

# Multilevel domain decomposition-based architectures for physics-informed neural networks

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Based on joint work with Victorita Dolean (University of Strathclyde & University Côte d'Azur) and Sid Mishra and Ben Moseley (ETH Zürich)

## Artificial Neural Networks for Solving Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations

Isaac Elias Lagaris, Aristidis Likas, *Member, IEEE*, and Dimitrios I. Fotiadis

Published in **IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS, VOL. 9, NO. 5, 1998.**

### Approach

Solve a general differential equation subject to boundary conditions

$$G(x, \Psi(x), \nabla\Psi(x), \nabla^2\Psi(x)) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

by solving an **optimization problem**

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{x_i} G(x_i, \Psi_t(x_i, \theta), \nabla\Psi_t(x_i, \theta), \nabla^2\Psi_t(x_i, \theta))^2$$

where  $\Psi_t(x, \theta)$  is a **trial function**,  $x_i$  sampling points inside the domain  $\Omega$  and  $\theta$  are adjustable parameters.

### Construction of the trial functions

The trial functions **explicitly satisfy the boundary conditions**:

$$\Psi_t(x, \theta) = A(x) + F(x, N(x, \theta))$$

- $N$  is a **feedforward neural network** with **trainable parameters**  $\theta$  and input  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- $A$  and  $F$  are **fixed functions**, chosen s.t.:
  - $A$  satisfies the **boundary conditions**
  - $F$  does not contribute to the **boundary conditions**

# Neural Networks for Solving Differential Equations

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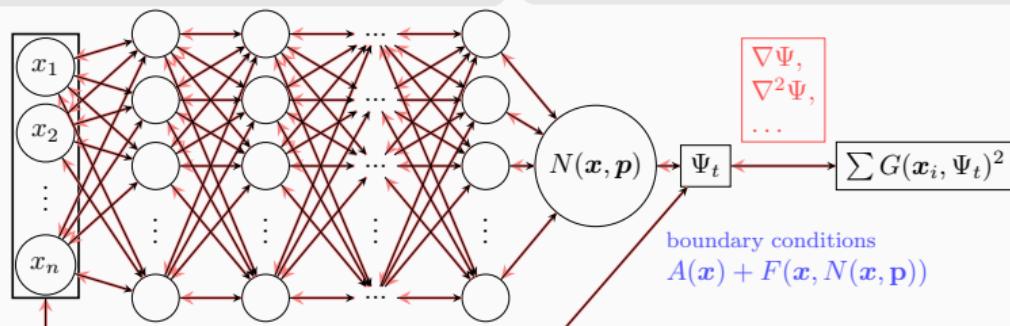
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# Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

In the **physics-informed neural network (PINN)** approach introduced by [Raissi et al. \(2019\)](#), a neural network is employed to **discretize a partial differential equation**

$$\mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}, t) = f(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad (\mathbf{x}, t) \in [0, T] \times \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d.$$

It is based on the approach by [Lagaris et al. \(1998\)](#). The main novelty of PINNs is the use of a **hybrid loss function**:

$$\mathcal{L} = \omega_{\text{data}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} + \omega_{\text{PDE}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}},$$

where  $\omega_{\text{data}}$  and  $\omega_{\text{PDE}}$  are **weights** and

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{data}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} (u(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i, \hat{t}_i) - u_i)^2,$$

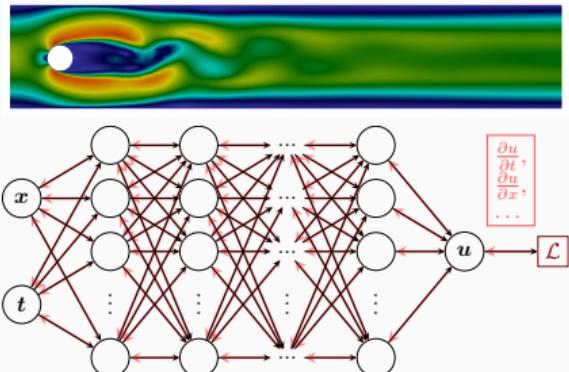
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{PDE}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{PDE}}} (\mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}_i, t_i) - f(\mathbf{x}_i, t_i))^2.$$

## Advantages

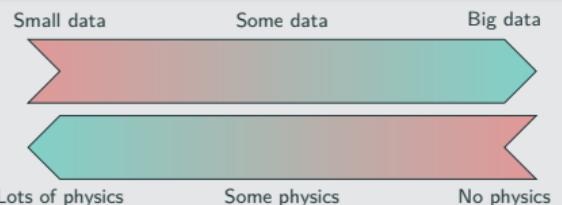
- "Meshfree"
- Small data
- Generalization properties
- High-dimensional problems
- Inverse and parameterized problems

## Drawbacks

- Training cost and robustness
- Convergence not well-understood
- Difficulties with scalability and multi-scale problems



## Hybrid loss



- Known solution values can be included in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$
- Initial and boundary conditions are also included in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$

Mishra and Molinaro. *Estimates on the generalisation error of PINNs, 2022*

## Estimate of the generalization error

The generalization error (or total error) satisfies

$$\mathcal{E}_G \leq C_{\text{PDE}} \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{T}} + C_{\text{PDE}} C_{\text{quad}}^{1/p} N^{-\alpha/p}$$

where

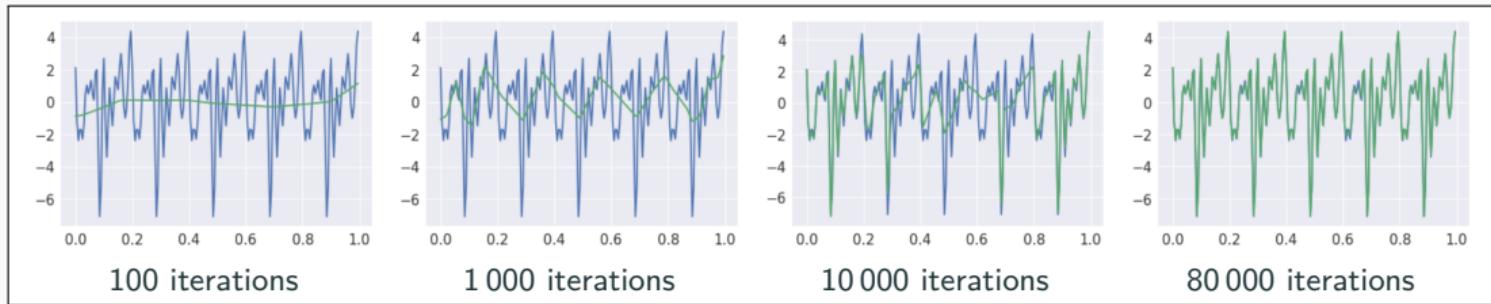
- $\mathcal{E}_G = \mathcal{E}_G(\theta; \mathbf{X}) := \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^*\|_V$  ( $V$  Sobolev space,  $\mathbf{X}$  training data set)
- $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{T}}$  is the training error ( $l^p$  loss of the residual of the PDE)
- $C_{\text{PDE}}$  and  $C_{\text{quad}}$  constants depending on the PDE resp. the quadrature
- $N$  number of the training points and  $\alpha$  convergence rate of the quadrature

