

Neural Non-Canonical Hamiltonian Dynamics for Long-Time Simulations

Clémentine Courtès^{1,2} Emmanuel Franck^{1,2} Michael Kraus³
Laurent Navoret^{1,2} **Léopold Trémant**⁴

¹IRMA, UMR 7501 Université de Strasbourg et CNRS

²Inria Nancy-Grand Est, MACARON Project (Strasbourg, France)

³Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik (Garching, Germany)

⁴Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Lens, Université d'Artois (Lens, France)

WCCM-ECCOMAS 2026

MS187 - Structure-Preserving Scientific Machine Learning and Neural Networks

Outline

1 Vector-field learning for non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics

- State-of-the-art for learning
- Long-time simulations
- Making neural long-time simulations possible

2 Scheme learning

- Idea, references and basic analysis
- Advantage for long-time simulations

3 Application to the guiding center

Outline

1 Vector-field learning for non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics

- State-of-the-art for learning
- Long-time simulations
- Making neural long-time simulations possible

2 Scheme learning

- Idea, references and basic analysis
- Advantage for long-time simulations

3 Application to the guiding center

What are Hamiltonian dynamics?

Canonical dynamics Derive the dynamics on the *position & momentum* from a **Hamiltonian** $(q, p) \mapsto H(q, p) \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q} = \nabla_p H(q, p), \\ \dot{p} = -\nabla_q H(q, p). \end{cases}$$

$$\underbrace{u = \begin{bmatrix} q \\ p \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{coordinates}}, \quad \underbrace{J = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{symplectic form}}$$

$$\underbrace{\dot{u} = J^{-1} \nabla H(u)}_{\text{Hamiltonian dynamics}}$$

[Greydanus, Dzamba, and Yosinski 2019]

Non-canonical problems

→ the **symplectic form** derives from a potential

(Lotka-Volterra / magnetic field lines / guiding center)

$$\frac{d}{dt} A(z) = \nabla_z [A(z) \dot{z} - H(z)]$$

$$\Updownarrow W(z) = D_z A(z)^\top - D_z A(z)$$

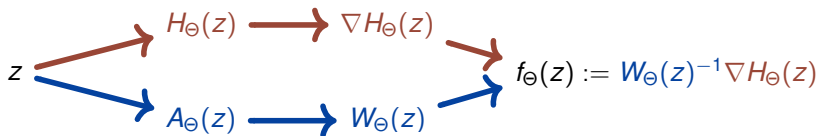
$$\dot{z} = W(z)^{-1} \nabla H(z)$$

Q $A(u) \dot{u} = p \cdot \dot{q}$

Learn a **symplectic potential** and a **Hamiltonian** with a neural network

[Chen, Matsubara, and Yaguchi 2021]

Learning procedure [Chen, Matsubara, and Yaguchi 2021]



Architecture [Gnanasambandam et al. 2022]

- small fully-connected MLPs
- self-scalable Tanh activation

Dataset

$$\{(z, f(z)), z \text{ sampled randomly}\}$$

Loss function

$$\mathcal{C}(\Theta) = \mathbb{E}_z [\|f_{\Theta}(z) - f(z)\|^2]$$

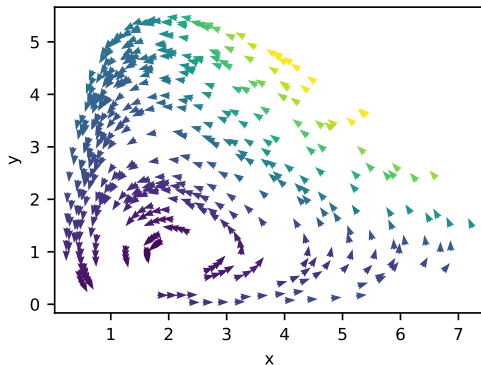


Figure: Sample of the dataset for Lotka-Volterra

The Lotka-Volterra problem

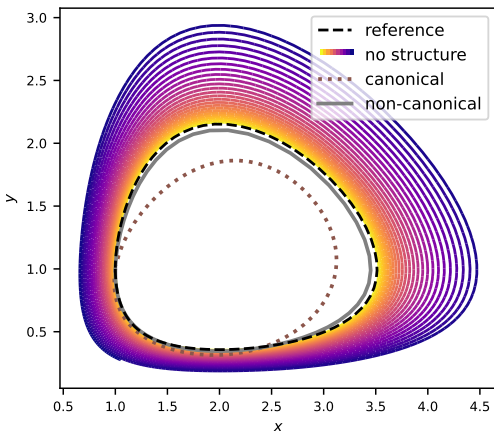


Figure: Comparison of neural network solutions for different approaches using a highly-accurate `solve_ivp`

Dynamics

$$\dot{x} = x(1 - x), \quad \dot{y} = y(x - 2).$$

Hamiltonian structure

$$A(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -\ln(y)/x \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$H(x, y) = x + y - \ln(x^2 y).$$

