

## AN OPERATOR VERSION OF A THEOREM OF KOLMOGOROV<sup>1</sup>

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Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a (separable) Hausdorff space and let  $K$  be a continuous nonnegative-definite kernel (covariance) from  $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$  to  $C$ . The well known theorem of Kolmogorov states that in the case  $\mathcal{G}$  is the set of integers there is a continuous mapping (stochastic process)  $x(\cdot)$  from  $\mathcal{G}$  into a (separable) Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $K(s, t) = (x(s), x(t))$ . The theorem is also known for any separable Hausdorff space. The purpose of this paper is to replace the complex numbers  $C$  by the algebra  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  of bounded linear operators from a Hilbert space into itself. The factorization is then  $K(t, s) = X(t)^*X(s)$  with  $X$  a continuous map from  $\mathcal{G}$  to  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  for a suitable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . If  $\mathcal{G}$  is separable we may take  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}$ .

Two proofs of this theorem are given. The first, for  $\mathcal{G}$  separable and  $\mathcal{H}$  of arbitrary dimension, uses an extension of the technique of [1] to obtain a triangular factorization for nonnegative-definite matrices with operator entries to construct the desired stochastic process  $X(\cdot)$ . The second, for  $\mathcal{G}$  arbitrary and  $\mathcal{H}$  of infinite dimension uses the techniques of reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces, and is a bit simpler.

*Main results.* Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a complex Hilbert space and let  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  be the bounded linear operators on. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a Hausdorff space and let  $K: \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \rightarrow B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  be a (jointly) continuous function. We say that  $K$  is *nonnegative-definite* if for every  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{H}$  the sum

$$(1) \quad \sum_{i,j=1}^n (K(t_i, t_j)x_j, x_i) \geq 0.$$

The generalization of the Kolmogorov theorem we wish to prove is contained in

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a separable Hausdorff space. If  $K(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a continuous nonnegative-definite function from  $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$  into  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  then there exists a separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and a continuous function  $X(t)$  from  $\mathcal{G}$  into  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  such that*

$$X^*(t)X(s) = K(t, s).$$

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<sup>1</sup> This generalization was suggested to the authors by Professor P. Masani in January 1975.

In order to prove this theorem we require a number of facts about operator-valued matrices and about the solution of operator equations. The first result, is due to Douglas [2]. (See also Fillmore-Williams [4].) We will denote the *range* of the operator  $A$  by  $\mathcal{R}(A)$ , and the kernel of  $A$  by  $\mathcal{N}(A)$ .

LEMMA 1. *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be bounded operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\mathcal{R}(A) \subset \mathcal{R}(B)$ ,
- (ii)  $A = BC$ , for some bounded operator  $C$  on  $\mathcal{H}$ ,
- (iii)  $AA^* \leq \lambda^2 BB^*$ , for some  $\lambda > 0$ .

Moreover, the operator  $C$  can be chosen so that  $\mathcal{N}(C^*) \supset \mathcal{N}(B)$  and  $\mathcal{R}(C) \subset \overline{\mathcal{R}(B)}$ .

COROLLARY. *If  $B$  is bounded and nonnegative then  $\mathcal{R}(\sqrt{B}) \supset \mathcal{R}(B)$ .*

If we restrict  $K$ , of Theorem 1, to a finite subset of  $\mathcal{S}$  the kernel  $K$  becomes a  $n \times n$  matrix whose  $(i, j)$  entry is  $K_{ij} = K(t_i, t_j)$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ . This matrix is nonnegative-definite in the sense that for every  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$$(2) \quad \sum_{i,j=1}^n (K_{ij}x_j, x_i) \geq 0.$$

Denote by  $\mathcal{H}_n$  the space which is a direct sum of  $n$  copies of  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_n = \mathcal{H} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}$ , with the natural inner product. Suppose that  $K$  is an operator on  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ; that is,  $K$  is an  $n \times n$  operator-valued matrix. Then (2) means that  $(Kx, x) \geq 0$  for every  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathcal{H}_n$ , that is  $K$  is a nonnegative operator on  $\mathcal{H}_n$ . Note that if  $K$  is nonnegative-definite,  $K_{ij} = K_{ji}^*$ , for all  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ . If  $K$  is an  $n \times n$  operator-valued matrix and  $m \leq n$ , we write  $K_m$  for the upper left  $m \times m$  submatrix of  $K$ .

