

Bayesian Optimisation: Sequential Decision Making Under Uncertainty



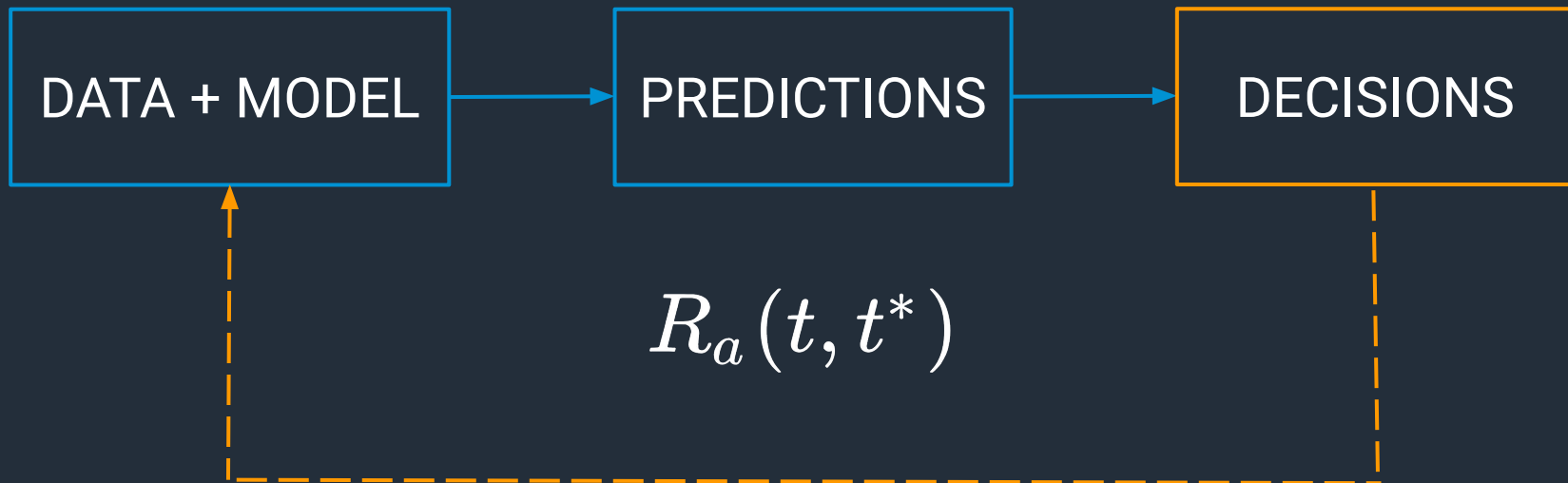
Alessandra Tosi

DATA + MODEL



PREDICTIONS





Outline

- Sequential decision making
- Bayesian optimisation
- Applications

Sequential decision making



Sequential decision making

Multi-armed bandits

Minimize the regret, the expected difference between the reward sum associated with an optimal strategy and the sum of the collected rewards:

$$\rho = T\mu^* - \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{r}_t$$

Active learning

A user/oracle is asked to label new data points and reduce the model uncertainty.

Bayesian optimization

Minimize an unknown function

$$x^* = \min_{x \in D} f(x),$$

Reinforcement learning

An agent is interacting with the environment. The goal is to maximize the cumulative expected reward for an action.

Problem definition

The goal of **global optimisation**

$$x^* = \min_{x \in D} f(x), \quad f : D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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Define a **surrogate model** for the target function to be optimised.

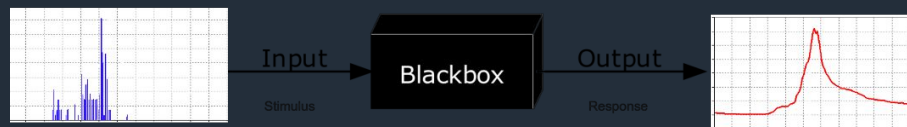
Frame the optimization problem as a **decision problem** (decide where to collect the new data point) and define an utility function to do so.



