# CSE 417T Introduction to Machine Learning

Lecture 5

Instructor: Chien-Ju (CJ) Ho

# Logistics: Homework 1

- Due: September 23 (Friday), 2022
  - http://chienjuho.com/courses/cse417t/hw1.pdf
  - Two submission links: Report and Code (The links will be up over the weekend)
    - Report: Answer all questions, including the implementation question
      - Grades are based on the report
    - Code: Complete and submit hw1.py for Problem 2
      - The code will only be used for correctness checking (when in doubts) and plagiarism checking
  - Reserve time if you never used Gradescope.
    - Make sure to **specify the pages for each problem**. You **won't get points** otherwise

## Logistics: TA Office Hours

Tentative schedule of TA office hours

Monday	9:30am Asher Baraban	3pm Qihang Zhao	
Tuesday	10am Di Huang	1pm Andrew Ruttenberg	4pm Quinn Wai Wong
Wednesday	1pm Wenxuan Zhu	3pm William Sepesi	4:30pm Sylvia Tang
Thursday	11:30am Yuan Liu	4pm Elyse Tang	6:30pm Fankun Zen
Friday	11am Riggie Kong	3pm Nan Huang	5:30pm Weiwei Ma
Sunday	Noon Jonathan Ma	1:30pm Kenneth Li	

- 60 minutes per session; In-person office hours are highlighted in orange
- Please follow Piazza for additional information (location, zoom link, etc)
- Recommendation: Try to utilize the office hour early (way ahead of deadlines), you are likely to get more of TAs' time this way

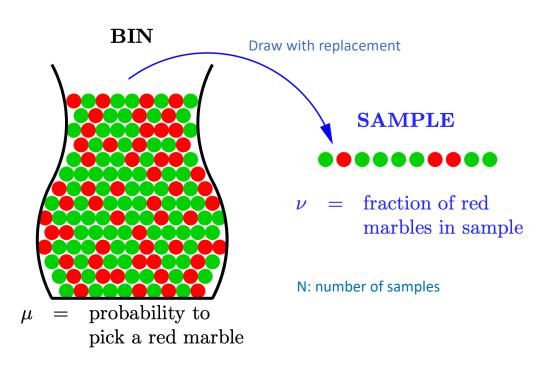
# Logistics: This Thursday Lecture

- A shortened lecture this Thursday (Sep 15)
  - The lecture starts at 3:10pm
  - I need to attend a meeting that I cannot skip

- As a make-up
  - I'll host an additional one-hour office hour next Tuesday
    - 5:30pm 6:30pm at McKelvey 2010A
  - My (tentative) regular office hour
    - 5:30pm 6:30pm Thursday at McKelvey 2010A

# Recap

# Hoeffding's Inequality



$$\Pr[|\mu - \nu| > \epsilon] \le 2e^{-2\epsilon^2 N}$$

Define 
$$\delta = \Pr[|\mu - \nu| > \epsilon]$$

- Fix  $\delta$ ,  $\epsilon$  decreases as N increases
- Fix  $\epsilon$ ,  $\delta$  decreases as N increases
- Fix N,  $\delta$  decreases as  $\epsilon$  increases

Informal intuitions of notations

N: # sample

 $\delta$ : probability of "bad" event

 $\epsilon$ : error of estimation

# Connection to Learning

- Given dataset  $D = \{(\vec{x}_1, y_1), ..., (\vec{x}_N, y_N)\}$ 
  - $E_{in}(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \mathbb{I}[h(\vec{x}_n) \neq f(\vec{x}_n)]$  [In-sample error, analogy to  $\nu$ ]
  - $E_{out}(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Pr_{\vec{x} \sim P(\vec{x})}[h(\vec{x}) \neq f(\vec{x})]$  [Out-of-sample error, analogy to  $\mu$ ]
- Learning bounds
  - Fixed *h* (verification)

$$\Pr[|E_{out}(h) - E_{in}(h)| > \epsilon] \le 2e^{-2\epsilon^2 N}$$

• Finite hypothesis set: learn  $g \in \{h_1, \dots, h_M\}$ 

$$\Pr[|E_{out}(g) - E_{in}(g)| > \epsilon] \le 2Me^{-2\epsilon^2 N}$$

# Dealing with Infinite Hypothesis Set: $M \rightarrow \infty$

- Most of the practical cases involve  $M \to \infty$
- Instead of # hypothesis, counting "effective" # hypothesis
- Dichotomies
  - Informally, consider a dichotomy as "data-dependent" hypothesis
  - Characterized by both H and N data points  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$

$$H(\vec{x}_1, ... \vec{x}_N) = \{(h(\vec{x}_1), ..., h(\vec{x}_N)) | h \in H\}$$

