# Uncertainty Estimation with Probabilistic Discriminative Deep Networks

In this implementation exercise, we understand the notions of aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties and practice modelling such uncertainties for simple deep networks.

#### Introduction

In standard discriminative modelling, we try to learn the parameters  $\theta$  of a deep network  $f_{\theta}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  that maps an input  $x \in \mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$  to its corresponding output  $\hat{y} = f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{Y}$ . The parameters  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p$  are trained on a training set of n samples  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ 

Predictive uncertainty estimation is concerned with reflecting a *degree of confidence* with a deep network's prediction. That is, instead of directly mapping the input  $\mathbf{x}$  to the corresponding prediction  $\hat{y}$ , it maps it to a distribution over possible outputs  $\hat{P}(y|\mathbf{x})$ .

In this implementation practical, we first create a toy dataset and then try simple techniques to model two main types of uncertainties: *aleatoric* and *epistemic*.

### **Types of Uncertainty**

**Aleatoric uncertainty**, also known as irreducable uncertainty, refers to the inherent uncertainty that are present in the observations  $(\mathbf{x}, y)$ . For instance, the measurements (e.g., length of a tool) can be noisy depending on the precision of the measuring device (e.g., a ruler with one-centimeter markings). This type of uncertainty cannot be remedied by better modelling or additional data, hence the adjective "irreducible". Aleatoric uncertainty can be either homoscedastic and heteroscedastic. Homoscedastic aleatoric uncertainty does not depend on a sample  $\mathbf{x}$  (e.g., the length of a tool can always have a fixed error of up to one centimeter) while a heteroscedastic aleatoric uncertainty can change depending on the sample (e.g., a depth camera might give more error on certain surfaces than others depending on the material of the surface and reflectance and illuminance properties).

**Epistemic uncertainty**, also known as knowledge uncertainty, is induced by a model's lack of (enough) knowledge about a certain sample to make a confident prediction on it. As such, epistemic uncertainty is always heteroscedastic *i.e.*, sample-dependent. Knowledge uncertainty is sometimes further divided into separate *model* and *distributional* uncertainties reflecting the uncertainty induced by the inability of modeling and lack of enough data respectively. As such, epistemic uncertainty can be tackled by either improving the modelling or increasing the dataset size.

We will use a few simple methods, described in the lectures, to tackle these uncertainties by using

- i) Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) of aleatoric uncertainty, and
- ii) Variational Inference (VI)-based Bayesian deep networks for epistemic uncertainty -- distributional uncertainty.

But let's first create a simple toy dataset.

```
In [48]: #@title Import the necessary libraries for creating the data (numpy) and plottin
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import tqdm

%matplotlib inline

rand_seed = 123

np.random.seed(rand_seed)
```

## **Toy Regression Dataset Creation**

#### Introduction

In this exercise the goal is to familiarize the students with basic concepts of deep probabilistic modelling. As such, we create and use a toy dataset since it will 1) allow us to put more emphasis on the pedagogical aspect of the practical, 2) it will make visualizing the important concepts easier, and 3) reduce the computational load necessary for the analysis.

### **Underlying Function**

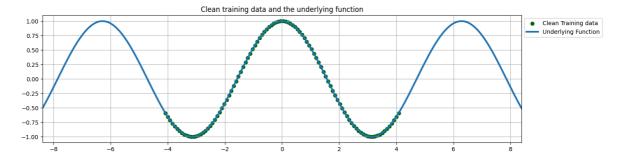
For this toy dataset, we consider a one-dimensional regression task  $\mathcal{X}=\mathbb{R} \to \mathcal{Y}=\mathbb{R}$ . The underlying true function is the periodic even cosine function  $y=\cos(x)$ . Modelling a periodic function can be generally challenging for a deep network.

#### **Basic Clean Training Set**

For the basic clean training set  $\mathcal{D}$ , we create n=100 samples with  $x\in[-1.3\pi,1.3\pi]$  and store them in the following variables.

```
# X_train  # training points input
# Y train true  # training points clean label
```

```
# we assume that the samples are uniformly distributed
             x = np.linspace(domain[0],
                              domain[1],
                              n_samples).reshape(-1, 1)
             if gaussian noise std is None and heteroscedastic noise fun is None:
                 y = np.cos(x)
             else:
                 gaussian_noise = np.random.randn(n_samples, 1)
                 if heteroscedastic_noise_fun is None:
                     y = np.cos(x) + gaussian_noise * gaussian_noise_std
                 else:
                     y = np.cos(x)
                     y = y + heteroscedastic_noise_fun(gaussian_noise,x,y)
             return x,y
In [50]: n_train = 100
         domain_train= np.pi * np.array([-1.3, 1.3])
         X_train, Y_train_true = sample_cosine(n_train,
                                                domain_train)
         let's visually inspect our clean training data
In [51]: #@title Define a function for visualization
         def visualize_samples(samples_list,ux,uy,domain_visualization,title, figsize=(15
             fig = plt.figure(figsize=figsize)
             for x_samples,y_samples,kwargs in samples_list:
                 plt.scatter(x_samples, y_samples,**kwargs)
             plt.plot(ux, uy, linewidth=3, label='Underlying Function')
             plt.xlim(domain_visualization)
             plt.title(title)
             plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1,1), loc="upper left")
             plt.grid()
In [52]: #@title Sample at a higher resolution for visualization of the true function
         domain_visualization = np.pi * np.array([-3.2, 3.2])
         visualization_resolution = 1000
         ux, uy = sample cosine(visualization resolution,
                                 domain_visualization)
In [53]: #@title Visualize training data
         visualization_train_kwargs = {'marker':'o',
                                        'linewidth':1,
                                        'color':'darkgreen',
                                        'label':'Clean Training data'}
         visualize_samples_list = [(X_train,
                                     Y train true,
                                     visualization_train_kwargs)]
         zooming_factor=1.2
         visualize_samples(visualize_samples_list,
                            ux,
                            domain_visualization/zooming_factor,
                            title='Clean training data and the underlying function')
```



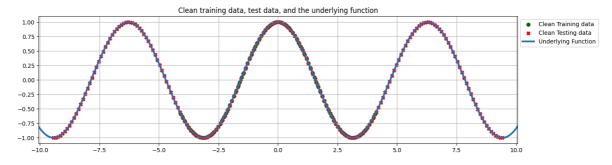
so, the training data densely covers the interval  $-1.3\pi, 1.3\pi$ .

