

# Robust Variational Physics-Informed Neural Networks

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## Most cited PINNs-related Karniadakis' works according to Google Scholar (01/05/2024)

- (8873) Raissi, M., Perdikaris, P., & Karniadakis, G. E. (2019). *Physics-informed neural networks: A deep learning framework for solving forward and inverse problems involving nonlinear partial differential equations*. *Journal of Computational Physics*, 378, 686-707.
- (3199) Karniadakis, G. E., Kevrekidis, I. G., Lu, L., Perdikaris, P., Wang, S., & Yang, L. (2021). *Physics-informed machine learning*. *Nature Reviews Physics*, 3(6), 422-440.
- (1305) Raissi, M., Perdikaris, P., & Karniadakis, G. E. (2017). *Physics informed deep learning (part i): Data-driven solutions of nonlinear partial differential equations*. arXiv preprint arXiv:1711.10561.
- ⋮
- (422) Kharazmi, E., Zhang, Z., & Karniadakis, G. E. (2021). *hp-VPINNs: Variational physics-informed neural networks with domain decomposition*. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 374, 113547.
- ⋮
- (272) Kharazmi, E., Zhang, Z., & Karniadakis, G. E. (2019). *Variational physics-informed neural networks for solving partial differential equations*. arXiv preprint arXiv:1912.00873.

- 1 VPINNs: Variational Physics-Informed Neural Networks
- 2 RVPINNs: Robust Variational Physics-Informed Neural Networks
  - Construction
  - Error estimates
  - Numerical results
- 3 Conclusions & further directions

## VPINNs: Original approach<sup>1</sup>

### Given:

- A (possibly non-linear) well-posed variational formulation:

$$\text{Find } u \in U, \text{ such that } r(u, v) := a(u, v) - l(v) = 0, \forall v \in V.$$

- A discrete test space  $V_M := \text{span}\{\varphi_m\}_{m=1}^M \subseteq V$ .

**Idea:** Obtain a DNN approximation of  $u$  by solving the minimization problem:

$$\text{Find } u_{\theta^*}, \text{ s.t. } \theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_r(u_{\theta}) := \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_{\theta}, \varphi_m)^2 + C(u_{\theta}),$$

where  $u_{\theta}$  denotes a DNN output with trainable parameters  $\theta$ , and  $C(\cdot)$  a quadratic functional to impose BC's for the DNN output.

**Problem:** This approach is generally not robust and strongly depends upon the selection of the basis.

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<sup>1</sup> As presented in: Kharazmi, E., et al. (2019). *Variational physics-informed neural networks for solving partial differential equations*. arXiv:1912.00873

## A wrong discrete test space example

- As an illustrative example, authors<sup>1</sup> consider the following variational problem:

Find  $u \in H^1(-1, 1)$ , such that  $u(-1) = u(1) = 0$ , and

$$a(u, v) := \int_{-1}^1 u' v' dx = l(v) := \int_{-1}^1 f v dx, \quad \forall v \in H_0^1(-1, 1).$$

- Setting  $V_M = \text{span} \{ \varphi_m := \sin(m\pi x) \}_{m=1}^M \subseteq H_0^1(-1, 1)$ , they propose the following loss function:

$$\mathcal{L}_r(u_\theta) = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m)^2 + u_\theta(-1)^2 + u_\theta(1)^2.$$

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<sup>1</sup>Kharazmi, E., et al. (2019). *Variational physics-informed neural networks for solving partial differential equations*. arXiv:1912.00873

## Wrong test example: Poisson's equation with delta source

### Variational problem:

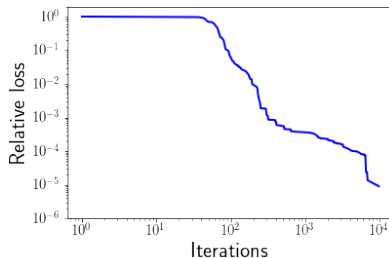
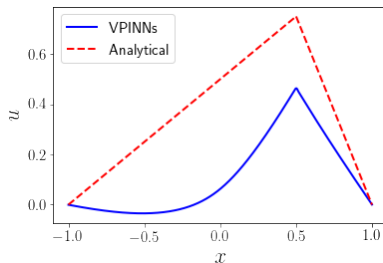
Find  $u \in H_0^1(-1, 1)$ , such that:

$$\int_{-1}^1 u' v' dx = v(0.5), \forall v \in H_0^1(-1, 1)$$

### DNN Setting:

- Activation function: tanh
- Neurons: 25
- Hidden layers: 5
- $N^\circ$  test functions = 50
- Integration: Trapezoidal rule
- Integration nodes: 501
- Iterations: 10,000
- Optimizer: Adam
- Learning rate: 0.01

