

**2025 DOE/NP ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE/MACHINE LEARNING
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR EXCHANGE MEETING
VIRTUAL, VIA ZOOM, NOVEMBER 19-20, 2025**

USE OF AI-ML TO OPTIMIZE ACCELERATOR OPERATIONS & IMPROVE MACHINE PERFORMANCE



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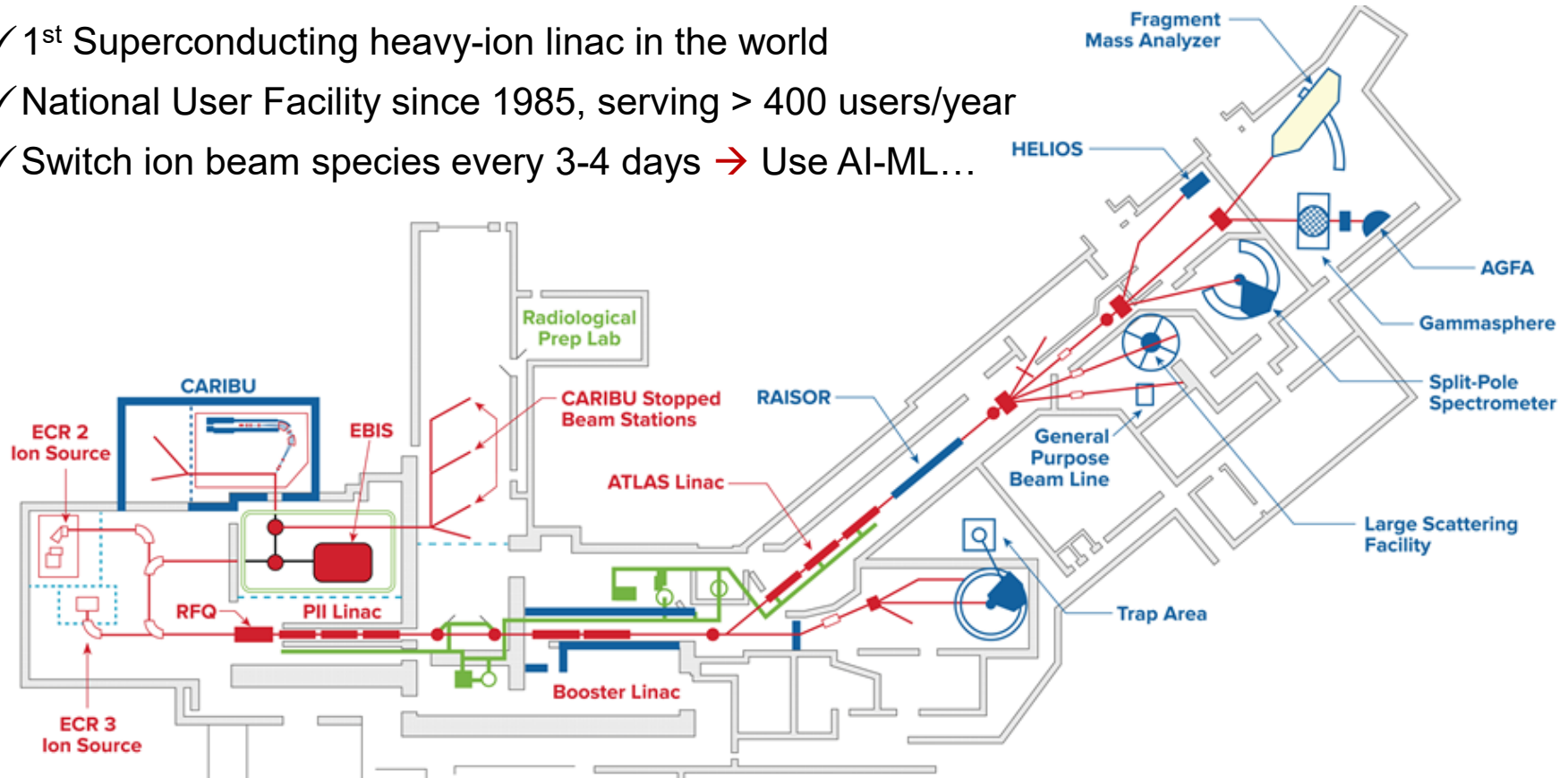


OUTLINE

- ❑ The ATLAS AI-ML Project (Phase II) – Overview & Status
- ❑ Progress on the ATLAS Sub-project
- ❑ Progress on the RAISOR Sub-project
- ❑ Progress on the CARIBU Sub-project
- ❑ Summary & Future Work

ATLAS: ARGONNE TANDEM LINEAR ACCELERATOR SYSTEM

- ✓ 1st Superconducting heavy-ion linac in the world
- ✓ National User Facility since 1985, serving > 400 users/year
- ✓ Switch ion beam species every 3-4 days → Use AI-ML...



ATLAS AI-ML PROJECT – PHASE II (2023 FOA)

Same project title as original: **Use of artificial intelligence to optimize accelerator operations and improve machine performance**

- Consolidated Three subprojects
 - ATLAS Sub-project: Stable beams in main Linac – Brahim Mustapha
 - RAISOR Sub-project: Inflight radioactive beams – Calem Hoffman
 - CARIBU Sub-project: Reaccelerated radioactive beams – Daniel Santiago

- Consolidation: close collaboration, exchange of ideas, codes and effort...

- Two new postdocs joined the ATLAS and CARIBU projects
 - Adwaith Ravichandran, started in December'23
 - Sergio Lopez-Caceres, started in June'24

THE ATLAS SUB-PROJECT



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ATLAS SUB-PROJECT: ONLINE DEPLOYMENT...

□ The main objectives of the phase II project are:

- Deploy the autonomous beam tuning tools developed during our previous project, evaluate their impact on both automating the tuning process and saving on tuning time.
- Develop tools for new operating modes such as multi-user operation of the ATLAS linac and high-intensity beams, as well as developing virtual diagnostics to supplement existing ones.

PROGRESS - MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS...

- ❑ New AI-ML Tools Development / Longitudinal Tuning
 - Bunching optimization
 - Automated energy change
- ❑ The ATLAS AI-ML Interface / Dashboard
 - Example Online Applications
 - Operators Experience
- ❑ The Virtual Accelerator (VA) Model
 - Development & Fine-Tuning of VA Model
 - Example VA Applications using same AI-ML Interface
- ❑ Summary & Future work

RECENT AI-ML DEVELOPMENT – LONGITUDINAL BEAM TUNING



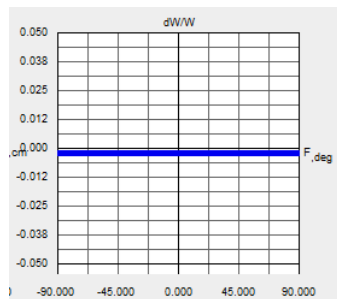
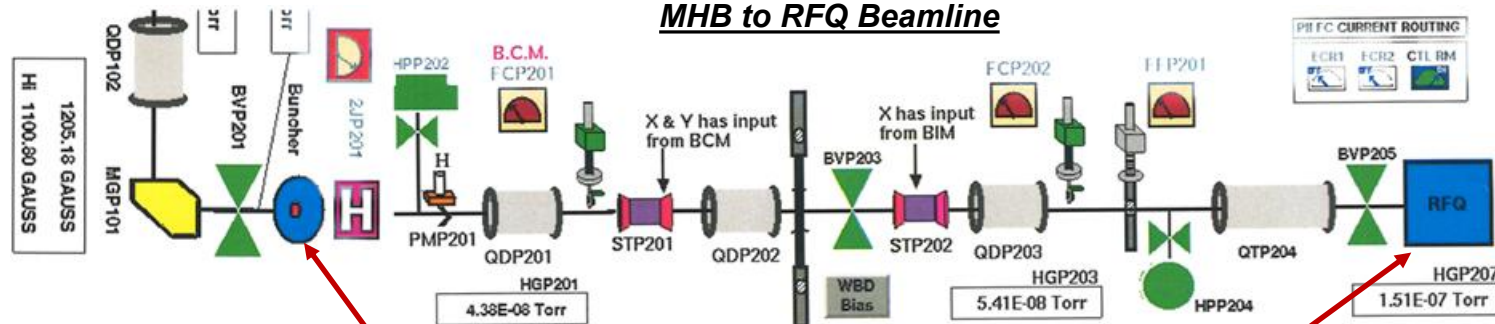
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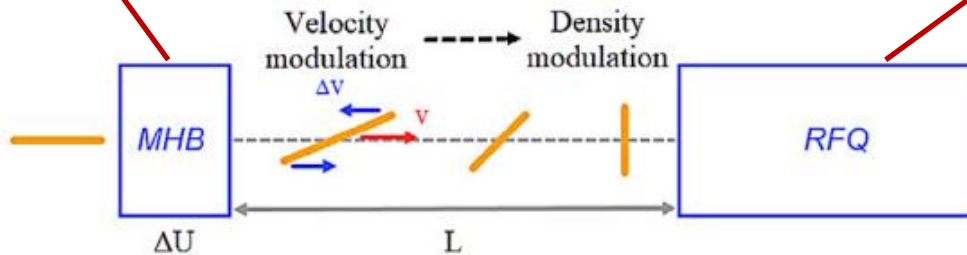
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BEAM PRE/BUNCHING – MULTI-HARMONIC BUNCHER

MHB to RFQ Beamline

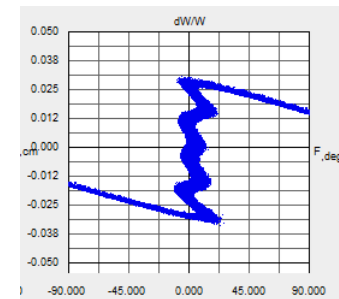


DC Beam



Schematics of MHB operation principle

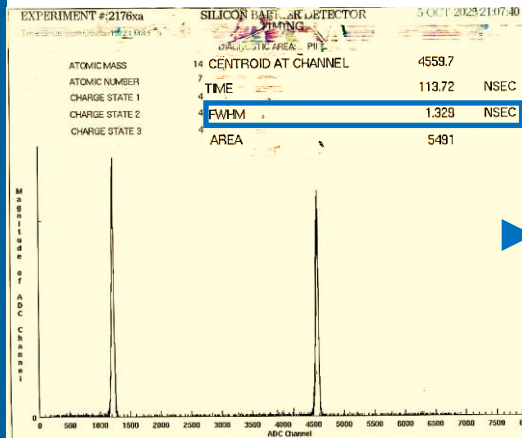
Here, the bunch is represented by the solid line,
 v : beam velocity, Δv : velocity change of end particles due to applied voltage ΔU ,
 L : distance between MHB and RFQ [1]



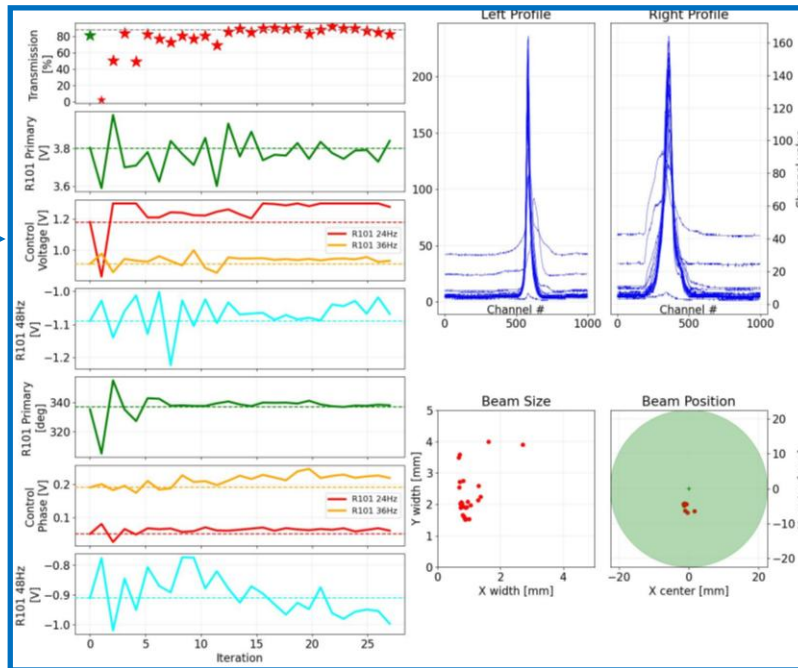
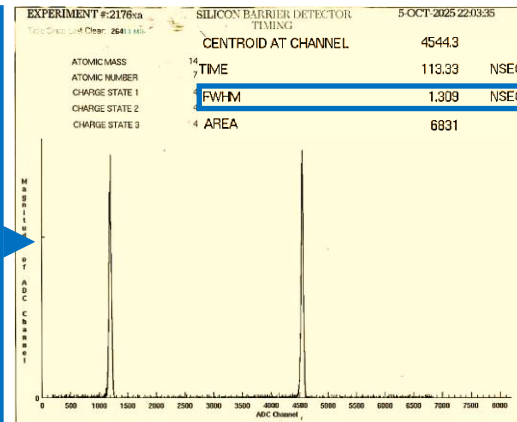
Pre-bunched Beam

BUNCH WIDTH OPTIMIZATION - FROM OPERATOR TUNE

SBD before ML tuning

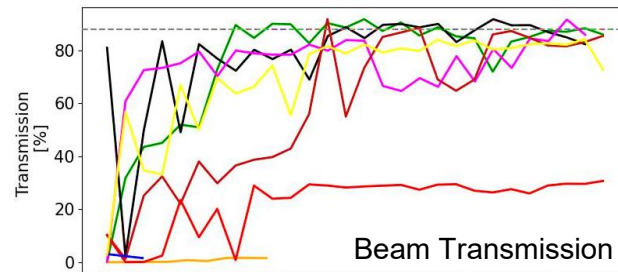
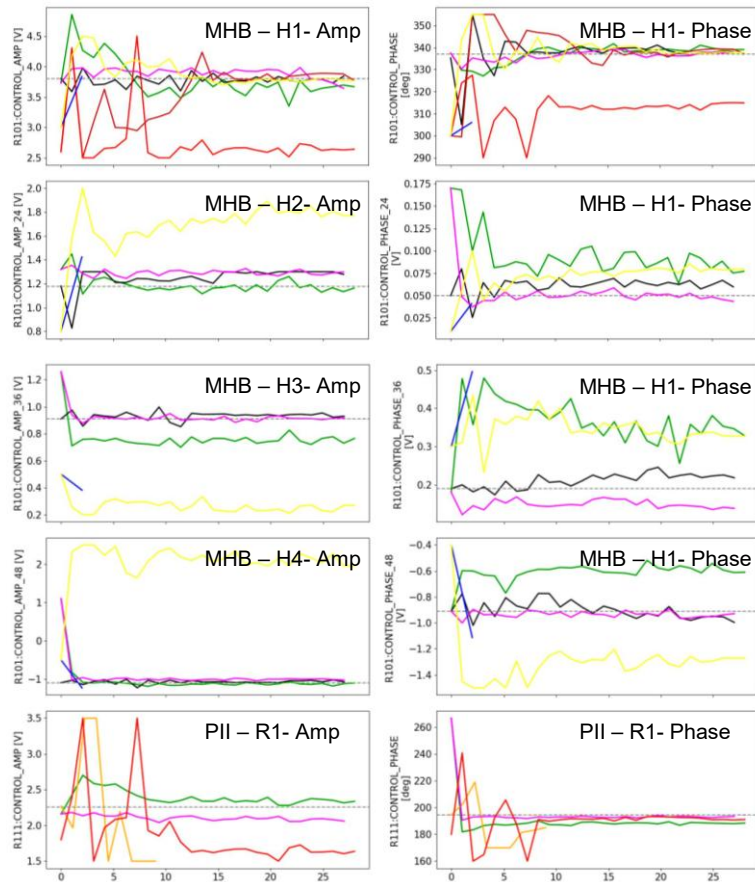


SBD after ML tuning



- ❑ Operator tuned values of MHB channels used as starting point to see if bunch width can be improved
- ❑ Control channel window limit made narrow relative to initial values
- ❑ After ML tuning, bunch width [FWHM] slightly reduced, but more importantly tuning from scratch...

