

Optimizing Free-Electron Laser Operation with Neural Network-Based Beam Pointing Predictions

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Virtual diagnostic tools leveraging readily available input data offer a non-invasive way to optimize Free-Electron Lasers (FEL) operation and delivery, especially when limitations with conventional diagnostics arise. This work presents a novel approach using an artificial neural network to online predict photon pulse pointing at MHz level for both soft and hard x-rays. The model input is based purely on parasitically available diagnostic of both the electron and the photon beam. The model is validated by diamond sensor measurements at 11-keV, achieving a correlation coefficient greater than 0.95. This virtual diagnostic not only streamlines beam alignment and optimization, but is also the funding stone of a MHz-capable beam pointing stabilization. Furthermore, it further improves the online characterization of each photon pulse at MHz level.

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