# Machine Learning for Robotics Intelligent Systems Series Lecture 3

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# Nonparametric Discriminative Model

Idea: split  ${\mathcal X}$  into regions, for each region store an estimate  $\hat p(y|x)$ .

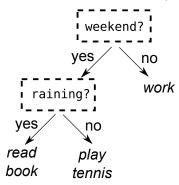
| p(1 x)=0.7<br>p(2 x)=0.2<br>p(3 x)=0.1 | p(1 x)=0.9<br>p(2 x)=0.0<br>p(3 x)=0.1   |
|--|--|
|  | $\begin{array}{c} p(1 x)=0.1 \\ p(2 x)=0.8 \\ p(3 x)=0.1 \end{array}$ $p(1 x)=0.01  p(2 x)=0.98$ |
|  | p(3 x)=0.01 $p(2 x)=0.01$  |

Use a decision tree. (introduced next)



## Decision Trees – a short intro (analysis: Breiman 1980s)

**Task:** decide what to do today



Classifier has a tree structure:

- each interior node makes a decision: it picks an attribute within x, branches for each possible value
- each *leaf* has one output label
- to classify a new example, we
  - put it into the root node,
  - follow the decisions until we reach a leaf.
  - use the leaf value as the prediction

Decisions trees ('expert systems') are popular especially for non-experts:

easy to use, and interpretable.

## How to automatically build a decision tree

Given: training set  $\mathcal{D} = \{(x^1, y^1), \dots, (x^n, y^n)\}.$ 

#### Convention:

- each node contains a subset of examples,
- its label is the majority label of the examples in this node (any of the majority labels, if there's a tie)

#### **Decision Tree - Training**

initialize: put all examples in root node mark root as *active* 

#### repeat

pick active node with largest number of misclassified examples mark the node as *inactive* 

for each attributes, check error rate of splitting along this attribute keep the split with smallest error, if any, and mark children as *active* **until** no more active nodes.

## How to automatically build a decision tree

#### **Decision Tree - Classification**

```
input decision tree, example x assign x to root node while x not in leaf node do move x to child according to the test in node end while output label of the leaf that x is in
```

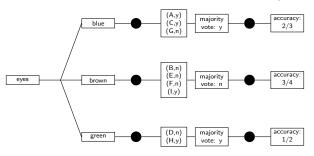
**Training data:** Zoe (our customer) selected whom she would like to date from a list of profiles

| $\mathcal{X}$ |       |          |        |     |        |       |  |
|---------------|-------|----------|--------|-----|--------|-------|--|
| person        | eyes  | handsome | height | sex | soccer | date? |  |
| Apu           | blue  | yes      | tall   | М   | no     | yes   |  |
| Bernice       | brown | yes      | short  | F   | no     | no    |  |
| Carl          | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | no     | yes   |  |
| Doris         | green | yes      | short  | F   | no     | no    |  |
| Edna          | brown | no       | short  | F   | yes    | no    |  |
| Prof. Frink   | brown | yes      | tall   | М   | yes    | no    |  |
| Gil           | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | yes    | no    |  |
| Homer         | green | yes      | short  | M   | no     | yes   |  |
| Itchy         | brown | no       | short  | M   | yes    | yes   |  |

Step 1: put all all training examples into the root node

$$root = \{ (A,y),(B,n),(C,y),(D,n),(E,n),(F,n),(G,n),(H,y),(I,y) \}$$

For each feature, check the classification accuracy of this single feature:

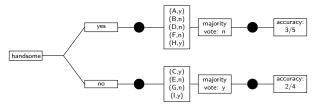


Total accuracy eyes: 6/9

Step 1: put all all training examples into the root node

$$\textit{root} = \{ \ (A,y), (B,n), (C,y), (D,n), (E,n), (F,n), (G,n), (H,y), (I,y) \ \}$$

For each feature, check the classification accuracy of this single feature:



Total accuracy handsome: 5/9

Step 1: put all all training examples into the root node

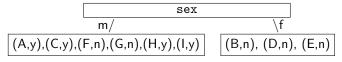
$$\textit{root} = \{ \ (A,y), (B,n), (C,y), (D,n), (E,n), (F,n), (G,n), (H,y), (I,y) \ \}$$

For each feature, check the classification accuracy of this single feature:

| feature  | accuracies                              | ightarrow total                                   |
|----------|---|---|
| eyes     | blue: $(2/3)$ , brown: $(3/4)$ , green: | $\overline{(1/2)  ightarrow 	ext{total: } (6/9)}$ |
| handsome | yes: (3/5), no: (2/4)                   | ightarrow total: $(5/9)$                          |
| height   | tall: $(2/4)$ , short: $(3/5)$          | ightarrow total: $(5/9)$                          |
| sex      | male: $(4/6)$ , female: $(3/3)$         | $\rightarrow$ total: (7/9)                        |
| soccer   | yes: (3/4), no: (3/6)                   | ightarrow total: (6/9)                            |

Best feature: sex.

