

We can build new kernels from old kernels for example through sum, transformations.

Theorem. (Sums of kernels are kernels)

Given $\alpha > 0$, and k_1, k_2 are kernels on \mathcal{D} , then $\alpha k_1 + k_2$ are kernels on \mathcal{D} .

Proof. Note from the Remark after Theorem 2.2.3

kernels are positive definite. Consider two kernels $k_1(x, x')$ and $k_2(x, x')$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j [k_1(x_i, x_j) + k_2(x_i, x_j)] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j k_1(x_i, x_j) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j k_2(x_i, x_j) \end{aligned}$$

≥ 0 .

In a similar way we can show that αk is a kernel on \mathcal{D} . *

Theorem (Products of kernels are kernels)

Given k_1 on \mathcal{D}_1 and k_2 on \mathcal{D}_2 , then

$k_1 \times k_2$ is a kernel on $\mathcal{D}_1 \times \mathcal{D}_2$. If

$\mathcal{D}_1 = \mathcal{D}_2 = \mathcal{D}$, then $k = k_1 \times k_2$ is a kernel on \mathcal{D} .

Proof. for a simpler case where \mathcal{H}_1 corresponding to

k_1 is \mathbb{R}^m , and \mathcal{H}_2 corresponding to k_2 is \mathbb{R}^n

For a general proof which uses tensor product

②

in [Ingo Steinwart and Andreas Christmann,

Support Vector Machines, Information Science and Statistics, Springer 2008). We will use linear algebra to prove the theorem.

Define $k_1 := u^T v$ for $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $k_2 := p^T q$ for $p, q \in \mathbb{R}^n$. We know that the inner product between matrices $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is

$$\langle A, B \rangle = \text{trace}(A^T B) \quad (*)$$

$$\text{Then } k_1 k_2 = k_1 (\underbrace{p^T q}_{k_2})$$

$$= k_1 \text{trace}(q p^T)$$

$$= \cancel{k_1} \text{trace}(\underbrace{q u^T v}_{k_1} p^T)$$

$$= \langle A, B \rangle$$

$$\text{when } A := u q^T, B = v p^T$$

In other words the product $k_1 k_2$ defines a valid inner product ~~as~~ as stated in (*).

Polynomial kernel: Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ for ~~d > 1~~, and let $d \geq 1$ be an integer and $c \geq 0$ be a positive real. Then

$$k(x, y) := (\langle x, y \rangle + c)^d$$

is a kernel.

Proof: If we expand the sum, we obtain

the non-negative combination of kernels

$\langle x, y \rangle$ raised to integer powers, which are generated by product rule. Thus it is a kernel

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Using the sum rule. *

In particular for $d=2$ we have

$$k(x, y) = \langle x, y \rangle^2 + 2c \langle x, y \rangle + c^2$$

$$= \left(\sum_{i=1}^m x_i y_i \right)^2 + 2c \sum_{i=1}^m x_i y_i + c^2$$

$$= \dots$$

From this ...

$$\phi(x) = \dots$$

(Harmonic analysis
on semigroups.
Springer, 1984)

(give a reference
e.g. wikipedia)

Note that ~~and~~ the case of $d=1$ is a linear kernel.

[Christian Borg, Jens Peter Resen Christensen, Paul Ressel $\xrightarrow{\text{C}}$].

Corollary (to the theorem of product kernels.)

Let φ be a positive definite on $\Omega \times \Omega$ such that

$|\varphi(x, y)| < p$ for all $(x, y) \in \Omega \times \Omega$. Then if

$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ is holomorphic in

$\{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < p\}$ and $a_n \geq 0$ for all $n \geq 0$

the composed kernel $f \circ \varphi$ is positive definite.

In particular, if φ is positive definite, then so is $\exp(\varphi)$.

Proof. By the above theorem, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the kernel φ^n is positive definite, thus $\sum_{n=0}^N a_n \varphi^n$ is positive definite for all $N \geq 0$ and so is its pointwise limit $f \circ \varphi$. *

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The Gaussian kernel : $K_\sigma(x, y) = e^{-\frac{\|x-y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}}$

$$= \left[e^{-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}} \cdot e^{-\frac{\|y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] \cdot \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x_i y_i)^2}{i!} \right]$$

↑ ↑ ↗
kernel by the corollary

By the product rule $K_\sigma(x, y)$ is a kernel.

