



# Bayesian neural networks: a function space view tour

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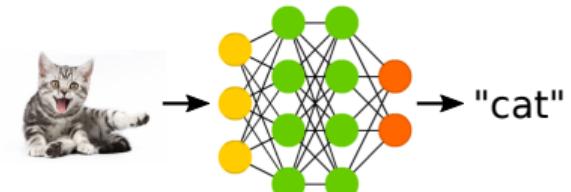
Yingzhen Li

Microsoft Research Cambridge

# Neural networks 101

Let's say we want to classify different types of cats

- $\mathbf{x}$ : input images;  $\mathbf{y}$ : output label
- build a neural network (with param.  $W$ ):  
 $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, W) = \text{softmax}(f_W(\mathbf{x}))$



A typical neural network:

$$f_W(\mathbf{x}) = W_L \phi(W_{L-1} \phi(\dots \phi(W_1 \mathbf{x} + b_1)) + b_{L-1}) + b_L$$

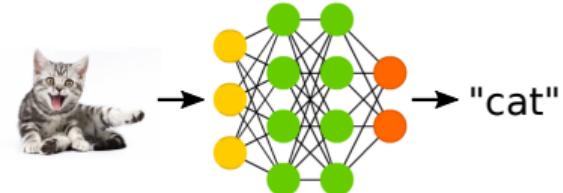
$$\text{for the } l^{\text{th}} \text{ layer: } \mathbf{h}_l = \phi(W_l \mathbf{h}_{l-1} + b_l), \quad \mathbf{h}_1 = \phi(W_1 \mathbf{x} + b_1)$$

Parameters:  $W = \{W_1, b_1, \dots, W_L, b_L\}$ ; nonlinearity:  $\phi(\cdot)$

# Neural networks 101

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- $x$ : input images;  $y$ : output label
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 $p(y|x, W) = \text{softmax}(f_W(x))$



Typical deep learning solution:

Training the neural network weights:

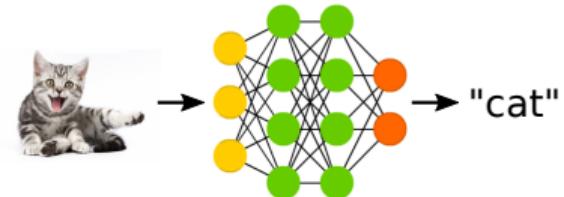
- Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) given a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=1}^N$ :

$$W^* = \arg \min \sum_{n=1}^N \log p(y_n|x_n, W)$$

# Bayesian neural networks 101

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A Bayesian solution:

Put a prior distribution  $p(W)$  over  $W$

- compute posterior  $p(W|\mathcal{D})$  given a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{y}_n)\}_{n=1}^N$ :

$$p(W|\mathcal{D}) \propto p(W) \prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{y}_n|\mathbf{x}_n, W)$$

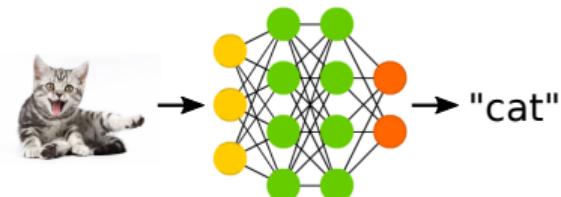
- Bayesian predictive inference:

$$p(\mathbf{y}^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathcal{D}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(W|\mathcal{D})}[p(\mathbf{y}^*|\mathbf{x}^*, W)]$$

# Bayesian neural networks 101

Let's say we want to classify different types of cats

- $\mathbf{x}$ : input images;  $\mathbf{y}$ : output label
- build a neural network (with param.  $W$ ):  
 $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, W) = \text{softmax}(f_W(\mathbf{x}))$



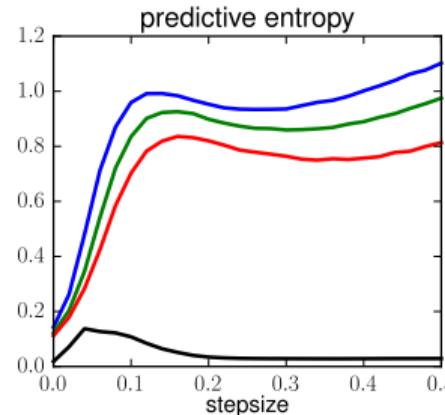
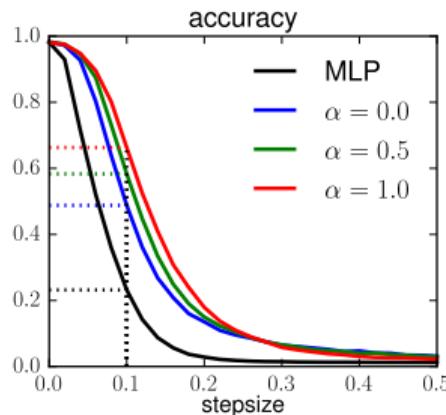
In practice:  $p(W|\mathcal{D})$  is intractable

