

# DUALITY



# Lagrangian

standard form problem (not necessarily convex)

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p\end{array}$$

variable  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , domain  $\mathcal{D}$ , optimal value  $p^\star$

The basic idea : take the constraints into account by augmenting the objective function with a weighted sum of the constraint functions.

# Lagrangian

**Lagrangian:**  $L : \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , with  $\text{dom } L = \mathcal{D} \times \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p$ ,

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x)$$

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- weighted sum of objective and constraint functions
- $\lambda_i$  is Lagrange multiplier associated with  $f_i(x) \leq 0$
- $\nu_i$  is Lagrange multiplier associated with  $h_i(x) = 0$

# Lagrange dual function

Lagrange dual function:  $g : \mathbf{R}^m \times \mathbf{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i h_i(x) \right)$$

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concave

**lower bound property:** if  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , then  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$

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concave

**lower bound property:** if  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , then  $g(\lambda, \nu) \leq p^*$

proof: if  $\tilde{x}$  is feasible and  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , then

$$f_0(\tilde{x}) \geq L(\tilde{x}, \lambda, \nu) \geq \inf_{x \in \mathcal{D}} L(x, \lambda, \nu) = g(\lambda, \nu)$$

minimizing over all feasible  $\tilde{x}$  gives  $p^* \geq g(\lambda, \nu)$

# Example

Least-squares solution of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & x^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b,\end{array}$$

- Lagrangian is  $L(x, \nu) = x^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)$



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Convex quadratic  
function  
optimality condition

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$$\nabla_x L(x, \nu) = 2x + A^T \nu = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = -(1/2)A^T \nu$$

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$$g(\nu) = L((-1/2)A^T \nu, \nu) = -\frac{1}{4}\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$$

concave

**lower bound property:**  $p^* \geq -(1/4)\nu^T A A^T \nu - b^T \nu$  for all  $\nu$

# Example

Standard form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \succeq 0,\end{array}$$

$$L(x, \lambda, \nu) = c^T x - \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i x_i + \nu^T (Ax - b) = -b^T \nu + (c + A^T \nu - \lambda)^T x.$$

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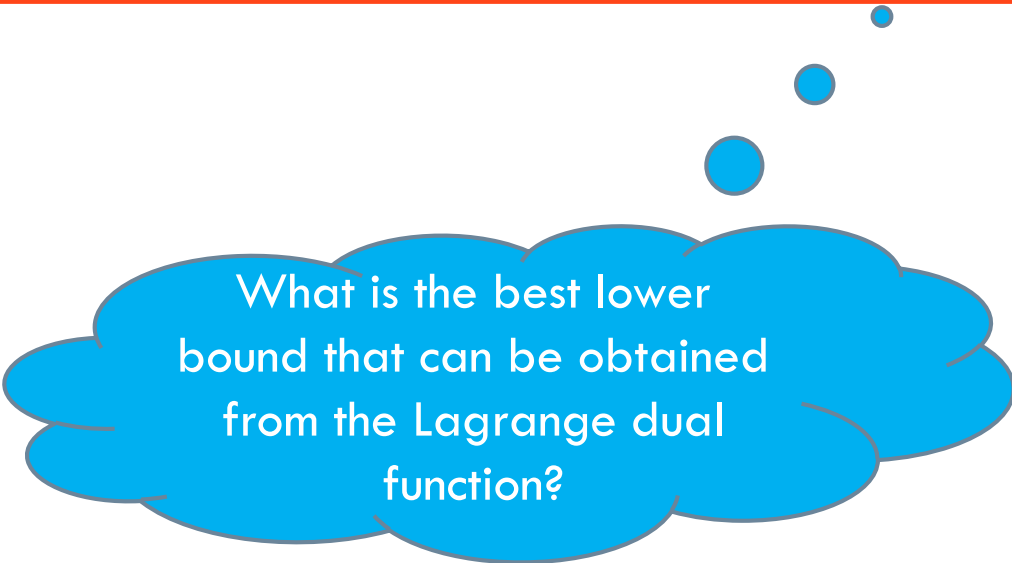
$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

lower bound property:  $p^* \geq -b^T \nu$  if  $A^T \nu + c \succeq 0$



# Dual problem

For each pair  $(\lambda, \nu)$  with  $\lambda \succeq 0$ , the Lagrange dual function gives us a lower bound on the optimal value  $p^*$  of the optimization problem



