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# Solving Kuramoto Oscillator Model using Physics Informed Neural Network

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## Abstract

1 Physics informed machine learning has been emerged as a powerful tool with the  
2 help of deep learning as the latter has been instrumental as a data-driven function  
3 approximator. Many recent works have been focusing on solving hard to solve  
4 differential equations with the help of physics informed neural network (PINN),  
5 a tremendously simple approach which blends physics and deep learning. We  
6 explore the application of PINN in solving Kuramoto system of coupled differential  
7 equations as well as in decision making problem of synchronization state of the  
8 system. The experimental results illustrate that PINN can not only be used to solve  
9 the coupled differential equations, but also be very handy when our objective is to  
10 figure out the synchronization capability of the oscillator system in consideration.

## 11 1 Introduction

12 The Kuramoto model [1] of oscillatory systems have been widely used for its capability to model  
13 the synchronized behaviour through a system of coupled differential equations. More recently, it is  
14 getting attention in the field of optimal experiment design [2, 3]. For Kuramoto system, the goal of  
15 the optimal experiment design is to reduce the effect of uncertainty on selecting a control oscillator to  
16 make the system synchronized. The uncertainty originates from the unknown interaction strengths  
17 between oscillators. If the coupling strengths are known accurately, then we would have chosen  
18 the optimum control oscillator. But, due to the lack of information, we suffer a cost by choosing a  
19 suboptimal solution. To quantify the effects of this uncertainty, we need to calculate the expected cost  
20 by solving a large number of Kuramoto systems which are generated by sampling from the uncertainty  
21 class for interaction strengths. Solving these large number of systems in numerical method requires a  
22 lot of computational time. To address this challenge, parallel computation of differential equation  
23 solver [2], surrogate model for estimating the average cost [3] are already proposed. In this project,  
24 we have tried to study the feasibility of the physics informed neural network (PINN) to tackle the  
25 computational complexity in optimal experiment design for controlling the Kuramoto system.

26 The PINN [4] has laid out the data-driven approach powered by the automatic differentiation to  
27 solve the system of differential equations. Although the training of PINN is not understood well  
28 enough, it is showing promising results [5], specially for the failure cases of numerical solvers. For  
29 the Kuramoto model, the numerical method works very well but takes long time. The PINN based  
30 approach may have potential to be used as accurate as well as fast solver. With this goal in mind,  
31 we have focused on whether the PINN solver can accurately approximate the synchronized and  
32 unsynchronized Kuramoto system.

33 In section 2, we provide an introductory description of the Kuramoto model and how we have applied  
34 the physics informed neural network to solve this coupled system. For each case of experiments  
35 under section 3, we have highlighted our findings that point out the successes as well as the existing  
36 challenges for PINN.

## 37 2 Methods

### 38 2.1 Kuramoto Model

39 A Kuramoto model of  $N$  oscillators can be represented by the system of coupled differential equations,  
 40 1 with the initial conditions in equation 2 for the angular position  $\theta_i$ . The set of interaction strengths  
 41 or coupling coefficients between each pair of oscillators,  $a_{i,j}$  governs the dynamics of this system.

$$\dot{\theta}_i(t) = \omega_i + \sum_{j=1}^N a_{i,j} \sin(\theta_j(t) - \theta_i(t)), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (1)$$

$$\theta_i(0) = \theta_i^0 \quad (2)$$

42 Along with the intrinsic angular frequencies,  $\{\omega_i\}$ , the coupling strengths can make a system  
 43 synchronized or unsynchronized. A system is frequency synchronized when the instantaneous  
 44 angular frequencies of all the oscillators converge to a single value. (equation 3)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\dot{\theta}_i(t) - \dot{\theta}_j(t)| = 0, \quad \forall i, j \quad (3)$$

### 45 2.2 Synchronization condition for $N = 2$

46 For Kuramoto model with  $N = 2$  oscillators, it is proved in [3] that equation 3 is satisfied if and  
 47 only if  $|w_1 - w_2| \leq 2a$  where  $a = a_{1,2} = a_{2,1}$ . We use this condition to build a synchronized and  
 48 unsynchronized system of 2 oscillators and apply the PINN solver, described in the following section,  
 49 to get the angular positions of each oscillator.

### 50 2.3 Solving with PINN

51 We model the solution provided by the PINN as  $\theta(t, \mathbf{W}) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  where  $\mathbf{W}$  represents the parameters  
 52 of the neural network. Also, we have  $\theta^0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , the initial angular positions of the oscillators. We  
 53 train the PINN by combining the loss at the initial time-point,  $t = 0$  and the residual loss at  $N_r$   
 54 time-points,  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{N_r}$ .

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{W}) = \lambda_b \mathcal{L}_b(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_r \mathcal{L}_r(\mathbf{W}) \quad (4)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_b(\mathbf{W}) = \|\theta(0, \mathbf{W}) - \theta^0\|^2 \quad (5)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_r(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{1}{N_r} \sum_{k=1}^{N_r} \|r(\theta(t_k, \mathbf{W}))\|^2 \quad (6)$$

$$r(\theta(t_k, \mathbf{W})) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \theta_1(t_k, \mathbf{W})}{\partial t} - \omega_1 - \sum_{j=1}^N a_{1,j} \sin(\theta_j(t_k, \mathbf{W}) - \theta_1(t_k, \mathbf{W})) \\ \frac{\partial \theta_2(t_k, \mathbf{W})}{\partial t} - \omega_2 - \sum_{j=1}^N a_{2,j} \sin(\theta_j(t_k, \mathbf{W}) - \theta_2(t_k, \mathbf{W})) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \theta_N(t_k, \mathbf{W})}{\partial t} - \omega_N - \sum_{j=1}^N a_{N,j} \sin(\theta_j(t_k, \mathbf{W}) - \theta_N(t_k, \mathbf{W})) \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