BUNCH WIDTH OPTIMIZATION – MORE CASES

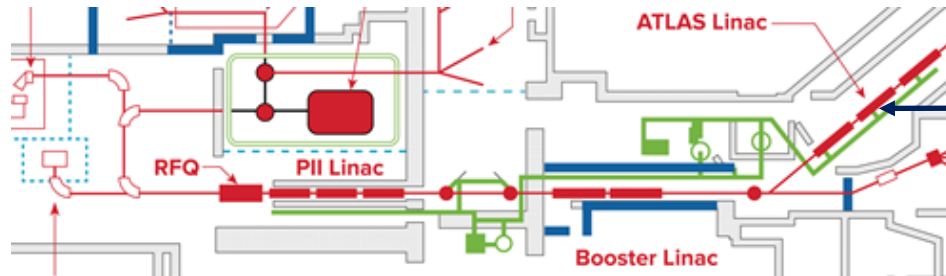


— MHB all channels + R11
 — MHB all channels
 — R111 Only
 — MHB all channels + R11
 — MHB Primary Only
 — MHB Primary + R11 Only
 — MHB Out of Lock case
 — MHB all channels

— Unoptimized Initial
 — Optimized Initial
 — Unoptimized Initial
 — Unoptimized Initial
 — Unoptimized Initial
 — Unoptimized Initial
 — Unoptimized Initial

- Plots shows ML model changing the MHB settings (4 harmonics) to optimize for transmission, used as indirect observable
- Most cases converge in ~ 15 iterations; different paths show possibility of multiple optima in solution space
- Dotted lines indicate operator tuned values**

RAPID ENERGY CHANGE & BEAMLINE RETUNING



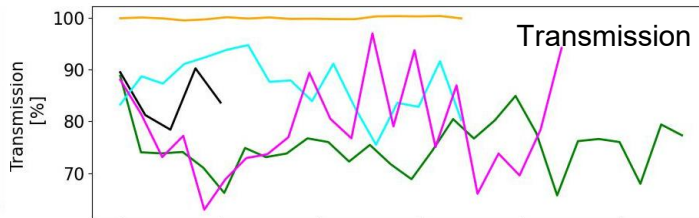
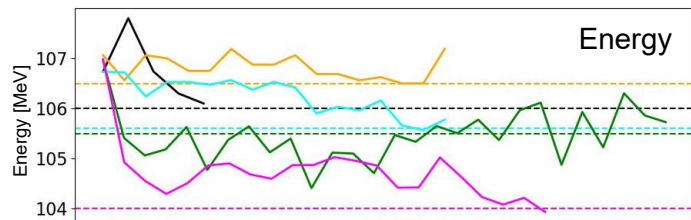
F-TANK					
R321	R322	R323	R324	R325	R326
DEACT.	LOC-REM	LOC-REM	LOC-REM	LOC-REM	LOC-REM
AMP: 0.00 VOLTS	AMP: 2.70 VOLTS	AMP: 2.50 VOLTS	AMP: 0.00 VOLTS	AMP: 0.00 VOLTS	AMP: 0.00 VOLTS
PHASE: 1.21 DEG	PHASE: 122.77 DEG	PHASE: 238.02 DEG	PHASE: 318.89 DEG	PHASE: 63.42 DEG	PHASE: 296.46 DEG

RF Cavities

CRYOSTAT F		
S321	S322	S323
32.00 AMPS	18.00 AMPS	35.00 AMPS
avai.	avai.	avai.
APPLY	APPLY	APPLY
ABORT	ABORT	ABORT
S321 SHUNT CURRENT	S322 SHUNT CURRENT	S323 SHUNT CURRENT

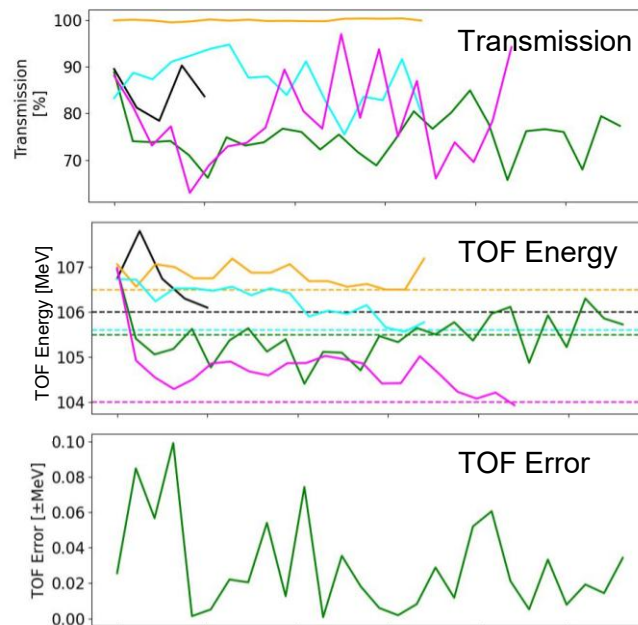
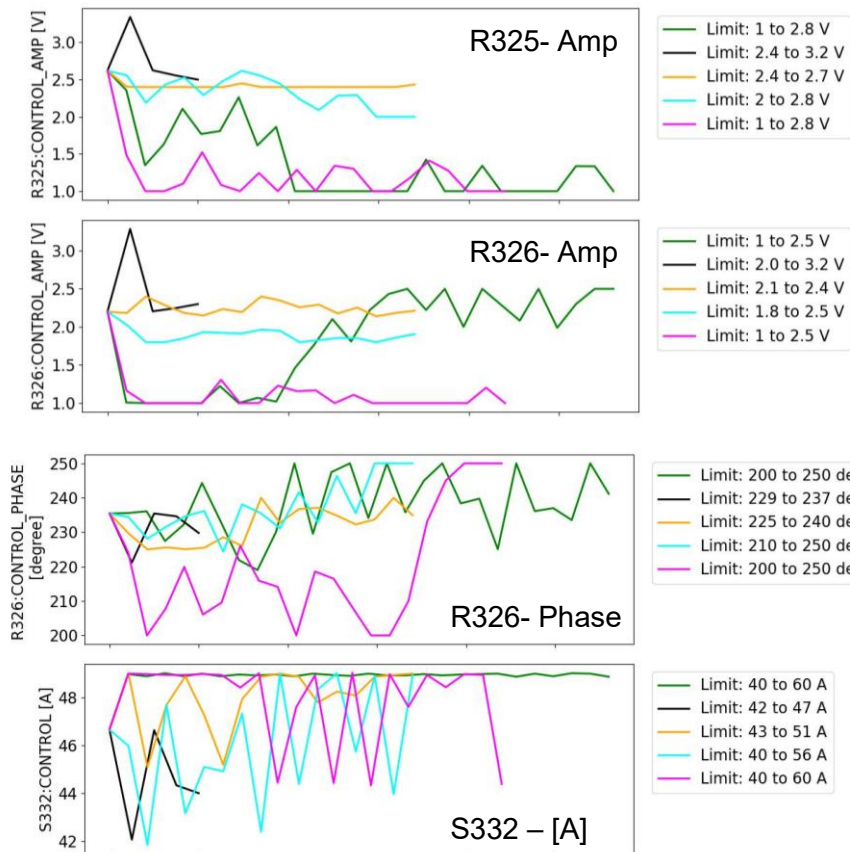
Focusing Solenoids

- ❑ Some experiment requires different beam energies; energy change & retuning can time consuming
- ❑ Energy change requires adjusting RF resonators voltages and phases, and retuning of transport line
- ❑ Example shows the F Cryostat of the last section of ATLAS housing 6 RF cavities and 3 solenoids
- ❑ Here, only the last two cavities were adjusted, along with the last solenoid for focusing & transmission
- ❑ Initial energy tuned for **106.74 MeV**, Resonators R325+R326 energy window: **2 MeV/resonator**



- Optimization to Mid-Energy
- R326 Out of Lock
- Narrowest Resonator control range
- Optimization to Mid-Energy
- Optimization to lowest possible Energy

ENERGY CHANGE & RETUNING OPTIMIZATION



- ❑ Dashed lines in TOF plot are requested energy
- ❑ Control voltage needs to be below **"Amplitude after scan"**
- ❑ Fast increase of resonator voltage was not possible, it trips...
- ❑ Fast decrease in resonator voltage to reduce energy possible

THE ATLAS AI-ML INTERFACE & OPERATORS EXPERIENCE




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ONLINE AI-ML INTERFACE – LANDING PAGE

A browser-based interface that uses API through an URL address...

 ATLAS - Dashboard

☒ Get/Read Settings

☐ Set/Vary Settings

☒ Get/Read BPMs

☐ Get/Read FCPs

Instructions

Task Setup

Beamlines

Execution

Please, follow the instructions below:

1. On top, select which devices will be accessible, read and/or varied.
2. In Task Setup, setup the task to perform
3. In Beamlines, select which elements will be varied and which data to read and save.
4. In Execution, click to execute or run.

Layout



Terminal

ONLINE AI-ML INTERFACE – TASK SETUP

Task Setup: Beam Infos

☒ Get/Read Settings ☐ Set/Vary Settings ☒ Get/Read BPMs ☐ Get/Read FCPs

Instructions

Task Setup

Beamlines

Execution

Set experiment and beam information, then select task to perform

Experiment Name:

Test

(short, less than 10 characters)

Brief Description:

Testing GUI

(short, one sentence / line)

Beam:

Species, Z=

18

Mass, A=

40

Charge, Q=

8

Energy, W=

52

Local Working Directory:

.

Server Data Directory:

./data

Set beam simulation data (TRACK input), ignore if experiment only

Will Use Beam Mass, Charge and Energy from the Experiment Setup

Base Frequency, MHz:

12.12

Beam Current, mA:

0.0

Number of Particles:

10000

Beam Distribution Type (0:DC / 1:Bunched):

0

Space Charge Model (0:2D / 1:3D):

0

Task Setup: Task Choice

Just Read Data

Perform Quad Scan

Bayesian Optimization

Reinforcement Learning

Objective to optimize:

Transmission

Type:

Maximize

Initial FCup:

FCP301

Target FCup:

FCP303

Target BPM:

PMP303

Read Initial FCup (Yes/No):

Yes

Use Cste Value, uA:

0

Read Target BPM (Yes/No):

No

Acquisition Function (EI / UCB):

UCB

Beta value:

1

Initial Data Sample:

1

Other Parameters:

q value:

1

num_restarts:

20

raw_samples:

20

Training Cycle:

No. of Episodes:

1

No. of Steps/Episode:

50

Time delay - settling time before taking data (seconds):

3

Save Model (Yes/No):

Yes

Set Best Tune (Yes/No):

Yes

Restore First Tune (Yes/No):

No

ONLINE AI-ML INTERFACE – BEAMLINE SETUP

Beamlines: Select Beamline

☒ Get/Read Settings ☐ Set/Vary Settings ☒ Get/Read BPMs ☐ Get/Read FCPs

Instructions Task Setup **Beamlines** Execution

Open the beam lines you are interested in and select the elements

- PII-Two
- PII-Exit
- AMIS-Line
- Booster-Entrance
- ATLAS-Exit
- Post-SCM
- Pre-Target-Area-IV

Beamlines: Data to Get/Collect

☒ Get/Read Settings ☐ Set/Vary Settings ☒ Get/Read BPMs ☒ Get/Read FCPs

Instructions Task Setup **Beamlines** Execution

Open the beam lines you are interested in and select the elements

- PII-Two
- PII-Exit

Settings to Get/Read Select/Unselect All

- ☐ STP301-X
- ☐ STP301-Y
- ☒ QDP301-X
- ☒ QDP301-Y
- ☒ QSP301-X
- ☐ STP302-X
- ☐ STP302-Y

BPMs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All

- ☒ PMP301

FCPs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All

- ☒ FCP301

ONLINE AI-ML INTERFACE – PARAMETERS / RUN

Beamlines: Parameters to Set/Vary

Buttons: Select Settings to Set/Vary, Set Lower Limits, Set Upper Limits, Set Initial Values, Set Variation Steps

	From	To	Start	Step
<input type="radio"/> STP301-X	0	10	5	1
<input type="radio"/> STP301-Y	0	10	5	1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> QDP301-X	0	10	5	1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> QDP301-Y	0	10	5	1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> QSP301-X	0	10	5	1
<input type="radio"/> STP302-X	0	10	5	1
<input type="radio"/> STP302-Y	0	10	5	1

Buttons: AMIS-Line, Booster-Entrance, ATLAS-Exit, Post-SCM

Execution: Experiment or Simulation

Buttons: Get/Read Settings, Set/Vary Settings, Get/Read BPMs, Get/Read FCPs

Instructions Task Setup Beamlines **Execution**

Make sure everything is ready before running

Buttons: Generate Config File, Generate Experiment Code, Generate Simulation Code, Execute / Run Experiment, Execute / Run Simulation

ONLINE TEST – OPTIMIZING BEAM TRANSMISSION

Settings to Get/Read Select/Unselect All

STP301-X ☐ STP301-Y ☐ QDP301-X ☒ QDP301-Y ☒ QSP301-X ☒ STP302-X ☒ STP302-Y ☒

Select Settings to Set/Vary

Set Lower Limits

Set Upper Limits

Set Initial Values

Settings to Get/Read Select/Unselect All	BPMs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All	FCPs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All
STP301-X <input type="radio"/>	PMP301 <input type="radio"/>	FCP301 <input checked="" type="radio"/>
STP301-Y <input type="radio"/>		
QDP301-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
QDP301-Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
QSP301-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
STP302-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
STP302-Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>		

