

# UVA CS 6316: Machine Learning

## Lecture 11b: Support Vector Machine (nonlinear) Kernel Trick and in Practice

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# What Left in SVM?

- ❑ Support Vector Machine (SVM)
  - ✓ History of SVM
  - ✓ Large Margin Linear Classifier
  - ✓ Define Margin ( $M$ ) in terms of model parameter
  - ✓ Optimization to learn model parameters ( $w, b$ )
  - ✓ Linearly Non-separable case (soft SVM)
  - ✓ Optimization with dual form
  - ✓ Nonlinear decision boundary
  - ✓ Practical Guide

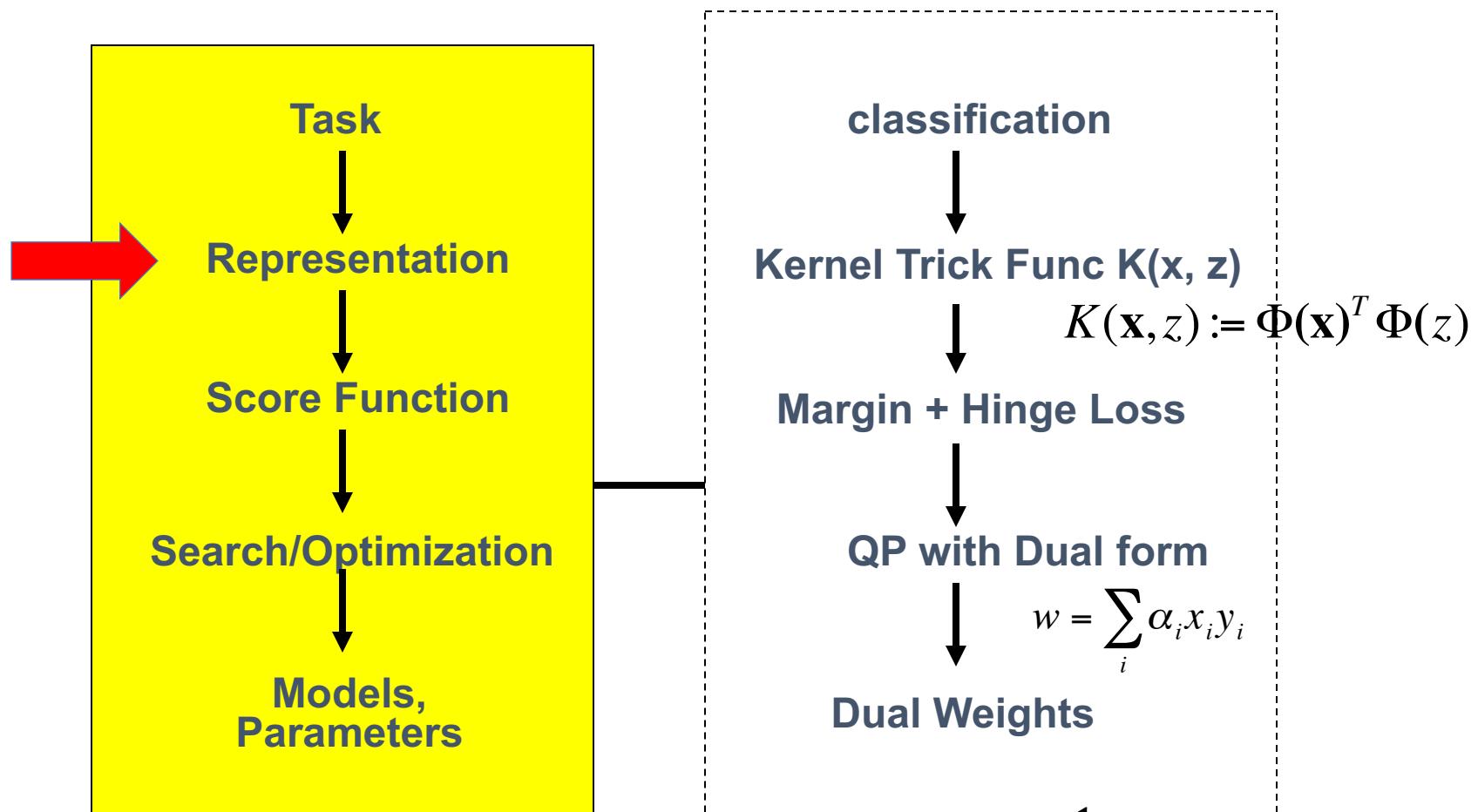
# Today

## ❑ Support Vector Machine (SVM)

- ✓ History of SVM
- ✓ Large Margin Linear Classifier
- ✓ Define Margin ( $M$ ) in terms of model parameter
- ✓ Optimization to learn model parameters ( $w, b$ )
- ✓ Non linearly separable case
- ✓ Optimization with dual form
- ✓ Nonlinear decision boundary
- ✓ Practical Guide



# Support Vector Machine



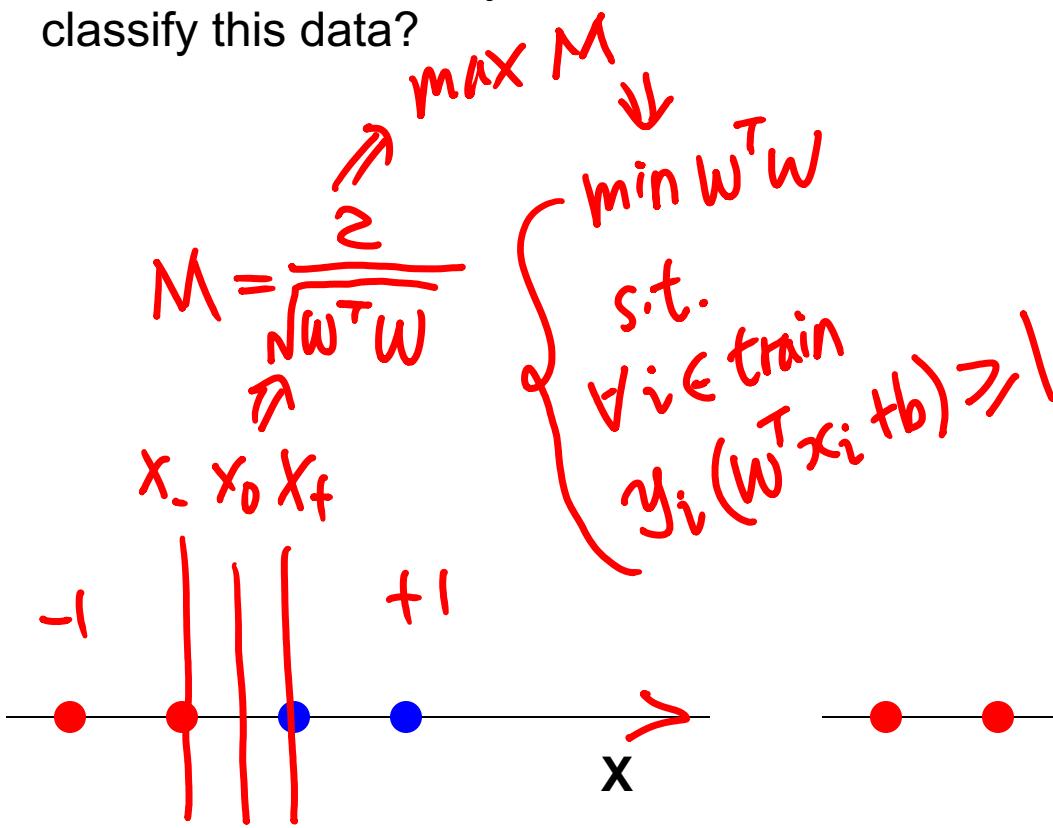
$$\underset{\mathbf{w}, b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i$$

subject to  $\forall \mathbf{x}_i \in D_{train} : y_i (\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{w} + b) \geq 1 - \varepsilon_i$

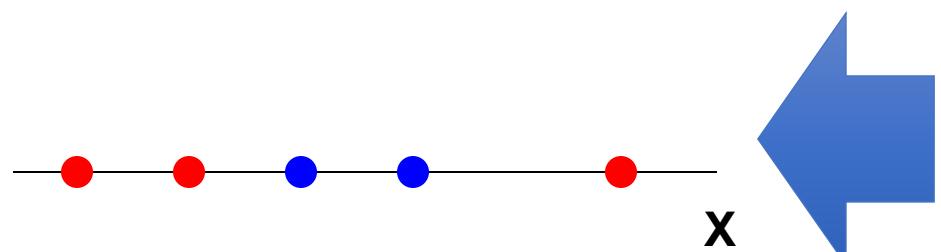
$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$
$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

# Classifying in 1-d

Can an SVM correctly classify this data?



