

# Bayesian Approaches to Transcription Factor Target Identification

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10th October 2010

# Outline

Motivation

Differential Equations

Fitting Models to Data

Inference in ODEs

Probabilistic Model for  $p(t)$

Cascade Differential Equations

Discussion

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# Can a Biologist Fix a Radio? Lazebnik (2002)

## The Case for Systems Biology

*"It is difficult to find a black cat in a dark room, especially if there is no cat."*

- ▶ Biological systems are immensely complicated.
- ▶ Lazebnik argues the need for models that are quantitative.
  - ▶ Such models should be predictive of biological behaviour.
  - ▶ Such models need to be combined with biological data.
- ▶ Systems biology:
  - ▶ Build mechanistic models (based on biochemical knowledge) of the system.
  - ▶ Identify modules, submodules, and parameterize the models.

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# Coregulation of Gene Expression

## The Case for Computational Biology

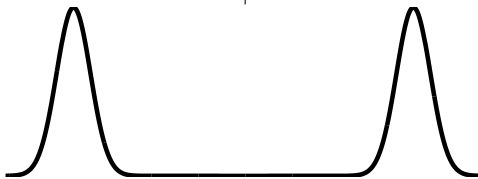
- ▶ Gene Expression to Transcriptional Regulation.
- ▶ A “data exploration” problem (computational biology/bioinformatics):
  - ▶ Use gene expression data to speculate on coregulated genes.
  - ▶ Traditionally use clustering of gene expression profiles.
- ▶ Contrast with (computational) systems biology approach:
  - ▶ Detailed mechanistic model of the system is created.
  - ▶ Fit parameters of the model to data.
  - ▶ Problematic for large data (genome wide).
  - ▶ Need to deal with unobserved biochemical species (TFs).

# General Approach

Broadly Speaking: Two approaches to modeling

*data modeling*

*mechanistic modeling*



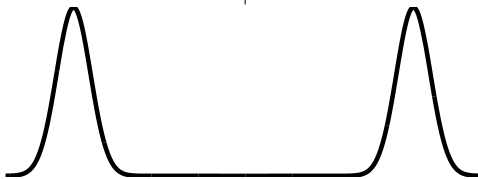
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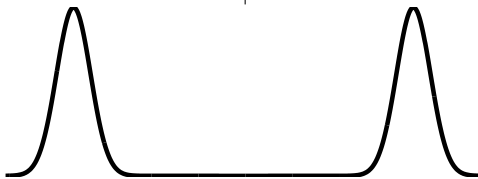
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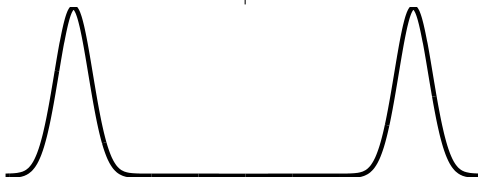
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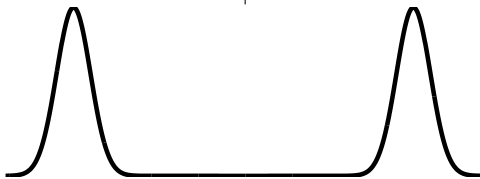
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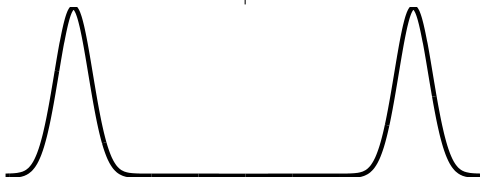
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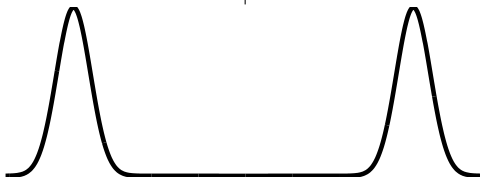
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impose physical laws  
systems models  
differential equations



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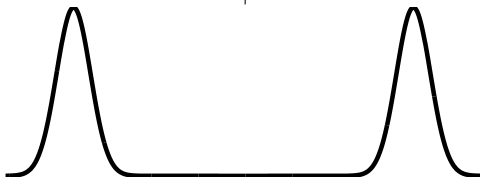
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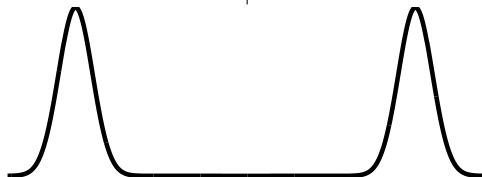
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## *mechanistic modeling*

impose physical laws  
systems models  
differential equations  
SDE, ODE models



# A Hybrid Approach

Introduce aspects of systems biology to computational models

- ▶ We advocate an approach *between* systems and computational biology.
- ▶ Introduce aspects of systems biology to the computational approach.
  - ▶ There is a computational penalty, but it may be worth paying.
  - ▶ Ideally there should be a smooth transition from pure computational (PCA, clustering, SVM classification) to systems (non-linear (stochastic) differential equations).
  - ▶ This work is one part of that transition.

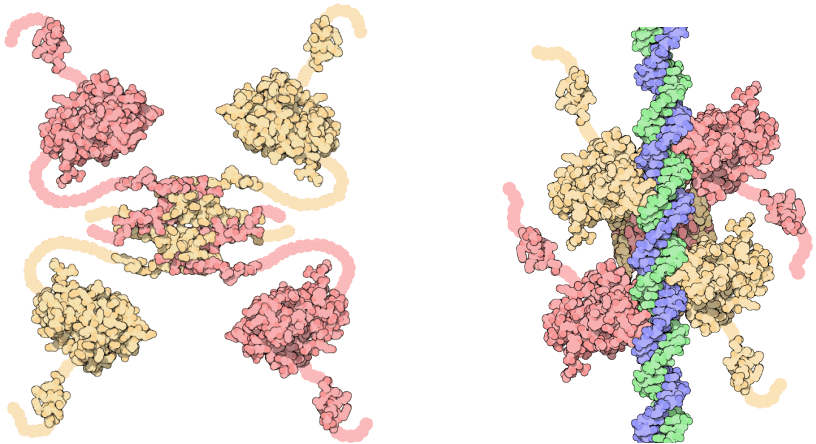
# Radiation Damage in the Cell

- ▶ Radiation can damage molecules including DNA.
- ▶ Most DNA damage is quickly repaired—single strand breaks, backbone break.
- ▶ Double strand breaks are more serious—a complete disconnect along the chromosome.
- ▶ Cell cycle stages:
  - ▶  $G_1$ : Cell is not dividing.
  - ▶  $G_2$ : Cell is preparing for meiosis, chromosomes have divided.
  - ▶ S: Cell is undergoing meiosis (DNA synthesis).
- ▶ Main problem is in  $G_1$ . In  $G_2$  there are two copies of the chromosome. In  $G_1$  only one copy.

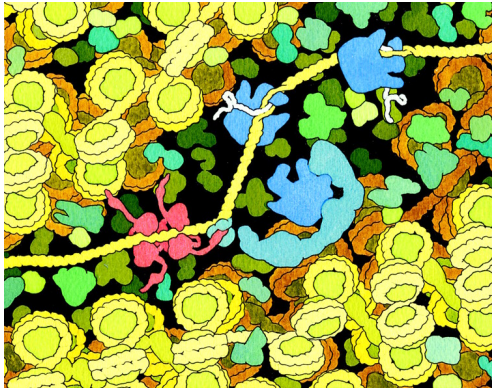
## p53 “Guardian of the Cell”

- ▶ Responsible for Repairing DNA damage
- ▶ Activates DNA Repair proteins
- ▶ Pauses the Cell Cycle (prevents replication of damage DNA)
- ▶ Initiates *apoptosis* (cell death) in the case where damage can't be repaired.
- ▶ Large scale feedback loop with NF- $\kappa$ B.

# p53 DNA Damage Repair



**Figure:** p53. *Left* unbound, *Right* bound to DNA. Images by David S. Goodsell from <http://www.rcsb.org/> (see the "Molecule of the Month" feature).



**Figure:** Repair of DNA damage by p53. Image from Goodsell (1999).

## Some p53 Targets

*DDB2* DNA Damage Specific DNA Binding Protein 2. (also governed by C/ EBP-beta, E2F1, E2F3,...).

*p21* Cycline-dependent kinase inhibitor 1A (CDKN1A). A regulator of cell cycle progression. (also governed by SREBP-1a, Sp1, Sp3,... ).

*hPA26/SESN1* sestrin 1 Cell Cycle arrest.

*BIK* BCL2-interacting killer. Induces cell death (apoptosis)

*TNFRSF10b* tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 10b. A transducer of apoptosis signals.

# Modelling Assumption

- ▶ Assume p53 affects targets as a single input module network motif (SIM).

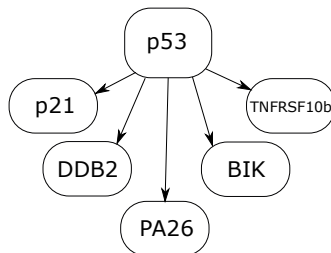


Figure: p53 SIM network motif as modelled by Barenco et al. 2006.

# Standard Approach

## Clustering of Gene Expression Profiles

- ▶ Assume that coregulated genes will cluster in the same groups.
- ▶ Perform clustering, and look for clusters containing target genes.
- ▶ These are candidates, look for confirmation in the literature etc.

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# Differential Equation Overview

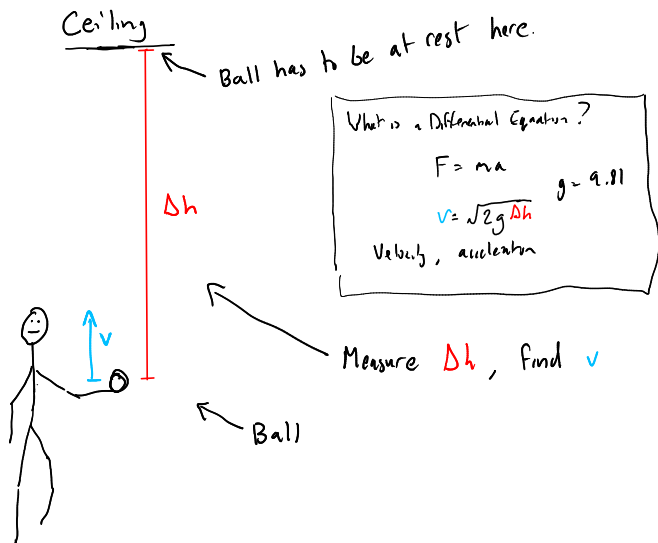
- ▶ What is a differential equation?
  - ▶ A way of relating quantities that are rates of each other:
    - ▶  $x$ , is position.
    - ▶  $v$ , velocity is rate of change of position.
    - ▶  $a$ , acceleration is rate of change of velocity.
  - ▶ Given Newton's laws (a mechanistic model) we can use differential equations to compute, for example that:

$$v(0) = \sqrt{2g\Delta x}$$

where we neglect air resistance.

- ▶ Where  $\Delta x$  is the height I throw a ball.  $g = 9.81$  is the acceleration of the earth due to gravity.  $v(0)$  is it's *initial velocity*.

# Experiment



# Differential Equations

- ▶ Velocity, Acceleration and Position

$$v = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

- ▶ All of these are functions of time. Our previous experiment found the initial condition,  $v(0)$ .
- ▶ The differential equation gives us the entire trajectory.

# Entire Trajectory

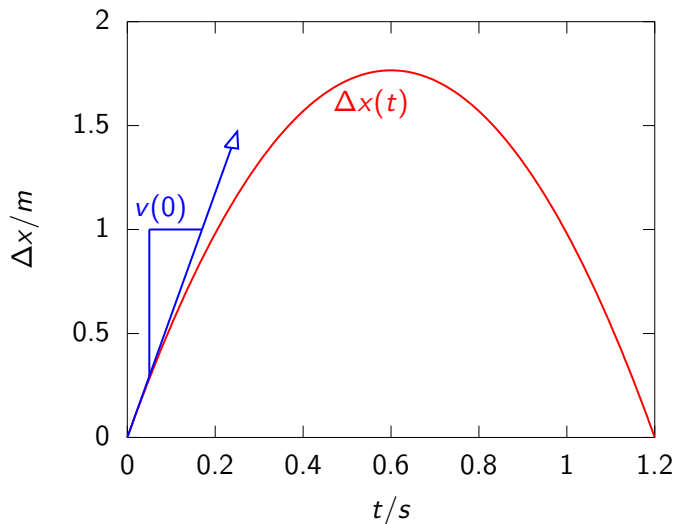


Figure: Theoretical trajectory for the ball given an initial speed of  $v(0)$ .

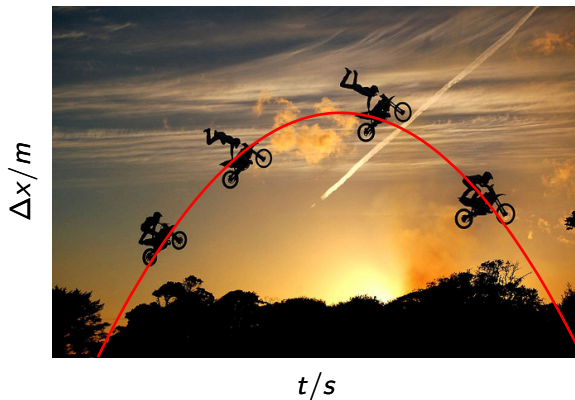
# Entire Trajectory



**Figure:** Actual trajectory for a motorcyclist with constant forward motion. Photo by Geraint Warlow. Available under Creative Commons,

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- ▶ Empirically showed objects fell in a parabola.
- ▶ Overthrew Aristotelean view of motion.

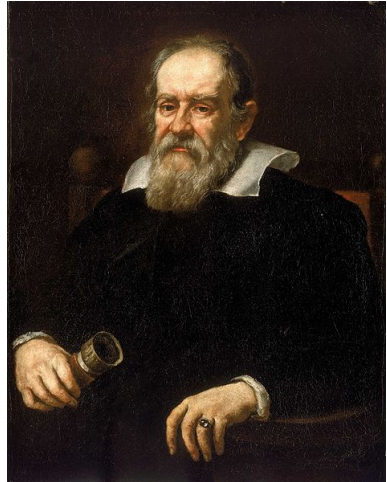


Figure: Galileo Galilei in 1636

- ▶ Developed calculus (alongside Leibniz).
- ▶ Laid the foundations of mechanistic modelling with description of gravity.

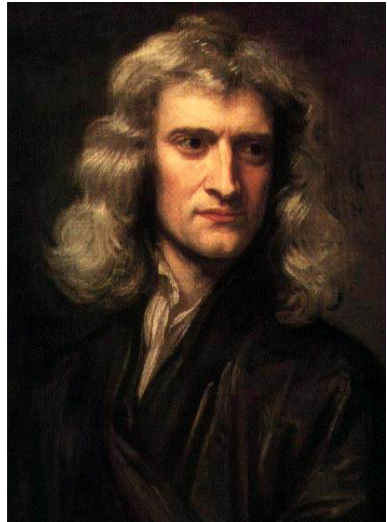


Figure: Isaac Newton in 1689

► In biological systems:

1.  $x(t)$  is now concentration of gene  $j$ ,  $m_j(t)$ .
2.  $v(t)$  is now rate of production of gene  $j$ ,  $\frac{dm_j(t)}{dt}$ .

- ▶ Instead of masses of planets and force of gravity, we now have:
  1. concentration of governing TF,  $p(t)$ ,
  2. decay rate of an mRNA,  $d_j$ ,
  3. sensitivity to governing TF,  $s_j$ ,
  4. base rate of transcription,  $b_j$ .

# Mathematical Model

- Differential equation model of system.

$$\frac{dm_j(t)}{dt} = b_j + s_j p(t) - d_j m_j(t)$$

rate of mRNA transcription, baseline transcription rate,  
transcription factor activity, mRNA decay

- We have observations of  $m_j(t)$  from gene expression.

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# Fitting Observations to Data

- ▶ Back to example:

$$v(0) = \sqrt{2g\delta x}$$

- ▶ Make observation of  $\delta x$ .
- ▶ Compute  $v(0)$ .
- ▶ But what if I give you two observations of  $\delta x$ ?
- ▶ Were there two different values  $v(0)$ ?

# Theory of Error

- ▶ This was a problem also for celestial mechanics.
- ▶ If you have more observations than unknowns, which are the right observations?
- ▶ Both Laplace and Gauss worked on this.



Figure: Pierre Simon Laplace  
1749–1827

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Figure: Carl Friedrich Gauss  
1777–1855

# Theory of Error: Generative Model of System

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$$\Delta x = \frac{v(0)^2}{2g}$$

- ▶ This rearrangement reflects the fact that height is a result of velocity not the other way around.
- ▶ Now add errors ...

$$\Delta x_i = \frac{v(0)^2}{2g} + \epsilon_i$$

where  $\epsilon_i$  represents the error in the  $i$ th measurement of height.

- ▶ Now we have a single velocity, but need to deal with all these errors.

$$\Delta x_i = \frac{v(0)^2}{2g} + \epsilon_i$$

- ▶ Need to introduce a probability distribution for errors.

$$p(x_i|v(0))$$

# Noise Model

- ▶ Relates observation to actual value.
- ▶ Idea: we observe a corrupted version of the truth.
- ▶ For Laplace and Gauss a corrupted version of a planets actual position.
- ▶ For us a corrupted version of the balls maximum height.
- ▶ The object that defines this relationship is a *noise model*.

# Gaussian Density

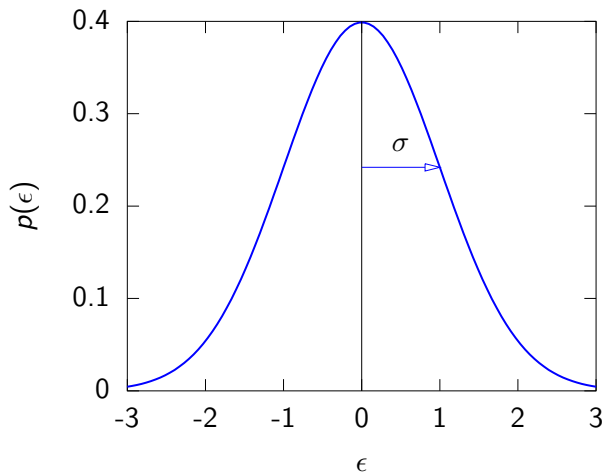
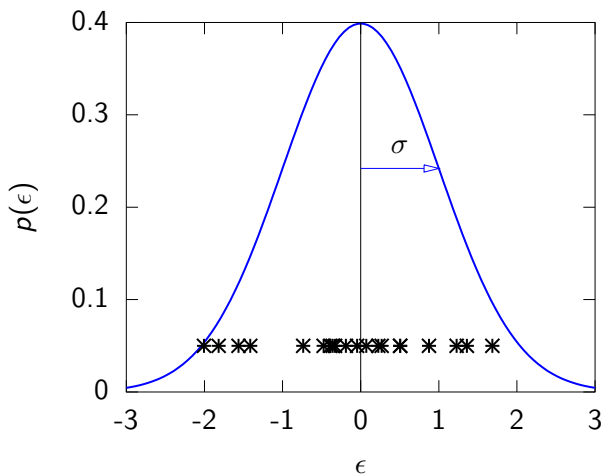


Figure: Gaussian density.  $p(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ .

# Gaussian Density



**Figure:** Gaussian density.  $p(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ . 20 Samples from the Density.

# The Likelihood

- ▶ This model of the error gives us a probabilistic relationship between the velocity and the position.
- ▶ Because the position is

$$x_i = \frac{v(0)^2}{2g} + \epsilon_i.$$

- ▶ We know that

$$\epsilon_i = x_i - \frac{v(0)^2}{2g}.$$

# The Likelihood II

- ▶ This allows us to go from

$$p(\epsilon_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\epsilon_i)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

- ▶ To the *likelihood*:

$$p(x_i|v(0)^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\left(x_i - \frac{v(0)^2}{2g}\right)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

- ▶ Which can also be written

$$p(x_i|v(0)^2) = \mathcal{N}\left(x_i \middle| \frac{v(0)^2}{2g}, \sigma^2\right)$$

or

$$x_i|v(0)^2 \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{v(0)^2}{2g}, \sigma^2\right)$$

# Maximum Likelihood

- Maximize the probability of the observations:

$$L(v(0)) = \log \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | v(0)^2)$$

gives

$$2gv(0)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$
$$v(0) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2gn} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}$$

# Bayesian Updates

- ▶ Bayesian approach is slightly different.
- ▶ Consider product rule of probability:

$$p(x, v(0)^2) = p(x|v(0)^2)p(v(0)^2)$$

$$p(v(0)^2, x) = p(v(0)^2|x)p(x) = p(x, v(0)^2)$$

- ▶ Reorganize to obtain Bayes' rule:

$$p(v(0)^2|x) = \frac{p(x|v(0)^2)p(v(0)^2)}{p(x)}$$

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$$\underbrace{p(v(0)^2|x)}_{\text{posterior}} = \frac{\overbrace{p(x|v(0)^2)}^{\text{likelihood}} \underbrace{p(v(0)^2)}_{\text{prior}}}{\underbrace{p(x)}_{\text{marginal likelihood}}}$$

# Simple Bayesian Inference

$$\text{posterior} = \frac{\text{likelihood} \times \text{prior}}{\text{marginal likelihood}}$$

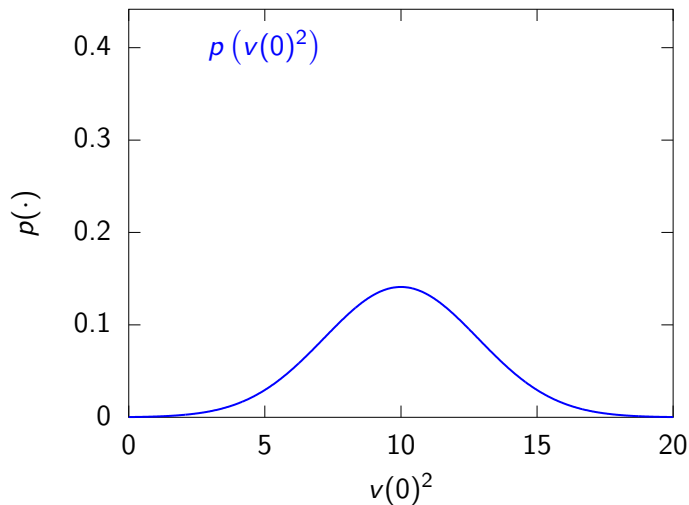
► Four components:

1. **Prior** distribution: represents “belief” about parameter (velocity squared) before seeing data heights.
2. **Likelihood**: gives relation between parameter (velocity squared) and data (heights).
3. **Posterior** distribution: represents updated belief about parameters after data is observed.
4. Marginal likelihood: represents assessment of the quality of the model. Ratios of marginal likelihoods are known as Bayes factors.