Step 1 result: first split ist along sex feature



Right node: no mistakes, no more splits

Left node: run checks again for remaining data

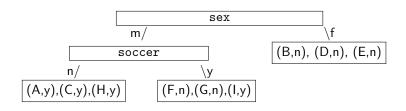
Step 2:

| person | eyes  | handsome | height | sex  | soccer | date? |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|------|--------|-------|
| Apu    | blue  | yes      | tall   | male | no     | yes   |
| Carl   | blue  | no       | tall   | male | no     | yes   |
| Frink  | brown | yes      | tall   | male | yes    | no    |
| Gil    | blue  | no       | tall   | male | yes    | no    |
| Homer  | green | yes      | short  | male | no     | yes   |
| Itchy  | brown | no       | short  | male | yes    | yes   |

| feature  | accuracies                                      | $\rightarrow$  | total          |
|----------|---|----------------|----------------|
| eyes     | blue: $(2/3)$ , brown: $(1/2)$ , green: $(1/2)$ | /1)  ightarrow | total: (4/6)   |
| handsome | yes: (2/3), no: (2/3)                           | $\rightarrow$  | total: $(4/6)$ |
| height   | tall: (2/4), short: (2/2)                       | $\rightarrow$  | total: (4/6)   |
| sex      | male: (4/6)                                     | $\rightarrow$  | total: $(4/6)$ |
| soccer   | yes: (2/3), no: (3/3)                           | $\rightarrow$  | total: (5/6)   |

Best feature: soccer.

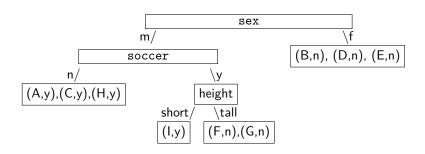
Step 2 result: second split ist along soccer feature



Left node: no mistakes, no more splits

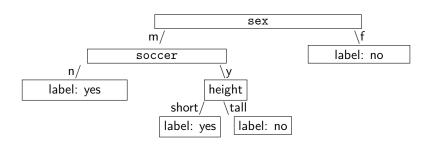
Right node: run checks again for remaining data

Step 3 result: third split is along height feature



Left node: no mistakes, no more splits Right node: no mistakes, no more splits

Step 3 result: third split is along height feature



Left node: no mistakes, no more splits Right node: no mistakes, no more splits

ightarrow Decision tree learning complete.

#### Decision Trees Example - How good is this classifier?

On all training examples it is correct by construction! What if we check on new data of the same kind?

| person | eyes  | handsome | height | sex | soccer | date? |  |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|-----|--------|-------|--|
| Jimbo  | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | no     | yes   |  |
| Krusty | green | yes      | short  | М   | yes    | no    |  |
| Lisa   | blue  | yes      | tall   | F   | no     | no    |  |
| Moe    | brown | no       | short  | M   | no     | no    |  |
| Ned    | brown | yes      | short  | М   | no     | yes   |  |
| Quimby | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | no     | yes   |  |

#### Decision Trees Example - How good is this classifier?

On all training examples it is correct by construction! What if we check on new data of the same kind?

| person | eyes  | handsome | height | sex | soccer | date? | tree |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|-----|--------|-------|------|
| Jimbo  | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | no     | yes   | yes  |
| Krusty | green | yes      | short  | М   | yes    | no    | yes  |
| Lisa   | blue  | yes      | tall   | F   | no     | no    | no   |
| Moe    | brown | no       | short  | М   | no     | no    | yes  |
| Ned    | brown | yes      | short  | М   | no     | yes   | yes  |
| Quimby | blue  | no       | tall   | М   | no     | yes   | yes  |

2 mistakes in 6, hm...

#### **Observation**

Decision trees don't generalize very well.

