

Gaussian Processes for Regression: Models, Algorithms, and Applications

Tamara Broderick
Associate Professor
MIT

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

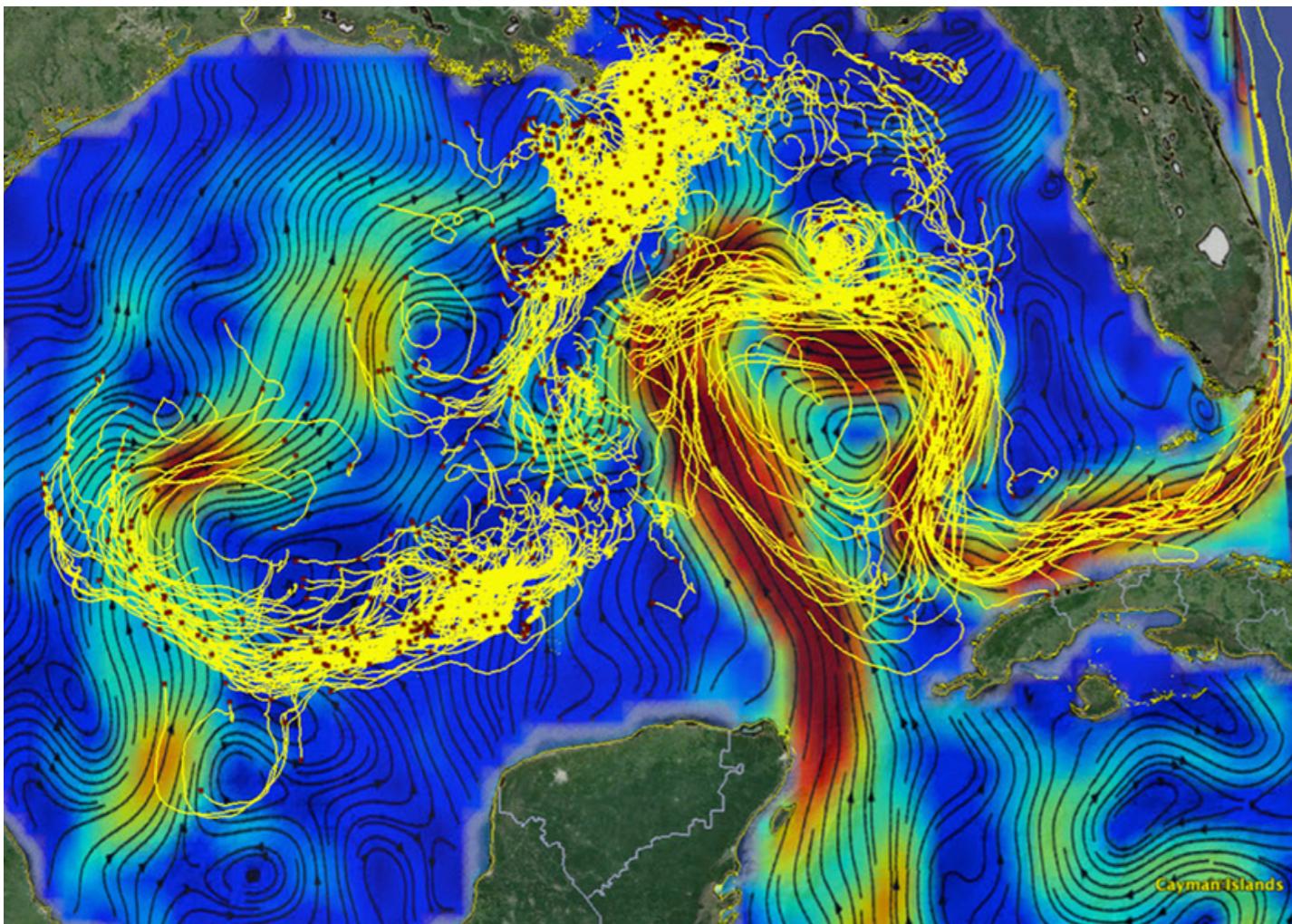
- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems

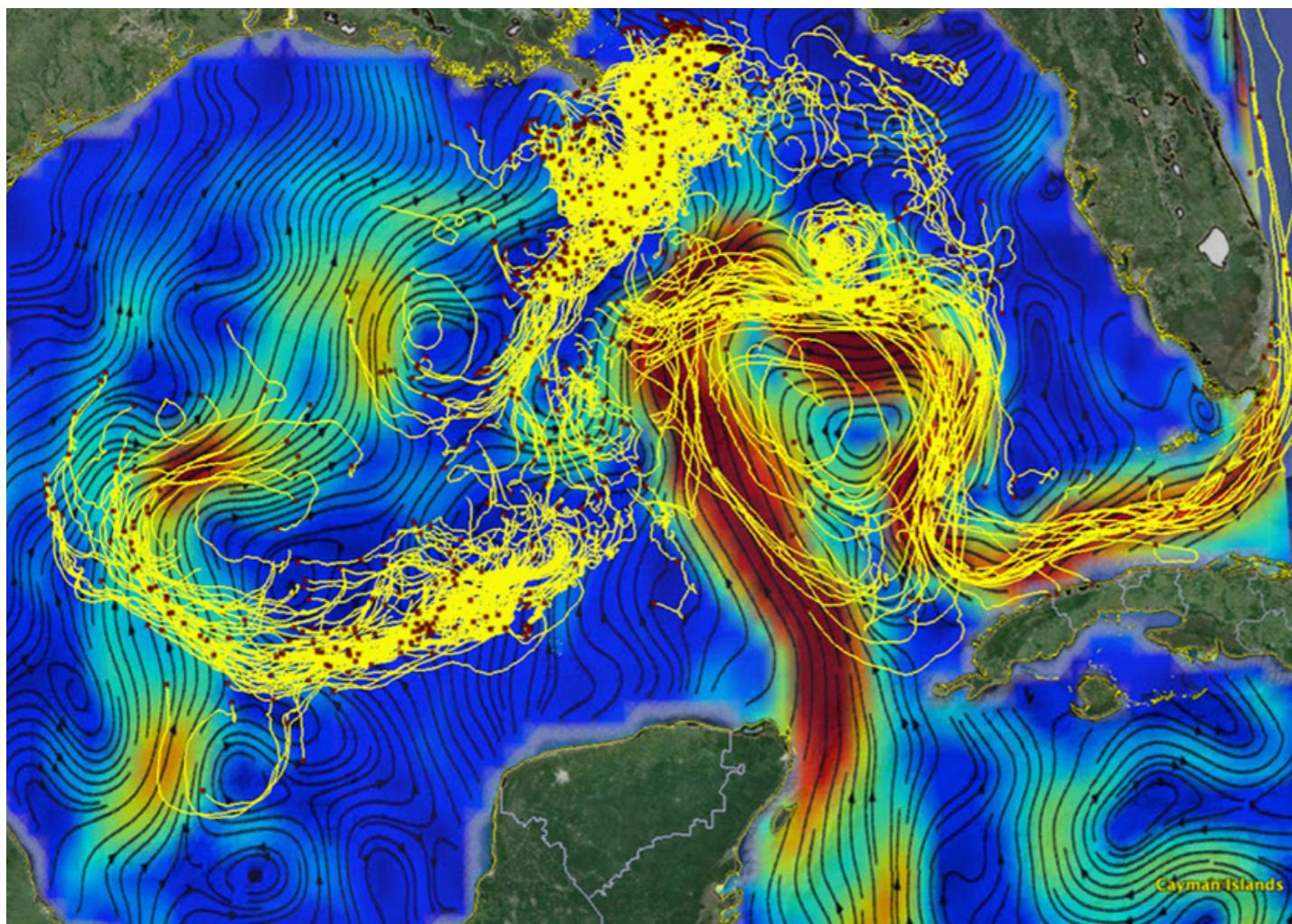


Example:

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



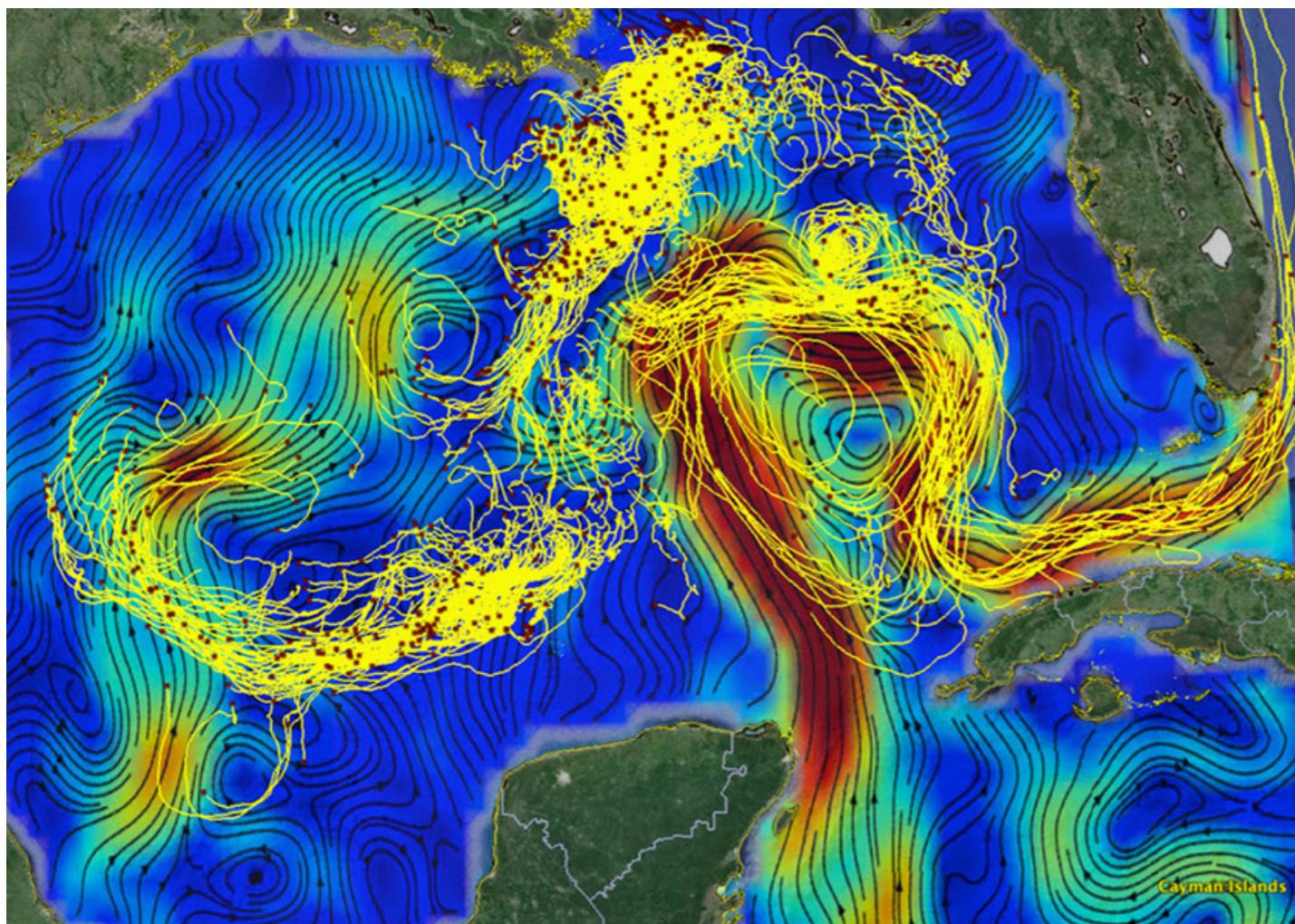
Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



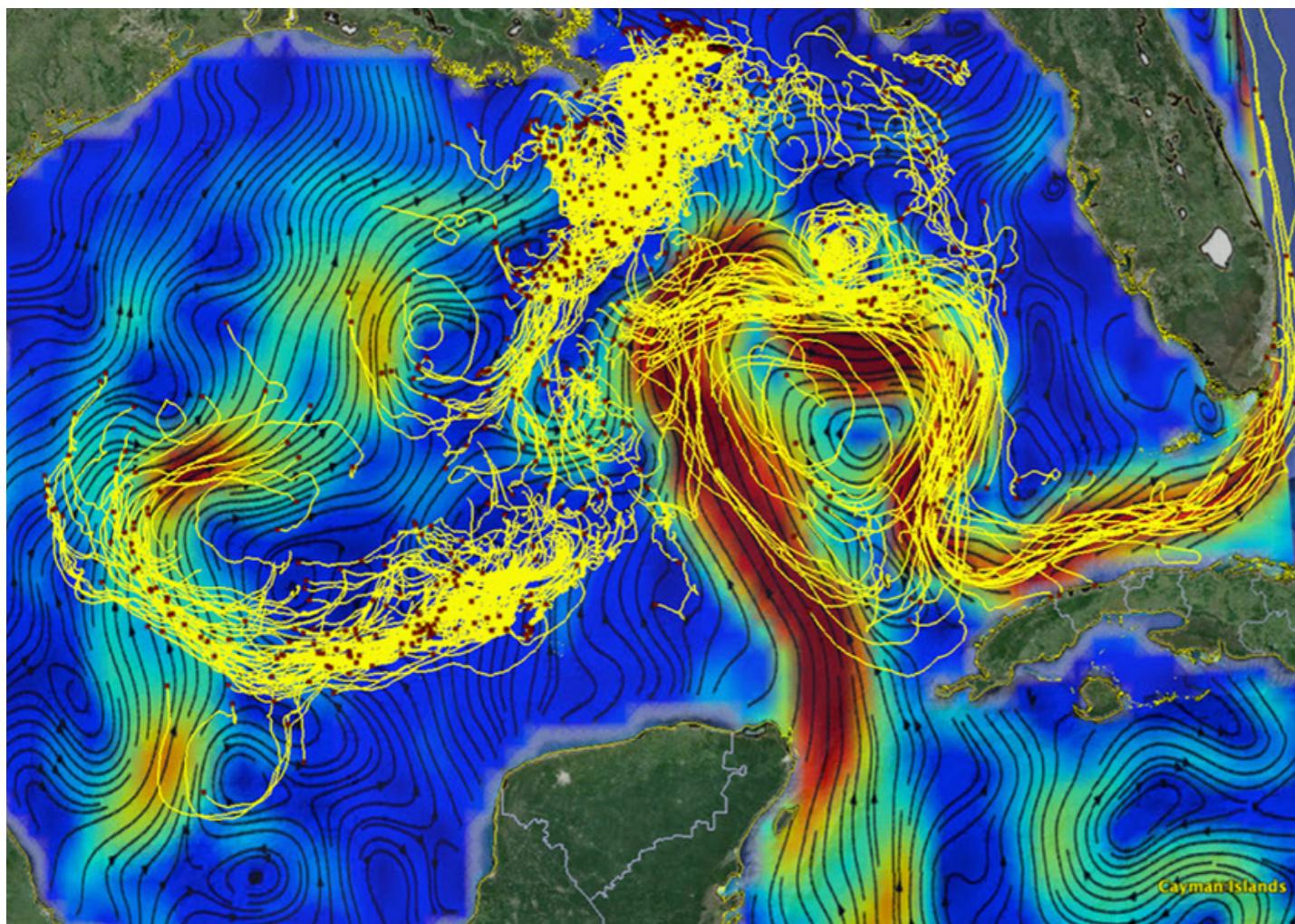
Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



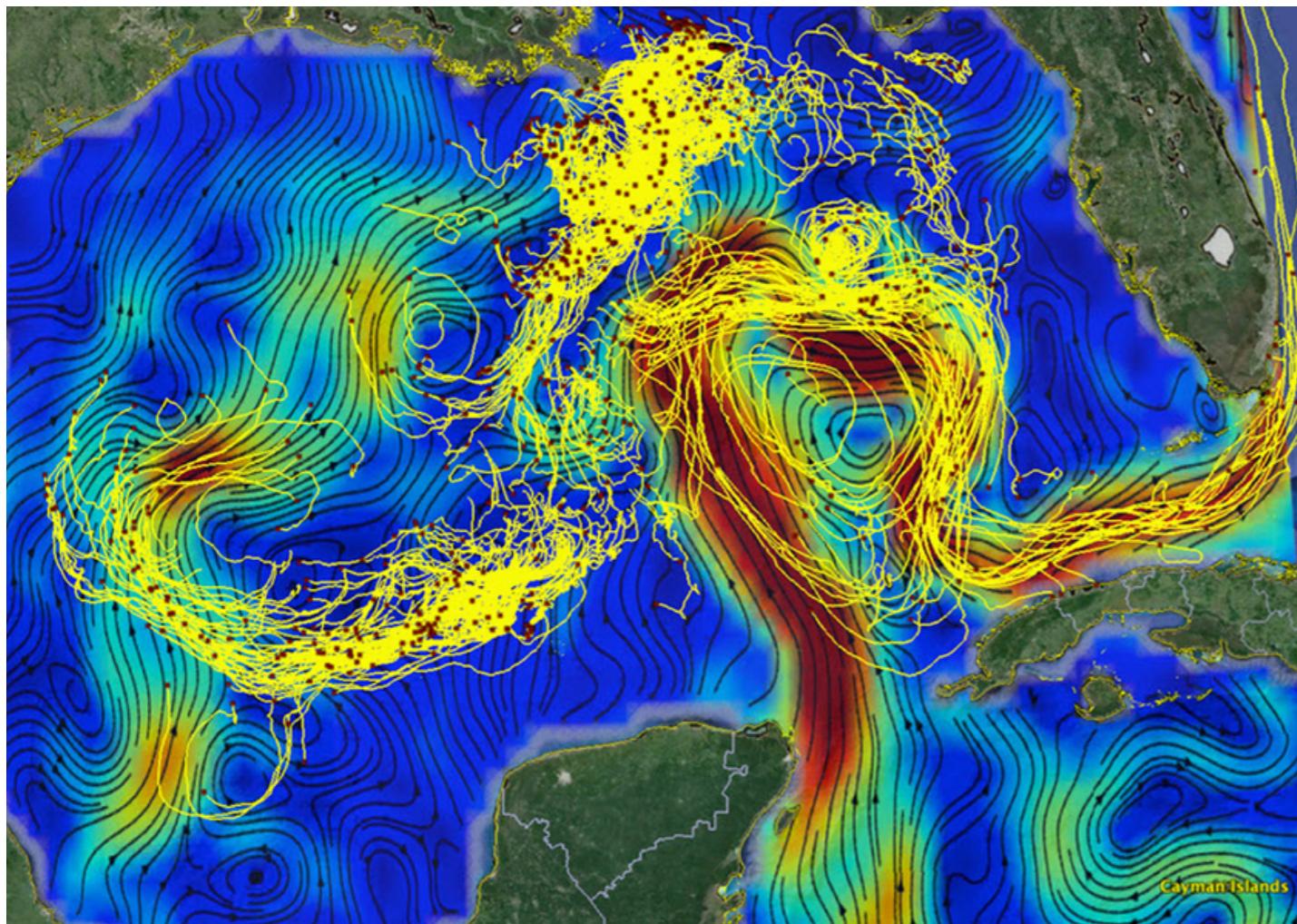
Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



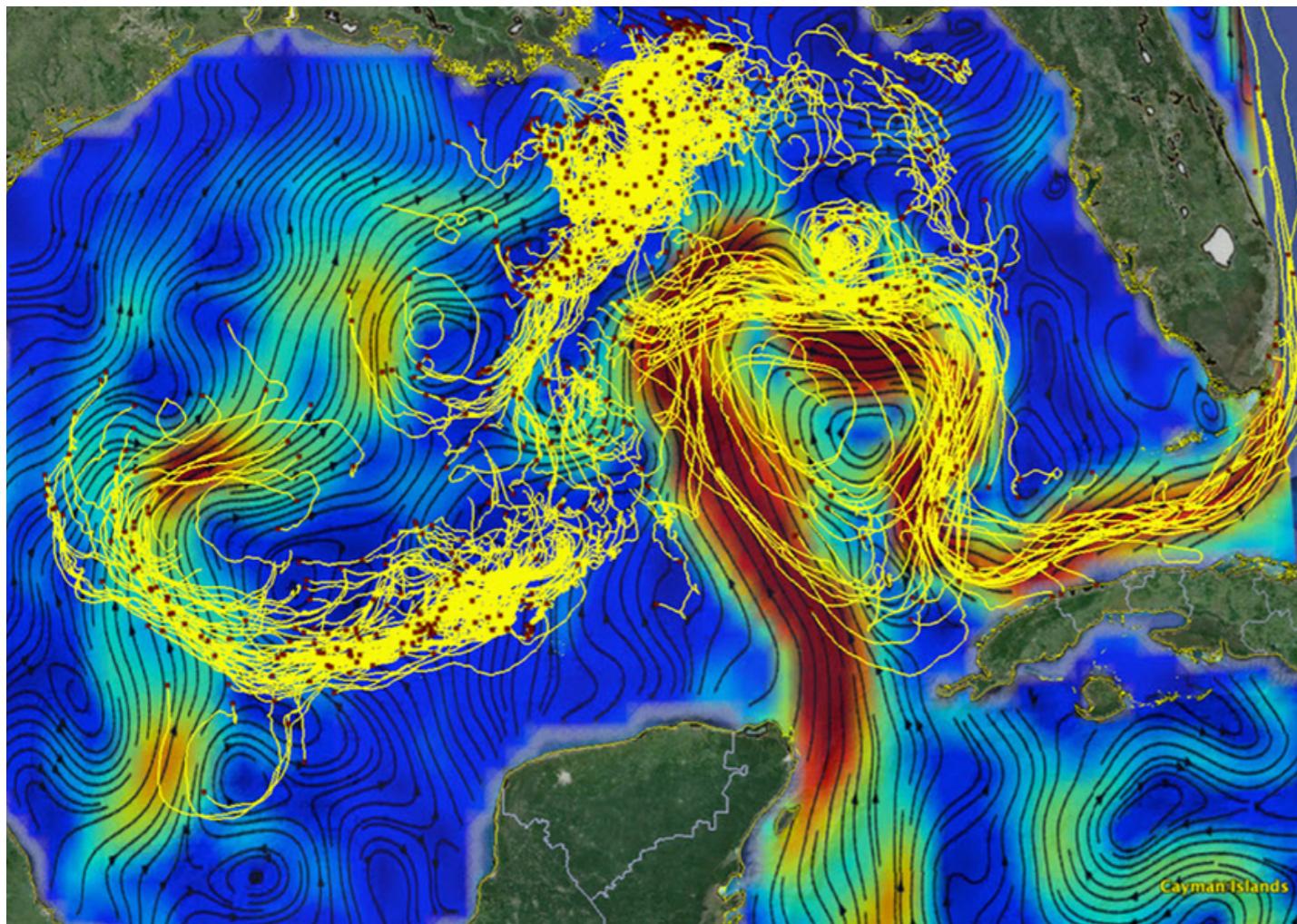
Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “predict”

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



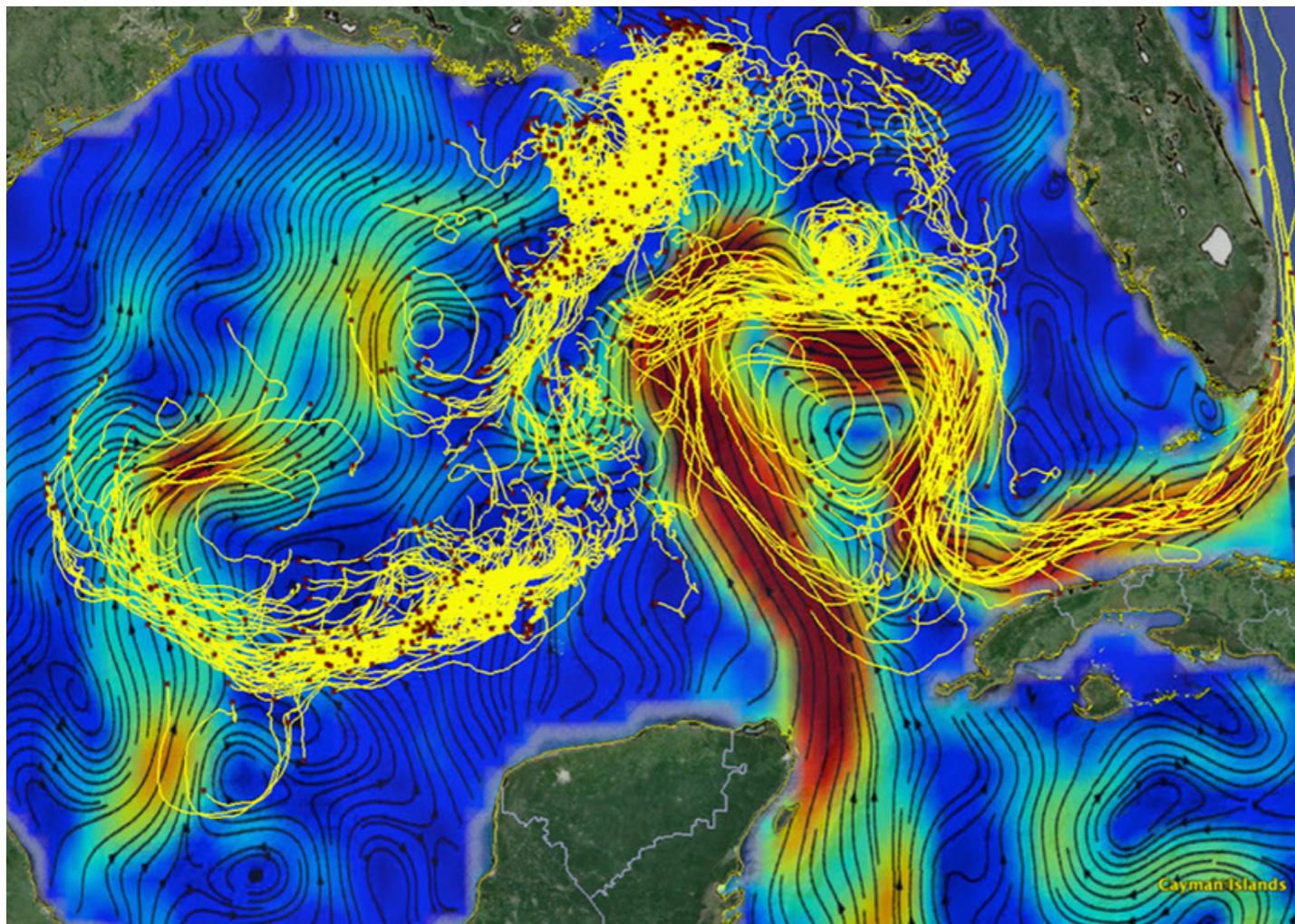
Example:

- The ocean **current** (velocity vector field) varies by **space & time**
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “**predict**”

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



Example:

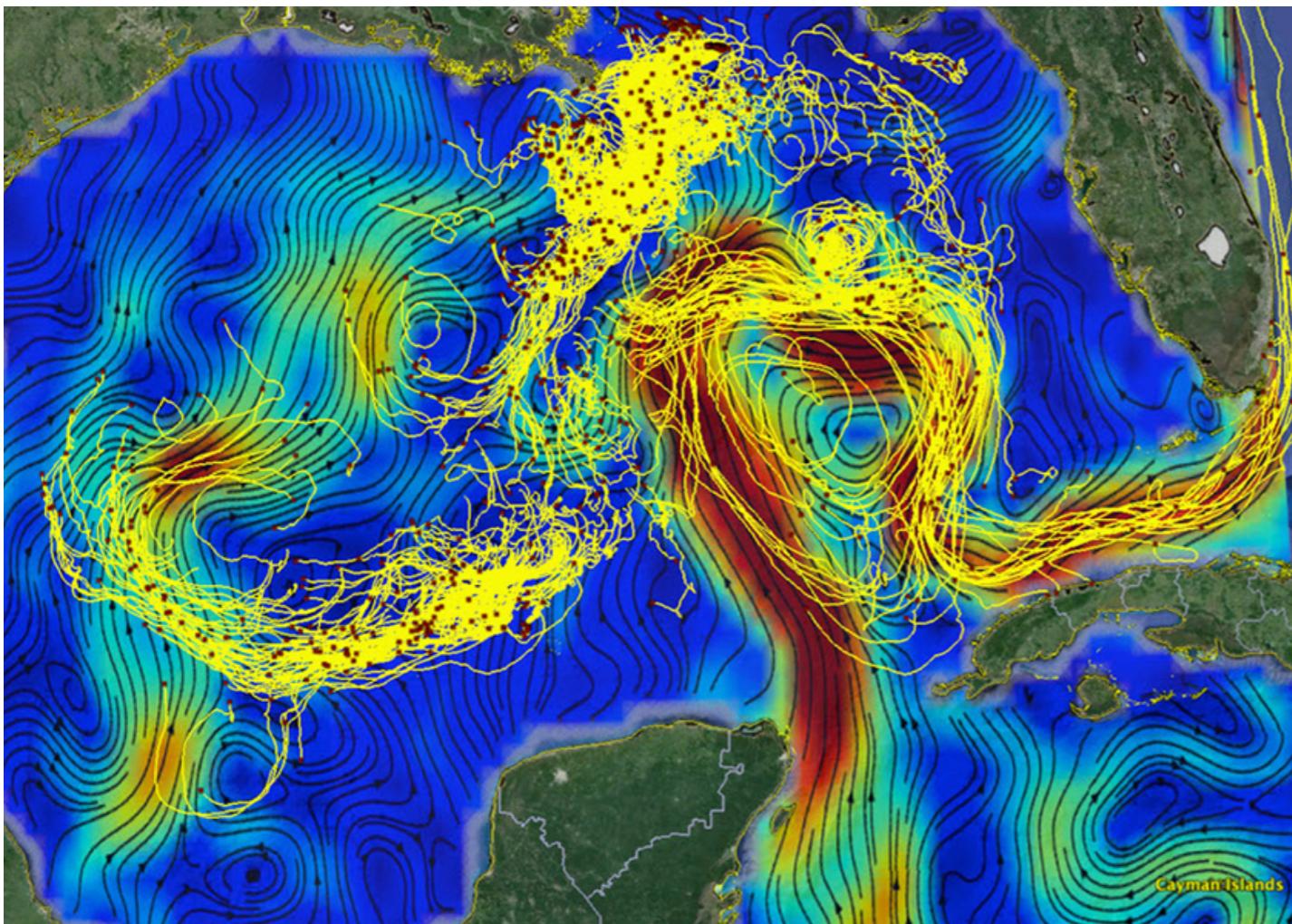
- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “predict”

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Challenges:

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



Example:

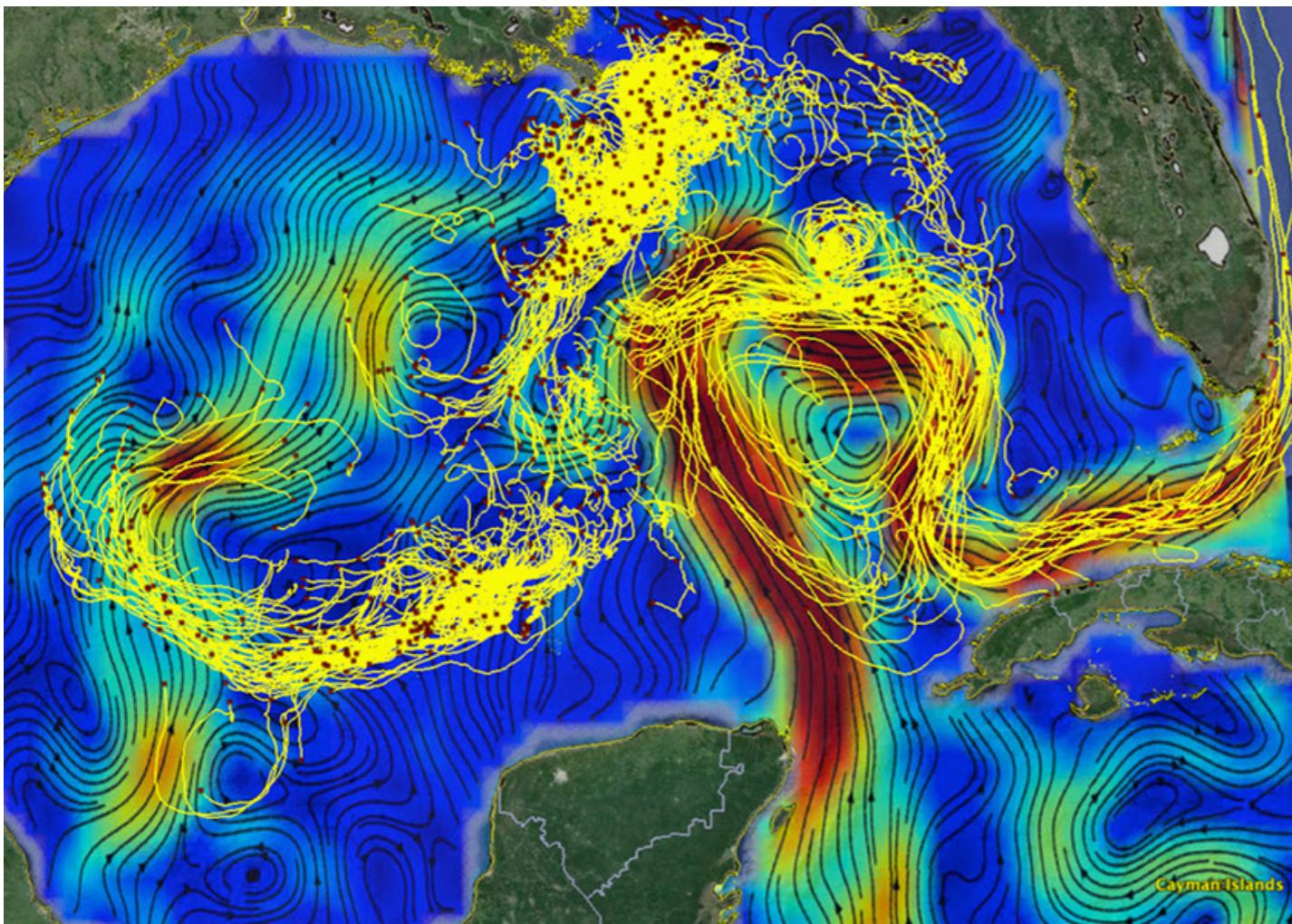
- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “predict”

[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Challenges: • Sparsely observed data, not on a grid

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “predict”

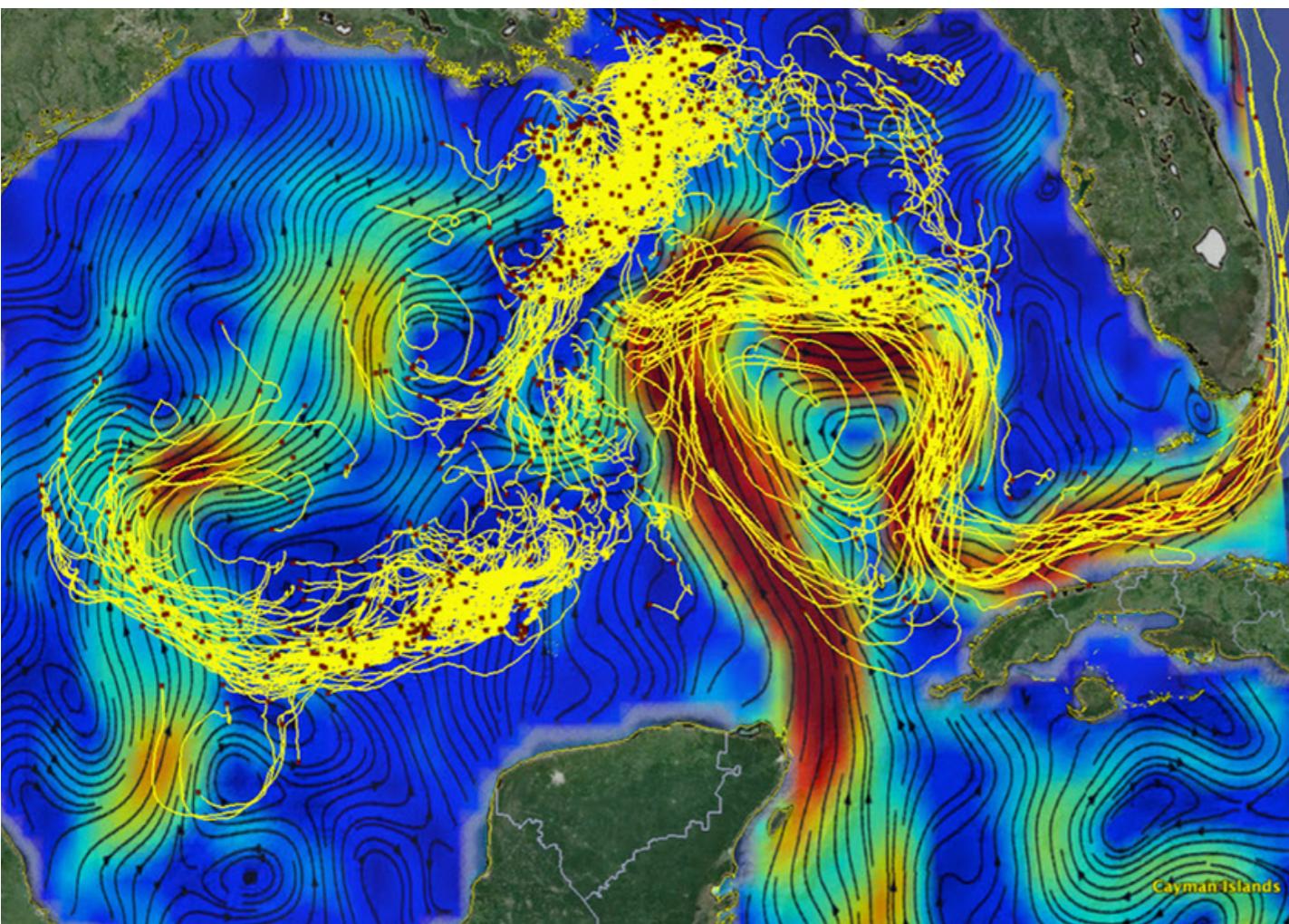
[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

Challenges:

- Sparsely observed data, not on a grid
- Current is highly nonlinear but smooth in space-time

Why Gaussian processes (GPs)?

- Often want to estimate/“predict” some continuous outcome as a function of certain inputs (*regression*)
- GPs are good at certain types of regression problems



Example:

- The ocean current (velocity vector field) varies by space & time
- Scientists get sparse observations of the current from buoys
- Goal: estimate the current “predict”

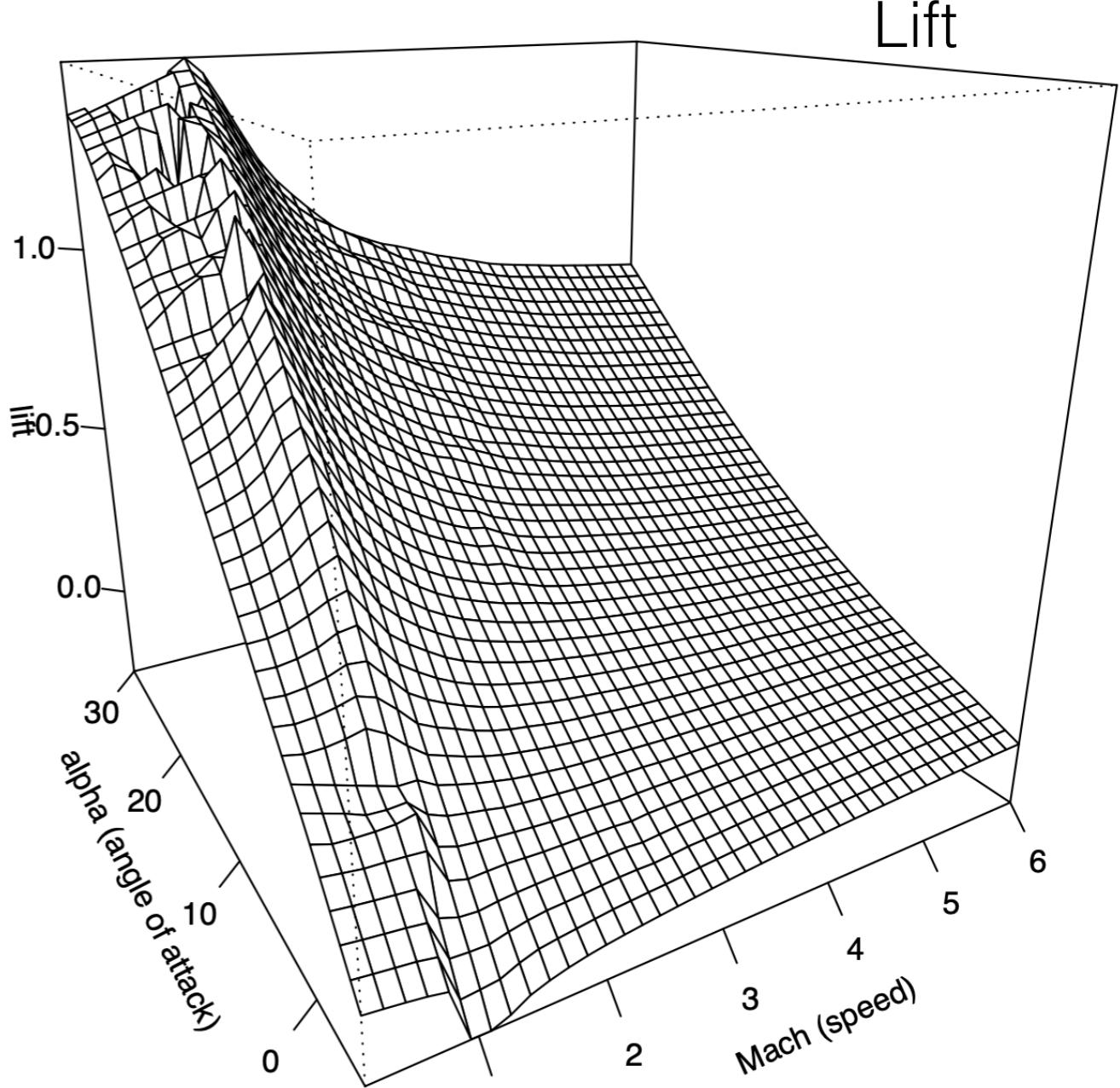
[Ryan, Özgökmen 2023; Zewe 2023; Gonçalves et al 2019; Lodise et al 2020; Berlinghieri et al 2023]

- Challenges:
- Sparsely observed data, not on a grid
 - Current is highly nonlinear but smooth in space-time
 - Want uncertainty quantification

Why Gaussian processes?

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:



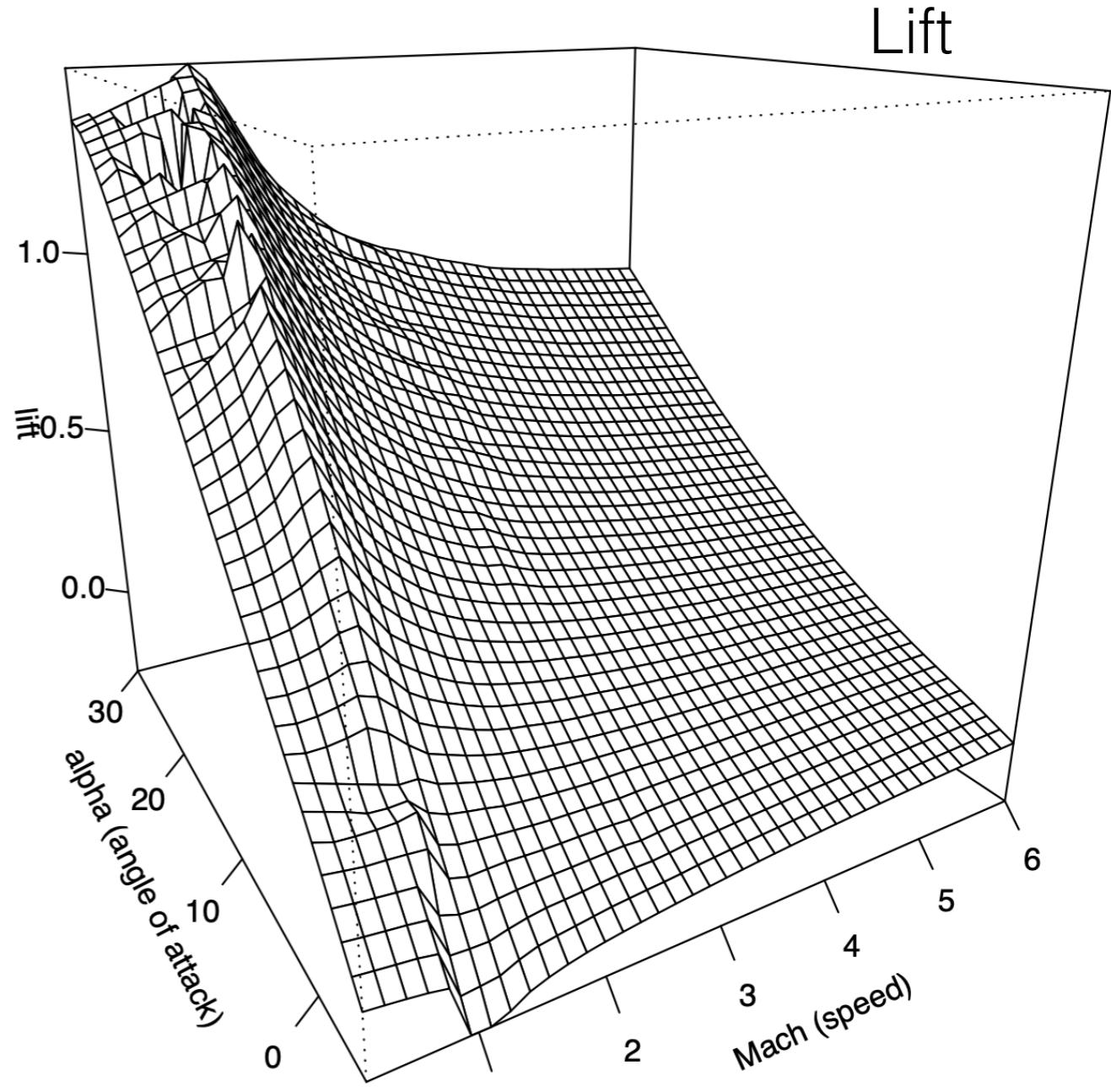
[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle



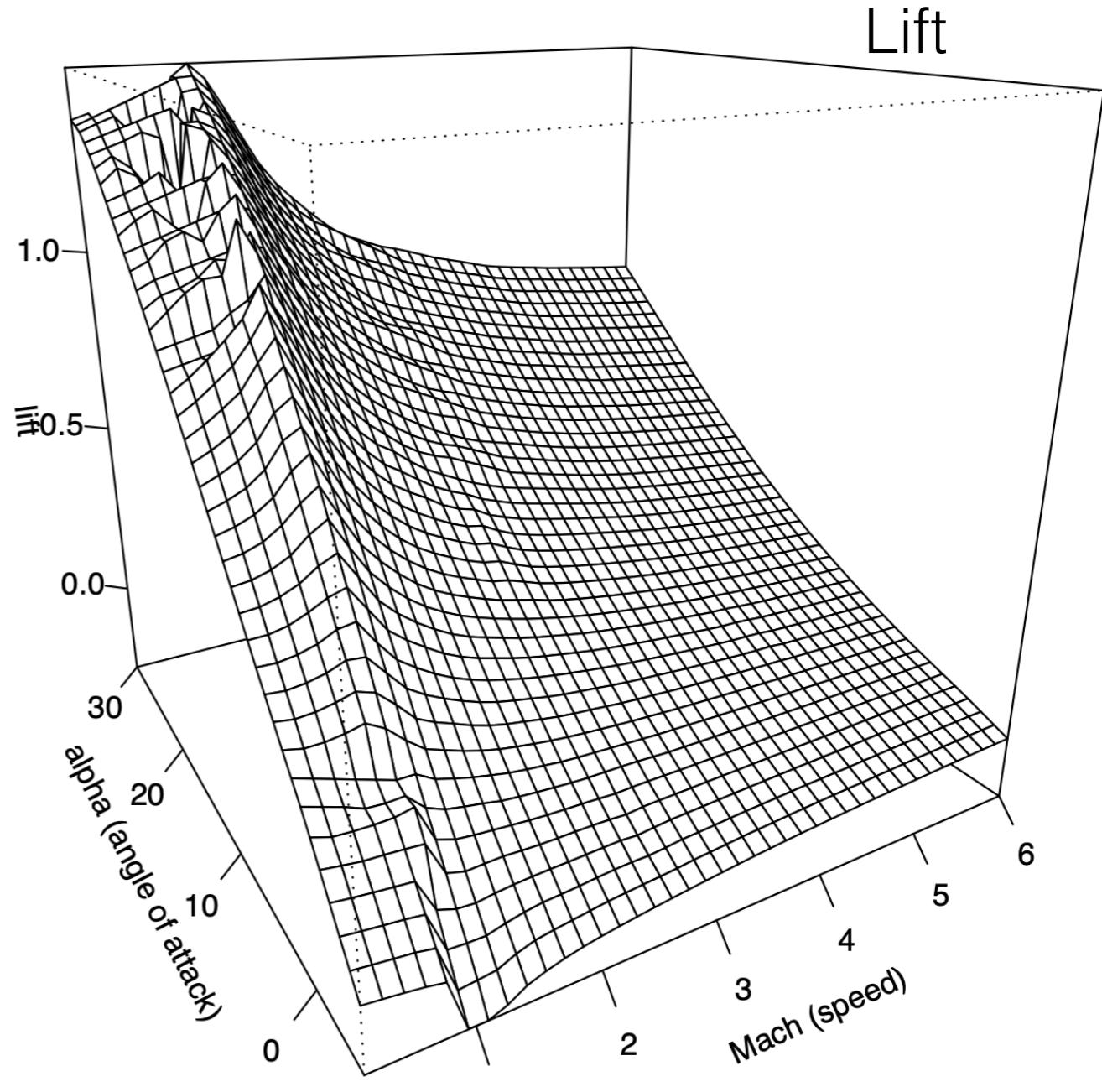
[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings



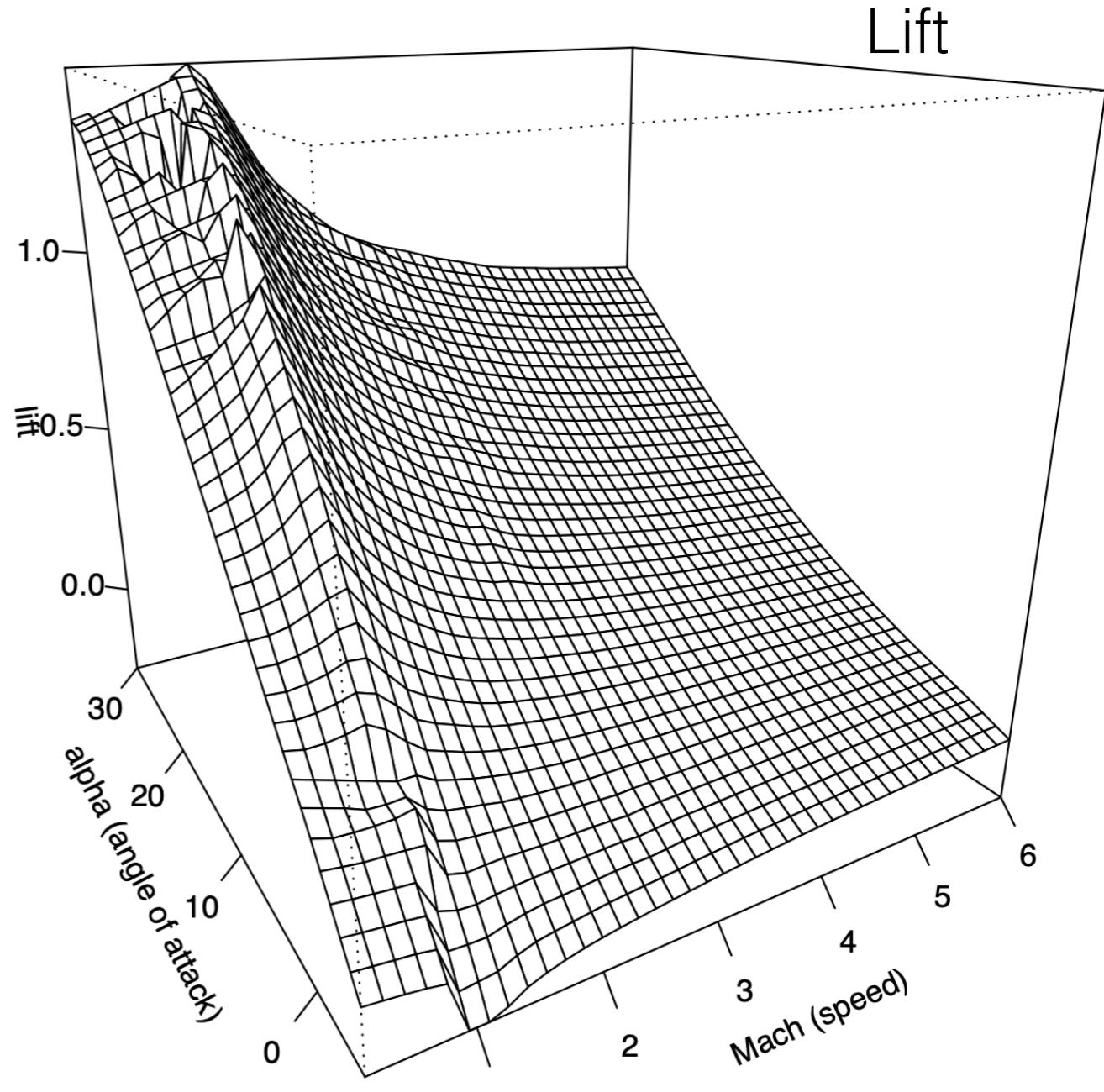
[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

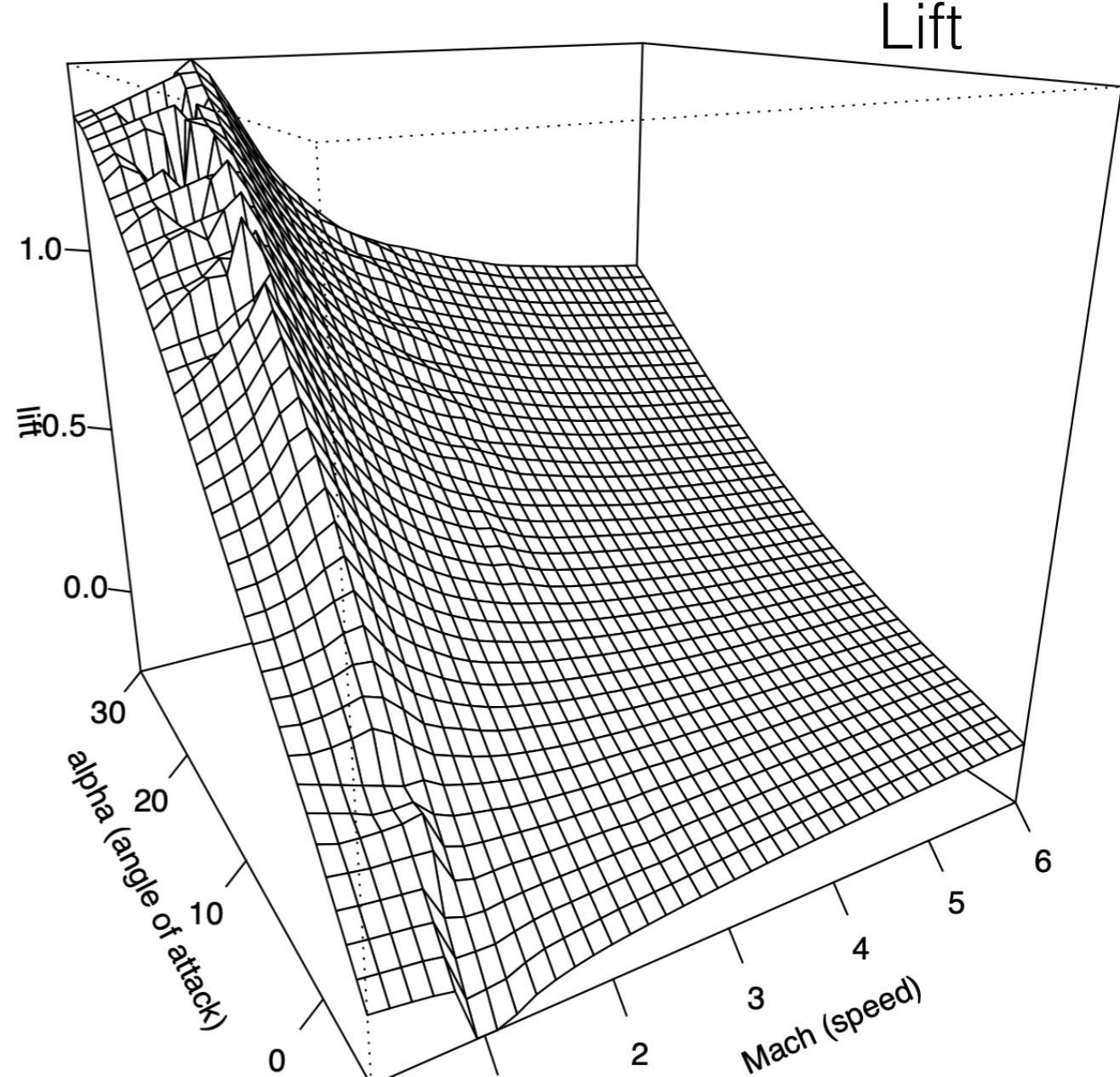
[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs

“Surrogate model” or “metamodel” or “emulator”



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

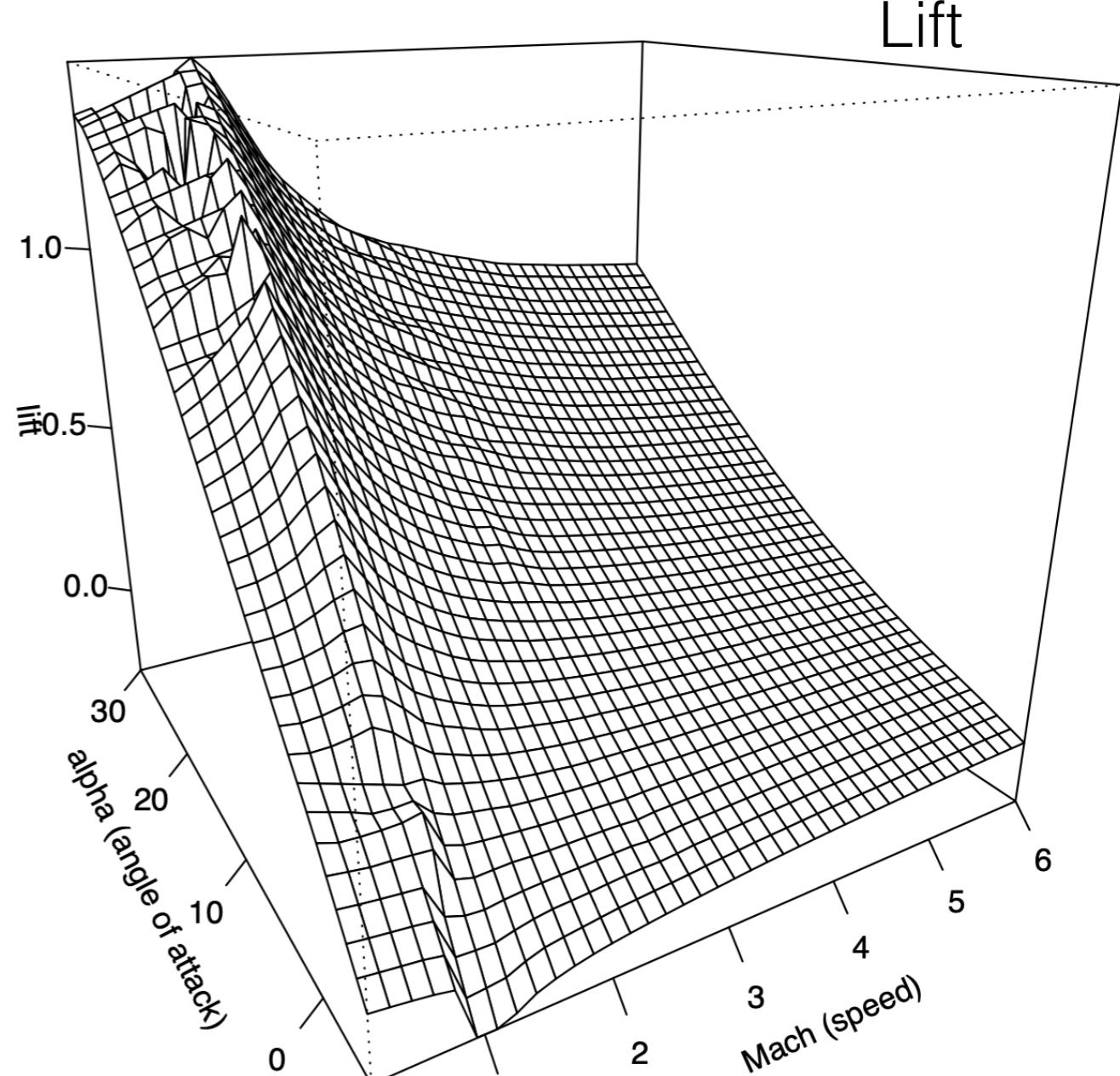
[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs

“Surrogate model” or “metamodel” or “emulator”¹



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

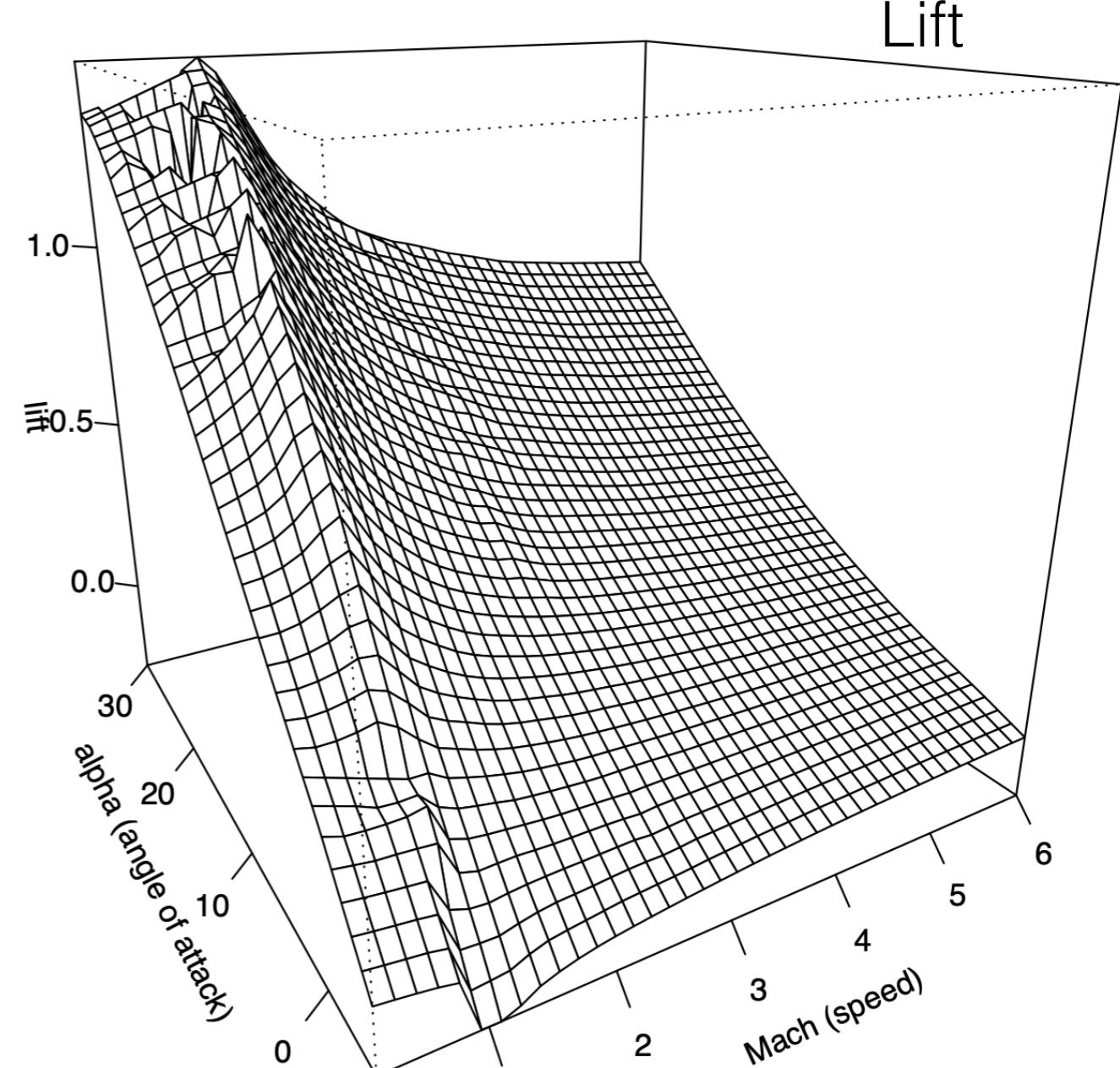
[Gramacy 2020]

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs

“Surrogate model” or “metamodel” or “emulator”



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

[Gramacy 2020]

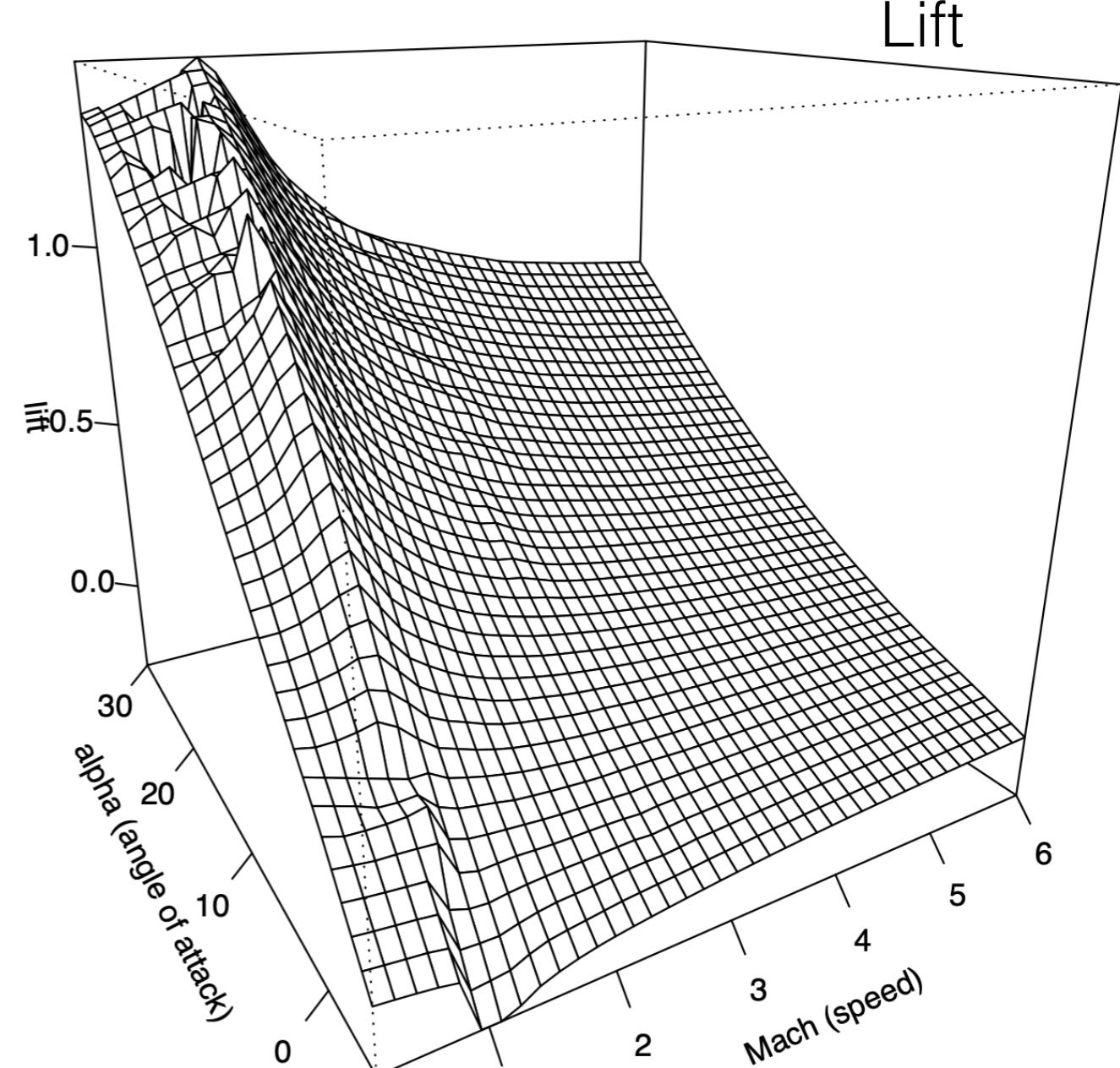
Challenges:

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs

“Surrogate model” or “metamodel” or “emulator”



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]

[Gramacy 2020]

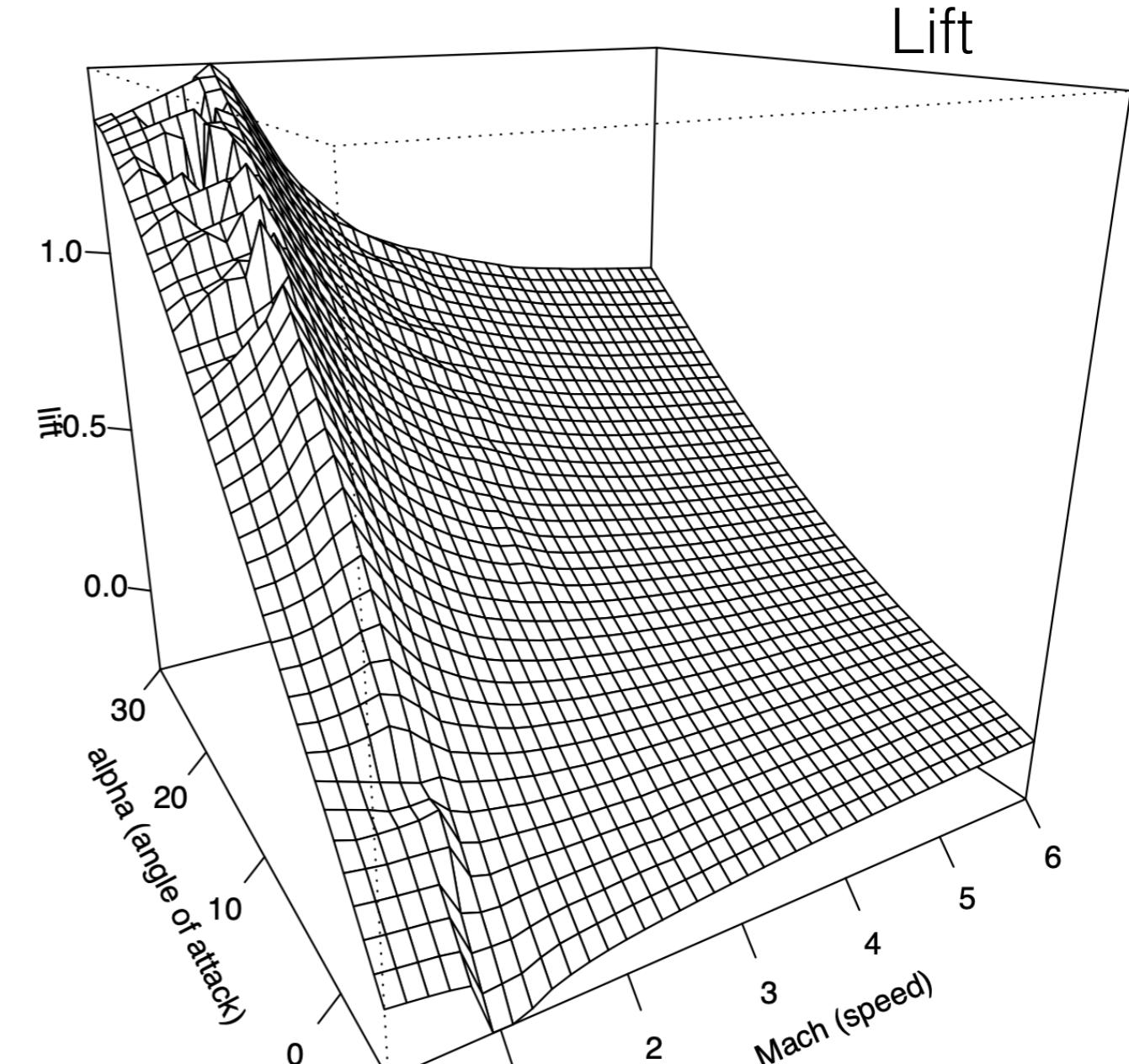
Challenges:

- Sparsely observed data

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs



[Gramacy, Lee 2008]
[Gramacy 2020]

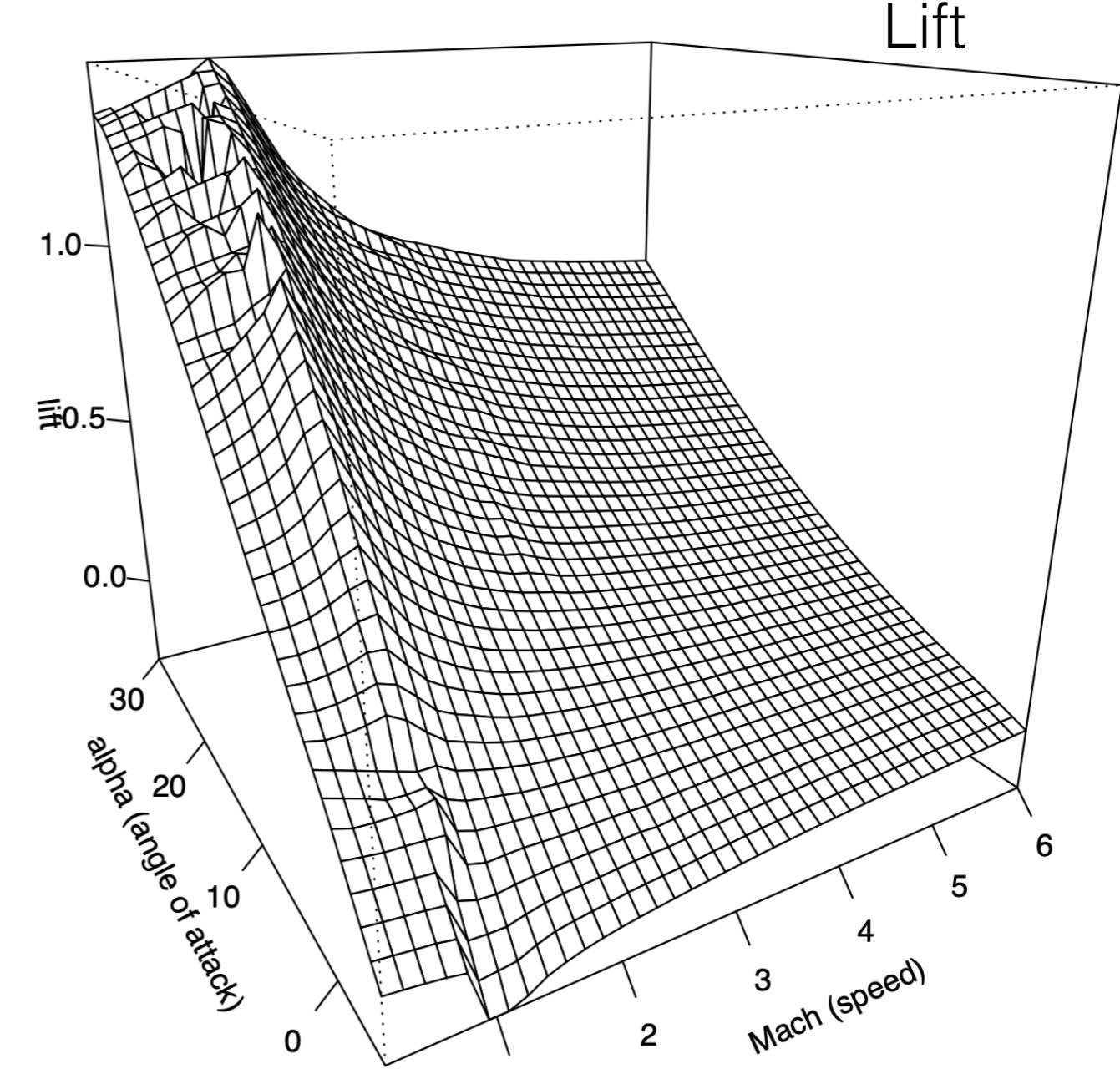
Challenges:

- Sparsely observed data
- Lift may have a nonlinear relationship to the inputs

Why Gaussian processes?

Example:

- The lift force of a rocket booster varies as a function of speed at re-entry, angle of attack, and sideslip angle
- Scientists can run expensive simulations at chosen input settings
- Goal: estimate how lift varies as a function of these inputs



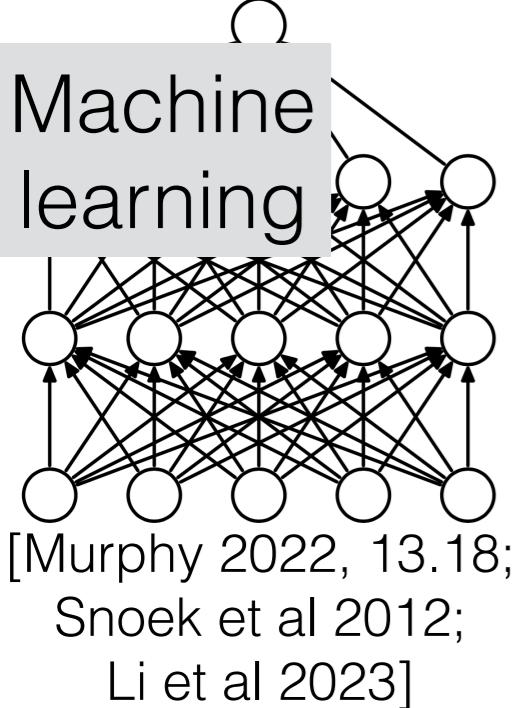
[Gramacy, Lee 2008]
[Gramacy 2020]

Challenges:

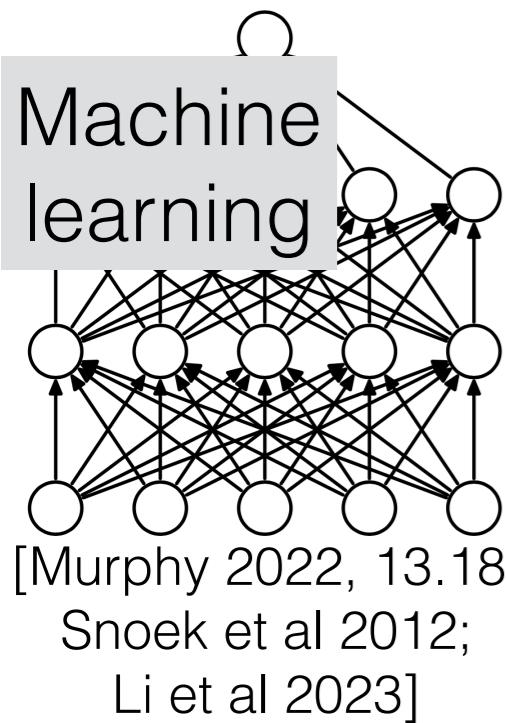
- Sparsely observed data
- Lift may have a nonlinear relationship to the inputs
- Want uncertainty quantification

Why Gaussian processes?

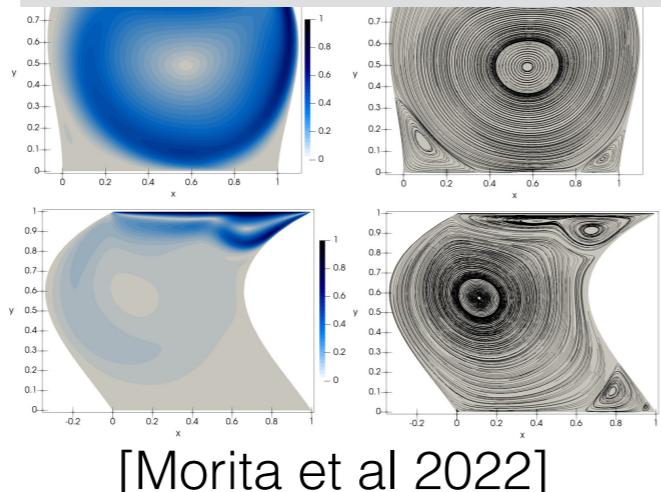
Why Gaussian processes?



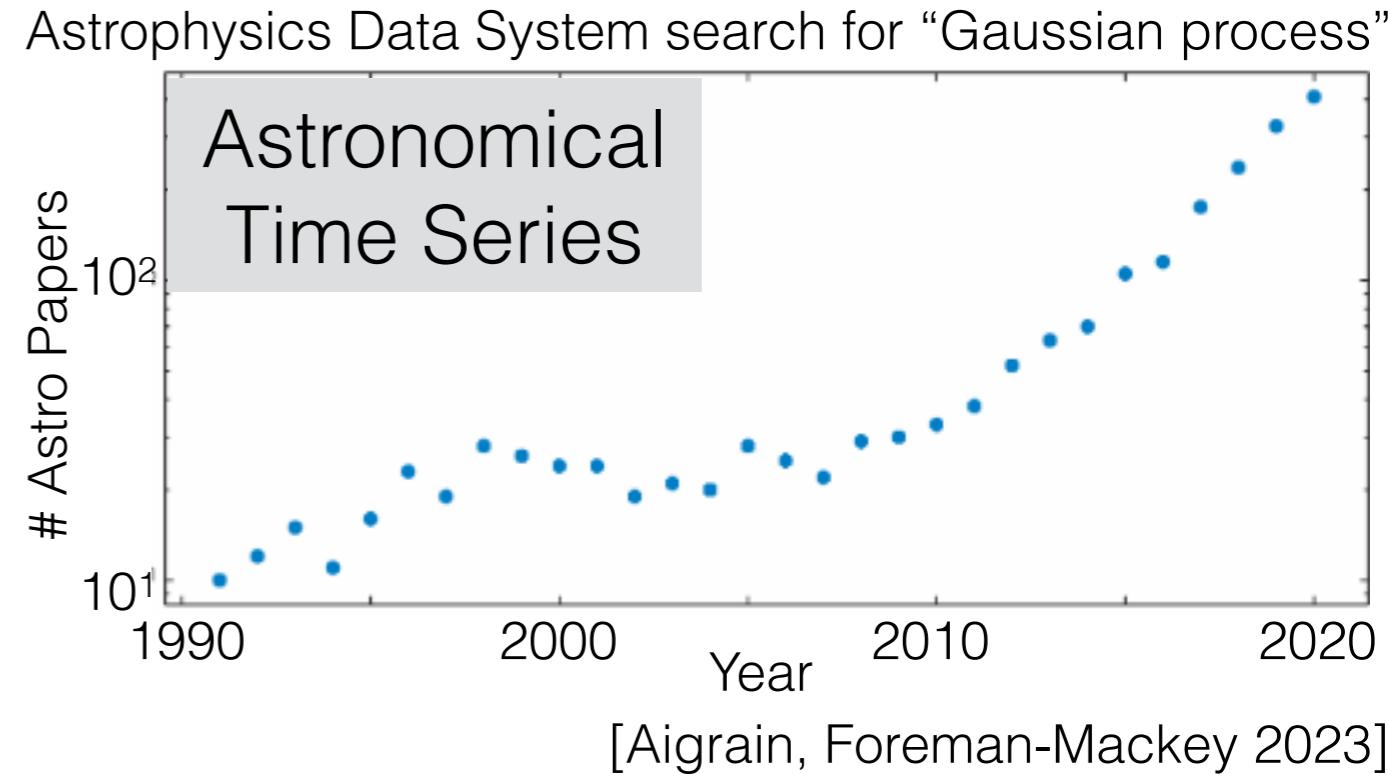
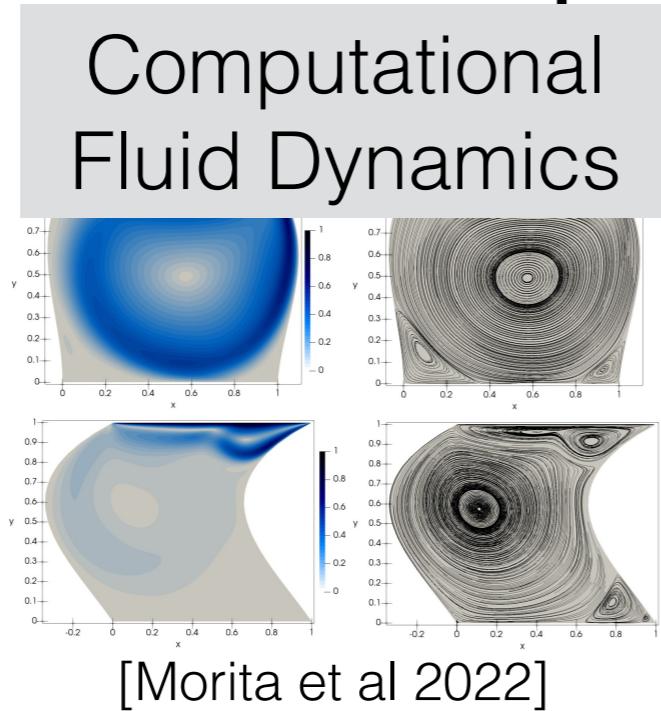
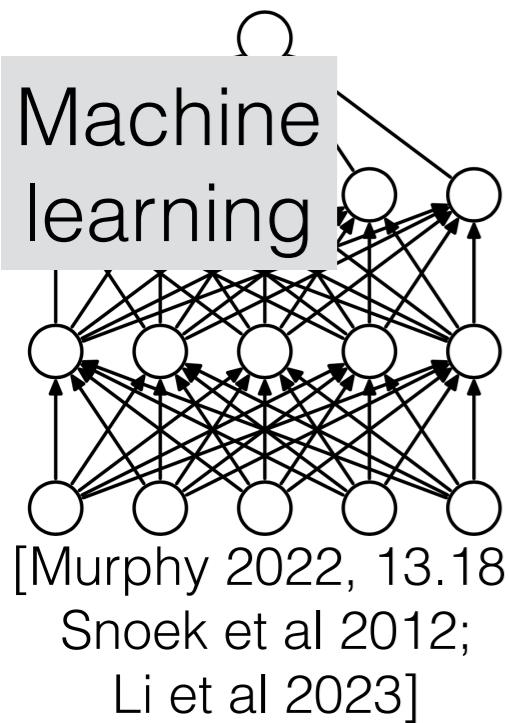
Why Gaussian processes?



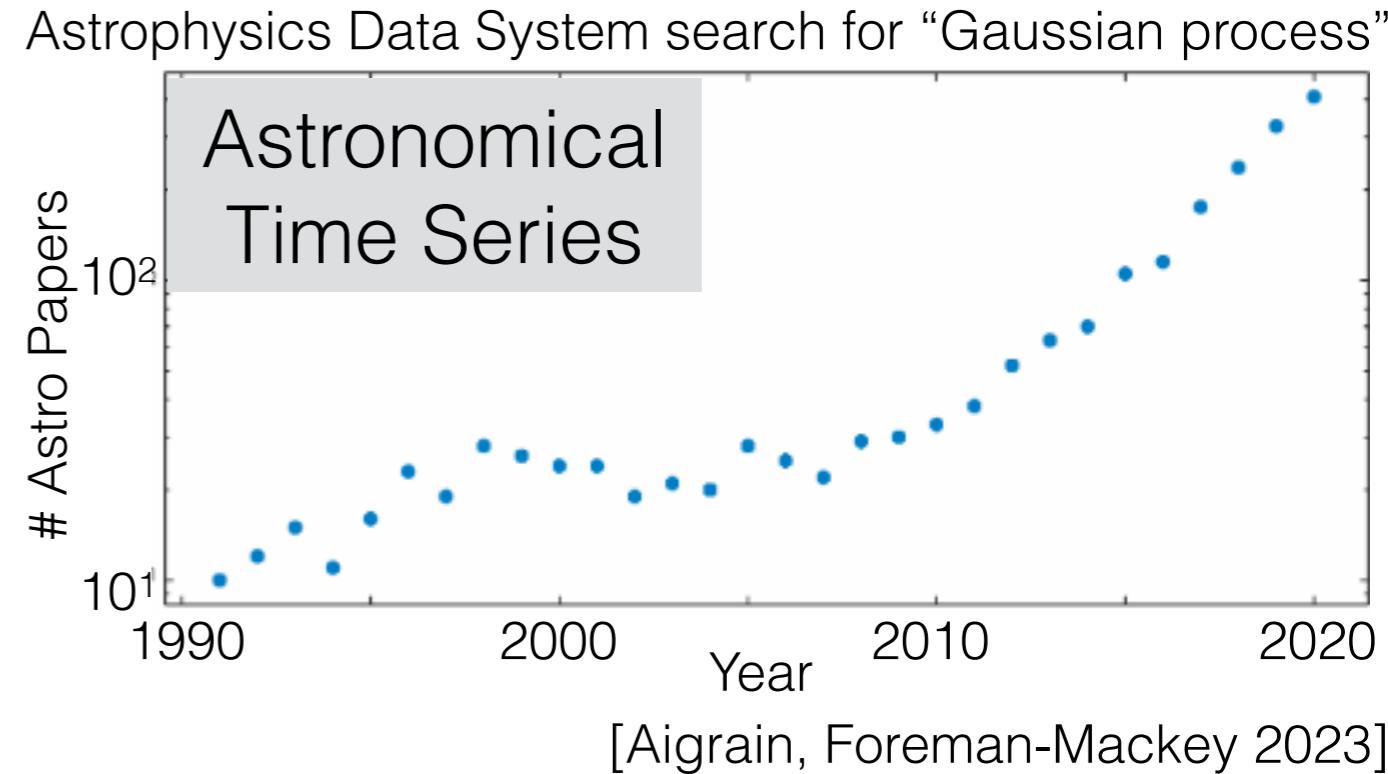
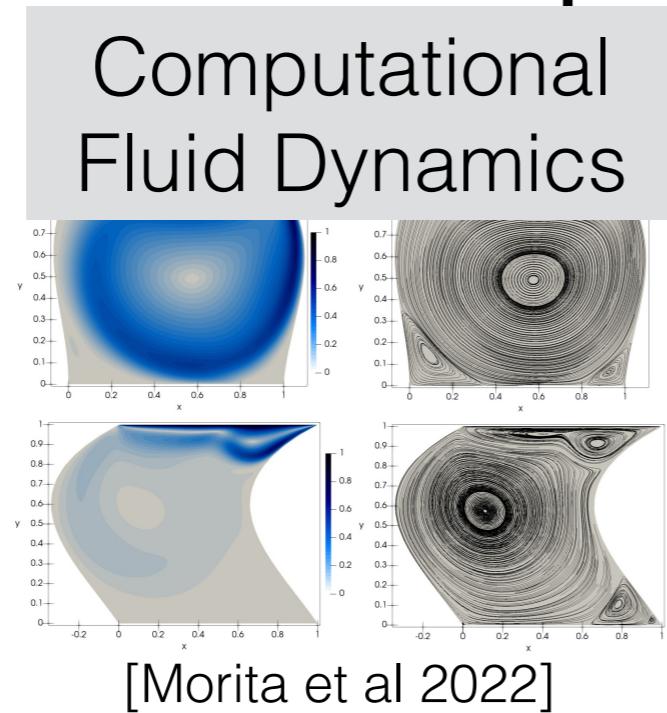
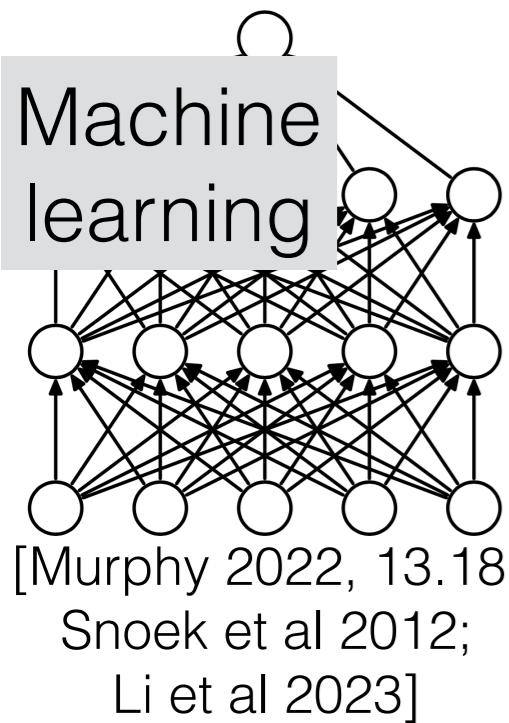
Computational
Fluid Dynamics



Why Gaussian processes?

