

# Neural Inverse Operators for Solving PDE Inverse Problems

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# The Collaborators



Roberto Molinaro



Björn Engquist



Siddhartha Mishra

The paper <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.11167.pdf> is to appear at ICML 2023.

# Inverse Problems



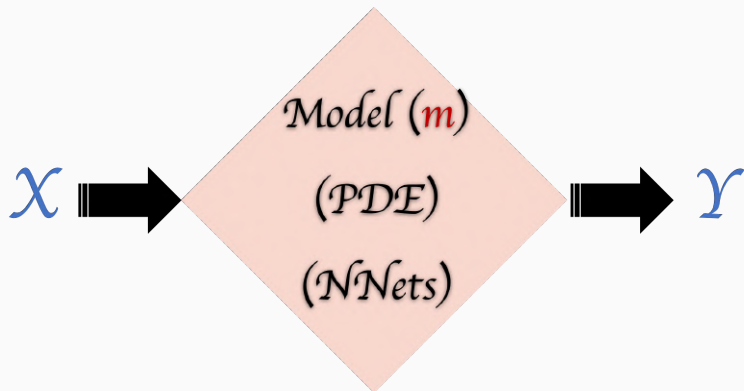
The modeling step (the forward problem)



Well-Known Inverse Problems:

**Locate Earthquake Source, Image the Black Hole, X-ray/CT/Ultrasound**

## General “Inverse Problems”



Inverse data matching problems aim at finding  $m$  such that the predicted outputs  $(X, F(m))$  match given measured data  $(X, Y)$ .

# Calderón's Problem (Electrical Impedance Tomography, EIT)



$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla u) = 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ u(\mathbf{x}) = \psi, & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Given “Dirichlet-to-Neumann” map

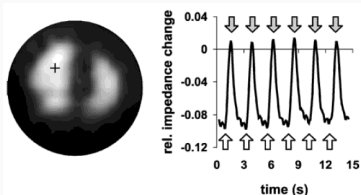
$$\Lambda_a : \mathcal{H}^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$$

$$\Lambda_a : \psi \longrightarrow \mathbf{a} \nabla u_\psi \cdot \mathbf{n},$$

the goal is to find

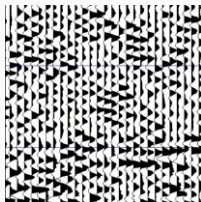
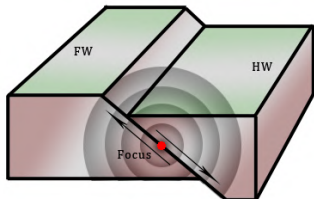
$$\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega.$$

*Kohn, R. V., & Vogelius, M. (1987). Relaxation of a variational method for impedance computed tomography. CPAM.*



— Wikipedia

# Waveform Inversion (FWI)



— Wikipedia

$$\begin{cases} m(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial^2 u(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t^2} - \Delta u(\mathbf{x}, t) = s(\mathbf{x}, t) \\ \text{Zero i.c. in half-space } \Omega \\ \text{Neumann b.c. on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

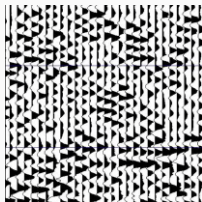
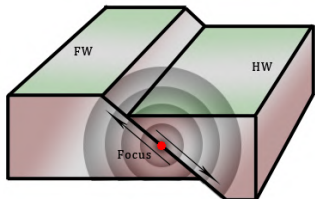
$m(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{c(\mathbf{x})^2}$ ,  $c(\mathbf{x})$  is the wave velocity

Given  $u(x_r, y_r, z = 0, t)$  the goal is to find

$$m(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega.$$

*Tarantola, A. (2005). Inverse problem theory and methods for model parameter estimation. SIAM.*

# Helmholtz Equation Based Inversion



— Wikipedia

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + \omega^2 m(\mathbf{x})u = s(\mathbf{x}, \omega) \\ \text{Neumann b.c. on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

$$m(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{c(\mathbf{x})^2}, \text{ } c(\mathbf{x}) \text{ is the wave velocity}$$

