



- Motivation and history
- Linear learning machines
- Feature spaces and kernels
- Performance considerations
- Optimization algorithms

### Motivation

The generic problem: Classify a given input

- 1. two classes (binary classification)
- 2. several, but finitely many classes (multi-class classification)
- 3. infinitely many classes (regression)

#### **Applications:**

- Handwritten digits recognition
- Speech recognition
- Text classification
- Face recognition

The proposed solution: supervised learning, so given (non-trivial) training data in *different* classes (labels known) predict test data (labels unknown).

More formally: Given a training set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \times \{-1, 1\}$  of correctly classified input data vectors  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , where every input data vector appears at most once in Sand there exist input data vectors  $\vec{p}$  and  $\vec{n}$  such that  $(\vec{p}, 1) \in S$  as well as  $(\vec{n}, -1) \in S$  (non-trivial S), successfully classify unseen input data vectors.

#### **Contestants:**

- Nearest Neighbor
- Neural Networks
- Decision Trees

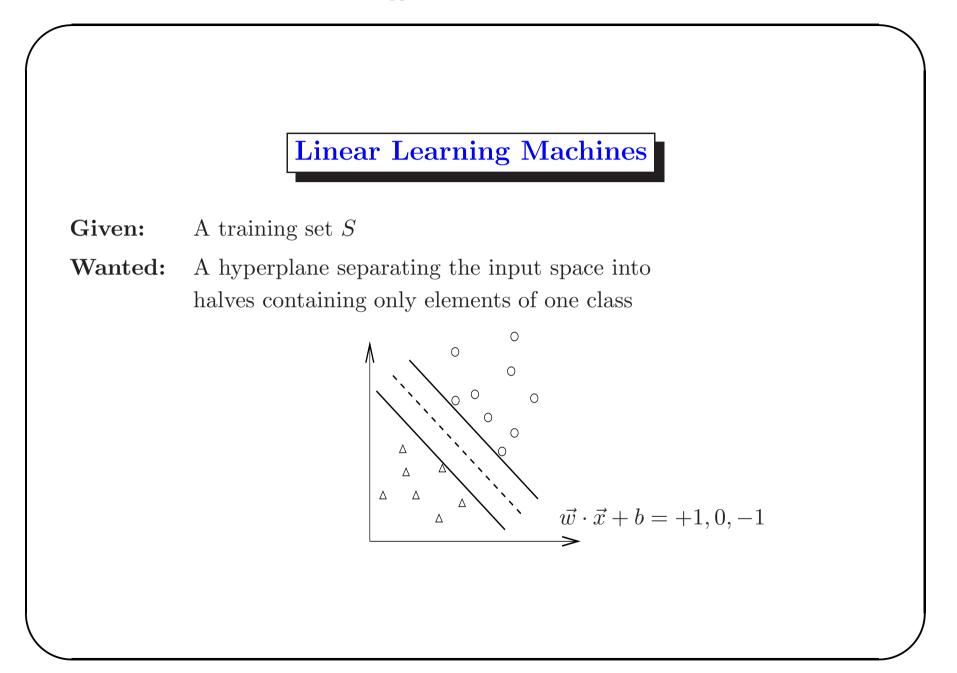
#### Different approaches:

- unsupervised learning
- query learning
- reinforcement learning

Goal: Performing better than the competitors in relevant applications

# History

- Support Vector Machines are a rather new field of study
- Early development in Bell Labs from 1990 to 1995
- Proposed by Vapnik and co-workers in 1992
- Since then it is becoming more and more popular
- Is still a field of active research



#### Variables:

- $\vec{x}; \vec{x}_i$  input data vector  $(\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n)$ ; specific input data vector
- y;  $y_i$  classifier  $(y \in \{1, -1\})$ ; classifier for  $\vec{x}_i$ , so  $(\vec{x}_i, y_i) \in S$
- $\vec{w}$  weight vector (normal vector) of a hyperplane ( $\vec{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ )
- b bias of a hyperplane  $(b \in \mathbb{R})$

Representation of a separating hyperplane:  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x} + b = 0$ 

$$\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b \begin{cases} > 0 & , \text{ if } y_i = 1 \\ < 0 & , \text{ if } y_i = -1 \end{cases}$$

