

# REPRESENTATION EQUIVALENT NEURAL OPERATORS

emmanuel de bézenac, ETH Zurich





bogdan raonić



francesca bartolucci



roberto molinaro



tobias rohner



tim de ryck

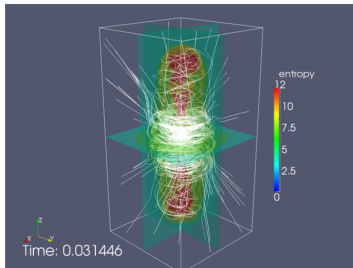


rima alaifari

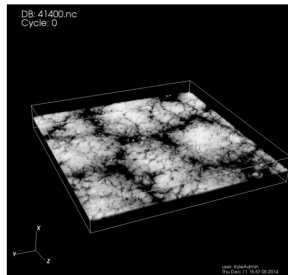


siddhartha mishra

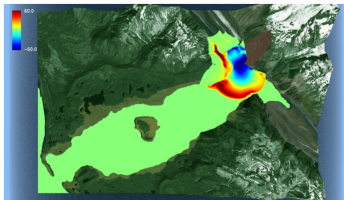
- What are neural operators for solving PDEs?
- Are neural operators really operators?
- How can we correctly define neural operators?
- Can construct practical ones?



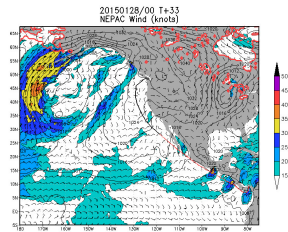
Supernovas



Clouds



Tsunamis



Weather

## Theory

- We want to solve the PDE :

$$\mathcal{F}(u, p) = 0, x \in \Omega$$

$$B(u, p) = 0, x \in \partial\Omega$$

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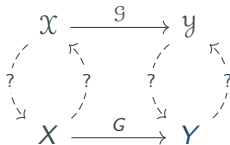
## Practice

- Only finite number of computations,
- need to discretize  $u, p$  e.g. on a regular grid  $\Delta$
- consider discrete spaces  $X, Y$
- consider approximation  $G$

$$G : X \rightarrow Y,$$

$$p_{\Delta} \rightarrow u_{\Delta}$$

# Link between discrete and continuous



Having an **operator** perspective is very important :

- the solution lies in this function space,
- quantifying discrepancy between discrete and continuous solutions is at the basis of numerical analysis.
- Essential for structure preserving methods, as symmetries are at the operator level, etc...

For this reason,

- solution operator  $\mathcal{G}$  approximated with **neural operator**  $\mathcal{G}_\theta$ ,
- $\mathcal{G}_\theta$  mapping from functions to functions :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{G}_\theta : \mathcal{X} &\rightarrow \mathcal{Y}, \\ p &\rightarrow u\end{aligned}$$

- potential for deep learning to drastically *accelerate* simulations,
- can be applied even when pde is unknown (e.g. climate)

# Discretization invariance

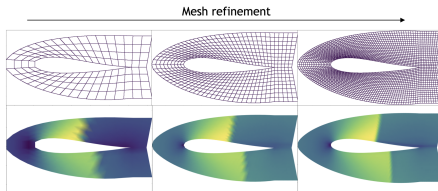
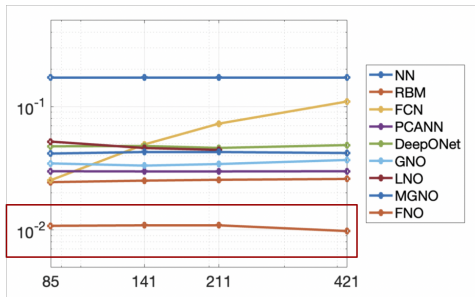


Figure 1: Discretization Invariance  
An discretization-invariant operator has convergent predictions on a mesh refinement.



