

SA-NODEs and Universal Approximation of Dynamical Systems – Numeric Aspect

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joint work with Kang Liu, Lorenzo Liverani and Enrique Zuazua

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1 Introduction

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Neural ODEs

The neural ODEs (NODEs) (Chen et al. 2018) read

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{i=1}^P W_i(t) \circ \sigma(A_i(t)\mathbf{x} + B_i(t)), & t \in [0, T], \\ \mathbf{x}(0) = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

Here $\circ$ is the Hadamard product $(a, b) \circ (c, d) = (ac, bd)$, and P is the width of the neural network. The parameters $A_i(t)$, $W_i(t)$ and $B_i(t)$ **depend on time**.

- The number of parameters $((2d + 1)MP)$ scales as the number of time steps $M \Rightarrow$ High complexity
- Impossible to calculate the solution after T

SA-NODEs

The semi-autonomous neural ODEs (SA-NODEs) read

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{i=1}^P W_i \circ \sigma(A_i^1 \mathbf{x} + A_i^2 t + B_i), & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d, t \in [0, T], \\ \mathbf{x}(0) = x_0. \end{cases}$$

Here the parameters W_i , A_i^1 , A_i^2 and B_i are **constant matrixes**.

- The number of parameters ($Pd(d+3)$) is independent of time steps. $\Rightarrow$ Low complexity
- Able to calculate the solution after T

Universal Approximation Theory

To approximate an ODE system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}(t) = f(z(t), t), & t \in [0, T], \\ z(0) = z_0, \end{cases}$$

by SA-NODEs, we obtain the universal approximation theory

Theorem (Li, Liu, L., Zuazua, 2024)

Let f be uniformly Lipschitz in z with respect to t . For any compact set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a constant $P_{\varepsilon, T, K, f}$ such that for any $P \geq P_{\varepsilon, T, K, f}$, there exist parameters $(W_i, A_i^1, A_i^2, B_i) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$, for $i = 1, \dots, P$, such that

$$\|z_{z_0}(\cdot) - \mathbf{x}_{z_0}(\cdot)\|_{\mathbb{L}^\infty([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \varepsilon, \quad \forall z_0 \in K.$$

Approximation Rate

Further, we obtain the approximation rate with respect to the number of neurons P

Theorem (Li, Liu, L., Zuazua, 2024)

Let $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{loc}}^k(\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, for $k > (d + 1)/2 + 2$. Fix any compact set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$. Then, for any $P \in \mathbb{N}_+$, there exist parameters $(W_i, A_i^1, A_i^2, B_i) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$, for $i = 1, \dots, P$, such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \int_K \|\mathbf{z}_{z_0}(t) - \mathbf{x}_{z_0}(t)\|^2 dz_0 \leq \frac{C_{T, K, \mathbf{f}}}{P},$$

where $C_{T, K, \mathbf{f}}$ is a constant independent of P .

Transport Equations

The transport equation of divergence form:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, t) + \operatorname{div}_x(f(x, t)\rho(x, t)) = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T], \\ \rho(x, 0) = \rho_0(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

The characteristic system of the transport equation is

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ \rho \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f(X, t) \\ -\operatorname{div}_x(f(X, t))\rho \end{pmatrix}, & t \in [0, T], \\ \begin{pmatrix} X(0) \\ \rho(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ \rho_0(x_0) \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

Transport Equations

The approximated characteristic system:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} X_\Theta \\ \rho_\Theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_\Theta(X_\Theta, t) \\ -\operatorname{div}_x(f_\Theta(X_\Theta, t))\rho_\Theta \end{pmatrix}, & t \in [0, T], \\ \begin{pmatrix} X_\Theta(0) \\ \rho_\Theta(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ \rho_0(x_0) \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

The corresponding **neural transport equation**:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho_\Theta(x, t) + \operatorname{div}_x(f_\Theta(x, t)\rho_\Theta(x, t)) = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T], \\ \rho_\Theta(x, 0) = \rho_0(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

Transport Equations

We obtain the approximation theory of transport equations

Theorem (Li, Liu, L., Zuazua, 2024)

Let ρ_0 be a probability measure supported in a compact set K such that $\rho_0 \in \mathbb{L}^2(K)$. Then, for any $P \in \mathbb{N}_+$, there exist parameters $\Theta = \{(W_i, A_i^1, A_i^2, B_i)\}_{i=1}^P$ such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \mathbb{W}_1(\rho(\cdot, t), \rho_\Theta(\cdot, t)) \leq \frac{C_{T, f, \rho_0}}{\sqrt{P}},$$

where C_{T, f, ρ_0} is a constant independent of P , $\mathbb{W}_1(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the Wasserstein-1 distance, and $\rho(\cdot, t)$ (resp. $\rho_\Theta(\cdot, t)$) is the solution of the transport equation (resp. the Neural transport equation) at the time $t \in [0, T]$.

