

1 Introduction

1.1 Reminders

Hoeffding inequality : For X_1, \dots, X_n which is Independent Identically Distributed (IID) with $\mathbb{P}(0 \leq X_1 \leq 1) = 1$

$$\mu := \mathbb{E}X_1 (= \mathbb{E}X_2 = \dots = \mathbb{E}X_n)$$

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \mu \geq \varepsilon\right) \leq \exp(-2n\varepsilon^2)$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mu - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq \varepsilon\right) \leq \exp(-2n\varepsilon^2)$$

As per triangle inequality : $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\left|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \mu\right| \geq \varepsilon\right) \leq 2\exp(-2n\varepsilon^2)$$

1.2 Goal

We want to have results like the following one :
 $S = \{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$, IID sample (lets imagine binary classification) :
 $\forall f \in \mathcal{F}$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$ (over S),

$$\mathcal{R}(f, D) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) + \varepsilon(\delta, n, \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{F}))$$

which is uniform generalization bound.
or, equivalently,

$$\mathbb{P}_{S \sim D^n}(\exists f \in \mathcal{F} : (\mathcal{R}(f, D) \geq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) + \varepsilon(\delta, n, \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{F}))) \leq \delta$$

2 Today

— The case of countable and finite \mathcal{F} .

$$|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$$

— The case where we don't have $|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$, and where we're going to use the Vapnik–Chervonenkis dimension (VC dimension or VC dim)

2.1 The case $|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$:

Let $f \in \mathcal{F}$

$$\hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}_{f(x_i) \neq y_i}$$

Note : we can use other loss functions

$$\mathcal{R}(f, D) := \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{1}_{f(x_1) \neq y_1}) = \mathbb{P}(f(x_1) \neq y_1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{R}_D(f) = \mathbb{E}_S \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S)$$

which is linearity of \mathbb{E} and IID-ness of S

- According to Hoeffding inequality, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}(|\hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) - \mathcal{R}(f, D)| \geq \varepsilon) \leq 2 \exp(-2n\varepsilon^2)$$

remember that

- $\mathbf{1}_{f(x_i) \neq y_i}$ are IID
- $\mu = \mathbb{E} \mathbf{1}_{f(x_i) \neq y_i}$
- $\frac{1}{n} \sum \mathbf{1}_{f(x_i) \neq y_i}$ = sample average

or, using the one-sided inequality :

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{R}(f, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) \geq \varepsilon) \leq \exp(-2n\varepsilon^2)$$

So, given the previous result, we can state that,

$\forall f \in \mathcal{F}$, with probability $1 - \delta$,

$$\mathcal{R}(f, D) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log \frac{1}{\delta}} \dots \dots \dots (2.1.1)$$

* **Proof :** Impose $\exp(-2n\varepsilon^2) \leq \delta$

$$\exp(-2n\varepsilon^2) = \delta$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -2n\varepsilon^2 = \log \delta$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 2n\varepsilon^2 = \log \frac{1}{\delta}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \varepsilon' = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log \frac{1}{\delta}}$$

Remarks on (2.1.1) :

- The rate of the bound is $O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}})$
- It's not a uniform generalization bound because ,
" $\forall f \in \mathcal{F}$ " and " $\text{prob} 1 - \delta$ " are inverted
- To get a uniform generalization bound, we would rather look at achieving result like :

$$\mathbb{P}(\exists f \in \mathcal{F} : (\mathcal{R}(f, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) \geq \varepsilon) \leq \delta$$

