

Nonlinear Prediction by Kernels Made Explainable

Patrick Groenen and Michael Greenacre

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. Linear Kernels
3. Nonlinear KRR
4. Interpretable Kernels
5. Approximated KRR
6. Conclusions

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1. Introduction

Dominant method for **nonlinear** prediction in SVMs: **Kernels**

- Highly **nonlinear decision planes** are possible.
- Nonlinearity in the original (primal) problem.
- Nonlinearity possible for any linear model (e.g., kernel ridge regression, kernel logistic regression, etc.)
- Kernels are only possible for loss functions with **ridge penalty**.
- So far: **no interpretation** in terms of the original variables.
- Contribution this paper:
 - ▶ nonlinear kernels can be interpreted as a linear combination of the original variables.
 - ▶ This is a contribution to explainable AI.

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Kernels

- **Kernels** make use of the same trick as **polynomial basis expansion** or **spline transformations**.
- Requires a **ridge** penalty: $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w}$, e.g., in **kernel ridge regression (KRR)** or **support vector machines (SVM)**.
- Maps \mathbf{x}_i (row i of \mathbf{X}) to ϕ_i in some **high dimensional** space.
- Fit the model **linearly** in the high dimensional space.
- Then, at most n parameters need to be optimized through a **dual approach**.

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2. Linear Kernel

Ridge regression

- Loss function ridge regression:

$$L_{\text{ridge}}(w_0, \mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{y} - (w_0 \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w})\|^2 + \lambda \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

- The vector of predicted values is: $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{q} = w_0 \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}$
- The intercept w_0 complicates things; therefore, we set $\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}$ so that

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A **dual approach** for KRR:

- Basic idea of the **dual approach**:

If $p \gg n$ (and \mathbf{X} has rank n), then switch to the minimization over \mathbf{q} (n parameters) instead of w_0 and \mathbf{w} ($p + 1$ parameters)

2. Linear Kernel

Towards a **dual approach**:

- Example of an \mathbf{X} with $n < p$: $n = 2, p = 3$

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} -.25 & .75 & .50 \\ .50 & .50 & .50 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Choose (e.g.)

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} .25 \\ -.50 \\ .50 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Then, the $n \times 1 = 2 \times 1$ vector $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ must be in the **linear space** spanned by \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2

$$\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -.1875 \\ .1250 \end{bmatrix}$$

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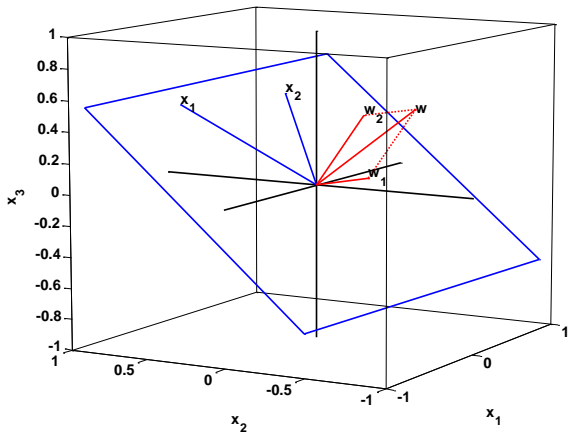
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Steps to arrive at a **dual ridge regression** formulation:

1. Decompose $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_1 + \mathbf{w}_2$ with a part that is in the linear space of \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{w}_1) and a part that is **orthogonal** to the linear space of \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{w}_2).
2. $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ depends only on \mathbf{w}_1 and not on \mathbf{w}_2 .
3. Penalty term has $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{w}_1^\top \mathbf{w}_1$ because $\mathbf{w}_2^\top \mathbf{w}_2 = 0$.
4. Penalty term equals $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}$ where the $n \times n$ matrix $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$ has elements $\mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_{i'}$. Proof A.1
5. Without loss of generality, we may optimize directly over the n parameters \tilde{q}_i without any restriction.
6. $L_{\text{ridge}}(w_0, \tilde{\mathbf{q}})$ is now only a function of w_0 and \tilde{q}_i .

