

CSE 417T

# Introduction to Machine Learning

Lecture 18

Instructor: Chien-Ju (CJ) Ho

# Logistics

- Homework 4 is due April 1 (Friday)
- Keep track of your own late days
  - Gradescope doesn't allow separate deadlines
  - Your submissions **won't be graded** if you exceed the late-day limit
- Homework 5 will be announced early next week
  - This will be our last assignment

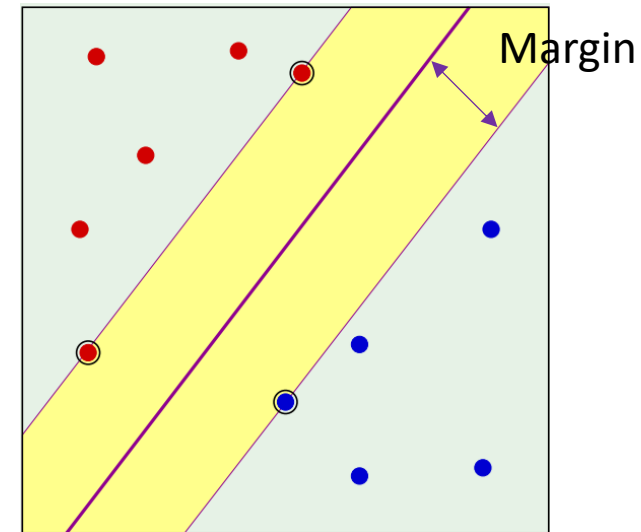
Recap

# Support Vector Machine

- Goal: Find the **max-margin** linear separator that separates the data
- **Hard-Margin SVM** (Assume data is linearly separable)

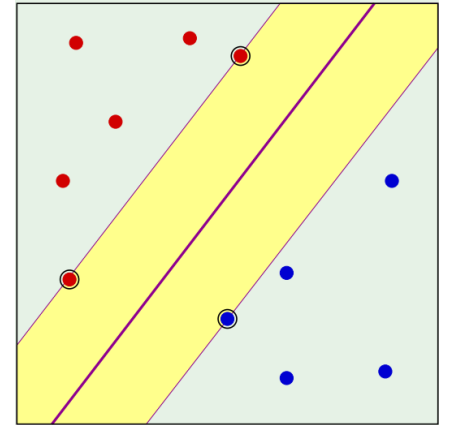
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b} & \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \\ \text{subject to} & y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1, \forall n \end{array}$$

- Solvable using Quadratic Program (QP)
- Given solution  $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ , the learned hypothesis  $g(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\vec{w}^{*T} \vec{x} + b^*)$



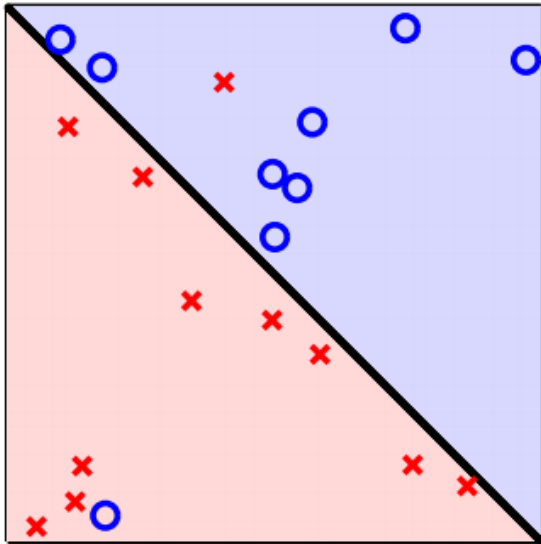
# Support Vectors

- We call the points closest to the separator **(candidate) support vectors**
  - Since they **support** the separator
- What are the properties of (candidate) support vectors?
  - They are the points that the equality holds in the constraints
    - If  $\vec{x}_n$  is a support vector,  $y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) = 1$
  - Removing the non-support vectors will not impact the linear separator
- Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation (LOOCV) error for SVM?
  - $E_{LOOCV} \leq \frac{\text{\# support vectors}}{N}$  (an upper bound, could be smaller)

