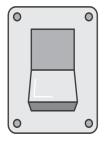
Cédric Archambeau cedrica@amazon.com

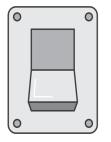


Imperial College, London, 2017

Democratising machine learning

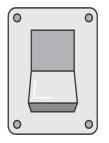


Democratising machine learning



- Abstract away algorithms
- Abstract away feature engineering

Democratising machine learning



- Abstract away algorithms
- Abstract away feature engineering
- Abstract away memory constraints
- Abstract away network constraints
- Abstract away computing infrastructure

Model the application (assuming labeled emails were collected) Spam detection:

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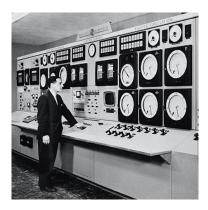
- Iterative least squares?
- Stochastic gradient descent?
- ► Adagrad?

Make predictions about new data with the trained model

Decide if this new email is spam or not?

- Shall I optimise for precision?
- ► Shall I optimise for recall?

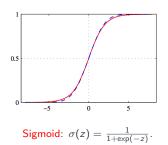
The performance of machine learning depends on meta-parameters that have to be tuned with care...



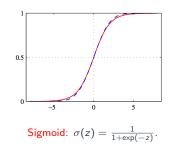
- Regularisation and (hyper)priors
- Optimisation and sampling
- Feature extraction
- Model complexity
- Decision



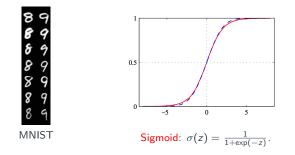




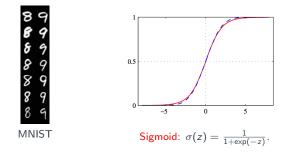




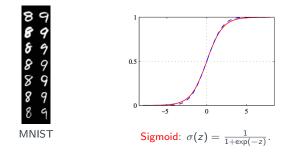
• Let x be an image and t its label.



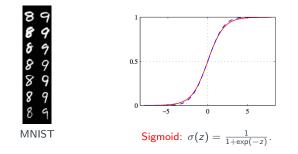
- Let **x** be an image and t its label.
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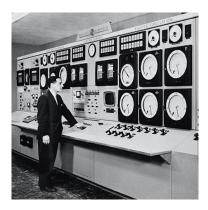
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 $f : \mathbf{x} = (\# \text{epochs, learning rate, amount of regularisation}) \mapsto f(\mathbf{x}) = \text{AUC}$

The performance of machine learning depends on meta-parameters that have to be tuned with care...



- Regularisation and (hyper)priors
- Model complexity
- Optimisation and sampling
- Feature extraction
- Decision

These parameters are known as hyperparameters or system parameters and are tuned by human experts.

A second example: Is a product review positive or negative?

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms (A Song of Ice and Fire) \$20.43 In Stock, Ships from and sold by Amazon.com, Gift-wrap available.

★★★★★★ I quickly became absorbed in the tales of "Dunk and Egg" and the ancestors of the great houses of Westeros By Amazon Customer on November 24. 2015

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Comment 3 people found this helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Yes No Report abuse

★★★☆☆ A taste of game of thrones before 6th book!

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- That's a binary classification problem!
- Logistic regression model with standard text features.

Revisiting sentiment analysis [YS15]

| Hyperparameter | Values |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| n_{min} | $\{1, 2, 3\}$ |
| n_{max} | $\{n_{min},\ldots,3\}$ |
| weighting scheme | {tf, tf-idf, binary} |
| remove stop words? | {True, False} |
| regularization | $\{\ell_1,\ell_2\}$ |
| regularization strength | $[10^{-5}, 10^5]$ |
| convergence tolerance | $[10^{-5}, 10^{-3}]$ |

Revisiting sentiment analysis [YS15]

| Method | Acc. |
|------------------------------|-------|
| SVM-unigrams | 88.62 |
| $SVM-\{1,2\}$ -grams | 90.70 |
| SVM - $\{1, 2, 3\}$ -grams | 90.68 |
| NN-unigrams | 88.94 |
| $NN-\{1,2\}$ -grams | 91.10 |
| NN- $\{1, 2, 3\}$ -grams | 91.24 |
| LR (this work) | 91.56 |
| Bag of words CNN | 91.58 |
| Sequential CNN | 92.22 |

Table 5: Comparisons on the Amazon electronics dataset.Scores are as reported by Johnson and Zhang (2014).

