

# CPSC 340: Machine Learning and Data Mining

Kernel Trick

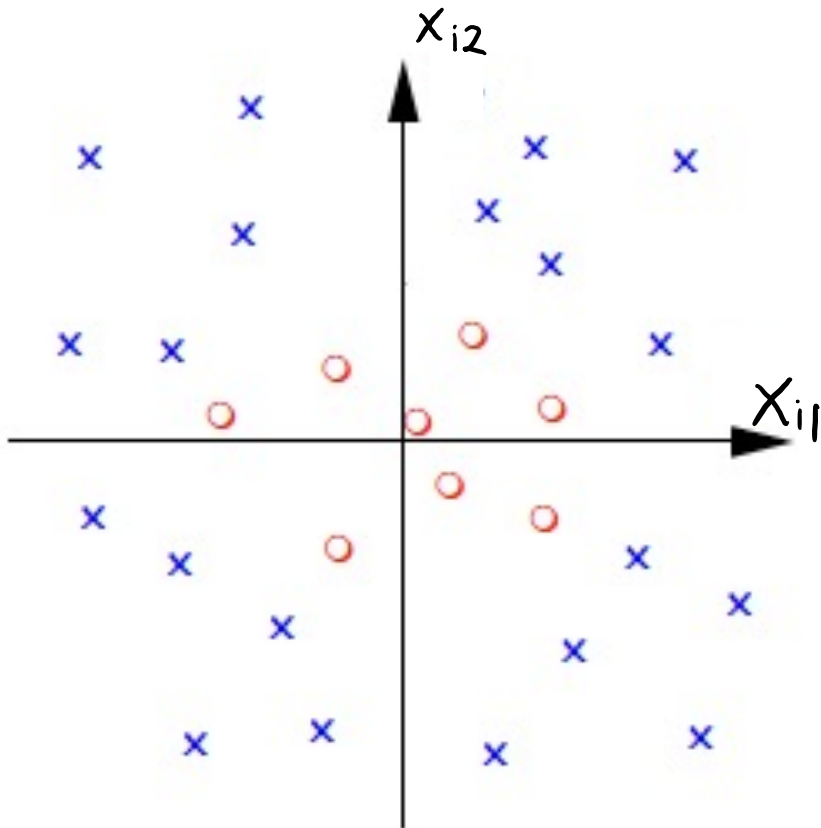
Spring 2022 (2021W2)

# Admin

- Assignment 4 Due this Friday (Mar 11)

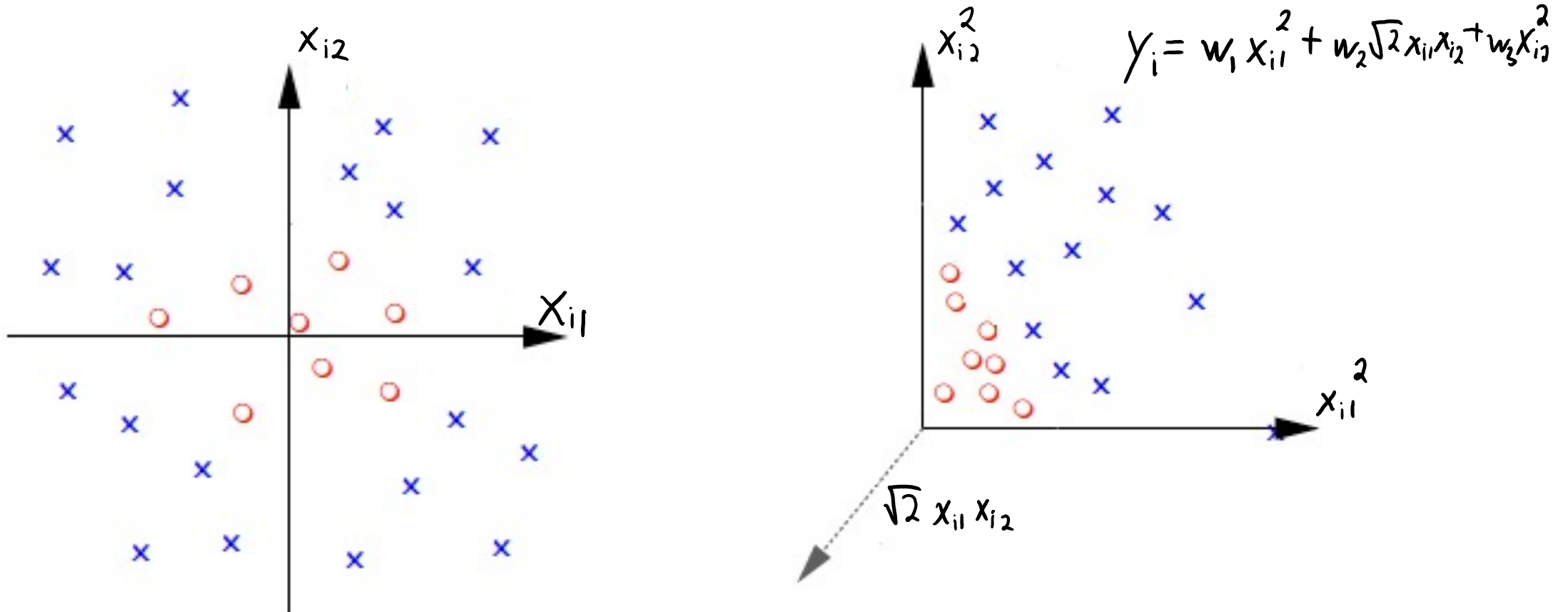
# Support Vector Machines for Non-Separable

- Can we use linear models for data that is **not close to separable**?



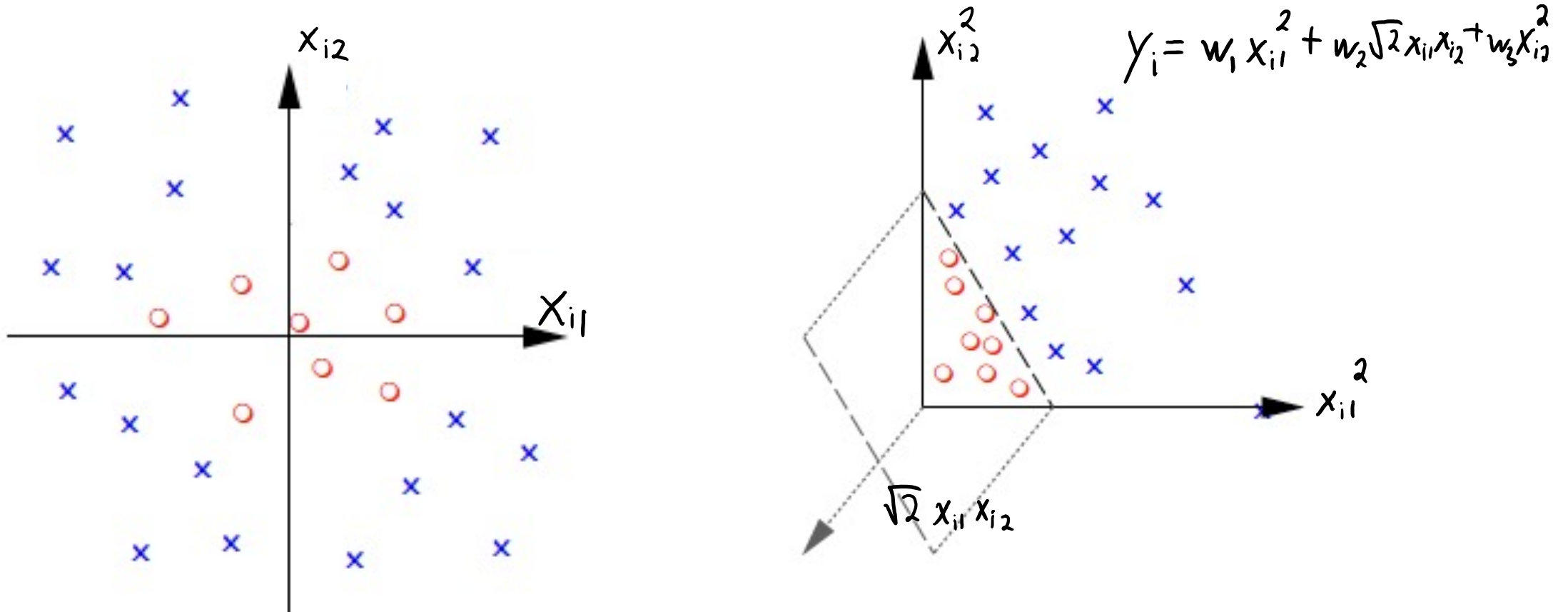
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  - It may be **separable under change of basis** (or closer to separable).