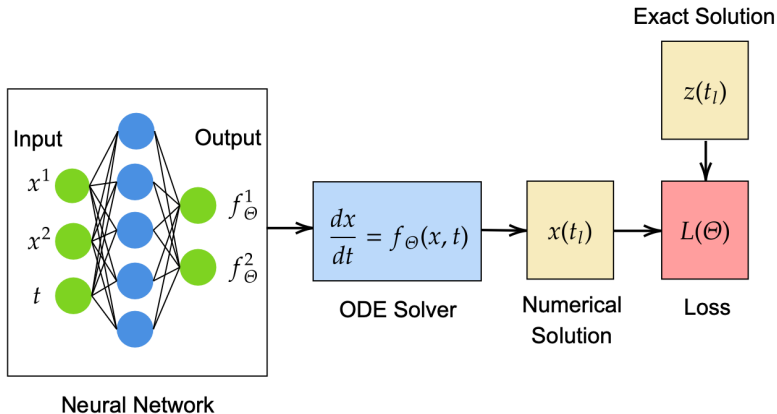
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Approximating ODEs: Workflow



Approximating ODEs: Training Dataset

For an ODE system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{z}}(t) = f(\mathbf{z}(t), t), & t \in [0, T], \\ \mathbf{z}(0) = \mathbf{z}_0. \end{cases}$$

Data: N trajectories $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{z}_k(\cdot)\}_{k=1}^N \subset C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

In practice: $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{z}_k(t_l)\}_{k,l} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, for $k = 1, \dots, N$, $l = 1, \dots, M$.

Approximating ODEs: Lipschitz Constant

For an SA-NODE system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}} = f_{\Theta}(\mathbf{x}(t), t), & t \in [0, T] \\ \mathbf{x}(0) = x_0, \end{cases}$$

where $\Theta = (W_i, A_i^1, A_i^2, B_i)_{i=1}^P$ and the approximated vector field

$$f_{\Theta} = \sum_{i=1}^P W_i \circ \sigma(A_i^1 \mathbf{x} + A_i^2 t + B_i),$$

f_{Θ} is uniformly Lipschitz continuous in x with the estimate:

$$\|f_{\Theta}(x, t) - f_{\Theta}(y, t)\| \leq \left\| \sum_{i=1}^P |W_i| \circ \|A_i^1\|_{\ell^2} \right\| \|x - y\|.$$

Approximating ODEs: Loss Function

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{z_k(t_l)\}_{k,l} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, for $k = 1, \dots, N$, $l = 1, \dots, M$.

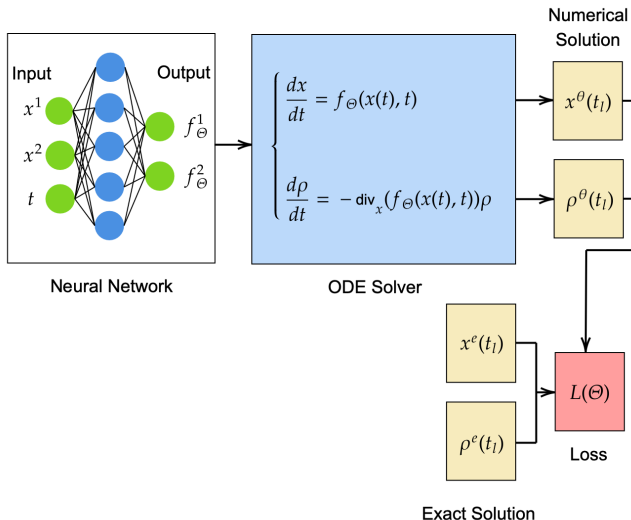
Lipschitz Constant: $\left\| \sum_{i=1}^P |W_i| \circ \|A_i^1\|_{\ell^2} \right\|$

