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1 **Demonstration of Machine Learning-Based Model-Independent**
2 **Stabilization of Source Properties in Synchrotron Light Sources**

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8 **Abstract**

9 Synchrotron light sources, arguably among the most powerful tools of modern scientific discov-
10 ery, are presently undergoing a major transformation to provide orders of magnitude higher bright-
11 ness and transverse coherence enabling the most demanding experiments. In these experiments,
12 overall source stability will soon be limited by achievable levels of electron beam size stability,
13 presently on the order of several microns, which is still 1–2 orders of magnitude larger than already
14 demonstrated stability of source position and current. Until now source size stabilization has been
15 achieved through corrections based on a combination of static predetermined physics models and
16 lengthy calibration measurements, periodically repeated to counteract drift in the accelerator and
17 instrumentation. We now demonstrate for the first time how application of machine learning allows
18 for a physics- and model-independent stabilization of source size relying only on previously existing
19 instrumentation. Such feed-forward correction based on a neural network that can be continuously
20 online-retrained achieves source size stability as low as $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$ (0.4%) rms which results in overall
21 source stability approaching the sub-percent noise floor of the most sensitive experiments.

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24 Synchrotron radiation sources, specifically 3rd-generation storage ring light sources, have
25 been tremendously successful tools of scientific discovery since the early 1990s [1]. As these
26 facilities mature, a new era of 4th-generation storage rings (4GSRs) based on *diffraction-*
27 *limited storage rings* (DLSRs) [2–8] is being ushered in. These sources will increase average
28 brightness by 2–3 orders of magnitude while also delivering high degrees of transverse coher-
29 ence, for the first time even for x-rays. High coherent flux will enable scientists to understand
30 material compositions and dynamics ranging in length from microns to nanometers and in
31 time from minutes to nanoseconds. The most notable and direct result of the new beam
32 properties will impact two techniques in particular. Ptychography [9] will take direct advan-
33 tage of an increase in coherent flux to decrease measurement times by orders of magnitude.
34 This will allow for the collection of complex 3D chemical maps with unprecedented resolu-
35 tion and will lead to deeper understanding of electrochemical systems such as batteries and
36 fuel cells. The measurement of dynamics and kinetics to study chemical systems is another
37 category that will be directly impacted by the new sources. An emerging technique to study
38 this is X-ray Photon Correlation Spectroscopy (XPCS) [10]. Ptychography as well as XPCS
39 rely heavily on high beam stability over extended periods of time.

40 To large extent the success of storage ring light sources lies in their stability, resulting in
41 constant position, angle, and intensity of radiation delivered at a tunable wavelength with
42 narrow width. In order to maintain constant intensity, a combination of top-off injection
43 (maintaining constant beam current) [11, 12] and precise control over source position and size
44 is required. In 3rd-generation light sources (3GLSs) the latter usually called for transverse
45 beam size stability within 10% of the rms electron beam size [13, 14]. Now however, first
46 experiments at these sources are starting to show limitations arising from such levels of
47 source size control and it is evident that DLSRs, operating at much smaller source sizes, will
48 call for significantly tighter control over source size stability in order to exploit ultra-high
49 brightness and transverse coherence.

50 **STATE-OF-THE-ART STABILIZATION EFFORT AND ITS LIMITATIONS**

51 A typical example for the above mentioned source size stabilization challenge is shown
 52 in Fig. 1. The vertical electron beam size as measured at diagnostic beamline 3.1 [15] of

