

Posterior Inference for Sparse Hierarchical Non-stationary Models

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Motivation

- Detect material interfaces, inhomogeneous structures, anisotropies, Gaussian and non-Gaussian features
- Gaussian and non-Gaussian hierarchical random field priors, parametric models for structures, noise models etc
- Metropolis-within Gibbs, elliptical slice sampling, Hamiltonian Monte Carlo, and optimisation methods
- Applications: Subsurface imaging (electrical impedance tomography, Darcy flow models) and near-space remote sensing (High-power radar experiments, satellite tomography and remote sensing)

Non-Gaussian Priors

TV and Besov space priors

- Lassas and Siltanen 2004 showed that TV are not discretisation-invariant
- Lassas, Saksman and Siltanen 2009 constructed Besov space priors
 - Often defined via wavelet expansions.
 - For edge-preserving inversion the Haar wavelet basis is often used
 - However due to the structure of the Haar basis, discontinuities are preferred on an underlying dyadic grid given by the discontinuities of the basis functions. For example, on the domain $(0, 1)$, discontinuity is vastly preferred at $x = 1/4$ over $x = 1/3$.
 - Thus Besov priors make, in most practical cases, both a strong and unrealistic assumption.

Non-Gaussian models – α -stable priors

- Markku Markkanen, Lassi Roininen, Janne M J Huttunen and Sari Lasanen, Cauchy difference priors for edge-preserving Bayesian inversion, *Journal of Ill-posed and Inverse Problems* (2019).
- Alberto Mendoza, Lassi Roininen, Mark Girolami, Jere Heikkinen and Heikki Haario, *Statistical Methods To Enable Practical On-Site Tomographic Imaging of Whole-Core Samples*, *Geophysics* (2019).
- Neil Chada, Sari Lasanen and Lassi Roininen, *Posterior Convergence Analysis of α -Stable Sheets*, arXiv (2019).
- Kenneth Muhumuza, Lassi Roininen, Janne M. J. Huttunen, Timo Lähivaara, *A Bayesian-based approach to improving acoustic Born waveform inversion of seismic data for viscoelastic media*, arXiv (2019).

Stable random walks

- Let $U(t), t \in \mathbb{I} \subset \mathbb{R}^+$ be a stochastic process. We call it a Lévy α -stable process starting from zero, or simply as stable process, if $U(0) = 0$, U has independent increments and

$$U(t) - U(s) \sim S_\alpha \left((t - s)^{1/\alpha}, \beta, 0 \right) \quad (1)$$

for any $0 \leq s < t < \infty$ and for some $0 < \alpha \leq 2, -1 \leq \beta \leq 1$.

- For the continuous limit of the Cauchy walk, we apply independently scattered measures. We obtain random walk approximation

$$U_{t_i} - U_{t_{i-1}} \sim S_\alpha \left(h^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \beta, 0 \right)$$

where $t_i - t_{i-1} =: h$. It is easy to see that such random walk approximations converge to the α -stable Lévy motion as $h \rightarrow 0$ in distribution on the Skorokhod space of functions that are right-continuous and have left limits.

Chada, Lasanen, Roininen: α -stable sheet paper

- The paper lays the groundwork for Bayesian inverse problems with stable fields, specifically stable stochastic integrals $U(x) = \int_E f(x, x')M(dx')$
- The paper has expository flavour: We study the very simple stable sheets as an illustrative and easy to follow example. For stable sheets,

$$f(x, x') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } x'_i \leq x_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, d \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- Stable integral is defined like the usual Itô integral, but with stable random measure M in place of Brownian motion B /Brownian sheet.
- Note: no second moments means that instead of L^2 , the integrals are limits of integrals of simple functions in probability.

Stable Integrals

- Stable integrals $U(x)$ can be presented in many equivalent ways (equivalent = equivalent in distribution) When it comes to Bayesian inverse problems, the best way seems to be through Lévy-LePage series representation,
- Lévy-LePage series representation is

$$U(x) = (C_\alpha |E|)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \rho_k \Gamma_k^{1/\alpha} f(x, V_k), \quad (3)$$

where $0 < \alpha < 2$,

$$C_\alpha = \left(\int_0^\infty x^{-\alpha} \sin(x) dx \right)^{-1}, \quad (4)$$

ρ_k is a Rademacher sequence (i.i.d. with values ± 1 with equal probabilities), Γ_k are arrival times of a Poisson process with arrival rate 1, and V_k are i.i.d. uniformly distributed on E . The three sequences ρ_k, Γ_k and V_k are mutually independent.

Discretisation

- Lévy-LePage series representation gives
 - 1) Sample path regularity in L^p , $1 \leq p < \infty$ (also in the more general Sobolev space H_p^s , $s < 1/p$, $p \geq 2$),
 - 2) Convergence in distributions on sample space.
- From 1) and 2), we proceed to posterior convergence in distribution for finite-dimensional data. The discretization of U on $[0, 1]^d$ is taken to be

$$U^N(x) = U(h\lceil x/h \rceil), \quad (5)$$

where the ceiling function $\lceil t \rceil = \min\{m \in \mathbb{Z}^d : t_j \leq m_j, j = 1, \dots, d\}$.

- Computationally, the discretisation is determined from set of difference equations (here in 2D case)

$$\begin{aligned} U(hm_1, hm_2) - U(hm_1, h(m_2 - 1)) - U(h(m_1 - 1), hm_2) \\ + U(h(m_1 - 1), h(m_2 - 1)) \sim S_\alpha(|h|^{d/\alpha}, 0, 0) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

with i.i.d. right hand sides and zero boundary values on the coordinate axes.

