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Uncertainty quantification in Machine learning

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Day 8



- Uncertainty in ML: definition and motivation
- Methods to estimate uncertainty
 - Gaussian processes: reminder
 - Ensemble methods
 - Monte Carlo drop-out
 - Bayesian neural networks
 - Quantile regression
- Evaluating and calibrating uncertainty



Uncertainty in Machine Learning

Idea: The ML model should output a prediction and the corresponding uncertainty.



The uncertainty indicates the **probable interval** within which an actual evaluation may be. (e.g. actual measurement or simulation)



In the context of **model-based optimization** of accelerators: uncertainty allows to balance **exploration and exploitation**. (e.g. by calculating upper confidence bound, expected improvement)



For **safe operation** of accelerators:

uncertainty helps ensure that **important constraints** are not **violated**.





- Reliably evaluating the uncertainty in ML is very much still a topic of research.
- This lecture will describe different **well-known methods**, so that you can more easily navigate the corresponding ML literature in the future.



Several representations for the uncertainty:



The probability distribution is a much more complete description, but few ML method provide it.

Epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty

Evaluations can often be modeled as:

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \tilde{f}(\boldsymbol{x}) + \boldsymbol{\eta}$$

Underlying function

always gives the same result, for a given **x**

Intrinsic noise

value changes for each evaluation



Epistemic uncertainty:

uncertainty on underlying function

increases when making predictions far from known data

• decreases when acquiring more data

Aleatoric uncertainty:

estimates the amplitude of the noise





Depending on the application, one may or may not want to include the **aleatoric part**:

Examples:

- Optimizing beam size, with noisy beam size measurements: the aim is to optimize the underling function \tilde{f} ; the aleatoric part should not be included.
- Keeping fluctuating beam loss under a threshold: take into account aleatoric part, in order to evaluate the "worst-case scenario".





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Reminder on Gaussian processes

Given *N* previous evaluations $\{x_i, y_i\}_{i=1,...,N}$, the probability distribution of $y(x^*)$ at a new input x^* is predicted to be Gaussian: $y(x^*) \sim \mathcal{N}(m(x^*), \sigma^2(x^*))$

$$m(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = \boldsymbol{k}^{*T} (K + \sigma_{\eta}^2 I)^{-1} \boldsymbol{y}$$

$$\sigma^2(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = k(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \boldsymbol{x}^*) - \boldsymbol{k}^{*T} (K + \sigma_{\eta}^2 I)^{-1} \boldsymbol{k}^* + \sigma_{\eta}^2$$



Input x

(Rasmussen & Williams, "GP for ML", Eqns. (2.22)-(2.24))

$$k(.,.)$$
: chosen kernel function (e.g. SE: $k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma_f^2 \exp(-\frac{(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')^2}{\ell^2})$)
 σ_η : estimated noise level

K: matrix of size $N \times N$, defined by $K_{ij} = k(x_i, x_j)$ y: vector of size N, containing evaluations y_i k^* : vector of size N, defined by $k_i^* = k(x_i, x^*)$

Determined by **hyperparameter tuning** (e.g. maximization of marginal log-likelihood)

Epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty

Gaussian processes explicitly distinguish the aleatoric uncertainty:

$$\sigma^{2}(\boldsymbol{x}^{*}) = k(\boldsymbol{x}^{*}, \boldsymbol{x}^{*}) - \boldsymbol{k}^{*T}(K + \sigma_{\eta}^{2}I)^{-1}\boldsymbol{k}^{*} + \boldsymbol{k}^{T}(K + \sigma_{\eta}^{2}I)^{-1}\boldsymbol{k}^{*} + \boldsymbol$$

Epistemic uncertainty Aleatoric uncertainty



- The aleatoric part can be easily be included/excluded by adding/removing the σ_η² term.
 (Python packages for GP usually have options/arguments for this.)
- For other methods presented today: the distinction is not as explicit...

Limitations of Gaussian processes

- Scales badly for **high-dimensional input**:
 - Suffers from curse of dimensionality,
 i.e. needs exponentially more data for high dimension
 - As more data is added, **computational cost** scales as n^3
 - Difficulties capturing **correlated input dimensions** (i.e. need many more hyperparameters in kernel)
- Inefficient for high-dimensional output: (essentially need to build a separate GP for each output)
- Predicted probability distribution is always Gaussian.
 Cannot predict distributions with long tails.



