

# Lecture 3: Theoretical Analysis of Boosting Methods

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**Algorithm 1.1**  
The boosting algorithm AdaBoost

Given:  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m)$  where  $x_i \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $y_i \in \{-1, +1\}$ .

Initialize:  $D_1(i) = 1/m$  for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .

For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

- Train weak learner using distribution  $D_t$ .
- Get weak hypothesis  $h_t : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ .
- Aim: select  $h_t$  to minimize the weighted error:

$$\epsilon_t \doteq \Pr_{i \sim D_t}[h_t(x_i) \neq y_i].$$

- Choose  $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$ .
- Update, for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} D_{t+1}(i) &= \frac{D_t(i)}{Z_t} \times \begin{cases} e^{-\alpha_t} & \text{if } h_t(x_i) = y_i \\ e^{\alpha_t} & \text{if } h_t(x_i) \neq y_i \end{cases} \\ &= \frac{D_t(i) \exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))}{Z_t}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $Z_t$  is a normalization factor (chosen so that  $D_{t+1}$  will be a distribution).

Output the final hypothesis:

$$H(x) = \text{sign} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(x) \right).$$

Figure 1: AdaBoost Algorithm [Schapire and Freund, 2012]

## 1 Boosting Algorithm

### 1.1 AdaBoost

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### 1.2 Functional Gradient Descent

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### 1.3 Gradient Boost

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**Algorithm 7.3**

AnyBoost, a generic functional gradient descent algorithm

Goal: minimization of  $\mathcal{L}(F)$ .Initialize:  $F_0 \equiv 0$ .For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

- Select  $h_t \in \mathcal{H}$  that maximizes  $-\nabla \mathcal{L}(F_{t-1}) \cdot h_t$ .
- Choose  $\alpha_t > 0$ .
- Update:  $F_t = F_{t-1} + \alpha_t h_t$ .

Output  $F_T$ .**Figure 2: Gradient Boost Tree Algorithm [Hastie et al., 2009]**

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**Algorithm 10.3** *Gradient Tree Boosting Algorithm.*

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1. Initialize  $f_0(x) = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^N L(y_i, \gamma)$ .2. For  $m = 1$  to  $M$ :(a) For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$  compute

$$r_{im} = - \left[ \frac{\partial L(y_i, f(x_i))}{\partial f(x_i)} \right]_{f=f_{m-1}}.$$

(b) Fit a regression tree to the targets  $r_{im}$  giving terminal regions  $R_{jm}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, J_m$ .(c) For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, J_m$  compute

$$\gamma_{jm} = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{x_i \in R_{jm}} L(y_i, f_{m-1}(x_i) + \gamma).$$

(d) Update  $f_m(x) = f_{m-1}(x) + \sum_{j=1}^{J_m} \gamma_{jm} I(x \in R_{jm})$ .3. Output  $\hat{f}(x) = f_M(x)$ .

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**Figure 3: Gradient Boost Tree Algorithm [Hastie et al., 2009]**

## 2 Theoretical Guarantee for Boosting

- **Remark (Data)**

Define an **observation** as a  $d$ -dimensional vector  $x$ . The *unknown* nature of the observation is called a **class**, denoted as  $y$ . The domain of observation is called an **input space** or **feature space**, denoted as  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , whereas the domain of class is called the **target space**, denoted as  $\mathcal{Y}$ . For **classification task**,  $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, \dots, M\}$ ; and for **regression task**,  $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}$ . A **concept**  $c : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  is the *input-output association* from the nature and is *to be learned* by a **learning algorithm**. Denote  $\mathcal{C}$  as the set of all concepts we wish to learn as the **concept class**. The learner is requested to output a *prediction rule*,  $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ . This function is also called a **predictor**, a **hypothesis**, or a **classifier**. The predictor can be used to predict the label of new domain points. Denote a collection of  $n$  **samples** as

$$\mathcal{D} \equiv \mathcal{D}_n = ((X_1, Y_1), \dots, (X_n, Y_n)) \equiv ((X_1, c(X_1)), \dots, (X_n, c(X_n))).$$

Note that  $\mathcal{D}_n$  is a finite **sub-sequence** in  $(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})^n$ .

