

Lecture Slides for

INTRODUCTION TO  
**Machine Learning**  
2nd Edition

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CHAPTER 14:

# Bayesian Estimation

# Maximum Likelihood vs. Bayes

**Task:** Given a dataset that comes from a normal distribution with mean  $\mu$ , estimate the mean.

**Maximum Likelihood Estimation:** Assume  $\mu$  is a unknown constant, estimate it based on data.

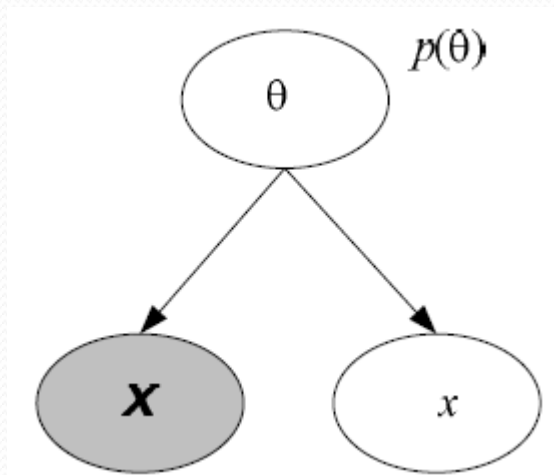
**Bayes Estimation:** Assume  $\mu$  is a random variable with a certain **prior** probability distribution, using Bayes' rule, combine **prior** and the **likelihood** (based on data) to estimate the **posterior** distribution.

# Rationale

- Bayes' Rule:

$$p(\theta | X) = \frac{p(\theta)p(X | \theta)}{p(X)}$$

- Generative model:



Arcs are in the direction of sampling:

First pick  $\theta$  from  $p(\theta)$

Use  $\theta$  to sample  $X$  and an instance  $x$

$X$  and  $x$  are independent given  $\theta$  (see Bayesian networks)

Joint distr:

$$p(x, X, \theta) = p(\theta)p(X|\theta)p(x|\theta)$$

$$p(x|X) = p(x, X) / p(X)$$

$$= \int_{\theta} p(x, X, \theta) d\theta / p(X)$$

$$= \int_{\theta} p(\theta)p(X|\theta)p(x|\theta) d\theta / p(X)$$

$$= \int_{\theta} p(\theta|X)p(x|\theta) d\theta$$

If discrete random vars: replace integral (  $\int$  ) with summation.

# Bayesian, MAP, ML Estimator

- Bayesian Estimate: Integrate to compute the posterior
  - *Problem: The integral may not be easy to compute.*
- MAP Estimate: Assuming posterior peaks around a single point (mode):
  - $\Theta_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \max_{\Theta} p(\Theta|X)$
  - $p_{\text{MAP}}(x|X) = p(x|\Theta_{\text{MAP}})$
- Maximum Likelihood Estimate: if prior  $p(\Theta)$  is uniform, then mode of posterior and mode of likelihood are at the same  $\Theta$ , hence ML estimate = MAP estimate

# Estimating the Parameters of a Distribution: Discrete case

$$\Gamma(t) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{t-1} e^{-x} dx$$

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$$

- $x_i^t=1$  if in instance  $t$  is in state  $i$ , probability of state  $i$  is  $q_i$
- **Dirichlet prior**,  $\alpha_i$  are **hyperparameters**  $Dirichlet(\mathbf{q} | \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_0)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \cdots \Gamma(\alpha_K)} \prod_{i=1}^K q_i^{\alpha_i-1}$

- Sample likelihood  $p(X | \mathbf{q}) = \prod_{t=1}^N \prod_{i=1}^K q_i^{x_i^t}$

- Posterior  $p(\mathbf{q} | X) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_0 + N)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + N_1) \cdots \Gamma(\alpha_K + N_K)} \prod_{i=1}^K q_i^{\alpha_i + N_i - 1}$

