



Why

We use a normal linear model to predict the function at inputs not included in the design.

Definition

Let $(x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d, A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times d}, e : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n)$ be a normal linear model over the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$. A *predictive linear model* is a linear model with two additional objects. The first is a matrix $B \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times d}$ and the second is a random vector $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$ which is jointly normal with e . So a predictive linear model is a sequence (x, A, e, C, f) .

As usual we define a random vector $y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$, but now also define a random vector $z : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$ by

$$\begin{aligned} y &= Ax + e \\ z &= Cx + f. \end{aligned}$$

The *predictive density* of the predictive normal linear model is the conditional density of z given y . Observe that

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ A & I & 0 \\ C & 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ e \\ f \end{pmatrix}.$$

and the vector (x, e, f) is normal with covariance

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_e & \Sigma_{ef} \\ 0 & \Sigma_{fe} & \Sigma_f \end{pmatrix}$$

So (x, y, z) is normal with covariance

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_x & \Sigma_x A^\top & \Sigma_x C^\top \\ A\Sigma_x & A\Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_e & A\Sigma_x C^\top + \Sigma_{ef} \\ C\Sigma_x & C\Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_{fe} & C\Sigma_x C^\top + \Sigma_f \end{pmatrix}$$

A *normal linear model predictor* or *normal linear model regressor* is the predictor which assigns to a new point $a \in \mathbf{R}^d$ the mean of the predictive density. In other words, the predictor $g : \mathbf{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ defined by

$$g(a) = (a^\top \Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_{fe}) (A\Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_e)^{-1} \gamma.$$

In the above we have substituted a^\top for C . In the case of normal random vectors this corresponds with the MAP estimate and the MMSE estimate.¹ The predictive density for this point is normal with that mean, and has variance

$$(a^\top \Sigma_x a + \Sigma_f) - (a^\top \Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_{fe}) (A\Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_e)^{-1} (A\Sigma_x a + \Sigma_{ef}).$$

Use of a predictive normal linear model is often referred to as *Gaussian process regression*. The upside is that a gaussian process predictor interpolates the data, is smooth, and the so-called variance increases with the distance from the data. This is also called *Bayesian linear regression*.

¹Future editions will have discussed this and include a reference to the sheet.

