

# Efficient Uncertainty Quantification for Physics-Aware Machine Learning of Diffusion-Sorption Models

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SCAN FOR  
FULL PAPER  
& CODE



## SETTING

Given a physics-aware ML model

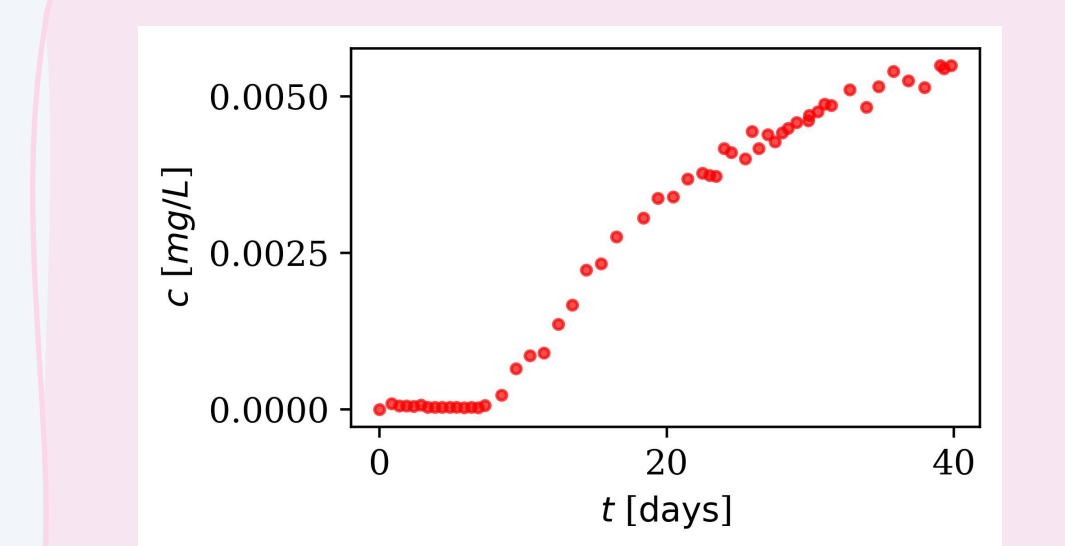
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \mathcal{F}(c; \theta(c) = NN_{w,b}(c))$$

$t \in [0, T], x \in [0, L]$

meaning a parameter is parameterized by a neural network,

$$\theta(c) = NN_{w,b}(c)$$

and trained with scarce observed data  $c^{obs}$



using the FINite Volume Neural Network (FINN) Praditia et al. (2022)

### FINN

- Replace to be learned  $\theta(c)$  of PDE with  $NN_{w,b}(c)$
- **Discretize** and solve PDE with FV scheme  
→ **Extract**  
 $\{c_i^{pred}(x^{obs}, t^{obs})\}_{i,j=1}^N$
- Optimize **loss**  
 $\mathcal{L} = MSE(c^{obs}, c^{pred})$   
via **backpropagation**

## RESEARCH QUESTION

- How can we
- with *indirect data*
  - in a *high-dimensional, non-interpretable parameter space*  $\{w, b\}$  efficiently **quantify the uncertainty** for  $\theta(c) = NN_{w,b}(c)$ ?