## Example System: Update our Velocity Belief

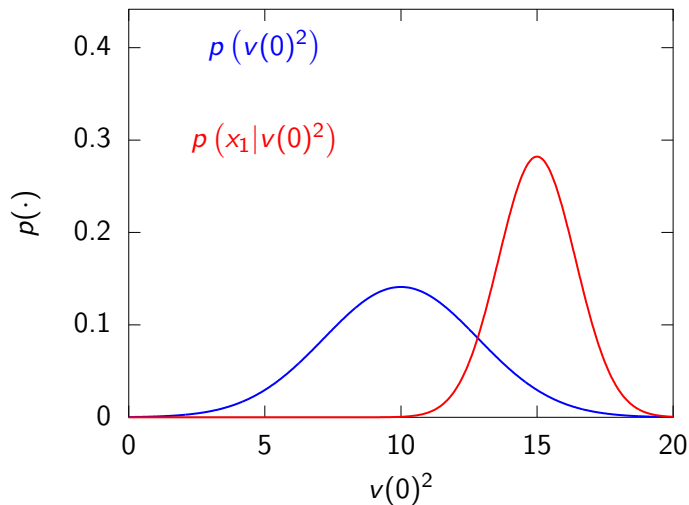
- ▶ Our initial belief about robot position is given by  $p(v(0)^2)$  this is the prior.
- ▶ Our belief about height readings given the squared velocity is  $p(x_i|v(0)^2)$ .
- ▶ We combine this likelihood with our prior belief to get the posterior:  $p(v(0)^2|x_i)$ .
- ▶ For several position observations  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$  we can apply the formula iteratively.

# Gaussian Noise



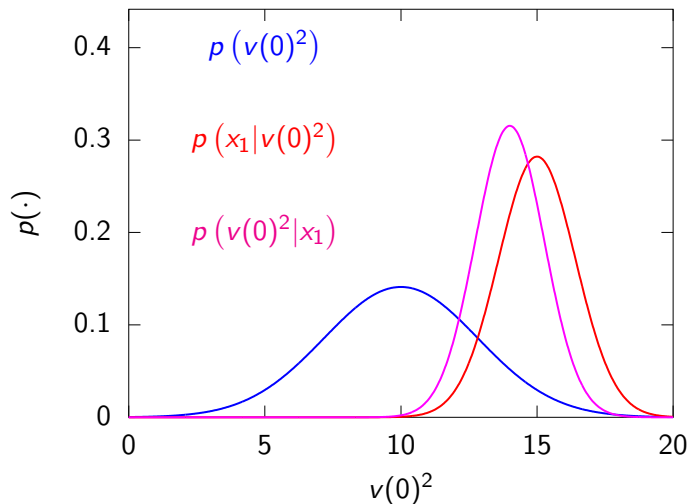
**Figure:** A Gaussian prior combines with a Gaussian likelihood for a Gaussian posterior.

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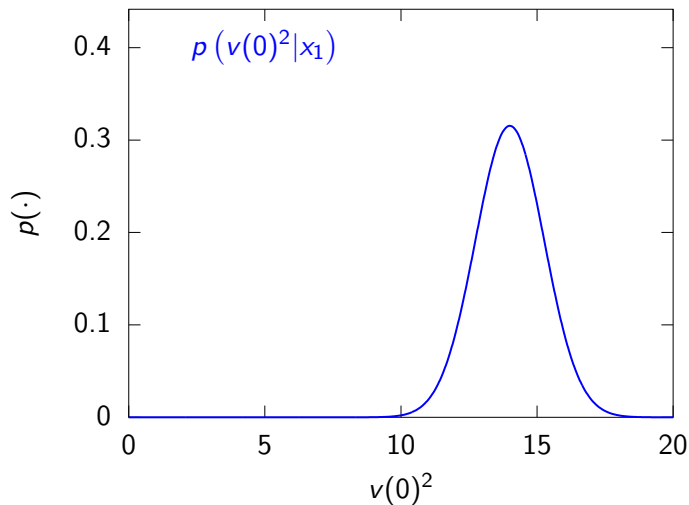
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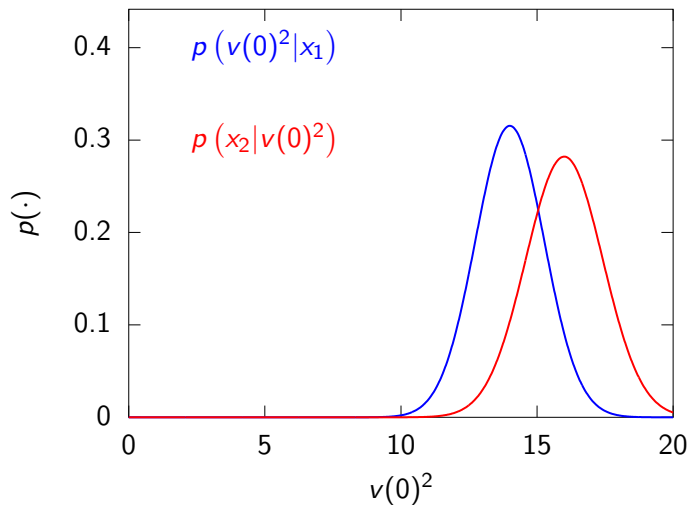
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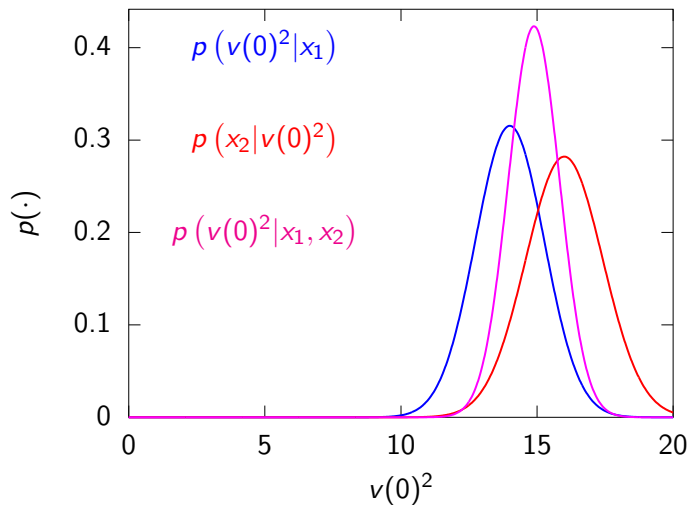
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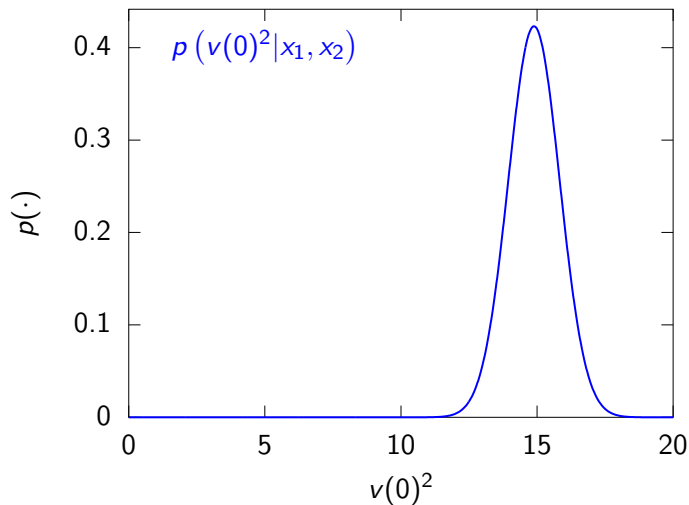
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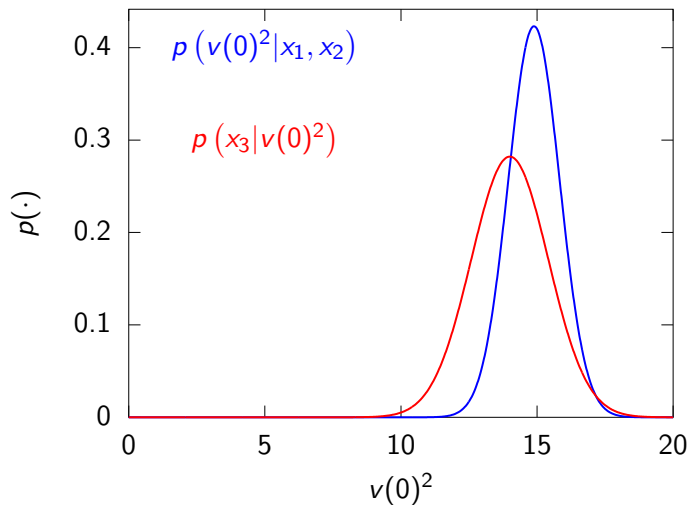
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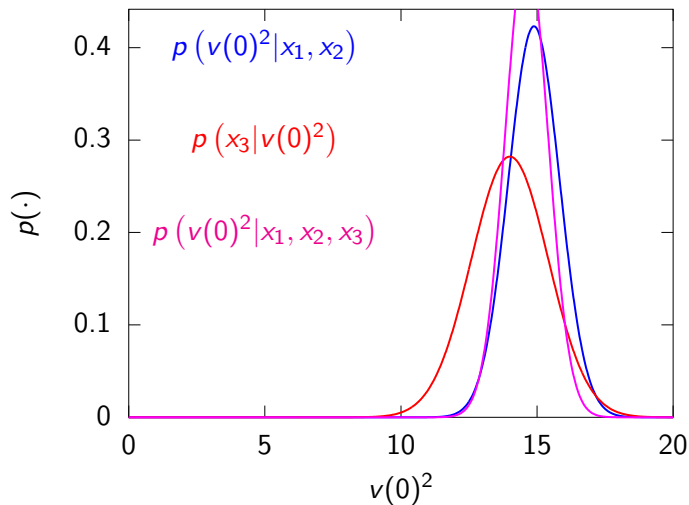
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**Figure:** A Gaussian prior combines with a Gaussian likelihood for a Gaussian posterior.

# Posterior Distribution Progression

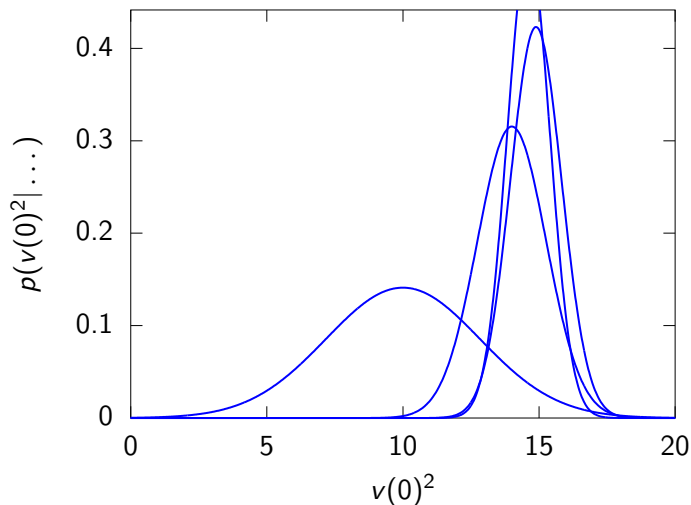


Figure: Progression of our belief about the squared velocity.

# Outline

Motivation

Differential Equations

Fitting Models to Data

Inference in ODEs

Probabilistic Model for  $p(t)$

Cascade Differential Equations

Discussion

# Mathematical Model

- Differential equation model of system.

$$\frac{dm_j(t)}{dt} = b_j + s_j p(t) - d_j m_j(t)$$

rate of mRNA transcription, baseline transcription rate,  
transcription factor activity, mRNA decay

- We have observations of  $m_j(t)$  from gene expression.

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- ▶ Jointly estimate  $p(t)$  at observations of time points along with  $\{b_j, d_j, s_j\}_{j=1}^g$ .
- ▶ Fit parameters by maximum likelihood or MCMC sampling.

# Mathematical Model

- ▶ Clustering model is equivalent to assuming  $d_j$ ,  $b_j$ , and  $s_j$  are v. large.

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- ▶ We have observations of  $m_j(t)$  from gene expression.
- ▶ Reorder differential equation and ignore gradient term.
- ▶ This suggests genes are scaled and offset versions of the TF.
- ▶ By normalizing data and clustering we hope to find those TFs.

Method

**Open Access**

## **Ranked prediction of p53 targets using hidden variable dynamic modeling**

Martino Barenco<sup>\*†</sup>, Daniela Tomescu<sup>\*</sup>, Daniel Brewer<sup>\*†</sup>, Robin Callard<sup>\*†</sup>, Jaroslav Stark<sup>†‡</sup> and Michael Hubank<sup>\*†</sup>

Addresses: <sup>\*</sup>Institute of Child Health, University College London, Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH, UK. <sup>†</sup>CoMPLEX (Centre for Mathematics and Physics in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology), University College London, Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HE, UK. <sup>‡</sup>Department of Mathematics, Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, UK.

Correspondence: Michael Hubank. Email: [m.hubank@ich.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.hubank@ich.ucl.ac.uk)

Published: 31 March 2006

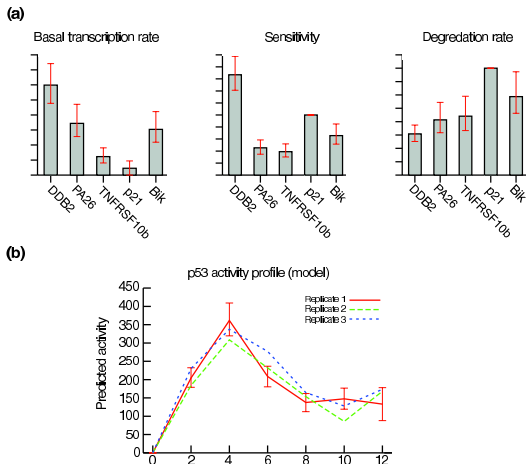
*Genome Biology* 2006, **7**:R25 (doi:10.1186/gb-2006-7-3-r25)

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Revised: 30 January 2006

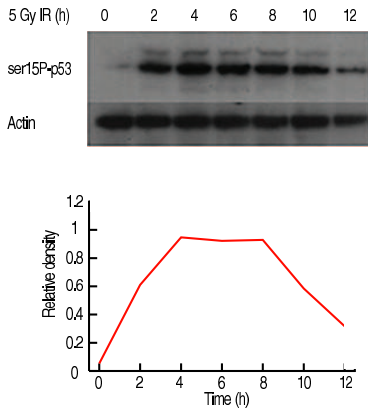
Accepted: 21 February 2006

# Response of p53



**Figure:** Results from Barenco et al. (2006). Top is parameter estimates. Bottom is inferred profile.

# Response to p53 ...



**Figure:** Results from Barenco et al. (2006). Activity profile of p53 was measured by Western blot to determine the levels of ser-15 phosphorylated p53 (ser15P-p53).

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# Two Dimensional Gaussian

- ▶ Probability distributions can be higher dimensional.
- ▶ Consider height,  $h/m$  and weight,  $w/kg$ .
- ▶ Could sample height from a distribution:

$$p(h) \sim \mathcal{N}(1.7, 0.0225)$$

- ▶ And similarly weight:

$$p(w) \sim \mathcal{N}(75, 36)$$

# Height and Weight Models

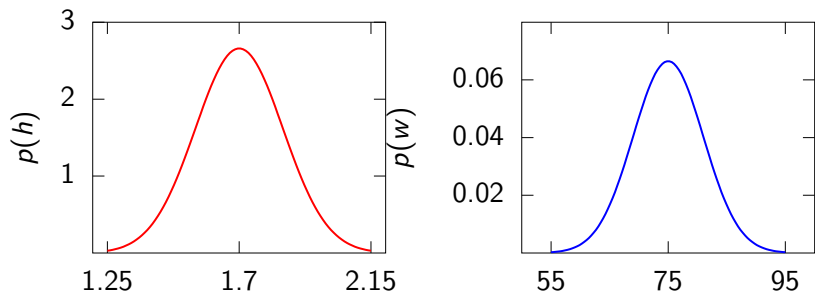
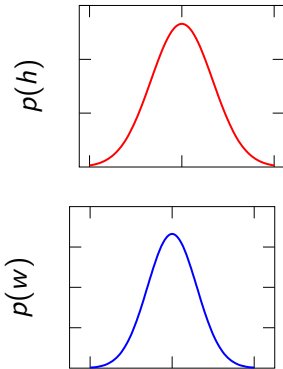
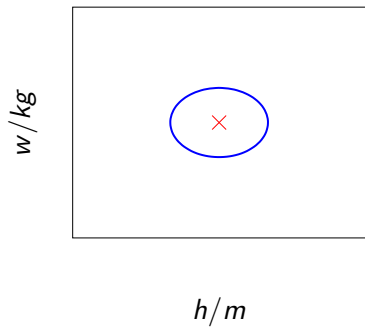
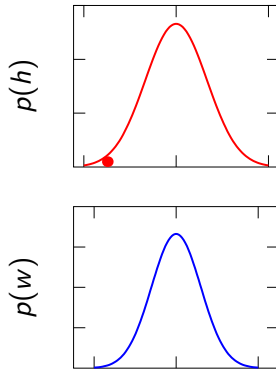
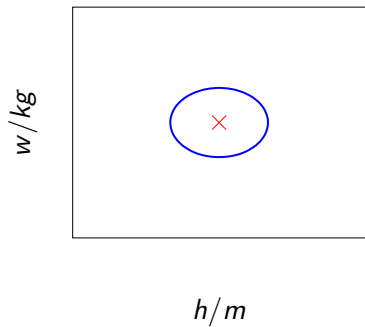


Figure 1: Gaussian distributions for height and weight.

