

# Reduced order modeling for nonlinear structural analysis using Gaussian process regression

Mengwu Guo\*, Jan S. Hesthaven

*Chair of Computational Mathematics and Simulation Science,  
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*

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## Abstract

A non-intrusive reduced basis (RB) method is proposed for parametrized nonlinear structural analysis undergoing large deformations and with elasto-plastic constitutive relations. In this method, a reduced basis is constructed from a set of full-order snapshots by the proper orthogonal decomposition (POD), and the Gaussian process regression (GPR) is used to approximate the projection coefficients. The GPR is carried out in the offline stage with active data selection, and the outputs for new parameter values can be obtained rapidly as probabilistic distributions during the online stage. Due to the complete decoupling of the offline and online stages, the proposed non-intrusive RB method provides a powerful tool to efficiently solve parametrized nonlinear problems with various engineering applications requiring multi-query or real-time evaluations. With both geometric and material nonlinearities taken into account, numerical results are presented for typical 1D and 3D examples, illustrating the accuracy and efficiency of the proposed method.

*Keywords:* Reduced basis method, nonlinear structural analysis, proper orthogonal decomposition, Gaussian process regression, machine learning

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## 1. Introduction

Models expressed as *parametrized nonlinear partial differential equations* are widely used in structural engineering [17, 29]. In such models, parameters are defined to characterize material properties, loads, geometric features, boundary conditions and so on. Especially in the context of *multi-query* or *real-time* structural analysis, such as structural optimization [11], reliability analysis [25], real-time updating [21] and parameter estimation [8], it is required to solve the system for many parameter values.

The rapid development of computer-aided engineering (CAE) and simulation science during the past several decades has enabled high-fidelity simulations for complex engineering structures, for which finite element methods (FEMs) [37, 38] are the most popular tools and have been widely studied and used. In spite of the increasing computational power, high-fidelity simulations are still too expensive to allow multi-query or real-time problems, as a large amount of degrees of freedom (DOFs) are required to accurately solve a problem, implying great demands on both CPU time and memory. Due to some intrinsic similarities among the solutions at different parameter values, on the other side, repeatable high-fidelity calculations for varying parameters are potentially wasting substantial computational resource. To address this issue, reduced order modeling (ROM) has been extensively developed for decades, aiming at reducing the computational cost with a controlled loss of accuracy. The key idea of ROM is to replace the full-order system with a carefully constructed reduced-order model with much smaller dimension, to reduce memory needs and CPU time.

The *reduced basis (RB) method* [17, 28, 29, 31] is a powerful and widely used technique for ROM, carried out in an offline-online framework. In the *offline* stage, an RB space, with a significantly smaller dimension

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\*Corresponding author.

*Email addresses:* mengwu.guo@epfl.ch (Mengwu Guo), Jan.Hesthaven@epfl.ch (Jan S. Hesthaven)

20 than the full-order problem, is spanned by a set of RB functions carefully extracted from a set of high-fidelity  
 21 snapshots obtained at specific parameter locations. The two major approaches for such extraction are the  
 22 *Greedy algorithm* [10, 28] and the *proper orthogonal decomposition* (POD) [22, 29], of which the former  
 23 selects a subset of snapshots as basis functions according to some optimality criterion, while the latter  
 24 employs a singular value decomposition (SVD) to the collection of snapshots to recover the RB functions.  
 25 Once the RB space is constructed, the approximated solution for a desired new parameter value is sought  
 26 *online* as a linear combination of the RB functions. A Galerkin projection is often employed to determine  
 27 the combination coefficients, and referred to as the Galerkin-projection-based approach for the online stage.

28 The success of the RB method in decreasing computational cost relies on the decoupling of the offline  
 29 and online stages, ensuring that the online computation is independent of the dimension of the full-order  
 30 model. For a general nonlinear structural problem with non-affine dependence on parameters, however, such  
 31 a full decoupling is often not possible. The assembly of the reduced problem is directly embodied online,  
 32 and both the configuration updating and the nonlinear iteration require the full-order model, which leads  
 33 to a reduced efficiency. The empirical interpolation method (EIM) [1] and its discrete variants [9, 27] have  
 34 been proposed to recover an affine expansion of the differential operator in a non-affine case. However, such  
 35 schemes are problem-dependent and of an *intrusive* nature, and is often not practical for complex nonlinear  
 36 problems.

37 In this paper, a non-intrusive RB method is proposed for nonlinear structural analysis. After extracting  
 38 the RB functions from a set of snapshots by POD, a regression-based approach [18] is used to establish a  
 39 mapping from parameter values to projection coefficients onto the RB space. A complete decoupling of offline  
 40 and online stages is ensured by the regression-based approach, as the online solutions only require direct  
 41 outputs from the reduce-order regression model that is trained offline. As an important part of *machine*  
 42 *learning* [4, 26], regression methods have been intensively developed in *supervised learning*. Among the  
 43 existing regression models, the proposed regression-based RB method employs a *Gaussian process regression*  
 44 (GPR), which infers that the observed input-output pairs follow a priori of Gaussian process, and then makes  
 45 predictions for new parameter values according to the posteriori. Equipped with an active data selection for  
 46 the training samples, the efficiency of the GPR can be further enhanced. Numerical results also indicate that  
 47 the GPR model shows good performance in both accuracy and efficiency of ROM's for nonlinear structural  
 48 analysis.

49 Following the introduction, the basic equations of nonlinear structural analysis are briefly reviewed in  
 50 Section 2. In Section 3, the regression-based RB method is presented and the procedure is specified. After an  
 51 introduction to the key ideas of GPR, application of GPR to the ROM for structural problems is addressed  
 52 in Section 4, with an active data selection algorithm proposed to enhance efficiency. In Section 5, the  
 53 method is tested and validated by two examples of large deformation analysis, one in 1D and the other in  
 54 3D. Finally, some conclusions are drawn in Section 6.

55 For the clarity of the notation, italic bold symbols are adopted in this paper for coordinates, vector fields  
 56 and tensor fields, such as coordinates  $\mathbf{X}$ , displacement vector field  $\mathbf{u}$ , strain tensor field  $\mathbf{E}$  and stress tensor  
 57 field  $\mathbf{S}$ ; and upright bold symbols are used for vectors and matrices in linear algebra, such as regression  
 58 input vector  $\mathbf{x}$ , collection of outputs  $\mathbf{y}$ , observed input matrix  $\mathbf{X}$ , discrete displacement solution  $\mathbf{u}_h$  and the  
 59 snapshot matrix  $\mathbf{S}$ .

## 60 2. Nonlinear structural analysis

### 61 2.1. Governing equations

62 In solid mechanics, the governing equations can often be split into three types: the equations of kinematics  
 63 to describe the motion and deformation of the structure, the equations of equilibrium to describe the  
 64 balance between stresses in the deformable body and external loads applied on it, and the equations of  
 65 constitutive laws to specify the relation between stresses and strains for the material. In the following, a  
 66 general deformable body is assumed to experience large deformation and a nonlinear constitutive response  
 67 in a Cartesian coordinate system.

#### 68 *Kinematics*

69 The motion of a deformable body is recorded as configurations. As shown in Figure 1, the original  
70 coordinates of the body are denoted as  $\mathbf{X} \in \bar{\Omega}$ , where  $\bar{\Omega}$  is the undeformed configuration that the body  
71 occupies at time  $t = 0$ , and  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  is the corresponding domain.  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}, t) \in \bar{\omega}_t \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  reflects the  
72 coordinates at time  $t > 0$  in the deformed configuration  $\bar{\omega}_t$ , which can also be considered as a vector  
73 field defined in  $\bar{\Omega}$  with respect to the original coordinates  $\mathbf{X}$ . Note that  $\omega_0 = \Omega$ . The vector field of the  
74 displacement can be naturally defined as

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{X}, t) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{X}, t) - \mathbf{X}, \quad (1)$$

75 which will act as the unknowns of the nonlinear problems in this work. Moreover, it should be pointed out  
76 that only quasi-static problems are taken into account in this work, i.e. the problems are assumed to be  
77 time-independent.

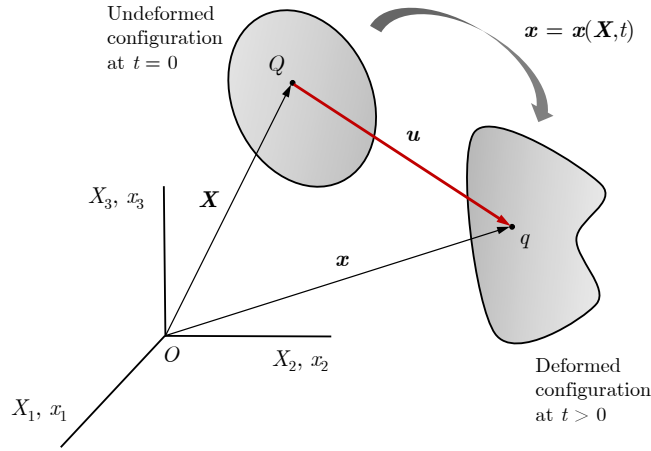


Figure 1: Motion of a deformable body

78 To evaluate the deformation of the body, a tensor field  $\mathbf{F} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{M}^3$ , referred to as the *deformation*  
79 *gradient* tensor, is introduced as

$$\mathbf{F} = \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{I} + \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u}, \quad (2)$$

80 where  $\mathbb{M}^3$  stands for the set of all real square matrices of order 3,  $\mathbf{I}$  is the unit tensor and  $\nabla_{\mathbf{X}}$  is the  
81 gradient operator with respect to the original coordinates  $\mathbf{X}$ . Then the *Green-Lagrange strain* tensor field  
82  $\mathbf{E} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^3 := \{ \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{M}^3 : \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}^T \}$  is defined as

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{I}] = \frac{1}{2} [\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u})^T + (\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u})^T \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u}], \quad (3)$$

83 which can also be considered as a nonlinear operator acting on the displacement field  $\mathbf{u}$ . The displacement  
84 boundary condition on the Dirichlet boundary  $\Gamma_D \subset \partial\Omega$  is prescribed as  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ .

85 **Remark 1:** In this paper, only problems with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions are discussed,  
86 as problems with inhomogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_D$  on  $\Gamma_D$  can be transformed to the  
87 homogeneous case, i.e. one can define  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{p}$  with  $\mathbf{p} \in [C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})]^3$  being a predefined function that  
88 satisfies the boundary conditions  $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{u}_D$  on  $\Gamma_D$ , and solve for  $\mathbf{w}$  by replacing  $\mathbf{u}$  with  $\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{p}$  in the problem.  
89

### 90 *Equilibrium*

91 The *second Piola-Kirchhoff stress* field  $\mathbf{S}$  is usually used for large deformation analysis, and the corre-

92 sponding equation of equilibrium is given as

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \cdot (\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{S}) + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (4)$$

93 where  $\mathbf{b}$  is a prescribed body force applied on the structure with respect to the undeformed volume. Moreover,  
 94 the traction boundary condition on Neumann boundary  $\Gamma_N = \partial\Omega \setminus \Gamma_D$  is introduced as  $(\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{u})\mathbf{S})^T \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{t}$ ,  
 95 with  $\mathbf{t}$  being the prescribed traction with respect to the undeformed surface area and  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is the unit outward  
 96 normal vector along  $\Gamma_N$ .

