



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

## Lie Detection Thesis

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**Lie Detection Thesis**

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*Dedicated to  
my Family and Friends*



## Acknowledgments

*fill*



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In this chapter we give an overview of the work (Par. 1.1). We then present a taxonomy of the current state of the art (Par 1.3) concerning computer vision lie detection. The last section is about the structure of this work and our contribution (Par 1.4).

## 1.1 Overview of the work

## 1.2 People Lie Detection

Most untrained people are no better than chance at detecting lies [39], and considering that human lie twice a day on average [29], and lying frequency is generally increased [21] due to on-line communication, the problem of detecting lies is an important one. We often think it is easy to detect liars, but we underestimate the effort it takes to spot liars, but have too much confidence on their judgment[41]. Emotionally intelligent people perform worse at deception detection. This is due to their greater sympathetic feelings to others [6]. In [12] the authors analyze the accuracy of deception judgments from a collection of 206 documents and 24.483 judges. They found that people can differentiate lies and truths with an accuracy of 54%, with a lie detection accuracy of 47% and a truth detection accuracy of 61%. Their findings reveal that is easier for people to discriminate lies from the audio cues rather than the visual ones. In another study [22] 192 students obtained an accuracy of 55.2% on lie detection, with 61% accuracy for guilty suspects and 49% for innocent ones. Police officers and other trained officials seems to perform better at lie detection obtaining around 70% accuracy at detecting both lies and truths correctly [51].

### 1.3 State of the Art

How are lies detected? At the moment there are a lot of different instruments and technologies to detect lies, ranging from the good old polygraph and cameras to MRI machines. In computer vision, lie detection is done using an array of different techniques, employing not only RGB cameras but also physical sensors and thermal cameras, with machine learning techniques, and often combining many of them to achieve better results. We now proceed to describe the state of the art, based on the latest researches done in the field:

#### Speech

Speech is one of the many methods that can be used to recognize if a person is lying, in fact the speech signal contains linguistic, expressive, organic and biological data. [35]

One of the most used indicator of lying in various studies has been the response latency [50], since inventing a lie requires additional cognitive load as opposed to remembering the truth. The authors also notice that habitual lying makes it easier, and conversely often being spontaneous and telling the truth makes lying harder. Another indicator of lying is the speech rate, especially when it's different from the average rate of a specific person [11]. Other verbal cues like grammar usage and word frequency have been used and have achieved high accuracy in psychological researches [40].

Speech analysis can reveal changes that affect behavior, such as stress, emotion, deception etc. by analyzing the pitch and the stress level. When a stressful situation arises, the hormonal levels of the body change, and this causes an increase in blood pressure and heart rate. This in turn affects the muscle in the respiratory system, and so speech is affected [35].

In sound processing, the mel-frequency cepstrum (MFC) is a representation of the short-term power spectrum of a sound. Mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCCs) are coefficients that collectively make up an MFC [53].

In [33] the authors created a new database by making 40 candidates try to deceive them while telling truthful or deceptive statements for about one to two minutes each. From this experiment they extracted MFCC and pitch, so that they could process them through Matlab's Voice Box. After acquiring the data, an SVM classifier was trained to classify new data, obtaining an accuracy of Lie and Truth detection from speech audio respectively of 88.23% and 84.52%.

In [37] [32] Perez et al. utilize real life trial data to identify deception, achieving 60-75% accuracy employing a model that extracts features from both linguistic and gesture modalities.

#### Eyes

Using the eyes to detect lies is one of the most studied approaches as the eyes hold a lot of information regarding our thinking and our emotional state [18]. Moreover is possible to generate a non invasive approach while analyzing the eyes, meaning that subjects do not need to willingly participate or even know if they are being

examined or not (the moral matter is left to the reader), and there could be no need to have big and expensive machinery, like for example a polygraph. Cognitive load, which is set to increase while lying, is one of the most significant factor. Important are also the blink rate, gaze aversion and pupil dilation.

In [19] the authors utilize high speed cameras to record and analyze blink count and blink duration of 50 subjects while asking 10 control questions, to see if there is a variation in them while the subject is being questioned. The authors analyzed the resulting images frame by frame and based on the facial landmarks around the eye they recognized AU45, the action unit for blinking. The results show that both blink duration and count are increased while lying.

