

Multilevel domain decomposition-based architectures for physics-informed neural networks

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Based on joint work with Victorita Dolean (University of Strathclyde & University Côte d'Azur) and Sid Mishra and Ben Moseley (ETH Zürich)

Artificial Neural Networks for Solving Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations

Isaac Elias Lagaris, Aristidis Likas, *Member, IEEE*, and Dimitrios I. Fotiadis

Published in *IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS*, VOL. 9, NO. 5, 1998.

Approach

Solve a general differential equation subject to boundary conditions

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \Psi(\mathbf{x}), \nabla\Psi(\mathbf{x}), \nabla^2\Psi(\mathbf{x})) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

by solving an **optimization problem**

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{x_i} G(\mathbf{x}_i, \Psi_t(\mathbf{x}_i, \theta), \nabla\Psi_t(\mathbf{x}_i, \theta), \nabla^2\Psi_t(\mathbf{x}_i, \theta))^2$$

where $\Psi_t(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$ is a **trial function**, x_i **sampling points inside the domain** Ω and θ are **adjustable parameters**.

Construction of the trial functions

The trial functions **explicitly satisfy the boundary conditions**:

$$\Psi_t(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = A(\mathbf{x}) + F(\mathbf{x}, N(\mathbf{x}, \theta))$$

- N is a **feedforward neural network** with **trainable parameters** θ and input $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- A and F are **fixed functions**, chosen s.t.:
 - A **satisfies the boundary conditions**
 - F **does not contribute to the boundary conditions**

Neural Networks for Solving Differential Equations

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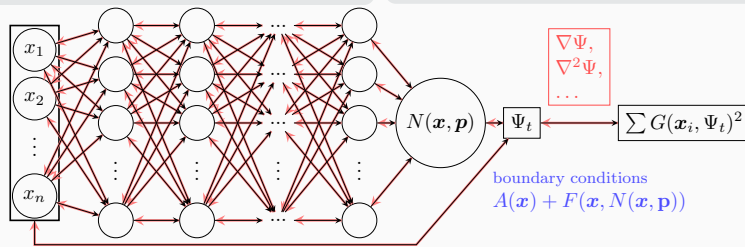
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Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)

In the **physics-informed neural network (PINN)** approach introduced by **Raissi et al. (2019)**, a neural network is employed to **discretize a partial differential equation**

$$\mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}), \quad (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) \in [0, T] \times \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d.$$

It is based on the approach by **Lagaris et al. (1998)**. The main novelty of PINNs is the use of a **hybrid loss function**:

$$\mathcal{L} = \omega_{\text{data}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} + \omega_{\text{PDE}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}},$$

where ω_{data} and ω_{PDE} are **weights** and

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{data}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} (u(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i, \hat{\mathbf{t}}_i) - u_i)^2,$$

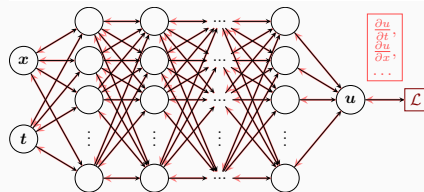
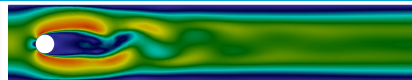
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PDE}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{PDE}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{PDE}}} (\mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{t}_i) - f(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{t}_i))^2.$$

Advantages

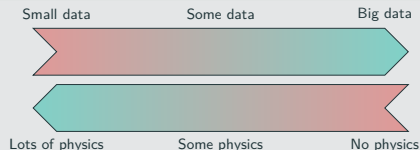
- **“Meshfree”**
- **Small data**
- **Generalization properties**
- **High-dimensional problems**
- **Inverse and parameterized problems**

Drawbacks

- **Training cost** and **robustness**
- **Convergence not well-understood**
- **Difficulties with scalability** and **multi-scale problems**



Hybrid loss



- **Known solution values** can be included in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$
- **Initial and boundary conditions** are also included in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{data}}$