Approaches

- **Reference** known model
- **No structure** $z \mapsto f_{\Theta}(z)$
- **Canonical** $z \mapsto J^{-1} \nabla H_{\Theta}(z)$
- **NC** $z \mapsto W_{\Theta}(z)^{-1} \nabla H_{\Theta}(z)$
 $W_{\Theta}(z) = D_z A_{\Theta}(z)^{\top} - D_z A_{\Theta}(z)$

Not in phase-space

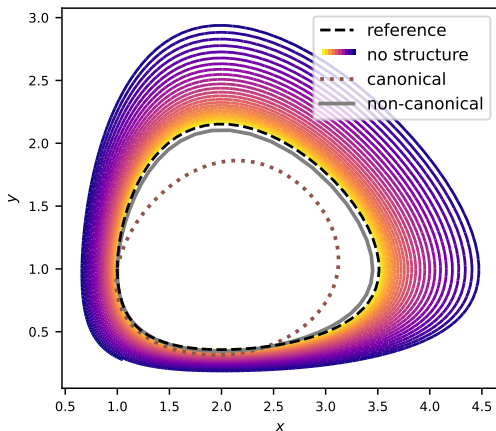
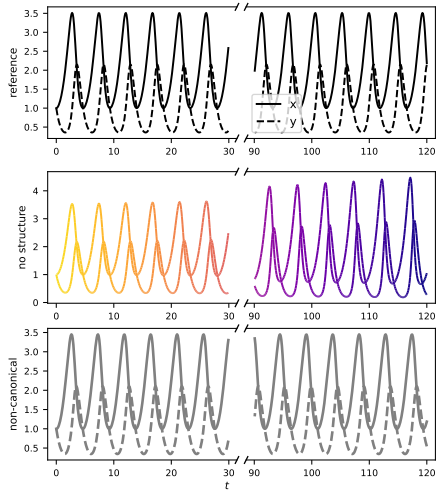


Figure: Comparison of neural network solutions for different approaches using a highly-accurate `solve_ivp`



Degeneracy condition and ansatz [Ellison et al. 2018]

Gauge ansatz

$$z = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}, \quad A(z) = \begin{bmatrix} \vartheta(x, y) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

➔ For canonical problems, use the tautological potential $\vartheta(q, p) = p$ [Vermeeren 2018]

Degenerate variational integrator

One-step 1st order method based on

$$\begin{cases} \dot{p} = D_x \vartheta(x, y) \dot{x} - \nabla_x H(x, y) \\ 0 = D_y \vartheta(x, y) \dot{x} - \nabla_y H(x, y) \\ p = \vartheta(x, y) \end{cases}$$

➔ The Jacobian $D_y \vartheta$ must be invertible

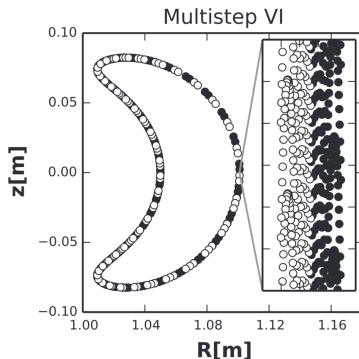


Figure: Result of a multistep VI, pulled from [Ellison et al. 2018, Fig. 5]. “Even-indexed points are marked in white and odd-indexed points in black.”

Application with RK4

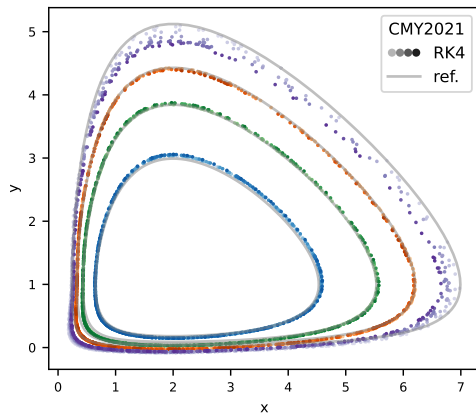
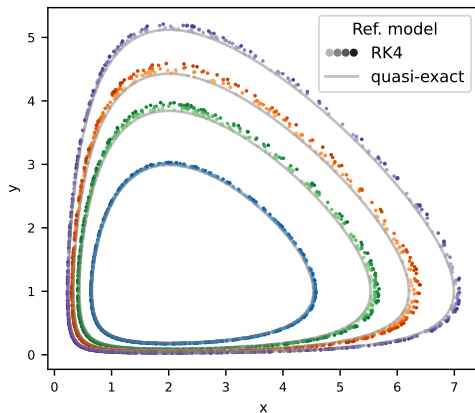


Figure: Evolution of the numerical solution using RK4 over 100k time-steps with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.



