Abstract

Machine learning (ML) has emerged as a powerful tool for the data and image analysis and enabling component of the autonomous systems in areas ranging from biological and medical imaging to self-driving cars. This rapid growth in ML applications poses the question as to which of these methods can be applied in electron microscopy, and perhaps more importantly, what insight into physics and chemistry of real materials can they yield. In this presentation, I will give a brief overview of recent developments in ML analysis of mesoscopic and atomically resolved images and spectroscopy in electron and scanning probe microscopy, including the deep convolutional neural networks and symmetry-invariant autoencoders. The applications ranging from feature extraction to information compression and elucidation of relevant order parameters to inversion of imaging data to reconstruct structural models have been demonstrated. However, the fundamental limitation of the vast majority of machine learning methods is their correlative nature, leading to extreme susceptibility to confounding factors and observational biases. I will introduce approaches for supervised and semi-supervised analysis of the STEM structural data that can be implemented both as a part of the microscope operation and post-acquisitions workflows. These include atom and building block finding and determination of local symmetries from the structural and spectral data. I will further illustrate several intriguing opportunities in exploring structure-property relationships from STEM-EELS datasets. These approaches are now being extended into the Bayesian domain, that allow to take into consideration the prior knowledge the system and evaluate the changes in understanding of the behaviors given new experimental data. is discussed. All the codes presented during the talk will be available through the GitHub repositories. In particular, it allows to systematically address question such what resolution and information limits are required for observation of certain physical phenomena.

Ultimately, we seek to answer the questions such as whether electronic instability due to the average Fermi level guides the development of the local atomic structure, or frozen atomic disorder drives the emergence of the local structural distortions, whether the nucleation spot of phase transition can be predicted based on observations before the transition, and what is the driving forces controlling the emergence of unique functionalities of morphotropic materials and ferroelectric relaxors. The unique aspect of Bayesian methods is their potential to quantify uncertainty, and harnessing this for automated experimentation

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