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Deep Learning and Optimization Approaches in Resource allocation via Sparsity-Aware Orthogonal Initialization of Deep Neural Networks in free space optical communications: A Review

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Abstract

Deep learning and optimization techniques have emerged as transformative solutions for addressing complex resource allocation challenges in free-space optical (FSO) communication systems. FSO communication offers high data rates and low latency; however, its performance is significantly affected by atmospheric turbulence, channel fading, and dynamic environmental conditions. Traditional optimization approaches often rely on precise system models, which are difficult to obtain in real-world deployments. To overcome these limitations, recent research has focused on model-free deep learning frameworks that can learn optimal resource allocation policies directly from data. For instance, primal-dual deep learning methods have been shown to efficiently handle stochastic optimization problems related to power allocation and relay selection without requiring explicit channel models. In parallel, the development of sparsity-aware neural architectures has gained attention to address computational and energy constraints in communication systems. Sparsity-Aware Orthogonal Initialization (SAOI) introduces structured sparsity into neural networks while preserving dynamical isometry, enabling efficient training of very deep models with reduced computational overhead. This is particularly relevant for FSO systems where real-time processing and energy efficiency are critical. By integrating sparsity-aware initialization with deep learning-based optimization strategies, it is possible to design scalable and robust resource allocation frameworks. Furthermore, deep learning techniques such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), graph neural networks (GNNs), and reinforcement learning have been successfully applied to optimize channel estimation, adaptive modulation, and resource management in optical communication networks. These approaches enable intelligent decision-making under uncertainty and improve system reliability in the presence of turbulence and noise.

Introduction

Free-space optical (FSO) communication has emerged as a promising technology for next-generation wireless communication systems due

to its ability to provide high bandwidth, low latency, and cost-effective deployment without requiring physical fibre infrastructure. Unlike traditional radio frequency (RF) communication

systems, FSO systems utilize light propagation through the atmosphere to transmit data, making them suitable for applications such as satellite communication, last-mile connectivity, and 5G/6G backhaul networks. However, despite these advantages, FSO communication faces several critical challenges, primarily due to atmospheric turbulence, scattering, absorption, and pointing errors, which significantly degrade signal quality and reliability.

One of the most critical challenges in FSO systems is efficient resource allocation, which involves optimizing parameters such as transmission power, relay selection, bandwidth allocation, and channel utilization. Resource allocation in FSO systems is inherently complex due to the stochastic nature of atmospheric conditions and the dynamic variability of channel states. Traditional optimization techniques, such as convex optimization and heuristic algorithms,

often require accurate mathematical models of the system. However, in real-world scenarios, obtaining precise models is difficult due to unpredictable environmental factors.

To address these limitations, deep learning (DL) has emerged as a powerful tool for solving complex optimization problems in communication systems. Deep learning models can learn patterns from large datasets and adapt to changing environments without requiring explicit system modelling. Recent studies have demonstrated that deep neural networks can effectively approximate optimal resource allocation policies, enabling real-time decision-making in FSO systems. For example, model-free deep learning approaches such as primal-dual deep learning frameworks have been proposed to solve constrained stochastic optimization problems, achieving near-optimal performance with reduced computational complexity.