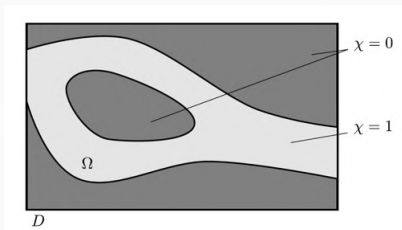
Given  $u(x_r, y_r, z = 0; \omega)$  the goal is to find

$$m(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega.$$

*Colton, David L., Rainer Kress. Inverse acoustic and electromagnetic scattering theory. Vol. 93. Berlin: Springer, 1998.*

# Topological (Shape) Optimization

The fluid (gas) domain in flow channel design problems



Sato et al. (2019). A topology optimization method in rarefied gas flow problems using the Boltzmann eqn.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_x f = -\frac{\rho}{k_n} (f - f^{eq}(\rho, \mathbf{u}, T)) \\ f(0, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) = f_0 \text{ on } D \\ f = f^{eq}(\rho_b, \mathbf{u}_b, T_b) \text{ on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

The goal is to find

$\Omega$

that minimizes an objective function

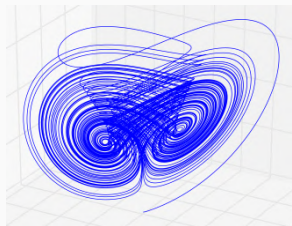
$$\int_t \int_{\Omega_e} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} r(\mathbf{v}) f(t, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v} dx dt,$$

on some evaluation domain  $\Omega_e$ .



# Learning the Dynamics

“Chen” System [Chen-Ueta, 1999]



Y.-Nurbekyan-Negrini-Martin-Pasha, 2023. Optimal transport for parameter identification of chaotic dynamics via invariant measures. SIADS.

A general parameterized dynamical system may take the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{z} \end{pmatrix} = v(x, y, z; \underbrace{\sigma, \rho, \beta}_{\theta}) \approx v(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$$

where  $v \approx v(\cdot, \theta)$  can be

- polynomials,
- basis functions,
- neural networks, and so on,

where  $\theta$  corresponds to

- expansion coefficients,
- neural network weights, etc.

# Image Processing

$f_\epsilon$



$u$



Denoising, Deblurring, Blind  
Deconvolution (nonlinear)...

$$f_\epsilon = A(\sigma)u + \epsilon$$

where  $A(\sigma)$  could be

- Identity  $I$  (denoising)
- Known Kernel  $K$  (deblurring)
- Unknown Kernel  $A(\sigma)$  (blind deconvolution, nonlinear)

## The Forward Model $F(m)$

$F$  is given; we just find  $m$  (e.g., PDEs).

- Pro: We know the best (exact) forward problem!
- Con: The forward and inverse problems are so nonlinear!

OR

$F$  is not known; we are free to choose (e.g., XXX-net).

- Pro: The freedom to modify it to a “better” map
  - Over-Parametrization;
  - Model Extension;
  - Model Reduction.
- Con: Trial and error to build the model

## How to Solve $F(m) = g$

- Linear Inverse Problem, i.e.,  $Am = g$   
(often combined with **numerical linear algebra**)
  - Direct Method
  - Iterative Method
  - Optimization-Based Method (e.g., least-squares min)

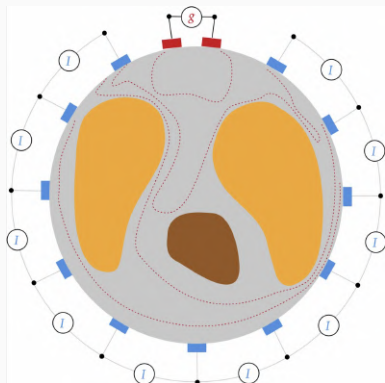
# How to Solve $F(m) = g$

- Linear Inverse Problem, i.e.,  $Am = g$   
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  - Direct Method
  - Iterative Method
  - Optimization-Based Method (e.g., least-squares min)
  
- Nonlinear Inverse Problem,  $F(m) = g$ 
  - Direct Method (challenging to construct) (**in today's talk**)
  - Iterative Method (e.g., nonlinear GMRES)
  - Optimization Method

