

# On Universal Approximation of set-valued maps and Deep operator network approximation of the controllability map

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## Problem setup

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Consider the control system

$$\begin{cases} y'(t) = Ay(t) + Bu(t), & t > 0 \\ y(0) = y^0 \in X, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where

- $A : D(A) \subset X \rightarrow X$  is a linear operator,
- $y = y(t) \in D(A)$  is the state variable,
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Given a time  $T > 0$  and a target state  $y^T \in X$ , the exact controllability problem for system (1) amounts to finding a control  $u \in Y$  such that its associated state  $y = y(u)$  satisfies

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**Goal:** Learn, from a dataset, the controllability map associated with (1)-(2)

$$\mathcal{G} : X \rightarrow Y, \quad y^0 \mapsto \mathcal{G}(y^0) := u.$$

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**Important question:** Is there a selection (single-valued map)  $G$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  such that  $G(y_j^0) = u_j(t; y_j^0)$ ? In such a case, how smooth is this selection?

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**Answer: YES, there is a Lipschitz continuous selection, and moreover:**

### Corollary

*Under the same hypotheses as in the theorem below, let  $K \subset X$ , and  $f : K \rightarrow Y$ , a continuous single-valued map with  $f(x) \in F(x)$  for every  $x \in K$ . Then  $f$  can be extended to a continuous selection defined on the whole space  $X$ . In particular, if  $K \subset X$  is finite, and  $f : K \rightarrow X$  is an arbitrary map with  $f(x) \in F(x)$  for every  $x \in K$ , then there is a continuous selection defined on the whole space  $X$  “interpolating”  $f$ .*



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**Idea of the proof.** We rely on the celebrated Michael's theorem

### Theorem

*Let  $F$  be a lower semicontinuous set-valued map with closed, convex values from a compact metric space  $X$  to a Banach space  $Y$ . It does have a continuous selection.*

This is Th. 9.1.2 in



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**Idea of the proof (cont.).** Consider the non-trivial closed, subspace

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By linearity,

$$\mathcal{G}(y^0) = u^0 + \mathbb{S} \quad \text{for any } u^0 \in \mathcal{G}(y^0).$$

Hence, the values of  $\mathcal{G}$  are closed and convex.

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Let  $\pi : L^2(0, T) \mapsto \mathbb{S}^\perp$  be the orthogonal projection onto the orthogonal complement of  $\mathbb{S}$ . Then,

$$\pi \circ \mathcal{G} : L^2(0, 1) \mapsto L^2(0, T) \tag{3}$$

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$$\pi(y) = \operatorname{argmin}_z \{\|z\| : z \in y + \mathbb{S}\},$$

the composition in (3) yields the control of minimal norm. Hence,

$$\|u\|_{L^2(0, T)} \leq C \|y_0\|_{L^2(0, 1)},$$

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The continuity of  $\mathcal{G}$  is then a consequence of the identity

$$\mathcal{G}(y) = \pi \circ \mathcal{G}(y) + \mathbb{S}.$$

## Numerical approximation of $\mathcal{G}$ : Machine Learning setup

### ■ Dataset

We fix a set of **sensor points**  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\} \subset [0, 1]$ . The information of each selected continuous initial datum  $y^0$  is encoded in the vector

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We also take  $t_\ell \in [0, T]$ . The corresponding **labels** are

$$\{u_\ell = u(y_\ell^{\text{initial}}; t_\ell), \quad 1 \leq \ell \leq N\},$$

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## ■ Hypothesis space: the neural network

We will use the so-called **DeepONet**, which takes the form

$$\mathcal{N}(\theta; (y^{\text{initial}}(x_j); t)) := \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^k \sigma \left( \sum_{j=1}^m \xi_{ij}^k y^{\text{initial}}(x_j) + \theta_i^k \right) \cdot \sigma(w_k \cdot t + \eta_k)$$

where  $\theta = (c_i^k, \xi_{ij}^k, \theta_i^k, w_k, \eta_k)$  is the set of parameters of the net, and  $\sigma$ , the activation function.