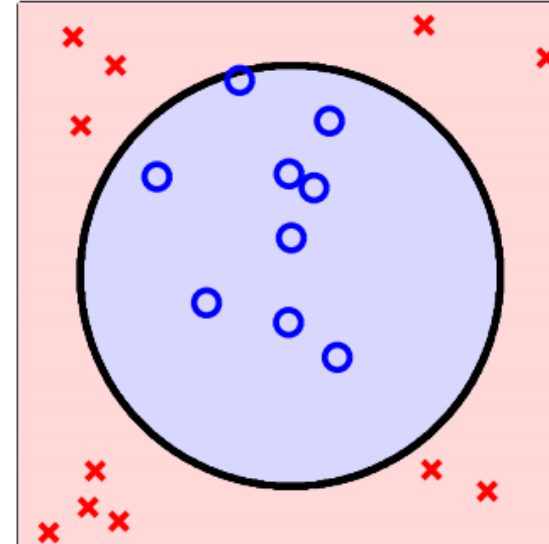


# Non-Separable Data

- Two scenarios



- Tolerate some noise
  - Soft-Margin SVM

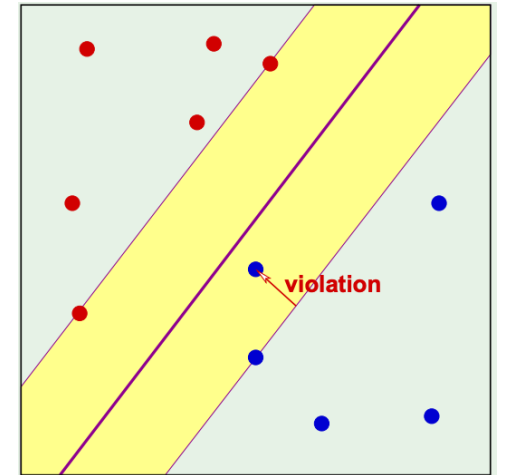


- Nonlinear transform
  - Dual formulation and kernel tricks

# Soft-Margin SVM

- For each point  $(\vec{x}_n, y_n)$ , we allow a violation  $\xi_n \geq 0$ 
  - The constraint becomes:  $y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1 - \xi_n$
  - We add a penalty for each violation : Total penalty  $C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b, \vec{\xi}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n \\ & \text{subject to} \quad y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1 - \xi_n, \forall n \\ & \quad \quad \quad \xi_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$



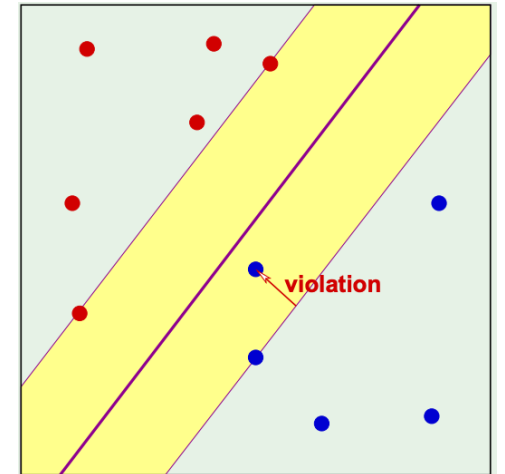
Remarks:

- $C$  is a hyper-parameter we can choose, e.g., using validation
  - Larger  $C \Rightarrow$  less tolerable to noise  $\Rightarrow$  smaller margin
- Soft-margin SVM is still a Quadratic Program, with efficient solvers