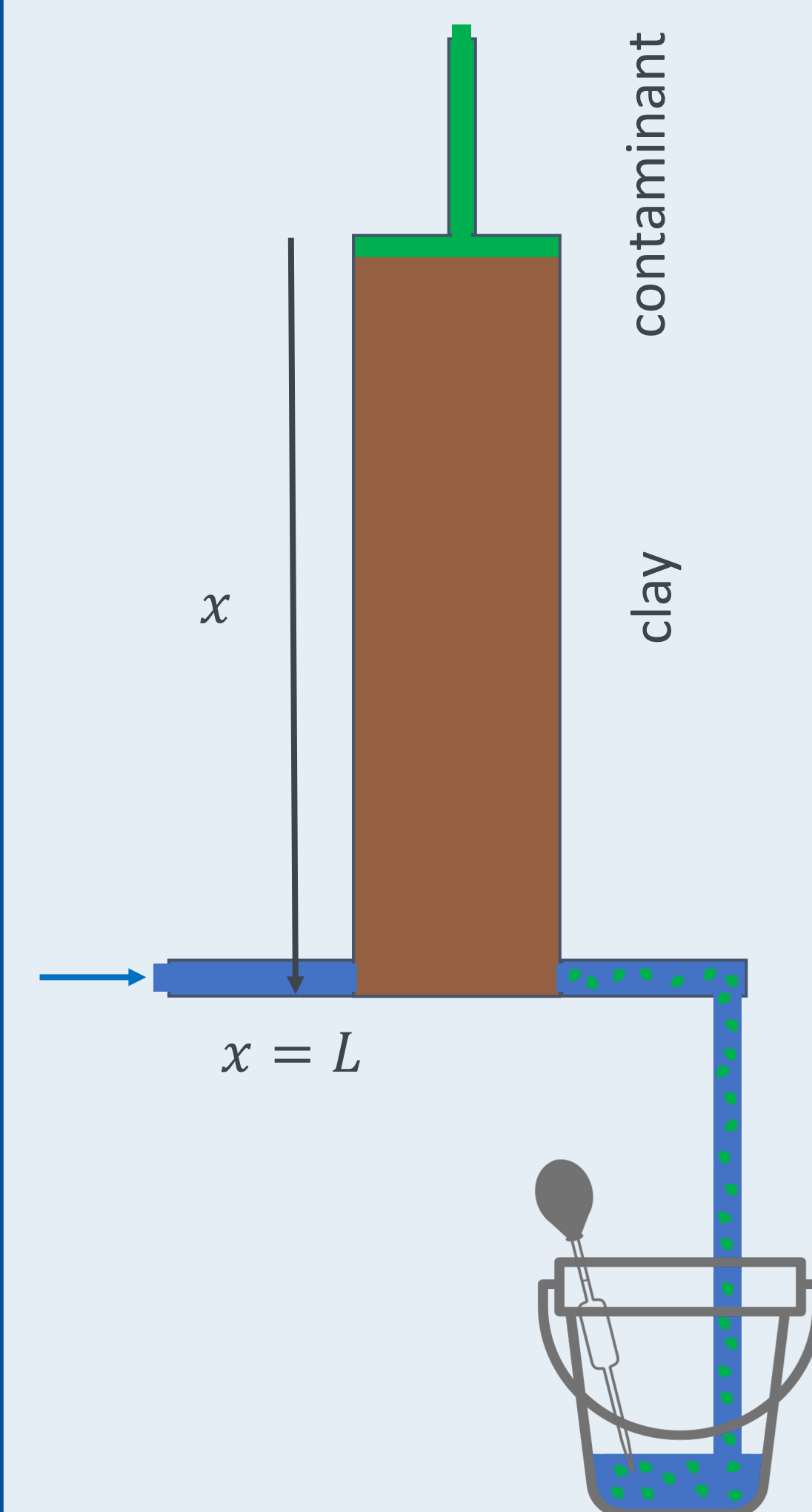
## METHOD

based on Liu et al., 2022.

### Motivating Example

#### Experiment

Contaminant on top of clay, bottom end flushed with water. Contaminant concentration measured at different time points.



#### Mathematical description

Diffusion-sorption equation

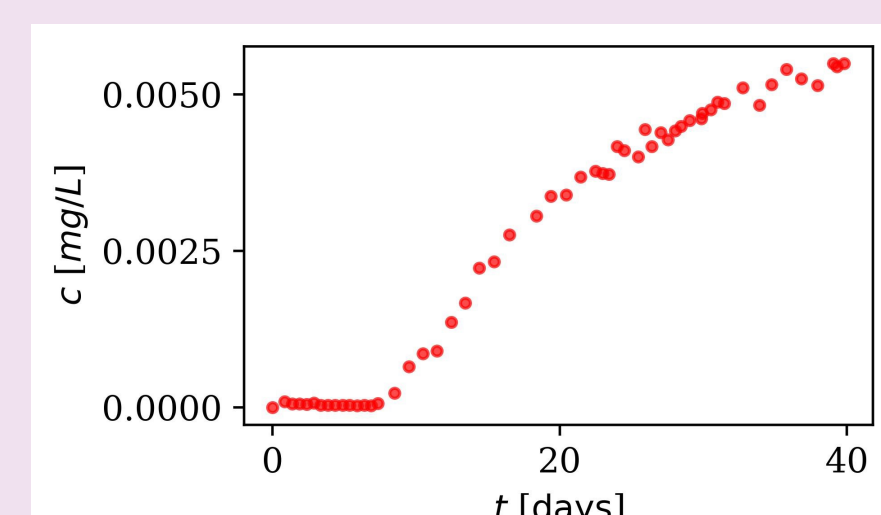
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{R(c)} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

$x$ : location  
 $t$ : time  
 $D$ : diffusion coefficient  
and  
to be learned parameter  $R(c)$ : retardation factor

### Step 1: Learn an Empirical Error Model

Given the

**full dataset**  $\{(x_i, t_i, c_i^{obs})\}_{i=1}^{N_{obs}}$  of the observable quantity (concentration  $c$ ),

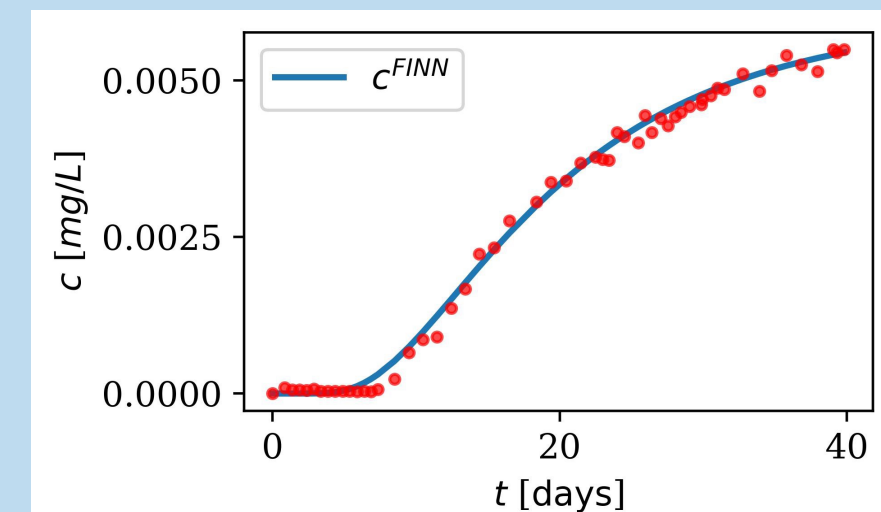


#### FINN

yields the

**mean predictor**  $c^{FINN}$

and is shifted to be the median  $\bar{c}$  of the dataset.