## **Learn a Direct Inverse Map**

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## Example: Calderón's Problem



$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla u) = 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ u(\mathbf{x}) = \psi, & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

Given Dirichlet-to-Neumann map

$$\Lambda_a : \mathcal{H}^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$$

$$\Lambda_a : \psi \longrightarrow \mathbf{a} \nabla u_\psi \cdot \mathbf{n},$$

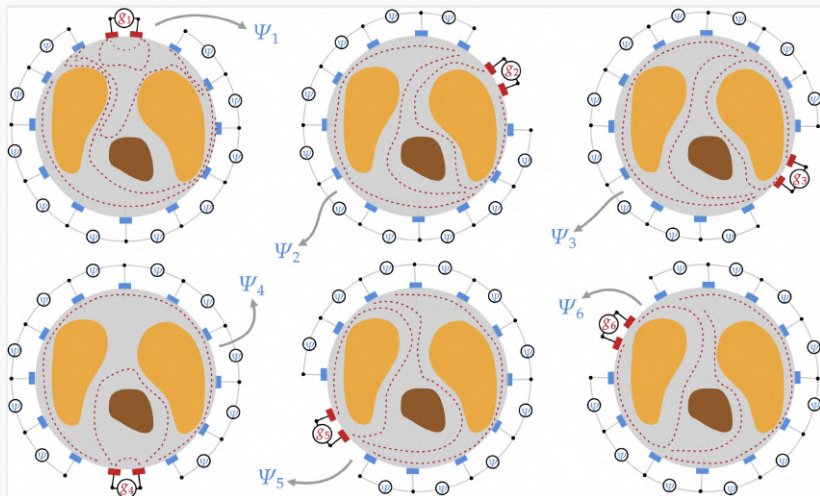
the goal is to find

$$\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega.$$

In suitable settings, it is provable that there exists an inverse problem with (log-) stability.

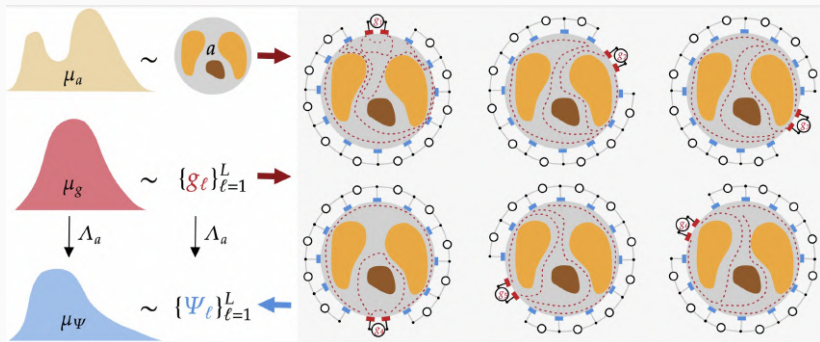
# The Data Acquisition

Recall that the data is an **operator** on the continuous level





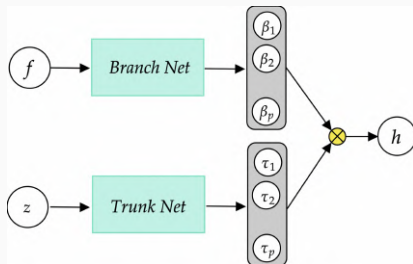
# The Training Data Acquisition



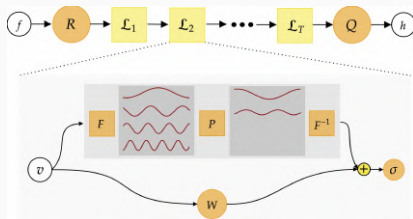
We provide  $(a^{(i)}, \{\Psi_\ell^{(i)}\}_\ell)$  as the training data for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  number of different parameter samples with  $a^{(i)} \sim \mu_a$ .

$$\{\Psi_\ell^{(i)}\}_\ell \approx \mu_\Psi = \Lambda_{a^{(i)}} \# \mu_g, \quad \mu_g \text{ fixed.}$$

