Optimizing the ln likelihood function in George

author: Karen Y. Ng

Kernel used:

$$k(r) = \Sigma(r^2) + c\delta_{ij}$$

where $\Sigma(r^2)$ is ExpSquaredKernel or its derivatives. The second term is the WhiteKernel in George

Parametrization used in George

See george_examples/basic_properties_of_george.ipynb

$$k(r^2) = \lambda^{-1} \exp(-\frac{r^2}{2l^2})$$

Transformation of variables

Jacobian needed to preserve the area of integrated PDF

$$f_y(\vec{y}) = f_x(\vec{x}) |\det(J)|$$

Only when the transformed variable is the one that we integrate with respect to.

Since our likelihood can be written as

$$L(\lambda^{-1}, \beta | \vec{x}) = P(\vec{x} | \lambda^{-1}, \beta)$$

it shows that we are not actually integrating w.r.t. our parameters but our variables \vec{x} . No Jacabian is needed.

Optimizing the GP lnlikelihood