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A Correction and Comments on "Multi-Scale Deep Neural Network (MscaleDNN) for Solving Poisson-Boltzmann Equation in Complex Domains. CiCP, 28(5):1970–2001,2020"

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Abstract. This note provides a correction of a missing weight constant in the MscaleDNN formula and some comments on the performance of the corrected algorithm.

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1 Correction on a missing weight constant

Our previous paper on the multi-scale deep neural network (MscaleDNN) in [2] contains an error: a constant α_i^d or its inverse is missing outside $f_i(\cdot)$ or $f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\cdot)$ in Eqs. (2.10), (2.11), (2.14) and (2.15). The following text should replace the corresponding paragraphs in [2] to correct this error.

From (2.5), we can apply a simple down-scaling to convert the high frequency region A_i to a low frequency region. Namely, we define a scaled version of $\widehat{f}_i(\mathbf{k})$ as

$$\widehat{f}_i^{(\text{scale})}(\mathbf{k}) = \widehat{f}_i(\alpha_i \mathbf{k}), \quad \alpha_i > 1, \tag{2.9}$$

and, correspondingly in the physical space

$$f_i^{(\text{scale})}(\boldsymbol{x}) = f_i\left(\frac{1}{\alpha_i}\boldsymbol{x}\right)\frac{1}{\alpha_i^d}, \tag{2.10}$$

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or

$$f_i(\boldsymbol{x}) = \alpha_i^d f_i^{(\text{scale})}(\alpha_i \boldsymbol{x}). \tag{2.11}$$

We can see the low frequency spectrum of the scaled function $\widehat{f}_i^{(\text{scale})}(\mathbf{k})$ if α_i is chosen large enough, i.e.,

$$\operatorname{supp} \widehat{f}_i^{(\text{scale})}(\mathbf{k}) \subset \left\{ \mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ \frac{(i-1)K_0}{\alpha_i} \le |\mathbf{k}| \le \frac{iK_0}{\alpha_i} \right\}. \tag{2.12}$$

Using the F-Principle of common DNNs (Ref. [27] in [2]), with iK_0/α_i being small, we can train a DNN $f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\boldsymbol{x})$, with θ^{n_i} denoting the DNN parameters, to learn $f_i^{(\text{scale})}(\boldsymbol{x})$ quickly

$$f_i^{(\text{scale})}(\boldsymbol{x}) \sim f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\boldsymbol{x}), \tag{2.13}$$

which gives an approximation to $f_i(\boldsymbol{x})$ immediately

$$f_i(\boldsymbol{x}) \sim \alpha_i^d f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\alpha_i \boldsymbol{x}) \tag{2.14}$$

and to $f(\boldsymbol{x})$ as well

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) \sim \sum_{i=1}^{M} \alpha_i^d f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\alpha_i \boldsymbol{x}). \tag{2.15}$$

3 Numerical results with the corrected MscaleDNN (2.15)

In this section, we present several numerical tests on approximation and solving PDEs to demonstrate the necessity of the missing factor α_i in front of the subnetworks $f_{\theta^{n_i}}(\cdot)$ in (2.15), which results in faster training and lower generalization errors, as shown in Fig. 1 and later sections.

Three networks will be tested: FNN – fully connected neural network; MscaleDNN – the one missing the α_i weights; MscaleDNN-corrected – the corrected one with weight factor α_i included. In the comparison tests, we use the same compact activation functions in [2],

$$\phi(x) = \text{ReLU}(x)^2 - 3\text{ReLU}(x-1)^2 + 3\text{ReLU}(x-2)^2 - \text{ReLU}(x-3)^2. \tag{3.1}$$

3.1 Approximation of a 2-D oscillatory function

The target function for the fitting problem is $u(x,y) = \frac{1}{N^2}\sum_{m=1}^{N}\sum_{n=1}^{N} e^{\sin(2\pi m x)} e^{\cos(2\pi n y)}$, $(x,y) \in [-1,1]^2$, where $N = 20$. 5000 training data at each epoch are randomly sampled from $[-1,1]^2$. DNNs are trained by the Adam optimizer with a learning rate 0.0001 and initialized with a Glorot-normal. We compare the following different network structures: (1) FNN with a size 2-1600-1600-1600-1; (2) MscaleDNN with eight subnetworks with a size 2-200-200-200-1 each and scales $\{1,2,4,8,16,32,64,128\}$; (3) MscaleDNN-corrected with eight subnetworks with a size 2-200-200-200-1 each and same scales as MscaleDNN.

In Fig. 2, we show the target function and the DNN solutions on fixed $x = -0.6$ and $y = 0.2$. The MscaleDNN-corrected performs better than the MscaleDNN and FNN.