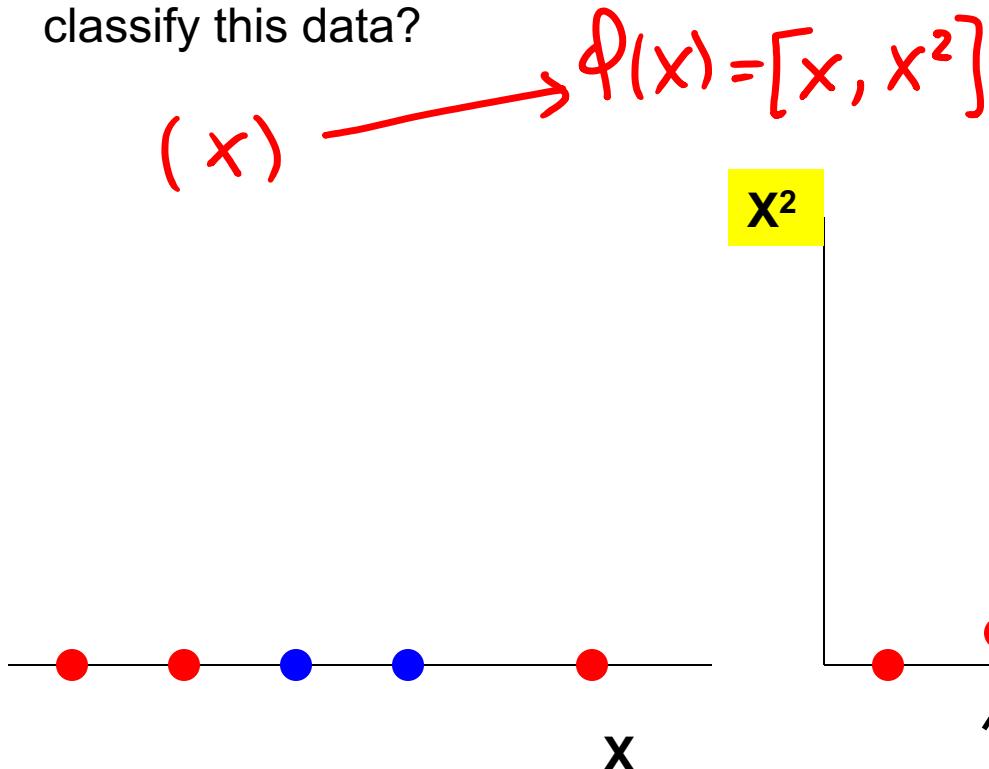
What about this?



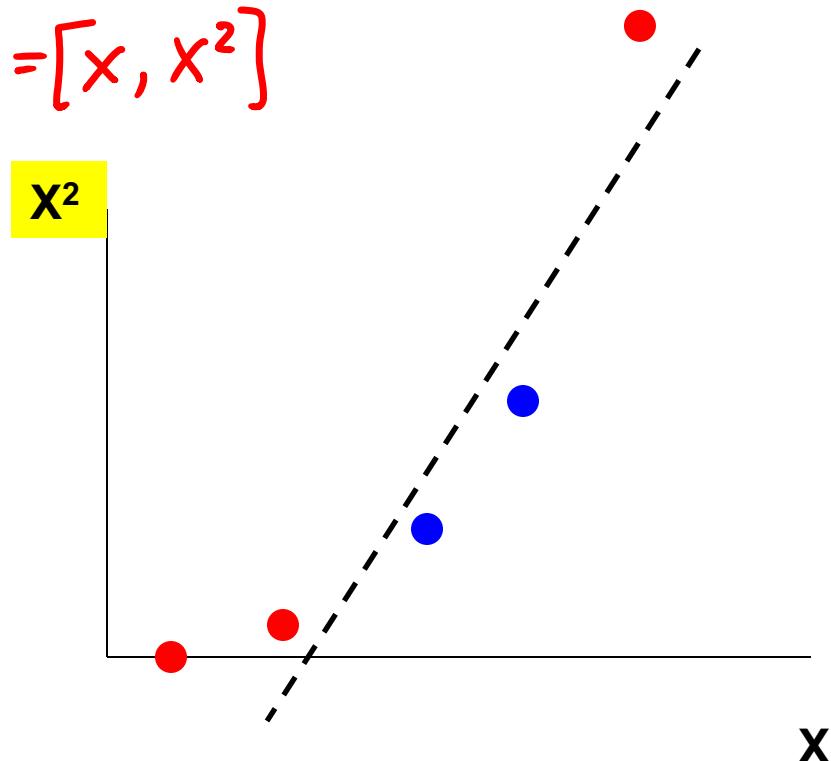
# Classifying in 1-d

{  
→ Separable  
→ nonlinear

Can an SVM correctly classify this data?

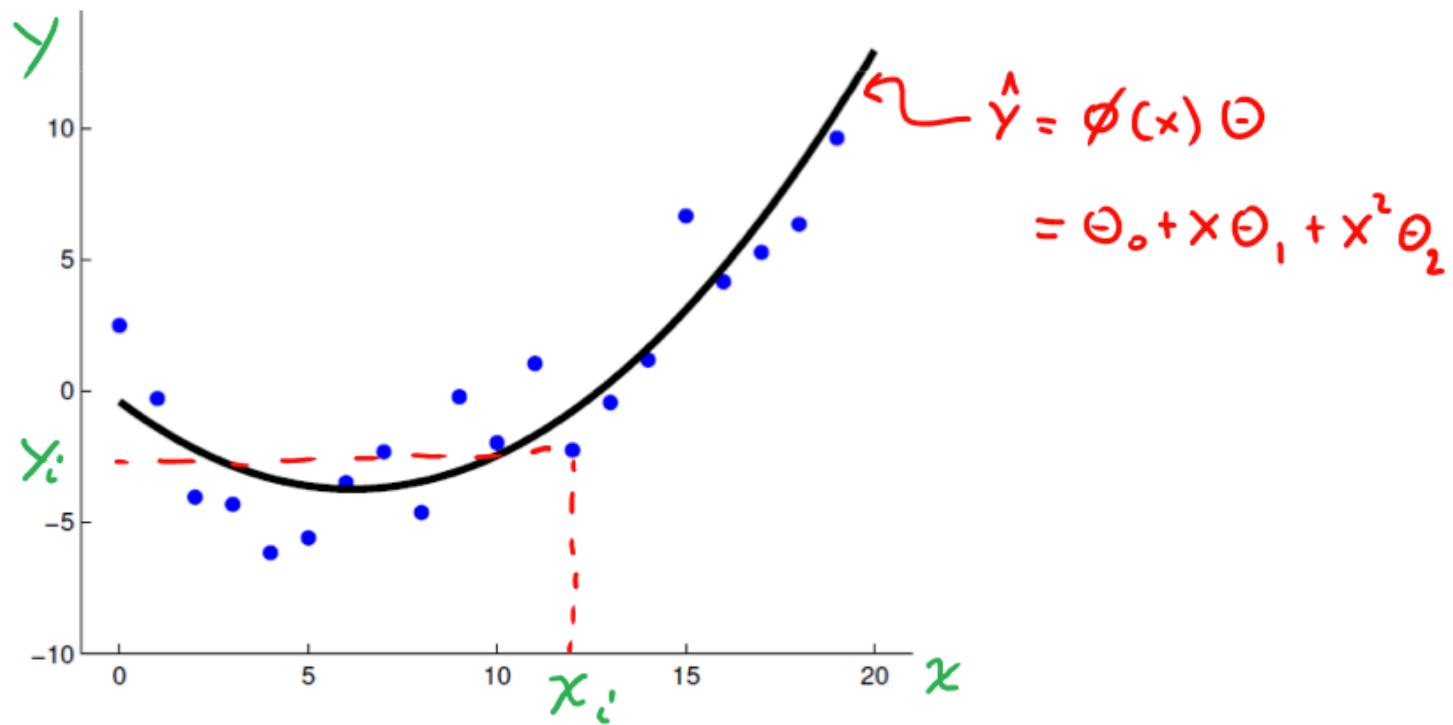


And now? (extend with polynomial basis )