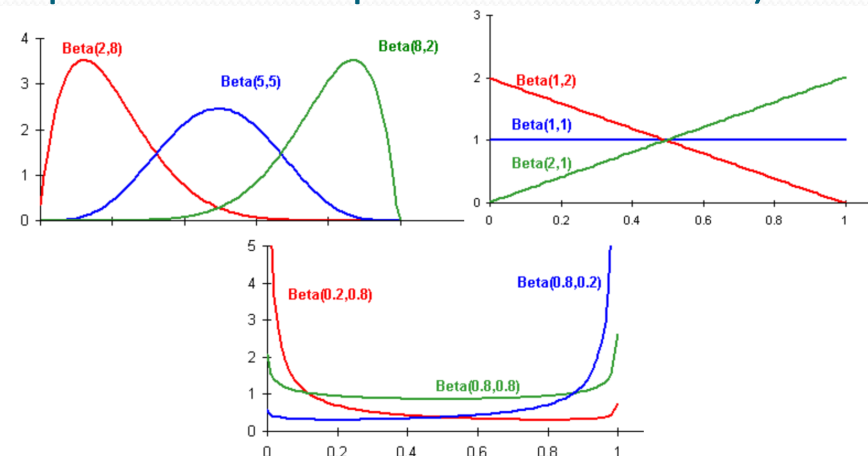
$$= Dirichlet(\mathbf{q} | \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \mathbf{n})$$

- Dirichlet is a **conjugate prior** (shape of the posterior and prior are the same)
- With  $K=2$ , Dirichlet distr reduces to
- **Beta** distribution

$$f(x) = \frac{(x)^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)} \quad B(x, y) = \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt$$

where  $B(\alpha, \beta)$  is a Beta function

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# Estimating the Parameters of a Distribution: Continuous case

- $p(x^t) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- **Gaussian** prior for mean  $\mu$ ,  $p(\mu) \sim N(\mu_0, \sigma_0^2)$
- Posterior:  $p(\mu|X) \propto p(\mu)p(X|\mu)$
- Posterior is also Gaussian  $p(\mu|X) \sim N(\mu_N, \sigma_N^2)$  where

$$\mu_N = \frac{\sigma^2}{N\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2} \mu_0 + \frac{N\sigma_0^2}{N\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2} m$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma_0^2} + \frac{N}{\sigma^2}$$

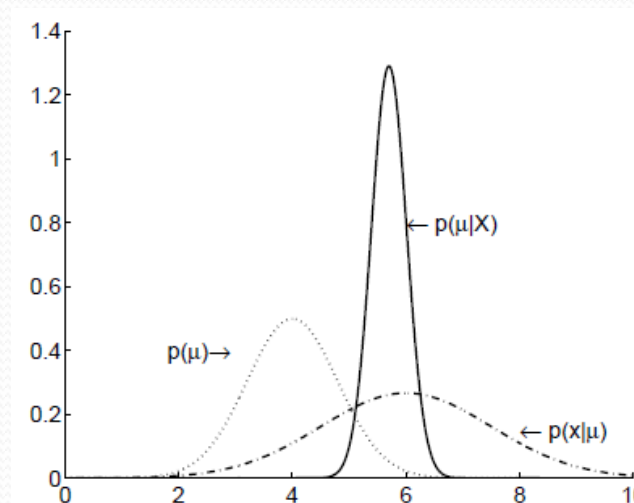
- To estimate the precision ( $\lambda=1/\text{variance}$ )
- Use Gamma prior, posterior is also Gamma

$$\Gamma(t) = \int_0^\infty x^{t-1} e^{-x} dx$$

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$$

$$g(x; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$$

prior:  $p(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$  posterior:  $p(\lambda|X) \propto p(X|\lambda)p(\lambda) \sim \text{Gamma}(a_N, b_N)$ ,  $a_N = a_0 + N/2$   
 $b_N = b_0 + s^2 N/2$





# Estimating the Parameters of a Function: Regression

- $r = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + \varepsilon$  where  $p(\varepsilon) \sim N(0, 1/\beta)$ , and  $p(r^t | \mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{w}, \beta) \sim N(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^t, 1/\beta)$

- Log likelihood

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{r} | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) &= \log \prod_t p(r^t | \mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{w}, \beta) \\ &= -N \log(\sqrt{2\pi}) + N \log \beta - \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_t (r^t - \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^t)^2 \end{aligned}$$

