

Nonparametric learning of interaction kernels in interacting particle systems

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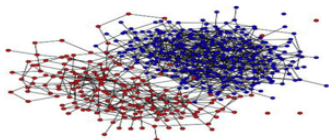
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What is the **law of interaction** ?



Popkin. Nature(2016)



Voter model (wiki)

What is the law of interaction ?



$$m_i \ddot{x}_i(t) = -\dot{x}_i(t) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N K_\phi(x_i, x_j),$$

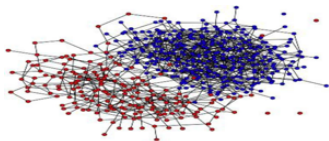
$$K_\phi(x, y) = \nabla_x [\Phi(|x - y|)] = \phi(|x - y|) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|}.$$

- Newton's law of gravity $\phi(r) = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$

- Lennard-Jones potential: $\Phi(r) = \frac{c_1}{r^{12}} - \frac{c_2}{r^6}$.



Popkin. Nature(2016)

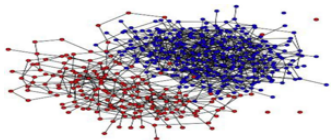


Voter model (wiki)

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-
- flocking birds, bacteria/cells ?
 - opinion/voter/multi-agent models, ...? ^a

Infer the interaction kernel from data?

^a(1) Cucker+Smale: On the mathematics of emergence. 2007. (2) Vicsek+Zafeiris: Collective motion. 2012. (3) Mostch+Tadmor: Heterophilous Dynamics Enhances Consensus. 2014 ...

Learn interaction kernel $K_\phi(x, y) = \phi(|x - y|) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|}$

$$dX_t^i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N K_\phi(X_t^i, X_t^j) dt + \sqrt{2\nu} dB_t^i \quad \Leftrightarrow R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t) = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_t - \sqrt{2\nu} \dot{\mathbf{B}}_t$$

Finite N: a

- Data: M trajectories of particles : $\{\mathbf{X}_{t_1:t_L}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$
- Statistical learning
- ODE/SDEs: Opinion Dynamics, Lennard-Jones, Prey-Predator; 1st/2nd order

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Large N (>> 1)^b

- Data: concentration density $\{u(x_m, t_l) \approx N^{-1} \sum_i \delta(X_{t_l}^i - x_m)\}_{m,l}$

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)]$$

- Inverse problem for PDE

^a [Maggioni, Lu, Tang, Zhong, Miller, Li, Zhang: PNAS19, SPA20, FOC22, JMLR21] ^b [Lang-Lu 20,21]

Learning kernels in operators: $R_\phi : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$

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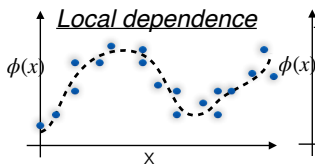
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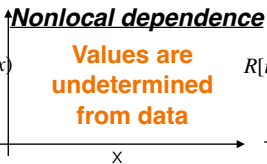
Classical learning

$$\{(x_i, \phi(x_i) + \epsilon_i)\}$$



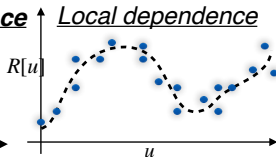
Learning kernel

$$\{(u_k, R_\phi[u_k] + \eta_k)\}$$



Operator learning

$$\{(u_k, R[u_k] + \eta_k)\}$$

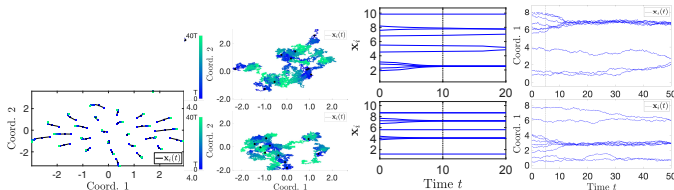


Nonparametric learning:

Loss function? Identifiability? Convergence?