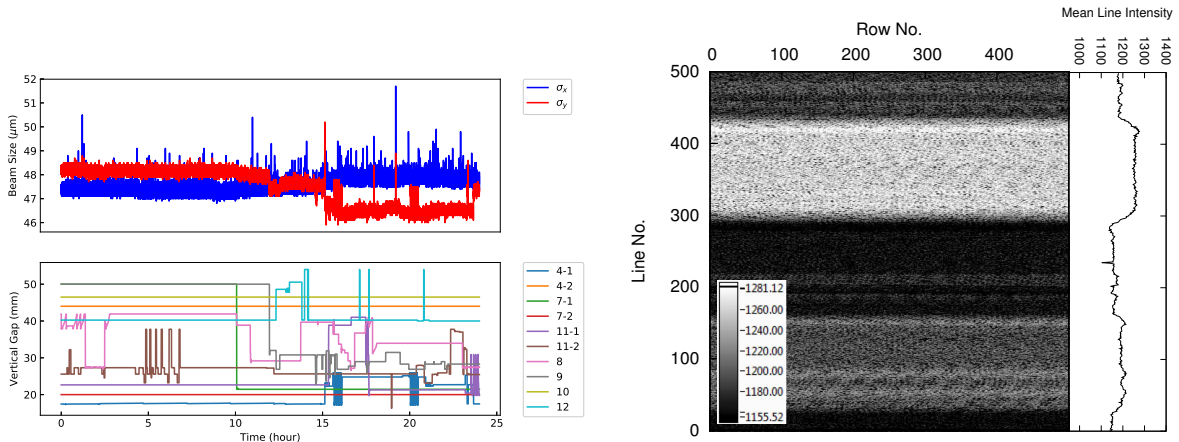


FIG. 1. Left: Electron beam size as measured the ALS diagnostic beamline 3.1 during a user run (top) showing $> 2\ \mu\text{m}$ variation (4%) in the vertical caused by changes in the ID gaps (bottom). Right: STXM image from ALS beamline 5.3.2.2 showing banding (3.2% rms intensity variation) as a consequence of various ID configuration changes over the course of the scan.

53
 54
 55 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory’s Advanced Light Source (ALS) is displayed during
 56 a typical user run. While the horizontal beam size is maintained constant (spikes observed
 57 in both planes at the same time are perturbations from top-off injection occurring roughly
 58 twice a minute), the vertical beam size fluctuates due to changes in the magnetic field con-
 59 figuration of the various insertion devices (IDs), e.g. variable field undulators and wigglers.
 60 Although such vertical beam size fluctuations are below typical stability requirements of
 61 3GLSs, already today, at experiments that are highly sensitive to intensity fluctuations,
 62 such as scanning transmission x-ray microscopy (STXM) [16–19], scans that typically take
 63 several minutes at a single energy, will show both banding and pattern noise. The former,
 64 clearly visible in Fig. 1 (right), is caused by low-frequency variations in intensity (due to
 65 electron beam size changes at the source point) while the latter is the consequence of high
 66 frequency perturbations (e.g. vibrations of optical elements in the beamline). A typical
 67 STXM experiment involves quantifying contrast changes across several images acquired at
 68 different x-ray energies, but without a concurrent source intensity measurement, normal-

69 ization within a single image is not possible and normalization across several images is less
70 precise. Likewise, since data acquisition time per pixel (≈ 1 ms) is very short compared to
71 typical perturbations from ID configuration changes, such effects cannot be averaged out
72 during the scan. Thus, banding will effectively determine the noise floor of the experiment.
73 While tight control over the beamline and end station equipment along with advances in
74 detector technology enable a noise floor below 1%, the data shown here indicates substan-
75 tially larger noise caused by low-frequency electron beam size variations resulting from ID
76 gap/phase motion which changes the magnetic field configuration in the ID.

