

## CONTEXT

We consider the problem of **multi-output learning** in context of kernel methods and **operator-valued kernel learning**.

### Multi-output learning

- Outputs of learning task are vectors,  $\mathbf{y}_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$
- Operator-valued kernels learn vector-valued functions, and offer a natural solution to multi-output learning.

### Kernel learning

- Motivation: how to choose a good kernels? Kernel learning tries to find suitable kernel based on data instead of fixing it in advance.
- Learning separable operator-valued kernels is common but restrictive:
  - all similarities share the structure

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{matrix} \\ \otimes \\ \text{matrix} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{matrix} \end{array}$$

- only symmetric interactions allowed

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{symmetric} \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{matrix} \\ \otimes \\ \text{matrix} \end{array} \leftarrow \text{non symmetric}$$

- Is there a way to **learn unseparable kernels** that model more complex dependencies between input and output variables?

## OPERATOR-VALUED KERNELS

### Comparison of scalar- and operator-valued kernels

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{scalar-valued} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \\ \hline x_1 & & & & \\ x_2 & & & & \\ x_3 & & & & \\ x_4 & & & & \\ x_5 & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \text{operator-valued} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \\ \hline x_1 & \mathbf{T}_1 & & & \\ x_2 & & \mathbf{T}_2 & & \\ x_3 & & & \mathbf{T}_3 & \\ x_4 & & & & \mathbf{T}_4 \\ x_5 & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array}$$

	scalar-valued	operator-valued
target function	$\mathcal{K} \ni f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}$	$\mathcal{H} \ni f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^p$
kernel function	$k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$	$K : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$
kernel trick	$k(x, x') = \langle \phi(x), \phi(x') \rangle_{\mathcal{K}}$	$\langle K(x, x')z, z' \rangle_{\mathcal{Y}} = \langle \phi(x)z, \phi(x')z' \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \forall z, z' \in \mathcal{Y}$
representer theorem	$f(x) = \sum_i \alpha_i k(x_i, x) \quad \forall \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$	$f(x) = \sum_i K(x_i, x) c_i \quad \forall c_i \in \mathcal{Y}$

### Examples of operator-valued kernels

- Separable:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})\mathbf{T} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X}$$

where  $k$  is a scalar-valued kernel and  $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  is symmetric

- Sum of separable:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \sum_l k_l(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})\mathbf{T}_l, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X},$$

$k_l$  are scalar-valued kernels,  $\mathbf{T}_l \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  are symmetric

- Transformable:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = [\tilde{k}(S_m \mathbf{x}, S_l \mathbf{z})]_{l,m=1}^p, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X}$$

where  $\{S_t\}_{t=1}^p$  are mappings which transform the data from  $\mathcal{X}$  to another space  $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$  where  $\tilde{k}$  is defined.

## PARTIAL TRACE KERNELS

$$\text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} = \cdot \quad \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{K}} \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

Trace

Partial trace

### Definition 1. (Partial trace kernel)

A partial trace kernel is an operator-valued kernel function  $K$  having the following form

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{P}_{\phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{z})}), \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}}$  is an operator on  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{Y} \otimes \mathcal{K})$ , and  $\text{tr}_{\mathcal{K}}$  is the partial trace on  $\mathcal{K}$  (i.e., over the inputs).

Generalization of the kernel trick:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \langle \phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{z}) \rangle = \text{tr}(\phi(\mathbf{x})\phi(\mathbf{z})^\top)$$

