

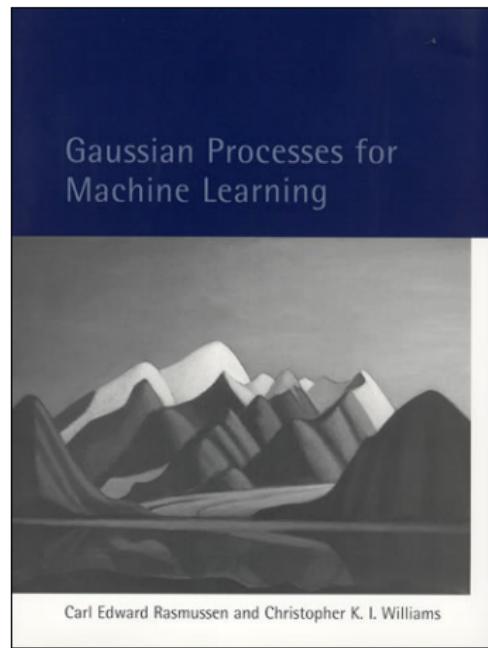
# A Brief Introduction to Gaussian Processes

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27th July 2012

# Book



Rasmussen and Williams (2006)

# Outline

- 1 The Gaussian Density
- 2 Constructing Covariance
- 3 GP Limitations
- 4 Conclusions

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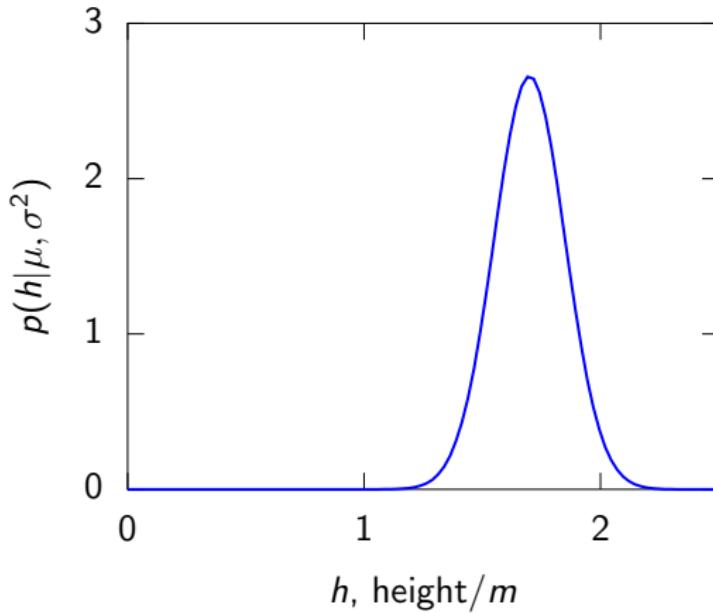
# The Gaussian Density

- Perhaps the most common probability density.

$$\begin{aligned} p(y|\mu, \sigma^2) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(y|\mu, \sigma^2) \end{aligned}$$

- The Gaussian density.

## Gaussian Density



The Gaussian PDF with  $\mu = 1.7$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 0.0225$ . Mean shown as red line. It could represent the heights of a population of students.

## Gaussian Density

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

# Two Important Gaussian Properties

- ➊ Sum of Gaussian variables is also Gaussian.

$$y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n y_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i, \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2\right)$$

(*Aside*: As sum increases, sum of non-Gaussian, finite variance variables is also Gaussian [central limit theorem].)

- ➋ Scaling a Gaussian leads to a Gaussian.

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## Two Simultaneous Equations

A system of two differential equations with two unknowns.

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c$$

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A system of two differential equations with two unknowns.

$$y_1 - y_2 = m(x_1 - x_2)$$

## Two Simultaneous Equations

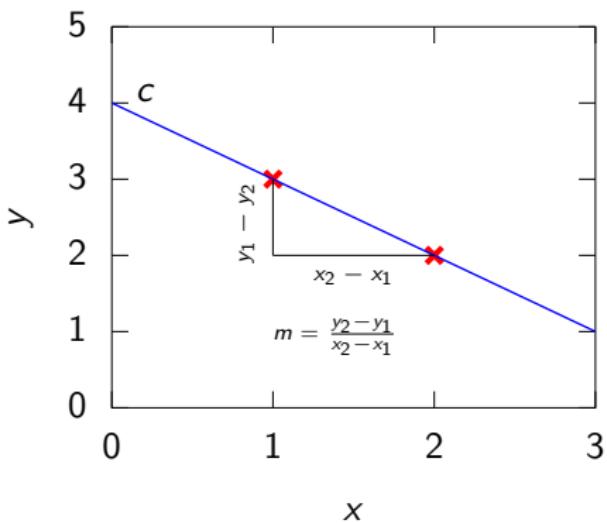
A system of two differential equations with two unknowns.

$$\frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2} = m$$

# Two Simultaneous Equations

A system of two differential equations with two unknowns.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$
$$c = y_1 - mx_1$$



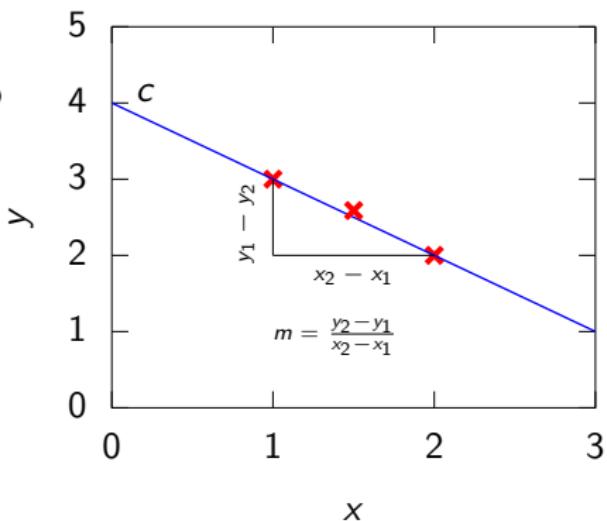
# Two Simultaneous Equations

How do we deal with three simultaneous equations with only two unknowns?

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c$$

$$y_3 = mx_3 + c$$



# Overdetermined System

- With two unknowns and two observations:

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c$$

- Additional observation leads to *overdetermined* system.

$$y_3 = mx_3 + c$$

- This problem is solved through a noise model  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

$$y_1 = mx_1 + c + \epsilon_1$$

$$y_2 = mx_2 + c + \epsilon_2$$

$$y_3 = mx_3 + c + \epsilon_3$$

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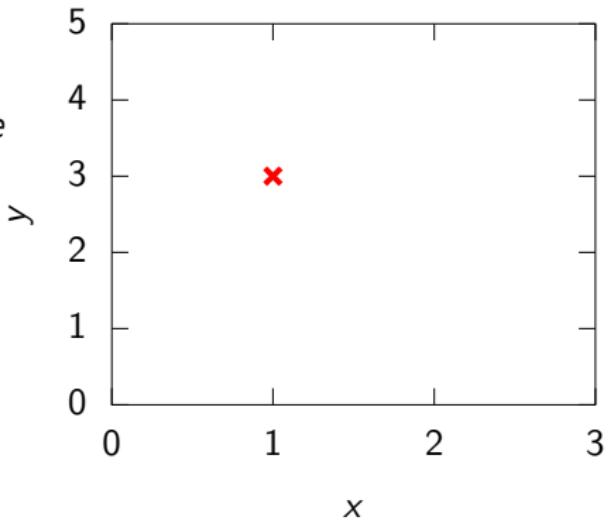
## Noise Models

- We aren't modeling entire system.
- Noise model gives mismatch between model and data.
- Gaussian model justified by appeal to central limit theorem.
- Other models also possible (Student- $t$  for heavy tails).
- Maximum likelihood with Gaussian noise leads to *least squares*.

# Underdetermined System

What about two unknowns and *one* observation?

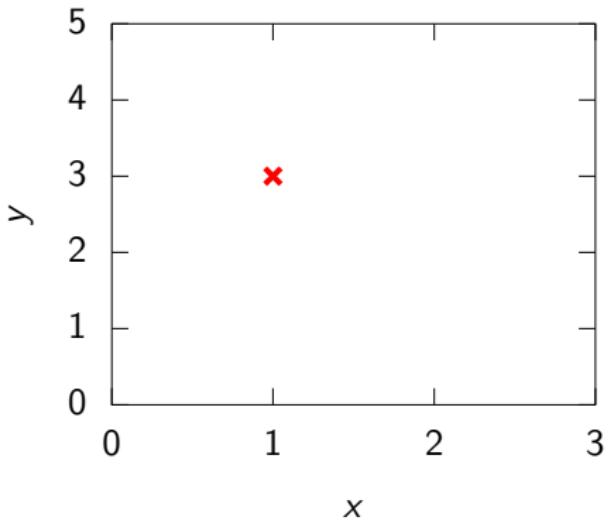
$$y_1 = mx_1 + c$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

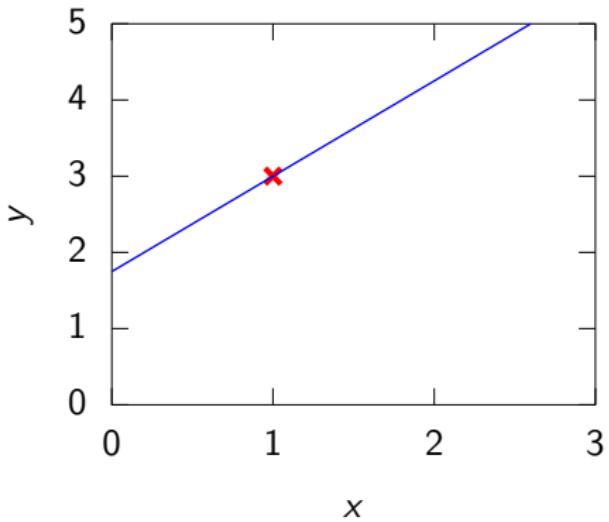
$$m = \frac{y_1 - c}{x}$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

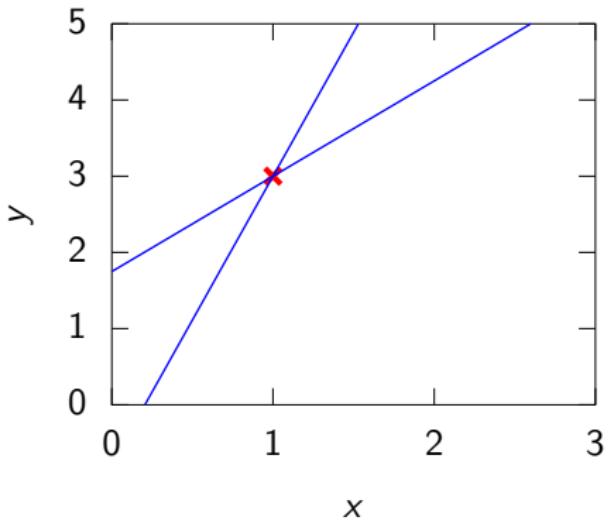
$$c = 1.75 \implies m = 1.25$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

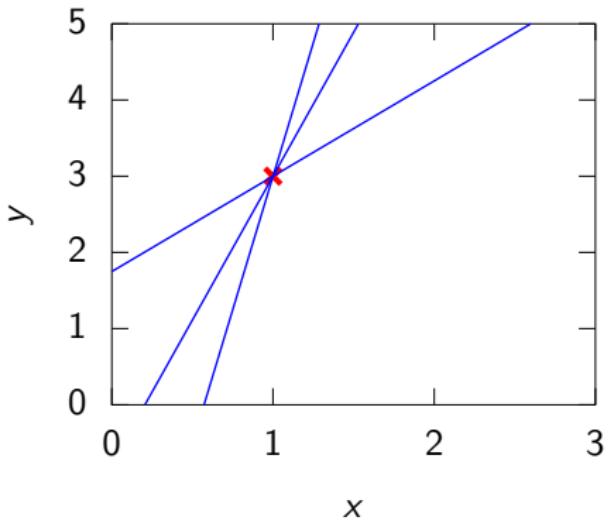
$$c = -0.777 \implies m = 3.78$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

