

# Functional Analysis through Applications: Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

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# What is it all about?

- For many problems / tasks in (applied) mathematics good linear methods are available.
- »Linear« essentially means »using Linear Algebra«.
- However applied mathematicians are often forced to solve nonlinear problems.
- Instead of designing new methods for the solution one can
  - try to »transform« the problem into a linear one,
  - solve the transformed problem,
  - and take the »inverse transform« as a solution of the original problem.
- In the next two lectures one way to bring this very vague approach into an applicable form is presented.

# What is it all about?

$$\begin{aligned}x_1^2 x_2^3 x_3^4 &= 2 \\x_1^4 x_2^4 x_3^{-1} &= 1 \\x_1^3 x_2^5 x_3^2 &= 4\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}2u_1 + 3u_2 + 4u_3 &= \log(2) \\4u_1 + 4u_2 - u_3 &= 0 \\3u_1 + 5u_2 + 2u_3 &= \log(4)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi : (\mathbb{R}^{>0})^3 &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \\(x_1, x_2, x_3) &\mapsto (\log(x_1), \log(x_2), \log(x_3))\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &= \frac{1}{2} \\x_2 &= 2 \\x_3 &= 1\end{aligned}$$

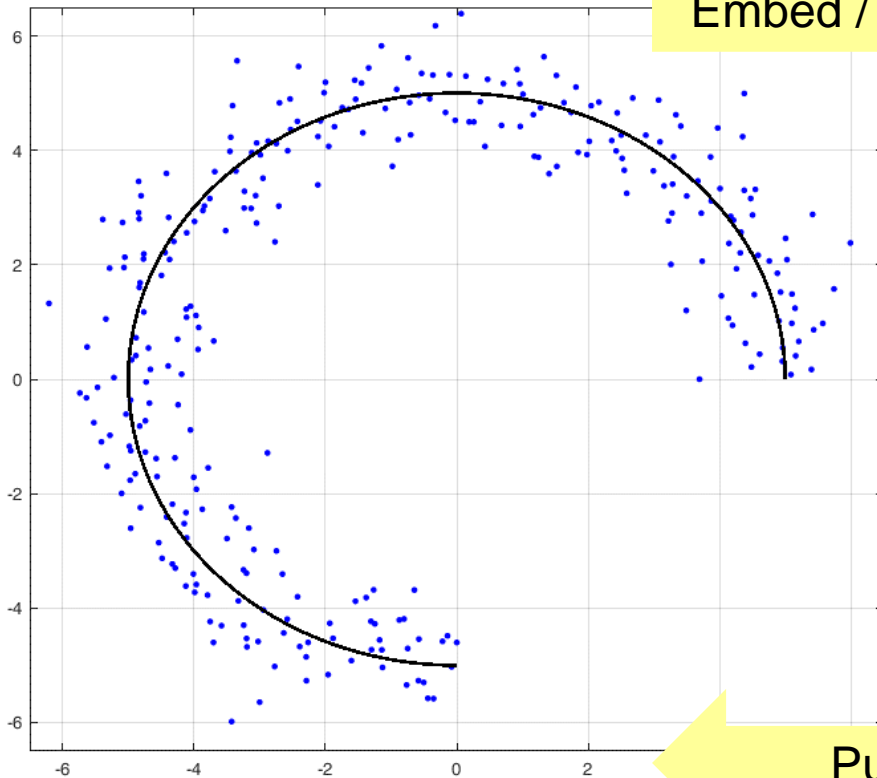


$$\begin{aligned}u_1 &= -\log(2) \\u_2 &= \log(2) \\u_3 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

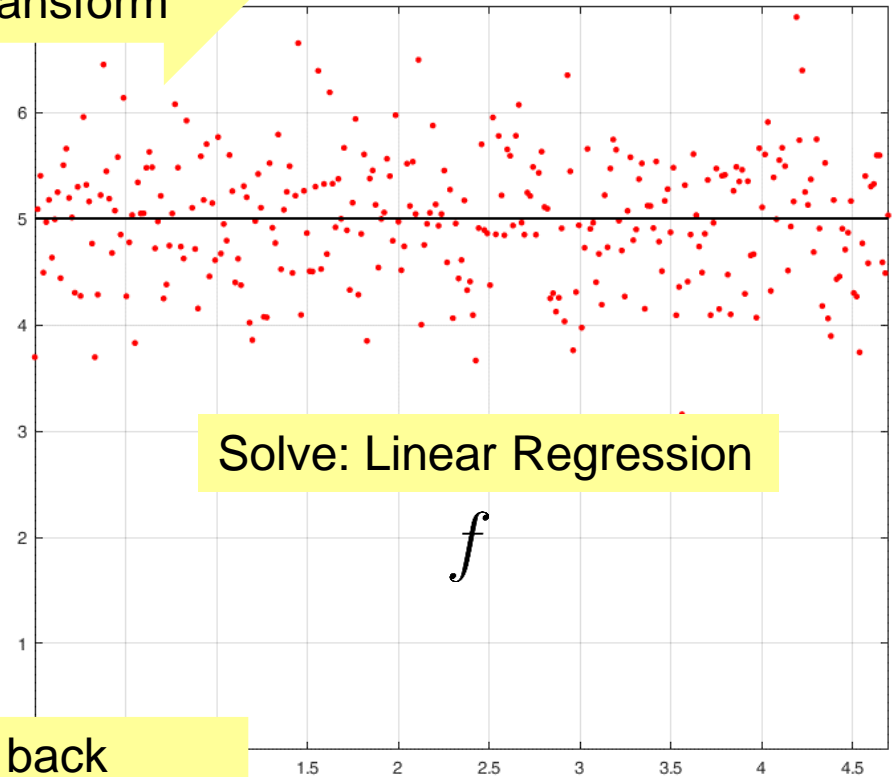
# What is it all about?

$$\phi : X \rightarrow H$$

Embed / transform



Solve: Linear Regression



Pull back

$$f \circ \phi$$

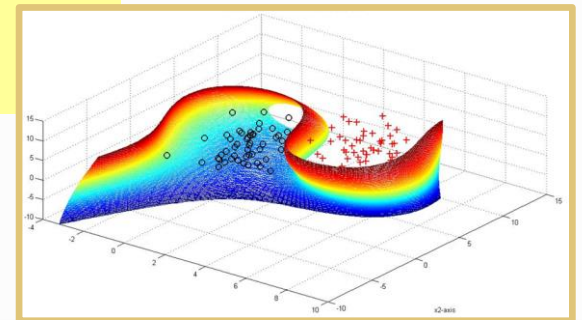
# What is it all about?

