

# Bayesian Optimization : A New Sample Efficient Workflow for Reservoir Optimization under Uncertainty

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## Abstract

The underlying challenge in well-control optimization during field development is that flow simulation of a 3D, rich grid-based model is computationally prohibitive. In a robust optimization setting, where flow simulation has to be repeated over a hundred(s) of geological realizations, performing a proper optimization workflow becomes impractical in many real-world cases. In this work, to alleviate this computational burden, a new sample efficient optimization method is presented. In this context, sample efficiency means that workflow needs a minimum number of forward model evaluations (flow-simulation in the case of reservoir optimization) while still being able to capture the global optimum of the objective function. In addition, the workflow is appropriate for cases in which precise analytical expression of the objective function is nonexistent. Such situations typically arise when the objective function is computed as the result of solving a large number of PDE(s), such as in reservoir-flow simulation. In this workflow, “Bayesian Optimization,” the objective function for samples of decision variables is first computed using a proper design experiment. Then, a Gaussian Process (GP) is trained to mimic the surface of objective function as surrogate model. While balancing exploration-exploitation dilemma, a new decision variable is queried from surrogate model and flow simulation is run for this query point. Later, the output of the flow-simulation is assimilated back to the surrogate model, to update the model given the new data point. This process continues sequentially until termination criteria are reached. To validate the workflow, we first optimize a 1D problem to gain better insight about the details of optimization steps. Then, the workflow has been applied to a 3D, synthetic reservoir model, to perform robust optimization in a realistic field scenario. Finally, the comparison of the workflow with two other commonly used algorithms in the literature, namely Particle Swarm Intelligence (PSO) and Genetic Algorithm (GA) has been performed. The results of the comparison show that the workflow presented here could reach same near-optimal solution achieved with GA and PSO, yet reduce computational complexity of the optimization 5X (times). We conclude that the method presented here significantly speeds up the optimization process leaving a faster workflow for real-world 3D optimization task, potentially taking days (months) of CPU running, yet gives robust results that leads to a near-optimal solution.

**Key words:** Optimization, Gaussian Process, Probabilistic Modeling, Bayesian

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## 1. Introduction:

While developing a field, prediction of reservoir response to change in the variable is an important factor to have an efficient reservoir management. The field of reservoir engineering is rich in the development and application of full-physics numerical simulations for forward modeling. However, the computational power needed to run such numerical simulators most of the time is huge. Especially, the framework of the Robust Optimization where uncertainty are considered through multiple of geological realization (thousand or multi-thousand), the practical applicability of such forward modeling is considerably limited. To address this challenge, the proxy-modeling for reservoir management has emerged to reduce the cost of forward simulation. The root of this field goes back to the work of the (Bruce, 1943) where the analogy between flow of electricity in the electrical device and the response of the reservoir was constructed. (Albertoni and Lake, 2003) Proposed the a Multivariate Linear Regression (MLR) to estimate the production from the well, where it claimed that total production at each is linear combination of injection rates with diffusivity filter. Building on the work of (Albertoni and Lake, 2003), (Yousef, 2006) proposed a new procedure to quantify communication between wells, where for each injector/producer pair, two coefficients, capacitance to quantify connectivity and time constant to quantify the degree of fluid storage were considered. (Sayarpour, 2008) used superposition in time to analytically solve the numerical integration in CRM. (Zhao et al., 2015)(Zhao et al. 2015) articulated that CRM models are not applicable when production rates change significantly, mainly due to those models neglect to include interaction of production-production and injector-injector pair well. Formulating the model in the framework titled INSIM (interwell numerical simulation model), it was used as efficient replacement to reservoir simulator when history-matching phase rate data or water-cut data obtained during water flooding operations.

Separately, in sake of utilization of recent advancement in the world of Information technology, considerable research has been done on the development of "Surrogate Reservoir Models" - (Mohaghegh and Guruswamy, 2006) proposed the workflow for SRM model where Fuzzy Pattern Recognition (FPR) technology was dimensionality reduction, in both static and dynamic parameters of the reservoir. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) was used to select the most important variable.- (Sampaio, 2009) tried on use of feed-forward neural networks as nonlinear proxies of reservoir response. A few set of rock and fluid properties were considered as input (porosity, permeability in "x" direction, permeability in "y" direction, and rock compressibility) where in developing the neural network model, only one hidden layer was used. flow proxy modeling to replace full simulation in history matching, and built the proxy with a single hidden layer artificial neural network (ANN). To predict the oil production from the SAGD process, (Fedutenko et al. 2014) (Fedutenko et al., 2014) employed the RBF Neural Network to predict the cumulative oil production over the time horizon of

<sup>39</sup> production (10 years) .

<sup>40</sup> *1.1. Survey of suurgate -based papers in onepetro database*

## 2. Problem Statement

In general, an optimization task can be defined as search process for the maximum output value of a “well behaved”<sup>1</sup> objective function  $f$ . Can be defined as  $f : \chi \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where acceptable solutions  $\chi$ , has dimension of  $D$ ,  $\chi \subseteq \mathbb{R}^D$  :

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{x}{\text{maximize}} && f(x) \\ & \text{subject to} && x \subseteq \chi \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

In Figure 1 we can see some of the examples, where the surface of  $f$  could be challenging to be optimized. The surfaces on the left side need careful attention to avoid getting stuck in local optima. Figures on the right side show presence of saddle area, where the gradient of function  $f$  is zero, in some cases in only one direction, possibly all directions. In this work, the focus is on the type of objective function  $f$ , that is challenging to optimize because of the following three difficulties:

- $f$  is explicitly unknown. This is a typical case in reservoir optimization problems where the Net Present Value (NPV) or Recovery Factor (RF) is computed through solving a huge number of partial differential equations through flow simulation. Thus, a precise analytical expression for the objective function is not available, avoiding applicability of techniques that exploit the analytical expression of objective function.
- The surface of  $f$  is multi-modal. Meaning that  $f$  is non-convex in the domain of  $\chi$  and the optimization algorithm must visit all local optima to find the “global” one.
- Most importantly, forward evaluation of  $f$  is computationally expensive. This point will be discussed more in detail below.

In the examples of this paper, the goal is to maximize the subsurface-outcomes-based NPV (in USD). Thus, the primary objective function is also referred to as simply NPV in rest of this paper. This objective function has been widely used in both well control and field development optimization studies. In the deterministic setting, the uncertainty in the geological parameters are disregarded and the optimization is performed based a single geological model. Therefore, in the case of deterministic optimization, the objective function can be defined as:

$$J(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{G}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \left[ \sum_{j=1}^{N_p} p_{o,j,k}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{G}) - \sum_{j=1}^{N_p} p_{wp,j,k}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{G}) - \sum_{j=1}^{N_{wi}} p_{wi,j,k}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{G}) \right] \frac{\Delta t_k}{(1+b)^{\frac{t_k}{D}}} \tag{2}$$

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<sup>1</sup>In this context, it means the function is defined everywhere inside input domain, it is single-valued and continuous.

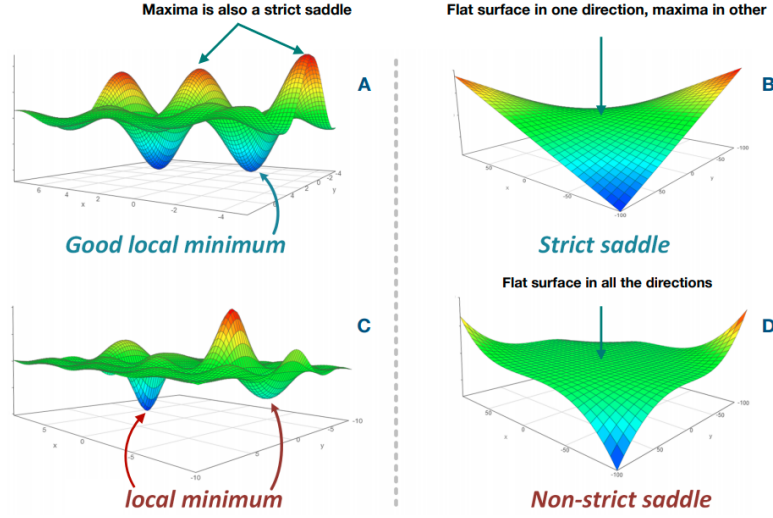


Figure 1: This plot may change, it does not show what exactly I want to say...

Where the first term in the double summation corresponds to the oil revenue; the second term is water-production cost and third term corresponds to the water-injection cost. The Equation (2) is considered as objective function in deterministic setting since only a single geological model is considered. The  $G$  in the Equation (2) is “the geological model.” The additional parameters in the Equation are as follows:  $K$  is the total number of timesteps;  $N_p$  is the total number of production wells subject to optimization;  $N_{wi}$  is the total number of water-injection wells subject to optimization;  $k$  is the timestep index;  $j$  is the well-number index;  $p_o$  is the revenue from oil production per unit volume (in USD/bbl);  $p_{wp}$  is the water-production cost per unit volume (in USD/bbl);  $p_{wi}$  is the water-injection cost per unit volume (in USD/bbl);  $q_o$  is the oil-production rate (in B/D);  $q_{wp}$  is the water-production rate (in B/D);  $q_{wi}$  is the water-injection rate (in B/D);  $\Delta t_k$  is the time interval for timestep  $k$  (in days);  $b$  is the discount rate (dimensionless);  $t_k$  is the cumulative time for discounting; and  $D$  is the reference time for discounting ( $D = 365$  days if  $b$  is expressed as a fraction per year and the cash flow is discounted daily).  $\mathbf{u}$  in Equation (2) is the control vector (i.e., a vector of control variables) defined as  $\mathbf{u} = [u_1, u_2, \dots, u_N]^D$ , where  $D$  is the number of control variables (dimension of optimization problem).

As mentioned above, the Equation (2) lacks to capture the uncertainty in geological model. In contrast, in Robust Optimization (RO) setting, the objective is to optimize the expected value over all geological realizations (assumption here is decision maker is risk-neutral). The objective function for the RO setting then can be defined as: (in the case of equi-probable geological realization)

$$\bar{J}(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{\sum_{re=1}^{n_e} J(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{G}_{re})}{n_e} \quad (3)$$

Where in the Equation (3) contrary to Equation (2), there is not one, rather  $n_e$  geological realizations, each of them written as  $G_{re}$ . In this work, the objective is to optimize the Equation (3), where it is simply EV value of NPV defined in (2) over all realizations.