Loss Function:

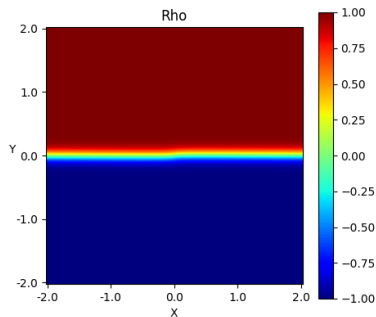
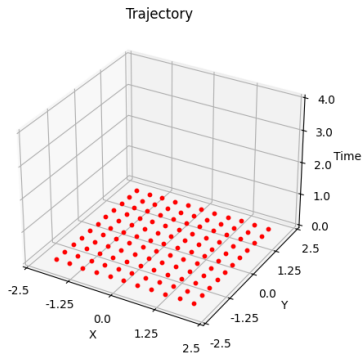
$$L(\Theta) = \frac{1}{NM} \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^M (z_k(t_l) - x_k(t_l, \Theta))^2 + \lambda \left\| \sum_{i=1}^P |W_i| \circ \|A_i^1\|_{\ell^2} \right\|$$

$\rightsquigarrow$ Stochastic gradient descent

Approximating Transport: Workflow



Approximating Transport: Workflow



$t = 0.01$

Approximating Transport: Data & Loss Function

Data: $\mathcal{D} = \{x_k(t_l), \rho_k(t_l)\}, k = 1, 2, \dots, N, l = 1, 2, \dots, M.$

Loss Function:

$$L(\Theta) = \frac{1}{NM} \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^M \left((x_k(t_l) - x_k(t_l, \Theta))^2 + (\rho_k(t_l) - \rho_k(t_l, \Theta))^2 \right) \\ + \lambda \left\| \sum_{i=1}^P |W_i| \circ \|A_i^1\|_{\ell^2} \right\|,$$

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ODEs: Autonomous & Nonlinear Case

Approximate **autonomous** and **nonlinear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = -\sin(z_1). \end{cases}$$

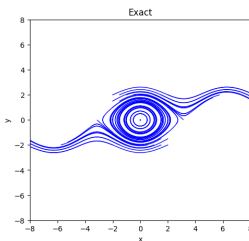
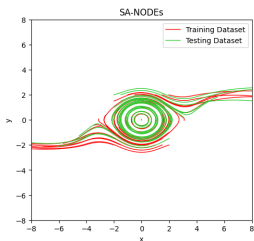


Figure: SA-NODEs and exact solution

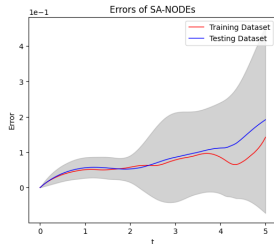


Figure: Errors

ODEs: Non-Autonomous & Nonlinear Case

Approximate **non-autonomous** and **nonlinear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = z_1 - z_1^3 + \delta \cos(\omega t). \end{cases}$$

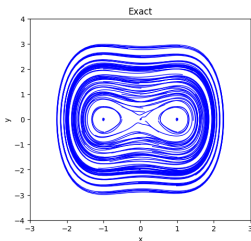
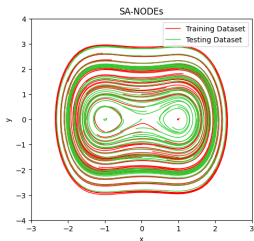


Figure: SA-NODEs and exact solution

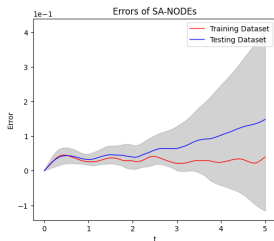


Figure: Errors

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = -2z_1 - 3z_2. \end{cases}$$

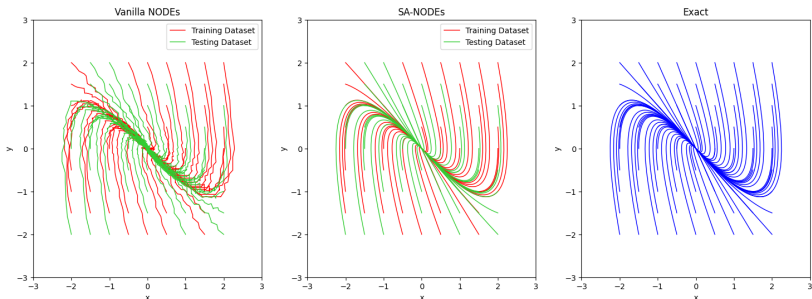


Figure: Vanilla NODEs, SA-NODEs and exact solution

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = -2z_1 - 3z_2. \end{cases}$$

