

Part II: Advances in Bayesian Optimization

Sec 1: Batch Bayesian Optimization

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Agenda

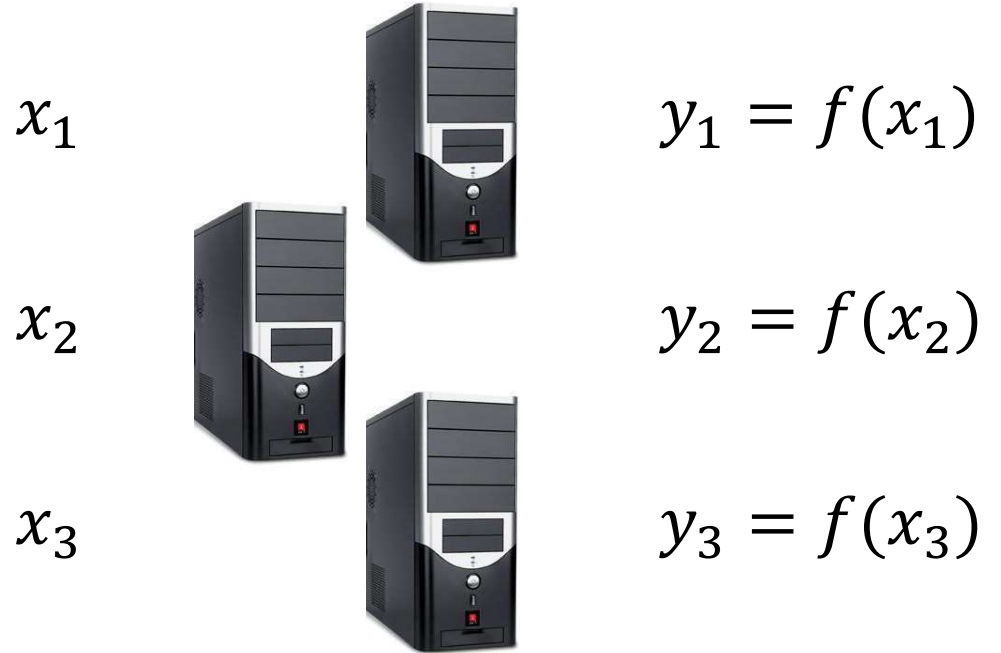
- Hyperparameter Tuning and Experimental Design as Black-Boxes
- Part I: Bayesian Optimization
- Part II: Recent Advances in Bayesian Optimization
 - Batch Bayesian Optimization
 - High dimensional Bayes Opt
 - Mixed Categorical-Continuous Bayes Opt
- Research Directions in Bayesian Optimization

Outline Part II.1: Batch Bayesian Optimization

- Introduction and Problem Statement
- Peak Suppression Approaches
 - Constant Liar
 - Batch Upper Confidence Bound (GP-BUCB)
 - Local Penalization
- Budgeted Batch Bayesian Optimization
- Thompson Sampling for Batch Bayes Opt
- Asynchronous Batch Bayes Opt

Batch Bayesian Optimization

- Evaluating multiple experiments take the same time as evaluating single experiment.



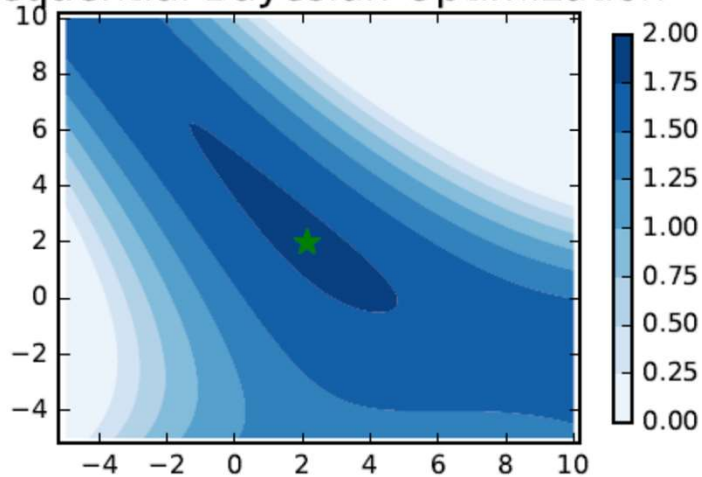
Evaluate **simultaneously**

Batch Bayesian Optimization

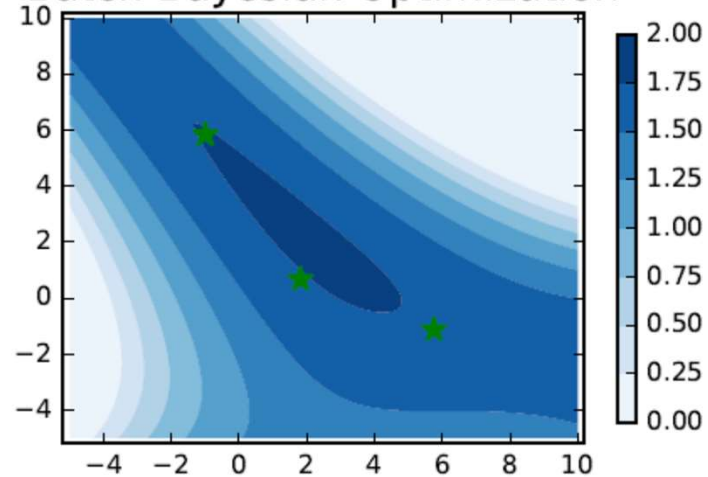
- When parallel experiments can be done, we suggest **multiple points** for evaluations at each iteration in **parallel**.

$$\mathbf{X}_t = [\mathbf{x}_{t1}, \mathbf{x}_{t2}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{tn_t}] = \underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \alpha_t(\mathbf{x})$$

Sequential Bayesian Optimization



Batch Bayesian Optimization



Batch Bayesian Optimization

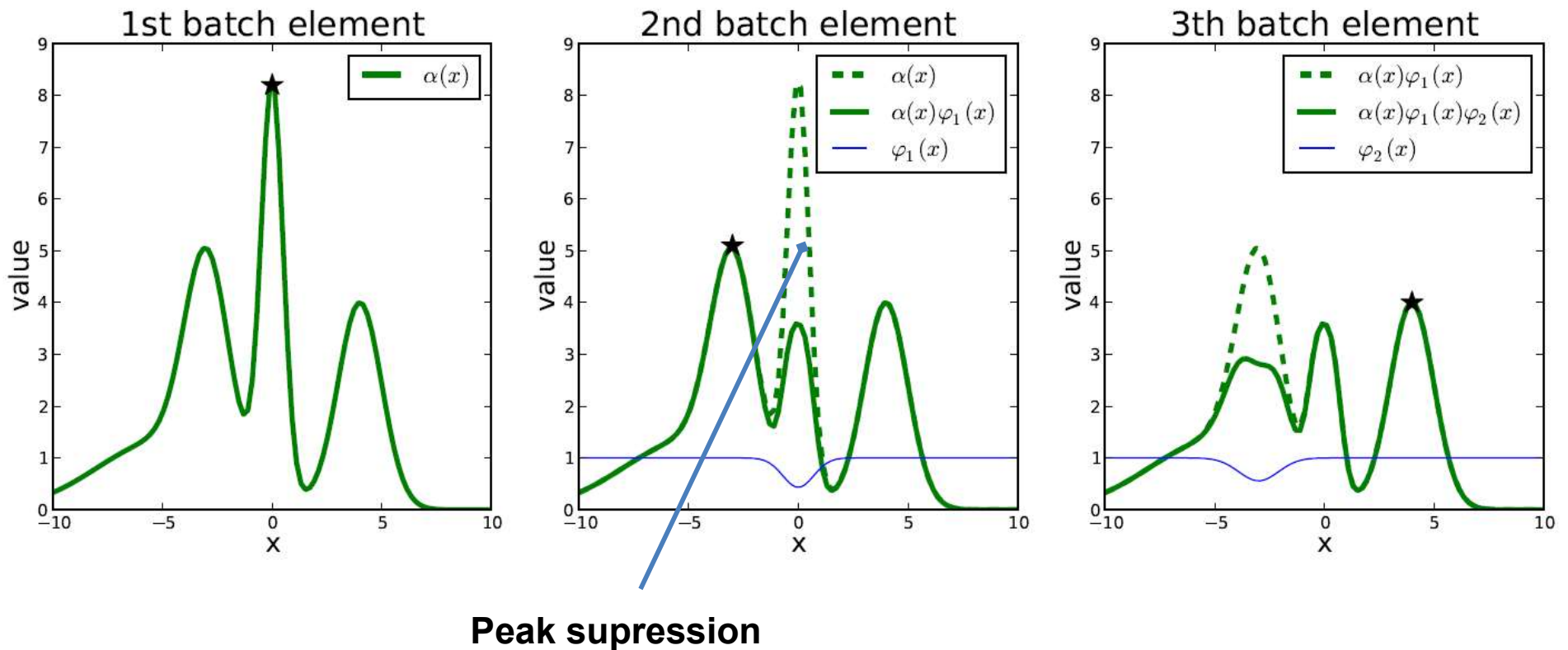
- Selects a batch of points for parallel evaluations at each iteration.
- Recent research:
 - GP-BUCB: [Desautels et al ICML'12]
 - Parallel PES: [Shah et al NIPS'15]
 - Local Penalization: [Gonzalez et al AISTATS'16]
 - Determinantal Point Process: [Kathuria et al NIPS'16]
 - Knowledge Gradient: [Wu et al NIPS'16]
 - Thompson sampling [Lobato et al ICML'17]
 - Asynchronous parallel Bayes opt [Kandasamy et al AISTATS 2018]
 - Asynchronous BO using improved local penalisation [Ahvin et al ICML19]

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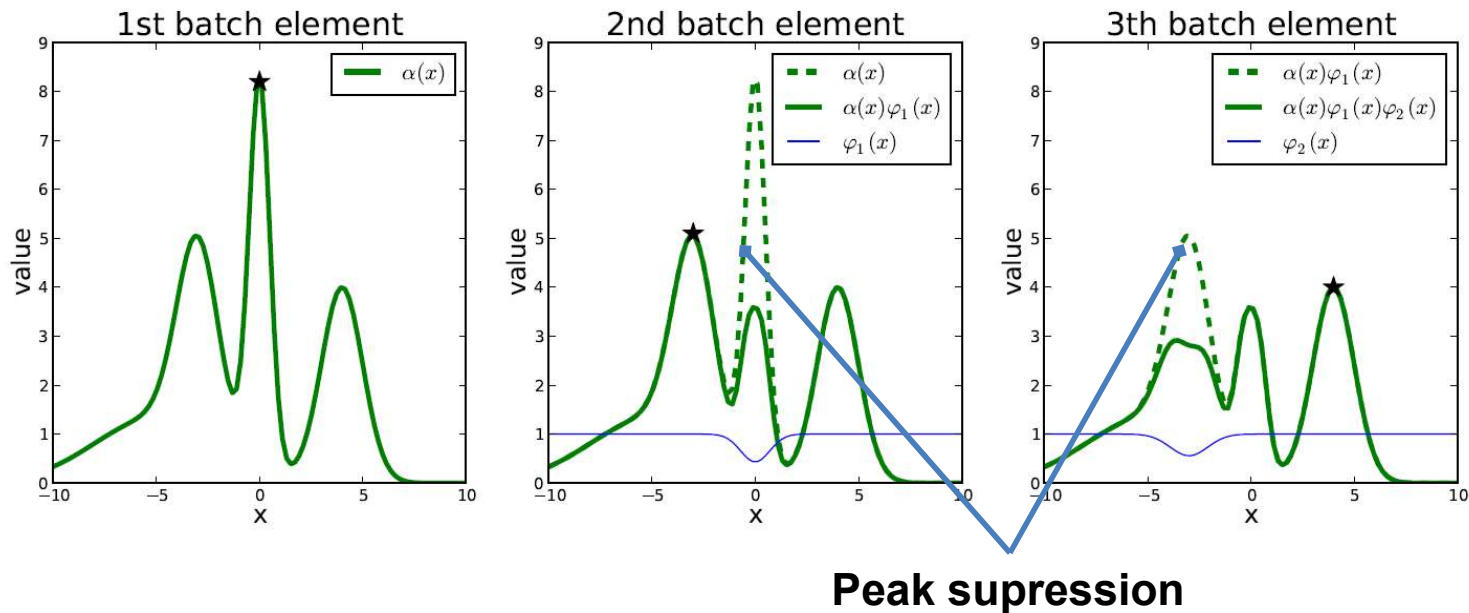
Peak Suppression Approaches

- Intuition: Identify the peaks of the acquisition functions as the batch of points for testing.



Peak Suppression Approaches

- Intuition: Sequentially select a peak, then suppress this peak and move to the next one.
- There are different ways to suppress the peaks.



Peak Suppression Approaches

- The acquisition function is a form of mean and variance.

$$\alpha_t^{GP-UCB}(x) = \mu_t(x) + \sqrt{\beta_t} \times \sigma_t(x)$$

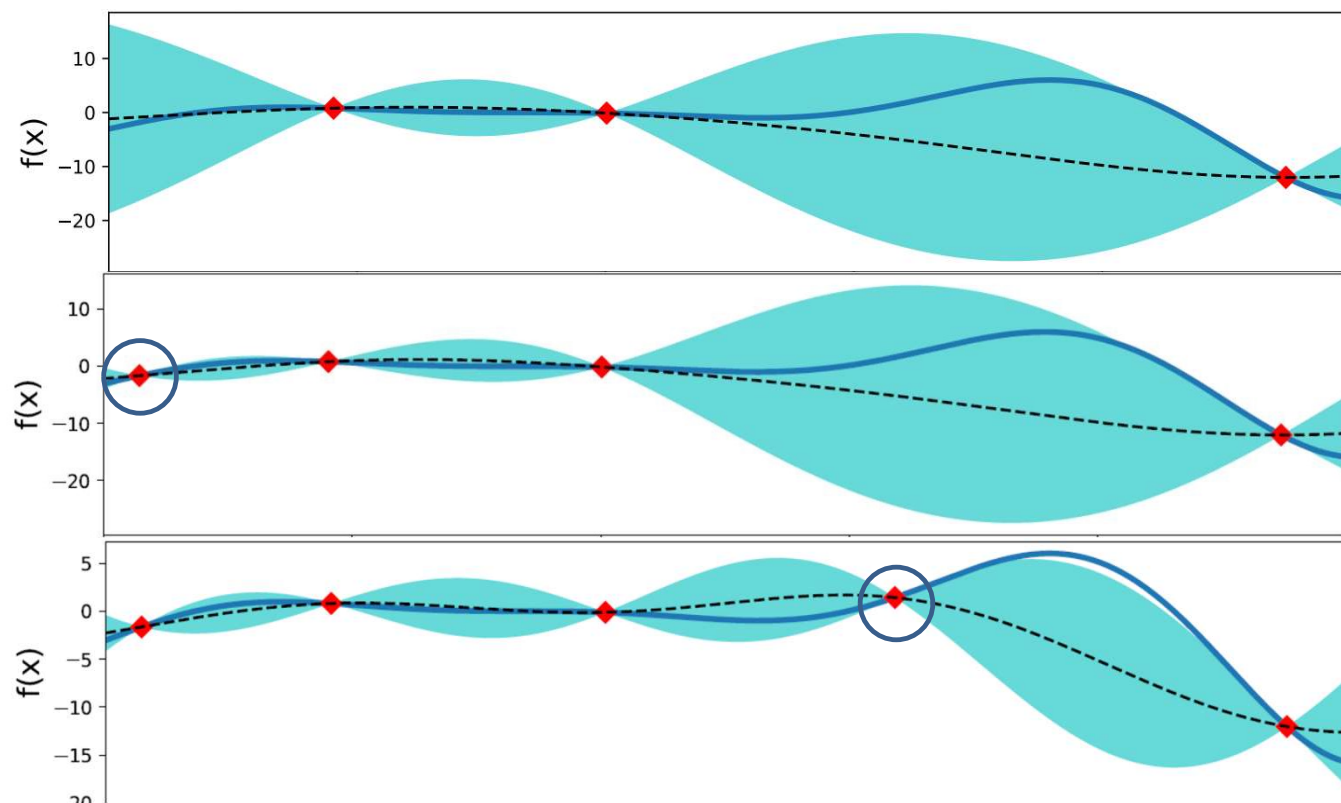
- The peaks of the acquisition function will have high mean $\mu(x)$ and high variance $\sigma(x)$.
- We can suppress the peak **by reducing its mean (and/or) variance.**

Peak Suppression – GP-BUCB

- GP-BUCB sequentially find a batch $X_t = [x_{t,1}, x_{t,2}, \dots, x_{t,B}]$ as follows
 1. Select the first element $x_{t,1}$ in a batch like the standard BO.
 2. Hallucinating the output $y_{t,1} = \mu(x_{t,1})$ by the GP predictive mean,
 3. Update the variance function by inserting $x_{t,1}, \sigma(\cdot | x_{t,1})$
 4. Optimizing the UCB acquisition function to select the next point $x_{t,b}$
 5. Repeat the above steps (2 and 3) to find $x_{t,b+1}$.
- Without using the outcome y , by updating the variance function by inserting $x_{t,1}$, BUCB has suppressed the variance around $x_{t,1}$.
- The property of the variance in a Gaussian process used in BUCB:
 - the variance at the observed location is zero or close to zero (for noise setting).
 - the variance depends on the location x (but not the outcome y)