behavior similar to the reference model

Application to the neural model

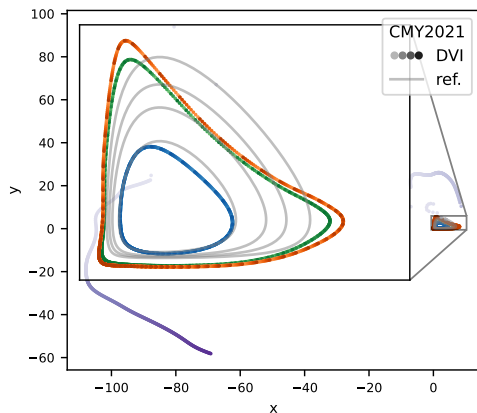
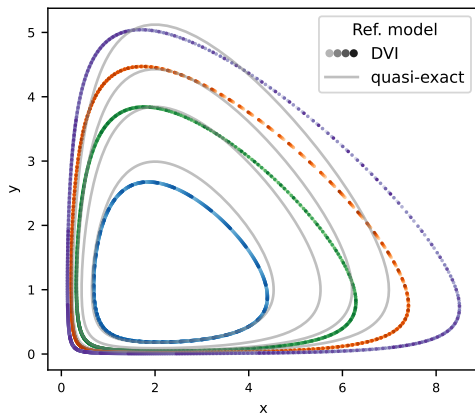


Figure: Evolution of the numerical solution using the DVI over 100k time-steps with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.



immediate instability, even with a small time step

Error term of the scheme

The DVI from [Ellison et al. 2018] is written

$$\begin{cases} \vartheta_{n+1} = \vartheta_n + (D_x \vartheta_n)^\top (x_n - x_{n-1}) - \Delta t \nabla_x H_n \\ x_{n+1} = x_n + \Delta t (D_y \vartheta_{n+1})^{-\top} \nabla_y H_{n+1} \end{cases}$$

where indices denote the time step of the arguments.

Dominant error term

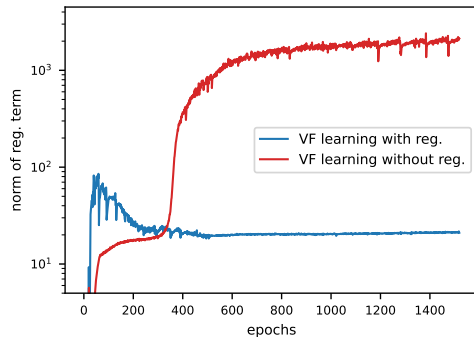
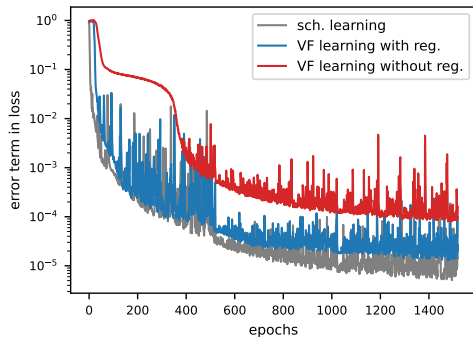
$$\begin{cases} x(h) - x_h = -\frac{h^2}{2} \ddot{x} + \mathcal{O}(h^3), \\ y(h) - y_h = \frac{h^2}{2} D_y \vartheta^{-1} \left(\ddot{\vartheta} + D_x \vartheta \ddot{x} \right) + \mathcal{O}(h^3). \end{cases}$$

➔ Compute this using ϑ_Θ , H_Θ , z and $f(z)$ in the loss,

$$\mathcal{C}(\Theta) = \mathbb{E}_z [\|f_\Theta(z) - f(z)\|^2 + \varepsilon \|r_\Theta(z, f(z))\|^2]$$

The scheme is sensitive to perturbations on ϑ , even if they don't impact the vector field!

Training results



Analysis of the dominant error term

- 👍 Penalization has no impact on the vector field loss
- 🔍 It does blow-up if not penalized
- ❓ Does it stabilize the scheme?

Result before regularization

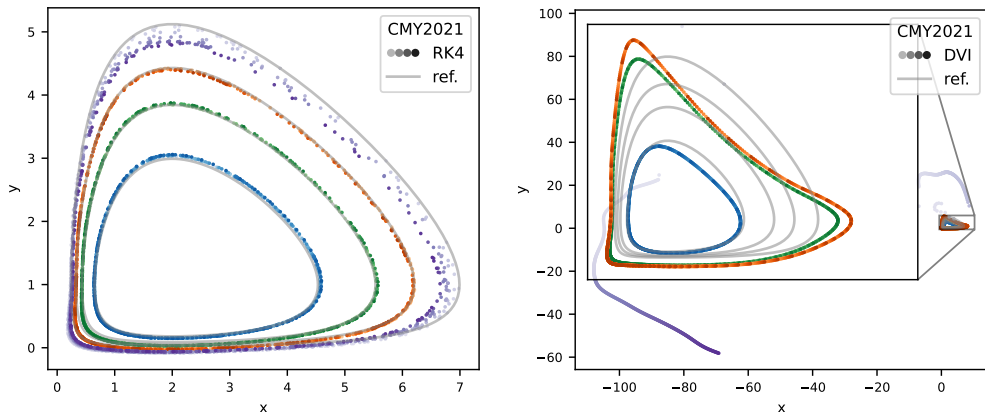


Figure: Evolution of the numerical solution for the “naive” neural model using RK4 (left) and the DVI (right) over 100k time-steps with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.

