# CS840a Learning and Computer Vision Prof. Olga Veksler

## Lecture 4

**SVM** 

Some pictures from C. Burges

### **SVM**

- Said to start in 1979 with Vladimir Vapnik's paper
- Major developments throughout 1990's
- Elegant theory
  - Has good generalization properties
- Have been applied to diverse problems very successfully in the last 10-15 years
- One of the most important developments in pattern recognition in the last 10 years



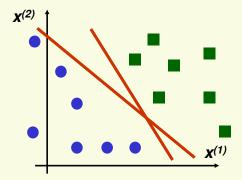
#### **Linear Discriminant Functions**

A discriminant function is linear if it can be written as

$$g(x) = w^t x + w_0$$

$$g(x) > 0 \Rightarrow x \in class 1$$

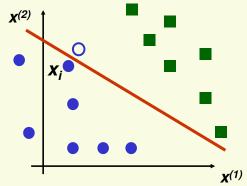
$$g(x) < 0 \Rightarrow x \in class 2$$



which separating hyperplane should we choose?

#### **Linear Discriminant Functions**

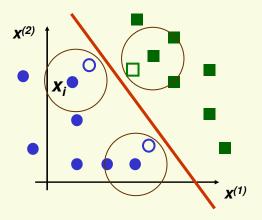
- Training data is just a subset of all possible data
- Suppose hyperplane is close to sample x<sub>i</sub>
- If we see new sample close to sample i, it is likely to be on the wrong side of the hyperplane



Poor generalization (performance on unseen data)

#### **Linear Discriminant Functions**

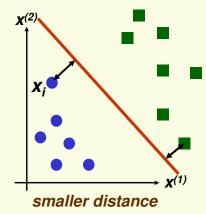
Hyperplane as far as possible from any sample

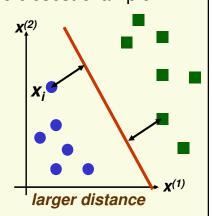


- New samples close to the old samples will be classified correctly
- Good generalization

#### **SVM**

Idea: maximize distance to the closest example

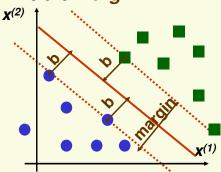




- For the optimal hyperplane
  - distance to the closest negative example = distance to the closest positive example

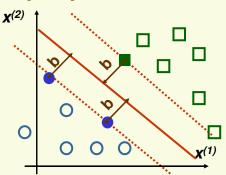
### SVM: Linearly Separable Case

SVM: maximize the margin



- margin is twice the absolute value of distance b of the closest example to the separating hyperplane
- Better generalization (performance on test data)
  - in practice
  - and in theory



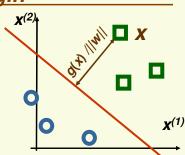


- Support vectors are the samples closest to the separating hyperplane
  - they are the most difficalt patterns to classify
  - Optimal hyperplane is completely defined by support vectors
    - of course, we do not know which samples are support vectors without finding the optimal hyperplane

# SVM: Formula for the Margin

- $g(x) = w^t x + w_0$
- absolute distance between x and the boundary g(x) = 0

$$\frac{\left|\boldsymbol{w}^{t}\boldsymbol{X}+\boldsymbol{w}_{0}\right|}{\left\|\boldsymbol{w}\right\|}$$



distance is unchanged for hyperplane

$$g_1(x) = \alpha g(x)$$

$$\frac{\left|\alpha \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x} + \alpha \mathbf{w}_0\right|}{\|\alpha \mathbf{w}\|} = \frac{\left|\mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w}_0\right|}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$$

- Let  $x_i$  be an example closest to the boundary. Set  $|w^t x_i + w_0| = 1$
- Now the largest margin hyperplane is unique

