

# VC 13/14 – T19

## Neural Networks & SVMs

Mestrado em Ciência de Computadores  
Mestrado Integrado em Engenharia de Redes e  
Sistemas Informáticos

***Miguel Tavares Coimbra***

# Outline

- Introduction to soft computing
- Neural Networks
- Support Vector Machines

# Topic: Introduction to soft computing

- Introduction to soft computing
- Neural Networks
- Support Vector Machines

Humans make  
great decisions



# Soft-Computing

- **Aim:**

“To exploit the tolerance for imprecision uncertainty, approximate reasoning and partial truth to achieve tractability, robustness, low solution cost, and **close resemblance with human like decision making**”  
[L.A.Zadeh]
- **To find an approximate solution to an imprecisely/precisely formulated problem.**

# Simple problem: Parking a car

- Easy for a human to park a car.
- Why?
  - Position is not specified exactly.
- Otherwise:
  - Need precise measurements.
  - Need precise control.
  - Need a lot of time.



High precision carries a high cost!!

# We park cars quite well

- We exploit the **tolerance for imprecision**.
- We search for an **acceptable solution**.
- We choose the acceptable solution with the **lowest cost**.

These are the **guiding principles of soft computing!**

# Soft-Computing revisited

- Collection of methodologies which, in one form or another, reflect their defined guiding principles achieving:
  - Tractability
    - We can handle otherwise ‘impossible’ problems.
  - Robustness
    - We can handle imprecision and ambiguity.
  - Close resemblance with human like decision making.



# Principal constituent methodologies

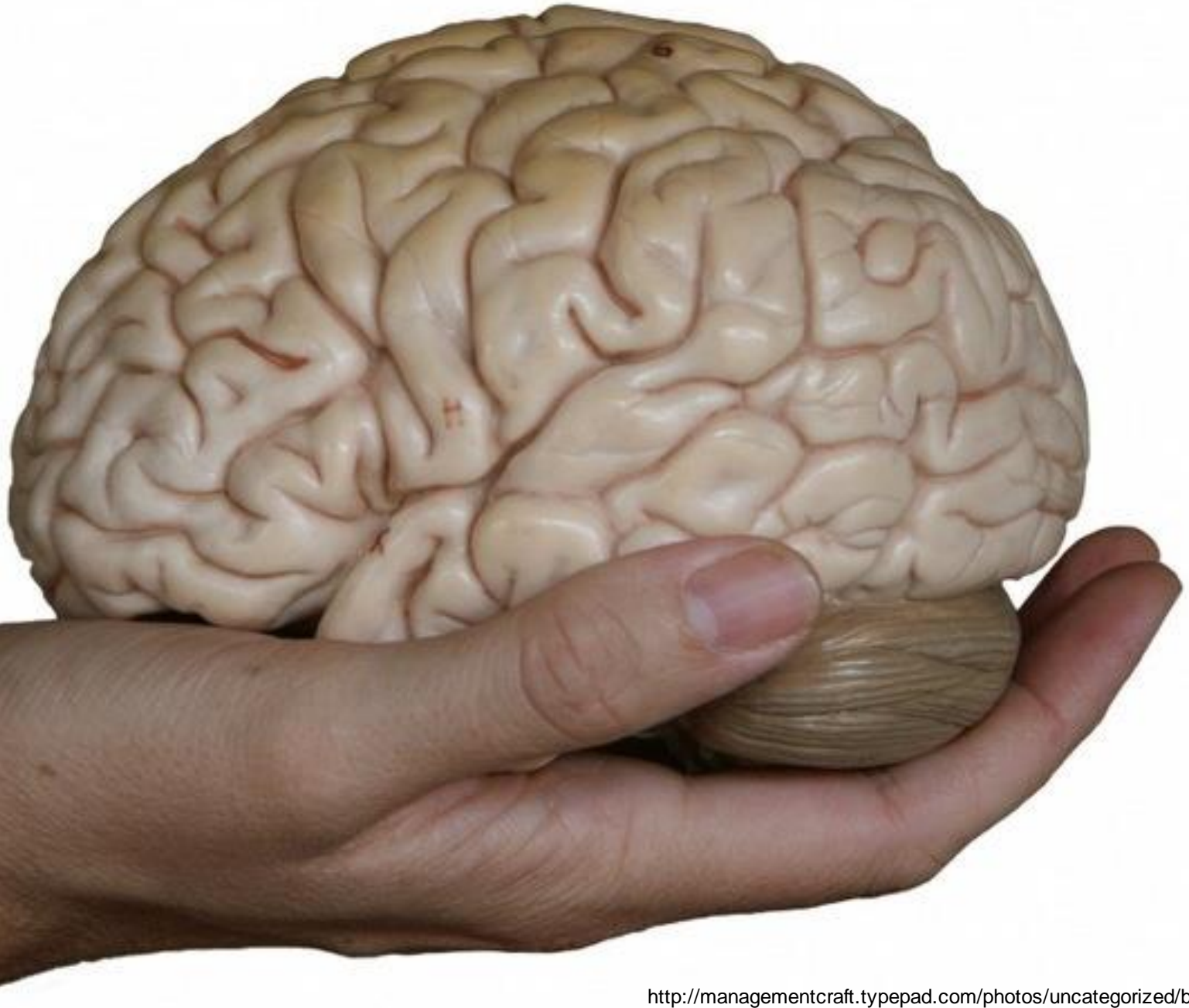
- Fuzzy Systems
- Neural Networks
- Evolutionary Computation
- Machine Learning
- Probabilistic Reasoning