Splitting the full dataset into an

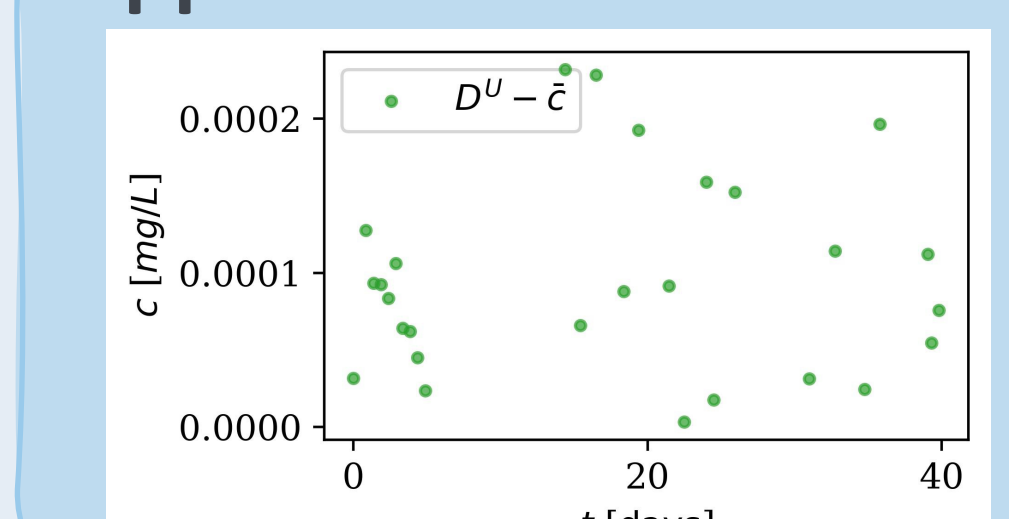
**upper and lower dataset**

$$D^U = \{(x_i, t_i, c_i^{obs}) \mid c_i^{obs} > \bar{c}(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{N_{obs}}$$

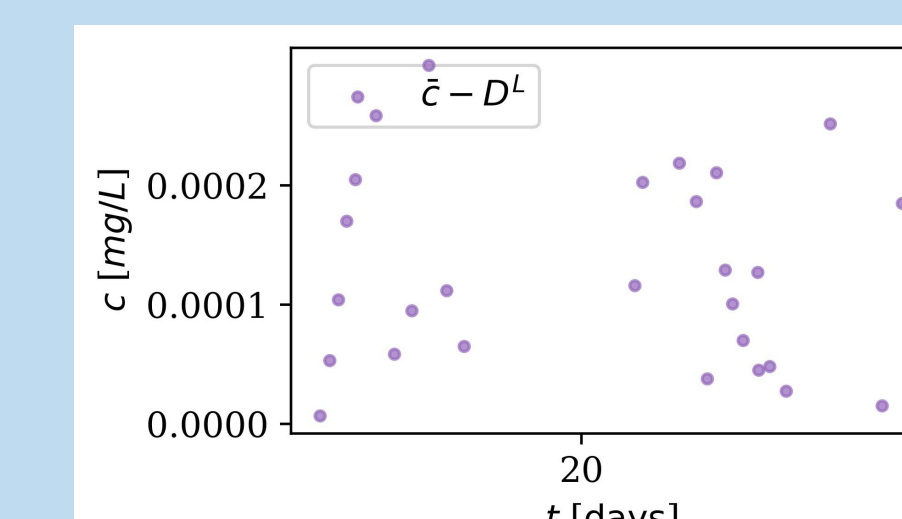
$$D^L = \{(x_i, t_i, c_i^{obs}) \mid c_i^{obs} < \bar{c}(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{N_{obs}}$$