## 55 3 Results

### 56 3.1 Experiment for two oscillator system

57 We set the intrinsic frequencies as  $\omega_1 = 0.5, \omega_2 = 0.9$ . For synchronized system, we choose 1 as the  
 58 coupling coefficient, and 0.1 in case of unsynchronized system. We use a PINN with 8 hidden layers,  
 59 20 neurons per layer to approximate the solutions of the system.  $N_r = 2000$  points are randomly  
 60 selected from  $0 \leq t \leq 50$  seconds. We empirically set  $\lambda_b = 1$  and  $\lambda_r = 2$  and train the PINN for  
 61 4000 iterations. Figure 1a and 1b show the approximated angular positions (top row) by the fourth  
 62 order Runge–Kutta (RK4) method and the trained PINN and also the corresponding instantaneous  
 63 angular frequencies (bottom row). It appears that for synchronized system, the PINN's solution is  
 64 very close to that from RK4 method. In unsynchronized system, the solution from PINN is way off  
 65 from the RK4's solutions. To resolve this issue, we increase  $\lambda_r$  to 20, and the PINN's accuracy gets  
 66 much better (Figure 1c).

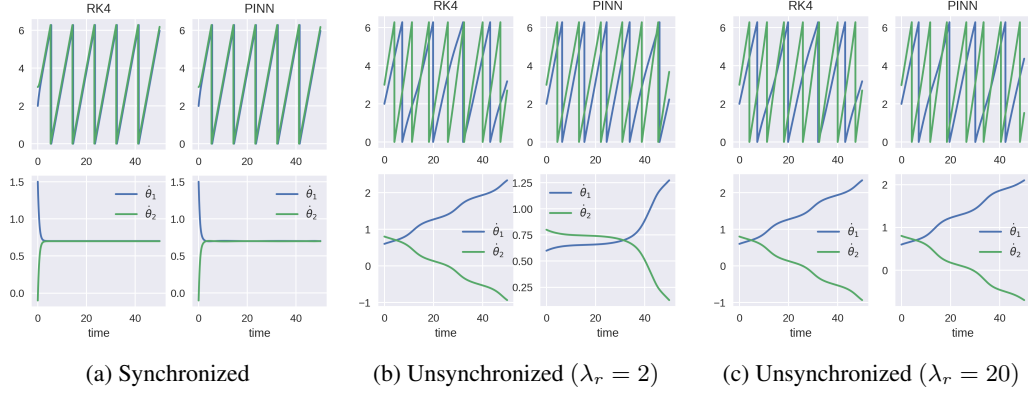


Figure 1: Experiments with two oscillator Kuramoto network.

67 **3.2 Effect of Coupling Coefficient on PINN’s accuracy**

68 We did the experiments with a Kuramoto model consisting of 10 oscillators. For simplicity, we  
 69 assumed the whole Kuramoto model has a single coupling coefficient,  $a_{i,j} = K/(N - 1)$  instead of  
 70 different coupling coefficients for each connection of the oscillator model. We used  $\lambda_r = 10$ ,  $\lambda_b = 1$   
 71 and 1,000 collocation points. We trained the model for 20,000 iterations for each case.  
 72 What we saw is the PINN can learn the solution with near perfection when the coupling coefficient of  
 73 the Kuramoto model is low. As the coupling coefficient increases, the PINN fails to learn the true  
 74 solution.  
 75 Figure 2a and 2b show the true solution and the predicted solution by PINN when  $K = 0.1$ . Figure  
 76 2c and 2d show the true solution and the predicted solution by PINN when  $K = 2.0$ .

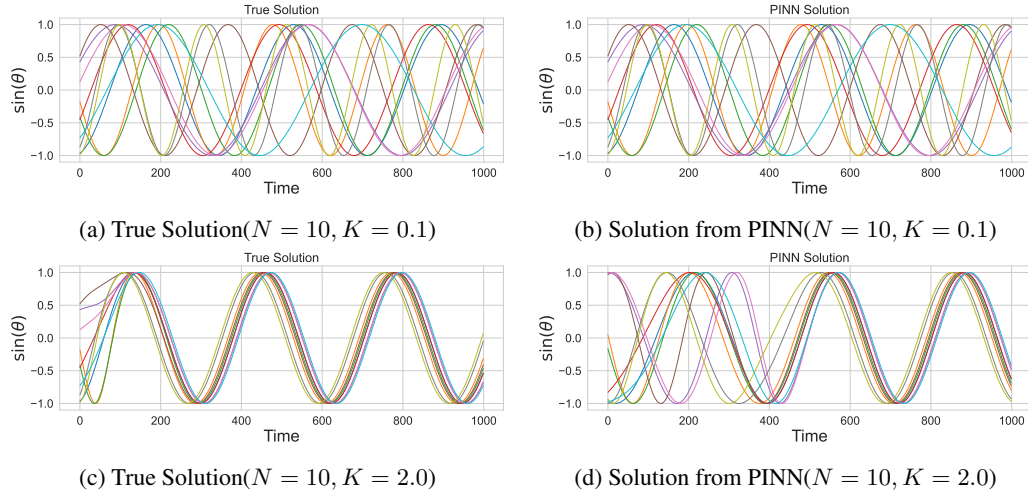


Figure 2: True and PINN solution for weakly and strongly coupled Kuramoto network.

77 **3.3 Training PINN without Initial Condition**

78 We trained PINN without giving the initial points with an objective of examining whether the PINN  
 79 can just learn the synchronization capability of the Kuramoto model we are experimenting with.  
 80 We experimented with two different coupling coefficients  $K = 0.5, 2.0$ . Here we only used 1,000  
 81 collocation points to train the model.  
 82 Figure 3a and 3b shows the comparison of instantaneous frequencies between two different coupling  
 83 coefficient values. For higher  $K$ , the Kuramoto model is supposed to be locked up to a single  
 84 instantaneous frequency for all oscillators. For  $K = 2$ , the PINN can learn that instantaneous  
 85 frequency quite successfully. As the initial phases are assumed by the PINN, they differ from  
 86 the true solution. As time progresses the PINN predicts the locking frequency quite successfully. For  
 87  $K = 0.5$  the true solution does not synchronise to a single frequency, neither does the PINN.