97 Correspondingly, the weak formulation for the equations of equilibrium, also referred to as the virtual  
 98 work principle [2, 7], can be given as:

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathbf{S} : D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}](\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_N} \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Gamma \quad (5)$$

99 for all  $\mathbf{v} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  that are smooth enough and vanish on  $\Gamma_D$ . Here  $D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}](\mathbf{v})$  stands for the Gâteaux  
 100 derivative of  $\mathbf{E}$  at  $\mathbf{u}$  in the direction  $\mathbf{v}$  and can be expressed explicitly as

$$D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}](\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2} [\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{v} + (\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{v})^T + (\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{v})^T \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u} + (\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{u})^T \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{v}]. \quad (6)$$

### 101 *Constitutive relation*

102 Generally, the constitutive relation of the material can be expressed as a nonlinear operator  $\mathcal{C}$  which  
 103 maps a tensor field of the Green-Lagrange strain to the corresponding tensor field of second Piola-Kirchhoff  
 104 stresses, i.e.

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}). \quad (7)$$

105 In this work, two typical nonlinear constitutive relations in structural analysis, hyperelasticity and elasto-  
 106 plasticity, are considered. We refer to [6, 35] for more details about them and a variety of other constitutive  
 107 relations.

### 108 *2.2. Nonlinear structural problems and their parametrization*

109 Combining the governing equations in Subsection 2.1, one has the following weak formulation of a  
 110 nonlinear structural problem: find  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u})) : D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}](\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_N} \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Gamma \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}, \quad (8)$$

111 where  $\mathcal{V} = \{\mathbf{v} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ smooth enough, } \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} \text{ on } \Gamma_D\}$ , as mentioned after (5).

112 As is well known, the two major types of nonlinearities in structural analysis are material nonlinearities  
 113 and geometric nonlinearities, which can be recognized from the variational form (8). The former is the  
 114 nonlinearity in  $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}))$  with respect to  $\mathbf{u}$ , describing the nonlinear mechanical behaviour of the material,  
 115 and the latter is caused by the fact that the Gâteaux derivative  $D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}]$  depends on  $\mathbf{u}$ , as is a natural result  
 116 for large deformations.

117 **Remark 2:** To ensure regularity, the solution  $\mathbf{u}$  to a nonlinear structural problem is considered to belong  
 118 to Sobolev space  $[W^{2,p}(\Omega)]^3$  with some  $p > 3$ , see [12] for example. In this paper, such considerations are  
 119 irrelevant to the proposed reduced order modelling techniques, so the smoothness of solutions is merely  
 120 described as 'smooth enough' for simplification.

121 Usually, finite elements are adopted to discretize the problem and an incremental formulation is employed  
 122 for applying external loads onto the structure. Within a loading increment, iterative algorithms, such  
 123 as the Newton-Raphson algorithm and the arc-length method [2, 7], can be used to solve the nonlinear  
 124 algebraic/discrete equations.

125 The total Lagrangian formulation is used as an incremental formulation in this work. In the solution  
 126 scheme, discrete equations are formulated and updated with respect to the undeformed configuration. The

127  $(k+1)$ th Newton-Raphson iteration step in the loading increment  $j$  finds the displacement increment  $\delta \mathbf{u}_h^{k+1} \in$   
 128  $\mathcal{V}_h$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} D\mathcal{C}[\mathbf{E}({}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k)](D\mathbf{E}[{}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k](\delta \mathbf{u}_h^{k+1})) : D\mathbf{E}[{}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k](\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}({}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k)) : [(\nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \delta \mathbf{u}_h^{k+1})^T \nabla_{\mathbf{X}} \mathbf{v}] \, d\Omega \\ = \int_{\Omega} {}^j \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_N} {}^j \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}({}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k)) : D\mathbf{E}[{}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k](\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}_h \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

129 and updates the displacements as  ${}^j \mathbf{u}_h^{k+1} = {}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k + \delta \mathbf{u}_h^{k+1} \in \mathcal{U}_h$ , where  ${}^j \mathbf{u}_h^k$  is the displacement field after  $k$   
 130 iterations in the loading increment  $j$ ,  ${}^j \mathbf{b}$  and  ${}^j \mathbf{t}$  are the loads applied after  $j$  increments, and  $\mathcal{V}_h \subset \mathcal{V}$  is the  
 131 discrete counterpart of  $\mathcal{V}$ . The initial condition for loading increment  $j$  is given as  ${}^j \mathbf{u}_h^0 = {}^{j-1} \mathbf{u}_h$  with  ${}^{j-1} \mathbf{u}_h$   
 132 being the updated displacements after  $j-1$  increments. Moreover, the final displacement field, obtained by  
 133 finite element analysis after the loading increments, is denoted by  $\mathbf{u}_h$  for simplification, i.e.  ${}^j \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{u}_h$  when  
 134  ${}^j \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}$  and  ${}^j \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{t}$ .

135 In this work, physical parametrization is taken into account. Several parameters are considered for some  
 136 characteristics in the constitutive relation and the external loads. Then the parametrized nonlinear problem,  
 137 corresponding to (8), is given as: for any given parameter  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{u}(\boldsymbol{\mu})); \boldsymbol{\mu}) : D\mathbf{E}[\mathbf{u}(\boldsymbol{\mu})](\mathbf{v}) \, d\Omega = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{b}(\boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_N} \mathbf{t}(\boldsymbol{\mu})^T \mathbf{v} \, d\Gamma \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}, \quad (10)$$

138 where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the parameter domain and  $d$  is the total number of parameters. For cases with parameters in  
 139 the geometry, [19, 24] can be referred to for details. After a transformation to the parameter-independent  
 140 reference domain, the treatment will be similar to the strategy for physical parameters.

### 141 3. The reduced basis method for nonlinear structural analysis

142 Due to the use of an incremental formulation and iteration algorithms, solving the parametrized nonlinear  
 143 problem (10) by a finite element discretization requires the assembly and solution of a number of linear  
 144 systems. The dimension of such linear systems, denoted by  $N_h$  and referred to as the number of degrees  
 145 of freedom (DOFs), is determined by both the underlying mesh and the polynomial order that the finite  
 146 element analysis employs. The high-fidelity solution to a real-world structural problem often requires a  
 147 large number of DOFs and many steps of increments and iterations, implying that the full-order model is  
 148 expensive. Thus a direct numerical approximation of the full-order model is not affordable in many-query  
 149 or real-time context of parametrized nonlinear structural analysis.

150 The reduced basis (RB) method is proposed as an efficient and convenient tool for model order reduction.  
 151 It seeks the approximate solution to a parameterized problem in a reduced space spanned by a set of  
 152 parameter-independent RB functions, constructed from a collection of high-fidelity snapshots at different  
 153 parameter values. The RB functions are either carefully chosen from the snapshots by the Greedy algorithm  
 154 [10, 28, 31], or by principal ingredient analysis of snapshots. The former requires an error estimator/indicator  
 155 for the full-order solution, and picks the snapshot that maximizes the estimator/indicator as a new RB  
 156 function until a criteria is satisfied. However, proper error estimators or indicators for a general nonlinear  
 157 structural problem are unknown, so the latter approach is utilized with the aid of the proper orthogonal  
 158 decomposition (POD) [17, 22, 29], as detailed in the following.

159 To evaluate the reduced-order solution for any desired value in the parameter domain, a regression-based  
 160 approach will be introduced to parametrized nonlinear structural analysis, rather than the conventional  
 161 Galerkin-projection-based approach.

#### 162 3.1. Full-order solutions and snapshots

163 The notion of a solution manifold can be introduced, comprising all the solutions of the parametrized  
 164 problem (10) under variation of the parameters, i.e.

$$\mathcal{M} = \{\mathbf{u}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) : \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}\} \subset \mathcal{V}. \quad (11)$$

165 Since the exact solutions are not available, a discrete counterpart of  $\mathcal{M}$  can be considered as

$$\mathcal{M}_h = \{\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}) : \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}\} \subset \mathcal{V}_h, \quad (12)$$

166 where  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  is the high-fidelity full-order solution obtained by finite element analysis, i.e.

$$\mathbf{u}_h(\mathbf{X}; \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}))_i \phi_i(\mathbf{X}). \quad (13)$$

167 Here  $N_h$  is the number of DOFs,  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  is an  $N_h$ -dimensional vector collecting all the values of the DOFs,  
 168 and  $\phi_i$  is the  $i$ th basis/shape function. Note that the finite element space  $\mathcal{V}_h$  is spanned by all the shape  
 169 functions, i.e.  $\mathcal{V}_h = \text{span}\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_{N_h}\}$ . The discrete solution  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  for any parameter  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is calculated  
 170 under a fixed finite element setting.

171 To generate an RB space for the nonlinear problem, one considers a collection of  $N_s$  snapshots  $\{\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^1),$   
 172  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^2), \dots, \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{N_s})\}$  associated with a discrete point-set  $\Theta = \{\boldsymbol{\mu}^1, \boldsymbol{\mu}^2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}^{N_s}\} \subset \mathcal{P}$  in the parameter  
 173 domain. Then a subspace of  $\mathcal{V}_h$  can be spanned by the snapshots as

$$\mathcal{M}_\Theta = \text{span}\{\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^1), \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^2), \dots, \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{N_s})\} \subset \mathcal{V}_h. \quad (14)$$

174 The discrete point-set  $\Theta$  is either a uniform lattice or a collection of generated points over the parameter  
 175 domain  $\mathcal{P}$ . If  $\Theta$  is fine enough,  $\mathcal{M}_\Theta$  can act as a good representation of  $\mathcal{M}_h$ .

176 To reduce the model, a low-rank approximation  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$  with rank  $L \ll \min\{N_h, N_s\}$  should be found for  
 177  $\mathcal{M}_\Theta$ . Towards this end, the POD is employed in this work to extract RB functions  $\{\boldsymbol{\psi}_1, \boldsymbol{\psi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\psi}_L\}$  from  
 178 snapshots and then span the RB space  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$  as

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}} = \text{span}\{\boldsymbol{\psi}_1, \boldsymbol{\psi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\psi}_L\}, \quad (15)$$

179 as detailed in next subsection.

