

Homework Week 1

MATHEMATICS OF DEEP LEARNING
IASD 2026

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Instructions: This homework is **due on Monday 26/01/2026**. Please upload your solutions in a PDF file named HW1_NOM_PRENOM.PDF [here](#). Formats accepted: PDF (LaTeX or a **readable** scan of handwritten solutions).

Exercise 1. Concentration inequalities

- (a) (*Markov's inequality*) Let $X \geq 0$ denote a non-negative random variable. Show that, for any $t > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq t) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{t} \quad (1)$$

- (b) (*Chernoff's bound*) Let $X \geq 0$ be a real random variable. Using Markov's inequality, show that for all $C \in \mathbb{R}$ and $t > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq c) \leq \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}] e^{-ct} \quad (2)$$

Give an example of a probability distribution which has exponential tails.

- (c) (*Hoeffding's inequality*) Let X_1, \dots, X_n denote n i.i.d. bounded random variables such that $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 0$ and $|X| \leq C$. Using Chernoff's inequality and Hoeffding's lemma 1, show that for all $t > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq t\right) \leq e^{-\frac{t^2}{2nC^2}} \quad (3)$$

Give an example of a probability distribution that has two-sided exponential tails. How is this result related to the CLT?

Note: We say a random variable X has (right) exponential tail with rate $\lambda > 0$ if there exists $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\lambda t} \mathbb{P}(X > t) = c \quad (4)$$

Similarly, we say a random variable has two-sided exponential tails if:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\lambda t} \mathbb{P}(|X| > t) = c \quad (5)$$

Note that this is equivalent to saying that for large enough t , the tails are exponential:

$$P(X > t) \sim ce^{-\lambda t} \quad (6)$$

Lemma 1 (Hoeffding's lemma). Let $X \in [a, b]$ be a bounded random variable. Then, for all $t > 0$:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[e^{t(X - \mathbb{E}[X])}\right] \leq e^{\frac{t^2(a-b)^2}{8}} \quad (7)$$

Exercise 2.

Consider a supervised learning problem with training data $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} : i \in [n]\}$ that we assume is sampled i.i.d. from a distribution p . Let $\mathcal{H} = \{f_\theta : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} : \theta \in \Theta\}$ denote a parametric hypothesis class, and $\ell : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ a loss function, which we assume is uniformly bounded by a constant $B > 0$.

- (a) Which loss functions we discussed in class satisfy this assumption and which do not?
- (b) Write down the definition of the population $R(\theta)$ and empirical $\hat{R}(\theta; \mathcal{D})$ risks.
- (c) Using Hoeffding's inequality in eq. (3), show that for any fixed $\theta \in \Theta$ and all $\delta \in (0, 1)$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$:

$$|R(\theta) - \hat{R}(\theta; \mathcal{D})| \leq B \sqrt{\frac{\log 1/\delta}{2n}} \quad (8)$$

- (d) What are the consequences of this upper bound on the number of samples required in order to achieve a small generalisation gap $\epsilon > 0$?