

Neural Operators for Predicting Time Series

Presenter: Marius Kurz Oct 13-16, 2025 AMD @ CASTIEL AI Workshop



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The "dynamics" of the system

- Possible Difficulties
 - Multi-scale
 - Chaotic
 - Exponential error growth

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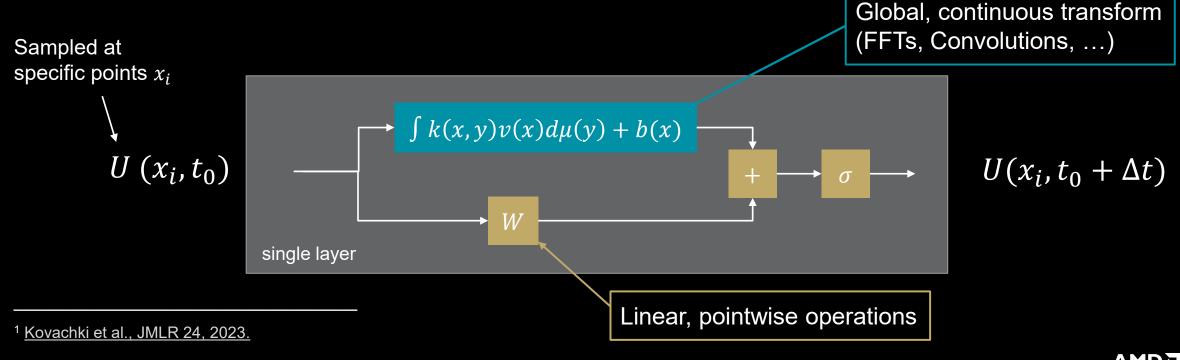
$$U(x,t_0+\Delta t)=R(U(x,t_0))$$
 The "dynamics" of the system

- Numerical Simulations
 - Rigorous guarantees
 - Highly accurate
 - (Prohibitively) Expensive

- Artificial Neural Networks
 - Cheaper to evaluate (once trained)
 - Hard to get guarantees
 - Transferability across cases difficult
 - Limited by available training data

Neural Operators – A Brief Introduction

- Artificial Neural Networks typically work on discretized data (images with pixels, tokens in sequence)
- Discretization-dependency can limit the models' usefulness
- Neural Operators¹: Learn to map from continuous functions to continuous functions





Scientific Datasets and Benchmarks

- Much progress in Al was fueled by established benchmarks and contests within scientific communities
 - Computer Vision: MNIST, CIFAR, ImageNet
 - Natural Language Processing: Open LLM Leaderboard, BookCorpus, WMT 2014 English → German
 - AlphaFold: CASP

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 - AlphaFold: CASP
- Many scientific datasets:
 - are multi-dimensional: 2D, 3D
 - describe transient processes: additional time dimension
 - are large: millions of data points per sample, up to several Terabytes
 - exhibit differently structured input/output data: different simulation methods, applications, ...
 - → Establishing and sharing scientific datasets can be very difficult!

Two Exemplary Datasets for Scientific Simulations

The Well

- 2D and 3D cases from various fields of computational science
- Reference results for variants of FNO and U-Net models

References:

- Paper: <u>Ohana et al., NeurIPS, 2024</u>.
- Github: https://github.com/PolymathicAl/the-well

PDEBench

- Different 1D, 2D and 3D testcases with focus on PDEs prevalent in fluid dynamics
- Provides baseline results for FNO, U-Net and PINN models

References:

- Paper: <u>Takamoto et al., NeurIPS, 2022</u>.
- Github: https://github.com/pdebench/PDEBench

Let's pick an example!

turbulent_radiative_layer_2D from The Well¹ dataset:

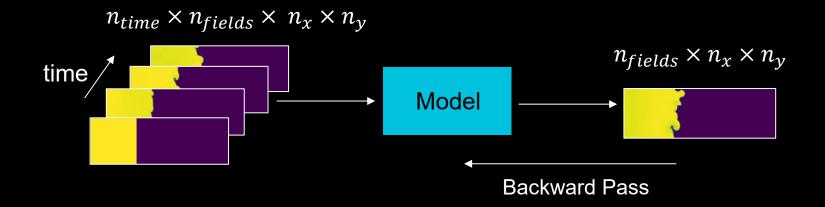
- Shear flow between hot and cold fluid phases
- Compressible Navier-Stokes equations describe temporal evolution
- Radiative cooling modeled through a source term in the energy equation

[&]quot;shear" = relative movement t_0 hot cold Interface

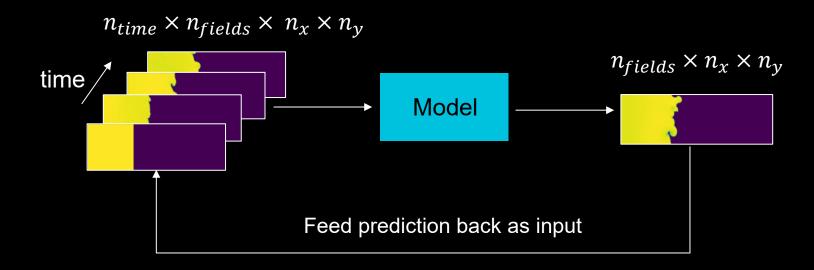
¹ https://github.com/PolymathicAl/the_well

Time Series Prediction with Neural Operators

• Training: Model predicts the next state based on the last n_{time} states, which is a hyperparameter



Time Series Prediction with a Neural Operator



• Inference: Model is evaluated auto-regressively, i.e. predictions are fed back as input

How to use PyTorch packages with ROCm-Support?