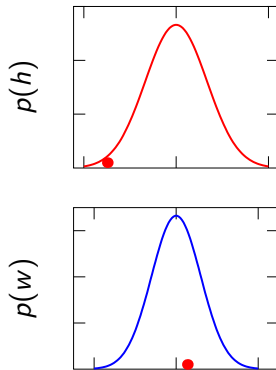
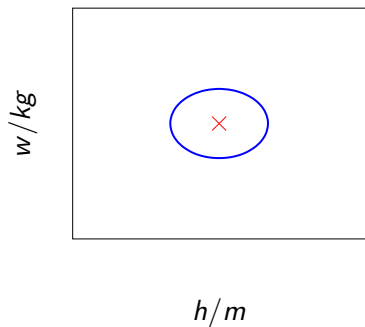
# Sampling Two Dimensional Variables



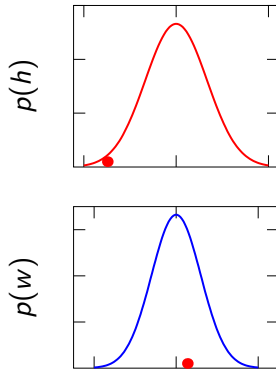
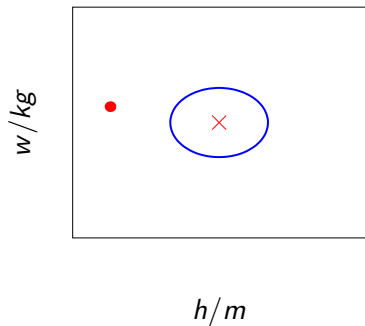
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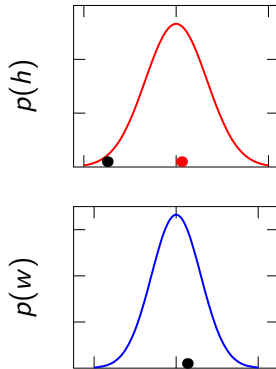
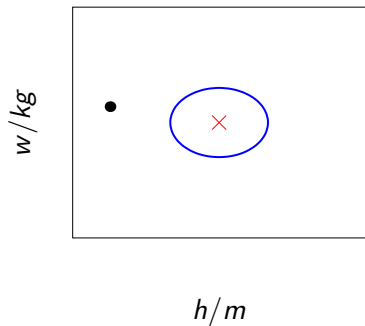
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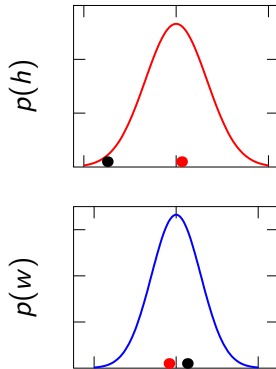
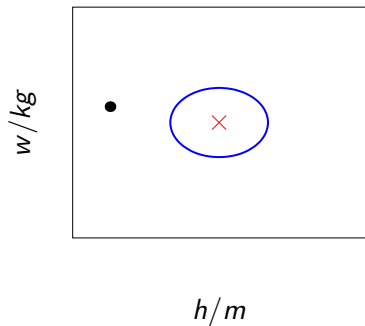
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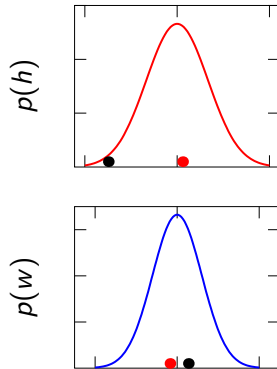
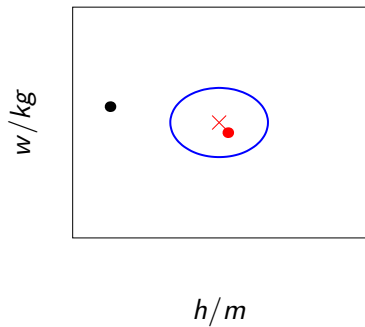
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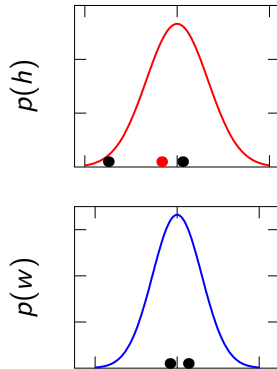
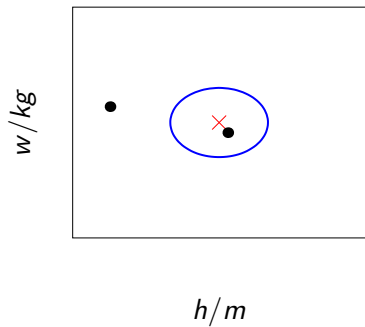
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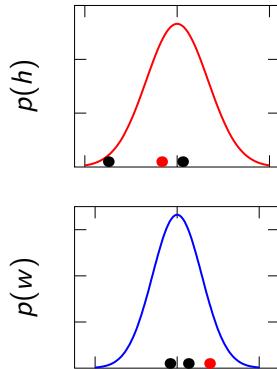
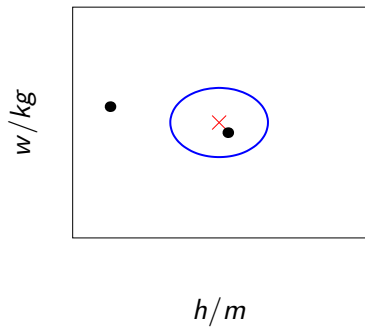
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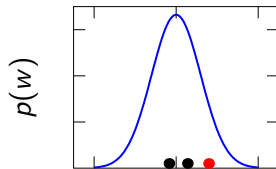
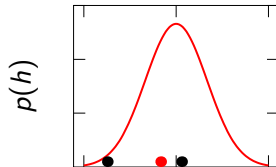
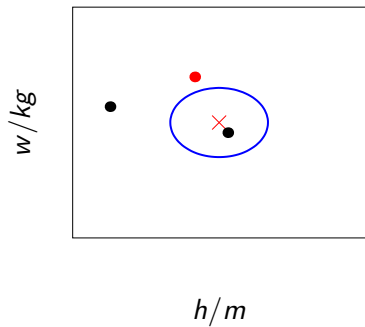
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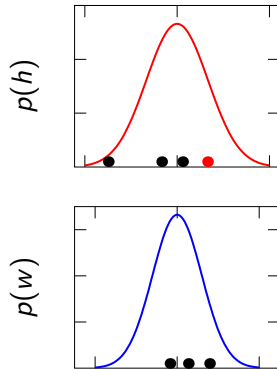
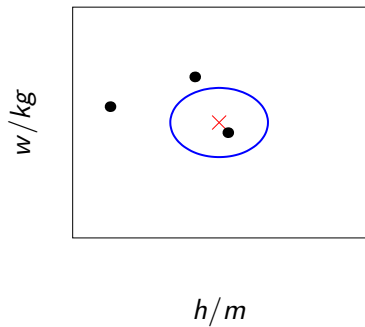
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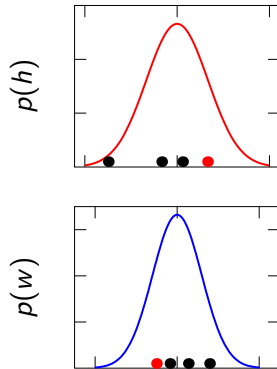
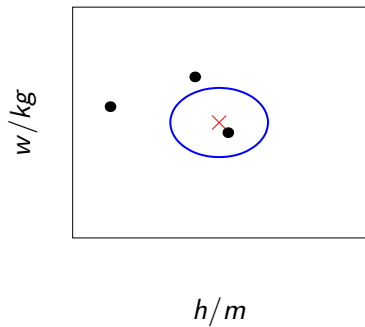
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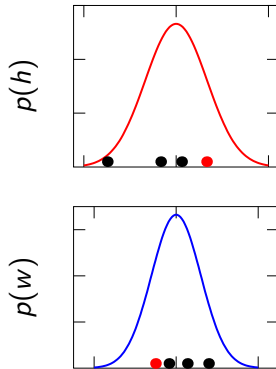
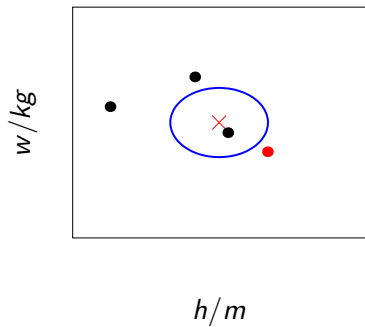
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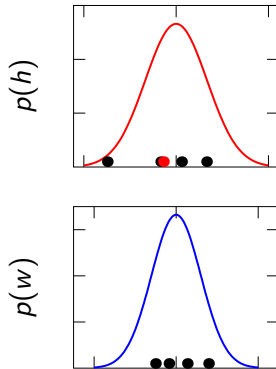
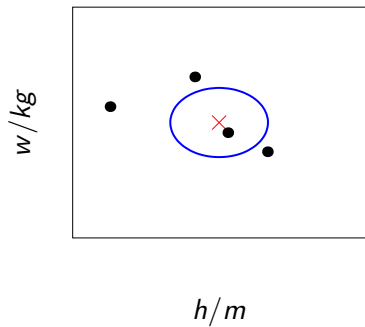
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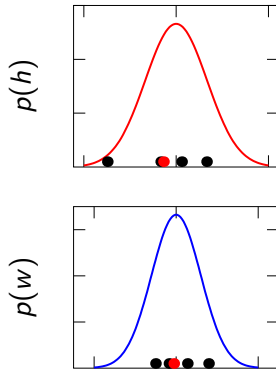
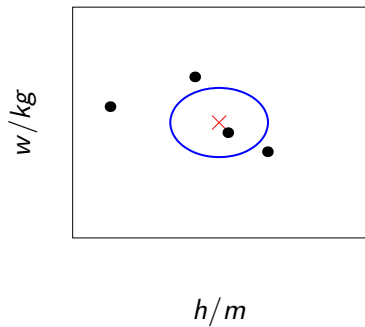
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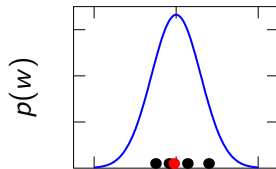
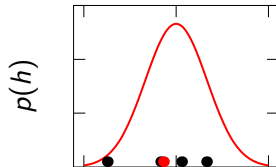
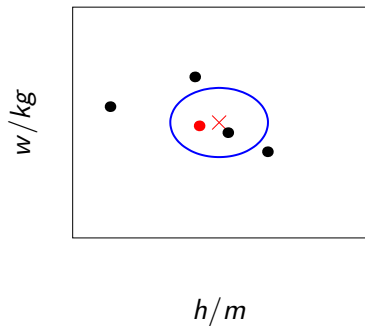
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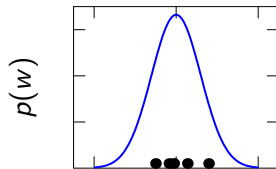
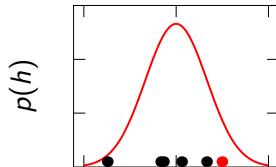
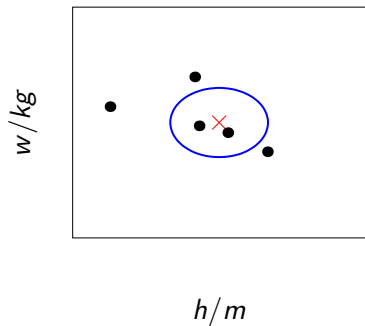
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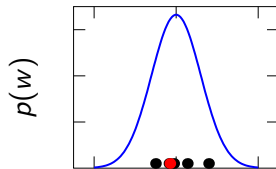
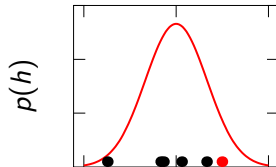
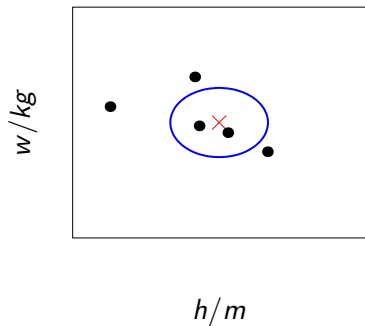
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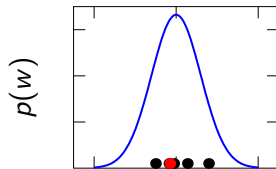
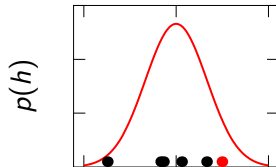
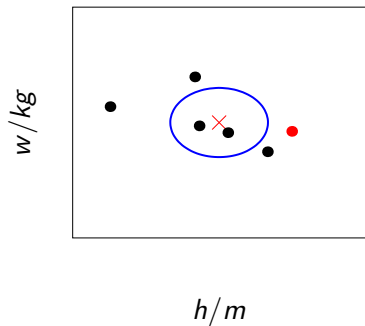
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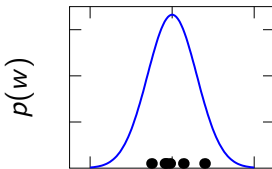
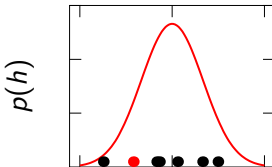
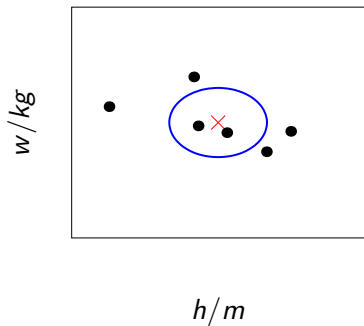
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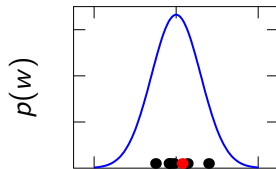
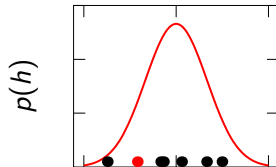
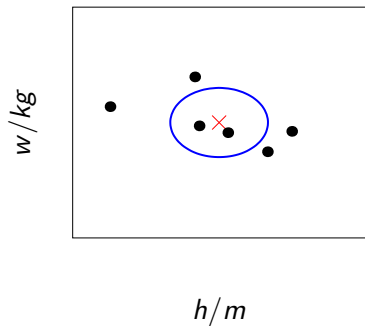
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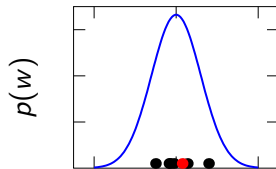
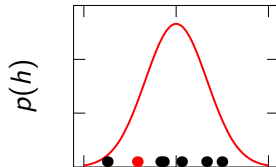
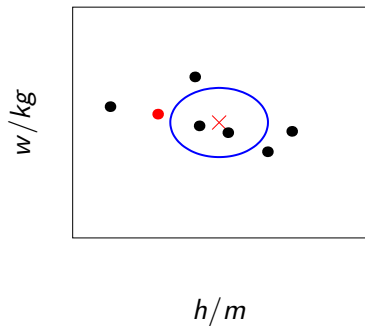
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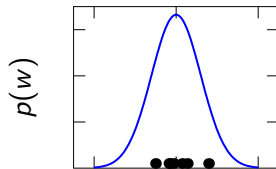
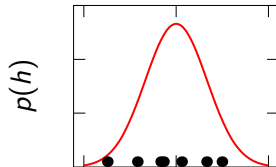
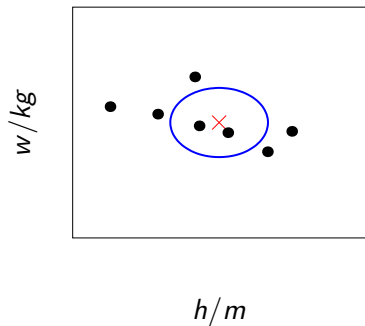
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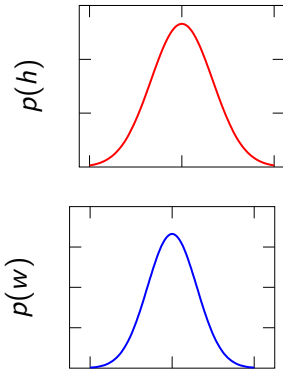
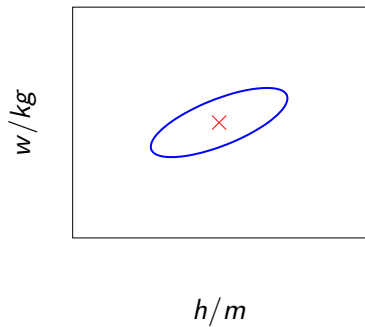
# Independence Assumption

- ▶ This assumes height and weight are independent.

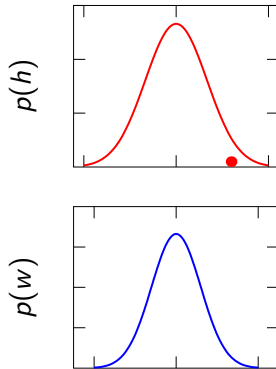
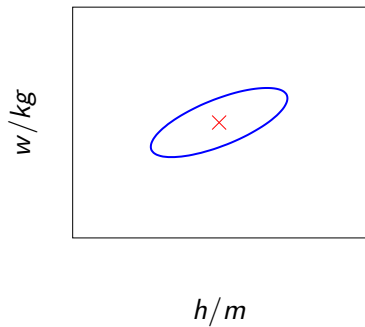
$$p(h, w) = p(h)p(w)$$

- ▶ In reality they are dependent (body mass index) =  $\frac{w}{h^2}$ .

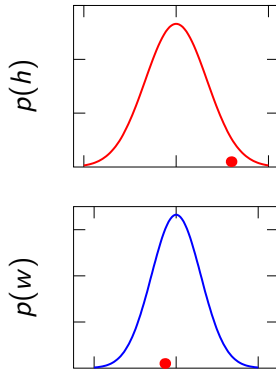
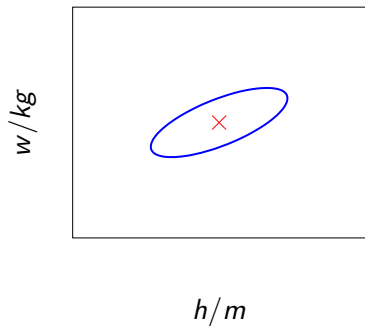
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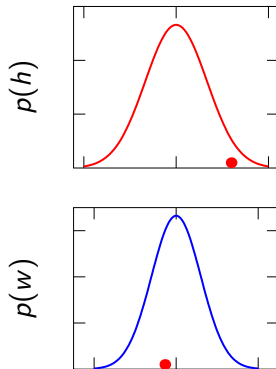
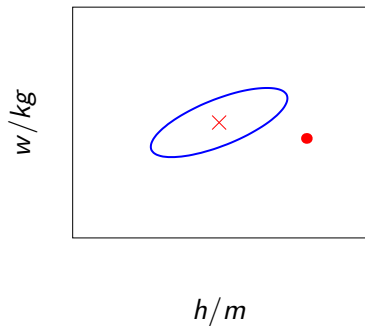
# Sampling Two Dimensional Variables