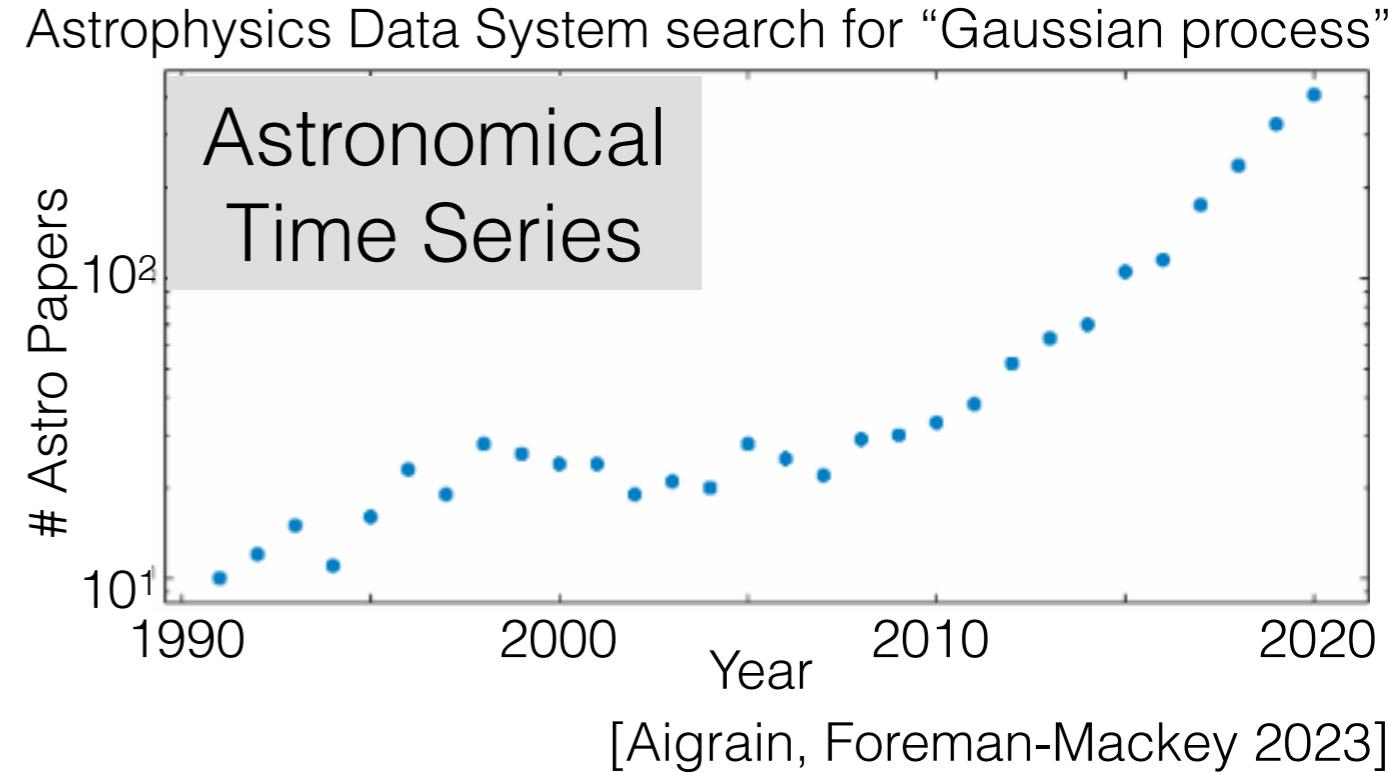
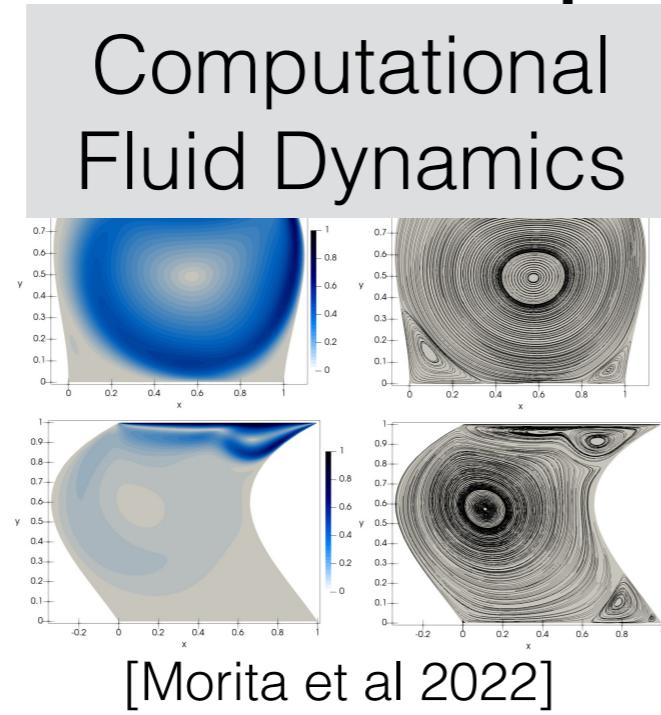
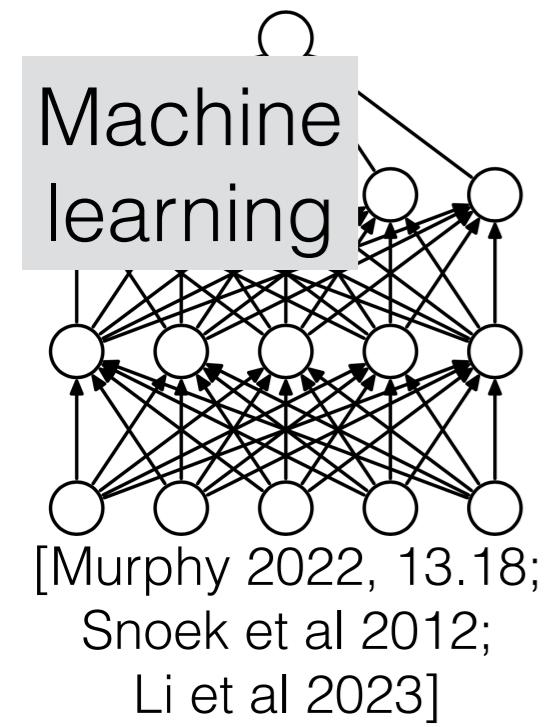


Why Gaussian processes?



A recurring motif:

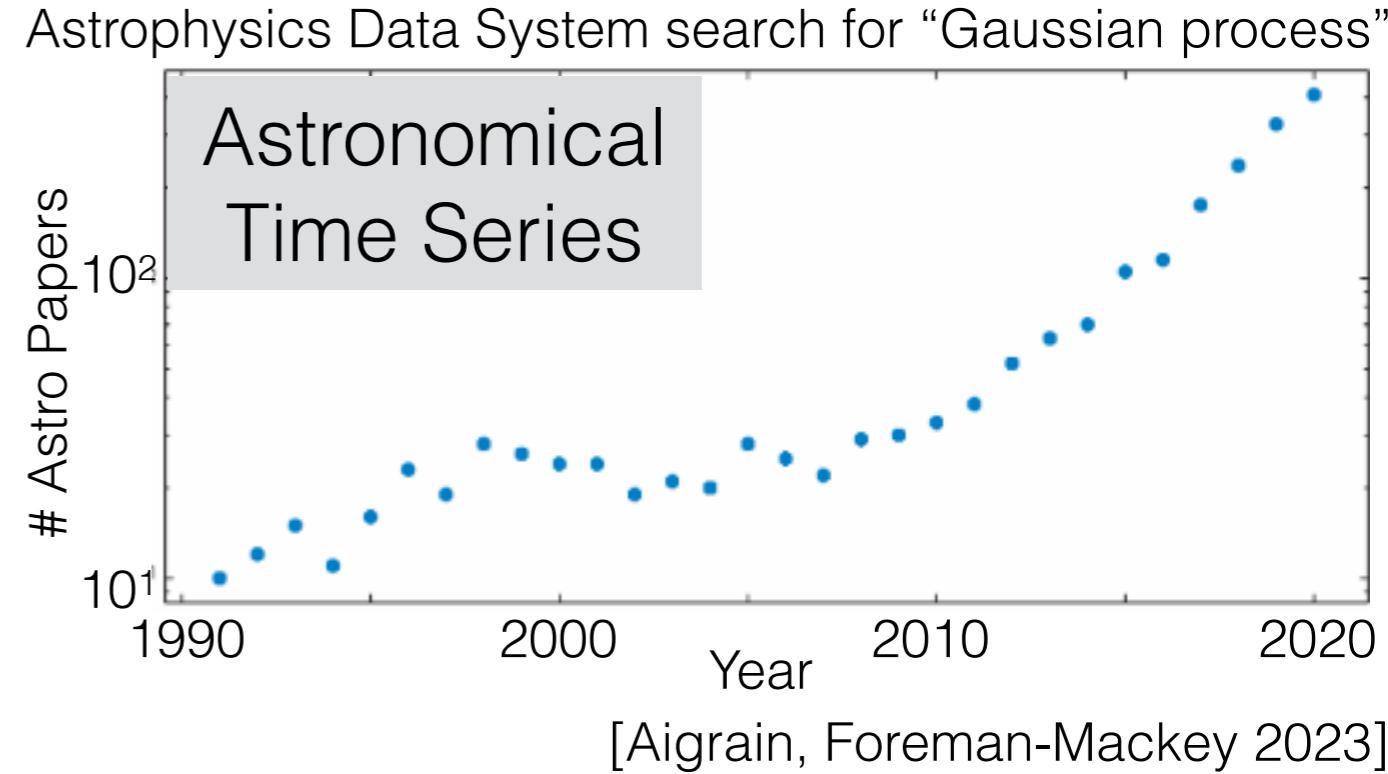
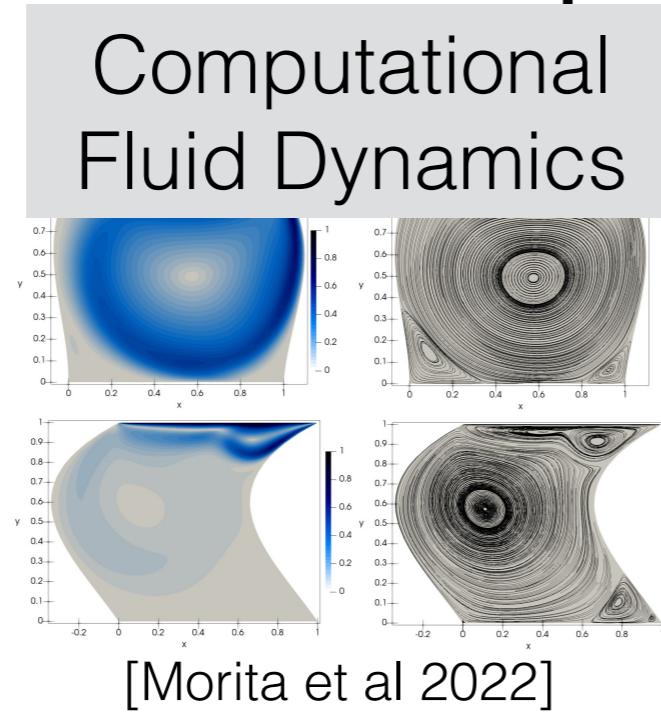
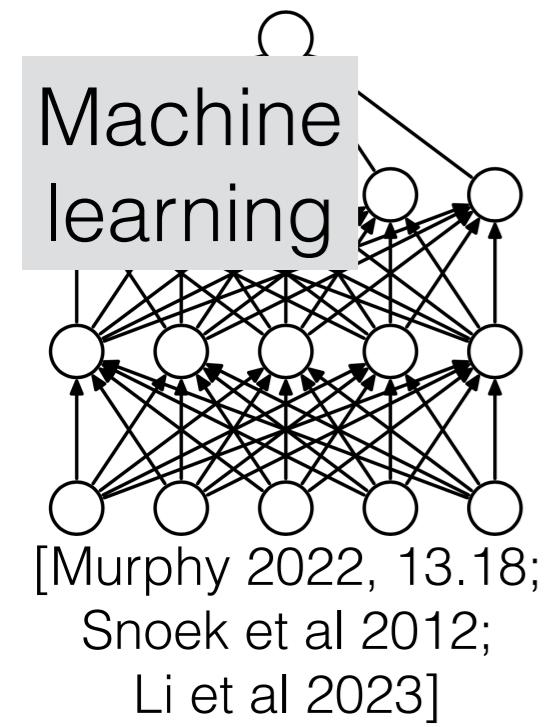
Why Gaussian processes?



A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs

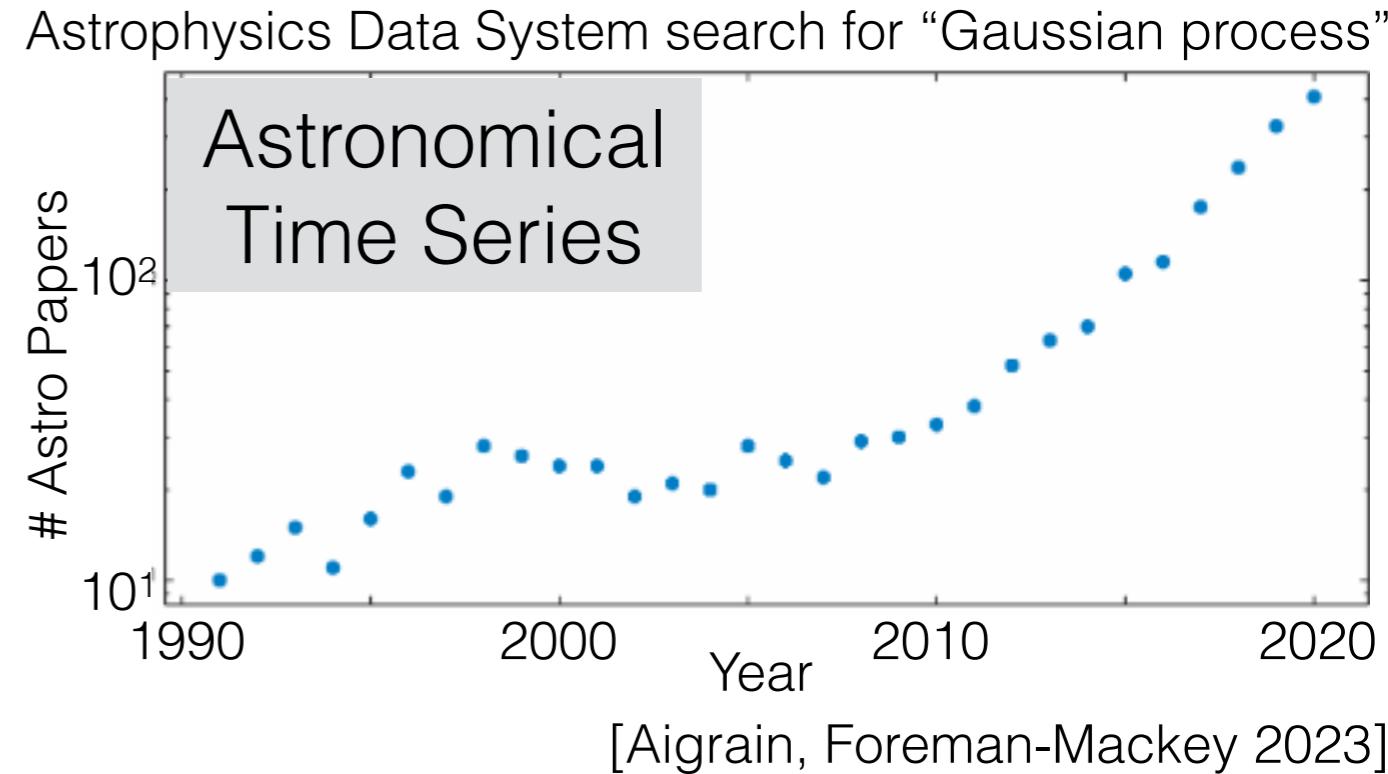
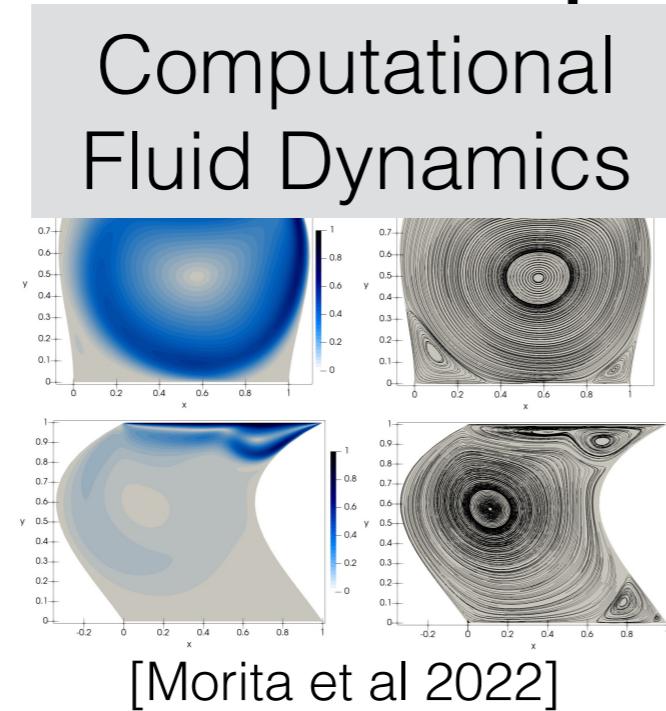
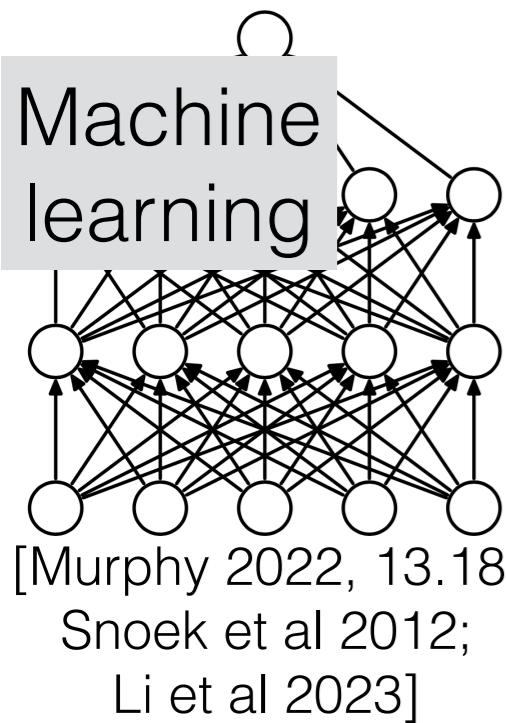
Why Gaussian processes?



A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function

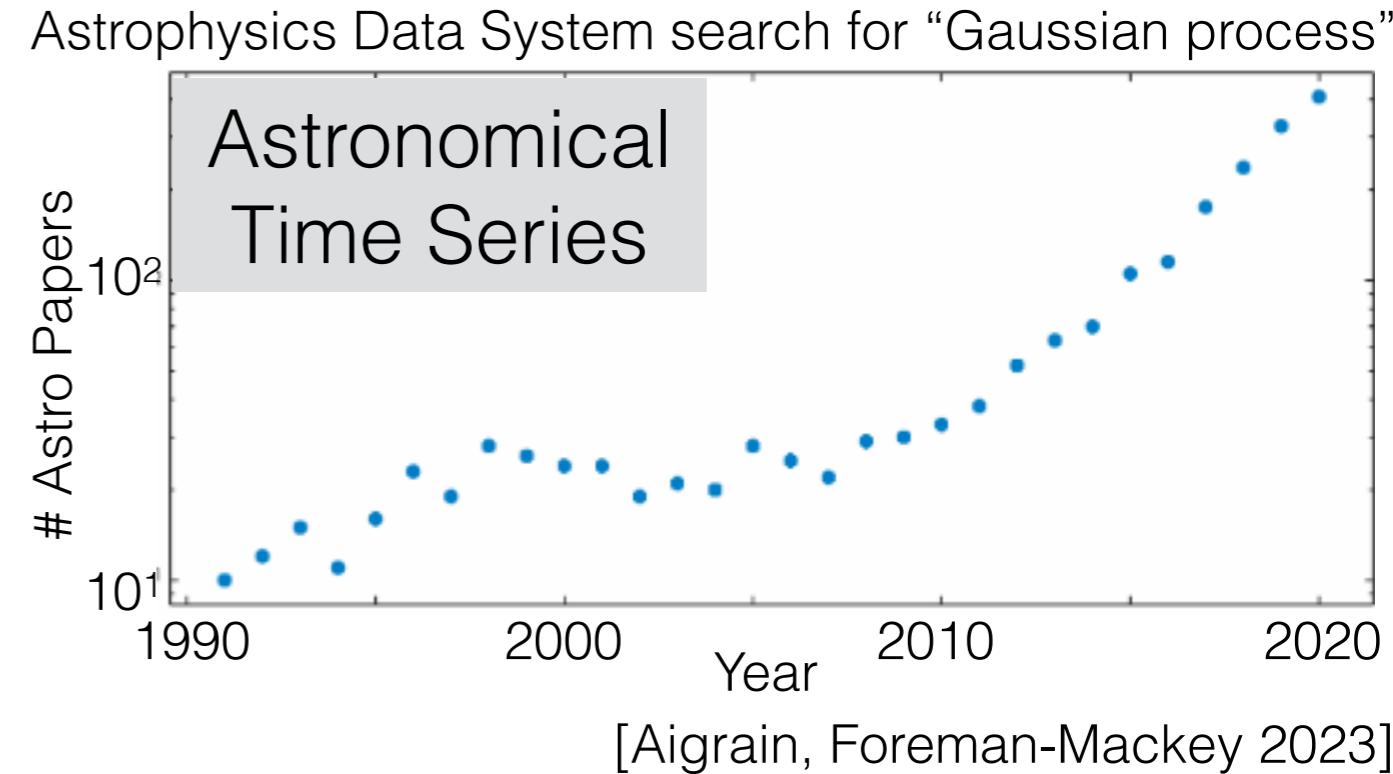
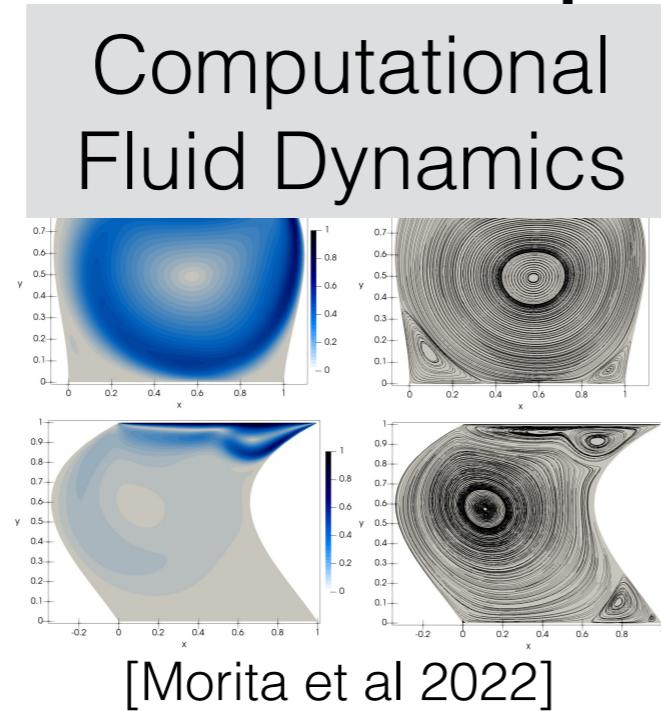
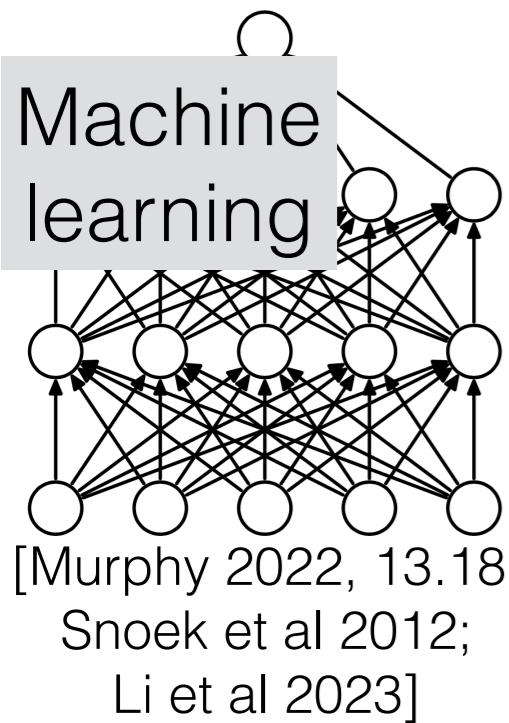
Why Gaussian processes?



A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

Why Gaussian processes?

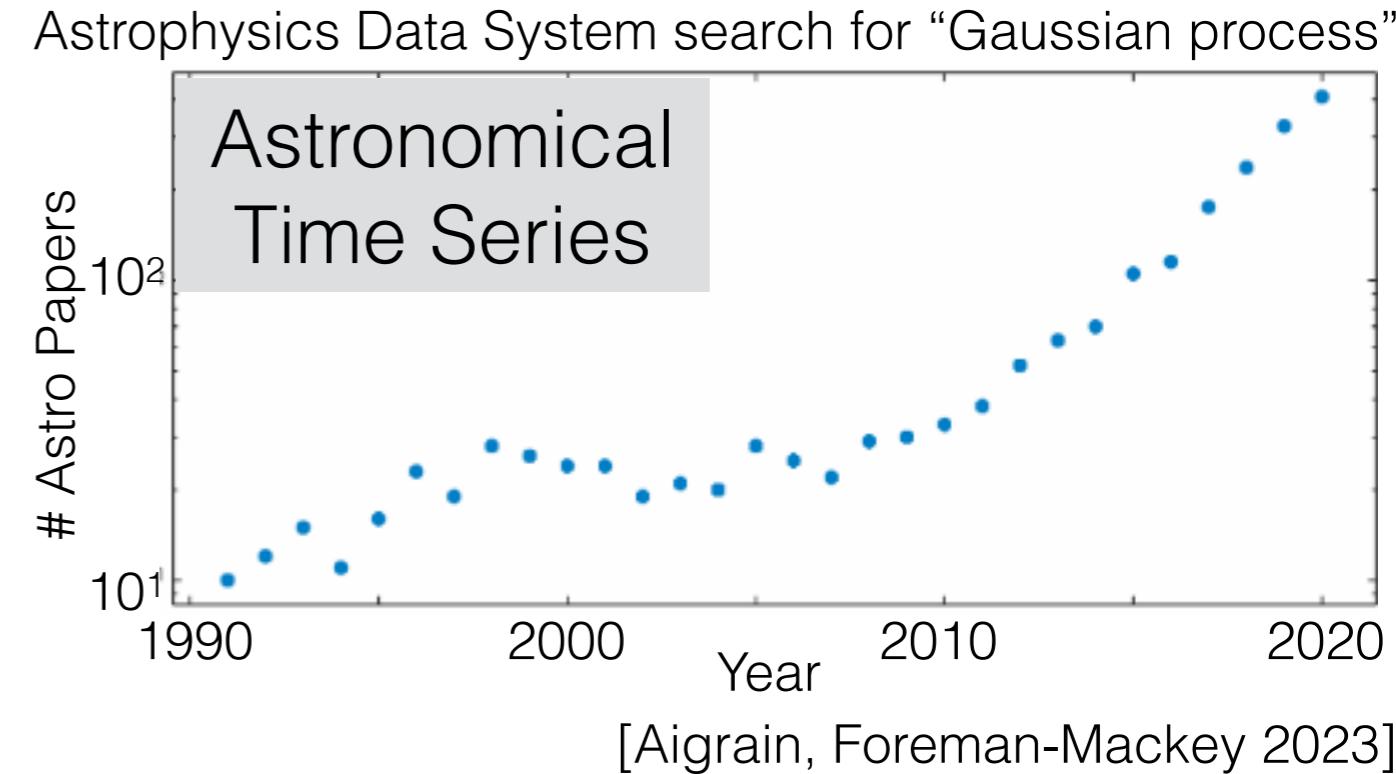
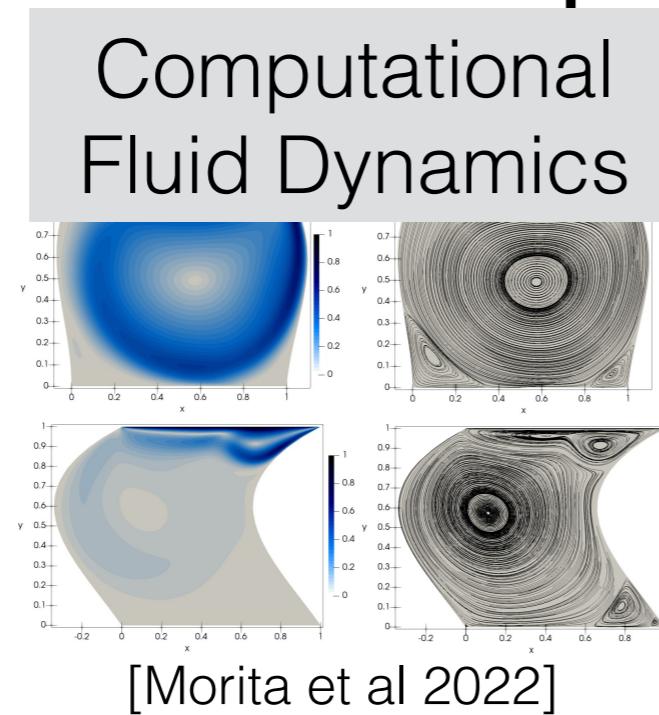
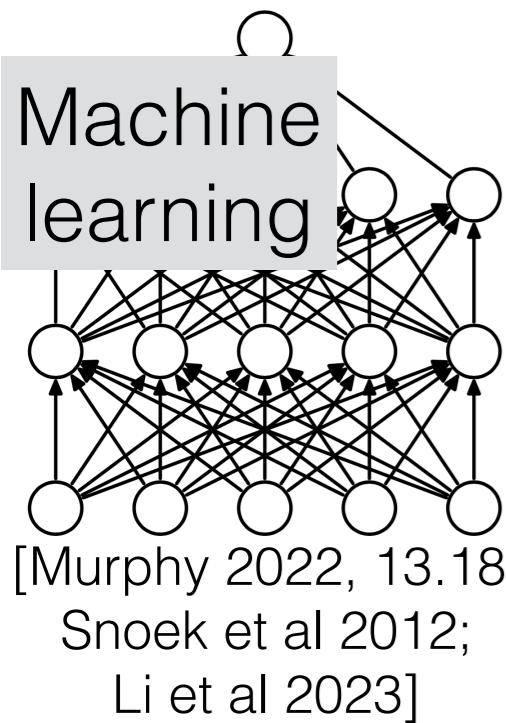


A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

Bonus benefits:

Why Gaussian processes?