yields a dataset of

**upper residuals**

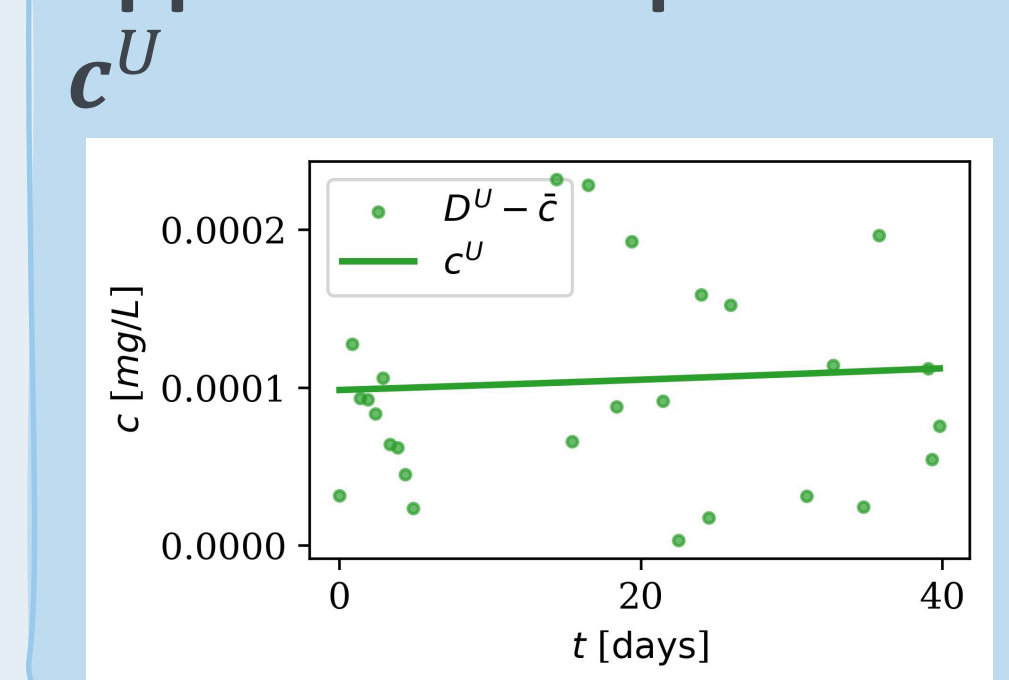


**lower residuals.**

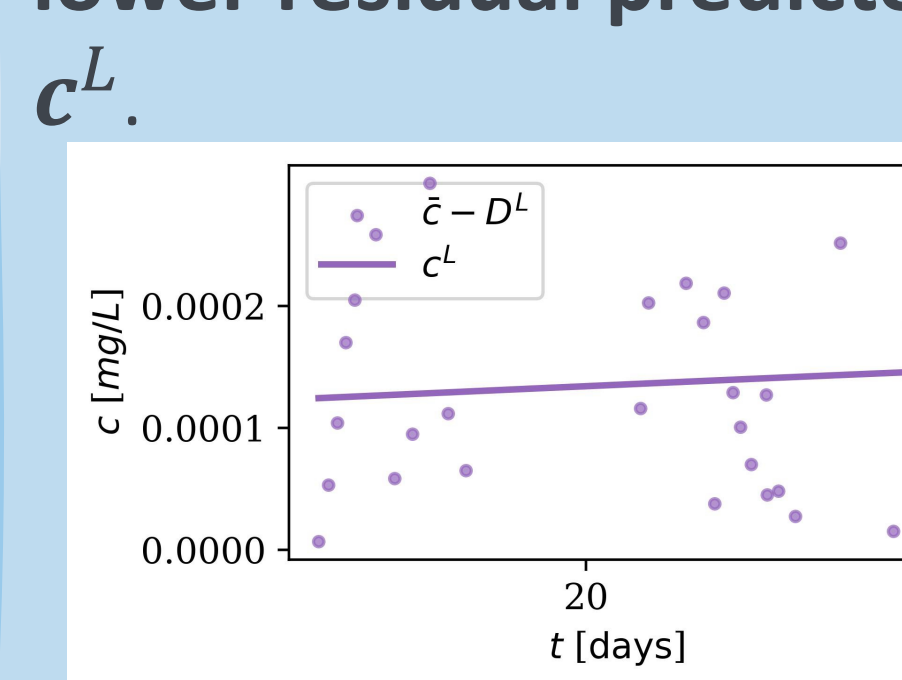


Training two feedforward NNs on the residual datasets yields an

**upper residual predictor**



**lower residual predictor**



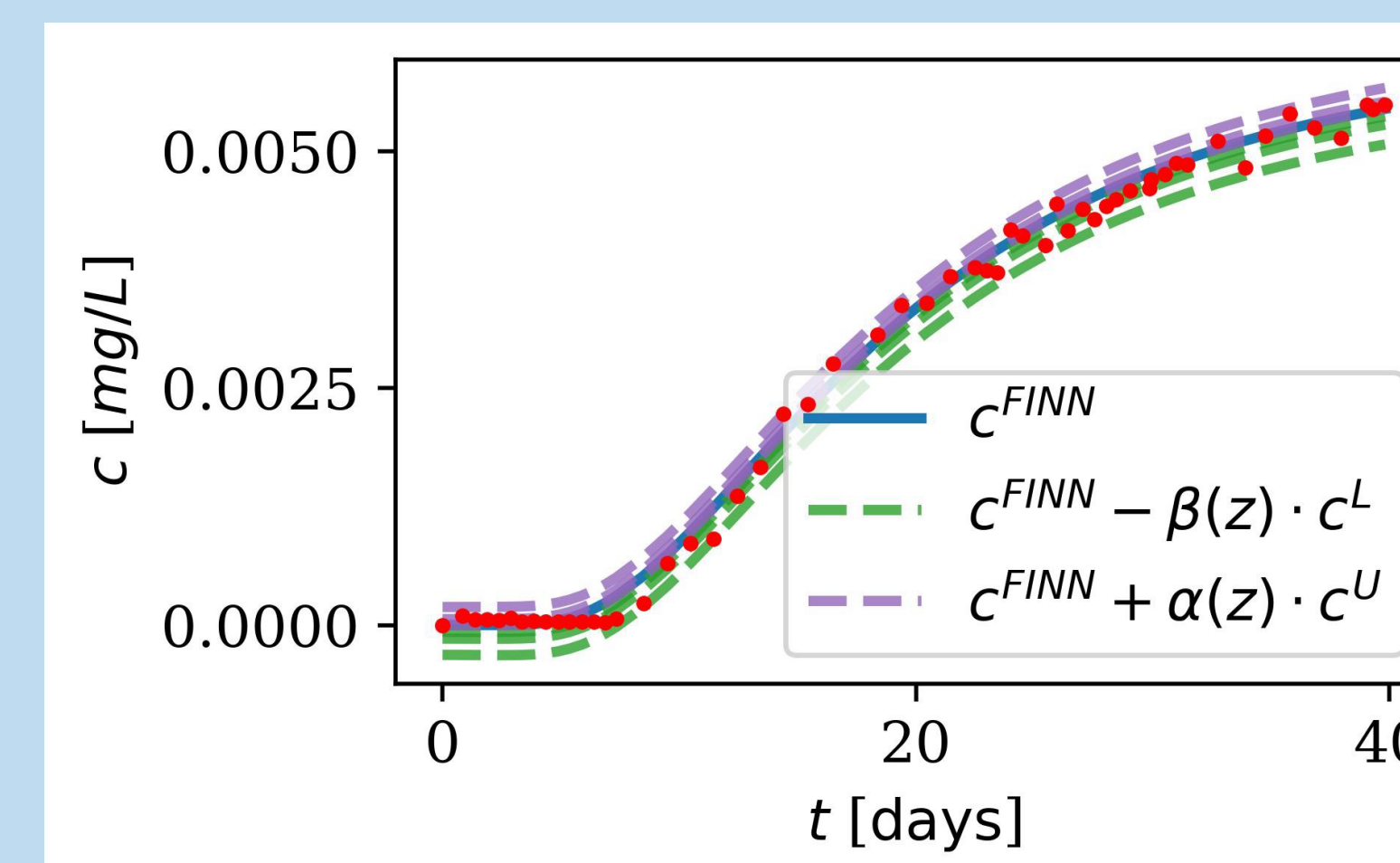
### Step 2: Data-Driven Bootstrapping (DDB)

