

# PURE: Prompt Evolution with Graph ODE for Out-of-distribution Fluid Dynamics Modeling



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TL;DR

This paper introduces PURE, a method for out-of-distribution fluid dynamics modeling. PURE uses a graph ODE to learn time-evolving prompts, adapting models to distribution shifts from system changes and temporal evolution. It enhances robustness by minimizing mutual information between prompts and observations. Experiments confirm PURE's superiority over baselines.

## Problem Definition

The problem involves predicting future sensor observations in a fluid dynamical system with  $N$  sensors. Given historical observations  $s_i^{1:T_0}$  at sensor locations  $x_i$ , and system parameters  $\xi$  (e.g., PDE coefficients), the goal is to forecast future observations  $s_i^{T_0+1:T_0+T}$ . The challenge lies in handling distribution shifts caused by variations in system parameters and time, where training and test distributions differ. This is formulated as learning a function  $f$  that maps historical data  $u^{1:T_0}$  to future observations  $u^{T_0+1:T_0+T}$ .

## Three Contributions

(1) **Problem Connection.** We are the first to connect prompt learning with dynamical system modeling to solve the issue of out-of-distribution shifts.

(2) **Novel Methodology.** Our PURE first learns from historical observations and system parameters to initialize prompt embeddings and then adopts a graph ODE with the interpolation of observation sequences to capture their continuous evolution for model adaptation under out-of-distribution shifts.

(3) **Superior Performance.** Comprehensive experiments validate the effectiveness of our PURE in different challenging settings.

