# Performing Kernel Approximations



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#### Overview

Understanding the need for kernel approximations

Feature mappings to approximate specific kernels

Nystroem method

Radial Basis Function (RBF) method

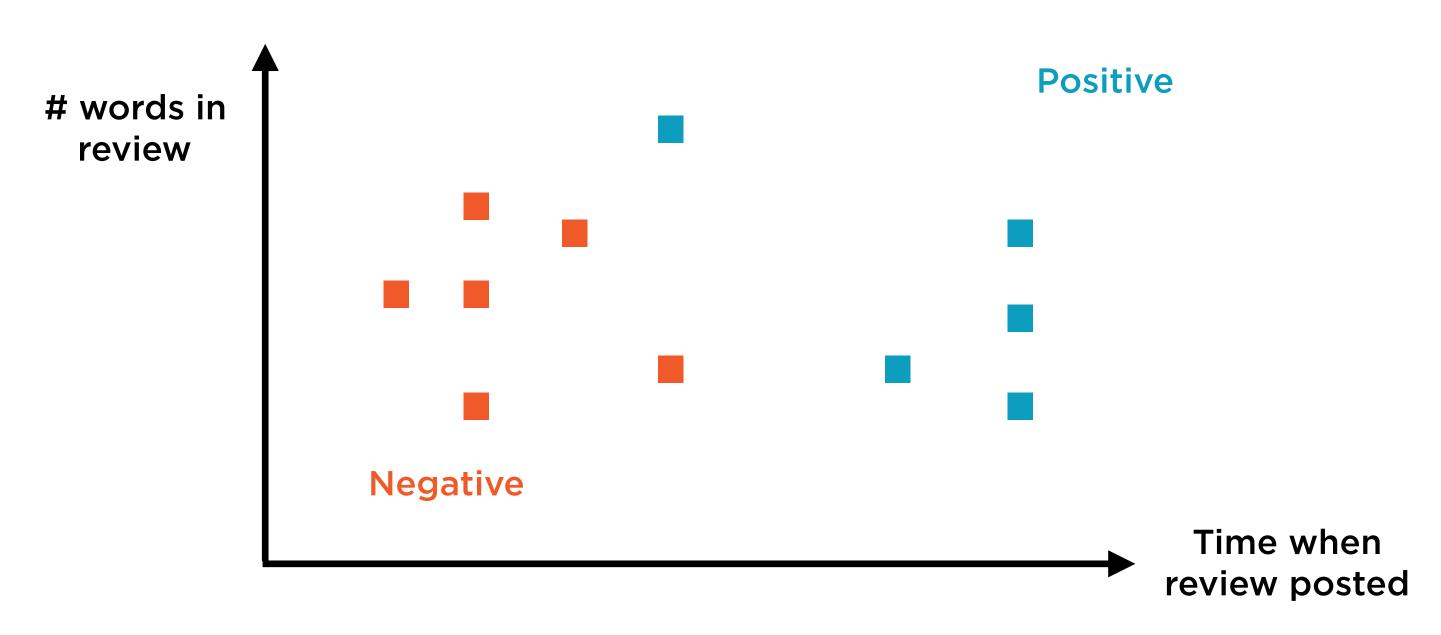
Contrasting SVMs with full kernel to simpler kernels with approximation