- ML solution  $\mathbf{w}_{ML} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{r}$
- Gaussian conjugate prior:  $p(\mathbf{w}) \sim N(0, 1/\alpha)$
- Posterior:  $p(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{X}) \sim N(\boldsymbol{\mu}_N, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_N)$  where

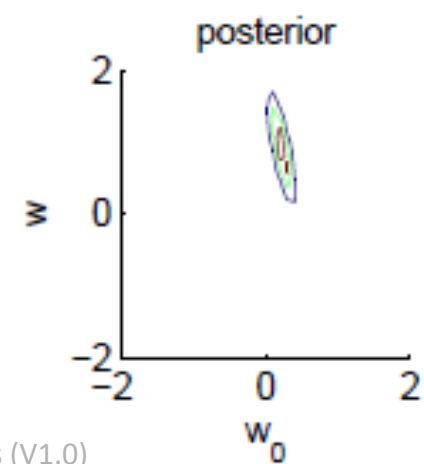
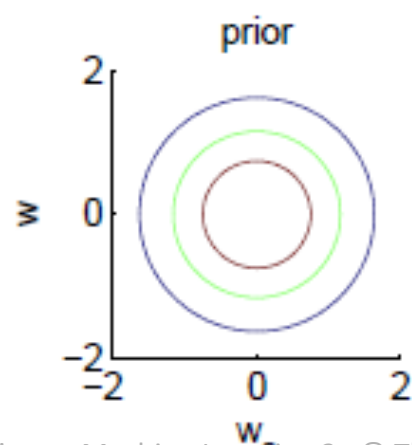
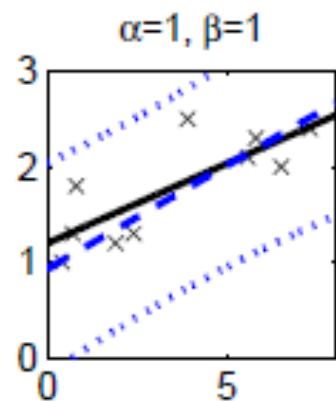
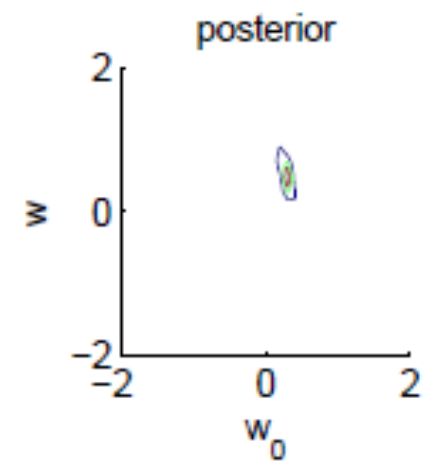
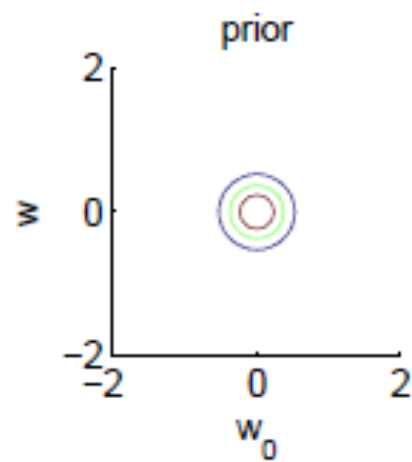