77 Common practice in state-of-the-art 3GLSs is to counteract ID gap/phase motion-induced
78 perturbations on the electron beam through a two-pronged approach involving both local
79 and global corrections: orbit correction (e.g. [20–22]) and optics correction whereby the lat-
80 ter usually comprises linear optics correction (e.g. [21, 23–25]), correction of the coupling
81 between horizontal and vertical planes (e.g. [24, 26–29]), and in some cases also nonlinear
82 correction (e.g. [24, 30, 31]). Orbit and linear optics corrections are often implemented
83 as both feedbacks (FBs) and feed-forwards (FFs) because static model based FF correc-
84 tions alone are usually not capable of sufficiently correcting transient behavior arising from
85 comparably fast ID gap/phase motion. Feed-forward corrections usually rely on a physics
86 model (for which linear approximations are used and linear superposition is assumed) and/or
87 beam-based measurements rendering look-up tables that describe required corrections for a
88 specific ID gap and phase setting. Recording a look-up table has to be performed for each
89 ID individually, requires ample dedicated machine time, and, because it is usually a lengthy
90 measurement, is also susceptible to drift. Because of the large number of IDs in most 3GLSs
91 and the scarcity of dedicated machine time, these look-up tables cannot be frequently re-
92 measured. Hence, as the machine drifts (temperature, ground motion, tidal effects, etc.) the
93 fidelity of the look-up table and thus of the FF correction tends to deteriorate. Feedback
94 corrections attempt to counteract such drift, but often do not offer sufficient closed-loop
95 bandwidth to remove perturbations over the entire desired range.

96 In spite of the above mentioned correction schemes, residual ID-induced skew quadrupole
97 errors (spurious focusing fields that render undesired coupling of motion in the transverse
98 planes) result in vertical beam size variations in the storage ring (cf. Fig. 1, left). Low
99 and medium energy light sources are especially susceptible to these errors due to the low
100 beam rigidity and the prevalence of strong elliptically polarizing undulators (EPUs) [32].

101 As in most 3GLSs, the ALS performs coupling corrections for ID-induced skew quadrupole
102 fields in a FF configuration whereby a large number of skew quadrupole coils can be excited
103 to compensate for ID-induced skew components [33]. Look-up tables are on average re-
104 recorded at most twice a year and for a typical EPU require an entire 8-hour machine shift.
105 Furthermore, as DLSRs come online source beam sizes will shrink dramatically, while ID
106 technology is advancing at comparably slower pace. We can assume that residual errors
107 will remain comparable to present-day levels and therefore, size stability will deteriorate
108 dramatically if a new approach to minimizing residual errors is not developed.

109 **A NEW APPROACH: MACHINE LEARNING AND NEURAL NETWORKS**

110 Recently, data driven methods have been applied to many different research areas. Specif-
111 ically, neural networks (NNs) have proved to be most effective for nonlinear function fitting,
112 both theoretically and empirically [37, 38]. Here, we propose a NN approach to predicting
113 electron beam size as a function of arbitrary ID gap/phase configurations and employing this
114 prediction to correct for perturbations thereby suppressing source size fluctuations. The NN
115 can learn complex nonlinear relationships between ID settings and vertical beam size using
116 large amounts of training data and advanced optimization techniques, which is a substantial
117 improvement compared to the current approach based on linear optics and superposition.

118 Control of the electron beam size exploits the fact that commonly 3GLSs use skew
119 quadrupoles to correct betatron coupling and spurious vertical dispersion first, and then
120 to excite a vertical dispersion wave which improves beam lifetime within the boundaries
121 of the diffraction limit [26, 34–36]. Such a dispersion wave generates vertical emittance (a
122 global and conserved quantity) which results in a dominating contribution to the vertical
123 source size at most source points. For these studies we can therefore slightly adjust the exci-
124 tation of this vertical dispersion wave to control the vertical emittance and thus the vertical
125 size at the source points¹. At the ALS, 32 skew quadrupoles are included in the generation
126 of the dispersion wave. We shall refer here to the dispersion wave parameter (DWP) as the
127 scaling parameter describing our small relative adjustment of the standard skew quadrupole
128 excitation pattern ($\leq 15\%$ of the overall vertical dispersion wave amplitude).

¹ As an example, Fig. 5 in [33] shows various vertical beam size contributions in a typical ALS ID source point. The contribution from ID-induced betatron coupling (canceled by skews) is smaller than that generated by the dispersion wave (excited by skews).