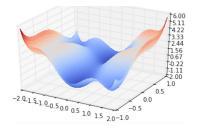
Acc.: accuracy

SVM: support vector machine NN: neural network

LR: logistic regresion

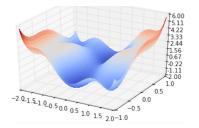
CNN: convolutional neural network

Black-box optimisation



- The function *f* we wish to optimise can be non-concave.
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Black-box optimisation



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Our goal is to solve the following optimisation problem:

$$\mathbf{x}_{\star} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x}).$$

- Evaluating f(x) is expensive.
- No analytical form or gradient.
- Evaluations may be noisy.

Global optimisation for hyperparameter optimisation

- Define an objective or metric to optimise E.g.: generalisation error
- Identify the knobs that impact this objective E.g.: hyperparameters
- Measure the quality of configurations E.g.: cross-validation



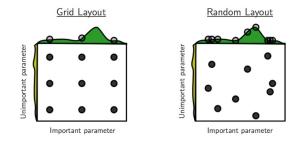
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This requires iterating over hyperparameter configurations.

Two straightforward approaches



(Figure by Bergstra and Bengio, 2012)

- Exhaustive search on a regular or random grid
- Complexity is exponential in p
- Wasteful of resources, but easy to parallelise

Can we do better?



(Banksy, London)





Global optimisation technique that adopts a probabilistic approach:



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- Builds a probabilistic model of the objective:
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 - Models the uncertainty



Global optimisation technique that adopts a probabilistic approach:

- Builds a probabilistic model of the objective:
 - Optimises a proxy instead of the objective
 - Models the uncertainty
- Performs an efficient grid search by balancing exploration against exploitation!

Questions?

Bayesian (black-box) optimisation [MTZ78, SSW⁺16]

$$\mathbf{x}_{\star} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x})$$

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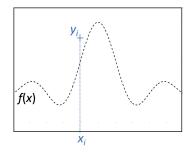
Canonical algorithm:

- Surrogate model \mathcal{M} of f #cheaper to evaluate
- Set of evaluated candidates $\mathcal{C} = \{\}$
- While some BUDGET available:
 - ▶ Select candidate $\mathbf{x}_{new} \in \mathcal{X}$ using \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{C} #exploration/exploitation
 - ▶ Collect evaluation y_{new} of f at \mathbf{x}_{new} #time-consuming
 - Update $C = C \cup \{(\mathbf{x}_{new}, y_{new})\}$
 - ▶ Update \mathcal{M} with \mathcal{C} #Update surrogate model
 - ► Update BUDGET

Bayesian (black-box) optimisation with Gaussian processes [JSW98]

• Learn a probabilistic model of *f*, which is cheap to evaluate:

 $y_i | f(\mathbf{x}_i) \sim \text{Gaussian} \left(f(\mathbf{x}_i), \varsigma^2 \right), \qquad f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0}, \mathcal{K}).$

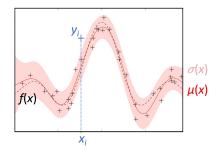


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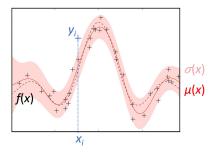


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Sepeatedly query f by balancing exploitation against exploration!

• A multivariate Gaussian is density over *D* random variables based on correlations:

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• A Gaussian process generalises the a multivariate Gaussian to infinitely many variables:

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

- ► It defines a probability measure over random functions.
- ► The joint density of any finite subset is a consistent Gaussian density.

