The Perceptron

CMSC 422

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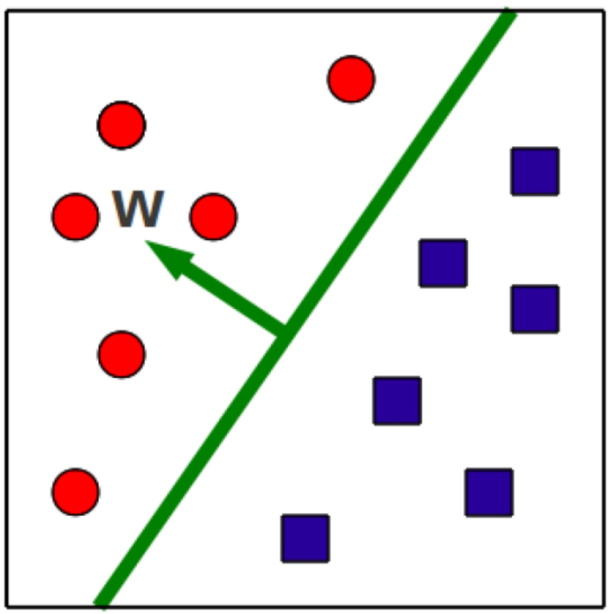
Slides adapted from MARINE CARPUAT

This week

- The perception: a new model/algorithm
  - **its variants: voted, averaged**
  - **convergence proof**
- Fundamental Machine Learning Concepts
  - Online vs. batch learning
  - Error-driven learning
  - **Linear separability and margin of a dataset**

Recap: Perceptron for binary classification



- Classifier = hyperplane that separates positive from negative examples

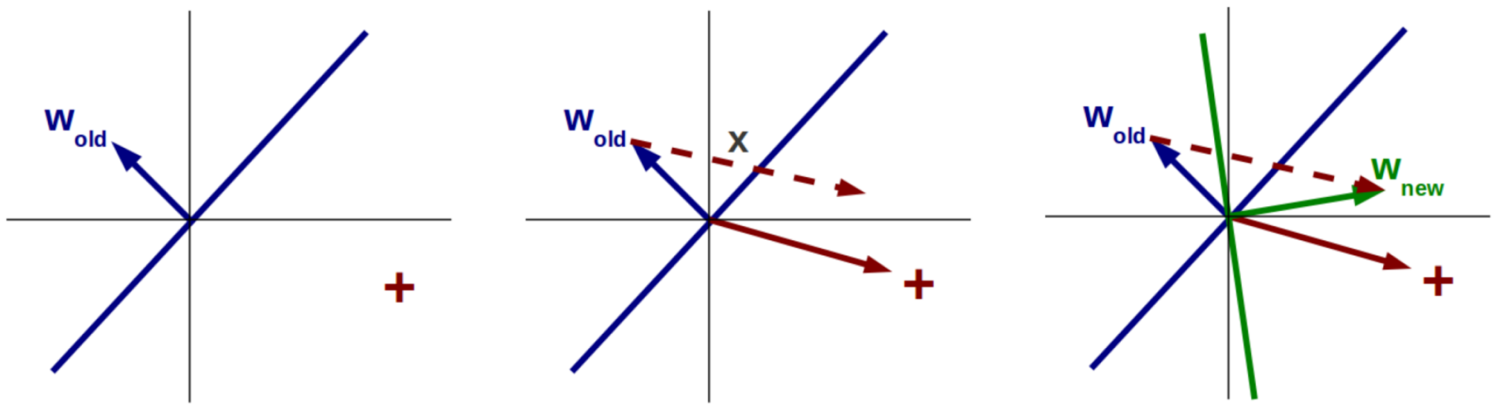
$$\hat{y} = sign(w^T x + b)$$

- Perceptron training
  - Finds such a hyperplane
  - Online & error-driven

Recap: Perceptron updates

Update for a misclassified positive example:

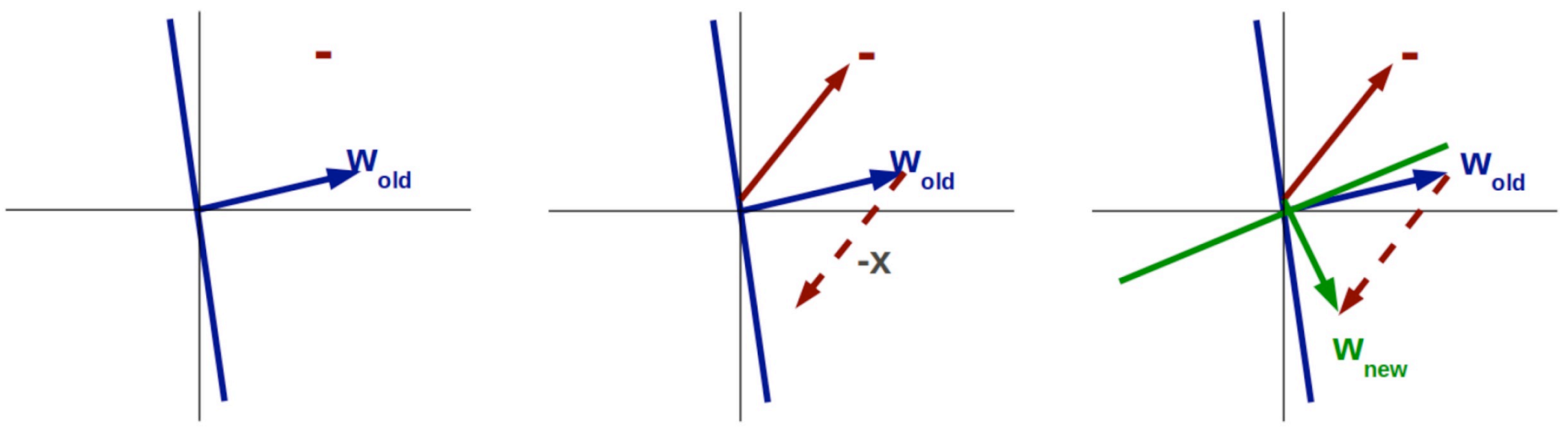
$$\mathbf{w}_{new} = \mathbf{w}_{old} + \mathbf{x}$$



Recap: Perceptron updates

Update for a misclassified negative example:

$$\mathbf{w}_{new} = \mathbf{w}_{old} - \mathbf{x}$$



Standard Perceptron: predict based on final parameters

Algorithm 5 PerceptronTrain($\mathbf{D}$, *MaxIter*)

$w_d \leftarrow 0$, for all $d = 1 \ldots D$ // initialize weights
$b \leftarrow 0$ // initialize bias
for $iter = 1 \ldots MaxIter$ **do**
  for all $(x,y) \in \mathbf{D}$ **do**
    $a \leftarrow \sum_{d=1}^{D} w_d\, x_d + b$ // compute activation for this example
    if $ya \leq 0$ **then**
      $w_d \leftarrow w_d + yx_d$, for all $d = 1 \ldots D$ // update weights
      $b \leftarrow b + y$ // update bias
    end if
  end for
end for
return $w_0, w_1, \ldots, w_D, b$

Predict based on final + intermediate parameters

- The voted perceptron

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} c^{(\mathrm{k})} \operatorname{sign}\left(\boldsymbol{w}^{(\mathrm{k})} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} + b^{(\mathrm{k})}\right)\right)$$

- The averaged perceptron

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} c^{(\mathrm{k})} \left(\boldsymbol{w}^{(\mathrm{k})} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{x}} + b^{(\mathrm{k})}\right)\right)$$

- Require keeping track of "survival time" of weight vectors $c^{(1)}, \ldots, c^{(\mathrm{K})}$

Can the perceptron always find a hyperplane to separate positive from negative examples?