#### Random forest

combines many trees, with random set of splitting features

#### **Decision Trees**

- Categorial data can often be handled nicely by a tree.
- For continuous data,  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ , one typically uses splits by comparing any coordinate by a threshold:  $[x_i \geq \theta]$ ?
- Finding a split consists of checking all  $i=1,\ldots,d$  and all (reasonable) thresholds, e.g. all  $x_i^1,\ldots,x_i^n$
- If d is large, and all dimension are roughly of equal importance (e.g. time series), this is tedious, and the resulting tree might not be good.

#### Back to: Nonparametric Discriminative Model

Idea: split  $\mathcal X$  into regions, for each region store an estimate  $\hat p(y|x)$ .

For example, using a decision tree:

- training: build a tree
  - ullet prediction: for new example x, find its leaf
  - output  $\hat{p}(y|x) = \frac{n_y}{n}$ , where
    - ullet n is the number of examples in the leaf,
    - ullet  $n_y$  is the number of example of label y in the leaf.

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  - n is the number of examples in the leaf,
  - ullet  $n_y$  is the number of example of label y in the leaf.

Note: prediction rule

$$c(x) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{y} \hat{p}(y|x)$$

is predicts the most frequent label in each leaf.

## Parametric Discriminative Model: Logistic Regression

**Setting.** We assume  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\mathcal{Y} = \{-1, +1\}$ .

# Definition (Logistic Regression (LogReg) Model)

Modeling

$$\hat{p}(y|x;w) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y\langle w, x \rangle)},$$

with parameter vector  $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is called a *logistic regression* model.

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with parameter vector  $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is called a *logistic regression* model.

#### Lemma

 $\hat{p}(y|x;w)$  is a well defined probability density w.r.t. y for any  $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Proof. elementary.

# How to set the weight vector w (based on $\mathcal{D}$ )

## **Logistic Regression Training**

Given a training set  $\mathcal{D}=\{(x^1,y^1),\ldots,(x^n,y^n)\}$ , logistic regression training sets the free parameter vector as

$$w_{LR} = \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left( 1 + \exp(-y^i \langle w, x^i \rangle) \right)$$

## Lemma (Conditional Likelihood Maximization)

 $w_{LR}$  from Logistic Regression training maximizes the conditional data likelihood w.r.t. the LogReg model,

$$w_{LR} = \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmax}} \hat{p}(y^1, \dots, y^n | x^1, \dots, x^n, w)$$

#### Proof.

Maximizing

$$\hat{p}(\mathcal{D}^Y|\mathcal{D}^X, w) \stackrel{i.i.d.}{=} \prod_{i=1}^n \hat{p}(y^i|x^i, w)$$

is equivalent to minimizing its negative logarithm

$$-\log \hat{p}(\mathcal{D}^Y | \mathcal{D}^X, w) = -\log \prod_{i=1}^n \hat{p}(y^i | x^i, w) = -\sum_{i=1}^n \log \hat{p}(y^i | x^i, w)$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^n \log \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y^i \langle w, x^i \rangle)},$$

$$= -\sum_{i=1}^n [\log 1 - \log(1 + \exp(-y^i \langle w, x^i \rangle)],$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \exp(-y^i \langle w, x^i \rangle).$$

## **Alternative Explanation**

## **Definition (Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence)**

Let p and q be two probability distributions (for discrete  $\mathcal{Z}$ ) or probability densities with respect to a measure  $d\lambda$  (for continuous  $\mathcal{Z}$ ).

The Kullbach-Leibler (KL)-divergence between p and q is defined as

$$\mathrm{KL}(p\,\|q) = \sum_{z\in\mathcal{Z}} p(z)\log\frac{p(z)}{q(z)}, \quad \text{or} \quad \mathrm{KL}(p\,\|q) = \int\limits_{z\in\mathcal{Z}} p(z)\log\frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \; \mathrm{d}\lambda(\mathbf{z}),$$

(with convention  $0 \log 0 = 0$ , and  $a \log \frac{a}{0} = \infty$  for a > 0).

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(with convention  $0 \log 0 = 0$ , and  $a \log \frac{a}{0} = \infty$  for a > 0).

KL is a similarity measure between probability distributions. It fulfills

$$0 \leq KL(p \, \| q) \leq \infty, \qquad \text{and} \qquad KL(p \, \| q) = 0 \ \Leftrightarrow \ p = q.$$

However, KL is **not a metric**.