• The set of possible prediction combinations  $h \in H$  can induce on  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N$ 

### Growth function

• Largest number of dichotomies H can induce across all possible data sets of size N

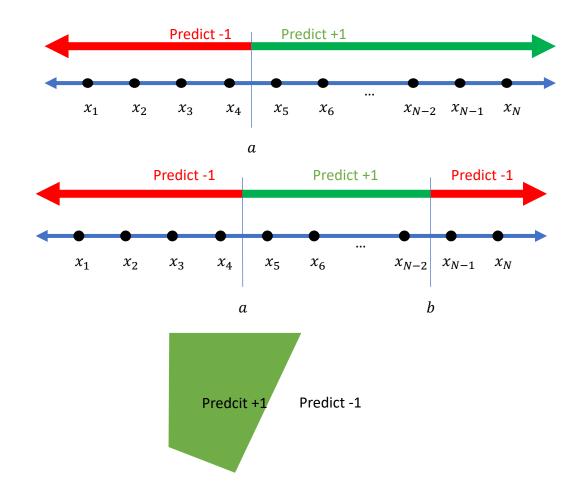
$$m_H(N) = \max_{(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N)} |H(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N)|$$

# Examples on Growth Functions

- H = Positive rays
  - $m_H(N) = N + 1$
- H = Positive intervals

• 
$$m_H(N) = {N+1 \choose 2} + 1 = \frac{N^2}{2} + \frac{N}{2} + 1$$

- *H* = Convex sets
  - $m_H(N) = 2^N$



- For all H and for all N
  - $m_H(N) \le 2^N$

# Why Growth Function?

- Growth function  $m_H(N)$ 
  - Largest number of "effective" hypothesis H can induce on N data points
  - A more precise "complexity" measure for *H*
  - Goal: Replace M in finite-hypothesis analysis with  $m_H(N)$

• With prob at least 
$$1 - \delta$$
,  $E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2N} ln \frac{2M}{\delta}}$ 

• VC Generalization Bound (VC Inequality, 1971) With prob at least  $1-\delta$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{8}{N} ln \frac{4m_H(2N)}{\delta}}$$

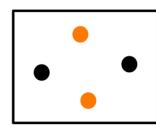
[We will skip the proof of the VC bound. You can find it in the textbook appendix if you are interested.]

# 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.

# Bounding Growth Function

- What we know so far
  - $H = Positive rays: m_H(N) = N + 1$
  - $H = \text{Positive intervals: } m_H(N) = \binom{N+1}{2} + 1$
  - $H = \text{Convex sets: } m_H(N) = 2^N$
- What about H = 2-D Perceptron?
  - $m_H(3) = 8$
  - $m_H(4) = 14$
  - $m_H(5) = ?$



- Generally hard to write down the growth function exactly
  - Goal: "bound" the growth function using some proxy

# Bounding Growth Function

- More definitions....
  - Shatter:
    - *H* shatters  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$  if  $|H(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)| = 2^N$
    - H can induce all label combinations for  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$
  - Break point
    - k is a break point for H if no data set of size k can be shattered by H
- A peek at the key result (take this as a fact for now)
  - If there are no break points for H,  $m_H(N) = 2^N$
  - If k is a break point for H,  $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N.

