



On Surrogate Modelling for Fusion

Invited Talk at PhysicsX
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The only working Fusion "Reactor"

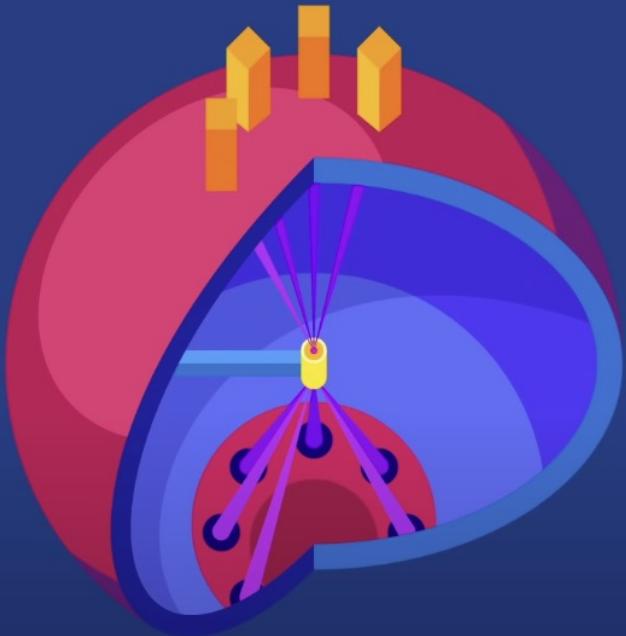


Types of Fusion Devices

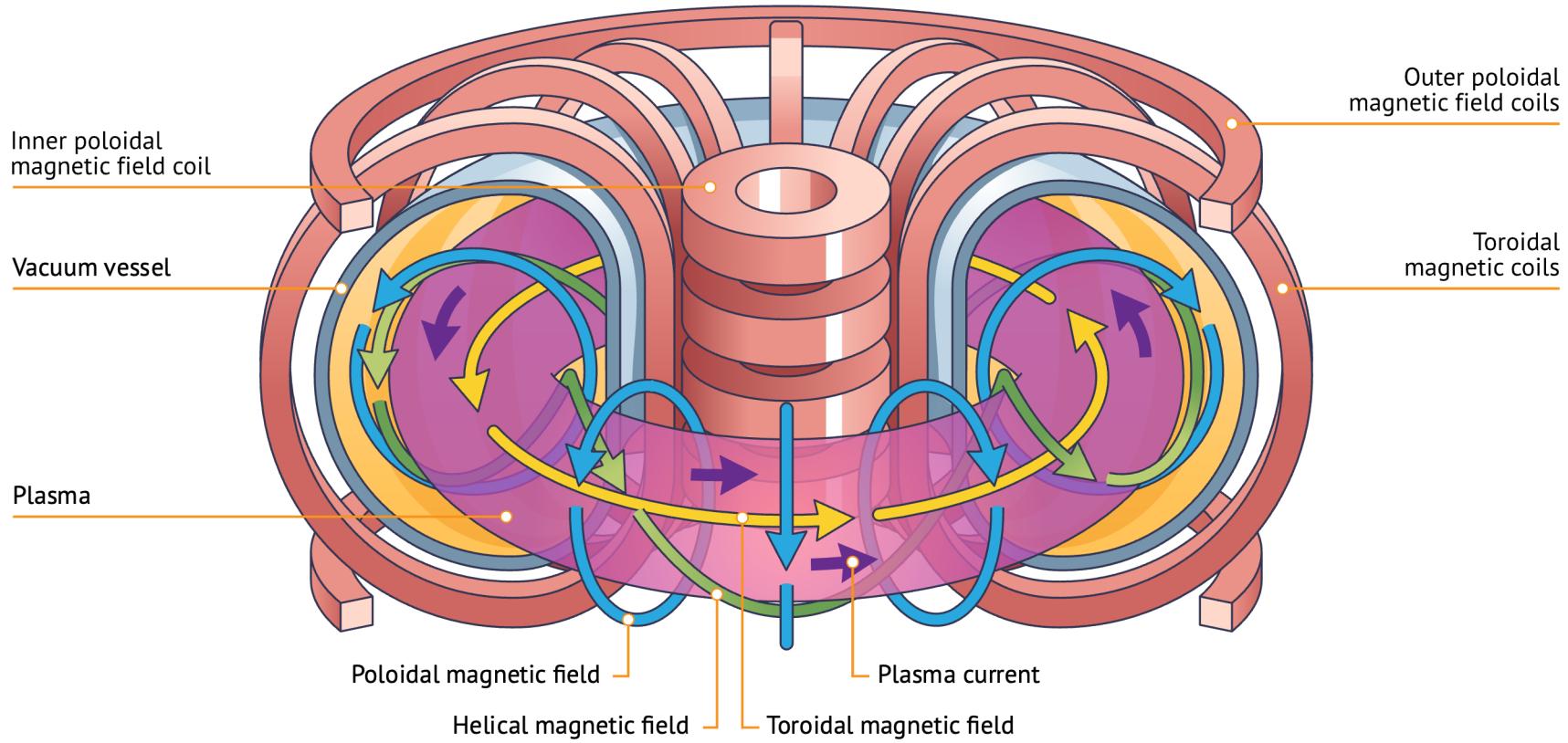
MAGNETIC CONFINEMENT



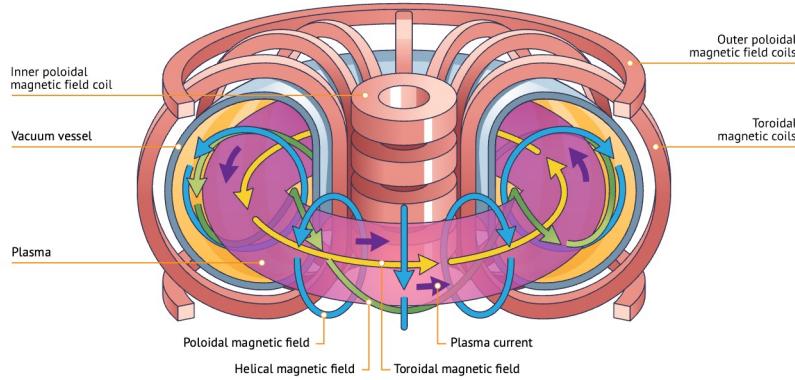
INERTIAL CONFINEMENT



Tokamak



Q1. What makes Fusion so hard ?



Confinement

- Sharp Temperature and Pressure gradients
- Exhausts to remove impurities

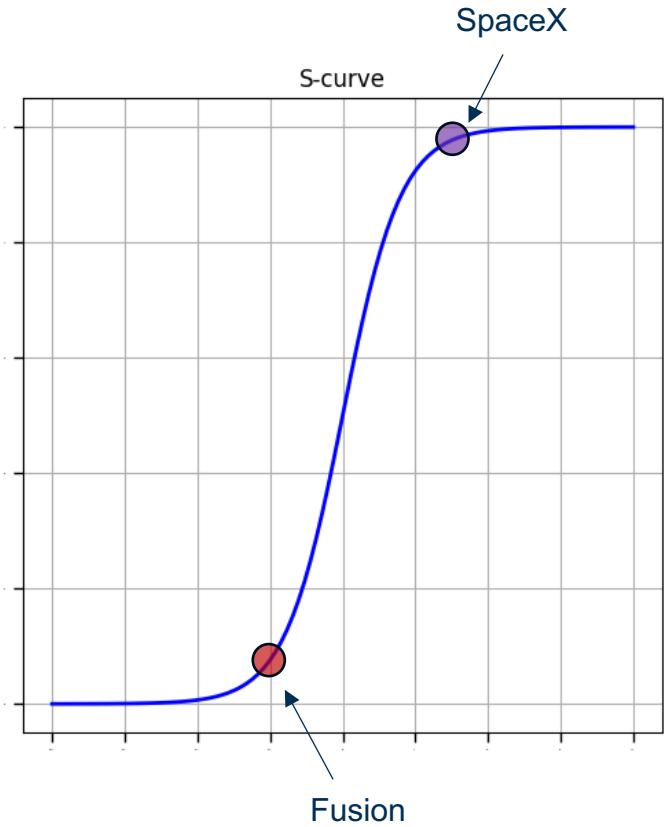
Materials

- Excessive Heat Load on Plasma Facing Components
- Breeding Blankets for Fuel Cycle

Turbulence

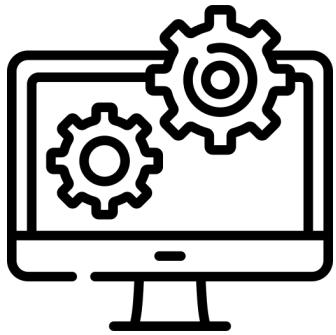
- Complex Multi-Scale Multi-Physics:
- Navier-Stokes + Maxwell's Equations + Neutrals + Boltzmann Equation.

State of Fusion Research

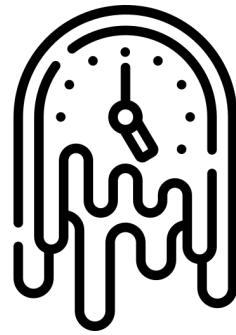


- Cannot “afford” iterative test-based engineering design.
- In-silico design at the Exascale
- Simulations and Digital Twins

Q2. What are the challenges of simulations ?



Computational Complexity

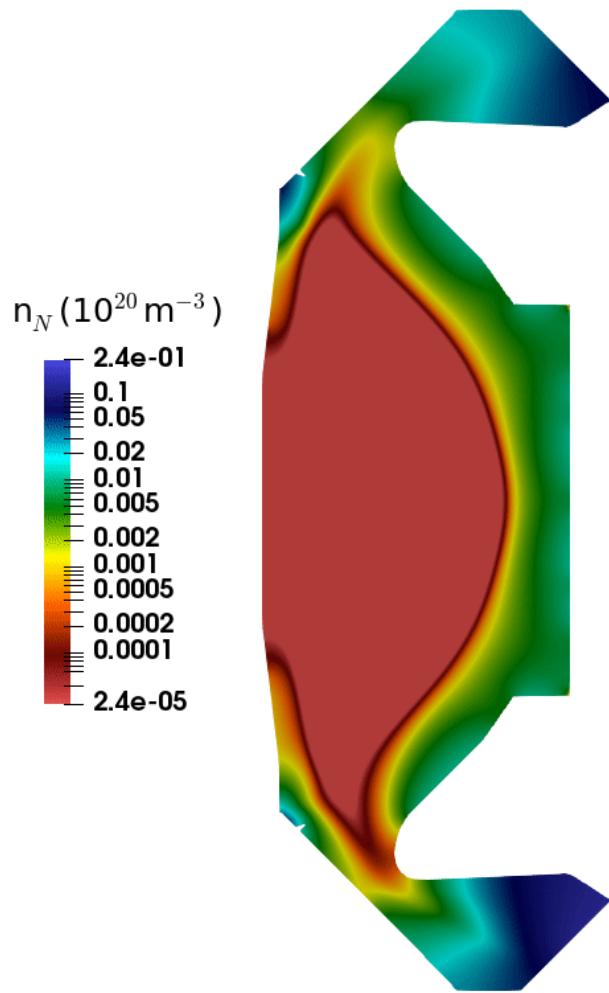


Latency



Unknown unknowns

Q2. What are the challenges of simulations ?



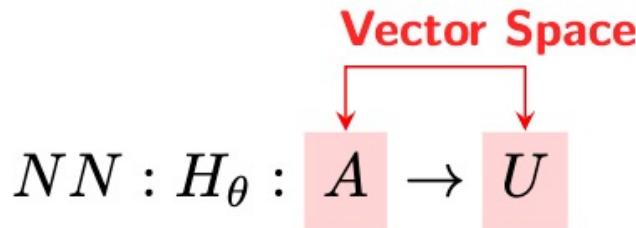
Simulating 14 ms of plasma instabilities takes:

> 2 months & > 2000 nodes.

