

## General definitions

$$\mathcal{N}(y; \Sigma, \mu) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(y - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(y - \mu)\right)$$

need only  $n^2$  params for joint instead of  $2^n - 1$

entropy  $H(q) = -\int q(\theta) \log q(\theta) d\theta = \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q}[-\log q(\theta)]$

mutual info  $I(X; Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)$  (symmetric)

KL div.  $KL(q||p) = \int q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta)} d\theta = \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q}[\log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta)}]$

non-negative, zero iff q and p agree a.e., not symmetr.

Jensen's inequality:  $g(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$  for g convex, else flipped (e.g.  $\log(\mathbb{E}[X]) \geq \mathbb{E}[\log(X)]$ )

Hoeffding's inequality: for  $f$  bounded in  $[0, C]$

$$P(|\mathbb{E}_p[f(X)] - \frac{1}{N} \sum_i f(x_i)| > \epsilon) \leq 2 \exp(-2N\epsilon^2/C^2)$$

Robins-Monro conditions:  $\sum_t \epsilon_t = \infty, \sum_t \epsilon_t^2 < \infty$

## Bayesian linear regression (BLR)

BLR makes same assumptions as ridge regression: cond. i.i.d Gaussian noise, Gaussian prior

RR = MAP estimation for LR ( $y = w^T x$ ), i.e. returns single model, **no uncertainty qualification** (collapses all uncertainty onto mode of posterior  $p(w|X, y)$ )

BLR reasons about full  $p(w|X, y) \sim \mathcal{N}(y; \mu, \Sigma)$

$$\mu = (X^T X + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} X^T y; \Sigma = (\sigma_n^{-2} X^T X + I)^{-1}$$

prediction:  $p(y^*|X, y, x^*) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu^T x^*, x^{*T} \Sigma x^* + \sigma_n^2)$

$\Rightarrow$  separation of **epistemic uncertainty** (about  $f^*$ /model due to lack of data) and **aleatoric uncertainty** (irreducible noise from  $y^* = f^* + \epsilon$ )

independent noise  $\Rightarrow$  recursive Bayesian updates, i.e. use posterior from last iteration as prior:

$$p(w|y_{1:j+1}) = \frac{1}{2} p(w|y_{1:j}) p(y_{j+1}|w, y_{1:j})$$

$$w^{(j+1)} = f(w^{(j)}, y_{j+1}, x_{j+1})$$

## Kalman/Bayesian filtering

motion model:  $x_{t+1} = Fx_t + \epsilon_t; \epsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_x)$

sensor model:  $y_t = Hx_t + \eta_t; \eta_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma_y)$

$F, H$  known and deterministic, KF resembles HMM

Kalman update:  $\mu_{t+1} = F\mu_t + K_{t+1}(y_{t+1} - HF\mu_t)$

$$\Sigma_{t+1} = (I - K_{t+1})(F\Sigma_t F^T + \Sigma_x)$$

Kalman gain:  $K_{t+1} = (F\Sigma_t F^T + \Sigma_x) H^T (H(F\Sigma_t F^T + \Sigma_x) H^T + \Sigma_y)^{-1}$ , compute  $\Sigma_t, K_t$  offline (indep. of obs.)

BLR = KF with  $w$  as hidden vars.,  $F = I, \sigma_x^2 = 0$

KF special case of GP with cond. indep. structure

## Gaussian processes

instead of random  $w$ , think of random responses

$f = Xw \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_p^2 XX^T)$  s.t.  $XX^T = K, K_{ij} = x_i^T x_j$

Gaussians over functions instead of RVs/points

prior  $p(f)$  encodes smoothness ass. on functions

posterior  $p(f|data)$  encodes agreement with data

**uncertainty, tractable inference for finite marginals**

mean func.  $\mu$ , covariance func.  $k$  (BLR for lin. kernel)

prediction: closed form, posterior cov.  $k'$  indep. of  $y_A$

$$\mu'(x) = \mu(x) + k_{x,A}(K_{AA} + \sigma^2 I)^{-1}(y_A - \mu_A)$$

$$k'(x, x') = k(x, x') - k_{x,A}(K_{AA} + \sigma^2 I)^{-1} k_{x',A}^T$$

sampling from GP:  $f = [f_1, \dots, f_n] \sim \mathcal{N}(0, K_x)$

product rule  $\Rightarrow$  forward sampling (**fully sequential**):

sampling from univariate Gaussians  $f_n \sim p(f_n|f_{1:n-1})$

opt. kernel params: 1) CV on predictive performance

2) Bayesian, i.e. max. marg. likelihood:

