

# Kernel Principal Component Analysis

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## Abstract

Principal component analysis (PCA) and kernel methods are tools often used in data science. The underlying theory of these tools depend on the properties of a special type of Hilbert space called a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS). This paper explores the essence of RKHSs using data science examples, in particular, PCA and kernel PCA. When kernel methods are applied to PCA, we can analyze nonlinear data in a high-dimensional feature space with some nice properties.

## 1 Introduction

In linear regression, the equation of a line  $y = a_0 + a_1x$  is used to model observations based on training data. Here, the input variable  $x$  is used to predict the response variable  $y$ . The parameters  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  are chosen such that

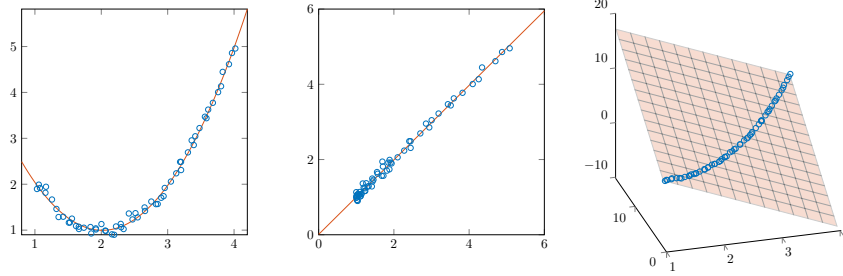


Figure 1: Plotting  $y$  against  $x$  (left) and the derived feature  $z = \phi(x)$  (middle). The 3D plot (right) graphs the output  $y$  against  $x$  and  $x^2$

the residual error<sup>1</sup> is minimized. It seems natural to model data using polynomial equations in a similar way, that is, determine  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n$  such that

$$y = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_nx^n \quad (1)$$

minimizes the residual error.

In multiple linear regression, the equation of a hyperplane

$$y = a_0 + a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n \quad (2)$$

is used to predict  $y$  using inputs  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ . It follows that these observations are points in  $n + 1$  dimensions.

**Example 1.1.** Suppose we have a set of points  $\{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Using polynomial regression, we fit the model  $y \sim 1 + x + x^2$ . We can derive a new variable from  $x$  to get

$$z = \phi(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2.$$

By transforming our original data, the quadratic relationship between  $x$  and  $y$  can be viewed as a linear relationship between  $z$  and  $y$ . This shows that polynomial regression is just a special case of multiple regression where each power of  $x$  is treated as a separate dimension. See Figure 1

Here, we make the distinction between different kinds of input variables. We say that  $x$  is an **attribute** and that  $z$  is a **feature**.

## 2 Principal Component Analysis

When analyzing data, it can be convenient to transform the given input variables to produce new features. For a well-chosen transform, these features may be approximated using fewer dimensions than the original input space [8]. This

<sup>1</sup>The residual for a given observation  $(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})$  is  $|y^{(i)} - (a_0 + a_1x^{(i)})|$ .

is an example of a data preprocessing technique known as *dimension reduction* and can reveal low-dimensional structure.

Principal component analysis (PCA) is an orthogonal coordinate transform that is suitable for dimension reduction if some of the inputs are linearly correlated. In this case, PCA transforms redundant variables in the input space producing uncorrelated variables in the feature space.

There are a number of ways to derive the optimal PCA transform. One approach presented in [8] is based on finding uncorrelated features. It is straightforward to show that uncorrelated features have a diagonal covariance matrix. This can be used to solve for the covariance matrix  $C$  of input variables. By asserting the orthogonality of the PCA transform, we obtain  $V$  from the diagonalization of the covariance matrix  $C = VDV^\top$ . Given this PCA transform, we can show that  $V$  minimizes projection residuals as in [15].

## 2.1 Finding uncorrelated features

The correlation between two random variables  $x$  and  $y$  is defined as

$$\text{corr}(x, y) = \frac{E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)]}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mu_x$ ,  $\mu_y$  and  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$  are the respective means and standard deviations of  $x$  and  $y$ . We say  $x$  and  $y$  are uncorrelated when  $\text{corr}(x, y) = 0$ . This happens if and only if

$$E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)] = \text{cov}(x, y) = 0. \quad (4)$$

The covariance matrix for a multivariate random variable  $x = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d]$  (as a row vector) has  $\text{cov}(x_i, x_j)$  in the  $i$ -th row and  $j$ -th column. Then

$$E[(x - \mu_x)^\top (x - \mu_x)] = \begin{bmatrix} \text{cov}(x_1, x_1) & \text{cov}(x_1, x_2) & \cdots & \text{cov}(x_1, x_d) \\ \text{cov}(x_2, x_1) & \text{cov}(x_2, x_2) & \cdots & \text{cov}(x_2, x_d) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \text{cov}(x_d, x_1) & \text{cov}(x_d, x_2) & \cdots & \text{cov}(x_d, x_d) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

If  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d$  are pairwise uncorrelated, then  $\text{cov}(x_i, x_j) = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Hence, uncorrelated variables have a diagonal covariance matrix.

Now, let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times d}$  represent  $n$  observations in  $d$  variables. These observations can be considered points in  $d$ -dimensional space whose centroid is  $\mu_a = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$ . We want to determine a PCA transform which sends these points in the input space to points in the feature space. Moreover, the basis vectors of the feature space shall be uncorrelated. Accordingly, let  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  be the change of basis matrix and let

$$b_i = (a_i - \mu_a)V, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (6)$$

be observations with respect to the feature coordinates. Then

$$\mu_b = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n b_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - \mu_a)V = 0. \quad (7)$$

Using equation (5), we can compute the sample covariance matrices as

$$C = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - \mu_a)^\top (a_i - \mu_a), \quad D = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n b_i^\top b_i. \quad (8)$$

Since  $D$  is the covariance matrix of uncorrelated features, by the argument above, it is diagonal. If we restrict  $V$  to be orthogonal, then

$$b_i^\top b_i = V^\top (a_i - \mu_a)^\top (a_i - \mu_a) V \implies D = V^\top C V \implies C = V D V^\top. \quad (9)$$

Hence,  $V$  must be a matrix of orthonormal eigenvectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d$  corresponding to eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_d$  on the diagonal of  $D$ . When the eigenvalues and eigenvectors are ordered such that

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_d, \quad (10)$$

we call  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d$  the *principal components* of the PCA transform matrix  $V$ .