### Best approximation (loss sense)



## How can we define adequate loss functions?

We propose a general framework (RVPINNs) to define robust loss functions based on the computation of a discrete residual representative with respect to an adequate discrete norm.

## RVPINNs assumptions

In the following, we assume a **linear** problem of the form:

$$\text{Find } u \in U, \text{ such that } r(u, v) := a(u, v) - l(v) = 0, \forall v \in V,$$

satisfying:

- **Boundedness:** There exists a constant  $\mu > 0$ , such that

$$a(w, v) \leq \mu \|w\|_U \|v\|_V, \quad \forall w \in U, v \in V,$$

- **Inf-sup stability:** There exists a constant  $\alpha > 0$ , such that

$$\sup_{0 \neq v \in V} \frac{a(w, v)}{\|v\|_V} \geq \alpha \|w\|_U, \quad \forall w \in U.$$

- **Adjoint injectivity:** For all  $v \in V$ ,

$$a(w, v) = 0, \forall w \in U \implies v = 0.$$

Under previous assumptions, the problem is well-posed, and it holds:

$$\sup_{0 \neq w \in U} \frac{a(w, v)}{\|w\|_U} \geq \alpha \|v\|_V, \quad \forall v \in V.$$



## VPINNs: An alternative definition

Given  $V_M = \text{span}\{\varphi_m\}_{m=1}^M$  and the original loss functional from VPINNs

$$\mathcal{L}_r(u_\theta) = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m)^2 + C(u_\theta),$$

if we define the following function in  $V_M$

$$\tilde{\varphi} = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m) \varphi_m,$$

as a consequence of the linearity of the weak residual, it holds

$$\mathcal{L}_r(u_\theta) = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m)^2 + C(u_\theta) = r(u_\theta, \tilde{\varphi}) + C(u_\theta).$$

Our goal is to define the loss functional in terms of a particular discrete test function  $\tilde{\varphi} \in V_M$  such that VPINNs becomes robust.

## RVPINNs: Robust Variational Physics-Informed Neural Networks

**Main idea:** For a given trainable parameter  $\theta$ , we compute the **Riesz representation of the residual**  $\phi := \phi(\theta) \in V_M$  as solution of the following Galerkin problem:

$$(\phi, v_M)_V = r(u_\theta, v_M), \quad \forall v_M \in V_M, \quad (1)$$

and define the loss function as:

$$\mathcal{L}_r^\phi(u_\theta) := r(u_\theta, \phi) + C(u_\theta), \quad (2)$$

### Key observations:

- Defining:  $\phi := \sum_{m=1}^M \eta_m(\theta) \varphi_m$ , problem (1) leads to the resolution of:

$$G\eta(\theta) = R(\theta), \quad \text{with } G_{nm} = (\varphi_m, \varphi_n)_V, \quad \text{and } R_n(\theta) = r(u_\theta, \varphi_n).$$

Thus,

$$\mathcal{L}_r^\phi(u_\theta) = R(\theta)^T G^{-1} R(\theta) + C(u_\theta).$$

- To minimize the loss functional (2) is equivalent, up to the constraint  $C(u_\theta)$ , to minimize the quantity  $\|\phi\|_V^2$ . Indeed, evaluating (1) with  $v_M = \phi$ , gives

$$\|\phi\|_V^2 = (\phi, \phi)_V = r(u_\theta, \phi).$$

- $\|\phi\|_V^2$  is an a posteriori error estimator for  $\|u - u_\theta\|_U^2$ .