## a prototypical example : the Fourier neural operator (fno)

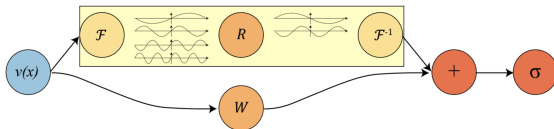


Figure 2 – layer of the Fourier neural operator ?

- sequence of layers, as in classical nns

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{N}_L \circ \mathcal{N}_{L-1} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{N}_1$$
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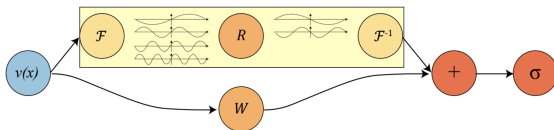


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- **novelty** : layers defined as mappings from functions to functions



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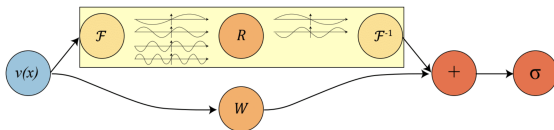


Figure 3 – layer of the Fourier neural operator

- for example, continuous convolution with Fourier layer :

$$\mathcal{K}_\ell v(x) = \int_D k_\ell(x - y) v(y) dy = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{R}_\theta \odot \mathcal{F}(v))(x)$$

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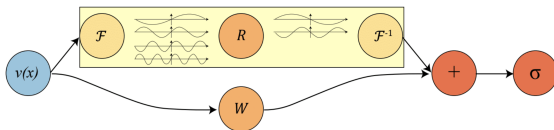


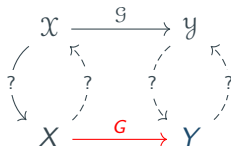
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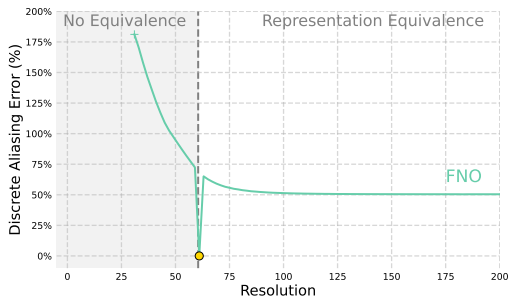
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- state of the art for many PDEs, claims to handle functions
- claim to be discretization invariant,
- how are these computed on a computer ?



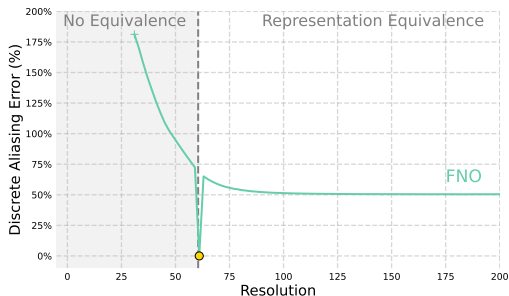
- in practice, all computations done discretely using  $G$ , not  $\mathcal{G}$ 
  - input and output function sampled on a grid
  - DFT is used instead of Fourier transform
  - activations computed on the grid (not the function)
- link between operator  $\mathcal{G}$  and discrete map  $G$ ?

# Discrete representations not equivalent



- random input  $u \in \mathbb{R}^{61}$  and target data  $v \in \mathbb{R}^{61}$ ,  $u_i, v_i \sim \mathcal{G}(0, 1)$
- train mapping  $G$  to regress  $u \rightarrow v$
- after training to 0 loss, change resolution and compute discrepancy

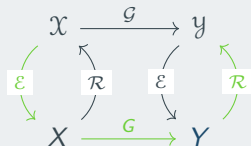
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- after training to 0 loss, change resolution and compute discrepancy
- hints at discrepancy between continuous and discrete
- a bit of an extreme case, but shows that
- discretization invariance is only a property at the limit, does not say anything for practical resolutions

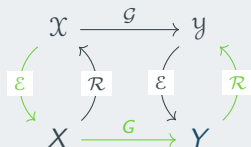
## Representation equivalent neural operators (ReNO)

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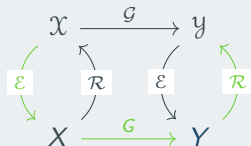


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$$\varepsilon(G, \mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{G} - \mathcal{R} \circ G \circ \mathcal{E} = 0,$$

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- $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  separable Hilbert spaces, e.g. bandlimited functions, spanned by wavelets, fourier series coefficients, etc...