LEMMA 2. *Let  $K$  be an  $n \times n$  nonnegative definite, bounded operator-valued matrix. Then there is a positive constant  $\lambda$  so that*

$$(3) \quad K_{ii} \geq \lambda K_{ij} K_{ij}^*, \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq n.$$

*Proof.* Let  $V_i: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_n$  where  $V_i h = (0, \dots, h, 0 \dots 0)$ ,  $h$  being in the  $i$ th position. If  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ , then

$$(4) \quad |K_{ij}^* h|^2 = |K_{ji} h|^2 = |V_j^* K V_i h|^2 \leq |K V_i h|^2 \\ = (V_i^* K^2 V_i h, h) \leq |K| (V_i^* K V_i h, h) = |K| (K_{ii} h, h).$$

Thus  $K_{ij} K_{ij}^* \leq |K| K_{ii}$ .

We must show that

$$(10) \quad T_{n-1, n-1} T_{n-1, n} = K_{n-1, n} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} T_{i, n-1}^* T_{i, n}$$

has a bounded solution for  $T_{n-1, n}$ . By the Remark we have for any  $z_{n-1} \in \mathcal{H}$  a vector  $z_{n-2} \in \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$T_{n-2, n-2} z_{n-2} + T_{n-2, n-1} z_{n-1} = 0.$$

Thus, proceeding sequentially we can solve the equations

$$(11) \quad \sum_{j=i}^{n-1} T_{ij} z_j = 0, \quad i = n-2, n-3, \dots, 1$$

for  $z_{n-2}, z_{n-3}, z_{n-4}, \dots, z_1$ , given  $z_{n-1}$ . Now, if  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ , an application of (11) gives

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} (Kz, z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{nj} z_j, z_n) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) + (K_{n-1, n} z_n, z_{n-1}) \\ &+ (K_{n, n-1} z_{n-1}, z_n) + (K_{nn} z_n, z_n) + (T_{n-1, n-1}^2 z_{n-1}, z_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

By (9),

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} ((T_{jj} T_{jn} + \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} T_{ij}^* T_{in}) z_n, z_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{jj} z_j) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{ij}^* T_{in} z_n, z_j). \end{aligned}$$

We interpret all sums over not well defined limits to be zero (e.g.  $\sum_{i=1}^0 (\cdot) = 0$ ). From (11) we have

$$T_{jj} z_j = - \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-1} T_{ji} z_i.$$

Substitution into (13) gives

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-1} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{ji} z_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{in} z_n, T_{ij} z_j) \\ &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-3} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{ji} z_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{in} z_n, T_{ij} z_j) \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{j, n-1} z_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

The last term of (14) is

$$- \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{j, n-1}^* T_{jn} z_n, z_{n-1}).$$

Interchanging limits in the second term on the right hand side of (14), the equation (14) becomes

we will employ Lemma 1 (iii). ( $T_{13}$  is obtained in the same way as  $T_{12}$ .) According to the Remark above we take  $T_{11}z_1 = -T_{12}z_2$ , for some  $z_2 \in \mathcal{H}$ . If  $z = (z_1, z_2, z_3)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq (K_3z, z) &= (T_{11}^2z_1, z_1) + (T_{11}T_{12}z_2, z_1) + (T_{12}^*T_{11}z_1, z_2) \\ &+ ((T_{22}^2 + T_{12}^*T_{12})z_2, z_2) + (T_{11}T_{13}z_3, z_1) \\ &+ (K_{23}z_3, z_2) + (K_{32}z_2, z_3) + (K_{33}z_3, z_3), \end{aligned}$$

which, since  $T_{11}z_1 = -T_{12}z_2$  equals

$$(T_{22}^2z_2, z_2) + ((K_{23} - T_{12}^*T_{13})z_3, z_2) + ((K_{32} - T_{13}^*T_{12})z_2, z_3) + (K_{33}z_3, z_3).$$