- **Definition (Generalization Error in Deterministic Scenario)** [Mohri et al., 2018]

Under a *deterministic scenario*, **generalization error** or the **risk** or simply **error** for the classifier  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  is defined as

$$L(h) \equiv L_{\mathcal{P},c}(h) = \mathcal{P} \{h(X) \neq c(X)\} \equiv \mathbb{E}_X [\mathbb{1} \{h(X) \neq c(X)\}] \quad (1)$$

with respect to the concept  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  and the *feature distribution*  $\mathcal{P} \equiv \mathcal{P}_X$ .

- **Definition (Empirical Error or Training Error)**

Given the data  $\mathcal{D}$ , the **training error** or the **empirical error/risk** of a hypothesis  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  is defined as

$$\hat{L}(h) \equiv \hat{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1} \{h(X_i) \neq Y_i\} = \frac{1}{n} |\{i : h(X_i) \neq Y_i\}| := \hat{\mathbb{E}} [\mathbb{1} \{h(X) \neq Y\}]$$

where either  $Y = c(X)$  or  $Y$  is a random variable associated with  $X$ .

- **Definition (The Realizable Assumption)**

There exists  $h^* \in \mathcal{H}$  s.t.  $L_{\mathcal{P},c}(h^*) = 0$ .

- **Definition (PAC Learnability)**

A hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$  is **PAC learnable** if there exist a function  $m_{\mathcal{H}} : (0, 1)^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and a learning algorithm with the following property: For every  $\epsilon, \delta \in (0, 1)$ , for every distribution  $\mathcal{P}$  over  $\mathcal{X}$ , and for every labeling function  $c : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , if the *realizable assumption* holds with respect to  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $c$ , then when running the learning algorithm on  $m \geq m_{\mathcal{H}}(\epsilon, \delta)$  i.i.d. examples generated by  $\mathcal{P}$  and labeled by  $c$ , the algorithm returns a hypothesis  $h$  such that, with probability of at least  $1 - \delta$  (over the choice of the examples),

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(h) \leq \epsilon.$$

### 2.1 Weak Learner

- **Definition ( $\gamma$ -Weak Learnability)** [Schapire and Freund, 2012, Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David, 2014]

A learning algorithm,  $\mathcal{A}$ , is a  **$\gamma$ -weak-learner** for a class  $\mathcal{H}$  if there exists a function  $m_{\mathcal{H}} : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for **every**  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , **for every distribution**  $\mathcal{P}$  over  $\mathcal{X}$ , and **for every labeling function**  $c : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ , if the realizable assumption holds with respect to  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $c$ , then when running the learning algorithm on  $m \geq m_{\mathcal{H}}(\delta)$  i.i.d. examples generated by  $\mathcal{P}$  and labeled by  $c$ , the algorithm returns a hypothesis  $h$  such that, with probability of at least  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(h) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \gamma.$$

A hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$  is  **$\gamma$ -weak-learnable** if there exists a  $\gamma$ -weak-learner for that class.

- **Remark** We call PAC learnable **the strong learnable**.

- **Remark (Weak Learner Without Accuracy Guarantee)**

Unlike the PAC learner, who guarantees that with high probability the generalization error rate is less than  $\epsilon$  **for all**  $\epsilon$ , a  $\gamma$ -weak-learner guarantees that with high probability, the error rate is less than  $\epsilon$  **for some**  $\epsilon = 1/2 - \gamma$ , i.e. *less than half with a margin  $\gamma$* .

In other word, under the realizability assumption, it is expected that **with more data, a PAC learner** can learn the “true” labeling function behind the data, (i.e. **zero generalization error** with high probability). While a  $\gamma$ -weak-learner can only get **slightly better than random guess** and it is **not expected to have lower error rate** even if more data are available.

- **Remark (Weak Learner is as Hard as PAC Learner)**

The fundamental theorem of learning states that if a hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$  has a VC dimension  $d$ , then the sample complexity of PAC learning  $\mathcal{H}$  satisfies  $m_{\mathcal{H}}(\epsilon, \delta) \geq C_1(d + \log(1/\delta))/\epsilon$ , where  $C_1$  is a constant. Applying this with  $\epsilon = 1/2 - \gamma$  we immediately obtain that **if**  $d = \infty$  **then**  $\mathcal{H}$  **is not**  $\gamma$ -weak-learnable.

This implies that from **the statistical perspective** (i.e., if we ignore *computational complexity*), **weak learnability** is also characterized by the VC dimension of  $\mathcal{H}$  and therefore is just **as hard as PAC (strong) learning**. However, when we do consider **computational complexity**, the potential advantage of weak learning is that maybe there is *an algorithm* that satisfies the requirements of weak learning and **can be implemented efficiently**.