## layer-wise Instantiation

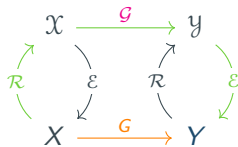
- Design each layer  $(\mathcal{G}_\ell, G_\ell)$  such that diagram **commutes** :

$$\mathcal{G}_\ell = \mathcal{R} \circ N_\ell \circ \mathcal{E}$$

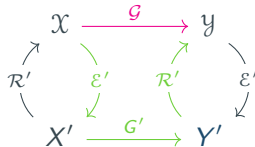
- composition of layers is also a ReNO

# Equivalence between discrete representations

Consider two discretizations  $G$  and  $G'$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  (e.g. on different grids).

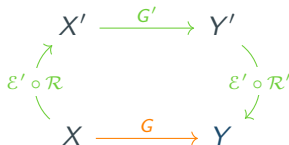


$$G = \mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{G} \circ \mathcal{R}$$



$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{R}' \circ G' \circ \mathcal{E}'$$

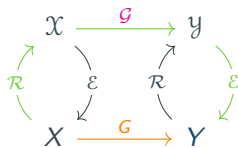
If both diagrams commute, **discrete representations are equivalent** :



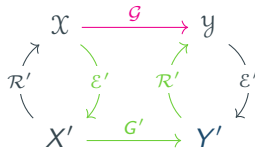
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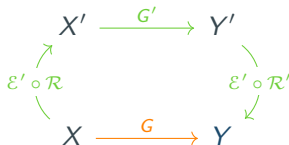


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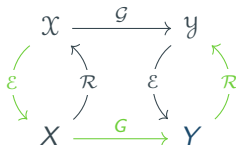
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- If **not**  $\varepsilon(G, \mathcal{G}) \neq 0$ , potential **discrepancy** at different resolutions.

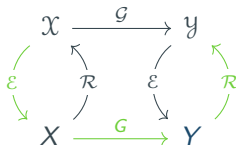


## Instantiation : Bandlimited spaces

- input, output spaces :  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  *bandlimited* functions,

$$\mathcal{E}(v) = \{f(x_i)\}_{1,\dots,n}, \quad \mathcal{R}(v)(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n v(x_i) \text{sinc}(x - x_i)$$

- Natural spaces for point-wise evaluations on cartesian grid,

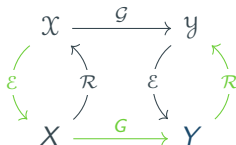


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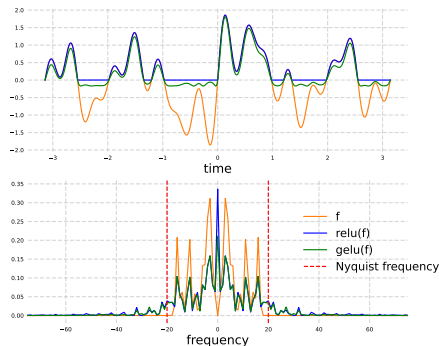
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- $\varepsilon(G, \mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{G} - \mathcal{R} \circ G \circ \mathcal{E}$  reduces to classical aliasing.