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## ■ Loss function (MSE)

$$\text{loss}(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\ell=1}^N |\mathcal{N}(\theta; (y_\ell^{\text{initial}}; t_\ell)) - u_\ell|^2$$

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**Branch net:**

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Trunk net:

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so that

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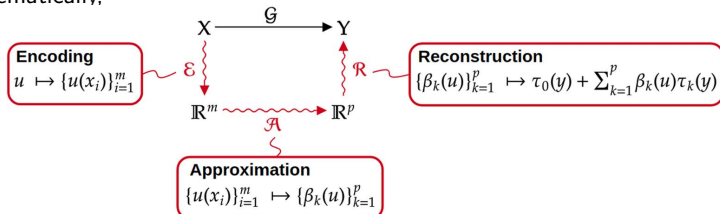
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Schematically,



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Theorem (UAT for functions (A. Pinkus) )

Suppose that  $K \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is compact,  $U \subset C(K)$  is compact, and  $\sigma(s) = \max\{s, 0\}$  is the ReLU activation function. Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exist a positive integer  $n$ , real numbers  $\theta_i, \omega_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , independent of  $f \in U$ , and constants  $c_i = c_i(f)$  depending on  $f$ , such that

$$\left| f(x) - \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \sigma(\omega_i \cdot x + \theta_i) \right| < \varepsilon$$

holds for all  $x \in K$  and  $f \in U$ . Moreover, each  $c_i(f)$  is a continuous linear functional defined on  $U$ .

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### Theorem (UAT for functionals (Chen & Chen) )

Suppose that  $\sigma \in TW$ ,  $X$  is a Banach space,  $K \subset X$  is a compact set,  $V$  is a compact set in  $C(K)$ , and  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous functional. Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there are a positive integer  $n$ ,  $m$  sensor points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m \in K$ , and real constants  $c_i, \theta_i, \xi_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$ , such that

$$|f(u) - \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \sigma \left( \sum_{j=1}^m \xi_{ij} u(x_j) + \theta_i \right)| < \varepsilon, \quad \text{for all } u \in V.$$

## Why DeepONet as the prediction model?

### Universal Approximation of functions, functionals and operators

Theorem (UAT for Borel single-valued measurable mappings (Lanthaler, Mishra, Karniadakis, 2022) )

Let  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(C(D))$  be a probability measure on  $C(D)$  and let  $\mathcal{G} : C(D) \rightarrow L^2(U)$  be a Borel measurable mapping, with  $\mathcal{G} \in L^2(\mu)$ . Then, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a **DeepONet**  $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{A} \circ \mathcal{E}$  such that

$$\|\mathcal{G} - \mathcal{N}\|_{L^2(\mu)} = \left( \int_X \|\mathcal{G}(u) - \mathcal{N}(u)\|_{L^2(U)}^2 d\mu(u) \right)^{1/2} < \varepsilon$$

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Let  $\mathcal{G} : X \mapsto Y$  be a lower semicontinuous set-valued map with closed, convex values. Then, for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a **DeepONet**  $\mathcal{N}$  such that

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In practice, one would determine a DeepONet  $\mathcal{N}$  such that  $\mathcal{N}(y_i)$  is a good approximation to a suitable selection  $G(y_i)$  of  $\mathcal{G}(y_i)$  in the sense

$$\inf_{u \in \mathcal{G}(y_i)} \|u - \mathcal{N}(y_i)\|^2 \leq \|G(y_i) - \mathcal{N}(y_i)\|^2 < \varepsilon, \quad \text{for a finite, selected set } \{y_i\} \subset X.$$

# Approximation error and the curse of dimensionality

## Definition (Curse of dimensionality)

For a given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $\mathcal{N}_\varepsilon$  be a DeepONet providing error  $< \varepsilon$ , and

$$\text{size}(\mathcal{N}_\varepsilon) \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\varepsilon^{-\vartheta_\varepsilon}\right) \quad \text{for some } \vartheta_\varepsilon \geq 0.$$

Our DeepONet approximation is said to *incur a curse of dimensionality* if  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \vartheta_\varepsilon = +\infty$  and *breaks the curse of dimensionality* if  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \vartheta_\varepsilon = \bar{\vartheta} < +\infty$ .

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Yarotsky (2018) proved that the approximation of a general Lipschitz function to accuracy  $\varepsilon$  requires a ReLU network of size<sup>1</sup>  $\varepsilon^{-m(\varepsilon)/2}$ , with  $m(\varepsilon) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , and hence suffers from the **curse of dimensionality**.  $m$  is the number of sensors for the encoding  $y \mapsto \mathcal{E}(y) = (y(x_1), \dots, y(x_m))$ .

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**However, if  $\mathcal{G}$  is single-valued and linear, the curse of dimensionality can be broken.** This is clearly so for the control of minimal  $L^2$ -norm in the case of the wave equation; but it is much more involved for the heat equation.

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## Estimates for approximation and estimation errors



S. Lanthaler, S. Mishra, G. E. Karniadakis, *Error estimates for DeepONets: a deep learning framework in infinite dimensions*, [Trans. Math. Appl.](#) 6 (1) (2022) 1-144.

