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Inter-University Research Institute Corporation /  
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**National Institute of Informatics**

# Support Vector Machines

Data Mining 10 (データマイニング)

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# Today's Outline

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- Today's topic is **support vector machines** (SVMs)
  - A popular supervised classification method
- Perform binary classification by maximizing the margin
- Kernel trick for nonlinear classification

# Classification Problem Setting

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- Given a supervised dataset  $D = \{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y_N)\}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (feature vector),  $y_i \in C = \{-1, 1\}$  (label)

- Use a decision function (hyperplane) in the form of

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + w_0 = \sum_{j=1}^n w^j x^j + w_0$$

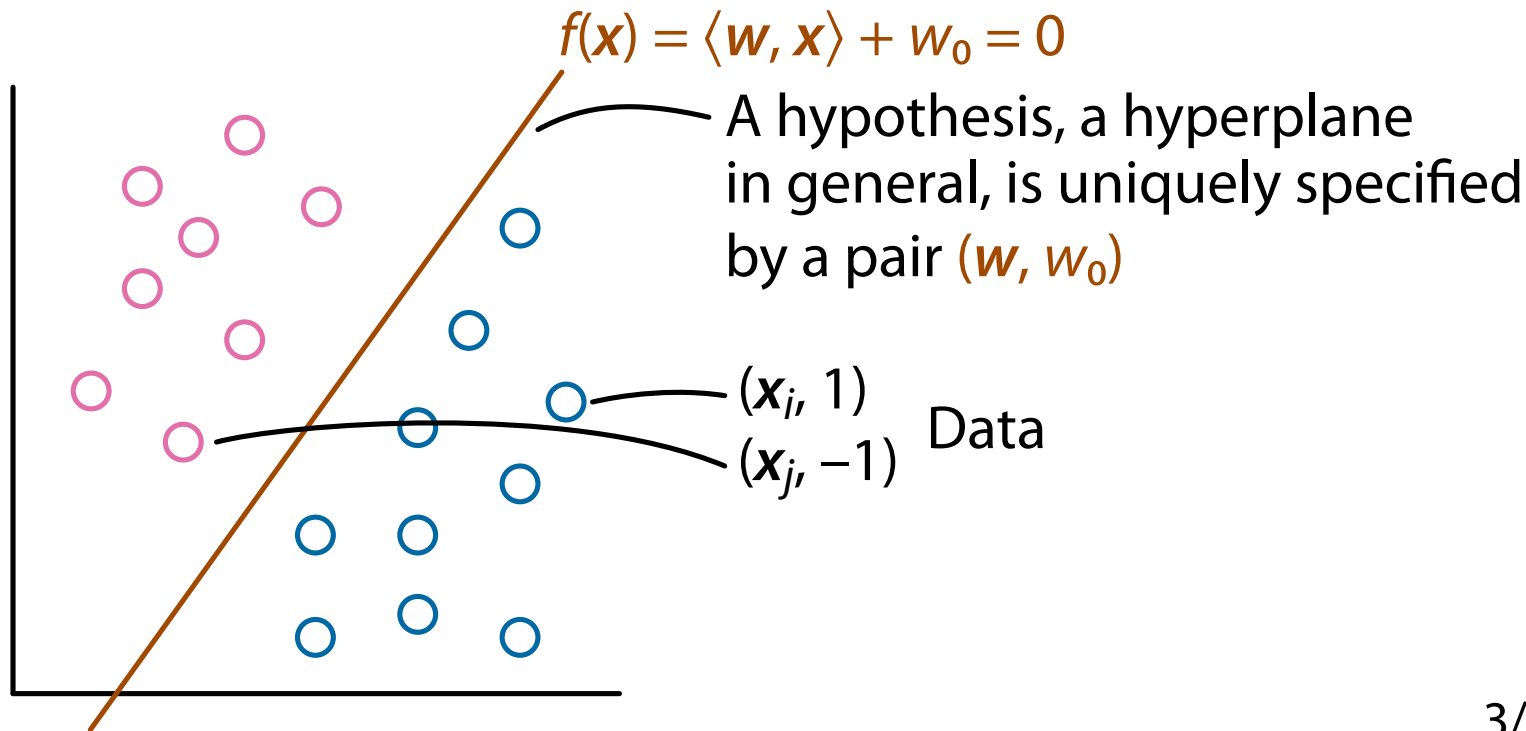
- A classifier  $g(\mathbf{x})$  is given as