### per layer analysis

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## per layer analysis

- Continuous and discrete convolutions **equivalent**,
- Activation function is not :  $\varepsilon(G, \mathcal{G}) \neq 0$ , i.e. diagram does not commute





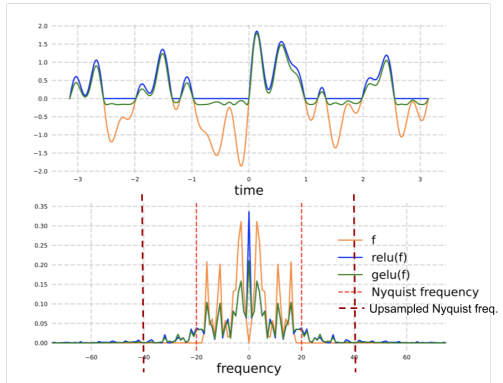
# New convolutional based architecture

We propose to

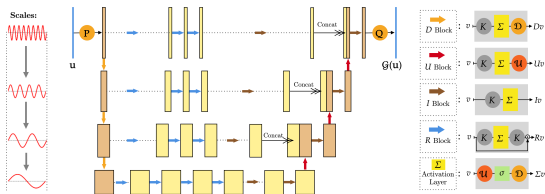
- Fix the activation function,
- Go back to standard convolutions (Fourier not essential),

Just as in StyleGAN3, new activation :

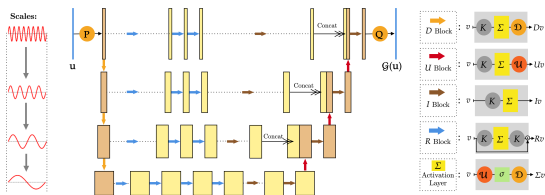
- upsample
- activation
- downsample



# a convolutional based neural operator (CNO)



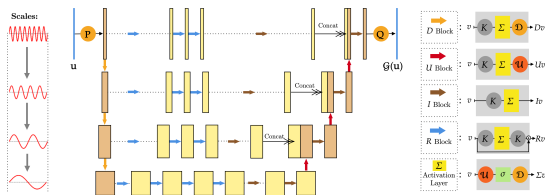
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- convolution operation, implemented with simple convs :

$$K_\ell = \sum_{i,j=1}^k k_{ij} \cdot \delta_{z_{ij}}, \quad \mathcal{K}_\ell v(x) = \int_D K_\ell(x-y)v(y)dy$$

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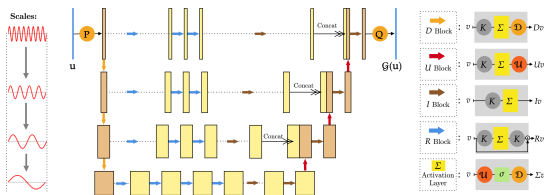
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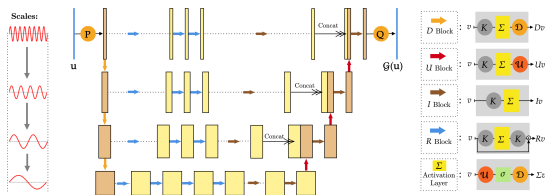
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- these operations all have a (unique) discrete  $N_{\ell}$  (approximately)

$$\mathcal{G}_{\ell}(v) = \mathcal{R} \circ N_{\ell} \circ \mathcal{E}(v) \quad \text{for all } v \in \mathcal{X}$$

- preservation of continuous structures, translation equivariance (better generalization ?)
- cno able to process at different grids, not restricted to fno layer
- *representation equivalence*

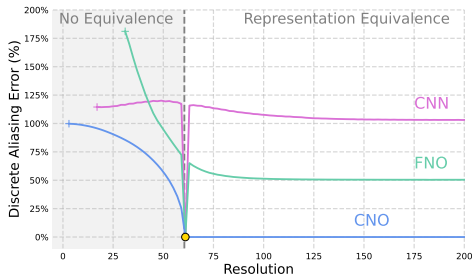


Table 1 – Relative median  $L^1$  test errors.

