Spectral kernels

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Gaussian processes

- Bayesian non-parametric kernel model
- Key idea: function prior $f(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(m(x), K_{\theta}(x, x'))$ that encodes



How to learn a kernel?

• Choose prior with maximum volume of data-matching functions

$$\underbrace{\log p(\mathbf{y}|\theta)}_{\text{marginal log likelihood}} = \int p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})p(\mathbf{f}|\theta)d\mathbf{f}$$
(1)
$$= -\frac{1}{2}\underbrace{\mathbf{y}^{T}(K_{\theta} + \sigma^{2}I)^{-1}\mathbf{y}}_{\text{data fit}} - \frac{1}{2}\underbrace{\log|K_{\theta} + \sigma^{2}I|}_{\text{model complexity}} - \frac{N}{2}\log 2\pi$$
(2)

- Relatively robust against overfitting
 - Determinant: volume of space spanned by kernel
 - Finds a simple basis for the data
 - ${\ }$ Overfitting still possible, if $p({\ }{\ })$ can be shaped to match $p({\ }{\ }{\ }|{\ }f)$
- Powerful formalism to learn kernels
 - Replaces cross-validation
 - We can (auto)differentiate $\log p(\mathbf{y}| heta)$ and optimise wrt heta
 - GPflow, GPyTorch, Stan, GaussianProcesses.jl, etc

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How to choose kernel?

• Gaussian kernel
$$K_g(x, x') = \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x')^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

• Periodic kernel $K_{cos}(x, x') = \exp\left(-\frac{2\sin^2(\pi |x-x'|/p)}{\ell^2}\right)$

• Linear kernel
$$K_{lin}(x, x') = xx' + c$$

 Composite kernel, eg $K(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{x}')=K_g(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{x}')+K_{lin}(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{x}')$



• Our topic: Spectral kernels can learn arbitrary kernel function forms

Fourier transforms

• Fourier transform $S(\omega)$ of a function f(x),

$$S(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{-2\pi ix\omega}dx$$
 (3)

where

- i is the imaginary number with $i^2 = -1$ and $i^0 = 1$
- ω is a frequency
- Inverse Fourier transform f(x) of spectral density $S(\omega)$,

$$f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\omega) e^{2\pi i x \omega} d\omega$$
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• Euler's identity helps compute Fouriers in practise

$$e^{ix} = \underbrace{\cos x}_{\text{real part}} + \underbrace{i \sin x}_{\text{imaginary part}}$$
(5)

where the complex part often cancels out

• Hence,

$$e^{\pm 2\pi i x\omega} = \cos(2\pi x\omega) \pm i \sin(2\pi x\omega) \tag{6}$$



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• Let's apply Fouriers to the kernel $K(\tau) := K(x, x')$, where $\tau = x - x'$ (instead of f(x))

Theorem (Bochner)

Any stationary kernel $K:\mathbb{R}^D\mapsto\mathbb{R}$ and its spectral density $S:\mathbb{R}^D\mapsto\mathbb{R}$ are Fourier duals

$$K(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\omega) e^{2\pi i \omega^T \tau} d\omega$$
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 (Fourier Transform)

• All stationary kernels have spectral density $S(\omega)$

- If someone gives you a kernel K(au), we can solve what frequencies it considers by solving the FT
- Spectral features are of theoretical interes
- ⁽²⁾ All spectral densities define a covariance function $K(\tau)$
 - If someone gives you a spectral density $S(\omega)$, we can solve its similarity function (=kernel) by solving the IFT
 - If we change the spectral density, we get a new kernel
 - \Rightarrow kernel learning

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Kernel sinusoid representation

- Assume symmetric frequency distribution $S(\omega)=S(-\omega)$
- Euler's identity $e^{\pm ix} = \cos x \pm i \sin x$
- Sine identity $\sin(-x) = -\sin(x)$
- Then we can solve the inverse Fourier as

$$\begin{split} K(\tau) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\omega) e^{2\pi i \tau \omega} d\omega \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\omega) \cos(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} i \cdot S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{S(\omega)} \cos(2\pi \tau \omega) + \int_{-\infty}^{0} i \cdot S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega + \int_{0}^{\infty} i \cdot S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{S(\omega)} \cos(2\pi \tau \omega) + \int_{0}^{\infty} i S(-\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau (-\omega)) d\omega + \int_{0}^{\infty} i S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{S(\omega)} \cos(2\pi \tau \omega) + \int_{0}^{\infty} -i S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega + \int_{0}^{\infty} i S(\omega) \sin(2\pi \tau \omega) d\omega \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{S(\omega)} \cos(2\pi \tau \omega) \end{split}$$

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Kernel sinusoid representation

