### Session 1: Gaussian Processes

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# Book



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# Outline

#### The Gaussian Density

- 2 Covariance from Basis Functions
- 3 Basis Function Representations
- 4 Constructing Covariance
- **5** GP Limitations



# Outline

#### The Gaussian Density

- 2 Covariance from Basis Functions
- 3 Basis Function Representations
- 4 Constructing Covariance
- 5 GP Limitations
- 6 Conclusions

### The Gaussian Density

• Perhaps the most common probability density.

$$p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$
$$= \mathcal{N}\left(y|\mu, \sigma^2\right)$$

• The Gaussian density.

## Gaussian Density



The Gaussian PDF with  $\mu = 1.7$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 0.0225$ . Mean shown as red line. It could represent the heights of a population of students.

# Gaussian Density

$$\mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{y}|\mu,\sigma^{2}
ight)=rac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^{2}}}\exp\left(-rac{(\mathbf{y}-\mu)^{2}}{2\sigma^{2}}
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Sum of Gaussian variables is also Gaussian.

 $y_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2\right)$ 

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \mu_i, \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sigma_i^2\right)$$

(*Aside*: As sum increases, sum of non-Gaussian, finite variance variables is also Gaussian [central limit theorem].)

$$y \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \sigma^2\right)$$

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$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$
$$y_2 = mx_2 + c$$

$$y_1 - y_2 = m(x_1 - x_2)$$

$$\frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2} = m$$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$
$$c = y_1 - mx_1$$



How do we deal with three simultaneous equations with only two unknowns?

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$
  

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c$$
  

$$y_3 = mx_3 + c$$



## Overdetermined System

• With two unknowns and two observations:

 $y_1 = mx_1 + c$  $y_2 = mx_2 + c$ 

• Additional observation leads to *overdetermined* system.

 $y_3 = mx_3 + c$ 

• This problem is solved through a noise model  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \sigma^2\right)$ 

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c + \epsilon_1$$
  

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c + \epsilon_2$$
  

$$y_3 = mx_3 + c + \epsilon_3$$

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### Noise Models

- We aren't modeling entire system.
- Noise model gives mismatch between model and data.
- Gaussian model justified by appeal to central limit theorem.
- Other models also possible (Student-*t* for heavy tails).
- Maximum likelihood with Gaussian noise leads to *least squares*.





$$c = 1.75 \Longrightarrow m = 1.25$$



$$c = -0.777 \Longrightarrow m = 3.78$$



$$c = -4.01 \Longrightarrow m = 7.01$$



$$c = -0.718 \Longrightarrow m = 3.72$$



$$c = 2.45 \Longrightarrow m = 0.545$$



$$c = -0.657 \Longrightarrow m = 3.66$$



$$c = -3.13 \Longrightarrow m = 6.13$$



$$c = -1.47 \Longrightarrow m = 4.47$$



Can compute *m* given *c*. Assume

$$c \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 4)$$
,

we find a distribution of solutions.



# Probability for Under- and Overdetermined

- To deal with overdetermined introduced probability distribution for 'variable',  $\epsilon_i$ .
- For underdetermined system introduced probability distribution for 'parameter', *c*.
- This is known as a Bayesian treatment.

- For general Bayesian inference need multivariate priors.
- E.g. for multivariate linear regression:

$$y_i = \sum_i w_j x_{i,j} + \epsilon_i$$

(where we've dropped c for convenience), we need a prior over w.

- This motivates a *multivariate* Gaussian density.
- We will use the multivariate Gaussian to put a prior *directly* on the function (a Gaussian process).

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- This motivates a *multivariate* Gaussian density.
- We will use the multivariate Gaussian to put a prior *directly* on the function (a Gaussian process).
### Multivariate Regression Likelihood

• Recall multivariate regression likelihood:

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{\left(2\pi\sigma^2\right)^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(y_i - \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_{i,:}\right)^2\right)$$

• Now use a multivariate Gaussian prior:

$$p(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\alpha)^{\frac{p}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\alpha}\mathbf{w}^{\top}\mathbf{w}\right)$$

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### Posterior Density

• Once again we want to know the posterior:

```
p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y},\mathbf{X}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})
```

• And we can compute by completing the square.

