
DeepLag: Discovering Deep Lagrangian Dynamics for Intuitive Fluid Prediction

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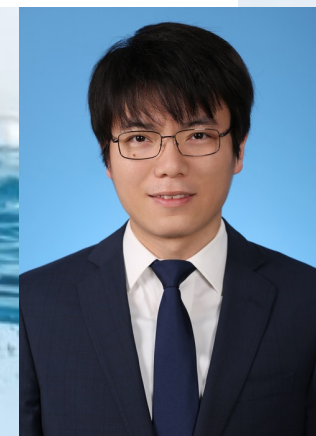
Haixu Wu



Lanxiang Xing



Shangchen Miao



Mingsheng Long

I.1 FLUID & ITS CHARACTERISTICS

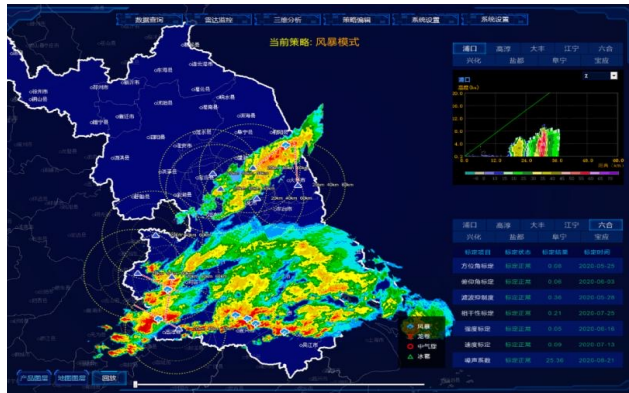
- **Fluids:** easily deform, with **complex dynamics**
- **Highly related to production and life:** **Accurate prediction of future fluid evolution** is of great significance in various fields

Navier-Stokes Equations

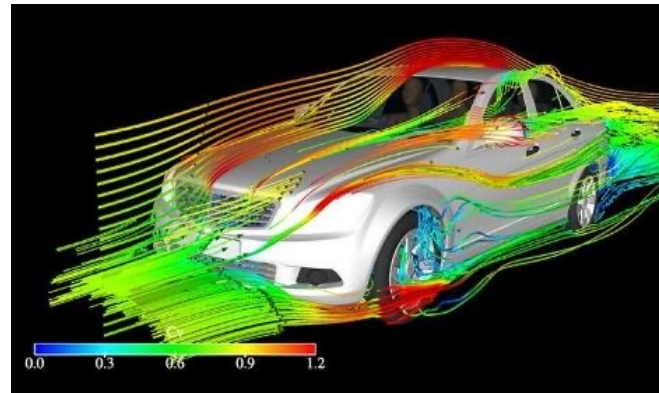
$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (u \cdot \nabla) u \right) = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 u + f$$

Labels in the diagram:
- ρ : fluid density, mass
- $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$: change of velocity over time
- $(u \cdot \nabla) u$: Convection term, inertial term, acceleration, fluid flow velocity
- ∇ : gradient operator
- p : fluid pressure / pressure gradient, force
- η : Diffusion term / viscosity
- $\nabla^2 u$: force
- f : body forces

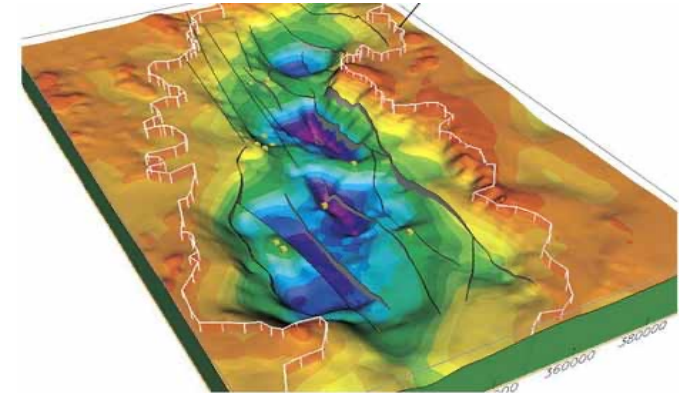
Very Complex PDE!



Weather forecasting and disaster warning



Aerodynamic design optimization



Prediction of underground oil and gas reservoir



1.2 SIGNIFICANCE: THE DIFFICULTIES OF CFD — PART I

- **Empirical Models** that **Simplify Equations**

- *Empirical parameters and assumptions are used to decompose and approximate turbulent characteristics and viscous behaviour of fluids.*

Reynolds-averaged Navier Stokes (RANS) equation^[1]

$$\frac{\partial(\rho U_i)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho U_i U_j)}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[\mu \left(\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \overline{-\rho u_i' u_j'} \right] \Rightarrow \text{information loss} \text{ 😞}$$

$$\overline{-\rho u_i' u_j'} = \mu_t \left(\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial U_k}{\partial x_k} \delta_{ij} \right) - \frac{2}{3} \rho k \delta_{ij} \Rightarrow \text{depends on the hypothesis} \text{ 😞}$$

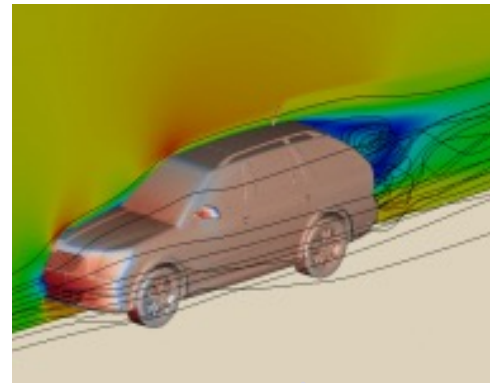
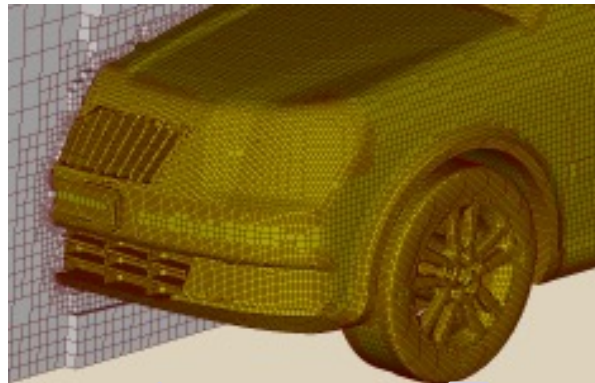
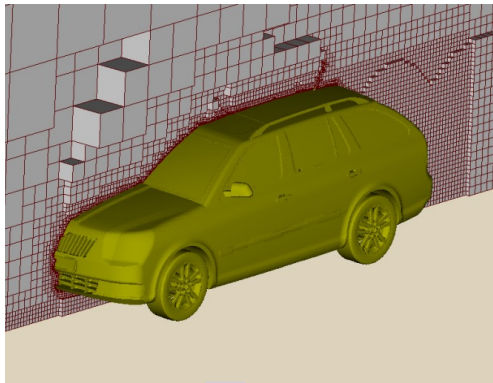


[1] <https://www.simscale.com/docs/simulation-setup/global-settings/k-omega-sst/>

1.2 SIGNIFICANCE: THE DIFFICULTIES OF CFD — PART 2

- **Numerical Methods** that **Simplify Computation**

- Define geometry and bounds, *discretize into mesh by different methods*, model physics, *iteratively solve numerical equations*, and analyse results.



