Bayesian optimization of ocean mixed layer parameterizations

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Super yacht Bayesian sinks after encounter with extremely rare water spout (20/8/24, FT)

Tropical SST anomalies can lead to restructuring of the global atmosphere



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Jochum et al. (2013)



A rare direct observation of a strong mixing event (Hummels et al. 2020). The turbulent diffusivity (3 orders larger than molecular) is shown in panel c.

One of the largest sources of uncertainty is vertical mixing

- Vertical turbulent mixing creates a homogeneous surface layer that, like a skin, exchanges heat and momentum with the atmosphere
- Mixing is difficult to observe, but the mixed layer depth (MLD) is well observed and a key metric for model performance

Foltz et al. (2003)





The Problem

• We want to optimize the **objective function**

 $f\colon \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

- We don't know anything about the function shape (so-called *black box objective function*)
- The objective function is expensive to evaluate



The Solution: Bayesian Optimization

- Based on a few objective function evaluations, construct a surrogate model of the objective function over the full parameter space
- Using the model of the objective function, decide the next optimal parameter set to evaluate

Agenda

- 1. Gaussian process regression models
- 2. Bayesian optimization with VerOpt
- 3. Optimizing the turbulent kinetic energy closure scheme in Veros

Gaussian process (GP) regression models











X

GP regression generalized

- X: a set of input points
- X*: a set of test points
- Joint distribution:
 - $\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{f} \\ \boldsymbol{f}^* \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} m(\boldsymbol{X}) \\ m(\boldsymbol{X}^*) \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{K} & \boldsymbol{K}^* \\ \boldsymbol{K}^* & \boldsymbol{K}^{**} \end{bmatrix} \right)$



X

GP regression generalized

- X: a set of input points
- X*: a set of test points
- Conditional distribution:
- $f^*|f, X, X^* \sim \mathcal{N}(K^{*T}K^{-1}f, K^{**} K^{*T}K^{-1}K)$

The kernel



Bayesian Optimization with VerOpt



Step 0: Pick a kernel to define GP prior



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Step 1: Evaluate random initial points



Step 2: Construct an initial GP model



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... by minimizing the log marginal likelihood with respect to the kernel hyperparameters.

Interlude: Learning the GP model hyperparameter(s)



Stoustrup (2021)

Step 3: Suggest new points to evaluate by optimizing the UCB acquisition function



Step 4: Evaluate suggested points



Step 4: Construct a GP model using the updated set of evaluated points





Optimizing the TKE closure scheme in Veros



Gaspar et al. (1990)

MLD optimization

Model:ObjectVeros 1°x1°060 vertical layers40°f2.5m surface resolution40°fForced by ECMWF reanalysis20°fwinds (ie observations0assimilated into numerical model0

Setup:

Duration of simulation: 30 years Initial points: 10 Bayes points: 30 Evaluations per step: 2



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ERA-Interim: Dee et al. (2011); Ifremer MLD: De Boyer Montégut et al. (2022)

Optimization results

The default TKE parameterization lays within the parameter space region where the MLD bias is minimized.



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The default TKE parameterization lays within the parameter space region where the MLD bias is minimized.

 $\gamma_{R_f} = \frac{R_f}{1 - R_f}$

(lab experiments suggest 0.05-0.2), le the amount of energy converted To potential energy and not heat)





Why use Bayesian optimization?

- The method is transparent (not a black box)
- Does not rely on gradients
- Relatively few objective function evaluations are needed
- Easy to build with Python packages such as PyTorch
- Has just last week been ported to LUMI to optimize a 9-d parameter space ...
- ... on 1000 GPUs!



Thank you for your attention!

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