Support Vector Machines

Nipun Batra

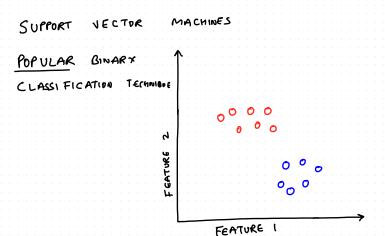
IIT Gandhinagar

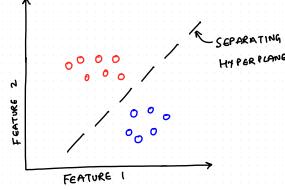
August 30, 2025

Outline

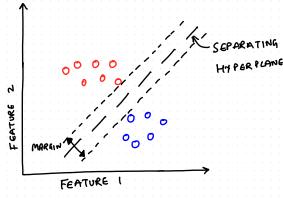
- 1. Introduction and Motivation
- 2. Mathematical Foundation
- 3. SVM Formulation
- 4. Worked Example
- 5. Kernel Methods
- 5.1 Kernel Motivation
- 5.2 Kernel Examples
- 5.3 Kernel Properties
- 6. Summary

Introduction and Motivation

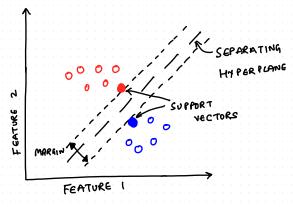




IDEA: DRAW A SEPARATING HYPER PLANE

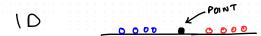


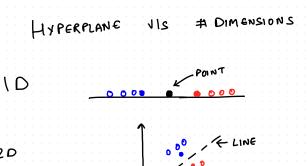
IDEA: MAXIMIZE THE MARGIN



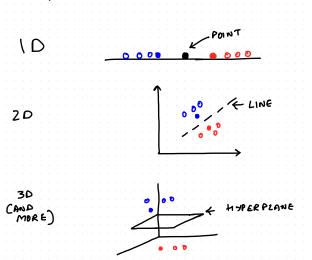
SUPPORT VECTORS: POINTS ON BOUNDARY MARGIN

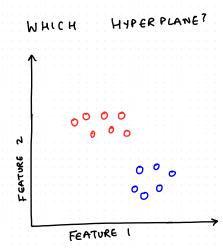
HYPERPLANE VIS # DIMENSIONS

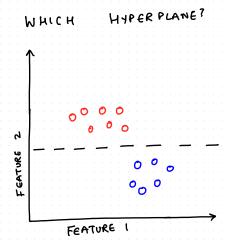


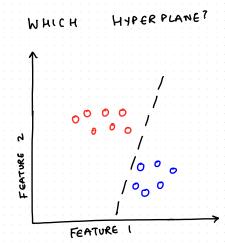


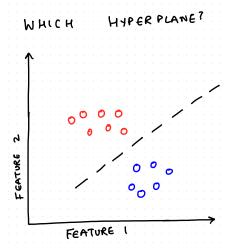
HYPERPLANE VIS # DIMENSIONS

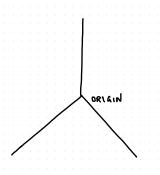




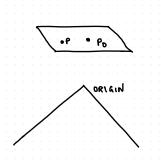




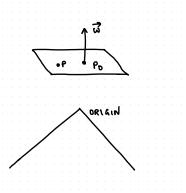




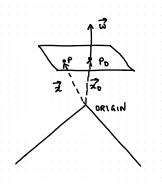
HOW TO DEFINE?



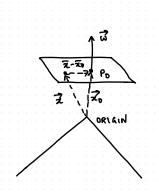
P: Any point on plane Po: One point on plane



is: I nector to plane at Po

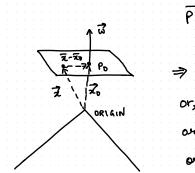


P and Po lie on plane



PPo= x-x. les or
plane

LOVATION OF HYPERPLANE



$$\overrightarrow{w} \perp (\overrightarrow{x} - \overrightarrow{x}_0)$$
or, $\overrightarrow{w} \cdot (\overrightarrow{x} - \overrightarrow{x}_0) = 0$
or, $\overrightarrow{w} \cdot \overrightarrow{x} - \overrightarrow{w} \cdot \overrightarrow{x}_0 = 0$

