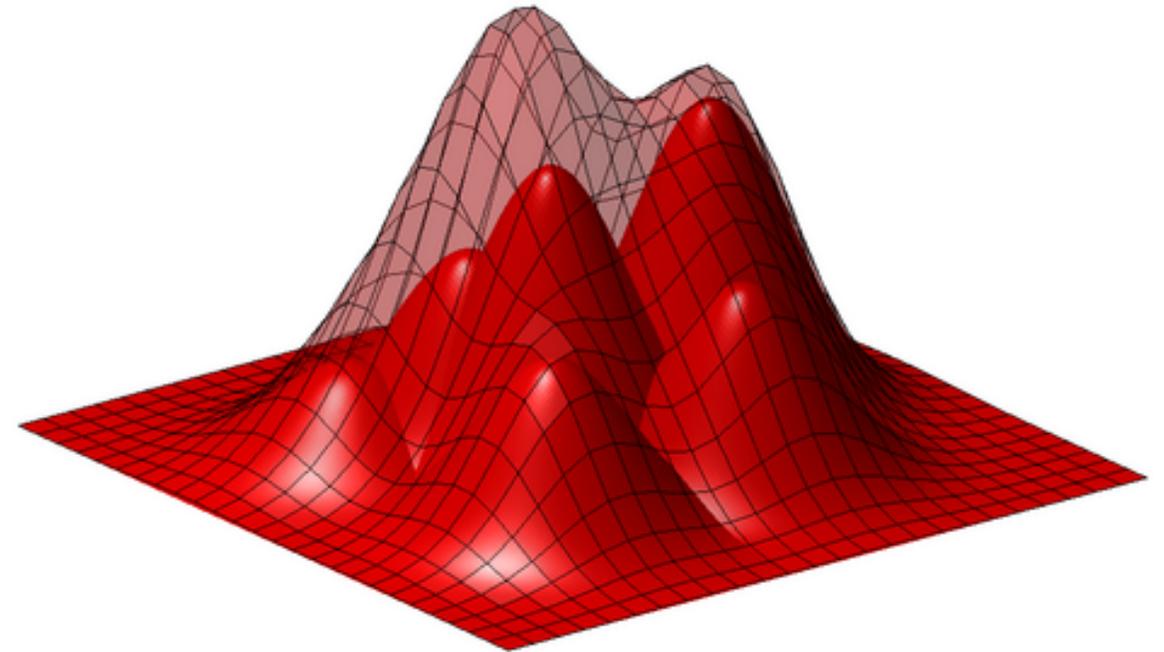


2.160 Identification, Estimation, and Learning  
**Part 4 Machine Learning and Nonlinear System Modeling**

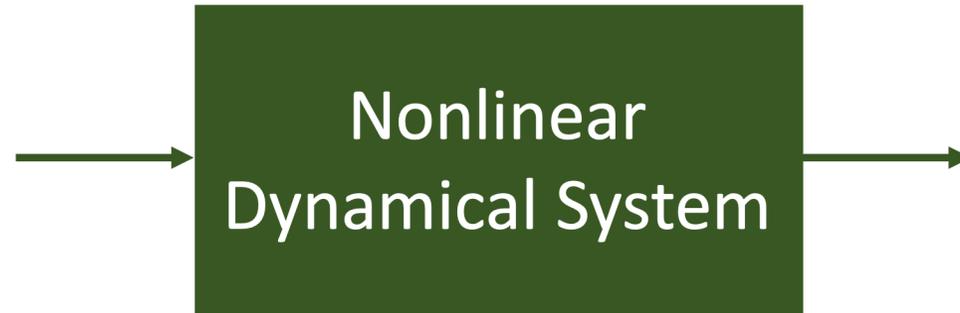
Lecture 19

Nonlinear Function  
Approximation

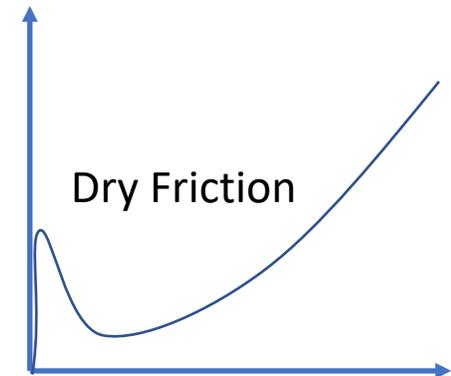
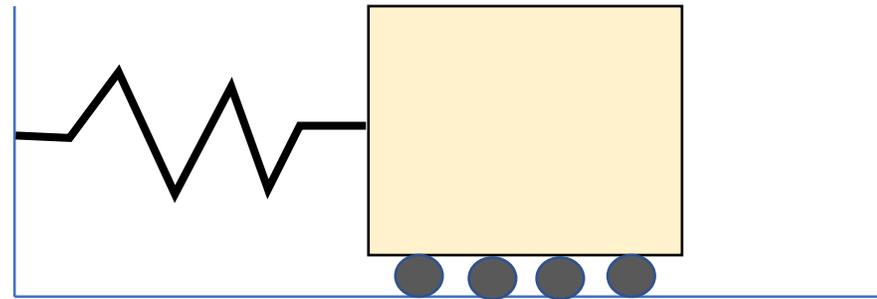
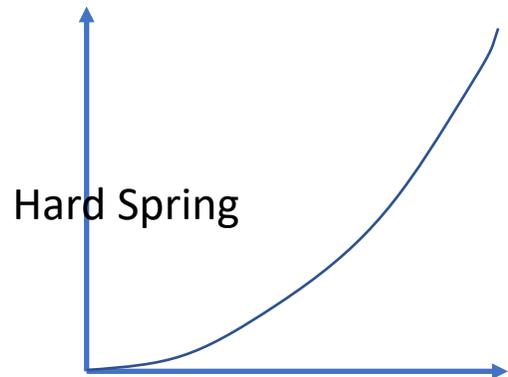
H. Harry Asada  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
MIT



# Nonlinear System Modeling



- ❑ Practical systems are nonlinear to some extent.

