

CSE 417T

Introduction to Machine Learning

Lecture 14

Instructor: Chien-Ju (CJ) Ho

Logistics

- Homework 3: due yesterday (Wednesday)
 - If you still have late days, the final due is tomorrow
 - Track your own late-day usages
 - Assignments over-using late days won't be graded
- Exam 1: **October 27 (Thursday)**
 - Topics: LFD Chapters 1 to 5
 - Timed exam (75 min) during lecture time
 - Location TBD
 - Closed-book exam with 2 letter-size cheat sheets allowed (4 pages in total)
 - No format limitations (it can be typed, written, or a combination)
- October 25 (Tuesday) will be a review session
 - Practice questions are posted on Piazza (will be discussed during the review session)

Recap

Decision Tree Hypothesis



Credit Card Approval Example

- Pros
 - Easy to interpret (interpretability is getting attention and is important in some domains)
 - Can handle multi-type data (Numerical, categorical. ...)
 - Easy to implement (Bunch of if-else rules)
- Cons
 - Generally speaking, **bad generalization**
 - VC dimension is infinity
 - High variance (small change of data leads to very different hypothesis)
 - Easily overfit
- Why we care?
 - One of the classical model
 - Building block for other models (e.g., random forest)

ID3: Using Information Gain as Selection Criteria

- Information gain of choosing feature A to split
 - $Gain(D, A) = H(D) - \sum_i \frac{|D_i|}{|D|} H(D_i)$ [The amount of decrease in entropy]
- ID3: Choose the split that maximize $Gain(D, A)$

Notations:

$H(D)$: Entropy of D

$|D|$ is the number of points in D

DecisionTreeLearn(D)

Create a root node r

If **termination conditions** are met

return a single node tree with **leaf prediction** based on

Else: Greedily find a feature A to split according to **split criteria**

For each possible value v_i of A

Let D_i be the dataset containing data with value v_i for feature A

Create a subtree DecisionTreeLearn(D_i) that being the child of root r

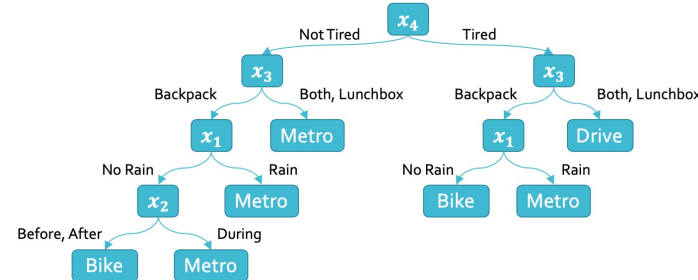
- ID3 termination conditions
 - If all labels are the same
 - If all features are the same
 - If dataset is empty
- ID3 leaf predictions
 - Most common labels (majority voting)
- ID3 split criteria
 - Information gain

Ensemble Learning

- Goal: Utilize a set of **weak learners** to obtain a **strong learner**.
- One common way to construct weak learners is via **decision trees**

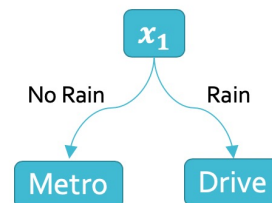
- Fully grown decision trees

- High variance
- Low bias



- Decision stump (One-depth decision trees, split on only one attribute)

- Low variance
- High bias



Ensemble Learning

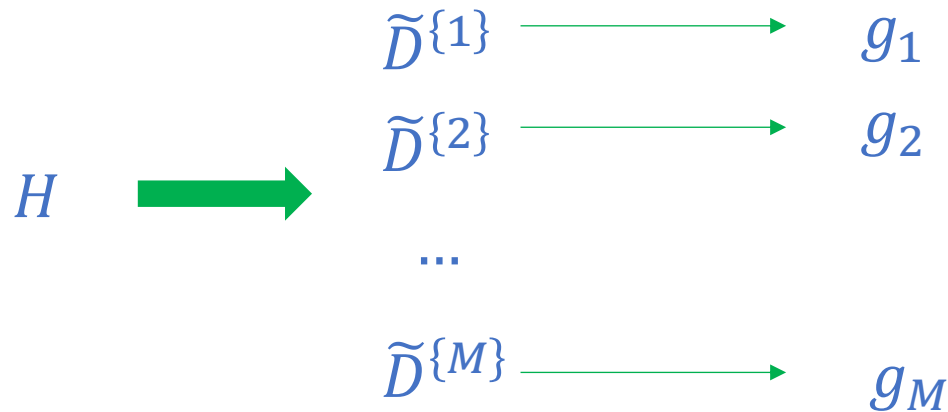
- Goal: Utilize a set of **weak learners** to obtain a **strong learner**.
- Format of ensemble learning
 - **Construct** many **diverse** weak learners
 - **Aggregate** the weak learners

Bagging

- Construct diverse weak learners
 - (**Simultaneously**) bootstrap datasets
 - Train weak learners on them
- Aggregate the weak learners
 - **Uniform** aggregation

Bagging - Bootstrapped Aggregating

- Bootstrap M datasets $\{\tilde{D}^{\{m\}}\}$ (Sample with replacement from D)
- Learn a hypothesis from each of them



- Aggregate the learned hypothesis (assume we are doing classification)

$$G(\vec{x}) = \bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M g_m(\vec{x})\right)$$

Out-Of-Bag (OOB) Error

	$\tilde{D}^{(1)}$	$\tilde{D}^{(2)}$	$\tilde{D}^{(3)}$	$\tilde{D}^{(4)}$...
(\vec{x}_1, y_1)	Yes	Yes	No	No	...
(\vec{x}_2, y_2)	Yes	No	No	No	...
...
(\vec{x}_N, y_N)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	...

Whether a point is in a bootstrapped dataset

- G_n^- : the aggregation of hypothesis that \vec{x}_n is OOB of

- $G_1^- = \text{aggregate}(g_3, g_4, \dots)$
- $G_2^- = \text{aggregate}(g_2, g_3, g_4, \dots)$
- $G_N^- = \text{aggregate}(g_1, \dots)$

Aggregate:
Majority voting for classification
Average for regression

- OOB Error

- $E_{OOB}(G) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{error}(G_n^-(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$

Error:
Binary error for classification
Squared error for regression

Out-Of-Bag (OOB) Error

$$E_{OOB}(G) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{error}(G_n^-(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$$

- Bagging provided an **intrinsic** mechanism for us to perform validation
- Practical issues (you might face this in HW4)
 - What if some \vec{x}_n appears in all bootstrapped datasets?
 - The probability of this happening is small when the number of bags M is large
 - Let S be the set of points that is out of bag for at least one bootstrapped dataset
 - $E_{OOB}(G) = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{(\vec{x}_n, y_n) \in S} \text{error}(G_n^-(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$

Random Forest

- Construct many random trees
 - Bootstrapping datasets and learn a **max-depth tree** for each of them
 - Other randomizations (not required in HW4)
 - When choosing split features, choose from a random subset (instead of all features)
 - Randomly project features (similar to non-linear transformation) for each tree
- Aggregate the random trees
 - Classification: Majority vote $\bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \text{sign} \left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M g_m(\vec{x}) \right)$
 - Regression: Average $\bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M g_m(\vec{x})$

Today's Lecture

The notes are not intended to be comprehensive. They should be accompanied by lectures and/or textbook.
Let me know if you spot errors.