Rule of thumb:

“As long as the PINN is trained well, it also generalizes well”

# Scaling Issues in Neural Network Training

- **Spectral bias: neural networks prioritize learning lower frequency functions first** irrespective of their amplitude



Rahaman et al., *On the spectral bias of neural networks*, ICML (2019)

- Solving solutions on **large domains and/or with multiscale features** potentially requires **very large neural networks**.
- Training may **not sufficiently reduce the loss** or take **large numbers of iterations**.
- Significant **increase on the computational work**

**Convergence analysis of PINNs via the neural tangent kernel: Wang, Yu, Perdikaris, When and why PINNs fail to train: A neural tangent kernel perspective, JCP (2022)**

# Motivation – Some Observations on the Performance of PINNs

Solve

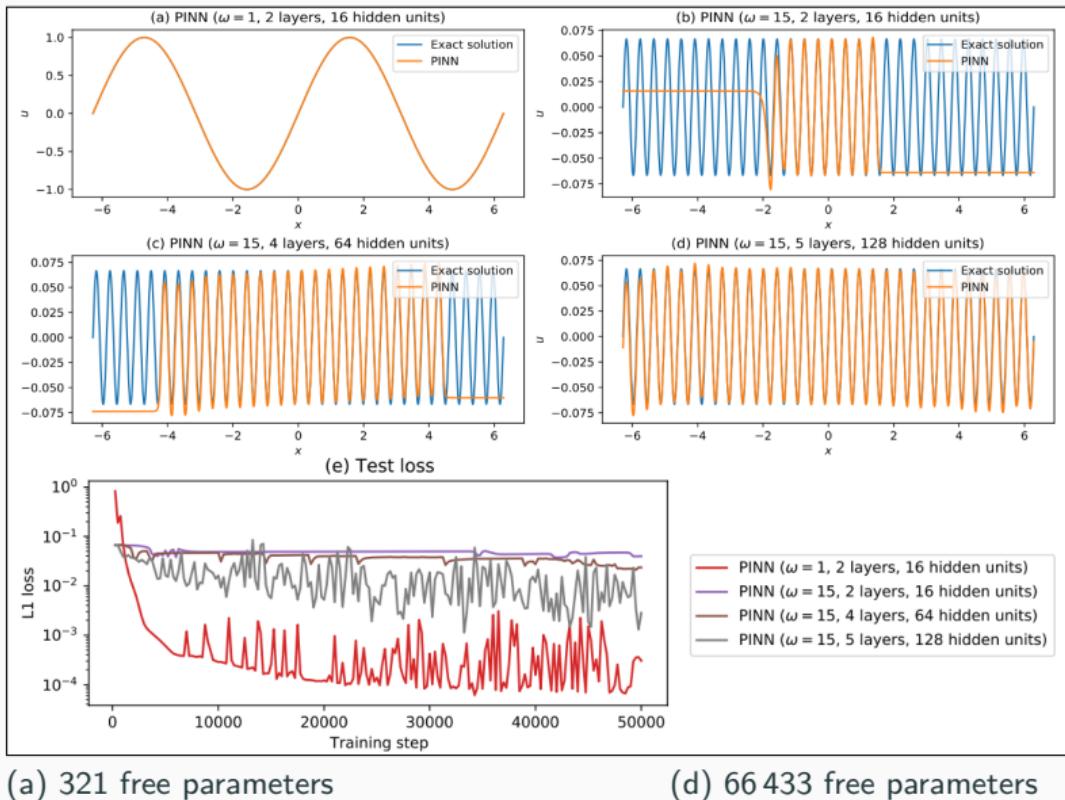
$$\begin{aligned} u' &= \cos(\omega x), \\ u(0) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

for different values of  $\omega$   
using PINNs with  
varying network  
capacities.

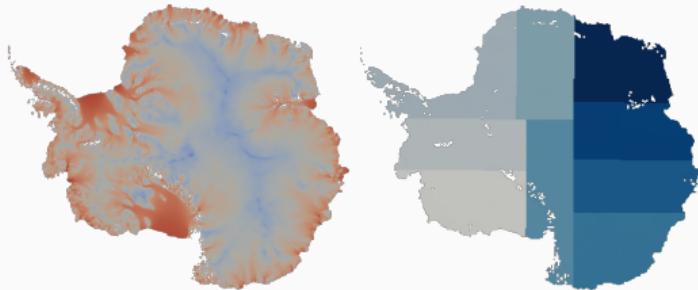
## Scaling issues

- Large computational domains
- Small frequencies

Cf. Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023)



# Domain Decomposition Methods



Images based on Heinlein, Perego, Rajamanickam (2022)

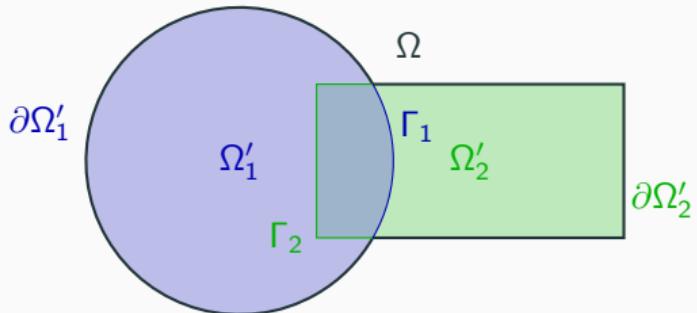
**Historical remarks:** The **alternating Schwarz method** is the earliest **domain decomposition method (DDM)**, which has been invented by **H. A. Schwarz** and published in **1870**:

- Schwarz used the algorithm to establish the **existence of harmonic functions** with prescribed boundary values on **regions with non-smooth boundaries**.