Tasks appearing in the transform-solve-pull back approach:

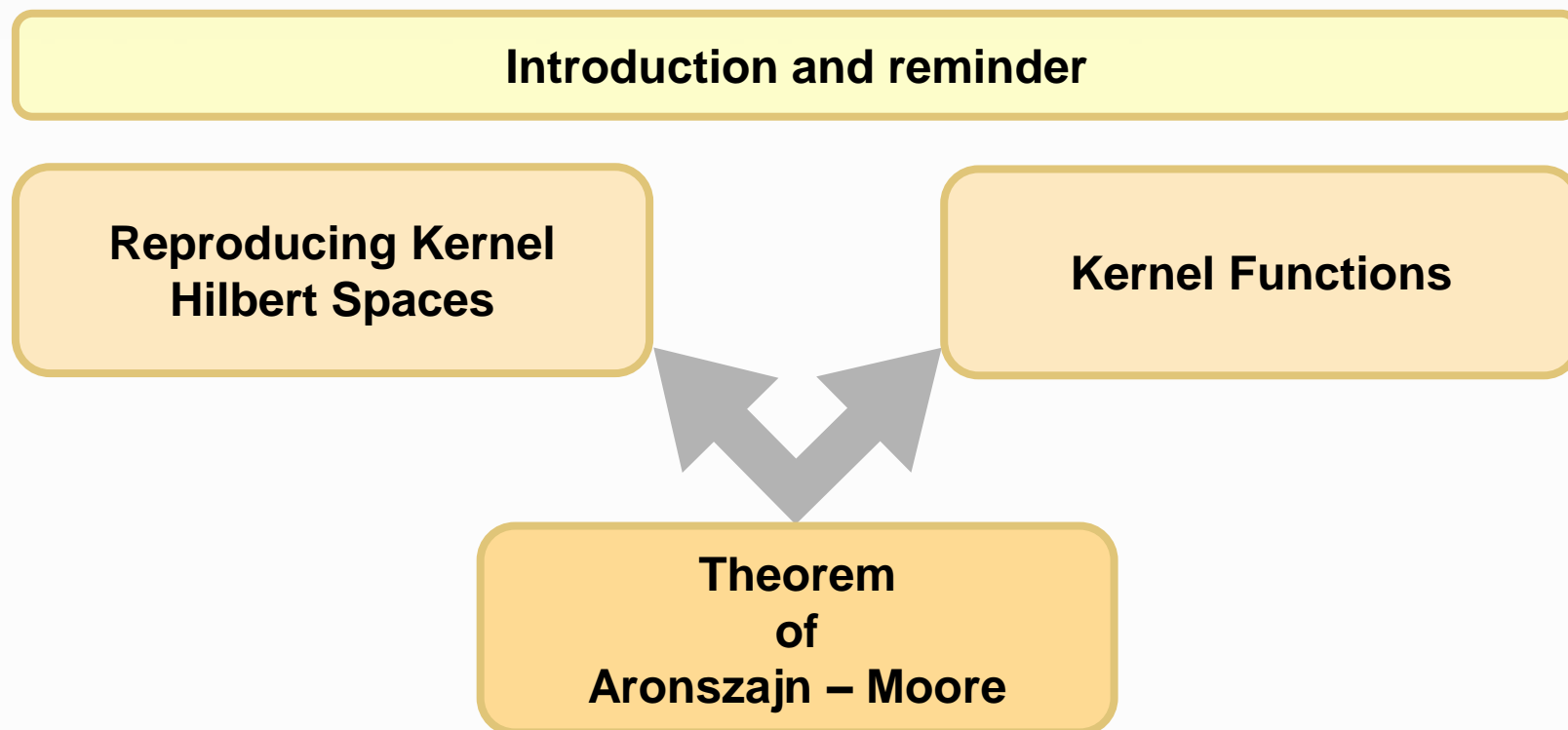
- Find a good transform mapping by checking the »quality« of many candidates.
- Effectively parameterize sets / families of candidate mappings.
- Determine sets / families of candidate mappings, such that it is not too difficult / slow to perform computations in the transformed space  $H$ .

# Outline of the two lectures

1. Introduction and reminder
2. Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces
3. Kernel Functions
4. The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore
5. What is Data Mining?
6. An Overview of Discriminant Analysis
7. Kernel – Fisher – Discriminant Analysis
8. The Kernel Method in general