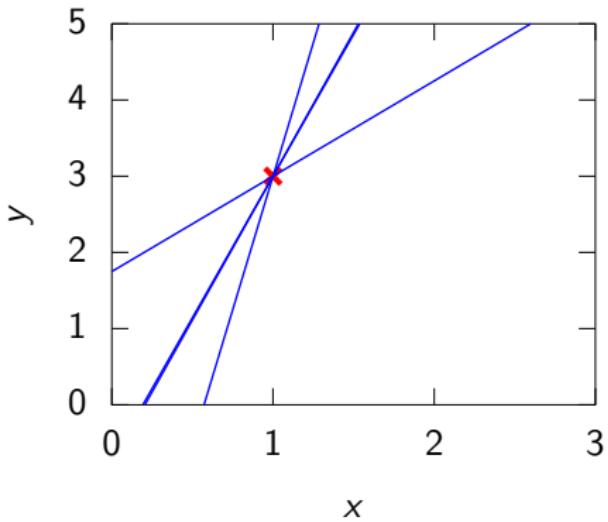
$$c = -4.01 \implies m = 7.01$$



# Underdetermined System

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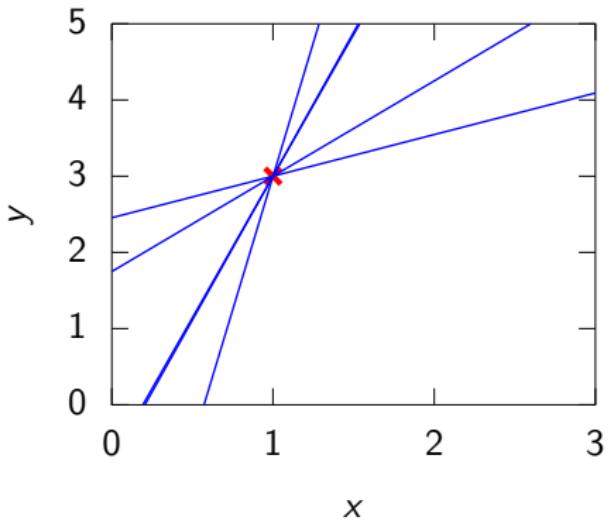
$$c = -0.718 \implies m = 3.72$$



# Underdetermined System

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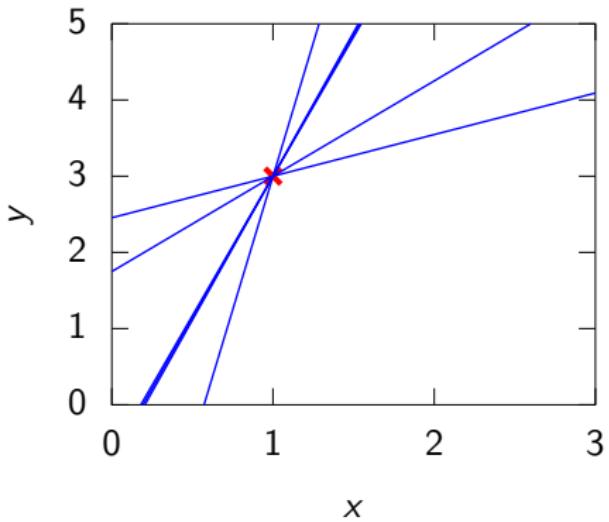
$$c = 2.45 \implies m = 0.545$$



# Underdetermined System

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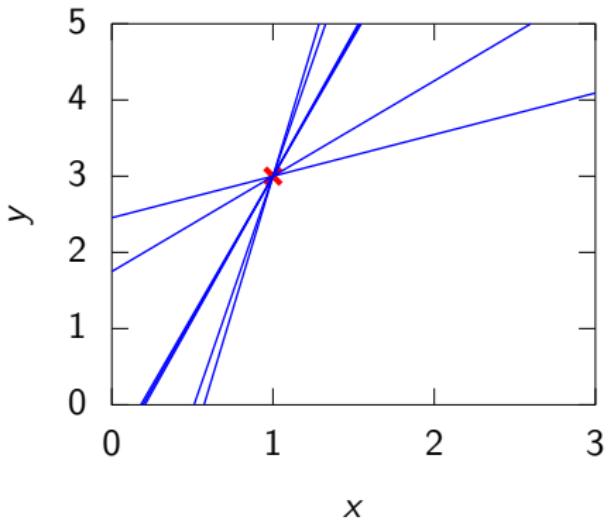
$$c = -0.657 \implies m = 3.66$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

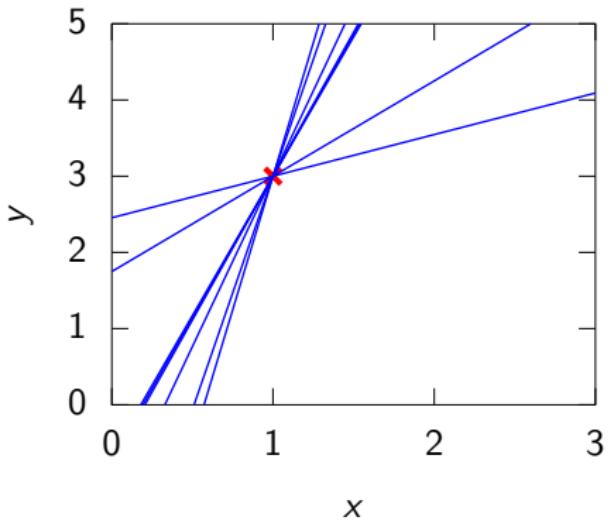
$$c = -3.13 \implies m = 6.13$$



# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

$$c = -1.47 \implies m = 4.47$$



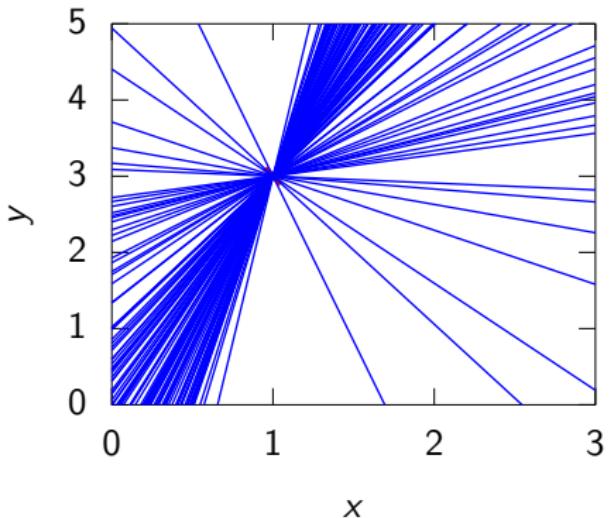
# Underdetermined System

Can compute  $m$  given  $c$ .

Assume

$$c \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 4),$$

we find a distribution of solutions.



## Probability for Under- and Overdetermined

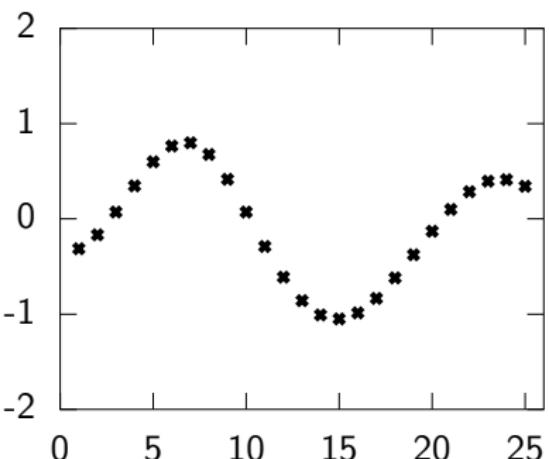
- To deal with overdetermined introduced probability distribution for 'variable',  $\epsilon_i$ .
- For underdetermined system introduced probability distribution for 'parameter',  $c$ .
- This is known as a Bayesian treatment.

# Sampling a Function

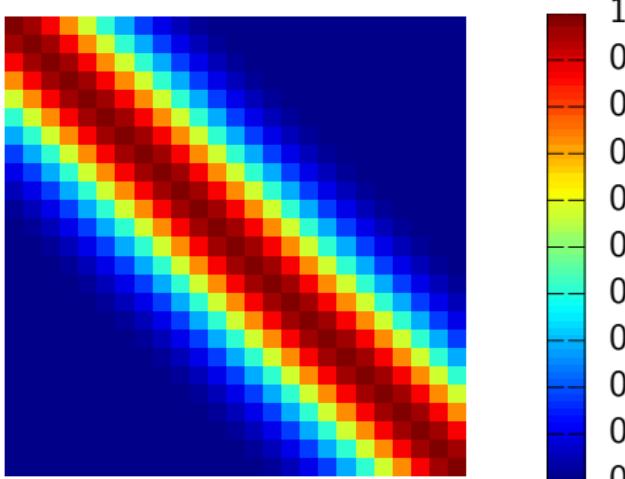
## Multi-variate Gaussians

- We will consider a Gaussian with a particular structure of covariance matrix.
- Generate a single sample from this 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution,  $\mathbf{f} = [f_1, f_2 \dots f_{25}]$ .
- We will plot these points against their index.

## Gaussian Distribution Sample



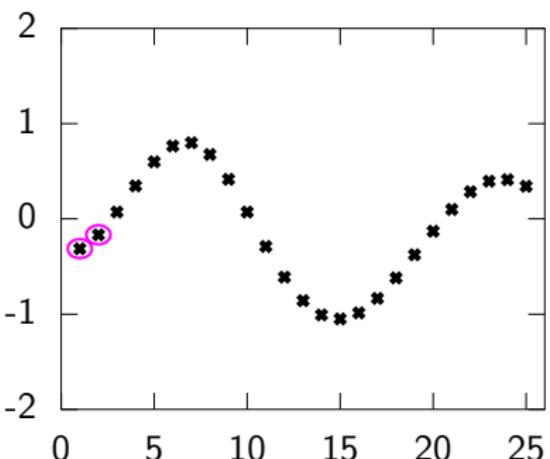
(a) A 25 dimensional correlated random variable (values plotted against index)



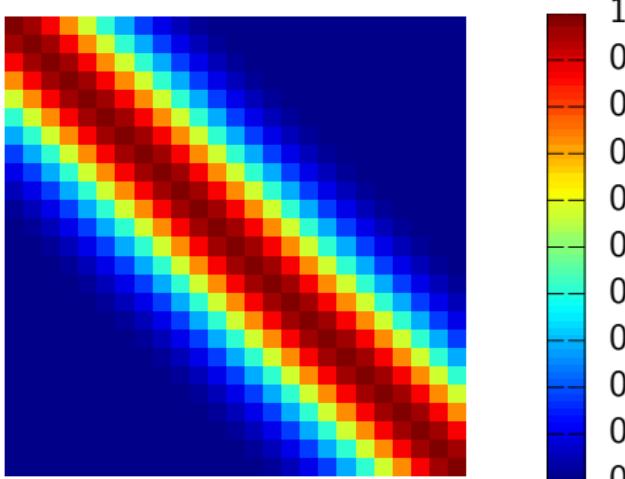
(b) colormap showing correlations between dimensions.

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

## Gaussian Distribution Sample



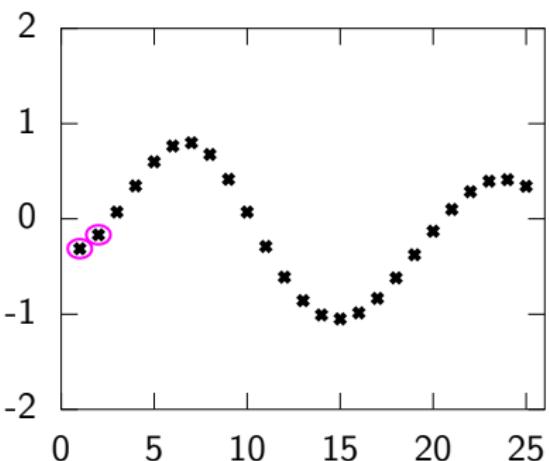
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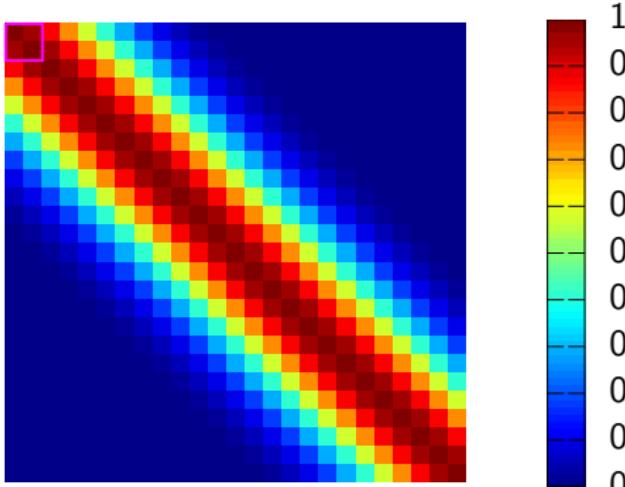
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**Figure:** A sample from a 25 dimensional Gaussian distribution.