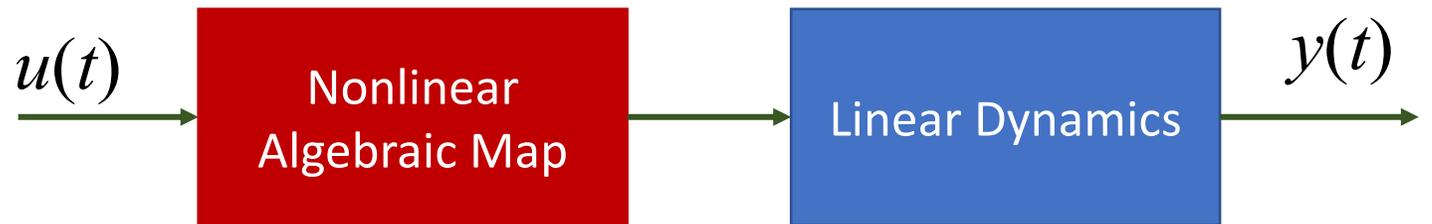




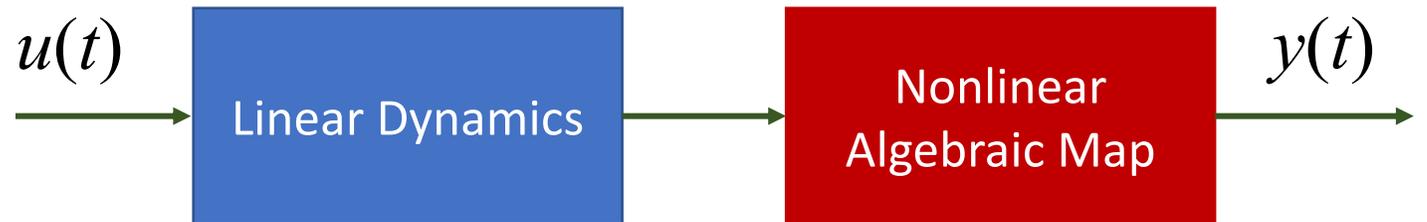
## Hybrid Linear-Nonlinear Modeling

- Putting all nonlinear elements to either input side or output side, we can split a nonlinear dynamical system into a linear and nonlinear system.

### Hammerstein Model

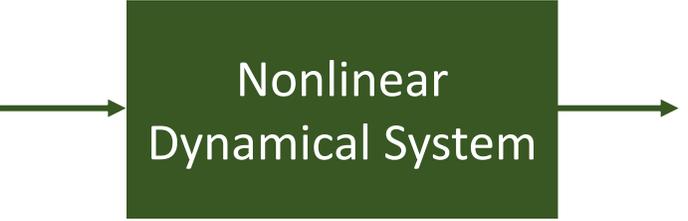


### Wiener Model

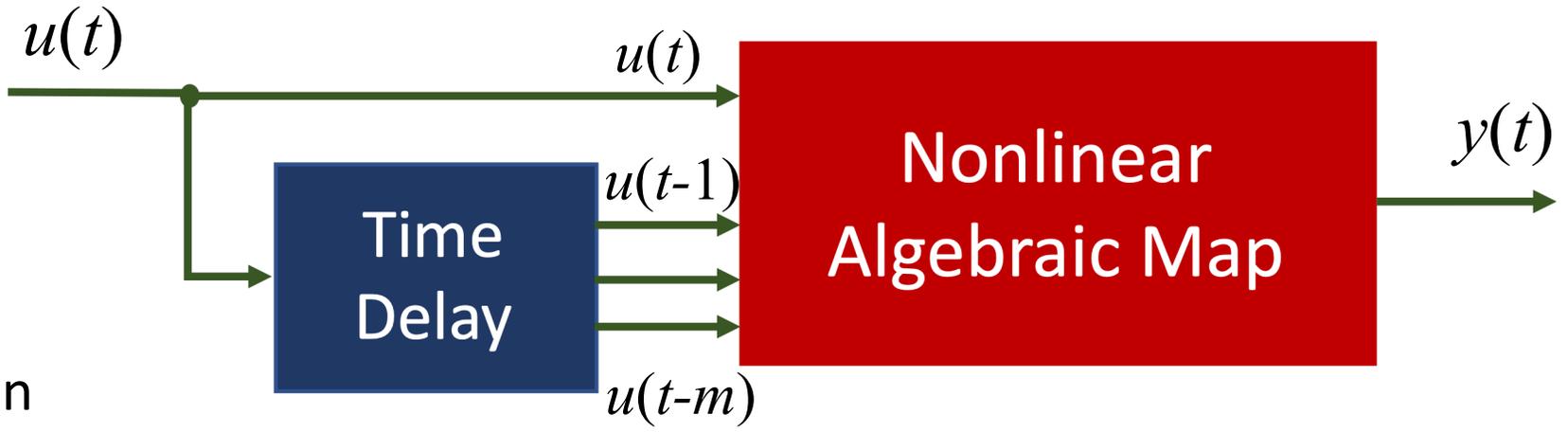


- Describing functions, too, apply to the above hybrid systems.

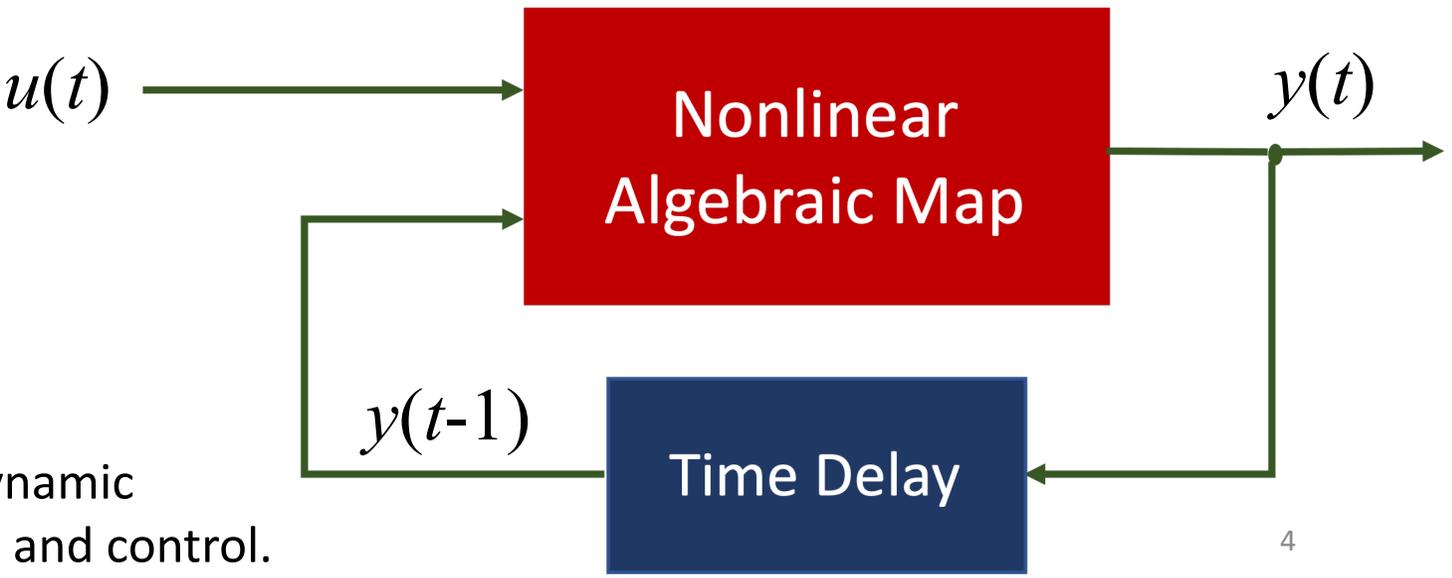
# Use of Time Delay Outside an Algebraic Map