**Decision function:**  $f(\vec{x}) = \operatorname{sgn}(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x} + b)$ 

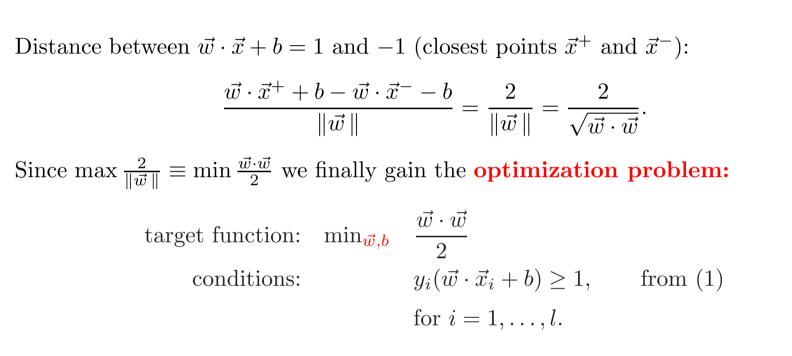
#### **Goal:** learn the coefficients $\vec{w}$ and b of the hyperplane

- **Problem:** Many possible choices of  $\vec{w}$  and b
- **Solution:** Select  $\vec{w}$  and b with the maximal margin (maximal distance to any input data vector)

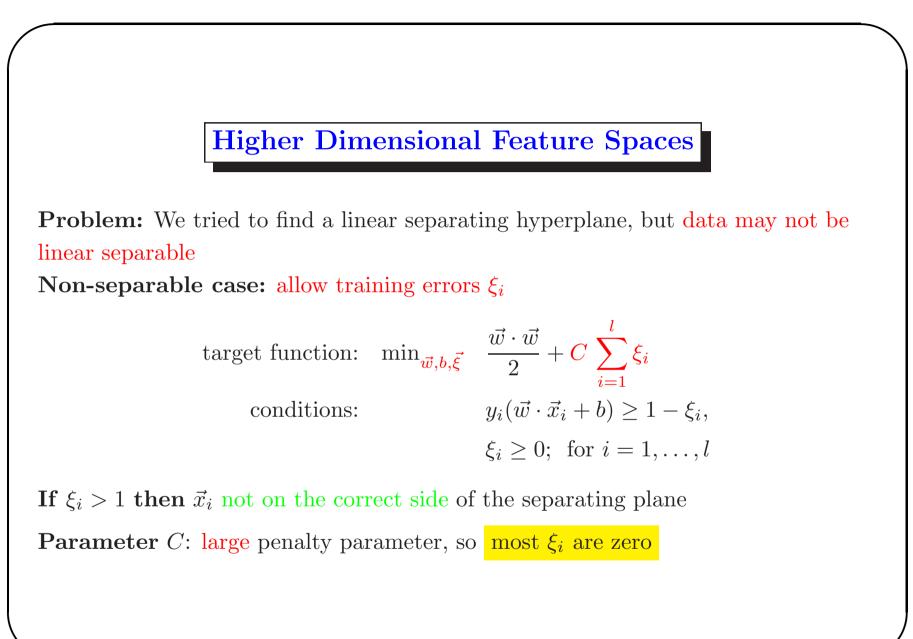
Observations reveal (cf. Vapnik's statistical learning theory )

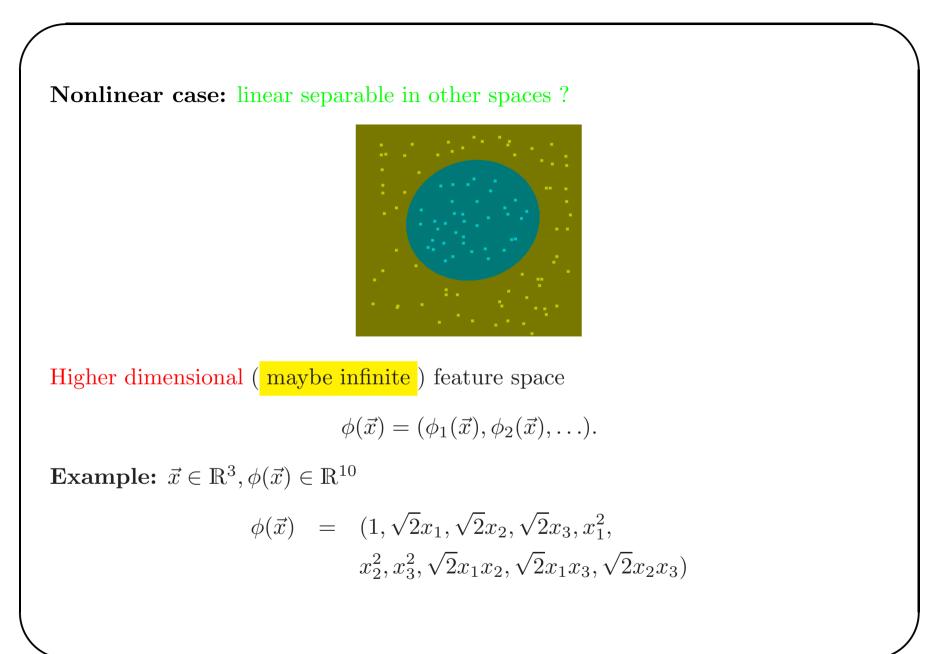
$$\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b \begin{cases} \geq 1 & \text{, if } y_i = 1 \\ \leq -1 & \text{, if } y_i = -1 \end{cases}$$
(1)

