

# Optimal kernel choice for kernel hypothesis testing

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# First motivating question

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- ...in a **discrete** domain? [Read and Cressie, 1988]

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P(A,T)	On time	Late
Alarm	0.27	0.03
No alarm	0.07	0.63

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P(A,T)	On time	Late
Alarm	0.10	0.20
No alarm	0.24	0.46

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- ...in a **discrete** domain? [Read and Cressie, 1988]

... no doubt there is great pressure on provincial and municipal governments in relation to the issue of child care, but the reality is that there have been no cuts to child care funding from the federal government to the provinces. In fact, we have increased federal investments for early childhood development...

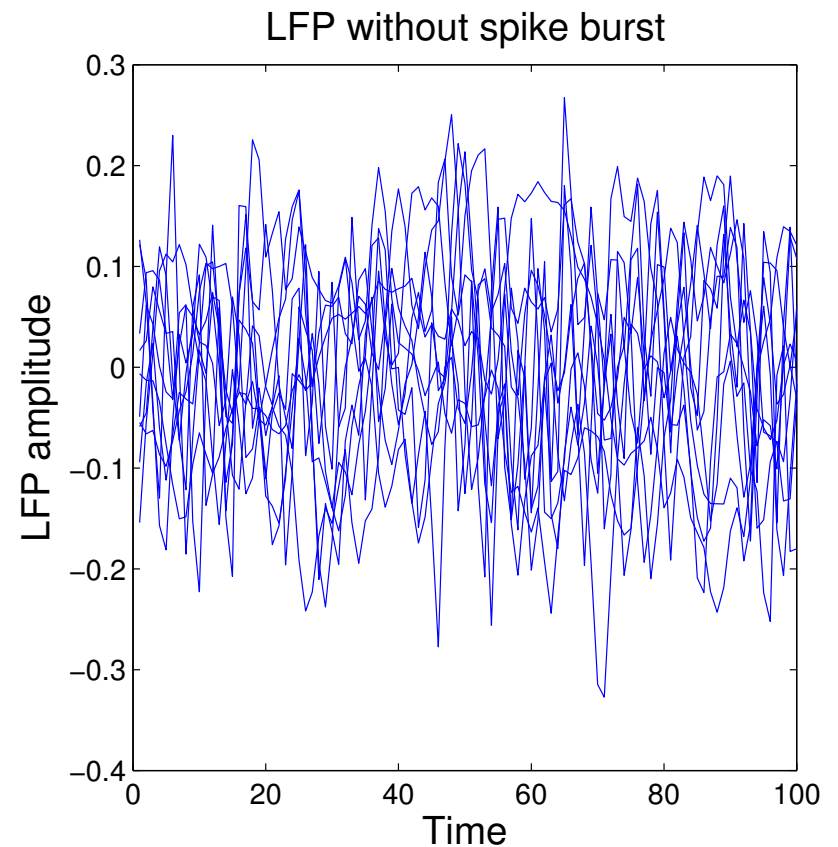
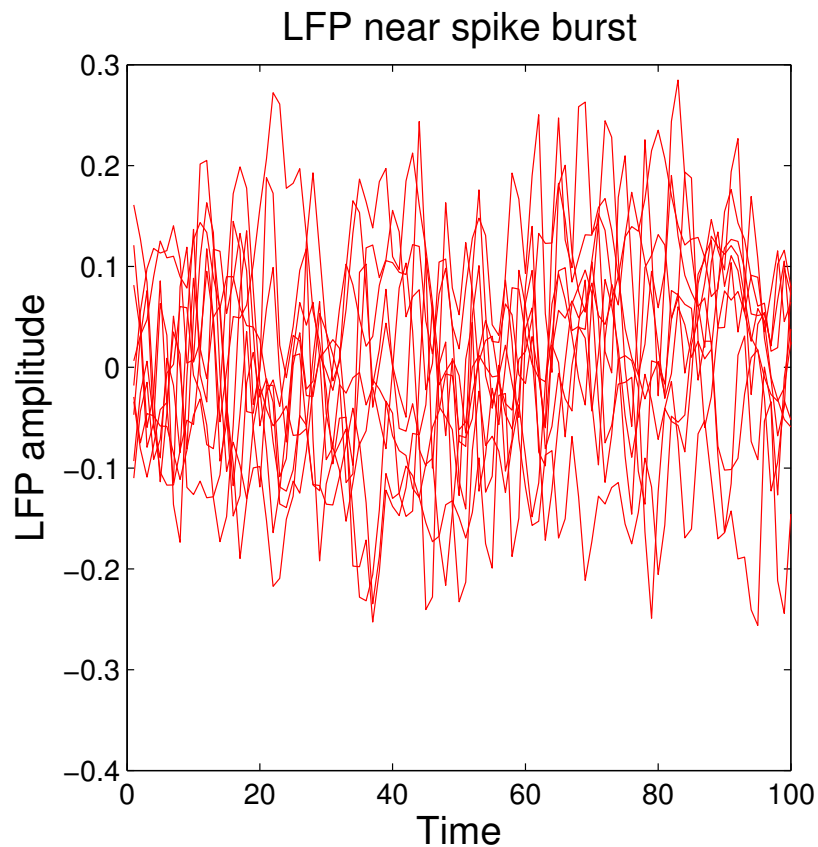


... il est évident que les ordres de gouvernements provinciaux et municipaux subissent de fortes pressions en ce qui concerne les services de garde, mais le gouvernement n'a pas réduit le financement qu'il verse aux provinces pour les services de garde. Au contraire, nous avons augmenté le financement fédéral pour le développement des jeunes enfants...

## Second motivating question: differences in brain signals

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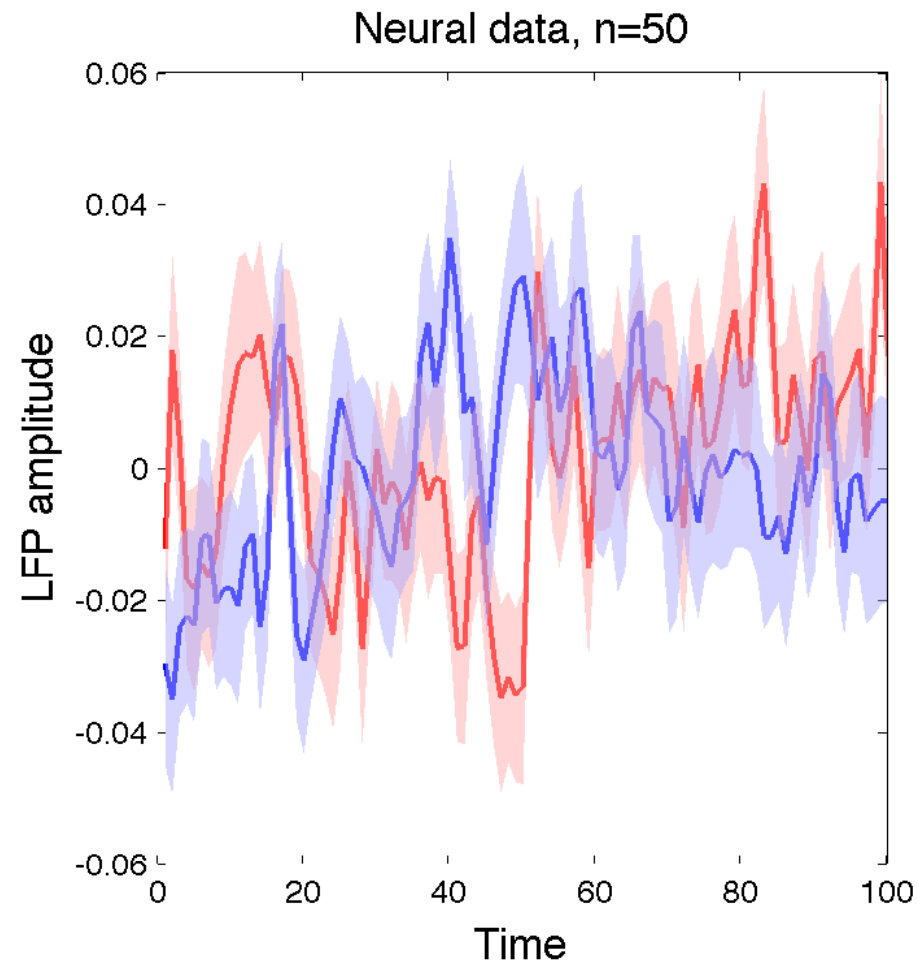
**The problem:** Do local field potential (LFP) signals change when measured near a spike burst?



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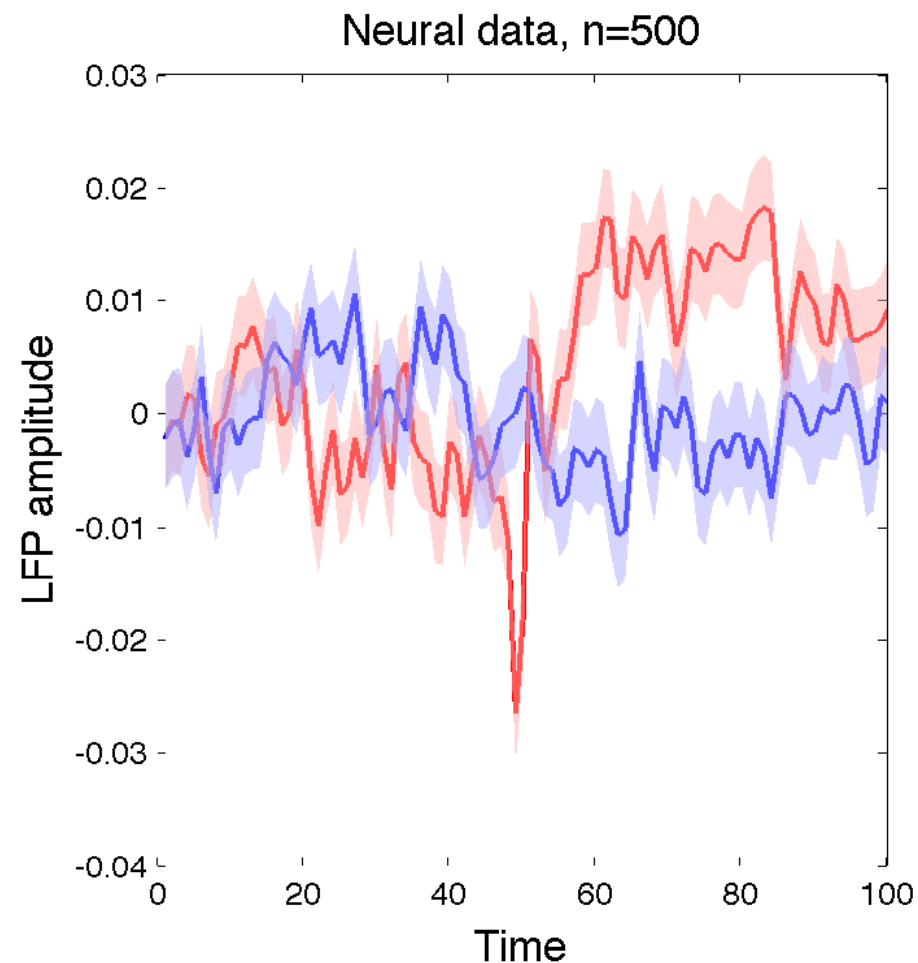




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# Overview

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- Kernel metric on the space of probability measures:  
Maximum Mean Discrepancy  $MMD(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q})$ 
  - Distance between means of (nonlinear) features
  - Function revealing differences in distributions
  - Dependence detection:  $\mathbf{P}_{xy}$  vs  $\mathbf{P}_x \mathbf{P}_y$  using  $MMD(\mathbf{P}_{xy}, \mathbf{P}_x \mathbf{P}_y)$

# Overview

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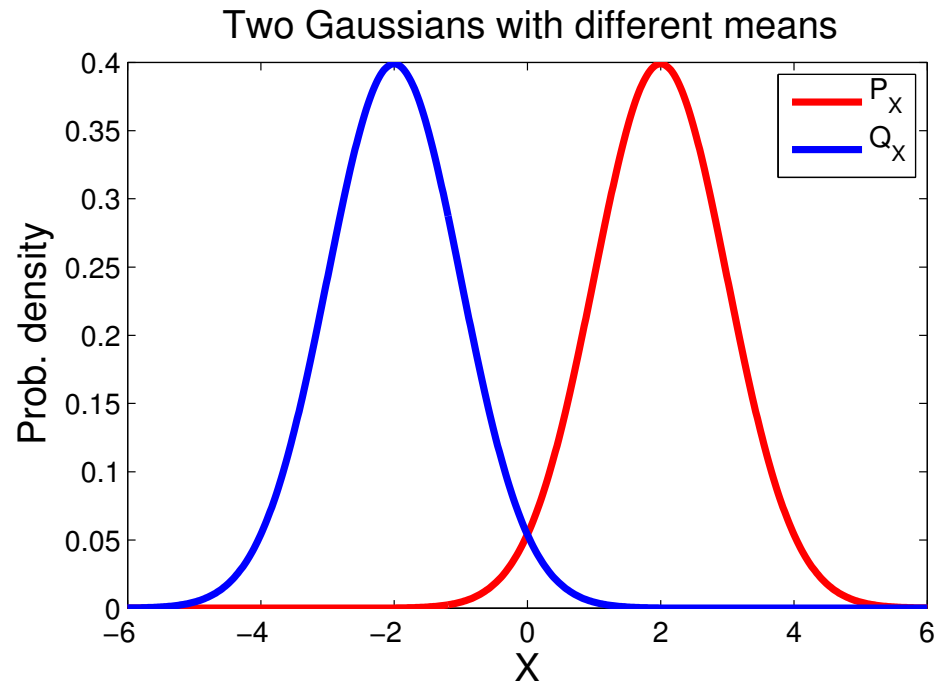
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- Optimal kernel choice:
  - A criterion for kernel choice
  - What is a difficult testing problem?

