

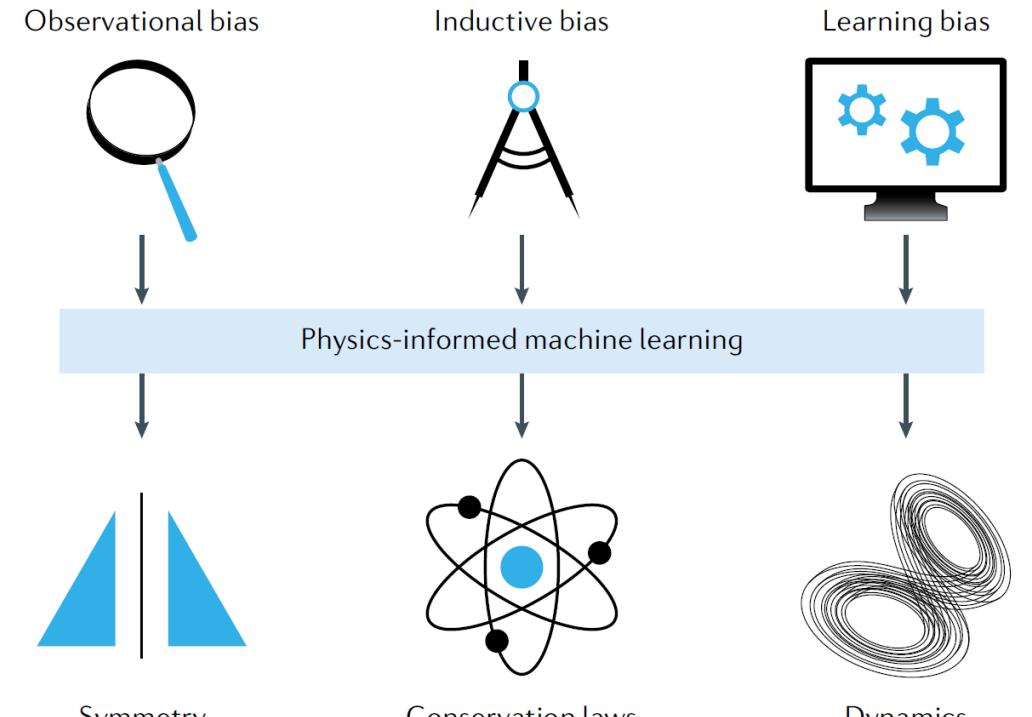
# **Introduction to Scientific ML**

**Nicolas Boule**

# Scientific machine learning



[Baker et al., DOE Tech. Report, 2019]

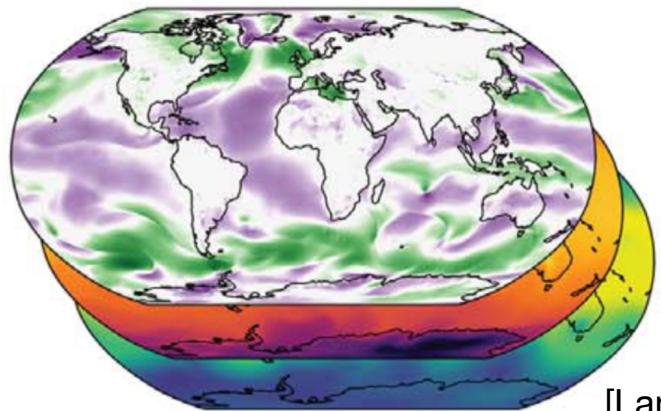


[Karniadakis et al., 2021]

Combining numerical analysis and machine learning for scientific discoveries.

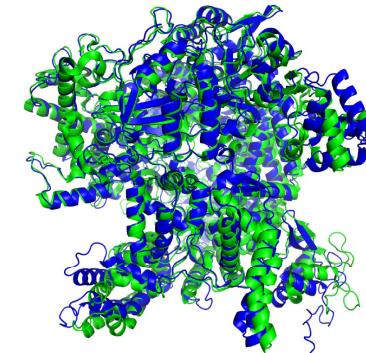
# Recent applications of SciML

## Weather forecasting



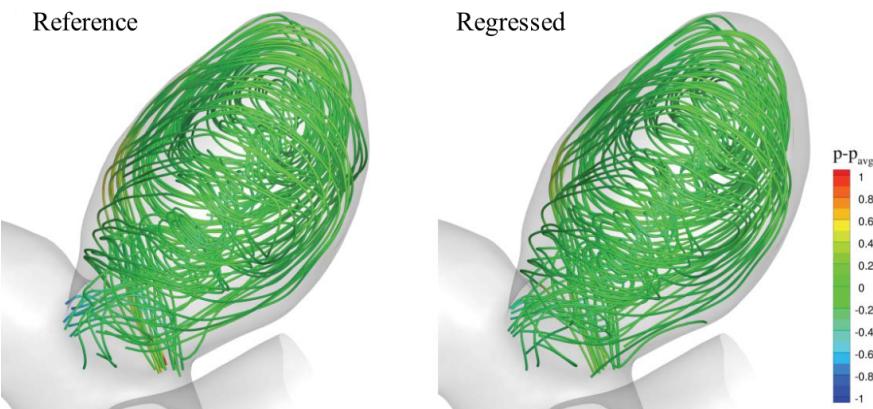
[Lam et al., Science, 2023]