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In particular, m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})
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#### A bit more accurately:

- $m_H(N) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} {N \choose i}$ , or
- $m_H(N) \le N^{k-1} + 1$

#### Dichotomies

- Informally, consider a dichotomy as a "data-dependent" hypothesis
- Characterized by both hypothesis set H and N data points  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$

$$H(\vec{x}_1, ... \vec{x}_N) = \{(h(\vec{x}_1), ..., h(\vec{x}_N)) | h \in H\}$$

- The set of possible prediction combinations  $h \in H$  can induce on  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N$
- Growth function
  - Largest number of dichotomies H can induce across all possible data sets of size N

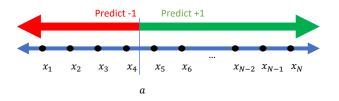
$$m_H(N) = \max_{(\vec{x}_1,...,\vec{x}_N)} |H(\vec{x}_1,...,\vec{x}_N)|$$

#### Shatter:

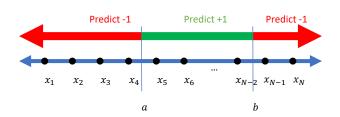
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- Break point
  - k is a break point for H if no data set of size k can be shattered by H

### What are the break points for

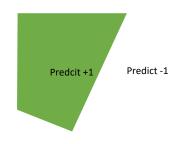
#### 1. Positive Rays



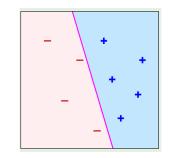
#### 2. Positive Intervals



#### 3. Convex Sets



#### 4. 2-D Perceptron



#### Dichotomies

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• The set of possible prediction combinations  $h \in H$  can induce on  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N$ 

#### Growth function

• Largest number of dichotomies H can induce across all possible data sets of size N

$$m_H(N) = \max_{(\vec{x}_1,...,\vec{x}_N)} |H(\vec{x}_1,...,\vec{x}_N)|$$

#### • Shatter:

- *H* shatters  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$  if  $|H(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)| = 2^N$
- H can induce all label combinations for  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$
- Break point
  - k is a break point for H if no data set of size k can be shattered by H

 $m_H(N)$ 

$$m_H(N)$$

$$N=1$$

$$N=2$$

$$N=3$$

$$N=4$$

**Break Points** 

$$N+1$$
 Positive Rays

$$\frac{N^2}{2} + \frac{N}{2} + 1$$
 Positive Intervals

2<sup>N</sup> Convex Sets

2D Perceptron

2D Perceptron

#### Dichotomies

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$m_H$	(N)
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$$m_H(N)$$
 N=1 N=2 N=3 N=4 N=5 Break Points N+1 Positive Rays 2 3 4 5 6  $k=2,3,4,...$  Positive Intervals  $\frac{N^2}{2} + \frac{N}{2} + 1$  Positive Intervals Convex Sets

#### Dichotomies

- Informally, consider a dichotomy as a "data-dependent" hypothesis
- Characterized by both hypothesis set H and N data points  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$

$$H(\vec{x}_1, ... \vec{x}_N) = \{(h(\vec{x}_1), ..., h(\vec{x}_N)) | h \in H\}$$

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#### Growth function

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• Largest number of dichotomies H can induce across all possible data sets of size N

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- *H* shatters  $(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)$  if  $|H(\vec{x}_1, ..., \vec{x}_N)| = 2^N$
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$m_H(I)$	V)
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$m_H(N)$		N=1	N=2	N=3	N=4	N=5	Break Points
N + 1	Positive Rays	2	3	4	5	6	k = 2,3,4,
$\frac{N^2}{2} + \frac{N}{2} + 1$	Positive Intervals	2	4	7	11	16	k = 3,4,5,
$2^N$	Convex Sets	2	4	8	16	32	None
	2D Perceptron	2	4	8	14	?	k = 4,5,6,

# Why Break Points?

- Theorem statement (Again, take it as a fact for now)
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, i.e., if  $m_H(k) < 2^k$  for some value k, then  $m_H(N) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \binom{N}{i}$
- The above theorem can be rephrased below:
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, the following statements are true
    - $m_H(N) \le N^{k-1} + 1$  [Can be proven using induction. See LFD Problem 2.5]
    - $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$
    - $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N
- We can "bound" the growth function without knowing it exactly.
  - Find break point!

