

# Support Vector machine

## Theory of kernel function

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# plan

1. Reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces
2. Characterizing Kernel Functions
3. Kernel Constructions
4. Transforming Kernel Matrices

# Theory of kernel function

## Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

1. Inner Product Space
2. Hilbert Space
3. Function Spaces
4. Separable Hilbert Spaces

# Inner product space

**Definition :** An inner product space  $X$  is a vector space with an associated inner product

$$\begin{cases} h & X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ & (x, y) \rightarrow h(x, y) \end{cases}$$

that satisfies :

- **Symmetry:**  $h(x, y) = h(y, x)$
- **Linearity:**
  - $h(ax, y) = ah(x, y)$
  - $h(x + z, y + z) = h(x, y) + h(z, y)$
- **Positive Semi-Definiteness(PSD):**  $h(x, x) \geq 0$
- The inner product space is strict if  $h(x, x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$

A strict inner product space  $X$  has a natural norm given by  $\|x\|_2 = \sqrt{x^T x}$  The associated metric is  $h(x, z) = \|x - z\|_2$

The space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has the inner product  $h(x, y) = x^T y$  which yields the Euclidean norm:

$$(\|x - y\|_2)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2$$

# Hilbert Space

## Definition :

A strict inner product space  $X$  is a Hilbert space if it is:

- **Complete: Technical Condition required for potentially infinite-dimensional sets**  
Every Cauchy sequence  $\{x_i \in X\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{m > n} \|x_n - x_m\| = 0$  converges to an element  $x \in X$ ; i.e.,  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i = x$
- **Separable: Condition required to make Hilbert space isomorphisms**  
There is a countable subset  $\hat{X} = \{x_i \in X\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\forall x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\exists x_i \in \hat{X}$  such that  $\|x_i - x\| < \varepsilon$

## Examples:

- the interval  $[0, 1]$ , the reals  $\mathbb{R}$ , the complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  and Euclidean spaces  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , are the Hilbert space
- The subspace  $\ell^2$  for which  $\forall x \quad h(x, x) < \infty$  is a Hilbert space
- The **Subspace  $L_2(X)$**  defined on  $X$ , a compact subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , for which  $\forall f \in L_2(X)$ ,  $h(f, f) = \int_x f(x)f(x)dx < \infty$  is a Hilbert space

## Separable Hilbert Spaces

- Hilbert space  $F$  is isomorphic to  $H$  if there is a **one-to-one linear mapping**  $T : F \rightarrow H$  such that for  $\forall x, y \in F$

$$h_H(T(x), T(y)) = h_F(x, y)$$

- Every separable Hilbert space is isomorphic to :
  - $\mathbb{R}^d$  if it has a dimension  $d$
  - $l_2$  if it has an infinite dimension
- Since Hilbert space  $F$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^d$  or  $l_2$ ,  $F$  has an orthonormal basis  $\{\phi_i\}$  and  $\forall x \in F$  have a Fourier decomposition:

$$x = \sum_i h_F(\phi_i, x) \phi_i$$

# Theory of kernel function

## Characterizing Kernel Functions

1. Kernel Terminology
2. Kernel Matrices
3. Reproducing Kernel Function
4. Kernel Functions

# Kernel terminology

## Definition :

A kernel,  $k$ , is a two-argument real-valued function over  $X \times X$

$$\begin{aligned} k: \quad X \times X &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ (x, y) &\rightarrow k(x, y) = h_F(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \end{aligned}$$

for some inner-product space  $F$  such that  $\phi: X \rightarrow F$  and  $\forall x \in X \rightarrow \phi(x) \in F$

- Kernel functions must be symmetric since inner products are symmetric
- To show that  $k$  is a valid kernel, it is sufficient to show that a mapping  $\phi$  exists that yields. However, this is generally difficult to construct.
- In the rest of this chapter, we will demonstrate additional ways to construct and validate kernels



