



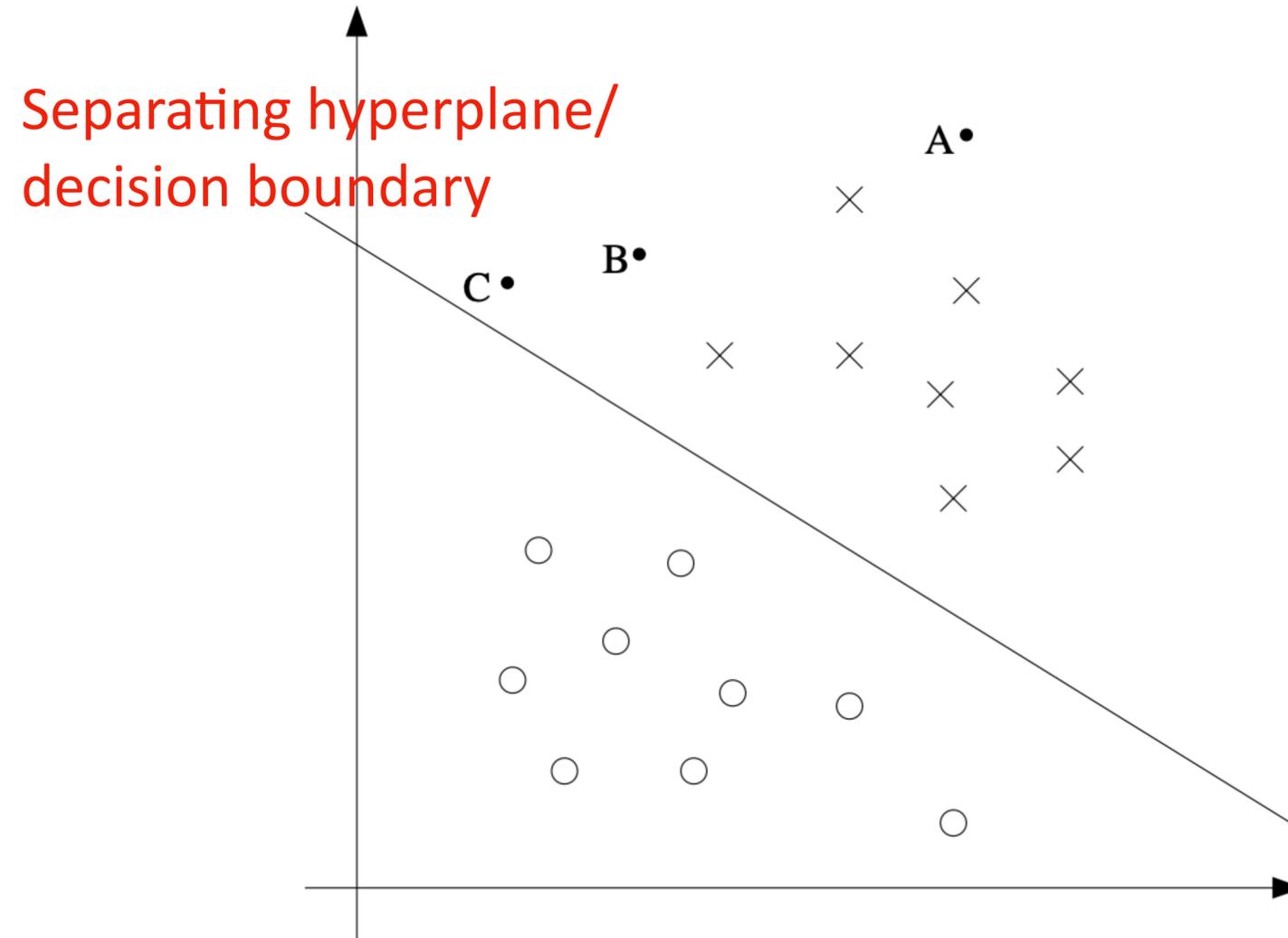
香港科技大學  
THE HONG KONG  
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY

COMP 5212  
Machine Learning  
Lecture 6

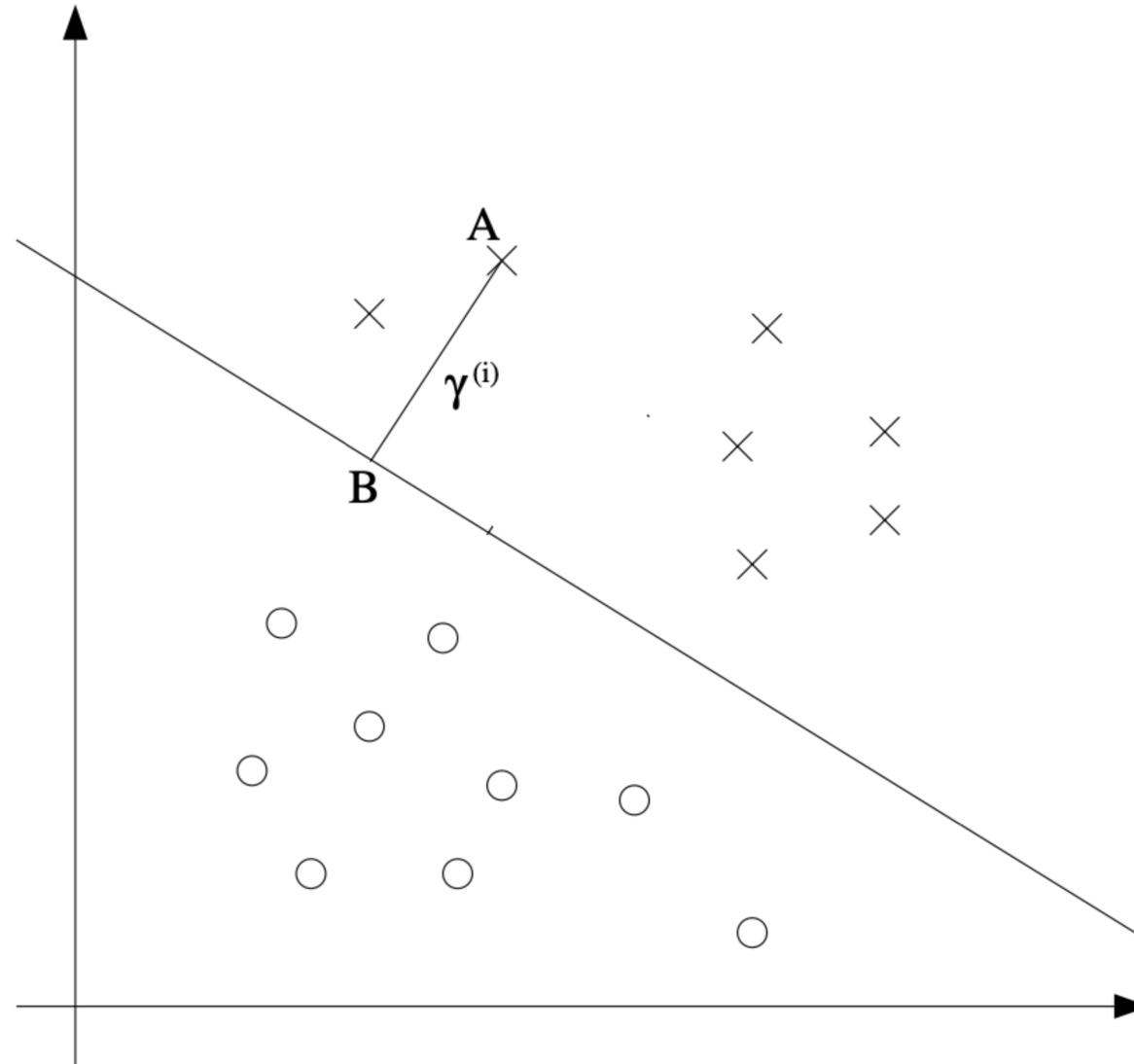
# Support Vector Machines

Junxian He  
Mar 3, 2025

# Recap: Support Vector Machines



# Recap: Geometric Margin



What is the geometric margin?