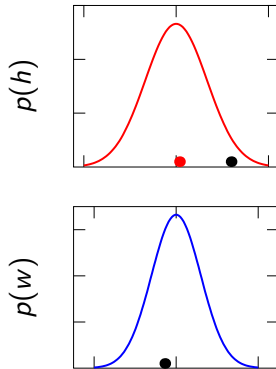
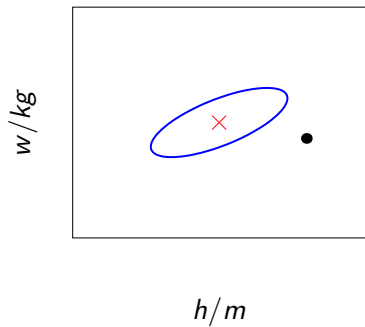
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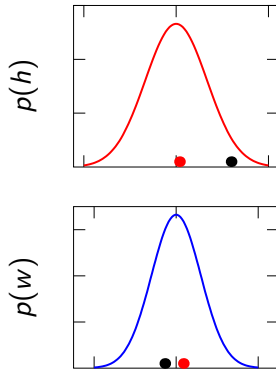
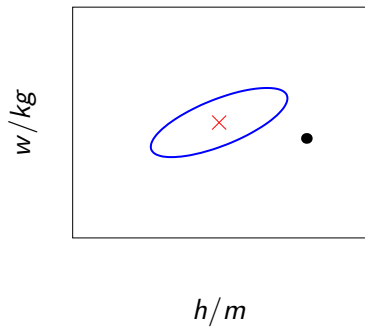
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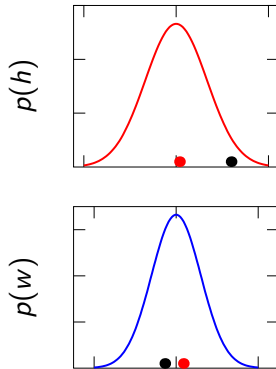
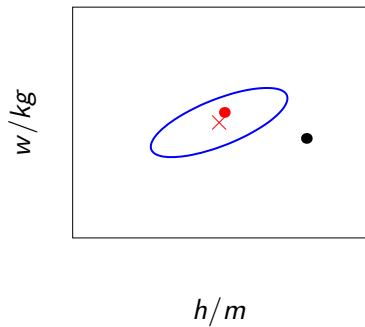
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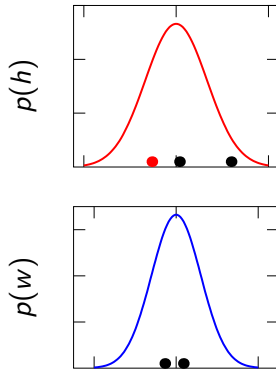
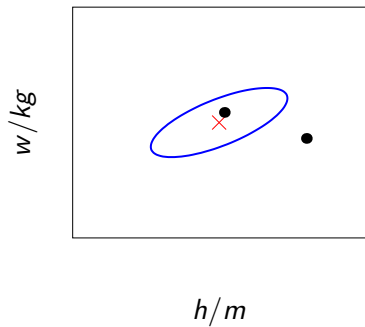
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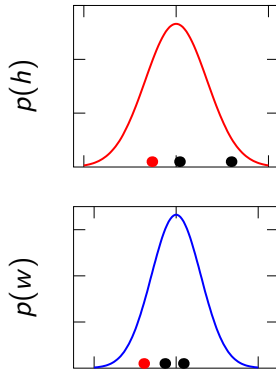
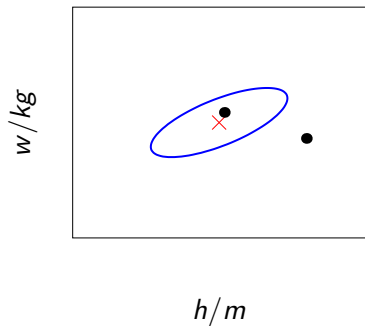
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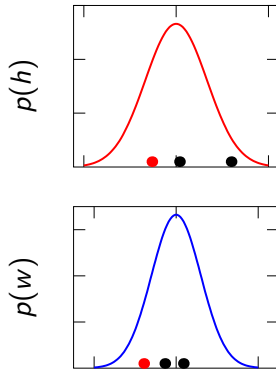
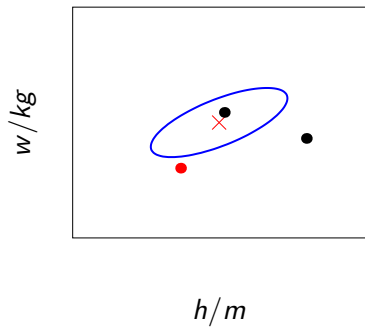
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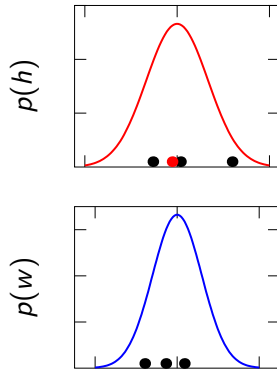
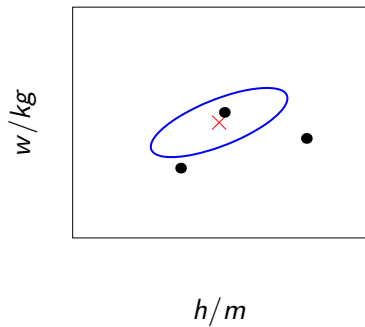
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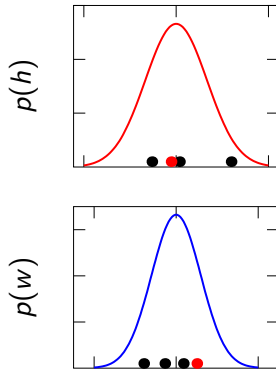
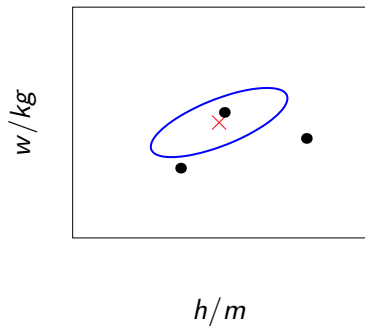
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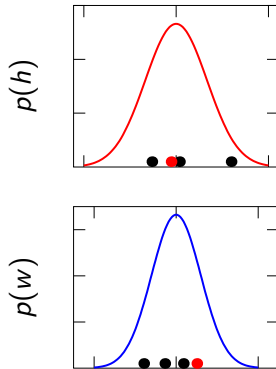
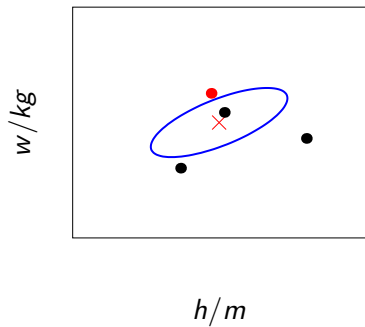
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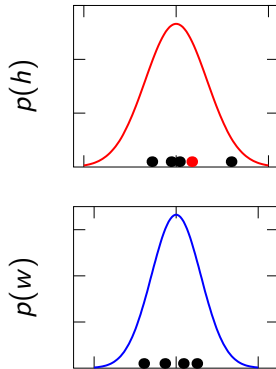
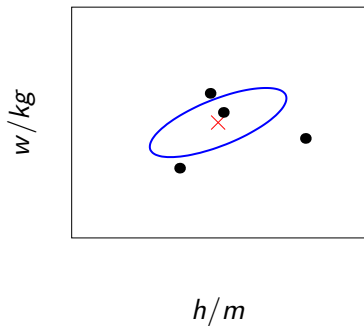
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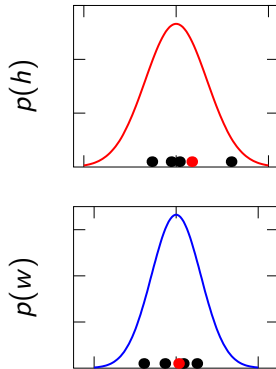
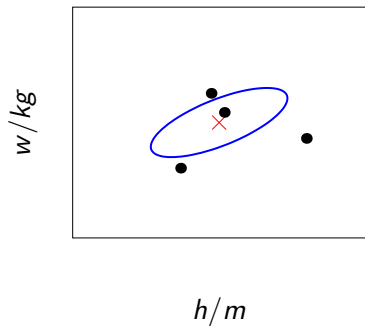
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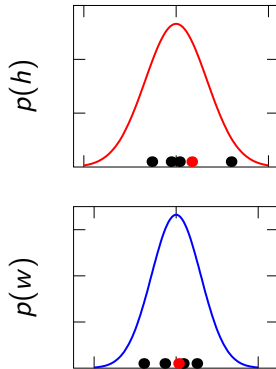
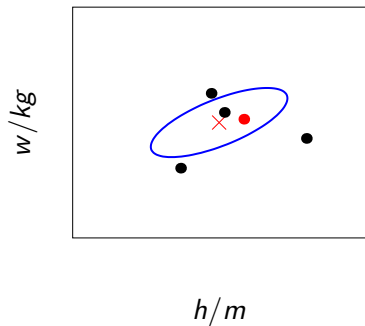
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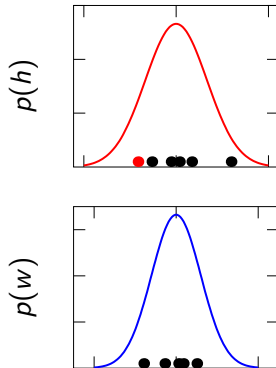
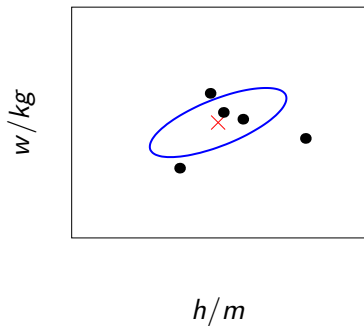
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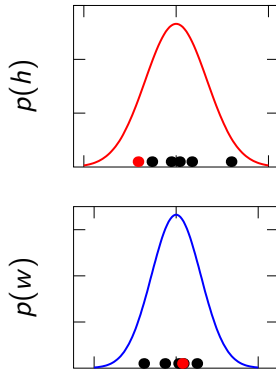
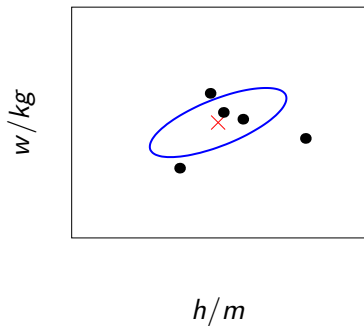
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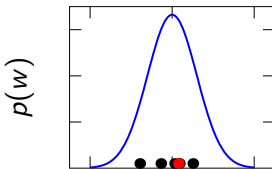
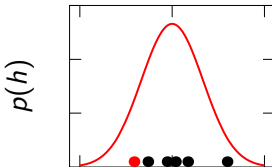
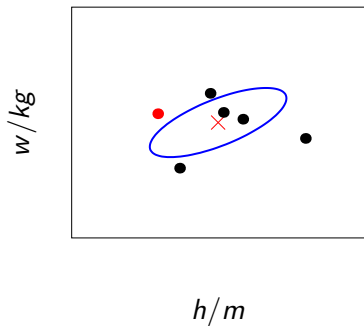
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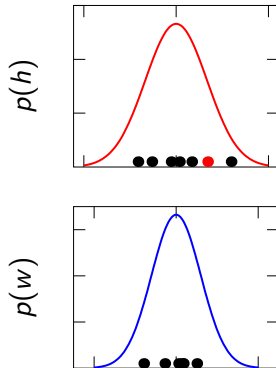
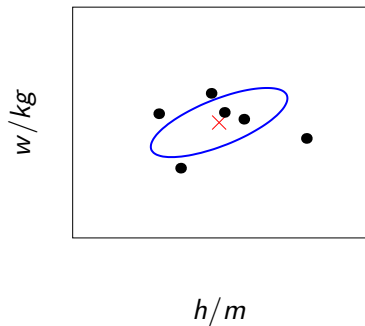
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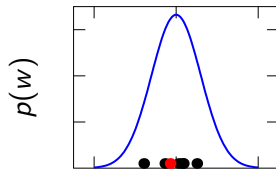
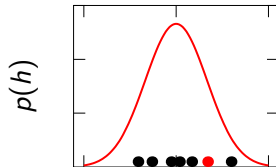
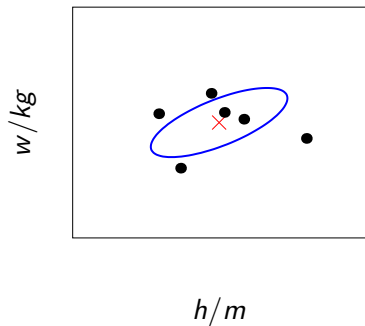
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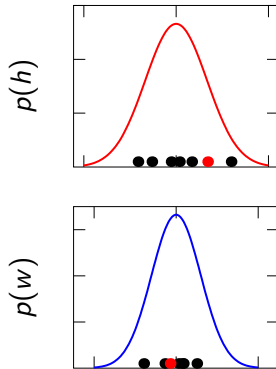
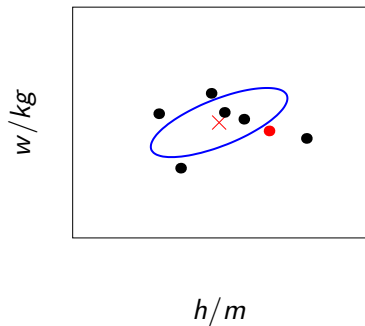
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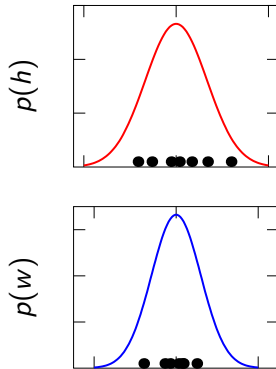
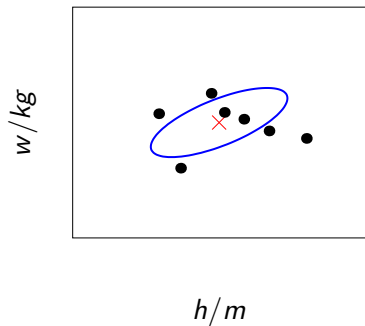
# Sampling Two Dimensional Variables



# Sampling Two Dimensional Variables



# Sampling Two Dimensional Variables



# Correlated Gaussian

- ▶ Second Gaussian correlated.
- ▶ Form from original Gaussian by elongating one direction and rotating.
- ▶ For rotation matrix  $\mathbf{R}$  and scaling matrix

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} \ell_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \ell_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

this gives a covariance matrix:

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{L}^2\mathbf{R}^\top$$

## Zero mean Gaussian distribution

- ▶ A multi-variate Gaussian distribution is defined by a mean and a covariance matrix.

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}|\mu, \mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}} |\mathbf{K}|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{p} - \mu)^{\top} \mathbf{K}^{-1} (\mathbf{p} - \mu)}{2}\right).$$

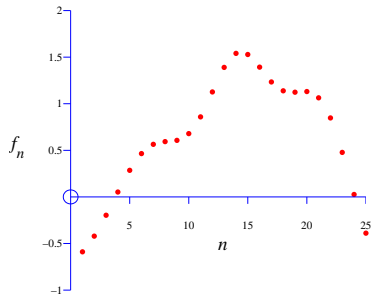
- ▶ We will consider the special case where the mean is zero,

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}|\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}} |\mathbf{K}|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{p}^{\top} \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{p}}{2}\right).$$

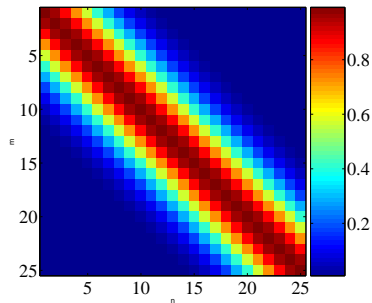
## Multi-variate Gaussians

- ▶ We will consider a Gaussian with a particular structure of covariance matrix.
- ▶ Generate a single sample from this 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution,  $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, p_2 \dots p_{25}]$ .
- ▶ We will plot these points against their index.

# Gaussian Distribution Sample



(a) A 25 dimensional correlated random variable (values plotted against index)



(b) colormap showing correlations between dimensions

**Figure:** A sample from a 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution.

## The covariance matrix

- ▶ Covariance matrix shows correlation between points  $p_i$  and  $p_j$  if  $i$  is near to  $j$ .
- ▶ Less correlation if  $i$  is distant from  $j$ .
- ▶ Our ordering of points means that the *function appears smooth*.
- ▶ Let's focus on the joint distribution of two points from the 25.

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# Prediction of $p_2$ from $p_1$

demGpCov2D([1 2])

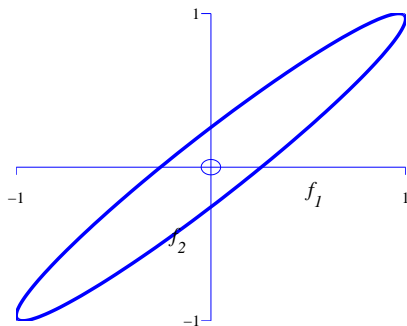


Figure: Covariance for  $\begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\mathbf{K}_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.966 \\ 0.966 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

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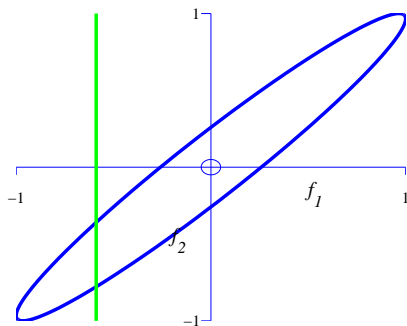


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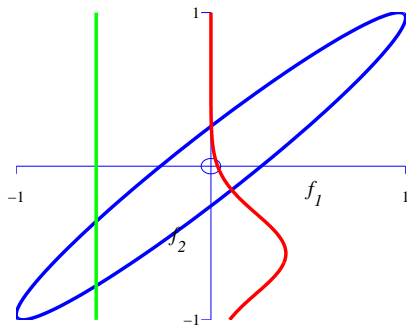


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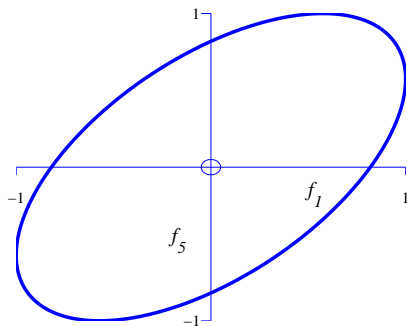


Figure: Covariance for  $\begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_5 \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\mathbf{K}_{15} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.574 \\ 0.574 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

# Prediction of $p_5$ from $p_1$

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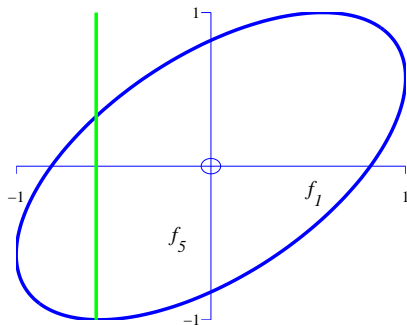


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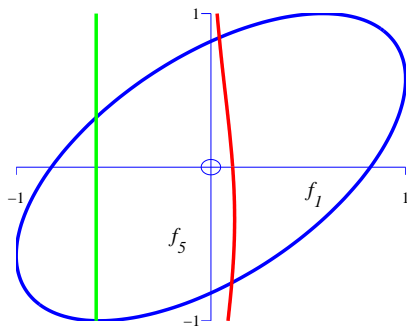


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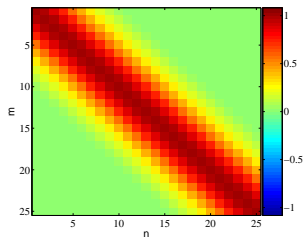
# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

## Exponentiated Quadratic Kernel Function (RBF, Squared Exponential, Gaussian)

$$k(t, t') = \alpha \exp \left( -\frac{\|t - t'\|^2}{2\ell^2} \right)$$

- ▶ Covariance matrix is built using the *inputs* to the function  $t$ .
- ▶ For the example above it was based on Euclidean distance.
- ▶ The covariance function is also known as a kernel.



# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

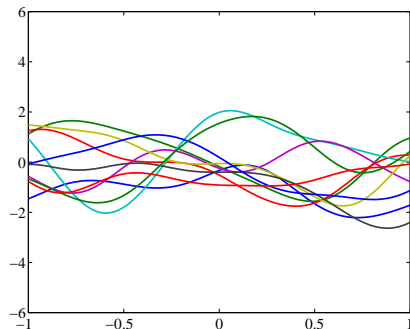


Figure: Exponentiated quadratic kernel with  $\ell = 0.3$ ,  $\alpha = 1$

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

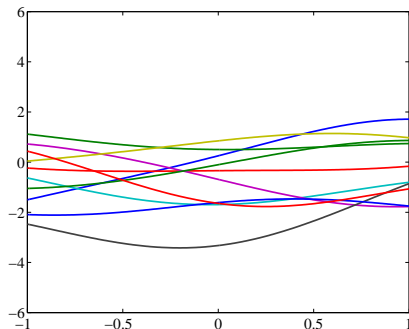


Figure: Exponentiated quadratic kernel with  $\ell = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 1$

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

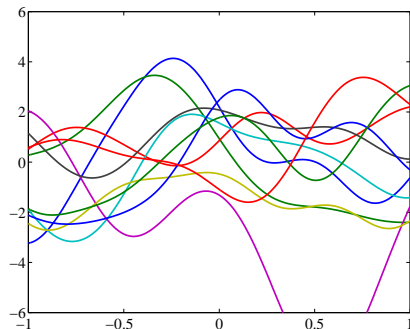


Figure: Exponentiated quadratic kernel with  $\ell = 0.3$ ,  $\alpha = 4$

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

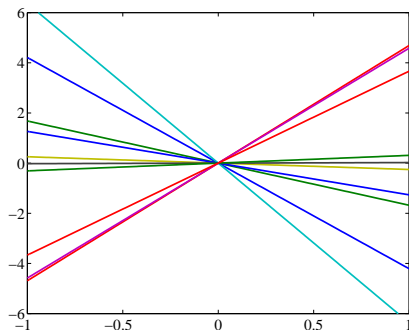


Figure: Linear covariance function,  $\alpha = 16$ .

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

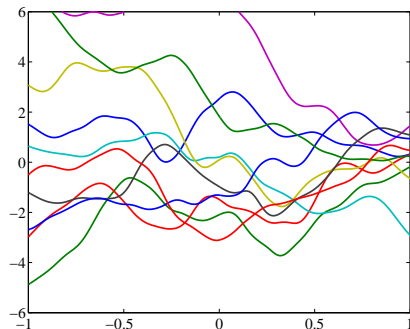


Figure: MLP covariance function,  $\sigma_w^2 = 100$ ,  $\sigma_b^2 = 100$ ,  $\alpha = 8$ .

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

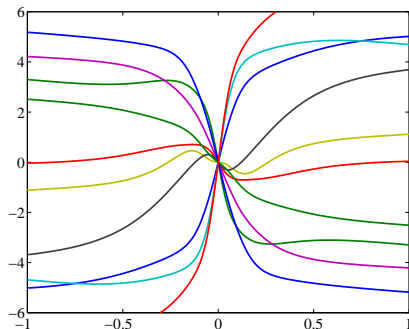


Figure: MLP covariance function,  $\sigma_w^2 = 100$ ,  $\sigma_b^2 = 0$ ,  $\alpha = 8$ .

# Covariance Samples

demCovFuncSample

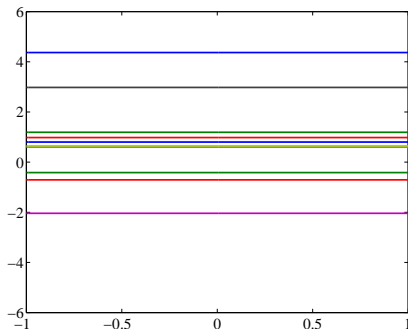
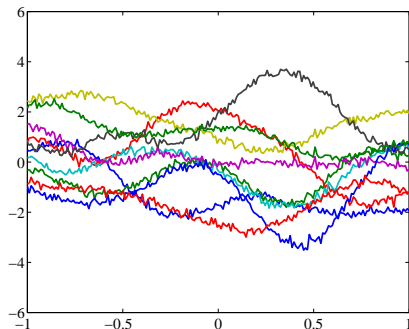


Figure: Bias term,  $\alpha = 4$

# Covariance Samples

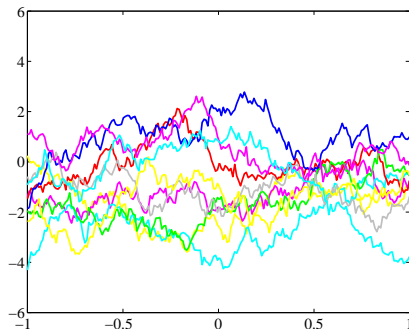
demCovFuncSample



**Figure:** Exponentiated quadratic  $\ell = 0.3$ ,  $\alpha = 1$  plus bias term with  $\alpha = 1$  plus white noise with  $\alpha = 0.01$ .

