

Physics informed Gaussian processes and kernels : theory with applications

Iain Henderson

INSA Toulouse/IMT

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Contact : iain.pl.henderson@gmail.com

Academic context

- Third year PhD student at the Mathematics Institute of Toulouse/INSA Toulouse, advised by Pascal Noble (Partial differential equations) and Olivier Roustant (Statistics and optimization).
- Funded by the SHOM (Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine), contact : Rémy Baraille



- 1 The problem
 - Regression under physical constraints
 - Gaussian process (regression)
- 2 Imposing physical constraints on Gaussian processes
 - The problem with PDEs...
 - Sobolev regularity of Gaussian processes
 - Linear PDE constraints on Gaussian processes
- 3 GPR for the wave equation
 - Wave equation tailored covariance functions
 - Solving inverse problems
 - Numerical application
- 4 Conclusion and perspectives

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Regression under physical constraints

- Aim : forecast of physical phenomena (oceanography)
→ unknown function u
- At our disposal : database w.r.t. $u : B = \{u(z_1), \dots, u(z_n)\}$, probably limited.
- Physical model (Partial differential equation, PDE) :

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + f$$

- Objective : approximate $u(x, t)$ for all (x, t) (regression)

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- Idea : combine database and physics using probabilistic/Bayesian regression methods.

Example of application : wave equation

Direct numerical simulation

Reconstruction with GPR

- Gaussian process over $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$: $(U(z))_{z \in \mathcal{D}}$: family of Gaussian RVs such that the law of any vector of the form $(U(z_1), \dots, U(z_n))$ is a Gaussian multivariate normal distribution.

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Mean $m(z) := \mathbb{E}[U(z)]$ and covariance $k(z, z') := \text{Cov}(U(z), U(z'))$:

$$U(z) \sim GP(m, k)$$

→ k is a positive semi-definite function : $k(z, z') = k(z', z)$ and $\forall (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathcal{D}^n, (k(x_i, x_j))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$ is PSD.

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- $\exists U \sim PG(0, k) \iff k$ is positive semi-definite.
- **Sample paths** : given $\omega \in \Omega$, $U_\omega : z \mapsto U(z)(\omega)$.

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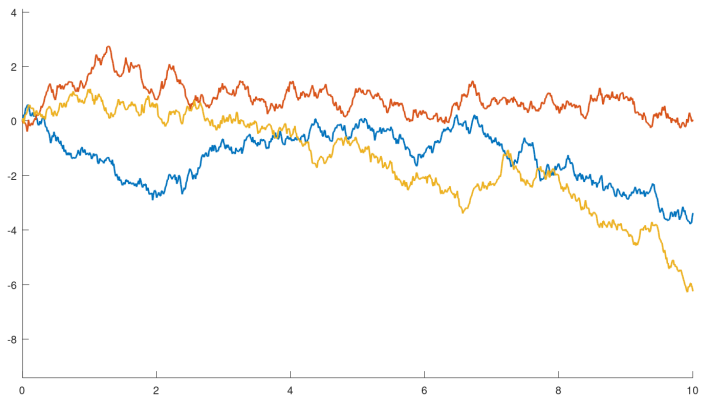


Figure 1 – Brownian motion : $k(x, y) = \min(x, y)$

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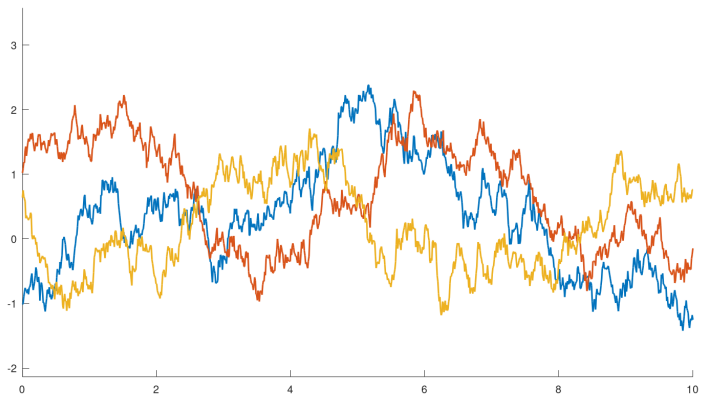