With  $c^{FINN}$ ,  $c^U$ , and  $c^L$ , we obtain a

$$\text{quantile function } Q(z) = \begin{cases} c^{FINN} + \alpha(z) \cdot c^U & z \in [0.5, 1] \\ c^{FINN} + \beta(z) \cdot c^L & z \in [0, 0.5] \end{cases}$$

$$= F_{c^L|c=c^{obs}}^{-1}(z)$$

with parameters  $\alpha(z)$  and  $\beta(z)$  to be optimized according to wanted quantile  $z$ .



Sampling a **quantile level**  $Z_{n,t_i} \sim \text{Unif}(0,1)$  for each time step  $t_i$  yields

the  $n$ -th

**bootstrap sample**

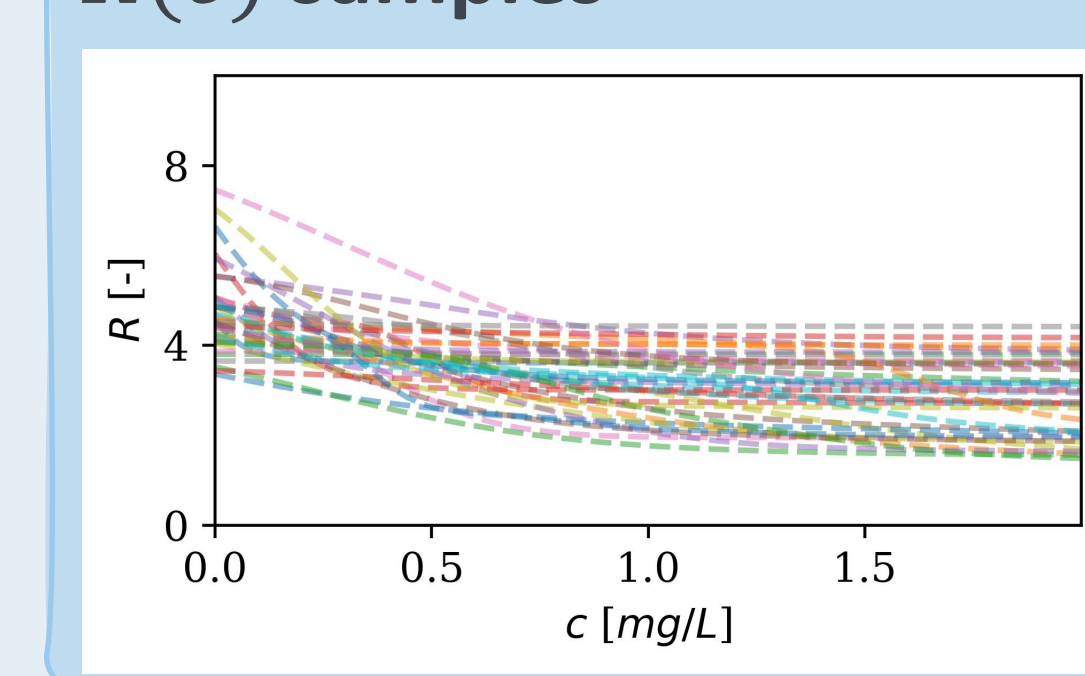
$$c_n = \{Q(Z_{n,t_i})\}_{i=1}^{N_{obs}}$$

