

Dual problem of linear SVM

Primal
problem
(*)

$$\min_{w, b} \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \forall i=1, \dots, N: C_i(w, b) \leq 0 \quad \text{where}$$
$$C_i(w, b) := 1 - y_i (\langle w, x_i \rangle + b)$$

Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\underbrace{w, b}_{\text{convex}}, \underbrace{\lambda}_{\text{affine in } (w, b)}) := \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i (1 - y_i (\langle w, x_i \rangle + b))$$

\Rightarrow strong duality by Slater's condition

We can
solve the
dual problem

$$(*) \Leftrightarrow \max_{\lambda_i \geq 0} g(\lambda) \quad \text{where}$$

$$\underline{g(\lambda)} := \inf_{w, b} \mathcal{L}(w, b, \lambda)$$

minimize
 $\mathcal{L}(w, b, \lambda)$
wrt w, b
 $\forall \lambda$

find $w^*(\lambda), b^*(\lambda)$ satisfying

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial w_i} (w^*(\lambda), b^*(\lambda), \lambda) = 0 \quad \forall i \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b} (w^*(\lambda), b^*(\lambda), \lambda) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial \omega_j} = \omega_j^* - \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i y_i (x_i)_j = 0 \Rightarrow \omega^*(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i y_i x_i$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} = - \sum_i \lambda_i y_i = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i y_i = 0$$

(both $\forall \lambda$)

↓

$$d(\omega^*(\lambda), b^*(\lambda), \lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \|\omega^*(\lambda)\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i (1 - y_i (\langle \omega^*(\lambda), x_i \rangle + b^*(\lambda)))$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \textcircled{1} \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j y_i y_j \langle x_i, x_j \rangle + \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i - \\ &\quad - \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j y_i y_j \langle x_i, x_j \rangle - \underbrace{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i y_i \right) b^*(\lambda)}_{=0} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i \lambda_j y_i y_j \langle x_i, x_j \rangle =: f(\lambda)$$

$$\text{st. } \sum \lambda_i y_i = 0$$