Finite many particles

$$R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t) = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_t - \sqrt{2\nu} \dot{\mathbf{B}}_t \quad \& \text{ Data} \quad \Rightarrow \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \arg \min_{\psi \in \mathcal{H}_n} \mathcal{E}_M(\psi)$$

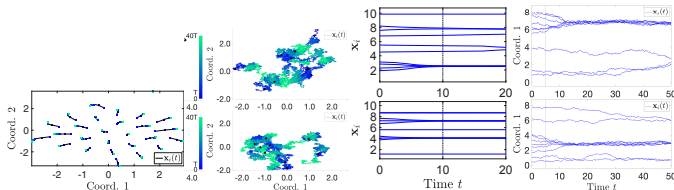


- Loss function (log-likelihood, or mse for ODE)
- Regression: with $\psi = \sum_i c_i \phi_i \in \mathcal{H}_n = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^n$:

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{c} - 2\mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{c} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i \phi_i, \quad \hat{\mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$$

Finite many particles

$$R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t) = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_t - \sqrt{2\nu} \dot{\mathbf{B}}_t \quad \& \text{ Data} \quad \Rightarrow \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \arg \min_{\psi \in \mathcal{H}_n} \mathcal{E}_M(\psi)$$



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- ▶ Choice of \mathcal{H}_n & function space of learning?
- ▶ Well-posed/ identifiability?
- ▶ Convergence and rate?

Classical learning theory

Given: Data $\{(x_m, y_m)\}_{m=1}^M \sim (X, Y)$

Goal: find f s.t. $Y = f(X)$

$$\mathcal{E}(f) = \mathbb{E}|Y - f(X)|^2 = \|f - f_{true}\|_{L^2(\rho_X)}^2$$

Minimization: $f = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi_i \in \mathcal{H}_n, \nabla \mathcal{E}_M = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{f}_{n,M} = \sum_i \hat{c}_i \phi_i.$

Learning kernel

Given: Data $\{\mathbf{X}_{[0,T]}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$

Goal: find ϕ s.t. $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_t = R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t)$

$$\mathcal{E}(\phi) = \mathbb{E}|\dot{\mathbf{X}} - R_\phi(\mathbf{X})|^2 \neq \|\phi - \phi_{true}\|_{L^2(\rho)}^2$$

Classical learning theory

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- Function space: $L^2(\rho_X)$.
- Identifiability:
 $\mathbb{E}[Y|X = x] = \arg \min_{f \in L^2(\rho_X)} \mathcal{E}(f).$
- $A \approx \mathbb{E}[\phi_i(X)\phi_j(X)] = I_n$ by setting $\{\phi_i\}$ ONB in $L^2(\rho_X)$.
- Error bounds for \hat{f}_{nM}

Learning kernel

Given: Data $\{\mathbf{X}_{[0,T]}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$

Goal: find ϕ s.t. $\dot{\mathbf{X}}_t = R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t)$

$$\mathcal{E}(\phi) = \mathbb{E}|\dot{\mathbf{X}} - R_\phi(\mathbf{X})|^2 \neq \|\phi - \phi_{true}\|_{L^2(\rho)}^2$$

- Function space: $L^2(\rho)$.
measure $\rho \sim |X^i - X^j|$
- Identifiability: $\arg \min_{\phi \in L^2(\rho)} \mathcal{E}(\phi)??$
- $A \approx \mathbb{E}[R_{\phi_i}(\mathbf{X})R_{\phi_j}(\mathbf{X})] \approx I_n ??$
A Coercivity condition
- Error bounds for $\hat{\phi}_{nM} ?$

Assume a coercivity condition on \mathcal{H}

$$\langle\langle \phi, \phi \rangle\rangle = \mathbb{E}[R_\phi(\mathbf{X})R_\phi(\mathbf{X})] \geq c_{\mathcal{H}} \|\phi\|_{L^2(\rho)}^2, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{H}$$