# Soft-Margin SVM

- For each point  $(\vec{x}_n, y_n)$ , we allow a violation  $\xi_n \geq 0$ 
  - The constraint becomes:  $y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1 - \xi_n$
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$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b, \vec{\xi}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n \\ & \text{subject to} \quad y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1 - \xi_n, \forall n \\ & \quad \quad \quad \xi_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

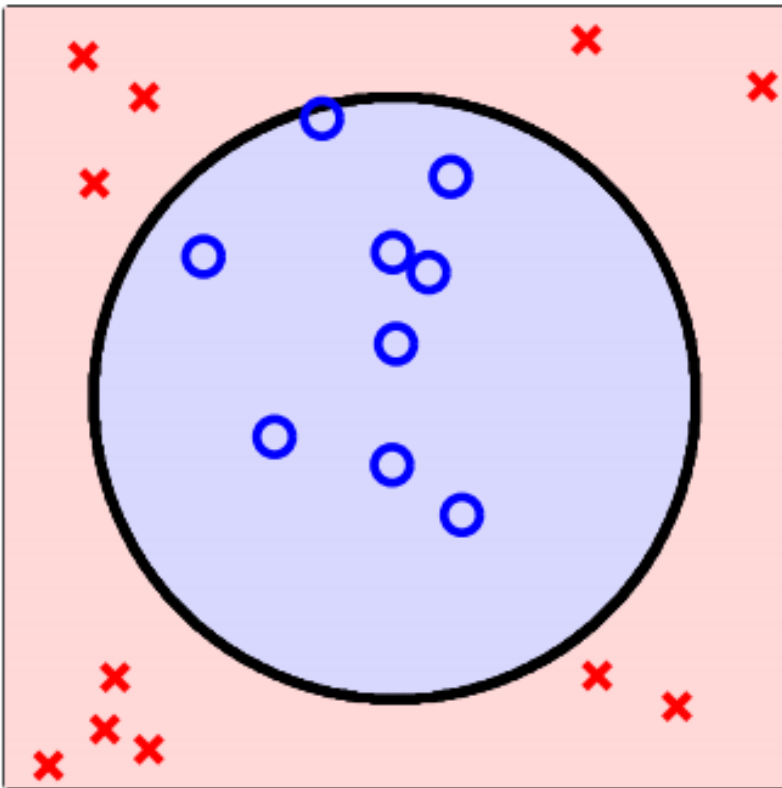


Additional Remarks: Think about  $\xi_n$

- $\xi_n = 0$ :  $\vec{x}_n$  is outside of the margin
- $\xi_n \in (0, 1)$ :  $\vec{x}_n$  is correctly classified, but inside the margin
- $\xi_n \geq 1$ :  $\vec{x}_n$  is incorrectly classified



# What if Tolerating Small Noises Is Not Enough



Nonlinear transform

We can apply standard nonlinear transformation procedure we talked about before

In SVM, we can combine the ideas of **dual formulation** and **kernel tricks** for the transformation

This is one of the key ingredients that makes SVM powerful

# Today's Lecture

**(Get prepared for heavier math today...)**

The notes are not intended to be comprehensive. They should be accompanied by lectures and/or textbook.  
Let me know if you spot errors.

# Lagrangian Duality and Convex Optimization

[The next few slides are [safe to skip](#) for the exam,  
but they contain useful concepts for optimization/ML]

# Convex Optimization

- Standard form of convex optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} & f(\vec{w}) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{array}$$

Objective

Inequality constraints

Equality constraints

- Convex program

- $f$  and  $g_i$  are **convex** and  $h_j$  are **affine**
- Mostly implies the existence of efficient solvers
- Special cases

- Linear program:  $f, g_i, h_j$  are all affine
- Quadratic program:  $f$  is quadratic;  $g_i$  and  $h_j$  are affine

An affine function is in the form of  $A\vec{w} + \vec{b}$

[Safe to Skip for the Exam]

# Lagrangian

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} & f(\vec{w}) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{array}$$