# Covariance Samples

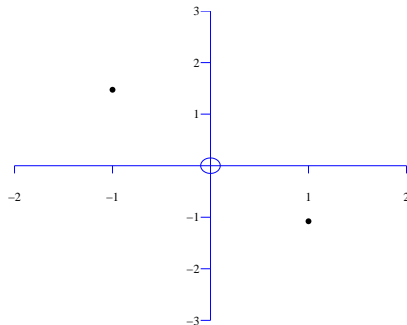
demCovFuncSample



**Figure:** Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (stationary Gauss-Markov) covariance function  $\ell = 1$ ,  $\alpha = 4$ .

# Gaussian Process Interpolation

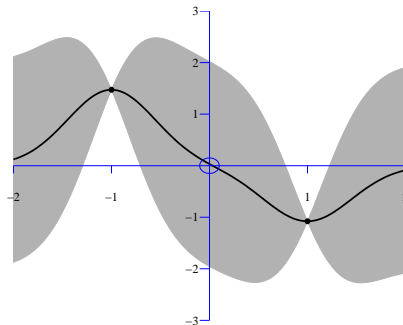
demInterpolation



**Figure:** Real example: BACCO (see e.g. (Oakley and O'Hagan, 2002)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (e.g. atmospheric carbon levels).

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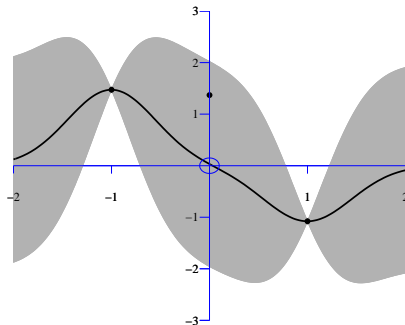
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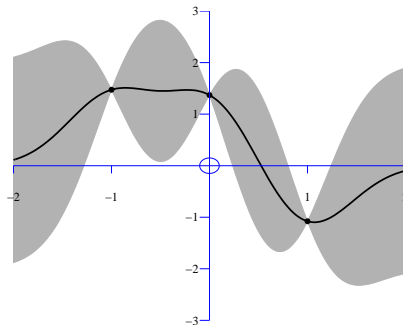
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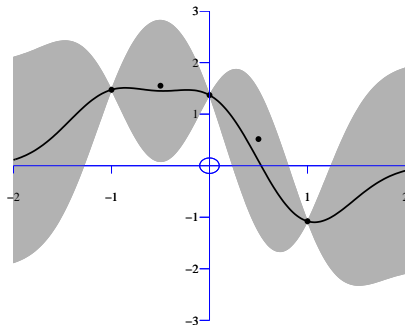
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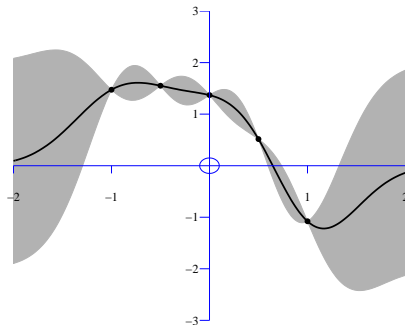
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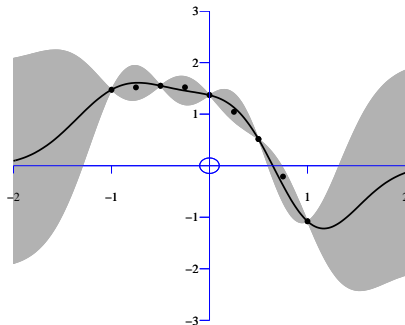
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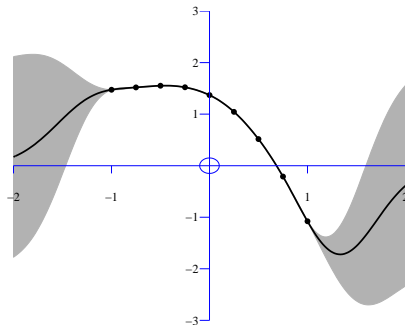
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demInterpolation



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# Noise Models

## Graph of a GP

- ▶ Relates input variables,  $\mathbf{t}$ , to vector,  $\mathbf{m}$ , through  $\mathbf{p}$  given kernel parameters  $\theta$ .
- ▶ Plate notation indicates independence of  $m_i | p_i$ .
- ▶ Noise model,  $p(m_i | p_i)$  can take several forms.
- ▶ Simplest is Gaussian noise.

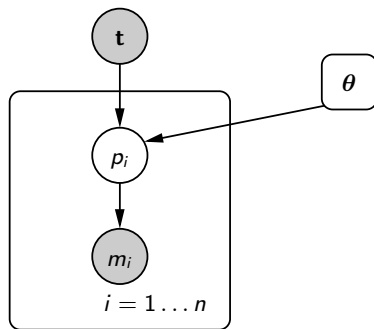


Figure: The Gaussian process depicted graphically.

- ▶ Gaussian noise model,

$$p(m_i|p_i) = \mathcal{N}(m_i|p_i, \sigma^2)$$

where  $\sigma^2$  is the variance of the noise.

- ▶ Equivalent to a covariance function of the form

$$k(t_i, t_j) = \delta_{i,j} \sigma^2$$

where  $\delta_{i,j}$  is the Kronecker delta function.

- ▶ Additive nature of Gaussians means we can simply add this term to existing covariance matrices.

# Gaussian Process Regression

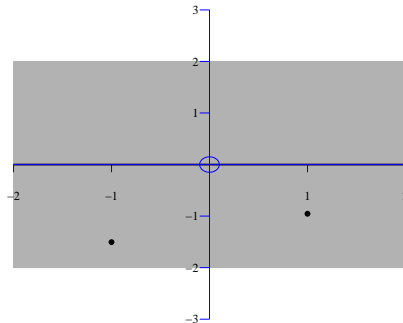
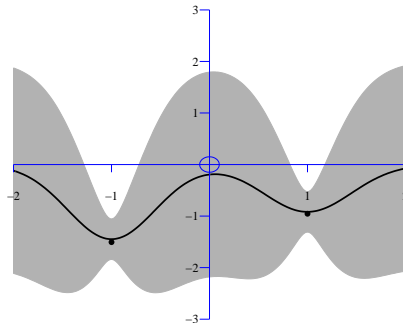


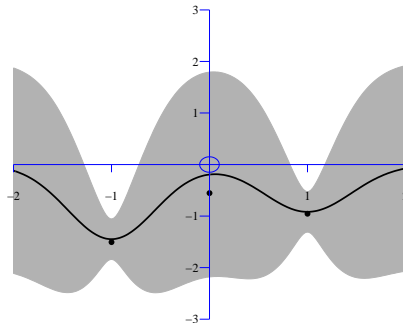
Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

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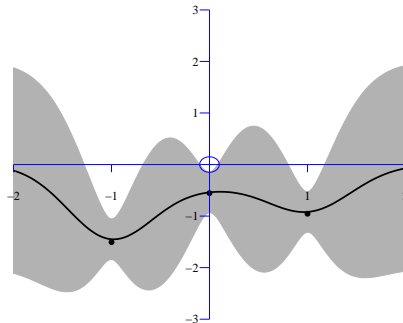
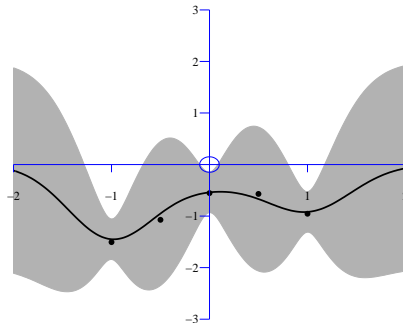


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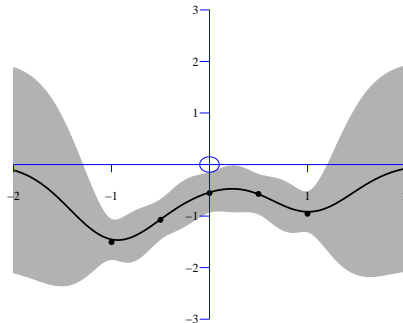


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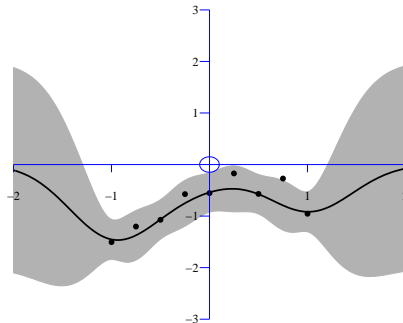
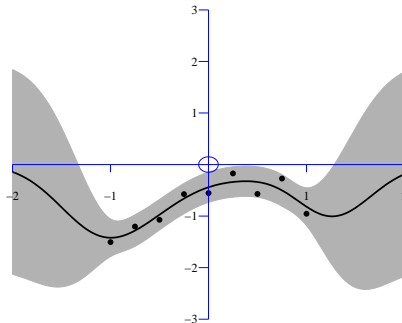


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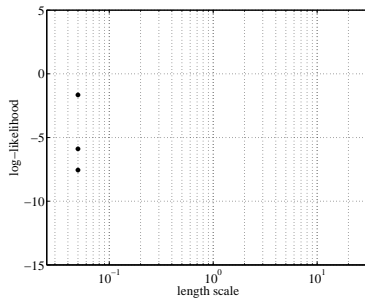
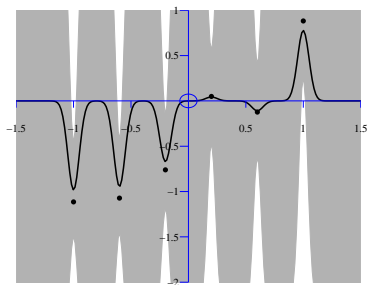
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**Figure:** Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Learning Kernel Parameters

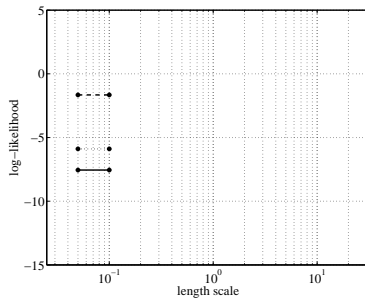
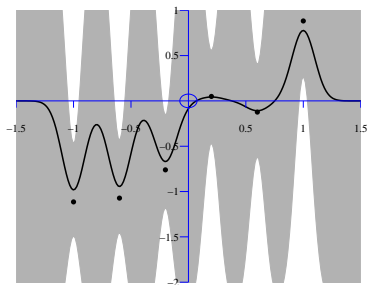
Can we determine length scales and noise levels from the data?



$$\log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}|\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K}) = -\frac{n}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}| - \frac{\mathbf{m}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{m}}{2}$$

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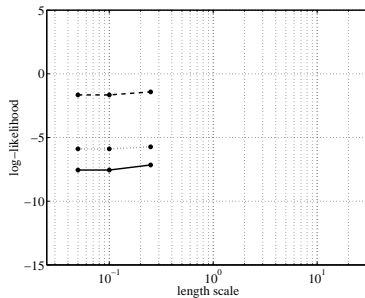
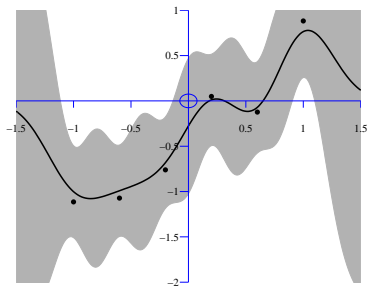
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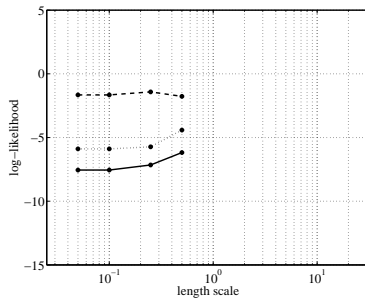
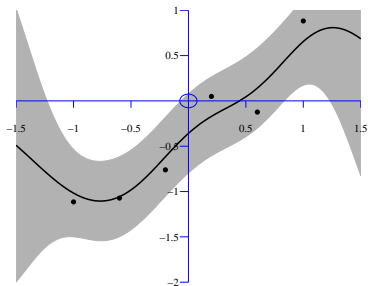
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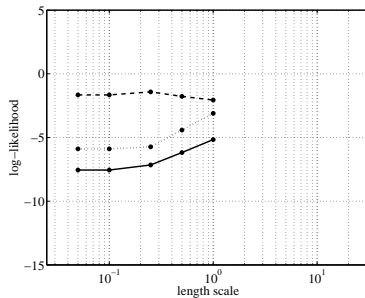
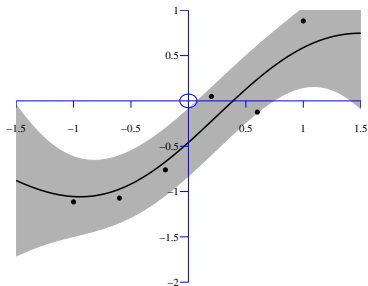
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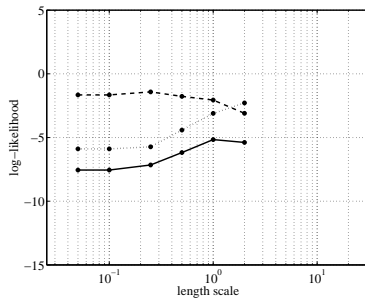
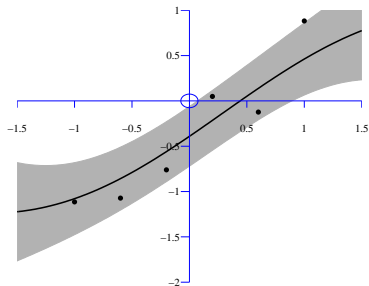
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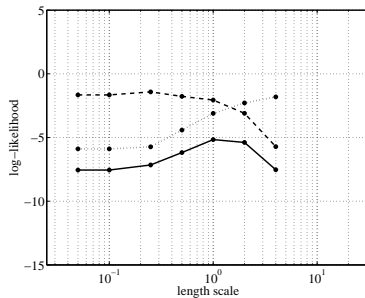
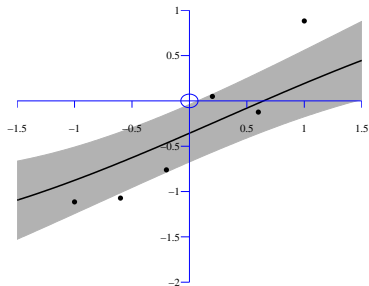
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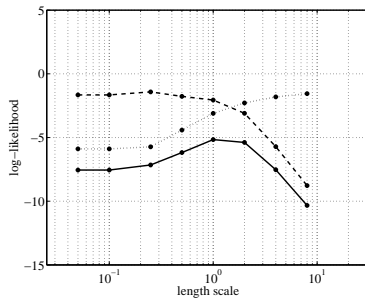
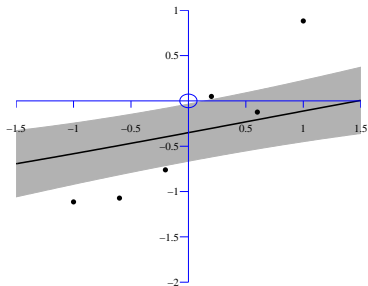
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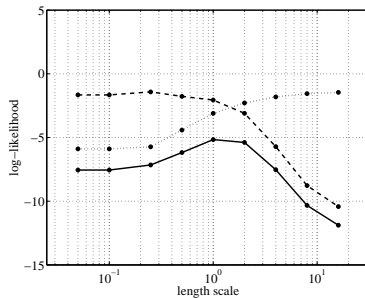
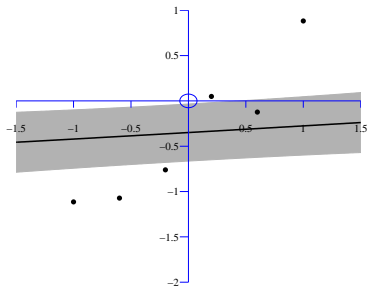
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# Example: Transcriptional Regulation

- ▶ First Order Differential Equation

$$\frac{dm_j(t)}{dt} = b_j + s_j p(t) - d_j m_j(t)$$

- ▶ It turns out that our Gaussian process assumption for  $p(t)$ , implies  $m(t)$  is also a Gaussian process.
- ▶ The new Gaussian process is over  $p(t)$  and all its targets:  $m_1(t), m_2(t), \dots$  etc.
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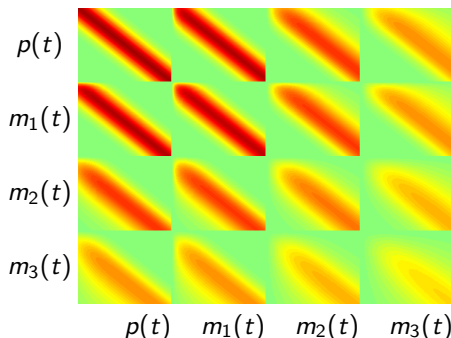
# Covariance for Transcription Model

## RBF covariance function for $p(t)$

$$m_i(t) = \frac{b_i}{d_i} + s_i \exp(-d_i t) \int_0^t p(u) \exp(d_i u) du.$$

- ▶ Joint distribution for  $m_1(t)$ ,  $m_2(t)$ ,  $m_3(t)$ , and  $p(t)$ .
- ▶ Here:

$d_1$	$s_1$	$d_2$	$s_2$	$d_3$	$s_3$
5	5	1	1	0.5	0.5



# Covariance for Transcription Model

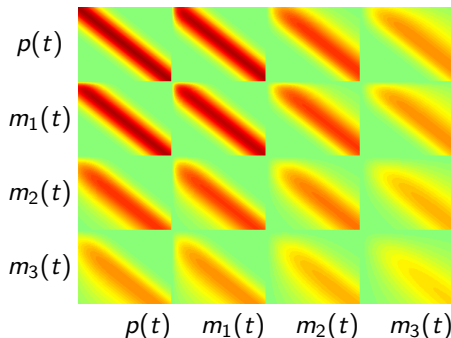
## RBF covariance function for $p(t)$

$$m = b/d + \sum_i \mathbf{e}_i^\top \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{p} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_i) \rightarrow x \sim \mathcal{N}\left(b/d, \sum_i \mathbf{e}_i^\top \Sigma_i \mathbf{e}_i\right)$$

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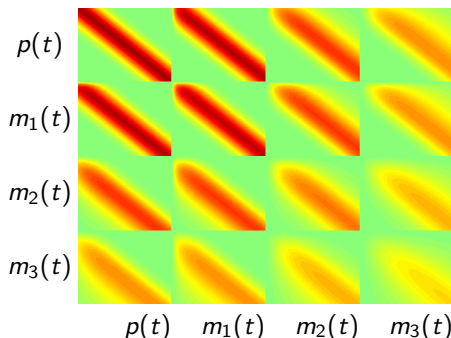
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# Joint Sampling of $f(t)$ and $x(t)$

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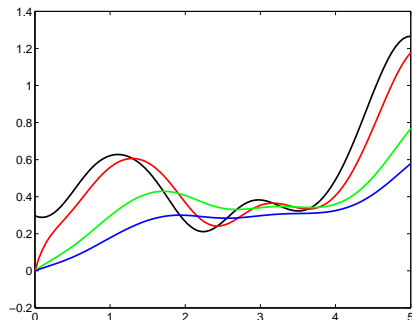


Figure: Joint samples from the ODE covariance, *black*:  $p(t)$ , *red*:  $m_1(t)$  (high decay/sensitivity), *green*:  $m_2(t)$  (medium decay/sensitivity) and *blue*:  $m_3(t)$  (low decay/sensitivity).