It is well defined in the literature that optimizing Equation (3) is computationally prohibitive (de Brito and Durlofsky, 2021a; Hong et al., 2017a; Nwachukwu et al., 2018). Not only because thousand(s) of PDE have to be solved in the flow-simulation in order to compute the  $q_o, q_{wp}, q_{wi}$ ; the flow simulation must be enumerated over all realizations  $n_e$  to compute  $\bar{J}(u)$ . Let's assume a simple case to illustrate the computational burden of this optimization problem. Assume that the E&P enterprise is in process of finding the bottom hole pressure of 5 injection wells, and shut-in time of other 5 production wells,  $D = 10$ . The geology team of the enterprise comes up with 100 geological realizations of the model. ( $n_e = 100$ ). Now, if we suppose that the reservoir model is 3D with a moderate number of grid cells, it is not hard to imagine that flow-simulation of a fine grid model will take  $\sim 1\text{hr}$ . Then, simply having 100 realizations means that each forward computation of  $\bar{J}(u)$  takes around  $\sim 100$  hr. Considering that the enterprise has to decide in 6 month period (in the best case, it can be interpreted as 6 months CPU running time), that means that a total number of available budget for running the forward model is  $\frac{6 \times 30 \times 24}{100} = 43.2 \approx 50$  is around 50. Having the budget of only 50 model in 10 dimensional, non-linear and non-convex optimization problem is quite low. To put this in simple terms, if we say that each dimension of control variable  $\mathbf{u}$ , could be discretized over 10 possible cases, then total available solution for this optimization problem will be Number of all possible solutions =  $10^{10}$ . As it is clear, finding the best solution from a pool of 10 billion possible solutions with only 50 shots is a pretty much hard undertaking.

The rest of this paper will be arguing that the Bayesian Optimization workflow has especial strength to deal with three difficulties described above. Where the workflow needs to capture the global optimum point(area) while having a small forward evaluation budget.

### 3. Bayesian Optimization Workflow

#### 3.1. Overall View

Workflow to perform global optimization of multimodal black-box functions:

- Step 1. Choose some initial design points and build a probabilistic model over the space of possible objective  $f$ , this probabilistic model serves as prior.
- Step 2. Combine prior and the likelihood to get a posterior of probabilistic model over the objective given some observations.
- Step 3. Use the posterior to decide where to take the next evaluation  $\mathbf{x}^*$  according to some policy for decision making.
- Step 4. Evaluate the  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}^*$  and augment it to the initial data, in step 1.

Iterate between 2 and 4 until the evaluation budget is over. ## 3.1 Gaussian Process

119 3.1.1. Step 1. Probabilistic Model as Prior

120 3.1.1.1. Gaussian Process (GP). reference to the book (Murphy, 2022)

121 Key Assumption in (GP) is that: the function values at a set of  $M > 0$  inputs,  $\mathbf{f} = [\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_M)]$ , is  
 122 jointly Gaussian, with mean and Covariance

$$(\mu = m(x_1), \dots, m(x_M)) \sum_{i,j} = \kappa(x_i, x_j) \quad (4)$$

123 and  $\kappa$  is a positive definite (Mercer) kernel. Suppose we have a initial design points, set  $\mathcal{D} = (x_n, y_n) : n = 1 : N$ ,  
 124 where  $y_n = f(x_n)$  is the noise-free observation of the function evaluated at  $x$ .

125 Now we consider the case of predicting the outputs for new inputs that may not be in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

$$\mathbf{f}_* = [\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{N_*})] \quad (5)$$

126 By definition of the GP, the joint distribution  $p(\mathbf{f}_X, \mathbf{f} | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}_*)$  has the following form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}_X \\ \mathbf{f}_* \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \mu_X \\ \mu_* \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{X,X} & \mathbf{K}_{X,*} \\ \mathbf{K}_{X,*}^\top & \mathbf{K}_{*,*} \end{bmatrix} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_X &= [m(x_1), \dots, m(x_N)] \\ \mu_* &= [m(x_1^*), \dots, m(x_N^*)] \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_{X,X} &= \kappa(X, X; \theta), & size(N \times N) \\ K_{X,*} &= \kappa(X, X_*; \theta), & size(N \times N_*) \\ K_{*,*} &= \kappa(X_*, X_*; \theta), & size(N_* \times N_*) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Covariance Kernels	assumeing $h =   x - x'  $
Gaussain	$\kappa(x, x') = \sigma_f^2 \exp(-\frac{h^2}{2\ell^2})$
Matern $\mu = \frac{5}{2}$	$\kappa(x, x') = \sigma_f^2 (1 + \frac{\sqrt{5} h }{\ell} \frac{5h^2}{3\ell^2}) \exp(-\frac{\sqrt{5} h }{\ell})$
Matern $\mu = \frac{3}{2}$	$\kappa(x, x') = \sigma_f^2 (1 + \frac{\sqrt{3} h }{\ell}) \exp(-\frac{\sqrt{3} h }{\ell})$
Exponetial	$\kappa(x, x') = \sigma_f^2 \exp(-\frac{ h }{\ell})$
Power-Exponetial	$\kappa(x, x') = \sigma_f^2 \exp(-(\frac{ h }{\ell})^p)$



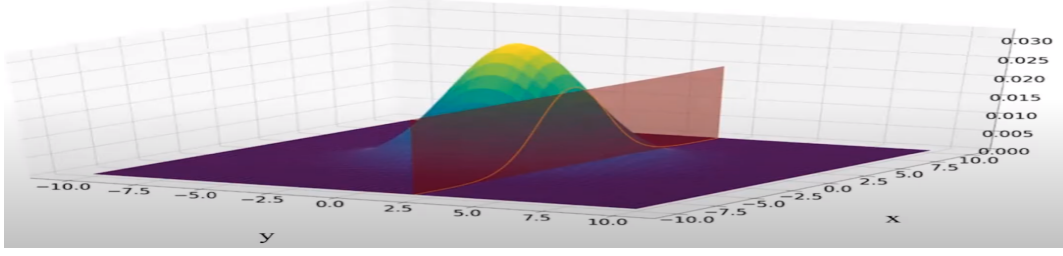


Figure 2: proof of

$$\kappa(x, x'; \theta) = \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{5}|h|}{\theta} + \frac{5h^2}{3\theta^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\sqrt{5}|h|}{\theta}\right) \quad (9)$$

3.1.1.2. *Covariance Kernel, Parameter estimation.*

$$p(y|\mathbf{X}, \theta) = \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{X}) \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}, \theta) \quad (10)$$

$$\log p(y|\mathbf{X}, \theta) = \mathcal{L}(\zeta, \sigma_f^2) = -\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{y} - \mu_{\mathbf{X}})^\top \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mu_{\mathbf{X}}) - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}}| - \frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi) \quad (11)$$

128 Where the dependence of the  $\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}}$  on  $\theta$  is implicit. The gradient-based optimizer is performed in order to:

$$[\zeta^*, \sigma_f^{2*}] = \operatorname{argmax} \mathcal{L}(\zeta, \sigma_f^2) \quad (12)$$

129 However, since the objective  $\mathcal{L}$  is not convex, local minima can be a problem, so we may need to use  
130 multiple restarts.

131 3.1.2. *Step 2. Posterior of Probabilistic Model*

132 3.1.2.1. *Posterior of Gaussain Process, (conditioning on initial data).* Here in 2

$$p(f_*|X_*, \mathcal{D}) = \mathcal{N}(f_*|\mu_*, \sum_*) \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_* &= m(\mathbf{X}_*) + \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X},*}^\top \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X},\mathbf{X}}^{-1} (\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{X})) \\ \sum_* &= \mathbf{K}_{*,*} - \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X},*}^\top \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X},\mathbf{X}}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{X},*} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

133 3.1.3. *Example of Step.1 and Step.2*

134 Assume  $X = [0, 3, 5, 6]$  and  $f_X = \sin(X)$ , giving  $\mathcal{D} = (X, f_X)$ . What is  $p(f_*|X_*, \mathcal{D})$