129 We demonstrate here that, given the ID gap/phase settings and DWP, the vertical source
 130 size can be predicted to within 0.4% rms ($0.2\ \mu\text{m}$ at the diagnostic beamline) with NNs. To
 131 train the NN model, high quality input data needs to be collected. For this purpose, beam
 132 sizes (as measured at e.g. a diagnostic beamline) along with all relevant beam parameters
 133 and ID settings have to be captured at high data rates. At the ALS we have so far chosen
 134 an acquisition rate of 10 Hz (faster than beam size measurement update rates and typical
 135 ID gap/phase variations) at which we collect data for roughly 35 independent channels.
 136 Input and output data is normalized with mean 0 and standard deviation 1. The NNs are
 137 implemented using Keras with Tensorflow backend [39] using mean squared error as the
 138 loss function. The models are trained using the back-propagation method [40] employing
 139 the Adam optimizer [41] for 50 epochs. The learning rate is set to 10^{-3} with a decay
 140 multiplier of 0.8 after each epoch for convergence. We screened a variety of NN architectures,
 141 regularization methods and activation functions. Deeper (i.e. more hidden layers) and wider
 142 (i.e. more nodes per layer) neural networks can generally provide better fitting on training
 143 data; however, a larger model is prone to overfitting and requires larger computational
 144 resources for both training and correction stages. We choose a NN containing three hidden
 145 layers with sizes 128, 64, 32, respectively, with the ReLU activation function [42]. A small L_2
 146 regularization with $\lambda = 10^{-4}$ and a dropout with rate 0.2 was also used. The L_2 regularizer
 147 penalizes the large weights in neural networks and the dropout reduces the “co-adapting”
 148 between the weights [43], which is helpful to improve the generalizability of the model.
 149 These parameters are optimized through cross-validation [44], which is commonly used for
 150 model selection. The training takes 20 minutes on a single desktop-class CPU. The root
 151 mean squared error (RMSE) for training data is $0.16\ \mu\text{m}$ while the validation RMSE is
 152 $0.20\ \mu\text{m}$. We also implemented a conventional linear and quadratic regression model by
 153 assuming that beam size can be approximated by linear or quadratic functions of the ID
 154 settings. The best training and validation RMSEs are $0.57\ \mu\text{m}$ and $0.62\ \mu\text{m}$, respectively.
 155 The RMSEs appear to saturate towards orders 5–6 indicating further increase of polynomial
 156 order cannot improve the prediction. Figure 2 shows a visualization of the prediction on a
 157 segment of the validation dataset. The NN approach clearly outperforms the polynomial
 158 regressions. One of the possible reasons is that the NN can capture the interactions between
 159 IDs much more flexibly compared to the conventional regression method. The NN model has
 160 been proven to be effective for beam size prediction with RMSE $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$. Given a target beam
 161