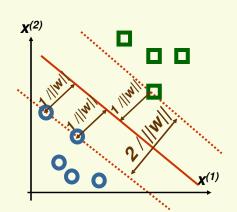
### SVM: Formula for the Margin

- For uniqueness, set  $|w^t x_i + w_0| = 1$  for any example  $x_i$  closest to the boundary
- now distance from closest sample  $x_i$  to g(x) = 0 is

$$\frac{\left| \boldsymbol{w}^t \boldsymbol{X}_i + \boldsymbol{W}_0 \right|}{\| \boldsymbol{w} \|} = \frac{1}{\| \boldsymbol{w} \|}$$

• Thus the margin is

$$m = \frac{2}{\|\mathbf{w}\|}$$



### SVM: Optimal Hyperplane

- Maximize margin  $m = \frac{2}{\|w\|}$ 
  - subject to constraints

$$\begin{cases} w^t x_i + w_0 \ge 1 & \text{if } x_i \text{ is positive example} \\ w^t x_i + w_0 \le -1 & \text{if } x_i \text{ is negative example} \end{cases}$$

- Let  $\begin{cases} z_i = 1 & \text{if } x_i \text{ is positive example} \\ z_i = -1 & \text{if } x_i \text{ is negative example} \end{cases}$
- Can convert our problem to

minimize 
$$J(w) = \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2$$
  
constrained to  $z_i (w^t x_i + w_0) \ge 1 \quad \forall i$ 

 J(w) is a quadratic function, thus there is a single global minimum

### SVM: Optimal Hyperplane

Use Kuhn-Tucker theorem to convert our problem to:

maximize 
$$L_{D}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} \alpha_{j} z_{i} z_{j} x_{i}^{t} x_{j}$$
constrained to  $\alpha_{i} \geq 0 \quad \forall i \quad and \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} z_{i} = 0$ 

- $\alpha = \{\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n\}$  are new variables, one for each sample
- Can rewrite  $L_D(\alpha)$  using n by n matrix H:

$$L_{D}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1} \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_{n} \end{bmatrix}^{T} H \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{1} \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_{n} \end{bmatrix}$$

• where the value in the *i*th row and *j*th column of H is  $H_{ii} = z_i z_i x_i^t x_i$ 

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## SVM: Optimal Hyperplane

Use Kuhn-Tucker theorem to convert our problem to:

maximize 
$$L_{D}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} \alpha_{j} z_{i} z_{j} x_{i}^{t} x_{j}$$
constrained to  $\alpha_{i} \geq 0 \quad \forall i \quad and \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} z_{i} = 0$ 

- $\alpha = \{\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n\}$  are new variables, one for each sample
- $L_D(\alpha)$  can be optimized by quadratic programming
- $L_D(\alpha)$  formulated in terms of  $\alpha$ 
  - it depends on w and w<sub>o</sub> indirectly

## SVM: Optimal Hyperplane

- After finding the optimal  $\alpha = {\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n}$ 
  - For every sample i, one of the following must hold
    - $\alpha_i = 0$  (sample i is not a support vector)
    - $\alpha_{i} \neq 0$  and  $z_{i}(w^{t}x_{i}+w_{0}-1)=0$  (sample *i* is support vector)
  - can find  $\mathbf{w}$  using  $\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{i} \mathbf{z}_{i} \mathbf{x}_{i}$
  - can solve for  $\mathbf{w}_0$  using any  $\alpha_i > 0$  and  $\alpha_i [\mathbf{z}_i (\mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{w}_0) 1] = 0$   $\mathbf{w}_0 = \frac{1}{\mathbf{z}_i} \mathbf{w}^t \mathbf{x}_i$
- Final discriminant function:

$$g(x) = \left(\sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i x_i\right)^t x + w_0$$

• where **S** is the set of support vectors

$$S = \{x_i \mid \alpha_i \neq 0\}$$

## SVM: Optimal Hyperplane

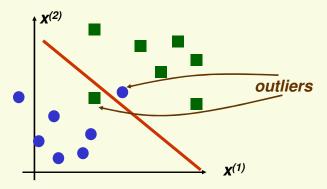
maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j z_i z_j x_i^t x_j$$

constrained to  $\alpha_i \ge 0 \quad \forall i \quad and \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i z_i = 0$ 