# Classification using Support Vector Machines

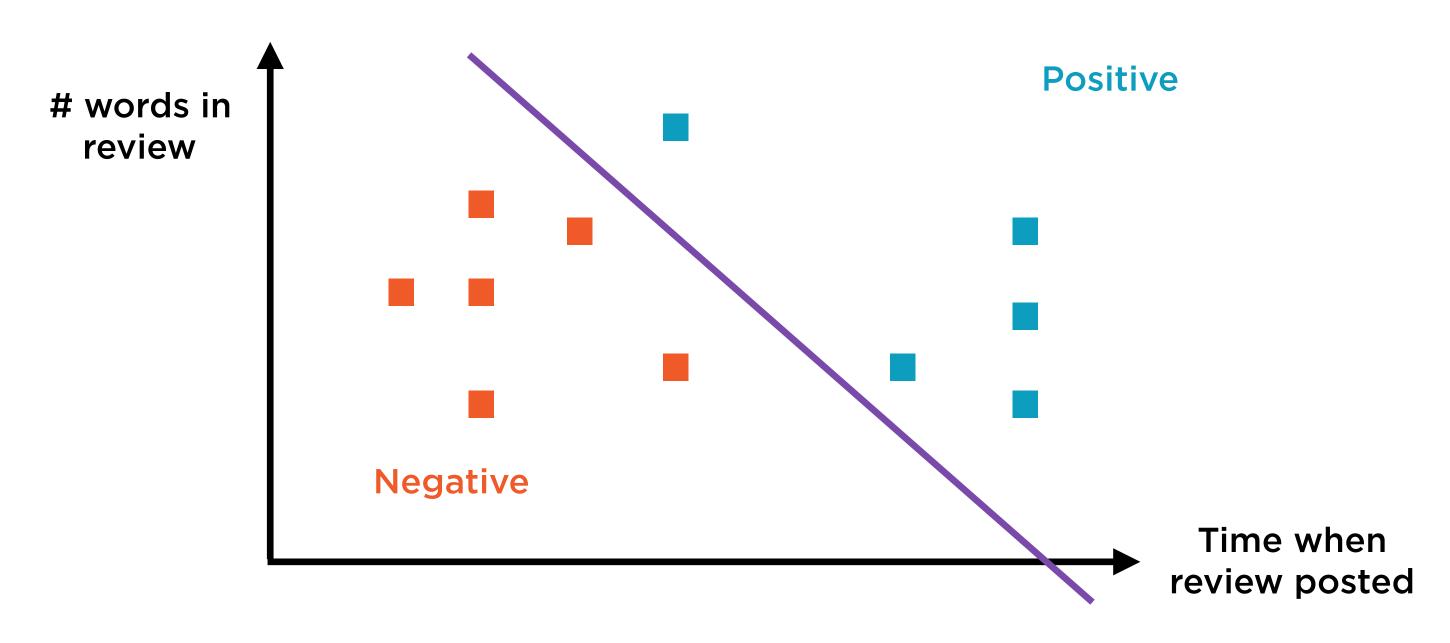
#### Data in Two Dimensions



## Data in Two Dimensions

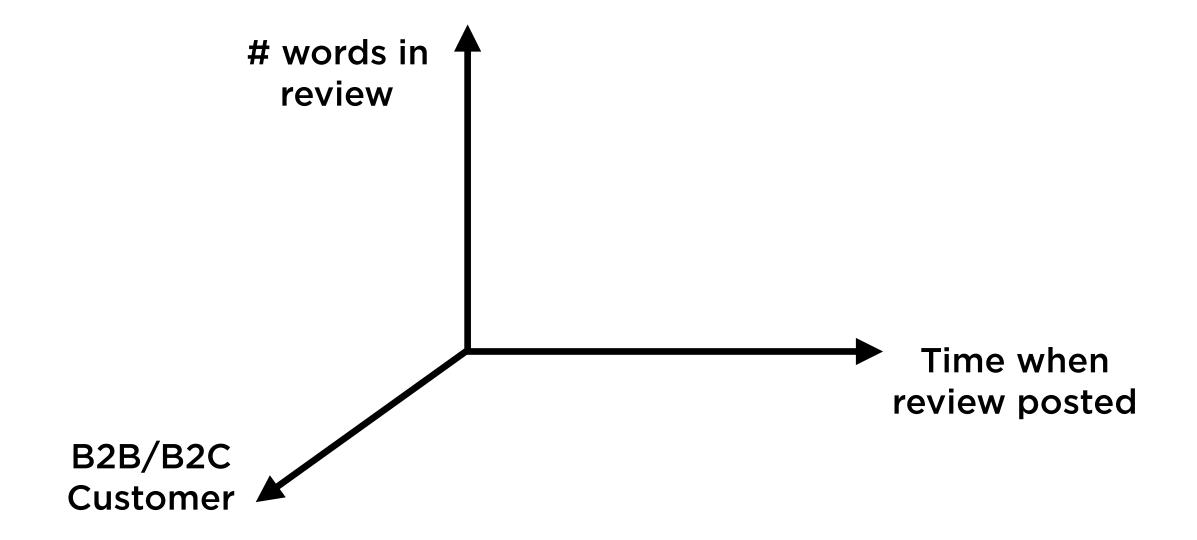


## Data in Two Dimensions



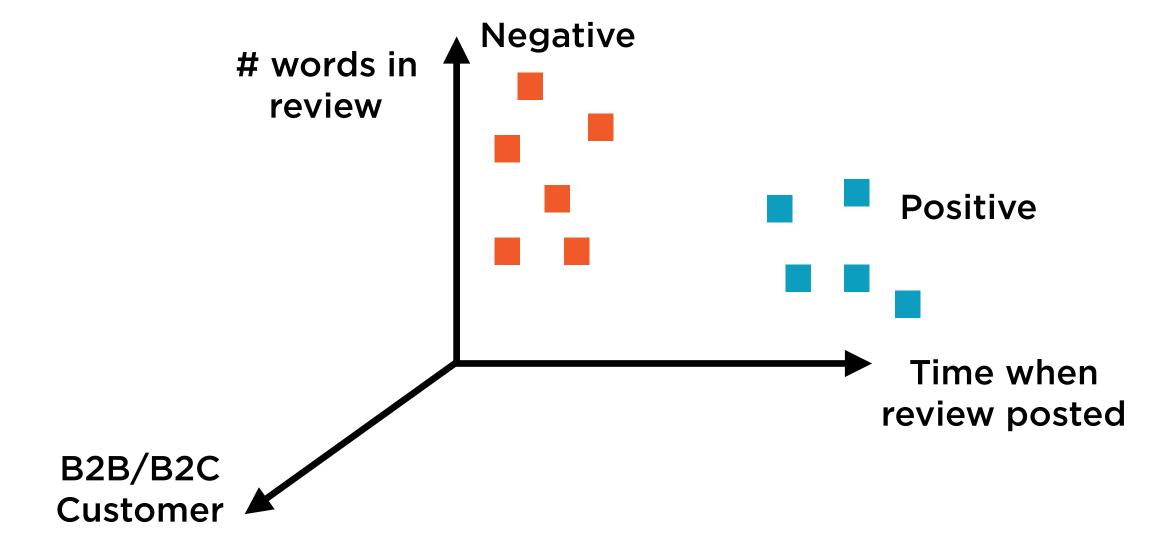
Bidimensional data points can be represented using a plane, and classified using a line

#### Data in N Dimensions



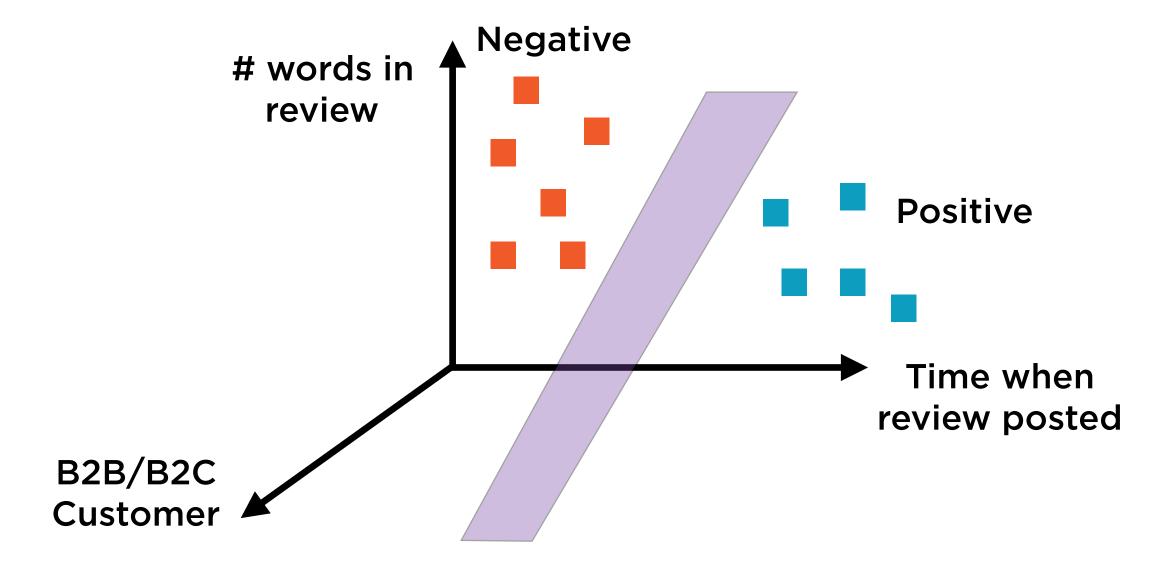
N-dimensional data can be represented in a hypercube, and classified using a hyperplane

#### Data in N Dimensions



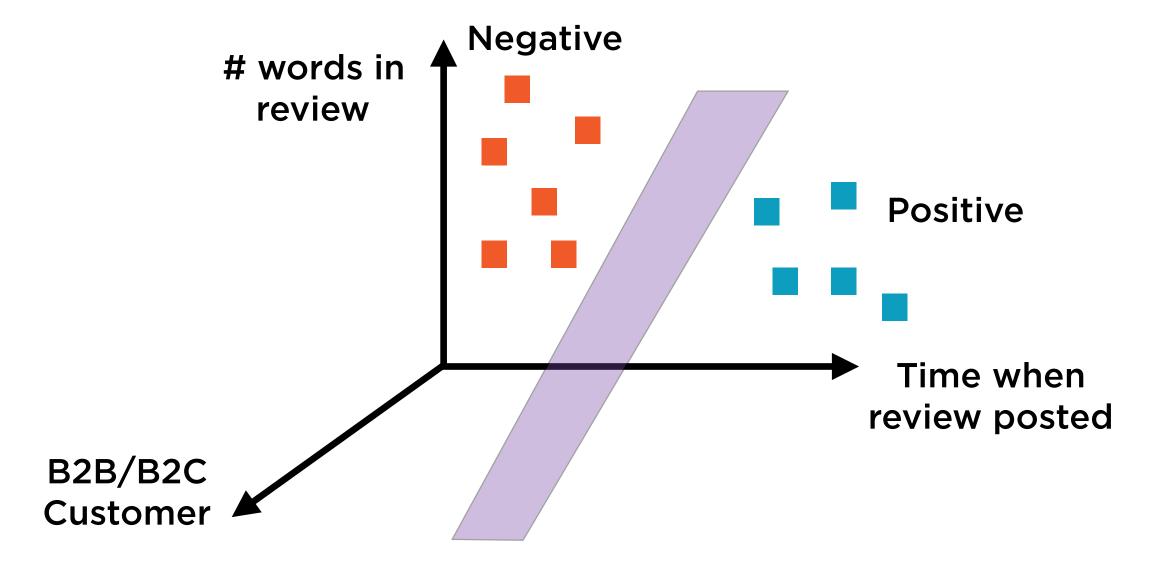
N-dimensional data can be represented in a hypercube, and classified using a hyperplane

