Properties of SVM

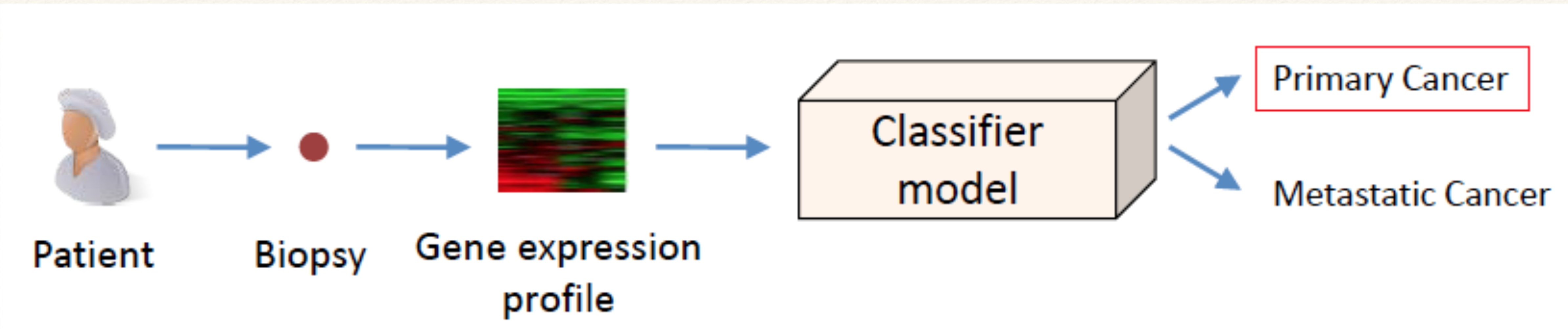
- Flexibility in choosing a similarity function
- Sparseness of solution when dealing with large data sets
  - only support vectors are used to specify the separating hyperplane
- Ability to handle large feature spaces
  - complexity does not depend on the dimensionality of the feature space
- Overfitting can be controlled by soft margin approach
- Nice math property: a simple convex optimization problem which is guaranteed to converge to a single global solution
- Feature Selection

SVM Applications

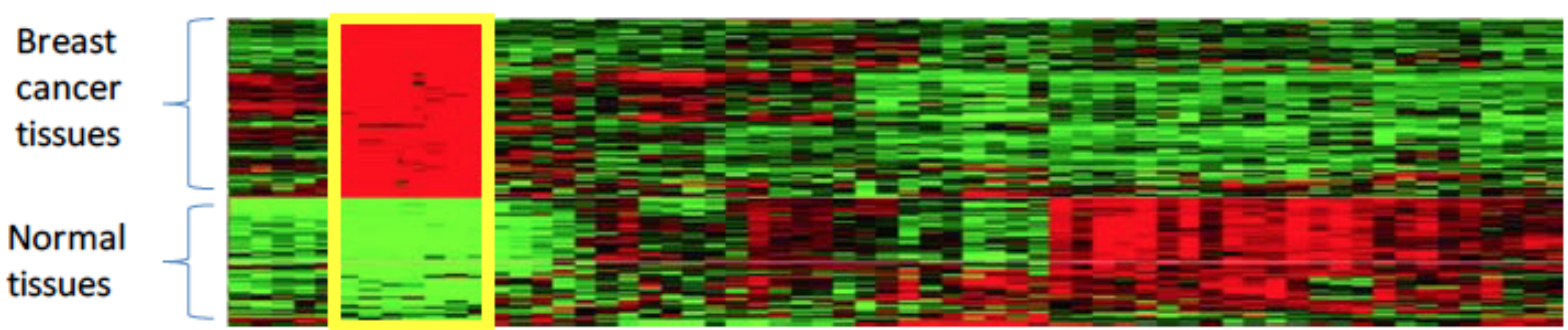
- SVM has been used successfully in many real-world problems

- text (and hypertext) categorization
- image classification
- bioinformatics (Protein classification, Cancer classification)
- hand-written character recognition