**Complementary** rather than  
competitive

# Topic: Neural Networks

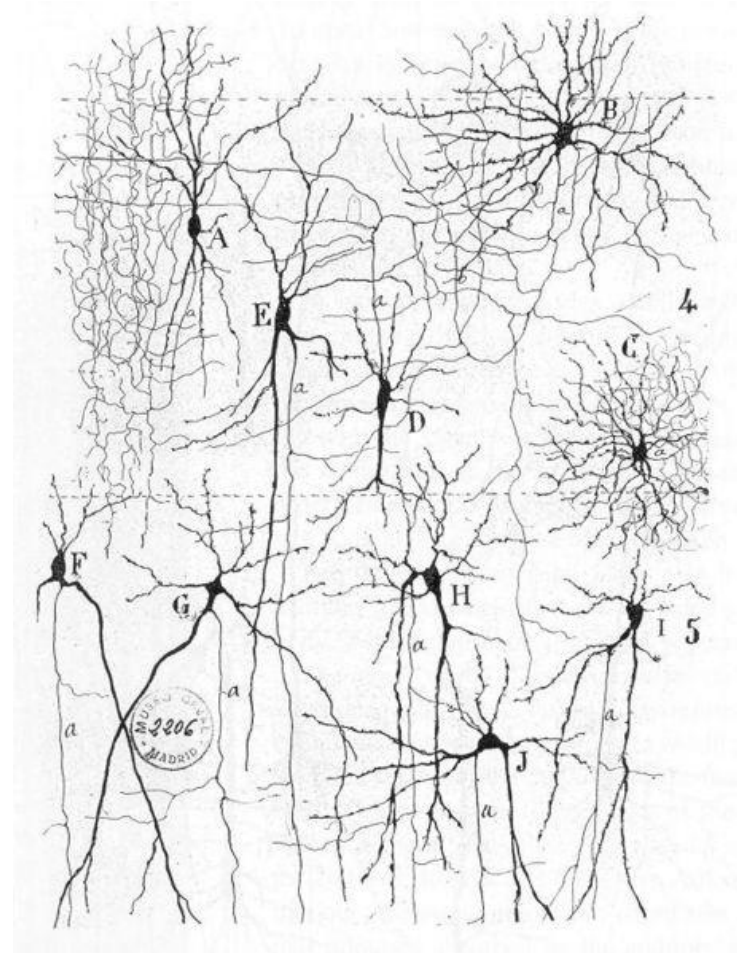
- Introduction to soft computing
- **Neural Networks**
- Support Vector Machines

If you can't beat it.... Copy it!