## Idea

Decomposing a large **global problem** into smaller **local problems**:

- Better **robustness** and **scalability** of numerical solvers
- Improved **computational efficiency**
- Introduce **parallelism**



# Machine Learning and Domain Decomposition Methods

A non-exhaustive overview:

- Machine Learning for adaptive BDDC, FETI-DP, and AGDSW: Heinlein, Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (2019, 2020, 2021, 2021, 2021, 2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (preprint 2022)
- Domain decomposition for CNNs: Gu, Zhang, Liu, Cai (2022); Lee, Park, Lee (2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (arXiv 2023)
- D3M: Li, Tang, Wu, and Liao (2019)
- DeepDDM: Li, Xiang, Xu (2020); Mercier, Gratton, Boudier (arXiv 2021); Li, Wang, Cui, Xiang, Xu (2023); Sun, Xu, Yi (arXiv 2022, arXiv 2023)
- FBPINNs: Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023); Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (accepted 2023, submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486)
- Schwarz Domain Decomposition Algorithm for PINNs: Kim, Yang (2022, arXiv 2022)
- cPINNs: Jagtap, Kharazmi, Karniadakis (2020)
- XPINNs: Jagtap, Karniadakis (2020)

An overview of the state-of-the-art in early 2021:

-  A. Heinlein, A. Klawonn, M. Lanser, J. Weber.

**Combining machine learning and domain decomposition methods for the solution of partial differential equations — A review.**

GAMM-Mitteilungen. 2021.

# Finite Basis Physics-Informed Neural Networks (FBPINNs)

In the **finite basis physics informed neural network (FBPINNs)** method introduced in [Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer \(2023\)](#), we solve the boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}) &= f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \mathcal{B}_k[u](\mathbf{x}) &= g_k(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_k \subset \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

using the **PINN** approach and **hard enforcement of the boundary conditions**, similar to [Lagaris et al. \(1998\)](#).

**FBPINNs** use the **network architecture**

$$u(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \mathcal{C} \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j(\theta_j)$$

and the **loss function**

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( n[\mathcal{C} \sum_{x_i \in \Omega_j} \omega_j u_j](\mathbf{x}_i, \theta_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2.$$

- **Overlapping DD:**  $\Omega = \bigcup_{j=1}^J \Omega_j$
- **Window functions**  $\omega_j$  with  $\text{supp}(\omega_j) \subset \Omega_j$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j \equiv 1$  on  $\Omega$

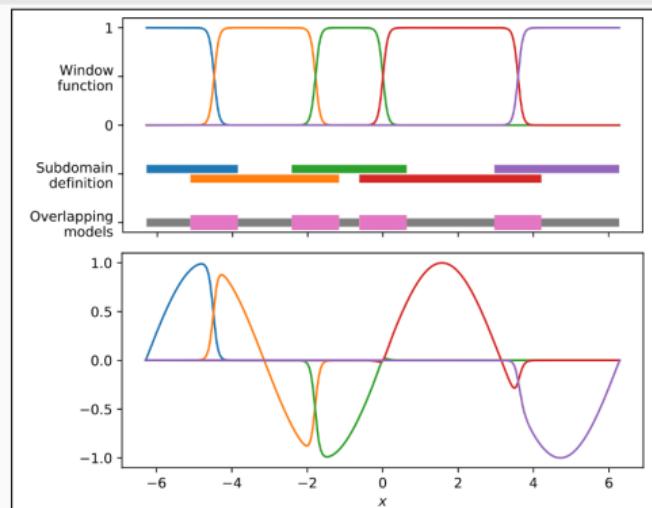
## Hard enforcement of boundary conditions

Loss function

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (n[\mathcal{C} u](\mathbf{x}_i, \theta) - f(\mathbf{x}_i))^2,$$

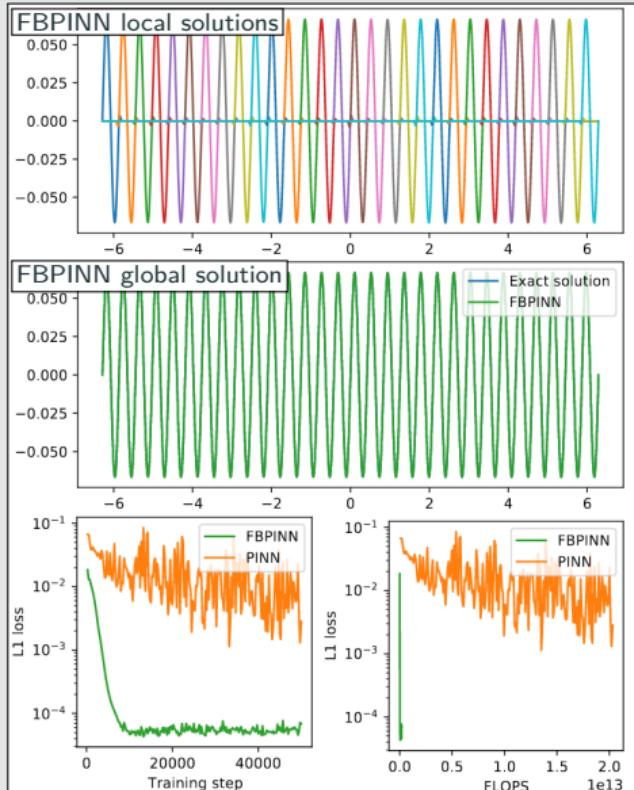
with constraining operator  $\mathcal{C}$ , which **explicitly enforces the boundary conditions**.