## Protein folding



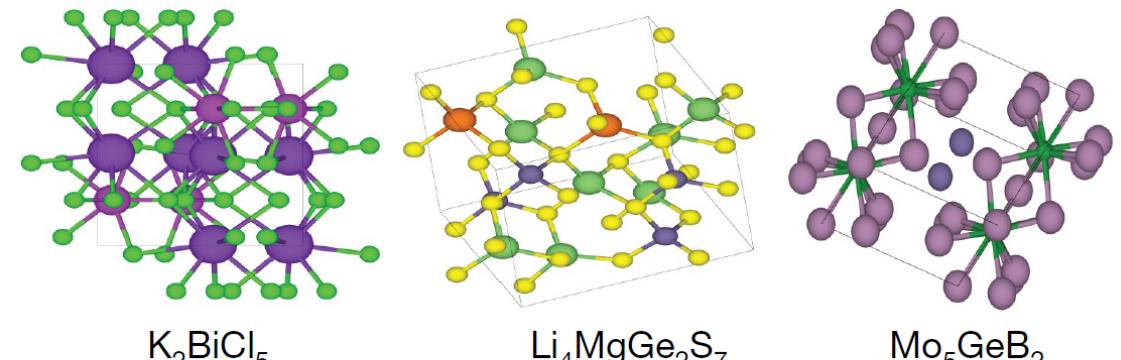
[Jumper et al., Nature, 2021]

## Numerical simulations



[Raissi, Yazdani, Karniadakis, Science, 2020]

## Materials discovery



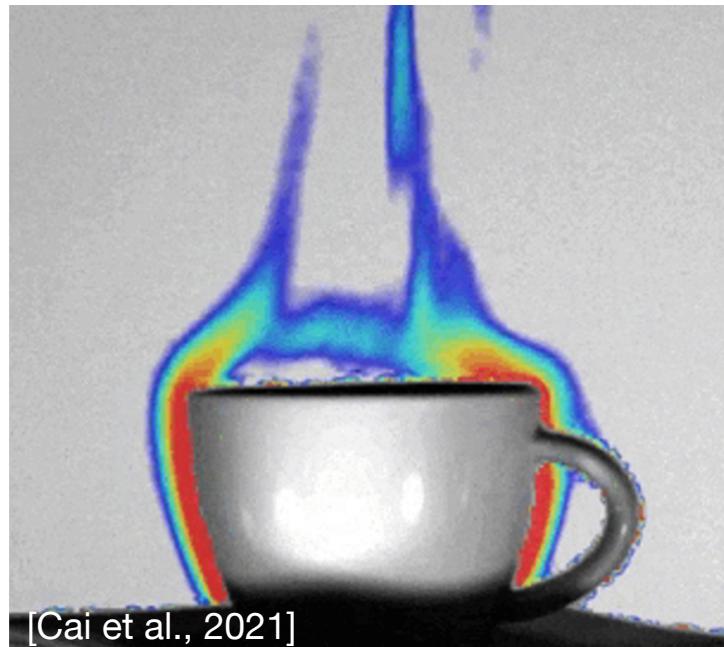
[Merchant et al., Nature, 2023]

# Operator learning

## Physics-informed machine learning

George Em Karniadakis<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioannis G. Kevrekidis<sup>3,4</sup>, Lu Lu<sup>5</sup>, Paris Perdikaris<sup>6</sup>, Sifan Wang<sup>7</sup> and Liu Yang<sup>1,8</sup>

**Abstract** | Despite great progress in simulating multiphysics problems using the numerical discretization of partial differential equations (PDEs), one still cannot seamlessly incorporate noisy data into existing algorithms, mesh generation remains complex, and high-dimensional problems governed by parameterized PDEs cannot be tackled. Moreover, solving inverse problems with hidden physics is often prohibitively expensive and requires different formulations and elaborate computer codes. Machine learning has emerged as a promising alternative, but training deep neural networks requires big data, not always available for scientific problems. Instead, such networks can be trained from additional information obtained by enforcing the physical laws (for example, at random points in the continuous space-time domain). Such physics-informed learning integrates (noisy) data and mathematical models, and implements them through neural networks or other kernel-based regression networks. Moreover, it may be possible to design specialized network architectures that automatically satisfy some of the physical invariants for better accuracy, faster training and improved generalization. Here, we review some of the prevailing trends in embedding physics into machine learning, present some of the current capabilities and limitations and discuss diverse applications of physics-informed learning both for forward and inverse problems, including discovering hidden physics and tackling high-dimensional problems.