### Recall the VC Generalization Bound

• VC Generalization Bound With prob  $1-\delta$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{8}{N}} \ln \frac{4m_H(2N)}{\delta}$$

• In the following discussion, we treat  $\delta$  as a constant [i.e., with high probability, the following is true]

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\ln m_H(N)}\right)$$

[For example, we can set  $\delta$  to be a small constant, say 0.01. Then every time we wrote the above inequality, we mean that it is true with probability at least 99%.]

# Applying Break Points in VC Bound

VC Bound:

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\ln m_H(N)}\right)$$



- Rephrase the above theorem
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, the following statements are true
    - $m_H(N) \le N^{k-1} + 1$  [Can be proven using induction. See LFD Problem 2.5]
    - $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$
    - $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N
- If there are no break point  $(m_H(N) = 2^N)$

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O(1)$$

(This implies that we can't infer  $E_{out}$  from  $E_{in}$  even when  $N \to \infty$ )

• If k is a break point for H, i.e.,  $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{(k-1)\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$

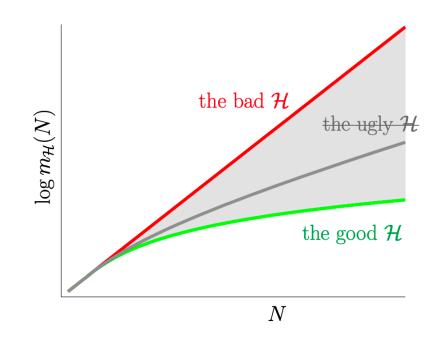
### H is Either Good or Bad

- Rephrase the above theorem
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, the following statements are true
    - $m_H(N) \le N^{k-1} + 1$  [Can be proven using induction. See LFD Problem 2.5]
    - $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$
    - $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N
- The growth function of *H* is either one of the two
  - Without break points,  $m_H(N) = 2^N$
  - With some break point,  $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N (it can be bounded more tightly using the theorem)
  - There is nothing in between!
- Bad hypothesis set

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O(1)$$

• Good hypothesis set  $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{(k-1)\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$



### VC Dimension

- VC Dimension of  $H: d_{vc}(H)$  or  $d_{vc}$ 
  - The VC dimension of H is the largest N such that  $m_H(N) = 2^N$ .
    - $d_{vc}(H) = \infty$  if  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - Or, let  $k^*$  be the smallest break point for H, the VC dimension of H is  $k^*-1$

	N=1	N=2	N=3	N=4	N=5	<b>Break Points</b>	VC Dimension
Positive Rays	2	3	4	5	6	k = 2,3,4,	
Positive Intervals	2	4	7	11	16	k = 3,4,5,	
Convex Sets	2	4	8	16	32	None	
2D Perceptron	2	4	8	14	?	k = 4,5,6,	

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	$m_H(N)$								
	N=1	N=2	N=3	N=4	N=5	<b>Break Points</b>	VC Dimension		
Positive Rays	2	3	4	5	6	k = 2,3,4,	1		
Positive Intervals	2	4	7	11	16	k = 3,4,5,	2		
Convex Sets	2	4	8	16	32	None	$\infty$		
2D Perceptron	2	4	8	14	?	k = 4,5,6,	3		

### **VC** Dimension

- VC Dimension of  $H: d_{vc}(H)$  or  $d_{vc}$ 
  - The VC dimension of H is the largest N such that  $m_H(N) = 2^N$ .
    - $d_{vc}(H) = \infty$  if  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - Or, let  $k^*$  be the smallest break point for H, the VC dimension of H is  $k^*-1$

Plug the definition into VC Generalization Bound

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$

• If there are no break point 
$$(m_H(N)=2^N)$$

$$E_{out}(g) \leq E_{in}(g) + O(1)$$
(This implies that we can't infer  $E_{out}$  from  $E_{in}$  even when  $N \to \infty$ )
• If  $k$  is a break point for  $H$ , i.e.,  $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$ 

 $E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{(k-1)\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$ 

# All models are wrong but some are useful



George E.P. Box

VC Bound

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{d_{VC}\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$

