# Composition of Movement Primitives

### May 19, 2025

### Contents

1	$\mathbf{ProMPs}$	1
	1.1 Recap	1
	1.2 Coupling between joints	2
	1.3 Hierarchical Bayesian Model	2
	1.4 Via-Points Modulation	2
	1.4.1 Do we actually get the desired mean by applying the conditioning update?	3
2	Composition of MPs	3
A	Hierarchical Bayesian Model proof	3
В	Via-Points conditioning proof	4

#### 1 **ProMPs**

#### 1.1 Recap

From (Paraschos et al., 2013, 2018):

- $q_t$ : joint angle over time
- $\dot{q}_t$ : joint velocity over time
- $\tau = \{q_t\}_{t=0...T}$ : trajectory
- $\bullet$  w: weight vector of a single trajectory
- $\phi_t$ : basis function
- $\Phi_t = [\phi_t, \dot{\phi}_t]$ :  $n \times 2$  dimensional time-dependent basis matrix
- $\bullet$  z(t): monotonically increasing phase variable
- $\epsilon_y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Sigma}_y)$ : zero-mean i.i.d. Gaussian noise

$$\boldsymbol{y}_t = \begin{bmatrix} q_t \\ \dot{q}_t \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{w} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_y$$
 (1)

$$p(\boldsymbol{\tau}|\boldsymbol{w}) = \prod_{t} \mathcal{N} \left( \boldsymbol{y}_{t} | \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{y} \right)$$
 (2)

$$p(\boldsymbol{\tau}|\boldsymbol{w}) = \prod_{t} \mathcal{N} \left( \boldsymbol{y}_{t} | \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{y} \right)$$

$$p(\boldsymbol{\tau}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\boldsymbol{\tau}|\boldsymbol{w}) \cdot p(\boldsymbol{w}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\boldsymbol{w}$$
(2)

## 1.2 Coupling between joints

$$p(\mathbf{y}_t|\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_{1,t} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{y}_{d,t} \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi}_t^{\top} & \cdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \cdots & \mathbf{\Phi}_t^{\top} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{\Sigma}_y \right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{y}_t | \mathbf{\Psi}_t \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{\Sigma}_y \right)$$
(4)

with:

- $\boldsymbol{w} = [\boldsymbol{w}_1^\top, \dots, \boldsymbol{w}_n^\top]^\top$ : combined weight vector
- $\bullet$   $\Phi_t$ : block-diagonal basis matrix containing the basis functions and their derivatives for each dimension
- $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = [q_{i,t}, \dot{q}_{i,t}]^{\top}$ : joint angle and velocity for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  joint

#### 1.3 Hierarchical Bayesian Model

The Hierarchical Bayesian Model used in ProMPs is illustrated in Fig. 1.

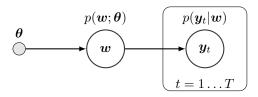


Figure 1: Hierarchical Bayesian Model used in ProMPs.

- $\theta = \{\mu_w, \Sigma_w\}$
- $p(\boldsymbol{w};\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_w, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_w)$ : prior over the weight vector  $\boldsymbol{w}$ , with parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ , assumed to be Gaussian

$$p(\boldsymbol{y}_t; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y) \cdot p(\boldsymbol{w}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\boldsymbol{w}$$
 (5)

$$= \int \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y) \cdot \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{w} | \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}}) d\boldsymbol{w}$$
 (6)

$$= \mathcal{N} \Big( \boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y \Big)$$
 (7)

See Appendix A for the proof.

#### 1.4 Via-Points Modulation

- $x_t^{\star} = [y_t^{\star}, \Sigma_t^{\star}]$ : desired observation
- $y_t^{\star}$ : desired position and velocity vector at time t
- $\Sigma_t^{\star}$ : accuracy of the desired observation

Using Bayes rule:

$$p(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{x}_t^{\star}) = \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}_t^{\star}|\boldsymbol{w}) \cdot p(\boldsymbol{w})}{p(\boldsymbol{x}_t^{\star})}$$
(8)

$$p(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{x}_t^{\star}) \propto \mathcal{N}\left(\boldsymbol{y}_t^{\star}|\boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top}\boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_t^{\star}\right) \cdot \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_w, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_w)$$
(9)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}}^{[new]} = \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t} \left( \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{y}^{\star} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t} \right)^{-1} (\boldsymbol{y}_{t}^{\star} - \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}})$$
(10)

$$\Sigma_{\boldsymbol{w}}^{[new]} = \Sigma_{\boldsymbol{w}} - \Sigma_{\boldsymbol{w}} \Psi_t \left( \Sigma_y^* \Psi_t^\top \Sigma_{\boldsymbol{w}} \Psi_t \right)^{-1} \Psi_t^\top \Sigma_{\boldsymbol{w}}$$
(11)

See Appendix B for the proof.

