

# Support Vector Machines (II)

CMSC 422

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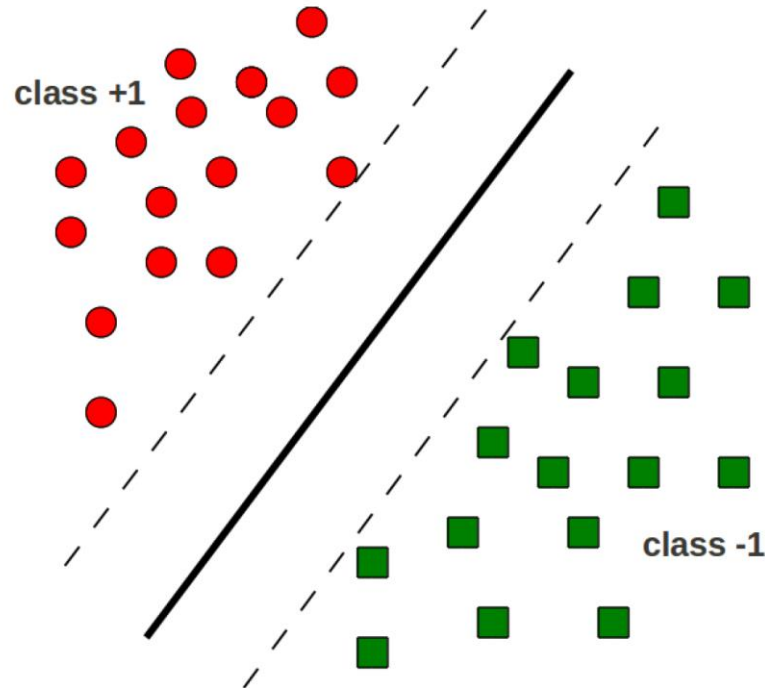
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What we know about SVM so far

# REVIEW

# The Maximum Margin Principle

- Find the hyperplane with **maximum separation margin** on the training data



# Support Vector Machine (SVM)

A hyperplane based linear classifier defined by  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $b$

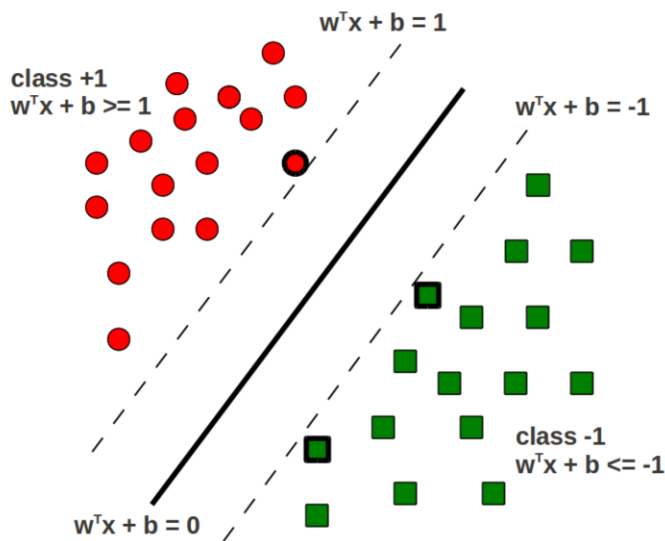
Prediction rule:  $y = \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b)$

**Given:** Training data  $\{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y_N)\}$

**Goal:** Learn  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $b$  that achieve the **maximum margin**

# Characterizing the margin

Let's assume the entire training data is correctly classified by  $(\mathbf{w}, b)$  that achieve the maximum margin



- Assume the hyperplane is such that
  - $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b \geq 1$  for  $y_n = +1$
  - $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b \leq -1$  for  $y_n = -1$
  - Equivalently,  $y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) \geq 1$   
 $\Rightarrow \min_{1 \leq n \leq N} |\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b| = 1$
- The hyperplane's margin:

$$\gamma = \min_{1 \leq n \leq N} \frac{|\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$$

# Solving the SVM Optimization Problem (assuming linearly separable data)

Our optimization problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } f(\mathbf{w}, b) &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2}{2} \\ \text{subject to } 1 &\leq y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b), \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

Introducing **Lagrange Multipliers**  $\alpha_n$  ( $n = \{1, \dots, N\}$ ), one for each constraint, leads to the **Lagrangian**:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } L(\mathbf{w}, b, \alpha) &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n \{1 - y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b)\} \\ \text{subject to } \alpha_n &\geq 0; \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