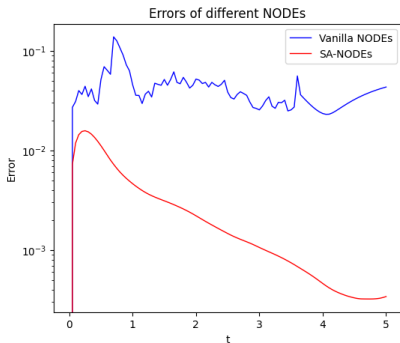


Figure: Testing Errors

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = -2z_1 - 3z_2. \end{cases}$$

P	Neural ODEs	$e_{\max}$	e_T	DoF
100	Vanilla NODEs	2.60e-01	1.79e-01	50000
	SA-NODEs	4.65e-02	3.29e-03	1200
500	Vanilla NODEs	1.91e-01	9.21e-02	250000
	SA-NODEs	2.16e-02	3.83e-04	6000
1000	Vanilla NODEs	1.38e-01	4.34e-02	500000
	SA-NODEs	1.58e-02	3.42e-04	12000

Table: Comparison of errors and degrees of freedom (DoF) between vanilla NODEs and SA-NODEs on autonomous ODEs.

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **non-autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = t - z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = z_1 - t. \end{cases}$$

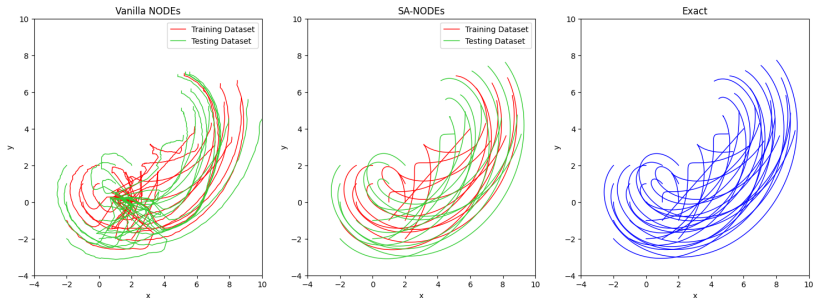


Figure: Vanilla NODEs, SA-NODEs and exact solution

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **non-autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = t - z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = z_1 - t. \end{cases}$$

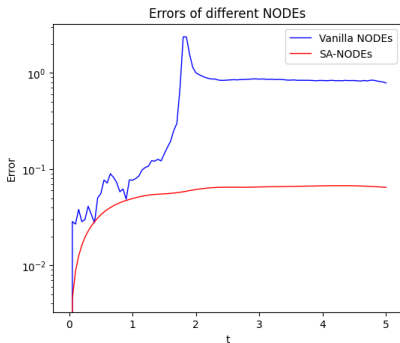


Figure: Testing Errors

Comparison with Vanilla NODEs

Approximate **non-autonomous** and **linear** ODE system:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}_1 = t - z_2, \\ \dot{z}_2 = z_1 - t. \end{cases}$$

P	Neural ODEs	$e_{\max}$	e_T	DoF
100	Vanilla NODEs	3.66e+00	3.16e+00	50000
	SA-NODEs	7.78e-02	7.13e-02	1200
500	Vanilla NODEs	2.54e+00	2.08e+00	250000
	SA-NODEs	7.35e-02	6.94e-02	6000
1000	Vanilla NODEs	2.37e+00	7.87e-01	500000
	SA-NODEs	6.73e-02	6.47e-02	12000

Table: Comparison of errors and degrees of freedom (DoF) between vanilla NODEs and SA-NODEs on non-autonomous ODEs.

