

# Unet beats CNN in topology optimization

**Sy Nguyen-Van**

School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering

Final project: Deep Learning

November, 2025

# How to create lighter and safer structures ?

❖ How to create optimal designs:

- ✓ As lightweight as possible
- ✓ Strong enough to ensure safety



Bridge

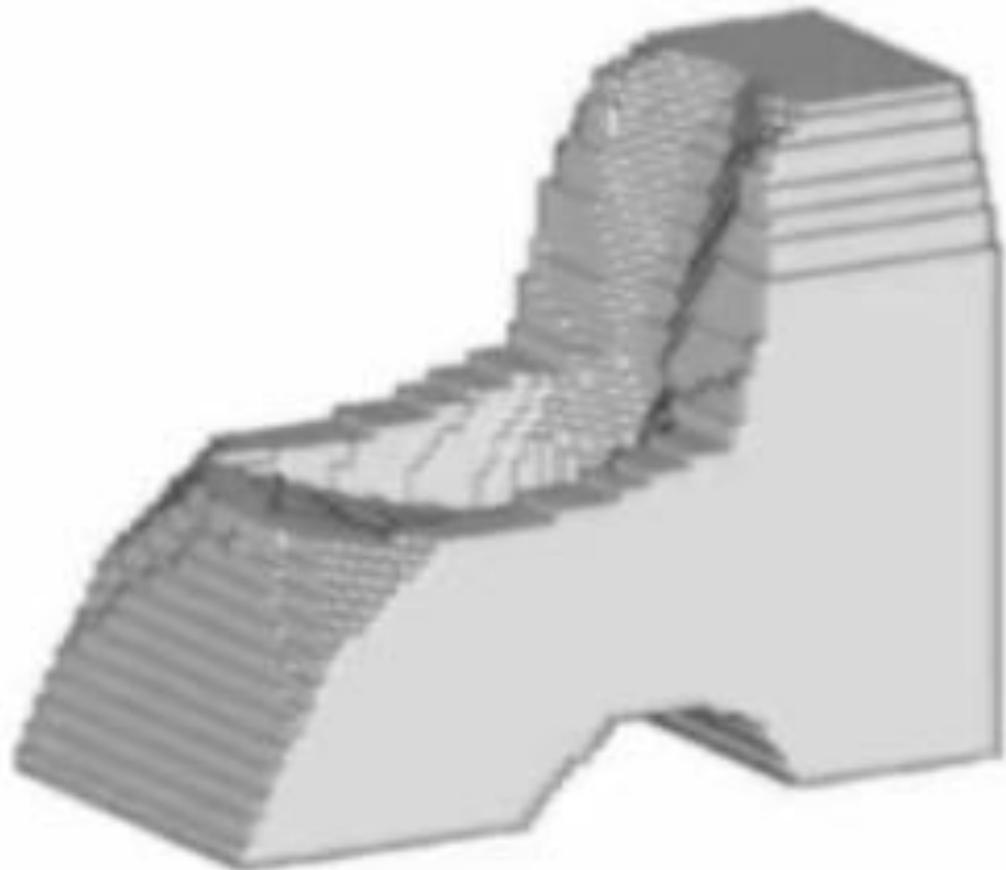
[www.usa.skanska.com](http://www.usa.skanska.com)