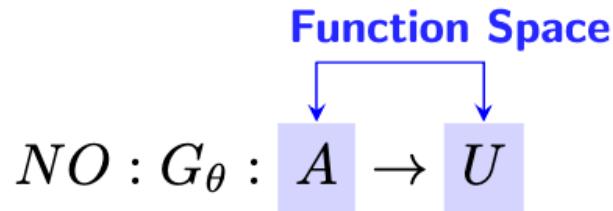
Source:
ELM Instabilities in MAST-U. Smith et al., 2021.

Neural Operators: Operator Learning using Neural Networks

Traditional Neural Networks (MLPs, CNNs, RNNs ...) map from the **input vector space** to the **output vector space**, **learning the function** that performs the required transformation.



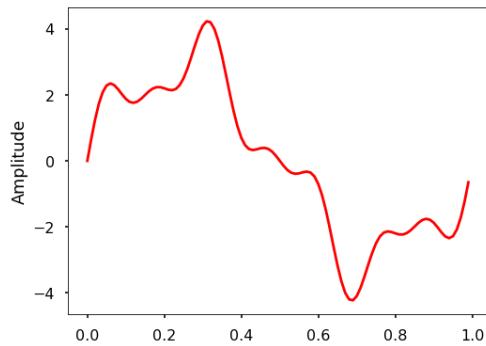
Neural Operators map the **input function space** to the **output function space**, **learning the operator** that performs the function transformation.



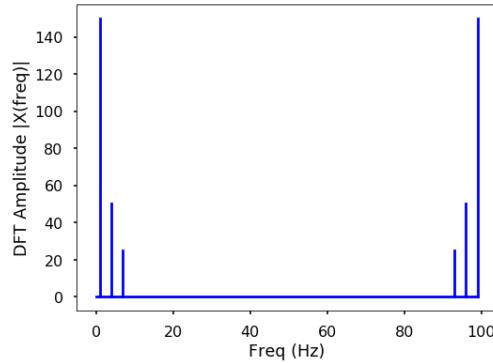
Neural Operators: Operator Learning using Neural Networks

But learning in the function space means learning the continuous operators ?
 How does one do that numerically ?

Basis Functions

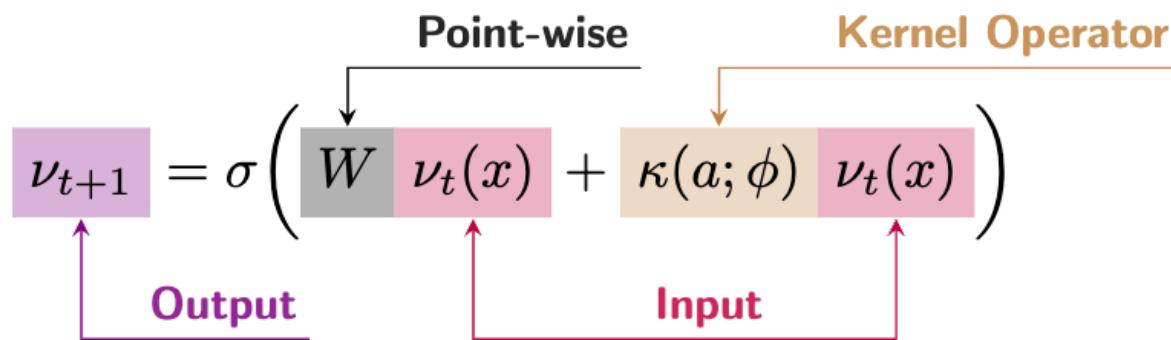
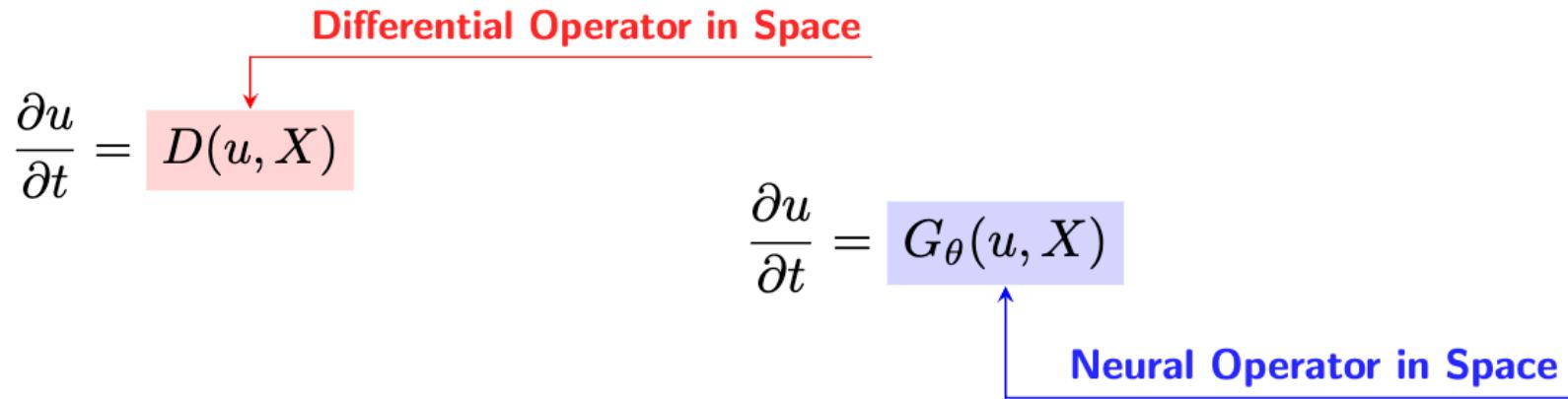


Change of Basis →



Network is composed of **Kernels that learn within the basis decomposition** and **point-wise operations** allowing us to learn continuous representations on arbitrary discretised inputs and outputs.

Neural Operators for PDEs



Choose your Basis

Wavelet Decomposition	→	Wavelet Neural Operator ^[1]
Laplace Transform	→	Laplace Neural Operator ^[2]
Complex Transform	→	Complex Neural Operator ^[3]
Polynomial Basis	→	DeepONet ^[4]
Fourier Decomposition	→	Fourier Neural Operator ^[5]

[1] Tripura et al. – Wavelet neural operator: a neural operator for parametric partial differential equations

[2] Cao et al. – LNO: Laplace Neural Operator for Solving Differential Equations

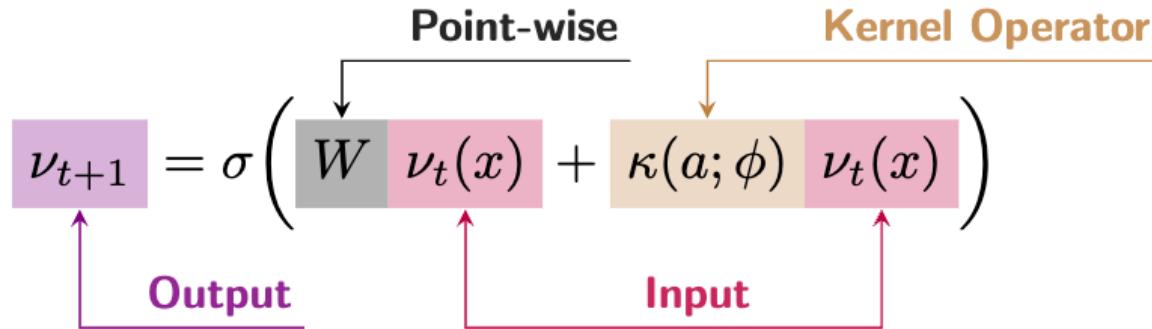
[3] Tiwari et al. – CoNO: Complex Neural Operator for Continuous Dynamical Systems

[4] Lu et al. – DeepONet: Learning nonlinear operators for identifying differential equations based on the universal approximation theorem of operators

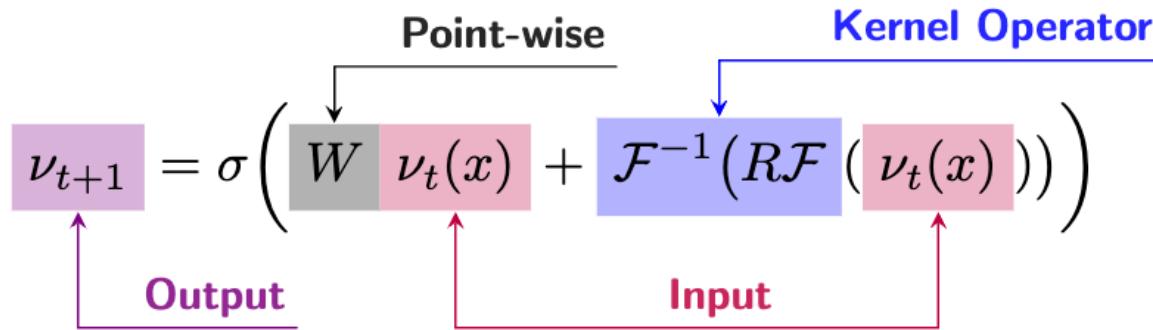
[5] Li et al. – Fourier Neural Operator for Parametric Partial Differential Equations

Fourier Neural Operator

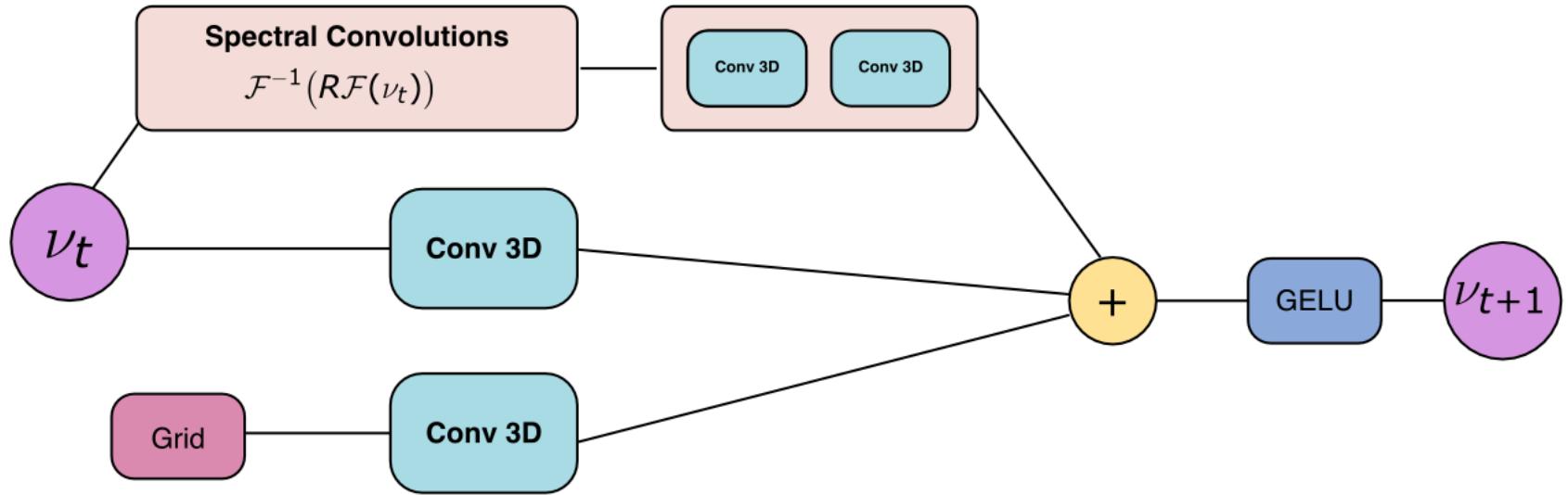
General Neural Operator Framework:



Fourier Neural Operator Framework:



Fourier Layer



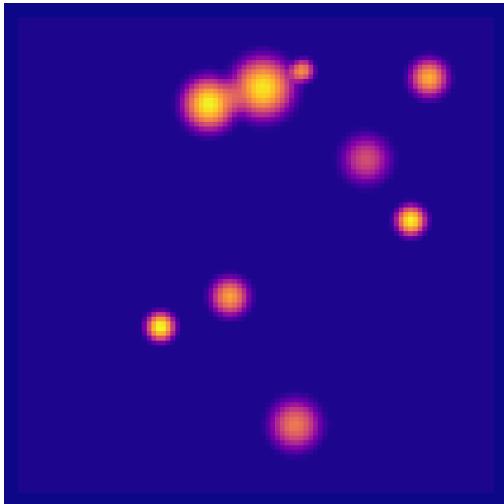
Multi-variable FNO : FNO modified with additional channel to accommodate multiple variables associated with a family of PDEs.

