



# Gaussian Process Kernels for Cross-Spectrum Analysis

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## INTRODUCTION

- Electrophysiological time-series data (e.g., LFPs) are quasi-periodic signals
  - The frequencies present in these time-series measurements are often highly correlated between regions
  - Phase synchrony patterns dependent on frequency band
- While multi-output Gaussian processes may be used to represent cross-amplitude spectra between channels, the lack of a cross-phase spectrum limits the utility of cross-spectrum analysis
- Our **cross-spectral mixture kernel** for multi-output Gaussian processes is
  - Capable of representing the full cross-spectrum of multiple signals
  - Simple to interpret
  - Easily applied to neuroscience research for electrophysiological time-series

## MULTI-OUTPUT GAUSSIAN PROCESSES

- Data:** For input  $x_n$ , consider  $C$  output channel observations,  $\mathbf{y}_n = [y_{n1}, \dots, y_{nC}]^T$
- An unobserved **latent function**  $\mathbf{f}(x) = [f_1(x), \dots, f_C(x)]^T$  generates observations:

$$\mathbf{y}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}(x_n), \mathbf{H}^{-1}) \quad \mathbf{H} = \text{diag}(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_C) \quad (1)$$

- A **Gaussian process** prior on the latent function is formalized by

$$\mathbf{f}(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{m}(x), \mathbf{K}(x, x')), \quad (2)$$

- The **mean function**:  $\mathbf{m}(x) \in \mathbb{R}^C$  is often set to equal  $\mathbf{0}$
- The **covariance function**:  $(\mathbf{K}(x, x'))_{c,c'} = k^{c,c'}(x, x') = \text{cov}(f_c(x), f_{c'}(x'))$
- The **Linear Model of Coregionalization** is given by

$$k^{c,c'}(x, x') = \sum_{q=1}^Q b_q(c, c') k_q(x, x'), \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{K}(x, x') = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mathbf{B}_q k_q(x, x'), \quad (3)$$

- Input space kernel**:  $k_q(x, x')$
- Output space kernel**:  $b_q(c, c')$ , **Coregionalization matrix**:  $\mathbf{B}_q \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times C}$
- Evaluations  $\mathbf{f} = [f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_C(\mathbf{x})]^T$  at locations  $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_N]^T$  have a multivariate normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K})$

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} k^{1,1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) & \dots & k^{1,C}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ k^{C,1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) & \dots & k^{C,C}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mathbf{B}_q \otimes k_q(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}), \quad (4)$$

- The **marginal likelihood** is represented by

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}) p(\mathbf{f}|\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{f} = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Gamma}), \quad \mathbf{\Gamma} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{H}^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{I}_N, \quad (5)$$

## SPECTRAL KERNELS

- The **Spectral Gaussian** (SG) kernel:

$$k_{\text{SG}}(\tau; \theta) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\nu\tau^2\right) \cos(\mu\tau), \quad \mathcal{S}_{\text{SG}}(\omega; \theta) = \frac{1}{2}[\mathcal{N}(\omega; -\mu, \nu) + \mathcal{N}(\omega; \mu, \nu)] \quad (6)$$

- The **Spectral Mixture** (SM) kernel:

$$k_{\text{SM}}(\tau; \theta) = \sum_{q=1}^Q a_q k_{\text{SG}}(\tau; \theta_q), \quad \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}}(\omega; \theta) = \sum_{q=1}^Q a_q \mathcal{S}_{\text{SG}}(\omega; \theta_q), \quad (7)$$

## THE CROSS-SPECTRAL MIXTURE KERNEL

- Applying the **SM kernel** to the **LMC framework** yields:

$$\mathbf{K}_{\text{SM-LMC}}(\tau; \theta) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mathbf{B}_q k_{\text{SG}}(\tau; \theta_q), \quad (8)$$

- The **coregionalization matrix** allows for the cross-spectrum to be defined
- However, the **cross-phase spectrum** always equals zero
- We propose the **Cross-Spectral Mixture** (CSM) kernel:

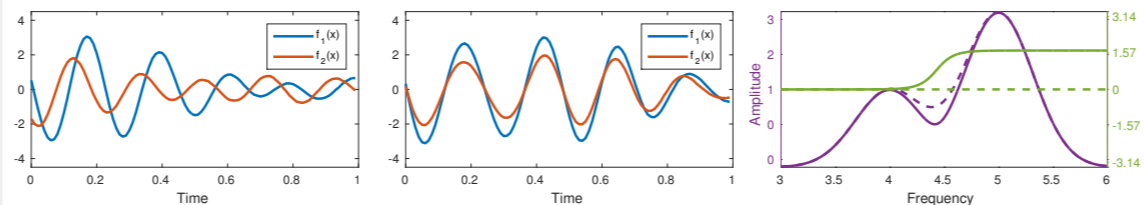
$$k_{\text{CSM}}^{c,c'}(\tau; \theta) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \sqrt{a_{cq} a_{c'q}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\nu_q \tau^2\right) \cos(\mu_q(\tau + \phi_{c'q} - \phi_{cq})), \quad (9)$$