## 2.2 Minimizing projection residuals

Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be points in  $d$ -dimensions. Consider the orthonormal basis vectors  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p \in \mathbb{R}^d$  for a subspace  $F^p \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ . The projection of these points onto  $F^p$  results in the points

$$b_i = \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle v_j, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (11)$$

The squared projection residuals are

$$\begin{aligned} \|a_i - b_i\|^2 &= \langle a_i - b_i, a_i - b_i \rangle \\ &= \langle a_i, a_i \rangle - 2 \langle a_i, b_i \rangle + \langle b_i, b_i \rangle \\ &= \|a_i\|^2 - 2 \langle a_i, b_i \rangle + \|b_i\|^2 \\ &= \|a_i\|^2 - 2 \left\langle a_i, \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle v_j \right\rangle + \left\| \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle v_j \right\|^2 \\ &= \|a_i\|^2 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle \langle a_i, v_j \rangle + \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle^2 \|v_j\|^2 \\ &= \|a_i\|^2 - 2 \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle^2 + \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle^2 \\ &= \|a_i\|^2 - \sum_{j=1}^p \langle a_i, v_j \rangle^2 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

## 2.3 Singular value decomposition

## 2.4 Principal component analysis algorithm

Let  $A$  be a data matrix whose  $n$  rows correspond to observations and  $d$  columns correspond to variables. The following algorithm demonstrates a simple method for computing the PCA of  $A$ :

1. Compute the centered matrix  $A_0 = A - \text{col mean}(A)$ .
2. Compute the covariance matrix  $C = \frac{1}{n-1} A_0^\top A_0$ .
3. Diagonalize the covariance matrix such that  $C = V D V^\top$ .
4. Order the eigenvalues and eigenvectors so that  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_d$ . We call the ordered eigenvalues the *principal components*.
5. Choose the dimension of the subspace  $p \leq d$ .
6. Construct the  $d \times p$  projection matrix  $V_p$  using the first  $p$  principal components  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p$ .

**Example 2.1.** Consider the following matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & 6 & 7 & 6 \\ 4 & 5 & 7 & 1 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 & 6 & 1 & 0 \\ 6 & 10 & 12 & 12 & 11 \\ 9 & 10 & 12 & 13 & 9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The column means are  $\mu = [5.8, 7, 8.6, 6.8, 5.8]$ . Then the mean-centered data becomes

$$X = A - \mu = \frac{1}{5} \begin{bmatrix} -4 & -20 & -13 & 1 & 1 \\ -9 & -10 & -8 & -29 & -14 \\ -4 & 0 & -13 & -29 & -29 \\ 1 & 15 & 17 & 26 & 26 \\ 16 & 15 & 17 & 31 & 16 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The covariance matrix is

$$C = X^T X = \frac{1}{5} \begin{bmatrix} 74 & 85 & 93 & 179 & 104 \\ 85 & 190 & 170 & 225 & 150 \\ 93 & 170 & 196 & 313 & 238 \\ 179 & 225 & 313 & 664 & 484 \\ 104 & 150 & 238 & 484 & 394 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Diagonalizing  $C$  gives

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1888 & -0.2020 & -0.6366 & 0.5495 & -0.4651 \\ 0.2755 & -0.7886 & 0.1472 & -0.4502 & -0.2791 \\ 0.3606 & -0.3464 & 0.3128 & 0.5836 & 0.5582 \\ 0.6979 & 0.2522 & -0.4422 & -0.3707 & 0.3411 \\ 0.5209 & 0.3922 & 0.5288 & 0.1316 & -0.5271 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 264.8458 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 27.9766 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9.3198 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.4579 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If we keep all 5 principal component vectors, then  $V_5 = V$  and the projection of  $X$  along  $V$  is

$$P = XV = \begin{bmatrix} -1.9469 & 4.3453 & -0.8756 & -0.2039 & 0 \\ -6.9742 & -0.0660 & 1.4352 & 0.7590 & 0 \\ -8.1577 & -2.6752 & -0.8063 & -0.5704 & 0 \\ 8.4282 & -0.2330 & 1.8282 & -0.4996 & 0 \\ 8.6507 & -1.3711 & -1.5815 & 0.5149 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Here, the last column of  $P$  is the zero vector because the last eigenvalue of  $C$  is zero<sup>2</sup>. To perfectly reconstruct  $A$ , we need  $k = 4$  principal components and the row vector  $\mu$

$$A = PV^T + \mu = PV_4^T + \mu.$$

If we use  $k = 3$  principal components, then the projection of  $X$  onto  $V_3$  is

$$P = XV_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1.9469 & 4.3453 & -0.8756 \\ -6.9742 & -0.0660 & 1.4352 \\ -8.1577 & -2.6752 & -0.8063 \\ 8.4282 & -0.2330 & 1.8282 \\ 8.6507 & -1.3711 & -1.5815 \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $A$  is approximately reconstructed by

$$A \approx PV_3^T + \mu = \begin{bmatrix} 5.1 & 2.9 & 6.1 & 6.9 & 6.0 \\ 3.6 & 5.3 & 6.6 & 1.3 & 2.9 \\ 5.3 & 6.7 & 6.3 & 0.8 & 0.1 \\ 6.3 & 9.8 & 12.3 & 11.8 & 11.1 \\ 8.7 & 10.2 & 11.7 & 13.2 & 8.9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We can compute the reconstruction error using

$$E_k = \|A - (PV_k^T + \mu)\|_F,$$

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<sup>2</sup>Since we subtracted the column means from a square matrix  $A$ , the dimension of the row space was reduced to 4.

where  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is the Frobenius norm. By the SVD, we have  $X = USV^T$ , where  $S = \sqrt{D}$ . So, the projection of  $X$  onto  $V_k$  is

$$P = XV_k = US_k,$$

where  $S_k$  is the diagonal matrix of the first  $k$  singular values. Then the reconstruction error becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \|A - (PV_k^T + \mu)\|_F &= \|(A - \mu) - PV_k^T\|_F \\ &= \|X - PV_k^T\|_F \\ &= \|USV^T - US_kV^T\|_F \\ &= \|U(S - S_k)V^T\|_F \\ &= \|S - S_k\|_F \\ &= \sigma_k + \sigma_{k+1} + \cdots + \sigma_p. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$E_3 = \sigma_3 + \sigma_4 = \sqrt{1.4579} + 0 = 1.2074.$$

## 2.5 Linear regression and PCA

[16] Let  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be observation vectors and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be a target vector. A linear regression model finds a vector of weights  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$  to determine the linear function

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i, \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  is an input vector. The residual error of each observation is  $\mathbf{y} - f(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Then the residual sum of squares is given to be

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^m (\mathbf{y} - f(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i)^2 = (\mathbf{y} - X^\top \mathbf{w})^\top (\mathbf{y} - X^\top \mathbf{w}), \quad (14)$$

where  $X = [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m]$ . By minimizing  $RSS$ , the magnitude of the residuals will be as small as possible, producing the optimal linear model  $f(\mathbf{x})$ . Therefore, this method is known as least squares regression. Differentiate (14) with respect to  $\mathbf{w}$  and set equal to zero so that

$$2X^\top \mathbf{y} - 2X^\top X \mathbf{w} = 0. \quad (15)$$

This leads to the normal equation  $X^\top X \mathbf{w} = X^\top \mathbf{y}$ . Thus,

$$\mathbf{w} = (X^\top X)^{-1} X^\top \mathbf{y} \quad (16)$$

gives the optimal linear model which minimizes residual error.