AMIS-Line

Booster-Entrance

Settings to Get/Read Select/Unselect All

QDP302-X ☒ QDP302-Y ☒ STP303-X ☒ STP303-Y ☒ QDP303-X ☒ QDP303-Y ☒

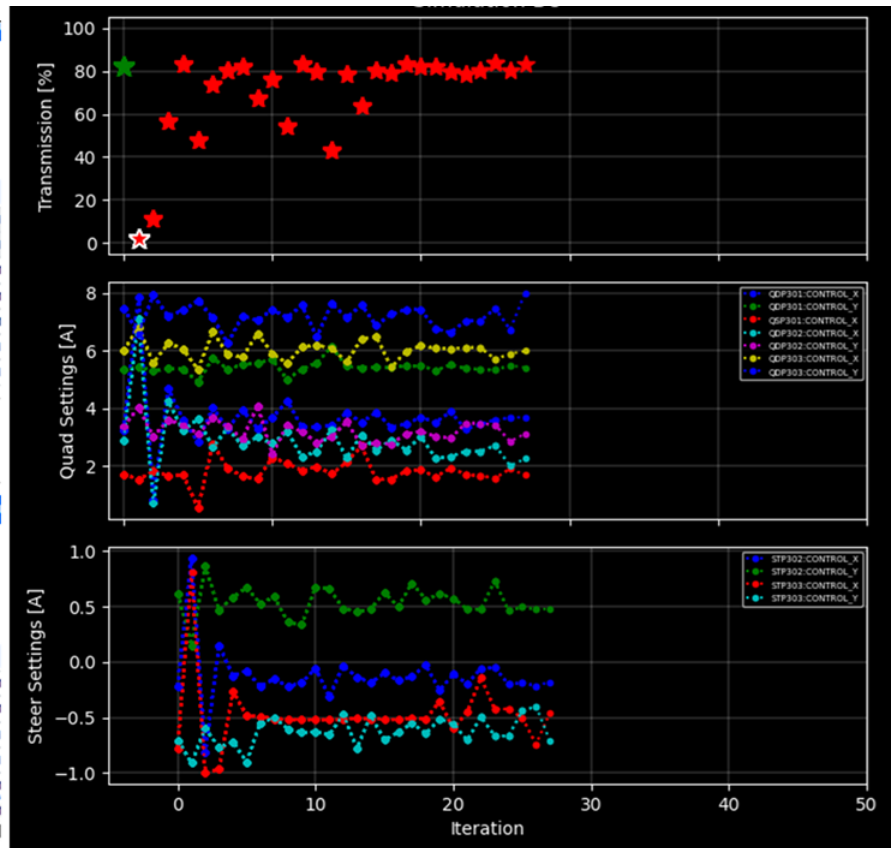
Select Settings to Set/Vary

Set Lower Limits

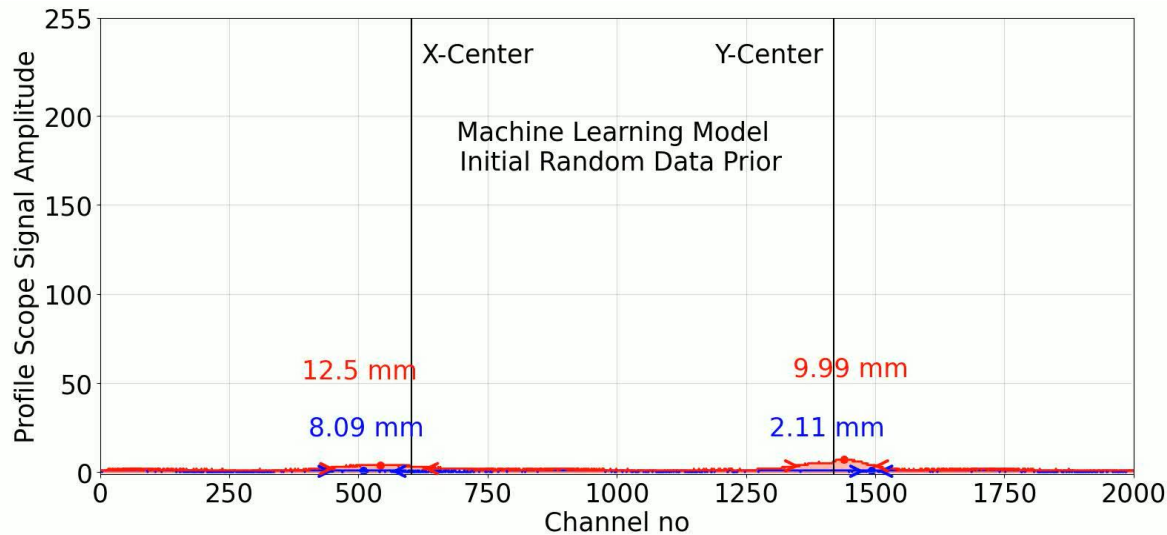
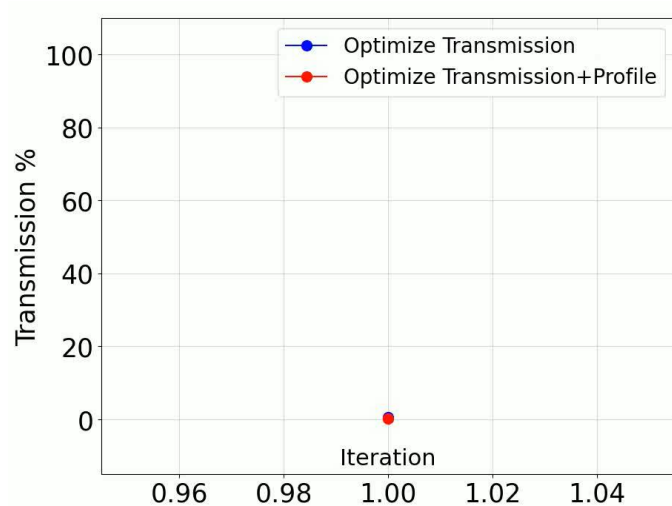
Set Upper Limits

Set Initial Values

Settings to Get/Read Select/Unselect All	BPMs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All	FCPs to Get/Read Select/Unselect All
QDP302-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>	PMP302 <input type="radio"/> PMP303 <input type="radio"/>	FCP303 <input checked="" type="radio"/>
QDP302-Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
STP303-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
STP303-Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
QDP303-X <input checked="" type="radio"/>		
QDP303-Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>		



OPTIMIZING BOTH BEAM TRANSMISSION & PROFILE



Issue: Optimization based on beam transmission only is not sufficient. An optimum may be found for one section, but the beam is not well matched / not optimum for the next section...

Solution: Adding more observables to the objective function, in our case, beam profiles

OPERATORS EXPERIENCE - TIMING & PERFORMANCE

Beamline	Objective	Prior Data	Elements / Parameters	Model Transmission Change	Operator Transmission Reference	Model tune time	Operator tune time
PII – Booster	Beam Transmission	Random	7 Quads + 2 steerers / 11	0 to ~85%	~90%	9 min	~5 min
PII – Booster	Beam Transmission	Experimental	7 Quads + 2 steerers / 11	0 to ~85%	~90%	1.5 min	~5 min
AMIS	Beam Transmission	Random	3 Quads + 1 steerer / 5	0 to ~80%	~90%	4 min	~15 min
ATLAS Exit – PT	Beam Transmission	Random	6 Quads + 2 steerers / 10	0 to ~70%	~80%	6.5 min	~5 min
ATLAS Exit – PT	Beam Transmission	Random	6 Quads + 4 steerers / 14	0 to ~90%	~85%	15.5 min	~15 min
ATLAS Exit – PT	Beam Transmission	Optimized Initial	6 Quads + 2 steerer / 10	75 to ~90%	~85%	2 min	N/A
ATLAS Exit – GS	Beam Transmission	Random	6 Quads + 5 steerer / 16	0 to ~85%	~85%	22 min	~20 min
ATLAS Exit – GS	Transmission + Profile	Random	6 Quads + 5 steerer / 16	0 to ~80%	~85%	19 min	~20 min
ATLAS Exit – GS	Transmission + Profile	Optimized Initial	6 Quads + 5 steerer / 16	56 to ~90%	~85%	16 min	N/A

- ❑ **Timing:** Table shows tuning time using ML model (BO) compared to approximate manual operator tuning
- ❑ **Performance:** Table shows higher beam transmission achievable compared to manual tuning values
- ❑ **Using prior experiment data significantly reduces tuning time by ~75% relative to manual tune**
[PII-Booster line]
- ❑ **Optimizing profile width along with beam transmission reduces total tune time by ~25%**
[ATLAS EXIT-GAMMA SPHERE line]

AI-ML TOOLS SUMMARY – EVALUATION & BENEFITS

- ❑ Developed and used Bayesian Optimization (BO) for multiple beamlines. BO is very effective for beam tuning even with no prior data.
- ❑ BO typically converges in 50 iterations or less for a few parameter problem (< 10). With every iteration taking ~ 15 s, that's 10-15 min, this is comparable to operators' time.
- ❑ Used BO to support the commissioning of a new beamline (AMIS), it was more competitive and helpful in this task (new to operators).
- ❑ Also, for multi-objective optimization MOBO, it's not an easy task for the operators.
- ❑ Demonstrated transfer learning: We were able to save a BO model from one beam and used it as starting point (prior knowledge) to tune another beam leading to faster convergence.
- ❑ Transfer from a simulation model was not as successful due to discrepancy between the model and the actual machine. We need a more realistic simulation or surrogate model.

VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR MODEL DEVELOPMENT & TESTING



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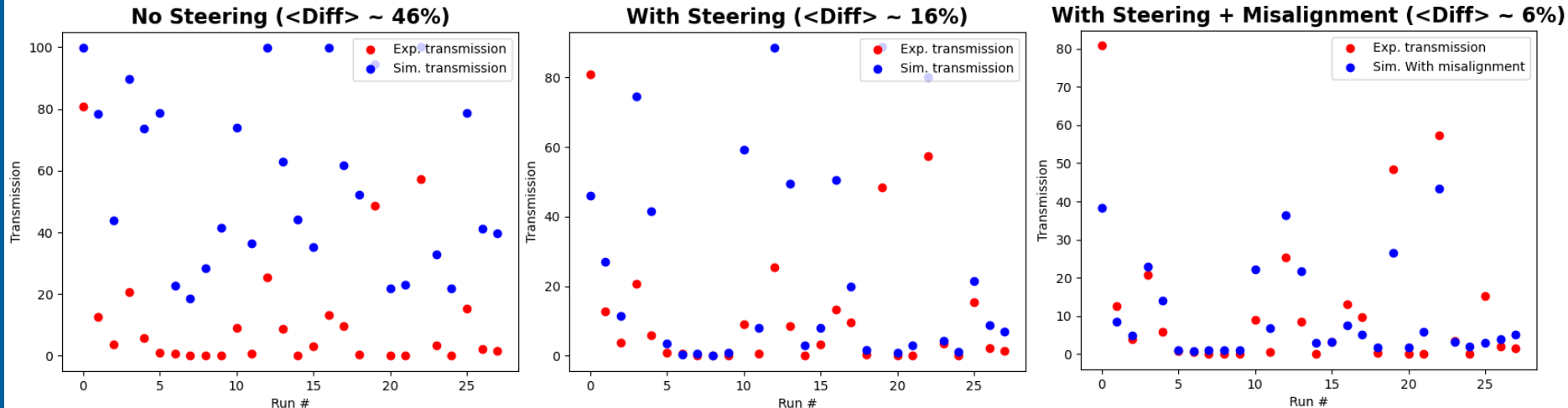
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VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR – DESIRED CAPABILITIES

- ❑ Mimics the machine as much as possible, with the same online experience in terms of control, beam diagnostics and optimizable observables...
- ❑ Allows both Offline and Online Use:
 - Prepare tunes for future experiments or new operating modes
 - Train ML models offline, such as RL-based models that can be very time consuming to be trained online
 - Train operators on AI-ML tools offline before using them online
 - Run optimizations on the virtual accelerator, then set the optimum operating point to the machine online
- ❑ However, the most important feature is that the virtual accelerator reproduces and predicts the machine behavior very well, to a few % level, 1% if possible ...

VIRTUAL MODEL - IMPROVING PREDICTIVE POWER

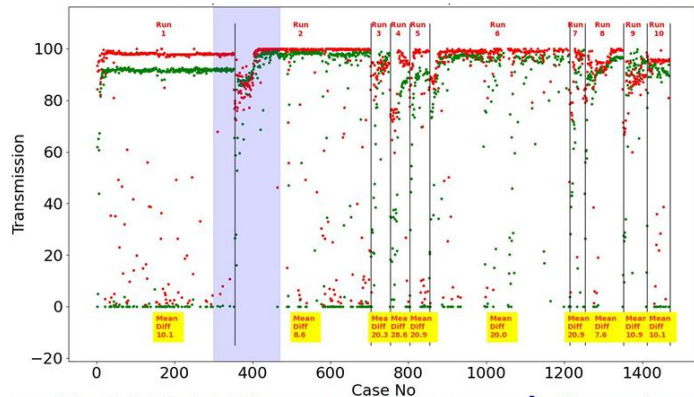


To develop a realistic virtual accelerator model with high predictive power, we need:

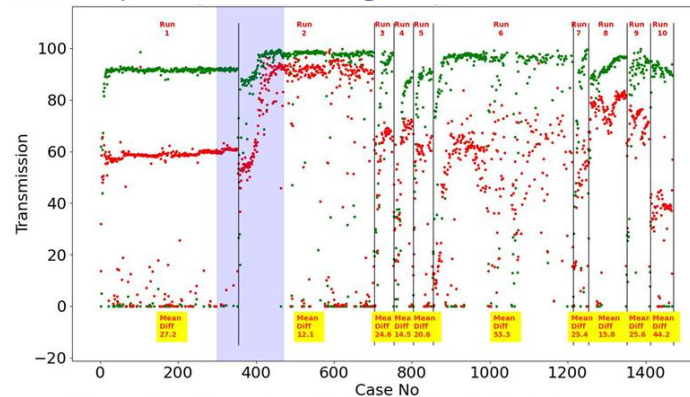
- Start with an existing physics model, full beam dynamics simulations if possible
- Use realistic models for all beamline elements, 3D models if possible
- Use the right calibrations and conversion factors (B vs. I for example)
- Include misalignment and steering effects, use recent surveys or infer from the data
- Use realistic initial beam distribution / parameters, measure if possible or infer from the data
- Once the agreement is $\sim 1\%$, a surrogate model may be developed based on the simulations

VIRTUAL MODEL TUNING – IMPROVED RESULTS

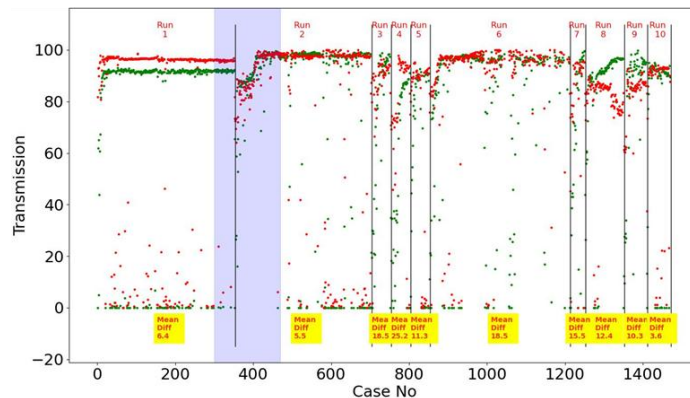
Raw model: Default beam, no misalign. or steering



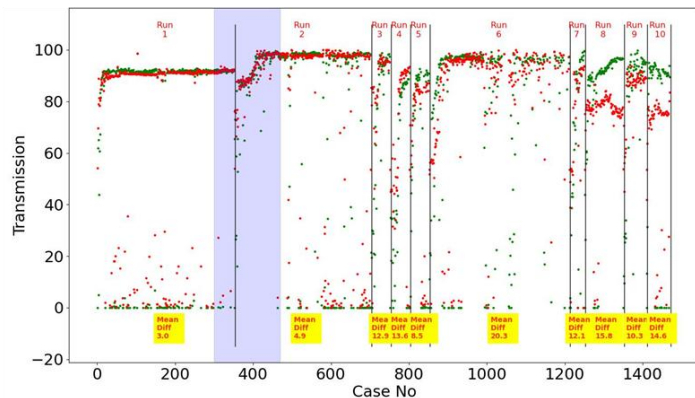
Step #1: Add steering effects




Step #2: Add misalignment effects



Step #3: Add initial beam parameters → Complete model



VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR – OFFLINE TEST EXAMPLE...