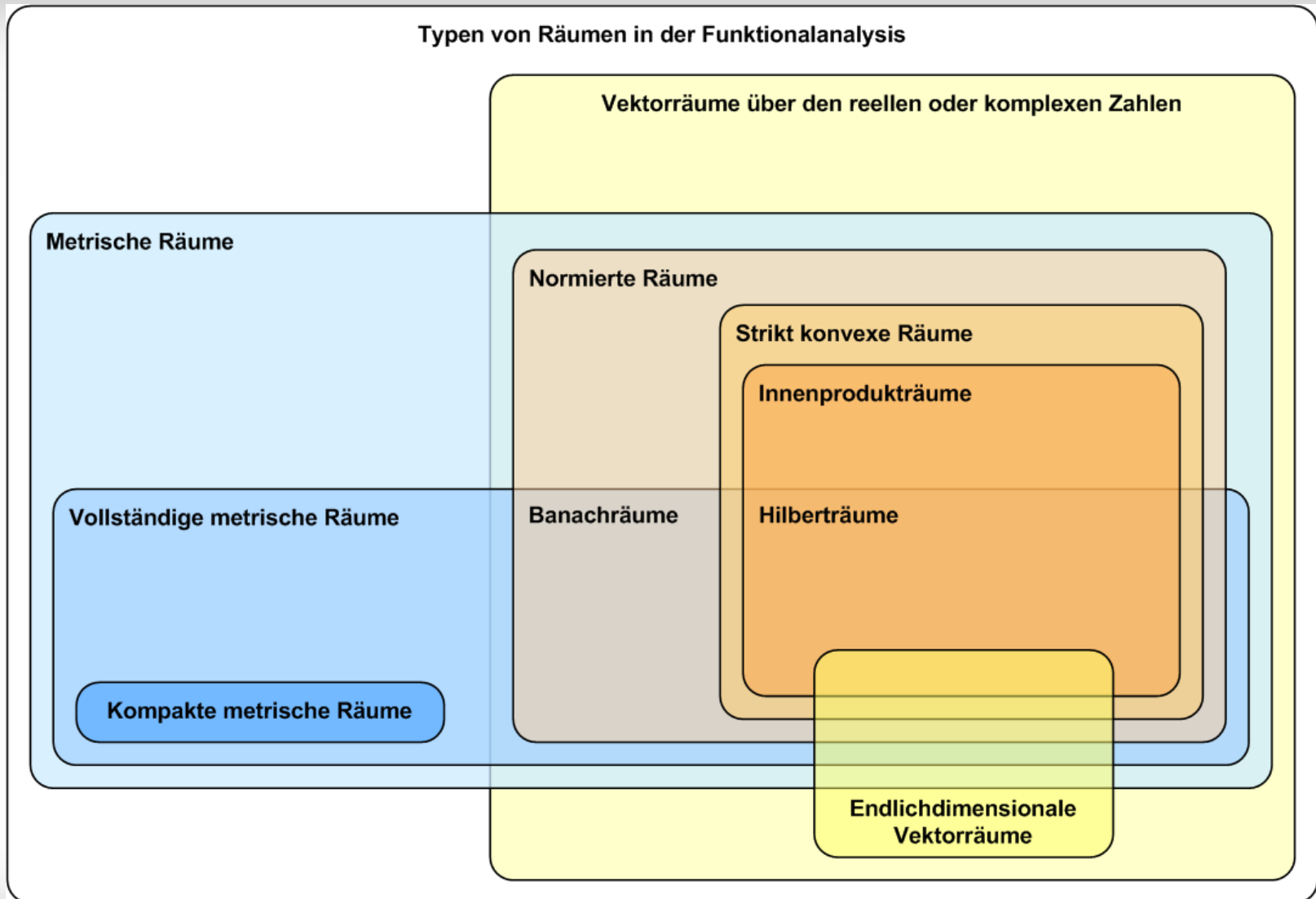


# Outline of the first lecture



# Introduction and reminder

## Typen von Räumen in der Funktionalanalysis





# Introduction and reminder

## Vector spaces of functions

- For a set  $X \neq \emptyset$  consider the *functions on  $X$* :

$$\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R}) := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ arbitrary}\}.$$

- Pointwise addition and scalar multiplication turns  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$  into a real vector space:

$$(f + g)(x) := f(x) + g(x) \text{ for } f, g \in \text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R}),$$

$$(\lambda f)(x) := \lambda f(x) \text{ for } f \in \text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R}), \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- The dimension of  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$  is finite if and only if  $X$  is a finite set.

REMARK: Virtually everything explained in this talk can be done over the complex numbers as well.

# Introduction and reminder

## Vector spaces of functions

Frequently we don't want to consider *all* functions on a set  $X$ :

- Let  $P$  be a property of functions such that: if  $f, g$  possess property  $P$ , then  $f + g$  and  $\lambda f$  possess property  $P$  as well. Then

$$P(X, \mathbb{R}) := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ possesses property } P\}$$

is a vector subspace of  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$ .

- Examples of such properties  $P$ :
  - continuity ( $X$  a metric space),
  - (partial) differentiability ( $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  open),
  - integrability ( $X$  a measurable set),
  - analyticity ( $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  open).

# Introduction and reminder

## Pointwise convergence

- A sequence  $(f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$  is said to be *pointwise convergent* if the limit

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} f_i(x)$$

exists for every  $x \in X$ . The function

$$f(x) := \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} f_i(x)$$

is then called the *pointwise limit* of  $(f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

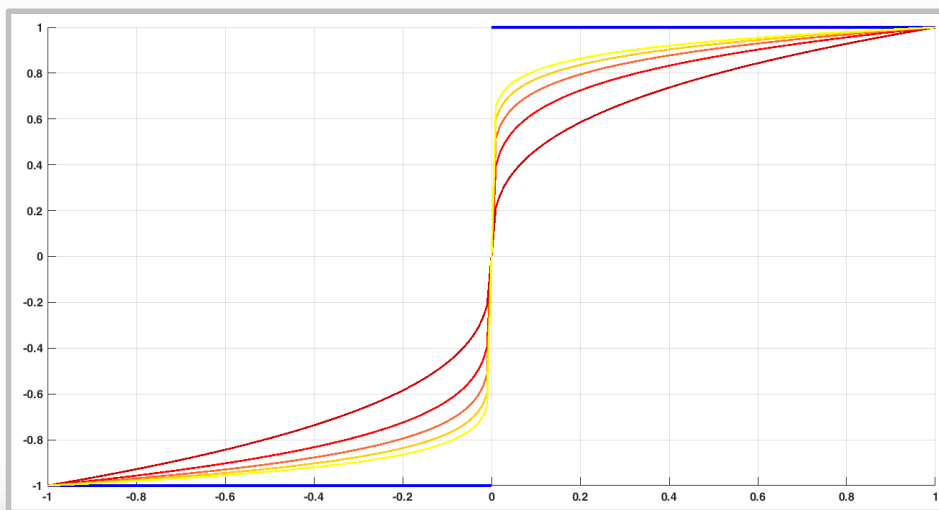
- If  $V$  is a vector subspace of  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$  and  $f$  is the pointwise limit of the sequence  $(f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ , where  $f_i \in V$  for all  $i$ , then  $f$  needs not be an element of  $V$ .