# The Neural Network Architecture

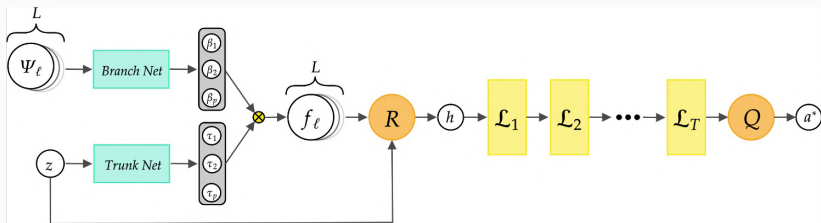


$NN_1$ : DeepONet



$NN_2$ : FNO

# The Neural Network Architecture



DeepONet

FNO

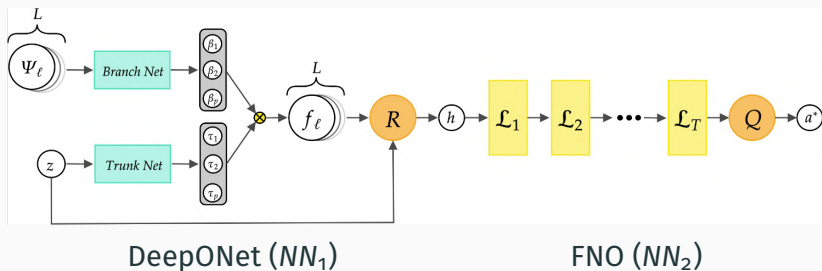
The proposed Neural Inverse Operator (NIO)

An Intuition:

DeepONet:  $\{\Psi_\ell\} \mapsto \{f_\ell\}$  (analogy:  $\{a \nabla u_\psi \cdot \mathbf{n}\}$  on  $\partial\Omega$  to  $\{u_\psi\}$  on  $\Omega$ )

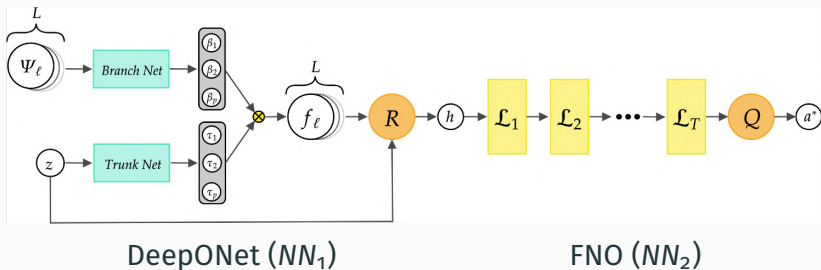
FNO:  $\{f_\ell\} \mapsto a$  (analogy:  $\{u_\psi\}$  on  $\Omega$  to  $a$  on  $\Omega$ )

# The Neural Network Architecture



$$NIO(\Lambda_a \# \mu_g) = NN_2 \left( NN_1 \# \underbrace{(\Lambda_a \# \mu_g)}_{\mu_\Psi} \right) \rightarrow a.$$

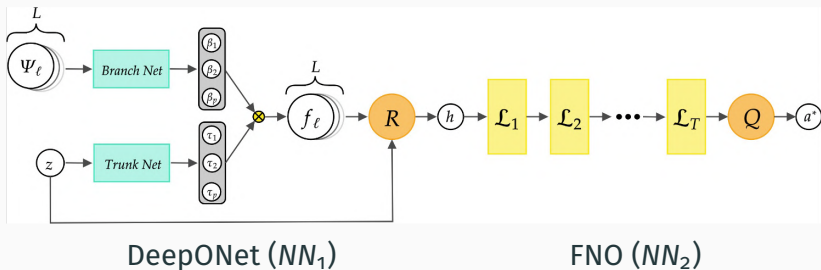
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One concern: NN does not know  $\{\Psi_\ell\}$  are samples of  $\mu_\Psi$  and similarly  $\{f_\ell\}$  are samples of an underlying distribution.