Transport: Non-Autonomous Case

For the non-autonomous transport equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div} \left(\left(\frac{\sin(x)}{1+t^2}, \frac{\sin(y)}{1+t^2} \right) \rho(x, y, t) \right) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0. \end{cases}$$

Initial measure for training:

$$\rho_0^{\text{train}}(x, y) = e^{-(x^2+y^2)}.$$

Initial measure for testing:

$$\rho_0^{\text{test}}(x, y) = e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{4}}.$$

Error for testing:

$$e_{\text{test}}(t) = \frac{\|\rho_{\Theta}(\cdot, t) - \rho(\cdot, t)\|_{\mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R}^2)}}{\|\rho(\cdot, 0)\|_{\mathbb{L}^1(\mathbb{R}^2)}}.$$

Transport: Non-Autonomous Case

For the non-autonomous transport equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div} \left(\left(\frac{\sin(x)}{1+t^2}, \frac{\sin(y)}{1+t^2} \right) \rho(x, y, t) \right) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0. \end{cases}$$

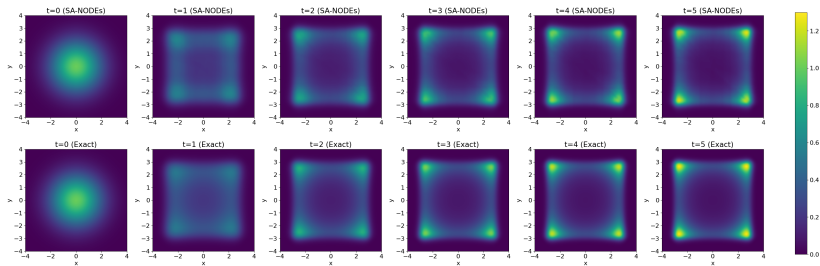


Figure: SA-NODEs and exact solutions

Transport: Non-Autonomous Case

For the non-autonomous transport equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div} \left(\left(\frac{\sin(x)}{1+t^2}, \frac{\sin(y)}{1+t^2} \right) \rho(x, y, t) \right) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0. \end{cases}$$



Figure: Training and testing errors

Transport: Doswell Frontogenesis

For the Doswell frontogenesis:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div}((-y g(r(x, y)), x g(r(x, y))) \rho(x, y, t)) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0, \end{cases}$$

where

$$g(r(x, y)) = \frac{1}{r(x, y)} \bar{v} \operatorname{sech}^2(r(x, y)) \tanh(r(x, y)),$$

with $r(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $\bar{v} = 2.59807$. The initial measures for the training and testing are set as:

$$\rho_0^{\text{train}}(x, y) = \tanh(y), \quad \rho_0^{\text{test}}(x, y) = \tanh(10y).$$

Transport: Doswell Frontogenesis

For the Doswell frontogenesis:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div}((-yg(r(x, y)), xg(r(x, y))) \rho(x, y, t)) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0, \end{cases}$$

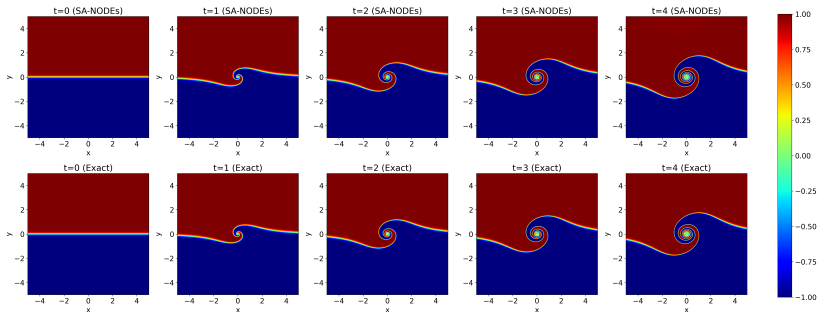


Figure: SA-NODEs and exact solutions

Transport: Doswell Frontogenesis

For the Doswell frontogenesis:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(x, y, t) + \operatorname{div}((-yg(r(x, y)), xg(r(x, y))) \rho(x, y, t)) = 0, \\ \rho(\cdot, 0) = \rho_0, \end{cases}$$

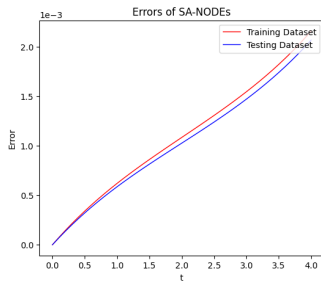


Figure: Training and testing errors

Thank you!