
Supplementary material for Learning from uncertain curves: The 2-Wasserstein metric for Gaussian Processes

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1 Content

2 The supplementary material consists of the movie file `climate.avi` as well as the appendices listed
3 below.

4 A Details of data processing

5 A.1 The uncertain white-matter tract trajectories

6 The white-matter tract example is carried out on subject 103414 from the Q3 release of the Human
7 Connectome Project [2–4]. The pre-processed HCP diffusion data contains 270 diffusion directions
8 distributed equally over 3 shells with b -values = 1000, 2000 and 3000 s/mm². We perform proba-
9 bilistic shortest-path tractography [5], which returns uncertain tracts in the form of GPs by estimating
10 uncertain geodesics in an uncertain Riemannian manifold as described in [5]. The produced GPs
11 are indexed over $X = [0, 1]$, have continuous covariance functions and L^2 integrable means, thus
12 allowing us to apply the developed framework.

13 A.2 The GP temperature curves

14 The temperature curve GPs were estimated from a publicly available dataset of temperature mea-
15 surements from Russian meteorological stations [6, 7]. We used data from the years 1940 – 2009,
16 and 30 stations were randomly sampled among those that covered all these years. For each year, and
17 each station, a GP was fitted to the measurements of minimal daily temperature, using a Gaussian
18 covariance function. The maximum likelihood scale and bandwidth parameters of the covariance
19 function were estimated using grid search. Years where more than 20 daily measurements were
20 missing, were discarded from the dataset.

21 B Details of kernel regression

22 Given two metric spaces (X, d_X) and (Y, d_Y) , where the barycenter

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{y \in Y} \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n d_Y^2(y, y_n)$$

23 is well defined, we can define a nonparametric *kernel regression* model as follows:

24 Given a sample of pairs $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N) \in X \times Y$ of free variables $x \in X$ and dependent
25 variables $y \in Y$, we predict Y -valued observations $y_0 = h(x_0)$ given new observations x_0 of x , as

26 follows:

$$y_0 = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in Y} \sum_{n=1}^N k(x_n, x_0) d_Y^2(y, y_n)$$

27 where k is some kernel function. In our case, we use the Gaussian kernel

$$k(x_n, x_0) = C \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} d_X^2(x_n, x_0)},$$

28 where C is set to ensure that $\sum_{n=1}^N k(x_n, x_0) = 1$.

29 C Details of permutation test

30 Given a metric space (X, d_X) where the barycenter

$$\mu = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in Y} \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n d_Y^2(y, y_n)$$

31 is well defined, we can also define nonparametric hypothesis testing through permutation tests.
32 Assume that $A = \{a_i\}_{i=1}^{N_1}$ and $B = \{b_j\}_{j=1}^{N_2}$ are two finite, sampled datasets in X ; now we define
33 the test statistic $T(A, B) = d(\mu_A, \mu_B)$, where μ_A and μ_B are barycenters of the sets A and B ,
34 respectively. Under the null hypothesis the samples A and B are drawn from the same distribution on
35 \mathcal{T} , and randomly permuting the elements of A and B should not affect the value of T .

36 Join the sets in a larger dataset $S = A \cup B$ and consider partitions of X into datasets of size N_1 and
37 N_2 . Due to the size of X we cannot usually check all possible permutations, but compute the test
38 statistics $T_m = d(\mu_{A_m}, \mu_{B_m})$, $m = 1, \dots, M$, for M different random partitions $X = A_m \cup B_m$,
39 with $|A_m| = N_1$ and $|B_m| = N_2$. Comparing the T_m to the original statistic value $T_0 = d(\hat{\mu}_A, \hat{\mu}_B)$
40 we obtain a p -value approximating the probability of observing T_0 under the null hypothesis:

$$p = \frac{1 + \sum_{T_m \geq T_0, m \in \{1, \dots, M\}} 1}{M + 1},$$

41 where the additional 1 is added to avoid $p = 0$, which is impossible in the limit where all permutations
42 are tested [1].

43 References

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