# Variational Gaussian Process Timeseries Inference

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#### Abstract

Variational inference in nonlinear dynamical models.

The model is specified by

$$f_e(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, k_e(\cdot, \cdot)), \quad \text{where } \tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \text{ and } e = 1, \dots, E,$$
 (1)

$$\mathbf{x_t}|\mathbf{f_t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x_t}|\mathbf{f_t}, \mathbf{Q}),$$
 Q diagonal, (2)

$$\mathbf{y}_{t}|\mathbf{x}_{t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}_{t}|\mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_{t},\mathbf{R}),$$
 (3)

and  $u_t, y_t, t = 1,...,T$  are the control inputs and measurements (both observed), and  $f_t, t = 2,...,T$  and  $x_t, t = 1,...,T$  are unobserved, latent variables. The GPs implement the non-linear transition from one time point to the next conditioned on the state  $x_{t-1}$  and all the previous transition pairs  $f_{2:t-1}, x_{1:t-2}$ 

$$f_t(x_{t-1}) = p(f_t|f_{2:t-1}, x_{1:t-1}), \text{ where } t = 2, ..., T.$$

The joint probability of all the variables is given by the product of T observation probabilities and T-1 transition probabilities

$$p(y,x,f) \ = \ \prod_{t=1}^T p(y_t|x_t) \prod_{t=2}^T p(x_t|f_t) p(f_t|f_{1:t-1},x_{1:t-1}).$$

Each GP is augmented with a set of M inducing inputs z and corresponding targets v such that  $v_e = f_e(z_e)$ . The augmented joint is

$$p(y, x, f, v) = p(y|x)p(x, f|v)p(v).$$

Exact inference in the model is intractable, instead we fit the model by optimizing a variational lower bound based on an approximating distribution q, which we chose to have the following form

$$\label{eq:quantum_problem} q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{v}) \ = \ q(\mathbf{v}) q(\mathbf{x}) \prod_{t=2}^T p(\mathbf{f}_t | \mathbf{f}_{1:t-1}, \mathbf{x}_{1:t-1}, \mathbf{v}), \ \ \text{where} \ \ q(\mathbf{x}) \ = \ \mathcal{N}(\mu_x, \Sigma_x),$$

the assumptions being that 1) the joint on v and x factorizes, 2) that q(x) is Gaussian and 3) that the conditional  $q(f|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})$  is chosen to be equal to the conditional *prior*. Generally, we would expect the variational bound to be tight if the approximating distribution is close to the *posterior*, but for tractability we are forced to set the conditional  $q(f|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})$  to be equal to the conditional prior. This may still be a good approximation, since we are conditioning on the inducing targets v. If the inducing targets are able to capture the properties of the posterior, then the bound may still be good.

The variational log marginal likelihood lower bound is a single time series (contributions for multiple time series are simply added together)

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}(y|q(\mathbf{v}),q(\mathbf{x}),\theta) &= - \text{KL}(q(\mathbf{v})||p(\mathbf{v})) + \text{H}(q(\mathbf{x})) + \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle \log p(y_t|\mathbf{x}_t) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_t)} \\ &+ \sum_{t=2}^{T} -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(Q^{-1} \langle B_{t-1} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})}) + \langle \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t|A_{t-1}\mathbf{v},Q) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{v}),q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})}, \end{split} \tag{4}$$

with the following definitions

$$A_{t-1} = k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z})K^{-1}$$
, and  $B_{t-1} = k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) - k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z})K^{-1}k(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$ .

A free form optimization of this bound wrt q(v) yields independent Gaussians for each GP

$$q^*(\mathbf{v}_e) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_e = K_e(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1}\Psi_{1e}, \ \Sigma_e = K_e(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1}K_e), \tag{5}$$

where  $K_e = k_e(\boldsymbol{z}_e, \boldsymbol{z}_e)$  and we have defined the expectations

$$\Psi_{1} = \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle k(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) Q^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{t} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})}, \text{ and } \Psi_{2} = \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle k(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) Q^{-1} k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})},$$
 (6)

of size  $M \times E$  and  $M \times M \times E$  respectively.

Plugging the optimal  $q^*(v)$  back into the bound eq. (4), we get

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}(y|q(\mathbf{x}),\theta) \; &= \; - \; KL(q^*(\mathbf{v})||p(\mathbf{v})) + H(q(\mathbf{x})) + \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle \log p(y_t|\mathbf{x}_t) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_t)} \\ &+ \sum_{t=2}^{T} - \frac{1}{2} \langle tr \big( Q^{-1}(B_{t-1} + A_{t-1}\Sigma A_{t-1}) \big) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})} + \langle \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t|A_{t-1}\boldsymbol{\mu},Q) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})}. \end{split} \tag{7}$$

Note that except for the entropy  $H(q(\mathbf{x}))$ , the bound only depends on  $q(\mathbf{x})$  through its pair-wise marginals. This means that the model will be identical for all  $q(\mathbf{x})$  which have the same pair-wise marginals, except for an offset in the bound which depends on the entropy. We will chose  $q(\mathbf{x})$  to be Markovian, ie the precision  $\Sigma_{\mathbf{x}}^{-1}$  is block tri-diagonal.