**Example 2.2.** In two dimensions, let  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$ . Then the least squares regression model is given by

$$f(x) = \frac{\text{cov}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\text{var}(\mathbf{x})}(x - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \bar{\mathbf{y}}, \quad (17)$$

Since  $\mathbf{x}$  is treated as an input variable and  $\mathbf{y}$  is treated as an output, this is a type of supervised learning. In contrast, PCA is an unsupervised learning technique. PCA organizes the variables in the input space to reveal any patterns in the underlying data. If we have input variables  $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$ , we can use PCA to find a linear pattern among the inputs without trying to predict an output. First, we find the direction of the largest variance  $\lambda_{\max}$  using the covariance matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_1) & \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) \\ \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1) & \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{var}(\mathbf{x}_1) & \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) \\ \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) & \text{var}(\mathbf{x}_2) \end{bmatrix}.$$

In particular,

$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{var}(\mathbf{x}) + \text{var}(\mathbf{y}) + \sqrt{(\text{var}(\mathbf{x}) - \text{var}(\mathbf{y}))^2 + 4 \text{cov}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})^2} \right).$$

Then the PCA regression model becomes

$$g(x) = \frac{\lambda_{\max} - \text{var}(\mathbf{x}_1)}{\text{cov}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2)}(x - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1) + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_2. \quad (18)$$

In this case, the projection residuals are orthogonal to the PCA regression line. See Figure 2.

### 3 Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space

In this section, our goal is to establish properties of Hilbert spaces and kernel functions that can be used to modify the PCA algorithm. To begin, we will briefly cite some definitions and results from analysis [9], [12] and matrix theory [7].

**Definition 3.1** (Definite matrix). [7] Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over the real numbers having the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} = [a_{ij}]. \quad (19)$$

The *transpose* of  $A$  is  $A^\top = [a_{ji}]$ . We say that  $A$  is *symmetric* whenever  $A = A^\top$ . A symmetric matrix  $A$  is

1. *positive definite* if  $x^\top A x > 0$ , for all nonzero  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , or



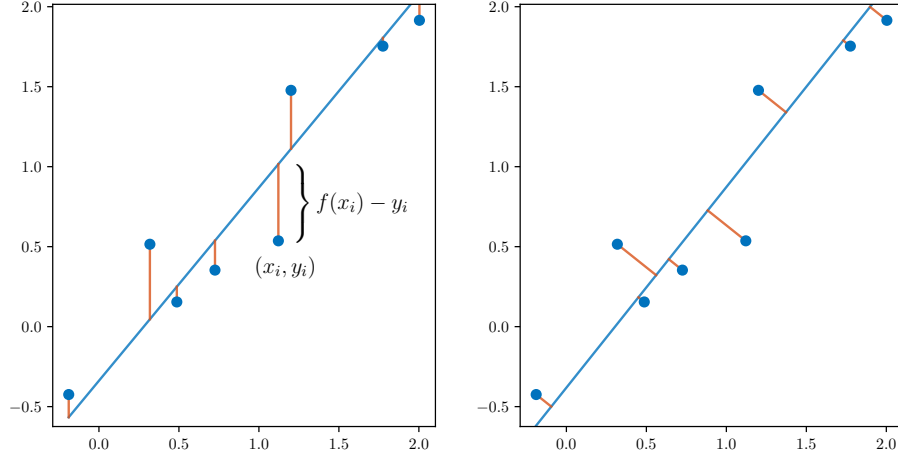


Figure 2: Least squares regression model  $f(x)$  (left) minimizes the sum of squared errors while total least squares, i.e., the PCA model  $g(x)$  (right) minimizes the orthogonal projections.

2. *positive semidefinite* if  $x^\top Ax \geq 0$ , for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Negative (semi)definite matrices can be defined in a similar fashion. A matrix is *definite* if it is either positive semidefinite or negative semidefinite. Otherwise,  $A$  is an *indefinite matrix*.

Be aware that some authors use the terms positive definite ( $>$ ) and nonnegative definite ( $\geq$ ). Other authors use the modifier *strict* as in strict positive definite ( $>$ ) and positive definite ( $\geq$ ).

**Definition 3.2** (Inner product). [17] Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined on the vector space  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is an *inner product* if the following properties hold for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ :

1.  $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle y, x \rangle$ ; (symmetry)
2.  $\langle \alpha x + \beta y, z \rangle = \alpha \langle x, z \rangle + \beta \langle y, z \rangle$ ; (bilinear)
3.  $\langle x, x \rangle \geq 0$  and  $\langle x, x \rangle = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ . (positive definite)

Note that linearity in the first argument with symmetry implies that the inner product is bilinear (linear in both arguments). Since inner products are positive definite, they induce a norm  $\|\cdot\| : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and metric  $d : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle} \quad \text{and} \quad d(x, y) = \|x - y\|. \quad (20)$$

An *inner product space*, *normed space*, and *metric space* are vector spaces along with an inner product, norm, and metric, respectively. It follows that an inner product space is also a normed space and a metric space. Then the induced norm has the following properties for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ :

1.  $\|\alpha x\| = |\alpha|\|x\|$ ;
2.  $\|x\| \geq 0$  and  $\|x\| = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ ;
3.  $\|x + y\| \leq \|x\| + \|y\|$ ; (triangle inequality)
4.  $\langle x, y \rangle^2 \leq \|x\|\|y\|$ . (Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)

**Example 3.3.** The *Euclidean inner product* (or *dot product*) is the function  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i = x^\top y, \quad (21)$$

for all  $x = [x_i], y = [y_i] \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Sometimes we write  $x \cdot y$  to mean the Euclidean inner product. This induces the *Euclidean norm*

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} \quad (22)$$

**Definition 3.4** (Hilbert space). [9] A metric space is *complete* if the limit of every Cauchy sequence is in the space. A complete normed space is called a *Banach space*. A complete inner product space  $\mathcal{H}$  is called a *Hilbert space*. We sometimes denote the inner product and norm of  $\mathcal{H}$  as  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}}$  to avoid ambiguity.

A Hilbert space is said to be *separable* if it contains a dense countable subset. It can be shown that a Hilbert space is separable if and only if it has a countable orthonormal basis.

Two real Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  are said to be *isomorphic* if there is a linear bijection  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  such that

$$\langle x, y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = \langle Tx, Ty \rangle_{\mathcal{L}}, \quad (23)$$

for every  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . In [9], Kreyszig shows that two Hilbert spaces are isomorphic if and only if they have the same dimension. If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an inner product space that is not complete, then it can be extended to a Hilbert space by completion. The completion of an inner product space is denoted as  $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$  and is unique up to isomorphism.

The following example demonstrates a useful property of separable Hilbert spaces.

**Example 3.5.** [12] Let  $A$  be a nonempty index set. The space of square-summable indexed families is defined as

$$\ell^2(A) = \left\{ x : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \left| \sum_{a \in A} x_a^2 < \infty \right. \right\}. \quad (24)$$

Given the inner product

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{a \in A} x_a y_a, \quad (25)$$

$\ell^2(A)$  is a Hilbert space. Moreover,  $\ell^2(A)$  is separable if and only if  $A$  is countable. It follows that the sequence space  $\ell^2 = \ell^2(\mathbb{N})$  is the separable Hilbert space of square-summable sequences. Due to the Riesz-Fischer theorem, every infinite-dimensional Hilbert space is isomorphic to  $\ell^2$ .