- Built on top of the i.i.d. data assumption
- The bound is "loose"
  - Depends only on H and N
  - The analysis is loose in many places
- However, it qualitatively characterizes the practice reasonably well
  - (the bound is roughly equally loose for every H)

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$

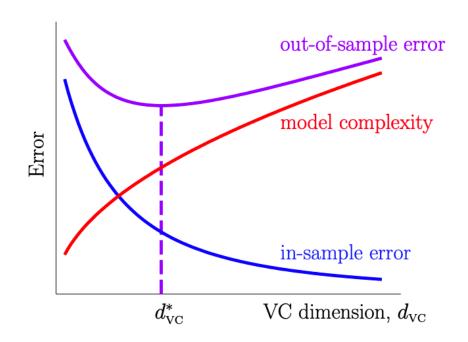
- Goal of learning: Minimize  $E_{out}(g)$
- How to achieve that
  - Minimize  $E_{in}(g)$ 
    - Choose a hypothesis set with large  $d_{VC}$  (complex hypothesis likely fit data better)
  - Minimize generalization error
    - Choose a hypothesis with small  $d_{VC}$
    - Have a lot of data points to train on (N is large)
- Think about the high-level tradeoff of choosing  $d_{VC}$  and its dependency on N

- It establishes the feasibility of learning for infinite hypothesis set
- It provides nice intuitions on what's happening underneath ML
  - A single parameter to characterize complexity of H

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right) \qquad \text{ if } \qquad \qquad \text{VC dimension, } d_{\text{VC}}$$

- It establishes the feasibility of learning for infinite hypothesis set.
- It provides nice intuitions on what's happening underneath ML.
  - A single parameter to characterize complexity of H

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{d_{VC}\frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$



# Sample Complexity

- Sample complexity:
  - Analogy to time/space complexity
  - How many data points do we need to achieve generalization error less than  $\epsilon$  with prob  $1-\delta$ ?
- Recall the (full) VC Bound:

With prob at least 
$$1 - \delta$$
,  $E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{8}{N} ln \frac{4((2N)^{d_{vc}+1)}}{\delta}}$ 

How to determine the sample complexity?

• Set 
$$\sqrt{\frac{8}{N} ln \frac{4((2N)^{d_{vc}+1)}}{\delta}} \le \epsilon$$

• We get 
$$N \ge \frac{8}{\epsilon^2} ln \left( \frac{4(1 + (2N)^d VC)}{\delta} \right)$$

• 
$$N \propto 1/\epsilon^2$$

• 
$$N = O(d_{vc} \ln N)$$

• Empirically, people roughly  $N \propto d_{vc}$ 

### Test Set

- Goal of learning: Minimize  $E_{out}(g)$
- Can we estimate  $E_{out}$  directly?
  - Reserve a test set  $(D_{test})$  before learning
  - Ensure  $D_{test}$  is not used at all in any way for learning
  - For  $D_{test}$ , g is a "fixed" hypothesis and standard Hoeffding's inequality is valid
  - Let  $E_{test}(g)$  be the error in the test set

$$P\{|E_{test}(g) - E_{out}(g)| > \epsilon\} \le 2e^{-2\epsilon^2 N_{test}}$$
 where  $N_{test} = |D_{test}|$ 

### Test Set

- Test set is great: we can obtain an unbiased estimate of  $E_{out}$
- At what cost?
  - We have a finite amount of data
  - Data points in test set cannot be involved in learning at all
  - More points in test set
    - Better estimate of *E*<sub>out</sub>
    - Less data points in training set -> often leads to worse learned hypothesis

- Practical rule of thumb (i.e., a common heuristic, not really a gold rule)
  - 80% for training, 20% for testing

# Proof: Bounding Growth Functions

# Recall: Theorem in Bounding Growth Function

- Theorem statement:
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, i.e., if  $m_H(k) < 2^k$  for some value k, then

$$m_H(N) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} {N \choose i}$$

- You were asked to take this as a fact
- Will provide proof sketch now

# Proof Sketch

[See LFD Section 2.1.2 for the formal proof]

[Safe to Skip] (This proof won't appear in exams/homework)