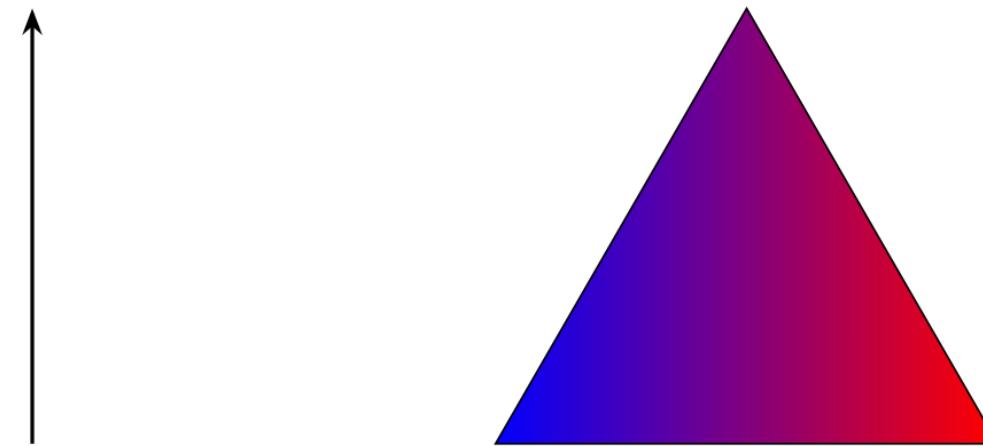
## Inverse Problem

## PDE Discovery

## Forward Problem

## PDE Solvers

## Operator Learning



Small data  
Lots of physics

Some data  
Some physics

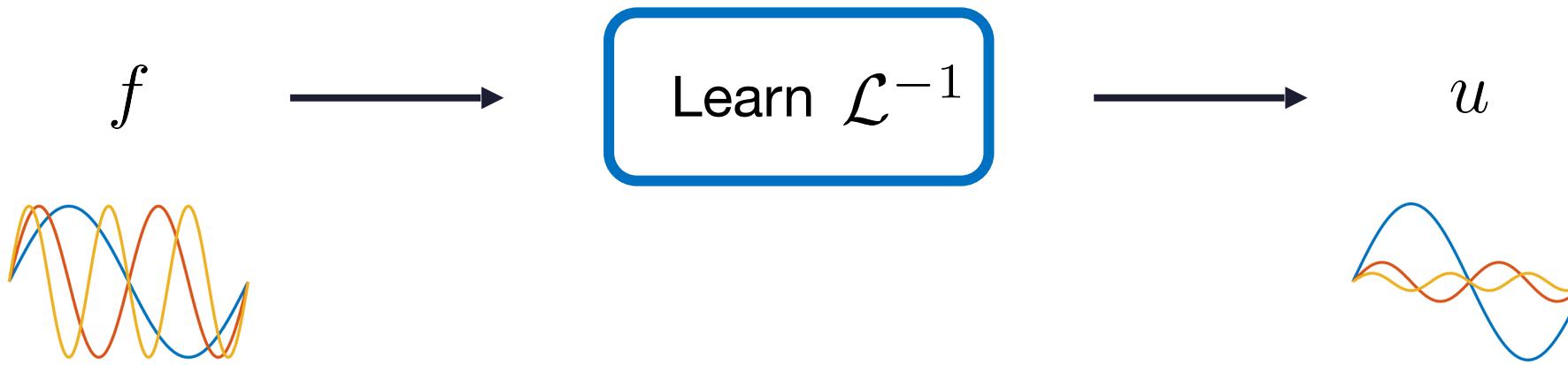
Lots of data  
No physics

### Recent surveys:

- B., Townsend, “A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning”, 2023.
- Kovachki, Lanthaler, Stuart, “Operator Learning: Algorithms and Analysis”, 2024.