BIW II HYPER PLANES

$$\int \vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{x} + \mathbf{b}_2 = 0$$

DISTANCE BIW II HYPER PLANES

$$\vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{x} + b_2 = \vec{D}$$

$$\vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{x} + b_1 = \vec{\omega} \cdot \vec{x} + b_1 = \vec{D}$$

$$\vec{D} \cdot \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A$$

Mathematical Foundation

Equation of two planes is:

$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + b_1 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + b_2 = 0$$

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For a point x_1 on plane 1 and x_2 on plane 2, we have:

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}_1 + t\mathbf{w}$$
$$D = |t\mathbf{w}| = |t| ||\mathbf{w}||$$

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$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_2 + b_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{w} \cdot (\mathbf{x}_1 + t\mathbf{w}) + b_2 = 0$$

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We can rewrite as follows:

$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_2 + b_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{w} \cdot (\mathbf{x}_1 + t\mathbf{w}) + b_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_1 + t \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + b_1 - b_1 + b_2 = 0 \Rightarrow t = \frac{b_1 - b_2}{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2} \Rightarrow D = t \|\mathbf{w}\| = \frac{|b_1 - b_2|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$$

Pop Quiz #1

Quick Question!

If two parallel hyperplanes are given by:

- $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + 3 = 0$
- $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} 1 = 0$

And $\|\mathbf{w}\| = 2$, what is the distance between them?

Pop Quiz #1

Quick Question!

If two parallel hyperplanes are given by:

•
$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + 3 = 0$$

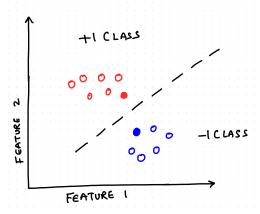
•
$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} - 1 = 0$$

And $\|\mathbf{w}\| = 2$, what is the distance between them?

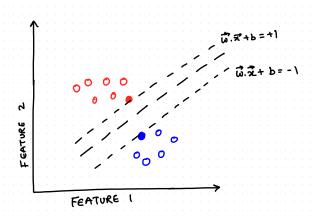
Answer: $D = \frac{|3-(-1)|}{2} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$ units

SVM Formulation

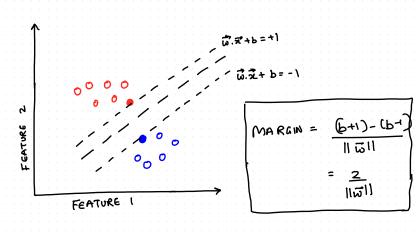




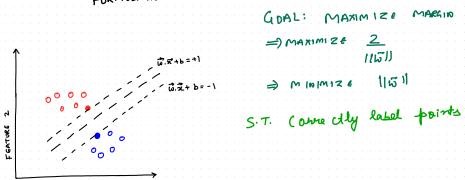




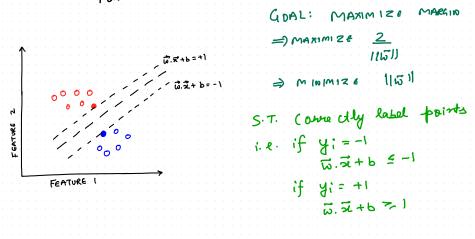
FORMULATION



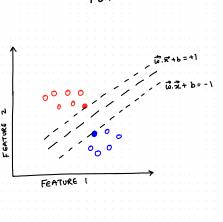




EDRMULATION



FORMULATION



COAL: MAXIMIZE MARGIN

=) MAXIMIZE 2

| 1851)

=> MINIMIZE 11511

T. Come cyly label points

e. if y:=-1

5.2+6 =-1

y; (2.7+6) 71

Primal Formulation

Objective

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} \frac{1}{2} \| \mathbf{w} \|^2 \\ & \text{subject to} y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) \geq 1 \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

Primal Formulation

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Q) What is $\|\mathbf{w}\|$?

Primal Formulation

Objective

$$\min_{i} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^{2}$$
subject to $y_{i}(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{i} + b) \ge 1 \quad \forall i$

Q) What is $\|\mathbf{w}\|$?

