



# Soft SVM

**Dr. Fayyaz ul Amir Afsar Minhas**

PIEAS Biomedical Informatics Research Lab  
Department of Computer and Information Sciences  
Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences  
PO Nilore, Islamabad, Pakistan  
<http://faculty.pieas.edu.pk/fayyaz/>

# Matrix formulation of SVM Problem

$$\max_{\alpha_i \geq 0} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}^{(i)^T} \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \right\}$$

$$s.t \quad \alpha_i \geq 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\max_{\alpha} \mathbf{1}^T \alpha - \frac{1}{2} \alpha^T X^T X \alpha$$

Subject to:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &\geq \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{y}^T \alpha &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

- If we define the following:

$$-\boldsymbol{\alpha} = [\alpha_1 \quad \alpha_2 \quad \dots \quad \alpha_N]^T$$

$$-\mathbf{y} = [y_1 \quad y_2 \quad \dots \quad y_N]^T$$

$$-\mathbf{1}_N = [1 \quad 1 \quad \dots \quad 1]^T$$

$$-X_{(d \times N)} = [\mathbf{x}_1 y_1 \quad \mathbf{x}_2 y_2 \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{x}_N y_N]$$

# Solving the SVM using QP

- CVXOPT is a Python package that implements a quadratic programming solver
  - <http://abel.ee.ucla.edu/cvxopt/userguide/coneprog.html#quadratic-programming>
- `cvxopt.solvers.qp( $P, q[, R, s[, U, v[, solver[, initvals]]]]$ )`
  - Solves the following problem for  $\mathbf{z}$ :

$$\min_{\mathbf{z}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{z}$$

Subject to:

$$\mathbf{R} \mathbf{z} \leq \mathbf{s}$$

$$\mathbf{U} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{v}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{z} &= \boldsymbol{\alpha} \\ \mathbf{P} &= \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{q} &= -\mathbf{1}_N \\ \mathbf{R} &= -\mathbf{I}_{N \times N} \\ \mathbf{s} &= \mathbf{0}_N \\ \mathbf{U} &= \mathbf{y}^T \\ \mathbf{v} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

## SVM Problem

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \mathbf{1}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\alpha}^T \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\alpha}$$

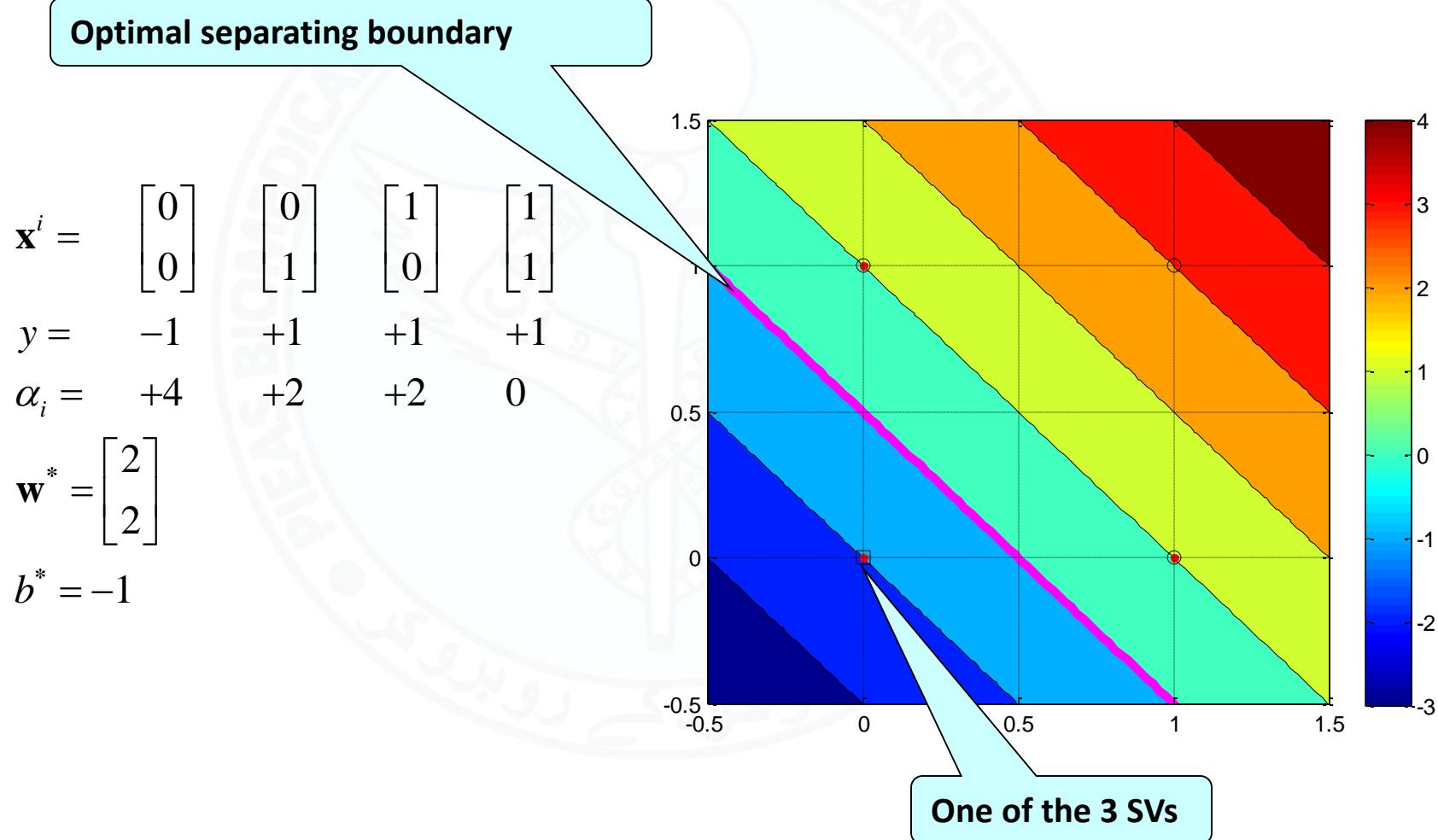
Subject to:

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\alpha} &\geq 0 \\ \mathbf{y}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

# Programming the SVM



# Example: Solution of the OR problem



# Handling Non-Separable Patterns

- All the derivation till now was based on the requirement that the data be linearly separable
  - Practical Problems are Non-Separable
- Non-separable data can be handled by relaxing the constraint

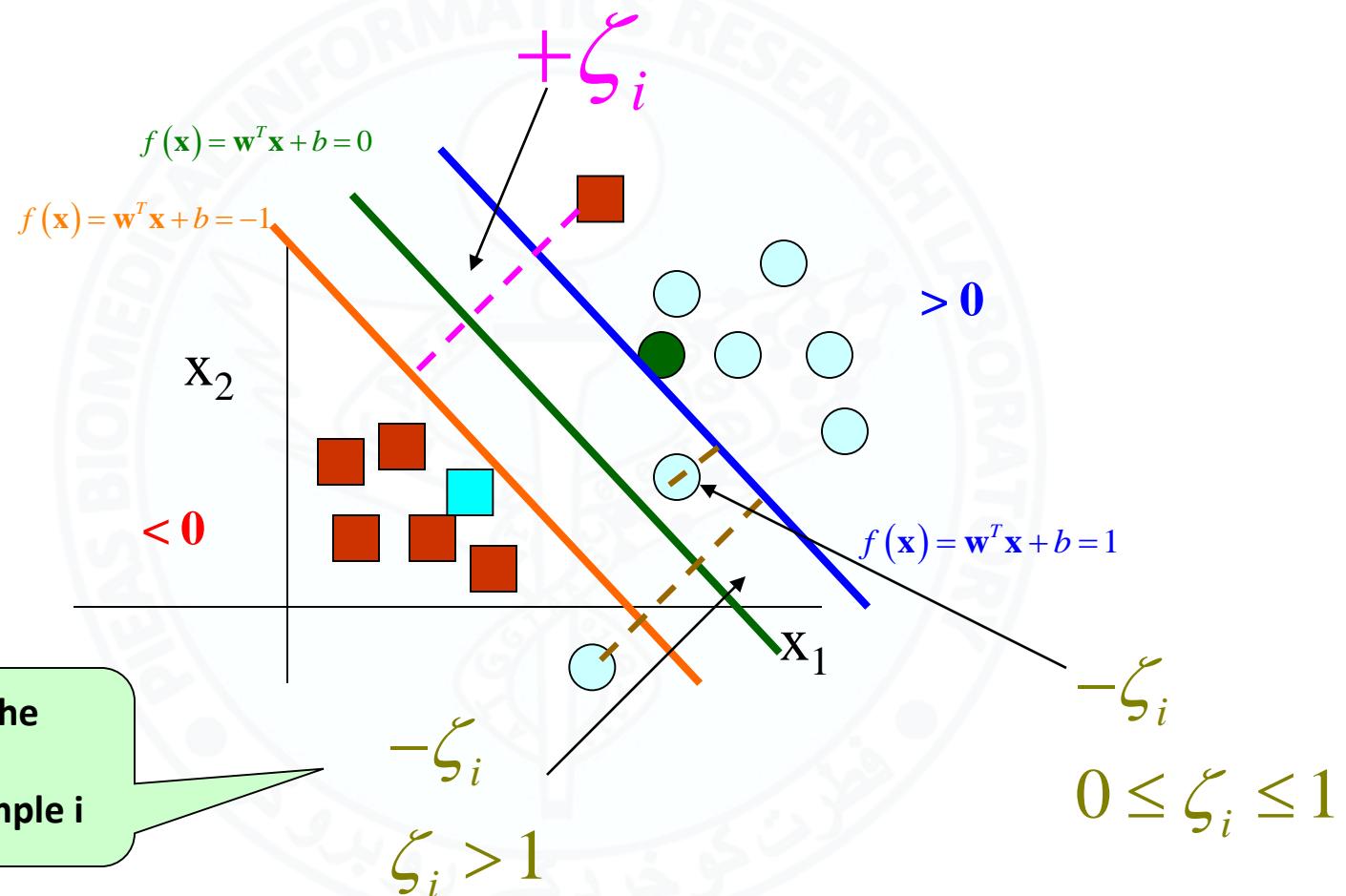
$$y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x} + b) \geq 1$$

