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# Kernel Mean Estimation via Spectral Filtering: Supplementary Material

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## Abstract

This note contains supplementary materials to *Kernel Mean Estimation via Spectral Filtering*.

### 1 Proof of Theorem 1

(i) Since  $\check{\mu}_\lambda = \hat{\mu}_{\frac{\lambda}{\lambda+1}} = \frac{\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P}}{\lambda+1}$ , we have

$$\|\check{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_\mathbb{P}\| = \left\| \frac{\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P}}{\lambda+1} - \mu_\mathbb{P} \right\| \leq \left\| \frac{\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P}}{\lambda+1} - \frac{\mu_\mathbb{P}}{\lambda+1} \right\| + \left\| \frac{\mu_\mathbb{P}}{\lambda+1} - \mu_\mathbb{P} \right\| \leq \|\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P} - \mu_\mathbb{P}\| + \lambda \|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|.$$

From [1], we have that  $\|\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P} - \mu_\mathbb{P}\| = O_\mathbb{P}(n^{-1/2})$  and therefore the result follows.

(ii) Define  $\Delta := \mathbb{E}_\mathbb{P} \|\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P} - \mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 = \frac{\int k(x,x) d\mathbb{P}(x) - \|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2}{n}$ . Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_\mathbb{P} \|\check{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - \Delta &= \mathbb{E}_\mathbb{P} \left\| \frac{n^\beta}{n^\beta + c} (\hat{\mu}_\mathbb{P} - \mu_\mathbb{P}) - \mu_\mathbb{P} \right\|^2 - \Delta \\ &= \left( \frac{n^\beta}{n^\beta + c} \right)^2 \Delta + \frac{c^2}{(n^\beta + c)^2} \|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - \Delta \\ &= \frac{c^2 \|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - (c^2 + 2cn^\beta) \Delta}{(n^\beta + c)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting for  $\Delta$  in the r.h.s. of the above equation, we have

$$\mathbb{E}_\mathbb{P} \|\check{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - \Delta = \frac{(nc^2 + c^2 + 2cn^\beta) \|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - (c^2 + 2cn^\beta) \int k(x,x) d\mathbb{P}(x)}{n(n^\beta + c)^2}.$$

It is easy to verify that  $\mathbb{E}_\mathbb{P} \|\check{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2 - \Delta < 0$  if

$$\frac{\|\mu_\mathbb{P}\|^2}{\int k(x,x) d\mathbb{P}(x)} < \inf_n \frac{c^2 + 2cn^\beta}{nc^2 + c^2 + 2cn^\beta} = \frac{2^{1/\beta} \beta}{2^{1/\beta} \beta + c^{1/\beta} (\beta - 1)^{(\beta-1)/\beta}}.$$

*Remark.* If  $k(x,y) = \langle x,y \rangle$ , then it is easy to check that  $\mathcal{P}_{c,\beta} = \{\mathbb{P} \in M_+^1(\mathbb{R}^d) : \frac{\|\theta\|_2^2}{\text{trace}(\Sigma)} < \frac{A}{1-A}\}$  where  $\theta$  and  $\Sigma$  represent the mean vector and covariance matrix. Note that this choice of kernel yields a setting similar to classical James-Stein estimation, wherein for all  $n$  and all  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{c,\beta} := \{\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{N}_{\theta,\sigma} : \|\theta\| < \sigma \sqrt{dA/(1-A)}\}$ ,  $\check{\mu}_\lambda$  is admissible for any  $d$ , where  $\mathcal{N}_{\theta,\sigma} := \{\mathbb{P} \in M_+^1(\mathbb{R}^d) : d\mathbb{P}(x) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-d/2} e^{-\frac{\|x-\theta\|^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx, \theta \in \mathbb{R}^d, \sigma > 0\}$ . On the other hand, the James-Stein estimator is admissible for only  $d \geq 3$  but for any  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{N}_{\theta,\sigma}$ .