#### **Basic Clean Test Set**

Now let's create a test set that covers inputs beyond the observed interval during training. For the basic clean test set  $\mathcal{D}_{test}$ , we create  $n_{test}=200$  samples with  $x\in[-3\pi,3\pi]$  and store them in the following variables.

```
# X_test  # test points input
# Y_test_true  # test points clean label
```

let's visually inspect our clean test and training data

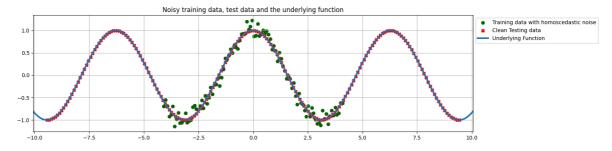


## Homoscedastic Gaussian Noise on the Training Set

Datasets are commonly noisy and this noise can be due to various reasons, for instance because of the measurement errors. So, a more realistic dataset will contain some noise in the labels. We will first create a dataset containing homoscedastic label noise -- a noise independent of the sample. For this, we choose an additive Gaussian noise  $\mathcal{N}(0,\sigma^2)$  with variance  $\sigma^2=0.01$ . We call the dataset with the homoscedastic noise  $\mathcal{D}^{homo}$ . It contains the same input samples as that of  $\mathcal{D}$  but the corresponding labels y are generated with additive gaussian noise and stored in the following variable.

# Y\_train\_homo # training points label with homoscedastic
additive Gaussiannoise

Now, let us visualize the training data with homoscedastic label noise this time.

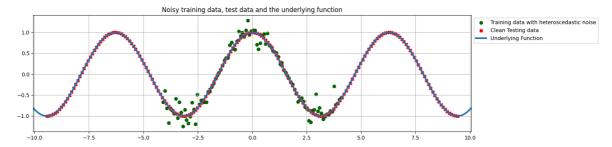


## Heteroscedastic Noise on the Training Set

We then create another dataset, but this time, containing *heteroscedastic* label noise -- a noise that is dependent on the sample. It is common for the label noise to be dependent on (specifically proportional to) the magnitude for continuous labels. For this reason, we choose a *multiplicative* Gaussian noise  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  with mean  $\mu=1$  and variance  $\sigma^2=0.04$ . We call the dataset with the heteroscedastic noise  $\mathcal{D}^{het}$ . It contains the same input samples as that of  $\mathcal{D}$  but the corresponding labels y are generated with multiplicative gaussian noise and stored in the following variable.

# Y\_train\_het # training points label with homoscedastic
additive Gaussiannoise

Now, let us visualize the training data with heteroscedastic label noise this time.



Note the higher noise when the underlying cosine value gets closer 1 or -1. Although, there might also be some optical illusion at play here due to the slope of the function!

## Regularized Risk Minimization

In a regularized risk minimization scheme, we train a model parametrized by  $\theta$ , on a training set  $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , using the following minimization:

$$heta^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{ heta} \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}) + \Omega( heta) = \operatorname{argmin}_{ heta} \sum_{i=1}^n l(f_{ heta}(x_i), y_i) + \Omega( heta), \tag{1}$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  is the total loss function operating on the whole training set, l is the sample loss function operating on individual training pairs  $(x_i, y_i)$  and  $\Omega$  is a regularization cost function.

Note that, it is quite common to use an average loss  $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}}{n}$  instead of a sum, for it to be easier to set optimization parameters independent of the training set / batch size.

### Training a Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)

Initially, we train a MLP, also known as fully-connected network, parametrized by its weights and biases  $\theta$ . We use three hidden layers of size 100,40,100 units and the

Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU),  $\max(0,h)$ , as the activation function. We adopt mean squared error as the loss function and weight decay as the regularization technique. Throughout this practical, we use Jax as the framework to implement our deep networks.

#### Jax Deep Learning Framework

Jax uses a standard python (Numpy) implementation for describing a model's operations and enables GPU-optimized and differentible training using XLA and Autograd respectively. A simple tutorial can be found on the project page: https://github.com/google/jax.

Let us first import the necessary Jax libraries.

```
import time

import jax.numpy as jnp
from jax import grad, jit, vmap, value_and_grad
from jax import random
from jax import nn
from jax.example_libraries import optimizers

from functools import partial

# initialize the random generator
key = random.PRNGKey(rand_seed)
```

Next, we define the configuration of the fully-connected (FC) network:

```
In [61]: # standard network's configurations
  input_dim = X_train.shape[1]
  output_dim = Y_train_true.shape[1]
  layers_width = [100, 40, 100]
  num_epochs = 1000
  step_size = 1e-2
```

Now, we define two python functions; one for initializing the parameters of a FC *layer* and another for the feed-forward computation of a FC *layer*.

```
In [62]: # Initialize the parameters of a standard fully-connected Layer

def standard_fc_layer_init(input_dim, output_dim, key, scale=1e-2):
    keys = random.split(key, 2)
    weights = random.normal(keys[0], (output_dim, input_dim)) * scale
    biases = random.normal(keys[1], (output_dim, 1)) * scale
    return weights, biases
In [63]: # Forward pass of a standard fully-connected layer
def standard_fc_layer_forward(input, weights, biases):
```

return jnp.dot(weights, input) + biases

Next, we define two python functions; one for initializing the parameters of a FC *network* and another for the feed-forward computation of a FC *network*.

```
In [64]: # Initialize A standard fully-connected network
def standard_fc_network_init(input_dim, layers_width, output_dim, key):
```

```
In [65]: # Forward pass of a standard fully-connected network
def standard_fc_network_forward(input, params, is_classification=False):
    representation = input
    for weights, biases in params[:-1]:
        representation = nn.relu(standard_fc_layer_forward(representation, weigh
    representation = standard_fc_layer_forward(representation, params[-1][0], par

if is_classification:
    logits = representation - nn.logsumexp(representation)
    return logits

return representation
```