Desautels et al. Parallelizing exploration-exploitation tradeoffs in Gaussian process bandit optimization. JMLR, 2014

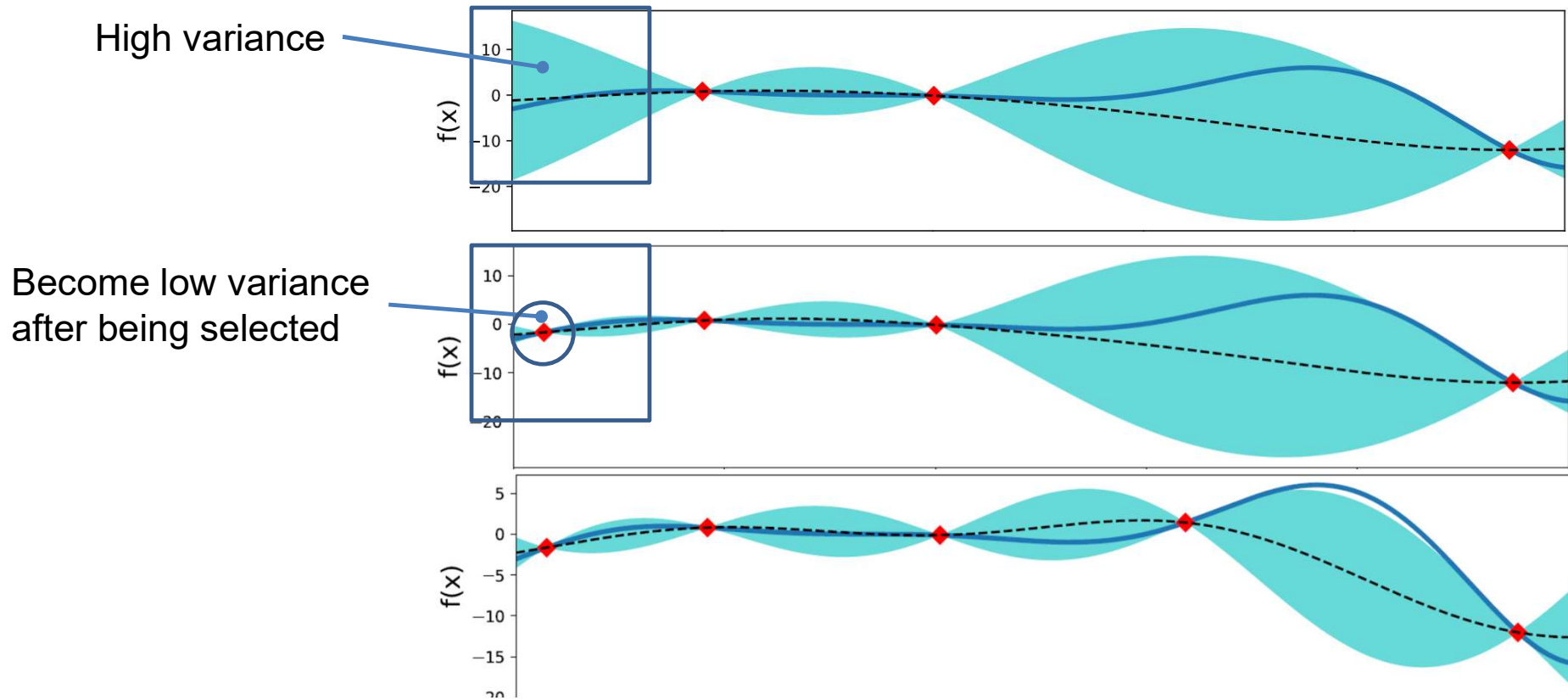
The Effect of Reducing Uncertainty at Selected Point



1. Get initial data
 2. Fit a GP model to the data
 3. Select x_{t+1}
 4. Collect data $y_t = f(x_t)$
- Repeat steps 2-4

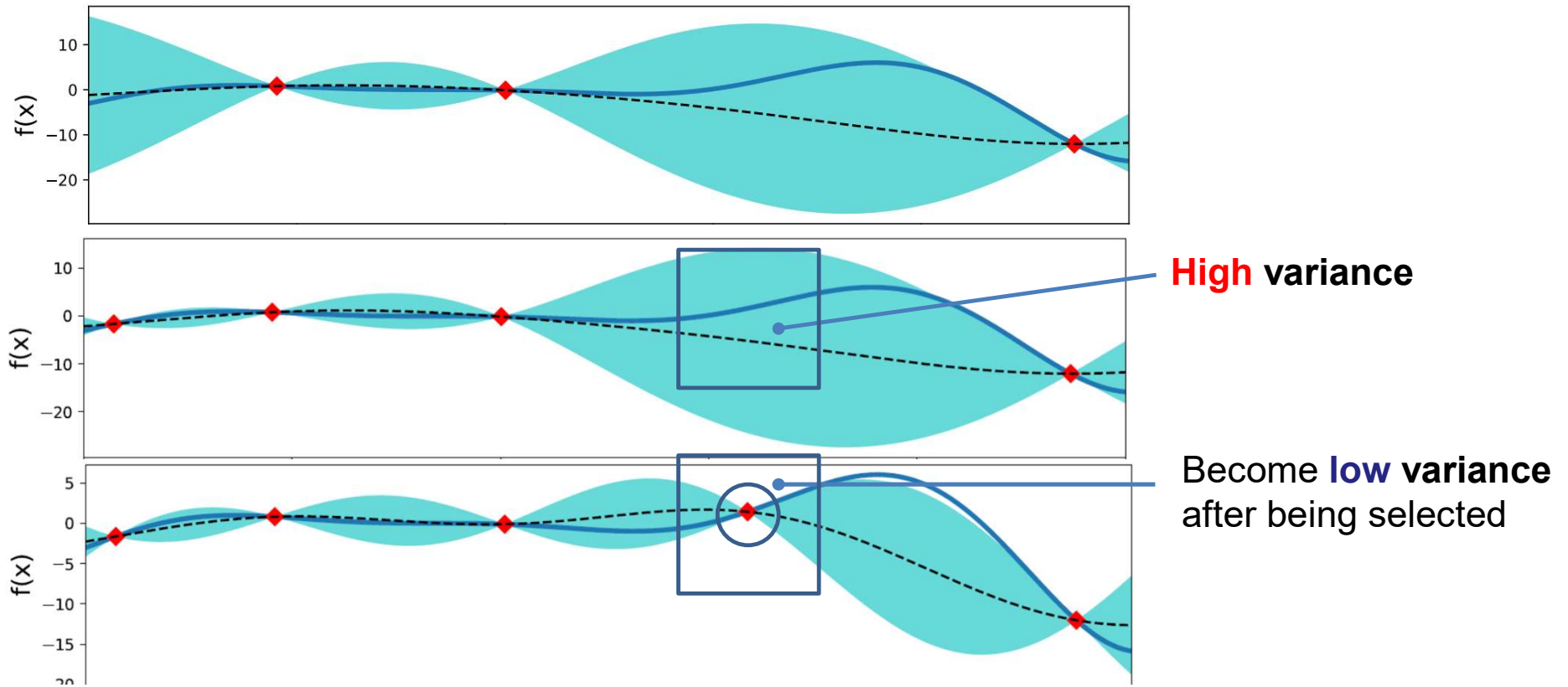
- Intuitively, BO selects a point which has high mean and high variance.

The Effect of Reducing Uncertainty at Selected Point



- The uncertainty at the selected points will be significantly reduced. The choice encodes the exploration.

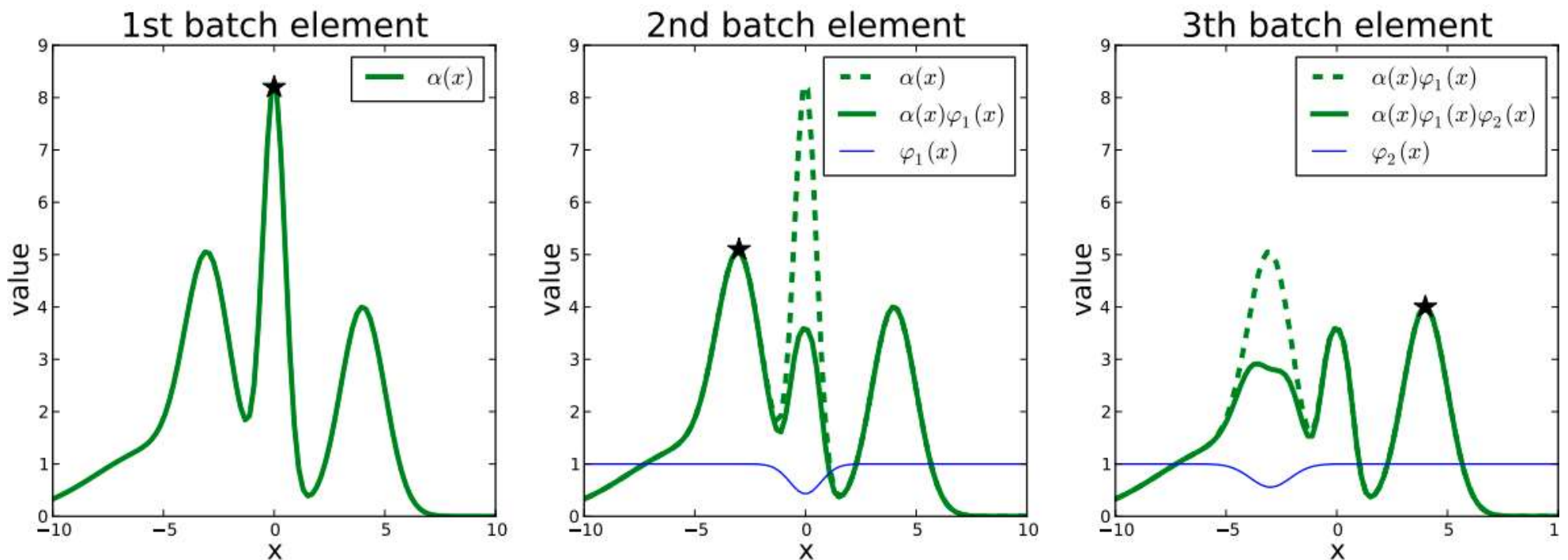
The Effect of Reducing Uncertainty at Selected Point



- The uncertainty at the selected points will be significantly reduced. Giving chance to explore at other locations

Peak Suppression – Local Penalization

- Illustration of peak suppression approach – Local Penalization



Gonzalez, J., et al. Batch bayesian optimization via local penalization. AISTATS 2016

Peak Suppression – Local Penalization

- Since the Lipschitz constant of the original function f is unknown.

$$L_{\nabla} = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|$$

- We estimate Lipschitz Constant of the GP

$$\mu_{\nabla}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \partial \mathbf{K}_{n,*}(\mathbf{x}^*) \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_n^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

where $(\partial \mathbf{K}_{n,*})_{i,l} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{k}_N(\mathbf{x}^*)}{\partial x^{(i)}}$

- Then, we choose $\hat{L}_{GP-LCA} = \max_{\mathcal{X}} \|\mu_{\nabla}(\mathbf{x}^*)\|$

Peak Suppression – Local Penalization

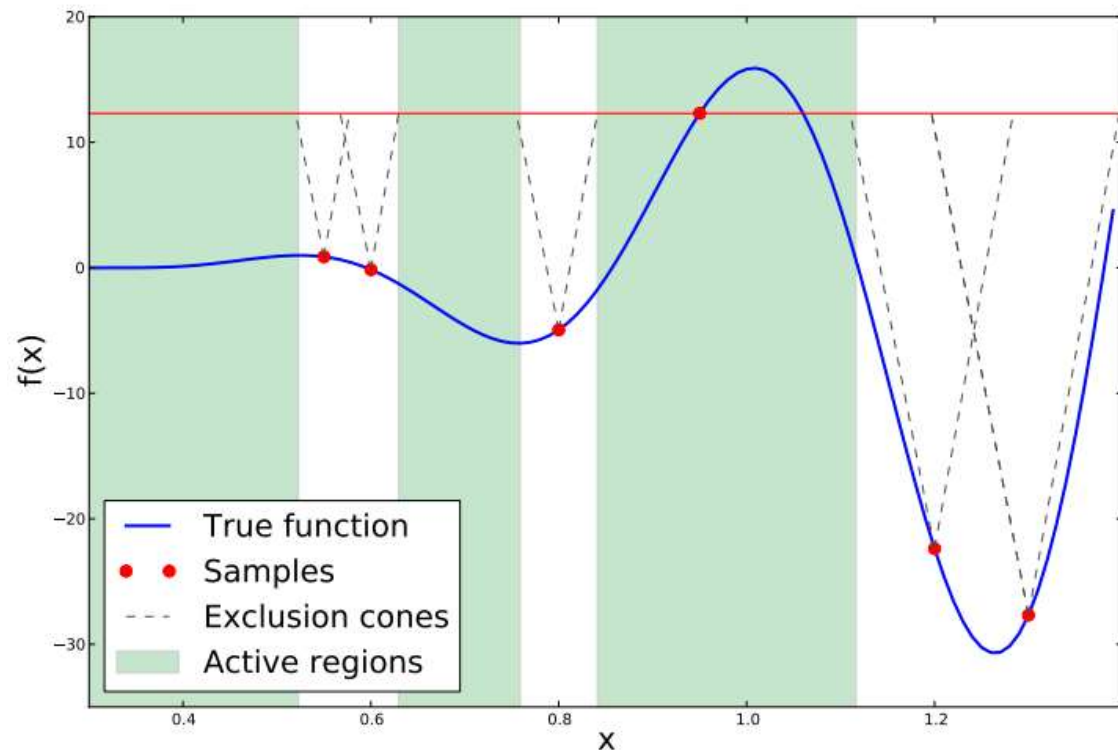
- Define the penalized function $\varphi(x)$
 - indicates how much we want to exclude the nearby area around x .
 - smoothly reduce the value of the acquisition function in a neighborhood of x .

- Define a ball parameterized by a radius r_j

$$B_{r_j}(x_j) = \{x \in X: \|x_j - x\| \leq r_j\}$$

Peak Suppression – Local Penalization

- Define a ball parameterized by a radius r_j where $r_j = \frac{M - f(x_j)}{L}$, M is the current best value $\max_i \{y_i\}$ and L is a Lipschitz constant.
- Intuition: the radius is large for the low value region where $f(x_j)$ is small and vice versa.



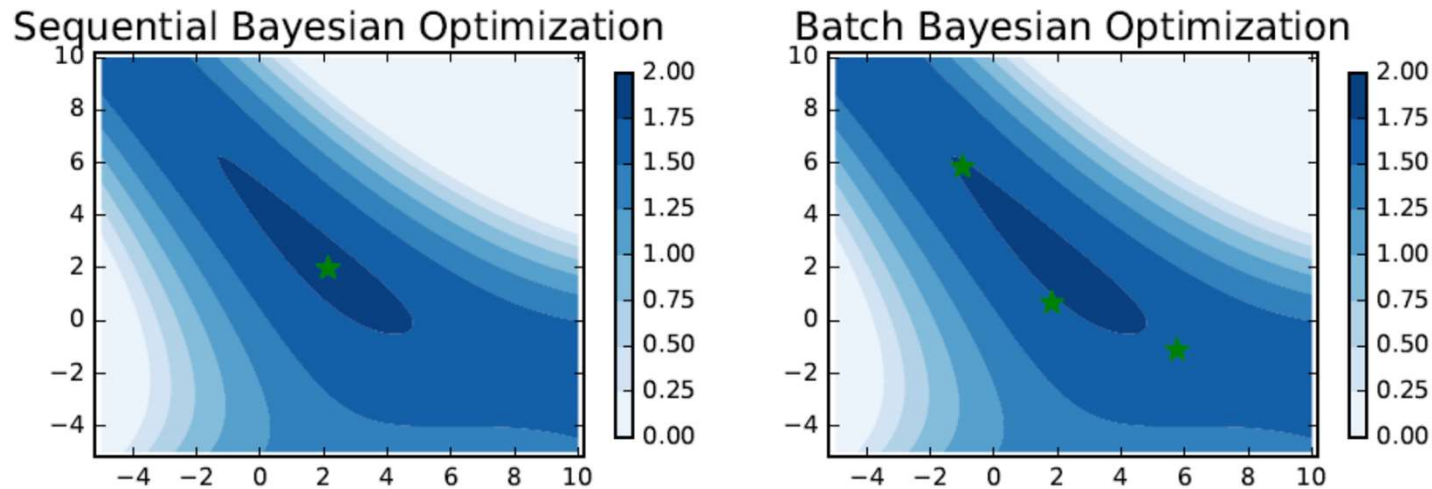
Drawback of Local Penalization

- They use a unique value of the Lipschitz constant L to represent for the whole function.
 - Some problems may not satisfy this condition, e.g. heteroscedastic functions.
- Estimating L in high dimension is still non-trivial.

