# Large Graph Limits of Learning Algorithms

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#### References



- C Rasmussen and C Williams, Gaussian processes for machine learning, MIT Press, 2006. Probit.
- AL Bertozzi and A Flenner, Diffuse interface models on graphs for classification of high dimensional data, SIAM MMS, 2012. Ginzburg-Landau.
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### Talk Overview

Learning and Inverse Problems

Optimization

Theoretical Properties

Probability

Conclusions

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# Regression

- Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be a bounded open set.
- Let  $D' \subset D$ .

#### Ill-Posed Inverse Problem

Find  $u: D \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  given

$$y(x) = u(x), \quad x \in D'.$$

• Strong prior information needed.

### Classification

- Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be a bounded open set.
- Let  $D' \subset D$ .

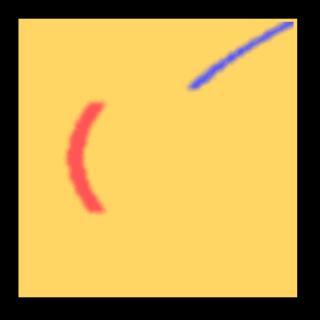
#### Ill-Posed Inverse Problem

Find  $u: D \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  given

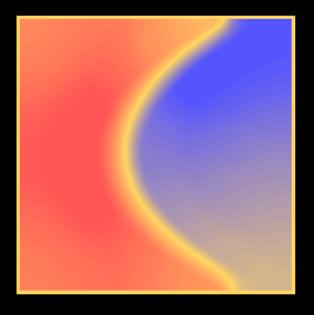
$$y(x) = sign(u(x)), x \in D'.$$

• Strong prior information needed.

y = sign(u). Red= 1. Blue= -1. Yellow: no information.



## Reconstruction of the function u on D



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## Graph Laplacian

### Graph Laplacian:

- Similarity graph G with n vertices  $Z = \{1, \ldots, n\}$ .
- Weighted adjacency matrix  $W = \{w_{j,k}\}, (w_{j,k} = \eta_{\varepsilon}(x_j x_k).)$
- Diagonal  $D = \operatorname{diag}\{d_{jj}\}, d_{jj} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} w_{j,k}$ .
- $L = s_n(D-W)$  (unnormalized);  $L' = D^{-\frac{1}{2}}LD^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  (normalized).

#### **Spectral Properties:**

- *L* is positive semi-definite:  $\langle u, Lu \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} \propto \sum_{j \sim k} w_{j,k} |u_j u_k|^2$ .
- $Lq_j = \lambda_j q_j$ ;
- Fully connected  $\Rightarrow \lambda_1 > \lambda_0 = 0$ . Fiedler Vector:  $q_1$ .

# Problem Statement (Optimization)

### Semi-Supervised Learning

- Input:
  - Unlabelled data  $\{x_j \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad j \in Z := \{1, \dots, n\}\};$
  - Labelled data  $\{y_i \in \{\pm 1\}, j \in Z' \subseteq Z\}.$
- Output:
  - Labels  $\{y_j \in \{\pm 1\}, j \in Z\}$ .

Classification based on sign(u), u the optimizer of:

$$J(u;y) = \frac{1}{2} \langle u, C^{-1}u \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} + \Phi(u;y).$$

- u is an  $\mathbb{R}$ -valued function on the graph nodes.
- $C = (L + \tau^2 I)^{-\alpha}$  (from unlabelled data:  $w_{j,k} = \eta_{\varepsilon}(x_j x_k)$ .)
- $\Phi(u; y)$  links real-valued u to the binary-valued labels y.

## Example: Voting Records

U.S. House of Representatives 1984, 16 key votes. For each congress representative we have an associated feature vector  $x_j \in \mathbb{R}^{16}$  such as

$$x_j = (1, -1, 0, \cdots, 1)^T;$$

1 is "yes", -1 is "no" and 0 abstain/no-show. Hence d = 16 and n = 435.

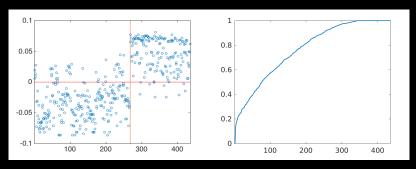


Figure: Fiedler Vector and Spectrum (Normalized Case)

### **Probit**

Rasmussen and Williams, 2006. (MIT Press)

Bertozzi, Luo, Stuart and Zygalakis, 2017. (arXiv)

#### Probit Model

$$\mathsf{J}_{\mathsf{p}}^{(n)}(u;y) = \frac{1}{2} \langle u, C^{-1}u \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} + \Phi_{\mathsf{p}}^{(n)}(u;y)$$