→ Often **improves training performance**



# Numerical Results for FBPINNs

## PINN Vs FBPINN (Moseley et al. (2023))



## Scalability of FBPINNs

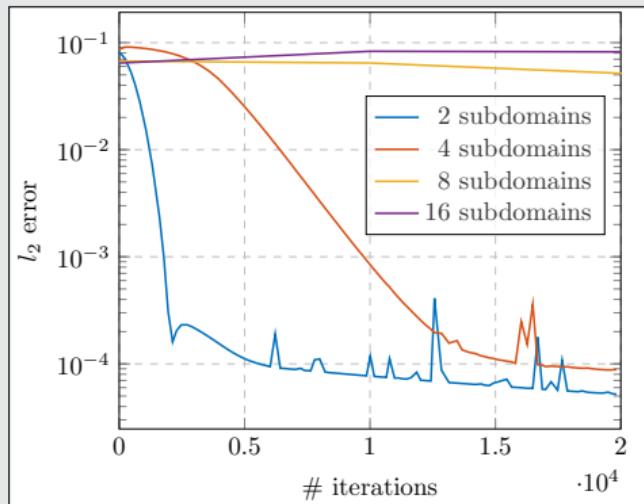
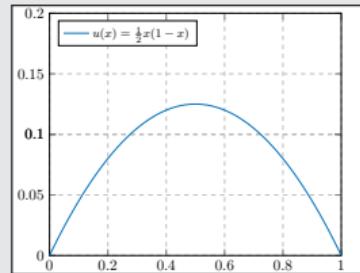
Consider the simple boundary value problem

$$-u'' = 1 \quad \text{in } [0, 1],$$

$$u(0) = u(1) = 0,$$

which has the solution

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{2}x(1 - x).$$



# Two-Level FBPINN Algorithm

## Coarse correction and spectral bias

Questions:

- Scalability requires **global transport of information**.  
This can be done via **coarse global problem**.
- What does this mean in the **context of network training**?

Idea:

→ Learn **low frequencies** using a **small** global network,  
train **high frequencies** using **local** networks.

Two-level FBPINN network architecture:

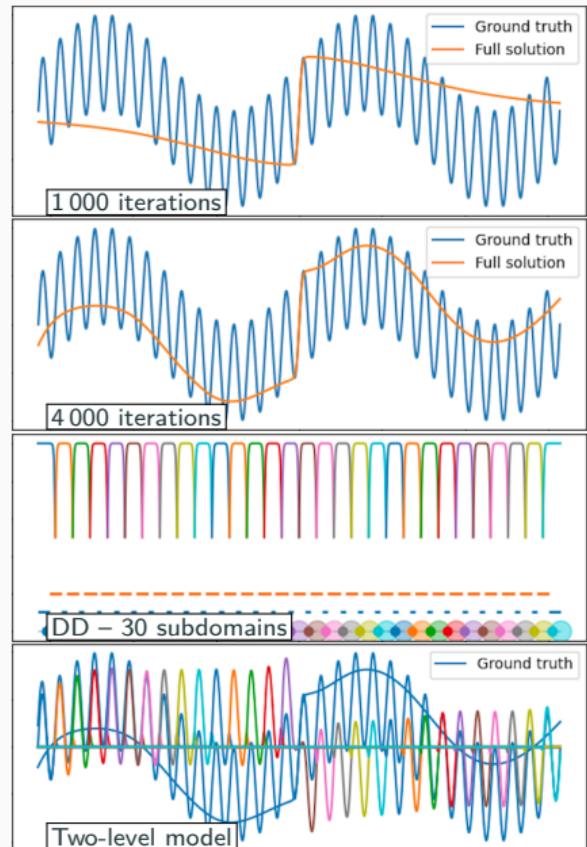
$$u(\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \mathcal{C} \left( u_0(\theta_0) + \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j(\theta_j) \right)$$

Consider a **simple model problem** with **two frequencies**

$$\begin{cases} u' &= \omega_1 \cos(\omega_1 x) + \omega_2 \cos(\omega_2 x) \\ u(0) &= 0. \end{cases}$$

with  $\omega_1 = 1$ ,  $\omega_2 = 15$ .

Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (accepted 2023).



# Numerical Results for FBPINNs – One Versus Two Levels

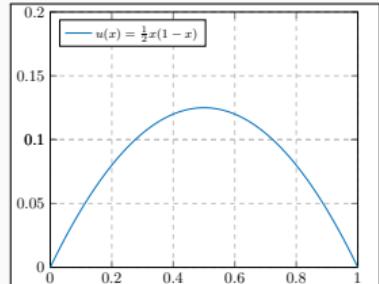
Consider, again, the **simple boundary value problem**