# Kernel distance between distributions

# Feature mean difference

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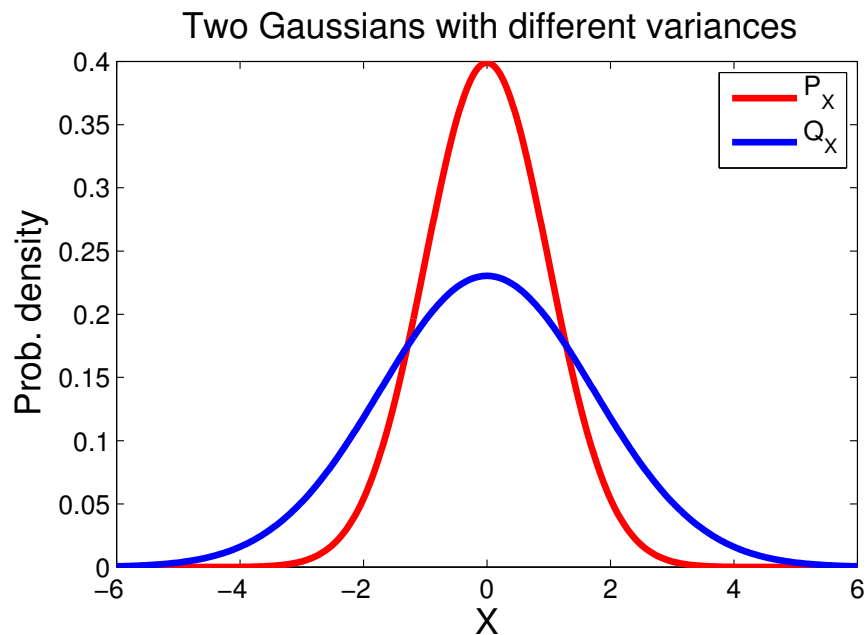
- Simple example: 2 Gaussians with different means
- Answer: **t-test**



# Feature mean difference

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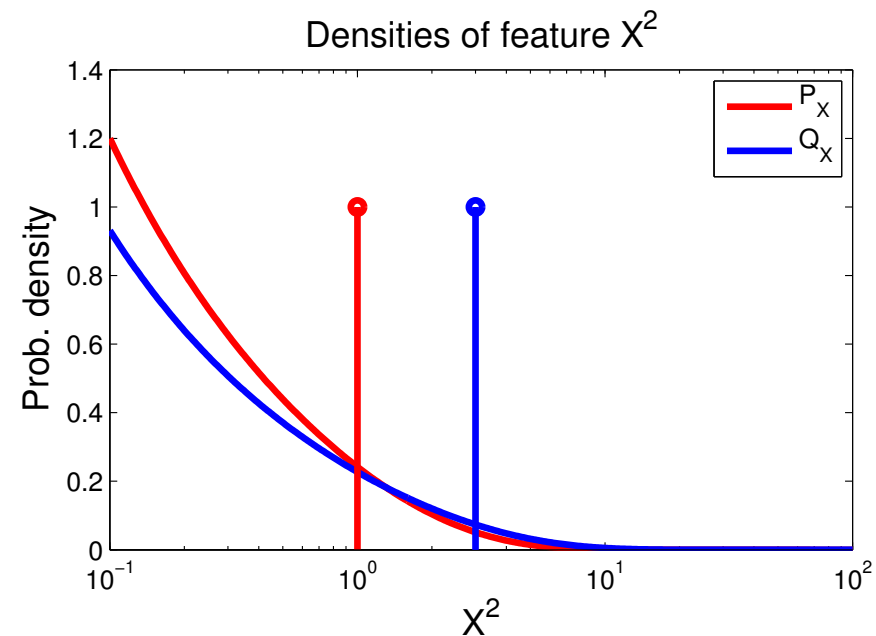
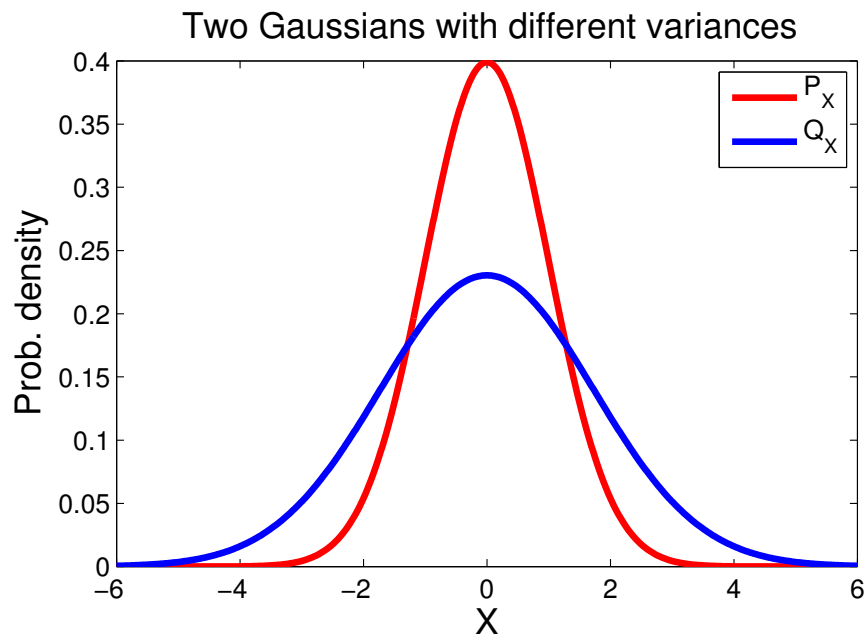
- Two Gaussians with same means, different variance
- Idea: look at difference in **means of features** of the RVs
- In Gaussian case: second order features of form  $\varphi(x) = x^2$



# Feature mean difference

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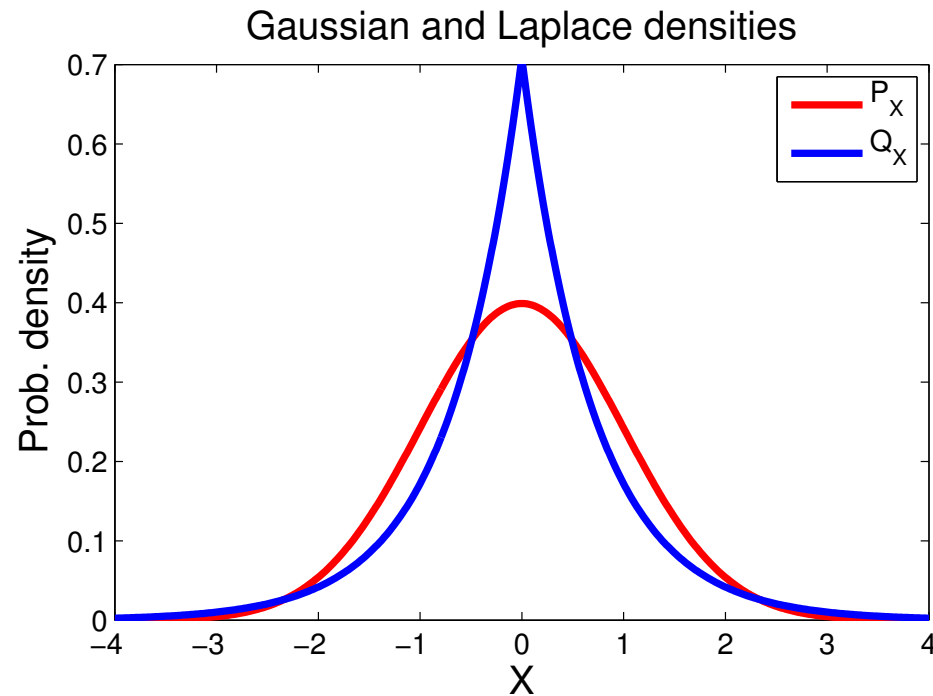
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# Feature mean difference

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- Gaussian and Laplace distributions
- Same mean *and* same variance
- Difference in means using **higher order features**

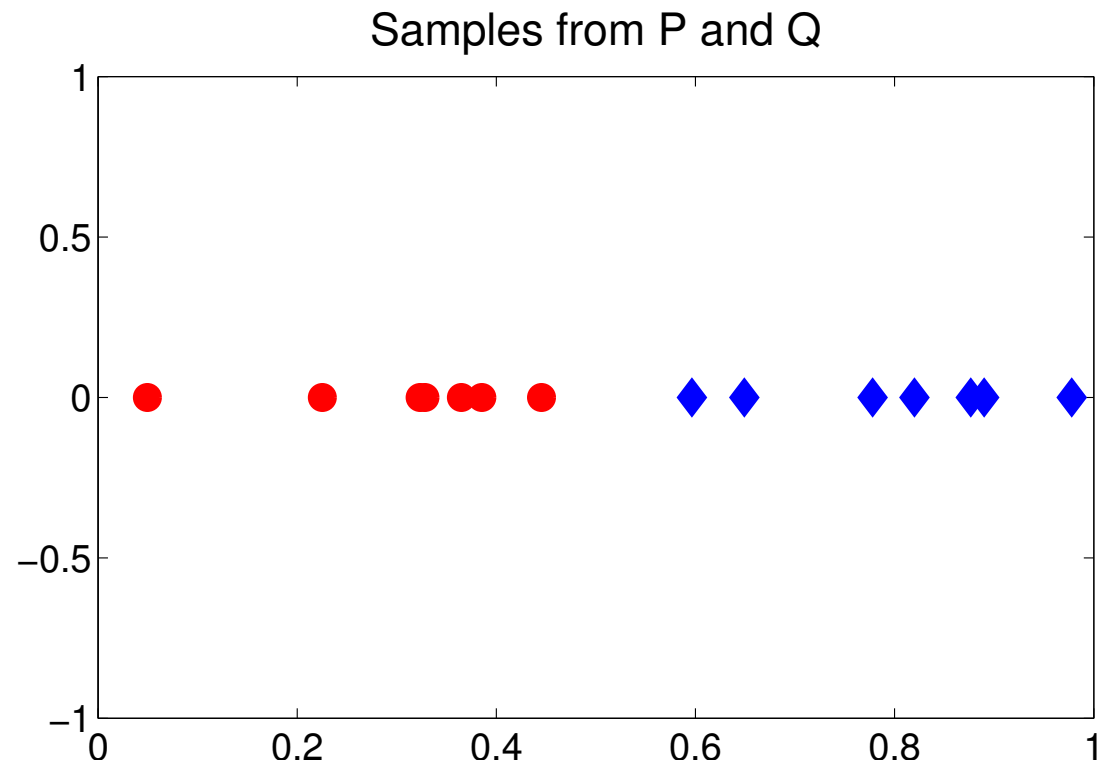




# Function Showing Difference in Distributions

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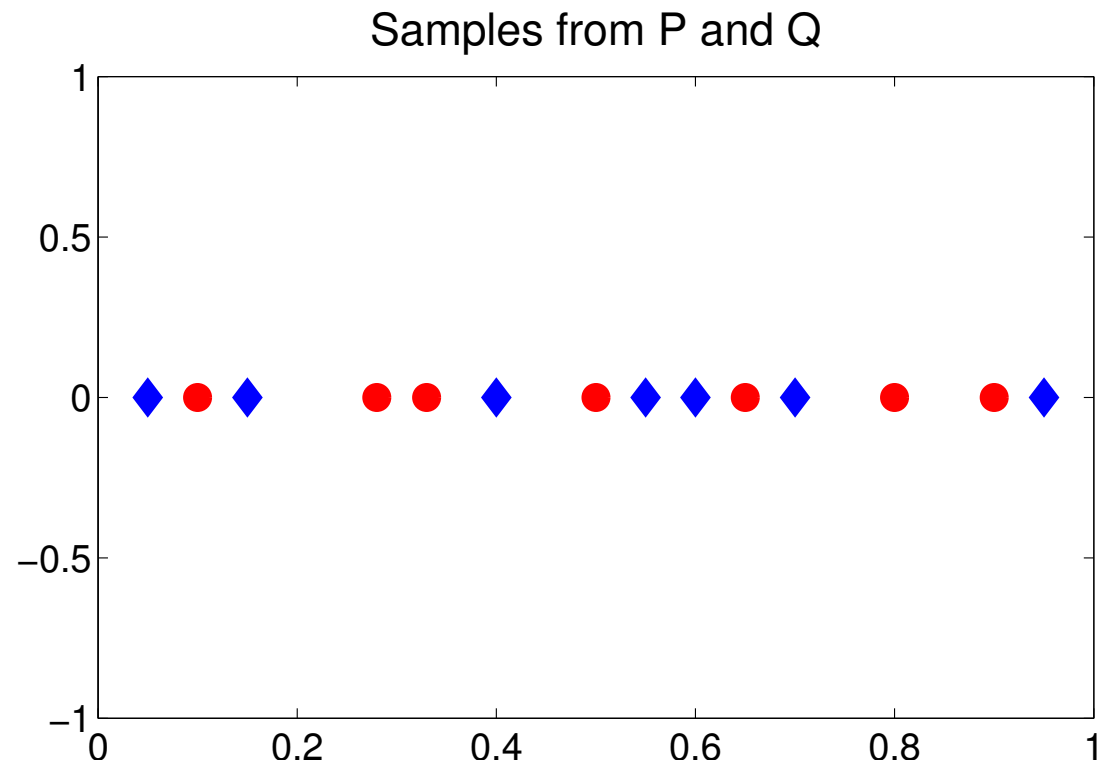
- Are **P** and **Q** different?



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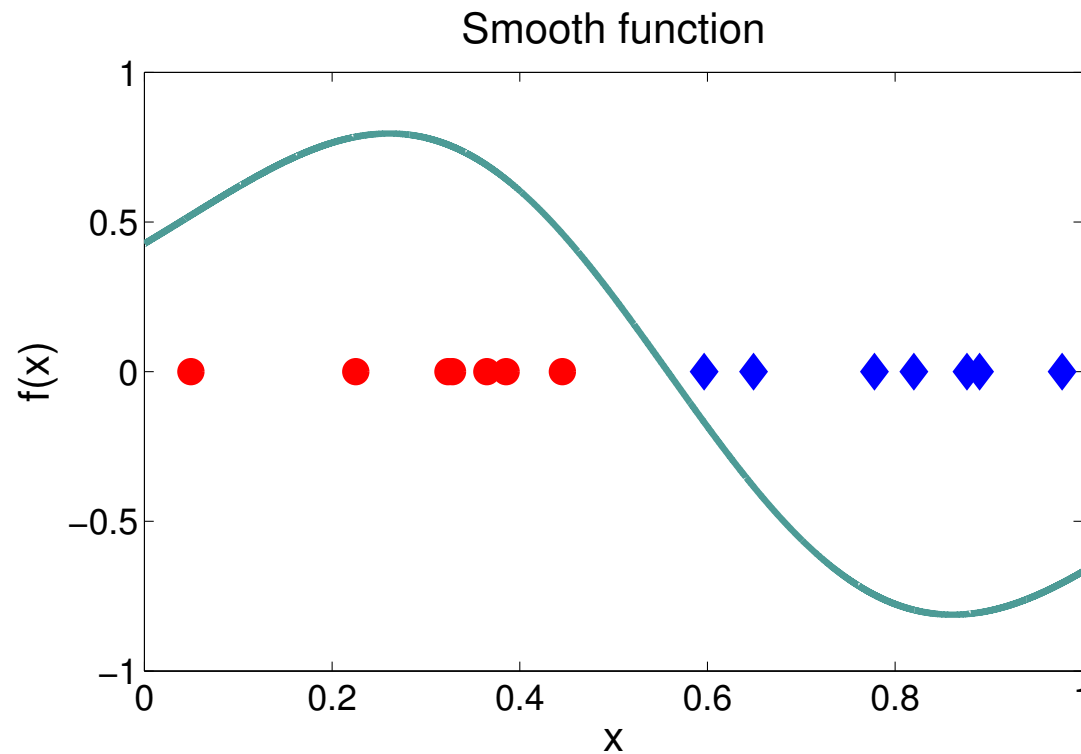


# Function Showing Difference in Distributions

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- Maximum mean discrepancy: smooth function for **P** vs **Q**

$$\text{MMD}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}; F) := \sup_{f \in F} [\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} f(x) - \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{Q}} f(y)].$$