Mishra and Molinaro. *Estimates on the generalisation error of PINNs*, 2022

Estimate of the generalization error

The generalization error (or total error) satisfies

$$\varepsilon_G \leq C_{\text{PDE}} \varepsilon_{\mathcal{T}} + C_{\text{PDE}} C_{\text{quad}}^{1/p} N^{-\alpha/p}$$

where

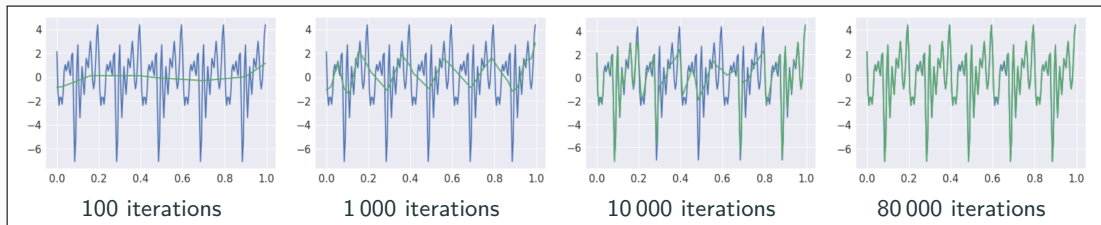
- $\varepsilon_G = \varepsilon_G(\theta; \mathbf{X}) := \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^*\|_V$ (V Sobolev space, \mathbf{X} training data set)
- $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{T}}$ is the training error (L^p loss of the residual of the PDE)
- C_{PDE} and C_{quad} constants depending on the PDE resp. the quadrature
- N number of the training points and α convergence rate of the quadrature

Rule of thumb:

“As long as the PINN is trained well, it also generalizes well”

Scaling Issues in Neural Network Training

- **Spectral bias: neural networks prioritize learning lower frequency functions first** irrespective of their amplitude



Rahaman et al., *On the spectral bias of neural networks*, ICML (2019)

- Solving solutions on **large domains and/or with multiscale features** potentially requires **very large neural networks**.
- Training may **not sufficiently reduce the loss** or take **large numbers of iterations**.
- Significant **increase on the computational work**

Convergence analysis of PINNs via the **neural tangent kernel**: Wang, Yu, Perdikaris, *When and why PINNs fail to train: A neural tangent kernel perspective*, JCP (2022)

Motivation – Some Observations on the Performance of PINNs

Solve

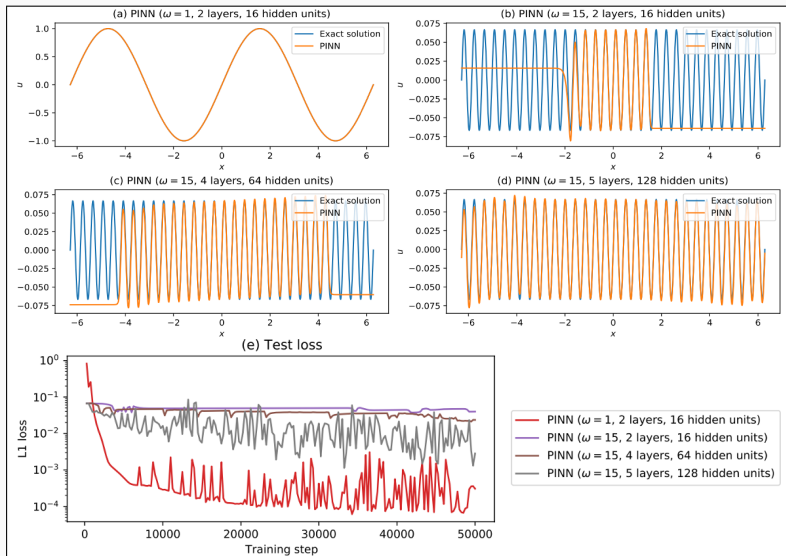
$$u' = \cos(\omega x),$$
$$u(0) = 0,$$

for different values of ω using PINNs with varying network capacities.