- $\phi: X \rightarrow F$  and  $\forall x \in X \rightarrow \phi(x) \in F$
- $\phi: X = \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow F = \mathbb{R}^q$
- $q > d$

# Kernel Matrices

## Definition:

A kernel matrix (or Gram matrix)  $K$  is the matrix that results from applying  $k$  to all pairs of training set  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} k(x_1, x_1) & \cdots & k(x_1, x_n) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ k(x_n, x_1) & \cdots & k(x_n, x_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

that is,  $k_{i,j} = k(x_i, x_j)$

Kernel matrices are square and symmetric. And  $\text{tr}(K) = \sum_{i=1}^n k(x_i, x_i)$

## Proposition 1:

- Since  $K$  is a symmetric  $n \times n$  real-valued matrix, it can be written as

- If  $\text{rank}(K) = n$  then  $K = V\Lambda V^T = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i v_i (v_i)^T$
- Else ( $\text{rank}(K) = k < n$ ), then  $K = V\Lambda V^T = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i v_i (v_i)^T$

where  $(\lambda_i, v_i)$  are eigen-value/vector pairs of  $K$ . This is called the spectral decomposition of  $K$

- $\text{tr}(K_1 K_2) = \text{tr}(K_2 K_1)$

# Kernel Matrices

## Proposition 2:

Kernel matrices, which are constructed from a kernel corresponding to a strict inner product space  $F$ , are PSD.

## Proof:

By definition of a kernel matrix, for all  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $k_{i,j} = h_F(\phi(x_i), \phi(x_j))$

Thus, for any  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

- $v^T K v = \sum_{i,j} v_i k_{i,j} v_j = \sum_{i,j} v_i h_F(\phi(x_i), \phi(x_j)) v_j = h_F(\sum_{i=1}^n v_i \phi(x_i), \sum_{j=1}^n v_j \phi(x_j))$
- $\Rightarrow v^T K v = \|\sum_{i=1}^n v_i \phi(x_i)\|_F^2 \geq 0$

## Proposition 3:

- Matrix  $K$  is PSD iff there exists a real matrix  $B$  such that  $K = B B^T = V \sqrt{\Lambda} \sqrt{\Lambda} V^T$

# Reproducing Kernel Function

## Definition (Aronszajn, 1950)

Suppose  $F$  is a **Hilbert space** of functions over  $X$ ; the function  $k: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a reproducing kernel of  $F$  if

1.  $\forall x \in X$ , the function  $f_x(\cdot) = k(\cdot, x) \in F$ .
2. **Reproducing Property:**  $\forall y \in X, \forall f \in F: f(y) = h_F(f, k(\cdot, y))$

Further, the space is called a **Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (RKHS)**

## Remarks:

- By 1<sup>st</sup> property and closure of  $F$ ,  $\forall \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x_i \in X$  we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i k(\cdot, x_i) \in \hat{X} = \{x_i \in X\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$$

- Applying  $f_x$  from 1<sup>st</sup> property to 2<sup>nd</sup> property,  $\forall (x, y) \in X^2$ , we have

$$k(x, y) = h_F(k(\cdot, x), k(\cdot, y))$$

# Kernel functions

## Definition (Finitely Positive Semi-definite)

A function  $k: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **finitely positive semi-definite** (FPSD) if

- It is symmetric: i.e.,  $\forall x, z \in X^2 \quad k(x, z) = k(z, x) < \infty$
- The matrix  $K$  formed by applying  $k$  to any finite subset of  $X$  is positive semi-definite:  $v^T K v \geq 0$

## Theorem :

$k: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (either continuous or with a countable domain) is FPSD iff  $\exists$  **Hilbert space**  $F$  with feature map  $\phi: X \rightarrow F$  such that:

$$k(x, z) = h_F(\phi(x), \phi(z))$$

## Proof

- Case  $\Leftarrow$ : Follows from Proposition 2.
- Case  $\Rightarrow$ : Suppose  $k$  is FPSD and we construct Hilbert Space  $F_k$  with  $k$  as its reproducing kernel; i.e.,  $F_k$  is the closure of functions:  $f_x(\cdot) = k(\cdot, x)$

Thus,  $\forall \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x_i \in X, g(\cdot) = \sum_i \alpha_i k(\cdot, x_i) \in F_k$  and by the reproducing property,

$$h_F(g, g) = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j k(x_i, x_j) = \alpha^T K \alpha$$

where  $K$  is the kernel matrix  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , and thus  $\alpha^T K \alpha \geq 0$  since  $K$  is PSD.

