

# Foundations of Machine Learning

## AI2000 and AI5000

FoML-32

Constructing the Kernels

Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri

Department of AI, IIT Hyderabad

July-Nov 2025



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद  
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



# So far in FoML

- Intro to ML and Probability refresher
- MLE, MAP, and fully Bayesian treatment
- Supervised learning
  - a. Linear Regression with basis functions
  - b. Bias-Variance Decomposition
  - c. Decision Theory - three broad classification strategies
  - d. Neural Networks
- Unsupervised learning
  - a. K-Means, Hierarchical, and GMM for clustering
- Kernelizing linear Models
  - a. Dual representation



# For today

- Kernel substitution/trick
- Constructing the Kernels



# Dual formulation

$$J(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a}^T \Phi \Phi^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{t} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{t} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{a}^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{a}$$

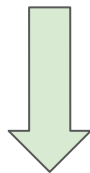
$$\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_N)^{-1} \mathbf{t} \quad y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a}^T \Phi \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_N)^{-1} \mathbf{t}$$

- Despite the computational demand, is useful
  - Expressed entirely in terms of the Kernel function
  - Avoids defining the basis functions explicitly ✓
  - Allows us to implicitly use high (even, infinite) dimensional feature spaces



# Kernel substitution

If we have an algorithm formulated in such a way that the input vector  $x$  enters only in the form of scalar products



$$\frac{x^T x}{\phi(x)^T \cdot \phi(x)}$$

then we can replace that scalar product with a kernel



# Constructing Kernels

- One way - choose the feature space ✓
  - Then construct the kernel

$$k(x, x') = \phi(x)^T \phi(x') = \sum_{i=1}^M \phi_i(x) \phi_i(x')$$

$\Phi^T S_N \Phi$

✓

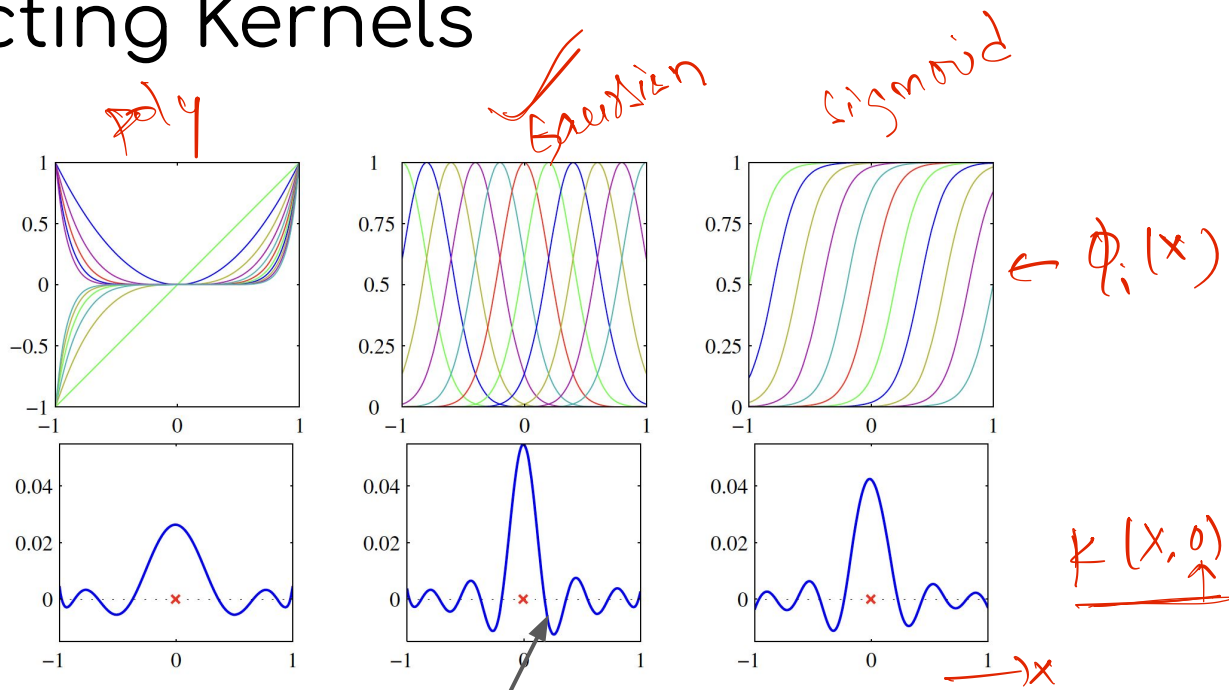
$x \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \phi_0(x) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{M-1}(x) \end{bmatrix}$

$\exp \left( -\frac{\|x - x'\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)^2$

$\geq 0$



# Constructing Kernels



Likely to be result of using a different kernel based on the Gaussian basis, but not the one shown in the above equation, or, a scaled dot product is used.



# Constructing Kernels

- Alternate - construct kernel directly
- We must ensure that it is valid
  - i.e., it corresponds to scalar product in some feature space

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) \\ \phi(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ \phi(x_N) \end{bmatrix}_{N \times M}$$

$N = \# \text{ data samples}$

$$k(x, x') = \underbrace{\quad}$$

$$K_{N \times N} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{mn} \end{bmatrix} = \underline{k(\underline{x}_m, \underline{x}_n)} = \Phi \Phi^T$$





# Constructing Kernels

- Example
- 2D input:  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^2.$$

$$\underline{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \checkmark$$
$$\underline{\mathbf{z}} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} \checkmark$$

$$\begin{aligned} k(\underline{\mathbf{x}}, \underline{\mathbf{z}}) &= (\underline{\mathbf{x}}^T \underline{\mathbf{z}})^2 = (x_1 z_1 + x_2 z_2)^2 = x_1^2 z_1^2 + x_2^2 z_2^2 + 2 x_1 z_1 x_2 z_2 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 \\ x_2^2 \\ \sqrt{2} x_1 x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} z_1^2 \\ z_2^2 \\ \sqrt{2} z_1 z_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \underline{\phi(\mathbf{x})}^T \underline{\phi(\mathbf{z})} \end{aligned}$$



# Constructing Kernels

- Need a simple way to test a function if it is a valid kernel
- Necessary and sufficient condition
  - Gram matrix should be PSD
  - i.e., for every PSD kernel, there exists a feature projection ( $\phi$ )

$$z^T K z \geq 0 \quad \forall z \neq 0 \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{z^T}_{1 \times N} \underbrace{\Phi \Phi^T}_{N \times N} z \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \underbrace{\|(\Phi^T z)\|}_{N \times 1} > 0$$



# Example Kernels

- Gaussian

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \exp(-\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|^2 / 2\sigma^2)$$

- Generalized polynomial

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}')^M$$

- Radial basis function

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|^2)$$



$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}')^M$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \phi(\mathbf{x}')$$

# Constructing Kernels

- Another way - build them out of simpler kernels as building blocks

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = ck_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \underline{f(\mathbf{x})} k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \underline{f(\mathbf{x}')}$$

$$✓ k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \underline{q(k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))}$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \underline{\exp(k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'))} ✓$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + k_2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') k_2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_3(\phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{x}'))$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}'$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_a(\mathbf{x}_a, \mathbf{x}'_a) + k_b(\mathbf{x}_b, \mathbf{x}'_b)$$

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = k_a(\mathbf{x}_a, \mathbf{x}'_a) k_b(\mathbf{x}_b, \mathbf{x}'_b)$$



# Next

- SVM



# Rough



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद  
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