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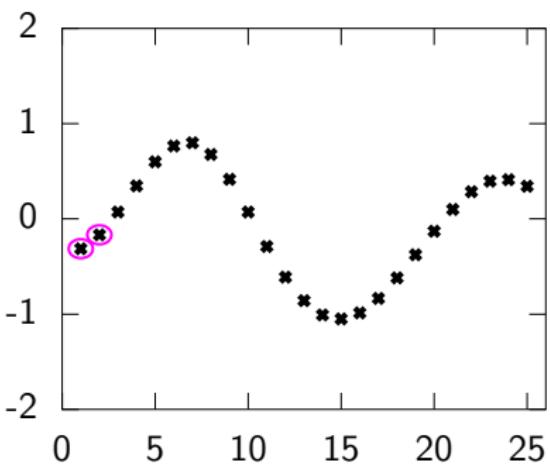
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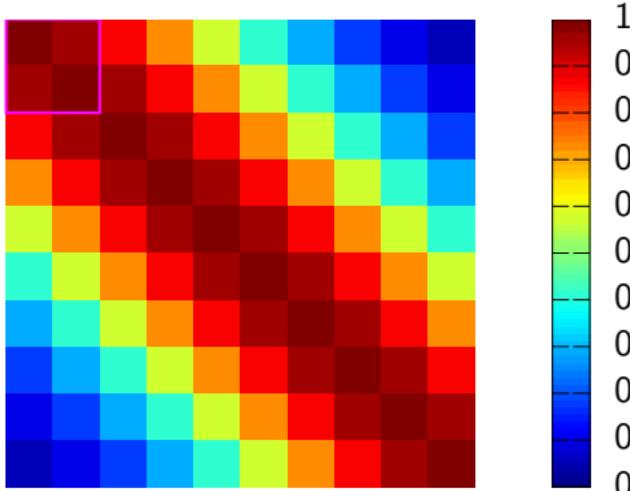
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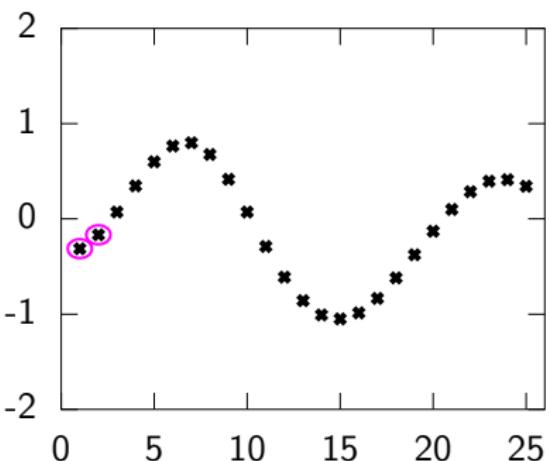
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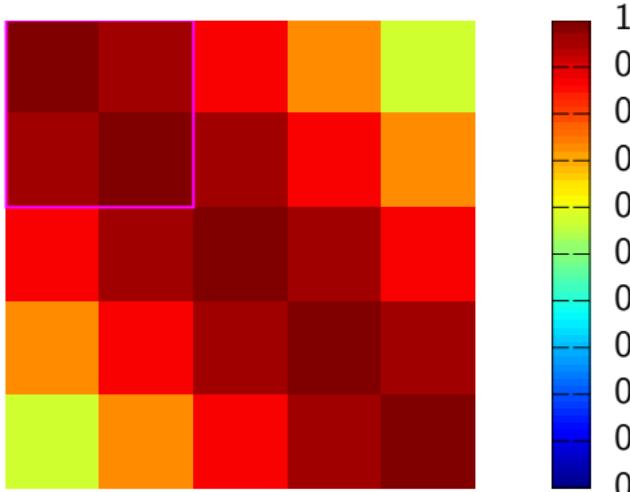
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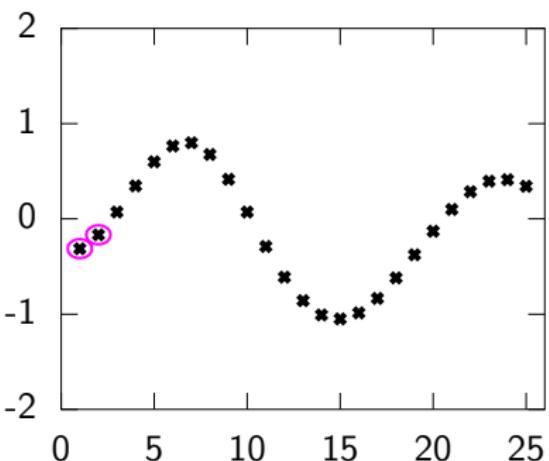
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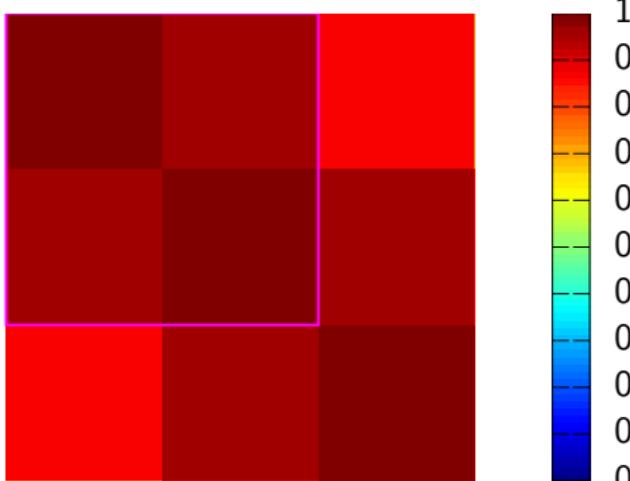
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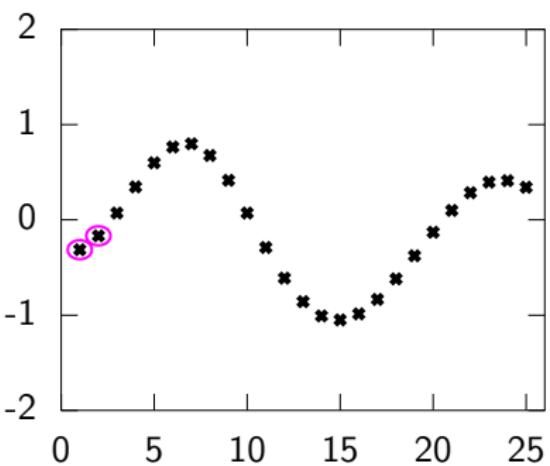
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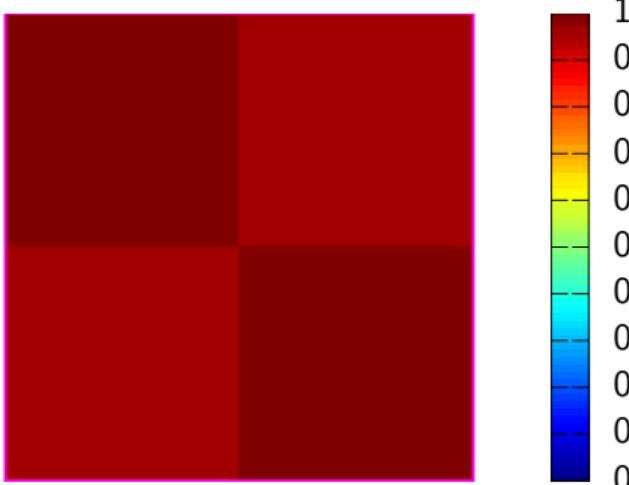
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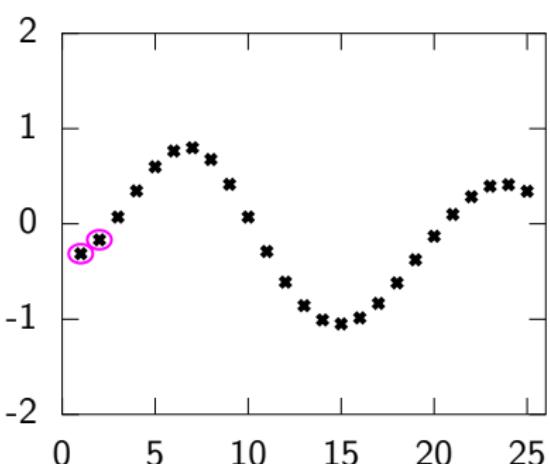
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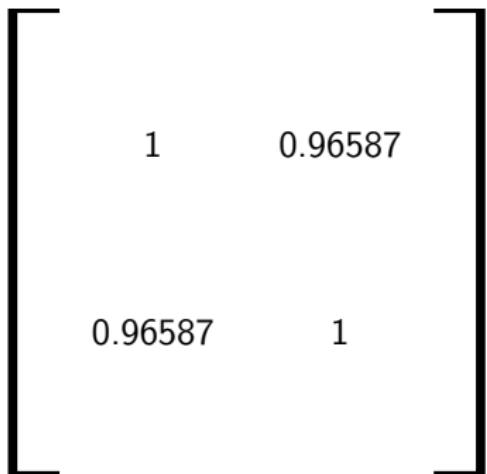
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## Gaussian Distribution Sample



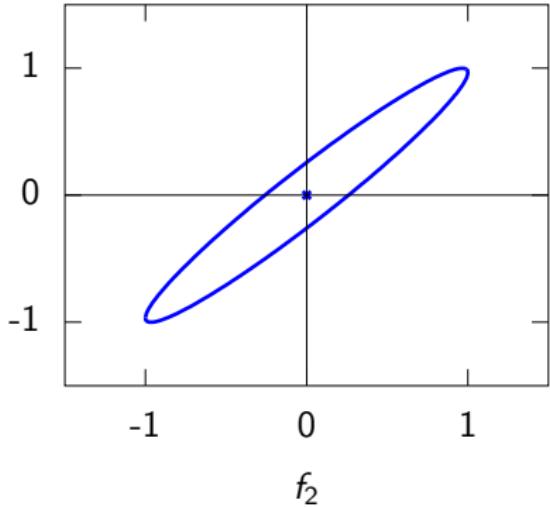
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(b) correlation between  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ .

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

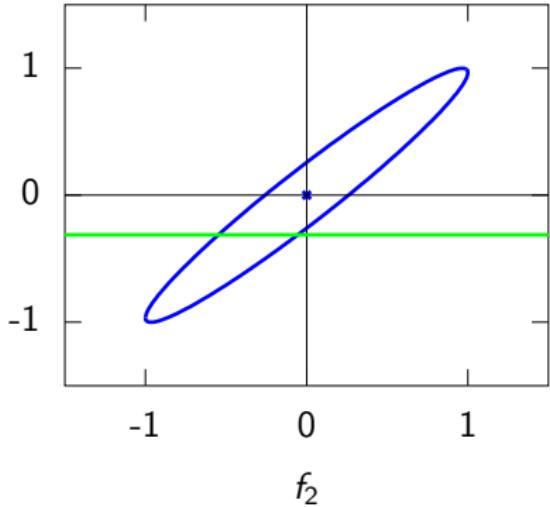
## Prediction of $f_2$ from $f_1$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.96587 \\ 0.96587 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The single contour of the Gaussian density represents the joint distribution,  $p(f_1, f_2)$ .
- We observe that  $f_1 = -0.313$ .
- Conditional density:  $p(f_2|f_1 = -0.313)$ .

