



# Kernel Methods for Dependence and Causality

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# Overview



# Outline of This Lecture

Kernel methodology of inference on probabilities

- I. Introduction
- II. Dependence with kernels
- III. Covariance on RKHS
- IV. Representing a probability
- V. Statistical test
- VI. Conditional independence
- VII. Causal inference

# I. Introduction

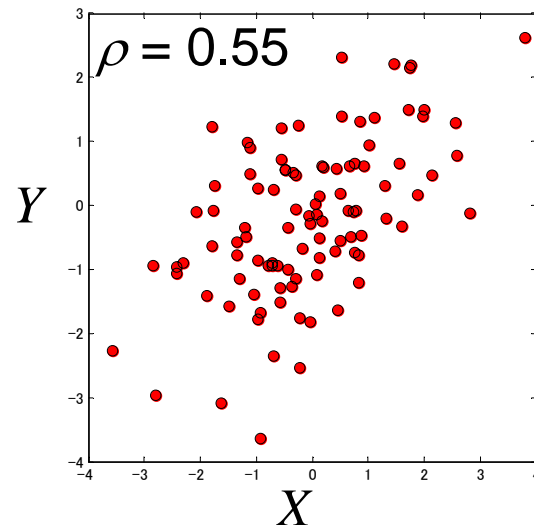
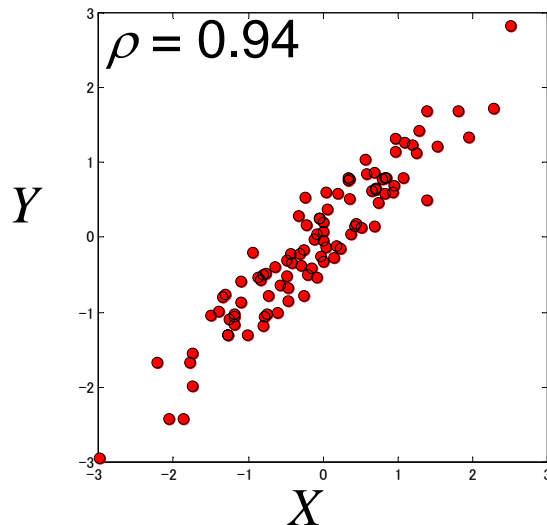
# Dependence

## ■ Correlation

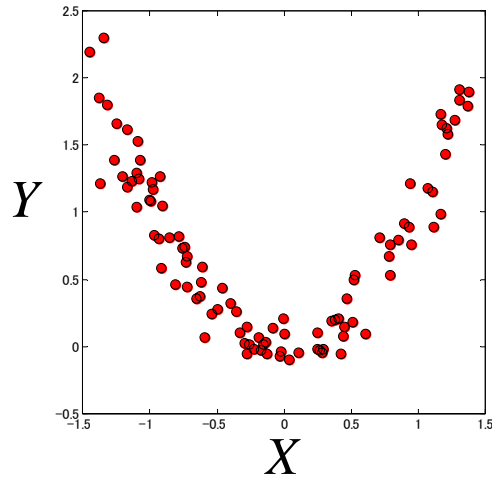
- The most elementary and popular indicator to measure the linear relation between two variables.

Correlation coefficient (aka Pearson correlation)

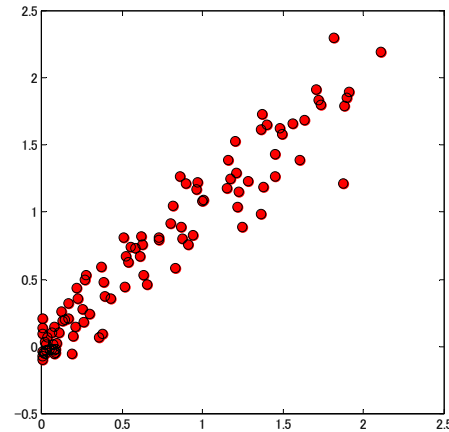
$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}} = \frac{E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])]}{\sqrt{E[(X - E[X])^2]E[(Y - E[Y])^2]}}$$



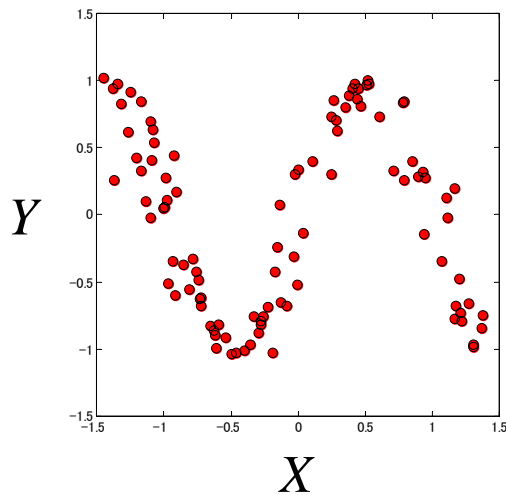
## ■ Nonlinear dependence



$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = 0.17$$



$$\text{Corr}(X^2, Y) = 0.96$$



$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = -0.06$$

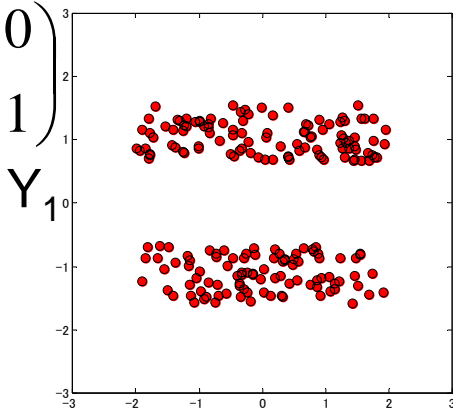
$$\text{Corr}(X^2, Y) = 0.09$$

$$\text{Corr}(X^3, Y) = -0.38$$

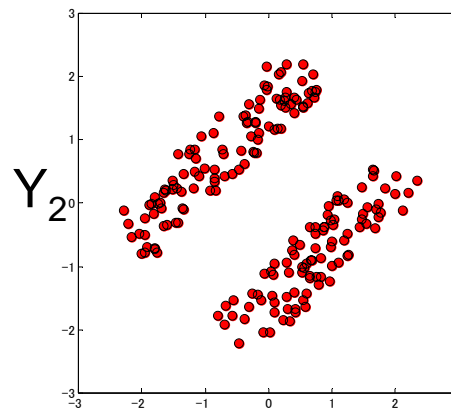
$$\text{Corr}(\sin(\pi X), Y) = 0.93$$

# ■ “Uncorrelated” does not mean “independent”

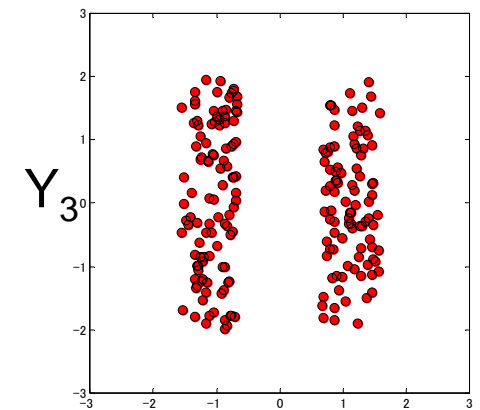
$$V_{ZZ} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$X_1$   
independent



$X_2$   
dependent



$X_3$   
independent

They are all **uncorrelated!**

Note: If  $Z = \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tilde{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{X} \\ \tilde{Y} \end{pmatrix} = AZ$ ,

$$V_{\tilde{Z}\tilde{Z}} = E[A(Z - E[Z])(Z - E[Z])^T A^T] = AV_{ZZ}A^T$$



# Nonlinear statistics with kernels

- Linear methods can consider only linear relation.
- Nonlinear transform of the original variable may help.

$$X \rightarrow (X, X^2, X^3, \dots)$$

But,

- It is not clear how to make a good transform, in particular, if the data is high-dimensional.
- A transform may cause high-dimensionality.

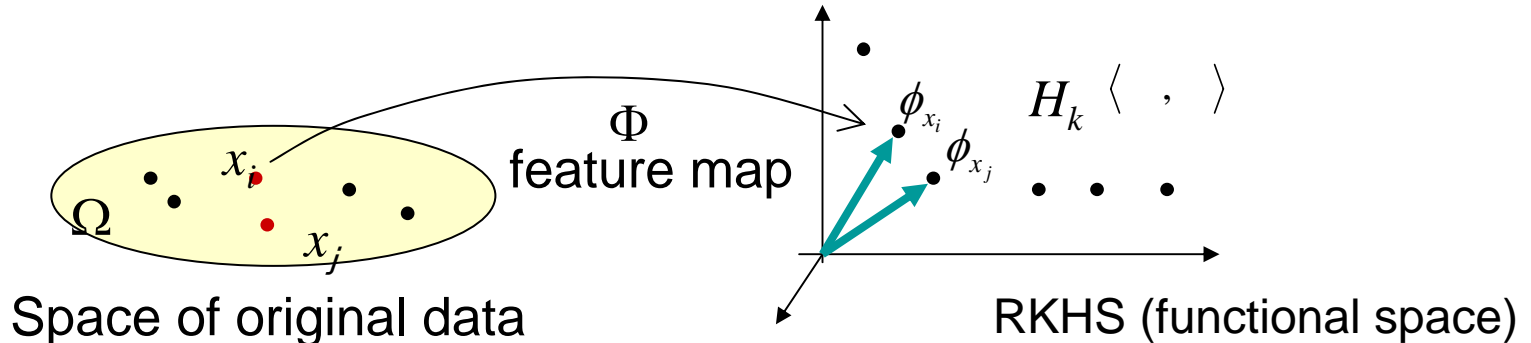
$$\text{e.g.) } \dim X = 100 \rightarrow X_i X_j \text{ \# combinations} = 4950$$

Why not use the kernelization / feature map for the transform?



## ■ Kernel methodology for statistical inference

- Transform of the original data by “feature map”.



Let's do linear statistics in the feature space!

- Is this simply “kernelization”? – Yes, in a big picture.
- But, in this methodology, the methods have **clear statistical/probabilistic meaning in the original space**, e.g. independence, conditional independence, two-sample test etc.
- From the side of statistics, it is a new approach using p.d. kernels.

Goal: To understand how linear methods in RKHS solve classical inference problems on probabilities.

# Remarks on Terminology

- In this lecture, “kernel” means “positive definite kernel”.
- In statistics, “kernel” is traditionally used in more general meaning, which does not impose positive definiteness.

e.g. kernel density estimation (Parzen window approach)

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k(x, X_i)$$

$k(x_1, x_2)$  is not necessarily positive definite.

- Statistical jargon
  - “in population”: evaluated with probability e.g.  $E[X] = \int x dP(x)$
  - “empirical”: evaluated with sample e.g.  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$
  - “asymptotic”: when the number of data goes to infinity.

“ $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i / N$  asymptotically converges to  $E[X]$ .”

# II. Dependence with Kernels

Prologue to kernel methodology for  
inference on probabilities

# Independence of Variables

## ■ Definition

- Random vectors  $X$  on  $\mathbf{R}^m$  and  $Y$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  are independent ( $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ )

$\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff}$

$$\Pr(X \in A, Y \in B) = \Pr(X \in A)\Pr(Y \in B)$$

for any  $A \in \mathcal{B}_m, B \in \mathcal{B}_n$

## ■ Basic properties

- If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent,

$$E[f(X)g(Y)] = E[f(X)]E[g(Y)]$$

- If further  $(X, Y)$  has the joint p.d.f.  $p_{XY}(x, y)$ , and  $X$  and  $Y$  have the marginal p.d.f.  $p_X(x)$  and  $p_Y(y)$ , resp, then

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \iff p_{XY}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y)$$

# Review: Covariance Matrix

## ■ Covariance matrix

$X = (X_1, \dots, X_m)^T$ ,  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_\ell)^T$ :  $m$  and  $n$  dimensional random vectors

**Covariance matrix**  $V_{XY}$  of  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined by

$$V_{XY} \equiv E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])^T] = E[XY^T] - E[X]E[Y]^T$$

( $m \times n$  matrix)

In particular,  $V_{XX} \equiv E[XX^T] - E[X]E[X]^T$

–  $V_{XY} = 0$  if and only if  $X$  and  $Y$  are uncorrelated.

For a sample  $(X^{(1)}, Y^{(1)}), \dots, (X^{(N)}, Y^{(N)})$

**empirical covariance matrix**

$$\hat{V}_{XY} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X^{(i)} Y^{(i)T} - \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X^{(i)} \right) \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Y^{(i)} \right)^T$$

( $m \times n$  matrix)

# Independence of Gaussian variables

## ■ Multivariate Gaussian (normal) distribution

$X = (X_1, \dots, X_m) \sim N(\mu, V)$  :  $m$ -dimensional **Gaussian** random variable with mean  $\mu$  and covariance matrix  $V$ .

Probability density function (p.d.f.)

$$\phi(x; \mu, V) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{m/2} |V|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T V^{-1}(x - \mu)\right)$$

## ■ Independence of Gaussian variables

–  $X, Y$ : **Gaussian** random vectors of dim  $p$  and  $q$  (resp.)

“independent”  $\Leftrightarrow$  “uncorrelated”

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \Leftrightarrow V_{XY} = O \Leftrightarrow E[XY^T] = E[X]E[Y]^T$$

$\therefore$ ) If  $V_{XY} = O$ ,

$$p_{XY}(y, x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{m/2} |V_{XX}|^{1/2} |V_{YY}|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} x - \mu_X \\ y - \mu_Y \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} V_{XX}^{-1} & O \\ O & V_{YY}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x - \mu_X \\ y - \mu_Y \end{pmatrix}\right) = p_X(x) p_Y(y) \quad 14$$

# Independence by Nonlinear Covariance

## ■ Independence and nonlinear covariance

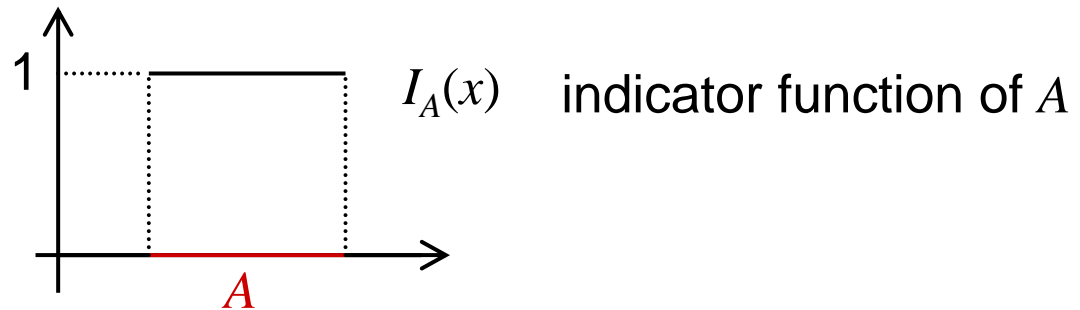
–  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent

$$\iff \text{Cov}[f(X), g(Y)] = 0 \quad \text{for all measurable functions } f \text{ and } g.$$

∴) Take  $f(x) = I_A(x)$  and  $g(y) = I_B(y)$  for measurable sets  $A$  and  $B$ .

$$E[I_A(X)I_B(Y)] - E[I_A(X)]E[I_B(Y)] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(X \in A, Y \in B) = \Pr(X \in A)\Pr(Y \in B)$$



## ■ Measuring all the nonlinear covariance

$$\sup_{f,g} |\text{Cov}[f(X), g(Y)]|$$

can be used for the dependence measure.

– Questions.

- How can we calculate the value?

The space of measurable functions is large, containing noncontinuous and weird functions

- With finite number of data, how can we estimate the value?



# Using Kernels: COCO

## ■ Restrict the functions in RKHS

$X, Y$  : random variables on  $\Omega_X$  and  $\Omega_Y$ , resp.

Prepare RKHS  $(H_X, k_X)$  and  $(H_Y, k_Y)$  defined on  $\Omega_X$  and  $\Omega_Y$ , resp

$$\sup_{f \in H_X, g \in H_Y} \frac{|Cov[f(X), g(Y)]|}{\|f\|_{H_X} \|g\|_{H_Y}} \quad \dots \text{CO}nstrained \text{CO}variance \text{(COCO, Gretton et al. 05)}$$

## ■ Estimation with data

$(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_N, Y_N)$  : i.i.d. sample

$$\sup_{f \in H_X, g \in H_Y} \frac{|Cov_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})]|}{\|f\|_{H_X} \|g\|_{H_Y}}$$

$$Cov_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(X_i) g(Y_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(X_i) \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N g(Y_i)$$

## ■ Solution to COCO

- The empirical COCO is reduced to an eigenproblem:

$$\frac{1}{N} \max \alpha^T G_X G_Y \beta \quad \text{subj. to} \quad \alpha^T G_X \alpha = 1, \quad \beta^T G_Y \beta = 1$$

$$\text{COCO}_{emp} = \sup_{f \in H_X, g \in H_Y} \frac{|Cov_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})]|}{\|f\|_{H_X} \|g\|_{H_Y}} = \frac{\text{largest singular value of } G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}}{N}$$

$G_X$  and  $G_Y$  are the **centered Gram matrices** defined by

$$G_X = Q_n K_X Q_n \quad (N \times N \text{ matrix})$$

where  $K_{X,ij} = k_X(X_i, X_j)$      $Q_n = I_n - \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{1}_N \mathbf{1}_N^T$  (projector on  $\mathbf{1}_N^\perp$ )  
 $\mathbf{1}_N = (1, \dots, 1)^T$

For a symmetric positive semidefinite matrix  $A$ ,

$A^{1/2}$  is a symmetric positive semidefinite matrix such that  $(A^{1/2})^2 = A$ .

## Derivation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})] &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ f(X_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N f(X_j) \right\} \left\{ g(Y_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N g(Y_j) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\langle f, \underbrace{k_X(\cdot, X_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N k_X(\cdot, X_j)}_{\hat{m}_X} \right\rangle \left\langle \underbrace{k_Y(\cdot, Y_i) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N k_Y(\cdot, Y_j)}_{\hat{m}_Y}, g \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

It is sufficient to consider (representer theorem)

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \{k_X(\cdot, X_j) - \hat{m}_X\}, \quad g = \sum_{\ell=1}^N \beta_\ell \{k_Y(\cdot, Y_\ell) - \hat{m}_Y\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})] &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{\ell=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j \beta_\ell \langle k_Y(\cdot, Y_\ell) - \hat{m}_Y, k_Y(\cdot, Y_i) - \hat{m}_Y \rangle \\ &\quad \times \langle k_X(\cdot, X_i) - \hat{m}_X, k_X(\cdot, X_j) - \hat{m}_X \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \alpha^T G_X G_Y \beta \end{aligned}$$

Maximize it under the constraints

$$\|f\|_{H_X}^2 = \alpha^T G_X \alpha = 1, \quad \|g\|_{H_Y}^2 = \beta^T G_Y \beta = 1$$

By using  $u = G_X^{1/2} \alpha, \quad v = G_Y^{1/2} \beta$

$$\frac{1}{N} \max_{u,v} u^T G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2} v \quad \text{subj. to} \quad \|u\| = 1, \quad \|v\| = 1$$

# Quick Review on RKHS

## ■ Reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS, review)

$\Omega$ : set.