Scaling issues

- Large computational domains
- Small frequencies

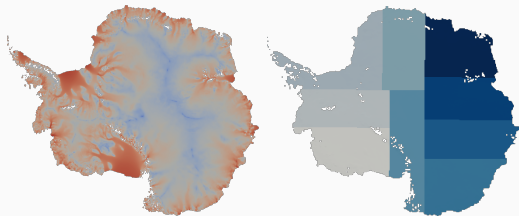
Cf. Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023)



(a) 321 free parameters

(d) 66 433 free parameters

Domain Decomposition Methods



Images based on [Heinlein, Perego, Rajamanickam \(2022\)](#)

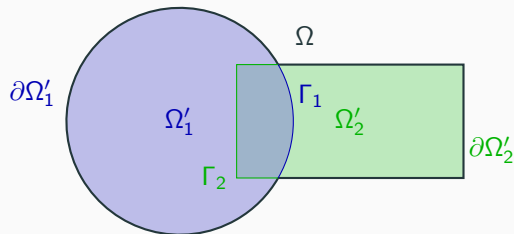
Historical remarks: The **alternating Schwarz method** is the earliest **domain decomposition method (DDM)**, which has been invented by **H. A. Schwarz** and published in **1870**:

- Schwarz used the algorithm to establish the **existence of harmonic functions** with prescribed boundary values on **regions with non-smooth boundaries**.

Idea

Decomposing a large **global problem** into smaller **local problems**:

- Better **robustness** and **scalability** of numerical solvers
- Improved **computational efficiency**
- Introduce **parallelism**



A non-exhaustive overview:

- **Machine Learning for adaptive BDDC, FETI-DP, and AGDSW:** Heinlein, Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (2019, 2020, 2021, 2021, 2021, 2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (preprint 2022)
- **Domain decomposition for CNNs:** Gu, Zhang, Liu, Cai (2022); Lee, Park, Lee (2022); Klawonn, Lanser, Weber (arXiv 2023)
- **D3M:** Li, Tang, Wu, and Liao (2019)
- **DeepDDM:** Li, Xiang, Xu (2020); Mercier, Gratton, Boudier (arXiv 2021); Li, Wang, Cui, Xiang, Xu (2023); Sun, Xu, Yi (arXiv 2022, arXiv 2023)
- **FBPINNs:** Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer (2023); Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (accepted 2023, submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486)
- **Schwarz Domain Decomposition Algorithm for PINNs:** Kim, Yang (2022, arXiv 2022)
- **cPINNs:** Jagtap, Kharazmi, Karniadakis (2020)
- **XPINNs:** Jagtap, Karniadakis (2020)

An overview of the state-of-the-art in early 2021:

 A. Heinlein, A. Klawonn, M. Lanser, J. Weber.

Combining machine learning and domain decomposition methods for the solution of partial differential equations — A review.

GAMM-Mitteilungen. 2021.

Finite Basis Physics-Informed Neural Networks (FBPINNs)

In the **finite basis physics informed neural network (FBPINNs) method** introduced in [Moseley, Markham, and Nissen-Meyer \(2023\)](#), we solve the boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}[u](\mathbf{x}) &= f(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d, \\ \mathcal{B}_k[u](\mathbf{x}) &= g_k(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma_k \subset \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

using the **PINN** approach and **hard enforcement of the boundary conditions**, similar to [Lagaris et al. \(1998\)](#).

FBPINNs use the **network architecture**

$$u(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \mathcal{C} \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j(\theta_j)$$

and the **loss function**

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\mathcal{N} \left[\mathcal{C} \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j \right] (\mathbf{x}_i, \theta_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2.$$

- **Overlapping DD:** $\Omega = \bigcup_{j=1}^J \Omega_j$
- **Window functions** ω_j with $\text{supp}(\omega_j) \subset \Omega_j$ and $\sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j \equiv 1$ on Ω

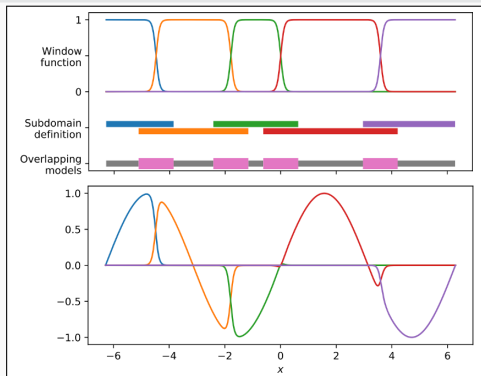
Hard enforcement of boundary conditions

Loss function

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathcal{N}[\mathcal{C}u](\mathbf{x}_i, \theta) - f(\mathbf{x}_i))^2,$$