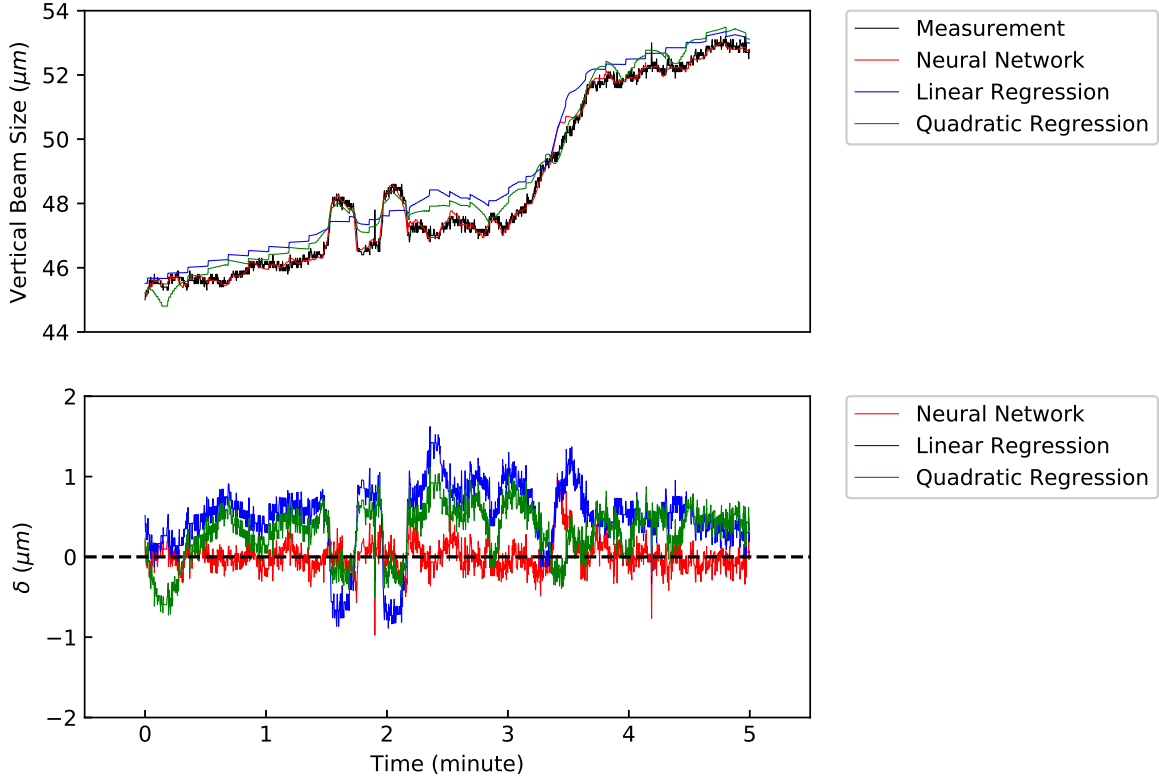


FIG. 2. Measured vertical beam size and predictions from polynomial regression and NN (top). Difference between predicted and measured vertical beam sizes (bottom). In terms of RMSE, the NN outperforms the regression models by roughly a factor 3.

162 size and the current combination of ID settings, we pre-screen 100 possible DWPs between
 163 -0.06 to 0.06 uniformly using the NN. Evaluating 100 DWPs takes only milliseconds on a
 164 single CPU, which enables us to implement this control at > 10 Hz. We select the DWP
 165 which renders the beam size closest to the target. The selected DWP value is used in a
 166 FF manner to adjust the skew quadrupole excitation pattern that generates the vertical
 168 dispersion wave. The experimental result is shown in Fig. 3. We turned FF control on
 169 and off repeatedly to verify the effectiveness of our beam size stabilization approach. In this
 170 example, when the FF is off, the variation of vertical beam size as measured at the diagnostic
 171 beamline is $1.5 \mu\text{m}$ rms (3%) and $7.5 \mu\text{m}$ peak-to-peak (15%). When the NN-based FF is
 172 turned on, this variation decreases to $0.2 \mu\text{m}$ rms (0.4%) and $1.9 \mu\text{m}$ peak-to-peak (4%). For
 173 comparison with the NN-based FF, we also implemented a simple FB loop relying solely on
 174 beam size measurement as an input and returning a DWP requested for beam size correction.
 175 During calm periods with only very slow ID configuration changes, the FB performance was