- We use the neuraloperator package, which implements FNOs in PyTorch.
- Simply install with

```
$> pip install neuralop
```

And use with

```
import torch
import neuraloperator
```

Just make sure to have PyTorch with ROCm support installed. That's it...

Key Components of the Training Task

Model

Data movement from CPU to GPU

```
Optimizer
```

```
loss = torch.nn.MSELoss()
```

```
Loss Function
```

Data Loader

Basic Training Loop

```
for epoch in range(args.num_episodes):
   for batch in tqdm.tqdm(data loader, unit="batches"):
      # 1. Nullify the gradients for new batch
      optimizer.zero grad()
      # 2. Move Data to Device
      x = batch["input_fields"].to(device)
      y = batch["output fields"].to(device)
     # 3. Do some processing
     # ...
     # 4. Forward pass
     y \mod el = \mod el(x)
     # 5. Backward pass
      output = loss(y_model, y) # Evaluate Loss
      output.backward() # Compute Gradients
      optimizer.step() # Optimizer Step
```

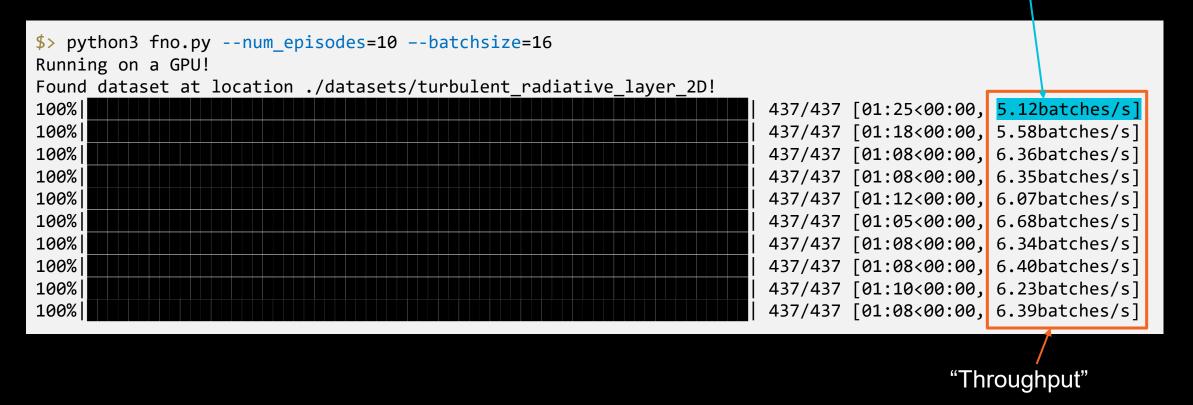
Data movement from CPU to GPU

Actual Compute

Run the Training

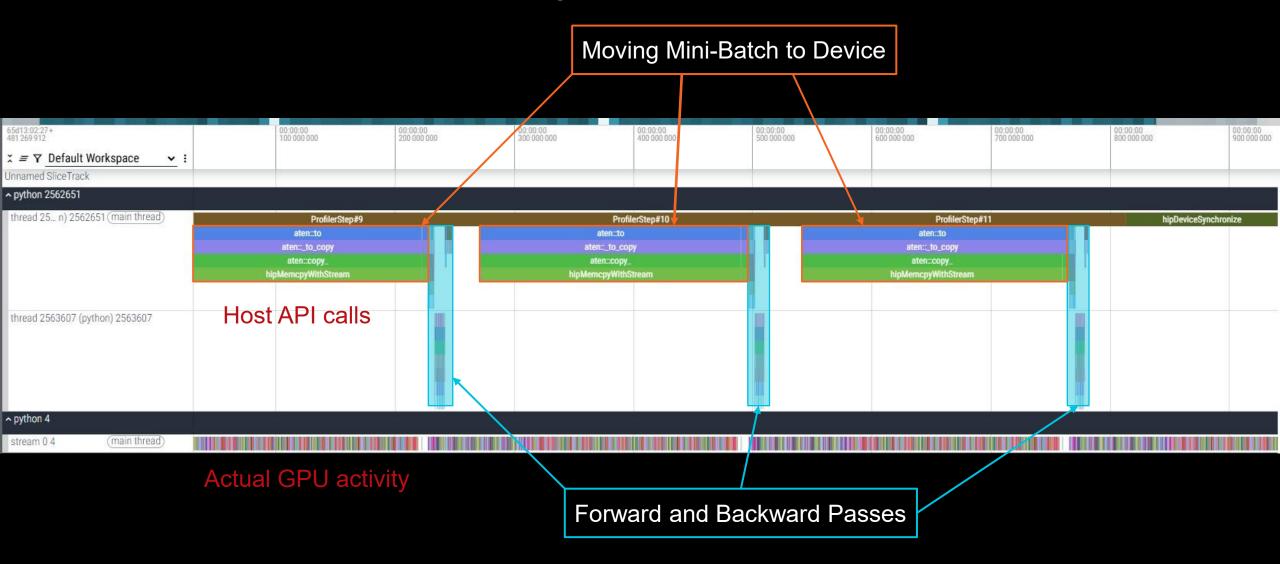
Run a few episodes of training on a single GPU