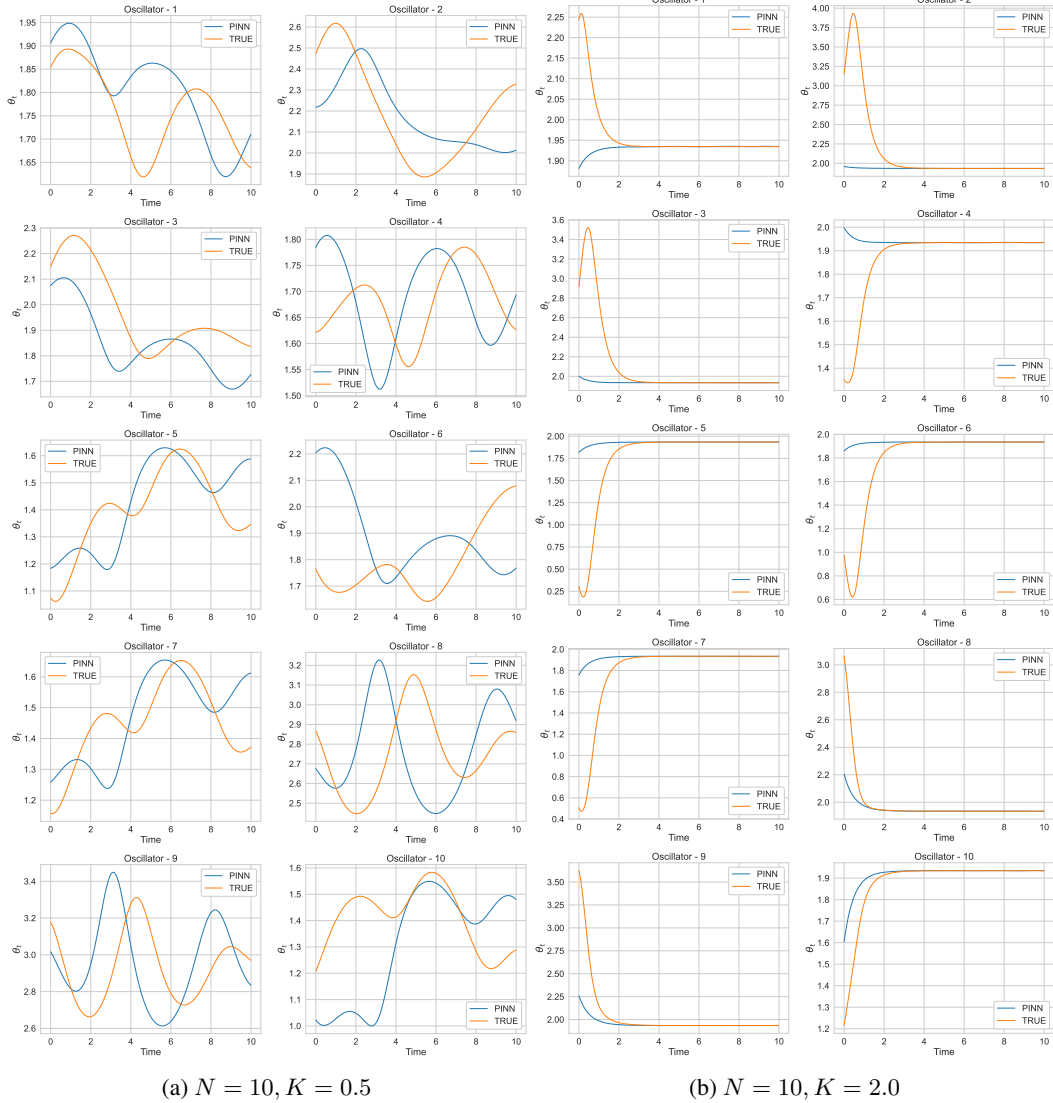


Figure 3: PINN solver predicted instantaneous frequencies. PINN was trained without providing the initial conditions.

## 88 4 Conclusion

89 In this work, we examined the potential of PINNs to solve coupled differential equations. Our  
 90 main objective was twofold: firstly, examine whether the PINN can accurately solve the coupled  
 91 differential equation when given all the necessary initial conditions, and secondly, whether the PINN  
 92 can figure out whether a given Kuramoto system will synchronize or not without giving any initial  
 93 conditions. We saw that PINN can learn the solution accurately with low coupling strength. With  
 94 higher coupling strength, PINN seems to fail in following the abrupt change of some of the oscillators.  
 95 This is well known phenomenon of PINNs to fail learn the high frequencies of the true solution.  
 96 The self adaptive training approach [6] might be a solution to resolve this issue. For the second  
 97 objective, PINN seems to be successful in achieving its goal. It can predict the locking frequency of a  
 98 synchronized Kuramoto model. For models with higher number of oscillators, the figure shows that  
 99 the true solution does not reach to a locking frequency whereas PINN does. This indicates the power  
 100 of PINN that it can reach to the locking frequency even quicker than the actual solution with random  
 101 initial phases. For future work, we intend to investigate the application of PINN for Kuramoto models  
 102 with arbitrarily different interaction strengths for each pair of oscillators.