Our Approach

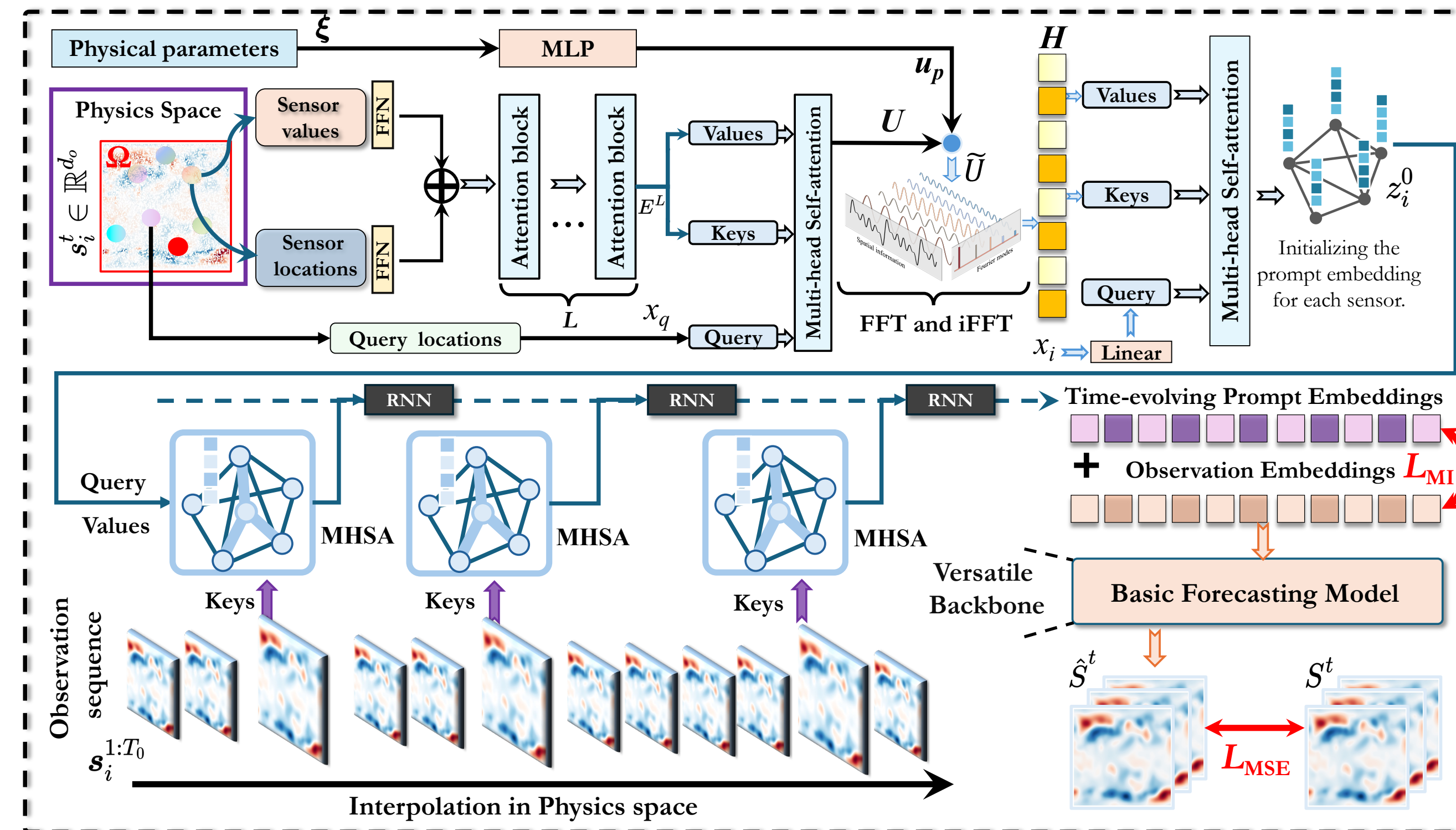


Figure 1. Overview of the PURE framework

### 1. Observation and Prediction

The goal is to predict future observations  $u^{T_0+1:T_0+T}$  from historical data  $u^{1:T_0}$ , expressed as:

$$u^{T_0+1:T_0+T} = f(u^{1:T_0}). \quad (1)$$

### 2. Embedding-based Prediction

To address distribution shifts, we introduce invariant observation embeddings  $\mu^t$  and prompt embeddings  $z^t$ , which are used to generate the final prediction:

$$u_{\text{output}} = \phi([\mu^t, z^t]). \quad (2)$$

Here,  $z^t \perp \mu^t$ , indicating that prompt and observation embeddings are independent.

### 3. Time-evolving Prompt Learning

The time evolution of prompt embeddings is modeled using a Graph ODE, described as:

$$\frac{dz_i^t}{dt} = \psi_a \left( \sum_{j \in S^t(i)} \text{softmax} \left( \frac{[\tilde{W}^Q z_i^t]^T \cdot [\tilde{W}^K s_j^t]}{\sqrt{d}} \right) \cdot \psi_r([z_i^t, z_j^t]) \right), \quad (3)$$

where  $S^t(i)$  represents the set of neighboring sensors at time  $t$ .

(4) **Loss Function** The optimization objective includes both the mean squared error (MSE) and mutual information minimization (MI) losses, combined as:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE} + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{MI}. \quad (4)$$

Results

Table 1: We compare our study's performance with 10 baselines.

