

# Sparse Greedy Gaussian Process Regression

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## 1 Maximize log posterior

Finite set inputs  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ .  $y(x) = t(x) + \xi$  where  $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$  and  $(t_m) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, K)$ .

Instead, assume  $y$  is generated by

$$y = K\alpha + \xi$$

where  $\alpha \sim \mathcal{N}(0, K^{-1})$  and  $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbf{1})$ .

The posterior  $p(\alpha|y, X)$  is proportional to

$$\Pi = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|y - K\alpha\|^2\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \alpha^T K \alpha\right)$$

Let the maximizer be  $\alpha_{opt}$ . Conditional expectation for  $y(x)$  (new  $x$ ) is

$$\mathbb{E}[y(x)|y, X] = k^T \alpha_{opt},$$

where  $k = (k(x_1, x), \dots, k(x_m, x))$ . We have

$$-\sigma^2 \log \Pi - \frac{1}{2} y^T y = -y^T K \alpha + \frac{1}{2} \alpha^T (\sigma^2 K + K^T K) \alpha$$

Therefore,  $\alpha_{opt}$  minimizes  $-\sigma^2 \log \Pi - \frac{1}{2} y^T y$ .

Posterior mean  $k^T (K + \sigma^2 \mathbf{1})^{-1} y$ , posterior variance  $k(x, x) + \sigma^2 - k^T (K + \sigma^2 \mathbf{1})^{-1} k$ .

We have

$$\alpha_{opt} = (K + \sigma^2 \mathbf{1})^{-1} y$$

## 2 Inequalities

For any positive semidefinite square matrix  $K$ , and vectors  $v, \xi, \eta$ , define

$$Q_v(\xi) \equiv -v^T K \xi + \frac{1}{2} \xi^T (\sigma^2 K + K^T K) \xi$$

$$Q_v^*(\eta) \equiv -v^T \eta + \frac{1}{2} \eta^T (\sigma^2 \mathbf{1} + K) \eta$$

For all  $\xi, \eta$ , we have

$$Q_v(\xi) \geq Q_v^{\min} \geq -\frac{1}{2} \|v\|^2 - \sigma^2 Q_v^*(\eta)$$

$$Q_v^*(\eta) \geq Q_v^{*\min} \geq \sigma^{-2} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \|v\|^2 - Q_v(\xi) \right)$$

Equalities hold when  $Q_v(\xi) = Q_v^{\min}$  and  $Q_v(\eta) = Q_v^{*\min}$ , that is  $\alpha = \alpha_{opt}$  (notice  $\xi, \eta = \alpha_{opt}$  minimizes both  $Q_v(\xi)$  and  $Q_v^*(\eta)$ ).

### 3 Error bounds

We have

$$\text{Var}[y(x)|y, X] = k(x, x) + \sigma^2 + 2Q_k^{*min} \leq k(x, x) + \sigma^2 + 2Q_k^*(\eta)$$

for any  $\eta$ , which gives an upper bound of the variance.

The lower bound of the variance is given by

$$\text{Var}[y(x)|y, X] \geq k(x, x) + \sigma^2 + 2\sigma^{-2} \left( -\frac{1}{2}\|k\|^2 - Q_k(\xi) \right)$$

for any  $\xi$ .

Define “gap” to be

$$\frac{\text{Upper bound - lower bound}}{\text{Average variance reduction computed from upper/lower bound}}$$

We have

$$\text{gap}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{2 \left( Q_k(\xi) + \sigma^2 Q_k^*(\eta) + \frac{1}{2}\|k\|^2 \right)}{-Q_k(\xi) + \sigma^2 Q_k^*(\eta) - \frac{1}{2}\|k\|^2},$$

which is used as the stopping rule.