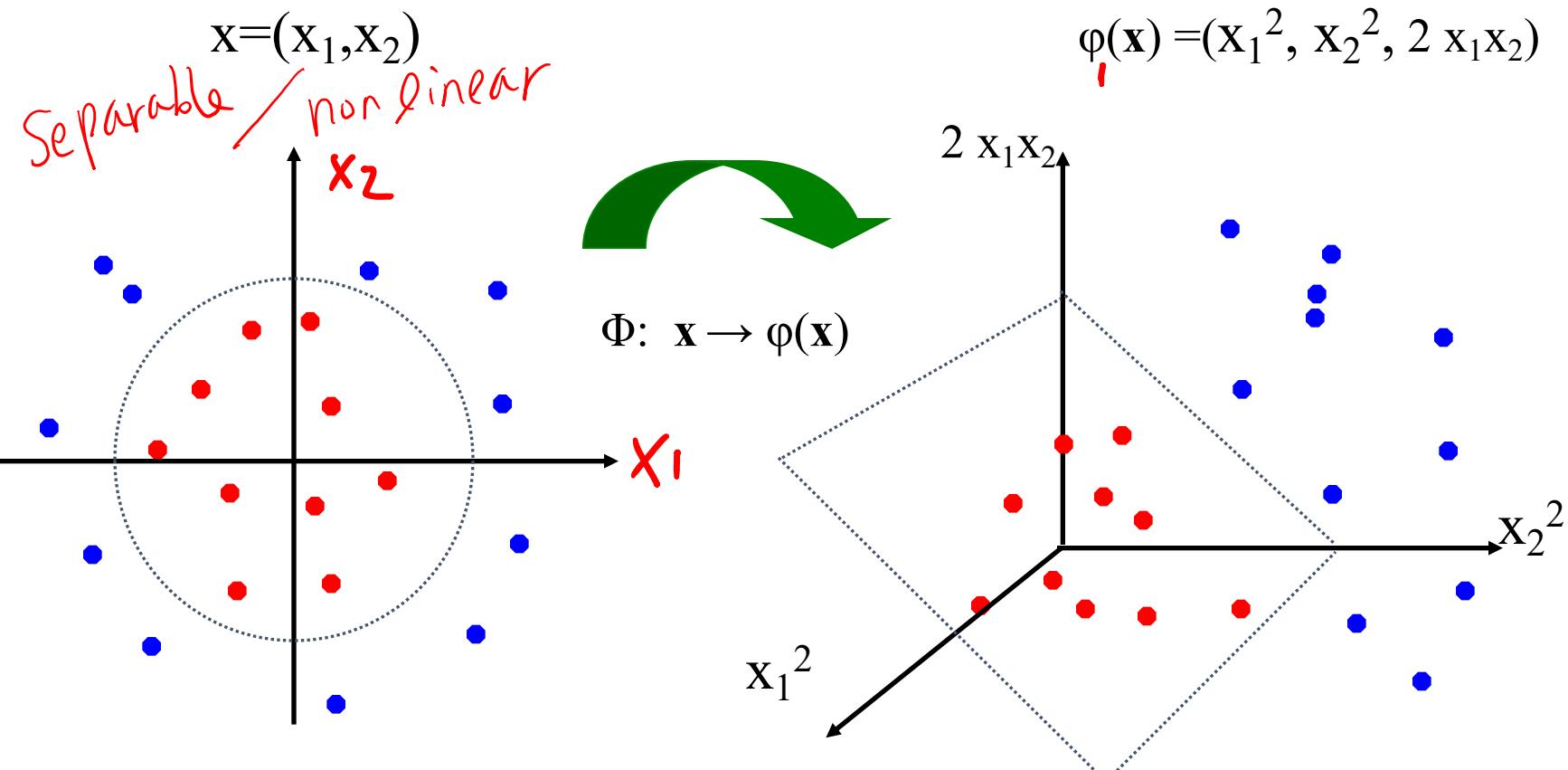
# RECAP: Polynomial regression

For example,  $\phi(x) = [1, x, x^2]$



# Non-linear SVMs: 2D

- The original input space ( $x$ ) can be mapped to some higher-dimensional feature space ( $\phi(x)$ ) where the training set is separable:

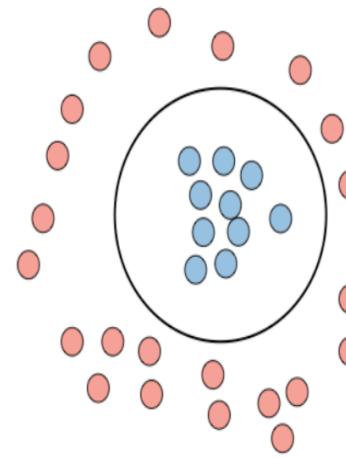
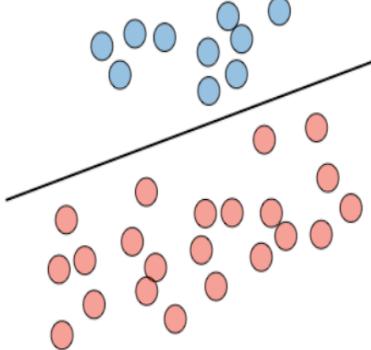
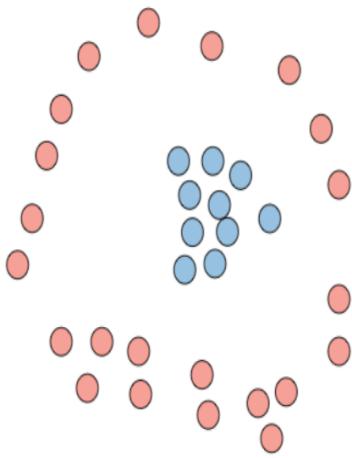


□ **Kernel** – Given a feature mapping  $\phi$ , we define the kernel  $K$  to be defined as:

$$K(x, z) = \phi(x)^T \phi(z)$$

In practice, the kernel  $K$  defined by  $K(x, z) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x-z\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  is called the Gaussian kernel and is commonly used.

**RBF**       $\phi_2(x)^T \phi_2(z)$



Non-linear separability  $\rightarrow$  Use of a kernel mapping  $\phi$   $\rightarrow$  Decision boundary in the original space

**When** ~~we say that we use the "kernel trick" to compute the cost function using the kernel~~  
~~we actually don't need to know the explicit mapping  $\phi$ , which is often very complicated.~~  
Instead, only the values  $K(x, z)$  are needed.

# A little bit theory: Vapnik-Chervonenkis (VC) dimension

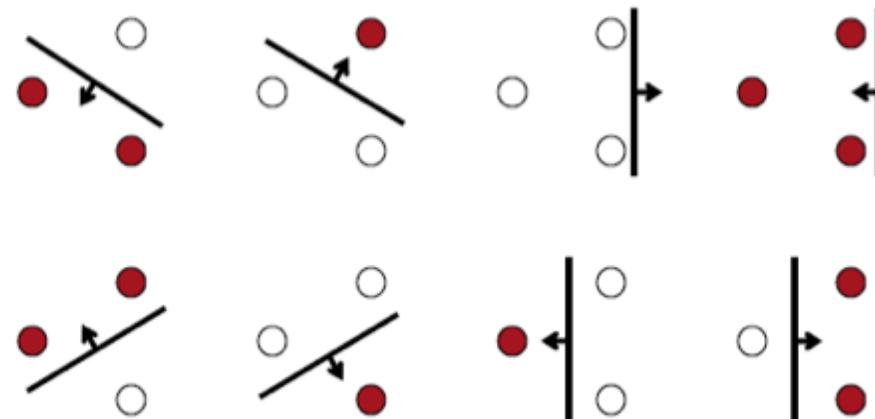
$$X \rightarrow \varphi(X) \\ \geq N-1$$

If data is mapped into sufficiently high dimension, then samples will in general be linearly separable;

N data points are in general separable in a space of  $N-1$  dimensions or more!!!