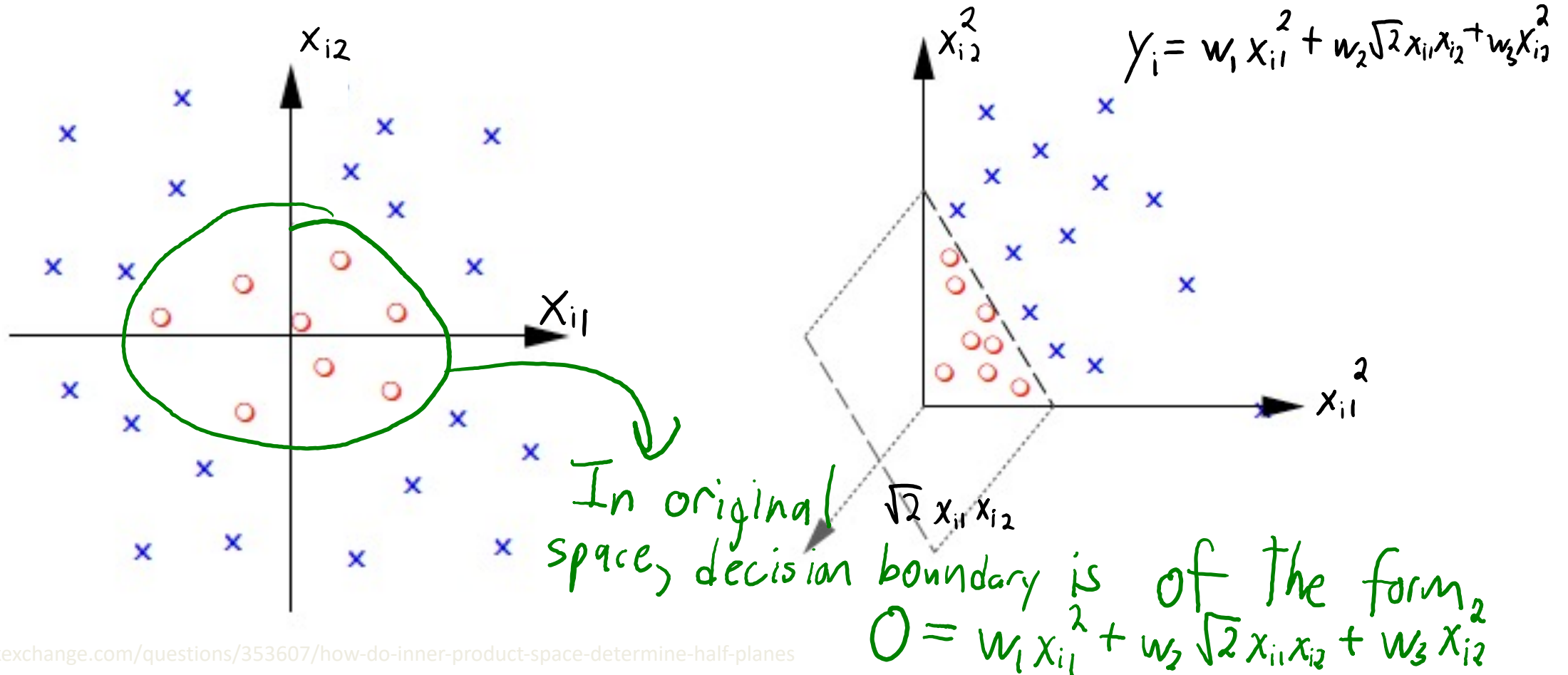
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# Support Vector Machines for Non-Separable

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# Multi-Dimensional Polynomial Basis

- Recall fitting **polynomials** when we only have 1 feature:

$$\hat{y}_i = w_0 + w_1 x_i + w_2 x_i^2$$

- We can fit these models using a **change of basis**:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 \\ -0.5 \\ 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \quad Z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & (0.2)^2 \\ 1 & -0.5 & (-0.5)^2 \\ 1 & 1 & (1)^2 \\ 1 & 4 & (4)^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- How can we do this when we have a lot of features?

# Multi-Dimensional Polynomial Basis

- Polynomial basis for  $d=2$  and  $p=2$ :

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2 & 0.3 \\ 1 & 0.5 \\ -0.5 & -0.1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow Z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0.3 & (0.2)^2 & (0.3)^2 & (0.2)(0.3) \\ 1 & 1 & 0.5 & (1)^2 & (0.5)^2 & (1)(0.5) \\ 1 & 0.5 & -0.1 & (0.5)^2 & (-0.1)^2 & (-0.5)(-0.1) \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{\text{bias}}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{x_{i1}}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{x_{i2}}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{(x_{i1})^2}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{(x_{i2})^2}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}_{(x_{i1})(x_{i2})}$

- With  $d=4$  and  $p=3$ , the polynomial basis would include:
  - Bias variable and the  $x_{ij}$ :  $1, x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, x_{i4}$ .
  - The  $x_{ij}$  squared and cubed:  $(x_{i1})^2, (x_{i2})^2, (x_{i3})^2, (x_{i4})^2, (x_{i1})^3, (x_{i2})^3, (x_{i3})^3, (x_{i4})^3$ .
  - Two-term interactions:  $x_{i1}x_{i2}, x_{i1}x_{i3}, x_{i1}x_{i4}, x_{i2}x_{i3}, x_{i2}x_{i4}, x_{i3}x_{i4}$ .
  - Cubic interactions:  $x_{i1}x_{i2}x_{i3}, x_{i2}x_{i3}x_{i4}, x_{i1}x_{i3}x_{i4}, x_{i1}x_{i2}x_{i4},$   
 $x_{i1}^2x_{i2}, x_{i1}^2x_{i3}, x_{i1}^2x_{i4}, x_{i1}x_{i2}^2, x_{i2}^2x_{i3}, x_{i2}^2x_{i4}, x_{i1}x_{i3}^2, x_{i2}x_{i3}^2, x_{i3}^2x_{i4}, x_{i1}x_{i4}^2, x_{i2}x_{i4}^2, x_{i3}x_{i4}^2$ .