## 2.2 Training Error Bounds

- **Remark** Recall that  $h_t \in \mathcal{H}$  are base learners for  $t \in [1, T]$ , and  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_T) \in \Sigma_T$ . The combined learner is

$$H(x) := \text{sgn} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(x) \right)$$

- The space of all such combined classifiers is defined as below:

**Definition (Class of Linear Combination of Base Hypotheses)**

Define the class of  $T$  **linear combinations of base hypotheses** from  $\mathcal{H}$  as

$$L(\mathcal{H}, T) := \left\{ \text{sgn} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(\cdot) \right) : \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^T, h_t \in \mathcal{H}, t = 1, \dots, T \right\} \quad (2)$$

- **Definition** Define  $\Sigma_n$  as the space of all *linear threshold functions*

$$\Sigma_n := \{\text{sgn}(\langle w, x \rangle) : w \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

Thus  $L(\mathcal{H}, T) = \{\sigma(h_1(x), \dots, h_T(x)) : \sigma \in \Sigma_T\}$

- **Proposition 2.1 (Training Error Bound for AdaBoost)** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]  
Given the notation of Adaboost algorithm, let  $\gamma_t = 1/2 - \epsilon_t$ , and let  $\mathcal{D}_1$  be an arbitrary initial distribution over the training set. Then *the weighted training error* of the combined classifier  $\mathcal{H}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{D}_1$  is bounded as

$$\hat{L}_{\mathcal{D}_1}(H) \leq \prod_{t=1}^T \sqrt{1 - 4\gamma_t^2} \leq \exp\left(-2 \sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t^2\right). \quad (3)$$

## 2.3 Generalization Error Bounds for Finite Hypothesis Class

- **Definition (Restriction of  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ ).**

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a class of functions from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  and let  $\mathcal{D} = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\} \subset \mathcal{X}$ .

The restriction of  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  is the set of functions from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  that can be derived from  $\mathcal{H}$ . That is,

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{D}} := \{(h(x_1), \dots, h(x_m)) : h \in \mathcal{H}\},$$

where we *represent* each function from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  as a *vector* in  $\{0, 1\}^{|\mathcal{D}|}$ .

- **Definition (Shattering).**

A hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$  *shatters* a finite set  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{X}$  if *the restriction of  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$*  is the set of *all functions* from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\{0, 1\}$ . That is,

$$|\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{D}}| = 2^{|\mathcal{D}|}.$$

- **Definition (Growth Function).**

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a hypothesis class. Then the growth function of  $\mathcal{H}$ , denoted  $\tau_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ , is defined as

$$\tau_{\mathcal{H}}(m) := \max_{\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{X} : |\mathcal{D}|=m} |\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{D}}|.$$

In words,  $\tau_{\mathcal{H}}(m)$  is *the number of different functions* from a set  $\mathcal{D}$  of *size*  $m$  to  $\{0, 1\}$  that can be obtained by *restricting  $\mathcal{H}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$* .

- **Lemma 2.2 (Sauer's Lemma).** [Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David, 2014, Mohri et al., 2018]  
Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a hypothesis class with  $VCdim(\mathcal{H}) \leq d < \infty$ . Then, for all  $m \geq d + 1$ ,

$$\tau_{\mathcal{H}}(m) \leq \sum_{i=0}^d \binom{m}{i} \leq \left(\frac{em}{d}\right)^d. \quad (4)$$

- **Proposition 2.3 (Generalization Bound via Growth Function)** [Mohri et al., 2018]  
Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a family of functions taking values in  $\{-1, +1\}$ . Then, for any  $\delta > 0$ , with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , for any  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ ,

$$L(h) \leq \widehat{L}_m(h) + \sqrt{\frac{2 \log \tau_{\mathcal{H}}(m)}{m}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}} \quad (5)$$

Growth function bounds can be also derived directly (without using Rademacher complexity bounds first). The resulting bound is then the following:

$$\mathcal{P} \left\{ \exists h \in \mathcal{H}, \left| L(h) - \widehat{L}_m(h) \right| > \epsilon \right\} \leq 4\tau_{\mathcal{H}}(2m) \exp \left( -\frac{m\epsilon^2}{8} \right) \quad (6)$$

which only differs from (5) by constants.

- The following lemma shows that the VC dimension of  $\Sigma_T$  is  $T$ .

**Lemma 2.4** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]

The space  $\Sigma_n$  of **linear threshold functions** over  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has **VC-dimension**  $n$ .

