

# Lecture 21: Gaussian process regression

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## Sampling from a Gaussian process

# Sampling from a Gaussian process

$$f(\cdot) \sim \text{GP}(m(\cdot), c(\cdot, \cdot))$$

Take a finite # of input  $x_{1:n} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$

Consider the function values  $\underline{f_{1:n}} = (f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$   
*random vector*

By definition of the GP:

$$\underline{f_{1:n}} \sim N\left(\begin{matrix} m_{1:n} \\ m(x_1) \\ \vdots \\ m(x_n) \end{matrix}, \begin{matrix} C_n \\ \text{"} \\ C(x_i, x_j) \end{matrix}\right)$$

//  $n \times n$

- Find a square root of  $C_n$ , e.g.

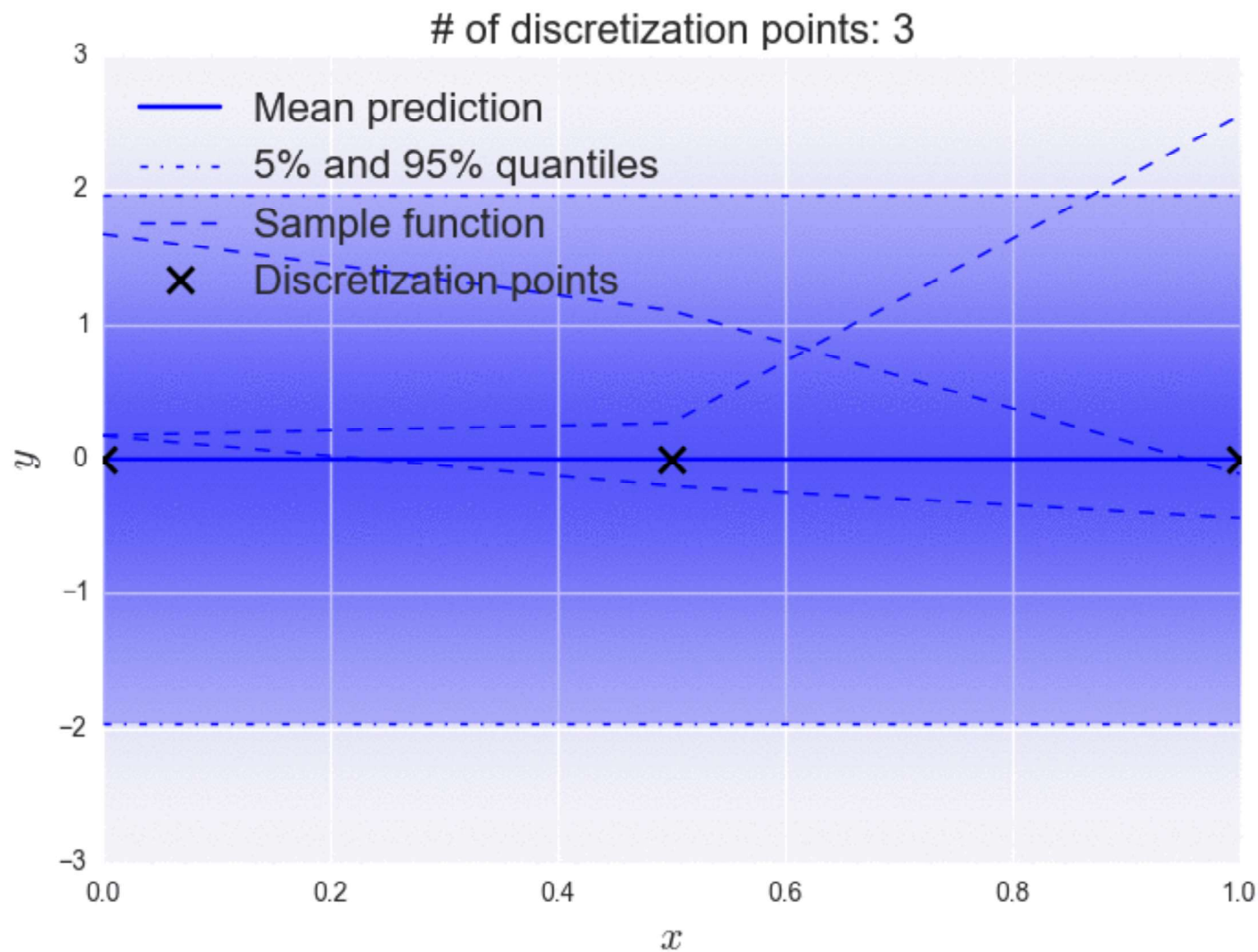
$$C_n = L_n \cdot L_n^T \quad (\text{Cholesky decomp.})$$

- Sample  $z \sim N(0_n, I_n)$

- Evaluate  $\underline{f_{1:n}} = \underline{m_{1:n}} + L_n z$ .



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