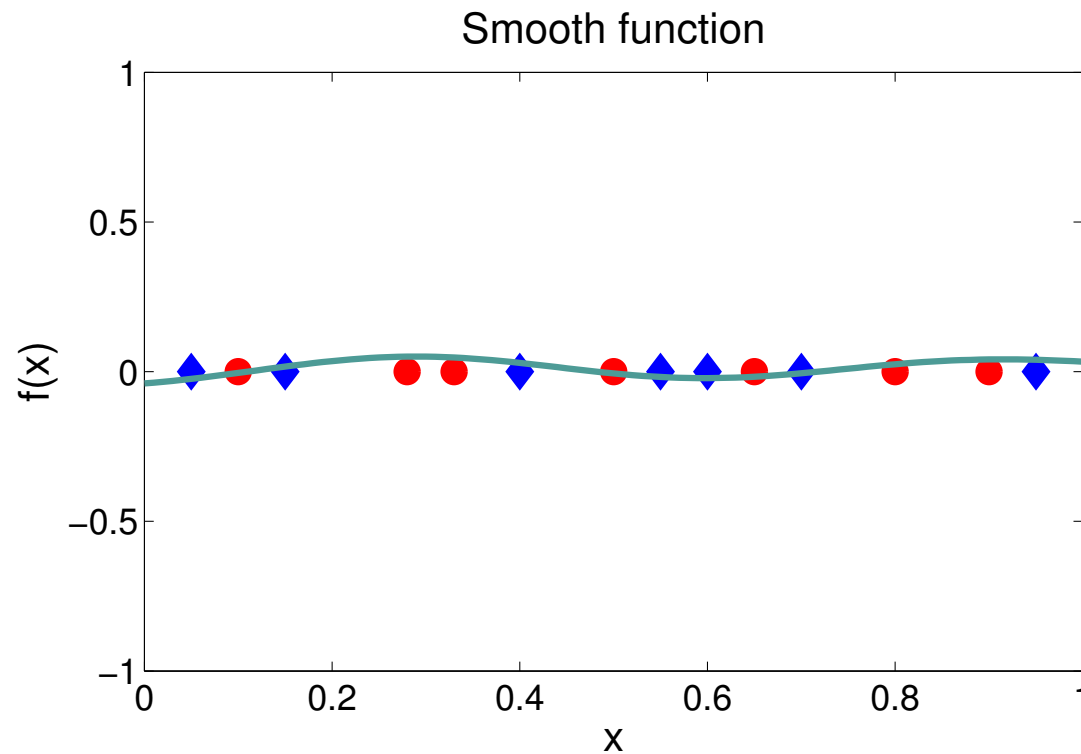


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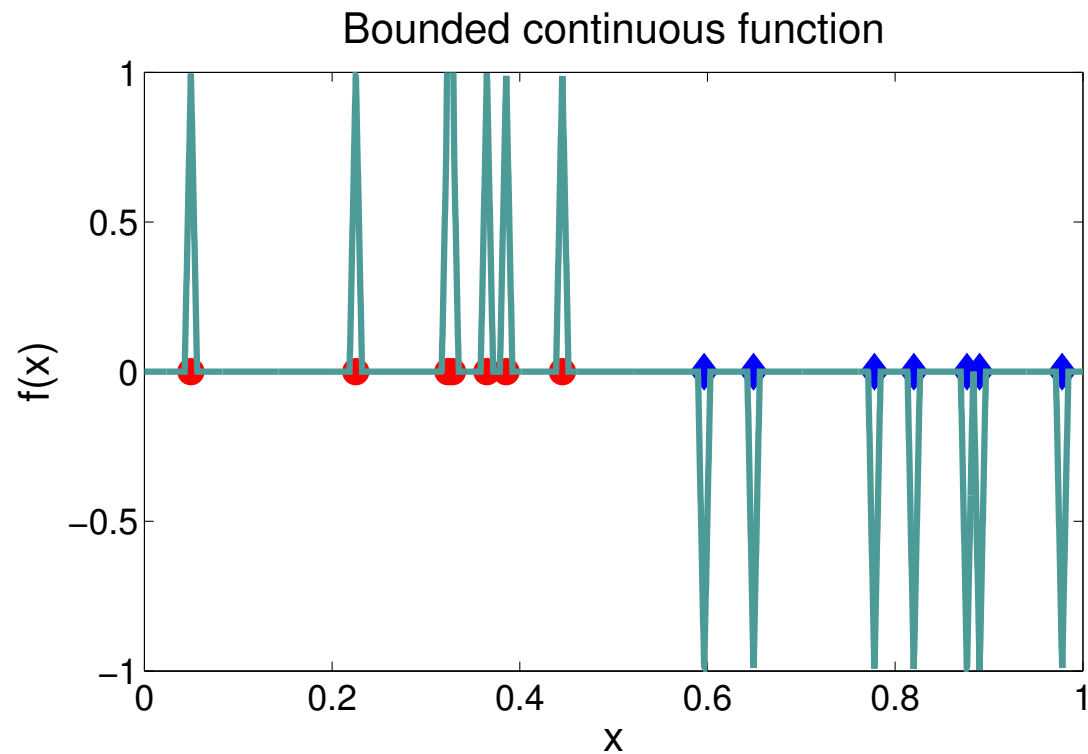


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- What if the function is **not smooth**?

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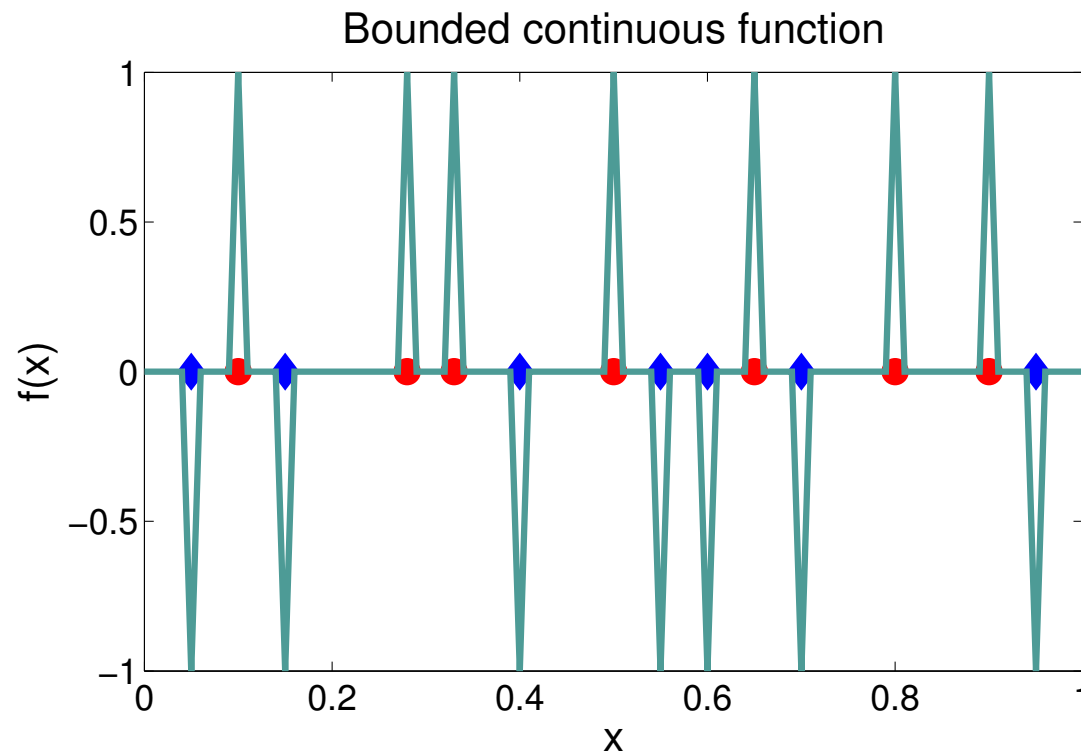


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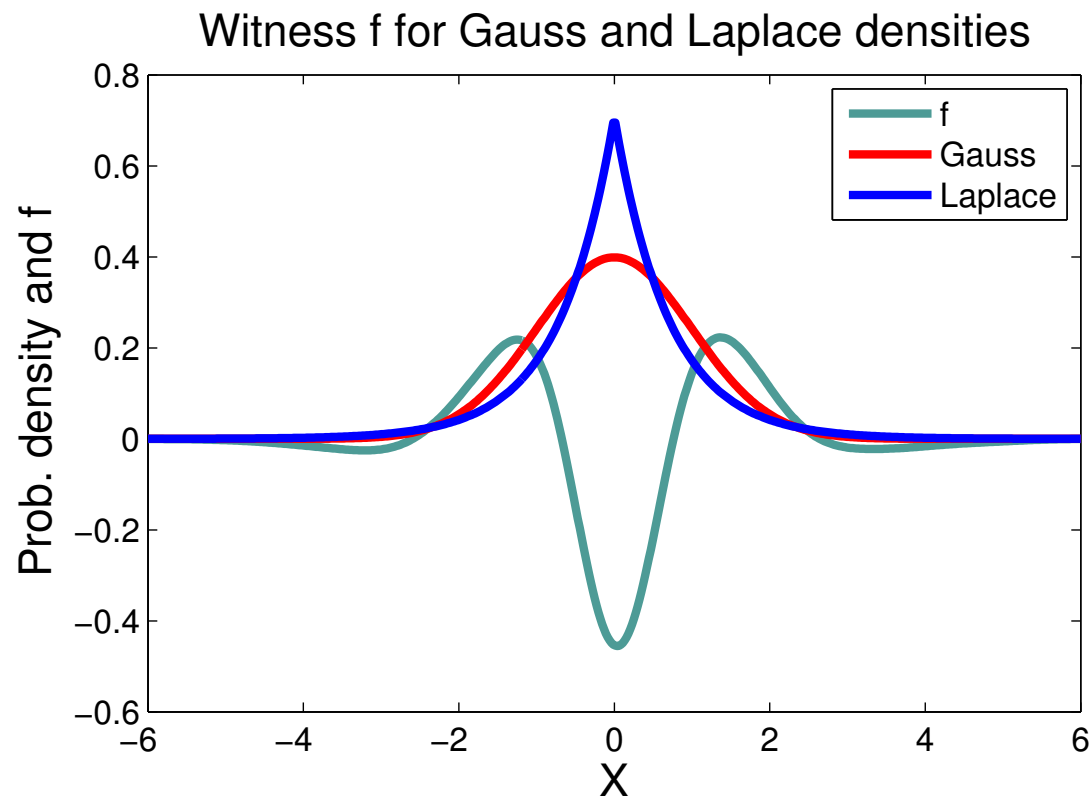
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- Gauss **P** vs Laplace **Q**



# Function Showing Difference in Distributions

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- **Classical results:**  $\text{MMD}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}; F) = 0$  iff  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ , when
  - $F =$  bounded continuous [Dudley, 2002]
  - $F =$  bounded variation 1 (Kolmogorov metric) [Müller, 1997]
  - $F =$  bounded Lipschitz (Earth mover's distances) [Dudley, 2002]



# Function Showing Difference in Distributions

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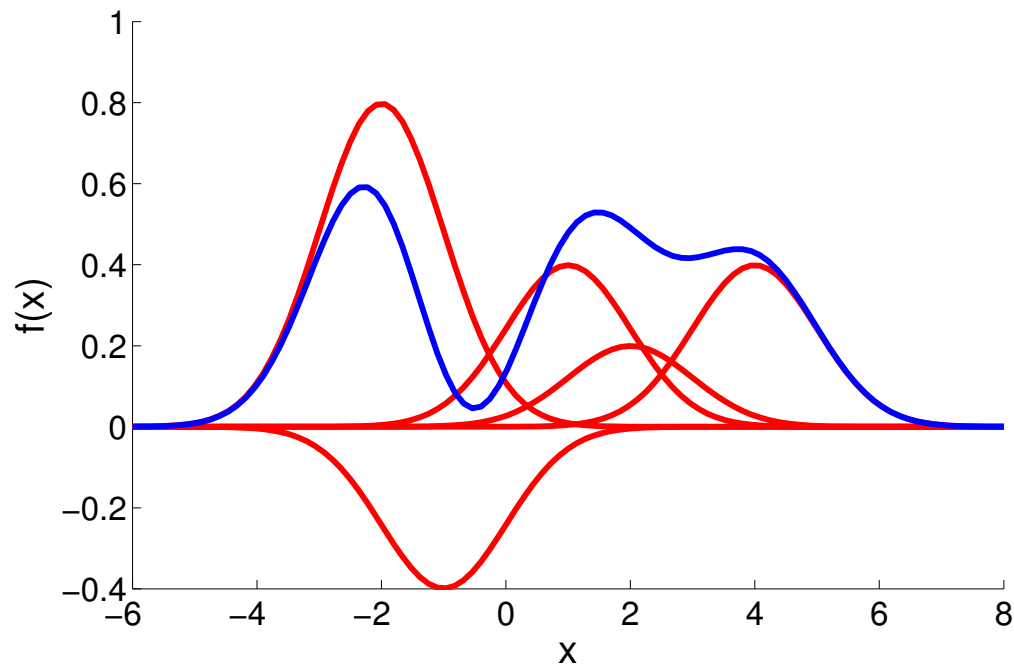
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- $\text{MMD}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}; F) = 0$  iff  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$  when  $F =$  the unit ball in a **characteristic RKHS**  $\mathcal{F}$  [Gretton et al., 2007, Sriperumbudur et al., 2010, Gretton et al., 2012]

# Functions in the RKHS

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- $\mathcal{F}$  RKHS from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  with positive definite kernel  $k(x_i, x_j)$
- $\mathcal{F} = \overline{\text{span}\{k(x, \cdot) | x \in \mathcal{X}\}}$ 
  - Example:  $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i k(x_i, x)$  for arbitrary  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$ .



# The RKHS as feature map

---

- Feature map of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , written  $\varphi_x$

$$\varphi_x^{(p)} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^2 & x_2^2 & x_1 x_2 \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\varphi_x^{(g)} = \exp \left( -\lambda \|x - \cdot\|^2 \right)$$

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- Inner product between feature maps:

$$\left\langle \varphi_x^{(p)}, \varphi_y^{(p)} \right\rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \langle x, y \rangle^2 \quad \left\langle \varphi_x^{(g)}, \varphi_y^{(g)} \right\rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \exp\left(-\lambda \|x - y\|^2\right)$$

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- In general,

$$\langle \varphi_{x_1}, \varphi_{x_2} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = k(x_1, x_2)$$

for positive definite  $k(x, y)$

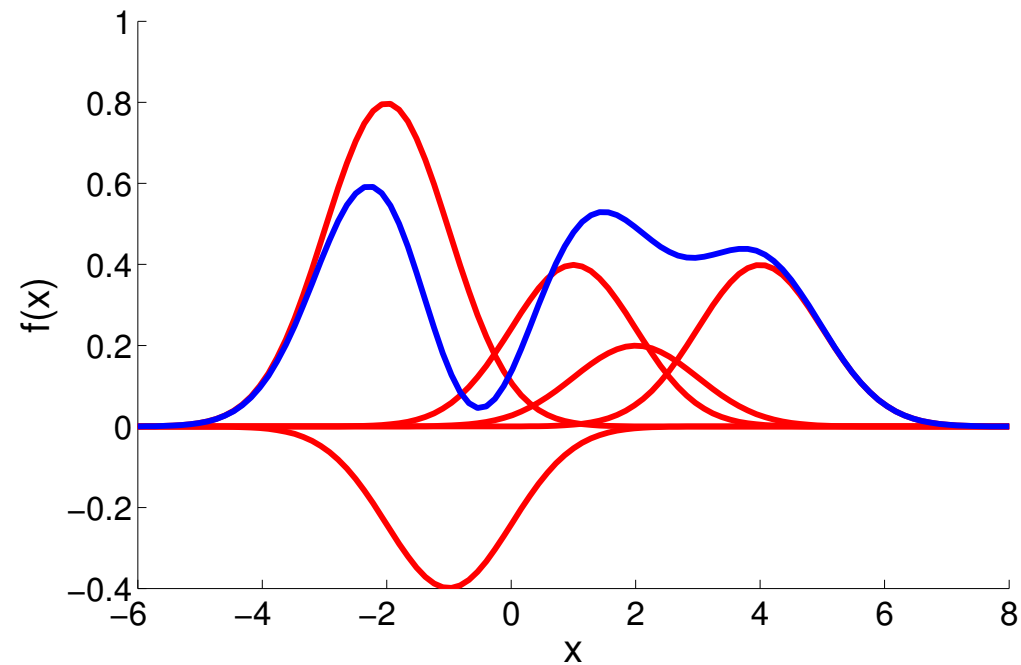
**Kernels** are inner products of feature maps

# The RKHS as feature map

---

- Function in RKHS:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i k(x_i, x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \langle \varphi_{x_i}, \varphi_x \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \langle f, \varphi_x \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \quad f = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \varphi_{x_i}$$