 ATLAS - Dashboard


Set beam simulation data (TRACK input) ignore if experiment only

Will Use Beam Mass, Charge and Energy from the Experiment Setup

Base Frequency, MHz:	12.12	Beam Current, mA:	0.0	Number of Particles:	10000
Beam Distribution Type (0:DC / 1:Bunched):	0	Space Charge Model (0:2D / 1:3D):	0		
X emittance (rms,n), mm*mrاد:	0.1	X Twiss alpha:	0.5	X Twiss beta, mm/mrad:	100
Y emittance (rms,n), mm*mrاد:	0.1	Y Twiss alpha:	0.5	Y Twiss beta, mm/mrad:	100
Z emittance (rms,n), deg*%:	5.0	Z Twiss alpha:	0.1	Z Twiss beta, deg*%:	10.0
DC Beam Parameters - Beam Phase Width, deg:	180	Beam Energy Spread, %:	0.1		
Simulation/TRACK Directory:	./PyTRACK				
Field Files Directory:	./PyTRACK/Fields				

Just Read Data

Perform Quad Scan

 ATLAS - Dashboard

PII-Exit

Settings to Get/Read
Select/Unselect All

BPMs to Get/Read
Select/Unselect All

FCPs to Get/Read
Select/Unselect All

☒ STP301-X ☐ PMP301 ☒ FCP301

☒ STP301-Y

☒ QDP301-X

☒ QDP301-Y

☒ QSP301-X

☒ STP302-X

☒ STP302-Y

Select
Settings to
Set/Vary

Set Lower
Limits

Set Upper
Limits

Set Initial
Values

Set
Variation
Steps

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STP301-X	From	0	To	10	Start	5	Step	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STP301-Y	From	0	To	10	Start	5	Step	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QDP301-X	From	0	To	10	Start	5	Step	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QDP301-Y	From	0	To	10	Start	5	Step	1

VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR – OFFLINE TEST EXAMPLE

ATLAS - Dashboard

☒ Get/Read Settings ☐ Set/Vary Settings ☒ Get/Read BPMs ☒ Get/Read FCPs

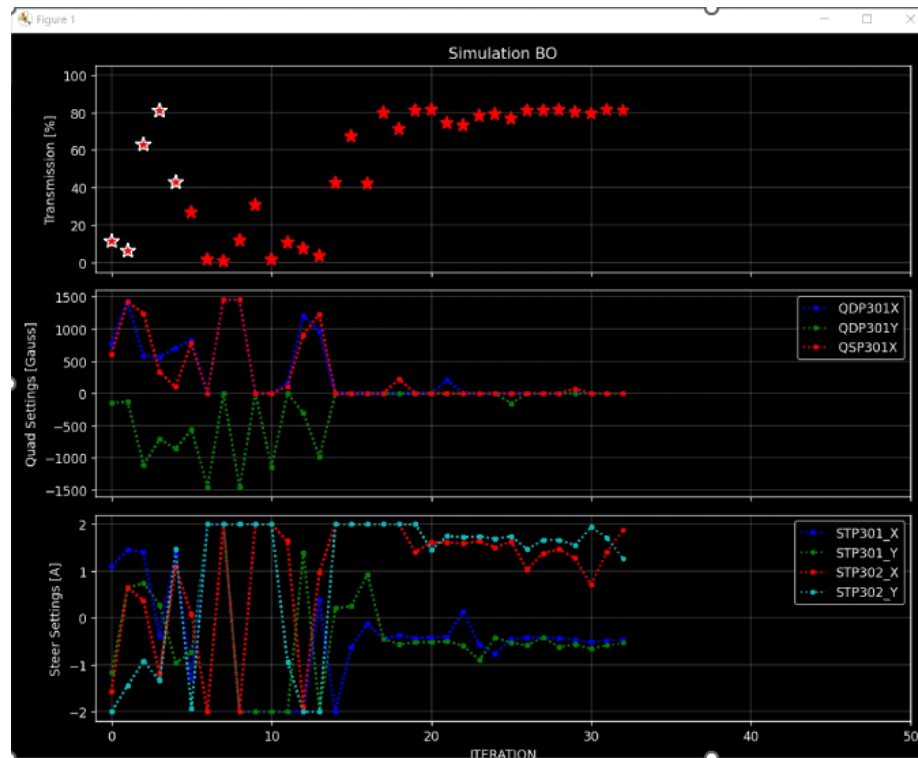
Instructions Task Setup Beamlines Execution

Make sure everything is ready before running

Generate Config File

Generate Experiment Code Generate Simulation Code

Execute / Run Experiment Execute / Run Simulation



VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR DEMO – TRANS. + PROFILE OPT.

ATLAS - Dashboard

Get/Read Settings

Set/Vary Settings

Get/Read BPMs

Get/Read FCPS

Instructions

Task Setup

Beamlines

Execution

Set experiment and beam information, then select task to perform

Experiment Name: VirtualModelSim

Brief Description: Testing GUI (short, one sentence / line)

Beam: Species, Z= 18 Mass, A= 40 Charge, Q= 8 Energy, W= 52

Local Working Directory: .

Server Data Directory: ./data

Set beam simulation data (TRACK input), ignore if experiment only

Will Use Beam Mass, Charge and Energy from the Experiment Setup

Base Frequency, MHz: 12.125 Beam Current, mA: 0.0 Number of Particles: 1000

Beam Distribution Type (0:DC / 1:Bunched): 0 Space Charge Model (0:2D / 1:3D): 0

X emittance (rms,n), mm*mrad: 0.1 X Twiss alpha: 0.5 X Twiss beta, mm/mrad: 100.0

Y emittance (rms,n), mm*mrad: 0.1 Y Twiss alpha: 0.5 Y Twiss beta, mm/mrad: 100.0

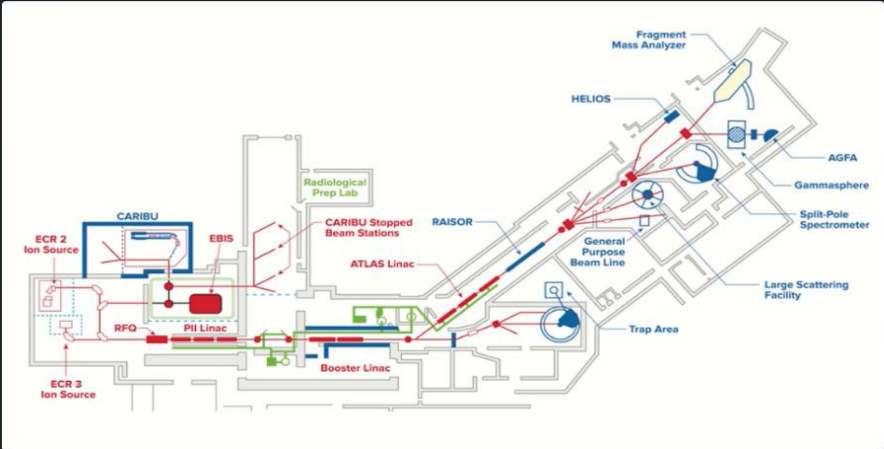
Z emittance (rms,n), deg*%: 5.0 Z Twiss alpha: 0.1 Z Twiss beta, deg/%: 10.0

DC Beam Parameters - Beam Phase Width, deg: 180 Beam Energy Spread, %: 0.1

Simulation/TRACK Directory: ./PyTRACK

Field Files Directory: ./PyTRACK/Fields

Layout



Terminal

Errors

Callbacks

v3.0.4

Dash update available - v3.2.0

Server

VIRTUAL ACCELERATOR – SUMMARY

- ❑ Developed a virtual accelerator model based on beam simulations using the TRACK code
- ❑ The model predictability was significantly improved through fine-tuning by adding misalignment and steering effects as well as initial beam parameters inferred from data
- ❑ For example, difference in beam transmission between experiment and simulation reduced
 - from ~46% down to ~16% after adding steering effects,
 - down to ~6% after including misalignments, and
 - down to ~2% after including initial beam parameters
- ❑ Using the described model tuning procedure, a highly accurate virtual accelerator is now at the core the ATLAS AI-ML Dashboard interface
- ❑ Ongoing & Future work
 - Developing a surrogate to the full simulation model for speed
 - Deploying the virtual model online to support operations & offline for testing / training
 - Developing models for other sections of the linac

SUMMARY & FUTURE WORK

- ❑ Recently developed tools and capabilities tested for longitudinal beam tuning, will enable future end-to-end tuning of complete beamlines – both transverse and longitudinal
- ❑ The ATLAS AI-ML Dashboard Interface is fully developed and currently being used for online beam tuning and optimization by expert operators, working on full deployment...
- ❑ Developed a virtual accelerator model based on beam simulations using the TRACK code. Using fine-tuning procedure, a highly accurate virtual model (Error < 2%) is now at the core of the same AI-ML Interface, model already being used for offline experimental preparations
- ❑ Added features like combined objective optimization improves performance while using prior experimental data significantly reduces tuning time relative to manual tuning, by ~70%
- Working on “successive sectional tuning” from the ion source through the low-energy beam transport (LEBT), MHB, RFQ to the first accelerating section (PII) [first in virtual model, online]
- Develop a neural network surrogate model to the TRACK simulation model for speed
- Deploy the virtual accelerator online with bidirectional data flow **Virtual ↔ Physical**

THE RAISOR SUB-PROJECT



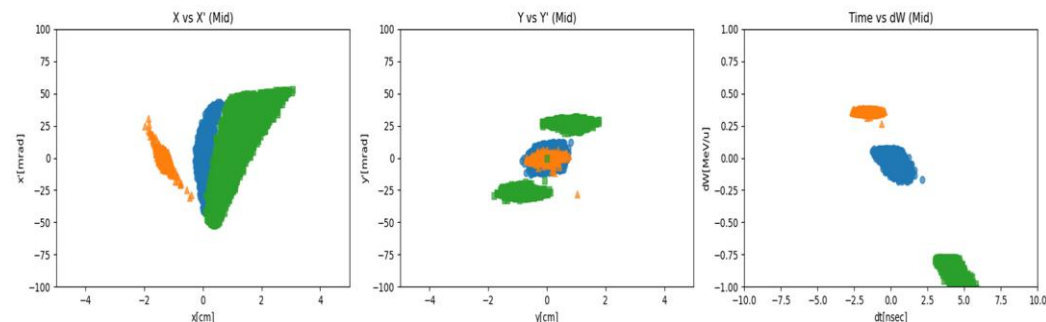
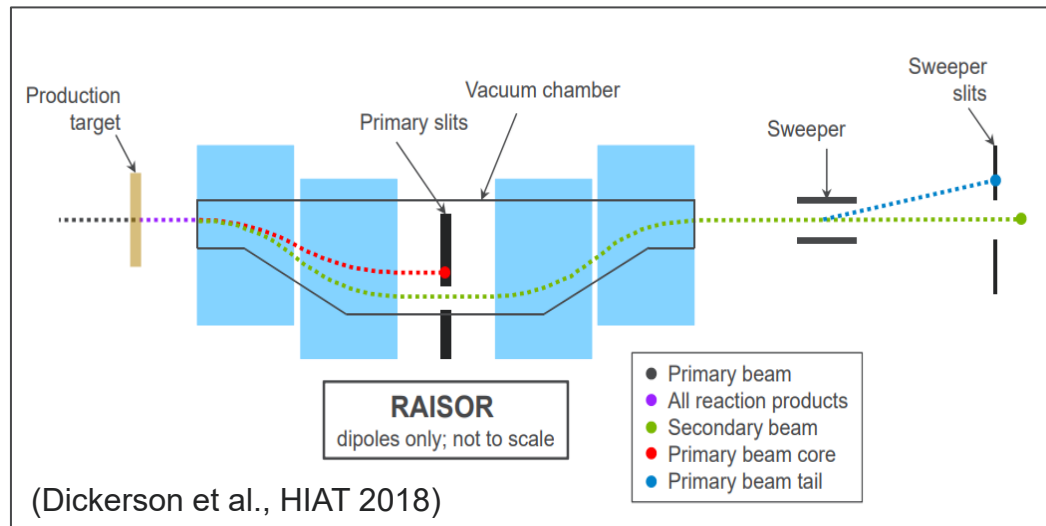
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THE RAISOR INFLIGHT SEPARATOR AT ATLAS

- **Primary Goal:** Separate secondary radioactive beams produced from the interaction of a primary beam with a target.
- **Separation Technique:** Magnetic separation (momentum and charge, $B\rho$), followed by time-of-flight separation (RF Sweeper)
- **Configuration:** Magnetic Chicane made of 4 Dipole Magnets (separation based on rigidity) and 4 Quadrupole Magnets (focus the beam and provide momentum separation resolution)



MOTIVATION FOR RAISOR VIRTUAL MODEL

A RAISOR Virtual Model would allow:

Preparation for Experiments – *Predictive tuning for beam purity and separation efficiency, Virtual testing before online experiments*