— x —

Exponential kernel : $K(x, y) = \exp(-\frac{\|x-y\|}{2\sigma})$

Here we postpone the proof.

Let us turn to a discussion on explicit realization of RKHS. First reconsider the

linear kernel, we would like to know what
RKHS of linear kernel is.

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The RKHS of the linear kernel:

$$K(x, y) = \langle x, y \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d}$$

Fact.

Theorem: The RKHS of the linear kernel is the set of linear functions of the form

$$f_w(x) = \langle w, x \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d} \text{ for } w \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

endowed with the norm

$$\|f\|_K = \|w\|_2$$

Proof: The RKHS of the linear kernel consists of functions

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto f(x) = \sum_i a_i \langle x_i, K \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d} = \langle w, x \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d}$$

$$\text{with } w = \sum_i a_i x_i$$

Hence the RKHS is the set of linear forms endowed with the following inner product:

$$\langle f, g \rangle_K = \langle w, v \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d}$$

when $f(x) = w \cdot x$ and $g(x) = v \cdot x$.

So the linear K , $K(x, y) = x^T y$

$$f(x) = w^T x$$

$$\|f\|_K = \|w\|_2$$

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Next we discuss the RKHSs of polynomial kernel.

For simplicity we study polynomial kernel on \mathbb{R} :

$$k(x, y) = (xy + c)^d \quad (c > 0, d \in \mathbb{N})$$

Fact: Let \mathcal{H}_k be the RKHS corresponding to the polynomial kernel k .

Then \mathcal{H}_k is $d+1$ dimensional vector space with a basis $\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^d\}$.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{G} = \text{span}\{1, x, \dots, x^d\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } k(x, z) &= z^d x^d + \binom{d}{1} c z^{d-1} x^{d-1} + \binom{d}{2} c^2 z^{d-2} x^{d-2} + \dots \\ &\quad + \binom{d}{d-1} c^d z x + c^d \end{aligned}$$

We can conclude that

$$\text{span}\{k(\cdot, z) : z \in \mathbb{R}^m\} \subset \mathcal{G}.$$

On the other hand, any polynomial of degree d lies in \mathcal{H}_k , which follows from the following fact:

for any (a_0, \dots, a_d) the linear equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} z_0^d & \cdots & z_0 & 1 \\ z_1^d & \cdots & z_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ z_d^d & \cdots & z_d & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_0}{c^d} \\ \frac{a_1}{c^{d-1}(d-1)} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{a_d}{d!} \end{pmatrix}$$

is solvable (where z_0, \dots, z_d are zeroes of $k(x, z) = 0$)

$$\text{Then } \sum_{i=0}^d b_i k(x, z_i) = \sum_{i=0}^d a_i x^i$$

To prove this

As shown the RKHS is a Hilbert subspace.

Recall that Ω is a set, \mathcal{C}^Ω is a set of all functions on Ω with pointwise topology. Let $\mathcal{G} = L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ where $(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$ is a measurable space. Assume

$$H(\cdot; x) \in L^2(\Omega, \mu) \text{ for all } x \in \Omega.$$

~~Note~~ Construct a continuous embedding

$$j: L^2(\Omega, \mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\Omega$$

$$\text{by } F \mapsto f(x) = \int F(t) \overline{H(t; x)} d\mu(t) = (F, H(\cdot, x))_{\mathcal{G}}.$$

Clearly j is an injection if $\text{span}\{H(t; x) : x \in \Omega\}$ is dense in $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$. Let the image of j be \mathcal{H} with an inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} := (f, g)_{\mathcal{G}} \text{ where } f = j(F), g = j(G)$$

Then we have the isomorphism (given by j) between $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ and \mathcal{H} . so \mathcal{H} is a Hilbert space.

and

$$\mathcal{H} = \{f \in \mathcal{C}^\Omega : \exists F \in L^2(\Omega, \mu), f(x) = \int F(t) \overline{H(t; x)} d\mu(t)\}$$

$$\text{Since } f(x) = (F, H(\cdot, x))_{\mathcal{G}} = \langle f, j(H(\cdot, x)) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$$

we have the following proposition :

Proposition : \mathcal{H} is a RKHS and its reproducing kernel is

$$k(x, y) = \langle j(H(\cdot; x)), j(H(\cdot; y)) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = \int H(t; x) \overline{H(t; y)} d\mu(t).$$