# Key Intuitions

- When there exist a break point k
  - No datasets of size k can be shattered
  - It also imposes strong constraints on dataset of size k' > k
    - No subset of data with size k can be shattered
  - This leads to the bound  $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$

#### **Proof Intuitions**

Max # dichotomies you can list on 2 points when no 2 points can be shattered

#### **Proof Intuitions**

Max # dichotomies you can list on 4 points when no 2 points can be shattered

$\vec{x}_1$	$\vec{x}_2$	$\vec{x}_3$	$\vec{x}_4$
+1	+1	+1	+1
+1	+1	+1	-1
+1	+1	-1	+1
+1	-1	+1	+1
-1	+1	+1	+1

Can you add an additional dichotomy?

#### **Proof Intuitions**

• How "no 2 points are shattered" impacts the scenario with 4 points?

_	$\vec{x}_1$	$\vec{x}_2$	$\vec{x}_3$	$\vec{x}_4$	$(\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3)$ appear twice, with different $\vec{x}_4$	
	+1	+1	+1	+1	No 1 point is shattered	
	+1	+1	+1	-1		
	+1	+1	-1	+1	$(\overrightarrow{x}, \overrightarrow{x}, \overrightarrow{x})$ appear once	
	+1	-1	+1	+1	$(\vec{x}_1,\vec{x}_2,\vec{x}_3)$ appear once (including one in each of the pair $\vec{x}_1$	
	-1	+1	+1	+1	No 2 points are shattered	

#### **Proof Intuitions**

Max # dichotomies you can list on 4 points when no 2 points can be shattered

No 1 point is shattered

_	$\vec{x}_1$	$\vec{x}_2$	$\vec{x}_3$	$\vec{x}_4$
	+1	+1	+1	+1
	+1	+1	+1	-1
	+1	+1	-1	+1
	+1	-1	+1	+1
	-1	+1	+1	+1

No 2 points are shattered

B(N, k): max # dichotomies on N points when no k points are shattered

A recursive definition:

$$B(N,k) \leq B(N-1,k) + B(N-1,k-1)$$

Sauer's Lemma:  $B(N, k) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} {N \choose i}$ 

Can be proved by induction

 $B(N, k) \le \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} {N \choose i}$  is the bound of  $m_H(N)$  for H with break point k

# Summary: Bounding Growth Functions

- Theorem statement:
  - If there is no break point for H, then  $m_H(N) = 2^N$  for all N.
  - If k is a break point for H, i.e., if  $m_H(k) < 2^k$  for some value k, then

$$m_H(N) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} {N \choose i}$$

- Rephrase the 2<sup>nd</sup> statement of the above theorem
  - If k is a break point for H, the following statements are true
    - $m_H(N) \le N^{k-1} + 1$  [Can be proven using induction from above. See LFD Problem 2.5]
    - $m_H(N) = O(N^{k-1})$
    - $m_H(N)$  is polynomial in N
  - If  $d_{vc}$  is the VC dimension of H, then
    - $m_H(N) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{d_{vc}} {N \choose i}$
    - $m_H(N) \leq N^{d_{vc}} + 1$
    - $m_H(N) = O(N^{d_{vc}})$

If  $d_{vc}$  is the VC dimension of H,  $d_{vc} + 1$  is a break point for H

# Summary: Vapnik-Chervonenkis (VC) Bound

• VC Generalization Bound With prob at least  $1-\delta$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{8}{N} ln \frac{4m_H(2N)}{\delta}}$$

• Let  $d_{vc}$  be the VC dimension of H, we have  $m_H(N) \leq N^{d_{vc}} + 1$ . With prob at least  $1 - \delta$ 

$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + \sqrt{\frac{8}{N} ln \frac{4((2N)^{d_{vc}+1)}}{\delta}}$$

• If we treat  $\delta$  as a constant, then we can say, with high probability

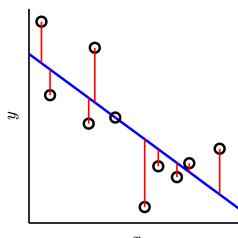
$$E_{out}(g) \le E_{in}(g) + O\left(\sqrt{d_{vc} \frac{\ln N}{N}}\right)$$