- The Lagrangian of the convex program can be written as

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

- Couple each inequality constraint  $g_i$  with a dual variable  $\alpha_i$
  - Couple each equality constraint  $h_j$  with a dual variable  $\beta_j$
- Think about the following expression

$$\max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = \begin{cases} & \text{if all constraints are satisfied} \\ & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Lagrangian

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} & f(\vec{w}) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{array}$$

- The Lagrangian of the convex program can be written as

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- Couple each inequality constraint  $g_i$  with a dual variable  $\alpha_i$
  - Couple each equality constraint  $h_j$  with a dual variable  $\beta_j$
- Think about the following expression

$$\max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = \begin{cases} f(\vec{w}), & \text{if all constraints are satisfied} \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Primal-Dual Formulation

- **Primal** problem (the standard form of convex optimization)

$$\min_{\vec{w}} \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

- **Dual** problem

$$\max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

Reminders of definitions:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} f(\vec{w}) \\ &\text{subject to } g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ &\quad h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{aligned}$$

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

- Minimax theorem [von Neumann, 1928]:

For convex programs, under mild conditions,

$$\min_{\vec{w}} \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

[Safe to Skip for the Exam]

# Minimax Theorem [von Neumann, 1928]

$$\min_{\vec{w}} \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

- Remarks
  - The **optimal primal** is the same as the **optimal dual** for (most) convex programs!
    - We can work on a different problem space to address the original problem
    - We'll demonstrate the usage of this in SVM, but it's also useful in other applications
  - This is an important result in many areas -- e.g., it is considered as the starting point of game theory (two-player zero-sum game).
- Now we know the objectives of the optimal dual and the optimal primal are the same. **How are the optimal solutions related?**



# Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions

Lagrangian:

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

Primal:  $\min_{\vec{w}} \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$

Dual:  $\max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$

- The optimal solutions  $(\vec{w}^*, \vec{\alpha}^*, \vec{\beta}^*)$  satisfy the following conditions
  - Stationary condition:  $\nabla_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}^*, \vec{\beta}^*)|_{\vec{w}=\vec{w}^*} = \vec{0}$
  - Primal feasibility:  $g_i(\vec{w}^*) \leq 0 ; h_j(\vec{w}^*) = 0$  for all  $(i, j)$
  - Dual feasibility:  $\alpha_i^* \geq 0$  for all  $i$
  - Complementary slackness:  $\alpha_i^* g_i(\vec{w}^*) = 0$  for all  $i$

# Short Break and Questions

Reminders of definitions in general convex program:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} & f(\vec{w}) \\ \text{subject to} & g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{array}$$

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

$$\text{Primal: } \min_{\vec{w}} \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

$$\text{Dual: } \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

Exercise:

Remember the weight-decay regularization:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} & E_{in}(\vec{w}) \\ \text{subject to} & \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \leq C \end{array}$$

Use what we talked about to write the unconstrained optimization problem.

# Dual SVM

1. Derive the corresponding dual from hard-margin SVM
2. Connect optimal primal solution with optimal dual solution using KKT conditions

# Derive the Dual for Hard-Margin SVM

- Hard-margin SVM

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b} \quad \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \\ & \text{subject to} \quad y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

- First write down the Lagrangian

Reminders of definitions in general convex program:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} \quad f(\vec{w}) \\ & \text{subject to} \quad g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & \quad \quad \quad h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{aligned}$$

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

$$\text{Dual: } \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

# Derive the Dual for Hard-Margin SVM

- Hard-margin SVM

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b} \quad \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \\ & \text{subject to} \quad y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

Reminders of definitions in general convex program:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}} \quad f(\vec{w}) \\ & \text{subject to} \quad g_i(\vec{w}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & \quad \quad \quad h_j(\vec{w}) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell \end{aligned}$$

$$L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) = f(\vec{w}) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(\vec{w}) + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \beta_j h_j(\vec{w})$$

$$\text{Dual: } \max_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$$

- First write down the Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) &= \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n (1 - y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \end{aligned}$$