Boosting

Ensemble Learning

- Goal: Utilize a set of **weak learners** to obtain a **strong learner**.
- Format of ensemble learning
 - **Construct** many **diverse** weak learners
 - **Aggregate** the weak learners

Bagging:

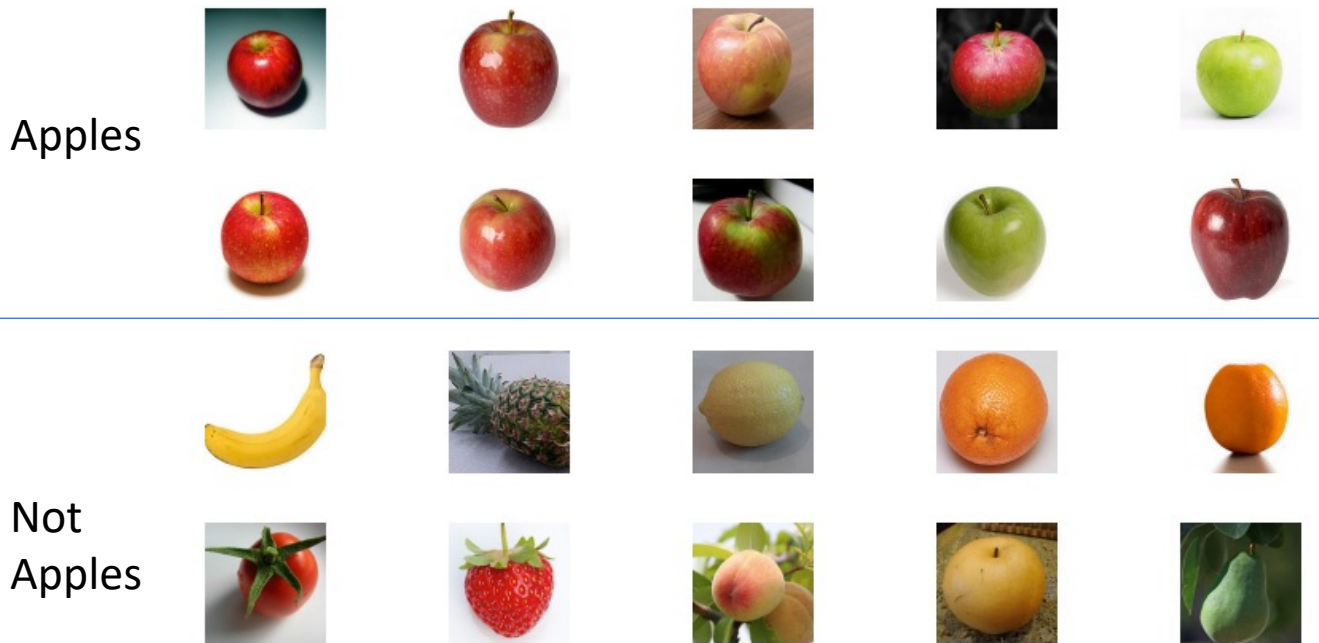
- Construct diverse weak learners
 - (**Simultaneously**) bootstrapping datasets
 - Train weak learners on them
- Aggregate the weak learners
 - **Uniform** aggregation

Boosting

- Construct diverse weak learners
 - **Adaptively** generating datasets
 - Train weak learners on them
- Aggregate the weak learners
 - **Weighted** aggregation

Informal Intuitions about Boosting

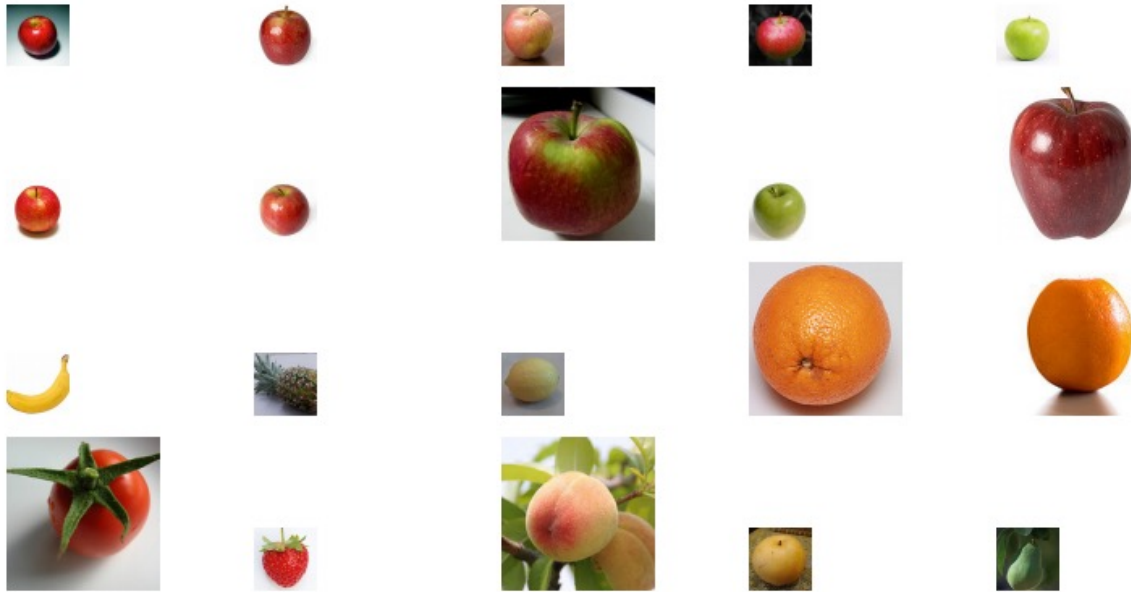
- Example : Teach a class of kids to identify apples from data



- Alice: Apples are **circular**
- Teacher:
Circular is a good feature, but using this feature might make some mistakes
Let me **highlight** the mistakes.
 - Make correct images smaller
 - Make incorrect images larger

Informal Intuitions about Boosting

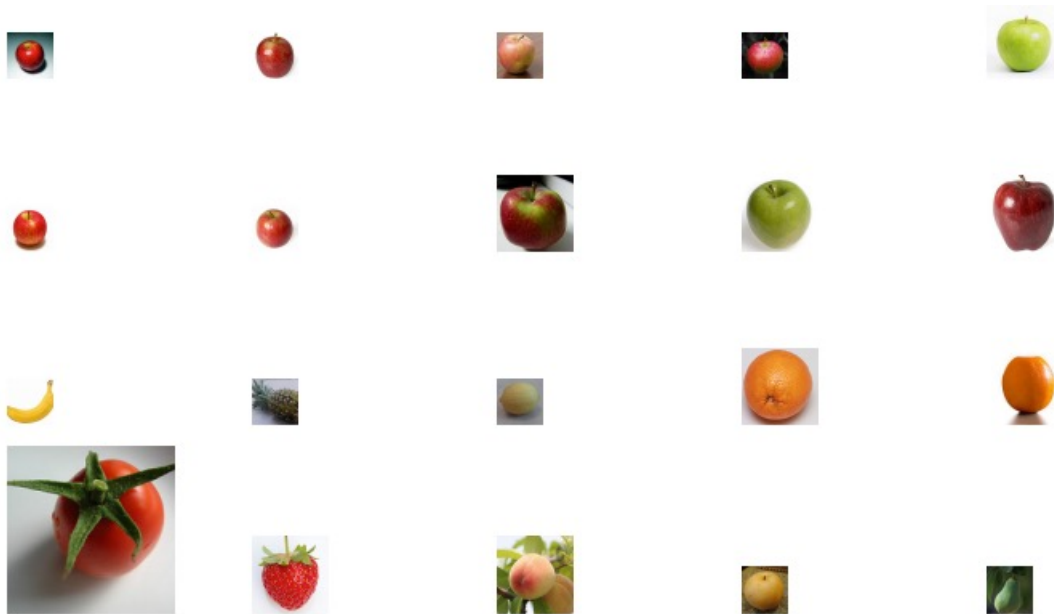
- Example : Teach a class of kids to identify apples from data