# Recap: Functional Margin

Given a training example  $(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)})$

$$\hat{\gamma}^{(i)} = y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b).$$

Given a training set  $S = \{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}); i = 1, \dots, n\}$

$$\hat{\gamma} = \min_{i=1, \dots, n} \hat{\gamma}^{(i)}$$

Functional margin changes rescaling parameters, making it a bad objective, e.g. when  $w \rightarrow 2w$ ,  $b \rightarrow 2b$ , the functional margin changes while the separating plane does not really change

# Recap: Geometric Margin

Given a training set  $\mathcal{S} = \{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}); i = 1, \dots, n\}$

$$\gamma = \min_{i=1, \dots, n} \gamma^{(i)}$$

# Recap: The Optimization Problem

$$\max_{w,b} \min_{i=1,\dots,n} \gamma^{(i)} \xrightarrow{\text{Rewrite}} \max_{\gamma,w,b} \gamma$$

s.t.  $y^{(i)} \left( \left( \frac{w}{\|w\|} \right)^T x^{(i)} + \frac{b}{\|w\|} \right) \geq \gamma, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$

Linear constraint

$$\xrightarrow{\text{Linear constraint}} \max_{\hat{\gamma},w,b} \frac{\hat{\gamma}}{\|w\|}$$

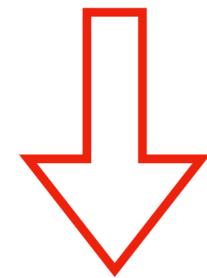
s.t.  $y^{(i)} (w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq \hat{\gamma}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$

Infinite solutions, as  $\hat{\gamma}$  can be at any scale without changing the classifier

$\|w\|$  is not easy to deal with, non-convex objective

# Recap: The Optimization Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\hat{\gamma}, w, b} \quad & \frac{\hat{\gamma}}{\|w\|} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq \hat{\gamma}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$



Add constraint  $\hat{\gamma} = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w, b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

This is a standard quadratic problem that can be directly solved with quadratic problem solvers

Assumption: the training dataset is linearly separable

# The Dual Problem in Optimization

In optimization, sometimes the primal optimization is hard to solve, then we may find a related alternative optimization problem that can be solved more easily, to solve the original problem in an indirect way

# Quadratic Program

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w,b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

This is already a standard convex opt problem that is ready to be solved, why are we doing all the rest of things?

# Generalized Lagrangian

Primal optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & f(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_i(w) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_i(w) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

Generalized Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) = f(w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(w) + \sum_{i=1}^l \beta_i h_i(w)$$

# Generalized Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) = f(w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(w) + \sum_{i=1}^l \beta_i h_i(w)$$

$$\theta_{\mathcal{P}}(w) = \max_{\alpha, \beta : \alpha_i \geq 0} f(w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(w) + \sum_{i=1}^l \beta_i h_i(w)$$

$$\theta_{\mathcal{P}}(w) = \begin{cases} f(w) & \text{if } w \text{ satisfies primal constraints} \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# The Dual Problem in Optimization

In optimization, sometimes the primal optimization is hard to solve, then we may find a related alternative optimization problem that can be solved more easily, to solve the original problem in an indirect way

# The Dual Problem

$$\theta_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha, \beta) = \min_w \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta)$$

The dual optimization problem

$$\max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \theta_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_w \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta)$$

The primal optimization problem

$$\min_w \theta_{\mathcal{P}}(w) = \min_w \max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta)$$

# The Dual Problem

$$\mathcal{L}(w, b, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i [y^{(i)} (w^T x^{(i)} + b) - 1]$$

The dual optimization problem

$$\max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \theta_{\mathcal{D}}(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_w \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta)$$

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w, b, \alpha) = w - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)} = 0 \quad w = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \mathcal{L}(w, b, \alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} = 0$$

$$\theta(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n y^{(i)} y^{(j)} \alpha_i \alpha_j (x^{(i)})^T x^{(j)}$$

# The Dual Problem

$$\theta(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n y^{(i)} y^{(j)} \alpha_i \alpha_j (x^{(i)})^T x^{(j)}$$

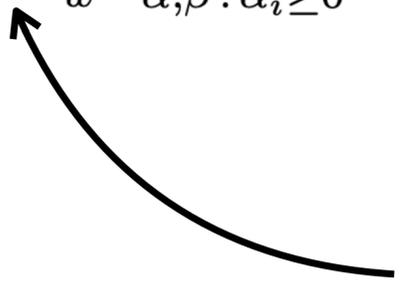
$$\text{s.t. } \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w, b, \alpha) = w - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)} = 0 \quad w = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \mathcal{L}(w, b, \alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} = 0$$

What is the relation between solving this dual problem and solving the original problem

# The Dual Problem

$$d^* = \max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \min_w \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) \leq \min_w \max_{\alpha, \beta: \alpha_i \geq 0} \mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) = p^*$$

$$\max_x \min_y f(x, y) \leq \min_y \max_x f(x, y)$$


Under certain conditions:  $d^* = p^*$       Zero-duality Gap

What are the conditions?