# Kernel Trick

- If we go to degree  $p=5$ , we'll have  $O(d^5)$  quintic terms:

$$x_{i1}^5, x_{i1}^4 x_{i2}, x_{i1}^4 x_{i3}, \dots, x_{i1}^4 x_{id}, x_{i1}^3 x_{i2}^2, x_{i1}^3 x_{i3}^2, \dots, x_{i1}^3 x_{id}^2, \dots, x_{i2}^5, x_{i2}^4 x_{i3}, \dots, x_{id}^5$$

- For large 'd' and 'p', **storing a polynomial basis is intractable!**
  - 'Z' has  $k=O(d^p)$  **columns**, so it does not fit in memory.
- Could try to **search for a good subset** of these.
  - “**Hierarchical forward selection**” (bonus).
- Alternatively, you can **use all of them** with the “**kernel trick**”.
  - A special case of L2-regularized linear models.

# How can you use an exponential-sized basis?

- Which of these two **expressions** would you rather compute?

$$x^9 + 9x^8 + 36x^7 + 84x^6 + 126x^5 + 126x^4 + 84x^3 + 36x^2 + 9x + 1 \quad \text{or} \quad (x+1)^9$$

– Expressions are equal, but **left way costs  $O(p)$**  while right costs  **$O(1)$** .

- Which of these two **expressions** would you rather compute?

$$1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \frac{x^6}{6!} \dots \quad \text{or} \quad e^x$$

– Expressions are equal, but **left way has infinite terms** and right costs  **$O(1)$** .

- Maybe we can somehow **add weights** to the expressions on the left, and formulate least squares to **use tricks like on the right?**

# The “Other” Normal Equations

- Recall the **L2-regularized least squares** objective with basis ‘Z’:

$$f(v) = \frac{1}{2} \|Zv - y\|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|v\|^2$$

- We showed that the minimum is given by

$$v = \underbrace{(Z^T Z + \lambda I)^{-1}}_{k \times k} Z^T y$$

(in practice you still solve the linear system, since it’s faster and more numerically stable – see CPSC 302)

- With some work (bonus), this **can equivalently be written as:**

$$v = Z^T \underbrace{(Z Z^T + \lambda I)^{-1}}_{n \times n} y$$

- This is **faster if  $n \ll k$ :**

- After forming ‘Z’, cost is  $O(n^2k + n^3)$  instead of  $O(nk^2 + k^3)$ .
- But for the polynomial basis, this is **still too slow since  $k = O(d^p)$ .**

# The “Other” Normal Equations

- With the “other” normal equations we have  $v = Z^T(ZZ^T + \lambda I)^{-1}y$
- Given test data  $\tilde{X}$ , predict  $\hat{y}$  by forming  $\tilde{Z}$  and then using:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y} &= \tilde{Z}v \\ &= \underbrace{\tilde{Z}Z^T}_{\tilde{K}} \underbrace{(ZZ^T + \lambda I)^{-1}}_K y \\ t \times 1 &= \underbrace{\tilde{K}}_{t \times n} \underbrace{(K + \lambda I)^{-1}}_{n \times n} \underbrace{y}_{n \times 1}\end{aligned}$$

- Notice that if you have  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$  then you do not need  $Z$  and  $\tilde{Z}$ .
- Key idea behind “kernel trick” for certain bases (like polynomials):
  - We can efficiently compute  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$  even though forming  $Z$  and  $\tilde{Z}$  is intractable.
    - In the same way we can compute  $(x+1)^9$  instead of  $x^9 + 9x^8 + 36x^7 + 84x^6 \dots$

# Gram Matrix

- The matrix  $K = ZZ^T$  is called the **Gram matrix K**.

$$K = ZZ^T = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \text{---} z_1^T \text{---} \\ \text{---} z_2^T \text{---} \\ \vdots \\ \text{---} z_n^T \text{---} \end{bmatrix}}_Z \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} | & | & & | \\ z_1 & z_2 & \dots & z_n \\ | & | & & | \end{bmatrix}}_{Z^T}$$

$$= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} z_1^T z_1 & z_1^T z_2 & \dots & z_1^T z_n \\ z_2^T z_1 & z_2^T z_2 & \dots & z_2^T z_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ z_n^T z_1 & z_n^T z_2 & \dots & z_n^T z_n \end{bmatrix}}_n \underbrace{\quad}_n$$

- K contains the **dot products between all training examples**.
  - Similar to 'Z' in RBFs, but using **dot product as “similarity”** instead of distance.

# Gram Matrix

- The matrix  $\tilde{K} = \tilde{Z}Z^T$  has dot products between train and test examples:

$$\tilde{K} = \tilde{Z}Z^T = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{z}_1^T \\ \tilde{z}_2^T \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{z}_t^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} | & | & \dots & | \\ z_1 & z_2 & \dots & z_n \\ | & | & \dots & | \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_{\tilde{Z}} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_{Z^T}$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{z}_1^T z_1 & \tilde{z}_1^T z_2 & \dots & \tilde{z}_1^T z_n \\ \tilde{z}_2^T z_1 & \tilde{z}_2^T z_2 & \dots & \tilde{z}_2^T z_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{z}_t^T z_1 & \tilde{z}_t^T z_2 & \dots & \tilde{z}_t^T z_n \end{bmatrix}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_n \quad \underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_t$

- Kernel function:  $k(x_i, x_j) = z_i^T z_j$ .
  - Computes dot product between in basis ( $z_i^T z_j$ ) using original features  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ .

# Linear Regression vs. Kernel Regression

## Linear Regression

### Training

1. Form basis  $Z$  from  $X$ .
2. Compute  $\underbrace{v}_{k \times 1} = (Z^T Z + \lambda I)^{-1} (Z^T y)$

### Testing

1. Form basis  $\tilde{Z}$  from  $\tilde{X}$
2. Compute  $\hat{y} = \underbrace{\tilde{Z}}_{t \times k} \underbrace{v}_{k \times 1}$

## Kernel Regression

### Training

1. Form inner products  $K$  from  $X$ .
2. Compute  $\underbrace{u}_{n \times 1} = (K + \lambda I)^{-1} y$

### Testing

1. Form inner products  $\tilde{K}$  from  $X$  and  $\tilde{X}$
2. Compute  $\hat{y} = \underbrace{\tilde{K}}_{t \times n} \underbrace{u}_{n \times 1}$