- Alice: Apples are **circular**
- Bob: Apples are **red**

Informal Intuitions about Boosting

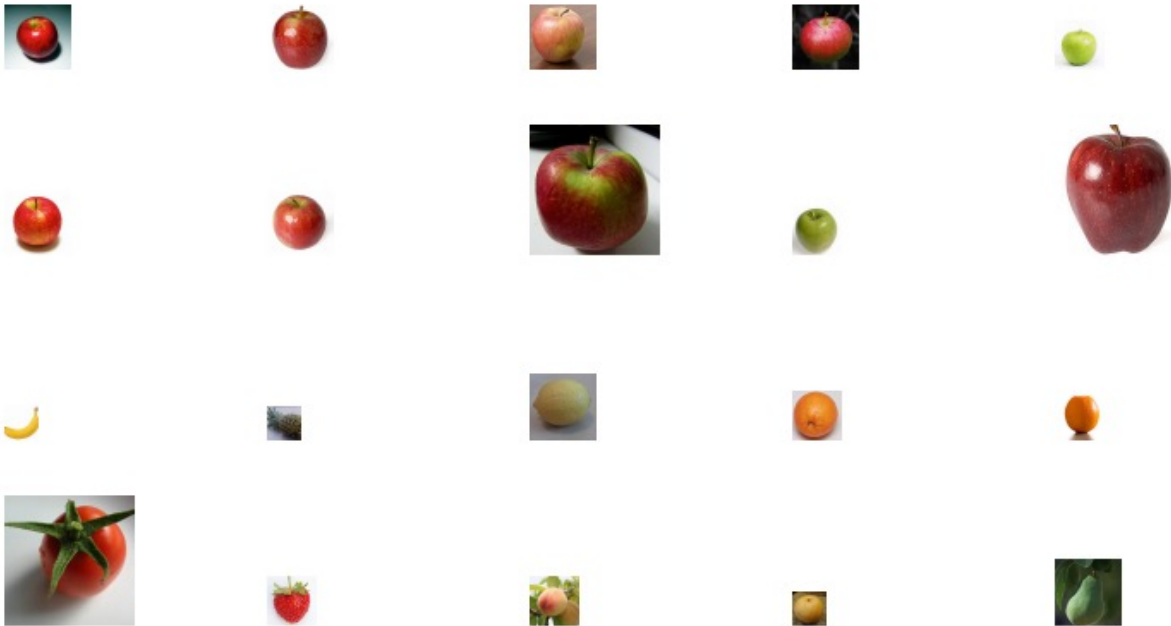
- Example : Teach a class of kids to identify apples from data



- Alice: Apples are **circular**
- Bob: Apples are **red**
- Charlie: Apples could be **green**

Informal Intuitions about Boosting

- Example : Teach a class of kids to identify apples from data



- Alice: Apples are **circular**
- Bob: Apples are **red**
- Charlie: Apples could be **green**
- David: Apples have **stems** at the top
- Class: Apples are **somewhat circular, somewhat red, possibly green, and may have stems at the top**

Informal Intuitions about Boosting

- Example : Teach a class of kids to identify apples from data



Key steps of this process:

- Learn a **simple** hypothesis for each dataset
- Iteratively update the dataset to focus on what we got wrong (i.e., create **diversity**)
- **Aggregate** the learned simple hypothesis



- Alice: Apples are **circular**
- Bob: Apples are **red**
- Charlie: Apples could be **green**
- David: Apples have **stems** at the top
- Class: Apples are **somewhat circular, somewhat red, possibly green, and may have stems at the top**

Outline of a Boosting Algorithm

- Initialize D_1 (usually the same as the initial dataset D)
- For $t = 1$ to T
 - Learn g_t from D_t
 - Reweight the distribution and obtain D_{t+1} based on g_t and D_t
- Output **weighted**-aggregate(g_1, \dots, g_T)
 - Classification: $G(\vec{x}) = \bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t g_t(\vec{x})\right)$

Questions

How to learn g_t from D_t

How to reweight the distribution and obtain D_{t+1}

How to perform weighted aggregation

Discussion on Re-weighted D_t (What does re-weighting mean?)

- Original Dataset $D = \{(\vec{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\vec{x}_N, y_N)\}$
- Notation of D_t
 - $D_t(n)$ is the weight/probability of data point (\vec{x}_n, y_n) in D_t
 - $\sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) = 1$
- What is $E_{in}(h)$ on D_t ? (Expressed as $E_{in}^{(D_t)}(h)$)
 - Re-sample dataset (noisier)
 - Re-sample the dataset from D according to distribution D_t
 - Calculate E_{in} on the re-sampled dataset as usual
 - Calculate weighted error
 - $E_{in}^{(D_t)}(h) = \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \text{error}(h(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$

When $D_t(n) = 1/N$. This reduces to standard definition of E_{in} .

AdaBoost – Adaptive Boosting

How to learn g_t from D_t

How to reweight the distribution and obtain D_{t+1}

How to perform weighted aggregation

[AdaBoost focuses on **classification** problem]

Boosting Background

- A theoretical question asked by Kearns and Valiant
 - Whether a “weak” learning algorithm which performs just slightly better than random guessing in the PAC model can be “boosted” into an arbitrarily accurate “strong” learning algorithm
- AdaBoost
 - The first adaptive boosting algorithm that
 - has nice theoretical guarantees
 - successfully deployed in real-world applications

What Does AdaBoost Do?