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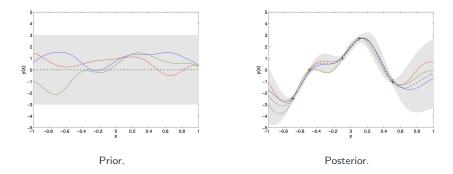
- ► It defines a probability measure over random functions.
- ► The joint density of any finite subset is a consistent Gaussian density.
- The posterior process is again a Gaussian process (if Gaussian likelihood):

$$f(\mathbf{x})|\mathbf{y} \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\mathbf{x}), \Sigma(\mathbf{x}, \cdot)),$$

where

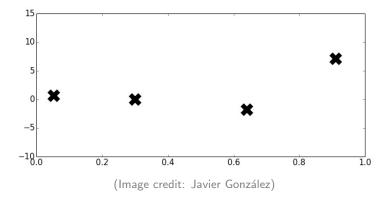
$$\mu(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}_N^\top(\mathbf{x})(\mathbf{K}_N + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_N)^{-1}\mathbf{y},$$

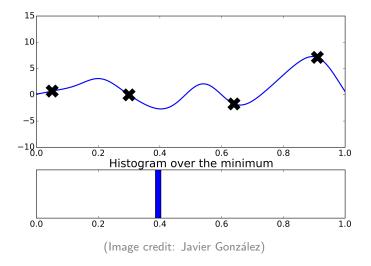
$$\sigma(\mathbf{x})^2 = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{k}_N^\top(\mathbf{x})(\mathbf{K}_N + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_N)^{-1}\mathbf{k}_N(\mathbf{x}).$$

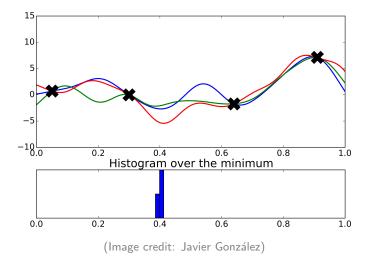


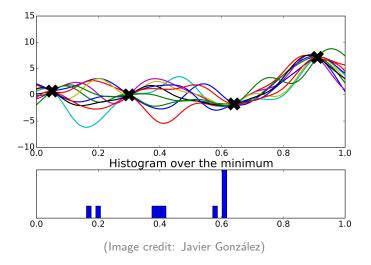
Three random functions generated from (a) the prior GP and (b) the posterior GP. An observation is indicated by a +, the mean function by a dashed line and the 3 standard deviation error bars by the shaded regions. We used a squared exponential covariance function.

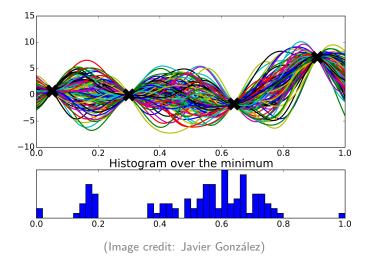
Where is the minimum of f?

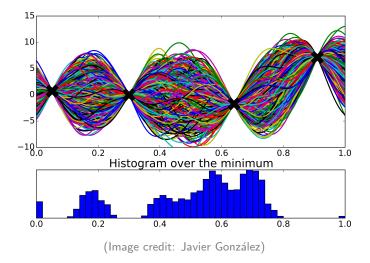


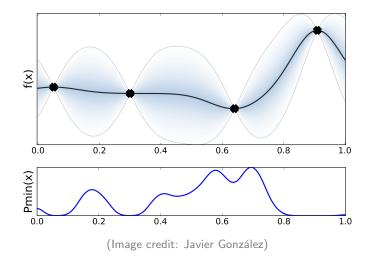












Let $C = \{x_c, y_c\}$ denote a set of observed parameter-value pairs. The acquisition function is defined as follows:

$$a: \mathbf{x} \mapsto a(\mathbf{x}|\mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{E}\left(\mathcal{A}(f, \mathbf{x})|\mathcal{C}\right).$$

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- Get as quickly as possible to "the" optimum (unlike Bayesian experimental design)
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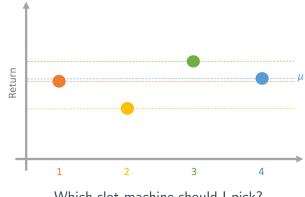
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- Makes the exploration-exploitation trade-off

Exploration-exploitation trade-off



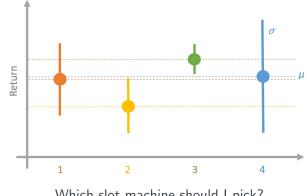
Which slot machine should I pick?