- **Lemma 2.5 (Growth Number of Combined Hypothesis Class, Finite Hypothesis Class)** [Schapire and Freund, 2012, Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David, 2014]  
Assume  $\mathcal{H}$  is **finite**. Let  $m \geq T \geq 1$ . For any set  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $m$  points, the number of dichotomies realizable by  $L(\mathcal{H}, T)$  is bounded as follows:

$$|L(\mathcal{H}, T)| \leq \tau_{L(\mathcal{H}, T)}(m) \leq \left( \frac{em}{T} \right)^T |\mathcal{H}|^T. \quad (7)$$

- **Theorem 2.6 (Generalization Bound for AdaBoost, Finite Hypothesis)** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]

Suppose **AdaBoost** is run for  $T$  rounds on  $m \geq T$  random examples, using base classifiers from a **finite space**  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , the combined classifier  $H$  satisfies

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(H) \leq \widehat{L}_m(H) + \sqrt{\frac{2T(\log |\mathcal{H}| + \log(em/T))}{m}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}} \quad (8)$$

Furthermore, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , if  $\mathcal{H}$  is realizable with the training set (i.e.  $\widehat{L}_m(h) \equiv 0$ ), then

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(H) \leq \frac{2T(\log |\mathcal{H}| + \log(2em/T)) + 2\log(2/\delta)}{m}. \quad (9)$$

## 2.4 Generalization Error Bounds via VC Dimension

- **Lemma 2.7 (Growth Number of Combined Hypothesis Class, VC Class)**. [Schapire and Freund, 2012]

Assume  $\mathcal{H}$  has **finite VC-dimension**  $d \geq 1$ . Let  $m \geq \max\{T, d\} \geq 1$ . For any set  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $m$  points, the number of dichotomies realizable by  $L(\mathcal{H}, T)$  is bounded as follows:

$$|L(\mathcal{H}, T)| \leq \tau_{L(\mathcal{H}, T)}(m) \leq \left( \frac{em}{T} \right)^T \left( \frac{em}{d} \right)^{dT}. \quad (10)$$

- **Lemma 2.8 (VC-Dimension of Combined Hypothesis Class, VC Class).** [Schapire and Freund, 2012, Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David, 2014]  
Assume  $\mathcal{H}$  has **finite VC-dimension**  $\nu(\mathcal{H}) = d$  and  $\min\{T, d\} \geq 3$ . Then the VC dimension of combined hypothesis class is bounded by

$$\nu(L(\mathcal{H}, T)) \leq T(d+1)(3\log(T(d+1)) + 2) = \mathcal{O}(Td\log(Td)). \quad (11)$$

- **Remark (Lower Bound on VC Dimension).** [Shalev-Shwartz and Ben-David, 2014]  
For some base hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$ , the VC-dimension of ensemble is at least  $Td$ . For instance, for  $\mathcal{H}_n$  be the class of *decision stumps* over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we can show that  $\log(n) \leq d = \nu(\mathcal{H}) \leq 2\log(n) + 5$ . In this example, for all  $T \geq 1$ ,

$$\nu(L(\mathcal{H}_n, T)) \geq 0.5T\log(n) \asymp \Omega(Td).$$

- **Theorem 2.9 (Generalization Bound for AdaBoost via VC Dimension).** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]  
Suppose **AdaBoost** is run for  $T$  rounds on  $m \geq \max\{T, d\}$  random examples, using base classifiers from a **finite space**  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , the combined classifier  $H$  satisfies

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(H) \leq \widehat{L}_m(H) + \sqrt{\frac{2T(d\log(em/d) + \log(em/T))}{m}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m}} \quad (12)$$

Furthermore, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , if  $\mathcal{H}$  is realizable with the training set (i.e.  $\widehat{L}_m(h) \equiv 0, \forall h \in \mathcal{H}$ ), then

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(H) \leq \frac{2T(d\log(2em/d) + \log(2em/T)) + 2\log(2/\delta)}{m}. \quad (13)$$

- **Corollary 2.10** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]  
Assume, in addition to the assumptions of theorem 2.9, that each base classifier has weighted error  $\epsilon_t \leq 1/2 - \gamma$  for some  $\gamma > 0$ . Let the number of rounds  $T$  be equal to

$$\inf \left\{ t \in \mathbb{N} : t \geq \frac{\log(m)}{2\gamma^2} \right\}$$

Then, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , the generalization error of the combined classifier  $H$  will be at most

$$\mathcal{O} \left( \frac{1}{m} \left[ \frac{\log(m)}{\gamma^2} \left( \log(m) + d \log \left( \frac{m}{d} \right) \right) + \frac{1}{\delta} \right] \right)$$

- **Remark** Ignoring the log factor, the generalization error bound (12) can be summarized as

$$L_{\mathcal{P},c}(H) \leq \widehat{L}_m(H) + \mathcal{O} \left( \sqrt{\frac{T\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{H}}}{m}} \right)$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{H}}$  is some complexity measure of base class  $\mathcal{H}$ .