Aircraft wings

<https://pilotinstitute.com/>

# Topology optimization



Topology  
optimization



Topology optimization process

Optimal design

# Applications of topology optimization

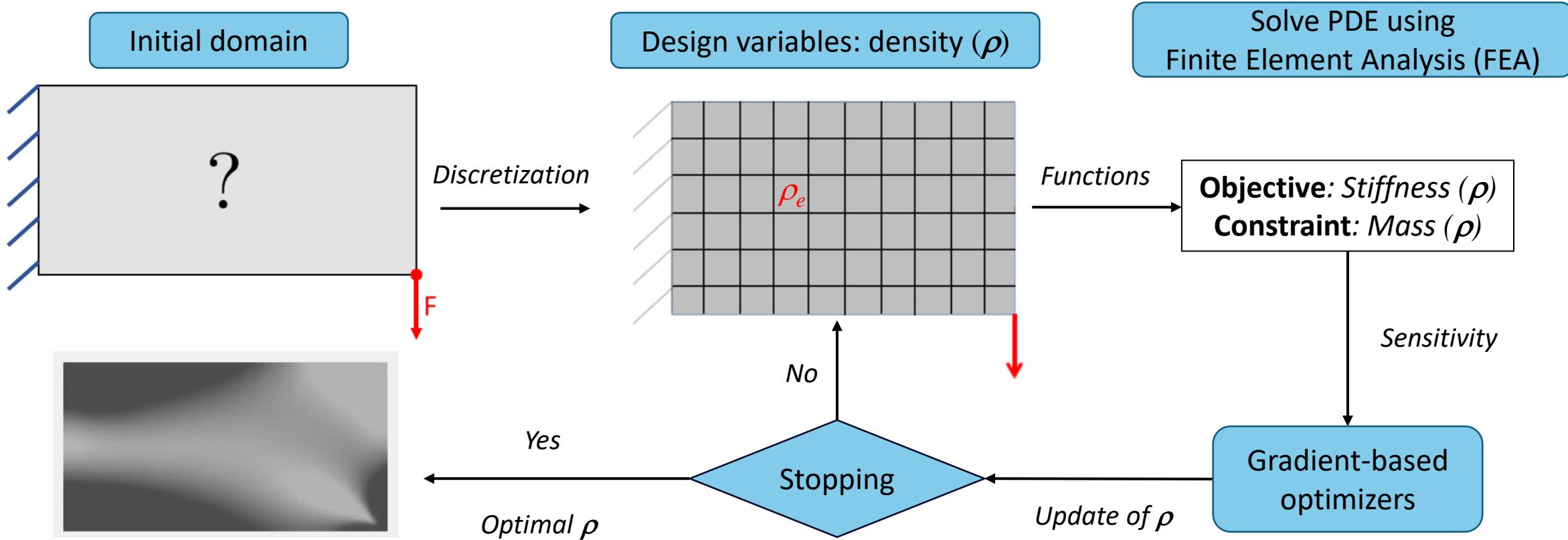