# Solving the SVM Optimization Problem (assuming linearly separable data)

Take (partial) derivatives of  $L_P$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $b$  and set them to zero

A Quadratic Program for which many off-the-shelf solvers exist

$$= \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \mathbf{x}_n, \quad \frac{\partial L_P}{\partial b} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0$$

Substituting these into the **Primal** Lagrangian  $L_P$  gives the **Dual** Lagrangian

$$\text{Maximize } L_D(\mathbf{w}, b, \alpha) = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m,n=1}^N \alpha_m \alpha_n y_m y_n (\mathbf{x}_m^T \mathbf{x}_n)$$

$$\text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0, \quad \alpha_n \geq 0; \quad n = 1, \dots, N$$

# SVM: the solution!

(assuming linearly separable data)

Once we have the  $\alpha_n$ 's,  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $b$  can be computed as:

$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \mathbf{x}_n$$

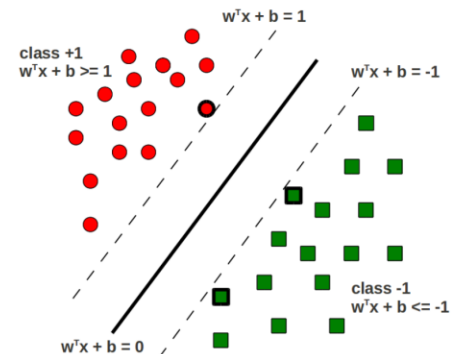
$$b = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \min_{n:y_n=+1} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + \max_{n:y_n=-1} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n \right)$$

**Note:** Most  $\alpha_n$ 's in the solution are zero (**sparse solution**)

- Reason: **Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions**
- For the optimal  $\alpha_n$ 's

$$\alpha_n \{1 - y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b)\} = 0$$

- $\alpha_n$  is **non-zero** only if  $\mathbf{x}_n$  lies on one of the two **margin boundaries**, i.e., for which  $y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) = 1$
- These examples are called **support vectors**
- Support vectors “support” the margin boundaries





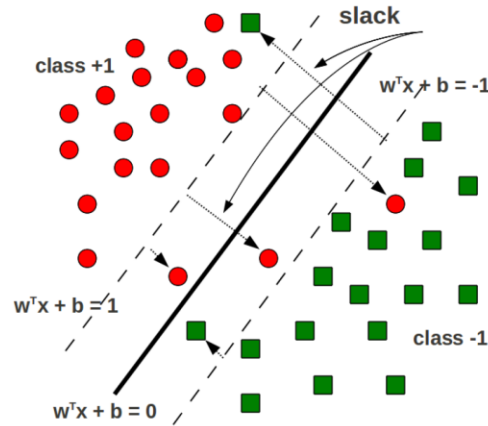
What if the data is not separable?

# GENERAL CASE SVM SOLUTION

# SVM in the non-separable case

- no hyperplane can separate the classes perfectly
- We still want to find the max margin hyperplane, but
  - We will allow some training examples to be **misclassified**
  - We will allow some training examples to fall **within** the margin region

# SVM in the non-separable case



Recall: For the separable case (training loss = 0), the constraints were:

$$y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) \geq 1 \quad \forall n$$

For the non-separable case, we **relax** the above constraints as:

$$y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) \geq 1 - \xi_n \quad \forall n$$

$\xi_n$  is called **slack variable** (distance  $\mathbf{x}_n$  goes past the margin boundary)

$\xi_n \geq 0, \forall n$ , **misclassification when  $\xi_n > 1$**

# SVM Optimization Problem

Non-separable case: We will allow misclassified training examples

- .. but we want their number to be minimized  
⇒ by *minimizing* the *sum of slack variables* ( $\sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n$ )

The optimization problem for the **non-separable case**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } f(\mathbf{w}, b) &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2}{2} + C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n \\ \text{subject to } y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) &\geq 1 - \xi_n, \quad \xi_n \geq 0 \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

C hyperparameter dictates which term dominates the minimization

- Small C => prefer large margins and allows more misclassified examples
- Large C => prefer small number of misclassified examples, but at the expense of a small margin