- $L_D(\alpha)$  depends on the number of samples, not on dimension of samples
- samples appear only through the dot products  $x_i^t x_i$
- This will become important when looking for a nonlinear discriminant function, as we will see soon
- Code available on the web to optimize

### SVM: Non Separable Case

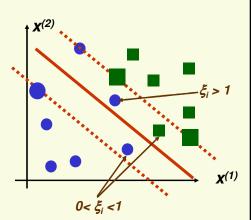
 Data is most likely to be not linearly separable, but linear classifier may still be appropriate



- Can apply SVM in non linearly separable case
  - data should be "almost" linearly separable for good performance

### SVM: Non Separable Case

- Use non-negative slack variables  $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_n$  (one for each sample)
- Change constraints from  $z_i(w^t x_i + w_o) \ge 1 \quad \forall i$  to  $z_i(w^t x_i + w_o) \ge 1 \xi_i \quad \forall i$
- ξ<sub>i</sub> is a measure of deviation from the ideal for sample i
  - ξ<sub>i</sub> >1 sample i is on the wrong side of the separating hyperplane
  - 0< ξ<sub>i</sub><1 sample i is on the right side of separating hyperplane but within the region of maximum margin</li>

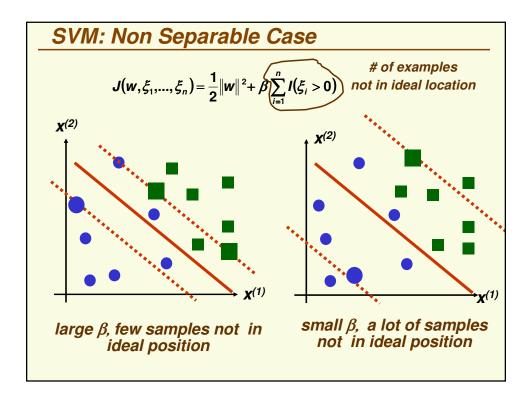


### SVM: Non Separable Case

Would like to minimize

$$J(w,\xi_1,...,\xi_n) = \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2 + \beta \sum_{i=1}^n I(\xi_i > 0)$$
 # of samples not in ideal location

- where  $I(\xi_i > 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \xi_i > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \xi_i \le 0 \end{cases}$
- constrained to  $z_i(w^t x_i + w_0) \ge 1 \xi_i$  and  $\xi_i \ge 0 \ \forall i$
- β is a constant which measures relative weight of the first and second terms
  - if  $\beta$  is small, we allow a lot of samples not in ideal position
  - if  $\beta$  is large, we want to have very few samples not in ideal positon



## SVM: Non Separable Case

• Unfortunately this minimization problem is NP-hard due to discontinuity of functions  $I(\xi_i)$ 

$$J(w,\xi_1,...,\xi_n) = \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2 + \beta \sum_{i=1}^n I(\xi_i > 0)$$
 # of examples not in ideal location

- where  $I(\xi_i > 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \xi_i > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \xi_i \le 0 \end{cases}$
- constrained to  $z_i(w^t x_i + w_0) \ge 1 \xi_i$  and  $\xi_i \ge 0 \ \forall i$

### SVM: Non Separable Case

Instead we minimize

$$J(w,\xi_1,...,\xi_n) = \frac{1}{2} ||w||^2 + \beta \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i$$
a measure of
examples

- constrained to  $\begin{cases} z_i (w^t x_i + w_0) \ge 1 \xi_i & \forall i \\ \xi_i \ge 0 & \forall i \end{cases}$
- Can use Kuhn-Tucker theorem to converted to

maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_i z_i z_j x_i^t x_j$$
  
constrained to  $0 \le \alpha_i \le \beta \quad \forall i \quad and \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i z_i = 0$ 

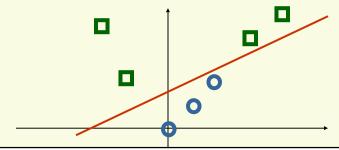
- find **w** using  $\mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \mathbf{z}_i \mathbf{x}_i$
- solve for  $w_0$  using any  $0 < \alpha_i < \beta$  and  $\alpha_i [z_i(w^t x_i + w_0) 1] = 0$