- ❑ Creating regressor at the input
  - Neural Network
  - Radial Basis Function



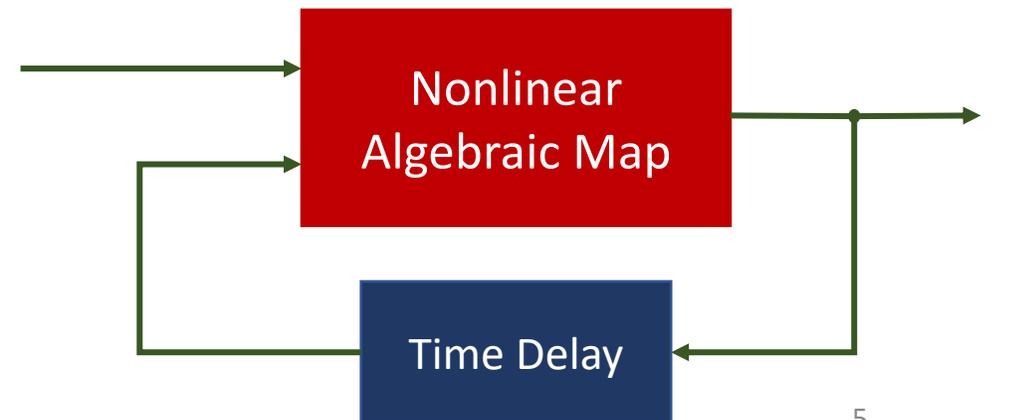
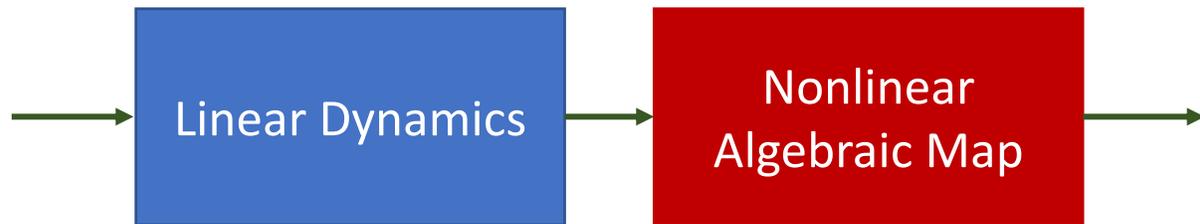
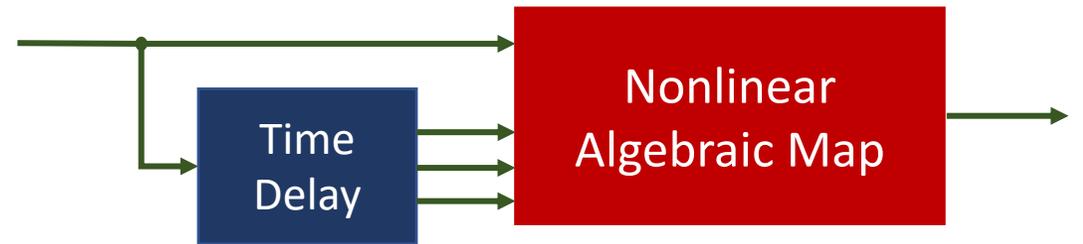
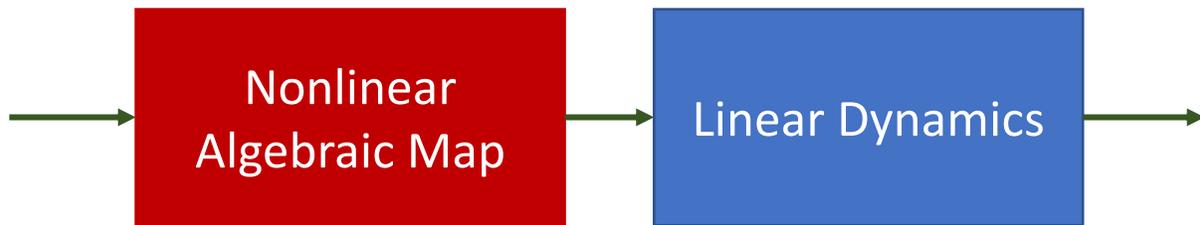
- ❑ Time Delay in the feedback loop
  - Recurrent Network



Directed Acyclic Graph can also capture dynamic behaviors, but are seldom used in systems and control.



**Nonlinear Algebraic Map**  
is involved in all models



# Nonlinear Algebraic Map

Expansion of a nonlinear function to a series of basis functions

$$y(x) \cong \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k g_k(x)$$

## □ Global basis functions

- Trigonometric functions ----- Fourier Series Expansion
- Polynomials ----- Volterra Series Expansion

$$y = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \alpha_3 x_1 x_2 + \alpha_4 x_1^2 + \dots$$