$k : \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  pos. def. kernel



∃!  $H$ : reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS)

such that  $k$  is the **reproducing kernel** of  $H$ , *i.e.*

1)  $k(\cdot, x) \in H$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ .

2)  $\text{Span}\{k(\cdot, x) \mid x \in \Omega\}$  is dense in  $H$ .

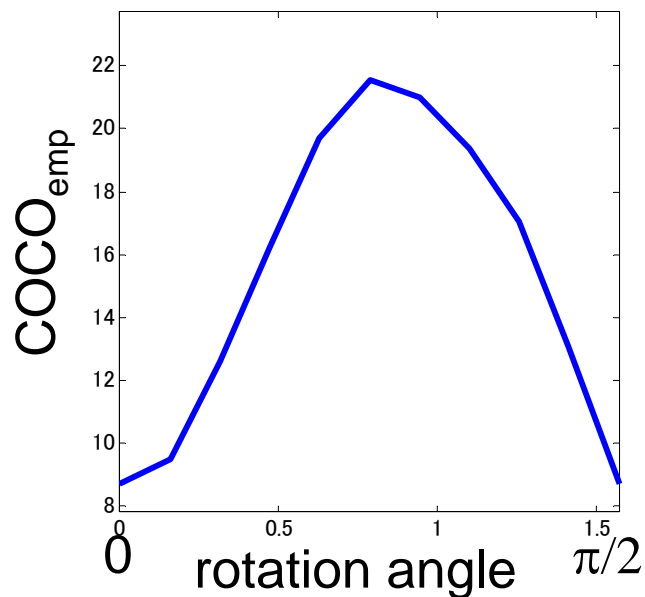
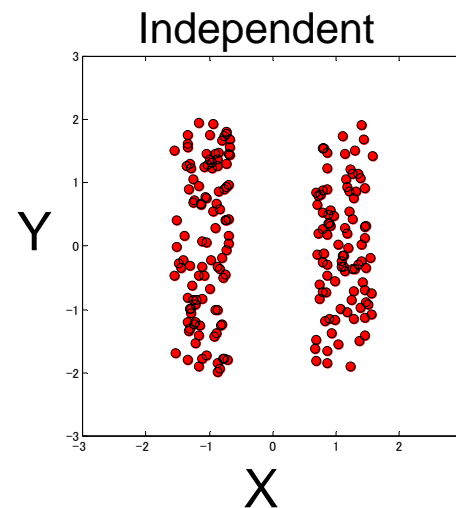
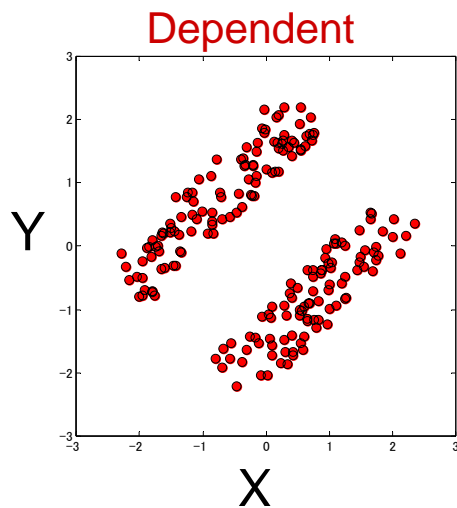
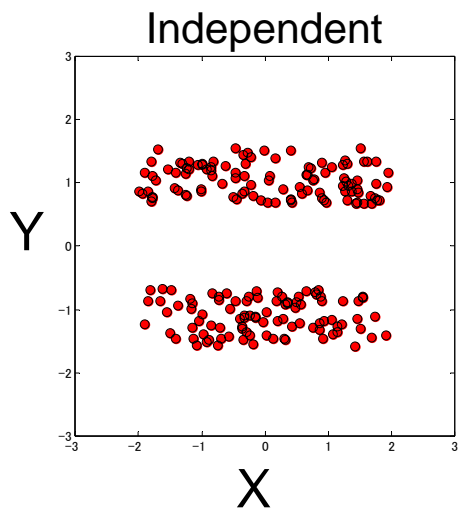
3)  $\langle k(\cdot, x), f \rangle_H = f(x)$  (**reproducing property**)

– Feature map

$$\Phi : \Omega \rightarrow H, \quad x \mapsto k(\cdot, x) \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \Phi(x) = k(\cdot, x)$$

$$\langle \Phi(x), f \rangle = f(x) \quad (\text{reproducing property})$$

# Example with COCO



Gaussian kernels  
are used.

$$k_G(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

# COCO and Independence

## ■ Characterization of independence

$$X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent} \iff \sup_{f \in H_X, g \in H_Y} \frac{|Cov[f(X), g(Y)]|}{\|f\|_{H_X} \|g\|_{H_Y}} = 0$$

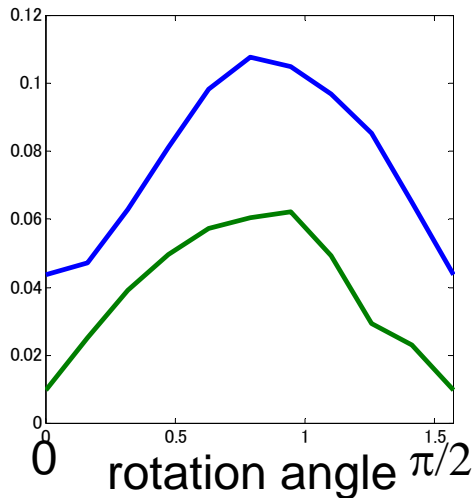
This equivalence holds if the RKHS are “rich enough” to express all the dependence between  $X$  and  $Y$ . (discussed later in Part IV.)

For the moment, Gaussian kernels are used to guarantee this equivalence.

$$k_G(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

# HSIC (Gretton et al. 05)

## ■ How about using other singular values?



— 1st SV of  $G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}$   
— 2nd SV of  $G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}$

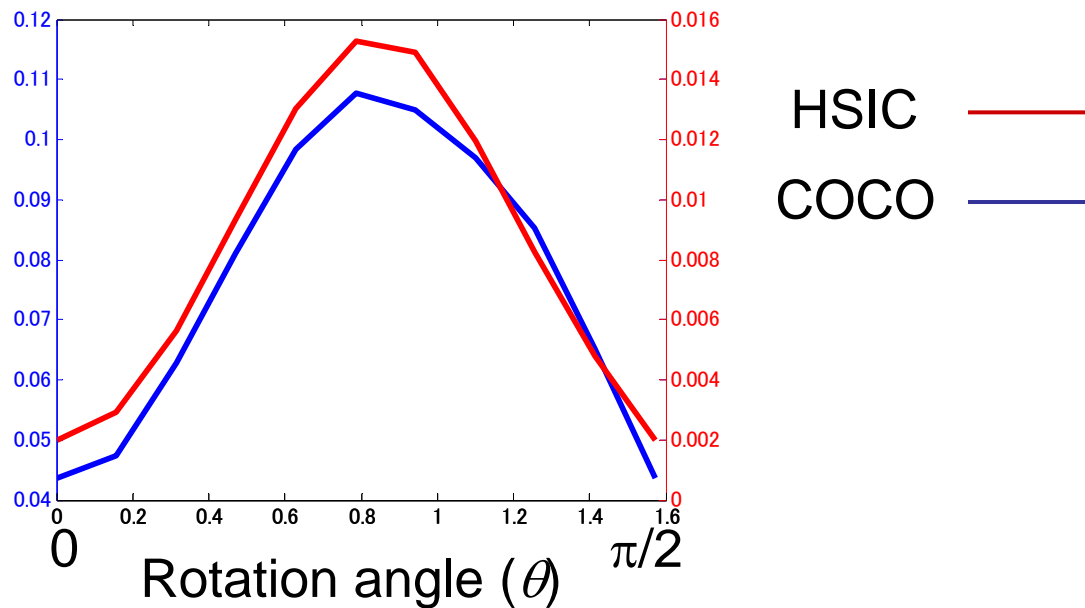
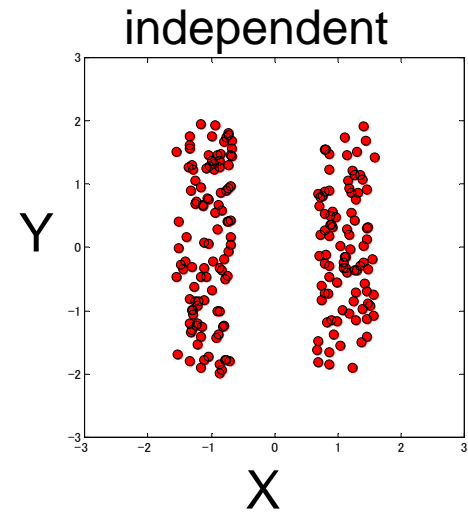
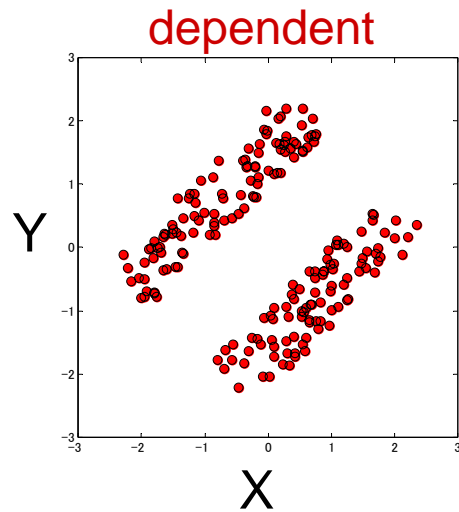
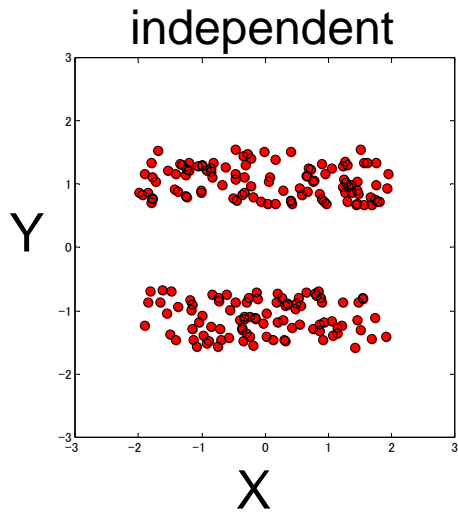
Smaller singular values  
also represent dependence.

$$\text{HSIC} \equiv \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_i^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \|G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \text{Tr}[G_X G_Y]$$

( $\gamma_i$ : the  $i$ -th singular values of  $G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}$ )


$$\| \cdot \|_F: \text{Frobenius norm} \quad \|M\|_F^2 = \sum_{i,j=1}^N M_{ij}^2 = \text{Tr}[M^T M]$$

# Example with HSIC





# Summary of Part II

COCO	Empirical	Population
Kernel	1st SV of $G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}$	$\sup_{\ f\ _{H_X} = \ g\ _{H_Y} = 1} \text{Cov}[f(X), g(Y)]$
Linear (finite dim.)	1st SV of $\hat{V}_{XY}$	$\max_{\ a\ =\ b\ =1} \text{Cov}[a^T X, b^T Y] = \max_{\ a\ =\ b\ =1} a^T V_{XY} b$ $= \text{1st SV of } V_{XY}$
HSIC	Empirical	Population
Kernel	$\left\  G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2} \right\ _F^2$	 <p>What is the population version?</p>
Linear (finite dim.)	$\left\  \hat{V}_{XY} \right\ _F^2$	$\left\  V_{XY} \right\ _F^2$ (Sum of $\text{SV}^2$ of cov. matrix)

# III. Covariance on RKHS

# Two Views on Kernel Methods

## ■ As a good class of nonlinear functions

Objective functional for a nonlinear method

$$\max_f \Psi(f(X_1), \dots, f(X_N)) \quad f: \text{nonlinear function}$$

Find the solution within a RKHS.

- Reproducing property / kernel trick, Representer theorem  
*c.f.* COCO in the previous section.

## ■ Kernelization of linear methods

- Map the data into a RKHS, and apply a linear method

$$X_i \mapsto \Phi(X_i)$$

- Map the **random variable** into a RKHS, and do **linear statistics!**

$$X \mapsto \Phi(X) \quad \text{random variable on RKHS}$$

# Covariance on RKHS

- Linear case (Gaussian):

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = E[YZ^T] - E[Y]E[X]^T : \text{covariance matrix}$$

- On RKHS:

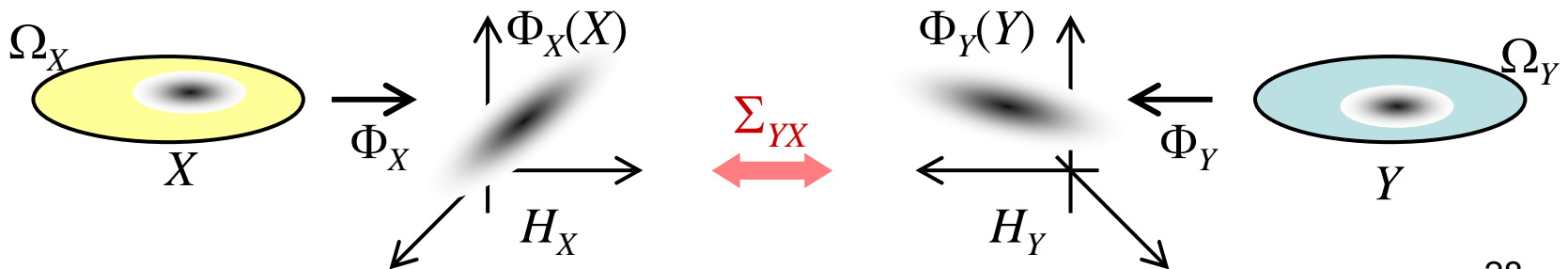
$X, Y$  : random variables on  $\Omega_X$  and  $\Omega_Y$ , resp.

Prepare RKHS  $(H_X, k_X)$  and  $(H_Y, k_Y)$  defined on  $\Omega_X$  and  $\Omega_Y$ , resp.

Define **random variables on the RKHS**  $H_X$  and  $H_Y$  by

$$\Phi_X(X) = k_X(\cdot, X) \quad \Phi_Y(Y) = k_Y(\cdot, Y)$$

Define the big (possibly infinite dimensional) **covariance matrix**  $\Sigma_{YX}$  on the RKHS.



## ■ Cross-covariance operator

### – Definition

There uniquely exists an **operator** from  $H_X$  to  $H_Y$  such that

$$\langle g, \Sigma_{YX} f \rangle = E[g(Y)f(X)] - E[g(Y)]E[f(X)] \quad (= \text{Cov}[f(X), g(Y)])$$

for all  $f \in H_X, g \in H_Y$

$\Sigma_{YX}$  : Cross-covariance operator

### – A bit loose expression

$$\Sigma_{YX} = E[\Phi_Y(Y)\langle \Phi_X(X), \cdot \rangle] - E[\Phi_Y(Y)]E[\langle \Phi_X(X), \cdot \rangle]$$

*c.f.* Euclidean case

$V_{YX} = E[ YX^T ] - E[Y]E[X]^T$  : covariance matrix

$$(b, V_{YX} a) = \text{Cov}[(b, Y), (a, X)]$$

## ■ Intuition

Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are  $\mathbf{R}$ -valued, and  $k(x,u)$  admits the expansion

$$k(x,u) = 1 + c_1xu + c_2x^2u^2 + c_3x^3u^3 + \dots \quad \text{e.g.) } k(x,u) = \exp(xu)$$

With respect to the basis  $1, u, u^2, u^3, \dots$ , the random variables on RKHS are expressed by

$$\Phi(X) = k(X,u) \sim (1, c_1X, c_2X^2, c_3X^3, \dots)^T$$

$$\Phi(Y) = k(Y,u) \sim (1, c_1Y, c_2Y^2, c_3Y^3, \dots)^T$$

$$\Sigma_{YX} \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & c_1^2 \text{Cov}[Y, X] & c_1 c_2 \text{Cov}[Y, X^2] & c_1 c_3 \text{Cov}[Y^3, X] & \dots \\ 0 & c_2 c_1 \text{Cov}[Y^2, X] & c_2^2 \text{Cov}[Y^2, X^2] & c_2 c_3 \text{Cov}[Y^2, X^3] & \dots \\ 0 & c_3 c_1 \text{Cov}[Y^3, X] & c_3 c_2 \text{Cov}[Y^3, X^2] & c_3^2 \text{Cov}[Y^3, X^3] & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

The operator  $\Sigma_{YX}$  contains the information on all the higher-order correlation.

## ■ Addendum on “operator”

- “Operator” is often used for a linear map defined on a functional space, in particular, of infinite dimension.
- $\Sigma_{YX}$  is a linear map from  $H_X$  to  $H_Y$ , as the covariance matrix  $V_{YX}$  is a linear map from  $\mathbf{R}^m$  to  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .
- If you are not familiar with the word “operator”, simply replace it with “linear map” or “big matrix”.
- If you are very familiar with the operator terminology, you can easily prove  $\Sigma_{YX}$  is a bounded operator. (Exercise)

# Characterization of Independence

## ■ Independence and Cross-covariance operator

If the RKHS's are “rich enough” to express all the moments,

$$X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent} \iff \Sigma_{XY} = \mathbf{O}$$



$$\text{Cov}[f(X), g(Y)] = 0$$

or

$$E[g(Y)f(X)] = E[g(Y)]E[f(X)]$$

$$\text{for all } f \in H_X, g \in H_Y$$

( $\Rightarrow$  is always true.

$\Leftarrow$  requires the richness assumption. Part IV.)

– *c.f.* for Gaussian variables

$$X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent} \iff V_{XY} = \mathbf{O} \quad \text{i.e. uncorrelated}$$



# Measures for Dependence

## ■ Kernel measures for dependence/independence

Measure the “norm” of  $\Sigma_{YX}$ .