## Non Linear Mapping

- Cover's theorem:
  - "pattern-classification problem cast in a high dimensional space non-linearly is more likely to be linearly separable than in a low-dimensional space"
- One dimensional space, not linearly separable

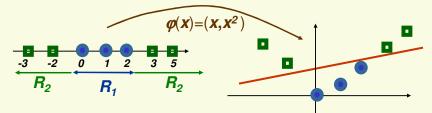


• Lift to two dimensional space with  $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^2)$ 



## Non Linear Mapping

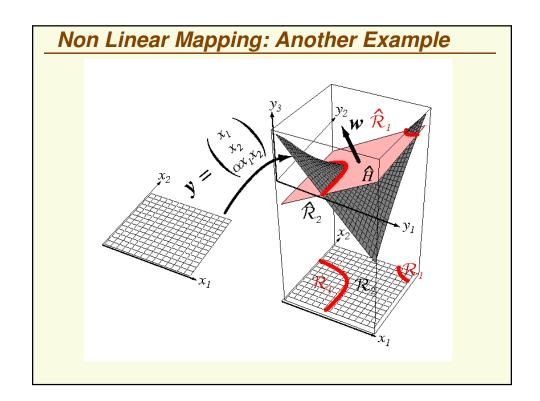
- To solve a non linear classification problem with a linear classifier
  - 1. Project data x to high dimension using function  $\varphi(x)$
  - 2. Find a linear discriminant function for transformed data  $\varphi(x)$
  - 3. Final nonlinear discriminant function is  $g(x) = w^t \varphi(x) + w_0$



•In 2D, discriminant function is linear

$$g\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{X}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{W}_1 & \mathbf{W}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}^{(1)} \\ \mathbf{X}^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{W}_0$$

In 1D, discriminant function is not linear  $g(x) = w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + w_0$ 



#### Non Linear SVM

- Can use any linear classifier after lifting data into a higher dimensional space. However we will have to deal with the "curse of dimensionality"
  - 1. poor generalization to test data
  - 2. computationally expensive
- SVM avoids the "curse of dimensionality" problems by
  - 1. enforcing largest margin permits good generalization
    - It can be shown that generalization in SVM is a function of the margin, independent of the dimensionality
  - 2. computation in the higher dimensional case is performed only implicitly through the use of *kernel* functions

#### Non Linear SVM: Kernels

Recall SVM optimization

maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_i z_i z_j x_i^t x_j$$

- Note this optimization depends on samples x<sub>i</sub> only through the dot product x<sub>i</sub><sup>t</sup>x<sub>i</sub>
- If we lift  $x_i$  to high dimension using  $\varphi(x)$ , need to compute high dimensional product  $\varphi(x_i)^t \varphi(x_i)$

maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_i z_i z_j \varphi(x_i)^t \varphi(x_j)$$

• Idea: find **kernel** function  $K(x_i, x_j)$  s.t.

$$K(x_i,x_i) = \varphi(x_i)^t \varphi(x_i)$$

### Non Linear SVM: Kernels

maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_i z_i z_j \varphi(x_i)^t \varphi(x_j)$$

- Then we only need to compute  $K(x_i, x_j)$  instead of  $\varphi(x_i)^t \varphi(x_i)$ 
  - "kernel trick": do not need to perform operations in high dimensional space explicitly

#### Non Linear SVM: Kernels

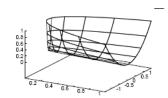
- Suppose we have 2 features and  $K(x,y) = (x^t y)^2$
- Which mapping  $\varphi(x)$  does it correspond to?

