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 "chunk": "However, existing HITL workflows still suffer from significant drawbacks, with most being limited to an interventionist approach in which humans either seed initial experiments, modify parameter spaces, or inject knowledge at predefined points, limiting their utility. To leverage the rapidly developing capabilities of modern AI agents, more tightly coupled, collaborative workflows are required across all stages of the experimental process, from hypothesis generation and experimental planning to results interpretation that go beyond existing HITL workflows. Here, we evolve HITL into human-AI collaborative (HAIC) workflows that couple human expertise, large language models (LLMs), and autonomous systems through mixed-initiative, between-batch loops. This approach is amplified by using LLMs alongside autonomous systems as \"co-scientists\"^{8,9} to help generate hypotheses, plan experiments¹⁰, and analyze data, especially when retrieval-augmented generation¹¹ (RAG) grounds the model in relevant scientific corpora¹². This flexibility is particularly suited to thin-film synthesis, where large parameter spaces with sparse prior data make defining robust success metrics challenging, especially when exploring new applications or materials systems. Notably, thin-film synthesis poses a different set of challenges than materials discovery and requires a tightly coupled collaborative workflow. Success metrics may require complex measurements with bespoke analysis, defined iteratively rather than *a priori*, and are subject to significant data complexity (noise, unknowns, intangibles). Further, general mechanistic and experimental databases for thin-film synthesis are lacking, and literature-based recipes are often ⁴ too unreliable to predict performance metrics^{13,14}, making the incorporation of prior knowledge difficult. As data accumulates, the workflow must evolve to accommodate process improvement¹⁵ in all but the simplest scenarios to be effective. Addressing these challenges is essential to broaden the success and applicability of autonomous platforms, especially for thin-film synthesis. Our work applies HAIC to autonomous synthesis, addressing key challenges in the emerging field of remote epitaxy (RE) of complex oxides by pulsed laser deposition (PLD). In RE, a two-dimensional interlayer, such as graphene, is placed on a single-crystal substrate, enabling the epitaxial growth of single-crystalline films that can be exfoliated as thin membranes and integrated on arbitrary substrates¹⁶. However, PLD of complex oxides such as BaTiO₃ (BTO) requires growth conditions that destroy monolayer graphene interlayers, so successful PLD RE has relied on bilayer graphene to retain film transferability^{17,18}. This poses a serious challenge for RE in PLD (and molecular beam epitaxy) because the transmitted electrostatic potential of the substrate through graphene is small (~10-20 meV) and short-ranged (~2 Å)¹⁹. Consequently, >1 graphene layers weaken or eliminate remote film alignment, yielding poorly oriented or polycrystalline films²⁰, depending on the substrate's ionicity/polarity^{21,22}. Comprehensive synthesis studies are essential to understand the limitations of oxide RE with PLD and aid the development of alternative strategies to enable remote epitaxy for arbitrary materials. We deploy a HAIC strategy by combining state-of-the-art LLMs with an autonomous PLD system equipped with *in situ* diagnostics to understand how complex-oxide growth conditions drive graphene damage during RE, using BTO as a test case. LLM-assisted hypothesis generation, experimental design, and iterative process refinements enabled the autonomous campaign to efficiently map the parameter space and identify the BTO growth regime that minimizes graphene damage. Targeted *in situ*",
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"chunk": "Accepted at the ICLR 2023 Workshop on Physics for Machine Learning PHYSICS-INSPIRED INTERPRETABILITY OF MACHINE LEARNING MODELS Maximilian P. Niroomand, David J. Wales Department of Chemistry University of Cambridge {mpn26,djw34}@cam.ac.uk ABSTRACT The ability to explain decisions made by machine learning models remains one of the most significant hurdles towards widespread adoption of AI in highly sensitive areas such as medicine, cybersecurity or autonomous driving. Great interest exists in understanding which features of the input data prompt model decision making. In this contribution, we propose a novel approach to identify relevant features of the input data, inspired by methods from the energy landscapes field, developed in the physical sciences. By identifying conserved weights within groups of minima of the loss landscapes, we can identify the drivers of model decision making. Analogues to this idea exist in the molecular sciences, where coordinate invariants or order parameters are employed to identify critical features of a molecule. However, no such approach exists for machine learning loss landscapes. We will demonstrate the applicability of energy landscape methods to machine learning models and give examples, both synthetic and from the real world, for how these methods can help to make models more interpretable. 1 INTRODUCTION Machine learning methods have achieved impressive results in recent years. Besides famous applications in areas like chess (Silver et al., 2017a) and Go (Silver et al., 2017b), AI plays a critical role in advances to autonomous driving (Grigorescu et al., 2020), protein structure prediction (Jumper et al., 2021), cancer identification (Sammut et al., 2022) and in cybersecurity (Dasgupta et al., 2022). However, in order for AI methods to take the next step and be commonly employed for critical applications without any humans in the loop, we want to be able to understand the decision making process. A critical component towards explainable AI is understanding which parts of the input data are utilised by the model in its decision making. In neural networks, the most popular approach is to study the outgoing weights and gradients from an individual input node. Larger weights are reasonably assumed to indicate a greater significance of the particular input, and indeed, an entire class of interpretability metrics, namely gradient-based methods, are founded on this idea (Simonyan et al., 2013; Linardatos et al., 2020). Yet, given the immense complexity of overparameterised, deep neural networks, current methods are in practice often insufficient to appropriately explain a model. Using methods from the physical sciences, we propose a novel approach as a next step towards interpretable neural networks. 1.1 ENERGY LANDSCAPES In the physical sciences, energy landscapes (ELs) are employed to explore molecular configuration space (Wales et al., 1998; 2003). Each molecular configuration is associated with an energy value, and local minima of the energy landscape represent stable isomers. The analogy to machine learning loss landscapes (ML-LLs) is straightforward, the main difference perhaps being that non-minima are valid configurations for sets of weights. Due to this similarity between ELs and ML-LLs, various, well-established methods from the field of energy landscapes can be employed to study ML-LLs. One",
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