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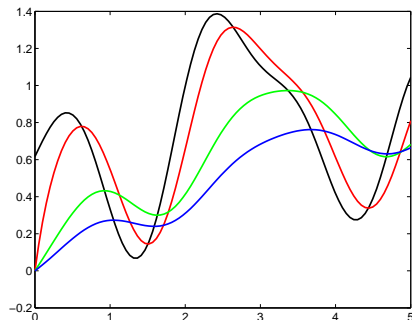


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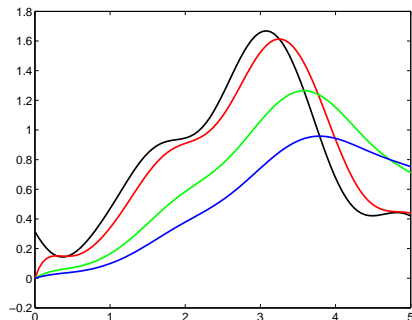


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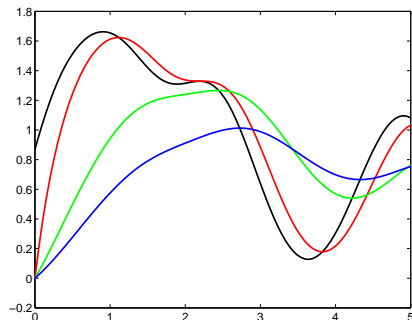
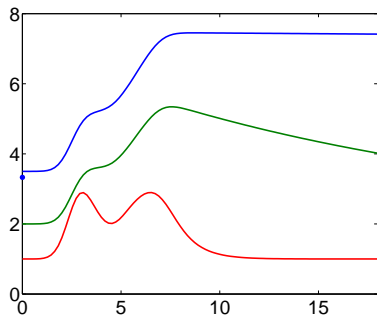


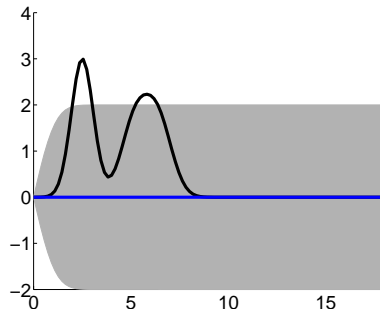
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# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



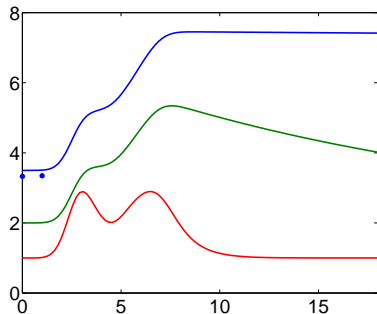
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



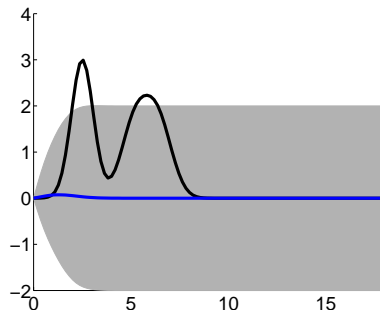
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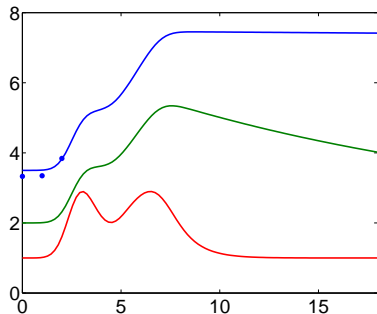
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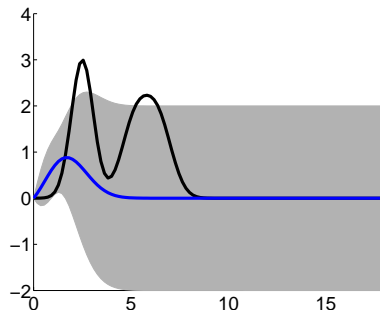
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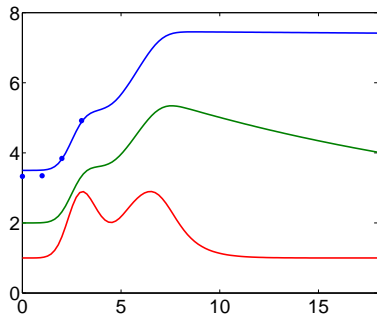
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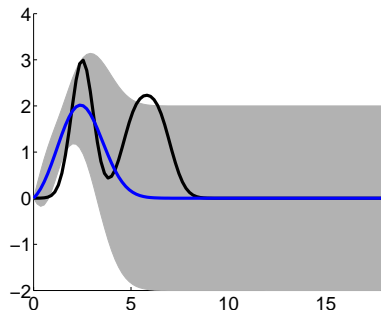
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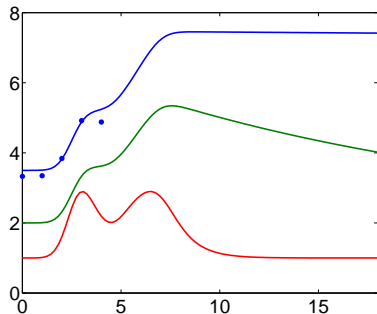
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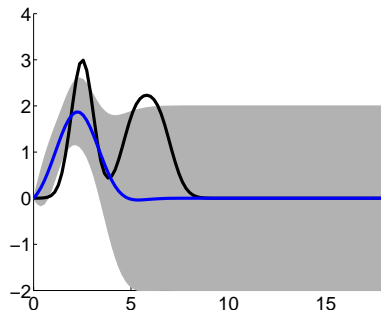
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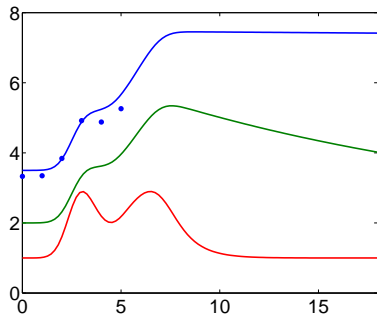
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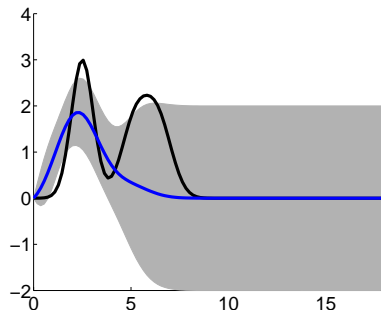
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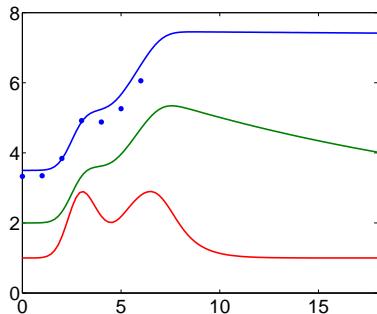
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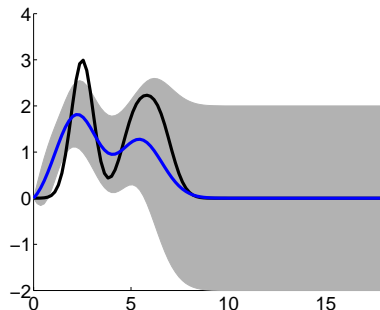
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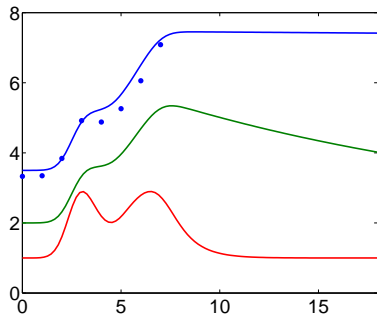
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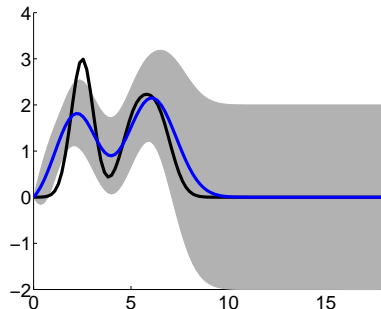
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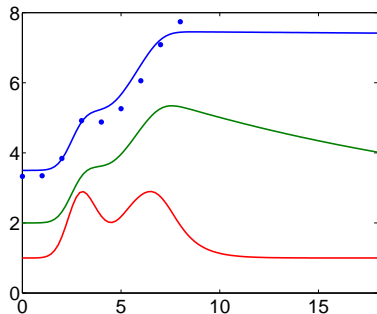
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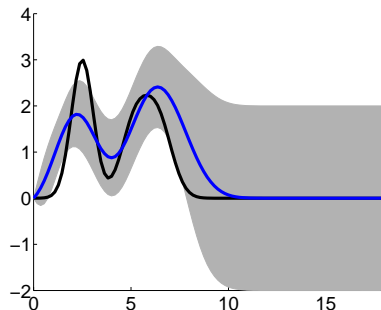
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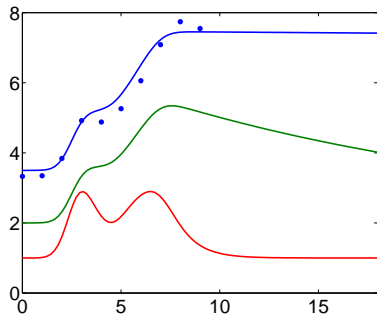
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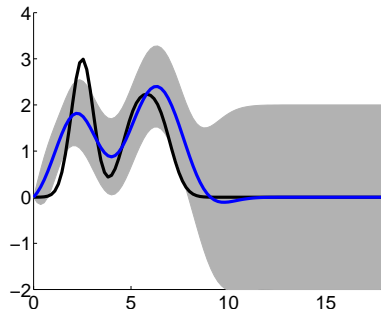
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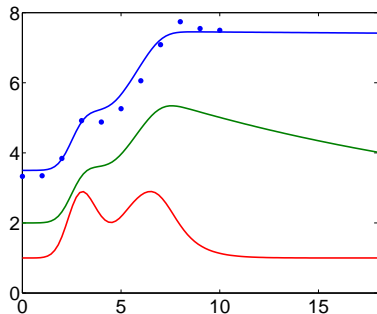
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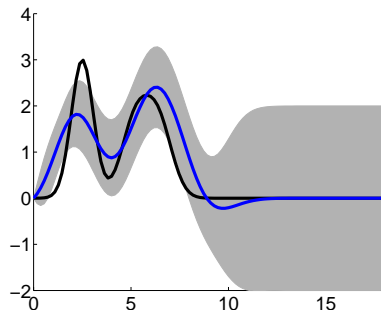
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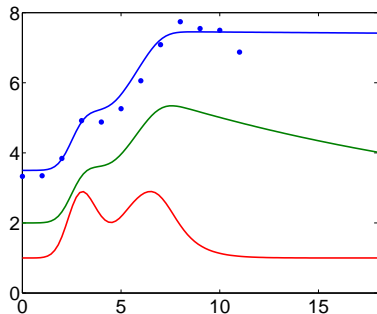
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



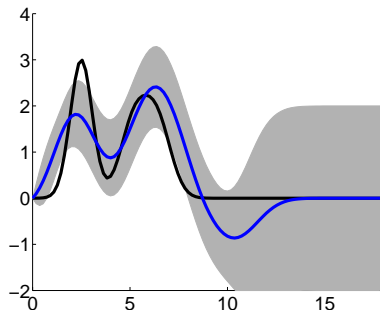
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



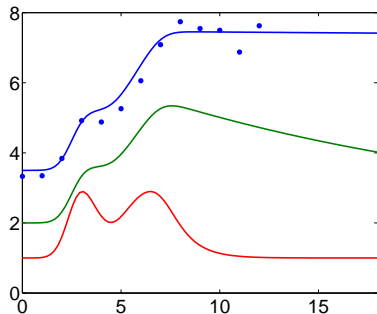
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



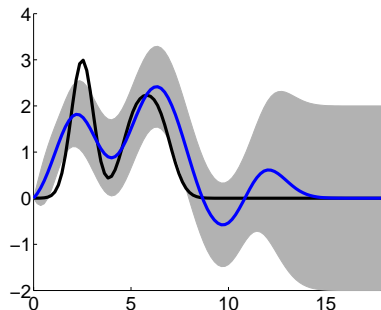
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



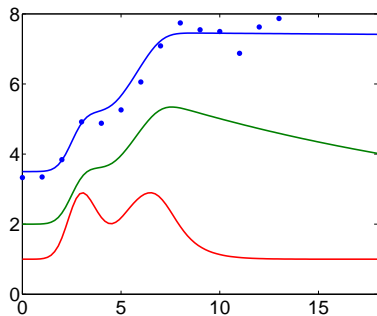
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



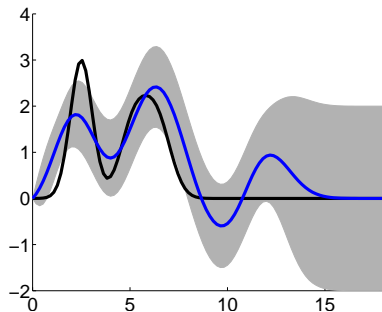
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



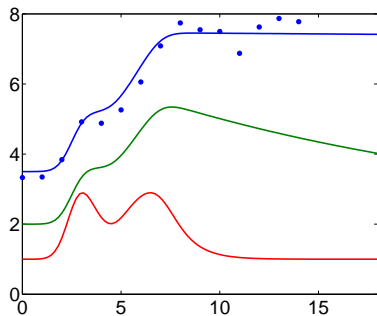
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



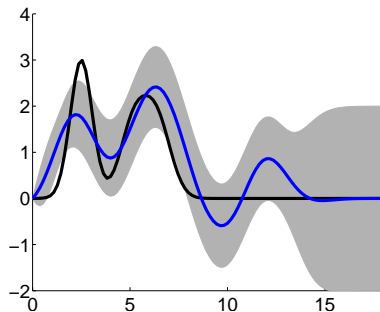
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



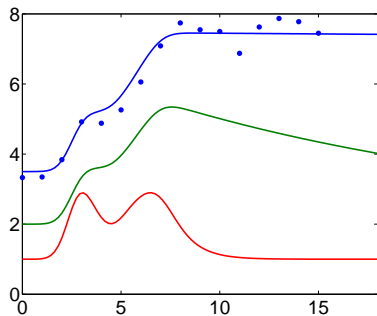
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



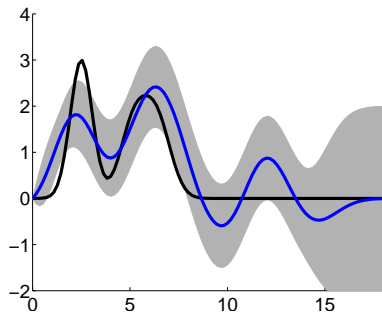
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



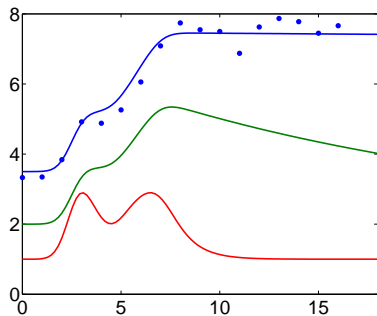
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



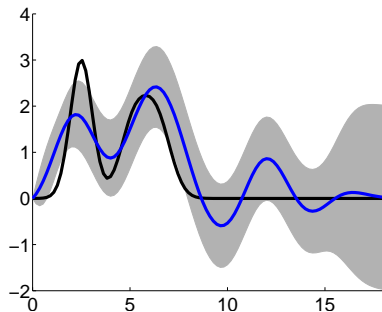
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



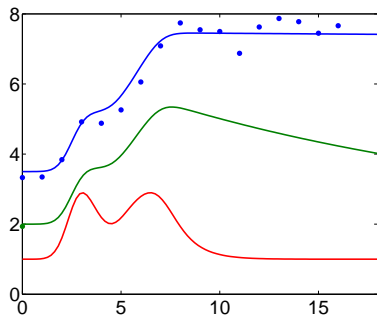
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



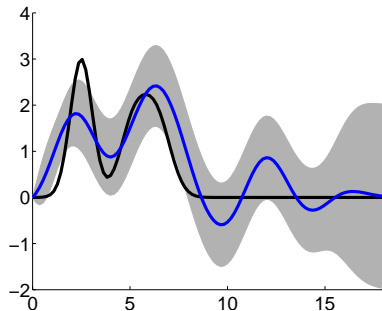
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



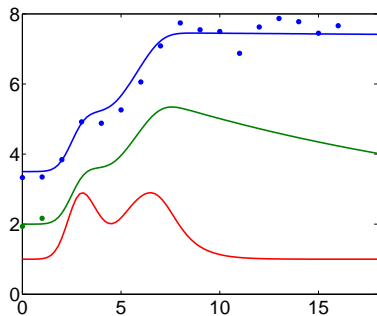
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



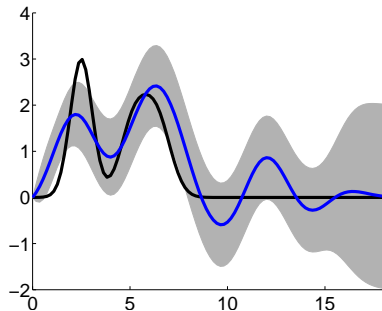
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



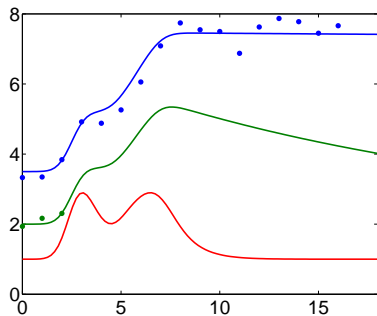
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



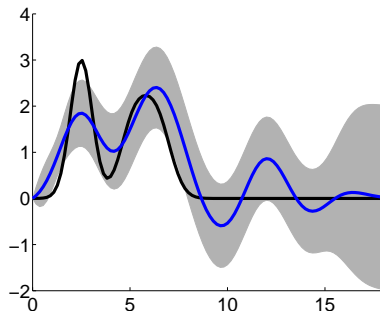
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



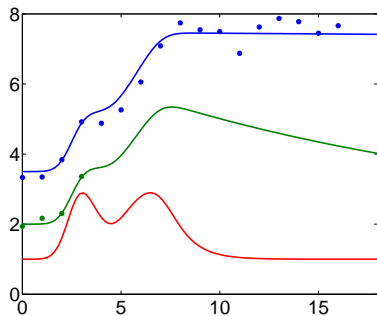
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



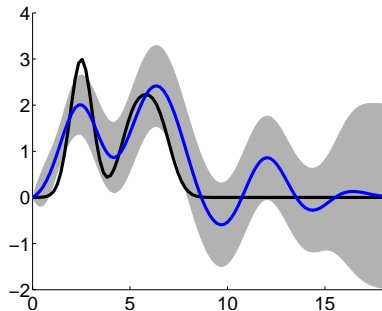
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



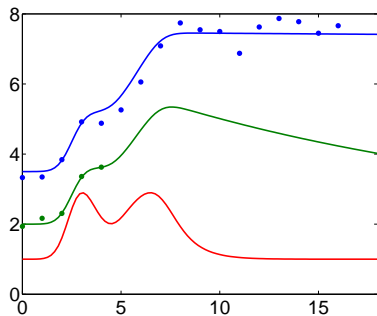
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



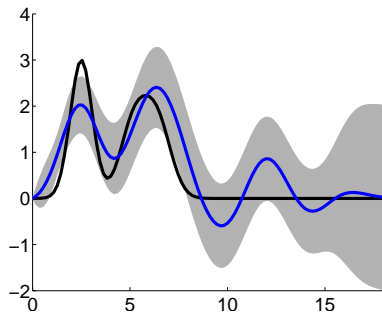
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



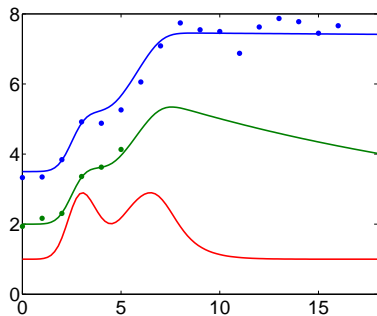
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



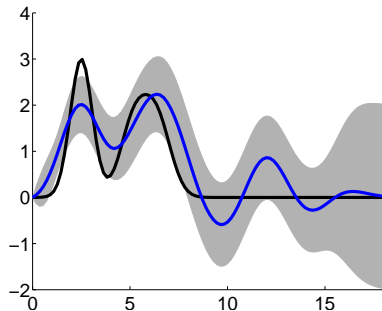
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



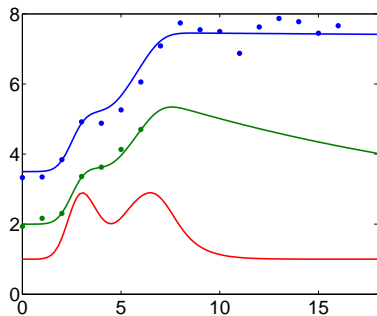
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



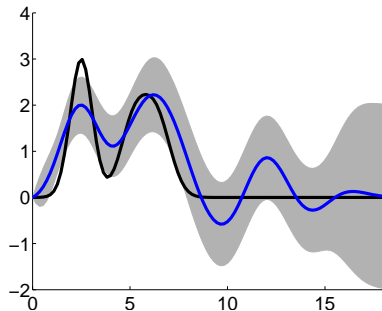
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



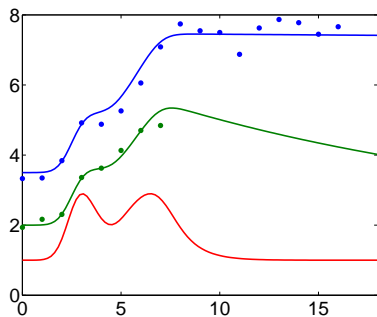
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



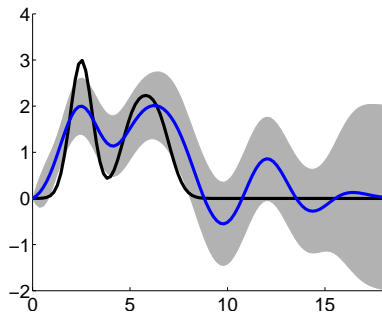
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



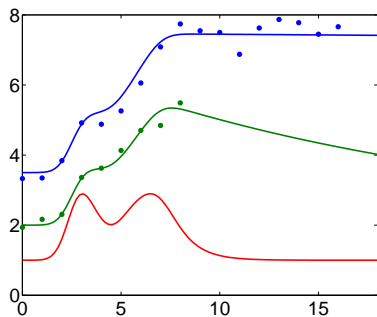
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