- Kernel generalized variance (KGV, Bach&Jordan 02, FBJ 04)

$$KGV(X, Y) = \frac{\det \Sigma_{[XY][XY]}}{\det \Sigma_{XX} \det \Sigma_{YY}}$$

- COCO

$$COCO(X, Y) = \|\Sigma_{YX}\| = \sup_{f \neq 0, g \neq 0} \frac{\langle g, \Sigma_{YX} f \rangle}{\|f\|_{H_X} \|g\|_{H_Y}}$$

- HSIC

$$HSIC(X, Y) = \|\Sigma_{YX}\|_{HS}^2$$

- HSNIC

$$HSNIC(X, Y) = \left\| \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2} \Sigma_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2} \right\|_{HS}^2 \quad (\text{explained later})$$

## ■ Norms of operators

$A: H_1 \rightarrow H_2$  operator on a Hilbert space

### – Operator norm

$$\|A\| = \sup_{\|f\|=1} \|Af\| = \sup_{\|f\|=1, \|g\|=1} |\langle g, Af \rangle|$$

*c.f.* the largest singular value of a matrix

### – Hilbert-Schmidt norm

$A$  is called Hilbert-Schmidt if for complete orthonormal systems  $\{\varphi_i\}$  of  $H_1$  and  $\{\psi_j\}$  of  $H_2$  if

$$\sum_j \sum_i |\langle \psi_j, A\varphi_i \rangle|^2 < \infty.$$

Hilbert-Schmidt norm is defined by

$$\|A\|_{HS}^2 = \sum_j \sum_i |\langle \psi_j, A\varphi_i \rangle|^2$$

*c.f.* Frobenius norm of a matrix

# Empirical Estimation

## ■ Estimation of covariance operator

i.i.d. sample  $(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_N, Y_N)$

An estimator of  $\Sigma_{YX}$  is given by

$$\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \{k_Y(\cdot, Y_i) - \hat{m}_Y\} \langle k_X(\cdot, X_i) - \hat{m}_X, \cdot \rangle$$

where

$$\hat{m}_X = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k_1(\cdot, X_i), \quad \hat{m}_Y = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k_2(\cdot, Y_i)$$

– Note

- This is again an operator.
- But, it operates essentially on the finite dimensional space spanned by the data  $\Phi_X(X_1), \dots, \Phi_X(X_N)$  and  $\Phi_Y(Y_1), \dots, \Phi_Y(Y_N)$

## ■ Empirical cross-covariance operator

Proposition (Empirical mean)

$\hat{m}_X = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k(\cdot, X_i)$  gives the empirical mean:

$$\langle \hat{m}_X, f \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(X_i) \equiv \hat{E}[f(X)] \quad (\forall f \in H_X)$$

Proposition (Empirical covariance)

$\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)}$  gives the empirical covariance

$$\langle g, \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} f \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \{g(Y_i) - \hat{E}[g(Y)]\} \{f(X_i) - \hat{E}[f(X)]\} \\ (\forall f \in H_X, \forall g \in H_Y)$$

$\hat{m}_X$  : empirical mean element (in RKHS)

$\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)}$  : empirical cross-covariance operator (on RKHS)

# COCO Revisited

## ■ COCO = operator norm

$$COCO(X, Y) = \|\Sigma_{YX}\| = \sup_{\|f\|=1, \|g\|=1} \left| \langle g, \Sigma_{YX} f \rangle \right|$$

with data



$$COCO_{emp}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = \|\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)}\| = \sup_{\|f\|=1, \|g\|=1} \left| \langle g, \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} f \rangle \right|$$

$$= \sup_{\|f\|=\|g\|=1} \left| Cov_{emp}[f(\hat{X}), g(\hat{Y})] \right| \quad \leftarrow \text{previous definition}$$

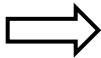
$$= \frac{1}{N} \times \text{largest singular value of } G_X^{1/2} G_Y^{1/2}$$

# HSIC Revisited

## ■ HSIC = Hilbert-Schmidt Information Criterion

$$HSIC(X, Y) = \|\Sigma_{YX}\|_{HS}^2$$

with data



$$HSIC_{emp}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = \|\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)}\|_{HS}^2 = \frac{1}{N^2} \text{Tr}[G_X G_Y]$$

∴)

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)}\|_{HS}^2 &= \text{Tr}[\hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} \hat{\Sigma}_{XY}^{(N)}] \\ &= \text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \{k_Y(\cdot, Y_i) - \hat{m}_Y\} \langle k_X(\cdot, X_i) - \hat{m}_X, k_X(\cdot, X_j) - \hat{m}_X \rangle \langle k_Y(\cdot, Y_j) - \hat{m}_Y, \cdot \rangle \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \langle k_X(\cdot, X_i) - \hat{m}_X, k_X(\cdot, X_j) - \hat{m}_X \rangle \langle k_Y(\cdot, Y_j) - \hat{m}_Y, k_Y(\cdot, Y_i) - \hat{m}_Y \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} \text{Tr}[G_X G_Y] \end{aligned}$$

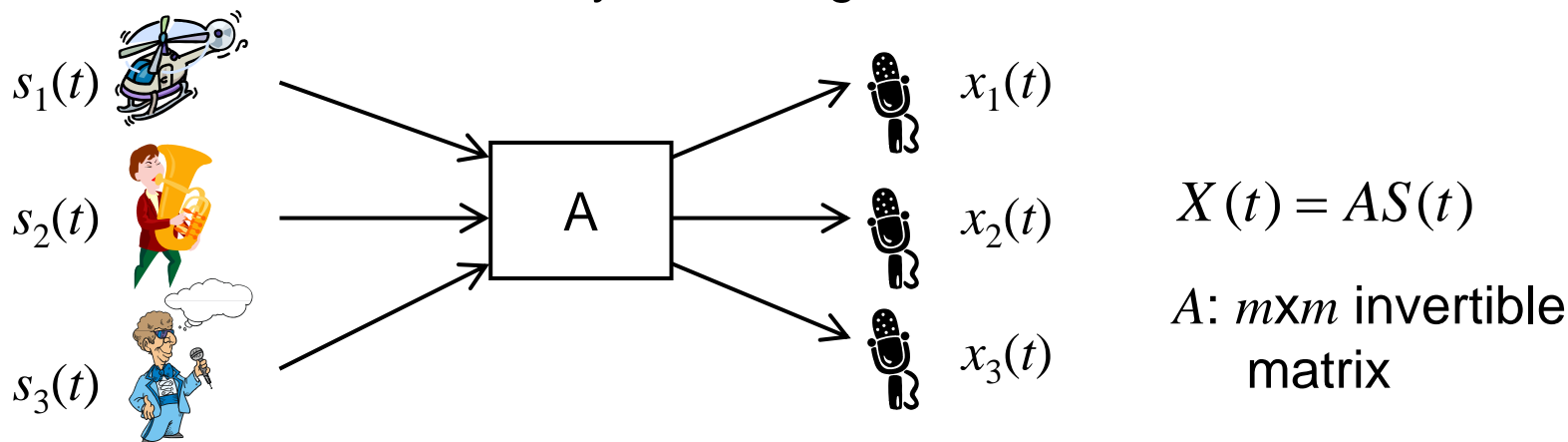
# Application of HSIC to ICA

## ■ Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

### – Assumption

$m$  independent source signals

$m$  observations of linearly mixed signals



### – Problem

Restore the independent signals  $S$  from observations  $X$ .

$$\hat{S} = BX$$

$B$ :  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix

## ■ ICA with HSIC

$X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(N)}$  : i.i.d. observation (m-dimensional)

Pairwise-independence criterion is applicable.

$$\text{Minimize} \quad L(B) = \sum_{a=1}^m \sum_{b>a} HSIC(Y_a, Y_b) \quad Y = BX$$

Objective function is non-convex. Optimization is not easy.

→ Approximate Newton method has been proposed

Fast Kernel ICA (FastKICA, Shen et al 07)

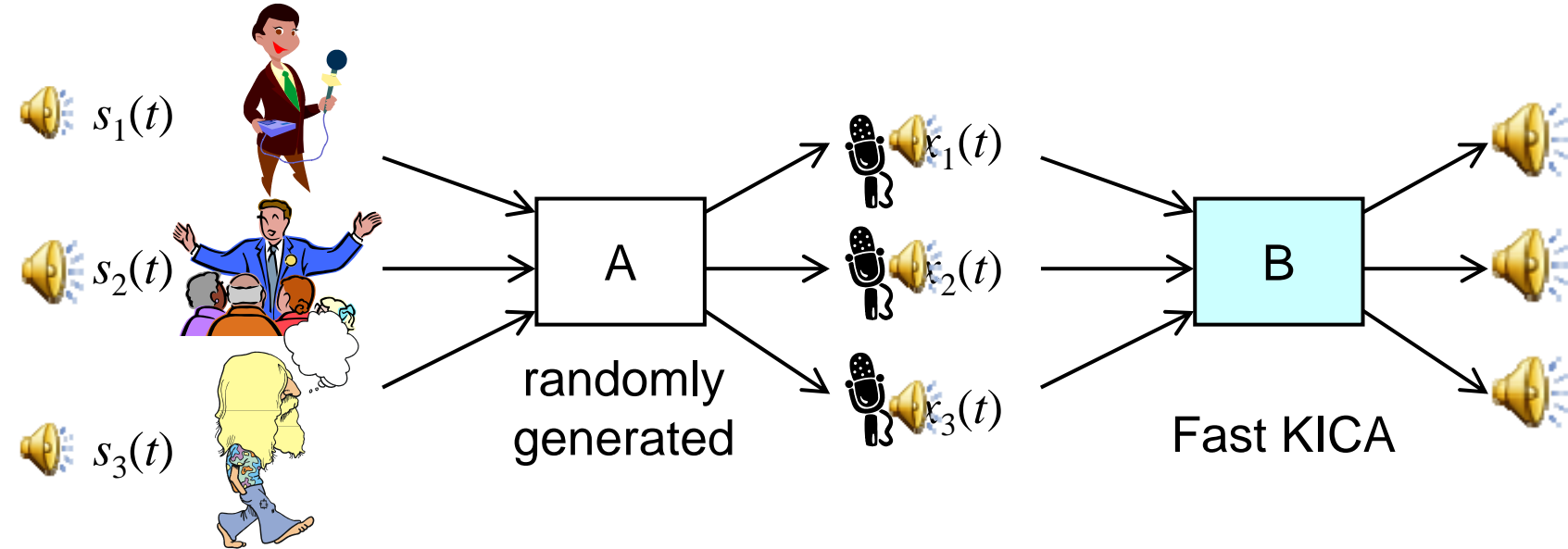
(Software downloadable at Arthur Gretton's homepage)

## ■ Other methods for ICA

See, for example, Hyvärinen et al. (2001).



## ■ Experiments (speech signal)



Three speech  
signals

# Normalized Covariance

## ■ Correlation – normalized variance

Covariance is not normalized well: it depends on the variance of  $X$ ,  $Y$ .  
Correlation is better normalized

$$V_{YY}^{-1/2} V_{YX} V_{XX}^{-1/2}$$

## ■ Normalized Cross-Covariance Operator (FBG07)

**NOCCO**  $W_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2} \Sigma_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2}$

Definition: there is a factorization of the  $\Sigma_{YX}$  such that

$$\Sigma_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{1/2} W_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{1/2}$$

– Operator norm is less than or equal to 1, *i.e.*  $\|W_{YX}\| \leq 1$

## ■ Empirical estimation of NOCCO

$(X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_N, Y_N)$  : sample

$$\hat{W}_{YX}^{(N)} = \left( \hat{\Sigma}_{YY}^{(N)} + \varepsilon_N I \right)^{-1/2} \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} \left( \hat{\Sigma}_{XX}^{(N)} + \varepsilon_N I \right)^{-1/2}$$

$\varepsilon_N$ : regularization coefficient

Note:  $\hat{\Sigma}_{XX}^{(N)}$  is of finite rank, thus not invertible

## ■ Relation to Kernel CCA

– See Bach & Jordan 02, Fukumizu Bach Gretton 07

# Normalized Independence Measure

## ■ HS Normalized Independence Criterion (HSNIC)

Assume  $W_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2} \Sigma_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2}$  is Hilbert-Schmidt

$$HSNIC = \|W_{YX}\|_{HS}^2 = \left\| \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2} \Sigma_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

$$HSNIC_{emp} = \left\| \hat{W}_{YX}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2 = \text{Tr} \left[ G_X (G_X + N \varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} G_Y (G_Y + N \varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} \right]$$

(Confirm this – exercise)

## ■ Characterizing independence

### Theorem

Under some “richness” assumptions on kernels (see Part IV).

HSNIC = 0 if and only if  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

# Kernel-free Expression

## ■ Integral expression of HSNIC **without** kernels

### Theorem (FGSS07)

Assume that  $H_X \otimes H_Y + \mathbf{R}$  is dense in  $L^2(P_X \otimes P_Y)$ , and the laws  $P_X$  and  $P_Y$  have p.d.f. w.r.t. the measures  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ , resp.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{HSNIC} &= \|W_{YX}\|_{HS}^2 \\ &= \iint \left( \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_X(x)p_Y(y)} - 1 \right)^2 p_X(x)p_Y(y) d\mu_1(x)d\mu_2(y) \\ &= \text{Mean Square Contingency} \end{aligned}$$

- HSNIC is defined by kernels, but it **does not** depend on the kernels.  
Free from the choice of kernels!
- $\text{HSNIC}_{\text{emp}}$  gives a kernel estimator for the Mean Square Contingency.

	HSIC	HSNIC
PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple to compute</li> <li>• Asymptotic distribution for independence test is known (Part V)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not depend on the kernels in population</li> </ul>
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value depends on the choice of kernels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularization coefficient is needed.</li> <li>• Matrix inversion is needed.</li> <li>• Asymptotic distribution for independence test is not known.</li> </ul>

(Some experimental comparisons are given in Part V.)

# Choice of Kernel

## ■ How to choose a kernel?

- Recall: in supervised learning (e.g. SVM), cross-validation (CV) is reasonable and popular.
- For unsupervised problems, such as independence measures, there are no theoretically reasonable methods.
- Some heuristic methods which work:
  - Heuristics for Gaussian kernels

$$\sigma = \text{median} \left\{ \|X_i - X_j\| \mid i \neq j \right\}$$

- Make a related supervised problem, if possible, and use CV.
- More studies are required.

# Relation with Other Measures

## ■ Mutual Information

$$MI(X, Y) = \iint p_{XY}(x, y) \log \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_X(x)p_Y(y)} d\mu_X(x) d\mu_Y(y)$$

## ■ MI and HSNIC

$$HSNIC(X, Y) \leq MI(X, Y)$$

$\geq$  (correction. June 2014)

$$\begin{aligned} \because) \quad HSNIC &= \iint p_{XY}(x, y) \left( \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_X(x)p_Y(y)} - 1 \right) d\mu_1(x) d\mu_2(y) \\ &\leq \iint p_{XY}(x, y) \log \frac{p_{XY}(x, y)}{p_X(x)p_Y(y)} d\mu_1(x) d\mu_2(y) = MI \\ &\geq \text{(correction. June 2014)} \end{aligned}$$

$(\log z \leq z - 1)$



– Mutual Information:

- Information-theoretic meaning.
- Estimation is not straightforward for continuous variables.  
Explicit estimation of p.d.f. is difficult for high-dimensional data.
  - Parzen-window is sensitive to the band-width.
  - Partitioning may cause a large number of bins.
- Some advanced methods: e.g. k-NN approach (Kraskov et al.).

– Kernel method:

- Explicit estimation of p.d.f. is not required;  
the dimension of data does not appear explicitly, but it is influential in practice.
- Kernel / kernel parameters must be chosen.

– Experimental comparison

See Section V (Statistical Tests)

# Summary of Part III

## ■ Cross-Covariance operator

- Covariance on RKHS: extension of covariance matrix
- If the kernel defines a rich RKHS,

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Sigma_{XY} = O$$

## ■ Kernel-based dependence measures

- COCO: operator norm of  $\Sigma_{XY}$
- HSIC: Hilbert-Schmidt norm of  $\Sigma_{XY}$
- HSNIC: Hilbert-Schmidt norm of normalized cross-covariance operator  $W_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2} \Sigma_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2}$

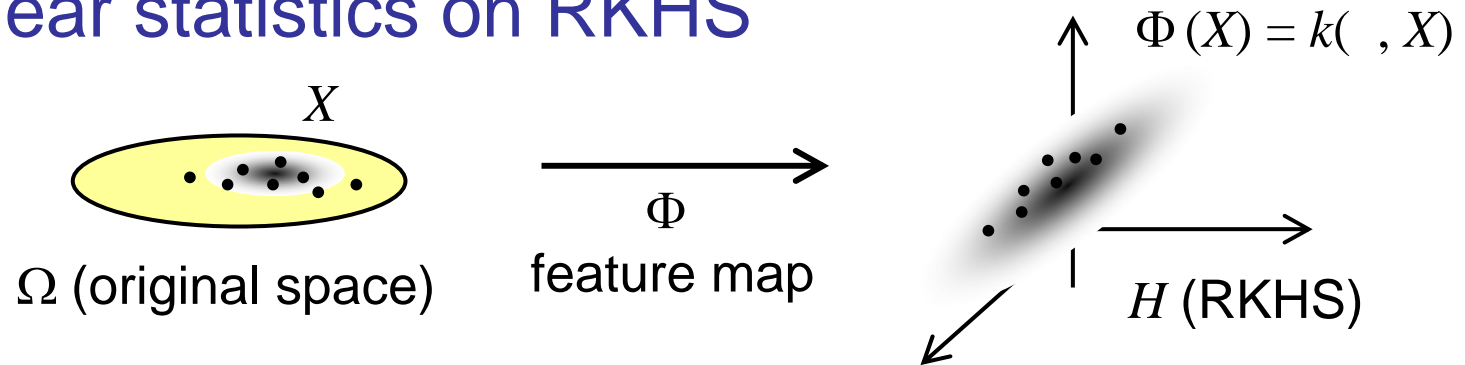
HSNIC = mean square contingency (in population) kernel free!

- Application to ICA

# IV. Representing a Probability

# Statistics on RKHS

## ■ Linear statistics on RKHS



- Basic statistics  
on Euclidean space

Mean

Covariance

Conditional covariance

→

→

→

- Basic statistics  
on RKHS

Mean element

Cross-covariance operator  $\Sigma_{YX}$

Conditional-covariance operator  
(Part VI)

- Plan: define the basic statistics on RKHS and derive nonlinear/  
nonparametric statistical methods in the original space.

# Mean on RKHS

- **Empirical mean** on RKHS

$X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(N)}$ : i.i.d. sample  $\rightarrow \Phi(X_1), \dots, \Phi(X_N)$ : sample on RKHS

$$\text{Empirical mean } \hat{m}_X = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \Phi(X_i) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N k(\cdot, X_i)$$

$$\langle \hat{m}_X, f \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(X_i) \equiv \hat{E}[f(X)] \quad (\forall f \in H_X)$$

- **Mean element** on RKHS

$X$ : random variable on  $\Omega$   $\rightarrow \Phi(X)$ : random variable on RKHS.