$$\log p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}) = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \mathbf{x}_{i,:}^\top \mathbf{w}$$
$$-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_{i,:} \mathbf{x}_{i,:}^\top \mathbf{w} - \frac{1}{2\alpha} \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} + \text{const.}$$

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{w}, \mathbf{C}_{w})$$
$$\mathbf{C}_{w} = (\sigma^{-2}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \alpha^{-1})^{-1} \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\mu}_{w} = \mathbf{C}_{w}\sigma^{-2}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$

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$$-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}_{i,:} \mathbf{x}_{i,:}^\top \mathbf{w} - \frac{1}{2\alpha} \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} + \text{const.}$$

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_w, \mathbf{C}_w)$$
  
 $\mathbf{C}_w = (\sigma^{-2}\mathbf{X}^\top\mathbf{X} + \alpha^{-1})^{-1} \text{ and } \boldsymbol{\mu}_w = \mathbf{C}_w \sigma^{-2}\mathbf{X}^\top\mathbf{y}$ 

### Bayesian vs Maximum Likelihood

• Note the similarity between posterior mean

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{w} = (\sigma^{-2} \mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{X} + \alpha^{-1})^{-1} \sigma^{-2} \mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{y}$$

and Maximum likelihood solution

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{y}$$

Marginal Likelihood is Computed as Normalizer

### $\rho(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y},\mathbf{X})\rho(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})=\rho(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{w},\mathbf{X})\rho(\mathbf{w})$

### Marginal Likelihood

• Can compute the marginal likelihood as:

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \alpha, \sigma) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{0}, \alpha\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} + \sigma^{2}\mathbf{I}\right)$$

### Two Dimensional Gaussian

- Consider height, h/m and weight, w/kg.
- Could sample height from a distribution:

 $p(h) \sim \mathcal{N}(1.7, 0.0225)$ 

• And similarly weight:

 $p(w) \sim \mathcal{N}(75, 36)$ 

Height and Weight Models

Marginal Distributions



distributions for height and weight.

#### Marginal Distributions



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Marginal Distributions



### Independence Assumption

• This assumes height and weight are independent.

$$p(h,w) = p(h)p(w)$$

• In reality they are dependent (body mass index) =  $\frac{w}{h^2}$ .

### Marginal Distributions



### Marginal Distributions



### Marginal Distributions


















#### Marginal Distributions



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### p(w,h) = p(w)p(h)

$$p(w,h) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_2^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{(w-\mu_1)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(h-\mu_2)^2}{\sigma_2^2}\right)\right)$$

$$p(w,h) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\left(\begin{bmatrix}w\\h\end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix}\mu_1\\\mu_2\end{bmatrix}\right)^\top \begin{bmatrix}\sigma_1^2 & 0\\0 & \sigma_2^2\end{bmatrix}^{-1}\left(\begin{bmatrix}w\\h\end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix}\mu_1\\\mu_2\end{bmatrix}\right)$$

$$p(\mathbf{y}) = rac{1}{2\pi \left|\mathbf{D}
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Form correlated from original by rotating the data space using matrix  ${\bf R}.$ 

$$\rho(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{2\pi |\mathbf{D}|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^{\top} \mathbf{D}^{-1}(\mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)$$

Form correlated from original by rotating the data space using matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ .

$$\rho(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{2\pi \left|\mathbf{D}\right|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{R}^{\top}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{R}^{\top}\boldsymbol{\mu})^{\top}\mathbf{D}^{-1}(\mathbf{R}^{\top}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{R}^{\top}\boldsymbol{\mu})\right)$$

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this gives a covariance matrix:

$$\mathbf{C}^{-1} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{R}^{ op}$$

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Sum of Gaussian variables is also Gaussian.

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② Scaling a Gaussian leads to a Gaussian.

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## Multivariate Consequence

 $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}\left( oldsymbol{\mu}, oldsymbol{\Sigma} 
ight)$ 

And

• If

 $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}$ 

• Then

$$\mathbf{y} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{W} \boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{W} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{W}^{ op}
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## Sampling a Function

#### Multi-variate Gaussians

- We will consider a Gaussian with a particular structure of covariance matrix.
- Generate a single sample from this 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution,  $\mathbf{f} = [f_1, f_2 \dots f_{25}]$ .
- We will plot these points against their index.