- Dual

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

- Lagrangian  $L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b)$
- Dual  $\max_{\vec{\alpha}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$  (the variables in the dual are  $\vec{\alpha}$ )
- Derivations
  - Express  $\vec{w}$  and  $b$  using  $\vec{\alpha}$  in the dual objective  $\min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$
  - Solve for  $\nabla_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0$

- Lagrangian  $L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b)$
- Dual  $\max_{\vec{\alpha}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$  (the variables in the dual are  $\vec{\alpha}$ )
- Derivations
  - Express  $\vec{w}$  and  $b$  using  $\vec{\alpha}$  in the dual objective  $\min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$ 
    - Solve for  $\nabla_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0$ 
      - $\nabla_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{w} - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n$
      - $\nabla_b L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0$
    - Plug  $\vec{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n$  into  $L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$ 
      - $\frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m$
      - $\sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m + b \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n$
  - $\min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m$

- Lagrangian  $L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b)$
- Dual  $\max_{\vec{\alpha}; \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$  (the variables in the dual are  $\vec{\alpha}$ )

Dual Constraint

- Derivations

- Express  $\vec{w}$  and  $b$  using  $\vec{\alpha}$  in the dual objective  $\min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$

- Solve for  $\nabla_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0$

- $\nabla_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{w} - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n$

- $\nabla_b L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0$

Dual Constraint

- Plug  $\vec{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \vec{x}_n$  into  $L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha})$

- $\frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m$

- $\sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m + b \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n$

- $\min_{\vec{w}, b} L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m$

Dual Objective



# Dual SVM

- Dual of the hard-margin SVM

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize}_{\vec{\alpha}} \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m \\ & \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0 \\ & \quad \alpha_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

- The dual is still a Quadratic Program, with efficient solvers to find  $\vec{\alpha}^*$
- We know that the objective of the optimal dual is the same as the optimal primal
- Say we obtain  $\vec{\alpha}^*$ , how do we recover the optimal primal  $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ ?
  - Apply KKT conditions

# Recover $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ from $\vec{\alpha}^*$

- Using stationary conditions in KKT

- $\nabla_{\vec{w}} L(\vec{w}, b^*, \vec{\alpha}^*)|_{\vec{w}=\vec{w}^*} = \vec{0}$

- $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$

- Since  $\alpha_n^* \geq 0$ , we can rewrite  $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$

$$L(\vec{w}, b, \vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b)$$

- Using complementary slackness in KKT

- $\alpha_n^* (1 - y_n (\vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^* + b^*)) = 0$

- Find a  $\alpha_n^* > 0$ , we have  $y_n (\vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^* + b^*) = 1$

- Since  $y_n \in \{+1, -1\}$ , we have  $\vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^* + b^* = y_n$

- Therefore,

- $b^* = y_n - \vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^*$  (with  $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$ )

Note that  $\vec{w}^T \vec{x} = \vec{x}^T \vec{w}$ .

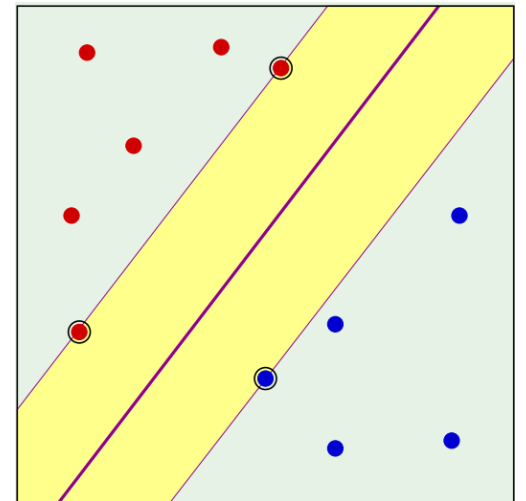
I swapped the order to avoid two superscripts in  $\vec{w}$