Define  $m_X = E[\Phi(X)]$

$$\langle m_X, f \rangle = E[f(X)] \quad (\forall f \in H)$$

# Representation of Probability

## ■ Moments by a kernel

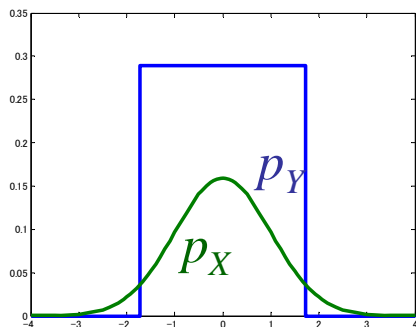
Example of one-variable

$$k(x, u) = \exp(xu) = 1 + c_1 x u + c_2 x^2 u^2 + c_3 x^3 u^3 + \dots$$

⇒

$$m_X(u) = E_X[k(X, u)] = 1 + c_1 \underline{E_X[X]} u + c_2 \underline{E_X[X^2]} u^2 + c_3 \underline{E_X[X^3]} u^3 + \dots$$

- As a function of  $u$ , the mean element  $m_X$  contains the information on all the moments – “richness” of RKHS.
- It is natural to expect that  $m_X$  “represents” or “characterizes” a probability under “richness” assumption on the kernel.



$$E[X] = 0$$

$$E[Y] = 0$$

$$E[X^2] = 1$$

$$E[Y^2] = 1$$

$$E[X^3] = 0$$

$$E[Y^3] = 0$$

$$E[X^4] = 3$$

$$E[Y^4] = 9/5$$

# Characteristic Kernel

## ■ Richness assumption on kernels

$\mathcal{P}$ : family of all the probabilities on a measurable space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{B})$ .

$H$ : RKHS on  $\Omega$  with measurable kernel  $k$ .

$m_P$ : mean element on  $H$  for the probability  $P \in \mathcal{P}$

### – Definition

The kernel  $k$  is called **characteristic** if the mapping

$$\mathcal{P} \rightarrow H, \quad P \mapsto m_P$$

is one-to-one.

- The mean element of a characteristic kernel uniquely determines the probability.

$$m_X = m_Y \iff P_X = P_Y$$

- “Richness” assumption in the previous sections should be replaced by “kernel is characteristic” or the following denseness assumption.
- Sufficient condition

### Theorem

$k$ : kernel on a measurable space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{B})$ .  $H$ : associated RKHS.  $q \geq 1$ .  
 If  $H + \mathbf{R}$  is dense in  $L^q(P)$  for any probability  $P$  on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{B})$ , then  $k$  is characteristic

- Examples of characteristic kernel

- Gaussian kernel on the entire  $\mathbf{R}^m$

$$k_G(x, y) = \exp\left(-\|x - y\|^2 / 2\sigma^2\right) \quad (\sigma > 0)$$

- Laplacian kernel on the entire  $\mathbf{R}^m$

$$k_L(x, y) = \exp\left(-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^m |x_i - y_i|\right) \quad (\lambda > 0)$$



## ■ Universal kernel (Steinwart 02)

A continuous kernel  $k$  on a compact metric space  $\Omega$  is called **universal** if the associated RKHS is dense in  $C(\Omega)$ , the functional space of the continuous functions on  $\Omega$  with sup norm.

Example: Gaussian kernel on a compact subset of  $\mathbf{R}^m$

### Proposition

A universal kernel is characteristic.

- Characteristic kernels are wider class, and suitable for discussing statistical inference of probabilities.
- Universal kernels are defined only on compact sets.
- Gaussian kernels are characteristic either on a compact subset and the entire of Euclidean space.

# Two-Sample Problem

Two i.i.d. samples are given;

$$X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(N_X)} \quad \text{and} \quad Y^{(1)}, \dots, Y^{(N_Y)}.$$

Are they sampled from the same distribution?

– Practically important.

We often wish to distinguish two things:

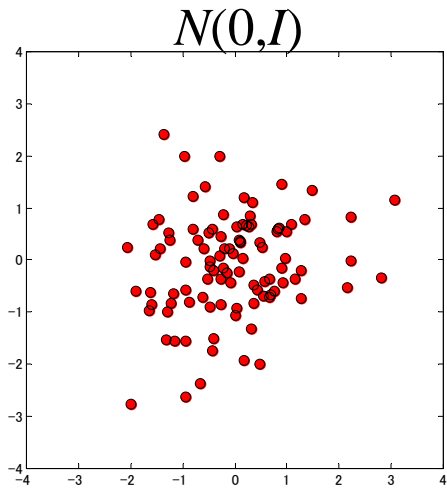
- Are the experimental results of treatment and control significantly different?
- Were the plays “*Henry VI*” and “*Henry II*” written by the same author?

– Kernel solution:

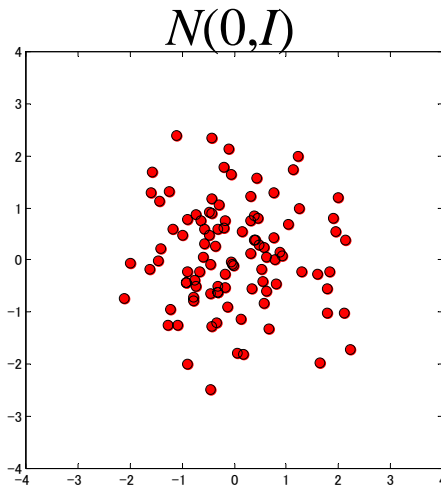
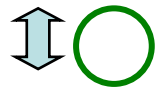
Use the difference  $m_X - m_Y$   
with a characteristic kernel such as Gaussian.

– Example: do they have the same distribution?

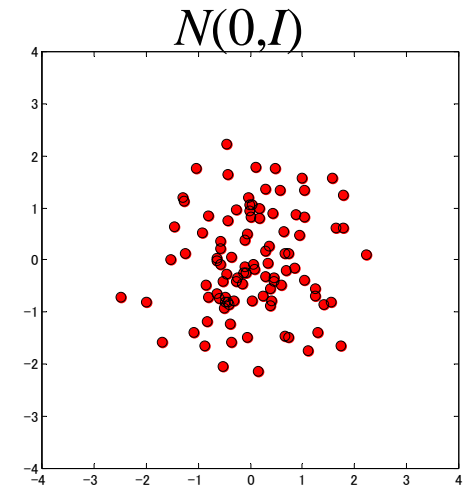
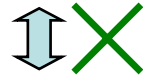
N = 100



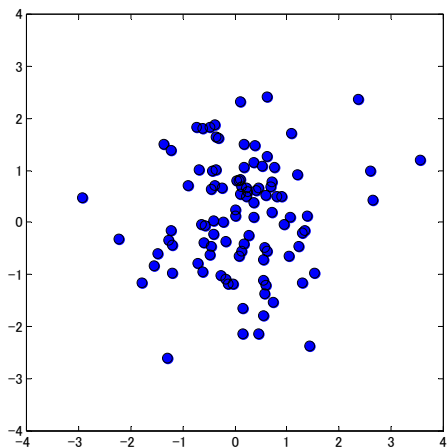
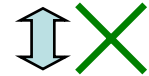
$N(0, I)$



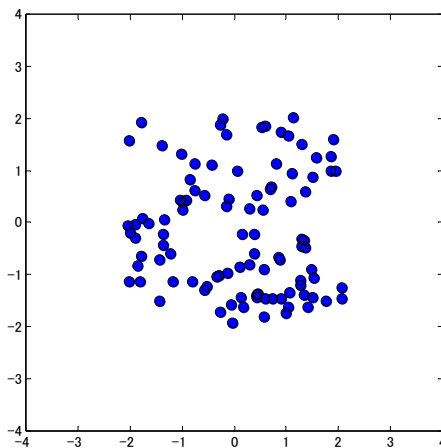
$N(0, I)$



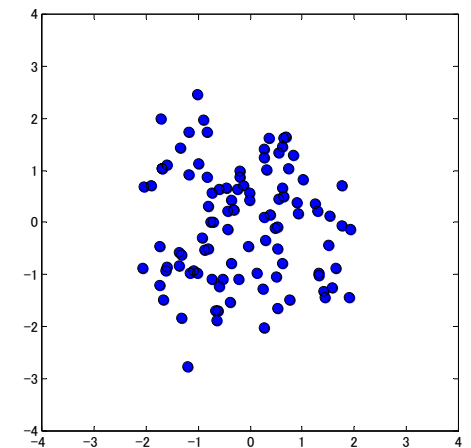
$N(0, I)$



$N(0, I)$



Unif



$0.5N(0, I) + 0.5\text{Unif}$

# Kernel Method for Two-sample Problem

## ■ Maximum Mean Discrepancy (Gretton et al 07, NIPS19)

- In population

$$MMD^2 = \|m_X - m_Y\|_H^2$$

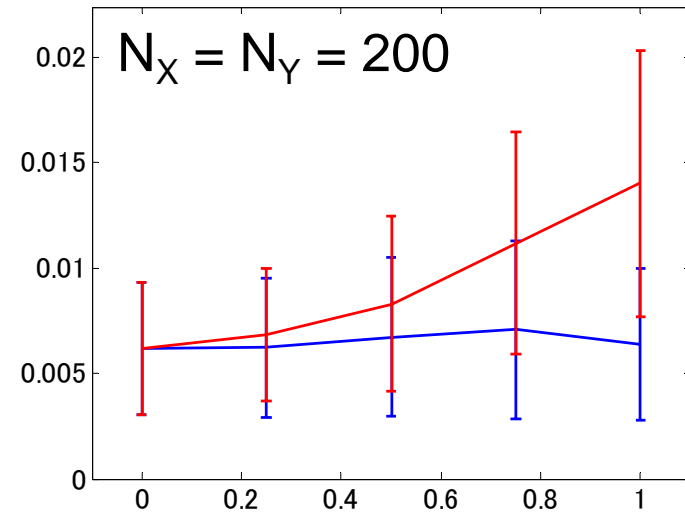
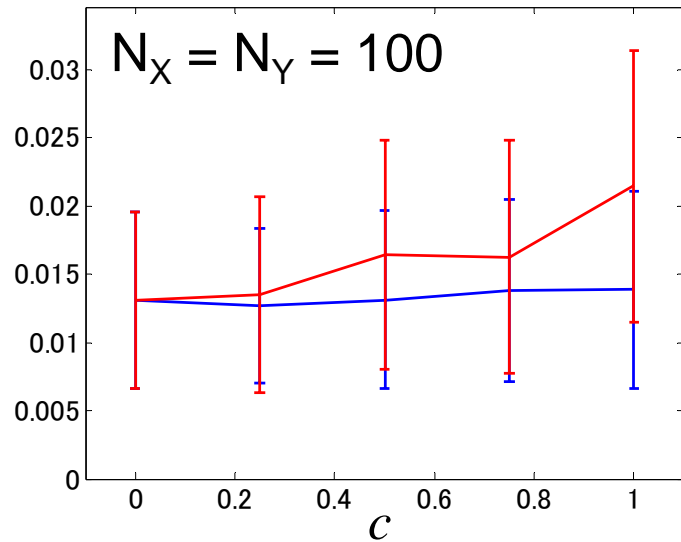
- Empirically

$$MMD_{emp}^2 = \|\hat{m}_X - \hat{m}_Y\|_H^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{N_X^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{N_X} k(X_i, X_j) - \frac{2}{N_X N_Y} \sum_{i=1}^{N_X} \sum_{a=1}^{N_Y} k(X_i, Y_a) + \frac{1}{N_Y^2} \sum_{a,b=1}^{N_Y} k(Y_a, Y_b)$$

- With characteristic kernel,  $MMD = 0$  if and only if  $P_X = P_Y$ .

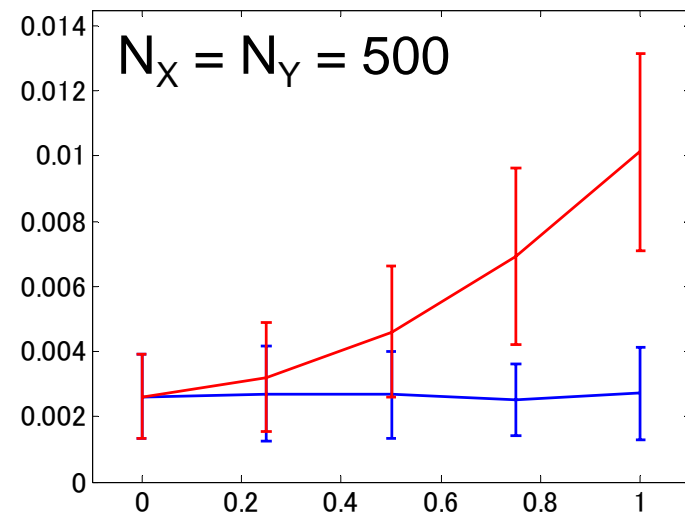
# Experiment with MMD



Means of MMD over 100 samples

—  $N(0,1)$  vs  
 $c \text{ Unif} + (1-c) N(0,1)$

—  $N(0,1)$  vs  $N(0,1)$



# Characteristic Function

- Definition

$X$ : random vector on  $\mathbf{R}^m$  with law  $P_X$

Characteristic function of  $X$  is a complex-valued function defined by

$$\xi_X(u) \equiv E\left[e^{\sqrt{-1}u^T X}\right] = \int e^{\sqrt{-1}u^T x} dP_X(x) \quad (u \in \mathbf{R}^m)$$

If  $P_X$  has p.d.f.  $p_X(x)$ , the char. function is Fourier transform of  $p_X(x)$ .

- Moment generating function

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}^r} \frac{d^r}{du^r} \xi_X(u) = E[X^r]$$

- Charac. function is very popular in probability and statistics for characterizing a probability.

## ■ Characterizing property

### Theorem

$X, Y$ : random vectors on  $\mathbf{R}^m$  with prob. law  $P_X, P_Y$  (resp.).

$$\xi_X = \xi_Y \iff P_X = P_Y$$

# Kernel and Ch. Function

## ■ Fourier kernel is positive definite

$k_F(x, y) = \exp(\sqrt{-1} x^T y)$  is a (complex-valued) pos. def. kernel.

$\xi_X(u) = E[k_F(X, u)] = \text{mean element with } k_F(x, y) !!$

– Characteristic function is a special case of the mean element.

## ■ Generalization of characteristic function approach

– There are many “characteristic function” methods in the statistical literature (independent test, homogeneity test, etc).

– The kernel methodology discussed here is generalizing this approach.

- The data may not be Euclidean, but can be structured.



# Re: Representation of Probability

## ■ Various ways of representing a probability

- Probability density function  $p(x)$
- Cumulative distribution function  $F_X(t) = \text{Prob}( X < t )$
- All the moments  $E[X], E[X^2], E[X^3], \dots$
- Characteristic function  $\xi_X(u) \equiv E\left[e^{\sqrt{-1}u^T X}\right] = \int e^{\sqrt{-1}u^T x} dP_X(x)$
- Mean element on RKHS  $m_X(u) = E[k(X, u)]$

Each representation provides methods for statistical inference.

# Summary of Part IV

## ■ Statistics on RKHS → Inference on probabilities

- Mean element → Characterization of probability  
Two-sample problem
- Covariance operator → Dependence of two variables  
Independence test, Dependence measures
- Conditional covariance operator → Conditional independence  
(Section VI)

## ■ Characteristic kernel

- A characteristic kernel gives a “rich” RKHS
- A characteristic kernel characterizes a probability.
- Kernel methodology is generalization of characteristic function methods

# V. Statistical Test

# Statistical Test

## ■ How should we set the threshold?

Example) Based on a dependence measure, we wish to make a decision whether the variables are independent or not.

Simple-minded idea: Set a small value like  $t = 0.001$

$$I(X,Y) < t \implies \text{dependent}$$

$$I(X,Y) \geq t \implies \text{independent}$$

But, the threshold should depend on the property of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

## ■ Statistical hypothesis test

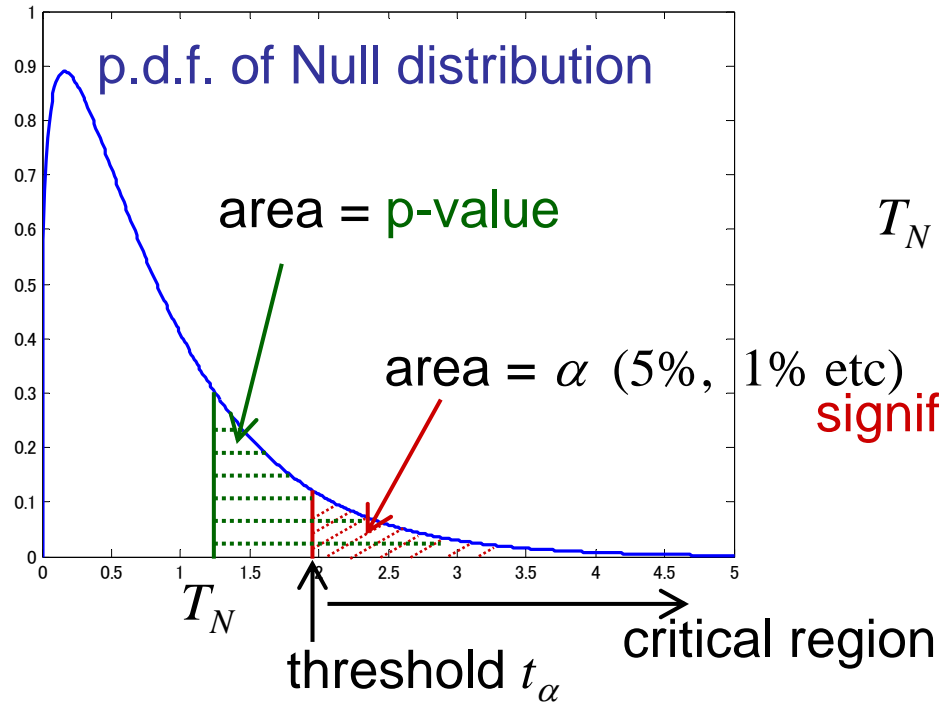
- A statistical way of deciding whether a hypothesis is true or not.
- The decision is based on sample  $\rightarrow$  We cannot be 100% certain.