## 2 Consequence of Theorem 1 if $k$ is translation invariant

**Claim:** Let  $k(x, y) = \psi(x - y)$ ,  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$  where  $\psi$  is a bounded continuous positive definite function with  $\psi \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . For  $\lambda = cn^{-\beta}$  with  $c > 0$  and  $\beta > 1$ , define

$$\mathcal{P}_{c,\beta,\psi} := \left\{ \mathbb{P} \in M_+^1(\mathbb{R}^d) : \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2} < \sqrt{\frac{A(2\pi)^{d/2}\psi(0)}{\|\psi\|_{L^1}}} \right\},$$

where  $\phi_{\mathbb{P}}$  is the characteristic function of  $\mathbb{P}$ . Then  $\forall n$  and  $\forall \mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{c,\beta,\psi}$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}\|\check{\mu}_{\lambda} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|^2 < \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}\|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|^2$ .

*Proof.* If  $k(x, y) = \psi(x - y)$ , it is easy to verify that

$$\int \int k(x, y) d\mathbb{P}(x) d\mathbb{P}(y) = \int |\phi_{\mathbb{P}}(\omega)|^2 \widehat{\psi}(\omega) d\omega \leq \sup_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d} \widehat{\psi}(\omega) \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2}^2 \leq (2\pi)^{-d/2} \|\psi\|_{L^1} \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2}^2,$$

where  $\widehat{\psi}$  is the Fourier transform of  $\psi$ . On the other hand, since  $|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}(\omega)| \leq 1$  for any  $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int \int k(x, y) d\mathbb{P}(x) d\mathbb{P}(y) &= \int |\phi_{\mathbb{P}}(\omega)|^2 \widehat{\psi}(\omega) d\omega \leq \int |\phi_{\mathbb{P}}(\omega)| \widehat{\psi}(\omega) d\omega \leq \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2} \|\widehat{\psi}\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2} \sqrt{\|\widehat{\psi}\|_{\infty} \|\widehat{\psi}\|_{L^1}} = \|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2} \sqrt{(2\pi)^{-d/2} \|\psi\|_{L^1} \psi(0)}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used  $\psi(0) = \|\widehat{\psi}\|_{L^1}$ . As  $\int k(x, x) d\mathbb{P}(x) = \psi(0)$ , we have that

$$\frac{\|\mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|^2}{\int k(x, x) d\mathbb{P}(x)} \leq \min \left\{ \frac{\|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2}^2 \|\psi\|_{L^1}}{(2\pi)^{d/2} \psi(0)}, \sqrt{\frac{\|\phi_{\mathbb{P}}\|_{L^2}^2 \|\psi\|_{L^1}}{(2\pi)^{d/2} \psi(0)}} \right\}.$$

Since  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{c,\beta,\psi}$ , we have  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{c,\beta}$  and therefore the result follows.  $\blacksquare$

## 3 Proof of Theorem 2

Since  $(e_i)_i$  is an orthonormal basis in  $\mathcal{H}$ , we have for any  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $f^* \in \mathcal{H}$

$$\mu_{\mathbb{P}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_i e_i, \quad \hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \hat{\mu}_i e_i, \quad \text{and} \quad f^* = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i^* e_i,$$

where  $\mu_i := \langle \mu_{\mathbb{P}}, e_i \rangle$ ,  $\hat{\mu}_i := \langle \hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}}, e_i \rangle$ , and  $f_i^* := \langle f^*, e_i \rangle$ . It follows from the Parseval's identity that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \|\hat{\mu} - \mu\|^2 = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\hat{\mu}_i - \mu_i)^2 \right] =: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \Delta_i \\ \Delta_{\alpha} &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \|\hat{\mu}_{\alpha} - \mu\|^2 = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_i f_i^* + (1 - \alpha_i) \hat{\mu}_i - \mu_i)^2 \right] =: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \Delta_{\alpha,i}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the problem has not changed and we are merely looking at it from a different perspective. To estimate  $\mu_{\mathbb{P}}$ , we may just as well estimate its Fourier coefficient sequence  $\mu_i$  with  $\hat{\mu}_i$ . Based on above decomposition, we may write the risk difference  $\Delta_{\alpha} - \Delta$  as  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\Delta_{\alpha,i} - \Delta_i)$ . We can thus ask under which conditions on  $\alpha = (\alpha_i)$  for which  $\Delta_{\alpha,i} - \Delta_i < 0$  uniformly over all  $i$ .