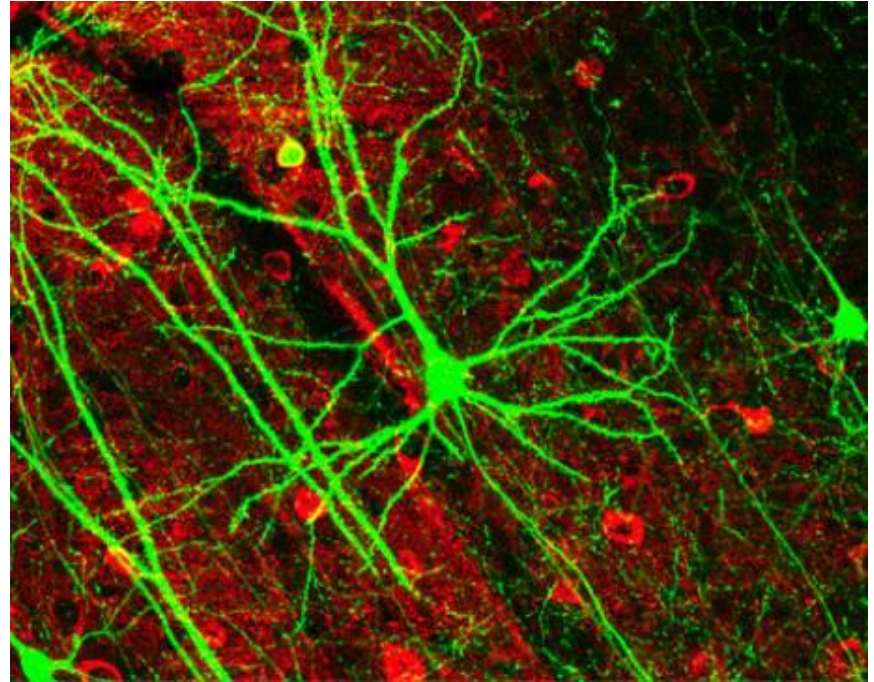
# Biological Neural Networks

- **Neuroscience:**
  - Population of physically inter-connected neurons.
- **Includes:**
  - Biological **Neurons**
  - Connecting **Synapses**
- **The human brain:**
  - 100 billion neurons
  - 100 trillion synapses



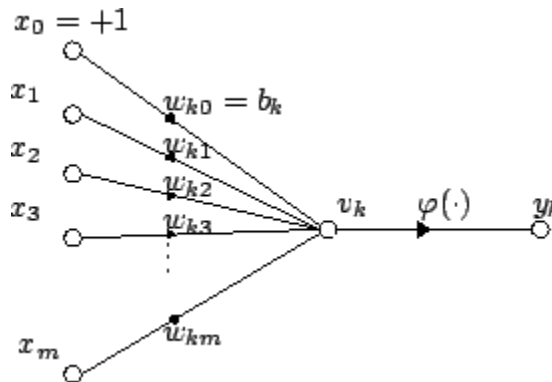
# Biological Neuron

- **Neurons:**
  - Have  $K$  inputs (*dendrites*).
  - Have 1 output (*axon*).
  - If the sum of the input signals surpasses a *threshold*, sends an *action potential* to the axon.
- **Synapses**
  - Transmit electrical signals between neurons.



# Artificial Neuron

- Also called the **McCulloch-Pitts neuron**.
- Passes a **weighted sum of inputs**, to an **activation function**, which produces an **output value**.



$$y_k = \varphi \left( \sum_{j=0}^m w_{kj} x_j \right)$$

McCulloch, W. and Pitts, W. (1943). A logical calculus of the ideas immanent in nervous activity. Bulletin of Mathematical Biophysics, 7:115 - 133.