Here

$$C = (L + \tau^2 I)^{-\alpha},$$
 
$$\Phi_{\mathrm{p}}^{(n)}(u; y) := -\sum_{j \in Z'} \log(\Psi(y_j u_j ; \gamma))$$

and

$$\Psi(\nu;\gamma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\gamma^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\nu} \exp\left(-t^2/2\gamma^2\right) dt.$$

### Level Set

Iglesias, Lu and Stuart, 2016. (IFB)

#### Level Set Model

$$\mathsf{J}_{\mathrm{ls}}^{(n)}(u;y) = \frac{1}{2} \langle u, C^{-1}u \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} + \Phi_{\mathrm{ls}}^{(n)}(u;y).$$

Here

$$C = (L + \tau^2 I)^{-\alpha},$$

and

$$\Phi_{ls}^{(n)}(u;y) := \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} \sum_{j \in Z'} |y_j - \text{sign}(u_j)|^2.$$

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### Infimization

Recall that both optimization problems have the form

$$\mathsf{J}^{(n)}(u;y) = \frac{1}{2} \langle u, C^{-1}u \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} + \Phi^{(n)}(u;y).$$

Indeed:

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{p}}^{(n)}(u;y) := -\sum_{j \in Z'} \log (\Psi(y_j u_j; \gamma))$$

and

$$\Phi_{ls}^{(n)}(u;y) := \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} \sum_{j \in Z'} |y_j - \text{sign}(u_j)|^2.$$

#### Theorem 1

- Probit: J<sub>p</sub> is convex.
- Level Set: J<sub>ls</sub> does not attain its infimum.

## Limit Theorem for the Dirichlet Energy

Garcia-Trillos and Slepčev, 2016. (ACHA)

Unlabelled data  $\{x_j\}$  sampled i.i.d. from density  $\rho$  supported on bounded  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ . Let

$$\mathcal{L}u = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla\cdot\left(\rho^2\nabla u\right) \quad x \in D, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0, \quad x \in \partial D.$$

#### Theorem 2

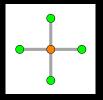
Let  $s_n = \frac{2}{C(\eta)n\varepsilon^2}$ . Then under connectivity conditions on  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(n)$  in  $\eta_{\varepsilon}$ , the scaled Dirichlet energy  $\Gamma$ — converges in the  $TL^2$  metric:

$$\frac{1}{n}\langle u, Lu\rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} \to \langle u, \mathcal{L}u\rangle_{L^2_\rho} \quad \text{as} \quad n \to \infty.$$

# Sketch Proof: Quadratic Forms on Graphs

### Discrete Dirichlet Energy

$$\langle u, Lu \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} \propto \sum_{j \sim k} w_{j,k} |u_j - u_k|^2.$$



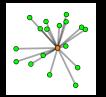




Figure: Connectivity Stencils For Orange Node: PDE, Data, Localized Data.

# Sketch Proof: Limits of Quadratic Forms on Graphs

Garcia-Trillos and Slepčev, 2016. (ACHA)

- $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^n$  i.i.d. from density  $\rho$  on  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- $w_{jk} = \eta_{\varepsilon}(x_j x_k), \quad \eta_{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^d} \eta\left(\frac{|\cdot|}{\varepsilon}\right).$

### Limiting Discrete Dirichlet Energy

$$\langle u, Lu \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} \propto \frac{1}{n^2 \varepsilon^2} \sum_{j \sim k} \eta_{\varepsilon} (x_j - x_k) \left| u(x_j) - u(x_k) \right|^2;$$

$$n \to \infty \approx \int_D \int_D \eta_{\varepsilon} (x - y) \left| \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{\varepsilon} \right|^2 \rho(x) \rho(y) dx dy;$$

$$\varepsilon \to \mathbf{0} \approx C(\eta) \int_D |\nabla u(x)|^2 \rho(x)^2 dx \propto \langle u, \mathcal{L}u \rangle_{L^2_{\rho}}.$$

### Limit Theorem for Probit

M. Dunlop, D Slepčev, AM Stuart and M Thorpe, In preparation 2017.

Let  $D^{\pm}$  be two disjoint bounded subsets of D, define  $D' = D^{+} \cup D^{-}$  and

$$y(x) = +1, x \in D^+; y(x) = -1, x \in D^-.$$

For  $\alpha > 0$ , define  $C = (\mathcal{L} + \tau^2 I)^{-\alpha}$ . Recall that  $C = (L + \tau^2 I)^{-\alpha}$ .