# Slater's Condition

$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & f(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_i(w) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k \\ & h_i(w) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

- $f(w)$  and  $g(w)$  are convex
- $h_i(w)$  is affine (i.e. linear)
- $g_i(w)$  are strictly feasible for all  $i$ , which means there exists some  $w$  so that  $g_i(w) < 0$  for all  $i$

If Slater's condition holds, then  $d^* = p^*$

The primal optimization problem of SVM satisfies the Slater's condition

# KKT Conditions

Denote the solution to the primal problem as  $w^*$ , the solution to the dual problem as  $\alpha^*, \beta^*$ , then zero duality gap is sufficient and necessary (i.e. equivalent) to satisfy KKT Conditions:

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) = f(w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(w) + \sum_{i=1}^l \beta_i h_i(w)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_i} \mathcal{L}(w^*, \alpha^*, \beta^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, d$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_i} \mathcal{L}(w^*, \alpha^*, \beta^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l$$

$$\alpha_i^* g_i(w^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

$$g_i(w^*) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

$$\alpha^* \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

Normal Lagrange multiplier equations

The original constraints

# KKT Conditions

Denote the solution to the primal problem as  $w^*$ , the solution to the dual problem as  $\alpha^*, \beta^*$ , then zero duality gap is sufficient and necessary (i.e. equivalent) to satisfy KKT Conditions:

$$\mathcal{L}(w, \alpha, \beta) = f(w) + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i g_i(w) + \sum_{i=1}^l \beta_i h_i(w)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_i} \mathcal{L}(w^*, \alpha^*, \beta^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, d$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_i} \mathcal{L}(w^*, \alpha^*, \beta^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l$$

If  $\alpha_i^* > 0$ , then

$g_i(w^*) = 0$ , the inequality is actually equality

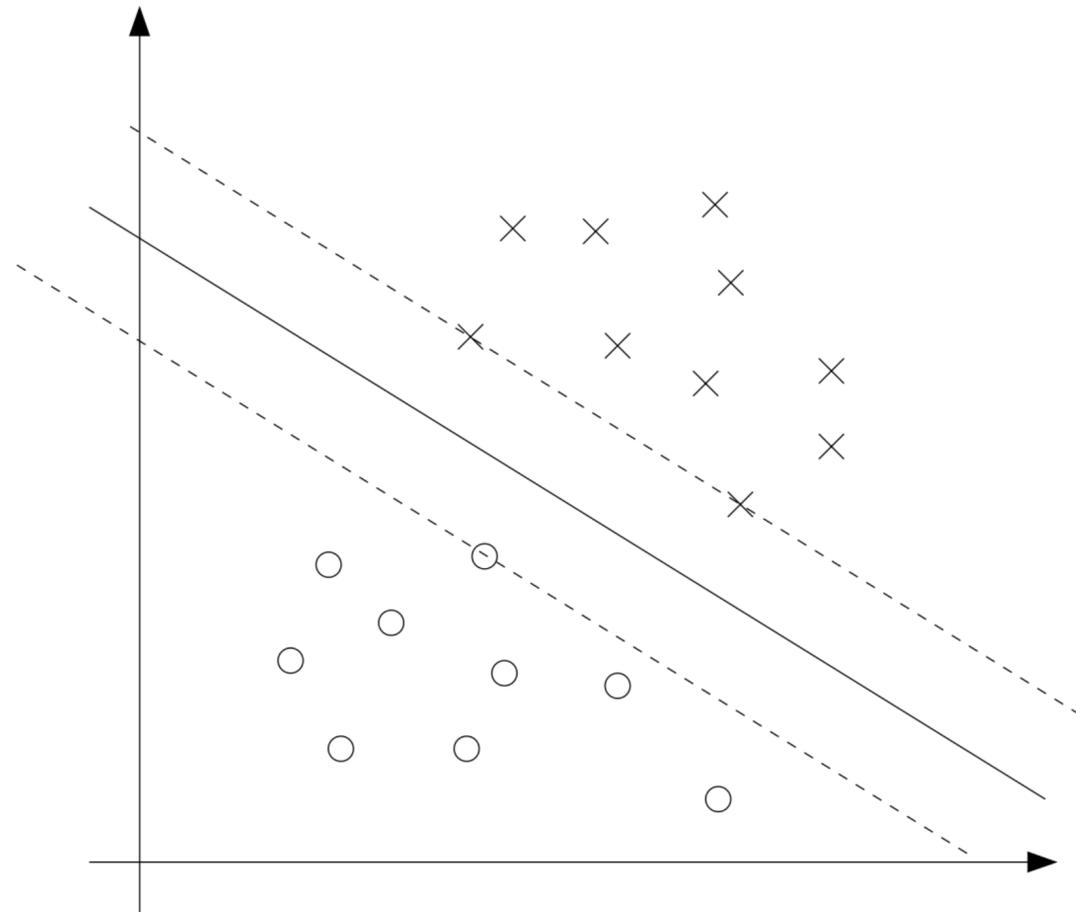
$$\alpha_i^* g_i(w^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