$$-u'' = 1 \quad \text{in } [0, 1],$$

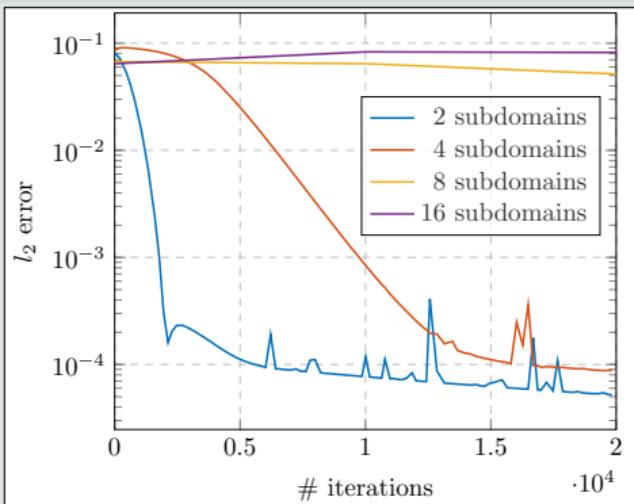
$$u(0) = u(1) = 0,$$

which has the **solution**

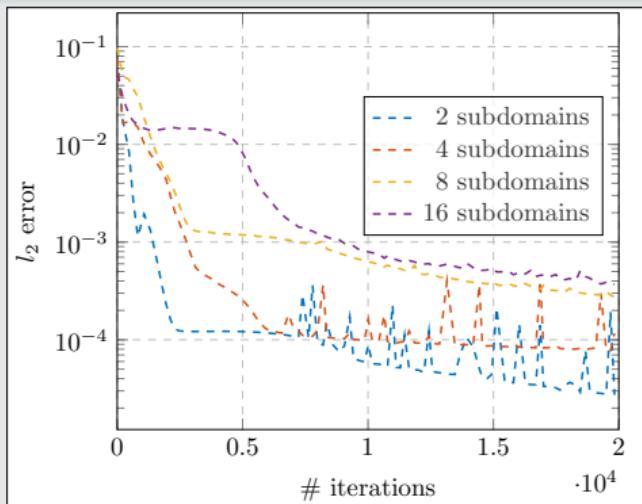
$$u(x) = \frac{1}{2}x(1-x).$$



## One-Level FBPINNs



## Two-Level FBPINNs



# Multi-Level FBPINN Algorithm

We introduce a **hierarchy of  $L$  overlapping domain decompositions**

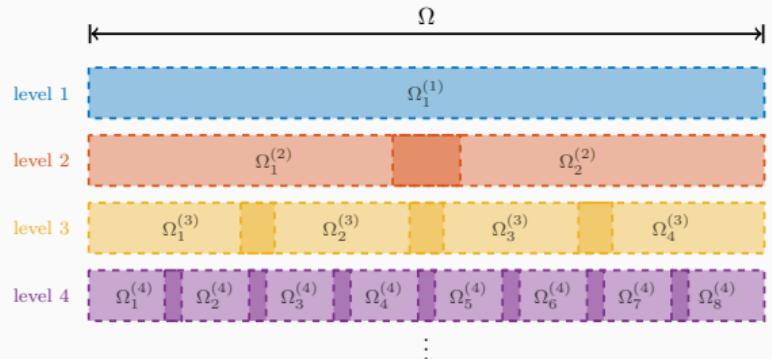
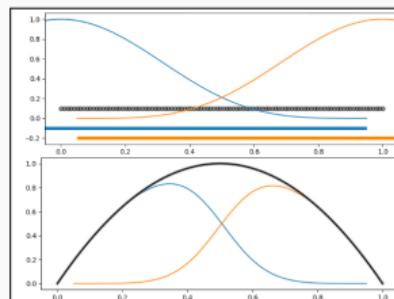
$$\Omega = \bigcup_{j=1}^{J(L)} \Omega_j^{(L)}$$

and corresponding window functions  $\omega_j^{(l)}$  with  $\text{supp}(\omega_j^{(l)}) \subset \Omega_j^{(l)}$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^{J(l)} \omega_j^{(l)} \equiv 1$  on  $\Omega$ .

This yields the  **$L$ -level FBPINN algorithm**:

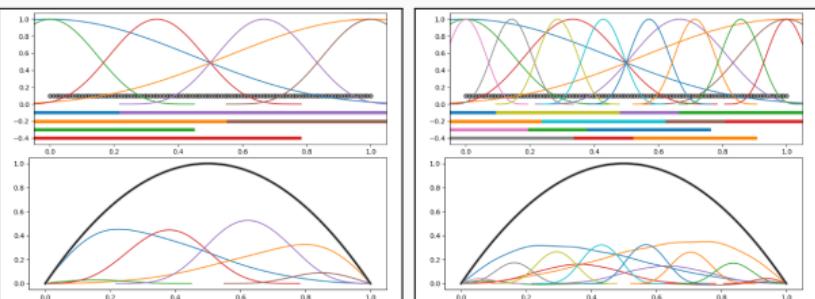
**$L$ -level network architecture**

$$u(\theta_1^{(1)}, \dots, \theta_{J(L)}^{(L)}) = \mathcal{C} \left( \sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{i=1}^{N(l)} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)}(\theta_j^{(l)}) \right)$$



**Loss function**

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( n[\mathcal{C} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \Omega_j^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)}](\mathbf{x}_i, \theta_j^{(l)}) - f(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2$$



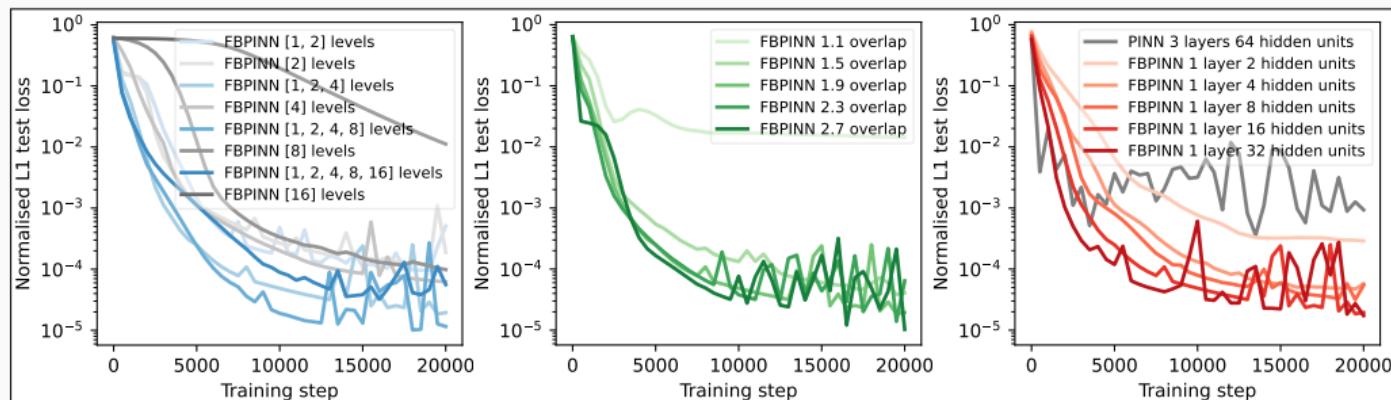
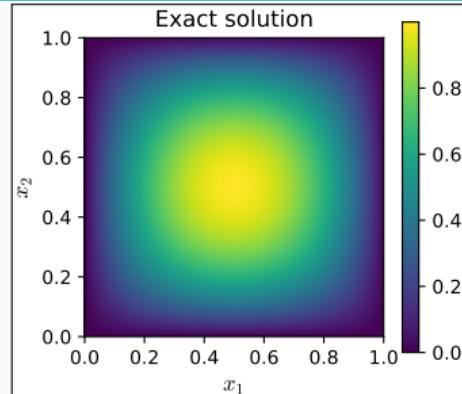
# Multilevel FBPINNs – 2D Laplace