### 180 3.2. The proper orthogonal decomposition and the reduced basis space

181 Consider a *snapshot matrix*  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_s}$  collecting the DOFs of all snapshots, i.e

$$\mathbf{S} = [\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^1) \mid \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^2) \mid \dots \mid \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{N_s})]. \quad (16)$$

182 In the context of nonlinear structural analysis, it is assumed that the number of snapshots is less than that  
 183 of DOFs, i.e.  $N_s \ll N_h$ , to avoid a high cost of preparing full-order snapshots.

184 The POD takes advantage of the *singular value decomposition* (SVD) of matrix  $\mathbf{S}$ , given as

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{Z}^T \quad (17)$$

185 with  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_h}$  and  $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_s \times N_s}$  being orthogonal matrices, i.e.  $\mathbf{U}^T \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_{N_h}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}^T \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{I}_{N_s}$ , and  
 186  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \text{diag}\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{N_s}\}$  containing the singular values  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_{N_s} \geq 0$ .

187 Defined as a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{N_h}$  spanned by all the  $N_s$  columns of  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_s}$ , the column space of  $\mathbf{S}$   
 188 is denoted by  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{S})$ . At the algebraic level, one seeks to find the 'best' approximation of  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{S})$ , in some  
 189 optimal sense, among all  $L$ -dimensional subspaces with  $L \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{S})$ . Let  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times L}$  denote the first  $L$   
 190 columns of  $\mathbf{U}$ , and let  $\mathbb{Y}_L = \{\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times L} : \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{I}_L\}$  represent the set of all  $L$ -dimensional orthogonal  
 191 bases. The projection error of snapshots onto orthogonal bases  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{Y}_L$  in the Euclidean norm can be  
 192 expressed as  $\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) - \mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i)\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}^2$ .

193 The Schmidt-Eckart-Young theorem [14, 29, 32] states that the basis consisting of the first  $L$  left singular  
 194 vectors of  $\mathbf{S}$  minimizes the projection error of snapshots among all the  $L$ -dimensional orthogonal bases in

195  $\mathbb{R}^{N_h}$ , and the error can be evaluated by the  $(L+1)$ th to  $N_s$ th singular values, i.e.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \left\| \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) \right\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}^2 = \min_{\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{Y}_L} \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \left\| \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) - \mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) \right\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}^2 = \sum_{i=L+1}^{N_s} \sigma_i^2. \quad (18)$$

196 Hence the relative error, corresponding to the minimized projection error, is defined as

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \left\| \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) \right\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \left\| \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) \right\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}^2} = \frac{\sum_{i=L+1}^{N_s} \sigma_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \sigma_i^2}. \quad (19)$$

197 Thus one obtains that  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{S})$  can be well approximated by  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{V})$  with a small  $L$  if the singular values  
198 decay rapidly.

199 The procedure of the POD is then given as the following algorithm:

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**Algorithm 1** POD

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**Input:** Snapshot matrix  $\mathbf{S}$ , projection error tolerance  $\epsilon_{\text{POD}}$

**Output:** Reduced rank  $L$ , matrix  $\mathbf{V}$  collecting the RB

- 1: Form the correlation matrix  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_s \times N_s}$ ;
  - 2: Solve the eigenvalue problem for  $\mathbf{M}$ , i.e.  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}_i = \sigma_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_s$ ;
  - 3: Set  $\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i} \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, \text{rank}(\mathbf{S})$ ;
  - 4: Define  $L \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{S})$  as the minimum integer s.t.  $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^L \sigma_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \sigma_i^2} > 1 - \epsilon_{\text{POD}}^2$ ;
  - 5: Define  $\mathbf{V} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \mid \mathbf{v}_2 \mid \dots \mid \mathbf{v}_L]$ .
- 

200 The desired rank  $L$  can also be defined directly, rather than determined by the tolerance  $\epsilon_{\text{POD}}$ .

201 Corresponding to the approximation of  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{S})$  by  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{V})$  on the algebraic level, function space  $\mathcal{M}_\Theta$  is  
202 hence approximated by  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}} = \text{span}\{\boldsymbol{\psi}_1, \boldsymbol{\psi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\psi}_L\}$  with the RB functions  $\boldsymbol{\psi}_l$  defined as

$$\boldsymbol{\psi}_l = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} V_{kl} \boldsymbol{\phi}_k, \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, L. \quad (20)$$

203 It is noticed that there exists a biunique correspondence between the elements in  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$  and those in  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{V})$ ,  
204 i.e. for any  $\mathbf{w}_L \in \mathbb{R}^L$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w}_{\text{rb}} := \mathbf{V}\mathbf{w}_L \in \text{Col}(\mathbf{V}) &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w}_{\text{rb}} = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{w}_{\text{rb}})_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} \left( \sum_{l=1}^L V_{kl} (\mathbf{w}_L)_l \right) \boldsymbol{\phi}_k \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbf{w}_L)_l \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} V_{kl} \boldsymbol{\phi}_k \right) = \sum_{l=1}^L (\mathbf{w}_L)_l \boldsymbol{\psi}_l \in \mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

205 *3.3. Regression-based approach for reduced-order solutions*

206 The numerical procedure of the RB method is efficiently carried out in an *offline-online* framework.  
207 As discussed, the RB functions are prepared from the high-fidelity snapshots in the parameter-independent  
208 offline stage. The reduced-order solution for a new parameter is then sought in the online stage. The  
209 Galerkin-projection-based approach is the most often used for this, i.e. the problem for a new parameter  
210 value is solved in the RB space  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$  by a standard Galerkin approach.

211 However, the Galerkin-projection-based scheme will not significantly save computational cost for a general  
212 nonlinear structural problem. In addition to compromising the efficiency due to the non-affinity in parameter  
213 dependence, the structural configuration and matrix assembly have to be updated during all the loading  
214 increments and iterations when solving nonlinear algebraic equations. Moreover, there may exist convergence

215 or updating issues in some complex cases due to the possibility that some configurations in the incremental  
 216 procedure are not represented well in  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$ .

217 Therefore, a regression-based approach is proposed to calculate reduced-order solutions for new pa-  
 218 rameters. In this scenario, the projection of a full-order discrete solution  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  onto  $\text{Col}(\mathbf{V})$  acts as the  
 219 corresponding reduced-order solution at algebraic level,

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{rb}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}_h \in \text{Col}(\mathbf{V})} \|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}) - \mathbf{w}_h\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}, \quad (22)$$

220 in which  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{u}_L(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  collects the coefficients associated with column bases of  $\mathbf{V}$ .

221 To obtain the projection coefficients  $\mathbf{u}_L(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  for any desired parameter  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}$ , one can resort to a nonlinear  
 222 regression  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$  between  $d = \dim(\mathcal{P})$  inputs and  $L$  outputs:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} \mapsto \mathbf{u}_L(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \approx \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}). \quad (23)$$

223 This regression model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\cdot)$  should be constructed from a set of training data  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i)) : i =$   
 224  $1, 2, \dots, M\}$  during the offline stage, where  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i)$  is the full-order solution for each sample. The model is  
 225 used during the online stage to recover the output  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)$  for any new input  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^* \in \mathcal{P}$ . Correspondingly, the  
 226 reduced-order solution  $\mathbf{u}_{\text{rb,reg}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) \in \mathcal{V}_{\text{rb}}$  is given as

$$\mathbf{u}_{\text{rb,reg}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \sum_{l=1}^L (\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_l \boldsymbol{\psi}_l = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{u}_{\text{rb,reg}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k, \quad (24)$$

227 where  $\mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \mathbf{u}_{\text{rb,reg}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)$  recovers the nodal values of the solution. Once the regression model is obtained,  
 228 the online stage only requires direct outputs from this model, ensuring that the online computation is carried  
 229 out at low cost.

---

**Algorithm 2** Regression-based RB method for nonlinear structural analysis (algebraic level)

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1: **Offline stage:**

- 2: Compute  $N_s$  full-order snapshots  $\{\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^1), \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^2), \dots, \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^{N_s})\}$  and form the snapshot matrix  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_s}$ ;
- 3: Perform POD for  $\mathbf{S}$  and get the  $L$  orthogonal bases  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times L}$ ;
- 4: Prepare the training set  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i)) : i = 1, 2, \dots, M\}$ ;
- 5: Construct the regression model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\cdot)$  from  $\mathcal{D}$ .

6: **Online stage:**

- 7: Recover output  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)$  for a new parameter value  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^*$ ;
  - 8: Evaluate the reduced-order solution  $\mathbf{u}_{\text{rb,reg}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k$ .
- 

230 **Remark 3:** In some cases, the snapshots for the construction of the RB space can be included into the  
 231 training set and reused as training samples.

232 We note the complete decoupling of online and offline stages, and the non-intrusive nature of the  
 233 regression-based RB method. A Gaussian process model is utilized to construct the regression  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\cdot)$ , as  
 234 discussed in the following section.

#### 235 4. Gaussian process regression model

236 In supervised learning, regression is concerned with prediction of continuous quantities of interest by  
 237 constructing a model from a set of observation data. Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) : i = 1, 2, \dots, M\}$  denote the  
 238 training set of  $M$  observations, where each input  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{P} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  consists of  $d$  entries and lies in the input  
 239 domain  $\mathcal{P}$ , and  $y_i$  is the output corresponding to  $\mathbf{x}_i$ . In a Gaussian process regression (GPR) model [30, 36],



240 the observed input-output pairs are assumed to follow some unknown regression function  $f : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as  
 241  $y_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , possibly corrupted by noise. The model then infers a probabilistic distribution over functions  
 242 given the data, and uses this distribution to make predictions when given new inputs.

#### 243 4.1. Gaussian processes for regression

244 A Gaussian process (GP) is a collection of random variables, any finite number of which obeys a joint  
 245 Gaussian distribution. In the case of GPR, let the prior on the regression function be a GP: for  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in$   
 246  $\mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P}$ ,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \text{GP}(0, \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')), \quad (25)$$

247 whose mean is zero and covariance function is  $\kappa : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , i.e.

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x})] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}')] = \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'). \quad (26)$$

248 There are many different choices for the covariance function. A frequently used one is the *squared exponential*  
 249 (SE) *kernel*:

$$\kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma_f^2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\ell^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}^2\right), \quad (27)$$

250 containing two hyperparameters: the standard deviation parameter  $\sigma_f$  and the correlated lengthscale  $\ell$ .  
 251 Another covariance function, that we will use in this work, is the *automatic relevance determination* (ARD)  
 252 SE kernel:

$$\kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma_f^2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^d \frac{(x_m - x'_m)^2}{\ell_m^2}\right), \quad (28)$$

253 which considers an individual correlated lengthscale for each input dimension, and allows for differentiated  
 254 relevances of input features to the regression.