Optimal bridge design



Airbus use topology optimization in aircraft wings to save 1000 kg of weight

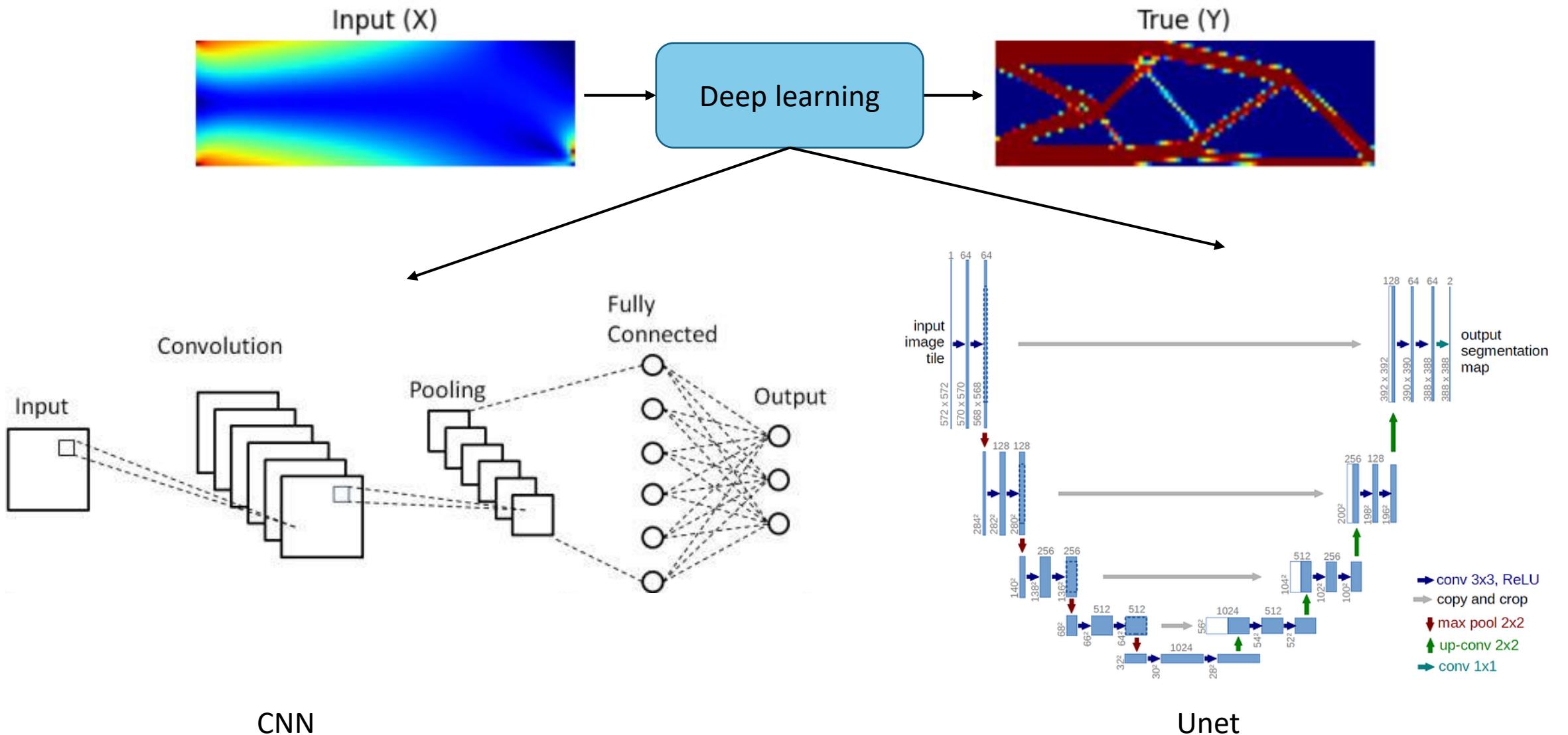
# Challenges in Topology Optimization



- 03 main challenges in Topology Optimization (TO)

