

# Statistical learning and inverse problems from interacting particle systems

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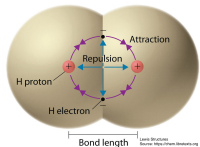
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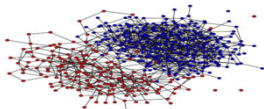
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# What is the law of interaction ?

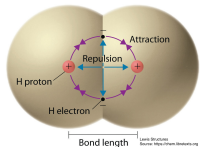


Popkin. Nature(2016)

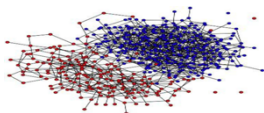


Voter model (wiki)

## What is the law of interaction ?



Popkin. Nature(2016)



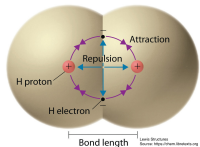
Voter model (wiki)

$$m_i \ddot{x}_i(t) = -\dot{x}_i(t) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N K_\phi(x_i, x_j),$$

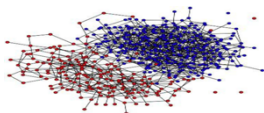
$$K_\phi(x, y) = \nabla_x [\Phi(|x - y|)] = \phi(|x - y|) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|}.$$

- Newton's law of gravity  $\phi(r) = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$
- Lennard-Jones potential:  $\phi(r) = \frac{C_1}{r^{12}} - \frac{C_2}{r^6}$ .

## What is the law of interaction ?



Popkin. Nature(2016)



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- 
- flocking birds, bacteria/cells ?
  - opinion/voter/multi-agent models, ...? <sup>a</sup>

## Infer the interaction kernel from data?

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<sup>a</sup>(1) Cucker+Smale: On the mathematics of emergence. 2007. (2) Vicsek+Zafeiris: Collective motion. 2012. (3) Mostch+Tadmor: Heterophilious Dynamics Enhances Consensus. 2014 ...

Learn interaction kernel  $K_\phi(x, y) = \phi(|x - y|) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|}$

$$dX_t^i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N K_\phi(X_t^i, X_t^j) dt + \sqrt{2\nu} dB_t^i \quad \Leftrightarrow R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t) = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_t - \sqrt{2\nu} \dot{\mathbf{B}}_t$$

**Finite N:** <sup>a</sup>

- Data: M trajectories of particles :  $\{\mathbf{X}_{t_1:t_L}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$
- Statistical learning
- ODEs/SDEs: Opinion Dynamics, Lennard-Jones, Prey-Predator; 1st/2nd order

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**Large N (>> 1)** <sup>b</sup>

- Data: density of particles  $\{u(x_m, t_l) \approx N^{-1} \sum_i \delta(X_t^i - x_m)\}_{m,l}$

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)]$$

- Inverse problem for PDEs

<sup>a</sup> [Maggioni, Lu, Tang, Zhong, Miller, Li, Zhang: PNAS19, SPA20, FOC22, JMLR21] <sup>b</sup> [Lang-Lu 20,21]

## Learning kernels in operators: $R_\phi : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$

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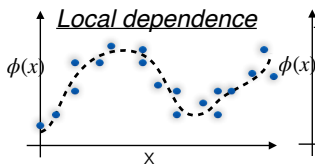
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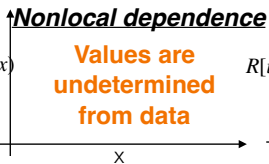
### Classical learning

$$\{(x_i, \phi(x_i) + \epsilon_i)\}$$



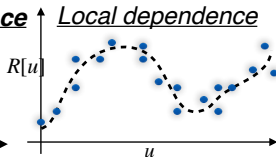
### Learning kernel

$$\{(u_k, R_\phi[u_k] + \eta_k)\}$$



### Operator learning

$$\{(u_k, R[u_k] + \eta_k)\}$$



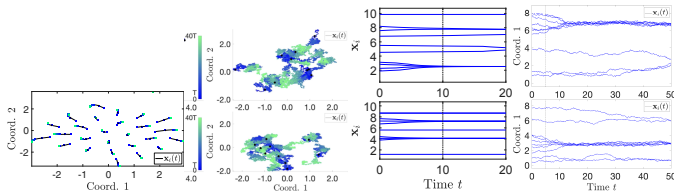
Nonparametric learning:

Loss function? Identifiability? Convergence?



