

# COMP 7180: Quantitative Methods for Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

## Lecture 5: An Introduction to Differentiation and Optimization in AI and ML

Lecturer:

Dr. LIU Yang

# What is Optimization ?

- Finding the minimizer/maximizer of a function subject to constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad f_0(x) \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = \{1, \dots, k\} \\ & \quad \quad h_j(x) = 0, \quad j = \{1, \dots, l\} \end{aligned}$$

- Example: Stock market
  - To minimize the variance of return subject to getting at least \$50K

# Why Do We Care About Optimization ?

**Optimization is at the heart of many AI and machine learning algorithms!**

- Maximum likelihood estimation:

$$\underset{\theta}{\text{maximize}} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \log p_{\theta}(x_i)$$

- Linear regression:

$$\underset{w}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|Xw - y\|^2$$

- Support vector machine:

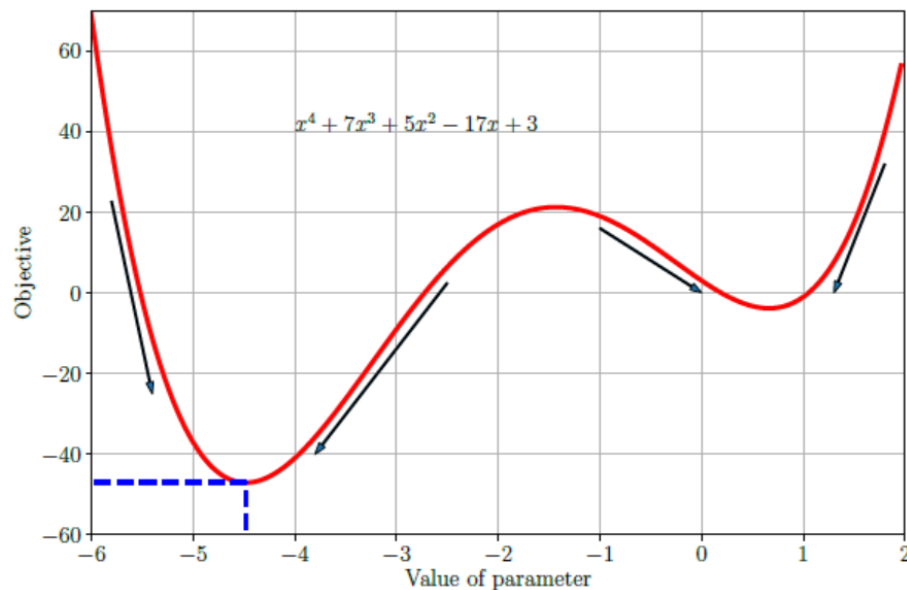
$$\underset{w}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|w\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \xi_i \geq 1 - y_i x_i^T w, \xi_i \geq 0$$

# Example

Minimize  $f(x) = x^4 + 7x^3 + 5x^2 - 17x + 3$

Gradient:  $\frac{df(x)}{dx} = 4x^3 + 21x^2 + 10x - 17 = 0$

Candidates:  $x_1 = -4.5, x_2 = -1.4, x_3 = 0.7$



# Differentiation

# Limit

In the study of differentiation and calculus, we are interested in what happens to the value of a function as the independent variable *gets very close* to a particular value.

Example:  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x - 3}$

What is the value of the function as  $x$  **approaches** 3?

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 2x - 3}{x - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(x + 1)(x - 3)}{x - 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (x + 1) = 4$$

# Limit: More Exercises

Find the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{5 - 3x}{6x + 1} \right)$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x}$$

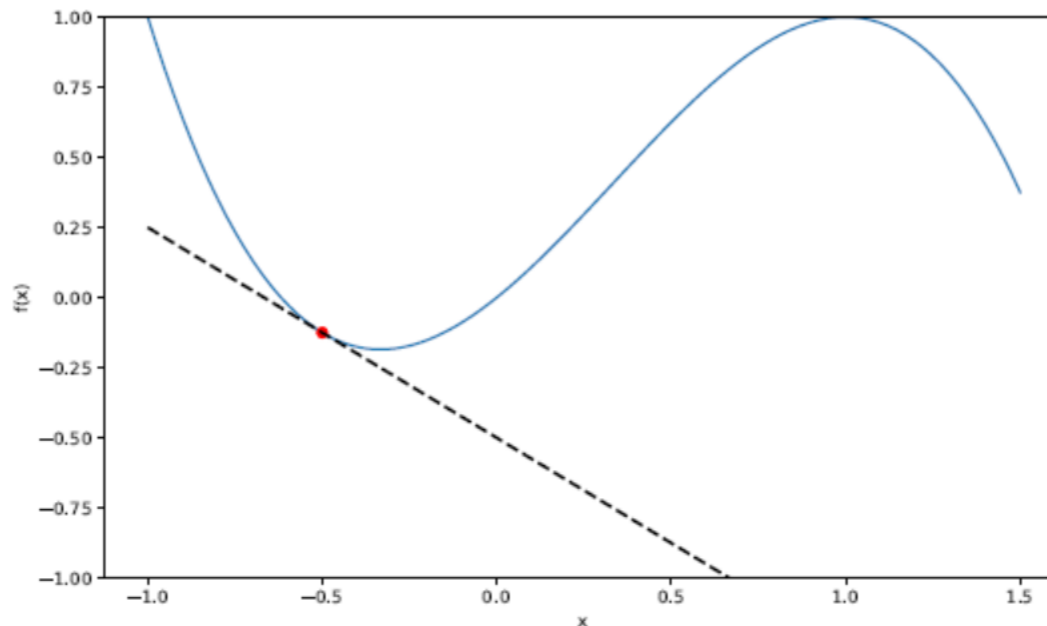
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 64} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 4}{\sqrt{x} - 8}$$

# Scalar Differentiation $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- Derivative is defined as the limit of the difference quotient

$$f'(x) = \frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\boxed{x+h}) - f(x)}{h}$$

- Slope of the secant line through  $f(x)$  and  $f(x+h)$





# Examples of Scalar Differentiation

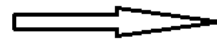
$$f(x) = x^n$$

$$f(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$f(x) = \tanh(x)$$

$$f(x) = \exp(x)$$

$$f(x) = \log(x)$$



$$f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$$

$$f'(x) = \cos(x)$$

$$f'(x) = 1 - \tanh^2(x)$$

$$f'(x) = \exp(x)$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

# Rules of Scalar Differentiation

- Sum Rule

$$(f(x) + g(x))' = f'(x) + g'(x) = \frac{df}{dx} + \frac{dg}{dx}$$

*Proof:* According to the definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(f(x) + g(x))' &= \frac{(f(x+h) + g(x+h)) - (f(x) + g(x))}{h} \\&= \frac{(f(x+h) - f(x)) + (g(x+h) - g(x))}{h} \\&= \frac{(f(x+h) - f(x))}{h} + \frac{(g(x+h) - g(x))}{h} = f'(x) + g'(x)\end{aligned}$$

# Rules of Scalar Differentiation

## ► Product Rule

$$(f(x)g(x))' = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x) = \frac{df}{dx}g(x) + f(x)\frac{dg}{dx}$$

*Proof:* According to the definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (f(x)g(x))' &= \frac{f(x+h)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x)}{h} \\ &= \frac{(f(x+h)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x+h))}{h} + \frac{(f(x)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x))}{h} \\ &= \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} g(x+h) + f(x) \frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} \\ &= f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x) \end{aligned}$$

# Rules of Scalar Differentiation

- ▶ Chain Rule

$$(g \circ f)'(x) = (g(f(x)))' = g'(f(x))f'(x) = \frac{dg}{df} \frac{df}{dx}$$

*Proof:* According to the definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(g(f(x))\right)' &= \frac{g(f(x+h)) - g(f(x))}{h} \\ &= \frac{g(f(x+h)) - g(f(x))}{f(x+h) - f(x)} \times \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= g'(f(x))f'(x) \end{aligned}$$

# L'Hôpital's Rule

For functions  $f$  and  $g$  which are differentiable on an open interval  $\mathbf{I}$  except possibly at a point  $c$  contained in  $\mathbf{I}$ , if

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = 0$  or  $\pm \infty$ , and  $g'(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x$  in  $I$  with  $x \neq c$ ,

and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$  exists, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

# Examples for L'Hôpital's Rule

$$f(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$g(x) = -0.5x$$

What is the limit of the function  $h(x) = f(x)/g(x)$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$ ?

We cannot directly calculate it because both  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are approaching 0. However, we can calculate it using the L'Hôpital's Rule:

$$h(0) = f(0)/g(0) = f'(0)/g'(0) = -2$$

# Multivariate Differentiation $f: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- Given
$$y = f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

- Partial derivative** (change one coordinate at a time):

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i + h, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_N) - f(\mathbf{x})}{h}$$

- Jacobian** vector (**gradient**) collects all partial derivatives:

$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}} = \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_N} \right]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

- Note: This is a vector, not a scalar**

# Exercise of Multivariate Differentiation

$$f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^3 \in \mathbb{R}$$

- Partial derivative:

$$\frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} = 2x_1 x_2 + x_2^3$$

$$\frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} = x_1^2 + 3x_1 x_2^2$$

- Gradient:

$$\frac{df}{d\mathbf{x}} = \left[ \frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} \quad \frac{\partial f(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} \right]^T = \left[ 2x_1 x_2 + x_2^3 \quad x_1^2 + 3x_1 x_2^2 \right]^T \in \mathbb{R}^2$$



# Rules of Multivariate Differentiation

- ▶ Sum Rule

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

- ▶ Product Rule

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} g(\mathbf{x}) + f(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

- ▶ Chain Rule

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (g \circ f)(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (g(f(\mathbf{x}))) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{f}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

# Differentiation in Vector Field $f: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M$

- Given

$$y = f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^M, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_M \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ f_M(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_N) \\ \vdots \\ f_M(x_1, \dots, x_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Jacobian matrix (collection of all partial derivatives):

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dy_1}{dx} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{dy_M}{dx} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_N} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial x_N} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$$

# Example of Differentiation in Vector Field

- Given

$$f(x) = Ax, \quad f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^M, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

- Compute the gradient  $\frac{df}{dx}$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} f_i &= \sum_{j=1}^N A_{ij} x_j \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} = A_{ij} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{df}{dx} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_N} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_M}{\partial x_N} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & \cdots & A_{1N} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ A_{M1} & \cdots & A_{MN} \end{bmatrix} = A \end{aligned}$$

# Chain Rule of Differentiation in Vector Field

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(g \circ f)(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(g(f(\mathbf{x}))) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{f}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$