- First find approximation  $q(W) \approx p(W|\mathcal{D})$
- In prediction, do Monte Carlo sampling:

$$p(\mathbf{y}^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathcal{D}) \approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K p(\mathbf{y}^*|\mathbf{x}^*, W^k), \quad W^k \sim q(W)$$

# Applications of Bayesian neural networks

Detecting adversarial examples:



MLP	$\alpha = 0.0$	$\alpha = 0.5$	$\alpha = 1.0$
0.2318	0.4879	0.5832	0.663

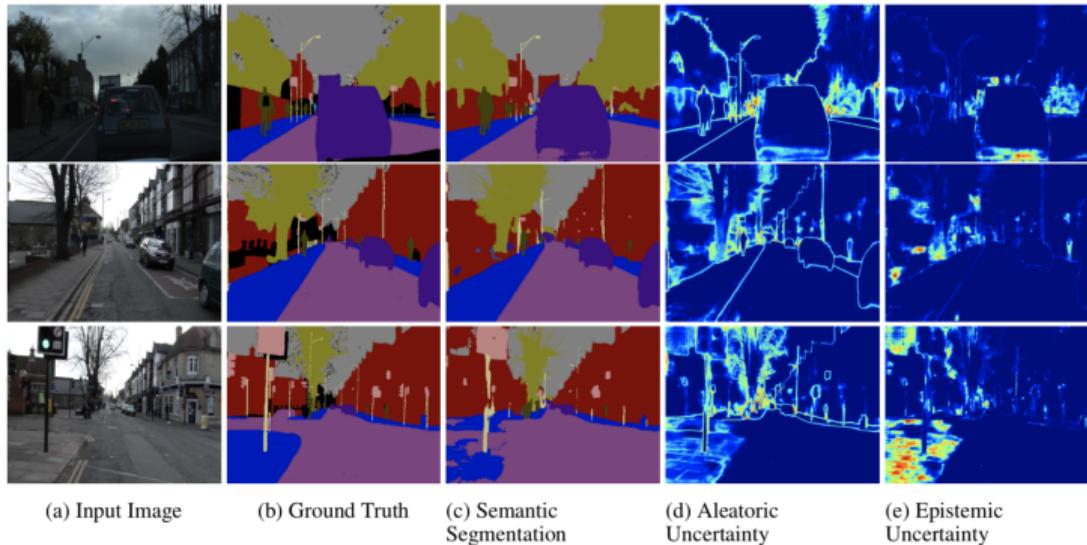
accuracy for stepsize=0.1



Li and Gal 2017

# Applications of Bayesian neural networks

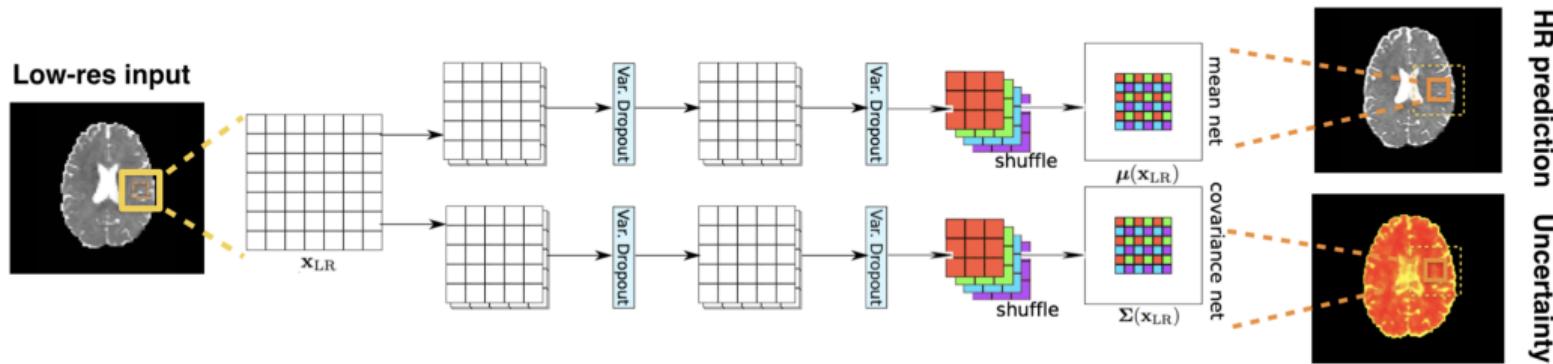
## Image segmentation



Kendall and Gal 2017

# Applications of Bayesian neural networks

Medical imaging (super resolution):



Tanno et al. 2019

# Bayesian neural networks vs Gaussian processes

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Why learning about BNNs in a summer school about GPs?