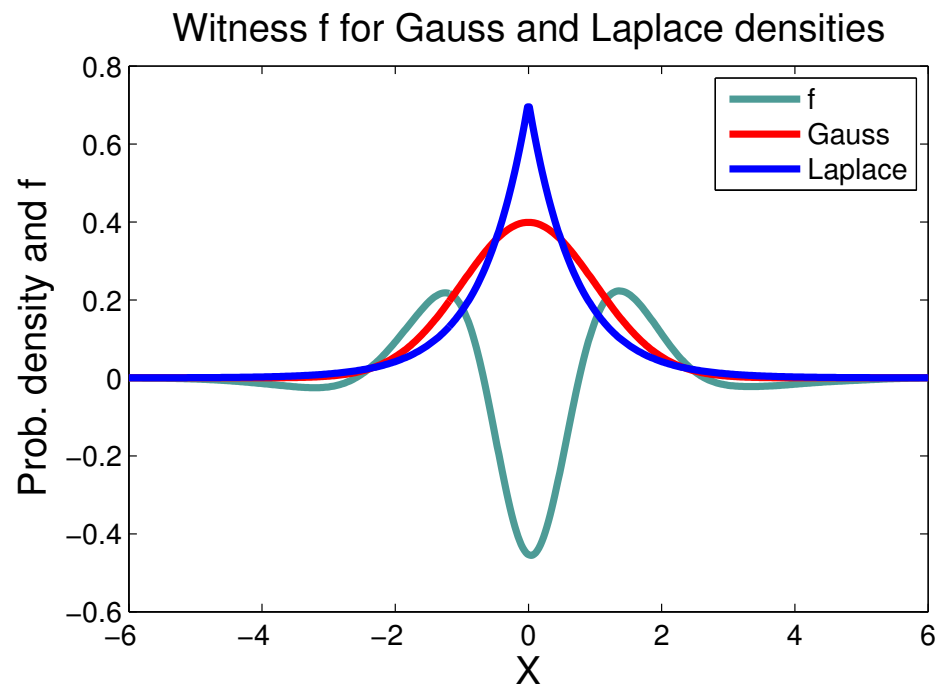
# Function view vs feature mean view

---

- The (kernel) MMD: [ISMB06, NIPS06a]

$$\text{MMD}^2(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}; F)$$

$$= \left( \sup_{f \in F} [\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} f(x) - \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{Q}} f(y)] \right)^2$$



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use

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}}(f(x)) &= \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} [\langle \varphi_x, f \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}] \\ &=: \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}}, f \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \end{aligned}$$



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use

$$= \left( \sup_{f \in F} \langle f, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \right)^2$$

$$\|\theta\|_{\mathcal{F}} = \sup_{f \in F} \langle f, \theta \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

$$= \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2$$

Function view and feature view **equivalent**

# Function view vs feature mean view

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$$= \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2$$

- An unbiased empirical estimate: for  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^m \sim \mathbf{P}$  and  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^m \sim \mathbf{Q}$ ,

$$\widehat{\text{MMD}}^2 = \frac{1}{m(m-1)} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j \neq i}^m [k(x_i, x_j) - k(x_i, y_j) - k(y_i, x_j) + k(y_i, y_j)]$$

# Statistical hypothesis testing

# Statistical test using MMD

---

- Two hypotheses:
  - $H_0$ : null hypothesis ( $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ )
  - $H_1$ : alternative hypothesis ( $\mathbf{P} \neq \mathbf{Q}$ )

# Statistical test using MMD

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- Two hypotheses:
  - $H_0$ : null hypothesis ( $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ )
  - $H_1$ : alternative hypothesis ( $\mathbf{P} \neq \mathbf{Q}$ )
- Observe samples  $\mathbf{x} := \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$  from  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  from  $\mathbf{Q}$
- If empirical  $\widehat{\text{MMD}}^2$  is
  - “far from zero”: reject  $H_0$
  - “close to zero”: accept  $H_0$

# Statistical test using MMD

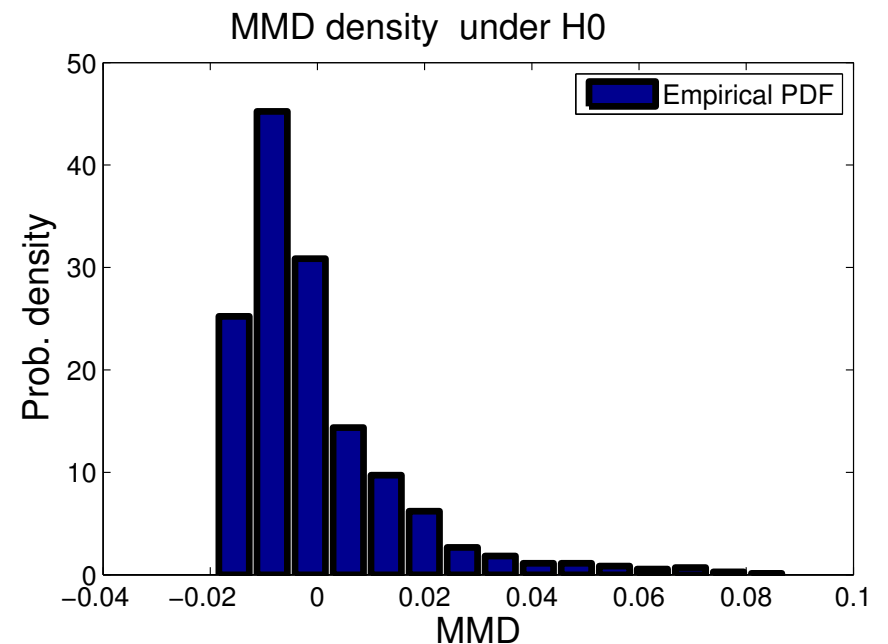
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- When  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ , U-statistic degenerate: [Gretton et al., 2007, 2012]
- Distribution is

$$m\widehat{\text{MMD}}^2 \sim \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \lambda_l [z_l^2 - 2]$$

- where

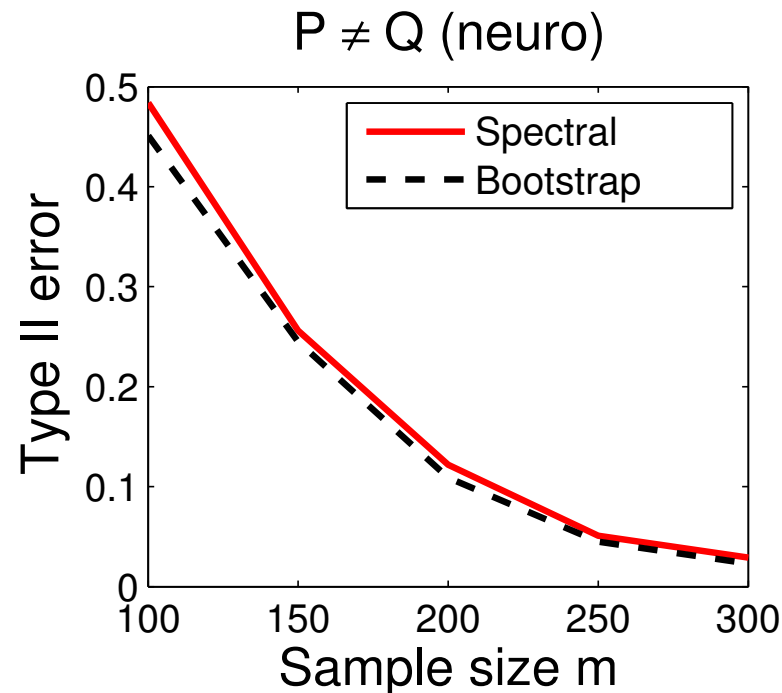
- $z_l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2)$  i.i.d
- $\int_{\mathcal{X}} \underbrace{\tilde{k}(x, x')}_{\text{centred}} \psi_i(x) d\mathbf{P}(x) = \lambda_i \psi_i(x')$



# Statistical test using MMD

---

- Given  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ , want threshold  $T$  such that  $\mathbf{P}(\widehat{\text{MMD}}^2 > T) \leq \alpha$
- [Bootstrap](#) for empirical CDF [Arcones and Giné, 1992]
- [Pearson curves](#) by matching first four moments [Johnson et al., 1994]
- [Large deviation bounds](#) [Hoeffding, 1963, McDiarmid, 1989]
- [Consistent test](#) using kernel eigenspectrum [Gretton et al., 2009]

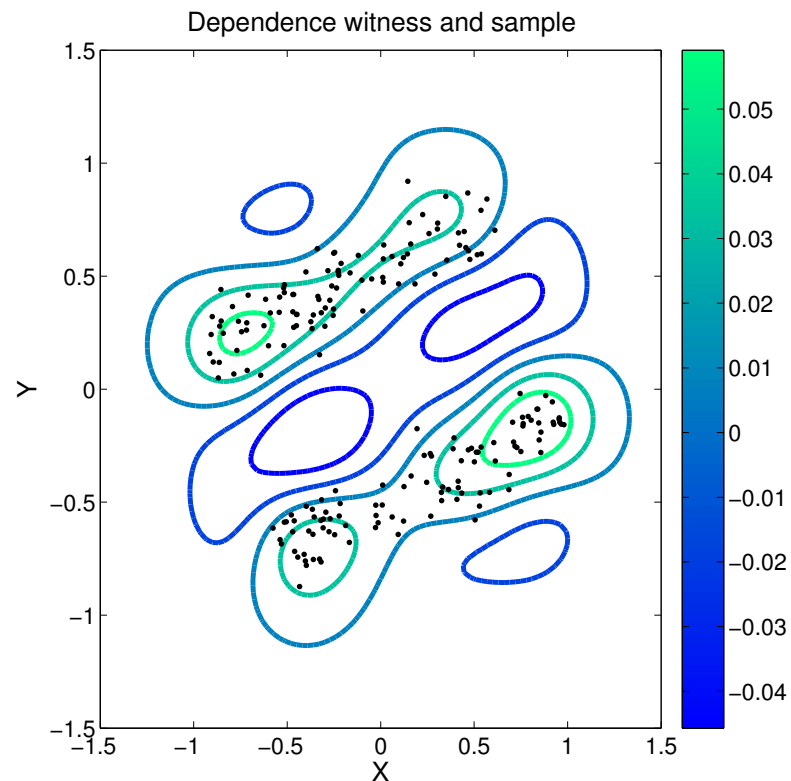




# MMD for independence

- Dependence measure: [ALT05, NIPS07a, ALT07, ALT08, JMLR10]

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \sup_f [\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}_{XY}} f - \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}_X \mathbf{P}_Y} f] \right)^2 &= \sup_{\|f\| \leq 1} \langle f, \mu_{\mathbf{P}_{XY}} - \mu_{\mathbf{P}_X \mathbf{P}_Y} \rangle_{\mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{G}}^2 \\ &= \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}_{XY}} - \mu_{\mathbf{P}_X \mathbf{P}_Y}\|_{\mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{G}}^2 := \mathbf{MMD}(\mathbf{P}_{XY}, \mathbf{P}_X \mathbf{P}_Y) \end{aligned}$$



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$$\begin{aligned} k(\text{red 1}, \text{red 2}) \quad l(\text{blue 1}, \text{blue 2}) \\ \Downarrow \\ \mathcal{K}(\text{red 1 blue 1}, \text{red 2 blue 2}) = \\ k(\text{red 1}, \text{red 2}) \times l(\text{blue 1}, \text{blue 2}) \end{aligned}$$

# Experiment: dependence testing for translation

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- **Translation example:** [NIPS07b]

Canadian Hansard  
(agriculture)

- 5-line extracts,

$k$ -spectrum kernel,  $k = 10$ ,

repetitions=300,

sample size 10

- Empirical

$MMD(\mathbf{P}_{XY}, \mathbf{P}_X \mathbf{P}_Y)$ :

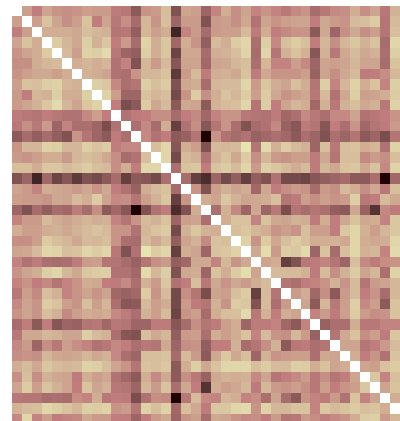
$$\frac{1}{m^2} \text{trace}(\mathbf{KHLH})$$

- $k$ -spectrum kernel: average **Type II error 0** ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )

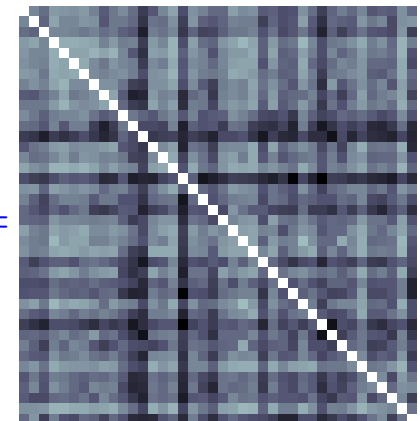
- Bag of words kernel: average **Type II error 0.18**

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$K$



$L$

$\Rightarrow$  MMD  $\Leftarrow$



## Part 2: optimal kernel choice for two-sample tests

# Empirical estimate of MMD: more detail

---

$$\text{MMD}^2 = \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 = \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

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MMD in terms of kernels:

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# Empirical estimate of MMD: more detail

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$$\text{MMD}^2 = \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 = \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

MMD in terms of kernels:

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---

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Given i.i.d.  $X := \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$  and  $Y := \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$  from  $\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}$ , respectively:

**The earlier estimate:** (quadratic time)

$$\widehat{\mathbf{E}}_{\mathbf{P}}k(x, x') = \frac{1}{m(m-1)} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j \neq i}^m k(x_i, x_j)$$

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New, linear time estimate:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathbf{E}}_{\mathbf{P}}k(x, x') &= \frac{2}{m} [k(x_1, x_2) + k(x_3, x_4) + \dots] \\ &= \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m/2} k(x_{2i-1}, x_{2i}) \end{aligned}$$

# Linear time MMD

---

Shorter expression with explicit  $k$  dependence:

$$\text{MMD}^2 =: \eta_k(p, q) = \mathbf{E}_{xx'yy'} h_k(x, x', y, y') =: \mathbf{E}_v h_k(v),$$

where

$$h_k(x, x', y, y') = k(x, x') + k(y, y') - k(x, y') - k(x', y),$$

and  $v := [x, x', y, y']$ .

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and  $v := [x, x', y, y']$ .