- **VC dimension of the set of oriented lines in  $R^2$  is 3**

- It can be shown that the VC dimension of the family of oriented separating hyperplanes in  $R^N$  is at least  $N+1$



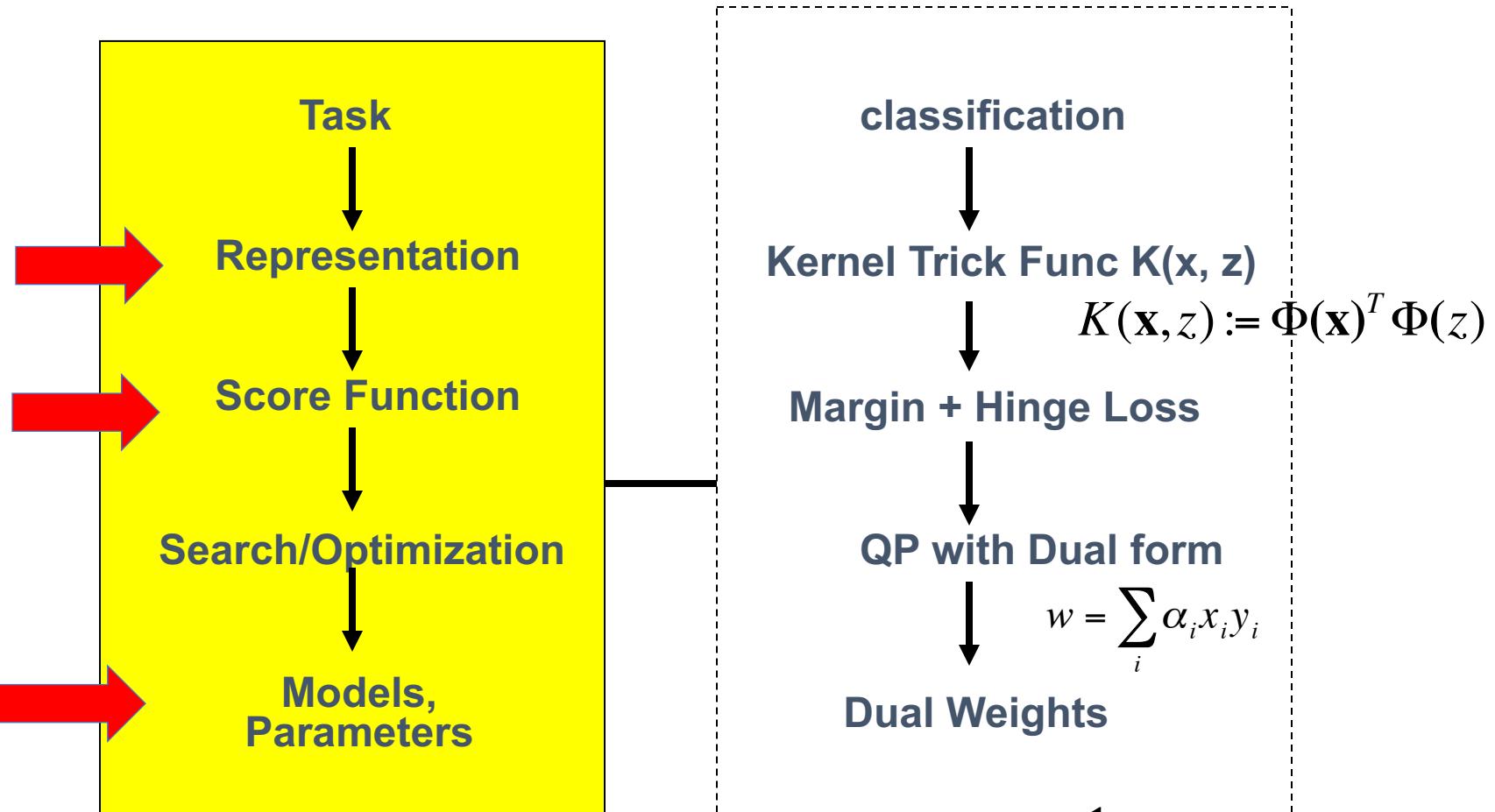
If data is mapped into sufficiently high dimension, then samples will in general be linearly separable;

N data points are in general separable in a space of N-1 dimensions or more!!!

$$X \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(X)$$

Linearly separated into  
two classes  $\{+, -\}$

# Next Lesson for: Support Vector Machine



$$\underset{\mathbf{w}, b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i$$

subject to  $\forall \mathbf{x}_i \in D_{train} : y_i (\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{w} + b) \geq 1 - \varepsilon_i$

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

# Optimization Reformulation (for linearly separable case)

$$x_i \rightarrow \phi(x_i)$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, b) = \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b)$$

1. Correctly classifies all points
2. Maximizes the margin (or equivalently minimizes  $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$ )

$$\text{Min } (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w})/2$$

subject to the following constraints:

For all  $x$  in class +1

$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b \geq 1$$

For all  $x$  in class -1

$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b \leq -1$$

A total of n  
constraints if  
we have n  
input samples



$$\underset{\mathbf{w}, b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i^2 = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{W}$$

$$\text{subject to } \forall \mathbf{x}_i \in D_{\text{train}} : y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b) \geq 1$$

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{w}}_{\|\mathbf{w}\|} \underbrace{\mathbf{XP}}_{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \underbrace{\mathbf{P}}_{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}}_{\|\mathbf{x}\|} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}}_{\|\mathbf{x}\|}$$

Quadratic programming  
i.e.,

- Quadratic objective
- Linear constraints

# An alternative representation of the SVM QP

- Instead of encoding the correct classification rule and constraint we will use Lagrange multipliers to encode it as part of the our minimization problem

$$\text{Min } (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w})/2$$

s.t.

$$(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b) y_i \geq 1$$

Recall that Lagrange multipliers can be applied to turn the following problem:

$\forall i, \alpha_i \geq 0$  every training

$$L_{\text{primal}}(\mathbf{w}, b, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left( y_i \underbrace{(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + b)}_{\geq 1} - 1 \right)$$

# The Dual Problem (Extra)

$$\max_{\alpha_i \geq 0} \underbrace{\min_{w,b} L(w,b,\alpha)}$$

Dual formulation

- We minimize  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $w$  and  $b$  first:

$$\nabla_w L(w,b,\alpha) = w - \sum_{i=1}^{\text{train}} \alpha_i y_i x_i = 0, \quad (*)$$

$$\nabla_b L(w,b,\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{train}} \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad (**)$$

Note that (\*) implies:

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^{\text{train}} \alpha_i y_i x_i$$

$$f(x) = \text{Sign}(\bar{w}^T \vec{x} + b) \quad (***)$$

- Plus (\*\*\*)) back to  $\mathcal{L}$ , and using (\*\*), we have:

$$L(w,b,\alpha) = \sum_{i=1} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j (\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j)$$

SVM goal

# Summary: Dual SVM for linearly separable case

## Dual formulation

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

$n \times i$



$$\text{Min } (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w})/2$$

subject to the following inequality constraints:

For all  $x$  in class + 1

$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b \geq 1$$

For all  $x$  in class - 1

$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b \leq -1$$

}

A total of  $n$  constraints if we have  $n$  input samples

Easier than original QP, more efficient algorithms exist to find  $\alpha_i$ , e.g. SMO (see extra slides)