In the following, we define a python function corresponding to the mean squared error (MSE) loss, as

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} l(f_{\theta}(x_i), y_i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i)^2$$
 (1)

```
In [66]: def loss_mse(params, X, Y):
    """ Compute the MSE loss """
    preds = standard_fc_network_forward(X, params)
    return jnp.mean(jnp.power(preds[0,:] - Y, 2))
```

Finally, we implement the code necessary for optimizing the network's parameters using the training data.

```
In [67]: # Compute the gradient for a batch and update the parameters
    @partial(jit, static_argnums=(4,))
    def update(params, X, Y, opt_state, loss):
        value, grads = value_and_grad(loss)(params, X, Y)
        opt_state = opt_update(0, grads, opt_state)
        return get_params(opt_state), opt_state, value
```

```
# Loop over the training epochs
for epoch in range(num_epochs):
    start_time = time.time()
    params, opt_state, loss_val = update(params, X.T, Y.T, opt_state, loss)
    epoch_time = time.time() - start_time
    test_mse.append(loss_mse(params[:num_layers], X_test.T, Y_test.T))
    train_loss.append(loss(params, X.T, Y.T))
    train_mse.append(loss_mse(params[:num_layers], X.T, Y.T))
    if epoch==0 or (epoch+1)%200 == 0:
        print("Epoch {} | T: {:0.6f} | Train loss:"
              " {:0.3f} | Train mse: {:0.3f} | Test mse:"
              " {:0.3f}".format(epoch+1,
                                epoch_time,
                                train_loss[-1],
                                train_mse[-1],
                                test_mse[-1]))
return params, train_loss, train_mse, test_mse
```

```
In [69]: | def visulize_predictions(Y_test_pred, title_text, X_train=[], Y_train=[], sigma_
             fig = plt.figure(figsize=(15, 4))
             ux = np.pi * np.linspace(-3, 3, 1000).reshape(-1, 1)
             uy = np.cos(ux)
             plt.plot(ux, uy, linewidth=3, label='Underlying Function')
             plt.plot(X_test, Y_test_pred.T, linewidth=3, color='red', label='Prediction
             axes = plt.gca()
             axes.set_ylim([-1.5,1.5])
             if not jnp.isscalar(sigma_param) or sigma_param >= 0:
                 plt.fill_between(X_test.ravel(),
                                  (Y_test_pred + 2 * sigma_param).ravel(),
                                  (Y_test_pred - 2 * sigma_param).ravel(),
                                  alpha=0.3, label='Uncertainty')
                 plt.scatter(X_train,
                              Y train,
                              marker='o',
                              linewidth=1,
                              color='darkgreen',
                              label='Clean Training data')
             plt.title(title_text)
             plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1,1), loc="upper left")
             plt.grid()
```

What all in place, now, let us launch the training for the clean dataset and visualize the learnt function.

```
Starting loss: 0.554691 Starting mse: 0.554691

Epoch 1 | T: 0.208302 | Train loss: 0.547 | Train mse: 0.547 | Test mse: 0.503

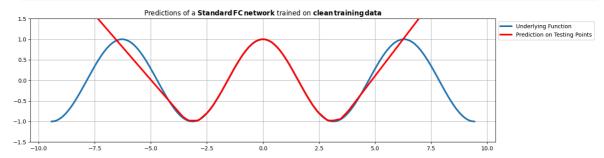
Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.000 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 0.911

Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.000 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.382

Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.000 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.637

Epoch 800 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.000 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.830

Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.000 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.977
```



We get a great match in the training range  $[-1.3\pi, 1.3\pi]$  while the predictions become poor outside this range which is understandable due to the hardness of generalizing to periodic functions after only observing one period and in the absence of helpful inductive biases.

Now, let's train and test on the training data with homoscedastic noise

```
# Initialize the network parameters
params_hom = standard_fc_network_init(input_dim,
                                       layers width,
                                       output_dim,
                                       key)
# Defining an optimizer in Jax
opt_init, opt_update, get_params = optimizers.adam(step_size)
opt_state = opt_init(params_hom)
params_hom, \
train loss hom,\
train_mse_hom,\
test_mse_hom = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                  opt state,
                                  X train,
                                  Y train hom,
                                  X_test,
                                  Y_test_true,
```

```
len(layers_width)+1,
loss_mse)
```

```
Starting loss: 0.580514 Starting mse: 0.580514

Epoch 1 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.573 | Train mse: 0.573 | Test mse: 0.503

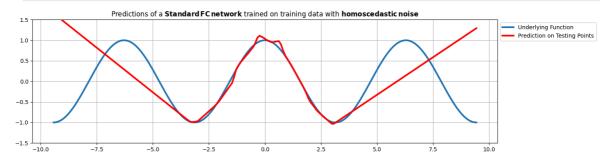
Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.011 | Train mse: 0.011 | Test mse: 0.667

Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.010 | Train mse: 0.010 | Test mse: 0.611

Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.010 | Train mse: 0.010 | Test mse: 0.676

Epoch 800 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.009 | Train mse: 0.009 | Test mse: 0.698

Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.009 | Train mse: 0.009 | Test mse: 0.750
```



We can see that the network overfits to some of the noise present in the training data.