#### Theorem 3

Let  $s_n = \frac{2}{C(\eta)n\varepsilon^2}$ . Then under connectivity conditions on  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(n)$  the scaled probit objective function  $\Gamma$ -converges in the  $TL^2$  metric:

$$\frac{1}{n}\mathsf{J}_{\mathrm{p}}^{(n)}(u;y)\to\mathsf{J}_{\mathrm{p}}(u;y)\quad\text{as}\quad n\to\infty,$$

where

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{J}_{\mathrm{p}}(u;y) &= \frac{1}{2} \big\langle u, \mathcal{C}^{-1} u \big\rangle_{L_{\rho}^{2}} + \Phi_{\mathrm{p}}(u;y), \\ \Phi_{\mathrm{p}}(u;y) &:= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d}} \log \Big( \Psi(y(x) \, u(x) \, ; \gamma) \Big) \rho(x) dx. \end{split}$$

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## Problem Statement (Bayesian Formulation)

### Semi-Supervised Learning

- Input:
  - Unlabelled data  $\{x_j \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad j \in Z := \{1, \dots, n\}\}$ ; **prior**
  - Labelled data  $\{y_j\} \in \{\pm 1\}, j \in Z' \subseteq Z\}$ . likelihood
- Output:
  - Labels  $\{y_j \in \{\pm 1\}, j \in Z\}$ . posterior

Connection between probability and optimization:

$$J^{(n)}(u;y) = \frac{1}{2} \langle u, C^{-1}u \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^n} + \Phi^{(n)}(u;y).$$

$$\mathbb{P}(u|y) \propto \exp(-J^{(n)}(u;y))$$

$$\propto \exp(-\Phi^{(n)}(u;y)) \times \mathsf{N}(0,C)$$

$$\propto \mathbb{P}(y|u) \times \mathbb{P}(u).$$

# Example of Underlying Gaussian (Voting Records)

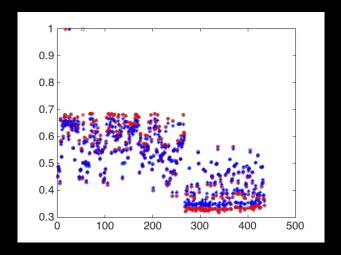


Figure: Two point correlation of sign(u) for 3 democrats

## Probit (Continuum Limit)

Let 
$$\alpha > \frac{d}{2}$$
.

#### Probit Probabilistic Model

- Prior: Gaussian  $\mathbb{P}(du) = \mathsf{N}(0, \mathcal{C})$ .
- Posterior:  $\mathbb{P}_{\gamma}(du|y) \propto \exp(-\Phi_{p}(u;y))\mathbb{P}(du)$ .

$$\Phi_{\mathbf{p}}(u; y) := -\int_{D'} \log \Big( \Psi(y(x) \, u(x) \, ; \gamma) \Big) \rho(x) dx.$$

## Level Set (Continuum Limit)

Let 
$$\alpha > \frac{d}{2}$$
.

#### Level Set Probabilistic Model

- Prior: Gaussian  $\mathbb{P}(du) = \mathsf{N}(0, \mathcal{C})$ .
- Posterior:  $\mathbb{P}_{\gamma}(du|y) \propto \exp(-\Phi_{ls}(u;y))\mathbb{P}(du)$ .

$$\Phi_{\mathrm{ls}}(u;y) := \int_{D'} \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} |y(x) - \mathrm{sign}(u(x))|^2 \rho(x) dx.$$

# Connecting Probit, Level Set and Regression

M. Dunlop, D Slepčev, AM Stuart and M Thorpe, In preparation 2017.

#### Theorem 4

Let  $\alpha > \frac{d}{2}$ . We have  $\mathbb{P}_{\gamma}(u|y) \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(u|y)$  as  $\gamma \to 0$  where

$$\mathbb{P}(du|y) \propto \mathbf{1}_A(u)\mathbb{P}(du), \quad \mathbb{P}(du) = \mathsf{N}(0,\mathcal{C})$$

$$A = \{u : \operatorname{sign}(u(x)) = y(x), \quad x \in D'\}.$$

Compare with regression (Zhu, Ghahramani, Lafferty 2003, (ICML):)

$$A_0 = \{u : u(x) = y(x), x \in D'\}.$$

## Example (PDE Two Moons – Unlabelled Data)



Figure: Sampling density  $\rho$  of unlabelled data.

# Example (PDE Two Moons – Label Data)



Figure: Labelled Data.

# Example (PDE Two Moons – Fiedler Vector of $\mathcal{L}$ )

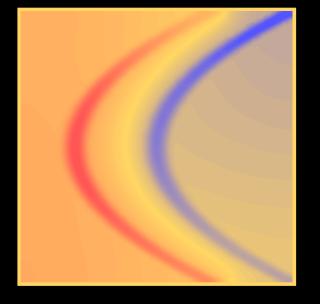


Figure: Fiedler Vector.

## Example (PDE Two Moons – Posterior Labelling)

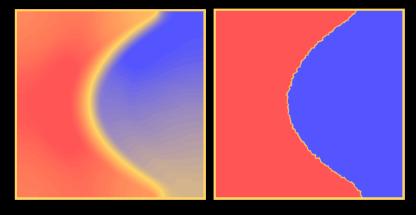


Figure: Posterior mean of u and sign(u).

