

# AutoML: Gaussian Processes

## Gaussian Process Classification

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# Training a GP via the Maximum Likelihood I

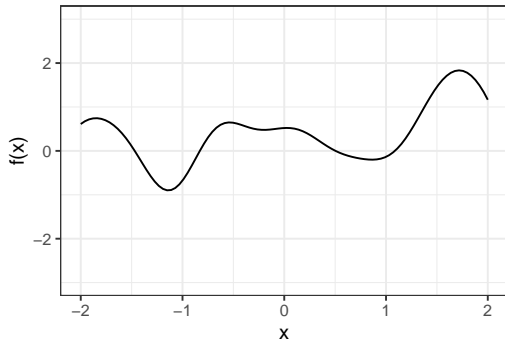
- Consider a binary classification problem, in which we want to learn  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ , where  $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$ .
- The idea behind Gaussian process classification is straightforward: a GP prior is placed over the score function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  and then transformed to a class probability via a sigmoid function  $s(t)$ :

$$p(y = 1 \mid f(\mathbf{x})) = s(f(\mathbf{x})).$$

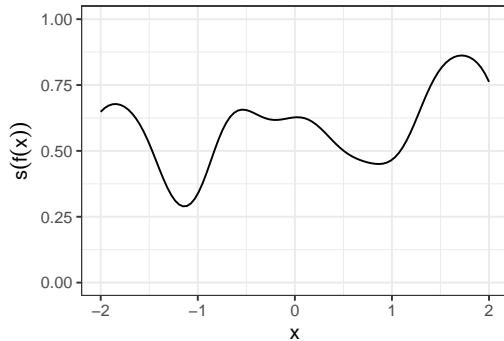
- Since this is a non-Gaussian likelihood, we need to use approximate inference methods, such as Laplace approximation, expectation propagation, MCMC.
- For more details see [Rasmussen and Williams. 2006: Chapter 3]

# Training a GP via the Maximum Likelihood II

Function drawn from a GP prior



Function transformed into probs



## Training a GP via the Maximum Likelihood III

- According to Bayes' rule, the posterior of the score function  $\mathbf{f}$  takes the following form:

$$p(\mathbf{f} \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{X}) \cdot p(\mathbf{f} \mid \mathbf{X})}{p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{X})} \propto p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{f}) \cdot p(\mathbf{f} \mid \mathbf{X}),$$

where, the denominator is independent of  $\mathbf{f}$  and hence has been dropped.

- From the GP assumption, we can assert that  $p(\mathbf{f} \mid \mathbf{X}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{K})$ . Hence, we have:

$$\log p(\mathbf{f} \mid \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}) \propto \log p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{f}) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f} - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}| - \frac{n}{2} \log 2\pi.$$

# Training a GP via the Maximum Likelihood IV

- If the kernel is fixed, the last two terms will be fixed. To obtain the maximum a-posteriori estimate (MAP), we should minimize:

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f} - \sum_{i=1}^n \log p(y^{(i)} | f^{(i)}) + C.$$

- Note that  $-\sum_{i=1}^n \log p(y^{(i)} | f^{(i)})$  is the logistic loss.
- It can be seen that the Gaussian process classification corresponds to the **kernel Bayesian logistic regression**!

## Comparison: GP vs. SVM I

- For the SVM, we have:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{\theta}\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n L(y^{(i)}, f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})),$$

where  $L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = \max\{0, 1 - f(\mathbf{x}) \cdot y\}$  is the Hinge loss.

- Plugging that in, the optimization objective would be:

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f} + C \sum_{i=1}^n L(y^{(i)}, f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})).$$

- From the representer theorem:  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i y^{(i)} k(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}, \cdot)$ , and thus:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^\top \boldsymbol{\theta} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^\top \mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f}$$

## Comparison: GP vs. SVM II

- For log-concave likelihoods  $\log p(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{f})$ , there is a close correspondence between the MAP solution of the GP classifier and the SVM solution:

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{f}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f} - \sum_{i=1}^n \log p(y^{(i)} \mid f^{(i)}) + C \quad (\text{GP classifier})$$

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{f}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{f}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{f} + C \sum_{i=1}^n L(y^{(i)}, f(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})) \quad (\text{SVM classifier})$$

## Comparison: GP vs. SVM III

- Both the Hinge loss and the Bernoulli loss are monotonically decreasing with increasing margin  $yf(\mathbf{x})$ .
- The key difference is that the Hinge loss takes on the value 0 for  $yf(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1$ , while the Bernoulli loss decays slowly.
- It is this flat part of the Hinge function that gives rise to the sparsity of the SVM solution.
- The SVM classifier can be construed as a “sparse” GP classifier.