Exploration-exploitation trade-off



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Exploration-exploitation trade-off



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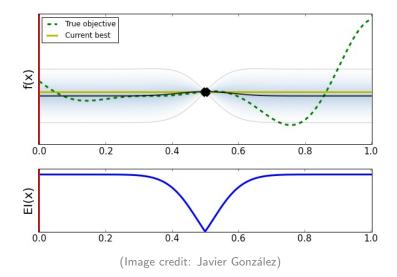
► Lower confidence bound (GP-LCB) [SKKS09]:

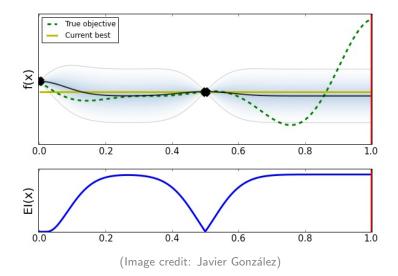
$$a(\mathbf{x}) = -\mu(\mathbf{x}) + \alpha \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \quad (\alpha \ge 0).$$

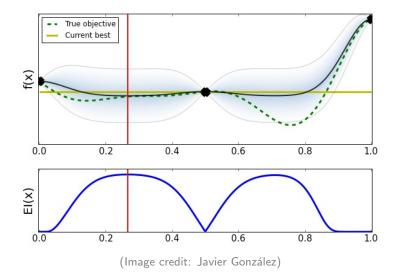
Expected improvement (EI):

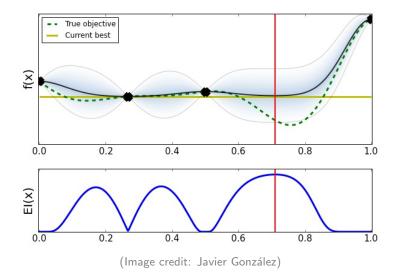
$$a(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mathbb{E}\left(\max\{0, y_{\star} - f(\boldsymbol{x})\}\right).$$

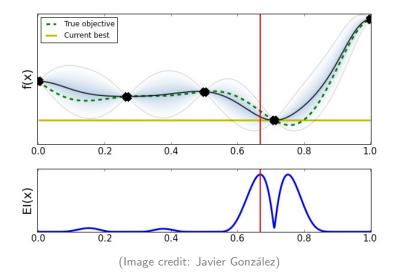
▶ Probability of improvement, Thompson sampling, entropy search, etc.

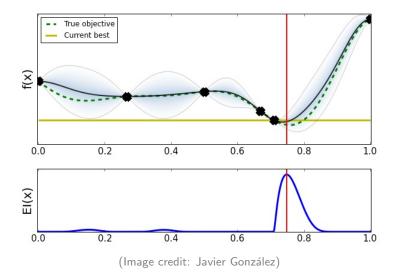


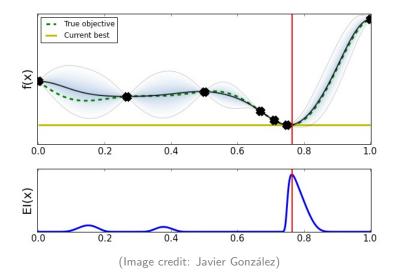


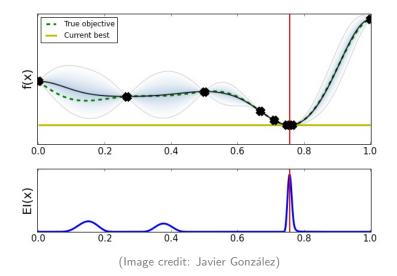


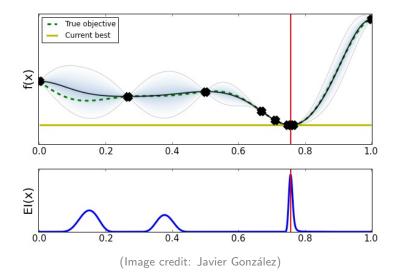












Summary

$$\mathbf{x}_{\star} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x})$$

Bayesian optimisation algorithm:

- Surrogate model \mathcal{M} of f #cheaper to evaluate
- Set of evaluated candidates $\mathcal{C} = \{\}$
- While some BUDGET available:
 - \blacktriangleright Select candidate $x_{\mathsf{new}} \in \mathcal{X}$ using $\mathcal M$ and $\mathcal C$ #acquisition
 - ► Collect evaluation y_{new} of f at x_{new} #time-consuming
 - Update $C = C \cup \{(\mathbf{x}_{new}, y_{new})\}$
 - ▶ Update \mathcal{M} with \mathcal{C} #GP posterior
 - Update BUDGET

Questions?

How do we handle the hyperparameters of the surrogate model?

How do we handle the hyperparameters of the surrogate model?

Let us denote the kernel parameters by θ . We view the latent functions as nuisance parameters and maximise the log-marginal wrt ς^2 and θ .

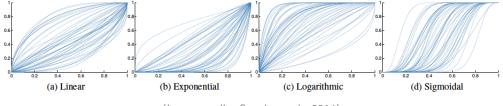
The log-marginal likelihood is given by

$$\ln p(\mathbf{y}|\varsigma, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{n}{2} \ln 2\pi \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2} \ln |\mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \varsigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n|}_{\text{complexity penality}} \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^\top (\mathbf{K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \varsigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)^{-1} \mathbf{y}}_{\text{data fit}}.$$

The negative log-marginal surface is non-convex and the computational complexity for its evaluation is $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$.

Can we handle hyperparameter transformations?

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(Image credit: Snoek, et al., 2014)

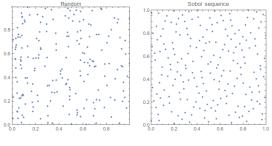
• Automatic input warping [SSZA14]:

$$\omega: x \mapsto \omega(x) = \operatorname{BetaCDF}(x; \alpha, \beta).$$

- $\bullet\,$ Learn α and β as the hyperparameters of the Gaussian process.
- Many alternatives, such as Kumaraswamy distribution: $\omega(x) = 1 (1 x^{\alpha})^{\beta}$.

How do we fill the hyperparameter space \mathcal{X} ?

How do we fill the hyperparameter space \mathcal{X} ?



(Image credit: Wikipedia)

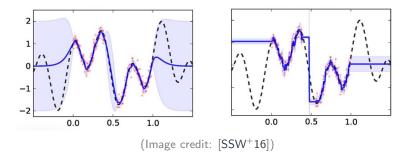
• Populate hypercube $[0,1]^D$ as densely as possible (as well as it's lower dimensional faces):

Find sequence
$$\{\mathbf{x}_i\}$$
 such that $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(\mathbf{x}_i) = \int_{[0,1]^D} f(\mathbf{x}).$

• Quasi random sequence generators, such as **Sobol sequences**, are better than random.

Are there other choices for the surrogate model?

Are there other choices for the surrogate model?



• Bayesian (black-box) optimisation with Random Forests [HHLB11]:

 $y(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{RF},$ $f(\mathbf{x})|\mathbf{y} \sim \operatorname{Gaussian}(\mu(\mathbf{x}), \Sigma(\mu(\mathbf{x})).$

where $\mu(\mathbf{x}) \approx \frac{1}{B} \sum_{i} y_i(\mathbf{x})$ and $\Sigma(\mathbf{x}) \approx \frac{1}{B-1} \sum_{i} (y_i(\mathbf{x}) - \mu(\mathbf{x}))^2$.

• But very competitive baseline!