The linear time estimate again:

$$\check{\eta}_k = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m/2} h_k(v_i),$$

where  $v_i := [x_{2i-1}, x_{2i}, y_{2i-1}, y_{2i}]$  and

$$h_k(v_i) := k(x_{2i-1}, x_{2i}) + k(y_{2i-1}, y_{2i}) - k(x_{2i-1}, y_{2i}) - k(x_{2i}, y_{2i-1})$$



# Linear time vs quadratic time MMD

---

Disadvantages of linear time MMD vs quadratic time MMD

- Much higher variance for a given  $m$ , hence...
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## Advantages of the linear time MMD vs quadratic time MMD

- Very simple asymptotic null distribution (a Gaussian, vs an infinite weighted sum of  $\chi^2$ )
- Both test statistic and threshold computable in  $O(m)$ , with storage  $O(1)$ .
- Given unlimited data, a given Type II error can be attained with less computation

# Asymptotics of linear time MMD

---

By central limit theorem,

$$m^{1/2} (\check{\eta}_k - \eta_k(p, q)) \xrightarrow{D} \mathcal{N}(0, 2\sigma_k^2)$$

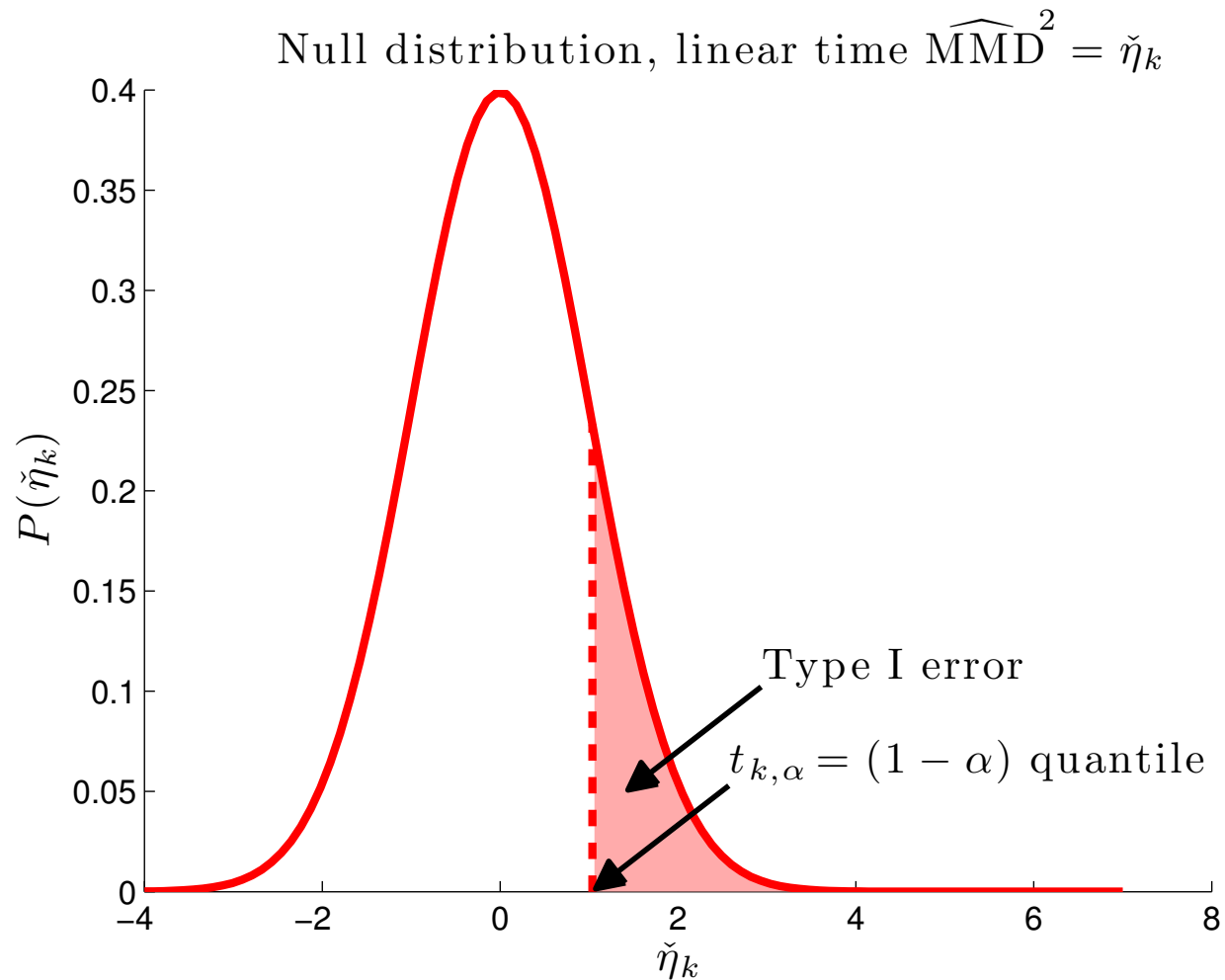
- assuming  $0 < \mathbf{E}(h_k^2) < \infty$  (true for bounded  $k$ )
- $\sigma_k^2 = \mathbf{E}_v h_k^2(v) - [\mathbf{E}_v(h_k(v))]^2$ .

# Hypothesis test

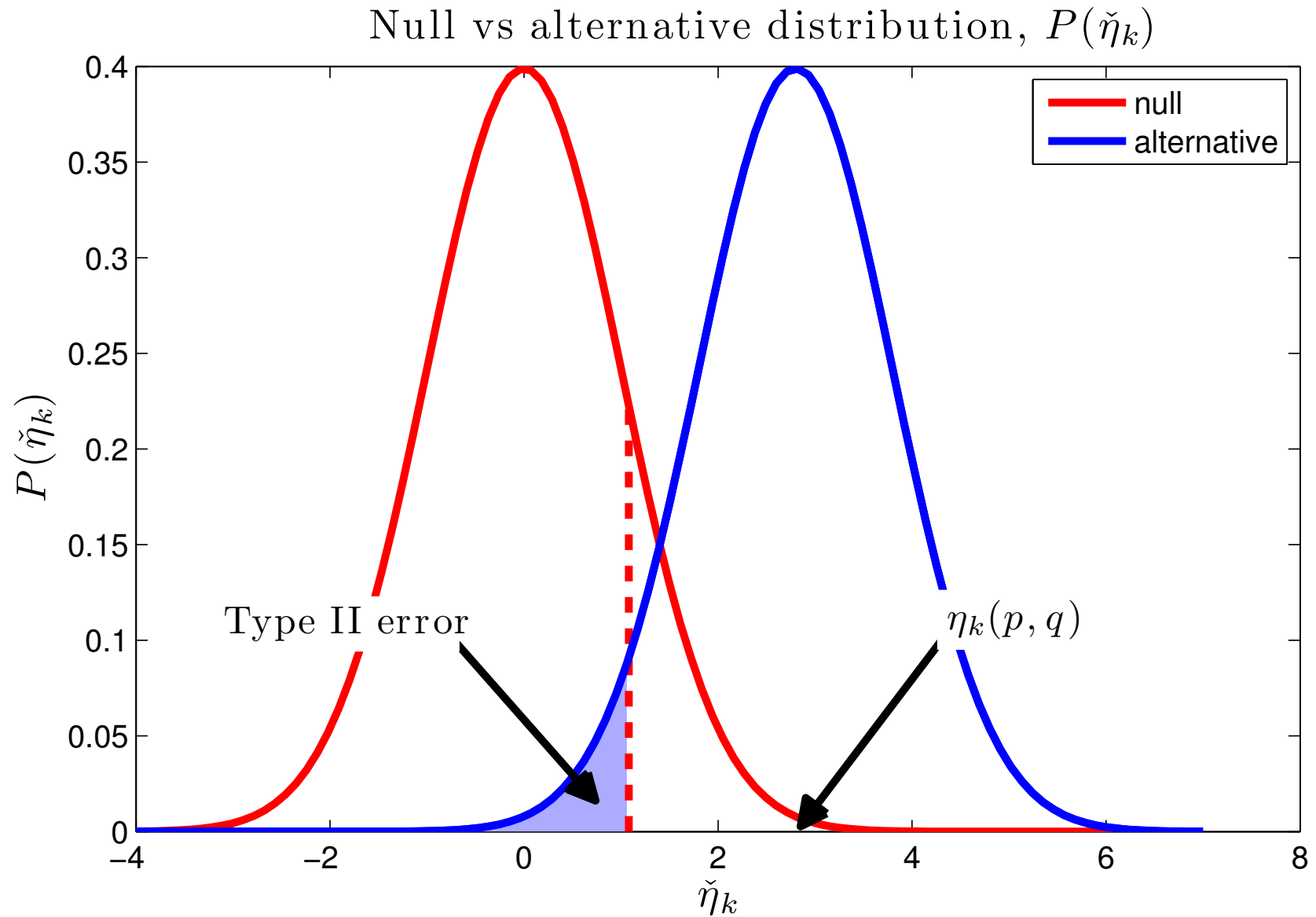
---

Hypothesis test of asymptotic level  $\alpha$ :

$$t_{k,\alpha} = m^{-1/2} \sigma_k \sqrt{2} \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) \quad \text{where } \Phi^{-1} \text{ is inverse CDF of } \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$



# Type II error



## The best kernel: minimizes Type II error

---

**Type II error:**  $\check{\eta}_k$  falls below the threshold  $t_{k,\alpha}$  and  $\eta_k(p, q) > 0$ .

Prob. of a Type II error:

$$P(\check{\eta}_k < t_{k,\alpha}) = \Phi \left( \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) - \frac{\eta_k(p, q) \sqrt{m}}{\sigma_k \sqrt{2}} \right)$$

where  $\Phi$  is a Normal CDF.

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where  $\Phi$  is a Normal CDF.

Since  $\Phi$  monotonic, **best kernel choice to minimize Type II error prob.** is:

$$k_* = \arg \max_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \eta_k(p, q)\sigma_k^{-1},$$

where  $\mathcal{K}$  is the family of kernels under consideration.

# Learning the best kernel in a family

---

Define the family of kernels as follows:

$$\mathcal{K} := \left\{ k : k = \sum_{u=1}^d \beta_u k_u, \|\beta\|_1 = D, \beta_u \geq 0, \forall u \in \{1, \dots, d\} \right\}.$$

**Properties:** if at least one  $\beta_u > 0$

- all  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  are valid kernels,
- If all  $k_u$  characteristic then  $k$  characteristic



# Test statistic

---

The squared MMD becomes

$$\eta_k(p, q) = \|\mu_k(p) - \mu_k(q)\|_{\mathcal{F}_k}^2 = \sum_{u=1}^d \beta_u \eta_u(p, q),$$

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where  $\eta_u(p, q) := \mathbf{E}_v h_u(v)$ .

Denote:

- $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_d)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,
- $h = (h_1, h_2, \dots, h_d)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,
  - $h_u(x, x', y, y') = k_u(x, x') + k_u(y, y') - k_u(x, y') - k_u(x', y)$
- $\eta = \mathbf{E}_v(h) = (\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_d)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Quantities for test:

$$\eta_k(p, q) = \mathbf{E}(\beta^\top h) = \beta^\top \eta \quad \sigma_k^2 := \beta^\top \text{cov}(h) \beta.$$

# Optimization of ratio $\eta_k(p, q)\sigma_k^{-1}$

---

Empirical test parameters:

$$\hat{\eta}_k = \beta^\top \hat{\eta} \qquad \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda} = \sqrt{\beta^\top (\hat{Q} + \lambda_m I) \beta},$$

$\hat{Q}$  is empirical estimate of  $\text{cov}(h)$ .

**Note:**  $\hat{\eta}_k, \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda}$  computed on training data, vs  $\check{\eta}_k, \check{\sigma}_k$  on data to be tested  
(why?)

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(why?)

Objective:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}^* &= \arg \max_{\beta \succeq 0} \hat{\eta}_k(p, q) \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda}^{-1} \\ &= \arg \max_{\beta \succeq 0} \left( \beta^\top \hat{\eta} \right) \left( \beta^\top \left( \hat{Q} + \lambda_m I \right) \beta \right)^{-1/2} \\ &=: \alpha(\beta; \hat{\eta}, \hat{Q}) \end{aligned}$$

# Optimization of ratio $\eta_k(p, q)\sigma_k^{-1}$

---

Assume:  $\hat{\eta}$  has at least one positive entry

Then there exists  $\beta \succeq 0$  s.t.  $\alpha(\beta; \hat{\eta}, \hat{Q}) > 0$ .

Thus:  $\alpha(\hat{\beta}^*; \hat{\eta}, \hat{Q}) > 0$

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Thus:  $\alpha(\hat{\beta}^*; \hat{\eta}, \hat{Q}) > 0$

Solve easier problem:  $\hat{\beta}^* = \arg \max_{\beta \succeq 0} \alpha^2(\beta; \hat{\eta}, \hat{Q})$ .

Quadratic program:

$$\min\{\beta^\top (\hat{Q} + \lambda_m I) \beta : \beta^\top \hat{\eta} = 1, \beta \succeq 0\}$$

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$$\min\{\beta^\top (\hat{Q} + \lambda_m I) \beta : \beta^\top \hat{\eta} = 1, \beta \succeq 0\}$$

What if  $\hat{\eta}$  has no positive entries?

# Test procedure

---

1. Split the data into **testing** and **training**.
2. On the **training** data:
  - (a) Compute  $\hat{\eta}_u$  for all  $k_u \in \mathcal{K}$
  - (b) If at least one  $\hat{\eta}_u > 0$ , solve the QP to get  $\beta^*$ , else choose random kernel from  $\mathcal{K}$
3. On the **test** data:
  - (a) Compute  $\check{\eta}_{k^*}$  using  $k^* = \sum_{u=1}^d \beta^* k_u$
  - (b) Compute test threshold  $\check{t}_{\alpha, k^*}$  using  $\check{\sigma}_{k^*}$
4. Reject null if  $\check{\eta}_{k^*} > \check{t}_{\alpha, k^*}$



# Convergence bounds

---

Assume bounded kernel,  $\sigma_k$ , bounded away from 0.

If  $\lambda_m = \Theta(m^{-1/3})$  then

$$\left| \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \hat{\eta}_k \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda}^{-1} - \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \eta_k \sigma_k^{-1} \right| = O_P \left( m^{-1/3} \right).$$

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Idea:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \hat{\eta}_k \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda}^{-1} - \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \eta_k \sigma_k^{-1} \right| \\ & \leq \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \hat{\eta}_k \hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda}^{-1} - \eta_k \sigma_{k,\lambda}^{-1} \right| + \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \left| \eta_k \sigma_{k,\lambda}^{-1} - \eta_k \sigma_k^{-1} \right| \\ & \leq \frac{\sqrt{d}}{D\sqrt{\lambda_m}} \left( C_1 \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} |\hat{\eta}_k - \eta_k| + C_2 \sup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} |\hat{\sigma}_{k,\lambda} - \sigma_{k,\lambda}| \right) + C_3 D^2 \lambda_m, \end{aligned}$$

# Experiments

# Competing approaches

---

- Median heuristic
- Max. MMD: choose  $k_u \in \mathcal{K}$  with the largest  $\hat{\eta}_u$ 
  - same as maximizing  $\beta^\top \hat{\eta}$  subject to  $\|\beta\|_1 \leq 1$
- $\ell_2$  statistic: maximize  $\beta^\top \hat{\eta}$  subject to  $\|\beta\|_2 \leq 1$
- Cross validation on training set

Also compare with:

- **Single kernel** that maximizes ratio  $\eta_k(p, q) \sigma_k^{-1}$

# Blobs: data

---

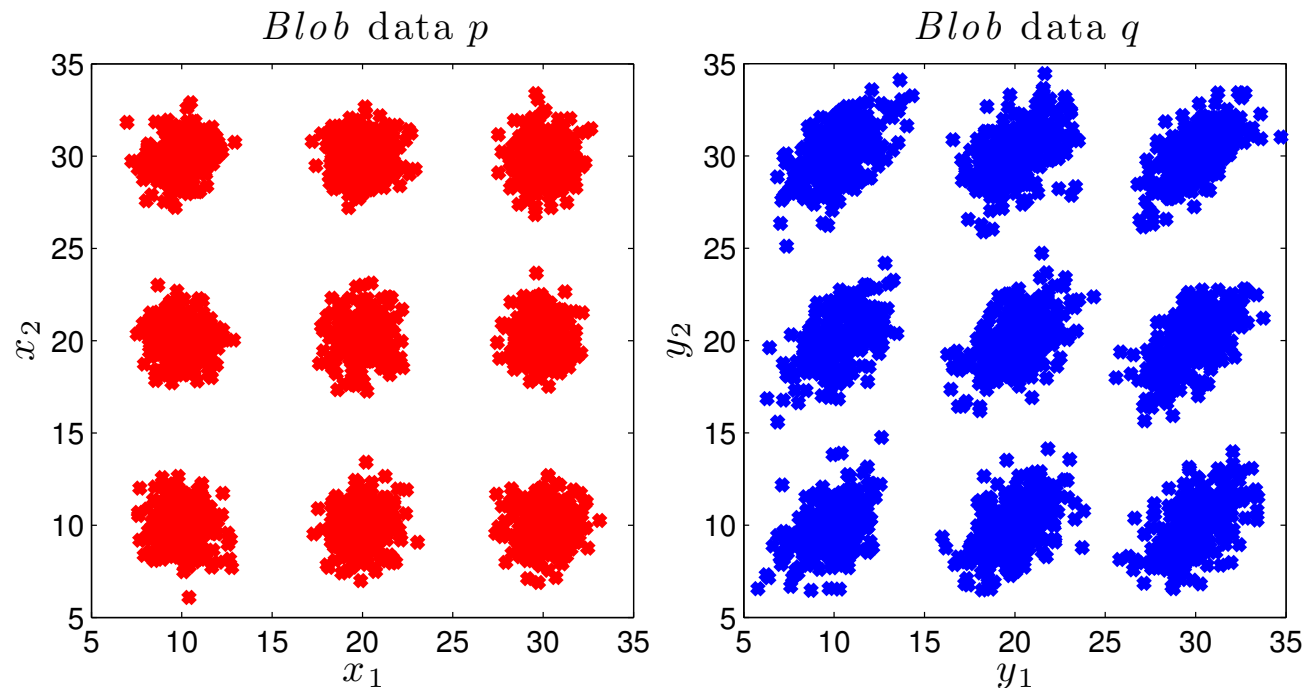
**Difficult problems:** lengthscale of the *difference* in distributions not the same as that of the distributions.