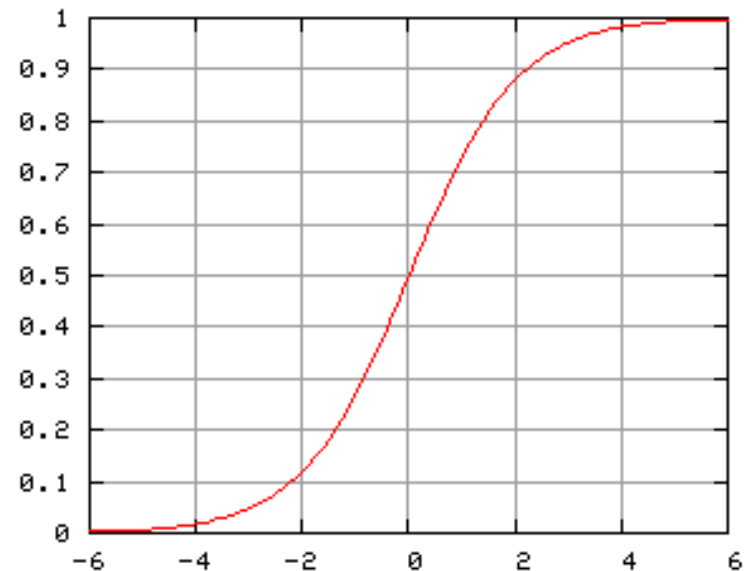
# Sample activation functions

- Step function

$$y = \begin{cases} 1 & \Leftarrow u \geq k \\ 0 & \Leftarrow u < k \end{cases} \quad u = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i$$

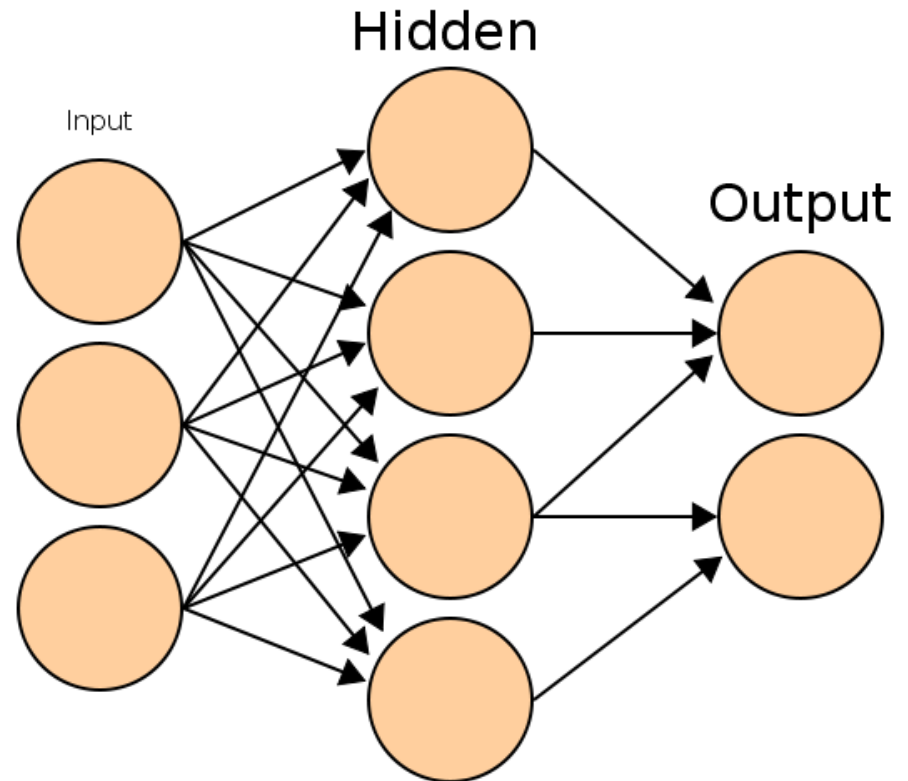
- Sigmoid function

$$y = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-u}}$$



# Artificial Neural Network

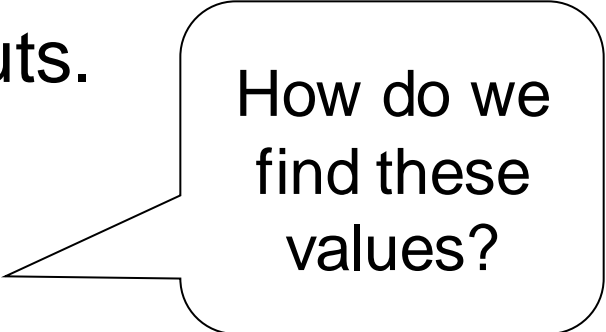
- Commonly referred as **Neural Network**.
- Basic principles:
  - One neuron can perform a simple decision.
  - Many **connected** neurons can make more **complex decisions**.





# Characteristics of a NN

- **Network configuration**
  - How are the neurons inter-connected?
  - We typically use *layers* of neurons (input, output, hidden).
- **Individual Neuron parameters**
  - Weights associated with inputs.
  - Activation function.
  - Decision *thresholds*.