TODO: Define Hilbert space dual

**Definition 3.6** (Gram matrix). [7] Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{X}$  for some inner product space  $\mathcal{X}$  equipped with  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ . We say  $G$  is a *Gram matrix* (or *Gramian*) for the sequence of vectors  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  with respect to  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  if  $G = [\langle x_i, x_j \rangle]_{ij}$ .

**Example 3.7.** TODO: Clean up gram matrix example.

Consider the vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} \\ v_{21} \\ v_{31} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} v_{12} \\ v_{22} \\ v_{32} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} v_{13} \\ v_{23} \\ v_{33} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} v_{14} \\ v_{24} \\ v_{34} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The Gram matrix for these vectors is

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_3 & \mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_4 \\ \mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_3 & \mathbf{v}_2^\top \mathbf{v}_4 \\ \mathbf{v}_3^\top \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_3^\top \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_3^\top \mathbf{v}_3 & \mathbf{v}_3^\top \mathbf{v}_4 \\ \mathbf{v}_4^\top \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_4^\top \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_4^\top \mathbf{v}_3 & \mathbf{v}_4^\top \mathbf{v}_4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If  $V$  is a matrix whose columns are  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4$ , then we can write  $G = V^\top V$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** [7] A matrix  $G$  is a Gram matrix if and only if  $G$  is positive semidefinite.

*Proof.* ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $G$  is the Gram matrix of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  with respect to  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ . Let  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $G$  is positive semidefinite because

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j \langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i, \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j \right\rangle = \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i \right\|^2 \geq 0. \quad (26)$$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $G$  is positive semidefinite. Then  $G$  can be factored as  $G = B^\top B$ . Let  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  be the columns of  $B$ . Then  $G = [b_i^\top b_j]_{ij}$ . Hence  $G$  is the Gram matrix of  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  with respect to the dot product.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.9.** [7] A Gram matrix  $G$  of  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  is positive definite if and only if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are linearly independent.

*Proof.* TODO: Prove that a Gram matrix is positive semidefinite iff its columns are linearly independent.  $\square$

**Definition 3.10** (Symmetric bilinear form). A *symmetric bilinear form* is a map  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  over a vector space  $\mathcal{X}$  such that, for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$1. \quad k(x, y) = k(y, x) \text{ and} \quad (\text{symmetry})$$

$$2. \quad k(\alpha x + \beta y, z) = \alpha k(x, z) + \beta k(y, z). \quad (\text{bilinear})$$

This can be thought of as a generalization of an inner product which is symmetric and bilinear, but not necessarily positive definite.

**Example 3.11.** If  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  is a basis for  $\mathcal{X}$ , then we can define a matrix  $K = [k(u_i, u_j)]_{ij}$ . Clearly,  $K$  is symmetric since  $k(u_i, u_j) = k(u_j, u_i)$ . Let  $v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u_i$  and  $w = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i u_i$  be vectors with respect to  $U$  and let  $x = [\alpha_i]_{i=1}^n$  and  $y = [\beta_i]_{i=1}^n$ . Then

$$k(v, w) = k\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j u_j\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \beta_j k(u_i, u_j) = x^\top K y. \quad (27)$$

If  $K = I$ , then  $v = x$ ,  $w = y$ , and  $k(v, w) = v^\top w$  is simply the dot product. Otherwise, if  $K$  is positive semidefinite, then  $K = B^\top B$  implies

$$k(v, w) = x^\top B^\top B y = (Bx)^\top (By) \quad (28)$$

In this case,  $k(v, w)$  is just the dot product after the transformation under  $B$ . Notice that if  $U$  is merely a subset of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $v$  and  $w$  no longer have unique representations, but equations (27) and (28) are still valid for all  $v, w \in \text{span } U$ .

We say that  $k$  is *positive semidefinite* if  $K = [k(u_i, u_j)]_{ij}$  is a positive semidefinite matrix for any finite subset  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ . Then  $K$  is a Gram matrix with respect to some set of transformed vectors related to  $U$  and some inner product related to  $k$ . In the next subsection, we will show that  $k$  still corresponds to some inner product even if  $k$  is not bilinear.

### 3.1 Kernels

The development of *kernel functions* can be traced back to the beginning of the twentieth century when David Hilbert and James Mercer were studying integral equations [6]. Hilbert proved some important results in [5] about the eigenvalues of an integral operator whose kernel function is of *definite* type. Expanding on Hilbert's work, Mercer provided the necessary conditions in [10] that allow a kernel function to be written in terms of the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the integral operator. This result became known as Mercer's theorem. See Appendix C. A simplified version of Mercer's theorem states that a kernel function can be written as an inner product in a higher-dimensional space.

Hilbert space theory and Mercer's theorem led to a number of advances in functional analysis over the next few decades. Notably, in 1950, Nachman Aronszajn introduced reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces in [2]. This work expanded

on Mercer's theorem and shows that a kernel generates a Hilbert space whose inner product agrees with the kernel.

Later, the work of Mercer and Aronszajn inspired the application of kernels in machine learning. A *kernel method* is an adaptation of a machine learning algorithm that replaces a dot product with a kernel function. The earliest research involving kernel methods was in 1964 by Mark Aizerman et al. [1]. In the 1990s, Bernhard Schölkopf et al. used Aizerman's technique to develop kernel PCA and suggested the kernel trick could work in other cases too. In Section 4, we will look at the kernel method applied to the PCA algorithm. For now, we will examine the mathematics behind kernel methods.

**Definition 3.12** (Kernel). [11] Let  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined on a nonempty set  $\mathcal{X}$ . Similar to the Gram matrix, define a *kernel matrix* for a set of vectors  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq X$  with respect to  $k(\cdot, \cdot)$  as  $K = [k(x_i, x_j)]_{ij}$ . Then  $k$  is a *kernel function* (or just *kernel*) if the following hold:

1.  $k(x, y) = k(y, x)$ , for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$  and (symmetry)
2. any kernel matrix  $K$  generated by  $k$  is positive semidefinite.

We can easily show some properties that kernels have in common with inner products.

**Lemma 3.13.** [11] *Let  $k$  be a kernel. Then the following hold:*

1.  $k(x, x) \geq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and (positive semidefinite)
2.  $k(x, y)^2 \leq k(x, x)k(y, y)$ . (Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)

*Proof.* Let  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ .

1. The  $1 \times 1$  kernel matrix  $[k(x, x)]$  is positive semidefinite. So,  $k(x, x) \geq 0$ .
2. The  $2 \times 2$  kernel matrix

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} k(x, x) & k(x, y) \\ k(y, x) & k(y, y) \end{bmatrix} \quad (29)$$

is positive semidefinite. Let  $v = \begin{bmatrix} k(y, y) \\ -k(x, y) \end{bmatrix}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq v^\top K v & (30) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} k(y, y) \\ -k(x, y) \end{bmatrix}^\top \begin{bmatrix} k(x, x)k(y, y) - k(x, y)^2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= k(y, y) [k(x, x)k(y, y) - k(x, y)^2]. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $v^\top K v \geq 0$  implies  $k(x, y)^2 \leq k(x, x)k(y, y)$ .  $\square$

**Definition 3.14** (Feature map). [6] Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a nonempty set and let  $\mathbb{R}^\mathcal{X}$  be the vector space of real-valued functions on  $\mathcal{X}$ . A *feature map* is a function  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  for some subspace  $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^\mathcal{X}$ . In this context,  $\mathcal{H}$  is referred to as the *feature space* and its elements  $\Phi(x) \in \mathcal{H}$  are called *features*.