#### Data in N Dimensions



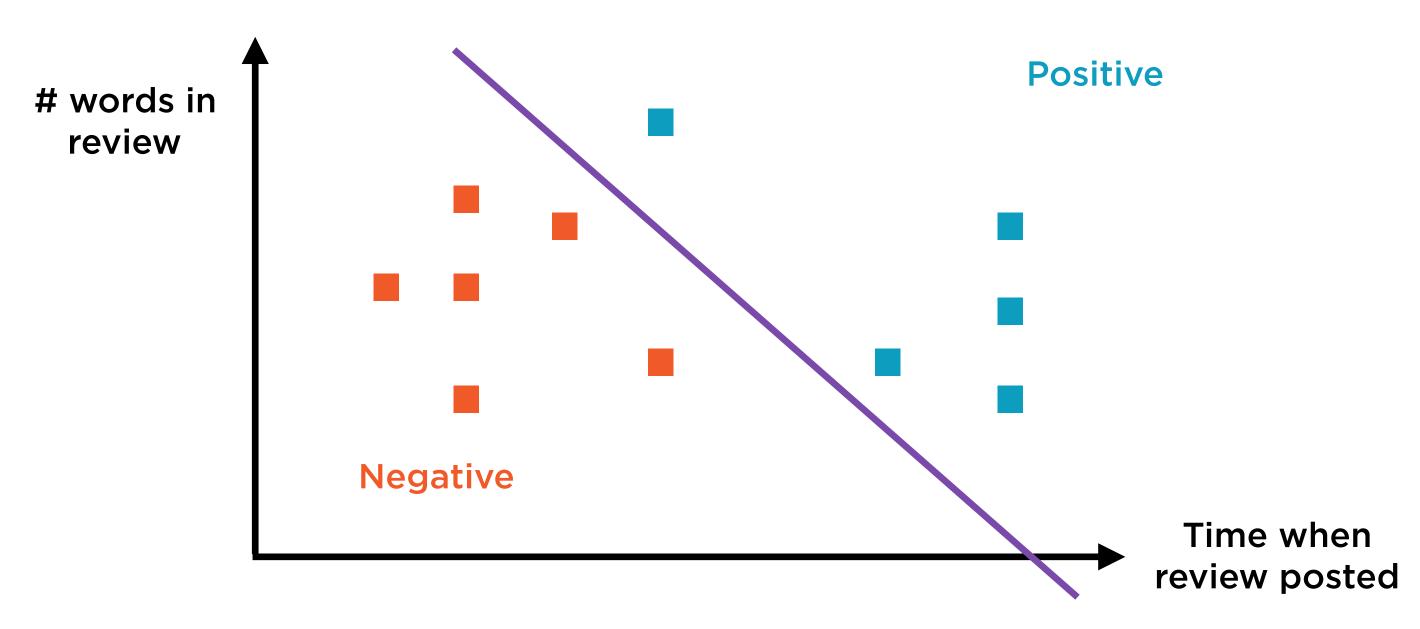
N-dimensional data can be represented in a hypercube, and classified using a hyperplane

## Support Vector Machines



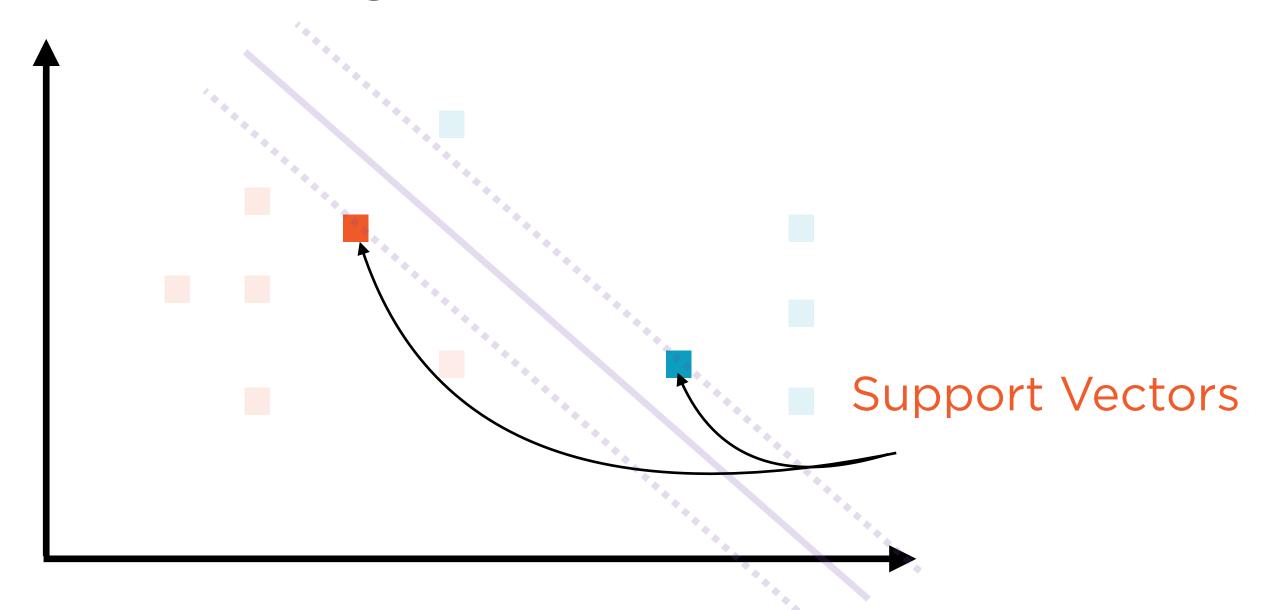
SVM classifiers find the hyperplane that best separates points in a hypercube

# Hard Margin Classification



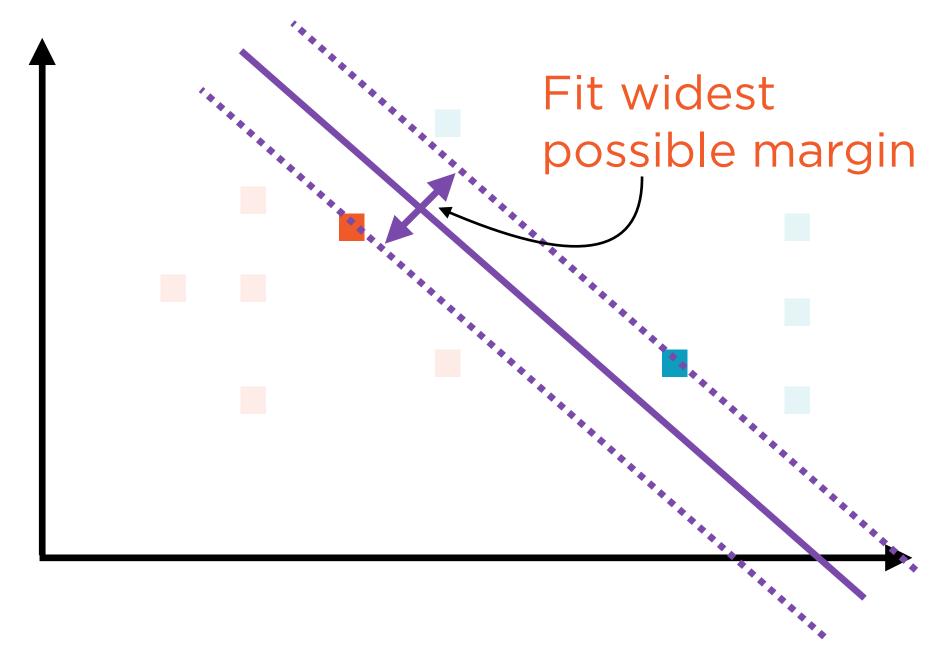
Ideally, data is linearly separable - hard decision boundary

# Hard Margin Classification



The nearest instances on either side of the boundary are called the support vectors