How do we find these values?

# Learning paradigms

- We can define the network configuration.
- How do we define neuron ***weights*** and ***decision thresholds***?
  - **Learning** step.
  - We **train** the NN to classify what we want.
- **Different learning paradigms**
  - Supervised learning.
  - Unsupervised learning.
  - Reinforcement learning.

Appropriate for  
**Pattern  
Recognition.**

# Learning

- We want to obtain an **optimal solution** given a set of **observations**.
- A **cost function** measures how close our solution is to the **optimal solution**.
- Objective of our learning step:
  - Minimize the **cost function**.



Backpropagation  
Algorithm

# Backpropagation

## Backpropagation

$$\text{Out}(x) = g\left(\sum_j W_j g\left(\sum_k w_{jk} x_k\right)\right)$$

Find a set of weights  $\{W_j\}, \{w_{jk}\}$

to minimize

$$\sum_i (y_i - \text{Out}(x_i))^2$$

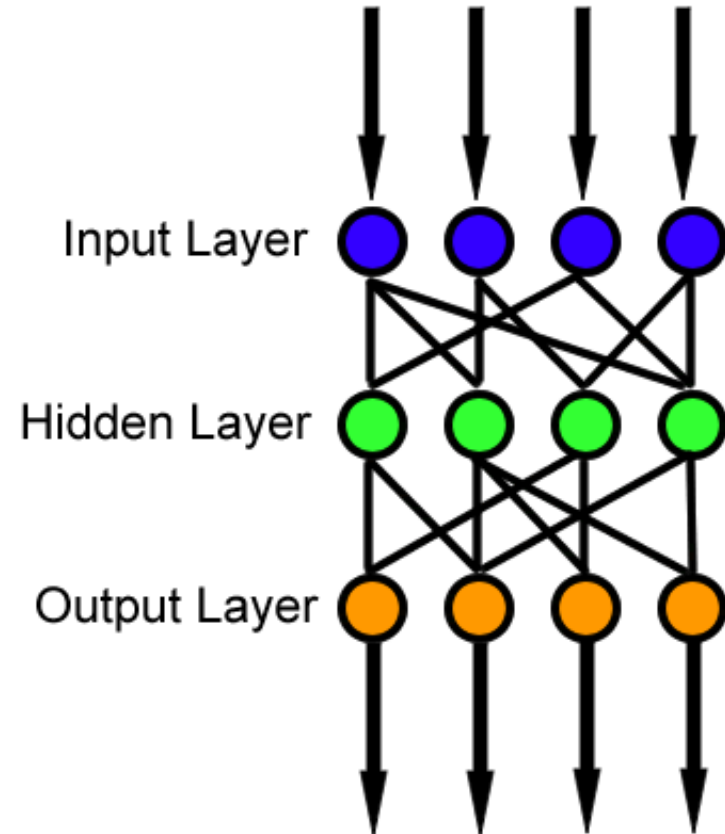
by gradient descent.

**That's it!**  
**That's the backpropagation**  
**algorithm.**

For more details  
please study Dr.  
Andrew Moore's  
excellent tutorial.

# Feedforward neural network

- Simplest type of NN.
- Has no *cycles*.
- Input layer
  - Need as many neurons as coefficients of my *feature vector*.
- Hidden layers.
- Output layer
  - Classification results.