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f(\mathbf{x}) > 0, \\ -1 & \text{if } f(\mathbf{x}) < 0 \end{cases}$$

- Goal: Find  $(\mathbf{w}, w_0)$  that correctly classifies the dataset

# Classification by Hyperplane

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# Example: Perceptron

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## Algorithm 1: Perceptron

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```
1 perceptron( $D$ )
2   Set small random values to  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $w_0$ ;           // initialization
3   foreach  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  do
4      $a \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + w_0$ 
5     if  $y_i \cdot a < 0$  then
6        $\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + y_i \mathbf{x}_i$ ;           // update the weight
7        $w_0 \leftarrow w_0 + y_i$ ;                   // update the bias
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# Correctness of Perceptron

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- It is guaranteed that a perceptron always converges to a correct classifier
  - A correct classifier is a function  $f$  s.t.
    - $f(\mathbf{x}) > 0$  if  $y = 1$ ,
    - $f(\mathbf{x}) < 0$  if  $y = -1$
  - The convergence theorem
- Note: there are (infinitely) many functions that correctly classify two classes
  - A perceptron converges to one of them

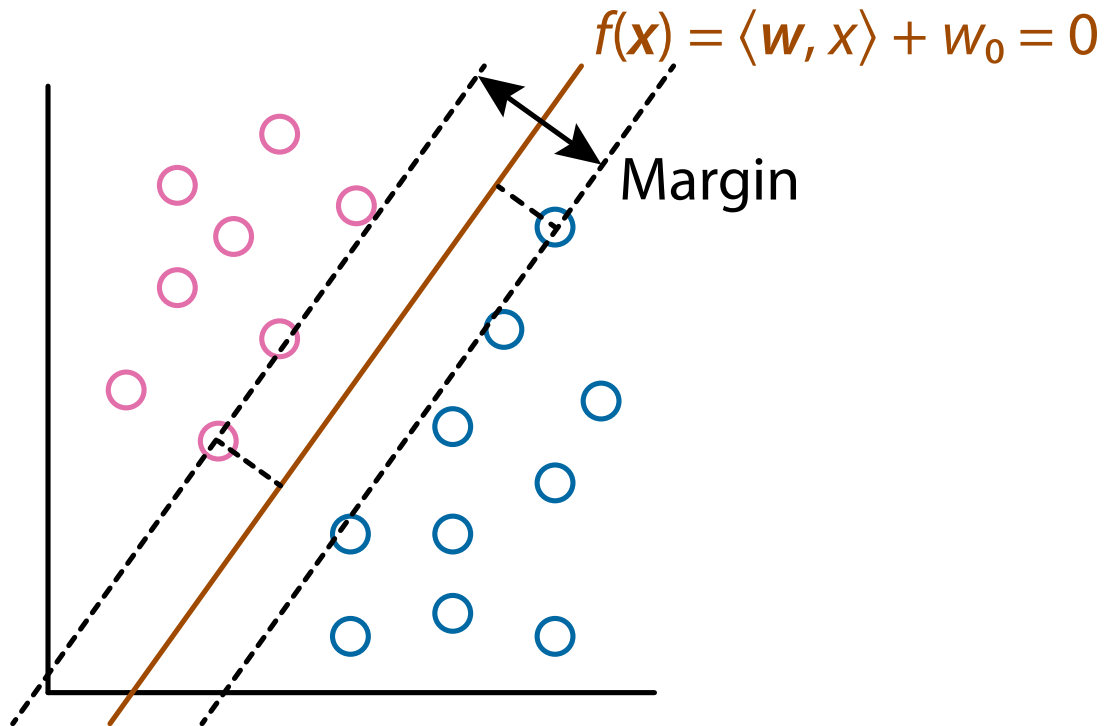
# Support Vector Machines (SVMs)