## Transition model

Writing out each term from the transition model from eq. (7) in detail

$$-KL(q^*(\mathbf{v})||p(\mathbf{v})) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} tr(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} K_e + \mu_e^{\top} K_e^{-1} \mu_e - M - \log|(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} K_e|,$$
 (8)

and

$$\begin{split} -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} tr Q^{-1} \langle B_{t-1} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})} &= -\frac{T-1}{2} tr Q^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} tr K^{-1} \langle k(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) Q^{-1} k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} tr K_{e}^{-1} \Psi_{2e} - \frac{T-1}{2} tr Q^{-1}, \end{split} \tag{9}$$

and

$$\begin{split} -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} tr Q^{-1} \langle A_{t-1} \Sigma A_{t-1} \rangle_{q(x_{t-1})} &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} tr \left( \Sigma K^{-1} \langle k(x_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}) Q^{-1} k(\mathbf{z}, x_{t-1}) \rangle_{q(x_{t-1})} K^{-1} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} tr (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{2e}, \end{split} \tag{10}$$

and

$$\begin{split} \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t} | A_{t-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}, Q) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})} \\ &= -\frac{(T-1)E}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T-1}{2} \log|Q| - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle (\mathbf{x}_{t} - A_{t-1} \boldsymbol{\mu})^{\top} Q^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_{t} - A_{t-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})} \\ &= -\frac{(T-1)E}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T-1}{2} \log|Q| - \frac{1}{2} tr Q^{-1} \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle \mathbf{x}_{t}^{\top} \mathbf{x}_{t} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t})} + \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \langle \mathbf{x}_{t} Q^{-1} A_{t-1} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t})} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} K^{-1} \langle k(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}) Q^{-1} k(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})} K^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu} \\ &= -\frac{(T-1)E}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T-1}{2} \log|Q| - \frac{1}{2} tr Q^{-1} \sum_{t=2}^{T} \langle \mathbf{x}_{t}^{\top} \mathbf{x}_{t} \rangle_{q(\mathbf{x}_{t})} - \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} K^{-1} \Psi_{2} K^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu} + \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} K^{-1} \Psi_{1}. \end{split}$$

Collecting terms form eq. (8-11) which depend on  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2$ , two possibilies arise, either training or testing, in both cases we introduce  $\mu$  and  $\Sigma$  from eq. (5) for the *training* cases, giving rise to

$$\Psi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} \log |K_{e}| - \log |K_{e} + \Psi_{2e}| + \operatorname{tr} K_{e}^{-1} \Psi_{2e} + \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e}, 
\Psi^{*} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} \operatorname{tr} K_{e}^{-1} \Psi_{2e} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{2e}^{*} - \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{w}_{e} \mathbf{w}_{e}^{\top} \Psi_{2e}^{*} + 2 \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e}^{*},$$
(12)

where  $\mathbf{w}_e = (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1}\Psi_{1e}$ , for training and test respectively. Pulling together all terms from eq. (8-11) and eq. (12) we get the following contribution to the log likelihood

$$\Psi - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} Q^{-1} \sum_{t=2}^{T} (I + \mu_t^{\top} \mu_t + \Sigma_{t,t}) - \frac{T-1}{2} \log|Q| - \frac{(T-1)E}{2} \log(2\pi). \tag{13}$$

## **Entropy**

The entropy of Markovian Gaussian with specified E dimensional marginals and 2E dimensional consequtive pair-wise marginals and marginals is given by

$$\mathcal{H}(q(\mathbf{x})) \ = \ \frac{\text{TE}}{2}(1 + \log(2\pi)) + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{t=2}^{T}\log|\Sigma_{t-1:t,t-1:t}| - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{t=2}^{T-1}\log|\Sigma_{t}| \tag{14}$$

```
3
     \langle entropy 3 \rangle \equiv
     1 function [L dLd dLo] = gaussMarkovEntropy(d, o);
     2 [E, E, T] = size(d); dd = zeros(T,1); dp = zeros(T-1,1);
     3 \text{ for } t = 1:T, dd(t) = det(d(:,:,t)); end
                                                                           % det of diagonals
     4 for t = 1:T-1, dp(t) = dd(t)*det(d(:,:,t+1)-o(:,:,t))*/d(:,:,t)*o(:,:,t)); end;
     5 L = E*T*(1+log(2*pi))/2 + sum(log(dp))/2 - sum(log(dd(2:T-1)))/2;
     6 if nargout > 1
                                                                          % want derivatives?
         dLd = zeros(E,E,T); dLo = zeros(E,E,T-1);
         for t = 1:T-1
            dLd(:,:,t) = dLd(:,:,t) + inv(d(:,:,t)-o(:,:,t)/d(:,:,t+1)*o(:,:,t)')/2;
    10
            dLd(:,:,t+1) = inv(d(:,:,t+1)-o(:,:,t))'/d(:,:,t)*o(:,:,t))/2;
            dLo(:,:,t) = -d(:,:,t) \setminus o(:,:,t) / (d(:,:,t+1) - o(:,:,t)' / d(:,:,t) * o(:,:,t));
    12
         for t = 2:T-1, dLd(:,:,t) = dLd(:,:,t) - inv(d(:,:,t))/2; end
    13
    14 \text{ end}
```

### Likelihood

The linear Gaussian log likelihood is

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle \log p(y_t | x_t) \rangle_{q(x_t)} = -\frac{DT}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{T}{2} \log|R| - \frac{1}{2} tr R^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( (y - C\mu_t)(y - C\mu_t)^\top + C\Sigma_t C^\top \right). \tag{15}$$