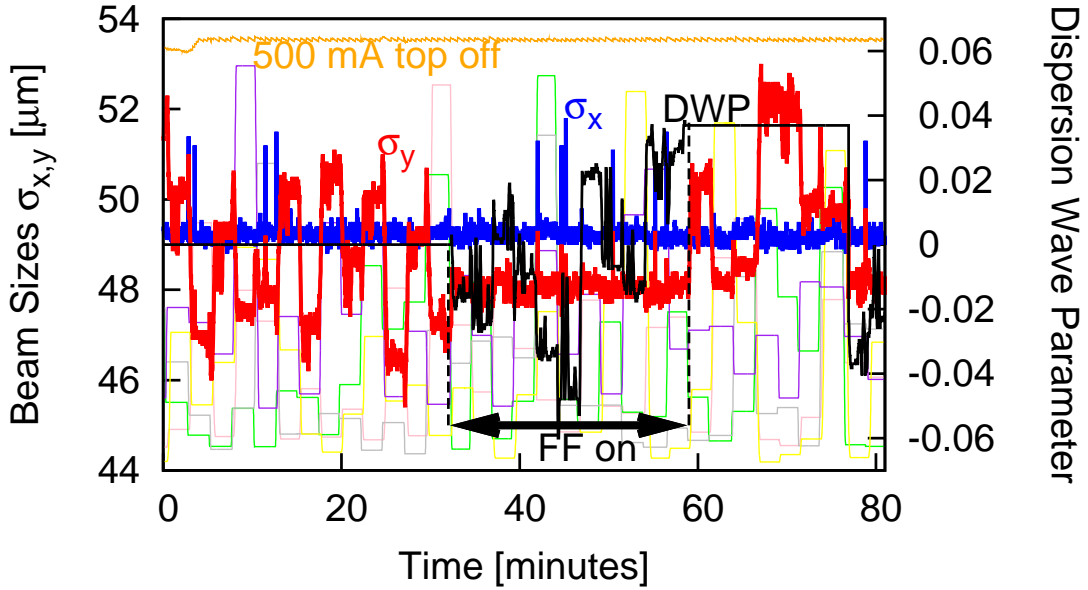
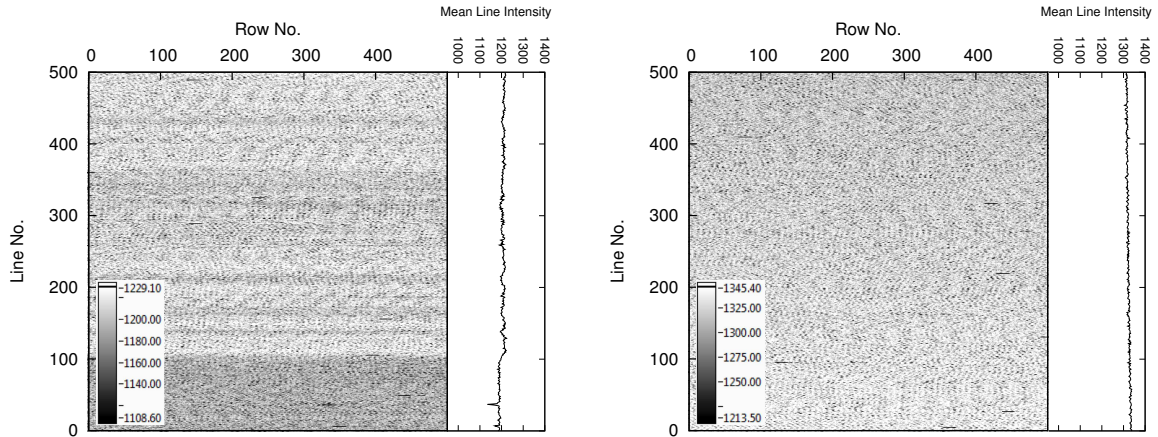


FIG. 3. Beam sizes (blue, red) as measured at the ALS diagnostic beamline 3.1 (spikes are top-off perturbations) along with DWP (black) and various ID vertical gap settings (light colored traces). Labels indicate the period with NN-based FF on.

176 capable of delivering similar rms stabilization as the NN-based FF. However, as soon as ID
 177 configurations changed at rates typically observed during experiments (e.g. 4 mm/s vertical
 178 gap motion and 16.7 mm/s horizontal shifts), the FB failed. Depending on PID tuning
 179 it was either not capable of stabilizing against transients (leading to $3\ \mu\text{m}$ peak-to-peak
 180 vertical beam size variation, i.e. 6%) or it became unstable. The NN-based FF approach
 181 outperforms the FB method primarily for two reasons. First, the FF approach is agnostic to
 182 the current beam size. Implementing this FF does not require beam size as an input, hence
 183 adjusting beam size ahead of the measurement and avoiding measurement delay. Second,
 184 the NN-based FF does not have to adjust the DWP in a continuous fashion employing a
 185 series of small steps. It can instantaneously adjust the DWP by any large amount required
 186 to maintain stable beam size without overshoot.