Result after regularization

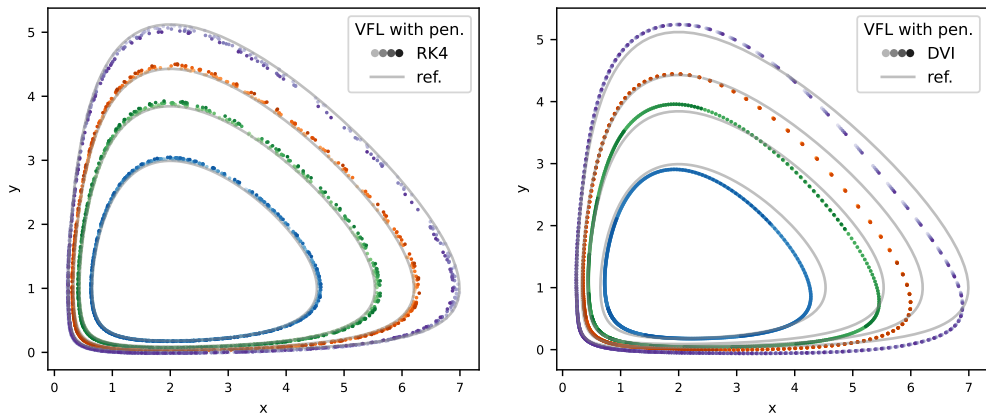


Figure: Evolution of the numerical solution for the neural model **with penalization** using RK4 (left) and the DVI (right) over 100k time-steps with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.

👍 The instability is fixed, and the solution is better than on the reference model

Outline

1 Vector-field learning for non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics

- State-of-the-art for learning
- Long-time simulations
- Making neural long-time simulations possible

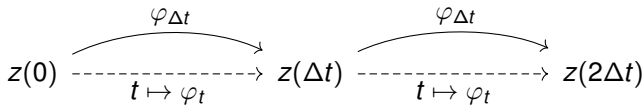
2 Scheme learning

- Idea, references and basic analysis
- Advantage for long-time simulations

3 Application to the guiding center

Why learn the exact vector field?

Since the end goal is simulation, we could instead learn the mapping



Why learn $f(\cdot; \Theta) \approx f$
when we could learn
 $\Phi_{\Delta t}(\cdot; \Theta) \approx \varphi_{\Delta t}$?

Snapshot dataset

$$\left\{ (z, \varphi_{\Delta t}(z), \varphi_{2\Delta t}(z)), z \text{ sampled randomly} \right\}$$

- high-precision short-time simulation
- Δt chosen at the limit of stability

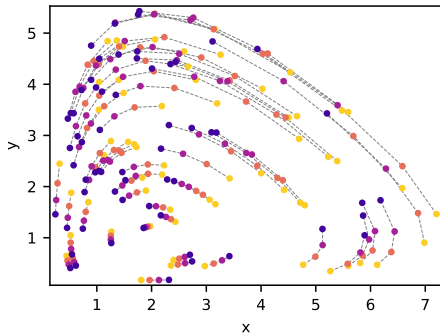


Figure: Sample of the snapshot dataset for LV

Strategies for **canonical** dynamics

The flow $(t, u) \mapsto \varphi_t(u)$ is *symplectic*, meaning that for all (t, u) ,

$$(D_u \varphi_t(u))^T J D_u \varphi_t(u) = J$$

1 Impose it weakly by adding a term to the loss.

🗨 Will drift over time.

2 Use another architecture e.g. a SympNet [Jin, Zhang, Zhu, et al. 2020] or a HénonNet [Burby, Q. Tang, and Maulik 2021]

$$\varphi_{\Delta t}(u) = \varphi^{[L]} \circ \dots \circ \varphi^{[1]}(u).$$

🗨 No guarantees for non-canonical systems [Jin, Zhang, Kevrekidis, et al. 2020]

3 Use a numerical integrator i.e. learn a Hamiltonian such that the dynamics are recovered numerically, e.g. for the midpoint [David and Méhats 2021]

$$\varphi_{\Delta t}(u) = u + \Delta t J^{-1} \nabla \tilde{H}_{\Delta t} \left(\frac{1}{2} [u + \varphi_{\Delta t}(u)] \right)$$

Fit a numerical integrator?