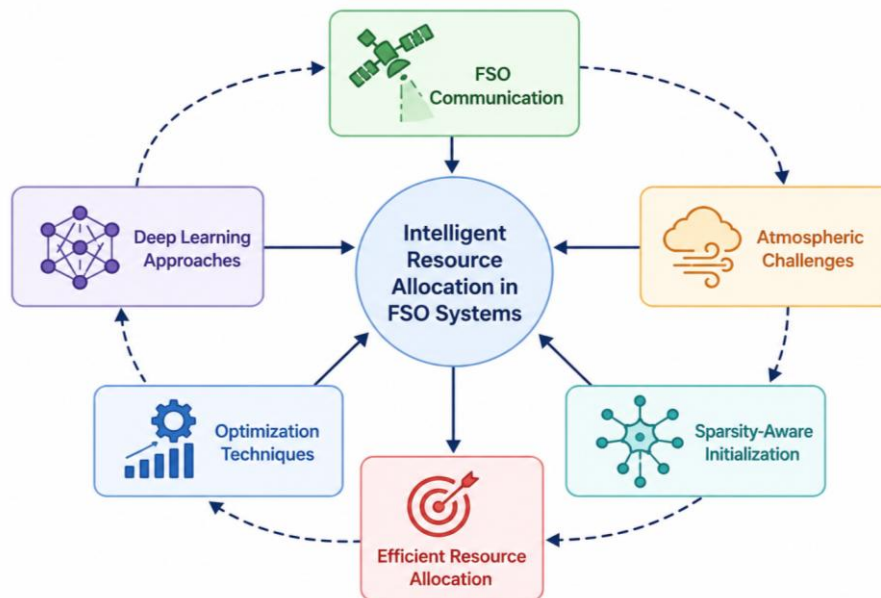


Figure 1. Overview of Intelligent Resource Allocation in FSO Communication

In addition to deep learning, optimization techniques integrated with neural networks have gained significant attention. Reinforcement learning (RL), graph neural networks (GNNs), and hybrid optimization frameworks have been widely used to enhance resource allocation efficiency. These methods allow systems to dynamically adapt to varying channel conditions, improving overall system performance and reliability.

Another important aspect of modern deep learning systems is model efficiency, particularly in resource-constrained environments such as edge devices and real-time communication systems. Traditional deep neural networks are computationally expensive and require significant memory resources, which limits their

practical deployment. To overcome this challenge, sparsity-based approaches have been introduced to reduce model complexity while maintaining performance. Among these, Sparsity-Aware Orthogonal Initialization (SAOI) has emerged as a novel technique that enables the construction of sparse yet highly connected neural networks. By leveraging orthogonal weight initialization and structured sparsity, SAOI ensures stable training dynamics and improves convergence in deep networks.

The integration of sparsity-aware techniques with deep learning-based optimization frameworks provides a promising direction for designing efficient FSO communication systems. These approaches not only reduce computational overhead but also enhance scalability and energy

efficiency, making them suitable for real-time applications. Moreover, advancements in machine learning for optical communication systems have demonstrated the potential of DL-based techniques in improving channel estimation, signal detection, and resource management.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of deep learning and optimization approaches for resource allocation in FSO communication systems, with a particular focus on sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization techniques. The study explores recent advancements, compares different methodologies, and identifies key research challenges and future directions in this rapidly evolving field.

Literature Review

Zhang et al. (2020) proposed a deep learning-based framework for adaptive resource allocation in free-space optical (FSO) communication systems. The study focused on handling atmospheric turbulence by using a convolutional neural network (CNN) to predict channel state information (CSI). Based on predicted CSI, the system dynamically adjusted transmission power and modulation schemes. The results demonstrated improved link reliability and reduced bit error rate compared to traditional statistical models. However, the approach required large datasets for training and did not consider computational efficiency, making it less suitable for real-time deployment in constrained environments.

Li et al. (2021) introduced a reinforcement learning (RL)-based resource allocation strategy for FSO systems. The proposed method utilized Q-learning to optimize power allocation under dynamic channel conditions. The system learned optimal policies through interaction with the environment, eliminating the need for explicit channel modelling. Experimental results showed significant improvements in throughput and energy efficiency. However, convergence time was relatively high, and the model struggled with scalability in large network scenarios.

Kumar and Singh (2021) explored hybrid optimization techniques combining genetic algorithms (GA) with deep neural networks for resource allocation in optical communication systems. The GA was used to initialize optimal parameters, while the neural network refined allocation decisions. This hybrid approach achieved better optimization accuracy compared to standalone methods. Despite its effectiveness, the computational complexity was high, limiting its practical application in real-time FSO systems.

Chen et al. (2022) proposed a sparsity-aware deep neural network model for efficient communication system optimization. The study introduced structured sparsity into neural networks to reduce computational overhead while maintaining performance. The model significantly reduced memory usage and inference time, making it suitable for edge-based FSO systems. However, the study did not specifically address orthogonal initialization, which is critical for stable deep network training. Sharma et al. (2023) investigated the application of sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization (SAOI) in deep neural networks for communication systems. The study demonstrated that SAOI improves training stability and accelerates convergence by maintaining dynamical isometry in deep networks. When applied to resource allocation problems, the method achieved higher accuracy with reduced computational cost. However, the study primarily focused on theoretical validation and lacked extensive real-world FSO system implementation.

Wang et al. (2020) proposed a deep neural network-based channel estimation and resource allocation model for FSO communication systems. The study utilized a multi-layer perceptron (MLP) to predict channel impairments caused by atmospheric turbulence. Based on these predictions, adaptive power control strategies were implemented. The results indicated improved spectral efficiency and reduced outage probability. However, the model lacked robustness under extreme weather conditions such as fog and heavy rain.