Convergence $h \rightarrow 0$

Theorem

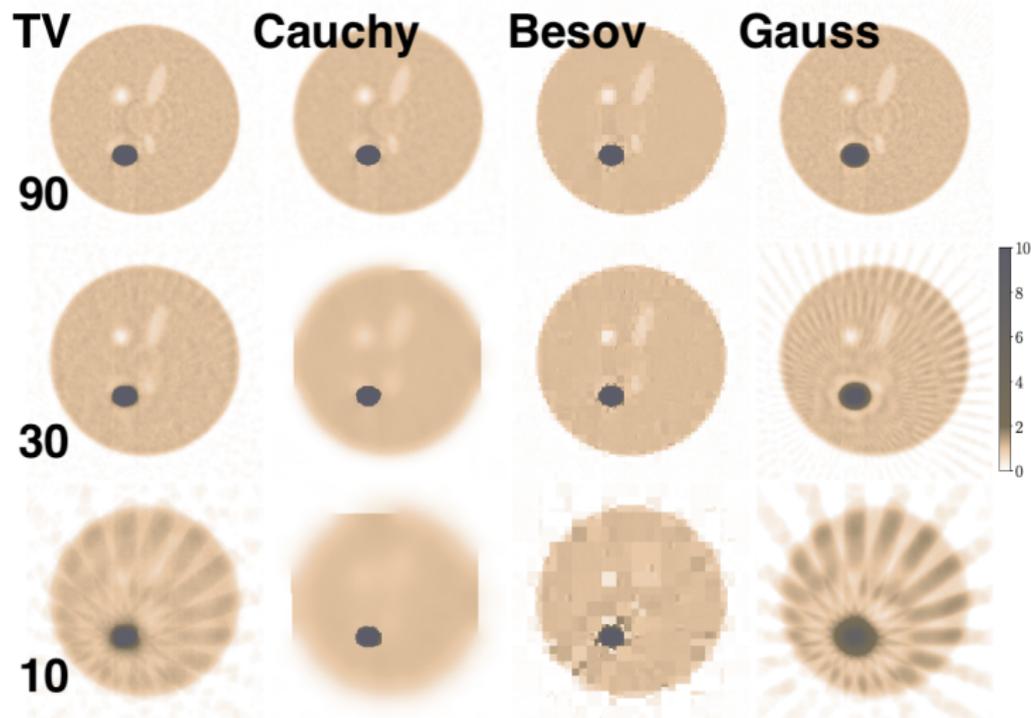
Let $1 \leq p < \infty$. The approximations $U^N(x) = U(h \lceil x/h \rceil)$ converge to U on $L^p((0, 1)^d)$ in distribution.

Open questions:

- Can we do the same for infinite-dimensional data (e.g. with Gaussian noise)?
- How to obtain stronger posterior convergence for $\alpha = 1$?