- mean-field BNNs have GP limits
- approximate inference on GPs has links to BNNs
- approximate inference on BNNs can leverage GP techniques



**Bayesian Deep Learning**

**BNN** → **GP**

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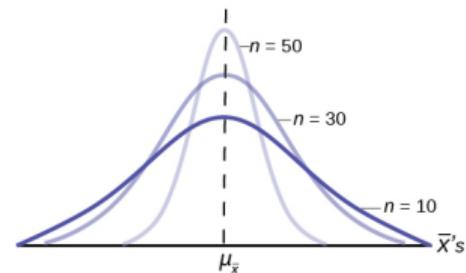
# Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process

Quick refresher: Central limit theorem

## Theorem

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_N$  be i.i.d. samples from  $p(x)$  and  $p(x)$  has mean  $\mu$  and covariance  $\Sigma$ , then

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N} \left( \mu, \frac{1}{N} \Sigma \right), \quad N \rightarrow +\infty$$



## Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process <sup>1</sup>

Consider one hidden layer BNN with mean-field prior and bounded non-linearity

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^M v_m \phi(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x} + b_m),$$

$$W = \{W_1, \mathbf{b}, W_2\}, \quad W_1 = [\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_m]^T, \quad \mathbf{b} = [b_1, \dots, b_m], \quad W_2 = [v_1, \dots, v_m],$$

mean-field prior

$$p(W) = p(W_1)p(\mathbf{b})p(W_2), \quad p(W_1) = \prod_m p(\mathbf{w}_m), \quad p(\mathbf{b}) = \prod_m p(b_m), \quad p(W_2) = \prod_m p(v_m),$$

the same prior for each connection weight/bias:

$$p(\mathbf{w}_i) = p(\mathbf{w}_j), \quad p(b_i) = p(b_j), \quad p(v_i) = p(v_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

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<sup>1</sup> Radford Neal's derivation in his PhD thesis (1994)

## Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process <sup>1</sup>

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Consider one hidden layer BNN with mean-field prior and bounded non-linearity

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$$p(\mathbf{w}_i) = p(\mathbf{w}_j), \quad p(b_i) = p(b_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

⇒ the same distribution of the hidden unit outputs:

$$h_i(\mathbf{x}) \perp h_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad h_i(\mathbf{x}) \stackrel{d}{=} h_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad h_i(\mathbf{x}) = \phi(\mathbf{w}_i^T \mathbf{x} + b_i)$$

⇒ i.e.  $h_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, h_M(\mathbf{x})$  are i.i.d. samples from some implicitly defined distribution

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## Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process <sup>1</sup>

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Consider one hidden layer BNN with mean-field prior and bounded non-linearity

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^M v_m \phi(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x} + b_m),$$

mean-field prior with the same distribution for second layer connection weights:

$$v_i \perp W_1, \mathbf{b}, \quad p(v_i) = p(v_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

$$\Rightarrow v_i h_i(\mathbf{x}) \perp v_j h_j(\mathbf{x}), \quad v_i h_i(\mathbf{x}) \stackrel{d}{=} v_j h_j(\mathbf{x})$$

so  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a sum of i.i.d. random variables

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## Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process <sup>1</sup>

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Consider one hidden layer BNN with mean-field prior and bounded non-linearity

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{m=1}^M v_m \phi(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x} + b_m),$$

if we make  $\mathbb{E}[v_m] = 0$  and  $\mathbb{V}[v_m] = \sigma_v^2$  scale as  $\mathcal{O}(1/M)$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x})] = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E}[v_m] \mathbb{E}[h_m(\mathbf{x})] = 0$$

$$\mathbb{V}[f(\mathbf{x})] = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{V}[v_m h_m(\mathbf{x})] = \sum_{m=1}^M \sigma_v^2 \mathbb{E}[h_m(\mathbf{x})^2] \rightarrow \sigma_v^2 \mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{x})^2]$$

