

Observational signatures for extremal black holes

Prof. Stefanos Aretakis
Department of Mathematics, University of Toronto

I will present observational signatures for extremal black holes. These signatures rely on the precise late time asymptotics for solutions to the wave equation on such backgrounds. I will also present asymptotics for subextremal backgrounds.

Inferring dependencies and reduced order models in geophysical datasets with applications to uncertainty quantification and prediction

Prof. Themistoklis Sapsis
Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT

Geophysical datasets are characterized by unique challenges: multiple scales in space and time, strong nonlinear coupling of dynamical components, and a large number of positive Lyapunov exponents, i.e. instabilities. These properties make the prediction and uncertainty quantification in geophysical settings a problem of unique complexity. Contemporary ocean, atmospheric and climate models aim to overcome these challenges by accurate numerical discretization of the governing equations, careful parameterizations, and/or data-assimilation schemes. However, the resulting models are typically very complex, expensive and often with important uncertainties due to the large number of underlying parameters. In this work we present a machine learning framework that aims to first infer dependencies within a reduced set of variables and then integrate these functional relationships in the context of reduced order stochastic modeling. Our approach is based on a machine-learning framework that naturally ‘splits’ the dynamics into a predictable part, which can be effectively parametrized in terms of the considered state variables, and a stochastic residual, which cannot be uniquely determined using the considered state variables. The latter is represented using a conditionally Gaussian process, a choice that allows us to overcome the need for a vast amount of training data, which for geophysical problems, is naturally limited to a single realization for each spatial location. We demonstrate the approach on two problems: i) the stochastic reconstruction of small-scale features in coarse atmospheric datasets for modeling spatial extremes, and ii) the modeling of the 3D ocean temperature field using only real-time information for the sea surface temperature.

Exact Mixed-Integer Programming Approach for Chance-Constrained Multi-Area Reserve Sizing

Prof. Anthony Papavasiliou
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National Technical University of Athens

An exact algorithm is developed for the chance-constrained multi-area reserve sizing problem in the presence of transmission network constraints. The problem can be cast as a two-stage stochastic mixed integer linear program using sample approximation. Due to the complicated structure of the problem, existing methods attempt to find a feasible solution based on heuristics. Existing mixed-integer algorithms that can be applied directly to a two-stage stochastic program can only address small-scale problems that are not practical. We have found the minimal description of the projection of our problem onto the space of the first-stage variables. This enables us to directly apply more general Integer Programming techniques for mixing sets, that arise in chance-constrained problems. Our method can tackle real-world problems. We specifically consider a case study of the 10-zone Nordic network with 100,000 scenarios where the optimal solution can be found in approximately 5 minutes.