# Finite many particles

$$R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t) = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_t - \sqrt{2\nu} \dot{\mathbf{B}}_t \quad \& \quad \text{Data} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \arg \min_{\psi \in \mathcal{H}_n} \mathcal{E}_M(\psi)$$

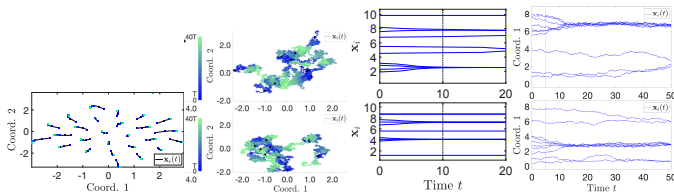


- Loss function (log-likelihood, or MSE for ODEs): quadratic
- Regression: with  $\psi = \sum_i c_i \phi_i \in \mathcal{H}_n = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ :

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- ▶ Choice of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  & function space of learning?
- ▶ Well-posed/ identifiability?
- ▶ Convergence and rate?

## Classical learning theory

Given: Data  $\{(x_m, y_m)\}_{m=1}^M \sim (X, Y)$

Goal: find  $f$  s.t.  $Y = \phi(X)$

$$\mathcal{E}(\phi) = \mathbb{E}|Y - \phi(X)|^2 = \|\phi - \phi_{true}\|_{L^2(\rho_X)}^2$$

## Learning kernel

Given: Data  $\{\mathbf{X}_{[0,T]}^{(m)}\}_{m=1}^M$

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- Function space:  $L^2(\rho_X)$ .
- Identifiability:  
 $\mathbb{E}[Y|X = x] = \arg \min_{\phi \in L^2(\rho_X)} \mathcal{E}(\phi)$ .
- $A \approx \mathbb{E}[\phi_i(X)\phi_j(X)] = I_n$  by setting  $\{\phi_i\}$  ONB in  $L^2(\rho_X)$ .

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- Function space:  $L^2(\rho)$ .  
measure  $\rho \sim |\mathbf{X}^i - \mathbf{X}^j|$
- Identifiability:  $\arg \min_{\phi \in L^2(\rho)} \mathcal{E}(\phi)??$
- $A \approx \mathbb{E}[R_{\phi_i}(\mathbf{X})R_{\phi_j}(\mathbf{X})] \neq I_n ??$   
Coercivity condition

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- Function space:  $L^2(\rho)$ .  
measure  $\rho \sim |X^i - X^j|$
- Identifiability:  $\arg \min_{\phi \in L^2(\rho)} \mathcal{E}(\phi)??$
- $A \approx \mathbb{E}[R_{\phi_i}(\mathbf{X})R_{\phi_j}(\mathbf{X})] \neq I_n ??$   
**Coercivity condition**

Error bounds for  $\widehat{\phi}_{n_M}$ : asymptotic/non-asymptotic (CLT/concentration)

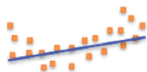
$$\mathcal{E}(\widehat{\phi}_{n_M}) - \mathcal{E}(\phi_{\mathcal{H}}) \geq c_{\mathcal{H}} \|\widehat{\phi}_{n_M} - \phi_{\mathcal{H}}\|^2$$

## Theorem (LZTM19,LMT22)

Let  $\{\mathcal{H}_n\}$  compact convex in  $L^\infty$  with  $\text{dist}(\phi_{true}, \mathcal{H}_n) \sim n^{-s}$ . Assume the coercivity condition on  $\cup_n \mathcal{H}_n$ . Set  $n_* = (M/\log M)^{\frac{1}{2s+1}}$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mu_0} [\|\hat{\phi}_{M, \mathcal{H}_{n_*}} - \phi_{true}\|_{L^2(\rho)}] \leq C \left( \frac{\log M}{M} \right)^{\frac{s}{2s+1}}.$$

- $\dim(\mathcal{H}_n)$  adaptive to  $s$  ( $\phi_{true} \in C^s$ ) and  $M$ :



Underfitting



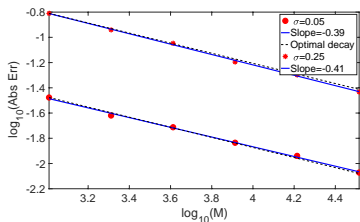
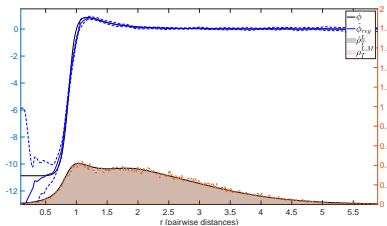
Balanced