Non-parametric  
↑

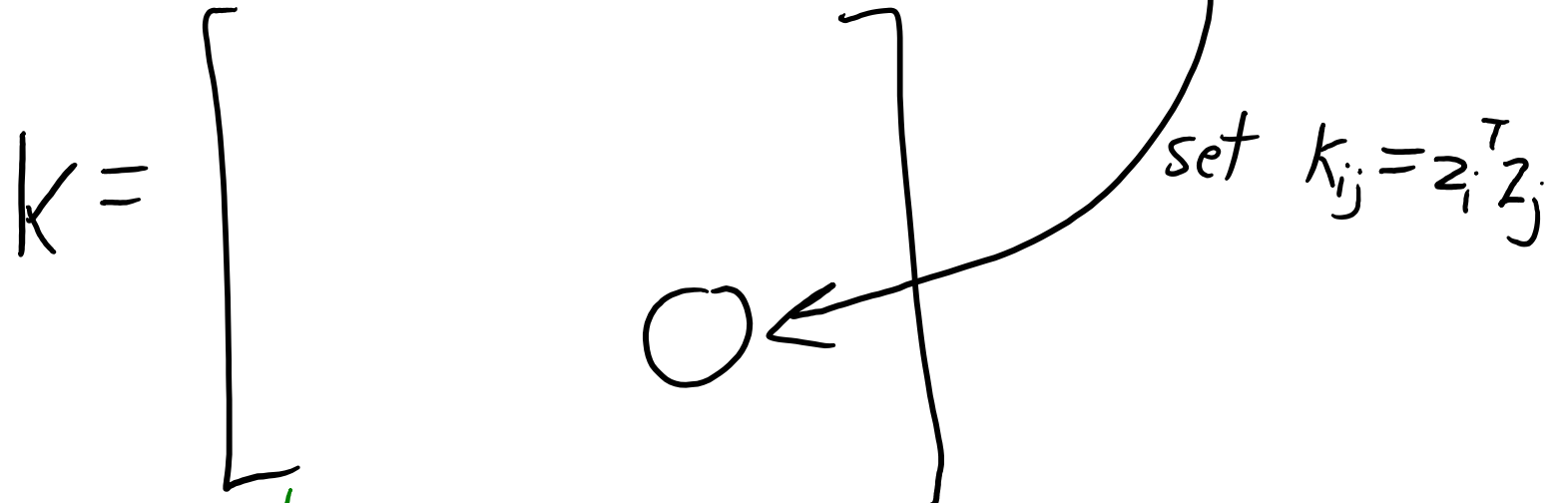
(Everything you need to know about  $Z$  and  $\tilde{Z}$  is contained within  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$ )

# Linear Regression vs. Kernel Regression

To apply linear regression, I only need to know  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$

Use  $x_i$  to form  $z_i$   
Use  $x_j$  to form  $z_j$

compute  $z_i^T z_j$

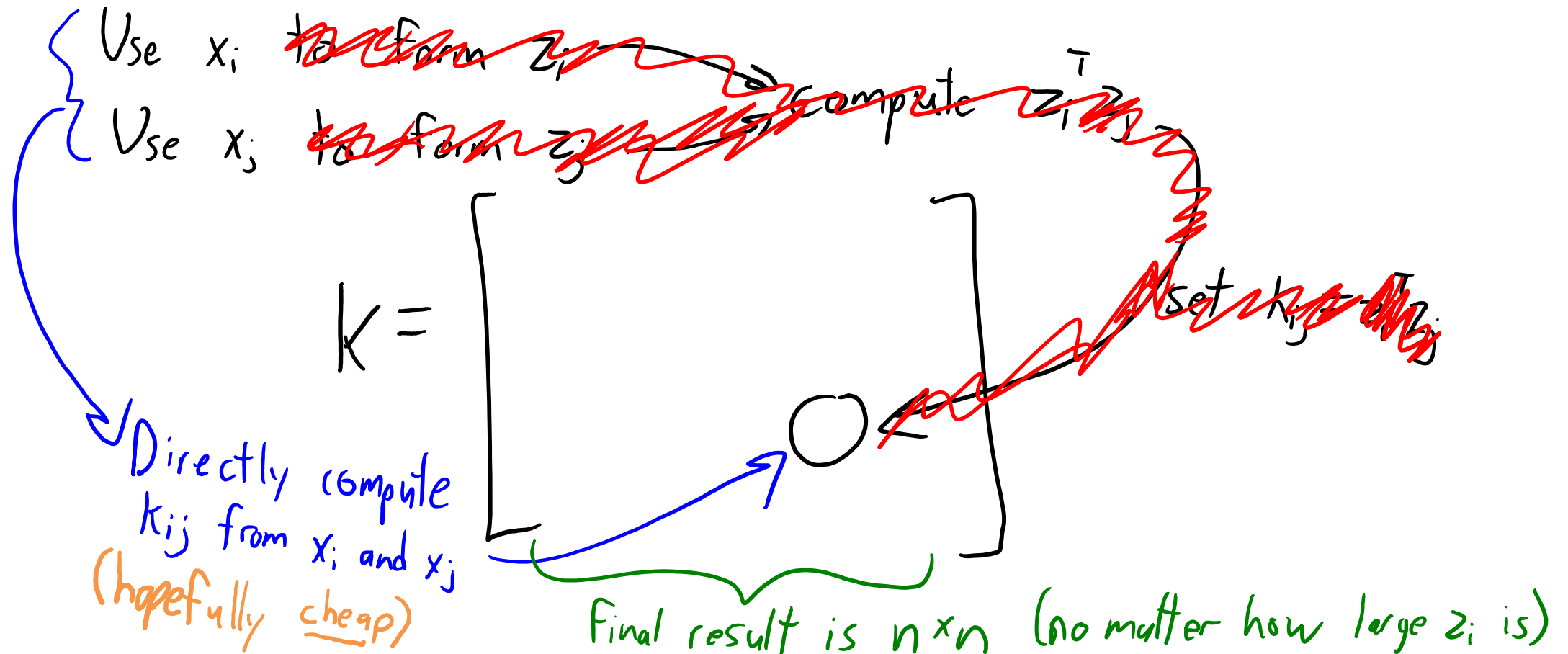


Final result is  $n \times n$  (no matter how large  $z_i$  is)



# Linear Regression vs. Kernel Regression

To apply linear regression, I only need to know  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$



# Degenerate Example: “Linear Kernel”

- Consider two examples  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  for a 2-dimensional dataset:

$$x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}) \quad x_j = (x_{j1}, x_{j2})$$

- And our **standard (“linear”) basis**:

$$z_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}) \quad z_j = (x_{j1}, x_{j2})$$

- In this case the **inner product  $z_i^T z_j$  is  $k(x_i, x_j) = x_i^T x_j$** :

$$\begin{array}{c} z_i^T z_j = x_i^T x_j \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ x_i \quad x_j \end{array}$$

# Example: Degree-2 Kernel

- Consider two examples  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  for a 2-dimensional dataset:

$$x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}) \quad x_j = (x_{j1}, x_{j2})$$

- Now consider a **particular degree-2 basis**:

$$z_i = (x_{i1}^2, \sqrt{2} x_{i1} x_{i2}, x_{i2}^2) \quad z_j = (x_{j1}^2, \sqrt{2} x_{j1} x_{j2}, x_{j2}^2)$$

- In this case the **inner product  $z_i^T z_j$  is  $k(x_i, x_j) = (x_i^T x_j)^2$** :

$$z_i^T z_j = x_{i1}^2 x_{j1}^2 + (\sqrt{2} x_{i1} x_{i2})(\sqrt{2} x_{j1} x_{j2}) + x_{i2}^2 x_{j2}^2$$

$$= x_{i1}^2 x_{j1}^2 + 2 x_{i1} x_{i2} x_{j1} x_{j2} + x_{i2}^2 x_{j2}^2$$

$$= (x_{i1} x_{j1} + x_{i2} x_{j2})^2 \quad \text{"completing the square"}$$

$$= (x_i^T x_j)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{No need for } z_i \text{ to compute } z_i^T z_j$$