Neural Fluid Prediction
(NFP) with Data-driven
Deep Models



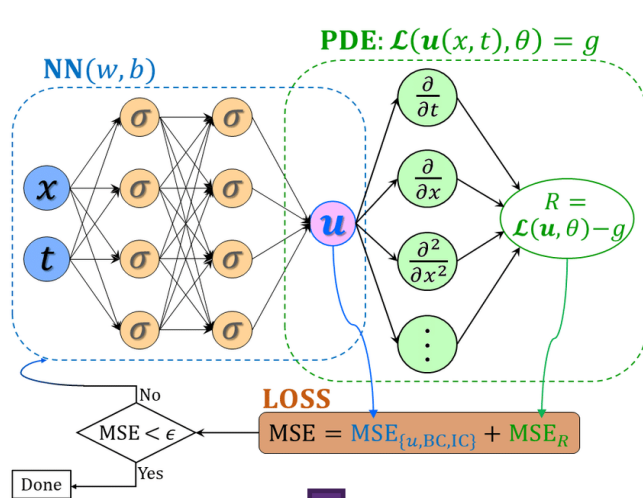
partial observation ☹️

substantial
computational cost ☹️



1.3.1 NFP: PHYSICS-INFORMED NEURAL NETWORKS

- Learning the **mapping** between **variables (inputs)** and **solutions (outputs)** of PDEs
- Encoding **physical (PDE residuals)** and **data (prediction error)** constraints into the **loss function**



training difficulties ☹️

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\frac{\lambda_r}{N_r} \sum_{i=1}^{N_r} \|\mathcal{F}(u_w; \theta)(\mathbf{x}_i)\|^2}_{R} + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda_i}{N_i} \sum_{i=1}^{N_i} \|\mathcal{I}(u_w; \theta)(\mathbf{x}_i)\|^2}_{IC} + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda_b}{N_b} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b} \|\mathcal{B}(u_w; \theta)(\mathbf{x}_i)\|^2}_{BC} + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda_d}{N_d} \sum_{i=1}^N \|u_w(\mathbf{x}_i) - u(\mathbf{x}_i)\|^2}_{u}$$

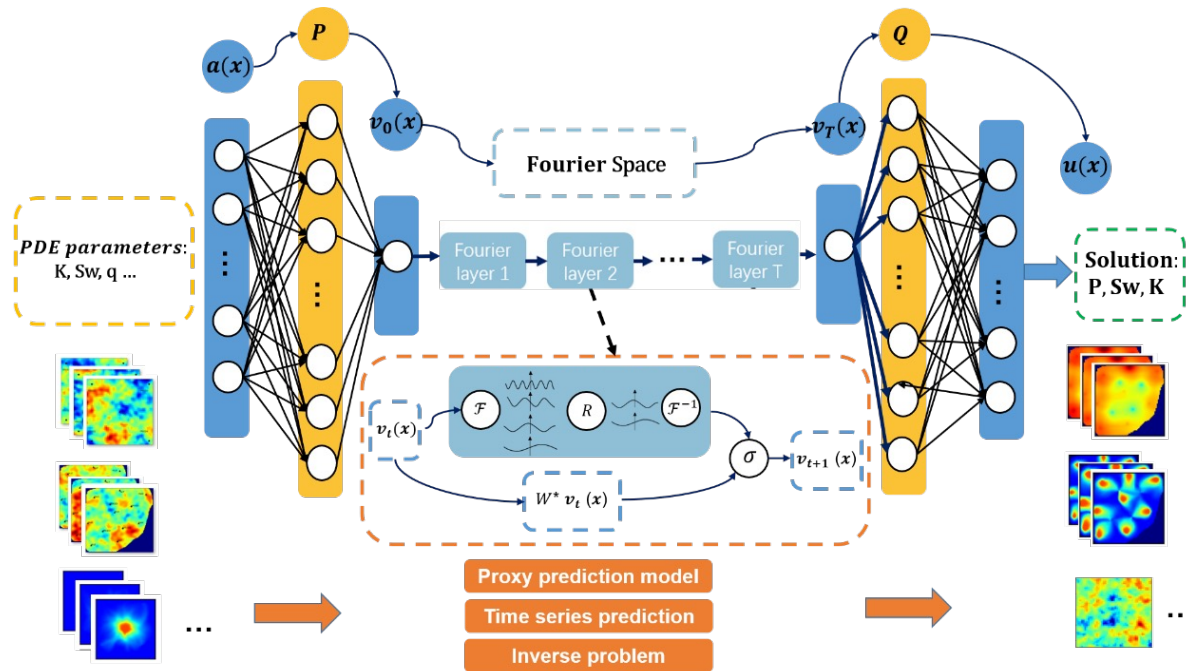
poor generalization ☹️



1.3.2 NFP: NEURAL OPERATORS



- Learn the **mapping** between **two Banach spaces** including function of input field and output field
- Encoding **PDE parameters** into the latent space then **evolve** with a theoretical method



high computational efficiency

easy to train

strong generalization



lacks interpretability



2.1 RECAP: TWO PERSPECTIVES & MULTI SCALES

- Physical priors → Research focus

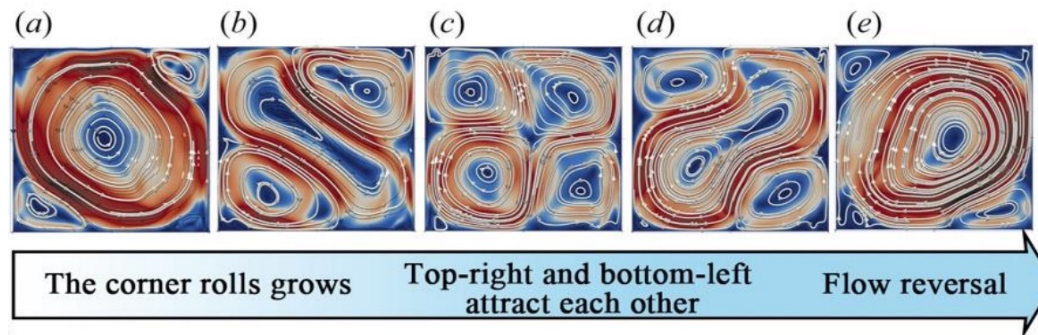
- Insight 1: **Two perspectives**^[1] of fluid motion

Eulerian Grid	Observe at fixed locations	Change rate of local fluid w.r.t. time
Lagrangian Particle	Track specific fluid elements	Change rate of moving element w.r.t speed

Focus 1: **for spatiotemporal evolution modelling**

$$\underbrace{\frac{Dq}{Dt}}_{\text{Material deri.}} \equiv \underbrace{\frac{\partial q}{\partial t}}_{\text{Domain deri.}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla q}_{\text{Convective deri.}}$$

- Insight 2: Different motion patterns at **different scales**



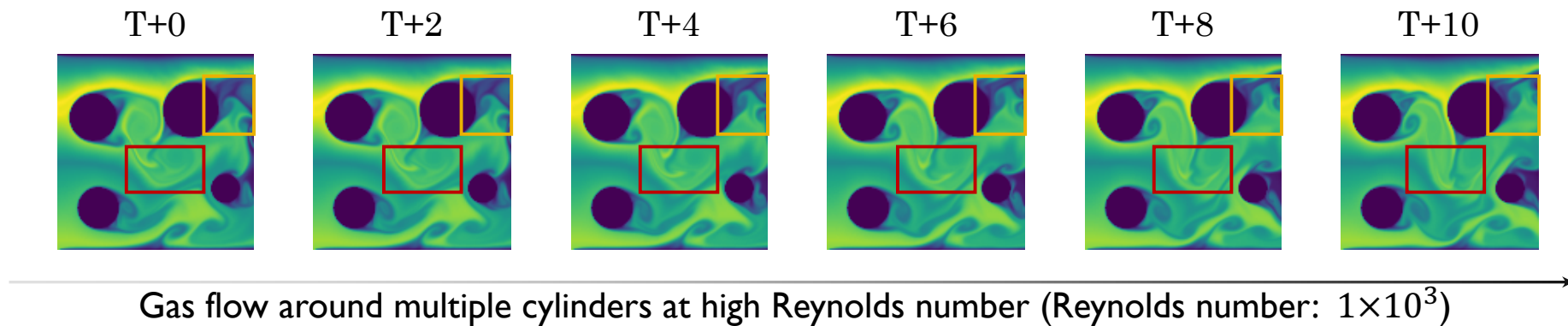
Focus 2:

Using multiscale model to perceive regional features

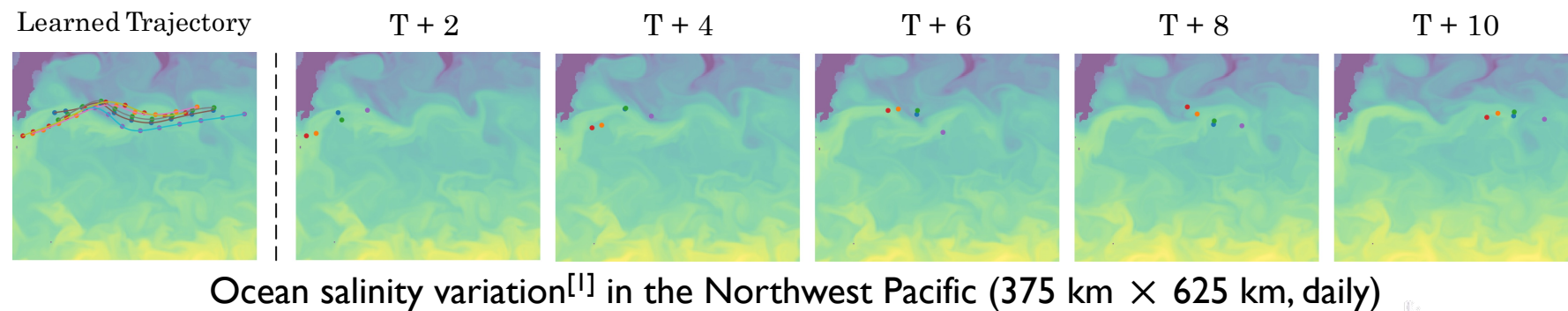


2.2 TARGET: COMPLEX SCENARIO & HARD PROBLEM

- High Reynolds number with intricate Boundary conditions



- Large-scale and Long-term



3.1 DEEPLAG: SETUP

- Learn the **mapping of functions at adjacent time** within the function space on the field
 - Given a bounded open subset $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ in d -dimensional Euclidean space, the o **variables observed** at time t , $\mathbf{u}_t(\mathbf{x}): \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^o$, can be viewed as a **vector-valued function** defined on \mathcal{D} , forming the Banach space $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{D}; \mathbb{R}^o)$.
 - The model \mathcal{F}_θ with parameter θ is expected to **fit the mapping** within \mathcal{U} :

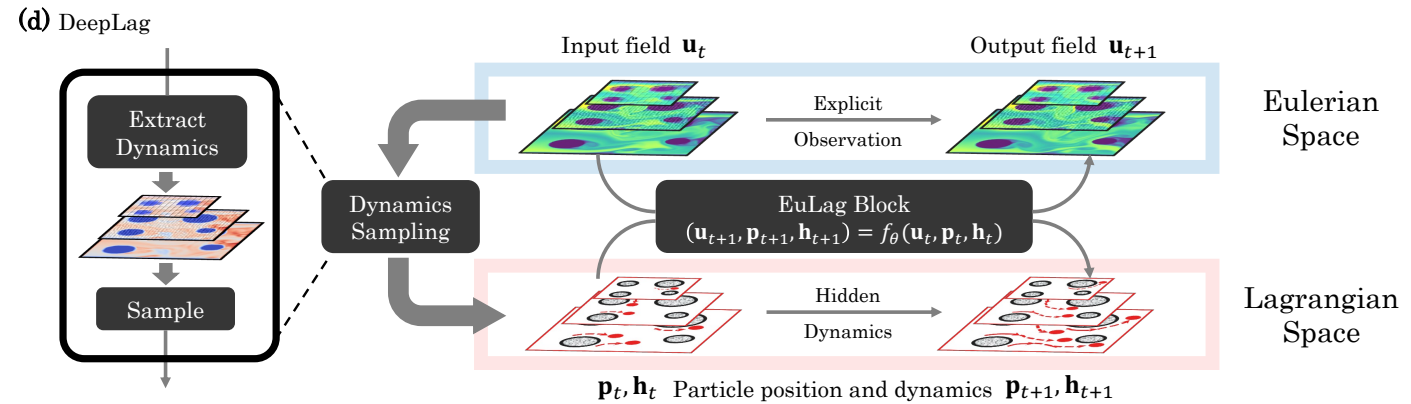
$$\Phi: \mathbf{u}_t(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \mathbf{u}_{t+1}(\mathbf{x})$$

- **Multi-step autoregressive joint optimization** paradigm
 - Input recent p steps of observation, predict the next step. **Replace old obs. with new pred.**
$$\mathbf{U}_t = \{\mathbf{u}_{t-p+1}, \mathbf{u}_{t-p+2}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_t\} \rightarrow \mathbf{u}_{t+1}, t = p, p + 1, \dots$$
 - **Uncertainty Loss** are used to balance each step, enabling joint gradient backpropagation



3.2.1 DEEPLAG: MULTI-SCALE ARCHITECTURE

- Inter-scale information exchange
 - **Up-sampling and down-sampling** to create new fuse neighboring scales
- Feature mapping within scale l



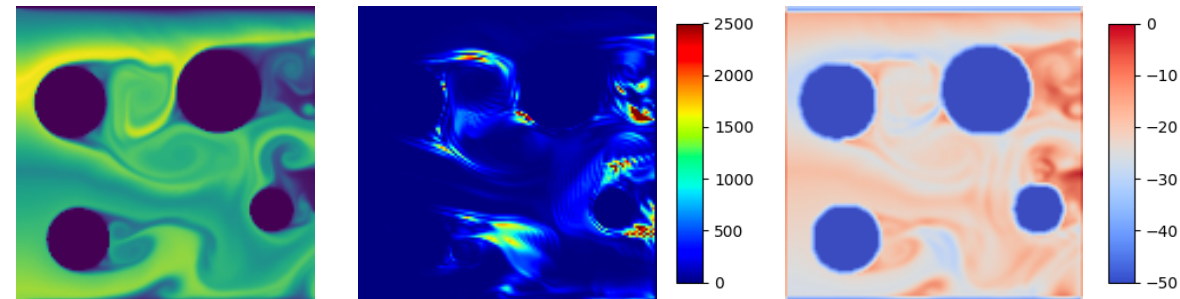
- The **Lagrangian quantity** \mathbf{h}_t^l and **particle position** \mathbf{p}_t^l aid Eulerian field \mathbf{u}_t^l to evolve

$$\mathbf{u}_{t+1}^l, \mathbf{h}_{t+1}^l | \mathbf{p}_{t+1}^l = f_\theta^l(\mathbf{u}_t^l, \mathbf{h}_t^l | \mathbf{p}_t^l) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{EuLag Block}$$

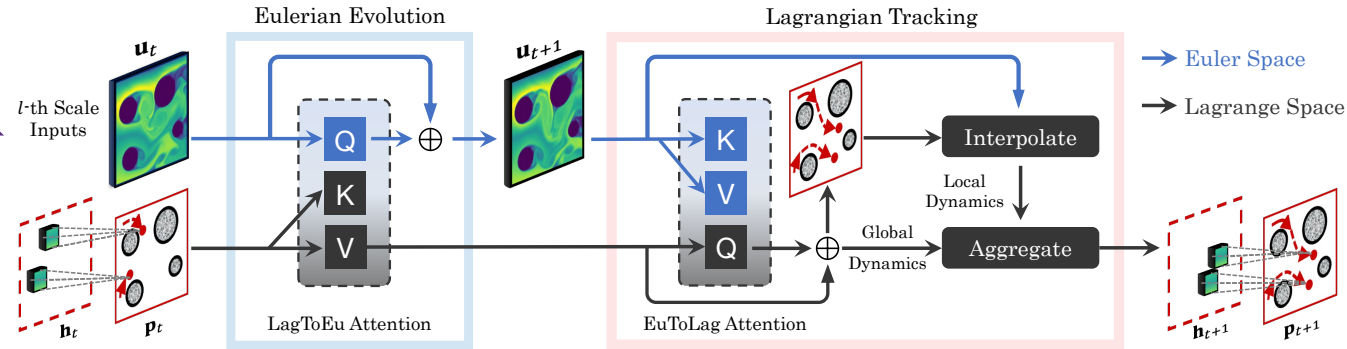
- Key particles are sampled based on the **complexity of local dynamics**