Let us consider the **simple two-dimensional boundary value problem**

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 32(x(1-x) + y(1-y)) \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

which has the **solution**

$$u(x, y) = 16(x(1-x)y(1-y)).$$



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

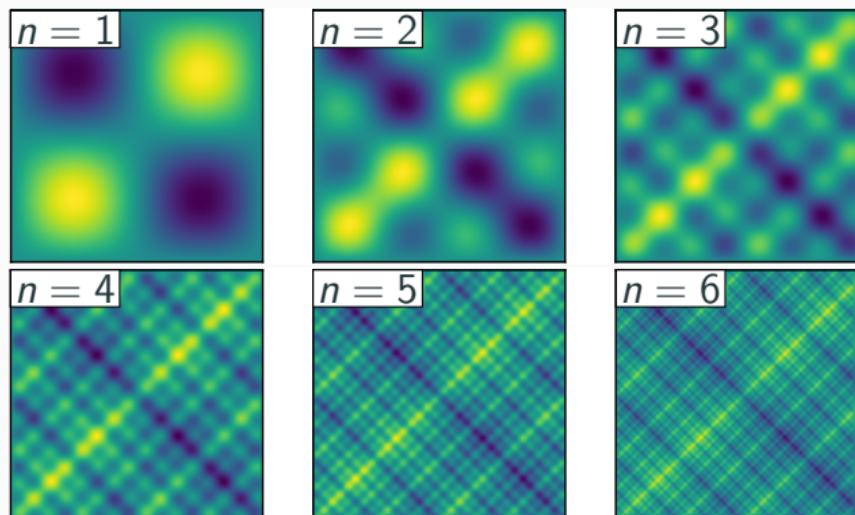
# Multi-Frequency Problem

Let us now consider the two-dimensional multi-frequency Laplace boundary value problem

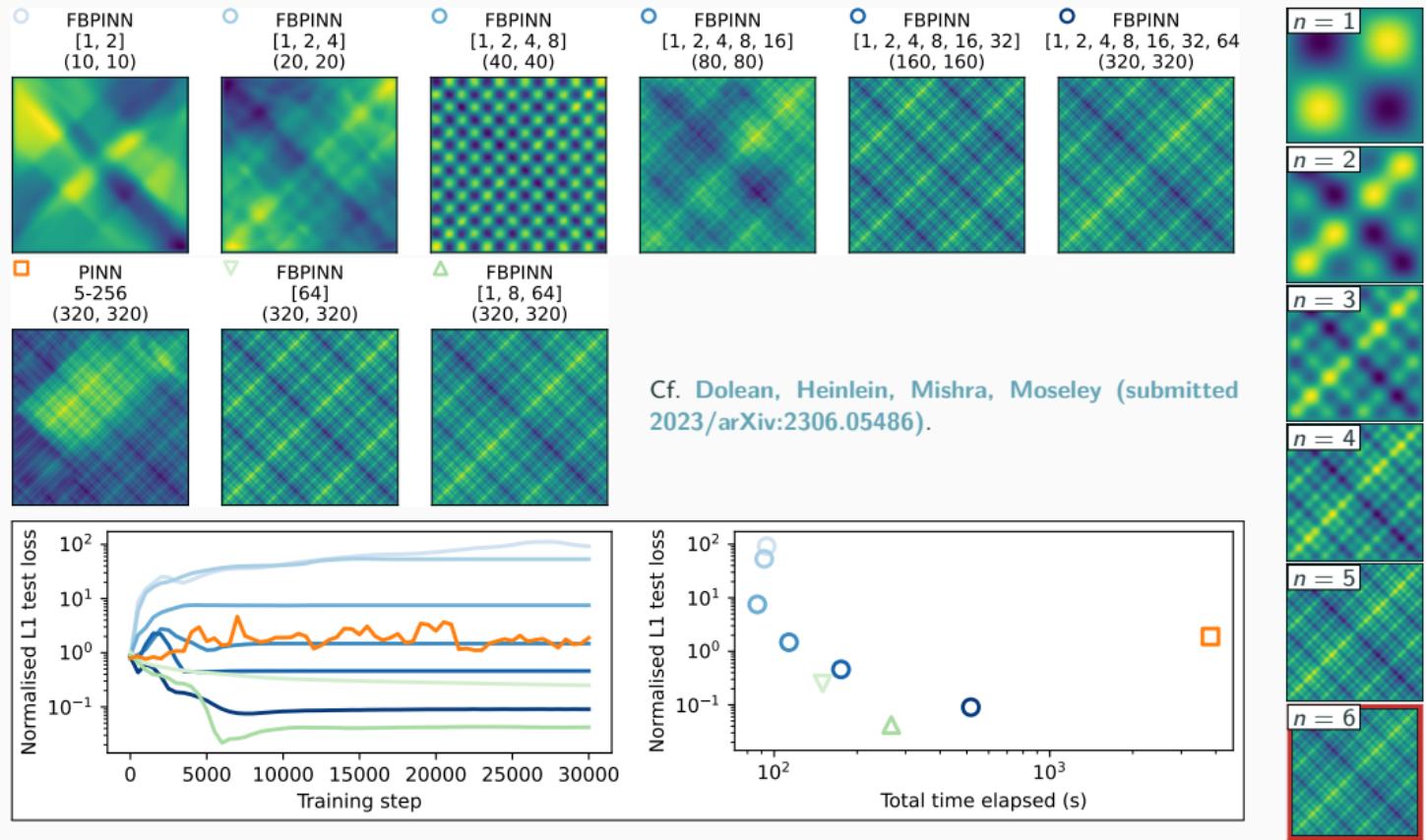
$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\omega_i \pi)^2 \sin(\omega_i \pi x) \sin(\omega_i \pi y) && \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

with  $\omega_i = 2^i$ .

