

# Machine learning theory

## Boosting

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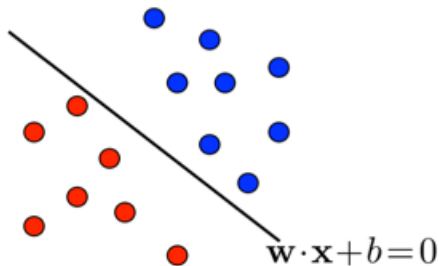
1. Linear classifier
2. Ensemble Learning
3. Adaptive Boosting
4. Generalization bound of AdaBoost
5. Margin-based analysis
6. Summary

## Linear classifier

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1. The family of linear classifiers is **one of the most useful families of hypothesis classes**.
2. Many learning algorithms that are being widely used in practice rely on linear predictors because of
  - the ability to learn them efficiently in many cases,
  - linear predictors are intuitive,
  - are easy to interpret, and
  - fit the data reasonably well in many natural learning problems.
3. A linear classifier separates different classes by a linear separator.

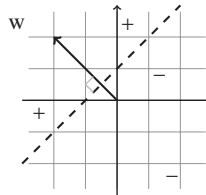




1. **Training data:** sample drawn iid from set  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  according to some distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ .

$$S = \{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\} \in \mathcal{X} \times \{-1, +1\}.$$

2. **Problem:** find hypothesis  $h : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \{-1, +1\}$  in  $H_n$  with small generalization error  $\mathbf{R}(h)$ .
3. **Hypothesis space:**  $H_n = \{x \mapsto \text{sgn}(\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + b) \mid \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .
4. A linear classifier is defined as  $h(\mathbf{x}) = \text{sgn}(\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + b)$ .
5. Vector  $\mathbf{w}$  is orthogonal to the separator.



6. We shown that  $VC(H_n) = n + 1$ .
7. We can learn this space using **ERM paradigm**, as long as the sample size is  $\frac{(n + 1) + \log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon}$ .
8. Implementing the ERM rule in the nonseparable case is known to be **computationally hard**.



1. Linear programs are problems that can be expressed as maximizing a linear function subject to linear inequalities. That is

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \rangle \\ & \text{subject to } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \geq \mathbf{v}. \end{aligned}$$

where

- $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the vector of variables we wish to determine.
  - $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix.
  - $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  are vectors.
2. Linear programs can be solved efficiently.



1. Suppose that the training data is linearly separable.
2. We are interested to find  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $b$  that results in zero training error.
3. Let  $\mathbf{w} = (b, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$  and  $\mathbf{x} = (1, x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .
4. Hence, we are looking for  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  such that for all  $i$

$$\text{sign}(\langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle) = y_i$$

5. Equivalently, we are looking for  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  such that for all  $i$

$$y_i \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle > 0.$$

6. Let  $\mathbf{w}^*$  be a vector that satisfies this condition.
7. Define  $\gamma = \min_i (y_i \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle)$  and let  $\bar{\mathbf{w}} = \frac{\mathbf{w}^*}{\gamma}$ . Therefore, for all  $i$  we have

$$y_i \langle \bar{\mathbf{w}}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle = \frac{1}{\gamma} y_i \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle \geq 1.$$

8. We have thus shown that there exists a vector that for all  $i$  satisfies

$$y_i \langle \bar{\mathbf{w}}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle > 1.$$



1. We have thus shown that there exists a vector that for all  $i$  satisfies

$$y_i \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle > 1.$$

2. To find a vector that satisfies the above inequality,
  - Set  $\mathbf{A}$  to be  $m \times (n + 1)$  matrix whose rows are the instances multiplied by  $y_i$ :  $\mathbf{A}_{ij} = y_i \times x_{ij}$ .
  - Set  $\mathbf{v}$  to be  $(1, 1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .
3. Then the above inequality becomes

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} > \mathbf{v}.$$

4. The LP form requires a maximization objective, thus, we set a **dummy** objective,  
 $\mathbf{u} = (0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .
5. There are other algorithm for finding the linear classifier such as Perceptron.



## Ensemble Learning

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1. **Ensemble methods** are general techniques in machine learning for **combining several predictors** to create a **more accurate one**.
2. Two main categories of ensemble learning:
  - Boosting
  - Bagging
3. In the problem of **PAC-learnability**, we were trying to find learning algorithms that learned the problem really well (**to within some  $\epsilon$  error rate**).
4. This is a **strong guarantee**, a **strong learner** is a classifier that is **arbitrarily well-correlated with the true classification**.



1. Two major issues in machine learning are

- Have a good tradeoff between **approximation error** and **estimation error**.

$$R(h) - R^* = \underbrace{\left( R(h) - \inf_{h' \in H} R(h') \right)}_{\text{Estimation error}} + \underbrace{\left( \inf_{h' \in H} R(h') - R^* \right)}_{\text{Approximation error}}$$

- Computational complexity of learning.

2. How do we achieve a good tradeoff between **approximation error** and **estimation error**.

- The **error of an ERM learner** can be decomposed into a sum of **approximation error** and **estimation error**.
- The **more expressive the hypothesis class** the learner is searching over, **the smaller the approximation error** is, but **the larger the estimation error** becomes.
- A learner is faced with the problem of picking a **good tradeoff** between these two considerations.

3. Computational complexity of learning.

- For many interesting concept classes the **task of finding an ERM hypothesis** may be **computationally infeasible**.