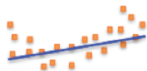
- $c_{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{N-2}$ for $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\rho)$ for some (LLMTZ21); open

Theorem (LZTM19,LMT22)

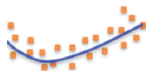
Let $\{\mathcal{H}_n\}$ compact convex in L^∞ with $\text{dist}(\phi_{\text{true}}, \mathcal{H}_n) \sim n^{-s}$. Assume the coercivity condition $\cup_n \mathcal{H}_n$. Choose $n_* = (M/\log M)^{\frac{1}{2s+1}}$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mu_0}[\|\hat{\phi}_{M, \mathcal{H}_{n_*}} - \phi_{\text{true}}\|_{L^2(\rho)}] \leq C \left(\frac{\log M}{M} \right)^{\frac{s}{2s+1}}.$$

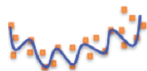
- Concentration for r.v. or martingale
- $\dim(\mathcal{H}_n)$ adaptive to s ($\phi \in C^s$) and M :



Underfitting

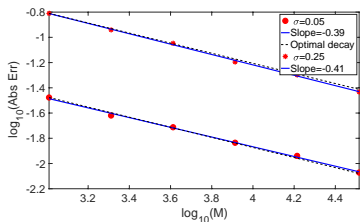
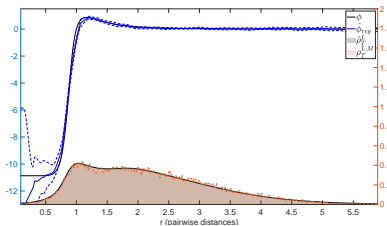


Balanced

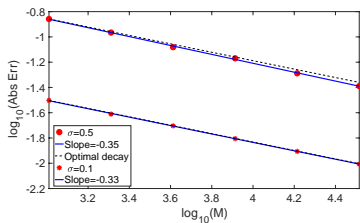
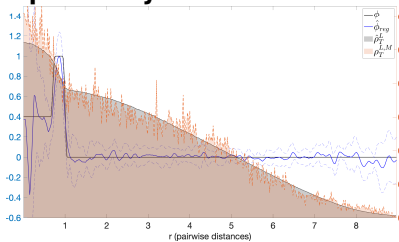


Overfitting

Lennard-Jones kernel estimators:



Opinion dynamics kernel estimators:



Inverse problem for Mean-field PDE

Goal: Identify ϕ from discrete data $\{u(x_m, t_l)\}_{m,l=1}^{M,L}$ of

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)], \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, t > 0,$$

where $K_\phi(x) = \nabla(\Phi(|x|)) = \phi(|x|) \frac{x}{|x|}$.

Loss functional

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)]$$

Candidates:

- Discrepancy: $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \|\partial_t u - \nu \Delta u - \nabla \cdot (u(K_\psi * u))\|^2$
- Free energy: $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = C + |\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u[(\Psi - \Phi) * u] dx|^2$
- Wasserstein-2: $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = W_2(u^\psi, u)$
costly: requires many PDE simulations in optimization
- A probabilistic loss functional

A probabilistic loss functional

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) := \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[|K_\psi * u|^2 u - 2\nu u (\nabla \cdot K_\psi * u) + 2\partial_t u (\Psi * u) \right] dx dt$$

- = $-\mathbb{E}[\text{log-likelihood}]$ of the process

$$\begin{cases} d\bar{X}_t = -K_{\phi_{true}} * u(\bar{X}_t, t) dt + \sqrt{2\nu} dB_t, \\ \mathcal{L}(\bar{X}_t) = u(\cdot, t), \end{cases}$$

- Derivative free
- Suitable for high dimension

$$K_\psi * u(\bar{X}_t) = \mathbb{E}[K_\psi(\bar{X}_t - \bar{X}'_t) | \bar{X}_t]$$

Nonparametric regression

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \langle\langle \psi, \psi \rangle\rangle - 2 \langle\langle \psi, \phi \rangle\rangle,$$

