INVERTIBLE SURROGATE MODELS: JOINT SURROGATE MODELLING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LASER-WAKEFIELD ACCELERATION BY INVERTIBLE NEURAL NETWORKS

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ABSTRACT

Invertible neural networks are a recent technique in machine learning promising neural network architectures that can be run in forward and reverse mode. In this paper, we will be introducing invertible surrogate models that approximate complex forward simulation of the physics involved in laser plasma accelerators: iLWFA. The bijective design of the surrogate model also provides all means for reconstruction of experimentally acquired diagnostics. The quality of our invertible laser wakefield acceleration network will be verified on a large set of numerical LWFA simulations.

1 Introduction

Laser plasma accelerators are a new technique to accelerate charged particles, providing acceleration gradients orders of magnitude higher than with conventional accelerators. One of the most established techniques is the so-called laser wakefield acceleration (LWFA) (Tajima & Dawson, 1979; Esarey et al., 2009). A short and intense laser pulse drives a plasma wave inside which electrons can be accelerated. Especially in the so-called blowout or bubble regime (Pukhov & Meyer-ter Vehn, 2002; Geddes et al., 2004; Faure et al., 2004; Mangles et al., 2004), quasi-monoenergetic electron bunches with pulse duration and extent in the range of a few fs and µm can be generated which are not achievable by conventional accelerators. One of the most commonly used methods to inject electrons into the plasma accelerator is downramp injection (Schmid et al., 2010; Buck et al., 2013; Swanson et al., 2017), during which the plasma wake transitions from a high- to a low-density region, thereby expanding the plasma cavity and, if the laser is strong enough, injecting electrons that are further accelerated. This injection method can provide significantly better beam quality compared to other injection methods (Barber et al., 2017). The injection process depends both on the laser evolution as well as on the plasma dynamics, which are nonlinearly coupled. During the consecutive acceleration, the beam quality is influenced by the complex interplay between beam and wake, called beam loading Couperus et al. (2017). Making predictions for the injection process and acceleration thus require modeling with large-scale particle-in-cell simulations (Martinez de la Ossa et al., 2017). A surrogate model for these simulations is highly desireable since the simulations are highly computationally demanding even for highly-optimized particle-in-cell codesBurau et al. (2010), A fast prediction of electron parameters of interest could accelerate the applicability of down-ramp injection methods even further. Main contributions of this paper is the introduction of invertible surrogate modelling applied to accelerator physics. The proposed invertible LWFA surrogate model (iLWFA) approximates the non-linear forward simulation of LWFA with focus on down-ramp injection. Furthermore, the choice of architecture allows us to jointly solve the inverse problem, i.e. reconstruction of simulation parameters based on energy spectra.

2 Related works

Computationally expensive simulations are necessary for simulation of complex physical processes. Scanning the input parameters of physical simulations significantly increases the runtime of the simulations, since the simulation has to be cold-started over and over again. Surrogate models which

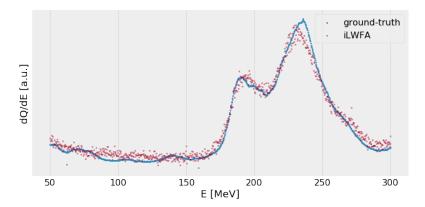


Figure 1: The prediction of the iLWFA network (red) on validation data very closely approximates the energy spectrum of numerical particle-in-cell code (blue) in a fraction of time. The spectrum shows the final charge of the electrons per unit energy $\mathrm{d}Q/\mathrm{d}E = \Psi$ over energy E. For this particular parameter set p, the most electrons end up to have an energy between $180\,\mathrm{MeV}$ and $250\,\mathrm{MeV}$.

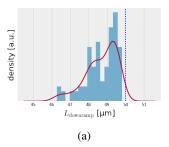
are able to learn the relationship among the input parameters and the simulation output could significantly lower the computational complexity and enables more extensive analysis of the underlying physical system without restarting the simulation every time.

