SVM and their use in IR

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Outline

1 SVM over linearly separable data

SVM over non linearly separable data

SVM use in IR



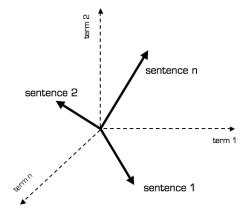
Vector Space

Suppose you have to classify whether a document is *relevant* or not. We can think to use *terms* as features to divide properly the data. We will use a *t-dimensional* vector space to represent our documents.



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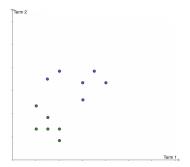
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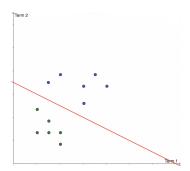
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Support Vectors

In the previous example the *decision boundary* is a line, represented by the equation $a + bt_1 + ct_2 = 0$. We can introduce two parallels hyperplanes (lines) to the decision boundary, called *support vectors* whose equations are

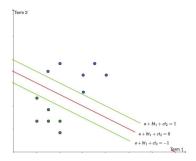
$$\begin{cases} a + bt_1 + ct_2 = 1\\ a + bt_1 + ct_2 = -1 \end{cases}$$
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We can consider two points x_1, x_2 that lie respectively on the two support vectors, their distance is $\lambda ||b|| = \frac{2}{\sqrt{b^T b}}$.

SVM are used to find the *maximum margin linear classifier*, thus we want to maximize the margin.



Cost Function

Remembering we want to classify documents, our goal is to find specific b s.t. given a document x belonging to class y the decision boundary behave the following:

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We can define the *cost function* as a system of equations.

$$\begin{cases} \min_{b,a} \frac{\sqrt{b^T b}}{2} \\ subject \ to \quad y_i(b^T x_i + a) \ge 1 \quad \forall x_i \end{cases}$$
 (4)



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The new cost function will be

$$\begin{cases} \min_{b,a} \frac{\sqrt{b^T b}}{2} + C \sum_i \xi_i \\ subject \ to \quad y_i(b^T x_i + a) \ge 1 - \xi_i \quad and \ \xi_i > 0 \quad \forall x_i \end{cases}$$
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Visualization

The larger is C the stricter the classification is, since a larger C will give more evidence to slack variables.

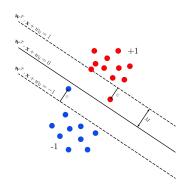
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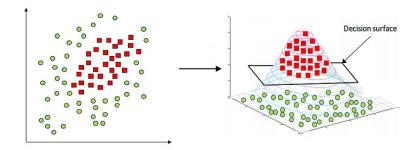
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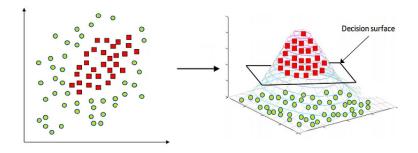
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Non linearly separable data

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But augmenting dimensions costs a lot...



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Instead of doing the complex computations in the 10-dimensional space, we reach the same result within the 3-dimensional space by calculating the dot product.



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$$\forall l_i \, similarity(x, l^{(i)}) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - l^{(i)}\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \tag{8}$$

The result will be a mapping for each point in a n-dimensional space. Finally, we can identify an hyperplane which can divide correctly the two classes of points.



Pratical application

An hybrid technique used in the IR field will be presented; it uses two components:

- **K-Means**: model for unsupervised classification;
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K-means algorithm is one of the most used clustering algorithms. It consists of partitioning unlabeled objects into k classes, where k is no predefined.

A brief explanation will follow.



K-means

The aim is to create clusters that contain *similar documents*. Given a training set $x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \ldots, x^{(m)}$, the algorithm used is the following:



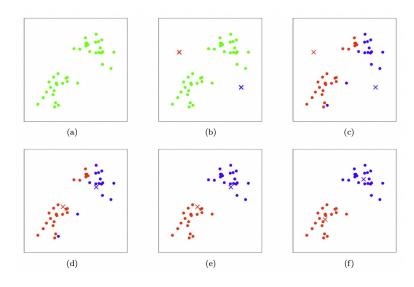
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```
1: K \leftarrow random Value
                                                                ▷ multiple K will be tried
 2: procedure K-MEANS(K)
          initialize cluster centroids \mu_1, \ldots, \mu_k randomly.
 3:
 4:
          repeat until convergence{
 5:
               for i \leftarrow 1 to m do
                   c^{(i)} = arg \ min_i ||x^{(i)} - \mu_i||
                                                                 \triangleright Closest centroid to x^{(i)}
 6:
               end for
 7:
               for k \leftarrow 1 to K do
 8:
                   \mu_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} m \{c^{(i)} = j\} x^{(i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} m \{c^{(i)} = j\}}
                                                             ▶ New centroid of cluster k
 9:
               end for
10:
11:
12: end procedure
```



Visual explanation





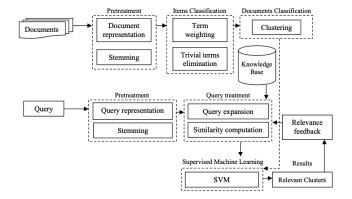
Hybrid IR System

The proposed system can be summarized by the following figure:



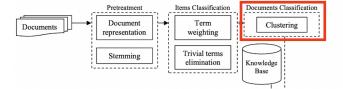
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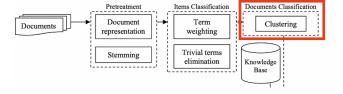


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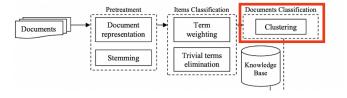


First part consist of text pre-processing, followed by a vector representation of each document.

Next, there is the clustering phase.



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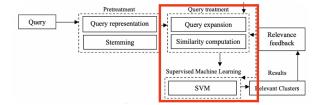
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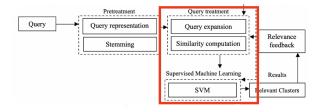
Using *k-means*, documents are classified into classes of similar vectors according to the retained terms and the similarity used.

Finally, terms are classified as *Trivial*, *Decisive* or *Standard*. Only the last two are preserved and used as indicator of the class.



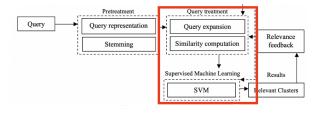






A given user query is first stemmed and represented by a vector (as for documents).

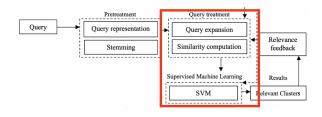




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So, this process allows the selection of documents from the returned class to return first. [1]



References

[1] Galen Erso. "Construction plans of the Death Star 1 Orbital Battle Station". In: *Journal of Horrible Plot Flaws* 2 (0BBY), pp. 1977–2015.