	In/Out	FFNN	GT	UNet	ResNet	DON	FNO	CNO
<b>Poisson Equation</b>	In	5.74%	2.77%	0.71%	0.43%	12.92%	4.98%	<b>0.21%</b>
	Out	5.35%	2.84%	1.27%	1.10%	9.15%	7.05%	<b>0.27%</b>
<b>Wave Equation</b>	In	2.51%	1.44%	1.51%	0.79%	2.26%	1.02%	<b>0.63%</b>
	Out	3.01%	1.79%	2.03%	1.36%	2.83%	1.77%	<b>1.17%</b>
<b>Smooth Transport</b>	In	7.09%	0.98%	0.49%	0.39%	1.14%	0.28%	<b>0.24%</b>
	Out	650.6%	875.4%	1.28%	0.96%	157.2%	3.90%	<b>0.46%</b>
<b>Discontinuous Transport</b>	In	13.0%	1.55%	1.31%	<b>1.01%</b>	5.78%	1.15%	<b>1.01%</b>
	Out	257.3%	22691.1%	1.35%	1.16%	117.1%	2.89%	<b>1.09%</b>
<b>Allen-Cahn Equation</b>	In	18.27%	0.77%	0.82%	1.40%	13.63%	<b>0.28%</b>	0.54%
	Out	46.93%	2.90%	2.18%	3.74%	19.86%	<b>1.10%</b>	2.23%
<b>Navier-Stokes Equations</b>	In	8.05%	4.14%	3.54%	3.69%	11.64%	3.57%	<b>2.76%</b>
	Out	16.12%	11.09%	10.93%	9.68%	15.05%	9.58%	<b>7.04%</b>
<b>Darcy Flow</b>	In	2.14%	0.86%	0.54%	0.42%	1.13%	0.80%	<b>0.38%</b>
	Out	2.23%	1.17%	0.64%	0.60%	1.61%	1.11%	<b>0.50%</b>
<b>Compressible Euler</b>	In	0.78%	2.09%	0.38%	1.70%	1.93%	0.44%	<b>0.35%</b>
	Out	1.34%	2.94%	0.76%	2.06%	2.88%	0.69%	<b>0.59%</b>



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	Out	257.3%	22691.1%	1.35%	1.16%	117.1%	2.89%	<b>1.09%</b>
<b>Allen-Cahn Equation</b>	In	18.27%	0.77%	0.82%	1.40%	13.63%	<b>0.28%</b>	0.54%
	Out	46.93%	2.90%	2.18%	3.74%	19.86%	<b>1.10%</b>	2.23%
<b>Navier-Stokes Equations</b>	In	8.05%	4.14%	3.54%	3.69%	11.64%	3.57%	<b>2.76%</b>
	Out	16.12%	11.09%	10.93%	9.68%	15.05%	9.58%	<b>7.04%</b>
<b>Darcy Flow</b>	In	2.14%	0.86%	0.54%	0.42%	1.13%	0.80%	<b>0.38%</b>
	Out	2.23%	1.17%	0.64%	0.60%	1.61%	1.11%	<b>0.50%</b>
<b>Compressible Euler</b>	In	0.78%	2.09%	0.38%	1.70%	1.93%	0.44%	<b>0.35%</b>
	Out	1.34%	2.94%	0.76%	2.06%	2.88%	0.69%	<b>0.59%</b>

■ grid search for all baselines,

Table 1 – Relative median  $L^1$  test errors.

	In/Out	FFNN	GT	UNet	ResNet	DON	FNO	CNO
<b>Poisson Equation</b>	In	5.74%	2.77%	0.71%	0.43%	12.92%	4.98%	<b>0.21%</b>
	Out	5.35%	2.84%	1.27%	1.10%	9.15%	7.05%	<b>0.27%</b>
<b>Wave Equation</b>	In	2.51%	1.44%	1.51%	0.79%	2.26%	1.02%	<b>0.63%</b>
	Out	3.01%	1.79%	2.03%	1.36%	2.83%	1.77%	<b>1.17%</b>
<b>Smooth Transport</b>	In	7.09%	0.98%	0.49%	0.39%	1.14%	0.28%	<b>0.24%</b>
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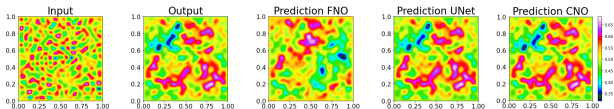
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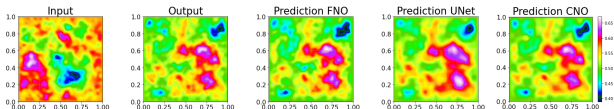
- grid search for all baselines,
- convolutional architectures very good across many PDEs,
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- e.g. for Navier Stokes,  $10^3$ – $4$  speedups wrt sota GPU codes

