

1. Support Vector Machines

(Can create infinitely many features!)

- a) Optimal separating hyperplane
- b) SVMs
- c) Interpretation as penalized ERM with hinge loss
- d) Dual Formulation
- e) Kernel trick
- f) Derivation of dual formulation

Vapnik & Chervonenkis: foundational work on statistical learning starting in sixties and seventies, leading to SVMs ~1990.

Vapnik, 1998: "solve the problem directly and never solve a more general problem as an intermediate step"

1. SVMs

a) Optimal separating hyperplane

estimate
 generative: $P(x, y)$
 discriminative: $P(y|x)$
 now: decision boundary directly

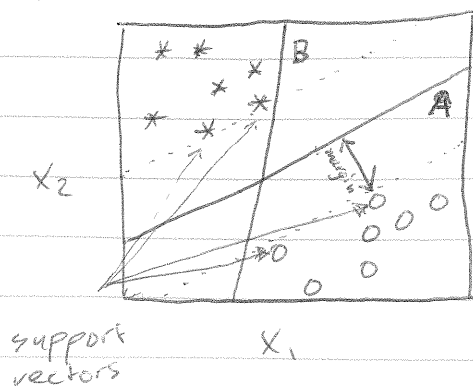
Assume: 2 classes, linearly separable

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ x_1 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} y_N \\ x_N \end{pmatrix} \quad y \in \{-1, +1\}$$

Linear

Model: classifiers that compute $x^T \beta + \beta_0$ ← writing intercept separately and return its sign

(2)



Which decision boundary do you like best? A or B?

A has larger "margin" = distance to nearest point

Fig. 12.1, left

"Optimal" separating hyperplane maximizes the margin.

support vectors: points on the margin

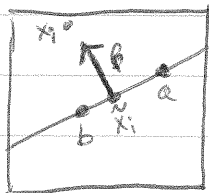
decision boundary: $\{x : x^T \beta + \beta_0 = 0\}$

Let $f(x) = x^T \beta + \beta_0$. Then distance of x_i to decision boundary is $\frac{|f(x_i)|}{\|\beta\|}$

margin: $\frac{y_i \cdot f(x_i)}{\|\beta\|}$

~~is distance~~ is distance if x_i classified correctly
is negative distance if classified incorrectly

Optional: for any a, b on decision boundary:



$(b-a)^T \beta = 0$, so $\frac{\beta}{\|\beta\|}$ is normal vector to the decision boundary of length 1.

suppose \hat{x}_i is projection of x_i onto decision boundary. Then

$x_i = \hat{x}_i + \alpha \cdot \frac{\beta}{\|\beta\|}$ $|\alpha|$ is distance of x_i from decision boundary

$$\alpha \frac{\beta}{\|\beta\|} = x_i - \hat{x}_i$$

$$\alpha \cdot \|\beta\| = (x_i - \hat{x}_i)^T \beta \quad (\text{because } \beta^T \beta = \|\beta\|^2)$$

$$\cancel{\alpha \cdot \|\beta\|} = x_i^T \beta - \hat{x}_i^T \beta$$

$$= x_i^T \beta + \beta_0 \quad (\text{because } \hat{x}_i \text{ on decision boundary})$$

$$= f(x_i)$$

$$\alpha = \frac{f(x_i)}{\|\beta\|}$$

How to express optimal separating hyperplane mathematically:

③

to maximize the margin M :

$$\max_{\beta, \beta_0, M} M$$

$$\text{subject to: } \frac{y_i(x_i^T \beta + \beta_0)}{\|\beta\|} \geq M \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, N$$

margin of (x_i)

Same decision boundary and margin if we multiply β, β_0 by a constant, so can always choose this constant such that $\|\beta\| = \frac{1}{M}$:

$$\max_{\beta, \beta_0, M} M$$

$$\|\beta\| = \frac{1}{M}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \frac{y_i(x_i^T \beta + \beta_0)}{\|\beta\|} \geq M \cdot \|\beta\| \quad \forall i$$

$$\max_{\beta, \beta_0} \frac{1}{\|\beta\|}$$

$$\text{s.t. } y_i(x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) \geq 1 \quad \forall i$$

solution achieved by same parameters β, β_0

convex function $\rightarrow \min_{\beta, \beta_0} \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2$

linear inequality constraints $\rightarrow \text{s.t. } y_i(x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) \geq 1 \quad \forall i$

Can solve this optimization problem efficiently!

NB. We cannot efficiently compute an ERM solution for 0/1-loss in general, but we see here that for separable data this gives a computationally efficient way to find one of the ERM solutions!

b) SVMs

(4)

What if classes are not linearly separable?