255 Given a finite number of points in the input domain, a prior joint Gaussian is thus defined for the  
 256 regression outputs:

$$\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K}). \quad (29)$$

257 where  $\mathbf{f} = \{f(\mathbf{x}_1), f(\mathbf{x}_2), \dots, f(\mathbf{x}_M)\}^T$ ,  $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1 | \mathbf{x}_2 | \dots | \mathbf{x}_M]$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K})$  represents a joint Gaussian  
 258 distribution with mean values  $\mathbf{0}$  and covariance matrix  $\mathbf{K}$ , and the covariance matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  is calculated as

$$\mathbf{K} = \text{cov}[\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}\mathbf{f}^T|\mathbf{X}] = \kappa(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}). \quad (30)$$

259 It is realistic that the observations are corrupted by noise. In such cases, a noisy version of the regression  
 260 function can be considered as

$$y = f(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon, \quad (31)$$

261 where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_y^2)$  is an independent Gaussian noise term. In this case, the interpolation of the training  
 262 data is not required, but a 'close variation' from the observed outputs is controlled by the standard deviation  
 263  $\sigma_y$  for noise. The covariance of observed outputs and the prior joint Gaussian should be modified as

$$\mathbf{K}_y = \text{cov}[\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{K} + \sigma_y^2 \mathbf{I}_M, \quad \mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K}_y), \quad (32)$$

264 where  $\mathbf{y} = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_M\}^T$  and  $\mathbf{I}_M$  is the  $M$ -dimensional unit matrix.

265 Given a set of  $M^*$  new test inputs denoted by  $\mathbf{X}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times M^*}$ , predictions of the corresponding noise-free  
 266 outputs  $\mathbf{f}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{M^*}$  are desired. To combine the information from training set with the predictions for test  
 267 samples, the joint density of the observed outputs  $\mathbf{y}$  and the noise-free test outputs  $\mathbf{f}^*$  is expressed as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{f}^* \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0}, \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_y & \mathbf{K}^* \\ \mathbf{K}^{*T} & \mathbf{K}^{**} \end{bmatrix}\right), \quad (33)$$

268 where  $\mathbf{K}^{**} = \kappa(\mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X}^*)$  and  $\mathbf{K}^* = \kappa(\mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X})$ . Hence the posteriori predictive distribution can be obtained

269 by the standard rules for conditioning Gaussians, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}^* | \mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}^*, \mathbf{C}^*), \\ \mathbf{m}^* &= \mathbf{K}^{*\text{T}} \mathbf{K}_y^{-1} \mathbf{y}, \quad \mathbf{C}^* = \mathbf{K}^{**} - \mathbf{K}^{*\text{T}} \mathbf{K}_y^{-1} \mathbf{K}^*. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

270 The values of the hyperparameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  make significant difference on the predictive performance, with  $\boldsymbol{\theta} =$   
 271  $\{\sigma_f, \ell, \sigma_y\}$  for the case of SE kernel and  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\sigma_f, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_d, \sigma_y\}$  for the case of ARD SE kernel. In this work,  
 272 an empirical Bayesian approach of maximizing likelihood is adopted to determine a set of optimal values of  
 273 the parameters. Using a standard gradient-based optimizer, one can estimate the optimal hyperparameters  
 274  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{opt}}$  via the maximization problem:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{opt}} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}) = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^{\text{T}} \mathbf{K}_y^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \mathbf{y} - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}_y(\boldsymbol{\theta})| - \frac{M}{2} \log(2\pi) \right\}, \quad (35)$$

275 where  $p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X})$  is the conditional density function of  $\mathbf{y}$  given  $\mathbf{X}$ , also considered as the marginal likelihood  
 276 defined by

$$p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}) = \int p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{X}) p(\mathbf{f} | \mathbf{X}) d\mathbf{f}. \quad (36)$$

277 The procedure of a GPR is given as the following algorithm.

---

### Algorithm 3 GPR

---

**Input:** A training set of  $M$  observations  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) : i = 1, 2, \dots, M\}$ , a chosen kernel function  $\kappa(\cdot, \cdot)$ ,  
 test inputs  $\mathbf{X}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times M^*}$

**Output:** Test outputs  $\mathbf{f}^* | \mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}$

- 1: Estimate the optimal hyperparameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{opt}}$  by maximizing the likelihood, in each iterative step of which one needs to
  - 2: Form a covariance matrix  $\mathbf{K}_y = \kappa(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}) + \sigma_y^2 \mathbf{I}_M$ ;
  - 3: Calculate a vector  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^M$  such that  $\mathbf{K}_y \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{y}$ ;
  - 4: Calculate the likelihood  $\log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}) = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^{\text{T}} \mathbf{a} - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}_y| - \frac{M}{2} \log(2\pi)$ ;
  - 5: Calculate the gradient of the likelihood with respect to the hyperparameters;
  - 6: Set  $\mathbf{K}_y = \mathbf{K}_y(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{opt}})$  and  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\text{opt}})$  for the optimal hyperparameters;
  - 7: Form correlation matrices  $\mathbf{K}^{**} = \kappa(\mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X}^*)$  and  $\mathbf{K}^* = \kappa(\mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X})$  for the optimal hyperparameters;
  - 8: Calculate a matrix  $\mathbf{A}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M^*}$  such that  $\mathbf{K}_y \mathbf{A}^* = \mathbf{K}^*$ ;
  - 9: Form the conditioning mean value vector  $\mathbf{m}^* = \mathbf{K}^{*\text{T}} \mathbf{a}$  and the corresponding covariance matrix  $\mathbf{C}^* = \mathbf{K}^{**} - \mathbf{K}^{*\text{T}} \mathbf{A}^*$ ;
  - 10: Define  $\mathbf{f}^* | \mathbf{X}^*, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}^*, \mathbf{C}^*)$ .
- 

#### 278 4.2. Gaussian process regression for the reduced basis method of nonlinear structural analysis

279 As already mentioned in Section 3, the GPR is utilized in the RB method for nonlinear structural  
 280 analysis. A GP regression model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^L$  is constructed for the mapping  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \mapsto \mathbf{V}^{\text{T}} \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ .

281 For the  $l$ th of  $L$  entries of  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq L$ , the training data is set as  $\mathbf{x}_i^l = \boldsymbol{\mu}_i$ ,  $y_i^l = \mathbf{v}_l^{\text{T}} \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i)$   
 282 and  $\mathcal{D}^l = \{(\mathbf{x}_i^l, y_i^l) : i = 1, 2, \dots, M\}$  for a GPR model, with  $\mathbf{v}_l$  being the  $l$ th column of  $\mathbf{V}$ . For a new  
 283 parameter  $\mathbf{x}^* = \boldsymbol{\mu}^* \in \mathcal{P}$  as test input, the corresponding output  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)$  consists of  $L$  independent Gaussian  
 284 distributions, i.e.

$$(\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_l | \mathbf{X}^l, \mathbf{y}^l \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}^{l*}, \mathbf{C}^{l*}), \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, L, \quad (37)$$

285 where  $\mathbf{X}^l = [\mathbf{x}_1^l | \mathbf{x}_2^l | \dots | \mathbf{x}_M^l]$ ,  $\mathbf{y}^l = \{y_1^l, y_2^l, \dots, y_M^l\}^{\text{T}}$ ,  $\mathbf{m}^{l*}$  and  $\mathbf{C}^{l*}$  for the  $l$ th entry of  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$  are defined  
 286 in the same way as  $\mathbf{m}^*$  and  $\mathbf{C}^*$  in (33). Correspondingly, the reduced-order discrete solution  $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)$   
 287 collects  $N_h$  Gaussian distributions, i.e.

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*). \quad (38)$$

288 The reduced order solution, expressed as a random field over  $\Omega$ , is given as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \sum_{l=1}^L (\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_l \boldsymbol{\psi}_l = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k = \sum_{k=1}^{N_h} (\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*))_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k. \quad (39)$$

289 For a set of  $r$  test samples  $\mathcal{T} = \{(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*, \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)) : i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*$  being the  $i$ th test input and  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)$   
 290 being the corresponding full-order discrete solution, an average relative error for GPR predictions can be  
 291 defined as

$$\bar{\epsilon}_t(\mathcal{T}) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*) - \mathbb{E}[\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)]\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}}{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*) - \mathbf{V} \mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)]\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}}{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_h}}}, \quad (40)$$

292 note that the mean values of GPR test outputs are considered as predictions.

293 **Remark 4:** In the context of structural optimization, reliability analysis, etc., gradient-based algorithms  
 294 are used for solving optimization problems, see [11, 15, 25]. These algorithms usually require the derivatives  
 295 of the structural responses with respect to the parameters. In (33), the mean value of GPR output  $m^*(\mathbf{x}^*) =$   
 296  $\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}^*)|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}]$  for a new test parameter  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is obtained as

$$m^*(\mathbf{x}^*) = \kappa(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{X})^T \mathbf{K}_y^{-1} \mathbf{y}. \quad (41)$$

297 Correspondingly, the derivative of  $m^*$  with respect to  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is thus derived as

$$\frac{\partial m^*(\mathbf{x}^*)}{\partial \mathbf{x}^*} = \left[ \frac{\partial \kappa(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{X})}{\partial \mathbf{x}^*} \right]^T \mathbf{K}_y^{-1} \mathbf{y}, \quad (42)$$

298 which only depends on the parameter location  $\mathbf{x}^*$  and is not correlated to any other test points. For a  
 299 nonlinear structural problem, the derivative of test output  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)]$  can be calculated for test input  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^*$ ,  
 300 entry by entry, and the response sensitivity derivative expressed as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}^*} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \mathbf{V} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}^*} \mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}^*)]. \quad (43)$$

### 301 4.3. Active data selection for training samples

302 In the training set  $\mathcal{D}$ , each input-output pair  $(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i))$  requires the calculation of full-order solu-  
 303 tion  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i)$  at parameter  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, M$ . A large number of training samples  $M$  implies substantial  
 304 computation to prepare the training data. For efficiency, one should choose a set of 'optimal' training  
 305 samples from a pool of parameters, so the full-order solutions are only calculated at a smaller number of  
 306 optimized parameter values without substantial loss of accuracy. Referred to as *active data selection*, this  
 307 type of selecting technique has been studied and developed in the field of *active learning* [13, 20, 23, 33, 34].

308 In the context of GPR model for nonlinear structural analysis, an active data selection algorithm is given  
 309 as follows, analogous to a scheme of active learning [3, 34].