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Ensemble of neural networks





Ensemble of neural network (N=3)



- Due to randomness in initialization and training, each neural network has different weights, and gives a different answer.
- Use the mean as the prediction
 Use the standard deviation as the uncertainty

$$f(oldsymbol{x}) = rac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^N f_{oldsymbol{w}_i}(oldsymbol{x})$$

$$\sigma_f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sqrt{rac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^N \left(f_{\boldsymbol{w}_i}(\boldsymbol{x}) - f(\boldsymbol{x})\right)^2}$$



Easily scales to high-dimensional output



$$f_j(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f_{j,\boldsymbol{w}_i}(\boldsymbol{x})$$
$$(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (f_{j,\boldsymbol{w}_i}(\boldsymbol{x}) - f_j(\boldsymbol{x}))^2}$$

 σ_{f_j}

Use per-component mean and standard deviation



Use randomness in **initialization** and/or **training data**.

Several possible methods:



- Initialize weights of each network with a different random seed (Train all networks on the same data.)
- Randomly divide the data into N partitions
 Train each network on a different partition (with same initial weights)
- Different random initial weights <u>and</u> draw different random subsets of the data ("Boostrap AGGregatING" or "bagging")

Example: uncertainty on virtual diagnostic for beam current

Measured

Predicted - ensemble

O. Convery et al., arXiv:2105.04654v1 (2021)





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Dropout neural network

Regular neural network Drop-out neural network: repeated evaluations ... Input \boldsymbol{x} Input \boldsymbol{x} Input \boldsymbol{x} Input \boldsymbol{x}

For each neuron, randomly set the activation to 0 with fixed probability *p* (generate different random draw for each evaluation of the neural network)

Standard dropout vs. Monte-Carlo dropout

Standard Dropout:

(default behavior in pytorch, keras)

- Dropout is only applied during **training**
- During inference (i.e. for predictions), the activations are multiplied by (1-p) to represent the "average behavior"

During inference, repeated evaluations with the same input **x** give the **same result**.



Monte-Carlo dropout (MC dropout):

Dropout is applied **both** during **training** and **inference**.

During inference, repeated evaluations with the same input **x** give **different results**.

Use the **mean** as the **prediction** Use the **standard deviation** as the **uncertainty**





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- Corresponds to a **whole family of methods**, where:
 - Weights are randomly drawn from a probability distribution, for each evaluation.
 - The probability distribution is tuned during training, according to Bayesian rules.
- As for drop-out, the prediction and uncertainty are evaluated by averaging over repeated evaluation of the network.
- Here we focus on one type of Bayesian neural network: "Bayes by Backprop", <u>Blundell et al., arXiv:1505.05424 (2015)</u>

Bayes by Backprop: inference

Regular neural network: Weights are fixed.



Figures adapted from Blundell et al., arXiv:1505.05424 (2015)

Bayes by backprop:

Weights are drawn from **Gaussian distributions**. The Gaussian distributions are fixed during inference, but the weights change (randomly) for each evaluation.



Each weight w_i has a different Gaussian distribution, parameterized by μ_i , ρ_i :

$$w_i = \mu_i + \sigma_i \epsilon_i$$

$$\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad \sigma_i = \log(1 + e^{\rho_i})$$

Bayes by Backprop: training

Regular neural network:

The weights themselves are updated.



Loss function:

Average error over the training data set

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2$$

Number of examples in training set

Neural network prediction

Bayes by Backprop:

The parameters of the probability distribution (μ_i and ρ_i) are updated.

Step 1: Draw random weights $w_i = \mu_i + \epsilon_i \log(1 + e^{\rho_i})$ $\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

$$\mu_i' = \mu_i - \alpha \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial w_i} + \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \mu_i} \right)$$
$$\rho_i' = \rho_i - \alpha \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial w_i} \frac{\epsilon_i}{(1 + e^{-\rho_i})} + \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \rho_i} \right)$$
$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2 + \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_i \log \left(\frac{e^{\frac{(w_i - \mu_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}}}{\sigma_i} \right) - \log(P_0(\boldsymbol{w})) \right)$$

 P_0 : Prior on the weights

Bayes by Backprop: ELBO loss function ("evidence lower bound")

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2 + \frac{1}{N}$$

$$\left(\sum_{i} \log\left(\frac{e^{\frac{(w_i - \mu_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}}}{\sigma_i}\right) - \log(P_0(\boldsymbol{w}))\right)$$

Accuracy term:

- Depends on the training data
- Makes the neural network **fit the data**
- Amplitude stays roughly constant when increasing the number of training examples *N*

Regularization term:

- Independent of the training data
- Tends to make the Gaussian distribution of weights similar to the prior

(Typical prior: Gaussian mixture)

$$P_0(\boldsymbol{w}) \propto \Pi_i \left(\pi \frac{e^{-w_i^2/\sigma_1^2}}{\sigma_1} + (1-\pi) \frac{e^{-w_i^2/\sigma_2^2}}{\sigma_2} \right)$$

• Amplitude decreases when increasing the number of training examples *N*

As more training data is added (*N* increases), the Gaussian distribution on the weights **departs from the prior** and **fits the training data**.