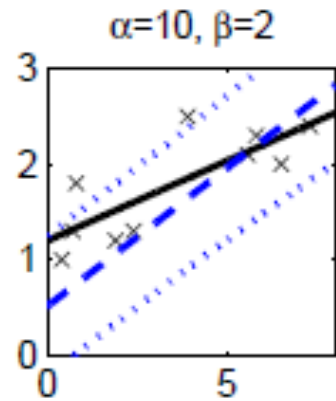
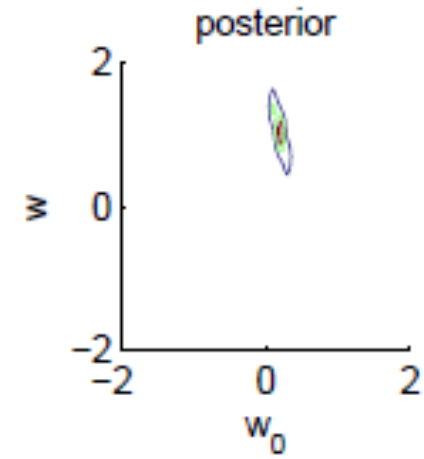
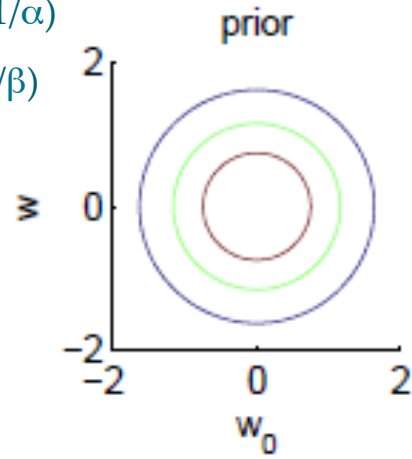
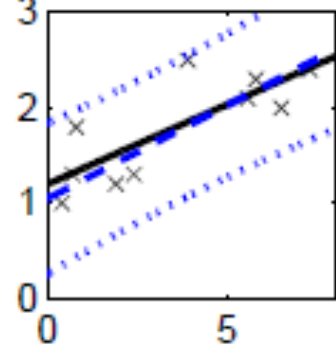
$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_N = \beta \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_N \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{r}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_N = (\alpha \mathbf{I} + \beta \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$$