Figure 2 – Matérn 1/2 : $k(x, y) = \sigma^2 \exp(-|x - y|/\ell)$, $\sigma = 1$, $\ell = 2$

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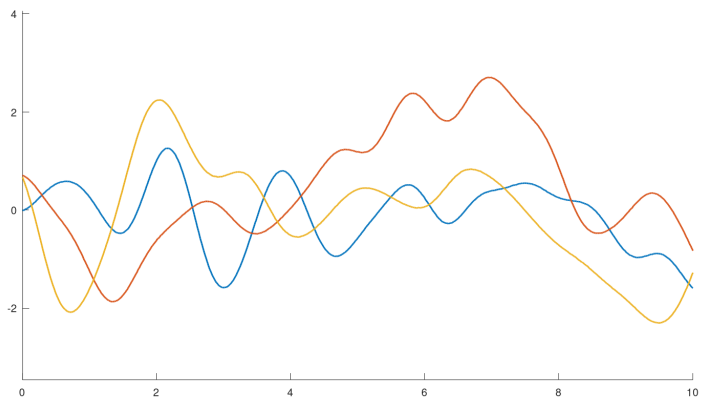


Figure 3 – Gaussian : $k(x, y) = \sigma^2 \exp(-|x - y|^2/2\ell^2)$, $\sigma = 1$, $\ell = 0.5$

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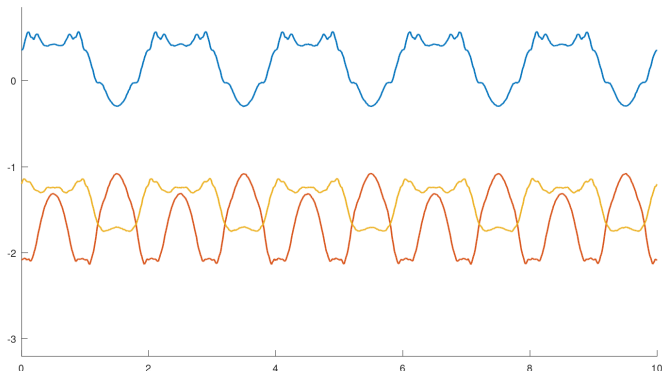


Figure 4 – Periodic Matérn 3/2 : $\sigma = 1$, $\ell = 1$ and
 $k(x, y) = \sigma^2(1 + |\sin(\pi x) - \sin(\pi y)|/\ell) \exp(-|\sin(\pi x) - \sin(\pi y)|/\ell)$

Gaussian process regression (Kriging)

- Unknown function $z \in \mathcal{D} \mapsto u(z)$, data $B = \{u(z_1), \dots, u(z_n)\}$
- Model $z \mapsto u(z)$ as a **sample path** of a GP (GP prior)
 $(U_z)_{z \in \mathcal{D}} \sim PG(m(z), k(z, z'))$
- We condition U on the data :
 $V(z) = [U(z) | U(z_1) = u(z_1), \dots, U(z_n) = u(z_n)]$ (GP posterior). We obtain

$$V(z) \sim PG(\tilde{m}(z), \tilde{k}(z, z'))$$

\tilde{m} et \tilde{k} given by the Kriging formulas.