# Hard Margin Classification



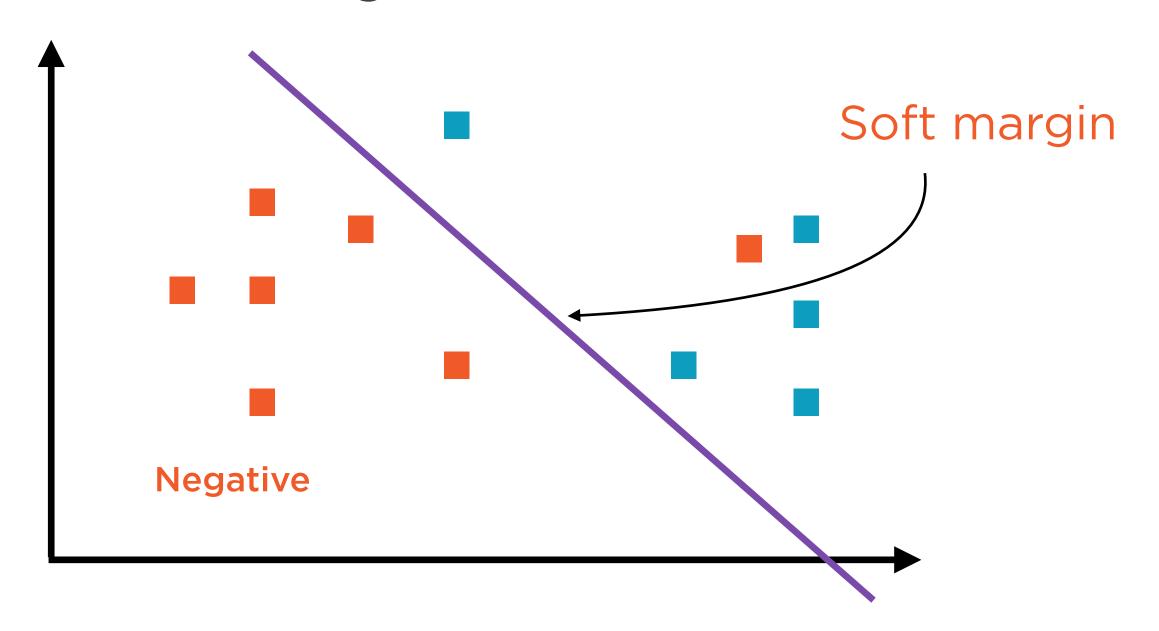
SVM finds the widest street between the nearest points on either side



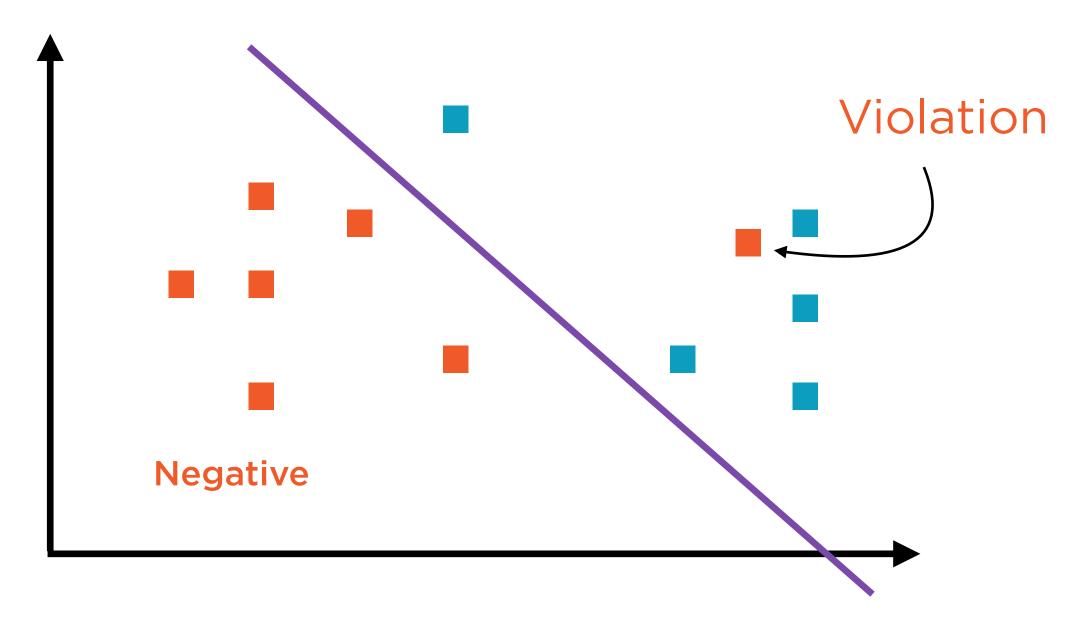
Hard margin classifiers are sensitive to outliers...



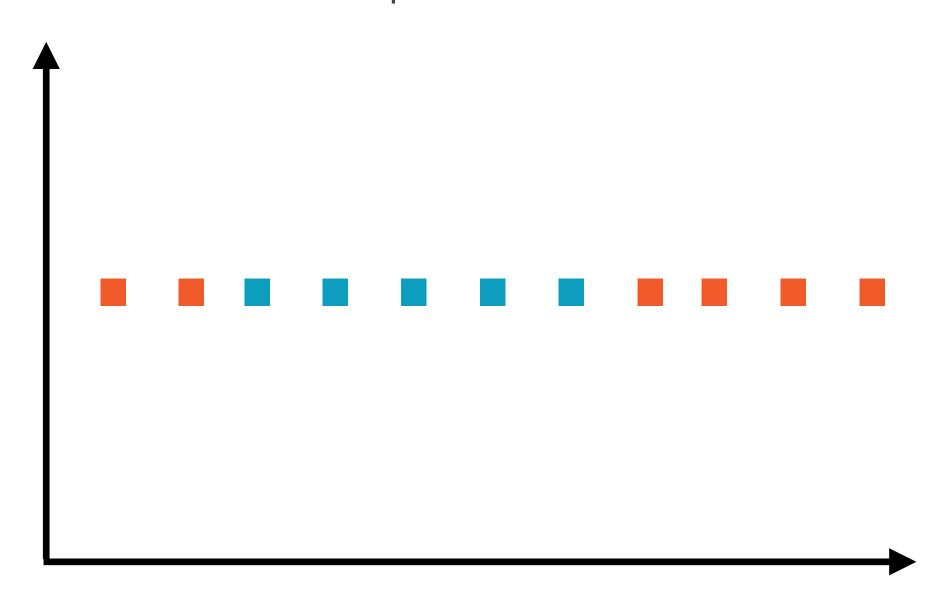
...and require perfectly linear separability in data