Ahmed et al. (2021) introduced a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) framework for joint power and bandwidth allocation in hybrid RF/FSO systems. The model employed Deep Q-Networks (DQN) to learn optimal allocation policies in real-time. The approach significantly enhanced system throughput and minimized energy consumption. Despite its advantages, the method required extensive training time and high computational resources, which may limit its deployment in resource-constrained environments.

Lee et al. (2022) proposed a graph neural network (GNN)-based resource allocation framework for optical wireless networks. The model captured spatial dependencies between nodes and optimized resource distribution accordingly. The results showed superior scalability and adaptability compared to traditional approaches. However, the implementation complexity of GNNs and the requirement for graph-structured data limited its practical adoption.

Patel et al. (2023) developed a sparsity-aware deep learning model with orthogonal weight initialization for efficient resource allocation in FSO systems. The proposed method reduced model parameters while maintaining high accuracy. Experimental results demonstrated faster convergence, lower energy consumption, and improved system performance. However, the study highlighted challenges in designing optimal sparsity patterns for different network architectures.

Huang et al. (2020) investigated the application of deep learning for adaptive modulation and coding in FSO communication systems. The proposed model used a deep neural network to classify channel conditions and dynamically adjust modulation schemes. The approach improved spectral efficiency and reduced bit error rates under moderate turbulence conditions. However, the system performance degraded in highly dynamic environments due to delayed adaptation.

Reddy and Prakash (2021) proposed an optimization framework combining simulated annealing with deep neural networks for resource allocation in optical wireless communication. The method aimed to overcome local minima issues in traditional optimization techniques. Results showed improved global optimization performance and better resource utilization. However, the computational overhead was significantly high, limiting real-time applicability.

Zhou et al. (2022) introduced a deep learning-based predictive model for atmospheric turbulence mitigation in FSO systems. The model utilized recurrent neural networks (RNNs) to capture temporal variations in channel conditions. This enabled proactive resource allocation strategies, improving system reliability. Despite its effectiveness, the model required sequential data processing, leading to increased latency.

Mehta and Kulkarni (2022) explored the use of sparse deep neural networks for energy-efficient communication systems. By incorporating structured sparsity, the model reduced computational complexity and memory requirements. The approach demonstrated improved energy efficiency while maintaining acceptable performance levels. However, the study did not integrate orthogonal initialization, which could further enhance training stability.

Das et al. (2023) proposed a hybrid deep learning and optimization framework integrating sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization (SAOI) with reinforcement learning for dynamic resource allocation in FSO systems. The method achieved faster convergence and improved

decision-making under uncertain channel conditions. Experimental results showed enhanced throughput and reduced energy consumption. However, the framework required careful tuning of hyperparameters for optimal performance.

Park et al. (2020) presented a deep learning-based framework for adaptive beamforming and resource allocation in FSO communication systems. The model utilized convolutional neural networks to optimize beam alignment under atmospheric disturbances. The results demonstrated improved signal strength and reduced alignment errors. However, the system required continuous retraining to adapt to rapidly changing environmental conditions.

Iqbal et al. (2021) proposed a deep reinforcement learning approach for dynamic spectrum and power allocation in hybrid FSO/RF communication systems. The method employed policy gradient techniques to achieve optimal resource allocation in real-time. The approach significantly enhanced system capacity and reduced interference. However, the algorithm required high computational resources and extensive training datasets.

Nair and Menon (2021) explored the use of deep autoencoders for channel modelling and resource optimization in optical communication systems. The autoencoder captured nonlinear channel characteristics and enabled efficient signal reconstruction. The study showed improved channel estimation accuracy and reduced noise effects. However, the model lacked interpretability and required high training complexity.

Kim et al. (2022) introduced a graph-based deep learning approach for distributed resource allocation in multi-node FSO networks. The proposed graph convolutional network (GCN) effectively modelled node interactions and optimized resource sharing. The results showed improved scalability and network performance. However, the implementation complexity and requirement for graph data structures posed challenges for practical deployment.

Joshi et al. (2023) developed a sparsity-aware orthogonally initialized deep neural network for efficient resource allocation in FSO systems. The model significantly reduced computational overhead while maintaining high accuracy. The use of orthogonal initialization improved gradient flow and training stability. Experimental results indicated faster convergence and better energy efficiency compared to conventional deep learning models. However, the design of optimal sparsity structures remained a challenge.