- This is achieved as

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b \geq 1 - \zeta_i \quad \forall y_i = +1 \\ \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b \geq -1 + \zeta_i \quad \forall y_i = -1 \\ \zeta_i \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \geq 1 - \zeta_i$$

Slack Variables

# Handling Non-Separable Patterns (Soft Margin)



# Handling Non-Separable Patterns (Soft Margin)

- Our objective in designing a SVM here is to maximize the margin while minimizing the misclassification error
- The misclassification error can be written as:

$$\Phi(\zeta) = \sum_{i=1}^N I(\zeta_i - 1) \quad I(\zeta) = \begin{cases} 0 & \zeta \leq 0 \\ 1 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- Since this function is non-linear and non-convex, therefore we choose to use an approximate given by

$$\Phi(\zeta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i$$

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

- The overall optimization problem can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \geq 1 - \zeta_i \\ & \zeta_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Weight of the penalty due to margin violation

Or

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \leq 0 \\ & -\zeta_i \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

The objective function now optimizes two conflicting objectives:  
Maximization of the margin and minimization of the margin violations

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

- Writing the constraints as losses, we have

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \zeta} M = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N L_i + \sum_{i=1}^N Z_i$$

$$L_i = \max_{\alpha_i} \alpha_i \left\{ 1 - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \right\} = \begin{cases} 0 & 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \leq 0 \\ \infty & \text{else} \end{cases}, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0$$

$$Z_i = \max_{\beta_i} \beta_i \{-\zeta_i\} = \begin{cases} 0 & -\zeta_i \leq 0 \\ \infty & \text{else} \end{cases}, \quad \beta_i \geq 0$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \zeta} \max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i} & \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left\{ 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \right\} - \sum_{i=1}^N \beta_i \zeta_i \\ \text{s.t.} & \quad \alpha_i \geq 0, \beta_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- This is the primal form of the optimization problem

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

- The Dual Form is

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \zeta} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left\{ 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \right\} - \sum_{i=1}^N \beta_i \zeta_i \\ s.t \quad & \alpha_i \geq 0, \beta_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Since the optimization problem is convex, therefore the optimal values of the dual and primal are equal
- Therefore the optimization problem can be written solved in its dual form