Application 1: Cancer Classification



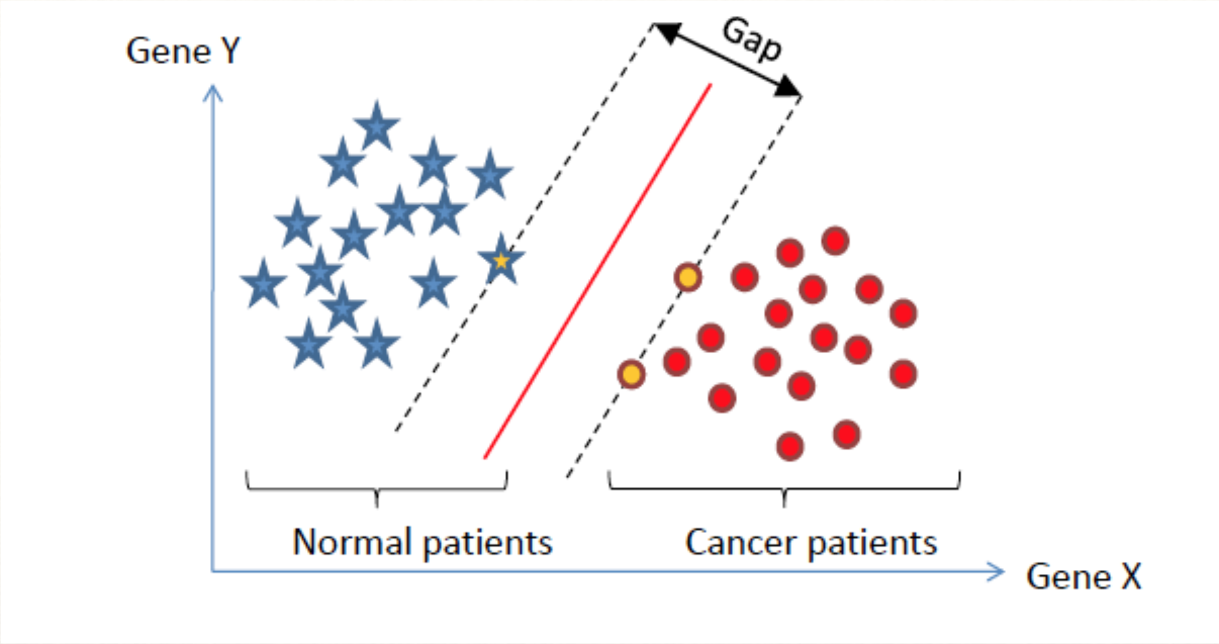
- E.g., find the most compact panel of breast cancer biomarkers from microarray gene expression data for 20,000 genes:

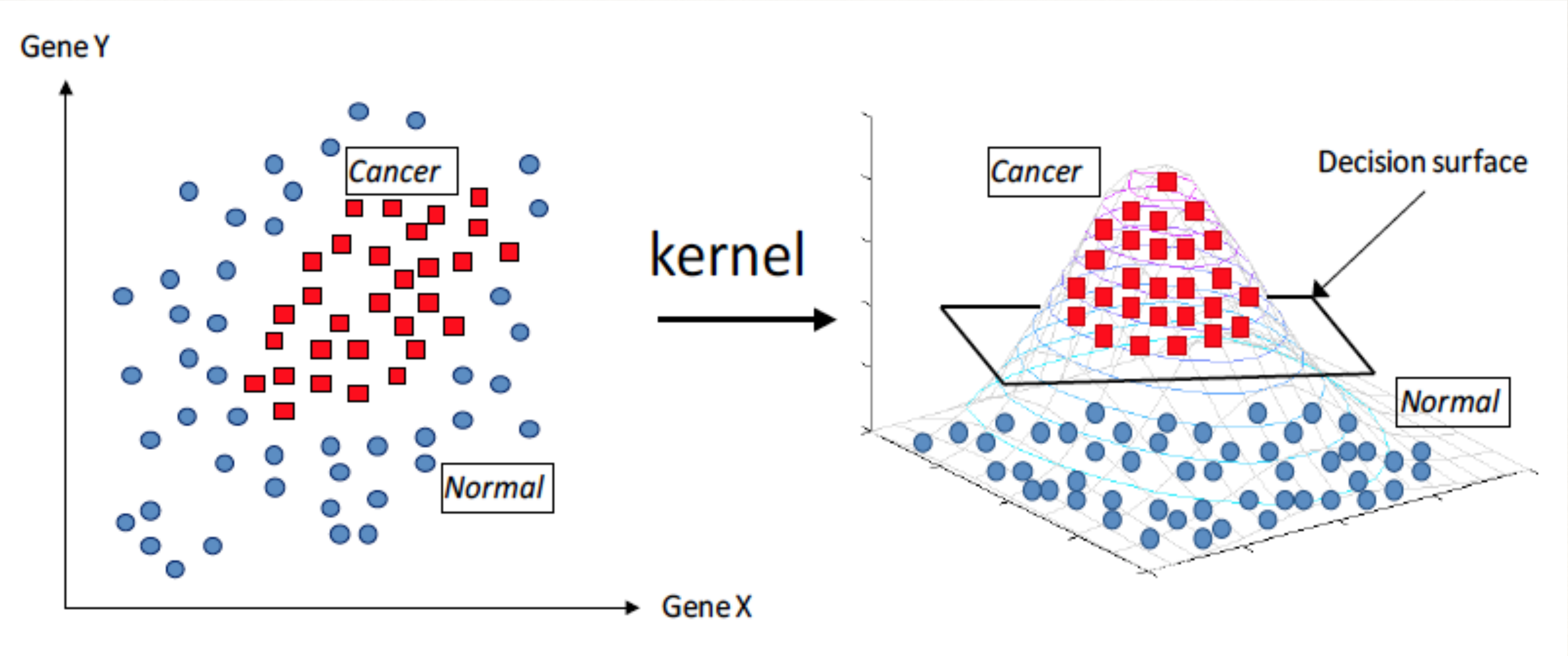


"Gentle Introduction to SVMs in Biomedicine", Statnikvo et al. NYU school of medicine