► Consider  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

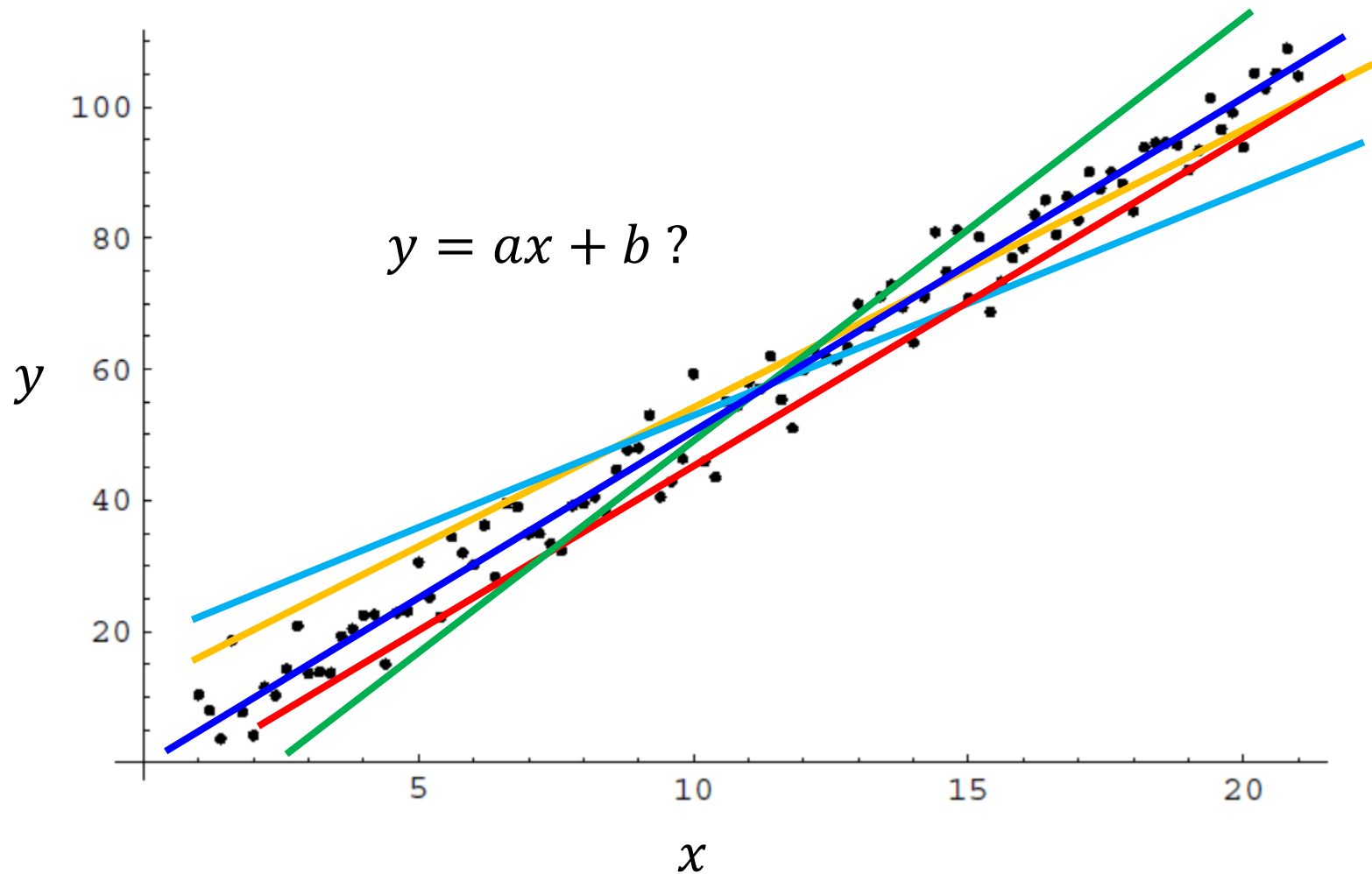
$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + 2x_2,$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(t) \\ \cos(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dt} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin t & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 2 \sin t \cos t - 2 \sin t = 2 \sin t (\cos t - 1) \end{aligned}$$

# Regression via Least Squares Method



# Regression via Least Squares Method

Given data  $\{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)\}$ , we may define the error associated to saying  $y = ax + b$  by

$$E(a, b) = \sum_{n=1}^N (y_n - (ax_n + b))^2.$$

The goal is to find values of  $a$  and  $b$  that minimize the error. In multivariable calculus we learn that this requires us to find the values of  $(a, b)$  such that

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial a} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial b} = 0.$$

Differentiating  $E(a, b)$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E}{\partial a} &= \sum_{n=1}^N 2(y_n - (ax_n + b)) \cdot (-x_n) \\ \frac{\partial E}{\partial b} &= \sum_{n=1}^N 2(y_n - (ax_n + b)) \cdot 1. \end{aligned}$$

# Regression via Least Squares Method

Setting  $\partial E / \partial a = \partial E / \partial b = 0$  (and dividing by 2) yields

$$\sum_{n=1}^N (y_n - (ax_n + b)) \cdot x_n = 0$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^N (y_n - (ax_n + b)) = 0.$$

We may rewrite these equations as

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 \right) a + \left( \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \right) b &= \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n \\ \left( \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \right) a + \left( \sum_{n=1}^N 1 \right) b &= \sum_{n=1}^N y_n. \end{aligned}$$

# Regression via Least Squares Method

We have obtained that the values of  $a$  and  $b$  which minimize the error satisfy the following matrix equation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 & \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^N x_n & \sum_{n=1}^N 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^N y_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

We will show the matrix is invertible, which implies

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 & \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^N x_n & \sum_{n=1}^N 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^N y_n \end{pmatrix}.$$



# Gradient Descent

# Optimization Using Gradient Descent

- Consider the problem of solving for the minimum of a loss function:

$$\min_x f(x)$$

where  $x \in R^d$  and  $f: R^d \rightarrow R$  is the objective function.

- Assume that:
  - Function  $f$  is differentiable ☺
  - We are unable to analytically find a solution in closed form ☹

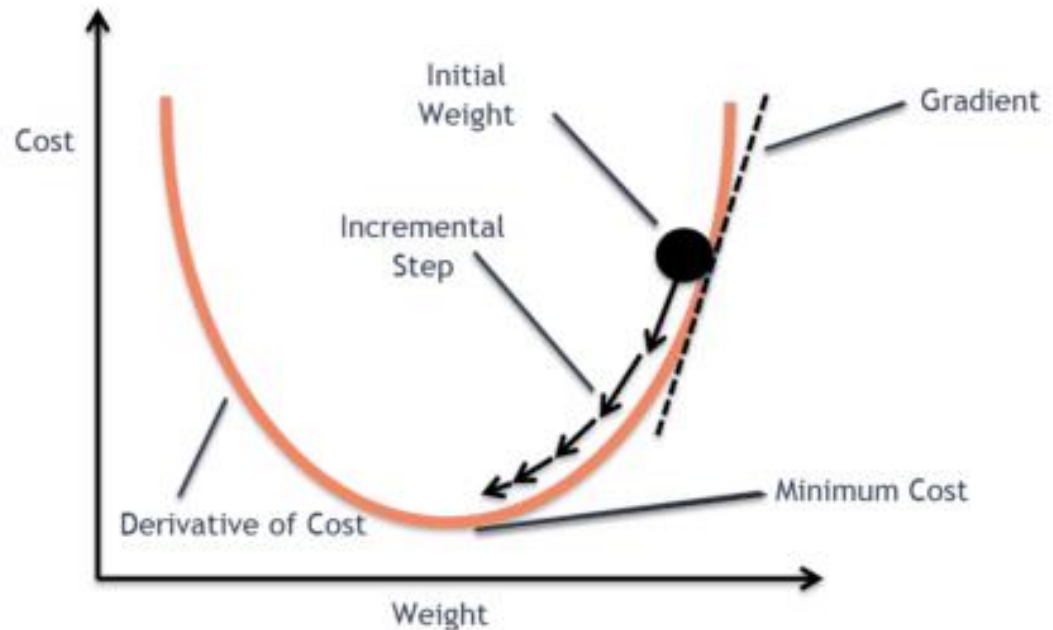
What should we do now?

**Gradient descent !**

# Optimization Using Gradient Descent

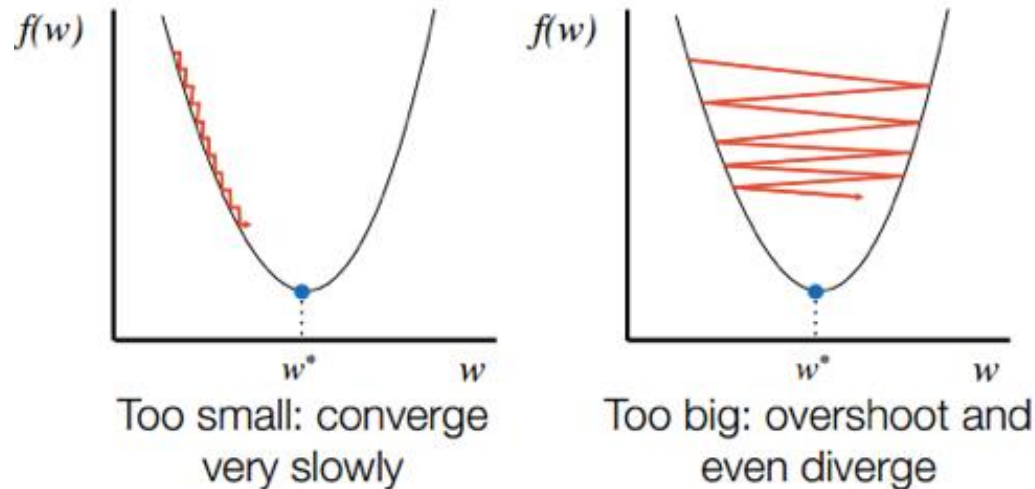
- Gradient descent is one of the most widely used optimization algorithms in machine learning
- It is a first-order iterative optimization algorithm: take steps proportional to the negative of the gradient of the function at the current point

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \alpha \frac{df}{dx_t}$$



# Step Size (Learning Rate)

- Choosing a good step-size is important in gradient descent



- Heuristics
  - When the function value increases after a gradient step, the step-size was too large. Undo the step and decrease the step-size.
  - When the function value decreases the step could have been larger. Try to increase the step-size.
- Algorithm: exact (or backtracking) line search:  $\min_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}} f(x_t - \alpha \nabla x_t)$

# Gradient Descent Algorithm

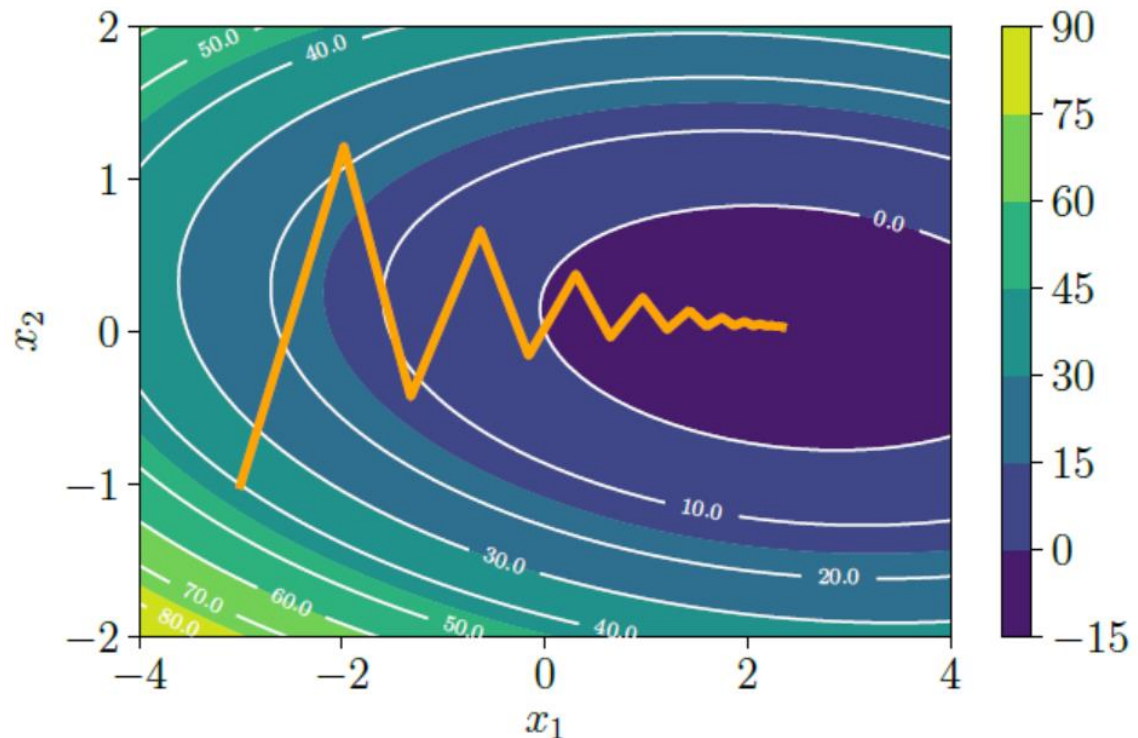
- Given a start point  $x_0$
- For  $t = 0, \dots, T$ 
  1. Calculate gradient:  $\nabla x_t \leftarrow \frac{df}{dx_t}$
  2. Line search: choose the step size (learning rate)  $\alpha$  via exact (or backtracking) line search:  $\min_{\alpha \in R} f(x_t - \alpha \nabla x_t)$
  3. Update  $x$ :  $x_{t+1} \leftarrow x_t - \alpha \nabla x_t$
  4.  $t \leftarrow t + 1$
  5. Repeat steps 1-4 until convergence:  $|\nabla x_t| < \epsilon$  or  $|x_{t+1} - x_t| < \epsilon$