# qualitative results

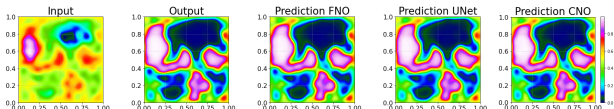
Poisson



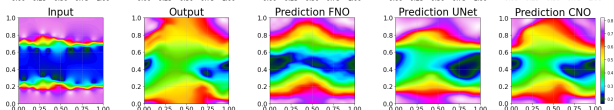
Wave



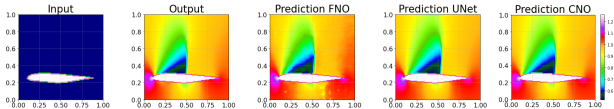
Allen-Cahn



Navier-Stokes



Compressible  
Euler



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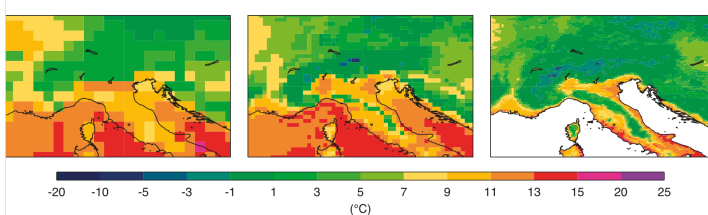
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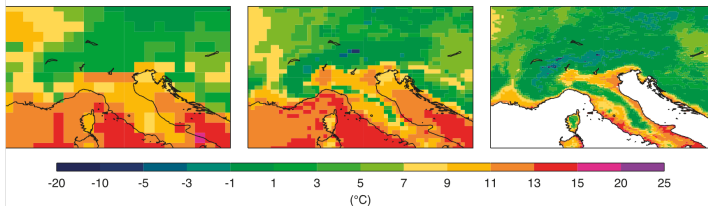
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- we have formulated a framework to take them into account,
- we have proposed an accurate architecture to
- can effectively link computations at different discretizations



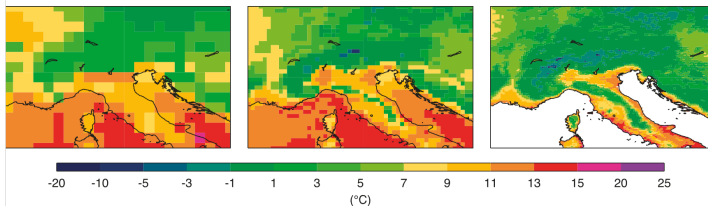
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→ relaxation to  $\varepsilon(\mathcal{G}, G) \leq \epsilon$ ?

# limitations and future work



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- climate data often on different grids,
  - often different resolutions
  - there may be structures to preserve, e.g. conservation laws, etc,
  - can we learn one neural network for datasets at different resolutions?
  - potentially useful to trade accuracy for compute and memory

# limitations and future work

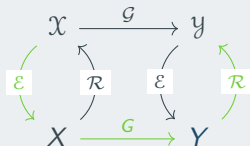


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- thanks for your time !