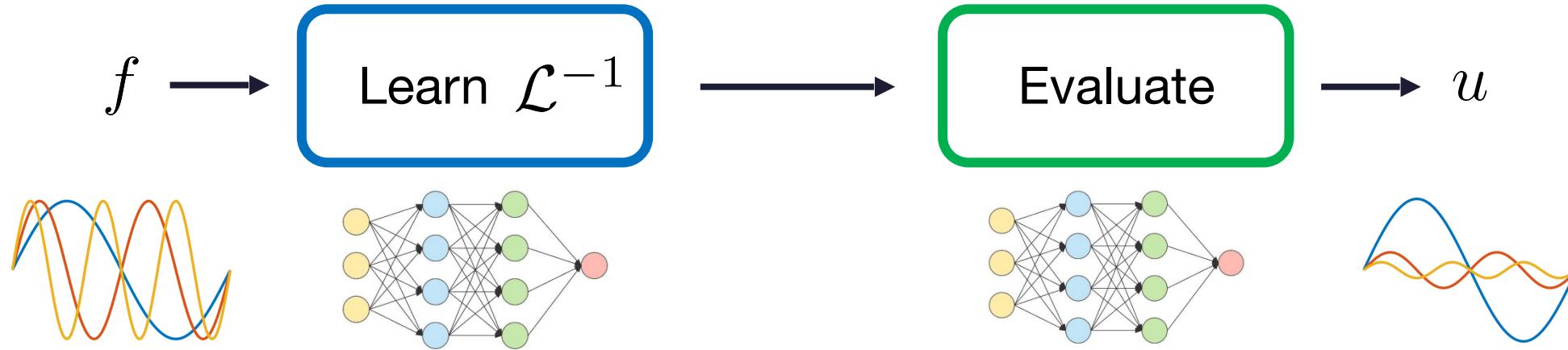
# Introduction to operator learning

**Aim:** Approximate **solution operators** of unknown PDEs  $\mathcal{L}(u) = f$



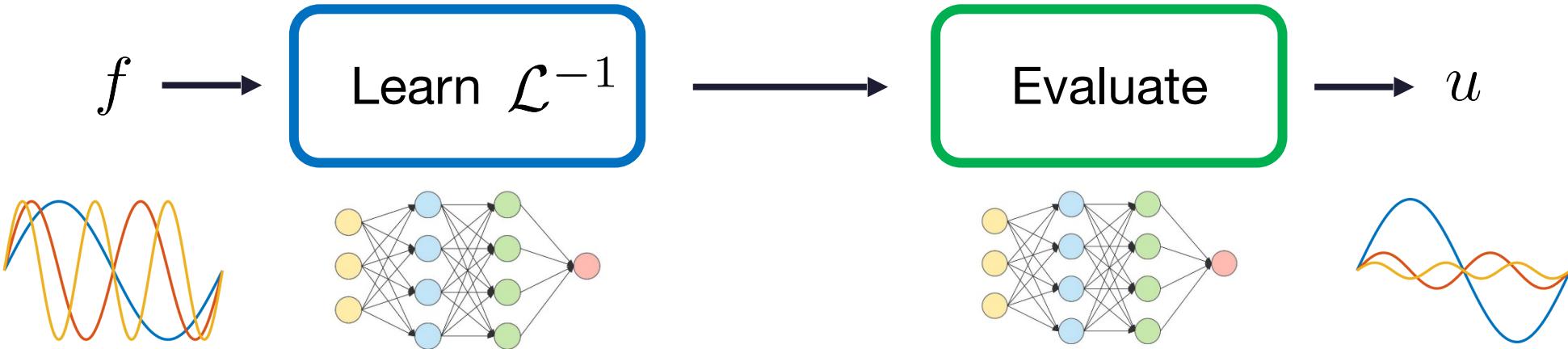
# Introduction to operator learning

**Aim:** Approximate **solution operators** of unknown PDEs  $\mathcal{L}(u) = f$

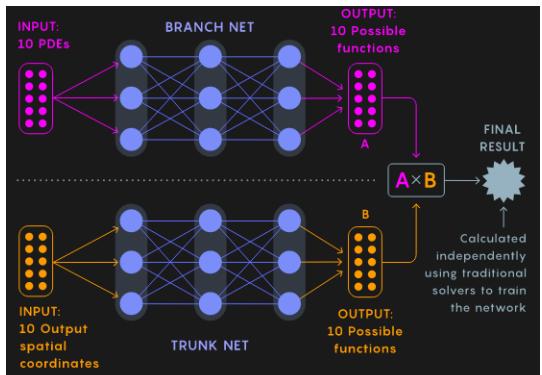


# Introduction to operator learning

**Aim:** Approximate **solution operators** of unknown PDEs  $\mathcal{L}(u) = f$

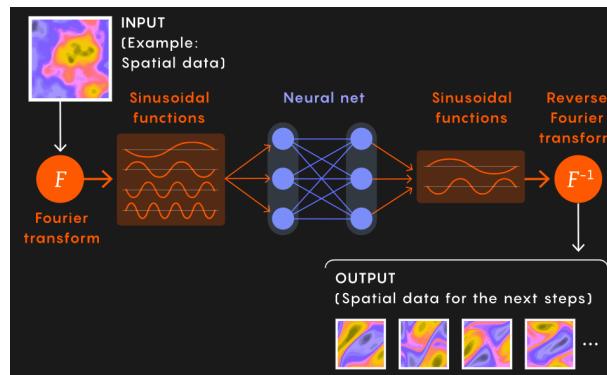


DeepONet



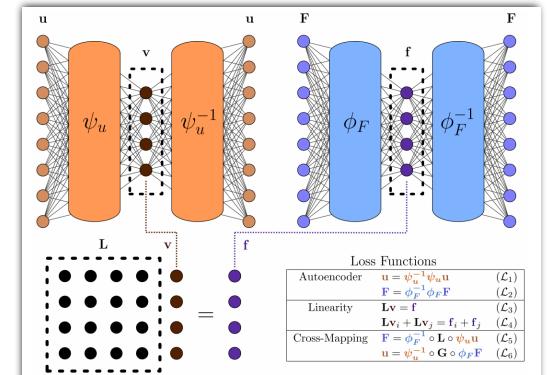
[Quanta Magazine; Lu et al, 2021]