- **Deep Euler** [Shen, Cheng, and Liang 2020]
- **HyperSolvers** [Poli et al. 2020; Mathiesen, Yang, and Hu 2022]
- **General analysis** [David and Méhats 2021; Bouchereau et al. 2023]

Linear case without structure and explicit Euler, learn $\tilde{M}_{\Delta t}$,

$$\dot{z} = Mz \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi_{\Delta t} = e^{\Delta t M} \\ \tilde{\Phi}_{\Delta t} = \text{id} + \Delta t \tilde{M}_{\Delta t} \end{array} \right\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tilde{M}_{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} (e^{\Delta t M} - \text{id}) .$$

Backward error analysis [Hairer, Lubich, and Wanner 2006, Chap. IX]

- ❓ Does this modified vector field exist?
- ➡ With non-linearities, some error is expected,

$$\|\varphi_{\Delta t} - \tilde{\Phi}_{\Delta t}\| \lesssim e^{-1/\Delta t}$$

Scheme learning the DVI

Notation setting $z_{n+1} = (x_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$, we write the scheme as

$$\mathcal{S}_{\Delta t}(z_n, z_{n+1}) = 0, \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \vartheta_{n+1} - \vartheta_n = (D_x \vartheta_n)^\top (x_n - x_{n-1}) - \Delta t \nabla_x H_n \\ 0 = (D_y \vartheta_{n+1})^\top (x_{n+1} - x_n) - \Delta t \nabla_y H_{n+1} \end{cases}$$

⚠ Avoid the trivial solution $\vartheta_\Theta = 0, H_\Theta = 0$

Training phase minimize Newton residual: setting $\mathcal{J}_{\Delta t} = D_2 \mathcal{S}_{\Delta t}(z, \varphi_{\Delta t}(z))$,

$$\mathcal{C}(\Theta) = \mathbb{E}_z \left[\left\| \mathcal{J}_{\Delta t}^{-1} \mathcal{S}_{\Delta t}(z, \varphi_{\Delta t}(z)) \right\|^2 \right] + \varepsilon \log(\kappa_{\text{sch}}(\mathcal{J}_{\Delta t}))$$

👍 Homogeneous in phase-space $\Rightarrow$ compatible with multi-scale data
(compared to e.g. [Offen and Ober-Blöbaum 2024])

⚠ Expensive to compute, a pre-training may be preferable

Scheme learning – Result using the DVI

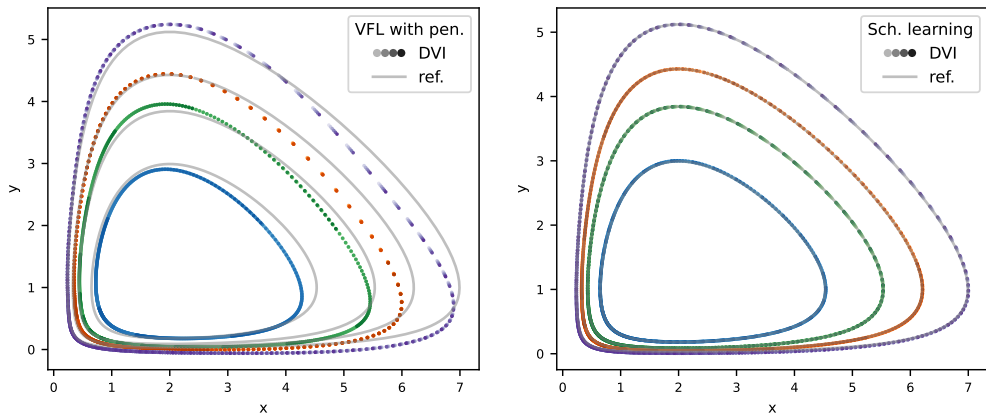


Figure: VF learning (left) and scheme learning (right): evolution of the numerical solution over 100k time-steps of the DVI with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.



More accurate when using this scheme

Scheme learning – Result using RK4

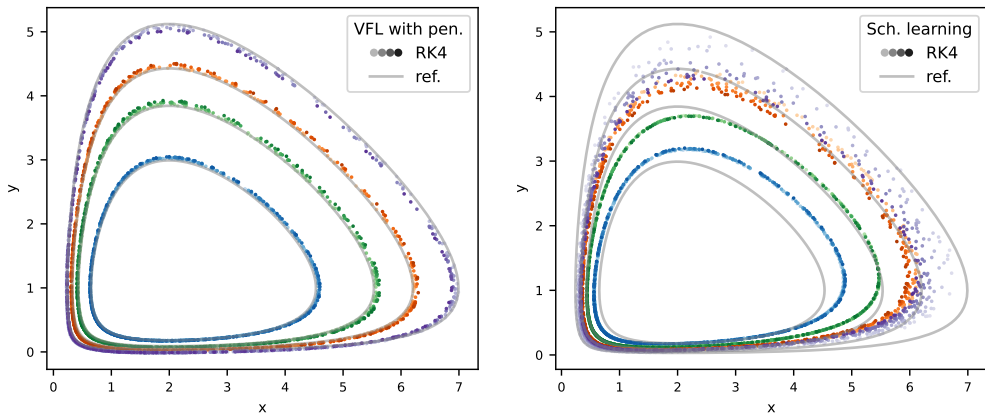
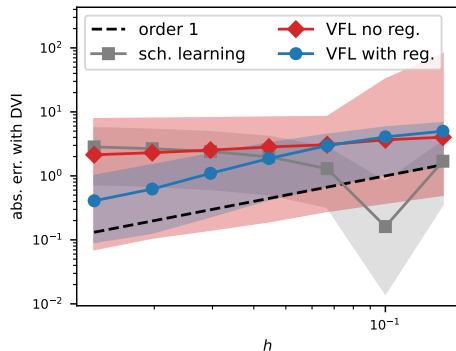
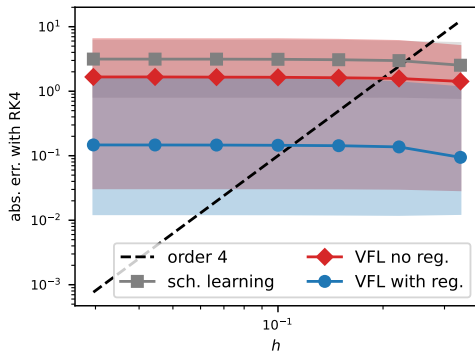


