# Bridging the gap between data-driven and mechanistic modelling: the latent force model approach

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## Gaussian process

#### Definition.

A Gaussian process (GP) is an stochastic process with the property that any finite number of random variables taken from the process follows a joint Gaussian distribution.

The GP is specified as

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(m(\mathbf{x}), k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')).$$

Common use: prior over functions in Bayesian modelling.

# **Bayesian modelling**



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Gaussian process priors for multiple outputs have been thoroughly studied in the spatial analysis and geostatistics literature



 $\mathcal{D}^1 = \{(\mathbf{x}_i^1, y_i^1) | i = 1, \dots, N_1\}$ 



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	<b>Κ</b> <sup>1</sup>		
<b>&lt;</b> =		<b>K</b> <sup>2</sup>	
			K <sup>3</sup>



Joint covariance

	<b>K</b> <sup>1</sup>	?	?
<b>K</b> =	?	<b>K</b> <sup>2</sup>	?
	?	?	K <sup>3</sup>

K be a valid covariance matrix

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## Building new kernels

 Covariance function: convolution integrals between Green's functions associated with differential operators, and covariance functions associated with latent functions.

 Back in 2009, we named this way of building covariance functions for GPs as latent force models (LFM).

 An LFM is a Gaussian process with a covariance function inspired by a differential operator.

• Consider a set of functions 
$$\{f_d(\mathbf{x})\}_{d=1}^D$$

Each function can be expressed as

$$f_d(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} G_d(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}) u(\mathbf{z}) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{z} = G_d(\mathbf{x}) * u(\mathbf{x}).$$

- If  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is a GP, then  $f_d(\mathbf{x})$  is also a GP.
- We could also include more latent processes  $u_1(\mathbf{x}), u_2(\mathbf{x}), \dots$

$$f_d(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \int_{\mathcal{X}} G_{d,q}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}) u_q(\mathbf{z}) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{z},$$

where  $\operatorname{cov}[u_q(\mathbf{Z}), u_{q'}(\mathbf{Z}')] = k_q(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Z}')\delta_{q,q'}$ .

u(x)

u(x): latent function.



u(x): latent function.

G(x): smoothing kernel.



- u(x): latent function.
- G(x): smoothing kernel.
- f(x): output function.

## **Covariance function**

Assume we have *D* outputs,  $\{f_d(\mathbf{x})\}_{d=1}^D$ . The covariance between  $f_d(\mathbf{x})$  and  $f_{d'}(\mathbf{x}')$  follows

$$k_{f_d,f_{d'}}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{x}') = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \int_{\mathcal{X}} G_{d,q}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{z}) \int_{\mathcal{X}} G_{d',q}(\mathbf{x}'-\mathbf{z}') k_q(\mathbf{z},\mathbf{z}') \mathrm{d}\mathbf{z}' \mathrm{d}\mathbf{z}.$$

## Latent Force Models

- Suppose we want to model the outputs of different dynamical systems driven by a set of latent functions.
- Each output is given by

$$\mathcal{D}_0^M f_d = \sum_{m=0}^M A_{m,d} \frac{\mathrm{d}^m}{\mathrm{d}t^m} [f_d(t)] = \sum_{q=1}^Q S_{d,q} u_q(t),$$

where we have introduced an operator  $\mathcal{D}_0^M$  that is equivalent to applying the weighted sum of operators  $\frac{d^m}{dt^m}$ .

### Green's functions

The operator  $\mathcal{D}_0^M$  is related to a so called *Green's function*  $G_d(t, s)$  by

$$\mathcal{D}_0^M[G_d(t,s)] = \delta(t-s),$$

with s fixed.

• The solution for  $f_d(t)$  can be written in terms of the Green's function like

$$f_d(t) = \sum_{q=1}^Q S_{d,q} f_{d,q}(t, u_q(t)),$$

with

$$f_{d,q}(t,u_q(t)) = \int_{\mathcal{T}} G_d(t,\tau) u_q(\tau) \mathrm{d} au.$$

### Covariance for the outputs

- We assume that the latent functions  $\{u_q(t)\}_{q=1}^Q$  are independent.
- □ We also assume that each  $u_q(t)$  follows a Gaussian process prior, this is,  $u_q(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, k_q(t, t'))$ .
- **The covariance**  $cov[f_d(t), f_{d'}(t')]$  is the given as

$$\sum_{q=1}^{Q} S_{d,q} S_{d',q} \int_{\mathcal{T}} \int_{\mathcal{T}'} G_d(t-\tau) G_{d'}(t'-\tau') k_q(\tau,\tau') \mathrm{d}\tau' \mathrm{d}\tau.$$

• We define  $k_{f_{d'}^q, f_{d'}^q}(t, t') = \operatorname{cov}[f_{d,q}(t, u_q(t)), f_{d',q}(t', u_q(t))],$ 

$$k_{f^q_d,f^q_{d'}}(t,t') = \int_{\mathcal{T}} \int_{\mathcal{T}'} G_d(t-\tau) G_{d'}(t'-\tau') k_q(\tau,\tau') \mathrm{d}\tau' \mathrm{d}\tau.$$

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force(t) ~  $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t'))$ 



force(t) ~  $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t'))$ 



## Switched LFM



force(t,i) ~  $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t',i))$ 



force(t,i) ~  $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t',i))$ 

# Switched LFM



force(t,i) ~  $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t',i))$ 

## Switched LFM force(t,1) force(t,2) force(t,3) damper(i) output(t,1) output(t,2) output(t,3) spring(i) force(t,i) output(t) mass(i) output(t) sensitivity(i) force(t,i) ~ $\mathcal{GP}(0, k(t,t',i))$

