
Residual-Based Error Bound for Physics-Informed Neural Networks (Supplementary Material)

Shuheng Liu¹

Xiyue Huang²

Pavlos Protopapas³

^{1,3} Institute for Applied Computational Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

² Data Science Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, USA

A PROOF OF PROPOSITIONS IN SECTION 5.1.1

In this part, we first discuss the properties of the operator \mathcal{I}_λ , which is defined in the main paper. We then use these properties to prove relevant statements regarding Alg. 1 and Alg. 2 in Section 5.1.1 of the main paper.

A.1 PROPERTIES OF INVERSE OPERATOR $\mathcal{I}_\lambda = \mathcal{L}_\lambda^{-1}$

Let \mathcal{L}_λ ($\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$) be the differential operator $\mathcal{L}_\lambda \phi := \frac{d\phi}{dt} - \lambda\phi$. The inverse of $\mathcal{L}_\lambda \phi = \psi$ is given by $\phi = \mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi$ if $\phi(0) = 0$, where

$$\mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi(t) := e^{\lambda t} \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau. \quad (1)$$

In addition to $\mathcal{I}_\lambda = \mathcal{L}_\lambda^{-1}$, there are a few properties of operator \mathcal{I}_λ that we are interested in

1. **Linearity:** $\mathcal{I}_\lambda(c_1\psi_1 + c_2\psi_2) = c_1\mathcal{I}_\lambda\psi_1 + c_2\mathcal{I}_\lambda\psi_2$ for all functions ψ_1, ψ_2 and constants $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{C}$
2. **Monotonicity:** For $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, there is $(\forall t \in I, \psi_1(t) \leq \psi_2(t)) \implies (\forall t \in I, \mathcal{L}_\lambda\psi_1(t) \leq \mathcal{L}_\lambda\psi_2(t))$,
3. **Commutativity:** $\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1} \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_2} = \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_2} \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1}$ for all $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C}$. This can be shown because $\mathcal{L}_{\lambda_1} \circ \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_2} = \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_2} \circ \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_1}$. Therefore, the inverse operators $\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_2} \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1} \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1} \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_2}$ must also be equal.
4. **Absolute Inequality:** $|\mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi(t)| \leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} |\psi(t)|$, which we prove in the next subsection.

A.2 PROOF OF OPERATOR INEQUALITY $|\mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi| \leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} |\psi|$

Proposition For any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and scalar function $\psi : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, there is

$$|\mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi(t)| \leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} |\psi(t)|. \quad (2)$$

Proof Let $\phi = \mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi$. Since $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{I}^{-1}$, the problem is equivalent to proving $|\phi| \leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} |\psi|$, where

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi - \lambda\phi = \psi. \quad (3)$$

To see this, we multiply both sides with an integrating factor $e^{-\lambda t}$ and integrate from 0 to t ,

$$\int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \left(\frac{d}{d\tau} \phi(\tau) - \lambda \phi(\tau) \right) d\tau = \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau \quad (4)$$

$$e^{-\lambda t} \phi(t) - \phi(0) = \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau \quad (5)$$

Since $\phi = \mathcal{I}_\lambda \psi$, there is $\phi(0) = 0$. Hence we have

$$\phi(t) = e^{\lambda t} \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau \quad (6)$$

$$|\phi(t)| = \left| e^{\lambda t} \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau \right| \quad (7)$$

$$(8)$$

For $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, there is $|e^{\pm \lambda t}| = e^{\pm \mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t}$, where $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)$ is the real part of λ . Hence,

$$|\phi(t)| = e^{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t} \left| \int_0^t e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau) d\tau \right| \quad (9)$$

$$\leq e^{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t} \int_0^t |e^{-\lambda \tau} \psi(\tau)| d\tau \quad (10)$$

$$= e^{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t} \int_0^t e^{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)\tau} |\psi(\tau)| d\tau =: \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} |\psi(t)| \quad (11)$$