LS-regression $\psi = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi_i \in \mathcal{H}_n$:

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = c^\top A c - 2b^\top c \Rightarrow \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i \phi_i, \quad \hat{c} = A^{-1} b$$

- Choice of \mathcal{H}_n & function space of learning?
- Inverse problem well-posed/ identifiability?
- Convergence and rate? $\Delta x = M^{-1/d} \rightarrow 0$

Identifiability

$$\begin{aligned} A_{ij} &= \langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \phi_i(r) \psi_j(s) \bar{G}_T(r, s) \rho_T(dr) \rho_T(ds) \\ &= \langle L_{\bar{G}_T} \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle_{L^2(\rho_T)} \end{aligned}$$

- Exploration measure $\rho_T \leftarrow |\bar{X}_t - \bar{X}'_t|$
- Positive compact operator $L_{\bar{G}_T}$
 - ▶ normal matrix $A \sim L_{\bar{G}_T} |_{\mathcal{H}}$ in $L^2(\rho_T)$

$$c_{\mathcal{H}, T} = \inf_{\psi \in \mathcal{H}, \|\psi\|_{L^2(\rho_T)}=1} \langle \psi, \psi \rangle > 0 \quad (\text{Coercivity condition})$$

- **Identifiability:** $A^{-1}b \leftrightarrow L_{\bar{G}_T}^{-1} \phi^D$
 - ▶ RKHS $H_{\bar{G}} \subset L^2(\rho_T)$ [LangLu21]
 - ▶ **DARTR: Data Adaptive RKHS Tikhonov Regularization**

Convergence rate

$$\mathbb{H} = L^2(\rho_T)$$

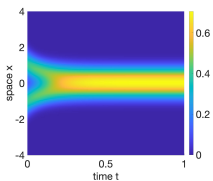
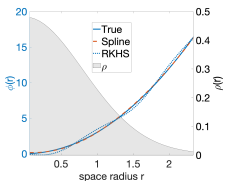
Theorem (Numerical error bound [Lang-Lu20])

Let $\mathcal{H} = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ s.t. $\|\hat{\phi}_n - \phi\|_{\mathbb{H}} \lesssim n^{-s}$. Assume the coercivity condition on $\cup \mathcal{H}_n$. Then, with dimension $n \approx (\Delta x)^{-\alpha/(s+1)}$, we have:

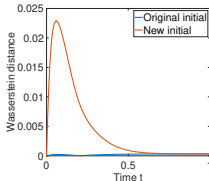
$$\|\hat{\phi}_{n,M,\infty} - \phi\|_{\mathbb{H}} \lesssim (\Delta x)^{\alpha s/(s+1)}$$

- Δx^α comes from numerical integrator (e.g., Riemann sum)
- Trade-off: numerical error v.s. approximation error

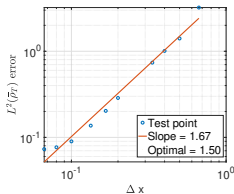
Example 1: granular media $\phi(r) = 3r^2$

Data $u(x, t)$ 

Estimator



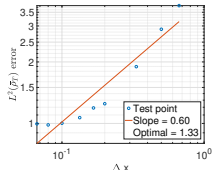
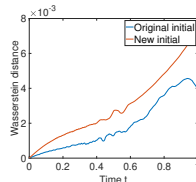
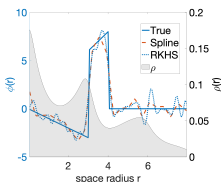
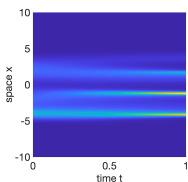
Wasserstein-2