# Blobs: data

---

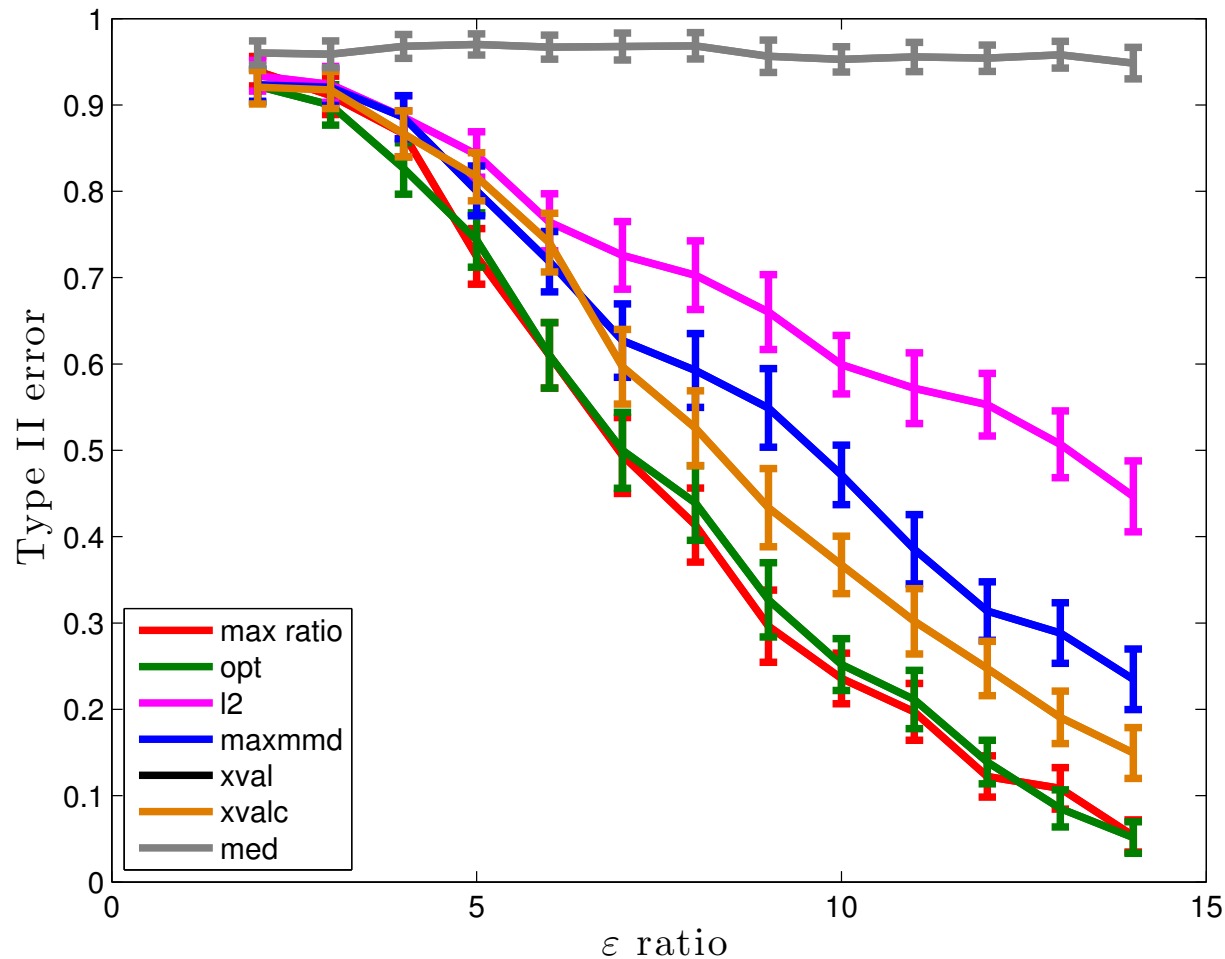
**Difficult problems:** lengthscale of the *difference* in distributions not the same as that of the distributions.

We distinguish a field of Gaussian blobs with different covariances.



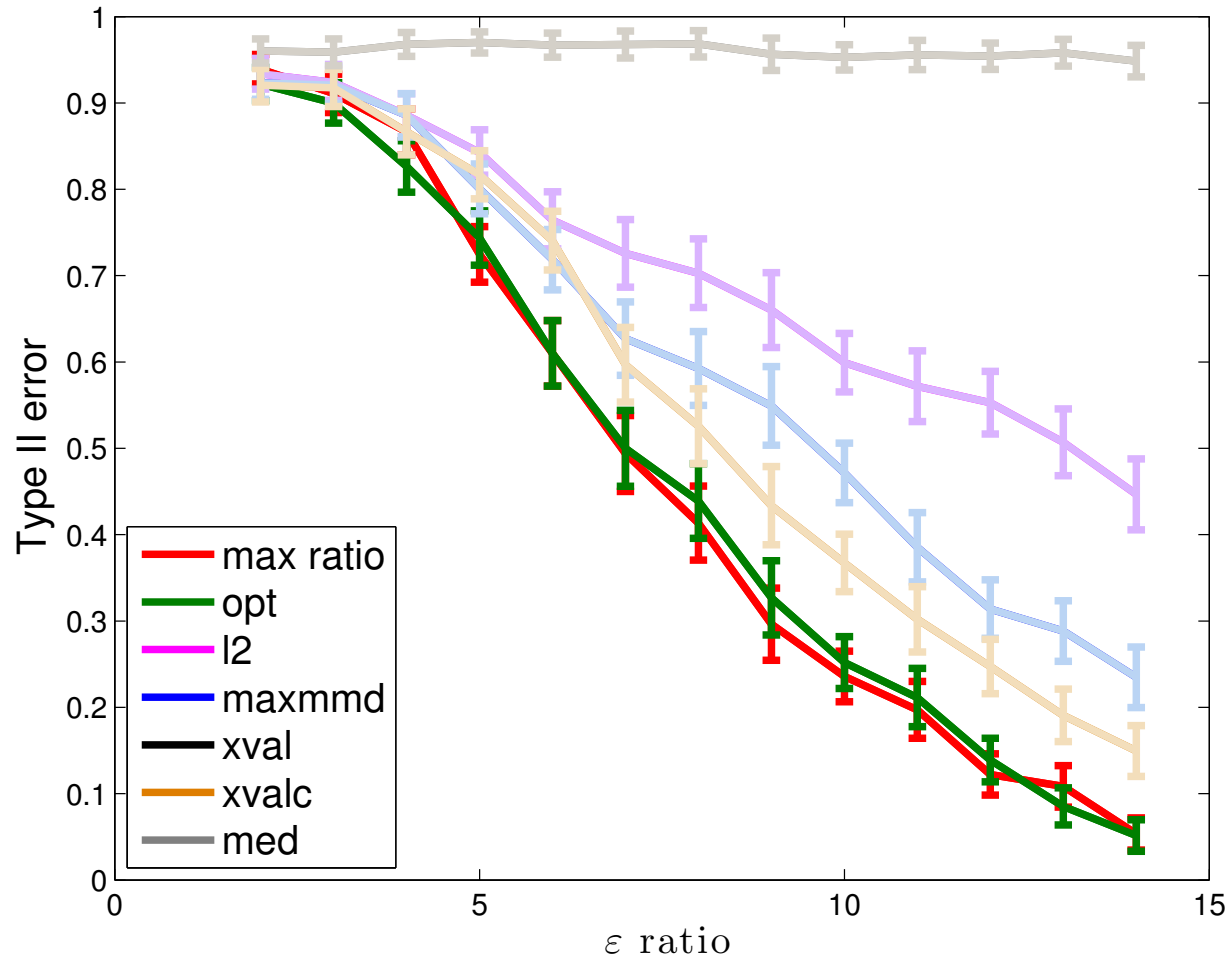
Ratio  $\varepsilon = 3.2$  of largest to smallest eigenvalues of blobs in  $q$ .

# Blobs: results



Parameters:  $m = 10,000$  (for training and test). **Ratio  $\epsilon$**  of largest to smallest eigenvalues of blobs in  $q$ . Results are average over 617 trials.