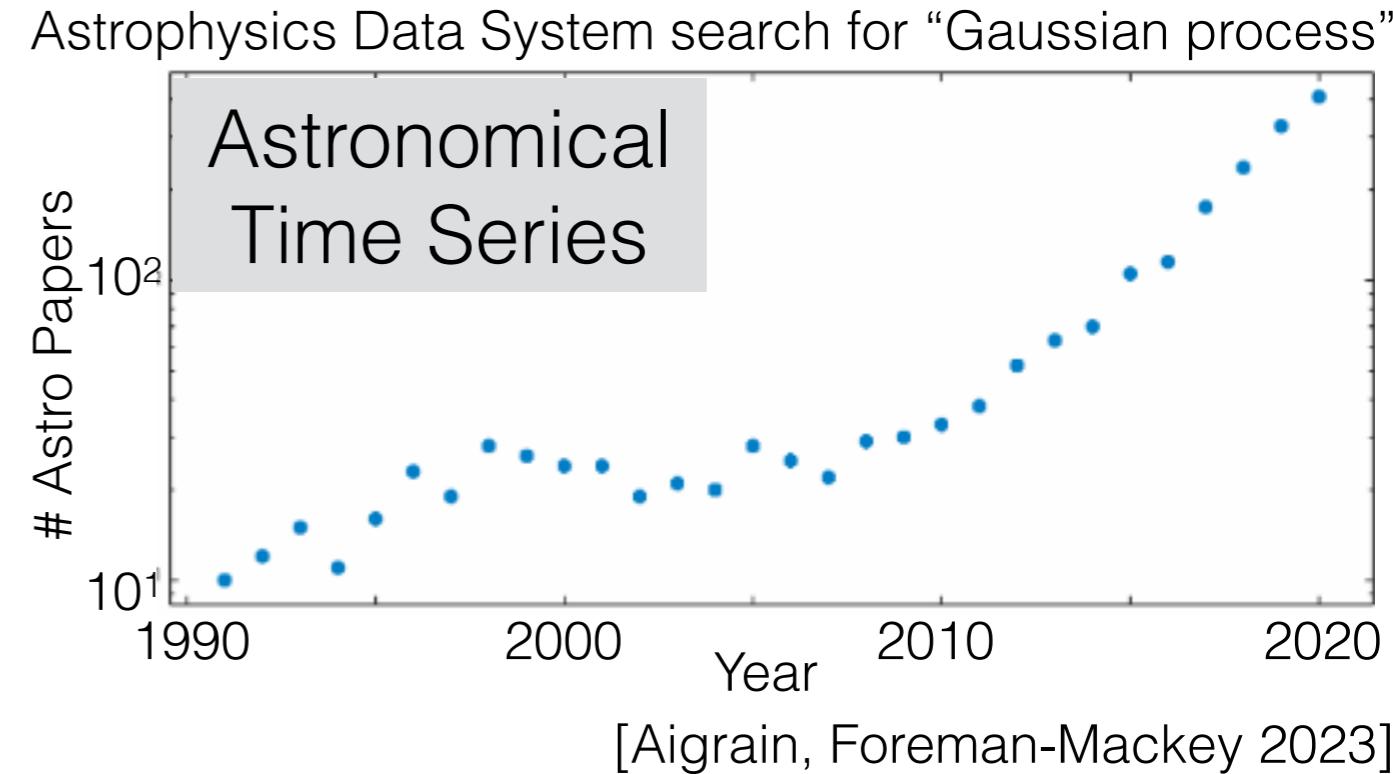
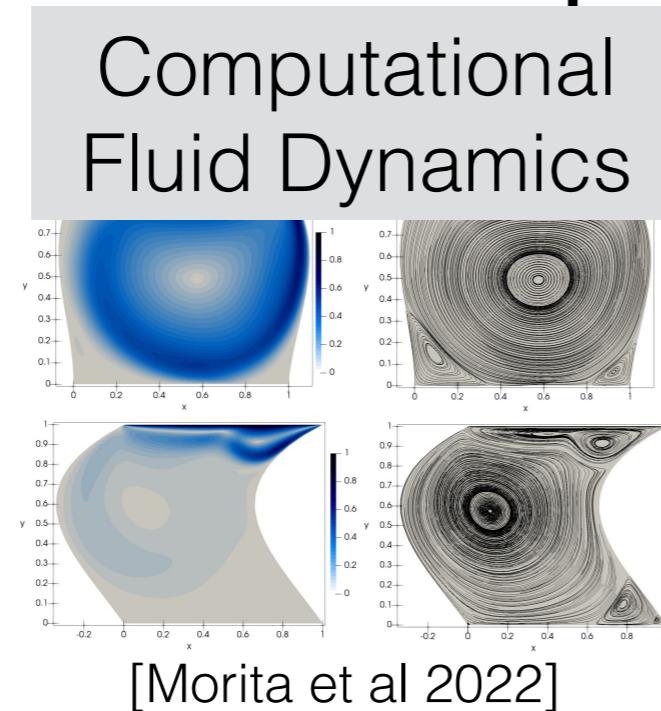
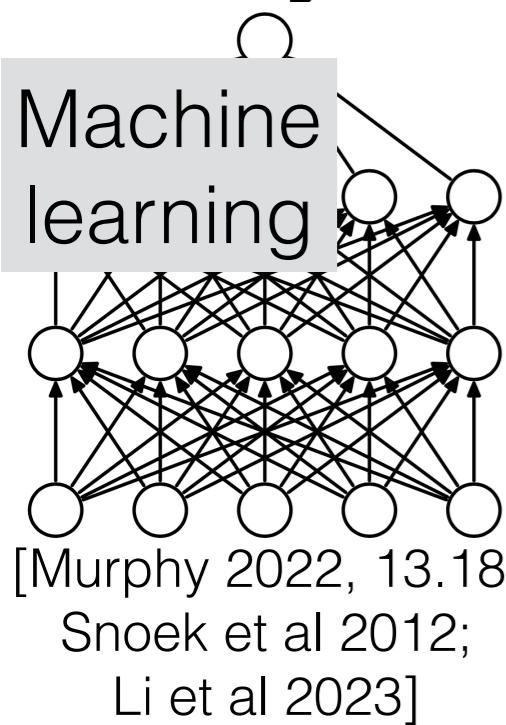


A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

Bonus benefits: • Ease of use (software, tuning)

Why Gaussian processes?



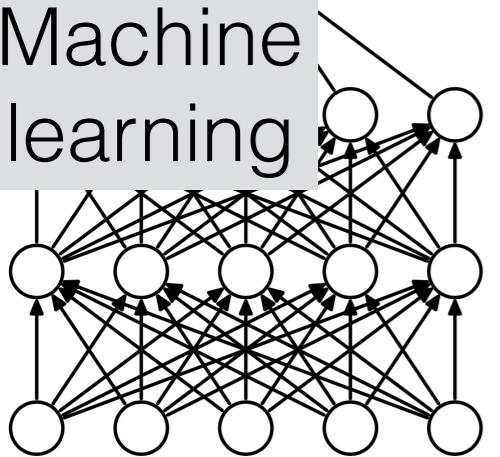
A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

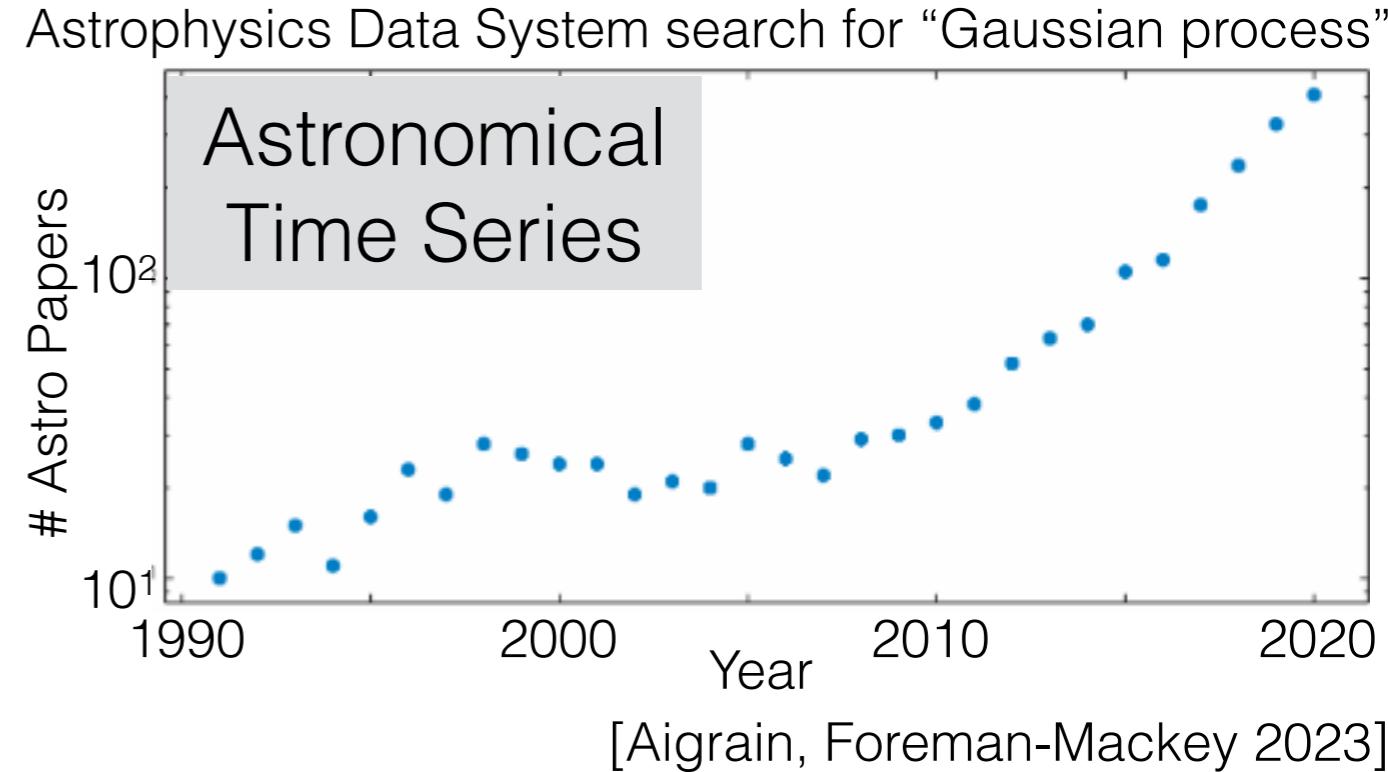
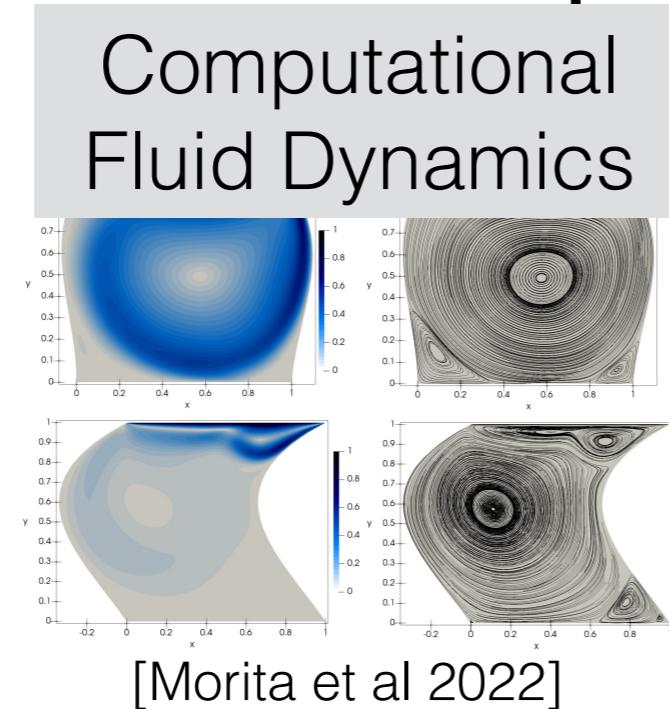
Bonus benefits: • Ease of use (software, tuning) • Supports optimization of outcome

Why Gaussian processes?

Machine learning



[Murphy 2022, 13.18;
Snoek et al 2012;
Li et al 2023]



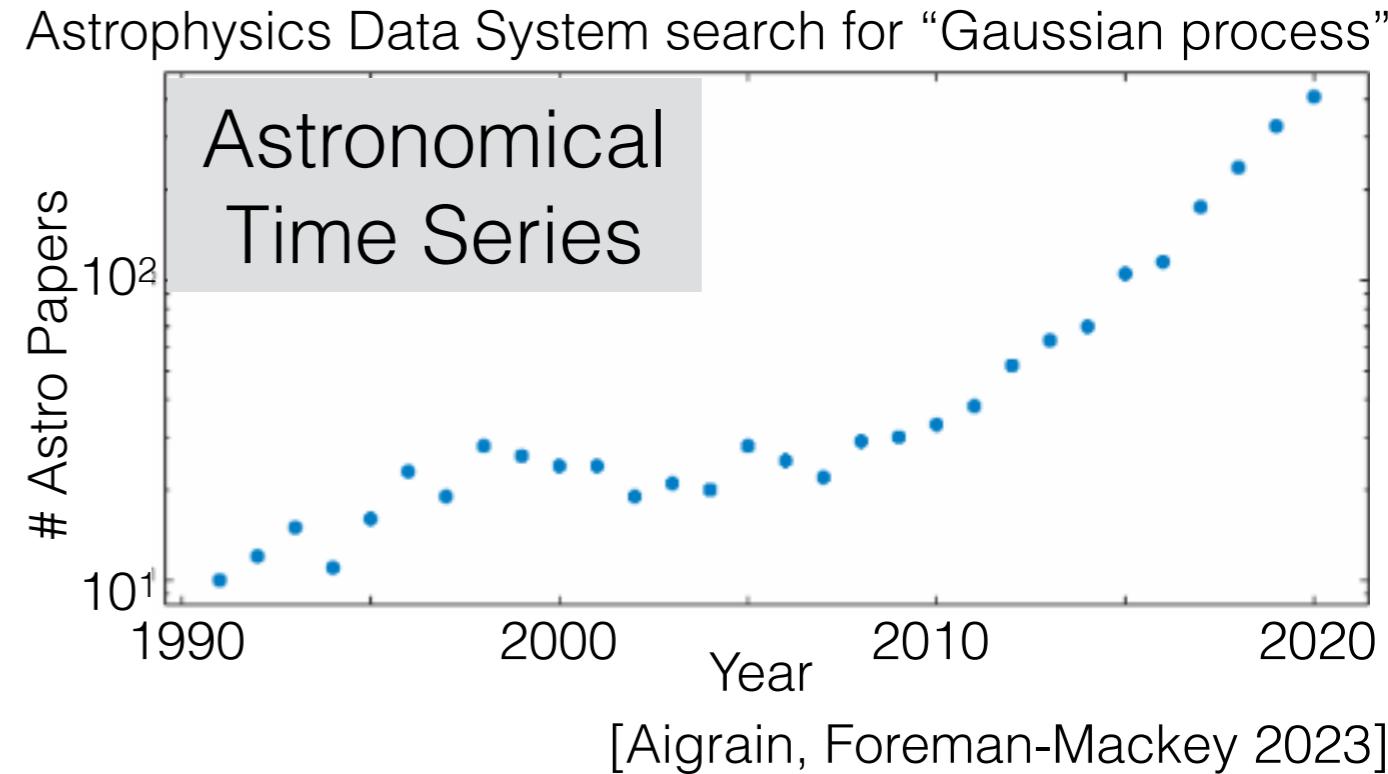
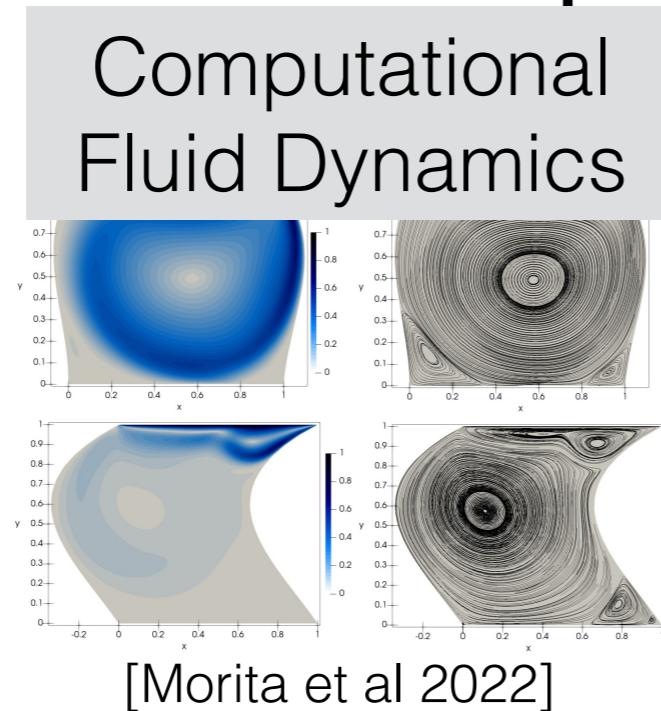
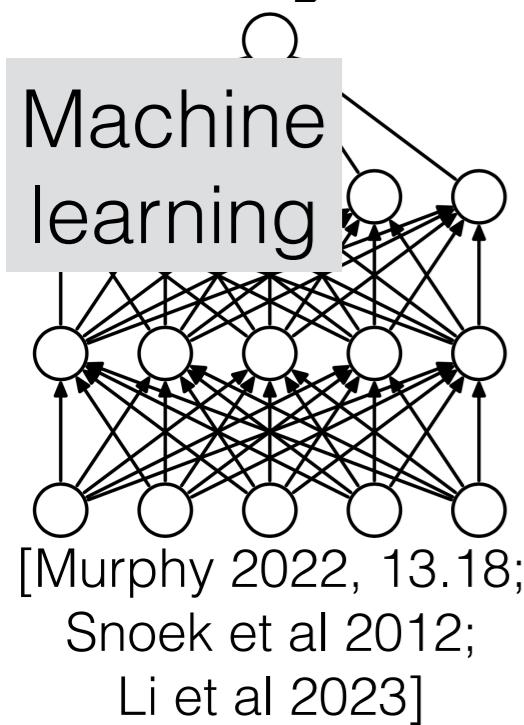
A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

Bonus benefits:

- Ease of use (software, tuning)
- Supports optimization of outcome
- Predictions & uncertainties over derivatives & integrals

Why Gaussian processes?



A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

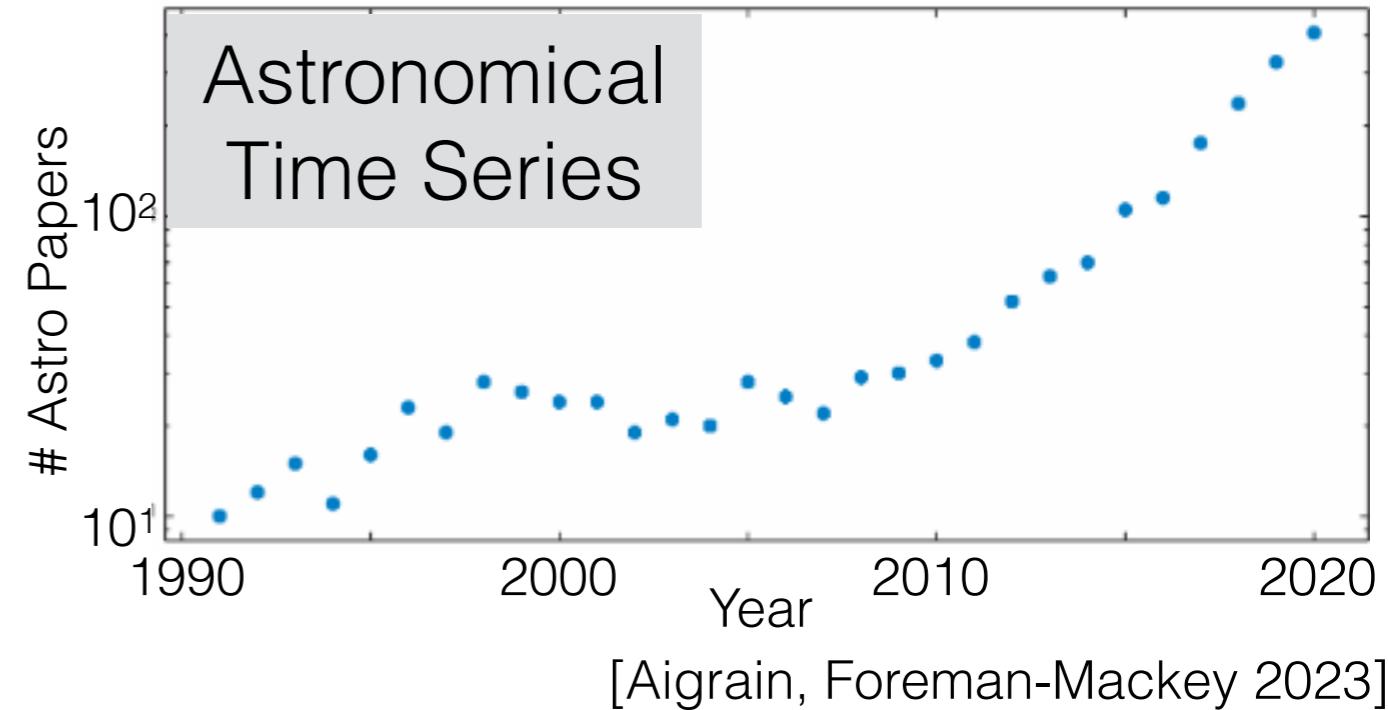
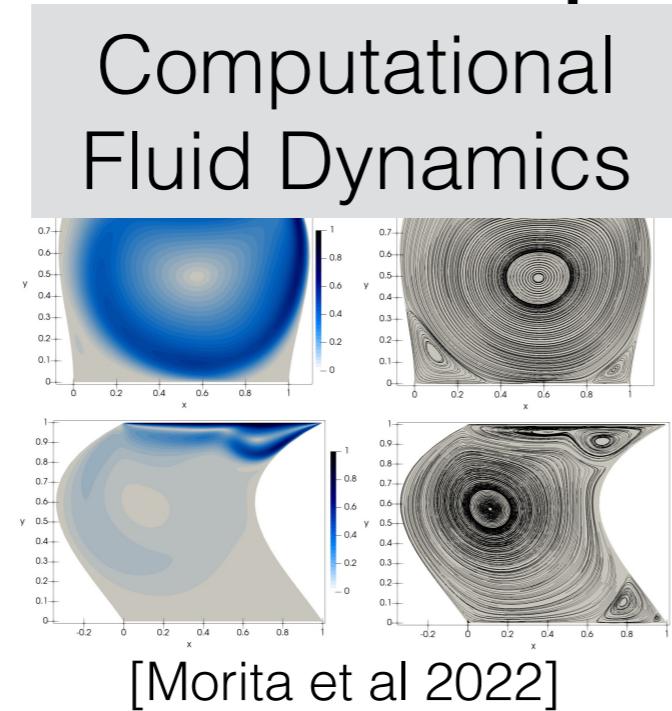
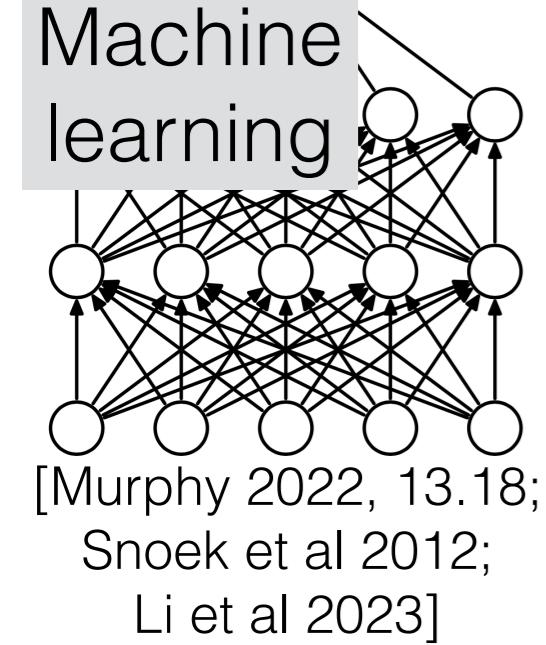
Bonus benefits:

- Ease of use (software, tuning)
- Supports optimization of outcome
- Predictions & uncertainties over derivatives & integrals
- Module in more-complex methods

Why Gaussian processes?

see also “kriging,”
“optimal
interpolation (OI)”

Astrophysics Data System search for “Gaussian process”



A recurring motif:

- We'd like to estimate a potentially nonlinear but smooth function of a handful of inputs
- We have access to sparse (possibly noisy) observations of the function
- We'd like to quantify our uncertainty

Bonus benefits:

- Ease of use (software, tuning)
- Supports optimization of outcome
- Predictions & uncertainties over derivatives & integrals
- Module in more-complex methods

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

Roadmap

- Bayesian modeling and inference
- Gaussian process model
 - Popular version using a squared exponential kernel
- Gaussian process inference
 - Prediction & uncertainty quantification
- Observation noise
- What uncertainty are we quantifying?
- What can go wrong?
- Bayesian optimization
- Goals:
 - Learn the mechanism behind standard GPs to identify benefits and pitfalls (also in BayesOpt)
 - Learn the skills to be responsible users of standard GPs (transferable to other ML/AI methods)

A Bayesian approach

A Bayesian approach

- $p(\text{unknowns} \mid \text{data})$

A Bayesian approach

- $p(\text{unknowns} \mid \text{data})$

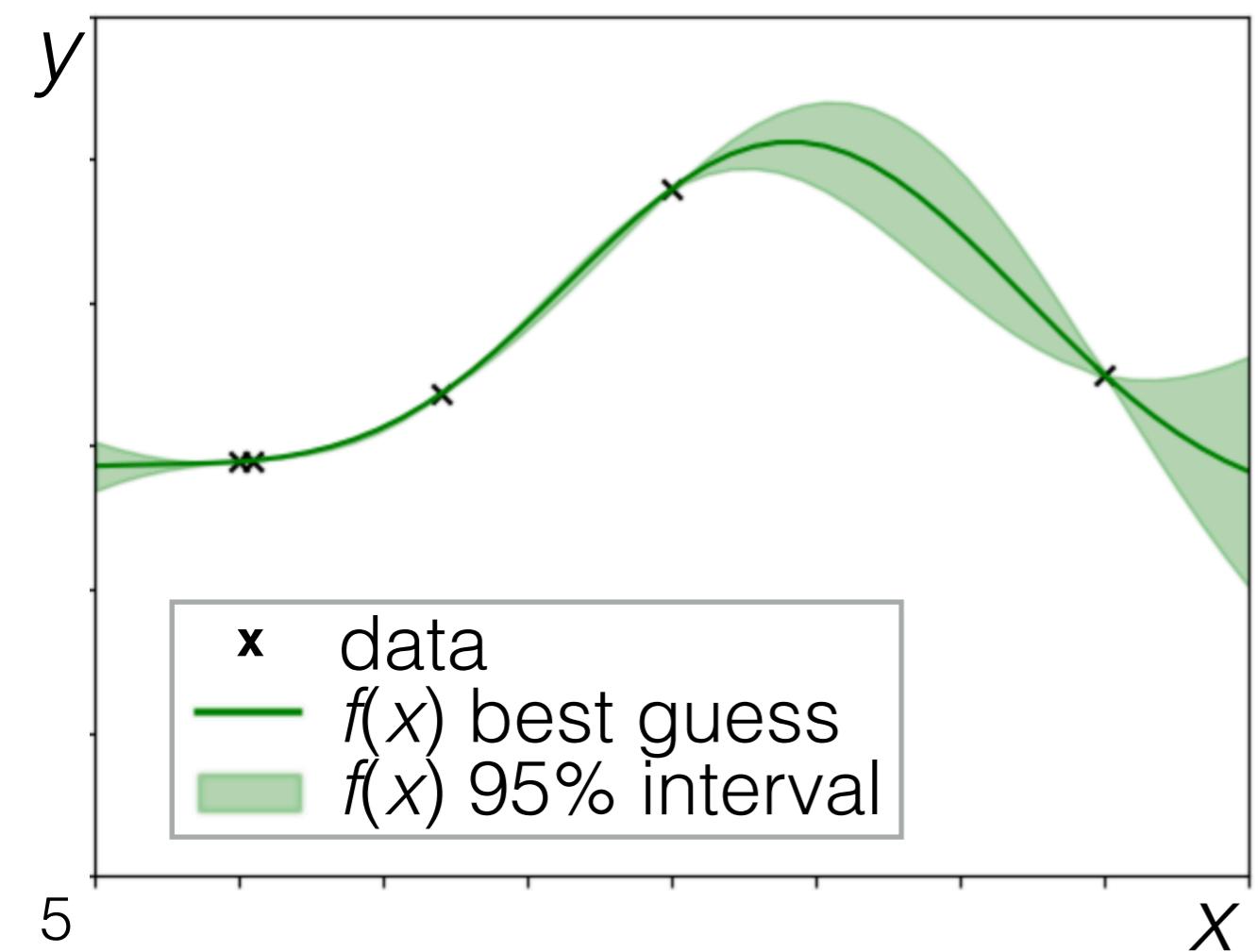


Given the data we've seen, what do we know about the underlying function?