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix} \qquad ||\mathbf{w}|| = \sqrt{\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{w}}$$

$$= \sqrt{\begin{bmatrix} w_1 & w_2 & \cdots & w_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix}}$$

Worked Example

EXAMPLE (IN 10)

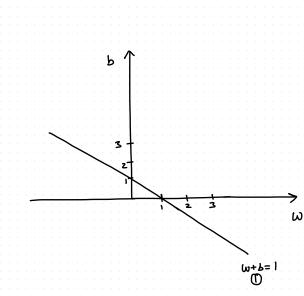


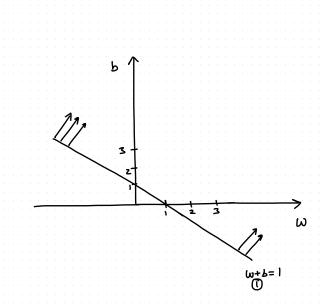
$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

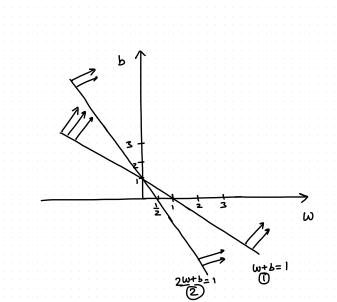
Separating Hyperplane: $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b} = 0$

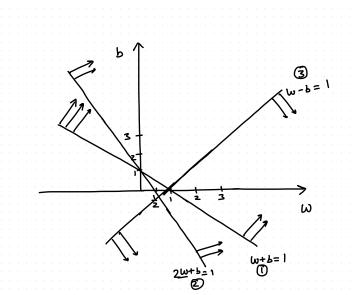
$$y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) \ge 1$$

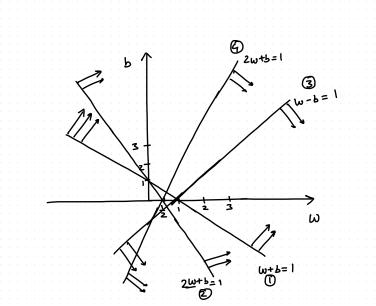
$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y \\ 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) \ge 1$$
$$\Rightarrow 1(w \cdot 1 + b) \ge 1$$
$$\Rightarrow 1(w \cdot 2 + b) \ge 1$$
$$\Rightarrow -1(w \cdot (-1) + b) \ge 1$$
$$\Rightarrow -1(w \cdot (-2) + b) \ge 1$$

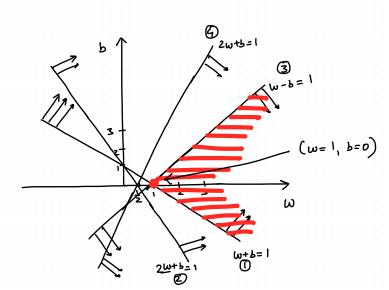












$$w_{min} = 1, b = 0$$
$$w.x + b = 0$$
$$x = 0$$

Minimum values satisfying constraints $\Rightarrow w = 1$ and b = 0 \therefore Max margin classifier $\Rightarrow x = 0$

Think About This!

In our simple 1D example, why did we choose w=1 and b=0 as the optimal solution?

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- Is this the only solution that separates the data?
- What makes this solution optimal for SVM?

Think About This!

In our simple 1D example, why did we choose w=1 and b=0 as the optimal solution?

- Is this the only solution that separates the data?
- What makes this solution **optimal** for SVM?

Answer: No, infinitely many solutions exist (e.g., w = 2, b = 0 or w = 0.5, b = 0).

SVM chooses w = 1, b = 0 because it minimizes $\|\mathbf{w}\|^2$ while satisfying all constraints!

Primal Formulation is a Quadratic Program

Generally;

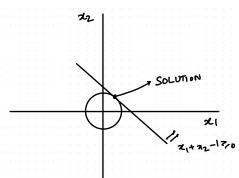
- \Rightarrow Minimize Quadratic(x)
- \Rightarrow such that, Linear(x)

Question

$$x = (x_1, x_2)$$
minimize
$$\frac{1}{2}||x||^2$$

$$: x_1 + x_2 - 1 \ge 0$$

MINIMIZE QUADRATIC S.L. LINEAR



Converting to Dual Problem

Primal ⇒ Dual Conversion using Lagrangian multipliers

Minimize
$$\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2$$

s.t. $y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) \ge 1$
 $\forall i$

$$L(\mathbf{w}, b, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{d} w_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i (y_i (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) - 1) \quad \forall \quad \alpha_i \ge 0$$
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