Let us go to the dataset exhibiting heteroscedastic label noise next:

```
In [74]: # Initialize the network parameters
         params_het = standard_fc_network_init(input_dim,
                                                layers_width,
                                                output_dim,
                                                key)
         # Defining an optimizer in Jax
         opt init, opt update, get params = optimizers.adam(step size)
         opt_state = opt_init(params_het)
         params_het,\
         train_loss_het,\
         train mse het,\
         test_mse_het = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                           opt state,
                                           X_train,
                                           Y train het,
                                           X_test,
                                           Y_test_true,
                                           len(layers width)+1,
                                           loss mse)
```

```
Starting loss: 0.5626914 Starting mse: 0.5626914

Epoch 1 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.556 | Train mse: 0.556 | Test mse: 0.503

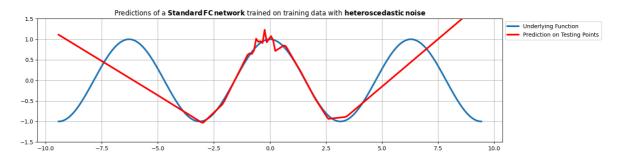
Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.020 | Train mse: 0.020 | Test mse: 0.522

Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.018 | Train mse: 0.018 | Test mse: 0.561

Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.017 | Train mse: 0.017 | Test mse: 0.660

Epoch 800 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.017 | Train mse: 0.017 | Test mse: 0.766

Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 0.017 | Train mse: 0.017 | Test mse: 0.787
```



Here we (usually) see that the network overfits a bit more to the heteroscedastic noise present in the training data. We said "usually" since it depends on the randomly generated data and trained fit.

## Training with Assuming a Label Noise Distribution

In the lectures, we discussed that one way to model aleatoric uncertainty is using maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) in tandem with a model that can output probability distributions. Here, we are going to follow this idea to see how well this approach can predict the aleatoric uncertainty.

## Modelling Aleatoric Uncertainty: Learning to predict a fixed (homoscedastic) uncertainty

For a maximum likelihood estimation we need to devise a likelihood function. Let's assume a Gaussian likelihood function, parametrized by a deep network to give its mean and variance, given an input. In this first part, we assume the deep network produces a fixed variance independent of the input sample while the mean is dependent on the input sample. That is, our likelihood function has the following form:

$$P(y|\mathbf{x};\theta) = \mathcal{N}(\mu = f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}), \sigma^2 = f'_{\theta}). \tag{2}$$

Think(!) how this is the same as assuming an additive Gaussian noise with a fixed variance on the labels.

First, we consider an additional parameter for the fixed variance and initialize the rest of the network parameters as before.

```
In [76]: # assume one scalar for the fixed standard dev of the likelihood's Gaussian
sigma_param = jnp.array(jnp.log(0.2))

# Initialize the network parameters that will produce the mean of the likelihood
params_homo_model_clean_data = standard_fc_network_init(input_dim,
```

Then, we would like to find  $\theta$  that maximizes the likelihood of our observed data:

$$\theta^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(y_i | \mathbf{x}_i; \theta).$$
 (3)

Taking the log and plugging in the Normal distributions we get:

$$heta^* = ext{argmax}_{ heta} \sum_{i=1}^n \log \mathcal{N}(\mu = f_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}_i), \sigma^2 = f_{ heta}')|_{y_i} = ext{argmin}_{ heta} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( rac{(y_i - f_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}_i))^2}{2f_{ heta}'} + 
ight.$$

#### **TODO**: Complete Equations.

\_\_\_\_\_

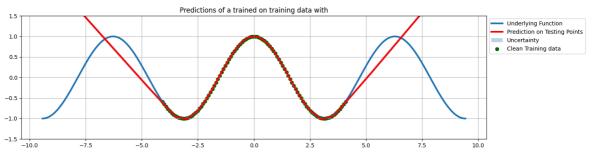
Your job is now to fill in the missing part above and implement the corresponding loss function. Note that the expected term is an *argmin*.

**Important note.** While the log product of the MLE leads to a sum term of the samples' negative log likelihoods, in practice, similar to the RRM case, we often times turn the sum into a mean, especially when used with mini-batch training, since that makes a universal setting of a learning rate and generally the hyperparameters simpler. We expect you to do the same and turn the sum into a mean in your code below, as otherwise, you will have to search for proper hyperparameters, particularly the learning rate.

```
# raise NotImplementedError("Task: Implement!")
# loss = NotImplemented
return loss
```

```
In [78]:
         params_homo_model_clean_data,\
         train_loss_homo_model_clean_data,\
         train_mse_homo_model_clean_data,\
         test_mse_homo_model_clean_data = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                                             opt_state, X_train,
                                                             Y_train_true, X_test,
                                                             Y_test_true,
                                                             len(layers_width)+1,
                                                             loss_mle_homoscedastic)
         sigma_param = jnp.exp(params_homo_model_clean_data[-1])
         print('The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation'
                ' for clean data is: ',
               sigma_param)
         Y test pred homo model clean data = standard fc network forward(X test.T,
                                                                           params_homo_mode
         visulize_predictions(Y_test_pred_homo_model_clean_data,
                               r'Predictions of a'
                               r' trained on training data with',
                               X_train,
                               Y_train_true,
                               sigma_param)
```

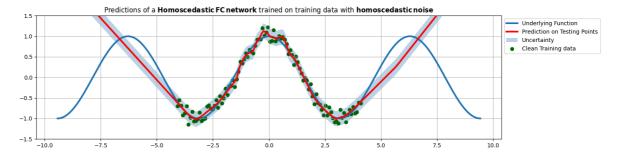
```
Starting loss: 624.3139    Starting mse: 0.554691
Epoch 1 | T: 0.188187 | Train loss: 602.293 | Train mse: 0.547 | Test mse: 0.503
Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -74.288 | Train mse: 0.001 | Test mse: 0.78
5
Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -139.558 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.3
24
Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -196.760 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.6
45
Epoch 800 | T: 0.001001 | Train loss: -235.590 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.6
75
Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -293.556 | Train mse: 0.000 | Test mse: 1.6
42
The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation for clean data is: 0.01981713
8
```