## Orthonormal discrete basis and relation with other VPINNs

- When a test space  $V_M$  is the span of an orthonormal set  $\{\varphi_m\}_{m=1}^M$  with respect to the  $\|\cdot\|_V$ -norm, the Gram matrix  $G$  coincides with the identity matrix; therefore, the corresponding residual representative has the form:

$$\phi = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m) \varphi_m,$$

and the loss function is explicitly written as (coinciding with the classical approach):

$$\mathcal{L}_r^\phi(u_\theta) = \sum_{m=1}^M r(u_\theta, \varphi_m)^2 + C(u_\theta).$$

- The Deep Fourier Residual method<sup>2</sup> is a particular case of RVPINNs.

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<sup>2</sup> Taylor, J. M., Pardo, D., & Muga, I. (2023). *A Deep Fourier Residual method for solving PDEs using Neural Networks*. *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, 405, 115850.

## A posteriori error estimates for linear problems

### Main complexities for proving the robustness of $\|\phi\|_V$ :

- The solution of the Petrov-Galerkin problem **may not have a solution** or, if there exists, **it may be non-unique** since the space of all possible realizations for the NN structure defines a manifold instead of a finite-dimensional space<sup>3</sup>.
- Standard FEM arguments based on a discrete inf-sup condition cannot be applied in this context.

### Approach:

- We introduce an equivalence class that allows us to neglect the part of the error that is  $a$ -orthogonal to  $V_M$ . For that equivalence class, we prove that the residual representative is a reliable and efficient a posteriori estimator for the error.
- For the full error, we demonstrate its equivalence to the residual error estimator up to an oscillation term and under the assumption of the existence of a local Fortin operator.

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<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Section 6.3 in Berrone, S., Canuto, C., & Pintore, M. (2022). *Variational physics informed neural networks: the role of quadratures and test functions*. *Journal of Scientific Computing*, 92(3), 100.

## A posteriori error estimates for RVPINNs in an equivalence class sense

- Let us define the following Null space of the operator  $A : U \mapsto V'_M$ :

$$U_M^0 := \{w \in U : \langle A(w), v_M \rangle := a(w, v_M) = 0, \forall v_M \in V_M\},$$

and the following norm for the quotient space  $U/U_M^0$ :

$$\|[w]\|_{U/U_M^0} := \inf_{w_0 \in U_M^0} \|w + w_0\|_U.$$

- We extend the definition of the bilinear form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  to the product space  $U/U_M^0 \times V_M$  as:

$$a([w], v_M) := a(w, v_M), \quad \text{with } w \in [w] \text{ being any arbitrary representative of } [w].$$

## A posteriori error estimates for RVPINNs in an equivalence class sense

### Proposition

The following boundedness and semi-discrete inf-sup conditions are satisfied

$$a([w], v_M) \leq \mu \| [w] \|_{U/U_M^0} \| v_M \|_V, \quad \forall [w] \in U/U_M^0, v_M \in V_M,$$

$$\sup_{0 \neq v_M \in V_M} \frac{a([w], v_M)}{\| v_M \|_V} \geq \alpha \| [w] \|_{U/U_M^0}, \quad \forall [w] \in U/U_M^0.$$

Theorem (Lower and upper bounds in terms of the residual representative)

Let  $u \in U$  be the solution of the continuous problem;  $u_\theta \in U_{NN}$  denote a DNN structure with trainable parameters  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^S$ ;  $V_M \subseteq V$  denote a finite-dimensional space, equipped with norm  $\| \cdot \|_V$ ; and  $\phi \in V_M$  be the Riesz representative of the weak residual. It holds:

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \| \phi \|_V \leq \| [u - u_\theta] \|_{U/U_M^0} \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \| \phi \|_V.$$

## Energy norm error estimates

Corollary (Lower bound for the true error)

Under the same hypothesis of the previous Theorem, it holds:

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \|\phi\|_V \leq \|u - u_\theta\|_U.$$

Proposition (Upper bound for the true error)

