-0.50
	TSM	-105.33	-2.69	-1.28	-140.12	-4.05	-2.12
SD $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>20.31</b>	<b>3.74</b>	<b>0.48</b>
	BM	9.10	1.60	0.20	22.20	3.80	0.50
	PC	24.90	3.80	0.50	40.50	6.20	0.80
	TSM	29.42	3.82	0.52	49.00	7.29	1.03
RMSE $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI</b>	<b>16.85</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>34.06</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>0.56</b>
	BM	18.81	1.66	0.27	42.00	3.90	1.00
	PC	38.96	3.75	0.54	69.10	6.20	2.20
	TSM	109.35	4.67	1.38	148.43	8.34	2.36
CR %	<b>PIGPI</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>92.2</b>
	BM	93.9	99.9	98.8	74	97.8	93.5
	PC	84.3	96.7	94.9	78.1	96.5	93.8

## Example3-Burger's Equation

We consider the viscous Burgers' equation given by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \theta_1 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \theta_2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial s^2} = 0, s \in [0, 1], t \in [0, 0.1],$$

where  $\theta_2 > 0$  is the viscosity. Burgers' equation is a nonlinear equation. The boundary conditions and initial conditions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u(t, 0)}{\partial s} &= \frac{\partial u(t, 1)}{\partial s} = 0, & t \in [0, 0.1] \\ u(0, s) &= \exp\{-100(s - 0.5)^2\}, & s \in [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

- Observation:  $y(\mathbf{x}_i) = u(\mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}_0) + \varepsilon_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma_e)$ . The true value for  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_0$  is  $(1, 0.1)$ .
- $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \{(i/20, j/20), i = 1, 2, \dots, 20, j = 1, 2, \dots, 20\}$ .  $\mathbf{I} = \boldsymbol{\tau}$ .

## Example3-Burger's Equation

- Compare with PDE identification method (API method):

Liu, R., Bianco, M. J., and Gerstoft, P. (2021). *Automated partial differential equation identification*. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 150(4):2364–2374

		$\sigma_e = 0.001$		$\sigma_e = 0.01$	
		$\theta_1$	$\theta_2$	$\theta_1$	$\theta_2$
Bias $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI w IBC</b>	<b>-4.60</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>-15.49</b>	<b>-0.27</b>
	<b>PIGPI w/o IBC</b>	<b>-3.15</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-23.24</b>	<b>-1.60</b>
	API	10.76	-6.69	108.59	85.97
	TSM	-10.44	-2.19	-50.61	-8.55
SD $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI w IBC</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>11.31</b>	<b>0.79</b>
	<b>PIGPI w/o IBC</b>	<b>2.84</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>19.21</b>	<b>1.34</b>
	API	6.15	0.51	299.73	258.97
	TSM	4.01	0.35	27.24	2.72
RMSE $\times 10^{-3}$	<b>PIGPI w IBC</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>19.18</b>	<b>0.83</b>
	<b>PIGPI w/o IBC</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>30.15</b>	<b>2.09</b>
	API	12.39	6.71	318.66	272.74
	TSM	11.18	2.22	57.46	8.97
CR %	<b>PIGPI w IBC</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>96.2</b>
	<b>PIGPI w/o IBC</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>81.5</b>

## Example3-Burger's Equation

- The improvement of taking advantages of boundary/initial conditions;
- The boundary conditions can significantly reduce the error of posterior inference of PDE solution.

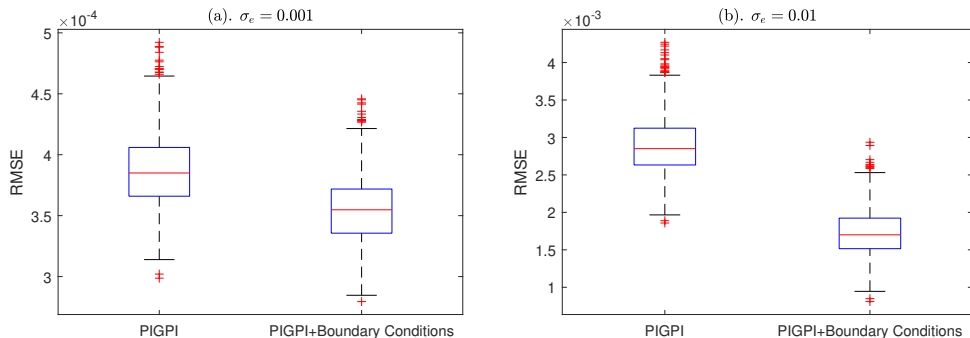


Figure 5: Comparison of RMSEs, PIGPI without boundary conditions v.s. PIGPI with boundary conditions

# Summary

- We propose a new method for *parameter inference* involves complex PDE models.
- The proposed method doesn't require time-consuming PDE numerical solver such as finite element methods or finite difference methods.
- We present methods for choosing discretization set and dimensional reduction to the parameters.
- Numerical examples are employed to illustrate the performance of the proposed method.

Thank You!

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