Review paper by Shahriari, et al. (2016): Taking the Human Out of the Loop: A Review of Bayesian Optimization. *Proceedings of the IEEE 104(1):148–175.*

Slides by Ryan Adams (2014): A Tutorial on Bayesian Optimization for Machine Learning. *CIFAR NCAP Summer School.*

Slides by Peter Frazier (2010): Tutorial: Bayesian Methods for Global and Simulation Optimization. *INFORMS Annual Meeting*.

Very brief historical overview

- Closely related to optimal design of experiments, dating back to Kirstine Smith (1918).
- As Bayesian optimisation, studied first by *Kushner* (1964), then by *Mockus* (1978), and more recently by *Jones, et al.* (1998).

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Very brief historical overview

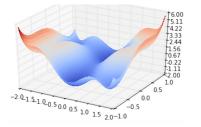
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- Multiple workshops at NIPS (bayesopt.com) and ICML (www.automl.org)
- Open source software:

SMAC (http://www.cs.ubc.ca/labs/beta/Projects/SMAC/) - RF, HyperOpt (http://jaberg.github.io/hyperopt/) - TPE, Spearmint (https://github.com/JasperSnoek/spearmint) - GP, GPyOpt (https://github.com/SheffieldML/GPyOpt) - GP, BayesOpt (http://rmcantin.bitbucket.org/) - GP,

• Challenges and benchmarks (HPOLib: www.automl.org/hpolib.html)!

Questions?

Black-box optimisation with (tree-structured) dependencies [JAGS17]

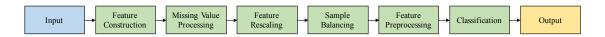


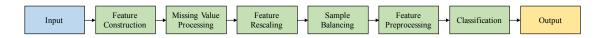
- The function *f* we wish to optimise can be non-concave.
- The number of hyperparameters *p* is moderate (typically < 20).

Our goal is to solve the following optimisation problem:

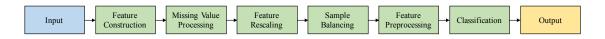
 $\mathbf{x}_{\star} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x}).$

- Evaluating $f(\mathbf{x})$ is expensive.
- No analytical form or gradient.
- Evaluations may be noisy.
- \bullet The domain ${\cal X}$ is structured.

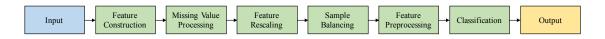




• $f(\mathbf{x})$ measures the quality of entire pipeline with hyperparameter(s) \mathbf{x}

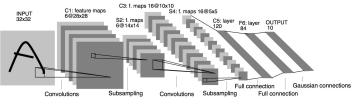


- $f(\mathbf{x})$ measures the quality of entire pipeline with hyperparameter(s) \mathbf{x}
- Evaluating $f(\mathbf{x})$ is possibly **costly**



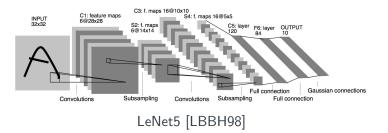
- $f(\mathbf{x})$ measures the quality of entire pipeline with hyperparameter(s) \mathbf{x}
- Evaluating $f(\mathbf{x})$ is possibly **costly**
- \bullet The search space ${\mathcal X}$ can be large:
 - ► Feature processing parameters
 - Dimensionality reduction method
 - Dimensionality reduction parameters
 - Classifier type
 - Classifier hyperparameters
 - ▶ ...

Example 2: Deep learning [SLA12, SRS+15, KFB+16]



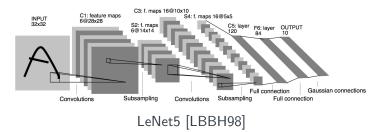
LeNet5 [LBBH98]

Example 2: Deep learning [SLA12, SRS⁺15, KFB⁺16]



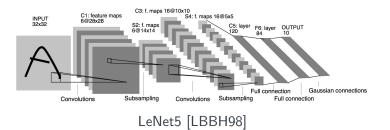
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Example 2: Deep learning [SLA12, SRS+15, KFB+16]



- $f(\mathbf{x})$ measures the quality of deep neural network with hyperparameter(s) \mathbf{x}
- Evaluating $f(\mathbf{x})$ is very **costly** \approx up to weeks
- The search space \mathcal{X} can be large:
 - ► Architecture: # hidden layers, activation functions, ...
 - Model complexity: regularization, dropout, ...
 - ▶ Optimisation parameters: learning rates, momentum, batch size, ...