# Example

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + 10x_2^2 + x_1x_2 + 5x_1 + 3x_2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla f \left( \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 20 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$



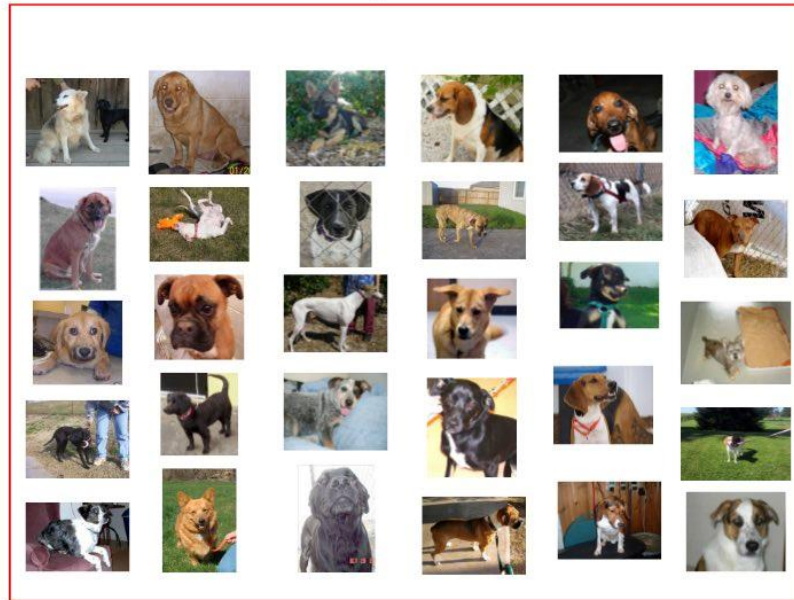
# Perceptron Learning

# A Machine Learning Problem: Classification

Cats



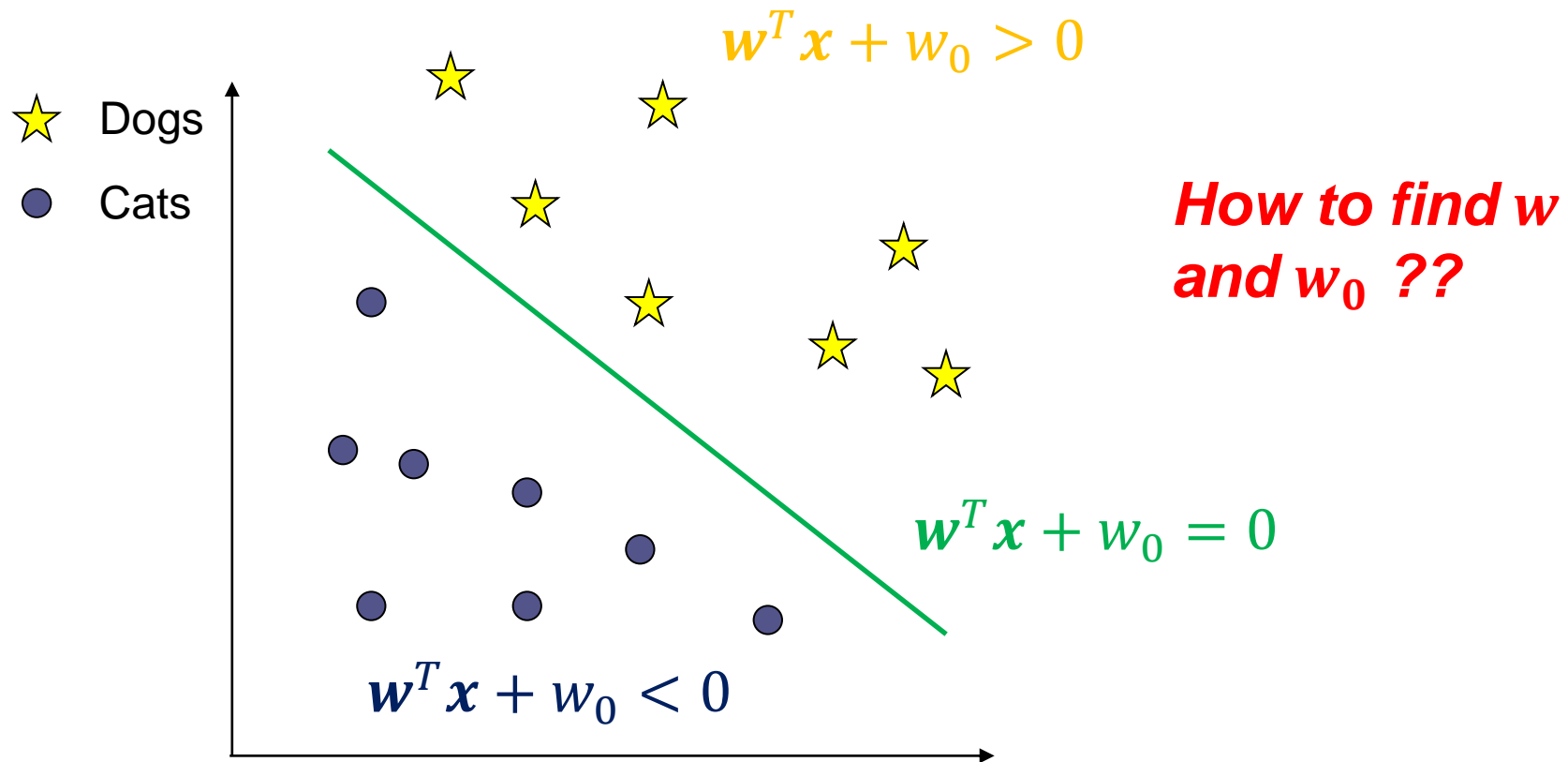
Dogs



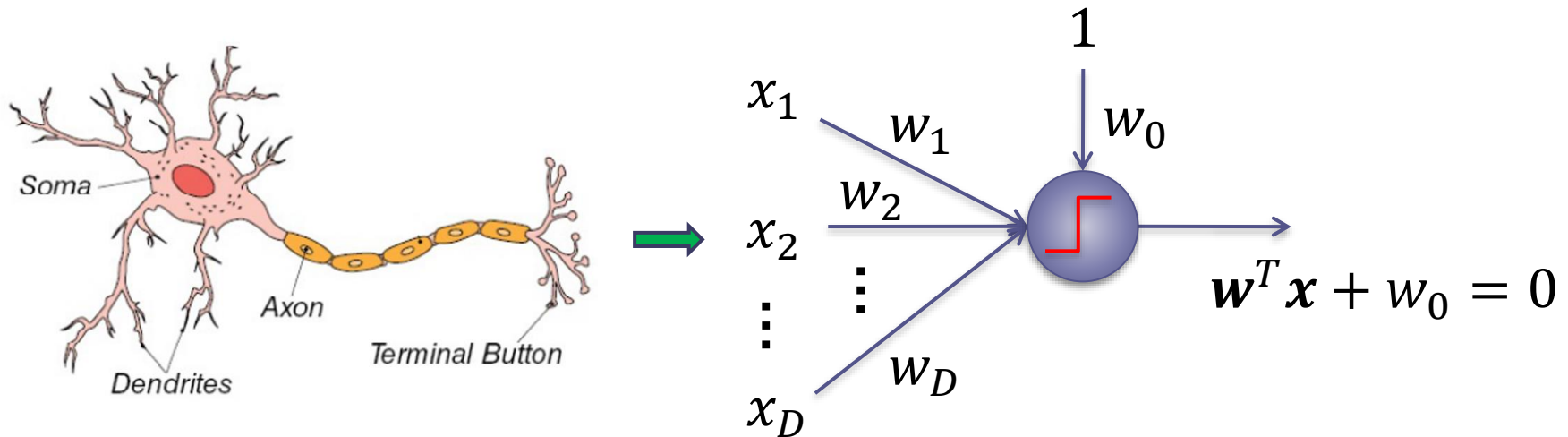
Sample of cats & dogs images from Kaggle Dataset



# Geometric Interpretation of Classification Problem



# Motivation of Perceptron Learning



- Neurons
  - accept information from multiple inputs
  - transmit information to other neurons
- Multiply inputs by weights along edges
- Apply some function to the set of inputs at each node

# Mathematical Definition

- Given training data  $\{(x_i, y_i): 1 \leq i \leq n\}$
- Hypothesis  $f_w(x) = w^T x$ 
  - $y = +1$  if  $w^T x > 0$
  - $y = -1$  if  $w^T x < 0$
- Prediction:  $y = \text{sign}(f_w(x)) = \text{sign}(w^T x)$
- Goal: minimize classification error

# Perceptron Learning Algorithm

1. Start with the all-zeroes weight vector  $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0}$ , and initialize  $t$  to 1.
2. Given example  $\mathbf{x}$ , predict positive iff  $\mathbf{w}_t \cdot \mathbf{x} > 0$ .
3. On a mistake, update as follows:
  - Mistake on positive:  $\mathbf{w}_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t + \mathbf{x}$ .
  - Mistake on negative:  $\mathbf{w}_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{x}$ . $t \leftarrow t + 1$ .