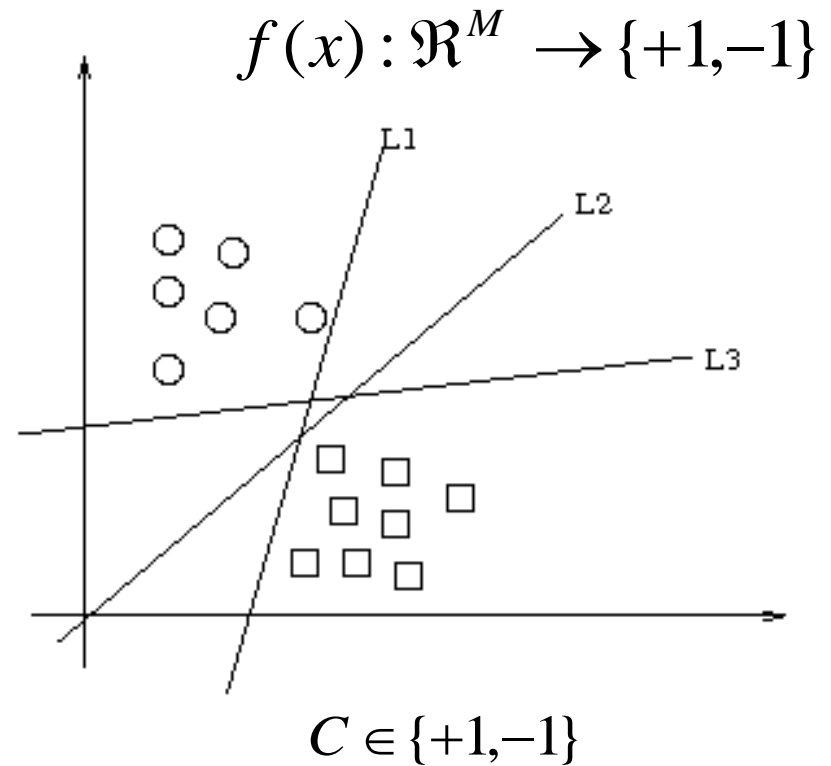


# Topic: Support Vector Machines

- Introduction to soft computing
- Neural Networks
- **Support Vector Machines**

# Maximum-margin hyperplane

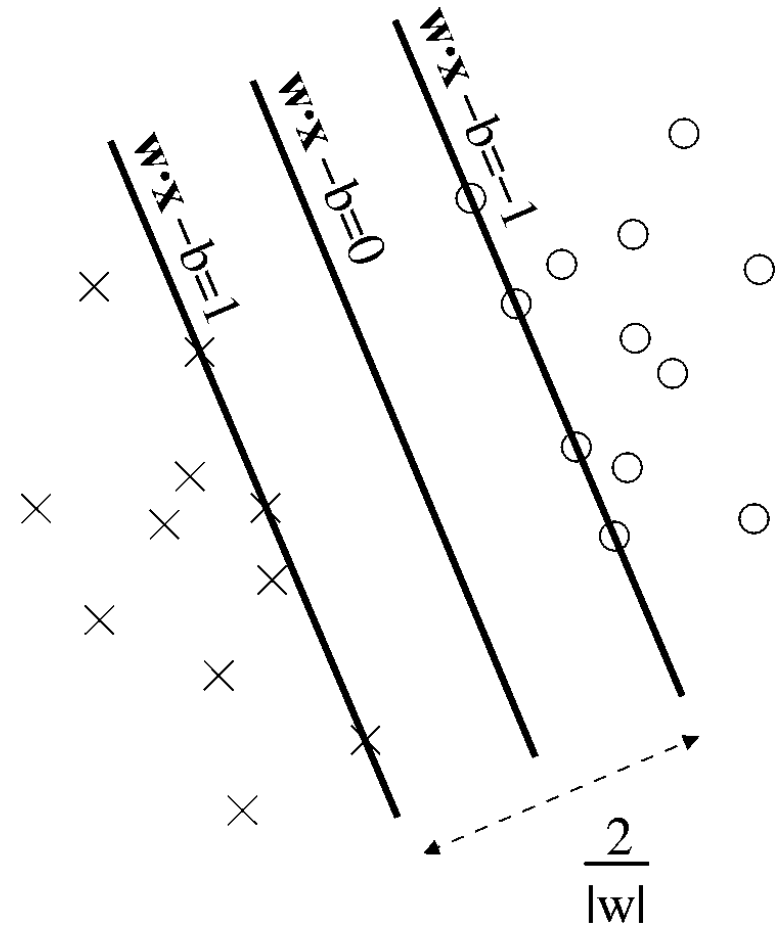
- There are many planes that can separate our **classes** in **feature space**.
- Only one **maximizes the separation margin**.
- Of course that classes need to be separable in the first place...



$$V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_M\}, v_i \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

# Support vectors

- The **maximum-margin hyperplane** is limited by some vectors.
- These are called **support vectors**.
- Other vectors are irrelevant for my decision.