Pain points

Complex target function

- no simple analytical form
- no gradient information
- mixed parameters' types
- parameters' constraints

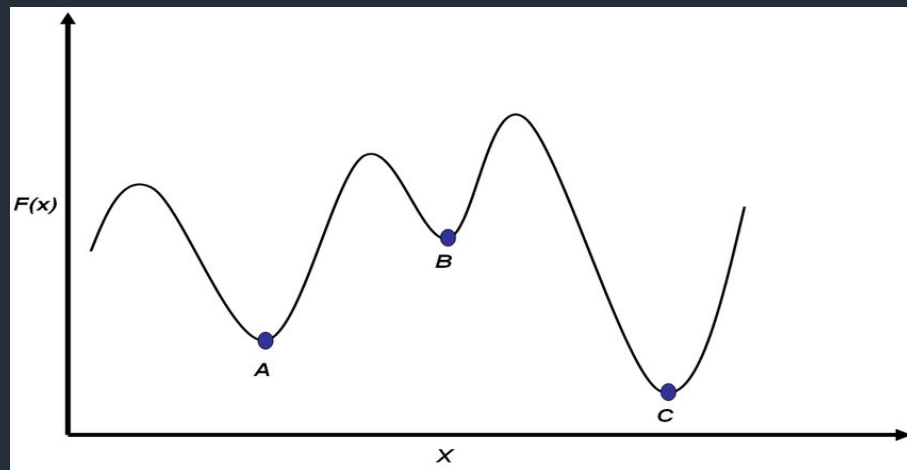
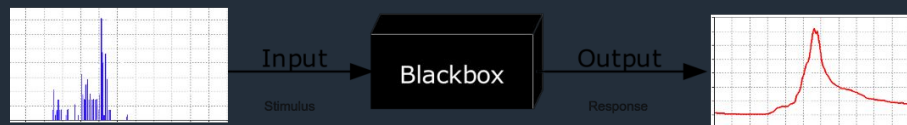


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Multiple local optima



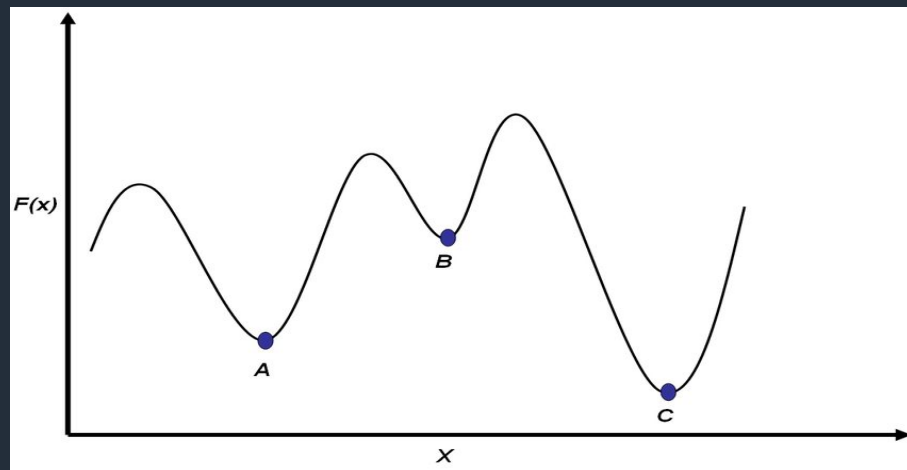
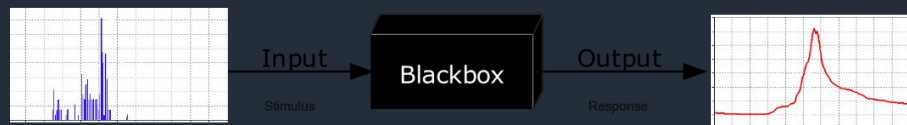
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Multiple local optima

Expensive function evaluations



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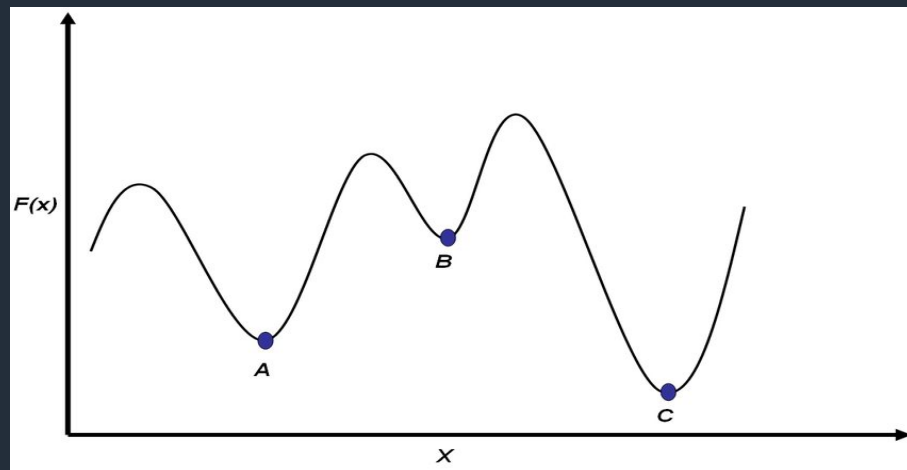
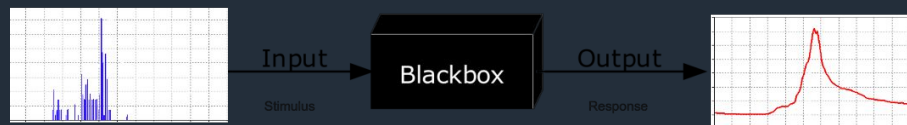
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Noisy function evaluations