## Gaussian Process Regression

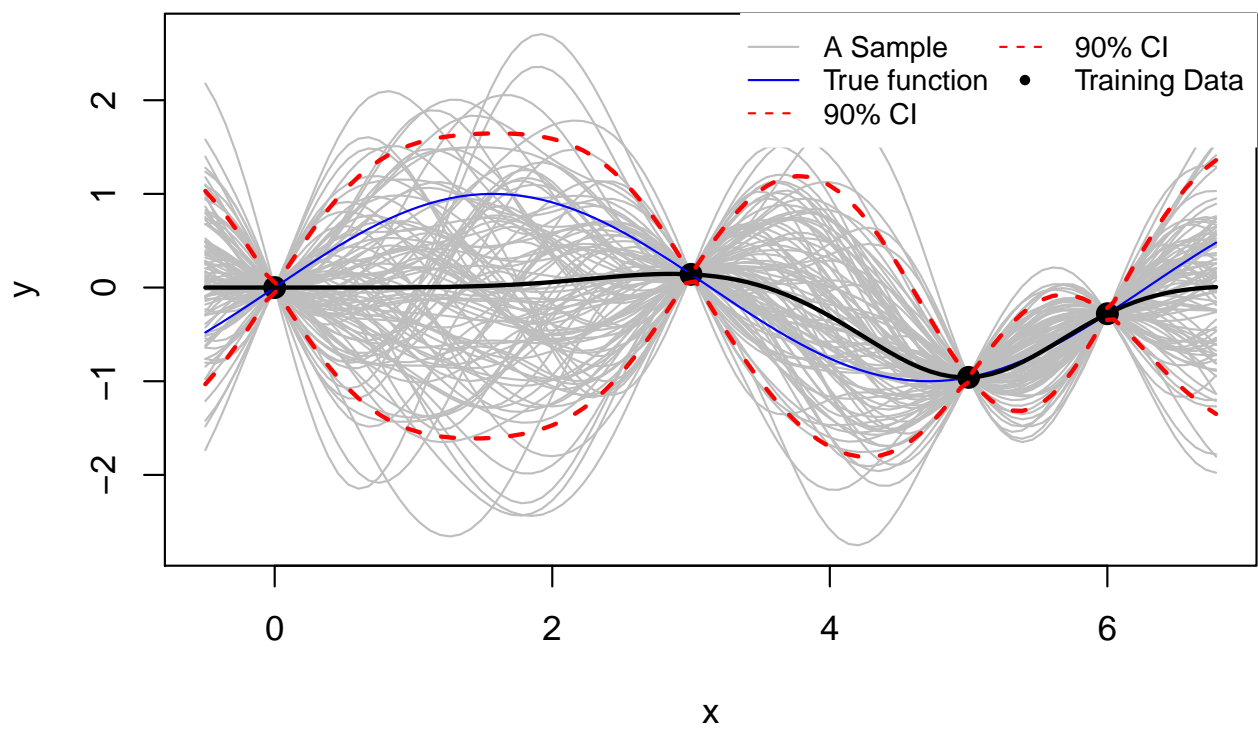


Figure 3: Gaussian Process Regression conditioned on 4 points

# Gaussian Process Regression

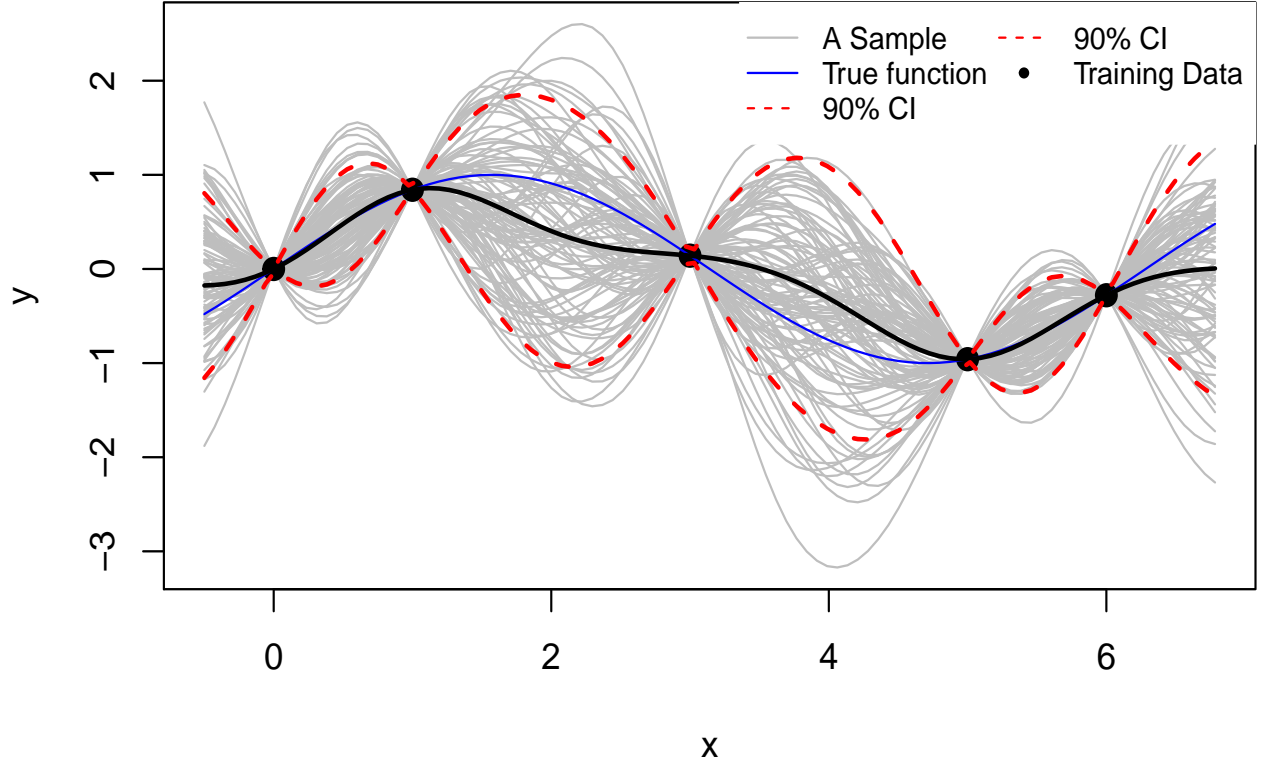


Figure 4: Gaussin Process Regression conditioned on 5 points

Now we sample the point  $X = 1$ , and add to  $\mathcal{D}$

## 3.1.4. Step.3 Deciding on next $\mathbf{x}^*$ based on Posterior

Posterior of the probalistic model quantify the uncertainty over the space of the  $f$ . The question is what is the next  $\mathbf{x}^*$  to be sampled from the *expensive function*?

Define an utility function to collect new data points satisfying some optimality criterion: optimization as decision making.

There are a few of policies in the literature of Bayesopt, here the *Expected Improvement (EI)* policy will be used.

**3.1.4.1. Expected Improvement as Policy for Decision Making.** In Expected Improvement (EI) policy choose the next query point as the one which has the highest expected improvement over the space of the *expensive function*

$$utility(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = \alpha_{EI} = \int_y \max(0, y - f) p(y|x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) \quad (15)$$

$$utility(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = \alpha_{EI} = \int_y \max(0, y - f) p(y|x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) dy$$

146 However, we do not have access to the *expensive function*,  $f$ , therefore we replace the  $f$  with the best  
 147 available solution found so far,  $y^+$

$$utility(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = \alpha_{EI} = \int_y \max(0, y - y^\dagger) p(y|x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) dy \quad (16)$$

148  $y^+$  : The best solution found in the training dataset  $\mathcal{D}$

149 The good news: The analytical form of the utility function is available for the gaussian process

$$\gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu(\mathbf{x}; \theta, \mathcal{D}) - y^\dagger}{\sigma(\mathbf{x}; \theta, \mathcal{D})} \quad (17)$$

$$utility(\mathbf{x}; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = \alpha_{EI}(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = (\mu(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) - y^\dagger) \Phi(\gamma(x)) + \sigma(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) \phi(\gamma(x)) \quad (18)$$

150 Where  $\Phi(\cdot)$  and  $\phi(\cdot)$  are CDF and PDF of standard Gaussian distribution.

151 It is too greedy in the context of the sequential decision making. Therefore, an explorative term is added  
 152 as explorative" parameter  $\epsilon$ .

$$\gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu(\mathbf{x}; \theta, \mathcal{D}) - y^\dagger - \epsilon}{\sigma(\mathbf{x}; \theta, \mathcal{D})} \quad (19)$$

$$\alpha_{EI}(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) = (\mu(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) - y^\dagger - \epsilon) \Phi(\gamma(x)) + \sigma(x; \theta, \mathcal{D}) \phi(\gamma(x)) \quad (20)$$

153 3.1.4.2. BO As a "mapping" between two problems. BO is an strategy to transform the problem

$$u_M = \underset{u \in \text{constraints}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \bar{J}(u) \quad (21)$$

154 unsolvabile!

$$u^{next} = \underset{u \in \text{constraints}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \alpha_{EI}(u; \mathcal{D}_n, \theta^*) \quad (22)$$

155 solvabile!

- 156 •  $\alpha_{EI}(u)$  is inexpensive to evaluate.
- 157 • The analytical expression for gradient of  $\alpha_{EI}(u)$  is available.

- Still need to find  $u^{next}$ , the multi-start BFGS is used for finding  $u^{next}$ .

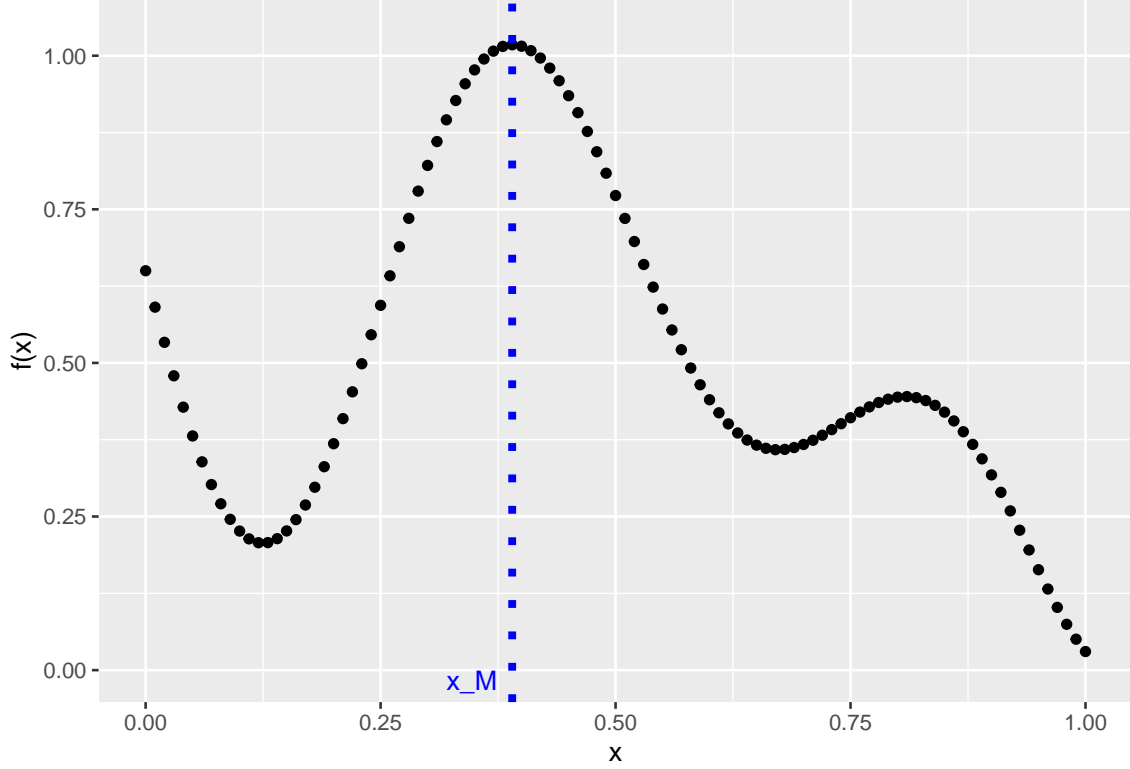


Figure 5: Plot of 1-D equation with blue dash line representing the global optimum

#### 4. Example Cases

##### 4.1. 1-D toy Problem

In this section, a 1-D toy problem is considered to illustrate the Bayes Optimization workflow discussed in the previous section. The 1-D problem was selected since it will help to visualize all the steps of the workflow making easier explanation of the concepts. Though, it can be seen from the next section, the workflow can easily be extended to higher dimensional problems. The *True function* to be optimized in this section has an analytical expression as, given the box constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{x}{\text{maximize}} \quad & f(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\sin(12x)}{1+x} + 2 \cos(7x)x^5 + 0.7 \right) \\ \text{subject to} \quad & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Since the analytical expression of the function is available and being a 1-D problem, the global optimum of the function has been found at  $x_M = 0.39$ . The plot of the function and the optimum point has been shown in Figure 5.

However, it is worth to mention that the analytical expression of the objective function in many of real-world problems is not available, what is available is a *samples* from the objective function. Therefore, in the coming

example a few samples are sequentially drawn from the objective function to resemble the real case scenario. However, we know the global optimum of the objective function in hindsight, just in the case we want to compare the performance of Bayesian optimisation algorithm.

Therefore, as Figure 6, the 5 sample points,  $x = [0.05, 0.2, 0.5, 0.6, 0.95]$  were selected as the initialization of the workflow. In the upper plot, blue lines represent the samples from the posterior of the gaussian model conditioned on the five sample points. The grey area represents the 95% confidence interval while the red curve represents the mean value of the samples (blue lines). The first point to infer from the Figure 6 is there is no uncertainty on the sample point. As shown, there is no grey zone on sample point since as was discussed in the previous section, here we consider the “noise-free” observation. Also, worth to mention that we have wide more uncertainty (wider grey band) in the areas that are more distant from the observation, simply meaning we are less uncertain close to observation points. On the “extrapolation,” meaning in the areas outside of the observation points, the probabilistic model shows interesting behaviour. On those “extreme” area, the mean curve tends to move toward the mean of all observation points, here around 0, showing the model reflects the mean-reversion behaviour when it comes to extrapolation.