In another study, Leal and Vrij [25] asked 13 liars and 13 truth tellers to lie or tell the truth in a target period, while having a baseline from two preceding periods. The eye blinks during the target and baseline periods and directly after the target period (target offset period) were recorded. Compared to the baseline periods, lying subjects show a decrease in eye blinks during the target period and an increase in eye blinks during the target offset period. This pattern resulted very different for truth tellers.

Singh et al. in [45] show that while lying there is an increase in cognitive load and a significant decrease in eye blinks, directly followed by an increase as soon as the cognitive demand ceases, after telling the lie. A threshold is set by the authors for this study, either at 26 blinks/minute or it is calculated personally using the average blink rate from a blink detection algorithm. Blink detection is done with MATLAB using the HAAR Cascade algorithm.

Lim et al. study eye gaze [28] to investigate the relation with lie detection. The result supports the theory that cognitive load decreases the number of eye movements.

Bhaskaran et al. measure deception by the deviation from normal behavior [10] at critical points during an investigative interrogation. For starters a dynamic Bayesian model of the eye movement is trained during a normal conversation with each of the 40 subjects of the experiment, then the remainder of the conversation is broken into pieces and each piece is tested against the normal behavior. The deviation from normality are observed during critical points in the interrogation and used to deduce the presence of deceit, obtaining an accuracy of 82.5%.

In [42] Proudfoot et al. using latent growth curve modeling, the authors research how the pupil diameter changes over the course of an interaction with a deception detection system. The assumption is that anxiety changes the pupil diameter. The subjects are presented with crime-relevant target items (possibly incriminating) and non relevant items. The results indicate that the trends in the changes are indicative of deception during the interaction, regardless if incriminating items are shown.

## Neuroscience

EEG and fMRI have been employed for lie detection with good results for a long time, but at the cost of invasiveness. EEG (Electroencephalogram) is a monitoring method that records brain activities based on its potential. In [44] Simbolon et al, use ERP (Event Related Potentials) to measure brain response directly from thought or perception. Among the numerous types of signals that constitute the ERP signal,

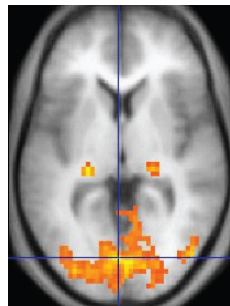
P300 is the most critical for lie detection, as it appears as a response to meaningful rare stimuli (called odd ball stimuli). Eleven males of age between 20 and 27 took part in the study. The gathered data were then divided into training and test sets to produce different models. The highest accuracy of 70.83% was reached by a SVM classifier in detecting lying subjects.

In [24] twenty people with age between 22 and 24 years old were subject to a card test using an EEG machine. EEG signals were collected using electrodes attached to the subject's head. The authors used the EEG signals to identify useful frequency bands and to measure lying state based on spectral analysis, with the use of fuzzy reasoning, obtaining 89.5% detection accuracy.

Arasteh et al. [7] utilize an alternative approach to the polygraph, the P300 Guilty Knowledge Test (GTK). GTK is based on the amplitude of P300 ERP wave as an index for the subject's recognition of concealed information. The Guilty Knowledge Test works on the assumption that among many similar unfamiliar topics, the recognition of familiar ones will be followed by a different response. 62 subjects were part of this experiment and participated in a mock crime followed by the P300 GTK. The authors used empirical mode decomposition (EMD) to extract features from the EEG signal and modeled them through matlab. A genetic algorithm was then utilized for the feature selection and to handle the dimensionality increase of this approach. The classification accuracy of guilty and innocent subjects was 92.73%. Another neuro-scientific approach to lie detection is functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). fMRI measures brain activity by detecting changes associated with blood flow. This technique relies on the fact that cerebral blood flow and neuronal activation are coupled. When an area of the brain is in use, blood flow to that region also increases [52].

In most of the experiments with fMRI and lie detection, candidates are instructed to lie and tell the truth in specific situations, and the brain activity from these instances is compared to a baseline condition. The regions showing greater activation for lies than truth are supposed to be the most significant for deception detection. In a recent study it is shown that there is considerable agreement on the significant areas that regard lying [17].

fMRI presents some shortcomings [14][1]: many fMRI studies are small, not



**Figure 1.1.** fMRI image with yellow areas showing increased activity compared with a control condition [52]

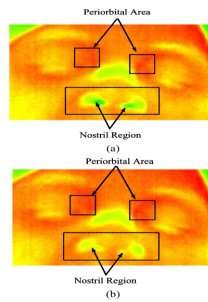
replicated and done with just a few subjects; there are contradicting results between some studies; most of the studies are not done in a context of high stake deception,

but in a controlled environment where subjects are asked to lie about some topic or event, without necessarily a true interest in lying. Another important point is that the fMRI approach requires collaboration and expensive equipment to be carried out.