- it is in general not symmetric,  $KL(q || p) \neq KL(p || q)$ ,
- it does not fulfill the triangle inequality.

# Alternative Explanation of Logistic Regression Training

## Definition (Expected Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence)

Let p(x,y) be a probability distribution over  $(x,y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  and let  $\hat{p}(y|x)$  be an approximation of p(y|x).

We measure the approximation quality by the **expected KL-divergence** between p and q over all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ :

$$\mathrm{KL}_{\exp}(p \, \| q) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p(x)} \{ \, \mathrm{KL}(p(\cdot | x) \| q(\cdot | x)) \, \}$$

#### **Theorem**

The parameter  $w_{LR}$  obtained by logistic regression training approximately minimizes the KL divergence between  $\hat{p}(y|x;w)$  and p(y|x).

#### Proof.

We show how maximimzing the conditional likelihood relates to  $KL_{exp}$ :

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{KL}_{\mathrm{exp}}(p \| \hat{p}) &= \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p(x)} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} p(y | x) \log \frac{p(y | x)}{\hat{p}(y | x, w)} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{(x, y) \sim p(x, y)} \log p(y | x)}_{\text{indep. of } w} - \mathbb{E}_{(x, y) \sim p(x, y)} \log \hat{p}(y | x, w) \end{split}$$

We can't maximize  $\mathbb{E}_{(x,y)\sim p(x,y)}\log\hat{p}(y|x,w)$  directly, because p(x,y) is unknown. But we can maximimize its empirical estimate based on  $\mathcal{D}$ :

$$\mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim p(x,y)} \log \hat{p}(y|x,w) \; \approx \underbrace{\sum_{(x^i,y^i) \in \mathcal{D}} \log \hat{p}(y^i|x^i,w)}_{\text{log of conditional data likelihood}} \; .$$

The approximation will get better the more data we have.

# Solving Logistic Regression numerically - Optimization I

#### **Theorem**

Logistic Regression training,

$$w_{LR} = \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \ \mathcal{L}(w) \quad \text{for} \quad \mathcal{L}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left(1 + \exp(-y^i \langle w, x^i \rangle)\right),$$

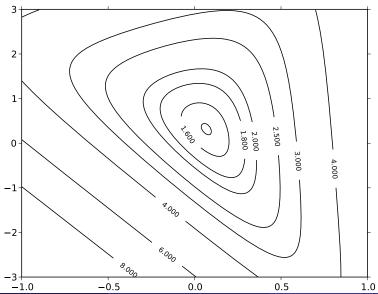
is a  $C^{\infty}$ -smooth, unconstrained, convex optimization problem.

#### Proof.

- 1 it's an optimization problem,
- it's unconstrained,
- $oldsymbol{0}$  it's smooth (the objective function is  $C^{\infty}$  differentiable),
- remains to show: the objective function is a convex function. Since \( \mathcal{L} \) is smooth, it's enough to show that its \( Hessian \) matrix (the matrix of 2nd partial derivatives) is everywhere \( positive \) definite.

#### Exercise!

# **Example plot:** LogReg objective for three examples in $\mathbb{R}^2$



#### **Numeric Optimization**

Convex optimization is a well understood field. We can use, e.g., gradient descent will converge to the globally optimal solution!

# Steepest Descent Minimization with Line Search

```
\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{input} & \epsilon > 0 \text{ tolerance (for stopping criterion)} \\ \textbf{1:} & w \leftarrow 0 \\ \textbf{2:} & \textbf{repeat} \\ \textbf{3:} & v \leftarrow -\nabla_w \, \mathcal{L}(w) & \{\text{descent direction}\} \\ \textbf{4:} & \eta \leftarrow \mathbf{argmin}_{\eta > 0} \, \mathcal{L}(w + \eta v) & \{\text{1D line search}\} \\ \textbf{5:} & w \leftarrow w + \eta d \\ \textbf{6:} & \textbf{until} \ \|v\| < \epsilon \\ \textbf{output} & w \in \mathbb{R}^d \ \text{learned weight vector} \\ \end{array}
```

Faster conference from methods that use second-order information, e.g., conjugate gradients or (L-)BFGS  $\rightarrow$  convex optimization lecture

# Binary classification with a LogReg Models

A discriminative probability model,  $\hat{p}(y|x)$ , is enough to make decisions:

$$c(x) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \hat{p}(y|x) \quad \text{or} \quad c(x) = \operatorname*{argmin}_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{y} \sim \hat{p}(y|x)} \ell(\bar{y}, y).$$

For Logistic Regression, this is particularly simple:

#### Lemma

The LogReg classification rule for 0/1-loss is

$$c(x) = \text{sign } \langle w, x \rangle.$$

For a loss function 
$$\ell=\begin{pmatrix}a&b\\c&d\end{pmatrix}$$
 the rule is 
$$c_\ell(x)=\mathrm{sign}[~\langle w,x\rangle+\log\frac{c-d}{b-a}~],$$

In particular, the decision boundaries is linear (or affine).