Converting to Dual Problem

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i = 0$$
$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i$$

$$L(\mathbf{w}, b, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{d} w_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i (y_i (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) - 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} ||\mathbf{w}||^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i y_i b + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i + \frac{(\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i) \cdot (\sum_j \alpha_j y_j \mathbf{x}_j)}{2} - \sum_i \alpha_i y_i \left(\sum_i \alpha_j y_j \mathbf{x}_j\right) \cdot \mathbf{x}_i$$

Converting to Dual Problem

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

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize } \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \Rightarrow & \text{Maximize } L(\alpha) \\ s.t & s.t \\ y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) \geqslant 1 & \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0 \ \forall \ \alpha_i \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Lagrangian Mystery!

Why do we convert the primal SVM problem to its dual formulation?

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Hint: Think about what the dual formulation enables us to do that the primal doesn't...

Lagrangian Mystery!

Why do we convert the primal SVM problem to its dual formulation?

Hint: Think about what the dual formulation enables us to do that the primal doesn't...

Answer: The dual formulation enables the kernel trick!

- Primal: w appears explicitly \rightarrow no kernels
- Dual: Only dot products $\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_j$ appear \to can replace with $K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$

Question: KKT Complementary Slackness

Question:

$$\alpha_i(y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) - 1) = 0 \quad \forall i \text{ as per KKT slackness}$$

What is α_i for support vector points?

Answer: For support vectors,

$$\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b = -1$$
 (for $y_i = -1$)
 $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b = +1$ (for $y_i = +1$)

 $y_i (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) - 1 = 0$ for $i \in \{\text{support vector points}\}$ $\therefore \alpha_i \neq 0$ where $i \in \{\text{support vector points}\}$ For all non-support vector points: $\alpha_i = 0$ EXAMPLE (IN 10)



Revisiting the Simple Example

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & y \\ 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$L(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{4} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j x_i x_j \qquad \alpha_i \ge 0$$
$$\sum_{i=1}^{4} \alpha_i y_i = 0 \qquad \alpha_i (y_i (w \cdot x_i + b) - 1) = 0$$

Support Vector Challenge!

In our 1D example with data points $\{(1,+1),(2,+1),(-1,-1),(-2,-1)\}$, which points will be the support vectors?

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In our 1D example with data points $\{(1,+1),(2,+1),(-1,-1),(-2,-1)\}$, which points will be the support vectors?

Think: Support vectors are the closest points to the decision boundary that actively constrain the solution.

Support Vector Challenge!

In our 1D example with data points $\{(1,+1),(2,+1),(-1,-1),(-2,-1)\}$, which points will be the support vectors?

Think: Support vectors are the closest points to the decision boundary that actively constrain the solution.

Answer: Points (1, +1) and (-1, -1) are the support vectors!

- These are closest to the decision boundary x = 0
- They satisfy $y_i(w \cdot x_i + b) = 1$ exactly
- Points (2,+1) and (-2,-1) are farther away $\Rightarrow \alpha = 0$

Revisiting the Simple Example

$$L(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{3}, \alpha_{4}) = \alpha_{1} + \alpha_{2} + \alpha_{3} + \alpha_{4}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} \{\alpha_{1}\alpha_{1} \times (1*1) \times (1*1) + \alpha_{1}\alpha_{2} \times (1*1) \times (1*2) + \alpha_{1}\alpha_{3} \times (1*-1) \times (1*1)$$
...
$$\alpha_{4}\alpha_{4} \times (-1*-1) \times (-2*-2)\}$$

How to Solve? \Rightarrow Use the QP Solver!!

Revisiting the Simple Example

```
For the trivial example,
We know that only x = \pm 1 will take part in the constraint
actively. Thus, \alpha_2, \alpha_4 = 0
                   By symmetry, \alpha_1 = \alpha_3 = \alpha (say)
                  & \sum y_i \alpha_i = 0
L(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4) = 2\alpha
                            -\frac{1}{2}\left\{\alpha^2(1)(-1)(1)(-1)\right\}
                                     +\alpha^{2}(-1)(1)(-1)(1)
                                     +\alpha^{2}(1)(1)(1)(1) + \alpha^{2}(-1)(-1)(-1)(-1)
                   Maximize 2\alpha - \frac{1}{2}(4\alpha^2)
```