1. The **idea behind boosting** is to construct a **strong learner** by combining many **weak learners**.
2. A **weak learner** is defined to be a classifier that it **can label examples better than random guessing**.
3. Boosting is based on the question posed by **Kearns and Valiant** (1988, 1989):  
**Can a set of weak learners create a single strong learner?**
4. **Robert Schapire** answered the question of **Kearns and Valiant** in 1990 by introducing **Boosting algorithm**.
5. **Freund and Schapire** introduced **AdaBoost algorithm** in 1997.



1. **Breiman** introduced **Bagging algorithm** in 1994.
2. The **boosting paradigm** allows the learner to have **smooth control over tradeoff between estimation and approximation** errors.
3. The learning starts with a **basic class** (that might have a **large approximation error**), and as it progresses the class that the predictor may belong to grows richer.
4. AdaBoost enables us to control the tradeoff between the approximation and estimation errors by **varying a single parameter**.
5. Family of Boosting algorithms **reduce variance and bias**.
6. When a **weak learner can be implemented efficiently**, boosting provides a tool for aggregating such weak hypotheses.
7. Bagging algorithm **reduces variance** and **helps to avoid overfitting**.



1. Recall the definition of (strong) PAC learning:

**Definition (Strong PAC learnability)**

A concept class  $\mathcal{C}$  is **strongly PAC learnable** using a hypothesis class  $H$  if there exists an algorithm  $A$  such that for any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , for any distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over the input space, for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$  and  $\delta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , given access to a polynomial (in  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$  and  $\frac{1}{\delta}$ ) number of examples drawn i.i.d. from  $\mathcal{D}$  and labeled by  $c$ ,  $A$  outputs a function  $h \in H$  such that with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , we have  $\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \epsilon$ .

2. This definition is **strong** in the sense that it requires that  $\mathbf{R}(h)$  can be driven arbitrarily close to 0 by choosing an appropriately small value of  $\epsilon$ .



1. But what happens if we can't get the error arbitrarily close to 0? Is learning all or none?
2. To answer these questions, we introduce the notion of **weak PAC learning**.

### Definition (Weakly PAC learnability)

A concept class  $\mathcal{C}$  is **weakly PAC learnable** using a hypothesis class  $H$  if there exists an algorithm  $A$  and a value of  $\gamma > 0$  such that for any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , for any distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over the input space, for any  $\delta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , given access to a polynomial (in  $\frac{1}{\delta}$ ) number of examples drawn i.i.d. from  $\mathcal{D}$  and labeled by  $c$ ,  $A$  outputs a function  $h \in H$  such that with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , we have  $\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \gamma$ .

3. We will sometimes refer to  $\gamma$  as the advantage of  $A$  (over random guessing).
4. Weak learnability only requires  $A$  to return a hypothesis that **does better than random guessing**.



1. It's clear that **strong learnability** implies **weak learnability**.
  - **Strong learnability** implies the ability to find an arbitrarily good classifier with **error rate at most  $\epsilon > 0$** .
  - In weak learnability, we only need to output a hypothesis whose error rate is at most  $(\frac{1}{2} - \gamma)$ .
  - The hope is that it may be **easier to learn efficient weak learners than efficient strong learners**.
2. The question we want to answer is **whether weak learnability implies strong learnability**.
  - From **fundamental theorem**, if  $VC(H) = d$  then  $m_H(\epsilon, \delta) \geq C_1 \frac{d + \log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon}$ .
  - By setting  $\epsilon = (\frac{1}{2} - \gamma)$ ,  $d = \infty$  implies that  **$H$  is not weakly learnable**.
  - From the **statistical perspective** (ignoring computational complexity), **weak learnability is characterized by  $VC(H)$**  and therefore is just **as hard as strong learnability**.
  - **Computational complexity** is the advantage of weak learning: **the weak learning can be implemented efficiently**.





The following theorem shows the learnability of weak learners.

**Theorem (Weak learnability)**

*A class of hypothesis  $H$  is weakly learnable iff it has finite VC dimension.*

**Proof.**

1. Finite VC  $\Rightarrow$  PAC learnability  $\Rightarrow$  Weak learnability
2. Weak learnability  $\Rightarrow m_H(\frac{1}{2} - \gamma, \delta) \geq C_1 \frac{VC(H) + \log(1/\delta)}{\frac{1}{2} - \gamma}$  is finite  $\Rightarrow$  Finite VC

□

More formally, we might ask:

**If  $\mathcal{C}$  is weakly learnable using  $H$ , must there exist some  $H'$  such that  $\mathcal{C}$  is (strongly) learnable using  $H'$ ?**



1. More formally, we might ask the following:

**If  $\mathcal{C}$  is weakly learnable using  $H$ , must there exist some  $H'$  such that  $\mathcal{C}$  is (strongly) learnable using  $H'$ ?**

2. We can think about this question as follows.

- Fix an arbitrary  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- Suppose we are given a polynomial number (in  $1/\delta$  and  $1/\epsilon$ ) of samples drawn i.i.d. from some distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  and labeled by a target  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , as well as a weak learning algorithm  $A$  for  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- Can we incorporate  $A$  into a new algorithm that is guaranteed to produce a new function  $h$  such that with high probability,  $\mathbf{R}(h) < \epsilon$ ?



1. A natural question to ask is whether strong and weak PAC learning algorithms are equivalent.
2. Moreover, if this is true, we would like to have an algorithm to convert a weak PAC learning algorithm into a strong PAC learning algorithm.
3. Boosting is an algorithm that can do the above task and defined as follows.

### Definition (Boosting algorithm)

A **boosting algorithm** is an algorithm that converts a weak learning algorithm into a strong learning algorithm.