**Proof.** Elementary, since  $\log \frac{\hat{p}(+1|x;w)}{p(-1|x;w)} = \langle w, x \rangle$ 

## **Multiclass Logistic Regression**

For  $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, \dots, M\}$ , we can do two things:

• Parametrize  $\hat{p}(y|x; \vec{w})$  using M-1 vectors,  $w_1, \dots, w_{M-1} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , as

$$\hat{p}(y|x,w) = \frac{\exp(\langle w_y, x \rangle)}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{M-1} \exp(\langle w_j, x \rangle)} \quad \text{for } y = 1, \dots, M-1,$$

$$\hat{p}(M|x,w) = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{M-1} \exp(\langle w_j, x \rangle)}.$$

Parametrize  $\hat{p}(y|x; ec{w})$  using M vectors,  $w_1, \dots, w_M \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , as

$$\hat{p}(y|x,w) = \frac{\exp(\langle w_y, x \rangle)}{\sum_{j=1}^{M} \exp(\langle w_j, x \rangle)} \quad \text{for } y = 1, \dots, M,$$

Second is more popular, since it's easier to implement and analyze.

Decision boundaries are still *piecewise linear*,  $c(x) = \mathbf{argmax}_y \langle w_y, x \rangle$ .

## **Summary: Discriminative Models**

Discriminative models treats the input data, x, as fixed and only model the distribution of the output labels p(y|x).

Discriminative models, in particular LogReg, are popular, because

- they often need less training data than generative models,
- they provide an estimate of the uncertainty of a decision p(c(x)|x),
- training them is often efficient,
   e.g. Yahoo trains LogReg models routinely from billions of examples.

But: they also have drawbacks

- often  $\hat{p}_{LR}(y|x) \not\rightarrow p(y|x)$ , even for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,
- they usually are good for *prediction*, but they do not reflect the actual *mechanism*.

Note: there are much more complex discriminative models than LogReg, e.g. Conditional Random Fields (maybe later).

## **Maximum Margin Classifiers**

Let's use  $\mathcal D$  to estimate a classifier  $c:\mathcal X\to\mathcal Y$  directly.

## **Maximum Margin Classifiers**

# Let's use $\mathcal D$ to estimate a classifier $c:\mathcal X\to\mathcal Y$ directly.

For a start, we fix

• 
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x^1, y^1), \dots, (x^n, y^n)\},\$$

• 
$$\mathcal{Y} = \{+1, -1\},\$$

we look for classifiers with linear decision boundary.

Several of the classifiers we saw had *linear* decision boundaries:

- Generative classifiers for Gaussian class-conditional densities with shared covariance matrix
- Logistic Regression
- Perceptron (didn't introduce yet)

What's the **best linear classifier**?

#### Linear classifiers

#### **Definition**

Let

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\} \text{ with } f(x) = b + a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_d x_d = b + \langle w, x \rangle \}$$

be the set of linear (affine) function from  $\mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ .

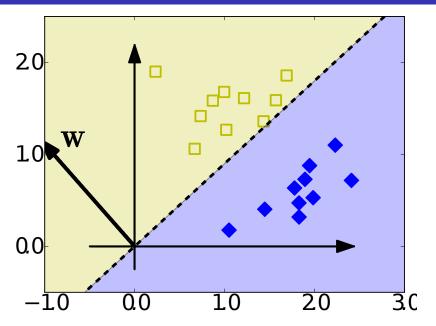
A classifier  $g:\mathcal{X}\to\mathcal{Y}$  is called **linear**, if it can be written as

$$g(x) = \operatorname{sign} f(x)$$

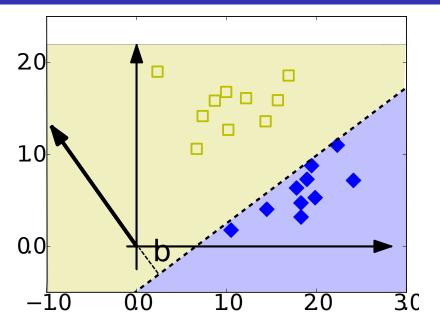
for some  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ .

We write  $\mathcal{G}$  for the set of all linear classifiers.

# A linear classifier, $g(x) = \operatorname{sign}\langle w, x \rangle$ , with b = 0



# A linear classifier $g(x) = \operatorname{sign}(\langle w, x \rangle + b)$ , with b > 0



### Linear classifiers

## **Definition**

We call a classifier, g, **correct** (for a training set  $\mathcal{D}$ ), if it predicts the correct labels for all training examples:

$$g(x^i) = y^i$$
 for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

### Linear classifiers

## **Definition**

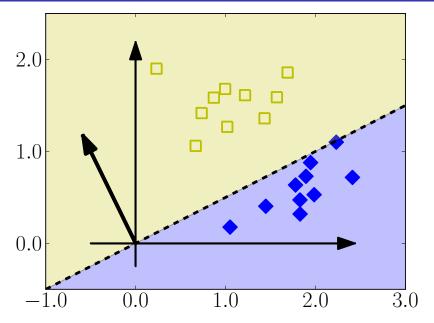
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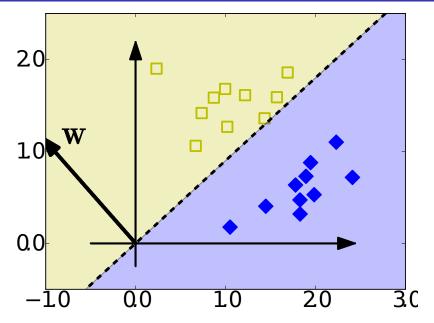
# **Definition (Linear Separability)**

A training set  $\mathcal{D}$  is called **linearly separable**, if it allows a correct linear classifier (i.e. the classes can be separated by a hyperplane).

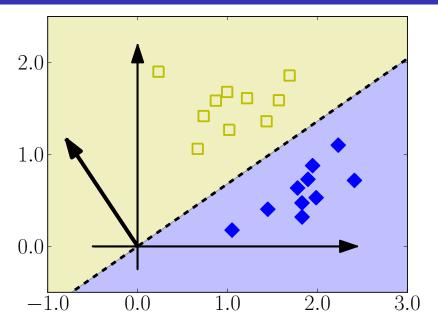
# A linearly separable dataset and a correct classifier



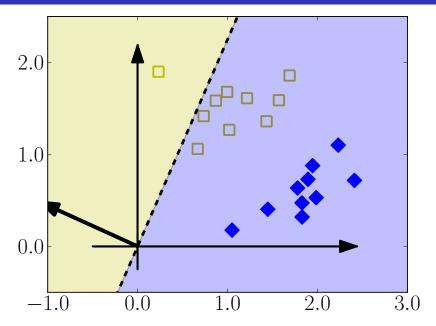
# A linearly separable dataset and a correct classifier



# A linearly separable dataset and a correct classifier



# An incorrect classifier



### **Linear Classifiers**

### **Definition**

The **robustness** of a classifier g (with respect to  $\mathcal{D}$ ) is the largest amount,  $\rho$ , by which we can perturb the training samples without changing the predictions of g.

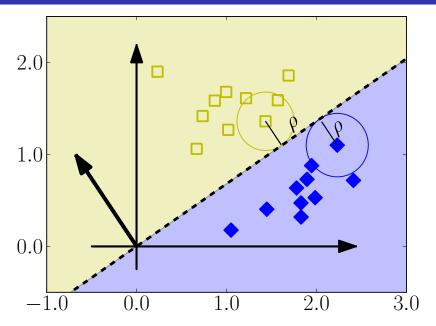
$$g(x^i + \epsilon) = g(x^i),$$
 for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

for any  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\|\epsilon\| < \rho$ .

## **Example**

- constant classifier, e.g.  $c(x) \equiv 1$ : very robust  $(\rho = \infty)$ , (but it is not *correct*, in the sense of the previous definition)
- robustness of the Perceptron: can be arbitrarily small (see Exercise...)

# Robustness, $\rho$ , of a linear classifier



## Definition (Margin)

Let  $f(x) = \langle w, x \rangle + b$  define a *correct* linear classifier.