---

**Algorithm 4** Selection algorithm for active training data

---

**Input:** A parameter pool  $\mathcal{P}_s \subset \mathcal{P}$  with a large number of elements – uniform lattice or generated in  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \in \mathcal{P}_s$ , tolerance  $\text{tol}$ ,  $M = 1$ , training set  $\mathcal{D} = \emptyset$  and active parameter set  $\mathcal{P}_{tr} = \{\boldsymbol{\mu}_1\}$ , test samples  $\mathcal{T} = \{(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*, \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^*)) : i = 1, 2, \dots, r\}$  with full-order solutions

**Output:** GPR model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$

- 1: Calculate full-order solution  $\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_M)$ ;
  - 2: Set  $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D} \cup \{(\boldsymbol{\mu}_M, \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}_M))\}$ ;
  - 3: Train a GPR model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$  based on  $\mathcal{D}$ ;
  - 4: Calculate average relative error for test samples  $\bar{\epsilon}_t(\mathcal{T})$ ;
  - 5: **if**  $\bar{\epsilon}_t(\mathcal{T}) \leq \text{tol}$  **then**
  - 6:     **Terminate**;
  - 7: **else**
  - 8:     Update the parameter pool  $\mathcal{P}_s = \mathcal{P}_s \setminus \mathcal{P}_{tr}$ ;
  - 9:     **for each**  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}_s$  **do**
  - 10:         Compute the output  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ ;
  - 11:         Evaluate the error indicator  $\eta(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ ;
  - 12:     **end for**
  - 13:     Choose  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_{M+1} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}_s} \eta(\boldsymbol{\mu})$ ;
  - 14:     Set  $M = M + 1$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{tr} = \mathcal{P}_{tr} \cup \{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{M+1}\}$  and **go to** 1.
  - 15: **end if**
- 

In the active data selection algorithm, a natural and simple consideration is to use *standard deviations* to define the error indicator  $\eta(\cdot)$  for evaluating the regression model  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$ . Here, one choice of  $\eta(\cdot)$  is

$$\eta(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{N_h} \sum_{l=1}^L V_{kl}^2 \text{sd}[(\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}))_l]^2},$$

310 analogous to the error in  $\mathbb{R}^{N_h}$ -norm, and  $\text{sd}[\cdot]$  denotes the standard deviation of a random variable. Each  
311 new active training sample is selected from the pool as the maximizer of the standard-deviation-based error  
312 indicator  $\eta$ , and the selection procedure is terminated once a satisfactory prediction quality is achieved.  
313 Alternatively, a desired training sample number  $M$  can be defined in advance.

314 Since structural responses with respect to typical structural parameters are usually continuous, even  
315 smooth in most cases, the GPR is accurate even though it is not as powerful as some more advanced  
316 methods in regression, such as *artificial neural networks* (ANNs) [16]. The GPR can provide a natural  
317 and simple standard-deviation-based error indicator in active data selection, and the conciseness of the  
318 GPR model guarantees an efficient procedure of data selection and regression during the offline stage. In  
319 the context of uncertainty quantification, one can take both the uncertainty in the GPR model and the  
320 uncertainty in parameters into account using the Bayesian theory.

## 321 5. Numerical examples

322 In this section, numerical results for two examples, one in 1D and one in 3D, will be presented to validate  
323 the effectiveness and accuracy of the proposed approach.

324 The FLagSHyP MATLAB program is used as high-fidelity solver for the numerical examples. The MAT-  
325 LAB version of FLagSHyP [5] is a program for the finite element analysis of static nonlinear problems in  
326 solid mechanics. Its numerical scheme is introduced in [6, 7]. The two example problems, large deformation  
327 analysis of a trussed frame and that of a twisting column, can also be found in [6] as computational  
328 implementations of the nonlinear finite element method.

329 *5.1. One-dimensional example: a trussed frame*

330 The first example is a frame made of a beam and a column. As shown in Figure 2, the frame is trussed  
 331 by 596 one-dimensional elements and loaded by a concentrated load on the beam. The number of DOFs  
 332 of the full-order model is  $N_h = 476$ . Two types of constitutive relations are considered in this problem:  
 333 one-dimensional stretch-based hyperelasticity and hyperelasto-plasticity. We refer to [6] for more details of  
 334 these constitutive laws. The quantities in Figure 2 are given as: Young's modulus  $E = 210$  GPa, unit  
 335 force  $F_0 = 1$  N and unit displacement  $\Delta_0 = 1$  mm. With a uniform Young's modulus  $E$  in the whole  
 336 structure, equilibrium paths, referred to as load-displacement curves, for the two constitutive relations are  
 337 shown in Figure 3(a). For the case of hyperelasticity, we note that the *snap-back* phenomena occurs, and  
 338 the configurations at different loading stages are plotted in Figure 3(b).

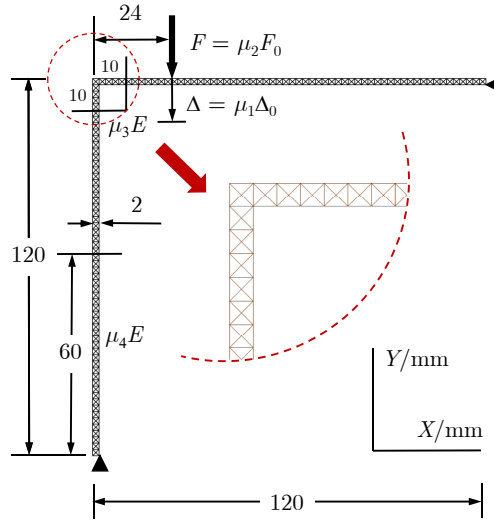


Figure 2: Geometry and input parameters for a trussed frame

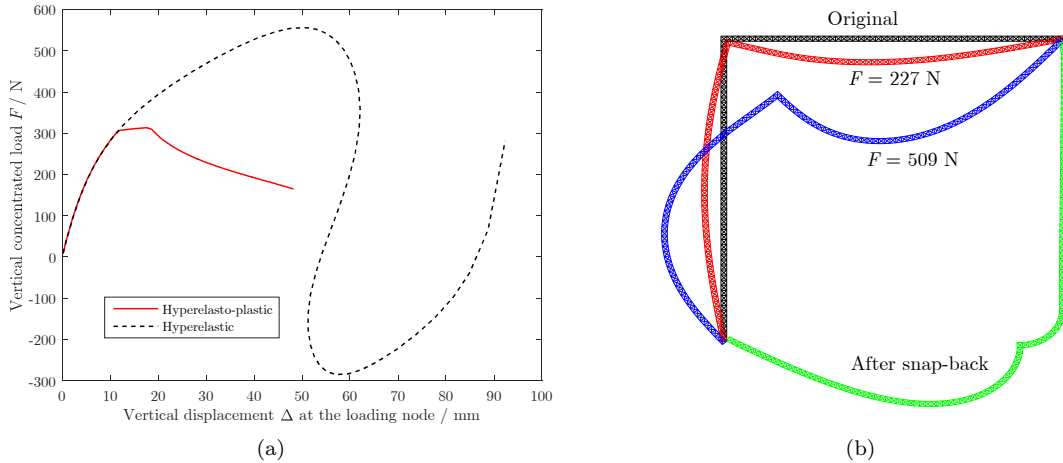


Figure 3: (a) Load-displacement curves in both hyperelastic and hyperelasto-plastic cases; (b) Configurations at different loading stages in the hyperelastic case.

339 This problem is parametrized by four parameters:  $\mu_1$  is the quantitative value of the concentrated load  
 340 measured in N,  $\mu_2$  is the quantitative value of the downward displacement at the loading node, measured

341 in mm,  $\mu_3$  is the scaling factor of Young's modulus of a 10 mm  $\times$  10 mm inverted L-shaped zone at the  
 342 beam-column joint, and  $\mu_4$  is the scaling factor of Young's modulus of the lower half of column. The loading  
 343 procedure can be either force-controlled or displacement-controlled, i.e.,  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are the two different  
 344 controlling parameters of loading, respectively. For the complementary parts of the zones with parametrized  
 345 Young's modulus, the modulus is fixed as  $E$ . Three parametrized cases will be analyzed as follows.

346 **Case 1:**  $\mu_1$ , hyperelasto-plasticity

347 The value of controlling downward deflection  $\Delta$  for the loading procedure is considered as the only  
 348 parameter in this case. The concentrated load is applied to the frame by 40 loading increments with the  
 349 arc-length method used, and the size of each increment is determined automatically by the method.

350 After this full-order incremental procedure, 40 high-fidelity solutions with different values of  $\mu_1$  are  
 351 naturally collected, but those at other values of  $\mu_1$  are not available. It is impractical to get the high-fidelity  
 352 solution at any parameter value. Thus the 40 full-order solutions are used as snapshots for constructing the  
 353 RB space and as training data for the GPR model, i.e.  $\Theta = \mathcal{P}_{tr}$ . As the 40 training samples are prepared in  
 354 advance, active data selection does not make much difference on the computational efforts for training the  
 355 GPR model, so the data selection algorithm will not be adopted in this case.

356 The POD for the 40 snapshots gives  $L = 5$  bases, and a GPR model with an SE kernel is constructed for  
 357 the 5 projection coefficients onto the bases, as shown in Figure 4. In this figure, the prediction curves show  
 358 mean values of the GPR outputs, lying in the interval of 95% confidence level. In Figure 4(f), the vertical  
 359 displacement  $\Delta$  at the loading node is extracted from the reduced-order prediction  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{rb,GPR}(\mu_1) = \mathbf{V}\hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{GP}(\mu_1)$   
 360 for each parameter  $\mu_1$  in the training samples, matching well with the 'perfect' identical fitting.

361 The average relative error of the projection for  $N_s = 40$  snapshots is 0.0033, calculated as

$$\bar{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{v}}(\Theta) = \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \frac{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i) - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i)\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_s}}}{\|\mathbf{u}_h(\boldsymbol{\mu}^i)\|_{\mathbb{R}^{N_s}}}, \quad (44)$$

362 while the GPR predictions for the training samples  $\Theta = \mathcal{P}_{tr}$  have an average relative error  $\bar{\epsilon}_t(\Theta) = 0.0154$   
 363 compared with the corresponding full-order solutions.