# Introducing Lagrange Multipliers...

Our optimization problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } f(\mathbf{w}, b, \xi) &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2}{2} + C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n \\ \text{subject to } 1 &\leq y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) + \xi_n, \quad 0 \leq \xi_n \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

Introducing **Lagrange Multipliers**  $\alpha_n, \beta_n$  ( $n = \{1, \dots, N\}$ ), for the constraints, leads to the **Primal Lagrangian**:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } L_P(\mathbf{w}, b, \xi, \alpha, \beta) &= \frac{\|\mathbf{w}\|^2}{2} + C \sum_{n=1}^N \xi_n + \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n \{1 - y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) - \xi_n\} - \sum_{n=1}^N \beta_n \xi_n \\ \text{subject to } \alpha_n, \beta_n &\geq 0; \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

Terms in red are those that were not there in the separable case!

# Formulating the dual objective

Take (partial) derivatives of  $L_P$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $b$ ,  $\xi_n$  and set them to zero

$$\frac{\partial L_P}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n \mathbf{x}_n, \quad \frac{\partial L_P}{\partial b} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L_P}{\partial \xi_n} = 0 \Rightarrow C - \alpha_n - \beta_n = 0$$

Using  $C - \alpha_n - \beta_n = 0$  and  $\beta_n \geq 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_n \leq C$

Substituting these in the **Primal** Lagrangian  $L_P$  gives the **Dual** Lagrangian

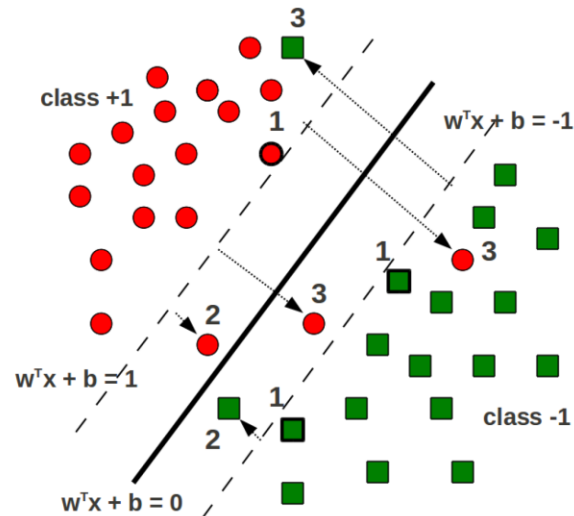
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize } L_D(\mathbf{w}, b, \xi, \alpha, \beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m,n=1}^N \alpha_m \alpha_n y_m y_n (\mathbf{x}_m^T \mathbf{x}_n) \\ \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n &= 0, \quad 0 \leq \alpha_n \leq C; \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

## Note

- Given  $\alpha$  the solution for  $w$ ,  $b$  has the same form as in the separable case
- $\alpha$  is again sparse, nonzero  $\alpha_n$ 's correspond to support vectors

# Support Vectors in the Non-Separable Case

We now have 3 types of support vectors!



- (1) Lying on the margin boundaries  $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b = -1$  and  $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b = +1$  ( $\xi_n = 0$ )
- (2) Lying within the margin region ( $0 < \xi_n < 1$ ) but still on the correct side
- (3) Lying on the wrong side of the hyperplane ( $\xi_n \geq 1$ )

# Notes on training

- Solving the quadratic problem is  $O(N^3)$ 
  - Can be prohibitive for large datasets
- But many options to speed up training
  - Approximate solvers
  - Learn from what we know about training linear models



# Recall: Learning a Linear Classifier as an Optimization Problem

**Objective  
function**

**Loss function**  
measures how well  
classifier fits training  
data

**Regularizer**  
prefers solutions  
that generalize  
well

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, b} L(\mathbf{w}, b) = \min_{\mathbf{w}, b} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{I}(y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) < 0) + \lambda R(\mathbf{w}, b)$$