Outline of a Boosting Algorithm

Initialize D_1 (usually the same as the initial dataset D)

For $t = 1$ to T

 Learn g_t from D_t

 Reweight the distribution and obtain D_{t+1} based on g_t and D_t

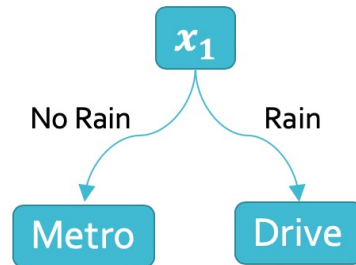
Output **weighted-aggregate**(g_1, \dots, g_T)

Classification: $G(\vec{x}) = \bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}\left(\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t g_t(\vec{x})\right)$

- Will discuss the following for AdaBoost
 1. How to learn g_t from D_t
 2. How to reweight the distribution and obtain D_{t+1}
 3. How to perform weighted aggregation

1. Learn a Weak Learner g_t from D_t

- AdaBoost uses *simple* weak learners
 - low variance, high bias
 - Decision stump (one-level decision tree) is one good option



- How to learn g_t from D_t
 - Find the decision stump that
 - Minimizes $E_{in}^{(D_t)}$
 - Maximize (weighted) information gain (you can call decision tree library directly)

2. How to Reweight D_{t+1}

- We want to make g_{t+1} (learned from D_{t+1}) to be **diverse** from g_t
 - **Increase** the weights of points that g_t makes **wrong** predictions
 - **Decrease** the weights of points that g_t makes **correct** predictions
- Define a parameter $\gamma > 1$
 - If g_t makes **wrong** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \cdot \gamma$ (increase the weight)
 - If g_t makes **correct** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) / \gamma$ (decrease the weight)
- Goal:
 - Choose γ such that $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$
 - Since g_{t+1} minimizes $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})} \Rightarrow g_t$ and g_{t+1} are **diverse**

Z_t : normalization constant
We need to ensure
 $\sum_{n=1}^N D_{t+1}(n) = 1$

Choose γ such that $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

Math derivations in the next few slides

- Define $\epsilon_t = E_{in}^{(D_t)}(g_t) = \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n]$
 - Weighted in-sample error of g_t on D_t
 - $\epsilon_t < 0.5$ (requirement of weak learners)

We consider the case weak learners are better than random guessing:
 $\epsilon_t < 0.5$

- Goal: Want to make $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

$$E_{in}^{(D_t)}(h) = \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \text{error}(h(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$$

- If g_t makes **wrong** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \cdot \gamma$ (increase the weight)
- If g_t makes **correct** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) / \gamma$ (decrease the weight)

- Define $\epsilon_t = E_{in}^{(D_t)}(g_t) = \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n]$
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We consider the case weak learners are better than random guessing:
 $\epsilon_t < 0.5$

- Goal: Want to make $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

$$\begin{aligned} E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) &= \sum_{n=1}^N D_{t+1}(n) \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n] \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \gamma \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n] \\ &= \frac{\gamma}{Z_t} \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n] = \frac{\gamma}{Z_t} \epsilon_t \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{in}^{(D_t)}(h) = \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \text{error}(h(\vec{x}_n), y_n)$$

- If g_t makes **wrong** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \cdot \gamma$ (increase the weight)
- If g_t makes **correct** predictions on \vec{x}_n
 - $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) / \gamma$ (decrease the weight)

- Remember Z_t is the normalization constant

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \gamma \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n] + \sum_{n=1}^N D_t(n) \frac{1}{\gamma} \mathbb{I}[g_t(\vec{x}_n) = y_n] \\ &= \gamma \epsilon_t + \frac{1}{\gamma} (1 - \epsilon_t) \end{aligned}$$

- Want to make $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

- $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = \frac{\gamma}{Z_t} \epsilon_t$

- $Z_t = \gamma \epsilon_t + \frac{1}{\gamma} (1 - \epsilon_t)$

- Want to make $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

- $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = \frac{\gamma}{Z_t} \epsilon_t$

- $Z_t = \gamma \epsilon_t + \frac{1}{\gamma} (1 - \epsilon_t)$

- $\frac{\gamma \epsilon_t}{\gamma \epsilon_t + (1 - \epsilon_t)/\gamma} = 0.5 \Rightarrow \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\gamma} = \gamma \epsilon_t \Rightarrow \gamma = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}}$

Both $g_t(\vec{x}_n)$ and y_n are either +1 or -1
 If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n$, $g_t(\vec{x}_n)y_n = -1$
 If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) = y_n$, $g_t(\vec{x}_n)y_n = 1$

- The rule for reweighting

- If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n$, then $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)$

- If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) = y_n$, then $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-1}$

- Want to make $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = 0.5$

- $E_{in}^{(D_{t+1})}(g_t) = \frac{\gamma}{Z_t} \epsilon_t$

- $Z_t = \gamma \epsilon_t + \frac{1}{\gamma} (1 - \epsilon_t)$

- $\frac{\gamma \epsilon_t}{\gamma \epsilon_t + (1 - \epsilon_t)/\gamma} = 0.5 \Rightarrow \frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\gamma} = \gamma \epsilon_t \Rightarrow \gamma = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}}$

- The rule for reweighting

- If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) \neq y_n$, then $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-g_t(\vec{x}_n) y_n}$

- If $g_t(\vec{x}_n) = y_n$, then $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-g_t(\vec{x}_n) y_n}$

- Reweight rule: $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-g_t(\vec{x}_n) y_n}$

2. How to Reweight D_{t+1} : Summary

- Reweight rule:

- $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) \left(\sqrt{\frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}} \right)^{-g_t(\vec{x}_n)y_n}$

- A bit more manipulations (the reason will be clear later)

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

- $e^{\alpha_t} = \sqrt{\frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t}}$

- Final reweight rule: $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) e^{-\alpha_t g_t(\vec{x}_n)y_n}$

3. How to Aggregate Weak Learners

- Intuition:
 - We want to put more weights on better weak learners
 - $\epsilon_t = E_{in}^{(D_t)}(g_t)$ is a proxy on how well g_t performs (smaller $\epsilon_t \Rightarrow$ better g_t)
 - Recall that $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$
 - Better g_t , smaller ϵ_t , higher α_t
 - When $\epsilon_t = 0.5$, $\alpha_t = 0$ (random guessing leads to 0 weights)
 - When $\epsilon_t = 0$, $\alpha_t = \infty$ (if a feature perfectly classifies the data, use it as our final hypothesis)
- Aggregation rule
 - $G(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t g_t(\vec{x}))$

AdaBoost Algorithm

- Given $D = \{(\vec{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\vec{x}_N, y_N)\}$
- Initialize $D_1(n) = 1/N$ for all $n = 1, \dots, N$
- For $t = 1, \dots, T$
 - Learn g_t from D_t (using decision stumps)
 - Calculate $\epsilon_t = E_{in}^{(D_t)}(g_t)$
 - Set $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$
 - Update $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) e^{-\alpha_t y_n g_t(\vec{x}_n)}$
- Output $G(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t g_t(\vec{x}))$