Bayes by Backprop: summary

Training:

Tune the Gaussian probability distribution of the weights

(H_1) (H_2) (H_3) $(H_3$

$$\mu_i' = \mu_i - \alpha \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial w_i} + \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \mu_i} \right)$$
$$\rho_i' = \rho_i - \alpha \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial w_i} \frac{\epsilon_i}{(1 + e^{-\rho_i})} + \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \rho_i} \right)$$

Inference:

Draw random weights for each evaluation Use **mean** and **standard deviation** to evaluate **prediction** and **uncertainty**



$$w_i = \mu_i + \epsilon_i \log(1 + e^{\rho_i})$$

$$\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

Bayesian neural network: practical considerations

Compared to regular NN:

- Requires 2x more parameters $(\mu_i, \rho_i \text{ instead of } w_i)$
- Added stochasticity during training due to random draw of weights
- Training is more difficult:
 e.g. much more sensitive to
 hyperparameters, such as the prior

Compared to Gaussian processes:

- Does not capture the aleatoric part
- Need to tune training hyperparameters (learning rate, number of epochs, etc.)
- But scales better to high dimension

Aim: find **probability distribution** of the weights (given the training data), so that weights **w** can be **sampled randomly** for each evaluation

• Default assumption for probability of data, conditioned on the weights:

$$P(\{\boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i\} | \boldsymbol{w}) \propto \exp\left(-\sum_j (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2\right)$$

 The probability of the weights, conditioned on the data, can be found by Bayes theorem:

$$P(\boldsymbol{w}|\{\boldsymbol{x}_i,y_i\}) = \frac{P(\{\boldsymbol{x}_i,y_i\}|\boldsymbol{w}) P_0(\boldsymbol{w})}{P(\{\boldsymbol{x}_i,y_i\})} \qquad \qquad \text{Prior on the weights } \boldsymbol{w}$$

Prior on data (often ignored, because it does not depend on **w**)

Aim: find **probability distribution** of the weights (given the training data), so that weights **w** can be **sampled randomly** for each evaluation

• Default assumption for probability of data, conditioned on the weights:

$$P(\{\boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i\} | \boldsymbol{w}) \propto \exp\left(-\sum_j (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2\right)$$

 The probability of the weights, conditioned on the data, can be found by Bayes theorem:

$$P(\boldsymbol{w}|\{\boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i\}) \propto P_0(\boldsymbol{w}) \exp\left(-\sum_j (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2\right)$$

• **Problem:** Difficult to randomly sample weights w from this probability distribution, (due to the complex dependency on w through the neural network function f_w)

• w cannot be sampled from the true probability distribution

$$P(\boldsymbol{w}|\{\boldsymbol{x}_i,y_i\}) \propto P_0(\boldsymbol{w}) \exp\left(-\sum_j (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2
ight)$$

 w is instead sampled from a simpler, approximate probability distribution q(w, θ), that depends on hyperparameters θ

e.g. "Bayes by backprop":
$$q(\boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{j} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \log(1 + e^{\rho_j})} \exp\left(-\frac{(w_j - \mu_j)^2}{2\log(1 + e^{\rho_j})^2}\right)$$
$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\mu_j, \rho_j\}$$

Other Bayesian networks can be obtained by changing $q(w, \theta)$ e.g. "concrete dropout"

• The hyperparameters θ are tuned so that $q(w, \theta)$ becomes as close as possible to the true probability distribution $P(w|\{x_i, y_i\})$.

 "as close as possible": tune θ to minimize the Kullback-Leibler divergence between the true distribution P and the approximate distribution q

$$KL(q||P) = \left\langle \log\left(\frac{q(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{P(\boldsymbol{w}|\{y_j, \boldsymbol{x}_j\})}\right) \right\rangle_{\boldsymbol{w} \sim q(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})} P(\boldsymbol{w}|\{x_i, y_i\}) \propto P_0(\boldsymbol{w}) \exp\left(-\sum_j (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2\right) \right\rangle$$
$$= \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_i))^2 + \log(q(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})) - \log(P_0(\boldsymbol{w})) \right\rangle$$

$$= \left\langle \sum_{j} (y_j - f_{\boldsymbol{w}}(\boldsymbol{x}_j))^2 + \log(q(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})) - \log(P_0(\boldsymbol{w})) \right\rangle_{\boldsymbol{w} \sim q(\boldsymbol{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}$$

$$\uparrow$$
Accuracy term
Regularization term

Corresponds to the modified loss function $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ mentioned earlier.