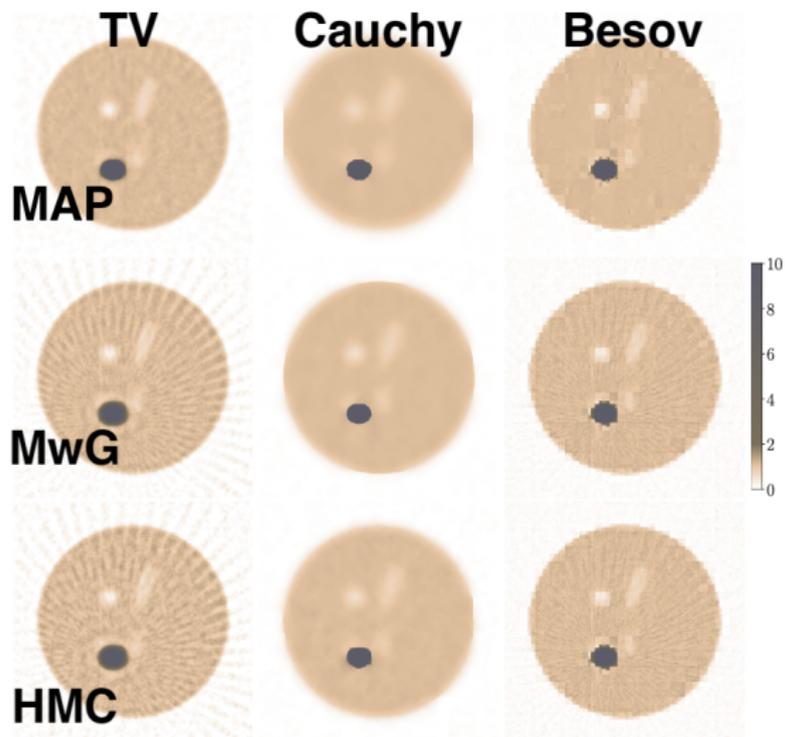
MAP estimates

- Log tomography with different number of projections and prior models



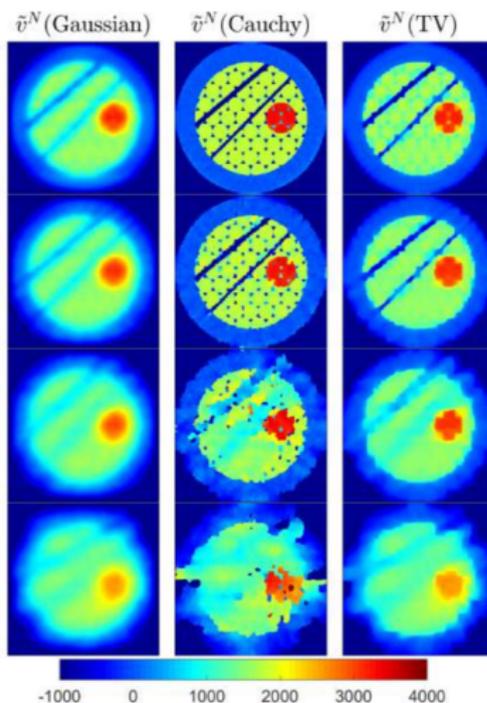
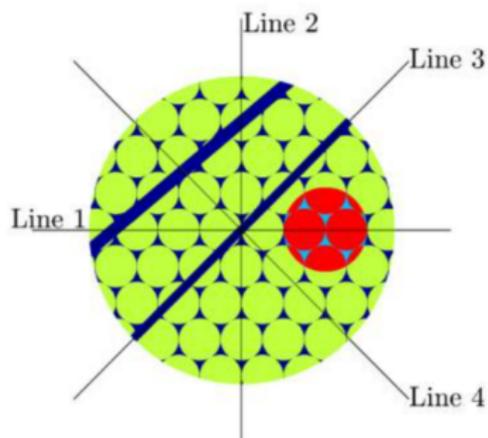
MAP and CM estimates – 30 projections

- Log tomography



Tomographic imaging of whole-core samples

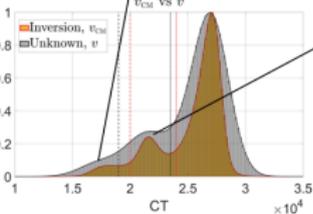
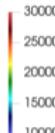
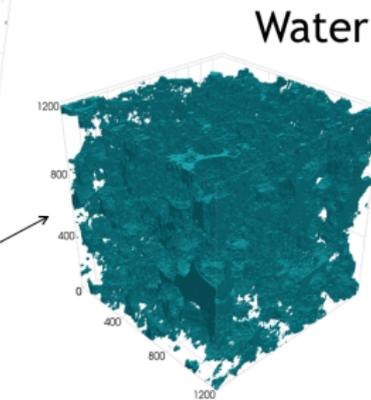
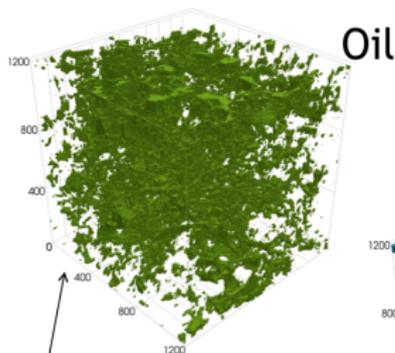
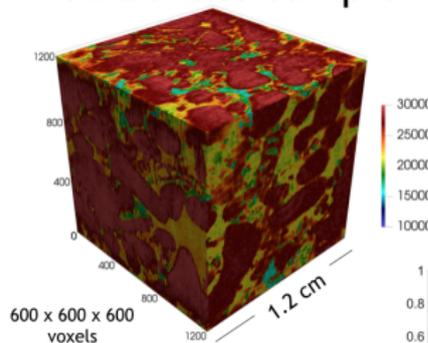
- 46, 23, 12, 6 projections with 10% noise



Micro-CT

Example 4: mixed-wet carbonate reservoir rocks from the Middle-East*.

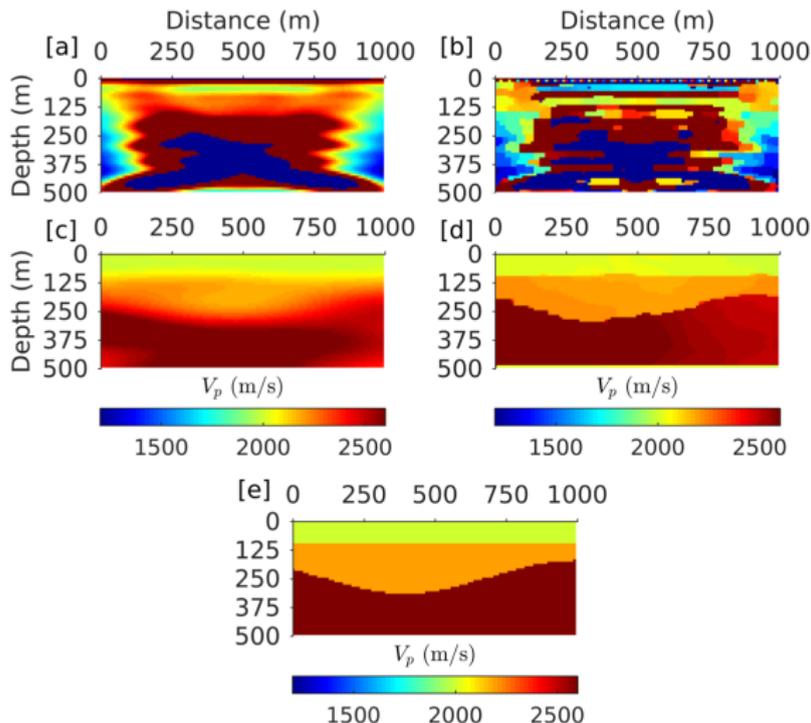
Waterflood oil-bearing carbonate sample



*Alhammadi, A., Alratrout, A., Bijeljic, B., & Blunt, M. (2018, May 17). X-ray micro-tomography datasets of mixed-wet carbonate reservoir rocks for in situ effective contact angle measurements. Retrieved August 16, 2018, from www.digitalrockportal.org

Born waveform inversion of seismic data

- A Bayesian approach to improving acoustic Born waveform inversion of seismic data for viscoelastic media



Sparse Hierarchical Non-stationary Models

Karla Monterrubio-Gómez, Lassi Roininen, Sara Wade, Theodoros Damoulas, and Mark Girolami, Posterior Inference for Sparse Hierarchical Non-stationary Models, arXiv 2019.