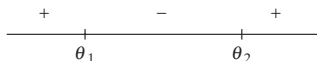


### Example (Learning the class of 3-partitions of $\mathbb{R}$ )

1. Let  $H_{3p} = \{h_{\theta_1, \theta_2}^b \mid \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \{-1, +1\}\}$  be class of 3-partitions of  $\mathbb{R}$  as

$$h_{\theta_1, \theta_2}^b(x) = \begin{cases} +b & \text{if } x < \theta_1 \\ -b & \text{if } \theta_1 \leq x \leq \theta_2 \\ +b & \text{if } x > \theta_2 \end{cases}$$

2. An example hypothesis is



3. By setting  $\gamma = \frac{1}{6}$ , we show that  $H_{3p}$  is weakly learnable by ERM over Decision Stumps (class of threshold functions)  $\mathcal{B} = \{x \mapsto \text{sgn}(x - \theta) \times b \mid \theta \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \{-1, +1\}\}$ .
4. For every distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $\mathbb{R}$  consistent with  $H_{3p}$ , there exists a threshold function  $h$  such that

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

**Example (Learning the class of 3-partitions of  $\mathbb{R}$ )**

1. We know that  $VC(\mathcal{B}) = 2$ , if sample size is greater than  $\Omega\left(\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{\epsilon^2}\right)$ , then with probability of at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , the  $ERM_{\mathcal{B}}$  rule returns a hypothesis with an error of at most  $\frac{1}{3} + \epsilon$ .
2. Setting  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{12}$ , with probability of at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , we have  
$$\mathbf{R}(ERM_{\mathcal{B}}(S)) \leq \hat{\mathbf{R}}(ERM_{\mathcal{B}}(S)) + \epsilon = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{12}.$$
3. We see that  $ERM_{\mathcal{B}}$  is a weak learner for  $H$ .



It is important to note that both strong and weak PAC learning are distribution-free.

The following example will shed more light on the importance of this.

### Example (Learning with a fixed distribution)

1. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the set of all concepts over  $\{0, 1\}^n \cup \{z\}$ , where  $z \notin \{0, 1\}^n$ .
2. Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the distribution that assigns mass  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $z$  and mass  $\frac{3}{4}$  uniformly distributed over  $\{0, 1\}^n$ .

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}}[\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{k}] = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} & \text{if } (\mathbf{k} = z) \\ \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2^n} & \text{if } \mathbf{k} \in \{0, 1\}^n \end{cases}$$

3. Consider the hypothesis  $h$  that predicts

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} c(z) & \text{if } (\mathbf{x} = z) \\ 0 & \text{with prob. of } \frac{1}{2} \text{ if } \mathbf{x} \neq z \\ 1 & \text{with prob. of } \frac{1}{2} \text{ if } \mathbf{x} \neq z \end{cases}$$

**Example (Learning with a fixed distribution)**

1. Consider the hypothesis  $h$  that predicts

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} c(\mathbf{z}) & \text{if } (\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{z}) \\ 0 & \text{with prob. of } \frac{1}{2} \text{ if } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{z} \\ 1 & \text{with prob. of } \frac{1}{2} \text{ if } \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{z} \end{cases}$$

2. This hypothesis always correctly predict label of  $\mathbf{z}$  and predict label of  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{z}$  with 50% accuracy.
3. The error of this hypothesis equals to  $\mathbf{R}(h) = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{8} < \frac{1}{2}$ .
4. If we drop the distribution-freeness from the definition,  $\mathcal{C}$  is **weakly PAC learnable** for the fixed distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ .
5. However,  $VC(\mathcal{C}) = 2^n$ , hence  $\mathcal{C}$  is not **strongly PAC learnable** (by modifying the definition to a fixed distribution) using any algorithm.
6. This is because we would need at least  $m = \Omega(2^n)$  examples, which is not polynomial.
7. Hence we **cannot necessarily convert a weak into a strong learning algorithm if we fix the distribution**.

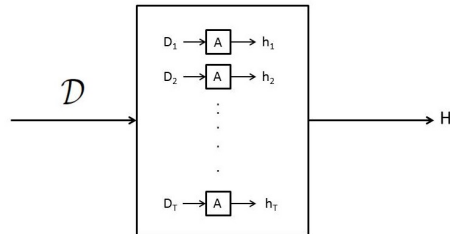
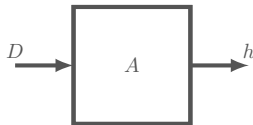
## Adaptive Boosting

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- We are given
  - Training set  $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_m, y_m)\}$  drawn from distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ , where  $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $y_i \in \{-1, +1\}$ .
  - A weak learner  $A$  which for all  $\mathcal{D}$  (not necessarily the same as  $\mathcal{D}$ ), given  $S \sim \mathcal{D}^m$  finds a  $h \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \gamma] \geq 1 - \delta$ .
  - The goal is to find a final hypothesis  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \epsilon] \geq 1 - \delta$ .
- The main idea behind AdaBoost is to run the weak learning algorithm several times and combine the hypotheses from each run.
- To do this effectively, we need to force the weak algorithm to learn by giving it a different  $\mathcal{D}$  on every run.