## Kernel functions

- **(Completeness)** Follows from the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, ?
- **(Separability)** Separability follows from  $k$  being continuous or having a countable domain ?.

Finally, the mapping  $\phi$  is specified by  $k$  and  $\phi(x) = k(., x) \in F_k$

### Note:

the Inner Product defined above is strict since:

$$\text{if } \|f\| = 0 \text{ then } \forall x \in X, |f(x)| \leq \|f\| \|\phi(x)\| = 0$$

# Theory of kernel function

## Kernel Constructions

1. Simple Kernels
2. Closure Properties of Kernels
3. Additional Kernel Functions
4. Kernel Questions

## Simple Kernels

Clearly, the linear kernel defined by

$$K_{lin}(x, z) = h_F(x, z) = x^T z$$

is a valid kernel function since it is an inner product in  $X$

For any  $n \times n$  matrix  $B \geq 0$ ,

$$k_B(x, z) = h_F(x, Bz) = x^T Bz$$

is a valid kernel function



# Closure Properties of Kernels

## Proposition 3

Suppose:

- $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are kernels on  $X$ ,
- $a > 0$ ,
- $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,
- $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,
- $k_3$  is a kernel on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Then these are all kernel functions on  $X$ :

1.  $k(x, z) = k_1(x, z) + k_2(x, z)$
2.  $k(x, z) = a \cdot k_1(x, z)$
3.  $k(x, z) = k_1(x, z) \cdot k_2(x, z)$
4.  $k(x, z) = f(x)f(z)$
5.  $k(x, z) = k_3(\varphi(x), \varphi(z))$

# Closure Properties of Kernels

## Proof

Let  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  be the kernel matrices of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  applied to any set  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$  both these matrices are PSD. Also let  $\vartheta$  be any  $n$ -vector:

- $K = K_1 + K_2 \Rightarrow \vartheta^T K \vartheta = \vartheta^T K_1 \vartheta + \vartheta^T K_2 \vartheta \geq 0$
- $K = aK_1 \Rightarrow \vartheta^T K \vartheta = a\vartheta^T K_1 \vartheta \geq 0$
- Since  $K_1 = BB^T$ ,  $K_2 = CC^T \Rightarrow K = BB^TCC^T \Rightarrow \vartheta^T K \vartheta = \text{tr}(D_\vartheta BB^T D_\vartheta CC^T) = \text{tr}(C^T D_\vartheta BB^T D_\vartheta C) = \text{tr}((C^T D_\vartheta B)^T C^T D_\vartheta B)$
- $k(x, z) = h(\varphi(x), \varphi(z))$  where  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  thus,  $k$  is PSD.
- Since  $k_3$  is a kernel, applying it to any set of vectors  $\{\varphi(x_i)\}_{i=1}^N$  yields a PSD matrix.

# Closure Properties of Kernels

## Proof

Let  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  be the kernel matrices of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  applied to any set  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$  both these matrices are PSD. Also let  $\vartheta$  be any  $n$ -vector:

- $K = K_1 + K_2 \Rightarrow \vartheta^T K \vartheta = \vartheta^T K_1 \vartheta + \vartheta^T K_2 \vartheta \geq 0$
- $K = aK_1 \Rightarrow \vartheta^T K \vartheta = a\vartheta^T K_1 \vartheta \geq 0$
- **$K = K_1 K_2$ ?**
- $k(x, z) = h(\varphi(x), \varphi(z))$  where  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  thus,  $k$  is PSD.
- Since  $k_3$  is a kernel, applying it to any set of vectors  $\{\varphi(x_i)\}_{i=1}^N$  yields a PSD matrix.