# Recall: Learning a Linear Classifier as an Optimization Problem

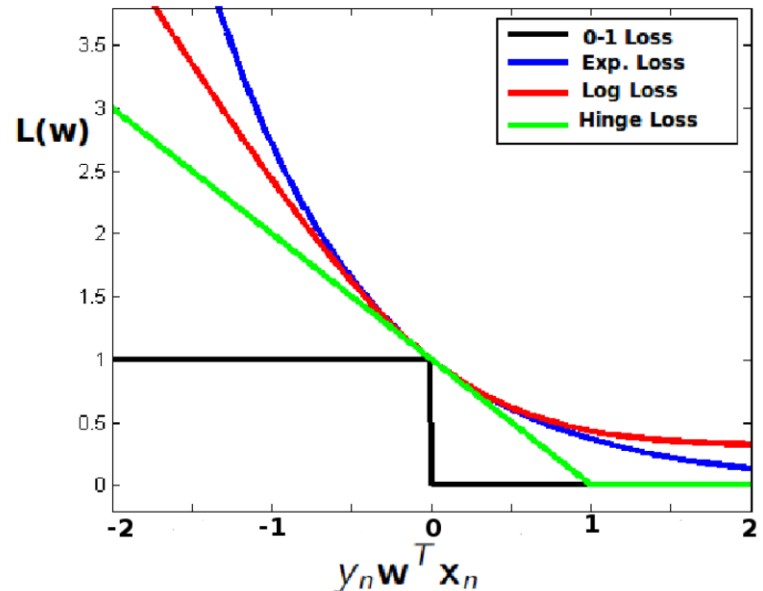
$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, b} L(\mathbf{w}, b) = \min_{\mathbf{w}, b} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{I}(y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) < 0) + \lambda R(\mathbf{w}, b)$$

- **Problem:** The 0-1 loss above is NP-hard to optimize exactly/approximately in general
- **Solution:** Different loss function approximations and regularizers lead to specific algorithms  
(e.g., perceptron, support vector machines, etc.)

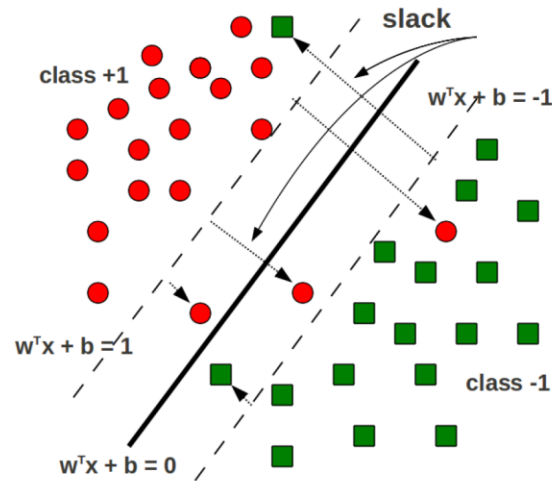
# Recall: Approximating the 0-1 loss with surrogate loss functions

- Examples (with  $b = 0$ )
  - Hinge loss  $[1 - y_n \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n]_+ = \max\{0, 1 - y_n \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n\}$
  - Log loss  $\log[1 + \exp(-y_n \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n)]$
  - Exponential loss  $\exp(-y_n \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n)$

- All are convex upper-bounds on the 0-1 loss



# What is the SVM loss function?



No penalty ( $\xi_n = 0$ ) if  $y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) \geq 1$

Linear penalty ( $\xi_n = 1 - y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b)$ ) if  $y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b) < 1$

It's precisely the hinge loss  $\max\{0, 1 - y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b)\}$

# Recall: What is the perceptron optimizing?

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**Algorithm 5** PERCEPTRONTRAIN( $\mathbf{D}$ ,  $MaxIter$ )