### AdaBoost Algorithm

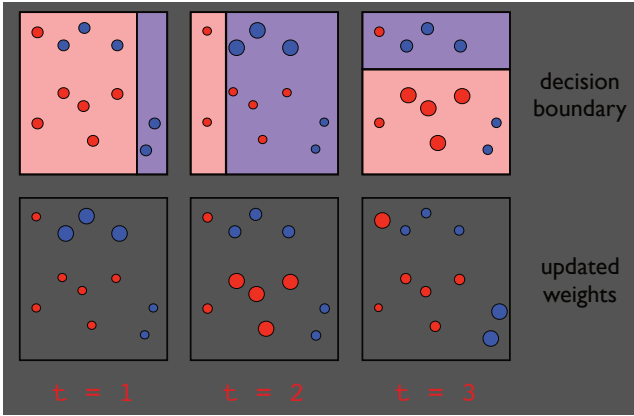
**Inputs**  $S$ : training set,  $\mathcal{B}$ : hypothesis space for weak learners, and  $T$ : number of weak learners.

**Output** return a hypothesis  $h$ .

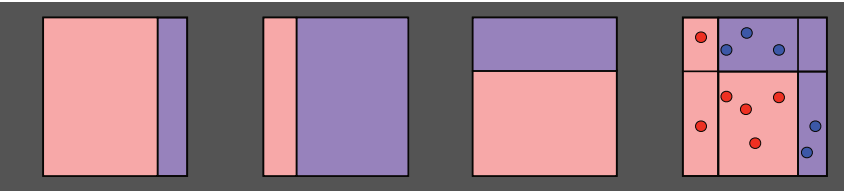
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1: function ADABOOST( $S, \mathcal{B}, T$ )
2:   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$  do
3:      $D_1(i) \leftarrow \frac{1}{m}$ 
4:   end for
5:   for  $t \leftarrow 1$  to  $T$  do
6:     Let  $h_t = \arg \min_{h \in \mathcal{B}} \epsilon_t \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^m D_t(i) \mathbb{I}[h(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i]$ 
7:     Let  $\alpha_t \leftarrow \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$ 
8:     Let  $Z_t \leftarrow 2\sqrt{\epsilon_t(1 - \epsilon_t)}$ 
9:     for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$  do
10:       $D_{t+1}(i) \leftarrow \frac{D_t(i) \exp[-\alpha_t y_i h_t(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_t}$ 
11:    end for
12:  end for
13:  Let  $g \triangleq \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t$ 
14:  return  $h \triangleq \text{sgn}(g)$ 
15: end function

```



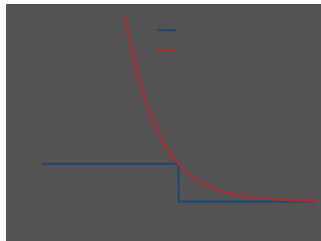
(a)



(b)



1. Consider the exponential loss function



2. The exponential loss function is defined by

$$\hat{R}(g_t) = \sum_{k=1}^m \exp[-y_k g_t(\mathbf{x}_k)],$$

where  $g_t(\mathbf{x})$  is a classifier defined in terms of a linear combination of base classifiers  $h_l(\mathbf{x})$  as

$$g_t(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{l=1}^t \alpha_l h_l(\mathbf{x})$$



1. The goal is to minimize  $\hat{R}$  with respect to both  $\alpha_l$  and the parameters of the base classifiers  $h_l$ .
2. Since the base classifiers are built **sequentially**, we shall suppose that the base classifiers  $h_1, \dots, h_{t-1}$  and their weights  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}$  are fixed, and so we are minimizing only with respect to  $\alpha_t$  and  $h_t$ .
3. Separating off the contribution from base classifier  $h_t$ , we can then write the  $\hat{R}(g_t)$  in the form

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{R}(g_t) &= \sum_{k=1}^m \exp[-y_k g_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}_k) - y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \exp[-y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)]\end{aligned}$$

where  $D_t(k) = \exp[-y_k g_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}_k)]$  is **constant** because we **optimize only w.r.t  $\alpha_t$  and  $h_t(\mathbf{x})$** .



1. Let us to define

- $T_t$  as the set of instances that are correctly classified by  $h_t(\mathbf{x})$ .
- $M_t$  as the set of instances that are miss classified by  $h_t(\mathbf{x})$ .

2. We can in turn rewrite the error function in the form of

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t) &= \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \exp[-y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \\
 &= e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k) + e^{\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) \\
 &= e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k) + e^{\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) + e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) - e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) \\
 &= [e^{\alpha_t} - e^{-\alpha_t}] \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) + e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \\
 &= [e^{\alpha_t} - e^{-\alpha_t}] \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \mathbb{I}[h_t(\mathbf{x}_k) \neq y_k]}_{\epsilon_t} + e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k)
 \end{aligned}$$



1. The error function becomes

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t) = [e^{\alpha_t} - e^{-\alpha_t}] \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \mathbb{I}[h_t(\mathbf{x}_k \neq y_k)]}_{\epsilon_t} + e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k)$$

2. When minimizing  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t)$  with respect to  $h_t(\mathbf{x})$ , the second term is constant, and is equivalent to minimizing  $\epsilon_t$  because  $[e^{\alpha_t} - e^{-\alpha_t}]$  does not affect the location of the minimum.

3. Minimizing  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t)$  with respect to  $\alpha_t$  equals to solve  $\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t)}{\partial \alpha_t} = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{R}}(g_t)}{\partial \alpha_t} &= \frac{e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k) + e^{\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k)}{\partial \alpha_t} \\ &= -e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k) + e^{\alpha_t} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) = 0 \end{aligned}$$



1. Hence, we obtain

$$0 = -e^{-\alpha_t} \sum_{x_k \in T_t} D_t(k) + e^{\alpha_t} \sum_{x_k \in M_t} D_t(k)$$

2. Multiplying by  $e^{\alpha_t}$ , becomes

$$\underbrace{\sum_{x_k \in T_t} D_t(k)}_{(1-\epsilon_t)} = e^{2\alpha_t} \underbrace{\sum_{x_k \in M_t} D_t(k)}_{\epsilon_t}$$

3. Solving this will results in

$$\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$$





1. The value of  $D_t(k)$  was defined as

$$D_t(k) = \exp[-y_k g_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}_k)].$$

2. Then the value of  $D_{t+1}(k)$  equals to