- Input **multi-frame vorticity**: $\zeta = \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y}$
- Sampled particles via its **pointwise variance**:

$$\mathbf{p}_t \sim \text{std}(\zeta)$$



3.2.2 DEEPLAG: EULAG BLOCK



- Lagrangian (L) \rightarrow Eulerian (E)

- Distance-weighted cross-attention

$$u_{t+1} = u_t + \text{softmax}\left(\frac{W_Q u_t (W_K h_t)^T}{\sqrt{C}} \cdot M\right) W_V h_t$$

- Eulerian (E) \rightarrow Lagrangian (L)

- Global: Distance-weighted cross-attention

$$h_{t+1, \text{global}} = h_t + \text{softmax}\left(\frac{W'_Q h_t (W'_K u_t)^T}{\sqrt{C}} \cdot M\right) W'_V u_t$$

- Local: Eulerian features are **interpolated** at tracked particle coordinates to obtain $h_{t+1, \text{local}}$

- MLP is used to **fuse** global and local results

Self-Attn	$O(n^2)$
EuLag-Attn	$O(n)$



4 EXPERIMENTS

■ Benchmarks

➤ Bounded Naiver-Stokes

- **13.8%** relative promotion

➤ Ocean Current

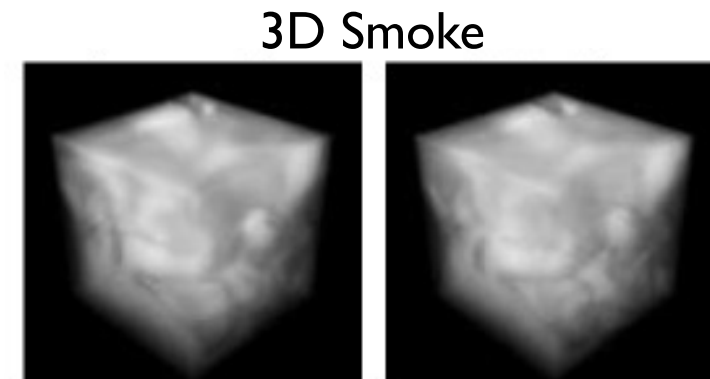
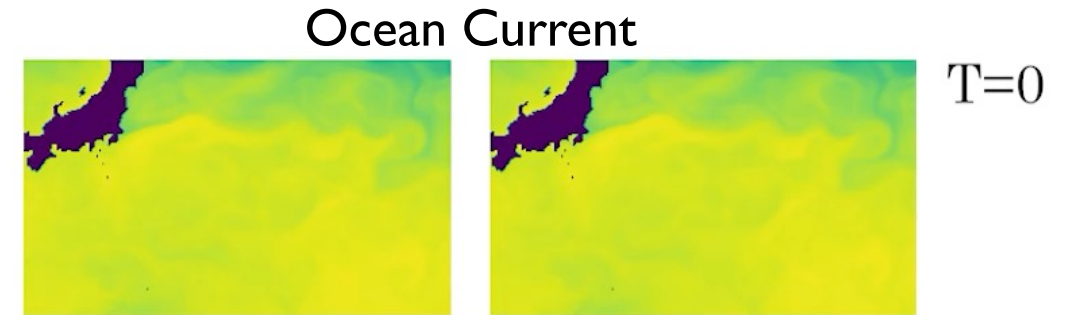
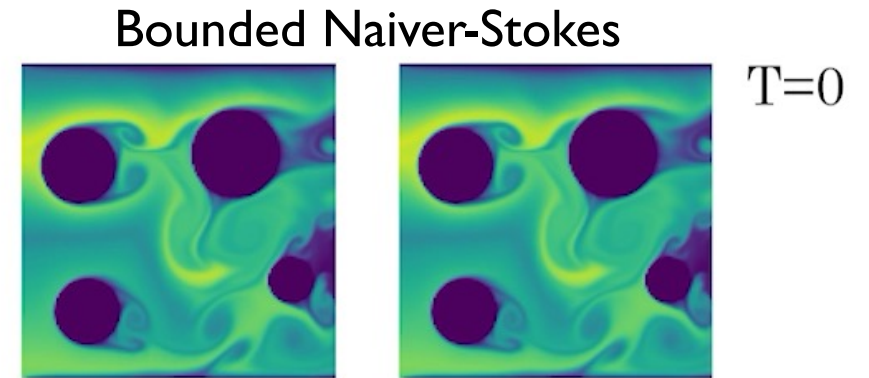
- 30 days prediction, **12.8%** relative promotion

➤ 3D Smoke

- **34.4%** relative promotion

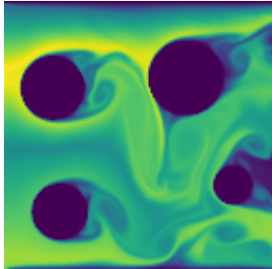
**Strong performance
on all tasks within
the linear complexity**

Datasets	Type	#Var	#Dim	#Space
Bounded N-S	Simulation	1	2D	128×128
Ocean Current	Real World	5	2D	180×300
3D Smoke	Simulation	4	3D	32^3

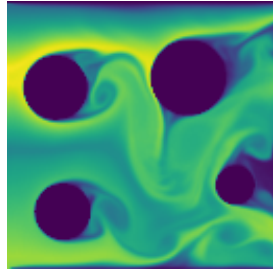


4.1 BOUNDED NAIVER-STOKES

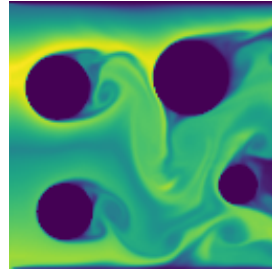
Ground Truth
(T = 20)



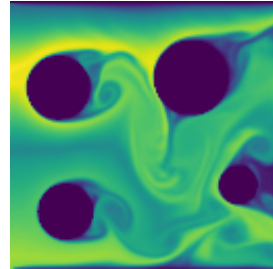
DeepLag (Ours)



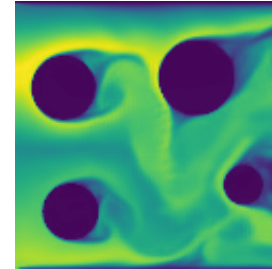
U-Net



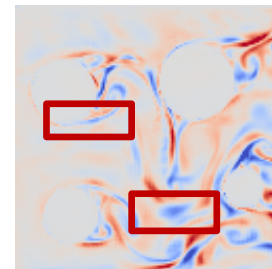
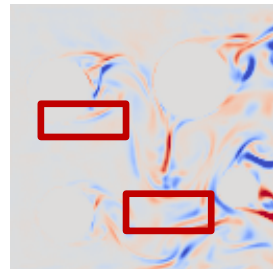
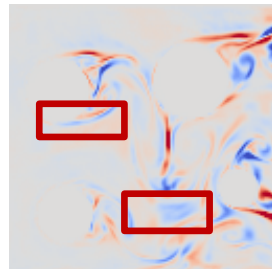
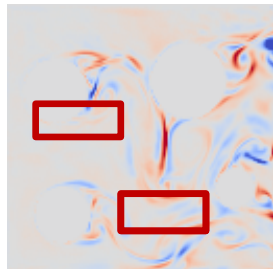
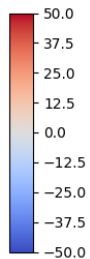
LSM