For each coordinate  $i$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\alpha,i} - \Delta_i &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [(\alpha_i f_i^* + (1 - \alpha_i) \hat{\mu}_i - \mu_i)^2] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [(\hat{\mu}_i - \mu_i)^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\alpha_i^2 f_i^{*2} + 2\alpha_i f_i^* (1 - \alpha_i) \hat{\mu}_i + (1 - \alpha_i)^2 \hat{\mu}_i^2 \\ &\quad - 2\alpha_i f_i^* \mu_i - 2(1 - \alpha_i) \hat{\mu}_i \mu_i + \mu_i^2] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2 - 2\hat{\mu}_i \mu_i + \mu_i^2] \\ &= \alpha_i^2 f_i^{*2} + 2\alpha_i f_i^* \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i] - 2\alpha_i^2 f_i^* \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i] + (1 - \alpha_i)^2 \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2] \\ &\quad - 2\alpha_i f_i^* \mu_i - 2(1 - \alpha_i) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i] \mu_i + \mu_i^2 - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2] + 2\mu_i \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i] - \mu_i^2 \\ &= \alpha_i^2 f_i^{*2} - 2\alpha_i^2 f_i^* \mu_i + (1 - \alpha_i)^2 \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2] - 2(1 - \alpha_i) \mu_i^2 + 2\mu_i^2 - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2] \\ &= \alpha_i^2 f_i^{*2} - 2\alpha_i^2 f_i^* \mu_i + (\alpha_i^2 - 2\alpha_i) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\hat{\mu}_i^2] + 2\alpha_i \mu_i^2. \end{aligned}$$

Next, we substitute  $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[\hat{\mu}_i^2] = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[(\hat{\mu}_i - \mu_i + \mu_i)^2] = \Delta_i + \mu_i^2$  into the last equation to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_{\alpha_i} - \Delta_i &= \alpha_i^2 f_i^2 - 2\alpha_i^2 f_i^* \mu_i + \alpha_i^2 (\Delta_i + \mu_i^2) - 2\alpha_i (\Delta_i + \mu_i^2) + 2\alpha_i \mu_i^2 \\ &= \alpha_i^2 f_i^2 - 2\alpha_i^2 f_i^* \mu_i + \alpha_i^2 \Delta_i + \alpha_i^2 \mu_i^2 - 2\alpha_i \Delta_i \\ &= \alpha_i^2 (f_i^2 - 2f_i^* \mu_i + \Delta_i + \mu_i^2) - 2\alpha_i \Delta_i \\ &= \alpha_i^2 (\Delta_i + (f_i^* - \mu_i)^2) - 2\alpha_i \Delta_i\end{aligned}$$

which is negative if  $\alpha_i$  satisfies

$$0 < \alpha_i < \frac{2\Delta_i}{\Delta_i + (f_i^* - \mu_i)^2}.$$

This completes the proof.

#### 4 Proof of Proposition 3

Let  $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{U}^\top$  be an eigen-decomposition of  $\mathbf{K}$  where  $\mathbf{U} = [\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_1, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_2, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_n]$  consists of orthogonal eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{K}$  such that  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\tilde{\gamma}_1, \tilde{\gamma}_2, \dots, \tilde{\gamma}_n)$  consists of corresponding eigenvalues. As a result, the coefficients  $\beta(\lambda)$  can be written as

$$\beta(\lambda) = g_\lambda(\mathbf{K})\mathbf{K}\mathbf{1}_n = \mathbf{U}g_\lambda(\mathbf{D})\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{K}\mathbf{1}_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i^\top \mathbf{K}\mathbf{1}_n. \quad (1)$$

Using  $\mathbf{K}\mathbf{1}_n = [\langle \hat{\mu}, k(x_1, \cdot) \rangle, \dots, \langle \hat{\mu}, k(x_n, \cdot) \rangle]^\top$ , we can rewrite (1) as

$$\begin{aligned}\beta(\lambda) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} \langle \hat{\mu}, k(x_j, \cdot) \rangle \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \left\langle \hat{\mu}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i}} \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} k(x_j, \cdot) \right\rangle,\end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{u}_{ij}$  is the  $j$ th component of  $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_i$ . Next, we invoke the relation between the eigenvectors of the matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  and the eigenfunctions of the empirical covariance operator  $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_k$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . That is, it is known that the  $i$ th eigenfunction of  $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_k$  can be expressed as  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i = (1/\sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i}) \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} k(x_j, \cdot)$  [2]. Consequently,

$$\left\langle \hat{\mu}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i}} \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} k(x_j, \cdot) \right\rangle = \langle \hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle$$

and we can write the Spectral-KMSE as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mu}_\lambda &= \sum_{j=1}^n \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} \sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i} g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \langle \hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle \right]_j k(x_j, \cdot) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sqrt{\tilde{\gamma}_i} g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \langle \hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{u}_{ij} k(x_j, \cdot) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \tilde{\gamma}_i \langle \hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i.\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