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### Approximation error

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{approx}} := \left( \int_{L^2(D)} \int_U |\mathcal{G}(y)(t) - \mathcal{N}(y)(t)|^2 dt d\mu(y) \right)^{1/2}.$$

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The DeepONet  $\mathcal{N} : C(D) \rightarrow C(U)$  is decomposed into:

- An encoder

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- An approximation operator

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## Estimates for approximation and estimation errors



S. Lanthaler, S. Mishra, G. E. Karniadakis, *Error estimates for DeepONets: a deep learning framework in infinite dimensions*, *Trans. Math. Appl.* 6 (1) (2022) 1-144.

### Approximation error

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{approx}} := \left( \int_{L^2(D)} \int_U |\mathcal{G}(y)(t) - \mathcal{N}(y)(t)|^2 dt d\mu(y) \right)^{1/2}.$$

The DeepONet  $\mathcal{N} : C(D) \rightarrow C(U)$  is decomposed into:

- An encoder

$$\mathcal{E} : C(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m, \quad y \mapsto (y(x_1), \dots, y(x_m)), \quad x_j \in D$$

- An approximation operator

$$\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p, \quad \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m) \mapsto (\beta_1(\mathbf{y}), \dots, \beta_p(\mathbf{y})).$$

- An affine reconstruction operator

$$\mathcal{R} : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow C(U), \quad (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p) \mapsto \hat{\tau}_0(t) + \sum_{k=1}^p \beta_k \hat{\tau}_k(t).$$

## Approximation error and the curse of dimensionality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L^2(D) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}} & L^2(U) \\ \mathcal{E} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right) \mathcal{D} & & \mathcal{P} \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right) \mathcal{R} \\ \mathbb{R}^m & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}} & \mathbb{R}^p \end{array}$$

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$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\mathcal{E}} := \left( \int_X \|\mathcal{D} \circ \mathcal{E}(y) - y\|_X^2 d\mu(y) \right)^{1/2}$$



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### ■ Approximation error due to the neural network

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\mathcal{A}} := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \|\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{y}) - \mathcal{P} \circ \mathcal{G} \circ \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{y})\|_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^p)}^2 d(\mathcal{E}_{\#}\mu)(\mathbf{y}) \right)^{1/2},$$

where

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathcal{E}(y), \quad \mathcal{E}_{\#}(\mu)(B) = \mu(\mathcal{E}^{-1}(B)) \text{ is the push-forward measure}$$

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- 2 The sensors  $x_1, \dots, x_m \sim \text{Unif}(D)$  for the encoder are drawn iid random. The decoder is linear.
- 3 For the reconstruction operator,  $\hat{\tau}_0 = 0$  and  $\hat{\tau}_k$  are the first  $p$  eigenfunctions of the covariance operator  $\Gamma_{\mathcal{G}_{\#\mu}}$ . The projector is

$$\mathcal{P}(u) := (\langle u, \hat{\tau}_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle u, \hat{\tau}_p \rangle), \quad u \in L^2(U).$$

## Breaking the curse of dimensionality

### Theorem (Bound for approximation error)

*Under the above conditions, let  $\tau$  be the trunk net approximation of  $\hat{f}$  such that the associated reconstruction  $\mathcal{R}$  and projection  $\mathcal{P}$  operators satisfy  $\text{Lip}(\mathcal{R}), \text{Lip}(\mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{P}) \leq 2$ . Then, with probability 1 in the choice of the sensor points, there exists  $C = C(|D|, \mu) > 0$  such that for any  $m, p \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a shallow ReLU approximator net  $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ , with size  $(\mathcal{A}) \leq 2(2 + m)p$ , depth  $(\mathcal{A}) \leq 1$  such that the DeepONet  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfies*

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**Idea of the proof.**



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**Idea of the proof.** Crucially, since  $\mathcal{G}$  is linear, and the decoder and projector are affine, there exists an exact affine approximator  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{P} \circ \mathcal{G} \circ \mathcal{D}$ , which can be represented by a shallow ReLU of the claimed size since

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Thus,  $\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\mathcal{A}} = 0$ . The estimate

$$\sum_{j>p} \lambda_j^{\mathcal{G}_{\# \mu}} \leq \|\mathcal{G}\|^2 \sum_{j>p} \lambda_j$$

must be used as well.