# Recover $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ from $\vec{\alpha}^*$

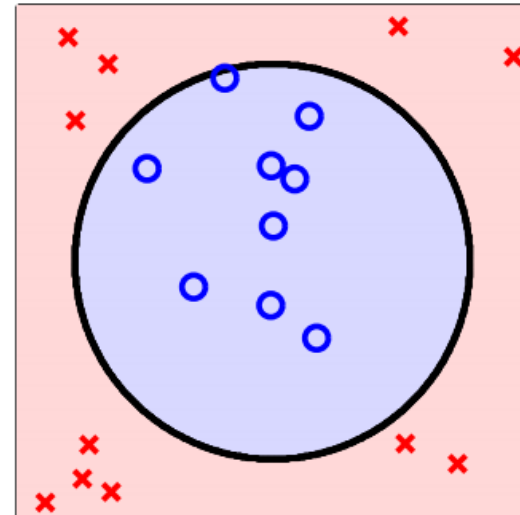
- Solve the dual and find  $\vec{\alpha}^*$ 
  - $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$
  - $b^* = y_n - \vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^*$  for some  $\alpha_n^* > 0$
  - $g(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\vec{w}^{*T} \vec{x} + b^*)$
- What does  $\alpha_n^* > 0$  imply?
  - Complementary slackness  $\alpha_n^* (1 - y_n (\vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^* + b^*)) = 0$
  - $\alpha_n^* > 0 \Rightarrow y_n (\vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^* + b^*) = 1$
- $\alpha_n^* > 0 \Rightarrow (\vec{x}_n, y_n)$  is the **support vector**
  - $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$  is the linear combination of support vectors!
  - **Support vector** machine!

# Support Vectors

- Primal point of view
  - We call the points closest to the separator (candidate) support vectors
  - They are the points that the equality holds in the constraints
    - If  $\vec{x}_n$  is a support vector,  $y_n(\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) = 1$
  - Removing the non-support vectors will not impact the linear separator
- Dual point of view
  - If  $\alpha_n^* > 0 \Rightarrow (\vec{x}_n, y_n)$  is the support vector
  - The optimal separator  $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ 
    - $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$
    - $b^* = y_n - \vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^*$  for some  $\alpha_n^* > 0$
  - $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$  can be defined by “support vectors”
    - Support vector machine!



# Nonlinear Transform and Kernel Tricks



# Primal-Dual Formulations of Hard-Margin SVM

- Primal

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b} \quad \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \\ &\text{subject to} \quad y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{x}_n + b) \geq 1, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

Given optimal  $\vec{\alpha}^*$ :

- $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \vec{x}_n$
- Find a  $\alpha_n^* > 0$ ,  $b^* = y_n - \vec{x}_n^T \vec{w}^*$

- Dual

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximize}_{\vec{\alpha}} \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0 \\ &\quad \quad \quad \alpha_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

- Both can be efficiently solved using QP solvers
- We can infer the solution from one to the other

# Nonlinear Transform: $\vec{z} = \Phi(\vec{x})$

- Primal

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize}_{\vec{w}, b} & \frac{1}{2} \vec{w}^T \vec{w} \\ \text{subject to} & y_n (\vec{w}^T \vec{z}_n + b) \geq 1, \forall n \end{array}$$

Involves changing  $\vec{w}$  and  $\vec{z}$ .  
The computation grows as the dimension of the  $\vec{z}$  space grows

- Dual

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize}_{\vec{\alpha}} & \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{z}_n^T \vec{z}_m \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0 \\ & \alpha_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{array}$$

The only difference is from calculating  $\vec{x}_n^T \vec{x}_m$  to  $\vec{z}_n^T \vec{z}_m$

- Intuition: If we can find an efficient way to calculate  $\vec{z}_n^T \vec{z}_m$ , we can derive the optimal dual to infer the optimal primal.
  - Doing nonlinear transform without sacrificing much about computation.