and with **FINN**

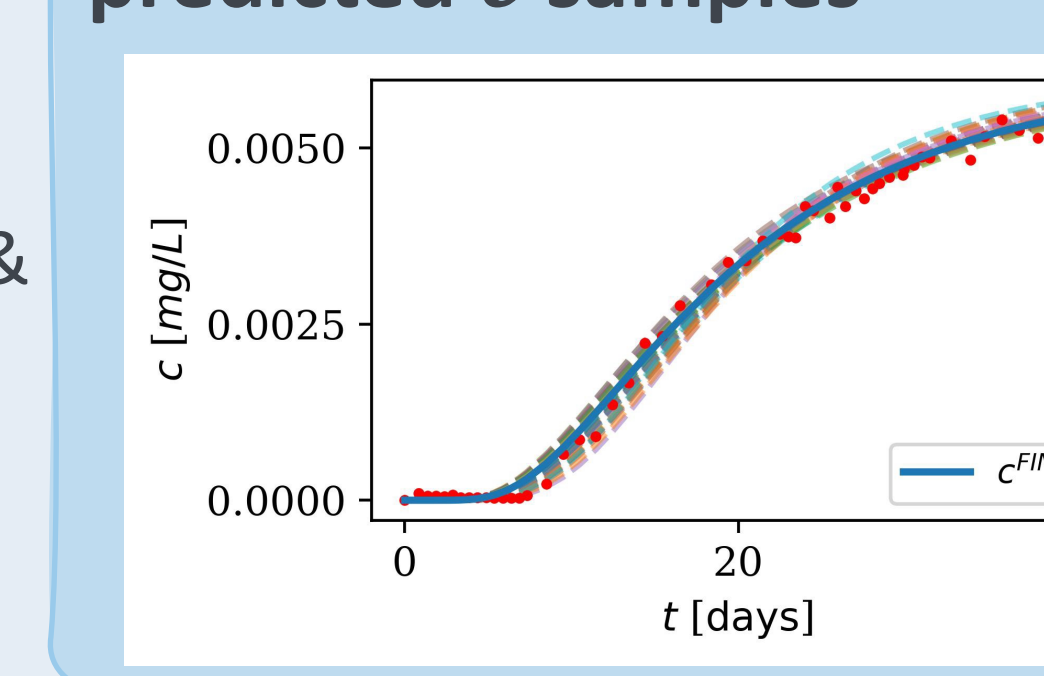
the corresponding **retardation factor bootstrap sample**  $r_n$ .