Figure: Evolution of the numerical solution for VF learning (left) and scheme learning (right) over 100k time-steps of RK4 with $\Delta t = 0.1$. Grey line: exact solution of the reference model.



Scheme learning needs to always use the same scheme

Effect of the time step



➔ Scheme learning needs to always use the same time step and scheme

Outline

1 Vector-field learning for non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics

- State-of-the-art for learning
- Long-time simulations
- Making neural long-time simulations possible

2 Scheme learning

- Idea, references and basic analysis
- Advantage for long-time simulations

3 Application to the guiding center

What is the guiding center?

Asymptotic model in tokamaks with a strong magnetic field

- poloidal-toroidal coordinates $X = (r, \theta, \phi)$
- momentum is just u in the toroidal direction
- magnetic potential $A = (0, A_\theta, A_\phi)$, from which $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times A$
- magnetic field unit vector $b = R_0 + r \cos(\theta)$, here $R_0 = 1$
- assume axisymmetry (invariance of dynamics w.r.t. toroidal angle ϕ)

Choose a “nice” Lagrangian e.g. [Qin, Guan, and W. M. Tang 2009]

$$\mathcal{L}(r, \theta, \phi, u, \theta_t, \phi_t) = A_\theta(r, \theta)\theta_t + (A_\phi(r) + ub(r, \theta))\phi_t - H(r, \theta, u).$$

Interesting trajectories

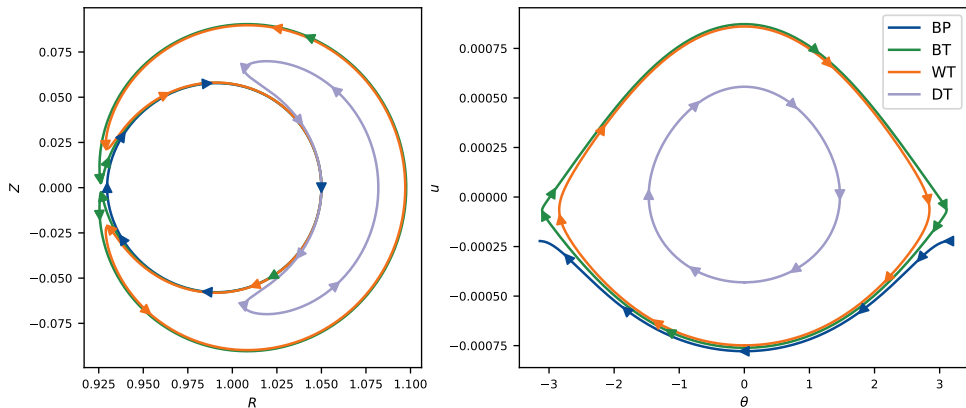


Figure: **BP** barely passing trajectory ; **BT** barely trapped trajectory ; **WT** well trapped trajectory ; **DT** deeply trapped trajectory (also called “banana orbit”).

The need for geometric integration

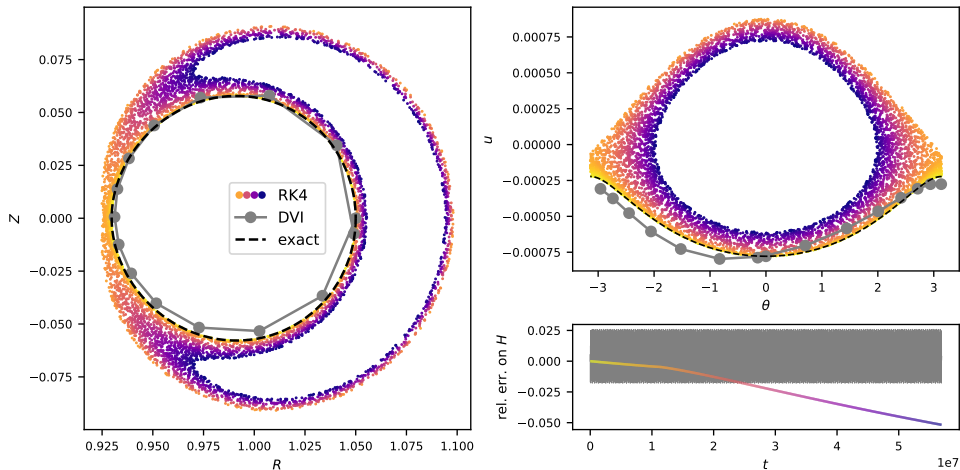


Figure: Comparison of the numerical solution over thousands of periods, DT (deeply trapped) traj.

