

# **Gaussian Processes as Continuous-time Trajectory Representations: Applications in SLAM and Motion Planning**

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### Discrete time SLAM



Downsides:

- Measurements distorted by motions
- Asynchronous measurements
- Not a compact representation



Rolling shutter effect



C. H. Tong, P. Furgale, and T. D. Barfoot, "Gaussian process gauss–newton for non-parametric simultaneous localization and mapping," Intl. J. of Robotics Research, vol. 32, no. 5, pp. 507–525, 2013.

### Discrete time SLAM





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Continuous-time representation

- **Linear interpolation**
- **Splines**
- Wavelets
- Gaussian process

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### **Outlines**

- GP as continuous-time trajectory representation
- Extend sparse GP to Lie groups
- Use sparse GP in SLAM
- Use sparse GP in motion planning

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 $f(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(m(t), k(t, t'))$  $m(t) = \mathbb{E}(f(t))$  $k(t, t') = \mathbb{E}\Big(\big(f(t) - m(t)\big)\big(f(t') - m(t')\big)\Big)$ 



#### GP with noise-free measurements



Figure 2.2: Panel (a) shows three functions drawn at random from a GP prior; the dots indicate values of  $y$  actually generated; the two other functions have (less correctly) been drawn as lines by joining a large number of evaluated points. Panel (b) shows three random functions drawn from the posterior, i.e. the prior conditioned on the five noise free observations indicated. In both plots the shaded area represents the pointwise mean plus and minus two times the standard deviation for each input value (corresponding to the 95% confidence region), for the prior and posterior respectively.

# GP with noisy measurements





Measurement and Query share same time stamps:

$$
\begin{bmatrix} Y \\ X \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \begin{bmatrix} K + \sigma I, K \\ K, K \end{bmatrix}\right), K = K(T, T)
$$

$$
X|Y \sim \mathcal{N}\big(K[K+\sigma I]^{-1}Y, K-K[K+\sigma I]^{-1}K\big)
$$

#### Another perspective ...

Measurement function:

 $y = x + n, n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ 

Mean value: Maximum A Posteriori Estimation  $\overline{X}$  = argmax  $P(X)P(Y|X)$ X  $= \operatorname*{argmax}_{X} \left( \exp(\frac{1}{2} X^{\top} K^{-1} X) \prod \exp(\frac{(x_i - y_i)^2}{\sigma}) \right)$ =  $\underset{Y}{\text{argmin}} \left( \frac{1}{2} X^\top K^{-1} X + \frac{1}{2} (X - Y)^\top \sigma^{-1} I(X - Y) \right)$  $\frac{\partial J}{\partial X} = 0 \implies \bar{X} = (K^{-1} + \sigma^{-1}I)^{-1}\sigma^{-1}Y$ <br>
Sherman–Morrison–Woodbury formula<br>  $\bar{X} = K(K + \sigma I)^{-1}Y$ 

#### Nonlinear measurement function and high DOF...

Problem definition:

$$
\boldsymbol{x}(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\boldsymbol{\mu}(t), \mathcal{K}(t, t'))
$$

$$
\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{h}_i(\boldsymbol{x}(t_i)) + \mathbf{n}_i, \mathbf{n}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i)
$$

Mean value: MAP Estimation  

$$
x^* = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\mathbf{x}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \parallel \mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu} \parallel_{\mathcal{K}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \parallel \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{z} \parallel_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}^2 \right\}
$$

Gauss-Newton method  $(\mathcal{K}^{-1} + \mathbf{H}^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{H}) \delta x^* = \mathcal{K}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu} - \overline{\boldsymbol{x}}) + \mathbf{H}^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h})$  $\overline{x} \leftarrow \overline{x} + \delta x^*$  until convergence.

T. Barfoot, C. H. Tong, and S. Sarkka, "Batch continuous-time trajectory estimation as exactly sparse gaussian process regression," Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2014.

# Sparsity and Efficiency



● Particular kernel is needed to make sparsity

T. Barfoot, C. H. Tong, and S. Sarkka, "Batch continuous-time trajectory estimation as exactly sparse gaussian process regression," Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2014.