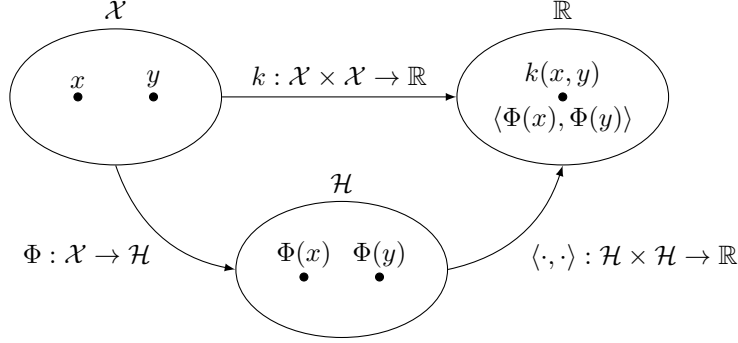


Figure 3: Kernel map diagram.

Starting with a kernel  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we want to construct a feature map  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  and inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which satisfies

$$k(x, y) = \langle \Phi(x), \Phi(y) \rangle, \quad (31)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ . Then the linear span of  $\Phi(\mathcal{X}) = \{\Phi(x) \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\}$  will be an inner product space. Since inner product spaces can be completed, we can make this a Hilbert space. See Figure 3.

**Constructing a feature map.** Consider the map<sup>3</sup>  $\Phi(x) = k(x, \cdot)$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . Note that by the symmetry of  $k$ , we can write  $\Phi(x) = k(x, \cdot) = k(\cdot, x)$ . Taking the linear span of  $\Phi(\mathcal{X})$  gives us

$$H_0 = \text{span } \Phi(\mathcal{X}) = \left\{ f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i k(x_i, \cdot) \mid \begin{array}{l} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \\ x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{X}, \\ \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right\}, \quad (32)$$

which forms a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{X}}$ . By Definition 3.14,  $H_0$  is a feature space.

**Constructing an inner product.** Let  $f, g \in H_0$ . Then there exist  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(\alpha_i)_{i=1}^n, (\beta_j)_{j=1}^m, (x_i)_{i=1}^n, (y_j)_{j=1}^m$  such that

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i k(x_i, \cdot) \quad \text{and} \quad g = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j k(y_j, \cdot). \quad (33)$$

Define  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H_0} : H_0 \times H_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{H_0} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_i \beta_j k(x_i, y_j). \quad (34)$$

<sup>3</sup>Here,  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow (\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$  is just the *curried* form of the binary function  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . For example,  $\{k(x, \cdot) \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\}$  describes a set of unary functions curried from the binary function  $k$ .

Letting  $m = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 = 1$ ,  $y_1 = y$  in equations (33) and (34), then  $g = k(y, \cdot)$ . This shows that  $k$  has the *reproducing property*

$$\langle f, k(y, \cdot) \rangle_{H_0} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i k(x_i, y) = f(y), \quad (35)$$

for all  $y \in \mathcal{X}$ . Similarly, letting  $n = 1$ ,  $\alpha_1 = 1$ ,  $x_1 = x$ , we have

$$k(x, y) = \langle k(x, \cdot), k(y, \cdot) \rangle_{H_0} = \langle \Phi(x), \Phi(y) \rangle_{H_0}, \quad (36)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ . Now we will show that  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H_0}$  is an inner product.

1. Since  $k$  is symmetric, we have

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{H_0} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_i \beta_j k(x_i, y_j) = \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_j \alpha_i k(y_j, x_i) = \langle g, f \rangle_{H_0}. \quad (37)$$

2. By rearrangement, equation (34) becomes

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{H_0} = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i k(x_i, y_j) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j f(y_j). \quad (38)$$

Then for all  $f_1, f_2 \in \text{span } \Phi(\mathcal{X})$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha f_1 + \gamma f_2, g \rangle_{H_0} &= \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j (\alpha f_1 + \gamma f_2)(y_j) \\ &= \alpha \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j f_1(y_j) + \gamma \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j f_2(y_j) \\ &= \alpha \langle f_1, g \rangle_{H_0} + \gamma \langle f_2, g \rangle_{H_0}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

3. Since  $k$  is positive semidefinite, by Lemma 3.13 part 1

$$\langle f, f \rangle_{H_0} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j k(x_i, x_j) \geq 0. \quad (40)$$

Now let  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_p$  be functions and  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_p \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then by bilinearity,

$$\sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^p \gamma_i \gamma_j \langle f_i, f_j \rangle_{H_0} = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^p \gamma_i f_i, \sum_{j=1}^p \gamma_j f_j \right\rangle_{H_0} \geq 0. \quad (41)$$

Thus,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H_0}$  is a kernel. Then by equation (35) and Lemma 3.13 part 2,

$$f(x)^2 = \langle f, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{H_0}^2 \leq \langle f, f \rangle_{H_0} \langle k(x, \cdot), k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{H_0}, \quad (42)$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . If  $\langle f, f \rangle_{H_0} = 0$ , then  $f(x)^2 = 0$  implies  $f = 0$ .

**Constructing a Hilbert space.** Now that we know  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H_0}$  is an inner product,  $H_0$  is an inner product space. By [9], this can be completed with respect to the induced metric. Then

$$\mathcal{H} = \overline{\text{span } \Phi(\mathcal{X})} = \overline{\text{span}\{k(x, \cdot) \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\}} \quad (43)$$

is a Hilbert space with inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\mathcal{H}$  contains all its limit points, functions in this space have the form the sequences  $(\alpha_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$  and  $(x_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$  determine a function  $f \in \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i k(x_i, \cdot), \quad (44)$$

provided the series converges.

**Definition 3.15** (Reproducing kernel Hilbert space). [6] Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space of functions  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on some nonempty set  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}$  is a *reproducing kernel Hilbert space* (RKHS) if there exists a function  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $f \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,

$$1. f(x) = \langle f, k(x, \cdot) \rangle \text{ and} \quad (\text{reproducing property})$$

$$2. \mathcal{H} = \overline{\text{span}\{k(x, \cdot) \mid x \in \mathcal{X}\}}. \quad (\text{spanning property})$$

Fix  $y \in \mathcal{X}$  and treat  $k(x, y)$  as a univariate function of  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . By the reproducing property,  $k(x, y) = \langle k(x, \cdot), k(y, \cdot) \rangle$ . Define  $\Phi(x) = k(x, \cdot)$  to give the desired result in equation (31), i.e.,  $k(x, y) = \langle \Phi(x), \Phi(y) \rangle$ .

### 3.2 Equivalent notions of an RKHS

In the previous section, we showed that a (symmetric positive semidefinite) kernel defines an RKHS. Presently, we will look at three alternative definitions for RKHS stated as equivalence theorems.