# Polynomial Kernel with Higher Degrees

- Let's add a **bias and linear terms** to our **degree-2 basis**:

$$z_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{2}x_{i1} & \sqrt{2}x_{i2} & x_{i1}^2 & \sqrt{2}x_{i1}x_{i2} & x_{i2}^2 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

- In this case the **inner product**  $z_i^T z_j$  is  $k(x_i, x_j) = (1 + x_i^T x_j)^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + x_i^T x_j)^2 &= 1 + 2x_i^T x_j + (x_i^T x_j)^2 \\ &= 1 + 2x_{i1}x_{j1} + 2x_{i2}x_{j2} + x_{i1}^2x_{j1}^2 + 2x_{i1}x_{i2}x_{j1}x_{j2} + x_{i2}^2x_{j2}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{2}x_{i1} & \sqrt{2}x_{i2} & x_{i1}^2 & \sqrt{2}x_{i1}x_{i2} & x_{i2}^2 \end{bmatrix}}_{z_i^T} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2}x_{j1} \\ \sqrt{2}x_{j2} \\ x_{j1}^2 \\ \sqrt{2}x_{j1}x_{j2} \\ x_{j2}^2 \end{bmatrix}}_{z_j} \\ &= z_i^T z_j \end{aligned}$$

# Polynomial Kernel with Higher Degrees

- To get all degree-4 “monomials” I can use:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = (x_i^T x_j)^4$$

Equivalent to using a  $z_i$  with weighted versions of  $x_{i1}^4, x_{i1}^3 x_{i2}, x_{i1}^2 x_{i2}^2, x_{i1} x_{i2}^3, x_{i2}^4, \dots$

- To also get lower-order terms use  $k(x_i, x_j) = (1 + x_i^T x_j)^4$
- The general degree- $p$  **polynomial kernel** function:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = (1 + x_i^T x_j)^p$$

- Works for any number of features ‘ $d$ ’.
- But cost of computing one  $k(x_i, x_j)$  is  $O(d)$  instead of  $O(d^p)$  to compute  $z_i^T z_j$ .
- Take-home message: I can **compute dot-products without the features**.

# Kernel Trick with Polynomials

- Using polynomial basis of degree 'p' with the kernel trick:

- Compute K and  $\tilde{K}$  using:

$$K_{ij} = (1 + x_i^T x_j)^p \quad \tilde{K}_{ij} = (1 + \tilde{x}_i^T x_j)^p$$

test example
train example

- Make predictions using:

$$\hat{y} = \tilde{K} (K + \lambda I)^{-1} y = \tilde{K} u$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{t \times 1} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{t \times n} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{n \times n} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{n \times 1}$ 
 $u = (K + \lambda I)^{-1} y$

- Training cost is only  $O(n^2d + n^3)$ , despite using  $k=O(d^p)$  features.
  - We can form 'K' in  $O(n^2d)$ , and we need to "invert" an 'n x n' matrix.
  - Testing cost is only  $O(ndt)$ , cost to form  $\tilde{K}$ .

# Gaussian-RBF Kernel

- Most common kernel is the **Gaussian RBF** kernel:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

- Same formula and behaviour as RBF basis, but not equivalent:
  - Before we used RBFs as a basis, now we're using them as inner-product.

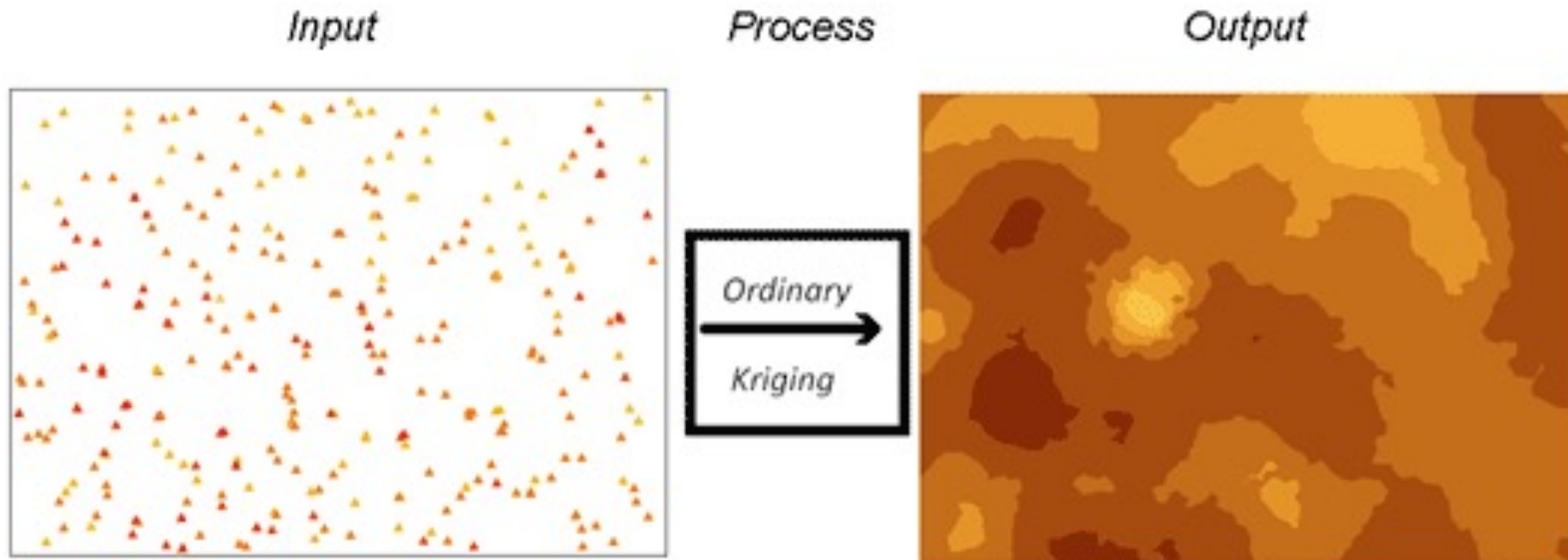
- Basis  $z_i$  giving **Gaussian RBF kernel is infinite-dimensional**.

- If  $d=1$  and  $\sigma=1$ , it corresponds to using this basis (bonus slide):

$$z_i = \exp(-x_i^2) \left[ 1 \quad \sqrt{\frac{2}{1!}} x_i \quad \sqrt{\frac{2^2}{2!}} x_i^2 \quad \sqrt{\frac{2^3}{3!}} x_i^3 \quad \sqrt{\frac{2^4}{4!}} x_i^4 \quad \dots \right]$$

# Motivation: Finding Gold

- Kernel methods first came from mining engineering (“Kriging”):
  - Mining company wants to find gold.
  - Drill holes, measure gold content.
  - Build a kernel regression model (typically use [non-Gaussian] RBF kernels).