Scaling does not change the hyperplane, but it does change the *margin*, so adjust the scaling such that the closest points have functional margin 1  $(f(\vec{x}) = 1)$  $\Rightarrow$ Maximize distance between  $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x} + b = \pm 1$ 



 $\Rightarrow$  This optimization problem is the basic (primal) Support Vector Machine form.





Why higher dimensional spaces: a classic result by Cover [1965] A standard problem [Cortes and Vapnik, 1995]:

target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{w}, b, \vec{\xi}} \quad \frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{2} + C(\sum_{i=1}^{l} \xi_i)$$
  
conditions:  $y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_i) + b) \ge 1 - \xi_i,$   
 $\xi_i \ge 0; \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, l$ 

Other variants (though similar); Example:

target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{w}, b, \vec{\xi}} \quad \frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{2} + C(\sum_{i=1}^{l} \xi_i^2)$$
  
conditions:  $y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_i) + b) \ge 1 - \xi_i,$   
 $\xi_i \ge 0; \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, l$ 

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### Finding the Decision Function

**Next problem:** Finding  $\vec{w}$  and b from the standard Support Vector Machine form  $\vec{w}$  is a vector in a high dimensional space  $\Rightarrow$  perhaps infinite

Therefore we consider the dual problem:

target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{\alpha}} \quad \frac{\vec{\alpha}^T \mathbf{Q} \vec{\alpha}}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i$$
  
conditions:  $0 \le \alpha_i \le C$ ; for  $i = 1, \dots, l$   
 $\vec{y} \cdot \vec{\alpha} = 0$ ,  
where  $\mathbf{Q}_{ij} = y_i y_j \phi(\vec{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_j)$   
 $\vec{w} = \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i y_i \phi(\vec{x}_i)$ 

#### **Remarks:**

- Primal and dual: cf. optimization theory
- $\Rightarrow$  Infinite dimensional programming
- $\mathbf{Q}_{ij} = y_i y_j \phi(\vec{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_j)$  needs a closed form
- $\Rightarrow$  Efficient calculation of high dimensional inner products Example:  $\vec{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3, \phi(\vec{x}_i) \in \mathbb{R}^{10}$

$$\phi(\vec{x}_i) = (1, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_1, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_2, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_3, (\vec{x}_i)_1^2, (\vec{x}_i)_2^2, (\vec{x}_i)_3^2, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_1(\vec{x}_i)_2, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_1(\vec{x}_i)_3, \sqrt{2}(\vec{x}_i)_2(\vec{x}_i)_3),$$

Then  $K(\vec{x}_i, \vec{x}_j) = \phi(\vec{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_j) = (1 + \vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j)^2.$ 

Such a *K*-function is called **kernel function**, representing the inner product of two feature space vectors.