# Dual SVM for linearly separable case – Training / Testing

Our dual target function:

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

$\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n\}$

Dot product for all  
training samples

{ most  $\alpha_i = 0$   
only support vectors  $\alpha_i > 0$

# Dual SVM for linearly separable case – Training / Testing

Our dual target function:

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

Dot product for all  
training samples

$$\alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

Dot product with (“all” ??)  
training samples

To evaluate a new sample  $\mathbf{x}_{ts}$   
we need to compute:

$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_{ts} + b = \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{ts} + b$$

$$K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_{ts}) \\ = \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}_{ts})$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{y}_{ts} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{i \in \text{Support Vectors}} \alpha_i y_i (\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{ts}) + b \right)$$

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$C > \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i$$

$$\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i$$

nonlinear

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$C > \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i$$

$$\begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & \dots & j & n \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ i \\ \vdots \\ n \end{matrix} & \left[ \begin{array}{cccccc} & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & x_i^T x_j & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \end{array} \right] & \end{matrix}$$

$$O(p \cdot n^2 / 2)$$

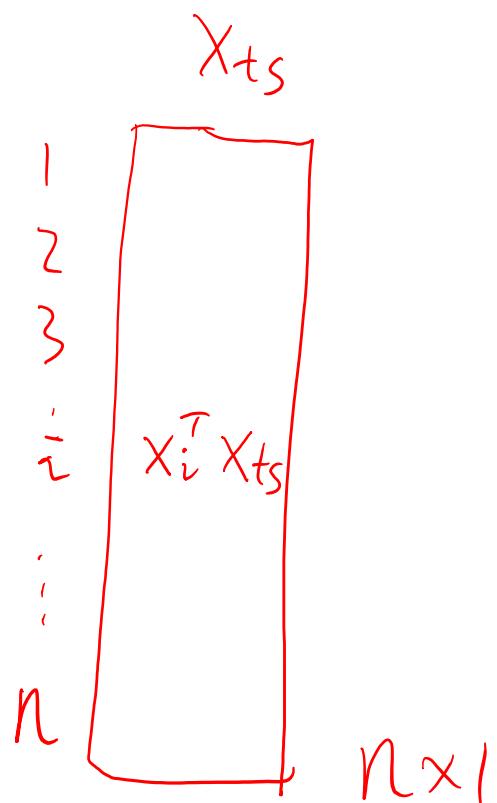
$$\begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & \dots & j & n \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ i \\ \vdots \\ n \end{matrix} & \left[ \begin{array}{cccccc} & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & \Phi^T(\mathbf{x}_i) \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j) & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \end{array} \right] & \end{matrix}$$

$$O(p \cdot n^2 / 2)$$

## Training

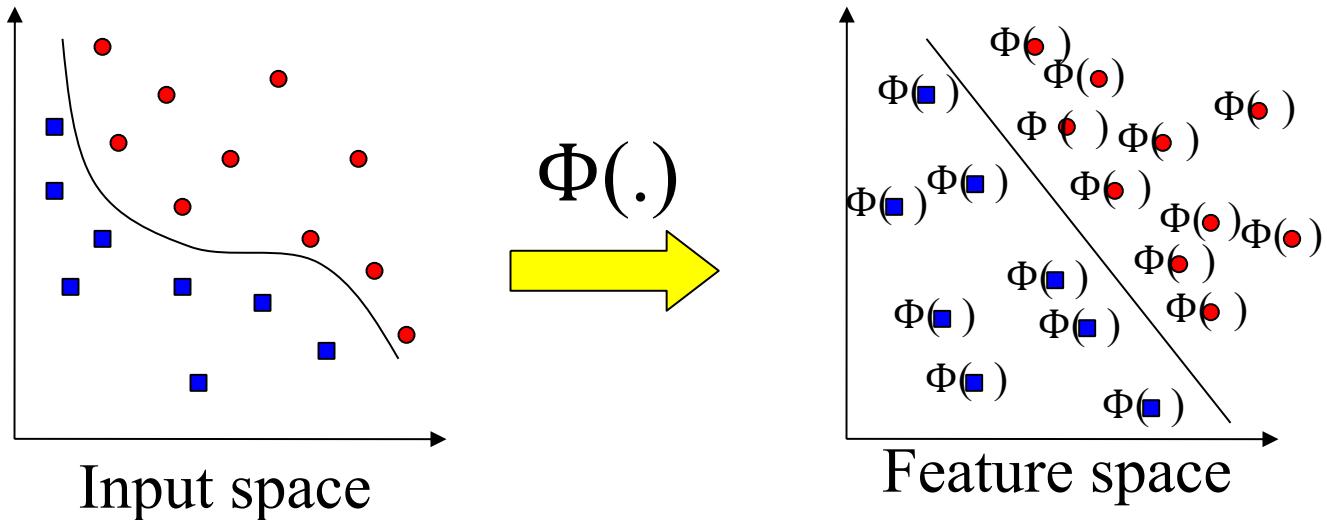
$$\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_{ts} + b = \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{ts} + b$$

$$\hat{y}_{ts} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{i \in SupportVectors} \alpha_i y_i (\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{ts}) + b \right)$$



$$\Rightarrow \sum_{SV} \alpha_i y_i \underbrace{\Phi(x_i) \Phi(x_{ts})^T}_{+b}$$

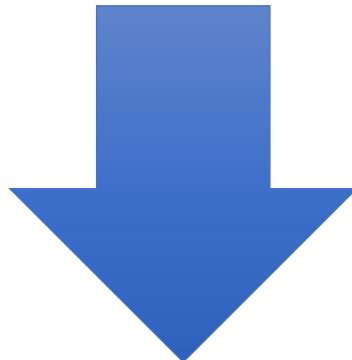
Testing



SVM solves these two issues simultaneously

- “Kernel tricks” for efficient computation
- Dual formulation only assigns parameters to samples, not to features

- SVM solves these two issues simultaneously
  - “Kernel tricks” for efficient computation
  - Dual formulation only assigns parameters to samples, not features



## (1). “Kernel tricks” for efficient computation

Never represent features explicitly

Compute dot products in closed form  
Very interesting theory – Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces  
 Not covered in detail here

~~Φ(x)~~

$$k(x, \gamma)$$

$K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) \equiv \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$  is called the kernel function.

- Linear kernel (we've seen it)

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z}$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^P \\ \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^P \end{array} \right.$

- Polynomial kernel (we will see an example)

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^d = \underbrace{\Phi_P(\mathbf{x})^T}_{O(P)} \underbrace{\Phi_P(\mathbf{z})}_{P \rightarrow O(P^d)}$$

where  $d = 2, 3, \dots$ . To get the feature vectors we concatenate all  $d$ th order polynomial terms of the components of  $\mathbf{x}$  (weighted appropriately)

- Radial basis kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \exp\left(-r \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|^2\right) = \underbrace{\Phi_r(\mathbf{x})^T}_{O(P)} \underbrace{\Phi_r(\mathbf{z})}_{P_r = \infty}$$

In this case.,  $r$  is hyperpara. The feature space of the RBF kernel has an infinite number of dimensions

Never represent features explicitly

Compute dot products with a closed form

Very interesting theory – Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

Not covered in detail here

# Example: Quadratic kernels

$$K(\mathbf{x}, z) = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T z)^d \quad \rightarrow \quad (1 + \mathbf{x}^T z)^2$$

$$K(\mathbf{x}, z) := \Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \Phi(z)$$

- Consider all quadratic terms for  $x_1, x_2 \dots x_p$

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2}x_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sqrt{2}x_p \\ x_1^2 \\ \vdots \\ x_p^2 \\ \sqrt{2}x_1 x_2 \\ \vdots \\ \sqrt{2}x_{p-1} x_p \end{bmatrix}$$

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^2, \quad [d=2], \quad [P=2] \quad \begin{cases} \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2) \\ \mathbf{z} = (z_1, z_2) \end{cases}$$