FactFormer



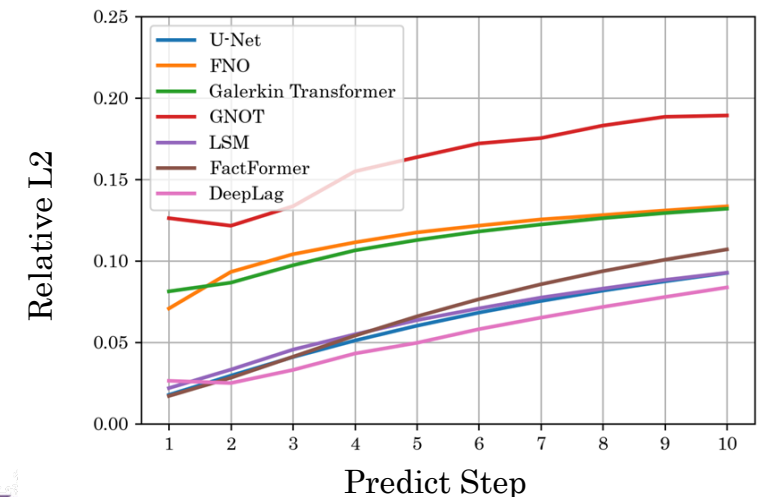
Prediction
Error



Precisely illustrate the **vortex** and give a reasonable motion mode of the **Kármán vortex phenomenon**^[1]

Model	Relative L2 (↓)	
	10 Frames	30 Frames
U-Net [32]	0.0618	0.1038
FNO [21]	0.1041	0.1282
Galerkin Transformer [3]	0.1084	0.1369
Vortex [7]	0.1999	NaN
GNOT [14]	0.1388	0.1793
LSM [52]	0.0643	0.1020
FactFormer [20]	0.0733	0.1195
DeepLag (Ours)	0.0543	0.0993
Promotion	13.8%	2.7%

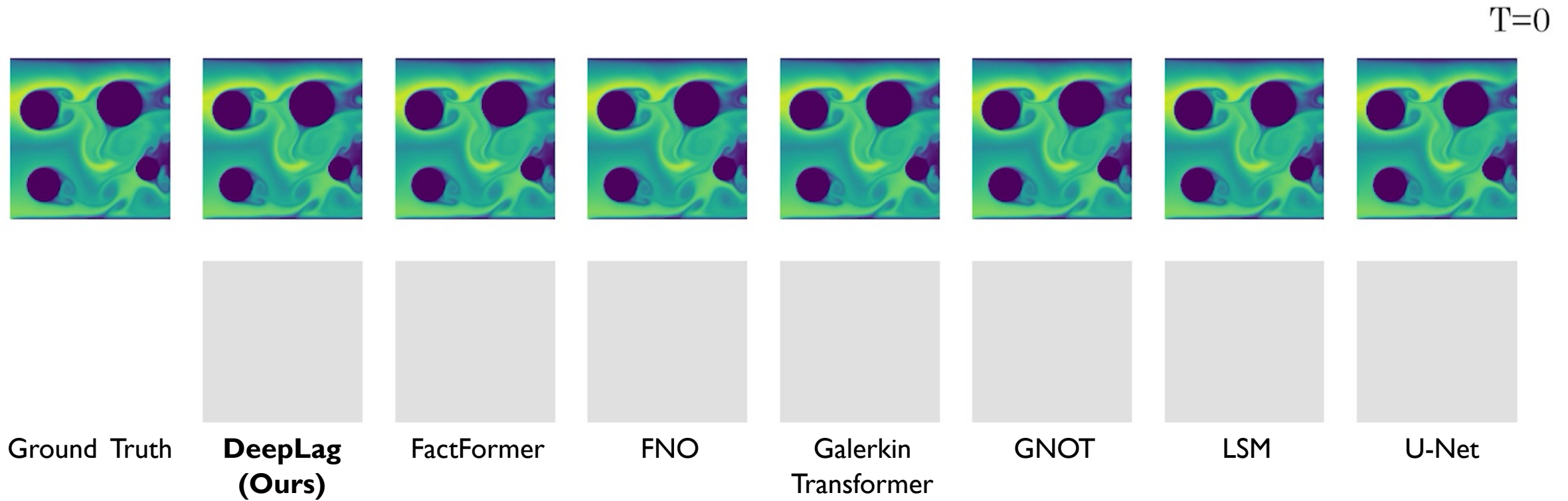
Timewise Relative L2



[1] Wille, R. *Karman vortex streets*. Advances in Applied Mechanics, 1960.

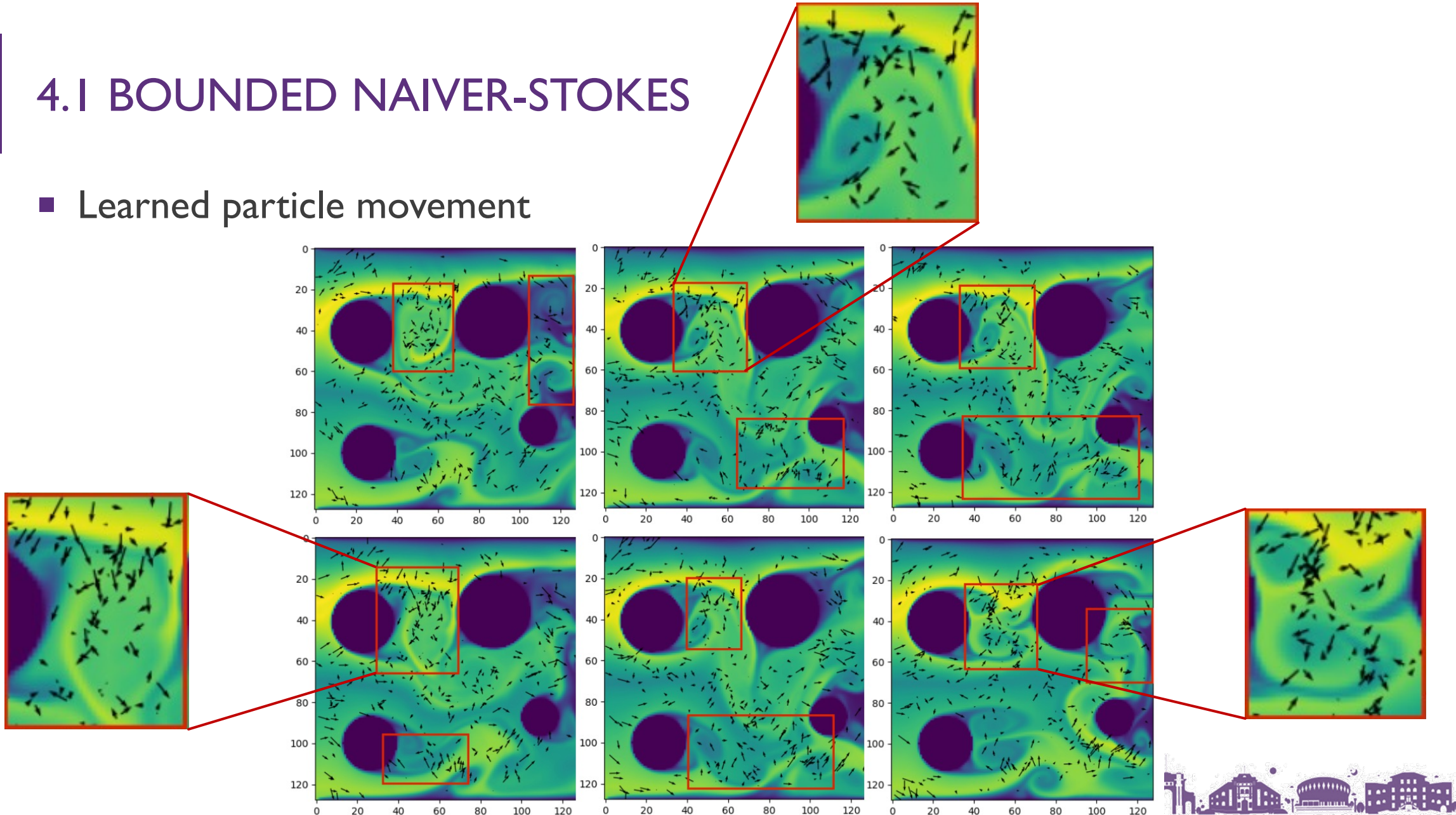
4.1 BOUNDED NAIVER-STOKES

- Video of **Long-term** prediction (100 frames)