- Prediction/estimation : $\forall z \in \mathcal{D}$, we predict $u(z)$ with $\tilde{m}(z)$:
 $u(z) \simeq \tilde{m}(z)$, associated uncertainty $\tilde{k}(z, z) = \text{Var}(V(z))$

Kriging formulas

Denote $u_{obs} = (u(z_1), \dots, u(z_n))$ the data, $K_{ij} := k(z_i, z_j)$ and $k(Z, z)_i := k(z_i, z)$. Then the a posteriori mean and covariance are given by

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{m}(z) &= k(Z, z)^T K^{-1} u_{obs} \in \text{Span}(k(z_1, \cdot), \dots, k(z_n, \cdot)), \\ \tilde{k}(z, z') &= k(z, z') - k(Z, z)^T K^{-1} k(Z, z'). \end{cases}$$

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Apply this when L is a PDE! Conservation of mass, momentum, energy...

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Partial derivatives in dimension d : notations

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$, $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$. We denote

$$\partial^\alpha := (\partial_{x_1})^{\alpha_1} \dots (\partial_{x_d})^{\alpha_d}. \quad (1)$$

Order of differentiation : $|\alpha| := \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_d$.

Linear differential operator of order m :

$$L = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} a_\alpha \partial^\alpha \quad (2)$$

Solutions of partial differential equations

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- Weak solution : PDE is true when “tested” against many finitely smooth functions.

The PDE is turned into a problem of **representation of continuous linear forms** in some **Sobolev space (Hilbert or Banach)**.

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- Distributional solution (L. Schwartz) : PDE is true when “tested” against compactly supported smooth functions. The PDE is turned into a problem of **representation of continuous linear forms** in some topological vector space (often **non normable**).

Note : **very general** (minimal regularity assumptions).

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Basic tool for regularity theory : Sobolev spaces.

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- **No regularity assumptions** on open set \mathcal{D} . Thus no fractional Sobolev spaces or Fourier methods.

Sobolev regularity of Gaussian processes

Derivatives with finite energy and Sobolev spaces

Some functions are "almost" differentiable : $h(x) = \max(0, 1 - |x|)$.

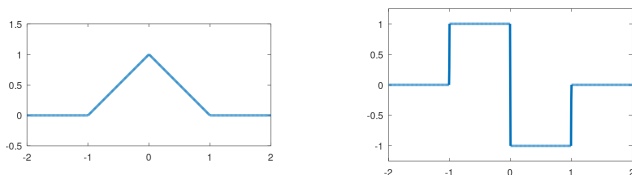


Figure 5 – Left : $h(x)$. Right : $h'(x)$ (hopefully).

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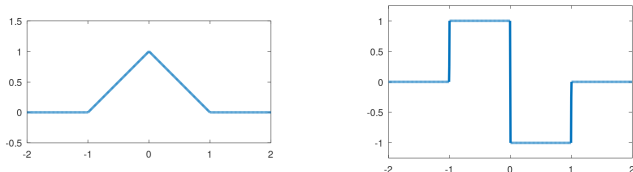


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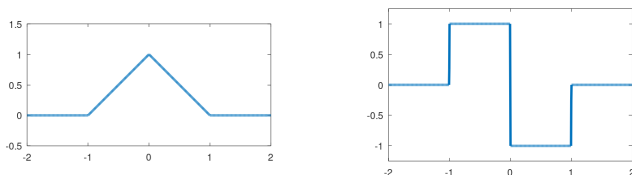


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We then define

$$H^1(\mathbb{R}) := \{u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) : u' \text{ exists in the weak sense and } u' \in L^2(\mathbb{R})\},$$

$$H^m(\mathcal{D}) := \{u \in L^2(\mathcal{D}) : \forall |\alpha| \leq m, \partial^\alpha u \text{ exists ITWS and } \partial^\alpha u \in L^2(\mathcal{D})\}.$$

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- Hyperbolic : wave, $\partial_{tt}^2 - \Delta u = 0$.

$$\partial_t \left(\|\partial_t u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2}^2 \right) = 0 \quad (\text{conservation}). \quad (5)$$

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- Theory : Lax-Milgram for elliptic PDEs. More generally, Sobolev spaces are separable Banach spaces, reflexive when $1 < p < +\infty$.
- Numerical methods : finite element method, ...

