Problem Set 4 January 30, 2025

Solutions by **Andrew Lys** 

andrewlys(at)u.e.

## 1. Online Perceptron and Perceptron Analysis

## 1.1. Implementing CONSISTENT.

(a) Note, that if  $\gamma(S)$ , is the supremum over w, then we have:

$$\gamma(S) \ge \min_{(x_i, y_i) \in S} \frac{y_i \langle \hat{w}, \phi(x_i) \rangle}{\|\hat{w}\|}$$

And since  $\hat{w}$  realizes S with probability one, we have:

$$y_i \langle \hat{w}, \phi(x_i) \rangle > 0$$

for all i, and since S is finite, we have:

$$\min_{(x_i, y_i) \in S} \frac{y_i \langle \hat{w}, \phi(x_i) \rangle}{\|\hat{w}\|} = m > 0$$

Therefore,  $\gamma(S) \geq m > 0$ 

(b)

$$M_t \le \frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2}$$

for all t, so

$$\lim \sup_{t \to \infty} M_t \le \frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2}$$

Therefore, the possible number of mistakes is bounded by  $\frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2}$ . Further, the number of iterations is bounded by the number of mistakes, since there is an iteration only if a mistake was made.

(c) We implement the step as follows:

- 1: for  $(\phi(x_i), y_i) \in S'$  do
- 2: **if**  $y_i \langle w, \phi(x_i) \rangle \leq 0$  **then**
- 3: **return**  $(x_i, y_i)$
- 4: end if
- 5: end for

Before we invoke this iteration, we store

$$S' \leftarrow \{(\phi(x_i), y_i)\}_{i=1}^m$$

This operation takes O(md) and takes up O(m(d+1)) = O(md) memory. This simplifies the computation of  $\phi(x_i)$  in our iteration.

On step 1, we compute

$$y_i \cdot (w_1\phi_1(x_i) + \ldots + w_d\phi_d(x_i))$$

Which consists of d multiplications inside the parantheses, d-1 additions inside the parentheses, and an additional multiplication by  $y_i$ . Thus, the total arithmetic is O(2d) = O(d). Additionally, we compare to 0, which is a constant time operation.

We perform this step at most |S| = m times, so the runtime of our iteration is O(md). An iteration occurs only if a mistake happens as well, so the maximum number of times this iteration occurs is at most  $M_t$ , which is bounded by  $\frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2}$ . Thus, the total run time is bounded by

$$O\left(\frac{md}{\gamma(S)^2}\right)$$

(d) Let  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$   $\mathcal{Y} = \{\pm 1\}$ , and S = ((1, -1), (-1, -1)). Clearly, this sample is not linearly separable, since for any sign of w,  $\operatorname{sign}(w \cdot 1) \neq \operatorname{sign}(w \cdot (-1))$ , unless w is zero, in which case the sign is still +1, which is still wrong. WLOG, we may assume that  $w_0 = 0$ .

If  $w_t = 0$ , then we have:

$$sign(w_t \cdot 1) = 1 \neq -1$$

Then

$$w_{t+1} = 0 + (-1)(1) = -1$$

If  $w_t = -1$ , then

$$sign(w_t \cdot (-1)) = 1 \neq -1$$

and then

$$w_{t+1} = -1 + (-1)(-1) = 0$$

Thus, the algorithm never stops.

## 1.2. Statistical Guarantee.

(a) Recall:

$$E_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^m}[L_{\mathcal{D}}(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})] \leq \frac{M}{m+1}$$

therefore, for the learning rule of PERCEPTRON, we have:

$$E_{S \sim \mathcal{D}^m}[L_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{PERCEPTRON}(S))] \le \frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2(m+1)} < \varepsilon$$

Thus, the number of samples we need to ensure generalization error of at most  $\varepsilon$  is

$$\frac{1}{\gamma(S)^2 \varepsilon} - 1 < m$$

(b) There is no contradiction because we are not actually learning the class of homogenous linear predictors on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . We are learning the class of homogenous linear predictors with feature map  $\phi$ . This has lower VCdim because the possible samples can only come from the image of the feature map, which need not be onto  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

2. 0/1 Loss vs Squared Loss vs Hinge Loss

(a) Note that the sample S is finite, so  $\Gamma_{\mathcal{H}}(S) < \infty$ . Thus,  $\exists h^*$ , such that

$$\inf_{h \in \mathcal{H}} L_S^{01}(h) = L_S^{01}(h^*) = 0$$

Since,

$$|\{L_S^{01}(h): h \in \mathcal{H}\}| \le \Gamma_{\mathcal{H}}(S)$$

so we are minimizing over a finite set.

Additionally, since  $L_S^{01}(h^*) = 0$ , we have that  $h^*(x_i) = y_i$  for all i.

Now we compute the square loss of  $h^*$ , which we have determined is indeed in our hypothesis class.

$$L_S^{sq}(h^*) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \ell^{sq}(h^*(x_i); y_i) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (y_i - h^*(x_i))^2 = 0$$

Therefore, we cannot have  $\hat{h}_{sq}$  have error greater than 0.5, since  $h^*$  would have better error than it, and thus be better than the optimal.

(b) It is indeed possible for this to occur. Consider  $h^*$  as above, and simply let  $h(x_i) = 2h^*(x_i)$ . It is clear that h is still a linear predictor, and we have that h minimizes the hinge loss, since

$$\ell^{hinge}(h(x_i); y_i) = [1 - 2y_i h^*(x_i)]_+ = [1 - 2]_+ = 0$$

However, clearly, the 0/1 loss is 1, since every prediction is either +2 or -2, which is always wrong.