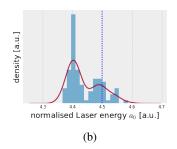
Neural networks are a valuable choice as surrogate models due to their ability as universal function approximators (Hornik et al., 1989). Certain established approaches rely on the multilayer perceptron architecture (Raissi et al., 2017; Sirignano & Spiliopoulos, 2017; Stiller et al., 2020) while more sophisticated approaches such as generative adversial networks, autoencoders (Xie et al., 2018; Kim et al., 2019) and graph neural networks are also used (Sanchez-Gonzalez et al., 2020). However, all these approaches are designed as surrogates for the forward process of the underlying simulation, so that the inverse mapping must be represented by a separate model (e.g. (Raissi & Karniadakis, 2017), (Raissi, 2018)).

Invertible neural networks are a promising candidate as surrogate models through there ability to learn the forward and inverse mapping simultaneously. Padmanabha & Zabaras (2020) applied a conditional invertible neural network as a surrogate model for the estimation of a non-Gaussian permeability field in multiphase flows. In this paper, we will be learning an invertible conditional mapping between simulation parameters and -outcomes by adapting the architecture of (Ardizzone et al., 2018), which is more challenging to train but promises a more accurate approximation of the forward pass (simulation) and the inverse process (reconstruction).

3 METHOD

A surrogate model of laser wakefield acceleration can be seen as mapping $g(p) = \Psi(E)$ from n_p simulation parameters $p \in \mathbb{R}^{n_p}$ to energy spectrum $\frac{\mathrm{d}Q}{\mathrm{d}E} = \Psi = [\Psi_1, \Psi_2, ..., \Psi_{n_E}]$. The spectrum Ψ is descretized for n_E energy bins $E_i \in [40;300]$ MeV and represents the total charge of all electrons in that specific energy bin E_i . In experiment, parameters p are typically not directly measurable but provide important insights about the state of the system. It is desirable to reconstruct parameters p given some energy spectrum Ψ by $f(\Psi) = p$. Data reconstruction can be seen as (ill-posed) inverse process of our surrogate model $f = g^{-1}$ which, however, is not injective due to potential ambiguities. This means that certain parameters p_j, p_k might map to the same energy spectrum Ψ , i.e. $g(p_j) = g(p_k) = \Psi$. This ambiguity implies that any neural network $n \approx f$ would either pick any of these two p_j, p_k , or return the average, depending on the choice of objective function. We solving this challenge based on the idea of Ardizzone et al. (2018) by extending the (co)domain of f(g) using a latent variable $z \sim N(0, I)$ result in bijective mappings, i.e. $f(\Psi, z) = \pi(p|\Psi, z)$. Any mode of our posterior predictive distribution $\pi(p|\Psi, z)$ finally corresponds to one reasonable parameter configuration corresponding to some energy spectrum Ψ .





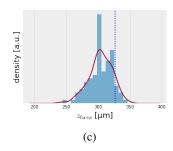


Figure 2: The posterior predictive distribution of iLWFA on validation data is close to the ground-truth (blue). The method is not restricted to certain family of distributions as well as number of modes as (a)-(c) show. The two modes of (b) encode information about the ambiguity when reconstructing the laser parameter from a single energy spectrum.