$k(x, z) = (1 + x_1 z_1 + x_2 z_2)^2 \Rightarrow O(P)$

$$O(P^2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1, \sqrt{2}x_1, \sqrt{2}x_2, x_1^2, x_2^2, \sqrt{2}x_1 x_2 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

$$(1, \sqrt{2}z_1, \sqrt{2}z_2, z_1^2, z_2^2, \sqrt{2}z_1 z_2)$$

$$= \underbrace{\Phi(x)^T \Phi(z)}$$

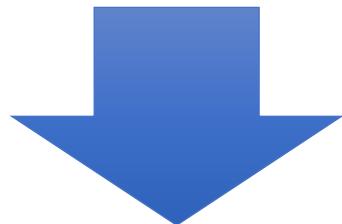
$$\Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \Phi(\mathbf{z})$$

# The kernel trick

$O(p^d * n^2)$  operations if using the basis function representations in building a poly-kernel matrix

So, if we define the **kernel function** as follows, there is no need to carry out basis function explicitly

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{z})^d$$



$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$C > \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i \in \text{train}$$

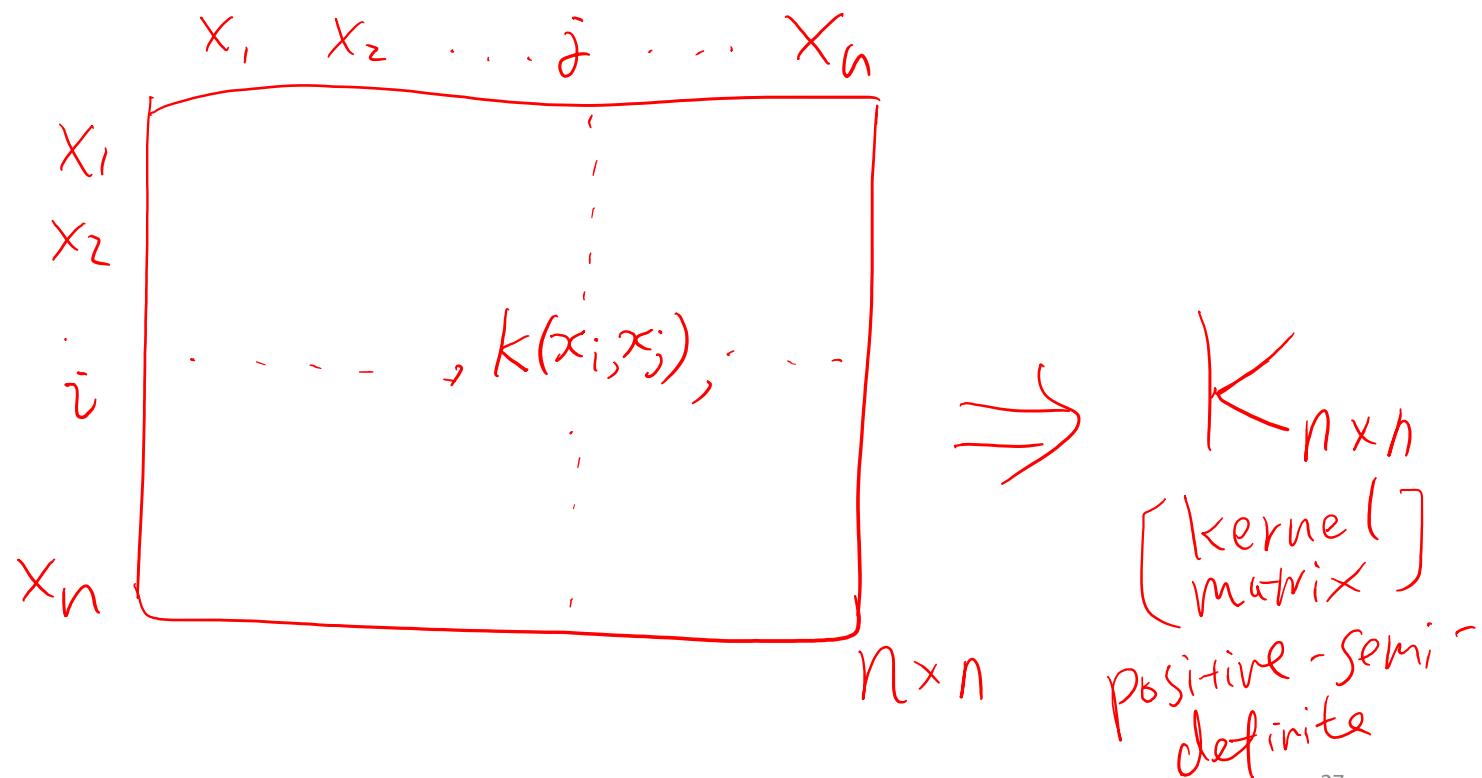
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$O(p * n^2)$  operations if building a poly-kernel matrix directly through the  $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  function among  $n$  training samples →

This is because  $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Z}$  gives a scalar, then its power of  $d$  only costs constant FLOPS.

# Kernel Matrix

- Kernel function creates the kernel matrix, which summarize all the (train) data



# Summary: Modification Due to Kernel Trick

- Change all inner products to kernel functions
- For training,

Original  
Linear

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$C > \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i \in train$$

With kernel  
function -  
nonlinear

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$C > \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i \in train$$

VC:  $\Phi(x)$   
large

# Summary: Modification Due to Kernel Trick

- For testing, the new data  $\mathbf{x}_{ts}$

Original  
Linear

$$\hat{y}_{ts} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{i \in \text{supportVectors}} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_{ts} + b \right)$$

With kernel  
function -  
nonlinear

$$\hat{y}_{ts} = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{i \in \text{supportVectors}} \alpha_i y_i K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_{ts}) + b \right)$$

# Kernel Trick: Implicit Basis Representation

- For some kernels (e.g. RBF ) the implicit transform basis form  $\phi( \mathbf{x} )$  is infinite-dimensional!
  - But calculations with kernel are done in original space, so computational burden and curse of dimensionality aren't a problem.

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \exp\left(-r \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|^2\right)$$

$O(p * n^2)$  operations in building a RBF-kernel matrix for training

➔ Gaussian RBF Kernel corresponds to an infinite-dimensional vector space.

YouTube video of Caltech: Abu-Mostafa explaining this in more

detail <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUj5JbQihlU&t=25m53s>

## Kernel Functions (Extra)

- In practical use of SVM, only the kernel function (and not basis function ) is specified
- Kernel function can be thought of as a similarity measure between the input objects
- Not all similarity measure can be used as kernel function, however Mercer's condition states that any positive semi-definite kernel  $K(x, y)$ , i.e.