Theoretical Properties of AdaBoost

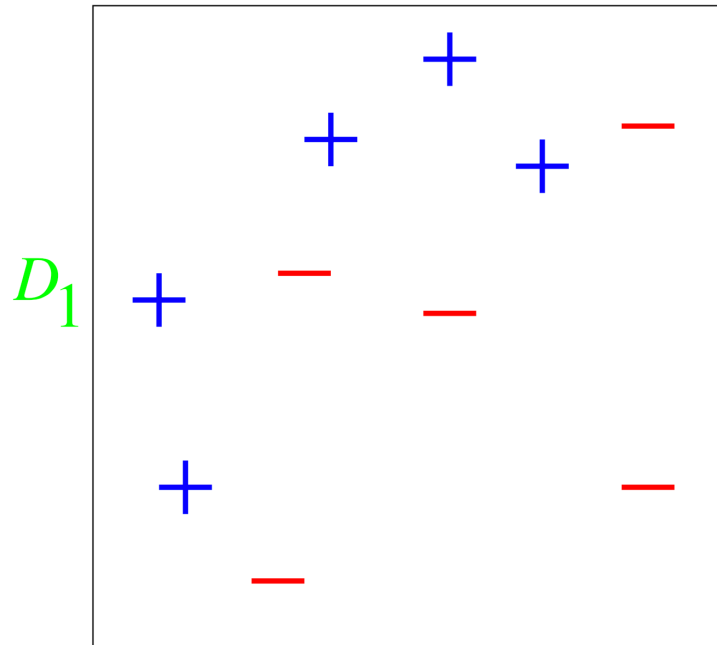
- See [Freund & Schapire's Tutorial](#) for more discussion
- The training error of AdaBoost converges fast
 - Let $\gamma_t = \frac{1}{2} - \epsilon_t$ (how good each weak learner is better than random guessing)
 - $E_{in} \leq e^{-2 \sum_{t=1}^T \gamma_t^2}$
- Generalization error
 - VC analysis gives us $E_{out} \leq E_{in} + \tilde{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{T d_{vc}}{m}}\right)$
 - It seems as T goes large, overfitting could happen
 - Empirically, AdaBoost is relatively robust to overfitting
 - There are some more delicate analysis using the idea of **margins** to explain why

d_{vc} is the VC dimension
of the weak learner

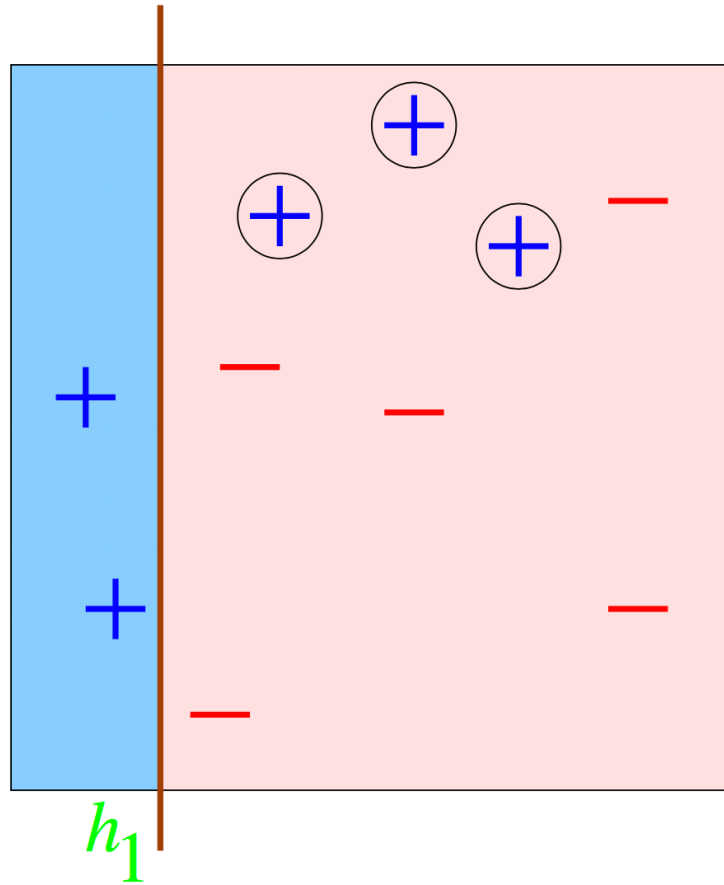
AdaBoost in Action

AdaBoost in Action

- A toy example (by Yoav Freund Rob Schapire)
- Weak learner: decision stump (one-level decision tree)