## ■ Procedure of hypothesis test

- Null hypothesis  $H_0 =$  hypothesis assumed to be true  
*“X and Y are independent”*
- Prepare a test statistic  $T_N$   
*e.g.  $T_N = HSIC_{emp}$*
- Null distribution: Distribution of  $T_N$  under the null hypothesis  
*This must be computed for  $HSIC_{emp}$*
- Set significance level  $\alpha$  Typically  $\alpha = 0.05$  or  $0.01$
- Compute the critical region:  $\alpha = \text{Prob. of } T_N > t_\alpha \text{ under } H_0.$
- Reject the null hypothesis if  $T_N > t_\alpha$ ,  
*The probability that  $HSIC_{emp} > t_\alpha$  under independence is very small.*

otherwise, accept the null hypothesis negatively.

## One-sided test



$$T_N > t_\alpha \Leftrightarrow \text{p-value} < \alpha$$

- If the null hypothesis is the truth, the value of  $T_N$  should follow the above distribution.
- If the alternative is the truth, the value of  $T_N$  should be very large.
- Set the threshold with risk  $\alpha$ .
- The threshold depends on the distribution of the data.

## ■ Type I and Type II error

- Type I error = false positive (e.g. dependence = positive)
- Type II error = false negative

		TRUTH	
		$H_0$	Alternative
TEST RESULT	Accept $H_0$	True negative	Type II error False negative
	Reject $H_0$	Type I error False positive	True positive

Significance level controls the type I error.

Under a fixed type I error, the type II error should be as small as possible.

# Independence Test with HSIC

## ■ Independence Test

- Null hypothesis  $H_0$ :  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent
- Alternative  $H_1$ :  $X$  and  $Y$  are not independent (dependent)

- Test statistics

$$T_N = N \times \text{HSIC}_{emp}$$

- Null distribution

Under  $H_0$   $T_N \Rightarrow \sum_{a=1}^{\infty} \lambda_a Z_a^2$  convergence in distribution  
( $\text{HSIC}_{emp} = O_p(1/N)$ )

where  $Z_a \sim N(0,1)$  i.i.d.

$\lambda_a$  are the eigenvalues of an integral equation (not shown here)

- Under alternative

$$T_N = O_p(\sqrt{N}) \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

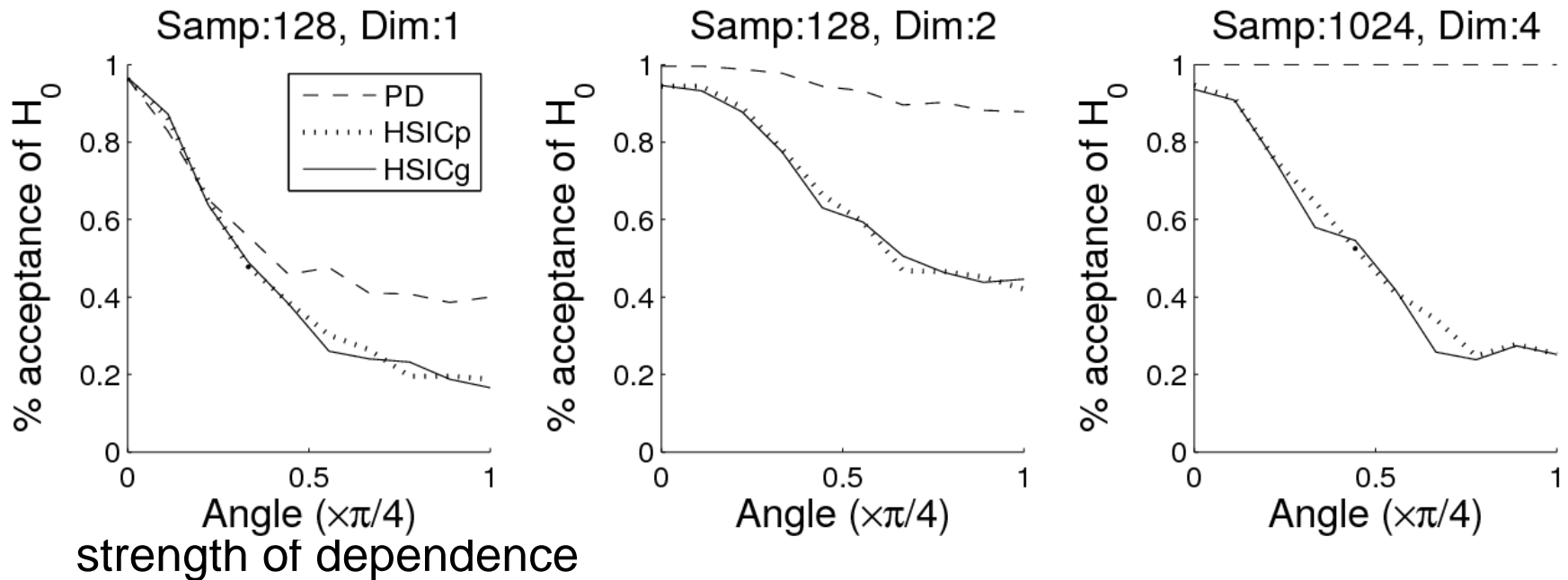


# Example of Independent Test

## ■ Synthesized data

- Data: two  $d$ -dimensional samples

$$(X_1^{(1)}, \dots, X_d^{(1)}), \dots, (X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_d^{(N)}) \quad (Y_1^{(1)}, \dots, Y_d^{(1)}), \dots, (Y_1^{(N)}, \dots, Y_d^{(N)})$$



# Traditional Independence Test

## ■ P.d.f.-based

- Factorization of p.d.f. is used.  $p(x_1, \dots, x_m) = p(x_1) \cdots p(x_m)$
- Parzen window approach.
- Estimation accuracy is low for high dimensional data

## ■ Cumulative distribution-based

- Factorization of c.d.f. is used.  $F^X(t_1, \dots, t_m) = F^{X_1}(t_1) \cdots F^{X_m}(t_m)$

## ■ Characteristic function-based

- Factorization of characteristic function is used.

## ■ Contingency table-based

- Domain of each variable is partitioned into a finite number of parts.
- Contingency table (number of counts) is used.

## ■ And many others

## ■ Power Divergence (Ku&Fine05, Read&Cressie)

- Make partition  $\{A_j\}_{j \in J}$ : Each dimension is divided into  $q$  parts so that each bin contains almost the same number of data.

- Power-divergence

$$T_N = 2I^\lambda(X, m) = N \frac{2}{\lambda(\lambda + 2)} \sum_{j \in J} \hat{p}_j \left\{ \left( \hat{p}_j / \prod_{k=1}^N \hat{p}_{j_k}^{(k)} \right)^\lambda - 1 \right\}$$

$$I^0 = \text{MI}$$

$\hat{p}_j$ : frequency in  $A_j$

$$I^2 = \text{Mean Square Conting.}$$

$\hat{p}_r^{(k)}$ : marginal freq. in  $r$ -th interval

- Null distribution under independence

$$T_N \Rightarrow \chi_{q^N - qN + N - 1}^2$$

## ■ Limitations

- All the standard tests assume vector (numerical / discrete) data.
- They are often weak for high-dimensional data.

# Independent Test on Text

- Data: Official records of Canadian Parliament in English and French.
  - Dependent data: 5 line-long parts from English texts and their French translations.
  - Independent data: 5 line-long parts from English texts and random 5 line-parts from French texts.
- Kernel: Bag-of-words and spectral kernel

Topic	Match	BOW(N=10)		Spec(N=10)		BOW(N=50)		Spec(N=50)	
		HSIC <sub>g</sub>	HSIC <sub>p</sub>	HSIC <sub>g</sub>	HSIC <sub>p</sub>	HSIC <sub>g</sub>	HSIC <sub>p</sub>	HSIC <sub>g</sub>	HSIC <sub>p</sub>
Agri-culture	Random	1.00	0.94	1.00	0.95	1.00	0.93	1.00	0.95
	Same	0.99	0.18	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fishery	Random	1.00	0.94	1.00	0.94	1.00	0.93	1.00	0.95
	Same	1.00	0.20	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Immig-ration	Random	1.00	0.96	1.00	0.91	0.99	0.94	1.00	0.95
	Same	1.00	0.09	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

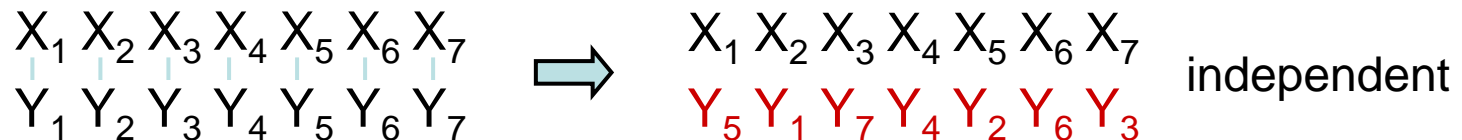
Acceptance rate ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

(Gretton et al. 07) 76

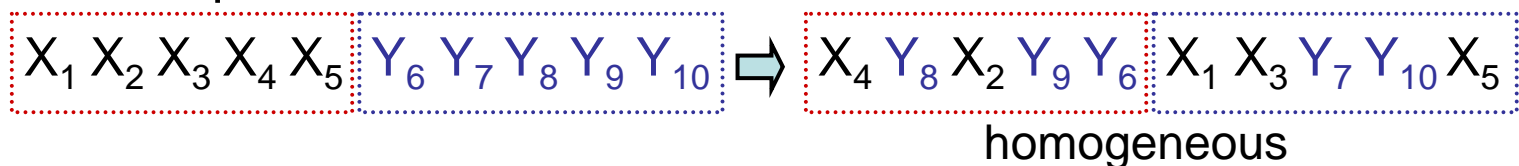
# Permutation Test

- The theoretical derivation of the null distribution is often difficult even asymptotically.
- The convergence to the asymptotic distribution may be very slow.
- **Permutation test** – Simulation of the null distribution
  - Make many samples consistent with the null hypothesis by random permutations of the original sample.
  - Compute the values of test statistics for the samples.

Independence test



Two-sample test



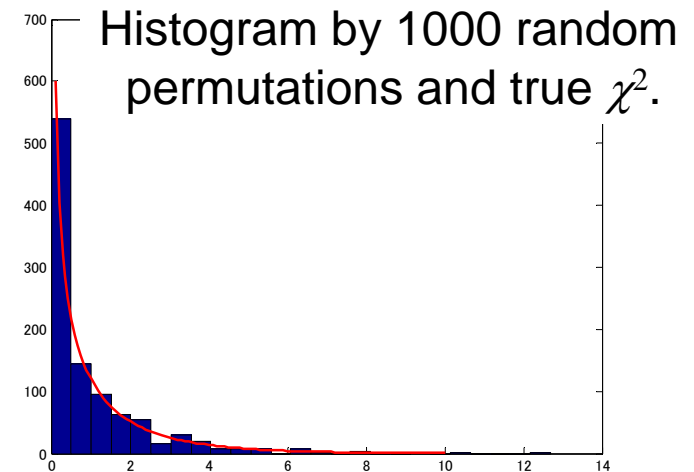
- It can be computationally expensive.

# ■ Independence test for 2 x 2 contingency table

- Contingency table

		Y	
		0	1
X	0	175	93
	1	71	161

many random permutations



- Test statistic

$$T_N = N \sum_{i,j=0,1} \frac{(\hat{p}_{ij} - \hat{p}_{X,i}\hat{p}_{Y,j})^2}{\hat{p}_{X,i}\hat{p}_{Y,j}} \Rightarrow \chi^2 \quad (N \rightarrow \infty, \text{ under } H_0)$$

- Example

		Y	
		0	1
X	0	144	134
	1	102	120

P-value by true  $\chi^2 = 0.193$

P-value by permutation = 0.175

Independence is accepted with  $\alpha = 5\%$

## ■ Independence test with various measures

- Data 1: dependent and uncorrelated by rotation ([Part I](#))  
 $X$  and  $Y$ : one-dimensional,  $N = 200$

Angle	indep. $\longrightarrow$ more dependent					
	0.0	4.5	9.0	13.5	18.0	22.5
HSIC (Median)	93	92	63	5	0	0
HSIC (Asymp. Var.)	93	44	1	0	0	0
HSNIC ( $\varepsilon = 10^4$ , Median)	94	23	0	0	0	0
HSNIC ( $\varepsilon = 10^6$ , Median)	92	20	1	0	0	0
HSNIC ( $\varepsilon = 10^8$ , Median)	93	15	0	0	0	0
HSNIC (Asymp. Var.)	94	11	0	0	0	0
MI (#NN = 1)	93	62	11	0	0	0
MI (#NN = 3)	96	43	0	0	0	0
MI (#NN = 5)	97	49	0	0	0	0
Conting. Table (#Bins=3)	100	96	46	9	1	0
Conting. Table (#Bins=4)	98	29	0	0	0	0
Conting. Table (#Bins=5)	98	82	5	0	0	0

# acceptance of independence out of 100 tests ( $\alpha = 5\%$ ) 79

- Data 2: Two coupled chaotic time series (coupled Hénon map)  
 $X$  and  $Y$ : 4-dimensional,  $N = 100$

Coupling:	indep.	→ more dependent					
	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
HSIC	75	70	58	52	13	1	0
HSNIC	97	66	21	1	0	1	0
MI (#NN=3)	87	91	83	73	23	6	0
MI (#NN=5)	87	88	75	67	23	5	0
MI (#NN=7)	87	86	75	64	21	5	0

# acceptance of independence out of 100 tests ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )



# Two sample test

## ■ Problem

Two i.i.d. samples  $X_1, \dots, X_N$   $Y_1, \dots, Y_N$

Null hypothesis  $H_0: P_X = P_Y$

Alternative  $H_1: P_X \neq P_Y$

## ■ Homogeneity test with MMD (Gretton et al NIPS20)

$$\begin{aligned} T_N &= N \times \text{MMD}_{\text{emp}}^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,j=1}^N \{k(X_i, X_j) - 2k(X_i, Y_j) + k(Y_i, Y_j)\} \end{aligned}$$

## ■ Null distribution

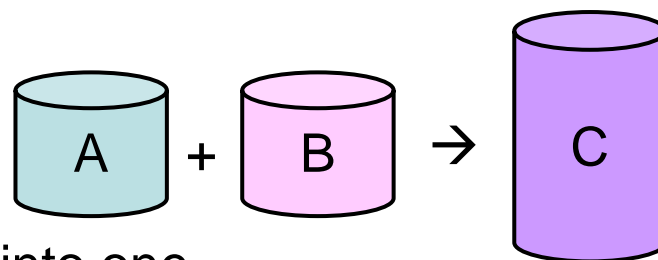
- Similar to independence test with HSIC (not shown here)

## ■ Experiment

- Data integration

We wish to integrate two datasets into one.

The homogeneity should be tested!



% acceptance of homogeneity

Dataset	Attribut.	MMD <sup>2</sup>	<i>t</i> -test	FR-WW	FR-KS
Neural I (w/wo spike) (N=4000,dim=63)	Same	96.5	100.0	97.0	95.0
	Diff.	<b>0.0</b>	42.0	<b>0.0</b>	10.0
Neural II (w/wo spike) (N=1000,dim=100)	Same	95.2	100.0	95.0	94.5
	Diff.	3.4	100.0	<b>0.8</b>	31.8
Microarray (health/tumor) (N=25,dim=12000)	Same	94.4	100.0	94.7	96.1
	Diff.	<b>0.8</b>	100.0	2.8	44.0
Microarray (subtype) (N=25,dim=2118)	Same	96.4	100.0	94.6	97.3
	Diff.	<b>0.0</b>	100.0	<b>0.0</b>	28.4

(Gretton et al. *NIPS20*, 2007)

# Traditional Nonparametric Tests

## ■ Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test for two samples

One-dimensional variables

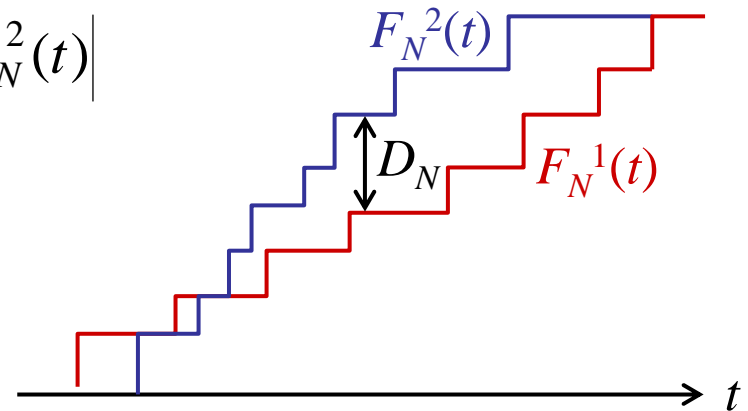
- Empirical distribution function

$$F_N(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N I(X_i \leq t)$$

- KS test statistics

$$D_N = \sup_{t \in \mathbf{R}} |F_N^1(t) - F_N^2(t)|$$

- Asymptotic null distribution is known (not shown here).





# Summary of Part V

## ■ Statistical Test

- Statistical method of judging significance of a value.
- It determines a “threshold” with some risk.

## ■ Statistical Test with kernels

- Independence test with HSIC
- Two-sample test with MMD<sup>2</sup>
- Competitive with the state-of-art methods of nonparametric tests.
- Kernel-based statistical tests work for structured data, to which conventional methods cannot be directly applied.

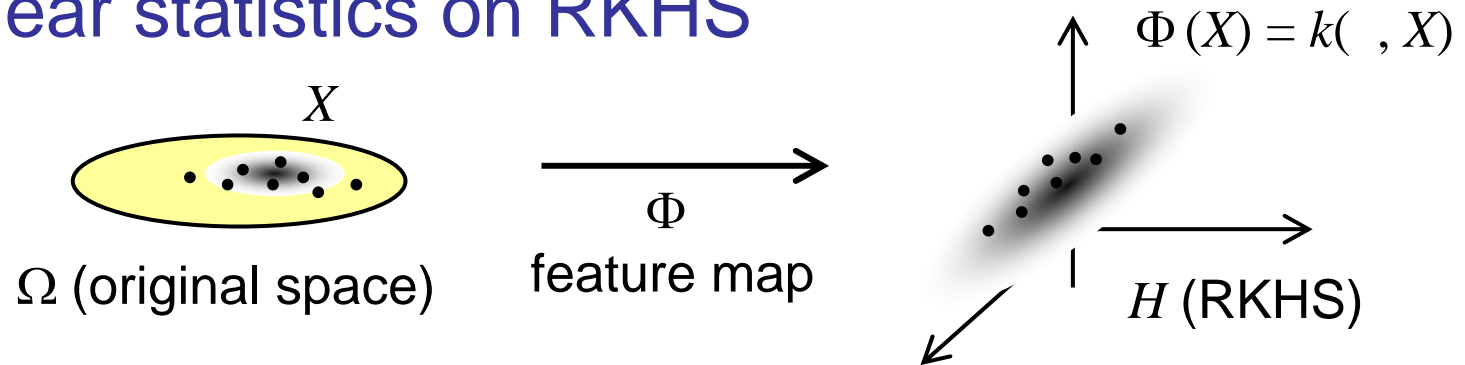
## ■ Permutation test

- It works well, if applicable.
- Computationally expensive.