Repeating this  $N^{boot}$  times yields

**$R(c)$  samples**



**predicted  $c$  samples**

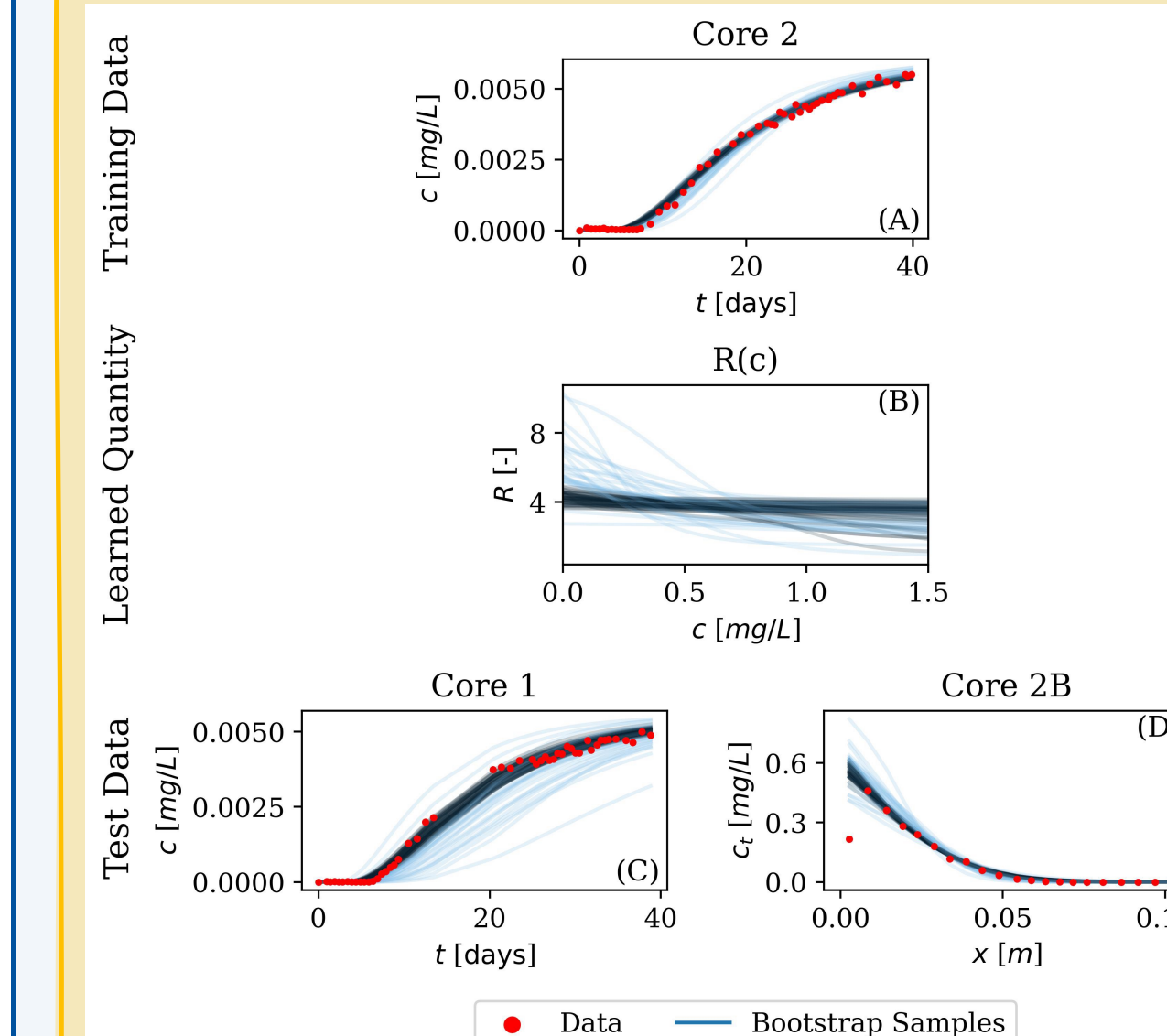
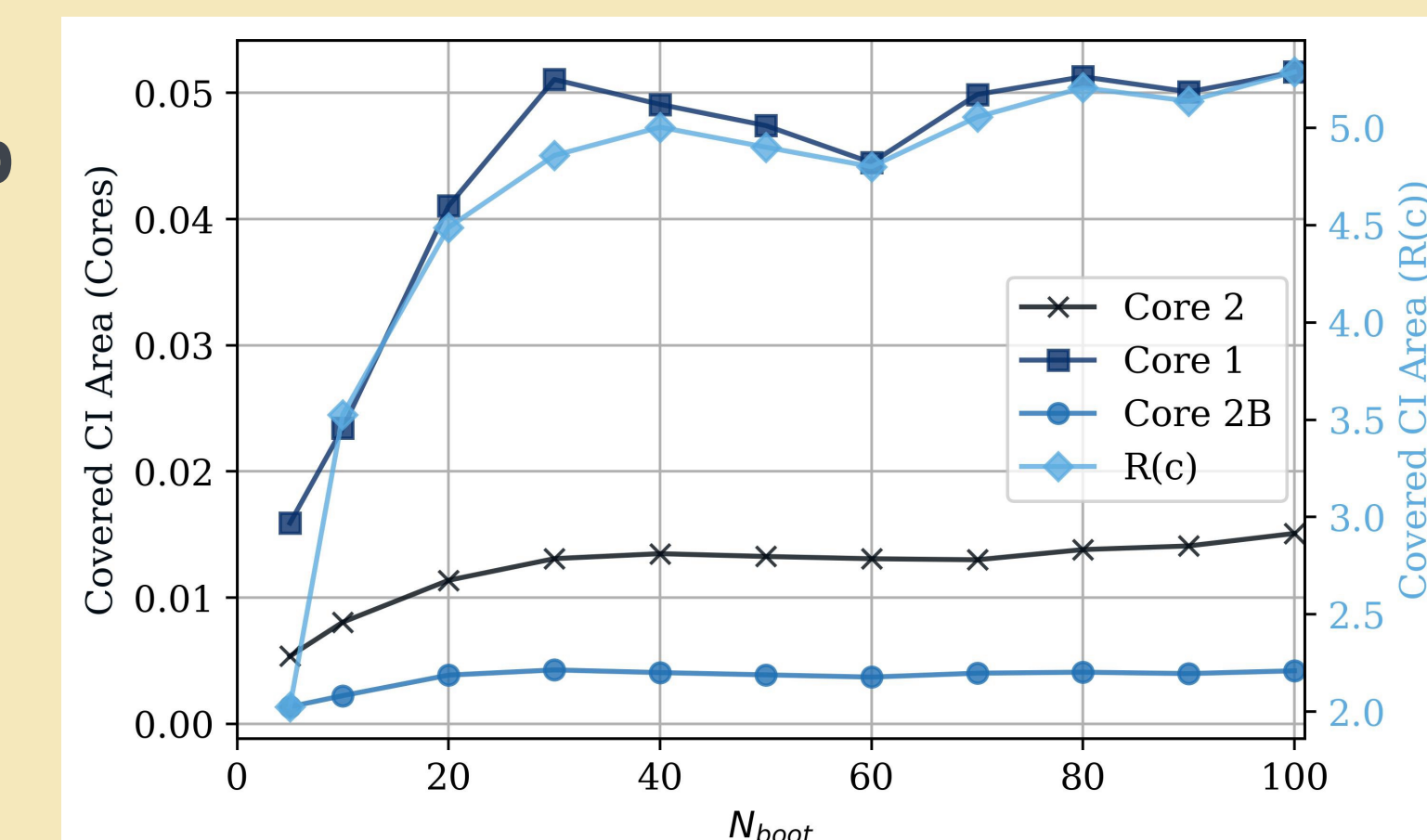


for confidence interval construction.