Popular methods (kernels)  $\phi(\vec{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_j) =$ 

- $e^{-\gamma \|\vec{x}_i \vec{x}_j\|^2}$  (Radial Basis Function),
- $(\frac{\vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j}{a+b})^d$  (Polynomial kernel),
- $\tanh(a\,\vec{x}_i\cdot\vec{x}_j+b)$

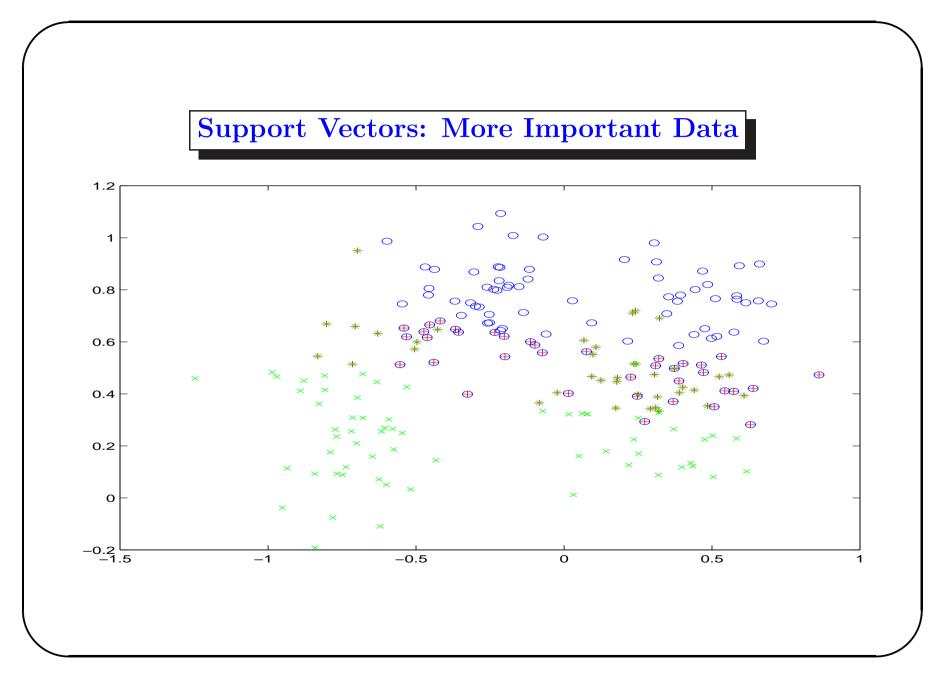
**Decision function:** 

$$\operatorname{sgn}\left(\vec{w} \cdot \phi(\vec{x}) + b\right) = \operatorname{sgn}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{l} \alpha_i \, y_i \, \phi(\vec{x}_i) \cdot \phi(\vec{x}) + b\right)$$

 $\Rightarrow$  No need to have  $\vec{w}$ 

Only  $\phi(\vec{x}_i)$  of  $\alpha_i > 0$  used

 $\alpha_i > 0 \Rightarrow$  support vectors



## Issues

Why is this good ? Statistical learning theory

- Solving large quadratic problems: dual variable  $\alpha$
- Multiple-class classifications
  - Several two-class problems or combined together
- Automatic model selection
  - select the best parameters (kernel type, C, etc)
- Comparisons with other methods
- Applications

### **Performance considerations**

- Training errors not important; only test errors count
- $\bullet\,$  If  ${\bf Q}$  is positive definite, training can be fully separated
- *l* observations,  $\vec{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, i = 1, \dots, l$ , a learning machine:

$$\vec{x} \to f(\vec{x}, \vec{\alpha}), \quad f(\vec{x}, \vec{\alpha}) = 1 \text{ or } -1.$$

 $\Rightarrow$  Different  $\vec{\alpha}$ : different machines

• The expected test error (generalized error)

$$R(\vec{\alpha}) = \int \frac{1}{2} |y - f(\vec{x}, \vec{\alpha})| dP(\vec{x}, y)$$

y: class of  $\vec{x}$  (i.e. 1 or -1)

•  $P(\vec{x}, y)$  unknown, empirical risk (training error):

$$R_{emp}(\vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{2l} \sum_{i=1}^{l} |y_i - f(\vec{x}_i, \vec{\alpha})|$$

•  $\frac{1}{2}|y_i - f(\vec{x}_i, \vec{\alpha})|$  : loss, choose  $0 \le \eta \le 1$ With probability at least  $1 - \eta$ :

$$R(\vec{\alpha}) \le R_{emp}(\vec{\alpha}) + \sqrt{\frac{h(\log(2l/h) + 1) - \log(\eta/4)}{l}}$$

- h is the Vapnik Chervonenkis (VC) dimension
- A bound to judge the performance of a learning machine
- Independent of data distributions
- A good pattern recognition method: minimize both terms at the same time