Source:
 Plasma Surrogate Modelling using Fourier Neural Operator. Gopakumar et al., 2023.

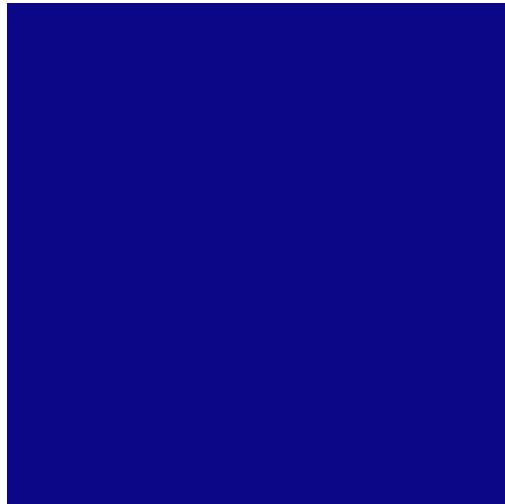
Reduced-MHD

Radial Convection of plasma blobs in toroidal geometry using JOREK

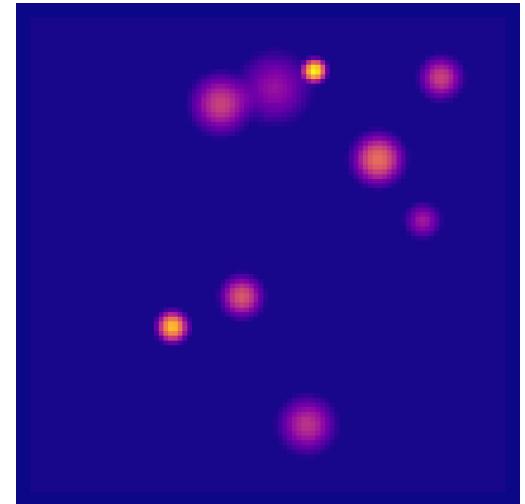
Absence of a plasma current equilibrium generates a buoyancy effect, causing the blob to move outwards towards the edge.



Density



Electric Potential

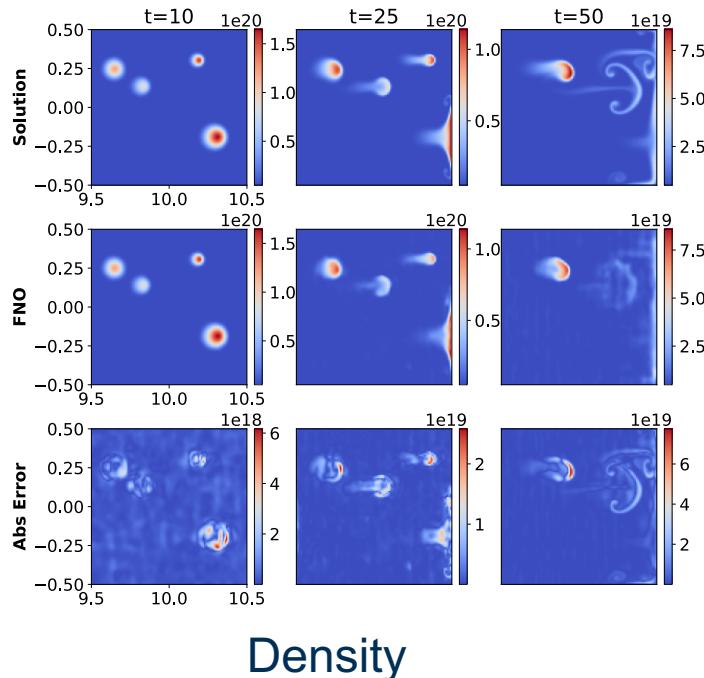


Temperature

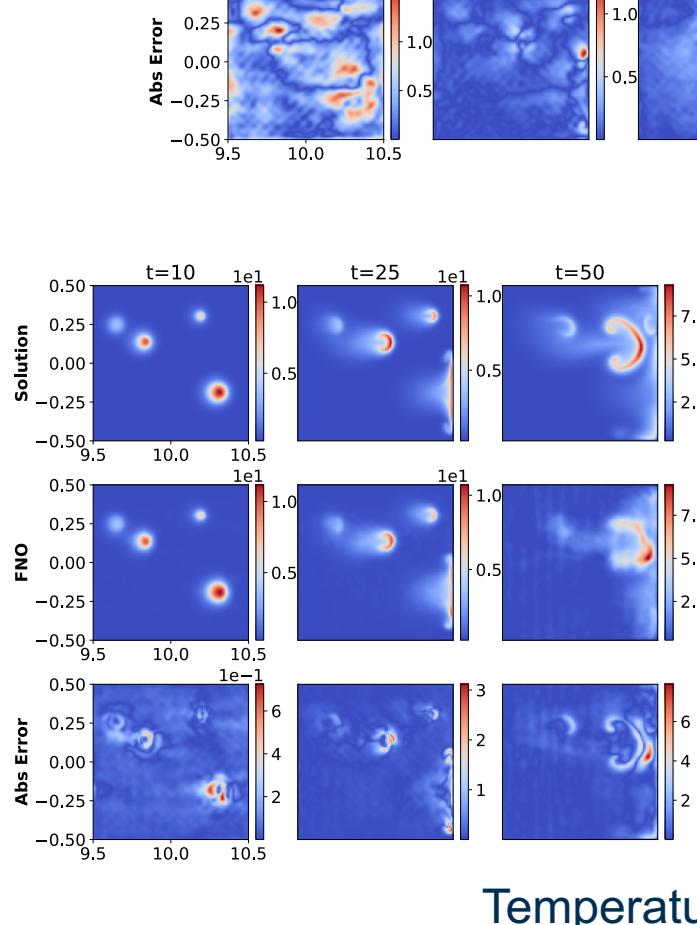
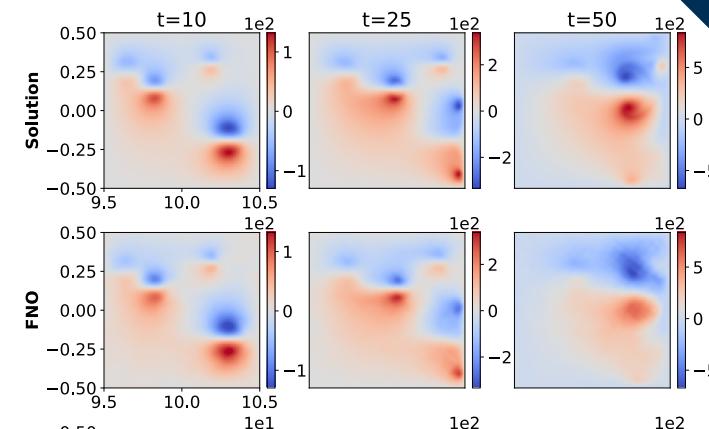
2000 simulations built by varying the initial conditions of the plasma blobs:
number, position, width and amplitude

FNO over MHD

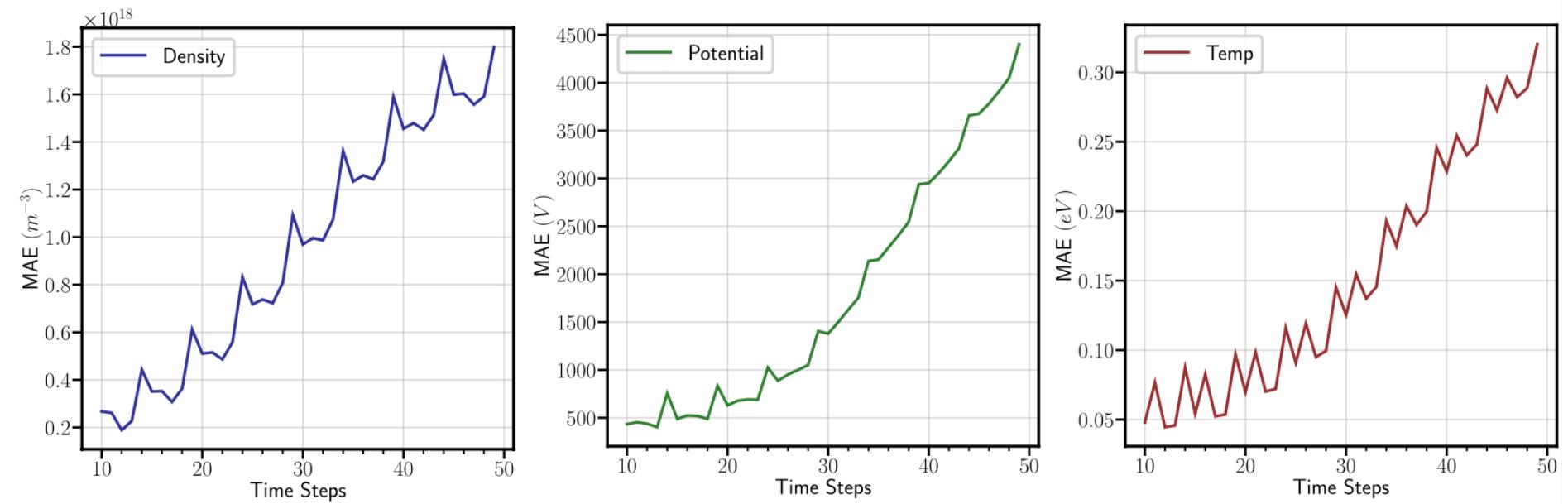
FNO: 6 orders of magnitude faster than JOREK



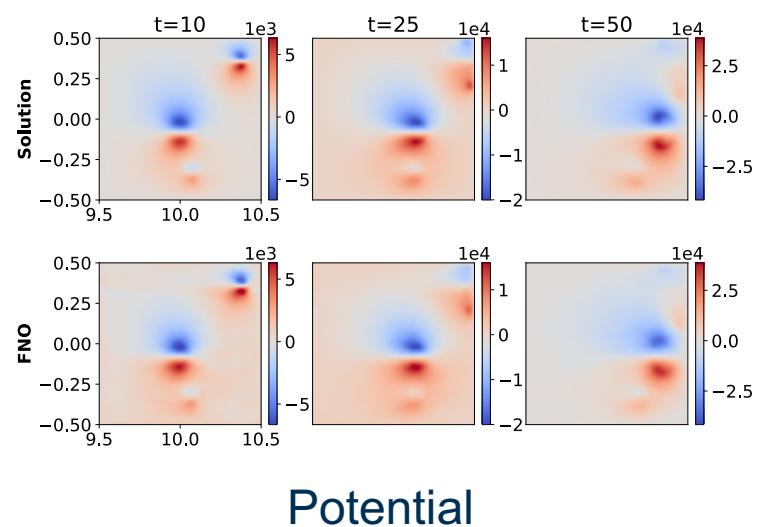
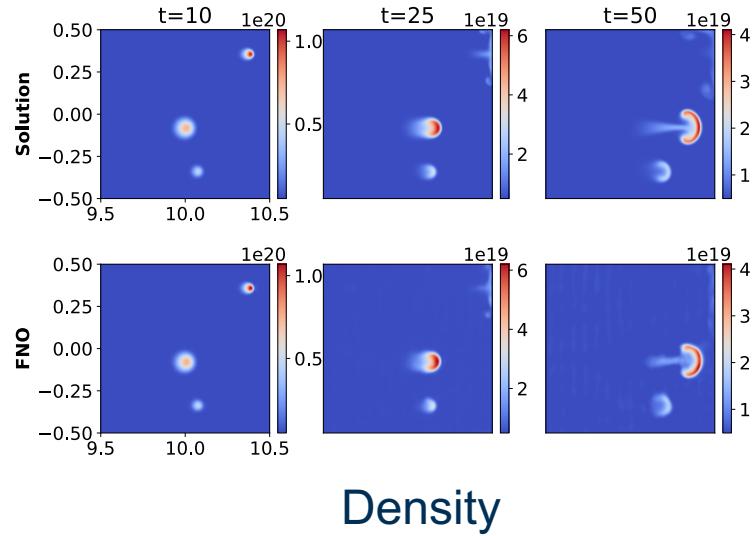
$T_{in} = 10$
 $Step = 5$
 $T_{out} = 40$