Intuition: correct the current mistake

- If mistake on a positive example

$$w_{t+1}^T x = (w_t + x)^T x = w_t^T x + x^T x = w_t^T x + 1$$

- If mistake on a negative example

$$w_{t+1}^T x = (w_t - x)^T x = w_t^T x - x^T x = w_t^T x - 1$$

# Perceptron Theorem

- Suppose there exists  $w^*$  that correctly classifies  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}$
- all  $x_i$  and  $w^*$  have length 1, so the minimum distance of any example to the decision boundary is

$$\gamma = \min_i |(w^*)^T x_i|$$

- Then Perceptron makes **at most  $\left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right)^2$  mistakes**

# Analysis

- First look at the quantity  $w_t^T w^*$
- Claim 1:  $w_{t+1}^T w^* \geq w_t^T w^* + \gamma$
- Proof: If mistake on a positive example  $x$

$$w_{t+1}^T w^* = (w_t + x)^T w^* = w_t^T w^* + x^T w^* \geq w_t^T w^* + \gamma$$

- If mistake on a negative example

$$w_{t+1}^T w^* = (w_t - x)^T w^* = w_t^T w^* - x^T w^* \geq w_t^T w^* + \gamma$$

# Analysis

- Next look at the quantity  $\|w_t\|$
- Claim 2:  $\|w_{t+1}\|^2 \leq \|w_t\|^2 + 1$
- Proof: If mistake on a positive example  $x$

$$\|w_{t+1}\|^2 = \|w_t + x\|^2 = \|w_t\|^2 + \|x\|^2 + 2w_t^T x$$

## Analysis: putting things together

- Claim 1:  $w_{t+1}^T w^* \geq w_t^T w^* + \gamma$
- Claim 2:  $\|w_{t+1}\|^2 \leq \|w_t\|^2 + 1$

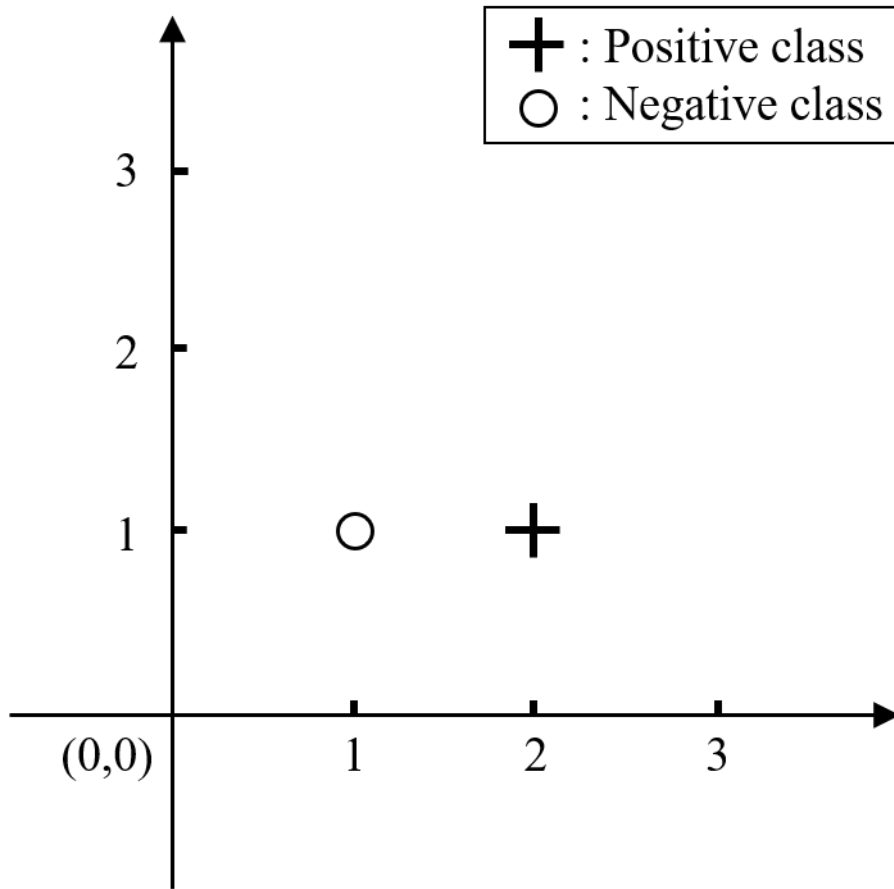
After  $M$  mistakes:

- $w_{M+1}^T w^* \geq \gamma M$
- $\|w_{M+1}\| \leq \sqrt{M}$
- $w_{M+1}^T w^* \leq \|w_{M+1}\|$

So  $\gamma M \leq \sqrt{M}$ , and thus  $M \leq \left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\right)^2$



# An Example of Perceptron Learning

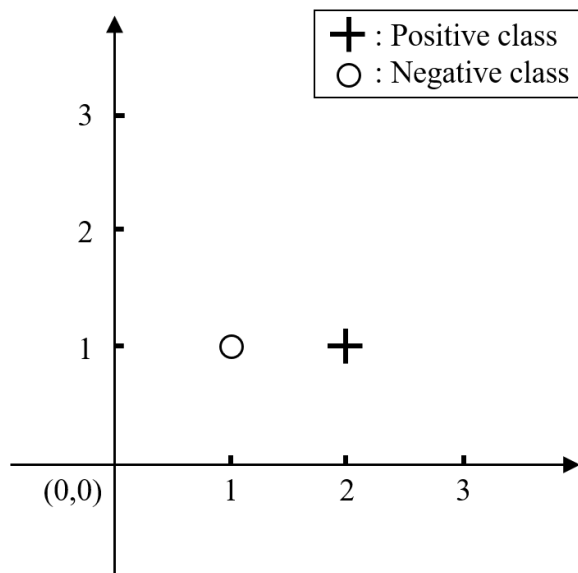


Given two classes of data points: for the positive class, there is one data point:  $(2, 1)$ ; for the negative class, there is one data point:  $(1, 1)$ .

Assume that we start with the all-zero weight vector, use the Perceptron Learning Algorithm to find out the decision hyperplane (equation) that can correctly classify all the data points.

# An Example of Perceptron Learning

1. Start with the all-zeroes weight vector  $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0}$ , and initialize  $t$  to 1.
  2. Given example  $\mathbf{x}$ , predict positive iff  $\mathbf{w}_t \cdot \mathbf{x} > 0$ .
  3. On a mistake, update as follows:
    - Mistake on positive:  $\mathbf{w}_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t + \mathbf{x}$ .
    - Mistake on negative:  $\mathbf{w}_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t - \mathbf{x}$ .
- $t \leftarrow t + 1$ .



$\mathbf{x}_+: (2,1,1)$  ;  $\mathbf{x}_-: (1,1,1)$

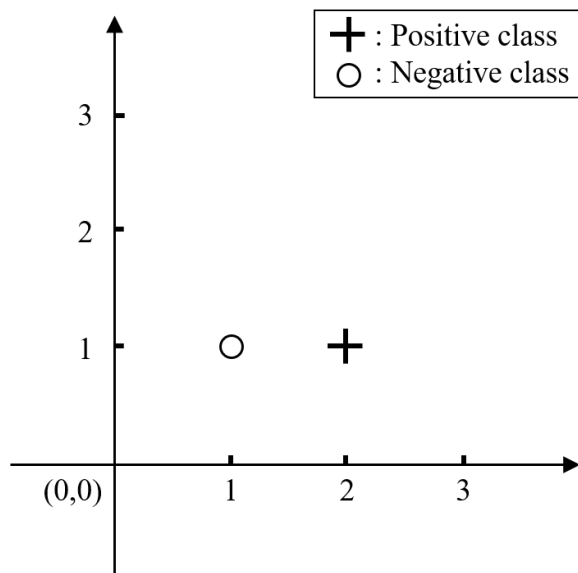
$y = \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x})$ , where  $\mathbf{w} = [\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_0] = [0,0,0]$

For  $\mathbf{x}_+$ , we have  $y = 0$ , not correctly classified. So we need to update the weights:

$\mathbf{w}_{\text{new}} = \mathbf{w}_{\text{old}} + \mathbf{x} = [0,0,0] + [2,1,1] = [2,1,1]$ .

# An Example of Perceptron Learning

1. Start with the all-zeroes weight vector  $\mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0}$ , and initialize  $t$  to 1.
  2. Given example  $\mathbf{x}$ , predict positive iff  $\mathbf{w}_t \cdot \mathbf{x} > 0$ .
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$\mathbf{x}_+ : (2, 1, 1)$  ;  $\mathbf{x}_- : (1, 1, 1)$