## OPERATOR-VALUED KERNEL CLASSES

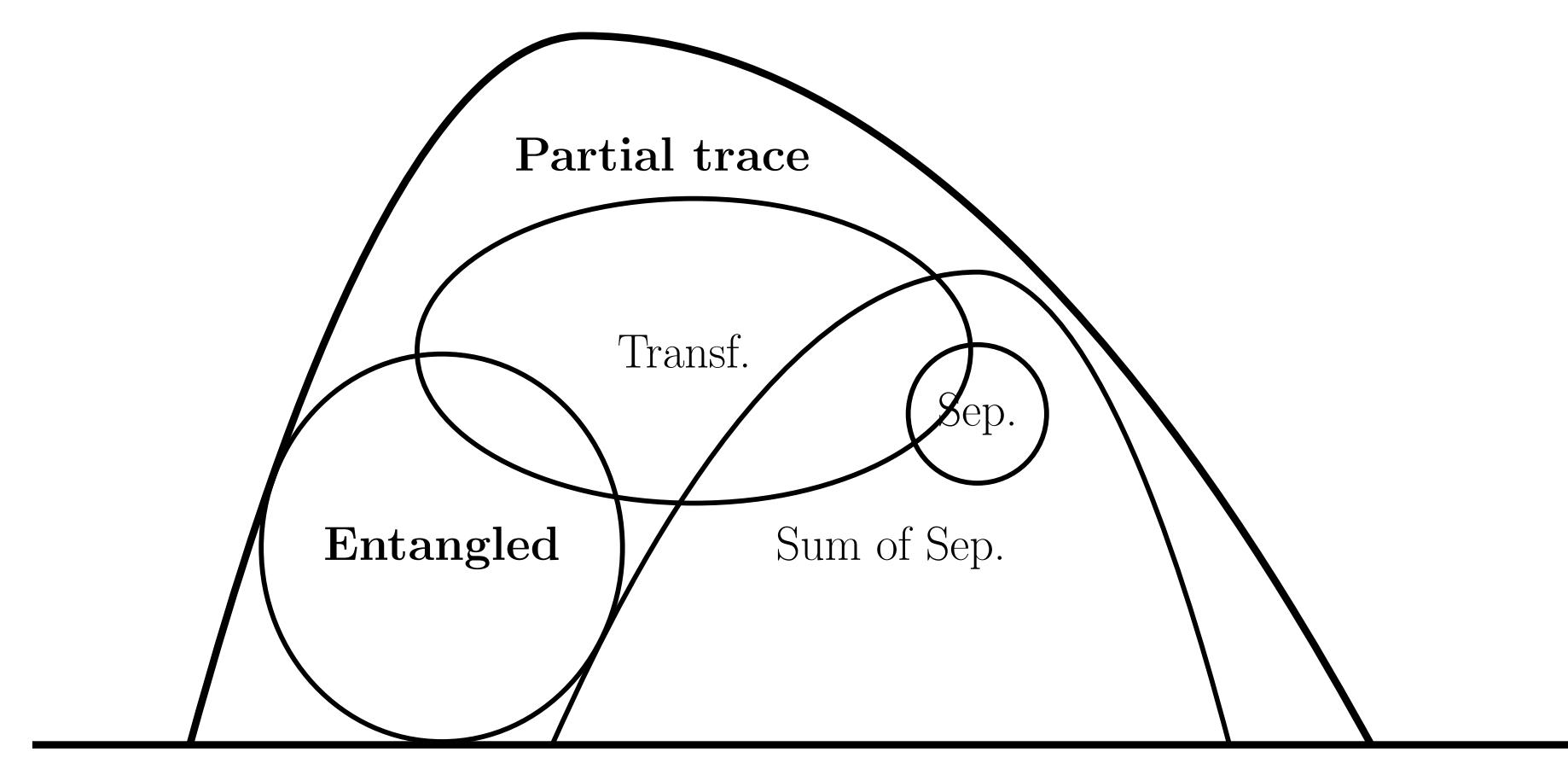


Illustration of inclusions among various operator-valued kernel classes.

**Example 1. (Transformable and not separable kernel)** On the space  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$ , consider the kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{xz} & \mathbf{xz}^2 \\ \mathbf{x}^2\mathbf{z} & \mathbf{x}^2\mathbf{z}^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X}.$$

- Transformable: choose  $\tilde{k}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{xz}$ ,  $S_1(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$ , and  $S_2(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^2$
- For a separable kernel the matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  is always symmetric and since the matrix  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  is not,  $K$  is not a separable kernel

**Example 2. (Transformable and separable kernel)** Let  $K$  be the kernel function defined as

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \mathbf{T}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X},$$

where  $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  is a rank one positive semidefinite matrix.

- $K$  is separable by construction.
- Since  $\mathbf{T}$  is of rank one, it follows that  $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{uu}^\top$  and  $(K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}))_{lm} = \mathbf{u}_l \mathbf{u}_m \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle$ .
- We can see that  $K$  is transformable by replacing  $\tilde{k}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  by  $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \rangle$  and  $S_t(\mathbf{x})$  by  $\mathbf{u}_t \mathbf{x}$ ,  $t = 1, \dots, p$ .