• Our new general kernel definition

$$K(\tau) = \mathbb{E}_{S(\omega)} \cos(2\pi\tau\omega) \tag{7}$$

- Frequency ω is inverse of period $1/\omega$
- \bullet Amplitude $S(\omega)$
- Frequencies are symmetric $S(\omega)=S(-\omega)$
- With $S(\omega) = \delta_{1/15}(\omega)$, the kernel becomes $K(\tau) = \cos(2\pi\tau \frac{1}{15})$



$$S_{SE}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K_{SE}(\tau) e^{-2\pi i \omega^T \tau} d\tau$$
(8)

$$=2\pi\ell^2 \exp(-2\pi^2\ell^2\omega^2) \tag{9}$$

$$K_{SE}(\tau) = \int_{0}^{\infty} \underbrace{S_{SE}(\omega)}_{\text{amplitudes}} \cdot \underbrace{\cos(2\pi\tau\omega)}_{\text{sinusoids}} d\omega$$
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$$\approx \sum_{\omega} S_{SE}(\omega) \cdot \cos(2\pi\tau\omega) \tag{11}$$



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Some spectral densities

$$K_{gauss}(\tau) = \exp(-\frac{\tau^2}{\ell^2})$$
$$K_{exp}(\tau) = \exp(-|\tau|/\ell)$$
$$K_{tri}(\tau) = 0.5(1-|\tau|)_+$$

$$S_{gauss}(\omega) = \frac{\sqrt{\ell}}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(-\ell\omega^2/4)$$
(16)

$$S_{exp}(\omega) = 1/(\pi/\ell + \pi\ell\omega^2)$$
(17)

$$S_{tri}(\omega) = (1 - \cos \omega) / (\pi \omega^2)$$
(18)



• Can we construct new kernels from custom spectral densities?

Sparse Spectrum (SS) kernel¹

• Define Q real frequencies $(\omega_1,\ldots,\omega_Q)^T\in\mathbb{R}^Q$ with Fourier dual

$$S(\omega) := \frac{1}{Q} \sum_{i=1}^{Q} \delta(\omega = \omega_i)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{IFT}}{\Longrightarrow} K(\tau) = \frac{1}{Q} \sum_{i=1}^{Q} \cos(2\pi\tau\omega_i)$$
(19)
(20)

• No decay, prone to overfitting



¹Lazaro-Gredilla et al (JMLR 2010) Sparse spectrum gaussian process regression

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Spectral Mixture (SM) kernel²

• Define mixture of Q Gaussians $\{a_i \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)\}_{i=1}^Q$

$$S(\omega) := \sum_{i=1}^{Q} a_i \mathcal{N}(\omega | \mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$$
(21)

$$\stackrel{\text{IFT}}{\Longrightarrow} K(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(\omega) \cos(2\pi\tau\omega) d\omega$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{Q} a_{i} \underbrace{\exp(-2\pi^{2}\sigma_{i}^{2}\tau^{2})}_{\text{smooth decay}} \underbrace{\cos(2\pi\tau\mu_{i})}_{\text{periodic}}$$
(22)

• Dense in the set of stationary kernels \Rightarrow can generate any stationary kernel



 $^{^2 \}mbox{Wilson, Adams}$ (ICML 2013) Gaussian process kernels for pattern discovery and extrapolation

Spectral Mixture (SM) kernel



• Approximate gaussian kernel with SM kernel with Q = 5 components, i.e.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{Q} \frac{\mathbf{a}_i}{\mathbf{a}_i} \exp(-2\pi^2 \sigma_i^2 \tau^2) \cos(2\pi \tau \boldsymbol{\mu}_i) \approx \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x')^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

for appropriate $\{a_i, \mu_i, \sigma_i\}$

• (Doable with Q = 1 as well)

Spectral kernels



• Image from Remes, Heinonen, Kaski: Non-stationary spectral kernels, NIPS'17

SM kernel inference

- Optimize 3Q hyperparameters $\theta = \{a_i, \mu_i, \sigma_i\}_{i=1}^Q$ of kernel $K_{\theta}(x - x') = \sum_{i=1}^Q a_i \exp(-2\pi^2 \sigma_i^2 \tau^2) \cos(2\pi \tau \mu_i)$ by maximizing $\log p(\mathbf{y}|\theta) = -\frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\mathbf{y}^T (K_{\theta} + \sigma^2 I)^{-1} \mathbf{y}}_{\text{data fit}} - \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\log |K_{\theta} + \sigma^2 I|}_{\text{model complexity}} - \frac{N}{2} \log 2\pi$
- After kernel is fixed, predictions have closed form



Image inpainting use case



Spatio-temporal temperatures



• SM kernel induces only stationary covariances, but temperatures are non-stationary