In matrix form this means, for every  $z_2, z_3 \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} T_{22} & K_{23} - T_{12}^*T_{13} \\ (K_{23} - T_{12}^*T_{13})^* & K_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z_2 \\ z_3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} z_2 \\ z_3 \end{pmatrix} \right) \geq 0.$$

By Lemma 2, then, there is a positive  $\lambda$  such that

$$T_{22}^2 \geq \lambda(K_{23} - T_{12}^*T_{13})(K_{23} - T_{12}^*T_{13})^*,$$

and hence by the Corollary and Lemma 2 (ii)  $T_{23}$  exists and is a bounded operator. Moreover, by Lemma 1  $\mathcal{R}(T_{23}) \subset \overline{\mathcal{R}(T_{22})}$ . (This last fact together with the Remark is interpreted to mean that for any  $y \in \mathcal{H}$  there is an  $x \in \mathcal{H}$  so that  $T_{22}x + T_{23}y = 0$ .)

To show that  $T_{33}$  exists is now routine. Let  $z = (z_1, z_2, z_3)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} ((K_{33} - T_{13}^*T_{13} - T_{23}^*T_{23})z_3, z_3) &= (Kz, z) - |T_{22}z_2 + T_{23}z_3|^2 \\ &- |T_{11}z_1 + T_{12}z_2 + T_{13}z_3|^2 \\ &\geq -|T_{22}z_2 + T_{23}z_3|^2 - |T_{11}z_1 + T_{12}z_2 + T_{13}z_3|^2. \end{aligned}$$

This inequality, combined with the Remark above gives the nonnegativity of  $K_3 - T_{13}^*T_{13} - T_{23}^*T_{23}$  and hence the existence of and boundedness of  $T_{33}$ .

We pass to the induction. Assume that  $T_k^*T_k = K_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ . Solve for  $T_{1n}$  in the same way as for  $T_{12}$ . Proceeding, once again, by induction we assume that the  $T_{kn}$  exist and are bounded for  $k = 2, 3, \dots, n - 2$ , and also that  $\mathcal{R}(T_{kn}) \subset \overline{\mathcal{R}(T_{kk})}$ , which makes the Remark applicable. The formula for the  $T_{km}$  are given by

$$T_{kk}T_{km} = K_{km} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} T_{ik}^*T_{im}, \quad k \leq m,$$

or

$$(9) \quad K_{km} = \sum_{i=1}^k T_{ik}^*T_{im}.$$

We must show that

$$(10) \quad T_{n-1, n-1} T_{n-1, n} = K_{n-1, n} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} T_{i, n-1}^* T_{i, n}$$

has a bounded solution for  $T_{n-1, n}$ . By the Remark we have for any  $z_{n-1} \in \mathcal{H}$  a vector  $z_{n-2} \in \mathcal{H}$  such that

$$T_{n-2, n-2} z_{n-2} + T_{n-2, n-1} z_{n-1} = 0.$$

Thus, proceeding sequentially we can solve the equations

$$(11) \quad \sum_{j=i}^{n-1} T_{ij} z_j = 0, \quad i = n-2, n-3, \dots, 1$$

for  $z_{n-2}, z_{n-3}, z_{n-4}, \dots, z_1$ , given  $z_{n-1}$ . Now, if  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ , an application of (11) gives

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} (Kz, z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{nj} z_j, z_n) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) + (K_{n-1, n} z_n, z_{n-1}) \\ &+ (K_{n, n-1} z_{n-1}, z_n) + (K_{nn} z_n, z_n) + (T_{n-1, n-1}^2 z_{n-1}, z_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

By (9),

$$(13) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} ((T_{jj} T_{jn} + \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} T_{ij}^* T_{in}) z_n, z_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{jj} z_j) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{ij}^* T_{in} z_n, z_j). \end{aligned}$$

We interpret all sums over not well defined limits to be zero (e.g.  $\sum_{i=1}^0 (\cdot) = 0$ ). From (11) we have

$$T_{jj} z_j = - \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-1} T_{ji} z_i.$$

Substitution into (13) gives

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn} z_n, z_j) &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-1} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{ji} z_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{in} z_n, T_{ij} z_j) \\ &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-3} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{ji} z_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (T_{in} z_n, T_{ij} z_j) \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{jn} z_n, T_{j, n-1} z_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