(a) A 25 dimensional correlated random variable (values ploted against index)

(b) colormap showing correlations between dimensions.

Figure: A sample from a 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution.

0.9 0.8

0.7

0.5 0.4

0.3 0.2

0.1

n



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- Conditional density:  $p(f_2|f_1 = -0.313)$ .



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### Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

- Prediction of  $f_2$  from  $f_1$  requires conditional density.
- Conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$p(f_2|f_1) = \mathcal{N}\left(f_2|\frac{k_{1,2}}{k_{1,1}}f_1, k_{2,2} - \frac{k_{1,2}^2}{k_{1,1}}\right)$$

where covariance of joint density is given by

$$\mathbf{K} = egin{bmatrix} k_{1,1} & k_{1,2} \ k_{2,1} & k_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$



The single contour of the Gaussian density represents the joint distribution, p(f<sub>1</sub>, f<sub>5</sub>).

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### Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

- Prediction of  $f_*$  from f requires multivariate *conditional density*.
- Multivariate conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$p(\mathbf{f}_*|\mathbf{f}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{f}_*|\mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1}\mathbf{f},\mathbf{K}_{*,*}-\mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*}
ight)$$

• Here covariance of joint density is given by

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### Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

- $\bullet$  Prediction of  $f_{\ast}$  from f requires multivariate conditional density.
- Multivariate conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$\begin{split} \rho(\mathbf{f}_*|\mathbf{f}) &= \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{f}_*|\boldsymbol{\mu},\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\right)\\ \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1}\mathbf{f}\\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma} &= \mathbf{K}_{*,*} - \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1}\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*}\\ \bullet \text{ Here covariance of joint density is given by} \end{split}$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}} & \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \\ \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*} & \mathbf{K}_{*,*} \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

Exponentiated Quadratic Kernel Function (RBF, Squared Exponential, Gaussian)

$$k\left(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}'
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- Covariance matrix is built using the *inputs* to the function **x**.
- For the example above it was based on Euclidean distance.
- The covariance function is also know as a kernel.



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$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

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$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

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Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$
$$0.110$$
$$0.110$$
$$k_{2,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$
$$0.110$$
$$0.110$$
$$k_{2,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{2,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$
$$0.110 \quad 0.110$$
$$0.110 \quad 1.00$$
$$k_{3,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

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$$0.0889$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$
$$0.110 \quad 0.0889$$
$$0.110 \quad 1.00$$
$$0.0889$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$
$$0.110 \quad 0.0889$$
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$$0.0889$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$0.0889$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$
$$0.110 \quad 1.00 \quad 0.995$$
$$0.0889 \quad 0.995$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_3 = 1.40$$
$$0.110 \quad 0.0889$$
$$0.110 \quad 1.00 \quad 0.995$$
$$0.0889 \quad 0.995$$
Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.40, x_3 = 1.40$$
$$0.110 \quad 0.0889$$
$$0.110 \quad 1.00 \quad 0.995$$
$$0.0889 \quad 0.995 \quad 1.00$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$



Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3, x_1 = -3$$

$$k_{1,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3--3)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_{i}, x_{j}) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_{i} - x_{j}||^{2}}{2\ell^{2}}\right)$$

$$x_{1} = -3, x_{1} = -3$$

$$k_{1,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3 - -3)^{2}}{2 \times 2.0^{2}}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_{i}, x_{j}) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_{i} - x_{j}||^{2}}{2\ell^{2}}\right)$$

$$x_{2} = 1.2, x_{1} = -3$$

$$k_{2,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.2 - 1.2)^{2}}{2 \times 2.0^{2}}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?



Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_{i}, x_{j}) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_{i} - x_{j}||^{2}}{2\ell^{2}}\right)$$

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Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_{i}, x_{j}) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_{i} - x_{j}||^{2}}{2\ell^{2}}\right)$$

$$x_{2} = 1.2, x_{2} = 1.2$$

$$k_{2,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.2 - 1.2)^{2}}{2 \times 2.0^{2}}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_2 = 1.2, x_2 = 1.2$$
$$k_{2,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.2 - 1.2)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.4, x_1 = -3$$

$$k_{3,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_1 = -3$$
$$k_{3,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