Reduction of Trial-Error, Risk and Time – *Better define the operating parameter space to minimize risk and reduce online tuning time*

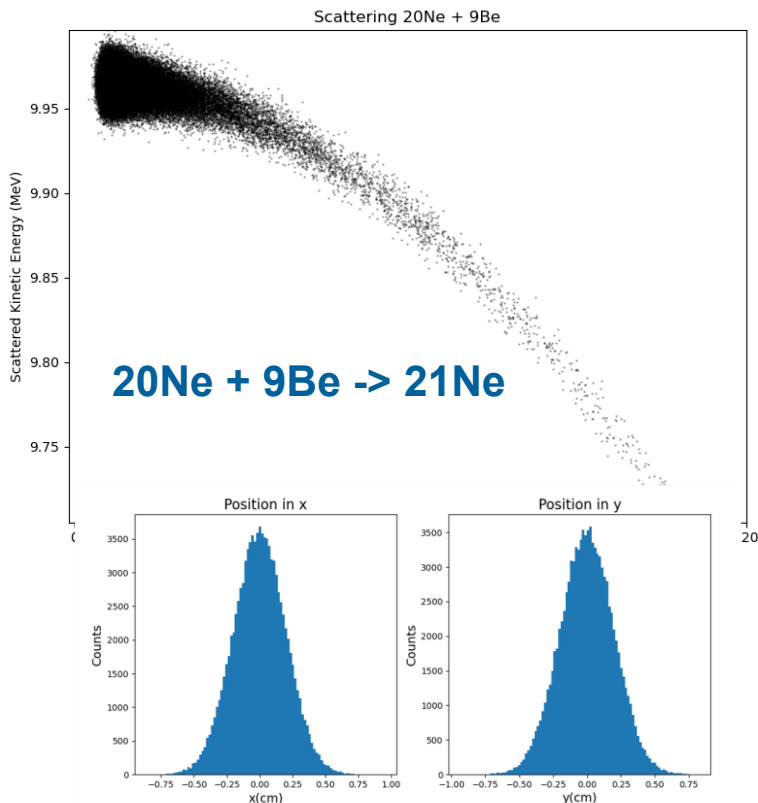
Foundation for Automation – *Develop and test AI-ML techniques offline using the same online experience via the same interface*

Reproducing experimental data, different from stable beam:

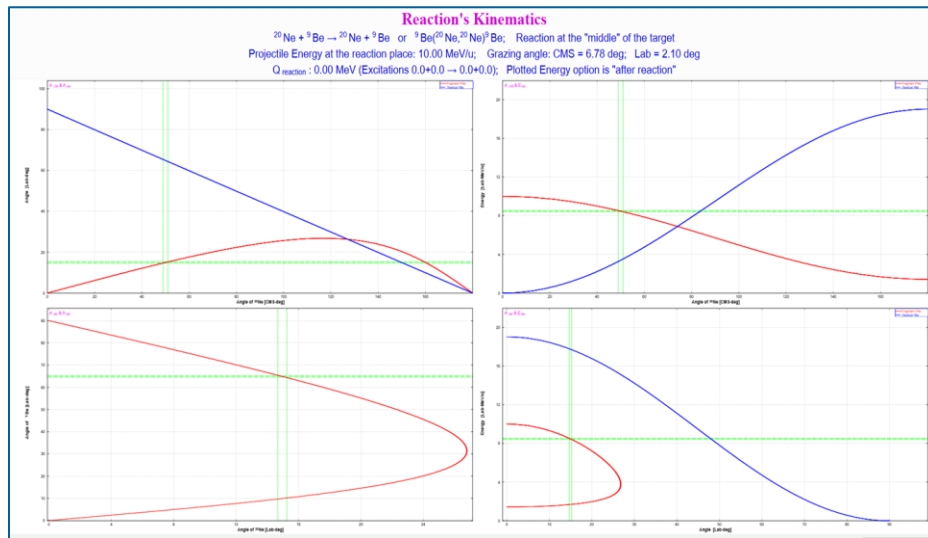
- *Simulate the nuclear reaction and secondary beam production*
- *Multiple beams are produced, simulate and track multiple beams, including different charge states for each specie*
- *Identify and separate the beam of interest*

GENERATING PHASE SPACE FOR MULTIPLE BEAMS

Rutherford Scattering

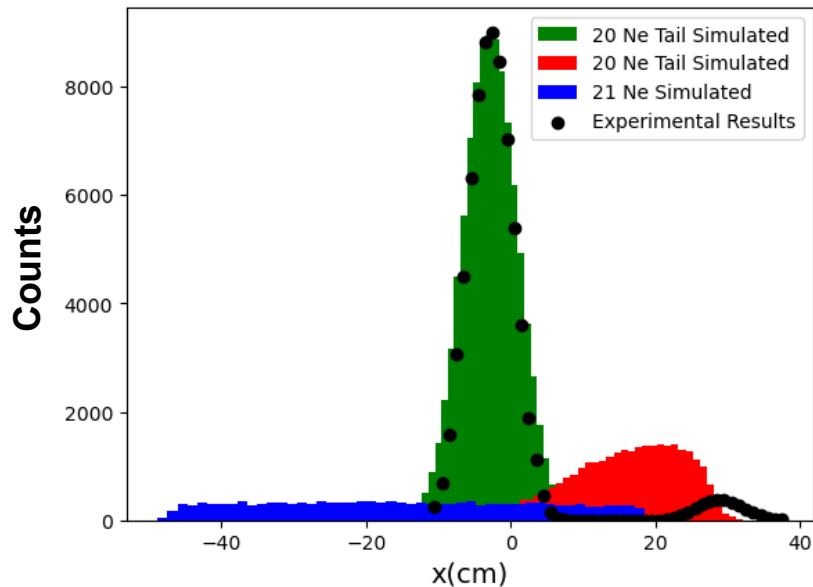


Nuclear Reaction Models / MC



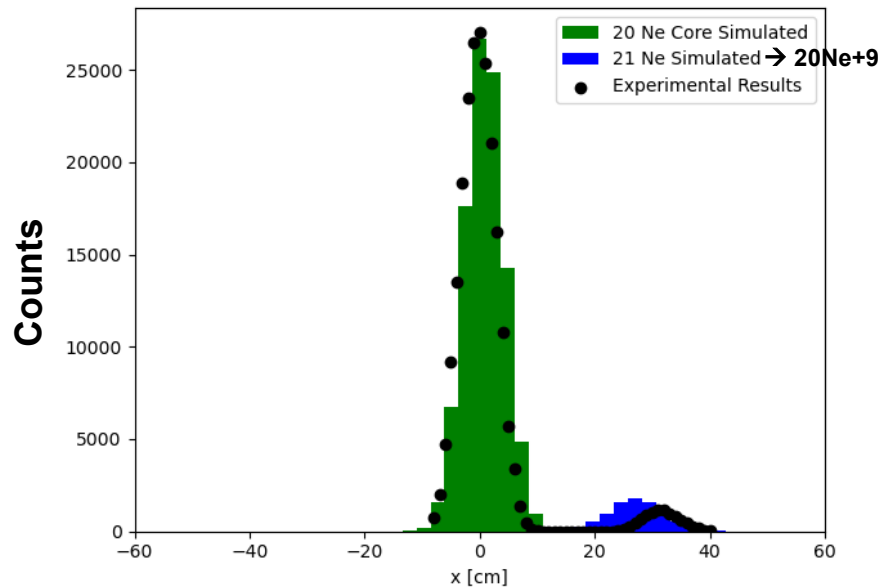
- Nuclear reaction models or user cross-sections based on previous data
- Primary beam parameters (position, size, angular & energy spread)
- Monte Carlo simulations, i.e. LISE++

MATCHING MODEL TO EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS



- Adjusting device settings based on experimental conditions: Field values for quads and dipoles.
- Extra peak, *a different contaminant?*

➤ Complete virtual model, offline RAISOR testing followed by online experimental tuning



- Identifying the contaminant: 20Ne+9
- Other charge states are relevant
- Good overall match between simulation and experimental results.

THE CARIBU SUB-PROJECT



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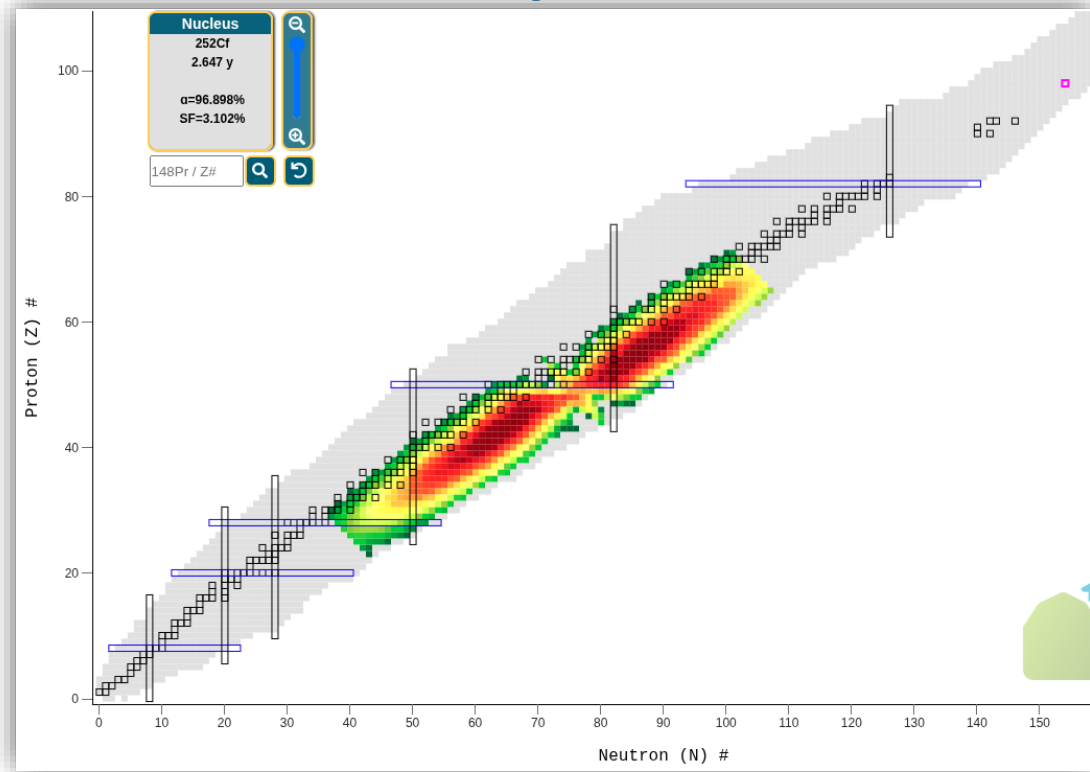
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WHAT IS CARIBU/nuCARIBU?

A radioactive ion source part of the ATLAS facility

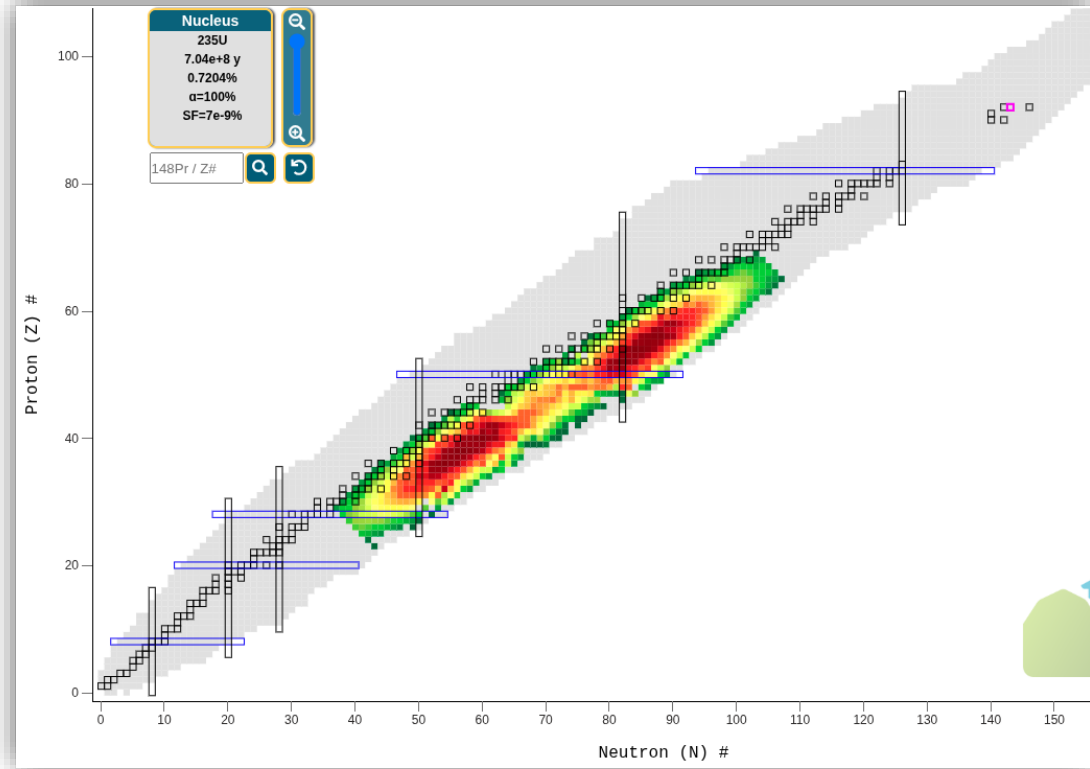
- **CARIBU** = CALifornium Rare Isotope Breeder Upgrade
- CARIBU ended Aug/2024
- CARIBU provided beams of heavy ions made from fission fragments of ^{252}Cf ($10^2 - 10^4$ pps)



WHAT IS CARIBU/nuCARIBU?