# Introduction and reminder

## Pointwise convergence

EXAMPLE:

- $V = C([a, b], \mathbb{R}) := \{f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ is continuous}\},$
- $f_i := \sqrt[2^{i+1}]{t}, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$
- $f(x) = 1$  for  $x > 0, f(0) = 0, f(x) = -1$  for  $x < 0.$



# Introduction and reminder

## Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert Spaces

DEFINITION: *An inner product space is a vector space  $H$  over the reals  $\mathbb{R}$  equipped with a symmetric, positive definite, bilinear form*

$$H \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}, (x, y) \mapsto \langle x, y \rangle$$

*called scalar product.*

INEQUALITY OF CAUCHY-SCHWARZ: *Every positive semidefinite, bilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on a real vector space  $H$  has the property*

$$\forall x, y \in H \quad \langle x, y \rangle^2 \leq \langle x, x \rangle \langle y, y \rangle$$

*In an inner product space  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  equality holds if and only if  $x, y$  are linearly dependent.*

# Introduction and reminder

## Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert Spaces

- The scalar product gives rise to the *norm*  $\|x\| := \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$  and hence to the *metric*  $d(x, y) := \|x - y\|$ .
- The scalar product, the norm and the metric are continuous functions.
- Addition and scalar multiplication are continuous maps

$$+ : H \times H \rightarrow H, \quad s : \mathbb{R} \times H \rightarrow H;$$

here  $H \times H$  and  $\mathbb{R} \times H$  are equipped with the relevant product metrics.

- In an inner product space  $H$  the notion of *orthogonality* of elements  $x, y \in H$  is defined:

$$x \perp y \Leftrightarrow \langle x, y \rangle = 0.$$

# Introduction and reminder

## Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert Spaces

EXAMPLE:

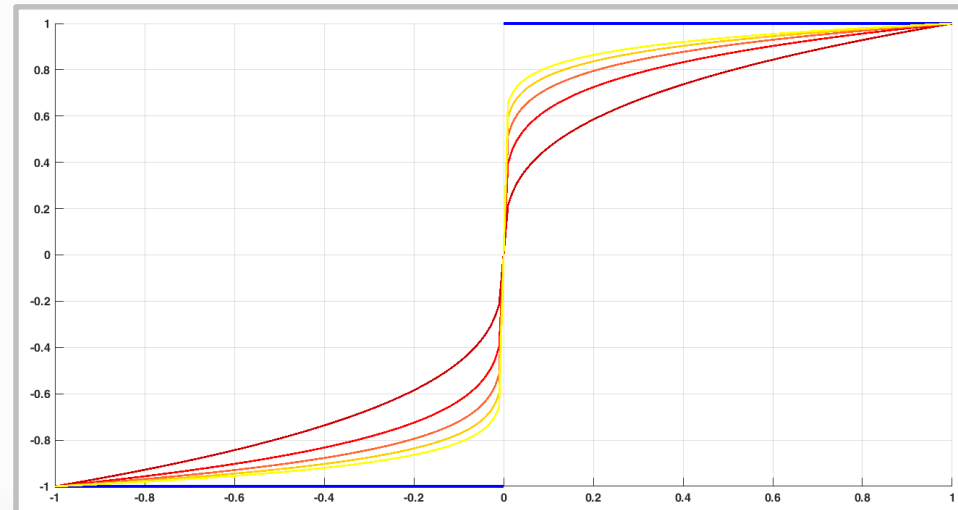
- $C([a, b], \mathbb{R}) := \{f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ is continuous}\},$

- $\langle f, g \rangle := \int_a^b f g dt,$

- In  $C([-1, 1], \mathbb{R})$  the sequence

$$f_k := \sqrt[2k+1]{t}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

is Cauchy but not convergent.



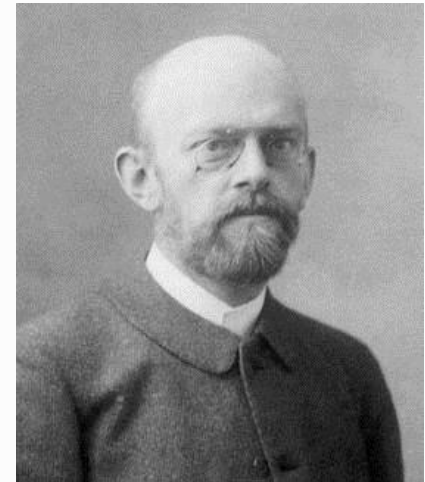
# Introduction and reminder

## Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert Spaces

DEFINITION: A Hilbert space is an inner product space  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  that is complete with respect to the norm  $\|x\| := \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$ : every Cauchy sequence  $(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $H$  has a limit.

EXAMPLE:

- $\ell^2 := \{f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f(k)^2 \text{ existiert}\},$
- $\langle f, g \rangle := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f(k)g(k),$
- $(\frac{1}{k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \in \ell^2$  because  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = \frac{\pi}{6}.$



D. Hilbert  
1862 – 1943



# Introduction and reminder

## Inner Product Spaces and Hilbert Spaces

EXAMPLE:

- $L^2([a, b], \mathbb{R}) := \{\bar{f} : f^2 : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ Lebesgue-integrable}\}$ , with  
$$\bar{f} := \{g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\} : f, g \text{ coincide on a set of measure } 0\}.$$

- $\langle \bar{f}, \bar{g} \rangle := \int_a^b f g dt.$

- Note that the map

$$C([a, b], \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2([a, b], \mathbb{R}), f \mapsto \bar{f}$$

is linear, injective and continuous.

# Introduction and reminder

## Completion

**THEOREM:** *For every inner product space  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  there exists a Hilbert space  $(\widehat{H}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  possessing the properties*

- *$H$  is a dense vector subspace of  $\widehat{H}$ , that is every element of  $\widehat{H}$  is the limit of a Cauchy sequence in  $H$ .*
- *The scalar product  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is an extension of the scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ .*

*$(\widehat{H}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is called the completion of  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ ; it is uniquely determined by  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ .*

**EXAMPLE:** The completion of  $C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  is  $L^2([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ .

# Introduction and reminder

REPRESENTATION THEOREM OF RIESZ: *Let  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  be a Hilbert space. Then every continuous linear mapping  $T : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has the form*

$$T(x) = \langle x, v \rangle$$

*for some  $v \in H$  uniquely determined by  $T$ .*

REMARK: For  $v \in H$  such that  $\|v\| = 1$  the mapping

$$p(x) = \langle x, v \rangle v$$

is the orthogonal projection onto the line  $\mathbb{R}v$ .