Under the same hypothesis as before, if there exists  $R > 0$  such that, for all  $\theta \in B(\theta^*, R)$ , there is a local Fortin operator  $\Pi_\theta : V \mapsto V_M$  with a  $\theta$ -independent constant  $C_\Pi > 0$ , it holds:

$$\|u - u_\theta\|_U \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \text{osc}(u) + \frac{1}{C_\Pi \alpha} \|\phi\|_V, \quad \forall \theta \in B(\theta^*, R),$$

with

$$\text{osc}(u) := \sup_{0 \neq v \in V} \frac{a(u, v - \Pi_\theta v)}{\|v\|_V}.$$

where  $B(\theta^*, R)$  denotes an open ball of center  $\theta^*$  and radius  $R$ , with respect to a given norm of  $\mathbb{R}^S$ .

## Model problem: 1D advection-diffusion problem

We consider the model problem:

$$\begin{aligned} -\varepsilon u'' + \beta u' &= f, & \text{in } \Omega = (-1, 1), \\ u &= 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

We then set  $U = V = H_0^1(\Omega)$  and consider the following continuous variational formulation:

$$\text{Find } u \in U : r(u, v) := l(v) - a(u, v), \quad \forall v \in V,$$

with

$$a(u, v) := (\varepsilon u' - \beta u, v'), \quad \text{and} \quad l(v) = \langle f, v \rangle,$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the  $L^2$ -inner product, and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the duality map between  $V'$  and  $V$ .

We finally equip the Hilbert spaces  $U, V$  with the norms

$$\|w\|_U^2 := \|w\|_V^2 := \varepsilon (w', w').$$



## Discrete setting

We consider two discrete test spaces:

- $V_M = \text{span}\{\varphi_m\}_{m=1}^M$  where  $\varphi_m$  being the standard globally continuous and piece-wise linear functions defined over a uniform mesh partition of  $\Omega$ . The loss function in this case is

$$\mathcal{L}_r^\phi(u_\theta) = R(\theta)^T G^{-1} R(\theta) + C(u_\theta).$$

where  $G_{nm} = (\varphi_m, \varphi_n)_V$ , and  $R_n(\theta) = r(u_\theta, \varphi_n)$ .

- $V_M = \text{span}\{\varphi_m = \frac{2s_m}{\sqrt{\varepsilon\pi m}}\}_{m=1}^M$  where  $s_m = \sin\left(m\pi\frac{x+1}{2}\right)$ , so the function  $\varphi_m$  are orthonormal with respect to  $(\cdot, \cdot)_V$ . The loss function in this case is

$$\mathcal{L}_r^\phi(u_\theta) = \frac{4}{\varepsilon\pi^2} \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{m^2} r(u_\theta, s_m)^2 + C(u_\theta).$$

Example: A smooth diffusion problem ( $\varepsilon = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0$ , and  $u(x) = x \sin(\pi(x + 1))$ )

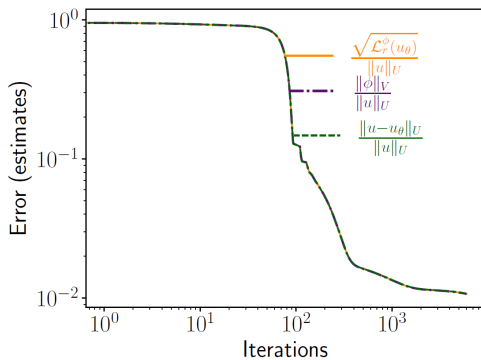
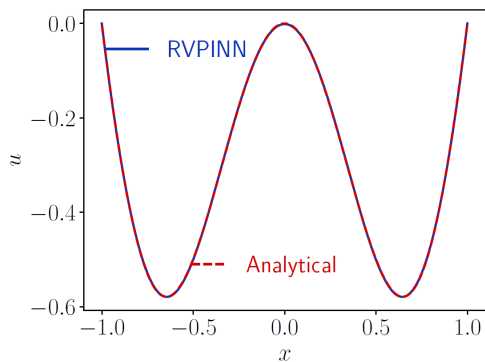


Figure: RVPINNs approximation with strong BCs imposition and 50 spectral test functions.

