Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Exercises – Support Vector Machines

Question 1 (Computing a support vector machine by hand)

The aim of this question is to compute a hard-margin support vector machine (SVM) by hand. For this, let a dataset consisting of the two training examples

$$(x^1 := (-2 \ -1)^T, y_1 := +1)$$
 and $(x^2 := (1 \ 1)^T, y_2 := -1)$

be given. Admittedly, this dataset is not very useful in practical applications, but using such a small dataset makes it feasible to work through the computations by hand. This enhances your understanding of support vector machines.

Please work through the following tasks to train the SVM:

- 1. Write down the hard-margin SVM dual optimization problem for the dataset above.
- 2. State the *Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT)* conditions for this optimization problem. Are the KKT conditions sufficient for a solution in this case? Is the solution unique?
- 3. Compute the optimal Lagrange multipliers α_1 and α_2 by solving the KKT system which you have specified in task 2.
- 4. Compute the optimal model parameters w and b.
- 5. Let the test example $x' := \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}}$ be given. Use the model parameters you have computed in task 4 to classify this new example.