$$K(x,y) = (x^{t}y)^{2} = \left( \begin{bmatrix} x^{(1)} & x^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y^{(1)} \\ y^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \right)^{2} = (x^{(1)}y^{(1)} + x^{(2)}y^{(2)})^{2}$$

$$= (x^{(1)}y^{(1)})^{2} + 2(x^{(1)}y^{(1)})(x^{(2)}y^{(2)}) + (x^{(2)}y^{(2)})^{2}$$

$$= \left[ (x^{(1)})^{2} & \sqrt{2}x^{(1)}x^{(2)} & (x^{(2)})^{2} \end{bmatrix} \left[ (y^{(1)})^{2} & \sqrt{2}y^{(1)}y^{(2)} & (y^{(2)})^{2} \end{bmatrix}^{t}$$

Thus  $\varphi(x) = \left[ (x^{(1)})^2 \sqrt{2} x^{(1)} x^{(2)} (x^{(2)})^2 \right]$ 



#### Non Linear SVM: Kernels

- How to choose kernel function  $K(x_i, x_i)$ ?
  - $K(x_i, x_j)$  should correspond to product  $\phi(x_i)^t \phi(x_j)$  in a higher dimensional space
  - Mercer's condition tells us which kernel function can be expressed as dot product of two vectors
  - Kernel's not satisfying Mercer's condition can be sometimes used, but no geometrical interpretation
- Some common choices (satisfying Mercer's condition):
  - Polynomial kernel  $K(x_i, x_j) = (x_i^t x_j + 1)^p$
  - Gaussian radial Basis kernel (data is lifted in infinite dimension)

$$K(x_i, x_j) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}||x_i - x_j||^2\right)$$

### Non Linear SVM

- search for separating hyperplane in high dimension  $\boldsymbol{w}\boldsymbol{\varphi}(\boldsymbol{x}) + \boldsymbol{w}_o = \boldsymbol{0}$
- Choose  $\varphi(x)$  so that the first ("0"th) dimension is the augmented dimension with feature value fixed to 1

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x^{(1)} & x^{(2)} & x^{(1)}x^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}^{t}$$

Threshold parameter  $\mathbf{w}_0$  gets folded into the weight vector  $\mathbf{w}$ 

#### Non Linear SVM

• Will not use notation  $\mathbf{a} = [\mathbf{w_0} \ \mathbf{w}]$ , we'll use old notation  $\mathbf{w}$  and seek hyperplane through the origin

$$w\varphi(x)=0$$

- If the first component of  $\varphi(x)$  is not 1, the above is equivalent to saying that the hyperplane has to go through the origin in high dimension
  - removes only one degree of freedom
  - But we have introduced many new degrees when we lifted the data in high dimension

### Non Linear SVM Recepie

- Start with data x<sub>1</sub>,...,x<sub>n</sub> which lives in feature space of dimension d
- Choose kernel  $K(x_i, x_j)$  or function  $\varphi(x_i)$  which takes sample  $x_i$  to a higher dimensional space
- Find the largest margin linear discriminant function in the higher dimensional space by using quadratic programming package to solve:

maximize 
$$L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_i z_i z_j K(x_i, x_j)$$

constrained to  $0 \le \alpha_i \le \beta \ \forall i \ and \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i z_i = 0$ 

## Non Linear SVM Recipe

Weight vector w in the high dimensional space:

$$w = \sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i \varphi(x_i)$$

- where **S** is the set of support vectors  $S = \{x_i \mid \alpha_i \neq 0\}$
- Linear discriminant function of largest margin in the high dimensional space:

$$g(\varphi(x)) = w^t \varphi(x) = \left(\sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i \varphi(x_i)\right)^t \varphi(x)$$

Non linear discriminant function in the original space

$$g(x) = \left(\sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i \varphi(x_i)\right)^t \varphi(x) = \sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i \varphi^t(x_i) \varphi(x) = \sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i K(x_i, x)$$

• decide class 1 if g(x) > 0, otherwise decide class 2

#### Non Linear SVM

Nonlinear discriminant function

$$g(x) = \sum_{x_i \in S} \alpha_i z_i K(x_i, x)$$

$$g(x) = \sum_{\text{vector } x_i} \text{weight of support}$$

"inverse distance" from **x** to support vector **x**<sub>i</sub>

most important training samples, i.e. support vectors

 $K(x_i, x) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} ||x_i - x||^2\right)$ 