Stationary kernels

• Stationary kernels are translation-invariant:

$$K(x, x') = K(x + a, x' + a)$$
(24)

$$K(x, x') = K(x - x')$$
 (25)

for any a

- Stationary kernels are function of vector distance $\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{x}'$
- For instance if input variable is 'age' in years, then a stationary kernel has property K(1,2) = K(80,81)
- Strange to assume that 1 and 2 year olds are as similar to each other as 80 and 81 year olds
- Non-stationary kernel is not translation invariant, i.e. we can have $K(1,2) \neq K(80,81)$
- Simplest non-stationary kernel is the dot product, $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}$ since
 - $\mathbf{x} = [1, 1]^T$, $\mathbf{x}' = [2, 2]$, $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 1 \cdot 2 + 1 \cdot 2 = 4$
 - $\mathbf{x} = [10, 10]^T$, $\mathbf{x}' = [11, 11]$, $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 10 \cdot 11 + 10 \cdot 11 = 120$



• Simple dataset



• Optimal Gaussian process fit

• Bad fit in the beginning



- Let's increase lengthscale to get smoother model
- Initial fit fixed, now ill fit in the middle



- Let's increase noise level to to match data
- \Rightarrow We need input-dependent parameters

Non-stationary Gaussian process³

• The Gaussian kernel has a fixed, global lengthscale

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \exp\left(-\frac{||\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'||^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$
(26)

- Equally smooth functions everywhere
- The non-stationary Gaussian kernel ('Gibbs kernel') admits a lengthscale function $\ell(x)$

$$K(x,x') = \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{2\ell(x)\ell(x')}{\ell(x)^2 + \ell(x')^2}}}_{\text{normalizer}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x')^2}{\ell(x)^2 + \ell(x')^2}\right)$$
(27)

• The multivariate Gibbs kernel, where $\Sigma_i := \Sigma(\mathbf{x}_i) \in \mathbb{R}^{D imes D}$

$$K(\mathbf{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{j}) = |\Sigma_{i}|^{1/4} |\Sigma_{j}|^{1/4} |(\Sigma_{i} + \Sigma_{j})/2|^{-1/2} \exp\left(-(\mathbf{x}_{i} - \mathbf{x}_{j})^{T} ((\Sigma_{i} + \Sigma_{j})/2)^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_{i} - \mathbf{x}_{j})\right)$$
(28)

³Paciorek, Schervish (NIPS 2004): Nonstationary Covariance Functions for Gaussian Process Regression



Function process

$$y(x) = f(x) + \varepsilon(x)$$
(29)

$$f(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, \sigma(x)\sigma(x')K_{\boldsymbol{\ell}(\cdot)}(x, x'))$$
(30)

$$\varepsilon(x) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \omega(x)^2)$$
 (31)

Parameter processes

$$\ell(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu_{\ell}, K_{\ell}(x, x'))$$
 (32)

$$\sigma(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu_{\sigma}, K_{\sigma}(x, x'))$$
(33)

$$\omega(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu_{\omega}, K_{\omega}(x, x')) \tag{34}$$

• Kernel

$$K(x, x') = \sqrt{\frac{2\ell(x)\ell(x')}{\ell(x)^2 + \ell(x')^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x')^2}{\ell(x)^2 + \ell(x')^2}\right)$$
(35)

• Explicit function representation through smoothness, scale and noise functions

⁴Heinonen, Mannerström, Rousu, Kaski, Lähdesmäki (AISTATS 2016): Non-stationary Gaussian process regression with Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

MCMC inference



• Sample exact posterior with HMC⁵

 $p(\mathbf{f},\boldsymbol{\ell},\boldsymbol{\sigma},\boldsymbol{\omega};\mathbf{y})$

⁵Heinonen et al. Non-stationary Gaussian process regression with Hamiltonian Monte Carlo. AISTATS 2016

Generalised Spectral Mixture (GSM) kernel⁶⁷

• Non-stationary spectral kernel:

$$K_{\mathbf{w},\boldsymbol{\mu},\boldsymbol{\sigma}}(x,x') \propto \sum_{i=1}^{Q} w_i(x) w_i(x') \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{(x-x')^2}{\ell_i(x)^2 + \ell_i(x')^2}\right)}_{\text{Exponential kernel}} \underbrace{\cos(2\pi(\mu_i(x)x - \mu_i(x')x'))}_{\text{periodic}}$$

with





⁶Remes, Heinonen, Kaski (NIPS 2017): Non-stationary spectral kernels
⁷Shen, Heinonen, Kaski (AISTATS 2019): Harmonizable mixture kernels with variational Fourier features

Unified theory on spectral kernels

 \bullet A Gaussian process can be represented as a convolution over $\mathbf{x},\mathbf{u}\in\mathcal{X},$

$$f(\mathbf{x}_i) = \int K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u})g(\mathbf{u})d\mathbf{u}$$
(39)