## Representation equivalent neural operators (ReNO)

Couple  $(G, \mathcal{G})$ , such that the diagram commutes :

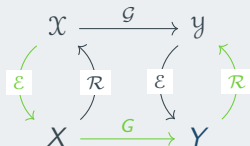


- $f = \sum_{i \in I} c_i \Phi_i(x)$ . discretize :  $f \xrightarrow{\mathcal{E}} c$ , reconstruct :  $c \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} f$
- $\{\Phi_i\}_{i \in I}$  basis or frame spanning  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$ ,
- i.e. discrepancy between continuous and discrete, aka *aliasing*

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$$\varepsilon(G, \mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{G} - \mathcal{R} \circ G \circ \mathcal{E} = 0,$$

- $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}$  separable Hilbert spaces, e.g. bandlimited functions, spanned by wavelets, fourier series coefficients, etc...



## synthesis and analysis operators

$$\blacksquare \mathcal{E}: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \ell^2(I), \quad \mathcal{E}(\{f_i\}_{i \in I}) = \{\langle f, S^{-1}f_i \rangle\}_{i \in I}$$

$$\blacksquare \mathcal{R}: \ell^2(I) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}, \quad \mathcal{R}(\{c_i\}_{i \in I}) = \sum_{i \in I} c_i f_i,$$

$$\blacksquare S(f) = \sum_{i \in I} \langle f, f_i \rangle f_i$$

## definition : a frame

A countable sequence of vectors  $\{f_i\}_{i \in I}$  in  $\mathcal{X}$  is a frame for  $\mathcal{X}$  if there exists constants  $A, B > 0$  such that for all  $f \in \mathcal{X}$

$$A\|f\|^2 \leq \sum_{i \in I} |\langle f, f_i \rangle|^2 \leq B\|f\|^2$$

$$\blacksquare \text{ e.g. orthogonal basis : } A = B = 1,$$

## frame decomposition theorem

Every element in  $\mathcal{X}$  can be *uniquely and stably* reconstructed from its frame coefficients by means of the reconstruction formula

$$f = \mathcal{R}\mathcal{E}f = \sum_{i \in I} \langle f, S^{-1}f_i \rangle f_i = \sum_{i \in I} \langle f, f_i \rangle S^{-1}f_i, \quad (1)$$

where the series converge unconditionally.

Table 13: Relative median  $L^1$  test errors, for both in- and out-of-distribution testing, for the CNO models and two ablation models.

	In/Out	CNO	CNO w/o Filters	CNO w/o ResNets
<b>Poisson Equation</b>	In	<b>0.21%</b>	0.93%	0.85%
	Out	<b>0.27%</b>	1.65%	0.82%
<b>Wave Equation</b>	In	0.63%	<b>0.59%</b>	1.64%
	Out	1.17%	<b>1.12%</b>	1.64%
<b>Smooth Transport</b>	In	<b>0.24%</b>	0.31%	0.31%
	Out	<b>0.46%</b>	<b>0.46%</b>	0.76%
<b>Discontinuous Transport</b>	In	<b>1.03%</b>	1.21%	1.17%
	Out	<b>1.18%</b>	1.32%	1.60%
<b>Allen-Cahn</b>	In	<b>0.54%</b>	0.69%	0.71%
	Out	2.23%	<b>2.16%</b>	2.21%
<b>Navier-Stokes</b>	In	<b>2.76%</b>	3.20%	3.00%
	Out	7.04%	9.60%	<b>5.85%</b>
<b>Darcy</b>	In	<b>0.38%</b>	0.47%	0.41%
	Out	<b>0.50%</b>	0.65%	0.58%
<b>Compressible Euler</b>	In	<b>0.35%</b>	0.38%	0.37%
	Out	<b>0.59%</b>	0.62%	<b>0.59%</b>

**Proposition 3.8.** *Let  $(U, u)$  be an  $\epsilon$ -ReNO. For any two frame sequence pairs  $(\Psi, \Phi)$  and  $(\Psi', \Phi')$  satisfying conditions in Definition 3.4 and such that  $\mathcal{M}_{\Phi'} \subseteq \mathcal{M}_{\Phi}$ , we have*

$$\|\tau(u, u')\| \leq \frac{2\epsilon\sqrt{B_{\Psi}}}{\sqrt{A_{\Phi}}},$$