Hierarchical GP model

- Based on the non-stationary Matérn kernel via varying length-scaling $\ell(x_i)$.
- Hierarchical model for 1- d problems:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_i &\sim \mathcal{N}(z(x_i), \sigma_\varepsilon^2), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\
 z(\cdot) &\sim \mathcal{GP}\left(0, C_\phi^{\text{NS}}(\cdot, \cdot)\right), \\
 \log \ell(\cdot) &\sim \mathcal{GP}\left(\mu_\ell, C_\varphi^{\text{S}}(\cdot, \cdot)\right), \\
 (\tau^2, \varphi, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \mu_\ell) &\sim \pi(\tau^2)\pi(\varphi)\pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2)\pi(\mu_\ell),
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $C_\phi^{\text{NS}}(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes a non-stationary kernel, $C_\varphi^{\text{S}}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a stationary covariance function with parameters φ , and μ_ℓ the constant mean of $\log \ell(\cdot)$.

- Extremely flexible, 2-level improves predictive performance
- Fully Bayesian inference challenging:
 - Computationally expensive (2 nested GPs), latent processes and hyperparameters tend to be strongly coupled
 - Model is sensitive to the choice of hyperparameters.

Sparse Hierarchical Non-stationary Models

- **Idea:** Use Gaussian Markov random fields - precision matrix equivalent to $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, (\mathbf{Q}_\phi^{\text{NS}})^{-1})$ $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_\phi^{\text{NS}})$
- How to create \mathbf{Q} ?
 - Roininen et al. 2019 derive a SPDE formulation for non-stationary Matérn fields.
 - For $d = 1$ and $\nu = 2 - 1/2$,

$$\left(1 - \ell(\cdot)^2 \Delta\right) \mathbf{z} = \tau \sqrt{\ell(\cdot)} \mathbf{w}, \quad (8)$$

where Δ is the Laplace operator, w is white noise on \mathbb{R} , $\text{Var}(w) = \Gamma(\nu + 1/2)(4\pi)^{1/2}/\Gamma(\nu)$, and $\ell(\cdot)$ is a spatially varying length-scale.

- A finite-dimensional approximation can be written as

$$L(\ell)\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{w},$$

where $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with n the discretisation size. $L(\ell)$ is a sparse matrix depending on $\ell_j := \ell(jh)$, with h the discretisation step in a chosen finite difference approximation.

The model

- GP regression model: $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$, $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m)$, $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
- Hierarchical formulation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{z}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m), \\
 \mathbf{z} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_\phi^{-1}) \\
 \log \ell := \mathbf{u} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} &\sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell, \mathbf{C}_\varphi) \\
 (\tau^2, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell) &\sim \pi(\tau^2)\pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2)\pi(\boldsymbol{\varphi})\pi(\boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell)
 \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell$ is the n -dimensional constant mean vector.

- Key component: $(\mathbf{C}_\phi^{\text{NS}})^{-1} := \mathbf{Q}_\phi = \mathbf{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi})^\top \mathbf{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi})$, which depends on \mathbf{u} and τ^2 .
- $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ parameters of the covariance that describe properties of the length-scales.

Hyperpriors

- **Stationary** assumption for spatially varying length-scale
- Explore two priors for \mathbf{u} :

Squared Exponential:

- ▶ Strong prior smoothness assumptions on how the correlation of the non-stationary process changes with distance.
- ▶ Precision matrix is **dense** and depends on length-scale λ and magnitude τ_ℓ .

AR(1):

- ▶ Ornstein-Uhlenbeck covariance
- ▶ Allows quick changes but is smoother than white noise.
- ▶ Precision is **sparse** $\mathbf{Q}_\varphi = L(\varphi)^\top L(\varphi)$, where $L(\varphi)$ is a banded matrix that depends on λ and τ_ℓ .
- To improve model identifiability, we fix τ , μ_ℓ and τ_ℓ .

Inference for one-dimensional problems

Posterior of interest:

$$\pi(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u}, \lambda, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_z, \mathbf{Q}_u^{-1}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell, \mathbf{C}_\varphi) \pi(\lambda) \pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2).$$

• Metropolis-within-Gibbs (MWG)

- Length scale \mathbf{u} are updated individually.
- When proposing u_k^* , for $k = 1, \dots, n$, log-ratio of acceptance probability simplifies ($O(n)$ for SE and $O(1)$ for AR).
- When proposing hyperparameter φ^* , we require: $\log \left(\frac{\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell, \mathbf{C}_\varphi^*)}{\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell, \mathbf{C}_\varphi)} \right) - (O(n^3))$ for SE and $O(n)$ for AR.
- Does not perform well for SE.