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

$$\max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i} \min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \zeta} \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left\{ 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \right\} - \sum_{i=1}^N \beta_i \zeta_i$$

$$= \max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i} \theta_D(\alpha, \beta)$$

$$\theta_D(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\mathbf{w}, b, \zeta} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} + C \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_i + \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left\{ 1 - \zeta_i - y_i (\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}^{(i)} + b) \right\} - \sum_{i=1}^N \beta_i \zeta_i$$

*Solving*

$$\frac{\partial \theta_D}{\partial \mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{w} - \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}^{(i)} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \mathbf{w} = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i \mathbf{x}^{(i)}$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta_D}{\partial b} = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta_D}{\partial \zeta_i} = C - \alpha_i - \beta_i = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \alpha_i + \beta_i = C$$

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

$$\max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i \geq 0} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}^{(i)^T} \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \right\}$$

s.t       $\alpha_i \geq 0, \beta_i \geq 0$

$$\alpha_i + \beta_i = C, \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$$

## Simplifying further

$$\max_{\alpha_i, \beta_i \geq 0} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j \mathbf{x}^{(i)^T} \mathbf{x}^{(j)} \right\}$$

s.t       $0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C, \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i y_i = 0$

- This problem can be solved using standard optimization packages

# Soft Margin SVM as an Optimization Problem

- Some Observations

- $\alpha_i$  will be non-zero (positive) only for the points that are support vectors
- $\beta_i = C - \alpha_i$  will be zero for the points that violate the margin condition
- $C$  is the upper bound on  $\alpha_i$
- $C$  is the weight of the penalty of the term representing margin violation
  - If  $C$  is small, then more margin violations will occur
  - If  $C$  is large, lesser margin violations will result
- $C$  can be found out through cross-validation