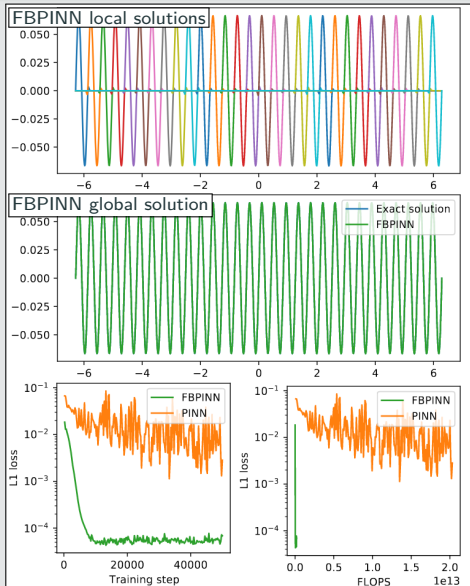
with constraining operator \mathcal{C} , which **explicitly enforces the boundary conditions**.

→ Often **improves training performance**



Numerical Results for FBPINNs

PINN Vs FBPINN (Moseley et al. (2023))



Scalability of FBPINNs

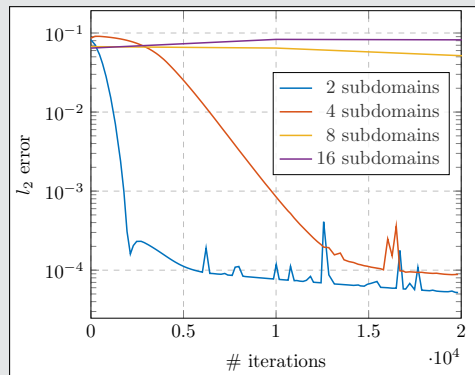
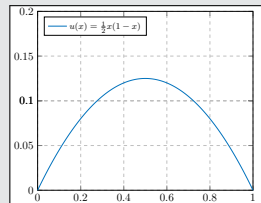
Consider the **simple boundary value problem**

$$-u'' = 1 \quad \text{in } [0, 1],$$

$$u(0) = u(1) = 0,$$

which has the **solution**

$$u(x) = 1/2x(1 - x).$$



Two-Level FBPINN Algorithm

Coarse correction and spectral bias

Questions:

- Scalability requires **global transport of information**. This can be done via **coarse global problem**.
- What does this mean in the **context of network training**?

Idea:

→ Learn **low frequencies** using a **small global network**, train **high frequencies** using **local networks**.

Two-level FBPINN network architecture:

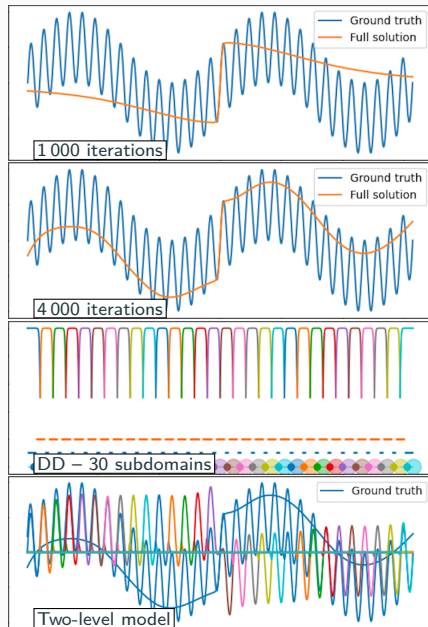
$$u(\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_J) = \mathcal{C} \left(u_0(\theta_0) + \sum_{j=1}^J \omega_j u_j(\theta_j) \right)$$

Consider a **simple model problem** with **two frequencies**

$$\begin{cases} u' &= \omega_1 \cos(\omega_1 \mathbf{x}) + \omega_2 \cos(\omega_2 \mathbf{x}) \\ u(0) &= 0. \end{cases}$$

with $\omega_1 = 1$, $\omega_2 = 15$.