The model with homoscedastic noise should learn a function that has negligible uncertainty.

```
In [79]: # assume one scalar for the fixed standard dev of the likelihood's Gaussian
         sigma_param = jnp.array(jnp.log(0.2))
         # Initialize the network parameters that will produce the mean of the likelihood
         params_homo_model_homo_data = standard_fc_network_init(input_dim,
                                                                 layers width,
                                                                 output_dim,
                                                                 key)
         # add the likelihood's Gaussian's standard dev to the list of parameters
         params_homo_model_homo_data.append(sigma_param)
         # Defining an optimizer in Jax
         opt_init, opt_update, get_params = optimizers.adam(step_size)
         opt_state = opt_init(params_homo_model_homo_data)
         params homo model homo data,\
         train_loss_homo_model_homo_data,\
         train mse homo model homo data,\
         test_mse_homo_model_homo_data = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                                            opt_state,
                                                            X_train,
                                                            Y train hom,
                                                            X test,
                                                            Y_test_true,
                                                            len(layers_width)+1,
                                                            loss_mle_homoscedastic)
         sigma_param = jnp.exp(params_homo_model_homo_data[-1])
         print('The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation '
               'for data with fixed additive Gaussian noise is: ',
               sigma_param)
         Y_test_pred_homo_model_homo_data = standard_fc_network_forward(X_test.T,
                                                                         params homo model
         visulize_predictions(Y_test_pred_homo_model_homo_data,
                              r'Predictions of a $\bf{Homoscedastic\, FC\, network}$'
                              r' trained on training data with $\bf{homoscedastic\, noise
                              X_train,
                              Y train hom,
                              sigma_param)
        Starting loss: 656.5927 Starting mse: 0.580514
        Epoch 1 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 634.054 | Train mse: 0.573 | Test mse: 0.503
        Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -52.231 | Train mse: 0.011 | Test mse: 0.58
        Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -81.799 | Train mse: 0.010 | Test mse: 0.88
        Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -88.007 | Train mse: 0.010 | Test mse: 1.07
        Epoch 800 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -95.501 | Train mse: 0.009 | Test mse: 1.52
        Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -95.550 | Train mse: 0.009 | Test mse: 1.6
        The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation for data with fixed additive G
```

aussian noise is: 0.09311838



Are you happy with the predicted uncertainty? Does the uncertainty shading contain most observed datapoints?

Now, let us try it on the data with variable (heteroscedastic) label noise.

```
In [80]:
         # assume one scalar for the fixed standard dev of the likelihood's Gaussian
         sigma_param = jnp.array(jnp.log(0.2))
         # Initialize the network parameters that will produce the mean of the likelihood
         params_homo_model_het_data = standard_fc_network_init(input_dim,
                                                                layers_width,
                                                                output_dim,
                                                                key)
         # add the likelihood's Gaussian's standard dev to the list of parameters
         params_homo_model_het_data.append(sigma_param)
         # Defining an optimizer in Jax
         opt_init, opt_update, get_params = optimizers.adam(step_size)
         opt_state = opt_init(params_homo_model_het_data)
         params_homo_model_het_data,\
         train_loss_homo_model_het_data,\
         train_mse_homo_model_het_data,\
         test_mse_homo_model_het_data = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                                           opt state,
                                                           X_train,
                                                           Y train het,
                                                           X_test,
                                                           Y_test_true,
                                                           len(layers_width)+1,
                                                           loss mle homoscedastic)
         sigma_param = jnp.exp(params_homo_model_het_data[-1])
         print('The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation '
                'for data with variable (heteroscedastic) noise is: ',
               sigma_param)
         Y test pred homo model het data = standard fc network forward(X test.T, params h
         visulize_predictions(Y_test_pred_homo_model_het_data,
                               r'Predictions of a $\bf{Homoscedastic\, FC\, network}$'
                               r' trained on training data with $\bf{heteroscedastic\, noi
                               X train,
                               Y train het,
                               sigma_param)
```

```
Starting loss: 634.31445  Starting mse: 0.5626914

Epoch 1 | T: 0.001001 | Train loss: 612.794 | Train mse: 0.556 | Test mse: 0.503

Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -37.629 | Train mse: 0.021 | Test mse: 0.50

Epoch 400 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -52.920 | Train mse: 0.019 | Test mse: 0.53

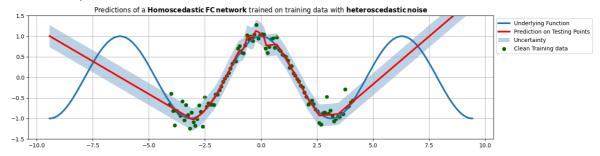
Epoch 600 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -57.344 | Train mse: 0.019 | Test mse: 0.60

Epoch 800 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -58.510 | Train mse: 0.018 | Test mse: 0.68

Epoch 1000 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: -59.993 | Train mse: 0.018 | Test mse: 0.7

74
```

The final trained homoscedastic standard deviation for data with variable (hetero scedastic) noise is: 0.13372436



How about now? Are you as happy with the predicted uncertainty? Does the uncertainty shading contain similar amount of observed datapoints? Does the fixed uncertainty make sense in all regions of the input? If not as happy, we will re-explore this idea with heteroscedastic noise modeling in another implementation practical, so stay tuned!

# Variational Inference for Deep Regression Networks

In this part of the practical we are interested in epistemic uncertainty estimation with deep networks based on the following paper.

[1] Blundell et al., "Weight Uncertainty in Neural Networks", ICML 2015

In order to model epistemic uncertainty, we can use Bayesian modelling to obtain a posterior distribution on model parameters:

$$P(\theta|\mathcal{D}) = \frac{P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)P(\theta)}{P(\mathcal{D})} \tag{5}$$

Using this posterior distribution, we can transfer the uncertainty in model parameters to uncertainty in predictive distribution, where, for a new test sample  $\mathbf{x}$ :

$$P(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathcal{D}) = \int P(y|\mathbf{x}, \theta) P(\theta|\mathcal{D}) d\theta. \tag{6}$$

However, obtaining  $P(\theta|\mathcal{D})$  can be problematic due to the interactability of calculating  $P(\mathcal{D})$ . Thus, there are several techniques developed to approximate the posterior distribution  $P(\theta|\mathcal{D})$ . One of these techniques is called Variational Inference (VI). In VI, we seek to identify another, simpler, distribution  $Q_{\omega}(\theta)$ , parametrized by  $\omega$ , that approximates  $P(\theta|\mathcal{D})$ . In VI, we can maximize the variational lower bound (ELBO), or minimize a negated version, as follows (details provided in the course lectures and the VAE practical):

$$\omega^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega} - \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\omega}(\theta)}[\log P(\mathcal{D}|\theta)] + \operatorname{D}_{\operatorname{KL}}(Q_{\omega}(\theta)||P(\theta)) \tag{7}$$