1. **Positive semidefinite kernels.** Due to Aronszajn [2], a reproducing kernel will generate a unique RKHS. Moreover, a kernel is unique to its RKHS. See Theorems 3.16 and 3.17.
2. **Continuous linear functionals.** By the Riesz representation theorem, if every evaluation functional is continuous, then every function in the Hilbert space can be reproduced at every point. In this way, a kernel can be defined.
3. **Feature maps.** A feature map together with an inner product can be used to define evaluation functionals. Demonstrating that these are continuous will satisfy the hypotheses of the Riesz representation theorem.



### Positive semidefinite kernels.

**Theorem 3.16** (Moore-Aronszajn theorem). *[2] Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a nonempty set and  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a kernel. Then there exists a unique RKHS for which  $k$  is a reproducing kernel.*

*Proof.* For existence, we summarize the construction provided in Section 3.1.

1.  $k$  defines a feature map  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{X}}$  such that  $\Phi(x) = k(x, \cdot)$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ .
2. The linear span of  $\Phi(\mathcal{X})$  is a feature space.
3.  $\Phi$  defines an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{H_0} : H_0 \times H_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  in equation (34).
4. Completing the feature space yields a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  with inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
5.  $k$  has the reproducing property  $\langle f, k(x, \cdot) \rangle = f(x)$  shown by equation (35).

For uniqueness, suppose  $k$  is a reproducing kernel for Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$ .

TODO: Show that  $\mathcal{WLOG} \mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{L}$ .

Now let  $f \in \mathcal{L}$ . Then we can write  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}^\perp$  as the orthogonal decomposition of  $\mathcal{L}$ . There exist  $g \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $g^\perp \in \mathcal{H}^\perp$  such that  $f = g + g^\perp$ . Let  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . Then  $k(x, \cdot) \in \mathcal{H}$  implies  $\langle g^\perp, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{L}} = 0$ . Thus

$$f(x) = \langle g, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{L}} + \langle g^\perp, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{L}} = \langle g, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{L}} = \langle g, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = g(x). \quad (45)$$

Thus  $f = g \in \mathcal{H}$  implies  $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.17.** *[2] A reproducing kernel for an RKHS is unique.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be an RKHS of functions  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  for some set  $\mathcal{X} \neq \emptyset$ . Suppose  $k$  and  $\ell$  reproducing kernels for  $\mathcal{H}$ . Denote  $k_x = k(x, \cdot)$  and  $\ell_x = \ell(x, \cdot)$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . By the reproducing property,

$$\begin{aligned} \|k_x - \ell_x\|^2 &= \langle k_x - \ell_x, k_x - \ell_x \rangle \\ &= \langle k_x - \ell_x, k_x \rangle - \langle k_x - \ell_x, \ell_x \rangle \\ &= k_x(x) - \ell_x(x) - k_x(x) + \ell_x(x) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

It follows that  $k_x - \ell_x$  is the zero function. Hence,  $k(x, \cdot) = \ell(x, \cdot)$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . By symmetry,  $k(\cdot, x) = \ell(\cdot, x)$ . Therefore,  $k = \ell$ .  $\square$

**Continuous linear functionals.** In the reverse direction, suppose we have a Hilbert space and we want to know if it is an RKHS.

**Example 3.18.** Consider a Hilbert space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the dot product. Note that the vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are actually just sequences  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with some vector operations. It is straightforward to show that the reproducing kernel is the Kroenecker delta  $k(i, j) = \delta_{ij}$  for all  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . This generates the standard basis  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , where  $e_i = k(i, \cdot)$ . So,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an RKHS.

We can replace  $\mathbb{N}$  with any other index set with cardinality  $n$ , say  $I_n = \{\frac{0}{n}, \frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n-1}{n}\}$ . Then an indexed family  $f_n : I_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has a vector representation in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Letting  $n$  tend to infinity, we have  $I_\infty = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$ . By completion, this is the space of functions  $\{f \mid f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\}$ . In one sense,  $f_n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a point in  $n$ -dimensional space and, in another sense,  $f_n : I_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the discretization of a function  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . This way, real-valued functions on  $[0, 1]$  can be interpreted as infinite-dimensional vectors.

Now consider the Hilbert space  $L^2([0, 1]) = \{f \mid \int_{[0,1]} f^2 < \infty\}$  with inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{[0,1]} fg$ . Then for all  $x \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$f(x) = \int_{[0,1]} \delta(x-t)f(t) dt, \quad (47)$$

where  $\delta$  is the Dirac delta function. If  $L^2([0, 1])$  is an RKHS, then by Theorem 3.17,  $k(x, t) = \delta(x-t)$  is the unique reproducing kernel. But  $\int_{\mathcal{X}} \delta^2 = \infty$  implies  $\delta \notin L^2([0, 1])$ . Therefore,  $L^2([0, 1])$  is not an RKHS.

The Kroenecker delta and Dirac delta in the example reproduce functions in the Hilbert space with the inner product.

**Definition 3.19** (Evaluation functional). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a nonempty set and  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space of functions  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , let  $\delta_x : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\delta_x(f) = f(x)$ , for each  $f \in \mathcal{H}$ .

### 3.3 Mercer's theorem

Mercer's theorem provides a result similar to Aronszajn's, but without the context of an RKHS. Rather, the focus is the decomposition of a kernel into a uniformly convergent series of eigenvalues and eigenfunctions. This allows us to write a power series representation for the feature map.

**Theorem 3.20** (Mercer's theorem). [10]

*Proof.* See [3] for a sketch of this proof. Otherwise, this is main result proved in [10].  $\square$

### 3.4 Constructing kernels

**Theorem 3.21.** [11, 16] Suppose  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are kernels on  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}$ . The following functions kernels.

1.  $k(x, y) = a_1 k_1(x, y) + a_2 k_2(x, y)$  for all  $a_1, a_2 \geq 0$ .

2.  $k(x, y) = k_1(x, y)k_2(x, y)$ .
3.  $k(x, y) = a_0 + a_1k_1(x, y) + a_2k_1(x, y)^2 + \cdots + a_nk_1(x, y)^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a_0, \dots, a_n \geq 0$ .
4.  $k(x, y) = k_1(h(x), h(y))$  for all  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ .
5.  $k(x, y) = g(x)g(y)$  for all  $g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
6.  $k(x, y) = \exp(k_1(x, y))$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}$ .

1. Let  $k = a_1k_1 + a_2k_2$  for  $a_1, a_2 \geq 0$ . Since  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are symmetric,

$$k(x, y) = a_1k_1(x, y) + a_2k_2(x, y) = a_1k_1(y, x) + a_2k_2(y, x) = k(y, x),$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ . So,  $k$  is symmetric.

Since  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are positive semidefinite and  $a_1, a_2 \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k(x_i, x_j) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j (a_1 k_1(x_i, x_j) + a_2 k_2(x_i, x_j)) \\ &= a_1 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k_1(x_i, x_j) + a_2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k_2(x_i, x_j) \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $k$  is positive semidefinite.