A.3 PROOF OF TIGHT AND LOOSE BOUNDS

This section proves inequality 11 in the main paper, namely,

$$|\eta(t)| \leq \mathcal{B}_{tight}(t) := (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)}) r(t) \quad (12)$$

and, if $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j) \leq 0$ for all λ_j ,

$$\mathcal{B}_{tight}(t) \leq \mathcal{B}_{loose}(t) := \frac{1}{Z!} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j) \neq 0}}^n \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}e(-\lambda_j)} \max_{\tau \in I} |r(\tau)| t^Z, \quad (13)$$

where Z is the number λ_j whose real part is 0.

Proof For any linear differential operator $\mathcal{L} = \frac{d^n}{dt^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1}}{dt^{n-1}} + \dots + a_0$ whose coefficients $\{a_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$ satisfy

$$\lambda^n + a_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 = \prod_{j=1}^n (\lambda - \lambda_j),$$

it can be verified that $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_n}$, where $\mathcal{L}_{\lambda_j} \phi := \frac{d\phi}{dt} - \lambda_j \phi$ as defined in appendix A.1. Then by the proposition in appendix A.1, the inverse operator is given by

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} = (\mathcal{L}_{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_n})^{-1} = \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_n}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{L}_{\lambda_1}^{-1} = \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_n} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1} \quad (14)$$

Through repeated application of Inequality 2, we can prove Eq. 12

$$|\eta(t)| = |\mathcal{L}^{-1} r(t)| \quad (15)$$

$$= |(\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_n} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1}) r(t)| \quad (16)$$

$$= |\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_n} (\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1}) r(t)| \quad (17)$$

$$\leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} |(\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1}) r(t)| \quad (18)$$

$$\leq (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_{n-1})}) |(\mathcal{I}_{\lambda_{n-2}} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\lambda_1}) r(t)| \quad (19)$$

$$\leq \dots$$

$$\leq (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1)}) |r(t)| =: \mathcal{B}_{tight}(t). \quad (20)$$

In order to prove Eq. 13, consider the cases of $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda) < 0$ and $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda) = 0$ separately.

- If $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda) < 0$, for any constant $c \in \mathbb{R}^+$, there is

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)}[c] = e^{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t} \int_0^t c e^{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)\tau} d\tau = \frac{c}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} \left(1 - e^{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)t}\right) \leq \frac{c}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)} \quad \text{for } t \geq 0 \quad (21)$$

- If $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda) = 0$, for any monomial ct^m , there is

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)}[ct^m] = \mathcal{I}_0[ct^m] \int_0^t c\tau^m d\tau = \frac{c}{m+1} t^{m+1} \quad \text{for } t > 0 \quad (22)$$

Let $R_{\max} := \max_{\tau \in I} |r(t)|$ be the max absolute residual. Let $Z = |\{\lambda_j : \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j) = 0, 1 \leq j \leq n\}|$. Assume without loss of generality that $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1), \dots, \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_{n-Z}) < 0$ and that $\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_{n-Z+1}) = \dots = \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n) = 0$. By the monotonicity of operator $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)}$, there is $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)}\phi_1(t) \leq \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda)}\phi_2(t)$ if $\phi_1(t) \leq \phi_2(t)$ for all $t \in I$. Hence,

$$\mathcal{B}_{tight}(t) = (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1)}) |r(t)| \quad (23)$$

$$\leq (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1)}) R_{\max} \quad (24)$$

$$\leq (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_2)}) \frac{1}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_1)} R_{\max} \quad (25)$$

$$\leq \dots$$

$$\leq (\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_n)} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_{n-Z+1})}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-Z} \frac{1}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j)} R_{\max} \quad (26)$$

$$= \mathcal{I}_0^Z \left[\prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j) \neq 0}}^n \frac{1}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j)} R_{\max} \right] \quad (27)$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z!} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ \mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j) \neq 0}}^n \frac{1}{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_j)} R_{\max} t^Z =: \mathcal{B}_{loose}(t) \quad (28)$$

which proves Eq. 13.