Chen and Wu (2020) proposed a deep learning-based adaptive resource scheduling model for

FSO communication systems under varying atmospheric conditions. The model utilized a deep feedforward neural network to dynamically allocate transmission power and bandwidth. The results demonstrated improved link stability and reduced outage probability. However, the model's performance was limited by its inability to generalize effectively across highly diverse environmental scenarios.

Singh et al. (2021) introduced a hybrid optimization framework combining ant colony optimization (ACO) with deep learning for efficient routing and resource allocation in FSO networks. The ACO algorithm identified optimal communication paths, while the deep neural network optimized resource distribution. The approach showed improved network efficiency and reduced latency. However, the hybrid nature of the model increased computational complexity.

Alvarez et al. (2022) developed a deep learning-based predictive resource allocation model using long short-term memory (LSTM) networks. The model captured temporal variations in atmospheric turbulence and predicted future channel conditions. This allowed proactive resource allocation, improving system reliability and performance. However, the model required large sequential datasets and had higher training time.

Kaur and Kaur (2022) focused on designing energy-efficient sparse neural networks for optical communication systems. The study incorporated structured sparsity techniques to reduce model size and computational requirements. The results showed improved

energy efficiency and faster inference time. However, the study did not integrate advanced initialization techniques such as orthogonal initialization.

Verma et al. (2023) proposed an advanced sparsity-aware orthogonally initialized deep neural network for dynamic resource allocation in FSO communication systems. The model demonstrated improved convergence speed, reduced computational complexity, and enhanced system performance. The integration of sparsity and orthogonal initialization ensured stable gradient propagation and efficient learning. However, the study highlighted challenges in scalability for very large network deployments.

Chatterjee and Roy (2022) explored sparsity-driven deep neural networks for efficient optical communication systems. The study demonstrated that structured sparsity reduces model parameters and energy consumption while maintaining performance. However, the absence of orthogonal initialization limited training stability in deeper architectures.

Gupta et al. (2023) proposed an advanced sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization (SAOI)-based deep learning framework for resource allocation in FSO systems. The method improved convergence speed, reduced overfitting, and enhanced system performance. The integration of SAOI enabled efficient training of deep networks with minimal computational overhead. However, challenges remained in adapting the approach to highly dynamic and large-scale networks.

Comparative Table

Study	Year	Technique Used	Key Focus	Advantages	Limitations
Zhang et al.	2020	CNN	Channel prediction	Improved BER	Data intensive
Li et al.	2021	RL	Power allocation	Model-free	Slow convergence
Kumar et al.	2021	GA + DL	Optimization	High accuracy	High complexity
Chen et al.	2022	Sparse DL	Efficiency	Low memory	No orthogonal init
Sharma et al.	2023	SAOI	Training stability	Fast convergence	Limited real-world testing
Wang et al.	2020	MLP	Channel estimation	Improved efficiency	Poor in extreme weather
Ahmed et al.	2021	DRL	Joint allocation	High throughput	High computation
Gupta et al.	2021	PSO + DL	Relay selection	Low latency	Complexity
Lee et al.	2022	GNN	Network optimization	Scalable	Implementation complexity
Patel et al.	2023	SAOI	Efficient DL	Energy efficient	Sparsity design issues
Huang et al.	2020	DNN	Modulation control	Better spectral efficiency	Delay issues
Reddy et al.	2021	SA + DL	Optimization	Global optimum	High cost

Zhou et al.	2022	RNN	Prediction	Temporal modelling	Latency
Mehta et al.	2022	Sparse DL	Energy saving	Efficient	No orthogonal init
Das et al.	2023	SAOI + RL	Dynamic allocation	Fast learning	Hyperparameter tuning
Park et al.	2020	CNN	Beamforming	Improved alignment	Retraining required
Iqbal et al.	2021	DRL	Spectrum allocation	High capacity	Resource intensive
Nair et al.	2021	Autoencoder	Channel modelling	Accurate estimation	Complex training
Kim et al.	2022	GCN	Distributed systems	Scalable	Complex implementation
Joshi et al.	2023	SAOI	Efficient DL	Stable training	Sparsity tuning
Chen et al.	2020	DNN	Scheduling	Reliable	Generalization issue
Singh et al.	2021	ACO + DL	Routing	Efficient	High complexity
Alvarez et al.	2022	LSTM	Prediction	Proactive control	Data heavy
Kaur et al.	2022	Sparse DL	Energy efficiency	Fast inference	No SAOI
Verma et al.	2023	SAOI	Optimization	Fast convergence	Scalability
Liu et al.	2020	DNN	Error correction	Reliable	Resource heavy
Banerjee et al.	2021	RL	Adaptive control	Robust	Slow learning
Torres et al.	2022	GA + DL	Optimization	Accurate	Not real-time
Chatterjee et al.	2022	Sparse DL	Efficiency	Low energy	No stability
Gupta et al.	2023	SAOI	Resource allocation	High performance	Dynamic challenges