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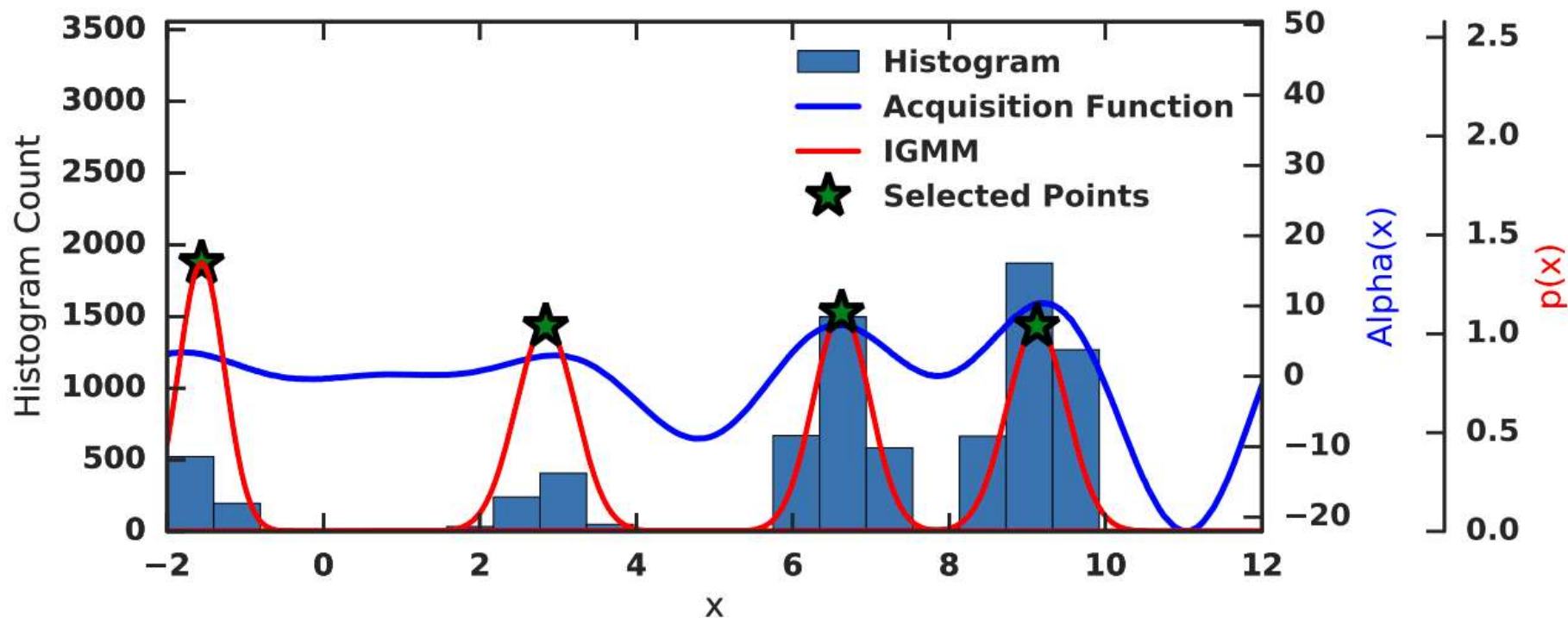
Batch Size in Batch Bayesian Optimization



- Existing approaches for batch BO require a fixed batch size of points:
 - Over-specify: wasting time and resources to evaluate redundant points.
 - Under-specify: missing important points that affect the performance.
- We aim to save the number of evaluations, but preserve the performance, by controlling the batch size in a principled way.

Acquisition Function as Multi-modal Functions

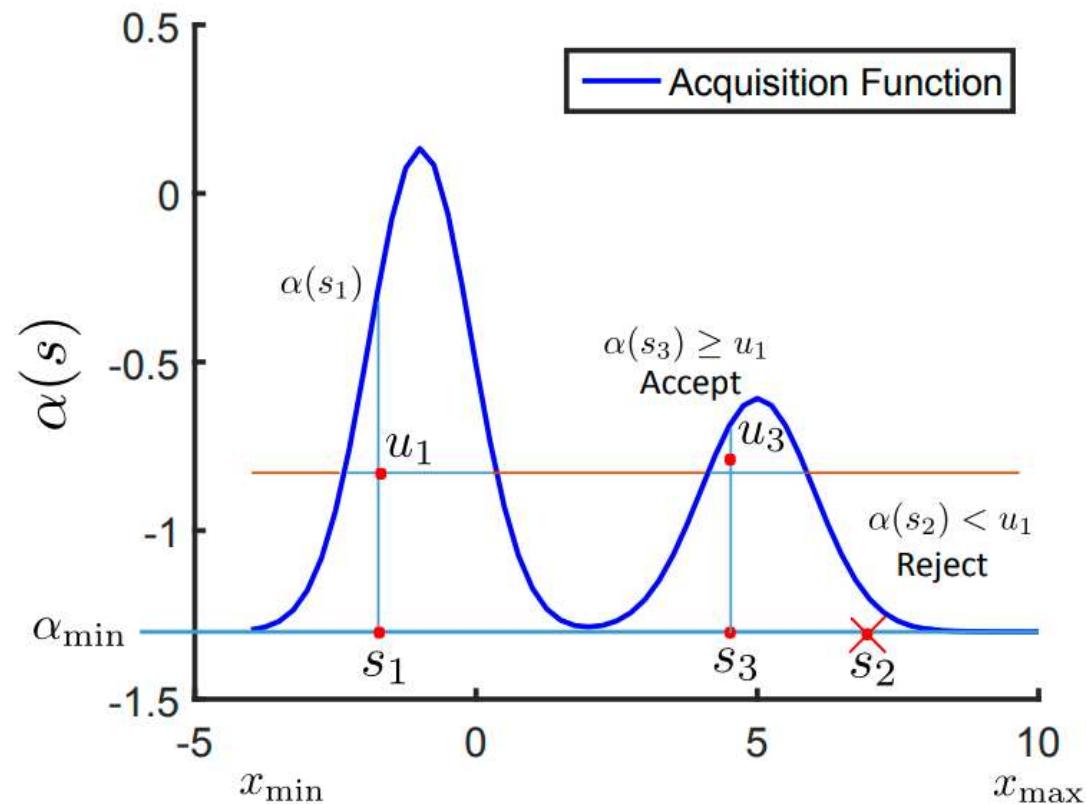
- The acq function is multi-modal with unknown number of peaks.
- Identifying the peaks (star) is equivalent to finding the mean locations in the infinite mixture of Gaussian (IGMM) (Red curve).



Vu Nguyen et al. Budgeted batch Bayesian optimization. In *ICDM 2016*,

Budgeted Batch Bayesian Optimization

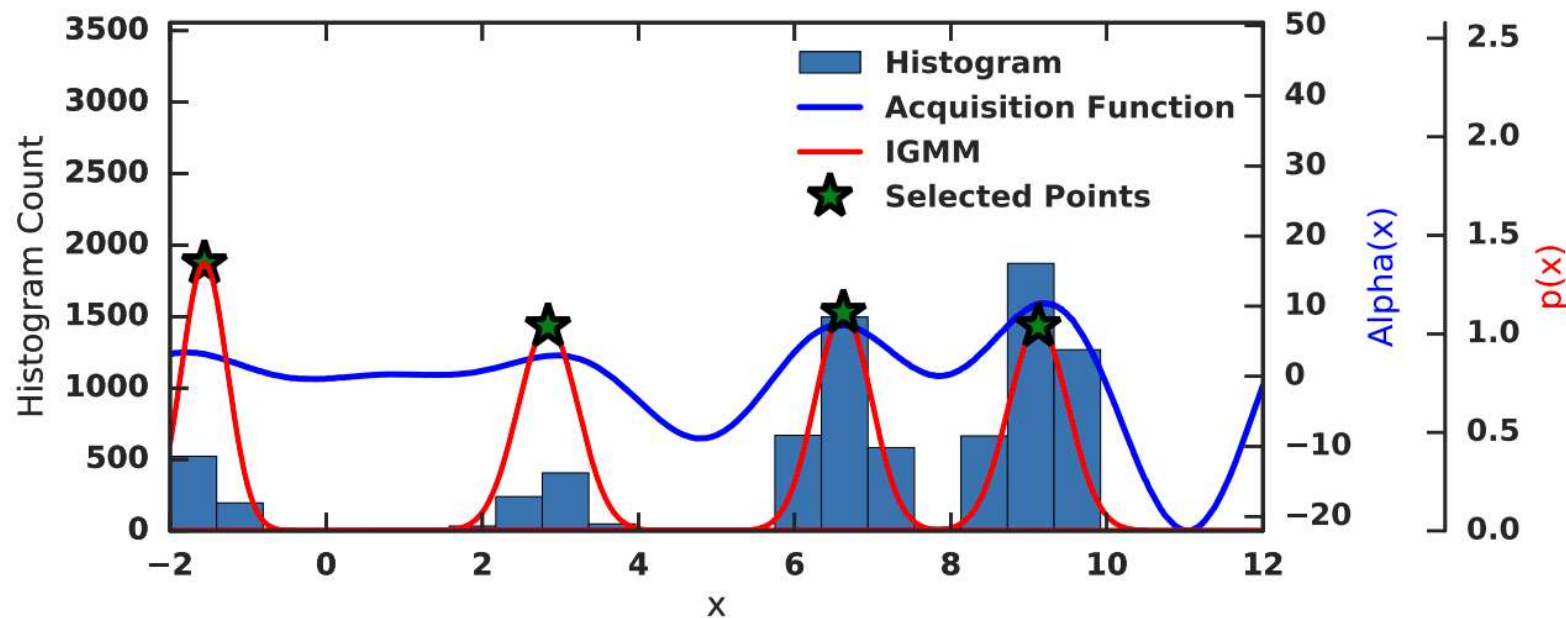
- We propose the Generalized Batch Slice Sampling to draw samples under the acquisition function to learn the IGMM.



Vu Nguyen et al. Budgeted batch Bayesian optimization. In *ICDM 2016*,

Budgeted Batch Bayesian Optimization

1. Using Generalized Batch Slice Sampling to draw samples under the acquisition function (see the Histogram).
 2. Fit the samples to the Infinite Gaussian Mixture Model.
- IGMM can detect the unknown number of peaks.



Vu Nguyen et al. Budgeted batch Bayesian optimization. In *ICDM 2016*,

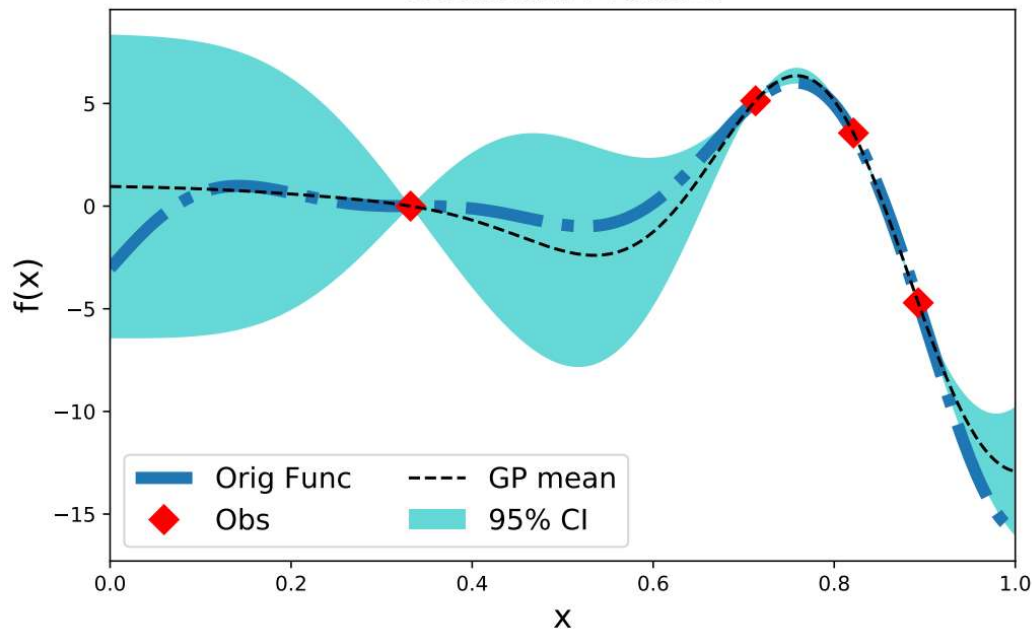
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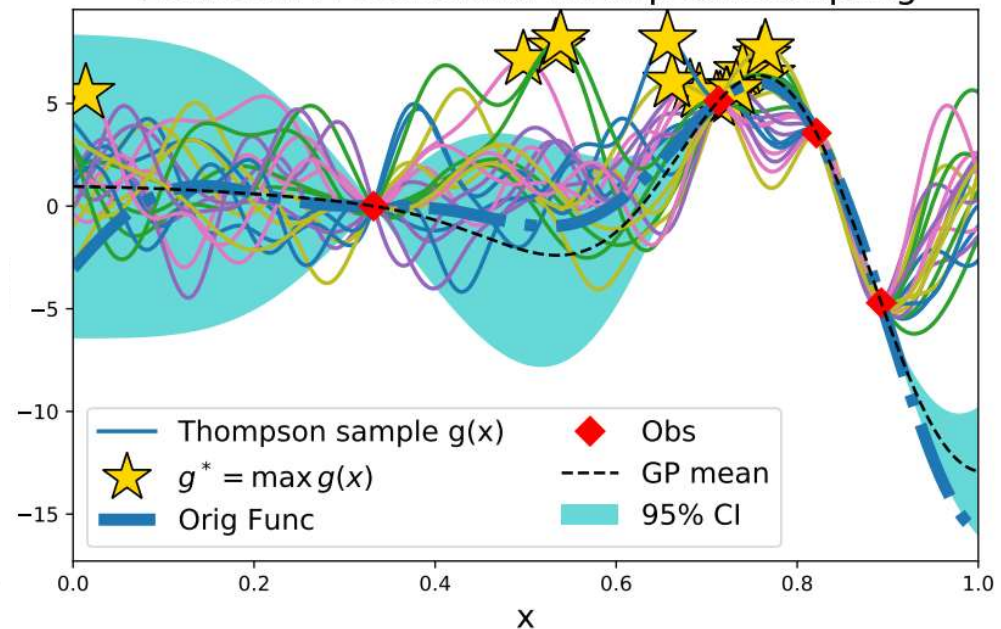
Thompson Sampling to Sample the Optimum Locations

- Thompson Sampling draws samples $g()$ from GP.
- Each **yellow** stars x^* is the maximizer of the sampled function $g()$
- We consider x^* as the perceived optimal samples

Gaussian Process

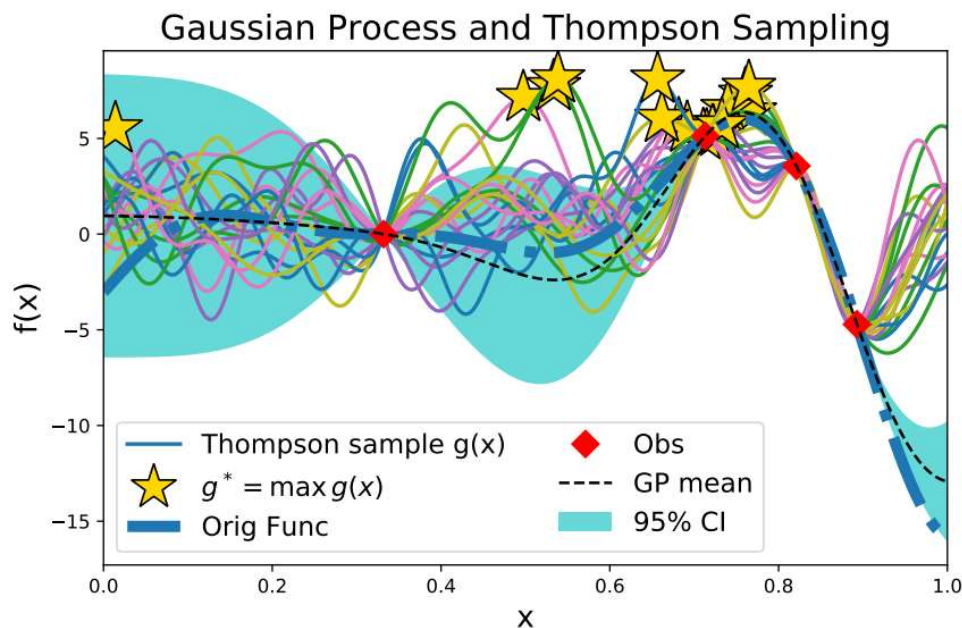


Gaussian Process and Thompson Sampling



Thompson Sampling for Large Scale Batch BO

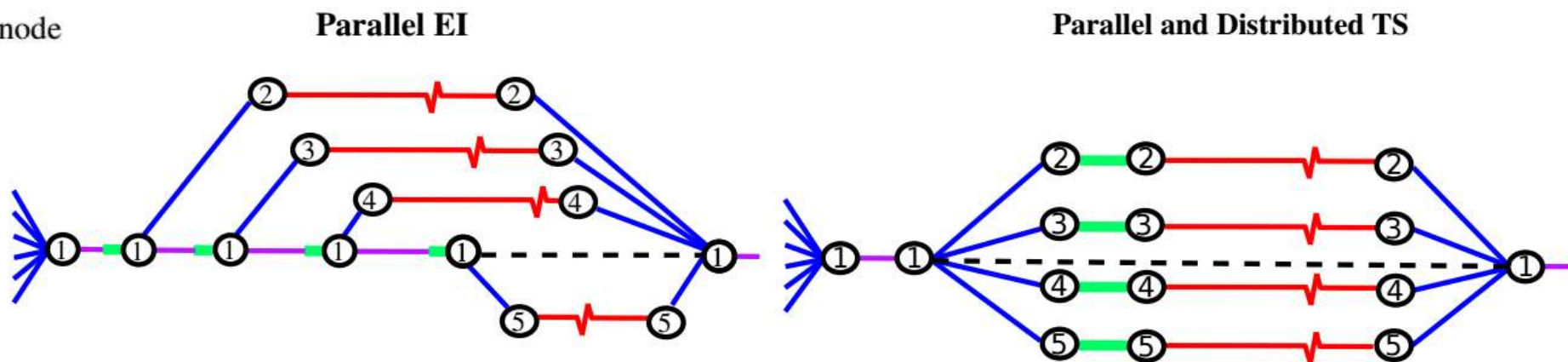
- For large batch size (e.g., $B \geq 100$), the penalization-based batch approaches may not be scalable.
- We can use different Thompson samples from a GP to draw multiple suggestions.