• Support Vector Machine bound: Gir  $\vec{r}$ 

$$\text{iven } \dot{x_1}, \dots, \dot{x_l}$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ \vec{x} \to \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x} \mid \| \vec{w} \| \le 1, \| \vec{x} \| \le R \}$$

With probability at least  $1 - \eta$ , if  $sgn(f) \in sgn(\mathcal{F})$  has margin at least  $\gamma$  on all  $\vec{x_i}$ :

$$R(\vec{\alpha}) \le R_{emp}(\vec{\alpha}) + \sqrt{\frac{c}{l} \left(\frac{R^2}{\gamma^2} \log^2 l + \log \frac{1}{\eta}\right)}$$

- $\gamma^2$ : as large as possible
- Support Vector Machine:

target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{w}, b, \vec{\xi}} \quad \frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{2} + C(\sum_{i=1}^{l} \xi_i)$$
  
conditions:  $y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \phi(\vec{x}_i) + b) \ge 1 - \xi_i \ge 0$ ; for  $i = 1, \dots, l$ 

 $-\xi_i,$ 

equivalent to

$$\min\frac{\vec{w}\cdot\vec{w}}{2} + \sum \left[-y_i(\vec{w}\cdot\phi(\vec{x}_i)+b) + 1\right]_+$$

 $\sum_{i=1}^{l}$ : training errors; SVM: search for a balance

- Continuous loss function ? Loss of sparsity: all  $\alpha_i \neq 0$
- $\frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{2}$  usually called regularization term
- This kind of bounds are still very loose

### **Primal and Dual Relation**

• Simplified primal:

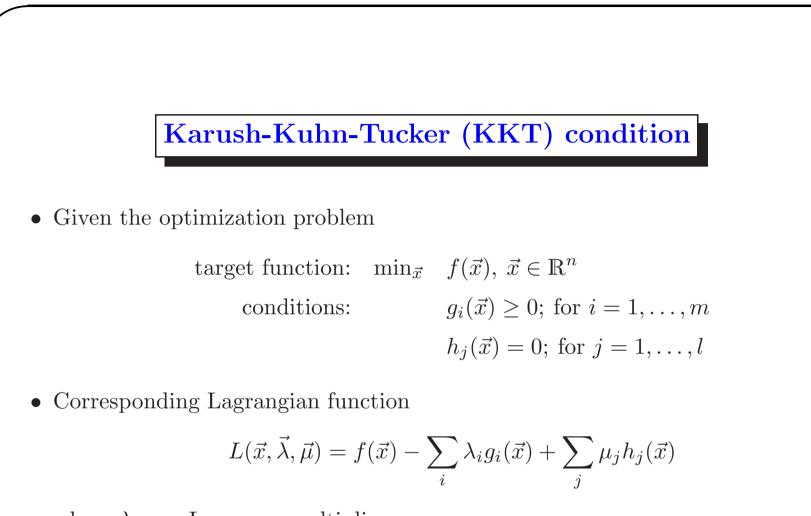
target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{w},b} \quad \frac{\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w}}{2}$$
  
conditions:  $y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) \ge 1$ 

• Simplified dual:

target function: 
$$\min_{\vec{\alpha}} \quad \frac{\vec{\alpha}^T \mathbf{Q} \vec{\alpha}}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i$$
  
conditions:  $0 \le \alpha_i$ ; for  $i = 1, ...$   
 $\vec{y} \cdot \vec{\alpha} = 0,$ 

where 
$$\mathbf{Q}_{ij} = y_i y_j \vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j$$

 $\ldots, l$ 



where  $\lambda_i, \mu_i$ : Lagrange multiplier

#### • KKT-conditions:

$$\frac{\partial L(\vec{x}^*, \vec{\lambda}^*, \vec{\mu}^*)}{\partial \vec{x}} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\vec{x}^*, \vec{\lambda}^*, \vec{\mu}^*)}{\partial \vec{\mu}} = 0$$

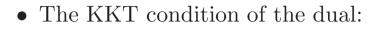
$$\lambda_i g_i(\vec{x}^*) = 0; \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$g_i(\vec{x}^*) \ge 0; \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m$$

$$\lambda_i^* \ge 0; \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, m$$

- Convex programming: convex objective function and convex feasible region
- Linear constraints
- $\Rightarrow$  If there exist  $\vec{\lambda}^*$  and  $\vec{\mu}^*$  for some  $\vec{x}^*$  and the conditions above are met, then  $\vec{x}^*$  is an optimum.