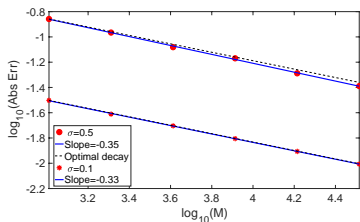
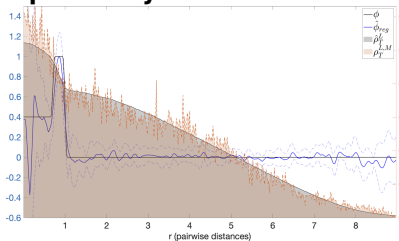
Overfitting

- Concentration inequalities for r.v. or martingale

## Lennard-Jones kernel estimators:



## Opinion dynamics kernel estimators:



## Coercivity condition on $\mathcal{H}$

$$\langle\langle \phi, \phi \rangle\rangle = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbb{E}[R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t)R_\phi(\mathbf{X}_t)] dt \geq c_{\mathcal{H}} \|\phi\|_{L^2(\rho)}^2, \quad \forall \phi \in \mathcal{H}$$

- Partial results:  $c_{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{N-2}$  for  $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\rho)$ 
  - ▶ Gaussian or  $\Phi(r) = r^{2\beta}$  stationary [LLMTZ21spa,LL20]
  - ▶ Harmonic analysis: strictly positive definite integral kernel

$$\mathbb{E}[\phi(|X - Y|)\phi(|X - Z|) \frac{\langle X - Y, X - Z \rangle}{|X - Y||X - Z|}] \geq 0, \forall \phi \in L^2(\rho)$$

- Open: non-stationary? A compact  $\mathcal{H} \subset C(\text{supp}(\rho))$ ?
- No coercivity on  $L^2(\rho)$  when  $N \rightarrow \infty$  since  $c_{\mathcal{H}} \rightarrow 0$



# Inverse problem for Mean-field PDE

Goal: Identify  $\phi$  from discrete data  $\{u(x_m, t_l)\}_{m,l=1}^{M,L}$  of

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)], \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, t > 0,$$

where  $K_\phi(x) = \nabla(\Phi(|x|)) = \phi(|x|) \frac{x}{|x|}$ .

## Loss functional

$$\partial_t u = \nu \Delta u + \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)]$$

Candidates:

- Discrepancy:  $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \|\partial_t u - \nu \Delta u - \nabla \cdot (u(K_\psi * u))\|^2$
- Free energy:  $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = C + |\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u[(\Psi - \Phi) * u] dx|^2$
- Wasserstein-2:  $\mathcal{E}(\psi) = W_2(u^\psi, u)$   
costly: requires many PDE simulations in optimization
- A probabilistic loss functional

## A probabilistic loss functional

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) := \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[ |\mathcal{K}_\psi * u|^2 u - 2\nu u (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{K}_\psi * u) + 2\partial_t u (\Psi * u) \right] dx dt$$

- =  $-\mathbb{E}[\text{log-likelihood}]$ : McKean–Vlasov process

$$\begin{cases} d\bar{X}_t = -\mathcal{K}_{\phi_{true}} * u(\bar{X}_t, t) dt + \sqrt{2\nu} dB_t, \\ \mathcal{L}(\bar{X}_t) = u(\cdot, t), \end{cases}$$

- Derivative free
- Suitable for high dimension:  $Z_t = \bar{X}_t - \bar{X}'_t$

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\mathbb{E}|\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{K}_\psi(Z_t)|\bar{X}_t]|^2 - 2\nu\mathbb{E}[\nabla \cdot \mathcal{K}_\psi(Z_t)] + \partial_t\mathbb{E}\Psi(Z_t)) dt$$

## Nonparametric regression

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}(\psi) &:= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[ |K_\psi * u|^2 u - 2\nu u (\nabla \cdot K_\psi * u) + 2\partial_t u (\Psi * u) \right] dx dt \\ &= \langle \psi, \psi \rangle - 2 \langle \psi, \phi^D \rangle_{L^2(\rho_T)} \end{aligned}$$

LS-regression  $\psi = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi_i \in \mathcal{H}_n$ :

$$\mathcal{E}_M(\psi) = c^\top A c - 2b^\top c \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{\phi}_{n,M} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{c}_i \phi_i, \quad \hat{c} = A^{-1} b$$

- Choice of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  & function space of learning?
  - ▶ Exploration measure  $\rho_T \leftarrow |\bar{X}_t - \bar{X}'_t|$
- Inverse problem well-posed/ identifiability?
- Convergence and rate?  $\Delta x = M^{-1/d} \rightarrow 0$