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## Lagrange dual problem

maximize  $g(\lambda, \nu)$   
subject to  $\lambda \succeq 0$ .

minimize  $f_0(x)$   
subject to  $f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$   
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- $\lambda, \nu$  are dual feasible if  $\lambda \succeq 0, (\lambda, \nu) \in \text{dom } g$
- finds best lower bound on  $p^*$ , obtained from Lagrange dual function
- a convex optimization problem; optimal value denoted  $d^*$



# Example

Lagrange dual of standard form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & x \succeq 0\end{array}$$

$$g(\lambda, \nu) = \begin{cases} -b^T \nu & A^T \nu - \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \nu \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \nu + c \succeq 0,\end{array}$$



# Example

Lagrange dual of inequality form LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b. \end{array} \quad \rightarrow \quad L(x, \lambda) = c^T x + \lambda^T (Ax - b) = -b^T \lambda + (A^T \lambda + c)^T x,$$

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# Weak Duality

maximize  $g(\lambda, \nu)$   
subject to  $\lambda \succeq 0$ .

minimize  $f_0(x)$   
subject to  $f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m$   
 $h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p,$

**weak duality:**  $d^* \leq p^*$

- always holds (for convex and nonconvex problems)

$p^* - d^* \longrightarrow$  optimal duality gap

- can be used to find nontrivial lower bounds for difficult problems

# Strong Duality

**strong duality:**  $d^* = p^*$

- does not hold in general
- (usually) holds for convex problems
- conditions that guarantee strong duality in convex problems are called **constraint qualifications**

# Slater's constraint qualification

Convex problem

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & Ax = b,\end{array}$$

if it is strictly feasible, *i.e.*,

$$\exists x \in \text{int } \mathcal{D} : \quad f_i(x) < 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad Ax = b$$

strong duality holds

- also guarantees that the dual optimum is attained (if  $p^* > -\infty$ )



# Slater's constraint qualification

Slater's condition can be refined when some of the inequality constraint functions are **affine**.

If the first  $k$  constraint functions  $f_1, \dots, f_k$  are affine,

$$\exists x \in \text{int } \mathcal{D} : f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \quad f_i(x) < 0, \quad i = k + 1, \dots, m, \quad Ax = b.$$

**refined Slater condition reduces to feasibility when the constraints are all linear equalities and inequalities**

# Example

Inequality form LP

**primal problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b\end{array}$$

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**dual function**

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x ((c + A^T \lambda)^T x - b^T \lambda) = \begin{cases} -b^T \lambda & A^T \lambda + c = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**dual problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \lambda + c = 0, \quad \lambda \succeq 0\end{array}$$

# Example

## Quadratic program

**primal problem** (assume  $P \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$ )

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & x^T P x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \preceq b \end{array}$$

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$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x (x^T P x + \lambda^T (Ax - b)) = -\frac{1}{4} \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda$$

**dual problem**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -(1/4) \lambda^T A P^{-1} A^T \lambda - b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & \lambda \succeq 0\end{array}$$

- in fact,  $p^* = d^*$  always

# Complementary slackness

assume strong duality holds,  $x^*$  is primal optimal,  $(\lambda^*, \nu^*)$  is dual optimal

$$f_0(x^*) = g(\lambda^*, \nu^*) = \inf_x \left( f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i^* h_i(x) \right)$$

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hence, the two inequalities hold with equality

- $x^*$  minimizes  $L(x, \lambda^*, \nu^*)$
- $\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  (known as complementary slackness):

$$\lambda_i^* > 0 \implies f_i(x^*) = 0, \quad f_i(x^*) < 0 \implies \lambda_i^* = 0$$

# Karush-Kuhn-Tucker(KKT) conditions

if strong duality holds and  $x$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\nu$  are optimal, then they must satisfy the KKT conditions

the following four conditions are called KKT conditions (for a problem with differentiable  $f_i$ ,  $h_i$ ):

1. primal constraints:  $f_i(x) \leq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $h_i(x) = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, p$
2. dual constraints:  $\lambda \succeq 0$
3. complementary slackness:  $\lambda_i f_i(x) = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$
4. gradient of Lagrangian with respect to  $x$  vanishes:

$$\nabla f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

# KKT conditions for convex problems

**When the primal problem is convex, the KKT conditions are also sufficient for the points to be primal and dual optimal.**

if  $\tilde{x}$ ,  $\tilde{\lambda}$ ,  $\tilde{\nu}$  satisfy KKT for a convex problem, then they are optimal:

- from 4th condition (and convexity):  $g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}) &= L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu}) \\ &= f_0(\tilde{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{\lambda}_i f_i(\tilde{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{\nu}_i h_i(\tilde{x}) \\ &= f_0(\tilde{x}), \end{aligned}$$

- from complementary slackness:  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = L(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$  hence,  $f_0(\tilde{x}) = g(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

for any convex optimization problem with differentiable objective and constraint functions, any points that satisfy the KKT conditions are primal and dual optimal, and have zero duality gap.

# Example

## Equality constrained convex quadratic minimization

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & (1/2)x^T Px + q^T x + r \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b,\end{array}$$

$$P \in \mathbf{S}_+^n$$

KKT conditions for this problem

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KKT conditions for this problem

$$Ax^* = b$$

$$Px^* + q + A^T \nu^* = 0,$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} P & A^T \\ A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x^* \\ \nu^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -q \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

# Duality and problem reformulations



- ✓ equivalent formulations of a problem can lead to very different duals
- ✓ reformulating the primal problem can be useful when the dual is difficult to derive, or uninteresting

# The conjugate function

the conjugate of a function  $f$  is

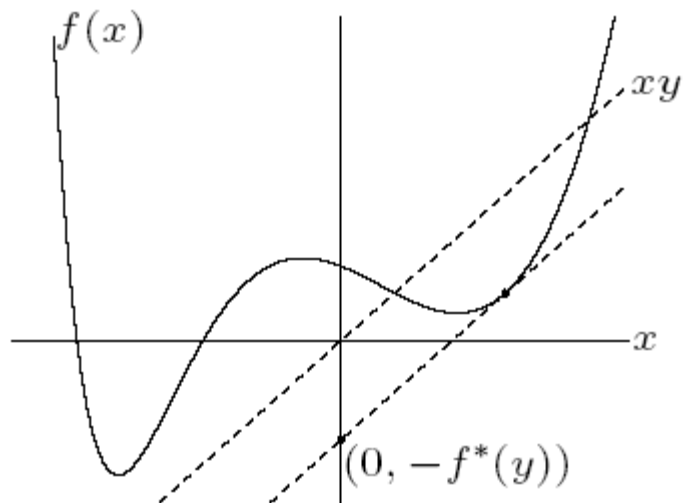
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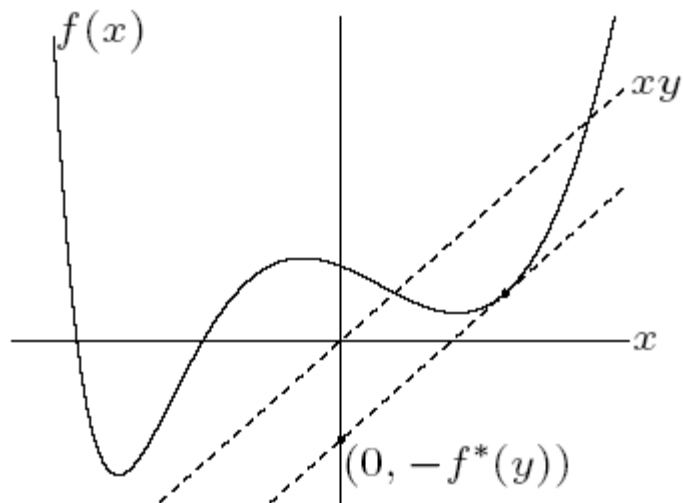


- $f^*$  is convex (even if  $f$  is not)

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$f$  is convex and differentiable



maximum gap occurs in  $y = \nabla f(x^*)$

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reformulated problem and its dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(y) \\ \text{subject to} & Ax + b - y = 0 \end{array}$$

dual function follows from

$$g(\nu) = \inf_{x,y} (f_0(y) - \nu^T y + \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu)$$

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$$g(\nu) = \inf_{x,y} (f_0(y) - \nu^T y + \nu^T Ax + b^T \nu) = \begin{cases} -f_0^*(\nu) + b^T \nu & A^T \nu = 0 \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$b^T \nu + \inf_y (f_0(y) - \nu^T y) = b^T \nu - f_0^*(\nu),$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & b^T \nu - f_0^*(\nu) \\ \text{subject to} & A^T \nu = 0. \end{array}$$

# Dual Norm

Let  $\|\cdot\|$  be a norm on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . The associated *dual norm*, denoted  $\|\cdot\|_*$ , is defined as

$$\|z\|_* = \sup\{z^T x \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$$

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The dual of the Euclidean norm is the Euclidean norm

The dual of the  $\ell_1$ -norm is the  $\ell_\infty$ -norm

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the dual of the  $\ell_p$ -norm is the  $\ell_q$ -norm, where  $q$  satisfies  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ .



# Example

Norm

$$f(x) = \|x\|$$

$$f^*(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \|y\|_* \leq 1 \\ \infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\|z\|_* = \sup\{z^T x \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$$

the dual of the  $\ell_p$ -norm is the  $\ell_q$ -norm, where  $q$  satisfies  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ .

$\|y\|_* \leq 1 \longrightarrow$  for all  $x$ ,  $y^T x - \|x\| \leq 0 \longrightarrow$  maximum value 0

$z \in \mathbf{R}^n$  with  $\|z\| \leq 1$  and

$\|y\|_* > 1 \longrightarrow y^T z > 1$ . Taking  $x = tz$  and letting  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\longrightarrow$

$$y^T x - \|x\| = t(y^T z - \|z\|) \rightarrow \infty,$$

# Implicit constraints

LP with box constraints:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & -1 \preceq x \preceq 1\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \nu - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_1 - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_2 \\ \text{subject to} & c + A^T \nu + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ & \lambda_1 \succeq 0, \quad \lambda_2 \succeq 0\end{array}$$

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## LP with box constraints:

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$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \nu - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_1 - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_2 \\ \text{subject to} & c + A^T \nu + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ & \lambda_1 \succeq 0, \quad \lambda_2 \succeq 0\end{array}$$

reformulation with box constraints made implicit

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) = \begin{cases} c^T x & -1 \preceq x \preceq 1 \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

# Implicit constraints

## LP with box constraints:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b \\ & -1 \preceq x \preceq 1\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{maximize} & -b^T \nu - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_1 - \mathbf{1}^T \lambda_2 \\ \text{subject to} & c + A^T \nu + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ & \lambda_1 \succeq 0, \quad \lambda_2 \succeq 0\end{array}$$

reformulation with box constraints made implicit

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x) = \begin{cases} c^T x & -1 \preceq x \preceq 1 \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \text{subject to} & Ax = b\end{array}$$

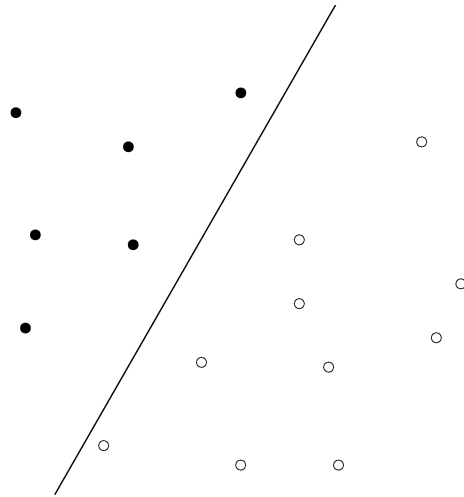
$$\begin{aligned} g(\nu) &= \inf_{-1 \preceq x \preceq 1} (c^T x + \nu^T (Ax - b)) \\ &= -b^T \nu - \|A^T \nu + c\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{maximize } -b^T \nu - \|A^T \nu + c\|_1$$

# CLASSIFICATION

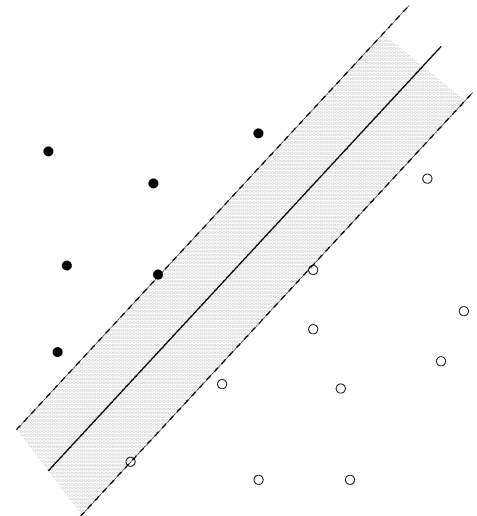


# Support vector machines



$$g(x) = w^T x + w_0$$

$\{x_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}$  two classes,  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ ,