- **Theorem 2.11 (Strong Learnable = Weak Learnable)** [Schapire and Freund, 2012]  
A target class  $\mathcal{H}$  is (efficiently) **weakly** PAC learnable **if and only if** it is (efficiently) **strongly** PAC learnable.



## 2.5 Generalization Error Bounds via Large Margin Theory

- **Remark (*Limit of VC Dimension Analysis*)**

The upper bound grows as  $\mathcal{O}(dT \log(dT))$ , thus the bound suggests that **AdaBoost could overfit for large values of  $T$** , and indeed this can occur. 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  $T$ .

- **Definition ( $L_1$ -Margin)** [Mohri et al., 2018, Schapire and Freund, 2012]

The  $L_1$ -margin  $\rho(x)$  of a point  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  with label  $y \in \{-1, +1\}$  for a linear combination of base classifiers  $g = \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t = \langle \alpha, h \rangle$  with  $\alpha \neq 0$  and  $h_t \in \mathcal{H}$  for all  $t \in [1, T]$  is defined as

$$\rho(x) := y \frac{\langle \alpha, h(x) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1} = y \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t h_t(x)}{\|\alpha\|_1} \quad (14)$$

The  $L_1$ -margin of a linear combination classifier  $g$  with respect to a sample  $\mathcal{D}$  is the **minimum margin** of the points within the sample:

$$\rho := \min_{i=1, \dots, m} y_i \frac{\langle \alpha, h(x_i) \rangle}{\|\alpha\|_1} = \min_{i=1, \dots, m} \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i)}{\|\alpha\|_1} \quad (15)$$

- **Remark** When the coefficients  $\alpha_t$  are **non-negative**, as in the case of *AdaBoost*,  $\rho(x)$  is a **convex combination** of the base classifier values  $h_t(x)$ . In particular, if the base classifiers  $h_t$  take values in  $[-1, +1]$ , then  $\rho(x)$  is in  $[-1, +1]$ . The absolute value  $|\rho(x)|$  can be interpreted as **the confidence** of the classifier  $g$  in that label.

- **Definition (*Convex Hull of Hypothesis Class*)**

For any hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$ , the convex hull of set  $\mathcal{H}$ , denoted as  $\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$ , is defined as

$$\text{conv}(\mathcal{H}) := \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^T \lambda_k h_k(\cdot) : T \geq 1, \forall k \in [1, T], \lambda_k \geq 0, h_k \in \mathcal{H}, \sum_{k=1}^T \lambda_k \leq 1 \right\}.$$

- **Definition (*Empirical Rademacher Complexity*)**

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a family of functions mapping from  $\mathcal{Z} := \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  to  $[a, b]$  and  $\mathcal{D} = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$  a fixed sample of size  $n$  with elements in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . Then, the empirical Rademacher complexity of  $\mathcal{G}$  with respect to the sample  $\mathcal{D}$  is defined as:

$$\hat{\mathfrak{R}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{G}) = \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \left[ \sup_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i g(z_i) \right] \quad (16)$$

where  $\sigma := (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$  are **independent uniform random variables** taking values in  $\{-1, +1\}$ . The random variables  $\sigma_i$  are called **Rademacher variables**.

- **Proposition 2.12 (*Empirical Rademacher Complexity of a Convex Hull of Function Class*)**

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a set of functions mapping from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then, for any sample  $\mathcal{D}$ , the empirical Rademacher complexity

$$\hat{\mathfrak{R}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})) = \hat{\mathfrak{R}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{H}) \quad (17)$$

where  $\text{conv}(\mathcal{H})$  is **the convex hull** of set  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## **3 Fundamental Perspectives**

### **3.1 Game Theory**

### **3.2 Online Learning**

### **3.3 Maximum Entropy Estimation**

### **3.4 Iterative Projection Algorithms and Convergence Analysis**

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