# VI. Conditional Independence

# Re: Statistics on RKHS

## ■ Linear statistics on RKHS



- Basic statistics  
on Euclidean space

Mean

Covariance

Conditional covariance

→

→

→

- Basic statistics  
on RKHS

Mean element

Cross-covariance operator  $\Sigma_{YX}$

**Cond. cross-covariance operator**

- Plan: define the basic statistics on RKHS and derive nonlinear/  
nonparametric statistical methods in the original space.

# Conditional Independence

## ■ Definition

$X, Y, Z$ : random variables with joint p.d.f.  $p_{XYZ}(x, y, z)$

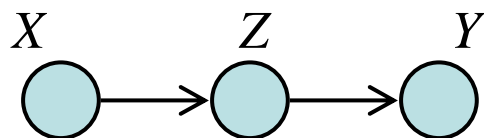
$X$  and  $Y$  are conditionally independent given  $Z$ , if

$$p_{Y|ZX}(y | z, x) = p_{Y|Z}(y | z) \quad (\text{A})$$

or

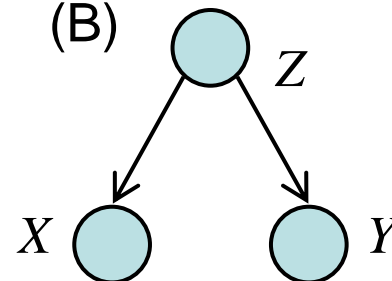
$$p_{XY|Z}(x, y | z) = p_{X|Z}(x | z)p_{Y|Z}(y | z) \quad (\text{B})$$

(A)



With  $Z$  known, the information of  $X$  is unnecessary for the inference on  $Y$

(B)





# Review: Conditional Covariance

## ■ Conditional covariance of Gaussian variables

- Jointly Gaussian variable

$$X = (X_1, \dots, X_p), Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_q)$$

$Z = (X, Y) : m (= p + q)$  dimensional Gaussian variable

$$Z \sim N(\mu, V) \quad \mu = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_X \\ \mu_Y \end{pmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{pmatrix} V_{XX} & V_{XY} \\ V_{YX} & V_{YY} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Conditional probability of  $Y$  given  $X$  is again Gaussian

$$\sim N(\mu_{Y|X}, V_{YY|X})$$

Cond. mean  $\mu_{Y|X} \equiv E[Y | X = x] = \mu_Y + V_{YX} V_{XX}^{-1} (x - \mu_X)$

Cond. covariance  $V_{YY|X} \equiv \text{Cov}[Y | X = x] = \underline{V_{YY} - V_{YX} V_{XX}^{-1} V_{XY}}$

Schur complement of  $V_{XX}$  in  $V$

Note:  $V_{YY|X}$  does not depend on  $x$

# Conditional Independence for Gaussian Variables

## ■ Two characterizations

$X, Y, Z$  are **Gaussian**.

– Conditional covariance

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad V_{XY|Z} = \mathbf{O} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad V_{YX} - V_{YZ}V_{ZZ}^{-1}V_{ZX} = \mathbf{O}$$

– Comparison of conditional variance

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad V_{YY|[X,Z]} = V_{YY|Z}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore) \quad V_{YY} - V_{Y[X,Z]}V_{[X,Z][X,Z]}^{-1}V_{[Z,X]Y} &= V_{YY} - (V_{YX}, V_{YZ}) \begin{pmatrix} V_{XX} & V_{XZ} \\ V_{ZX} & V_{ZZ} \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} V_{XY} \\ V_{ZY} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= V_{YY} - (V_{YX}, V_{YZ}) \begin{pmatrix} I & \mathbf{O} \\ -V_{ZZ}^{-1}V_{ZX} & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{XX|Z}^{-1} & \mathbf{O} \\ \mathbf{O} & V_{ZZ}^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & -V_{XZ}V_{ZZ}^{-1} \\ \mathbf{O} & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_{XY} \\ V_{ZY} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= V_{YY|Z} - V_{YX|Z}V_{XX|Z}^{-1}V_{XY|Z} \end{aligned}$$

# Linear Regression and Conditional Covariance

## ■ Review: linear regression

- $X, Y$ : random vector (not necessarily Gaussian) of dim  $p$  and  $q$  (resp.)

$$\tilde{X} = X - E[X], \quad \tilde{Y} = Y - E[Y]$$

- Linear regression: predict  $Y$  using the linear combination of  $X$ .  
Minimize the mean square error:

$$\min_{A: q \times p \text{ matrix}} E \|\tilde{Y} - A\tilde{X}\|^2$$

- The residual error is given by the conditional covariance matrix.

$$\min_{A: q \times p \text{ matrix}} E \|\tilde{Y} - A\tilde{X}\|^2 = \text{Tr}[V_{YY|X}] = \text{Tr}[\text{Cov}[Y | X]]$$

– Derivation

$$\begin{aligned}
 E\|\tilde{Y} - A\tilde{X}\|^2 &= \text{Tr}\left[E[\tilde{Y}\tilde{Y}^T] - AE[\tilde{X}\tilde{Y}^T] - E[\tilde{Y}\tilde{X}^T]A^T + AE[\tilde{X}\tilde{X}^T]A^T\right] \\
 &= \text{Tr}\left[V_{YY} - AV_{XY} - V_{YX}A^T + AV_{XX}A^T\right] \\
 &= \text{Tr}\left[(A - V_{YX}V_{XX}^{-1})V_{XX}(A - V_{YX}V_{XX}^{-1})^T\right] + \text{Tr}\left[V_{YY} - V_{YX}V_{XX}^{-1}V_{XY}\right] \\
 \Rightarrow A_{opt} &= V_{YX}V_{XX}^{-1} \\
 \text{and} \\
 E\|\tilde{Y} - A_{opt}\tilde{X}\|^2 &= \text{Tr}\left[V_{YY} - V_{YX}V_{XX}^{-1}V_{XY}\right]
 \end{aligned}$$

– For **Gaussian** variables,

$$V_{YY|[X,Z]} = V_{YY|Z} \quad (\Leftrightarrow X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z)$$

can be interpreted as

“If  $Z$  is known,  $X$  is not necessary for linear prediction of  $Y$ .”

# Conditional Covariance on RKHS

## ■ Conditional Cross-covariance operator

$X, Y, Z$  : random variables on  $\Omega_X, \Omega_Y, \Omega_Z$  (resp.).

$(H_X, k_X), (H_Y, k_Y), (H_Z, k_Z)$  : RKHS defined on  $\Omega_X, \Omega_Y, \Omega_Z$  (resp.).

– **Conditional cross-covariance operator**  $H_X \rightarrow H_Y$

$$\Sigma_{YX|Z} \equiv \Sigma_{YX} - \Sigma_{YZ} \Sigma_{ZZ}^{-1} \Sigma_{ZX}$$

Note:  $\Sigma_{ZZ}^{-1}$  may not exist. But, we have the decomposition

$$\Sigma_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{1/2} W_{YX} \Sigma_{XX}^{1/2}$$

Rigorously, define

$$\Sigma_{YX|Z} \equiv \Sigma_{YX} - \Sigma_{YY}^{1/2} W_{YZ} W_{ZX} \Sigma_{XX}^{1/2}$$

– **Conditional covariance operator**

$$\Sigma_{YY|Z} \equiv \Sigma_{YY} - \Sigma_{YZ} \Sigma_{ZZ}^{-1} \Sigma_{ZY}$$

# Two Characterizations of Conditional Independence with Kernels

## (1) Conditional covariance operator (FBJ04, 06)

Under some “richness” assumptions on RKHS (e.g Gaussian)

- Conditional variance

$$\langle g, \Sigma_{YY|Z} g \rangle = E[\text{Var}[g(Y) | Z]] = \inf_{f \in H_Z} E|\tilde{g}(Y) - \tilde{f}(Z)|^2$$

- Conditional independence

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Sigma_{YY|[XZ]} = \Sigma_{YY|Z}$$

$X$  is not necessary for predicting  $g(Y)$

- *c.f.* Gaussian variables

$$b^T V_{YY|Z} b = \text{Var}[b^T Y | Z] = \min_a |b^T \tilde{Y} - a^T \tilde{Z}|^2$$

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad V_{YY|[X,Z]} = V_{YY|Z}$$

## (2) Cond. cross-covariance operator (FBJ04, Sun et al. 07)

Under some “richness” assumptions on RKHS (e.g. Gaussian),

- Conditional Covariance

$$\langle g, \Sigma_{YX|Z} f \rangle = E[\text{Cov}[g(Y), f(X) | Z]]$$

- Conditional independence

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Sigma_{Y\ddot{X}|Z} = \mathbf{O} \quad (\Leftrightarrow \Sigma_{\ddot{Y}X|Z} = \mathbf{O})$$

where  $\ddot{X} = (X, Z)$ ,  $\ddot{Y} = (Y, Z)$

- *c.f.* Gaussian variables

$$a^T V_{XY|Z} b = \text{Cov}[a^T X, b^T Y | Z]$$

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad V_{XY|Z} = \mathbf{O}$$

- Why is “extended variable” needed?

$$\langle g, \Sigma_{YX|Z} f \rangle = E[\text{Cov}[g(Y), f(X) | Z]]$$

$$\langle g, \Sigma_{YX|Z} f \rangle \neq \text{Cov}[g(Y), f(X) | Z = z]$$

The l.h.s is not a function of  $z$ . *c.f.* Gaussian case

$$\Sigma_{YX|Z} = O \quad \Rightarrow \quad p(x, y) = \int p(x|z)p(y|z)p(z)dz$$

$$\Sigma_{YX|Z} = O \quad \not\Rightarrow \quad p(x, y | z) = p(x|z)p(y|z)$$

However, if  $X$  is replaced by  $[X, Z]$

$$\Sigma_{Y[X,Z]|Z} = O \quad \Rightarrow \quad p(x, y, z') = \int p(x, z'|z)p(y|z)p(z)dz$$

$$\text{where} \quad p(x, z'|z) = p(x|z)\delta(z'-z)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad p(x, y, z') = p(x|z')p(y|z')p(z')$$

$$\text{i.e.} \quad p(x, y | z') = p(x|z')p(y|z')$$



# Application to Dimension Reduction for Regression

## ■ Dimension reduction

Input:  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_m)$ , Output:  $Y$  (either continuous or discrete)

Goal: find an **effective subspace** spanned by an  $m \times d$  matrix  $B$  s.t.

$$p_{Y|X}(Y | X) = p_{Y|B^T X}(Y | B^T X) \quad \text{where } B^T X = (b_1^T X, \dots, b_d^T X)$$

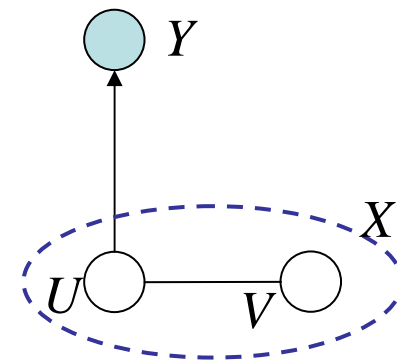
**linear feature vector**

No further assumptions on cond. p.d.f.  $p$ .

## ■ Conditional independence

$B$  spans effective subspace

$$\iff X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | B^T X$$



# Kernel Dimension Reduction

(Fukumizu, Bach, Jordan 2004, 2006)

Use  $d$ -dimensional **Gaussian kernel**  $k_d(z_1, z_2)$  for  $B^T X$ , and a characteristic kernel for  $Y$ .

$$\Sigma_{YY|B^T X} \geq \Sigma_{YY|X} \quad (\geq : \text{the partial order of self-adjoint operators})$$

$$\Sigma_{YY|B^T X} = \Sigma_{YY|X} \iff X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid B^T X$$

$$\min_{B: B^T B = I_d} \text{Tr} \left[ \Sigma_{YY|B^T X} \right]$$

Very general method for dimension reduction:

No model for regression, no strong assumption on the distributions.  
Optimization is not easy.

See FBJ 04, 06 for further details.

(Extension: Nilsson et al. ICML07)

# Experiments with KDR

## ■ Wine data

Data

13 dim. 178 data

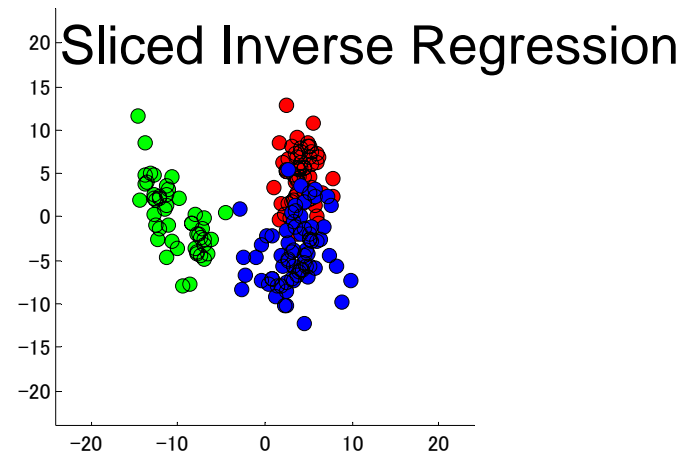
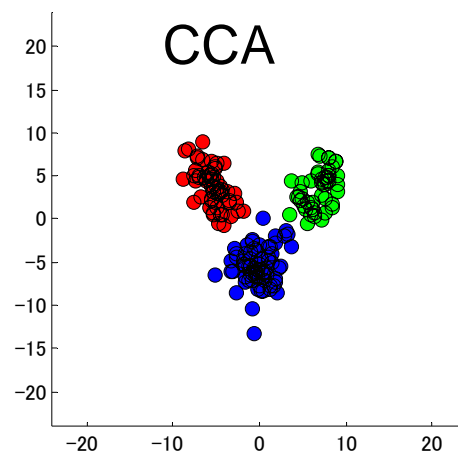
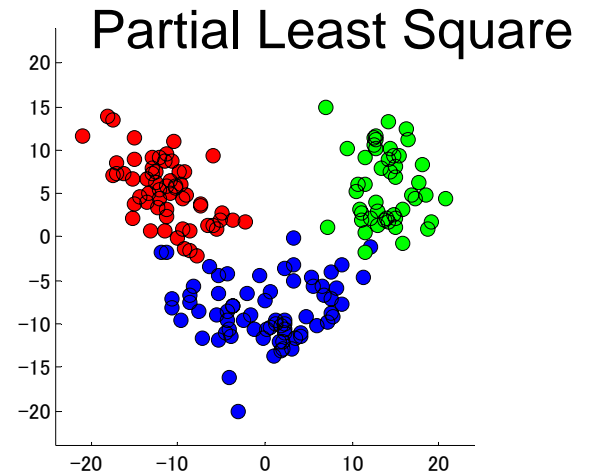
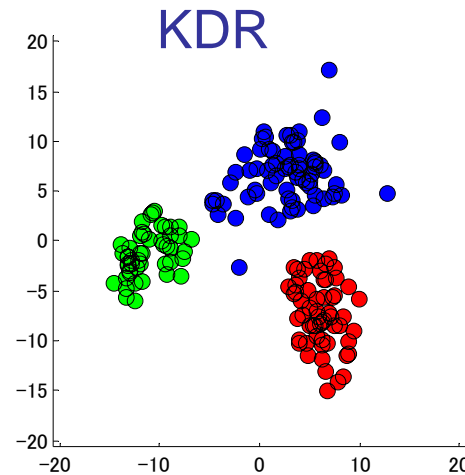
3 classes

2 dim. projection

$$k(z_1, z_2)$$

$$= \exp\left(-\|z_1 - z_2\|^2 / \sigma^2\right)$$

$$\sigma = 30$$



# Measure of Cond. Independence

## ■ HS norm of cond. **cross**-covariance operator

- Measure for **conditional dependence**

$$HSCIC = \left\| \Sigma_{\ddot{X}\ddot{Y}|Z} \right\|_{HS}^2 \quad \ddot{X} = (X, Z), \ddot{Y} = (Y, Z)$$

- Conditional independence

Under some “richness” assumptions (e.g. Gaussian),

$$HSCIC = \left\| \Sigma_{\ddot{X}\ddot{Y}|Z} \right\|_{HS}^2 \quad \text{is zero if and only if } X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z$$

- Empirical measure

$$HSCIC_{emp} = \text{Tr} \left[ G_X G_Y - 2G_X (G_Z + N\varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} G_Z G_Y \right. \\ \left. + G_Z (G_Z + N\varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} G_X (G_Z + N\varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} G_Z G_Y \right]$$

# Normalized Cond. Covariance

## ■ Normalized conditional cross-covariance operator

$$W_{YX|Z} \equiv W_{YX} - W_{YZ}W_{ZX} \quad \text{Recall: } \Sigma_{YX} = \Sigma_{YY}^{1/2}W_{YX}\Sigma_{XX}^{1/2}$$

$$W_{YX|Z} = \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2}\Sigma_{YX|Z}\Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2} = \Sigma_{YY}^{-1/2}\left(\Sigma_{YX} - \Sigma_{YZ}\Sigma_{ZZ}^{-1}\Sigma_{ZX}\right)\Sigma_{XX}^{-1/2}$$

- Conditional independence

Under some “richness” assumptions (e.g. Gaussian),

$$W_{Y\ddot{X}|Z} = O \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z$$

- HS Normalized Conditional Independence Criteria

$$HSNCIC = \left\| W_{\ddot{X}\ddot{Y}|Z} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

$$HSNCIC = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y | Z$$

- **Kernel-free expression.** Under some “richness” assumptions,

$$\|W_{\ddot{Y}\ddot{X}|Z}\|_{HS}^2 = \iint \left( \frac{p_{XYZ}(x, y, z) - p_{X|Z}(x|z)p_{Y|Z}(y|z)p_Z(z)}{p_{XZ}(x, z)p_{YZ}(y, z)} \right)^2 p_{XZ}(x, z)p_{YZ}(y, z) dx dy dz$$

(“Conditional” mean square contingency)

- Empirical estimator of HSNCIC

$$HSNCIC_{emp} = \text{Tr}[R_{\ddot{X}}R_{\ddot{Y}} - 2R_{\ddot{X}}R_{\ddot{Y}}R_Z + R_{\ddot{X}}R_ZR_{\ddot{Y}}R_Z]$$

$$R_{\ddot{X}} \equiv G_{\ddot{X}}(G_{\ddot{X}} + N\varepsilon_N I_N)^{-1} \text{ etc.}$$

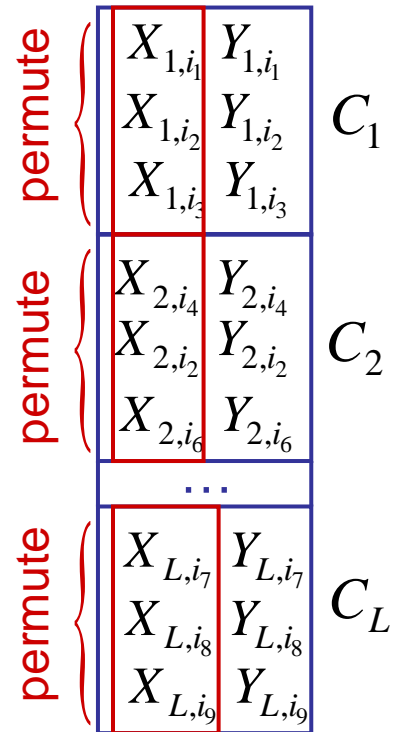
# Conditional Independence Test

## ■ Permutation test with the kernel measure

$$T_N = \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2 \quad \text{or} \quad T_N = \left\| \hat{W}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

- If  $Z$  takes values in a finite set  $\{1, \dots, L\}$ ,  
 set  $A_\ell = \{i \mid Z_i = \ell\}$  ( $\ell = 1, \dots, L$ ),  
 otherwise, partition the values of  $Z$  into  
 $L$  subsets  $C_1, \dots, C_L$ , and set  

$$A_\ell = \{i \mid Z_i \in C_\ell\} \quad (\ell = 1, \dots, L).$$
- Repeat the following process  $B$  times: ( $b = 1, \dots, B$ )
  1. Generate pseudo cond. independent data  $D^{(b)}$  by permuting  $X$  data within each  $A_\ell$ .
  2. Compute  $T_N^{(b)}$  for the data  $D^{(b)}$ .  
 → Approximate null distribution under cond. indep. assumption
- Set the threshold by the  $(1-\alpha)$ -percentile of the empirical distributions of  $T_N^{(b)}$ .