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$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_1 = -3$$
$$0.11 \quad 1.0$$
$$0.089$$
$$k_{3,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$k_{3,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_2 = 1.2$$
$$0.11 \quad 1.0$$
$$0.089 \quad 1.0$$
$$k_{3,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_2 = 1.2$$
$$\left[\begin{array}{c} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089\\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0\\ 0.089 & 1.0\\ k_{3,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)\end{array}\right]$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_3 = 1.4$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 \\ k_{3,3} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4 - 1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_3 = 1.4, x_3 = 1.4$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.10 & 0.089 \\ 0.089 & 0.089 \\ 0.080 & 0.089 \\ 0.080 & 0.089 \\ 0.080 & 0.080 \\ 0.080 & 0.08$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_1 = -3$$
$$0.11 \quad 1.0 \quad 1.0$$
$$0.089 \quad 1.0 \quad 1.0$$
$$k_{4,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, \ x_1 = -3$$
$$0.11 \ 1.0 \ 1.0$$
$$0.089 \ 1.0 \ 1.0$$
$$0.044$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_1 = -3$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.044 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$k_{4,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$

$$k_{4,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$1.0 \quad 0.11 \quad 0.089 \quad 0.044$$

$$0.044$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$

$$k_{4,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$
$$\left(\begin{array}{c} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044\\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92\\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0\\ 0.044 & 0.92\end{array}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_3 = 1.4$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_3 = 1.4$$

$$k_{4,3} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_3 = 1.4$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
$$x_4 = 2.0, x_4 = 2.0$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 \\ \end{pmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_4 = 2.0$$

$$k_{4,4} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$



Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, \ x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

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Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{2,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{2,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$
Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{3,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{3,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$2.72$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

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$$2.72$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$2.72$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
4.00 & 2.81 & 2.72 \\
2.81 & 4.00 \\
2.72 & 4.00
\end{array}\right]$$

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$



# Outline

#### The Gaussian Density

- 2 Covariance from Basis Functions
  - 3 Basis Function Representations
  - 4 Constructing Covariance
  - 5 GP Limitations
  - 6 Conclusions

## **Basis Function Form**

Radial basis functions commonly have the form

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{x}_i) = \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{x}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

 Basis function maps data into a "feature space" in which a linear sum is a non linear function.



Figure: A set of radial basis functions with width  $\ell = 2$  and location parameters  $\mu = \begin{bmatrix} -4 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^{\top}$ .

# **Basis Function Representations**

• Represent a function by a linear sum over a basis,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{i,:};\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^{m} w_k \phi_k(\mathbf{x}_{i,:}), \qquad (1)$$

• Here: *m* basis functions and  $\phi_k(\cdot)$  is *k*th basis function and

$$\mathbf{w} = [w_1, \ldots, w_m]^\top.$$

• For standard linear model:  $\phi_k(\mathbf{x}_{i,:}) = x_{i,k}$ .

## **Random Functions**

Functions derived using:

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^m w_k \phi_k(x),$$

where **W** is sampled from a Gaussian density,

$$w_k \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \alpha)$$
.

Figure: Functions sampled using the basis set from figure 2. Each line is a separate sample, generated by a weighted sum of the basis set. The weights, **w** are sampled from a Gaussian density with variance  $\alpha = 1$ .



• Use matrix notation to write function,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{i};\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{k=1}^{m} w_{k} \phi_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{i})$$

computed at training data gives a vector

 $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{w}.$ 

- w and f are only related by a inner product.
- $\Phi$  is fixed and non-stochastic for a given training set.
- **f** is Gaussian distributed.
- it is straightforward to compute distribution for **f**

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#### • w and f are only related by a inner product.

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• Use matrix notation to write function,

$$f\left(\mathbf{x}_{i};\mathbf{w}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{m} w_{k} \phi_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)$$

computed at training data gives a vector

$$f = \Phi w$$
.

- w and f are only related by a inner product.
- $\Phi$  is fixed and non-stochastic for a given training set.
- **f** is Gaussian distributed.
- ullet it is straightforward to compute distribution for f f

• We use  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  to denote expectations under prior distributions. • We have

 $\left< \mathbf{f} \right> = \boldsymbol{\phi} \left< \mathbf{w} \right>$  .