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if we make  $\mathbb{E}[v_m] = 0$  and  $\mathbb{V}[v_m] = \sigma_v^2$  scale as  $\mathcal{O}(1/M)$ :

$$\text{Cov}[f(\mathbf{x}), f(\mathbf{x}')] = \sum_{m=1}^M \sigma_v^2 \mathbb{E}[h_m(\mathbf{x}) h_m(\mathbf{x}')] \rightarrow \sigma_v^2 \mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{x}) h(\mathbf{x}')]$$

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if we make  $\mathbb{E}[v_m] = 0$  and  $\mathbb{V}[v_m] = \sigma_v^2$  scale as  $\mathcal{O}(1/M)$ :

$$(f(\mathbf{x}), f(\mathbf{x}')) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, K), \quad K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma_v^2 \mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{x})h(\mathbf{x}')] \quad (\text{CLT})$$

it holds for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \Rightarrow f \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))$

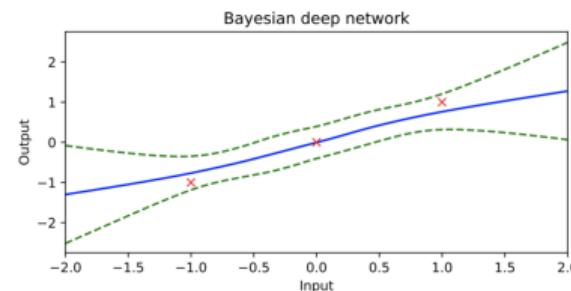
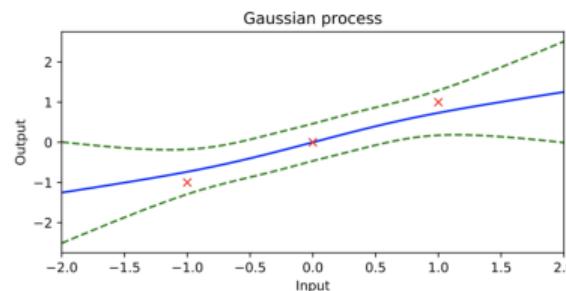
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# Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process

Recent extensions of Radford Neal's result:

- deep and wide BNNs have GP limits
  - mean-field prior over weights
  - the activation function satisfies  $|\phi(x)| \leq c + A|x|$
  - hidden layer widths strictly increasing to infinity

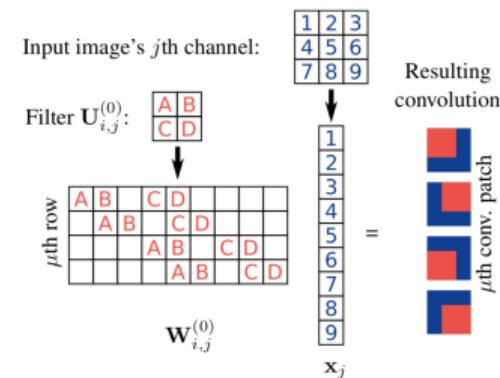


Matthews et al. 2018, Lee et al. 2018

# Bayesian neural networks → Gaussian process

Recent extensions of Radford Neal's result:

- Bayesian CNNs have GP limits
  - Convolution in CNN = fully connected layer applied to different locations in the image
  - # channels in CNN = # hidden units in fully connected NN



Garriga-Alonso et al. 2019, Novak et al. 2019

**GP** → **BNN**

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## Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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Exact GP inference can be very expensive:

predictive inference for GP regression:

$$p(\mathbf{f}_* | \mathbf{X}_*, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}_*; \mathbf{K}_{*n}(\mathbf{K}_{nn} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{K}_{**} - \mathbf{K}_{*n}(\mathbf{K}_{nn} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{n*})$$

$$(\mathbf{K}_{nn})_{ij} = K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j), \quad \mathbf{K}_{nn} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$$

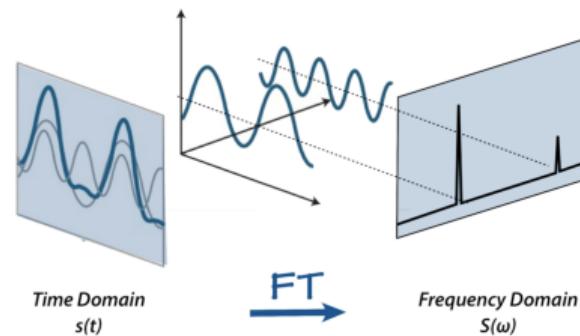
Inverting  $\mathbf{K}_{nn} + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}$  has  $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$  cost!

# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

Quick refresher: Fourier (inverse) transform

$$S(w) = \int s(t)e^{-itw} dt$$

$$s(t) = \int S(w)e^{itw} dw$$



# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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Bochner's theorem: (Fourier inverse transform)

## Theorem

A (properly scaled) translation invariant kernel  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = K(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  can be represented as

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w})} \left[ \sigma^2 e^{i\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \right]$$

for some distribution  $p(\mathbf{w})$ .

- Real value kernel  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w})} \left[ \sigma^2 e^{i\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w})} \left[ \sigma^2 \cos(\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')) \right]$
- $\cos(x - x') = 2\mathbb{E}_{p(b)}[\cos(x + b)\cos(x' + b)]$ ,  $p(b) = \text{Uniform}[0, 2\pi]$

Rahimi and Recht 2007

Bochner's theorem: (Fourier inverse transform)

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for some distribution  $p(\mathbf{w})$  and  $p(b) = \text{Uniform}[0, 2\pi]$ .

- Real value kernel  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w})} [\sigma^2 e^{i\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')}] = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w})} [\sigma^2 \cos(\mathbf{w}^T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'))]$
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Rahimi and Recht 2007

# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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for some distribution  $p(\mathbf{w})$  and  $p(b) = \text{Uniform}[0, 2\pi]$ .

- Monte Carlo approximation:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \approx \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{\sigma^2}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \cos(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x} + b_m) \cos(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x}' + b_m), \quad \mathbf{w}_m, b_m \sim p(\mathbf{w})p(b_m)$$

Rahimi and Recht 2007

# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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Bochner's theorem: (Fourier inverse transform)

## Theorem

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for some distribution  $p(\mathbf{w})$  and  $p(b) = \text{Uniform}[0, 2\pi]$ .

- Monte Carlo approximation: Define

$$\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = [h_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, h_M(\mathbf{x})], \quad h_m(\mathbf{x}) = \cos(\mathbf{w}_m^T \mathbf{x} + b_m), \quad \mathbf{w}_m \sim p(\mathbf{w}), b_m \sim p(b)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{\sigma^2}{M} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}')$$

Rahimi and Recht 2007

## Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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Approximating the GP kernel with random feature expansions:

$$f \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')), \quad f \approx \tilde{f}, \quad \tilde{f} \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')), \quad \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{\sigma^2}{M} \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}')$$

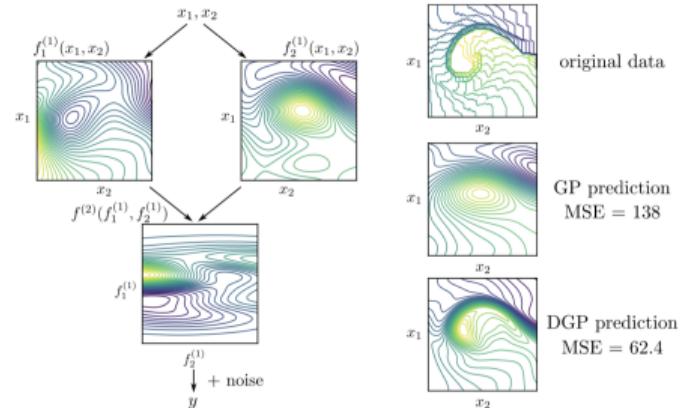
Weight space view  $\Rightarrow$  single hidden layer BNN:

$$\tilde{f} \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')) \Leftrightarrow \tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{v} \sim p(\mathbf{v}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \frac{\sigma^2}{M} \mathbf{I})$$

Adding number of components (increase  $M$ )  $\rightarrow$  adding hidden units in BNNs

# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

Deep GPs → deep BNNs with bottleneck layers:



Deep Gaussian process:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f^{(L)} \circ f^{(L-1)} \circ \dots \circ f^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}),$$

$$f^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, K^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))$$

Recall weight space view:  $\tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \approx K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$

$$\tilde{f} \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, \tilde{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')) \Leftrightarrow \tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}^T \cos(W\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}) \quad W, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{v} \sim p(W)p(\mathbf{b})p(\mathbf{v})$$

Bui et al. 2016

# Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

Deep GPs → deep BNNs with bottleneck layers:

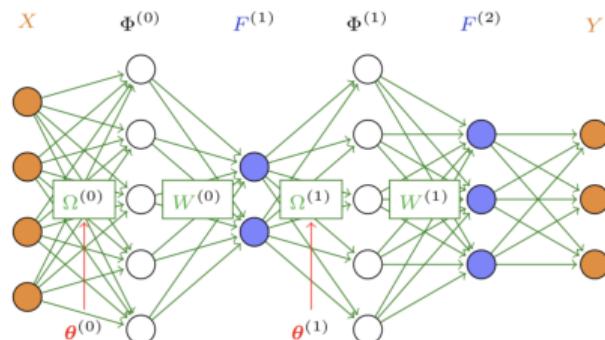
Deep BNN approximation to deep GP:

$$\tilde{f} \approx f, \quad \tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{f}^{(L)} \circ \tilde{f}^{(L-1)} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{f}^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}),$$

$$\tilde{f}^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{v}_i^T \cos(\mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}_i),$$

$$\mathbf{W}_i, \mathbf{b}_i, \mathbf{v}_i \sim p(\mathbf{W}_i)p(\mathbf{b}_i)p(\mathbf{v}_i),$$

$$\prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{y}_n | f(\mathbf{x}_n)) p(\mathbf{f}) \approx \prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{y}_n | \mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{W}) p(\mathbf{W})$$



Cutajar et al. 2017

## Gaussian process → Bayesian neural networks

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Deep GPs → deep BNNs with bottleneck layers:

Approx. infer. for deep GP: random feature expansion + approx. infer. for BNNs:

$$p_{\text{DGP}}(\mathbf{y}^* | \mathbf{x}^*, \mathcal{D}) \approx p_{\text{BNN}}(\mathbf{y}^* | \mathbf{x}^*, \mathcal{D}) \approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K p_{\text{BNN}}(\mathbf{y}^* | \mathbf{x}^*, W^k), \quad W^k \sim q^*(W)$$

$q^*(W)$  obtained by e.g. variational inference:

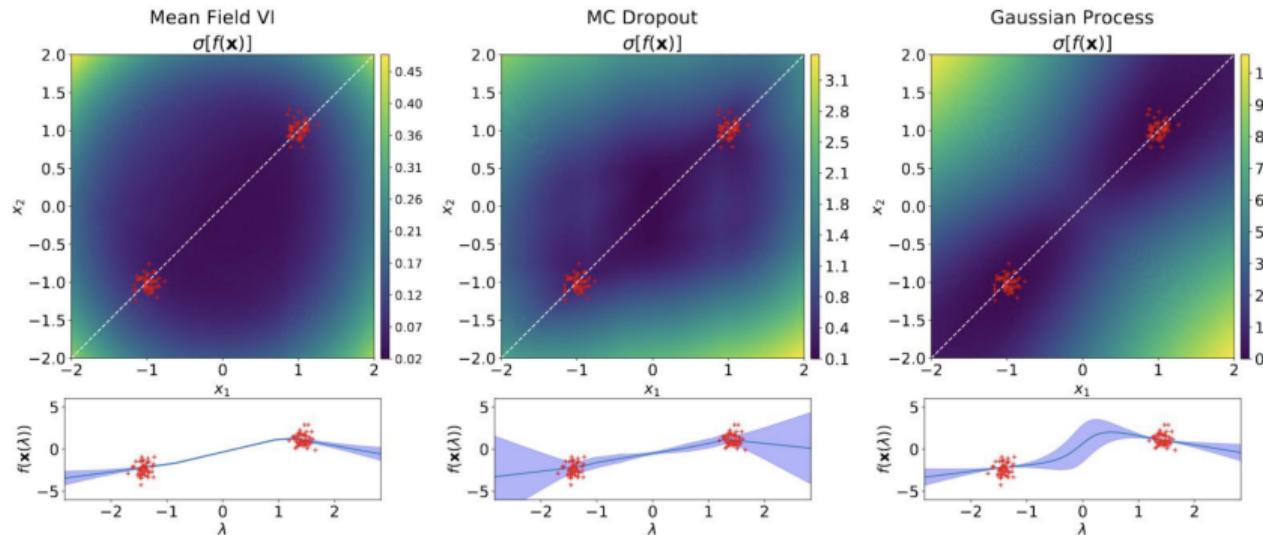
$$q^*(W) = \arg \min_{q(W)} \mathbb{E}_{q(W)} \left[ \sum_{n=1}^N \log p_{\text{BNN}}(\mathbf{y}^* | \mathbf{x}^*, W) \right] - \text{KL}[q(W) || p(W)]$$

Cutajar et al. 2017

## **BNN function-space inference**

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# BNN inference in function space?



- weight space approximations can be inefficient
- how to do function space inference for BNNs?