## Thermal

In thermal imaging, thermal features are extracted from the face using a high definition thermal camera to analyze whether differences occur when a subject responded truthfully or deceptively.

According to a recent study [4] examining 30 subjects, the most relevant zones in the face for deception detection are forehead and periorbital regions.



**Figure 1.2.** Examples of thermal images during (a) questioning and (b) answering [49]

In this study the subjects were registered with a thermal camera for one minute to extract the baseline features, and then a series of questions was asked. A thermal map was created using the Hue Saturation Value to differentiate between lies and truths.

In [43] the authors set up an experiment to collect 492 responses from 25 participants, using a deception scenario requiring the subjects to learn a story and practice their lies before hand, so that cognitive load is increased in the interview. At the start of the interview four baseline questions were asked to register the initial thermal state of the subjects, and then a series of questions were asked, with answers both present and missing from the provided story. After extracting the periorbital region's thermal variation, a k-nearest neighbor classifier was used, with an 87% accuracy in predicting lies or truths.

In [49] data are gathered non-intrusively from the nostril and periorbital regions using two dimensional far infrared cameras. The study lasted for two years and covered 18 tests on subjects involved in real crime cases. The temperature is converted in change in blood flow velocity and a signature of the respiration pattern is determined in terms of the ratio of the measured maximum and minimum temperatures in the nostril area. The classification rate for this study is 88.5%.

## Multimodal

Another way to detect lies is to combine different modalities. This can improve the detection of deceptive behavior [5].

In [3] Abouelenien et al. collect data from a dataset of 30 subjects to examine thermal



**Figure 1.3.** Facial Expressions

and visual clues of deception. Their aim is to identify the regions that offer higher capability of detecting deceit. The method employed uses the CERT (Computer Expression Recognition Toolbox) to detect facial expression and encodes them with AU (Action Units). For thermal features they create a thermal map using grayscale and Hue Saturation Value. They also calculated normalized blinking rates and the mean head orientation angle along the entire length of the response. In addition over 60 physiological features were extracted and stored. The experimental results show that the non-contact feature fusion model outperforms traditional physiological measurements, and that the forehead region is one of the most promising areas to gather information for deception detection.

In a following paper [2] Abouelenien et al. explore a multimodal deception detection approach comprised of physiological, linguistic, and thermal features on a new dataset of 149 recordings. They determine the most discriminative region of the face based on thermal imaging, and perform feature analysis using a decision tree model. The result show that the forehead could be a better indicator of deceit than the periorbital area. The physiological features did not contribute very much, while the linguistic feature played a critical role, where self-referencing and exaggeration words were big indicators of deceit. The overall accuracy of the system is 70%. Another example of multimodal detection is found in [54] where Wu et al. develop a framework to automatically detect deception in trials, while remaining hidden. They utilize three modalities: vision, audio and text. For vision, they employ various classifiers trained on low level video features to predict on human micro-expressions, to successively predict deception. Interestingly, IDT (Improved Dense Trajectory) features, often used to recognize actions in videos, are good predictors of deceptive behavior. The authors decided to fuse the score of the classifiers on IDT and micro-expressions to boost the performance. Regarding text, the transcript of the considered videos are analyzed, but the performance increase is very marginal. For speech, they integrate the vision side with MFCC features analysis from the audio, boosting the performances significantly, reaching an AUC of 0.877.

## Facial Expression and Micro-Expressions

Facial Expressions are one of the main methods that we use to express our emotions. But what happens when we want to hide our emotions instead?



Facial micro-expressions are very fast ( $1/2$  to  $1/25$  of a second) and involuntary expressions that come up on the human face when they are trying to suppress or hide an emotion, and are very difficult to control just using one's willpower [16]. Studying and classifying micro expression is very valuable and has many applications, especially in psychology and forensic sciences, but it is a hard feat as the duration is very short and the intensity is low. Micro-expressions have been studied since 1966 to recognize and distinguish real or fake emotions, initially by Haggard and Isaacs [20], and three years later by Ekman and Friesen [15].