Revisiting the Simple Example

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} \left(2\alpha - 2\alpha^2 \right) = 0 \Rightarrow 2 - 4\alpha = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = 1/2$$

$$\therefore \alpha_1 = 1/2 \ \alpha_2 = 0; \ \alpha_3 = 1/2 \ \alpha_4 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i y_i \bar{x}_i = 1/2 \times 1 \times 1 + 0 \times 1 \times 2$$

$$+1/2 \times -1 \times -1 + 0 \times -1 \times -2$$

$$= 1/2 + 1/2 = 1$$

Revisiting the Simple Example

Finding b:

For the support vectors we have, $\begin{aligned} y_i(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b) - 1 &= 0 \\ \text{or, } y_i \left(\bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 + b \right) &= 1 \\ \text{or, } y_i^2 \left(\bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i + b \right) &= y_i \\ \text{or, } &\bar{\mathbf{w}}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i + b = y_i \ \left(\because y_i^2 = 1 \right) \\ \text{or, } &b = y_i - w \cdot x_i \\ \text{In practice, } &b = \frac{1}{N_{SV}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{SV}} \left(y_i - \bar{w} \bar{x}_i \right) \end{aligned}$

Obtaining the Solution

$$b = \frac{1}{2} \{ (1 - (1)(1)) + (-1 - (1)(-1)) \}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \{ 0 + 0 \} = 0$$

$$= 0$$

$$\therefore w = 1 \& b = 0$$

Making Predictions

Making Predictions

$$\hat{y}(x_i) = SIGN(w \cdot x_i + b)$$

For $x_{test} = 3$; $\hat{y}(3) = SIGN(1 \times 3 + 0) = +ve$ class

Making Predictions

Alternatively,
$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}}) &= \mathrm{sign}(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}} + b) \\ &= \mathrm{sign}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_{\mathsf{SV}}} \alpha_j y_j \mathbf{x}_j \cdot \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}} + b\right) \end{split}$$

In our example,
$$\alpha_1 = 1/2; \alpha_2 = 0; \quad \alpha_3 = 1/2; \alpha_4 = 0$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}(3) = \mathrm{sign}\left(\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times (1 \times 3) + 0 + \frac{1}{2} \times (-1) \times (-1 \times 3) + 0\right)$$

$$= \mathrm{sign}\left(\frac{6}{2}\right) = \mathrm{sign}(3) = +1$$

Pop Quiz #5

Prediction Power!

We found our SVM solution: w = 1, b = 0. Let's test it! What will our SVM predict for the test point $x_{\text{test}} = -0.5$?

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Pop Quiz #5

Prediction Power!

We found our SVM solution: w=1, b=0. Let's test it! What will our SVM predict for the test point $\textit{x}_{\text{test}}=-0.5$? **Method 1:** Direct: $\hat{\mathbf{y}}(-0.5) = \text{sign}(1 \times (-0.5) + 0) = \text{sign}(-0.5) = -1$ **Method 2:** Using support vectors: $\hat{\mathbf{y}}(-0.5) = \text{sign}(\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times 1 \times (-0.5) + \frac{1}{2} \times (-1) \times (-1) \times (-0.5)) = \text{sign}(-0.5) = -1$ (Correct!)

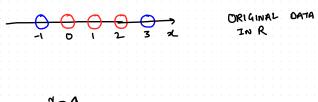
Kernel Methods

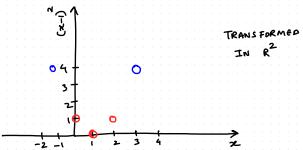


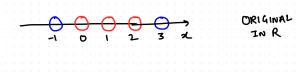
ORIGINAL DATA

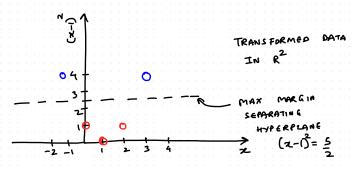
Non-Linearly Separable Data

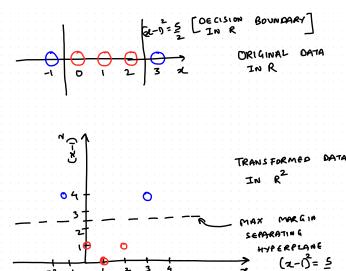
- Data is not linearly separable in \mathbb{R}^d .
- Can we still use SVM?
- Yes! Project data to a higher dimensional space.

