

**MAX-AND-SMOOTH:  
A TWO-STEP APPROACH  
FOR APPROXIMATE BAYESIAN INFERENCE  
IN LATENT GAUSSIAN MODELS**

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## Max-and-Smooth: a two-step approach for approximate Bayesian inference in latent Gaussian models

Develop a novel posterior inference scheme for LGMs.

Applications:

- (i) linear regression on a lattice
- (ii) a spatial LGM for annual maximum flow in rivers

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# INTRODUCTION

Data level

$$y_{it} \sim \mathcal{F}(\mu_i, \sigma_i), \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad i = 1, \dots, J$$

Multivariate link function

$$(\psi_i, \tau_i) = h(\mu_i, \sigma_i) = (\log(\mu_i), \log(\sigma_i/\mu_i))$$

Latent level

$$\psi_i = \mathbf{x}_{\psi i} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\psi} + \mathbf{a}_{\psi i} \mathbf{u}_{\psi} + \epsilon_{\psi i}$$

$$\tau_i = \mathbf{x}_{\tau i} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\tau} + \mathbf{a}_{\tau i} \mathbf{u}_{\tau} + \epsilon_{\tau i}$$

Assign Gaussian prior densities to:

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}_{\psi}, \mathbf{u}_{\psi}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\psi}, \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\tau}, \mathbf{u}_{\tau}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\tau}$$

## INTRODUCTION

Data level:  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow \text{data}$       $\boldsymbol{\eta} \leftarrow \psi_i, \tau_i$

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\eta})$$

Latent level:  $\boldsymbol{\nu} = (\boldsymbol{\beta}_{\psi}^{\top}, \mathbf{u}_{\psi}^{\top}, \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\tau}^{\top}, \mathbf{u}_{\tau}^{\top})^{\top}$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Hyperparameter level:  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow \text{hyperparameters}$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Posterior density:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{y}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\eta})$$

## INTRODUCTION

Likelihood function:

$$L(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\mathbf{y}) = p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) \quad (\text{as a fcn of } \boldsymbol{\eta})$$

Hessian matrix and mode of  $\log(L(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\mathbf{y}))$ :

$$-Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\mathbf{y}} \quad \& \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}$$

Gaussian approximation:

$$L(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\mathbf{y}) \approx \tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\mathbf{y}) = c\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\mathbf{y}}^{-1}), \quad c \text{ is a constant indep. of } \boldsymbol{\eta}$$

Approximated posterior density:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{y}) &\approx \tilde{p}(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{y}) \\ &\propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})\tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\mathbf{y}) \end{aligned}$$

## INTRODUCTION

Data level:

$$p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}\boldsymbol{y}}^{-1})$$

Latent level:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Hyperparameter level:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Posterior density:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}|\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) &\propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) \\ &\propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})\tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{y}) \end{aligned}$$

as

$$p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}\boldsymbol{y}}^{-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}\boldsymbol{y}}^{-1}) = c^{-1}\tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{y})$$

## INTRODUCTION

Analyze the latter model as that is a Gaussian-Gaussian model.

Data level:

$$p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}y}^{-1})$$

Latent level:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|Z\boldsymbol{\nu}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})$$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\nu}, Q_{\nu}^{-1})$$

Hyperparameter level:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Posterior density:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}|\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\nu}, Q_{\nu}^{-1})\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|Z\boldsymbol{\nu}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})\mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}y}^{-1})$$

## INTRODUCTION

The posterior density of the pseudo model is

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta} | \hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} | \boldsymbol{\eta}).$$

The approximated posterior density of the original model is

$$\tilde{p}(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{y}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta})\tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{y}).$$

These two are the same since

$$\tilde{L}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{y}) = p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} | \boldsymbol{\eta}).$$



# HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS

- Data level

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}|Z\mathbf{x}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})$$

- Latent level

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}_2) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_x, Q_x^{-1})$$

- Hyperparameter level

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_1)p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_2)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{\theta}_1^{\top} \boldsymbol{\theta}_2^{\top})^{\top}$

## HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODEL

The Gaussian prior densities of  $\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{x}$  are

$$p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} \mid Z\mathbf{x}, Q_\epsilon^{-1})$$

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}_2) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_x, Q_x^{-1})$$

The joint prior distribution  $(\mathbf{y}^\top, \mathbf{x}^\top)^\top$  becomes

$$p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix} \middle| \begin{pmatrix} Z\boldsymbol{\mu}_x \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_x \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} Q_\epsilon & -Q_\epsilon Z \\ -Z^\top Q_\epsilon & Q_x + Z^\top Q_\epsilon Z \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right)$$

## HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODEL

The conditional posterior distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$  (given  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$ ) in terms of precision matrices:

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{x|y}, Q_{x|y}^{-1})$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{x|y} = Q_{x|y}^{-1}(Q_x \boldsymbol{\mu}_x + Z^\top Q_\epsilon \mathbf{y})$$

$$Q_{x|y} = Q_x + Z^\top Q_\epsilon Z$$

## HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODEL

The marginal distribution of  $\mathbf{y}$  (given  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ ) in terms of precision matrices:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\mathbf{y} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

$$p(\mathbf{y} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y})} = \frac{p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y})} \quad (\text{indep. of } \mathbf{x})$$

where

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}}, (Q_{\mathbf{x}} + Z^{\top} Q_{\epsilon} Z)^{-1})$$

$$p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} \mid Z\mathbf{x}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})$$

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{x}}, Q_{\mathbf{x}}^{-1})$$

## POSTERIOR SIMULATION FOR HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS

Simulate samples from  $p(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y})$

- 1 Draw  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  from  $p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y})$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\mathbf{y} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \frac{p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y})}$$

- 2 Draw  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y})$

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}}, Q_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}}^{-1})$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}} = Q_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}}^{-1}(Q_{\mathbf{x}}\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{x}} + Z^{\top}Q_{\epsilon}\mathbf{y})$$

$$Q_{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}} = Q_{\mathbf{x}} + Z^{\top}Q_{\epsilon}Z$$

# HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS

- Data level

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\eta})$$

- Latent level

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|Z\boldsymbol{\nu}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})$$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\nu}, Q_{\nu}^{-1})$$

- Hyperparameter level

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

# HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELS

- Data level - pseudo model

$$p(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}|\boldsymbol{\eta}, Q_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}y}^{-1})$$

- Latent level

$$p(\boldsymbol{\eta}|\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\eta}|Z\boldsymbol{\nu}, Q_{\epsilon}^{-1})$$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\nu}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\nu}, Q_{\nu}^{-1})$$

- Hyperparameter level

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$