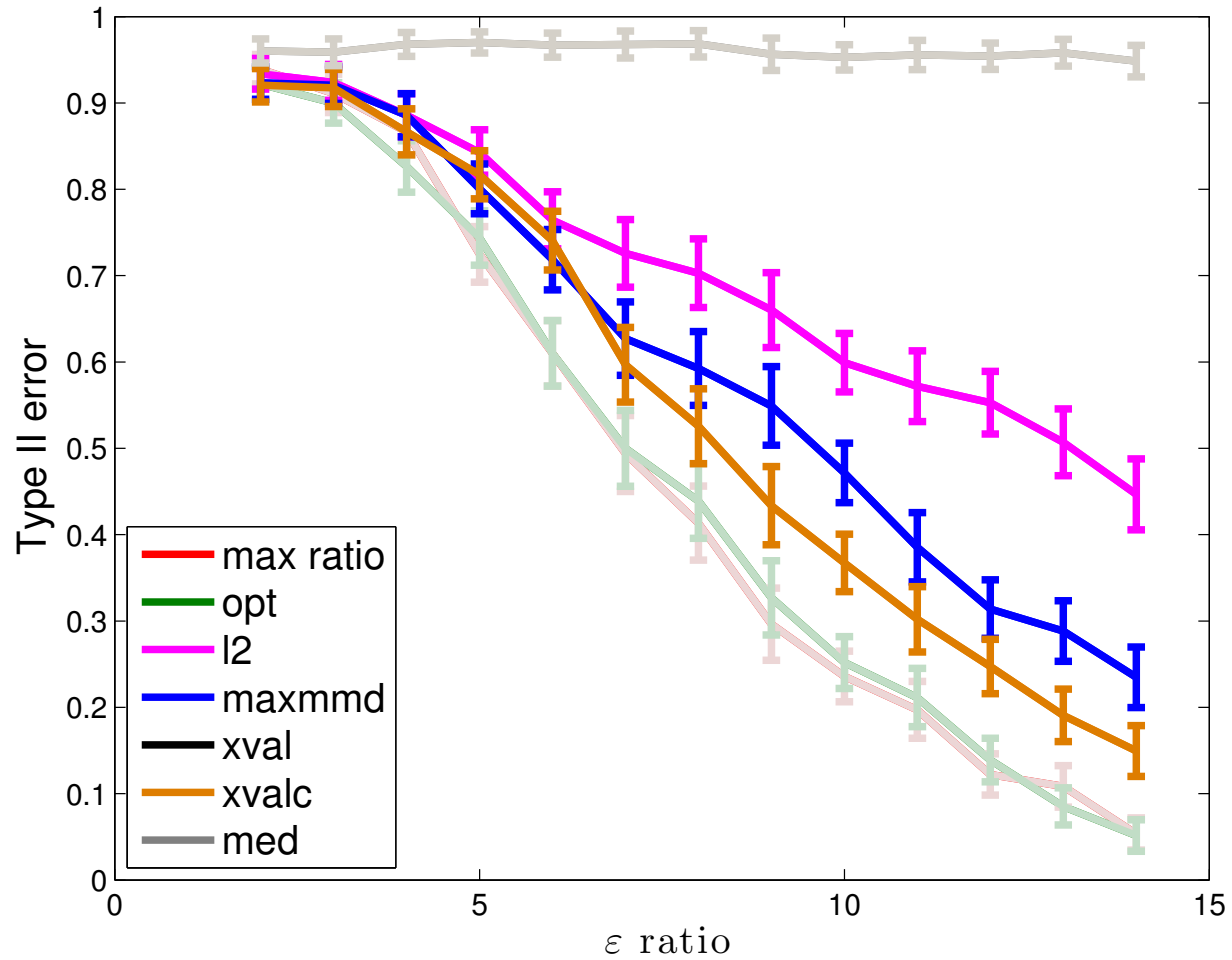
# Blobs: results



Optimize ratio  $\eta_k(p, q)\sigma_k^{-1}$

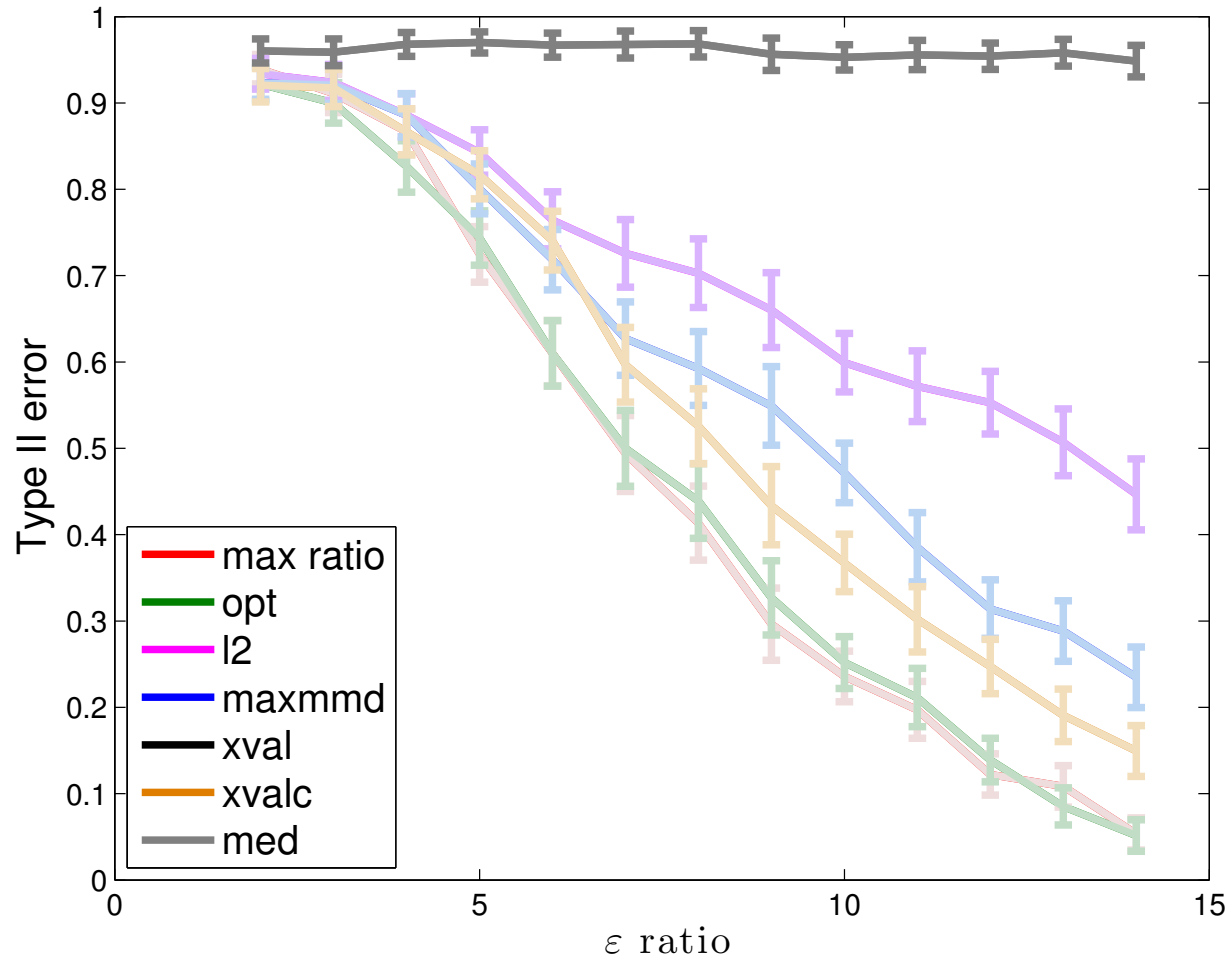


# Blobs: results



Maximize  $\eta_k(p, q)$  with  $\beta$  constraint

# Blobs: results



Median heuristic

# Feature selection: data

---

**Idea:** no single best kernel.

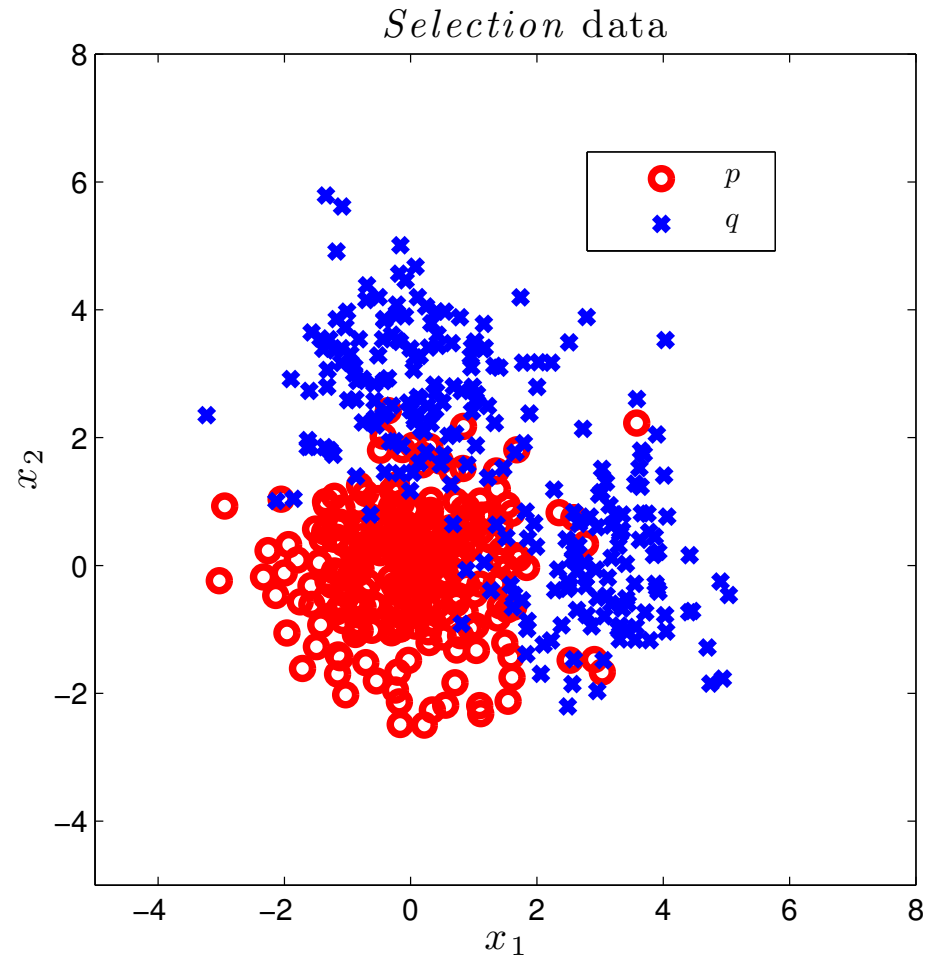
Each of the  $k_u$  are univariate (along a single coordinate)

# Feature selection: data

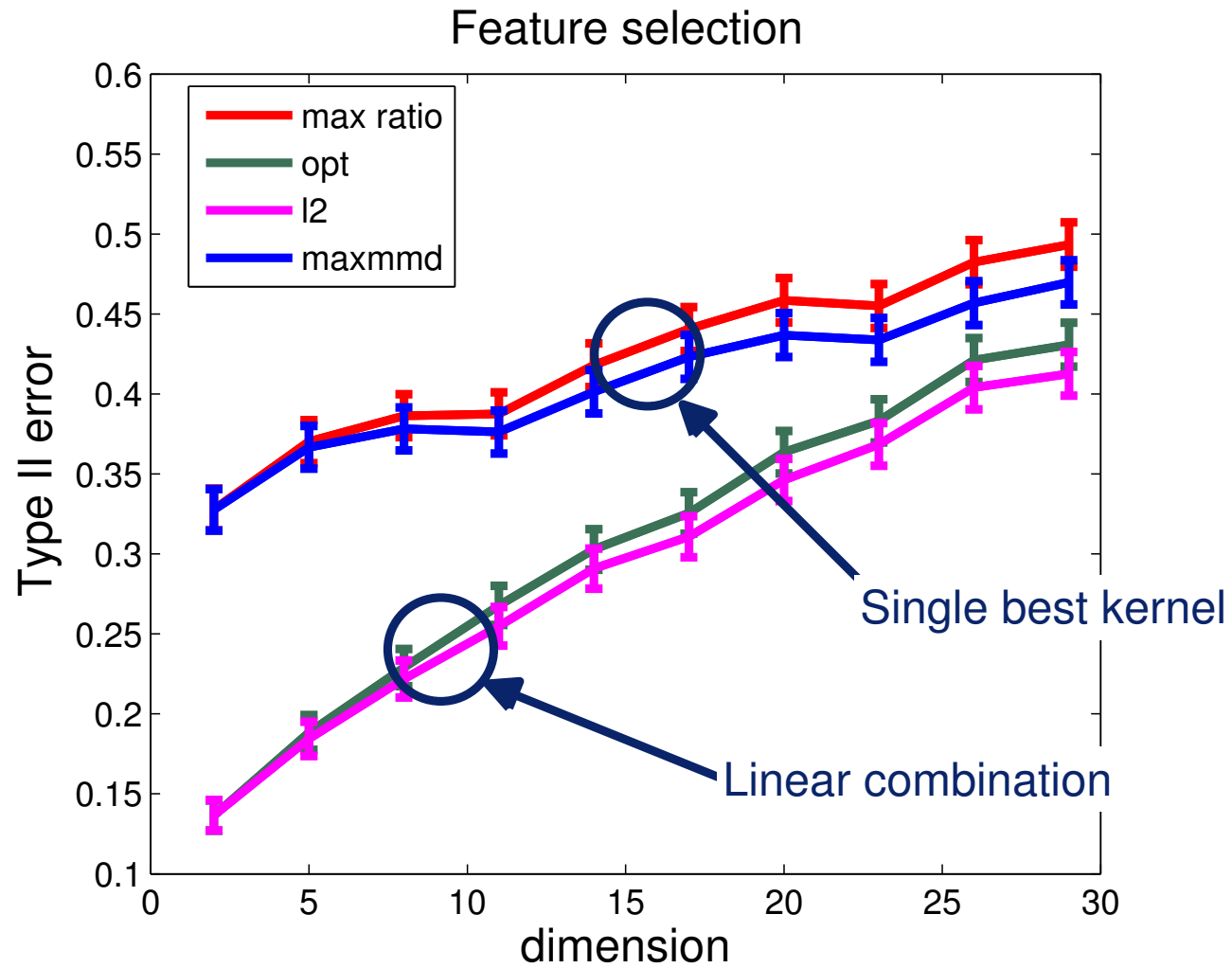
---

Idea: no single best kernel.

Each of the  $k_u$  are univariate (along a single coordinate)



# Feature selection: results



$m = 10,000$ , average over 5000 trials

# Amplitude modulated signals

---

Given an audio signal  $s(t)$ , an amplitude modulated signal can be defined

$$u(t) = \sin(\omega_c t) [a s(t) + l]$$

- $\omega_c$ : carrier frequency
- $a = 0.2$  is signal scaling,  $l = 2$  is offset

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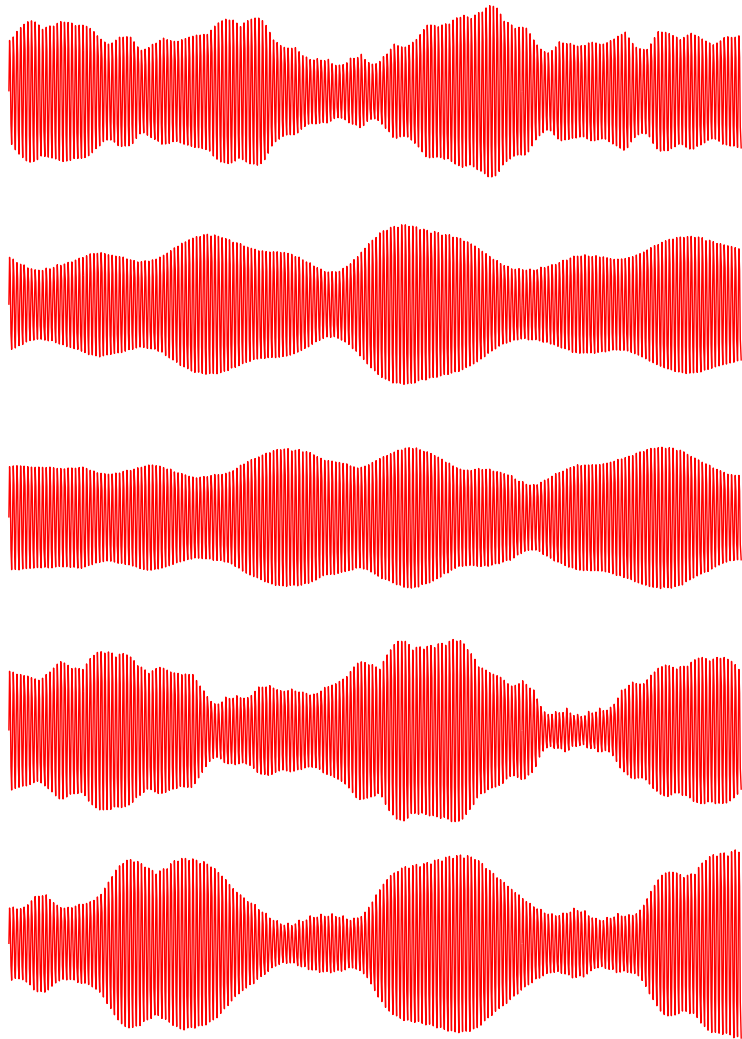
Two amplitude modulated signals from same artist (in this case, Magnetic Fields).

- Music sampled at 8KHz (**very low**)
- Carrier frequency is 24kHz
- AM signal observed at 120kHz
- Samples are extracts of length  $N = 1000$ , approx. 0.01 sec (**very short**).
- Total dataset size is 30,000 samples from each of  $p, q$ .

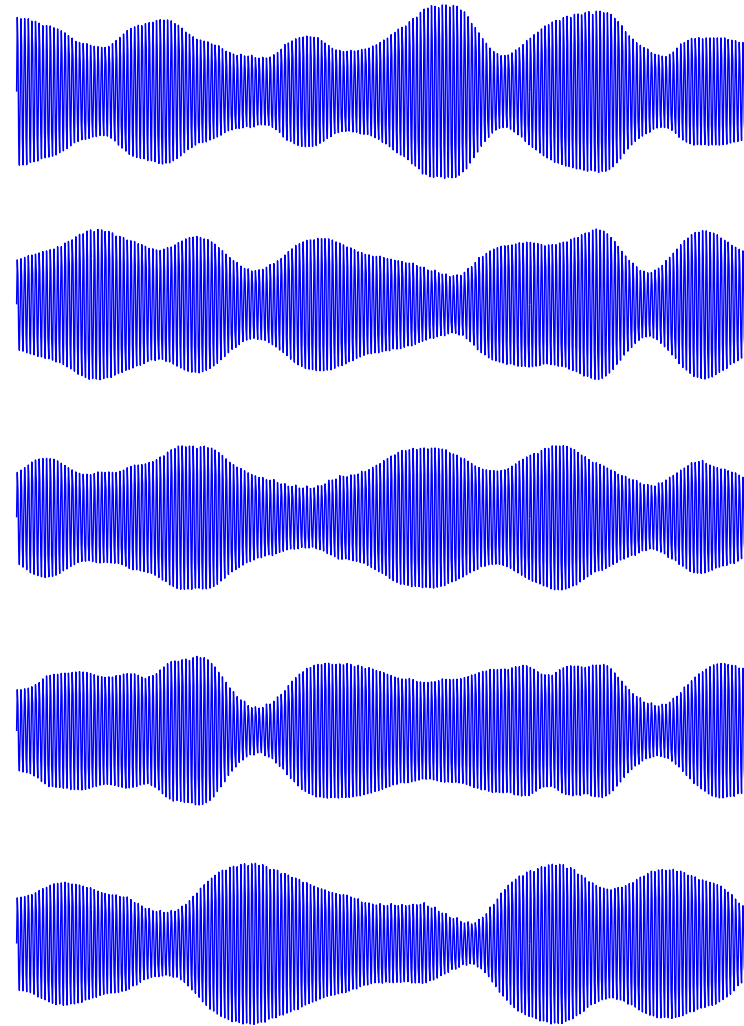
# Amplitude modulated signals

---

Samples from P



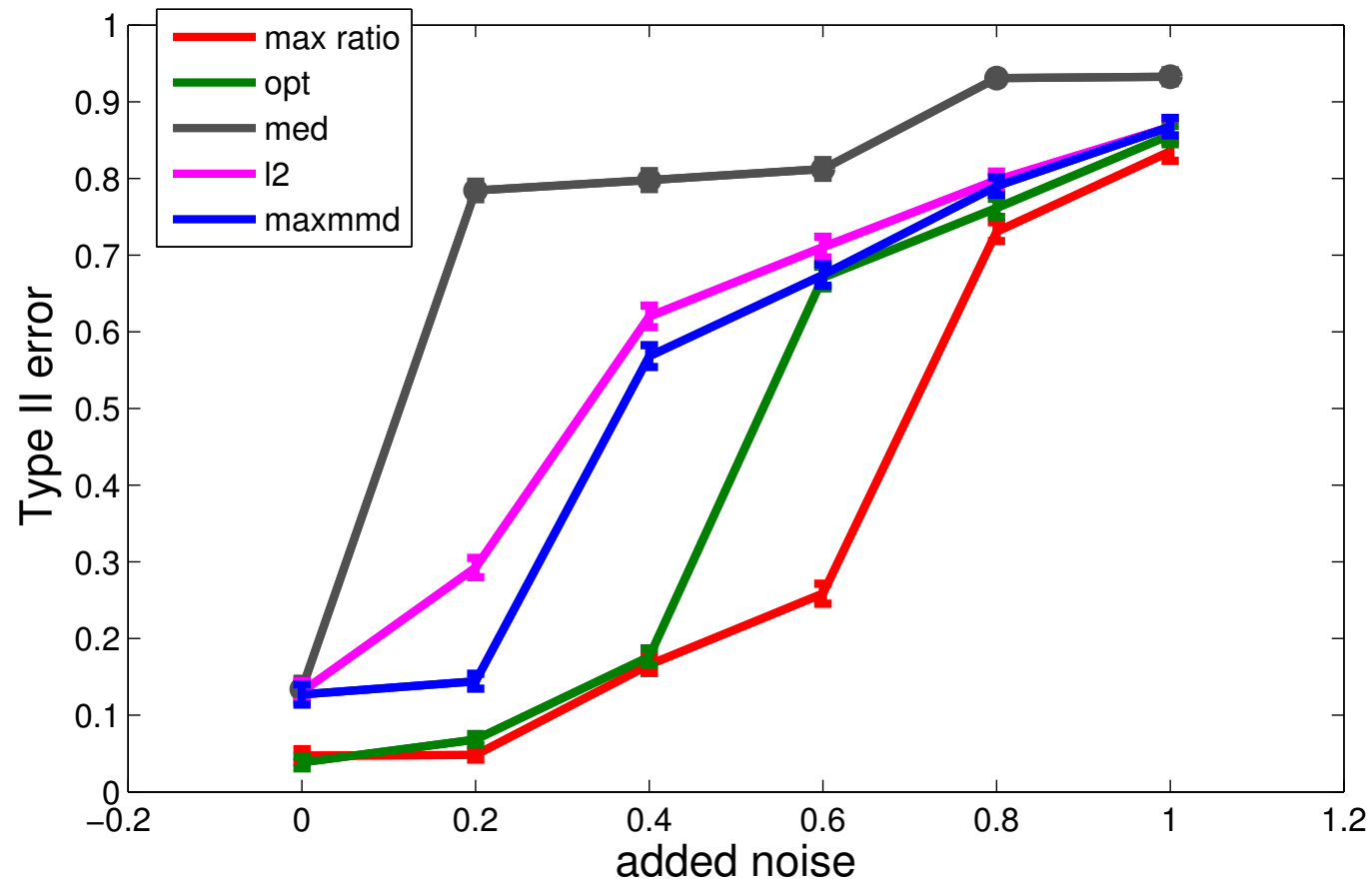
Samples from Q





# Results: AM signals

---



$m = 10,000$  (for training and test) and scaling  $a = 0.5$ . Average over 4124 trials. Gaussian noise added.

