

# Gegenbauer polynomials and positive definiteness

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November 27, 2015

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# Presentation of the problem

In **Geostatistics** one examines measurements depending on the location on the earth and on time. This leads to **Random Fields** of stochastic variables  $Z(\xi, u)$  indexed by  $(\xi, u)$  belonging to  $\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\mathbb{S}^2$ —the 2-dimensional sphere—is a model for the earth and  $\mathbb{R}$  is a model for time.

If the variables are real-valued, one considers a basic probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , where all the random variables  $Z(\xi, u)$  are defined as measurable mappings from  $\Omega$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

The **covariance** of two stochastic variables  $X, Y$  is by definition

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}((X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))).$$

For  $n$  variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  the **covariance matrix**

$$[\text{cov}(X_k, X_l)]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is symmetric and **positive semi-definite**.

# Isotropic and stationary covariance kernels

One is interested in **isotropic and stationary random fields**  $Z(\xi, u)$ ,  $(\xi, u) \in \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ , i.e., the situation where there exists a continuous function  $f : [-1, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that the **covariance kernel** is given as

$$\text{cov}(Z(\xi, u), Z(\eta, v)) = f(\xi \cdot \eta, v - u), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}^2, u, v \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Here  $\xi \cdot \eta = \cos(\theta(\xi, \eta))$  is the scalar product equal to cosine of the length of the geodesic arc (=angle) between  $\xi$  and  $\eta$ .

We require with other words that the covariance kernel only depends on the geodesic distance between the points on the sphere and on the time difference.

## First main result

We shall characterize the class  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^2, \mathbb{R})$  of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which are positive definite in the following sense:

For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $(\xi_1, u_1), \dots, (\xi_n, u_n) \in \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$  the matrix

$$[f(\xi_k \cdot \xi_l, u_l - u_k)]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is symmetric and positive semi-definite.

### Theorem (B-Porcu 2015)

*The functions  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^2, \mathbb{R})$  are precisely the functions*

$$f(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(u) P_n(x), \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(0) < \infty,$$

*where  $(\varphi_n)$  is a sequence of real-valued continuous positive definite functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $P_n$  are the Legendre polynomials on  $[-1, 1]$  normalized as  $P_n(1) = 1$ . The series is uniformly convergent.*

This Theorem can be generalized in various ways:

- The sphere  $\mathbb{S}^2$  can be replaced by  $\mathbb{S}^d$ ,  $d = 1, 2, \dots$
- The additive group  $\mathbb{R}$  can be replaced by any locally compact group  $G$ .
- The sphere  $\mathbb{S}^2$  can be replaced by the Hilbert sphere  $\mathbb{S}^\infty$ .

We shall characterize the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that the kernel

$$f(\xi \cdot \eta, u^{-1}v)$$

is positive definite on  $(\mathbb{S}^d \times G)^2$ .

Here  $d = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$ .

If  $G = \{e\}$  is the trivial group we get a classical Theorem of Schoenberg from 1942 about positive definite functions on spheres.

To formulate these generalizations we need to recall:

The **Gegenbauer polynomials**  $C_n^{(\lambda)}$  for  $\lambda > 0$  are given by the generating function

$$(1 - 2xr + r^2)^{-\lambda} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n^{(\lambda)}(x)r^n, \quad |r| < 1, x \in \mathbb{C}. \quad (1)$$

For  $\lambda > 0$ , we have the classical orthogonality relation:

$$\int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^{\lambda-1/2} C_n^{(\lambda)}(x) C_m^{(\lambda)}(x) dx = \frac{\pi \Gamma(n + 2\lambda) 2^{1-2\lambda}}{\Gamma^2(\lambda) (n + \lambda) n!} \delta_{m,n}. \quad (2)$$

# Chebyshev polynomials

For  $\lambda = 0$  we use the generating function

$$\frac{1 - xr}{1 - 2xr + r^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n^{(0)}(x)r^n, \quad |r| < 1, x \in \mathbb{C}. \quad (3)$$

It is well-known that

$$C_n^{(0)}(x) = T_n(x) = \cos(n \arccos x), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

are the **Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind**.

$$\int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^{-1/2} T_n(x) T_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} \frac{\pi}{2} \delta_{m,n} & \text{if } n > 0 \\ \pi \delta_{m,n} & \text{if } n = 0, \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

**Warning:**  $\lambda \rightarrow C_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$  is discontinuous at  $\lambda = 0$ .