4.1 BOUNDED NAIVER-STOKES

- Learned particle movement



4.2 OCEAN CURRENT

Performs well in **real-world, large-scale** fluids, which usually involve **more inherent stochasticity**

Model	Relative L2 (\downarrow)	
	10 Days	30 Days
U-Net [32]	0.0185	0.0297
FNO [21]	0.0246	0.0420
Galerkin Transformer [3]	0.0323	0.0515
Vortex [7]	0.9548	NaN
GNOT [14]	0.0206	0.0336
LSM [52]	0.0182	0.0290
FactFormer [20]	0.0183	0.0296
DeepLag (Ours)	0.0168	0.0257
Promotion	8.3%	12.8%

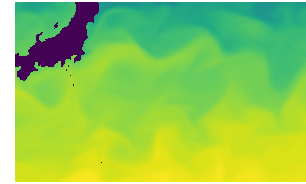
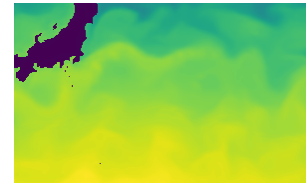
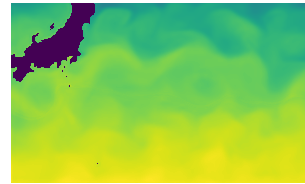
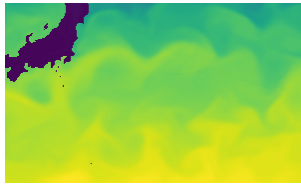
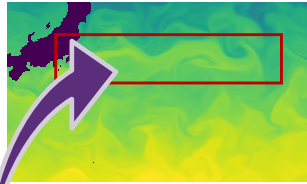
Ground Truth
($T = 20$)

DeepLag (Ours)

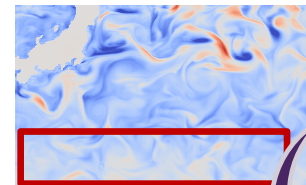
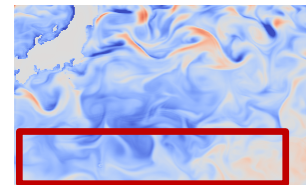
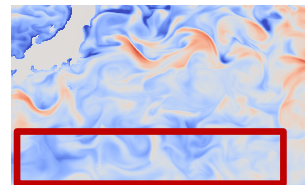
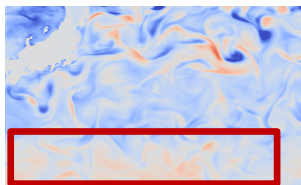
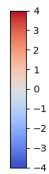
U-Net

LSM

FactFormer



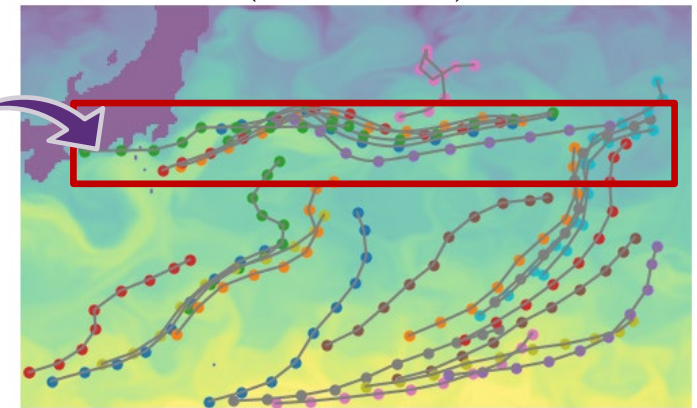
Prediction
Error



Provides a clear depiction of the **Kuroshio pattern**[1]

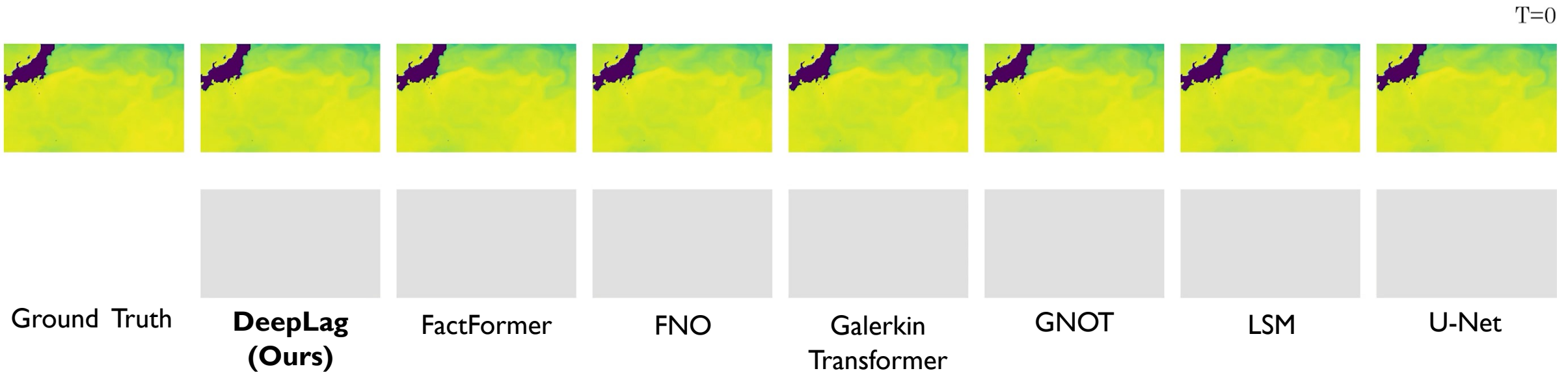
The movement of upper particles matches the **sinuous trajectory** of the **Kuroshio current**

Estimated Particle Trajectory
($T = 10 \sim 20$)