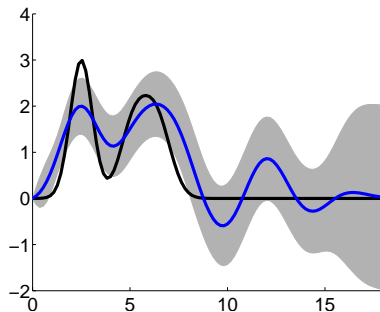
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



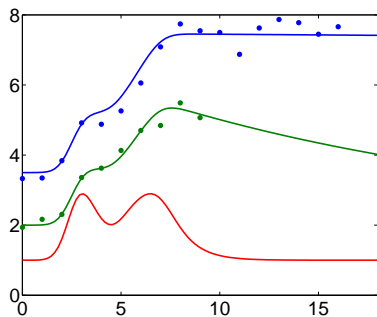
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



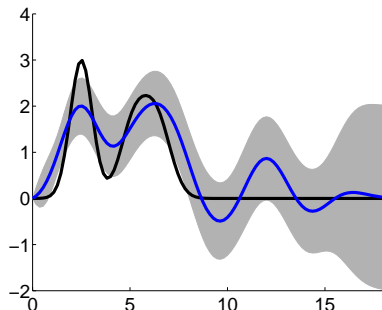
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



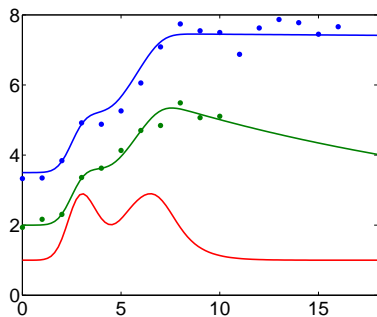
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



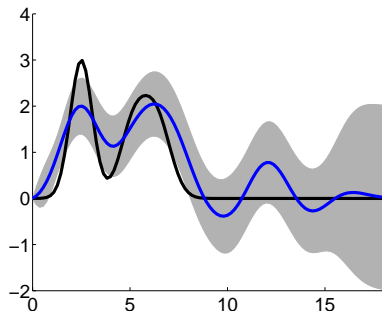
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



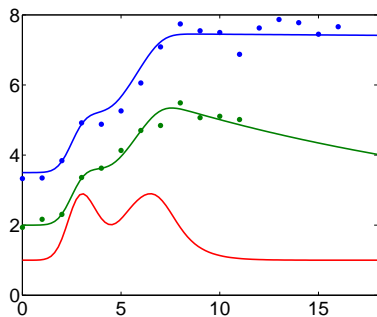
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



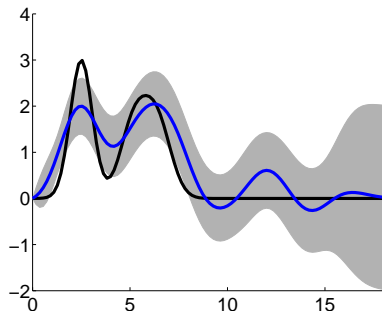
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



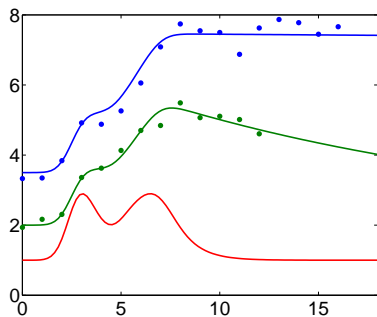
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



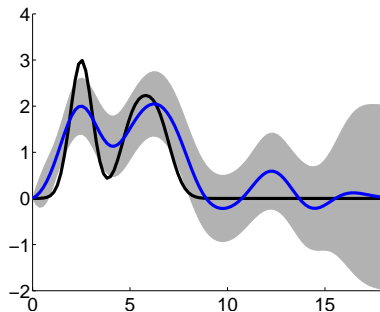
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



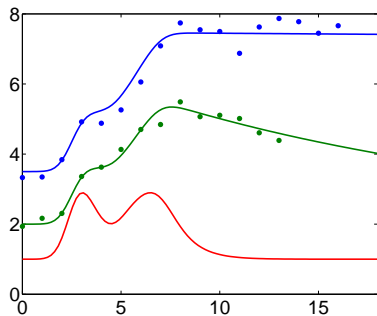
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



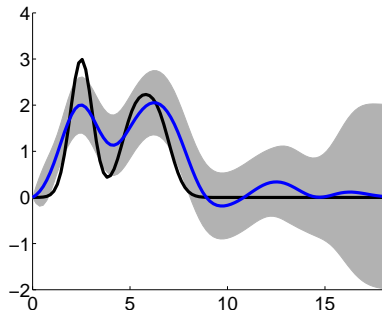
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



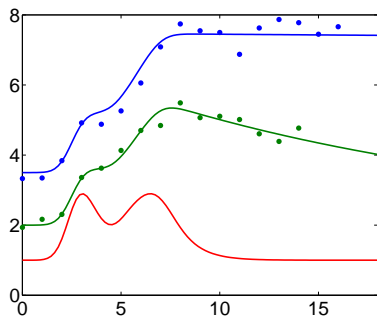
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



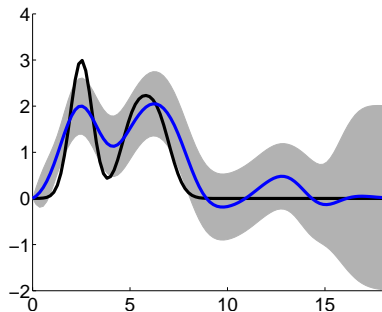
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



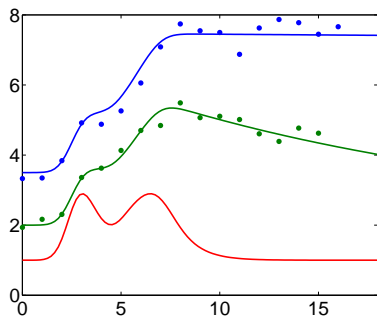
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



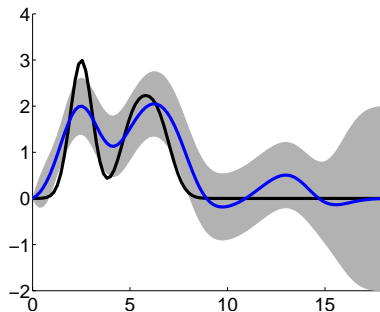
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



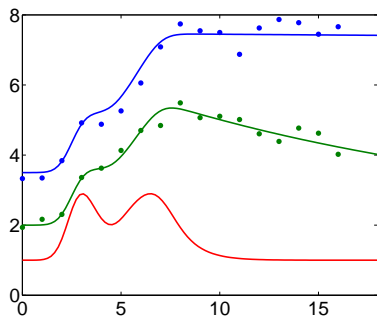
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



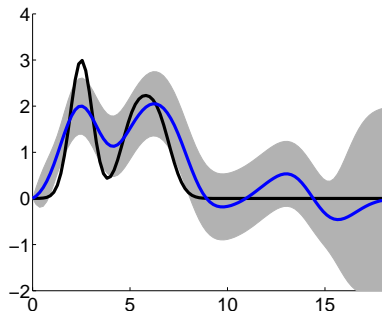
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



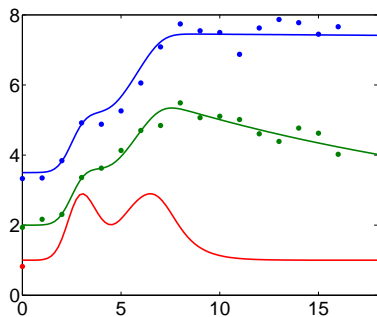
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



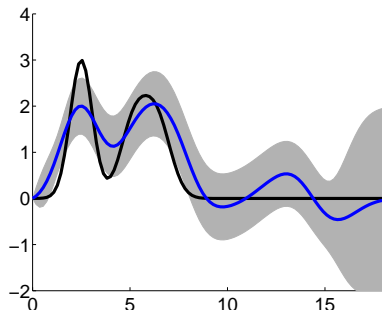
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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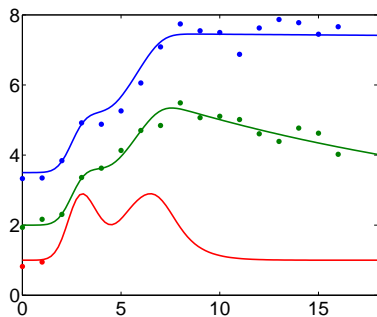
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



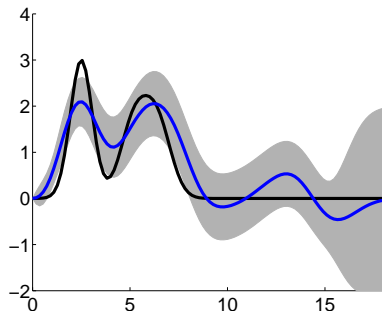
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



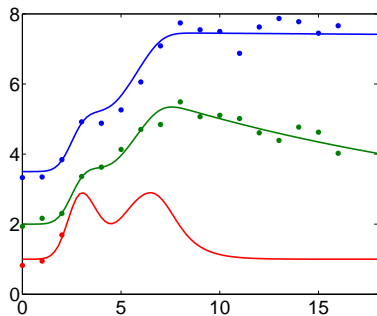
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



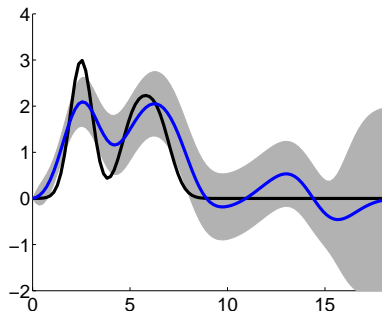
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



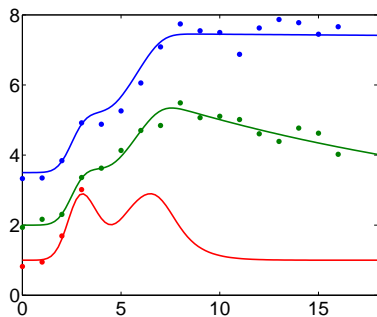
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



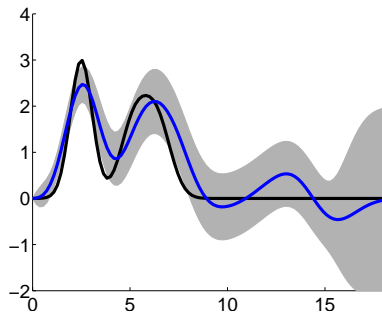
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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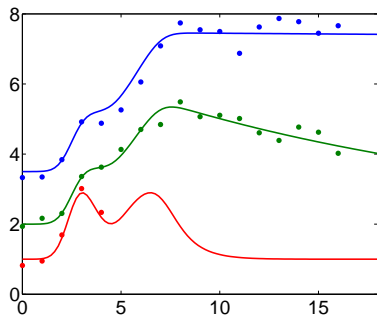
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



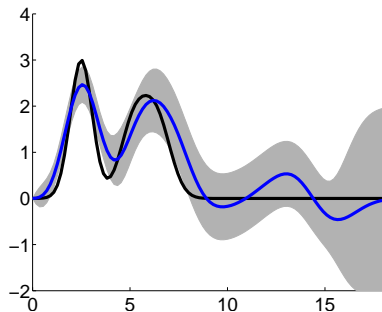
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



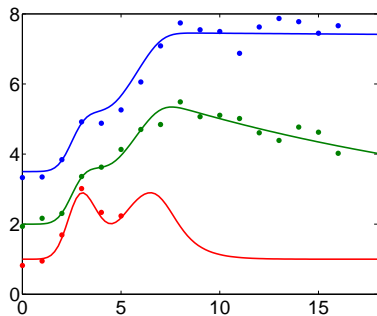
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



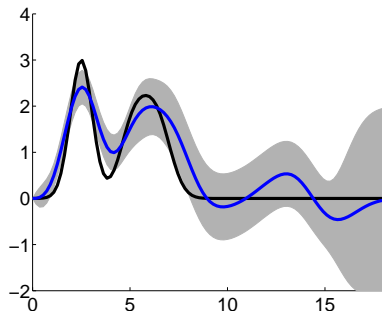
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



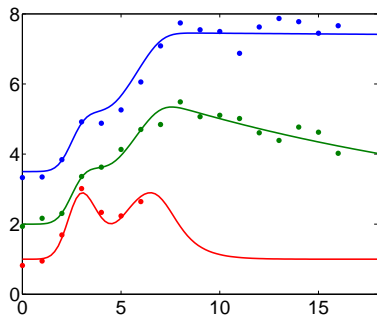
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



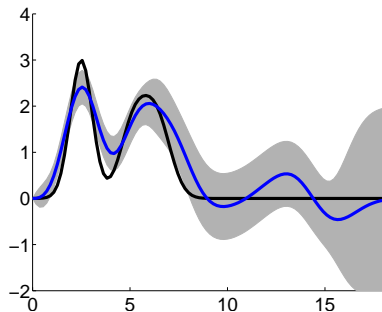
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



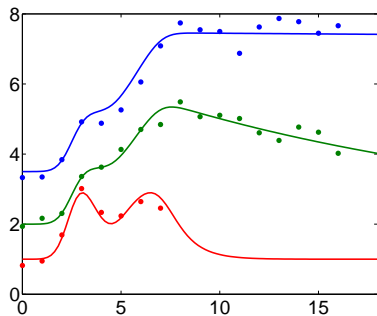
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



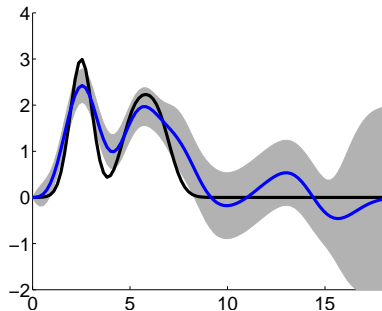
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



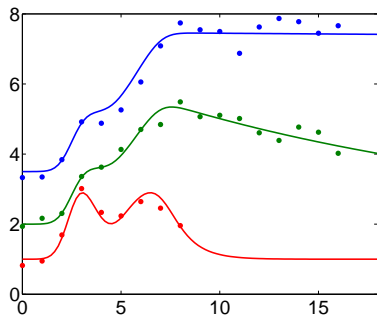
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



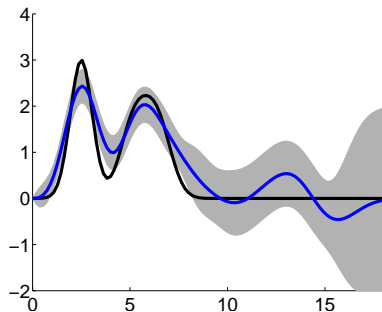
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



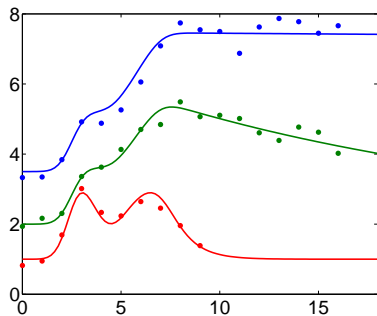
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



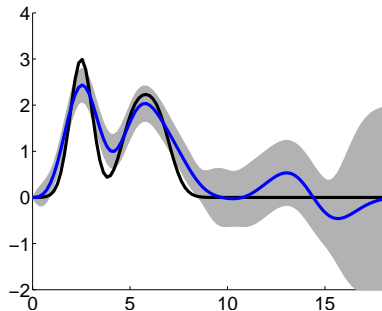
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



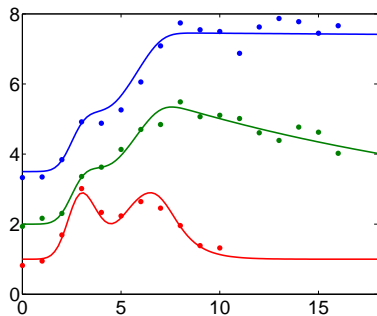
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



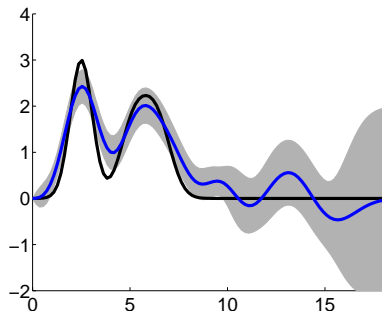
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



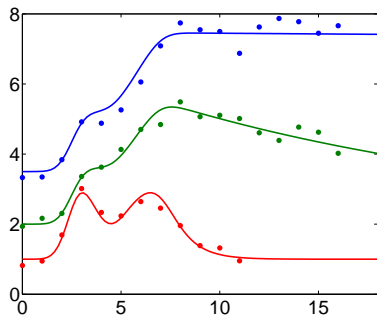
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



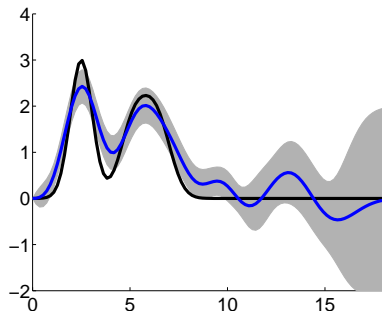
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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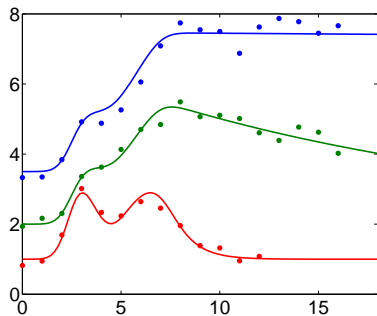
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



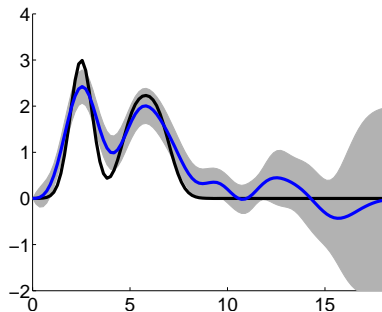
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



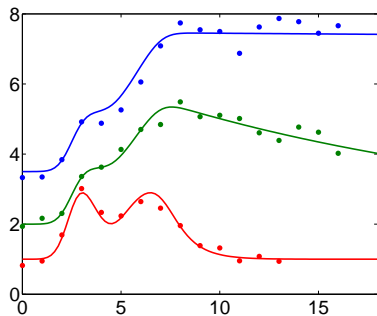
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



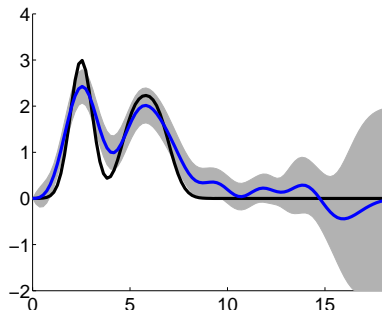
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



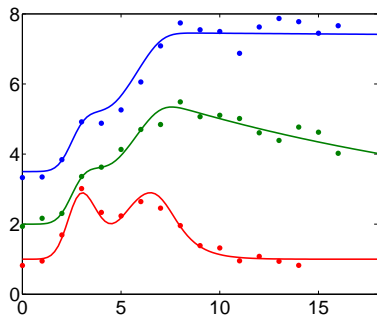
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



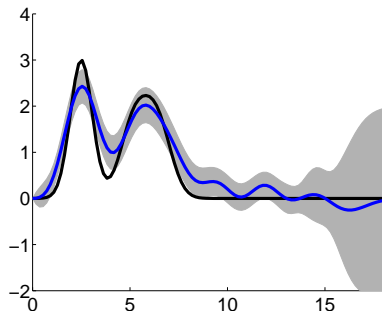
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



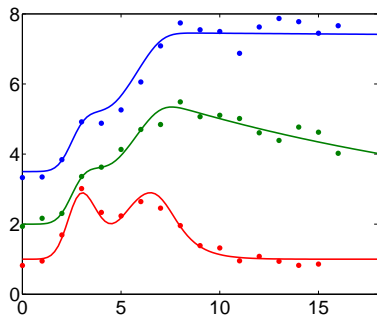
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



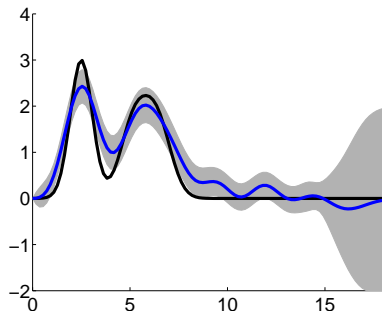
Inferred transcription factor activity.

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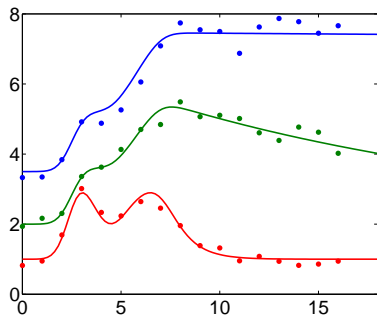
True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



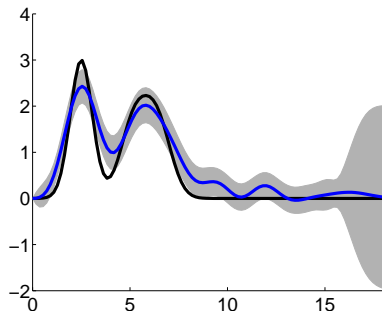
Inferred transcription factor activity.