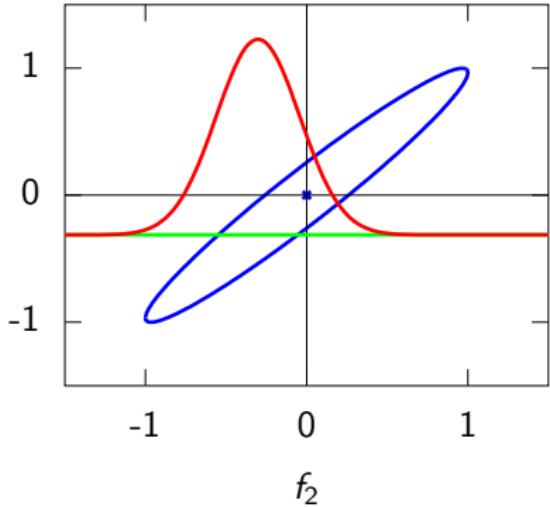
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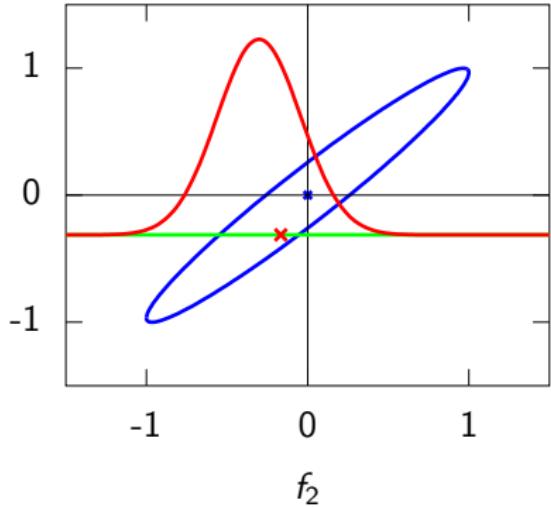
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## Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

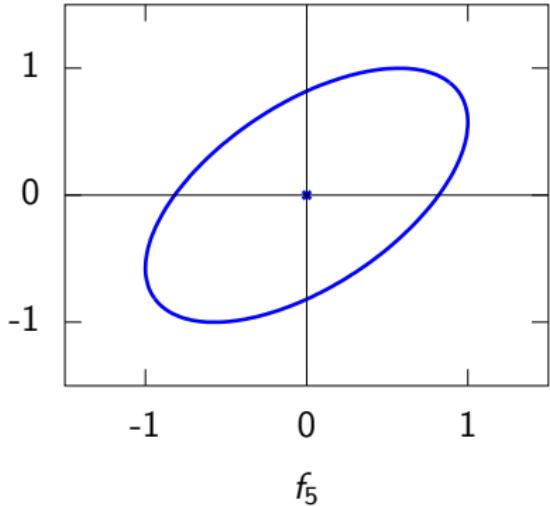
- Prediction of  $f_2$  from  $f_1$  requires *conditional density*.
- Conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$p(f_2|f_1) = \mathcal{N} \left( f_2 \middle| \frac{k_{1,2}}{k_{1,1}} f_1, k_{2,2} - \frac{k_{1,2}^2}{k_{1,1}} \right)$$

where covariance of joint density is given by

$$\mathbf{\mathbf{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} k_{1,1} & k_{1,2} \\ k_{2,1} & k_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

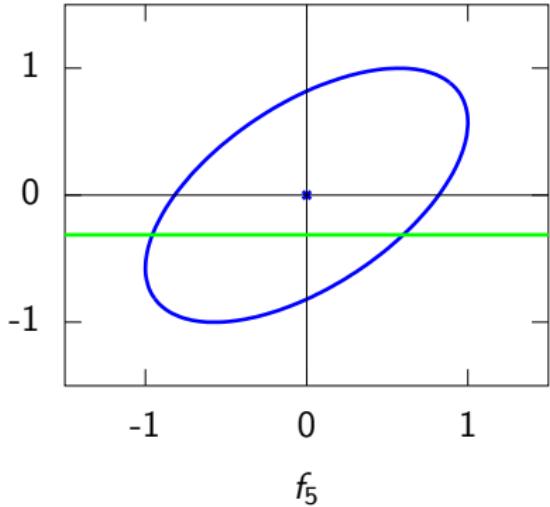
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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.57375 \\ 0.57375 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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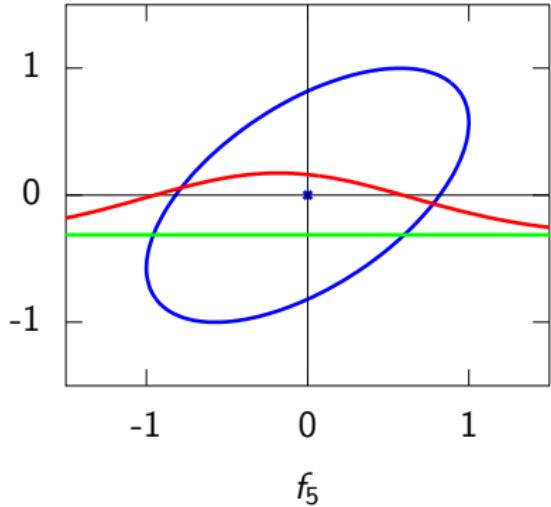
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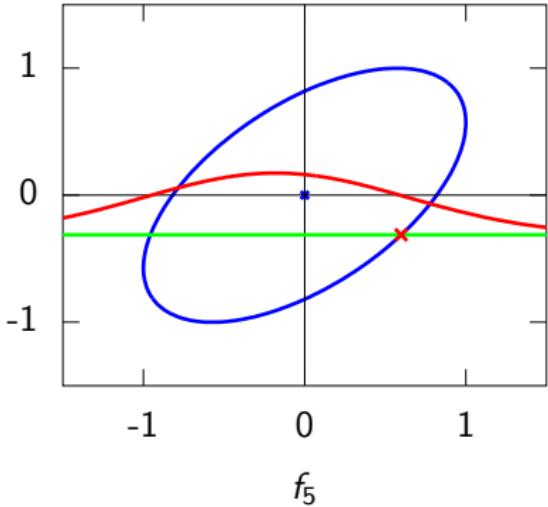
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# Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

- Prediction of  $\mathbf{f}_*$  from  $\mathbf{f}$  requires multivariate *conditional density*.
- Multivariate conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$p(\mathbf{f}_* | \mathbf{f}) = \mathcal{N} \left( \mathbf{f}_* | \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1} \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{K}_{*,*} - \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*} \right)$$

- Here covariance of joint density is given by

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}} & \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \\ \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*} & \mathbf{K}_{*,*} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Prediction with Correlated Gaussians

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- Multivariate conditional density is *also* Gaussian.

$$p(\mathbf{f}_* | \mathbf{f}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}_* | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1} \mathbf{f}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{K}_{*,*} - \mathbf{K}_{*,\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{f}}^{-1} \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{f},*}$$

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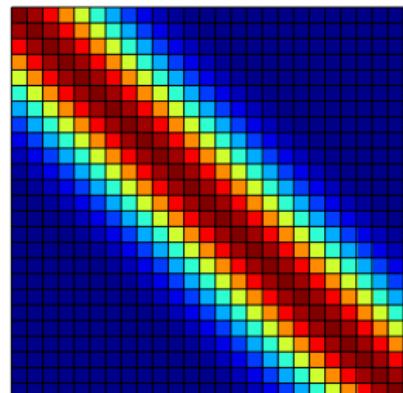
# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|_2^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

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



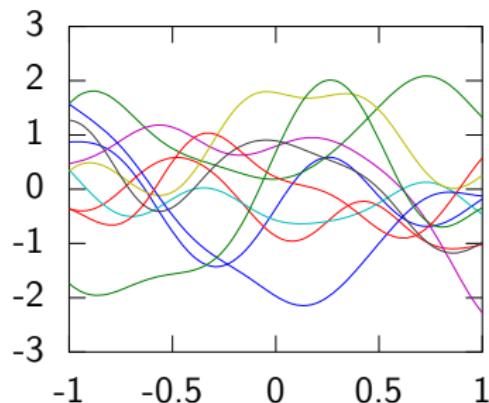
# Covariance Functions

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# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20, \text{ and } x_3 = 1.40 \text{ with } \ell = 2.00 \text{ and } \alpha = 1.00.$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 1.00 & \\ & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & 1.00 & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & 1.00 & \\ & & & \\ & 0.110 & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{2,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & \\ & 0.110 & \boxed{1.00} & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{3,1} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - (-3.0))^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & \\ & 0.110 & 1.00 & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & \\ & 0.110 & 1.00 & \\ & & 0.0889 & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & 0.0889 \\ & 0.110 & 1.00 & \\ & 0.0889 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & 0.0889 \\ & 0.110 & 1.00 & \\ & 0.0889 & 0.995 & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$k_{3,2} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.00 & 0.110 & 0.0889 \\ 0.110 & 1.00 & 0.995 \\ 0.0889 & 0.995 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_3 = 1.40$$

$$k_{3,3} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 1.00 & 0.110 & 0.0889 \\ & 0.110 & 1.00 & 0.995 \\ & 0.0889 & 0.995 & \\ & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 2.00$  and  $\alpha = 1.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_3 = 1.40$$

$$k_{3,3} = 1.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.40)^2}{2 \times 2.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.00 & 0.110 & 0.0889 \\ 0.110 & 1.00 & 0.995 \\ 0.0889 & 0.995 & 1.00 \end{bmatrix}$$

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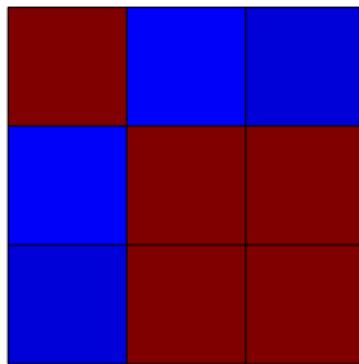
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$$x_1 = -3, x_2 = -3$$

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$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4, \text{ and } x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4, \text{ and } x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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1.0

$x_1 = -3$ ,  $x_2 = 1.2$ ,  $x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & 1.0 & \\ & & \boxed{0.11} & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 1.0 & 0.11 & \\ & 0.11 & 1.0 & \\ & \boxed{0.089} & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$k_{3,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4-1.2)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$k_{3,3} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.4-1.4)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & \boxed{1.0} \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$x_4 = 2.0, x_1 = -3$$

$$k_{4,1} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 \\ 0.044 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$

$$k_{4,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$

$$k_{4,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_2 = 1.2$$

$$k_{4,2} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_3 = 1.4$$

$$k_{4,3} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_3 = 1.4$$

$$k_{4,3} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_4 = 2.0$$

$$k_{4,4} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_4 = 2.0$$

$$k_{4,4} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1.0 & 0.11 & 0.089 & 0.044 \\ 0.11 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.92 \\ 0.089 & 1.0 & 1.0 & 0.96 \\ 0.044 & 0.92 & 0.96 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

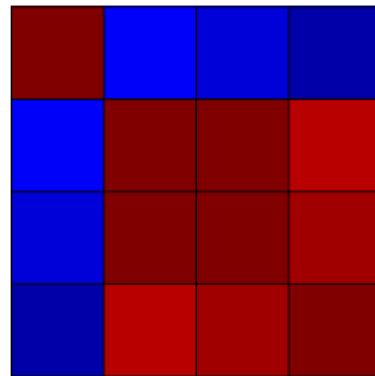
# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_4 = 2.0, x_4 = 2.0$$

$$k_{4,4} = 1.0 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(2.0 - 2.0)^2}{2 \times 2.0^2}\right)$$



$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1.2, x_3 = 1.4$ , and  $x_4 = 2.0$  with  $\ell = 2.0$  and  $\alpha = 1.0$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20, \text{ and } x_3 = 1.40 \text{ with } \ell = 5.00 \text{ and } \alpha = 4.00.$$

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_1 = -3.0, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{1,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(-3.0 - -3.0)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & \\ & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

## Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 4.00 \times \exp \left( -\frac{(1.20-1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2} \right)$$

4.00

$x_1 = -3.0$ ,  $x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & 4.00 & \\ & & & \\ & 2.81 & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_1 = -3.0$$

$$k_{2,1} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 \\ & 2.81 & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_2 = 1.20, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{2,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.20 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 \\ & 2.81 & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & \\ & 2.81 & \boxed{4.00} & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

$$x_3 = 1.40, x_1 = -3.0$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

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$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & \\ & & & \boxed{2.72} \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\ell^2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & 2.72 \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & \\ & 2.72 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

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# Covariance Functions

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$$x_3 = 1.40, x_2 = 1.20$$

$$k_{3,2} = 4.00 \times \exp\left(-\frac{(1.40 - 1.20)^2}{2 \times 5.00^2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & 2.72 \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & 4.00 \\ & 2.72 & 4.00 & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & 2.72 \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & 4.00 \\ & 2.72 & 4.00 & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & 4.00 & 2.81 & 2.72 \\ & 2.81 & 4.00 & 4.00 \\ & 2.72 & 4.00 & 4.00 \end{bmatrix}$$

$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

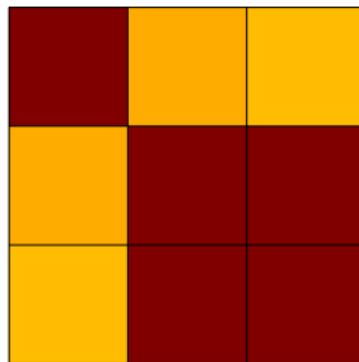
# Covariance Functions

Where did this covariance matrix come from?

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$x_1 = -3.0, x_2 = 1.20$ , and  $x_3 = 1.40$  with  $\ell = 5.00$  and  $\alpha = 4.00$ .

# Outline

- 1 The Gaussian Density
- 2 Constructing Covariance
- 3 GP Limitations
- 4 Conclusions

# Constructing Covariance Functions

- Sum of two covariances is also a covariance function.

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + k_2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

# Constructing Covariance Functions

- Product of two covariances is also a covariance function.

