

Necessary condition for matrix-valued kernels

Miaoyan Wang, April 26, 2020

Theorem 0.1 (Necessary condition). *Suppose $\mathbf{K}: \mathbb{R}^{d' \times d} \times \mathbb{R}^{d' \times d} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is a function that takes as input a pair of matrices and produces a matrix. Let $\{\mathbf{X}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d' \times d}: i \in [n]\}$ denote a set of input matrices, and let \mathcal{K} denote an order-4 (d, d, n, n) -dimensional array,*

$$\mathcal{K} = \llbracket \mathcal{K}(i, i', p, p') \rrbracket, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{K}(i, i', p, p') \text{ is the } (p, p')\text{-th entry of the matrix } \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{X}_{i'}).$$

Then, the factorization $\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{X}') = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{X})^T \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{X}')$ exists for some mapping \mathbf{h} , only if both of the following conditions hold:

- (1) For every index $i \in [n]$, the slice $\mathcal{K}(i, i, \cdot, \cdot) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is a symmetric, positive definite matrix.*
- (2) For every index $p \in [d]$, the slice $\mathcal{K}(\cdot, \cdot, p, p) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a symmetric, positive definite matrix.*