Example: A smooth diffusion problem ( $\varepsilon = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0$ , and  $u(x) = x \sin(\pi(x + 1))$ )

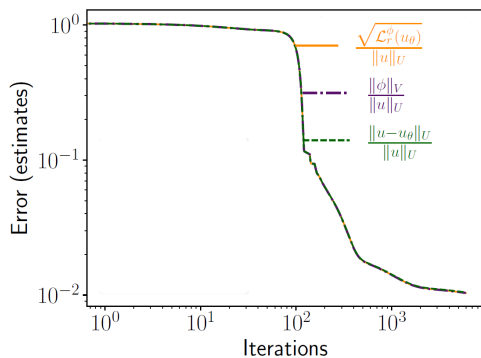
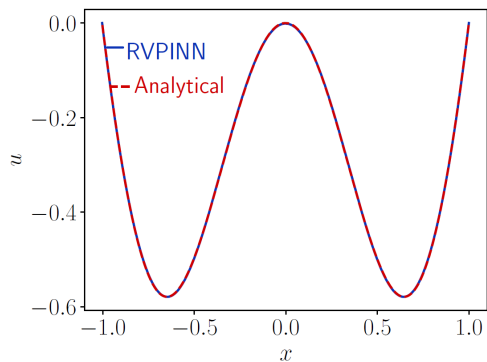


Figure: RVPINNs approximation with strong BCs imposition and 100 FE test functions.

Example: Delta source problem ( $\varepsilon = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0$ , and  $l(v) = \langle \delta_{1/2}, v \rangle$ )

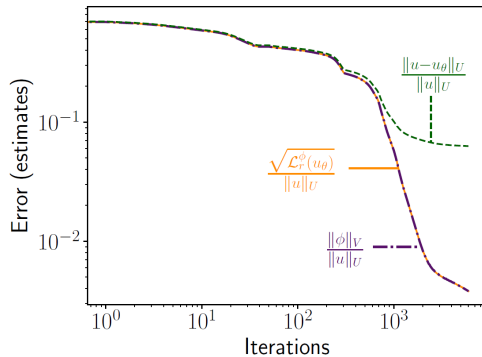
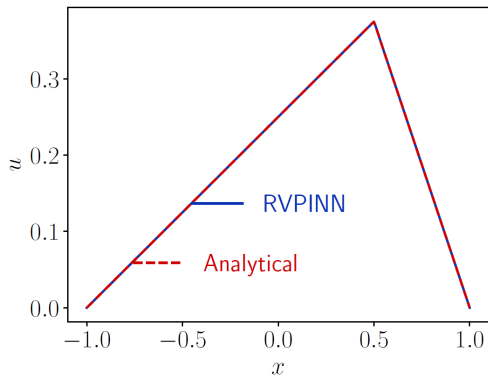


Figure: RVPINNs approximation with strong BCs imposition and 100 FE test functions.

## Example: Advection-dominated-diffusion problem

$$(\beta = 1, \epsilon = 0.1, f = 1, \text{ and } u(x) = \frac{2(1 - e^{\frac{x-1}{\epsilon}})}{1 - e^{-\frac{2}{\epsilon}}} + x - 1)$$

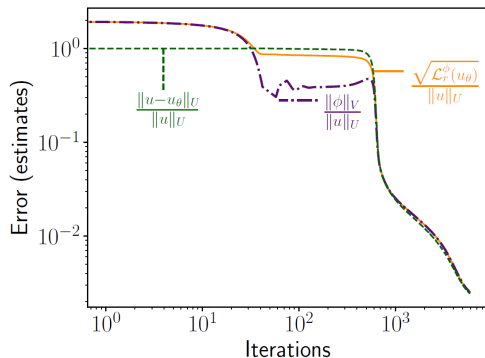
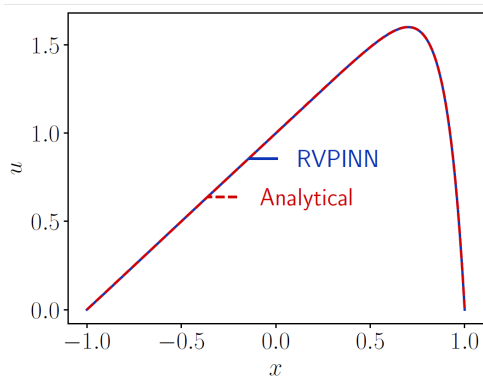


Figure: RVPINNs approximation with  $\epsilon = 0.1$ , constrained BCs imposition, and 50 spectral test functions.