Then the smallest (Euclidean) distance of any training example from the decision hyperplane is called the **margin** of f (with respect to  $\mathcal{D}$ ).

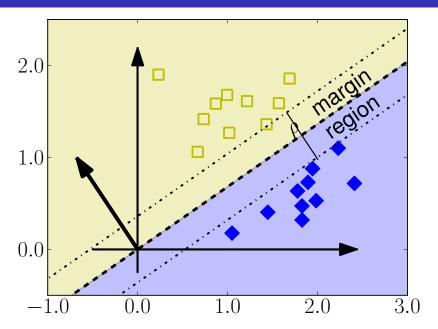
### Lemma

We can compute the margin of a linear classifier  $f = \langle w, x \rangle + b$  as

$$\rho = \min_{i=1,\dots,n} \left| \left\langle \frac{w}{\|w\|}, x^i \right\rangle + b \right|.$$

### Proof.

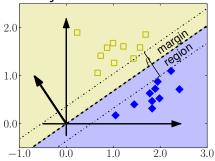
High school maths: distance between a points and a hyperplane in *Hessian normal form*.

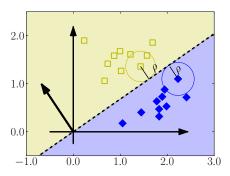


### **Theorem**

The robustness of a linear classifier function  $g(x) = \operatorname{sign} f(x)$  with  $f(x) = \langle w, x \rangle + b$  is identical to the margin of f.

## **Proof by Picture**





# Maximum-Margin Classifier

#### **Theorem**

Let  $\mathcal D$  be a linearly separable training set. Then the **most robust, correct** classifier is given by  $g(x) = \operatorname{sign}\langle w^*, x \rangle + b^*$  where  $(w^*, b^*)$  are the solution to

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \ \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2$$

subject to

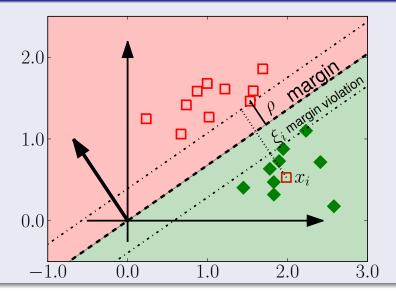
$$y^i(\langle w, x^i \rangle + b) \ge 1$$
, for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

### Remark

- The classifier defined above is call Maximum (Hard) Margin Classifier, or Hard-Margin Support Vector Machine (SVM)
- It is unique (follows from strictly convex optimization problem).

# **Non-Separable Training Sets**

# Observation (Not all training sets are linearly separable.)



## **Definition (Maximum Soft-Margin Classifier)**

Let  $\mathcal D$  be a training set, not necessarily linearly separable. Let C>0. Then the classifier  $g(x)=\mathrm{sign}\langle w^*,x\rangle$  where  $(w^*,b^*)$  are the solution to

$$\min_{w\in\mathbb{R}^d,\xi\in\mathbb{R}^n}\ \frac{1}{2}\|w\|^2+C\sum_{i=1}^n\xi^i$$

subject to

$$y^i(\langle w, x^i \rangle + b) \ge 1 - \xi^i$$
, for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .  $\xi^i \ge 0$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

is called Maximum (Soft-)Margin Classifier or Linear Support Vector Machine.

## **Maximum Soft-Margin Classifier**

### **Theorem**

The maximum soft-margin classifier exists and is unique for any C>0.

**Proof.** optimization problem is strictly convex

### Remark

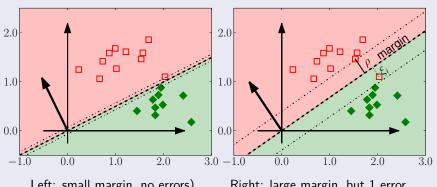
The constant C>0 is called **regularization** parameter.

It balances the wishes for robustness and for correctness

- ullet C o 0: mistakes don't matter much, emphasis on short w
- $C \to \infty$ : as few errors as possible, might not be robust

### Remark

Sometimes, a soft margin is better even for linearly separable datasets!