### 4 Model reduction

Define  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $m \geq n$ , with  $P^T P = \mathbf{1}$ . Let

$$\alpha_P \equiv P\beta,$$

where  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . The minimizer of  $Q_y(\alpha_P)$  and  $Q_y^*(\alpha_P)$  is

$$\beta_{opt} = \left( P^T (\sigma^2 K + K^T K) P \right)^{-1} P^T K^T y = \left( \sigma^2 P^T (KP) + (KP)^T (KP) \right)^{-1} (KP)^T y$$

$$\beta_{opt}^* = (P^T KP + \sigma^2)^{-1} P^T y$$

If  $m = n$  and  $P$  is full-rank, then  $P\beta_{opt} = \alpha_{opt}$ . Therefore,

$$Q_y(P\beta) = -y^T (KP)\beta + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \beta^T (P^T KP)\beta + \frac{1}{2}\beta^T (KP)^T (KP)\beta$$

$$Q_y^*(P\beta) = -y^T P\beta + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \beta^T \beta + \frac{1}{2}\beta (P^T KP)\beta$$

We choose  $P$  as a collection of unit vectors  $\mathbf{e}_i$  where  $(\mathbf{e}_i)_j = \delta_{ij}$ . The statements hold when we replace  $y$  with  $k$ .

### 5 Algorithm

The paper here has many confusions, such as mixing  $Q_k$  with  $Q_y$ ,  $\beta$  with  $\beta^*$ ,  $k$  with  $y$ . Stop proceeding.

**Data:**  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ , targets  $y$ , noise  $\sigma^2$ , precision  $\epsilon$   
**input** : index sets  $I, I^* = \{1, \dots, m\}$ ,  $S, S^* = \emptyset$   
**while**  $Q_k(P\beta_{opt}) + \sigma^2 Q_k^*(P^*\beta_{opt}^*) + \frac{1}{2}\|k\|^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} \left( -Q_k(P\beta_{opt}) + \sigma^2 Q_k^*(P^*\beta_{opt}^*) - \frac{1}{2}\|k\|^2 \right)$  **do**  
    Choose  $M \subseteq I$ ,  $M^* \subseteq I^*$   
    Find  $\arg \min_{i \in M} Q_k([P, e_i]\beta_{opt}^i)$  and  $\arg \min_{i^* \in M^*} Q_k([P^*, e_{i^*}^*]\beta_{opt}^{i^*})$   
    Move  $i$  from  $I$  to  $S$ , move  $i^*$  from  $I^*$  to  $S^*$ .  
    Set  $P := [P, e_i]$ ,  $P^* := [P^*, e_{i^*}^*]$ .  
**end**  
**output:**  $S, \beta_{opt}, Q_y(P^*\beta_{opt}^*)$ .

## 6 Sparse likelihood approximation

Given samples  $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ , introduce latent variables  $u$  such that  $P(y|u) = \mathcal{N}(y|u, \sigma^2)$ . Denote the latent variables at the training points to be  $u = (u(x_1), \dots, u(x_n))$ , and the covariance of  $u$  to be  $\mathbf{K} = (K(x_i, x_j))_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}^{n,n}$ . We have  $P(u) = \mathcal{N}(u|\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K})$ . To predict  $u_*$  at  $x_*$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_* &= k_*^T (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} y, \quad k_* = (K(x_*, x_i))_i \\ \sigma_*^2 &= K(x_*, x_*) - k_*^T (\mathbf{K} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} k_*\end{aligned}$$

However, this is costly to compute.

We replace the likelihood  $\mathbb{P}(y|u)$  by (sparse likelihood)

$$Q(y|u_I) = \mathcal{N}\left(y \middle| \mathbf{P}_I^T u_I, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}\right), \quad \mathbf{P}_I = \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{I,\cdot},$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_I^T u_I = \mathbb{E}[u|u_I]$ . Consider all distributions of the form  $\propto \mathbb{P}(u)R(u_I)$ , where  $\mathbb{P}(u)$  indicates the prior of  $u$ .  $R(u_I) = Q(y|u_I)$  minimizes the K-L divergence  $\mathcal{D}\left[\mathbb{P}(u)R(u_I) \middle| \middle| \mathbb{P}[u|y]\right]$ .