Consider now $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{T} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{G} = L^2(\mathbb{R}, \rho(t)dt)$ with the properties that $\rho(t)$ is continuous, $\rho(t) > 0$ and $\int \rho(t) dt < \infty$

Take $H(t; x) = e^{-\sqrt{\rho(t)}} xt$. In this case, $\text{Span}\{H(t; x) : x \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is dense in $L^2(\mathbb{R}, \rho(t)dt)$.

$$\text{Fact : } \mathcal{H} = \left\{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx) : \int \frac{|\hat{f}(t)|}{\rho(t)} dt < \infty \right\}$$

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = \int \frac{\hat{f}(t) \hat{g}(t)}{\rho(t)} dt$$

$$k(x, y) = \int e^{-\sqrt{\rho(t)}(x-y)t} f(t) dt \quad (\text{a positive definite kernel})$$

Proof : Let $f = j(F)$. By definition, the Fourier transform

$$\hat{f}(x) = \int F(t) \cdot e^{-\sqrt{\rho(t)} t x} \rho(t) dt$$

Because $\int \rho(t) dt < \infty$, $F \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, \rho(t)dt)$ means $(F(t)/\sqrt{\rho(t)}) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$

Then $F(t)/\sqrt{\rho(t)} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}, dt) \cap L^2(\mathbb{R}, dt)$. So the

Fourier isometry of $L^2(\mathbb{R}, dt)$ implies

$$f(x) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx) \text{ and } \hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int f(t) e^{-\sqrt{\rho(t)} t x} dx = f(t)/\sqrt{\rho(t)}$$

$$\text{which gives } F(t) = \frac{\hat{f}(t)}{\sqrt{\rho(t)}}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &= \langle j(F), j(G) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = (F, G)_G \\ &= \int \frac{\hat{f}(t)}{\sqrt{\rho(t)}} \frac{\hat{g}(t)}{\sqrt{\rho(t)}} \rho(t) dt = \int \frac{\hat{f}(t) \hat{g}(t)}{\rho(t)} dt \end{aligned}$$

Moreover $F \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, \rho(t)dt) \iff \frac{f(t)}{\sqrt{\rho(t)}} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, \rho(t)dt)$

$$\iff \int \frac{|f(t)|^2}{\rho(t)} dt < \infty.$$

Example (Gaussian RBF kernel, revisited) :

$$k(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|x - y\|^2\right)$$

Let $\rho(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2\right)$. i.e. $\mathcal{G} = L^2(\mathbb{R}, \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2} dt)$

so the reproducing kernel (= Gaussian RBF kernel) is

$$k(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int e^{\sqrt{\sigma^2/(x-y)}t} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2} dt = \frac{1}{\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x-y)^2\right)$$

the RKHS
and $\mathcal{H} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx) : \int |f(t)|^2 \exp\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2\right) dt < \infty\}$
with inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int \overline{f(t)} \overline{g(t)} \exp\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2\right) dt.$$

Example (Laplacian kernel/exponential kernel).

$$k(x, y) = \exp(-\beta \|x - y\|)$$

In this case $\rho(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{t^2 + \beta^2}$ i.e. $\mathcal{G} = L^2(\mathbb{R}, \frac{dt}{2\pi(t^2 + \beta^2)})$.

The reproducing kernel is the Laplacian kernel:

$$\begin{aligned} k(x, y) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int e^{\sqrt{1/(x-y)}t} \frac{1}{t^2 + \beta^2} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\beta} \exp(-\beta \|x - y\|) \end{aligned}$$

The RKHS is

$$\mathcal{H} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx) : \int |f(t)|^2 (t^2 + \beta^2) dt < \infty\}$$

equipped with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int \overline{f(t)} \overline{g(t)} (t^2 + \beta^2) dt$$

Example Cauchy kernel: $\rho(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\alpha |t|}$, $k(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int e^{\sqrt{1/(x-y)}t} e^{-\alpha |t|} dt = \frac{1}{\pi |x-y|} e^{-\alpha |x-y|}$

$$\mathcal{H}_k = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, dx) : \int |f(t)|^2 e^{\alpha |t|} dt < \infty\}$$

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int \overline{f(t)} \overline{g(t)} e^{\alpha |t|} dt.$$

Sometimes it is useful to have the concept of negative definite kernel.