Cf. [Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley \(accepted 2023\)](#).



Numerical Results for FBPINNs – One Versus Two Levels

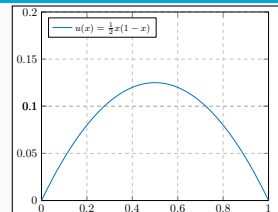
Consider, again, the **simple boundary value problem**

$$-u'' = 1 \quad \text{in } [0, 1],$$

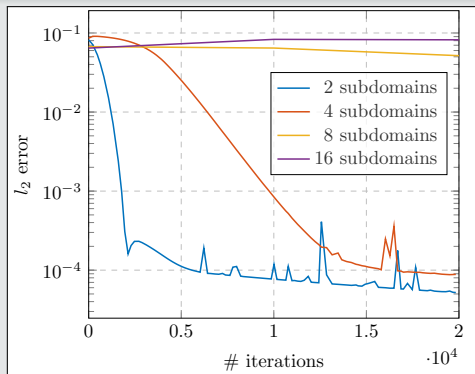
$$u(0) = u(1) = 0,$$

which has the **solution**

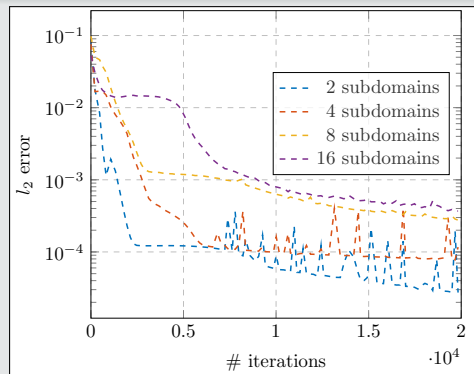
$$u(x) = \frac{1}{2}x(1 - x).$$



One-Level FBPINNs



Two-Level FBPINNs



Multi-Level FBPINN Algorithm

We introduce a **hierarchy of L overlapping domain decompositions**

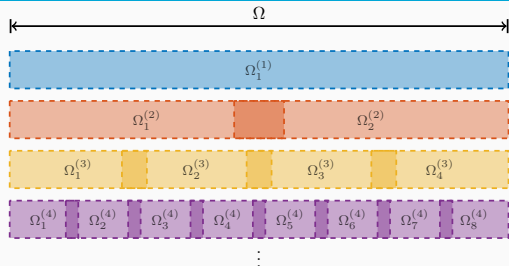
$$\Omega = \bigcup_{j=1}^{J^{(l)}} \Omega_j^{(l)}$$

and corresponding window functions $\omega_j^{(l)}$ with $\text{supp}(\omega_j^{(l)}) \subset \Omega_j^{(l)}$ and $\sum_{j=1}^{J^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} \equiv 1$ on Ω .

This yields the **L -level FBPINN algorithm**:

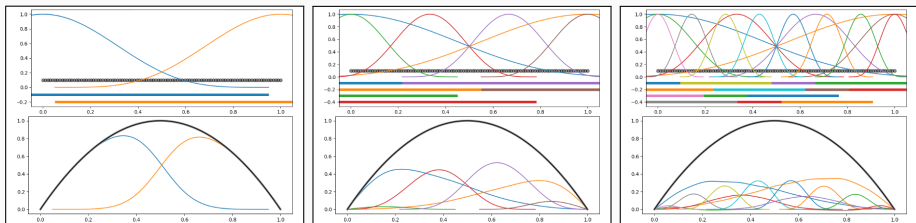
L -level network architecture

$$u(\theta_1^{(1)}, \dots, \theta_{J^{(L)}}^{(L)}) = e\left(\sum_{l=1}^L \sum_{i=1}^{N^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)}(\theta_j^{(l)})\right)$$



Loss function

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(n \left[e \sum_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \Omega_j^{(l)}} \omega_j^{(l)} u_j^{(l)} \right] (\mathbf{x}_i, \theta_j^{(l)}) - f(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2$$