necessary and sufficient condition



$$\mathbf{Q}\vec{\alpha} - \vec{E} = -b\vec{y} + \vec{\lambda}$$
$$\alpha_i\lambda_i = 0$$
$$\vec{\lambda} \ge 0$$

• The KKT condition of the primal:

$$\vec{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{l} \alpha_i \vec{x}_i$$
$$\frac{\alpha_i (\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + by_i - 1) = 0}{\vec{y} \cdot \vec{\alpha} = 0}$$
$$\vec{\alpha} \ge 0$$

• Let 
$$\lambda_i = y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) - 1$$
,  

$$(\mathbf{Q}\vec{\alpha} - \vec{E} + b\vec{y})_i$$

$$= \sum_j y_i y_j \alpha_j \vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j - 1 + by_i$$

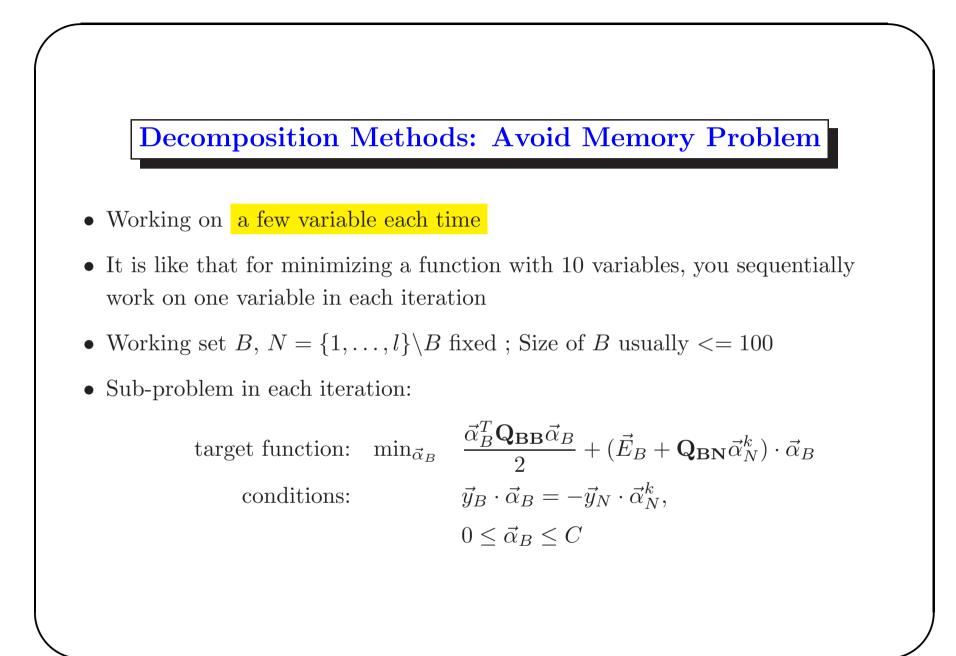
$$= y_i \vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i - 1 + y_i b$$

$$= y_i(\vec{w} \cdot \vec{x}_i + b) - 1$$

• The KKT of the primal is the same as the KKT of the dual (cf. strong duality theorem)

### Large Dense Quadratic Programming

- $\min \frac{\vec{\alpha}^T \mathbf{Q} \vec{\alpha}}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i; \text{ for } \vec{y} \cdot \vec{\alpha} = 0, \ 0 \le \alpha_i \le C$
- $\mathbf{Q}_{ij} \neq 0, \mathbf{Q}$ : an l by l fully dense matrix
- 30,000 training points: 30,000 variables:  $(30,000^2 \times 8/2)$  by tes = 3GB RAM: still difficult
- Traditional methods: Newton, Quasi Newton cannot be directly applied
- Current methods:
  - Decomposition methods (Osuna et al. [1997], Joachims [1998], Platt [1998])
  - Nearest point of two convex hulls (Keerthi et al. [1999a])