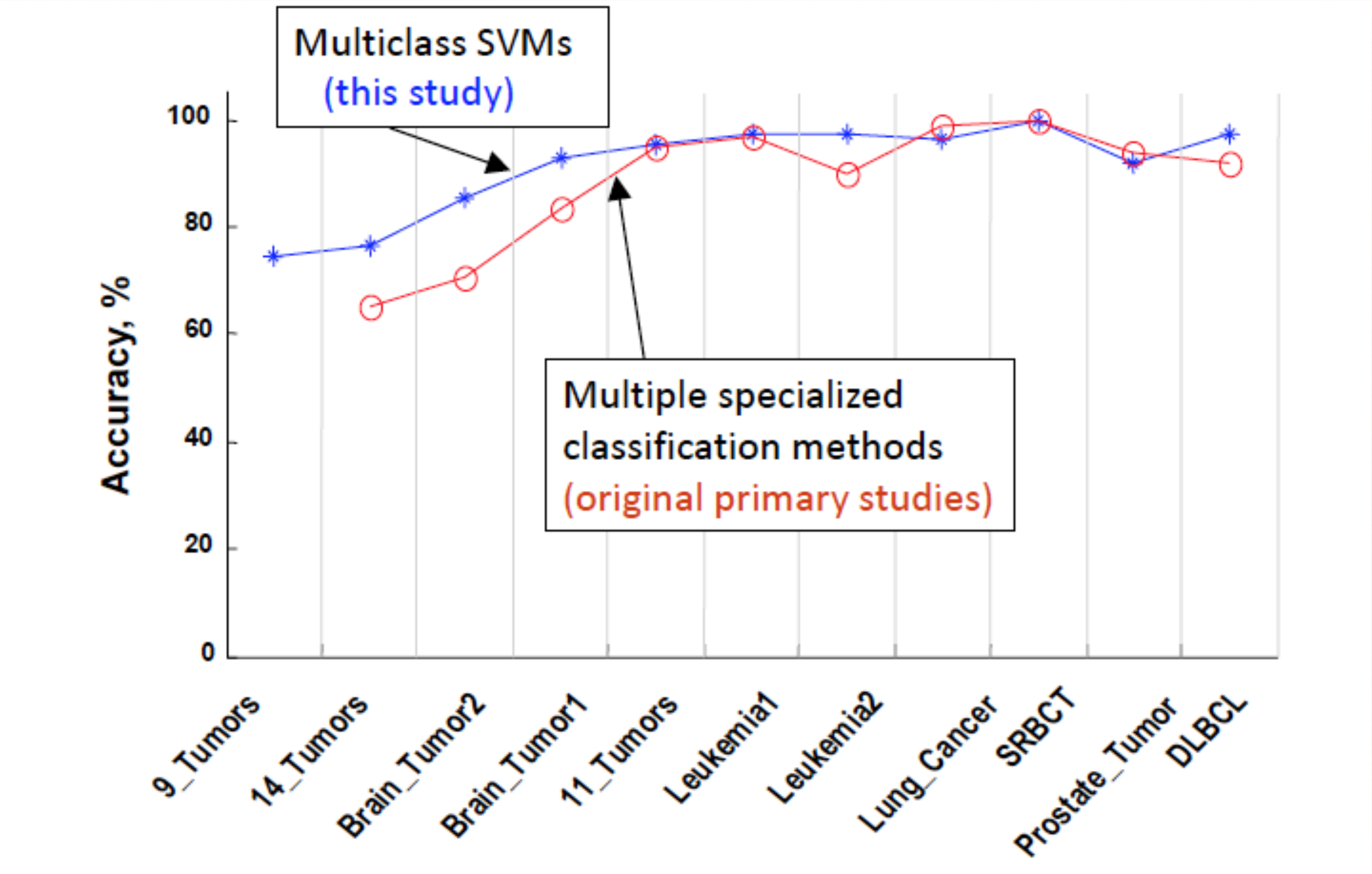
Application 1: Cancer Classification

Linear Versus Non-linear SVMs





Application 1: Cancer Classification



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Weakness of SVM

- **It is sensitive to noise**

  - A relatively small number of mislabeled examples can dramatically decrease the performance

- **It only considers two classes**

  - how to do multi-class classification with SVM?

  - Answer:

1) with output m, learn m SVM's

- **SVM 1 learns "Output==1" vs "Output != 1"**
- **SVM 2 learns "Output==2" vs "Output != 2"**
- **:**
- **SVM m learns "Output==m" vs "Output != m"**

2)To predict the output for a new input, just predict with each SVM and find out which one puts the prediction the furthest into the positive region.

Application 2: Text Categorization

- Task: The classification of natural text (or hypertext) documents into a fixed number of predefined categories based on their content.

  - email filtering, web searching, sorting documents by topic, etc..

- A document can be assigned to more than one category, so this can be viewed as a series of binary classification problems, one for each category.

Application 2: Text Categorization

IR's vector space model (aka bag-of-words representation)

- A doc is represented by a vector indexed by a pre-fixed set or dictionary of terms
- Values of an entry can be binary or weights

$$\phi_i(x) = \frac{\mathrm{tf}_i \log(\mathrm{idf}_i)}{\kappa},$$

- Doc $\mathbf{x}$ => $\phi(x)$

Application 2: Text Categorization

- The distance between two documents is $<\boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{x})\ \boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{z})>$

- $K(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{z}) = <\boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{x})\ \boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{z})>$ is a valid kernel, SVM can be used with $K(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{z})$ for discrimination.

- Why SVM?

  - High dimensional input space
  - Few irrelevant features (dense concept)
  - Sparse document vectors (sparse instances)
  - Text categorization problems are linearly separable