! Remember :

$$\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) - \mathbb{P}(A \cap B) \leq \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B)$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \mathbb{P}(\{\mathcal{R}(f_1, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f_1, S) \geq \mathcal{E}\} \\
&\quad \text{or} \{\mathcal{R}(f_2, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f_2, S) \geq \mathcal{E}\} \\
&\quad \text{or} \dots \\
&\quad \text{or} \{\mathcal{R}(f_{|\mathcal{F}|}, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f_{|\mathcal{F}|}, S) \geq \mathcal{E}\}) \\
&\leq \sum_{p=1}^{|\mathcal{F}|} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{R}(f_p, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f_p, S) \geq \mathcal{E}) \quad (\text{Union bound}) \\
&\leq \sum_{p=1}^{|\mathcal{F}|} \exp(-2n\mathcal{E}^2) \quad (\text{Hoeffding inequality}) \\
&= |\mathcal{F}| \exp(-2n\mathcal{E}^2)
\end{aligned}$$

As before, we're solving :

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathcal{F}| \exp(-2n\mathcal{E}^2) &= \delta \\
\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{E} &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log \frac{1}{\delta}}
\end{aligned}$$

Given this \mathcal{E} , we have,

$$\mathbb{P}(\exists f \in \mathcal{F} : \mathcal{R}(f, D) - \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) \geq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log \frac{|\mathcal{F}|}{\delta}}) \leq \delta$$

So that, with probability $1 - \delta$,

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \mathcal{R}(f, D) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log \frac{|\mathcal{F}|}{\delta}}$$

! Remarks :

1. We used the "union bound".
2. We used the fact that $|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$
3. $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{F}) = |\mathcal{F}|$, $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{F})$ is the complexity/capacity = The number of functions we have.
4. "In practice", it is very rare to be in the case where $|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$
5. VC dimension helps us to cope with the situation where $|\mathcal{F}| < +\infty$ does not hold.

2.2 Vapnik–Chervonenkis dimension/VC dimension :

VC (Vapnik-Chervonenkis) dimension is a concept in machine learning and statistical learning theory that measures the capacity or expressiveness of a hypothesis set (a set of functions or classifiers) in its ability to shatter a set of data points.

High level idea :

$$\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{X \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}\}$$

e.g.

$$\mathcal{F} = \{x \mapsto \text{sign}(w \bullet x), w \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$$

If we have n points, $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$,
then,

$$|\mathcal{F}_S| := |\{(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n)), f \in \mathcal{F}\}| \leq 2^n$$

The VC dimension is important because it helps us understand the trade-off between the complexity of a hypothesis set and its ability to fit arbitrary data.

(!) In VC dimension we're going to look at the following situation :

$$\sup_{S \cup |S|=n} |\mathcal{F}_S| < 2^n$$

Definition 1. *Restriction of \mathcal{F} to a sample :*

$$\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{-1, +1\}^X (\equiv \{X \mapsto \{-1, +1\}\})$$

$$S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, x_i \in X \forall i$$

$$\mathcal{F}_S := \{(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n)) : f \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

Note : Sometimes in the literature we can see a "functional" way of writing things

$$\mathcal{F}_S := \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n)) : f \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

Definition 2. *Shattered set :*

Let $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. We say that S is shattered by \mathcal{F} if $|\mathcal{F}_S| = 2^n$. In other words we can realize all the labellings on S given \mathcal{F} .

Definition 3. *VC dim/Vapnik-Chervonenkis dimension :*

The VC dimension of \mathcal{F} is the size of the largest set that is shattered by \mathcal{F}

It may happen that, $\text{VC dim}(\mathcal{F}) = +\infty$

! Notes :

- Vc dimension appeared in the 70's.
- Connected to "Computational Machine Learning".
- Connected to the Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) framework of learning, that took into consideration Complexity (from a computer science point of view)- NP classes dividable problems.