Substantial work on Micro-Expressions has been done by Pfister, Li et al. In [38] they collaborated with psychologists to design an induced emotion suppression experiment. The data was collected with a high speed camera to be able to register the micro expressions. Temporal interpolation model was used to counter the shortness of the video length, while multiple kernel learning, random forest and SMM were used to classify micro expressions reaching an accuracy of 71.4%.

The lack of a database was one of the biggest hindrance to research, to solve this problem in [26] they unveil a new dataset, the Spontaneous Micro-expression Database (SMIC), which includes 164 microexpression video clips taken from a group of 20 participants. They used two high speed cameras to record the face of the subjects while they were watching a selection of videos that induced strong emotional response, and they had to try and suppress those emotions. After the video they had to answer about the emotions they felt while watching it. The data were then segmented and labeled by two annotators.

A study of spontaneous micro expression spotting and recognition methods is done in [27]. A new training-free method, based on feature difference contrast for recognizing micro-expressions is presented and revealed effective on unseen videos. The features are extracted from the video using LBP and Histogram of Optical Flow. For micro-expression recognition the method used was to perform face alignment and temporal interpolation, then classify the images using an SVM. This micro-expression framework was tested on the SMIC and CASMEII database with very good results. After combining micro-expressions spotting and recognition they released a new micro-expression analysis system (MESR) that is able to recognize micro-expressions from spontaneous video data.

Owayjan et al. [36] designed a lie detection system using micro-expressions. At first an embedded video system is used to record the subject interview. The video stream is converted into frames, and each frame is processed in four stages: converting the images, filtering out useless features, applying geometric templates and finally extracting the measurements to detect the micro-expressions. Eight facial expressions can be recognized and lies can be discerned with high precision.

In [23] Kawulok et al. explore how to exploit fast smile intensity detectors to extract temporal features using a SVM classifier. Using exclusively a face detector, without localizing or tracking facial landmarks, they analyze the smile intensity time series. They then employ an SVM classifier to improve training from weakly labeled datasets. Then, to train the smile detectors, they use uniform local binary pattern features. This allows to detect, in real time, between spontaneous or posed expressions.

Su et al. [48] aim to test the validity of facial clues to deception detection in high-stakes situations using computer vision approaches. By using invariant 2D features from nine separate regions of the face they perform facial analysis on eye

blink, eyebrow motion, wrinkle occurrence and mouth motion, integrated with a facial behavior pattern vector. Training a Random Forest to classify the patterns into deceptive or truthful, they achieved a 76.92% accuracy.

Noje et al. [34] set up a study with ten subjects to observe the potential of head movements in lie detection. They built an application to detect head movement and position by performing a frame to frame analysis on a video stream. A correlation was made between head movement/position and the identification of lies. The results of the study are not concluding as this data can't be utilized without being incorporated with other modalities such as voice, gaze, words, expressions et cetera.

## 1.4 My Contributions

## 1.5 Useful Things to Write and Cite

Action Units [1.5.1](#)

RNN LSTM [1.5.2](#)

### 1.5.1 Action Units

Substantial work on AU classification and intensity estimation has been done in [\[8\]](#) by Baltrusaitis et al. while developing the OpenFace [\[9\]](#) system.

### 1.5.2 LSTM

## Chapter 2

# Architecture

In this chapter we will give a brief introduction of Machine Learning (2.1), explaining Classification (2.1.3), Regression (2.1.4), Supervised (2.1.1) and Unsupervised (2.1.2) Learning, proceeding then to explain SVM (2.2) which is the most important technique used for this thesis.

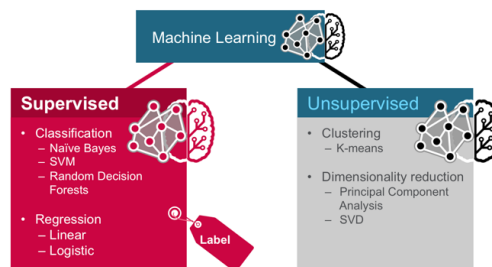
### 2.1 Machine Learning

Machine Learning is a subfield of Artificial Intelligence that uses statistical techniques to provide computers with the ability to progressively improve performance on different tasks using data, while not being explicitly programmed [13].