The lower part of Figure 6, shows the plot of utility function at each  $x$  values. Worth to note that as the plot suggests, the utility( $\alpha_{EI}$ ) function will have the multi-modal structure, meaning in the optimization process multi-start gradient method will be helpful, in order to avoid stuck in the local optima. In this work, as was explained in the previous section, the multi-start gradient method was used. The blue dotted line shows the  $x_{next}$  which is the point where the utility function is maximum. Then this  $x_{next}$  is queried from the real function, and the pair of  $(x_{next}, f(x_{next}))$  is added to the initial data set,  $\mathcal{D}$ . Going back to the lower figure at Figure 6, the utility has two modes around point  $x = 0.5$ , say  $x_{0.5}^+$  and  $x_{0.5}^-$ , however the point  $x_{0.5}^-$  is selected as the next query point. Readers can be referred to the upper plot and it is clear that there is more uncertainty around point  $x_{0.5}^-$  than  $x_{0.5}^+$  which given the form of utility function, that is understandable. The utility function always looks for the point that not only maximizes the mean value, but also is interested in the points that have higher variance, which is the case between two points  $x_{0.5}^+$  and  $x_{0.5}^-$ .

Calling the Figure 6 as the iteration # 1, now we can start sampling sequentially. In the Figure 7 another two iterations have been provided. Where in each row, the plot on the left represents the posterior on the gaussian conditioning, the right shows the utility function. Note that in the Figure 7 all axis labels and legends were not included, to have better visibility. (more info about each plot can be found in 6). Interesting to see that in this example case, at the iteration #2, the workflow queries the point  $x = 0.385$  which presents the best point so far found through BayesOpt workflow. Therefore, after just two iterations we are around  $\frac{x_{best}}{x_M} = \frac{0.385}{0.390} = 98.7$  of the global optima. Although this is the case for 1-D problem, it is clearly showing the strength of the workflow to approach the global optima, in as few as possible iterations. In this case after iteration #2, the total

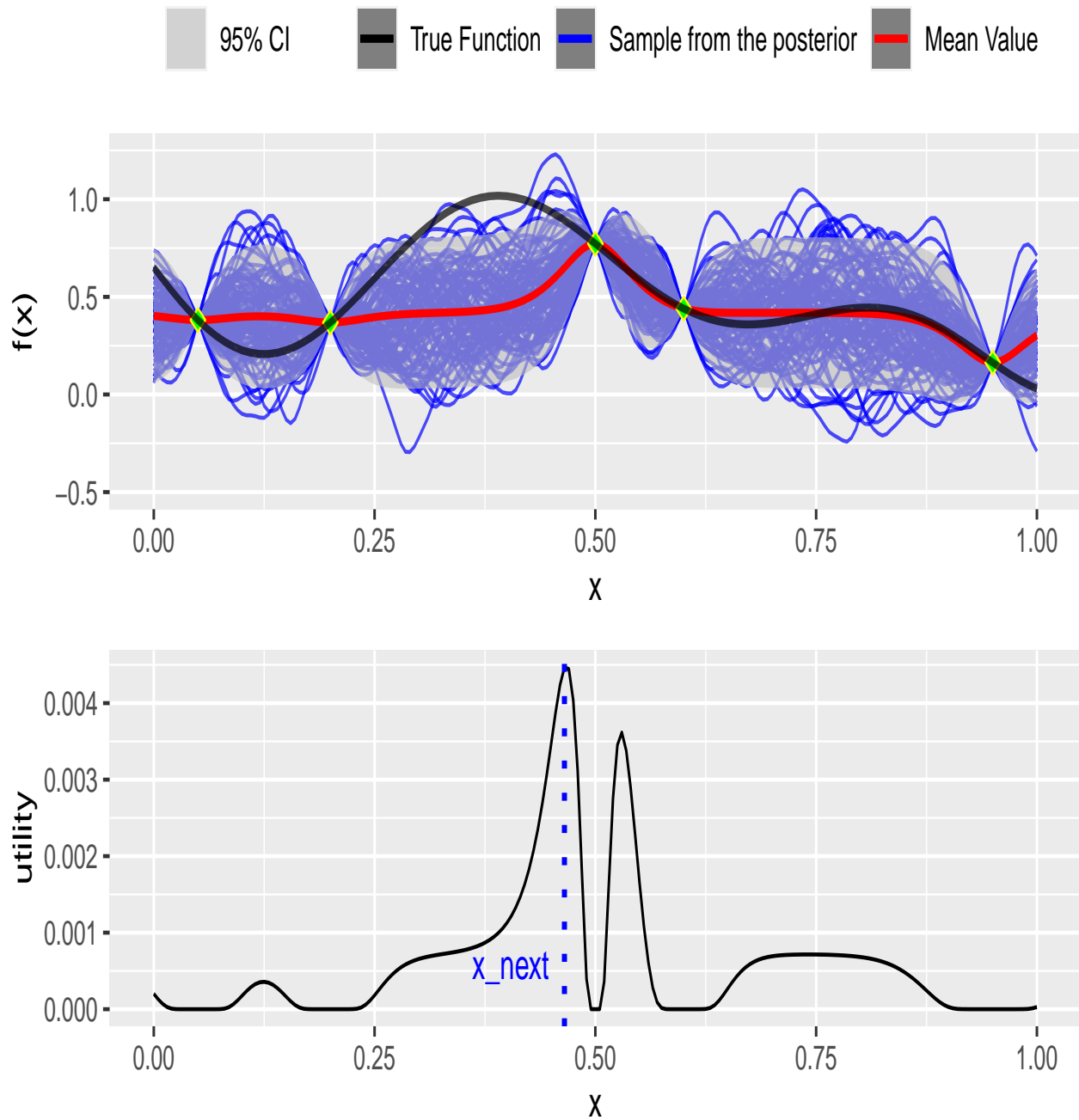


Figure 6: Itel - Top: Gaussian posterior over the initial sample points; Lower: Utility function over the  $x$  values



204 number of time that the real function has been queried is  $\text{size}(\mathcal{D}) + \text{size}(\text{totaliteration}) = 5 + 2 = 7$ .

205 Before going to apply the same workflow at the field scale, the 1-D example presented here offer another  
206 useful feature of the Bayesian Optimisation. Looking at 7, we can see that the maximum of utility function is  
207 at the iteration # 3 in order of  $10^{-6}$ . That show that after optimization, eve best point to be queried in the  
208 next section has a very little utility. So can safely stop the process, since querying points to be sampled from  
209 the expensive function has a negligible potential to improve our search in optimization.

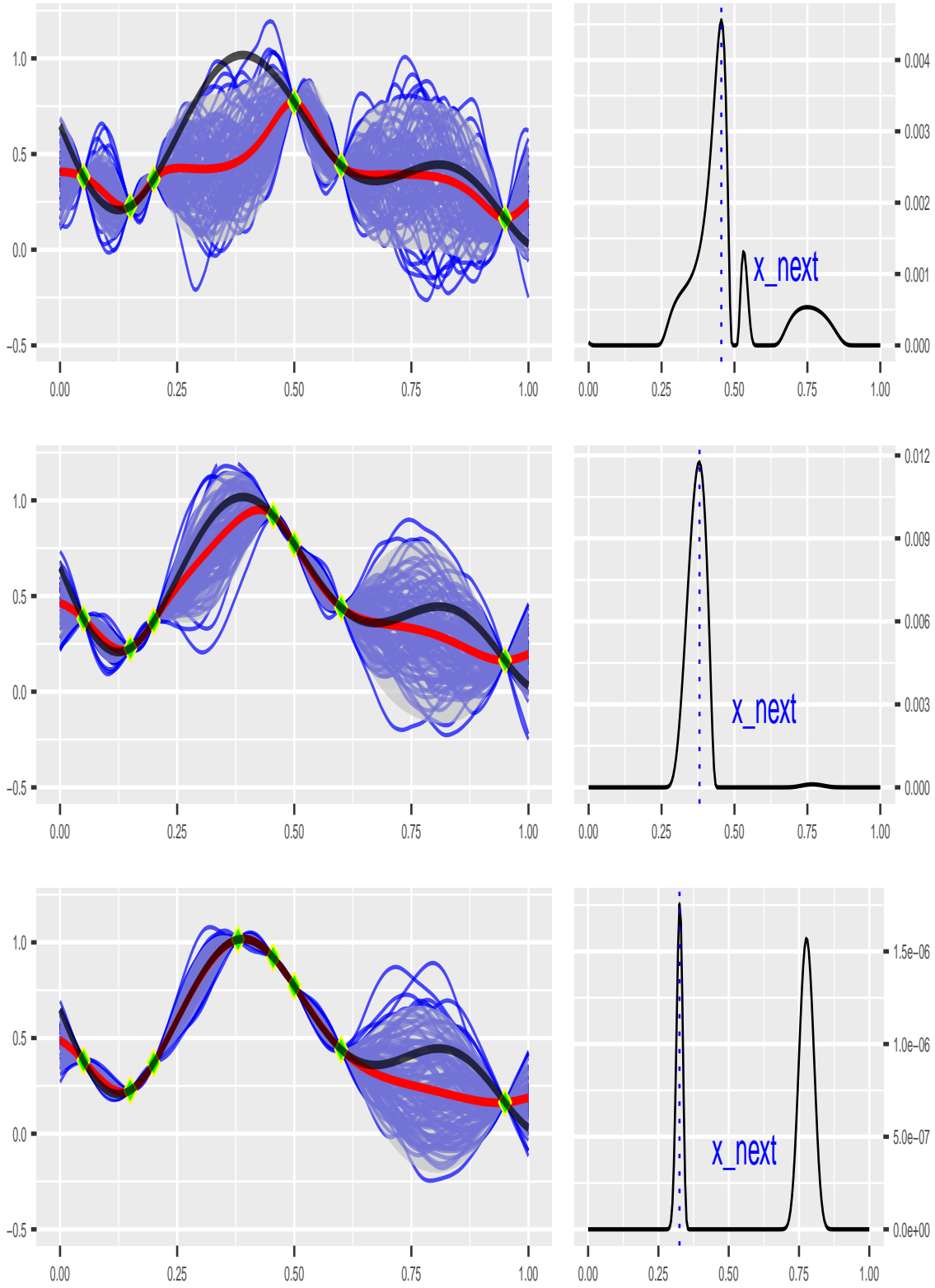


Figure 7: Gaussian posterior of over the initial sample points

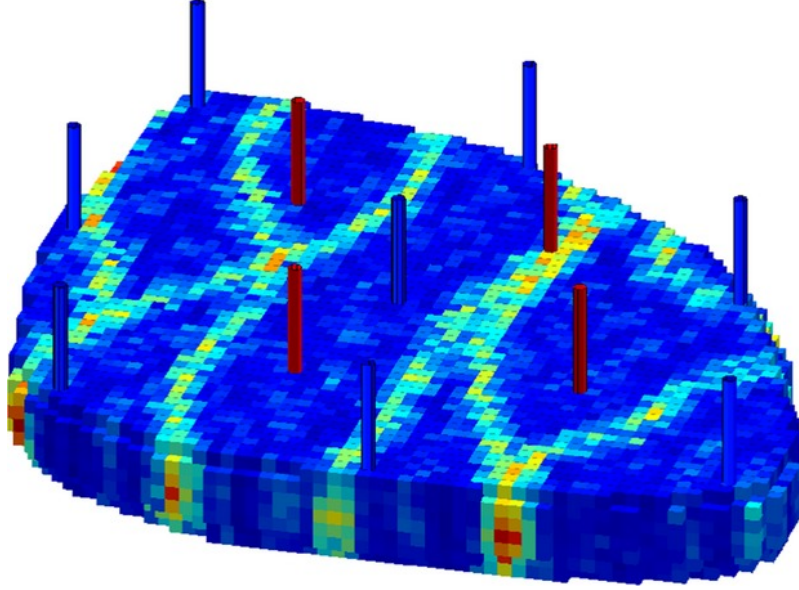


Figure 8: Well locations in Egg model, blue ones are injection, the red producers