## Sparse information matrix

- Information matrix:  $\mathcal{K}^{-1} + \mathbf{H}^{\top} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{H}$
- Generally the inverse kernel matrix  $K^{-1}$  is not sparse



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# GPs generated by LTV-SDEs

linear time-varying stochastic differential equations (LTV-SDEs)

$$
\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\boldsymbol{x}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{F}(t)\mathbf{w}(t),
$$
  

$$
\mathbf{w}(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_C \delta(t - t')),
$$

solution:

$$
\boldsymbol{\mu}(t) = \boldsymbol{\Phi}(t, t_0)\boldsymbol{\mu}_0 + \int_{t_0}^t \boldsymbol{\Phi}(t, s)\mathbf{u}(s)ds
$$

$$
\mathbf{\mathcal{K}}(t, t') = \boldsymbol{\Phi}(t, t_0)\mathbf{\mathcal{K}}_0\boldsymbol{\Phi}(t', t_0)^{\top}
$$

$$
+ \int_{t_0}^{\min(t, t')} \boldsymbol{\Phi}(t, s) \mathbf{F}(s) \mathbf{Q}_C \mathbf{F}(s)^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Phi}(t', s)^{\top} ds
$$

Inverse kernel matrix is tridiagonal block-wise sparse if the GP is generated by a LTV-SDE

T. Barfoot, C. H. Tong, and S. Sarkka, "Batch continuous-time trajectory estimation as exactly sparse gaussian process regression," Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2014.

### Constant velocity LTV-SDEs



● Inject white noise in acceleration

$$
\ddot{x}(t) = w(t)
$$

● Rewrite LTV-SDE

$$
\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ \dot{x}(t) \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{F}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{F}(t)\mathbf{w}(t),
$$
\n
$$
\mathbf{w}(t) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{Q}_C \delta(t - t')),
$$

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### Factor Graph view







Fig. 3: A factor graph of an example STEAM problem containing GP prior factors and landmark measurements factors. Landmarks are illustrated with open circles.

T. Barfoot, C. H. Tong, and S. Sarkka, "Batch continuous-time trajectory estimation as exactly sparse gaussian process regression," Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2014. Dong, Jing, Byron Boots, and Frank Dellaert. "Sparse Gaussian Processes for Continuous-Time Trajectory Estimation on Matrix Lie Groups." arXiv preprint arXiv:1705.06020 (2017).

## Const-time Interpolation

- Any time could be interpolated by nearby two states
- Time complexity  $O(1)$
- Measurements at any time fused in graph by interpolated factor



Fig. 2: (a) Measurement at time  $\tau$ , dashed line indicates it's not an actual factor. (b) The interpolated factor encodes measurement at time  $\tau$ .

T. Barfoot, C. H. Tong, and S. Sarkka, "Batch continuous-time trajectory estimation as exactly sparse gaussian process regression," Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2014. Dong, Jing, Byron Boots, and Frank Dellaert. "Sparse Gaussian Processes for Continuous-Time Trajectory Estimation on Matrix Lie Groups." arXiv preprint arXiv:1705.06020 (2017).

#### **Results**

• 2D SLAM cases,  $x(t) = [x(t), y(t), \theta(t)]^{\top}$ 



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### Example Lie Group: SO(2)



### Gaussian Distribution on SO(2)



### Gaussian Distribution on SO(2)



# Gaussian Distribution on SO(2)



We define Gaussian on Lie group by defining Gaussian on tangent space, then map back by exponential map

 $\widetilde{\mathbf{R}} = \mathbf{R} \exp(\epsilon^{\wedge}), \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma)$ 

Note that tangent space is defined on a particular θ on Lie group

S. Anderson and T. D. Barfoot, "Full STEAM ahead: Exactly sparse gaussian process regression for batch continuous-time trajectory estimation on SE (3)," (IROS), 2015.

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• We define a local linear variable  $\xi_i(t)$  around  $T_i$ , which locally meets a zero-mean Gaussian process defined by kernel K(t<sub>i</sub>, t)

$$
T(t) = T_i \exp(\xi_i(t)^{\wedge}), \quad \xi_i(t) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathcal{K}(t_i, t))
$$

$$
\xi_i(t) \doteq \log(T_i^{-1} T(t))^{\vee}
$$

S. Anderson and T. D. Barfoot, "Full STEAM ahead: Exactly sparse gaussian process regression for batch continuous-time trajectory estimation on SE (3)," (IROS), 2015.

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# Constant Velocity LVT-SDE

Const body frame velocity SDE: nonlinear

 $\dot{\boldsymbol{\varpi}}(t) = \mathbf{w}(t).$ 

Equivalence to LTV-SDE on loca variable

$$
\boldsymbol{\xi}_i(t) \doteq \log(T_i^{-1} T(t))^{\vee}
$$
  

$$
\dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}_i(t) = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{J}}_r(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i(t))^{-1} \boldsymbol{\varpi}(t) \quad \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}_i(t) \approx \boldsymbol{\varpi}(t)
$$

Local constant velocity LTV-SDE

$$
\ddot{\boldsymbol{\xi}}(t) = \mathbf{w}(t)
$$

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# **Background**

- Application: autonomous crop monitoring using UAV / UGV
- Get crop height / size / color / etc.
- Requirement: use low-cost sensors: camera, GPS, etc.