103 **References**

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118 **A Quantification of Approximation Accuracy of PINN Solver**

119 To quantify the the approximation accuracy of the PINN solver, we have used the metric of expected  
 120 maximum relative  $L_2$  error:

$$\text{Expected maximum relative } L_2 \text{ error} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{N_q} (\theta_i(t_k, \mathbf{W}) - \theta_i^{true}(t_k))^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{N_q} (\theta_i^{true}(t_k))^2}} \right] \quad (8)$$

121 In equation 8, the true solution for each oscillator is obtained by numerical  
 122 solver. The  $N_q$  test points are taken from the domain with uniform  
 123 separation. For performing the expectation operation, we instantiate 5  
 124 PINNs with 8 hidden layers and 50 neurons per layer and take the average  
 125 maximum  $L_2$  error for Kuramoto systems with  $N = 2, 10, 20$  oscillators  
 126 and  $K = 0.1, 1, 2$ . Each PINN is trained with 1000 collocation points for  
 127 5000 iterations with  $\lambda_r = 10$  and  $\lambda_i = 1$ . Figure 4 demonstrates that for  
 128 Kuramoto model with larger number of oscillators, the PINN's accuracy  
 129 decreases for network with stronger coupling.

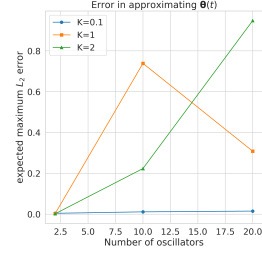


Figure 4: EMR  $L_2$  error.

130 **B Effect of Coupling Coefficient on PINN's accuracy**

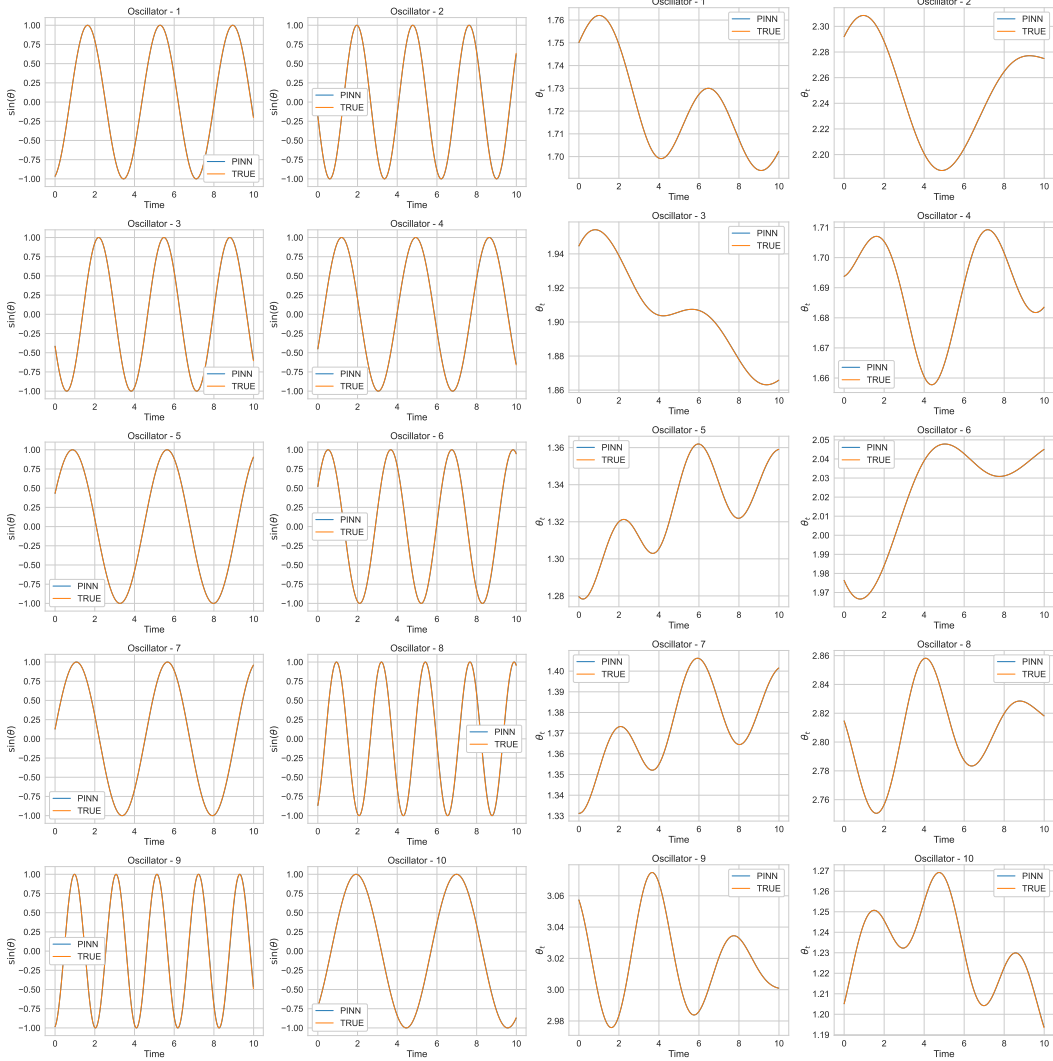
131 Figure 5a and 5b show the phases and instantaneous frequencies of each oscillator of a weakly  
 132 coupled Kuramoto network. These figures show that the PINN quite successfully learns the true  
 133 solution. Figure 6a and 6b show the phases and instantaneous frequencies of each oscillator of a  
 134 strongly coupled Kuramoto network. These figures show that the PINN could not learn the true  
 135 solution.

136 **C Kuramoto Oscillator Network with 15 Oscillators**

137 We created another Kuramoto oscillator network with 15 oscillators and solved it with PINN. Figure  
 138 7 shows the true and PINN solution for both a weakly and strongly coupled Kuramoto oscillator  
 139 network with 15 oscillators. Figure 8 shows the phase and instantaneous frequencies of each oscillator  
 140 for weakly coupled Kuramoto oscillator network. Figure 9 shows similar results for a strongly couples  
 141 Kuramoto oscillator network.

142 **D Kuramoto Oscillator Network with 20 Oscillators**

143 We created another Kuramoto oscillator network with 20 oscillators and solved it with PINN. Figure  
 144 10 shows the true and PINN solution for both a weakly and strongly coupled Kuramoto oscillator  
 145 network with 20 oscillators. Figure 11 shows the phase and instantaneous frequencies of each  
 146 oscillator for weakly coupled Kuramoto oscillator network. Figure 12 shows similar results for a  
 147 strongly couples Kuramoto oscillator network.