# Artificial Example: Inferring $p(t)$

Inferring TF activity from artificially sampled genes.



True “gene profiles” and noisy observations.



Inferred transcription factor activity.

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## Gaussian process modelling of latent chemical species: applications to inferring transcription factor activities

Pei Gao<sup>1</sup>, Antti Honkela<sup>2</sup>, Magnus Rattray<sup>1</sup> and Neil D. Lawrence<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Computer Science, University of Manchester, Kilburn Building, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL and

<sup>2</sup>Adaptive Informatics Research Centre, Helsinki University of Technology, PO Box 5400, FI-02015 TKK, Finland

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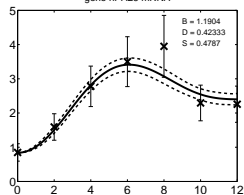
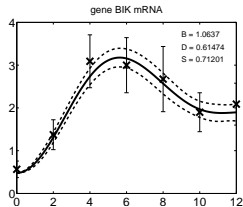
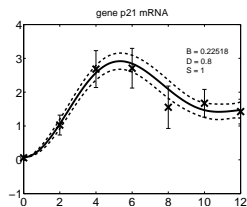
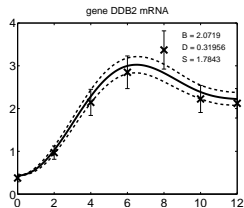
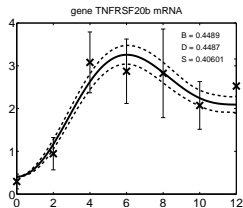
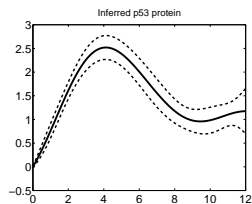
### ABSTRACT

**Motivation:** Inference of *latent chemical species* in biochemical interaction networks is a key problem in estimation of the structure

A challenging problem for parameter estimation in ODE models occurs where one or more chemical species influencing the dynamics are controlled outside of the sub-system being modelled. For

# p53 Results with GP

(Gao et al., 2008)

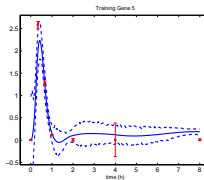
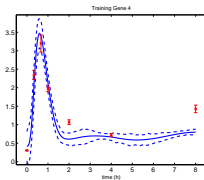
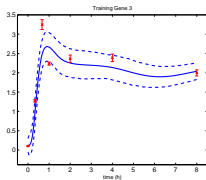
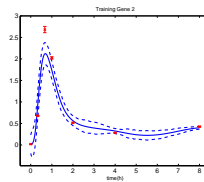
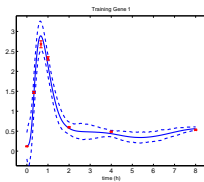
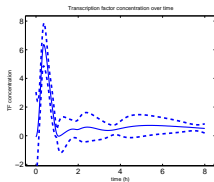


# Ranking with ERK Signalling

- ▶ Target Ranking for Elk-1.
- ▶ Elk-1 is phosphorylated by ERK from the EGF signalling pathway.
- ▶ Predict concentration of Elk-1 from known targets.
- ▶ Rank other targets of Elk-1.

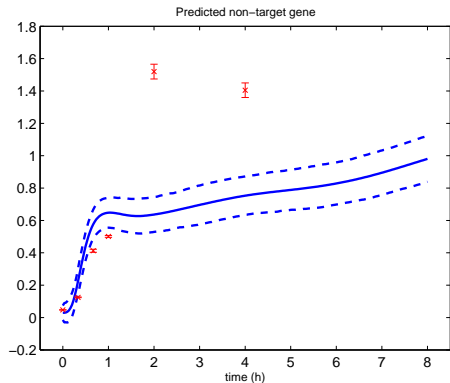
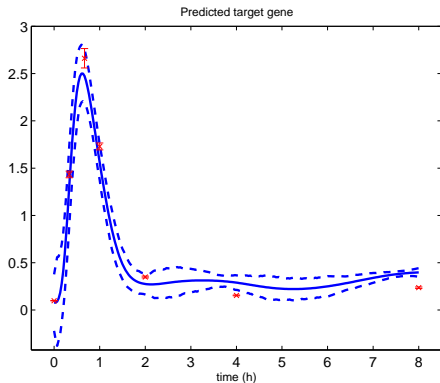
# Elk-1 (MLP covariance)

Jennifer Withers



# Elk-1 target selection

Fitted model used to rank potential targets of Elk-1



# Outline

Motivation

Differential Equations

Fitting Models to Data

Inference in ODEs

Probabilistic Model for  $p(t)$

Cascade Differential Equations

Discussion

## Model-based method for transcription factor target identification with limited data

Antti Honkela<sup>a,1</sup>, Charles Girardot<sup>b</sup>, E. Hilary Gustafson<sup>b</sup>, Ya-Hsin Liu<sup>b</sup>, Eileen E. M. Furlong<sup>b</sup>, Neil D. Lawrence<sup>c,1</sup>, and Magnus Rattray<sup>c,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Information and Computer Science, Aalto University School of Science and Technology, Helsinki, Finland; <sup>b</sup>Genome Biology U European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany; and <sup>c</sup>School of Computer Science, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Edited by David Baker, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and approved March 3, 2010 (received for review December 10, 2009)

**We present a computational method for identifying potential targets of a transcription factor (TF) using wild-type gene expression time series data. For each putative target gene we fit a simple differential equation model of transcriptional regulation, and the**

**used for genome-wide scoring of putative target genes. The only data required to apply our method is wild-type time series data collected over a period where TF activity is changing. Our method allows for complementary evidence from expression**

**(Honkela et al., 2010)**

- ▶ Transcription factor protein also has governing mRNA.
- ▶ This mRNA can be measured.
- ▶ In signalling systems this measurement can be misleading because it is activated (phosphorylated) transcription factor that counts.
- ▶ In development phosphorylation plays less of a role.

## **Collaboration with Furlong Lab in EMBL Heidelberg.**

- ▶ Mesoderm development in *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly).
- ▶ Mesoderm forms in triploblastic animals (along with ectoderm and endoderm). Mesoderm develops into muscles, and circulatory system.
- ▶ The transcription factor Twist initiates *Drosophila* mesoderm development, resulting in the formation of heart, somatic muscle, and other cell types.
- ▶ Wildtype microarray experiments publicly available.
- ▶ Can we use the cascade model to predict viable targets of Twist?

**(Honkela et al., 2010)**

We take the production rate of active transcription factor to be given by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dp(t)}{dt} &= \sigma y(t) - \delta p(t) \\ \frac{dm_j(t)}{dt} &= b_j + s_j p(t) - d_j m_j(t)\end{aligned}$$

The solution for  $p(t)$ , setting transient terms to zero, is

$$p(t) = \sigma \exp(-\delta t) \int_0^t y(u) \exp(\delta u) du .$$

# Covariance for Translation/Transcription Model

## RBF covariance function for $y(t)$

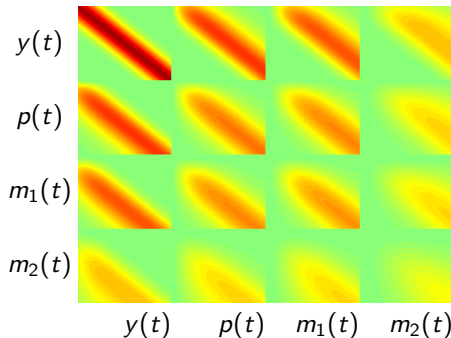
$$p(t) = \sigma \exp(-\delta t) \int_0^t y(u) \exp(\delta u) du$$

$$m_i(t) = \frac{b_i}{d_i} + s_i \exp(-d_i t) \int_0^t p(u) \exp(d_i u) du.$$

- Joint distribution for  $m_1(t)$ ,  $m_2(t)$ ,  $p(t)$  and  $y(t)$ .

- Here:

$\delta$	$d_1$	$s_1$	$d_2$	$s_2$
1	5	5	0.5	0.5



# Joint Sampling of $y(t)$ , $p(t)$ , and $m(t)$

► `disimSample`

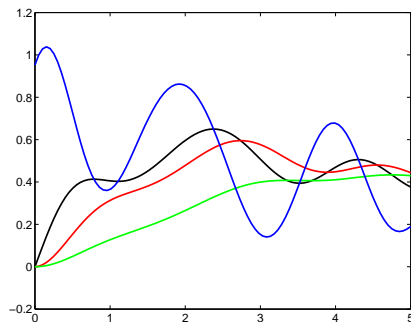


Figure: Joint samples from the ODE covariance, *blue*:  $y(t)$  (mRNA of TF), *black*:  $p(t)$  (TF concentration), *red*:  $m_1(t)$  (high decay target) and *green*:  $m_2(t)$  (low decay target)

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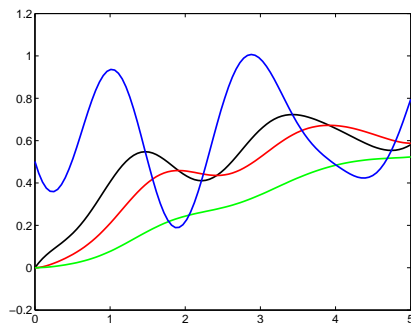


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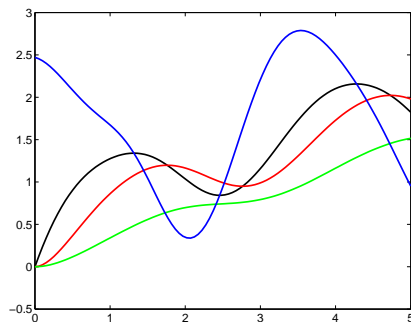


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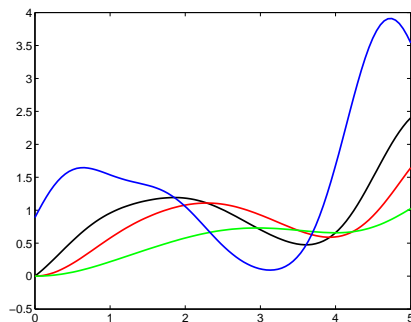


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# Twist Results

- ▶ Use mRNA of Twist as driving input.
- ▶ For each gene build a cascade model that forces Twist to be the only TF.
- ▶ Compare fit of this model to a baseline (e.g. similar model but sensitivity zero).
- ▶ Rank according to the likelihood above the baseline.
- ▶ Compare with correlation, knockouts and time series network identification (TSNI) (Della Gatta et al., 2008).

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model

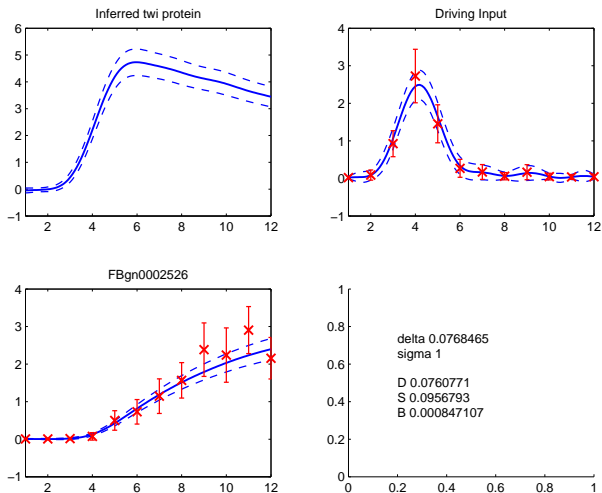
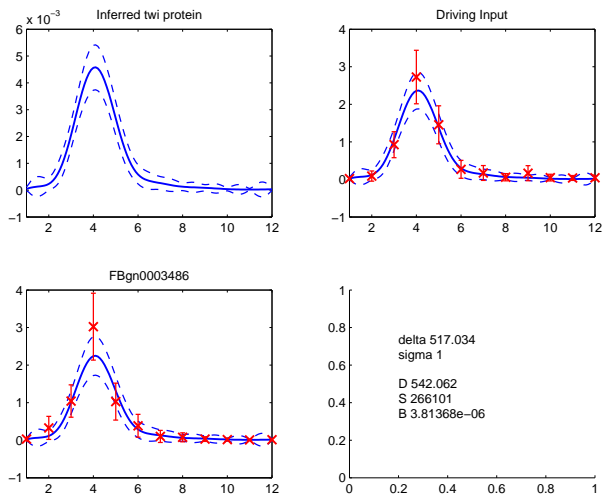


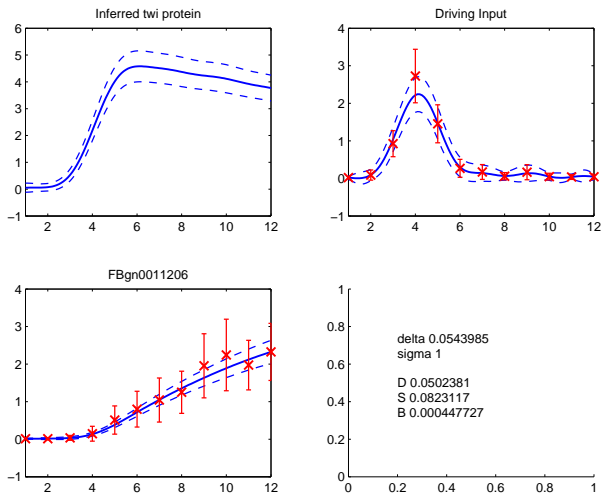
Figure: Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0002526.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model



**Figure:** Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0003486.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model



**Figure:** Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0011206.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model

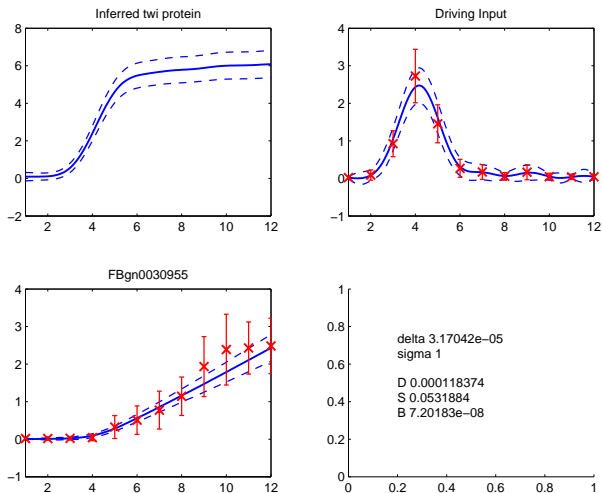


Figure: Model for flybase gene identity FBgn00309055.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model

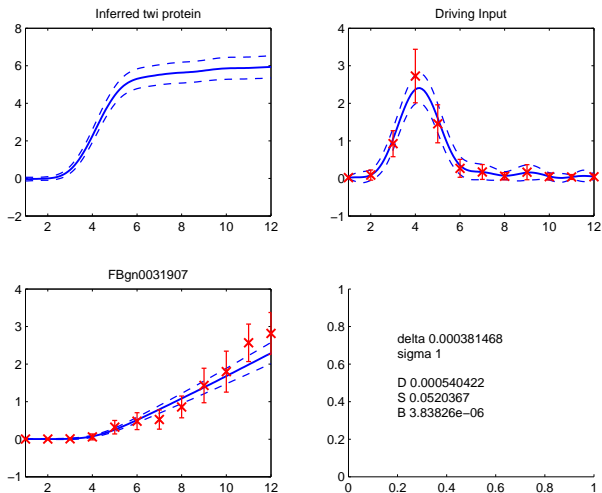
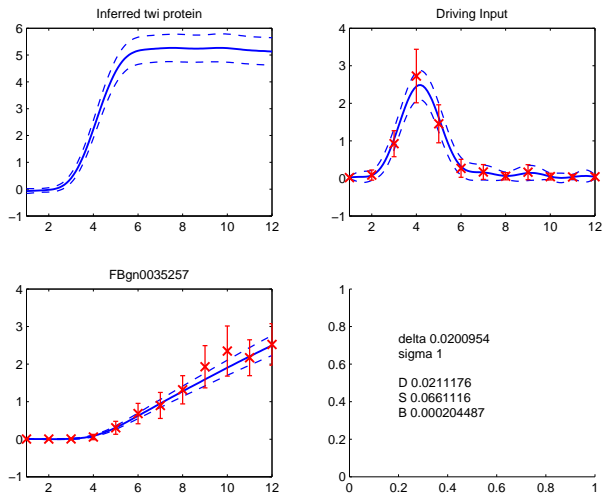


Figure: Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0031907.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model



**Figure:** Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0035257.

# Results for Twi using the Cascade model

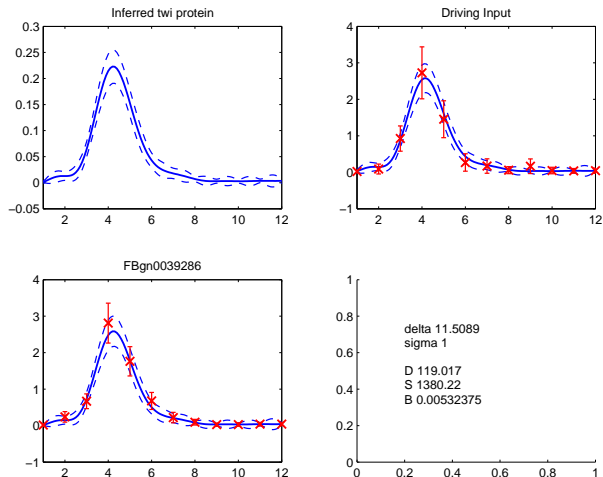
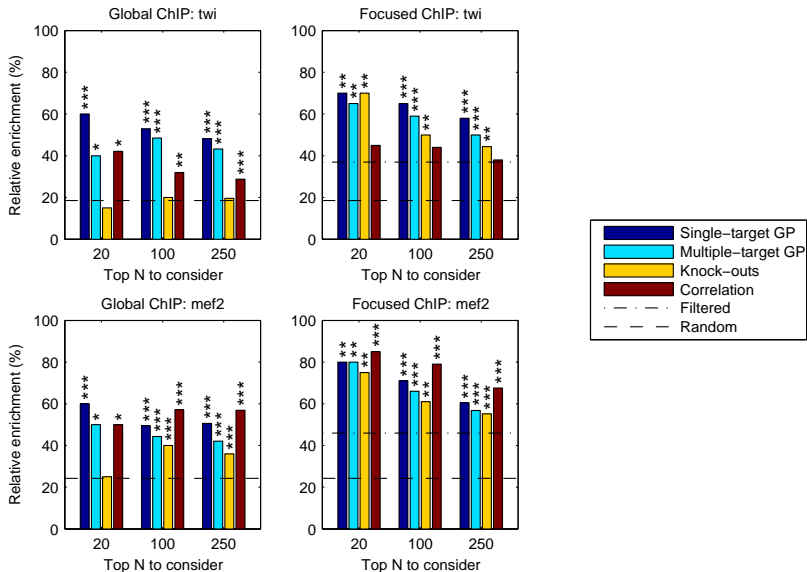


Figure: Model for flybase gene identity FBgn0039286.

# Evaluation methods

- ▶ Evaluate the ranking methods by taking a number of top-ranked targets and record the number of “positives” (Zinzen et al., 2009):
  - ▶ targets with ChIP-chip binding sites within 2 kb of gene
  - ▶ (targets differentially expressed in TF knock-outs)
- ▶ Compare against
  - ▶ Ranking by correlation of expression profiles
  - ▶ Ranking by  $q$ -value of differential expression in knock-outs
- ▶ Optionally focus on genes with annotated expression in tissues of interest

# Results



\*\*\*\*:  $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*:  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*:  $p < 0.05$

# Summary

- ▶ Cascade models allow genomewide analysis of potential targets given only expression data.
- ▶ Once a set of potential candidate targets have been identified, they can be modelled in a more complex manner.
- ▶ We don't have ground truth, but evidence indicates that the approach *can* perform as well as knockouts.

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# Discussion and Future Work

- ▶ Integration of probabilistic inference and mechanistic models for ranking by likelihood.
- ▶ Applications in modeling gene expression.
- ▶ Cascade model introduces model of translation.
- ▶ Challenges:
  - ▶ Non linear response and non linear differential equations.
  - ▶ Scaling up to larger systems.
  - ▶ Stochastic differential equations.

# Acknowledgements

- ▶ Investigators: Neil Lawrence and Magnus Rattray
- ▶ Researchers: Pei Gao, Antti Honkela, Guido Sanguinetti, and Jennifer Withers
- ▶ Martino Barenco and Mike Hubank at the Institute of Child Health in UCL (p53 pathway).
- ▶ Charles Girardot and Eileen Furlong of EMBL in Heidelberg (mesoderm development in *D. Melanogaster*).

Funded by the BBSRC award “Improved Processing of microarray data using probabilistic models” and EPSRC award “Gaussian Processes for Systems Identification with applications in Systems Biology”

# **tigre** — Transcription factor Inference through Gaussian process Reconstruction of Expression



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