# Kernel Trick for Non-Vector Data

- Consider data that doesn't look like this:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5377 & 0.3188 & 3.5784 \\ 1.8339 & -1.3077 & 2.7694 \\ -2.2588 & -0.4336 & -1.3499 \\ 0.8622 & 0.3426 & 3.0349 \end{bmatrix}, \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} +1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix},$$

- But instead looks like this:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Do you want to go for a drink sometime?} \\ \text{J'achète du pain tous les jours.} \\ \text{Fais ce que tu veux.} \\ \text{There are inner products between sentences?} \end{bmatrix}, y = \begin{bmatrix} +1 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- We can interpret  $k(x_i, x_j)$  as a “similarity” between objects  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ .
  - We **don't need features** if we can compute “similarity” between objects.
  - Kernel trick lets us **fit regression models without explicit features**.
  - There are “string kernels”, “image kernels”, “graph kernels”, and so on.

# Kernel Trick for Non-Vector Data

- Recent list of types of data where people have defined kernels:

trees (Collins & Duffy, 2001; Kashima & Koyanagi, 2002), time series (Cuturi, 2011), strings (Lodhi et al., 2002), mixture models, hidden Markov models or linear dynamical systems (Jebara et al., 2004), sets (Haussler, 1999; Gärtner et al., 2002), fuzzy domains (Guevara et al., 2017), distributions (Hein & Bousquet, 2005; Martins et al., 2009; Muandet et al., 2011), groups (Cuturi et al., 2005) such as specific constructions on permutations (Jiao & Vert, 2016), or graphs (Vishwanathan et al., 2010; Kondor & Pan, 2016).

also Danica's PHP work ... but the Muandet et al. approach is better ;)

- Bonus slide overviews a particular “string” kernel.

# Valid Kernels

- What kernel functions  $k(x_i, x_j)$  can we use?
- Kernel ‘k’ must be an inner product in some space:
  - There must exist a mapping from the  $x_i$  to some  $z_i$  such that  $k(x_i, x_j) = z_i^T z_j$ .
- It can be hard to show that a function satisfies this.
  - Infinite-dimensional eigenfunction problem.
- But like convex functions, there are some simple rules for constructing “valid” kernels from other valid kernels (bonus slide).

# Kernel Trick for Other Methods

- Besides **L2-regularized least squares**, when can we use kernels?
  - We can compute **Euclidean distance with kernels**:

$$\|z_i - z_j\|^2 = z_i^T z_i - 2z_i^T z_j + z_j^T z_j = k(x_i, x_i) - 2K(x_i, x_j) + k(x_j, x_j)$$

- All of our **distance-based methods have kernel versions**:
  - Kernel k-nearest neighbours.
  - Kernel k-means.
  - Kernel density-based clustering.
  - Kernel hierarchical clustering.
  - Kernel distance-based outlier detection.
  - Kernel “Amazon Product Recommendation”.
  - Kernel PCA (we will talk about PCA next week)

bonus!

# Kernel Trick for Other Methods

- Besides **L2-regularized least squares**, when can we use kernels?
  - “Representer theorems” (bonus slide) have shown that any **L2-regularized linear model can be kernelized**:

If learning can be written in the form  $\min_v f(Zv) + \frac{1}{2} \|v\|^2$  for some 'Z'  
then under weak conditions ("representer theorem")  
we can re-parameterize in terms of  $v = Z^T u$   
giving  $\min_u f(\underbrace{ZZ^T}_{K} u) + \frac{1}{2} u^T \underbrace{ZZ^T}_{K} u$

At test time you would use  $\tilde{Z}v = \underbrace{\tilde{Z}Z^T}_{\tilde{K}} u = \tilde{K}u$

Only need 'K'

# Kernel Trick for Other Methods

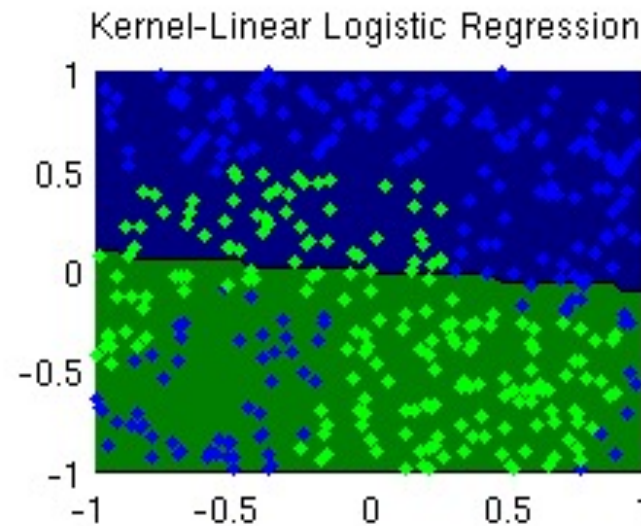
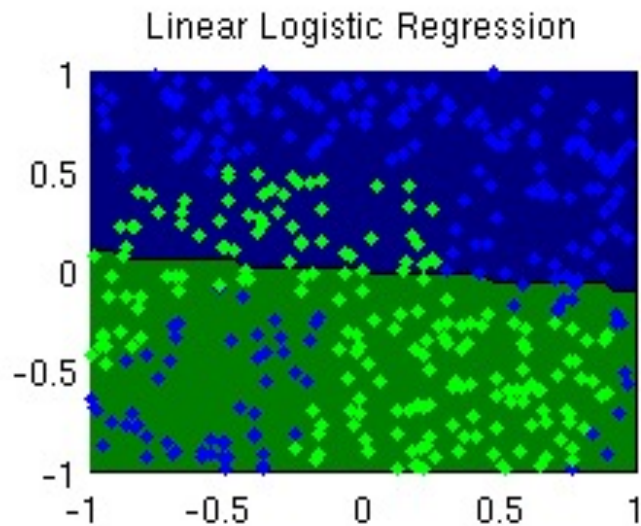
- Besides **L2-regularized least squares**, when can we use kernels?
  - “Representer theorems” (bonus slide) have shown that any **L2-regularized linear model can be kernelized**:
    - L2-regularized robust regression.
    - L2-regularized brittle regression.
    - L2-regularized logistic regression.
    - L2-regularized hinge loss (SVMs).

With a particular implementation,  
can reduce prediction cost  
from  $O(ndt)$  to  $O(mdt)$ .  
↑ Number of support vectors.