$$g_i(w^*) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

$$\alpha^* \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

# Supporting Vectors

$$\alpha_i^* g_i(w^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$



Only the 3 points have non-zero  $\alpha_i$ , and they are called supporting vectors

# The Dual Problem of SVM

$$\max_{\alpha} W(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n y^{(i)} y^{(j)} \alpha_i \alpha_j \langle x^{(i)}, x^{(j)} \rangle$$

$$\text{s.t. } \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} = 0,$$

Kernel is all we need!

After solving  $\alpha$  (we'll talk about how later)

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)}$$

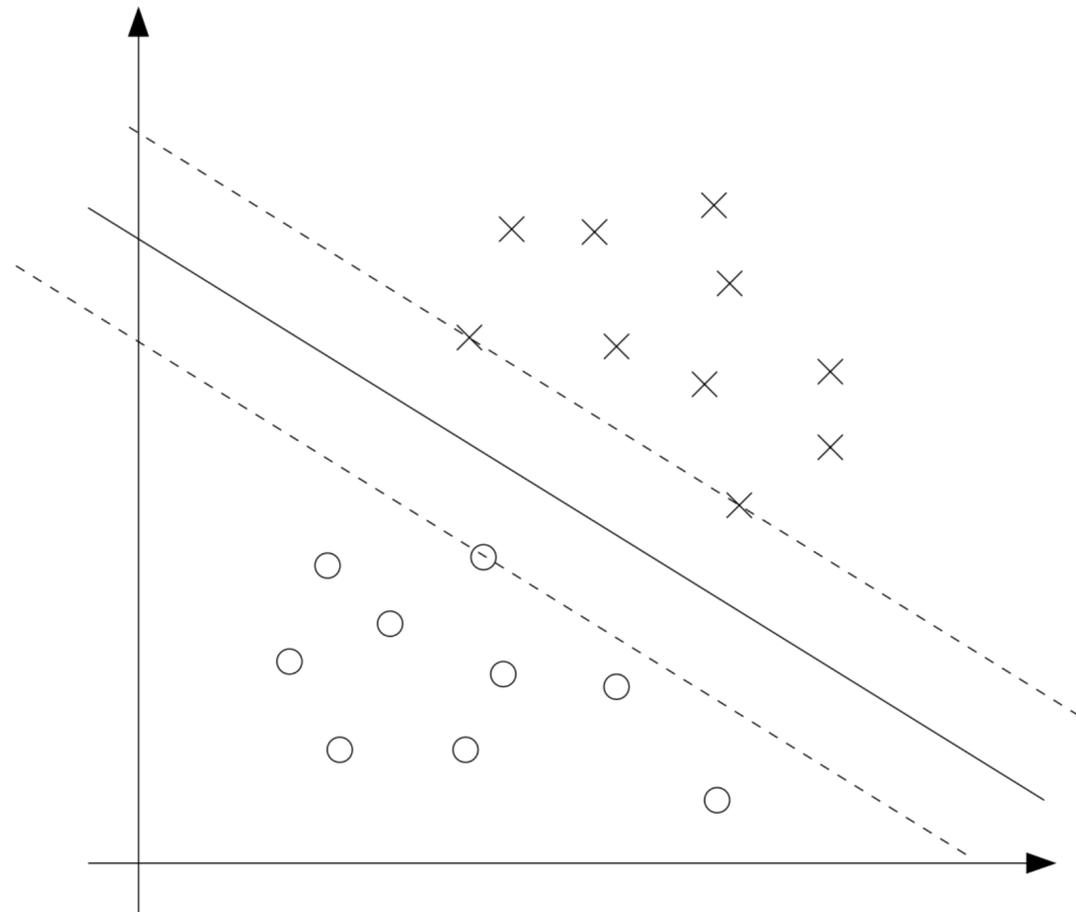
From KKT Conditions