364 **Case 2:**  $\mu_2$ , hyperelasto-plasticity

365 The load  $F$  is considered as parameter  $\mu_2$  in this case. As shown in Figure 3(a), the equilibrium path for  
 366 hyperelasto-plastic constitutive relation is not monotone, meaning that the displacement field is multi-valued  
 367 with respect to the external load  $F = \mu_2$ . Thus the regressions for increasing and decreasing stages in the  
 368 equilibrium path are carried out separately in this case. Based on 170 training samples, among which 97  
 369 are in the increasing stage and 73 are in the decreasing stage, a regression model is obtained by an ANN,  
 370 based on *multi-layer perceptrons* (MLPs) [4]. As is well known, the ANN is a powerful tool for nonlinear  
 371 regression, so the regression results by the ANN based on the refined set of training data are considered as a  
 372 reference. Using the proposed algorithm of active data selection, 85 samples are picked from the 170-sample  
 373 set to derive a GPR model. Predictive results by the GPR model are shown in Figure 5. In this figure,  
 374 predictions of the projection coefficients, obtained by both the ANN and the GPR, are plotted versus their  
 375 'exact' values directly calculated from the full-order solutions. After extracting the vertical displacement  
 376 values from the reduced-order solutions by both regression approaches, the corresponding equilibrium paths  
 377 are compared in Figure 5(f). It can be seen that the results by the GPR match well with those obtained by  
 378 the ANN, even though they are not exactly coincident at some parameter locations in the predictions for  
 379 the 5th coefficient. Confirmed by the fact that GPR achieves the similar accuracy with ANN by using half  
 380 of the training samples, it supports that GPR is a good choice for the regression method in this context.

381 **Case 3:**  $(\mu_3, \mu_4) \in [0.5, 1.5] \times [0.8, 1.2]$ , hyperelasticity

382 The parameters  $\mu_3$  and  $\mu_4$  reflect local material properties and vary in a closed set  $\mathcal{P} = [0.5, 1.5] \times [0.8, 1.2]$ .  
 383 Under the hyperelastic constitutive relation, the configuration under a fixed load  $F = 500$  N in the first  
 384 increasing stage of equilibrium path (see Figure 3(a)) is taken into account. A Newton-Raphson algorithm  
 385 is employed in loading increments until  $F = 500$  N is reached. From a set snapshots at  $N_s = 25$  randomly  
 386 generated points in  $\mathcal{P}$ , an RB space of rank  $L = 5$  is constructed. Then the active data selection algorithm

387 is adopted to select  $M$  training sample from a pool of 400 randomly generated parameter locations. For  
388  $M = 50$ , the GPR results for the 1st, 3rd and 5th projection coefficients, i.e. the corresponding entries  
389 of  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h$ , are plotted in Figure 6. During the selection procedure, as  $M$  increases, the first 90 parameter  
390 positions are shown in Figure 7(a). In this case,  $r = 30$  test samples  $\mathcal{T}$  with an average relative projection  
391 error  $\bar{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{V}}(\mathcal{T}) = 1.41 \times 10^{-4}$  are randomly generated to evaluate the prediction quality of the GPR model.  
392 As can be seen in Figure 7(b), the average relative error of GPR test predictions is decaying rapidly as  
393  $M$  increases from 10 to 50. When the number of selected training samples increases to 40, the order of  
394 magnitude of the average relative error decreases to  $10^{-4}$ , showing the accuracy of GPR model and the  
395 efficiency of active data selection.

### 396 5.2. Three-dimensional example: a twisting column

397 The second example considers a three-dimensional column under the torsion of a pair of uniformly  
398 distributed pressure loads  $p = \mu_1 p_0$  that are opposite to each other, as illustrated in Figure 8. The stress-  
399 strain behavior follows a relation of compressible neo-Hookean elasticity [6], with a fixed bulk modulus  
400  $K = 5E_0/3$  and a parametrized shear modulus  $G = \mu_2 E_0$ . The units of load and modulus are given as  
401  $p_0 = 1$  and  $E_0 = 100$ . Thus the problem is parametrized by  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ . The full-order solution of this system  
402 is obtained via finite element analysis, in which 576 hexahedral elements are employed, Newton-Raphson  
403 algorithm is used for the iteration and the number of DOFs is  $N_h = 2700$ . Taking  $\mu_2 = 1.0$ , twisting  
404 configurations of the column at different loading stages are shown in Figure 8.

#### 405 **Case 1:** $\mu_1 \in ]0, 130[$

406 The magnitude of pressure load is considered as the only parameter  $\mu_1$  in this case. High-fidelity solutions  
407 at 50 loading increments are prepared in advance, with  $\mu_1$  approaching 130.  $N_s = 25$  of them with even  
408 sequence numbers are taken as snapshots, from which an RB space of  $L = 10$  dimensions is constructed.  
409 If projecting all the 50 full-order solutions onto the RB space and using them as training data, a GPR  
410 model can be trained with an average relative error  $1.70 \times 10^{-3}$  of GPR predictive approximations for the  
411 50 samples. When active data selection is adopted with a predictive error tolerance  $\text{tol} = 4 \times 10^{-3}$ , as  
412 introduced in Algorithm 4, 28 training samples are selected. The GPR model obtained is shown in Figure  
413 10(a). In this figure, displacement  $u_X$  in the  $X$ -direction at node B, labelled in Figure 8, is extracted from  
414 the reduced-order solution  $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{\text{rb,GPR}}(\cdot) = \mathbf{V} \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\text{GP}}(\cdot)$ , and plotted versus  $\mu_1$ . The derivative of this displacement  
415 with respect to  $\mu_1$ , i.e.  $du_X/d\mu_1$ , is then calculated from the same GPR model, as discussed in Remark 4,  
416 and shown in Figure 10(b).

#### 417 **Case 2:** $(\mu_1, \mu_2) \in ]0, 40] \times [0.8, 1.2]$

418 In this case, the parameter pair  $(\mu_1, \mu_2)$  varies in  $]0, 40] \times [0.8, 1.2]$ . Snapshots are calculated at  $N_s = 25$   
419 randomly picked parameter points to construct an RB space of rank  $L = 6$ . From a pool of  $10 \times 11$  parameter  
420 locations, 40 are selected as training samples, based on which a GPR model with the ARD SE kernel is  
421 derived with an average relative error of  $2.1 \times 10^{-3}$  for test samples. As in Figure 11, the 40 selected  
422 parameter locations are labelled, and the predictive results for  $u_X$  at node B are plotted.

423 Furthermore, three computational times are compared in Figure 12; the time for calculating one full-  
424 order solution at  $(\mu_1, \mu_2) = (20, 1.0)$ , average time for 40 loops of GPRs in the active data selection, and  
425 average time for the calculation of 861 predictive outputs for test samples. One can see that the regressions  
426 are recovered very efficiently, and direct outputs from the GPR model in the online stage are obtained at  
427 low cost, providing an efficient tool for solving parametrized nonlinear problems.

## 428 6. Conclusions

429 A non-intrusive RB method is proposed for the ROM of parametrized nonlinear structural problems. In  
430 the framework of this method, an RB space is constructed offline by POD as the low-rank approximation  
431 to the space spanned by a collection of full-order snapshots. Rather than the conventionally used Galerkin  
432 projection scheme, a regression-based approach is adopted to determine the reduced-order solution for any  
433 desired new parameter value. Based on the offline establishment of a GPR model between parameter  
434 values and projection coefficients, only direct outputs from the model are required during the online stage

435 to obtain the reduced-order solutions at new parameter locations. Hence, the regression-based approach  
436 ensures a full decoupling between offline and online stages, and is non-intrusive. With both the accuracy  
437 and the efficiency validated by numerical examples, the proposed RB method is shown to be a powerful tool  
438 for solving parametrized nonlinear structural problems.

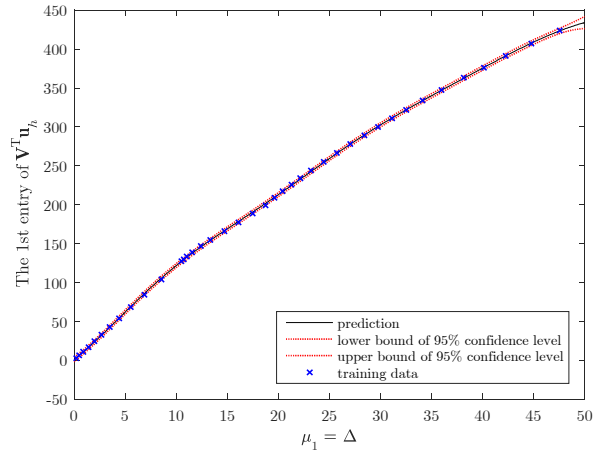
439 In multi-query and real-time contexts of structural analysis, the proposed scheme is able to reduce the  
440 model order effectively with a controlled loss of accuracy, and can achieve fast and reliable online calculations  
441 for desired parameter values, saving the high computational cost of full-order solutions. This provides a  
442 promising technique for the CAE softwares of large-scale structural systems.