Let

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{K}_I &= \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^T \quad (\text{Cholesky}) \\ \mathbf{V} &= \mathbf{L}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{I,\cdot} \\ \mathbf{M} &= \sigma^2 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T\end{aligned}$$

The approximate posterior of  $u_I$  can be obtained from the sparse likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned}Q(u_I|y) &= \mathbb{P}(u_I)Q(y|u_I) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(u_I|\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^T) \cdot \mathcal{N}(y|K_{I,\cdot}^T K_I^{-1} u_I, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(u_I|\mathbf{L}\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{V}y, \sigma^2 \mathbf{L}\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{L}^T)\end{aligned}$$

To compute the approximate posterior of  $u_* = u_*(x_*)$  at a new  $x_*$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{M} &= \mathbf{L}_M \mathbf{L}_M^T \\ \beta &= \mathbf{L}_M^{-1} \mathbf{V}y \\ k_{I*} &= (K(x_i, x_*))_{i \in I} \\ l_* &= \mathbf{L}^{-1} k_{I*} \\ l_{M*} &= \mathbf{L}_M^{-1} l_*\end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}Q(u_*|y) &= \int_{u_I} \mathbb{P}(u_*|u_I)Q(u_I|y) du_I \\ &= \int_{u_I} \mathcal{N}(u_*|k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} u_I, K(x_*, x_*) - k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} k_{I*}) \cdot \mathcal{N}(u_I|\mathbf{L}\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{V}y, \sigma^2 \mathbf{L}\mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{L}^T) du_I \\ &= \mathcal{N}(u_*|l_{M*}^T \beta, K(x_*, x_*) - \|l_*\|^2 + \sigma^2 \|l_{M*}\|^2)\end{aligned}$$

Notice the posterior mean

$$\mu(x_*) = k_{I*}^T \mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{L}_M^{-T} \beta$$

and the posterior variance

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2(x_*) &= K(x_*, x_*) - k_{I*}^T \mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{L}^{-1} k_{I*} + \sigma^2 k_{I*}^T \mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{L}^{-1} k_{I*} \\ &= K(x_*, x_*) - k_{I*}^T \mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{L}^{-1} k_{I*} \quad (\text{Woodbury identity}) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we need to pre-compute  $\mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{L}_M^{-T} \beta$  and  $\mathbf{L}^{-T} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{L}^{-1}$ .

## 7 Inclusion of a new point

Define

$$p = \text{diag}(\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{V}), \quad q = \text{diag}(\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{V})$$

Let  $\cdot'$  be the quantity associated with  $\{I, i\}$  active set. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L}'_{d+1, \cdot \setminus d+1} &= (\mathbf{L}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{I, i})^T \equiv v_i^T \\ \mathbf{L}'_{d+1, d+1} &= (K(x_i, x_i) - v_i^T v_i)^{1/2} \\ \mathbf{V}'_{1 \dots d, \cdot} &= \mathbf{V} \\ \mathbf{V}'_{d+1, \cdot} &= \frac{1}{\mathbf{L}'_{d+1, d+1}} (\mathbf{K}_{\cdot, i} - \mathbf{V}^T v_i) \\ p' &= p + \left( (\mathbf{V}'_{d+1, j})^2 \right)_j \end{aligned}$$

## 8 Application to twin-model-GPO

Given samples  $S = \{(x_1, \xi_1, \xi_{\bar{\nabla}1}), \dots, (x_n, \xi_n, \xi_{\bar{\nabla}n})\}$ , introduce latent variables  $u = (\xi, \xi_{\nabla}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n(d+1)}$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}(\xi_{\bar{\nabla}}) = \mathcal{N}(\xi_{\bar{\nabla}} | \xi_{\nabla}, \bar{\mathbf{G}}), \quad \mathbb{P}(\xi, \xi_{\nabla}) = \mathcal{N}(\xi, \xi_{\nabla} | 0, \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{H}^T & \mathbf{E} \end{pmatrix} := \mathbf{K})$$