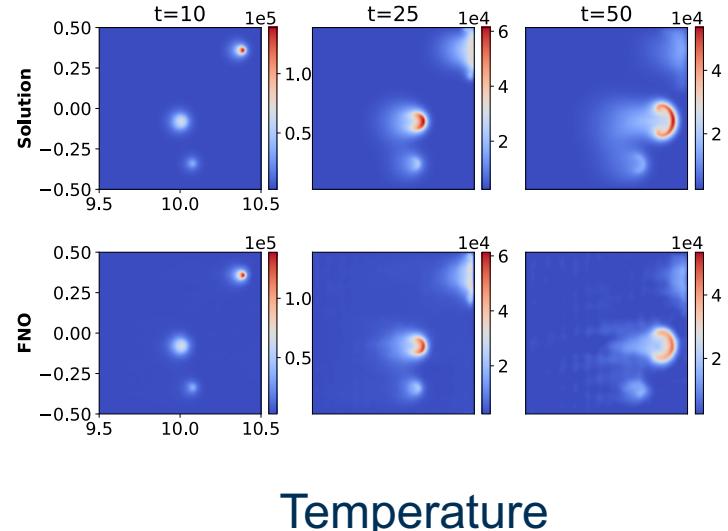
Error Growth



Super-Resolution



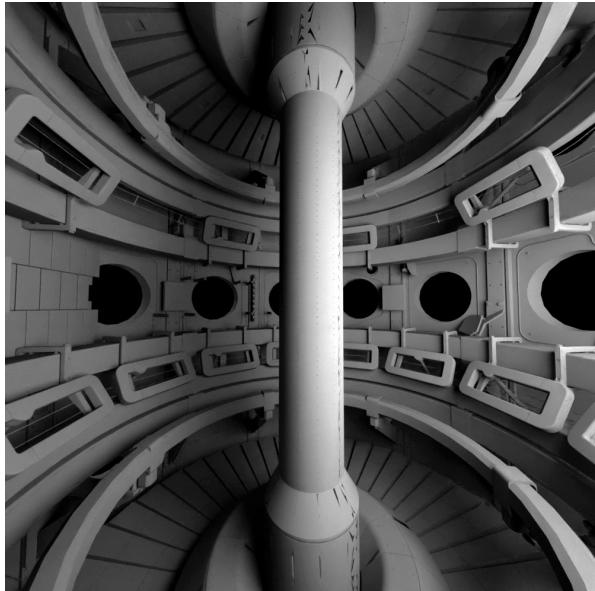
Being discretisation-invariant,
 FNO trained on coarser grids (100×100),
 can be deployed for finer grids (500×500).



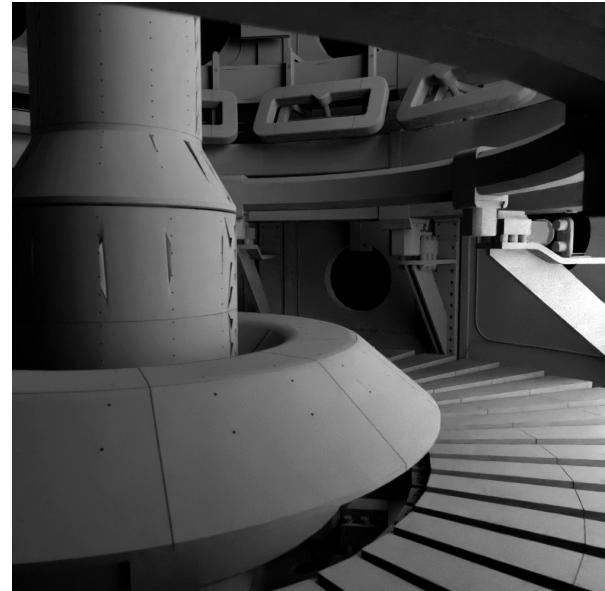
FNO Over Camera

Modelling the plasma as diagnostically captured by the Fast Cameras on MAST

Modelled over the entire shot duration of 55 shots
from the last campaign on MAST (M9)



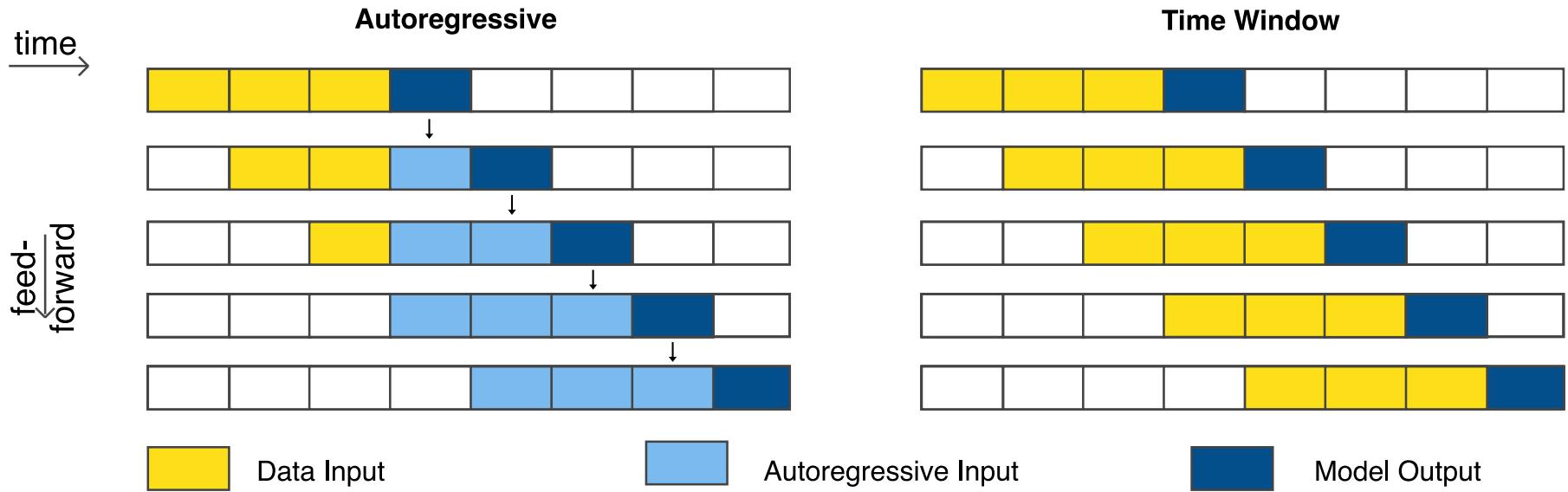
Camera viewing the
central solenoid (rbb)^[1]



Camera viewing the
divertor (rba)^[1]

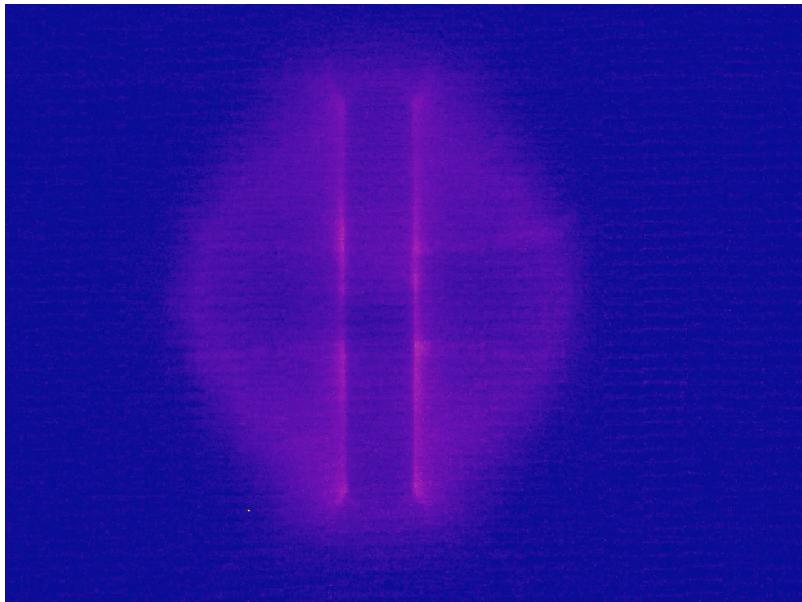
[1] Synthetic renders of the camera views created using the CAD model of MAST and Nvidia Omniverse.

Autoregressive vs Time Window

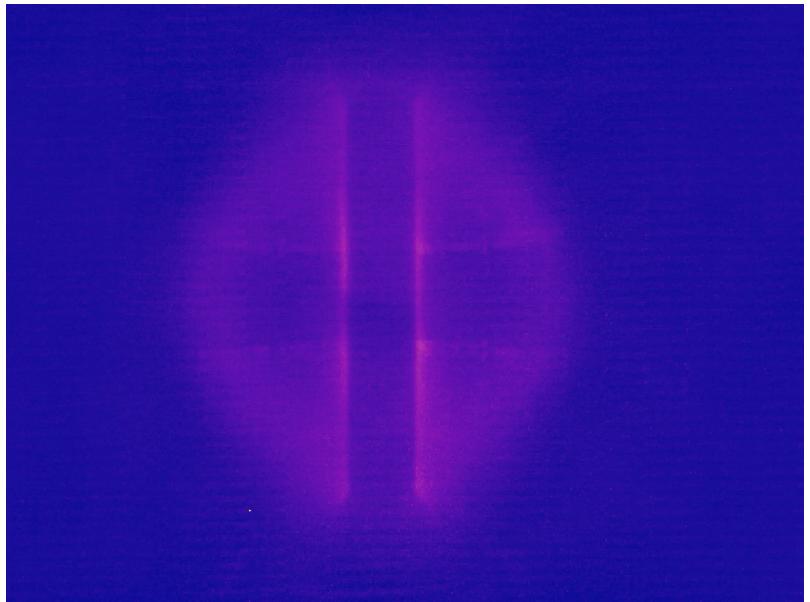


Camera viewing the central solenoid (rbb)

Camera

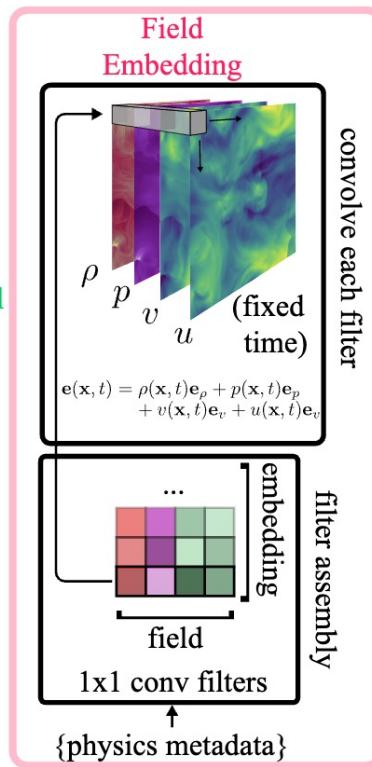
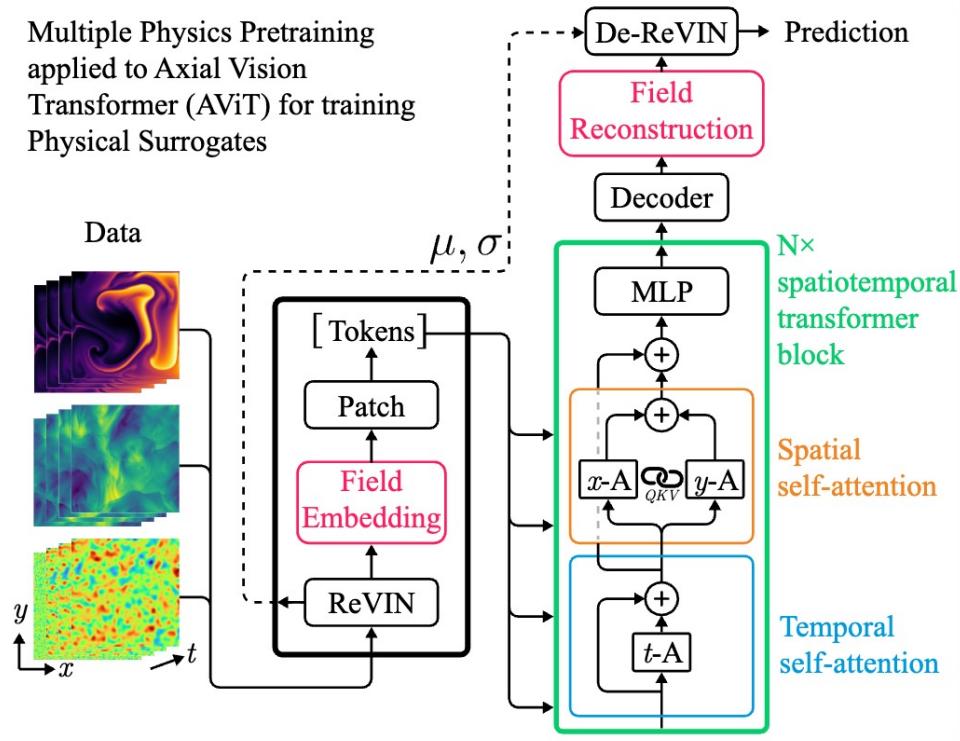