A radioactive ion source part of the ATLAS facility

- **nuCARIBU** - a major upgrade in progress to increase the source intensities by using neutron-induced fission on ^{235}U (and possibly other fissionable targets)

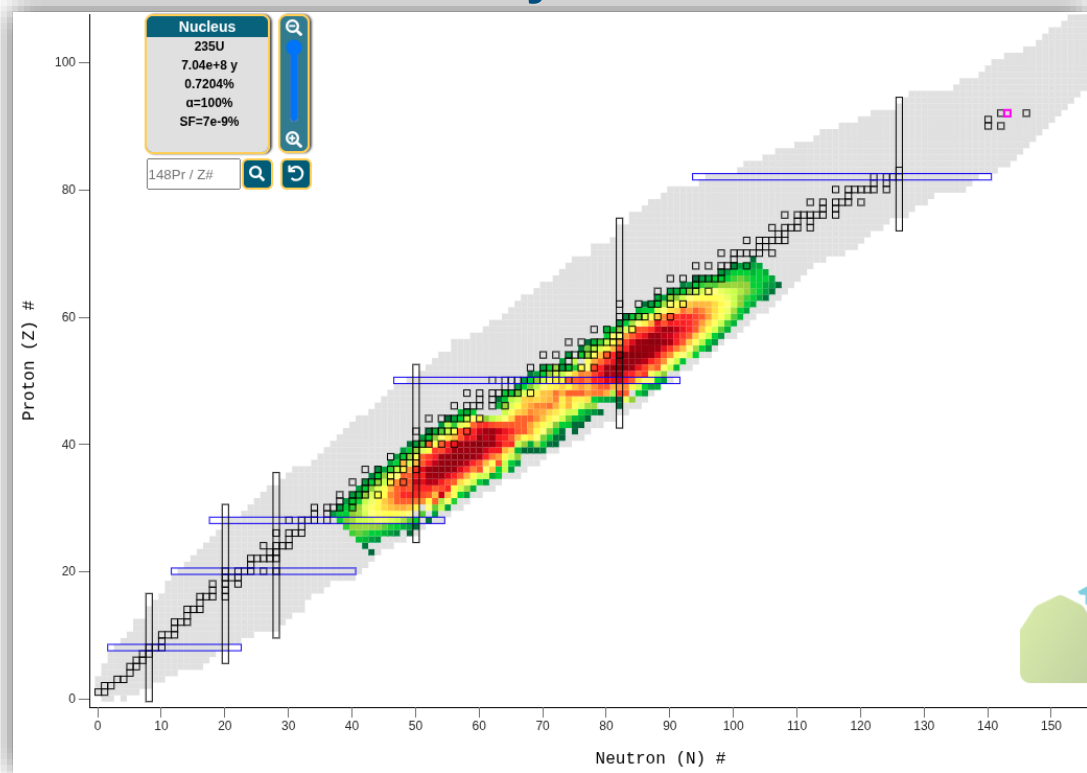


<https://www.anl.gov/atlas/nucaribu-beams>

WHAT IS CARIBU/nuCARIBU?

A radioactive ion source part of the ATLAS facility

- **nuCARIBU** - a major upgrade in progress to increase the source intensities by using neutron-induced fission on ^{235}U (and possibly other fissionable targets)
- **nuCARIBU**
 - The nu (v) is for neutron
 - But there is no CALifornium
 - An upgrade of an upgrade
- **Essential for ATLAS multi-user upgrade** (post-accel. beams, 3-10 MeV/u)



<https://www.anl.gov/atlas/nucaribu-beams>

OUR HIGH-LEVEL GOALS

To increase nuCARIBU operational efficiency via automation

1

Automate radioactive beam extraction and transport from source to target station (user or charge breeder for reacceleration)

2

Publish results

3

Create documentation for ATLAS operations

nuCARIBU-MATIC ML TOOL DEPLOYED

Used online during nuCARIBU commissioning operations Jul/2025

- **Task**

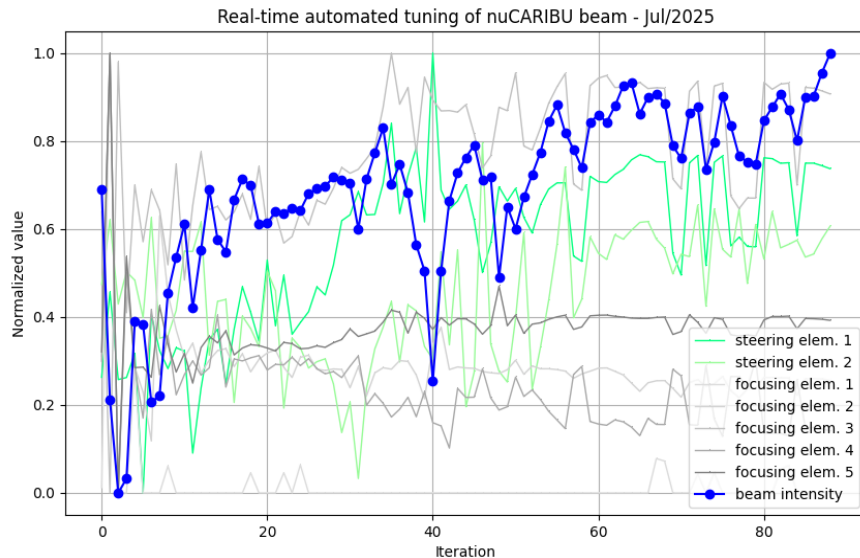
- Extract and transport radioactive beam (^{100}Zr) from source to charge breeder
- Perform online optimization of 100+ beam line elements divided in sections of 5-10 elements

- **Transport efficiency**

- ~35% from source to charge breeder
- In some sections demonstrated significant improvements in transport efficiency compared to initial tune performed by human experts

- **Optimization time**

- 5-10 minutes per section (21 sections)
- ~3 hours from source to charge breeder



PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATIONS

On nuCARIBU-matic sub-project

Conferences

2024 Fall Meeting of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics

October 6–10, 2024; Boston

Contributed - *The CARIBU-matic project: automation for the transport of radioactive beams from the CARIBU source*

<https://meetings.aps.org/Meeting/DNP24/Session/F11.3>

ICALEPCS 2025 - The 20th International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems

September 20–26, 2025; Chicago

Contributed - *AI-driven autonomous tuning of radioactive ion beams*

<https://indico.jacow.org/event/86/contributions/10115/>

2025 Fall Meeting of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics

October 17–20, 2025; Chicago

Invited - *Enhancing Radioactive Beam Transport at CARIBU through AI-driven Automation*

<https://schedule.aps.org/dnp/2025/events/L05/1>

Peer-reviewed article

AI-assisted transport of radioactive ion beams

Published Jul/2025

Physical Review Accelerators and Beams

<https://journals.aps.org/prab/abstract/10.1103/bwxw-w9jc>



AI-assisted transport of radioactive ion beams

S. Lopez-Caceres  and D. Santiago-Gonzalez 

Show more

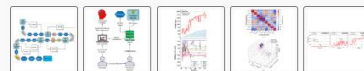
Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams **28**, 072802 - Published 23 July, 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1103/bwxw-w9jc>



Abstract

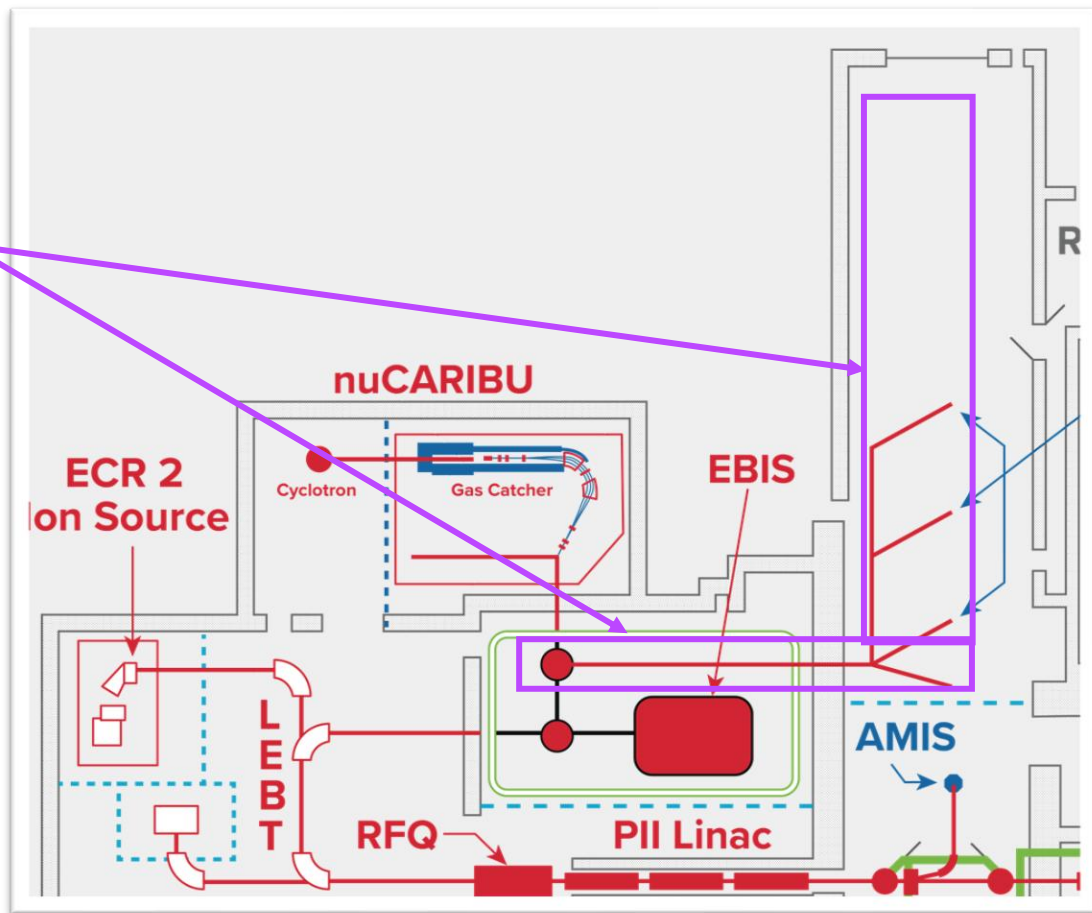
Beams of radioactive heavy ions allow researchers to study rare and unstable atomic nuclei, shedding light on the internal structure of exotic nuclei and on how chemical elements are formed in stars. However, the extraction and transport of radioactive beams rely on time consuming expert-driven tuning methods, where hundreds of parameters are manually optimized. Here, we introduce a system that employs artificial intelligence (AI), specifically utilizing Bayesian optimization, to assist in the transport process of radioactive beams. We apply our methodology to real-life scenarios showing advantages when compared with standard tuning methods. This AI-assisted approach can be extended to other radioactive beam facilities around the world to improve operational efficiency and enhance scientific output.



NEXT STEPS

On going efforts

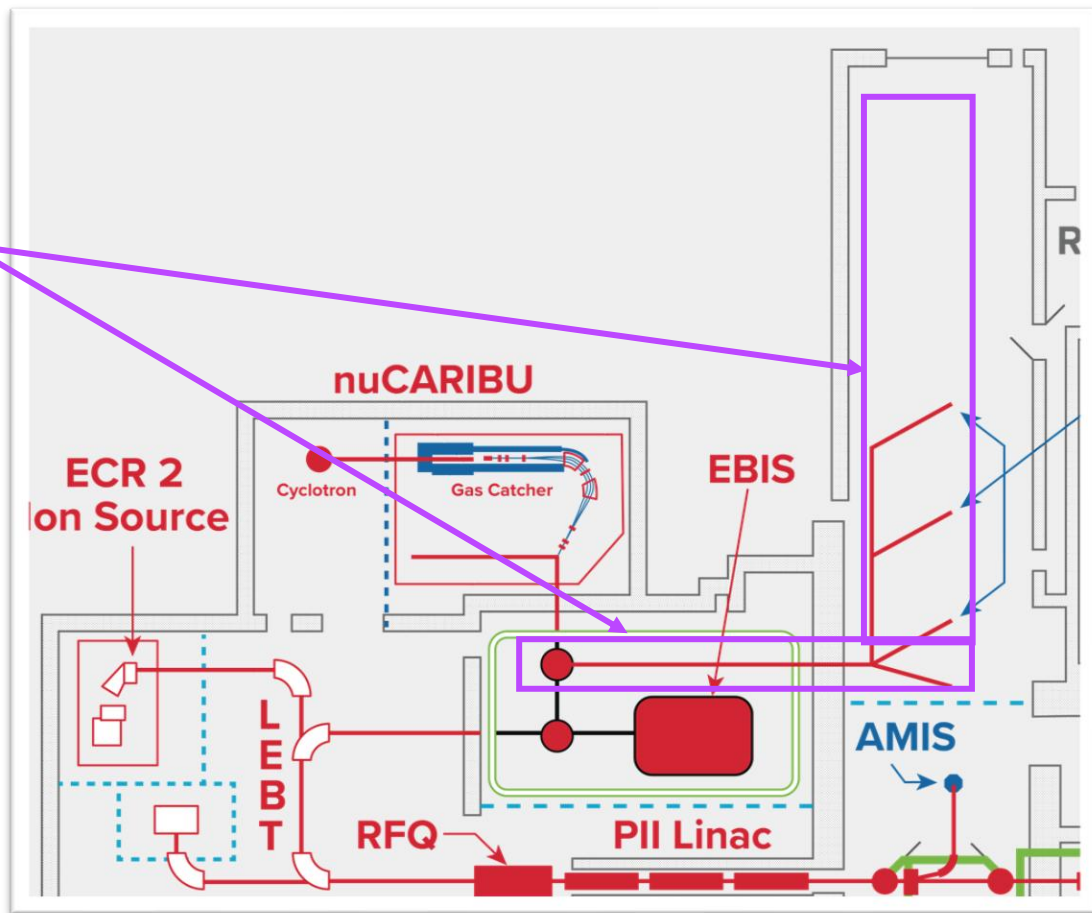
- Refine codes (possibly speed up opt)
- Extend to **target stations** (100+ different elements, about 200 in total)
- Create ML application documentation



NEXT STEPS

On going efforts

- Refine codes (possibly speed up opt)
- Extend to **target stations** (100+ different elements, about 200 in total)
- Create ML application documentation
- Automate multi-section optimization via **LLM Agent** (Sergio Lopez-Caceres)



nuCARIBU-MATIC PROJECT

Deliverables

**Deploy ML application
for online optimization
of nuCARIBU beams**



Publish results
3 conference presentations
1 journal paper



Pending deliverables

**Expand ML
application**

**Automate optimization
of multiple beamline
sections (AI agent)**

**Documentation
for accelerator
operations**



THANK YOU



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THANKS TO

❑ Students & Postdocs:

Adwaith Ravichandran and Sergio Lopez – Postdocs

Anthony Tran (MSU) and Onur Gilanliogullari (IIT) – PhD Students

Dilan Arik (Minerva U.) – Undergrad. Student

❑ ATLAS Controls Group:

David Novak, Kenneth Bunnell and Daniel Stanton

❑ ATLAS Operations Group:

Ben Blomberg, Gavin Dunn, Henry Brito, Raul Patino and Brendon Zavala

BACK-UP SLIDES



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OVERVIEW OF ORIGINAL ATLAS AI-ML PROJECT

Use of artificial intelligence to optimize accelerator operations and improve machine performance

- ❑ At ATLAS, we switch ion beam species every 3-4 days ... → Using AI could streamline beam tuning & help improve machine performance
- ❑ Project objectives and approach:
 - **Data collection, organization and classification, towards a fully automated and electronic data collection for both machine and beam data**
 - **Online tuning model to optimize operations and shorten beam tuning time in order to make more beam time available for the experimental program**
 - **Virtual model to enhance understanding of machine behavior to improve performance and optimize particular/new operating modes**

ORIGINAL PROJECT - SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- ❑ Automated data collection and two-way communication established
- ❑ Bayesian Optimization (BO) successfully used for online beam tuning
- ❑ Multi-Objective BO (MOBO) to optimize transmission and beam size
- ❑ AI-ML supporting the commissioning of a new beamline (AMIS)
- ❑ Transfer learning from one ion beam to another (BO)
- ❑ Transfer learning from simulation to online model (BO with DKL)
- ❑ Reinforcement Learning (RL) for online beam tuning – Exp. Success
- ❑ Good progress on the virtual machine model / physics model

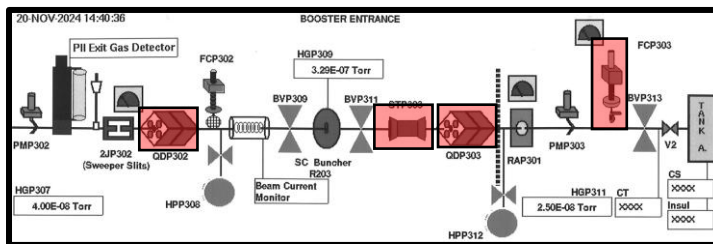
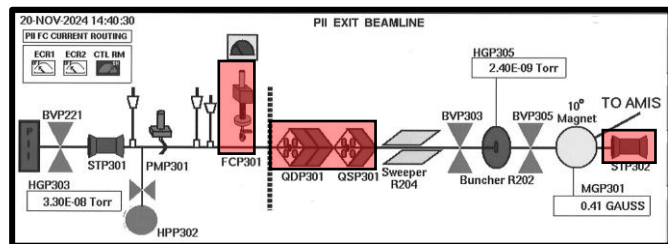
2024 PROGRESS & DEVELOPMENTS...