Convergence of Perceptron

- The perceptron has converged if it can classify every training example correctly
  - i.e. if it has found a hyperplane that correctly separates positive and negative examples

- Under which conditions does the perceptron converge and how long does it take?

Convergence of Perceptron

Theorem (Block & Novikoff, 1962)

If the training data $D = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_N, y_N)\}$ is **linearly separable** with margin γ by a unit norm hyperplane w_* ($||w_*|| = 1$) with $b = 0$,

Then **perceptron training converges after $\boldsymbol{\frac{R^2}{\gamma^2}}$ errors** during training

(assuming ($||x|| < R$) for all x).

Margin of a data set *D*

$$margin(\mathbf{D}, w, b) = \begin{cases} \min_{(x,y)\in\mathbf{D}} y(w \cdot x + b) & \text{if } w \text{ separates } \mathbf{D} \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{4.8}$$

Distance between the hyperplane (w,b) and the nearest point in **D**

$$margin(\mathbf{D}) = \sup_{w,b} margin(\mathbf{D}, w, b) \tag{4.9}$$

Largest attainable margin on **D**

Theorem (Block & Novikoff, 1962)

If the training data $D = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)\}$ is **linearly separable** with margin γ by a unit norm hyperplane w_* ($||w_*|| = 1$) with $b = 0$, then **perceptron training converges after $\frac{R^2}{\gamma^2}$ errors** during training (assuming ($||x|| < R$) for all x).

Proof:

- Margin of $\mathbf{w}_*$ on any *arbitrary example* $(\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$: $\frac{y_n \mathbf{w}_*^T \mathbf{x}_n}{||\mathbf{w}_*||} = y_n \mathbf{w}_*^T \mathbf{x}_n \geq \gamma$
- Consider the $(k+1)^{th}$mistake: $y_n \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_n \leq 0$, and update $\mathbf{w}_{k+1} = \mathbf{w}_k + y_n \mathbf{x}_n$
- $\mathbf{w}_{k+1}^T \mathbf{w}_* = \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{w}_* + y_n \mathbf{w}_*^T \mathbf{x}_n \geq \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{w}_* + \gamma$ (why is this nice?)
- Repeating iteratively k times, we get $\mathbf{w}_{k+1}^T \mathbf{w}_* > k\gamma$ (1)
- $||\mathbf{w}_{k+1}||^2 = ||\mathbf{w}_k||^2 + 2y_n \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_n + ||\mathbf{x}||^2 \leq ||\mathbf{w}_k||^2 + R^2$ (since $y_n \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_n \leq 0$)
- Repeating iteratively k times, we get $||\mathbf{w}_{k+1}||^2 \leq kR^2$ (2)

Theorem (Block & Novikoff, 1962)

If the training data $D = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_N, y_N)\}$ is **linearly separable** with margin γ by a unit norm hyperplane w_* ($||w_*|| = 1$) with $b = 0$, then **perceptron training converges after $\frac{R^2}{\gamma^2}$ errors** during training (assuming ($||x|| < R$) for all x).

What does this mean?

- Perceptron converges quickly when margin is large, slowly when it is small
- Bound does not depend on number of training examples N, nor on number of features
- Proof guarantees that perceptron converges, but not necessarily to the max margin separator

Practical Implications

- Sensitivity to noise
  - if the data is not linearly separable due to noise, no guarantee of convergence or accuracy
- Linear separability in practice
  - Data may be linearly separable in practice
  - Especially when number of features >> number of examples
- Risk of overfitting mitigated by
  - Early stopping
  - Averaging

What you should know

- Perceptron concepts
  - training/prediction algorithms (standard, voting, averaged)
  - convergence theorem and what practical guarantees it gives us
  - how to draw/describe the decision boundary of a perceptron classifier
- Fundamental ML concepts
  - Determine whether a data set is linearly separable and define its margin
  - Error driven algorithms, online vs. batch algorithms