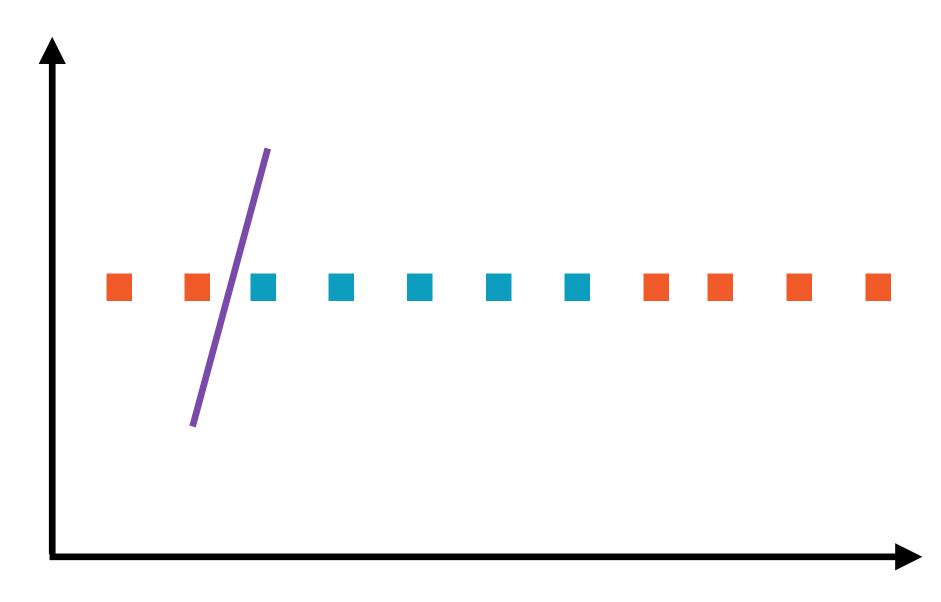


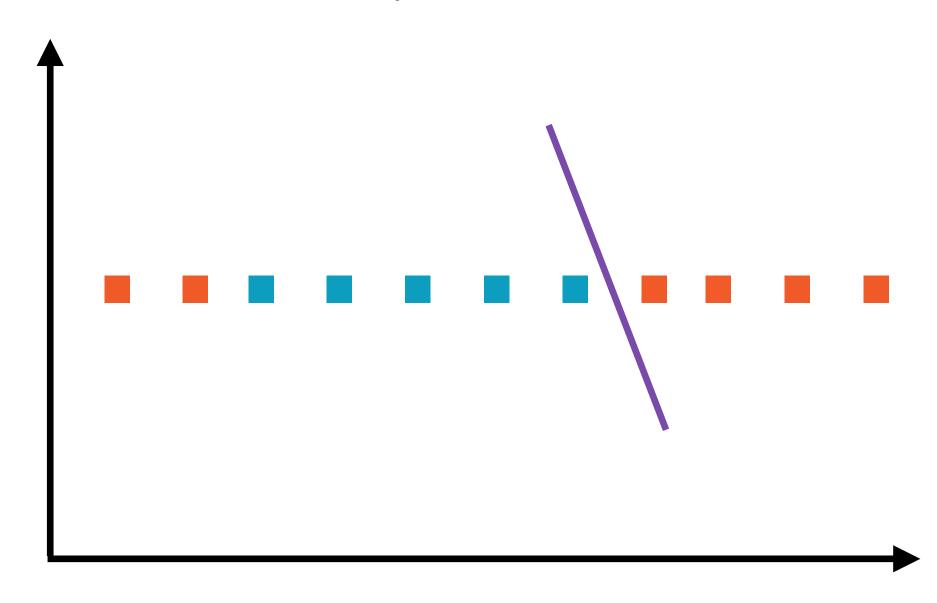
Soft margin classifiers allow some violations of the decision boundary



Soft margin classifiers allow some violations of the decision boundary

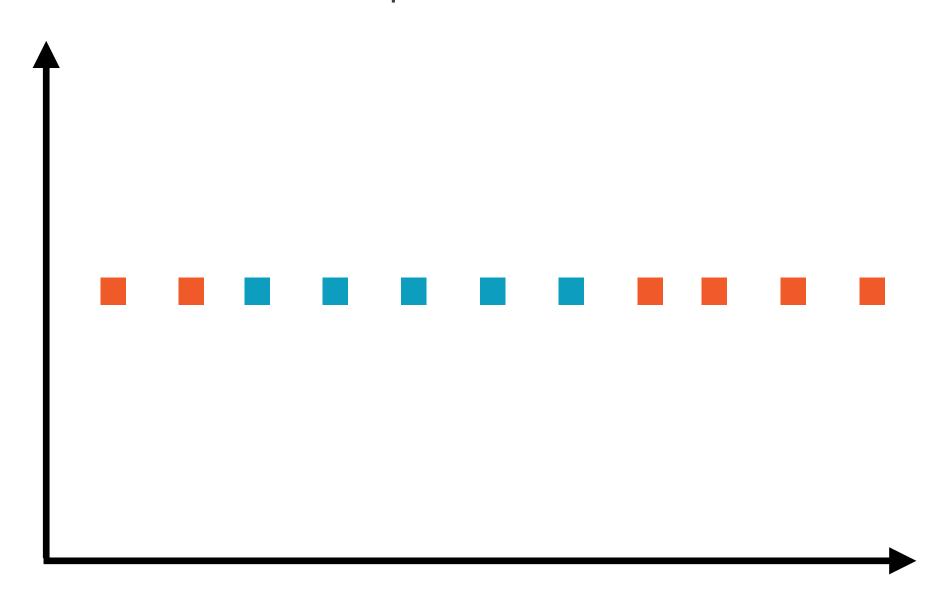




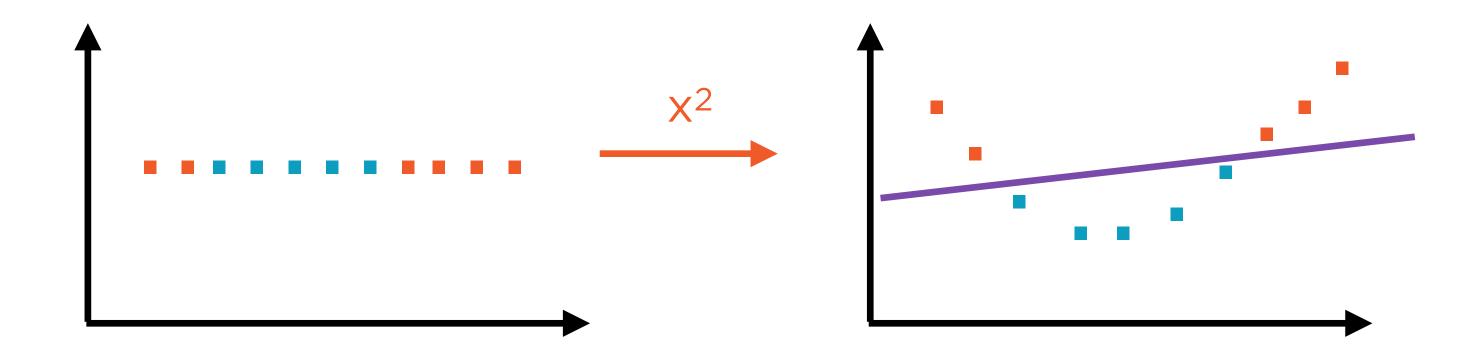


# SVM classification can be extended to almost any data using something called the **kernel trick**

# Kernel Trick and Kernel Approximations



#### Nonlinear SVM



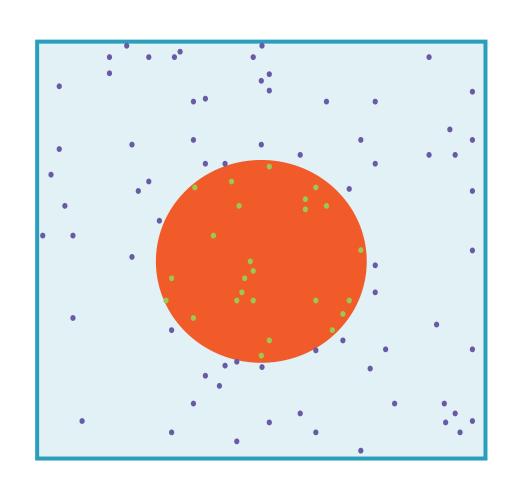
**Original Data** 

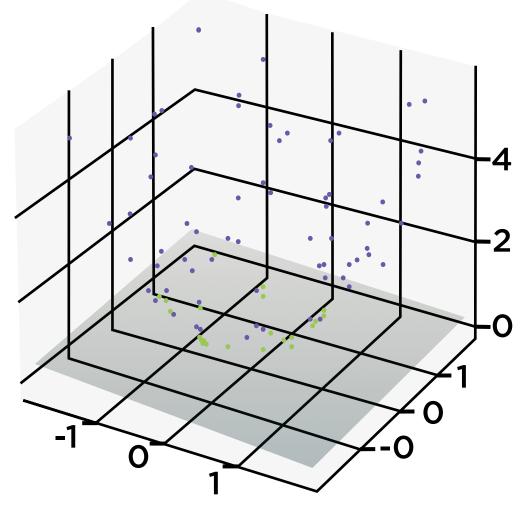
Not linearly separable

**Square of original data** 

Now linearly separable!

#### Kernel Trick: From 2-D to 3-D





$$\phi((a, b)) = (a, b, a^2 + b^2)$$

Points are mapped to a 3-dimensional space where a separating hyperplane can be easily found

# Kernel Trick

Apply a function (called the kernel function) to transform data so that it becomes much easier to model and process.