# Conclusions

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- It is possible to choose the best kernel for a kernel two-sample test
- Kernel choice matters for “difficult” problems, where the distributions differ on a lengthscale different to that of the data.
- Ongoing work:
  - quadratic time statistic
  - avoid training/test split

# Co-authors

---

- **From Gatsby/UCL:**
  - Bharath Sriperumbudur
  - Dino Sejdinovic
  - Heiko Strathmann
  - Massimiliano Pontil
- **External:**
  - Sivaraman Balakrishnan, CMU
  - Kenji Fukumizu, ISM





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MMD in terms of kernels:

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$$\text{MMD}^2 = \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 = \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

MMD in terms of kernels:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MMD}^2 &= \|\mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 = \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} - \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} \\ &= \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}}, \mu_{\mathbf{P}} \rangle + \langle \mu_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle - 2 \langle \mu_{\mathbf{P}}, \mu_{\mathbf{Q}} \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} \varphi_x, \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} \varphi_x \rangle + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} \langle \varphi_x, \varphi_{x'} \rangle + \dots \\ &= \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}} k(x, x') + \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{Q}} k(y, y') - 2 \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Q}} k(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

# Local departures from the null

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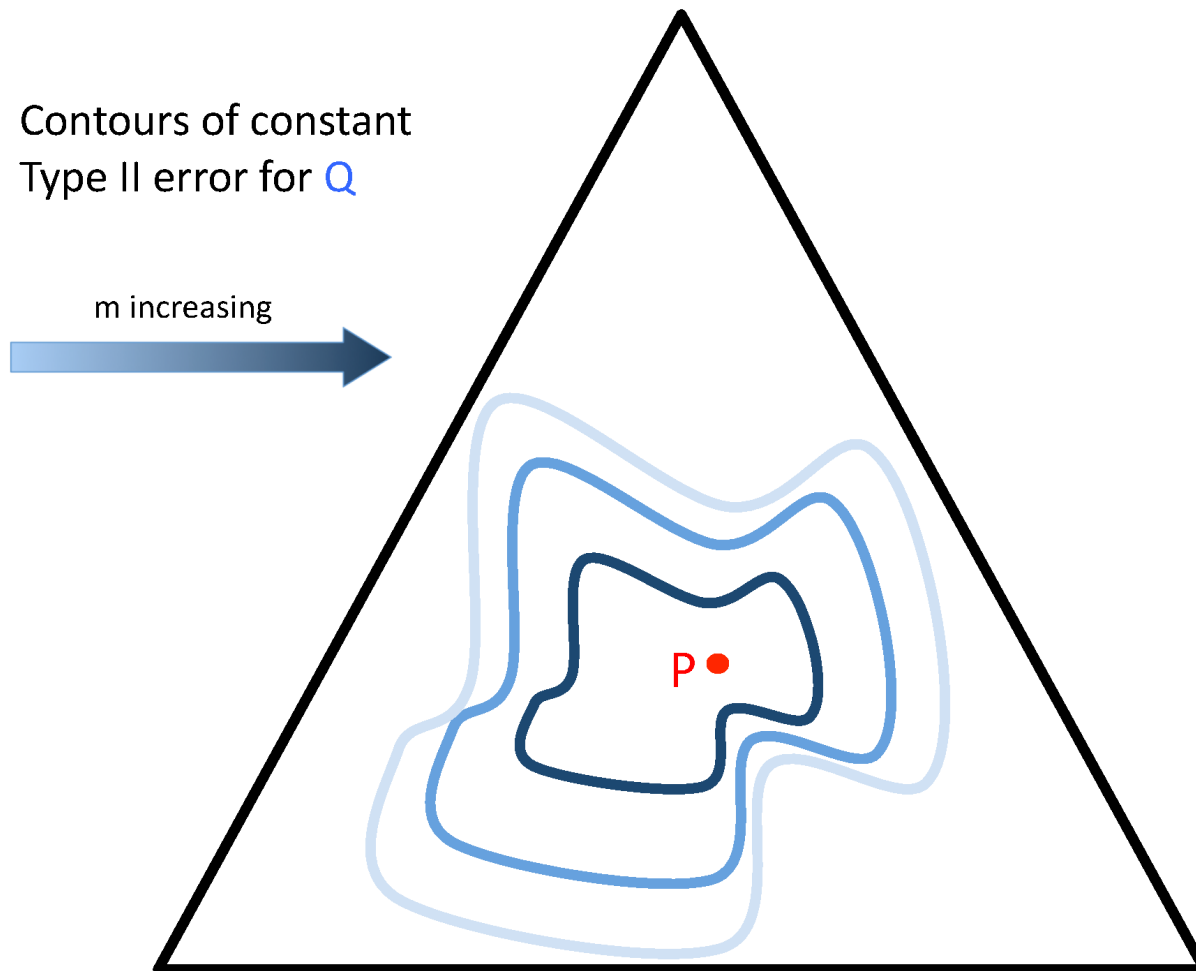
What is a hard testing problem?

# Local departures from the null

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What is a hard testing problem?

- As  $m$  increases, distinguish “closer” **P** and **Q** with same Type II error



# Local departures from the null

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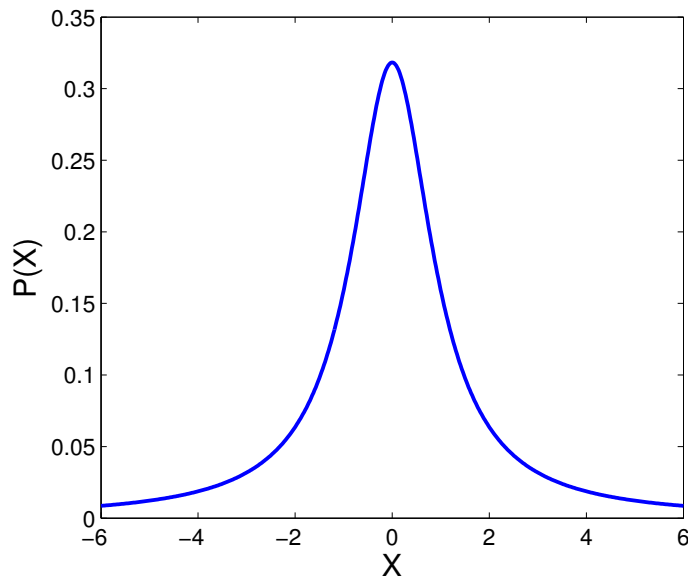
What is a hard testing problem?

- As  $m$  increases, distinguish “closer”  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$  with same Type II error
- **Example:**  $f_{\mathbf{P}}$  and  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  probability densities,  $f_{\mathbf{Q}} = f_{\mathbf{P}} + \delta g$ , where  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g$  some *fixed* function such that  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  is a valid density
  - If  $\delta \sim m^{-1/2}$ , Type II error approaches a constant

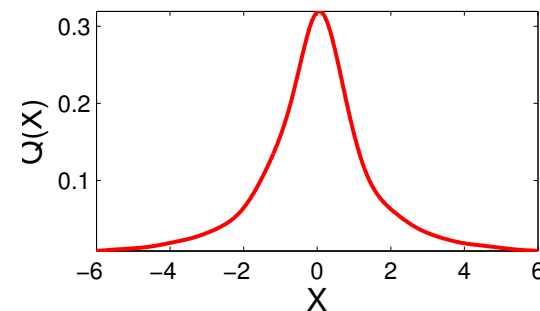
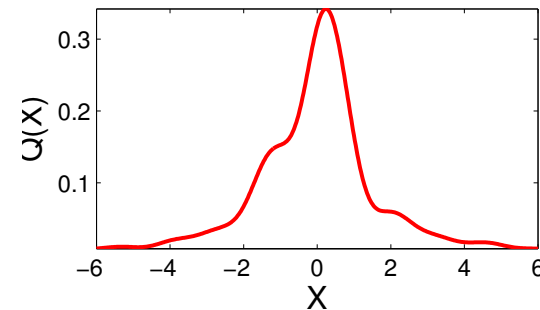
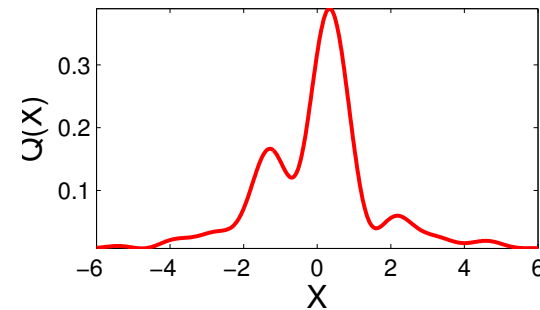
# More general local departures from null

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- **Example:**  $f_{\mathbf{P}}$  and  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  probability densities,  $f_{\mathbf{Q}} = f_{\mathbf{P}} + \delta g$ , where  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g$  some *fixed* function such that  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  is a valid density



VS



# Local departures from the null

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## What is a hard testing problem?

- As we see more samples  $m$ , distinguish “closer”  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$  with same Type II error
- **Example:**  $f_{\mathbf{P}}$  and  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  probability densities,  $f_{\mathbf{Q}} = f_{\mathbf{P}} + \delta g$ , where  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g$  some *fixed* function such that  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  is a valid density
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- ...but **other choices also possible** – how to characterize them all?

# Local departures from the null

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## What is a hard testing problem?

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  - If  $\delta \sim m^{-1/2}$ , Type II error approaches a constant
- ...but **other choices also possible** – how to characterize them all?

## General characterization of local departures from $\mathcal{H}_0$ :

- Write  $\mu_{\mathbf{Q}} = \mu_{\mathbf{P}} + g_m$ , where  $g_m \in \mathcal{F}$  chosen such that  $\mu_{\mathbf{P}} + g_m$  a valid distribution embedding
- Minimum distinguishable distance [JMLR12]

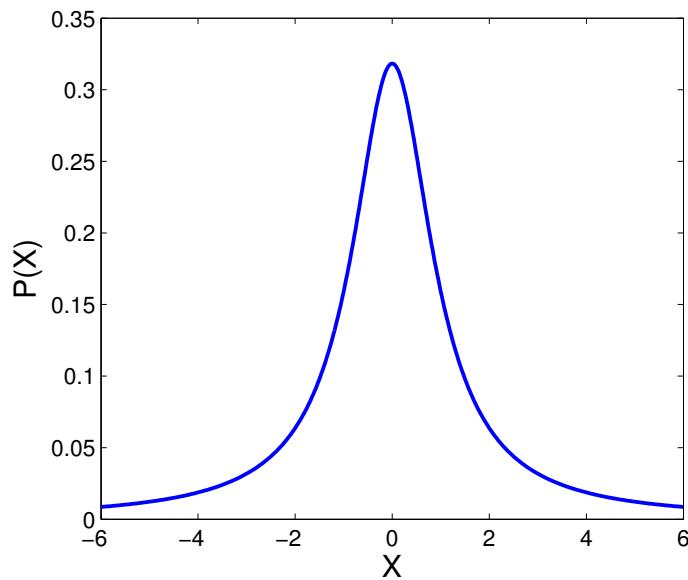
$$\|g_m\|_{\mathcal{F}} = cm^{-1/2}$$



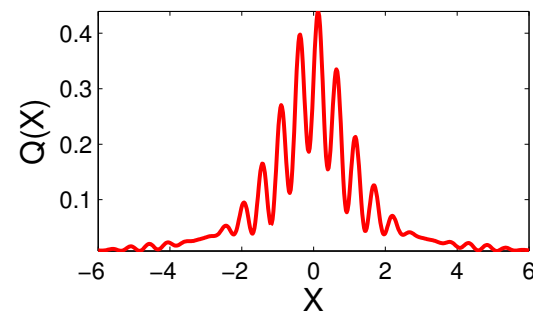
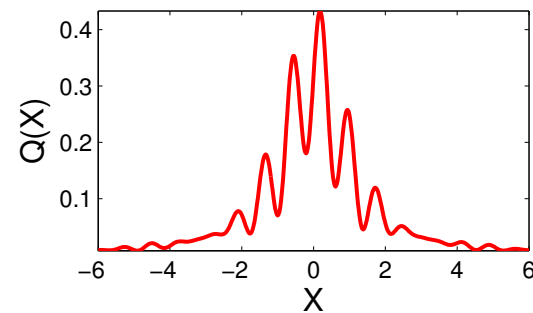
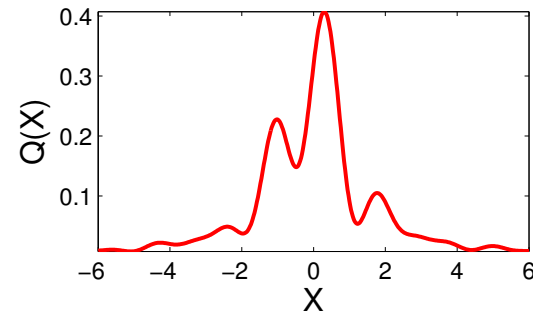
# More general local departures from null

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- **More advanced example** of a local departure from the null
- Recall:  $\mu_{\mathbf{Q}} = \mu_{\mathbf{P}} + g_m$ , and  $\|g_m\|_{\mathcal{F}} = cm^{-1/2}$



VS



# Kernels vs kernels

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- How does this relate to [Parzen density estimate](#)? [Anderson et al., 1994]

$$\hat{f}_{\mathbf{P}}(x) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \kappa(x_i - x), \text{ where } \kappa \text{ satisfies } \int_{\mathcal{X}} \kappa(x) dx = 1 \text{ and } \kappa(x) \geq 0.$$

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- [L<sub>2</sub> distance](#) between Parzen density estimates:

$$\begin{aligned} D_2(\hat{f}_{\mathbf{P}}, \hat{f}_{\mathbf{Q}})^2 &= \int \left[ \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \kappa(x_i - z) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \kappa(y_i - z) \right]^2 dz \\ &= \frac{1}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(x_i - x_j) + \frac{1}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(y_i - y_j) - \frac{2}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(x_i - y_j), \end{aligned}$$

where  $k(x - y) = \int \kappa(x - z)\kappa(y - z)dz$

# Kernels vs kernels

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- **$L_2$  distance** between Parzen density estimates:

$$\begin{aligned} D_2(\hat{f}_{\mathbf{P}}, \hat{f}_{\mathbf{Q}})^2 &= \int \left[ \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \kappa(x_i - z) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \kappa(y_i - z) \right]^2 dz \\ &= \frac{1}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(x_i - x_j) + \frac{1}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(y_i - y_j) - \frac{2}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m k(x_i - y_j), \end{aligned}$$

where  $k(x - y) = \int \kappa(x - z)\kappa(y - z)dz$

- $f_{\mathbf{Q}} = f_{\mathbf{P}} + \delta g$ , **minimum distance** to discriminate  $f_{\mathbf{P}}$  from  $f_{\mathbf{Q}}$  is  $\delta = (m)^{-1/2} h_m^{-d/2}$ , where  $h_m$  is width of  $\kappa$ .

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