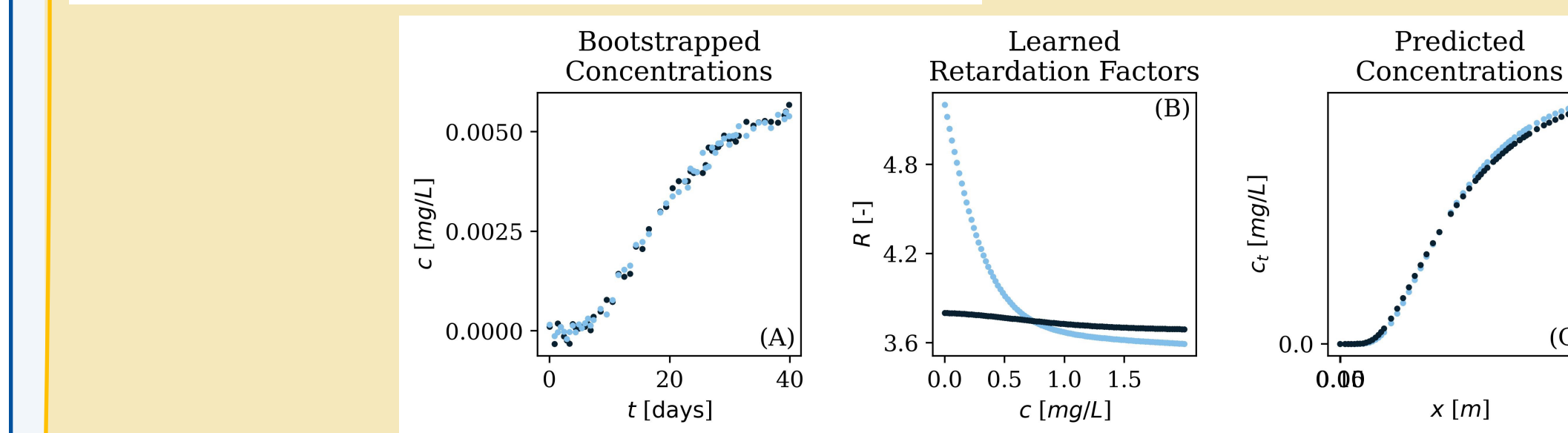
## RESULTS

Results for training data (Core 2) and test data (Core 1, Core 2B).

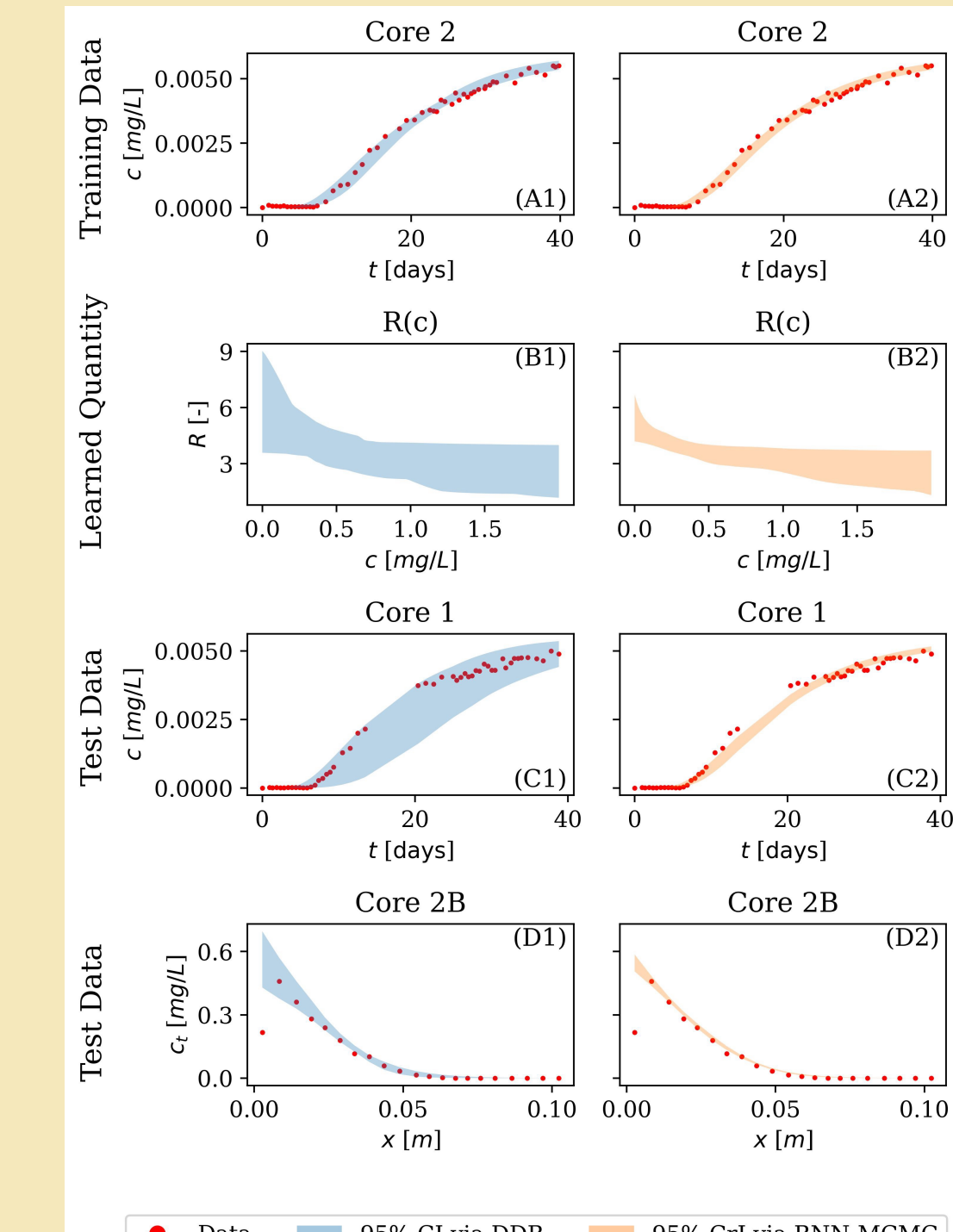
70 bootstrap samples achieve converged confidence interval.



DDB identifies apparent local optima of the physics-constrained learning problem for a reliable confidence interval.



DDB better captures increased uncertainty by broader intervals for test data, whereas credible intervals via MCMC remain narrow due to the influence of the prior.



DDB is more efficient.