Maximizing the log likelihood wrt observation noise covariance R and the parameters C yields:

$$R^* = \frac{1}{T} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} y_t y_t^{\top} - C^* \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mu_t y^{\top} \right], \text{ and } C^* = \sum_{t=1}^{T} y_t \mu_t^{\top} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mu_t \mu_t^{\top} + \Sigma_{t,t} \right]^{-1},$$
 (16)

and the maximum attained is

$$\mathcal{L}^* = -\frac{DT}{2}(1 + \log(2\pi)) - \frac{T}{2}\log|R^*|, \tag{17}$$

with derivatives

$$\frac{\mathcal{L}^*}{\partial \mu_t} = C^\top R^{-1} (y_t - C \mu_t), \text{ and } \frac{\mathcal{L}^*}{\partial \Sigma_{t,t}} = -\frac{1}{2} C^\top R^{-1} C, \text{ evaluated at } C = C^*, \text{ and } R = R^*. \tag{18}$$

In the test case, when we are inferring the latent space representation of a given short sequence, we use the  $R^*$  and  $C^*$  parameters derived from the training sequences, so that the contribution to the log likelihood does not take on the simple form  $\mathcal{L}^*$ , but must be calculated in full from eq. (16).

```
4a
      \langle likelihood 4a \rangle \equiv
                                                                         (5b)
      1 function [L, R, C, dm, dS] = likelihood(y, qx, lat)
      2 D = size(y{1},2); E = size(qx(1).m,1); T = sum(arrayfun(@(x)size(x.m,2),qx));
      3 \text{ N} = \text{size}(y,2); yy = \text{zeros}(D); ym = \text{zeros}(D, E+1); mm = \text{zeros}(E+1);
      5 m = [qx(n).m', ones(size(qx(n).m,2),1)]; mm = mm + m'*m; ym = ym + y{n}'*m;
      6 yy = yy + y\{n\}'*y\{n\}; mm(1:E,1:E) = mm(1:E,1:E) + sum(qx(n).Sd,3);
      7 end
      8 if nargin < 3
      9 C = ym/mm; R = (yy - C*ym')/T;
     10 L = -D*T*(1+log(2*pi))/2 - T*sum(log(diag(chol(R))));
                                                                             % log likelihood
     11 else %We are in the testing case, using a provided latent mapping
     12   C = lat.C; R = lat.R; d = zeros(1,N);
     13
         for n=1:N
            CsC = 0; for t=1:T, CsC = CsC + C(:,E)*qx(n).Sd(:,:,t)*C(:,E); end
     14
     15
            d(1,n) = sum(sum((y{n})' - C*[qx(n).m', ones(size(qx(n).m,2),1)]).^2)) + CsC;
     16
     17 L = -D*T*log(2*pi)/2 - T*sum(log(diag(chol(R))))/2 - tr(inv(R))*(sum(d))/2;
     18 end
     19 if nargout > 3
                                                                 % do we want derivatives?
     20 	 dm = cell(N,1);
     21
        for n = 1:N,
     22
           dm\{n\} = C(:,1:E)'/R*(y\{n\}'-C*[qx(n).m; ones(1,size(qx(n).m,2))]);
     23 end
         dS = -C(:,1:E)'/R*C(:,1:E)/2;
                                                    % all dS identical, return once only
     25 end
```