2.2.1 Examples of VC dimension for some classes of functions

- The VC dimension of axis-aligned rectangles is 4. Everything that is inside the rec-

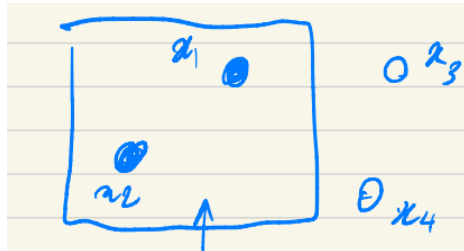


FIGURE 1 – Classification example with a rectangle $\text{ib } \mathcal{F}$

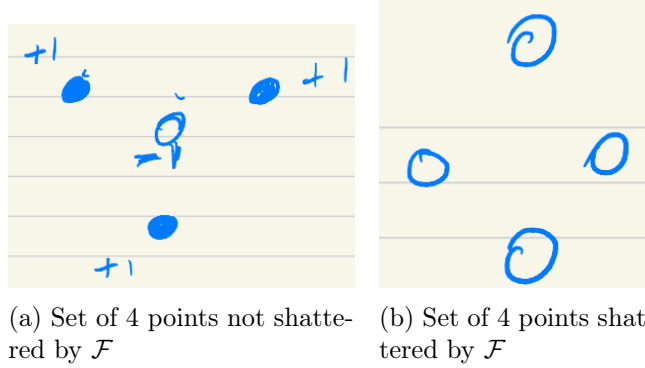


FIGURE 2 – Example configuration of set, S with $|S| = 4$

tangle above (Fig.1) is classified as a positive instance by the rectangle.

It's fine that for this conjugation of points (Fig.2.a) we can not realize all labellings here BUT there exists a conjugation of 4 points (Fig.2.b) such that all labellings are possible.

This conjugation is shattered by the class of rectangles.

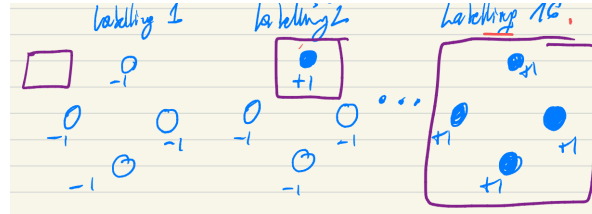


FIGURE 3 – All possible labelling of S from Fig.2.b

But if we take 5 points that the axis aligned rectangle delimited by the max and min X values and the max-min y values has a conjugation that can't be realized.

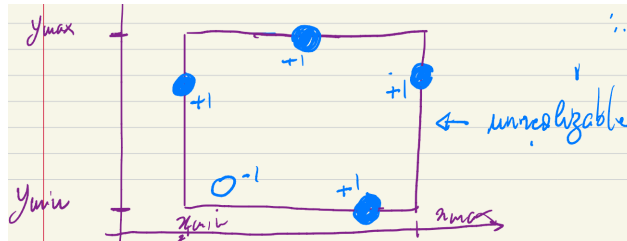


FIGURE 4 – How S can not be shattered example

- The VC dimension of hyperplanes in dimension d is $d + 1$. e.g. The VC dim of $d = 2$ is $VCdim(\mathcal{F}) = 3$ (Fig.5)

If we're looking at 4 points :

The XOR situation can't be handled by the hyperplanes.

Definition 4. Growth function : The growth function $\Pi_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{N} \mapsto \mathbb{N}$ is

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{F}}(n) := \max_{S \subseteq \mathcal{X}, |S|=n} |\mathcal{F}_S|$$