# Example

$$\mathbf{x}^i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

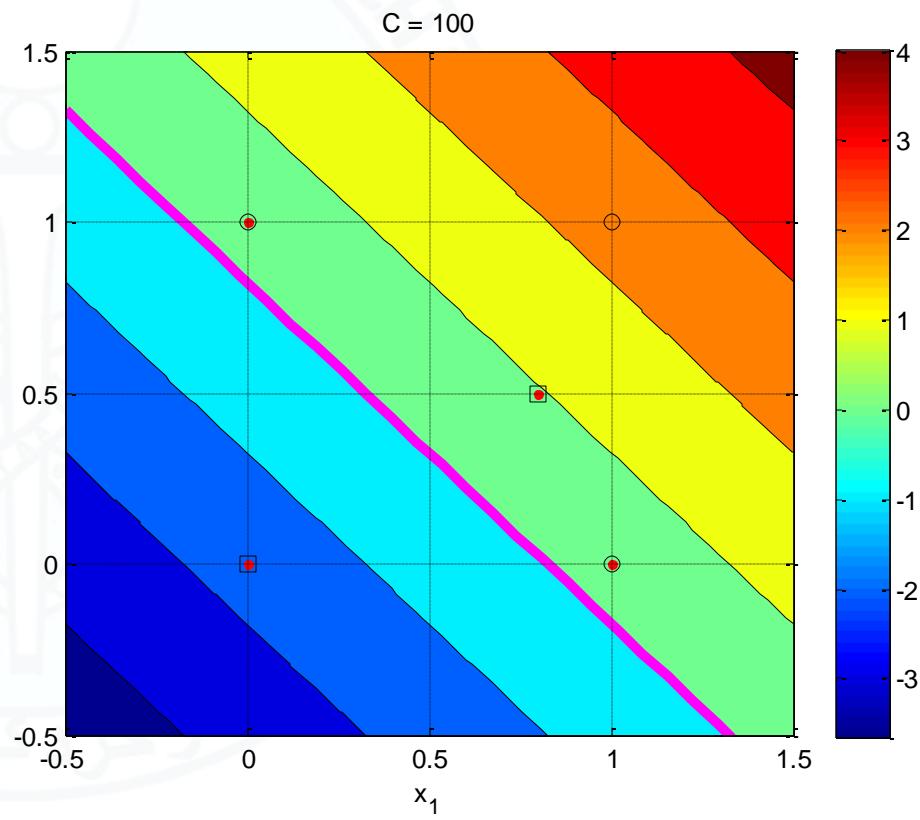
$$C = 100$$

$$y = -1 \quad +1 \quad +1 \quad +1 \quad -1$$

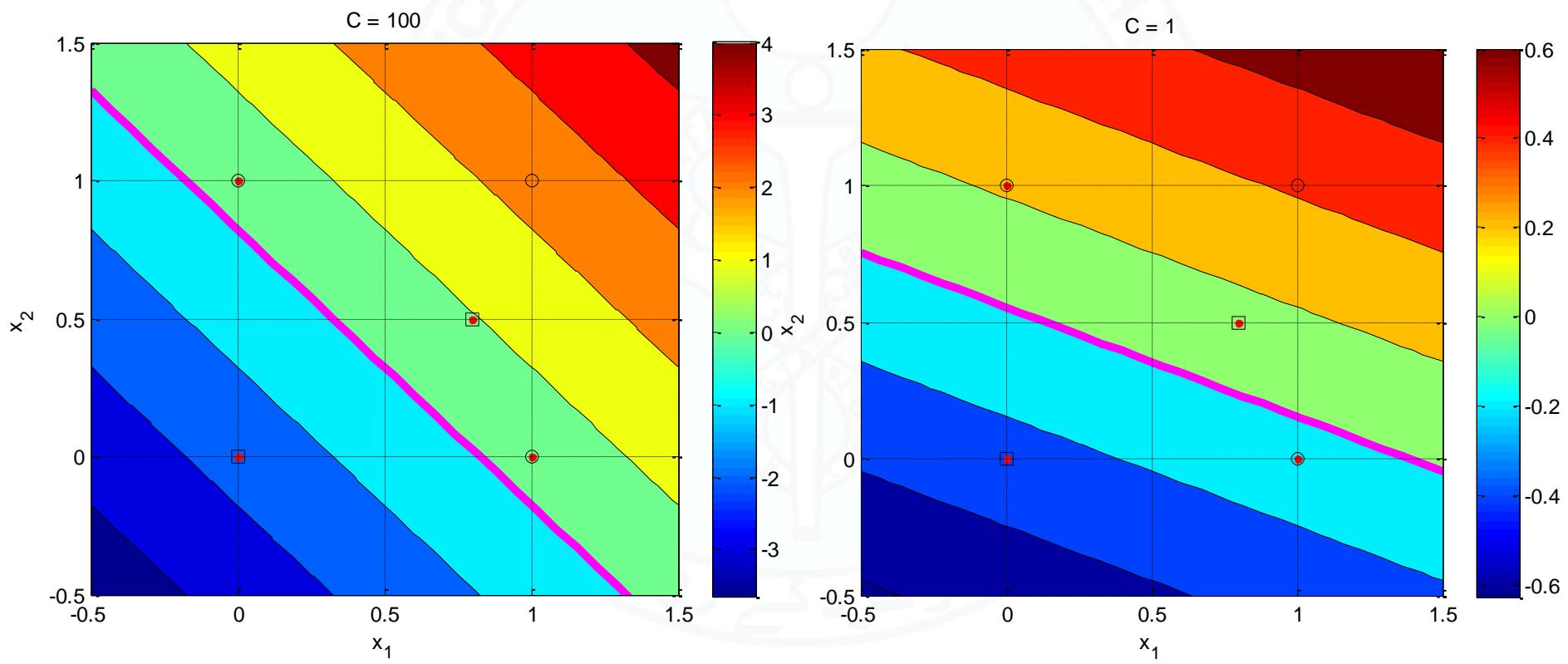
$$\alpha_i = +34 \quad +52 \quad +82 \quad 0 \quad +100$$

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$b^* = -1.65$$

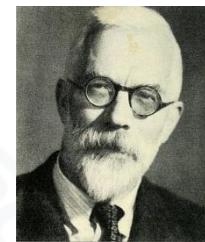


# Example...



# SVMs up to now

- Vapnik and Chervonenkis:
  - Hard SVM (1962)
  - Theoretical foundations for SVMs
- Corinna Cortes
  - Soft SVM (1995)
- Enter: Bernhard Scholkopf (1997)
  - Complete Kernel trick!
  - Kernels not only allow nonlinear boundaries but also allow representation of non-vectorial data



