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Almost exponentially localized polynomial kernels are constructed on the unit ball  $B^d$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with weights  $W_\mu(x) = (1 - |x|^2)^{\mu-1/2}$ ,  $\mu \geq 0$ , by smoothing out the coefficients of the corresponding orthogonal projectors. These kernels are utilized to the design of cubature formulae on  $B^d$  with respect to  $W_\mu(x)$  and to the construction of polynomial tight frames in  $L^2(B^d, W_\mu)$  whose elements have nearly exponential localization. (Received September 12, 2005)