## Example (One Data Point Makes All The Difference)

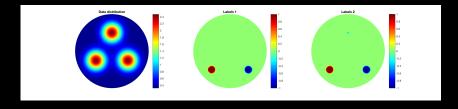


Figure: Sampling density, Label Data 1, Label Data 2.

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### **Summary**

- Single optimization framework for classification algorithms.
- Single Bayesian framework for classification algorithms.
- Comparison of related optimization problems.
- Probit and Level Set have same small noise limit.
- This limit generalizes previous regression-based methods.
- Fast mixing MCMC algorithms.
- Fast per MCMC step approximations.
- Infinite data limit identifies appropriate parameter choices.
- Infinite data limit to (S)PDEs, conditioned Gaussian measure.

#### References

- X Zhu, Z Ghahramani, J Lafferty, Semi-supervised learning using Gaussian fields and harmonic functions, ICML, 2003. Harmonic Functions.
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## pCN

$$\alpha(u,v) = \min\{1, \exp(\Phi(u) - \Phi(v))\}.$$

#### The preconditioned Crank-Nicolson (pCN) Method

- 1: while k < M do
- 2:  $v^{(k)} = \sqrt{1 \beta^2} u^{(k)} + \beta \xi^{(k)}$ , where  $\xi^{(k)} \sim N(0, C)$ .
- 3: Accept:  $u^{(k+1)} = v^{(k)}$  with probability  $\alpha(u^{(k)}, v^{(k)})$ , otherwise
- 4: Reject:  $u^{(k+1)} = u^{(k)}$ .
- 5: end while

### Why pCN?

- For given acceptance probability,  $\beta$  is independent of N = |Z|.
- Can exploit approximation of graph Laplacian (Nyström) and · · ·

## Example of UQ (Two Moons)

Recall that  $d = 10^2, N = 2 \times 10^3$ .

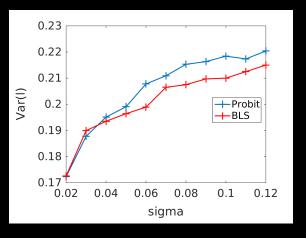


Figure: Average Label Posterior Variance vs  $\sigma$ , feature vector noise.

## Example of UQ (MNIST)

Here d = 784 and N = 4000.

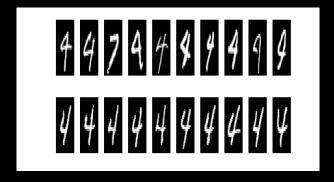


Figure: "Low confidence" vs "High confidence" nodes in MNIST49 graph.

## Saturation of Spectra in Applications

Karhunen-Loeve – if  $Lq_j = \lambda_j q_j$  then  $u \sim N(0, C)$  is:

$$u = c^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (\lambda_j + \tau^2)^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} q_j z_j, z_j \sim \mathsf{N}(0, 1) \quad \text{i.i.d.}$$
 (1)

- Spectrum of graph Laplacian often saturates as  $j \rightarrow N-1$ .
- Spectral Projection  $\iff \lambda_k := \infty, k \ge \ell$ .
- Spectral Approximation: set  $\lambda_k$  to some  $\bar{\lambda} < \infty$ .

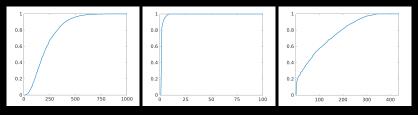


Figure: Two Moons, Hyperspectral, Voting Records.

## Example of UQ (Voting)

Recall that d = 16 and N = 435. Mean Absolute Error: *Projection*: 0.1577, *Approximation*: 0.0261.

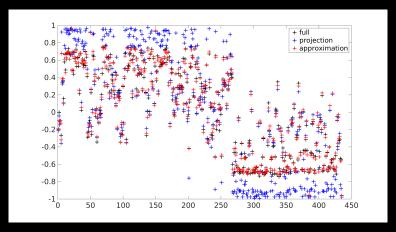


Figure: Mean Label Posterior. Compare Full (black), Spectral Approximation (red) and Spectral Projection (blue).

# Example of UQ (Hyperspectral)

Here d = 129 and  $N \approx 3 \times 10^5$ . Use Nyström.

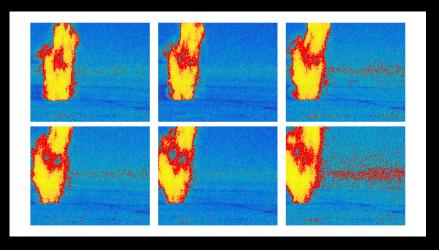


Figure: Spectral Approximation. Uncertain classification in red.