• Whitened Elliptical Slice Sampling (w-ELL-SS)

$\mathbf{z} = L(\mathbf{u})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\xi}$ with $\boldsymbol{\xi} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_n)$ and $\mathbf{u} = R_\varphi \boldsymbol{\zeta} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell$ with $\boldsymbol{\zeta} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}_n)$.

$$\pi(\boldsymbol{\zeta}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \lambda, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mid \mathbf{y}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{A}L(R_\varphi \boldsymbol{\zeta} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\xi}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m) \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\xi} \mid 0, \mathbf{I}_n) \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\zeta} \mid 0, \mathbf{I}_n) \pi(\lambda) \pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2).$$

- \mathbf{u} updated jointly through $\boldsymbol{\zeta}$.
- Likelihood can be evaluated as a product of univariate Gaussians
- $\mathbf{z} = L(\mathbf{u})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\xi}$ can be solved in $O(n)$
- $\mathbf{u} = R_\varphi \boldsymbol{\zeta} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell - (O(n^2))$ for SE and $O(n)$ for AR
- Each iteration may require several likelihood evaluations.

- **Marginal Elliptical Slice Sampling (m-ELL-SS)**

$$\pi(\zeta, \lambda, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 | \mathbf{y}) \propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} | 0, A Q_{\zeta, \varphi}^{-1} A^\top + \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I_n) \mathcal{N}(\zeta | 0, I_m) \pi(\lambda) \pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2).$$

- \mathbf{u} updated jointly through ζ .
- $\mathbf{u} = R_\varphi \zeta + \boldsymbol{\mu}_\ell - (O(n^2) \text{ for SE and } O(n) \text{ for AR})$
- Marginal likelihood computation:

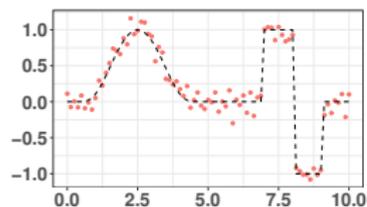
$$\log \pi(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{u}, \lambda, \sigma_\varepsilon^2) = -\frac{m}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \log \det(\Psi) - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^\top \Psi^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

where $\Psi = A Q_{\mathbf{u}}^{-1} A^\top + \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I_m$.

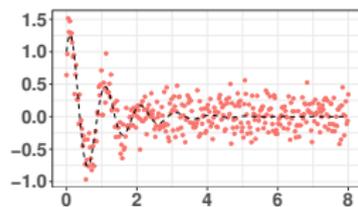
- Employ Woodbury identity for Ψ^{-1}
- Quadratic term: $\sigma_\varepsilon^{-2} \left(\mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y}^\top A \left(L(\mathbf{u})^\top L(\mathbf{u}) + \sigma_\varepsilon^{-2} A^\top A \right)^{-1} A^\top \mathbf{y} \right)$
- Determinant computation is the dominant term ($O(m^3)$ or $O(nm)$)
- Improved mixing

Synthetic 1-d experiments

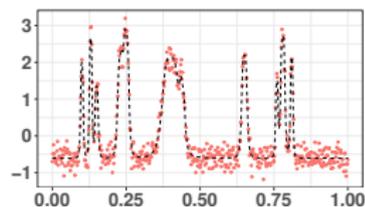
3 synthetic 1-dimensional examples



(a) Experiment 1



(b) Experiment 2



(c) Experiment 3

Figure: (a): 81 observations with domain $[0, 10]$ and $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^2 = 0.01$. (b): 350 observations with domain $[0, 8]$ and $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^2 = 0.04$. (c): 512 observations with domain $[0, 1]$ and $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^2 = 0.04$