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

DEFINITION: Let  $X \neq \emptyset$  be a set.

A reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS) on  $X$  is a Hilbert space  $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  possessing the properties

1.  $H$  is a vector subspace of  $\text{Fun}(X, \mathbb{R})$ .
  2. For every  $x \in X$  the evaluation functional  $e_x : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $h \mapsto h(x)$  is continuous.
- In a RKHS addition and scalar multiplication are the pointwise operations of functions on  $X$ .
  - Convergence in  $H$  implies pointwise convergence:

$$\forall x \in X \quad \left( \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} h_k \right)(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} h_k(x).$$

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

EXAMPLE:

- $\ell^2 := \{f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f(i)^2 \text{ exists}\}$  is a vector subspace of  $\text{Fun}(\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{R})$ .
- For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the evaluation functional  $e_n(f) := f(n)$  is continuous:

$$\|f\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f(i)^2} \geq \sqrt{f(n)^2}.$$

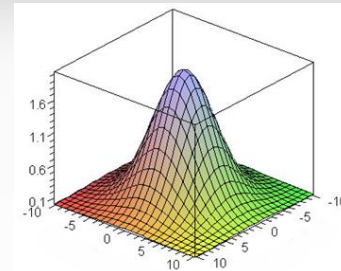
hence

$$\|e_n\|_{\text{op}} := \sup\left(\frac{|e_n(f)|}{\|f\|} : f \in \ell^2 \setminus \{0\}\right) = 1.$$

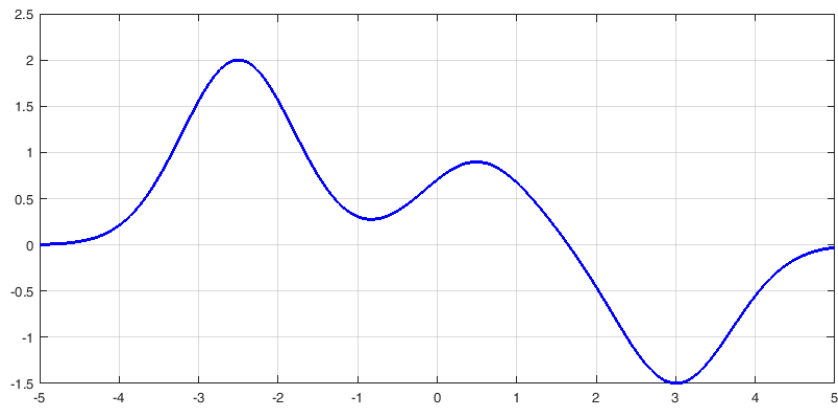
# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

## EXAMPLE: Gaussian RKHS

- Let  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  be a set with  $n$  elements.
- $H := \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}k_i$ ,  $k_i(x) := e^{-\frac{\|x-x_i\|_2^2}{h^2}}$ ,  $h > 0$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_2$  the Euclidean norm on  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .
- $\{k_1, \dots, k_n\}$  forms a basis of  $H$ .



- Scalar product: bilinear extension of  $\langle k_i, k_j \rangle := e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|_2^2}{h^2}}$ .



An element of  $H$  in the case  $m = 1$ :

$$f(x) = 2e^{-(x+2.5)^2} + 0.9e^{-(x-0.5)^2} - 1.5e^{-(x-3)^2}$$

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

EXAMPLE: Gaussian RKHS

- $\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i k_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j k_j \rangle \leq n^2 \max(|\lambda_i| : i = 1, \dots, n)^2$ .
- The linear map  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow H$ ,  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i k_i$  is continuous, using the 1-norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :  $\|T\|_{\text{op}} \leq n$ .
- Therefore the minimum  $\mu := \min(\| \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i k_i \| : \sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda_i| = 1)$  exists.
- The inequality  $\sum_{i=1}^n |\lambda_i| \leq \mu^{-1} \| \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i k_i \|$  yields the completeness of  $H$ .
- The evaluation functionals  $e_x$  are continuous:  $\|e_x\|_{\text{op}} \leq \frac{1}{n}$ .

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

**Intermezzo:** The last results are not specific to the Gaussian RKHS.

**THEOREM:** *A normed space  $(H, \|\cdot\|)$  of finite dimension is complete.*

*More specific: for every basis  $(b_1, \dots, b_n)$  of  $H$  convergence of a sequence*

$$(h_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{ij} b_j \right)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$$

*is equivalent to the convergence of the sequences  $(\lambda_{ij})_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  of coefficients.*

*Moreover every linear map  $T : H \rightarrow Y$  into an arbitrary normed space  $(Y, \|\cdot\|_Y)$  is continuous.*

**REMARK / HINT:** To prove the theorem just rewrite the arguments given for the Gaussian RKHS in general form using the continuity of the norm function, of addition and of scalar multiplication. (commendable exercise).



# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

AN ALMOST NON-EXAMPLE:

- $C([0, 1], \mathbb{R}) := \{f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : f \text{ is continuous}\}$ ,  $\langle f, g \rangle := \int_0^1 fg \, dt$ .
- The evaluation functional  $e_1$  is not continuous: for  $f_i := \sqrt{2i+1}x^i$  we have  $\|f_i\| = 1$  and  $e_1(f_i) = \sqrt{2i+1}$ , thus  $\|e_1\|_{\text{op}} = \infty$ .
- Of course  $C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$  is not complete, hence no Hilbert space ... grumpf.
- Proper non-examples of RKHS are hard to write down explicitly.