# Example: 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Polynomial Transform

- $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2)$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial transform
  - $\vec{z} = \Phi_2(\vec{x}) = (1, \sqrt{2}x_1, \sqrt{2}x_2, \sqrt{2}x_1x_2, x_1^2, x_2^2)$

We define the transform slightly differently

- The  $\sqrt{2}$  and the initial 1 are not in the original transform, but we include them for convenience.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{z}^T \vec{z}' &= 1 + 2x_1x_1' + 2x_2x_2' + 2x_1x_1'x_2x_2' + x_1^2x_1'^2 + x_2^2x_2'^2 \\ &= 1 + 2x_1x_1' + 2x_2x_2' + 2x_1x_1'x_2x_2' + (x_1x_1')^2 + (x_2x_2')^2 \\ &= (1 + x_1x_1' + x_2x_2')^2 \\ &= (1 + \vec{x}^T \vec{x}')^2\end{aligned}$$

- We can calculate  $\vec{z}^T \vec{z}'$  from the operation in the  $\vec{x}$  space!



# Kernel Functions

- Define kernel function  $K_{\Phi}(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = \Phi(\vec{x})^T \Phi(\vec{x}')$ 
  - The similarity of two vectors in the projected space
- Goal: Compute  $K_{\Phi}(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')$  **without** transforming  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{x}'$
- Why? This enables us to operate in the higher dimensional space without really worrying about the computational overhead.

# Kernel Trick: Utilize Dual and Kernel Functions

- The dual with nonlinear transform

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize}_{\vec{\alpha}} \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m \vec{z}_n^T \vec{z}_m \\ & \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0 \\ & \quad \alpha_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

- Plug in the kernel function  $K_{\Phi}(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = \Phi(\vec{x})^T \Phi(\vec{x}')$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize}_{\vec{\alpha}} \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^N \alpha_n \alpha_m y_n y_m K_{\Phi}(\vec{x}_n, \vec{x}_m) \\ & \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0 \\ & \quad \alpha_n \geq 0, \forall n \end{aligned}$$

- If the kernel can be computed efficiently, we can solve  $\vec{\alpha}^*$  efficiently.
- With kernel tricks, we can avoid the dependency on the dimension of  $\vec{z}$

# Recover $(\vec{w}^*, b^*)$ from $\vec{\alpha}^*$ with Kernel Tricks

- Note that  $\vec{\alpha}^*$  is solved in the  $\vec{z}$  space

- $\vec{w}^* = \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \Phi(\vec{x}_n)$
- Find a  $\alpha_n^* > 0$ ,  $b^* = y_n - \vec{w}^{*T} \Phi(\vec{x}_n)$
- We want to avoid the transformation!

- Let's look at the hypothesis  $g(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\vec{w}^{*T} \Phi(\vec{x}) + b^*)$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{w}^{*T} \Phi(\vec{x}) &= \left( \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \Phi(\vec{x}_n) \right)^T \Phi(\vec{x}) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n \Phi(\vec{x}_n)^T \Phi(\vec{x}) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha_n^* > 0} \alpha_n^* y_n K(\vec{x}_n, \vec{x})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}b^* &= y_n - \vec{w}^{*T} \Phi(\vec{x}_n) \text{ (for some } n \text{ that } \alpha_n^* > 0\text{)} \\ &= y_n - \left( \sum_{\alpha_m^* > 0} \alpha_m^* y_m \Phi(\vec{x}_m) \right)^T \Phi(\vec{x}_n) \\ &= y_n - \sum_{\alpha_m^* > 0} \alpha_m^* y_m K(\vec{x}_m, \vec{x}_n)\end{aligned}$$

- Utilize **support vectors** to make predictions on  $\vec{x}$ 
  - Still can be computed in the  $\vec{x}$  space!