## 4.2. Field Scale

### 4.2.1. Synthetic 3D Reservoir Model

In this section, the BayesOpt workflow is applied to the synthetic 3D reservoir model. The introduction of the model and geological description can be found in (Jansen et al., 2014). Known as “Egg Model” it has a geology of channelized depositional system.

The 3D model has eight water injectors and four producers wells shown in Figure 8. The model has geological realizations of patterns of highly permeable channels which are described by 100 equi-probable geological realizations, three of which are illustrated in left side of Figure 9. (Hong et al., 2017b).

Relative permeabilities and the associated fractional flow curve of the model have shown in right side of Figure 9. All the wells are vertical and completed in all seven layers. Capillary pressure is ignored. The reservoir rock is assumed to be incompressible. The model has a life-cycle of 10 years. Here, the injection rate to be maintained over life-cycle of reservoir is going to be optimized. Thus, given eight injection wells, the optimization workflow has the eight dimensions. However, the optimization is not unbounded, the water can be adjusted from 0 to 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day, making the box-constrained optimization. The injectors are operated with no pressure constraint, and the producers are under a minimal BHP of 395 bars without rate constraint.

### 4.2.2. Well Control Optimization

Reviewing the equation raised in the section 3, here the goal is robust optimization of the field, given geological realizations as follow:

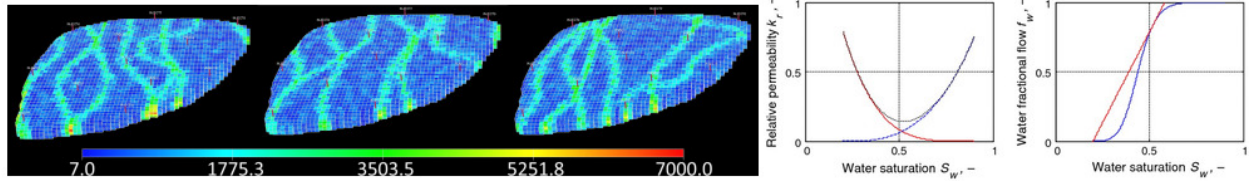


Figure 9: Left: Three geological realizations of the 3D model; Right: Rel perm and fractional flow curve

$$\text{Objective Func}(u) = \bar{J}(u) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_e} J_r(u, G_i)}{n_e} \quad (24)$$

Equation (24)

$u$  is Injection rate for the each injection well, therefore the control vector, to be optimizaed in this case is defined as:

$$u = [u_{inj1}, u_{inj2}, u_{inj3}, u_{inj4}, u_{inj5}, u_{inj6}, u_{inj7}, u_{inj8}]^T \quad (25)$$

As the (24) suggest, the  $\bar{J}(u)$  need some parameters to be defined. The oil price ( $P_o$ ), water production cost ( $p_{wp}$ ) and water injection cost ( $P_{wi}$ ) in *dollar/m<sup>3</sup>* has been provided in the Table 1. Also, in this work the cash flow is disconted daily and the discount factor is available in the 1. We would like to note that in this work due to avoid further computational burden in optimization process, 10 realizations of the egg model has been considered, therefore  $n_e = 10$  in Equation (24).

Table 1: Required Parameters needed for calculation of Expected NPV

Item	Pric	Items	Value
P_o	315	b	8%
P_wp	47.5	D	365
P_wi	12.5	n_e	10

#### 4.2.3. BayesOpt Workflow

As it was discussed, the starting point of the BAYesOpt workflow is to randomly sample the initial data pairs  $\mathcal{D}$  which is used to build the Gaussian model of the response surface to the input variables. In this work, forty samples fom the Latin hyper cube sampling (LHS) method were drawn. The LHS is prefred in this work to Monte Carlo since it provides the stratification of the CDF of each variable, leading to better coverage of the input variable space. The Figure 10 show the results of the  $\bar{J}(u)$  for each sample from LHS. Also, The maximum  $\bar{J}(u)$  found from sampling has been shown with blue line. Setting the specific seed number (since LHS is in itself is random process), we get the max *NPV* aciehved here was 35.65\$MM. Looking at Figure

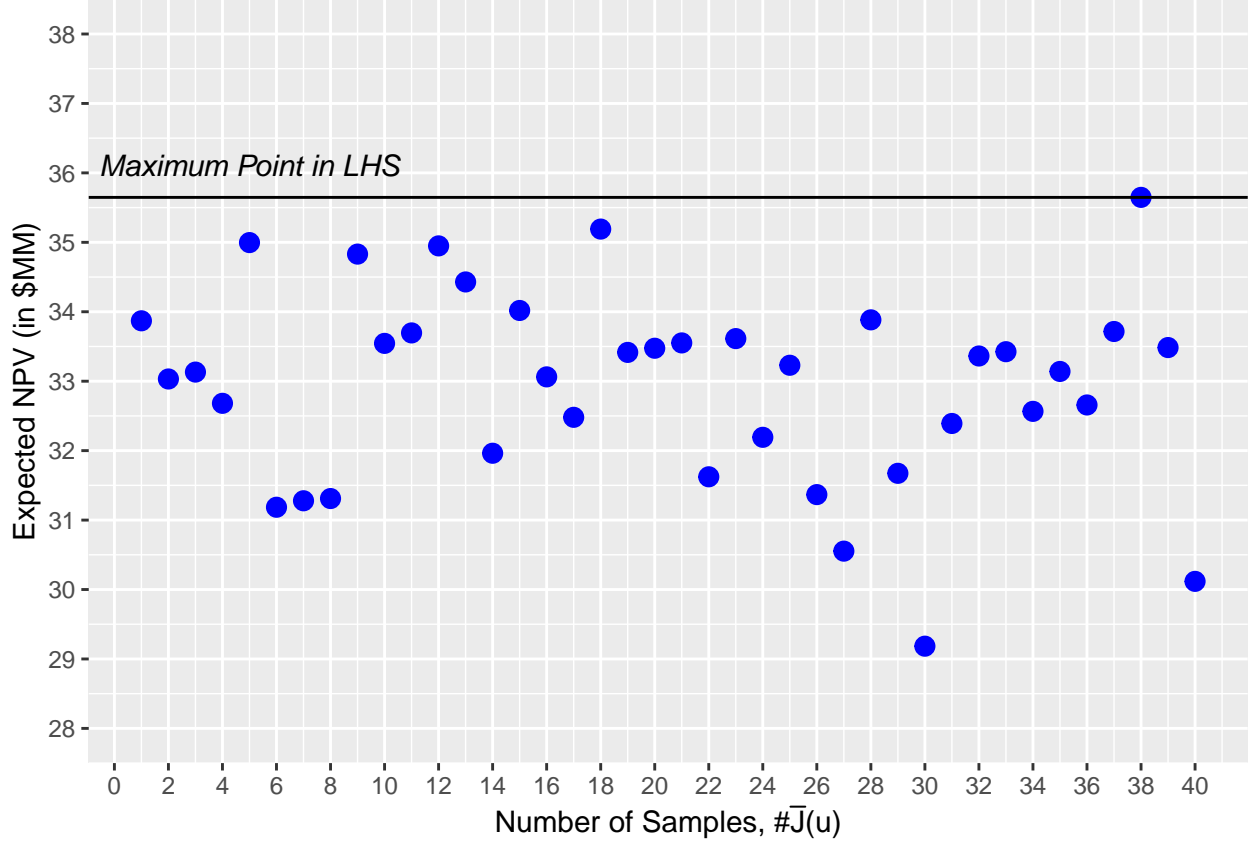


Figure 10: Expected NPV as result of forty sampling from LHS

10 it is worth to mention that random sampling like the LHS is not helpful to consistently approach the global optimum point, and there is a need for efficient workflow to find the optimum point while using the a few as possible sampling from real function.

Having the initial data found through LHS, we can build the probalistic model of the reposnse surface and sequentially sample from the *expensive-to-evaluate* function. Unfortunately, win this section we can not plot the posterior of the probalistic model, condition on the above forty LHS samples, due being the space is eight-dimentional, and hard to visulize. The Figure 11 shows the expected NPV found after ten sequential sampling resulted from the BayesOpt workflow. Readers are refreed to this point that in the figure, not all red points are increasing and some points are lower than previous points. The reason for this behaviour is the nature of BayesOpt algorithm. We can suggest that in the points that has lower expected NPV from the previous, we may reached the lower optimum point, but those points helped us to decrease the uncertainty, which is helpful for the further sampling. We can see that after just ten evaluation of the expenside function (here it means finding the expected NPv from running 10 geological realization using flow simulation) we reach the new record Expeted NPV of  $\max \bar{J}(u) = 36.85\$MM$ .