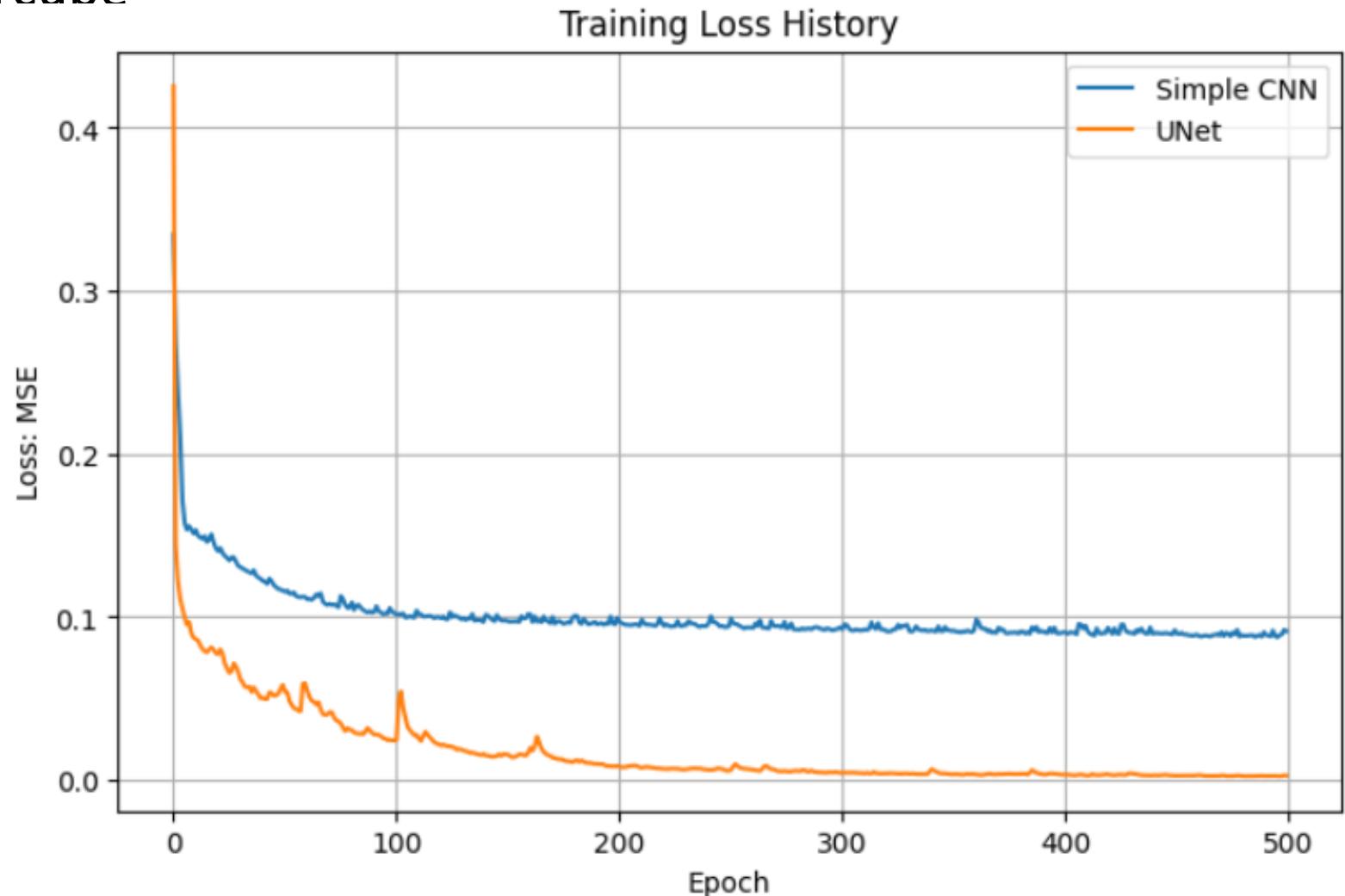
- *Solving PDE: Expensive*
- *Gradients: Error prone + Time consuming*
- *Iterative process: Expensive*