Fourier Neural Operator



[Quanta Magazine; Li et al, 2020]

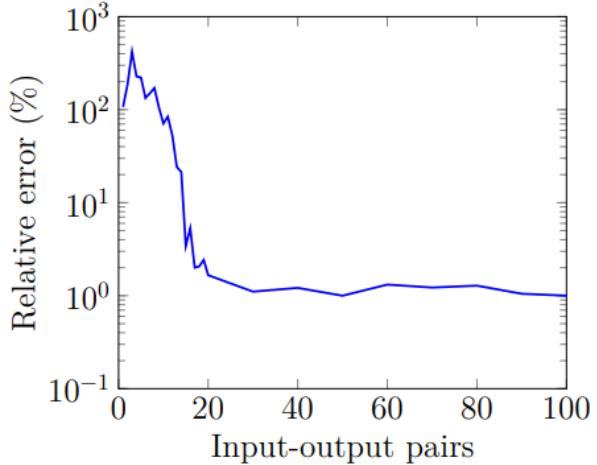
DeepGreen



[Gin et al., 2020]

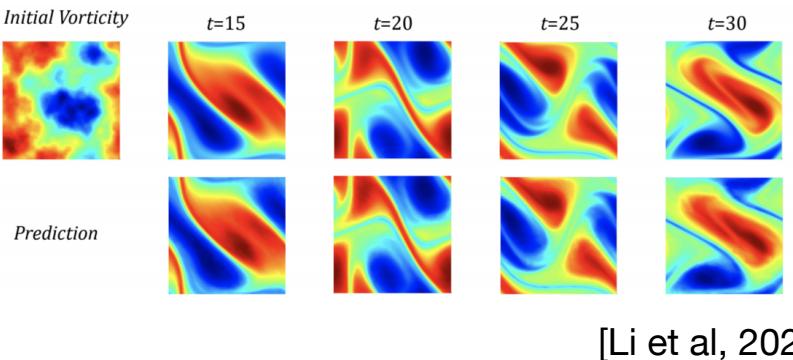
# Main challenges in operator learning

## 1. Theoretical results



- Type and number of training data
- Performance guarantees
- Neural network architectures
- Noise robustness

## 2. Interpretability of the model



- Dominant modes
- Symmetries
- Conservation laws
- Singularities

# Operator learning in practice

---

We want to learn the **solution operator**  
associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

**Nicolas Boullé**

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK*

[NB690@CAM.AC.UK](mailto:NB690@CAM.AC.UK)

**Alex Townsend**

*Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA*

[TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU](mailto:TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU)