Rate

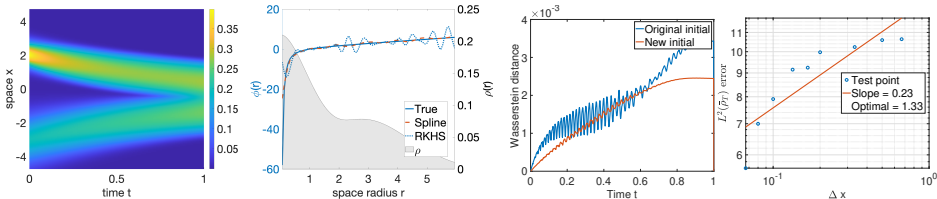
- near optimal rate ($\phi \in W^{1,\infty}$)

Example 2: Opinion dynamics $\phi(r)$ piecewise linear



- sub-optimal rate ($\phi \notin W^{1,\infty}$)

Example 3: repulsion-attraction $\phi(r) = r - r^{-1.5}$ (singular)



- low rate: theory does not apply

Learning kernels in operators: regularization

Learn the kernel ϕ : $R_\phi[u] = f$

from data: $\mathcal{D} = \{(u_k, f_k)\}_{k=1}^N, \quad (u_k, f_k) \in \mathbb{X} \times \mathbb{Y}$

- R_ϕ linear in ϕ , but linear/nonlinear in u :

$$R_\phi[u] = \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)] = \partial_t u - \nu \Delta u$$

- integral/nonlocal operators,... linear inverse problems

Regularization

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \|R_\psi[u] - f\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 = \langle L_G \psi, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)} - 2\langle \phi^f, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)}$$

$$\nabla \mathcal{E}(\psi) = L_G \psi - \phi^f = 0 \quad \rightarrow \hat{\phi} = L_G^{-1} \phi^f$$

Regularization norm $\|\cdot\|_*$?

$$\mathcal{E}_\lambda(\psi) = \mathcal{E}(\psi) + \lambda \|\psi\|_*^2$$

Regularization

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \|R_\psi[u] - f\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 = \langle L_G \psi, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)} - 2\langle \phi^f, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)}$$

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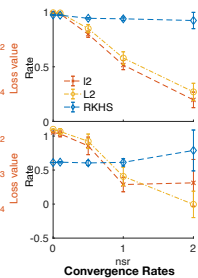
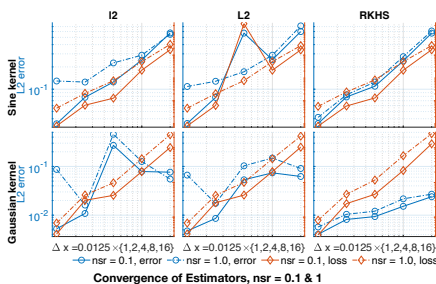
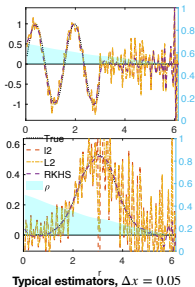
ANSWER: norm of the RKHS $H_G = L_G^{1/2} L^2(\rho)$ [Lu+Lang+An22]:

- search in the correct fun.space
- **Data Adaptive RKHS** Tikhonov Regularization

DARTR: Data Adaptive RKHS Tikhonov Regularization

$$R_\phi[u] = \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)] = f$$

- Recover kernel from **discrete noisy data**
- Consistent convergence** as mesh refines



Summary and future directions

Nonparametric learning of interaction kernels

- Finite N: ode/sde
- Mean-field equation

Learning kernel in operators via regression:

- probabilistic loss functionals
- Identifiability
- Convergence

DARTR: regularization for ill-posed linear inverse problems

Future directions/open questions

- Coercivity condition
- General IPS settings:
 - ▶ Aggression equations (inviscid MFE)
 - ▶ High-D, non-radial kernels (Monte Carlo)
 - ▶ Learning from stationary distributions
 - ▶ Multiple MFE solutions
 - ▶ Systems on graph
- kernels in operator
 - ▶ Convergence and Minimax rate?
 - ▶ DARTR in Bayesian inverse p
 - ▶ Applications: deconvolution, homogenization,...

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