## Closure Properties of Kernels

The feature spaces for these kernels are as follows:

- For kernel  $k_1(x, z) + k_2(x, z)$ , the new feature map is equivalent to stacking the feature maps of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ :

$$\phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1(x) \\ \phi_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

- For kernel  $a \cdot k_1(x, z)$ , its feature space is scaled by  $\sqrt{a}$
- For kernel  $k_1(x, z) \times k_2(x, z)$ , if  $\phi_1$  has dimension  $n_1$  and  $\phi_2$  has dimension  $n_2$ ,  $\phi$  has  $n_1 n_2$  features given by

$$(\phi(x))_{ij} = (\phi_1(x))_i (\phi_2(x))_j$$

- It follows that the features of  $k_1(x, z)^d$  are all monomials of the form

$$(\phi_1(x))_1^{d_1} (\phi_1(x))_2^{d_2} \dots (\phi_1(x))_n^{d_n}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n d_i = 1$$

- $a \cdot k_1(x, z) = k_1(\sqrt{a}x, \sqrt{a}z)$

## Additional Kernel Functions

### Proposition

Suppose  $k_1$  is a kernel on  $X$  and  $p : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a polynomial with non-negative coefficients. Then, the following are kernels:

1. Polynomial Kernel:

- $k_{poly}(x, z) = p(k_1(x, z))$
- $k_{poly}(x, z) = (x^T z + R)^d$

2. Gaussian kernel:

- $k(x, z) = e^{k_1(x, z)}$
- Radial Basis function (RBF) Kernel:  $k_{RBF}(x, z) = e^{-\frac{\|x-z\|_2^2}{2\sigma^2}}$

### Proof

1. Constructing a polynomial kernel from base kernel  $k_1$  proceeds directly from Proposition 3 (1, 2, 3)
2. Consider that  $\exp(x) = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2} x^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{i!} x^i + \dots$ . Thus, it is a limit of polynomials and the PSD property is closed under pointwise limits. (RBF Kernel) Left as an exercise.

# Kernel Questions

Which of the following functions are kernels?

- $k_1(x, z) = \sum_{i=1}^D (x_i + z_i)$
- $k_2(x, z) = \prod_{i=1}^D h\left(\frac{x_i - c}{a}\right) h\left(\frac{z_i - c}{a}\right)$  where  $h(x) = \cos(1.75x) e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$
- $k_3(x, z) = \frac{x^T z}{\|x\|_2 \|z\|_2}$
- $k_4(x, z) = \sqrt{\|x - z\|_2^2 + 1}$

# Theory of kernel function

## Transforming Kernel Matrices

1. Simple Transformations
2. Centering Data
3. Normalizing Data



# Simple Transformations

- Adding a non-negative constant to the Kernel Matrix: corresponds to adding a new constant feature to each training example; i.e., given the matrix  $\Phi$  of features such that  $K = \Phi \Phi^T$  ,  
$$[\Phi \ c \mathbf{1}] * [\Phi \ c \mathbf{1}]^T = K + c^2 \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1}^T$$
- Adding a non-negative constant to its diagonal: corresponds to adding an indicator feature for every data point

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) & c & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi(x_n) & 0 & \dots & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) & c & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi(x_n) & 0 & \dots & c \end{bmatrix}^T = K + c^2 I$$

## Centering Data

Suppose we want to translate the origin to the data's center of mass, this transformation can be expressed as kernel transform

$$K \leftarrow K - \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T K - \frac{1}{N} K \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T + \frac{1}{N^2} K \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T$$

# Normalizing Data

Suppose we want to project all data to be norm 1; i.e.,  $\|\hat{x}\| = 1$

This transformation can be achieved using only the information from the kernel matrix:

$$\hat{k}(x, z) = \frac{k(x, z)}{\sqrt{k(x, x)k(z, z)}}$$