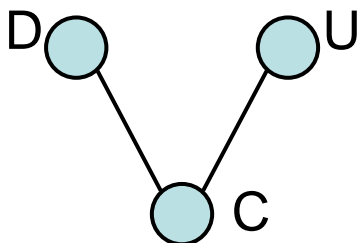
# Application to Graphical Modeling

- Three continuous variables of medical measurements.  $N = 35$ .  
(Edwards 2000, Sec.3.1.4)

Creatinine clearance (C), Digoxin clearance (D), Urine flow (U)

	Kernel method (permut. test)		Linear method		
	HSN(C)IC	P-val.		(partial) cor.	P-val.
$D \perp\!\!\!\perp U \mid C$	1.458	0.924	Parcor(D,U C)	0.4847	0.0037
$C \perp\!\!\!\perp D$	0.776	<0.001	Cor(C,D)	0.7754	0.0000
$C \perp\!\!\!\perp U$	0.194	0.117	Cor(C,U)	0.3092	0.0707
$D \perp\!\!\!\perp U$	0.343	0.023	Cor(D,U)	0.5309	0.0010

- Suggested undirected graphical model by kernel method



The conditional independence  $D \perp\!\!\!\perp U \mid C$  coincides with the medical knowledge.



# Statistical Consistency

## ■ Consistency on conditional covariance operator

Theorem (FBJ06, Sun et al. 07)

Assume  $\varepsilon_N \rightarrow 0$  and  $\sqrt{N}\varepsilon_N \rightarrow \infty$

$$\left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} - \Sigma_{YX|Z} \right\|_{HS} \rightarrow 0 \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

In particular,

$$\left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS} \rightarrow \left\| \Sigma_{YX|Z} \right\|_{HS} \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

*i.e.*  $\text{HSCIC}_{\text{emp}}$  converges to the population value  $\text{HSCIC}$ .

## ■ Consistency of normalized conditional covariance operator

### Theorem (FGSS07)

Assume that  $W_{YX|Z}$  is Hilbert-Schmidt, and the regularization coefficient satisfies  $\varepsilon_N \rightarrow 0$  and  $N^{1/3}\varepsilon_N \rightarrow \infty$ . Then,

$$\left\| \hat{W}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} - W_{YX|Z} \right\|_{HS} \rightarrow 0 \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

In particular,

$$\left\| \hat{W}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS} \rightarrow \left\| W_{YX|Z} \right\|_{HS} \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

*i.e.*  $\text{HSNCIC}_{\text{emp}}$  converges to the population value  $\text{HSNCIC}$ .

- Note: Convergence in HS-norm is stronger than convergence in operator norm.

# Summary of Part V

## ■ Conditional independence by kernels

– Conditional independence is characterized in two ways;

- Conditional covariance operator

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Sigma_{YY|[XZ]} = \Sigma_{YY|Z}$$

- Conditional cross-covariance operator

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Sigma_{Y\ddot{X}|Z} = O \quad \text{or} \quad \Sigma_{\ddot{Y}X|Z} = O$$

## ■ Kernel Dimensional Reduction

A very general method for dimension reduction for regression

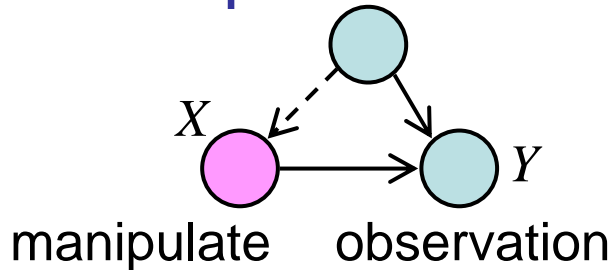
## ■ Measures for conditional independence

- HS norm of conditional cross-covariance operator
- HS norm of normalized conditional cross-covariance operator  
Kernel free in population.

# VII. Causal Inference

# Causal Inference

## ■ With manipulation – intervention



$X$  is a cause of  $Y$ ?

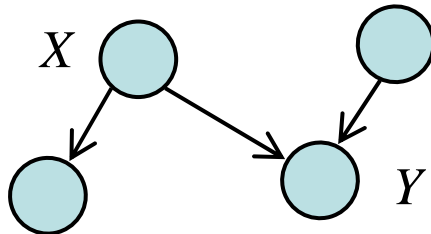
Easier. (*do*-calculus, Pearl 1995)

## ■ No manipulation / with temporal information

$X(t)$   $Y(t)$  : observed time series

$X(1), \dots, X(t)$  are a cause of  $Y(t+1)$ ?

## ■ No manipulation / no temporal information



Causal inference is harder.

## ■ Difficulty of causal inference from non-experimental data

- Widely accepted view till 80's  
Causal inference is impossible without manipulating some variables.  
e.g.) “*No causation without manipulation*” (Holland 1986, JASA)
- Temporal information is very helpful, but not decisive.  
e.g.) The barometer falls before it rains, but it does not cause the rain.
- Many philosophical discussions, but not discussed here.  
See Pearl (2000) and the references therein.

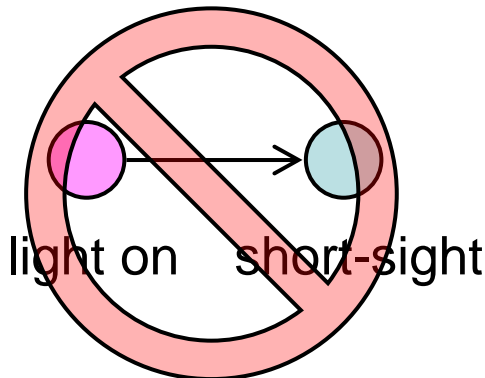
## ■ Correlation (dependence) and causality

Do not confuse causality with dependence (or correlation)!

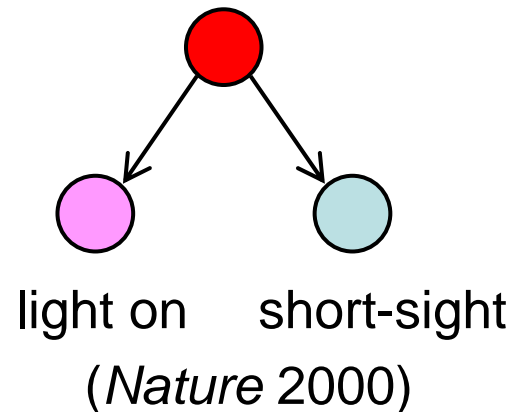
Example)

A study shows:

Young children who sleep with the light on are much more likely to develop myopia in later life. (*Nature* 1999)



Parental myopia



Hidden common cause

# Causality of Time Series

## ■ Granger causality (Granger 1969)

$X(t), Y(t)$ : two time series  $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

– Problem:

Is  $\{X(1), \dots, X(t)\}$  a cause of  $Y(t+1)$ ?

(No inverse causal relation)

– Granger causality

Model: AR

$$Y(t) = c + \sum_{i=1}^p a_i Y(t-i) + \sum_{j=1}^p b_j X(t-j) + U_t$$

Test

$$H_0: b_1 = b_2 = \dots = b_p = 0$$

$X$  is called a **Granger cause** of  $Y$  if  $H_0$  is rejected.



– F-test

- Linear estimation

$$Y(t) = c + \sum_{i=1}^p a_i Y(t-i) + \sum_{j=1}^p b_j X(t-j) + U_t \longrightarrow \hat{c}, \hat{a}_i, \hat{b}_j$$

$$H_0: Y(t) = c + \sum_{i=1}^p a_i Y(t-i) + W_t \longrightarrow \hat{c}, \hat{a}_i$$

$$ERR_1 = \sum_{t=p+1}^N (\hat{Y}(t) - Y(t)) \quad ERR_0 = \sum_{t=p+1}^N (\hat{\hat{Y}}(t) - Y(t))^2$$

- Test statistics

$$T_N \equiv \frac{(ERR_0 - ERR_1)/p}{ERR_1/(N - 2p + 1)} \quad \underset{\Rightarrow}{\text{under } H_0} F_{p, N-2p+1} \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

$$\text{p.d.f of } F_{d_1, d_2} = \frac{1}{B(d_1/2, d_2/2)} \left( \frac{d_1 x}{d_1 x + d_2} \right)^{d_1} \left( 1 - \frac{d_1 x}{d_1 x + d_2} \right)^{d_2} \frac{1}{x}$$

– Software

- Matlab: Econometrics toolbox ([www.spatial-econometrics.com](http://www.spatial-econometrics.com))
- R: Imtest package

– Granger causality is widely used and influential in econometrics.  
Clive Granger received Nobel Prize in 2003.

– Limitations

- Linearity: linear AR model is used.  
No nonlinear dependence is considered.
- Stationarity: stationary time series are assumed.
- Hidden cause: hidden common causes (other time series) cannot be considered.

“Granger causality” is not necessarily “causality” in general sense.

– There are many extensions.

– With kernel dependence measures, it is easily extended to incorporate nonlinear dependence.

Remark: There are few good conditional independence tests for continuous variables.

# Kernel Method for Causality of Time Series

## ■ Causality by conditional independence

- Extended notion of Granger causality

$X$  is **NOT** a cause of  $Y$  if

$$p(Y_t | Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p}, X_{t-1}, \dots, X_{t-p}) = p(Y_t | Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p})$$



$$Y_t \perp\!\!\!\perp X_{t-1}, \dots, X_{t-p} \mid Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p}$$

- Kernel measures for causality

$$HSCIC = \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\dot{Y}_{\mathbf{X}_p | \mathbf{Y}_p}}^{(N-p+1)} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

$$HSNCIC = \left\| \hat{W}_{\dot{Y}_{\mathbf{X}_p | \mathbf{Y}_p}}^{(N-p+1)} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

$$\mathbf{X}_p = \{(X_{t-1}, X_{t-2}, \dots, X_{t-p}) \in \mathbf{R}^p \mid t = p+1, \dots, N\}$$

$$\mathbf{Y}_p = \{(Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_{t-p}) \in \mathbf{R}^p \mid t = p+1, \dots, N\}$$

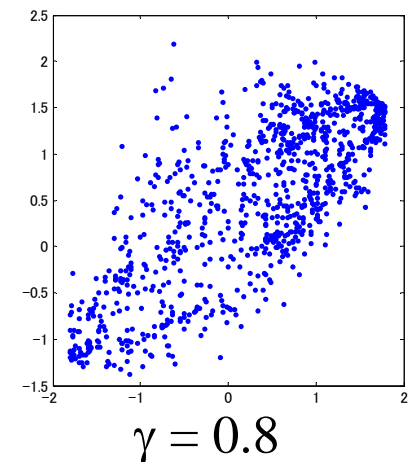
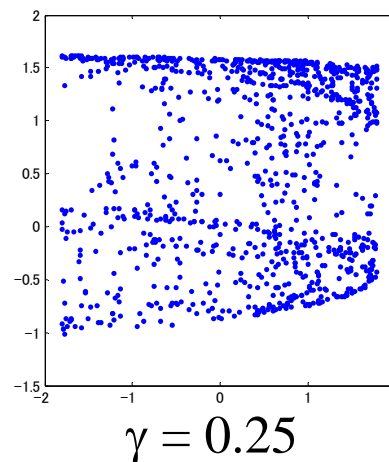
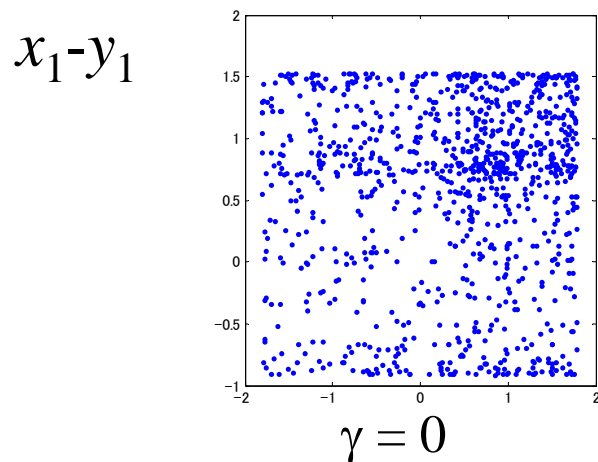
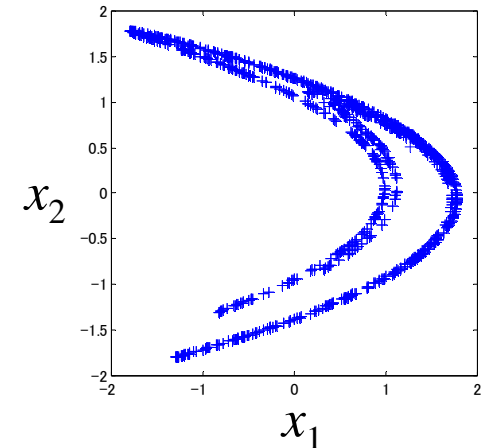
# Example

## ■ Coupled Hénon map

–  $X, Y$ :

$$\begin{cases} x_1(t+1) = 1.4 - x_1(t)^2 + 0.3x_2(t) \\ x_2(t+1) = x_1(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_1(t+1) = 1.4 - \left\{ \underline{\gamma x_1(t)} y_1(t) + (1 - \gamma) y_1(t)^2 \right\} + 0.1y_2(t) \\ y_2(t+1) = y_1(t) \end{cases}$$



## ■ Causality of coupled Hénon map

- $X$  is a cause of  $Y$  if  $\gamma > 0$ .  $Y_t \not\perp\!\!\!\perp X_{t-1}, \dots, X_{t-p} \mid Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p}$
- $Y$  is **not** a cause of  $X$  for all  $\gamma$ .  $X_t \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_{t-1}, \dots, Y_{t-p} \mid X_{t-1}, \dots, X_{t-p}$
- Permutation tests for non-causality with  $HSNCIC = \left\| \hat{W}_{\hat{Y}_p | \hat{X}_p}^{(N-p+1)} \right\|_{HS}^2$

N = 100

$x_1 - y_1$	$H_0: Y_t$ is <b>not</b> a cause of $X_{t+1}$							$H_0: X_t$ is <b>not</b> a cause of $Y_{t+1}$						
$\gamma$	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
HSNCIC	94	88	81	63	86	77	62	97	0	0	0	0	0	0
Granger	92	96	95	90	90	94	93	96	92	85	45	13	2	3

1-dimensional independent noise is added to  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$ .

HSNCIC	97	96	93	85	81	68	75	96	0	0	0	0	0	0
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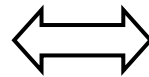
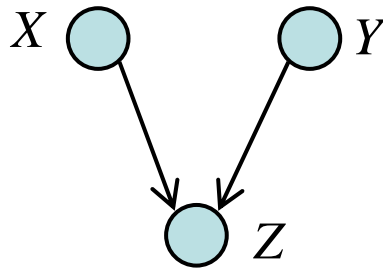
Number of times accepting  $H_0$  among 100 datasets ( $\alpha = 5\%$ )

# Causal Inference from Non-experimental Data

## ■ Why is it possible?

- DAG of chain  $X - Z - Y$

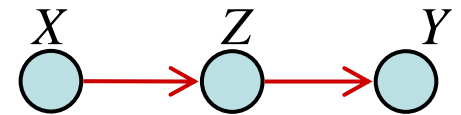
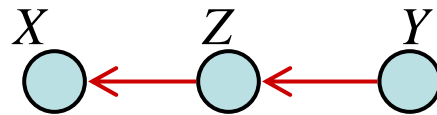
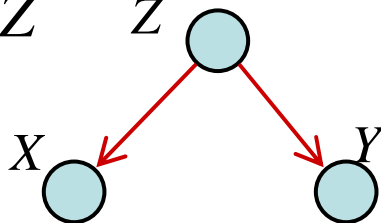
V-structure



$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$   
and  
 $X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z$

- This is the only detectable directed graph of three variables.
- The following structures cannot be distinguished from the probability.

$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid Z$



$$p(x,y,z) = p(x|z)p(y|z)p(z) = p(x|z)p(z|y)p(y) = p(x|z)p(z|y)p(x) \quad 118$$

# Causal Learning Methods

## ■ Constraint-based method (discussed in this lecture)

- Determine the (cond.) independence of the underlying probability.
- Relatively efficient for hidden variables.

## ■ Score-based method

- Structure learning of Bayesian network (Ghahramani's lecture)
- Able to use informative prior.
- Optimization in huge search space.
- Many methods assume discrete variables (discretization) or parametric model.