Fig. 12.1, right: introduce slack variable $\xi_i \geq 0$ for each data point $i = 1, \dots, N$

$$\max_{\beta, \beta_0, M, \xi_i} M$$

$$\text{subject to: } \xi_i \geq 0, \quad y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) \geq M(1 - \xi_i) \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i \leq t$$

parameter of alg. \leftarrow Assume we take large enough to have a solution

support vectors: all points inside the margin

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } \xi_i \geq 0, \quad y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) \geq 1 - \xi_i \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i \leq t$$

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2 + C \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i$$

Parameter

(*)

$$\text{s.t. } \xi_i \geq 0, \quad y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) \geq 1 - \xi_i \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

c) Interpretation as penalized ERM

see slides 4

$$L(y_i, f(x_i)) = \max \{0, 1 - y_i \cdot f(x_i)\} \text{ is "hinge loss"}$$

(5)

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \underbrace{\xi_i \geq 0, \quad \xi_i \geq 1 - y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0)}_{\xi_i \geq L(y_i, x_i^T \beta + \beta_0)} \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\xi_i \geq L(y_i, x_i^T \beta + \beta_0)$$

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0} \sum_{i=1}^N L(y_i, x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) + \frac{1}{2-C} \|\beta\|^2$$

ERM for hinge loss with L_2 -penalty, $\lambda = \frac{1}{2-C}$.

d) Dual Formulation

$$\max_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N} \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_k y_i y_k \langle x_i, x_k \rangle \quad \text{where } \langle x_i, x_k \rangle = x_i^T x_k$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

Then solution to (*) is:

$$\hat{\beta} = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\alpha}_i y_i x_i \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{very different, but} \\ \text{reminiscent of nearest neighbor, because} \\ \text{also defined in terms of training data} \end{array}$$

$\hat{\alpha}_i = 0$ for x_i outside margin and on right side of decision boundary

$0 < \hat{\alpha}_i < C$ for x_i on margin and on right side of decision boundary

$\hat{\alpha}_i = C$ for x_i inside margin or on wrong side of decision boundary

solve $\hat{\beta}_0$ from $\hat{\alpha}_i [y_i (x_i^T \hat{\beta} + \hat{\beta}_0) - 1] = 0$

for any i s.t. $0 < \hat{\alpha}_i < C$

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e) Kernel trick

Fig. 2.5: how to learn something like this with linear classifier?

map features x to a larger set of features $h(x)$!
e.g.

$$h\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_1 \cdot x_2 \\ x_1^2 \\ x_2^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then $\langle x_i, x_k \rangle$ in dual formulation becomes $\langle h(x_i), h(x_k) \rangle$

kernel trick: don't need to specify h ,
only need to know the kernel function

really nice if this were a simple function... so turn things around and start by defining $K(x_i, x_k)$

$\rightarrow K(x_i, x_k) = \langle h(x_i), h(x_k) \rangle$ ← measure of similarity, larger if x_i, x_k more similar.

$h(x)$ may even be infinite-dimensional!

Examples: $K(x, x') = (1 + \langle x, x' \rangle)^d$: d -th degree polynomial

Let $d=2, x \in \mathbb{R}^2$:

$$K(x, x') = (1 + x_1 x'_1 + x_2 x'_2)^2 \\ = \langle h(x), h(x') \rangle$$

for

$$h(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} x_1 \\ \sqrt{2} x_2 \\ x_1^2 \\ x_2^2 \\ \sqrt{2} x_1 x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

radial basis: $K(x, x') = e^{-\gamma \|x - x'\|^2}$

neural network: $K(x, x') = \tanh(a \langle x, x' \rangle + b)$

If K satisfies certain technical conditions (symmetric, positive definite) then there always exists some mapping h s.t. $K(x, x') = \langle h(x), h(x') \rangle$.

$\tanh(z) = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}}$

Classifying a new x :

(7)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}(x) &= w(x)^T \hat{\beta} + \hat{\beta}_0 = h(x)^T \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i h(x_i) + \hat{\beta}_0 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i \langle h(x), h(x_i) \rangle + \hat{\beta}_0 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i K(x, x_i) + \hat{\beta}_0\end{aligned}$$

Again no need to specify h ; only need to know kernel.

Fig. 12.3

f.) Derivation of Dual Formulation ← optional!

$$\begin{aligned}\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2 + C \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \xi_i \geq 0, \quad y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) - (1 - \xi_i) \geq 0 \quad i=1, \dots, N\end{aligned}$$

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \sup_{\alpha_i, p_i \geq 0} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i - \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i (y_i (x_i^T \beta + \beta_0) - (1 - \xi_i)) - \sum_{i=1}^N p_i \xi_i}_A$$

(If β, β_0, ξ_i violate constraints, then α_i or p_i becomes ∞ and $A = \infty$, so β, β_0, ξ_i only achieve minimum while satisfying constraints. And then α_i, p_i become 0, so the constraints ~~with~~ drop away and we are minimizing the previous objective.)

$$\cancel{\nabla_{\beta} A = 0 \Rightarrow \beta = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i x_i} \quad \cancel{\nabla_{\beta_0} A = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0}$$

$$\cancel{\nabla_{\xi_i} A = 0 \Rightarrow p_i = C - \alpha_i}$$

plugging

⑧

$$\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} \sup_{\alpha_i, p_i \geq 0} A = \sup_{\alpha_i, p_i \geq 0} \underbrace{\min_{\beta, \beta_0, \xi_i} A}_{\text{can solve this}} \quad \text{by convex optimization theory (Slater's condition)}$$

$$\nabla_{\beta} A = 0 \Rightarrow \beta = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i x_i \quad \nabla_{\beta_0} A = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\nabla_{\xi_i} A = 0 \Rightarrow p_i = C - \alpha_i$$

Plugging these in gives dual formulation.