Dataset and architecture

Pre-processing axisymmetry & 2π -periodicity [Dong and Ni 2021] w.r.t. θ

$$z = \begin{pmatrix} r \\ \theta \\ \phi \\ u \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} \frac{r-r_{\min}}{r_{\max}-r_{\min}} \\ \cos_{\odot}(\theta \mathbb{1} + \varphi^{[\Theta]}) \\ \frac{u-u_{\min}}{u_{\max}-u_{\min}} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mapsto H_{\Theta} \quad \sim 4\text{k parameters} \\ \mapsto A_{\Theta} \quad \sim 4\text{k parameters} \end{array}$$

Generating the dataset some “width” around $(r, \theta, \phi) = (0.05, 0, 0)$

$$\begin{aligned} r &\in (0.03, 0.055), & \theta &\in \left(-\frac{1}{10}\pi, \frac{1}{10}\pi\right), \\ \phi &\in (0, 2\pi), & u &\in (-9 \times 10^{-4}, -3 \times 10^{-4}) \end{aligned}$$

- 600 points sampled with a latin hypercube method
- simulate for 3 (banana —deeply trapped) periods
- 20 time-steps per period

Specific loss

Multi-scale dynamics $|\dot{u}| \sim 10^{-4} \ll |\dot{r}| \sim 10^{-2} \ll |\dot{\theta}| \sim 1$

❓ how to rescale data such that every component is learnt?

➡ change the norm in the loss using a Gram matrix

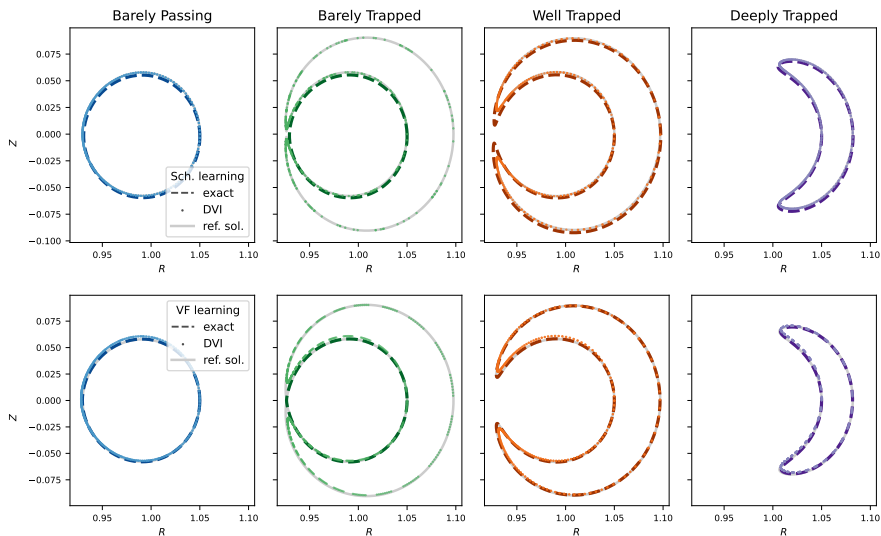
Vector-field learning $\mathcal{C}(\Theta) = \mathbb{E}_z [\|f_\Theta(z) - f(z)\|_{\text{vf}}^2 + \varepsilon \|r_\Theta(z, f(z))\|_{\text{vf}}^2]$

$$\|\delta\|_{\text{vf}}^2 = \delta^\top (\mathbb{E}_z [f(z)f(z)^\top])^{-1} \delta$$

Scheme learning $\mathcal{C}(\Theta) = \mathbb{E}_z [\|\mathcal{J}_{\Delta t}^{-1} \mathbf{S}_{\Delta t}(z, \varphi_{\Delta t}(z))\|_{\text{sch}}^2] + \varepsilon \log(\kappa_{\text{sch}}(\mathcal{J}_{\Delta t}))$

$$\|\delta\|_{\text{sch}}^2 = \delta^\top (\mathbb{E}_z [(\varphi_{\Delta t}(z) - z)(\varphi_{\Delta t}(z) - z)^\top])^{-1} \delta$$

Results on the guiding center



Summary

Quick overview

- description of non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics
- the importance of encoding structure in learning
- two distinct learning strategies

Vector field learning

- 💡 simple approach
- 👍 accurate to physics
- ⚠️ adapt loss for numerics

Scheme learning

- 💡 goal-oriented loss
- 👍 long-time simulation
- ⚠️ fixed (but large) time-step

What's left

- time-dependent problems, e.g. magnetic field lines
- thorough backward error analysis of the DVI