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- A dataset  $D$  is **separable** by  $f \iff y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) > 0, \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$
- The **margin** is the distance from the classification hyperplane to the closest data point
- Support vector machines (SVMs) tries to find a hyperplane that **maximize** the margin

# Margin

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# Formulation of SVMs

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- The distance from a point  $\mathbf{x}_i$  to a hyperplane  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + w_0$  is

$$\frac{|f(\mathbf{x}_i)|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} = \frac{|\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + w_0|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$$

- Since  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) > 0$  should be satisfied, assume that there exists  $M > 0$  such that  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq M$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$
- The margin maximization problem can be written as

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, M} \frac{M}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} \quad \text{subject to } y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq M, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

–  $M = \min_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} |\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + w_0|$

# Hard Margin SVMs

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- We can eliminate  $M$  and obtain

$$\max_{\mathbf{w}, w_0} \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} \quad \text{subject to } y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

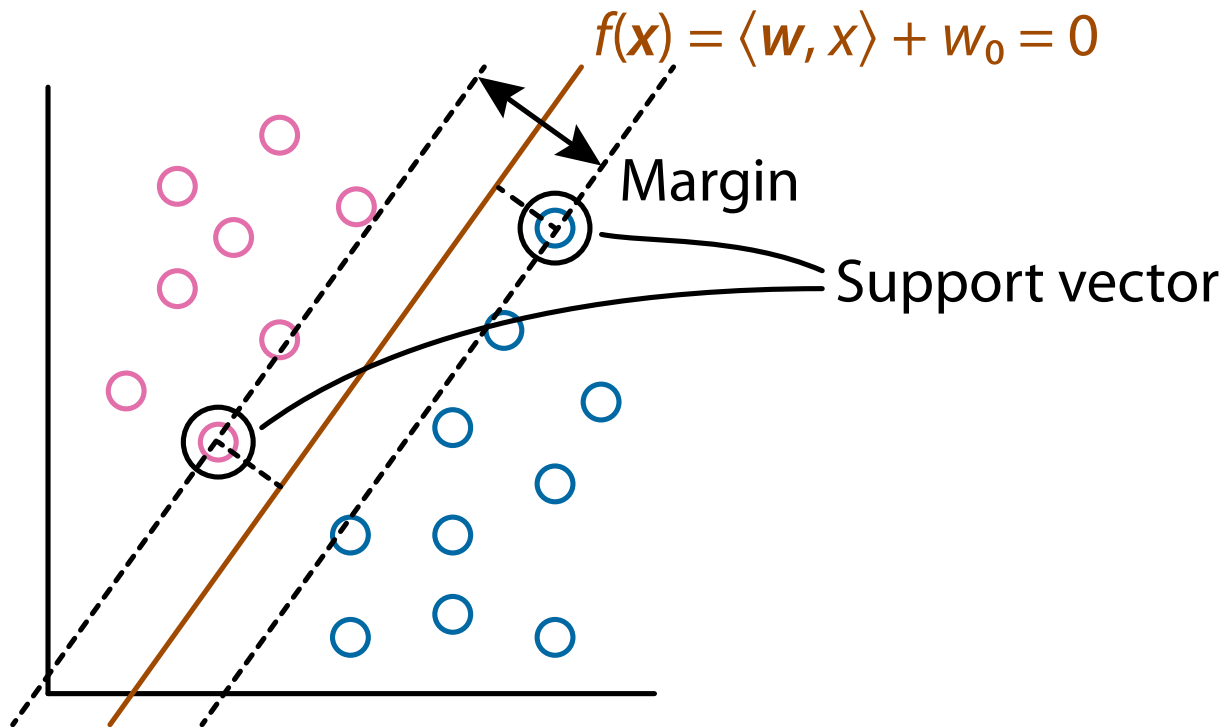
- This is equivalent to

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \quad \text{subject to } y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

- The standard formulation of **hard margin SVMs**
- There are data points  $x_i$  satisfying  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ , called **support vectors**
- The solution does not change even data points that are not support vectors are removed