## Breaking the curse of dimensionality

In practice,  $\mu$  is chosen as the law of a Gaussian field

$$\mathbf{a}(x, \omega) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \alpha_k \xi_k(\omega) \mathbf{e}_k(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{T}^d := [0, 2\pi]^d,$$

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$$m \sim \log(\varepsilon^{-1})^{d(1+\sigma)} \quad \text{and} \quad p \sim \log(\varepsilon^{-1})^d$$

an overall approximation error  $\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{approx}} \lesssim \varepsilon$  may be achieved with a DeepONet  $\mathcal{N}$  whose branch  $\beta$  and trunk  $\tau$  nets satisfy

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This means that **the proposed DeepONet-based approximation scheme for the controllability map breaks the curse of dimensionality** with respect to  $p$  and the number of sensor points  $m$  in the sense that the complexity of the DeepONet does not grow exponentially with these two parameters.

## Estimation (or generalization) error

Consider the loss function

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{N}) := \int_{L^2(D)} \int_U |\mathcal{G}(y)(t) - \mathcal{N}(y)(t)|^2 dt d\mu(y). \quad (4)$$

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$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_N(\mathcal{N}) = \frac{|U|}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N |\mathcal{G}(y_j)(t_j) - \mathcal{N}(y_j)(t_j)|^2 \quad (5)$$

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**Estimation (Generalization) error**

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{gen}} = \sqrt{\hat{\mathcal{L}}(\hat{\mathcal{N}}_N) - \hat{\mathcal{L}}(\hat{\mathcal{N}})}$$

## Estimation (or generalization) error

1) *Boundedness assumption*: there exists  $\psi : L^2(D) \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  such that

$$|\mathcal{G}(y)(t)| \leq \psi(y), \quad \sup_{\theta \in [-B, B]^{d_\theta}} |\mathcal{N}_\theta(y)(t)| \leq \psi(y), \quad \forall y \in L^2(D), \forall t \in U,$$

and there exists  $C, \kappa > 0$  such that  $\psi(y) \leq C (1 + \|y\|_{L^2(D)})^\kappa$ .

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Let  $\hat{\mathcal{N}}$  be an optimizer of (4) and let  $\hat{\mathcal{N}}_N$  be an optimizer of (5). If the above two assumptions hold, then there exists  $C = C(\mu, \psi, \Phi)$ , independent of  $B$  and  $d_\theta$ , such that

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$|\mathcal{G}(y)(t)| \leq \psi(y)$  is like a uniform observability inequality.

## Numerical experiments

**Data generation.** Initial conditions are computed by sampling a Gaussian random field with the kernel

$$C(x, x') = \exp\left(-\frac{|x - x'|^2}{2\ell}\right), \quad x, x' \in (0, 1),$$

where  $\ell$  is the correlation length. Thus, the associated input measure  $\mu$  is

$$a(x, \omega) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\lambda_i} e_i(x) \xi_i(\omega),$$

where  $\xi_i$  are iid standard Gaussian variables, and  $\{\lambda_i, e_i(x)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  are the eigenvalues and normalized eigenfunctions of the operator  $\mathcal{C} : L^2(0, 1) \rightarrow L^2(0, 1)$

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**Training process.** Adam optimizer with learning rate 0.01. Initialization of the parameters is carried out with Glorot uniform.

**Implementation.** DeepONet: learning operators [Lu, Li, Pang, Zhang, Karniadakis: Nat. Mach. Intell., 2021]

<https://github.com/lululxvi/deepxde>



## Numerical experiments: the wave equation

### An academic example with an explicit solution

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} y_{tt} - y_{xx} = 0, & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, 2) \\ y(x, 0) = y^0(x), & \text{on } (0, 1) \\ y_t(x, 0) = y^1(x) & \text{on } (0, 1) \\ y(0, t) = 0, & \text{on } (0, 2) \\ y(1, t) = u(t) & \text{on } (0, 2) \\ y(x, 2) = y_t(x, 2) = 0, & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{array} \right.$$

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The operator to be approximated is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} : \quad L^2(0, 1) \times H^{-1}(0, 1) &\rightarrow L^2(0, 2) \\ (y^0, y^1) &\mapsto \mathcal{G}(y^0, y^1) := u \end{aligned}$$

## Numerical experiments: the wave equation

### An academic example with an explicit solution

$$\begin{cases} y_{tt} - y_{xx} = 0, & \text{in } (0, 1) \times (0, 2) \\ y(x, 0) = y^0(x), & \text{on } (0, 1) \\ y_t(x, 0) = y^1(x) & \text{on } (0, 1) \\ y(0, t) = 0, & \text{on } (0, 2) \\ y(1, t) = u(t) & \text{on } (0, 2) \\ y(x, 2) = y_t(x, 2) = 0, & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases}$$

