Support Vector Machines

Motivations
Hyperplanes
Maximal Marging classifier
Support Vector classifier
Kernel trick
Other topics
SVM or Logistic Regression

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Motivations Support Vector classifier

In the classification context, try to separate a two-class population by a plane or an hyperplane (p > 2)

- Maximal Margin classifier, which is translated in a convex optimization problem;
- When the frontier is clearly non linear, we can use the kernel trick: convert the problem in another (bigger) space where the frontier will be more regular.
- History, one of most successful approach at the end of 90's (V.Vapnik)

Figures Hyperplanes

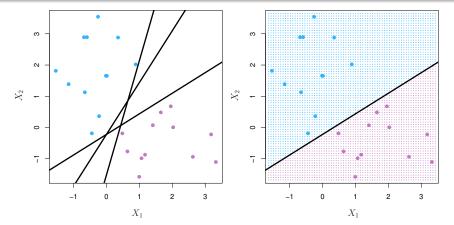


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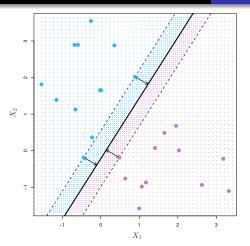
- On the left, three separating hyperplanes
- On the right, a separating hyperplane with the associated regions

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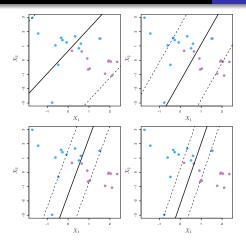


 Among all separating hyperplanes, find the one that makes the biggest gap or margin between the two classes.

Constrained optimization problem

- The preceding problem could be translated in : $maximize_{(\beta_1,...,\beta_p)}M$ subject to $\sum_{i=1}^p \beta_i^2 = 1$ and $y_i(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{i1} + ... \beta_p x_{ip}) \ge M$ for all i = 1...p
- This can be rephrased as a convex quadratic program, and solved efficiently by the function svm() in R-package e1071.

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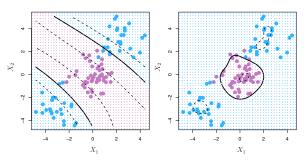
 Taking in account the case when there is no separating hyperplane, we relax the constraint

Constrained optimization problem with relaxation

- C is a regularization parameter

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- This is a basis transformation which take in account non-linearities :
 - 1 Polynomial expansion (left)
 - 2 New space, new variables (right)



Kernel trick is a change of base

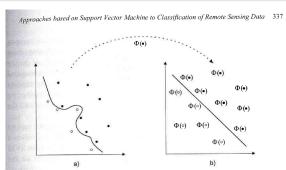
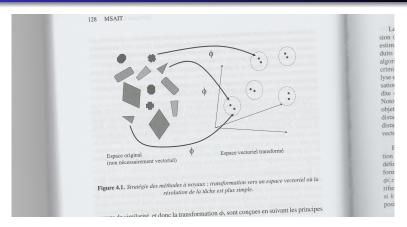


Fig. 2. Transformation of the input data by means of a kernel function into a high dimension feature space. a) Input feature space; b) kernel induced high dimensional feature space.

This is a basis transformation which take in account non-linearities



Kernel trick is a change of base



• The original set may even not be a vector space

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- Compare SVM and Neural Network (two layers)
- More than two classes classification : OVA (One versus All), OVO (One versus One)

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Which to use: SVM or Logistic Regression?

- When classes are (nearly) separable, SVM does better than LR. So does LDA.
- When not, LR (with ridge penalty) and SVM very similar.
- If you wish to estimate probabilities, LR is the choice.
 Computation of a confident interval (CI).
- For nonlinear boundaries, kernel SVMs are popular. Can use kernels with LR and LDA as well, but computations are more expensive.