B PROOF OF PROPOSITIONS IN SECTION 5.1.3

In this part, we prove relevant statements regarding Alg. 3 in Section 5.1.1 of the main paper.

Consider the problem 12 in main paper. The error $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ of the network solution \mathbf{u} satisfies the equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\boldsymbol{\eta} + A\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{r}(t) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \boldsymbol{\eta}(t=0) = \mathbf{0} \quad (29)$$

where $\mathbf{r}(t) = \frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{u}(t) + A\mathbf{u}(t) - \mathbf{f}(t)$ is the residual vector.

With the Jordan canonical form 13, we multiply both sides of Eq. 29 by P^{-1} ,

$$P^{-1} \frac{d}{dt}\boldsymbol{\eta} + P^{-1}A\boldsymbol{\eta} = P^{-1}\mathbf{r}(t) \quad (30)$$

$$P^{-1} \frac{d}{dt}\boldsymbol{\eta} + JP^{-1}\boldsymbol{\eta} = P^{-1}\mathbf{r}(t) \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\boldsymbol{\delta} + J\boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{q}(t) \quad (32)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\delta}(t) := P^{-1}\boldsymbol{\eta}(t)$ and $\mathbf{q}(t) = P^{-1}\mathbf{r}(t)$. Recall that J is a Jordan canonical form consisting of K Jordan blocks. Each Jordan block J_k ($1 \leq k \leq K$) is an $n_k \times n_k$ square matrix, with eigenvalue λ_k on its diagonal and 1 on its super-diagonal,

where $\sum_{k=1}^K n_k = n$. Expanding the vector notations, there is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{n_1} \\ \delta_{n_1+1} \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{n_1+n_2} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} J_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & J_2 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{n_1} \\ \delta_{n_1+1} \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{n_1+n_2} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ q_{n_1}(t) \\ q_{n_1+1}(t) \\ \vdots \\ q_{n_1+n_2}(t) \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \quad (33)$$

Let $N_k = n_1 + \dots + n_k$. For k -th Jordan block indexed by $N_{k-1} < l \leq N_k$, there is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{N_{k-1}+1} \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{N_k} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_k & 1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_k & 1 \\ & & & \lambda_k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{N_{k-1}+1} \\ \vdots \\ \delta_{N_k} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} q_{N_{k-1}+1}(t) \\ \vdots \\ q_{N_k}(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (34)$$

which can be formulated as the following sequence of scalar equations, also known as *Jordan chains*:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \delta_{N_{k-1}+1} + \lambda_k \delta_{N_{k-1}+1} = q_{N_{k-1}+1} - \delta_{N_{k-1}+2}, \quad (35)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \delta_{N_{k-1}+2} + \lambda_k \delta_{N_{k-1}+2} = q_{N_{k-1}+2} - \delta_{N_{k-1}+3}, \quad (36)$$

\vdots

$$\frac{d}{dt} \delta_{N_k-1} + \lambda_k \delta_{N_k-1} = q_{N_k-1} - \delta_{N_k}, \quad (37)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \delta_{N_k} + \lambda_k \delta_{N_k} = q_{N_k}. \quad (38)$$

The last equation (Eq. 38) of the Jordan chain can be used to bound δ_{N_k} by applying the inequality 2,

$$|\delta_{N_k}| = |\mathcal{I}_{-\lambda_k} q_{N_k}| \leq \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} |q_{N_k}| \quad (39)$$

Applying the inequality 2 again to Eq. 37, there is

$$|\delta_{N_k-1}| = |\mathcal{I}_{-\lambda_k} (q_{N_k-1} + \delta_{N_k})| \quad (40)$$

$$\leq \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} |q_{N_k-1} - \delta_{N_k}| \quad (41)$$

$$\leq \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} |q_{N_k-1}| + \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} |\delta_{N_k}| \quad (42)$$

$$\leq \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} |q_{N_k-1}| + \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)}^2 |q_{N_k}|. \quad (43)$$