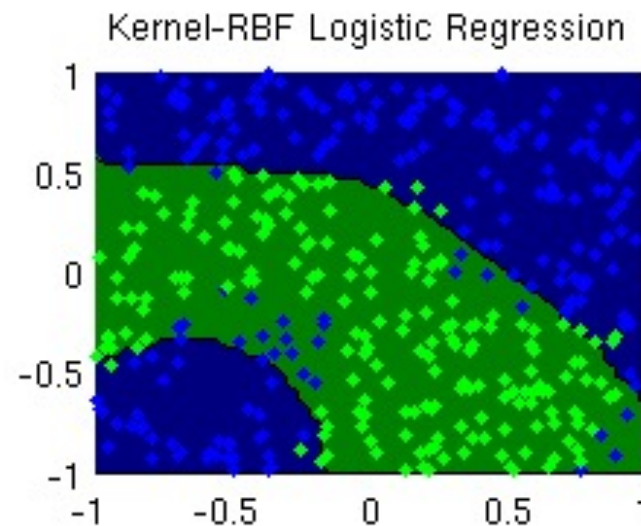
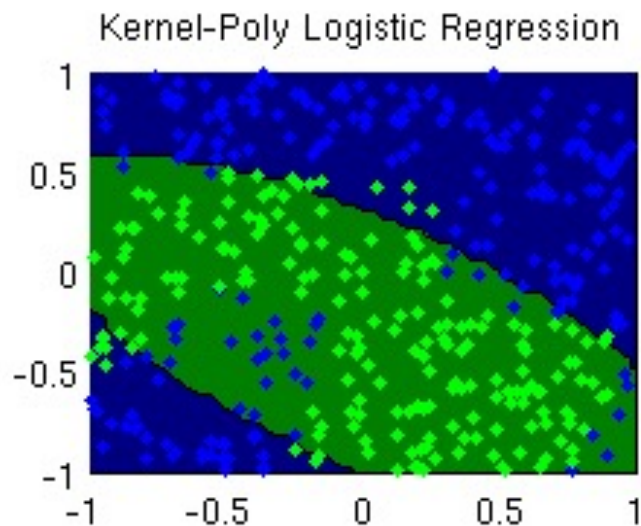


bonus!

# Logistic Regression with Kernels



Using "linear" Kernel  
is the same as using  
original features



# Summary

- High-dimensional bases allows us to separate non-separable data.
- “Other” normal equations are faster when  $n < d$ .
- Kernel trick allows us to use high-dimensional bases efficiently.
  - Write model to only depend on inner products between input vectors.

$$\hat{y} = \tilde{K} (K + \lambda I)^{-1} y$$

$t \times n$  matrix  $\tilde{Z}Z^T$  containing inner products between test examples and training examples.  $n \times n$  matrix  $ZZ^T$  containing inner products between all training examples.

- Kernels let us use similarity between objects (data points), rather than features.
  - Allows some exponential- or infinite-sized feature sets.
  - Applies to distance-based and linear models with L2-regularization.
- Next time:
  - How do we train on **all** of Gmail?



# Feature Selection Hierarchy

- Consider a linear models with higher-order terms,

$$\hat{y}_i = w_0 + w_1 x_{i1} + w_2 x_{i2} + w_3 x_{i3} + w_{12} x_{i1} x_{i2} + w_{13} x_{i1} x_{i3} + w_{23} x_{i2} x_{i3} + w_{123} x_{i1} x_{i2} x_{i3}$$

- The number of higher-order terms may be too large.
  - Can't even compute them all.
  - We need to somehow decide which terms we'll even consider.
- Consider the following hierarchical constraint:
  - You only allow  $w_{12} \neq 0$  if  $w_1 \neq 0$  and  $w_2 \neq 0$ .
  - "Only consider feature interaction if you are using both features already."

# Hierarchical Forward Selection

- Hierarchical Forward Selection:
  - Usual forward selection, but **consider interaction terms obeying hierarchy**.
  - Only consider  $w_{12} \neq 0$  once  $w_1 \neq 0$  and  $w_2 \neq 0$ .
  - Only allow  $w_{123} \neq 0$  once  $w_{12} \neq 0$  and  $w_{13} \neq 0$  and  $w_{23} \neq 0$ .
  - Only allow  $w_{1234} \neq 0$  once all three-way interactions are present.

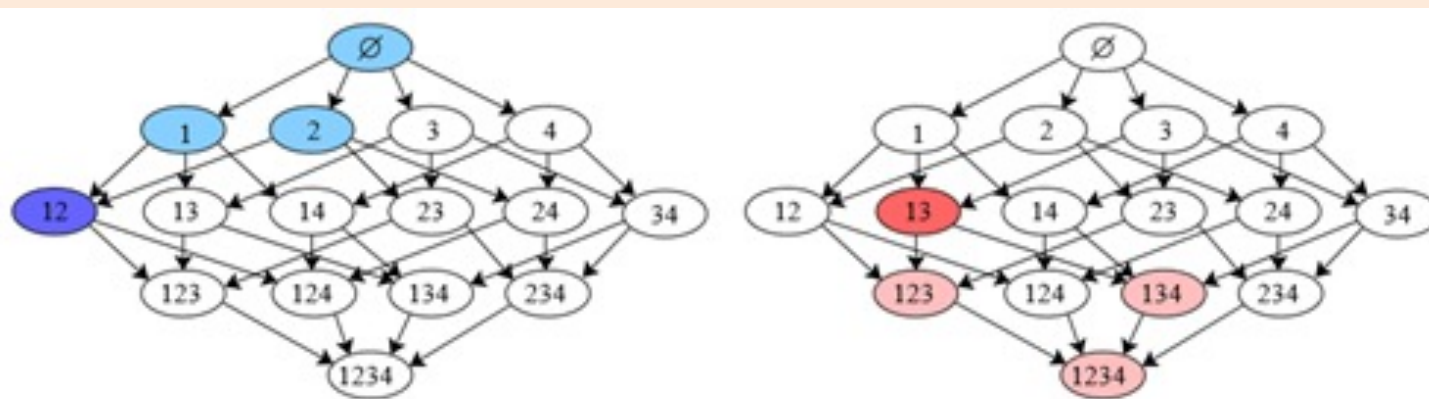


Fig 9: Power set of the set  $\{1, \dots, 4\}$ : in blue, an authorized set of selected subsets. In red, an example of a group used within the norm (a subset and all of its descendants in the DAG).

## Bonus Slide: Equivalent Form of Ridge Regression

Note that  $\hat{X}$  and  $Y$  are the same on the left and right side, so we only need to show that

$$(X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T = X^T (X X^T + \lambda I)^{-1}. \quad (1)$$

A version of the matrix inversion lemma (Equation 4.107 in MLAPP) is

$$(E - F H^{-1} G)^{-1} F H^{-1} = E^{-1} F (H - G E^{-1} F)^{-1}.$$

Since matrix addition is commutative and multiplying by the identity matrix does nothing, we can re-write the left side of (1) as

$$(X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T = (\lambda I + X^T X)^{-1} X^T = (\lambda I + X^T I X)^{-1} X^T = (\lambda I - X^T (-I) X)^{-1} X^T = -(\lambda I - X^T (-I) X)^{-1} X^T (-I)$$

Now apply the matrix inversion with  $E = \lambda I$  (so  $E^{-1} = (\frac{1}{\lambda}) I$ ),  $F = X^T$ ,  $H = -I$  (so  $H^{-1} = -I$  too), and  $G = X$ :

$$-(\lambda I - X^T (-I) X)^{-1} X^T (-I) = -(\frac{1}{\lambda}) I X^T (-I - X \left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) X^T)^{-1}.$$

Now use that  $(1/\alpha)A^{-1} = (\alpha A)^{-1}$ , to push the  $(-1/\lambda)$  inside the sum as  $-\lambda$ ,

$$-(\frac{1}{\lambda}) I X^T (-I - X \left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) X^T)^{-1} = X^T (\lambda I + X X^T)^{-1} = X^T (X X^T + \lambda I)^{-1}.$$

# Why is inner product a similarity?

- It seems weird to think of the inner-product as a similarity.
- But consider this decomposition of squared Euclidean distance:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|x_i - x_j\|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|x_i\|^2 - x_i^\top x_j + \frac{1}{2} \|x_j\|^2$$

- If all training examples have the same norm, then **minimizing Euclidean distance is equivalent to maximizing inner product**.
  - So “high similarity” according to inner product is like “small Euclidean distance”.
  - The only difference is that the inner product is biased by the norms of the training examples.
  - Some people explicitly normalize the  $x_i$  by setting  $x_i = (1/\|x_i\|)x_i$ , so that inner products act like the negation of Euclidean distances.
    - E.g., Amazon product recommendation.