where  $\bar{\mathbf{G}} \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times nd}$ . Consider a subset of indices  $I := \{1, \dots, n\} \cup I_{\nabla}$ , where  $I_{\nabla} \subseteq T_{\nabla} := \{n+1, \dots, n+nd\}$ . Denote  $u_I, u_{I_{\nabla}}$  the subset of latent variables of  $u$  indexed by  $I, I_{\nabla}$ . We approximate likelihood  $\mathbb{P}(\xi, \xi_{\bar{\nabla}} | u)$  by

$$Q(\xi, \xi_{\bar{\nabla}} | u_I) = \mathcal{N}(\xi_{\bar{\nabla}} | \mathbf{P}_{I_{\nabla}}^T u_{I_{\nabla}}, \bar{\mathbf{G}}),$$

where

$$\mathbf{P}_{I_{\nabla}} = \mathbf{K}_{I_{\nabla}}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{I_{\nabla}, T_{\nabla}}$$

Define

$$\mathbf{P}_I = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0}_{n \times nd} \\ \mathbf{P}_{I_{\nabla}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Notice

$$\mathbf{P}_I^T u_I = \mathbf{P}_{I_{\nabla}}^T u_{I_{\nabla}}$$

The approximate posterior of  $u_I$  is given by

$$Q(u_I | \xi, \xi_{\bar{\nabla}}) = \delta(u_{\{1, \dots, n\}}, \xi) \cdot \mathcal{N}\left(u_I \middle| (\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \xi_{\bar{\nabla}}, (\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1}\right).$$

To evaluate the posterior mean and variance at new point  $x_*$ , define a length  $|I|$  vector:  $k_{I*}$  which indicates the covariance between  $\xi(x_*)$  and  $u_I = (\xi, \xi_\nabla)$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} Q(u_*|\xi, \xi_{\tilde{\nabla}}) &= \int_{u_I} \mathbb{P}(u_*|u_I) Q(u_I|\xi, \xi_{\tilde{\nabla}}) du_I \\ &= \int_{u_I} \mathcal{N}(u_*|k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} u_I, K(x_*, x_*) - k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} k_{I*}) \cdot \\ &\quad \delta(u_{\{1, \dots, n\}}, \xi) \cdot \mathcal{N}\left(u_I \middle| (\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \xi_{\tilde{\nabla}}, (\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1}\right) du_I \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{0}_{|I_\nabla| \times n}, \mathbf{I}_{|I_\nabla|})$$

The posterior mean of  $\xi(x_*)$  is

$$k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} \left( \xi^T, (\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \xi_{\tilde{\nabla}})^T \right)^T,$$

and the posterior variance is

$$K(x_*, x_*) - k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} k_{I*} + k_{I*}^T \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} \mathbf{S}^T (\mathbf{K}_I^{-1} + \mathbf{P}_I \bar{\mathbf{G}}^{-1} \mathbf{P}_I^T)^{-1} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{K}_I^{-1} k_{I*}$$

## 9 From Lehel Csato's thesis

$f_{\mathbf{x}}$  (GP) used as latent variable in a likelihood  $P(y|\mathbf{x}, f_{\mathbf{x}})$ .  $K_0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = Cov(f_{\mathbf{x}}, f_{\mathbf{x}'})$ . Training data  $\{\mathbf{x}_n, y_n\}_{n=1}^N$ . Assume  $f_{\mathbf{x}}$  has zero mean. The kernel can be decomposed into dictionary  $\phi_i(\mathbf{x})_{i=1}^\infty$ . The dictionary defines the feature space  $\mathcal{F}$ .

$$\langle f(\mathbf{x}, f(\mathbf{x}')) \rangle = K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sigma^2 \phi_i(\mathbf{x}) \phi_i(\mathbf{x}')$$

If there are  $k$  elements in the dictionary, the feature space  $\mathcal{F} = \mathbb{R}^k$ . The projection function is

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = (\sigma_1 \phi_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots)^T,$$

which is the image of  $\mathbf{x}$  in the feature space.

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \phi_{\mathbf{x}}^T \phi_{\mathbf{x}'}$$