#### The lower bound

```
Pulling together all terms
         \mathcal{L}(y|q(x),\theta) \; = \; \tfrac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} \log |(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} K_e| + tr K_e^{-1} \Psi_{2e} + \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e} + \tfrac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{I} \log |\Sigma_{t-1:t,t-1:t}|
                                                                                                                                 (19)
            -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{t=2}^{T-1} \log |\Sigma_t| - \frac{1}{2} tr Q^{-1} \sum_{t=2}^{T} (I + \mu_t^\top \mu_t + \Sigma_{t,t}) - \frac{T-1}{2} \log |Q| - \frac{T}{2} \log |R^*| - \frac{(D-E)T}{2} - \frac{TD-E}{2} \log (2\pi).
        \langle lower\ bound\ 4b \rangle \equiv
                                                                                                (5b)
4b
        1 [L1, dnlml] = Psi(hyp, qx, z, u);
        2 T = sum(arrayfun(@(x)size(x.m,2),qx)); L2 = 0; L3 = 0;
        3 dLd = cell(1,N); dLo = cell(1,N);
        4 \text{ for } n = 1:N
        5 L2 = L2 + sum(qx(n).m(:,2:end).^2,2) + diag(sum(qx(n).Sd(:,:,2:end),3));
        6 [L dLd{n} dLo{n}] = gaussMarkovEntropy(qx(n).Sd, qx(n).So); L3 = L3 + L;
        7 end
        8 L5 = -exp(-2*[hyp(:).pn]) * (L2+T-N) / 2;
        9 L4 = -(T-N)*sum([hyp(:).pn])-(T-N)*E*log(2*pi)/2;
       10 [L6, R, C, dm, dS] = likelihood(y, qx);
       11 \text{ nlml} = -L1-L5-L3-L4-L6;
       12 %keyboard
        \langle bound\ derivatives\ 4c \rangle \equiv
                                                                                                (5b)
4c
        1 for e = 1:E
        dnlml.hyp(e).pn = dnlml.hyp(e).pn - exp(-2*hyp(e).pn)*(L2(e)+T-N)+T-N;
        3 end
        4 iQ = diag(exp(-2*[hyp(:).pn]));
        5 \text{ for } n = 1:N
        6 dnlml.qx(n).m(:,2:end) = dnlml.qx(n).m(:,2:end) + iQ*qx(n).m(:,2:end);
             dnlml.qx(n).m = dnlml.qx(n).m - dm{n};
```

```
dnlml.qx(n).Sd(:,:,2:end) = bsxfun(@plus, dnlml.qx(n).Sd(:,:,2:end), iQ/2);
           dnlml.qx(n).Sd = dnlml.qx(n).Sd - bsxfun(@plus, dS, dLd{n});
     10
           dnlml.qx(n).So = dnlml.qx(n).So - dLo{n};
     11 end
     12
     13 out1 = nlml; out2 = dnlml; out3 = struct('C', C, 'R', R);
                                                                             % rename outputs
      \langle predictions 5a \rangle \equiv
                                                                             (5b)
5a
      1 [Psi1, Psi2] = Psi(hyp, qx, z, u);
      \langle vgpt.m 5b \rangle \equiv
5b
      1 function [out1, out2, out3] = vgpt(p, data, x);
      2 (usage 5c)
      4 \text{ N} = \text{length}(p.qx); z = p.z; [M, F, E] = \text{size}(z); D = \text{size}(\text{data}(1).y,2); hyp = p.hyp;
      5 \text{ u = arrayfun(@(x)(x.u),data,'UniformOutput',false); [qx(1:N).m] = deal(p.qx(:).m);}
      6 y = arrayfun(@(x)(x.y),data,'UniformOutput',false);
      7 for n = 1:N, [qx(n).Sd qx(n).So] = convert(p.qx(n).s); end % convert covariance
      9 if nargin == 2
     10
           (lower bound 4b)
           ⟨bound derivatives 4c⟩
     11
           ⟨revert covariances 9b⟩
     13 else
           (predictions 5a)
     15 end
     16
     17 (Psi 5d)
     18 (entropy 3)
     19 (likelihood 4a)
     20 (convert 9a)
     21 (revert 9c)
     22 (maha 10a)
     23 (prediction 10b)
      \langle usage 5c \rangle \equiv
5c
      1 % Variational GP Timeseries inference. Compute the nlml lower bound and its
      2 % derivative wrt hyp hyperparameters, qx distribution and z inducing inputs.
      3 %
      4 % p
                                parameter struct
      5 %
             hyp
                     1 x E
                                GP hyperparameter struct
      6 %
                    F x 1
                                log length scale
      7 %
                                log process noise std dev
              pn
                   1 x 1
      8 %
                    1 x N
                                struct array for Gaussian q(x) distribution
             qx
      9 %
                  E x T_n mean
     10 %
               s 2ExE x T_n representation of covariance
                   M x F x E inducing inputs
     11 %
             z
     12 % data
                     1 \times N
                                data struct
     13 %
                   T_n x D
                                cell array of observations
             У
     14 %
                   T_n \times U
                                cell array of control inputs
     15 %
     16 % Copyright (C) 2016 by Carl Edward Rasmussen, 20160530.
```

#### The **Y** function

In the implementation, a function Psi handles the part of the (negative) log marginal likelihood which depends on the quantities  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2$ :

$$\psi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e=1}^{E} \log |K_e| - \log |K_e + \Psi_{2e}| - tr K_e^{-1} \Psi_{2e} - \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e}.$$
 (20)

5d 
$$\langle Psi \ 5d \rangle \equiv$$
 (5b)

```
1 function [lml, dnlml] = Psi(hyp, qx, z, u, test);
2 % hyp
              1 x E
                       GP hyperparameter struct
3 %
     - 1
              F x 1
                        log length scale
4 % pn
              1 x 1
                        log process noise std dev
                      Gaussian q(x) distribution
5 % qx
               1 x N
             E \times T_n
 7 %
      Sd ExE x T_n
                        diagonal elements of covariance matrix
8 % So
          ExE x T_n-1 immediately off-diagonal elements of covariance matrix
9 % z
            M x F x E inducing inputs
10 % u
             T_n x U
                        cell array of control inputs
11 % lml
               1 x 1
                        contribution to the log marginal likelihood
12 % dnlml
                        derivatives
13 % test
                        flag indicating test mode
15 persistent K Psi1 Psi2;
                                                   % keep these around if necessary
16 [M, F, E] = size(z);
                                                                        % get sizes
17 if "test %If we test, we use the stored values of Psi1, Psi2 from the training set.
   K = zeros(M,M,E); Psi1 = zeros(M,E); Psi2 = zeros(M,M,E); Sd = zeros(F,F);
19 end
20 if nargin < 5 %Use to return stored Psi values
    lml = Psi1; dnlml = Psi2;
22 else
23
     ⟨expectations 6⟩
24
     if nargout > 0
25
       (expectation derivatives 7a)
26
27 end
```