# Margin

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# Soft Margin

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- Datasets are not often separable
- Extend SV classification to **soft margin** by relaxing  $\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + w_0 \geq 1$
- Change the constraint  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1$  using the **slack variable**  $\xi_i$  to  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) = y_i (\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + w_0) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \quad i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- The formulation of **soft margin SVM** (C-SVM) is

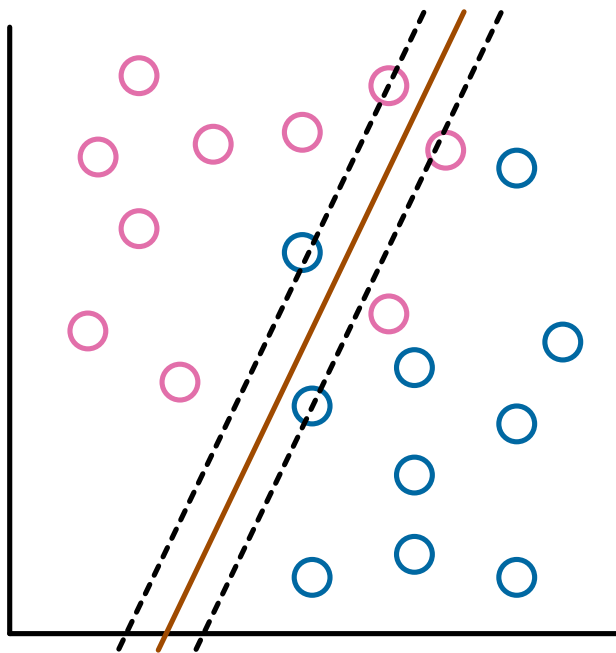
$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \xi} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} \xi_i \quad \text{s.t. } y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \xi_i \geq 0, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

- C is called the **regularization parameter**

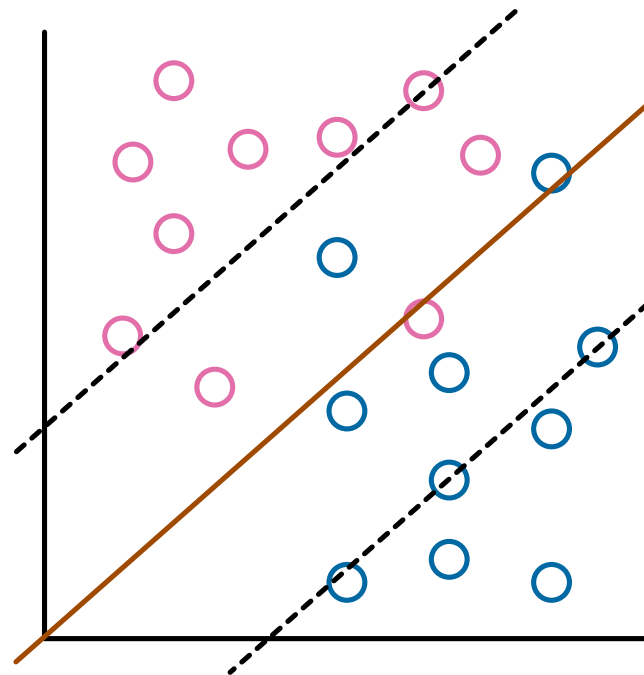
# Soft Margin

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C is large



C is small



# Data Point Location

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- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) > 1$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is outside margin
  - These points do not affect to the classification hyperplane
- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is on margin
- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) < 1$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is inside margin
  - These points do not exist in hard margin
- Points on margin and inside margin are support vectors

# Dual Problem (1/4)

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- The formulation of C-SVM

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} \xi_i \quad \text{s.t. } y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \xi_i \geq 0, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

is called the **primal problem**

- This is usually solved via the **dual problem**
- Make the **Lagrange function** using  $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N)$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_N)$ :

$$L(\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i \in [N]} \xi_i - \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i (y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) - 1 + \xi_i) - \sum_{i \in [N]} \mu_i \xi_i$$

$$- [N] = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

# Dual Problem (2/4)

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- Let us consider

$$D(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}} L(\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

and its maximization

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \geq 0, \boldsymbol{\mu} \geq 0} D(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \geq 0, \boldsymbol{\mu} \geq 0} \min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}} L(\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