(a) Phase

(b) Instantaneous frequency

Figure 5: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator( $N = 10, K = 0.1$ )

148 **NeurIPS Paper Checklist**

149 **1. Claims**

150 Question: Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the  
 151 paper’s contributions and scope?

152 Answer: [\[Yes\]](#)

153 Justification: The paper proposes PINN as a solver for coupled oscillator network. PINN  
 154 has been widely used for solving PDEs, but not so widely studied for coupled PDEs, like  
 155 Kuramoto oscillator network. We showed that PINN can be used for coupled PDEs too.

156 Guidelines:

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 160 contributions made in the paper and important assumptions and limitations. A No or  
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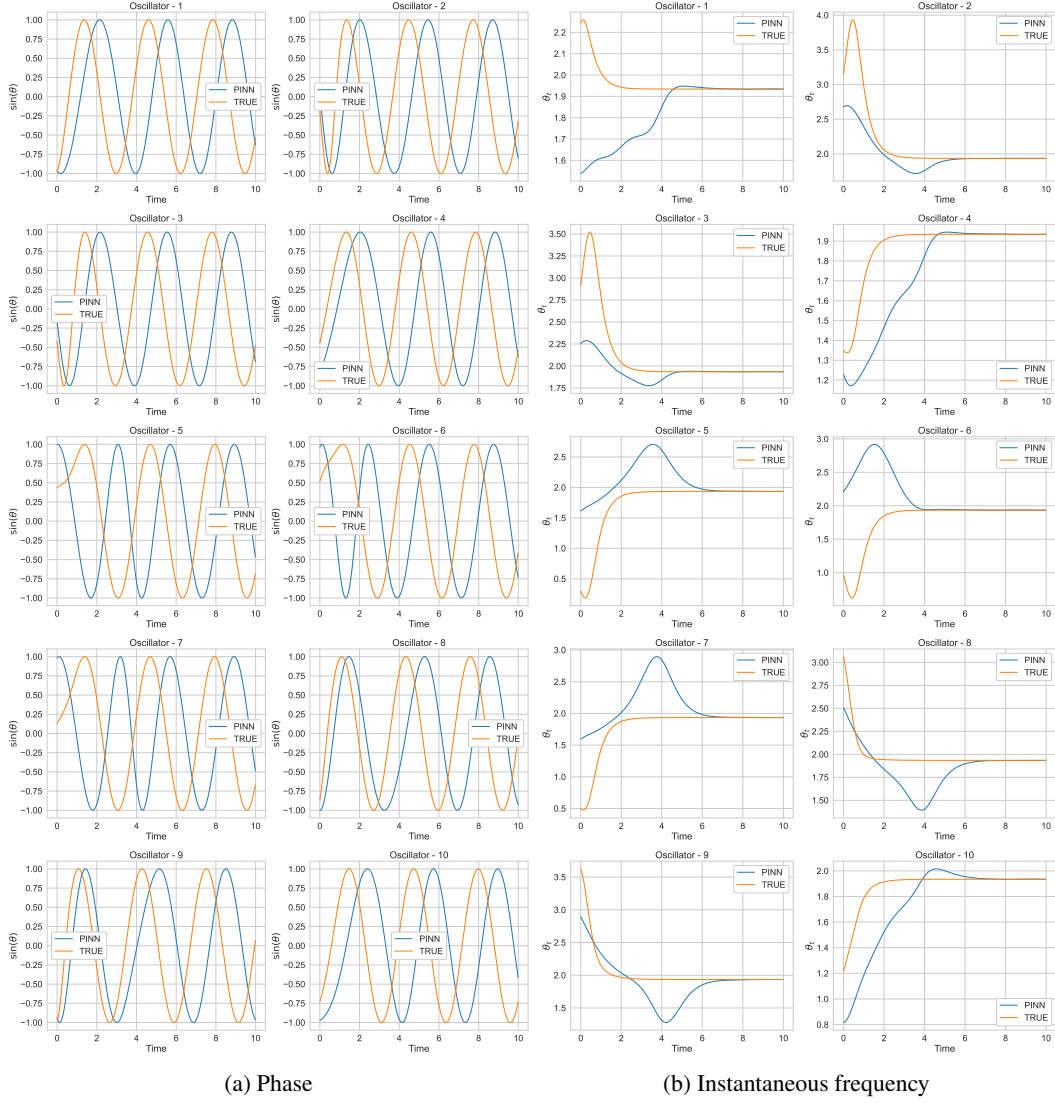


Figure 6: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator( $N = 10, K = 2.0$ )

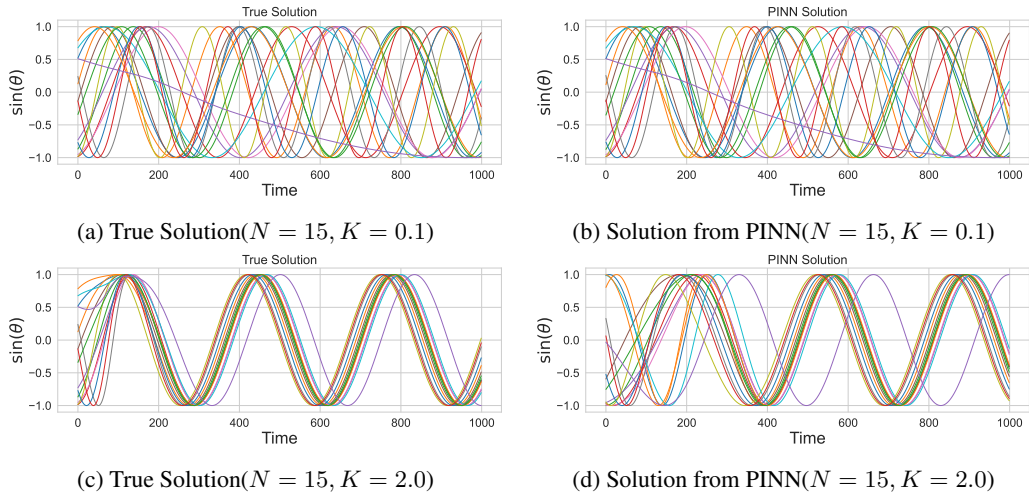


Figure 7: True and PINN solution for weakly and strongly coupled Kuramoto network with 15 oscillators.