## Including initial conditions



where

$$c_{d}(t) = e^{-\alpha_{d}t} \Big[ \cos(\omega_{d}t) + \frac{\alpha_{d}}{\omega_{d}} \sin(\omega_{d}t) \Big], \quad e_{d}(t) = \frac{e^{-\alpha_{d}t}}{\omega_{d}} \sin(\omega_{d}t),$$
$$f_{d}(t, u) = \int_{0}^{t} \frac{1}{M_{d}\omega_{d}} e^{-\alpha_{d}(t-\tau)} \sin[(t-\tau)\omega_{d}]u(\tau) d\tau.$$

## Continuous in the outputs



We need to compute

 $\operatorname{cov}[z_d(t), z_{d'}(t')].$ 

# Covariance and Samples



## **Covariance and Samples**





outputs

# Segmentation of human movement (I)

- The task is to segment discrete movements related to motor primitives.
- Data collection was performed using a Barrett WAM robot as haptic input device, with 7 DOF.



# Segmentation of human movement (II)



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# Covariance for LFMs using RFF (I)

• The covariance function we need to compute in LFMs is

$$\sum_{q=1}^Q \mathcal{S}_{d,q} \mathcal{S}_{d',q} \int_0^t \mathcal{G}_d(t- au) \int_0^{t'} \mathcal{G}_{d'}(t'- au') k_q( au, au') \mathrm{d} au' \mathrm{d} au.$$

- We use Bochner theorem to represent  $k_q(\tau, \tau')$ .
- **The cross-covariance function for the LFM**,  $k_{f_{d}f_{d'}}(t, t')$  is then

$$\sum_{q=1}^{Q} S_{d,q} S_{d',q} \int_{0}^{t} G_{d}(t-\tau) \int_{0}^{t'} G_{d'}(t'-\tau') \int p(\lambda) e^{j(\tau-\tau')\lambda} d\lambda d\tau' d\tau.$$



# Covariance for LFMs using RFF (II)

**The cross-covariance function for the LFM**,  $k_{f_{d}f_{d'}}(t, t')$  is then

$$\sum_{q=1}^{Q} S_{d,q} S_{d',q} \int_{0}^{t} G_{d}(t-\tau) \int_{0}^{t'} G_{d'}(t'-\tau') \int p(\lambda) e^{j(\tau-\tau')\lambda} d\lambda \mathrm{d}\tau' \mathrm{d}\tau.$$

Organizing the above expression we obtain

$$\sum_{q=1}^{Q} S_{d,q} S_{d',q} \int p(\lambda) v_d(t,\theta_d \lambda) v_{d'}^*(t',\theta_{d'},\lambda) d\lambda,$$

with

$$\mathbf{v}_{d}(t, heta_{d},\lambda) = \int_{0}^{t} \mathbf{G}_{d}(t-\tau) \mathbf{e}^{j\lambda\tau} \mathrm{d} au,$$

where  $\theta_d$  makes reference to the parameters of  $G_d(\cdot)$ . We refer to  $v_d(t, \theta_d, \lambda)$  as a *random Fourier response feature*.

# Comparison of kernel matrices

- **Constant** Responses:  $f_1(\cdot)$  is overdamped,  $f_2(\cdot)$  is underdamped.
- Input times comprises 100 values in the range from 0s to 3s for each output.
- □ For S = 100, the Frobenius norm between the covariance matrices is 239.1. For  $S = 10^5$  samples, the Frobenius norm is 5.8.



Guarnizo and Álvarez at UAI (2018).

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# Deep LFMs



(b) Deep latent force model (DLFM)



Thomas M McDonald



McDonald and Álvarez at NeurIPS (2021).



McDonald and Álvarez at NeurIPS (2021).

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## Non-linear process convolutions

 For a given output dimension, d, we approximate the function with a truncated Volterra series as follows

$$f_d^{(C)}(t) = \sum_{c=1}^C \int \cdots \int G_d^{(c)}(t-\tau_1,\ldots,t-\tau_c) \prod_{j=1}^c u(\tau_j) \mathrm{d}\tau_j,$$

where  $G_d^{(c)}$  are  $c^{\text{th}}$  degree Volterra kernels.

- In contrast to the linear case, the output  $f_d^{(C)}$  is no longer a GP.
- We approximate  $f_d^{(C)}$  with a GP  $\tilde{f}_d^{(C)}(t)$  $\tilde{f}_d^{(C)}(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu_d^{(C)}(t), k_{d,d'}^{(C)}(t,t')),$ where  $\mu_d^{(C)}(t) = \mathbb{E}[f_d^{(C)}(t)]$  and  $k_{f_d f_{d'}}^{(C)}(t,t') = \operatorname{cov}[f_d^{(C)}(t), f_{d'}^{(C)}(t')].$



Álvarez et al. at AISTATS (2019).

Wil Ward Cristian Guarnizo

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# Non-parametric Volterra kernels







Magnus Ross

Mike Smith



Ross et al. at NeurIPS (2021).



Ross et al. at NeurIPS (2021).



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LFMs incorporate dynamical systems and PDEs in a kernel function.

Random Fourier features allow for fast computation for LFMs.

LFMs with Volterra Series for non-linear systems.

Let is possible to learn non-parametric versions of these models.

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