#### 5 Population counterpart of Spectral-KMSE

To obtain the population version of the Spectral-KMSE, we resort to the regression perspective of the kernel mean embedding which has been studied earlier in [3, 4]. The proof techniques used here are similar to those in [3]. Consider

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{F} \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_X \left[ \|k(X, \cdot) - \mathbf{F}k(X, \cdot)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \right] + \lambda \|\mathbf{F}\|_{HS}^2. \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{F} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is Hilbert-Schmidt. We can expand the regularized loss (2) as

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}_X \left[ \|k(X, \cdot) - \mathbf{F}k(X, \cdot)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \right] + \lambda \|\mathbf{F}\|_{HS}^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), \mathbf{F}k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + \mathbb{E}_X \langle \mathbf{F}k(X, \cdot), \mathbf{F}k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + \lambda \langle \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot) \otimes k(X, \cdot), \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), \mathbf{F}^* \mathbf{F} k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + \lambda \langle \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F}^* \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \lambda \langle \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{F}^*$  denotes the adjoint of  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\mathcal{C}_k = \mathbb{E}_X [k(X, \cdot) \otimes k(X, \cdot)]$ . Next, we show that the solution to the above expression is  $\mathbf{F} := \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ . Defining  $\mathbf{A} := \mathbf{F}(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{1/2}$ , the above expression can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F}^* \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \lambda \langle \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \langle \mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{F}^* \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{F} \rangle_{HS} + \left\langle \mathbf{F}(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{1/2}, \mathbf{F}(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{1/2} \right\rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - 2\langle \mathcal{C}_k, \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1/2} \rangle_{HS} + \langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A} \rangle_{HS} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_X \langle k(X, \cdot), k(X, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - \left\| \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1/2} \right\|_{HS}^2 + \left\| \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1/2} - \mathbf{A} \right\|_{HS}^2. \end{aligned}$$

As a result, the above expression is minimized when  $\mathbf{A} = \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1/2}$ , implying that  $\mathbf{F} = \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ . As in the sample case, a natural estimate of the Spectral-KMSE is

$$\mu_\lambda = \mathbf{F} \mu_{\mathbb{P}} = \mathcal{C}_k(\mathcal{C}_k + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}.$$

## 6 Proof of Proposition 4

The proof employs the relation between the Gram matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  and the empirical covariance operator  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k$  shown in Lemma 3. It is known that the operator  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k$  is of finite rank, self-adjoint, and positive. Moreover, its spectrum has only finitely many nonzero elements [5]. If  $\tilde{\gamma}_i$  is a nonzero eigenvalue and  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i$  is the corresponding eigenfunction of  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k$ , then the following decomposition holds

$$\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k f = \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\gamma}_i \langle f, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i, \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Note that it may be that  $k < n$  where  $k$  is the rank of  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k$ . In that case, the above decomposition still holds. Setting  $f = \hat{\mu}$  and applying the definition of the filter function  $g_\lambda$  to the operator  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k$  yield

$$\hat{\mu}_\lambda = \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) \hat{\mu} = \sum_{i=1}^n g_\lambda(\tilde{\gamma}_i) \tilde{\gamma}_i \langle \hat{\mu}, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i,$$

which is exactly the decomposition given in Lemma 3. This completes the proof.

## 7 Proof of Theorem 5

Consider the following decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_{\mathbb{P}} &= \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) \hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}} \\ &= \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) (\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}) + \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) \mu_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}} \\ &= \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) (\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}) + (\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - \mathbf{I}) \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta h + (\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - \mathbf{I}) (\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta) h \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that there exists  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mu_{\mathbb{P}} = \mathcal{C}_k^\beta h$  as we assumed that  $\mu_{\mathbb{P}} \in \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{C}_k^\beta)$  for some  $\beta > 0$ . Therefore

$$\|\hat{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| \leq \|\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k)\|_{op} \|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + \|(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - \mathbf{I}) \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \|h\| + \|\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - \mathbf{I}\|_{op} \|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \|h\|$$

where we used the fact that  $\|Ab\| \leq \|A\|_{op} \|b\|$  with  $A : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  being a bounded operator,  $b \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{op}$  denoting the operator norm defined as  $\|A\|_{op} := \sup\{\|Ab\| : \|b\| = 1\}$ .