187 So far, these experiments have revealed that the NN-based FF can stabilize the vertical
 188 beam size at the diagnostic beamline. It is, however, a priori not at all evident that stabilizing
 189 the source size at one point in the storage ring is equivalent to stabilizing the beam at the
 190 relevant source points. We originally chose to act on the beam size by means of the vertical
 191 dispersion wave, since it adjusts the vertical emittance, a global and conserved property, and

192 we can therefore expect it to stabilize globally in spite of training the NN using a localized
 193 measurement. In order to demonstrate that this interpretation is correct, we conducted
 194 experiments at ALS beamline 5.3.2.2, which is the most sensitive ALS beamline in terms
 195 of vertical beam size [18, 19]. Figure 4 shows STXM scan data taken at 5.3.2.2 while
 196 ID configurations in the rest of the ALS were continuously changing. The measurement



197 FIG. 4. STXM images from ALS beamline 5.3.2.2 at 390 eV. Left: scan performed while the NN-
 198 based FF was on (0.8% rms intensity variation). Right: scan performed without any ID motion in
 199 ALS (0.5% rms intensity variation).

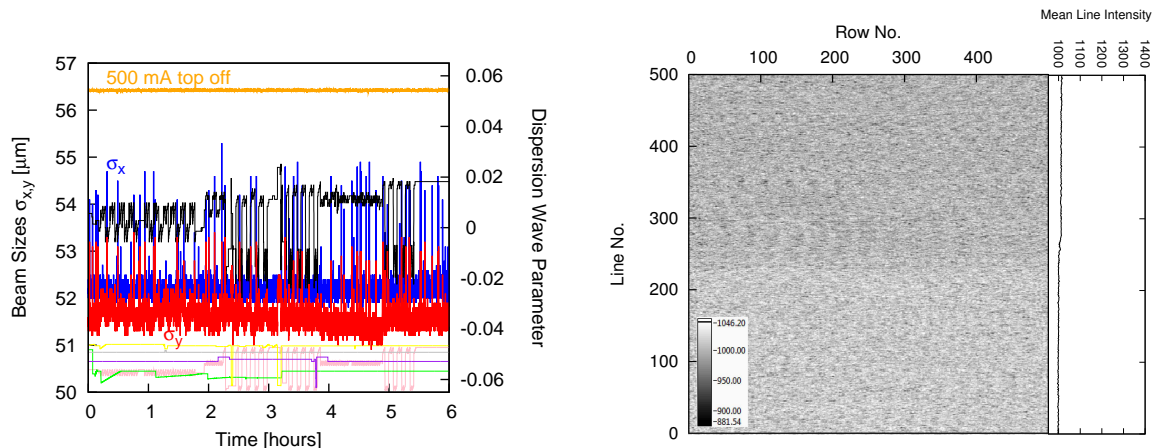
200 data reveals that the stabilization observed at the diagnostic beamline can indeed also be
 201 observed in the STXM scans at this sensitive beamline. A comparison of Fig. 4 (left) to
 202 Fig. 1 (right) demonstrates a 4-fold reduction in noise at the STXM beamline from the
 203 NN-based FF. These STXM measurements have also revealed that this stabilization of low-
 204 frequency perturbations does not occur at the expense of exciting any high-frequency noise.
 205 Finally, Fig. 4 also reveals that the residual noise from ID configuration changes now lies
 206 only 60% above the noise floor of the beam line. We expect to further reduce this residual
 207 by increasing the beam size measurement refresh rate and consequently the NN-based FF
 update rate.