Application 2: Text Categorization

	Bayes	Rocchio	C4.5	k-NN	SVM (poly) degree $d =$					SVM (rbf) width $\gamma =$			
					1	2	3	4	5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2
earn	95.9	96.1	96.1	97.3	98.2	98.4	**98.5**	98.4	98.3	**98.5**	98.5	98.4	98.3
acq	91.5	92.1	85.3	92.0	92.6	94.6	**95.2**	95.2	95.3	95.0	95.3	95.3	**95.4**
money-fx	62.9	67.6	69.4	78.2	66.9	72.5	75.4	74.9	**76.2**	74.0	75.4	**76.3**	75.9
grain	72.5	79.5	89.1	82.2	91.3	93.1	**92.4**	91.3	89.9	**93.1**	91.9	91.9	90.6
crude	81.0	81.5	75.5	85.7	86.0	87.3	88.6	**88.9**	87.8	**88.9**	89.0	88.9	88.2
trade	50.0	77.4	59.2	77.4	69.2	75.5	76.6	77.3	**77.1**	76.9	78.0	**77.8**	76.8
interest	58.0	72.5	49.1	74.0	69.8	63.3	67.9	73.1	**76.2**	74.4	75.0	**76.2**	76.1
ship	78.7	83.1	80.9	79.2	82.0	85.4	86.0	**86.5**	86.0	**85.4**	86.5	87.6	87.1
wheat	60.6	79.4	85.5	76.6	83.1	84.5	85.2	**85.9**	83.8	**85.2**	85.9	85.9	85.9
corn	47.3	62.2	87.7	77.9	86.0	86.5	85.3	**85.7**	83.9	**85.1**	85.7	85.7	84.5
microavg.	**72.0**	**79.9**	**79.4**	**82.3**	84.2	85.1	85.9	86.2	85.9	86.4	86.5	86.3	86.2
					combined: **86.0**					combined: **86.4**			

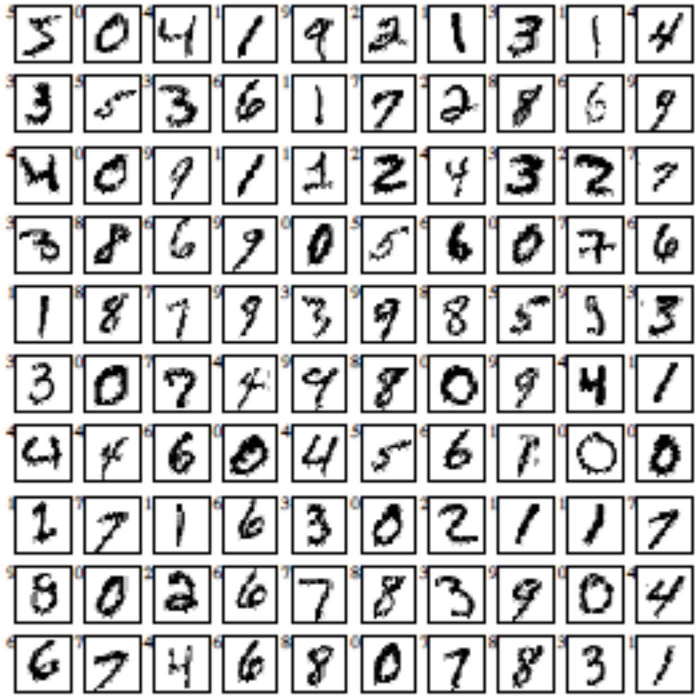
Application 3: Handwriting Recognition

For example MNIST hand-writing recognition.

60,000 training examples, 10000 test examples, 28x28.

Linear SVM has around 8.5% test error.

Polynomial SVM has around 1% test error.



SVMs : full MNIST results

Classifier	Test Error
linear	8.4%
3-nearest-neighbor	2.4%
RBF-SVM	1.4 %

Some Considerations

- Choice of kernel
  - Gaussian or polynomial kernel is default
  - if ineffective, more elaborate kernels are needed
  - domain experts can give assistance in formulating appropriate similarity measures

- Choice of kernel parameters
  - e.g. σ in Gaussian kernel
  - σ is the distance between closest points with different classifications
  - In the absence of reliable criteria, applications rely on the use of a validation set or cross-validation to set such parameters.

- Optimization criterion – Hard margin v.s. Soft margin
  - a lengthy series of experiments in which various parameters are tested

Software

30 SVMs : software

Lots of SVM software:

- LibSVM (C++)
- SVMLight (C)

As well as complete machine learning toolboxes that include SVMs:

- Torch (C++)
- Spider (Matlab)
- Weka (Java)

All available through `www.kernel-machines.org`.