## More on Gegenbauer polynomials

Putting  $x = 1$  in the generating functions yields

$$C_n^{(\lambda)}(1) = (2\lambda)_n/n!, \quad \lambda > 0, \quad T_n(1) = 1.$$

Recall that for  $a \in \mathbb{C}$

$$(a)_n = a(a+1)\cdots(a+n-1), \quad n \geq 1, \quad (a)_0 = 1.$$

It is of fundamental importance that

$$|C_n^{(\lambda)}(x)| \leq C_n^{(\lambda)}(1), \quad x \in [-1, 1], \quad \lambda \geq 0.$$

The special value  $\lambda = (d-1)/2$  is relevant for the  $d$ -dimensional sphere

$$\mathbb{S}^d = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \mid \|x\| = 1\}, \quad d \in \mathbb{N}$$

because of the relation of  $C_n^{(d-1)/2}$  to spherical harmonics.

# Spherical harmonics

A **spherical harmonic** of degree  $n$  for  $\mathbb{S}^d$  is the restriction to  $\mathbb{S}^d$  of a real-valued harmonic homogeneous polynomial in  $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  of degree  $n$ .

$$\mathcal{H}_n(d) = \{\text{spherical harmonics of degree } n\} \subset \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{S}^d)$$

is a finite dimensional subspace of the continuous functions on  $\mathbb{S}^d$ .  
We have

$$N_n(d) := \dim \mathcal{H}_n(d) = \frac{(d)_{n-1}}{n!} (2n + d - 1), \quad n \geq 1, \quad N_0(d) = 1.$$

The surface measure of the sphere is denoted  $\omega_d$ , and it is of total mass

$$\|\omega_d\| = \frac{2\pi^{(d+1)/2}}{\Gamma((d+1)/2)}.$$

The spaces  $\mathcal{H}_n(d)$  are mutual orthogonal subspaces of the Hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{S}^d, \omega_d)$ , which they generate.

# Ultraspherical polynomials

This means that any  $F \in L^2(\mathbb{S}^d, \omega_d)$  has an orthogonal expansion

$$F = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S_n, \quad S_n \in \mathcal{H}_n(d), \quad \|F\|_2^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \|S_n\|_2^2,$$

where the first series converges in  $L^2(\mathbb{S}^d, \omega_d)$ , and the second series is Parseval's equation. Here  $S_n$  is the orthogonal projection of  $F$  onto  $\mathcal{H}_n(d)$  given as

$$S_n(\xi) = \frac{N_n(d)}{\|\omega_d\|} \int_{\mathbb{S}^d} c_n(d, \xi \cdot \eta) F(\eta) d\omega_d(\eta),$$

where

$$c_n(d, x) = C_n^{((d-1)/2)}(x) / C_n^{((d-1)/2)}(1).$$

These polynomials are called **ultraspherical polynomials** or  **$d$ -dimensional Legendre polynomials**.

The 2-dimensional Legendre polynomials are the classical Legendre polynomials previously denoted  $P_n$ .

# Orthogonality relation for ultraspherical polynomials

Specializing the orthogonality relation for the Gegenbauer polynomials to  $\lambda = (d - 1)/2$ :

$$\int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^{d/2-1} c_n(d, x) c_m(d, x) dx = \frac{\|\omega_d\|}{\|\omega_{d-1}\| N_n(d)} \delta_{m,n}.$$

(Define  $\|\omega_0\| = 2$ ).

Note that

$$|c_n(d, x)| \leq 1, \quad x \in [-1, 1].$$

# Schoenberg's Theorem from 1942

Let  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d)$  denote the class of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and for any  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in \mathbb{S}^d$  the  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix

$$[f(\xi_k \cdot \xi_l)]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is positive semi-definite.

## Theorem (Schoenberg 1942)

A function  $f : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  belongs to the class  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d)$  if and only if

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_{n,d} c_n(d, x), \quad x \in [-1, 1],$$

for a non-negative summable sequence  $(b_{n,d})_{n=0}^{\infty}$  given as

$$b_{n,d} = \frac{||\omega_{d-1}|| N_n(d)}{||\omega_d||} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) c_n(d, x) (1-x^2)^{d/2-1} dx.$$

# Positive definite functions on groups

Consider an arbitrary **locally compact group**  $G$ , where we use the multiplicative notation, and in particular the neutral element of  $G$  is denoted  $e$ .