#### Kernel Trick



Very widely used in ML

Output of kernel function is called feature map

Mapping of the features from original dimension-space to kernel-space

This mapping is implicit

Generated feature maps are implicit feature maps

# Implicit Feature Maps



Feature Maps require applying kernel function to each point

Common kernel functions usually

- Non-linear
- Quite complex

Finding feature maps is computationally intensive

Does not scale well to large datasets



Kernel computation does not scale well; **kernel approximations** ride to the rescue

# Kernel Approximations



Much simpler, approximations of kernel functions

Scale well to large datasets

Used to pre-process data before feeding to an ML model

# Kernel Approximations



Pre-processing data allows us to fit simpler, more efficient, ML model

With some ML techniques, yield results comparable to non-linear (full) kernel

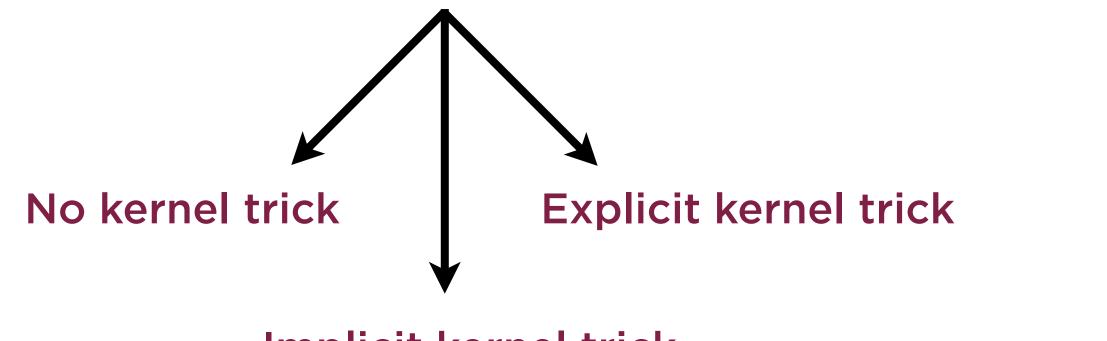
# Explicit Feature Maps



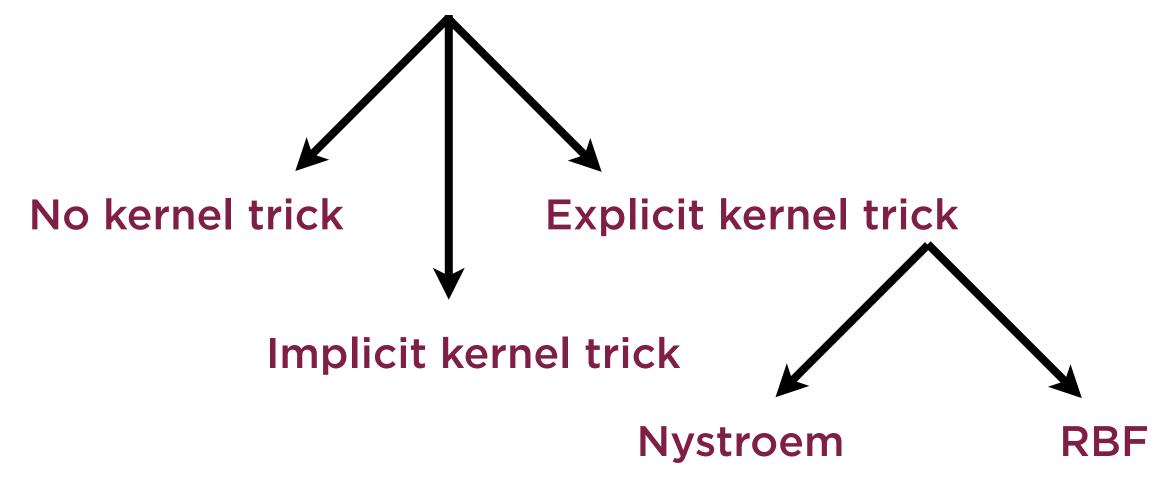
Kernel approximations generate explicit feature maps

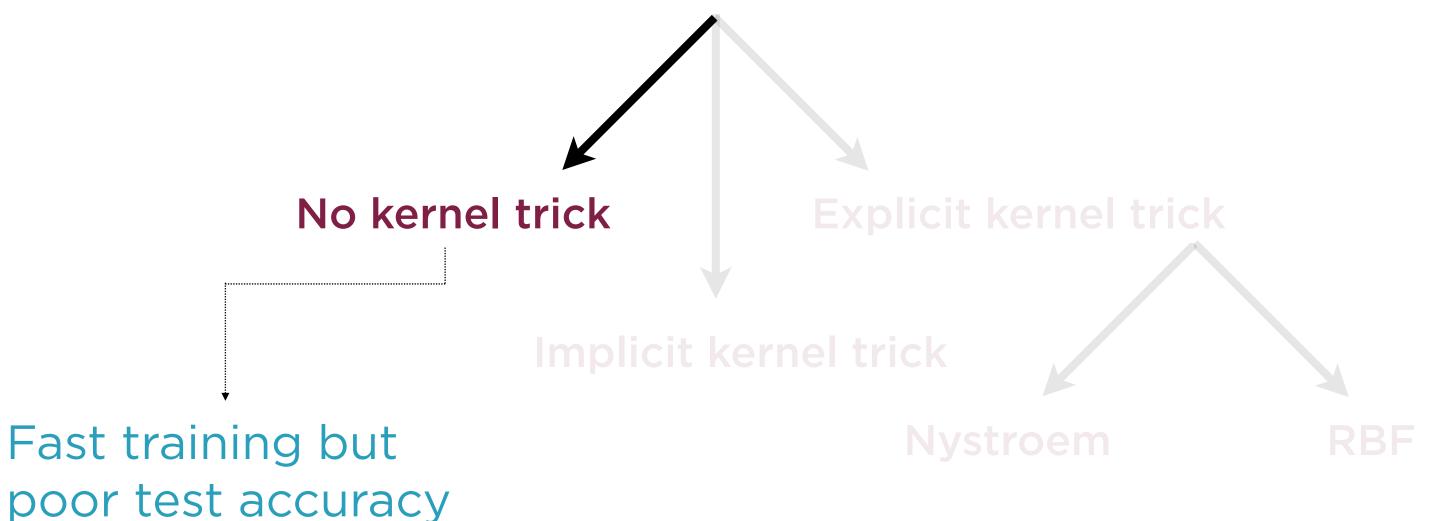
Nystroem kernels use a low-rank approximation of kernels

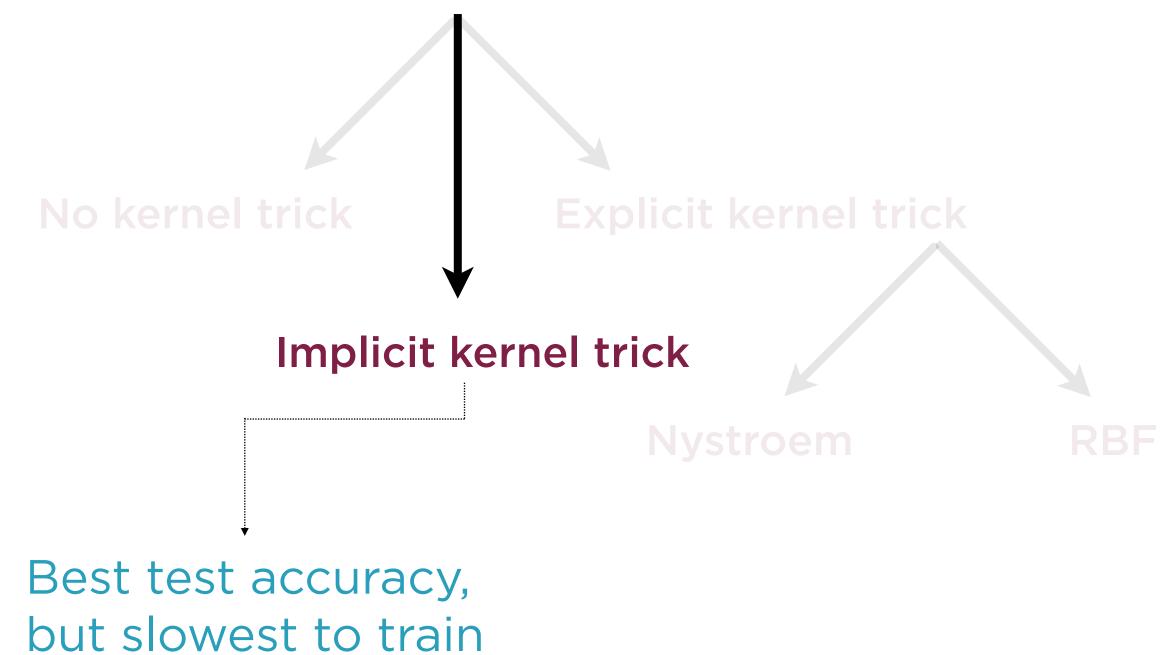
RBF or Radial Basis Function Kernel relies on a Monte Carlo approximation to kernel values