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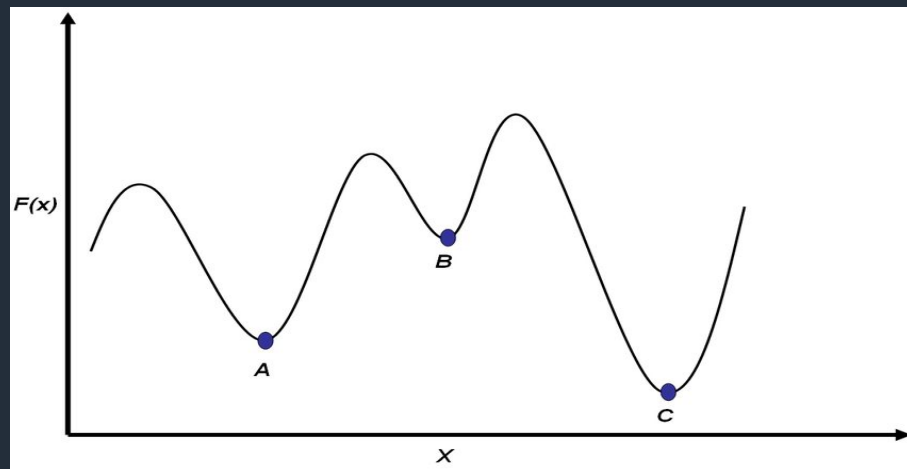
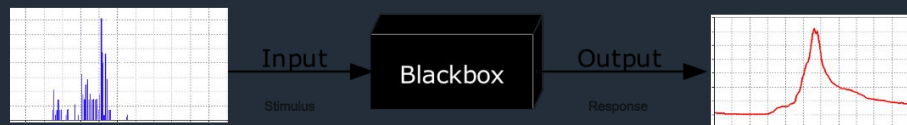
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How do we solve it?