• Prior mean of **w** was zero giving

 $\langle \mathbf{f} \rangle = \mathbf{0}.$ 

• Prior covariance of **f** is

$$\mathbf{K} = \left\langle \mathbf{f} \mathbf{f}^{\top} \right\rangle - \left\langle \mathbf{f} \right\rangle \left\langle \mathbf{f} \right\rangle^{\top}$$

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#### Need to choose

- Iocation of centers
- 2 number of basis functions
- Consider uniform spacing over a region:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \gamma \Delta \mu \sum_{k=1}^{m} \exp\left(-\frac{x_i^2 + x_j^2 - 2\mu_k(x_i + x_j) + 2\mu_k^2}{2\ell^2}\right),$$

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# **Uniform Basis Functions**

• Set each center location to

$$\mu_k = \mathbf{a} + \Delta \mu \cdot (\mathbf{k} - 1).$$

• Specify the bases in terms of their indices,

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \gamma \Delta \mu \sum_{k=1}^{m} \exp\left(-\frac{x_i^2 + x_j^2}{2\ell^2} - \frac{2(a + \Delta \mu \cdot k)(x_i + x_j) + 2(a + \Delta \mu \cdot k)^2}{2\ell^2}\right).$$

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# Infinite Basis Functions

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \gamma \int_a^b \exp\left(-\frac{x_i^2 + x_j^2}{2\ell^2} + \frac{2\left(\mu - \frac{1}{2}\left(x_i + x_j\right)\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2}\left(x_i + x_j\right)^2}{2\ell^2}\right) d\mu,$$

where we have used  $k \cdot \Delta \mu \rightarrow \mu$ .
#### Infinite Basis Functions

• Take 
$$\mu_0 = a$$
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• Performing the integration leads to

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \gamma \frac{\sqrt{\pi \ell^2}}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - x_j)^2}{4\ell^2}\right) \\ \times \left[ \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\left(b - \frac{1}{2}\left(x_i + x_j\right)\right)}{\ell}\right) - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\left(a - \frac{1}{2}\left(x_i + x_j\right)\right)}{\ell}\right) \right],$$

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#### • A RBF model with infinite basis functions is a Gaussian process.

- The covariance function is the exponentiated quadratic.
- **Note:** The functional form for the covariance function and basis functions are similar.
  - this is a special case,
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# Nonparametric Gaussian Processes

- This work takes us from parametric to non-parametric.
- The limit implies infinite dimensional w.
- Gaussian processes are generally non-parametric: combine data with covariance function to get model.
- This representation *cannot* be summarized by a parameter vector of a fixed size.

- Parametric models have a representation that does not respond to increasing training set size.
- Bayesian posterior distributions over parameters contain the information about the training data.
  - Use Bayes' rule from training data,  $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X})$ ,
  - Make predictions on test data

$$p(y_*|\mathbf{X}_*,\mathbf{y},\mathbf{X}) = \int p(y_*|\mathbf{w},\mathbf{X}_*) p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{y},\mathbf{X}) d\mathbf{w}).$$

- w becomes a bottleneck for information about the training set to pass to the test set.
- Solution: increase *m* so that the bottleneck is so large that it no longer presents a problem.
- How big is big enough for *m*? Non-parametrics says  $m \to \infty$ .

- Now no longer possible to manipulate the model through the standard parametric form given in (1).
- However, it *is* possible to express *parametric* as GPs:

$$k(\mathbf{x}_i,\mathbf{x}_j) = \phi_{:}(\mathbf{x}_i)^{\top} \phi_{:}(\mathbf{x}_j).$$

- These are known as degenerate covariance matrices.
- Their rank is at most *m*, non-parametric models have full rank covariance matrices.
- Most well known is the "linear kernel",  $k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_j$ .

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**RBF Basis Functions** 

$$k\left(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}'\right) = \alpha \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}')$$

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# Covariance Functions and Mercer Kernels

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# Outline

The Gaussian Density

- 2 Covariance from Basis Functions
- 3 Basis Function Representations
- 4 Constructing Covariance
  - 5 GP Limitations
  - 6 Conclusions

# Constructing Covariance Functions

• Sum of two covariances is also a covariance function.

$$k(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}') = k_1(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}') + k_2(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}')$$

# Constructing Covariance Functions

• Product of two covariances is also a covariance function.

$$k(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}')=k_1(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}')k_2(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}')$$

# Multiply by Deterministic Function

- If  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a Gaussian process.
- $g(\mathbf{x})$  is a deterministic function.
- $h(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})$
- Then

$$k_h(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}') = g(\mathbf{x})k_f(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}')g(\mathbf{x}')$$

where  $k_h$  is covariance for  $h(\cdot)$  and  $k_f$  is covariance for  $f(\cdot)$ .