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \max_{\theta} \int p(y|f, X) p(f|\theta) df \text{ (general)}$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \log |K_y(\theta)| + \frac{1}{2} y^T K_y(\theta) y \text{ (Gaussians)}$$

solve using GD, i.e.  $\theta^{(t+1)} = \theta^{(t)} - y_t \nabla L(\theta)$

**reduces overfitting**, but depends heavily on prior

comp. cost: LSE in  $|A|$  unknowns  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(|A|^3)$

acceleration methods: 1) parallelization (still  $\mathcal{O}(|A|^3)$ )

2) local GP methods: only consider  $x'$  if  $|k(x, x')| > \tau$

3) kernel approx.: Fourier for stationary kernels

4) inducing point: ignore points (e.g. in clusters)

## Approximate inference

Variational inference:

for BLR and GPR everything closed form, generally not the case  $\Rightarrow$  need approximations

can evaluate joint  $p(y, \theta)$  but not normalizer  $Z$

replace high-dim. integrals by optimization

$$p(\theta|y) = \frac{1}{Z} p(y, \theta) \approx q(\theta|\lambda)$$

$$q^* = \arg \min_q KL(q||p) = \arg \min_{\lambda} KL(q_{\lambda}||p)$$

prefer  $\arg \min_q KL(p||q)$  (p in q), but harder to opt.

$$q^* = \arg \max_q \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q}[\log p(y|\theta)] - KL(q||p(\cdot))$$

regularizer: want  $q$  close to prior  $p(\cdot)$

Jensen's inequality  $\Rightarrow$  ELBO  $L(q) \leq \log p(y)$

to use SGD to max.  $L(\lambda)$ , need reparameterization:

$$q(\theta|\lambda) = \phi(\epsilon)|\nabla_{\epsilon} g(\epsilon; \lambda)|^{-1}; \epsilon \sim \phi, \theta = g(\epsilon, \lambda)$$

$$\nabla_{\lambda} \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q_{\lambda}}[f(\theta)] = \nabla_{\lambda} \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim \phi}[f(g(\epsilon; \lambda))] = \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim \phi}[\nabla_{\lambda} f(g)]$$

Laplace approximation:

2nd-order Taylor expansion around  $\hat{\theta}$  to construct

Gaussian:  $q(\theta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta; \hat{\theta}, \Lambda^{-1})$ ;  $\Lambda = -\nabla \nabla \log p(\hat{\theta}|y)$

$Z$  const. in optimization for  $\hat{\theta}$  and calculation for  $\Lambda$

**overconfident**, does not consider cov. when seeking  $\hat{\theta}$

## Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

vs. VI: **returns accurate result, higher comp. cost**

seek to approx.  $p$  using samples constructed by a markov chain (law of large numbers, need  $\theta^{(i)}$  indep.)

$$p(y^*|X, y, x^*) = \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim p(\cdot|X, y)}[p(y^*|x^*, \theta)] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_i f(\theta^{(i)})$$

need  $N \geq \frac{C^2}{2\epsilon^2} \log \frac{2}{\delta}$  for error  $\leq \epsilon$  with prob.  $\geq 1 - \delta$

create MC with  $\pi = P(x) = \frac{1}{2} P(y) P(x|y) = \frac{1}{2} Q(x)$

guaranteed by detailed balance:

$$\frac{1}{2} Q(x) P(x'|x) = \frac{1}{2} Q(x') P(x|x')$$

Metropolis-Hastings: (**perf. highly dependent on R!**)

1) given  $X_t = x$ , sample proposal  $x' \sim R(X'|X = x)$

2) set  $X_{t+1} = x'$  with prob.  $\alpha$ , else  $X_{t+1} = x$

$$\alpha = \min\left\{1, \frac{Q(x')R(x|x')}{Q(x)R(x'|x)}\right\}$$

Gibbs:

1) init. assignment  $x^{(0)}$  to all variables

2) fix observed vars.  $X_B$  to their observed values  $x_B$

3) either random order (**detailed balance**): pick  $i$  unif.

at random, update  $x_i \sim P(X_i|v_i)$  or practical variant (no det. bal. but has correct  $\pi$ ): set  $x^{(t)} = x^{(t-1)}$ , then update all  $x_i$  except those in  $B$