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- **Spectral/Mercer** criterion : denote $\mathcal{E}_k : L^2(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{D})$ the operator

$$(\mathcal{E}_k f)(x) := \int k(x, y) f(y) dy. \quad (7)$$

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If $\int k(x, x) dx < +\infty$, then (...) for some $(\phi_n) \subset L^2$, ONB (eigenvectors of \mathcal{E}_k) and $(\lambda_n) \subset \mathbb{R}_+$ (eigenvalues of \mathcal{E}_k)

$$k(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \lambda_n \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y) \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}) \quad (\text{"Mercer"}). \quad (8)$$

L^2 regularity of Gaussian processes

Equivalently, set $\psi_n = \lambda_n^{1/2} \phi_n$, then $\|\psi_n\|_2^2 = \lambda_n$ and

$$k(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \psi_n(x) \psi_n(y) \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}). \quad (9)$$

Thus (formally)

$$\int k(x, x) dx = \int \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \psi_n(x)^2 dx = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \int \psi_n(x)^2 dx \quad (10)$$

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- **RKHS imbedding** criterion : observe that $H_k \subset L^2(\mathcal{D})$. Denote \mathcal{I} the associated embedding, then $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{I}^* = \mathcal{E}_k$ is trace class (“Driscoll”).

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(i) $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega \in \Omega : U(\omega) \in H^m(\mathcal{D})\}) = 1$

(ii) For all $|\alpha| \leq m$, $\partial^{\alpha, \alpha} k \in L^2(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D})$ and the integral operator \mathcal{E}_k^α

$$\mathcal{E}_k^\alpha : L^2(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{D}), \quad \mathcal{E}_k^\alpha f(x) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \partial^{\alpha, \alpha} k(x, y) f(y) dy$$

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Sobolev regularity of Gaussian processes

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(iv) $H_k \subset H^m(\mathcal{D})$. Note the imbedding $\mathcal{I} : RKHS(k) \rightarrow H^m(\mathcal{D})$, then

$$\text{Tr}(\mathcal{I}\mathcal{I}^*) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \text{Tr}(\mathcal{E}_k^\alpha) < +\infty.$$

Sobolev spaces of non Hilbert type

Nonlinear Schrödinger equation, $p > 1$:

$$i\partial_t u + \Delta u = u|u|^{p-1}. \quad (12)$$

$W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}) := \{u \in L^p(\mathbb{R}) : u' \text{ exists in the weak sense and } u' \in L^p(\mathbb{R})\},$
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L^p regularity of GPs : C_p such that if $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, then $\mathbb{E}[|X|^p] = C_p \sigma^p$.

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int_{\mathcal{D}} U(x)^p dx \right] = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \mathbb{E}[U(x)^p] dx = C_p \int_{\mathcal{D}} k(x, x)^{p/2} dx. \quad (13)$$

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Likewise for Mercer decomposition : there exists $(\phi_n) \subset L^p(\mathcal{D})$ such that $\sum \|\psi_n\|_p^2 < +\infty$ and

$$k(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \psi_n(x)\psi_n(y) \quad \text{in } L^p(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}) \quad (\text{"nuclear"}). \quad (14)$$

Sobolev regularity of Gaussian processes : Banach case

$W^{m,p}, 1 < p < +\infty, m \in \mathbb{N}$

Proposition 2 (H. [2022])

Let $(U(z))_{z \in \mathcal{D}} \sim GP(0, k)$ be measurable, we have equivalence between

(i) $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega \in \Omega : U(\omega) \in W^{m,p}(\mathcal{D})\}) = 1$

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is symmetric, nonnegative and nuclear : there exists $(\phi_n^\alpha) \subset L^p(\mathcal{D})$ such that $\partial^{\alpha,\alpha} k(x, y) = \sum_n \psi_n^\alpha(x) \psi_n^\alpha(y)$ in $L^p(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D})$ verifying

$$\sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \|\psi_n^\alpha\|_p^2 < +\infty \quad (+\text{refinements if } 1 \leq p \leq 2)$$

(iii) For all $|\alpha| \leq m$, $\partial^{\alpha,\alpha} k \in L^p(\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D})$ and $\int_{\mathcal{D}} [\partial^{\alpha,\alpha} k(x, x)]^{p/2} dx < +\infty$.