$$\begin{aligned} D_{t+1}(k) &= \exp[-y_k g_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \\ &= \exp[-y_k g_{t-1}(\mathbf{x}_k) - y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \\ &= D_t(k) \exp[-y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \end{aligned}$$

3. Since  $D_{t+1}(k)$  is a probability density function, then we must have  $\sum_{k=1}^m D_{t+1}(k) = 1$ . Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^m D_{t+1}(k) &= \sum_{k=1}^m D_t(k) \exp[-y_k \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_k)] \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k) e^{-\alpha_t} + \sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k) e^{\alpha_t} \\ &= e^{-\alpha_t} \underbrace{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in T_t} D_t(k)}_{1 - \epsilon_t} + e^{\alpha_t} \underbrace{\sum_{\mathbf{x}_k \in M_t} D_t(k)}_{\epsilon_t} = e^{-\alpha_t} (1 - \epsilon_t) + e^{\alpha_t} \epsilon_t. \end{aligned}$$



- Let  $Z_t = \sum_{k=1}^m D_{t+1}(k)$ , hence we have

$$Z_t = \sum_{k=1}^m D_{t+1}(k) = e^{-\alpha_t}(1 - \epsilon_t) + e^{\alpha_t} \epsilon_t$$

- By substituting  $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$  in the above equation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= \exp \left[ \ln \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_t}{1 - \epsilon_t}} \right] (1 - \epsilon_t) + \exp \left[ \ln \sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right] \epsilon_t \\ &= \epsilon_t \sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} + (1 - \epsilon_t) \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_t}{1 - \epsilon_t}} \\ &= 2\sqrt{\epsilon_t(1 - \epsilon_t)} \end{aligned}$$

## Generalization bound of AdaBoost

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**Theorem (Generalization bound of AdaBoost)**

Let  $H = \left\{ h : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \{-1, +1\} \mid h = \text{sgn} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t \right), \alpha_t \in \mathbb{R}, h_t \in \mathcal{B} \right\}$  be the hypothesis space for AdaBoost. Then, for all distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ , all training sets  $S \sim \mathcal{D}^m$ , for every  $\delta > 0$ , with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , for all  $h \in H$  we have

$$\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) + \sqrt{\frac{VC(H) + \log(1/\delta)}{m}}.$$

**Proof.**

For proof, we must calculate

1.  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}(h)$ .
2.  $VC(H)$ .

□

**Lemma**

Let  $g(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x})$  be the weighted linear combination of weak learners. Then

$$D_{T+1}(i) = \frac{\exp[-y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t}$$

**Proof.**

1. We defined  $D_{t+1}(i)$  as  $D_{t+1}(i) = \frac{D_t(i)}{Z_t} \exp[-\alpha_t y_i h_t(\mathbf{x}_i)]$ .
2. We can now solve  $D_{T+1}(i)$  recursively.

$$\begin{aligned} D_{T+1}(i) &= \frac{D_T(i)}{Z_T} \exp[-\alpha_T y_i h_T(\mathbf{x}_i)] \\ &= D_{T-1}(i) \frac{\exp[-\alpha_{T-1} y_i h_{T-1}(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_{T-1}} \times \frac{\exp[-\alpha_T y_i h_T(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_T} \\ &= D_1(i) \frac{\exp[-\alpha_1 y_i h_1(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_1} \times \frac{\exp[-\alpha_2 y_i h_2(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_2} \times \dots \times \frac{\exp[-\alpha_T y_i h_T(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{Z_T} \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \frac{\exp[-y_i \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{\prod_{t=1}^T Z_t} = \frac{\exp[-y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t}. \end{aligned}$$

□


**Lemma**

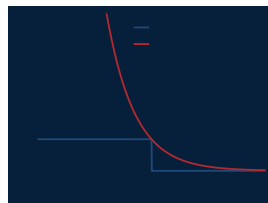
Let  $g(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x})$  be the weighted linear combination of weak learners and  $h(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \text{sgn}(g(\mathbf{x}))$ . Then, we have

$$\hat{R}(h) \leq \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t.$$

**Proof.**

We start by the definition of empirical loss.

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{R}(h) &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{I}[h(\mathbf{x}_i) \neq y_i] = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{I}[y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i) \leq 0] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m e^{-y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i)} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m D_{T+1}(i) m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t \\ &= \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t \sum_{i=1}^m D_{T+1}(i) = \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t. \end{aligned}$$



□



### Theorem (Bounds on the empirical error of AdaBoost)

Let  $g(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x})$  be the weighted linear combination of weak learners and  $h(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \text{sgn}(g(\mathbf{x}))$ . Then, we have

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) \leq \exp \left[ -2 \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \frac{1}{2} - \epsilon_t \right)^2 \right].$$

Furthermore, if for all  $t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}$ , we have  $\gamma \leq (\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon_t)$ , then  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) \leq e^{-2T\gamma^2}$ .

### Proof of Bounds on the empirical error of AdaBoost

By using the two preceding lemmas