Thompson Sampling for Distributed BO

Thompson Sampling for Parallel and Distributed BO

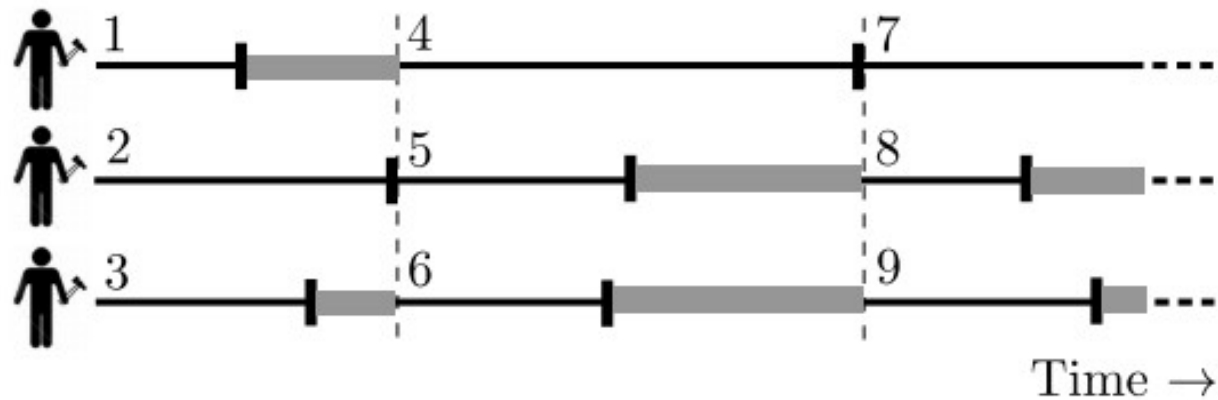
- Node
- updating model
- communicating information between nodes
- optimizing acquisition function
- evaluating objective function
- idle node



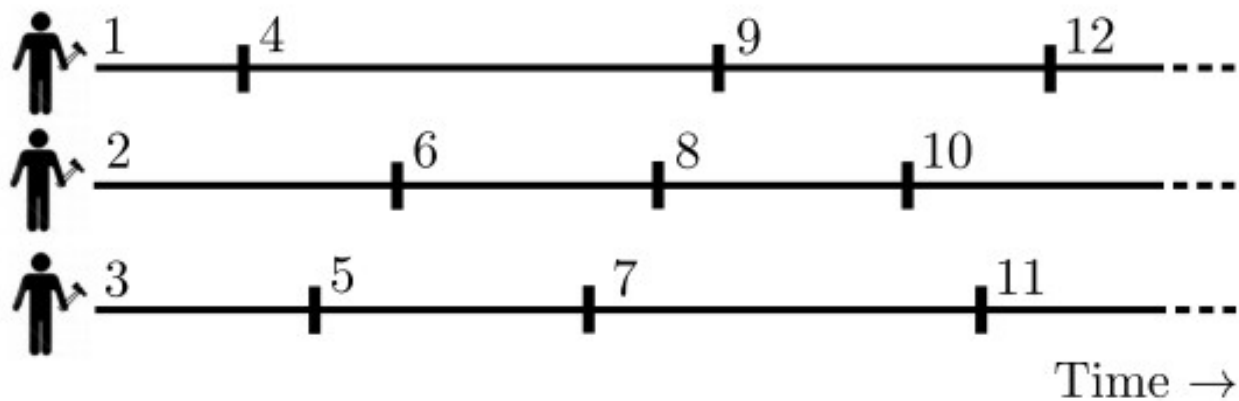
Hernández-Lobato, J. M., et al. "Parallel and Distributed Thompson Sampling for Large-scale Accelerated Exploration of Chemical Space." ICML 2017

TS for Asynchronous Optimisation

- Synchronous optimization



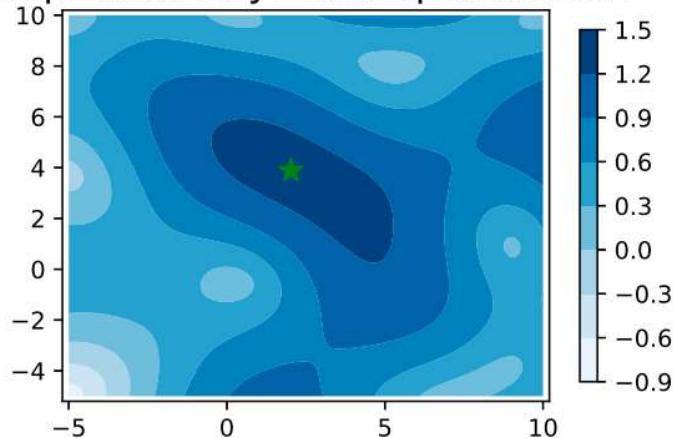
- Asynchronous optimization



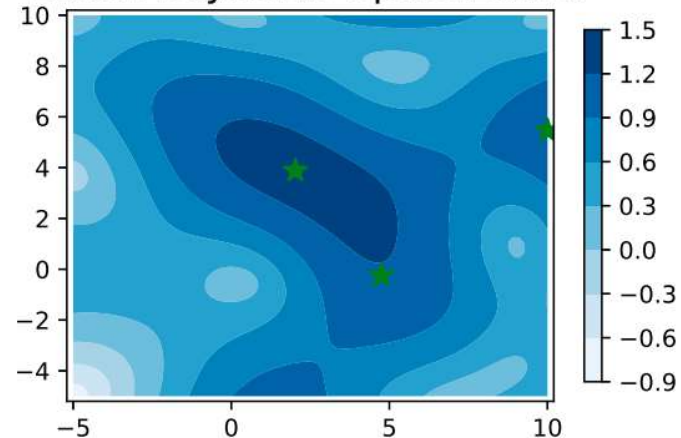
Short Summary

- Standard Bayes opt suggests one experiment to test at each iteration.
- Batch Bayes opt is desired to suggest multiple experiments and thus boost the optimization more efficient.

Sequential Bayesian Optimization

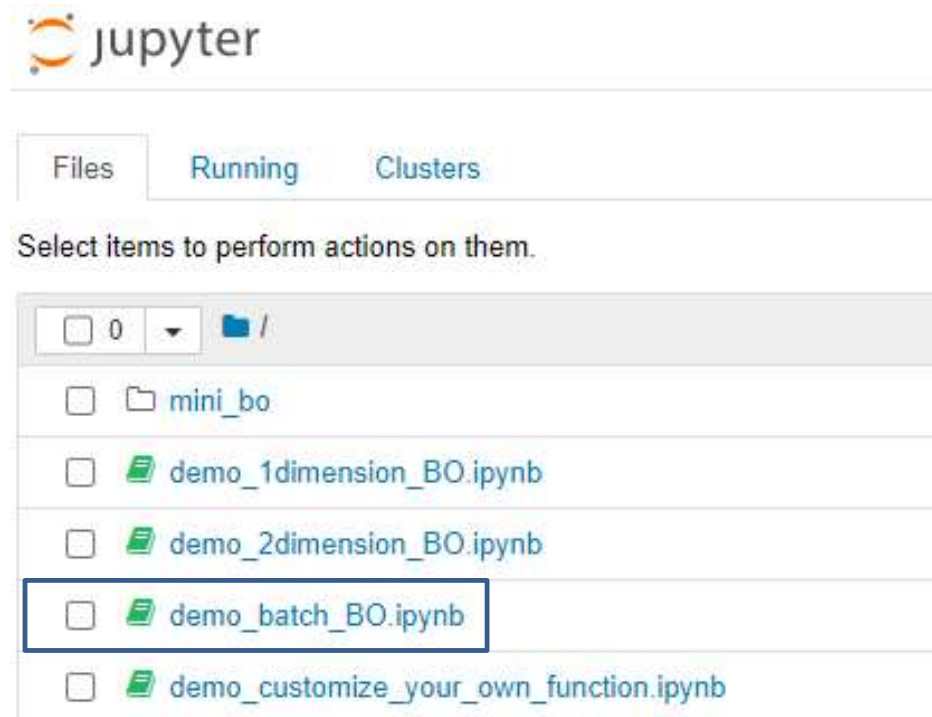


Batch Bayesian Optimization



MiniBayesOpt for Batch Bayesian Optimization

- Code: vu-nguyen.org/BOTutorial ACML20
- Github repository: MiniBayesOpt
- `git+https://github.com/ntienvu/minibo`



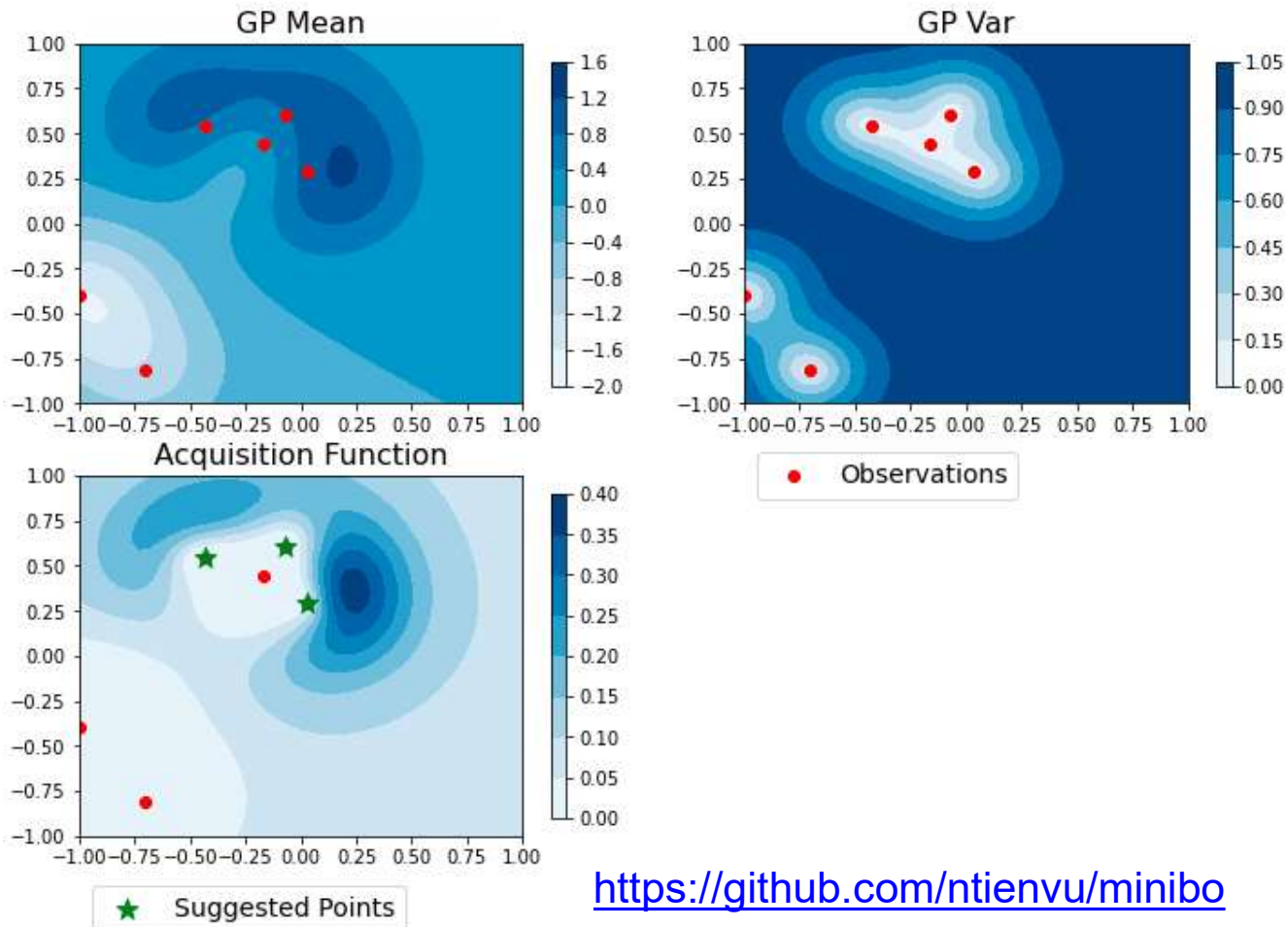
<https://github.com/ntienvu/minibo>

Using MiniBO for batch Bayes Opt

Select a batch of points $B=3$ (green stars)

```
In [5]: xt=bo.select_next_point(B=3)
print("the next point is \n",xt)
visualization.plot_bo_2d(bo)
```

Specifying $B \geq 1$



<https://github.com/ntienvu/minibo>

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- Parameter Tuning as Black-Box Function
- Part I: Bayesian Optimization
- Part II: Recent Advances in Bayesian Optimization
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Challenges for High-dimensional Bayes Opt

- Standard BO often works on less than 10 dimensions.
- High dimension causes problem for optimization – the search space grows exponentially with the dimension.

High-dimensional Bayesian Optimization

- Optimize high-dimensional acquisition functions?

Difficult

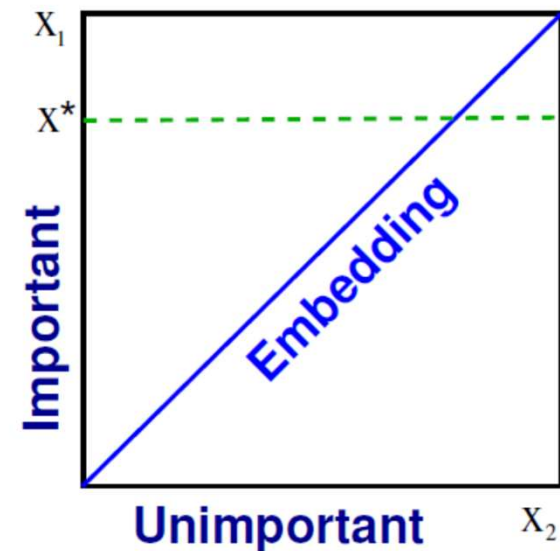
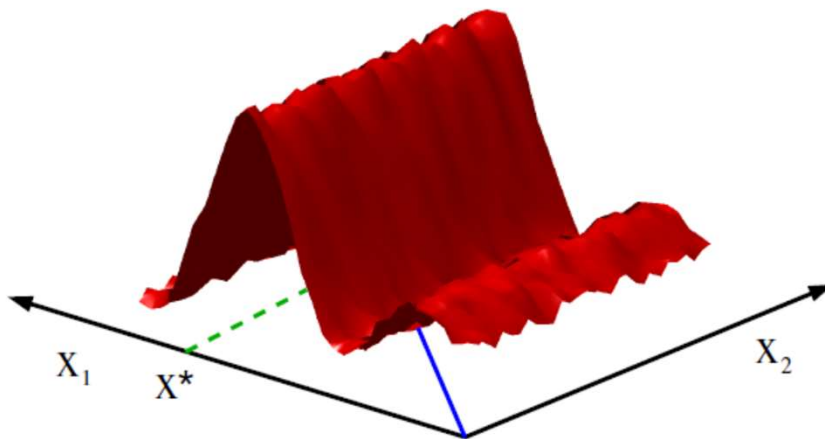
- High-dimensional ($d > 10$) acquisition functions feature only a few peaks and a large terrain of almost flat surface [Rana et al ICML 2017]
- Global optimizers (DIRECT) fail to return an optimum within limited time and resource;
- Gradient-dependent Local optimizers get stuck due to non-significant gradients in the flat surface of acquisition functions;

High dimensional Bayes Opt

- Random Embedding: Wang et al IJCAI 2013
- Additive GP: Kandasamy et al ICML 2015
- Drop-out: Li et al. IJCAI 2017
- TurBO: Eriksson et al NeurIPS 2019

Low-dimensional Embedding

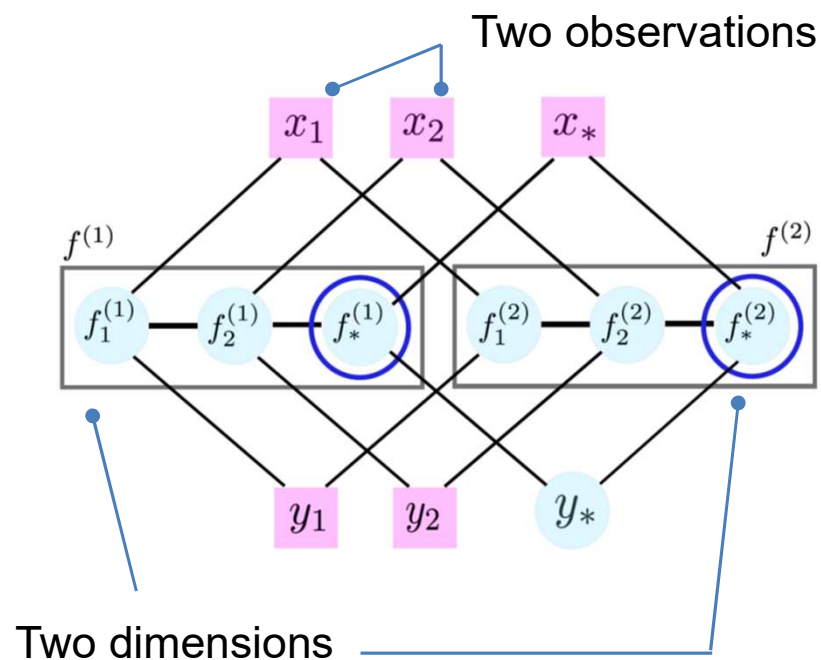
- Project high-dimensional space to low-dimensional space
 - This 2D function only has $d=1$ effective dimension.
 - It is more efficient to search for the optimum along the 1-dimensional random embedding than in the original 2-dimensional space.