- Generating output for input  $\mathbf{x}'$ : Integrate over the full posterior:
- $r' = \int \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}' p(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{X}) d\mathbf{w}$  Integrate over all possible  $\mathbf{w}$ 's



$\alpha=1, \beta=2$   $p(\mathbf{w}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/\alpha)$   
 $p(\epsilon) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/\beta)$



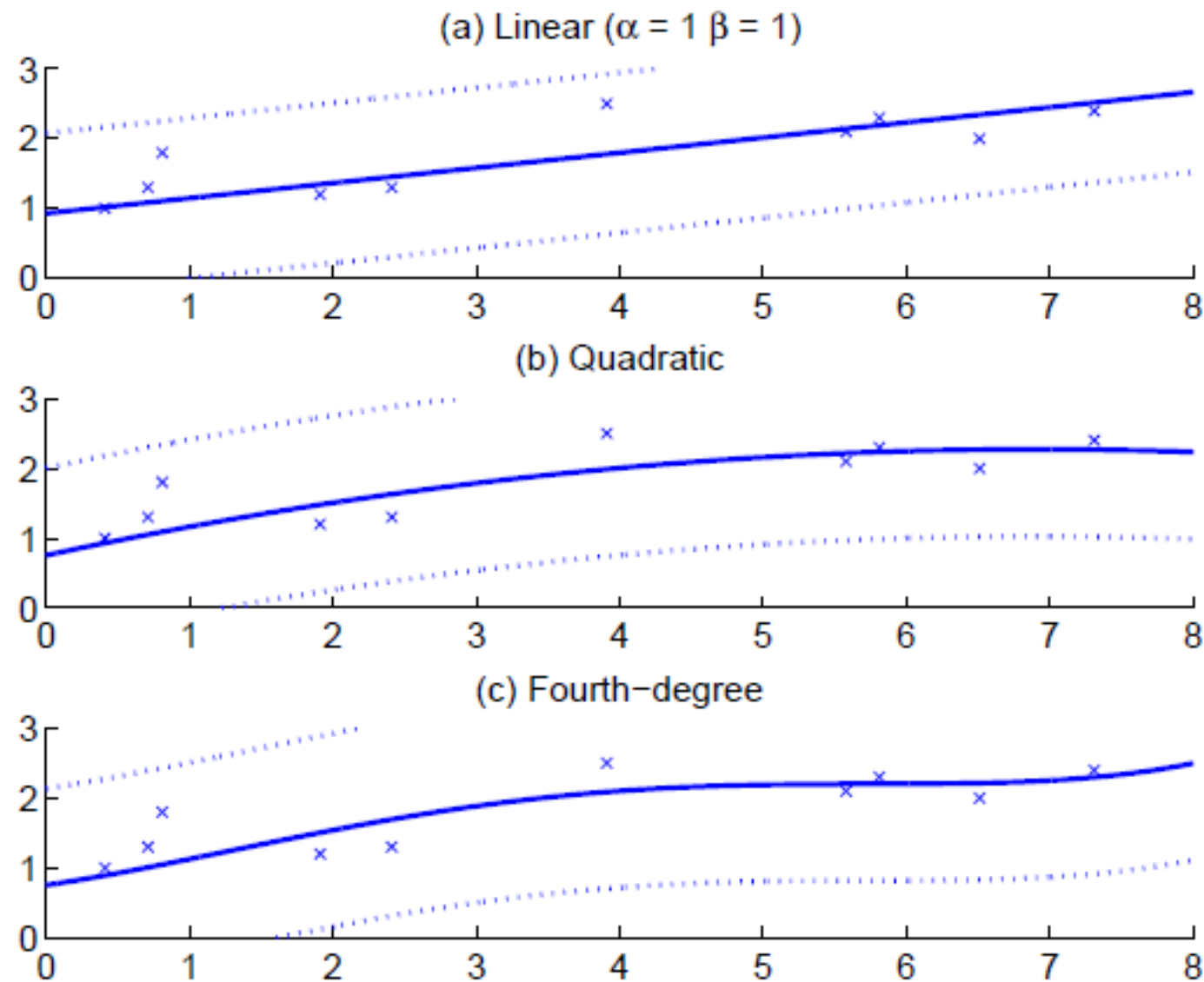
# Basis/Kernel Functions

- For new  $\mathbf{x}'$ , the estimate  $r'$  is calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} r' &= (\mathbf{x}')^T \mathbf{w} \\ &= \beta(\mathbf{x}')^T \Sigma_N \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{r} \\ &= \sum_t \beta(\mathbf{x}')^T \Sigma_N \mathbf{x}^t r^t \quad \text{Dual representation} \end{aligned}$$

- Linear kernel  $r' = \sum_t \beta(\mathbf{x}')^T \Sigma_N \mathbf{x}^t r^t \sum_t \beta K(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}^t) r^t$
- For any other  $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ , we can write  $K(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{x}')^T \phi(\mathbf{x})$

# Kernel Functions



# Bayesian Classification

- Assume weights have a zero mean Gaussian prior
- Write down the posterior for weights (given  $X$  and  $r$ )
- Posterior is not Gaussian and can not be computed exactly.
- Use **Laplace Approximation** to the posterior
- Find the mode of the posterior
- Fit a Gaussian centered at this mode
- Variance: Taylor expression involving the second derivatives matrix (**Hessian**)