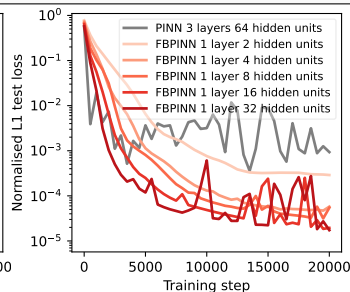
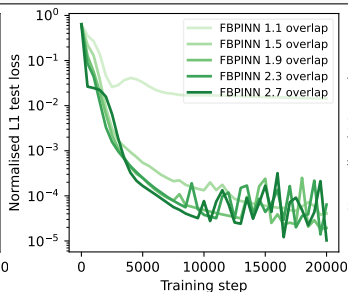
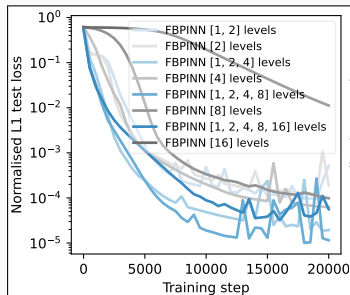
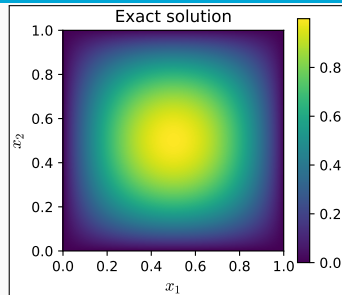
Multilevel FBPINNs – 2D Laplace

Let us consider the **simple two-dimensional boundary value problem**

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 32(x(1-x) + y(1-y)) \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

which has the **solution**

$$u(x, y) = 16(x(1-x)y(1-y)).$$



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

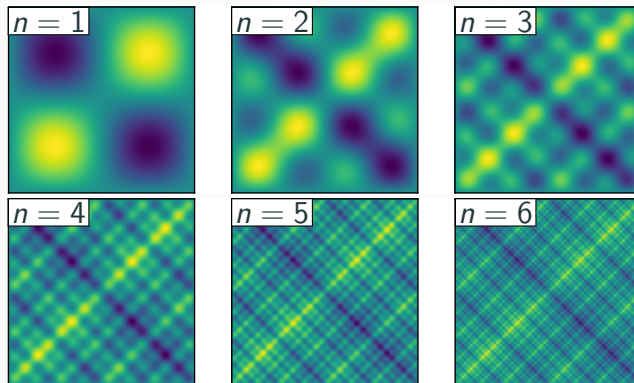
Multi-Frequency Problem

Let us now consider the **two-dimensional multi-frequency Laplace boundary value problem**

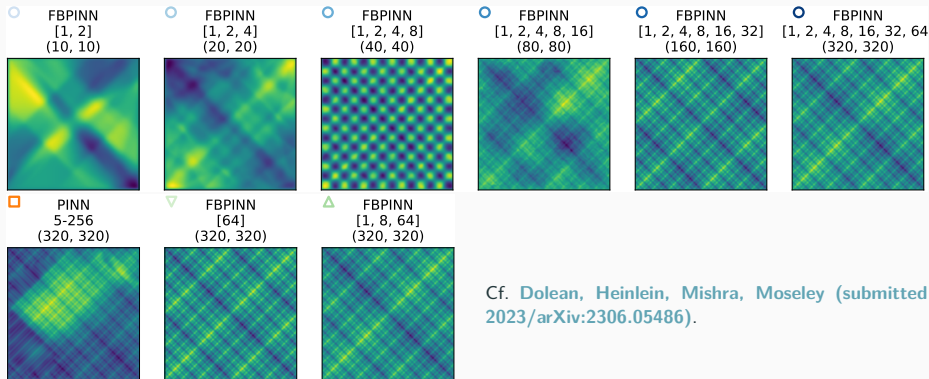
$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (\omega_i \pi)^2 \sin(\omega_i \pi x) \sin(\omega_i \pi y) & \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2, \\ u &= 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

with $\omega_i = 2^i$.