FNO



Foundation Physics Models

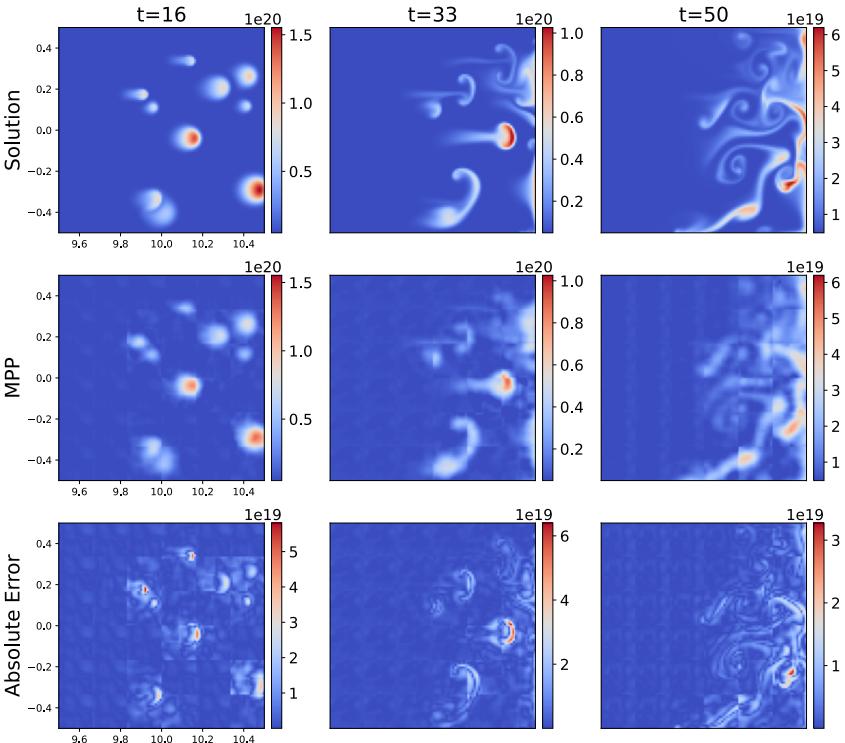
Multiple Physics Pretraining applied to Axial Vision
 Transformer (AViT) for training
 Physical Surrogates



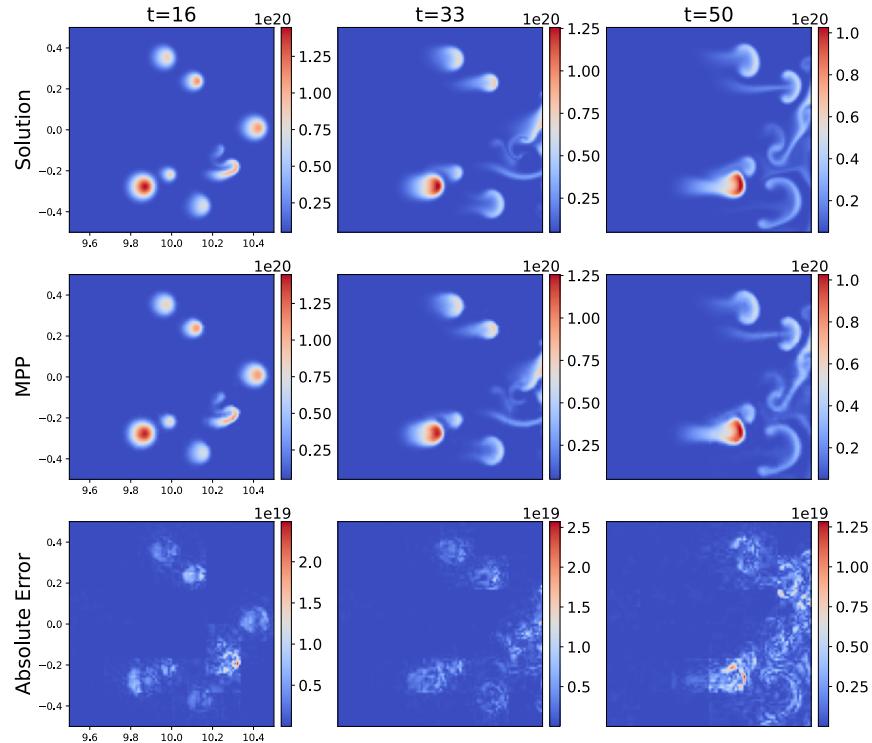
Source:

Multiple Physics Pretraining for Physical Surrogate Models. McCabe et al., 2023

Foundation Physics Models

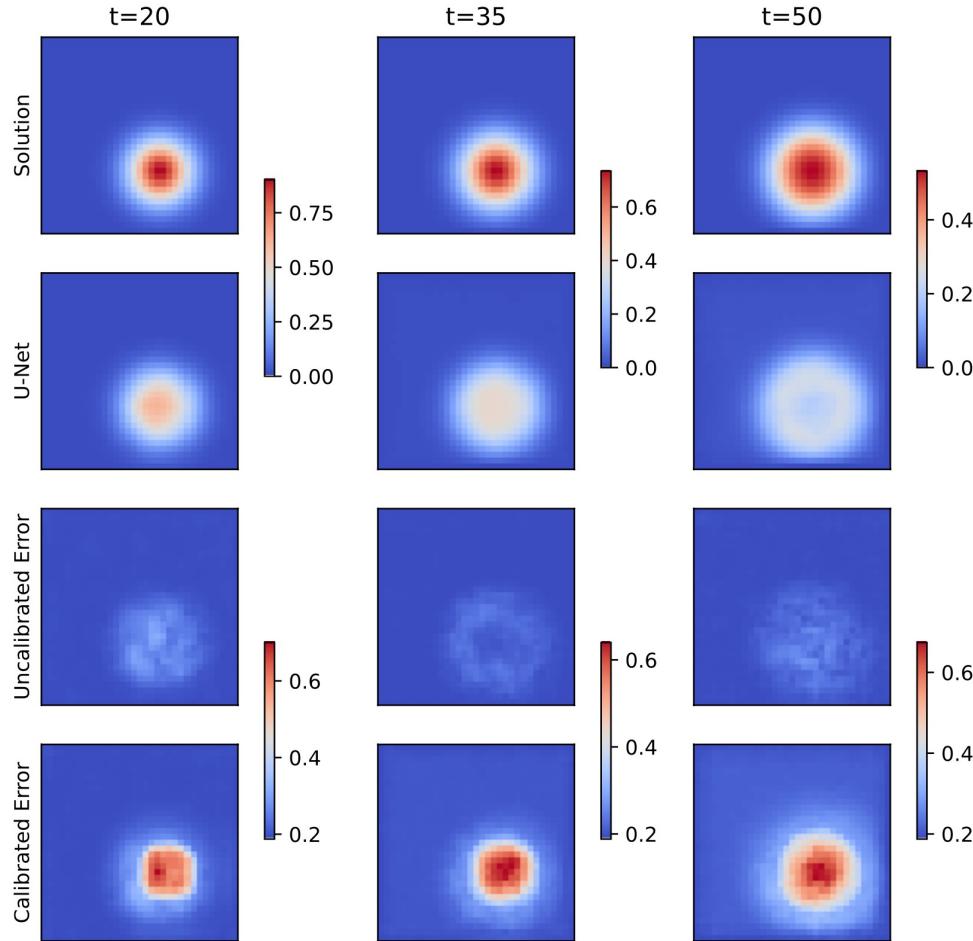


Zero-Shot

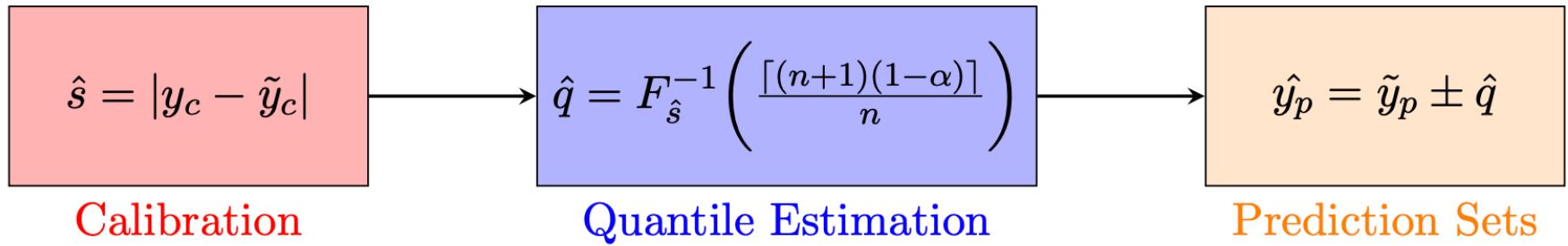


Fine-tuned: using only 10% of data.