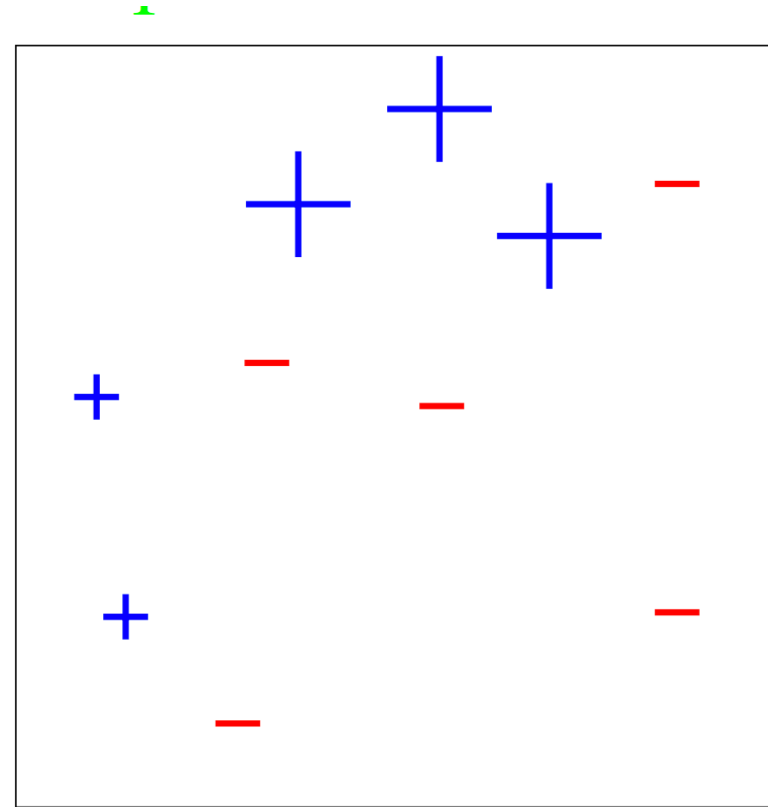


Round 1

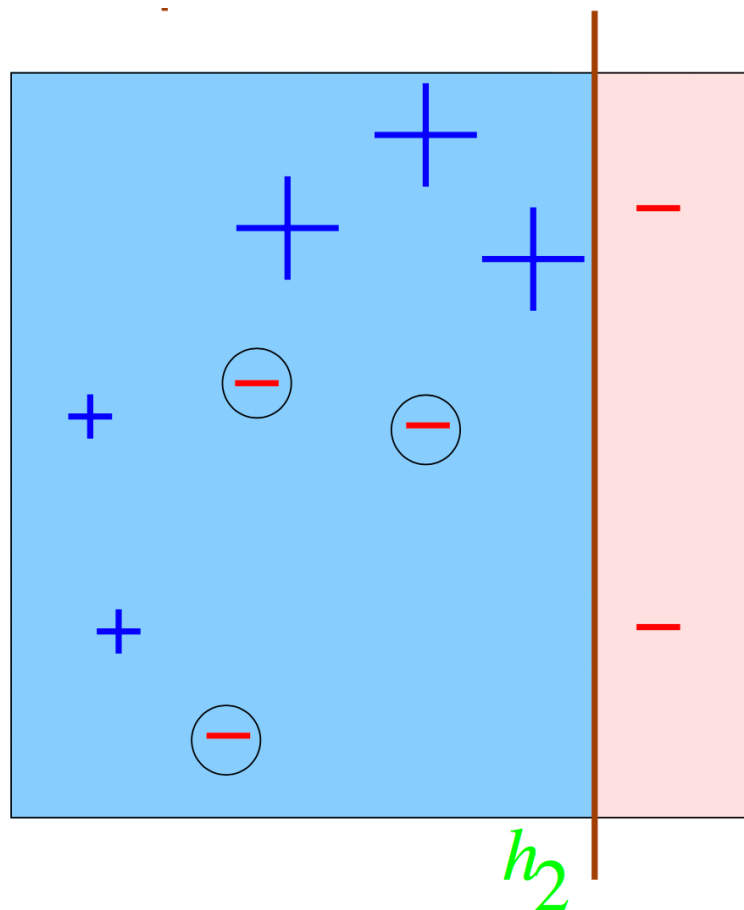


$$\epsilon_1 = 0.30$$
$$\alpha_1 = 0.42$$

D_2

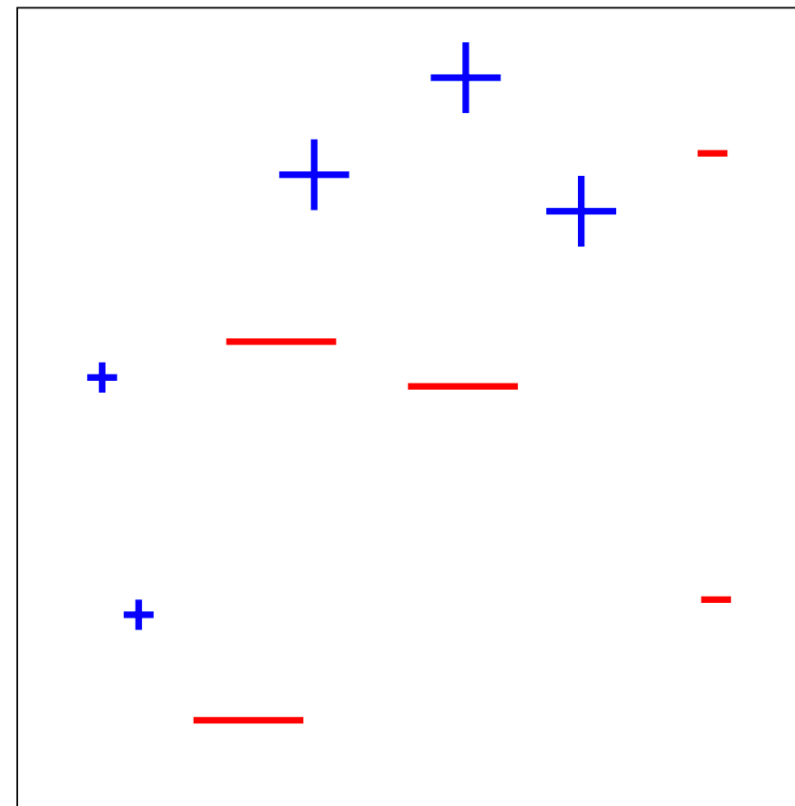


Round 2

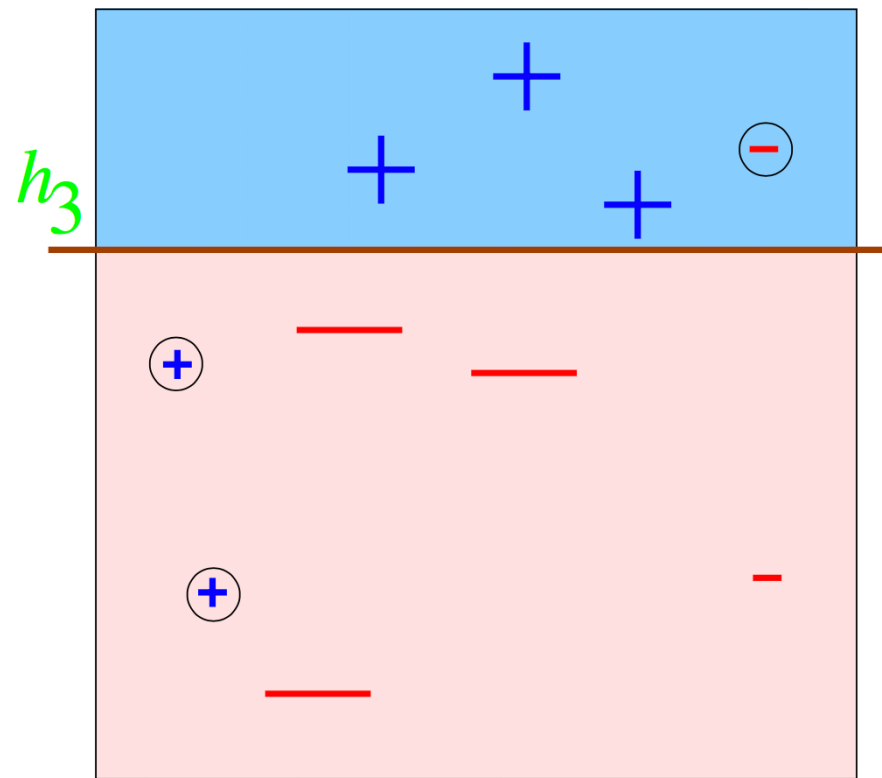


$$\epsilon_2 = 0.21$$
$$\alpha_2 = 0.65$$

D_3

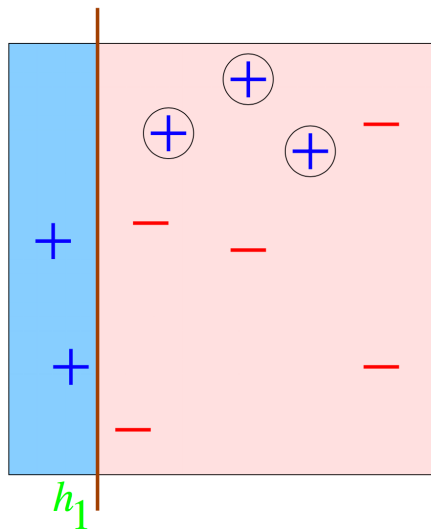


Round 3



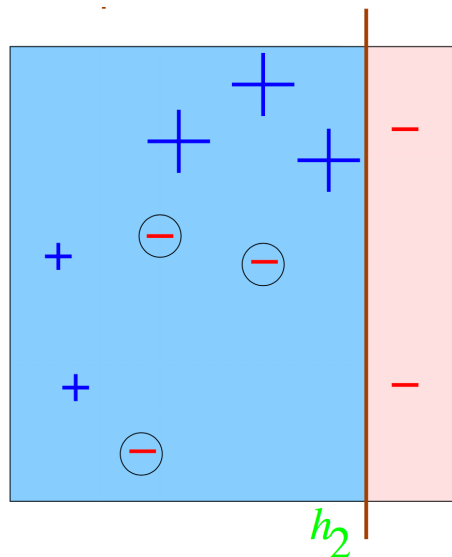
$$\epsilon_3 = 0.14$$

$$\alpha_3 = 0.92$$



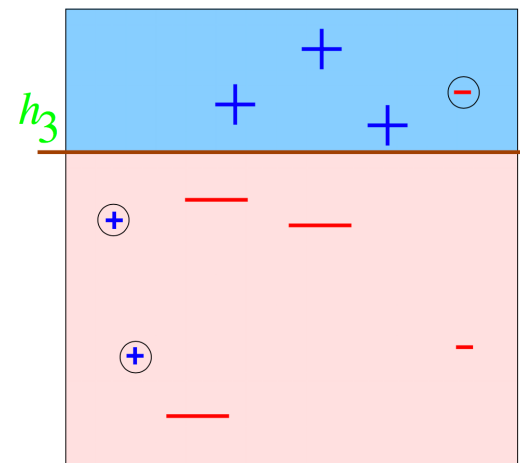
$$\varepsilon_1 = 0.30$$