A Bayesian approach

- $p(\text{unknowns} \mid \text{data})$

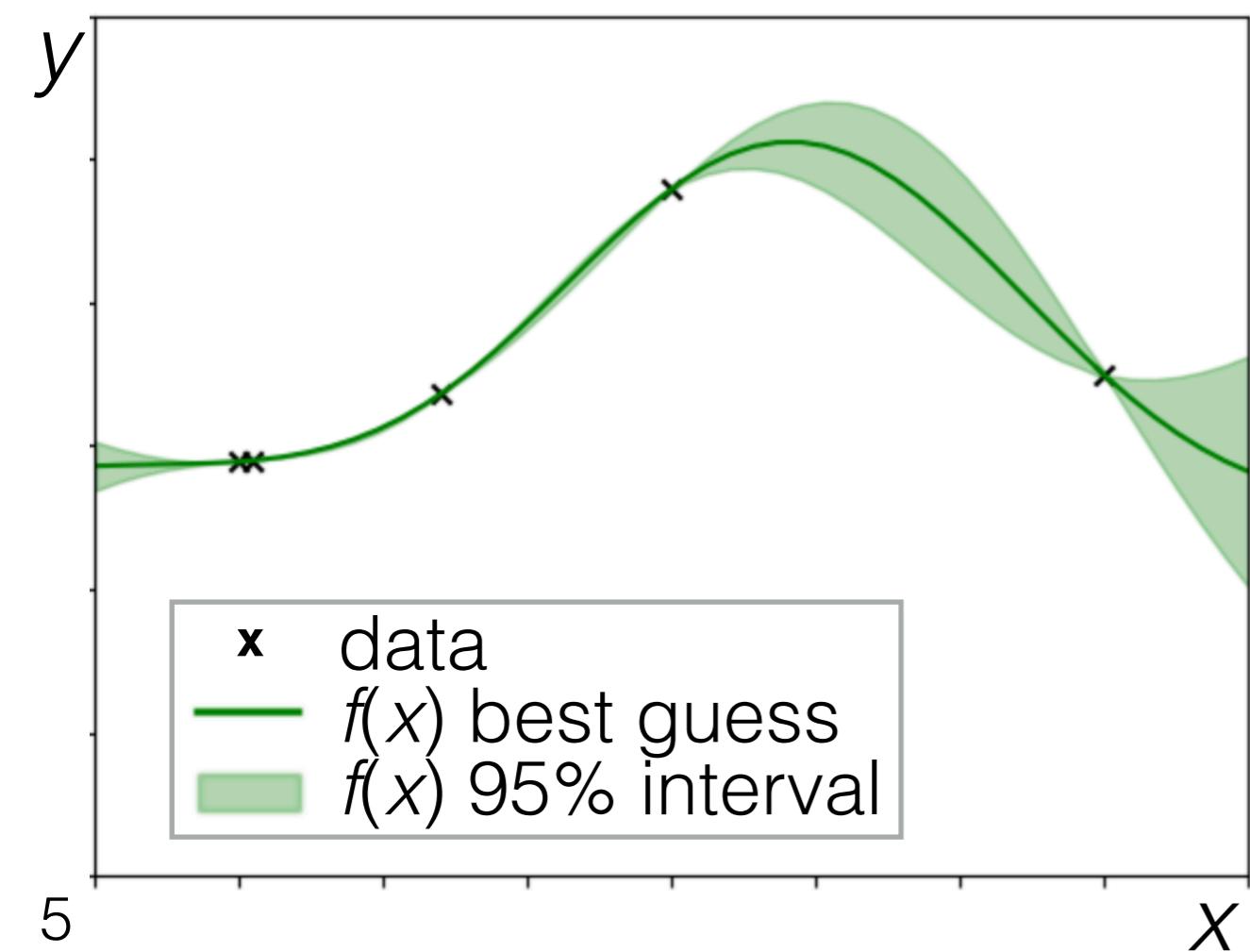
Given the data we've seen, what do we know about the underlying function?



A Bayesian approach

- $p(\text{unknowns} | \text{data}) \propto p(\text{data} | \text{unknowns}) p(\text{unknowns})$

Given the data we've seen, what do we know about the underlying function?

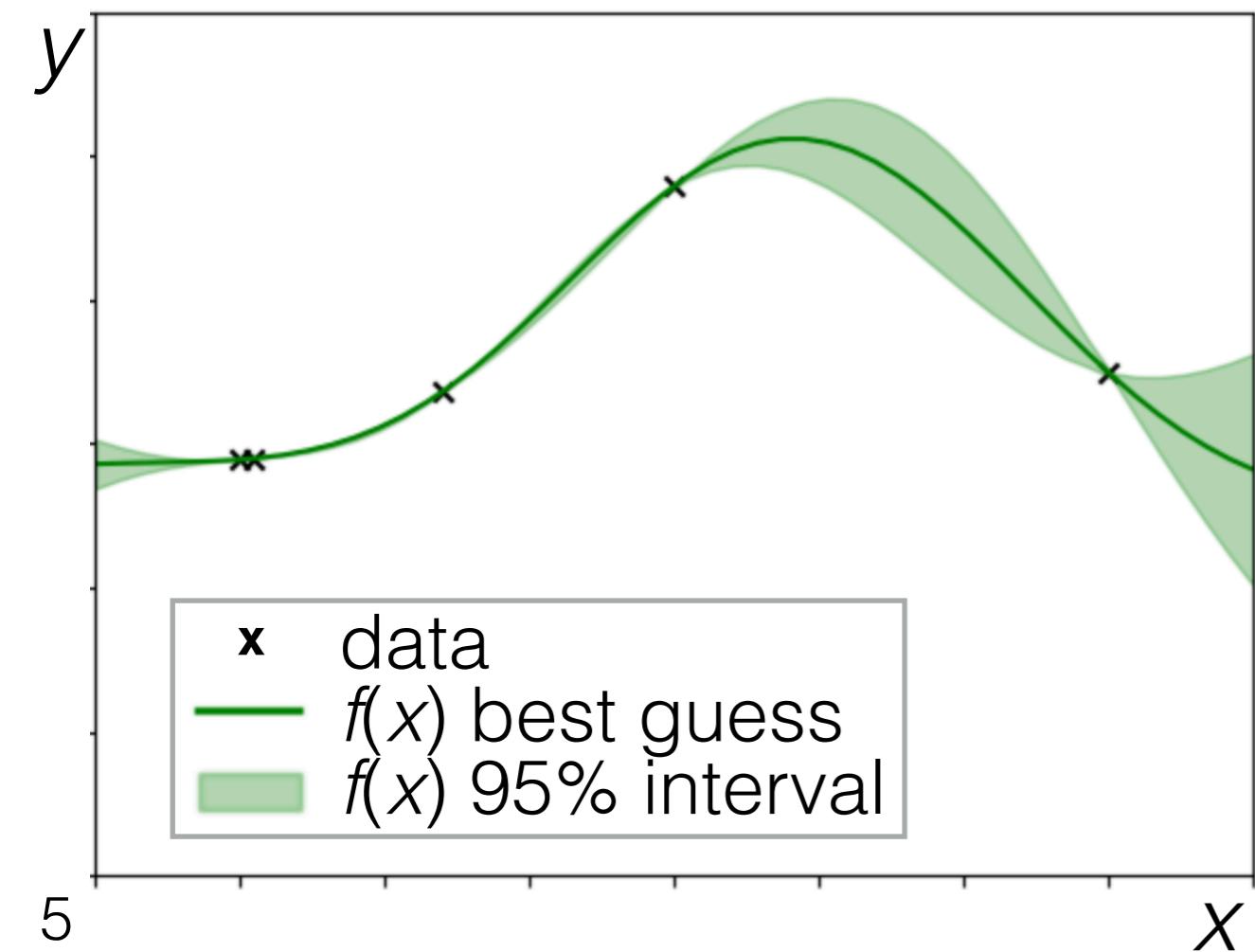


A Bayesian approach

$$\bullet p(\text{unknowns} \mid \text{data}) \propto p(\text{data} \mid \text{unknowns}) p(\text{unknowns})$$

Given the data we've seen, what do we know about the underlying function?

A (statistical) model that can generate functions and data of interest

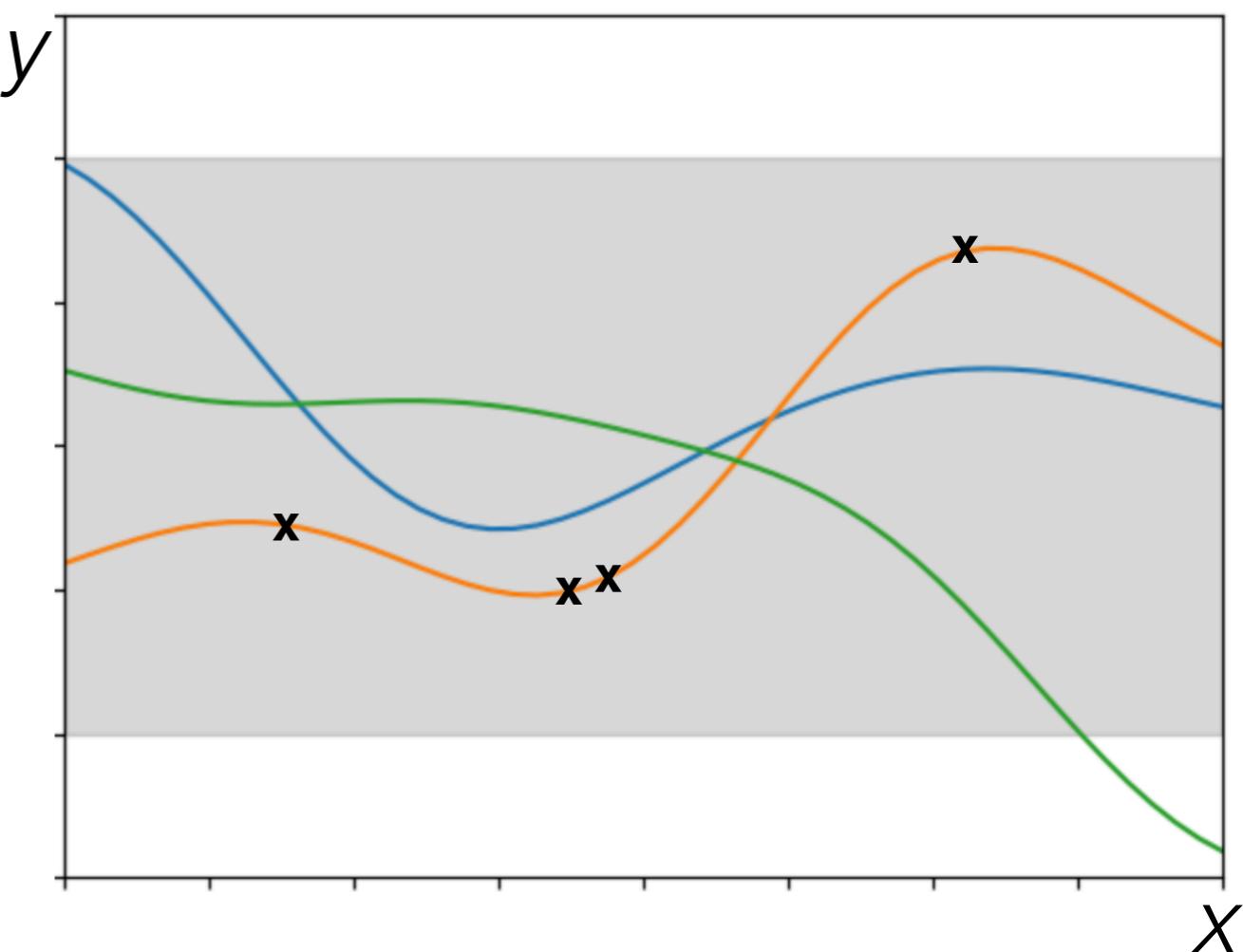
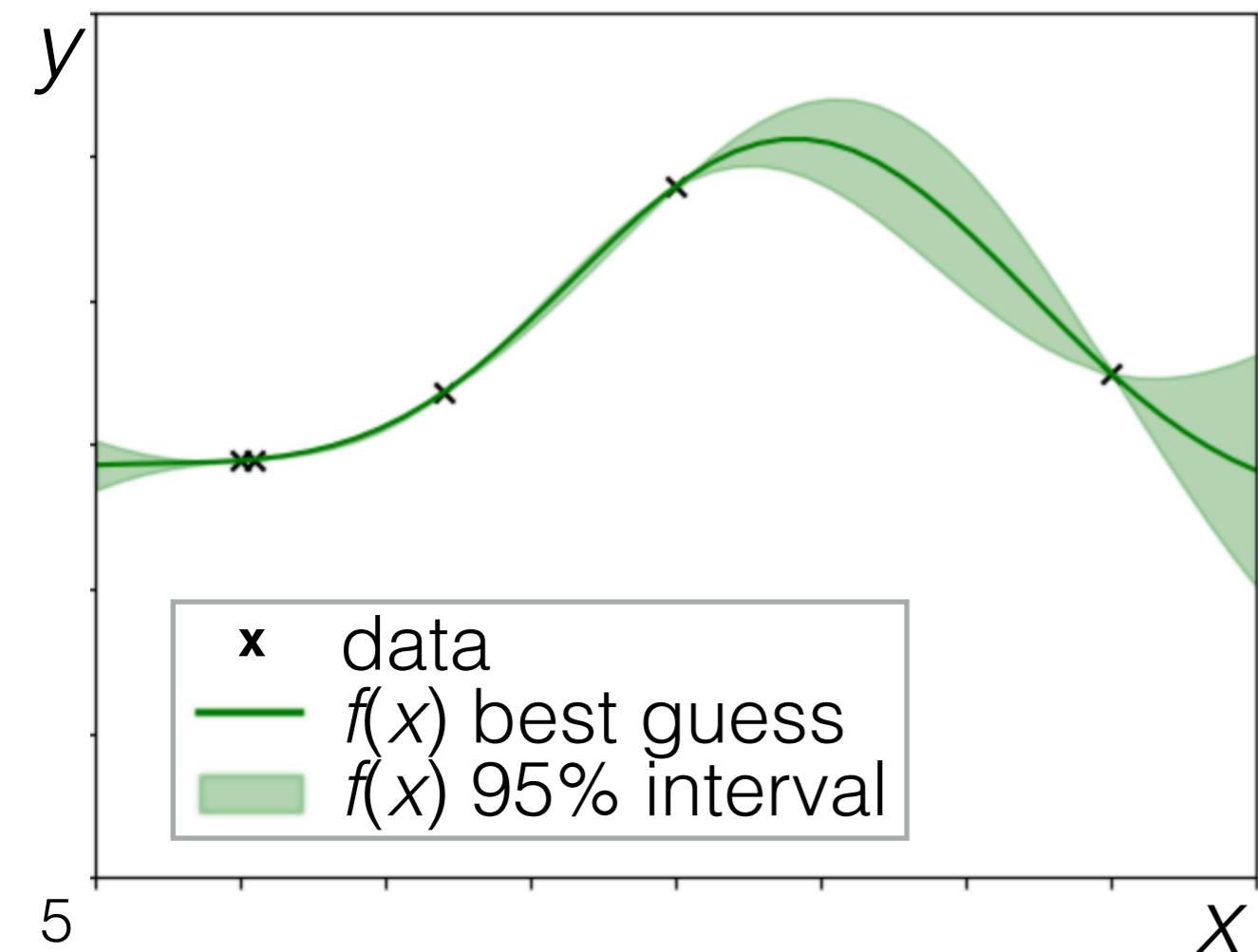


A Bayesian approach

$$\bullet \ p(\text{unknowns} \mid \text{data}) \propto p(\text{data} \mid \text{unknowns}) p(\text{unknowns})$$

Given the data we've seen, what do we know about the underlying function?

A (statistical) model that can generate functions and data of interest



Univariate Gaussian distribution review

Univariate Gaussian distribution review

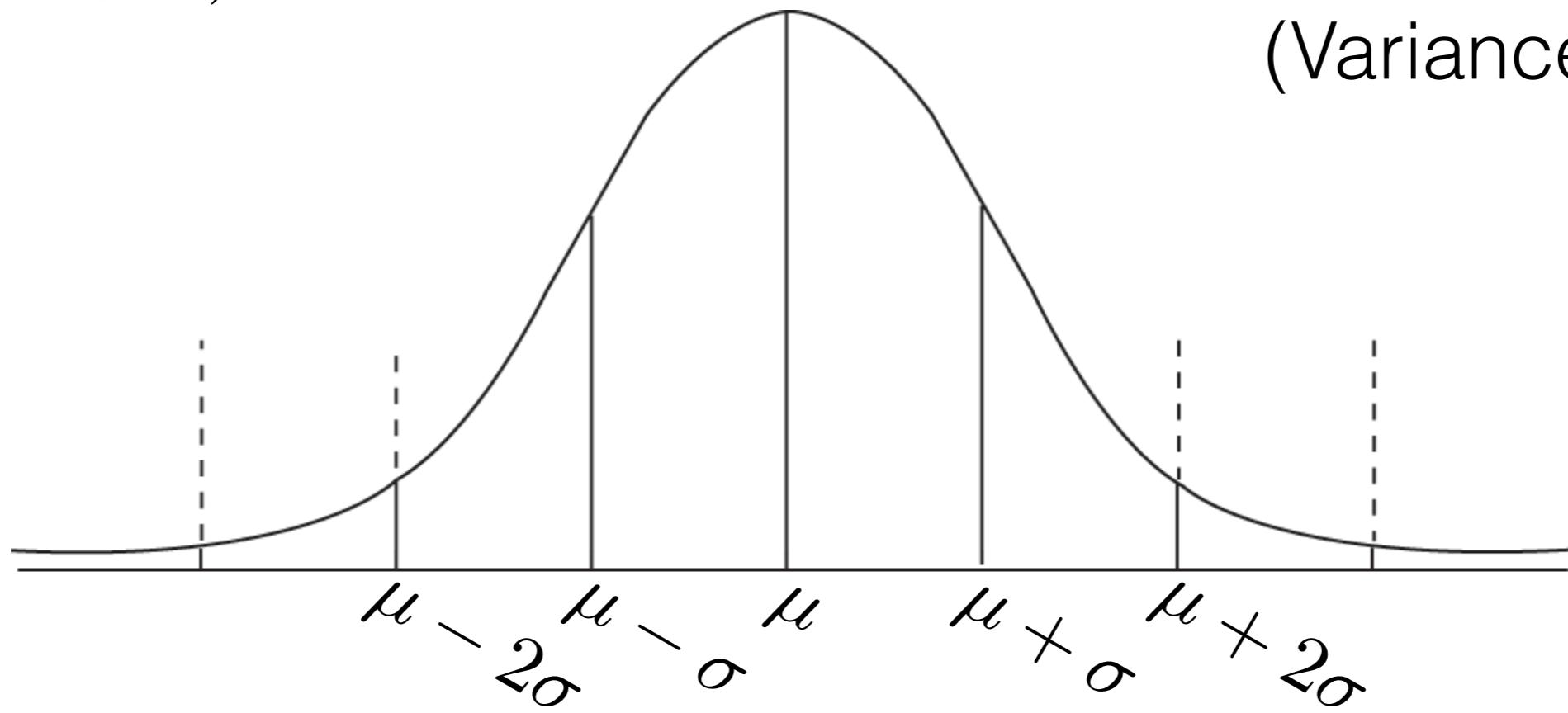
$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)
 $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$

Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

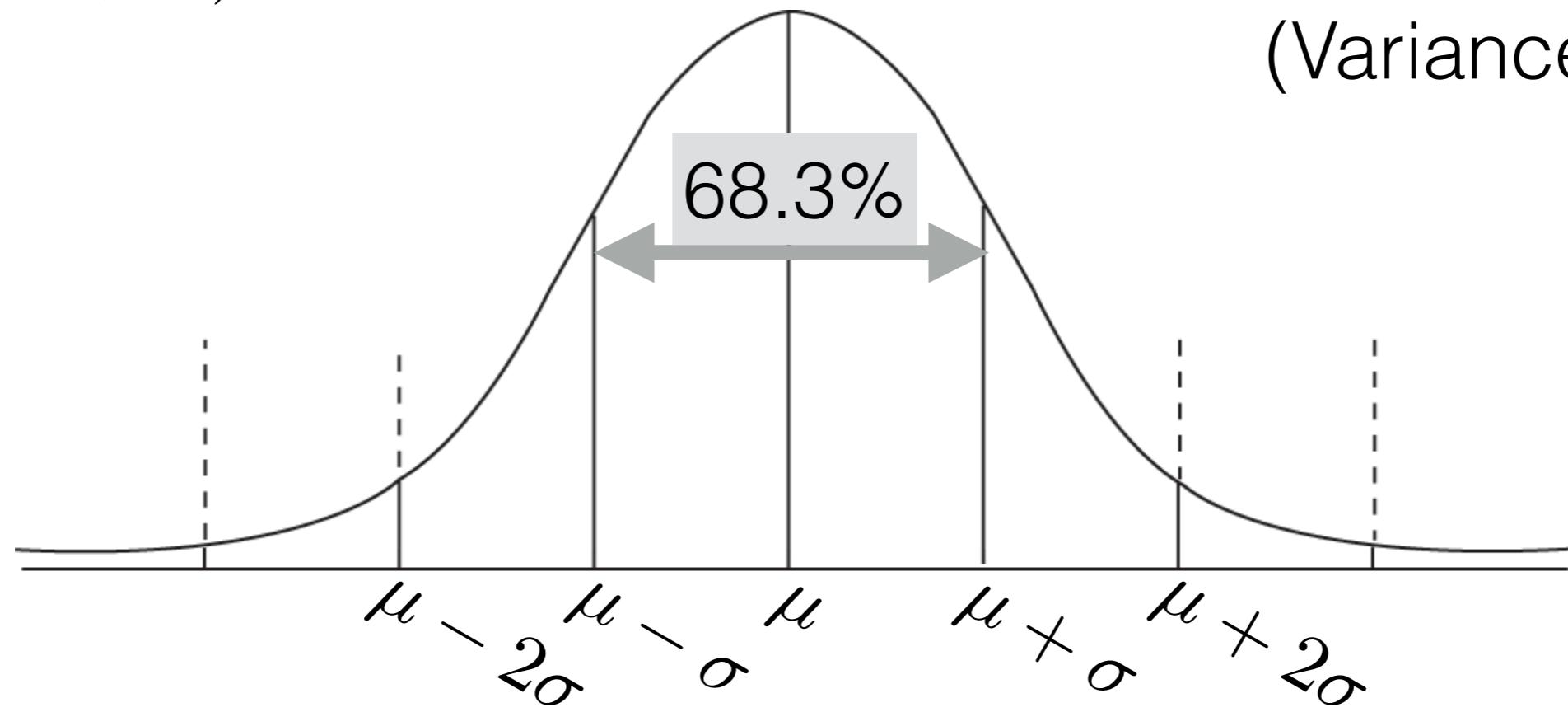
Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)



Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

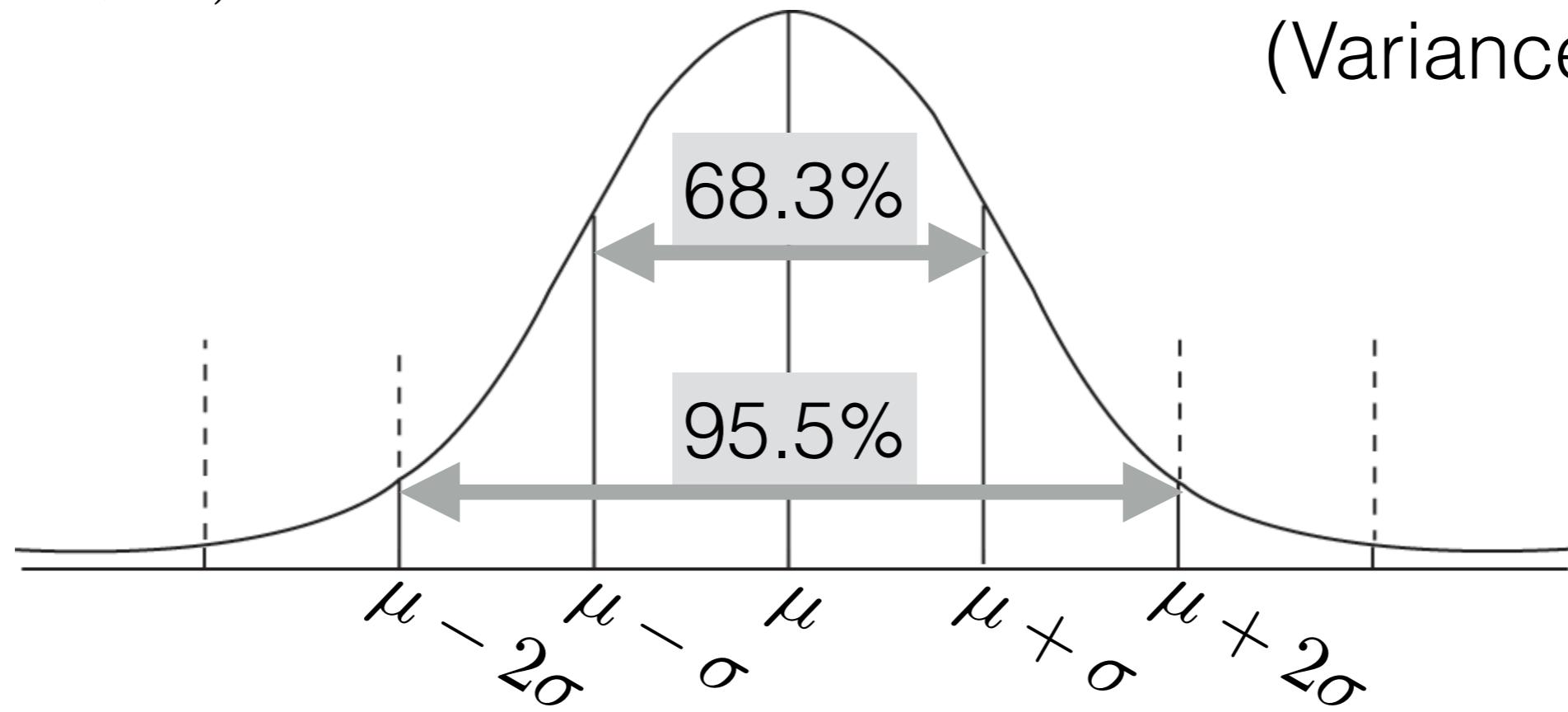
Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)



Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

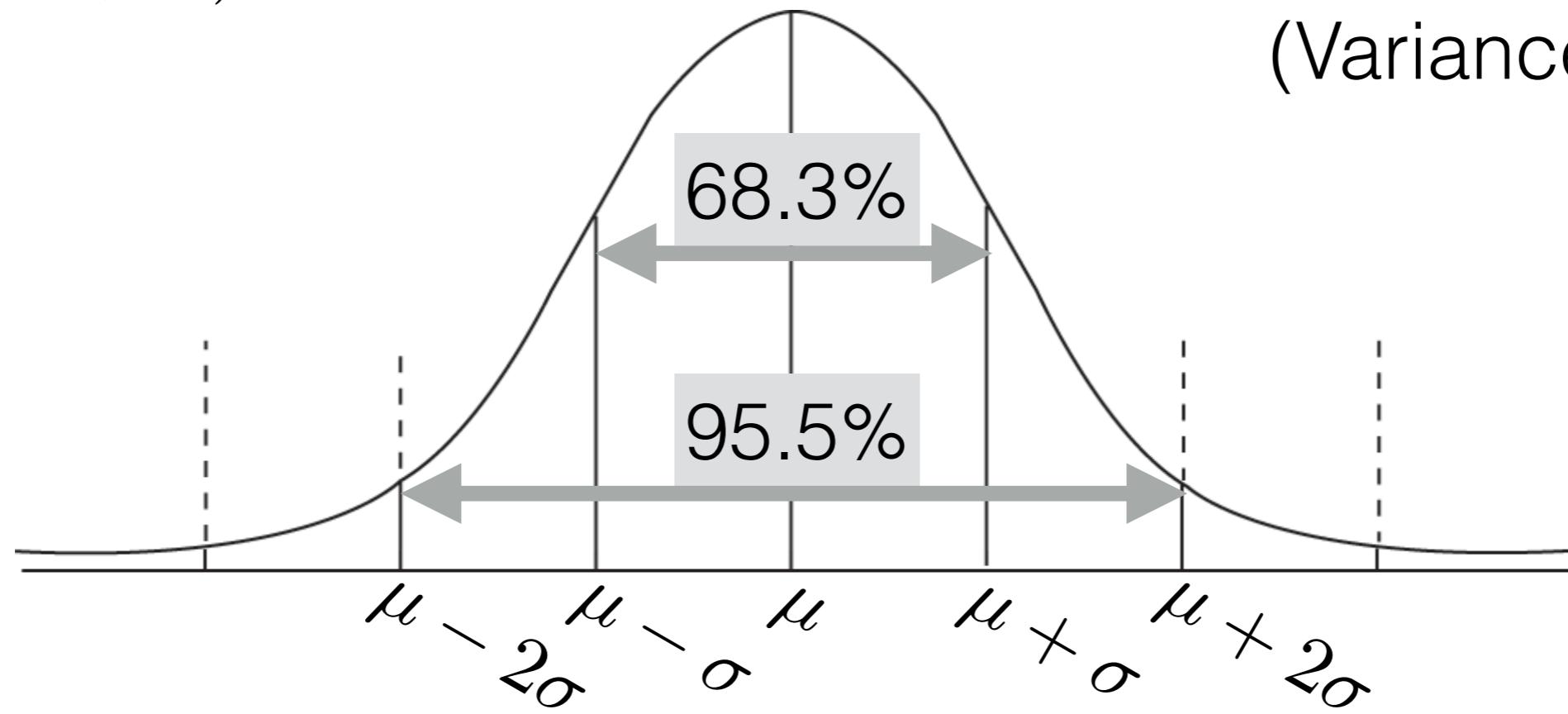
Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)



Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)

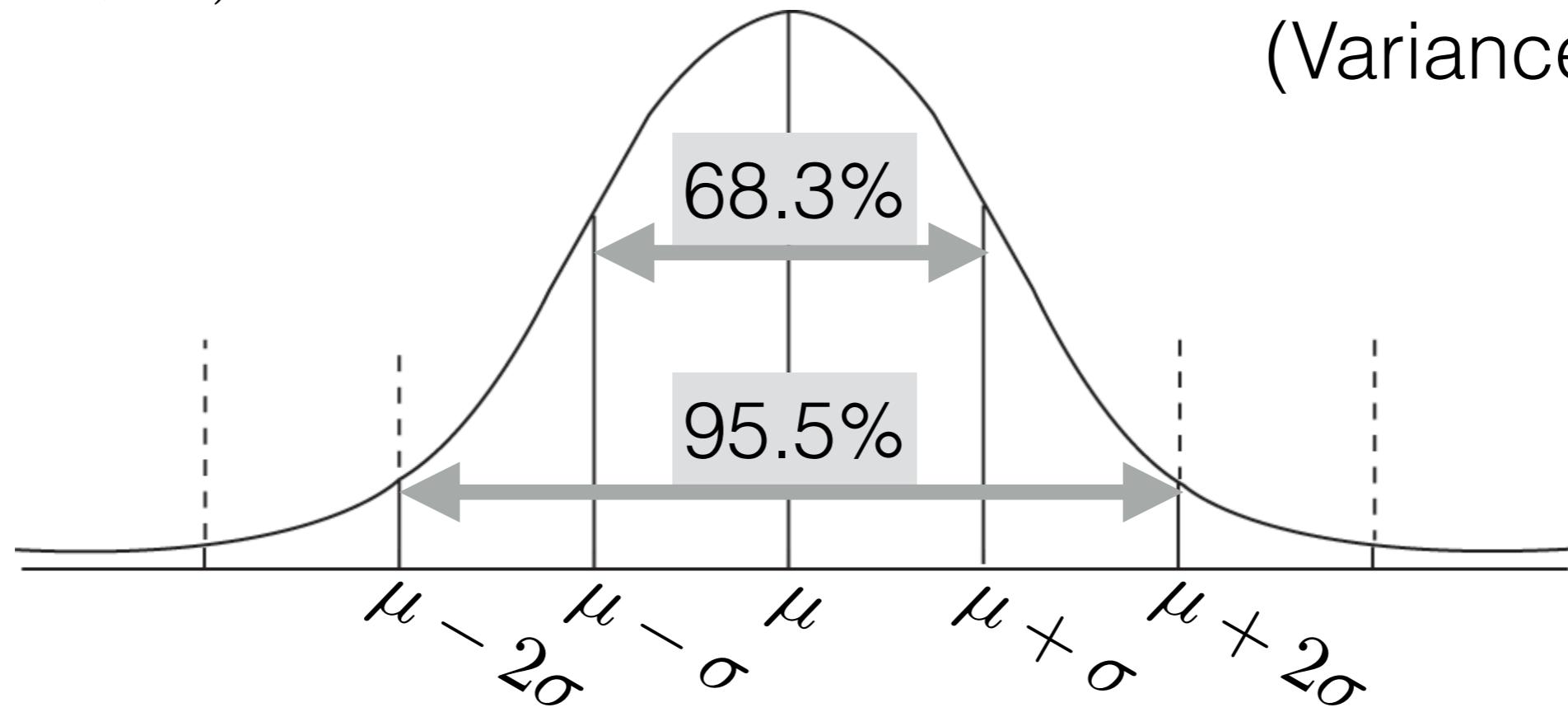


- About 95% of the mass falls within 2 standard deviations of the mean

Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)