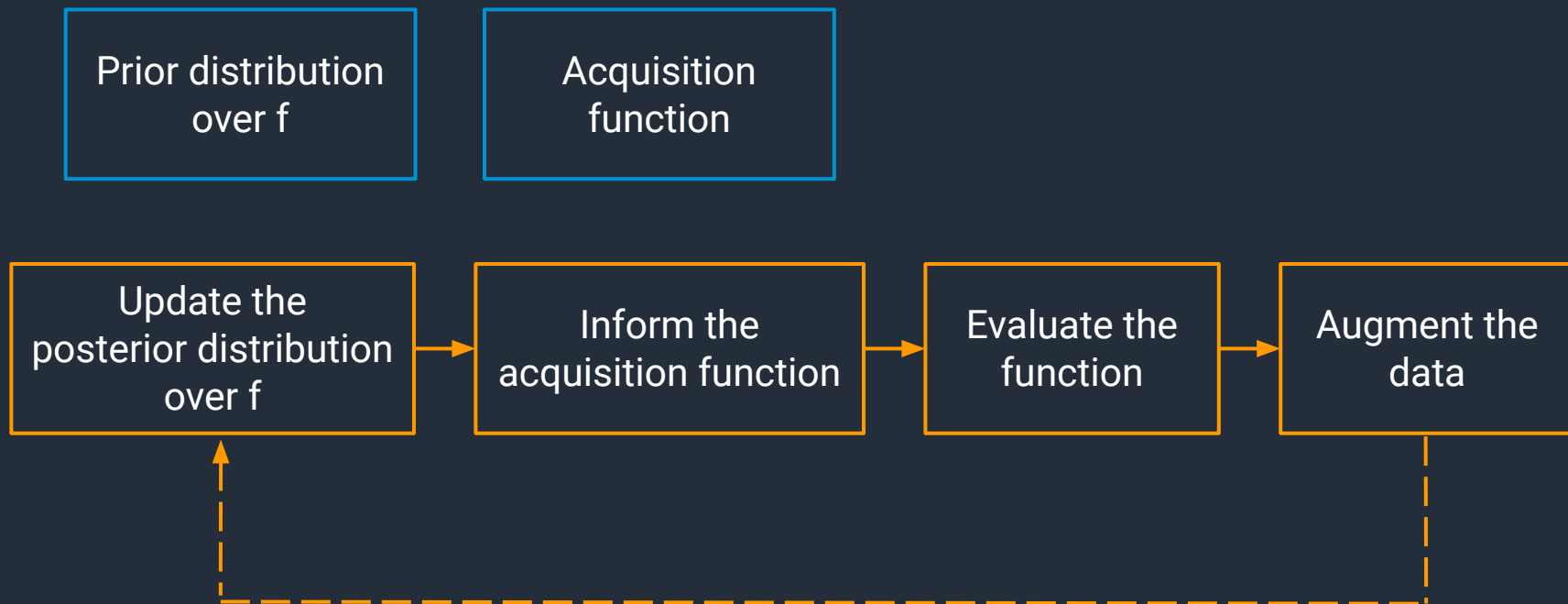
Bayesian optimisation

Prior distribution
over f

Acquisition
function

$$x^* = \min_{x \in D} f(x), \quad f : D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

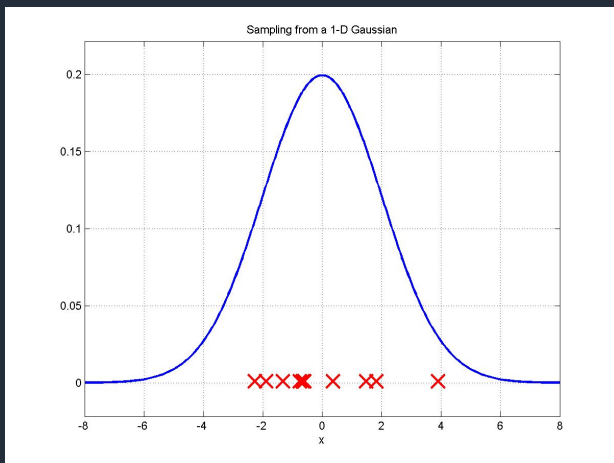
Bayesian optimisation



Gaussian processes

[Rasmussen, C. E. and Williams, C. K. I., Gaussian Processes for Machine Learning. The MIT Press, 2005]

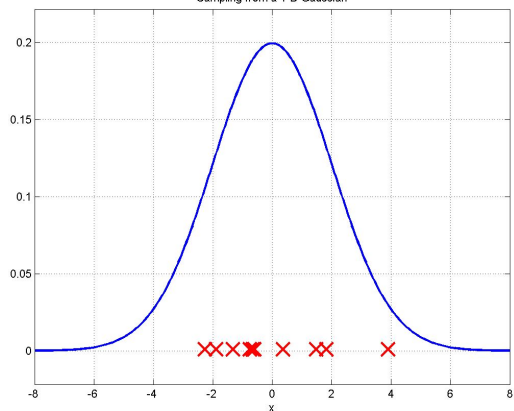
Infinite dimensional Gaussian distributions.



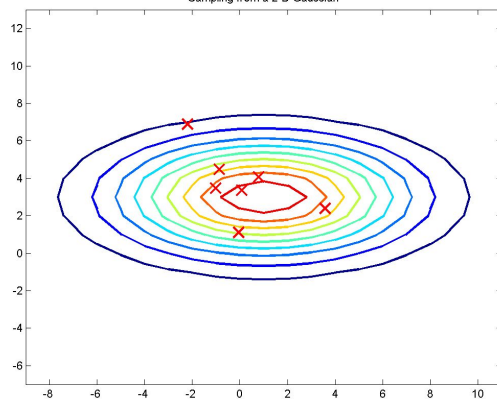
Gaussian processes

Infinite dimensional Gaussian distributions.