The first inequality is a direct application of Eq. 2. The second inequality is based on linearity of the operator \mathcal{I} and the triangle inequality. The third inequality is obtained by substituting Eq. 39. Here the superscript in \mathcal{I}^2 denotes compositional square $\mathcal{I}^2 = \mathcal{I} \circ \mathcal{I}$.

By induction, for the k -th Jordan block ($N_{k-1} < l \leq N_k$), there is

$$|\delta_l| \leq \sum_{j=0}^{N_k-l} \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)}^{j+1} |q_{l+j}| \quad (44)$$

We use this inequality to bound the norm of the error vector, $\|\boldsymbol{\eta}\|$, as well as absolute value of each component, $|(\boldsymbol{\eta})_l|$.

B.1 COMPONENTWISE BOUND

Using matrix notations, Eq. 44 can be rewritten as

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}^{|\cdot|} \preceq \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}} \mathbf{q}^{|\cdot|} \quad (45)$$

where \preceq denotes componentwise inequality, the superscript $|\cdot|$ denotes componentwise absolute value, and $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}$ is defined

as operator matrix $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}} := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_1 & & \\ & \mathbf{I}_2 & \\ & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$ where each $\mathbf{I}_k = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} & \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)}^2 & \cdots & \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)}^{n_k} \\ 0 & \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} & \cdots & \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)}^{n_k-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \mathcal{I}_{-\mathcal{R}e(\lambda_k)} \end{pmatrix}$ is an $n_k \times n_k$

upper-triangular block. Notice that $(AB)^{|\cdot|} \preceq A^{|\cdot|}B^{|\cdot|}$ for any compatible matrices A and B . Recall $\boldsymbol{\delta}(t) = P^{-1}\boldsymbol{\eta}(t)$ and $\mathbf{q}(t) = P^{-1}\mathbf{r}(t)$, there is

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}^{|\cdot|} \preceq P^{|\cdot|}\boldsymbol{\delta}^{|\cdot|} \preceq P^{|\cdot|}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\mathbf{q}^{|\cdot|}] \preceq P^{|\cdot|}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[(P^{-1})^{|\cdot|}\mathbf{r}^{|\cdot|}] \quad (46)$$

B.2 NORM BOUND

By Eq. 45, we have $\|\boldsymbol{\delta}\| \leq \|\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\|\mathbf{q}\|\mathbf{1}]\|$, where $\mathbf{1}$ is $n \times 1$ (constant) column vector whose components are all equal to 1.

With $\boldsymbol{\eta} = P\boldsymbol{\delta}$ and $\mathbf{q} = P^{-1}\mathbf{r}$, there is $\|\boldsymbol{\eta}\| \leq \|P\|\|\boldsymbol{\delta}\|$ and $\|\mathbf{q}\| \leq \|P^{-1}\|\|\mathbf{r}\|$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the norm of a vector or the induced norm of a matrix. Consequently,

$$\|\boldsymbol{\eta}(t)\| \leq \|P\|\|\boldsymbol{\delta}(t)\| \quad (47)$$

$$\leq \|P\| \left\| \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\|\mathbf{q}(t)\|\mathbf{1}] \right\| \quad (48)$$

$$\leq \|P\| \left\| \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\|P^{-1}\|\|\mathbf{r}\|\mathbf{1}] \right\| \quad (49)$$

$$\leq \|P\|\|P^{-1}\| \left\| \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\|\mathbf{r}\|\mathbf{1}] \right\| \quad (50)$$

$$= \text{cond}(P) \left\| \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}[\|\mathbf{r}(t)\|\mathbf{1}] \right\| \quad (51)$$