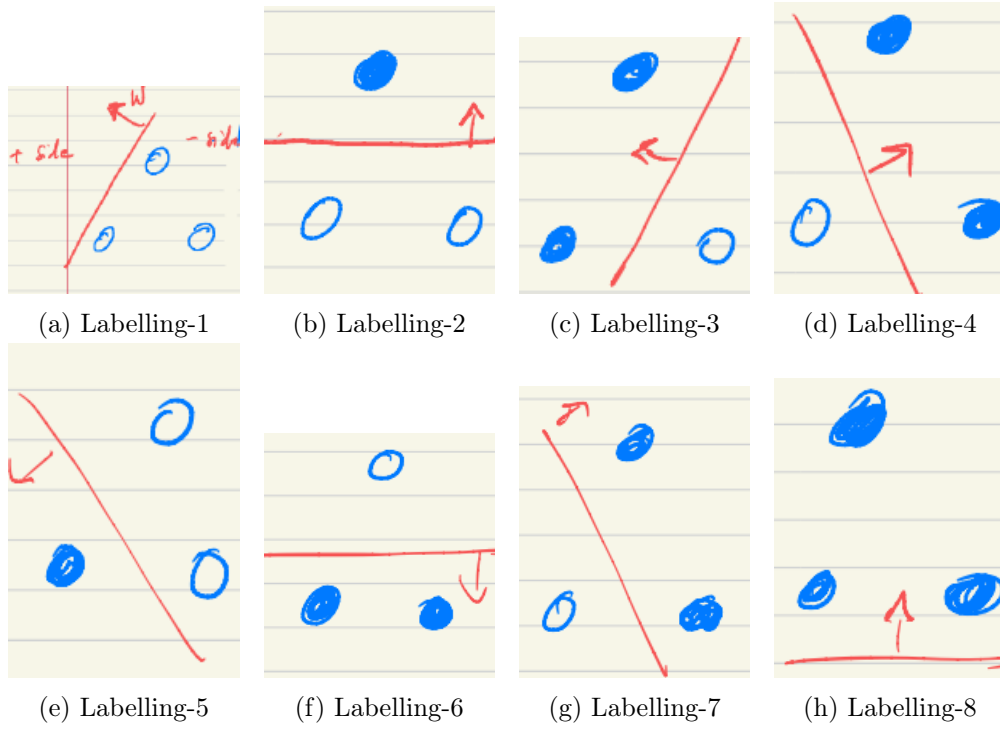


FIGURE 5 – All possible labellings of S with $|S| = 3$



FIGURE 6 – S not being shattered with 4 points

! **Remark** : If $VCdim(\mathcal{F}) = d$, then

$$\forall n \leq d, \Pi_{\mathcal{F}}(n) = 2^n$$

2.3 VC dimension and generalization error bound :

Theorem 1. Let $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{-1, +1\}^{\mathcal{X}}$ with $d := VC - dim(\mathcal{F}) < +\infty$, with probability $1 - \delta$,

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{R}(f, D) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n + \sqrt{\frac{2d \ln(\frac{en}{d})}{n}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \ln \frac{1}{\delta}}\right)$$

when $\ln e = 1$

! **Reminder** : With the Rademacher complexity :

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{R}(f, D) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n(f, S) + Rad(\mathcal{F}, S) + \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \ln \frac{1}{\delta}}\right)$$

Proof of the theorem :

- Massart's lemma.
- Bound on the growth function using the Rademacher complexity.
- Sauer's lemma.

Lemma 1. *Massart's lemma :*

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n$ independent.

Rademacher variables ($\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_i = +1) = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}_i = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$)

Let $\gamma := \sup_{a \in A} \|a\|_2$ then,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n} \left[\sup_{a \in A} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i \right] \leq \gamma \frac{\sqrt{2 \ln |A|}}{n}$$

$\mathcal{E}_i a_i$ is the i -th component of a .

Proof :

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(\lambda \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} [\sup_{a \in A} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i]) &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} [\exp(\lambda \sup_{a \in A} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i)] \\ &\quad (\text{Convexity of exp and property of Jensen inequality}) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} [\sup_{a \in A} \exp(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i)] \quad (\text{exp is increasing}) \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} [\sum_{a \in A} \exp(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i)] \\ &= \sum_{a \in A} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} \exp(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i) \\ &= \sum_{a \in A} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}} [\prod_{i=1}^n \exp(\lambda \mathcal{E}_i a_i)] \\ &= \sum_{a \in A} \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_i} \exp(\lambda \mathcal{E}_i a_i) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{a \in A} \prod_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{1}{2} \exp(-\lambda a_i) + \frac{1}{2} \exp(\lambda a_i) \right] \\
&= \sum_{a \in A} \prod_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{1}{2} \exp(-\lambda a_i) + \frac{1}{2} \exp(\lambda a_i) \right] \\
&\leq \sum_{a \in A} \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2 a_i^2}{2}\right) \quad \left[a s \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} \leq e^{\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] \\
&= \sum_{a \in A} \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2\right) \\
&= \sum_{a \in A} \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \|a\|^2\right) \\
&\leq \sum_{a \in A} \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \gamma^2\right) \\
&= |A| \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \gamma^2\right)
\end{aligned}$$