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

**THEOREM:** *Let  $H$  be a RKHS on  $X$ .*

*Then there exists a unique function  $K : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that*

- $\forall y \in X \quad k_y := K(\cdot, y) \in H,$
- $\forall x \in X \quad e_x = \langle \cdot, k_x \rangle.$

*The function  $K$  is called reproducing kernel of  $H$  and has the properties:*

1.  $\forall x, y \in X \quad K(x, y) = K(y, x),$
2. *For every  $n$ -tuple  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq X^n$  of elements of  $X$  the matrix  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n] := (K(x_i, x_j))_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is positive semidefinite:*

$$\forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad v^t K[x_1, \dots, x_n] v \geq 0.$$

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

PROOF:

- By the theorem of Riesz for every  $x \in X$  there exists a function  $k_x$  such that  $h(x) = e_x(h) = \langle h, k_x \rangle$  for all  $h \in H$ .
- Define  $K(x, y) := k_y(x)$ .
- For  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} v^t K[x_1, \dots, x_n] v &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n v_i K(x_j, x_i) v_j \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n v_i \langle k_i, k_j \rangle v_j \\ &= \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n v_i k_i, \sum_{j=1}^n k_j v_j \right\rangle \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

## EXAMPLES:

- The reproducing kernel of  $\ell^2$  is the function

$$K : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, (n, m) \mapsto 0 \text{ for } n \neq m, (n, n) \mapsto 1.$$

- The reproducing kernel of the Gaussian RKHS is the function

$$K(x, y) := e^{-\frac{\|x-y\|_2^2}{h^2}}.$$

- For pairwise distinct points  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$  the matrices

$$\left( e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|_2^2}{h^2}} \right)_{i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}}$$

are positive definite.

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

## Embedding the set $X$ :

Let  $H$  be a RKHS on  $X$  with reproducing kernel  $K$  and consider the map

$$\phi : X \rightarrow H, y \mapsto k_y = K(\cdot, y).$$

- $\forall x, y \in X \quad \langle \phi(x), \phi(y) \rangle = K(x, y).$
- The map  $\phi$  is injective if and only if for all points  $x_1, x_2 \in X, x_1 \neq x_2$ , there exists a function  $h \in H$  such that  $h(x_1) \neq h(x_2).$
- If  $\phi$  is injective the equation

$$d(x, y) := \|k_x - k_y\| = \sqrt{K(x, x) + K(y, y) - 2K(x, y)}$$

defines a metric on  $X$ .

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

EXAMPLE: Gaussian RKHS (continued)

The embedding (injectivity !)

$$\phi : X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \rightarrow H, \quad x_i \mapsto k_i = e^{-\frac{\|x - x_i\|_2^2}{h^2}}$$

leads to the metric

$$d(x_i, x_j) = \sqrt{2 - 2e^{-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|_2^2}{h^2}}}.$$

Since  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  is arbitrary, the formula actually defines a metric on  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

The question arises whether one can define a Gaussian RKHS on  $\mathbb{R}^m$ .

- Note that the distance geometry of  $X$  with respect to the Euclidean distance is different from the one given by  $d$ .
- Even if  $x_j = \lambda x_i$  the images  $k_i$  and  $k_j$  are linearly independent; the map  $\phi$  thus is highly nonlinear.

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

PROPOSITION: *The functions  $k_x$ ,  $x \in X$ , in a RKHS  $H$  are linearly independent if and only if the reproducing kernel  $K$  of  $H$  is positive definite.*

*In particular:  $\phi : X \rightarrow H$  is injective if  $K[x_1, x_2]$  is positive definite for all  $x_1, x_2 \in X$ ,  $x_1 \neq x_2$ .*

PROOF:

- The linear relation  $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{x_i} k_{x_i} = 0$  is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{x_i} k_{x_i}, \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j} k_{x_j} \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j K(x_j, x_i) \\ &= (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) K[x_1, \dots, x_n] (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^t. \end{aligned}$$

- Apply that for  $n = 2$ .

# Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

THEOREM: For a RKHS  $H$  on  $X$  the vector space

$$U := \sum_{x \in X} \mathbb{R}k_x$$

lies dense in  $H$ : the closure  $\overline{U}$  of  $U$  equals  $H$ .

In particular: If  $X$  is finite, then  $H = U$  and  $\dim(H) \leq |X|$ .

PROOF: If  $\overline{U} \neq H$  there exists  $h \in H$  such that  $h \perp u$  for all  $u \in \overline{U}$ .

In particular  $h(x) = \langle h, k_x \rangle = 0$  for all  $x \in X$ . Hence  $h = 0$  – contradiction.

REMARKS:

- This result is the reason for the term *reproducing* kernel.
- In general the functions  $\{k_x : x \in X\}$  are linearly dependent.
- The upper bound for the dimension is attained in the case of a Gaussian RKHS on a finite set.



# Kernel Functions

DEFINITION: Let  $X \neq \emptyset$  be a set.

A function

$$K : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is called kernel function on  $X$  if it is symmetric, and if for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and for every  $n$ -tuple  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \subseteq X^n$  of elements of  $X$  the matrix

$$K[x_1, \dots, x_n] := (K(x_i, x_j))_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$$

is positive semidefinite:

$$\forall v \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad v^t K[x_1, \dots, x_n] v \geq 0.$$

REMARK: It suffices to check the required positive semidefiniteness for  $n$ -tuples of pairwise distinct elements  $x_i \in X$ .

# Kernel Functions

## Kernel functions on a finite set $X$

Let  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Every kernel function on  $X$  can be obtained by choosing a positive semidefinite matrix  $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and defining

$$K(x_i, x_j) := a_{ij}.$$

It is not necessary to consider subsets of  $X$ .

Although in applications one usually considers finite sets  $X$  only, it is necessary to know kernel functions on infinite sets for the following reason:

- frequently  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ , the values  $K(x_i, x_j)$  should then be related to the components of the  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,
- the position of  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  however is usually to some extent arbitrary.

# Kernel Functions

## THEOREM:

- *The pointwise sum  $K_1 + K_2$  of two kernel functions on  $X$  is a kernel function on  $X$ .*
- *The pointwise product  $K_1 \cdot K_2$  of two kernel functions on  $X$  is a kernel function on  $X$ .*
- *The pointwise product  $\lambda K$  of a kernel function  $K$  on  $X$  with a non-negative real number  $\lambda$  is a kernel function on  $X$ .*

*In particular: the set  $\mathcal{K}(X)$  of kernel functions on  $X \neq \emptyset$  together with pointwise addition and multiplication forms a commutative semiring.*

REMARK: Only the proof of the second statement is not straightforward. One has to show that the Schur product  $(a_{ij}) \odot (b_{ij}) = (a_{ij}b_{ij})$  of positive semidefinite matrices is positive semidefinite.