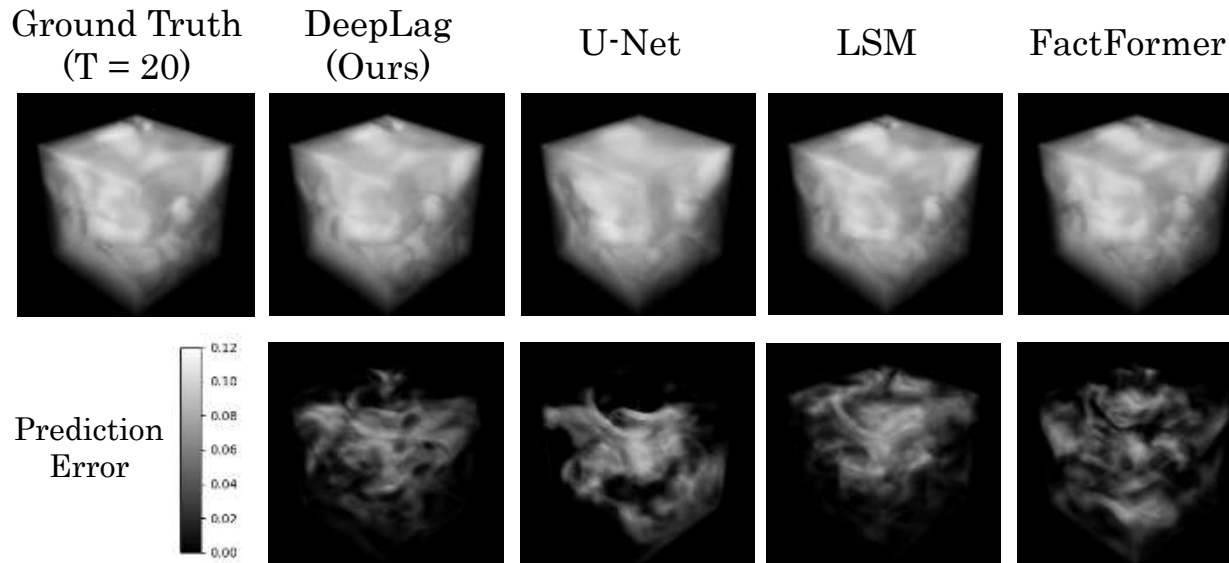
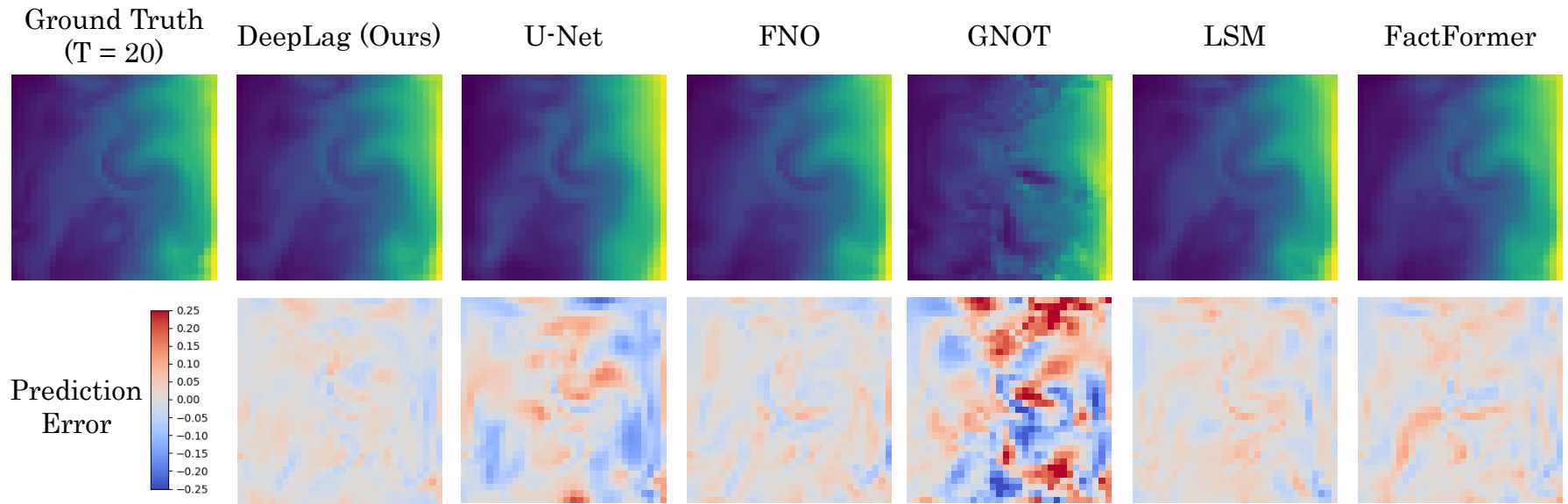
4.2 OCEAN CURRENT

- Video of **Long-term** prediction (100 frames)



4.3 3D SMOKE

More gain on
3D scenario



Model	Relative L2 (↓)
U-Net [32]	0.0508
FNO [21]	0.0635
Galerkin Transformer [3]	0.1066
GNOT [14]	0.2100
LSM [52]	0.0527
FactFormer [20]	0.0793
DeepLag (Ours)	0.0378
Promotion	34.4%



4.4.1 ABLATIONS

- **Module** removing
 - w/o Lagrangian particle tracking, w/o Eulerian feature evolving, w/o learnable sampling
- **Hyperparameter** sensitivity
 - Adjust number of {tracking particles, spatial scales, latent dimensions}
- **Swap** the order of **EuToLag** and **LagToEu** cross-attention

(a) Module Removing		(b) Hyperparameter Sensitivity						(c) Attention Swapping		
Design	Relative L2 (↓)	#Particle	Relative L2 (↓)	#Scale	Relative L2 (↓)	#Latent	Relative L2 (↓)	Data	Original (↓)	Swapped (↓)
DeepLag	0.0543	128	0.0559	1	0.0789	16	0.0656	2D	0.0543	0.0545
		256	0.0553	2	0.0658	32	0.0594	3D	0.0378	0.0378
w/o LagToEu(·)	0.0556	512(ori)	0.0543	4(ori)	0.0543	64(ori)	0.0543			
w/o EuToLag(·)	0.0547	768	0.0547	5	0.0554	128	0.0614			
w/o Learnable Sampling	0.0552									



4.4.2 GENERALIZATION

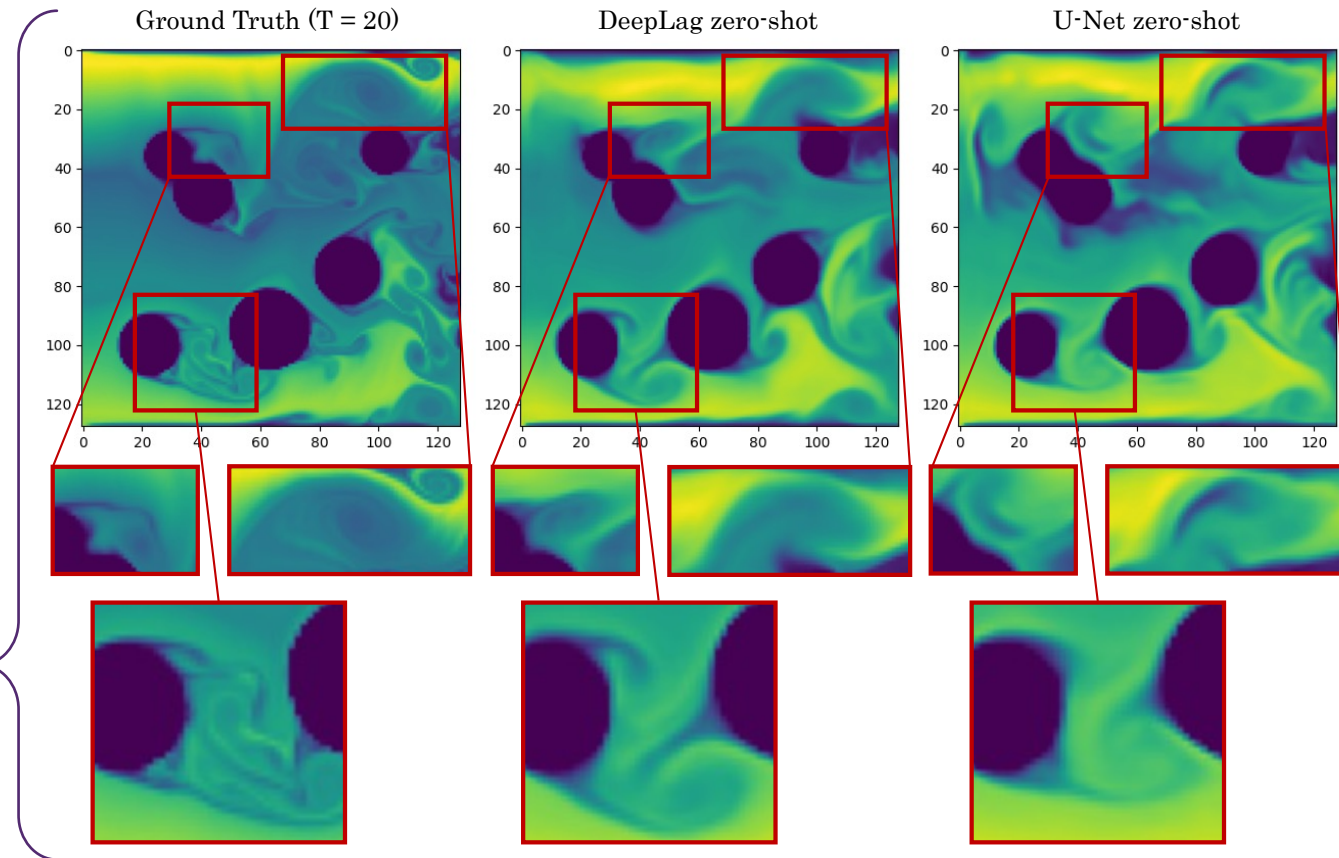
- On **high-resolution data**

Resolution	Mem	Time	Relative L2 (↓)
128×128	5420MB	1150s/ep	0.0543
256×256	13916MB	1300s/ep	0.0514