We thus have,

$$\begin{aligned}
\exp(\lambda \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}}[\sup_{a \in A} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i]) &\leq |A| \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \gamma^2\right) \\
\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}}[\sup_{a \in A} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i a_i] &\leq \frac{\ln |A|}{\lambda} + \lambda \gamma
\end{aligned}$$

The right-hand side is minimized when, $\lambda = \sqrt{\frac{2 \ln |A|}{\gamma}}$
which is the result stated in the theorem.

Lemma 2. $\hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 \ln |\mathcal{F}(n)|}{n}}$ [with $\hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) := \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum \sigma_i f(x_i)$]

Proof : $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

$$\hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) := \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \sup_{a \in \mathcal{F}_S} \frac{1}{n} \sum \sigma_i a_i$$

Since $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{-1, +1\}^{\mathcal{X}} : \forall a \in \mathcal{F}_S : \|a\| = \sqrt{n}, \quad \sqrt{\sum (a - i)^2}$ and $\forall i (a_i)^2 = 1$

We can use Massart's lemma on,

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) &:= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma} \sup_{a \in \mathcal{F}_S} \frac{1}{n} \sum \sigma_i a_i \\
&\leq \sqrt{n} \frac{\sqrt{2 \ln(|\mathcal{F}_S|)}}{n} \quad (\text{Massart's lemma}) \\
&= \sqrt{\frac{2 \ln(|\mathcal{F}_S|)}{n}}
\end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3. Sauer's lemma : Let $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{-1, +1\}^{\mathcal{X}}$ such that, $VCdim(\mathcal{F}) \leq d < +\infty$ $\forall n \geq d$,

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{F}}(n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \binom{n}{i} \leq \left(\frac{en}{d}\right)^d$$

Here,

$$\binom{n}{i} = C_n^i = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!} = i \text{ choose } n$$

2.4 Expansion :

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i f(x_i) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{a \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}} \frac{1}{n} \sum \sigma_i a_i \quad (\mathbf{A}) \end{aligned}$$

1. $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \{-1, +1\}^{\mathcal{X}}$ is set beforehand. We want to measure the capacity of this given set of functions.
2. **Remember :** $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}} := \{(f_{x_1}, \dots, f_{x_n}) | f \in \mathcal{F}\}$.
This is a set of binary vectors. Obviously $|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^n$, there exists at most 2^n binary vectors of size n .
For instance, we may consider that, $n = 5$, and that,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}} = \{ &(-1, -1, +1, -1, +1), \\ &(-1, +1, -1, +1, +1), \\ &(+1, +1, +1, +1, +1), \\ &(-1, +1, +1, +1, +1), \\ &(+1, +1, -1, +1, +1)\} \end{aligned}$$

$$|\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}| = 6$$

3. Getting back to **(A)** :

$$\hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) = \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i f(x_i)$$

but for any f , the vector $(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n))$ is necessarily in $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}$, by delimeter of $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}$. Therefore, the only vectors to be looked at in the definition of the Rademacher Complexity are exactly those in $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}$, or, if we expand the things a bit,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Rad}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{S}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i f(x_i) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{a \in \{(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_n)) | f \in \mathcal{F}\}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i a_i \end{aligned}$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n} \sup_{a \in \mathcal{F}_S} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i a_i$$