- The inside minimization is achieved when

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_0} = - \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \xi_i} = C - \alpha_i - \mu_i = 0$$



# Dual Problem (3/4)

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- Putting the three conditions to the Lagrange function to remove  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $w_0$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ , yielding

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i \in [N]} \xi_i - \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i (y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) - 1 + \xi_i) - \sum_{i \in [N]} \mu_i \xi_i \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 - \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i y_i \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle - w_0 \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i y_i + \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i + \sum_{i \in [N]} (C - a_i - \mu_i) \xi_i \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, j \in [N]} a_i a_j y_i y_j \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle + \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i \end{aligned}$$

# Dual Problem (4/4)

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- It can be proved that  $\max_{\mathbf{a} \geq 0, \boldsymbol{\mu} \geq 0} \min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}} L(\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{a}, \boldsymbol{\mu})$ , that is, the **dual problem**

$$\max_{\mathbf{a}} -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \in [N]} a_i a_j y_i y_j \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle + \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i y_i = 0, \quad 0 \leq a_i \leq C, \quad i \in [N]$$

is equivalent to the **primal problem**

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, w_0, \boldsymbol{\xi}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i \in \{1,2,\dots,N\}} \xi_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \quad \xi_i \geq 0, \quad i \in [N]$$

# KKT (Karush-Kuhn-Tucker) condition

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- The necessary conditions for a solution to be optimal:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}_i = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_0} = - \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \xi_i} = C - \alpha_i - \mu_i = 0$$

$$- (y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) - 1 + \xi_i) \leq 0, \quad -\xi_i \leq 0,$$

$$\alpha_i \geq 0, \quad \mu_i \geq 0,$$

$$\alpha_i (y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) - 1 - \xi_i) = 0, \quad \mu_i \xi_i = 0,$$

$$i \in [N]$$

# Recovering Primal Variables

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- Using these conditions, from the optimal  $\alpha$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i \in [N]} \alpha_i y_i \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x} \rangle + w_0,$$

$$w_0 = y_i - \sum_{j \in [N]} \alpha_j y_j \langle \mathbf{x}_j, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle, \quad \forall i \in \{i \in [N] \mid 0 < \alpha_i < C\}$$

- Since the second condition holds for all  $i \in \{i \in [N] \mid 0 < \alpha_i < C\}$ , one can take the average to avoid numerical errors

# Data Point Location

---

- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) > 1 \iff \alpha_i = 0$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is outside margin
  - These points do not affect to the classification hyperplane
- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1 \iff 0 < \alpha_i < C$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is on margin
- $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) < 1 \iff \alpha_i = C$ :  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is inside margin
  - These points do not exist in hard margin
- Points on margin and inside margin are support vectors

# How to Solve?

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- The (dual) problem:

$$\max_{\mathbf{a}} -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a}^T Q \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{a} \quad \text{s.t. } \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{a} = 0, 0 \leq \mathbf{a} \leq C \mathbf{1}$$

- $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is the matrix such that  $q_{ij} = y_i y_j \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle$
- Since analytical solution is not available, iterative approach for continuous optimization with constraints is needed
- One of standard methods is the **active set method**

# Active Set Method

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- Divide the set  $[N]$  of indices into three sets:

$$O = \{i \in [N] \mid a_i = 0\}$$

$$M = \{i \in [N] \mid 0 < a_i < C\}$$

$$I = \{i \in [N] \mid a_i = C\}$$

- $O$  and  $I$  are called **active sets**
- The problem can be solved w.r.t.  $i \in M$ , yielding

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_M & \mathbf{y}_M \\ \mathbf{y}_M^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_M \\ v \end{bmatrix} = -C \begin{bmatrix} Q_{M,I} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1}^T & \mathbf{y}_I \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- This can be directly solved if  $Q_M$  is positive definite

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## Algorithm 2: Active Set Method