### **Decomposition Algorithm: a Framework**

- 1. Given  $q \ll l, \vec{\alpha}^1$ : initial solution.  $k \leftarrow 1$ .
- 2. If  $\vec{\alpha}^k$  an optimum, stop. Find a working set  $B \subset \{1, \ldots, l\}, |B| = q$ . Define  $N \equiv \{1, \ldots, l\} \setminus B, \vec{\alpha}_B^k$  and  $\vec{\alpha}_N^k$
- 3. Solve a sub-problem:

target function:  $\min_{\vec{\alpha}_B} \frac{\vec{\alpha}_B^T \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}} \vec{\alpha}_B}{2} - (\vec{E}_B - \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{N}} \vec{\alpha}_N^k) \cdot \vec{\alpha}_B$ conditions:  $0 \le (\vec{\alpha}_B)_i \le C$ ; for  $i = 1, \dots, q$ ,  $\vec{y}_B \cdot \vec{\alpha}_B = -\vec{y}_N \cdot \vec{\alpha}_N^k$ 

- 4. Set  $\vec{\alpha}_B^{k+1}$  and  $\vec{\alpha}_N^{k+1}$ ,  $k \leftarrow k+1$  and go o Step 2.
- Submatrices  $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{BB}}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{BN}}$  needed; calculated when needed: avoid the memory problem

- The objective function is decreasing ; Convergence was not fully understood
- Studies on convergence proofs: (Chang et al. [1999], Keerthi and Gilbert [2000], Lin [2000])
- Implementation: need knowledge of optimization
- Early implementation: Working set by heuristics; Stopping conditions not validated
- Starting from zero vector ; Efficient when the percentage of support vectors is small
- Still slow in some difficult cases

• Someone asked: the dual form is simple; why not solve it analytically ? Solve

$$\min \frac{\vec{x}^T \mathbf{A} \vec{x}}{2} - \vec{b} \cdot \vec{x}$$

by

$$\mathbf{A}\vec{x} = \vec{b} \ \Rightarrow \ \vec{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\vec{b}$$

is not the end but just the beginning

 $\Rightarrow$  Numerical analysis techniques are important

### A Simple Implementation

- Consider |B| = 2, Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO) by Platt [1998]
- Sub-problem analytically solved; no need to use optimization software
- Contained flaws; modified by Keerthi et al. [1999]
- KKT of the dual:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q}\vec{\alpha} - \vec{E} &= -b\vec{y} + \vec{\lambda} - \vec{\mu} \\ \alpha_i\lambda_i &= 0; \qquad \mu_i(C - \alpha_i) = 0 \\ \vec{\lambda} &\ge 0; \qquad \vec{\mu} \ge 0 \end{aligned}$$

• Equivalent to

$$(\mathbf{Q}\vec{\alpha} - \vec{E} + b\vec{y})_t \begin{cases} \geq 0 & \text{, if } \alpha_t < C \\ \leq 0 & \text{, if } \alpha_t > 0 \end{cases}$$

That is

$$(\mathbf{Q}\vec{\alpha} - \vec{E})_t \begin{cases} +b \ge 0 & \text{, if } y_t = 1 \text{; } \alpha_t < C \\ -b \le 0 & \text{, if } y_t = -1 \text{; } \alpha_t > 0 \\ -b \ge 0 & \text{, if } y_t = -1 \text{; } \alpha_t < C \\ +b \le 0 & \text{, if } y_t = 1 \text{; } \alpha_t > 0 \end{cases}$$

• That is

$$\max(\max_{\alpha_t < C, y_t=1} -\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t, \max_{\alpha_t > 0, y_t=-1} \nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t)$$
  
$$\leq b \leq \min(\min_{\alpha_t < C, y_t=-1} \nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t, \min_{\alpha_t > 0, y_t=1} -\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t)$$

This is how b is calculated

•  $\vec{\alpha}$  not an optimal solution yet

$$\max(\max_{\alpha_t < C, y_t=1} -\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t, \max_{\alpha_t > 0, y_t=-1} \nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t)$$
  
> 
$$\min(\min_{\alpha_t < C, y_t=-1} \nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t, \min_{\alpha_t > 0, y_t=1} -\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t)$$

• Working set 
$$\{i, j\}$$

$$i \equiv \operatorname{argmax}(\{-\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t \mid y_t = 1, \alpha_t < C\}, \{\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t \mid y_t = -1, \alpha_t > 0\}), \\ j \equiv \operatorname{argmin}(\{\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t \mid y_t = -1, \alpha_t < C\}, \{-\nabla f(\vec{\alpha})_t \mid y_t = 1, \alpha_t > 0\})$$