Sampling from a 1-D Gaussian



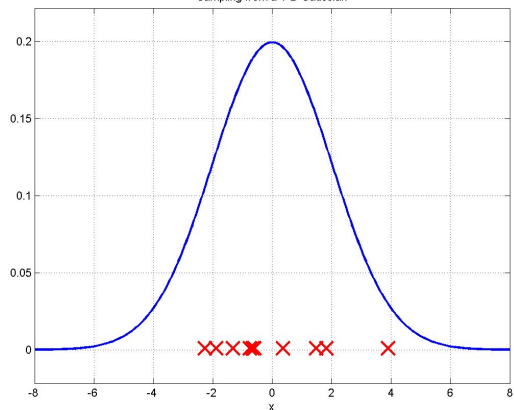
Sampling from a 2-D Gaussian



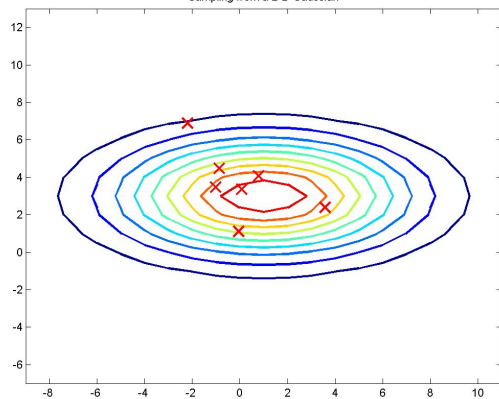
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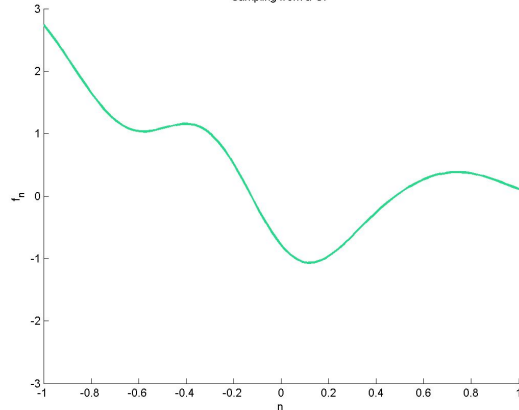
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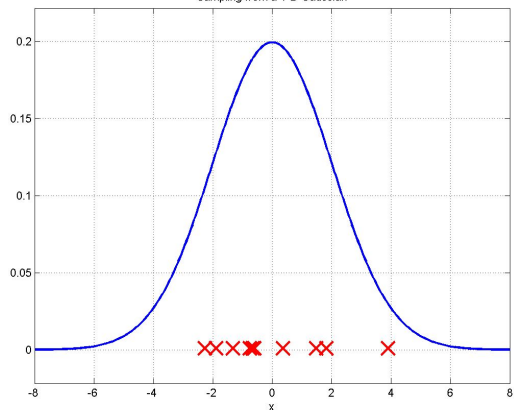
Sampling from a GP



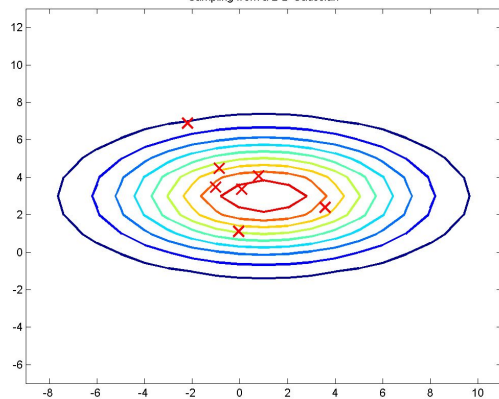
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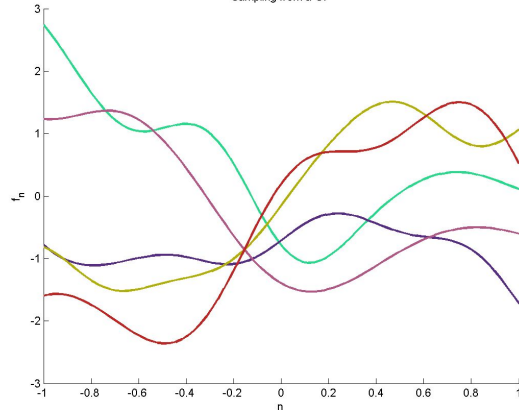
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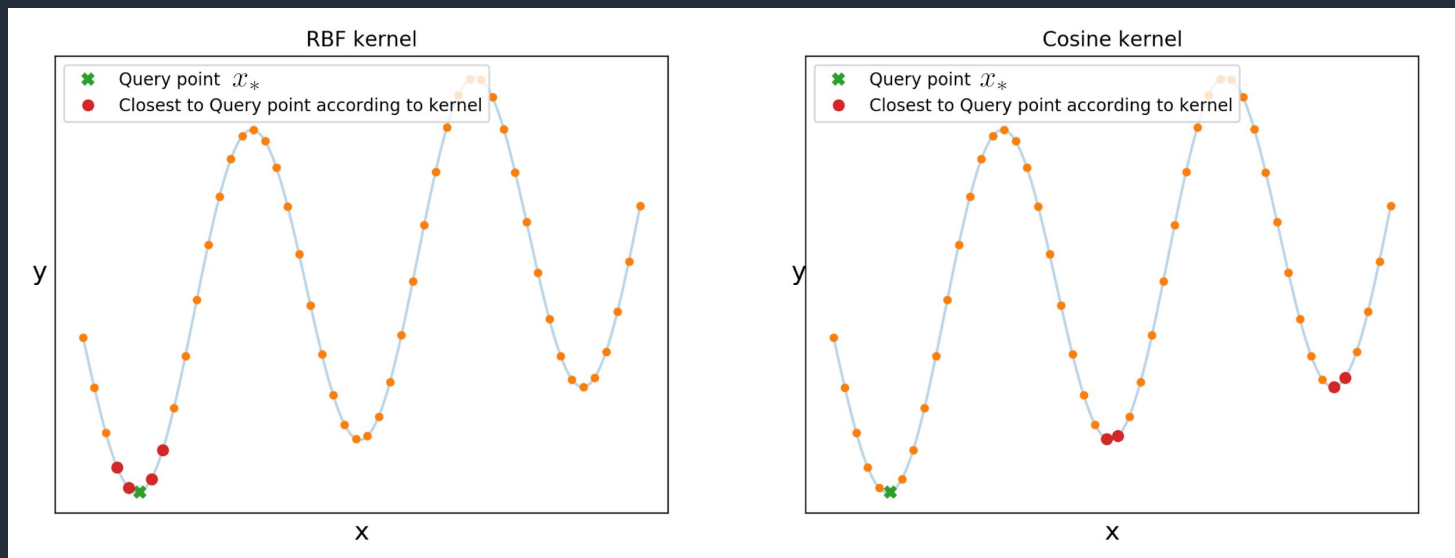