Uncertainty Quantification via Conformal Prediction



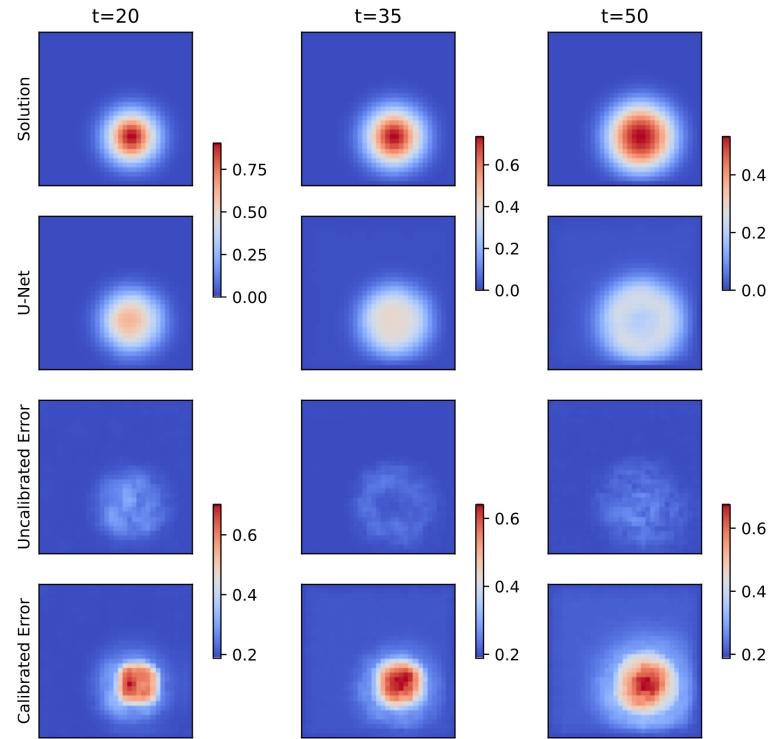
Inductive Conformal Prediction



$$\mathbb{P}(y_p \in \hat{y}_p^\alpha) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$

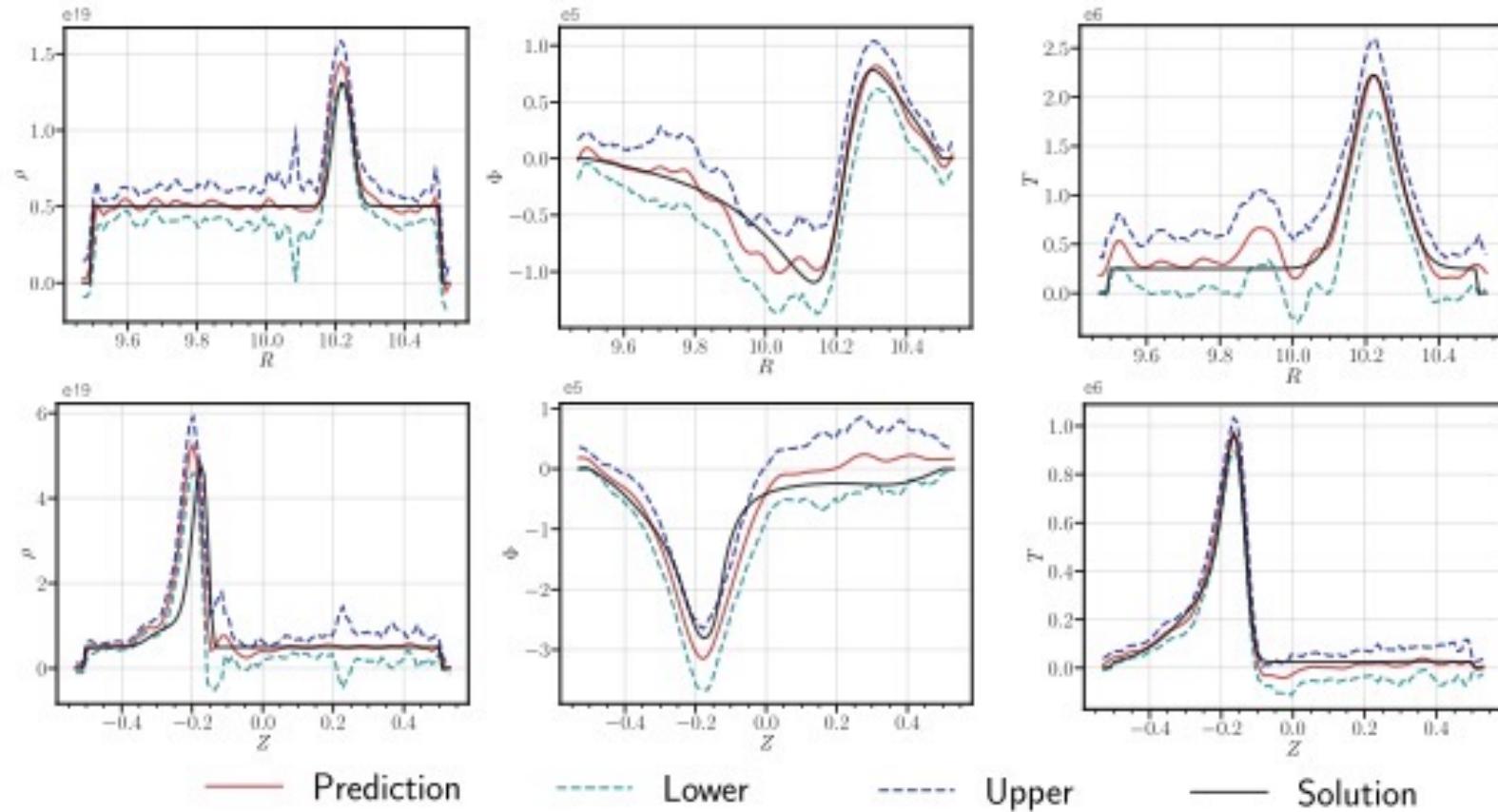
Conditional validity of inductive conformal predictors – Vladimir Vovk 2012.

Uncertainty Quantification via Conformal Prediction



Cell-wise Marginal Coverage across the Spatio-Temporal Domain of interest.

CP over the FNO-MHD

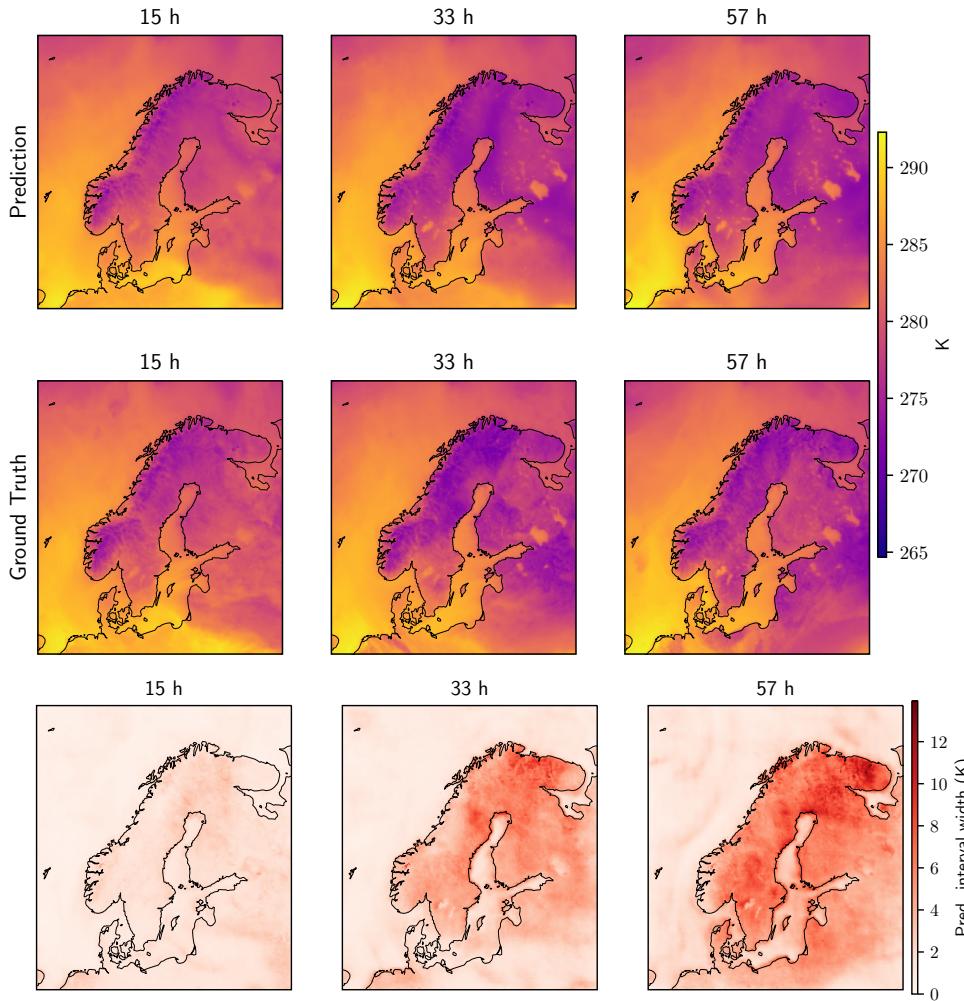


UQ for Neural Weather Models with CP

GraphCast modified for limited area model across the Nordic region.

Calibrated using weather data from **Sept. 2021** to predict over **Sept. 2022**.

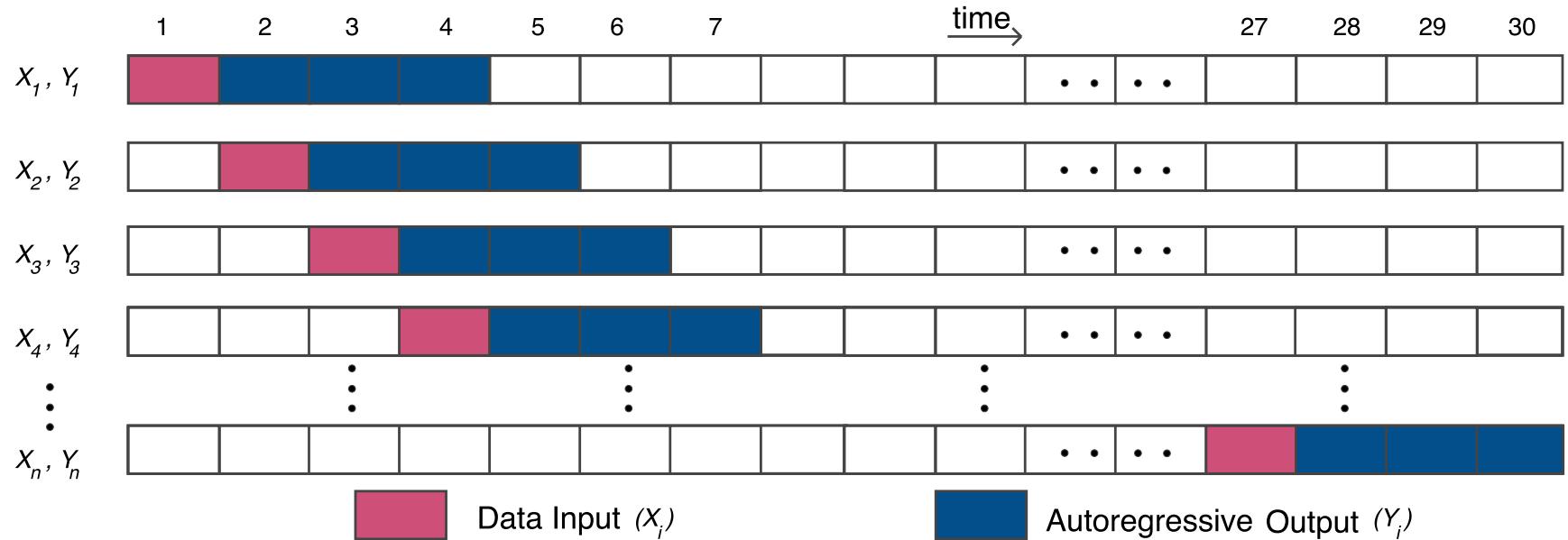
Plots for Temp. 2m above the surface.



Source:

Valid Error Bars for Neural Weather Models using Conformal Prediction. Gopakumar et al., 2024.