Wang Z et al. Bayesian optimization in high dimensions via random embeddings. IJCAI, 2013.

Additive Gaussian Process

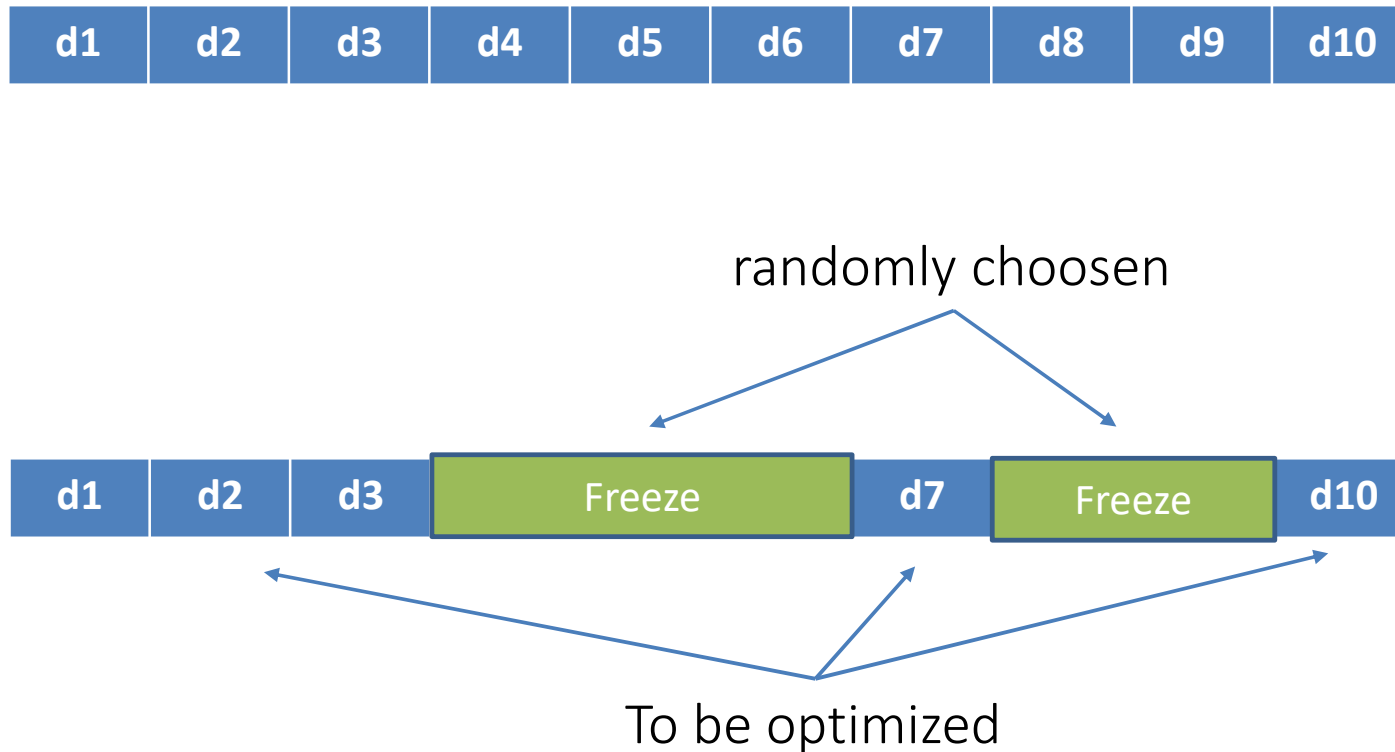
- Decompose high dimensions into disjointed groups
- Infer the individual GP posterior for each disjointed group.
- Define the additive acquisition function.



Kandasamy, K et al. High dimensional Bayesian optimisation and bandits via additive models. ICML, 2015.

High-dimensional Bayes Opt via Drop-out

- Randomly select a smaller number of dimension for optimization.



Li C et al. High Dimensional BO Using Dropout. IJCAI, 2017

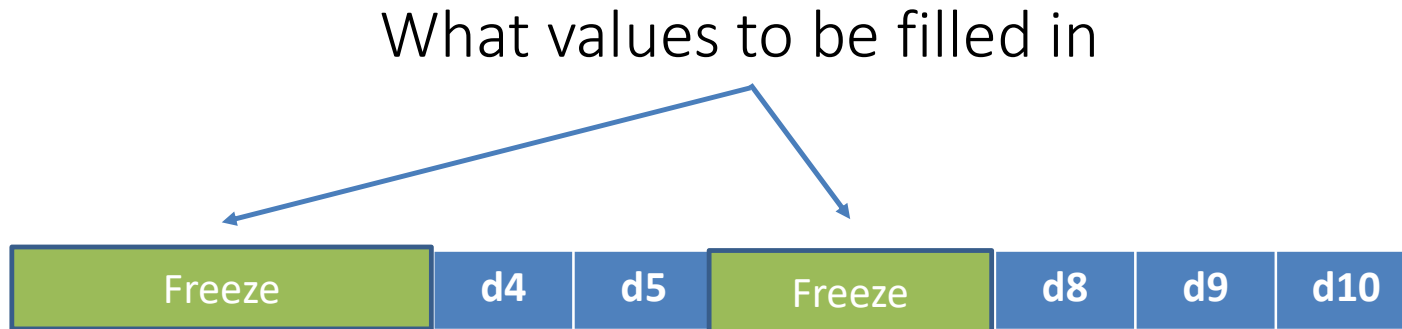
High-dimensional Bayes Opt via Drop-out

- Randomly select a smaller number of dimension for optimization.



- The number of effective dimensions to be optimized is small.

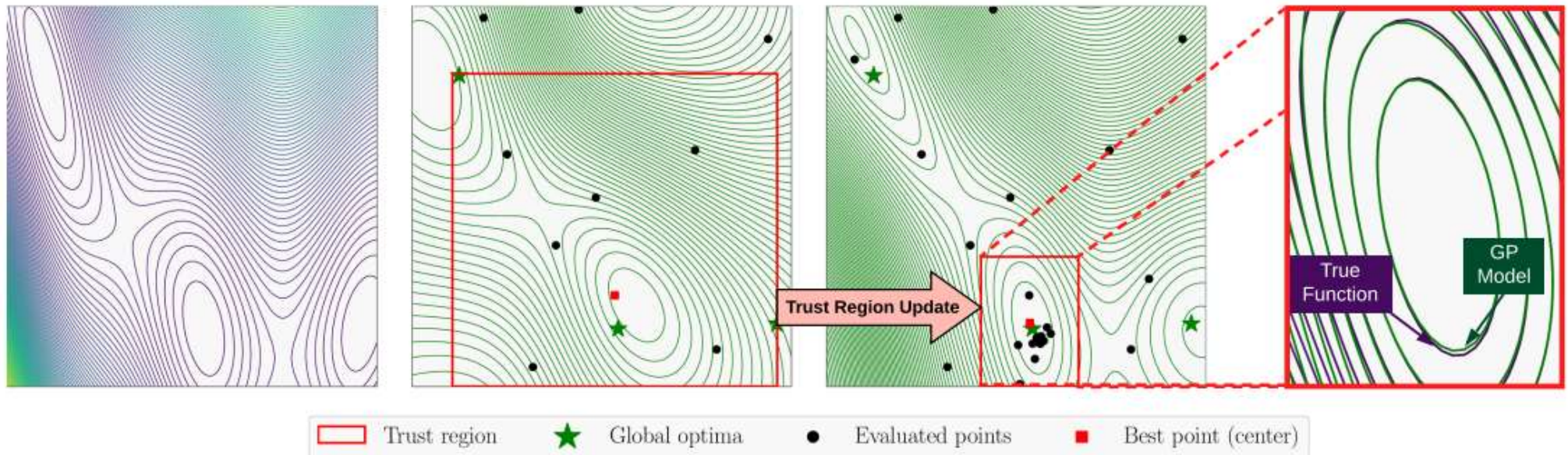
Fill-in strategies



- Dropout-Random: use a **random** value in the domain
- Dropout-Copy: copy the value of the **best-performing variables**.
- Dropout-Mix: Random with a probability p and Copy with a probability $1-p$

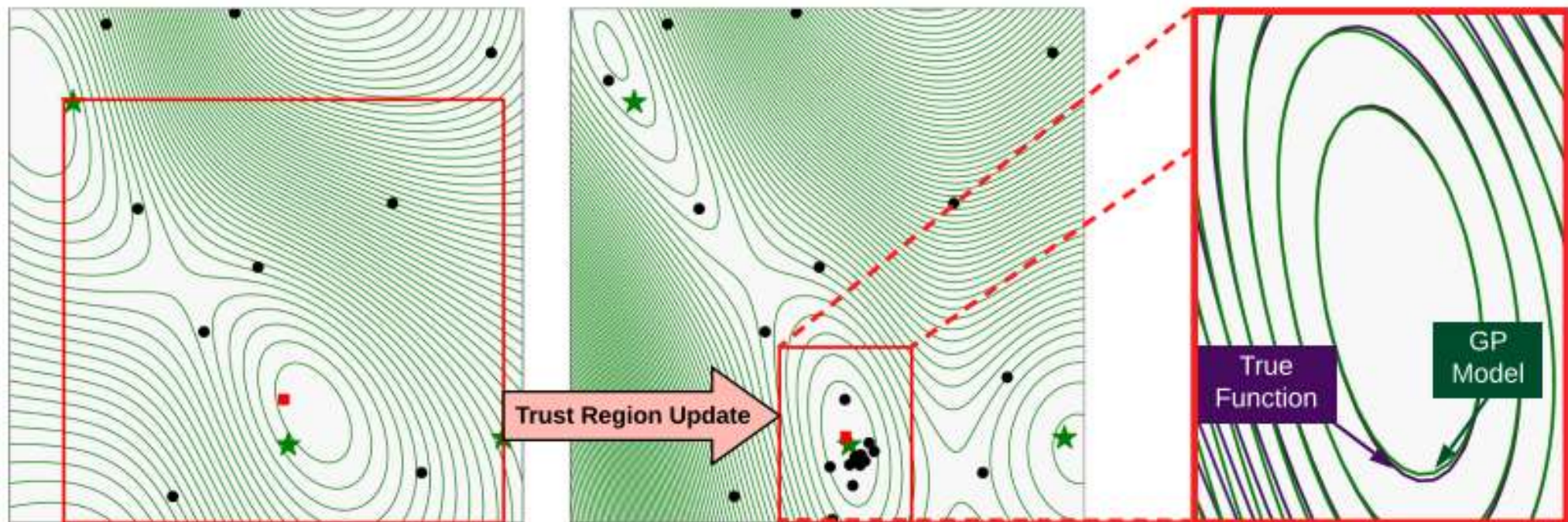
Trust Region Bayesian Optimization (TurBO)

- High-level idea:
 - Build the trust regions
 - Perform local optimization in each trust region
 - Repeat



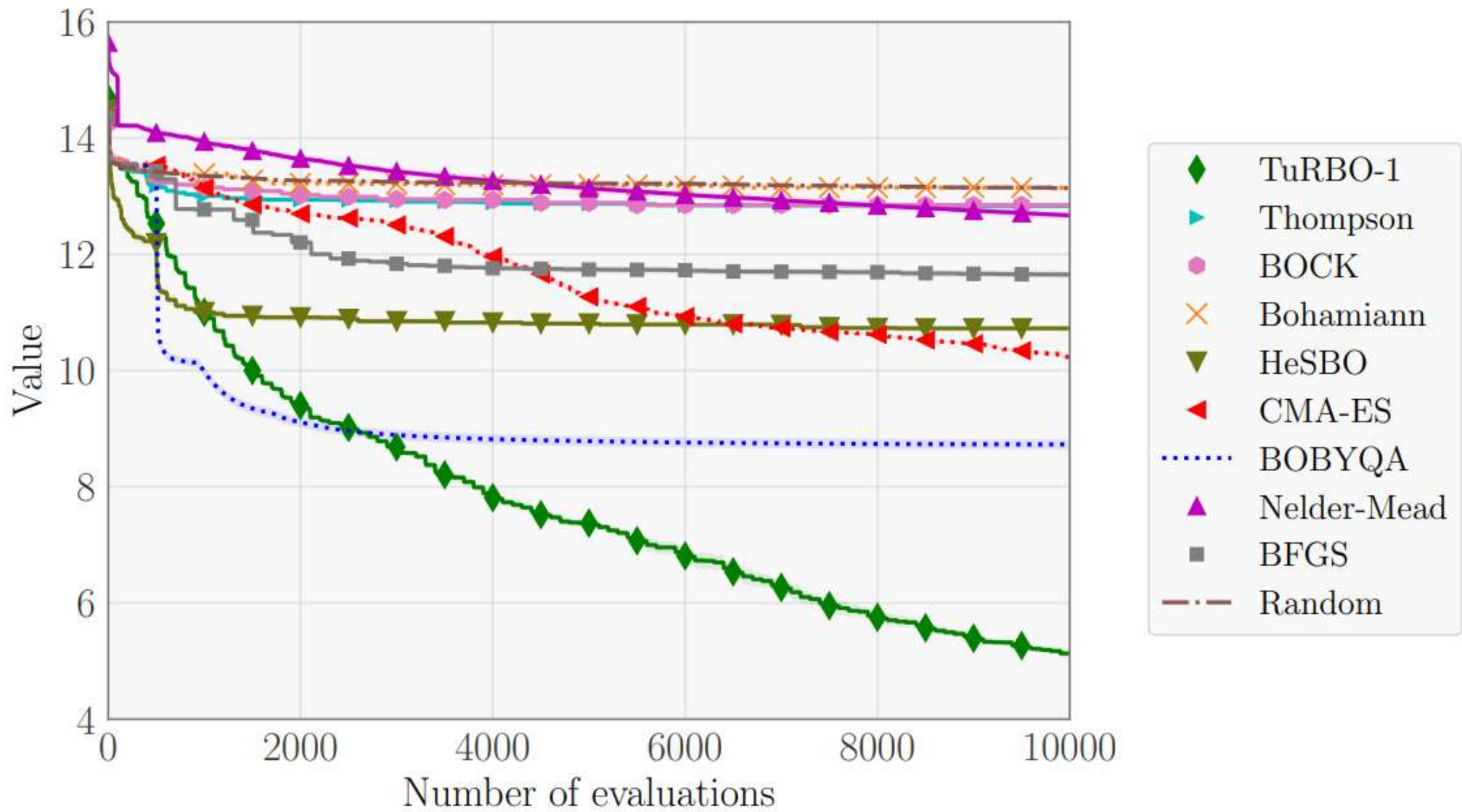
Eriksson, David, et al. "Scalable global optimization via local bayesian optimization." *NeurIPS*. 2019.

TuRBO



- Eriksson, David, et al. "Scalable global optimization via local bayesian optimization." *NeurIPS*. 2019.

TurBO in optimizing 200 dimension



Short Summary

- Bayesian optimization can work effectively up to 10 dimensions.
- In real-world scenarios, we may tackle the problems with large number of dimensions.
- Bayesian optimization research in high dimension is essential.