# Decision

- I map a new **observation** into my **feature space**.
- Decision hyperplane:

$$(w \cdot x) + b = 0, w \in \mathbb{R}^N, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

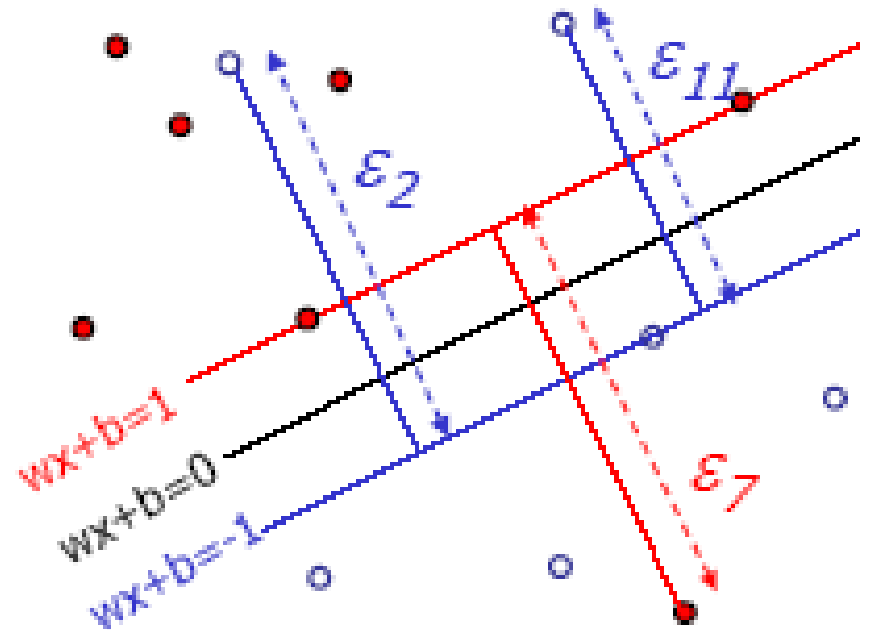
- Decision function:

$$f(x) = \text{sign}((w \cdot x) + b)$$

A vector is either **above** or **below** the hyperplane.

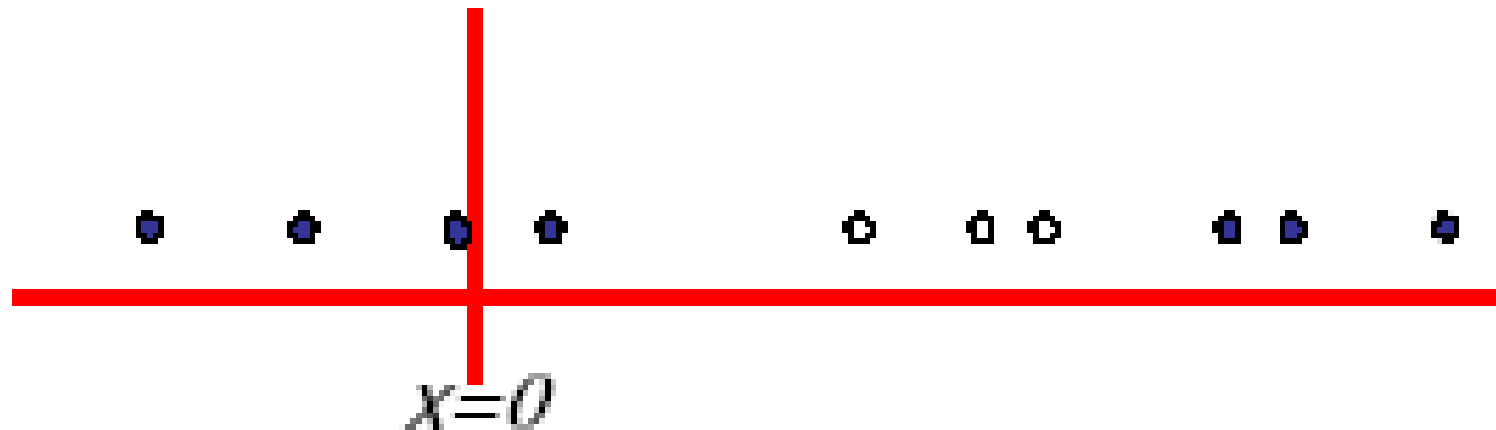
# Slack variables

- Most **feature spaces** cannot be segmented so easily by a hyperplane.
- **Solution:**
  - Use slack variables.
  - ‘Wrong’ points ‘pull’ the margin in their direction.
  - Classification errors!



