

## A sparse Gaussian process regression model for tourism demand forecasting in Hong Kong

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**Descriptores:** \*GAUSSIAN processes

\*REGRESSION analysis

\*TOURISM

\*DEMAND (Economic theory) \*ECONOMIC forecasting \*MACHINE learning

\*SUPPORT vector machines \*COMPUTATIONAL complexity

**Términos** HONG Kong (China)

geográficos: CHINA

Palabras clave Kernel machines

proporcionadas Sparse Gaussian process por el autor: Support vector machine

Tourism demand forecasting

NAICS/Códigos 561591 Convention and Visitors Bureaus

del sector: 721211 RV (Recreational Vehicle) Parks and Campgrounds

721214 Recreational and Vacation Camps (except Campgrounds)

713990 All Other Amusement and Recreation Industries

721110 Hotels (except Casino Hotels) and Motels

721120 Casino Hotels

721191 Bed-and-Breakfast Inns

721199 All Other Traveler Accommodation

**Resumen:** Abstract: In recent years, Gaussian process (GP) models have been popularly

studied to solve hard machine learning problems. The models are important due to their flexible non-parametric modeling abilities using Mercer kernels and the Bayesian framework for probabilistic inference. In this paper, we propose a sparse GP regression (GPR) model for tourism demand forecasting in Hong Kong. The sparsification procedure of the GPR model not only decreases the computational complexity but also improves the generalization ability. We experiment the proposed model with monthly demand data that are relevant to

Hong Kong's tourism industry, and compare the performance of the sparse GPR

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model with those of various kernel-based models to show its effectiveness. The proposed sparse GPR model shows that its forecasting capability outperforms those of the ARMA model and the two state-of-the-art SVM models. [Copyright &y& Elsevier]

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