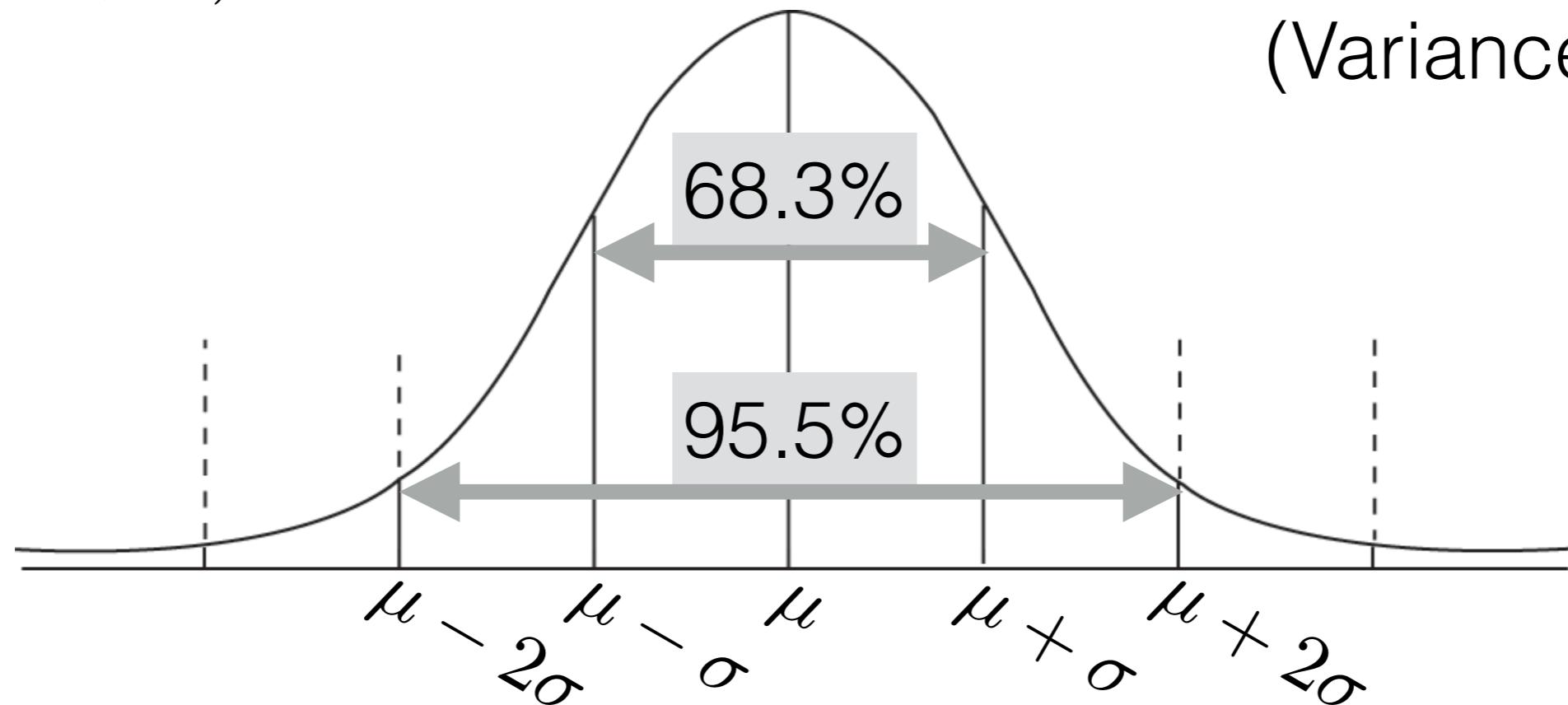


- About 95% of the mass falls within 2 standard deviations of the mean [demo]

Univariate Gaussian distribution review

$$\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$$

Mean $\mu \in (-\infty, \infty)$
Standard deviation $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$
(Variance σ^2)



- About 95% of the mass falls within 2 standard deviations of the mean [demo]
- If $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$, then $Y + \mu \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1)$

$$\sigma Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

Multivariate Gaussian review

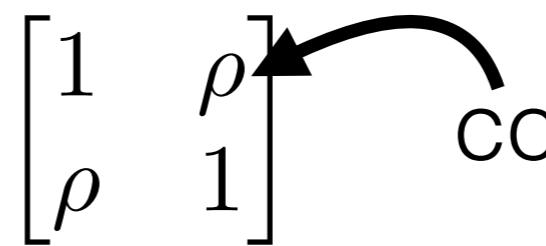
Multivariate Gaussian review

- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite

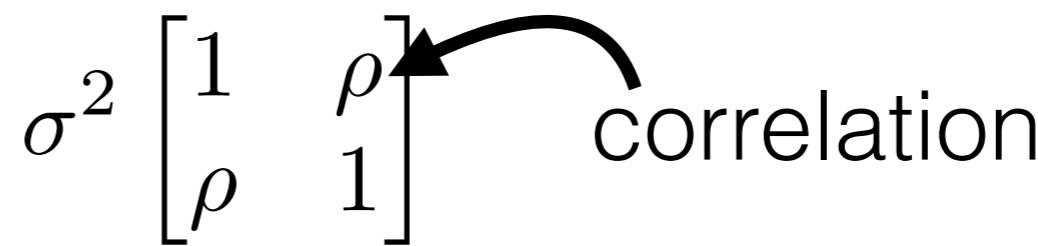
Multivariate Gaussian review

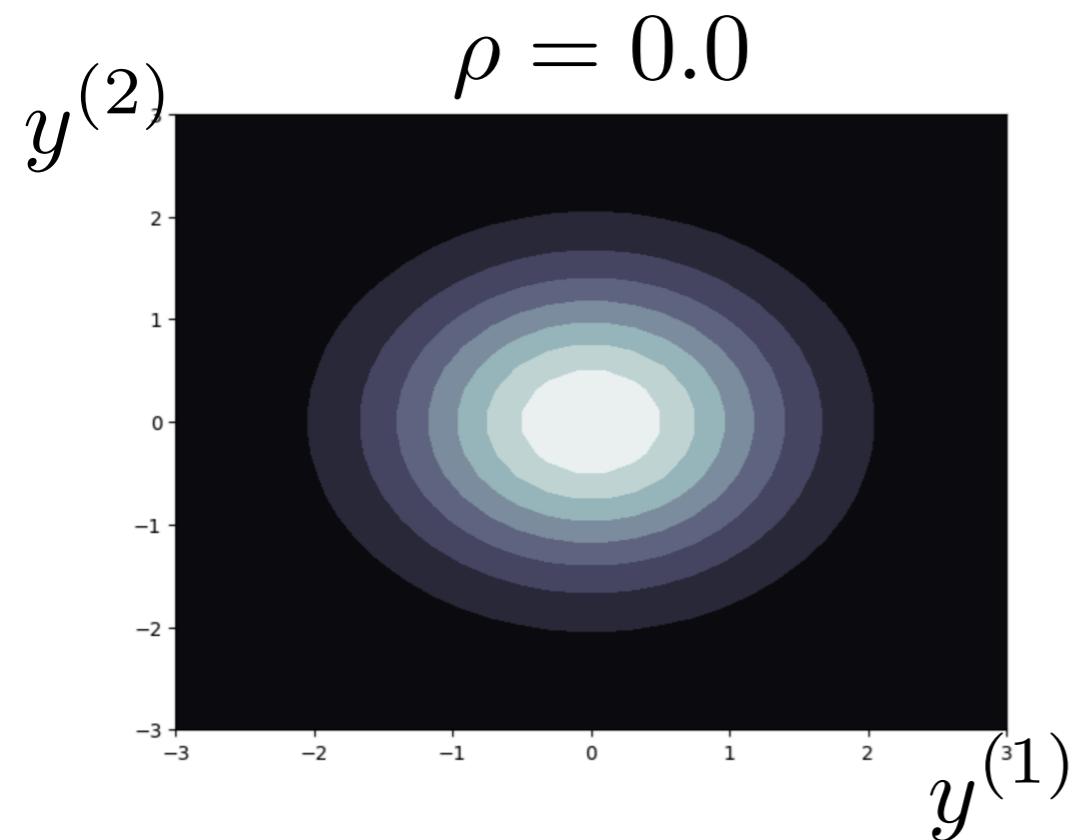
- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$

Multivariate Gaussian review

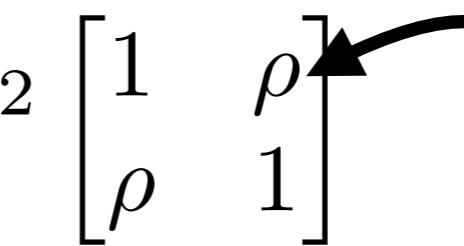
- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  correlation

Multivariate Gaussian review

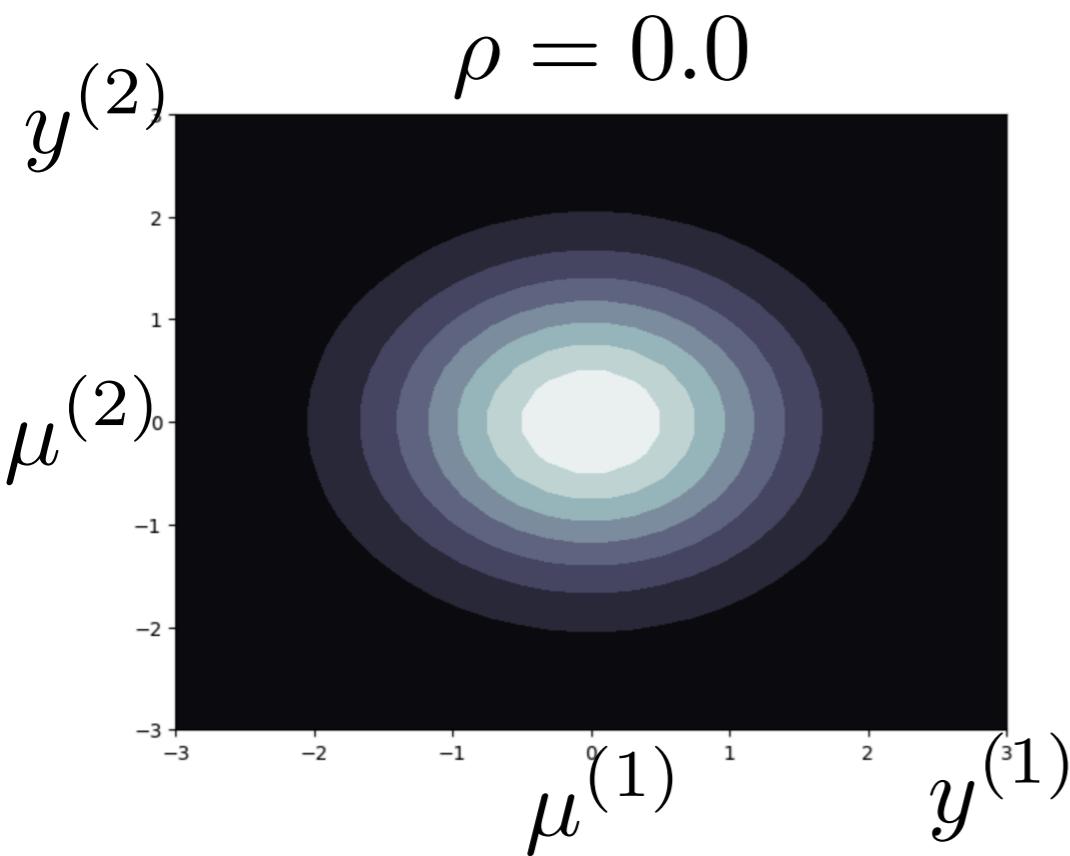
- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 



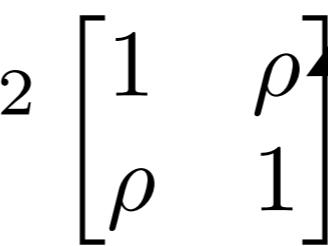
Multivariate Gaussian review

- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

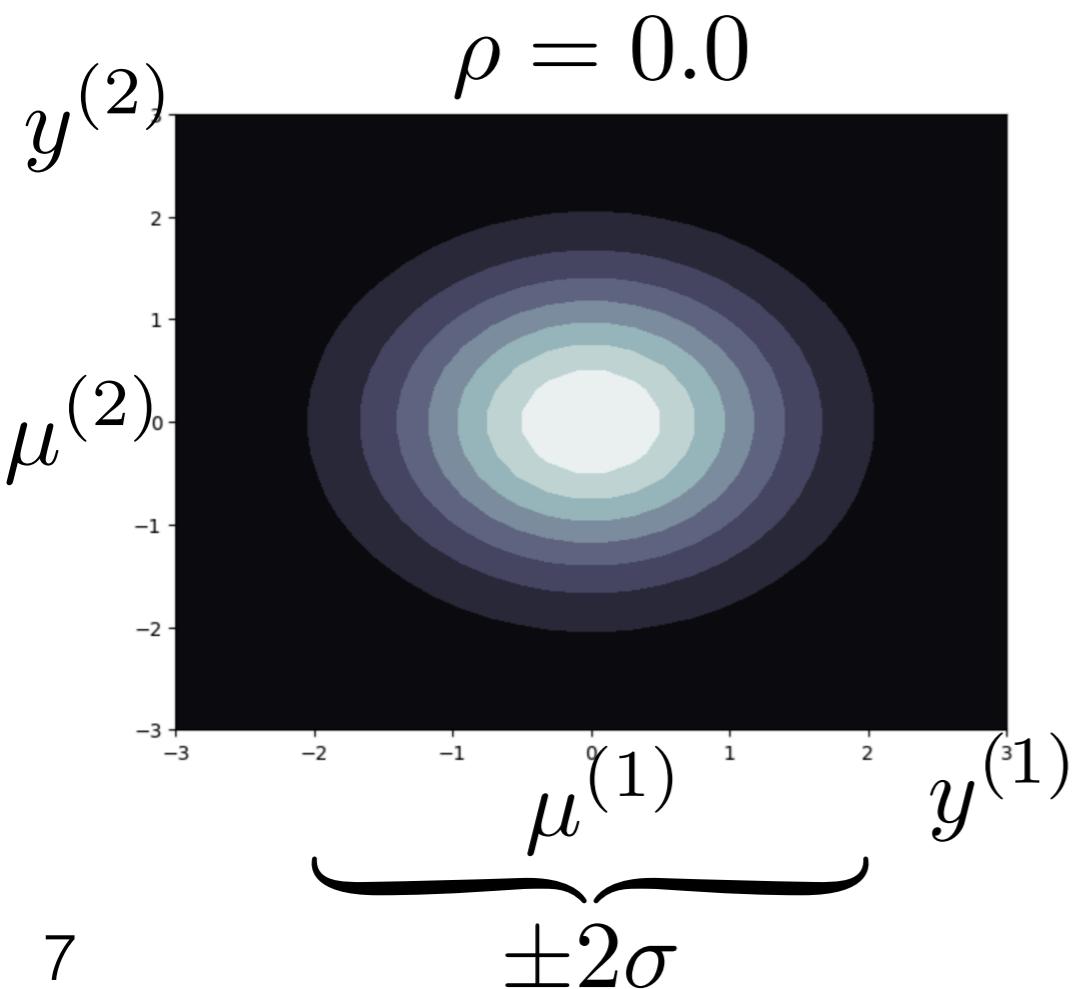
A curved arrow points from the label "correlation" to the off-diagonal element ρ in the covariance matrix.



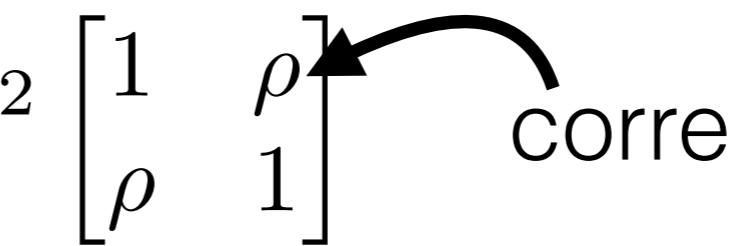
Multivariate Gaussian review

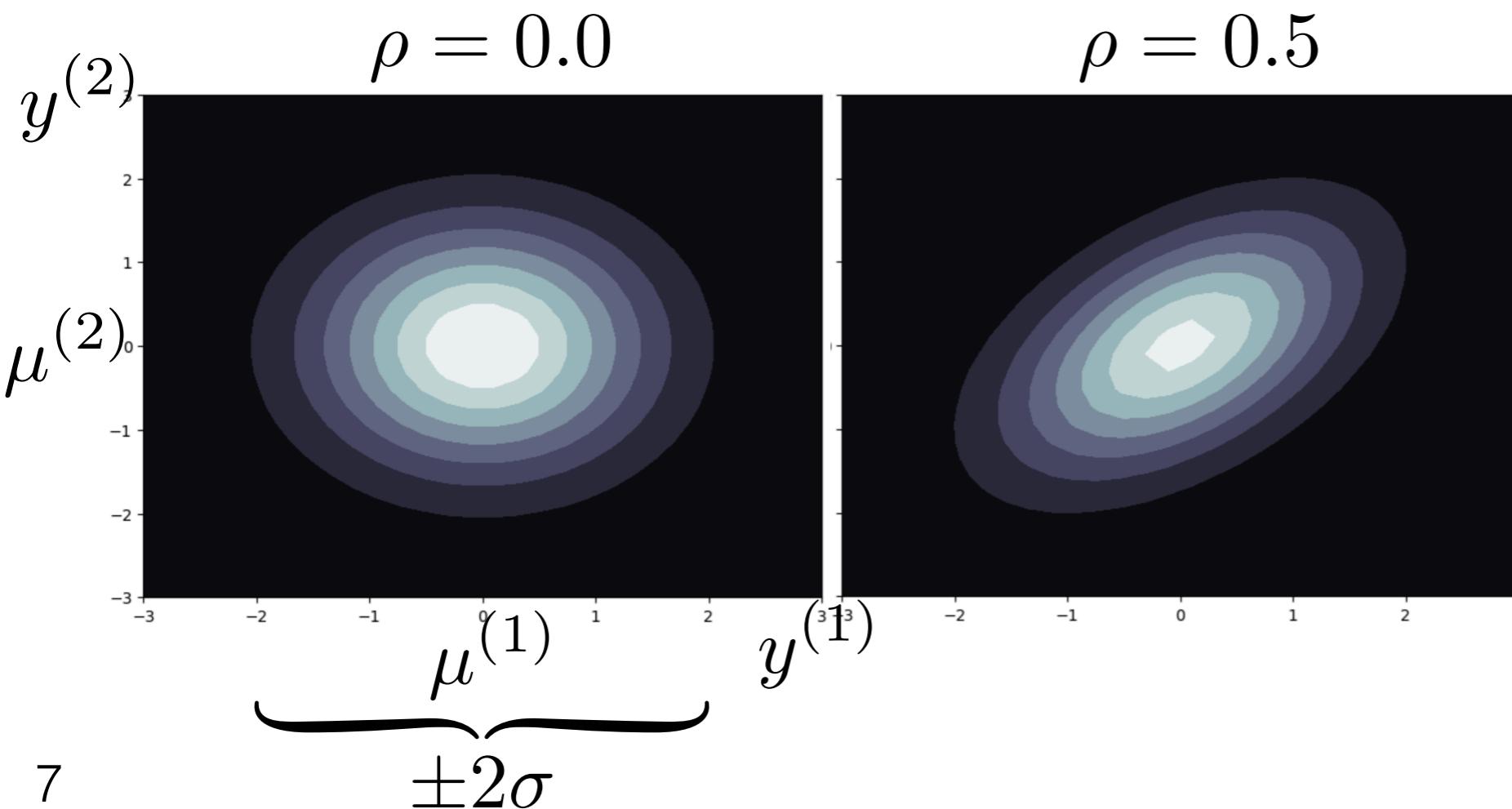
- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$


A diagram showing a 2D multivariate Gaussian distribution. It consists of concentric ellipses centered at the origin (0,0) on a coordinate system. The horizontal axis is labeled $y^{(1)}$ and the vertical axis is labeled $y^{(2)}$. A bracket below the axes indicates the spread is $\pm 2\sigma$. The label $\rho = 0.0$ is shown above the plot. An arrow points from the label ρ to the off-diagonal element of the covariance matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

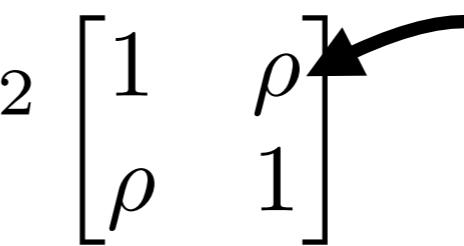


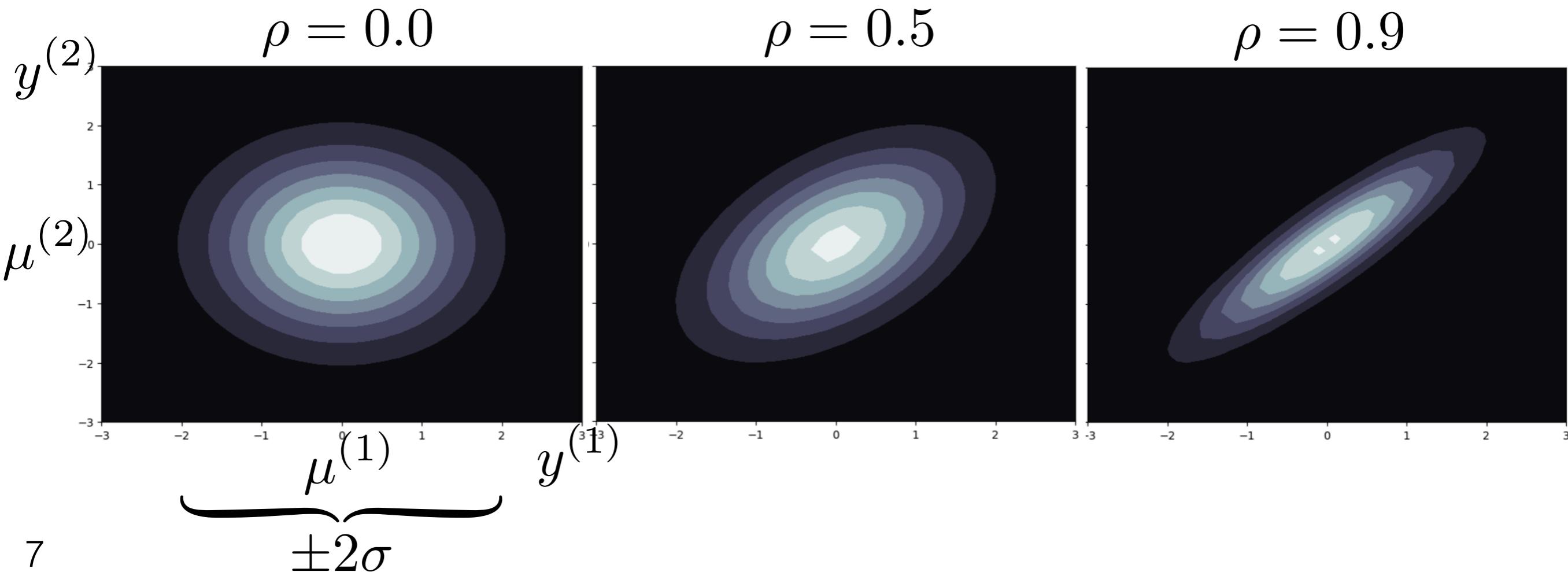
Multivariate Gaussian review

- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

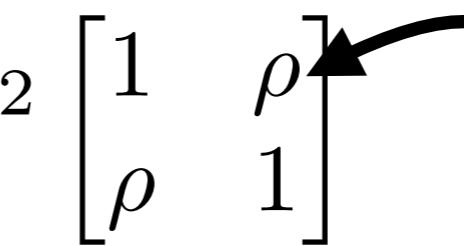


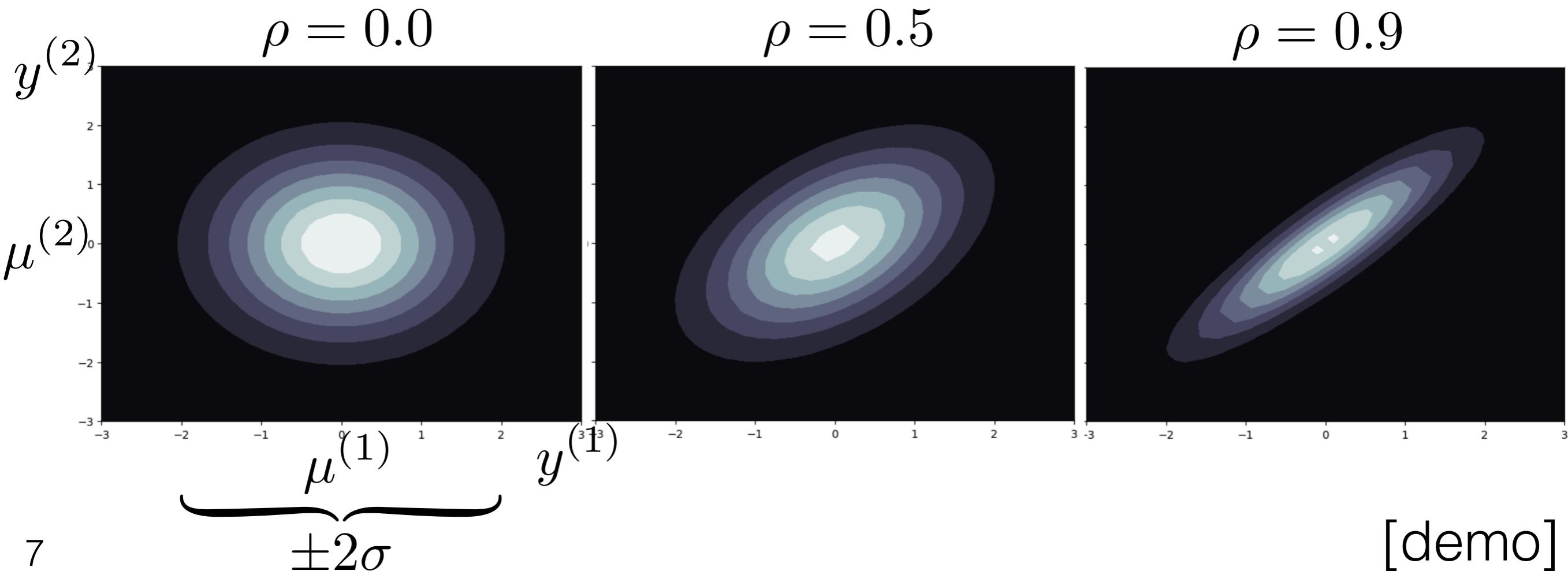
Multivariate Gaussian review

- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 correlation



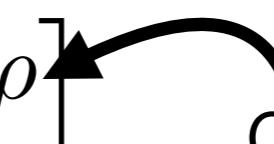
Multivariate Gaussian review

- General form: $\mathcal{N}(y|\mu, K)$ with
 - y & the mean μ are real-valued vectors with dimension M
 - Covariance matrix K is symmetric, positive semidefinite
- Special case: $M = 2$, so $y = [y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}]^\top$ & $\mu = [\mu^{(1)}, \mu^{(2)}]^\top$
- Let's also assume $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
 correlation



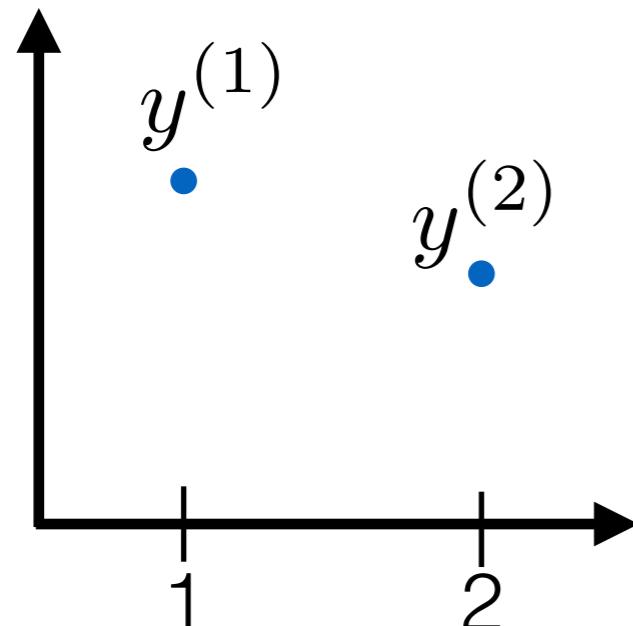
Multivariate Gaussian using locations

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
 - With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