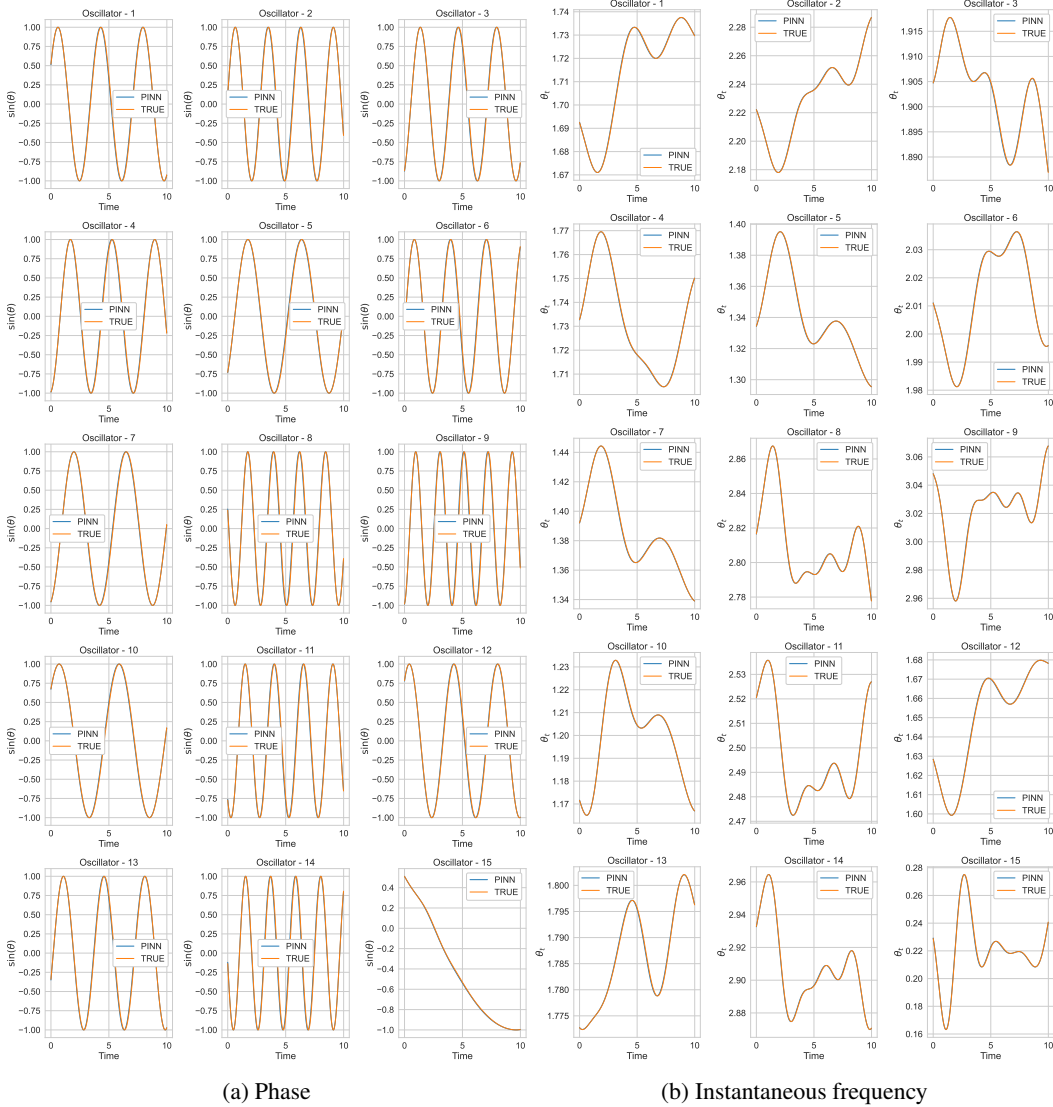


Figure 8: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator( $N = 15, K = 0.1$ )