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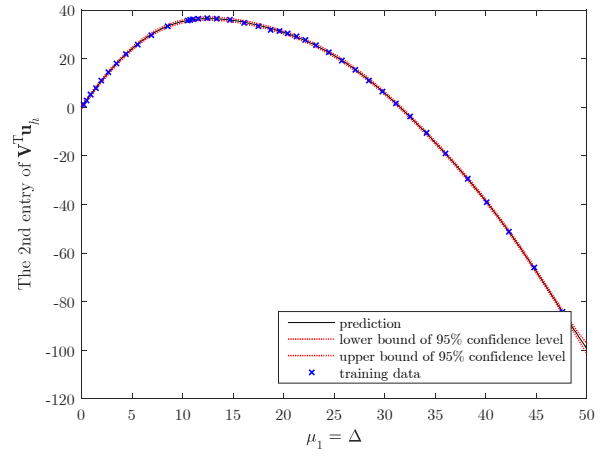
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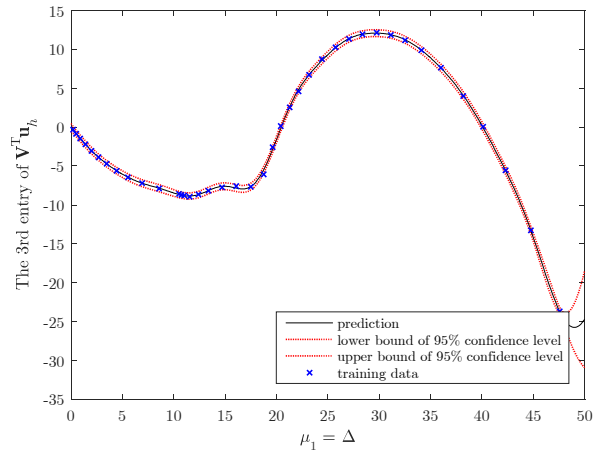
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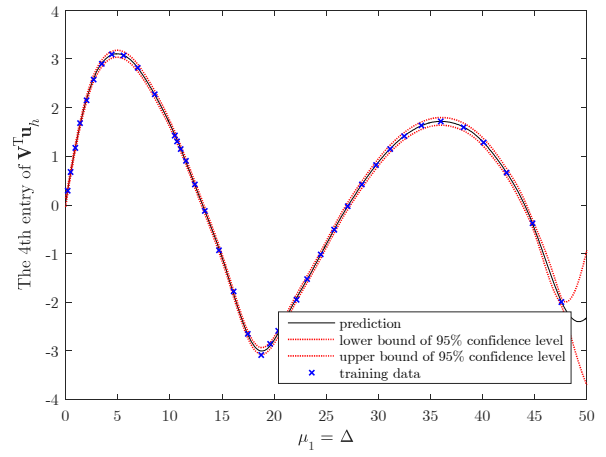
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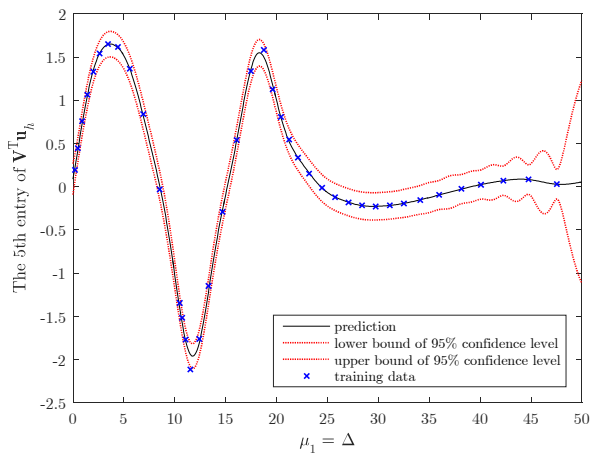
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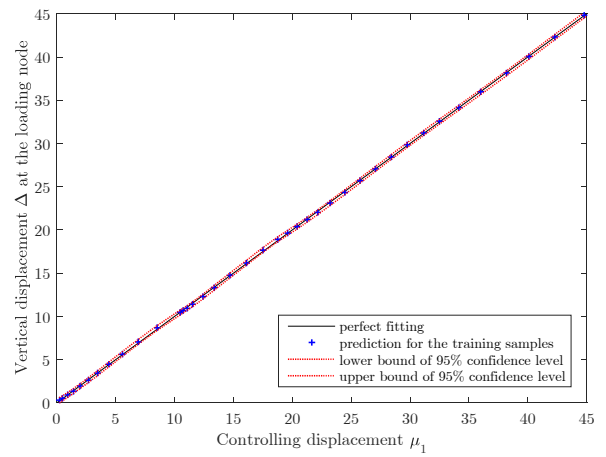
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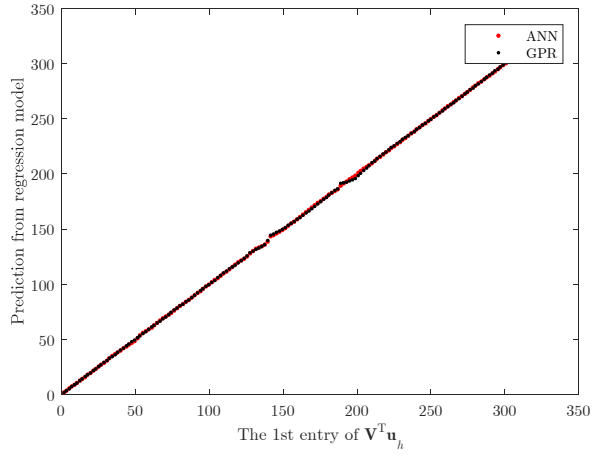


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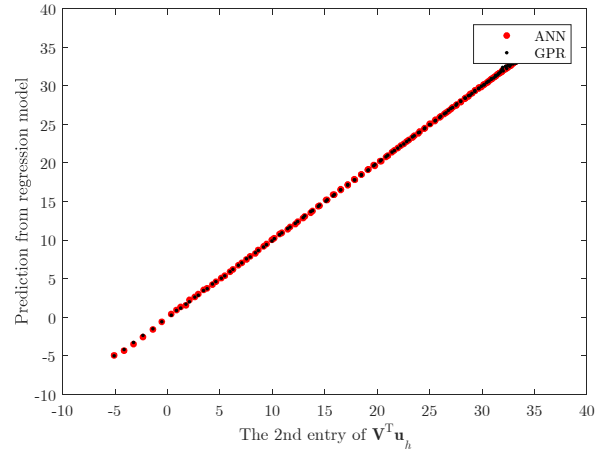


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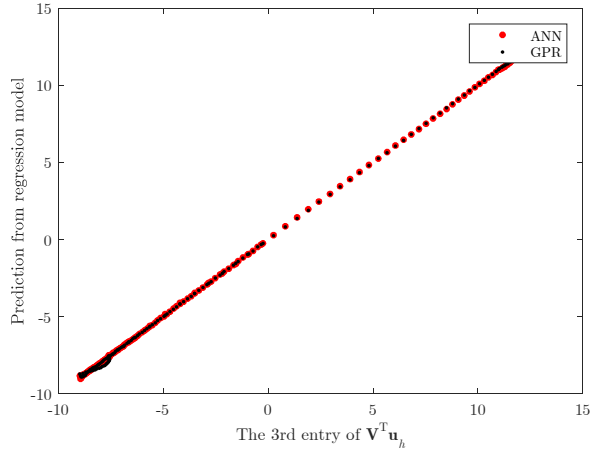
Figure 4: Predictive results by the GPR: (a) – (e) Regression results by the GPR for the 5 entries of  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h$ ; (f) Extracting vertical displacement  $\Delta$  at the loading node from the GPR results.



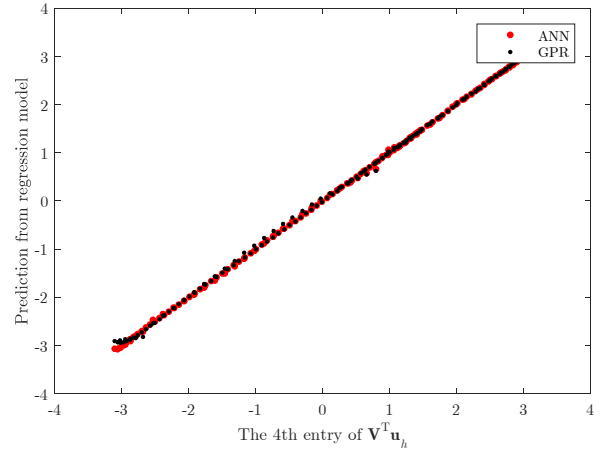
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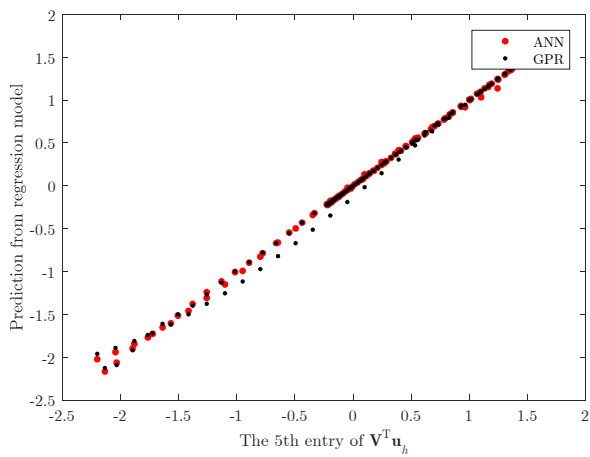
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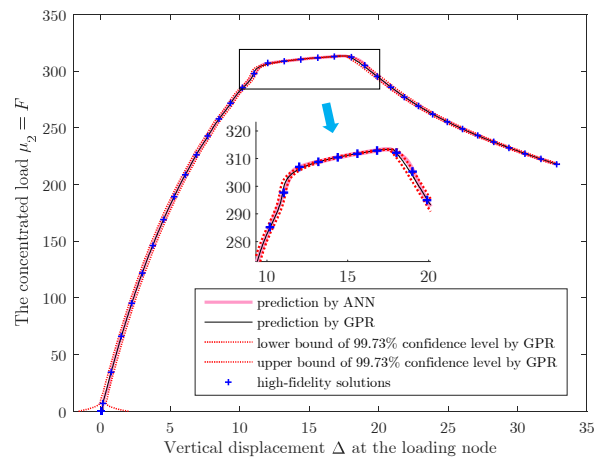
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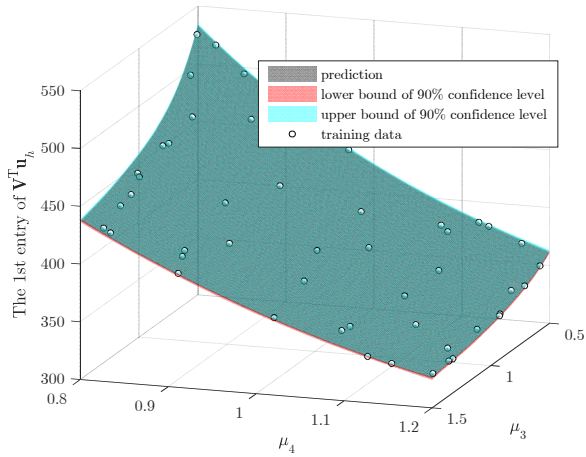


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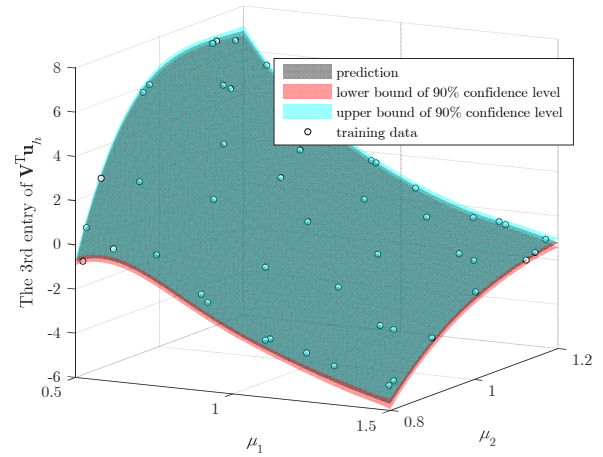


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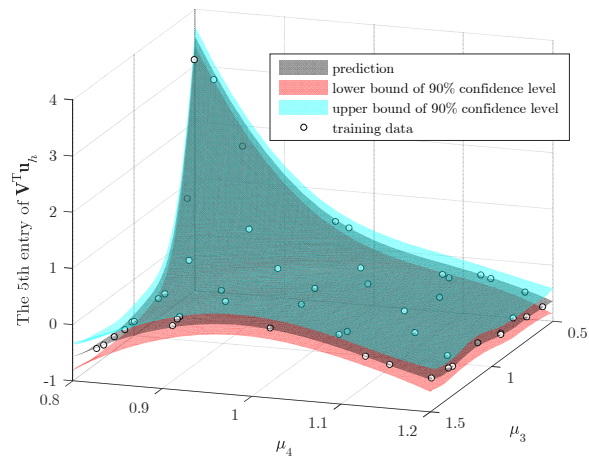
Figure 5: Predictive results by the GPR and the ANN: (a) – (e) Comparisons of predictive results by the GPR and the ANN for the 5 entries of  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h$ ; (f) Regression results for the load-displacement curve by both the GPR and the ANN.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 6: Regression results for the 1st, 3rd and 5th entries of  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}_h$  from a GPR model trained by 50 samples selected from a pool of 400 parameter values.

