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Closing the loop: fully automated radiotherapy planning for head and neck cancer

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Closing the Loop:
Fully Automated Radiotherapy Planning
for Head and Neck Cancer

Ruochen Gao

Colophon

About the cover:

This cover was created with the assistance of ChatGPT 5.5. It was inspired by the aurora that I was fortunate to witness in Abisko, northern Sweden. While the aurora is best known for its spectacular display of light, the interaction between energetic particles and the Earth's atmosphere also produces invisible low-energy X-rays. Unlike these naturally occurring X-rays, those used in radiotherapy are generated and delivered in a controlled manner, allowing them to be precisely shaped to treat cancer while sparing healthy tissue. The luminous VMAT treatment arc is woven into the aurora, creating a visual bridge between nature and medicine. It symbolizes how the same underlying physical principles can, through scientific understanding and engineering, be transformed into technology that improves patient care.

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Ruochen Gao

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Closing the Loop: Fully Automated Radiotherapy Planning for Head and Neck Cancer

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