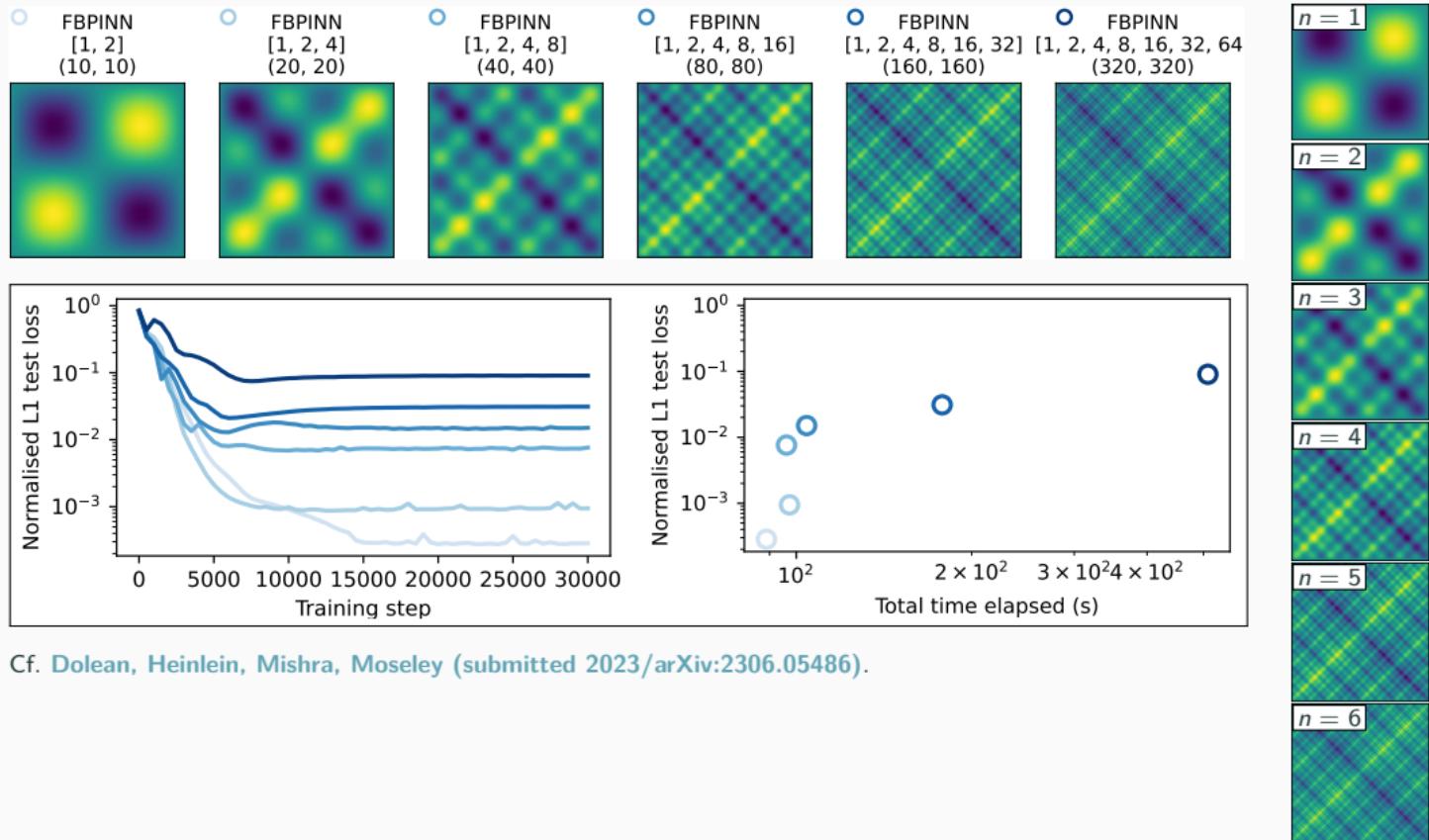
For increasing values of  $n$ , we obtain the **analytical solutions**:



# Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Strong Scaling



# Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Weak Scaling



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

# Helmholtz Problem

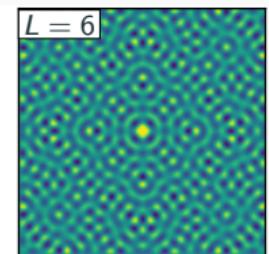
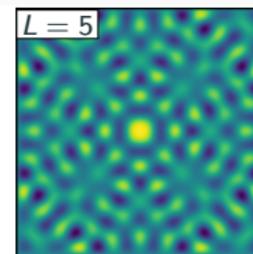
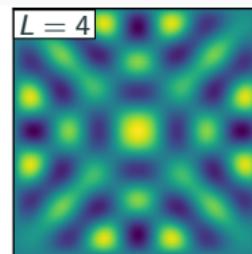
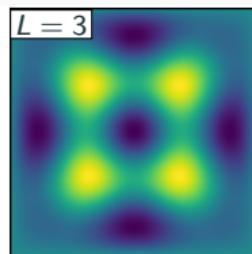
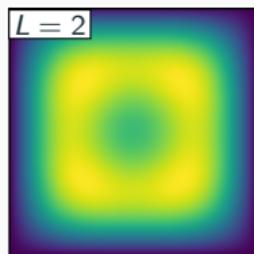
Finally, let us consider the **two-dimensional Helmholtz boundary value problem**

$$\Delta u - k^2 u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2,$$

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\|\mathbf{x}-0.5\|/\sigma)^2}.$$

With  $k = 2^L \pi / 1.6$  and  $\sigma = 0.8 / 2^L$ , we obtain the **solutions**:



# Multilevel FBPINNs – 2D Helmholtz Problem

Let us consider the **two-dimensional Helmholtz boundary value problem**

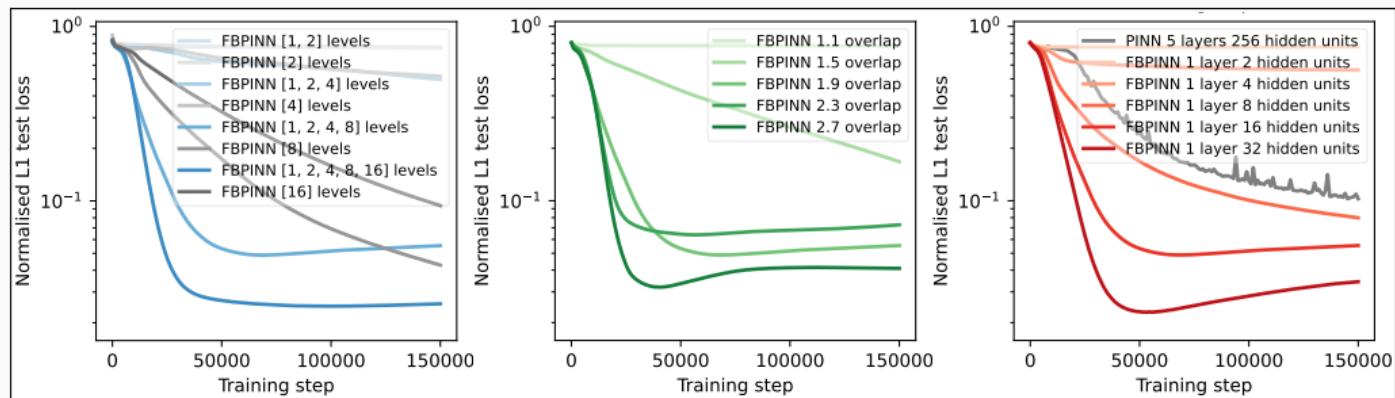
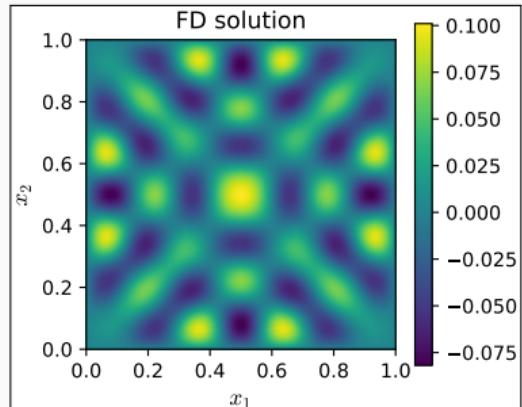
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$$f(x) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\|x-0.5\|/\sigma)^2}.$$

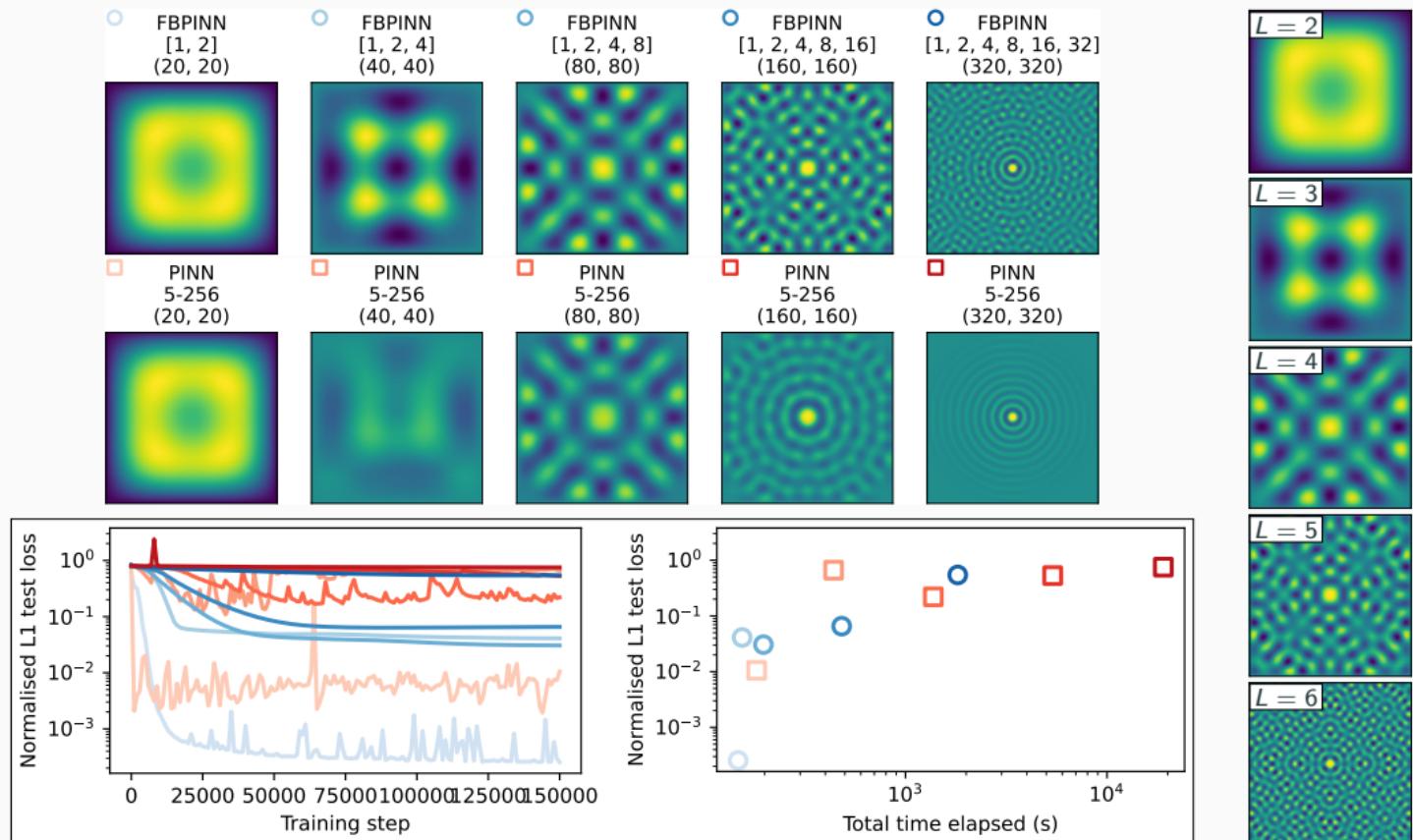
with  $k = 2^4\pi/1.6$  and  $\sigma = 0.8/2^4$ .

We compute a **reference solution** using **finite differences** with a 5-point stencil on a  $320 \times 320$  grid.



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

# Multi-Level FBPINNs for the Helmholtz Problem – Weak Scaling



## PINNs

- **Training of PINNs is often problematic** when:
  - scaling to large domains / high frequency solutions
  - multiple loss terms have to be balanced
- **Convergence of PINNs has yet to be understood better**

## (Multilevel) FBPINNs

- Schwarz domain decomposition approaches **improve the scalability of PINNs** to large domains / high frequencies, **keeping the complexity of the local networks low**
- As classical domain decomposition methods, **one-level FBPINNs** are **not scalable to large numbers of subdomains**; **multilevel FBPINNs enable scalability**.

## Outlook

- Investigate, e.g.,
  - more complex / realistic geometries and boundary conditions
  - unstructured domain decompositions
  - three dimensional problems (already possible in the implementation)
- Theoretical convergence analysis

**Thank you for your attention!**