By (C1), (C2) and (C3), we have  $\|\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k)\|_{op} \leq B$ ,  $\|\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - I\|_{op} \leq C$  and  $\|(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k g_\lambda(\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k) - I)\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \leq D\lambda^{\min\{\beta, \eta_0\}}$  respectively. Denoting  $\|h\| = \|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|$ , we therefore have

$$\|\hat{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| \leq B\|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + D\lambda^{\min\{\beta, \eta_0\}}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + C\|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|. \quad (3)$$

For  $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ , it follows from Theorem 1 in [6] that there exists a constant  $\tau_1$  such that

$$\|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \leq \tau_1\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{op}^\beta \leq \tau_1\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{HS}^\beta.$$

On the other hand, since  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha^\beta$  is Lipschitz on  $[0, \kappa^2]$  for  $\beta \geq 1$ , the following lemma yields that

$$\|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \leq \|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{HS} \leq \tau_2\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{HS}$$

where  $\tau_2$  is the Lipschitz constant of  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha^\beta$  on  $[0, \kappa^2]$ . In other words,

$$\|\mathcal{C}_k^\beta - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k^\beta\|_{op} \leq \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2\}\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{HS}^{\min\{1, \beta\}}. \quad (4)$$

**Lemma 1** (Contributed by Anreas Maurer, see Lemma 5 in [7]). *Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are self-adjoint Hilbert-Schmidt operators on a separable Hilbert space  $H$  with spectrum contained in the interval  $[a, b]$ , and let  $(\sigma_i)_{i \in I}$  and  $(\tau_j)_{j \in J}$  be the eigenvalues of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively. Given a function  $r : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , if there exists a finite constant  $L$  such that*

$$|r(\sigma_i) - r(\tau_j)| \leq L|\sigma_i - \tau_j|, \quad \forall i \in I, j \in J,$$

then

$$\|r(A) - r(B)\|_{HS} \leq L\|A - B\|_{HS}.$$

Using (4) in (3), we have

$$\|\hat{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| \leq B\|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + D\lambda^{\min\{\beta, \eta_0\}}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + C\tau\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{HS}^{\min\{1, \beta\}}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|, \quad (5)$$

where  $\tau := \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2\}$ . We now obtain bounds on  $\|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|$  and  $\|\mathcal{C}_k - \widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k\|_{HS}$  using the following results.

**Lemma 2** ([8]). *Suppose that  $\kappa = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sqrt{k(x, x)}$ . For any  $\delta > 0$ , the following inequality holds with probability at least  $1 - e^{-\delta}$*

$$\|\hat{\mu}_{\mathbb{P}} - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| \leq \frac{2\kappa + \kappa\sqrt{2\delta}}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

**Lemma 3** (e.g., see Theorem 7 in [5]). *Let  $\kappa := \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sqrt{k(x, x)}$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $\delta > 0$ , the following inequality holds with probability at least  $1 - 2e^{-\delta}$ :*

$$\|\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k - \mathcal{C}_k\|_{HS} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{2}\kappa^2\sqrt{\delta}}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

Using Lemmas 2 and 3 in (5), for any  $\delta > 0$ , with probability  $1 - 3e^{-\delta}$ , we obtain

$$\|\hat{\mu}_\lambda - \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| \leq \frac{2\kappa B + \kappa B\sqrt{2\delta}}{\sqrt{n}} + D\lambda^{\min\{\beta, \eta_0\}}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\| + C\tau \frac{(2\sqrt{2}\kappa^2\sqrt{\delta})^{\min\{1, \beta\}}}{n^{\min\{1/2, \beta/2\}}}\|\mathcal{C}_k^{-\beta} \mu_{\mathbb{P}}\|.$$

## 8 Shrinkage parameter $\lambda = cn^{-\beta}$

In this section, we provide supplementary results that demonstrate the effect of the shrinkage parameter  $\lambda$  presented in Theorem 1. That is, if we choose  $\lambda = cn^{-\beta}$  for some  $c > 0$  and  $\beta > 1$ , the estimator  $\hat{\mu}_\lambda$  is a proper estimator of  $\mu$ . Unfortunately, the true value of  $\beta$ , which characterizes the smoothness of the true kernel mean  $\mu_{\mathbb{P}}$ , is not known in practice. Nevertheless, we provide simulated experiments that illustrate the convergence of the estimator  $\hat{\mu}_\lambda$  for different values of  $c$  and  $\beta$ .