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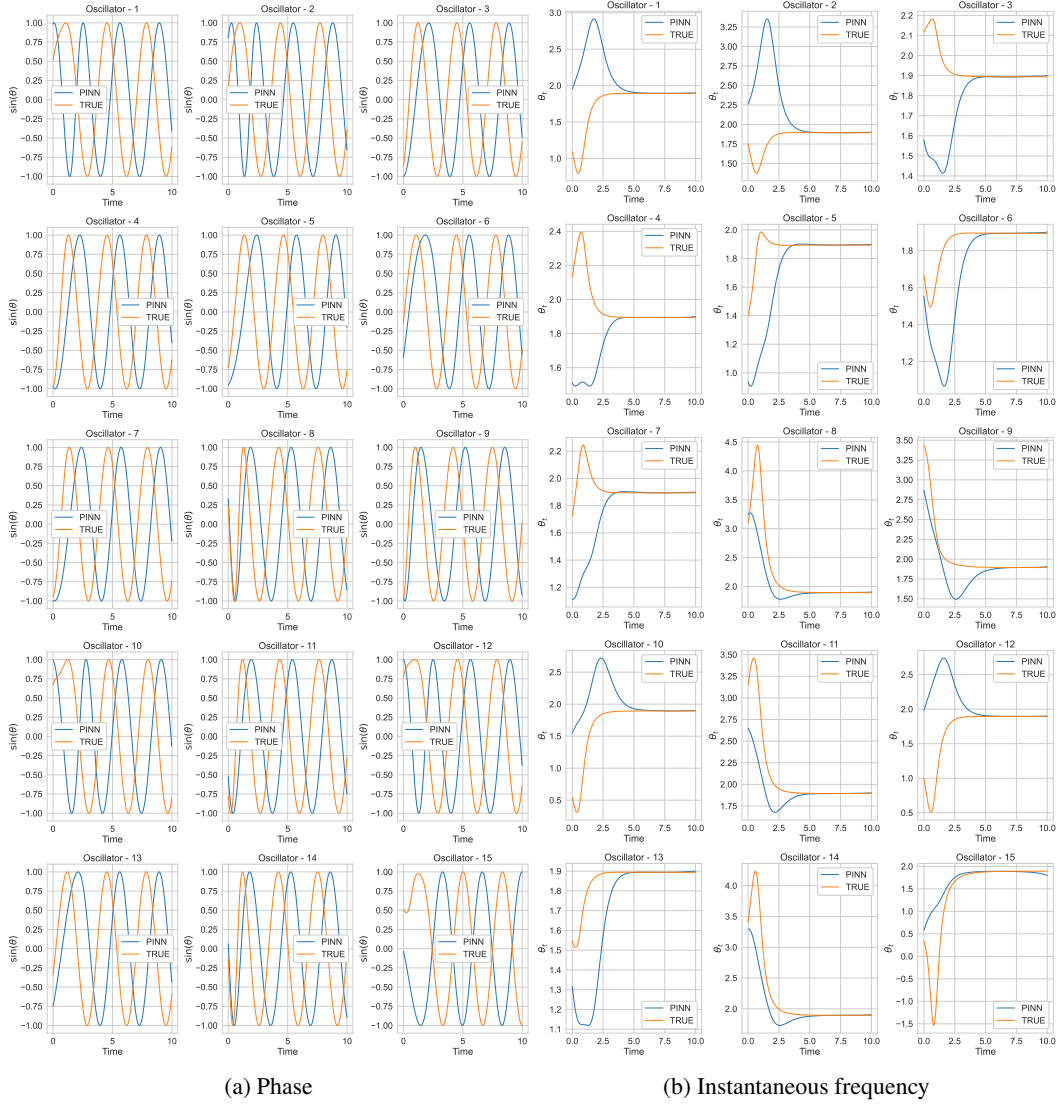


Figure 9: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator( $N = 15, K = 2.0$ )

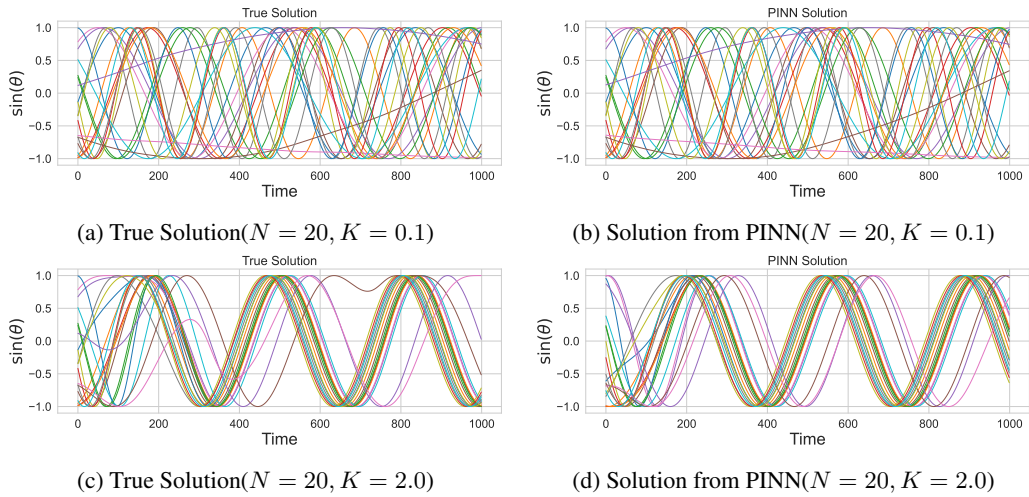


Figure 10: True and PINN solution for weakly and strongly coupled Kuramoto network with 20 oscillators.