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- The loss of **linear KRR** L_{ridge} is now only a function of w_0 and $\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_i$:

$$L_{\text{ridge}}(w_0, \tilde{\mathbf{q}}) = \underbrace{\|\mathbf{y} - (w_0 \mathbf{1} + \tilde{\mathbf{q}})\|^2}_{\text{Regression term}} + \lambda \underbrace{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}}_{\text{Penalty term}}$$

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Kernels for nonlinear prediction:

- Kernels make use of same **dual** trick for $p \gg n$.
- Replace the all the variables in \mathbf{X} by their $n \times k$ **kernel basis** $\Phi(\mathbf{X})$ or Φ for short.
- The equivalent of matrix $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$ becomes the $n \times n$ **kernel matrix** $\mathbf{K} = \Phi\Phi^\top$ with elements $k_{ij} = \phi_i^\top \phi_j$
- **Kernel trick**: choose smart Φ such that k_{ij} can be directly computed from rows \mathbf{x}_i and \mathbf{x}_j .
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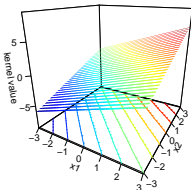
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Three examples of kernels:

linear

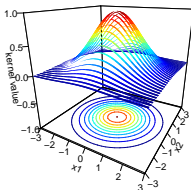
$$k_{ij'} = \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_{i'}$$



radial basis function
function (RBF)

$$k_{ij'} = e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_{i'}\|^2}$$

with fixed $\gamma > 0$



inhomogeneous
polynomial

$$k_{ij'} = (1 + \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_{i'})^d$$

with fixed $d > 0$

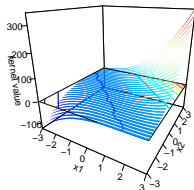


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- Often combined with quadratic **ridge penalty** against overfitting.
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4. Interpretable Kernels

Kernels

- **Kernels** in regression or SVM can be used for **nonlinear prediction**.
- Often combined with quadratic **ridge penalty** against overfitting.
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Contribution this paper

- Introduce **approximated kernel ridge regression (AKRR)** where kernel matrix is approximated by \mathbf{X}
- Express the kernel predictions as **linear combination** in \mathbf{X} :
 - ▶ If $n - 1 \leq p$ (and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = n - 1$) then approximation is **exact equivalence**.
 - ▶ If $n - 1 > p$ (or $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) < n - 1$) then the kernel solution can be linearly approximated.
 - ▶ Provide a solution for the interpretation of nonlinear prediction through kernels.
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4. Interpretable Kernels

Main result (for KRR and $n - 1 \leq p$):

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{KRR}}(w_0, \tilde{\mathbf{q}}) &= \|\mathbf{y} - (w_0 \mathbf{1} + \tilde{\mathbf{q}})\|^2 + \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{K}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}} \\ &= \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\|^2 + \lambda \boldsymbol{\gamma}^T \mathbf{A} \boldsymbol{\gamma} = L_{\text{AKRR}}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}) \end{aligned}$$

with

- $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}) (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{X})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})$
- $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$: p vector with weights.

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5. Approximated KRR

Linearly Approximated KRR:

- Two steps:
 1. Approximate the kernel space Φ by \mathbf{XB} through (classical) multidimensional scaling (MDS) through strain loss:

$$L_{\text{Strain}}(\mathbf{B}) = \|\mathbf{K} - \mathbf{XBB}^T\mathbf{X}^T\|^2$$

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Step 1 Linearly Approximated KRR: Minimize $L_{\text{Strain}}(\mathbf{B}) = \|\mathbf{K} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{X}^T\|^2$

- Solution:

- ▶ Computing the eigendecomposition

$$(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^{-1/2}\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{K}\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^{-1/2} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Gamma}\mathbf{Q}^T = (\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Gamma}^{1/2})(\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Gamma}^{1/2})^T$$

- ▶ and weight matrix \mathbf{B}

$$\mathbf{B}^* = (\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^{-1/2}\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Gamma}^{1/2}$$

with $(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^\alpha = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{\Sigma}^\alpha\mathbf{P}^T$ and σ_{ii}^α the power α of the nonzero eigenvalues of $\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X}$ and $\sigma_{ii}^\alpha = 0$ otherwise.