$$\alpha_1 = 0.42$$



$$\varepsilon_2 = 0.21$$

$$\alpha_2 = 0.65$$



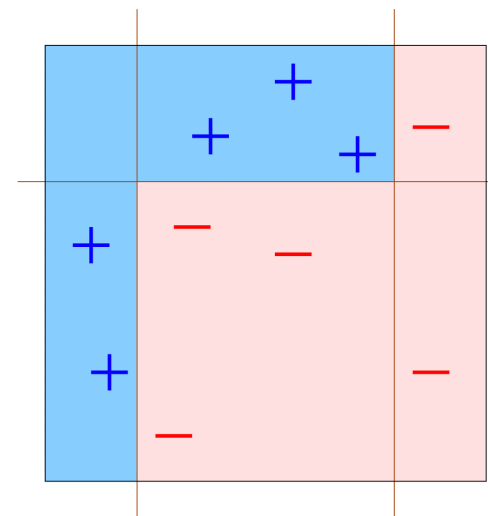
$$\varepsilon_3 = 0.14$$

$$\alpha_3 = 0.92$$

H_{final}

$$= \text{sign} \left(0.42 \right. \quad \left. + 0.65 \quad \left. + 0.92 \right) \right.$$

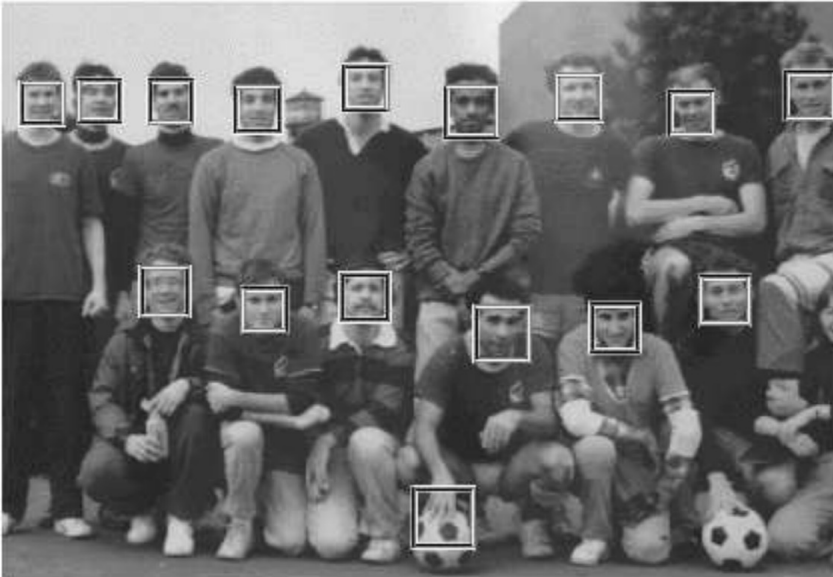
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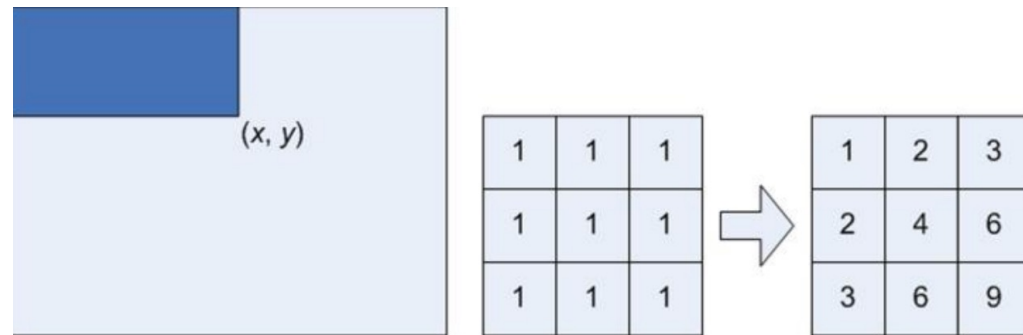
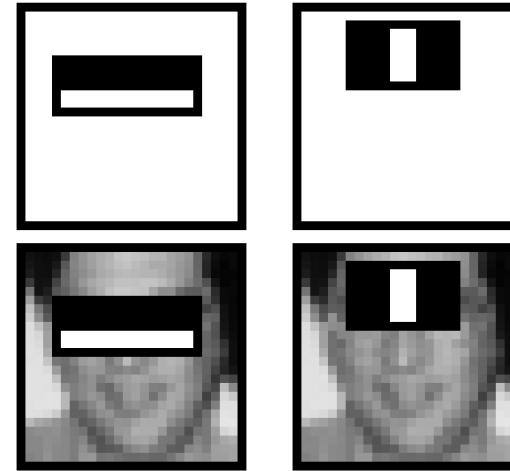
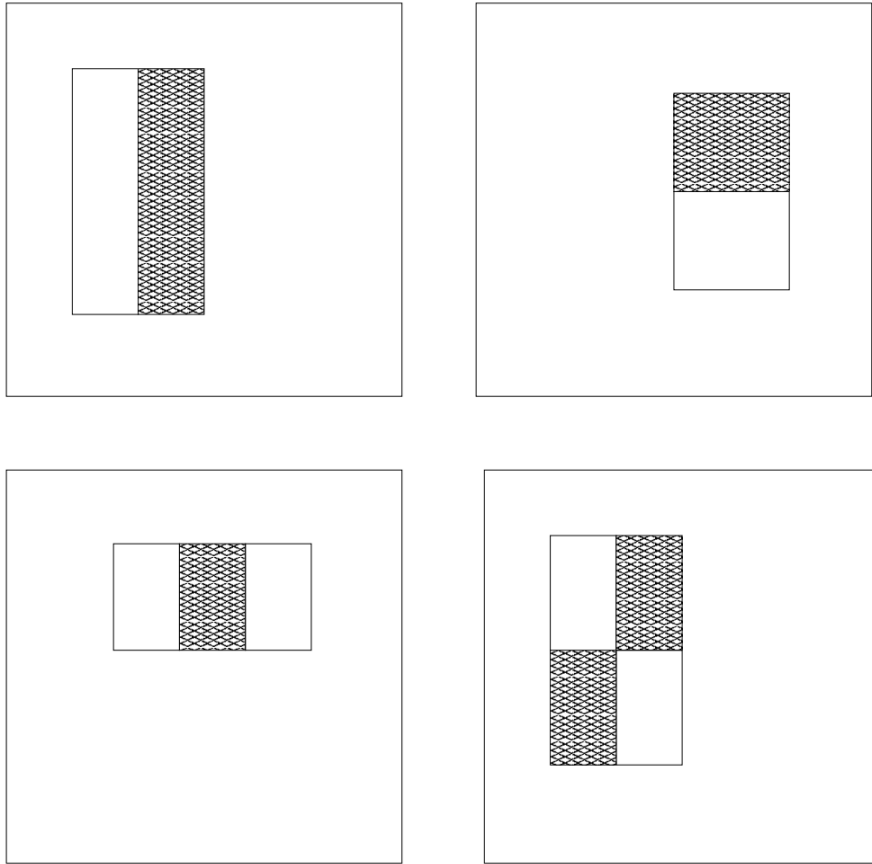
Practical Success of AdaBoost