### SVM Example: XOR Problem

- Class 1:  $\mathbf{x_1} = [1,-1], \mathbf{x_2} = [-1,1]$
- Class 2:  $\mathbf{x}_3 = [1,1], \mathbf{x}_4 = [-1,-1]$



- Use polynomial kernel of degree 2:
  - $K(\mathbf{X}_i,\mathbf{X}_i) = (\mathbf{X}_i^{t} \mathbf{X}_i + \mathbf{1})^2$
  - This kernel corresponds to mapping  $\varphi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{2}x^{(1)} & \sqrt{2}x^{(2)} & \sqrt{2}x^{(1)}x^{(2)} & (x^{(1)})^2 & (x^{(2)})^2 \end{bmatrix}^2$
- Need to maximize

$$L_{D}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \alpha_{i} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{4} \sum_{j=1}^{4} \alpha_{i} \alpha_{i} z_{i} z_{j} (x_{i}^{t} x_{j} + 1)^{2}$$

constrained to  $0 \le \alpha_i \ \forall i \ and \ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \alpha_3 - \alpha_4 = 0$ 

### SVM Example: XOR Problem

- Can rewrite  $L_D(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i \frac{1}{2} \alpha^t H \alpha$  where  $\alpha = [\alpha_1 \ \alpha_2 \ \alpha_3 \ \alpha_4]^t$  and  $H = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 9 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 9 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$
- Take derivative with respect to  $\alpha$  and set it to 0

$$\frac{d}{da}L_{D}(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\1\\1\\1 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 1 & -1 & -1\\1 & 9 & -1 & -1\\-1 & -1 & 9 & 1\\-1 & -1 & 1 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \alpha = 0$$

- Solution to the above is  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = \alpha_4 = 0.25$ 
  - satisfies the constraints  $\forall i$ ,  $0 \le \alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \alpha_3 \alpha_4 = 0$
  - all samples are support vectors

## SVM Example: XOR Problem

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{2}x^{(1)} & \sqrt{2}x^{(2)} & \sqrt{2}x^{(1)}x^{(2)} & (x^{(1)})^2 & (x^{(2)})^2 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

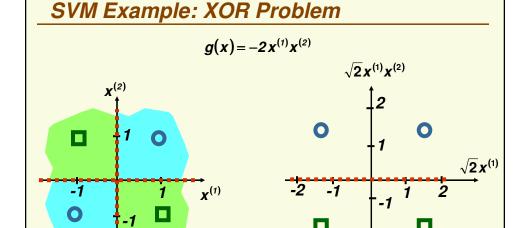
Weight vector w is:

decision boundaries nonlinear

$$w = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \alpha_{i} z_{i} \varphi(x_{i}) = 0.25(\varphi(x_{1}) + \varphi(x_{2}) - \varphi(x_{3}) - \varphi(x_{4}))$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -\sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

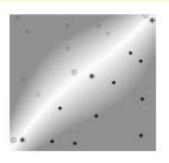
Thus the nonlinear discriminant function is:

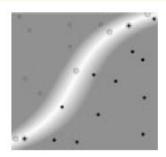
$$g(x) = w\varphi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{6} w_i \varphi_i(x) = -\sqrt{2} \left( \sqrt{2} x^{(1)} x^{(2)} \right) = -2 x^{(1)} x^{(2)}$$



decision boundary is linear

## Degree 3 Polynomial Kernel





- In linearly separable case (on the left), decision boundary is roughly linear, indicating that dimensionality is controlled
- Nonseparable case (on the right) is handled by a polynomial of degree 3

### **SVM Summary**

- Advantages:
  - Based on nice theory
  - excellent generalization properties
  - objective function has no local minima
  - can be used to find non linear discriminant functions
  - Complexity of the classifier is characterized by the number of support vectors rather than the dimensionality of the transformed space
- Disadvantages:
  - tends to be slower than other methods
  - quadratic programming is computationally expensive
  - Not clear how to choose the Kernel