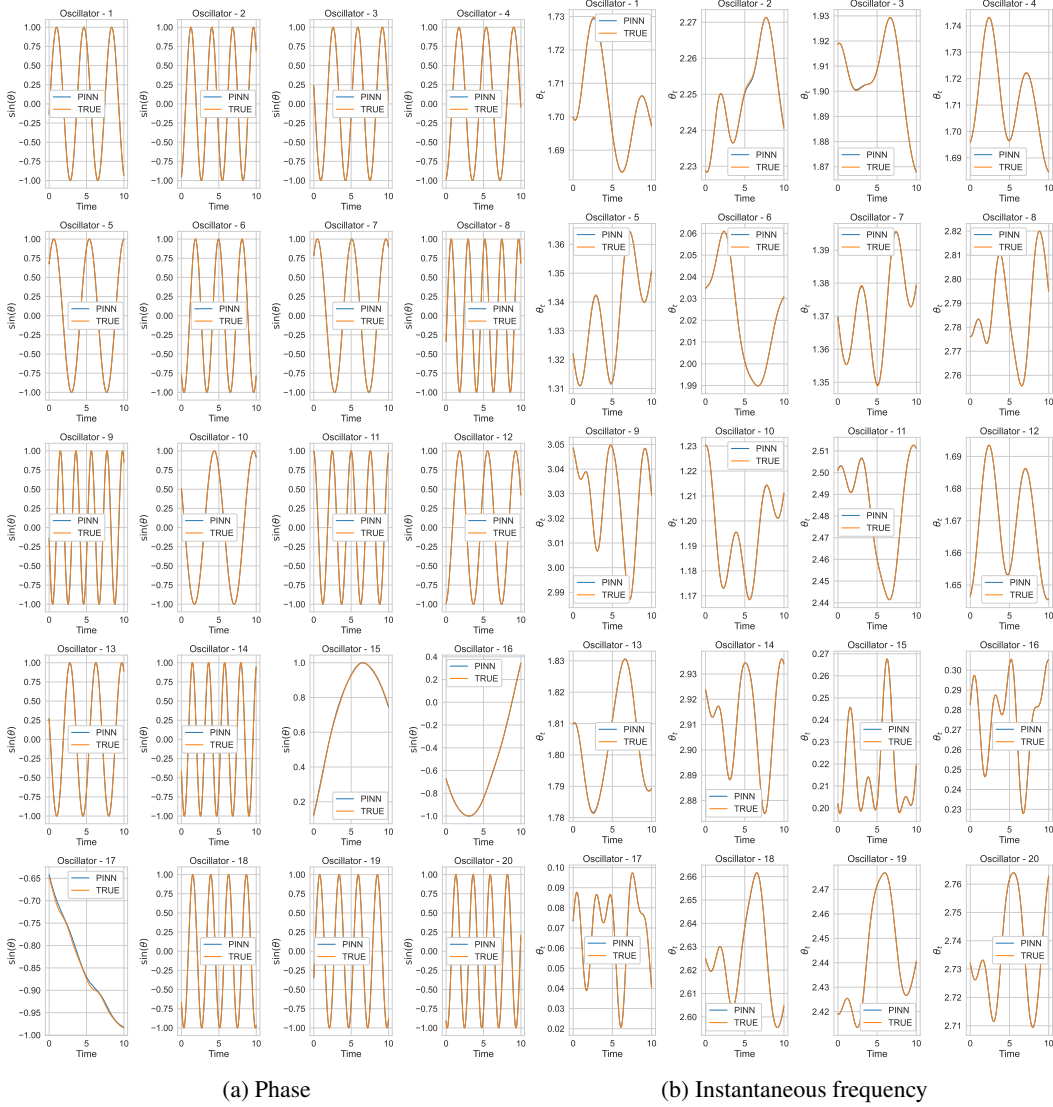


Figure 11: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator ( $N = 20, K = 0.1$ )

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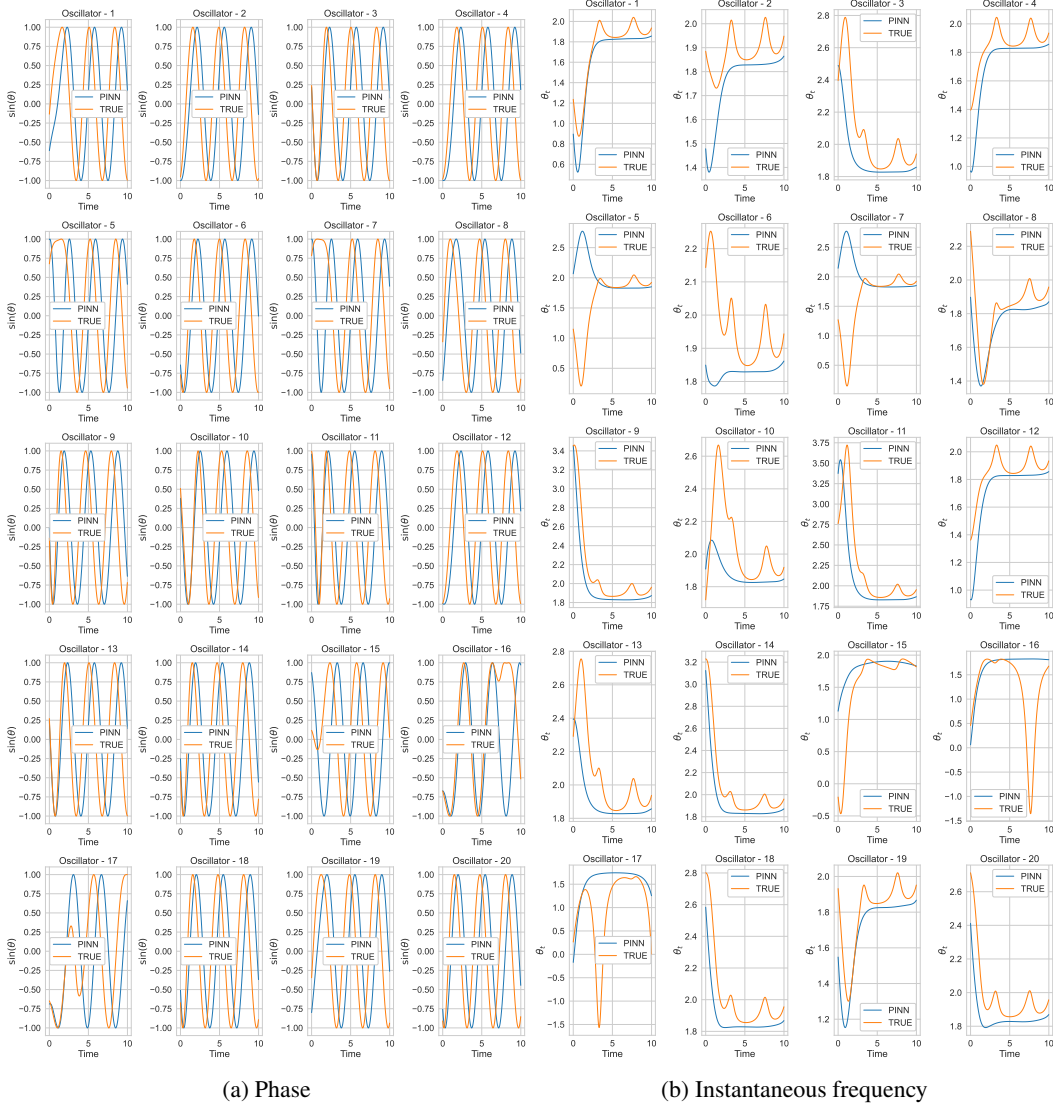


Figure 12: Phases and instantaneous frequency of each oscillator ( $N = 20, K = 2.0$ )

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