Now, as we explained in the 1-D section, the plot of the utility at each iteration could provide some useful

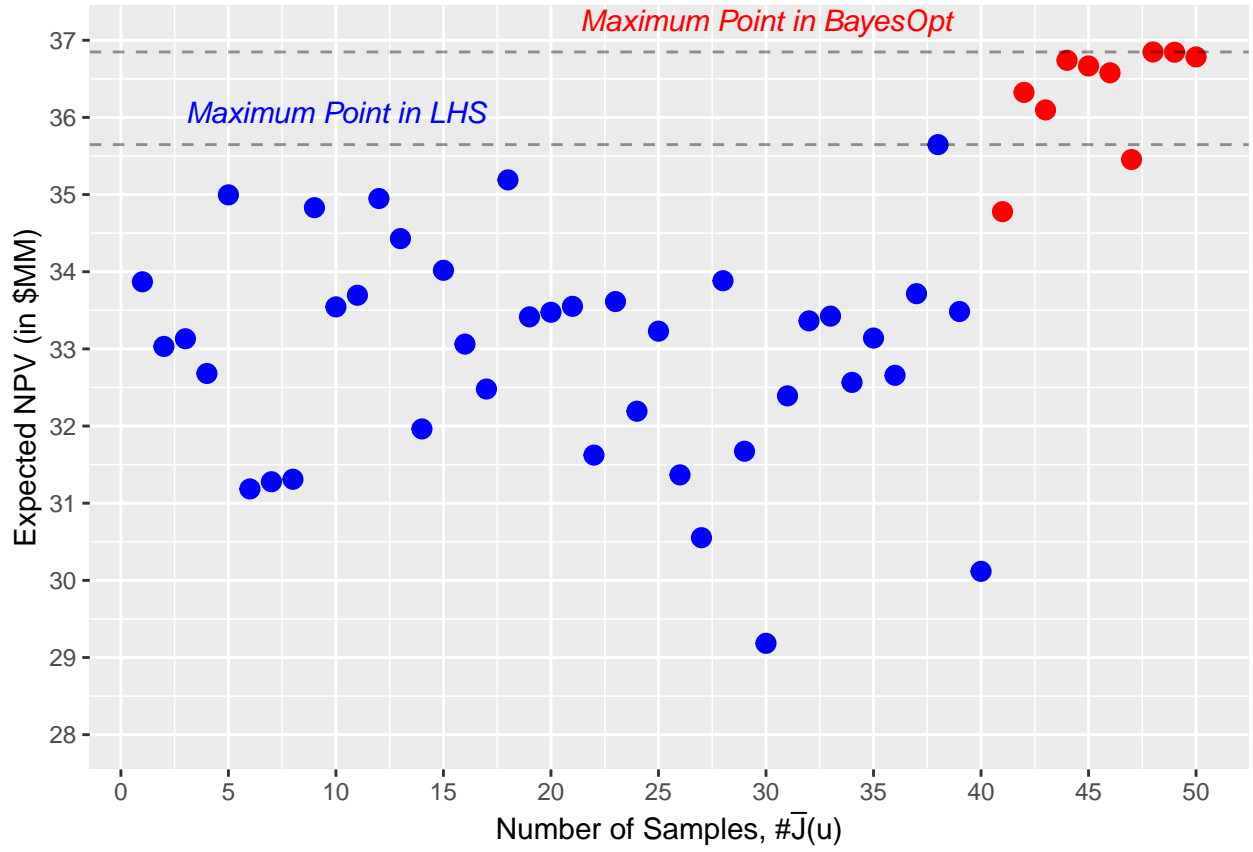


Figure 11: Blue points represents the sample from LHS, red points represents the samples from the BayesOpt Workflow

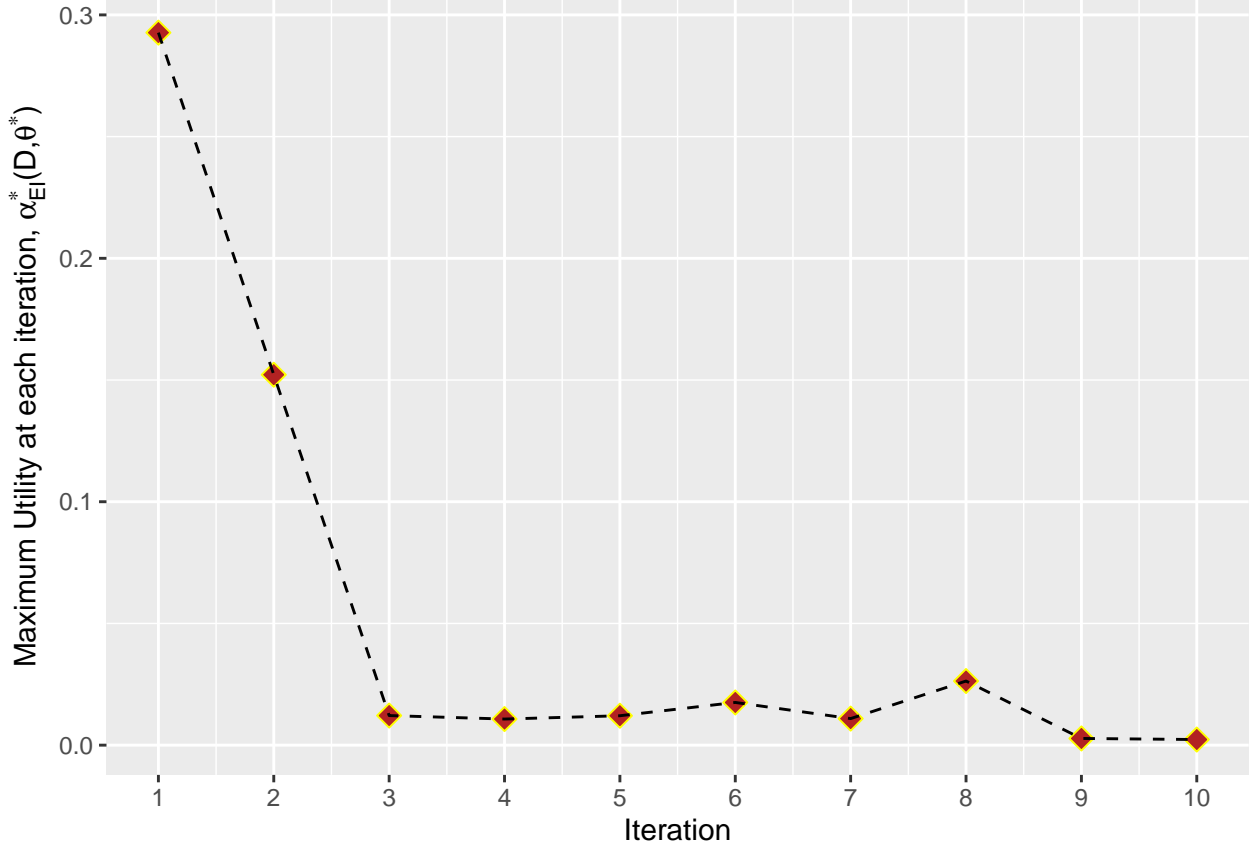


Figure 12: Maximum utility at each iteration, after running L-BFGS-B to find the  $u$  with max utility,  $\alpha_{EI}^*$

information about the optimization process. The Figure 12 plots the  $\alpha_{EI}^*(\mathcal{D}, \theta^*)$  (Equation (22)) versus the ten iteration in this work. In fact the notation  $\alpha_{EI}^*$  means the optimum of the  $\alpha_{EI}(u; \mathcal{D}, \theta^*)$  after running multi-start (1000)- L-BFGS-B on all  $u$  values. Now, we can see that in the figure the  $\alpha_{EI}^*$  is decreasing going toward the zero. It can be inferred from this trend that, we are going out of the *good*  $u$  values to be sampled from the expensive function, can be interpreted that we are in the vicinity of global optima, if we see after several iteration still  $\alpha_{EI}^*$  is less than  $10^{-6}$ .

Given that the BayesOpt inherently has stochastic nature (from this perspective that having different initialization in LHS sampling will affect the final solution), in this section BayesOpt is repeated with different initialization. Ideally, this repetition should be conducted 100 or 1000 times, to get better overview of the convergence of the algorithm given different initialization. Though, because of the computational burden, in this work only three repetitions were performed. Repeat the Optimization, three times, in different initial design points. Figure 13 shows results of three repetitions. At each repetition (top, middle, bottom), the blue dots come from different seed numbers and they are different. Then, given that initialization  $\mathcal{D}$ , sequential sampling from the expensive function is performed, shown in the red points. Like previous case,

in these repetitions, 40 samples drawn from LHS algorithm, the 10 were taken thorough BayesOpt algorithm, totaling 50 samples. At each row of the Figure 13, two horizontal lines show the maximum point  $\overline{NPV}$  in both random sampling phase (LHS) and BayesOpt phase. As it can be noted from the Figure 13, at each repetition, the BayesOpt will improve the solution with small sample evaluation of the  $\bar{J}(u)$ . Therefore, improvement following the BayesOpt phase independent of the initial design, yet the bigger question is whether given different initial design, the algorithm converge the vicinity of global optima. What is referred here is that if having different initialization will lead completely different final solution, that hints that the algorithm has a “local” search, in contrast, if the solutions leads to one specific close  $u^*$ , that represents that algorithm have a “global” view on the surface of the objective function. In the case of “global” optimization having different initialization should lead to similar final solution, since the algorithm will not get stuck in local optimum points, close to initialized data. This is common practice in the gradient-based optimization where the algorithm is powerful in local optimization and in order to avoid stuck in local extreme points, “multi-start” runs are performed in order to search the global point in the objective function.

To further continue this discussion on the effect of initialization on the final solution, the  $u^*$  value for each repetition has been shown on the left side of Figure 14. Where the  $u^*$  is the vector of 8 dimension, each value shows the optimum injection rate for the 10 years life cycle of the field, in  $m^3/D$ . We would like to note that the y axis was plotted from the range of 5 to 100. The reason for this is to show that in this optimization problem, injection of each wells can take any number between  $5m^3/D$  to  $100 m^3/D$ , and the y axis shows the full extend of the value optimum zation workflow can reach. Visually, looking at the left plot at Figure 14, we can see that the final solution of three repetitions at each wells, does not differ significantly from each other. With small exception of (injection #2), it seems all the final solutions converges to the same solution. This feature that can be loosely said as “robustness” of optimization workflow to initial design is very helpful, from this sense that we do not need to restart the optimization with different initialization, since they all will converges to the similar solution. From this perspective, authors can infer that BayesOpt workflow can be considered as “global” optimization method, as it shows the workflow avoids stuck in local extreme points or saddle regions. The plot on the left side of Figure 14 shows that mean injection rate (mean of three repetitions) and error bar at each injection wells. The bottom of error bar in this plot shows the  $mean - sd$  and top of bar is  $mean + sd$ . As we can see that we do not see significant variation in the final solution in each repetitions, also the plots recommends that in the case of repeating the optimization with more than three times (like 10 or 100), it can lead to lower variation in final solution.