$Z = \sum_x Q(X_i = x, v_i)$  is easy to calculate  $\Rightarrow$  **sampling from  $X_i$  given assignment to all other vars. is efficient**

$x^{(t)}$  dep. on  $x^{(t-1)} \Rightarrow$  **loln, Hoeffding's no longer hold**

only ergodic MC  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i f(x_i) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \pi}[f(x)]$

MCMC for continuous RVs:

proposal distr. either random (simple, uninformed) or

in gradient direction (MALA):

$$R(x'|x) \sim \mathcal{N}(x'; x - \tau \nabla f(x), 2\tau I)$$

$$\alpha = \min\left\{1, e^{f(x) - f(x')}\right\} \text{ for } p = \frac{1}{2} e^{-f(x)}$$

**converges to  $\pi$  for f convex  $\Leftrightarrow$  p log-concave**

**requires access to full energy func. f**

$\Rightarrow$  SGLD:

replace full gradient by unbiased estimate (mini-batch), always accept but reduce step size  $\eta_t$  over time

$\Rightarrow$  SGD + Gaussian noise, **converges for  $\eta_t \in \mathcal{O}(t^{-1/3})$**

## Bayesian deep learning

heteroscedastic noise: noise depends on input

$\Rightarrow$  model mean and (log) var as outputs of NN

$$p(y|x, \theta) = \mathcal{N}(y; f_1(x, \theta), e^{f_2(x, \theta)})$$

MAP est.:  $\hat{\theta} = \arg \min_{\theta} -\log p(\theta) - \sum_i \log p(y_i|x_i, \theta)$

prediction  $p(y^*|X, y, x^*) = \int p(y^*|x^*, \theta)p(\theta|X, y)d\theta$

integrals intractable  $\Rightarrow$  approximate inference:

Bayes by backprop:

$$\mathbb{I}h \stackrel{\text{VI}}{\approx} \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q(\cdot|\lambda)}[p(y^*|x^*, \theta)] \stackrel{\text{MC}}{\approx} \frac{1}{m} \sum_j p(y^*|x^*, \theta^{(j)})$$

$\Rightarrow$  mixture of Gaussians

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{I}h] \approx \bar{\mu}(x^*) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_j \mu(x^*, \theta^{(j)})$$

$$\text{Var}(\mathbb{I}h) = \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}_y[y^*|x^*, \theta]) + \mathbb{E}_{\theta}[\text{Var}(y^*|x^*, \theta)] \\ \approx \frac{1}{m} \sum_j (\mu(x^*, \theta^{(j)}) - \bar{\mu}(x^*))^2 + \frac{1}{m} \sum_j \sigma(x^*, \theta^{(j)})^2$$

MCMC for BNNs:

apply SGLD, MALA (only need stoch. grads of joint)

$\Rightarrow$  produce sequence  $\theta^{(1)}, \dots, \theta^{(T)}$ , impossible to store all samples/models, hard to determine burn-in

1) subsampling: keep only a subset of  $m < T$  models

2) Gaussian approx.: running averages for  $\mu_i, \sigma_i^2$

specialised inference techniques for BNNs:

dropout regularization: randomly ignore hidden units during each SGD iteration (forward and backprop.)

view as VI:  $q(\theta|\lambda) = \prod_j p\delta_0(\theta_j) + (1-p)\delta_{\lambda_j}(\theta_j)$

probabilistic ensembles of NNs: variation of  $\theta^{(j)}$  shows uncertainty  $\Rightarrow$  bootstrap, get MAP on  $D_j$  to get  $\theta^{(j)}$

## Active learning

use **epistemic** and **aleatoric** uncertainty to decide which data to collect (e.g. where to place sensors)

want points  $S$  which max. info gain (**NP-hard**)

greedy algo./uncertainty sampling: choose  $x_{t+1} =$

$\arg \max_x \sigma_t^2(x)$  (**only considers epistemic uncertainty**)

for **heteroscedastic case**, need  $x_{t+1} = \arg \max_x \frac{\sigma_f^2(x)}{\sigma_n^2(x)}$

as **aleatoric uncertainty** no longer const. in  $x$

## Bayesian optimization

 (exploration-exploitation)

use that similar alternatives have similar performance

**multi-armed bandits**: pick  $x_t$ , observe  $y_t = f(x_t) + \epsilon_t$

cum. regr.  $R_T = \sum_t \max_x f(x) - f(x_t)$ ; want  $\frac{R_T}{T} \rightarrow 0$

acquisition functions:

GP-UCB: focus exploration on regions where upper conf. bound  $\geq$  best lower conf. bound

$x_t = \arg \max_x \mu_{t-1}(x) + \beta_t \sigma_{t-1}(x)$  (**gen. non-convex**)

**how to choose  $\beta_t$ ?**, naturally trades off e-e

Thompson:  $x_t = \arg \max_x \tilde{f}(x)$ ;  $\tilde{f} \sim p(f|x_{1:t}, y_{1:t})$

**randomness in  $\tilde{f}$  enough to trade off e-e**

## Markov decision processes (MDPs)

states, actions, transition probas. and reward function

$$V^{\pi}(x) = r(x, \pi(x)) + \gamma \sum_{x'} P(x'|x, \pi(x)) V^{\pi}(x')$$

can compute  $V^{\pi} = r^{\pi} + \gamma T^{\pi} V^{\pi}$  exactly by solving LSE

approx. by fixed point iteration:  $V_t^{\pi} = r^{\pi} + \gamma T^{\pi} V_{t-1}^{\pi}$

**converges exponentially**

every  $V$  induces a (greedy)  $\pi$  and vice versa:

$$V \rightsquigarrow \pi_g(x) = \arg \max_a r(x, a) + \gamma \sum_{x'} P(x'|x, a) V(x')$$

**Bellman thm**:  $\pi$  optimal  $\Leftrightarrow$  greedy w.r.t. induced  $V$

**policy iteration**: init  $\pi$ , until convergence:

1) comp.  $V^{\pi}(x)$  2) comp.  $\pi_g$  w.r.t.  $V^{\pi}$  3)  $\pi = \pi_g$

**$V^{\pi}$  monotonically increases, converges to optimal  $\pi$**

complexity: need to solve LSE for  $V$

**value iteration**: Bellman+FPI  $V_0(x) = \max_a r(x, a)$

$$Q_t(x, a) = \max_a r(x, a) + \gamma \sum_{x'} P(x'|x, a) V_t(x')$$

$$V_t(x) = \max_a Q_t(x, a), \text{ break if } \|V_t - V_{t-1}\|_{\infty} \leq \epsilon$$

$\rightsquigarrow \pi_g$ , **converges to  $\epsilon$ -optimal  $\pi$  in  $\mathcal{O}(\ln 1/\epsilon)$  iterations**

**POMDP**: (control. HMM);  $P(X_{t+1}|X_t, A_t)$ ,  $P(Y_t|X_t)$

**very powerful but generally extremely intractable**

$\Rightarrow$  belief-state MDPs (use Bayesian filtering):

beliefs  $P(X_t|y_{1:t})$  given noisy observations  $y$

$$b_{t+1}(x) = P(X_{t+1} = x|y_{1:t+1}) = \frac{1}{Z} P(y_{t+1}|x) P(X_{t+1} = x|y_{1:t})$$

$$; r(b_t, a_t) = \sum_x b_t(x) r(x, a_t)$$

most belief states never reached

dyn. progr., point based methods, policy grads

## Reinforcement learning

**credit assignment problem**: which  $a_i$  got me to this  $r$ ?

data not iid, depends on our actions  $\Rightarrow$  e-e dilemma

**model-based RL**: learn MDP from data

estimate  $P(x'|x, a), r(x, a)$  e.g. by MLE (counts)

**store r,P; solve est. MDP up to  $|X| \cdot |A|$  times**

$\epsilon$ -greedy: random  $a_t$  with prob.  $\epsilon_t$ , else best  $a_t$

**conv. to optimal  $\pi$ , considers suboptimal actions**

**$R_{max}$** : "optimism in the face of uncertainty"

init  $r(x, a) = R_{max}, P(x^*|x, a) = 1, \pi$  opt. w.r.t.  $r, P$

repeat: exec.  $\pi$ , obs.  $(x, a)$ , update  $r$ , est.  $P(x'|x, a)$ ,

recompute  $\pi$  w.r.t.  $r, P$  after  $n \in \mathcal{O}(\frac{R_{max}^2}{\epsilon^2} \log \frac{1}{\delta})$  obs.