## Identifiability

$$\begin{aligned} A_{ij} &= \langle\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle\rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} \phi_i(r) \psi_j(s) \bar{G}_T(r, s) \rho_T(dr) \rho_T(ds) \\ &= \langle L_{\bar{G}_T} \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle_{L^2(\rho_T)} \end{aligned}$$

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- Positive compact operator  $L_{\overline{G}_T}$ 
  - ▶ normal matrix  $A \sim L_{\overline{G}_T} |_{\mathcal{H}}$  in  $L^2(\rho_T)$

$$c_{\mathcal{H}, T} = \inf_{\psi \in \mathcal{H}, \|\psi\|_{L^2(\rho_T)}=1} \langle\langle \psi, \psi \rangle\rangle > 0 \quad (\text{Coercivity condition})$$

- **Identifiability:**  $A^{-1}b \leftrightarrow L_{\overline{G}_T}^{-1} \phi^D$ 
  - ▶ Function space of identifiability (FSOI):  $\overline{\text{span}\{\psi_i\}_{\lambda_i > 0}}$
  - ▶ Closure of RKHS  $H_{\overline{G}} = L_{\overline{G}_T}^{1/2}(L^2(\rho_T))$  [LangLu21]

## Convergence rate

$$\mathbb{H} = L^2(\rho_T)$$

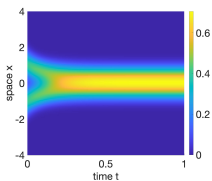
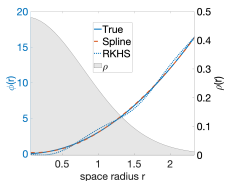
### Theorem (Numerical error bound [Lang-Lu20])

Let  $\mathcal{H}_n = \text{span}\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^n$  s.t.  $\|\phi_{\mathcal{H}_n} - \phi\|_{\mathbb{H}} \lesssim n^{-s}$ . Assume the coercivity condition on  $\cup \mathcal{H}_n$ . Then, with dimension  $n \approx (\Delta x)^{-\alpha/(s+1)}$ , we have:

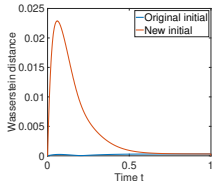
$$\|\hat{\phi}_{n,M} - \phi\|_{\mathbb{H}} \lesssim (\Delta x)^{\alpha s/(s+1)}$$

- $\Delta x^\alpha$  comes from numerical integrator (e.g., Riemann sum)
  - ▶  $\alpha = 1/2$  in Monte Carlo in statistic learning
- Trade-off: numerical error v.s. approximation error

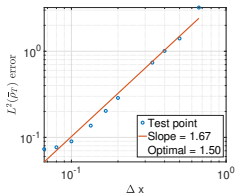
# Example 1: granular media $\phi(r) = 3r^2$

Data  $u(x, t)$ 

Estimator



Wasserstein-2

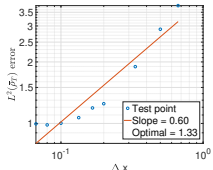
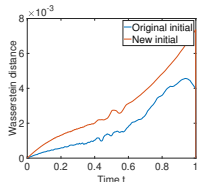
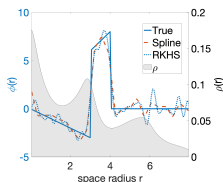
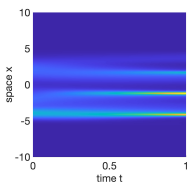


Rate

- near optimal rate ( $\phi \in W^{1,\infty}$ )

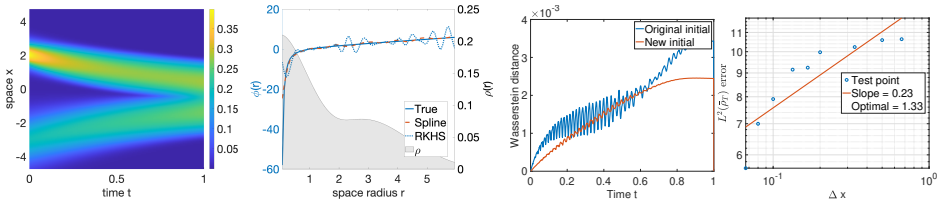


## Example 2: Opinion dynamics $\phi(r)$ piecewise linear



- sub-optimal rate ( $\phi \notin W^{1,\infty}$ )