Sampling from a GP



Gaussian processes

Kernels? It will be useful for the applications slide.



Bayesian optimisation

Prior distribution
over f

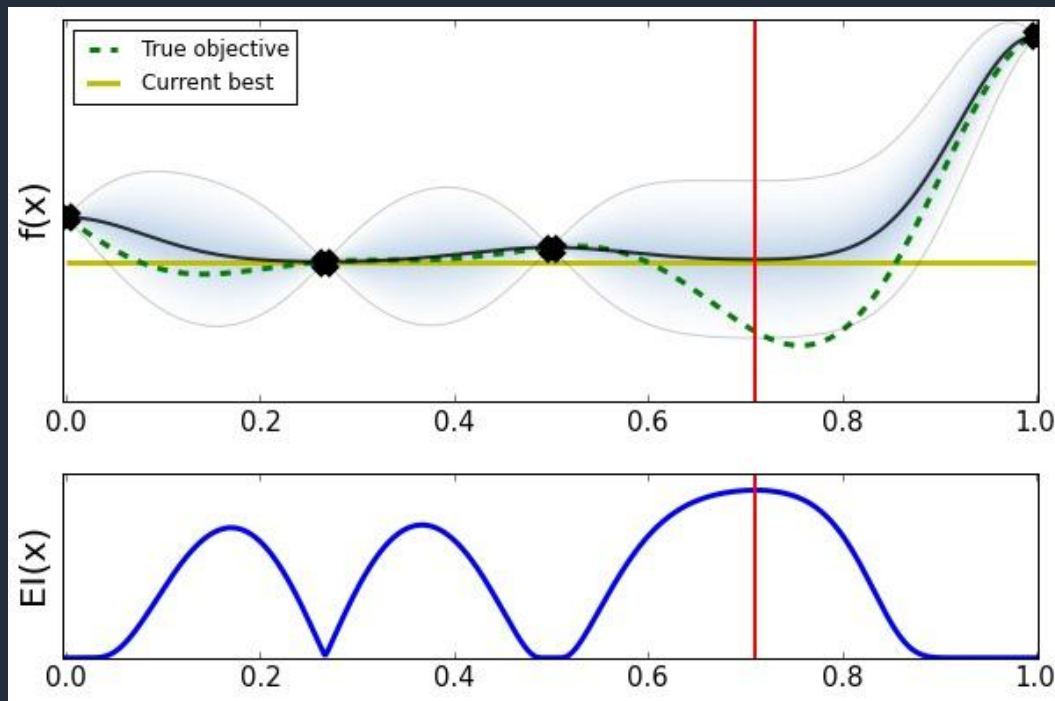
Acquisition
function

Acquisition functions

Balance **exploration** and **exploitation**.



Acquisition functions



Acquisition functions

Expected improvement [Jones et al., 1998]