## The $\Psi_1$ and $\Psi_2$ expectations

The expectations from eq. (6) and derivatives wrt hyperparameters, the parameters of the q(x) distribution and the pseudo-inputs z are calculated by the Psi function. To compute these expectations, the pairwise joint

$$\label{eq:q_total_total_problem} q(x_{t-1:t}) \; = \; \mathcal{N} \bigg( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \mu_{t-1} \\ \mu_{t} \end{array} \right], \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1} & \Sigma_{t-1,t} \\ \Sigma_{t,t-1} & \Sigma_{t,t} \end{array} \right] \bigg),$$

is multiplied with the covariance function, which can be written as an un-normalized joint Gaussian

$$k_{e}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}_{ie}) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie} \\ \mathbf{x}_{t} \end{bmatrix}^{\top} \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda_{e}^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie} \\ \mathbf{x}_{t} \end{bmatrix}\right),$$

vielding

6

$$\begin{split} \int & x_{t} k_{e}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}_{ie}) q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1:t}) d\mathbf{x}_{t-1} d\mathbf{x}_{t} \ = \ \left( \mu_{t} + \Sigma_{t,t-1} [\Lambda_{e} + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}]^{-1} (\mathbf{z}_{ie} - \mu_{t-1}) \right) \\ & \times |I + \Lambda_{e}^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}|^{-1/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (\mu_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie}) [\Lambda_{e} + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}]^{-1} (\mu_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie}) \right). \end{split} \tag{21}$$

For  $\Psi_2$  we have from eq. (6)

$$\int k_{e}(\mathbf{z}_{ie}, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) k_{e}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \mathbf{z}_{je}) q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}) d\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \exp(-(\mathbf{z}_{ie} - \mathbf{z}_{je}) \Lambda_{e}^{-1} (\mathbf{z}_{ie} - \mathbf{z}_{je}) / 4)$$

$$\times |I + 2\Lambda_{e}^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1, t-1}|^{-1/2} \exp(-(\frac{\mathbf{z}_{ie} + \mathbf{z}_{je}}{2} - \mu_{t-1}) [\Lambda_{e} / 2 + \Sigma_{t-1, t-1}]^{-1} (\frac{\mathbf{z}_{ie} + \mathbf{z}_{je}}{2} - \mu_{t-1}) / 2).$$

$$(22)$$

Both  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2$  are computed for each GP  $e=1,\ldots,E$ , each inducing input  $z_{ie}, i=1,\ldots,M$ , and added over (N time series and)  $T_n-1$  time points:

```
7
       for t = 2:size(qx(n).m, 2)
                                                                % for each time step
8
         Sd(1:E,1:E) = qx(n).Sd(:,:,t-1);
                                                     % covariance in top left corner
9
         r1 = prod(diag(chol(eye(F)+iL*Sd*iL)));
                                                                           % sqrt det
10
         r2 = prod(diag(chol(eye(F)+2*iL*Sd*iL)));
                                                                           % sqrt det
11
         s = bsxfun(@minus, z(:,:,e), [qx(n).m(:,t-1), u{n}(t-1,:)]);
12
         a = s/(L2+Sd);
         b1 = b1 + (qx(n).m(e,t) + a(:,1:E)*qx(n).So(:,e,t-1)) ...
13
14
                                                           .*exp(-sum(a.*s,2)/2)/r1;
         b2 = b2 + \exp(-maha(s, -s, inv(L2+2*Sd))/4) / r2;
15
16
       end
17
     end
18
     if test
19
       w = (K(:,:,e)+Psi2(:,:,e))\Psi1(:,e);
20
       W = -K(:,:,e)\Psi2(:,:,e)/(Psi2(:,:,e)+K(:,:,e)) + w*w';
21
       lml = lml + exp(-2*hyp(e).pn)*(b1'*w(:,e) ...
22
                           - sum(sum(b2.*exp(-maha(z(:,:,e),[],inv(L2))/4).*W))/2);
23
     else
24
       Psi1(:,e) = b1 * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn);
25
       Psi2(:,:,e) = b2 * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn) .* exp(-maha(z(:,:,e),[],inv(L2))/4);
26
       lml = lml - sum(log(diag(chol(K(:,:,e)+Psi2(:,:,e))))) + ...
27
              sum(log(diag(chol(K(:,:,e))))) + trace(K(:,:,e))Psi2(:,:,e))/2 + ...
28
                                     Psi1(:,e)'/(K(:,:,e)+Psi2(:,:,e))*Psi1(:,e)/2;
29
     end
30 \text{ end}
```

Note that in the implementation the state distribution  $q(\mathbf{x})$  is concatenated with the (deterministic) control inputs u.

#### Psi derivatives

We need to compute the derivatives of  $\Psi$  wrt the parameters of the q(x) distribution, wrt the u inducing inputs and wrt the hyperparameters. First, from eq. (20) we note