- Existing techniques: Structure from Motion (SfM): 3D reconstruction
- Difficulties: dynamic scene with crop growing: **4D reconstruction**



## Dataset

- Dataset: color images + GPS + IMU, on ground vehicle and UAV
- Ground dataset: Twice per week for 3 months: total 23 sessions
- With ground truth height / leaf chlorophyll at multiple sampling sites



### Approach



# 1. Multi-Sensor Fusion SLAM

- Multi-sensor (camera, IMU, GPS) fusion
- Using factor graph and maximum a posterior (MAP) estimation
- Optional dense reconstruction by PMVS



# 2. 4D Data Association and Reconstruction

- View-invariant feature matching by bounded search and homography warping
- Spatio-temporal (4D) factor graph optimization



#### **Results**



<https://youtu.be/BgLlLlsKWzI>

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# Introduction

- Planning on high DOF system is difficult
- Sampling based approaches like RRT and RPM are slow due to high DOF
- State-of-the-art approaches are mostly optimization based
	- **O** Energy reduction (Zucker et al, 2013 IJRR, Ratliff et al, 2009 ICRA)
	- o **Constrained optimization (Schluman et al,** 2013 RSS)
	- Factor Graph and message passing (Toussaint et al, 2010 Book)



- **Main Contributions:** 
	- Formulate motion planning as continuous trajectory estimation by GP
	- Enable efficient motion planning by sparse GP and iSAM2

# Motion Planning as Probabilistic inference

- Two requirements of motion planning:
	- *Feasibility*: trajectory is collision-free
	- *Optimality*: smooth output by reducing the energy used or trajectory length
- Calculate the trajectory by maximize the probability





# Collision-free Likelihood

Collision-free likelihood is calculated at each discretized points of trajectory

$$
L(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{c}=0)=\prod_i L(\boldsymbol{\theta_i}|c_i=0)
$$

Collision-free likelihood is defined by exponential family

$$
L(\boldsymbol{\theta_i}) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}h(\boldsymbol{\theta_i}))
$$

- Obstacle cost function is defined by hinge loss function on signed distance
	- Signed distance field is pre-calculated
	- Robot body use sphere model to approximate





# GP prior and Factor graph

- Trajectory is represented by a GP
- Trajectory prior use constant velocity GP prior
- Additional prior on start/goal configuration (Since they are known)
- Inference problem represented by a factor graph



#### Duality between inference and energy minimization



# Efficient planning: Use GP interpolation

- GP enable us to query any time of interest
- So we can check collision cost at more points with less states to optimize



- A single query state is interpolated by near by two states
- Interpolated collision cost factor is binary



# Evaluation: Batch planning

Dataset: 7-DOF WAM arm and 7-DOF PR2, total 114 problems



Criteria: Success rate, average run-time, maximum run-time

Table I.A Results for 24 planning problems on the 7-DOF WAM arm.

	GPMP2 inter	GPMP2 no-inter	TrajOpt-101	TrajOpt-11	GPMP	<b>CHOMP</b>	STOMP
Success Rate $(\%)$	95.8	91.7	91.7	20.8	95.8	75.0	40.0
Average Time to Success (s)	0.068	0.120	0.323	0.027	0.590	1.337	6.038
Maximum Time to Success (s)	0.112	0.217	0.548	0.033	.322	6.768	22.971

Table I.B Results for 90 planning problems on PR2's 7-DOF right arm.



# Efficient planning: Replanning



Dong, Jing, et al. "Motion Planning as Probabilistic Inference using Gaussian Processes and Factor Graphs." *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)* (2016).

Mukadam, Mustafa, et al. "Simultaneous Trajectory Estimation and Planning via Probabilistic Inference." *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)* (2017).

# Efficient replanning: Bayes tree and iSAM2



# Evaluation: Replanning

Dataset: 7-DOF WAM arm and 7-DOF PR2, total 60 problems



Table II.A Results for 32 replanning problems on WAM. Table II.B Results for 28 replanning problems on PR2.



# Evaluation: Replanning

Dataset: 7-DOF WAM arm and 7-DOF PR2, total 60 problems



### Real-time Replanning on Robots



<https://youtu.be/lyayNKV1eAQ>

Mukadam, Mustafa, et al. "Simultaneous Trajectory Estimation and Planning via Probabilistic Inference." *Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)* (2017).

## **Thanks!**