IPAC'24 - 15th International Particle Accelerator Conference



Contribution ID: 1687 Contribution code: TUPS59

Type: Poster Presentation

Data-driven model predictive control for automated optimization of injection into the SIS18 synchrotron

Tuesday, 21 May 2024 16:00 (2 hours)

In accelerator labs like GSI/FAIR, automating complex systems is key for maximizing physics experiment time. This study explores the application of a data-driven model predictive control (MPC) to refine the multiturn injection (MTI) process into the SIS18 synchrotron, departing from conventional numerical optimization methods. MPC is distinguished by its reduced number of optimization steps and superior ability to control performance criteria, effectively addressing issues like delayed outcomes and safety concerns, including septum protection.

The study focuses on a highly sample-efficient MPC approach based on Gaussian processes, which lies at the intersection of model-based reinforcement learning and control theory. This approach merges the strengths of both fields, offering a unified and optimized solution and yielding a safe and fast state-based optimization approach beyond classical reinforcement learning and Bayesian optimization.

Our study lays the groundwork for enabling safe online training for the SS18 MTI issue, showing great potential for applying data-driven control in similar scenarios.

Footnotes

Funding Agency

Paper preparation format

LaTeX

Region represented

Europe

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Session Classification: Tuesday Poster Session

Track Classification: MC6: Beam Instrumentation, Controls, Feedback, and Operational Aspects: MC6.D13 Machine Learning