The data-generating distribution used in this experiment is identical to the one we consider in our previous experiments on synthetic data. That is, the data are generated as follows:  $x \sim$

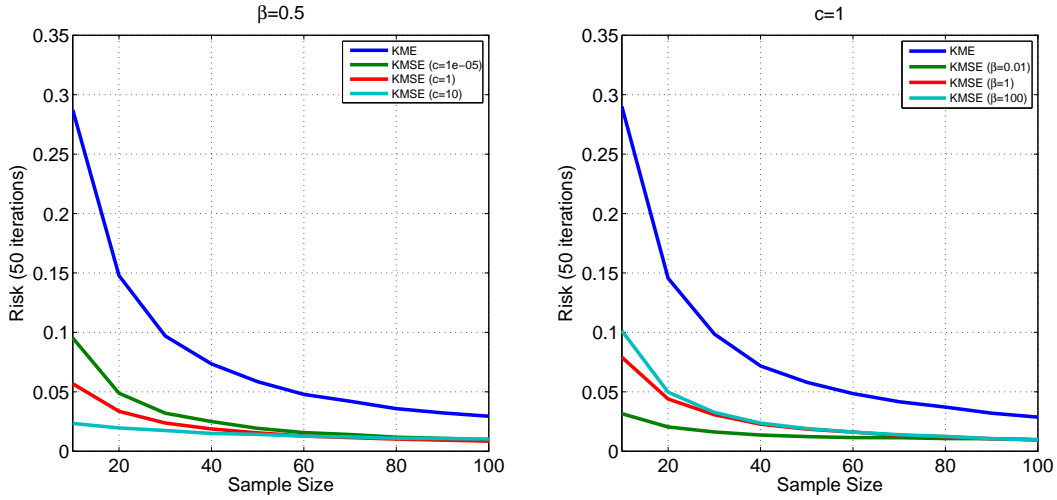


Figure 1: The risk of shrinkage estimator  $\check{\mu}_\lambda$  when  $\lambda = cn^{-\beta}$ . The left figure shows the risk of the shrinkage estimator as sample size increases while fixing the value of  $\beta$ , whereas the right figure shows the same plots while fixing the value of  $c$ . See text for more explanation.

$\sum_{i=1}^4 \pi_i \mathcal{N}(\theta_i, \Sigma_i) + \varepsilon, \theta_{ij} \sim \mathcal{U}(-10, 10), \Sigma_i \sim \mathcal{W}(3 \times \mathbf{I}_d, 7), \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.2 \times \mathbf{I}_d)$  where  $\mathcal{U}(a, b)$  and  $\mathcal{W}(\Sigma_0, df)$  are the uniform distribution and Wishart distribution, respectively. We set  $\pi = [0.05, 0.3, 0.4, 0.25]$ . We use the Gaussian RBF kernel  $k(x, x') = \exp(-\|x - x'\|^2 / 2\sigma^2)$  whose bandwidth parameter is calculated using the median heuristic, i.e.,  $\sigma^2 = \text{median}\{\|x_i - x_j\|^2\}$ . Figure 1 depicts the comparisons between the standard kernel mean estimator and the shrinkage estimators with varying values of  $c$  and  $\beta$ .

As we can see in Figure 1, if  $c$  is very small or  $\beta$  is very large, the shrinkage estimator  $\check{\mu}_\lambda$  behaves like the empirical estimator  $\hat{\mu}_p$ . This coincides with the intuition given in Theorem 1. Note that the value of  $\beta$  specifies the smoothness of the true kernel mean  $\mu$  and is unknown in practice. Thus, one of the interesting future directions is to develop procedure that can adapt to this unknown parameter automatically.

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