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Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input

- Tuning hyperparameters for deep neural network

continuous variables **categorical variables**

• $y = f(\underbrace{x_1, x_2}_{\text{continuous variables}}, \underbrace{x_3, x_4}_{\text{categorical variables}})$

learning rate $\in [1e^{-6}, 1e^{-1}]$ weight decay $\in [1e^{-6}, 1e^{-1}]$ optimiser type $\in \{SGD, Adam, \dots\}$ activation type $\in \{tanh, sigmoid, \dots\}$

- Multiple categorical - each categorical has multiple options



Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input

- Tuning hyperparameters for support vector machine

continuous variables **categorical variables**

• $y = f(\underbrace{x_1, x_2}_{\text{continuous variables}}, \underbrace{x_3, x_4}_{\text{categorical variables}})$

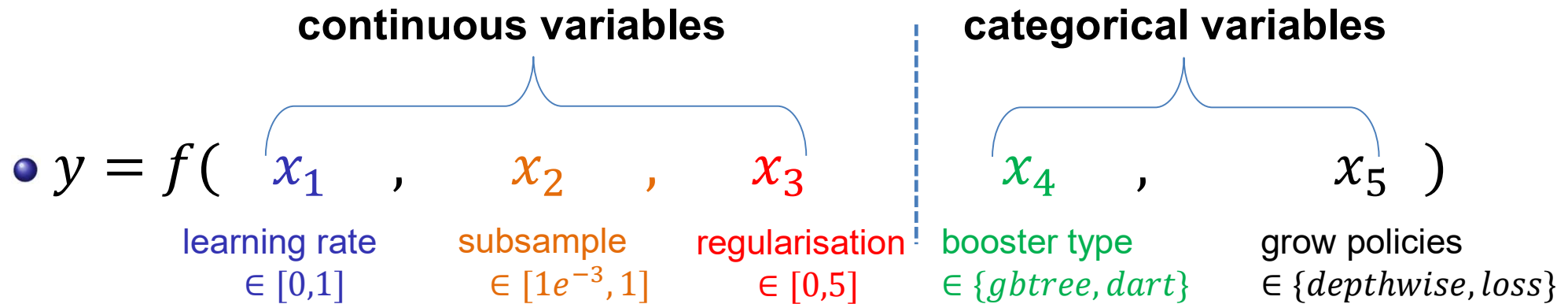
Penalty parameter $\in [0,10]$	Kernel parameter $\in [1e^{-6}, 1e^{-1}]$	kernel type $\in \{RBF, Poly, \dots\}$	Kernel coefficient $\in \{scale, auto, \dots\}$
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- Multiple categorical - each categorical has multiple options



Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input

- Tuning hyperparameters for XGBoost



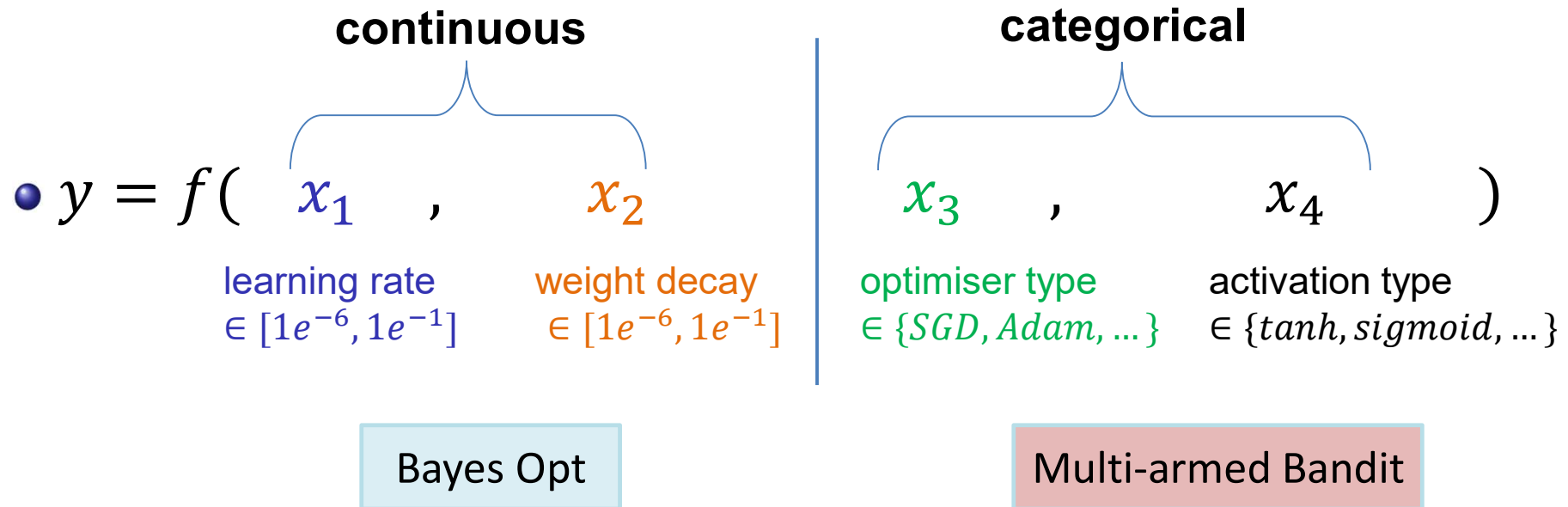
- Multiple categorical - each categorical has multiple options



Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input

- One-hot encoding:
 - Red: [1,0,0] Green: [0,1,0] Blue: [0,0,1]
- Drawbacks:
 - Make the search space large.
if $C = 4$ categories, each has $V = 5$ choices $\Rightarrow 20$ extra dimensions.
 - Non-continuous and non-differentiable space
- Challenging in optimizing mixed-type: categorical - continuous

Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input



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 - Bayesian Optimization in Unknown Search Space
 - Mixed Categorical-Continuous Bayes Opt
 - Problem setting
 - Multi-armed bandits
 - Categorical-specific continuous optimization
 - Categorical-(non-)specific continuous optimization
- Research Directions in Bayesian Optimization

Multi-Armed Bandit Setting

- A fixed set of arms, each of which returns a reward.
- Observe the reward before the next pull.
- The goal is to pull and receive as high reward as possible.



A



B



C

Bandit "arms"

General Algorithm for Multi-Armed Bandit

- Input is a fixed set of action $[C]$
- Initialize the model θ
- For $t=1\dots T$
 - Compute the probability p_c of selecting arm c from θ
 - Select an arm $c \in [C]$ using the probability p_c
 - Pull an arm c
 - Observe the reward $g_t(c)$ at the arm c
 - Update the model θ using the reward

*There involves
randomness here*



General Algorithm for Multi-Armed Bandit

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 - Update the model θ using the reward

*These steps are
the key of MAB*



UCB1 algorithm

- Input is a fixed set of action $[C]$
- Initialize the model θ
- For $t=1\dots T$

Exploration-Exploitation

utility score

uncertainty

- Compute the probability $p_c = \overline{g}_c + \sqrt{\frac{2 \log T}{n_c}}$

- Select an arm $c \in [C]$ by maximizing p_c
- Pull an arm c
- Observe the reward $g_t(c)$ at the arm c
- Update the model θ

EXP3 Algorithm

- EXP3 algorithm doesnot assume the underlying distribution over the process generating the reward.

Algorithm 1 Exp3 Algorithm for Categorical Selection.

Input: $\gamma \in [0, 1]$, C #categorical choice, T #max iteration

1: Init $\omega_c = 1, \forall c = 1 \dots C$

2: **for** $t = 1$ to T **do**

3: Compute the probability $p_t^c = (1 - \gamma) \frac{\omega_c}{\sum_{c=1}^C \omega_c} + \frac{\gamma}{C}, \forall c = 1 \dots C$ *This step is different*

4: Choose a categorical variable $h_t \in [1, \dots, C]$ at random according to distribution p_t .

5: Observe the reward $g_t(c) = f(h_t = c)$

6: Normalize $\hat{g}_t(c) = \frac{g_t(c)}{p_t^c}$

7: Update the weight $\omega_c = \omega_c \times \exp(\gamma \hat{g}_t(c)/C)$

This step is different

8: **end for**

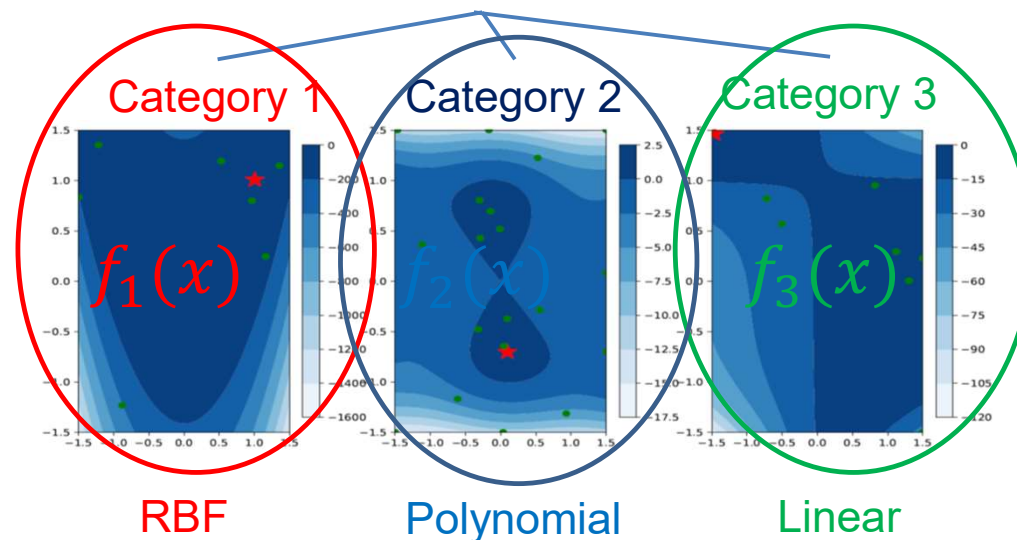
Output: \mathcal{D}_T

Auer P et al, "The non-stochastic multi-armed bandit problem" 2002

Two settings in mixed variables optimization

1. Continuous variable is **specific** to categorical variable

Kernel parameter is specific to the kernel type.

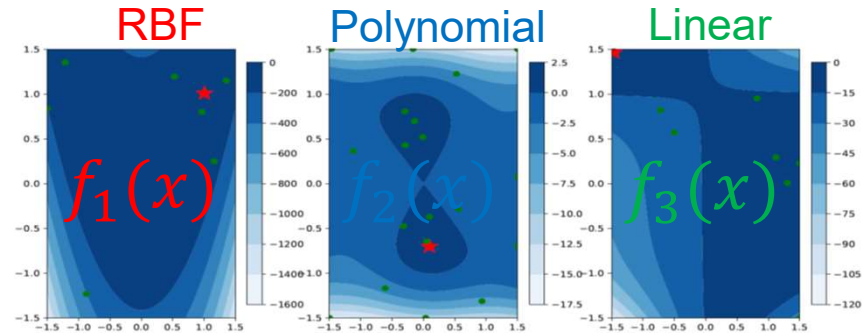


- Each categorical variable forms an **independent function**

$$f_c^* = \max_{x \in X} f_c(x)$$

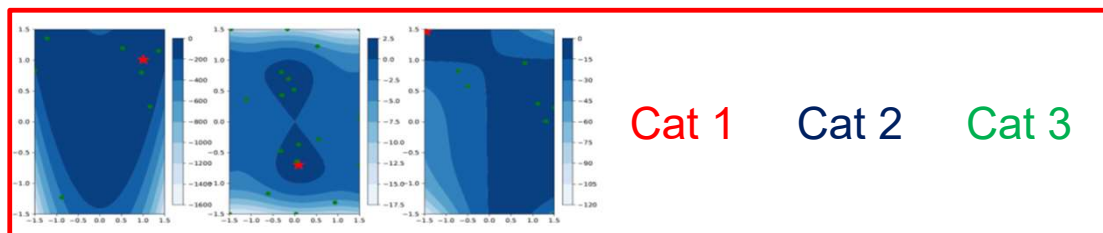
Two settings in mixed variables optimization