MODEL	BENCHMARKS									
	PROMETHEUS		NAVIER-STOKES		SPHERICAL-SWE		3D REACTION-DIFF		ERA5	
	w/o OOD	w/ OOD	w/o OOD	w/ OOD	w/o OOD	w/ OOD	w/o OOD	w/ OOD	w/o OOD	w/ OOD
U-NET [59]	0.0931	<b>0.1067</b>	0.1982	0.2243	0.0083	0.0087	0.0148	0.0183	0.0843	0.0932
RESNET [20]	0.0674	0.0696	0.1823	0.2301	0.0081	0.0192	0.0151	0.0186	0.0921	0.0977
ViT [9]	0.0632	0.0691	<b>0.2342</b>	<b>0.2621</b>	0.0065	0.0072	0.0157	0.0192	0.0762	0.0786
SWINT [47]	0.0652	0.0729	0.2248	0.2554	0.0062	0.0068	0.0155	0.0190	0.0782	0.0832
FNO [43]	<b>0.0447</b>	<b>0.0506</b>	0.1556	0.1712	0.0038	0.0045	0.0132	0.0179	0.7233	<b>0.9821</b>
UNO [11]	0.0532	0.0643	0.1764	0.1984	0.0034	0.0041	<b>0.0121</b>	0.0164	0.6652	0.7621
CNO [58]	0.0542	0.0655	0.1473	0.1522	0.0037	0.0038	0.0145	0.0182	0.5243	0.7821
NMO [73]	0.0397	0.0483	<b>0.1021</b>	<b>0.1032</b>	<b>0.0026</b>	0.0031	0.0129	<b>0.0168</b>	<b>0.0432</b>	<b>0.0563</b>
CGODE [25]	0.0761	0.0843	0.2035	0.2243	<b>0.0873</b>	<b>0.0987</b>	<b>0.8371</b>	<b>0.9261</b>	<b>0.8721</b>	0.9872
DGODE [72]	<b>0.0344</b>	<b>0.0359</b>	<b>0.0805</b>	0.0925	<b>0.0022</b>	<b>0.0028</b>	0.0122	0.0156	0.0543	0.0635
OURS + PURE	<b>0.0323</b>	<b>0.0328</b>	<b>0.0752</b>	<b>0.0763</b>	<b>0.0022</b>	<b>0.0024</b>	<b>0.0119</b>	<b>0.0127</b>	<b>0.0398</b>	<b>0.0401</b>
PROMOTION	6.10%	8.63%	6.58%	26.07%	0.00%	16.67%	1.65%	22.56%	7.87%	28.77%

Table 2: This table shows the performance of the PURE framework.

MODEL	BENCHMARKS									
	PROMETHEUS		NAVIER-STOKES		SPHERICAL-SWE		3D REACTION-DIFF		ERA5	
	ORI	+PURE	ORI	+PURE	ORI	+PURE	ORI	+PURE	ORI	+PURE
RESNET [20]	0.0674	<b>0.0542</b>	0.1823	<b>0.1492</b>	0.0081	<b>0.0067</b>	0.0151	<b>0.0141</b>	0.0921	<b>0.0896</b>
NMO [9]	0.0397	<b>0.0281</b>	0.1021	<b>0.0876</b>	0.0026	<b>0.0012</b>	0.0129	<b>0.0123</b>	0.0432	<b>0.0389</b>
DGODE [47]	0.0344	<b>0.0201</b>	0.0805	<b>0.0792</b>	0.0022	<b>0.0020</b>	0.0122	<b>0.0110</b>	0.0543	<b>0.0462</b>

Table 3: Comparison of Spatial & Temporal Generalization.

SPARSITY	TEST →	$s_{TS} = 5\%$		$s_{TS} = 25\%$		$s_{TS} = 50\%$		$s_{TS} = 75\%$	
		IN-T	OUT-T	IN-T	OUT-T	IN-T	OUT-T	IN-T	OUT-T
$s_{TR} = 75\%$	U-NET	0.1847	0.2103	0.2345	0.2877	0.2654	0.3018	0.2273	0.3391
	+ PURE	0.1622	0.1854	0.2079	0.2581	0.2365	0.2710	0.1998	0.3024
	FNO	0.0659	0.0872	0.0921	0.1232	0.1109	0.1821	0.2109	0.2455
	+ PURE	0.0504	0.0654	0.0689	0.0946	0.0805	0.1417	0.1582	0.1883