$$u(x) = \max_x(0, f^* - f(x))$$

$$a_{EI}(x) = \mathbb{E}[u(x)|x]$$

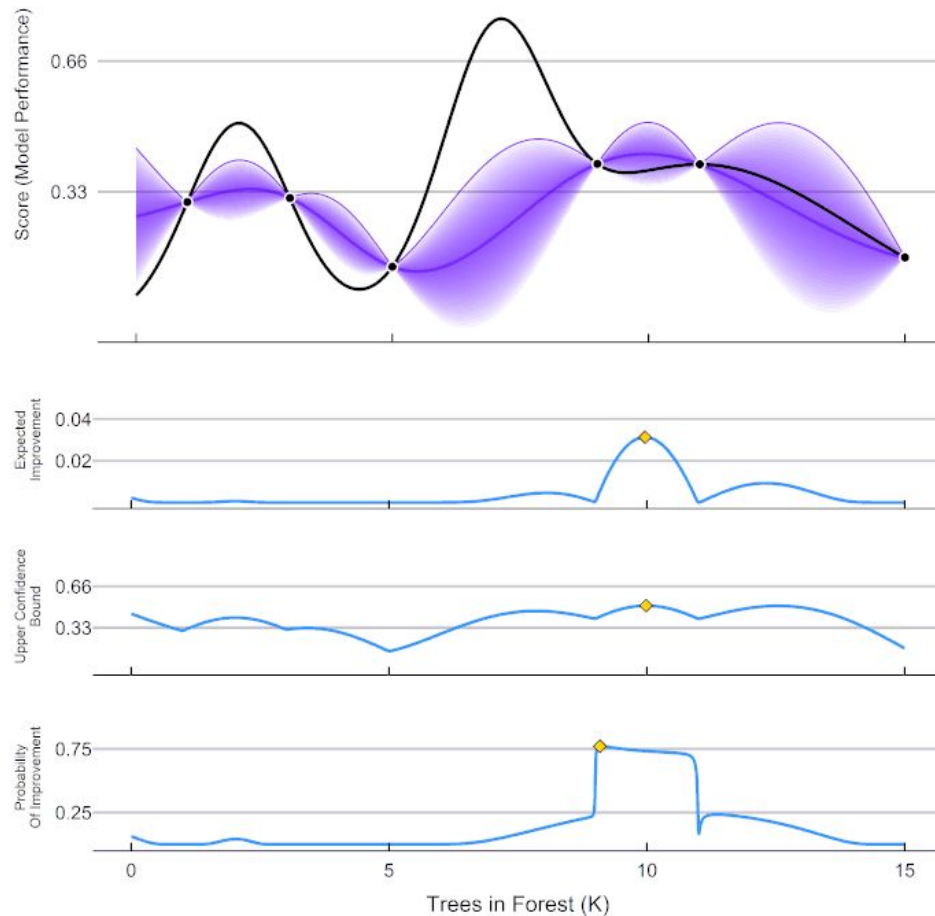
Upper confidence bound [Srinivas et al., 2010]

Probability of improvement

Thompson sampling

Entropy search [Hennig and Schuler, 2013;
Hernández-Lobato et al., 2014]

ParBayesianOptimization in Action (Round 1)



Recap

Sequential decision making in machine learning

Bayesian optimisation

- Problem definition
- Gaussian process surrogate model
- Acquisition functions

Coming next

Applications

Applications

Hyperparameters tuning

Drug design

Quantum computer

Robotics

Other

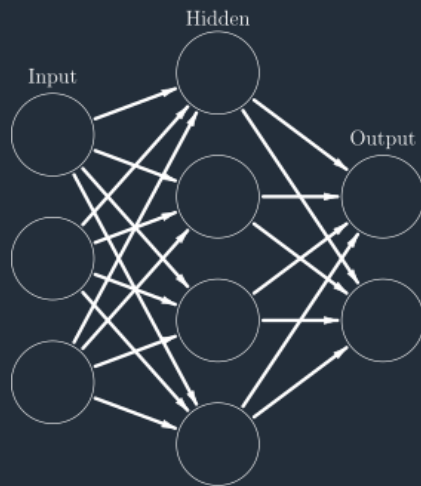
Hyperparameters tuning

Popular application. It works!

Hyperparameters tuning

Popular application. It works!

1. Tune a deep neural network
2. Tune data science pipelines, AutoML
 - Example: Auto Prognosis - [code](#)
[A. M. Alaa and M. van der Schaar, 2018]
3. Tune the parameters of physical simulations



Chemical design

Generating novel molecules with optimised properties.



Recent work from Griffiths and Hernandez-Lobato, 2020. "Constrained Bayesian optimization for automatic chemical design using variational autoencoders", [paper](#)