1. Continuous variable is **specific** to categorical variable

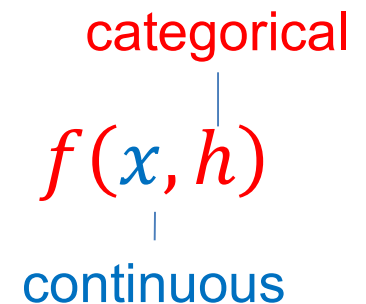


2. Continuous is **not specific** to categorical

Learning rate in DL is not necessarily specific to the activation type

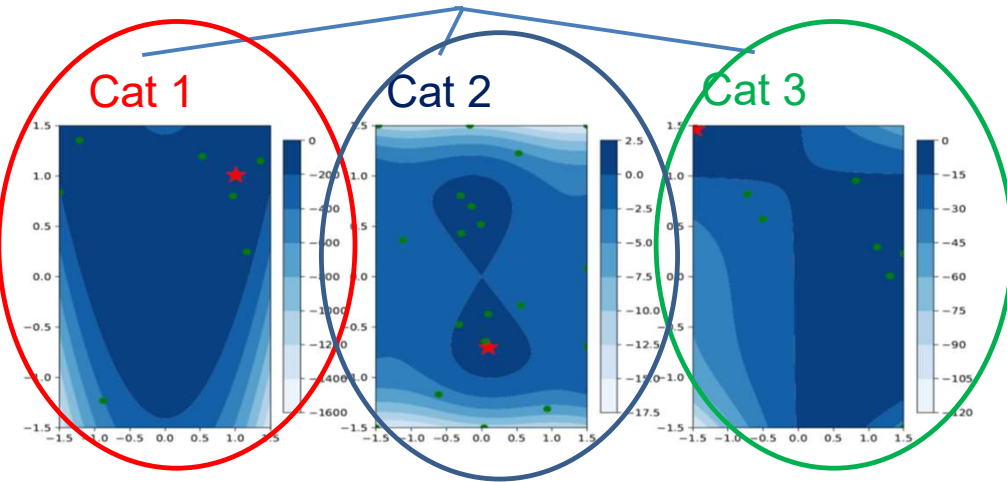


continuous



Two settings in mixed variables optimization

1. Continuous variable is **specific** to categorical variable

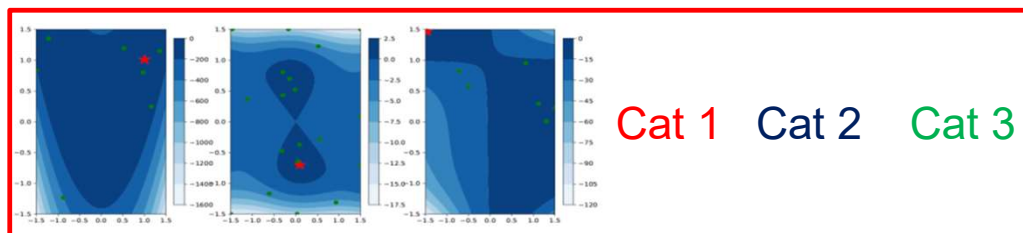


$$f_1(x) \quad f_2(x) \quad f_3(x)$$

- Three independent functions

Local

2. Continuous is **sharing across** categorical variables



continuous

- Single function $f(x, h)$

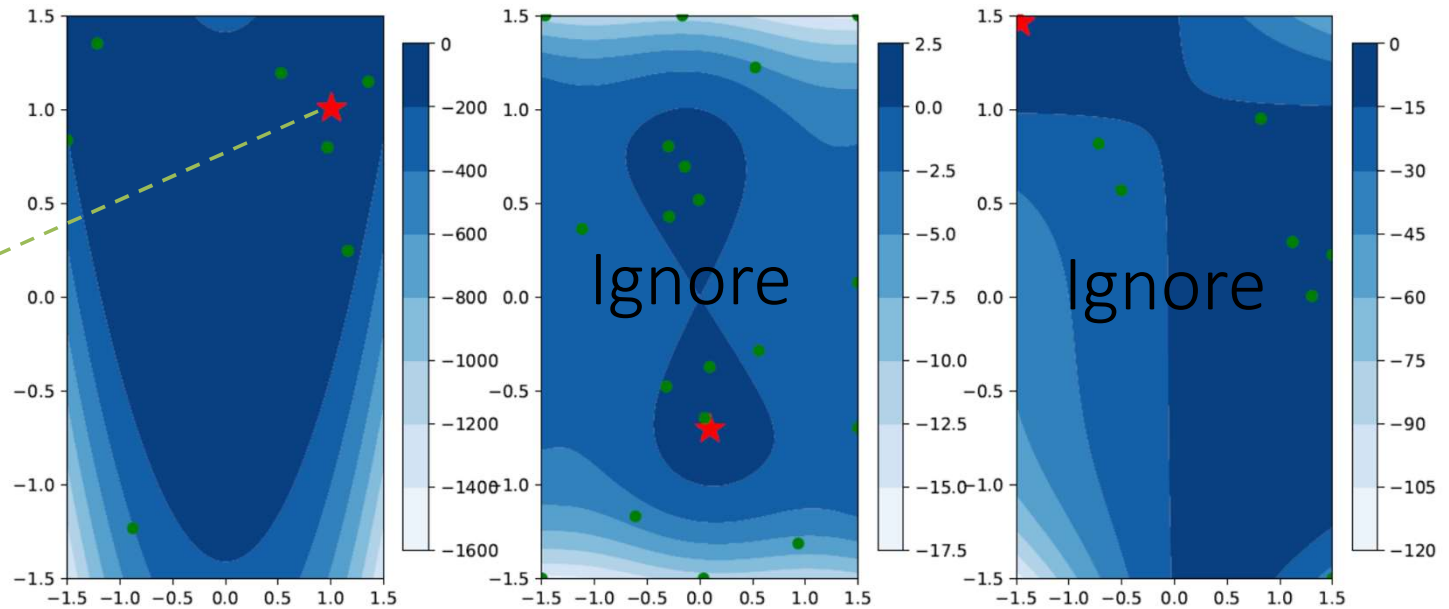
Global

1. Categorical-specific

Explore-exploit by MAB

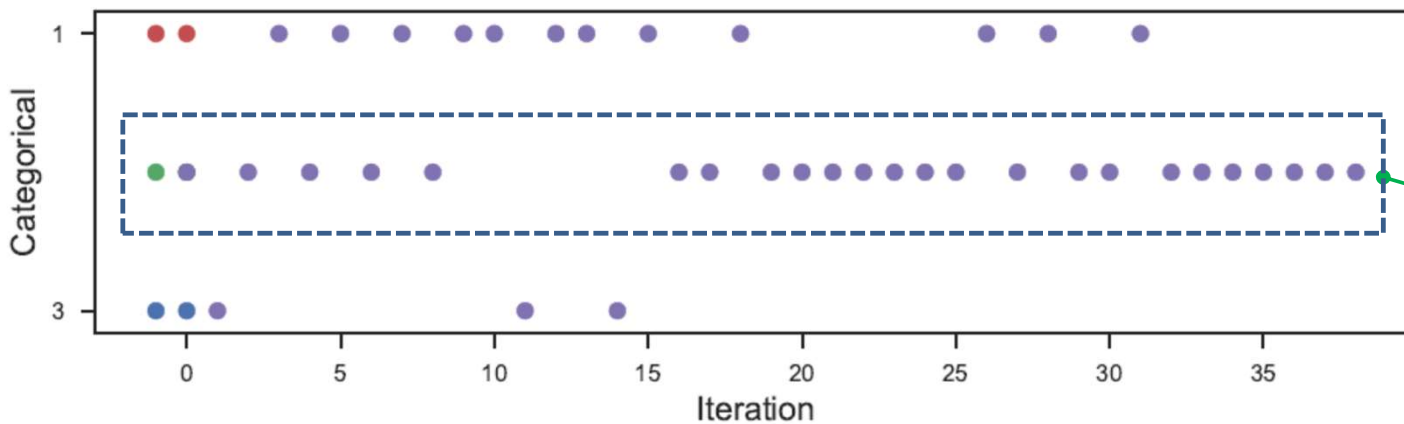
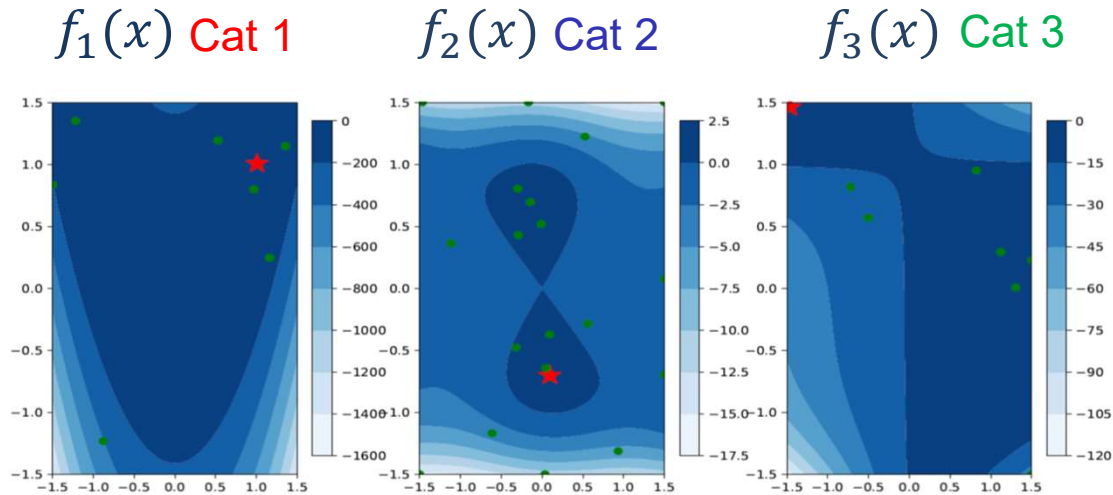
$f_1(x)$ Cat 1

Explore-exploit
by Bayes opt



- Sequentially pick a category \mathbf{c} using multi-armed bandit (MAB)
- Then optimize the continuous variables given \mathbf{c} using Bayes opt

Visualization of the Algorithm



Concentrate on **cat 2** with **higher (expected) value**.

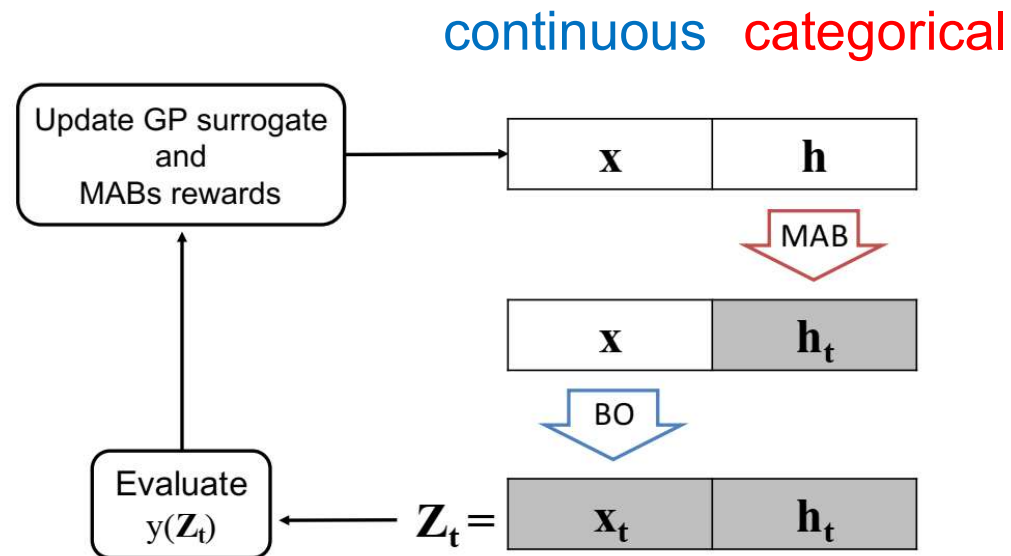
Agenda

- Hyperparameter Tuning and Experimental Design as Black-Boxes
- Part I: Bayesian Optimization
- Part II: Recent Advances in Bayesian Optimization
 - Batch Bayesian Optimization
 - Bayesian Optimization in Unknown Search Space
 - Mixed Categorical-Continuous Bayes Opt
 - Problem setting
 - Multi-armed bandits
 - Categorical-specific continuous optimization
 - Categorical-(non-)specific continuous optimization
- Research Directions in Bayesian Optimization

2. Continuous is sharing across categorical variables

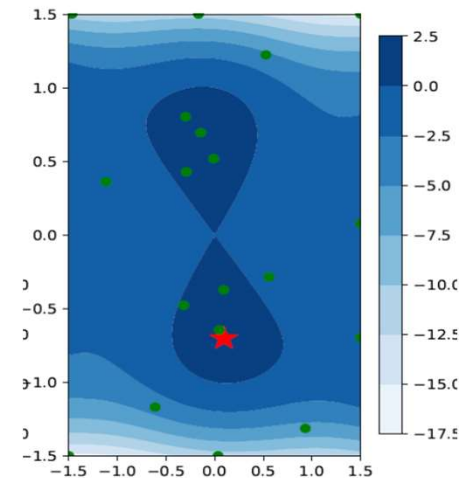
- MAB picks multiple categories: $\mathbf{h}=\{\text{SGD optimizer, tanh activation}\}$
- Then optimize the continuous \mathbf{x} given \mathbf{h} in a single function

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h})$$



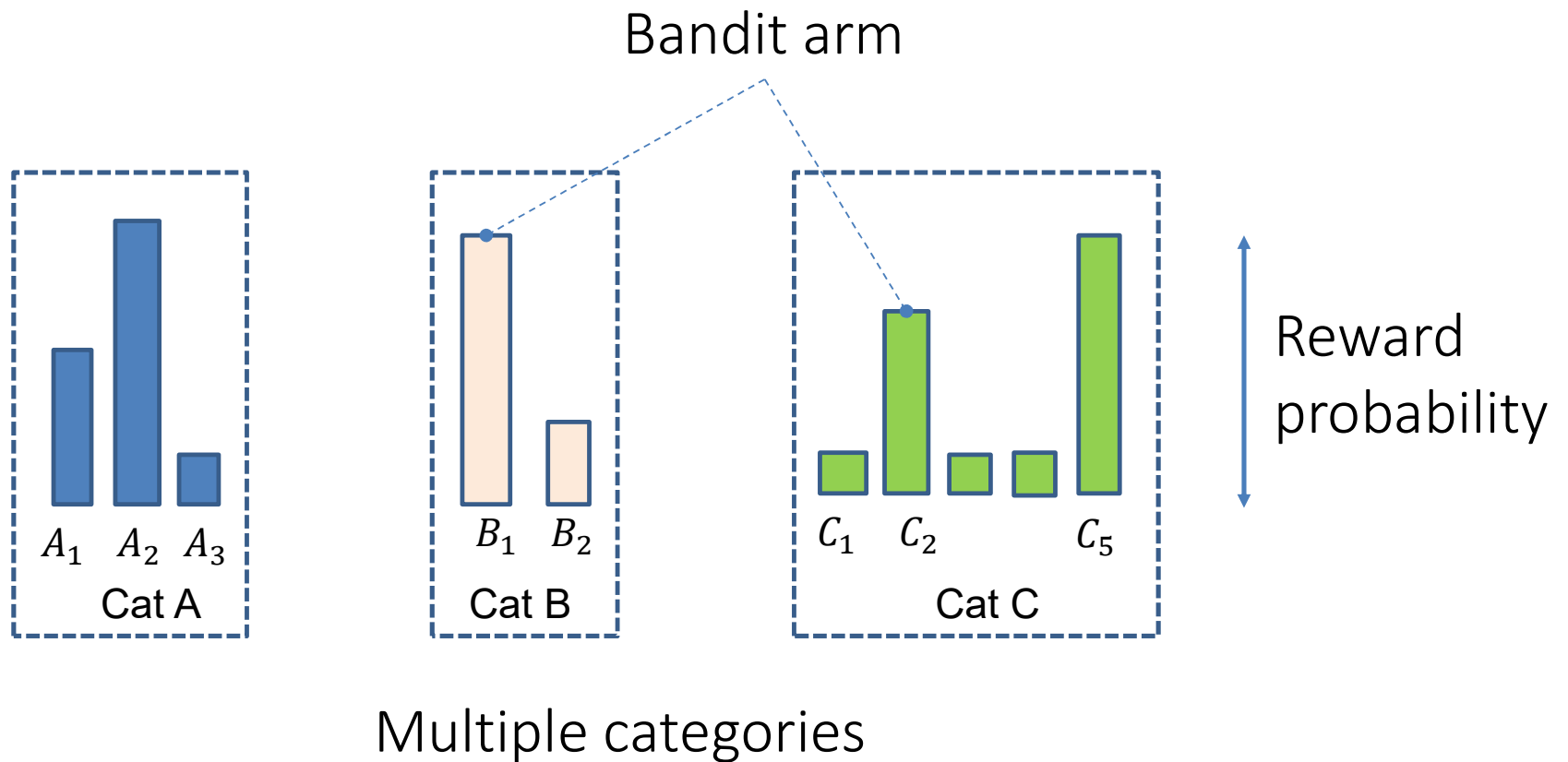
Given h , we optimize the continuous x

- Given the categorical h , optimize continuous variable x
- Consider the joint kernel for learning the surrogate model
 - Additive $k(x, x') + k(h, h')$
 - Multiplicative $k(x, x') \times k(h, h')$
 - $k(z, z') = (1 - \lambda)k(x, x') \times k(h, h') + \lambda[k(x, x') + k(h, h')]$
 - λ can be estimated from the data.
- Optimizing in the continuous space



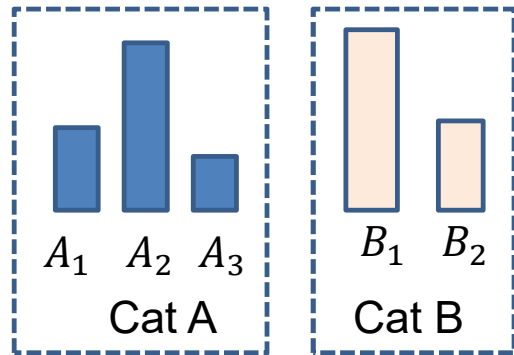
Given the feedback $f([x, h])$, we optimize h

- Select h by EXP3 algorithm
- There is no assumption on the distribution of the reward

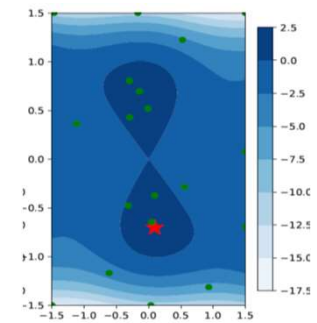


Given the feedback $f([x, h])$, we optimize h

Optimize categorical h



Optimize continuous x given h

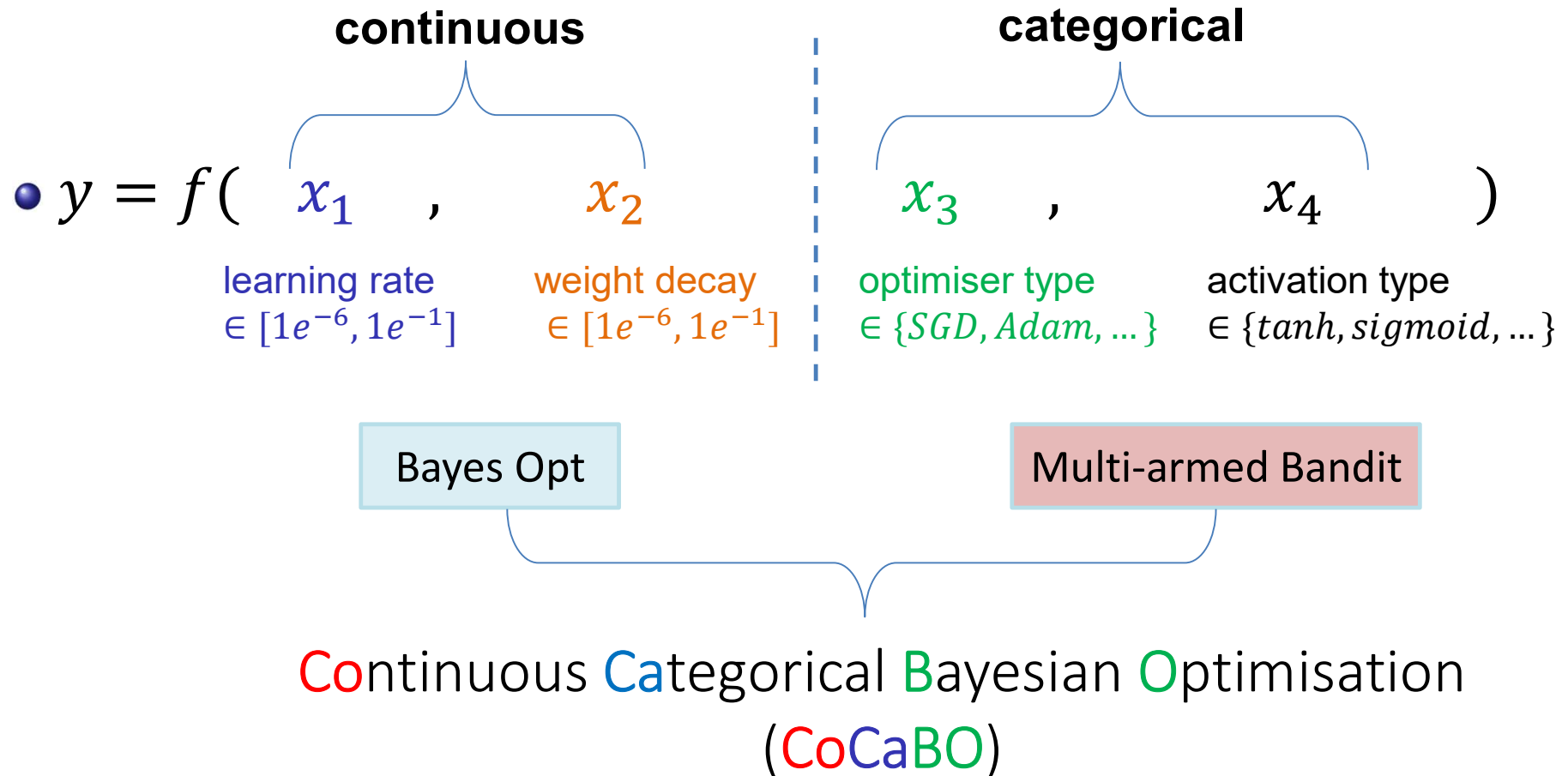


Observe the feedback $f([x, h])$

- Bandit feedback
- GP feedback



Bayes Opt Mixed Categorical – Continuous Input



Bayes opt over multiple continuous and categorical inputs. Ru Binxin et al 2020.