# Proposed deep learning



# Dataset and Training

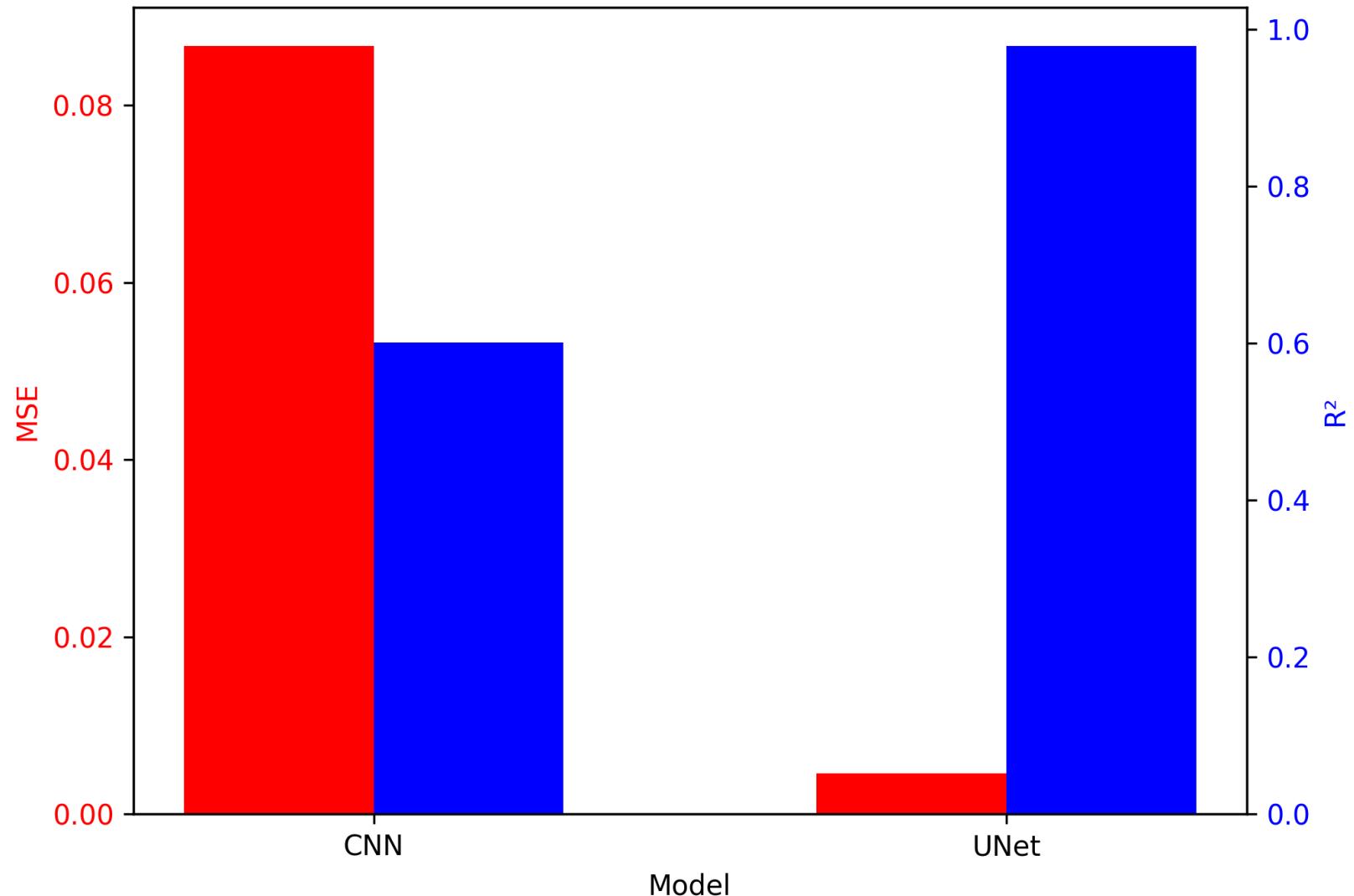
- ❖ 200 training: Latin Hypercube
- ❖ Input: 01 channel
- ❖ Output: 01 channel
- ❖ Parameters:
  - ✓ Stride = 1
  - ✓ Padding = 1
  - ✓ Learning rate = 1e-3
- ❖ Loss function: MSE
- ❖ Training time
  - ✓ CNN = 120s
  - ✓ Unet = 945s



