



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

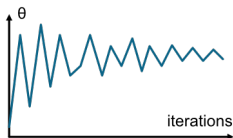
# Coupled Markov chains with applications to Approximate Bayesian Computation for model based clustering

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10 January 2022

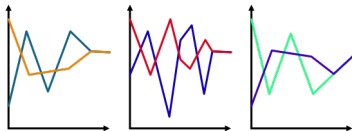
# Introduction

## A complex problem

1/7



**Unbiased Markov chain  
Monte Carlo methods with  
couplings**



likelihood



**Approximate Bayesian  
Computation**



# Approximate Bayesian Computation

*Inputs:*

- a target posterior density  $\pi(\theta|y_{obs}) \propto p(y_{obs}|\theta)\pi(\theta)$ , consisting of a prior distribution  $\pi(\theta)$  and a procedure of generating data under the model  $p(y_{obs}|\theta)$ ;
- a Markov proposal density  $g(\theta, \theta')=g(\theta'|\theta)$ ;
- an integer  $N > 0$ ;
- a kernel function  $K_h(u)$  and a scale parameter  $h > 0$ ;
- a low dimensional vector of summary statistics  $s = S(y)$ .

*Initialise:*

repeat:

- ① choose an initial parameter vector  $\theta^{(0)}$  from the support of  $\pi(\theta)$ ;
- ② generate  $y^{(0)} \sim p(y|\theta^{(0)})$  from the model and compute summary statistics  $s^{(0)} = S(y^{(0)})$ , until  $K_h(\|s^{(0)} - s_{obs}\|) > 0$ .

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- a kernel function  $K_h(u)$  and a scale parameter  $h > 0$ :

$$\pi(\theta, y|y_{obs}) \propto \mathbb{1}(\|y - y_{obs}\| \leq h) p(y|\theta) \pi(\theta)$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\pi_{ABC}(\theta, y|y_{obs}) \propto K_h(u) p(y|\theta) \pi(\theta)$$

Where  $K$  is a standard smoothing kernel function and:

$$K_h(u) = \frac{1}{h} K\left(\frac{u}{h}\right), \quad \text{with } u = \|y - y_{obs}\|$$

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### ABC Metropolis Hastings

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- a Markov proposal density  $g(\theta, \theta')=g(\theta'|\theta)$ ;
- an integer  $N > 0$ ;
- a kernel function  $K_h(u)$  and a scale parameter  $h > 0$ ;
- a low dimensional vector of summary statistics  $s = S(y)$ .

*Initialise:*

repeat:

- ① choose an initial parameter vector  $\theta^{(0)}$  from the support of  $\pi(\theta)$ ;
- ② generate  $y^{(0)} \sim p(y|\theta^{(0)})$  from the model and compute summary statistics  $s^{(0)} = S(y^{(0)})$ , until  $K_h(\|s^{(0)} - s_{obs}\|) > 0$ .



- a low dimensional vector of summary statistics  $s = S(y)$ :

$$K_h(\| y - y_{obs} \|)$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$K_h(\| S(y) - S(y_{obs}) \|)$$

*Inputs:*

- a target posterior density  $\pi(\theta|y_{obs}) \propto p(y_{obs}|\theta)\pi(\theta)$ , consisting of a prior distribution  $\pi(\theta)$  and a procedure of generating data under the model  $p(y_{obs}|\theta)$ ;
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- an integer  $N > 0$ ;
- a kernel function  $K_h(u)$  and a scale parameter  $h > 0$ ;
- a low dimensional vector of summary statistics  $s = S(y)$ .

*Initialise:*

repeat:

- ① choose an initial parameter vector  $\theta^{(0)}$  from the support of  $\pi(\theta)$ ;
- ② generate  $y^{(0)} \sim p(y|\theta^{(0)})$  from the model and compute summary statistics  $s^{(0)} = S(y^{(0)})$ , until  $K_h(\|s^{(0)} - s_{obs}\|) > 0$ .

*Sampling* for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ :

- 1 generate candidate vector  $\theta' \sim g(\theta^{(i-1)}, \theta)$  from the proposal density  $g$ ;
- 2 generate  $y' \sim p(y|\theta')$  from the model and compute summary statistics  $s' = S(y')$ ;
- 3 with probability

$$\min\left\{1, \frac{K_h(\|s' - s_{obs}\|)\pi(\theta')g(\theta', \theta^{(i-1)})}{K_h(\|s^{(i-1)} - s_{obs}\|)\pi(\theta^{(i-1)})g(\theta^{(i-1)}, \theta')}\right\}$$

set  $(\theta^{(i)}, s^{(i)}) = (\theta', s')$ . Otherwise set  $(\theta^{(i)}, s^{(i)}) = (\theta^{(i-1)}, s^{(i-1)})$ .