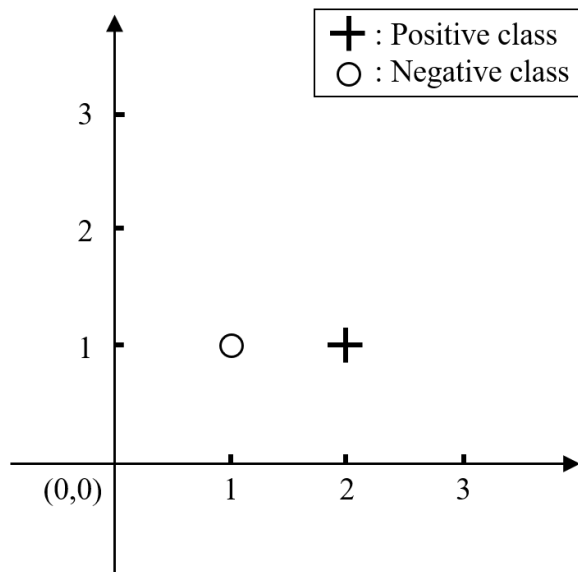
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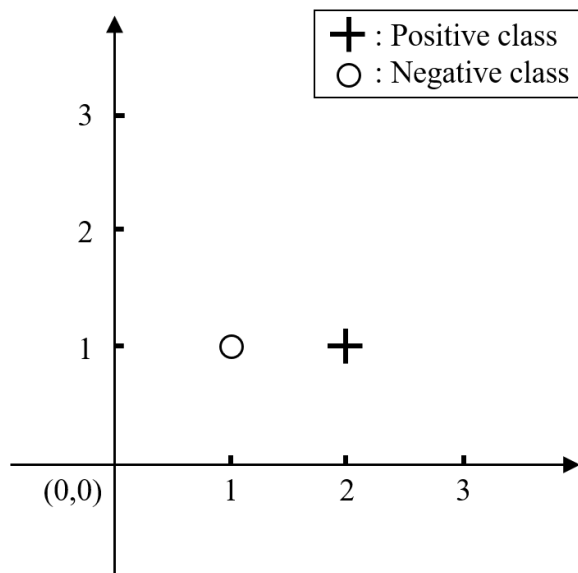
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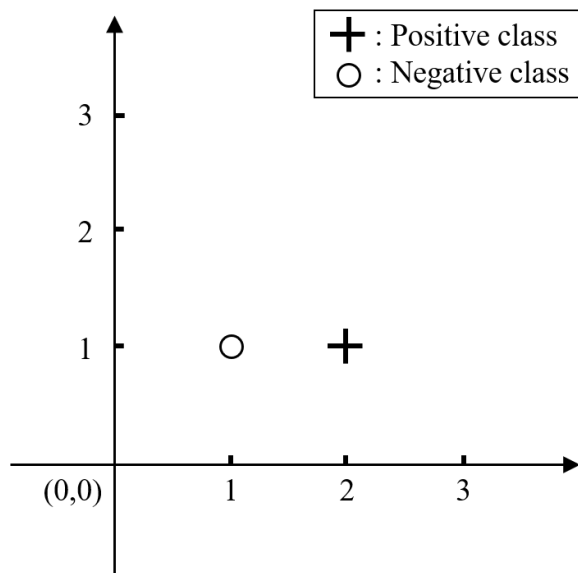
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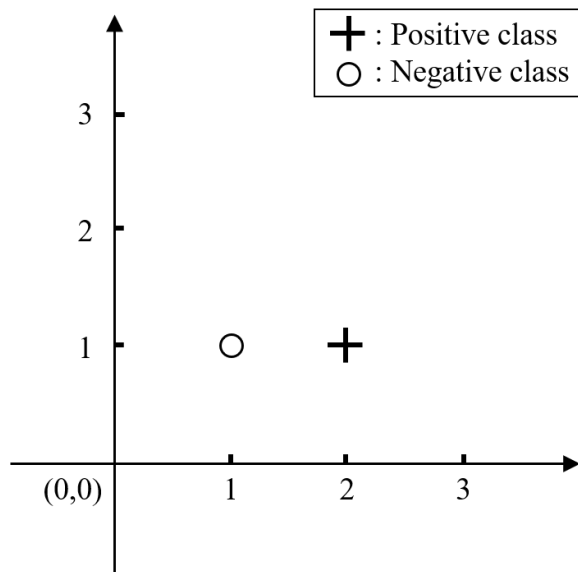
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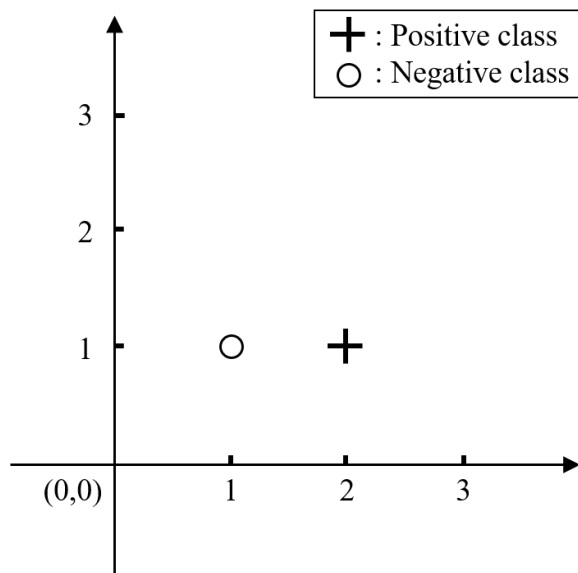
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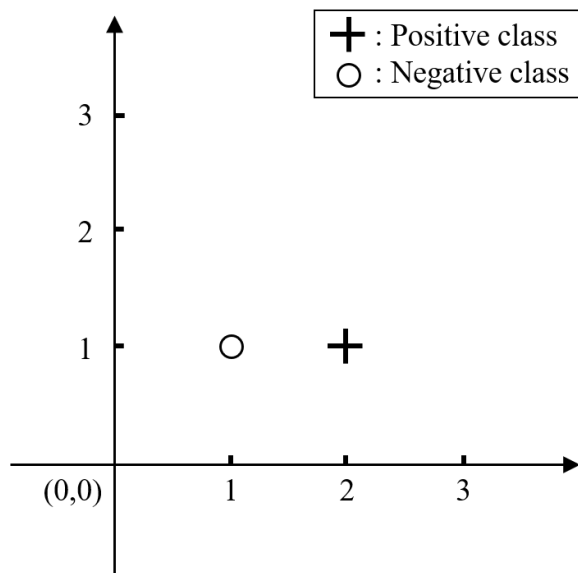
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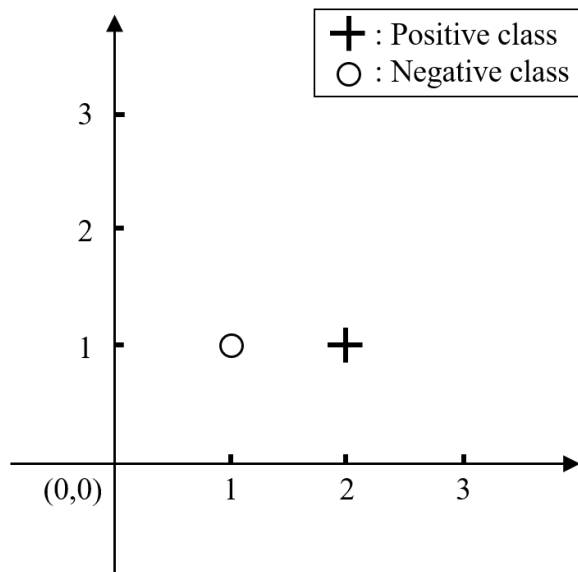
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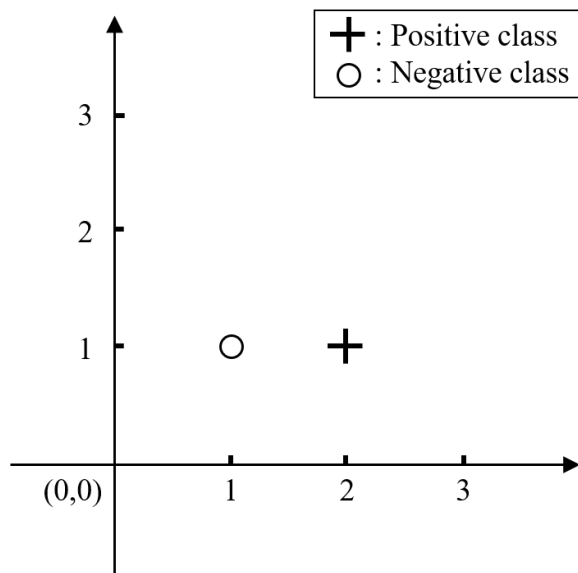
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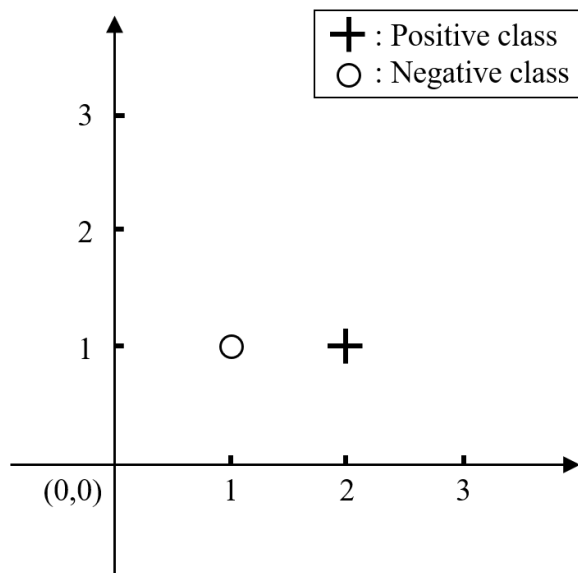
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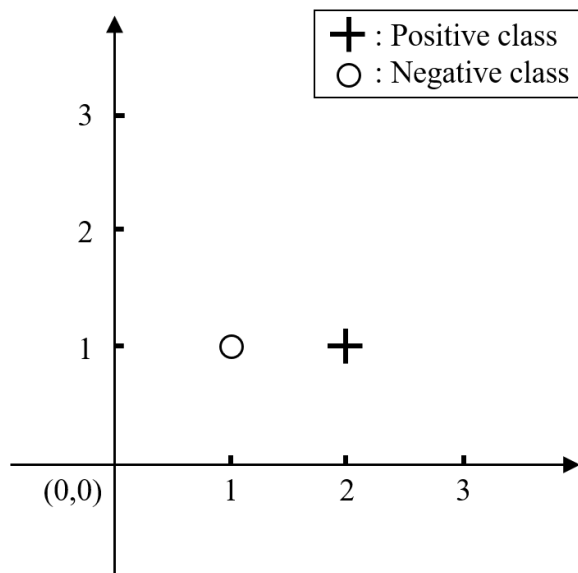
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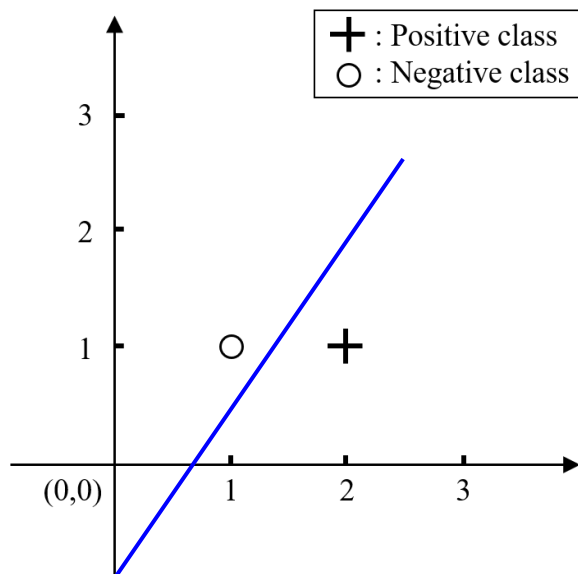
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# An Example of Perceptron Learning

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For  $\mathbf{x}_+$ , we have  $y = 1$ , correctly classified, for  $\mathbf{x}_-$ , we have  $y = -1$  correctly classified.

**Done!!**

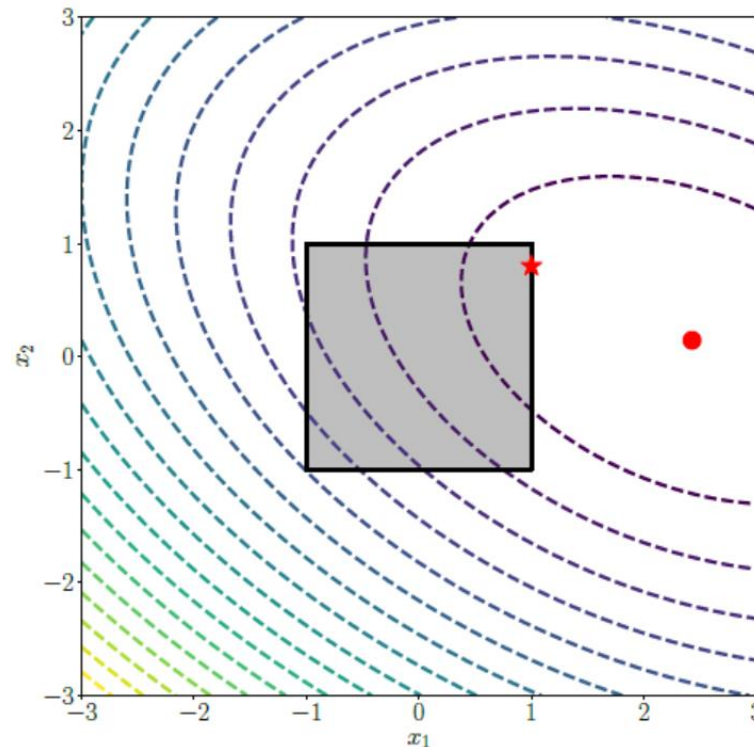
# Convex Optimization

# Constrained Optimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$$

subject to  $g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, m$

$h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$





# Convex Set

**Definition** A set  $\mathcal{C}$  is a *convex set* if for any  $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$  and for any scalar  $\theta$  with  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ , we have

$$\theta x + (1 - \theta)y \in \mathcal{C}$$

convex set



nonconvex set



# Convex Set

- Example: the solution set of linear equations  $Ax = b$  is a convex set.