First Touch Penalty



AMD together we advance_

How does this look on the system?



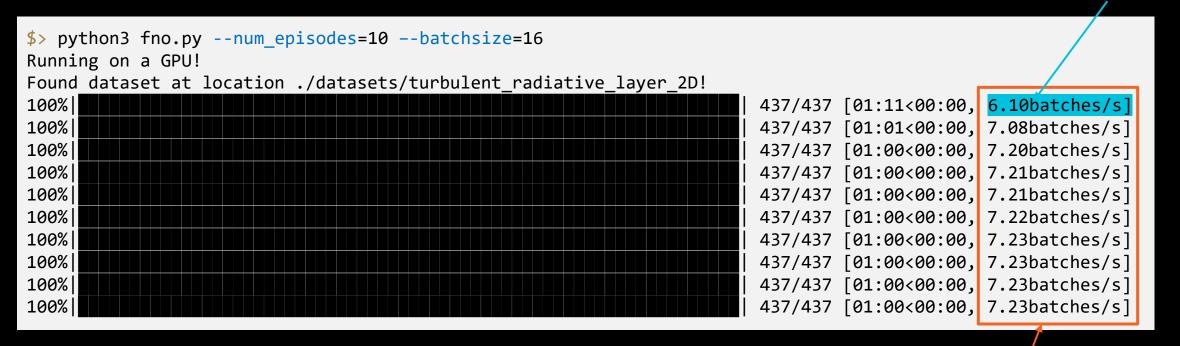
Data Movement

- Moving the training data to the GPU can become a major bottleneck, especially if
 - the model is small and cheap in terms of execution time
 - the training samples are large
- Possible Optimizations:
 - Fit the whole training dataset on the GPU (only possible for small datasets)
 - Overlap memory movement with computation (non-blocking communication)

Run the Training using Pinned Memory

Pinned Memory and multiprocessing improves throughput by ~15% (7.2 vs. 6.3 batches per second)

First Touch Penalty



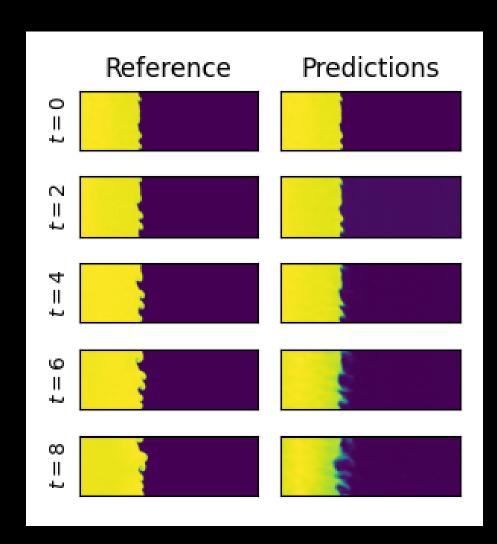
~15% higher throughput



Evaluating the Trained Model

- First 2-3 predictions are close to the ground-truth
- Starts diverging after few timesteps (exponential error growth)
- Predicting several timesteps successively was not part of the training

 See the original paper¹ to find the datasets and models that perform better!



¹ https://openreview.net/pdf?id=7UunRhzX4H

Key Takeaways

- Simulation datasets are oftentimes very large and non-trivial to handle
- Neural Operators promise to generalize better across resolutions than e.g. ResNet, U-Net, ...
- Al models oftentimes lack long-term stability in auto-regressive tasks due to exponential error growth
- Data movement might be the bottleneck of training, especially if models are small and data samples large
 - → More details on profiling tomorrow!

Try it yourself!

Get on a node via SLURM and setup your environment:

```
module load rocm
module load pytorch
python3 -m venv $HOME/venv-pt
source $HOME/venv-pt/bin/activate
cd HPCTrainingExamples/MLExamples/Neural_Operators
pip3 install -r requirements.txt
```

Make sure ROCm is loaded for the PyTorch module to become visible!

Run a few episodes of training with

```
python3 fno.py --num_episodes=3 --batchsize=4
```

- Next, feel free to:
 - test the model on another dataset
 - replace the Neural Operator by your favorite ML model (e.g. a ResNet)
 - follow the GitHub Readme to reproduce the shown profile data (much more information on profiling tomorrow!)
 - or do whatever you find interesting!



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