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How to obtain the probability distribution



- The methods seen so far (ensembles, MC dropout, Bayesian NN) only provide the standard deviation.
- By default, often assume that the corresponding distribution is Gaussian.
- What if the distribution of the data (e.g. noise) is significantly non-Gaussian?

Quantiles: a way to describe the probability distribution



Quantiles allow to capture non-Gaussian distributions

Gaussian

Log-normal (non-Gaussian)



Output value

Output value

Conditional quantiles

We would like an ML model that can predict the position of the quantiles as a function of the input **x**.



Conditional quantile definition:

Value $q_{\tau}(x)$ such that a fraction τ of the output values y corresponding to a given intput x are below q_{τ} .

In terms of conditional probability:

$$P(y \le q_\tau | x) = \tau$$

Input *x*

Advantage: quantitative error bars that take into account non-Gaussian noise.

The quantile q_{τ} can **alternatively** be defined as the minimum of a specific loss function ("pinball loss"):

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}(q) &= \langle \ell_{\tau}(y,q) \rangle \\ &\approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \ell_{\tau}(y_i,q) \\ &\uparrow \\ &\text{Sum over evaluated} \\ &\text{data points} \end{split}$$

Note:
$$\ell_{0.5} = 0.5 |y - q|$$

$$\ell_{\tau}(y,q) = \begin{cases} (1-\tau)(q-y) & \text{if } y \leq q \\ \tau(y-q) & \text{if } y > q \end{cases}$$





"Demonstration" of the equivalence between the different definitions

• The loss function can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}(q) = \langle \ell_{\tau}(y,q) \rangle \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \ p(y)\ell_{\tau}(y,q)$$
$$= \int_{-\infty}^{q} dy \ p(y)(1-\tau)(q-y) + \int_{q}^{+\infty} dy \ p(y)\tau(y-q)$$

• The minimum q_{τ} satisfies $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q}(q_{\tau}) = 0$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{q_{\tau}} dy \ p(y)(1-\tau) + \int_{q_{\tau}}^{+\infty} dy \ p(y)\tau(-1) = 0$$
$$\int_{-\infty}^{q_{\tau}} dy \ p(y) = \tau \left(\int_{-\infty}^{q_{\tau}} dy \ p(y) + \int_{q_{\tau}}^{+\infty} dy \ p(y)\right)$$
$$P(y \le q_{\tau}) = \tau \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dy \ p(y) = \tau$$

Training quantile regression neural networks

Standard neural network

Train by minimizing the loss function

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - f(x_i))^2$$

After training, the prediction of the neural network f(x) corresponds to the **average of the data** at point x.



Quantile regression neural network

Train by minimizing the loss function

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \ell_{\tau}(y_i, f(x_i))$$

for a given τ .

After training, the prediction of the neural network f(x) corresponds to the τ -quantile at point x. (Use a separate neural network for each τ .)



FEL example

Input:

70+ quantities, incl:

- Strength of quadrupole and steering magnets
- Linac phases and amplitudes
- Laser properties in photo-injector
- Undulator properties

Output: FEL pulse energy



Generalization to multi-dimensional output

Quantile regression neural network easily generalize to high-dimensional output: sum over dimensions in cost function.



e.g. beam size at different locations



Sum over dimensions of the output

Sum over data points

Input x e.g. accelerator parameters

After training, $f^{(j)}(x)$ corresponds to the τ -quantile for $y^{(j)}$ at point x.

Example: uncertainty on virtual diagnostics for beam current

O. Convery et al., arXiv:2105.04654v1 (2021)



Neural networks for 19 quantiles (0.05 to 0.95)

- Input *x*: full IR spectrum
- Output $y^{(j)}$: 1d beam current profile Trained on ~3,000 shots



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• Evaluating and calibrating uncertainty

Validating uncertainty

Uncertainty estimate (and confidence intervals) are not always quantitively accurate.



- Use test data (unseen during training)
- For each point in the test data: Record the predicted cumulative probability of the data point, as predicted by the ML model



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- Use test data (unseen during training)
- For each point in the test data: Record the predicted cumulative probability of the data point, as predicted by the ML model
- Plot the corresponding empirical cumulative probability
- For a large number of points: this should tend towards a straight line if the model is well calibrated.







Recalibration: correct the predicted cumulative probability





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