*Output*:

- a set of correlated parameter vectors  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(N)}$  from a Markov chain with stationary distribution  $\pi_{ABC}(\theta|S_{obs})$ .

**Summary statistic:**

Sample mean, vector of 9 quantiles

**Distance:**

2-norm of the difference

**Kernel:**

$$K(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}u^2}, \quad K_h(u) = \frac{K(\frac{u}{h})}{h}$$

## Model

$$Y_i | \mu \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma_{obs}^2)$$

$$\mu \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$$

$$\mu_0 = 8, \quad \sigma_0^2 = 4$$

## Dataset

100 samples generated from a Gaussian distribution:

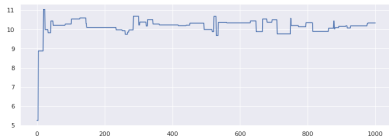
$$Y_{obs} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{obs}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$$

$$\mu_{obs} = 10, \quad \sigma_{obs}^2 = 3$$

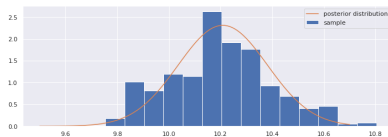
## Posterior distribution:

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu_n, \sigma_n^2), \mu_n = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma_{obs}^2}} \cdot \left( \frac{\mu_0}{\sigma_0^2} + \frac{\sum y_{obs}}{\sigma_{obs}^2} \right) \simeq 10.151, \sigma_n^2 = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_0^2} + \frac{n}{\sigma_{obs}^2}} \simeq 0.0298$$

Sampling

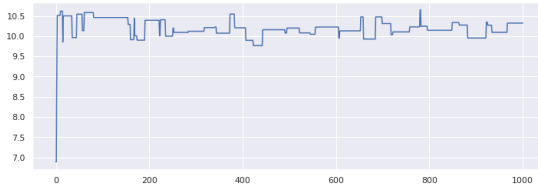


Sampling histogram with real distribution

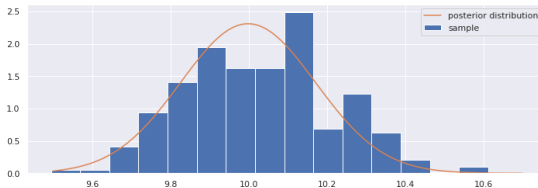


The same model using as summary statistic a vector of 9 quantiles:

### Sampling

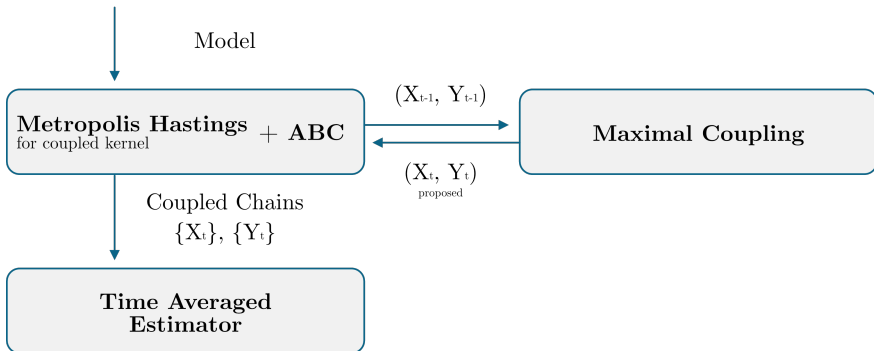


### Sampling histogram with real distribution



# The complete method: MCMC + Couplings + ABC





- ① Compute  $s_{obs} = S(y_{obs})$ ;
- ② generate  $\theta_x^{(0)} \sim \pi(\mu)$  and  $\theta_y^{(0)} \sim \pi(\mu)$  from prior density;
- ③ generate with a maximal coupling two samples of N observations such that  $y_{1i} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta_x^{(0)}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$  and  $y_{2j} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta_y^{(0)}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$ ;
- ④ compute  $s_x^{(0)} = S(y_1)$  and  $s_y^{(0)} = S(y_2)$ ;
- ⑤ until  $K_h(||s_x^{(0)} - s_{obs}||) > 0$ :
  - ▶ generate  $\theta_x^{(0)} \sim \pi(\mu)$  from prior density;
  - ▶ generate a sample of N observations such that  $y_{1i} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta_x^{(0)}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$ ;
  - ▶ compute  $s_x^{(0)} = S(y_1)$ ;
- ⑥ until  $K_h(||s_y^{(0)} - s_{obs}||) > 0$ :
  - ▶ generate  $\theta_y^{(0)} \sim \pi(\mu)$  from prior density;
  - ▶ generate a sample of N observations such that  $y_{2j} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta_y^{(0)}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$ ;
  - ▶ compute  $s_y^{(0)} = S(y_2)$ ;

8 for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ :

- ▶ generate  $[\theta_x^{(i)}, \theta_y^{(i)}]$  from a maximal coupling given  $[\theta_x^{(i-1)}, \theta_y^{(i-1)}]$ ;
- ▶ generate from a maximal coupling two samples of  $N$  observations  $y_1 \sim p(y|\theta_x^{(i)})$  and  $y_2 \sim p(y|\theta_y^{(i)})$ ;
- ▶ compute  $s_x^{(i)} = S(y_1)$  and  $s_y^{(i)} = S(y_2)$ ;
- ▶ accept  $\theta_x^{(i)}$  with probability

$$\frac{K_h(||s_x^{(i)} - s_{obs}||)\pi(\theta_x^{(i)})}{K_h(||s_x^{(i-1)} - s_{obs}||)\pi(\theta_x^{(i-1)})}$$

and accept  $\theta_y^{(i)}$  with probability

$$\frac{K_h(||s_y^{(i)} - s_{obs}||)\pi(\theta_y^{(i)})}{K_h(||s_y^{(i-1)} - s_{obs}||)\pi(\theta_y^{(i-1)})}.$$

As output we get two sets of parameter vectors:

$$\theta_x^{(1)}, \dots, \theta_x^{(N)} \sim \pi_{ABC}(\theta|y_{obs});$$

$$\theta_y^{(1)}, \dots, \theta_y^{(N)} \sim \pi_{ABC}(\theta|y_{obs}).$$

**Summary statistic:**

Sample mean, Sample Variance

**Distance:**

*$L^2$  – norm of the difference of  $S(y)$  and  $s_{obs}$*

**Kernel:**

$$K(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}u^2}, \quad K_h(u) = \frac{K(\frac{u}{h})}{h}$$

## Model

$$Y_i | \mu, \sigma^2 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$\mu \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$$

$$\sigma^2 \sim \text{InvGa}(a, b)$$

$$\pi(\mu, \sigma) = \pi(\mu) * \pi(\sigma)$$

$$\mu_0 = 34, \quad \sigma_0^2 = 3$$

$$a=b=1$$

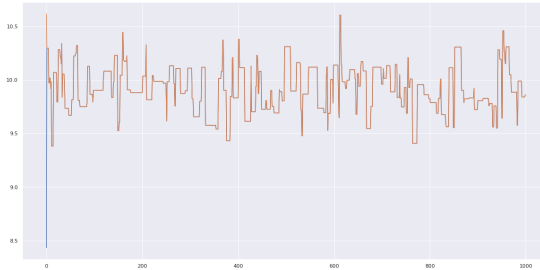
## Dataset

100 samples generated from a Gaussian distribution:

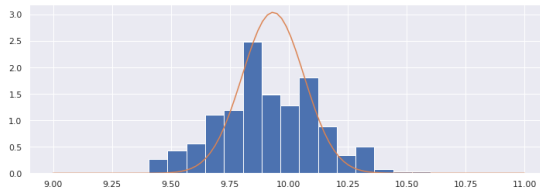
$$Y_{obs} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{obs}, \sigma_{obs}^2)$$

$$\mu_{obs} = 30, \quad \sigma_{obs}^2 = 2$$

## Coupled chains



## Sampling histogram with real distribution



# Conclusions



The next step will be the conclusion of the implementation of the MCMC with couplings and approximate bayesian computation on multivariate data.

Further steps will be implementing the version with unknown variance and testing on more complex data.

Finally, making comparisons with a standard MCMC algorithm.

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