$$\sum_{i,j} K(x_i, x_j) c_i c_j \geq 0$$

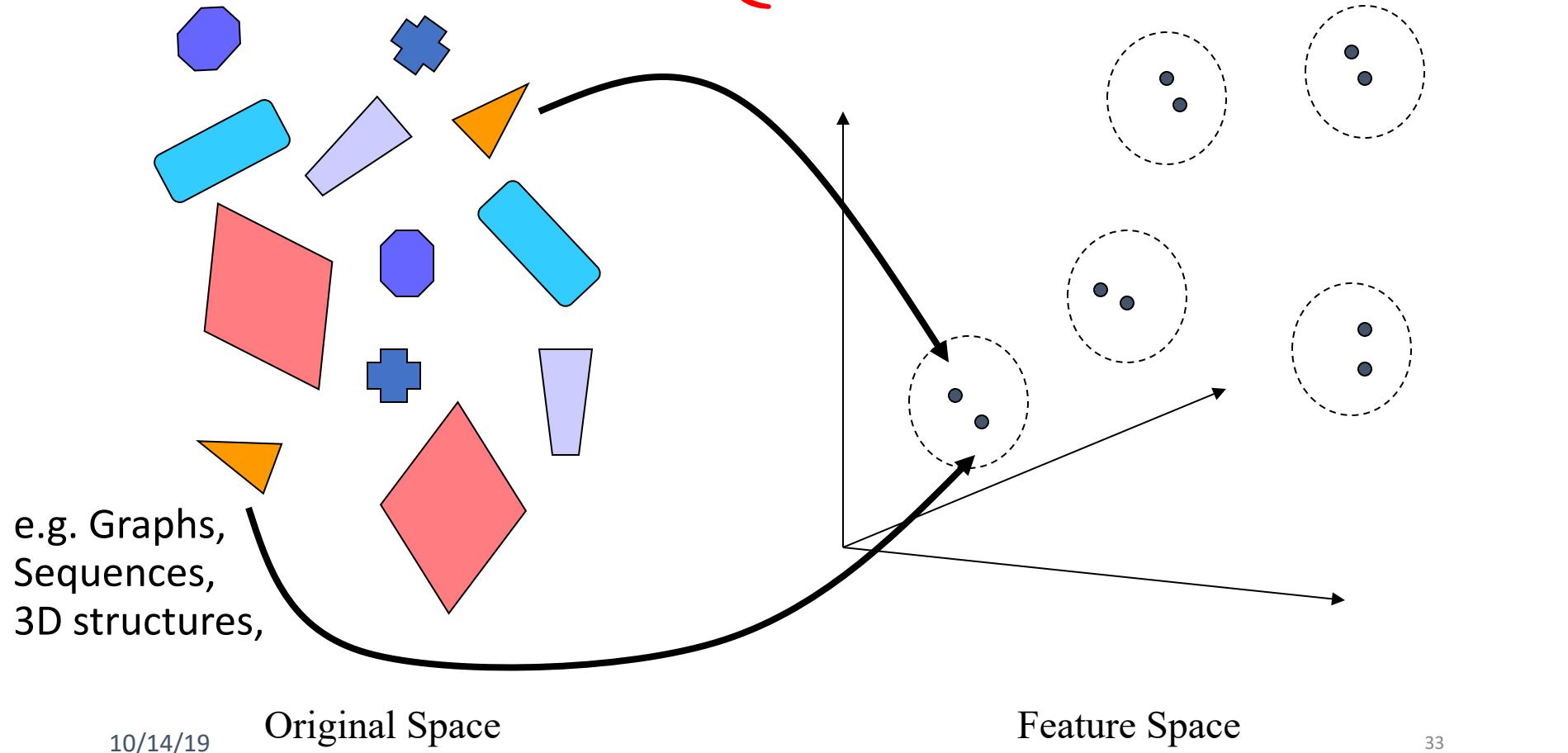
can be expressed as a dot product in a high dimensional space.

# Choosing the Kernel Function

- Probably the most tricky part of using SVM.
- The kernel function is important because it creates the kernel matrix, which summarize all the data
- Many principles have been proposed (diffusion kernel, Fisher kernel, string kernel, tree kernel, graph kernel, ...)
  - Kernel trick has helped Non-traditional data like strings and trees able to be used as input to SVM, instead of feature vectors
- In practice, a low degree polynomial kernel or RBF kernel with a reasonable width is a good initial try for most applications.

Kernel trick has helped Non-traditional data like strings and trees able to be used as input to SVM, instead of feature vectors

Vector vs. Relational data



# Mercer Kernel vs. Smoothing Kernel (Extra)

- The Kernels used in Support Vector Machines are different from the Kernels used in LocalWeighted /Kernel Regression.
- We can think
  - Support Vector Machines' kernels as **Mercer Kernels**
  - Local Weighted / Kernel Regression's kernels as **Smoothing Kernels**

# Why do SVMs work?

- If we are using **huge features spaces** (e.g., with **kernels**), how come we are **not overfitting** the data?
  - ✓ Number of parameters remains the same (and most are set to 0)
  - ✓ While we have a lot of inputs, at the end we only care about the support vectors and these are usually a small group of samples
  - ✓ The maximizing of the margin acts as a sort of regularization term leading to reduced overfitting

kNN :  $\hat{y}_{ts} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i \in k \text{ Neighbors of } x_{ts}} y_i$   
 find k neighbor of  $x_{ts}$   $\sim O(n)$

SVM :  $\hat{y}_{ts} = \sum_{i \in SV} \alpha_i y_i k(\vec{x}_i, \vec{x}_{ts}) + b$   
 # para  $\sim O(n)$

Logistic Regression / Linear Classifier  
 # para  $\sim O(p)$

$$\hat{y}_{ts} = \sigma(W^T x_{ts} + b)$$

# Time Cost Comparisons

	$x_i^T x_j$	$\underline{\phi(x_i)}^T \underline{\phi(x_j)}$	$k(x_i, x_j)$	explicit
Training Stage	$O(p \cdot n^2)$	$O(m \cdot n^2)$ polynomial $m \sim p^d$	$O(p \cdot n^2)$	$w$
Test Stage	$O(p \cdot \#SV)$	$O(m \cdot \#SV)$	$O(p \cdot \#SV)$	$\underline{w}^T \underline{\phi(x_{\text{test}})} + b$ ① ② ③ for some (b) RBF, $m \sim \infty$

# Today

## ❑ Support Vector Machine (SVM)

- ✓ History of SVM
- ✓ Large Margin Linear Classifier
- ✓ Define Margin ( $M$ ) in terms of model parameter
- ✓ Optimization to learn model parameters ( $w, b$ )
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# Software

- A list of SVM implementation can be found at
  - <http://www.kernel-machines.org/software.html>
- Some implementation (such as LIBSVM) can handle multi-class classification
- SVMLight is among one of the earliest implementation of SVM
- Several Matlab toolboxes for SVM are also available

# Summary: Steps for Using SVM in HW

- Prepare the feature-data matrix
- Select the kernel function to use
- Select the parameter of the kernel function and the value of  $C$  (*see next 11c slides for details*)
- Execute the training algorithm and obtain the  $\therefore \alpha_i$
- Unseen data can be classified using the  $\alpha_i$  and the support vectors

# Practical Guide to SVM

- From authors of as LIBSVM:
  - A Practical Guide to Support Vector Classification Chih-Wei Hsu, Chih-Chung Chang, and Chih-Jen Lin, 2003-2010
  - <http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/papers/guide/guide.pdf>

# LIBSVM

- <http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libsvm/>

- ✓ Developed by Chih-Jen Lin etc.
- ✓ Tools for Support Vector classification
- ✓ Also support multi-class classification
- ✓ C++/Java/Python/Matlab/Perl wrappers
- ✓ Linux/UNIX/Windows
- ✓ SMO implementation, fast!!!

A Practical Guide to Support Vector  
Classification

## (a) Data file formats for LIBSVM

- Training.dat

+1 1:0.708333 2:1 3:1 4:-0.320755

-1 1:0.583333 2:-1 4:-0.603774 5:1

+1 1:0.166667 2:1 3:-0.333333 4:-0.433962

-1 1:0.458333 2:1 3:1 4:-0.358491 5:0.374429

...

- Testing.dat

## (b) Feature Preprocessing

- (1) Categorical Feature
  - Recommend using  $m$  numbers to represent an  $m$ -category attribute.
  - Only one of the  $m$  numbers is one, and others are zero.
  - For example, a three-category attribute such as {red, green, blue} can be represented as (0,0,1), (0,1,0), and (1,0,0)

# Feature Preprocessing

- (2) Scaling before applying SVM is very important

- to avoid attributes in greater numeric ranges dominating those in smaller numeric ranges.
- to avoid numerical difficulties during the calculation
- Recommend linearly scaling each attribute to the range [1, +1] or [0, 1].

e.g.

$$\left[ \frac{X - X_{\min}}{\max - X_{\min}} \right]$$

① Normalization  $\rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{mean } 0 \\ \text{std } 1 \end{cases}$

② Scaling  $\rightarrow$  linear  $\Rightarrow [ax+b]$

For  $i$ -th feature  $\Rightarrow$  [Column operation  
on  $\sum_{n \times p}$ ]

{ Centering :  $X_i - \bar{X}_i \Rightarrow E(X_i) = 0$

Scaling :  $aX_i + b \Rightarrow$  e.g.  $\frac{X_i - \min(X_i)}{\max(X_i) - \min(X_i)}$

Normalization :  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} E(X_i) = 0 \\ \text{var}(X_i) = 1 \end{cases}$

[ good practice : never touch  
test samples in  
any stage before testing ]

Of course we have to use the same method to scale both training and testing data. For example, suppose that we scaled the first attribute of training data from  $[-10, +10]$  to  $[-1, +1]$ . If the first attribute of testing data lies in the range  $[-11, +8]$ , we must scale the testing data to  $[-1.1, +0.8]$ . See Appendix B for some real examples.

