An Application of Physics Informed Recurrent Neural Networks to Structural Dynamics



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Initial Input and Static Deformation scaling, combined with unitless loss

functions, greatly improve RNN performance in structural dynamics.

Introduction

- Neural Networks (NN) structural dynamics modeling can help in improved efficiency and speed.
- Physics-informed neural networks enhance DL learning by integrating physical laws.
- Our research leverages RNNs with tailored loss functions for structural dynamics response, emphasizing loss selection and data scaling importance.

Feature scaling

Min-max Scaling (MMS) Initial-Input Scaling (IIS)

Static Deformation

Scaling (SD)

(Forced Vibration and



Physics Informed RNN

- RNNs effectively estimate structural behavior by analyzing data over time.
- RNN weights {*U*, *V*, *W*} are refined using previous input information, *x* to estimate future displacement.
- RNN estimations rely on input data preprocessing (data/ feature scaling) and loss normalization, impacting weight fine-tuning, especially when units are involved for uniform learning.
- Physics is embedded in the learning process through OpenSees.

Loss Function implementation



Unitless loss for unitless comparison and consistent learning

m

b) Forced vibration

 $m\ddot{u} + c\dot{u} + ku = p(t)$

k,c

 \mathcal{D}

Ground motions) $\omega^{2'} = ----\omega^{2'}$

$\omega^{2'} = \frac{\omega^2}{(p_0/m)/u_{st}}, u_{st} = \frac{p_{st}}{k}$

Results

- IIS scaling has reduced variation in freevibration response compared to MMS scaling.
- Smaller time step enhances outlier performance in IIS.
- Unitless loss functions yield comparable results for MMS and IIS scaling techniques but have less variance overall.
- SD scaling performs the best for forced vibration response.





m

a) Free vibration

 $m\ddot{u} + c\dot{u} + ku = 0$

k,c

Step-by-Step implementation

- a) RNN implementation for freeresponse with initial displacement
- b) RNN implementation for forced
 vibration with trigonometric,
 triangle, and constant loads.

Performance Metric

Evaluated RNN model performance using the average \overline{MAPE} across unique time series test files. $\overline{MAPE} = \frac{1}{J} \sum \{\frac{1}{N} \sum \left(|\frac{\hat{u}_n - u_n}{u_0}| \right) \}$

Conclusions

- Improved performance of RNN models with IIS or SD over MMS scaling.
- Unitless loss competes closely with unitdependent losses, with less variability for structural dynamics applications.
- Further research is needed with more complex models such as ground motions or