Gaussian processes under linear distributional PDE constraints

Distributional formulations of PDEs

Let $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be an open set and consider the PDE

$$Lu = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} a_\alpha \partial^\alpha u = 0.$$

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Only requires that $u \in L^1_{loc}(\mathcal{D})$, i.e. $\int_K |u| < +\infty$ for all $K \subset \mathcal{D}$ compact.

Proposition 3 (H. et al. [2023, to appear])

Let $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be an open set and $L := \sum_{|\alpha| \leq n} a_\alpha \partial^\alpha$ with $a_\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^{|\alpha|}(\mathcal{D})$. Let $U = (U(z))_{z \in \mathcal{D}}$ be a centered measurable second order random field with covariance function $k(z, z')$. Assume that $\sigma : z \mapsto k(z, z)^{1/2} \in L^1_{loc}(\mathcal{D})$.

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- $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega \in \Omega : L(U_\omega) = 0 \text{ in the sense of distributions}\}) = 1$
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Generalises a result from Ginsbourger et al. [2016] to PDE constraints. Also inherited to conditioned GPs. Example for $L = \partial_t + c\partial_x$:

$$k((x, t), (x', t')) := k_0(x - ct, x' - ct'). \quad (17)$$

Examples of kernels verifying $L(k(z, \cdot)) = 0 \quad \forall z$

Given L , find k_L such that $L(k_L(\cdot, z)) = 0 \quad \forall z$; $\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^d \partial_{x_i}^2$.

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- **Heat** : $\partial_t - D\Delta u = 0$ Albert and Rath [2020]
- **Div/Curl** : $\nabla \cdot u = 0, \nabla \times u = 0$ Scheuerer and Schlather [2012], Owhadi [2023b]
- **Continuum mechanics** : Jidling et al. [2018]
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- **3D wave and transport equation** : H. et al. [2023, to appear]
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Always based on representations of solutions of $Lu = 0$ of the form

$$u = Gf$$

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Homogeneous 3D wave equation : $\Delta := \partial_{xx}^2 + \partial_{yy}^2 + \partial_{zz}^2$

$$\begin{cases} Lu &= \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_{tt}^2 u - \Delta u = \square u = 0, & (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^+, \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), \quad \partial_t u(x, 0) = v_0(x). \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

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The solution u is represented by (Krichhoff)

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= \int_S tv_0(x - c|t|\gamma) + u_0(x - c|t|\gamma) - c|t|\gamma \cdot \nabla u_0(x - c|t|\gamma) \frac{d\Omega}{4\pi} \\ &= (F_t * v_0)(x) + (\dot{F}_t * u_0)(x), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

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where $F_t = \sigma_{ct}/4\pi c^2 t$ and $\dot{F}_t = \partial_t F_t$. Assume that u_0 and v_0 are unknown $\rightarrow u_0 \sim PG(0, k_u)$ and $v_0 \sim PG(0, k_v)$, independent. u given by (19) is a GP with covariance function

$$k((x, t), (x', t')) = [(F_t \otimes F_{t'}) * k_v](x, x') + [(\dot{F}_t \otimes \dot{F}_{t'}) * k_u](x, x'). \quad (20)$$

The kernel k verifies $\square k((x, t), \cdot) = 0$ for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}_+$ (distributions!).