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')k_2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

## Multiply by Deterministic Function

- If  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a Gaussian process.
- $g(\mathbf{x})$  is a deterministic function.
- $h(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})$
- Then

$$k_h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = g(\mathbf{x})k_f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')g(\mathbf{x}')$$

where  $k_h$  is covariance for  $h(\cdot)$  and  $k_f$  is covariance for  $f(\cdot)$ .

# Covariance Functions

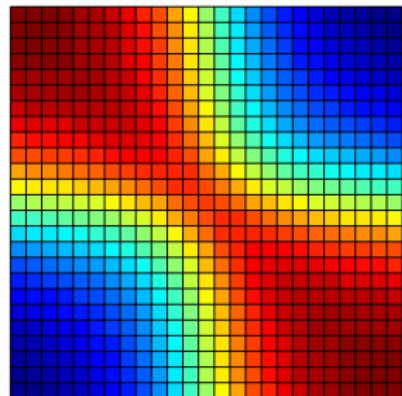
## MLP Covariance Function

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \alpha \arcsin \left( \frac{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}' + b}{\sqrt{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x} + b + 1} \sqrt{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}'^\top \mathbf{x}' + b + 1}} \right)$$

- Based on infinite neural network model.

$$w = 40$$

$$b = 4$$



# Covariance Functions

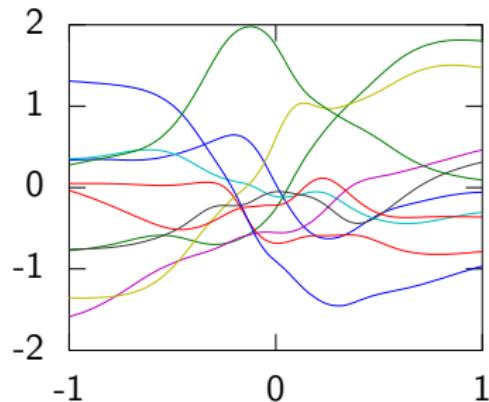
## MLP Covariance Function

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \alpha \arcsin \left( \frac{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}' + b}{\sqrt{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x} + b + 1} \sqrt{\mathbf{w} \mathbf{x}'^\top \mathbf{x}' + b + 1}} \right)$$

- Based on infinite neural network model.

$$w = 40$$

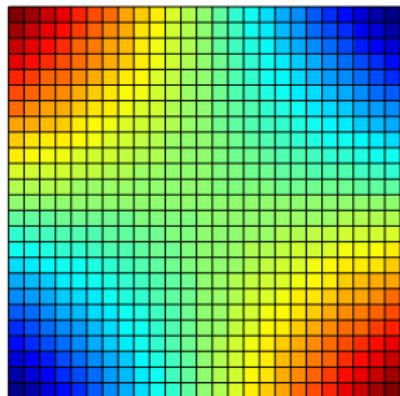
$$b = 4$$



# Covariance Functions

## Linear Covariance Function

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \alpha \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}'$$



- Bayesian linear regression.

$$\alpha = 1$$

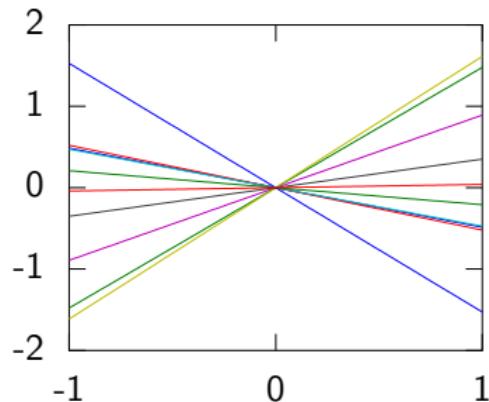
# Covariance Functions

## Linear Covariance Function

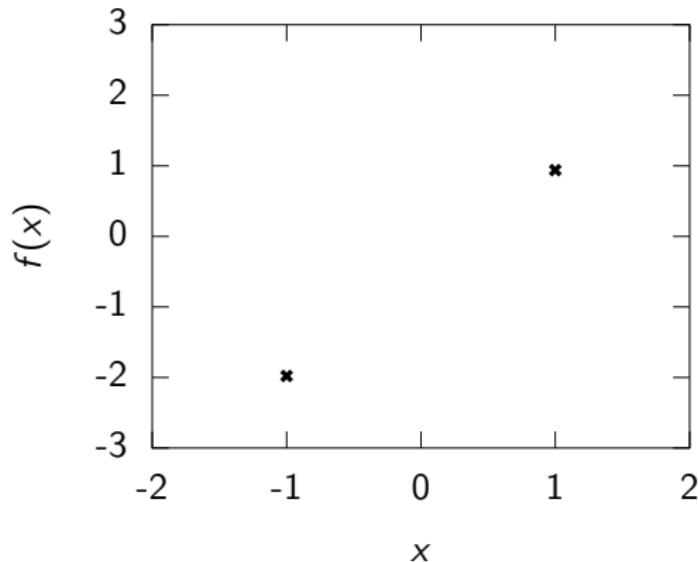
$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \alpha \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x}'$$

- Bayesian linear regression.

$$\alpha = 1$$

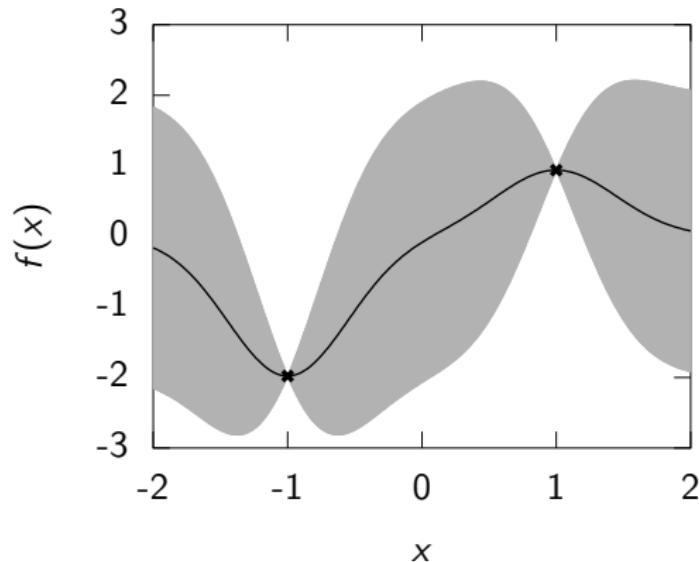


# Gaussian Process Interpolation



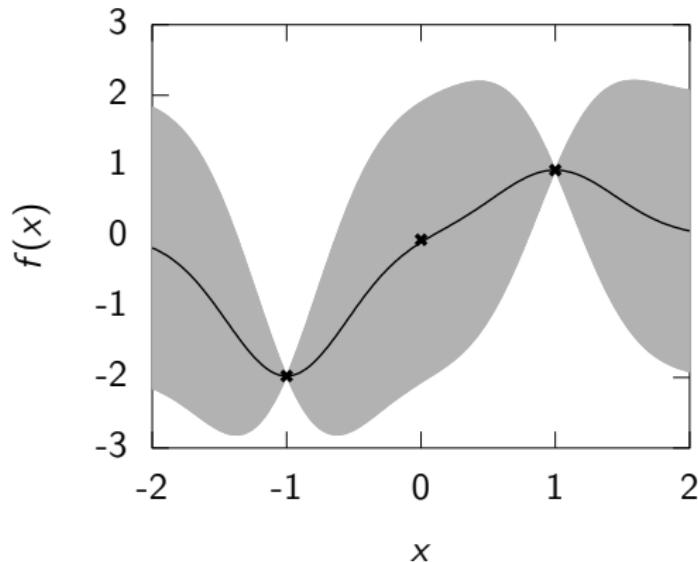
**Figure:** Real example: BACCO (see e.g. (Oakley and O'Hagan, 2002)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (e.g. atmospheric carbon levels).

# Gaussian Process Interpolation



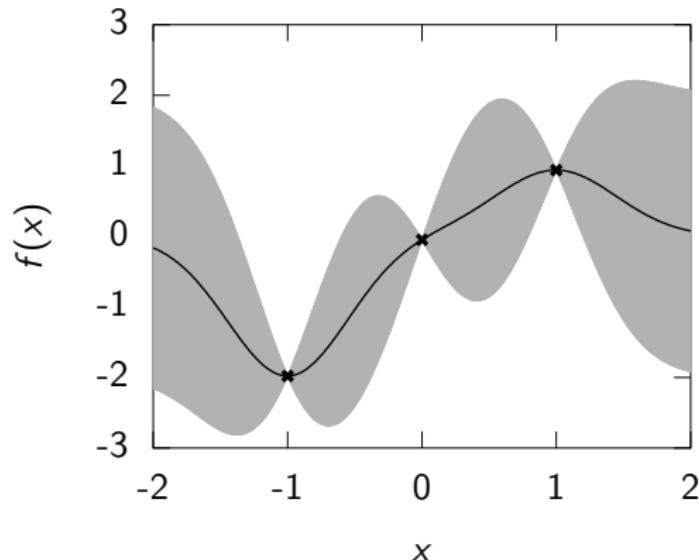
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# Gaussian Process Interpolation



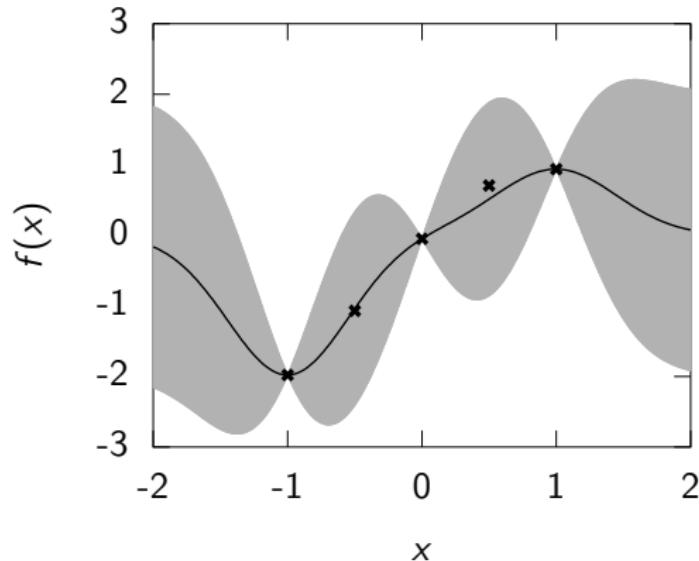
**Figure:** Real example: BACCO (see e.g. (Oakley and O'Hagan, 2002)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (e.g. atmospheric carbon levels).

# Gaussian Process Interpolation



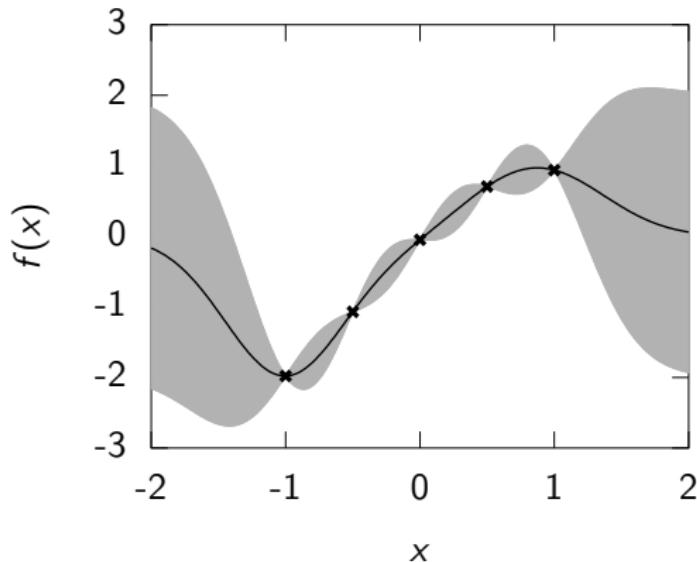
**Figure:** Real example: BACCO (see e.g. (Oakley and O'Hagan, 2002)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (e.g. atmospheric carbon levels).

# Gaussian Process Interpolation



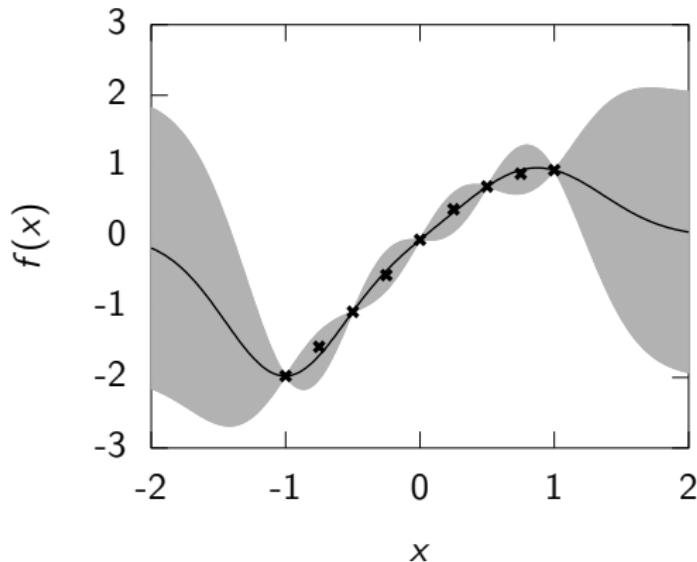
**Figure:** Real example: BACCO (see e.g. (Oakley and O'Hagan, 2002)). Interpolation through outputs from slow computer simulations (e.g. atmospheric carbon levels).