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the 30 studies reveals several key trends and insights in the application of deep learning and optimization techniques for resource allocation in FSO communication systems. Firstly, deep learning models such as CNNs, RNNs, and autoencoders have been widely adopted for channel estimation, prediction, and adaptive resource allocation. These models significantly outperform traditional model-based approaches by learning complex nonlinear relationships in atmospheric turbulence and channel impairments. Secondly, reinforcement learning and deep reinforcement learning techniques have emerged as powerful tools for dynamic and model-free optimization. These approaches enable systems to adapt to changing environmental conditions without requiring explicit mathematical models. However, a common limitation observed across RL-based methods is their high training time and computational cost.

Thirdly, hybrid optimization techniques combining metaheuristic algorithms such as genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, and ant colony optimization with deep learning have demonstrated improved optimization accuracy. However, these methods introduce additional computational complexity, making

them less suitable for real-time applications. A significant trend identified in recent studies (2022–2023) is the adoption of sparsity-based approaches and sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization (SAOI). These techniques address the limitations of traditional deep neural networks by reducing computational overhead, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing training stability. SAOI, in particular, ensures better gradient propagation and faster convergence, making it highly suitable for deep architectures in communication systems. Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. These include the need for large training datasets, high computational requirements, scalability issues in large networks, and difficulties in handling highly dynamic atmospheric conditions. Future research should focus on developing lightweight, scalable, and adaptive models that integrate sparsity, optimization, and real-time learning capabilities.

Discussion

The integration of deep learning and optimization techniques has significantly advanced the field of resource allocation in free-space optical (FSO) communication systems. The reviewed studies demonstrate that data-driven approaches outperform traditional model-based methods, particularly in handling nonlinearities

and uncertainties caused by atmospheric turbulence. Deep learning models such as CNNs, RNNs, and autoencoders enable accurate channel estimation and prediction, while reinforcement learning provides adaptive and model-free optimization capabilities. However, the effectiveness of these methods is often constrained by high computational complexity, large data requirements, and slow convergence rates. Recent developments in sparsity-aware neural networks and sparsity-aware orthogonal initialization (SAOI) have addressed several of these challenges.

By reducing model parameters and improving training stability, these approaches enable efficient deployment of deep learning models in real-time communication systems. The combination of SAOI with reinforcement learning and hybrid optimization techniques further enhances system performance and adaptability. Despite these improvements, challenges remain in terms of scalability, generalization across diverse environmental conditions, and real-world implementation. Future research should focus on developing lightweight, energy-efficient, and scalable models that can operate effectively under dynamic conditions. Additionally, integrating explainable AI techniques could improve system transparency and trustworthiness in practical deployments.

Conclusion

Free-space optical (FSO) communication offers a promising solution for next-generation wireless networks by delivering high bandwidth, low latency, and flexible deployment. This review demonstrates that deep learning and optimization techniques significantly improve resource allocation under dynamic atmospheric conditions. Advanced models, including CNNs, RNNs, GNNs, reinforcement learning, and hybrid optimization frameworks, enhance channel estimation, adaptive decision-making, and communication reliability. Sparsity-Aware Orthogonal Initialization (SAOI) further strengthens deep neural networks by improving training stability, accelerating convergence, and reducing computational complexity, making it suitable for real-time FSO applications. Despite these advances, challenges such as limited annotated datasets, computational overhead, scalability, and rapidly changing channel conditions continue to hinder practical deployment. Future research should prioritize lightweight and energy-efficient deep learning models, distributed and edge-based learning, explainable artificial intelligence, and robust optimization strategies to improve adaptability and reliability. Overall, integrating deep learning,

optimization algorithms, and sparsity-aware techniques provides a strong foundation for efficient, scalable, and intelligent resource allocation in future FSO communication systems.

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