**model-free RL**: est.  $V^{\pi}$  directly given  $\pi$

**TD-learning**: (on-policy), init  $V_0^{\pi}, \pi \rightsquigarrow (x, a, r, x')$

$$V_{t+1}^{\pi}(x) = (1 - \alpha_t) V_t^{\pi}(x) + \alpha_t (r + \gamma V_t^{\pi}(x'))$$

i.e. use bootstrapping, one-sample est. of long-term  $r$

**Q-learning**: (off-policy)  $a \rightsquigarrow (x, a, r, x')$

$$Q_{t+1}(x, a) = (1 - \alpha_t) Q_t(x, a) + \alpha_t (r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q_t(x', a'))$$

choose  $Q_0(x, a) = \frac{R_{max}}{1 - \gamma} \prod_t (1 - \alpha_t)^{-1}$  for e-e tradeoff

**large state spaces**: learn approx.  $V(x; \theta), Q(x, a; \theta)$

**neural-fitted Q-iteration (DQN)**: collect dataset  $D$

$$L(\theta) = \sum_{(x, a) \in D} (r + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(x', a'; \theta^{old}) - Q(x, a; \theta))^2$$

**max. bias, too optimistic about noisy est. of Q**

**DDQN**: decouple max.:  $a^*(\theta) = \arg \max_{a'} Q(x', a'; \theta)$

$$L(\theta) = \sum_{(x, a) \in D} (r + \gamma Q(x', a^*(\theta); \theta^{old}) - Q(x, a; \theta))^2$$

**large action spaces**: policy search, learn  $\pi(x; \theta)$

1) policy gradients:  $J(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_j r(\tau^{(j)})$  (on-policy)

$$\nabla J(\theta) = \nabla \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\theta}} [r(\tau)] = \nabla \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\theta}} [r(\tau) \nabla \log \pi_{\theta}(\tau)]$$

MDP structure  $\Rightarrow \nabla \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\theta}} [r(\tau) \sum_t \nabla \log \pi(a_t|x_t; \theta)]$

**unbiased but very large variance**  $\Rightarrow$  baselines:

$$\nabla J(\theta) = \nabla \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim \pi_{\theta}} [\sum_i \gamma^i (G_t - b_t) \nabla \log \pi(a_t|x_t; \theta)]$$

e.g.  $G_t = \sum_{t'=t} \gamma^{t'-t} r_{t'}$  rews-to-go,  $b_t = \frac{1}{T} \sum_t G_t$

2) **actor-critic: (non-episodic)**

$$\nabla J(\theta_{\pi}) = \mathbb{E}_{(x, a) \sim \pi_{\theta}} [Q(x, a; \theta_Q) \nabla \log \pi(a|x; \theta_{\pi})]$$

$$\theta_{\pi} \leftarrow \theta_{\pi} + \eta_{\pi} Q(x, a; \theta_Q) \nabla \log \pi(a|x; \theta_{\pi}); \theta_Q \leftarrow \theta_Q -$$

$$\eta_Q (Q(x, a; \theta_Q) - r - \gamma Q(x', \pi(x'; \theta_{\pi}); \theta_Q)) \nabla Q(x, a; \theta_Q)$$

**off-policy AC**: (DDPG, resp. TD3 to avoid max. bias)

$$L(\theta_Q) = \sum_{(x, a) \in D} (r + \gamma Q(x', \pi(x'; \theta_{\pi}); \theta_Q^{old}) - Q(x, a; \theta_Q))^2$$

$$\nabla J(\theta_{\pi}) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} [\nabla Q(x, \pi(x; \theta); \theta_Q)] \text{ (i.e. w.r.t. } \pi_G)$$

**only for determin.  $\pi$ , add action noise for exploration**

random.  $\pi$ : A use reparam. to pull  $\nabla_{\theta_{\pi}}$  into  $\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi(x, \theta_{\pi})}$

soft AC:  $J_{\lambda}(\theta) = J(\theta) + \lambda H(\pi_{\theta})$  (entropy regulariz.)

**model-based deep RL**: **smaller sample complexity**

MPC:  $\max_{a_0: \infty} \sum_t \gamma^t r(x_t, a_t)$  s.t.  $x_{t+1} = f(x_t, a_t)$

finite horizon, unroll:  $\max_{a_{t:t+H-1}} \sum_{\tau} \gamma^{\tau} r(x_{\tau}(a_{t:\tau-1}), a_{\tau})$

**analytic grads local min., exploding/vanishing grads**

use heuristics, e.g. random shooting

sparse r, add (off-policy) V estimate  $+\gamma^H V(x_{t+H})$

unknown (f, r): regression (Bayesian learning, e-e)