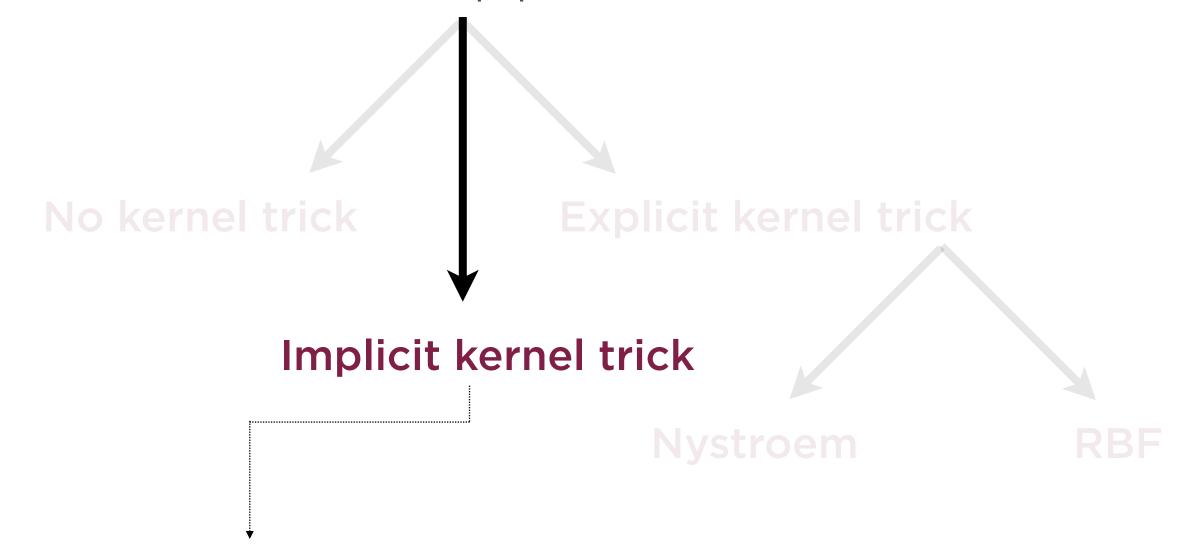


Implicit kernel trick

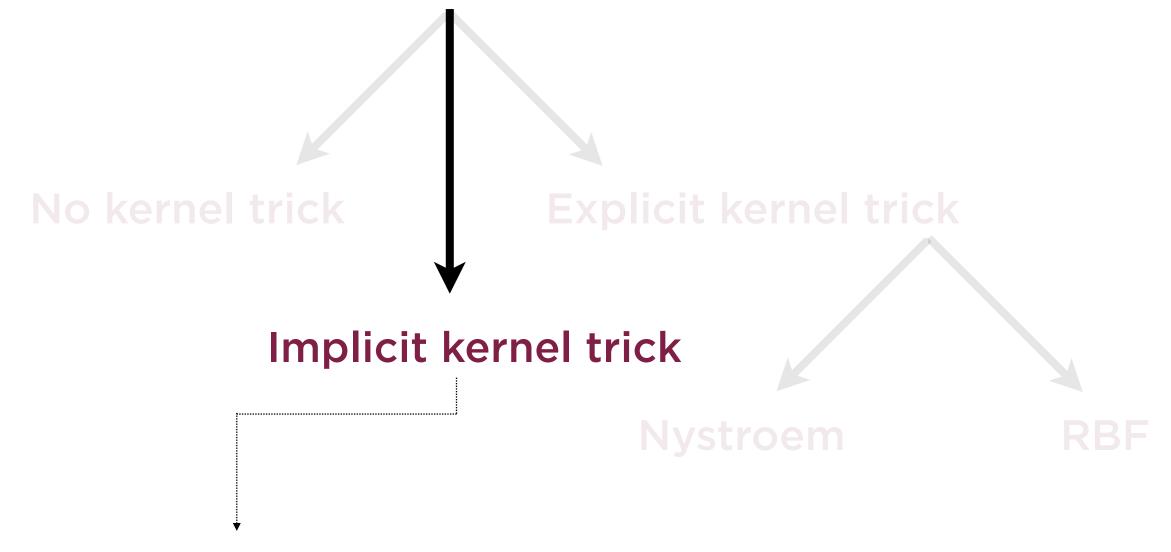




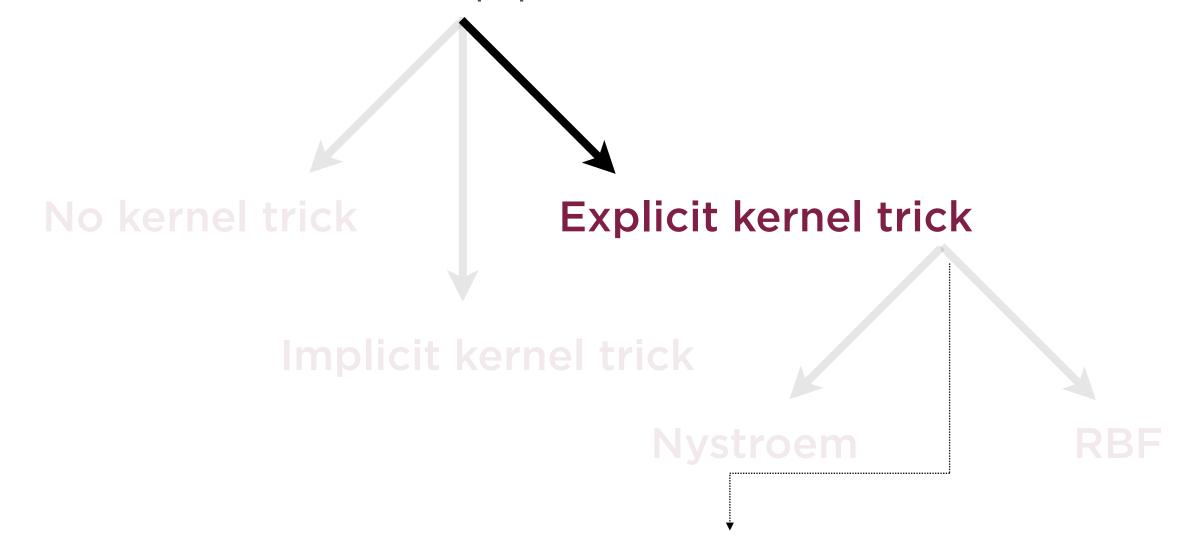




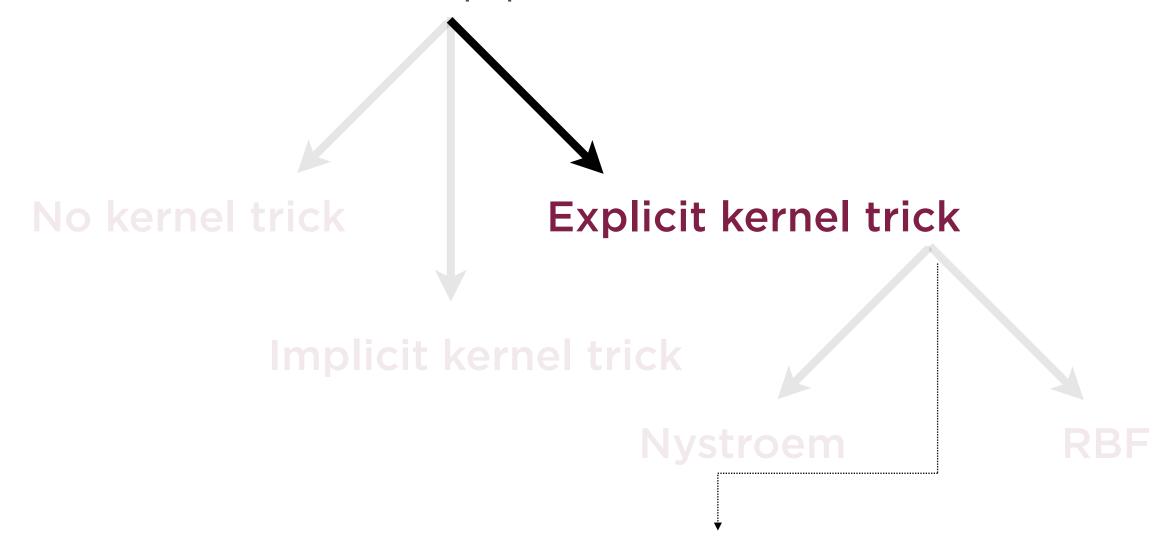
"Implicit" because classifier implicitly applies kernel inside estimator object



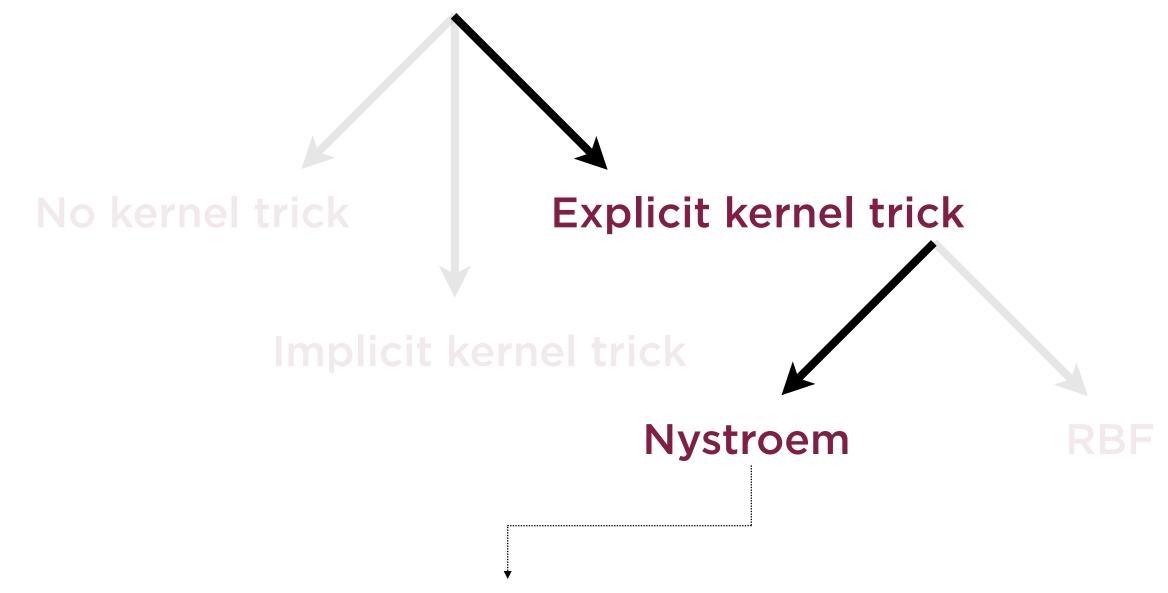
Computationally intensive, does not scale well to large datasets



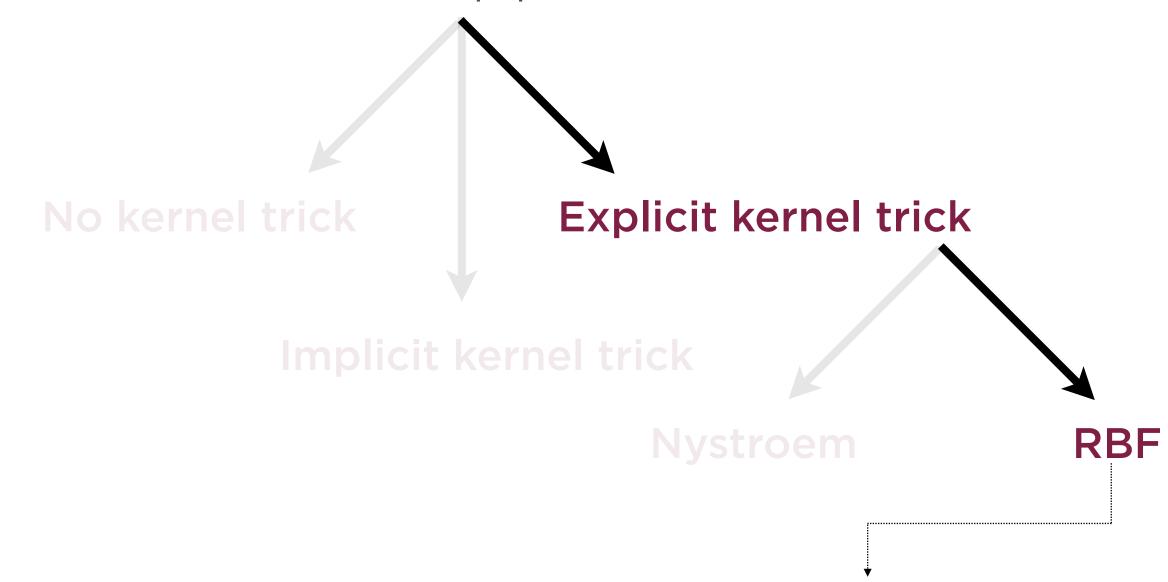
"Explicit" because kernel trick applied during pre-processing



Use scikit-learn pipeline object to pipe transformed data into estimator



Test accuracy approaches full kernel, but does not scale well to large training datasets