Alternative solutions

- Instead of using MAB, we can utilize decision tree for the categorical variable:
Jenatton, R., Archambeau, C., González, J., & Seeger, M. Bayesian optimization with tree-structured dependencies. ICML, 2017.
- TPE:
Bergstra, James S., Rémi Bardenet, Yoshua Bengio, and Balázs Kégl. "Algorithms for hyperparameter optimization." NeurIPS. 2011.
- SMAC:
Hutter, Frank, Holger H. Hoos, and Kevin Leyton-Brown. "Sequential model-based optimization for general algorithm configuration." In *International conference on learning and intelligent optimization*, pp. 507-523. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2011.

Short Summary

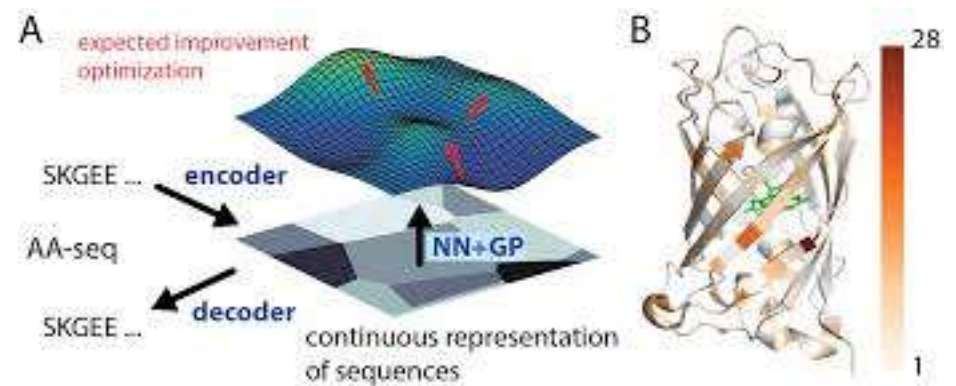
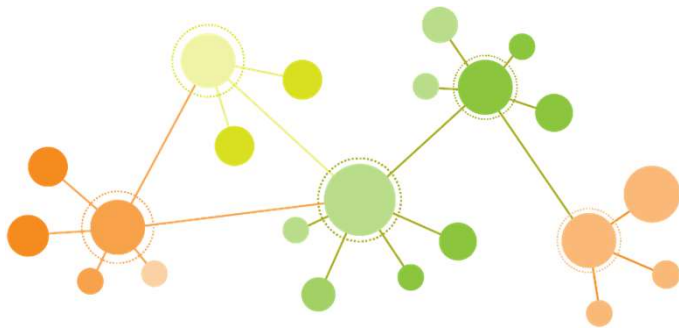
- Bayesian optimization can work effectively up to 10 dimensions.
- In real-world scenarios, we may tackle the problems with large number of dimensions.
- Bayesian optimization research in high dimension is essential.

Agenda

- Hyperparameter Tuning and Experimental Design as Black-Boxes
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 - High dimensional Bayes Opt
 - Mixed Categorical-Continuous Bayes Opt
- Research Directions in Bayesian Optimization

Opportunities for Future Research in BO

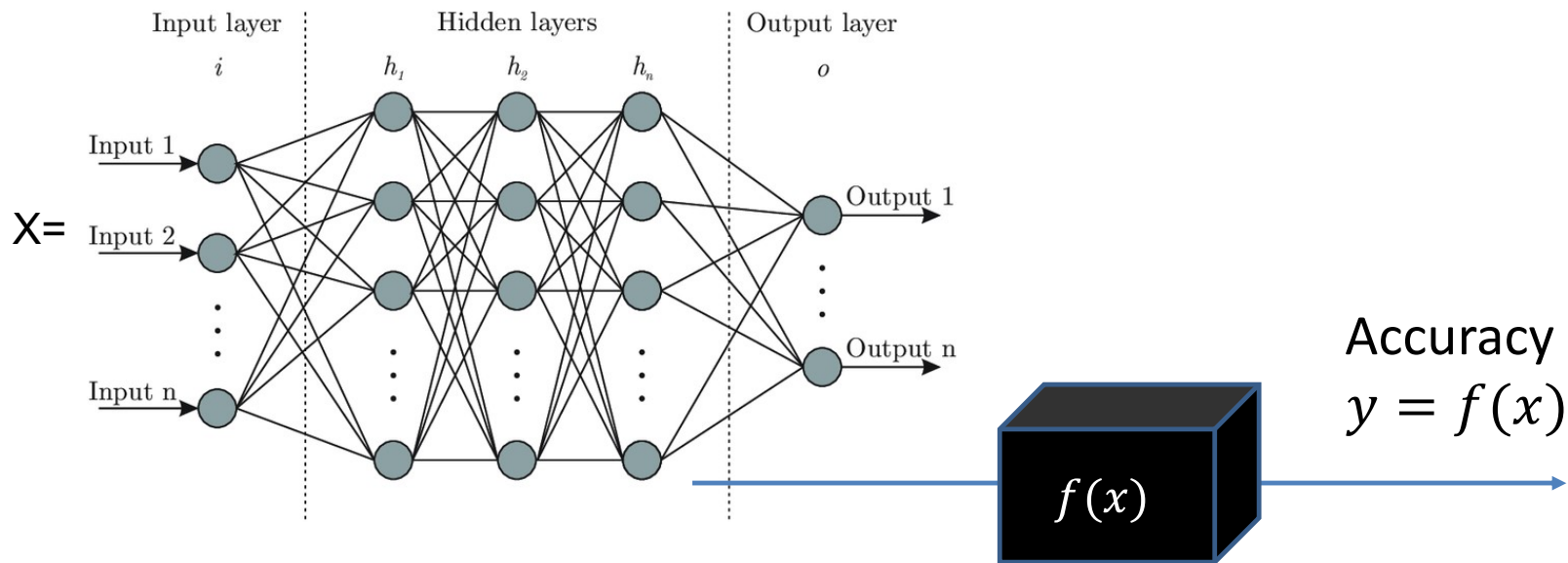
- Optimization in structured domains.
 - For example, how can we efficiently optimize over graphs, discrete sequences, trees, computer programs, etc.?



Eissman, Stephan, et al. "Bayesian optimization and attribute adjustment." *UAI*. 2018.

Opportunities for Future Research in BO

- Neural Architecture Search

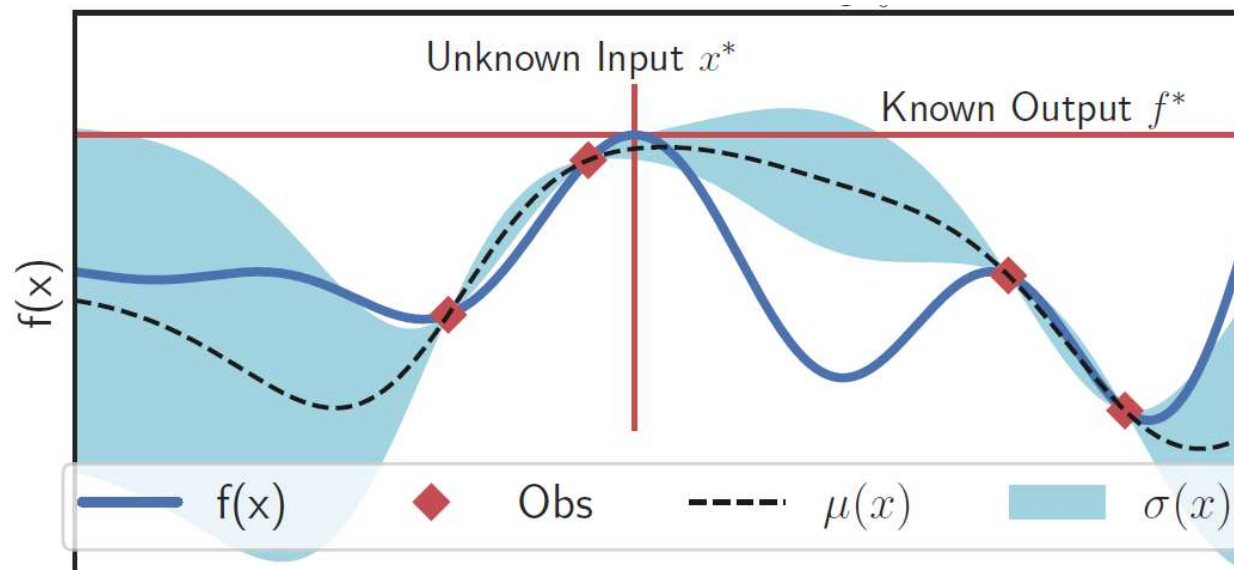


Finding the best architecture for the highest accuracy.

Kandasamy, K., at el NeurIPS 2018.

Opportunities for Future Research in BO

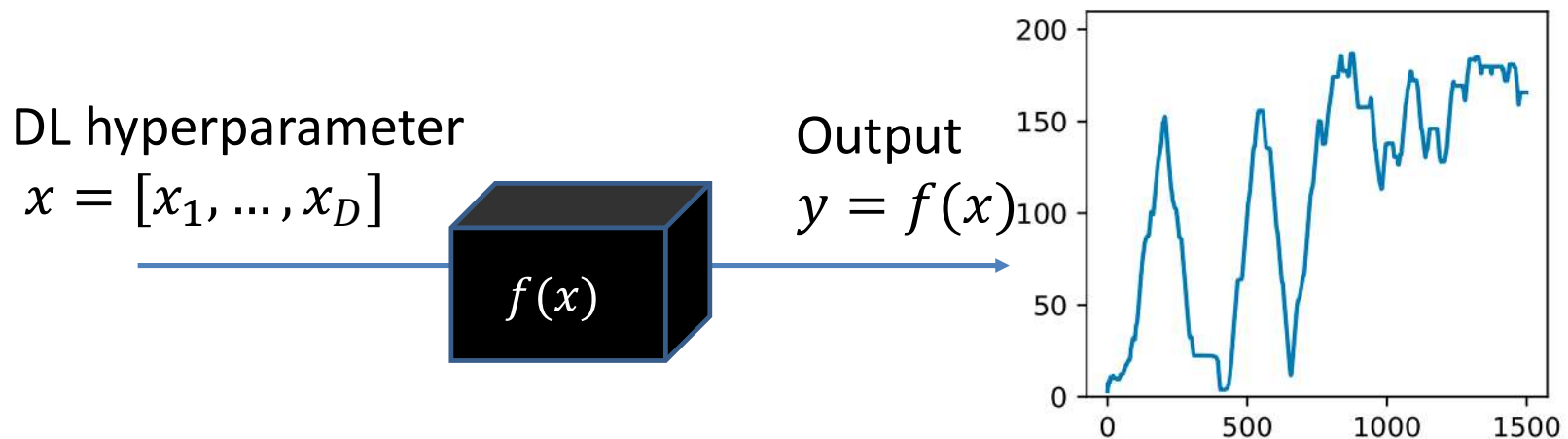
- Incorporating domain specific knowledge.
 - How can we easily encode and transfer available knowledge into BO methods in an easy and fast manner?
 - Knowing the optimum value of the function?



Vu Nguyen and Micheal Osborne. Knowing the what but not the where in Bayesian optimization. ICML 2020.

Opportunities for Future Research in BO

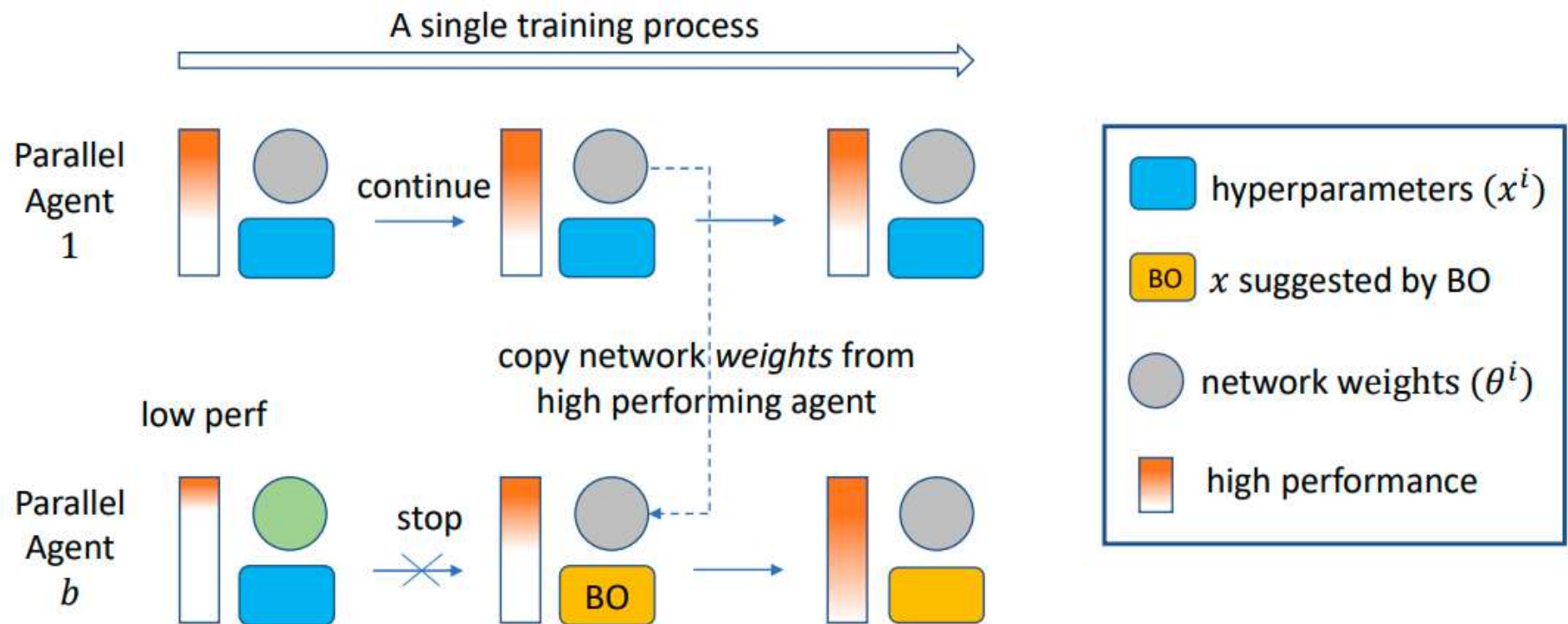
- Optimization with structured output response.
 - In training deep learning or deep reinforcement learning, the output is not only a single accuracy, but the whole training curve over epochs.



Vu Nguyen et al. "Bayesian optimization for iterative learning." *NeurIPS 2020*

Opportunities for Future Research in BO

- One-shot Bayesian optimization



Opportunities for Future Research in BO

- High dimension
 - Although previous researches have addressed high dimensional BO in different ways, the problem is still open.
- Mixed-type: categorical, continuous, discrete, binary variables
 - Categorical: Red, Green, Blue
 - Continuous: $[0,1]$
 - Discrete: 1,2,3,4,5
 - Binary: Yes, No

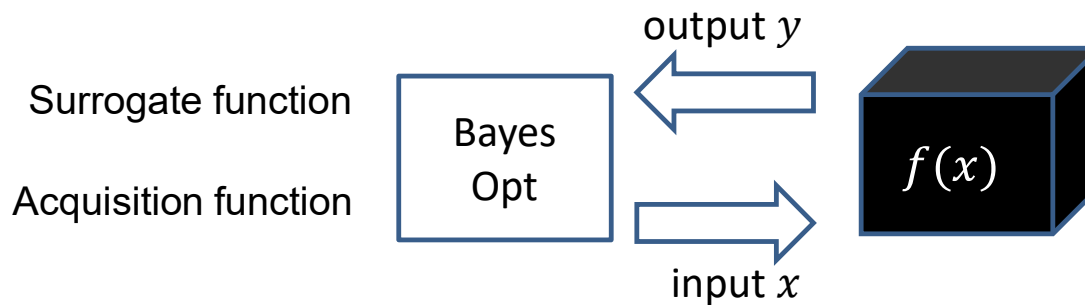
Research Summary in Bayesian Optimization

2. Mixed-type variable
=====

3. Exploiting knowledge from the function
=====

4. Multi-fidelity BO
=====

1. Neural architecture search
=====



5. Safe BO
Constraints BO

6. High dimensional
=====

10. Gaussian process
Student-t process
Bayesian neural net

9. Information theoretic
Multi-step look ahead
=====

8. Parallel BO
=====

7. Theoretical Analysis
=====

Take Home Messages

- Bayes opt is efficient for optimizing the black-box function.
- Existing works in Bayes opt are rich, this tutorial is by no means to handle every aspect of the field.
- Optimizing the black-box function with
 - **Parallel** optimization
 - **High dimensional** optimization
 - **Mixed categorical-continuous** optimization.

Final Remark

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Question and Answer



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