

Gaussian Process (Kriging)

Hannah Bartmann, Ferry Heinzelmann, Nils Hichert

Case Studies II

Prof. Dr. Katja Ickstadt

Dr. Henrike Weinert

Yassine Talleb

Carmen van Meegen

Department of Statistics, TU Dortmund

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Model Idea

A zero mean Gaussian Process is a collection of random variables where any finite subset has a joint Gaussian distribution:

$$Z(X) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, K(X, X)).$$

The output of the 'black box' function

$$f(X) = (f(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, f(\mathbf{x}_n))^{\top} =: \mathbf{f}$$

can be modelled by a linear regression

$$\mathbf{f} = h(X)^{\top} \beta + Z(X), \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$$

where $h(X)$ is some known basis function, eg. $h(X) = \mathbf{1}_{p+1}$ or $h(\mathbf{x}_i) = (1, x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ip}), i = 1 \dots, n$

Types of Kriging

The basis function h is the choice of the statistician!

Different types of Kriging:

- Simple Kriging: $h(X)^\top \beta \equiv \text{const}$, β known
- Ordinary Kriging: $h(X)^\top \beta \equiv \text{const}$, β unknown
- Universal Kriging: $h(X)^\top \beta$ linear in β , β unknown

For simplicity we continue with simple Kriging with $h(X)^\top \beta = 0$

- model reduces to $\mathbf{f} = Z(X)$
- ordinary or universal Kriging requires estimating β which would necessitate a lot more notation

Covariance structure

To predict the function values \mathbf{f}^* at some new inputs $\mathbf{X}^* = (\mathbf{x}_1^* \dots \mathbf{x}_{n^*}^*)$ we need

- the vector of some known function values \mathbf{f}
- the covariance function $K(\cdot, \cdot) \rightarrow$ statistician's choice

An example for K is given by the radial base function

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^*) = \exp \left\{ - (\varepsilon \cdot \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|)^2 \right\}$$

for some $\varepsilon > 0$

- K must be chosen in a way that it produces non singular covariance matrices

Prediction

The conditional distribution of the function value at \mathbf{x}^* is given by

$$f^* | \mathbf{f}, X, \mathbf{x}^* \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) \mathbf{K}(X, X)^{-1} \mathbf{f}, \\ \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) - \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) \mathbf{K}(X, X)^{-1} \mathbf{K}(X, \mathbf{x}^*))$$

The best linear unbiased predictor (BLUP) for $f(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is given by

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbb{E}(f(\mathbf{x}^*)) = \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{x}^*, X) \mathbf{K}(X, X)^{-1} \mathbf{f}$$

Properties of BLUP

- linear in \mathbf{f} and smallest variance of all linear estimators
- the BLUP interpolates the training data X
 - ▶ $\mathbb{E}(\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}^*) | f(\mathbf{x}), X = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})$
 - ▶ $\text{Cov}(f(\mathbf{x}^*) | \mathbf{f}, X = \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{x}) = 0$

R:

- `rkriging` [1]:
 - ▶ `Fit.Kriging(X = X, y = y, kernel = K_{XX} , ...)`
 - ▶ Ordinary and Universal Kriging

Python:

- `PyKrige` [2]
 - ▶ First result when googling 'kriging python'

Bibliography I

- [1] Chaofan Huang and V. Roshan Joseph. *rkriging: Kriging Modeling*. R package version 1.0.2. 2025. DOI: 10.32614/CRAN.package.rkriging.
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- [4] Thomas J Santner, Brian J Williams, and William I Notz. *The design and analysis of computer experiments*. 2nd ed. Springer Series in Statistics. New York, NY: Springer, 2019. DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4939-8847-1.