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) &\leq \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ 2\sqrt{\epsilon_t(1-\epsilon_t)} \right] = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ 2\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2}-\gamma\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}+\gamma\right)} \right] = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ \sqrt{1-4\gamma^2} \right] \\ &\leq \prod_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\exp(-4\gamma^2)} = \prod_{t=1}^T \exp(-2\gamma^2) = \exp \left[ -2 \sum_{t=1}^T \gamma^2 \right] = e^{-2T\gamma^2}. \end{aligned}$$



### Proof of Bounds on the empirical error of AdaBoost (cont.)

By using the two preceding lemmas

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{R}}(h) &\leq \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ 2\sqrt{\epsilon_t(1-\epsilon_t)} \right] = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ 2\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2}-\gamma\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}+\gamma\right)} \right] = \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ \sqrt{1-4\gamma^2} \right] \\ &\leq \prod_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\exp(-4\gamma^2)} = \prod_{t=1}^T \exp(-2\gamma^2) = \exp\left[-2\sum_{t=1}^T \gamma^2\right] = e^{-2T\gamma^2}.\end{aligned}$$

To derive the bound of theorem, in second equality use with  $x = \epsilon_t$

$$2\sqrt{x(1-x)} = \sqrt{4x-4x^2} = \sqrt{1-1+4x-4x^2} = \sqrt{1-(1-4x+4x^2)} = \sqrt{1-2\left(\frac{1}{2}-x\right)^2}.$$

The **second inequality** follows from the inequality  $1-x \leq e^{-x}$ , which is valid for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . □





### Theorem (Bounds on the $VC(H)$ )

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a base class and let  $H = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{sgn} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x}) \right) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^T, \forall t \ h_t \in \mathcal{B} \right\}$  be the hypothesis space where the output of AdaBoost will be a member of it. Assume that both  $T$  and  $VC(\mathcal{B})$  are at least 3. Then

$$VC(H) \leq T[VC(\mathcal{B}) + 1][3 \log(T[VC(\mathcal{B}) + 1]) + 2].$$

### Corollary (Sauer-Shelah Lemma)

Let  $H$  be a hypothesis classes with  $VC(H) = d$ , then for  $m > d > 1$ , we have

$$\Pi_H(m) \leq \left( \frac{em}{d} \right)^d = O(m^d)$$

### Lemma

Let  $a > 0$ . Then:  $x \geq 2a \log(a) \Rightarrow x \geq a \log(x)$ . It follows that a necessary condition for the inequality  $x < a \log(x)$  to hold is that  $x < 2a \log(a)$ .

**Proof of Bounds on the  $VC(H)$ .**

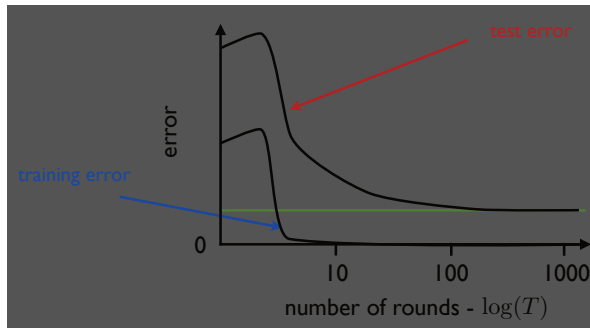
1. Let  $VC(\mathcal{B}) = d$  and  $C = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$  be a set that is shattered by  $H$ .
2. Each labeling of  $C$  by  $h \in H$  is obtained by first choosing  $h_1, \dots, h_T \in \mathcal{B}$  and then applying a halfspace hypothesis over the vector  $(h_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, h_T(\mathbf{x}))$ .
3. By Sauer's lemma, at most  $(em/d)^d$  different dichotomies induced by  $\mathcal{B}$  over  $C$ .
4. We need to choose  $T$  hypotheses out of at most  $(em/d)^d$  different hypotheses. There are at most  $(em/d)^{dT}$  ways to do it.
5. Next, for each such choice, we apply a **linear predictor**, which yields at most  $(em/T)^T$  dichotomies.
6. Hence, the number of dichotomies is  $(em/d)^{dT} (em/T)^T \leq m^{(d+1)T}$ .
7. Since we assume that  $C$  is shattered, we must have  $2^m \leq m^{(d+1)T}$ .
8. The above lemma tells us that a necessary condition for the preceding to hold is

$$m \leq 2^{\frac{(d+1)T}{\log(2)}} \log \frac{(d+1)T}{\log(2)} \leq T[VC(\mathcal{B}) + 1][3 \log(T[VC(\mathcal{B}) + 1]) + 2].$$

□



1. Theorem Bounds on the  $VC(H)$  shows that  $VC(H) = O(dT \log dT)$ , thus, the bound suggests that AdaBoost could overfit for large values of  $T$ .
2. The estimation error of AdaBoost grows linearly with  $T$ .
3. The empirical error of AdaBoost grows linearly with  $T$ .
4. Hence,  $T$  can be used to decrease the approximation error of AdaBoost.
5. However, in many cases, it has been observed empirically that the generalization error of AdaBoost decreases as a function of the number of rounds of boosting  $T$ .



6. These empirical results can be explained using margin-based analysis.

## Margin-based analysis

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1. **Confidence margin** of a real-valued function  $g$  at a point  $\mathbf{x}$  labeled with  $y$  is  $yg(\mathbf{x})$ .
2. Defining **geometric margin** for linear hypotheses with a **norm-1** constraint, such as hypotheses returned by AdaBoost, which relates to confidence margin.
3. Function  $g = \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t$  can be represented as  $\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h} \rangle$ , where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_T)^T$  and  $\mathbf{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_T)^T$ .
4. For ensemble linear combinations such as those returned by AdaBoost, additionally, the weight vector is **non-negative**:  $\alpha \geq 0$ .
5. **Geometric margin** for such ensemble functions is based on **norm-1** while **geometric margin** is based on **norm-2**.

**Definition ( $L_1$  geometric margin)**

The  $L_1$ -geometric margin  $\rho_g$  of  $g = \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t$  with  $\alpha \neq 0$  at a  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathcal{X}$  defined as

$$\rho_g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{|g(\mathbf{x})|}{\|\alpha\|_1} = \frac{|\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\mathbf{x})|}{\|\alpha\|_1} = \frac{|\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle|}{\|\alpha\|_1}$$