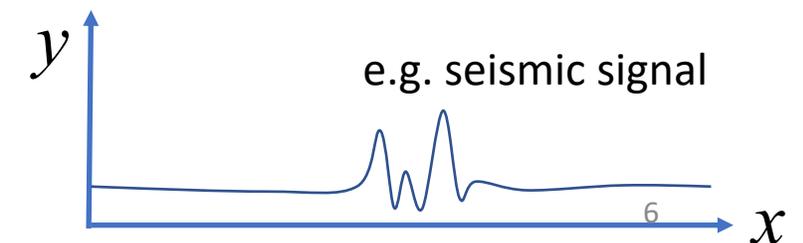
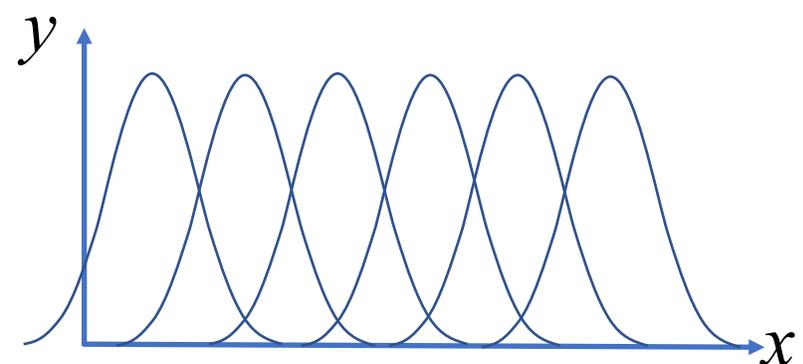
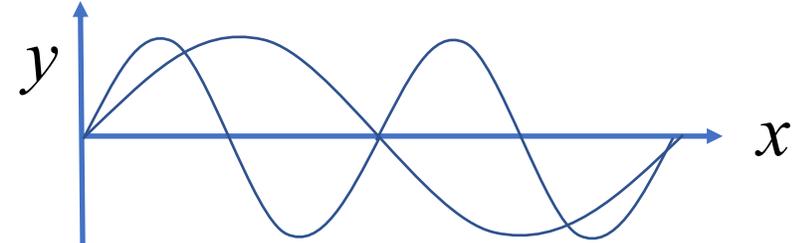
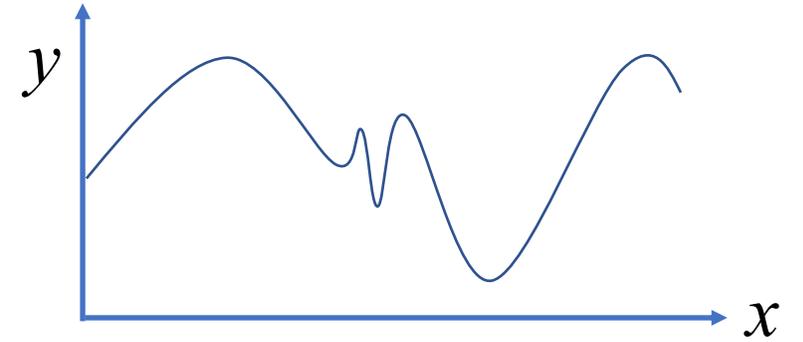
## □ Locally-tunable basis functions

Capture local features of a nonlinear function, which would be averaged out if global basis functions are used.

- Radial basis functions ----- We will discuss this further here.
- Wavelets ----- Spatiotemporal functions

## □ Hybrid local-global basis functions

- Neural networks



# Radial Basis Functions

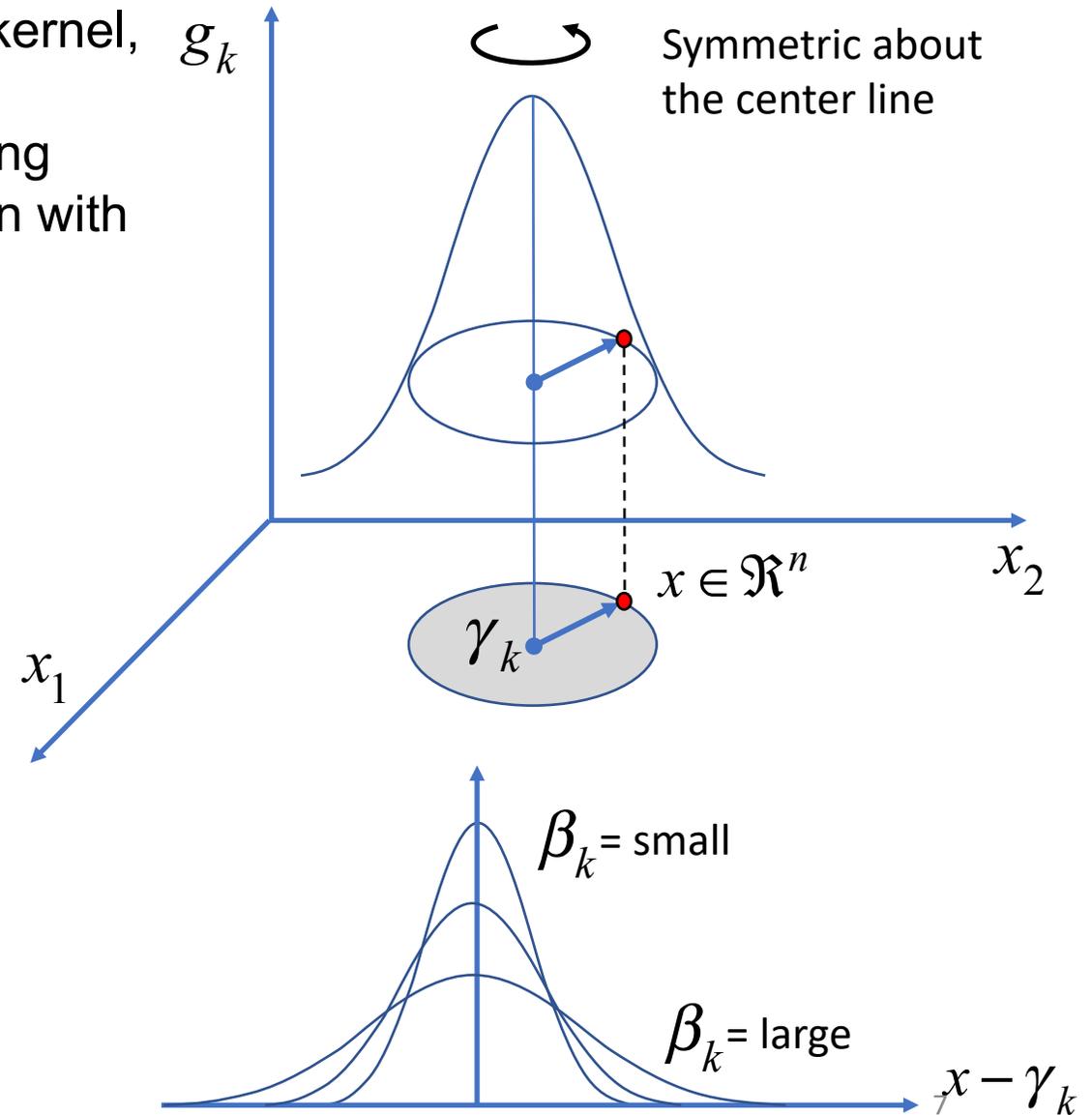
- Radial Basis Functions are one of the most widely used local basis functions in control, machine learning; kernel, Gaussian processes, Koopman observables, etc.
- Local basis functions are powerful tools for capturing local features and representing a nonlinear function with locally-tunable resolution and accuracy.
- A Radial Basis Function  $g_k : \mathfrak{R}^n \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}, k = 1, \dots, m$  is a real-valued function that depends only on the distance between an input  $x \in \mathfrak{R}^n$  and a center point  $\gamma_k \in \mathfrak{R}^n$ .

$$y = g_k(r_k) \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

- The distance  $r_k$  is scaled with a dilation parameter  $\beta_k$ :

$$r_k = \frac{|x - \gamma_k|}{\beta_k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

Center point
Dilation parameter



## Radial Basis Functions - 2

- Among many radial basis functions, Gaussian function is the most prevailing.