Estimation of physical parameters and initial conditions

- Reconstruction of initial conditions : the Kriging mean verifies $\square \tilde{m} = 0$. Thus

$$\tilde{m}(\cdot, t = 0) \simeq u_0, \quad \partial_t \tilde{m}(\cdot, t = 0) \simeq v_0$$

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- The kernel k is parametrized by c, θ_u and θ_v ; θ_u and θ_v may contain physical information w.r.t. u_0 and v_0 .

Example : initial conditions with compact support yield

$$k_u(x, x') = k_u^0(x, x') \mathbb{1}_{B_R(x_0, R)}(x) \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0, R)}(x') \quad (21)$$

Thus, $(x_0, R) \in \theta_u$. Likewise for v_0 (We can also encode symmetries).
→ can be estimated with the marginal likelihood.

Restrictive framework

Expensive convolutions (4D) \rightarrow assume radial symmetry (explicit convolutions)

- Solve numerically the wave equation with $v_0 = 0$ and

$$u_0(x) = A \mathbb{1}_{[R_1, R_2]}(|x - x_0^*|) \left(1 + \cos \left(\frac{2\pi(|x - x_0^*| - \frac{R_1 + R_2}{2})}{R_2 - R_1} \right) \right).$$

- Generate a database : finite difference scheme in $[0, 1]^3$ with scattered sensors (LHS).
 $B = \{u(x_i, t_j) + \epsilon_{ij}, 1 \leq i \leq N_C, 1 \leq j \leq N_T\}, N_C = 30, N_T = 75.$

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- Kriging with

$$k_u(x, x') = k_{5/2}(x - x') \times \mathbb{1}_{B_R(x_0, R)}(x) \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0, R)}(x').$$

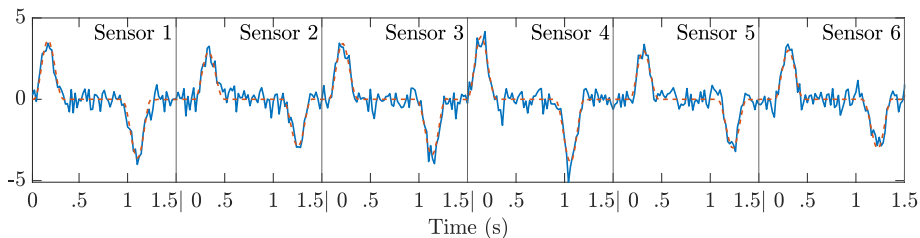


Figure 6 – Examples of captured signals. red : noiseless signals. Blue : noisy signals.

Estimation of physical parameters

N_{sensors}	3	5	10	15	20	25	30	Target
$ \hat{x}_0 - x_0^* $	0.204	0.003	0.004	0.008	0.003	0.004	0.015	0
\hat{R}	0.386	0.432	0.462	0.431	0.414	0.471	0.452	0.25
$ \hat{c} - c^* $	0.084	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.006	0.001	0.004	0
$\hat{\sigma}_{\text{noise}}^2$	0.917	0.879	0.93	0.99	0.361	0.988	0.377	0.2025
$\hat{\ell}$	0.02	0.02	0.025	0.02	0.035	0.024	0.032	~ 0.05
$\hat{\sigma}^2$	2.367	3.513	4.903	3.168	4.446	4.619	4.79	Unknown
$e_{1,\text{rel}}^u$	1.275	0.157	0.128	0.168	0.11	0.103	0.248	0
$e_{2,\text{rel}}^u$	1.056	0.095	0.082	0.124	0.088	0.064	0.213	0
$e_{\infty,\text{rel}}^u$	1.037	0.132	0.128	0.198	0.136	0.101	0.321	0