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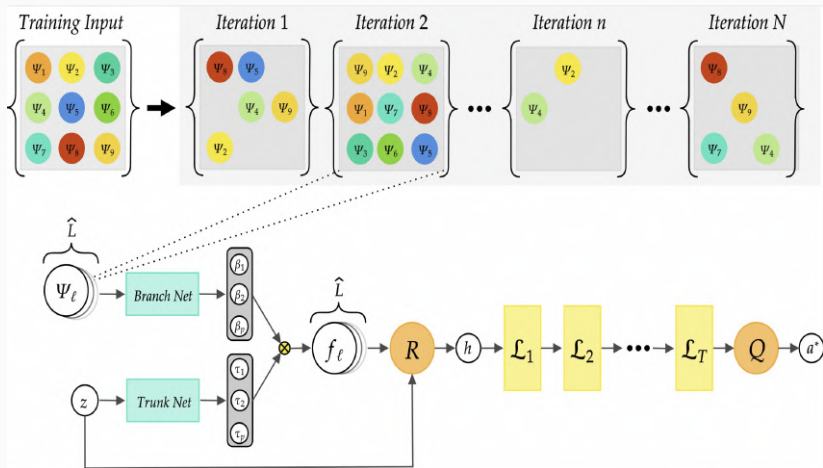


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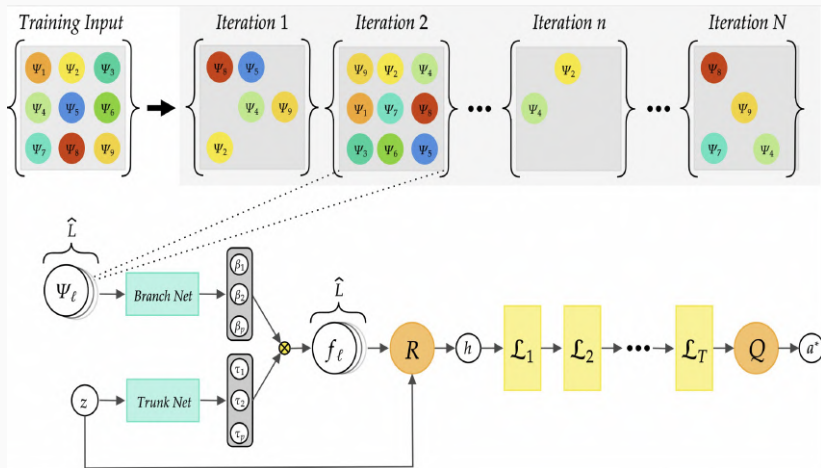
One concern: NN does not know  $\{\Psi_\ell\}$  are samples of  $\mu_\Psi$  and similarly  $\{f_\ell\}$  are samples of an underlying distribution.

We want: (1) permutation invariant; (2) different  $a$  can have different  $L$ ; (3) testing data can have a different  $L$

# The Training Scheme — Bagging — “Randomized Batching”



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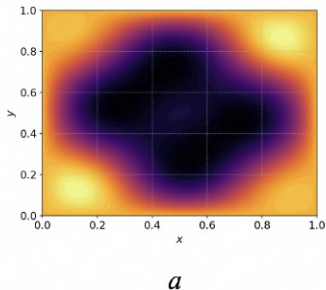
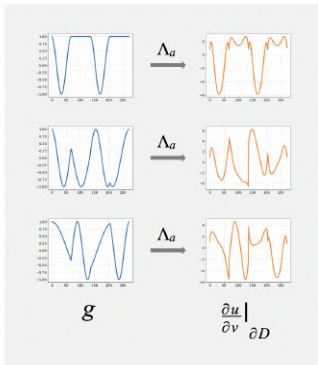
Rich theoretical analysis in Bagging from statistical learning.