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \Psi_{1e}} &= -(K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e} = -\mathbf{w}_e, \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \Psi_{2e}} &= -\frac{1}{2} K_e^{-1} \Psi_{2e} (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}_e \mathbf{w}_e^\top = -\frac{1}{2} R_e (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}_e \mathbf{w}_e^\top = W_e, \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial K_e} &= -\frac{1}{2} R_e (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} R_e^\top + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}_e \mathbf{w}_e^\top = V_e, \end{split}$$

where we have defined  $\mathbf{w}_e = (K_e + \Psi_{2e})^{-1}\Psi_{1e}$  and  $R_e = K_e^{-1}\Psi_{2e}$ . These can be used together with the derivatives of  $\Psi_{1e}$ ,  $\Psi_{2e}$  and  $K_e$  and the chain rule to get the desired derivatives.

```
\langle expectation \ derivatives \ 7a \rangle \equiv
7a
       1 dnlml.z = zeros(M,F,E);
       2 for n = 1:size(qx,2), dnlml.qx(n).m = 0*qx(n).m; dnlml.qx(n).So = 0*qx(n).So;
       3 \text{ dnlml.qx(n).Sd} = -0*qx(n).Sd; end;
       4 \text{ for } e = 1:E
       w = (K(:,:,e)+Psi2(:,:,e))\Psi1(:,e);
          R = K(:,:,e) \setminus Psi2(:,:,e);
            W = -R/(Psi2(:,:,e)+K(:,:,e)) + w*w';
            (hyp derivatives 7b)
       9
            (Psi derivatives 7c)
      10 \text{ end}
7b
       \langle hyp \ derivatives \ 7b \rangle \equiv
       1 dnlml.hyp(e).pn = 2*sum(w.*Psi1(:,e)) - sum(sum(W.*Psi2(:,:,e)));
7c
       \langle Psi \ derivatives \ 7c \rangle \equiv
                                                                                         (7a)
       1 iL = diag(exp(-hyp(e).1)); L2 = diag(exp(2*hyp(e).1));
       2 \text{ W1} = \text{W} .* \exp(-\text{maha}(z(:,:,e),[],inv(L2))/4);
       3 D = zeros(M,F); H = zeros(F,1);
       4 \text{ for } n = 1:length(qx)
          T = size(qx(n).m,2);
```

```
A = zeros(E,T); B = zeros(E,E,T); C = zeros(E,E,T-1);
 7
     for t = 2:T
8
      Sd(1:E,1:E) = qx(n).Sd(:,:,t-1);
                                                 % covariance in top left corner
9
      r2 = prod(diag(chol(eye(F)+2*iL*Sd*iL)));
                                                                      % sqrt det
10
       s = bsxfun(@minus, z(:,:,e), [qx(n).m(:,t-1)' u{n}(t-1,:)]);
11
       a = s/(L2+Sd);
12
       a2 = s/(2*L2+4*Sd);
13
       SiS = (L2(1:E,1:E)+Sd(1:E,1:E)) \setminus qx(n).So(:,e,t-1);
14
      r = \exp(-sum(a.*s,2)/2) / prod(diag(chol(eye(F)+iL*Sd*iL)));
15
       g = (qx(n).m(e,t) + a(:,1:E)*qx(n).So(:,e,t-1)).*w.*r;
16
       W2 = W1.*exp(-maha(s,-s,inv(L2+2*Sd))/4);
17
       X = bsxfun(@plus,permute(a2,[1 3 2]),permute(a2,[3 1 2]));
18
       A(:,t-1) = A(:,t-1) + SiS*(w'*r) - a(:,1:E)'*g + ...
19
                         squeeze(sum(sum(bsxfun(@times,W2,X(:,:,1:E)),2),1))/r2;
20
       A(e,t) = -w'*r;
21
       B(:,:,t-1) = squeeze(sum(sum(bsxfun(@times, ...
22
          bsxfun(@times, W2, X(:,:,1:E)),permute(X(:,:,1:E),[1 2 4 3])),2),1))/r2;
23
       B(:,:,t-1) = B(:,:,t-1) + SiS*((w.*r),*a(:,1:E)) ...
24
                                     + inv(L2(1:E,1:E)+Sd(1:E,1:E))*sum(g)/2 ...
25
                                      - a(:,1:E)'*bsxfun(@times,g,a(:,1:E))/2 ...
26
                             - inv(L2(1:E,1:E)+2*Sd(1:E,1:E))*sum(sum(W2))/r2/2;
27
       C(:,e,t-1) = -bsxfun(@times,a(:,1:E),r)*w;
28
       if ~test
29
         D(:,1:E) = D(:,1:E) - bsxfun(@times,w,r)*SiS';
30
         D = D + bsxfun(@times,g,a) - W2*a2/r2 - bsxfun(@times,sum(W2,2),a2)/r2;
31
         H = H + diag(Sd/(L2+2*Sd))*sum(sum(W2))/r2 ...
32
            + exp(2*hyp(e).1).*squeeze(sum(sum(bsxfun(@times,W2,X.^2),2),1))/r2;
33
         H(1:E) = H(1:E) \dots
34
               + 2*exp(2*hyp(e).1(1:E)).*diag(SiS*bsxfun(@times,w,r)',*a(:,1:E));
35
         H = H - diag(Sd/(L2+Sd))*sum(g);
36
         H = H - \exp(2*hyp(e).1).*diag(a'*bsxfun(@times,g,a));
37
       end
38
     end
39
     dnlml.qx(n).m = dnlml.qx(n).m + A * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn);
40
     dnlml.qx(n).Sd = dnlml.qx(n).Sd + B * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn);
41
     dnlml.qx(n).So = dnlml.qx(n).So + C * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn);
42 end
43 if ~test
44 G = W.*Psi2(:,:,e);
45 \text{ a} = z(:,:,e)*diag(exp(-2*hyp(e).1)/2);
46 dnlml.z(:,:,e) = D*exp(-2*hyp(e).pn) + G*a - bsxfun(@times,sum(G,2),a);
47 B = bsxfun(@minus,permute(a,[1 3 2]),permute(a,[3 1 2]));
48 dnlml.hyp(e).l = H * exp(-2*hyp(e).pn) ...
            + exp(2*hyp(e).1).*squeeze(sum(sum(bsxfun(@times,G,B.^2),1),2));
50 G = (R/(K(:,:,e)+Psi2(:,:,e))*R' + w*w').*K(:,:,e);
51 a = z(:,:,e)*diag(exp(-2*hyp(e).1));
52 B = bsxfun(@minus,permute(z(:,:,e),[1 3 2]),permute(z(:,:,e),[3 1 2]));
53 dnlml.hyp(e).l = dnlml.hyp(e).l ...
         + exp(-2*hyp(e).1).*squeeze(sum(sum(bsxfun(@times,B.^2,G),1),2))/2;
55 dnlml.z(:,:,e) = dnlml.z(:,:,e) + G*a - bsxfun(@times,sum(G,2),a);
56 end
```