Table 1 – Estimation of hyperparameters and relative errors

Reconstruction of initial condition

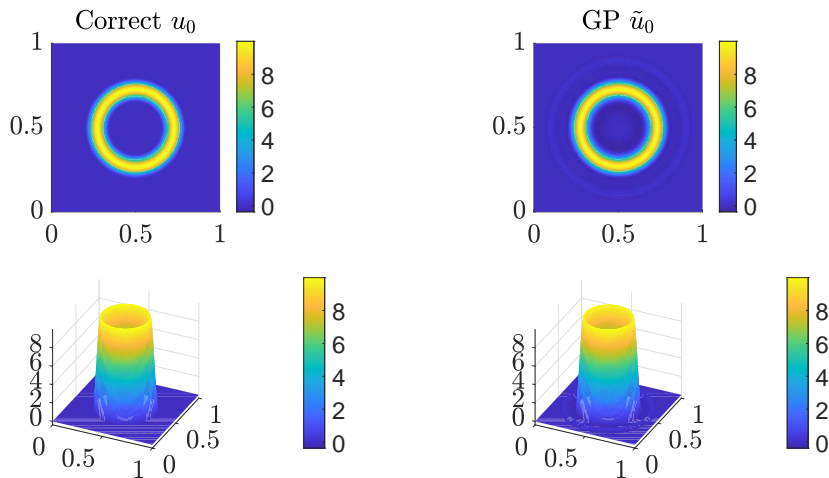


Figure 7 – True u_0 (left column) vs GPR u_0 (right column). 15 sensors were used. The images correspond to 3D slices at $z = 0.5$.

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Extension to non linear PDEs

- Non linear constraints on $k(z, \cdot)$: not realistic (+ GP interpretation not valid).
- Alternative : in Chen et al. [2021], the nonlinear PDE constraint is applied pointwise on \tilde{m} : modification of the RKHS optimization problem as

$$\inf_{v \in \mathcal{H}_k} \|v\|_{\mathcal{H}_k} \quad \text{s.c.} \quad \mathcal{N}(v(z_i), \nabla v(z_i), \dots) = \ell_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

Generalizes an approach described in Wendland [2004].

- Coupling of this approach with strict linear constraints : Owhadi [2023b] (div/curl/periodicity).

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- GPR : at the **intersection** of machine learning, statistical and Bayesian approaches and functional analysis.

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Some research perspectives :

- Insert the Sobolev regularity results in the analysis of GPR for PDEs, e.g. of Chen et al. [2021].
- Current research : draw links between numerical methods for PDEs (finite differences) and some GPR regimes.

Thank you for your attention !

Contact : henderso@insa-toulouse.fr, iain.pl.henderson@gmail.com

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Comparison with previous results

- Steinwart [2019] If $H_k \simeq H^t$ then $\mathbb{P}(U \in H^s) = 1$ if $t - s > d/2$. When $s \in \mathbb{N}$, reduces to our result as the imbedding $H^t \rightarrow H^s$ is Hilbert-Schmidt if $t - s > d/2$ (Maurey's theorem).
- Scheuerer [2010] : if for all $|\alpha| \leq m$ and $x \in \mathcal{D}$, $\partial^{\alpha, \alpha} k(x, \cdot)$ exists and $x \mapsto \partial^{\alpha, \alpha} k(x, x)$ is continuous and

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} \partial^{\alpha, \alpha} k(x, x) dx < +\infty, \quad (22)$$

then $\mathbb{P}(U \in H^m) = 1$. We removed the continuity assumptions and added the Gaussianity assumption. We obtain a NSC.

Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces

Let $k : \mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a positive semi-definite function. We define H_k as

$$H_k := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{+\infty} a_i k(z_i, \cdot) \text{ where } (a_i) \subset \mathbb{R}, (z_i) \subset \mathcal{D} \text{ and } \sum_{i,j=1}^{+\infty} a_i a_j k(z_i, z_j) < +\infty \right\}$$

endowed with the inner product

$$\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{+\infty} a_i k(x_i, \cdot), \sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} b_j k(y_j, \cdot) \right\rangle := \sum_{i,j=1}^{+\infty} a_i b_j k(x_i, y_j).$$

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The function k verifies the reproducing properties

$$\langle k(z, \cdot), k(z', \cdot) \rangle = k(z, z') \quad \text{and} \quad \langle k(z, \cdot), f \rangle = f(z) \quad \forall f \in H_k$$

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where γ is the unit length vector $\gamma = (\sin \theta \cos \varphi, \sin \theta \sin \varphi, \cos \theta)^T$.