# Operator learning in practice

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

Nicolas Boullé

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK

NB690@CAM.AC.UK

Alex Townsend

Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU

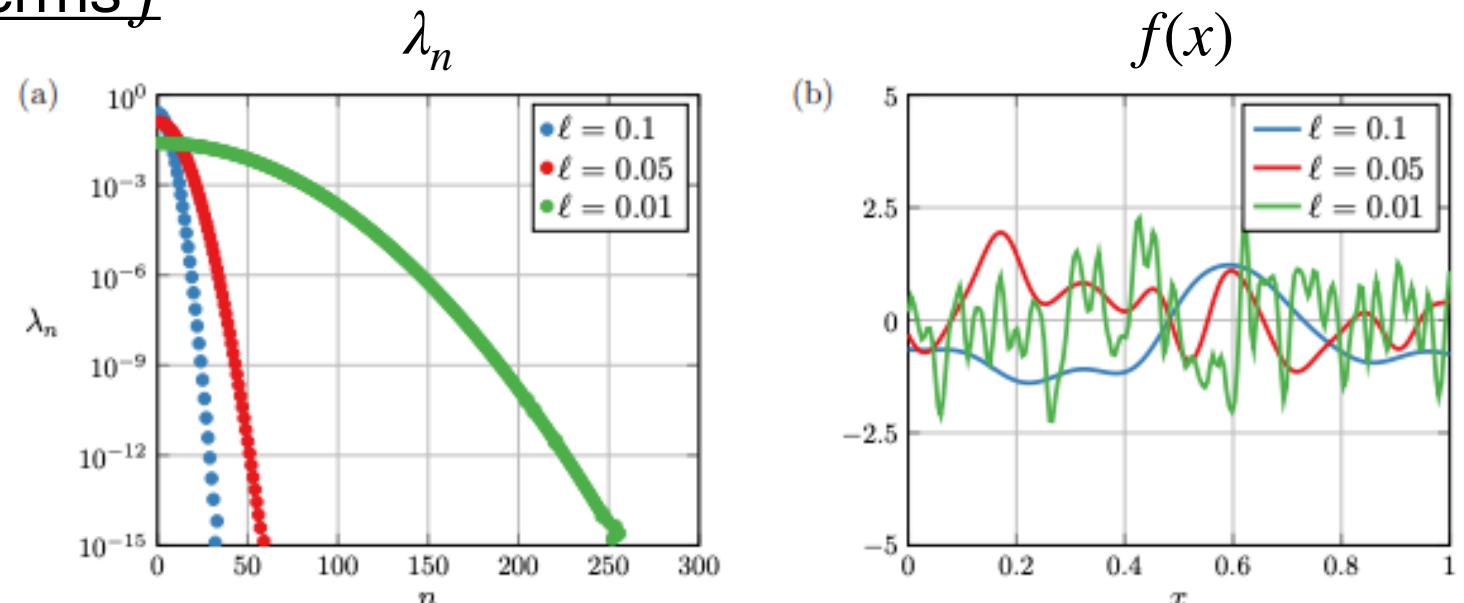
### 1. Generate random source terms $f$

Select covariance kernel  $K$

$$K(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j \psi_j(x) \psi_j(y)$$

Sample  $f$  as

$$f(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c_j \sqrt{(\lambda_j)} \psi_j(x), \quad c_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$



# Operator learning in practice

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

Nicolas Boullé

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK*

NB690@CAM.AC.UK

Alex Townsend

*Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA*

TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU

## 2. Compute solutions $u$

Either from a physical experiment or by numerically solving the PDE (e.g. with Firedrake)

Property	Finite differences	Finite elements	Spectral methods
Domain geometry	Simple	Complex	Simple
Approximation	Local	Local	Global
Linear system	Large sparse	Large sparse	Small dense
Convergence rate	Algebraic	Algebraic	Spectral

# Operator learning in practice

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

Nicolas Boullé

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK*

NB690@CAM.AC.UK

Alex Townsend

*Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA*

TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU

### 3. Define the neural network architecture

Depends on the data structure, problem, ...

Neural operators	Property of the operator	Kernel parameterization
DeepONet	Low-rank	Branch and trunk networks
FNO	Translation-invariant	Fourier coefficients
GreenLearning	Linear	Rational neural network
DeepGreen	Semi-linear	Kernel matrix
Graph neural operator	Diagonally dominant	Message passing network
Multipole GNO	Off-diagonal low rank	Neural network

# Operator learning in practice

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

Nicolas Boullé

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK*

NB690@CAM.AC.UK

Alex Townsend

*Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA*

TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU

### 4. Define the optimisation problem

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{|\text{data}|} \sum_{(f,u) \in \text{data}} \|\mathcal{N}(f) - u\|_U$$

The norm is often computed by Monte-Carlo integration by sampling the solution at random points:

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{|\text{data}|} \sum_{(f,u) \in \text{data}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n |\mathcal{N}(f)(y_j) - u(y_j)|^2$$

# Operator learning in practice

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

## A Mathematical Guide to Operator Learning

Nicolas Boullé

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK*

NB690@CAM.AC.UK

Alex Townsend

*Department of Mathematics  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA*

TOWNSEND@CORNELL.EDU

### 4. Define the optimisation problem

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{|\text{data}|} \sum_{(f,u) \in \text{data}} \|\mathcal{N}(f) - u\|_U$$

This is called a **data-driven loss** as it trains the network to satisfies the data-relation.

# Physics-informed operator learning

We want to learn the **solution operator** associated with a PDE:  $L(u) = f$

APPLIED PHYSICS

Learning the solution operator of parametric partial differential equations with physics-informed DeepONets

Sifan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Hanwen Wang<sup>1</sup>, Paris Perdikaris<sup>2\*</sup>

Complement the data-driven loss with a **physics-informed loss** to **weakly** satisfy the PDE or some constraints

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{operator}}(\theta) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{physics}}(\theta) \quad (16)$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{operator}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{NP} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^P | G_\theta(\mathbf{u}^{(i)}) (\mathbf{y}_{u,j}^{(i)}) - G(\mathbf{u}^{(i)}) (\mathbf{y}_{u,j}^{(i)}) |^2 \quad (17) \quad \text{Enforce data}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{physics}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{NQm} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^Q \sum_{k=1}^m | \mathcal{N}(u^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}_k), G_\theta(\mathbf{u}^{(i)}) (\mathbf{y}_{r,j}^{(i)})) |^2 \quad (18) \quad \text{Enforce PDE constraint}$$