# Kernel Functions

COROLLARY: For  $K \in \mathcal{K}(X)$  and every polynomial  $p(X) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i X^i$  with non-negative coefficients, the function

$$p(K) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i K^i$$

is a kernel function on  $X$ .

According to the corollary the functions

$$K(x, y) := (\langle x, y \rangle_2 + c)^d, \quad c > 0, d \in \mathbb{N}$$

are kernel functions on  $X = \mathbb{R}^m$ ; here  $\langle x, y \rangle_2$  denotes the standard scalar product on  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , which is a kernel function.

They are widely used in Data Mining and called *polynomial kernels of degree  $d$* .

# Kernel Functions

PROPOSITION: Let  $(K_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a pointwise convergent sequence of kernel functions on  $X$ , then the (pointwise) limit

$$K(x, y) := \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} K_i(x, y)$$

is a kernel function on  $X$ .

COROLLARY: Let  $K \in \mathcal{K}(X)$  be a kernel function with values in the set  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined by a power series with non-negative coefficients:  $f(u) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i u^i$ . Then the pointwise limit

$$f(K) := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i K^i.$$

is a kernel function on  $X$ .

# Kernel Functions

An application of the last corollary yields another kernel function important in Data Mining: for every  $h \in \mathbb{R}$  the function

$$K(x, y) := e^{-\frac{\|x-y\|^2}{h^2}}$$



is a kernel function on  $X = \mathbb{R}^m$  called the *Gauß kernel of bandwidth  $h$* .

In the proof the following auxiliary result is used:

**PROPOSITION:** *For every kernel function  $K \in \mathcal{K}(X)$  and every function  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  the function*

$$K_f(x, y) := f(x)K(x, y)f(y)$$

*is a kernel function.*

# Kernel Functions

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n) K_f[x_1, \dots, x_n] (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)^t &= \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i f(x_i) K(x_j, x_i) f(x_j) \lambda_j \\ &= (f(x_1)\lambda_1, \dots, f(x_n)\lambda_n) K[x_1, \dots, x_n] (f(x_1)\lambda_1, \dots, f(x_n)\lambda_n)^t. \end{aligned}$$

PROOF:

- $e^{-\frac{\|x-y\|^2}{h^2}} = e^{-\frac{\langle x,x \rangle}{h^2}} e^{2\frac{\langle x,y \rangle}{h^2}} e^{-\frac{\langle y,y \rangle}{h^2}}$ .
- $e^x$  can be expressed as a power series with positive coefficients,
- hence  $e^{2\frac{\langle x,y \rangle}{h^2}}$  is a kernel function.
- Use the proposition to get the result.

# Kernel Functions

## Ordering the set of kernel functions

- The pointwise difference  $K_1 - K_2$  of kernel functions on  $X$  in general is not a kernel function.
- Partial ordering on  $\mathcal{K}(X)$ :  $K_1 \leq K_2 \Leftrightarrow K_2 - K_1 \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ .
  - $\forall K \in \mathcal{K}(X) \quad K \leq K$ .
  - $\forall K_1, K_2 \in \mathcal{K}(X) \quad K_1 \leq K_2 \wedge K_2 \leq K_1 \Rightarrow K_1 = K_2$ .
  - $\forall K_1, K_2, K_3 \in \mathcal{K}(X) \quad K_1 \leq K_2 \wedge K_2 \leq K_3 \Rightarrow K_1 \leq K_3$ .
- The ordering is compatible with the algebraic operations:
  - $\forall K, K_1, K_2 \in \mathcal{K}(X) \quad K_1 \leq K_2 \Rightarrow K_1 + K \leq K_2 + K$ .
  - $\forall K, K_1, K_2 \in \mathcal{K}(X) \quad K_1 \leq K_2 \Rightarrow K_1 \cdot K \leq K_2 \cdot K$ .



# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

THEOREM (E.H.MOORE, N.ARONSZAJN (1935/1950)): *Let  $X \neq \emptyset$  be a set. For every kernel function  $K$  on  $X$  there exists a unique reproducing kernel Hilbert space  $H(K)$  on  $X$  having  $K$  as its reproducing kernel.*

*Let  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  be the set of RKHS on  $X$ . The map*

$$\mathcal{K}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(X), K \mapsto H(K)$$

*is bijective.*



E. H. Moore  
(1862 – 1932)

N. Aronszajn  
(1907 – 1980)



# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

**The main steps of the proof of the existence of  $H(K)$ .**

- Consider the vector space  $U := \sum_{x \in X} \mathbb{R}k_x$ ,  $k_x := K(\cdot, x)$ , and define a bilinear form via

$$\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i k_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j k_j \right\rangle := \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \mu_j K(x_i, x_j).$$

- Show that this bilinear form is positive definite.
- Show that the completion  $H$  of  $(U, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  is a RKHS.
- Show that the reproducing kernel of  $H$  equals  $K$ .

# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

EXAMPLE: Gaussian RKHS on  $\mathbb{R}^m$

According to the proof of the theorem of Aronszajn-Moore one can construct the Gaussian RKHS on  $\mathbb{R}^m$  by taking the completion  $H$  of the vector space

$$U := \sum_{y \in \mathbb{R}^m} \mathbb{R} e^{-\frac{\|x-y\|_2^2}{h^2}}$$

with respect to the inner product

$$\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i e^{-\frac{\|x-y_i\|_2^2}{h^2}}, \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j e^{-\frac{\|x-y'_j\|_2^2}{h^2}} \right\rangle := \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \mu_j e^{-\frac{\|y_i - y'_j\|_2^2}{h^2}}.$$

The first concrete description of the functions  $f \in H$  thus obtained seems to have been given as recently as in the year 2006.

# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

EXAMPLE: Polynomial RKHS on  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$

- Consider  $K(x, y) := (\langle x, y \rangle_2 + c)^d$ ,  $c > 0$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  
 $x = (x_1, \dots, x_m), y = (y_1, \dots, y_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .
- The functions  $k_y = K(\cdot, y)$  are linear combinations of monomial functions  $m(x) = x_1^{e_1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_m^{e_m}$  of degree  $\leq d$ , therefore

$$\dim(H(K)) \leq \sum_{e=0}^d \binom{m+e-1}{e} = \sum_{e=0}^d \frac{(m+e)!}{(m-1)!e!}.$$

- In the case  $c = 0$ :  $\dim(H(K)) \leq \binom{m+e-1}{e}$  with equality for  $X = \mathbb{R}^m$ .
- If  $X$  contains a nonempty open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , then  $\phi : X \rightarrow H(K)$  is injective.

# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

EXAMPLE: Polynomial RKHS of degree  $d = 2$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$

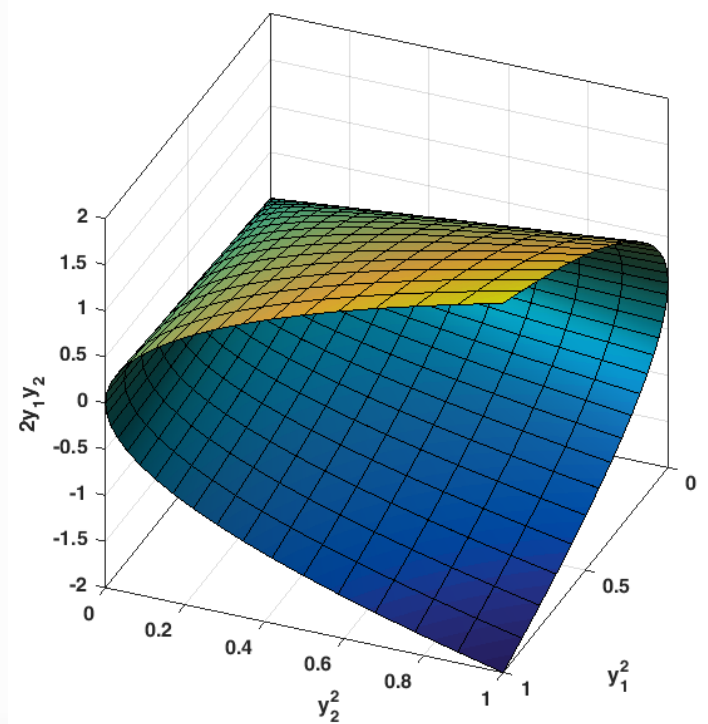
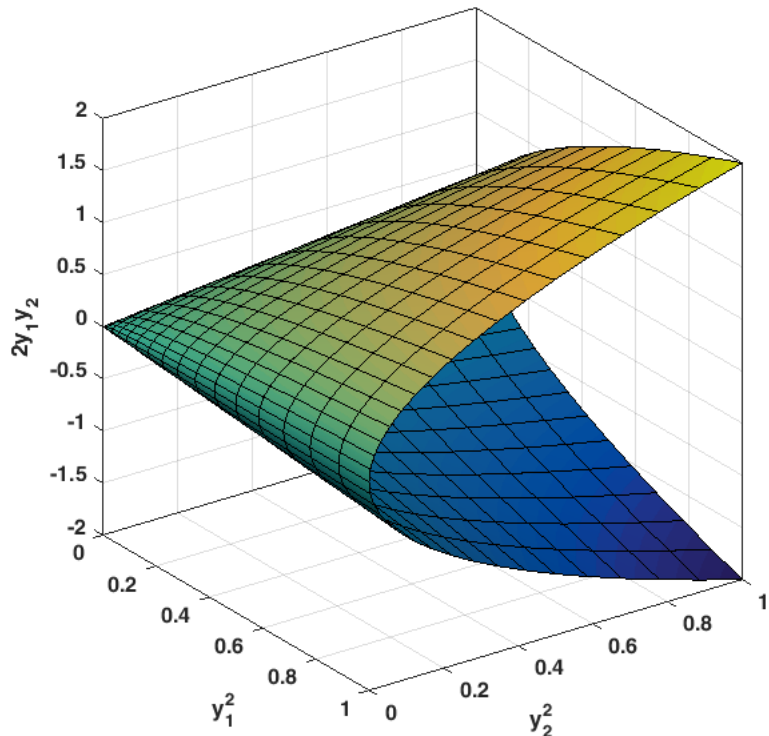
- Consider  $K(x, y) := \langle x, y \rangle_2^2$ ,  $x = (x_1, x_2), y = (y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .
- The monomial functions  $x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2$  form a basis of  $H(K)$ .
- $k_y = y_1^2x_1^2 + y_2^2x_2^2 + 2y_1y_2x_1x_2$  is the unique linear combination of  $k_y$  with respect to the monomial basis..
- The embedding  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow H(K)$  is therefore essentially equal to the map:

$$\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3, (y_1, y_2) \mapsto (y_1^2, y_2^2, 2y_1y_2).$$

# The Theorem of Aronszajn – Moore

EXAMPLE: Polynomial RKHS of degree  $d = 2$  on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  The image of to the map:

$$\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3, (y_1, y_2) \mapsto (y_1^2, y_2^2, 2y_1y_2).$$



# Further Reading – introduction to the field

- H. Knaf, Kernel Fisher discriminant functions – a concise and rigorous introduction, *Berichte des ITWM 117 (2007)*.
  - Full proofs of all results mentioned in the present slides (except the ones in the introduction) can be found in this report.
- J.H. Manton, P.-O. Amblard: *A Primer on Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces*, *Foundations and Trends in Signal Processing Vol. 8 (2015)*. (Preprint in arXiv)
- V. I. Paulsen, M. Raghupathi: *An Introduction to the Theory of Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces*, *Cambridge Studies in Advanced Mathematics 152 (2016)*. (Preprint in arXiv)
- J.S. Taylor, N. Cristianini, *Kernel Methods in Pattern Analysis*, Cambridge University Press 2004.

# Further Reading – scientific articles

- N. Aronszajn: *Theory of reproducing kernels*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 68, (1950).
- I. Steinwart et al.: *An explicit description of the reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces of Gaussian RBF kernels*, Los Alamos Report LA-UR 04-8274 (2006).