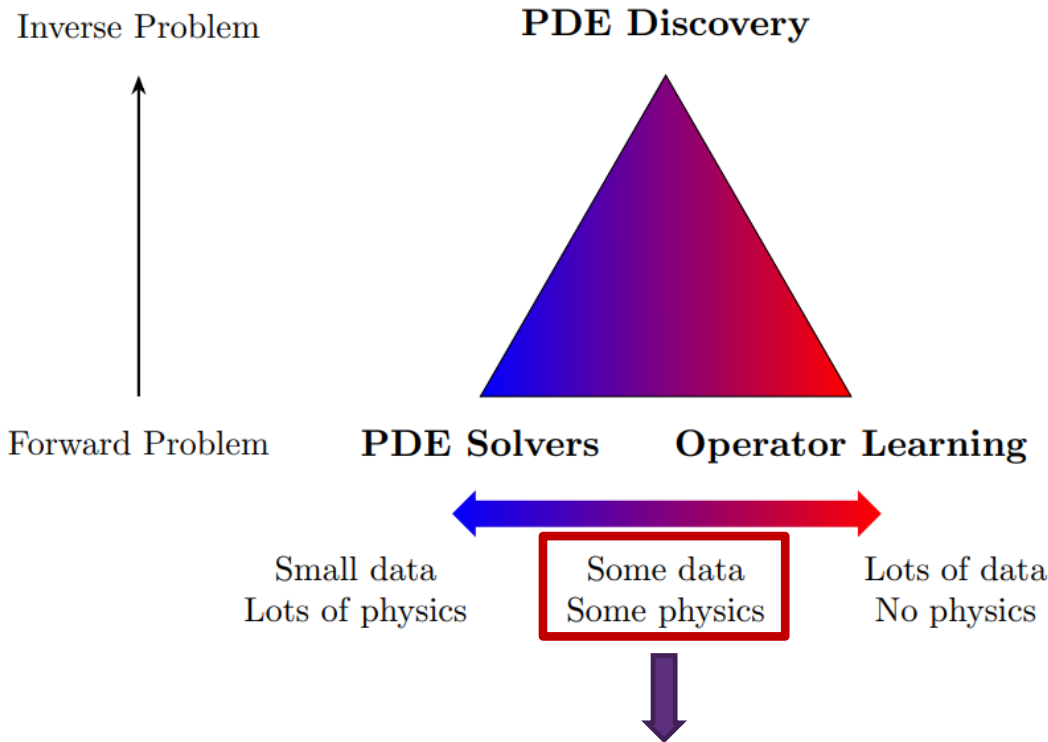
256×256, U-Net relative L2: 0.0600

- On **unseen boundary conditions**

Model	Relative L2
U-Net	0.217
DeepLag	0.203



5 SUMMARY AND FUTURE WORK



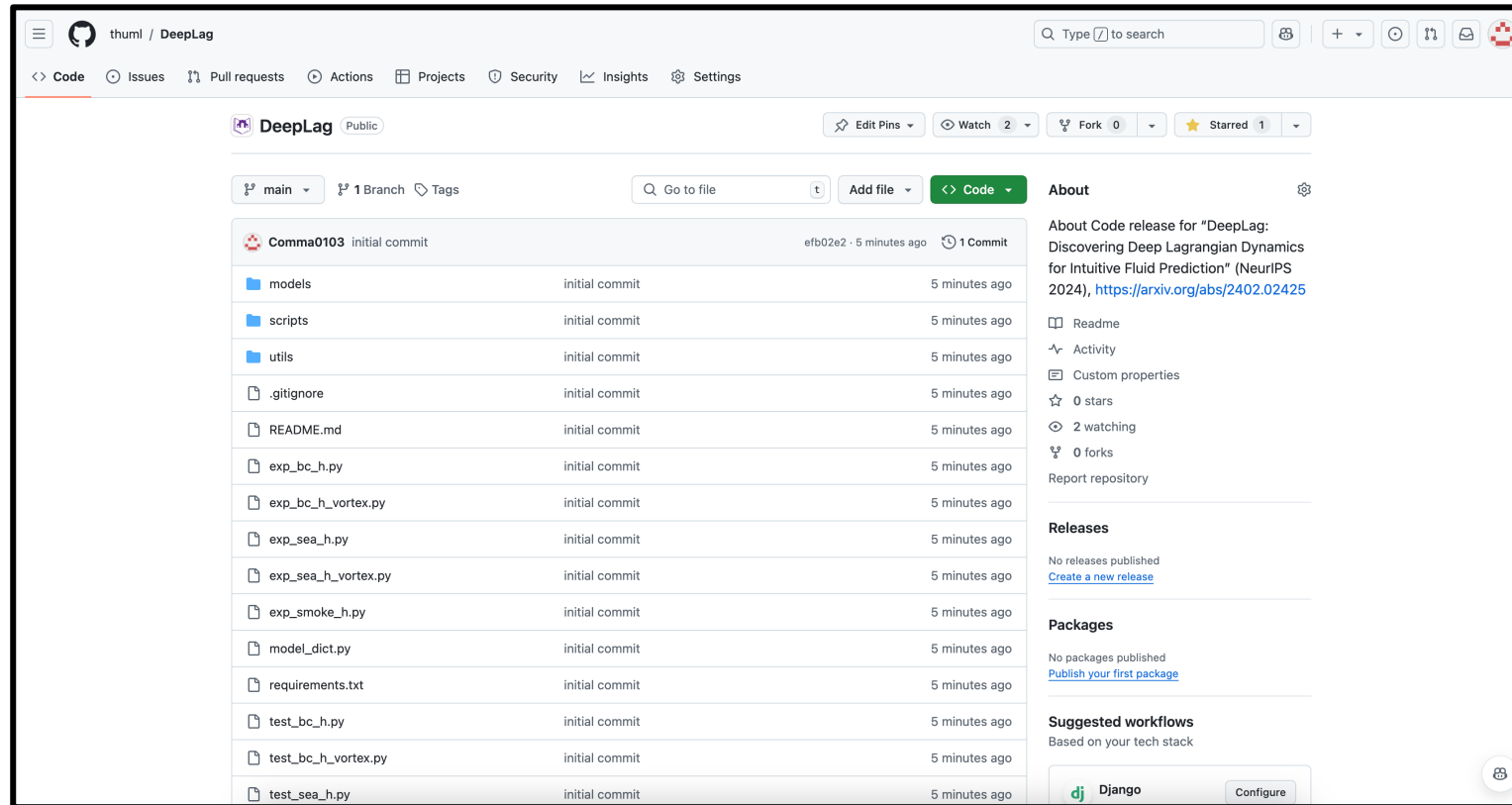
Feature:

A **data-driven** DL approach with **physical interpretability** through **Deep Lagrangian Dynamics**

- Addressing the interpretability of learned particle trajectories by **aligning with Lagrangian numerical methods**
- Introducing **motion decomposition mechanisms and fluid-specific principles** for specific scenarios to develop downstream specialized methods



OPEN SOURCE



<https://github.com/thuml/DeepLag>

Complete benchmarks & code & models





清华大学
Tsinghua University

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

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