

2. Classification

*Lecturer: Xiaolin Huang***Problem 1**

There have been many variants of SVM for different purpose. The following is called ν -SVM which can controls the ratio of support vectors. The primal formulation of ν -SVM is given as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w, \rho, \xi} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|_2^2 - \nu \rho + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i(w^T x_i + b) \geq \rho - \xi_i \\ & \rho \geq 0, \xi_i \geq 0, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Please derive its dual problem and discuss the meaning of ν .

Answer

The ν -SVM in primal space :

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w, \rho, \xi} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|_2^2 - \nu\rho + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i(w^T x_i + b) \geq \rho - \xi_i \\ & \rho \geq 0, \xi_i \geq 0, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The corresponding Lagrange:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \|w\|_2^2 - \nu\rho + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \xi_i + \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i (\rho - \xi_i - y_i(w^T x_i + b)) - \sum_{i=1}^m \mu_i \xi_i - \lambda\rho \quad (3)$$

The KKT condition:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial w} = 0 \Rightarrow w - \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i y_i x_i = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \xi_i} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{m} - \alpha_i - \mu_i = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \rho} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i - \nu = \lambda \quad (6)$$

Then we can substitute (4)(5)(6) into Lagrange and get the SVM in dual space:

$$\min_{\alpha} \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j \alpha_i \alpha_j x_i^T x_j y_i y_j \quad (7)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq \frac{1}{m} \quad (8)$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i \geq \nu \quad (9)$$

For the ν in ν -SVM, I think we can consider it as the substitute of C in normal SVM. In a sense, the main difference between the two methods is the parameterization of ν .

What's more, ν is the upper bound of the proportion of sample points that are misclassified, and ν is the lower bound of the proportion of support vectors in the sample points.