In the representation theory of these groups the following functions play an crucial role.

A continuous function  $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called **positive definite** if for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $u_1, \dots, u_n \in G$  the  $n \times n$ -matrix

$$[f(u_k^{-1} u_l)]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is hermitian and positive semi-definite.

By  $\mathcal{P}(G)$  we denote the set of continuous positive definite functions on  $G$ .

We shall characterize the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that the kernel

$$f(\xi \cdot \eta, u^{-1}v), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}^d, u, v \in G \quad (5)$$

is positive definite in the sense that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $(\xi_1, u_1), \dots, (\xi_n, u_n) \in \mathbb{S}^d \times G$  the  $n \times n$ -matrix

$$[f(\xi_k \cdot \xi_l, u_k^{-1}u_l)]_{k,l=1}^n \quad (6)$$

is hermitian and positive semi-definite.

Note that for  $G = \{e\}$  we can identify  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  with  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}_d)$ .

## Proposition

- (i) For  $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  and  $r \geq 0$  we have  $rf_1, f_1 + f_2$ , and  $f_1 \cdot f_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ .
- (ii) For a net of functions  $(f_j)_{j \in I}$  from  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  converging pointwise to a continuous function  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , we have  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ .
- (iii) For  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  we have  $f(\cdot, e) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}_d)$  and  $f(1, \cdot) \in \mathcal{P}(G)$ .
- (iv) For  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}_d)$  and  $g \in \mathcal{P}(G)$  we have  $f \otimes g \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ , where  $f \otimes g(x, u) := f(x)g(u)$  for  $(x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G$ . In particular we have  $f \otimes 1_G \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  and  $f \mapsto f \otimes 1_G$  is an embedding of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}_d)$  into  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ .



# Characterization of the class $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$

## Theorem (B-Porcu 2015)

Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a continuous function. Then  $f$  belongs to  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  if and only if there exists a sequence  $\varphi_{n,d} \in \mathcal{P}(G)$  with  $\sum \varphi_{n,d}(e) < \infty$  such that

$$f(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{n,d}(u) c_n(d, x),$$

and the above expansion is uniformly convergent for  $(x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G$ . We have

$$\varphi_{n,d}(u) = \frac{N_n(d) \|\omega_{d-1}\|}{\|\omega_d\|} \int_{-1}^1 f(x, u) c_n(d, x) (1-x^2)^{d/2-1} dx.$$

# Relation between the classes $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ , $d = 1, 2, \dots$

Note that

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^1, G) \supset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^2, G) \supset \dots$$

The inclusion  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{d-1}, G)$  is easy, since  $\mathbb{S}^{d-1}$  can be considered as the equator of  $\mathbb{S}^d$ . That the inclusion is strict is more subtle.

The intersection

$$\bigcap_{d=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$$

can be identified with the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{\infty}, G)$  of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that for all  $n$

$$[f(\xi_k \cdot \xi_l, u_k^{-1} v_l)]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is hermitean and positive semi-definite for  $(\xi_k, u_k)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$  from  $\mathbb{S}^{\infty} \times G$ , where

$$\mathbb{S}^{\infty} = \{(x_k) \mid \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k^2 = 1\} \subset \ell^2.$$

# Schoenberg's second Theorem

When  $G = \{e\}$  Schoenberg proved in 1942:

## Theorem

*A function  $f : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^\infty) = \cap_{d=1}^\infty \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d)$  if and only if*

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n$$

*for a non-negative summable sequence  $b_n$ . The convergence is uniform on  $[-1, 1]$ .*

# A characterization of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^\infty, G)$

## Theorem (B-Porcu 2015)

Let  $G$  denote a locally compact group and let  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a continuous function. Then  $f$  belongs to  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^\infty, G)$  if and only if there exists a sequence  $\varphi_n \in \mathcal{P}(G)$  with  $\sum \varphi_n(e) < \infty$  such that

$$f(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(u) x^n,$$

and the above expansion is uniformly convergent for  $(x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G$ .

# Schoenberg coefficient functions

For  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  we know that also  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^k, G)$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, d$  and therefore we have  $d$  expansions

$$f(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{n,k}(u) c_n(k, x), \quad (x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G,$$

where  $k = 1, 2, \dots, d$ .

We call  $\varphi_{n,k}(u)$  the  $k$ -Schoenberg coefficient functions of  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ .

In the case where  $G = \{e\}$  the  $k$ -Schoenberg coefficient functions are non-negative constants and they are just called  $k$ -Schoenberg coefficients.

# More about Schoenberg coefficient functions

There is a simple relation between these  $k$ -Schoenberg coefficients / coefficient functions:

Suppose  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{d+2}, G) \subset \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ . Then for  $u \in G, n \geq 0$

$$\varphi_{n,d+2}(u) = \frac{(n+d-1)(n+d)}{d(2n+d-1)}\varphi_{n,d}(u) - \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{d(2n+d+3)}\varphi_{n+2,d}(u).$$

In the case  $G = \{e\}$  these relations were found by Gneiting (2013) and extended to general  $G$  in B-Porcu(2015) (available on the ArXive).

# A result of J. Ziegel, 2014, and its generalization

## Theorem (Johanna Ziegel, 2014)

Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and suppose that  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{d+2})$ . Then  $f$  is continuously differentiable in the open interval  $(-1, 1)$  and there exist  $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d)$  such that

$$f'(x) = \frac{f_1(x) - f_2(x)}{1 - x^2}, \quad -1 < x < 1.$$

## Theorem (B-Porcu 2015)

Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and suppose that  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{d+2}, G)$ . Then  $f(x, u)$  is continuously differentiable with respect to  $x$  in  $] -1, 1[$  and

$$\frac{\partial f(x, u)}{\partial x} = \frac{f_1(x, u) - f_2(x, u)}{1 - x^2}, \quad (x, u) \in ] -1, 1[ \times G$$

for functions  $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ . In particular  $\frac{\partial f(x, u)}{\partial x}$  is continuous on  $] -1, 1[ \times G$ .

## Some remarks

The result of Ziegel is the analogue of an old result of Schoenberg about radial positive definite functions (Ann. Math. 1938):

If  $f : [0, \infty[ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous functions such that  $f(\|x\|)$  is positive definite on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $f$  has a continuous derivative of order  $[(n-1)/2]$  on  $(0, \infty)$ .

The above extension of Ziegel's result to general  $G$  is needed in our extension of Schoenberg's result to  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^\infty, G)$ .

If  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^\infty, G)$  we have a sequence of expansions,  $d = 1, 2, \dots$

$$f(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{n,d}(u) c_n(d, x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(u) x^n$$

valid for  $(x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G$ .

Here  $\varphi_{n,d}(u), \varphi_n(u) \in \mathcal{P}(G)$ . As part of our proof we obtain

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_{n,d}(u) = \varphi_n(u)$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0, u \in G$ .



# Some indications of proof

## Lemma

Any  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$  satisfies

$$f(x, u^{-1}) = \overline{f(x, u)}, \quad |f(x, u)| \leq f(1, e), \quad (x, u) \in [-1, 1] \times G.$$

## Lemma

Let  $K \subset G$  be a non-empty compact set, and let  $\delta > 0$  and an open neighbourhood  $U$  of  $e \in G$  be given. Then there exists a partition of  $\mathbb{S}^d \times K$  in finitely many non-empty disjoint Borel sets, say  $M_j, j = 1, \dots, r$ , such that each  $M_j$  has the property

$$(\xi, u), (\eta, v) \in M_j \implies \theta(\xi, \eta) < \delta, \quad u^{-1}v \in U.$$

## Lemma

For a continuous function  $f : [-1, 1] \times G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, G)$ .
- (ii)  $f$  is bounded and for any complex Radon measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{S}^d \times G$  of compact support we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^d \times G} \int_{\mathbb{S}^d \times G} f(\cos \theta(\xi, \eta), u^{-1}v) d\mu(\xi, u) d\overline{\mu(\eta, v)} \geq 0.$$

Having established the Lemma, the next idea is to apply (ii) to the measure  $\mu = \omega_d \otimes \sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is an arbitrary complex Radon measure of compact support on  $G$ .

# Application to some homogeneous spaces

In a recent manuscript Guella, Menegatto and Peron prove characterization results for isotropic positive definite kernels on  $\mathbb{S}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d'}$  for  $d, d' \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ . They consider the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, \mathbb{S}^{d'})$  of continuous functions  $f : [-1, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that the kernel

$$K((\xi, \zeta), (\eta, \chi)) = f(\xi \cdot \eta, \zeta \cdot \chi), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}^d, \quad \zeta, \chi \in \mathbb{S}^{d'},$$

is positive definite in the sense that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $(\xi_1, \zeta_1), \dots, (\xi_n, \zeta_n) \in \mathbb{S}^d \times \mathbb{S}^{d'}$  the matrix

$$[K((\xi_k, \zeta_k), (\xi_l, \zeta_l))]_{k,l=1}^n$$

is positive semi-definite.