The application for machine learning are huge and diverse, and range from character recognition to email filtering, with lots of application in computer vision, such as image recognition and classification.

Machine learning also focuses on making prediction on data, by utilizing techniques taken from mathematical optimization. This has many applications, ranging from health care by predicting risk factors for diseases or gaining insights for prevention, to sports or politics where actual results can be predicted.

The field of machine learning is subdivided in two broad categories (Fig. 2.1), supervised learning (2.1.1) and unsupervised learning (Fig. 2.1.2) based on whether the data is labeled or not.



**Figure 2.1.** Machine Learning Subfields [31]

Another classification is based on the kind of output that the users wish to

obtain, mainly Classification (2.1.3), Regression (2.1.4) or Clustering.

### 2.1.1 Supervised Learning

When using supervised learning we want to learn a function that maps an input to an output, based on example input-output pairs [47]. This means that we need labeled training data, consisting of a vector of input objects and an output value. The objective is to correctly classify the new data based on the analyzed training pairs.

The general steps to solve a supervised learning problem are (Fig. 2.2):

1. Understand what kind of training example to use.
2. Gathering a training set.
3. Model the training set to be fed as input to the algorithm by choosing which features to use and how to represent the data.
4. Choose what kind of algorithm can best train the model.
5. Run the algorithm and evaluate the resulting accuracy on the test set

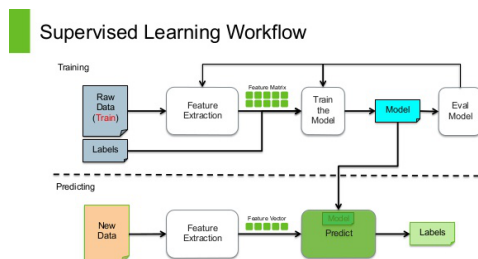


Figure 2.2. Supervised Learning Workflow [30]

### 2.1.2 Unsupervised Learning

### 2.1.3 Classification

### 2.1.4 Regression

## 2.2 SVM

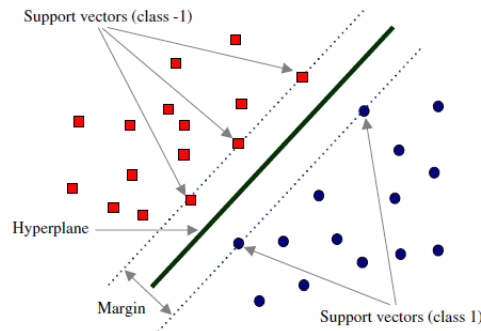
Support Vector Machines (SVM) are a supervised machine learning algorithm used for both classification and regression.

The main idea is to find the optimal hyperplane for linearly separable data, and then extend this idea to data that are not linearly separable by mapping this data in a new space using a kernel function.

The definition of an hyperplane for p-dimensions is:

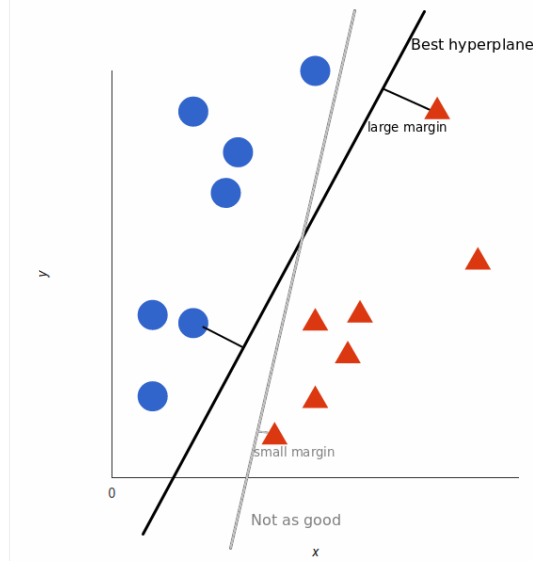
$$\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \cdots + \beta_p X_p = 0 \quad (2.1)$$

Support vectors are the data points that lie closest to the hyperplane (Fig. 2.3), they also are the data points most difficult to classify and have direct bearing on the optimum location of the hyperplane.



**Figure 2.3.** Example of Support Vectors

The distance between the hyperplane and the nearest data point from either set is known as the margin. The best hyperplane is the one that maximizes the margins for the data we are classifying.