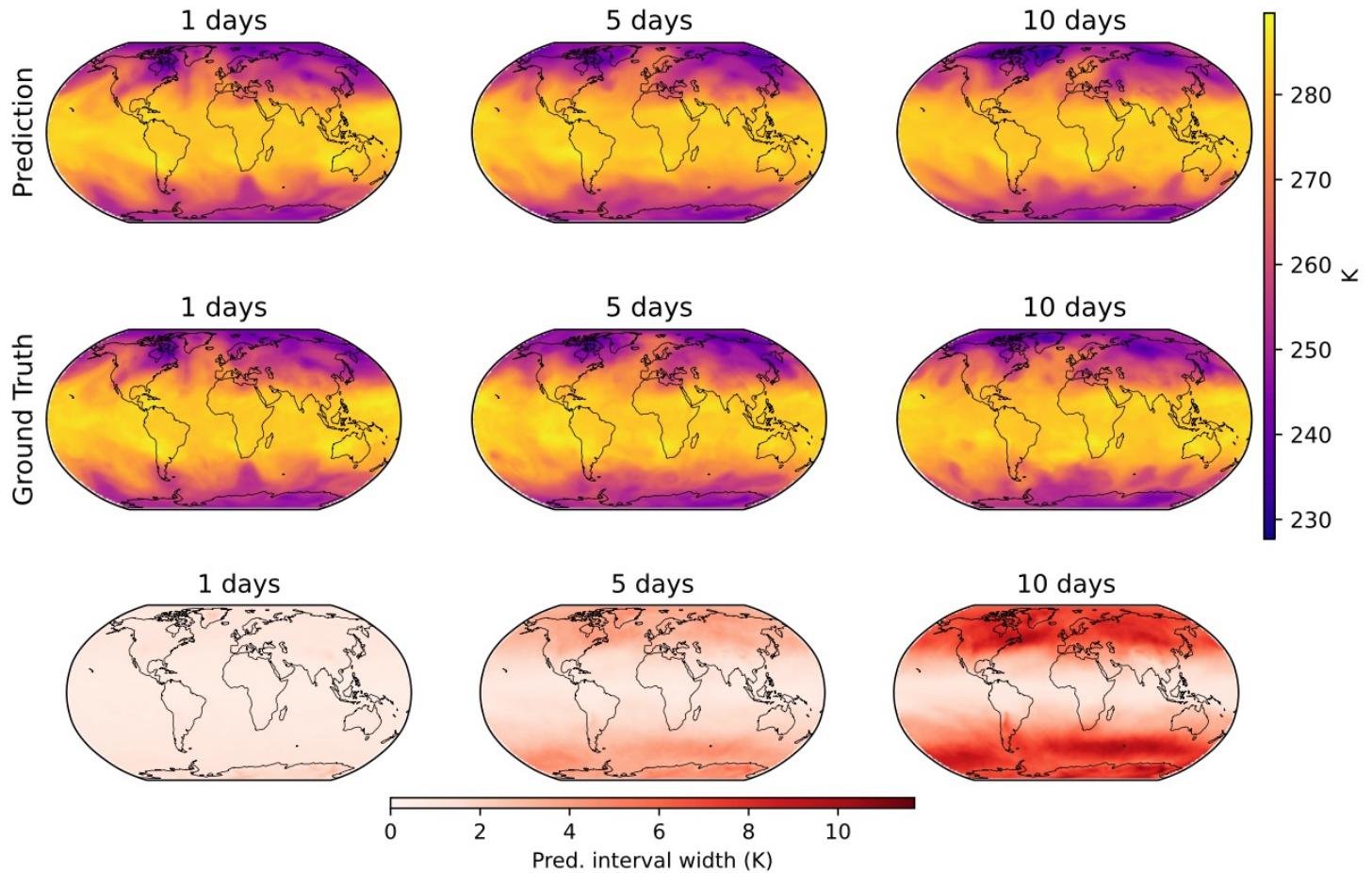
"Exchangeable Time Series"



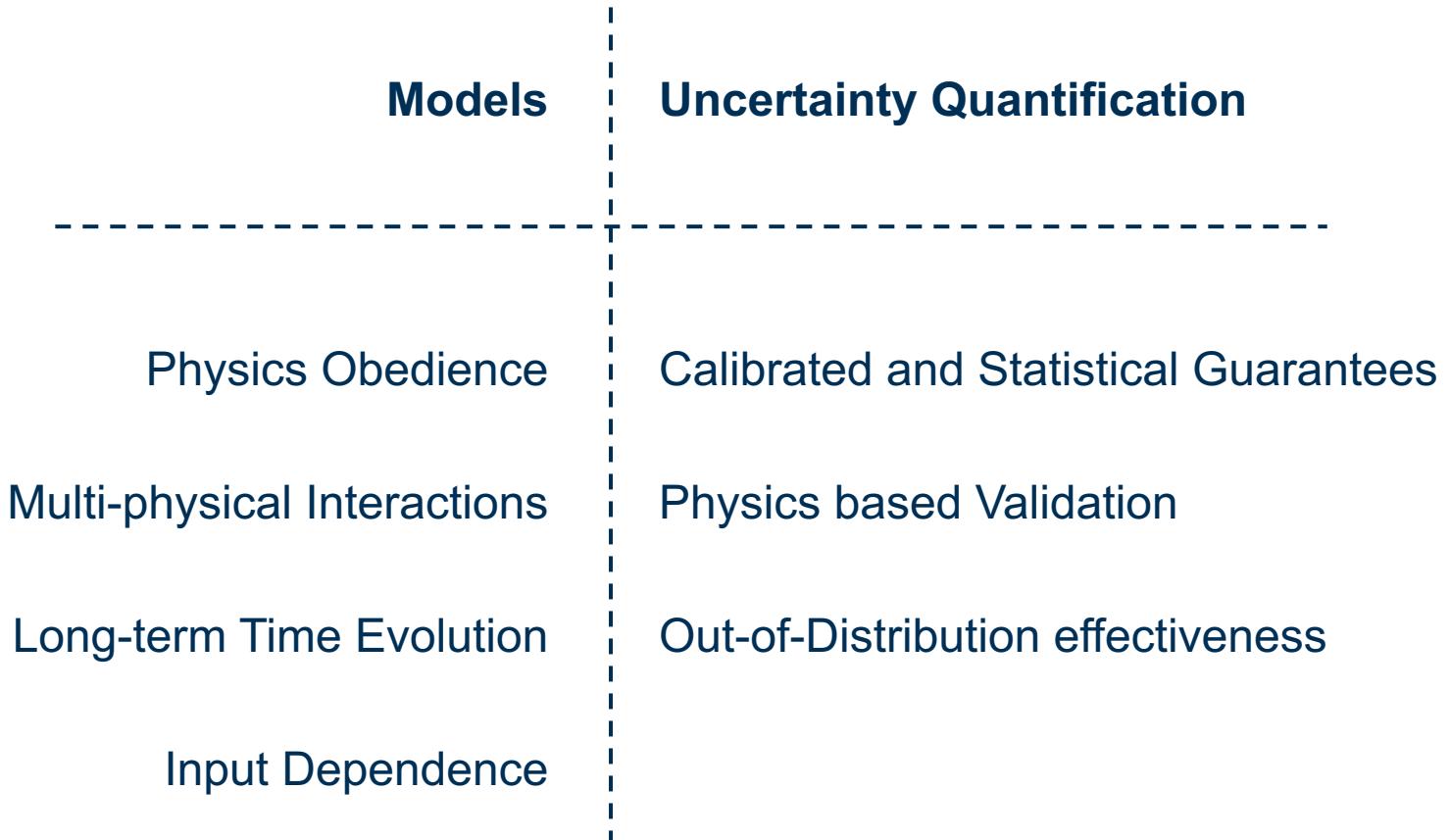
By treating the modelling task and thus the input-output pairs as an **initial value problem** with a **fixed time horizon** of interest.

Global forecasts :