### Example 3: repulsion-attraction $\phi(r) = r - r^{-1.5}$ (singular)



- low rate: theory does not apply

## Ongoing projects and open problems:

- Coercivity condition
- General systems:
  - ▶ Aggression equations (inviscid MFE)
  - ▶ non-radial kernels
  - ▶ Systems on graph
- Other types of data:
  - ▶ Partial data: observability and randomization
  - ▶ Multiple MFE solutions

# Learning kernels in operators: regularization

Learn the kernel  $\phi$ :  $R_\phi[u] = f$

from data:  $\mathcal{D} = \{(u_k, f_k)\}_{k=1}^N, \quad (u_k, f_k) \in \mathbb{X} \times \mathbb{Y}$

- $R_\phi$  linear/nonlinear in  $u$ , but linear in  $\phi$
- Examples:
  - ▶ interaction kernel:  $R_\phi[u] = \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)] = \partial_t u - \nu \Delta u$
  - ▶ Toeplitz/Hankel matrix
  - ▶ integral/nonlocal operators,...

## Ill-posed inverse problem

$$\mathcal{E}(\psi) = \|R_\psi[u] - f\|_{\mathbb{Y}}^2 = \langle L_G \psi, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)} - 2\langle \phi^D, \psi \rangle_{L^2(\rho)} + C$$

$$\nabla \mathcal{E}(\psi) = L_G \psi - \phi^D = 0 \quad \rightarrow \hat{\phi} = L_G^{-1} \phi^D$$

$$\phi^D = L_G \phi_{true} + \phi_{noise}^D + \phi_{model\ error}^D + \phi_{numerical\ error}^D$$

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## Regularization

$$\mathcal{E}_\lambda(\psi) = \mathcal{E}(\psi) + \lambda \|\psi\|_Q^2 \rightarrow \hat{\phi} = (L_G + \lambda Q)^{-1} \phi^D$$

- $\lambda$  by the L-curve method [Hansen00]
- Regularization norm  $\|\cdot\|_Q$ ?

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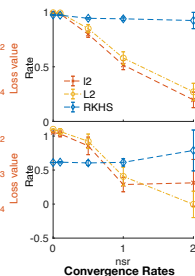
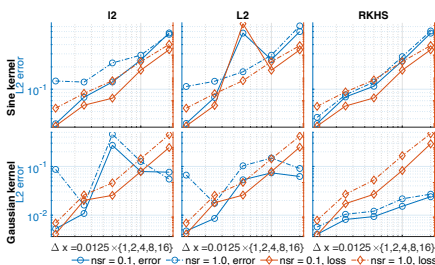
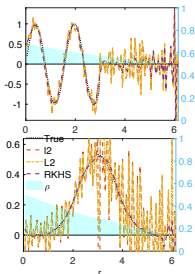
ANSWER: norm of RKHS  $H_G = L_G^{1/2} L^2(\rho) \leftrightarrow Q = L_G^{-1}$  [Lu+Lang+An22]

- **DARTR**: Data Adaptive RKHS Tikhonov Regularization

# DARTR: Data Adaptive RKHS Tikhonov Regularization

$$R_\phi[u] = \nabla \cdot [u(K_\phi * u)] = f$$

- Recover kernel from **discrete noisy data**
- Consistent convergence** as mesh refines





Open questions and ongoing projects:

- Regularized estimator: convergence and rate?
- Regularization for NN in function space
- Data-adaptive priors for Bayesian inverse problems
- Applications: deconvolution, homogenization,...

# Summary and future directions

Nonparametric regression for interaction kernels

- Finite  $N$  (ODEs/SDEs): statistical learning
- $N = \infty$  (Mean-field PDEs): inverse problem

## Learning kernels in operators:

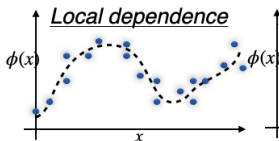
- Probabilistic loss functionals
- Identifiability
- Coercivity condition
  - ▶ yes: convergence
  - ▶ no: DARTR

## Learning with nonlocal dependence: a new direction?

- Coercivity condition
- Regularization
- Convergence (minimax rate)

### Classical learning

$$\{(x_i, \phi(x_i) + \epsilon_i)\}$$



**Inversion**  $\widehat{\phi} = I^{-1}\phi^D$

**Regularization**  $\widehat{\phi} = (I + \lambda Q)^{-1}\phi^D$

### Learning kernel

$$\{(u_k, R_\phi[u_k] + \eta_k)\}$$

### *Nonlocal dependence*

Values are  
undetermined  
from data

$$\widehat{\phi} = L_G^{-1}\phi^D$$

$$\widehat{\phi} = (L_G + \lambda L_G^{-1})^{-1}\phi^D$$

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