# But this doesn't work in most situations...

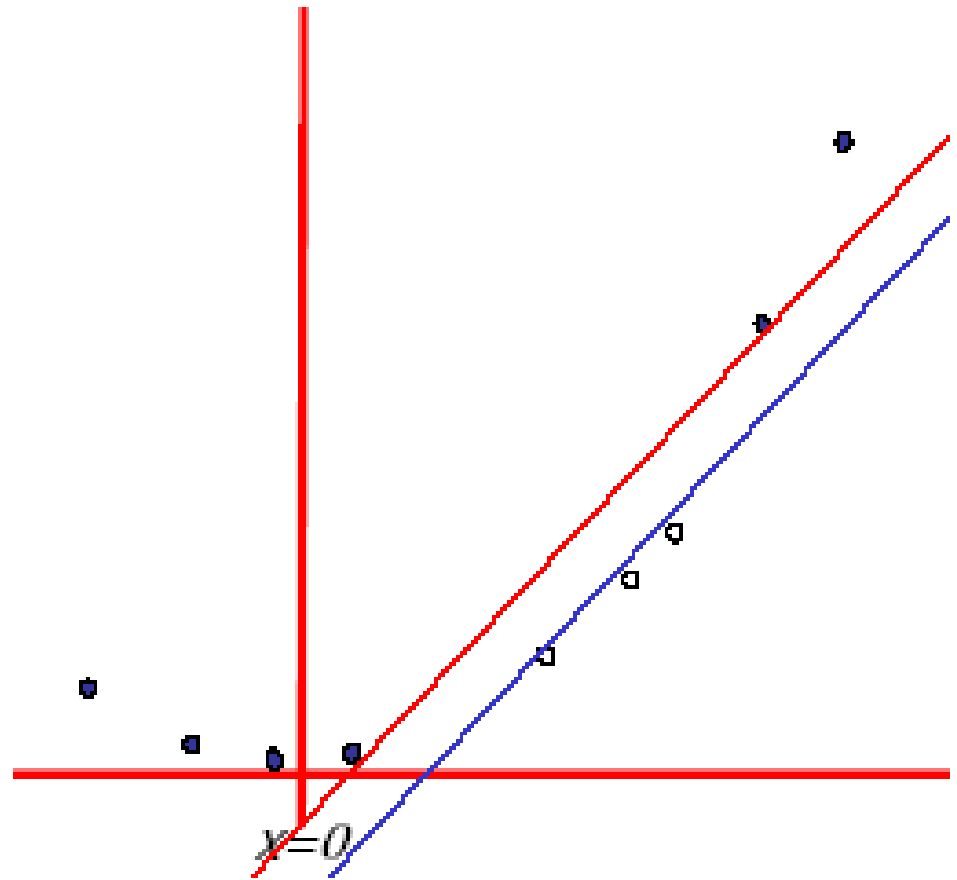
- Still, how do I find a **Maximum-margin hyperplane** for some situations?



- Most real situations face this problem...

# Solution: Send it to hyperspace!

- Take the previous case:  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$
- Create a new higher-dimensional function:  $g(\mathbf{x}^2) = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^2)$
- A **kernel function** is responsible for this transformation.



# Typical kernel functions

Linear	$K(x, y) = x \cdot y + 1$
Polynomial	$K(x, y) = (x \cdot y + 1)^p$
Radial-Base Functions	$K(x, y) = e^{-\ x-y\ ^2 / 2\sigma^2}$
Sigmoid	$K(x, y) = \tanh(kx \cdot y - \delta)$

# Classification

- **Training stage:**
  - Obtain kernel parameters.
  - Obtain maximum-margin hyperplane.
- **Given a new **observation**:**
  - Transform it using the kernel.
  - Compare it to the hyperspace.
- **Works very well indeed. Typically outperforms all known classifiers.**

# Resources

- Andrew Moore, “Statistical Data Mining Tutorials”,  
<http://www.autonlab.org/tutorials/>
- C.J. Burges, “A tutorial on support vector machines for pattern recognition”, in Knowledge Discovery Data Mining, vol.2, no.2, 1998, pp.1-43.