The operator to be approximated is

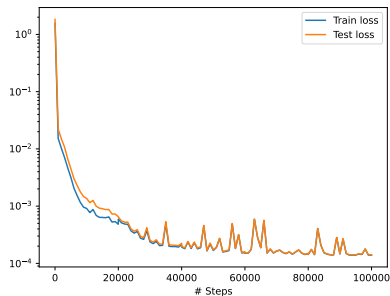
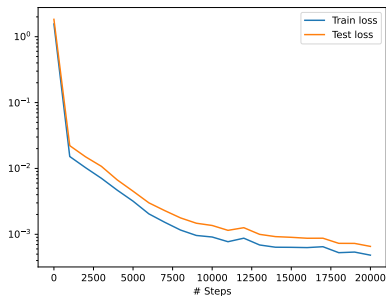
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} : L^2(0, 1) \times H^{-1}(0, 1) &\rightarrow L^2(0, 2) \\ (y^0, y^1) &\mapsto \mathcal{G}(y^0, y^1) := u \end{aligned}$$

where

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}y^0(1-t) + \frac{1}{2}\int_{1-t}^1 y^1(s) ds, & 0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2}y^0(t-1) + \frac{1}{2}\int_{t-1}^1 y^1(s) ds, & 1 < t \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

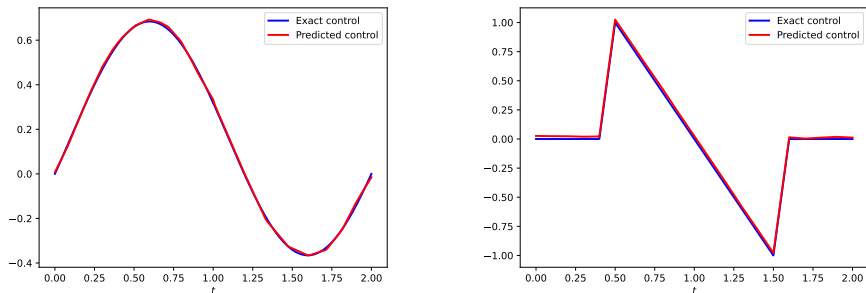
is the **unique** control of minimal  $L^2$ -norm.

# Numerical experiments: the wave equation



**Figure:** Loss history for correlation lengths of 0.25 for position and 0.125 for velocity. Number of sensor points = 51. Sample functions: (Left) 100 and (right) 10000.

# Numerical experiments: the wave equation



**Figure:** Exact versus predicted solutions.  $n_{functions} = 10^4$  **(Left) Smooth initial data:**  $y^0 = y^1 = \sin(\pi x)$ ,  $(\ell_{pos}, \ell_{vel}) = (0.25, 0.125)$ ,  $n_{sensors}=100$ . Relative error  $\approx 1\%$ .

**(Right) Non-smooth initial data:**  $y^0(x) = \begin{cases} 4x, & 0 \leq x \leq 0.5 \\ 0, & 0.5 < x \leq 1 \end{cases}$ ,  
 $(\ell_{pos}, \ell_{vel}) = (0.0625, 0.03125)$ ,  $n_{sensors}=10$ . Relative error  $\approx 4\%$ .

## Numerical experiments: the heat equation

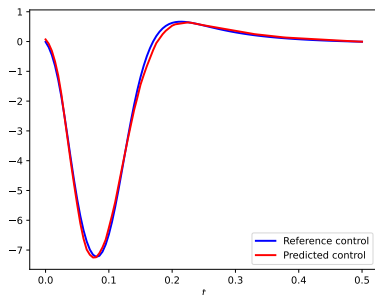
$$\begin{cases} y_t - y_{xx} = 0, & 0 < x < 1, 0 < t < T \\ y(x, 0) = y^0(x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ y(0, t) = 0, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ y(1, t) = u(t), & 0 \leq t \leq T \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$y(x, T) = 0, 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

## Numerical experiments: the heat equation

$$\begin{cases} y_t - y_{xx} = 0, & 0 < x < 1, 0 < t < T \\ y(x, 0) = y^0(x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ y(0, t) = 0, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ y(1, t) = u(t), & 0 \leq t \leq T \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$y(x, T) = 0, 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$



**Figure:** Heat equation. PINN (reference control) versus DeepONet (predicted) controls for the initial condition  $y^0(x) = \sin(\pi x)$ .  $n_{functions} = 275$ ,  $\ell_0 = 0.25$ ,  $n_{sensors} = 101$ ,  $p = 100$ .