## Test set calculation

The distinguishing factor between training and test set calculations is whether the inducing target distribution is updated (training set) or kept fixed (test set). For the test set the contribution from the transition model to the log probability is

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{e=1}^{E} \tfrac{1}{2} tr K_{e}^{-1} \Psi_{2e} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{2e}^{*} - \tfrac{1}{2} tr (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e} \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{2e}^{*} + \Psi_{1e}^{\top} (K_{e} + \Psi_{2e})^{-1} \Psi_{1e}^{*} \\ &+ \tfrac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T} \log |\Sigma_{t-1:t,t-1:t}| - \tfrac{1}{2} \sum_{t=2}^{T-1} \log |\Sigma_{t}| - \tfrac{1}{2} tr Q^{-1} \sum_{t=2}^{T} (I + \mu_{t}^{\top} \mu_{t} + \Sigma_{t,t}) - \tfrac{T-1}{2} \log |Q| - \tfrac{(T-1)E}{2} \log (2\pi). \end{split} \tag{23}$$

The testing consists of two steps. From a supplied initial set of observations, we find the most likely latent states, maximising a q distribution while keeping the hyperparameters and inducing inputs constant, using eq. (23), along with the likelihood term.

After the most likely latent state has been found, we predict forward by adding a further point to the timeseries, and maximising the likelihood. This can be solved analytically..

## Representation of the q(x) distribution

The q(x) distribution is parameterised through its mean qx.m and the marginal and pairwise covariances. Conceptually, we wish to parameterize the E by E covariance matrices (for the marginal distibutions) which we call qx.Sd (for diagonal) and the E by E covariances between consequtive time points (for the pairwise marginals) which we call qx.So (for off-diagonal). However it is inconvenient to parametrise these matrices directly, as it would be difficult to ensure positive definiteness of the marginal and pairwise marginal covariance matrices. Instead, we use 2E by E representation qx.s such that

$$S_{d,t} = S_t^{\top} S_t, \text{ and } S_{o,t-1} = S_{t-1}^{\top} S_t.$$
 (24)

Using this representation, we can use call the optimizer with the unconstrained representation, which is the converted to the more convenient diagonal and off-diagonal representation at the beginning and the derivatives are reverted back at the end.

```
\langle convert 9a \rangle \equiv
9a
                                                                             (5b)
      1 function [Sd, So] = convert(s)
      2 [t, E, T] = size(s); Sd = zeros(E,E,T); So = zeros(E,E,T-1);
      3 for t = 1:T, Sd(:,:,t) = s(:,:,t) *s(:,:,t); end
                                                                              % diagonal terms
      4 for t = 2:T, So(:,:,t-1) = s(:,:,t-1) *s(:,:,t); end
                                                                                % off-diagonal
9b
      \langle revert\ covariances\ 9b \rangle \equiv
      1 out2.qx = rmfield(out2.qx,{'Sd','So'}); % change to qx.s representation
      2 [out2.qx.s] = deal([]);
                                                                     % create the "s" field
      3 \% for n = 1:N
      4 \% Sd = sum(dnlml.qx(n).Sd,3) / size(dnlml.qx(n).Sd,3);
      5 % for t = 1:size(dnlml.qx(n).Sd,3), dnlml.qx(n).Sd(:,:,t) = Sd; end
      6 %end
      7 \text{ for } n = 1:N
          out2.qx(n).s = revert(p.qx(n).s, dnlml.qx(n).Sd, dnlml.qx(n).So);
```

The derivatives are

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial s_{t}} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{d,t}} \frac{\partial S_{d,t}}{\partial s_{t}} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t-1}} \frac{\partial S_{o,t-1}}{\partial s_{t}} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t}} \frac{\partial S_{o,t}}{\partial s_{t}} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial s_{t}} tr \big( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{d,t}} s_{t}^{\top} s_{t} \big) \\ &+ s_{t-1} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t-1}} + s_{t} \big[ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t}} \big]^{\top} &= s_{t} \big( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{d,t}} + \big[ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{d,t}} \big]^{\top} \big) + s_{t-1} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t-1}} + s_{t} \big[ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial S_{o,t}} \big]^{\top}. \end{split} \tag{25}$$

```
9c  \( \langle revert 9c \rangle \equiv \)
1 function r = revert(s, dSd, dSo)
2 for t = 1:size(s,3), r(:,:,t) = s(:,:,t)*(dSd(:,:,t)+dSd(:,:,t)'); end
3 for t = 2:size(s,3)
4 r(:,:,t-1) = r(:,:,t-1) + s(:,:,t)*dSo(:,:,t-1)';
5 r(:,:,t) = r(:,:,t) + s(:,:,t-1)*dSo(:,:,t-1);
6 end
(5b)
```