# Coupling PyTorch and Firedrake

We try to minimise the loss function:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \underbrace{\|\mathcal{N}_\theta(f) - u\|}_{\text{data}} + \alpha \underbrace{F(\mathcal{N}_\theta(f), f)}_{\text{PDE residual}}$$

## Differentiable programming across the PDE and Machine Learning barrier

**Nacime Bouziani**  
I-X Centre for AI In Science,  
Imperial College London, UK  
[n.bouziani18@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:n.bouziani18@imperial.ac.uk)

**David A. Ham**  
Department of Mathematics,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
[david.ham@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:david.ham@imperial.ac.uk)

**Ado Farsi**  
Department of Earth Science and Engineering,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
[ado.farsi@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ado.farsi@imperial.ac.uk)

# Coupling PyTorch and Firedrake

We try to minimise the loss function:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \underbrace{\|\mathcal{N}_\theta(f) - u\|}_{\text{data}} + \alpha \underbrace{F(\mathcal{N}_\theta(f), f)}_{\text{PDE residual}}$$

## Differentiable programming across the PDE and Machine Learning barrier

Nacime Bouziani  
I-X Centre for AI In Science,  
Imperial College London, UK  
n.bouziani18@imperial.ac.uk

David A. Ham  
Department of Mathematics,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
david.ham@imperial.ac.uk

Ado Farsi  
Department of Earth Science and Engineering,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
ado.farsi@imperial.ac.uk

We want to discrete the residual with finite element and compute it using Firedrake

Since we use gradient-based optimisation, we need to compute the gradient of the residual with respect to  $\theta$ :

$$\nabla_\theta F(\mathcal{N}_\theta(f), f)$$

# Coupling PyTorch and Firedrake

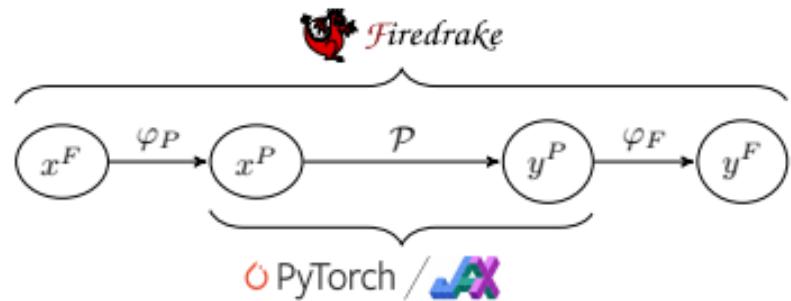


Figure 1: Subgraph of the Firedrake computational graph containing PyTorch/JAX operations of interest represented by  $\mathcal{P}$ , where  $P$  refers to PyTorch/JAX variables and  $F$  to Firedrake variables.  $\varphi_F$  and  $\varphi_P$  represent the casting of a PyTorch/JAX tensor to a Firedrake Function and vice versa.

## Differentiable programming across the PDE and Machine Learning barrier

Nacime Bouziani  
I-X Centre for AI In Science,  
Imperial College London, UK  
n.bouziani18@imperial.ac.uk

David A. Ham  
Department of Mathematics,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
david.ham@imperial.ac.uk

Ado Farsi  
Department of Earth Science and Engineering,  
Imperial College London, London, UK  
ado.farsi@imperial.ac.uk

We do the optimisation of  
the networks in PyTorch  
and ask Firedrake to  
compute the gradient with  
pyadjoint