# Gaussian Process Interpolation



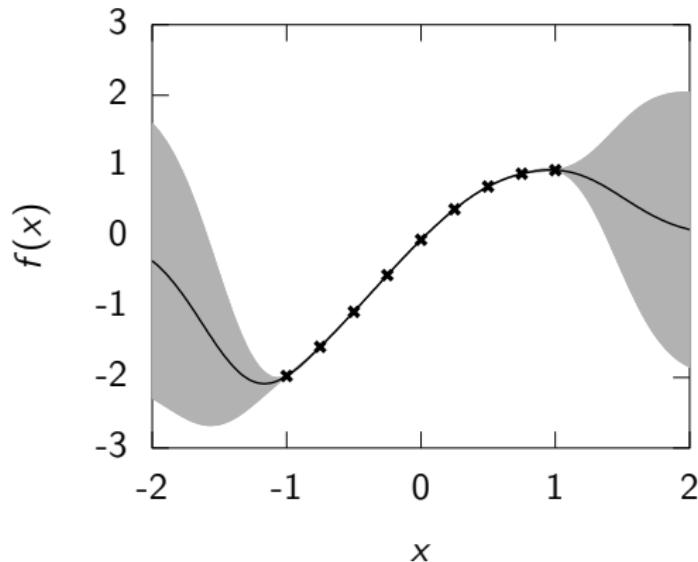
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# Gaussian Process Interpolation



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

# Noise Models

## Graph of a GP

- Relates input variables,  $\mathbf{X}$ , to vector,  $\mathbf{y}$ , through  $\mathbf{f}$  given kernel parameters  $\theta$ .
- Plate notation indicates independence of  $y_i|f_i$ .
- Noise model,  $p(y_i|f_i)$  can take several forms.
- Simplest is Gaussian noise.

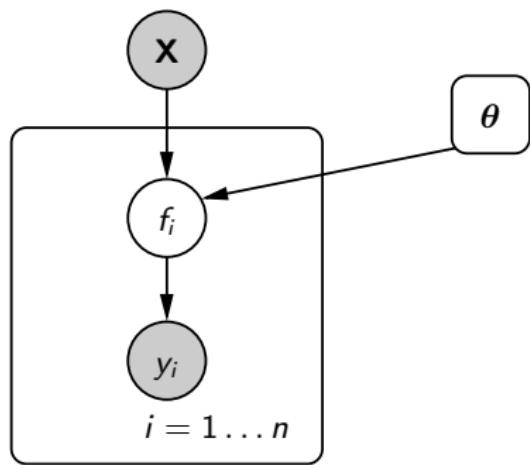


Figure: The Gaussian process depicted graphically.

## Gaussian Noise

- Gaussian noise model,

$$p(y_i|f_i) = \mathcal{N}(y_i|f_i, \sigma^2)$$

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

- Equivalent to a covariance function of the form

$$k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \delta_{i,j} \sigma^2$$

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

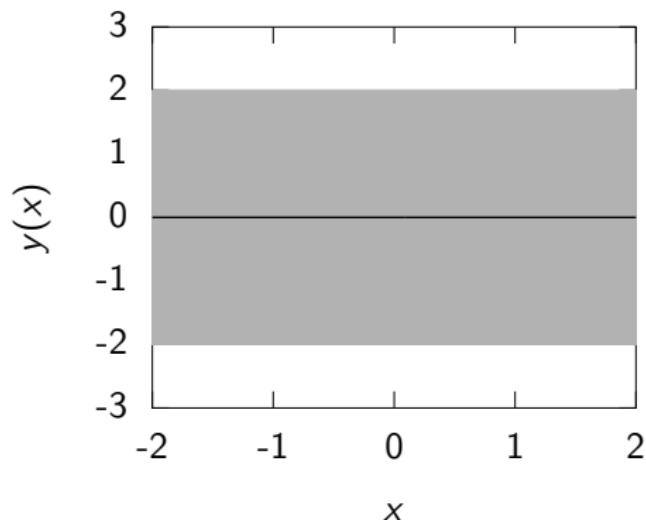


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

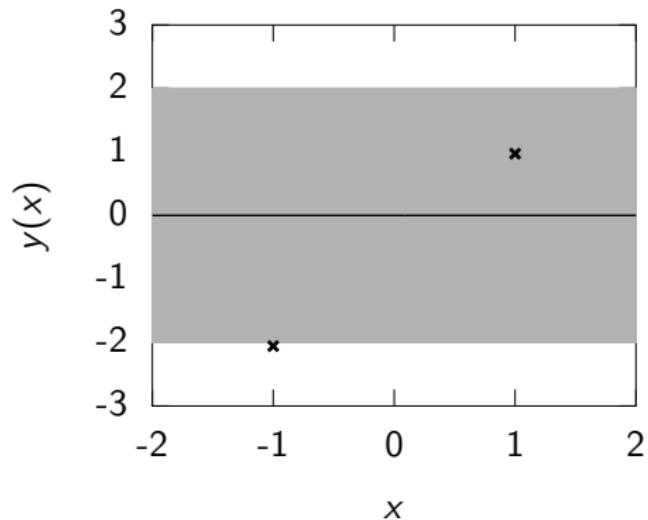


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

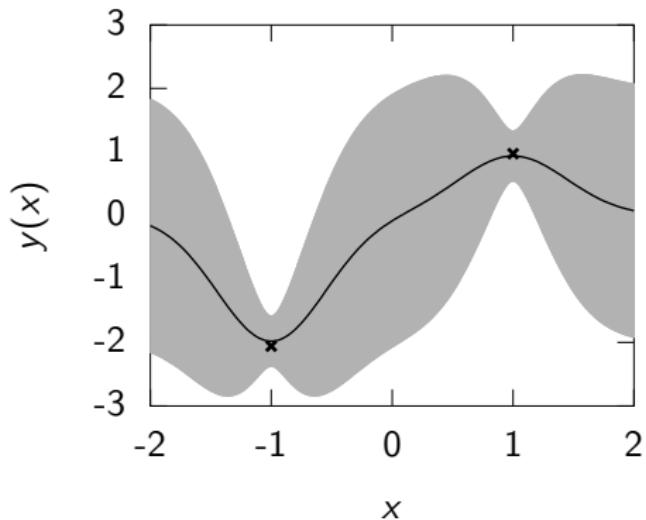


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

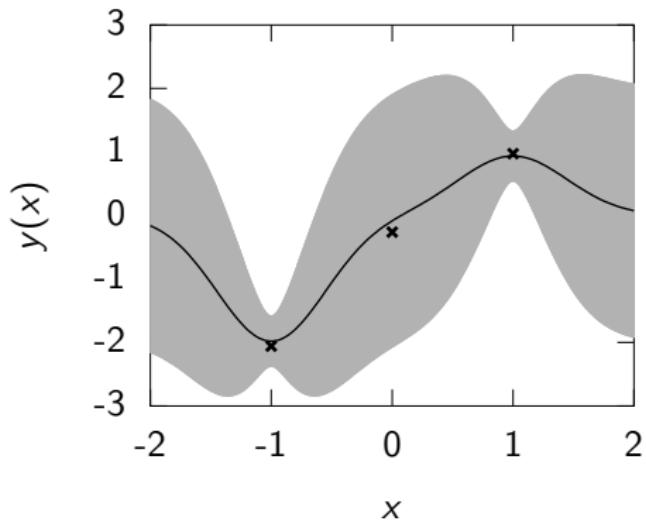


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

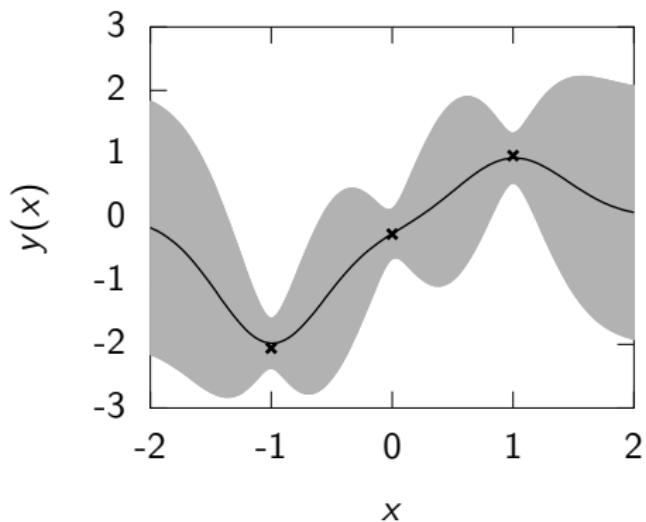


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

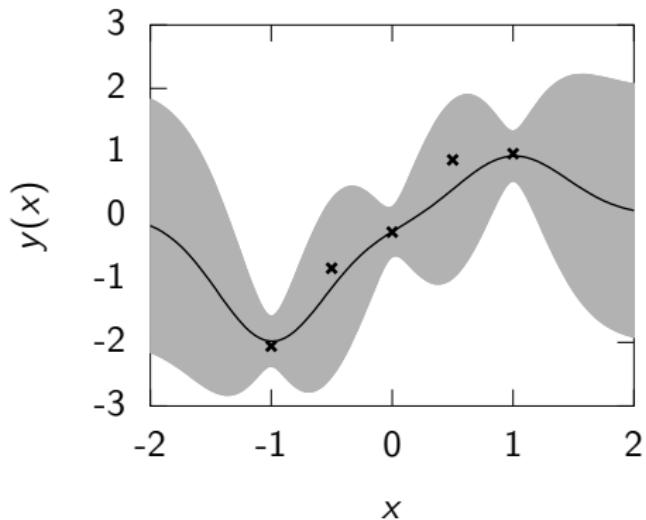


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

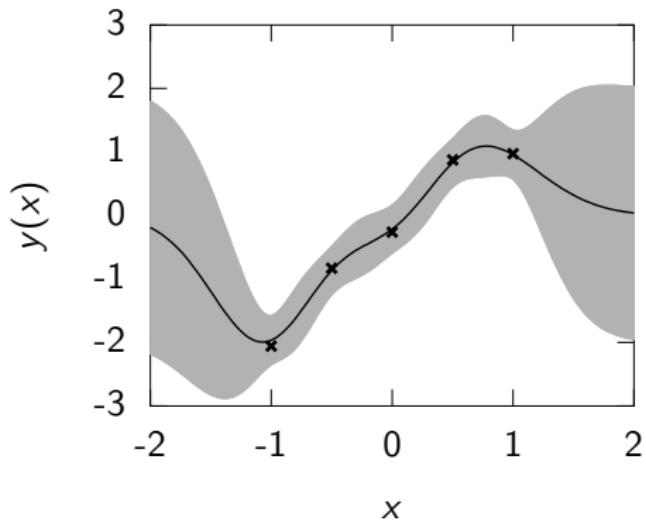


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

# Gaussian Process Regression

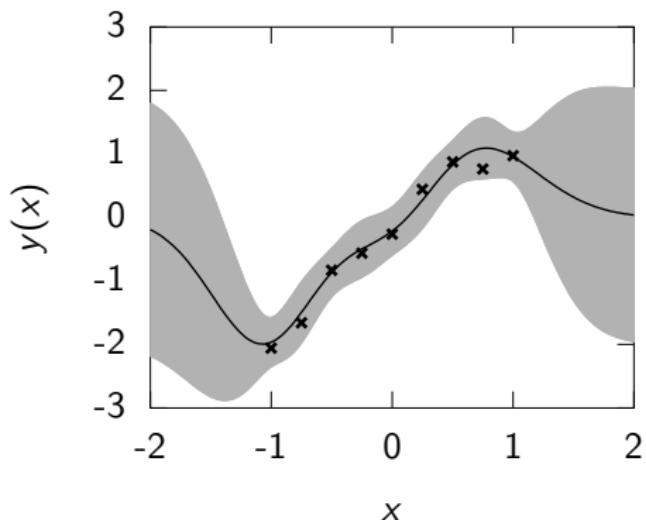


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

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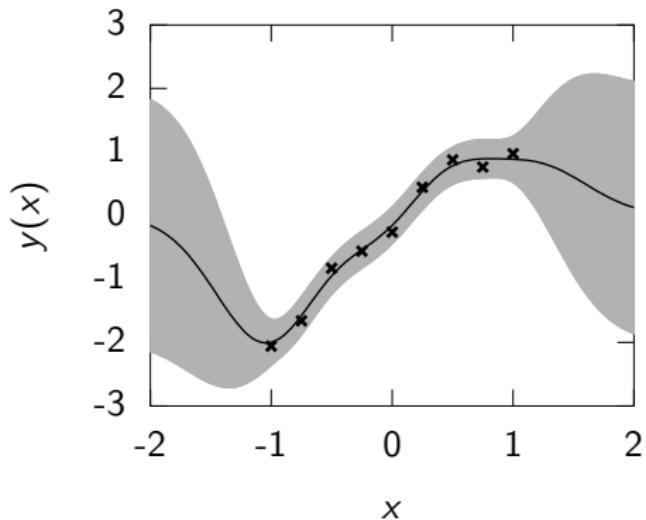


Figure: Examples include WiFi localization, C14 calibration curve.