# Support vector machines

- OBJECTIVE: Maximize distance between two hyperplane  $\frac{2}{||W||^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \frac{1}{2} w^T w \\ & w^T x_i + w_0 \geq +1 \\ & w^T x_i + w_0 \leq -1 \end{aligned} \quad x \in \begin{cases} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \end{cases}$$

# Support vector machines

- OBJECTIVE: Maximize distance between two hyperplane  $\frac{2}{||W||^2}$

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$\omega_1$  with corresponding numeric value,  $y_i = +1$

$\omega_2$  with corresponding numeric value,  $y_i = -1$

$$w^T x_i + w_0 \geq +1 \quad \text{for } y_i = +1$$

$$w^T x_i + w_0 \leq -1 \quad \text{for } y_i = -1$$

$$y_i(w^T x_i + w_0) \geq 1 \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$



# Support vector machines

$$\min \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

$$y_i(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + w_0) \geq 1 \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Lagrangian

$$L_p = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (y_i(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + w_0) - 1)$$

# Support vector machines

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Lagrangian

$$L_p = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (y_i(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + w_0) - 1)$$

Differentiating  $L_p$  with respect to  $w_0$  and  $\mathbf{w}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i$$

# Support vector machines

Dual Function g

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

Dual problem

$$\text{Max } L_D = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$

$$\alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

# Support vector machines

Dual Function g

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

Dual problem

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max} \quad & L_D = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j \\ & \alpha_i \geq 0 \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$

inner products of  
patterns,  $\mathbf{x}_i$

nonlinear support  
vector machines

# KKT conditions

4<sup>th</sup> condition

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

# KKT conditions

4<sup>th</sup> condition

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

Complementary Slackness

$$\alpha_i (y_i (x_i^T w + w_0) - 1) = 0$$

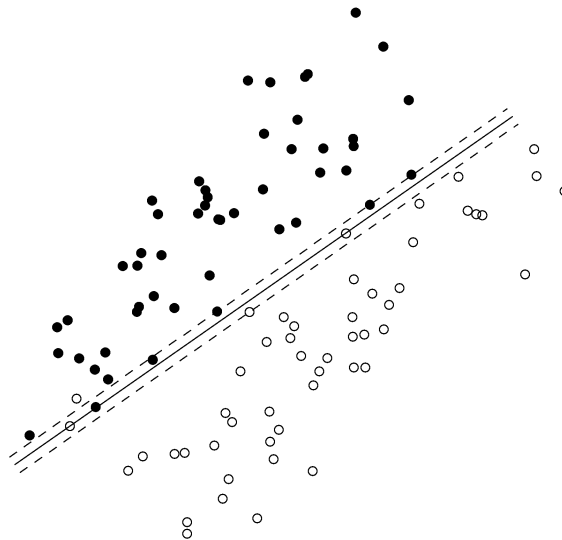


Nonzero dual optimal

$$y_i (x_i^T w + w_0) - 1 = 0$$

Support Vectors

# Linearly nonseparable two-class data



- ✓ two sets of points cannot be linearly separated
- ✓ seek an affine function that approximately classifies the points
- ✓ relax the constraints by introducing nonnegative variables

$$\begin{aligned} w^T x_i + w_0 &\geq +1 - \xi_i & \text{for } y_i = +1 \\ w^T x_i + w_0 &\leq -1 + \xi_i & \text{for } y_i = -1 \\ \xi_i &\geq 0 & i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

# Linearly nonseparable two-class data

'regularisation' parameter

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_i \xi_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + w_0) &\geq 1 - \xi_i & i = 1, \dots, n \\ \xi_i &\geq 0 & i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$



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Lagrangian

$$L_p = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_i \xi_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (y_i(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i + w_0) - 1 + \xi_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \xi_i$$

Differentiating  $L_p$  with respect to  $w_0$ ,  $w$  and  $\xi$

$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0 \quad C - \alpha_i - r_i = 0$$

# Linearly nonseparable two-class data

Dual Function g

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

Dual problem

$$L_D = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{x}_j$$
$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y_i = 0 \quad 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C$$