# Bias-Variance Decomposition

Another theory of generalization

# Real-Value Target and Squared Error

- So far, we focus on binary target function and binary error
  - Binary target function  $f(\vec{x}) \in \{-1,1\}$
  - Binary error  $e(h(\vec{x}), f(\vec{x})) = \mathbb{I}[h(\vec{x}) \neq f(\vec{x})]$
- Real-value functions ["regression"] and squared error?
  - Real-value target function  $f(\vec{x}) \in \mathbb{R}$
  - Square error  $e(h(\vec{x}), f(\vec{x})) = (h(\vec{x}) f(\vec{x}))^2$



# Real-Value Target and Squared Error

- Real-value functions [called "regression"] and squared error
  - Real-value target function  $f(\vec{x}) \in \mathbb{R}$
  - Squared error  $e(h(\vec{x}), f(\vec{x})) = (h(\vec{x}) f(\vec{x}))^2$

#### • Errors:

- In-sample error:  $E_{in}(g) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} e(h(\vec{x}_n), f(\vec{x}_n)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (h(\vec{x}_n) f(\vec{x}_n))^2$
- Out-of-sample error:  $E_{out}(g) = \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}[e(h(\vec{x}), f(\vec{x}))] = \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}[(g(\vec{x}) f(\vec{x}))^2]$
- Theory of generalization: What can we say about  $E_{out}(g)$ ?

- Note that g is learned by some algorithm on the dataset D
  - We'll make the dependency on D explicit and write it as  $g^{(D)}$  here.
  - [In VC theory, we consider the worst-case D through the definition of growth function  $m_H(N)$ ]

• 
$$E_{out}(g^{(D)}) = \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}[(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}))^2]$$

• 
$$\mathbb{E}_D[E_{out}(g^{(D)})]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_D \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}} \left[ \left( g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}) \right)^2 \right] \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}} \left| \mathbb{E}_D \left[ \left( g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x}) + \bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}) \right)^2 \right] \right|$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}} \left[ \mathbb{E}_D \left[ \left( g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x}) + \bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}) \right)^2 \right] \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{D} \left[ \left( g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x}) \right)^{2} + \left( \bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}) \right)^{2} + 2 \left( g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x}) \right) \left( \bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}) \right) \right] \right]$$

• Note that 
$$\mathbb{E}_D\left[\left(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x})\right)\left(\bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})\right)\right] = \left(\bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})\right)\mathbb{E}_D\left[\left(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x})\right)\right] = 0$$

Define "expected" hypothesis  $\bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \mathbb{E}_D[g^{(D)}(\vec{x})]$ 

#### $\bar{g}(\vec{x}) = \mathbb{E}_D \big[ g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) \big]$

# Finishing Up

• 
$$\mathbb{E}_{D}\left[E_{out}(g^{(D)})\right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}\left[\mathbb{E}_{D}\left[\left(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x})\right)^{2} + \left(\bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})\right)^{2}\right]\right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}\left[\mathbb{E}_{D}\left[\left(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x})\right)^{2}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}\left[\left(\bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})\right)^{2}\right]$$

- $= \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}} \left[ \text{Variance of } g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) + \text{Bias of } \bar{g}(\vec{x}) \right]$
- = Variance + Bias

Bias-Variance Decomposition

X: a random variable  $\mu$ : the mean of X

Variance of X:  $Var(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2]$ 

#### Discussion

$$\operatorname{Bias}(\vec{x}) \qquad \qquad \operatorname{Var}(\vec{x})$$

$$\bullet \ \mathbb{E}_{D}[E_{out}(g^{(D)})] = \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}\left[\left(\bar{g}(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})\right)^{2}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{\vec{x}}\left[\mathbb{E}_{D}\left[\left(g^{(D)}(\vec{x}) - \bar{g}(\vec{x})\right)^{2}\right]\right]$$

- This is a conceptual decomposition
  - Both  $\bar{g}$  and f are unknown
  - We can't really calculate bias and variance in practice
- However, it provides a conceptual guideline in decreasing  $E_{out}$