## **Analytic Prediction**

Predicting the next step is found by taking an existing latent representation of a timeseries, and maximising the likelihood of the timeseries found by increasing its length by one. Given a timeseries, if increase the length of the timeseries by one, we can analytically compute the parameters  $\mu_t$ ,  $\Sigma_{t-1,t}$ ,  $\Sigma_{t,t}$  which maximise the likelihood. From equation ??,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mu_t} = \Psi_{1e}^{\top} \left( K_e + \Psi_{2e}^* \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial \Psi_{1e}^*}{\partial \mu_t} - \text{tr}(Q^{-1}) \mu_t$ , and using eq. 21,

$$\mu_{t}^{*} = \Psi_{1e}^{\top} \left( K_{e} + \Psi_{2e} \right)^{-1/2} |I + \Lambda_{e}^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}|^{-1/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (\mu_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie}) [\Lambda_{e} + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}]^{-1} (\mu_{t-1} - \mathbf{z}_{ie}) \right), \quad (26)$$

which corresponds to the mean prediction of the GP, conditioned on the inducing inputs. For the marginal  $\Sigma_{t,t}$ , we find that  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \Sigma_{t,t}} = -\frac{1}{2} tr Q^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \Sigma_{t,t}} |\log \Sigma_{t-1:t,t-1:t}|$ . Optimising this gives us

$$\Sigma_{t,t}^* = Q + \Sigma_{t-1,t}^* \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}^{-1} \Sigma_{t,t-1}^*$$
(27)

For the pair-wise marginal,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \Sigma_{t-1,t}} = \Psi_{1e}^{\top} \left( \mathsf{K}_e + \Psi_{2e} \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial \Psi_{1e}^*}{\partial \Sigma_{t-1,t}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \Sigma_{t-1,t}} |\log \Sigma_{t-1:t,t-1:t}|$ . This gives us

$$0 = \Psi_{1e}^{\top} \left( \mathsf{K}_{e} + \Psi_{2e} \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial \Psi_{1e}^{*}}{\partial \Sigma_{t-1,t}} - \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t}^{*} \left( \Sigma_{t,t}^{*} - \Sigma_{t-1,t}^{*} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t}^{*} \right)^{-1}$$
 (28)

Substituting, we find that

$$\begin{split} \Sigma_{t-1,t}^* = & \Sigma_{t-1,t-1} \Psi_{1e}^{\top} \left( K_e + \Psi_{2e} \right)^{-1} \left( \Lambda_e + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1} \right)^{-1} \left( z - \mu_{t-1} \right) \\ & \times |I + \Lambda_e^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}|^{-1/2} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (\mu_{t-1} - z_{ie}) [\Lambda_e + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}]^{-1} (\mu_{t-1} - z_{ie}) \right), \end{split} \tag{29}$$

which we can then substitute in to equation 27 to find  $\Sigma_{t,t}^*$ .

We can motivate our choice of  $\Sigma_{t,t}^*$  by considering the prediction of the value of  $\mathbf{x}_t$  conditional on the value of  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1}$ . We have a conditional distribution  $q(x_t|x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mu', \Sigma')$ , with  $\Sigma' = \Sigma_{t,t}^* - \Sigma_{t-1,t}^{\top *} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}^{-1} \Sigma_{t-1,t-1}^* = Q$ . We can clearly see how the derived  $\Sigma_{t,t}^*$  is exactly the variance for which the extra uncertainty added to the prediction of the next timestep is Q.

The intuition for equation 29 is that we are directly calculating the covariance  $\mathbb{E}((z_i - \mu_{t-1})(z_j - \mu_t)) = \mathbb{E}(z_i(z_j - \mu_{t-1}))$ , from the inducing points z. We rescale the individual contributions by  $(\Lambda_e + \Sigma_{t-1,t-1})^{-1}$ , and then scale up by a factor of  $\Sigma_{t-1,t-1}$  after collecting the contributions from all z.

```
13 b1 = zeros(M,1);
14 for n = 1:size(qx,2)
15
     t = size(qx.m, 2)
16
      Sd(1:E,1:E) = qx(n).Sd(:,:,t); % covariance in top left corner
17
      r1 = prod(diag(chol(eye(F)+iL*Sd*iL)));
                                                                    % sqrt det
18
      % s = bsxfun(@minus, z(:,:,e), [qx(n).m(:,t-1)'
19
                                 u{n}(t-1,:)]);
20
      s = bsxfun(@minus, z(:,:,e), [qx(n).m(:,t-1), u{n}(t,:)]);
21
      a = s/(L2+Sd);
22
      b3 = \exp(-sum(a.*s,2)/2)/r1;
23
      qx_{opt}(n).m = b3**w;
24
      qx_{opt}(n).So = (qx(n).Sd(:,e,t)*w)'*(a(:,1:E).*b3);
25
      qx_{opt}(n).Sd = exp(2*hyp(e).pn) + qx_{opt}(n).So * inv(qx(n).Sd(:, e, end)) ...
26
     * qx_opt(n).So';
27 end
28 end
```