

## Kernel Machines

### Kernel trick

- Feature mapping  $\Phi(\cdot)$  can be very high dimensional (e.g. think of polynomial mapping)
- It can be highly expensive to explicitly compute it
- Feature mappings **appear only in dot products** in dual formulations
- The *kernel trick* consists in replacing these dot products with an equivalent kernel function:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}')$$

- The kernel function uses examples in input (not feature) space

### Kernel trick

#### Support vector classification

- Dual optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^m} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i y_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Dual decision function

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x})}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x})}$$

### Kernel trick

#### Polynomial kernel

- Homogeneous:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}')^d$$

- E.g. ( $d = 2$ )

$$\begin{aligned} k\left(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x'_1 \\ x'_2 \end{pmatrix}\right) &= (x_1 x'_1 + x_2 x'_2)^2 \\ &= (x_1 x'_1)^2 + (x_2 x'_2)^2 + 2x_1 x'_1 x_2 x'_2 \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x_1^2 & \sqrt{2}x_1 x_2 & x_2^2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\Phi(\mathbf{x})^T} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} x'_1 \\ \sqrt{2}x'_1 x'_2 \\ x'_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\Phi(\mathbf{x}')} \end{aligned}$$

## Kernel trick

### Polynomial kernel

- Inhomogeneous:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = (1 + \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}')^d$$

- E.g. ( $d = 2$ )

$$\begin{aligned} k\left(\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x'_1 \\ x'_2 \end{pmatrix}\right) &= (1 + x_1 x'_1 + x_2 x'_2)^2 \\ &= 1 + (x_1 x'_1)^2 + (x_2 x'_2)^2 + 2x_1 x'_1 + 2x_2 x'_2 + 2x_1 x'_1 x_2 x'_2 \\ &= \underbrace{\left(1 \quad \sqrt{2}x_1 \quad \sqrt{2}x_2 \quad x_1^2 \quad \sqrt{2}x_1 x_2 \quad x_2^2\right)^T}_{\Phi(\mathbf{x})^T} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2}x'_1 \\ \sqrt{2}x'_2 \\ x'^2_1 \\ \sqrt{2}x'_1 x'_2 \\ x'^2_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\Phi(\mathbf{x}')} \end{aligned}$$

## Valid Kernels

### Dot product in feature space

- A valid kernel is a (similarity) function defined in cartesian product of input space:

$$k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

- corresponding to a dot product in a (certain) feature space:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}')$$

### Note

- The kernel generalizes the notion of dot product to arbitrary input space (e.g. protein sequences)
- It can be seen as a measure of similarity between objects

## Valid Kernels

### Gram matrix

- Given examples  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m\}$  and kernel function  $k$
- The *Gram matrix*  $K$  is the (symmetric) matrix of pairwise kernels between examples:

$$K_{ij} = k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) \quad \forall i, j$$

## Valid Kernels

### Positive definite matrix

- A symmetric  $m \times m$  matrix  $K$  is *positive definite* (p.d.) if

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^m c_i c_j K_{ij} \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

If equality only holds for  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ , the matrix is *strictly positive definite* (s.p.d)

### Alternative conditions

- All eigenvalues are non-negative (positive for s.p.d.)
- There exists a matrix  $B$  such that

$$K = B^T B$$

## Valid Kernels

### Positive definite kernels

- A positive definite kernel is a function  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  giving rise to a p.d. Gram matrix for any  $m$  and  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m\}$
- Positive definiteness is necessary and sufficient condition for a kernel to correspond to a dot product of *some* feature map  $\Phi$

### How to verify kernel validity

- Prove its positive definiteness (difficult)
- Find out a corresponding feature map (see polynomial example)
- Use kernel combination properties (we'll see)