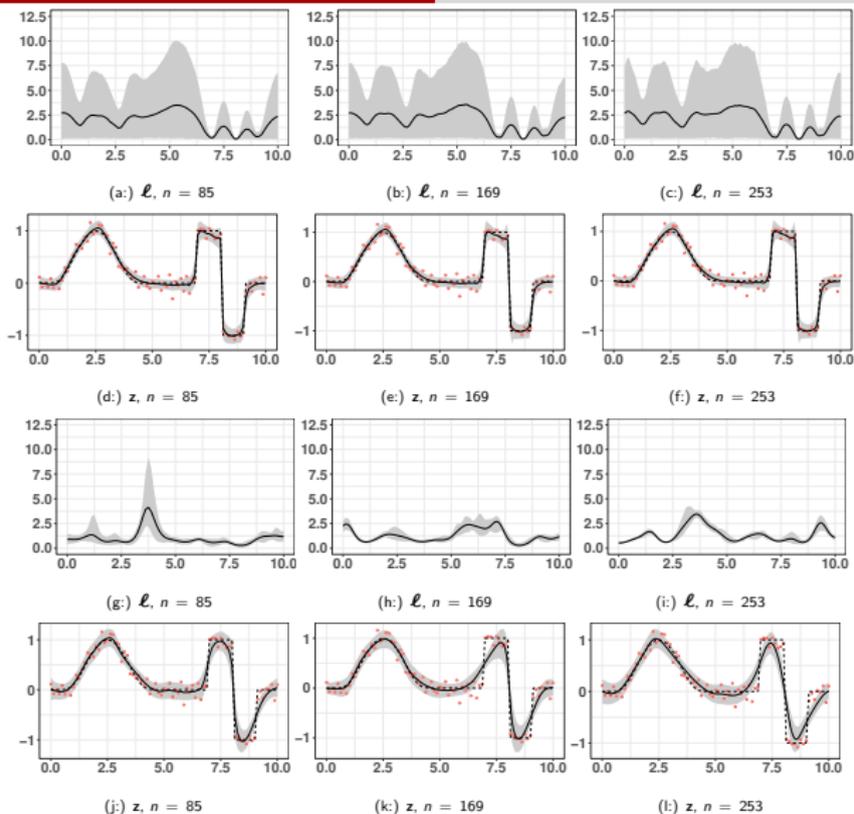


Figure: MWG. (a)-(c): Estimated ℓ process with 95% credible intervals for AR(1) on different grids. (d)-(f): Estimated z process with 95% credible intervals for AR(1) on different grids with observed data in red. (g)-(i): Estimated ℓ process with 95% credible intervals for SE on different grids. (j)-(l): Estimated z process with 95% credible intervals for SE hyperprior on different grids with observed data in red.

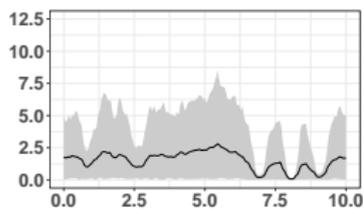
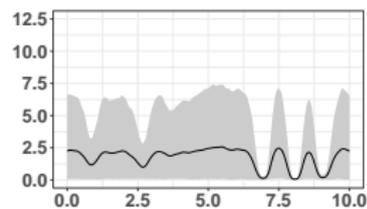
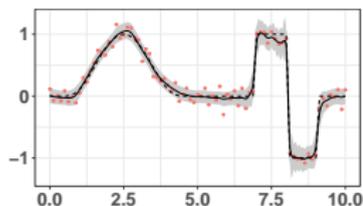
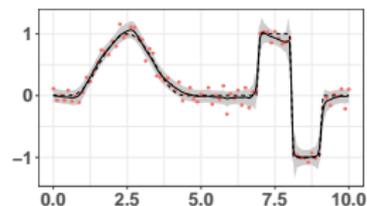
(a) w-ELL-SS ℓ , $n = 253$ (b) m-ELL-SS ℓ , $n = 253$ (c) w-ELL-SS ℓ , $n = 253$ (d) m-ELL-SS z , $n = 253$

Figure: Results for Experiment 1 at the highest resolution ($n=253$) for SE hyperprior with (left column) w-ELL-SS algorithm and (right column) m-ELL-SS algorithm.

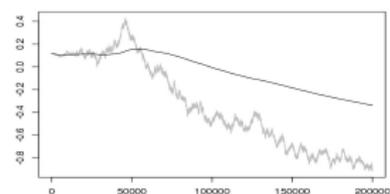
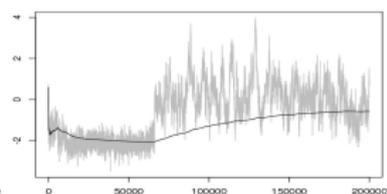
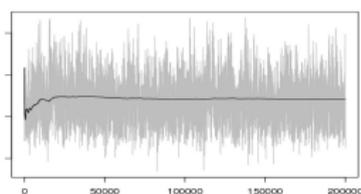
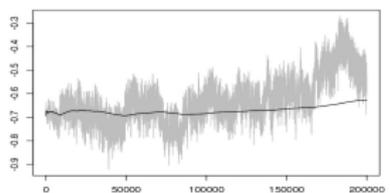
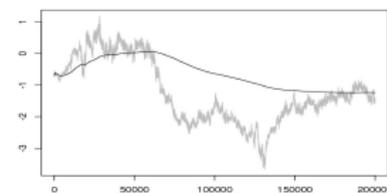
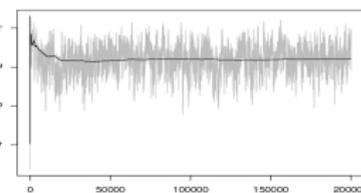
(a) u_{199} , MWG(b) u_{185} , w-ELL-SS(c) u_{190} , m-ELL-SS(d) λ , MWG(e) λ , w-ELL-SS(f) λ , m-ELL-SS

Figure: Example 1: Traceplots with cumulative averages of the chains for SE hyperprior with $n = 253$. (Top row:) element of \mathbf{u} with the lowest ESS. (Bottom row:) the hyperparameter.

$$\text{OES} = \text{ESS}/\text{CPUtime}$$

		MWG			w-ELL-SS			m-ELL-SS		
		$n = 85$	$n = 169$	$n = 253$	$n = 85$	$n = 169$	$n = 253$	$n = 85$	$n = 169$	$n = 253$
AR(1)	σ_ε^2	622.76	173.12	65.99	380.89	102.38	38.91	661.20	257.81	116.35
	ℓ_{min}	635.36	114.02	41.05	30.90	8.99	2.94	287.16	114.36	59.71
	z_{min}	203.80	42.10	13.91	9.12	2.34	0.86	129.75	52.16	22.30
	λ	89.84	15.66	6.00	22.77	5.26	2.36	111.80	45.54	21.53
	MAE	0.041	0.051	0.054	0.041	0.051	0.054	0.041	0.051	0.053
	EC	0.988	0.975	0.971	0.988	0.975	0.975	0.988	0.975	0.975
SE	σ_ε^2	11.19	4.88	7.49	246.24	77.72	8.89	856.15	253.91	125.97
	ℓ_{min}	1.22	0.73	0.64	21.69	10.22	2.79	244.91	122.57	55.82
	z	0.06	0.01	0.01	4.71	1.37	0.24	76.80	24.11	9.87
	λ	0.59	0.75	0.31	2.31	0.29	0.01	16.59	4.15	2.21
	MAE	0.078	0.100	0.133	0.040	0.050	0.054	0.039	0.049	0.052
	EC	0.889	0.826	0.763	0.988	0.975	0.971	0.988	0.975	0.979

Table: Experiment 1: OES with both hyperpriors under various discretisation schemes ($n = 86, 169, 253$) and three different algorithms. ℓ_{min} and z_{min} report OES for the minimum ESS across all dimensions. Highest values in boldface.