# Numerical Results

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# EIT Examples



$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot (a(x) \nabla u) = 0, & x \in \Omega \\ u(x) = \psi, & x \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

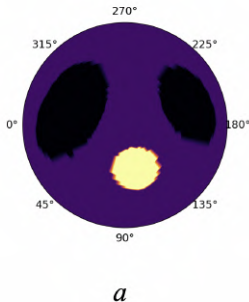
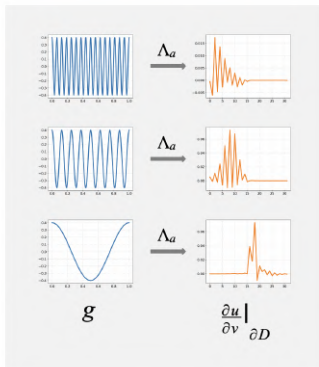
Given DtN map

$$\Lambda_a : \mathcal{H}^{1/2}(\partial\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}^{-1/2}(\partial\Omega)$$

$$\Lambda_a : \psi \longrightarrow a \nabla u_\psi \cdot \mathbf{n},$$

the goal is to find  $a(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ .

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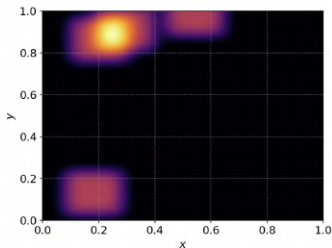
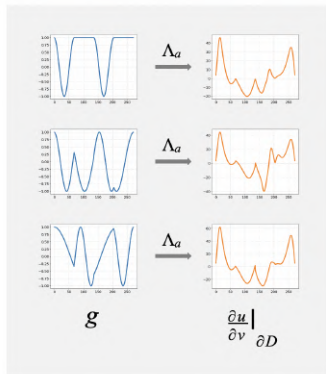
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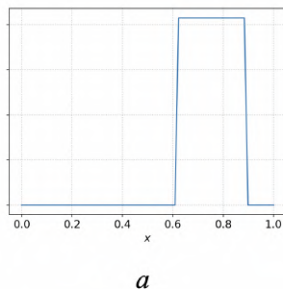
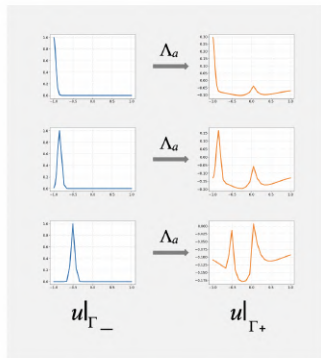
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# RTE Inversion Examples



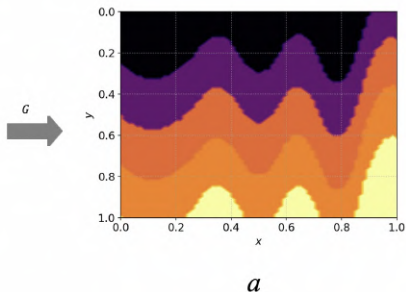
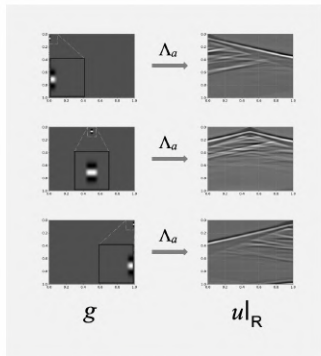
$$\begin{aligned}
 v \cdot \nabla_z u(z, v) + \sigma_a(z)u(z, v) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\epsilon} \mathbf{a}(z)Q[u], \quad z \in D \\
 u(z, v) &= \phi(z, v), \quad z \in \Gamma_-
 \end{aligned}$$

Given the Albedo operator

$$\Lambda_a : L^1(\Gamma_-) \mapsto L^1(\Gamma_+)$$

$$\Lambda_a : u|_{\Gamma_-} = \phi \mapsto u|_{\Gamma_+}$$

# Wave Inversion Results



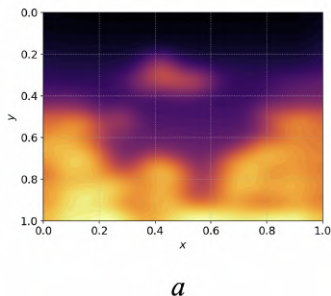
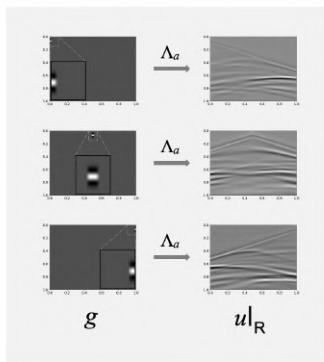
$$u_{tt}(t, z) + a(z)^2 \Delta u = s,$$
$$(z, t) \in D \times [0, T],$$