1.4.1 Do we actually get the desired mean by applying the conditioning update?

$$\mu_{\boldsymbol{y}_{t}}(\boldsymbol{y}_{t}^{\star}) \stackrel{?}{=} \mu_{\boldsymbol{w}}^{[new]}(\boldsymbol{y}_{t}^{\star}) \tag{12}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{w}(\boldsymbol{y}_{t}^{\star}) \stackrel{?}{=} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{w} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{w} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t} \left( \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{y}^{\star} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{w} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t} \right)^{-1} (\boldsymbol{y}_{t}^{\star} - \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{w})$$
(13)

ToDo

## 2 Composition of MPs

#### References

- A. Paraschos, C. Daniel, J. R. Peters, and G. Neumann, "Probabilistic Movement Primitives," in *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, vol. 26. Curran Associates, Inc., 2013. [Online]. Available: https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper/2013/hash/e53a0a2978c28872a4505bdb51db06dc-Abstract.html
- A. Paraschos, C. Daniel, J. Peters, and G. Neumann, "Using probabilistic movement primitives in robotics," *Autonomous Robots*, vol. 42, no. 3, pp. 529–551, Mar. 2018. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10514-017-9648-7
- M. P. Deisenroth, A. A. Faisal, and C. S. Ong, *Mathematics for machine learning*. Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- C. M. Bishop and H. Bishop, *Deep Learning: Foundations and Concepts*. Springer International Publishing, 2024. [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-45468-4

# A Hierarchical Bayesian Model proof

*Proof of Eq.* (7). From (Deisenroth et al., 2020), we have the joint distribution:

$$p(\mathbf{x}_a, \mathbf{x}_b) = \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_a \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_b \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{aa} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{ab} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{ba} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{bb} \end{bmatrix}\right)$$
(14)

and the marginal distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}_a)$  of a joint Gaussian distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}_a, \mathbf{x}_b)$ :

$$p(\mathbf{x}_a) = \int p(\mathbf{x}_a, \mathbf{x}_b) d\mathbf{x}_b = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_a | \boldsymbol{\mu}_a, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{aa})$$
(15)

Since  $y_t$  and w are jointly Gaussian, we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{y}_t \\ \boldsymbol{w} \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{y}_t, \boldsymbol{y}_t] & \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{y}_t, \boldsymbol{w}] \\ \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{y}_t] & \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{w}] \end{bmatrix} \right)$$
(16)

$$Cov[\boldsymbol{y}_t, \boldsymbol{y}_t] = Cov[\boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{w} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}]$$
 (17)

$$= \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top}\boldsymbol{w}] + \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{\epsilon}] \tag{18}$$

$$= \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t}^{\top} \operatorname{Cov}[\boldsymbol{w}] \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{t} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{y} \tag{19}$$

$$= \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{u}} \tag{20}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{y}_t \\ \boldsymbol{w} \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$
(21)

$$p(\boldsymbol{y}_t; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N} \left( \boldsymbol{y}_t | \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{w}}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{w}} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_y \right)$$
(22)

# B Via-Points conditioning proof

Proof of Eq. (10) and Eq. (11). From (Bishop and Bishop, 2024), the parameters of a conditional multivariate Gaussian  $p(\mathbf{x}_a|\mathbf{x}_b) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{a|b}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{a|b})$  are the following:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{a|b} = \boldsymbol{\mu}_a + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{ab} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{bb}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_b - \boldsymbol{\mu}_b)$$
 (23)

$$\Sigma_{a|b} = \Sigma_{aa} - \Sigma_{ab} \Sigma_{bb}^{-1} \Sigma_{ba} \tag{24}$$

Missing developments

4