The  $L_1$ -margin of  $g$  over a sample  $S = (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m)$  is its minimum margin at the points in that sample.

$$\rho_g = \min_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} \rho_g(\mathbf{x}_i) = \min_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} \frac{|\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle|}{\|\alpha\|_1}$$

To distinguish this geometric margin from the geometric margin of SVM, we use the following notations

$$\rho_1(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{|\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle|}{\|\alpha\|_1} \quad L_1 - \text{margin}$$

$$\rho_2(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{|\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle|}{\|\alpha\|_2} \quad L_2 - \text{margin}$$

**Lemma**

For  $p, q \geq 1$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  are conjugate, that is  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ , then  $\frac{|\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle|}{\|\alpha\|_p}$  is  $q$ -norm distance of  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  to the hyperplane  $\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle = 0$ .

1. Hence,  $\rho_2(\mathbf{x})$  is norm-2 distance of  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  to the hyperplane  $\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle = 0$  and  $\rho_1(\mathbf{x})$  is norm- $\infty$  distance of  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  to the hyperplane  $\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle = 0$ .
2. Define  $\bar{g} = \frac{g}{\|\alpha\|_1}$ , then the confidence margin of  $\bar{g}$  at  $\mathbf{x}$  coincides with the  $L_1$ -geometric margin of  $g$ :  $yg(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) = \frac{yg(\mathbf{x})}{\|\alpha\|_1} = \rho_g(\mathbf{x})$ .
3. Since  $\alpha_t \geq 0$ , then  $\rho_g(\mathbf{x})$  is convex combination of base hypothesis values  $h_t(\mathbf{x})$ .



For any hypothesis set  $\mathcal{H}$  of real-valued functions,  $\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$  denotes its convex hull as

$$\text{conv}(\mathcal{H}) = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^p \mu_k h_k \mid p \geq 1, \forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, p\}, h_k \in \mathcal{H}, \sum_{k=1}^p \mu_k \leq 1 \right\}$$

### Lemma (Empirical Rademacher complexity of $\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$ )

Let  $\mathcal{H} = \{h : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}\}$ . Then for any sample  $S$ , we have  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_S(\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})) = \hat{\mathcal{R}}_S(\mathcal{H})$ .

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_S(\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})) &= \frac{1}{m} \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \left[ \sup_{h_1, \dots, h_p \in \mathcal{H}, \|\mu\|_1 \leq 1} \sum_{i=1}^m \sigma_i \sum_{k=1}^p \mu_k h_k(\mathbf{x}_i) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \left[ \sup_{h_1, \dots, h_p \in \mathcal{H}} \sup_{\|\mu\|_1 \leq 1} \sum_{k=1}^p \mu_k \sum_{i=1}^m \sigma_i h_k(\mathbf{x}_i) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \left[ \sup_{h_1, \dots, h_p \in \mathcal{H}} \max_{k \in \{1, \dots, p\}} \sum_{i=1}^m \sigma_i h_k(\mathbf{x}_i) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \left[ \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \sum_{i=1}^m \sigma_i h(\mathbf{x}_i) \right] = \hat{\mathcal{R}}_S(\mathcal{H}). \end{aligned}$$

□





The following theorem was proved for SVM.

### Theorem (Ensemble Rademacher margin bound)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a set of real-valued functions. Fix  $\rho > 0$ . Then, for any  $\delta > 0$ , with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , the following hold for all  $h \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$ :

$$\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\rho}(h) + \frac{2}{\rho} \mathcal{R}_m(H) + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}}$$

$$\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\rho}(h) + \frac{2}{\rho} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_S(H) + 3\sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}}$$

### Corollary (Ensemble VC-dimension margin bound)

Let  $\mathcal{H} = \{\mathcal{X} \mapsto \{-1, +1\}\}$  with VC-dimension  $d$ . Fix  $\rho > 0$ . Then, for any  $\delta > 0$ , with probability at least  $(1 - \delta)$ , the following holds for all  $h \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$

$$\mathbf{R}(h) \leq \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{S, \rho}(h) + \frac{2}{\rho} \sqrt{\frac{2d \log \frac{em}{d}}{m}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}}$$



These bounds can be generalized to hold uniformly for all  $\rho \in (0, 1]$ , at the price of an additional term

of the form of  $\sqrt{\frac{\log \log_2 \frac{2}{\delta}}{m}}$ .

The given bound can not be directly applied to the function  $g$  returned by AdaBoost, since **it is not a convex combination of base hypotheses**, but **they can be applied to its normalized version  $\bar{g} \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$** .

Notice that from the point of view of binary classification,  $\bar{g}$  and  $g$  are equivalent but **their empirical margin losses are distinct**.