- Feature map K_{xi}
- White noise process $g(\mathbf{u})\sim \mathcal{GP}(0,\delta_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}'})$
- The kernel becomes⁸

$$C(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \int K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) \overline{K}_{\mathbf{x}_j}(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$
(40)



where \overline{K} is complex conjugate

⁸Shen, Heinonen, Kaski (AISTATS 2020): Learning spectrograms with convolutional spectral kernels

Convolutional kernel family⁹

Gaussian kernel

$$K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{\Sigma})$$
 (41)

• A non-stationary Gaussian kernel

$$K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{\Sigma}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$
 (42)

• Spectral mixture kernel

$$K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}_i + i\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$
 (43)

• Non-stationary spectral mixture kernel

$$K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{x}_i + i\boldsymbol{\mu}(\mathbf{x}_i), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{x}_i))$$
(44)

- Input-dependent frequencies μ_i
- ullet Input-dependent Gaussian covariance $oldsymbol{\Sigma}_i$

⁹Shen, Heinonen, Kaski (AISTATS 2020): Learning spectrograms with convolutional spectral kernels

Convolutional spectral kernel

• We parameterise frequencies with smooth GP's and learn point estimates,

 $w^{q}(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(c_{w}, k_{SE}(\cdot, \cdot))$ logit $\mu^{q}(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(c_{\mu}, k_{SE}(\cdot, \cdot))$ $(\mathbf{\Lambda}^{q})^{1/2}(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(c_{\lambda}, k_{SE}(\cdot, \cdot))$



Spatial interpolation with non-stationary spectral kernel



• The non-stationary spectral kernel family is extremely flexible

How to learn an overly flexible kernel?

• Marginal log likelihood matches likelihood $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})$ and prior $p(\mathbf{f}|\theta)$

$$\log p(\mathbf{y}|\theta) = \log \int p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f}) p(\mathbf{f}|\theta) d\mathbf{f}$$

$$= \log \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{f})} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})$$
(45)
(46)

- Risk overfitting if $p(\mathbf{f})\approx p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f})$ is possible
 - · Consider function space that only contains training-data like functions
- Remedies
 - MCMC sampling of $p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$
 - Hyperpriors $p(\theta)$



Summary

- The kernel choice defines how well the GP performs
- Gaussian kernel is a convenient 'default' kernel that can interpolate well
 - Advantage: simple, efficient, easy-to-learn, universal
 - Disadvantage: cannot fit periodic, "long-range" or non-stationary signals
- Spectral kernels can extrapolate repeating patterns
 - Advantage: can learn arbitrary periodic or non-periodic stationary patterns
 - Disadvantage: slow, possibility to overfit
- Non-stationary spectral kernels can learn adaptive interpolations
 - Advantage: can learn evolving frequencies
 - Disadvantage: slow, more possibilities to overfit

Thanks!

Appendix

Convolutional spectral kernel

• Convolutional spectral kernel (CSK) with Gaussian/periodic feature map

$$K_{\mathbf{x}_i}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} w_i^q \exp(-2\pi^2 S_i^q + 2\pi i \theta_i^q) \sim \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \mathcal{N}(i\boldsymbol{\mu}_i, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i)$$
(47)

where $S_i^q = (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{u})^T \mathbf{\Lambda}_i^q (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{u})$ and $\theta_i^q = \langle \boldsymbol{\mu}_i^q, \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{u} \rangle$

ullet The kernel can be solved with $oldsymbol{\Sigma}_i = oldsymbol{\Lambda}_i^{-1}$

$$k(\mathbf{x}_{i}, \mathbf{x}_{j}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{D}} K_{\mathbf{x}_{i}}(\mathbf{u}) K_{\mathbf{x}_{j}}(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$= \sum_{q, p=1}^{Q} \frac{w_{i}^{p} \overline{w}_{j}^{q}}{(2\pi)^{D/2} |\mathbf{\Lambda}_{i}^{p} + \mathbf{\Lambda}_{j}^{q}|^{1/2}} \exp(-\pi^{2} S_{ij}^{pq} + 2\pi i \theta_{ij}^{pq} - R_{ij}^{pq})$$
(48)
(48)

where

$$R_{ij}^{pq} = (\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^p - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^q)^T ((\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_i^p + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_j^q)/2)^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu}_i^p - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^q)$$
(50)

$$S_{ij}^{pq} = (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j)^T ((\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i^p + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_j^q)/2)^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j)$$
(51)

$$\theta_{ij}^{pq} = \langle \mathbf{\Lambda}_i^p (\mathbf{\Lambda}_i^p + \mathbf{\Lambda}_j^q)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_i^p + \mathbf{\Lambda}_j^q (\mathbf{\Lambda}_i^p + \mathbf{\Lambda}_j^q)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu}_j^q, \mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j \rangle$$
(52)