They prove the following:

## Theorem

Let  $d, d' \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $f : [-1, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function. Then  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, \mathbb{S}^{d'})$  if and only if

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n, m=0}^{\infty} \widehat{f}_{n, m} c_n(d, x) c_m(d', y), \quad x, y \in [-1, 1],$$

where  $\widehat{f}_{n, m} \geq 0$  such that  $\sum \widehat{f}_{n, m} < \infty$ .

The above expansion is uniformly convergent, and we have

$$\widehat{f}_{n, m} = \frac{N_n(d) \sigma_{d-1}}{\sigma_d} \frac{N_m(d') \sigma_{d'-1}}{\sigma_{d'}} \times \int_{-1}^1 \int_{-1}^1 f(x, y) c_n(d, x) c_m(d', y) (1-x^2)^{d/2-1} (1-y^2)^{d'/2-1} dx dy.$$

## Reduction to our results

The idea of proof is to consider  $\mathbb{S}^{d'}$  as the homogeneous space  $O(d'+1)/O(d')$ , where  $O(d'+1)$  is the compact group of orthogonal transformations in  $\mathbb{R}^{d'+1}$  and  $O(d')$  is identified with the subgroup of  $O(d'+1)$  which fixes the point  $\varepsilon_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{S}^{d'+1}$ .

It is elementary to see that the formula of the Theorem defines a function  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, \mathbb{S}^{d'})$ .

Let us next consider  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, \mathbb{S}^{d'})$  and define

$F : [-1, 1] \times O(d'+1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$F(x, A) = f(x, A\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1), \quad x \in [-1, 1], A \in O(d'+1).$$

Then  $F \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^d, O(d'+1))$  because

$$F(x, B^{-1}A) = f(x, A\varepsilon_1 \cdot B\varepsilon_1), \quad A, B \in O(d'+1).$$

# Continuation of the proof 1

By our main Theorem

$$F(x, A) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{n,d}(A) c_n(d, x), \quad x \in [-1, 1], A \in O(d' + 1),$$

and

$$\varphi_{n,d}(A) = \frac{N_n(d) \sigma_{d-1}}{\sigma_d} \int_{-1}^1 f(x, A \varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1) c_n(d, x) (1 - x^2)^{d/2-1} dx$$

belongs to  $\mathcal{P}(O(d' + 1))$ .

The function  $\varphi_{n,d}$  is bi-invariant under  $O(d')$ , i.e.,

$$\varphi_{n,d}(KAL) = \varphi_{n,d}(A), \quad A \in O(d' + 1), K, L \in O(d').$$

This is simply because  $f(x, KAL\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1) = f(x, A\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1)$ .

## Continuation of the proof 2

The mapping  $A \mapsto A\varepsilon_1$  is a continuous surjection of  $O(d' + 1)$  onto  $\mathbb{S}^{d'}$ , and it induces a homeomorphism of the homogeneous space  $O(d' + 1)/O(d')$  onto  $\mathbb{S}^{d'}$ .

It is easy to see that as a bi-invariant function,  $\varphi_{n,d}$  has the form

$$\varphi_{n,d}(A) = g_{n,d}(A\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1)$$

for a uniquely determined continuous function  $g_{n,d} : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

We have in addition  $g_{n,d} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{d'})$ , because for  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in \mathbb{S}^{d'}$  there exist  $A_1, \dots, A_n \in O(d' + 1)$  such that

$\xi_j = A_j\varepsilon_1, j = 1, \dots, n$ , hence

$$g_{n,d}(\xi_k \cdot \xi_l) = g_{n,d}(A_l^{-1}A_k\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_1) = \varphi_{n,d}(A_l^{-1}A_k).$$

It is now easy to finish the proof.

C. Berg, E. Porcu, *From Schoenberg coefficients to Schoenberg functions*, Preprint submitted to ArXiv.

J. C. Guella, V. A. Menegatto and A. P. Peron, *An extension of a theorem of Schoenberg to products of spheres* arXiv:1503.08174.

# Thank you for your attention