2. Let  $k = k_1k_2$ . Define  $K$  so that  $[K]_{ij} = k(x_i, x_j) = k_1(x_i, x_j)k_2(x_i, x_j)$ . Let  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  be the Gram matrices for  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ , respectively. Then  $K_1, K_2$  have orthonormal eigenvectors and nonnegative eigenvalues such that

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= VLV^\top \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & \cdots & v_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{n1} & \cdots & v_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{11} & \cdots & v_{n1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{1n} & \cdots & v_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j v_{1j} v_{1j} & \cdots & \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j v_{nj} v_{1j} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j v_{1j} v_{nj} & \cdots & \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j v_{nj} v_{nj} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j \begin{bmatrix} v_{1j} v_{1j} & \cdots & v_{nj} v_{1j} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{1j} v_{nj} & \cdots & v_{nj} v_{nj} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$K_2 = U M U^\top = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \begin{bmatrix} u_{1j}u_{1j} & \cdots & u_{nj}u_{1j} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{1j}u_{nj} & \cdots & u_{nj}u_{nj} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let  $\mathbf{v}_i = [v_{1i} \ \cdots \ v_{ni}]^\top$  and  $\mathbf{u}_j = [u_{1j} \ \cdots \ u_{nj}]$ , for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} K &= K_1 \circ K_2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \begin{bmatrix} v_{1i}v_{1i} & \cdots & v_{ni}v_{1i} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{1i}v_{ni} & \cdots & v_{ni}v_{ni} \end{bmatrix} \circ \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \begin{bmatrix} u_{1j}u_{1j} & \cdots & u_{nj}u_{1j} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{1j}u_{nj} & \cdots & u_{nj}u_{nj} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_j \begin{bmatrix} v_{1i}u_{1j}v_{1i}u_{1j} & \cdots & v_{1i}u_{1j}v_{ni}u_{nj} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{ni}u_{nj}v_{1i}u_{1j} & \cdots & v_{ni}u_{nj}v_{ni}u_{nj} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_j \begin{bmatrix} v_{1i}u_{1j} \\ \vdots \\ v_{ni}u_{nj} \end{bmatrix} [v_{1i}u_{1j} \ \cdots \ v_{ni}u_{nj}] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_j (\mathbf{v}_i \circ \mathbf{u}_j)(\mathbf{v}_i \circ \mathbf{u}_j)^\top, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\circ$  is the Hadamard product. Each  $(\mathbf{v}_i \circ \mathbf{u}_j)(\mathbf{v}_i \circ \mathbf{u}_j)^\top$  is a symmetric positive semidefinite matrix. Since  $K_1, K_2$  are positive semidefinite, we have  $\lambda_i, \mu_i > 0$ . Then  $K$  is symmetric positive semidefinite.

3. By part 2,  $k_1, k_1^2, \dots, k_1^n$  are kernels. By part 1,  $a_0 + a_1 k_1 + a_2 k_1^2 + \cdots + a_n k_1^n$  is a kernel.
4. Since  $y_i = h(x_i) \in \mathcal{X}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k(x_i, x_j) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k_1(h(x_i), h(x_j)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k_1(y_i, y_j) \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

5. Let  $g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and let  $c_i g(x_i) = y_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $k(x, y) = g(x)g(y)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i c_j k(x_i, x_j) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_i g(x_i) c_j g(x_j) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n y_i y_j \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)^2 \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

6. Let  $K_1$  be the Gram matrix for  $k_1$ . If  $K_1 v = \lambda v$ , then  $K_1^m v = \lambda^m v$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . So,

$$(\exp K_1)v = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{K_1^m v}{m!} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^m v}{m!} = e^\lambda v.$$

Then  $K = \exp K_1$  has eigenvalues  $e^\lambda$ . Since  $K_1$  is positive semidefinite, it has real eigenvalues so that  $e^\lambda > 0$ . It follows that  $K$  is positive definite. □

**Theorem 3.22** (Gaussian kernel). *The function  $k : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by*

$$k(x, y) = \exp \left( \frac{-\|x - y\|_2^2}{\sigma^2} \right), \quad (48)$$

*is a kernel.*

*Proof.* TODO: Proof for Gaussian kernel □

## 4 Kernel PCA

Recall that linear PCA finds new components that reveal more information about the structure of high-dimensional data. Since PCA is an orthogonal projection, the original data is rotated within the original space of input variables. The work of Schölkopf, Smola, and Müller [13, 14] generalized PCA based on the successful application of kernel methods in support vector machines. In kernel PCA, the inner product of the input space is replaced with the inner product of a feature space. As such, the principal components of kernel PCA are nonlinear transformations of input variables, or features.

Using results from the previous section, a kernel function  $k$  defines a unique reproducing kernel Hilbert space  $H_k$  and feature map  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_k$  such that

$$k(x, y) = \langle \Phi(x), \Phi(y) \rangle, \quad (49)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}_k$ .

## 4.1 Covariance matrix and kernel matrix

In PCA, we diagonalize  $X^\top X$ .

## 4.2 Centering in the feature space

Let  $\Phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_k$  be a feature map determined by a kernel  $k$ . Since  $\Phi$  may be nonlinear, the image  $\Phi(x)$  of a centered vector  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  is not guaranteed to be centered. For an effective PCA algorithm, it is necessary to compute the kernel matrix of centered vectors in the feature space. [14]

Given  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{X}$ , the points

$$\Phi_0(x_i) = \Phi(x_i) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi(x_i), \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n \quad (50)$$

are the centered feature vectors in  $\mathcal{H}_k$ . Then the centered kernel matrix becomes

$$\begin{aligned} [K_0]_{ij} &= \langle \Phi_0(x_i), \Phi_0(x_j) \rangle \\ &= \left\langle \Phi(x_i) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{p=1}^n \Phi(x_p), \Phi(x_j) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=1}^n \Phi(x_q) \right\rangle \\ &= \langle \Phi(x_i), \Phi(x_j) \rangle - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{p=1}^n \langle \Phi(x_p), \Phi(x_j) \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=1}^n \langle \Phi(x_i), \Phi(x_q) \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{p=1}^n \sum_{q=1}^n \langle \Phi(x_p), \Phi(x_q) \rangle \\ &= [K]_{ij} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{p=1}^n [K]_{pj} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=1}^n [K]_{iq} + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{p=1}^n \sum_{q=1}^n [K]_{pq}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $K$  is the uncentered kernel matrix given by  $[K]_{ij} = \langle \Phi(x_i), \Phi(x_j) \rangle$ . Then the formula for the centered kernel matrix can be written as

$$K_0 = K - \text{col mean}(K) - \text{row mean}(K) + \text{mean}(K). \quad (51)$$

See notes in Appendices A.1 and A.2.

<b>Algorithm 1:</b> Kernel PCA
<b>Input:</b> Data matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ , kernel function $k$ , number of components $p \leq n$ <b>Output:</b> Transformed data $\tilde{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$

**Example 4.1.** Consider the problem of classifying points based on their radii. These points cannot be separated using a linear classifier in the two dimensions. However, by mapping them to a three-dimensional space, they can be separated by planes. Applying kernel PCA, these points can be sent to the RKHS associated with a Gaussian kernel without using an explicit feature map. The points in this high-dimensional feature space can then be projected onto the first three principal components to find separation boundaries. See Figure 4.