Assuming i.i.d. dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  we will have:

$$\omega^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega} - \mathbb{E}_{Q_{\omega}(\theta)}[\sum_{i=1}^n \log P(y|\mathbf{x}, \theta)] + \operatorname{D}_{\operatorname{KL}}(Q_{\omega}(\theta)||P(\theta))$$
 (8)

Using monte-carlo estimation of the expecation with S samples we get:

$$\omega^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega} - rac{1}{S} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log P(y|\mathbf{x}, heta_s) + \operatorname{D}_{\operatorname{KL}}(Q_{\omega}( heta)||P( heta)),$$
 (2)

where,  $\{ heta_s\}_{s=1}^S \sim Q_\omega( heta)$ .

Let us consider the following distributions:

- ullet  $P( heta)=\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}_p,a^2\mathbf{I}_p)$  with  $a^2=10^{-4}$  ightharpoonup this is the prior term
- $Q_{\omega=(\mu,\sigma^2)}(\theta)=\mathcal{N}(\mu,diag(\sigma^2))$  with  $\mu\in\mathbb{R}^p$  and  $\sigma^2\in\mathbb{R}^p_+$  this is the approximate posterior distribution
- $P(y|\mathbf{x},\theta) = \mathcal{N}(f^{\mu}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}),f^{\sigma^2}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}))$  with  $f^{\mu}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $f^{\sigma^2}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}_+$  this is a predictive distribution

where  $\mathbf{I}_p$  is the  $p \times p$  identity matrix,  $\mathbf{0}_p$  is the p-dimensional 0-vector,  $f_\theta$  denotes the deep network's function. We assume, for each input  $\mathbf{x}$ , the deep network  $f_\theta$  outputs (two) parameters of a normal distribution with  $f_\theta^\mu(\mathbf{x})$  and  $f_\theta^{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{x})$  denoting its mean and variance repsectively for the input  $\mathbf{x}$ . Also, note that we assume  $P(\theta)$  and  $Q_\omega(\theta)$  have diagonal covariance matrices.

Following [1], to avoid numerical issues with modeling variance, in the implementation we will model  $\rho$  instead of  $\sigma$  and we obtain the standard variation using the softplus operation as:

$$\sigma = \log(1 + \exp(\rho)) \tag{9}$$

Now, your job is to plug in the distributions above into the objective in equation 2 assuming a single-sample monte-carlo estimate (S=1). Note that the KL divergence of two Gaussians have a closed-from solution and the natural logarithm of a Gaussian gives away two simple terms and a constant. Fill in the following objective equation with your derived terms:

$$\omega^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\omega} - (\sum_{i=1}^n -rac{1}{2} \log(2*\pi*f^{\sigma^2}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x})) - rac{(y-f^{\mu}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}))^2}{(2*f^{\sigma^2}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x}))}) + \sum_{j=1}^p rac{1}{2} \left(rac{\sigma^2_j}{a^2} + rac{f^{\sigma^2}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x})}{a^2} + rac{f^{\sigma^2}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x})}{a^2} + rac{f^{\sigma^2}_{ heta}(\mathbf{x})}{a^2} 
ight)$$

**1** 

-----

#### **TODO**: Complete Equations.

Furthermore, we saw in the class that backpropagating through a stochastic node is problematic. One simple remedy, among others [2], to this problem is called reparametrization trick. There, for a Gaussian distribution, one can sample  $\epsilon$  from a fixed (non-learnable) standard Gaussian distribution , $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}_p, \mathbf{I}_p)$ , and then transfer its sample into a sample of the original (non-standard) Gaussian distribution by

$$\theta_s = \sigma \otimes \epsilon + \mu \quad \text{with } \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}_p, \mathbf{I}_p)$$
 (11)

where  $\otimes$  denotes an elementwise (Hadamard) product.

In the following, we consider a fixed aleatoric uncertainty where we set  $f_{\hat{\theta}}^{\sigma^2}(\mathbf{x}_i) = c^2$  that means our likelihood function takes the form  $P(y|\mathbf{x},\theta) = \mathcal{N}(f_{\theta}^{\mu}(\mathbf{x}),c^2)$ . Next, you will need to implement the objective function that you derived above using  $c^2=1$  and the reparametrization trick.

**Important Note.** unlike the first part, here we use sum instead of mean for the error term, not to unexpectedly meddle with the balance between the first (expectation) and second (KL divergence) of our loss function (negative ELBO). That is, the default hyperparameters are optimized for a sum corresponding to the expectation term in the ELBO.