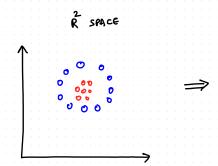


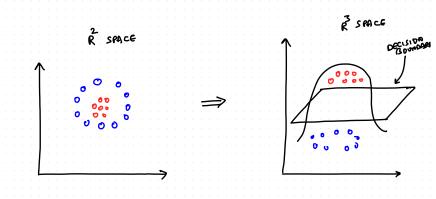


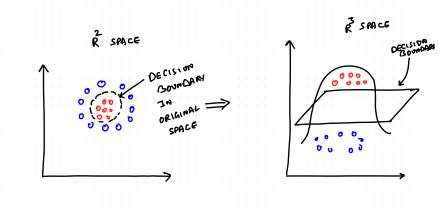












Projection/Transformation Function

```
\phi: \mathbb{R}^d 	o \mathbb{R}^D where, d= original dimension D= new dimension In our example: d=1; D=2
```

From Linear to Kernel SVM

Linear SVM:

Maximize

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

such that constriants are satisfied.

$$L(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

Steps

1. Compute $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ for each point

$$\phi: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^D$$

- 2. Compute dot products over \mathbb{R}^D space
 - Q. If D >> dBoth steps are expensive!

The Kernel Trick

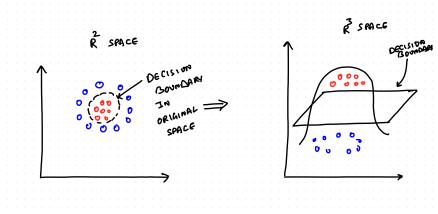
Brilliant idea: Can we compute $K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$ such that:

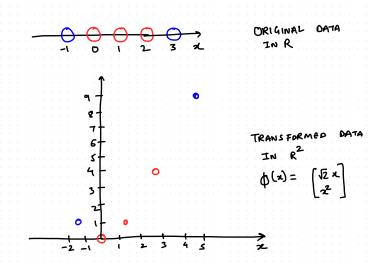
$$K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

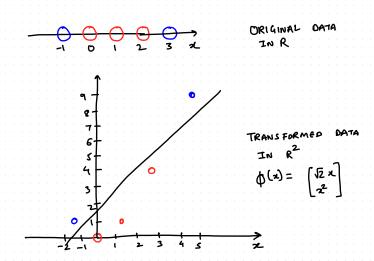
Without explicitly computing $\phi!$

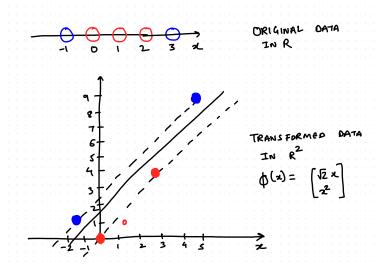
- $K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_i)$: Simple function in original space
- $\phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\mathbf{x}_j)$: Complex dot product in high-dimensional space

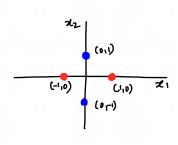
Result: Get non-linear classification power without computational cost!











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Kernel Trick

Q) Why did we use dual form? Kernels again!!

Primal form doesn't allow for the kernel trick $\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{x}_1,\mathbf{x}_2)$ in dual and compute $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ and then dot product in D dimensions

Gram Matrix: (Positive Semi-Definite)

Common Kernel Functions

Most frequently used kernels:

- 1. Linear: $K(x_1, x_2) = x_1 \cdot x_2$
- 2. **Polynomial:** $K(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = (c + \mathbf{x}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2)^d$
- 3. **RBF** (Gaussian): $K(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \exp(-\gamma ||\mathbf{x}_1 \mathbf{x}_2||^2)$

Parameters:

- c: constant term, d: degree (polynomial)
- γ : bandwidth parameter (RBF)

Kernel Example: Polynomial Kernel

Question: For $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$, what is the feature space for

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (1 + \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{z})^{\frac{1}{3}}$$
?

