

$$\begin{aligned}
1. \quad k(x, z) &= \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - z\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\
&= \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(\frac{x^T z}{\sigma^2}\right) \\
&= \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} \left(\frac{x^T z}{\sigma^2}\right)^j \\
&= \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} \left(\frac{x^T z}{\sigma^2}\right)^j \\
&= \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right) \left[\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma^{2j} j!} \sum_{i_1=0}^j \dots \sum_{i_j=0}^j (x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_j})(z_{i_1} \dots z_{i_j}) \right] \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{(x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_j})}{\sigma^j \sqrt{j!}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right) \right] \left[\frac{(z_{i_1} \dots z_{i_j})}{\sigma^j \sqrt{j!}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^T z}{2\sigma^2}\right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

where $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma^{2i} j!} \sum_{i_1=0}^j \dots \sum_{i_j=0}^j (s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_j}) = 1$ if $j=0$. Therefore, computing the Gaussian kernel is equivalent to taking the inner product after mapping the input to an infinite dimensional feature space, where each element of the mapping $\phi(x)$ has the form

$$\frac{(x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_j})}{\sigma^j \sqrt{j!}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^T x}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$