#### **MLP Covariance Function**

$$k\left(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'\right) = \alpha \operatorname{asin}\left(\frac{w\mathbf{x}^{\top}\mathbf{x}' + b}{\sqrt{w\mathbf{x}^{\top}\mathbf{x} + b + 1}\sqrt{w\mathbf{x}'^{\top}\mathbf{x}' + b + 1}}\right)$$

• Based on infinite neural network model.

$$w = 40$$



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#### **Linear Covariance Function**

$$k\left(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}'\right) = \alpha \mathbf{x}^{\top} \mathbf{x}'$$

• Bayesian linear regression.

$$\alpha = 1$$



#### **Linear Covariance Function**

$$k\left(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}'
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$$\alpha = 1$$



### Gaussian Process Interpolation



Figure: Real example: BACCO (see *e.g.* (?)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (*e.g.* atmospheric carbon levels).














# Noise Models

Graph of a GP

- Relates input variables, X, to vector, y, through f given kernel parameters θ.
- Plate notation indicates independence of  $y_i | f_i$ .
- Noise model,  $p(y_i|f_i)$  can take several forms.
- Simplest is Gaussian noise.



Figure: The Gaussian process depicted graphically.

## Gaussian Noise

• Gaussian noise model,

$$p(y_i|f_i) = \mathcal{N}(y_i|f_i, \sigma^2)$$

where  $\sigma^2$  is the variance of the noise.

• Equivalent to a covariance function of the form

$$k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \delta_{i,j} \sigma^2$$

where  $\delta_{i,j}$  is the Kronecker delta function.

• Additive nature of Gaussians means we can simply add this term to existing covariance matrices.



















Can we determine length scales and noise levels from the data?

$$\mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{0},\mathbf{K}
ight) = rac{1}{(2\pi)^{rac{n}{2}}|\mathbf{K}|} \exp\left(-rac{\mathbf{y}^{ op}\mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{y}}{2}
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$$\log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{0},\mathbf{K}) = -\frac{n}{2}\log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2}\log |\mathbf{K}| - \frac{\mathbf{y}^{\top}\mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{y}}{2}$$

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Eigendecomposition of Covariance

# $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{\Lambda}^2 \mathbf{R}^\top$



where  $\Lambda$  is a *diagonal* matrix and  $\mathbf{R}^{\top}\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I}$ . Useful representation since  $|\mathbf{K}| = |\Lambda^2| = |\Lambda|^2$ .

Urtasun and Lawrence ()

Session 1: GP and Regression









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$$\Lambda =$$

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 $\begin{array}{c|cccc} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{array}$ 

$$|\mathbf{\Lambda}| = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3$$

Urtasun and Lawrence ()

 $\Lambda =$ 



$$|\mathbf{\Lambda}| = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$



$$|\mathbf{R}\mathbf{\Lambda}| = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$

Data Fit:  $\frac{\mathbf{y}^{-1}\mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{y}}{2}$ 



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$$E(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{K}| + \frac{\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{y}}{2}$$



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## Gene Expression Example



## Outline

The Gaussian Density

- 2 Covariance from Basis Functions
- 3 Basis Function Representations
- 4 Constructing Covariance
- **GP** Limitations
  - 6 Conclusions

## Limitations of Gaussian Processes

- Inference is  $O(n^3)$  due to matrix inverse (in practice use Cholesky).
- Gaussian processes don't deal well with discontinuities (financial crises, phosphorylation, collisions, edges in images).
- Widely used exponentiated quadratic covariance (RBF) can be too smooth in practice (but there are many alternatives!!).

# Summary

- Broad introduction to Gaussian processes.
  - Started with Gaussian distribution.
  - Motivated Gaussian processes through the multivariate density.
- Emphasized the role of the covariance (not the mean).
- Performs nonlinear regression with error bars.
- Parameters of the covariance function (kernel) are easily optimized with maximum likelihood.

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