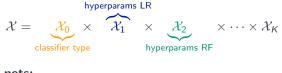
What is a structured search space \mathcal{X} ?

What is a structured search space \mathcal{X} ?

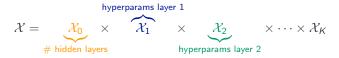
 \bullet The search space ${\mathcal X}$ exhibits conditional relationships, such that

$$\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_0 \times \mathcal{X}_1 \times \cdots \times \mathcal{X}_K.$$

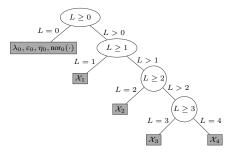
- Depending on some values in \mathcal{X}_i , values in \mathcal{X}_i are irrelevant:
 - Data analytics pipeline:



Feedforward neural nets:



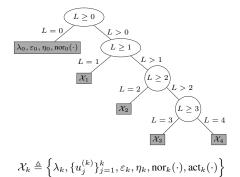
Tuning of feedforward neural nets



$$\mathcal{X}_{k} \triangleq \left\{ \lambda_{k}, \{u_{j}^{(k)}\}_{j=1}^{k}, \varepsilon_{k}, \eta_{k}, \operatorname{nor}_{k}(\cdot), \operatorname{act}_{k}(\cdot) \right\}$$

- L: Number of hidden layers in $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- λ : Regularization parameter
- *u_j*: Number of units in *j*-th layer
- ε, η : Stopping criterion and learning rate of Adam [KB14]
- \bullet nor(\cdot): Normalization of the dataset
- $act(\cdot)$: Activation function

Naive approach: Agnostic to the structure



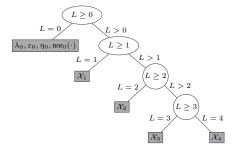
For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$,

$$\begin{array}{lll} f(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0},\mathcal{K}) \\ y|f(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{N}(f(\mathbf{x}),\varsigma^2) \end{array}$$

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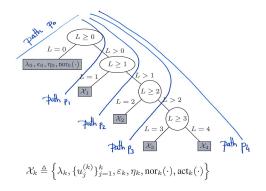
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- Single, joint model
- Ignores conditional dependencies: $\mathcal{X} = \underbrace{\mathcal{X}_0 \times \mathcal{X}_1 \times \cdots \times \mathcal{X}_K}_{I}.$
- Complexity: $\mathcal{O}((\sum_p n_p)^3)$.

Baseline: Independent models [BBBK11]

For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{p_0}$, $f_{\mathbf{p}_0}(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0}, \mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{p}_0})$ $y|f_{p_0}(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{N}(f_{p_0}(\mathbf{x}),\varsigma_{p_0}^2)$ For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathbf{p}_1}$, $\begin{array}{ll} f_{p_1}(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{GP}(0, \mathcal{K}_{p_1}) \\ y | f_{p_1}(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{N}(f_{p_1}(\mathbf{x}), \varsigma_{p_1}^{-2}) \end{array}$ For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathbf{p}_{4}}$,

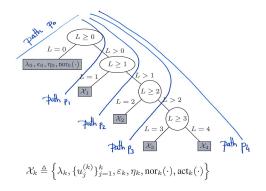
$$\begin{array}{lll} f_{p_4}(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{GP}(0, \mathcal{K}_{p_4}) \\ y | f_{p_4}(\mathbf{x}) & \sim & \mathcal{N}(f_{p_4}(\mathbf{x}), \varsigma_{p_4}{}^2) \end{array}$$



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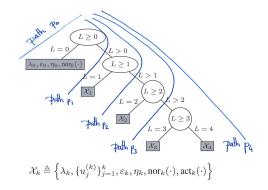


- No sharing of information across leaves
- Compare leaves via utility functions

•
$$\mathcal{O}\left(\sum_{p} n_{p}^{3}\right)$$
 vs. $\mathcal{O}\left(\left(\sum_{p} n_{p}\right)^{3}\right)$.