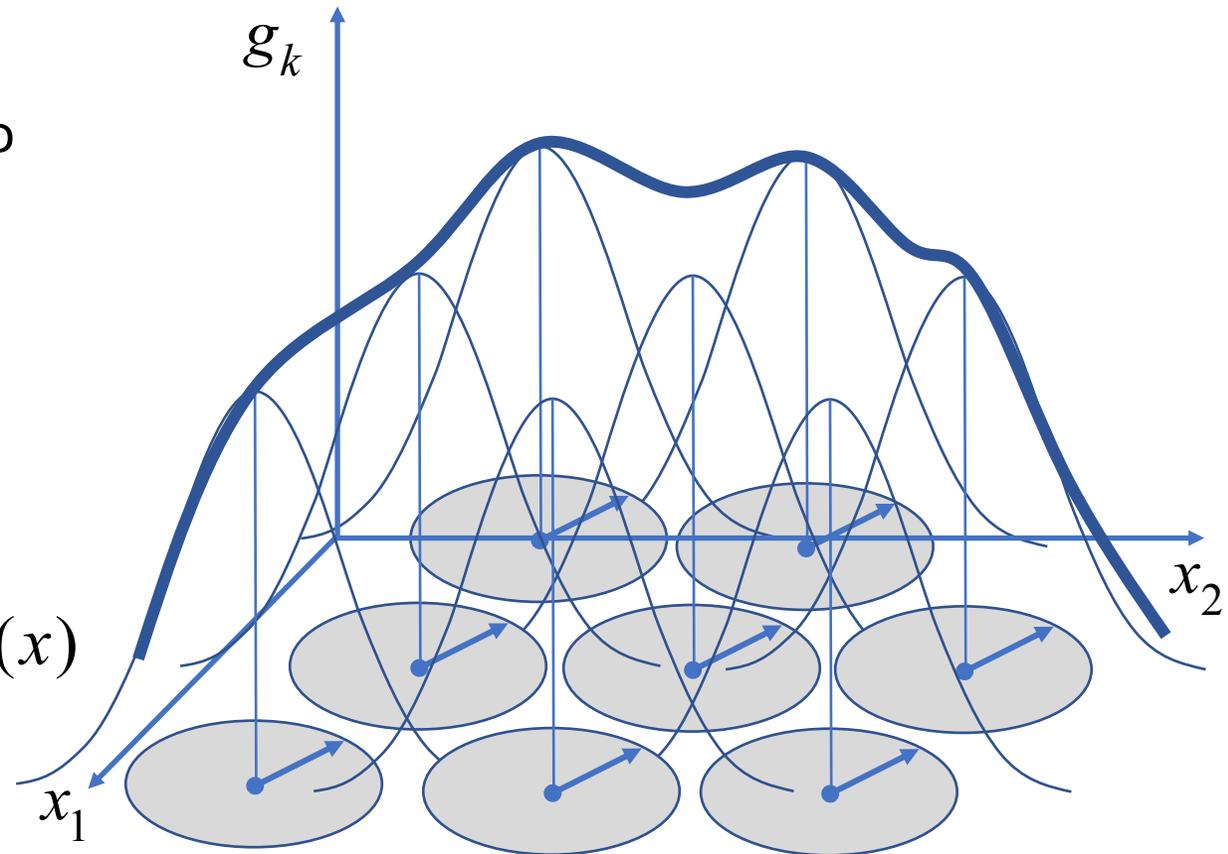
$$g_k(r_k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}r_k^2\right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

- Expanding a nonlinear function,  $g_0(x)$ , to a series of radial basis functions:

$$g_0(x) = \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k g_k(r_k; \beta_k, \gamma_k)$$

- Placing  $m$  radial basis functions at center points  $\gamma_k$  with dilation parameters  $\beta_k$ , we approximate a given nonlinear function  $g_0(x)$  by tuning weights  $\alpha_k$

$$r_k = \frac{|x - \gamma_k|}{\beta_k}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m$$



$$g_0(x) = \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k g_k(r_k; \beta_k, \gamma_k)$$

- This class of basis functions (and many other basis functions, including a neural network) can approximate a broad class of nonlinear functions to any accuracy.

## Function Approximation Theorem

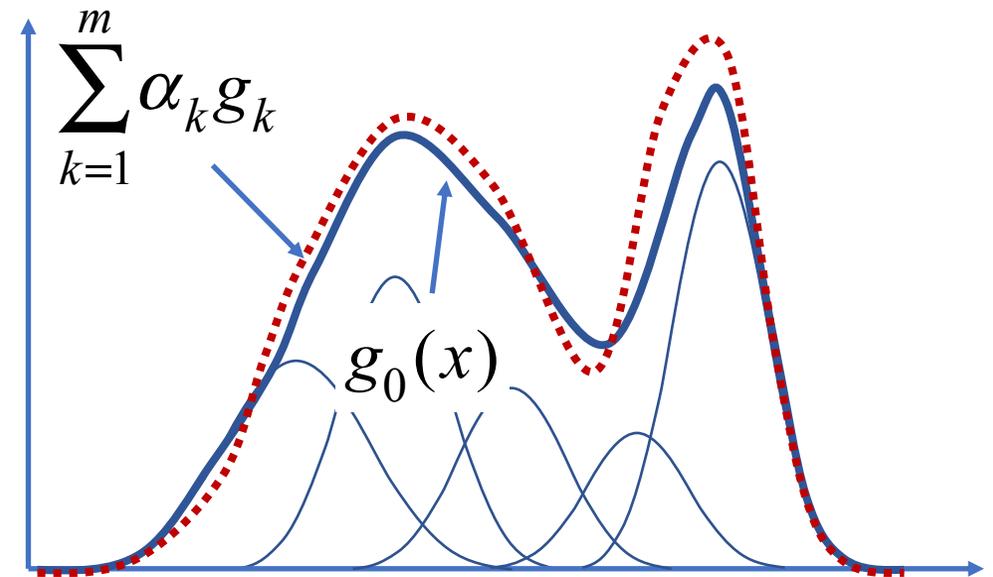
For any (small) positive  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite integer  $m < \infty$  such that

$$\left| g_0(x) - \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k g_k(r_k; \beta_k, \gamma_k) \right| < \varepsilon,$$

$$\forall x \in D$$

where  $D$  is a compact subset.

This function approximation problem was studied by Kolmogorov, etc.