# Testing data

❖ 50 for testing

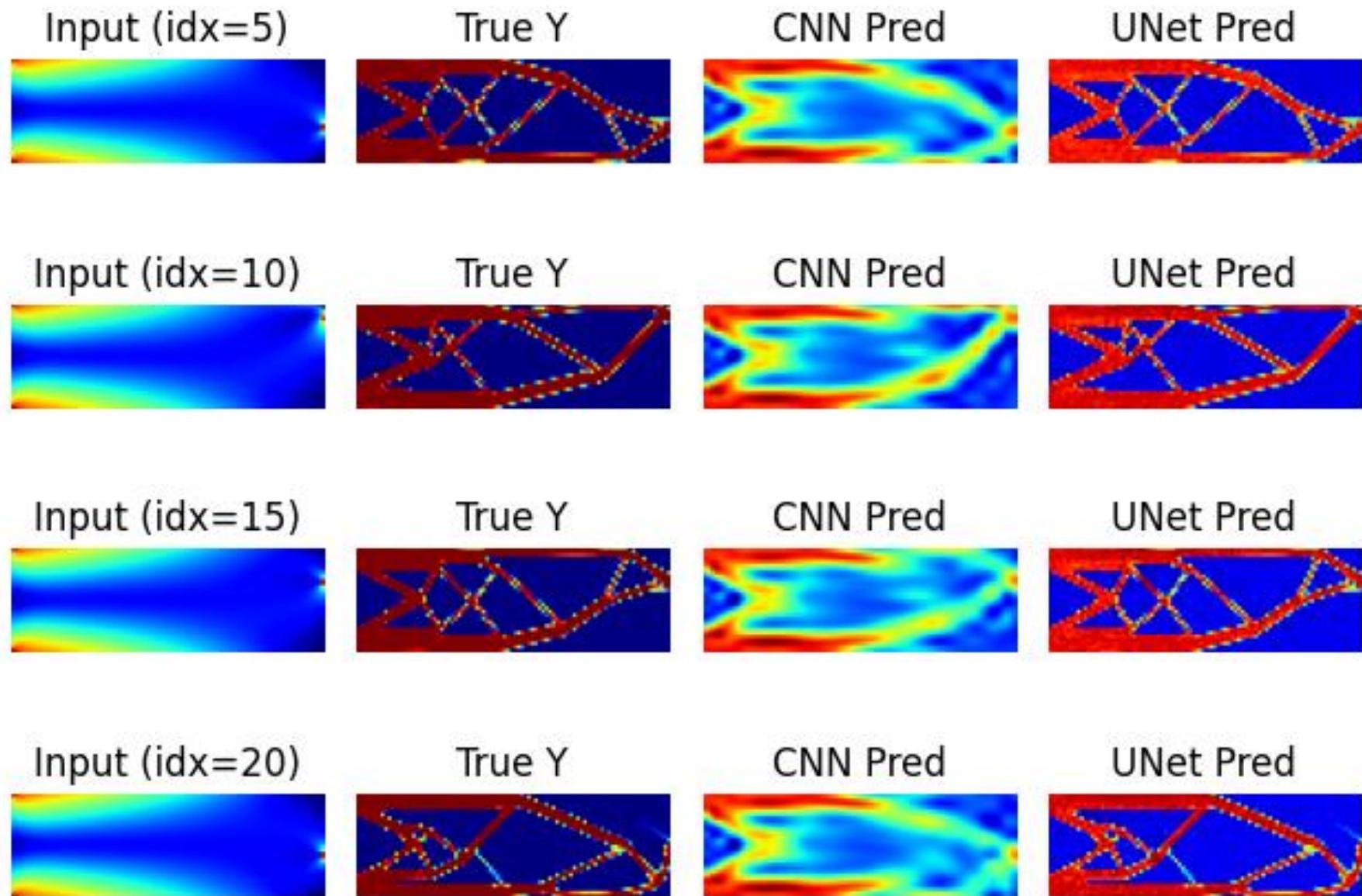
CNN vs UNet: MSE and R<sup>2</sup>



# Prediction

❖ Times:

- ✓ TO = 137 s
- ✓ CNN = 0.005 s
- ✓ Unet = 0.001 s



# Conclusion and future works

- ❖ Hyperparameter tuning
- ❖ Dataset
  - ✓ Increase number of dataset
  - ✓ 3D models
- ❖ Data augmentation: noise, rotation
- ❖ Different models:
  - ✓ Diffusions
  - ✓ Transformers