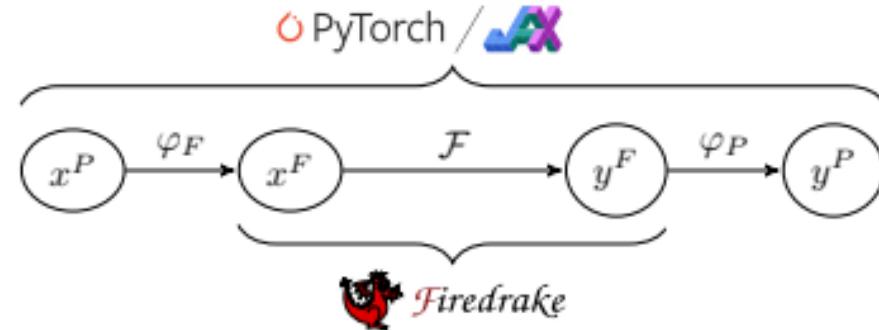


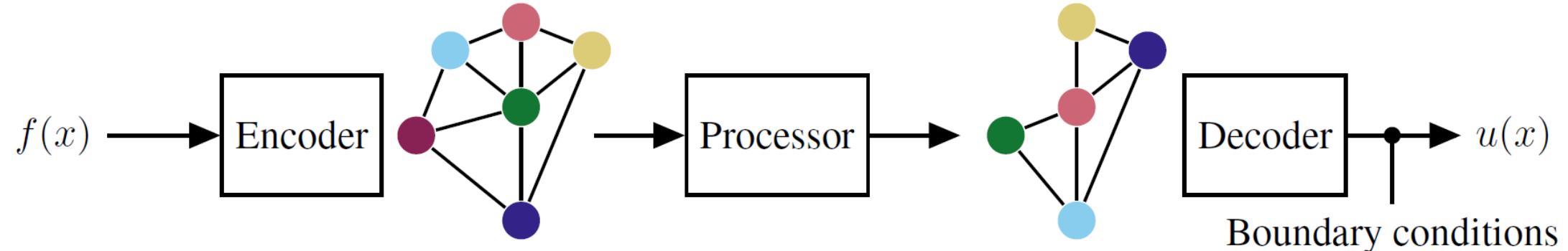
Figure 2: Subgraph of the PyTorch/JAX computational graph containing Firedrake operations of interest represented by  $\mathcal{F}$ , where  $P$  refers to PyTorch/JAX variables and  $F$  to Firedrake variables.  $\varphi_F$  and  $\varphi_P$  represent the casting of a PyTorch/JAX tensor to a Firedrake Function and vice versa.

# Coupling PyTorch and Firedrake

```
1 import torch
2 import firedrake as fd
3 import firedrake.ml as fd_ml
4 import firedrake_adjoint as fda
5
6 ...
7
8 # Defined reduced functional  $\mathcal{F}$  with respect to control(s)
9 F = fda.ReducedFunctional(y_F, Control(x_F))
10
11 # Define the coupling operator:  $G := \varphi_P \circ \mathcal{F} \circ \varphi_F$ 
12 G = fd_ml.torch_operator(F)
13
14 # Apply the coupling operator to a torch.Tensor  $x^P$ 
15 y_P = G(x_P)
16
17 # Backpropagate through G: calculate  $\mathcal{J}_{y^P}^*(x^P, w^P)$ 
18 w_P = ...
19 y_P.backward(w_P)
```

# Structure-preserving operator learning

---

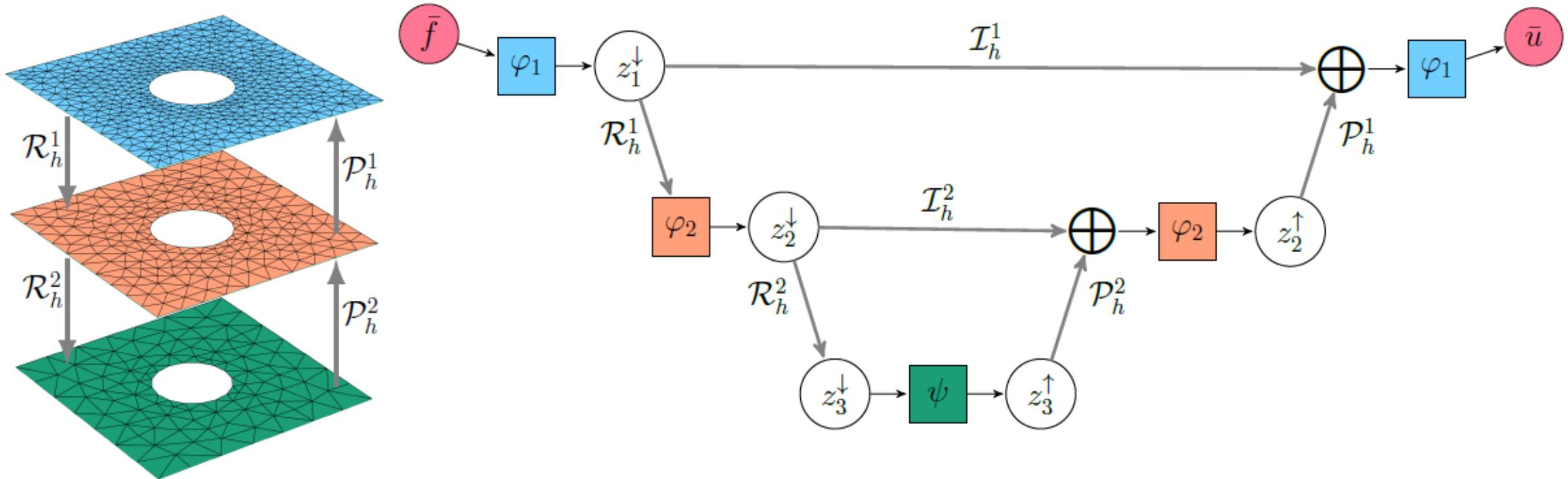


- Finite element encoder / decoder
- Structure-preserving discretization
- Finite element error estimation
- Flexible neural network architecture

See: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.01065>

# Multigrid-inspired processor

---



- Finite element interpolation and projection operators
- Message-passing Graph Neural Networks

# Tutorial

---

Solution operator of Stokes flow