Calibrated over 2018 and Predicted over 2019

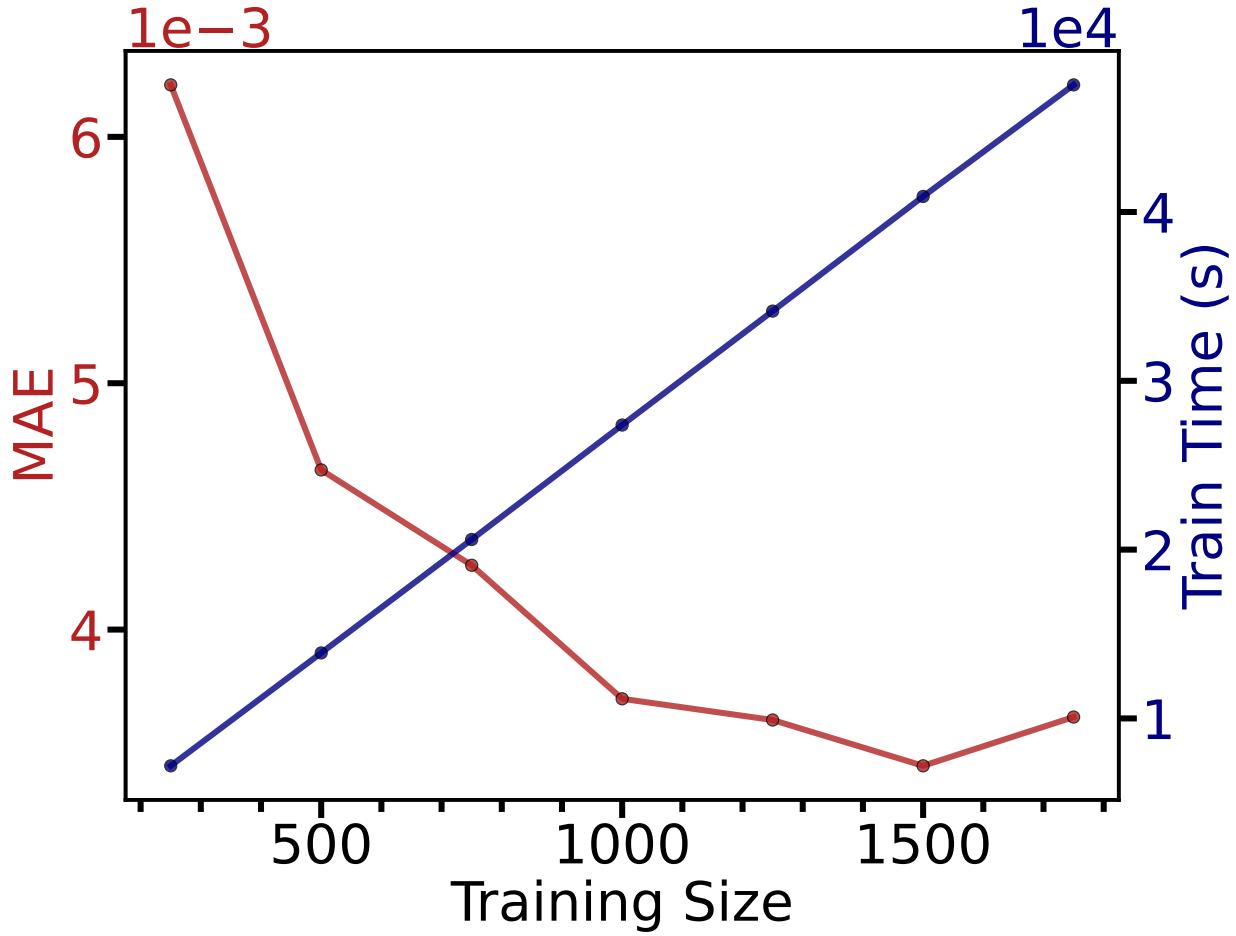


Major Challenges for Surrogate Modelling

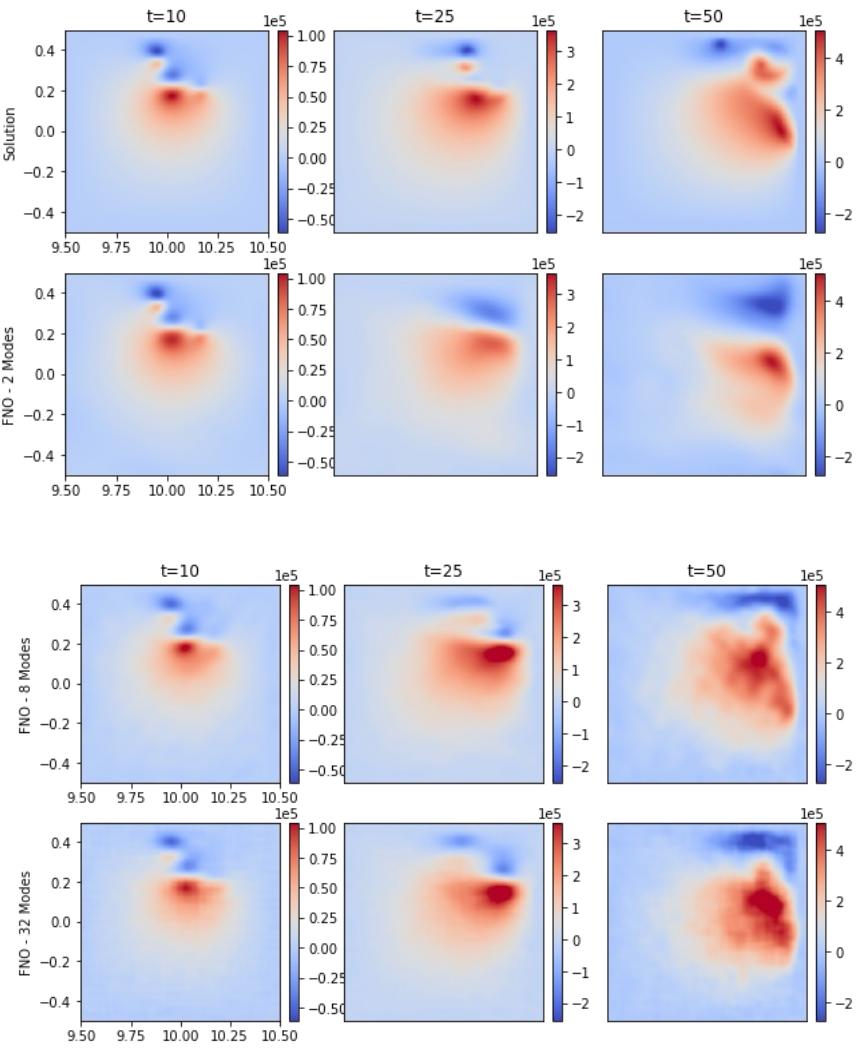
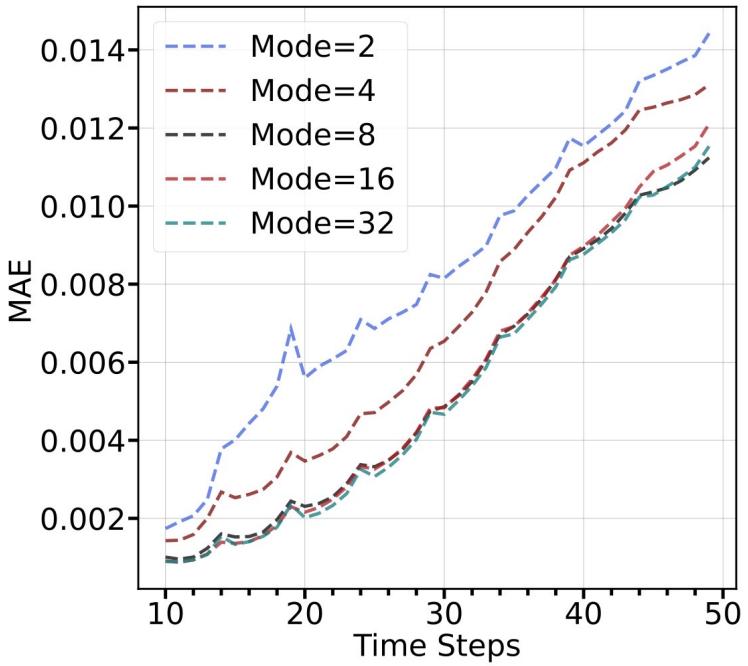


Supplementary Slides

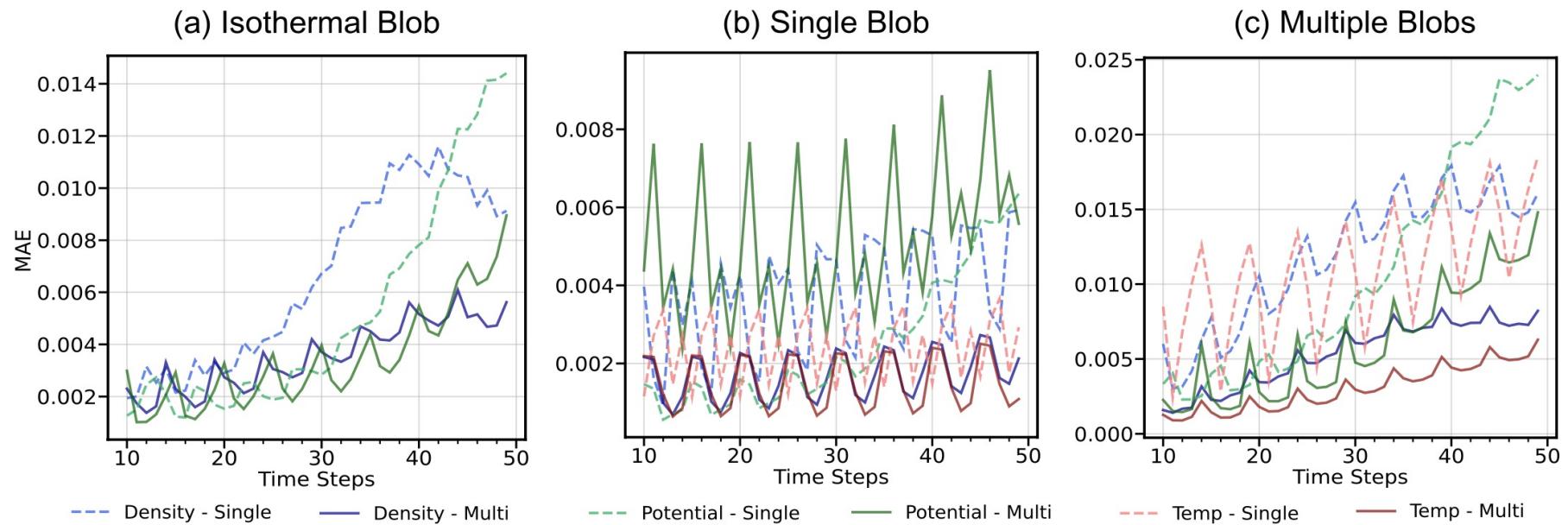
Impact of Training Data



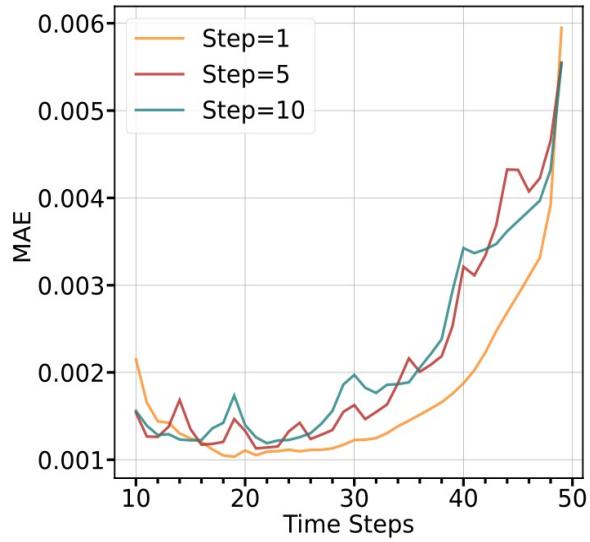
Mode Ablation Study



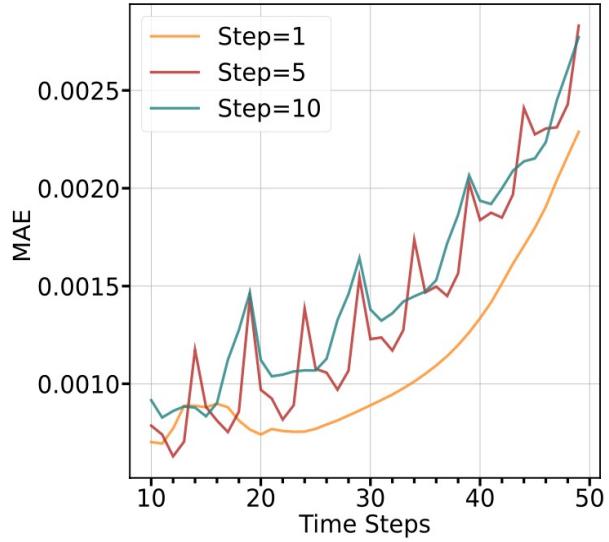
Individual FNO vs Multi-variable FNO



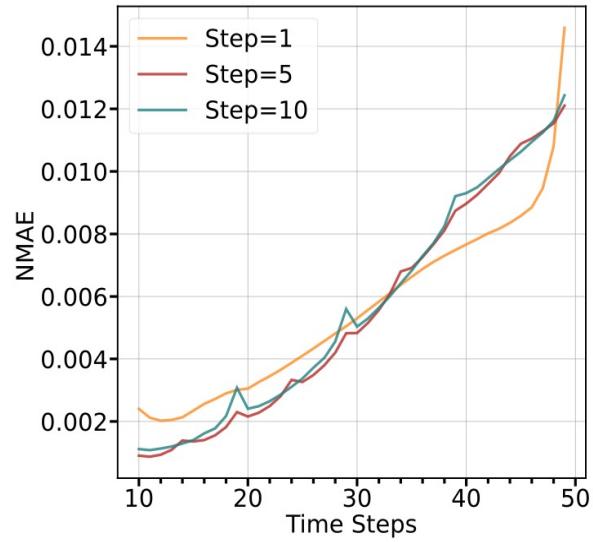
Impact of Step Size



(a) Isothermal Blob

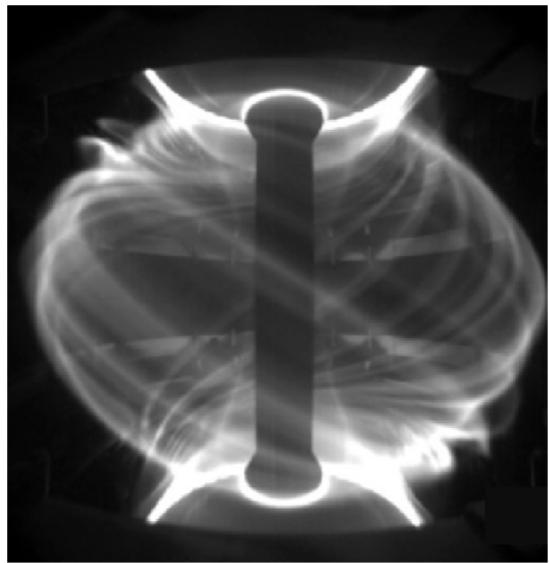


(b) Single Blob

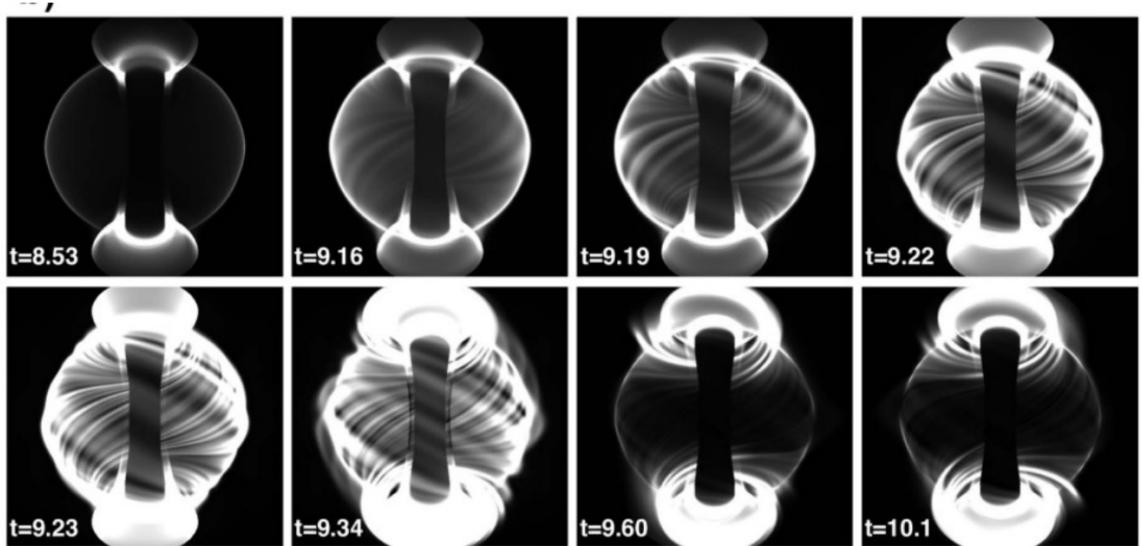


(c) Multi-blobs

Sim2Real Gap – Concepts



(a) Experiment



(b) Simulation