## Learning Covariance Parameters

Can we determine covariance parameters from the data?

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

The parameters are *inside* the covariance function (matrix).

$$k_{i,j} = k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

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

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$$E(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{K}| + \frac{\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{y}}{2}$$

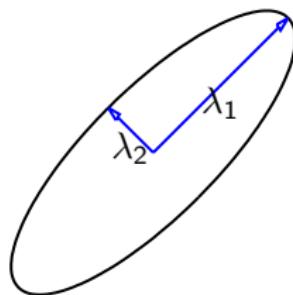
The parameters are *inside* the covariance function (matrix).

$$k_{i,j} = k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j; \theta)$$

# Eigendecomposition of Covariance

A useful decomposition for understanding the objective function.

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



Diagonal of  $\Lambda$  represents distance along axes.  
 $\mathbf{R}$  gives a rotation of these axes.

where  $\Lambda$  is a *diagonal* matrix and  $\mathbf{R}^\top\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I}$ .

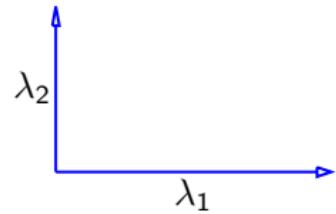
Useful representation since  $|\mathbf{K}| = |\Lambda^2| = |\Lambda|^2$ .

## Capacity control: $\log |\mathbf{K}|$

$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\lambda_1}$$

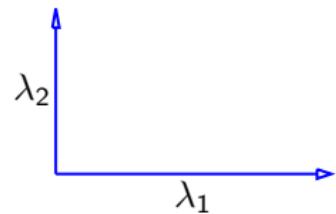
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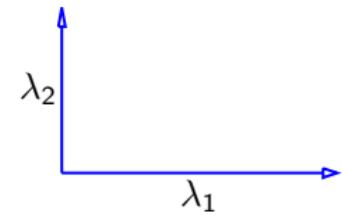


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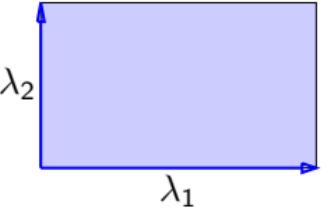


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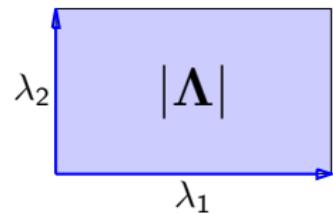
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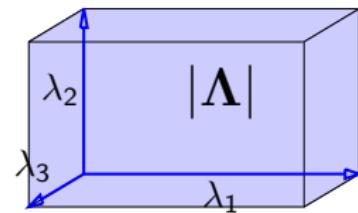
$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



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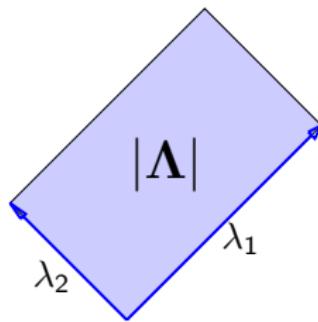
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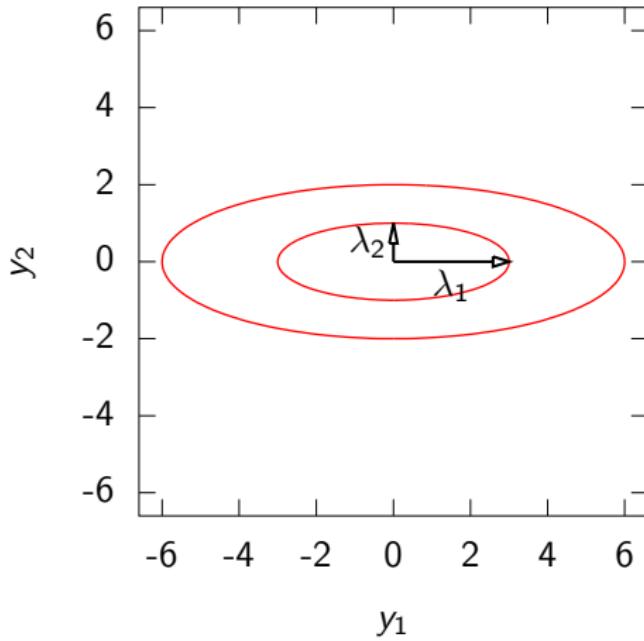
## Capacity control: $\log |\mathbf{K}|$

$$\mathbf{R}\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} w_{1,1} & w_{1,2} \\ w_{2,1} & w_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

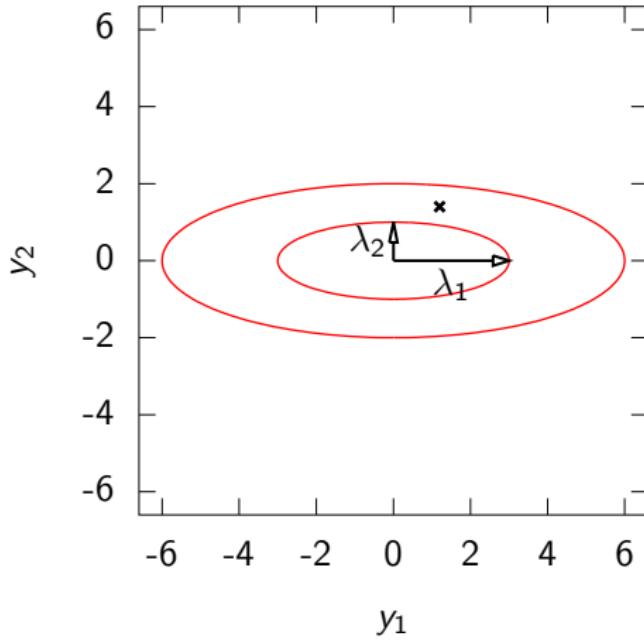


$$|\mathbf{R}\Lambda| = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$$

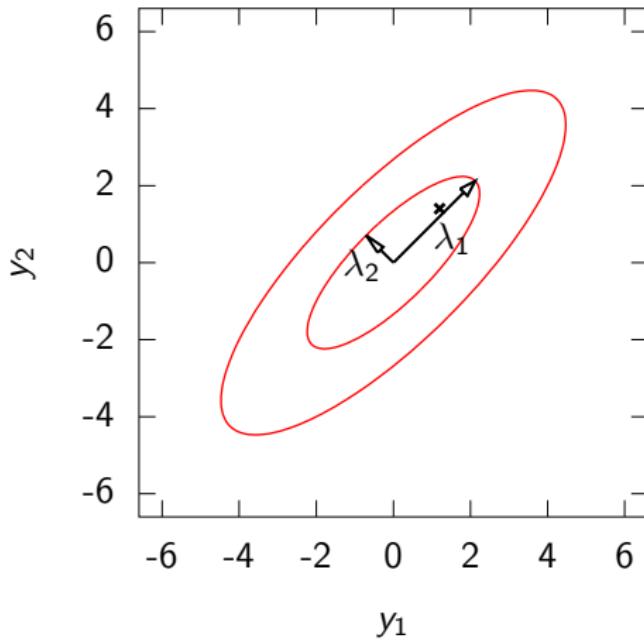
Data Fit:  $\frac{\mathbf{y}^{-1}\mathbf{K}^{-1}\mathbf{y}}{2}$



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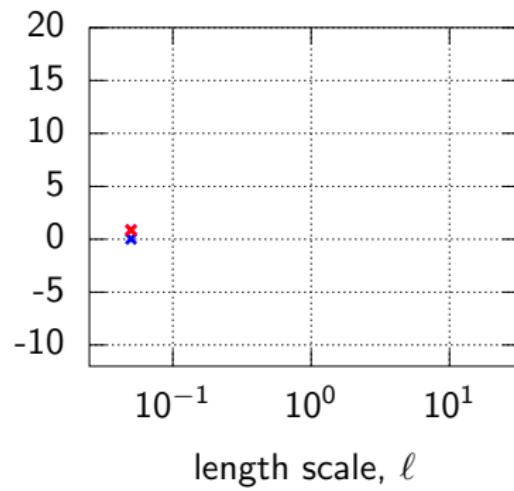
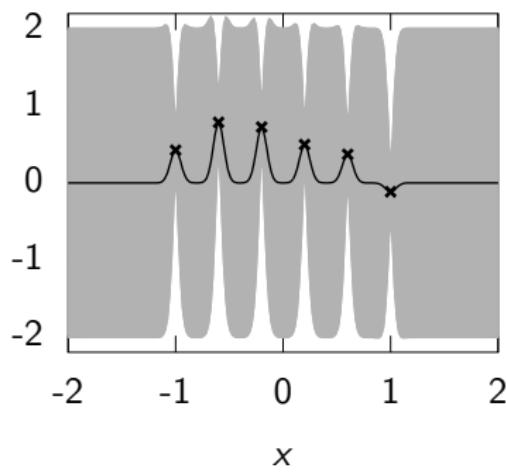


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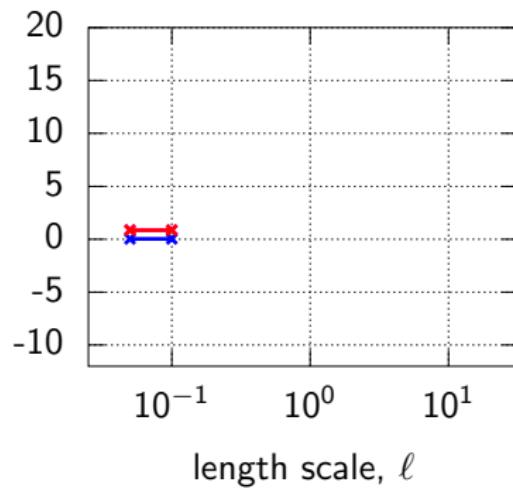
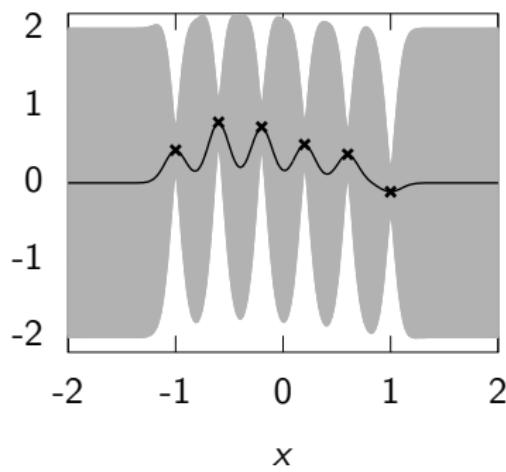
Can we determine length scales and noise levels from the data?



$$E(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{K}| + \frac{\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{K}^{-1} \mathbf{y}}{2}$$