Given the *Source-to-Receiver* (StR) operator,

$$\Lambda_a : L^2([0, T] \times D) \mapsto L^2([0, T]; X_R),$$

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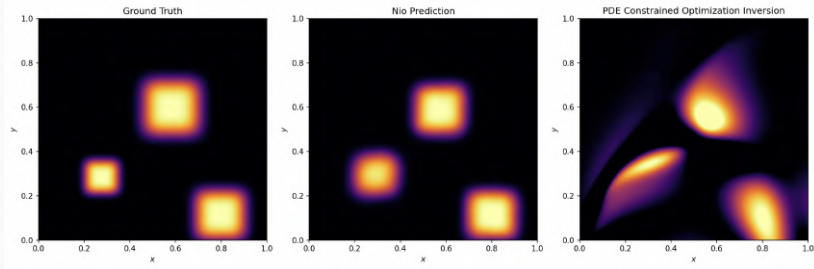
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# Testing Performance Comparison

	DONet		FCNN		NIO	
	$L^1 \downarrow$	$L^2 \downarrow$	$L^1 \downarrow$	$L^2 \downarrow$	$L^1 \downarrow$	$L^2 \downarrow$
<b>EIT Trigonometric</b>	1.97%	2.36%	1.49%	1.82%	<b>0.85%</b>	<b>1.05%</b>
<b>EIT Heart&amp;Lungs</b>	0.95%	3.69%	0.27%	1.62%	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>
<b>EIT Inclusion Detection</b>	3.83%	7.41%	2.53%	7.55%	<b>1.07%</b>	<b>2.94%</b>
<b>Optical Imaging</b>	2.35%	4.35%	1.46%	3.71%	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Seismic Imaging - CurveVel - A</b>	3.98%	5.86%	<b>2.65%</b>	5.05%	2.71%	<b>4.71%</b>
<b>Seismic Imaging - Style - A</b>	3.82%	5.17%	3.12%	4.63%	<b>3.04%</b>	<b>4.36%</b>



# Compare with PDE-Constrained Optimization



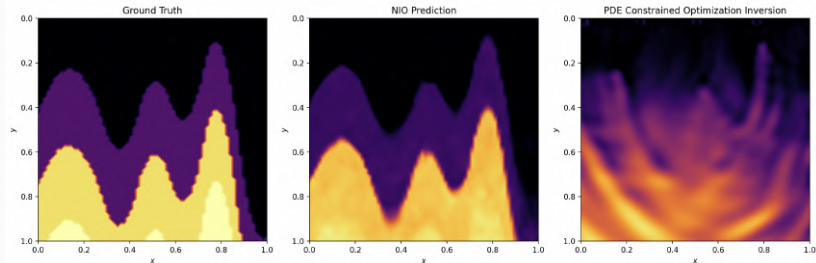
The ill-posed Calderón Problem (inverse Darcy flow)

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{a}(x)\nabla u) = 0, & x \in \Omega \\ u(x) = \psi, & x \in \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

$$\min_{a \in A(D)} \sum_{i=1}^L \text{dist}(\mathcal{F}_i(a), d_i^{\text{obs}}) \quad \text{s.t. PDE constraints}$$

Difficulty in PDE-Constrained optimization: high wavenumber (i.e., edges)

# Compare with PDE-Constrained Optimization



The full waveform inversion (FWI) problem

$$u_{tt}(t, z) + a^2(z)\Delta u = s,$$
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Difficulty in PDE-Constrained optimization: local minima

# Conclusions

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# Summary and Future Directions

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- We consider a large class of PDE-based inverse problems that are “solvable” only when providing a data operator (e.g., DtN, Albedo).

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2. How do different ways of representing  $\Lambda_a$  affect convergence?
3. How does the PDE inverse problem stability improve using statistical learning-type of algorithms?

Thanks for the workshop organizers!  
All my collaborators.