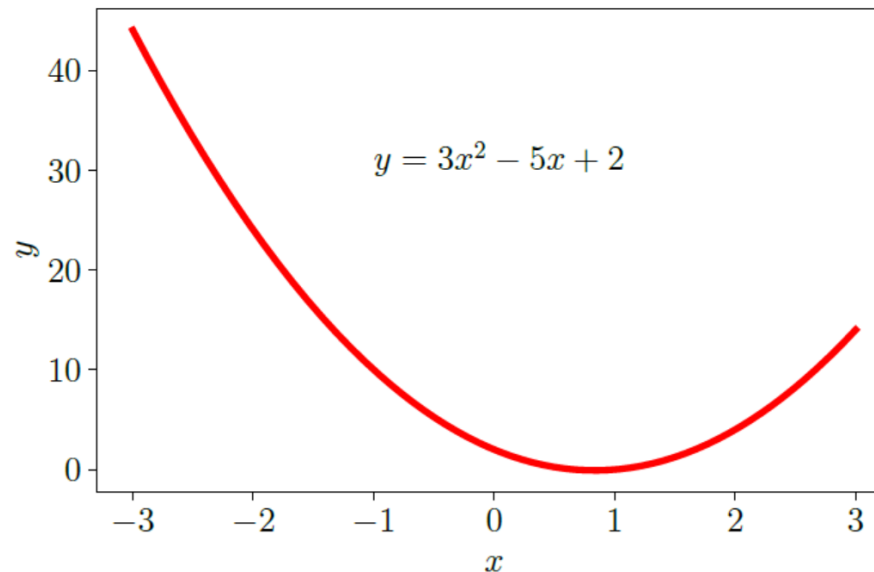
- Proof: suppose  $x_1, x_2 \in C$ , *i.e.*,  $Ax_1 = b$ ,  $Ax_2 = b$ .  
Then for any  $\theta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} A(\theta x_1 + (1 - \theta)x_2) &= \theta Ax_1 + (1 - \theta)Ax_2 \\ &= \theta b + (1 - \theta)b \\ &= b \end{aligned}$$

# Convex Function

**Definition** Let function  $f : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function whose domain is a convex set. The function  $f$  is a *convex function* if for all  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}$  in the domain of  $f$ , and for any scalar  $\theta$  with  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ , we have

$$f(\theta \mathbf{x} + (1 - \theta) \mathbf{y}) \leq \theta f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \theta) f(\mathbf{y})$$

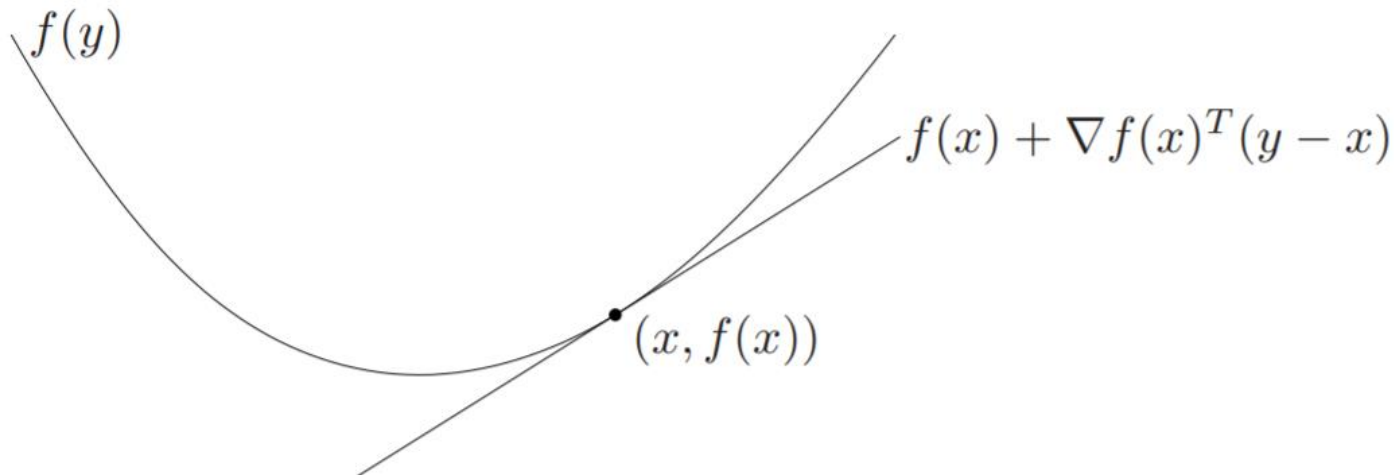


# First Order Condition

Suppose  $f$  is differentiable (*i.e.*, its gradient  $\nabla f$  exists at each point in  $\mathbf{dom} f$ , which is open). Then  $f$  is convex if and only if  $\mathbf{dom} f$  is convex and

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y - x)$$

holds for all  $x, y \in \mathbf{dom} f$ .



# Proof of First Order Condition ( $n = 1$ )

- If  $f$  is convex, then

$$f(x + t(y - x)) \leq (1 - t)f(x) + tf(y)$$

- divide both sides by  $t$ , we obtain

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \frac{f(x + t(y - x)) - f(x)}{t}$$

- taking the limit as  $t \rightarrow 0$  yields

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y - x)$$

# Proof of First Order Condition ( $n = 1$ )

- To prove the sufficiency, assume the function satisfies

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y - x)$$

Choose any  $x \neq y$ , and  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ , and let  $z = \theta x + (1 - \theta)y$ .

$$f(x) \geq f(z) + f'(z)(x - z), \quad f(y) \geq f(z) + f'(z)(y - z)$$

Multiplying the first inequality by  $\theta$ , the second by  $1 - \theta$ , and adding them yields

$$\theta f(x) + (1 - \theta)f(y) \geq f(z),$$

which proves that  $f$  is convex.

## Second Order Condition

- For twice differentiable  $f$  with convex domain,  $f$  is convex if and only if the Hessian matrix  $\nabla^2 f(x)$  is positive semi-definite. Here the Hessian matrix is defined as follows:

$$\nabla^2 f(x)_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n$$

## Proof of Second Order Condition ( $n = 1$ )

- Assume that  $f$  is convex, moreover, assume that  $y > x$ , according to the first order condition, we have

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y - x)$$

$$\text{and } f(x) \geq f(y) + f'(y)(x - y)$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x)(y - x) \leq f(y) - f(x) \leq f'(y)(y - x)$$

Dividing LHS and RHS by  $(y - x)^2$  gives

$$\frac{f'(y) - f'(x)}{y - x} \geq 0, \quad \forall x, y, \quad x \neq y.$$

As we let  $y \rightarrow x$ , we get  $f''(x) \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \text{dom}(f)$ .



# Proof of Second Order Condition ( $n = 1$ )

- Assume that we have  $f''(x) \geq 0$  for any  $x$ , then by using the Taylor's theorem we have

$$f(y) = f(x) + f'(x)(y - x) + \frac{1}{2}f''(z)(y - x)^2, \text{ for some } z \in [x, y].$$

$$\Rightarrow f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y - x).$$

For more details of Taylor's theorem and its proof, please refer to

<https://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/people/academic/Steve.Russ/cs131/NOTE26.PDF>

# Example of convex function

- $f(x) = x^2$
- Definition:

$$f(\theta x + (1 - \theta)y) \leq \theta f(x) + (1 - \theta)f(y)$$

- First order condition:

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y - x)$$

- Second order condition:

$$f''(x) \geq 0$$

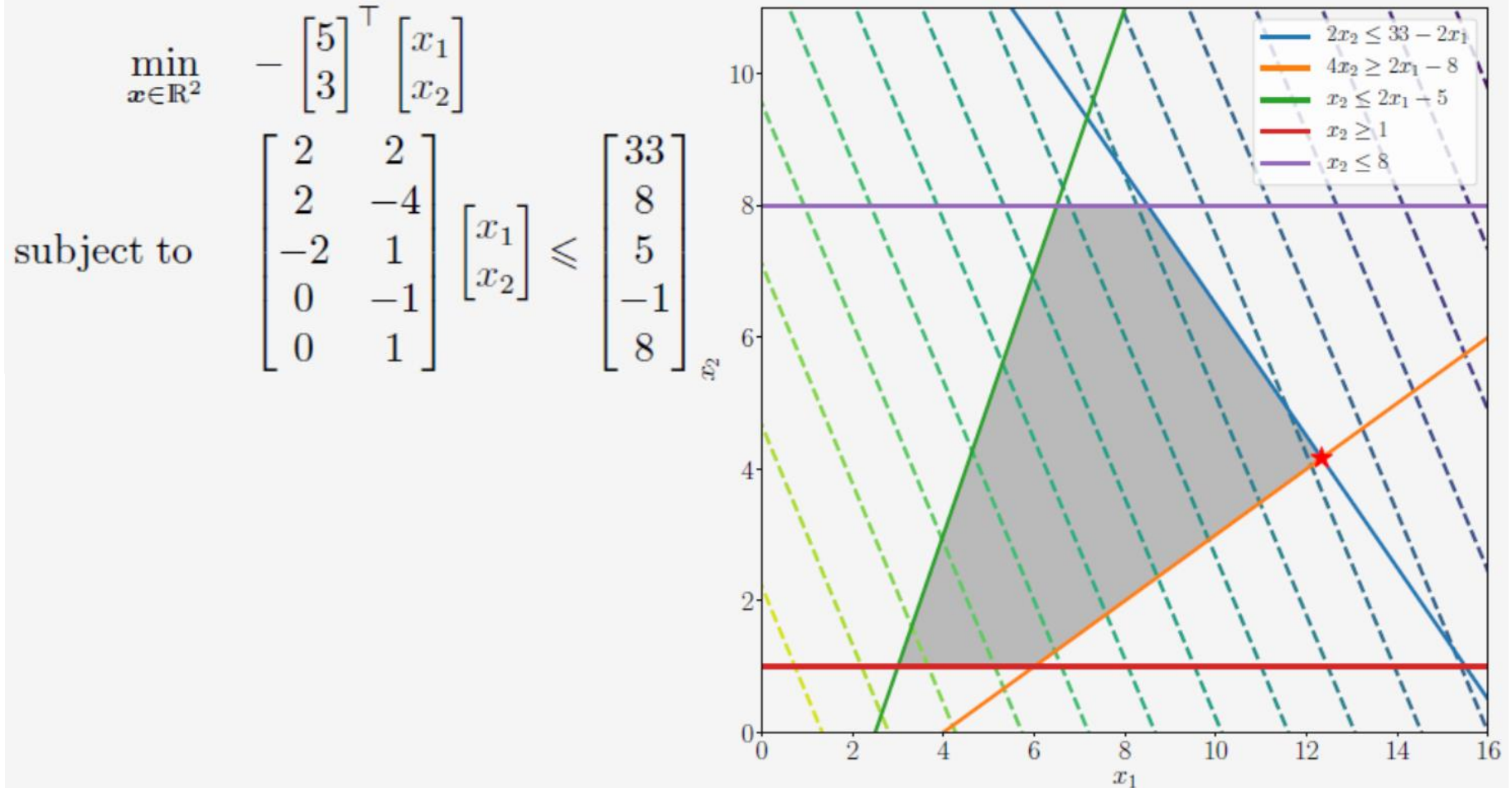
# Convex Optimization Problem

In summary, a constrained optimization problem is called a *convex optimization problem* if

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}) \\ & \text{subject to } g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \quad \quad h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, n, \end{aligned}$$

where all functions  $f(\mathbf{x})$  and  $g_i(\mathbf{x})$  are convex functions, and all  $h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  are convex sets.

# Example: Linear Programming



# Support Vector Machine

-We are given a set of  $n$  points (vectors) :

$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  such that  $x_i$  is a vector of length  $m$ ,  
and each belong to one of two classes we label them  
by “+1” and “-1”.

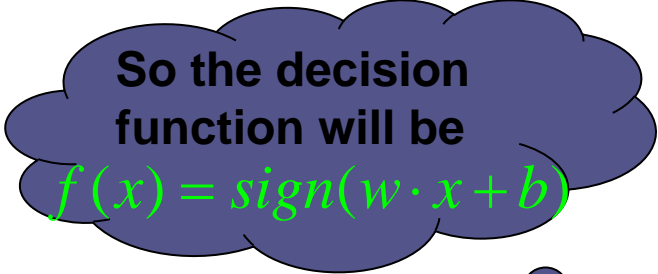
-So our training set is:

$$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$$

$$\forall i \quad x_i \in R^m, y_i \in \{+1, -1\}$$

- We want to find a separating hyperplane  $w \cdot x + b = 0$   
that separates these points into the two classes.