- [1] Blundell et al., "Weight Uncertainty in Neural Networks", ICML 2015
- [2] Bengio, et al., "Estimating or Propagating Gradients", 2013

```
In [81]: # VI network's configurations
  input_dim = X_train.shape[1]
  output_dim = Y_train_true.shape[1]
  layers_width = [100, 40, 100]
  kl_prior_mean = 0
```

```
kl_prior_sigma = 1e-2
         kl_weight = 1e-4
In [82]: # Initialize the parameters of a VI-based fully-connected layer
         def vi_fc_layer_init(input_dim, output_dim, key, scale=1e-2):
             keys = random.split(key, 2)
             weights_mean = random.normal(keys[0], (output_dim, input_dim)) * scale
             weights_rho = -2*jnp.ones((output_dim, input_dim))
             biases_mean = random.normal(keys[1], (output_dim, 1)) * scale
             biases_rho = -2*jnp.ones((output_dim, 1))
             return weights_mean, weights_rho, biases_mean, biases_rho
In [83]: # Forward pass of a VI-based fully-connected layer
         def vi_fc_layer_forward(input, weights_mean, weights_rho, biases_mean, biases_rh
                 TODO: Implementation required.
                 _____
                 Implement the reparametrization trick:

    Obtain a sample of approximate distributions N(weights_mean, weights_

                 1.1 Obtain weights_sigma and biases_sigma by using nn.softplus
                 1.2 Sample from standard Gaussian distribution using random.normal
                 1.3 Transform the sample into a sample of the desired Gaussian distribut
                 2. Return the affine transformation of the input using the sampled weigh
                 Note. You can implement this function without any for loop.
             weights_sigma = nn.softplus(weights_rho)
             biases_sigma = nn.softplus(biases_rho)
             key_w, key_b = random.split(key)
             epsilon_w = random.normal(key_w, weights_mean.shape)
             epsilon_b = random.normal(key_b, biases_mean.shape)
             weights_sample = weights_mean + weights_sigma * epsilon_w
             biases_sample = biases_mean + biases_sigma * epsilon_b
             forward = jnp.dot(weights_sample, input) + biases_sample
             # raise NotImplementedError("Task: Implement!")
             weights = weights_sample
             biases = biases sample
             output = forward
             return output
In [84]: # Initialize a VI-based fully-connected network
         def vi_fc_network_init(input_dim, layers_width, output_dim, key):
           network_feature_dims = [input_dim, *layers_width, output_dim]
           keys = random.split(key, len(network_feature_dims[:-1]))
           params = [vi_fc_layer_init(network_feature_dims[i],
                                      network_feature_dims[i+1],
                                      keys[i])
                     for i in range(len(network feature dims[:-1]))]
           return params
In [85]: # Forward pass of a VI-based fully-connected network
         def vi_fc_network_forward(input, params, key, is_classification=False):
             representation = input
             keys = random.split(key, len(params))
             for (weights mean, weights rho, biases mean, biases rho), key in zip(params[
                 representation = nn.relu(vi_fc_layer_forward(representation, weights_mea
```

representation = vi\_fc\_layer\_forward(representation, params[-1][0], params[-

```
return representation
```

```
In [86]: params = vi_fc_network_init(input_dim,
                                    layers_width,
                                    output_dim,
                                    key)
In [87]: def kl_divergence_two_diagonal_gaussians(q_mu, q_sigma, p_mu, p_sigma):
                calculates the KL-divergence a diagnoal Gaussian distribution {\bf p} from
                another diagnoal Gaussian distribution q.
                i.e., DKL[N(q_mu,q_sigma^2), N(p_mu, p_sigma^2)]
                For convenience, mu and sigma can also be scalars.
             q_mu = q_mu.flatten()
             q_sigma = q_sigma.flatten()
             N = q_mu.shape[0]
             p_sigma *= p_sigma
             q_sigma *= q_sigma
             if jnp.isscalar(p_mu):
                 p_mu = p_mu * jnp.ones_like(q_mu)
                 p_sigma = p_sigma * jnp.ones_like(q_mu)
             else:
                 p_mu = p_mu.flatten()
                 p_sigma = p_sigma.flatten()
             p_mu = p_mu.reshape(N)
             q_mu = q_mu.reshape(N)
             p_sigma = p_sigma.reshape(N)
             q_sigma = q_sigma.reshape(N)
             ip sigma = 1/p sigma
             diff = p mu - q mu
             tr_term = jnp.sum(ip_sigma * q_sigma)
             det_term = jnp.sum(jnp.log(p_sigma/q_sigma))
             quad_term = diff.T @ jnp.diag(1/p_sigma) @ diff
             return .5 * (tr_term + det_term + quad_term - N)
In [ ]: def vi_loss(params, X, Y, prior_mu, prior_sigma, kl_weight, key, is_classificati
             _____
             TODO: Implementation required.
             _____
             Implement the VI loss function you derived in the instructions
             1. Ebatch_size = X.shape[0]
             3. For a better learning dynamics use kl weight as a coefficient to
                downweigh the KL term (prior),
                i.e., - expected_likelihood_term + kl_wieght*kl_prior_term
             Note. You need to implement part of the loss function layer by layer.
                   You can iterate through the network layers' wieghts and biases using
```

the following syntax:

```
"for weights_mean, weights_rho, biases_mean, biases_rho in params:"
             batch_size = X.shape[0]
             kl_prior_term = 0
             preds = vi_fc_network_forward(X, params, key)
             for weights_mean, weights_rho, biases_mean, biases_rho in params:
                 weights_sigma = nn.softplus(weights_rho)
                 biases_sigma = nn.softplus(biases_rho)
                 kl_div_weights = kl_divergence_two_diagonal_gaussians(weights_mean, weig
                 kl_div_biases = kl_divergence_two_diagonal_gaussians(biases_mean, biases
                 kl_prior_term += kl_div_weights + kl_div_biases
             pred_mu = preds
             pred_var = 1.0
             n11 = 0.5 * jnp.log(2 * jnp.pi * pred_var) + 0.5 * (Y - pred_mu)**2 / pred_var)
             expected likelihood term = jnp.sum(nll)
             total_loss = expected_likelihood_term + kl_weight * kl_prior_term
             return total_loss
In [89]: # Compute the gradient for a batch and update the parameters
         @jit
         def update(params, X, Y, opt_state, key):
             value, grads = value_and_grad(vi_loss)(params,
                                                     Χ,
                                                     Υ,
                                                     kl_prior_mean,
                                                     kl_prior_sigma,
                                                     kl_weight,
                                                     key)
             opt_state = opt_update(0, grads, opt_state)
             return get_params(opt_state), opt_state, value
         # Defining an optimizer in Jax
         step\_size = 1e-2
         opt_init, opt_update, get_params = optimizers.adam(step_size)
         opt state = opt init(params)
         num epochs = 250
In [90]: # Implements a learning loop over epochs.
         def run_training_loop(num_epochs, opt_state, X, Y, X_test, Y_test):
             # Initialize placeholder for logging
             train_loss, test_loss = [], []
             # Get the initial set of parameters
             params = get_params(opt_state)
             keys = random.split(key)
             # Get initial accuracy after random init
             train_loss.append(vi_loss(params,
                                        X.T,
                                        Y.T,
                                        kl prior mean,
                                        kl_prior_sigma,
```

```
kl_weight,
                                        keys[0]))
             test_loss.append(vi_loss(params,
                                       X_test.T,
                                       Y_test.T,
                                       kl_prior_mean,
                                       kl_prior_sigma,
                                       kl_weight,
                                       keys[1]))
             keys = random.split(key, num_epochs*2)
             # Loop over the training epochs
             for epoch in range(num_epochs):
                 start_time = time.time()
                  params, opt_state, loss_val = update(params,
                                                       X.T,
                                                       Υ.Τ,
                                                       opt_state,
                                                       keys[epoch*2])
                 train_loss.append(loss_val)
                 epoch_time = time.time() - start_time
                 test_loss.append(vi_loss(params,
                                           X_test.T,
                                           Y_test.T,
                                           kl_prior_mean,
                                           kl_prior_sigma,
                                           kl_weight,
                                           keys[epoch*2+1]))
                 if epoch==0 or (epoch+1)\%50 == 0:
                      print("Epoch {} | T: {:0.6f} | Train loss: {:0.3f}"
                              " | Test loss: {:0.3f}".format(epoch+1,
                                                         epoch_time,
                                                         train loss[-1],
                                                         test_loss[-1]))
             return params, train_loss, test_loss
In [91]: def visualize_VI(params, X_train, Y_train, plot_title, num_trials = 10):
             Y_test_pred_list = []
             keys = random.split(key, num_trials)
             for i in tqdm.tqdm(range(num trials)):
                 Y_test_pred = vi_fc_network_forward(X_test.T, params, keys[i])
                 Y_test_pred_list.append(Y_test_pred)
             Y_test_preds = np.concatenate(Y_test_pred_list, axis=0)
             print(Y test preds.shape)
             Y test pred mean = np.mean(Y test preds, axis=0)
             Y_test_pred_sigma = np.std(Y_test_preds, axis=0)
             visulize_predictions(Y_test_pred_mean,
```