## Gaussian-RBF Kernels

- The most common kernel is the **Gaussian-RBF** (or 'squared exponential') kernel,

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right).$$

- What function  $\phi(x)$  would lead to this as the inner-product?
  - To simplify, assume  $d = 1$  and  $\sigma = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} k(x_i, x_j) &= \exp(-x_i^2 + 2x_i x_j - x_j^2) \\ &= \exp(-x_i^2) \exp(2x_i x_j) \exp(-x_j^2), \end{aligned}$$

so we need  $\phi(x_i) = \exp(-x_i^2) z_i$  where  $z_i z_j = \exp(2x_i x_j)$ .

- For this to work for *all*  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ ,  $z_i$  must be infinite-dimensional.
- If we use that

$$\exp(2x_i x_j) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^k x_i^k x_j^k}{k!},$$

then we obtain

$$\phi(x_i) = \exp(-x_i^2) \left[ 1 \quad \sqrt{\frac{2}{1!}} x_i \quad \sqrt{\frac{2^2}{2!}} x_i^2 \quad \sqrt{\frac{2^3}{3!}} x_i^3 \quad \cdots \right].$$



homus!

## Why RBF-kernel not the same as RBF-basis?

I do not quite understand the two statements in red box? I think with  $k$  as defined that way, it is just the  $g(||x_i - x_j||)$  as we saw in the last lecture of RBF basis? Why they are not equivalent? What does "equivalent" here mean?

Also, why now "we are using them as inner product"? Is it because we now regard  $k(x_i, x_j)$  as the inner product of  $z_i$  and  $z_j$ , which are some magical transformation of  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ ? (Like  $k(x_i, x_j) = (1 + x_i^T x_j)^p$  is the inner product of  $z_i$  and  $z_j$ , which are polynomial transformation of  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ )?



**Chenliang Zhou** ✓✓ 8 months ago Oh so is my following reasoning correct?:

Let  $Z$  and  $\tilde{Z}$  be as defined in lecture 22a.

In Gaussian RBF basis,  $\tilde{y} = \tilde{Z}(Z^T Z + \lambda I)^{-1} Z^T y = \tilde{Z} Z^T (Z Z^T + \lambda I)^{-1} y$ .

In Gaussian RBF kernel, we have  $\tilde{y} = \tilde{K}(K + \lambda I)^{-1} y$  where where  $K$  and  $\tilde{K}$  are those 2 horrible matrices for Gaussian RBF kernels. Since they are the same formula,  $K = Z$  and  $\tilde{K} = \tilde{Z}$ , so  $\tilde{y} = \tilde{Z}(Z + \lambda I)^{-1} y$ .

So Gaussian RBF basis and Gaussian RBF kernel are different because in general,  $\tilde{Z} Z^T (Z Z^T + \lambda I)^{-1}$  (for G-RBF basis)  $\neq \tilde{Z} (Z + \lambda I)^{-1}$  (for G-RBF kernel).



# A String Kernel

- A classic “string kernel”:
  - We want to compute  $k(\text{“cat”}, \text{“cart”})$ .
  - Find all common subsequences: ‘c’, ‘a’, ‘t’, ‘ca’, ‘at’, ‘ct’, ‘cat’.
  - Weight them by total length in original strings:
    - ‘c’ has length (1,1), ‘ca’ has lengths (2,2), ‘ct’ has lengths (3,4), and so on.
  - Add up the weighted lengths of common subsequences to get a similarity:

$$k(\text{“cat”}, \text{“cart”}) = \underbrace{\gamma^1 \gamma^1}_{\text{‘c’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^1 \gamma^1}_{\text{‘a’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^1 \gamma^1}_{\text{‘t’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^2 \gamma^2}_{\text{‘ca’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^2 \gamma^3}_{\text{‘at’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^3 \gamma^4}_{\text{‘ct’}} + \underbrace{\gamma^3 \gamma^4}_{\text{‘cat’}},$$

where  $\gamma$  is a hyper-parameter controlling influence of length.

- Corresponds to exponential feature set (counts/lengths of all subsequences).
  - But kernel can be computed in polynomial time by dynamic programming.
- Many variations exist.

# Constructing Valid Kernels

bonus!

- If  $k_1(x_i, x_j)$  and  $k_2(x_i, x_j)$  are valid kernels, then the following are valid kernels:
  - $k_1(\phi(x_i), \phi(x_j))$ .
  - $\alpha k_1(x_i, x_j) + \beta k_2(x_i, x_j)$  for  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $\beta \geq 0$ .
  - $k_1(x_i, x_j)k_2(x_i, x_j)$ .
  - $\phi(x_i)k_1(x_i, x_j)\phi(x_j)$ .
  - $\exp(k_1(x_i, x_j))$ .
- Example: Gaussian-RBF kernel:

A full proof of all of these (the way to show exp is neat!):  
<https://stats.stackexchange.com/a/150964/9964>

$$\begin{aligned} k(x_i, x_j) &= \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_j\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right)}_{\phi(x_i)} \underbrace{\exp\left(\underbrace{\frac{2}{\sigma^2}}_{\alpha \geq 0} \underbrace{x_i^T x_j}_{\text{valid}}\right)}_{\exp(\text{valid})} \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{\|x_j\|^2}{\sigma^2}\right)}_{\phi(x_j)}. \end{aligned}$$



# Representer Theorem

bonus!

- Consider linear model differentiable with losses  $f_i$  and L2-regularization,

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(w^T x_i) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|w\|^2.$$

- Setting the gradient equal to zero we get

$$0 = \sum_{i=1}^n f'_i(w^T x_i) x_i + \lambda w.$$

- So any solution  $w^*$  can be written as a **linear combination of features  $x_i$** ,

$$\begin{aligned} w^* &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n f'_i((w^*)^T x_i) x_i = \sum_{i=1}^n z_i x_i \\ &= X^T z. \end{aligned}$$

- This is called a **representer theorem** (true under much more general conditions).

# Kernel Trick for Other Methods

- Besides **L2-regularized least squares**, when can we use kernels?
  - “Representer theorems” have shown that any **L2-regularized linear model can be kernelized**.
  - **Linear models without regularization fit with gradient descent**.
    - If you starting at  $v=0$  or with any other value in span of rows of ‘Z’.

Iterations of gradient descent on  $f(Zv)$  can be written as  $v = Z^T u$   
 which lets us re-parameterize as  $f(ZZ^T u)$

At test time you would use  $\tilde{Z}v = \underbrace{\tilde{Z}}_{X^T} \underbrace{Z^T u}_{\tilde{K}} = \tilde{K}u$