# Tuning of a RBF network

- The objective of system identification is to fit a series of RBFs, or a network of RBFs, to a given set of input-output data.

$$\{(x(i), y(i)) \mid i = 1, \dots, N\}$$

## 1). Non-Adaptive Grid Method

- Place center points of  $m$  RBFs at grid points uniformly across the input space :  $x \in \mathfrak{R}^{n \times 1}$

$$\gamma_k \in \mathfrak{R}^{n \times 1}, k = 1, \dots, m$$

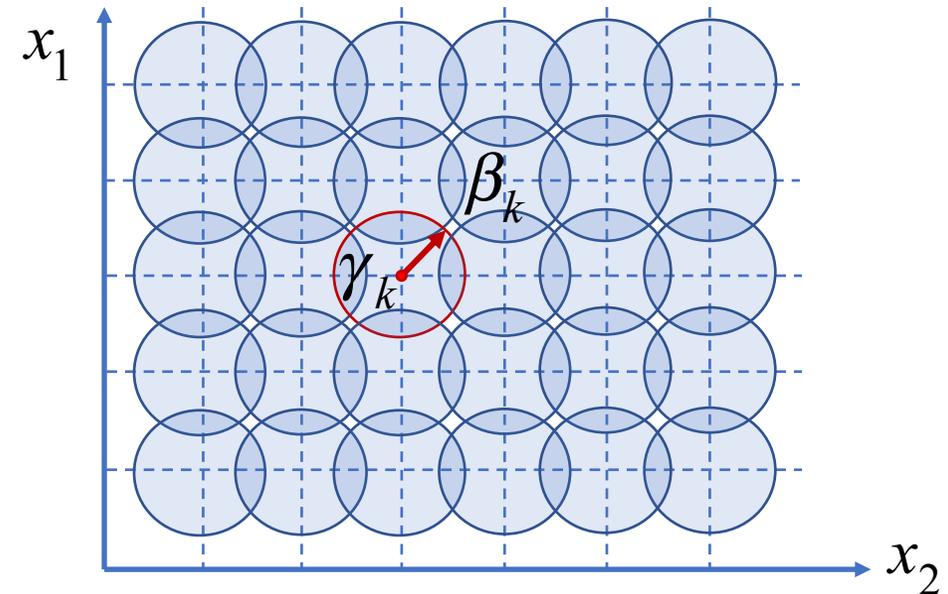
- Dilation parameters  $\beta_k$ , too, are pre-determined.

- Writing  $g_k(r_k; \beta_k, \gamma_k)$  as  $g_k(x)$

$$r_k = \frac{|x - \gamma_k|}{\beta_k}$$

$$\hat{y}(x) = \alpha_1 g_1(x) + \dots + \alpha_k g_k(x) + \dots + \alpha_m g_m(x)$$

- Determine weights  $\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_m$  to minimize the prediction error.

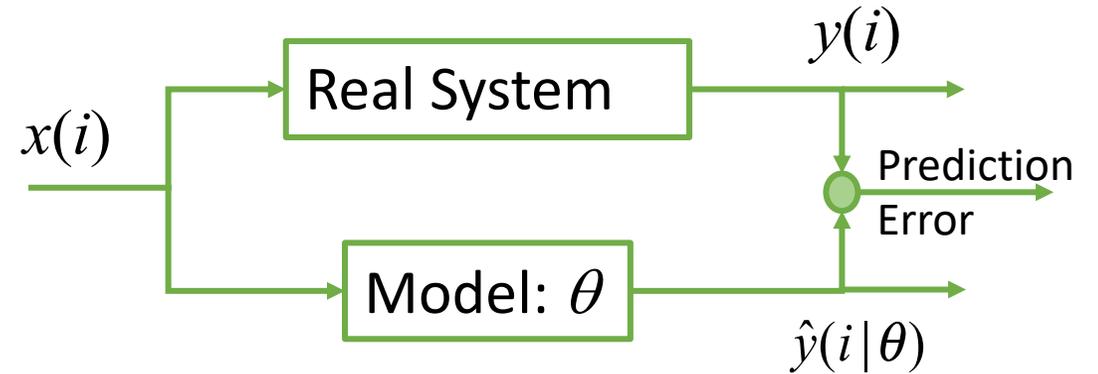


## Non-Adaptive Grid Method

- This is a standard Least Squares Estimate problem.

$$\hat{\theta}^{LS} = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^N \left( y(i) - \hat{y}(x(i)) \right)^2$$
$$\left\{ (x(i), y(i)) \mid i = 1, \dots, N \right\}$$

$$\hat{y}(x) = \alpha_1 g_1(x) + \dots + \alpha_k g_k(x) + \dots + \alpha_m g_m(x)$$



- Treat  $g_1(x), \dots, g_m(x)$  as components of a regressor,

$$\varphi = \begin{pmatrix} g_1 \\ \vdots \\ g_m \end{pmatrix}, \quad \theta = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_m \end{pmatrix}$$

We can write the predictor as a linear regression.

$$\hat{y}(x) = \theta^T \varphi(x)$$

## Non-Adaptive Grid Method

□ The solution is given by

$$\hat{\theta}^{LS} = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^N (y(i) - \hat{y}(x(i)))^2 \quad \hat{y}(x) = \alpha_1 g_1(x) + \dots + \alpha_k g_k(x) + \dots + \alpha_m g_m(x)$$

$$\hat{\theta}^{LS} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\alpha}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\alpha}_m \end{pmatrix} = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x(i)) \\ \vdots \\ g_m(x(i)) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x(i)) & \dots & g_m(x(i)) \end{pmatrix} \right]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N y(i) \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x(i)) \\ \vdots \\ g_m(x(i)) \end{pmatrix}$$

□ This simple LSE can be computed in real time. It has been applied to adaptive control, where the linear regression  $\hat{y}(x) = \theta^T \varphi(x)$  is incorporated into a Lyapunov function, or computed with recursive least squares.