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```
1:  $w_d \leftarrow 0$ , for all  $d = 1 \dots D$  // initialize weights
2:  $b \leftarrow 0$  // initialize bias
3: for  $iter = 1 \dots MaxIter$  do
4:   for all  $(x, y) \in \mathbf{D}$  do
5:      $a \leftarrow \sum_{d=1}^D w_d x_d + b$  // compute activation for this example
6:     if  $ya \leq 0$  then
7:        $w_d \leftarrow w_d + yx_d$ , for all  $d = 1 \dots D$  // update weights
8:        $b \leftarrow b + y$  // update bias
9:     end if
10:   end for
11: end for
12: return  $w_0, w_1, \dots, w_D, b$ 
```

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- Loss function is a variant of the hinge loss

$$\max\{0, -y_n(\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_n + b)\}$$

SVM + KERNELS

# Kernelized SVM training

Recall the SVM dual Lagrangian:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize } L_D(\mathbf{w}, b, \xi, \alpha, \beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m,n=1}^N \alpha_m \alpha_n y_m y_n (\mathbf{x}_m^T \mathbf{x}_n) \\ \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n &= 0, \quad 0 \leq \alpha_n \leq C; \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $\mathbf{x}_m^T \mathbf{x}_n$  by  $\phi(\mathbf{x}_m)^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_n) = k(\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{x}_n) = K_{mn}$ , where  $k(.,.)$  is some suitable kernel function

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize } L_D(\mathbf{w}, b, \xi, \alpha, \beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m,n=1}^N \alpha_m \alpha_n y_m y_n K_{mn} \\ \text{subject to } \sum_{n=1}^N \alpha_n y_n &= 0, \quad 0 \leq \alpha_n \leq C; \quad n = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

SVM now learns a linear separator in the kernel defined feature space  $\mathcal{F}$

# Kernelized SVM prediction

Prediction for a test example  $\mathbf{x}$  (assume  $b = 0$ )

$$y = \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{x}) = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{n \in SV} \alpha_n y_n \mathbf{x}_n^\top \mathbf{x}\right)$$

$SV$  is the set of support vectors (i.e., examples for which  $\alpha_n > 0$ )

Replacing each example with its feature mapped representation ( $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{x})$ )

$$y = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{n \in SV} \alpha_n y_n \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)^\top \phi(\mathbf{x})\right) = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{n \in SV} \alpha_n y_n k(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{x})\right)$$

The weight vector for the kernelized case can be expressed as:

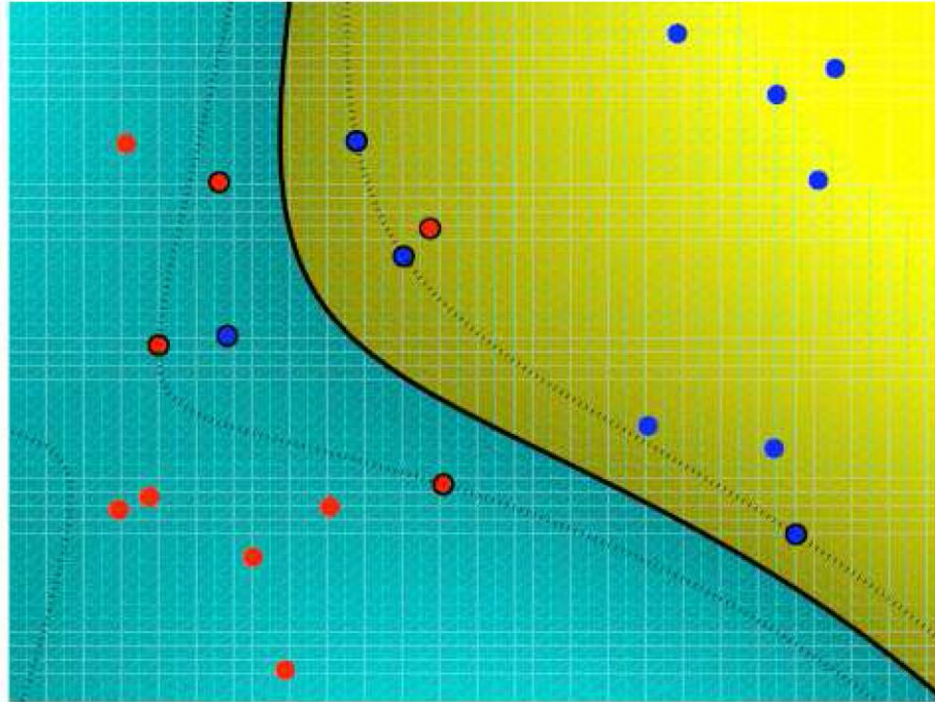
$$\mathbf{w} = \sum_{n \in SV} \alpha_n y_n \phi(\mathbf{x}_n) = \sum_{n \in SV} \alpha_n y_n k(\mathbf{x}_n, \cdot)$$

## Note

- Kernelized SVM needs the support vectors at test time!
- While unkernelized SVM can just store  $\mathbf{w}$



# Example: decision boundary of an SVM with an RBF Kernel



# What you should know

- What are Support Vector Machines
- How to train SVMs
  - Which optimization problem we need to solve
- Geometric interpretation
  - What are support vectors and what is their relationship with parameters  $\mathbf{w}, b$ ?
- How do SVM relate to the general formulation of linear classifiers
- Why/how can SVMs be kernelized