SVM

**In classification tasks a discriminant machine learning technique aims at finding, based on an *independent and identically distributed* (*iid*) training dataset, a discriminant function that can correctly predict labels fornewly acquired instances. Unlike generative machine learning approaches, which require computations ofconditional probability distributions, a discriminant classification function takes a data point *x* and assignsit to one of the different classes that are a part of the classification task. Less powerful than generativeapproaches, which are mostly used when prediction involves outlier detection, discriminant approachesrequire fewer computational resources and less training data, especially for a multidimensional featurespace and when only posterior probabilities are needed. From a geometric perspective, learning a classifieris equivalent to finding the equation for a multidimensional surface that best separates the different classesin the feature space.**

**SVM is a discriminant technique, and, because it solves the convex optimization problem analytically, it always returns the same optimal hyperplane parameter—in contrast to *genetic algorithms* (*GAs*) or *perceptrons*, both of which are widely used for classification in machine learning. For perceptrons, solutions are highly dependent on the initialization and termination criteria. For a specific kernel that transforms the data from the input space to the feature space, training returns uniquely defined SVM model parameters for a given training set, whereas the perceptron and GA classifier models are different each time training is initialized. The aim of GAs and perceptrons is only to minimize error during training, which will translate into several hyperplanes’ meeting this requirement.**