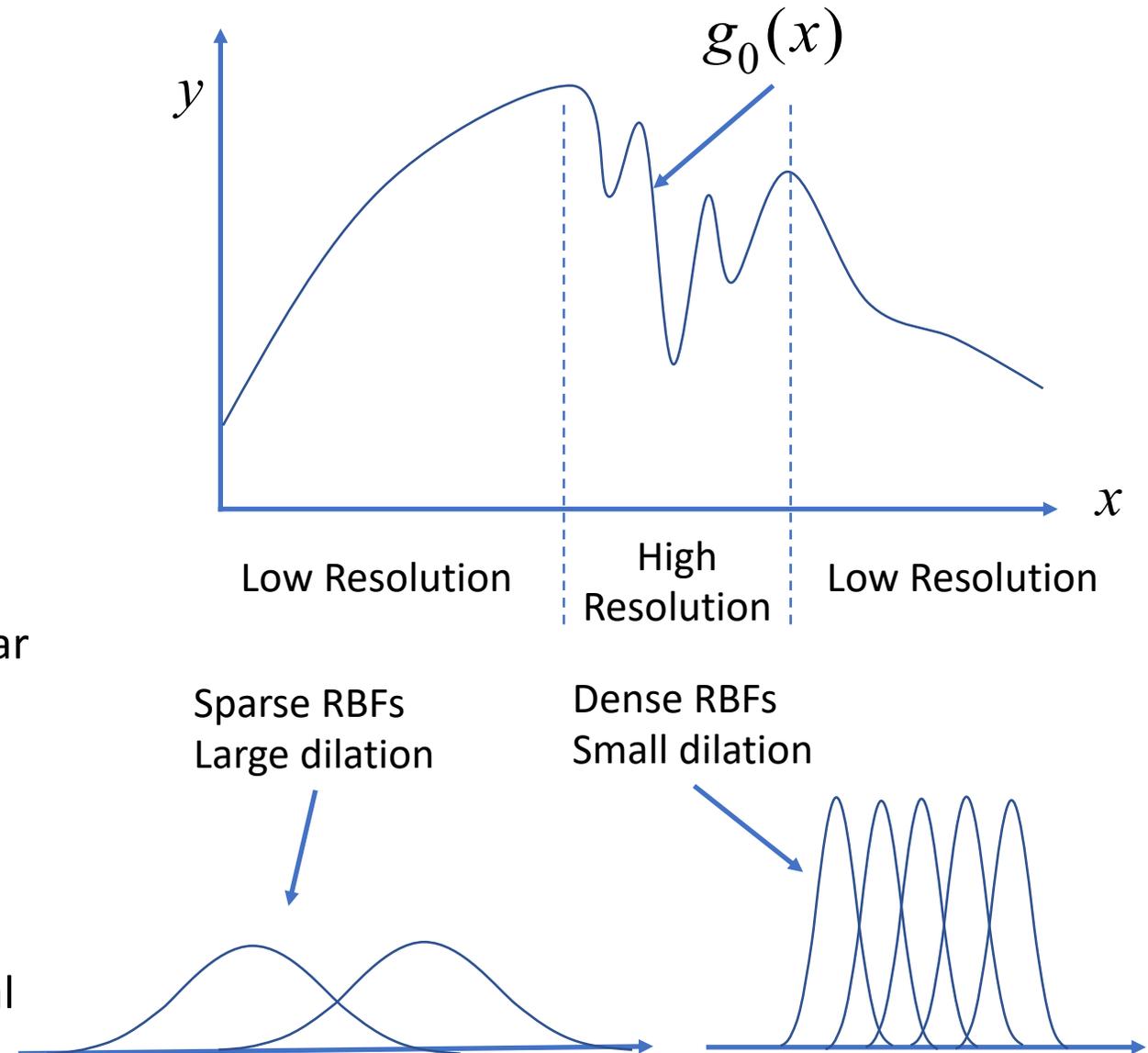
□ This, however, requires offline tuning of dilation parameters and grid points.

□ One drawback is the Curse of Dimensionality. As the input dimension increases, a number of RBF are required.

# Tuning of a RBF network

## 2). Data-Adaptable Method

- ❑ The Grid Method places RBFs uniformly across the input space and, thereby, requires a lot of RBFs.
- ❑ The Grid Method also uses a uniform dilation parameter  $\beta_k$  for all the RBFs.
- ❑ Nonlinear functions may have diverse spatial frequencies, depending on the region of the function.
- ❑ Higher resolution may be needed in a particular region, while low resolution is acceptable for other regions.
- ❑ If the density of RBFs and dilation parameters can be tuned to specific local properties and needs, a limited number of RBFs can be used effectively for approximating a given functional relationship.



## Data-Adaptable Method

- Depending on the spatial frequencies of nonlinear function  $g_0(x)$  and required approximation accuracy, the density of RBFs and dilation parameters can be adjusted.

$$g_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{|x - \gamma_k|^2}{\beta_k^2}\right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

- Challenge: Dilation  $\beta_k$  and center point  $\gamma_k$  are nonlinearly involved in each RBF.
- In principle, the three parameters,  $\alpha_k$ ,  $\beta_k$  and  $\gamma_k$  should be optimized simultaneously to best fit a given data set, but it is difficult. A practical approach is a sequential tuning:

$$\gamma_k \rightarrow \beta_k \rightarrow \alpha_k$$

- 1<sup>st</sup> Step: Placement of center points;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Step : Determination of dilation based on variance of nearby data points; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Step : Least Squares Estimate

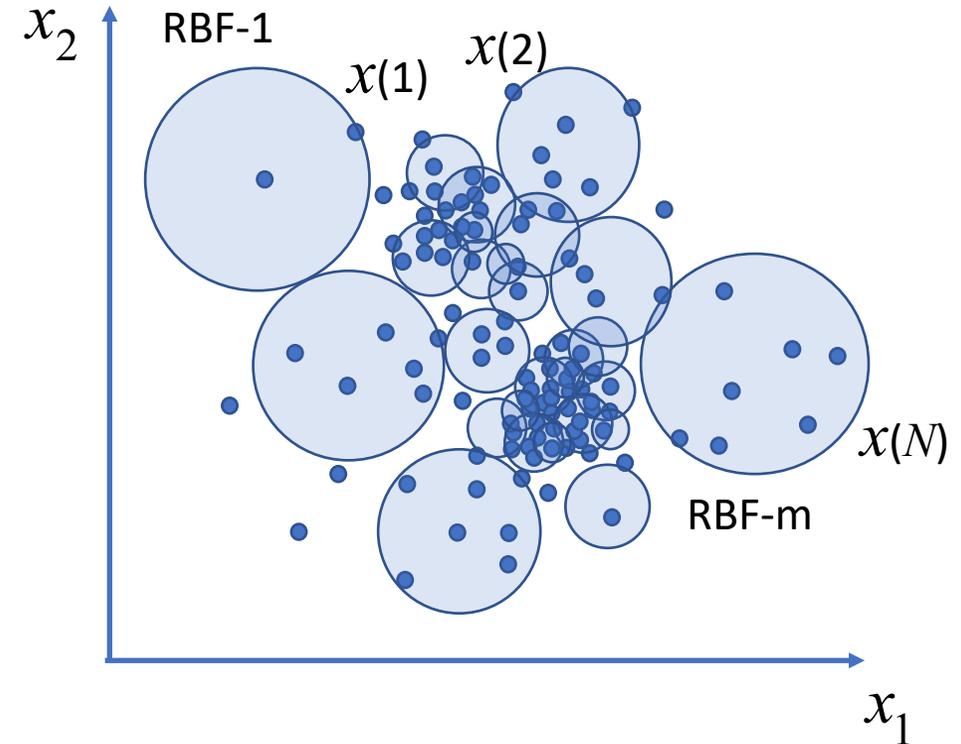
# Data-Adaptable Method

## Step 1 Center Point Placement

- ❑ More RBFs are placed in an area having a higher density of data points.
- ❑ Suppose that a given number of RBFs,  $m$ , are to be placed in an input space of  $N$  data points. How can we find  $m$  center points, so that the density of data points is approximately proportional to the density of center points?
- ❑ This problem can be solved as a Clustering Problem (Vector Quantization).