[Berg et al.]

Definition: A function $\psi: \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is called a negative definite kernel if it is Hermitian, i.e.

$$\psi(y, x) = \overline{\psi(x, y)} \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^n c_i \bar{c}_j \psi(x_i, x_j) \leq 0 \quad \forall x_1, \dots, x_n (n \geq 2) \text{ in } \mathcal{S}$$

$$\text{and } c_1 + \dots + c_n = 0, \quad c_i \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Remark: We have to be careful. Unlike negative definite matrix quadratic form is ~~the~~ which is minus positive definite quadratic form, a negative definite kernel is not necessarily minus positive definite kernel because there is a constraint on $c_i \in \mathbb{C}$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i = 0.$$

Proposition 1: If k is positive definite, $\psi = -k$ is negative definite. Furthermore, constant functions are negative definite.

As for ~~all~~ positive definite kernels, positive combination of negative definite kernels is negative definite, limit of $\psi_i(x, y)$ is negative definite, but ~~sum~~ negative definite kernels

Multiplication does not preserve negative definiteness.

Proposition: Let φ on $\Omega \times \Omega$ is negative definite real kernel. Then it is negative definite if and only if φ is symmetric and $\sum_{ij=1}^n c_i c_j \varphi(x_i, x_j) \leq 0 \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.
 $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq \Omega$ and $\{c_1, \dots, c_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ with $c_1 + \dots + c_n = 0$.

Proposition 2: Let V be an inner product space,
 $\Phi: \Omega \rightarrow V$. Then

$\psi(x, y) = \|\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)\|^2$
 is a negative definite kernel on Ω .

Proof. Let $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n)^T$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } c^T \psi(x_i, x_j) c &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n c_i c_j (\Phi(x_i) - \Phi(x_j))^T (\Phi(x_i) - \Phi(x_j)) \\ &= 2 \sum_{ij} c_i c_j \Phi(x_i)^T \Phi(x_i) - 2 \sum_{ij} c_i c_j \Phi(x_i)^T \Phi(x_j) \\ &= 2 \left(\sum_{j=1}^n c_j \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i \Phi(x_i)^T \Phi(x_j) \right) - 2 \sum_{i,j} c_i c_j \Phi(x_i)^T \Phi(x_j) \\ &= -2 \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \Phi(x_i) \right\|^2 \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

(Berger et al.)

Theorem (Schwartzberg). Let Ω be a nonempty set and $\psi: \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a kernel. Then ψ is negative definite if and only if $\exp(-t\psi)$ is positive definite for all $t > 0$.
 (Berger et al.).

Proposition 3 If $\psi: \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is negative definite and $\psi(x, x) \geq 0$, then for any $0 < p < 1$, $\psi(x, y)^p$ is negative definite.

Application to the listed kernel:

- For any $0 \leq p \leq 2$, $\|x-y\|^p$ is negative definite on \mathbb{R}^m .

Proof. By prop. 2 where we choose $\phi(x) = x$ we have $\|x-y\|^2$ is negative definite, hence $(\|x-y\|^2)^\alpha$ is negative definite by prop. 3 for $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ so $\|x-y\|^\alpha$ is negative for all $0 \leq p \leq 2$. By Schonberg's theorem.

- For any $0 \leq p \leq 2$ and $\alpha > 0$

$\exp(-\alpha \|x-y\|^p)$ is positive definite on \mathbb{R}^m

The statement follows by the Schonberg theorem and $\|x-y\|^p$ is negative definite for $0 \leq p \leq 2$.

In particular, $p=1$ we get the Laplacian kernel is positive definite and $p=2$ the Gaussian kernel is positive definite.

Proposition 4: If $\psi: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is negative definite and

$\text{Re } \psi(x, y) \geq 0$. Then for any $\alpha > 0$

$\frac{1}{\psi(x, y) + \alpha}$ is positive definite.

$$\text{Proof: } \frac{1}{\psi(x, y) + \alpha} = \int_0^\infty e^{-t(\psi(x, y) + \alpha)} dt \quad \forall t > 0$$

Fact: For any $0 < p \leq 2$, $\frac{1}{1 + \|x-y\|^p}$ is positive definite on \mathbb{R}^m ; when $p=2$ it is the Gaussian kernel.