



FIGURE 12.1. Support vector classifiers. The left panel shows the separable case. The decision boundary is the solid line, while broken lines bound the shaded maximal margin of width $2M = 2/\|\beta\|$. The right panel shows the nonseparable (overlap) case. The points labeled ξ_j^* are on the wrong side of their margin by an amount $\xi_j^* = M\xi_j$; points on the correct side have $\xi_j^* = 0$. The margin is maximized subject to a total budget $\sum \xi_i \leq \text{constant}$. Hence $\sum \xi_j^*$ is the total distance of points on the wrong side of their margin.