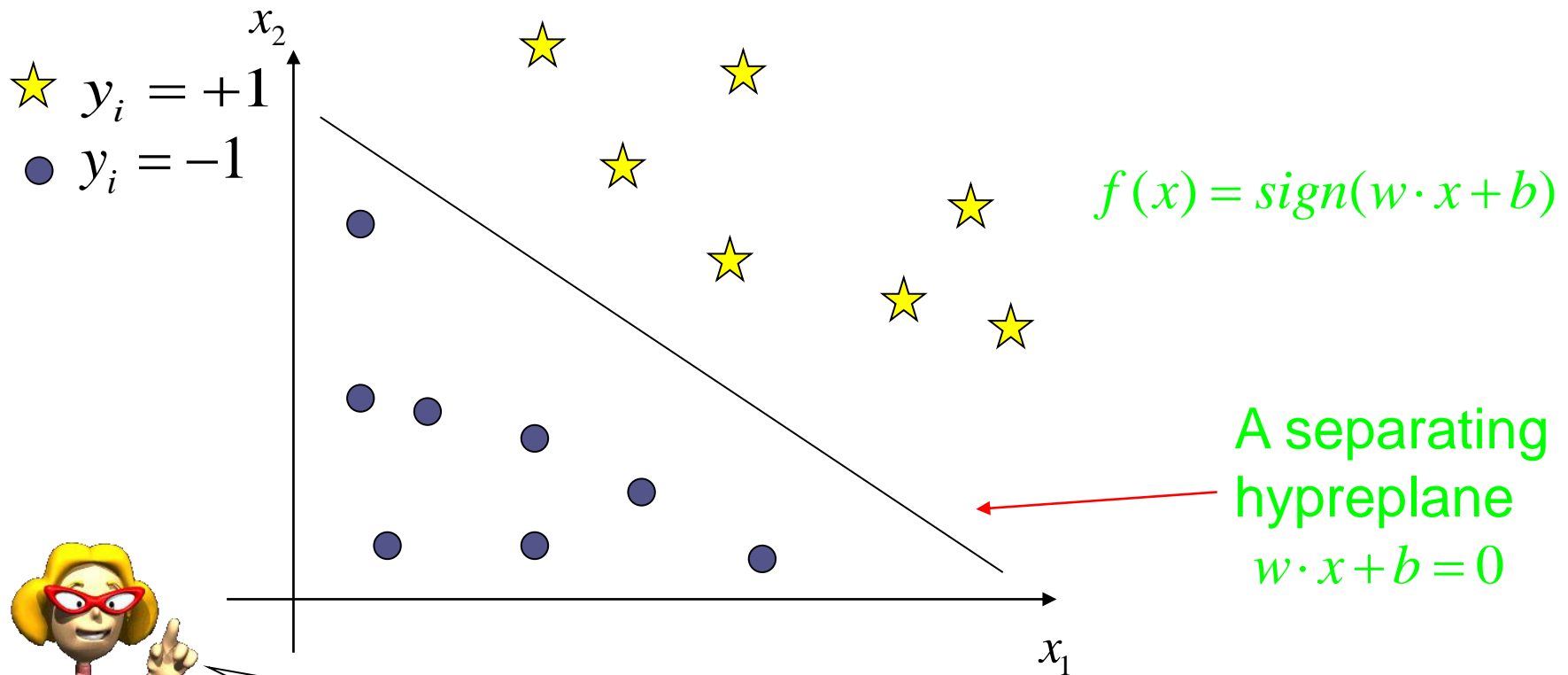
“The positives” (class “+1”) and “The negatives” (class “-1”).  
(Assuming that they are linearly separable)



So the decision  
function will be

$$f(x) = \text{sign}(w \cdot x + b)$$

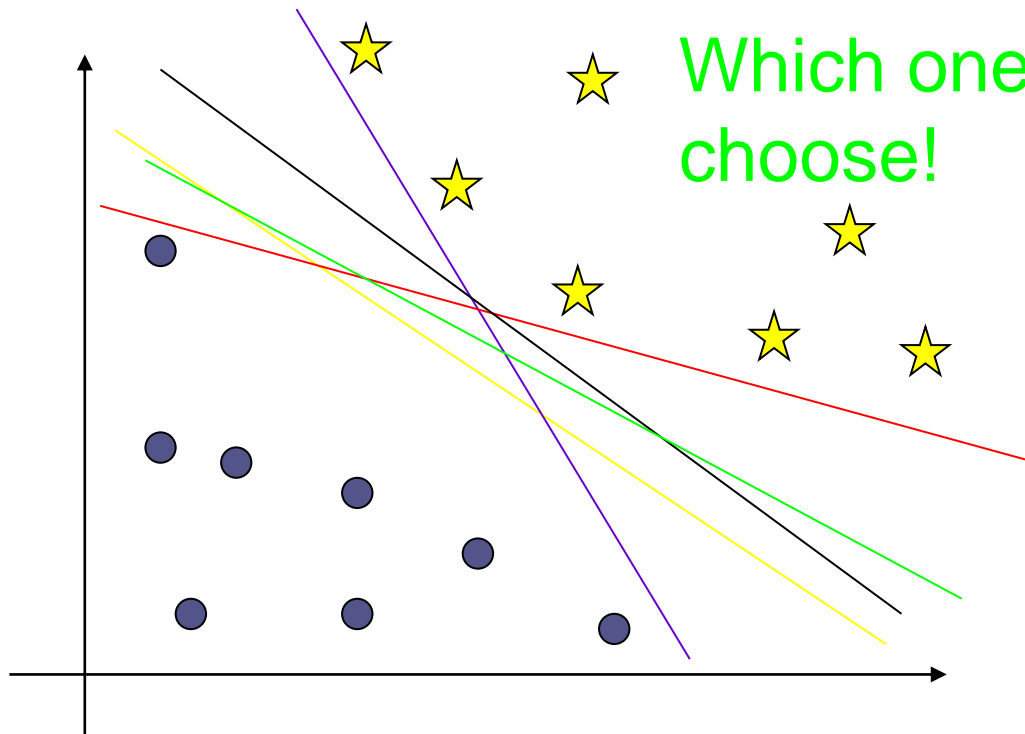
# Separating Hyperplane



But there are many possibilities  
for such hyperplanes !!

# Separating Hyperplane

- ★  $y_i = +1$
- $y_i = -1$

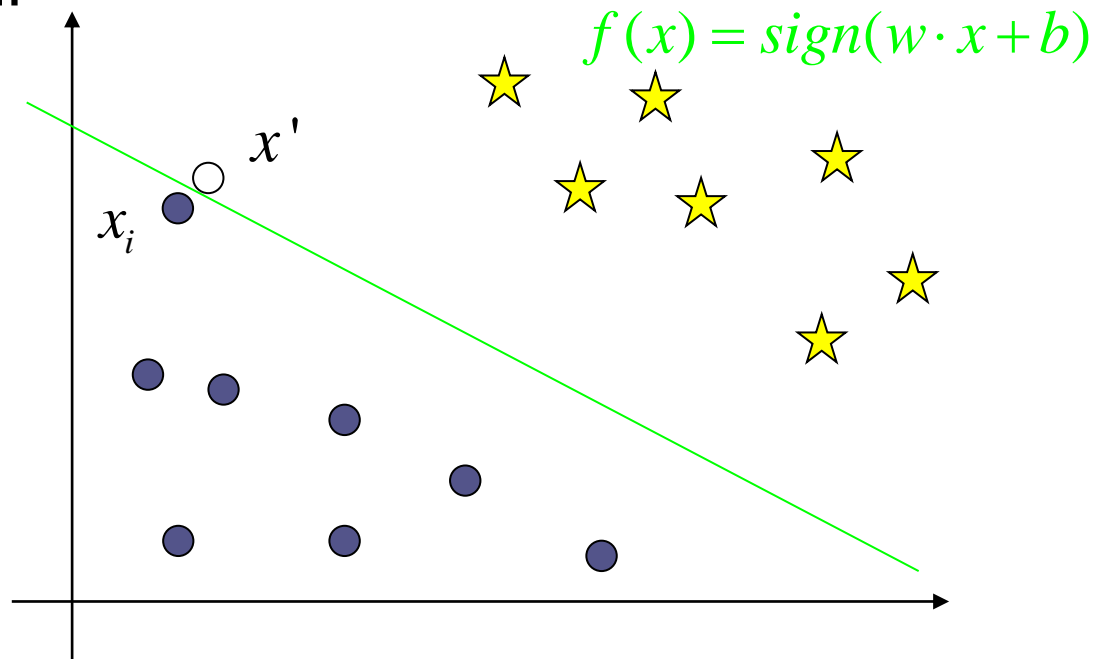


Yes, There are many possible separating hyperplanes  
It could be this one or this or this or maybe....!

# Choosing a separating hyperplane

- Suppose we choose the hyperplane (seen below) that is close to some sample  $x_i$ .
- Now suppose we have a new point  $x'$  that should be in class “-1” and is close to  $x_i$ . Using our classification function  $f(x)$  this point is misclassified!

Poor generalization!  
(Poor performance on  
unseen data)

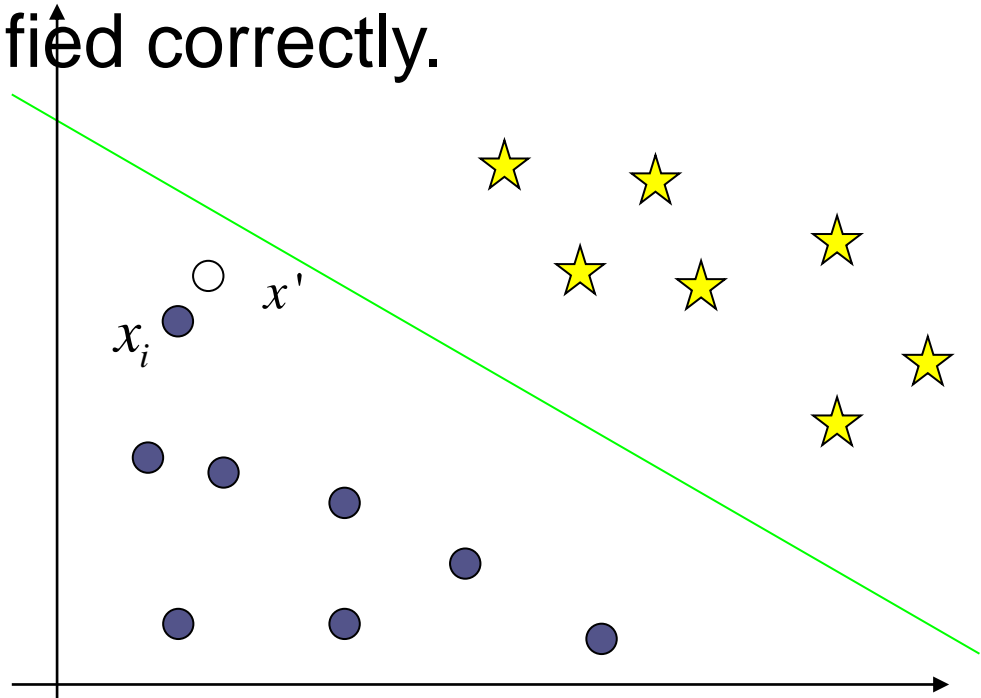




# Choosing a separating hyperplane

- Hyperplane should be as far as possible from any sample point.
- This way a new data that is close to the old samples will be classified correctly.