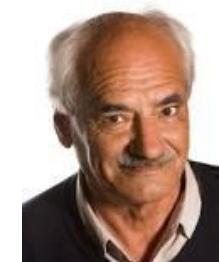
R. A. Fisher  
1890-1962



Rosenblatt  
1928-1971



V. Vapnik  
1936 -



Chervonenkis  
1938 - 2014



C. Cortes  
1961 -

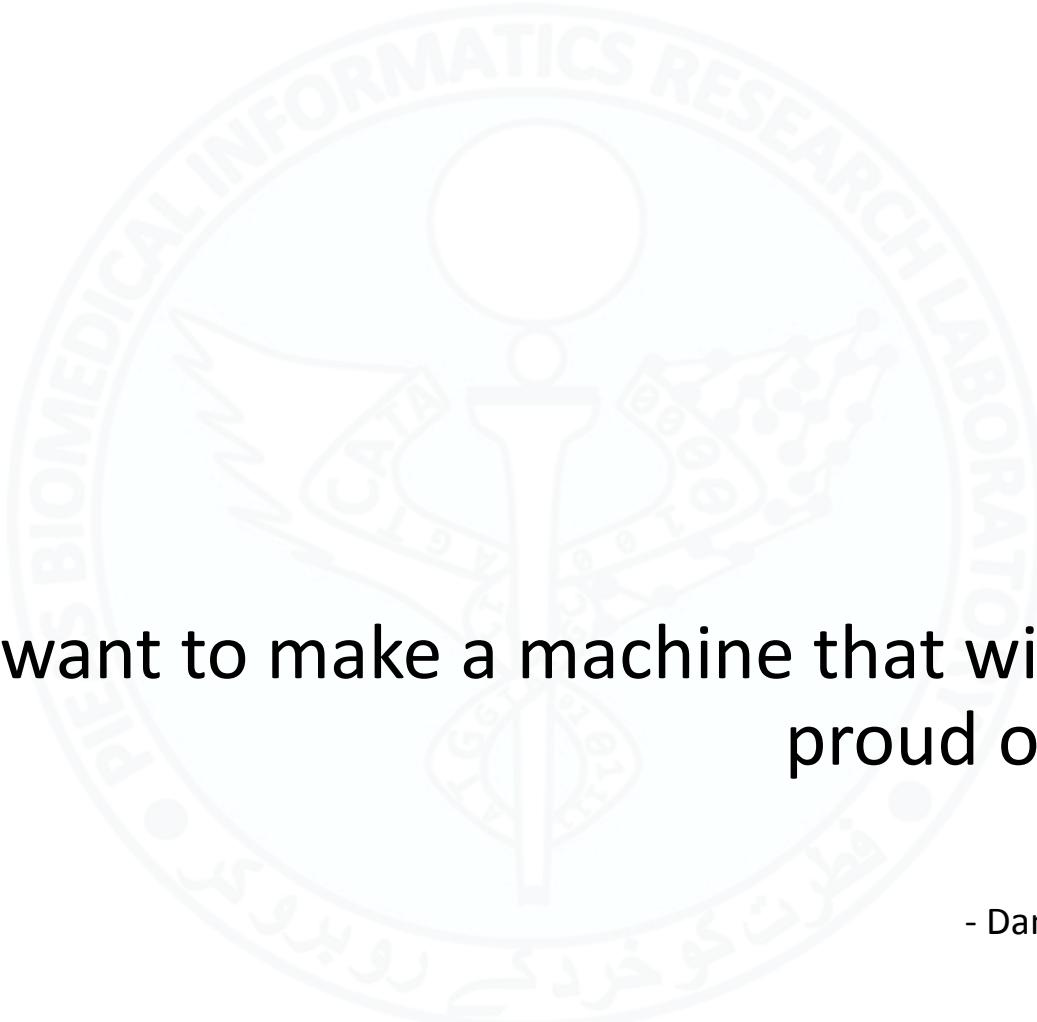


Scholkopf  
1968 -

<http://www.svms.org/history.html>

# Reading

- Sections 10.1-10.3
- Sections 13.1-13.3
- Alpaydin, Ethem. *Introduction to Machine Learning*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 2010.



We want to make a machine that will be  
proud of us.

- Danny Hillis