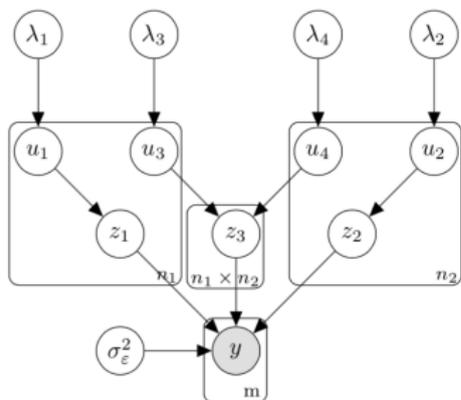
- AR(1) hypermodel adds further computational gains.
- MWG performs poorly for highly correlated hyperprior.
- MWG deteriorates efficiency as the number of observations or discretisation size increase.
- w-ELL-SS for weak likelihoods performs well regardless the hyperprior employed at the price of highly correlated chains.
- Marginal sampler converges to the stationary distribution faster.
- m-ELL-SS good compromise between computational complexity and efficiency of the chains.

Extensions for two-dimensional problems

Employs additive Gaussian process models (AGP)

$$\mathbf{y} = A_1 \mathbf{z}_1 + A_2 \mathbf{z}_2 + A_3 \mathbf{z}_3 + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon},$$

- $A_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_1}$, $A_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_2}$ and $A_3 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times (n_1 n_2)}$ known matrices.
- $z_1(\cdot)$ and $z_2(\cdot)$ independent univariate non-stationary processes.
- $z_3(\cdot)$ is a bivariate, non-stationary, separable process -interaction term



Hierarchical model:

$$\mathbf{y} \mid \{\mathbf{z}_r\}_{r=1}^3, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}_1 \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{z}_2 + \mathbf{A}_3 \mathbf{z}_3, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m)$$

$$\mathbf{z}_r \mid \phi_r \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_{\phi_r}^{\text{NS}}), \quad r = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\mathbf{u}_s \mid \varphi_s \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\ell_s}, \mathbf{C}_{\varphi_s}^{\text{S}}), \quad s = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

$$(\sigma_\varepsilon^2, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) \sim \pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2) \pi(\varphi_1) \pi(\varphi_2) \pi(\varphi_3) \pi(\varphi_4),$$

with $\boldsymbol{\varphi} = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_4)$.

- AGP works based on one-dimensional kernels
- Posterior:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\{\mathbf{z}_r\}_{r=1}^3, \{\mathbf{u}_s, \lambda_s\}_{s=1}^4, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mid \mathbf{y}) &\propto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{A}_1 \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{z}_2 + \mathbf{A}_3 \mathbf{z}_3, \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}_m) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}_1 \mid \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_1}^{-1}) \\ &\quad \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}_2 \mid \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_{3,4}}^{-1}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}_3 \mid \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_{3,4}}^{-1}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_1 \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\ell_1}, \mathbf{C}_{\varphi_1}) \cdots \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_4 \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\ell_4}, \mathbf{C}_{\varphi_4}) \\ &\quad \pi(\lambda_1) \cdots \pi(\lambda_4) \pi(\sigma_\varepsilon^2), \end{aligned}$$

with $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_{3,4}}^{-1} := \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_3}^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{u}_4}^{-1}$

Inference for two-dimensional problems

- Blocked Gibbs sampler, that updates the three blocks of parameters $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{u}_1, \lambda_1)$; $(\mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{u}_2, \lambda_2)$; and $(\mathbf{z}_3, \mathbf{u}_3, \mathbf{u}_4, \lambda_3, \lambda_4)$ from their full conditional distributions.
- **Block marginal elliptical slice sampler (Block-m-ELL-SS)**
 - To sample $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{u}_1, \lambda_1)$, the full conditional is factorised:

$$\pi(\mathbf{z}_1, \zeta_1, \lambda_1 \mid \mathbf{y}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) = \pi(\zeta_1, \lambda_1 \mid \mathbf{y}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3) \pi(\mathbf{z}_1 \mid \zeta_1, \lambda_1, \mathbf{y}, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{z}_3),$$

- Interaction term: use eigendecompositions and matrix-vector multiplications for Kronecker matrices!