Given: $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, find dimension of $\phi(\mathbf{x})$

Expansion:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = (1 + x_1 z_1 + x_2 z_2)^3$$
= all terms of degree ≤ 3
= $\phi(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \phi(\mathbf{z})$

Feature map: $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = [1, \sqrt{3}x_1, \sqrt{3}x_2, \sqrt{3}x_1^2, \sqrt{3}x_2^2, \sqrt{6}x_1x_2, x_1^3, x_2^3, \sqrt{3}x_1^2x_2, \sqrt{3}x_1x_2^2]$ Answer: $\phi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{10}$

RBF Kernel: Infinite Dimensions

Question: What is the dimensionality of RBF kernel feature space?

RBF Kernel:

$$K(x, z) = \exp(-\gamma ||x - z||^2)$$
$$= \exp(-\gamma (x - z)^2)$$

Key insight: Using Taylor series expansion

$$\exp(\alpha) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{n!} = 1 + \alpha + \frac{\alpha^2}{2!} + \frac{\alpha^3}{3!} + \cdots$$

Result: RBF kernel corresponds to ∞ -dimensional feature space!

Amazing: Infinite-dimensional classification with finite computation!

Does RBF Involve Dot Product in Lower-Dimensional Space?

Question: Can we see the original dot product in RBF kernel? Assuming \mathbf{x} is a one-dimensional vector, we can rewrite the RBF kernel as:

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$$(x-z)^2 = x^2 - 2xz + z^2$$

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Substituting back into the RBF kernel:

$$K(x, z) = \exp(-\gamma(x^2 - 2xz + z^2))$$

= $\exp(-\gamma x^2) \cdot \exp(2\gamma xz) \cdot \exp(-\gamma z^2)$

Key insight: The middle term $\exp(2\gamma xz)$ contains the dot product xz from the original space!

SVM: Parametric vs Non-Parametric

Question: Is SVM parametric or non-parametric?

SVM: Parametric vs Non-Parametric

Question: Is SVM parametric or non-parametric?

Answer: It depends on the kernel!

- Parametric: Linear and polynomial kernels
 - Fixed functional form
 - Number of parameters independent of training data size
- Non-parametric: RBF kernel
 - Model complexity grows with data
 - Uses all support vectors for prediction

RBF is Non-Parametric

 $\alpha_i = 0$ where $i \neq S.V.$

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}}) &= \mathrm{sign}(\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}} + b) \\ &= \mathrm{sign}(\sum_{j=1}^{N_{\mathsf{SV}}} \alpha_j y_j \mathbf{x}_j \cdot \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}} + b) \\ \hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}}) &= \mathrm{sign}(\sum_{j=1}^{N} \alpha_j y_j \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{x}_j, \mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{test}}) + b) \end{split}$$

•
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{sign}(\sum \alpha_i y_i \exp(-\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2) + b)$$

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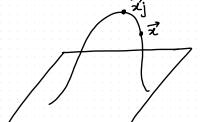
• $-\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2$ corresponds to radial term

- $\hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{sign}(\sum \alpha_i y_i \exp(-\|\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}_i\|^2) + b)$
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- $\sum \alpha_i y_i$ is the activation component

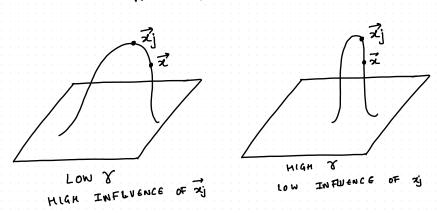
•
$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{sign}(\sum \alpha_i y_i \exp(-\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2) + b)$$

- $-\|\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}_i\|^2$ corresponds to radial term
- $\sum \alpha_i y_i$ is the activation component
- $\exp(-\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}_i\|^2)$ is the basis component

RBF INTERPRETATION



RBF INTERPRETATION



Summary

Key Takeaways

- Goal: SVM finds optimal separating hyperplane by maximizing margin
- Math: Dual formulation enables kernel trick
- Power: Kernels enable non-linear classification without explicit mapping
- Popular kernels: Linear, Polynomial, RBF (Gaussian)
- Remarkable: RBF kernel \leftrightarrow infinite-dimensional space
- Flexibility: Parametric (linear/poly) or non-parametric (RBF)
- Efficiency: Only support vectors matter for prediction

Next Steps

- · Soft-margin SVM for non-separable data
- Hyperparameter tuning (C, γ)
- Multi-class SVM extensions
- · Computational considerations and optimization
- · Comparison with other classifiers