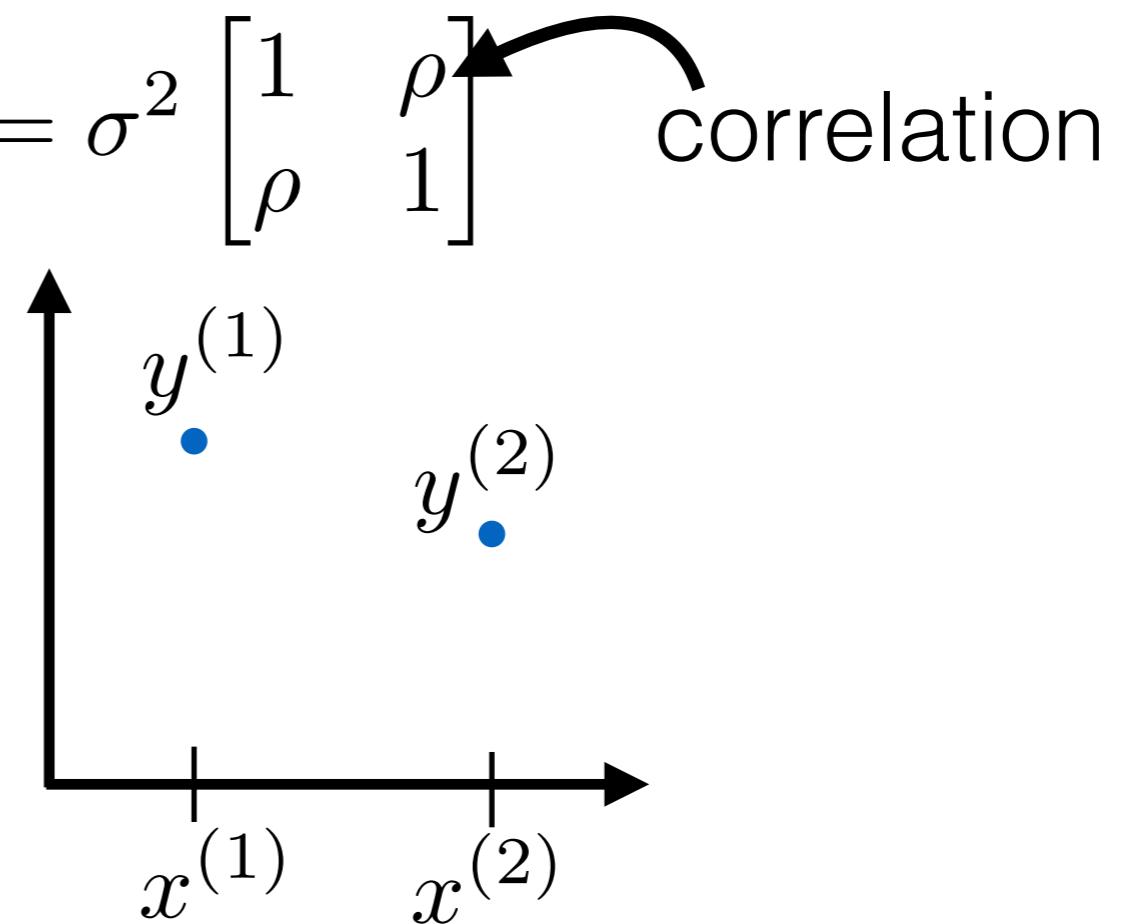
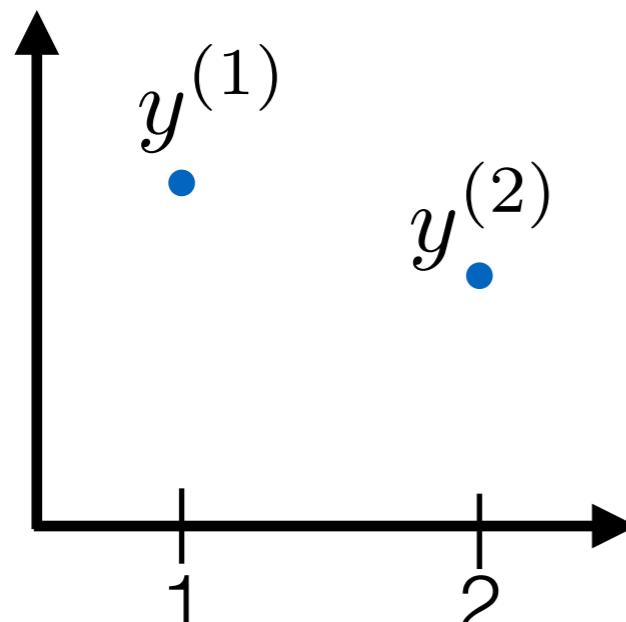
Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
 - With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



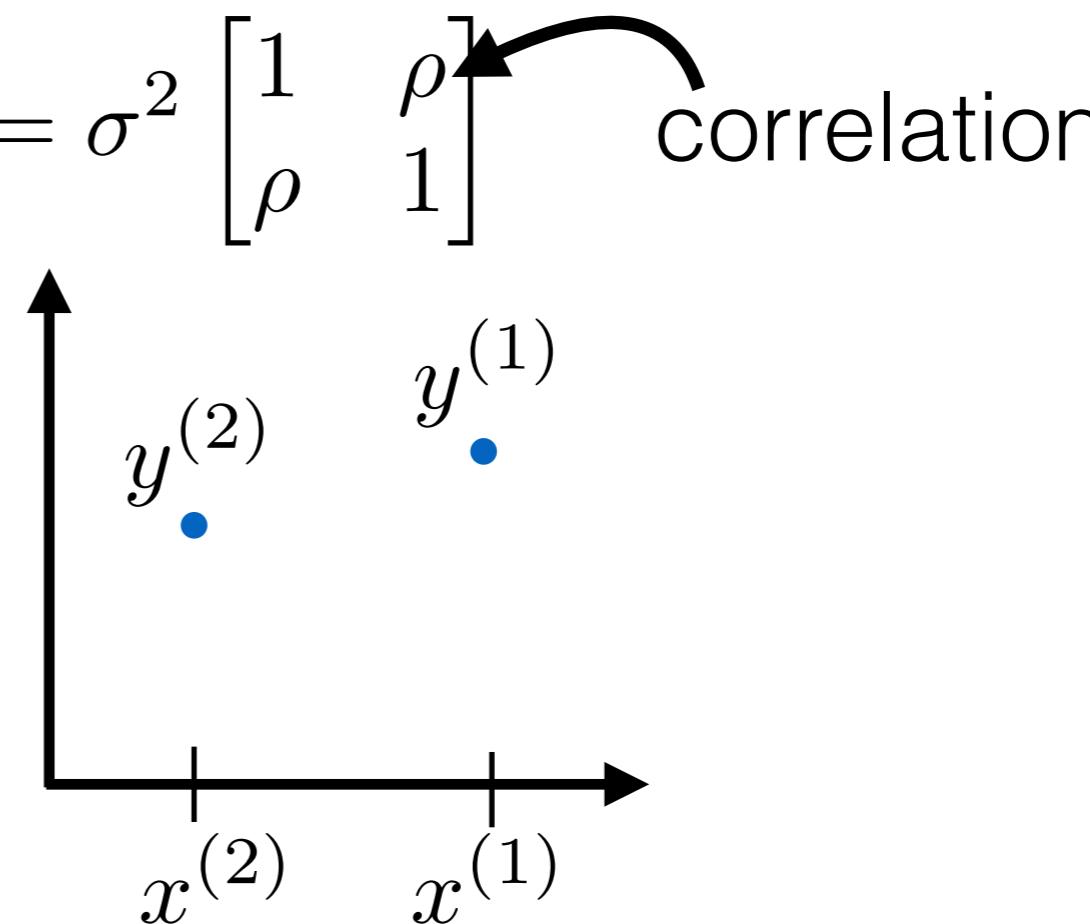
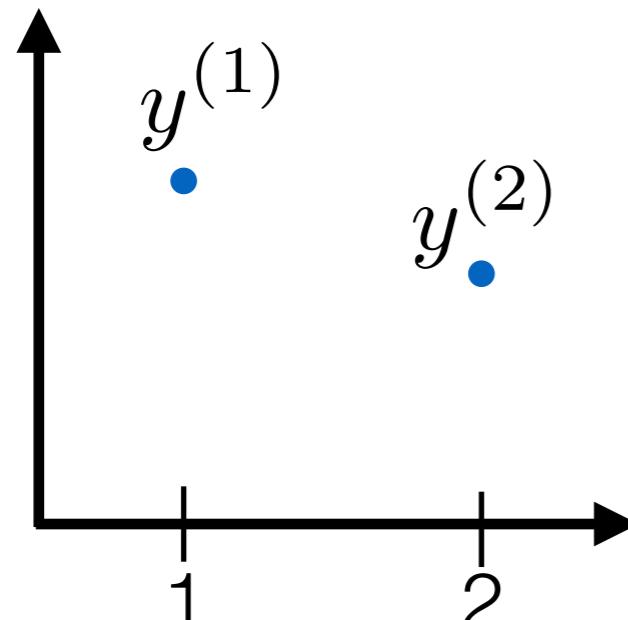
Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



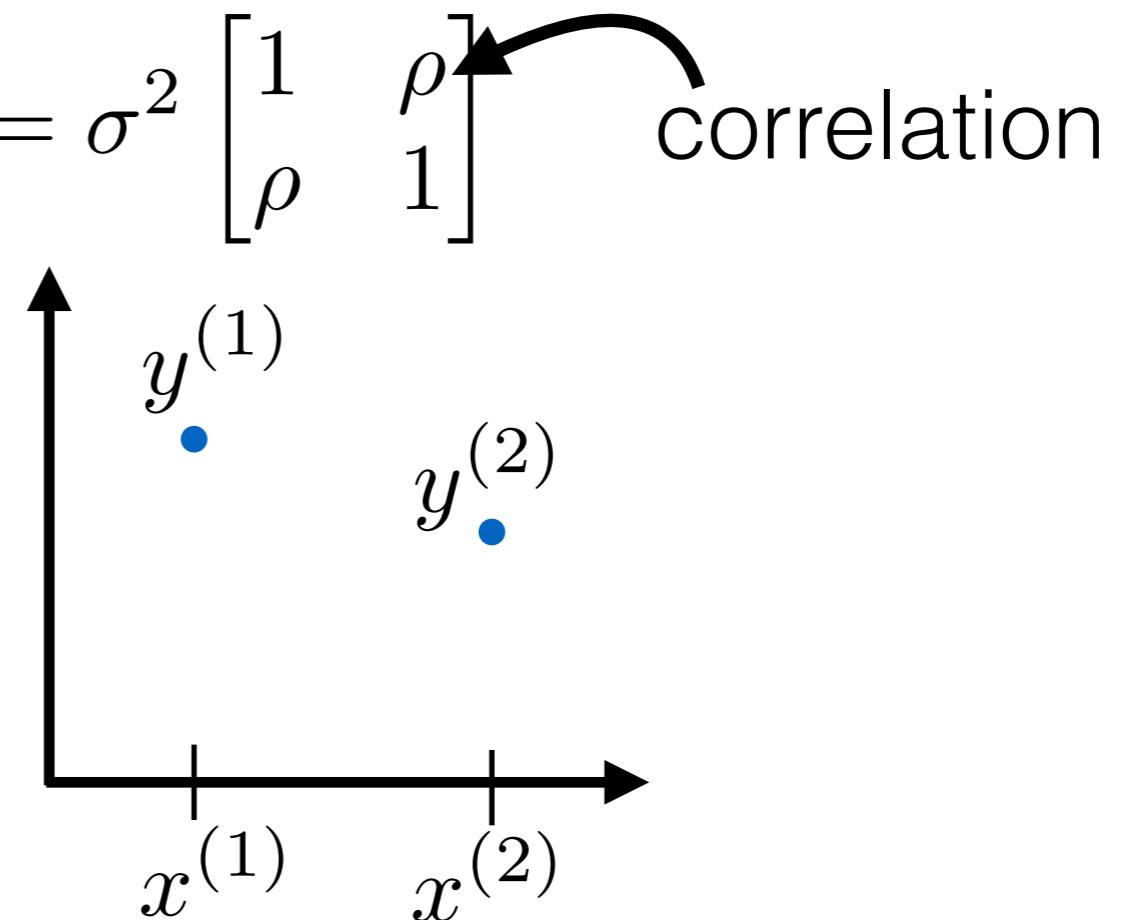
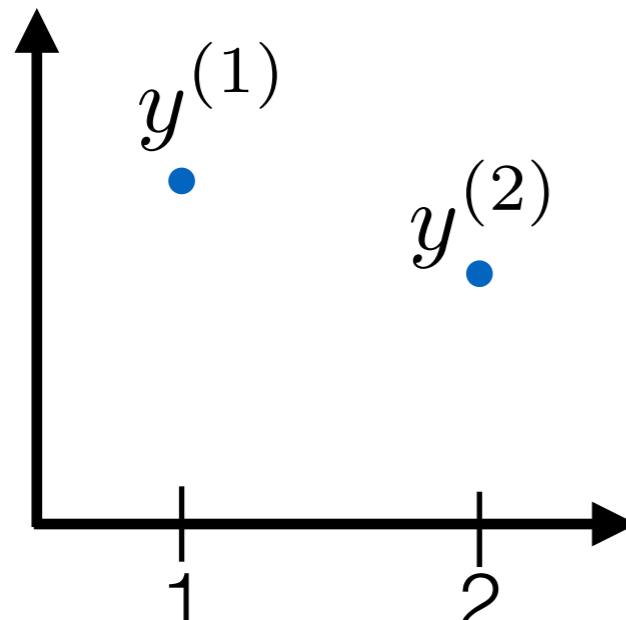
Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



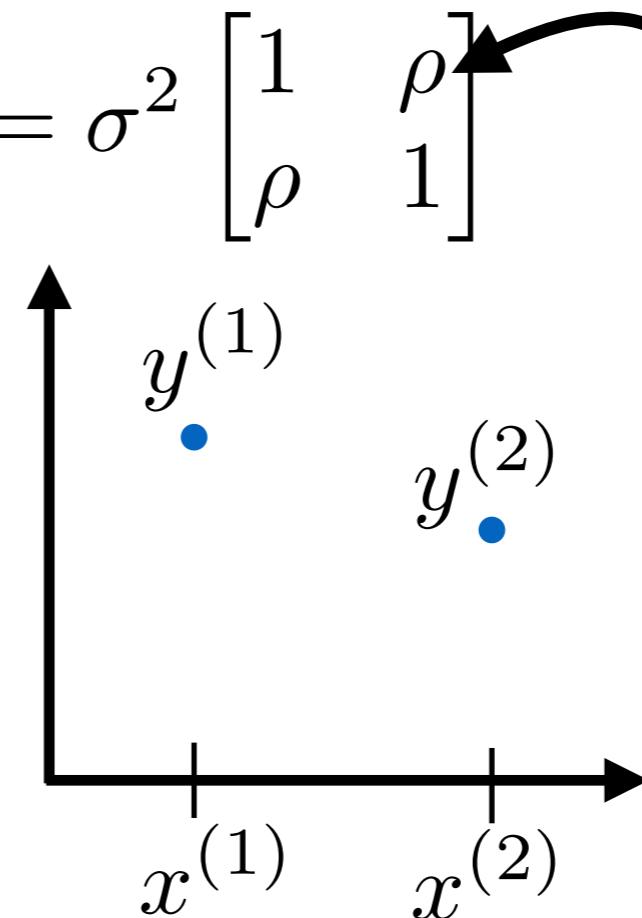
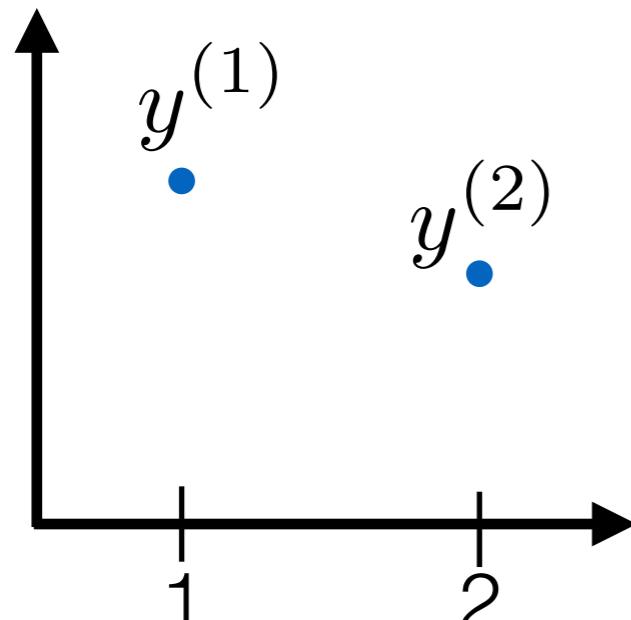
Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



Multivariate Gaussian using locations

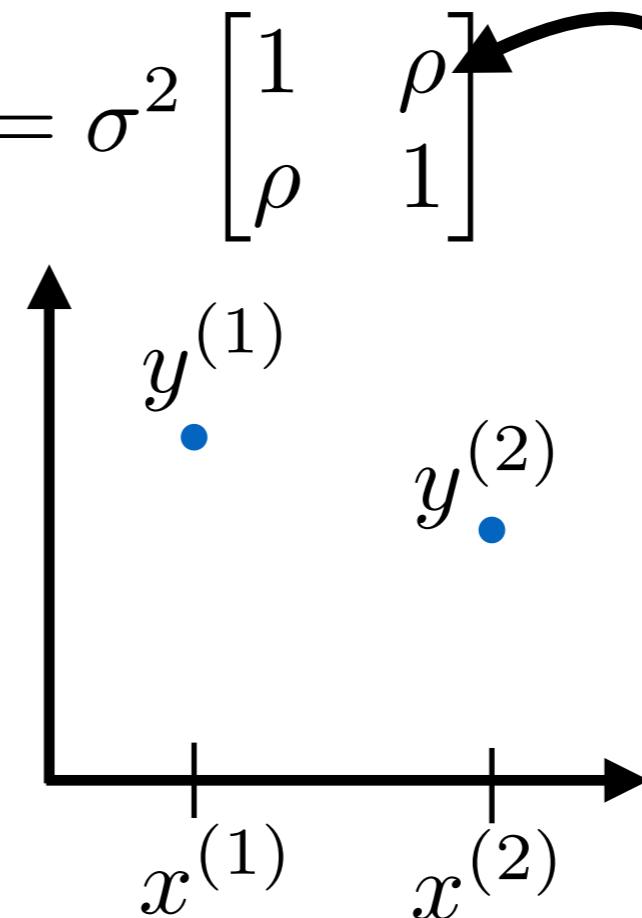
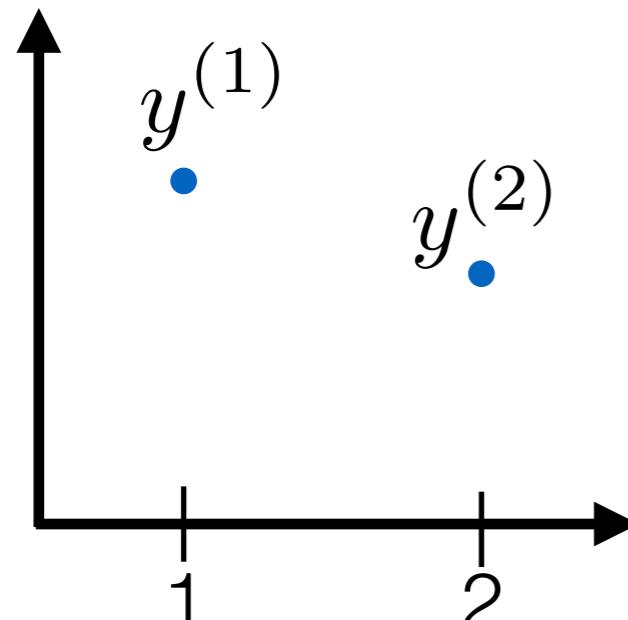
- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ correlation



- What if we let the correlation depend on the x 's?

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

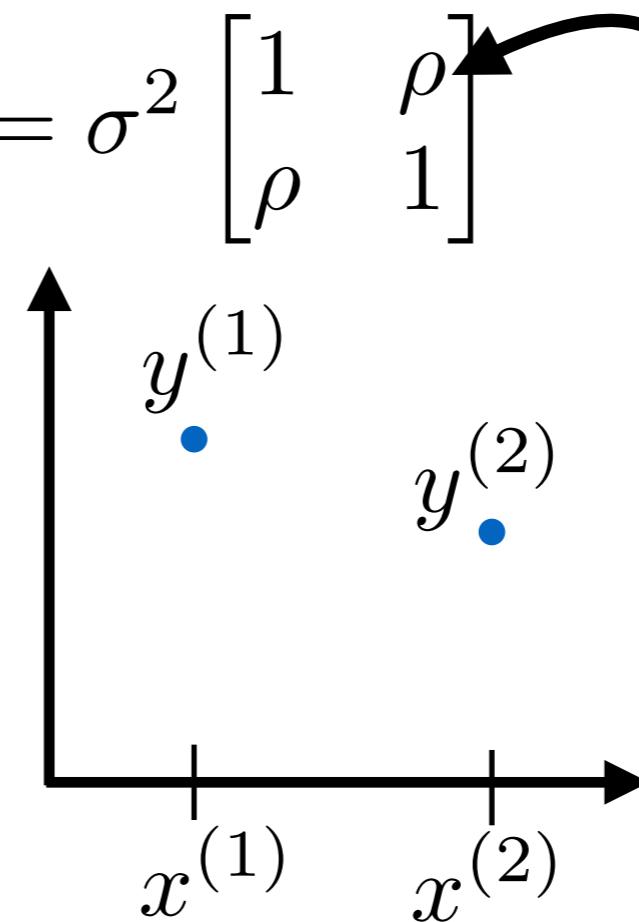
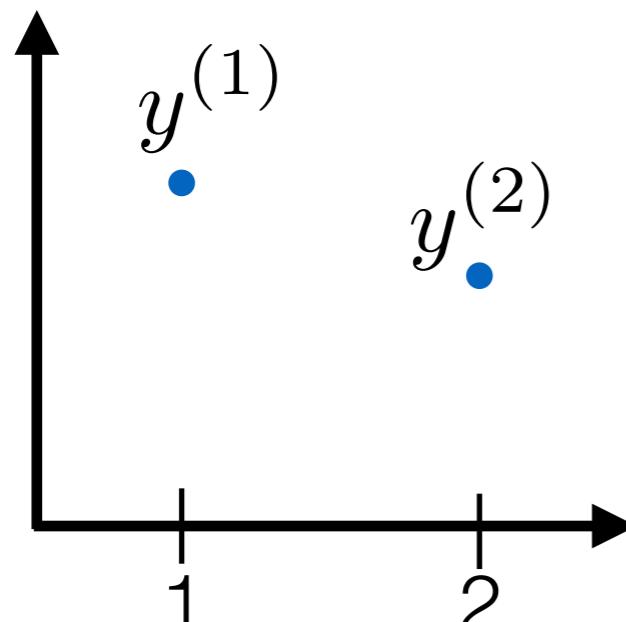
- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$



- What if we let the correlation depend on the x 's?
 - Let $\rho = \rho(|x^{(1)} - x^{(2)}|)$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

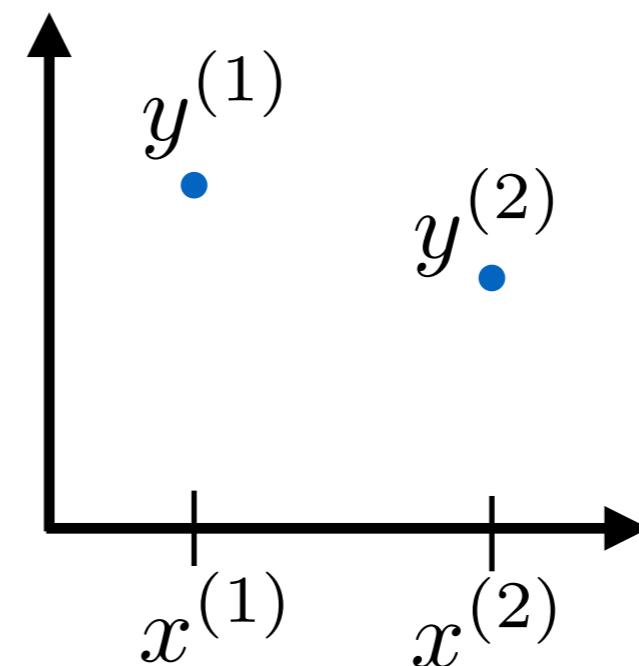
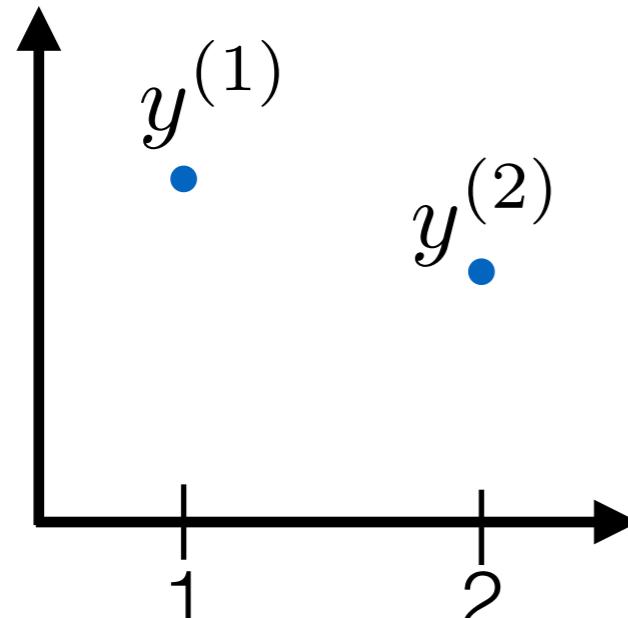
- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ correlation



- What if we let the correlation depend on the x 's?
 - Let $\rho = \rho(|x^{(1)} - x^{(2)}|)$
 - Where the correlation goes to 1 as the x 's get close

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

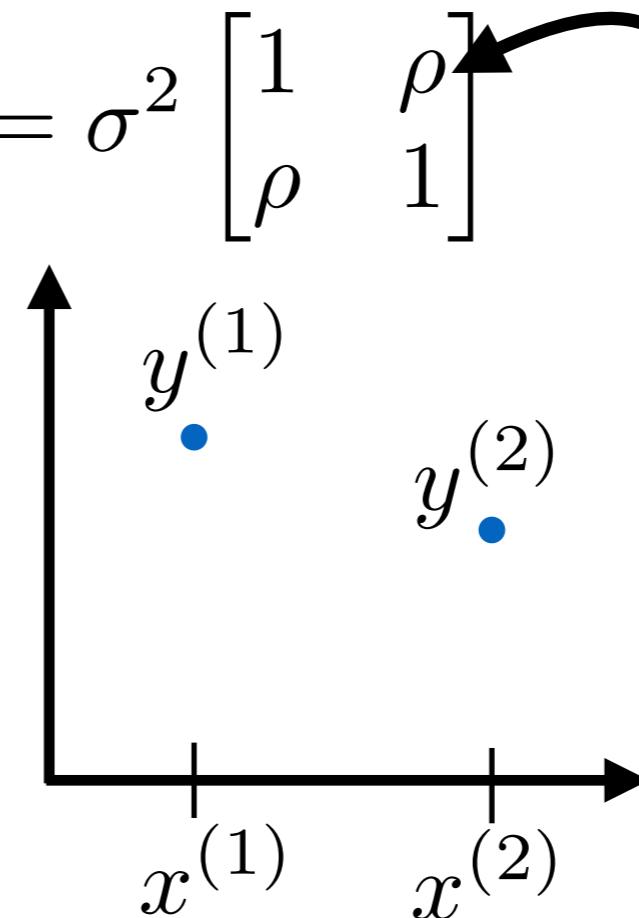
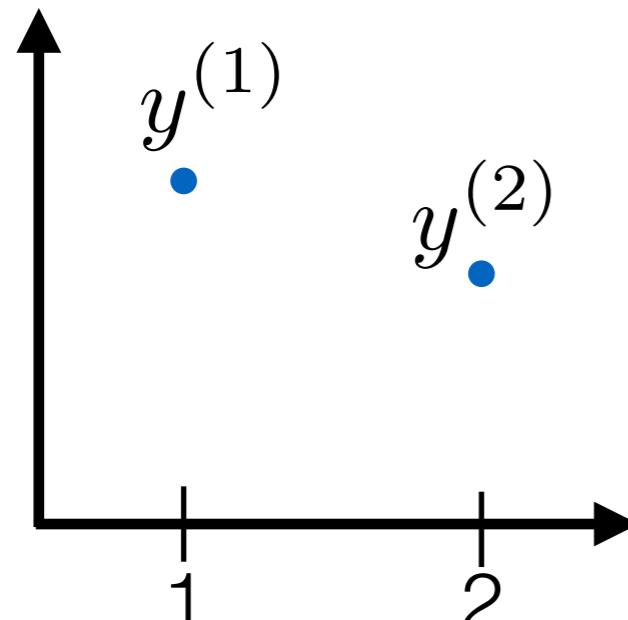
- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ correlation



- What if we let the correlation depend on the x 's?
 - Let $\rho = \rho(|x^{(1)} - x^{(2)}|)$
 - Where the correlation goes to 1 as the x 's get close
 - And goes to 0 as the x 's get far

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- $M=2$ dimensions: $y = [y_1, y_2]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$
- With $\mu = [\mu_1, \mu_2]^\top$ and $K = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ \rho & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ correlation



- What if we let the correlation depend on the x 's?
 - Let $\rho = \rho(|x^{(1)} - x^{(2)}|)$
 - Where the correlation goes to 1 as the x 's get close
 - And goes to 0 as the x 's get far

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):

$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that

$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = ?$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is ? as Δ increases

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases
 - And $\rho(\Delta) \rightarrow ?$ as $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases
 - And $\rho(\Delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases
 - And $\rho(\Delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$

Note: our previous example was the special case where $M=2$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):
$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$
 - We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that
$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$
 - Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases
 - And $\rho(\Delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$

[demo1, demo2]

Note: our previous example was
the special case where $M=2$

Multivariate Gaussian using locations

- Next: Similar setup but an M -dimensional Gaussian instead of just 2 dimensions
 - We have M locations (need not be in order):

$$x^{(m)} \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

- We're going to generate a random $y = [y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(M)}]^\top$
 - Let $y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, K)$ with $\mu = \mathbf{0}_M$ and K such that

$$K_{m,m'} = \sigma^2 \rho(|x^{(m)} - x^{(m')}|)$$

- Let's try $\rho(\Delta) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta^2)$
 - Check: $\rho(0) = 1$, $\rho(\Delta)$ is decreasing as Δ increases
 - And $\rho(\Delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$

[demo1, demo2]

Note: our previous example was
the special case where $M=2$

We just drew random functions from a type of Gaussian process that is very commonly used in practice!

Gaussian processes

Gaussian processes

- Definition: “A *Gaussian process* is a collection of random variables, any finite number of which have a joint Gaussian distribution.” [Rasmussen and Williams 2006; a much much older idea!]

Gaussian processes

- Definition: “A *Gaussian process* is a collection of random variables, any finite number of which have a joint Gaussian distribution.” [Rasmussen and Williams 2006; a much much older idea!]
- E.g. the function $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a collection indexed by input \mathbf{x}

Gaussian processes

- Definition: “A *Gaussian process* is a collection of random variables, any finite number of which have a joint Gaussian distribution.” [Rasmussen and Williams 2006; a much much older idea!]
 - E.g. the function $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a collection indexed by input \mathbf{x}
- It is specified by its mean function and covariance function:

$$f \sim \mathcal{GP}(m, k)$$