# Gaussian Processes

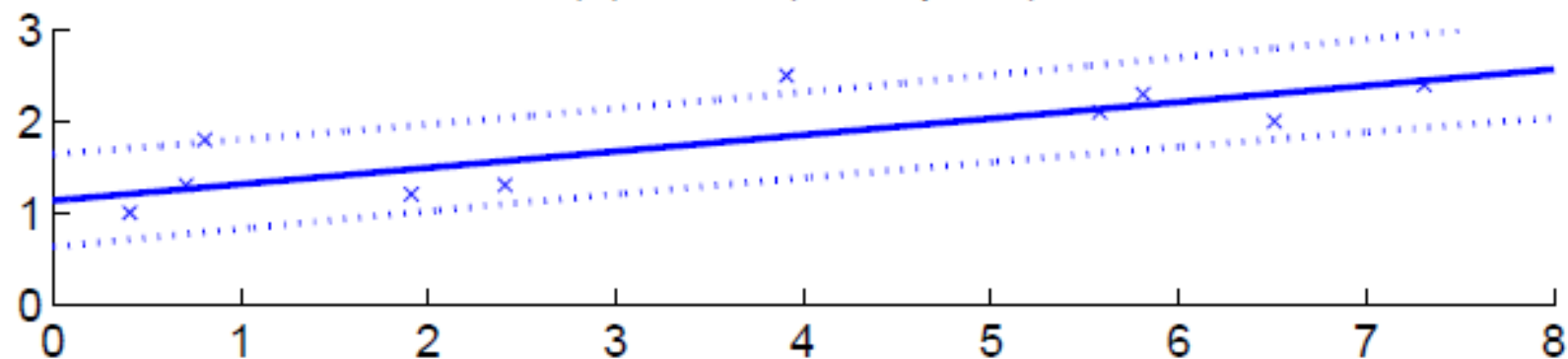
- For the linear model, instead of a single output  $y$  for input  $x$ , obtain an output distribution based on the distribution  $p(w)$  of weights
- $p(w)$  is a Gaussian,  $y$  is a linear combination of Gaussians,  $y$  is Gaussian
- We want to compute the joint distr of  $y$  values calculated at  $N$  points
- Assume Gaussian prior on inputs  $p(\mathbf{w}) \sim N(0, 1/\alpha)$
- $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}$ , where  $E[\mathbf{y}] = 0$  and  $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{K}$  with Gram Matrix  $\mathbf{K}$ ,  $K_{ij} = (\mathbf{x}^i)^T \mathbf{x}^j$
- $\mathbf{K}$  is the covariance function, here linear
- With basis function  $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $K_{ij} = (\phi(\mathbf{x}^i))^T \phi(\mathbf{x}^j)$
- $r \sim N_N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_N)$  where  $\mathbf{C}_N = (1/\beta)\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{K}$
- With new  $\mathbf{x}'$  added as  $\mathbf{x}_{N+1}$ ,  $r_{N+1} \sim N_{N+1}(0, \mathbf{C}_{N+1})$

$$\mathbf{C}_{N+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_N & \mathbf{k} \\ \mathbf{k} & c \end{bmatrix}$$

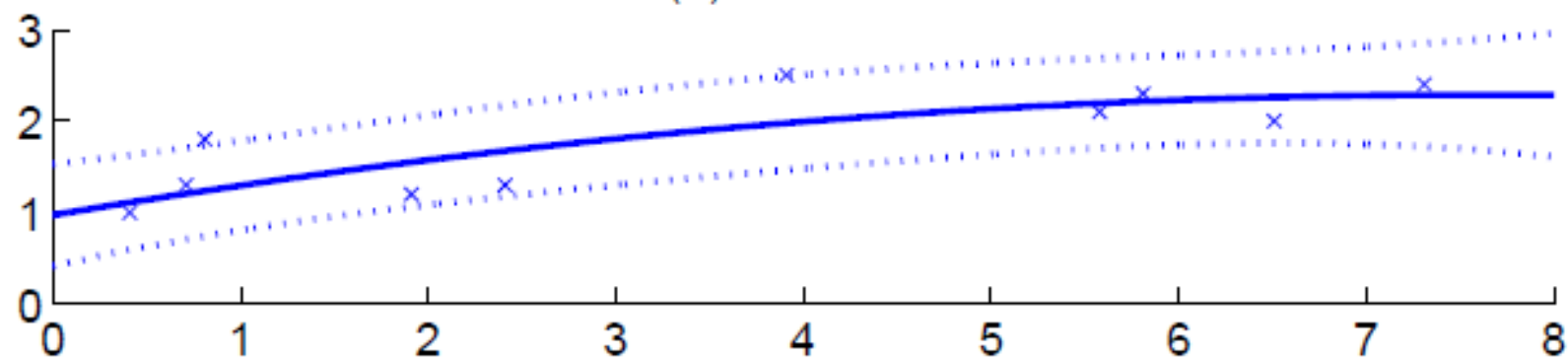
where  $\mathbf{k} = [K(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}^t)]^T$  and  $c = K(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}') + 1/\beta$ .

$p(r' | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{r}) \sim N(\mathbf{k}^T \mathbf{C}_{N-1}^{-1} \mathbf{r}, c - \mathbf{k}^T \mathbf{C}_{N-1}^{-1} \mathbf{k})$

(a) Linear ( $\alpha = 1$   $\beta = 5$ )



(b) Quadratic



(c) Gaussian