$$b^* = -\frac{\max_{i:y^{(i)}=-1} w^{*T} x^{(i)} + \min_{i:y^{(i)}=1} w^{*T} x^{(i)}}{2}$$

From the original constraints

# Inference

$$\begin{aligned}w^T x + b &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} x^{(i)} \right)^T x + b \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} \langle x^{(i)}, x \rangle + b.\end{aligned}$$

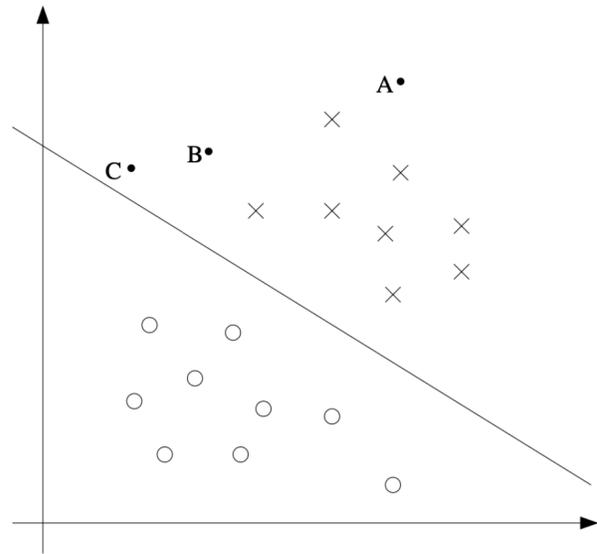


We never need to really compute  $w$

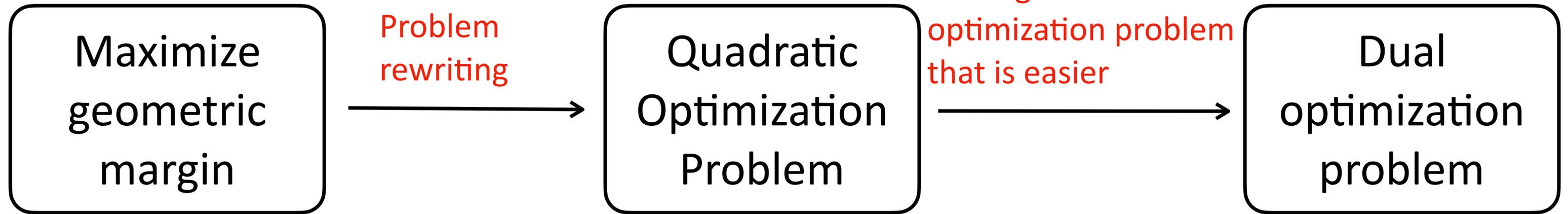
$$\alpha_i^* g_i(w^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$$

Most  $\alpha_i$  are 0, only the supporting examples will influence the final prediction

# Review of the High-Level Logic



$$h_{w,b}(x) = g(w^T x + b).$$



$$\gamma^{(i)} = y^{(i)} \left( \left( \frac{w}{\|w\|} \right)^T x^{(i)} + \frac{b}{\|w\|} \right)$$