Viola-Jones Face Detection (2001)

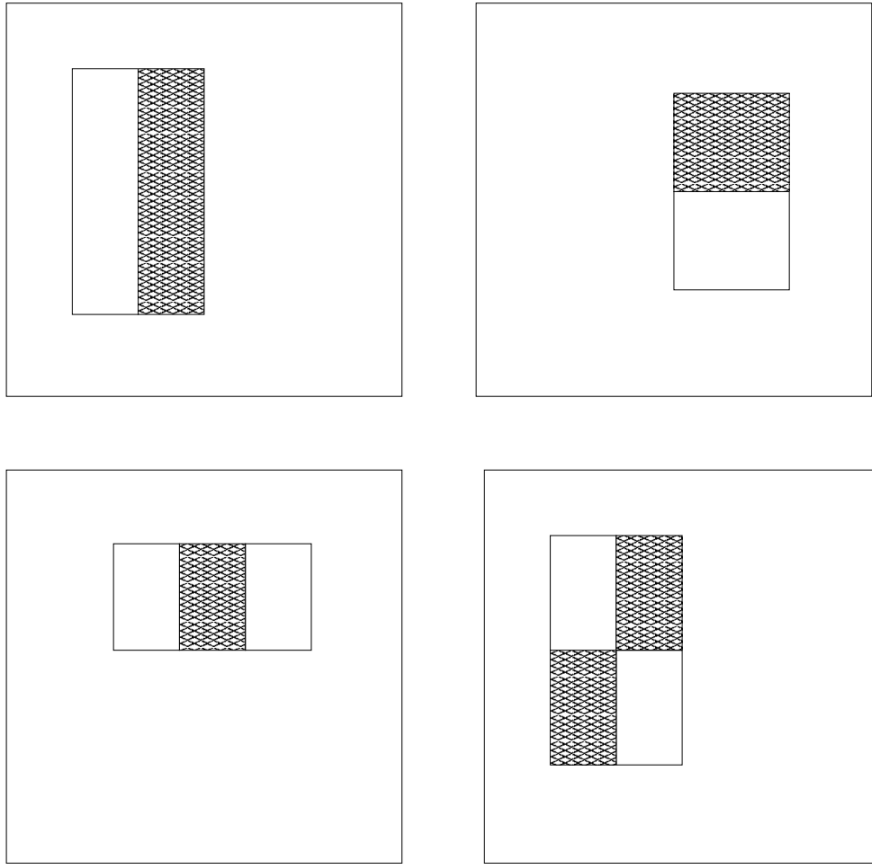
- First real-time object detection framework
- Paul Viola and Michael Jones. Rapid object detection using a boosted cascade of simple features. CVPR 2001.



Weak Learners (Haar wavelet features)



Weak Learners (Haar wavelet features)



- Each hypothesis is very weak.
- There are many possible features.
 - For a 24x24 detection region, more than 160,000 features
- AdaBoost!
 - Training is slow
 - Testing is fast
 - (inherent feature selection)

Brief Discussion on Gradient Boosting

Gradient boosting is **safe to skip** for Exam 2

Look at the AdaBoost Algorithm Again

Given $D = \{(\vec{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\vec{x}_N, y_N)\}$
Initialize $D_1(n) = 1/N$ for all $n = 1, \dots, N$
For $t = 1, \dots, T$
 Learn g_t from D_t (using decision stumps)
 Calculate $\epsilon_t = E_{in}^{(D_t)}(g_t)$
 Set $\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1-\epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$
 Update $D_{t+1}(n) = \frac{1}{Z_t} D_t(n) e^{-\alpha_t y_n g_t(\vec{x}_n)}$
Output $G(\vec{x}) = \text{sign}(\sum_{t=1}^T \alpha_t g_t(\vec{x}))$



Initialize $G(\vec{x}) = 0$
For $t = 1, \dots, T$
 $G(\vec{x}) \leftarrow G(\vec{x}) + \alpha_t g_T(\vec{x})$
Output $\text{sign}(G(\vec{x}))$

- The format is similar to **gradient descent**!
 - If we consider the space of the weak learners (i.e., $g_t(\vec{x})$) as the space of “weights”
 - This observation leads to a general class of boosting algorithms: **gradient boosting**
 - XGBoost is one implementation of gradient boosting that is popular in practice
 - See CASI 17.4 and the reference in CASI P.350 for more discussion

[Safe to Skip]

Gradient Boosting

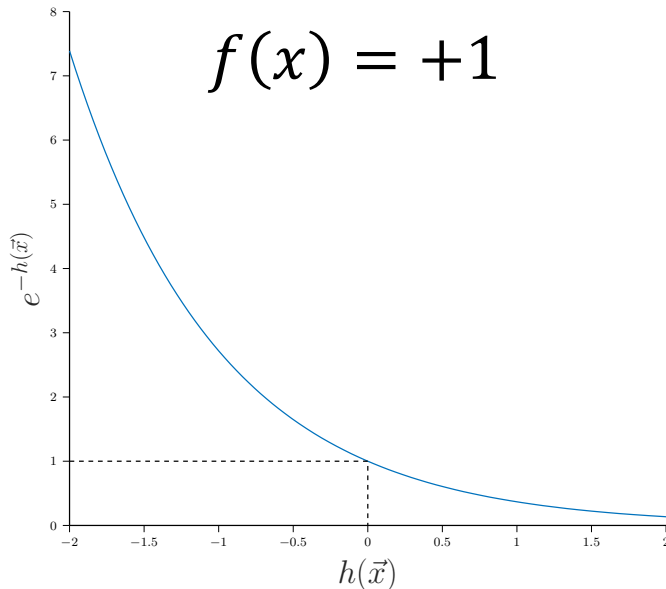
Initialize $G(\vec{x}) = 0$

For $t = 1, \dots, T$

$$G(\vec{x}) \leftarrow G(\vec{x}) + \alpha_t g_T(\vec{x})$$

Output $\text{sign}(G(\vec{x}))$

- AdaBoost is a special case of Gradient Boosting
 - minimizing the exponential **loss** ($e_{\text{exp}}(h(\vec{x}), y) = e^{-yh(\vec{x})}$)
 - using decision stump as the **weak learners**



- e_{exp} is a **surrogate loss function** of the binary classification error we care about
 - Minimizing an alternative error (loss function) is a common trick in ML, especially when the target loss function is hard to optimize.
 - There are some theoretical discussions on when doing this makes sense (“calibration”: whether minimizing the surrogate is consistent with minimizing the original loss).

[Safe to Skip]