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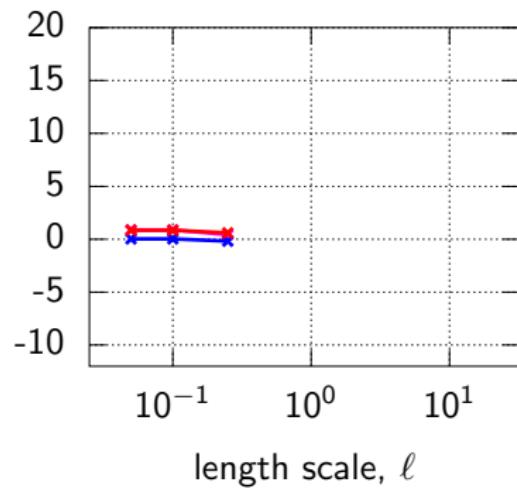
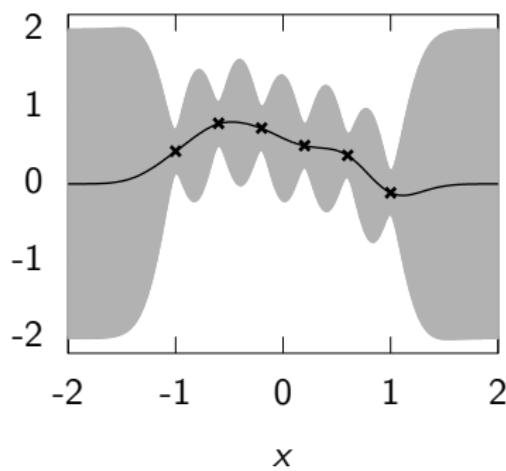
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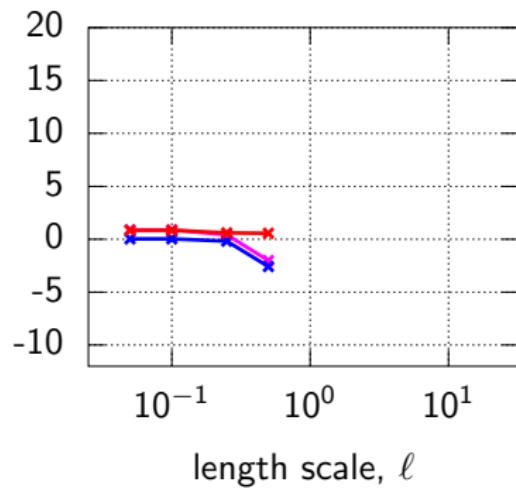
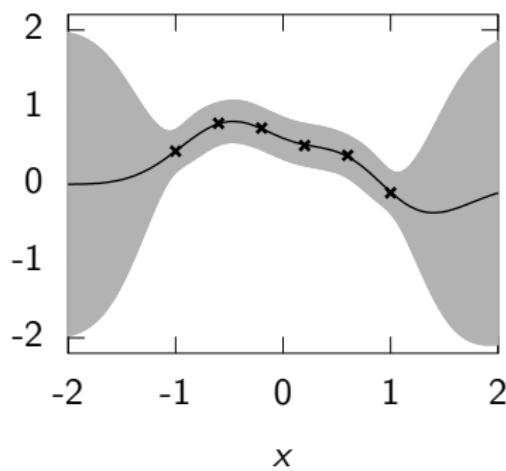
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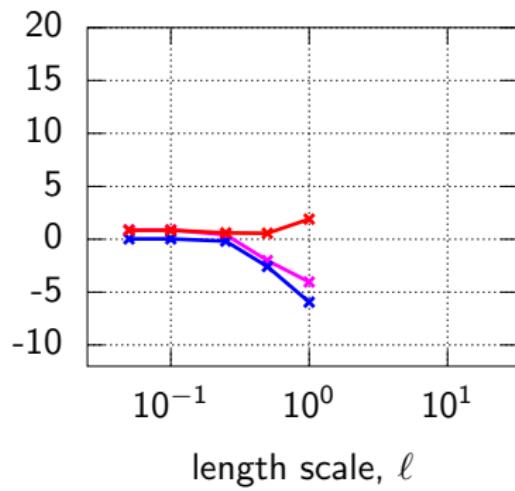
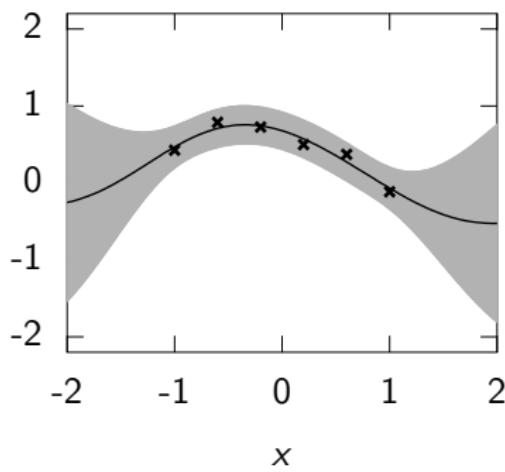
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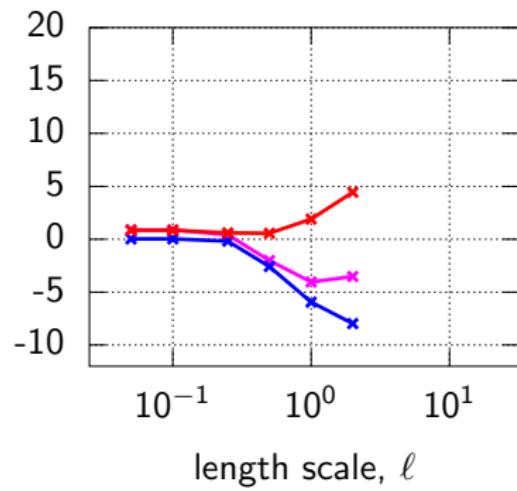
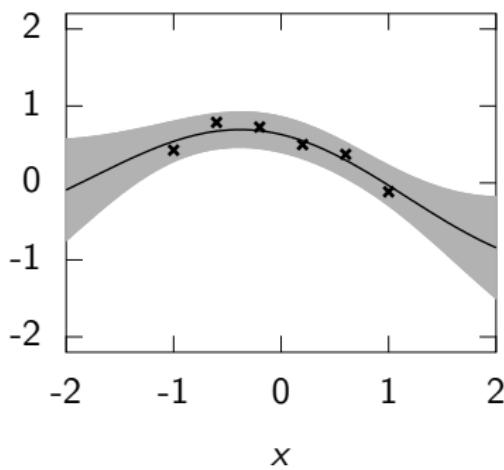
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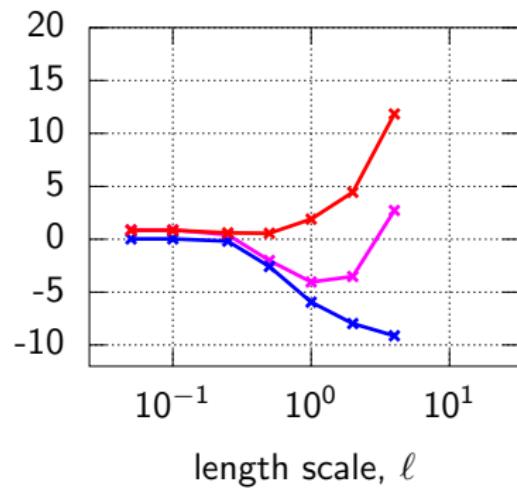
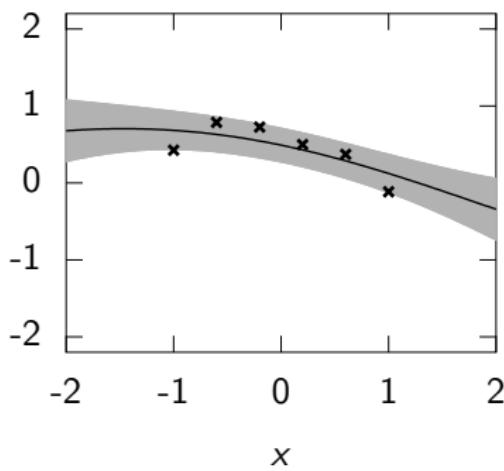
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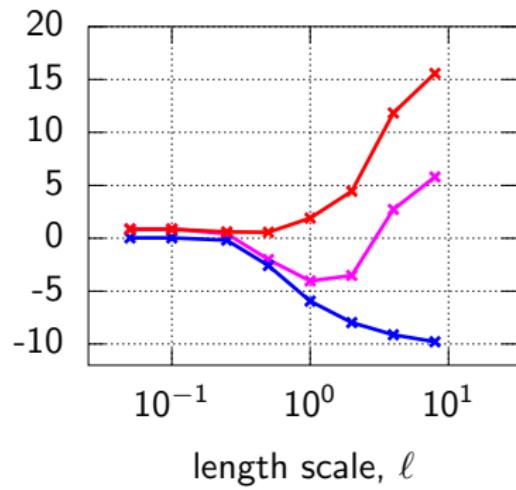
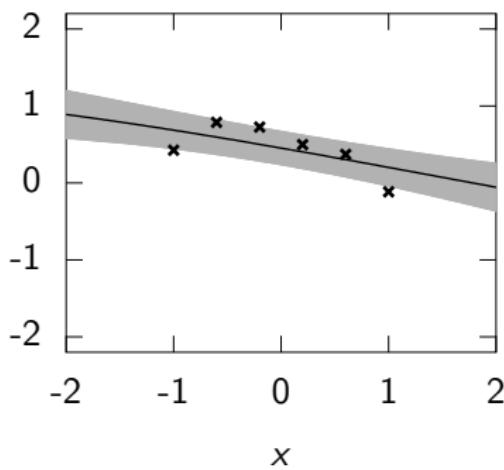
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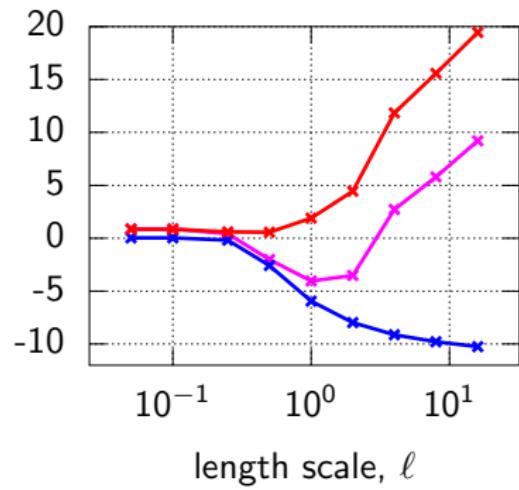
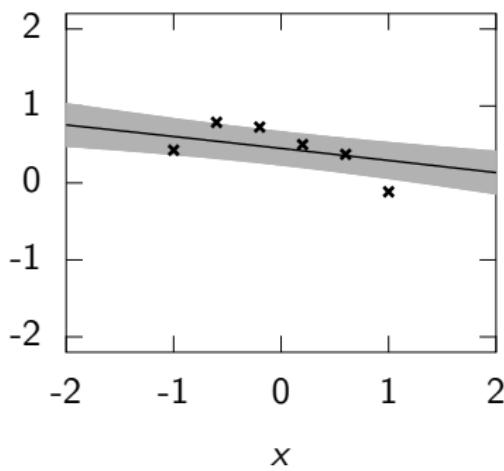
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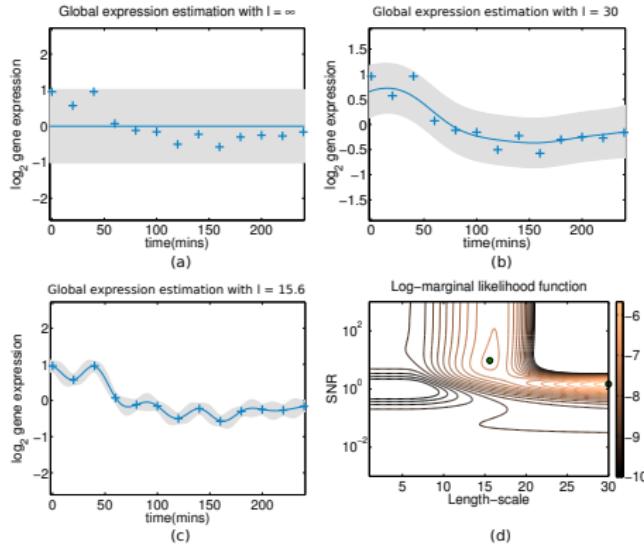
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# Gene Expression Example



Data from Della Gatta et al. (2008). Figure from Kalaitzis and Lawrence (2011).

# Outline

- 1 The Gaussian Density
- 2 Constructing Covariance
- 3 GP Limitations
- 4 Conclusions

# Limitations of Gaussian Processes

- Inference is  $O(n^3)$  due to matrix inverse (in practice use Cholesky).
- Gaussian processes don't deal well with discontinuities (financial crises, phosphorylation, collisions, edges in images).
- Widely used exponentiated quadratic covariance (RBF) can be too smooth in practice (but there are many alternatives!!).

# Summary

- Broad introduction to Gaussian processes.
  - ▶ Started with Gaussian distribution.
  - ▶ Motivated Gaussian processes through the multivariate density.
- Emphasized the role of the covariance (not the mean).
- Performs nonlinear regression with error bars.
- Parameters of the covariance function (kernel) are easily optimized with maximum likelihood.

# References |

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C. E. Rasmussen and C. K. I. Williams. *Gaussian Processes for Machine Learning*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2006. [\[Google Books\]](#) .