### Theorem (Bound on empirical margin loss)

Let  $g = \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t$  denote the function returned by AdaBoost after  $T$  rounds of boosting and assume for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$  that  $\epsilon_t < \frac{1}{2}$ , which implies  $\alpha_t > 0$ . Then for any  $\rho > 0$ , the following holds

$$\hat{R}_{S,\rho}(h) \leq 2^T \prod_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\epsilon_t^{1-\rho} (1 - \epsilon_t)^{1+\rho}}$$



### Proof of Bound on empirical margin loss.

1. Recall that

$$\mathbb{I}[u \leq 0] \leq e^{-u} \qquad Z_t = 2\sqrt{\epsilon_t(1-\epsilon_t)}$$

$$D_{t+1}(i) = \frac{\exp[-y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i)]}{m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t} \qquad \alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$$

2. Then, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{I} [y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i) - \rho \|\alpha\|_1 \leq 0] &\leq \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \exp [-y_i g(\mathbf{x}_i) + \rho \|\alpha\|_1] \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m e^{\rho \|\alpha\|_1} \left[ m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t \right] D_{T+1}(i) \\ &= e^{\rho \|\alpha\|_1} \left[ m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t \right] = e^{\rho \sum_{t'} \alpha_{t'}} \left[ m \prod_{t=1}^T Z_t \right] \\ &= 2^T \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ \sqrt{\frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right]^\rho \sqrt{\epsilon_t(1-\epsilon_t)} \end{aligned}$$

□



1. Does AdaBoost maximize  $L_1$ -geometric margin?
2. Maximum margin for a linearly separable sample  $S = \{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, y_m)\}$  is

$$\rho = \max_{\alpha} \min_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} \frac{y_i \langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1}$$

3. Then, the optimization problem can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\alpha} \rho \\ & \text{subject to } \frac{y_i \langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1} \geq \rho \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}. \end{aligned}$$

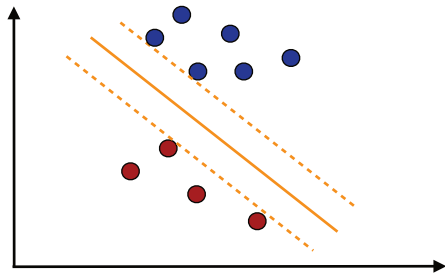
4. Since  $\frac{\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1}$  is invariant to scaling of  $\alpha$ , we can restrict ourselves to  $\|\alpha\|_1 = 1$ .



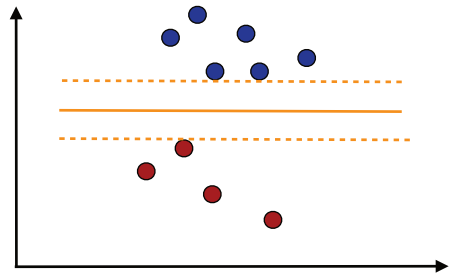
1. Since  $\frac{\langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1}$  is invariant to scaling of  $\alpha$ , we can restrict ourselves to  $\|\alpha\|_1 = 1$ .
2. Then AdaBoost leads to the following optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\alpha} \rho \\ & \text{subject to } y_i \langle \alpha, \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i) \rangle \geq \rho \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \\ & \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t = 1 \right) \wedge (\alpha_t \geq 0 \quad \forall t \in \{1, 2, \dots, T\}). \end{aligned}$$

3. The empirical results do not show a systematic benefit for the solution of the LP.
4. In many cases, AdaBoost outperforms LP algorithm.
5. The margin theory described does not seem sufficient to explain that performance.



Norm  $\| \cdot \|_2$



Norm  $\| \cdot \|_\infty$

## Summary

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## 1. AdaBoost offers several advantages

- It is simple.
- Its implementation is straightforward.
- The time complexity of each round of boosting as a function of the sample size is rather favorable. If AdaBoost uses [Decision Stumps](#) as base classifier, the running time is  $O(mnT)$ .
- AdaBoost benefits from a rich theoretical analysis.





1. There are many **theoretical questions** related to AdaBoost algorithm

- The algorithm in fact does **not maximize the margin**.
- The algorithms that do maximize the margin **do not always outperform it**.
- The need to select the parameter  $T$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ . **Larger values of  $T$  can lead to overfitting**. In practice,  $T$  **is typically determined via cross-validation**.
- We must control **complexity of  $\mathcal{B}$**  in order to guarantee generalization; insufficiently **complex  $\mathcal{B}$**  could lead to low margins.
- The performance of AdaBoost in the **presence of noise, at least in some tasks, degrades**.



1. Section 14.3 of [Christopher M Bishop Book](#)<sup>1</sup>.
2. Chapters 9 and 10 of [Shai Shalev-Shwartz and Shai Ben-David Book](#)<sup>2</sup>.
3. Chapter 7 of [Mehryar Mohri and Afshin Rostamizadeh and Ameet Talwalkar Book](#)<sup>3</sup>.




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<sup>1</sup>Christopher M. Bishop (2006). *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning*. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.

<sup>2</sup>Shai Shalev-Shwartz and Shai Ben-David (2014). *Understanding machine learning: From theory to algorithms*. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>3</sup>Mehryar Mohri, Afshin Rostamizadeh, and Ameet Talwalkar (2018). *Foundations of Machine Learning*. Second Edition. MIT Press.



-  Bishop, Christopher M. (2006). *Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning*. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.
-  Mohri, Mehryar, Afshin Rostamizadeh, and Ameet Talwalkar (2018). *Foundations of Machine Learning*. Second Edition. MIT Press.
-  Shalev-Shwartz, Shai and Shai Ben-David (2014). *Understanding machine learning: From theory to algorithms*. Cambridge University Press.

Questions?