## ■ Common hidden causes

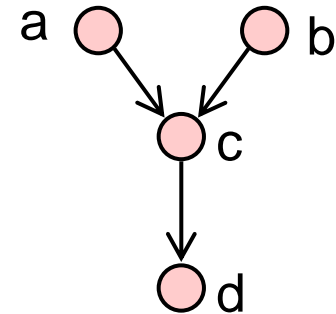
- For simplicity, algorithms assuming **no hidden variables** are explained in this lecture.

# Fundamental Assumptions

## ■ Markov assumption on a DAG

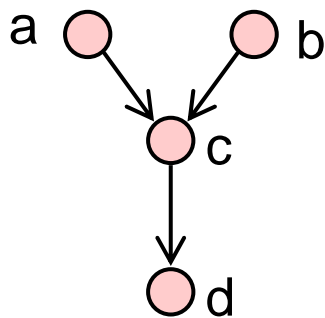
- Causal relation is expressed by a DAG, and the probability generating data is consistent with the graph.

$$p(X) = p(X_a)p(X_b)p(X_c | X_a, X_b)p(X_d | X_c)$$

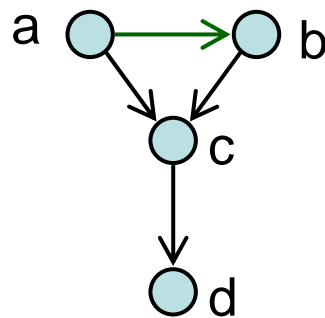


## ■ Faithfulness (stability)

- The inferred DAG (causal structure) must express all the independence relations.



true



unfaithful

This includes the true probability as a special case, but the **structure** does not express  $a \perp\!\!\!\perp b$



# Inductive Causation

## ■ IC algorithm (Verma&Pearl 90)

Input –  $V$ : set of variables,  $D$ : dataset of the variables.

Output – DAG (specifies an equivalence class, directed partially)

1. For each  $(a,b) \in V \times V$  ( $a \neq b$ ), search for  $S_{ab} \subset V \setminus \{a,b\}$  such that
$$X_a \perp\!\!\!\perp X_b \mid S_{ab}$$

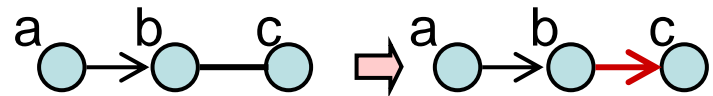
Construct an **undirected graph (skeleton)** by connecting  $a$  and  $b$  if and only if no set  $S_{ab}$  can be found.

2. For each nonadjacent pair  $(a,b)$  with  $a - c - b$ , direct the edges by  $a \rightarrow c \leftarrow b$  if  $c \notin S_{ab}$
3. Orient as many of undirected edges as possible on condition that neither new v-structures nor directed cycles are created. (See the next slide for the precise implementation)

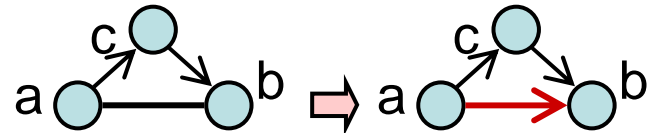
## ■ Step 3 of IC algorithm

– The following 4 rules are necessary and sufficient to direct all the possible inferred causal direction (Verma & Pearl 92, Meek 95)

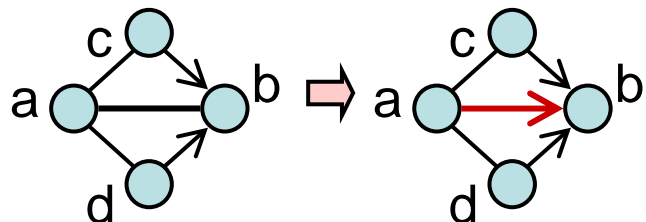
1. If there is a triplet  $a \rightarrow b - c$  with  $a$  and  $c$  nonadjacent, orient  $b - c$  into  $b \rightarrow c$ .



2. If for  $a - b$  there is a chain  $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b$ , orient  $a - b$  into  $a \rightarrow b$ .

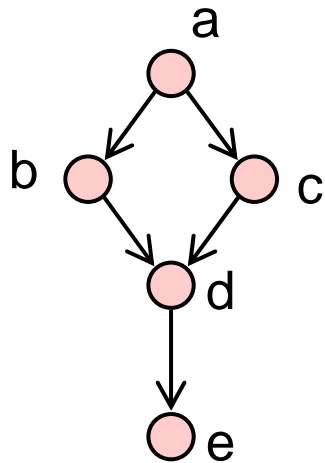


3. If for  $a - b$  there are two chains  $a - c \rightarrow b$  and  $a - d \rightarrow b$  such that  $c$  and  $d$  are nonadjacent, orient  $a - b$  into  $a \rightarrow b$ .

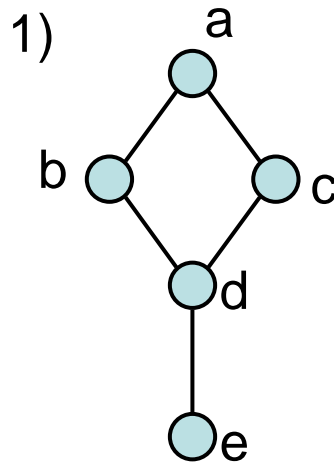


## ■ Example

True structure



The output from each step of IC algorithm



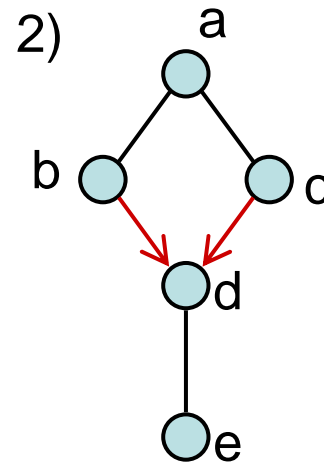
$$S_{ad} = \{b, c\}$$

$$S_{ae} = \{d\}$$

$$S_{bc} = \{a\}$$

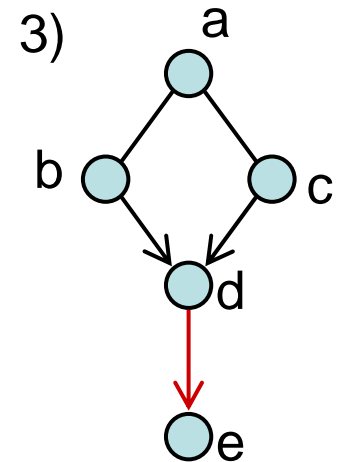
$$S_{be} = S_{ce} = \{d\}$$

For other pairs,  
S does not exist.



For  $(b,c)$ ,  $d \notin S_{bc}$

Direction of some edges  
may be left undetermined.



# PC Algorithm

(Peter Sprites & Clark Glymour 91)

- Linear method: partial correlation with  $\chi^2$  test is used in Step 1.
- Efficient computation for Step 1.

Start with complete graph, check  $X_a \perp\!\!\!\perp X_b \mid S$  only for  $S \subset N_a$ ,  
and connect the edge  $a-b$  if there is no such  $S$ .

$i = 0$ .  $G =$  Complete graph.

repeat

  for each  $a$  in  $V$

    for each  $b$  in  $N_a$

      Check  $X_a \perp\!\!\!\perp X_b \mid S$  for  $S \subset N_a \setminus \{b\}$  with  $|S| = i$

      If such  $S$  exists,

        set  $S_{ab} = S$ , and delete the edge  $a-b$  from  $G$ .

$i = i + 1$

  until  $|N_a| < i$  for all  $a$

- Implemented in TETRAD  
(<http://www.phil.cmu.edu/projects/tetrad/>)

# Kernel-based Causal Learning

## ■ Limitations of the previous implementations of IC

- Linear / discrete assumptions in Step 1.

Difficulty in testing conditional independence for continuous variables.

→ kernel method!

- Errors of the skeleton in Step 1 cannot be recovered in the later steps.

→ voting method

## ■ KCL algorithm (Sun et al. ICML07, Sun et al. 2007)

- Dependence measure:  $\hat{H}_{YX}^{(N)} = HSIC = \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2$
- Conditional dependence measure:  $\hat{H}_{YX|Z}^{(N)} \equiv \frac{\left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\ddot{Y}\ddot{X}|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2}{\left\| C_{ZZ} \right\|_{HS}^2}$

where the operator  $C_{ZZ} : H_Z \rightarrow H_Z$  is defined by

$$\langle f, C_{ZZ} g \rangle = E[f(Z)g(Z)]$$

Motivation: make  $\left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2$  and  $\left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\ddot{Y}\ddot{X}|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2$  comparable

### Theorem

$$\text{If } (X, Y) \perp\!\!\!\perp Z, \quad \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\ddot{Y}\ddot{X}|Z}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2 = \left\| C_{ZZ} \right\|_{HS}^2 \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{YX}^{(N)} \right\|_{HS}^2$$

Outline of the KCL algorithm: IC algorithm is modified as follows:

**KCL-1:** Skeleton by statistical tests

- (1) Permutation tests of conditional independence  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \mid S_{XY}$  for all  $(X, Y, S_{XY})$  ( $S_{XY} \subset V \setminus \{X, Y\}$ ) with the measure  $\hat{H}_{YX|Z}^{(N)}$
- (2) Connect  $X$  and  $Y$  if no such  $S_{XY}$  exists.

**KCL-2:** Majority votes for directing edges

For all triplets  $X - Z - Y$  ( $X$  and  $Y$  may be adjacent), give a **vote** to the direction  $X \rightarrow Z$  and  $Y \rightarrow Z$  if

$$M_{XY|Z} \equiv \frac{\hat{H}_{YX|Z}^{(N)}}{\hat{H}_{YX}^{(N)}} > \lambda$$

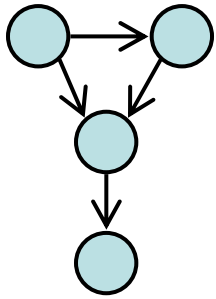
Repeat this for (a)  $\lambda \gg 1$  (rigorous v-structure)

and (b)  $\lambda = \max\{M_{YZ|X}, M_{XZ|Y}\}$  (relative v-structure)

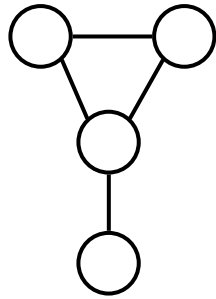
Make an arrow to each edge if a vote is given ( “ $\leftrightarrow$ ” is allowed).

**KCL-3:** Same as IC-3

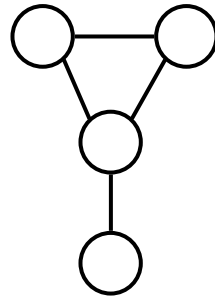
## ■ Illustration of KCL



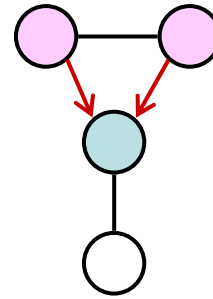
true



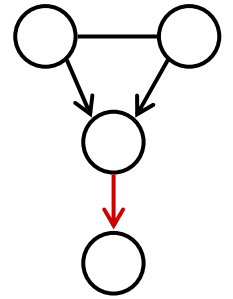
KCL-1



KCL-2 (a)



KCL-2 (b)



KCL-3

Heuristic assumption:  $M\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{pink} \rightarrow \text{pink} \\ \text{pink} \downarrow \text{pink} \downarrow \\ \text{light blue} \end{array}\right] > M\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{pink} \rightarrow \text{light blue} \\ \text{pink} \downarrow \text{pink} \downarrow \\ \text{pink} \end{array}\right], M\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{light blue} \rightarrow \text{pink} \\ \text{light blue} \downarrow \text{pink} \downarrow \\ \text{pink} \end{array}\right]$

Conditioning common effect strengthens the dependence between the causes.



## ■ Hidden common cause

- FCI (Fast Causal Inference, Spirtes et al. 93) extends PC to allow hidden variables.
- A bi-directional arrow ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) given by KCL may be interpreted as a hidden common cause. Empirically confirmed, but no theoretical justification (Sun et al. 2007).

# Experiments with KCL

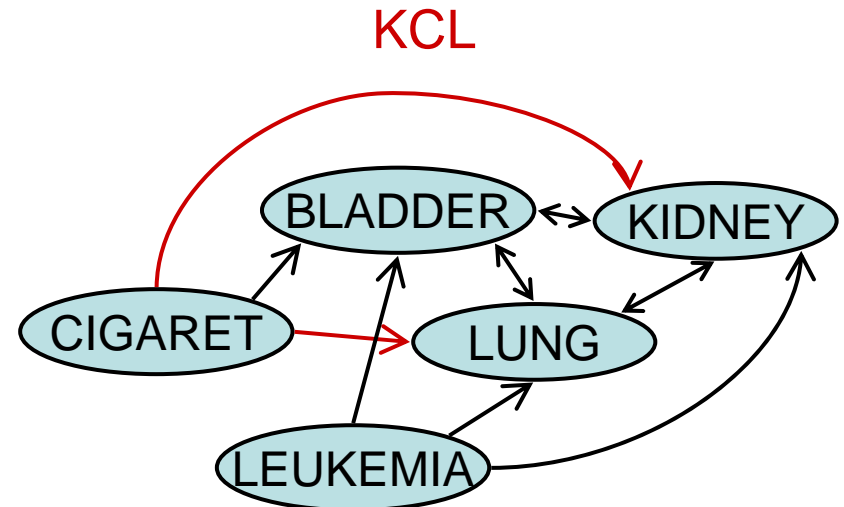
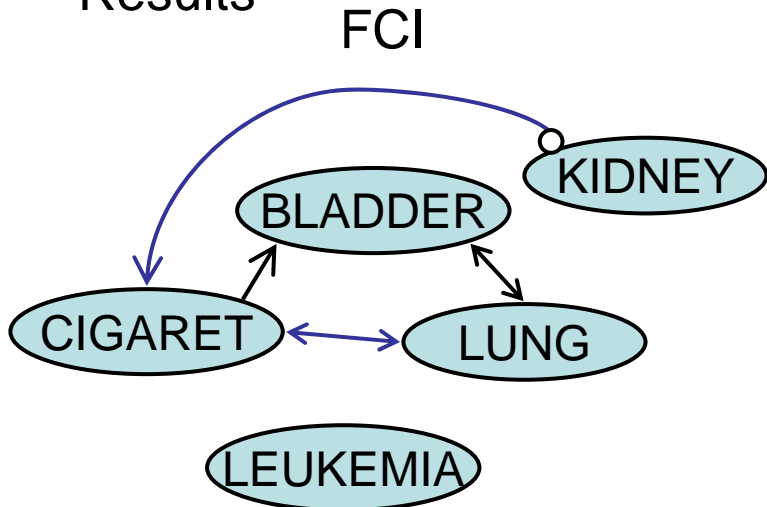
## ■ Smoking and Cancer

– Data ( $N = 44$ )

CIGARET: Cigarettes sales in 43 states in US and District of Columbia

BLADDER, LUNG, KIDNEY, LEUKEMIA: death rates from various cancers

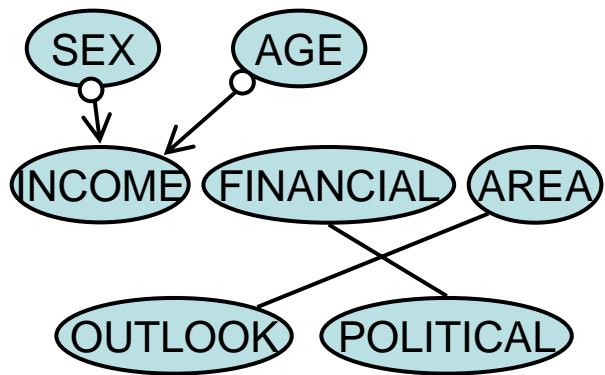
– Results



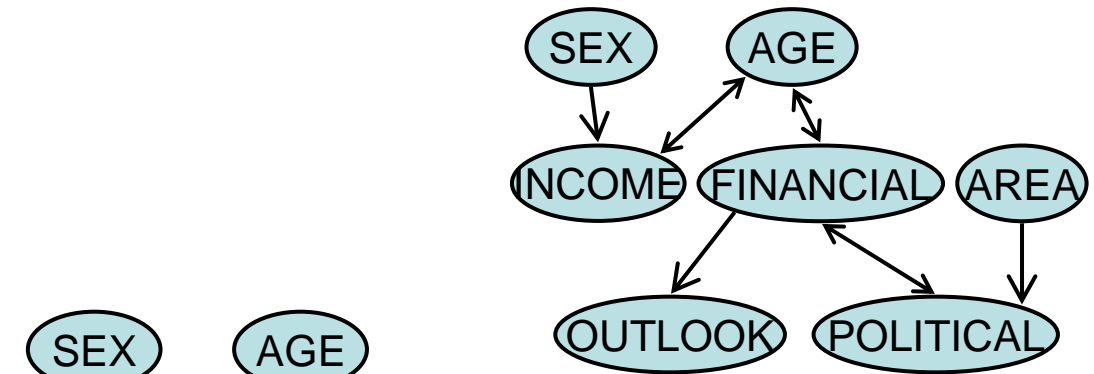
## ■ Montana Economic Outlook Poll (1992)

– Data: 7 discrete variables, N = 209

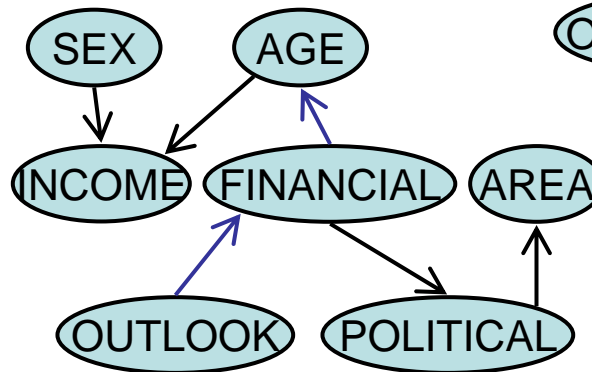
AGE (3), SEX (2), INCOME (3), POLITICAL (3), AREA (3),  
FINANCIAL status (3, better/same/worse than a year ago),  
OUTLOOK (2)



FCI



KCL



BN-PC

BN-PC is a constraint-based method using MI (Chen et al. 2002)

# Summary of Part VI

## ■ Causality of time series

- Kernel-based measures → Nonlinear extension of Granger causality

## ■ Causal inference from non-experimental data

- Kernel-based Causal Learning (KCL) algorithm
  - Constraint-based method: A variant of Inductive Causation
    - Conditional independence test with kernel measures
    - Voting method for directions
  - More reasonable results are obtained than existing methods. See Sun et al. (2007) for more detailed comparisons.

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