**Example 3. (Partial trace contains sum of separable)** Choose

$$\mathbf{P}_{\phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{z})} = \sum_l \mathbf{T}_l \otimes (\phi_l(\mathbf{x})\phi_l(\mathbf{z})^\top).$$

**Example 4. (Partial trace contains transformable)** Choose

$$[\mathbf{P}_{\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{z})}]_{l,m} = (\tilde{\phi} \circ S_l(\mathbf{x}))(\tilde{\phi} \circ S_m(\mathbf{z}))^\top.$$

## ENTANGLED KERNELS

### Definition 2. (Entangled kernel)

An entangled operator-valued kernel  $K$  is defined as

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{T} \otimes (\phi(\mathbf{x})\phi(\mathbf{z})^\top))\mathbf{U}^\top), \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{pN \times pN}$  is not separable (i.e. it cannot be written as product  $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ ).

**Remark.** Entangled kernels are subclass of partial trace kernels

**Example 5. (Entangled and transformable)** Choose linear kernel  $(\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x})$  and mappings  $S_m$  to be linear, such that we can write matrix  $\mathbf{U} = \text{diag}([\mathbf{S}_1 \dots \mathbf{S}_p])$ . Now the entangled kernel with operator

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}_{\phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{z})} &= \mathbf{U}([\mathbb{I}_p \mathbb{I}_p^\top \otimes (\mathbf{xz}^\top)]\mathbf{U}^\top \\ &= \mathbf{U}([\mathbf{xz}^\top]_{l,m=1}^p)\mathbf{U}^\top \\ &= [\mathbf{S}_l \mathbf{xz}^\top \mathbf{S}_m^\top]_{l,m=1}^p \end{aligned}$$

is clearly also transformable with  $\tilde{k}$  a linear kernel.

### Theorem 1. (Choi-Kraus representation)

The map  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{T} \otimes (\phi(\mathbf{x})\phi(\mathbf{z})^\top))\mathbf{U}^\top)$  can be generated by an operator sum representation containing at most  $pN$  elements,

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^r \mathbf{M}_i \phi(\mathbf{x}) \phi(\mathbf{z})^\top \mathbf{M}_i^\top, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{M}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times N}$  and  $1 \leq r \leq pN$ .

For computational feasibility ( $\phi$  can be infinite-dimensional) we need to use an approximation  $\hat{\phi}$  such that

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \langle \phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{z}) \rangle \approx \langle \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{z}) \rangle$$

Our approximated kernel will thus be

$$\hat{K}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^r \hat{\mathbf{M}}_i \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{z})^\top \hat{\mathbf{M}}_i^\top,$$

where  $\hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{M}}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$ .

Approximated kernel matrix is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{G}} &= \sum_{i=1}^r \text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{M}}_i \hat{\Phi}) \text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{M}}_i \hat{\Phi})^\top \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^r (\hat{\Phi}^\top \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \underbrace{\text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{M}}_i) \text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{M}}_i)^\top}_{\mathbf{D}_i} (\hat{\Phi} \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \\ &= (\hat{\Phi}^\top \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \mathbf{D} (\hat{\Phi} \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{G}} = (\hat{\Phi}^\top \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{Q}^\top (\hat{\Phi} \otimes \mathbf{I}_p) \quad (4)$$

## ENTANGLED KERNEL LEARNING

We extend alignment between two matrices  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  defined as

$$A(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{M}_c, \mathbf{N}_c \rangle_F}{\|\mathbf{M}_c\|_F \|\mathbf{N}_c\|_F} \quad (5)$$

to be our closeness criterion for learning the entangled kernel. Here subscript  $c$  refers to centered matrices, that is,  $\mathbf{M}_c = \mathbf{HMH}$  where  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}_n - \frac{1}{n}\mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^\top$ , if  $\mathbf{M}$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix.

### The optimization problem:

$$\max_{\mathbf{Q}} \quad (1 - \gamma) A(\text{tr}_p(\hat{\mathbf{G}}), \mathbf{Y}^\top \mathbf{Y}) + \gamma A(\hat{\mathbf{G}}, \mathbf{y} \mathbf{y}^\top) \quad (6)$$

with  $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ .

- First term learns a scalar-valued kernel  $\text{tr}_p(\hat{\mathbf{G}})$  with alignment to linear kernel on outputs,  $\mathbf{Y}^\top \mathbf{Y}$ .
- Second term learns full operator-valued kernel  $\mathbf{G}$  by aligning it to outer product of the outputs, promoting entanglement.

This can be solved with gradient-based approach.

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