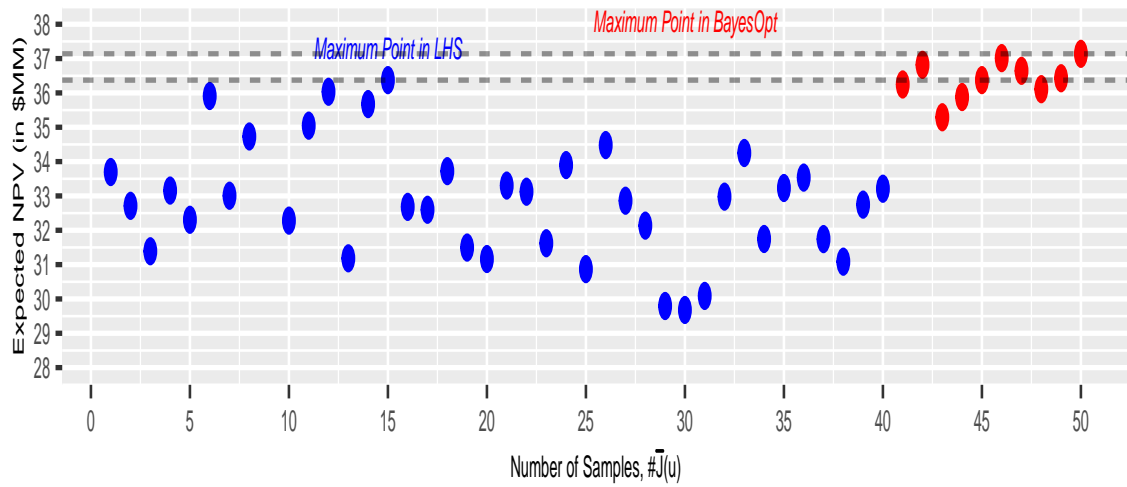
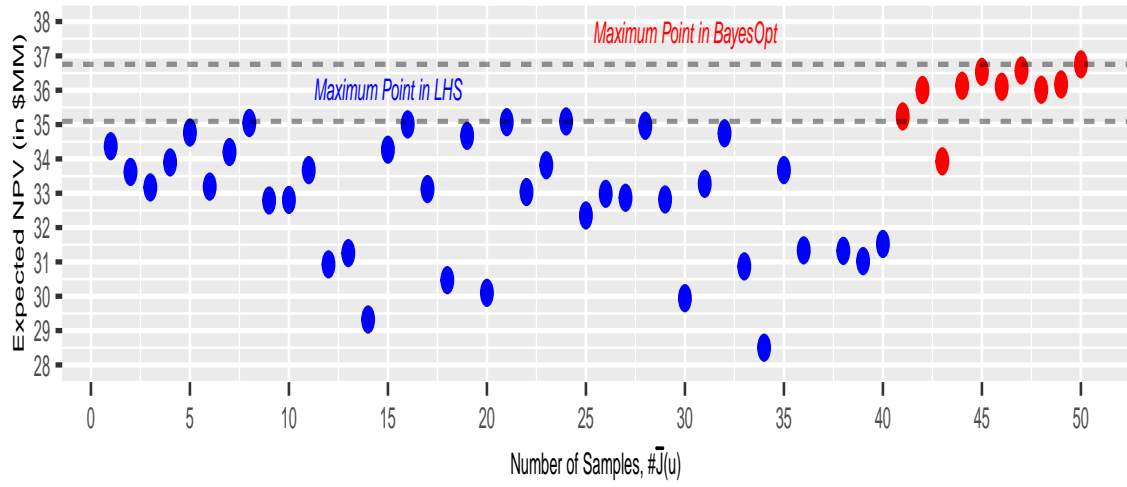
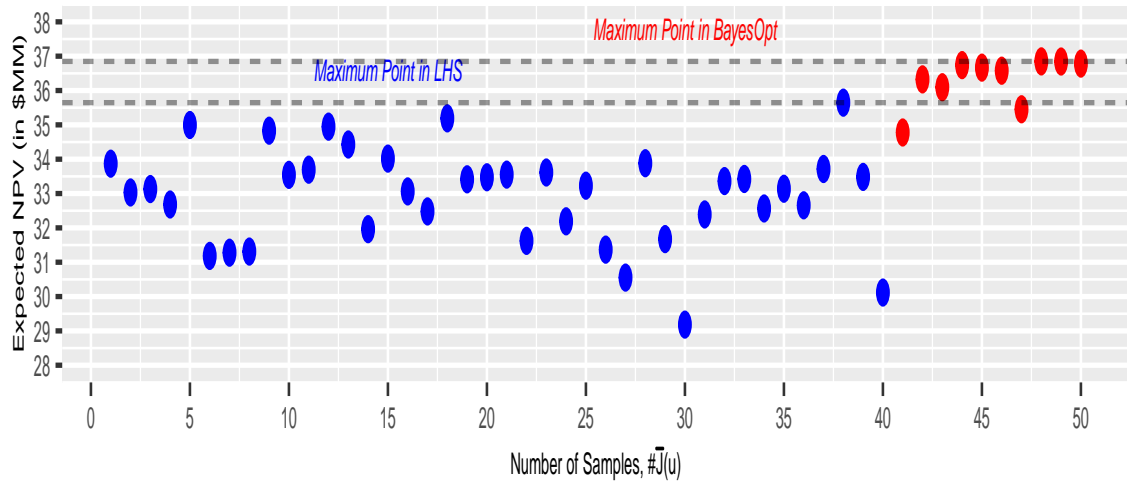


Figure 13: BayesOpt workflow applied to Syntetic 3D model, in three different initialization

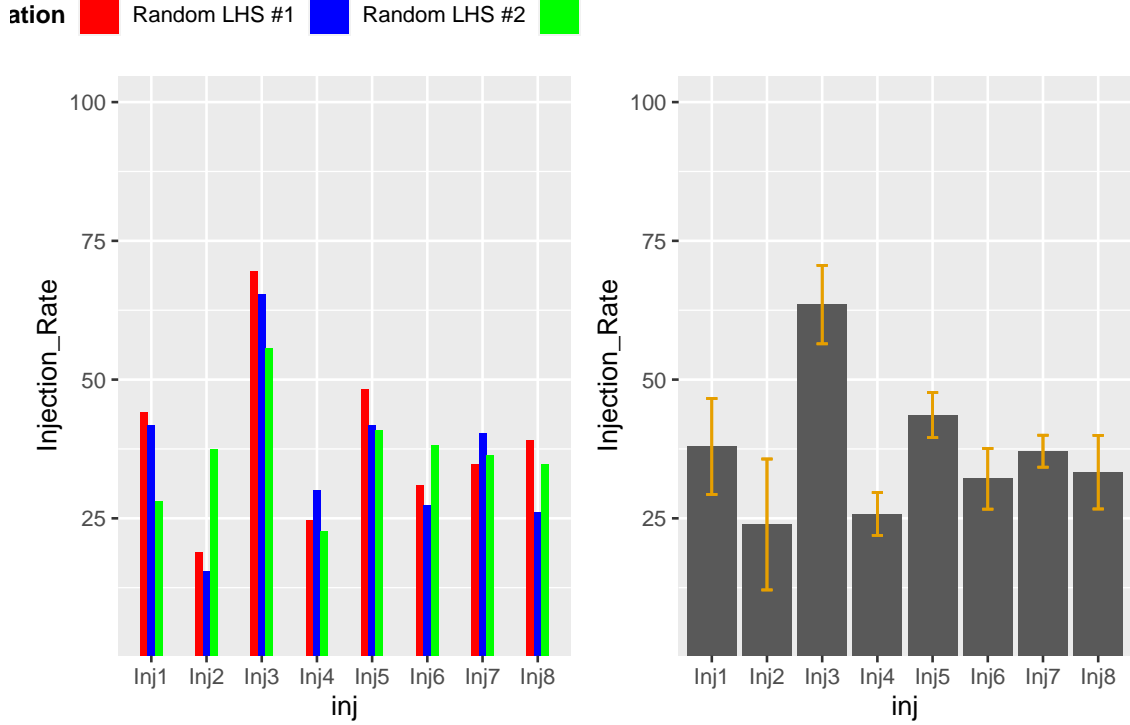


Figure 14: Left: final solution of optimization algorithm in three different initialization, Right: Mean and error bar of each injection rate at each injection wells

## 5. BayesOpt performnace versus other alternatives

In this section the aim is to compare the performance of the Bayeopt workflow with other availbale optimization alghorithm commonly used for reservoir optimization under uncertainty. The literature of field development optimization enjoys wide varieties of the workflow and algorithm applied to field development. Broadly speaking those can be divided into two categories adjoint-gradient and derivative-free. Adjoint methods, such as those described in (Forouzanfar and Reynolds, 2014; Li and Jafarpour, 2012; Volkov and Bellout, 2018) can provide computational advantage in terms of efficiency. They are, however, local methods, and it is known that broad (global) searches can be advantageous in field development optimization methods.(de Brito and Durlofsky, 2021b) - Thefefore, in this work two well-know Derivative-free optimization (DFO) methods, extensively used rservoir optimization, named Genetic Algorithm (GA) (Chai et al., 2021; Holland, 1992a) and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) (Eberhart and Kennedy, 1995a; Jesmani et al., 2016) have been considered. In this section we provide a brief overview of each methods, but interested readers are referred to the original papers.(Eberhart and Kennedy, 1995b; Holland, 1992b)

PSO is a global stochastic search technique that operates based on analogies to the behaviors of swarms/flocks of living organisms. Originally developed by Eberhart and Kennedy, Considering a swarm with  $P$  particles, there is a position vector  $X_i^t = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, x_{in})^T$  and a velocity vector  $V_i^t = (v_{i1}, v_{i2}, v_{i3}, v_{in})^T$

at a  $t$  iteration for each one of the  $i$  particle that composes it. These vectors are updated through the dimension  $j$  according to the following equations:

$$V_{ij}^{t+1} = \omega V_{ij}^t + c_1 r_1^t (pbest_{ij} - X_{ij}^t) + c_2 r_2^t (gbest_j - X_{ij}^t) \quad (26)$$