Synthetic 2-d experiment

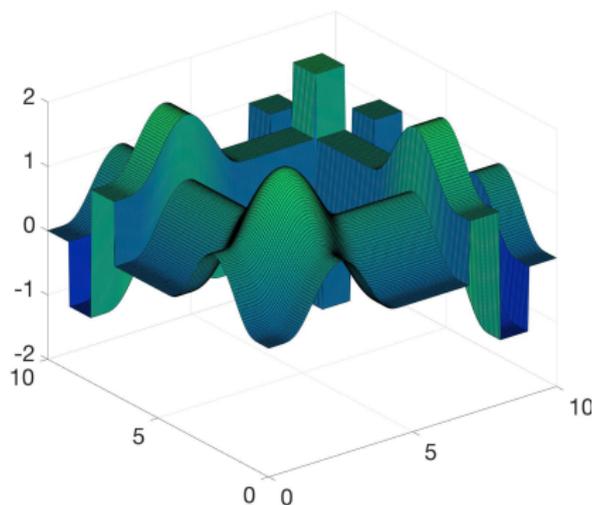


Figure: 2-dimensional synthetic data. $m = 20,449$ noisy observations in an expanded grid of $n_1 = n_2 = 143$ equally spaced points in $[0, 10]$, employing $z(x_1, x_2) = z(x_1) + z(x_2)$.

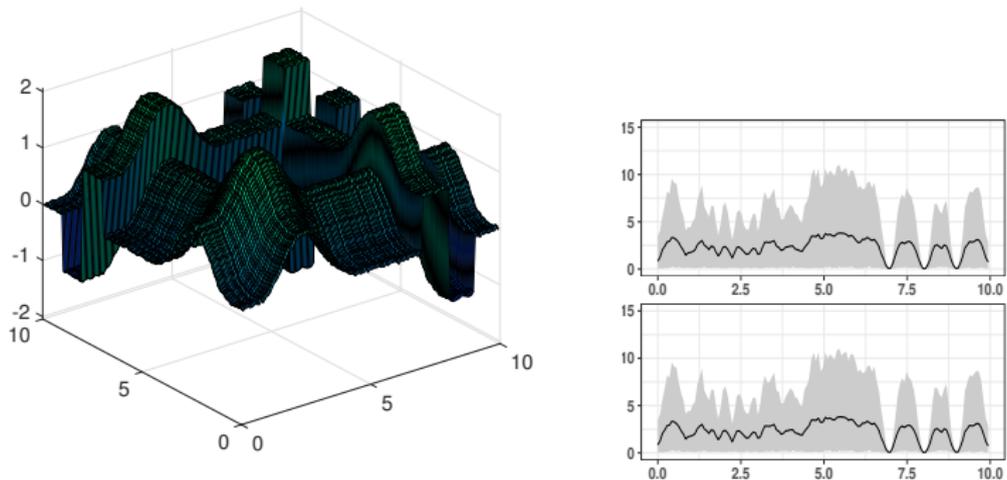


Figure: Posterior mean surface and one-dimensional length-scale processes with 95% credible intervals.

- Capture smooth areas and edges.
- 2-level AGP correctly learns the varying correlation along the surface.
- 99.26 minutes for 50,000 iterations

Comparative evaluation

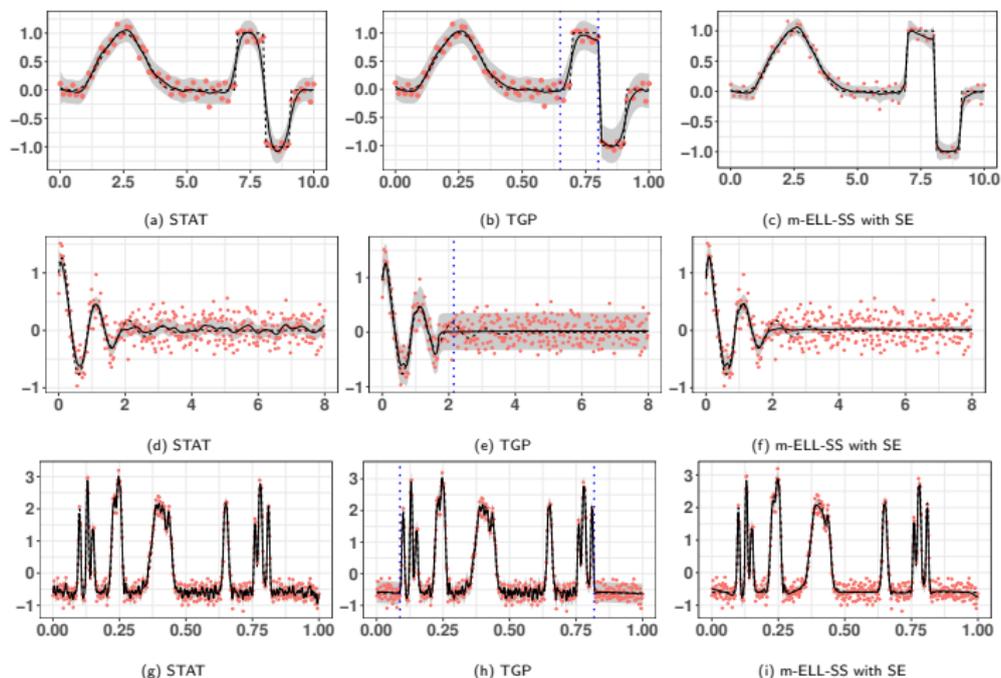


Figure: Each row shows one of the simulated experiments. Red dots depict observed data, dotted lines show the true signal, solid lines show the posterior mean, and grey areas depict 95% credible intervals. (a)(d)(g)(j): Stationary GP (b)(e)(h)(k): TGP, with blue dotted lines depicting MAP cut-off points. (c)(f)(i)(l): 2-level GP with m-ELL-SS algorithm and the hyperprior with lowest MAE.

Thank you