## 5 Conclusion

### A Linear Algebra

A number of matrix definitions and results are presented without proof. These can be found in [7].

1. A square matrix  $A$  is *normal* if  $AA^\top = A^\top A$ .
2. Symmetric matrices are normal.
3. Symmetric matrices have orthogonal eigenvectors and real eigenvalues.
4. Positive semidefinite matrices have nonnegative eigenvalues.
5.  $A$  is positive semidefinite if and only if there exists a matrix  $B$  such that  $A = B^\top B$ . We say  $B$  is the *square root* of  $A$  and write  $A^{1/2} = B$ .
6. Positive definite matrices have positive eigenvalues.
7.  $A^\top A$  and  $AA^\top$  are symmetric positive semi-definite.

**Lemma A.1.** *Let  $A$  be a positive semidefinite matrix. Then  $A$  has the factorization  $A = B^\top B$ . We call*

*Proof.* Since  $A$  is symmetric, it is diagonalizable and we can write  $A = V^\top DV$ . Since  $A$  is positive semidefinite,  $\square$

#### A.1 Matrix operations and notation

Let  $A$  be an  $n \times d$  matrix. We write  $[A]_{ij}$  to indicate the matrix entry in the  $i$ -th row and the  $j$ -th column.

**Definition A.2.** Define the *entry-wise mean* of  $A$  as

$$\text{mean}(A) = \frac{1}{nd} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^d [A]_{ij}. \quad (52)$$

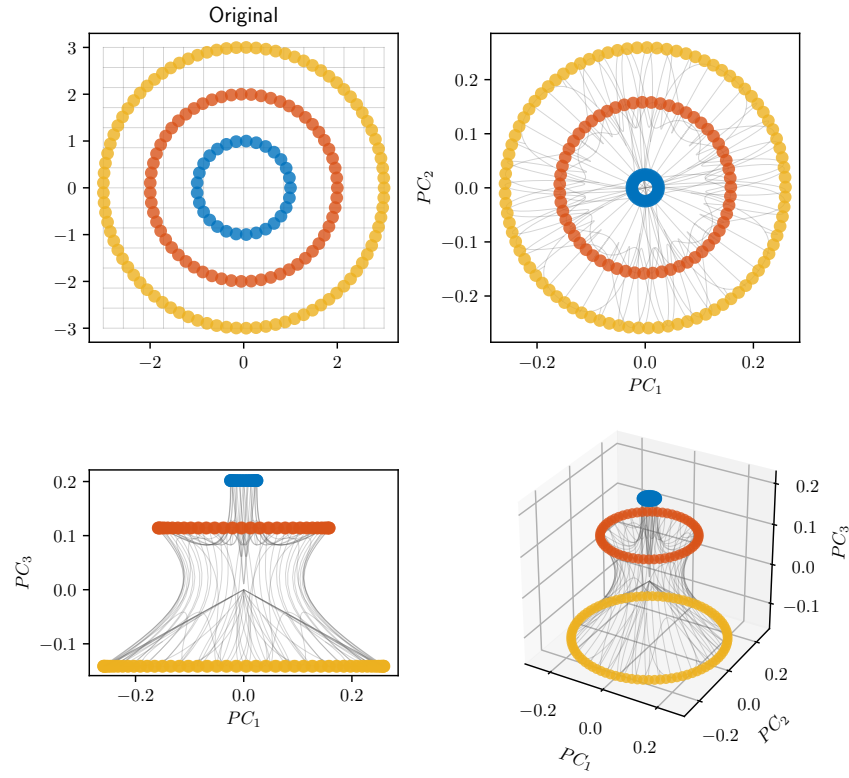


Figure 4: An idealized set of points in the plane are classified based on their radius. Kernel PCA with the Gaussian kernel is applied to find separation boundaries using the first three principal components.



Define the *column-wise mean* of  $A$  as a  $1 \times d$  row vector whose  $j$ -th entry is the mean of column  $j$  given by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \text{col mean}(A) &= \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [A]_{i1}, \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [A]_{i2}, \quad \dots, \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [A]_{id} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \begin{bmatrix} [A]_{i1} & [A]_{i2} & \dots & [A]_{id} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

Define the *row-wise mean* of  $A$  as an  $n \times 1$  column vector whose  $i$ -th entry is the mean of row  $i$  given by the formula

$$\text{row mean}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d [A]_{1j} \\ \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d [A]_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d [A]_{nj} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d \begin{bmatrix} [A]_{1j} \\ [A]_{2j} \\ \vdots \\ [A]_{nj} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (54)$$

Let  $[a]_{p \times q}$  denote the  $p \times q$  repeated matrix whose entries are all  $a$ . Then equations (52) to (54) can be written as

$$\text{mean}(A) = \left[ \frac{1}{n} \right]_{1 \times n} \cdot A \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{d} \right]_{d \times 1} \quad (55)$$

$$\text{col mean}(A) = \left[ \frac{1}{n} \right]_{1 \times d} \cdot A \quad (56)$$

$$\text{row mean}(A) = A \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{d} \right]_{d \times 1}. \quad (57)$$

## A.2 Broadcasting

Consider the sum of two real matrices  $A + B$ . By definition,  $A$  and  $B$  must both have size  $n \times d$ . This means we cannot add a  $2 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  and a  $2 \times 1$  vector  $\mathbf{b}$ . However, in many programming languages the sum  $A + \mathbf{b}$  would be handled using *broadcasting* [4]. In this case,  $\mathbf{b}$  is converted to a  $2 \times 3$  matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix}$  so that normal matrix addition applies. Generally, broadcasting a vector  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to an  $n \times d$  matrix can be represented as the matrix product

$$\mathbf{b} \cdot [1]_{1 \times d} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_1 & \dots & b_1 \\ b_2 & b_2 & \dots & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ b_n & b_n & \dots & b_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad (58)$$

where the notation  $[a]_{n \times d}$  represents an  $n \times d$  matrix whose entries are all  $a$ .

**Definition A.3.** For an  $n \times d$  matrix  $A$ , we can define addition by an  $n \times 1$  column vector  $\mathbf{c}$  as

$$A + \mathbf{c} := A + \mathbf{c} \cdot [1]_{1 \times d}. \quad (59)$$

Similarly, addition by a  $1 \times d$  row vector  $\mathbf{r}$  can be defined as

$$A + \mathbf{r} := A + [1]_{n \times 1} \cdot \mathbf{r} \quad (60)$$

and addition by a scalar  $a$  can be defined as

$$A + a := A + a \cdot [1]_{n \times d}. \quad (61)$$

The left hand sides of equations (59) to (61) are more concise and intuitive than the right hand sides. Provided that the vector types are clearly defined and compatible, there should be no ambiguity when adding column vectors, row vectors, and scalars to matrices. Moreover, this method of broadcasting is consistent with scientific programming languages.

## B Riesz Representation Theorem

**Theorem B.1** (Riesz Representation Theorem). [17] *Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous linear functional defined on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then there exists a unique element  $g \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $\phi(g) = \langle f, g \rangle_H$  for all  $g \in \mathcal{H}$ .*

*Proof.* □

## C Mercer’s Theorem

## D Code

TODO: Insert code.

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