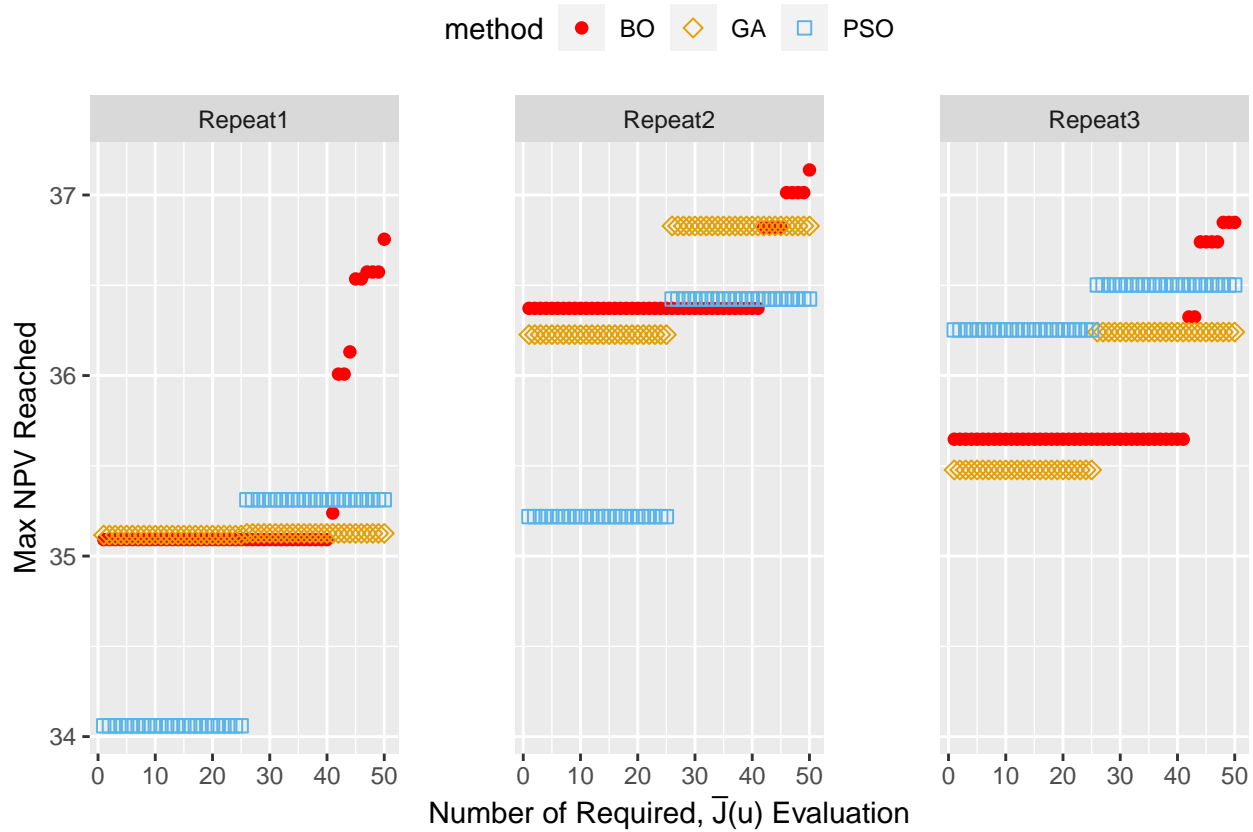
where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, P$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Equation (26) explains that there are three different contributions to a particle's movement in an iteration. In the first term, the parameter  $\omega$  is the inertia weight constant. In the second term, The parameter  $c_1$  is a positive constant and it is an individual-cognition parameter, and it weighs the importance of particle's own previous experiences. The other parameter second term is  $r_1^t$ , and this is a random value parameter with  $[0,1]$  range. The third term is the social learning one. Because of it, all particles in the swarm are able to share the information of the best point achieved regardless of which particle had found it, for example,  $gbest_j$ . Its format is just like the second term, the one regarding the individual learning. Thus, the difference  $(gbest_j - X_{ij}^t)$  acts as an attraction for the particles to the best point until found at some  $t$  iteration. Similarly,  $c_2$  is a social learning parameter, and it weighs the importance of the global learning of the swarm. And  $r_2$  plays exactly the same role as  $r_1$ . Where Equation (27) updates the particle's positions. (Almeida and Leite, 2019)

$$X_{ij}^{t+1} = X_{ij}^t + V_{ij}^{t+1} \quad (27)$$

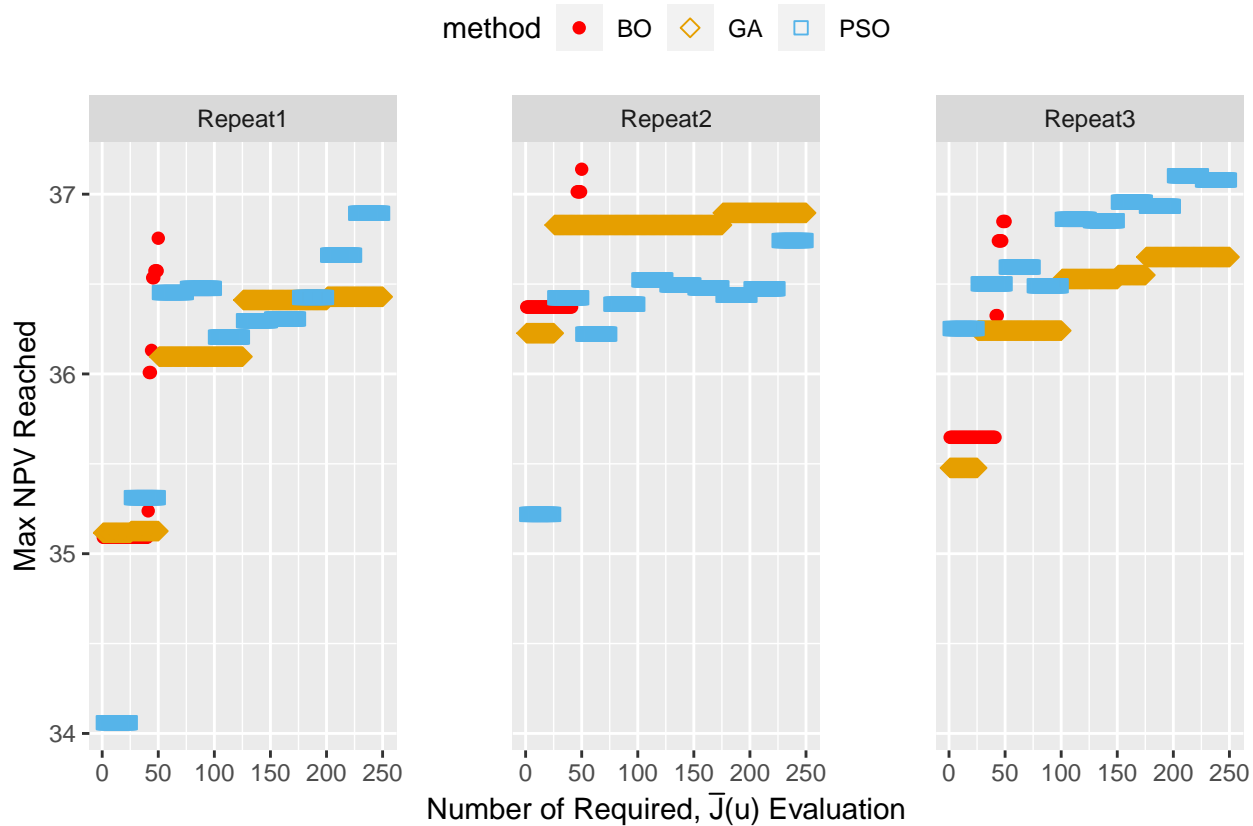
BayesOpt VS. with other Global Optimization Algorithms

Fixed Reservoir Simulation Budget (N=50)

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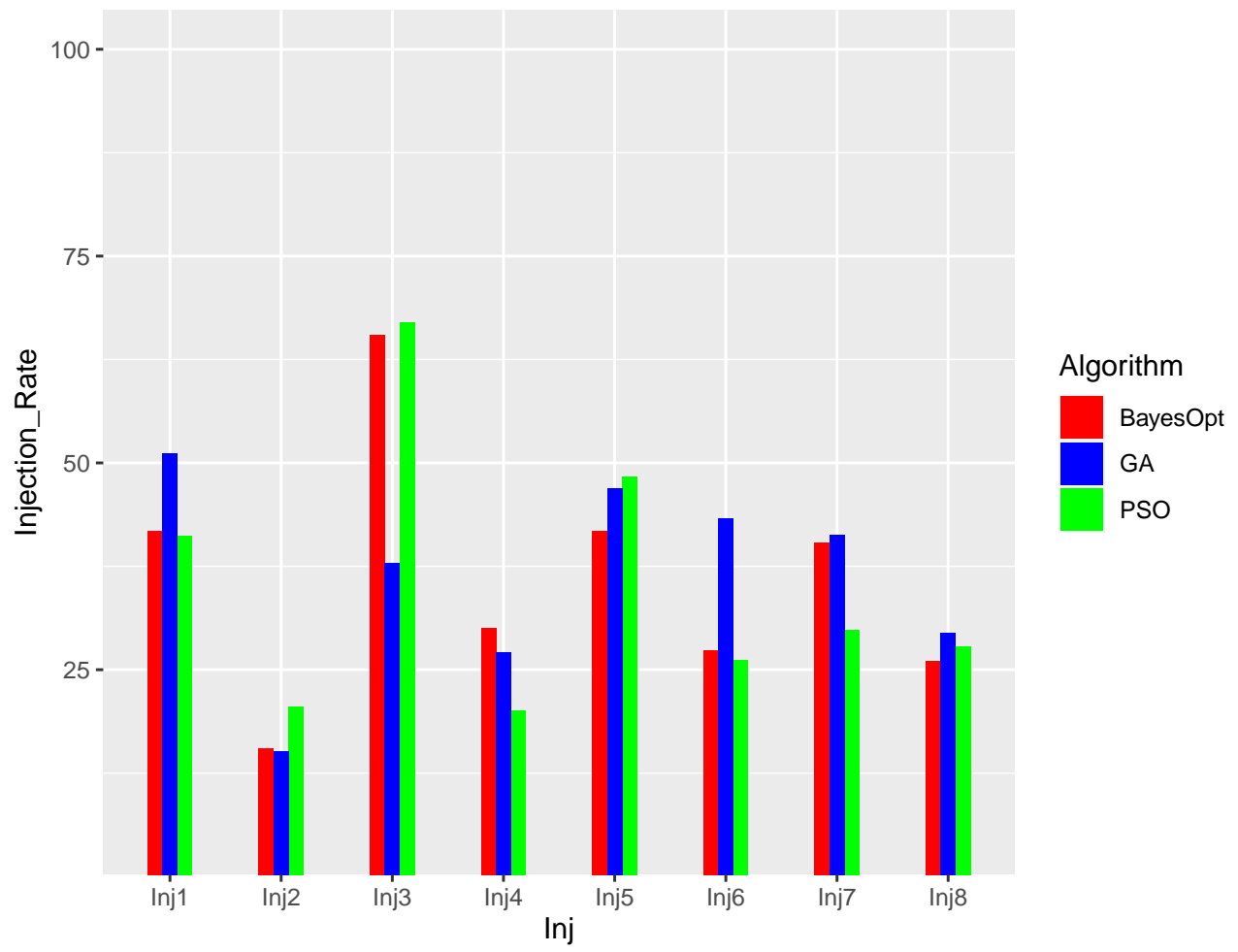
BO: Reservoir Simulation Budget (N=50), GA, PSO: Reservoir Simulation Budget (N=250)



BayesOpt VS. with other Global Optimization Algorithms

Table Summarizing Comparison of BayesOpt, PSO, GA

Comparing the Final Solution  $u$  of the Opt algorithms... (the Median Replication was used)



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