Test accuracy approaches full kernel, also scales best even with large training data

#### Demo

Comparing classification models built using implicit and explicit feature maps

# Summary

Understanding the need for kernel approximations

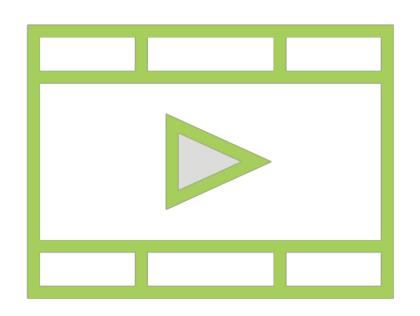
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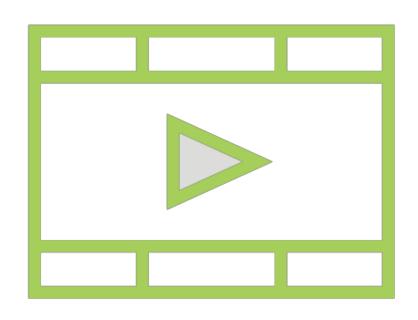
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#### Related Courses



Building Features from Numeric Data
Building Features from Text Data
Building Features from Image Data

#### Related Courses



**Building Clustering Models with scikit-learn** 

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Foundations of PyTorch