Tree-structured sharing

Joint prior on the mean:: $\mathbf{c} = [c_1, \ldots, c_V] \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{\mathbf{c}})$

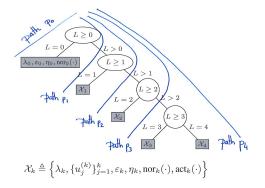


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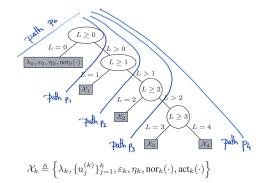


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- Sharing of information across leaves: if p similar to p', $\sum_{v \in p} c_v \approx \sum_{v \in p'} c_v$.
- $\mathcal{O}\left(\sum_{p} n_p^3 + V^3\right)$ vs. $\mathcal{O}\left((\sum_{p} n_p)^3\right)$.

The induced kernel corresponds to the intersection kernel

Let $\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{H}_{\rho}] \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times n}$ be stacked binary masks and $\mathbf{K}^{\text{block}} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be the block-diagonal matrix with blocks \mathbf{K}_{ρ} .

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The marginal likelihood is given by

$$P(\mathbf{y}) = \int_{\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{c}} P(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{c}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{H}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{K}^{\mathsf{block}} + \operatorname{diag}\{\boldsymbol{\varsigma}^{2}\}\right).$$

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If we assume that $\mathbf{\Sigma}_{c}=\sigma_{c}^{2}\mathbf{I}_{V}$, then

$$\mathbf{H}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{c} \mathbf{H} = \left[\sigma_{c}^{2} (\mathbf{h}_{p}^{\top} \mathbf{h}_{p'}) \mathbf{1}_{n_{p}} \mathbf{1}_{n_{p'}}^{\top} \right]_{p,p'}.$$

- Diagonal blocks are proportional to the length of path *p*.
- Off-diagonal blocks are proportional to the path overlap between p and p'.

Two-step acquisition function to reduce complexity

$$(\mathbf{x}_{\star}, \mathbf{p}_{\star}) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathbf{p}}} \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p} | \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{n}}).$$

Two-step acquisition function to reduce complexity

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• Exploit the tree structure through a **path acquisition** function:

$$p_{\star} = \underset{p \in \mathcal{P}}{\operatorname{argmax}} a(p|\mathcal{D}_n), \quad \mathbf{x}_{\star} = \underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{p_{\star}}}{\operatorname{argmax}} a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}_{\star}|\mathcal{D}_n)$$

Two-step acquisition function to reduce complexity

$$(\mathbf{x}_{\star}, \mathbf{p}_{\star}) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathbf{p}}} a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p} | \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{n}}).$$

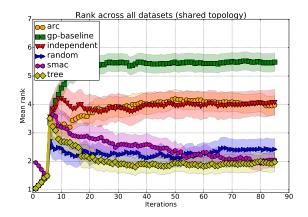
• Exploit the tree structure through a **path acquisition** function:

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• The path El is given by

$$a(p|\mathcal{D}_n) = \mathbb{E}\left(\max\{0, y_{\star} - \mathbf{h}_p^{\top}\mathbf{c}\}\right).$$

Experiment with feedforward neural network for classification



- Binary classification: 45 datasets from LIBSVM repository
- Mean rank based on mean classification accuracy for each dataset (25 replications)
- Arc [SDS⁺14], Smac [HHLB11], Random [BB12]

Conclusion

Bayesian optimisation automates machine learning:

- Algorithm tuning
- Model tuning
- Pipeline tuning



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Bayesian optimisation is a model-based approach that can leverage side information:

- For example, it can exploit dependency structure
- Approach can leverage **shared variables** (aka features) at inner nodes #see paper [JAGS17]



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https://sheffieldml.github.io/GPyOpt/

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