

e-Seminar #21

Use of Gaussian Process Emulators in Cardiovascular and Musculoskeletal Biomechanics



Presenter: Dr Ivan Benemerito (The University of Sheffield)

22 February 2022

The e-Seminar will start at 3pm CET / 2pm GMT



Moderator: Tim Weaving (University College London)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 823712



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Welcome!



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Use of Gaussian Process Emulators in cardiovascular and musculoskeletal biomechanics

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The University Of Sheffield.







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Motivation

- Regulatory bodies require the assessment of models' credibility (VVUQ)
- Input parameters of computational models are often uncertain

HOW TO QUANTIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INPUT PARAMETERS OF A COMPUTATIONAL MODEL?

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Sobol's sensitivity analysis (SSA)

Decomposition of output variance into contribution from the variance of individual inputs or combinations of them

SSA quantifies the strength of the input/output dependency of a model [1]

When to use SSA?

- Biomarker identification \rightarrow cardiovascular application
- Model reduction \rightarrow musculoskeletal application
- O(1000*N) model evaluation [2]

How do you explore the input space of a computational model? What to do if the simulations are too onerous?



[1] Sobol, 2001 [2] Saltelli, 2002

Statistical emulators

An emulator is a statistical approximation of a simulator

- mean $(\check{f}(x)) = f(x)$
- Give estimates on their uncertainty: how likely is mean $(\check{f}(x))$ to be close to f(x)?
- Bayes' theorem
- $\check{f}(x_i) = f(x_i)$



Rasmussen and Williams, 2005

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When to use an emulator?

Interpolation (and sensitivity analysis...)

- The input space is known but only partial observations are available
- Aim: To approximate the input/output map from a limited number of simulator runs

Forward propagation of uncertainties

- The input parameters are uncertain
- Aim: To emulate the distribution of output under a prespecified input distribution



Rasmussen and Williams, 2005

Gaussian Process Emulators (GPE)

- Probability distribution over function space
- Kernel based methods
- Assumes smooth input/output map
- Prior and posterior distributions





• Training point

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GPE: training

- Kernel is constructed from training points (generic hyperparameters)
- **Training**: tuning of hyperparameters in order to minimise a loss function

 $f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathcal{G}_{i}$ Covariance Mean

Rasmussen and Williams, 2005

GPE: training



Optimisation of parameters maximises the fit to observed data points

Diagonal elements of Λ : length of semi-axes ${\bf R}$ rotation matrix



GPE vs other methods



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Emulators for sensitivity analysis



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Use of Gaussian Process Emulators for the identification of clinically-viable biomarkers for ischaemic stroke

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Circle of Willis (CoW) and ischaemic stroke (IS)

CoW: ring of arteries that distributes blood to various brain districts

IS: occlusion of a major intracranial vessel





Leptomeningeal anastomoses (LMAs)

- Small vessels that connect different districts of the brain
- Only active during stroke
- Better post-stroke outcome in patients with "good" LMAs



Transcranial Doppler ultrasound (TCD)

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- Used in IS diagnostic
- Measures blood velocity
- Cheap and fast to use

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Does not inform on distal perfusion



Research question

Is it possible to use TCD measurements to identify biomarker for distal perfusion following an ischaemic occlusion of the middle cerebral artery?

- Develop a mechanistic model of the LMA
- Develop a statistical emulator of the mechanistic model
- Perform sensitivity analysis to identify biomarkers
- Perform characterisation of the biomarkers

Mechanistic model

- 1D representation of the cerebral circulation
- Input: radii, Young's modulus, length
- Output:

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- Velocity
- Flow rate
- Perfusion





GPE model

- Trained on USFD HPC cluster
- 110k virtual patients
- Output:
 - Velocity in
 - Perfusion in $^{\circ}$



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SSA for biomarker identification

- Quantify the effect on input variation on outputs of interest (Sobol's indices)
- Outputs that match a reference signature are the biomarkers
- Four biomarkers identified



Biomarker characterisation

- Evaluate correlation between biomarker and perfusion
- 90k virtual subjects (emulated)
- Knowledge of arterial radius improves predictive power



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Model reduction of musculoskeletal models: a Gaussian process-based approach

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Musculoskeletal models (MSKM)

- Mathematical representation of human locomotion
- Inputs:
 - Marker trajectories
 - Ground reaction forces
 - Anatomical parameters
 - Generic
 - Subject specific
- Outputs:
 - Joint coordinates
 - Joint reaction forces

MSKM: pipeline

Gait analysis

- Bone segmentation
- Muscle segmentation
- Personalised muscle path





Montefiori et al., 2019

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Subject specific MSKM

- Typical model:
 - 23 muscles per leg (29 muscle lines) \rightarrow ~ 60 parameters
 - Segmentation time: 20 hours
 - Simulation time: 5 minutes

Could we segment just the most important muscles? How do you rank muscles?

Research question

Is it possible to develop a reduced model, where only a limited set of muscles is personalised, that is as accurate as the original one?

- Generate virtual subjects and run mechanistic MSK simulations
- Train emulator
- Perform sensitivity analysis to identify the smallest set of required muscles

Benemerito et al, in preparation

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Musculoskeletal simulations



- 11 subjects
- Statistical distribution of each muscle

Sample 200 virtual subjects from muscles distribution

Compute hip, knee, ankle joint contact forces (JCFs)

Benemerito et al, in preparation

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Why GPE?

For 60 parameters:

- O(60000) simulations for SSA
- 5 minutes per simulation \rightarrow 200 days

If using a GPE:

- O(N) simulations for training \rightarrow 5 hours
- Computation of Sobol's indices: 1 hour

GP emulation of JCFs

- GPE's input: muscle parameters
- GPE's output: JCFs
- Training: 50 simulations
- Validation: 150 simulations



Benemerito et al, in preparation





For each time point, quantify the influence of each muscles on JCF

5 muscles are identified as more influential

Benemerito et al, in preparation

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Reduced models

- Emulation of model with only 5 of 29 muscles personalised
- Minimum discrepancy between full and reduced models



Benemerito et al, in preparation

Take home message

Gaussian process emulators are effective tools for performing sensitivity analysis of complex computational models



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To pose a question, you can write your question in the "Questions" tab



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