- ❑ Development of an AI-ML Graphics User Interface – ATLAS Dashboard
 - Offline tests using simulation model – successful
 - Online tests at ATLAS – not yet successful, but promising
- ❑ Adapted the existing AI-ML GUI, Badger from SLAC, for use at ATLAS
 - Well supported and offers more options / optimization algorithms
 - Not as friendly or customized as the ATLAS Dashboard GUI
- ❑ Tuning the beam to an end target station
 - Issues with tuning intermediate sections using only beam transmission
- ❑ Re-tuning the beamline after an energy change
 - A time-consuming process when done manually

VIRTUAL MODEL TUNING – COLLECTING DATA

Data Collection: Could be existing data or specifically collected for this purpose

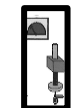
PII-BOOSTER BEAMLINE



Quadrupoles (7 total)

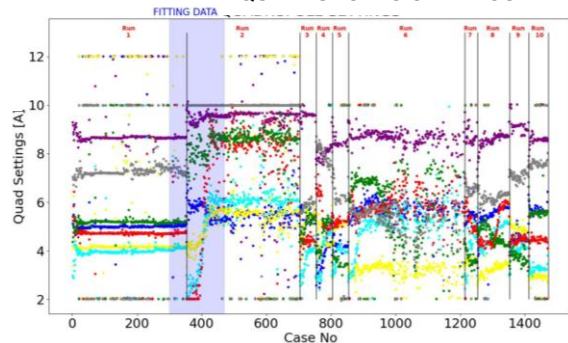


Steering magnets (2x2)

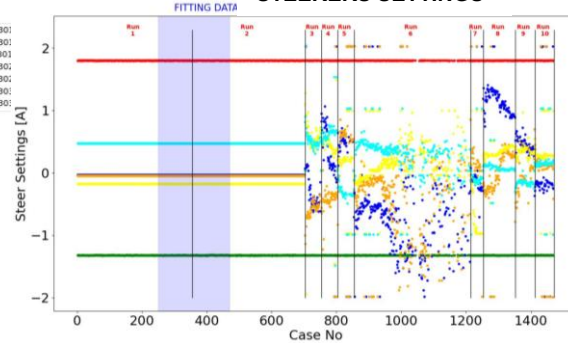


Faraday cups (3)

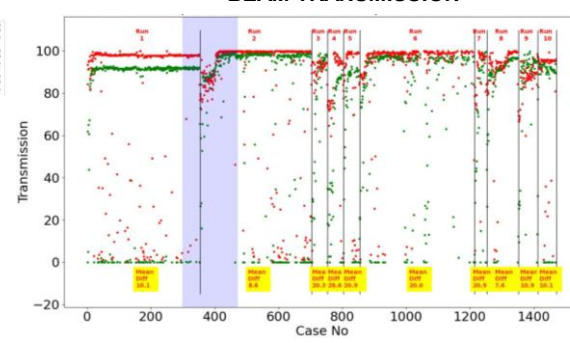
QUADRUPOLES SETTINGS



STEERERS SETTINGS

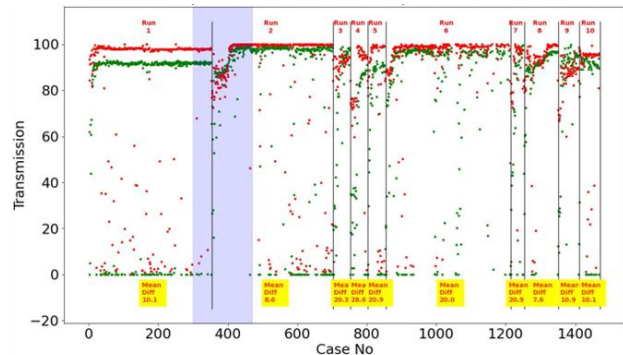


BEAM TRANSMISSION

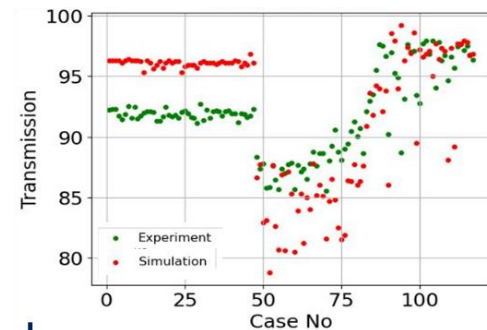
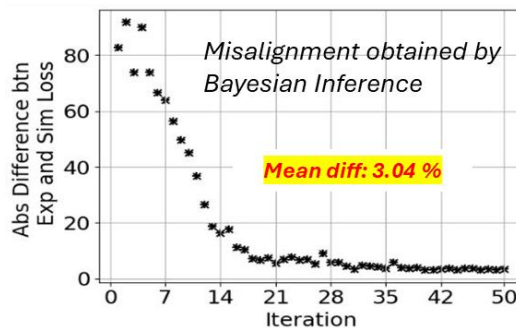


VIRTUAL MODEL TUNING – INFERRING MISSING INFO

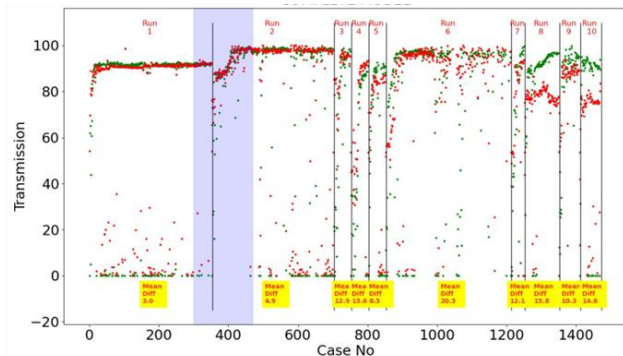
Raw model: Default beam, no misalign. or steering



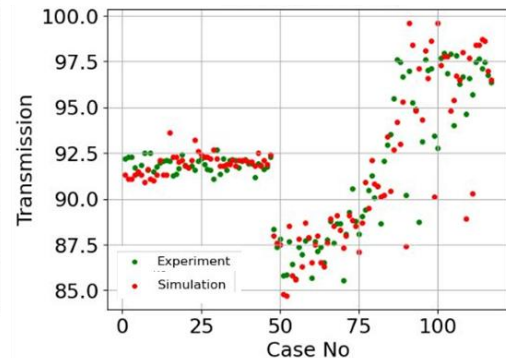
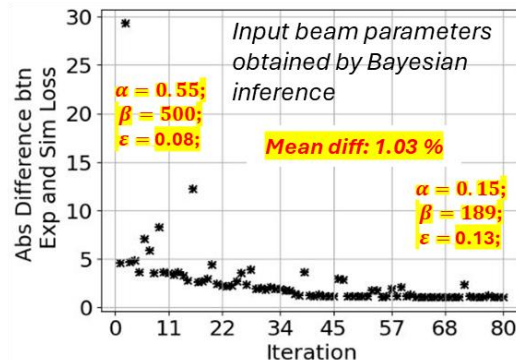
BI to extract elements' misalignments



Complete model: Initial beam, with misalign. and steering



BI to extract initial beam parameters



Automating parts of the nuCARIBU beam tuning process could:

- increase efficiency of facility operations (in this case rad. beams)
- set the stage for optimum delivery of nuCARIBU beams in the era of ATLAS multi-user operations
- increment the number of experiments and facility users per FY
- accelerate the pace of discovery

THE nuCARIBU-MATIC PROJECT

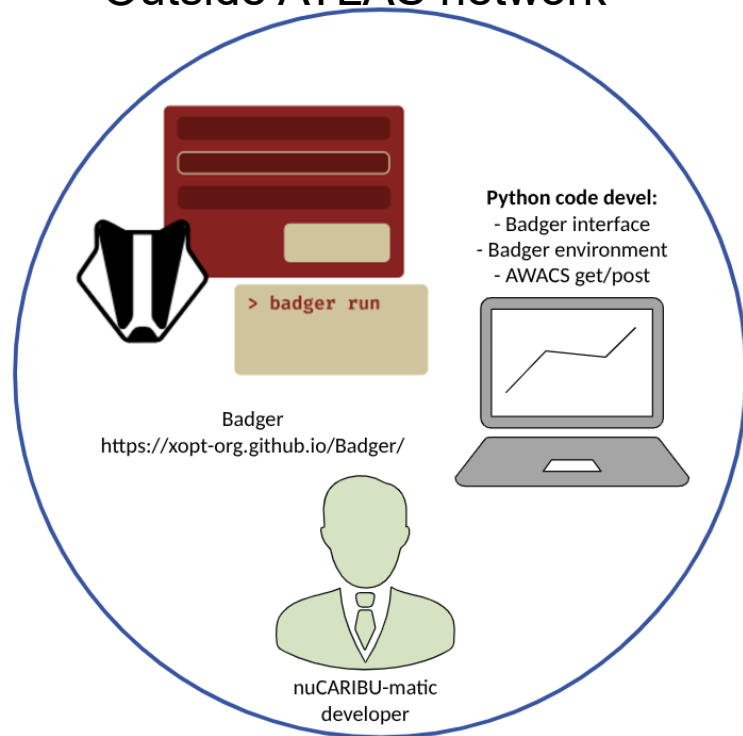
Our approach for secure radioactive beams tuning automation

References

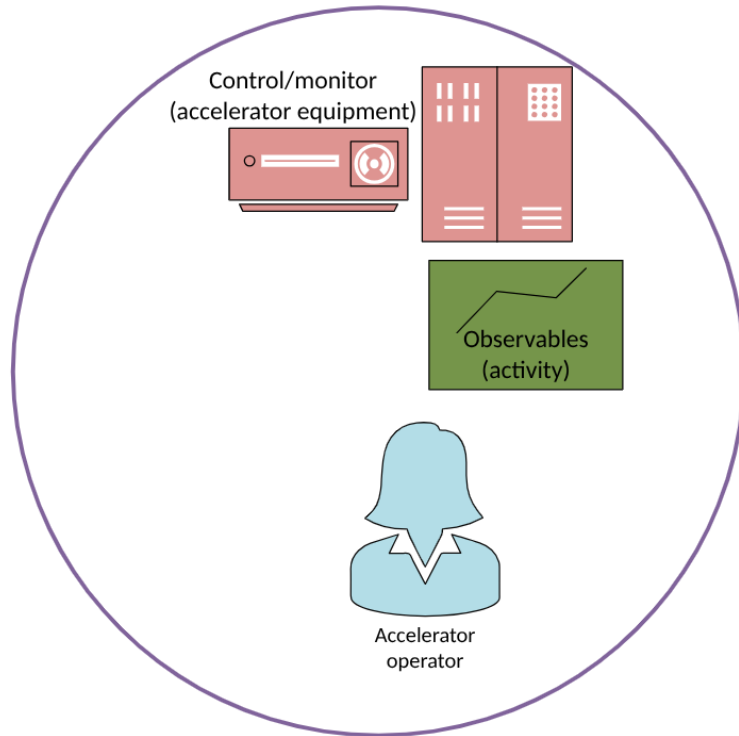
[1] <https://xopt-org.github.io/Badger/>

[2] Zhang, Z., et al. "Badger: The missing optimizer in ACR", Proc. IPAC'22, Bangkok

Outside ATLAS network



Inside ATLAS network



THE nuCARIBU-MATIC PROJECT

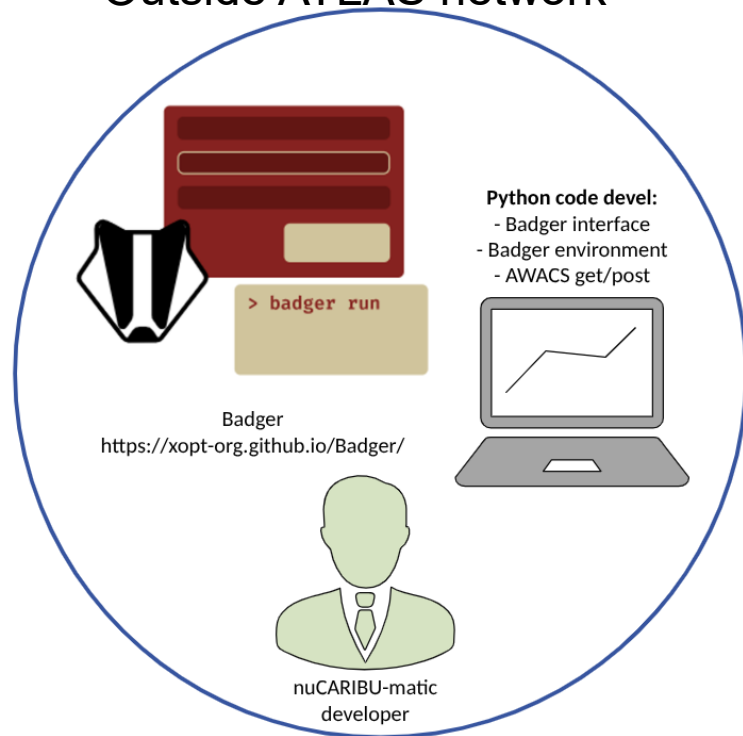
Our approach for secure radioactive beams tuning automation