## Kernel machines

### Support vector regression

- Dual problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^m} \quad & -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m (\alpha_i^* - \alpha_i)(\alpha_j^* - \alpha_j) \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)} \\ & -\epsilon \sum_{i=1}^m (\alpha_i^* + \alpha_i) + \sum_{i=1}^m y_i (\alpha_i^* - \alpha_i) \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m (\alpha_i - \alpha_i^*) = 0 \quad \alpha_i, \alpha_i^* \in [0, C] \quad \forall i \in [1, m] \end{aligned}$$

- Regression function:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}) + w_0 = \sum_{i=1}^m (\alpha_i - \alpha_i^*) \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x})}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x})} + w_0$$

## Kernel machines

### Smallest Enclosing Hypersphere

- Dual formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_i)} - \sum_{i,j=1}^m \alpha_i \alpha_j \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i = 1, \quad 0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C, \quad i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

- Distance function

$$R^2(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \Phi(\mathbf{x})}_{k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x})} - 2 \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x})}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x})} + \sum_{i,j=1}^m \alpha_i \alpha_j \underbrace{\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \Phi(\mathbf{x}_j)}_{k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)}$$

## Kernel machines

(Stochastic) Perceptron:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}$

1. Initialize  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$
2. Iterate until all examples correctly classified:
  - (a) For each incorrectly classified training example  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$ :

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbf{w} + \eta y_i \mathbf{x}_i$$

Kernel Perceptron:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x})$

1. Initialize  $\alpha_i = 0 \forall i$
2. Iterate until all examples correctly classified:
  - (a) For each incorrectly classified training example  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$ :

$$\alpha_i \leftarrow \alpha_i + \eta y_i$$

## Kernels

### Basic kernels

- linear kernel:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}'$$

- polynomial kernel:

$$k_{d,c}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}' + c)^d$$

## Kernels

### Gaussian kernel

$$k_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} - 2\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x}' + \mathbf{x}'^T \mathbf{x}'}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

- Depends on a *width* parameter  $\sigma$
- The smaller the width, the more prediction on a point only depends on its nearest neighbours
- Example of *Universal* kernel: they can uniformly approximate any arbitrary continuous target function (pb of number of training examples and choice of  $\sigma$ )

## Kernels

### Kernels on structured data

- Kernels are generalization of dot products to arbitrary domains
- It is possible to design kernels over structured objects like sequences, trees or graphs
- The idea is designing a pairwise function measuring the similarity of two objects
- This measure has to satisfy the p.d. conditions to be a valid kernel

### Match (or delta) kernel

$$k_{\delta}(x, x') = \delta(x, x') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = x' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Simplest kernel on structures
- $x$  does not need to be a vector! (no boldface to stress it)

### E.g. string kernel: 3-gram spectrum kernel

$\mathbf{x} = \text{ABAABA}$

$\mathbf{x}' = \text{AAABB}$

$\Phi(x)$

$\Phi(x')$

AAA	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$
AAB		
ABA		
ABB		
BAA		
BAB		
BBA		
BBB		

$$k(x, x') = 1$$

## Kernels

### Kernel combination

- Simpler kernels can be combined using certain operators (e.g. sum, product)
- Kernel combination allows to design complex kernels on structures from simpler ones
- Correctly using combination operators guarantees that complex kernels are p.d.

### Note

- Simplest constructive approach to build valid kernels

### Kernel combination

#### Kernel Sum

- The sum of two kernels corresponds to the *concatenation* of their respective feature spaces:

$$\begin{aligned}(k_1 + k_2)(x, x') &= k_1(x, x') + k_2(x, x') \\ &= \Phi_1(x)^T \Phi_1(x') + \Phi_2(x)^T \Phi_2(x') \\ &= (\Phi_1(x) \ \Phi_2(x)) \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1(x') \\ \Phi_2(x') \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

- The two kernels can be defined on **different** spaces (*direct* sum, e.g. string spectrum kernel plus string length)