Good generalization!



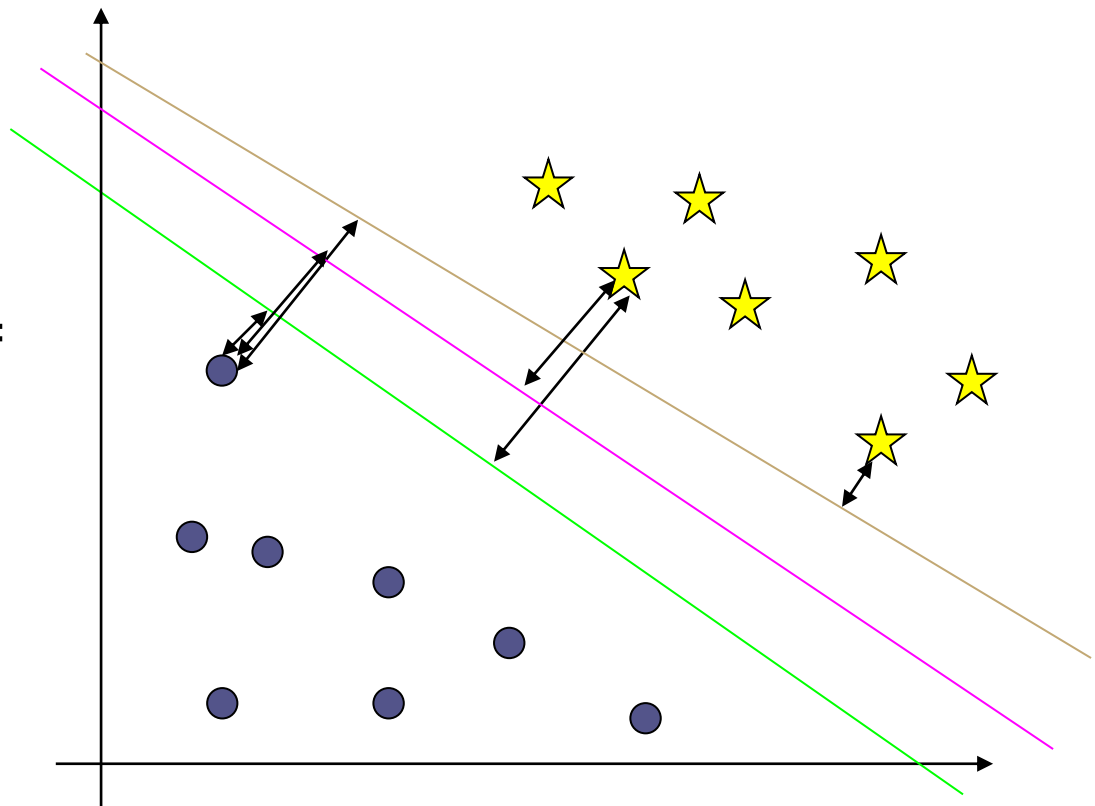
# Choosing a separating hyperplane

-The SVM idea is to maximize the distance between  
The hyperplane and the closest sample point.

In the optimal hyper-plane:

The distance to the  
closest negative point =

The distance to the  
closest positive point.



Aha! I see !

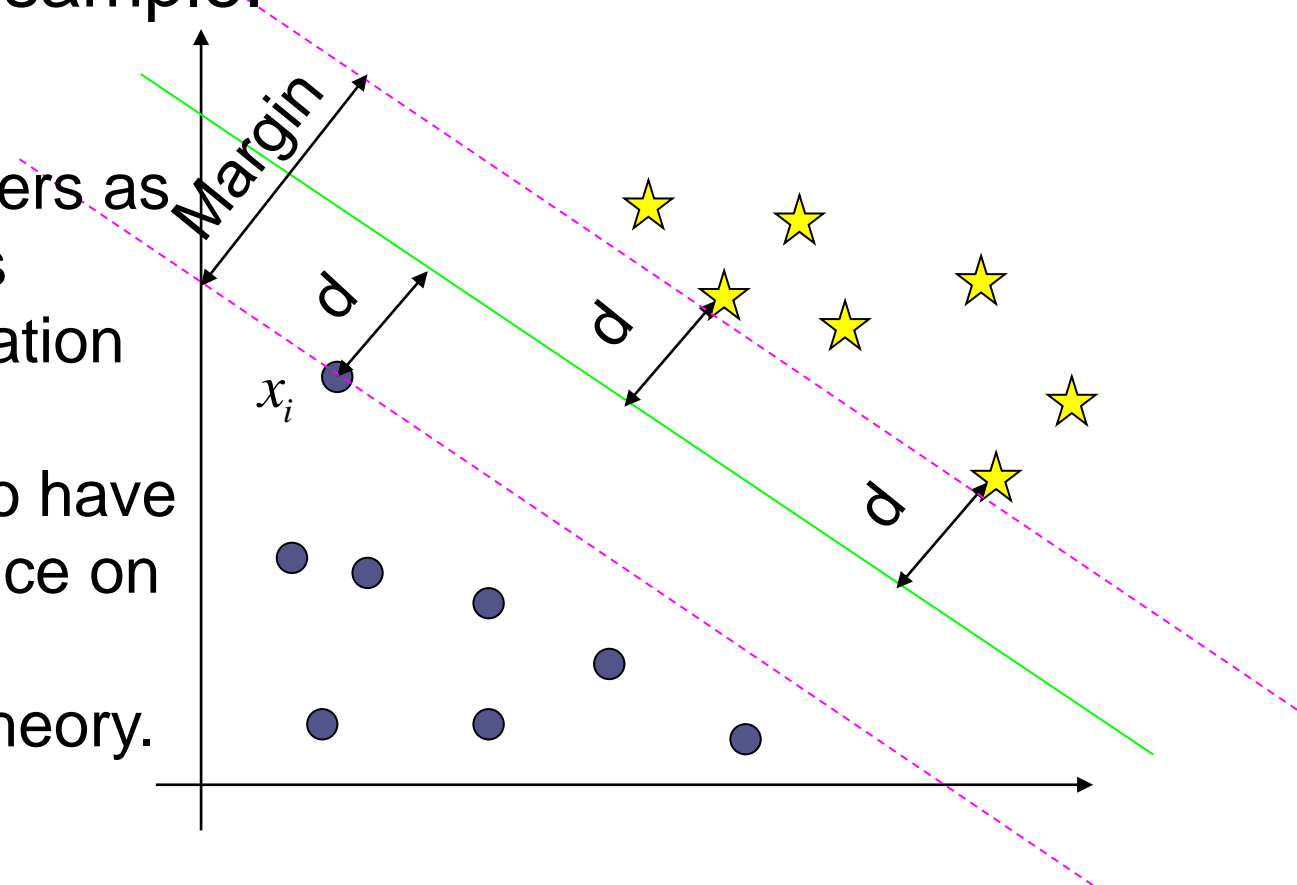


# Support Vector Machine

SVM's goal is to maximize the Margin which is twice the distance “d” between the separating hyperplane and the closest sample.

Why it is the best?

- Robust to outliers as we saw and thus strong generalization ability.
- It proved itself to have better performance on test data in both practice and in theory.

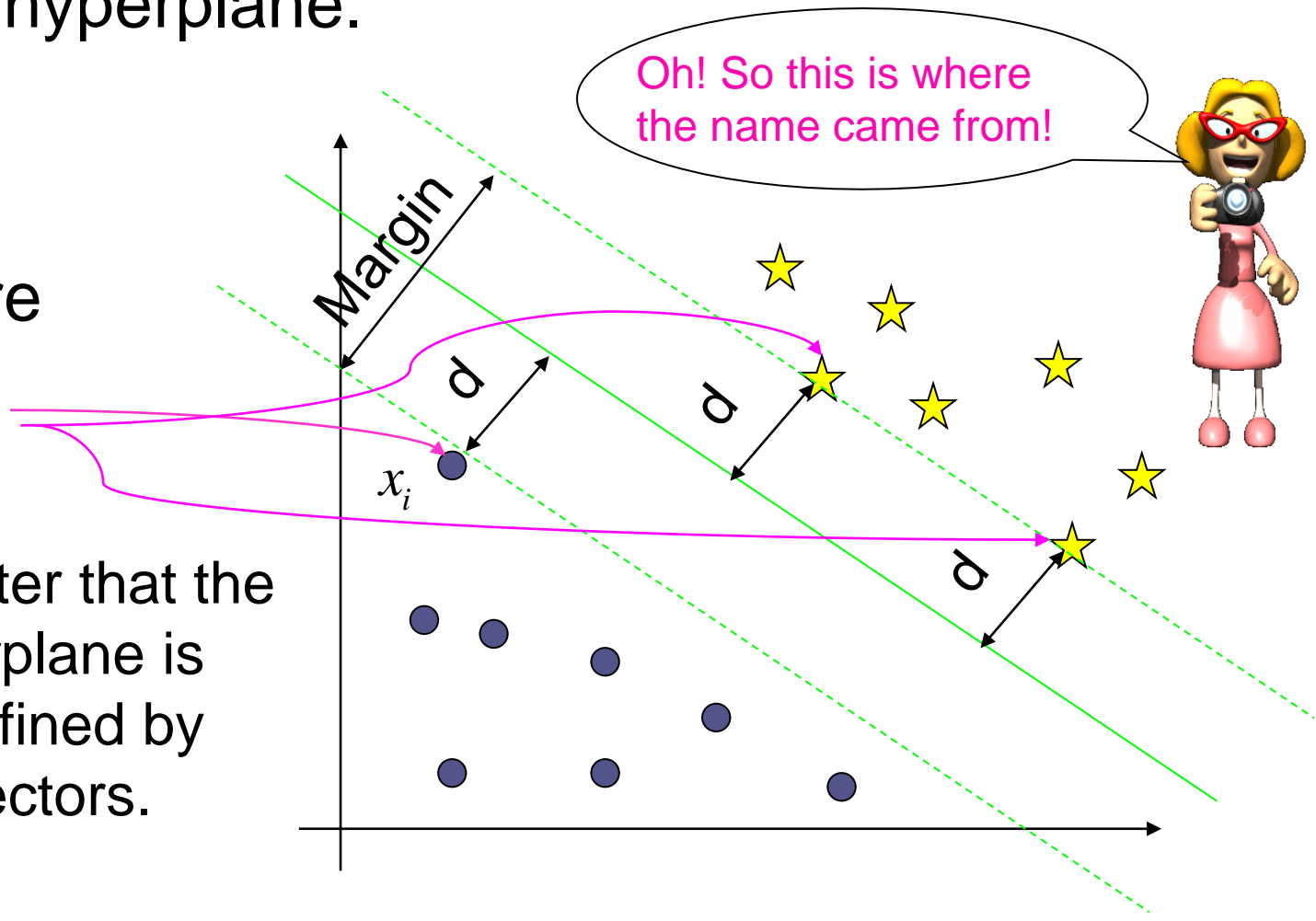


# Support Vector Machine

Support vectors are the samples closest to the separating hyperplane.

These are  
Support  
Vectors

We will see later that the  
Optimal hyperplane is  
completely defined by  
the support vectors.



# The Optimization Problem

$$\max d \quad \longrightarrow \quad \max \left( \frac{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} \right)$$

$$\longrightarrow \min \left( \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|}{\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b} \right) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \min \|\mathbf{w}\| \\ \text{s.t. } |\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b| \geq 1 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{l} \min \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b) \geq 1 \end{array}$$