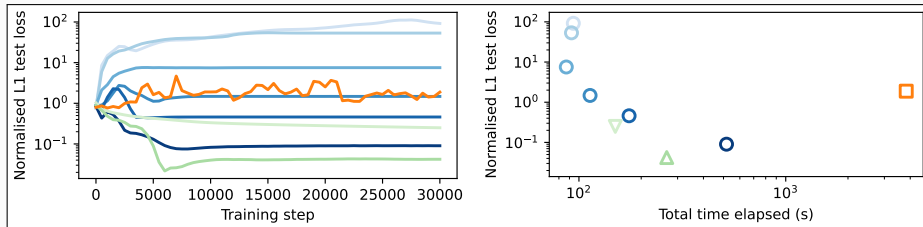
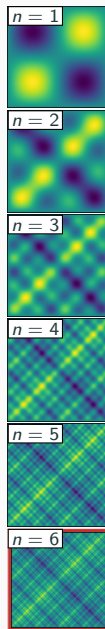
For increasing values of n , we obtain the **analytical solutions**:



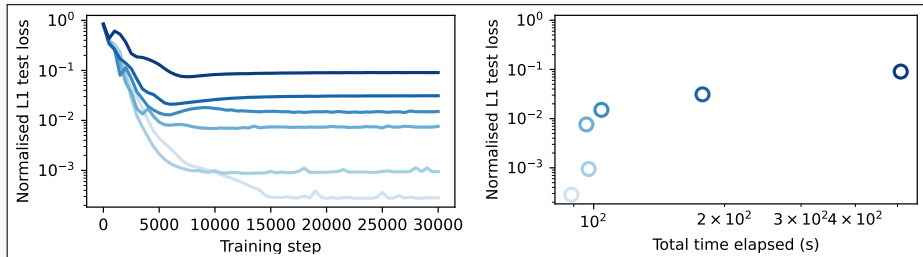
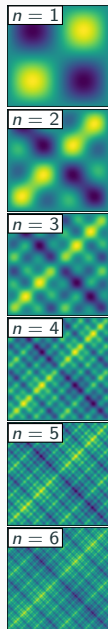
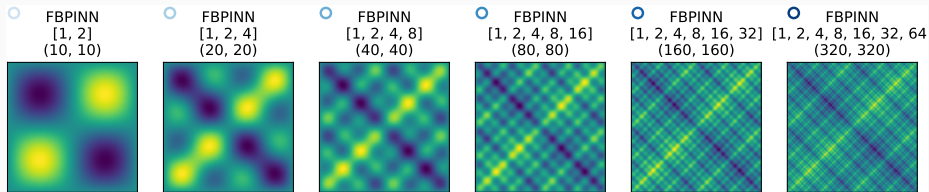
Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Strong Scaling



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).



Multi-Level FBPINNs for a Multi-Frequency Problem – Weak Scaling



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

Helmholtz Problem

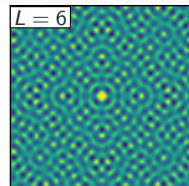
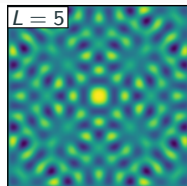
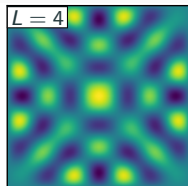
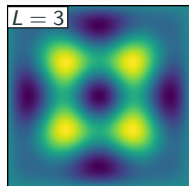
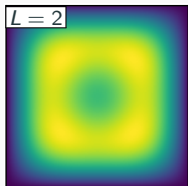
Finally, let us consider the **two-dimensional Helmholtz boundary value problem**

$$\Delta u - k^2 u = f \quad \text{in } \Omega = [0, 1]^2,$$

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\|\mathbf{x}-0.5\|/\sigma)^2}.$$

With $k = 2^L \pi / 1.6$ and $\sigma = 0.8 / 2^L$, we obtain the **solutions**:



Multilevel FBPINNs – 2D Helmholtz Problem

Let us consider the **two-dimensional Helmholtz boundary value problem**

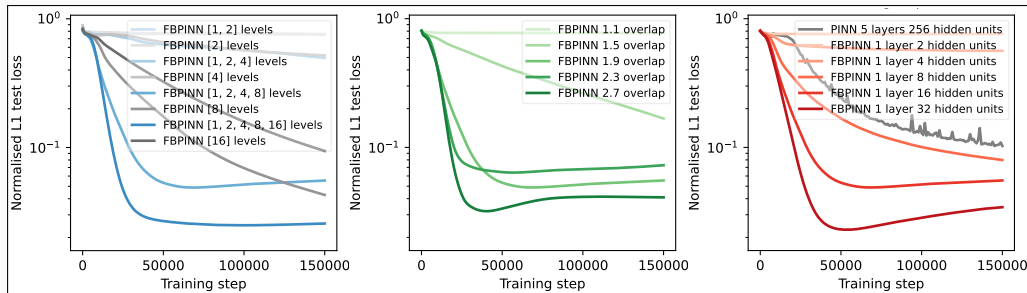
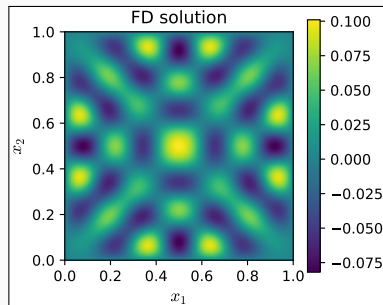
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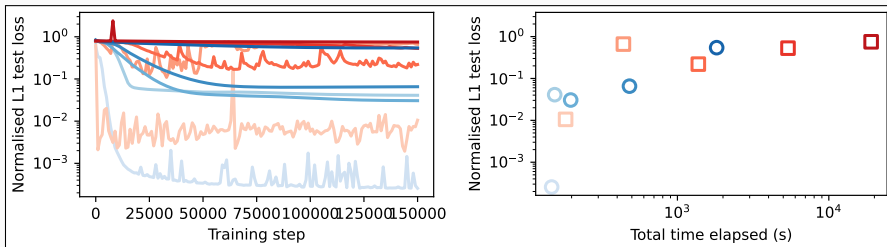
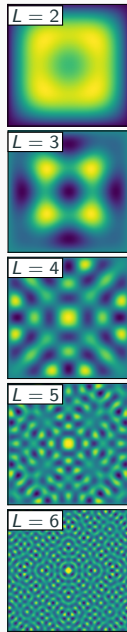
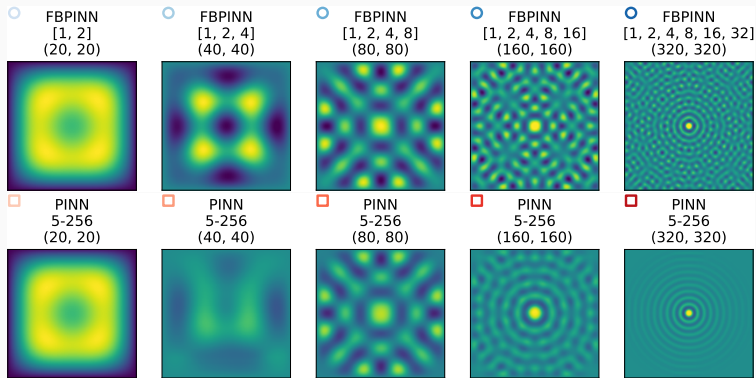
with $k = 2^4\pi/1.6$ and $\sigma = 0.8/2^4$.

We compute a **reference solution** using **finite differences** with a 5-point stencil on a 320×320 grid.



Cf. Dolean, Heinlein, Mishra, Moseley (submitted 2023/arXiv:2306.05486).

Multi-Level FBPINNs for the Helmholtz Problem – Weak Scaling



PINNs

- **Training of PINNs is often problematic** when:
 - scaling to large domains / high frequency solutions
 - multiple loss terms have to be balanced
- Convergence of PINNs has yet to be understood better

(Multilevel) FBPINNs

- Schwarz domain decomposition approaches **improve the scalability of PINNs** to large domains / high frequencies, **keeping the complexity of the local networks low**
- As classical domain decomposition methods, **one-level FBPINNs are not scalable to large numbers of subdomains**; **multilevel FBPINNs enable scalability**.

Outlook

- Investigate, e.g.,
 - more complex / realistic geometries and boundary conditions
 - unstructured domain decompositions
 - three dimensional problems (already possible in the implementation)
- Theoretical convergence analysis

Thank you for your attention!