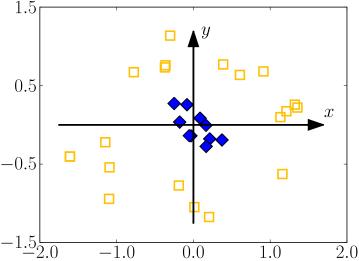


Left: small margin, no errors)

Right: large margin, but 1 error

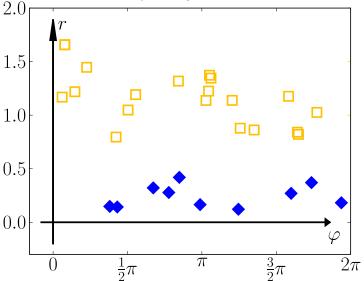
### **Nonlinear Classifiers**

What, if a linear classifier is really not a good choice?



### **Nonlinear Classifiers**

What, if a linear classifier is really not a good choice?



Change the data representation, e.g. Cartesian ightarrow polar coordinates

## **Definition (Max-margin Generalized Linear Classifier)**

Let C>0. Assume a necessarily linearly separable training set

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x^1, y^1), \dots x^n, y^n)\} \subset \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}.$$

Let  $\phi: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{H}$  be a feature map from  $\mathcal{X}$  into a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ .

Then we can form a new training set

$$\mathcal{D}^{\phi} = \{ (\phi(x^1), y^1), \dots, (\phi(x^n), y^n) \} \subset \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Y}.$$

The maximum-(soft)-margin linear classifier in  $\mathcal{H}$ ,

$$g(x) = \operatorname{sign}\langle w, \phi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} + b,$$

for  $w \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  is called max-margin generalized linear classifier.

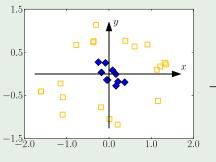
It is still *linear* w.r.t w, but (in general) nonlinear with respect to x.

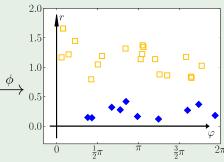
## **Example (Polar coordinates)**

Left: dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  for which no good linear classifier exists.

Right: dataset  $\mathcal{D}^\phi$  for  $\phi:\mathcal{X} o\mathcal{H}$  with  $\mathcal{X}=\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathcal{H}=\mathbb{R}^2$ 

$$\phi(x,y)=(\sqrt{x^2+y^2},\arctan\frac{y}{x}) \qquad \mbox{(and } \phi(0,0)=(0,0)\mbox{)}$$



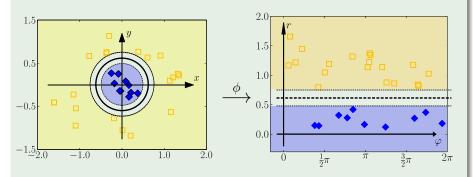


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Any classifier in  ${\mathcal H}$  induces a classifier in  ${\mathcal X}$ .

# Other popular feature mappings, $\phi$

## **Example** (*d*-th degree polynomials)

$$\phi: (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (1, x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2, \dots, x_1^d, \dots, x_n^d)$$

Resulting classifier: d-th degree polynomial in  $x.g(x) = \mathrm{sign}\, f(x)$  with  $f(x) = \langle w, \phi(x) \rangle = \sum\nolimits_j w_j \phi(x)_j = \sum\nolimits_i a_i x_i + \sum\nolimits_{ij} b_{ij} x_i x_j + \dots$ 

## **Example (Distance map)**

For a set of prototype  $p_1, \ldots, p_N \in \mathcal{H}$ :

$$\phi: \vec{x} \mapsto \left(e^{-\|\vec{x} - \vec{p}_i\|^2}, \dots, e^{-\|\vec{x} - \vec{p}_N\|^2}\right)$$

Classifier: combine weights from close enough prototypes

$$g(x) = \operatorname{sign}\langle w, \phi(x)\rangle = \operatorname{sign}\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i e^{-\|\vec{x} - \vec{p}_i\|^2}.$$

## Finding the Maximum Margin Classifier numerically - Optimization II

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R} \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n} \ \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \xi^i$$

subject to

$$y^i\langle w,\phi(x^i)
angle\geq 1-\xi^i,\quad \text{for }i=1,\ldots,n,$$
 
$$\xi^i\geq 0.\quad \text{for }i=1,\ldots,n.$$

How to solve numerically?

- off-the-shelf Quadratic Program (QP) solver only for small dimensions and training sets (a few hundred),
- variants of gradient descent,
   high dimensional data, large training sets (millions)
- by convex duality, for very high dimensional data and not so many examples  $(d \gg n)$