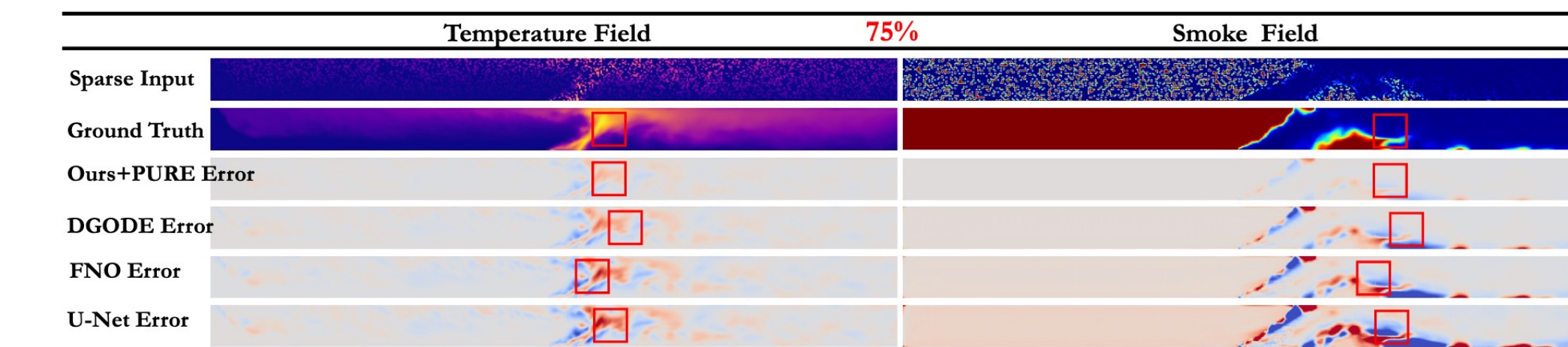


Figure 2: The sparse input data used for predictions.

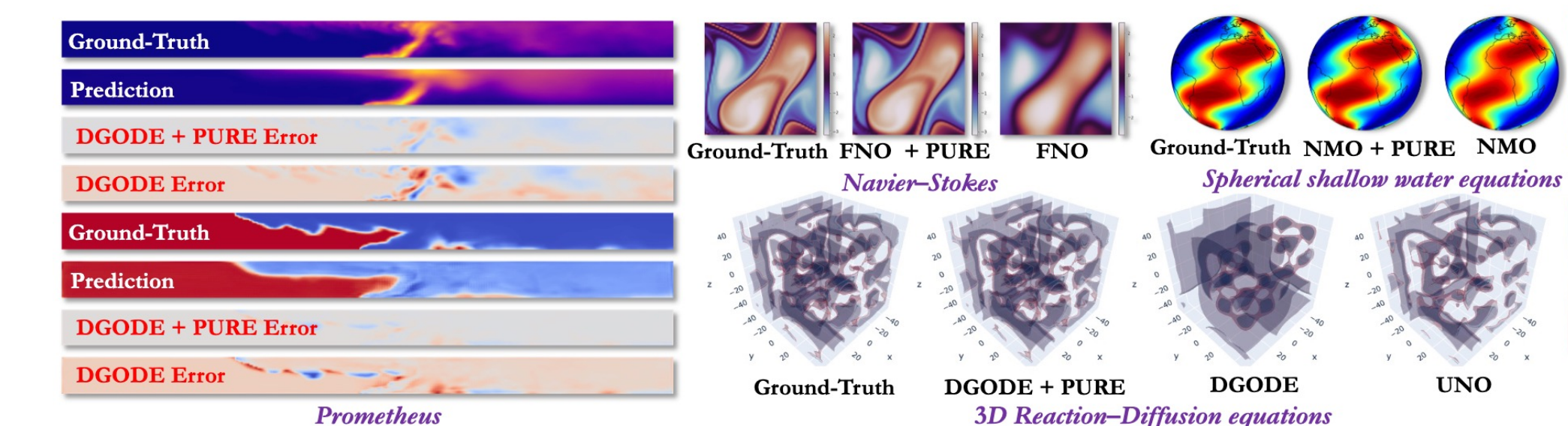


Figure 3: The Figure compares the performance of various methods in fluid dynamics modeling.

For more information, please refer to our full paper published in NeurIPS 2024!