208 ONLINE STABILIZATION & RETRAINING

209 With the above determined performance at the most sensitive experiments, the NN-
 210 based FF can be put into operation during regular user experiment runs. Several user runs

211 employing the NN-based FF so far have demonstrated that the vertical beam size can be
 212 stabilized to the sub-micron ($< 2\%$) rms level over the course of many days. One key
 213 advantage of this NN-based stabilization approach lies in the fact that data acquisition for
 214 retraining of the NN can be continuously carried out even while the NN-based FF is active
 215 during a regular user run. Under *online retraining* we understand continuous retraining
 216 of the NN (with machine data affected by the online NN) effectively allowing the NN to
 217 constantly adapt to a drifting machine, but also to changes in the ID configuration space
 218 occupied by experimenters during run periods.

219 Here, we demonstrate online retraining by combining data collected during a dedicated
 220 machine shift (for which the initial NN had been trained) with data collected during a 3-
 221 day user period with NN-based FF running. For online retraining, the user run data was
 222 randomly down-sampled to 1/15 of its original size to balance sample sizes. Retraining the
 223 NN using both data sets requires just 15 minutes on a desktop-class CPU. After verifying
 224 that predictions of the online-retrained NN better matched measured beam sizes than those
 225 coming from the original static NN, the FF was reconfigured to thenceforth rely on the
 226 online-retrained NN. An example of such a run is shown in Fig. 5. The observed level of



227
 228
 229 FIG. 5. Left: Beam sizes as measured at ALS diagnostic beamline 3.1 during user operations using
 230 a FF based on an online-retrained NN (0.4% rms variation in the vertical). Right: STXM scan
 231 from ALS beamline 5.3.2.2 (0.6% rms intensity variation) recorded during the same period.

229 vertical source size stability at diagnostic beamline 3.1 over the course of several days using
 230 the online-retrained NN is $< 0.3 \mu\text{m}$ rms ($< 0.5\%$). This indicates a factor two improvement
 231 over the originally applied static NN. In this case again, STXM scans confirm that this also

232 leads to a global stabilization of source points (cf. Fig. 5 right). From these experiments
233 we conclude that online retraining ensures that source size can be stabilized over prolonged
234 periods of time without requiring dedicated machine time to retrain the NN or manual inter-
235 vention by an expert. Furthermore, we recently demonstrated that even after a several-day
236 interruption (e.g. scheduled maintenance) the previously employed online-retrained NN can
237 upon startup again be put into FF operation without observing a reduction in performance.
238 Online retraining thereafter can continue to ensure the employed NN stays up-to-date. For
239 future operation, we expect to online retrain on-the-fly whenever indicated by a sustained
240 increase in error between NN-based beam size prediction and online measurement beyond a
241 predefined threshold.

242 **CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK**

243 We have demonstrated that machine learning can be employed to render NNs that en-
244 able vertical source size stabilization at storage ring light sources without requiring any
245 new instrumentation. This model-independent method ensures levels of stability roughly
246 one order of magnitude better than previously observed using model-based FFs and FB
247 schemes. We have also demonstrated that such a NN-based FF remains effective over pro-
248 longed periods of time, including shutdown intervals, by employing online retraining. The
249 achieved level of source size stability results in perturbations at the most sensitive experi-
250 ments quickly approaching the noise level of the end station. Furthermore, the demonstrated
251 sub-micron/sub-percent level of source size stability already today fulfills requirements for
252 future 4GSRs thereby allowing experiments at these new sources to fully exploit the ultra-
253 high brightness and transverse coherence provided by DLSRs. In the future, we plan to
254 investigate if a NN-based FF can replace model-based FFs entirely, thus freeing up on the
255 order of one hundred hours of dedicated machine time a year, which are nowadays still re-
256 quired to re-record look-up tables. First proof of principle experiments have been carried
257 out and show promising results, including the exciting possibility to extract physics model
258 information from a NN, eg. deriving ID perturbations from a NN trained on a machine
259 without ID FFs.

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