

User defined integration points

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Introduction

This short note describe a new option that allow the user to use user-defined integration points (or “design” points), instead of the default ones. The relevant integration in INLA does

$$\int f(x|\theta, y) \pi(\theta|y) d\theta = f(x|y)$$

where $\pi(\theta|y)$ is the approximated posterior marginal for the hyperparameters, and where $f(x|\theta, y)$ is the approximated marginal for x for that configuration. The output of this integral is the posterior marginal $f(x|y)$. In practice, we use a discrete set of integration points for θ , and corresponding weights w , to get

$$f(x|y) \approx \sum_i f(x|\theta_i, y) w_i \pi(\theta_i|y)$$

for which we require $w_i \geq 0$ and $\sum_i w_i = 1$. Usually, the integration is done in a *standardised scale*,

$$z = A(\theta - \gamma)$$

i.e. with respect to $\pi(z|y)$. Here, γ is the mode of $\pi(\theta|y)$ and the matrix A is the negative square root of the approximated covariance matrix for $\theta|y$ at the mode.

The relevant options are

```
library(INLA)
opts = control.inla(int.strategy = "user", int.design = Design)
```

where **Design** is a matrix with the integration points and the integration weights. The j th row of **Design** consists of the values $\theta_j = (\theta_{1j}, \dots, \theta_{mj})$, and the integration weight for this configuration, w_j . The values are in the θ -scale, meaning that you have to know exactly what you are doing, including knowing the ordering of the hyperparameters.

Another version, is to define the points in the standardised scale z . To do this, use

```
opts = control.inla(int.strategy = "user.std", int.design = Design)
```

instead. The meaning of **Design** is unchanged, except that these can be given in standardised coordinates. This version is more relevant if you want to implement a generic new integration design instead of the ones already provided.

Example

In this artificial example, we want to compute the change of the marginal variance of one component, x_1 , of a hidden AR(1) process, with respect to lag one correlation ρ . So we want to compute

$$\frac{\partial \text{SD}(x_1|y)}{\partial \rho}$$

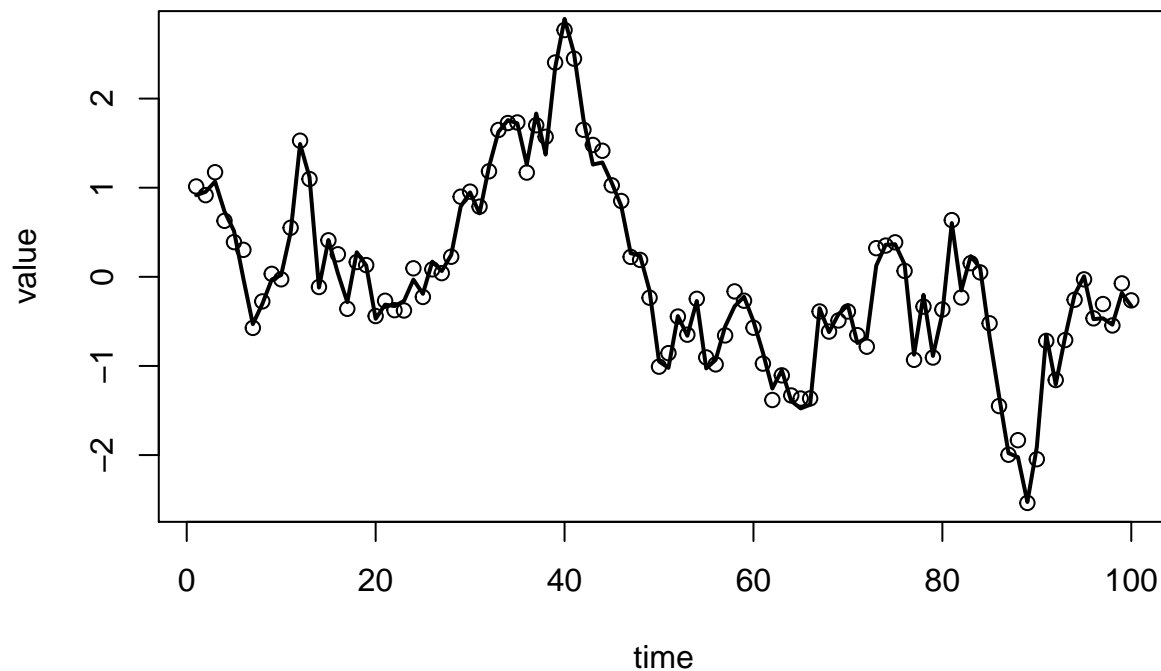
for a fixed value of $\rho = \rho_0$. We have to compute a numerical approximation, using finite difference. While doing this, it is a good idea to keep the design fixed, to avoid introducing an error for changing that part as well.

Let us first setup the experiment

```
n = 100
rho = 0.9
x = scale(arima.sim(n, model = list(ar = rho)))
y = x + rnorm(n, sd = 0.1)
```

this gives the following

```
plot(y, xlab = "time", ylab = "value")
lines(x, lwd=2)
```



To

compute the derivative, we do

```
rho.0 = rho
to.theta = inla.models()$latent$ar1$hyper$theta2$to.theta
rho.0.internal = to.theta(rho.0)

r = inla(y ~ -1 + f(time, model="ar1",
  hyper = list(
    theta1 = list(prior = "loggamma",
      param = c(1,1)),
    theta2 = list(initial = rho.0.internal,
      fixed=TRUE))),
  control.inla = list(int.strategy = "grid"),
  data = data.frame(y, time = 1:n))

sd.0 = r$summary.random$time[1,"sd"]
print(sd.0)
```

```
## [1] 0.01883845
```

The ordering of the hyperparamters are as follows,

```
nm = names(r$joint.hyper)
nm = nm[-length(nm)]
print(nm)
```

```
## [1] "Log precision for the Gaussian observations"
## [2] "Log precision for time"
```

which may sometimes be useful to know about.

Anyway, we will now change ρ a little, while we keep the same integration points,

```
Design = as.matrix(cbind(r$joint.hyper[, seq_along(nm)], 1))
head(Design)
```

```
##      Log precision for the Gaussian observations Log precision for time 1
## [1,]                                9.152669                -0.1666498 1
## [2,]                                8.402499                -0.1663231 1
## [3,]                                7.652330                -0.1659963 1
## [4,]                                6.902161                -0.1656695 1
## [5,]                                6.151991                -0.1653427 1
## [6,]                                5.401822                -0.1650159 1
```

where the last column is the (un-normalised) integration weights. `Design` has dimension 94, 3. We call `inla()` again reusing the previous found mode

```
h.rho = 0.01
rho.1.internal = to.theta(rho.0 + h.rho)
rr = inla(y ~ -1 + f(time, model="ar1",
  hyper = list(
    theta1 = list(prior = "loggamma",
      param = c(1,1)),
    theta2 = list(initial = rho.1.internal,
      fixed=TRUE))),
  control.mode = list(result = r, restart=FALSE),
  data = data.frame(y, time = 1:n),
  control.inla = list(
    int.strategy = "user",
    int.design = Design))
sd.1 = rr$summary.random$time[1,"sd"]
print(sd.1)
```

```
## [1] 0.0145689
```

and then our estimate of the derivative is

```
deriv.1 = (sd.1 - sd.0) / h.rho
print(deriv.1)
```

```
## [1] -0.4269547
```

PS: In the logfile of the `inla()`-call, the configurations are shown in the z scale even for `int.strategy="user"`.