3.1 INVERTIBLE SURROGATE MODELS

Invertible neural networks (INN, Ardizzone et al. (2018)) are a suitable approach for joint surrogate modelling and data reconstruction because of the coupled forward- and inverse pass. The bidirectional training of INN allows the network to learn physical correlations of simulation parameters and simulation outcome, energy spectrum. The bijective nature of the involved coupling transforms. is preserved by basically making use of a stack of affine coupling transforms (Dinh et al., 2016). This architectural choice results in a neural network that jointly approximates the forward process (simulation), i.e. g(p) = INN(p), as well as the inverse process (reconstruction), i.e. $f(\Psi) = INN^{-1}(\Psi, z)$. This choice of coupling transform results in a tractable lower-diagonal Jacobi matrix J_{Ψ} rendering the estimation of $\pi(p|\Psi,z)$ feasible. Finally, we need to introduce some zero-padding to the domain of f and co-domain of g accordingly to learn a bijective mapping. This implies that e.g. $f: \mathbb{R}^{M_p+M_0} \to \mathbb{R}^{M_E+M_z}$ with $M_p+M_0=M_E+M_z$. M_E denotes the number of energy bins of our energy spectra while M_p is the number of parameters (here: 3), M_z is the size of our latent variable z and M_0 the resulting zero-padding to render the mapping bijective. The objective function reads $L = L_E + \lambda_x L_p + \lambda_z L_z$ with L_E being the supervised forward loss, L_p is the supervised reconstruction loss and L_z preserves the prior distribution of the latent variable z. The Lagrange multipliers λ scale each term of our objective function accordingly. The supervised forward loss $L_{\Psi} = \sum_{i=0}^{N} ||\Psi_i - \widehat{\Psi}_i||_2^2$ enforces similarity of the approximated forward simulation $[\widehat{\Psi}_i,\widehat{z}]=f(p_i,0)$ with ground-truth energy spectrum Ψ_i for parameter p_i . The reconstruction loss L_p reads $L_p = \sum_{i=0}^N (||p_i - \widehat{p}_i||_2^2 + ||\widehat{0}_i||_2^2)$ with $[\widehat{p}_i, \widehat{0}_i] = g(\Psi_i, z)$ evaluated at N samples. The latter term of L_p enforces that the invertible network is not encoding any information into the *predicted* zero-padding $\hat{0}$ of g. Finally, the predicted latent variable \hat{z} is constrained by $L_z = MMD(f(p), \pi(\Psi)\pi(z))$ to enforce normality of \widehat{z} and independence of predicted $\widehat{\Psi}$ and \widehat{z} (see (Ardizzone et al., 2018) for details).

4 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

All 2.7 Terabytes of training data were generated by large scale PIConGPU (Bussmann et al., 2013; Burau et al., 2010) simulations run by a jupyter-based scheduler (Rudat, 2019). In the following the 3 input parameters to the PIConGPU simulations are: the laser's normalized field strength a_0 , the laser's focus position $z_{\rm focus}$ with $z_{\rm focus}=105\,\mu{\rm m}$ representing a focus position at the density downramp, and the length of the downramp density transition $L_{\rm downramp}$ from a density $2\cdot 10^{19}\,{\rm cm}^{-3}$ to $1.1\cdot 10^{19}\,{\rm cm}^{-3}$. Weights λ of our objective function were subject to a hyperparameter optimisation.

4.1 Surrogate model

The performance of our iLWFA model was assessed by randomly splitting our dataset into training and validation data. We found that the approximation of the forward pass yields MSE < 0.007 meaning that the energy spectra were recovered reasonable well (see e.g. Fig. 1). Furthermore, the similarity in shape of the reconstructed energy spectra with respect to groundtruth data was

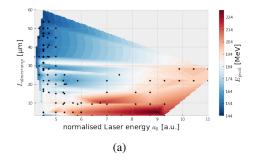
Table 1: The relative error of the inverse pass are proportional to the contribution of each parameter to the energy spectrum.

RELATIVE ERROR	TRAINING	VALIDATION
a_0	0.2%	0.3%
$L_{ m downramp}$	0.6%	3.7%
$z_{ m focus}$	2.5%	8.2%

quantified by $SSIM \approx 0.86$, i.e. the recovered energy spectra for interpolation closely resembles our data. The reconstruction of simulation parameters given an energy spectrum relates to solving an inverse problem. iLWFA allows us to solve this inverse problem by querying the *invertible* neural network in reverse mode. A representative reconstruction of the posterior predictive distribution on validation data emphasizes the strengths of INNs for learning complex posterior distributions (see Fig. 2). The median relative errors for reconstruction of simulation parameters from energy spectra is rather low (see table 1) meaning that the invertible network is learning features for joint forward simulation as well as parameter reconstruction. The good reconstruction performance on a_0 could be explained by strong contribution of that parameter to the reconstructed energy spectra (see Fig. 4).