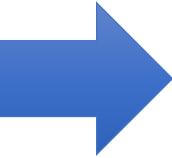
If training and testing sets are separately scaled to  $[0, 1]$ , the resulting accuracy is lower than 70%.

```
$ ./svm-scale -l 0 svmguide4 > svmguide4.scale
$ ./svm-scale -l 0 svmguide4.t > svmguide4.t.scale
$ python easy.py svmguide4.scale svmguide4.t.scale
Accuracy = 69.2308% (216/312) (classification)
```

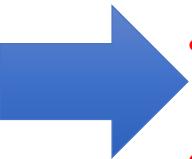
Using the same scaling factors for training and testing sets, we obtain much better accuracy.

```
$ ./svm-scale -l 0 -s range4 svmguide4 > svmguide4.scale
$ ./svm-scale -r range4 svmguide4.t > svmguide4.t.scale
$ python easy.py svmguide4.scale svmguide4.t.scale
Accuracy = 89.4231% (279/312) (classification)
```

# Feature Preprocessing

- 
- (3) missing value
    - Very very tricky !
    - **Easy way:** to substitute the missing values by the mean value of the variable
    - A little bit harder way: imputation using nearest neighbors
    - Even more complex: e.g. EM based (beyond the scope)

# Feature Preprocessing

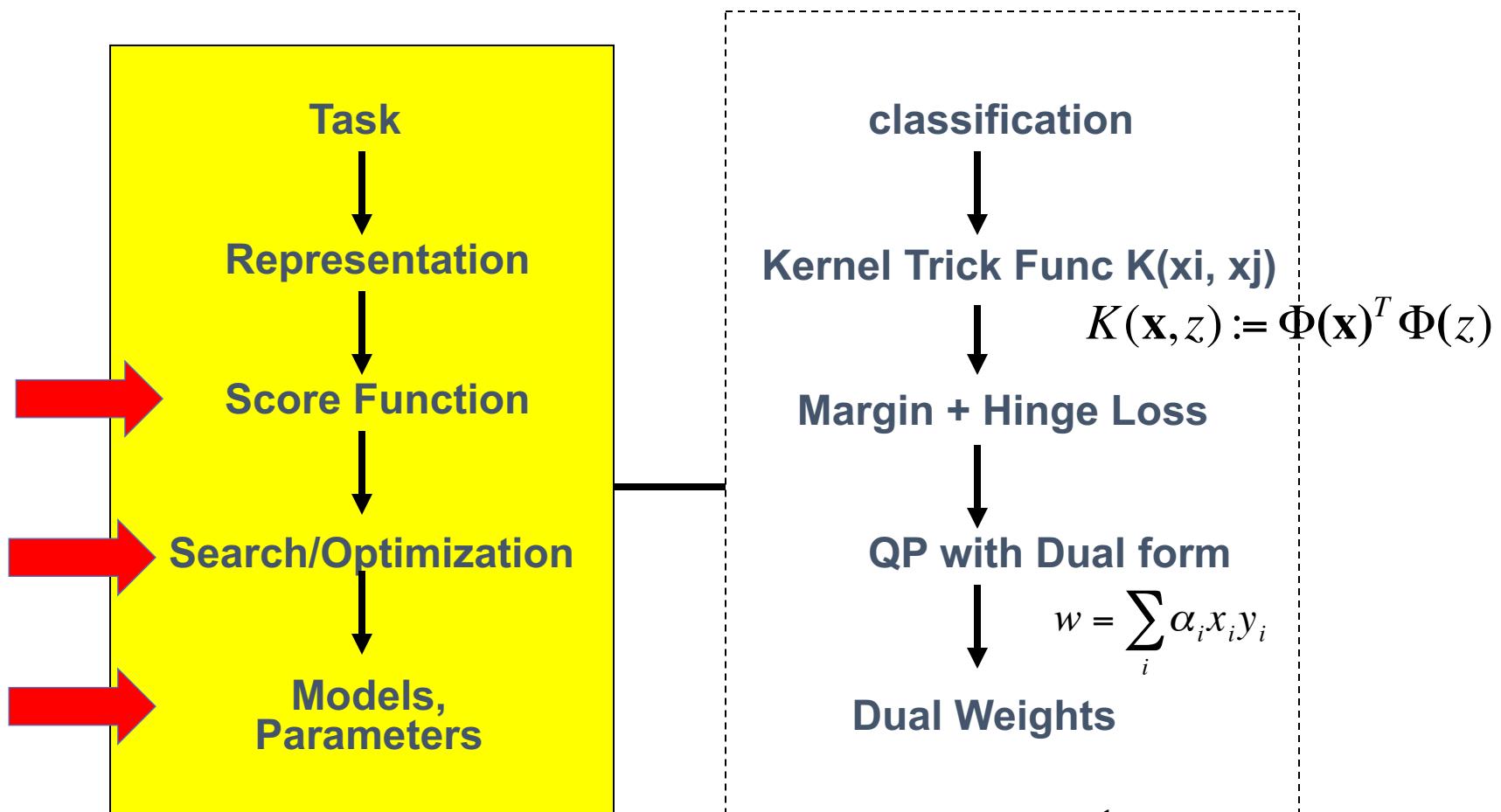
- (4) out of dictionary token issue
    - For discrete feature variable, very trick to handle
    - **Easy way:** to substitute the values by the most likely value (in train) of the variable
    - **Easy way:** to substitute the values by a random value (in train) of the variable
    - More solutions later in the NaiveBayes slides!
- 

# Today: Nonlinear SVM & Practical Guide

## ❑ Support Vector Machine (SVM)

- ✓ History of SVM
- ✓ Large Margin Linear Classifier
- ✓ Define Margin ( $M$ ) in terms of model parameter
- ✓ Optimization to learn model parameters ( $w, b$ )
- ✓ Non linearly separable case
- ✓ Optimization with dual form
- ✓ Nonlinear decision boundary
- ✓ Practical Guide
  - ✓ File format / LIBSVM
  - ✓ Feature preprocessing
  - ✓ Model selection
  - ✓ Pipeline procedure

## Next: Support Vector Machine



$$\underset{\mathbf{w}, b}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i$$

subject to  $\forall \mathbf{x}_i \in D_{train} : y_i (\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{w} + b) \geq 1 - \varepsilon_i$

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_i \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\sum_i \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i$$

# Why SVM Works? (Extra)

- Vapnik argues that the fundamental problem is not the number of parameters to be estimated. Rather, the problem is about the flexibility of a classifier
- Vapnik argues that the flexibility of a classifier should not be characterized by the number of parameters, but by the capacity of a classifier
  - This is formalized by the “VC-dimension” of a classifier
- The SVM objective can also be justified by structural risk minimization: the empirical risk (training error), plus a term related to the generalization ability of the classifier, is minimized
- Another view: the SVM loss function is analogous to ridge regression. The term  $\frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2$  “shrinks” the parameters towards zero to avoid overfitting

# References

- Big thanks to Prof. Ziv Bar-Joseph and Prof. Eric Xing @ CMU for allowing me to reuse some of his slides
- Elements of Statistical Learning, by Hastie, Tibshirani and Friedman
- Prof. Andrew Moore @ CMU's slides
- Tutorial slides from Dr. Tie-Yan Liu, MSR Asi
- A Practical Guide to Support Vector Classification Chih-Wei Hsu, Chih-Chung Chang, and Chih-Jen Lin, 2003-2010
- Tutorial slides from Stanford “Convex Optimization I — Boyd & Vandenberghe