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→ Convolution between functions and measures :

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→ $\dot{F}_t = \partial_t F_t$ means that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \dot{F}_t, f \rangle &= \partial_t \int f(x) dF_t(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S(0,1)} f(ct\gamma) d\Omega + \frac{c}{4\pi} \int_{S(0,1)} \nabla f(ct\gamma) \cdot \gamma d\Omega \end{aligned}$$

Radial symmetry formulas

$$\begin{aligned} & [(F_t \otimes F_{t'}) * k_v](x, x') \\ &= \frac{\text{sgn}(tt')}{16c^2 rr'} \sum_{\varepsilon, \varepsilon' \in \{-1, 1\}} \varepsilon \varepsilon' K_v((r + \varepsilon ct)^2, (r' + \varepsilon' c|t'|)^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & [(\dot{F}_t \otimes \dot{F}_{t'}) * k_u](x, x') \\ &= \frac{1}{4rr'} \sum_{\varepsilon, \varepsilon' \in \{-1, 1\}} (r + \varepsilon ct)(r' + \varepsilon' c|t'|) k_u((r + \varepsilon ct)^2, (r' + \varepsilon' c|t'|)^2) \end{aligned}$$

A word on GPR and neural networks

- Certain Gaussian processes as limits of one layer neural networks with infinitely many neurons (Rasmussen and Williams [2006], Section 4.2.3).
- Regression with neural networks as GPR with a kernel learnt from data (Owhadi [2023a]; Mallat, collège de France).
- GPR : "only" current contender (physics informed) neural networks, cf Chen et al. [2021] for a discussion.

Point source localization

Assume that $u_0 \equiv 0$ and that v_0 is almost a point source at x_0^* : we use the kernels

$$k_v^R(x, x') = k_v(x, x') \frac{\mathbb{1}_{B(x_0, R)}(x)}{4\pi R^3/3} \frac{\mathbb{1}_{B(x_0, R)}(x')}{4\pi R^3/3} \quad (23)$$

$$k((x, t), (x', t')) = [(F_t \otimes F_{t'}) * k_v^R](x, x') \quad (24)$$

with $R \ll 1$. Hyperparameters of $k : (\theta_v, x_0, R, c)$ We fix θ_v, R and c to the "right values" : $\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathcal{L}(x_0)$.

Question : behaviour of $x_0 \mapsto \mathcal{L}(x_0)$?

Minimize negative marginal likelihood \equiv GPS localization

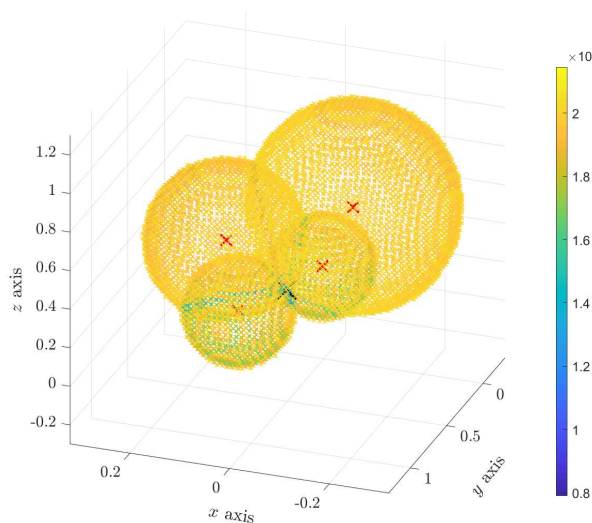


Figure : negative log marginal likelihood.

Displayed values : less than 2.035×10^9 .

× : sensor locations.

× : source location.

See H. et al. [2023]
for study/proofs.