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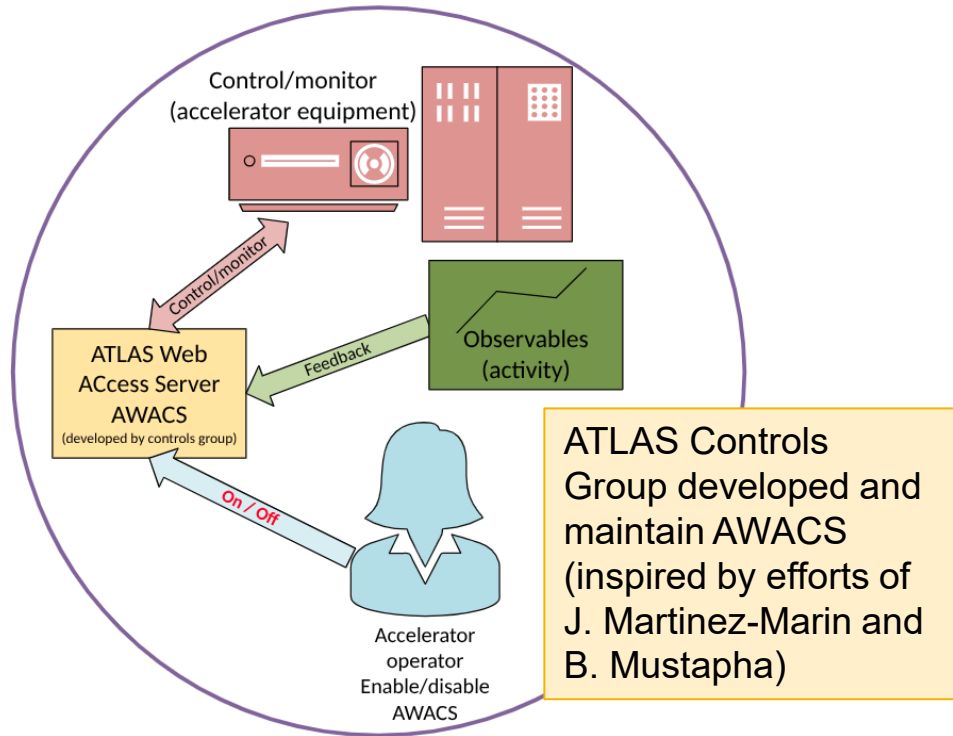
[1] <https://xopt-org.github.io/Badger/>

[2] Zhang, Z., et al. "Badger: The missing optimizer in ACR", Proc. IPAC'22, Bangkok

Outside ATLAS network



Inside ATLAS network



THE nuCARIBU-MATIC PROJECT

Our approach for secure radioactive beams tuning automation

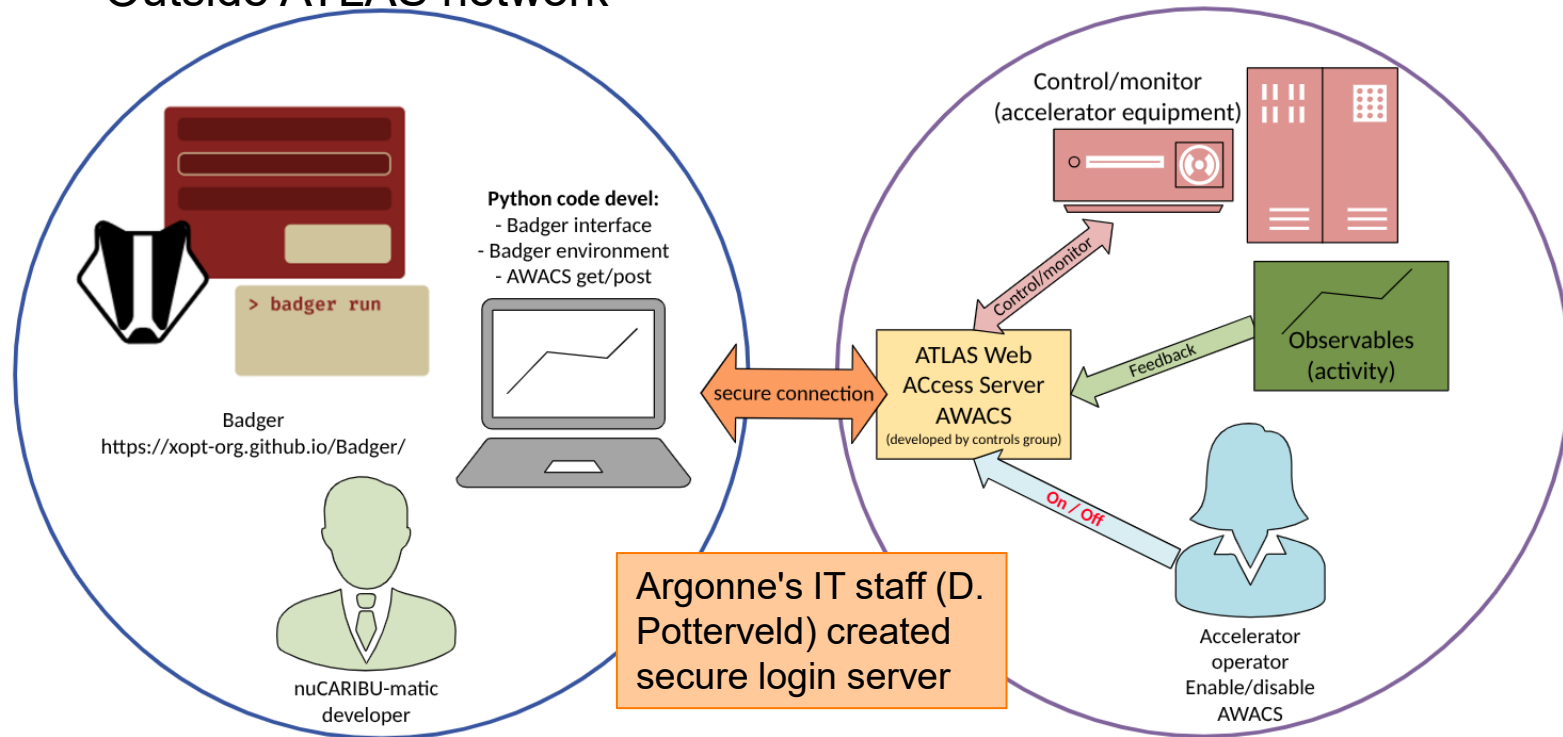
References

[1] <https://xopt-org.github.io/Badger/>

[2] Zhang, Z., et al. "Badger: The missing optimizer in ACR", Proc. IPAC'22, Bangkok

Outside ATLAS network

Inside ATLAS network



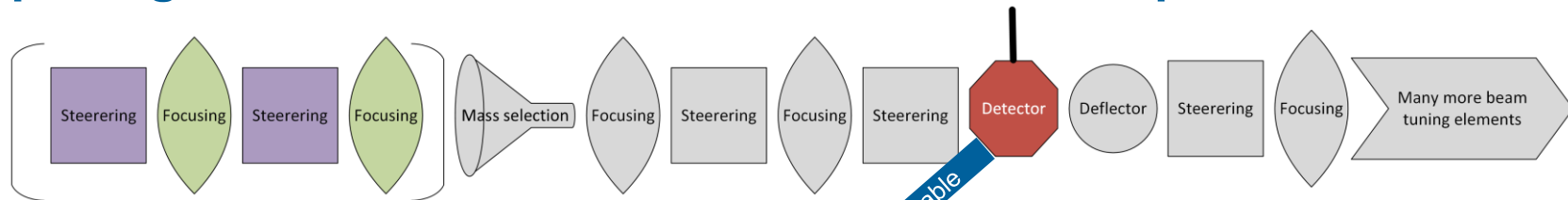
60+ control parameters to transport beam from start to finish



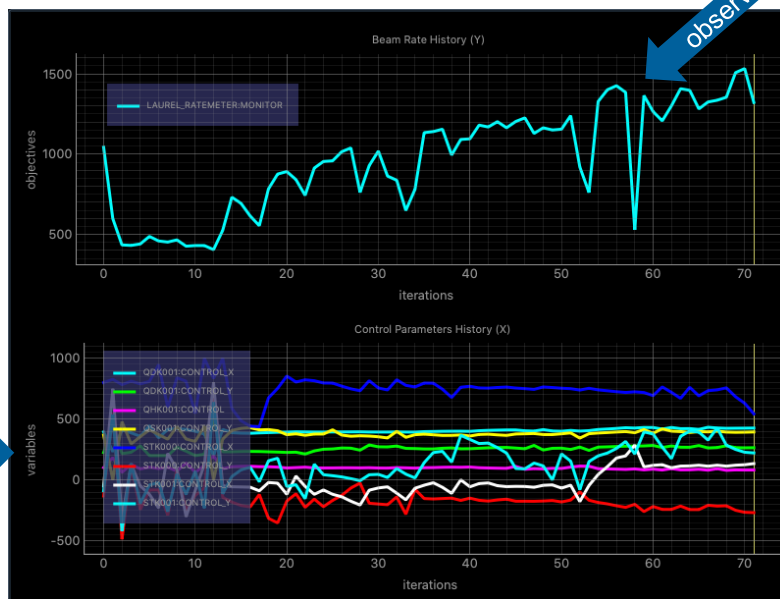
NUCARIBU CONTROLS – SIMPLIFIED VIEW

Splitting in sections, each with 10 or less control parameters

inactive



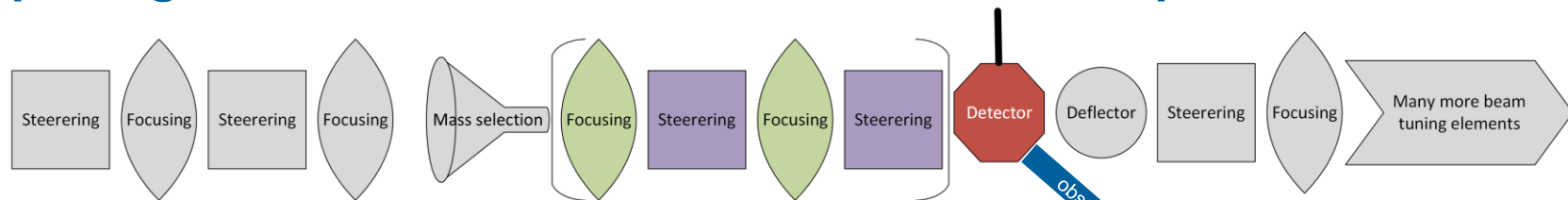
8 control params



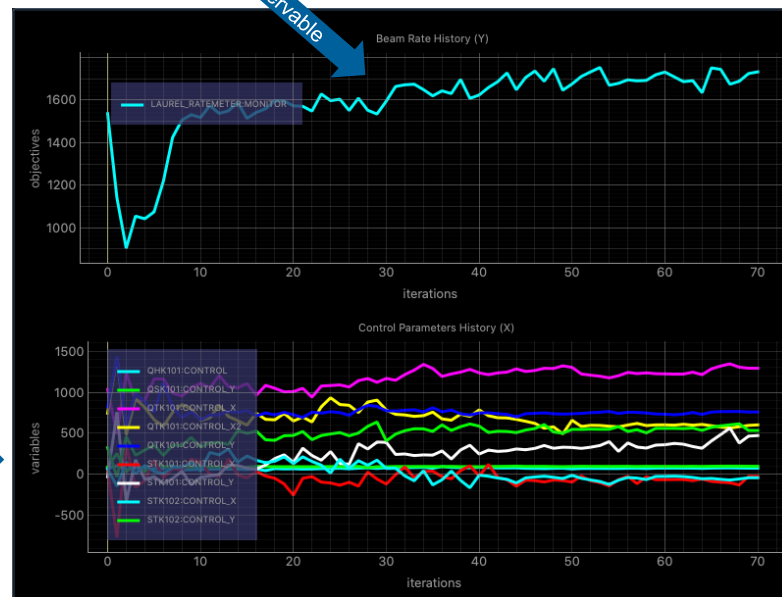
NUCARIBU CONTROLS – SIMPLIFIED VIEW

Splitting in sections, each with 10 or less control parameters

inactive

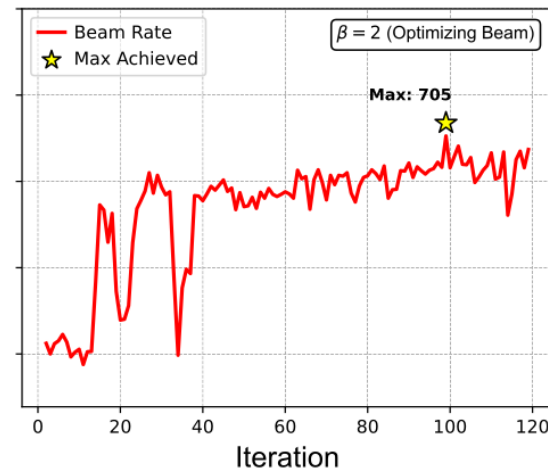
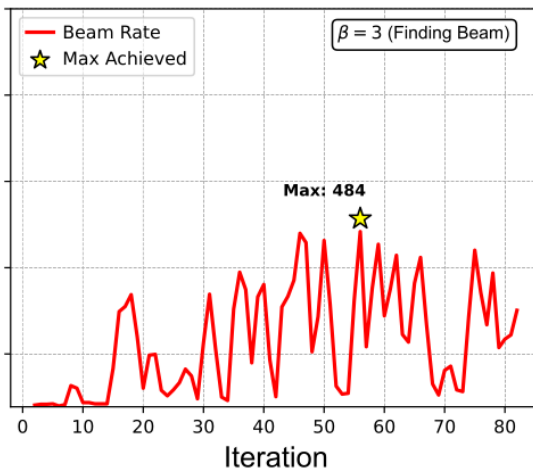
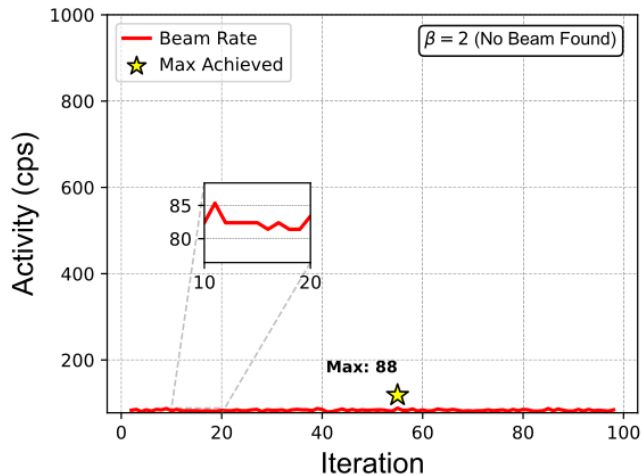


8 control params



NO BEAM CASE

Impact of parameter "beta" (exploration v. exploitation)



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