## Example: Advection-dominated-diffusion problem

$$(\beta = 1, \epsilon = 0.005, f = 1, \text{ and } u(x) = \frac{2(1 - e^{\frac{x-1}{\epsilon}})}{1 - e^{-\frac{2}{\epsilon}}} + x - 1)$$

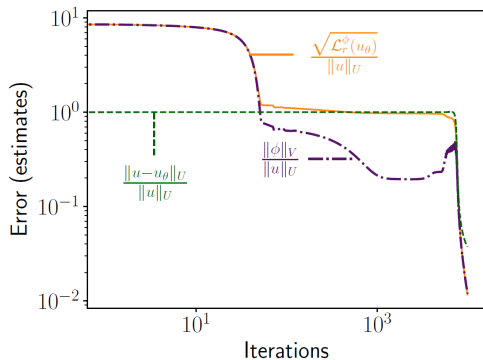
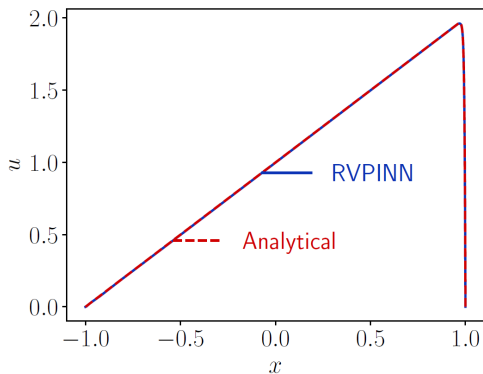


Figure: RVPINNs approximation with  $\epsilon = 0.005$ , constrained BCs imposition, and 200 spectral test functions.

Example: 2D pure diffusion  $\Delta u = f$  with exact solution  $(u(x, y) = \sin(\pi x) \sin(\pi y))$

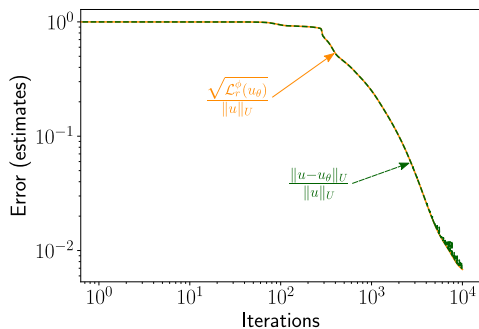
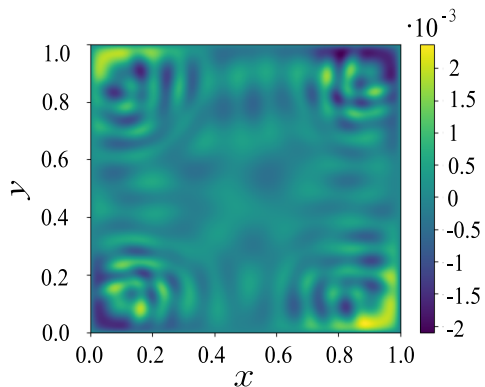


Figure: Error of RVPINNs approximation.  $30 \times 30$  spectral test functions, strong imposition of zero Dirichlet BC.

## Conclusions<sup>4</sup>

- We presented a general framework to define robust VPINNs losses.
- The strategy is based on defining the loss function in terms of a discrete Riesz representative for the residual.
- We derive a posteriori error estimates in terms of the DNN structure and the discrete test.

## Further directions

- Other combinations of DNN structures, VFs, and discrete tests
- Extension to other PDEs
- Efficient integration techniques
- Adaptive strategies (in the test) to speed up computational time
- Application to data interpolation
- Hyperbolic conservation laws

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<sup>4</sup> S. Rojas, P. Mazuga, J. Muñoz-Matute, D. Pardo, and M. Paszynski. (2024). *Robust Variational Physics-Informed Neural Networks*. Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, 425, 116904.