- If $n - 1 < p$ then $L_{\text{Strain}}(\mathbf{B}^*) = 0$ (perfect reconstruction of \mathbf{K}).
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Step 2: We define **Approximated KRR** (AKRR):

- Do ridge regression with \mathbf{XB} as predictor variables:

$$L_{\text{AKRR}}(\beta) = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{XB}\beta\|^2 + \lambda\|\beta\|^2$$

- Let $\gamma = \mathbf{B}\beta$ so that

$$\mathbf{B}^T\gamma = \mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B}\beta$$

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- Then

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{AKRR}}(\beta) &= L_{\text{AKRR}}(\gamma) \\ &= \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\gamma\|^2 + \lambda\gamma^T(\mathbf{B}^T\mathbf{B})^{-1}\gamma \\ &= \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\gamma\|^2 + \lambda\gamma^T(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{K}\mathbf{X})^{-1}(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})\gamma \\ &= \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\gamma\|^2 + \lambda\gamma^T\mathbf{A}\gamma. \end{aligned}$$

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Properties of **Approximated KRR**:

- Loss AKRR:

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- AKRR yields exactly the **same predictions** as KRR if $n - 1 < p$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = n - 1$ (no approximation).
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Quality of approximation of penalty:

- Loss optimal approximation kernel penalty:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{\text{Strain}}(\mathbf{B}^*) &= \|\mathbf{K} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{B}^*\mathbf{B}^{*\top}\mathbf{X}^\top\|^2 \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- This loss is equal to the part of \mathbf{K} that is **not in the space** of \mathbf{X} .
- Penalty accounted for** (PAF) is the proportion of $\|\mathbf{K}\|^2$ in the space of \mathbf{X} :

$$\text{PAF} = \frac{\text{tr}(\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^\top\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^\top)}{\|\mathbf{K}\|^2}$$

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A.1 Proof that $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}$

Proof that $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}$:

- Let the SVD of $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{UDV}^\top$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{UDV}^\top \mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{DV}^\top \mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w}\end{aligned}$$

- The penalty term can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} &= \lambda \mathbf{w}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top + \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top) \mathbf{w} \\ &= \lambda \mathbf{w}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top) \mathbf{w} + \lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w}\end{aligned}$$

The part of \mathbf{w} in the space of \mathbf{X} is $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w}$ and the part outside is $\mathbf{w}_2 = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top) \mathbf{w}$

- Thus, $\mathbf{w}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top) \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}_2^\top \mathbf{w}_2 = 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} &= \lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{w}_1^\top \mathbf{w}_1 \\ &= \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}^{-2} \mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{V}\mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}\end{aligned}$$

A.1 Proof that $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}$

Proof that $\lambda \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w} = \lambda \tilde{\mathbf{q}}^\top (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{q}}$:

- Let the SVD of $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w} \\ \mathbf{D}^{-1}\mathbf{U}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{q}} &= \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{w}\end{aligned}$$

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A.2 Prediction for Nonlinear KRR

Final step needed with kernels for predicting the **test data** \mathbf{X}_u :

- Let the SVD of $\Phi = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top$. Then $\Phi^\top(\Phi\Phi^\top)^{-1}\Phi = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top$ because

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi^\top(\Phi\Phi^\top)^{-1}\Phi &= \mathbf{V}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}^\top(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top\mathbf{V}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}^\top)^{-1}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top \\ &= \mathbf{V}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}^{-2}\mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top \\ &= \mathbf{V}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{D}^{-2}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top\end{aligned}$$

- Then the predicted \mathbf{q}_u for the **test** set \mathbf{X}_u is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{q}_u = w_0\mathbf{1} + \Phi_u\mathbf{w} &= w_0\mathbf{1} + \Phi_u\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top\mathbf{w} \\ &= w_0\mathbf{1} + \Phi_u\Phi^\top(\Phi\Phi^\top)^{-1}\Phi\mathbf{w} \\ &= w_0\mathbf{1} + (\Phi_u\Phi^\top)(\Phi\Phi^\top)^{-1}(\Phi\mathbf{w}) \\ &= w_0\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{K}_u\mathbf{K}^{-1}\tilde{\mathbf{q}}\end{aligned}$$

with \mathbf{K}_u is the $n_u \times n$ kernel matrix with elements k_{ij} where i stands for row i of \mathbf{X}_u and j for row j of \mathbf{X} . [Back](#)

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with \mathbf{K}_u is the $n_u \times n$ kernel matrix with elements k_{ij} where i stands for row i of \mathbf{X}_u and j for row j of \mathbf{X} . [Back](#)