### Kernel combination

#### Kernel Product

- The product of two kernels corresponds to the Cartesian products of their features:

$$\begin{aligned}(k_1 \times k_2)(x, x') &= k_1(x, x')k_2(x, x') \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \Phi_{1i}(x)\Phi_{1i}(x') \sum_{j=1}^m \Phi_{2j}(x)\Phi_{2j}(x') \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (\Phi_{1i}(x)\Phi_{2j}(x))(\Phi_{1i}(x')\Phi_{2j}(x')) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{nm} \Phi_{12k}(x)\Phi_{12k}(x') = \Phi_{12}(x)^T \Phi_{12}(x')\end{aligned}$$

- where  $\Phi_{12}(x) = \Phi_1(x) \times \Phi_2(x)$  is the Cartesian product
- the product can be between kernels in different spaces (*tensor* product)

## Kernel combination

### Linear combination

- A kernel can be rescaled by an arbitrary positive constant:  $k_\beta(x, x') = \beta k(x, x')$
- We can e.g. define linear combinations of kernels (each rescaled by the desired weight):

$$k_{sum}(x, x') = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k k_k(x, x')$$

*Note*

- The weights of the linear combination can be learned simultaneously to the predictor weights (the alphas)
- This amounts at performing *kernel learning*

## Kernel combination

### Decomposition kernels

- Use the combination operators (sum and product) to define kernels on structures.
- Rely on a decomposition relationship  $R(x) = (x_1, \dots, x_D)$  breaking a structure into its *parts*

*E.g. for strings*

- $R(x) = (x_1, \dots, x_D)$  could be break string  $x$  into substrings such that  $x_1 \circ \dots \circ x_D = x$  (where  $\circ$  is string concatenation)
- E.g. ( $D = 3$ , empty string not allowed):

$$x = AAABB \quad R(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} A & A & ABB & AA & A & BB \\ A & AA & BB & AA & AB & B \\ A & AAB & B & AAA & B & B \end{array} \right\}$$

## Kernel combination

### Convolution kernels

- decomposition kernels defining a kernel as the convolution of its parts:

$$(k_1 \star \dots \star k_D)(x, x') = \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_D) \in R(x)} \sum_{(x'_1, \dots, x'_D) \in R(x')} \prod_{d=1}^D k_d(x_d, x'_d)$$

- where the sums run over all possible decompositions of  $x$  and  $x'$ .

## Convolution kernels

### Set kernel

- Let  $R(x)$  be the set membership relationship (written as  $\in$ )
- Let  $k_{member}(\xi, \xi')$  be a kernel defined over set elements
- The set kernel is defined as:

$$k_{set}(X, X') = \sum_{\xi \in X} \sum_{\xi' \in X'} k_{member}(\xi, \xi')$$

### Set intersection kernel

- For delta membership kernel we obtain:

$$k_{\cap}(X, X') = |X \cap X'|$$

## Kernel combination

### Kernel normalization

- Kernel values can often be influenced by the dimension of objects
- E.g. a longer string has more substrings  $\rightarrow$  higher kernel value
- This effect can be reduced *normalizing* the kernel

### Cosine normalization

- Cosine normalization computes the cosine of the dot product in feature space:

$$\hat{k}(x, x') = \frac{k(x, x')}{\sqrt{k(x, x)k(x', x')}}}$$

## Kernel combination

### Kernel composition

- Given a kernel over structured data  $k(x, x')$
- it is always possible to use a basic kernel on top of it, e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned}(k_{c,d} \circ k)(x, x') &= (k(x, x') + c)^d \\(k_{\sigma} \circ k)(x, x') &= \exp\left(-\frac{k(x, x) - 2k(x, x') + k(x', x')}{2\sigma^2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

- it corresponds to the **composition** of the mappings associated with the two kernels
- E.g. all possible conjunctions of up to  $d$  k-grams for string kernels



## References

**kernel trick** C. Burges, *A tutorial on support vector machines for pattern recognition*, Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, 2(2), 121-167, 1998.

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**kernels** J.Shawe-Taylor and N. Cristianini, *Kernel Methods for Pattern Analysis*, Cambridge University Press, 2004 (Section 9)