The last term of (14) is

$$- \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{j, n-1}^* T_{jn} z_n, z_{n-1}).$$

Interchanging limits in the second term on the right hand side of (14), the equation (14) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \sum_{j=1}^{n-3} \sum_{i=j+1}^{n-2} (T_{jn}z_n, T_{ji}z_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-3} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n-2} (T_{in}z_n, T_{ij}z_j) \\
 & - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{j,n-1}^* T_{jn}z_n, z_{n-1}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Upon interchanging  $i$  and  $j$  we obtain

$$(15) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{jn}z_n, z_j) = - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (T_{j,n-1}^* T_{jn}z_n, z_{n-1}).$$

Similarly

$$(16) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (K_{nj}z_j, z_n) = - \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} T_{jn}^* T_{j,n-1} z_{n-1}, z_n \right).$$

Substituting (15) and (16) into (12) and writing the result in matrix form we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 & \leq (K_n x, x) \\
 & = \left( \left( \begin{array}{cc} T_{n-1,n-1}^2 & K_{n-1,n} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} T_{j,n-1}^* T_{jn} \\ \left( K_{n-1,n} - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} T_{j,n-1}^* T_{jn} \right)^* & K_{nn} \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} z_{n-1} \\ z_n \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} z_{n-1} \\ z_n \end{pmatrix} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

An application of Lemmas 1 and 2 and the Corollary (ii), (iii) gives that there is a bounded operator  $T_{n-1,n}$  satisfying (10) and moreover that  $\mathcal{R}(T_{n-1,n}) \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{R}(T_{n-1,n-1})}$ .

To show that  $T_{nn}$  exists a similar argument is used. This completes the induction and the Lemma is proved.

Lemma 3 works in any Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , finite or infinite dimensional. The following result, a considerable improvement of Lemma 3, applies only to infinite dimensional Hilbert spaces.

LEMMA 3'. (a) Suppose  $\dim \mathcal{H} = \infty$  of  $K$  is a nonnegative  $n \times n$  matrix with entries  $K_{ij} \in B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  then there exist  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  in  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  such that  $K_{ij} = X_i^* X_j (1 \leq i, j \leq n)$ . Hence  $K = X^* X$  where  $X$  is the  $n \times n$  matrix whose first row is  $(X_1 X_2 \dots X_n)$  and whose other entries are all 0.

(b) If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix with entries  $A_{ij} \in B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  then there exists a partial isometry  $U = (U_{ij})$  in  $B(\mathcal{H}_n, \mathcal{H}_n)$  and a matrix  $X$  as in (a) such that  $A = UX, X = U^* A$ .

(c) If  $A \geq 0$  then  $U$  may be chosen to be an isometry in (b).

Proof. (a) Let  $V_i$  be the isometry from  $\mathcal{H}$  into  $\mathcal{H}_n$  given by  $V_i h = (0, 0, \dots, 0, h, 0, \dots)$  where the vector  $h$  appears as the  $i$ th coordinate. If  $h, k$  belong to  $\mathcal{H}$  then  $(K_{ij} h, k) = (KV_j h, V_i k) = (\sqrt{K} V_j h, \sqrt{K} V_i k)$ . Hence  $K_{ij} = (\sqrt{K} V_i)^* (\sqrt{K} V_j)$ . Let  $\Phi$  be an isometry

from  $\mathcal{H}$  onto  $\mathcal{H}_n$ . Then  $X_i = \Phi^* \sqrt{K} V_i \in B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  and  $X_i^* X_j = K_{ij}$ .  
 (b), (c) Choose  $X$  as in (a) so that  $A^* A = X^* X$ . Then

$$V \sqrt{A^* A} f = X f$$

defines an isometry  $V$  from  $\mathcal{R}(\sqrt{A^* A})^-$  onto  $\mathcal{R}(X)^-$ . Since  $\mathcal{R}(X)^\perp = \Phi^*(\mathcal{N}(\sqrt{A^* A})) \oplus \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{H}$  it is clear  $V$  can be extended to an isometry on  $\mathcal{H}_n$ . This proves (c) and to complete the proof of (b) use the polar factorization  $A = W \sqrt{A^* A}$  and put  $U = W V^*$ .