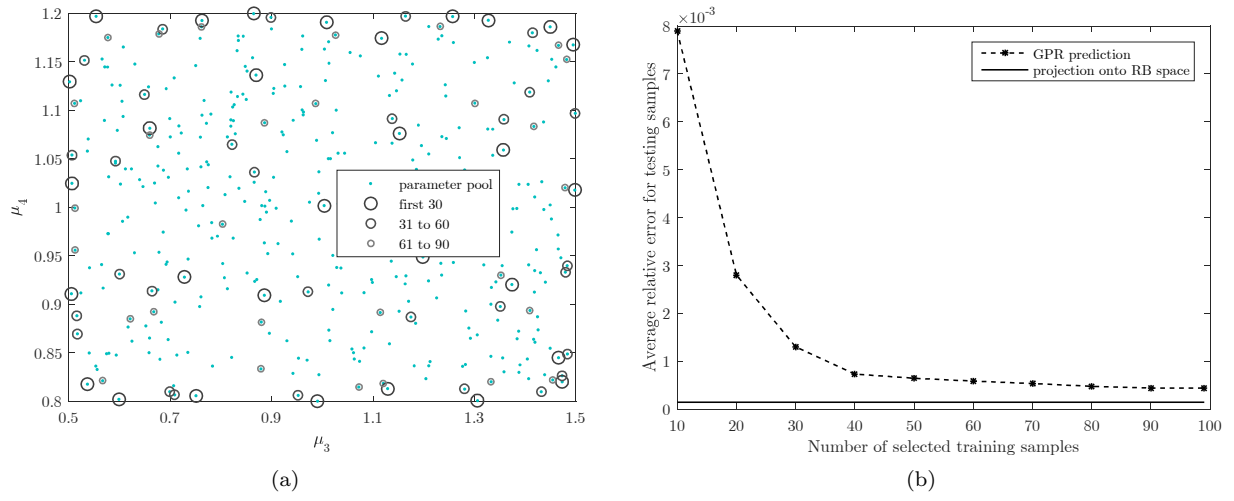


Figure 7: (a) Parameters corresponding to the first 90 samples selected from the pool; (b) Average error decay for 30 testing samples.

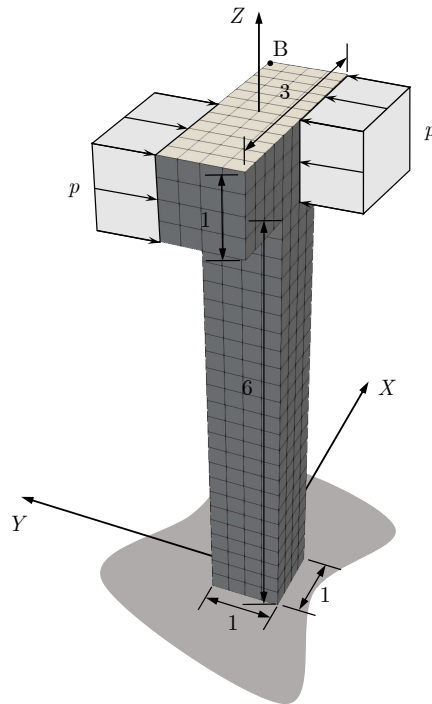


Figure 8: Geometry and pressure loads for the twisting column

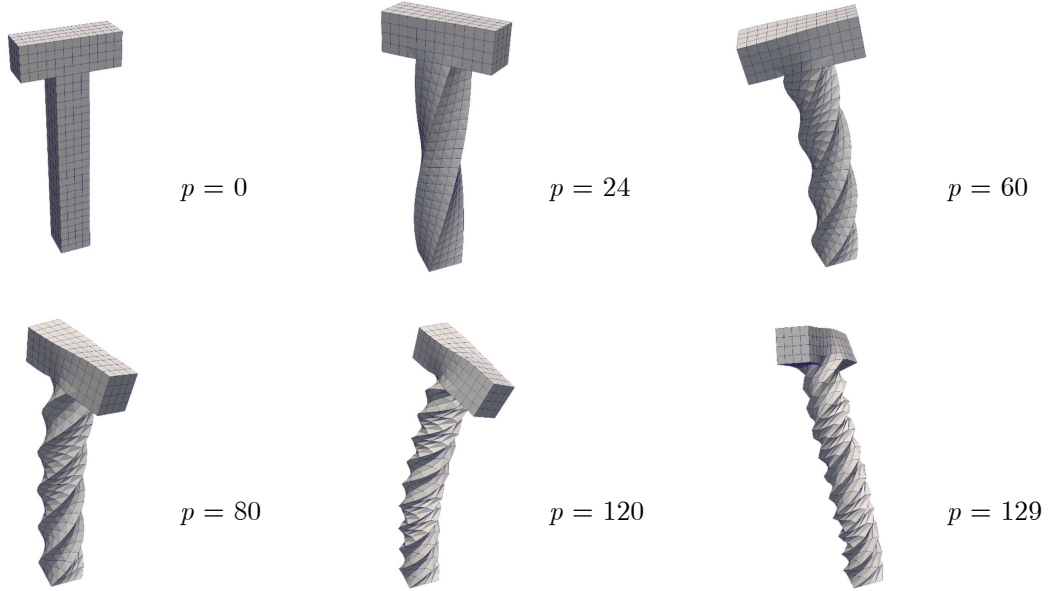


Figure 9: Configurations of the twisting column at different loading stages

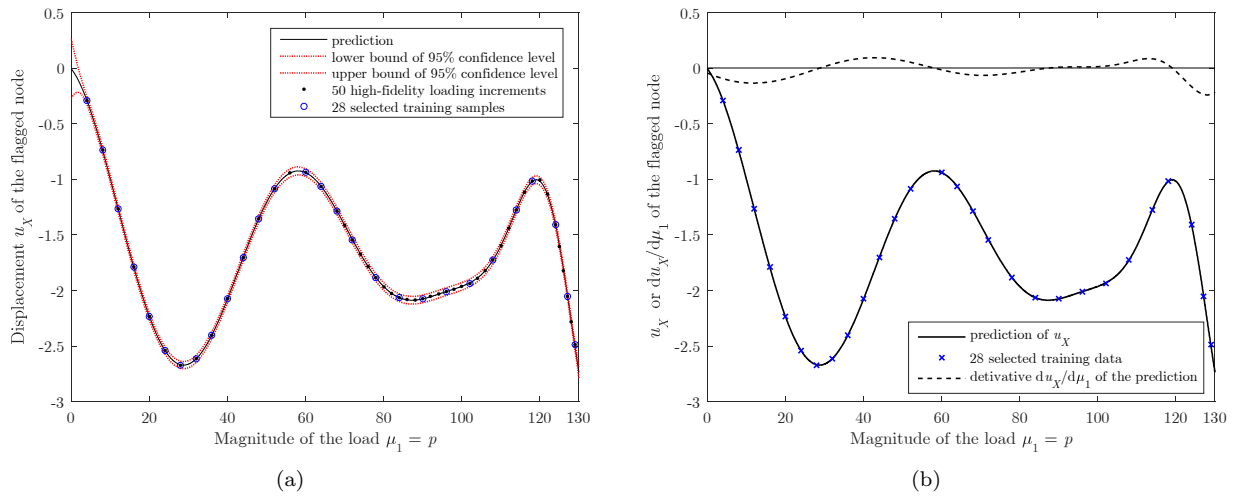


Figure 10: (a) Regression results for the curve of displacement  $u_X$  of the labelled node B versus pressure load  $\mu_1 = p$ ; (b) Prediction of  $u_X$  at node B and its derivative with respect to  $\mu_1$ , both calculated from the GPR model trained by 28 selected samples.

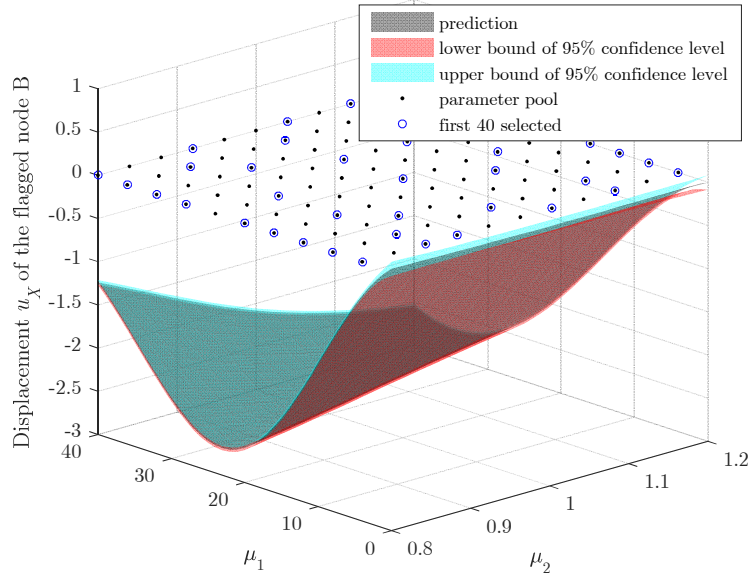


Figure 11: Regression results for the surface of displacement  $u_X$  of the labelled node B versus  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$

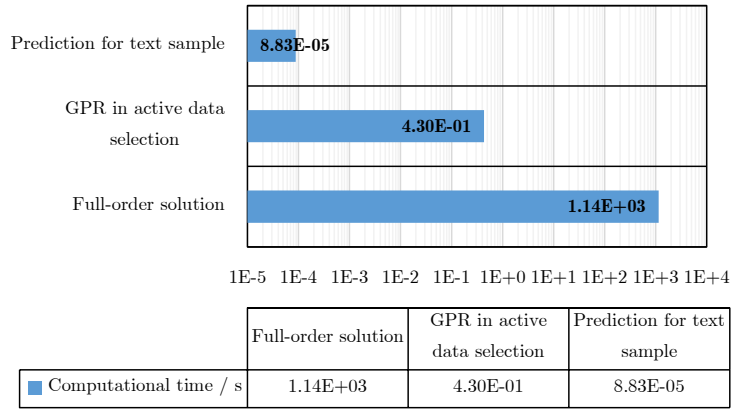


Figure 12: Comparison of times: computational time of a full-order solution at  $(\mu_1, \mu_2) = (20, 1.0)$ , average time for 40 loops of GPRs in active data selection, and average time for 861 GPR predictive outputs for test samples