Ma et al. 2019, Foong et al. 2019

# Implicit Stochastic Processes

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**Definition:** An **implicit stochastic process (IP)** is a collection of random variables  $f(\cdot)$ , such that any finite collection  $\mathbf{f} = (f(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, f(\mathbf{x}_N))^\top$  has joint distribution implicitly defined by the following generative process:

$$\mathbf{z} \sim p(\mathbf{z}), \quad f(\mathbf{x}_n) = g_\theta(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{z}), \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbf{X}.$$

A function distributed according to the above IP is denoted as  $f(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{IP}(g_\theta(\cdot, \cdot), p_{\mathbf{z}})$ .

# Implicit Stochastic Processes

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$z$  can be finite or **infinite** dimensional:

- Finite dimensional  $z$ :

prove via Kolmogorov extension theorem  
(marginalisation consistency & permutation invariance)

# Implicit Stochastic Processes

---

$\mathbf{z}$  can be finite or **infinite** dimensional:

- Finite dimensional  $\mathbf{z}$ :  
prove via Kolmogorov extension theorem  
(marginalisation consistency & permutation invariance)
- Infinite dimensional case (here  $\mathbf{z} = z(\cdot)$  is a random function):  
sufficient conditions:

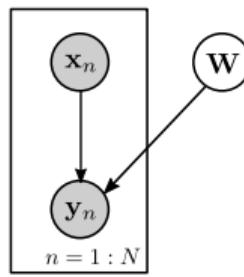
- $z(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{SP}(0, C(\cdot, \cdot))$  is a centered stochastic process on  $\mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- $g(\mathbf{x}, z) = \phi(\int_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{m=0}^M K_m(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') z(\mathbf{x}') d\mathbf{x}'), \quad K_m \in \mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d), \quad |\phi(\mathbf{x})| \leq A|\mathbf{x}|$

Then  $f(\cdot)$  is also a stochastic process.

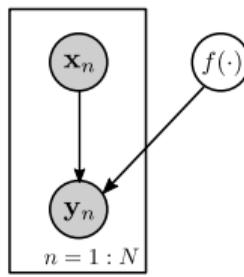
Proof: apply Karhunen-Loeve expansion and check convergence in  $\mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

# Implicit Stochastic Processes

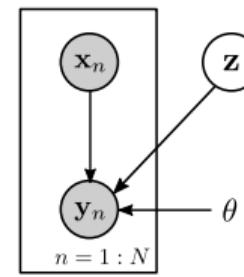
Examples:



Bayesian NN



warped GP



neural sampler

Also include many simulators in physics, ecology, climate science...

# Implicit Process Regression

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Implicit process regression model:

$$f(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{IP}(g_\theta(\cdot, \cdot), p_z), \quad y = f(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon, \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2).$$

- Similar to GP regression, given dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}\}$ , we hope to compute

$$p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}) \propto p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})$$

- Then for predictive inference, compute

$$p(y^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathcal{D}) = \int p(y^*|f^*)p(f^*|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y})df^*$$

intractable due to the unknown distribution  $p(\mathbf{f})$  (cannot use variational inference directly)

# Variational Implicit Processes

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Generalised wake-sleep applied to implicit processes

- **Sleep phase:** approximate  $p_\theta(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}) \approx q(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})$
- **Wake phase:** approximate  $\log p_\theta(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}) \approx \log q(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})$  then maximise w.r.t  $\theta$
- large-scale learning: spectral approximations lead to a Bayesian linear regression problem

Dayan et al. 1995

# Variational Implicit Processes

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## Sleep phase:

- Define  $q_{GP}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}) = q(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})q_{GP}(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})$ ,  $\underbrace{q(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})}_{\text{same likelihood term}} = p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})$
- for any  $\mathbf{X}$ , use  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}) \sim p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})$  as targets to train  $q$ :

$$\min_q D_{KL}[p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}) || q_{GP}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})]$$

- Reduce to matching mean & covariance functions (with finite function samples):

$$m_{MLE}^*(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_s f_s(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathcal{K}_{MLE}^*(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_s \Delta_s(\mathbf{x}_1)\Delta_s(\mathbf{x}_2),$$

$$\Delta_s(\mathbf{x}) = f_s(\mathbf{x}) - m_{MLE}^*(\mathbf{x}), \quad f_s(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{IP}(g_\theta(\cdot, \cdot), p_z).$$

$q_{GP}^*(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X}, m_{MLE}^*, \mathcal{K}_{MLE}^*, \theta)$  depends on  $\theta$

## Wake phase:

- We want to maximise  $\log p_\theta(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})$  w.r.t.  $\theta$  (intractable)
- Note that in sleep step we are minimising joint KL and

$$D_{KL}[p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})||q_{GP}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}|\mathbf{X})] \geq D_{KL}[p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})||q_{GP}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})]$$