REMARK. Lemma 3' is also valid for infinite matrices  $K$  (or  $A$ ) that define bounded operators on the direct sum of countably many copies of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Define the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2 \oplus \dots$  where  $\mathcal{H}_i = \mathcal{H}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , with the natural inner product. Let  $V_i (i \geq 1)$  be the isometry from  $\mathcal{H}$  into  $\mathcal{K}$  given by  $V_i h = (h_1, h_2, \dots)$  where  $h_i = h$  and  $h_j = 0$  for  $j \neq i$ . Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{t_i : i = 1, 2, \dots\}$  be a dense set of points in  $\mathcal{S}$ . Define the non negative-definite, bounded operator-valued matrices

$$K^{(n)} = K(t_i, t_j), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n.$$

By Lemma 3 there is an upper triangular operator-valued matrix  $T^{(n)}$  for which  $T^{(n)*} T^{(n)} = K^{(n)}$  and moreover from the construction, if  $m \leq n$  then  $K^{(m)} = K_m^{(n)} = (T_m^{(n)})^* (T_m^{(n)})$ . Let  $T$  be the formal infinite upper triangular matrix whose  $n^{\text{th}}$  column is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  column of  $T^{(n)}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . For each  $t_i \in \mathcal{B}$  define

$$\tilde{X}(t_i) = \sum_{i=1}^l V_i T_{il}.$$

Then, if  $m = \min(k, l)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{X}(t_k)^* \tilde{X}(t_i) &= \left( \sum_{j=1}^k V_j T_{jk} \right)^* \left( \sum_{i=1}^l V_i T_{il} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^l T_{jk}^* V_j^* V_i T_{il} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m T_{ik}^* T_{il} = K(t_k, t_i). \end{aligned}$$

From this it follows that

$$|\tilde{X}(t) - \tilde{X}(s)| \leq |K(t, t) - K(s, t)| + |K(s, s) - K(t, s)|,$$

for any  $t, s$  in  $\mathcal{B}$ . Using the completeness of  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})$  and the continuity of  $K$  we can therefore extend  $\tilde{X}$  to a function  $X$  from  $\mathcal{S}$  into  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})$  that satisfies the same inequalities for all  $t, s$  in

$\mathcal{G}$ . The function  $X$  is then continuous and  $X(t)^*X(s) = K(t, s)$ .

In the following theorem the condition of separability is removed from  $\mathcal{G}$ . However,  $\mathcal{H}$  will be a nonseparable Hilbert space. The construction below seems to have originated with Naimark [5].

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a Hausdorff space, and let  $K(\cdot, \cdot)$  be as in Theorem 1. Then there is a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and a continuous function  $X(t)$  from  $\mathcal{G}$  into  $B(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$  such that  $X^*(t)X(s) = K(t, s)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the vector space of functions  $\xi: \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  that vanish at all but a finite number of points of  $\mathcal{G}$ , and for  $\xi, \eta$  in  $\mathcal{L}$  put

$$(\xi, \eta) = \sum_{s,t} (K(s, t)\xi(t), \eta(s)).$$

Let  $\mathcal{N} = \{\xi \in \mathcal{L} : (\xi, \xi) = 0\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{N}$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{L}$  and

$$(\xi + \mathcal{N}, \xi + \mathcal{N}) = (\xi, \eta)$$

defines an inner product on  $\mathcal{H}_0 = \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{N}$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be the completion of  $\mathcal{H}_0$ . For  $s \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  define

$$\xi_s h(t) = \begin{cases} h & \text{if } t = s \\ 0 & \text{if } t \neq s. \end{cases}$$

Then  $X(s)h = \xi_s h + \mathcal{N}$  defines a bounded operator  $X(s)$  from  $\mathcal{H}$  into  $\mathcal{H}$ . A simple computation shows that  $X(t)^*X(s) = K(t, s)$ . This implies  $|X(t) - X(s)|^2 \leq |K(t, t) - K(t, s)| + |K(s, s) - K(s, t)|$ , so the continuity of the map  $s \rightarrow X(s)$  follows from that of  $K$ .

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