plot\_title, X\_train, Y train,

Y\_test\_pred\_sigma)

```
Epoch 1 | T: 1.177014 | Train loss: 92.780 | Test loss: 121.873

Epoch 50 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 59.284 | Test loss: 312.675

Epoch 100 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 48.385 | Test loss: 493.917

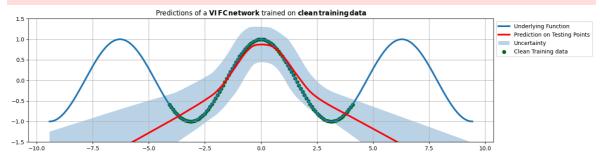
Epoch 150 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 40.495 | Test loss: 384.420

Epoch 200 | T: 0.001015 | Train loss: 30.575 | Test loss: 261.396

Epoch 250 | T: 0.001005 | Train loss: 26.684 | Test loss: 357.723
```

100%| 10/10 [00:00<00:00, 373.60it/s]

(10, 200)



```
Epoch 1 | T: 0.001014 | Train loss: 94.162 | Test loss: 121.872

Epoch 50 | T: 0.001008 | Train loss: 60.053 | Test loss: 331.835

Epoch 100 | T: 0.000999 | Train loss: 50.755 | Test loss: 104.648

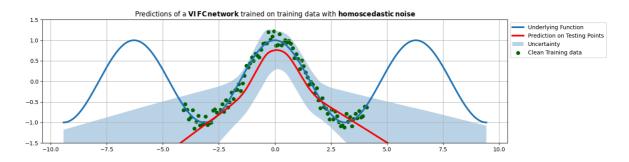
Epoch 150 | T: 0.000509 | Train loss: 39.331 | Test loss: 415.333

Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 29.443 | Test loss: 289.818

Epoch 250 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 31.800 | Test loss: 467.607

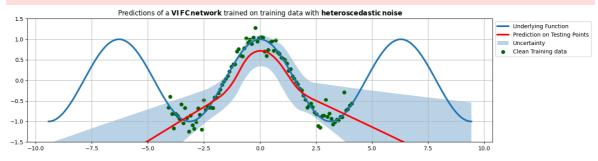
100%| | 10/10 [00:00<00:00, 396.79it/s]

(10, 200)
```



```
In [94]:
         params, \
         train loss,\
         test_loss = run_training_loop(num_epochs,
                                        opt_state,
                                        X_train,
                                        Y_train_het,
                                        X_test,
                                        Y_test_true)
         visualize_VI(params,
                       X_train,
                       Y_train_het,
                       r'Predictions of a $\bf{VI\, FC\, network}$'
                       r' trained on training data with $\bf{heteroscedastic\, noise}$',
                       num_trials = 10)
        Epoch 1 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 93.749 | Test loss: 121.663
        Epoch 50 | T: 0.002001 | Train loss: 63.047 | Test loss: 690.611
```

Epoch 100 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 51.939 | Test loss: 674.205 Epoch 150 | T: 0.000998 | Train loss: 34.775 | Test loss: 611.407 Epoch 200 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 31.711 | Test loss: 436.519 Epoch 250 | T: 0.000000 | Train loss: 26.968 | Test loss: 402.130 100% | 10/10 [00:00<00:00, 375.61it/s] (10, 200)



**Note 1.** A proper implementation would show growing uncertainty as we move away from the training region irrespective of existence and type of noise. This is essentially what we expect of epistemic uncertainty, i.e., showing increased uncertainty as the test data get further away from the observed training data!

**Note 2.** The aleatoric uncertainty is not properly captured as, unlike the first part of this practical, we did not model the output variance (had it fixed to  $c^2$ ). So, there can be too much or too low uncertainty for the observed region of the input (training data).

**Note 3.** You might not get a good fit of the training data depending on the hyperparameters and implementation. That is fine and is a result of the multiple terms in the loss function.

However, remember we used a very simplistic way of modeling Bayesian uncertainty which can be improved using more advanced and recent techniques.

Finally, it is valuable for us to know how long did it take you to complete this practical?

The full practical took us [to be filed in] hours to be completed.