• The sub-problem

$$\min_{\alpha_{i},\alpha_{j}} \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{i} & \alpha_{j} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_{ii} & \mathbf{Q}_{ij} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{ji} & \mathbf{Q}_{jj} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{i} \\ \alpha_{j} \end{bmatrix} + (\mathbf{Q}_{i,N}\vec{\alpha}_{N} - 1)\vec{\alpha}_{i} \\
+ (\mathbf{Q}_{j,N}\vec{\alpha}_{N} - 1)\alpha_{j} \\
y_{i}\alpha_{i} + y_{j}\alpha_{j} = -\vec{y}_{N} \cdot \vec{\alpha}_{N}^{k}, \\
0 \le \alpha_{i}, \alpha_{j} \le C$$

• Substitute

$$\alpha_i = y_i (-\vec{y}_N \cdot \vec{\alpha}_N - y_j \alpha_j)$$

into the objective function ; An one-variable optimization problem

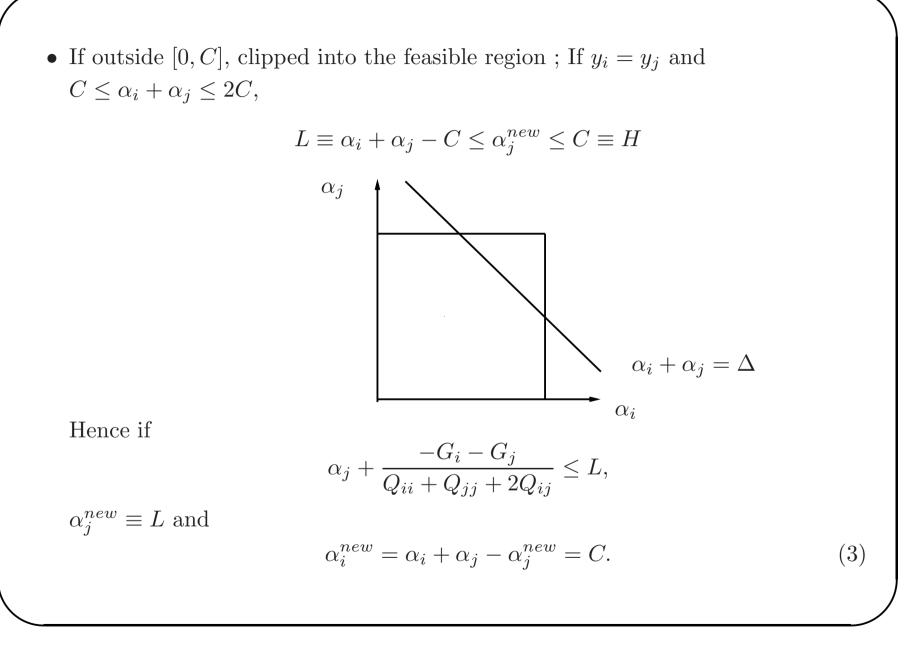
• If without considering  $0 \le \alpha_j \le C$ :

$$\alpha_{j}^{new} = \begin{cases} \alpha_{j} + \frac{-G_{i} - G_{j}}{Q_{ii} + Q_{jj} + 2Q_{ij}} & , \text{ if } y_{i} \neq y_{j}, \\ \alpha_{j} + \frac{G_{i} - G_{j}}{Q_{ii} + Q_{jj} - 2Q_{ij}} & , \text{ if } y_{i} = y_{j}, \end{cases}$$
(2)

where

$$G_i \equiv \nabla f(\alpha)_i$$
 and  $G_j \equiv \nabla f(\alpha)_j$ .

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• The stopping criteria

$$\max(\max_{\alpha_i < C, y_i = 1} -\nabla f(\alpha)_i, \max_{\alpha_i > 0, y_i = -1} \nabla f(\alpha)_i)$$
  
$$\leq \min(\min_{\alpha_i < C, y_i = -1} \nabla f(\alpha)_i, \min_{\alpha_i > 0, y_i = 1} -\nabla f(\alpha)_i) - \epsilon$$

- Computational Complexity: O(l) in each iteration for finding two indices of the working set
- Implementation tricks: cache for recently used  $Q_{ij}$  and others

### References

- Chih-Jen Lin: Support Vector Machines Theory and Practice
- Bernhard Schölkopf, Christopher J.C. Burges, Alexander J. Smola: Advances in Kernel Methods - Support Vector Learning
- Nello Cristianini, John Shawe-Taylor: An Introduction to Support Vector Machines and other kernel-based learning methods