Summary

Quick overview

- description of non-canonical Hamiltonian dynamics
- the importance of encoding structure in learning
- two distinct learning strategies

Vector field learning

- 💡 simple approach
- 👍 accurate to physics
- ⚠️ adapt loss for numerics

Scheme learning

- 💡 goal-oriented loss
- 👍 long-time simulation
- ⚠️ fixed (but large) time-step

What's left

- time-dependent problems, e.g. magnetic field lines
- thorough backward error analysis of the DVI

**Thanks for your
attention!**

References I

- Bouchereau, Maxime et al. (Apr. 18, 2023). *Machine Learning Methods for Autonomous Ordinary Differential Equations*. arXiv: 2304.09036 [cs, math]. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2304.09036> (visited on 07/21/2023). Pre-published.
- Burby, J W, Q Tang, and R Maulik (Feb. 1, 2021). “Fast Neural Poincaré Maps for Toroidal Magnetic Fields”. In: *Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion* 63.2, p. 024001. ISSN: 0741-3335, 1361-6587.
- Chen, Yuhan, Takashi Matsubara, and Takaharu Yaguchi (2021). “Neural Symplectic Form: Learning Hamiltonian Equations on General Coordinate Systems”. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*. Vol. 34. Curran Associates, Inc., pp. 16659–16670.
- David, Marco and Florian Méhats (June 22, 2021). *Symplectic Learning for Hamiltonian Neural Networks*. arXiv: 2106.11753 [cs, math]. Pre-published.
- Dong, Suchuan and Naxian Ni (June 15, 2021). “A Method for Representing Periodic Functions and Enforcing Exactly Periodic Boundary Conditions with Deep Neural Networks”. In: *Journal of Computational Physics* 435, p. 110242. ISSN: 0021-9991.
- Ellison, C. L. et al. (May 4, 2018). “Degenerate Variational Integrators for Magnetic Field Line Flow and Guiding Center Trajectories”. In: *Physics of Plasmas* 25.5, p. 052502. ISSN: 1070-664X.

References II

- Gnanasambandam, Raghav et al. (Apr. 29, 2022). *Self-Scalable Tanh (Stan): Faster Convergence and Better Generalization in Physics-informed Neural Networks*. arXiv: 2204.12589. Pre-published.
- Greydanus, Samuel, Misko Dzamba, and Jason Yosinski (2019). “Hamiltonian Neural Networks”. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*. Vol. 32. Curran Associates, Inc.
- Hairer, Ernst, Christian Lubich, and Gerhard Wanner (2006). *Geometric Numerical Integration: Structure-Preserving Algorithms for Ordinary Differential Equations*. 2nd ed. Springer Series in Computational Mathematics. Berlin Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag. ISBN: 978-3-540-30663-4.
- Jin, Pengzhan, Zhen Zhang, Ioannis G. Kevrekidis, et al. (Dec. 5, 2020). *Learning Poisson Systems and Trajectories of Autonomous Systems via Poisson Neural Networks*. arXiv: 2012.03133 [cs]. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2012.03133> (visited on 08/04/2023). Pre-published.
- Jin, Pengzhan, Zhen Zhang, Aiqing Zhu, et al. (Dec. 2020). “SympNets: Intrinsic Structure-Preserving Symplectic Networks for Identifying Hamiltonian Systems”. In: *Neural Networks* 132, pp. 166–179. ISSN: 08936080.

References III

- Mathiesen, Frederik Baymler, Bin Yang, and Jilin Hu (June 28, 2022). “Hyperverlet: A Symplectic Hypersolver for Hamiltonian Systems”. In: *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* 36.4 (4), pp. 4575–4582. ISSN: 2374-3468.
- Offen, Christian and Sina Ober-Blobaum (Jan. 8, 2024). “Learning of Discrete Models of Variational PDEs from Data”. In: *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science* 34.1, p. 013104. ISSN: 1054-1500.
- Poli, Michael et al. (2020). “Hypersolvers: Toward Fast Continuous-Depth Models”. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*. Vol. 33. Curran Associates, Inc., pp. 21105–21117.
- Qin, Hong, Xiaoyin Guan, and William M. Tang (Apr. 21, 2009). “Variational Symplectic Algorithm for Guiding Center Dynamics and Its Application in Tokamak Geometry”. In: *Physics of Plasmas* 16.4, p. 042510. ISSN: 1070-664X.
- Shen, Xing, Xiaoliang Cheng, and Kewei Liang (Mar. 21, 2020). *Deep Euler Method: Solving ODEs by Approximating the Local Truncation Error of the Euler Method*. arXiv: 2003.09573 [math]. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2003.09573> (visited on 11/06/2024). Pre-published.
- Vermeeren, Mats (July 27, 2018). *Modified Equations for Variational Integrators Applied to Lagrangians Linear in Velocities*. arXiv: 1709.09567. Pre-published.