**Figure 2.4.** Different hyperplanes with different margins [46]

So the objective is to choose a hyperplane with the largest possible margin between it and the support vectors, since the larger is the margin, the lower the generalization error of the classifier.

In essence, support vectors are the elements of the training set that would change the position of the dividing hyperplane if removed. This makes the support vectors the critical elements of the training set.

Finding the maximal margin hyperplane based on a set of training observations  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R^p$  and with class labels  $y_1 \dots y_n$ , translates to an optimization problem:

Maximize  $M$

$$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_p, M \quad (2.2)$$

subject to

$$\sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j^2 = 1 \quad (2.3)$$

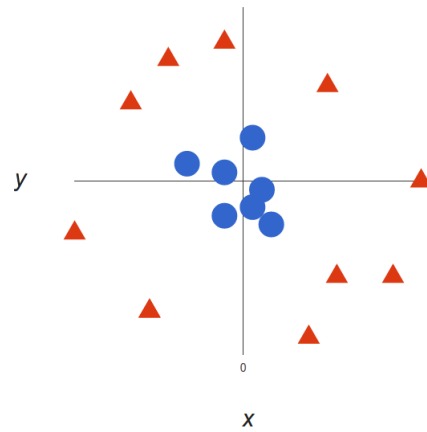
$$y_i(\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \beta_2 X_{i2} + \dots + \beta_p X_{ip}) \geq M \forall i = 1, \dots, n \quad (2.4)$$

2.3 and 2.4 ensure that each observation is on the correct side of the hyperplane and at least a distance  $M$  from the hyperplane. Hence,  $M$  represents the margin of our hyperplane, and the optimization problem chooses  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_p$  to maximize  $M$ .

Unfortunately this hyperplane does not necessarily exist, but we can extend this concept to find a hyperplane that almost separates the classes using a soft margin. This is what an SVM does.

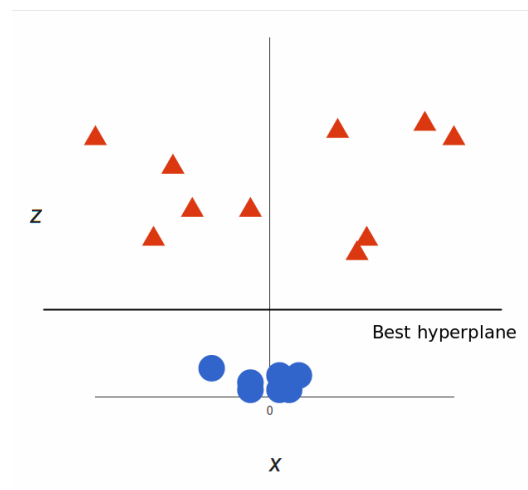
It is very probable that the data is not linearly separable, as we can see in figure 2.5.





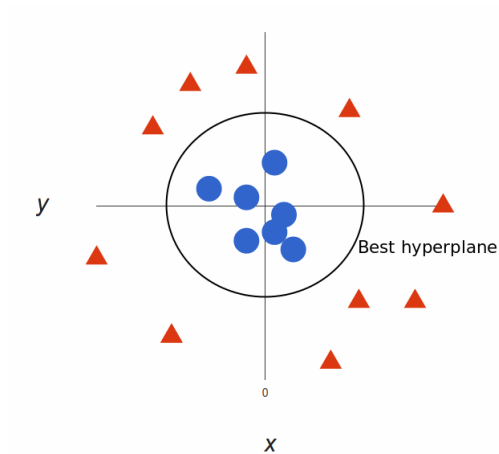
**Figure 2.5.** Linearly not separable data [46]

In this case, for example, we can add a new dimension and separate the data.



**Figure 2.6.** Three dimensional separable space [46]

And then map back to two dimension.



**Figure 2.7.** Separated data [46]

Calculating the transformation can be very computationally intensive, but SVM just needs the dot product between the vectors. This is called the kernel function. Kernels can be of different types, like linear or

## Chapter 3

# Experiments

Everything I did: - GLM - QDA - LDA - SVM - Correlations  
pipeline OPENFACE + analysis. here or architecture?

### 3.1 GLM

### 3.2 LDA

### 3.3 QDA

### 3.4 SVM

### 3.5 Correlations

?



## Chapter 4

# Results

Results obtained



## Chapter 5

# Conclusions

Conclusion





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