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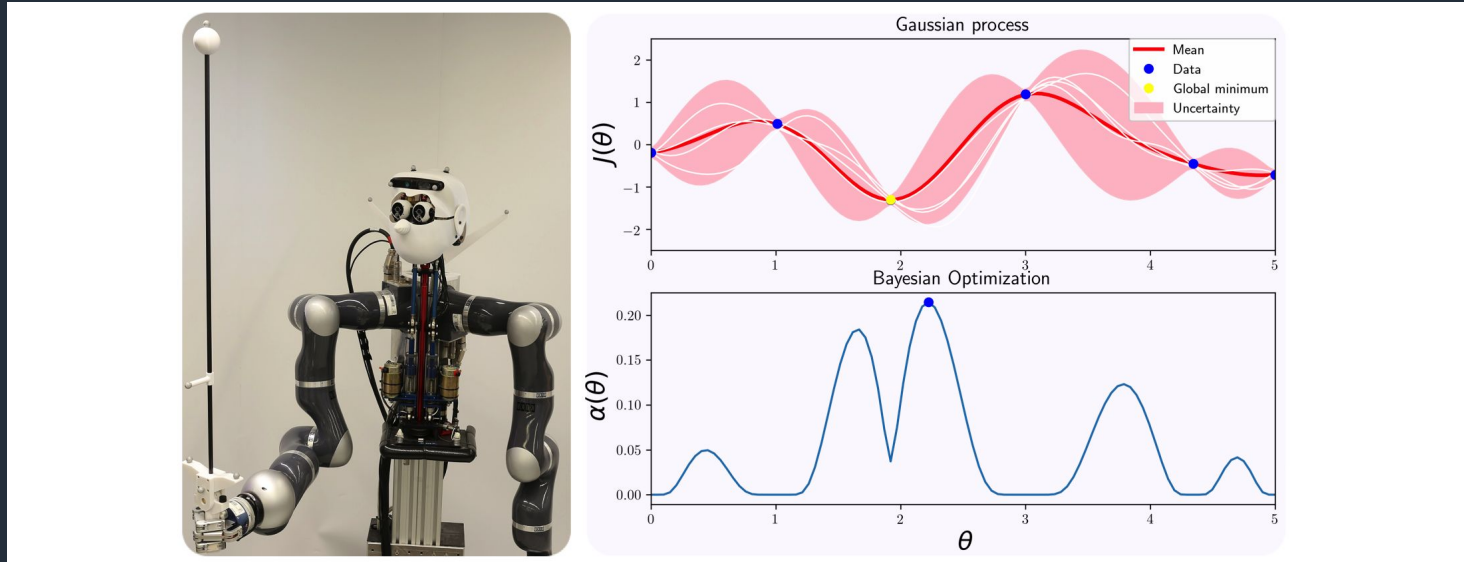
Let's link this application to the 4 pain points seen before:

1. Complex target function
 - no simple analytical form
 - no gradient information
 - mixed parameters' types
 - parameters' constraints
2. Multiple local optima
3. Expensive function evaluations
4. Noisy function evaluations



Robotics

Find the optimal value for a robotic controller parameter.



Quantum computing

Training of Quantum Circuits on a Hybrid Quantum Computer

A research lab was applying a hybrid quantum learning scheme on a trapped-ion quantum computer to accomplish a generative modelling task.

Bayesian Optimization was applied by simulating the training procedure for a classical simulator in place of the quantum processor for a given set of parameters.

Key to the success of this project was the incorporation of some domain knowledge into the Bayesian Optimizer - in this case, that some of the optimizable parameters were cyclical in nature.

Many other applications

A non-exhaustive list

- Experimental design
- Material design
- Mechanical asset design
- Optimising a sensor on a device/robot
- Gene design
- Industrial process optimisation
- Financial portfolio optimisation
- Logistics
- Causal Bayesian optimisation [Aglietti et Al 2020]

Take home message

Integrating the expert knowledge in the iterative decision making process is very important

References - software

- Emukit <https://emukit.github.io/about>
- GPyOpt <https://github.com/SheffieldML/GPyOpt>
- GPFlow <https://github.com/GPflow/GPflowOpt>
- Spearmint <https://github.com/HIPS/Spearmint>
- Scikit-optimize
https://scikit-optimize.github.io/stable/auto_examples/bayesian-optimization.html
- BoTorch <https://github.com/pytorch/botorch>
- RoBO <https://github.com/automl/RoBO>
- Hyperopt <https://github.com/MBKraus/Hyperopt/blob/master/README.md>
- Mind Foundry Optimize <https://optaas.mindfoundry.ai/static/swagger/index.html>
- Others: please let me know

References

A non-exhaustive list of references

- Shahriari, B., Swersky, K., Wang, Z., Adams, R. P, de Freitas, N., 2016. Taking the Human Out of the Loop: A Review of Bayesian Optimization. Proceedings of the IEEE, Vol.104, No.1, January 2016
- Srinivas, N., Krause, A., Kakade, S., Seeger, M., 2009. Gaussian Process Optimization in the Bandit Setting: No Regret and Experimental Design. In Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Machine Learning
- Jones, D. R., Schonlau, M., Welch, W. J., 1998. Efficient Global Optimization of Expensive Black-Box Functions. Journal of Global Optimization, 1998

Thank you