- The CSM kernel is an extension of the **SM-LMC kernel** with phase information
- In the **LMC framework**, the CSM kernel is written in phasor notation:

$$\mathbf{K}_{\text{CSM}}(\tau; \theta) = \text{Re} \left\{ \sum_{q=1}^Q \mathbf{B}_q \tilde{k}_{\text{SG}}(\tau; \theta_q) \right\}, \quad \mathbf{B}_q = \beta_q \beta_q^\dagger,$$

$$\tilde{k}_{\text{SG}}(\tau; \theta_q) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\nu_q \tau^2 + j\mu_q \tau\right), \quad \beta_{cq} = \sqrt{a_{cq}} \exp(-j\psi_{cq}),$$

- This defines a full **cross-amplitude spectrum** and **cross-phase spectrum**
- Samples drawn from the CSM and SM-LMC kernels:



**Left:** Draw from the **CSM kernel** with corresponding cross-spectrum (solid, right)  
**Middle:** Draw from the **SM-LMC kernel** with cross-spectrum (dashed, right)

## APPLICATION

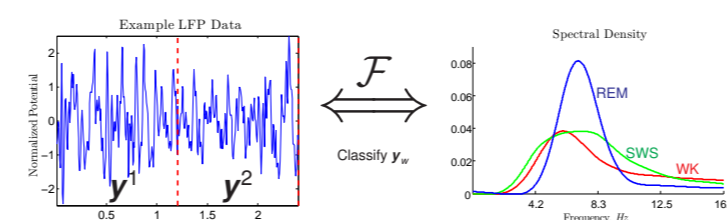
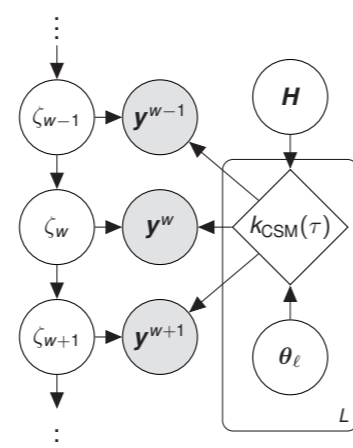
- Observations from  $C$  channels are segmented into  $W$  contiguous windows
- Data for window  $w \in \{1, \dots, W\}$  at  $x_n^w$  are represented by  $\mathbf{y}_n^w = [y_{n1}^w, \dots, y_{nC}^w]^T$
- Assign latent brain states according to a **Bayesian hidden Markov model**:

$$\zeta_1 \sim \text{Categorical}(\rho_0), \quad \zeta_w \sim \text{Categorical}(\rho_{\zeta_{w-1}}) \quad \forall w \geq 2,$$

$$\rho_0 \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\nu), \quad \rho_\ell \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\nu),$$

- The **emission distribution** for each latent state is a Gaussian process

$$\mathbf{y}_n^w \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}_w(x_n^w), \mathbf{H}_{\zeta_w}^{-1}), \quad \mathbf{f}_w(x) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{K}(x, x'; \theta_{\zeta_w})), \quad (10)$$



**Left:** Graphical model of HMM with GP emissions  
**Top:** Example LFP data segmented into windows; each window is assigned a CSM kernel according to the cluster model

## INFERENCE

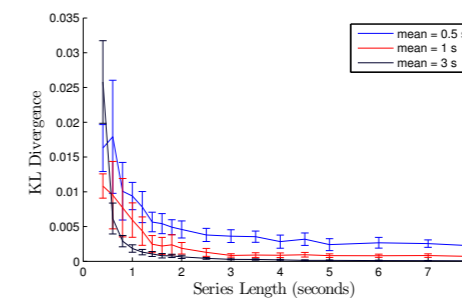
- Kernel parameters:  $\Theta = \{\theta_\ell, \eta_\ell\}_{\ell=1}^L$
- Model variables:  $\Omega = \{\{\rho_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^L, \{\zeta_w\}_{w=1}^W\}$
- Model variables are inverted using **mean-field variational inference**
- Kernel parameters are chosen to maximize the **expected marginal likelihood**:

$$\mathcal{Q} = \sum_{w=1}^W \sum_{\ell=1}^L q(\zeta_w = \ell) \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}^w; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Gamma}_\ell) \quad (11)$$