Given:

- ❑  $N$  input data:  $x(1), x(2), \dots, x(N)$
- ❑ The number of RBFs:  $m$ ;
- ❑ Initial locations of  $m$  center points:  $\gamma_1[0], \gamma_2[0], \dots, \gamma_m[0]$ ,



## $k$ – Means Clustering Algorithm

Set iteration index  $\ell = 1$

Step 1. Given  $\gamma_1[\ell], \gamma_2[\ell], \dots, \gamma_m[\ell]$ , find the nearest center point for each data point

$$x(i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

Step 2. Compute the center of mass, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> order moment, of the data points that have been classified to the same cluster in Step 1.

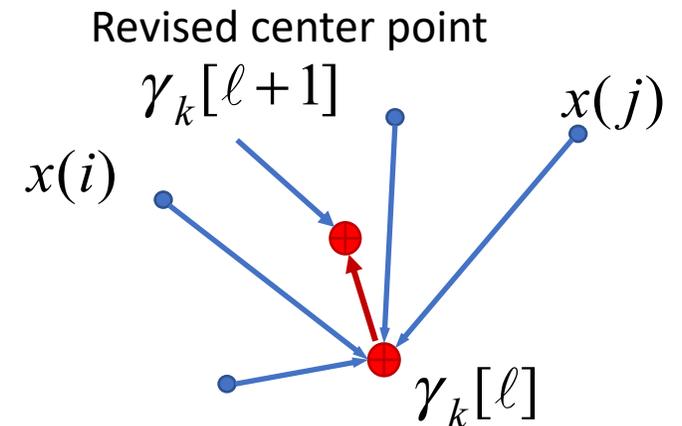
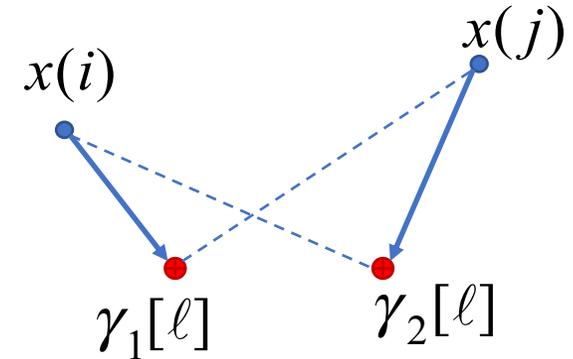
$$\gamma_k[\ell] \rightarrow \gamma_k[\ell + 1], \quad k = 1, \dots, m$$

Step 3. Set  $\ell = \ell + 1$  and repeat Steps 1 and 2 until the within-cluster sum of squares converges to a local minimum.

$$J[\ell] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^N |x(i) - \gamma_j[\ell]|^2 q_{ij}[\ell]$$

where

$$q_{ij}[\ell] = \begin{cases} 1: & \text{if data point } i \text{ belongs to cluster } j \\ 0: & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



## Membership Function $Q = \{q_{ij}\}$

$$J[\ell] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^N |x(i) - \gamma_j[\ell]|^2 q_{ij}[\ell]$$

$$q_{ij}[\ell] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if data point } i \text{ belongs to cluster } j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$Q = \{q_{ij}\} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccccc} & 1 & \dots & j & \dots & m \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \vdots \\ i \\ \vdots \\ N \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & & \\ \hline & & & & \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline & & & & \\ \hline & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

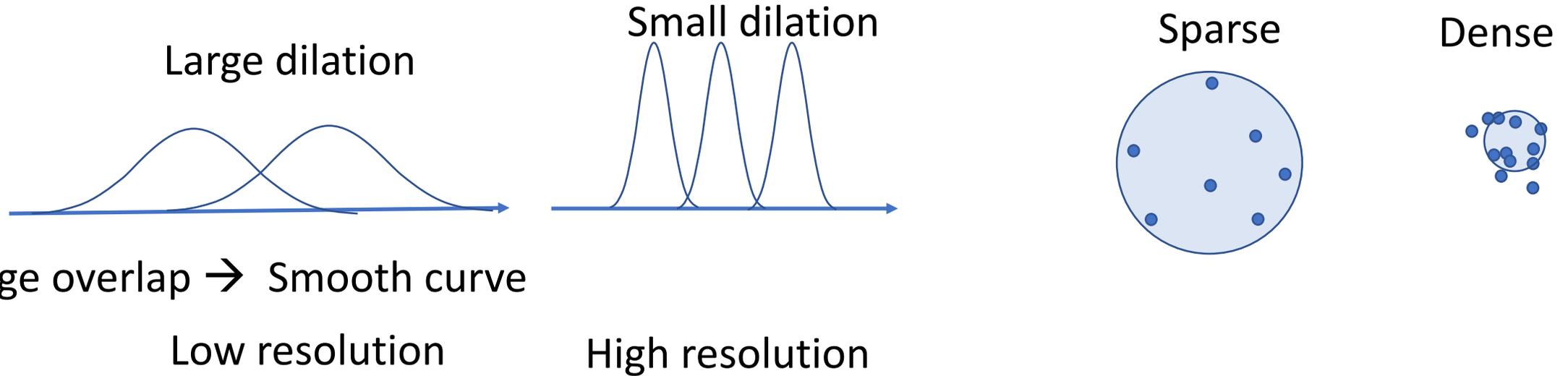
Only one 1 in each row.  
Data point  $i$  belongs to center  $j$ .

$$Q = \{q_{ij}\} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccccc} & 1 & \dots & j & \dots & m \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \vdots \\ i \\ \vdots \\ N \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & & \\ \hline & & & 0 & & \\ \hline & & & 1 & & \\ \hline & & & 1 & & \\ \hline & & & 0 & & \\ \hline & & & 1 & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Multiple data points belong to center  $j$ .

# Determining Dilation $\beta_k$

## Properties of Dilation Parameter



Determine Dilation based on the variance of data points belonging to the same cluster, i.e. within-cluster variance.

$$\beta_k = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N |x(i) - \gamma_k|^2 q_{ik}}{\sum_{i=1}^N q_{ik}}, \quad k = 1, \dots, m$$

Discussion: Is this the right method?

# Wavelets

- ❑ Wavelets are a collection of brief oscillation functions, each having a specific frequency and features.
- ❑ When each function is convolved with an unknown signal, the correlation between the wavelet and the signal reveals where/when that component with the particular frequency and features has occurred.
- ❑ Applications: Seismograph, voice recognition, heart monitoring, etc.