4.2 DIRECT PHYSICAL APPLICATION OF THE SURROGATE MODEL

Various beam parameters need to be tuned simultaneously to achieve a certain LWFA downramp injection for a targeted application. For examples narrow energy bandwidth ΔE around a high peak energy $E_{\rm peak}$ is required for operating Thomason scattering light sources Jochmann et al. (2013); Krämer et al. (2018) or compact optical FELs Steiniger et al. (2019). On the other hand, using these electron beams as driver in a compact plasma wakefield accelerator Kurz et al. (2021), requires high-current beams, thus a high peak energy is needed but the requirements on ΔE are less strict.



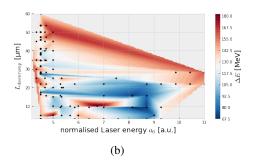


Figure 3: The surrogate model approximates the forward pass quite smoothly resulting in smooth transitions of our derived quantities peak energy $E_{\rm peak}$ with full-width half-maximum ΔE . Hereby we are able to identify that highest peak energy can be reached with $a_0 \approx 9$ and a short downramp length $L_{\rm downramp}$ at a narrow energy bandwidth $\Delta E = 82\,{\rm MeV}$.

5 Conclusions

Laser wakefield acceleration is an established compact accelerator method promising significantly higher acceleration gradients than conventional particle accelerators. The numerical simulation of the involved complex physics requires jointly solving kinematic- and Maxwell's equation using particle-in-cell method. Main contribution of this work is an invertible surrogate model, iLWFA, that is approximating the forward pass of a full LWFA simulation while providing all means for reconstruction of experimentally acquired quantities. Another benefit of ML-driven surrogate models is the differentiability of the model allowing us to infer physical knowledge from the incorporated non-linear mapping. An evaluation on large set of numerical LWFA simulations emphasizes the benefits of this approach but also outlines future work for making the reconstruction more robust.

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6 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

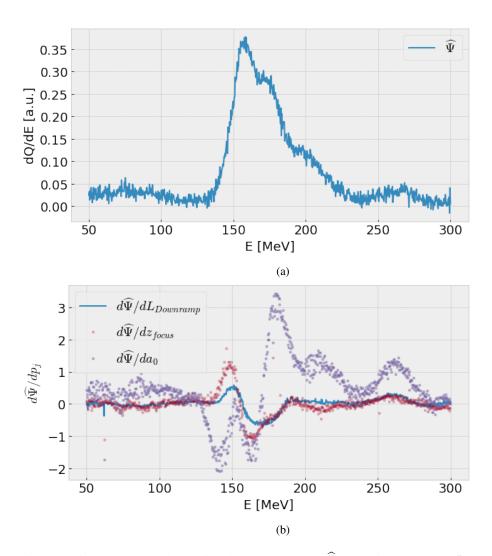


Figure 4: Figure (a) shows the predicted energy spectrum $\widehat{\Psi}$ at a_0 =5, $z_{\rm focus}$ =1e-4, $L_{\rm downramp}$ =3.5e-5. Another advantage of iLWFA is that we are able to unveil the local contribution of certain input parameters p_j with $p_0=a_0$, $p_1=z_{\rm focus}$, $p_2=L_{\rm downramp}$ and $j\leq 2$ to $\widehat{\Psi}$. A significant and widespread contribution of e.g. a_0 implies that it might also be easier to reconstruct that parameter since the semantic region is large respectively (b). Additionally, this analysis might also stimulate further physics research on the non-linear contribution of simulation parameter to simulation outcome.