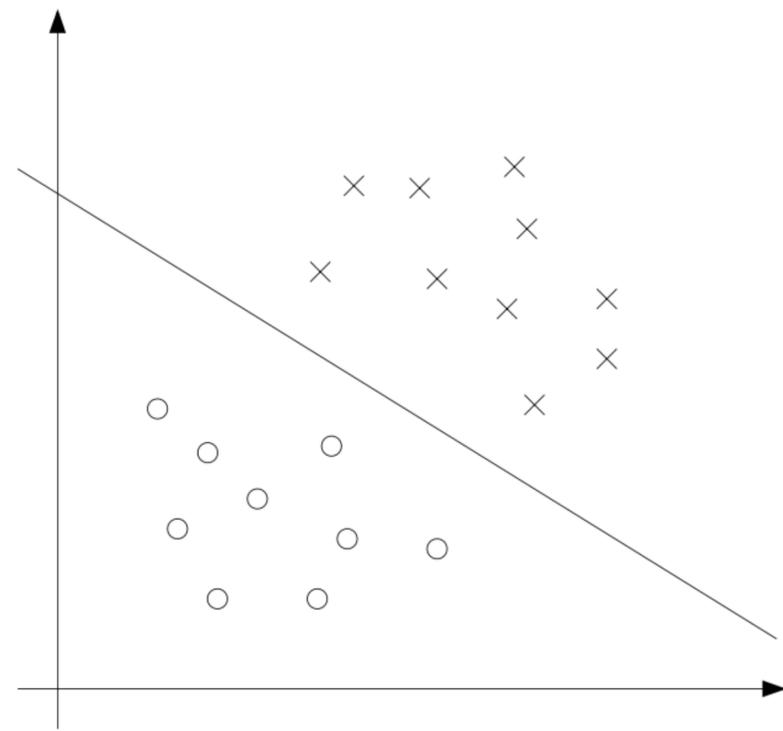
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{w,b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

Not suitable for non-linear cases (high-dim feature map)

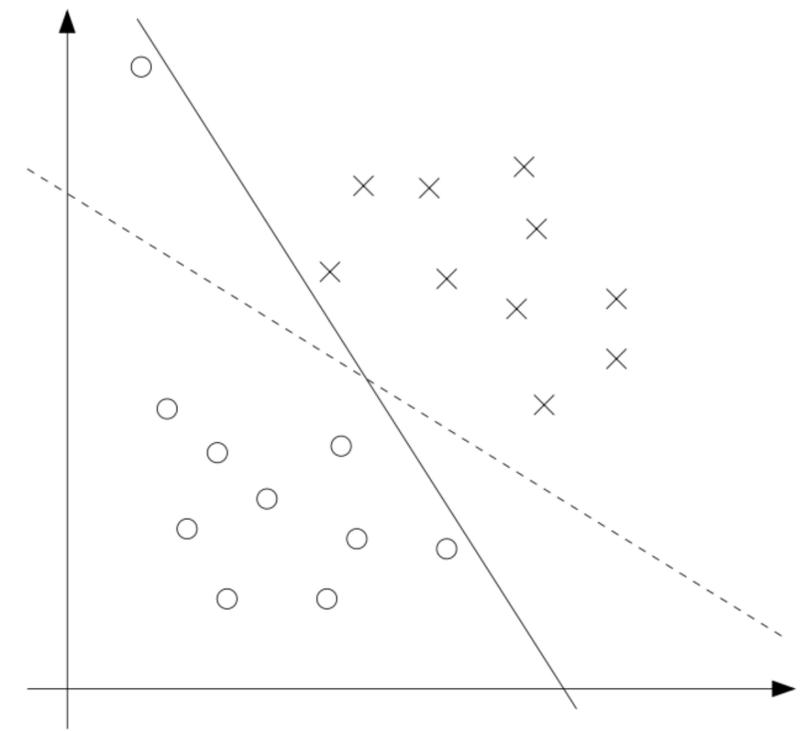
$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha} \quad & W(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n y^{(i)} y^{(j)} \alpha_i \alpha_j \langle x^{(i)}, x^{(j)} \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

Kernel makes it very flexible in non-linear cases!

# The Non-Separable Case



Linearly Separable



Linearly Non-Separable

# The Non-Separable Case

Primal opt problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\gamma, w, b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y^{(i)}(w^T x^{(i)} + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \xi_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Dual opt problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha} \quad & W(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n y^{(i)} y^{(j)} \alpha_i \alpha_j \langle x^{(i)}, x^{(j)} \rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ & \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i y^{(i)} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

**Thank You!**  
**Q & A**