- Then we use  $\log q_{GP}^*(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \theta) \approx \log p_\theta(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X})$
- Note that  $q_{GP}^*(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \theta)$  depends on  $\theta \Rightarrow$  just differentiate through

# Variational Implicit Processes

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## Wake phase:

For large dataset GP inference is very expensive ( $\mathcal{O}(N^3)$ )

Recall the kernel structure

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{MLE}}^*(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_s \Delta_s(\mathbf{x}_1) \Delta_s(\mathbf{x}_2)$$

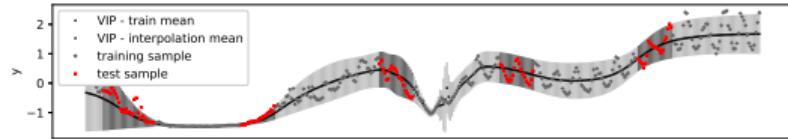
Random feature approximation:

$$\log q_{\mathcal{GP}}^*(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{X}, \theta) \approx \log \int \prod_n q^*(y_n|\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{a}, \theta) p(\mathbf{a}) d\mathbf{a},$$

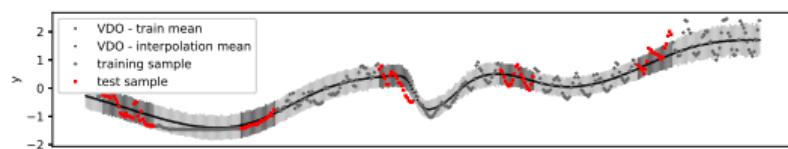
$$q^*(y_n|\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{a}, \theta) = \mathcal{N}\left(y_n; m_{\text{MLE}}^*(\mathbf{x}_n) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{S}} \sum_s \Delta_s(\mathbf{x}_n) a_s, \sigma^2\right), \quad p(\mathbf{a}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{a}; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}),$$

Bayesian linear regression (BLR) on top of function samples

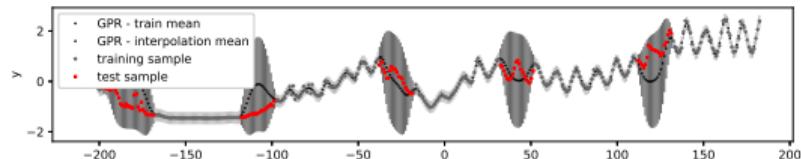
# Some Experimental Results



(a) VIP-BNN



(b) Variational dropout (VDO-BNN)

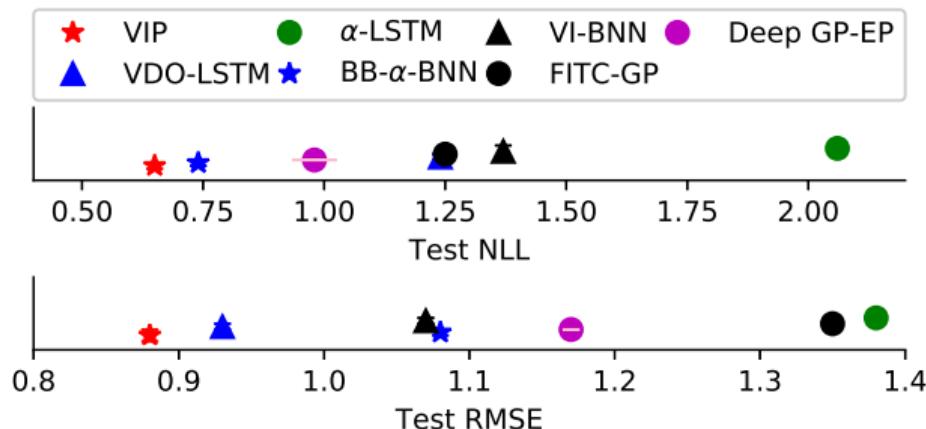


(c) GP regression (GPR)

Solar irradiance prediction:

- methods: VIP, VDO, GPR
- Capturing the predictive mean: VIP > GPR;
- Uncertainty estimates: VIP > VDO;

## Some Experimental Results



VIP applied to Bayesian LSTM:

- CEP Data: >1 million datapoints, each  $x$  is a string representing a molecule;
- Goal: predict power conversion efficiency
- Baselines: (deep) GP, BNN (hand-crafted features) & Bayesian LSTM (directly raw features), with different inference methods;
- VIP works significantly better for both NLL and RMSE.

# What we have covered today...

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BNNs and GPs are good friends:

- mean-field BNNs have GP limits
- approximate inference on GPs has links to BNNs
- approximate inference on BNNs can leverage GP techniques



**Thank you!**

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