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```
1 activeSetMethod( $D$ )
2   Initialize  $M, I, O$ 
3   while there exists  $i$  s.t.  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) < 1, i \in O$  or  $y_i f(\mathbf{x}_i) > 1, i \in I$  do
4     Update  $M, I, O$ 
5     repeat
6        $\mathbf{a}_M^{\text{new}} \leftarrow$  the solution of the above equation
7        $\mathbf{d} \leftarrow \mathbf{a}_M^{\text{new}} - \mathbf{a}_M$ 
8        $\mathbf{a}_M \leftarrow \mathbf{a}_M + \eta \mathbf{d}$ ; // the maximum  $\eta$  satisfying  $\mathbf{a}_M \in [0, C]^{|M|}$ 
9       Move  $i \in M$  from  $M$  to  $I$  or  $O$  if  $a_i = C$  or  $a_i = 0$ 
10    until  $\mathbf{a}_M = \mathbf{a}_M^{\text{new}}$ ;
```



# Extension to Nonlinear Classification

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- To achieve nonlinear classification, convert each data point  $\mathbf{x}$  to some point  $\varphi(\mathbf{x})$ , and  $f(\mathbf{x})$  becomes

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \langle \mathbf{w}, \varphi(\mathbf{x}) \rangle + w_0$$

- The dual problem becomes

$$\max_{\mathbf{a}} -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \in [N]} a_i a_j y_i y_j \langle \varphi(\mathbf{x}_i), \varphi(\mathbf{x}_j) \rangle + \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i y_i = 0, \quad 0 \leq a_i \leq C, \quad i \in [N]$$

- Only the dot product  $\langle \varphi(\mathbf{x}_i), \varphi(\mathbf{x}_j) \rangle$  is used!
  - We do not even need to know  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}_i)$  and  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}_j)$
- **Kernel function:**  $K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \langle \varphi(\mathbf{x}_i), \varphi(\mathbf{x}_j) \rangle$

# C-SVM with Kernel Trick

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- Using the kernel function  $K$ , we have

$$\max_{\mathbf{a}} -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \in [N]} a_i a_j y_i y_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) + \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i \in [N]} a_i y_i = 0, \quad 0 \leq a_i \leq C, i \in [N]$$

- The technique of using  $K$  is called **kernel trick**

# Positive Definite Kernel

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- A kernel  $K : \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a **positive definite kernel** if

(i)  $K(x, y) = K(y, x)$

- (ii) For  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N$ , the  $N \times N$  matrix

$$(K_{ij}) = \begin{bmatrix} K(x_1, x_1) & K(x_2, x_1) & \dots & K(x_N, x_1) \\ K(x_1, x_2) & K(x_2, x_2) & \dots & K(x_N, x_2) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ K(x_1, x_N) & K(x_2, x_N) & \dots & K(x_N, x_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

is positive (semi-)definite, that is,  $\sum_{i,j=1}^N c_i c_j K(x_i, x_j) \geq 0$   
for any  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_N \in \mathbb{R}$

- $(K_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is called the **Gram matrix**

# Popular Positive Definite Kernels

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- Linear Kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$$

- Gaussian (RBF) kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2\right)$$

- Polynomial Kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = (\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle + c)^d \quad c, d \in \mathbb{R}$$

# Simple Kernels

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- The all-ones kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 1$$

- The delta (Dirac) kernel

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Closure Properties of Kernels

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- For two kernels  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ ,  $K_1 + K_2$  is a kernel
- For two kernels  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ , the product  $K_1 \cdot K_2$  is a kernel
- For a kernel  $K$  and a positive scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\lambda K$  is a kernel
- For a kernel  $K$  on a set  $D$ , its zero-extension:

$$K_o(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) & \text{if } \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in D, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is a kernel

# Kernels on Structured Data

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- Given objects  $X$  and  $Y$ , **decompose** them into substructures  $S$  and  $T$
- The **R-convolution kernel**  $K_R$  by Haussler (1999) is given as

$$K_R(X, Y) = \sum_{s \in S, t \in T} K_{\text{base}}(s, t)$$

- $K_{\text{base}}$  is an arbitrary base kernel, often the delta kernel
- For example,  $X$  is a graph and  $S$  is the set of all subgraphs

# Summary

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- SVM finds the “best” classification hyperplane
  - The **margin** is maximized
- Although the original SVM can perform only linear classification, it can be extended to nonlinear classification by using **kernels**
- Gaussian kernel + C-SVM can be the first choice