## **Introduction to Machine Learning**

# **Classification Linear Classifiers**





#### **Learning goals**

- **•** Linear classifier
- Linear decision boundaries
- **•** Linear separability

### **LINEAR CLASSIFIERS**

Important subclass of classification models.

Definition: If discriminant(s)  $f_k(\mathbf{x})$  can be written as affine linear function(s) (possibly through a rank-preserving, monotone transformation *g*):

$$
g(f_k(\mathbf{x})) = \mathbf{w}_k^{\top} \mathbf{x} + b_k,
$$

we will call the classifier **linear**.

- $\bullet$  *w<sub>k</sub>* and  $b_k$  do not necessarily refer to parameters  $\theta_k$ , although they often coincide; discriminant simply must be writable in an affine-linear way
- reasons for the transformation is that we only care about the position of the decision boundary



#### **LINEAR DECISION BOUNDARIES**

We can also easily show that the decision boundary between classes *i* and *j* is a hyperplane. For every **x** where there is a tie in scores:

$$
f_i(\mathbf{x}) = f_j(\mathbf{x})
$$
  
\n
$$
g(f_i(\mathbf{x})) = g(f_j(\mathbf{x}))
$$
  
\n
$$
\mathbf{w}_i^{\top} \mathbf{x} + b_i = \mathbf{w}_j^{\top} \mathbf{x} + b_j
$$
  
\n
$$
(\mathbf{w}_i - \mathbf{w}_j)^{\top} \mathbf{x} + (b_i - b_j) = 0
$$

This represents a **hyperplane** separating two classes:



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#### **EXAMPLE: 2 CLASSES WITH CENTROIDS**

- $\bullet$  Model binary problem with centroid  $\mu_k$  per class as "parameters"
- Don't really care how the centroids are estimated; could use class means, but the following doesn't depend on it
- Classify point **x** by assigning it to class *k* of nearest centroid





#### **EXAMPLE: 2 CLASSES WITH CENTROIDS**

Let's calculate the decision boundary:

$$
d_1 = ||\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1||^2 = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x} - 2\mathbf{x}^\top \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 + \boldsymbol{\mu}_1^\top \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{x} - 2\mathbf{x}^\top \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 + \boldsymbol{\mu}_2^\top \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 = ||\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_2||^2 = d_2 \sum \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}
$$

Where *d* is measured using Euclidean distance. This implies:

$$
-2\mathbf{x}^\top\boldsymbol{\mu}_1+\boldsymbol{\mu}_1^\top\boldsymbol{\mu}_1=-2\mathbf{x}^\top\boldsymbol{\mu}_2+\boldsymbol{\mu}_2^\top\boldsymbol{\mu}_2
$$

Which simplifies to:

$$
2\mathbf{x}^\top(\mu_2-\mu_1)=\mu_2^\top\mu_2-\mu_1^\top\mu_1
$$

Thus, it's a linear classifier!

X

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#### **LINEAR SEPARABILITY**

If there exists a linear classifier that perfectly separates the classes of some dataset, the data are called **linearly separable**.







not linearly separable



#### **FEATURE TRANSFORMATIONS**

Note that linear classifiers can represent **non-linear** decision boundaries in the original input space if we use derived features like higher order interactions, polynomial features, etc.



Here we used absolute values to find suitable derived features.

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