- $\mathbf{\Gamma}_\ell$  is the real component of  $\tilde{\mathbf{\Gamma}}_\ell = \sum_q \mathbf{B}_q^\ell \otimes \tilde{k}_{\text{SG}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}; \theta_\ell) + \mathbf{H}_\ell^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{I}_N$
- This has naïve complexity  $\mathcal{O}(N^3 C^3)$  due to the required inversion of  $\mathbf{\Gamma}_\ell$
- Alternatively, consider the **Fourier transform**  $\mathbf{z}^w = (\mathbf{I}_C \otimes \mathbf{U})^\dagger \mathbf{y}^w$
- The equivalent marginal likelihood of the transformed data becomes:

$$\mathbf{z}^w \sim \mathcal{CN}(\mathbf{0}, 2\mathcal{S}_{\zeta_w}), \quad \mathcal{S}_\ell = \delta^{-1} \sum_{q=1}^Q \mathbf{B}_q^\ell \otimes \mathbf{W}_q^\ell + \mathbf{H}_\ell^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{I}_N, \quad (12)$$

- $\mathbf{W}_q^\ell \approx \text{diag}([\mathcal{S}_{\text{SG}}(\omega; \theta_{\ell q}), \mathbf{0}])$  is approximately diagonal

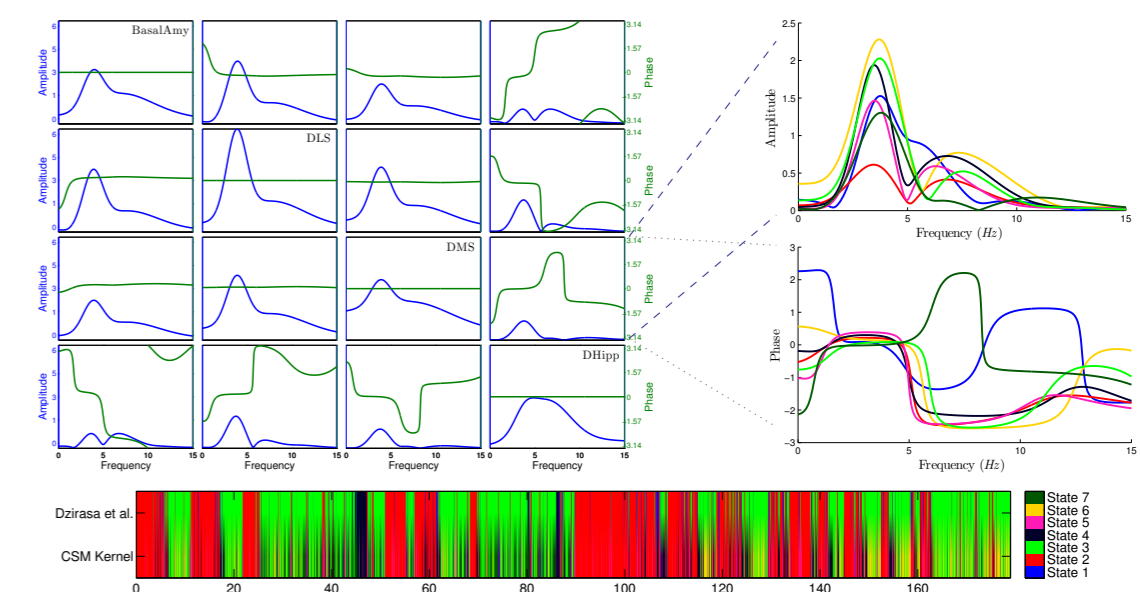


- The quality of this approximation depends on sequence length  $N \cdot \delta$  and kernel parameters  $\theta_q$
- Left:** A visualization of the **KL divergence** of the fitted marginal likelihood from the true marginal likelihood

## RESULTS

Sleep data was collected as follows:

- Three mice were observed naturally transitioning through different levels of sleep
- Twelve hours of LFP data was recorded from sixteen different brain regions
- We present only **three hours** of sleep data from **four brain regions** of a **single mouse** for clarity



**Top left:** Full cross-spectrum of observations from the Basal Amygdala, Dorsomedial Striatum, Dorsolateral Striatum, and Hippocampus for a single state  
**Top right:** All cross-amplitude and cross-phase spectra between DMS and DHipp  
**Bottom:** Evolution of brain states according to HMM assignments