SDS 384-11 PS #5, Spring 2020

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1 Uniform Law of Large Numbers

Exercise 1.1. In class you upper bounded the Rademacher complexity of a function class. Now you will derive a lower bound.

1. For function classes \mathcal{F} with function values in [0,1], prove that $\mathbb{E}[\hat{P}_n - P]_{\mathcal{F}} \geq \frac{\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}}}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{\log 2}{2n}}$. Hint: it may be easier to start from $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}}$ and show that $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 2\mathbb{E}\|\hat{P}_n - P\|_{\mathcal{F}} + \sqrt{\frac{2\log 2}{n}}$. In order to do this, you would need to add and subtract $\mathbb{E}f(X)$ and then use triangle inequality.

Solution.

Let $X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ be i.i.d samples from a distribution P, and let $\varepsilon \in \{-1, 1\}^n$ be a vector of i.i.d Rademacher random variables. Recalling the definition of $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}}$, and applying a triangle inequality, we have that

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}} = \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} f(X_{i}) \right|$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \left(f(X_{i}) - \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) + \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \right) \right|$$

$$\leq \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \left(f(X_{i}) - \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \right) \right| + \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \right|$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \left(f(X_{i}) - \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \right) \right| + \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \right| \quad \text{since } f \geq 0 \text{ and } X_{i} \text{ i.i.d}$$

$$\leq \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} \left(f(X_{i}) - \mathbb{E} f(X_{i}) \right) \right| + \mathbb{E} \left| \left\langle \varepsilon, \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{1} \right\rangle \right| \quad \text{since } f \leq 1$$

We now proceed by bounding each of these two terms. To bound the first term, we will employ a similar symmetry argument as presented in class. In particular, we take $X' = \{X'_1, \dots, X'_n\}$

as an i.i.d copy of X. Then the first term above can be written as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}\varepsilon_{i}\left(f(X_{i})-\mathbb{E}f(X_{i})\right)\right|$$

$$=\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}\varepsilon_{i}\left(f(X_{i})-\mathbb{E}f(X_{i}')\right)\right|$$

$$=\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\mathbb{E}_{X'}\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}\varepsilon_{i}\left(f(X_{i})-f(X_{i}')\right)\right]\right|$$

$$\leq\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}\varepsilon_{i}\left(f(X_{i})-f(X_{i}')\right)\right|$$
by Jensen's and convexity of $|\cdot|$ and sup
$$=\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}f(X_{i})-f(X_{i}')\right|$$

$$\leq\mathbb{E}\sup_{f\in\mathcal{F}}\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i}f(X_{i})-\mathbb{E}f(X_{i})+\mathbb{E}f(X_{i}')-f(X_{i}')\right|$$

We may then apply another triangle inequality to the above, recall the definition of $||P - \hat{P}_n||_{\mathcal{F}}$, and combine our inequalities above to conclude that

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \varepsilon_{i} (f(X_{i}) - \mathbb{E}f(X_{i})) \right| \leq 2\mathbb{E} \|P - \hat{P}_{n}\|_{\mathcal{F}}$$

To conclude, we observe that, by the finite class lemma, taking the set $A = \{\frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1}\}$, and thus $R = \|\frac{1}{n}\mathbb{1}\|_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ we have

$$\mathbb{E}\left|\left\langle \varepsilon, \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{1} \right\rangle \right| \leq \sqrt{\frac{2\log 2}{n}}$$

Combining these results and rearranging yields the claimed bound.

2. Now prove that $||P - \hat{P}_n||_{\mathcal{F}} \geq \mathbb{E}||P - \hat{P}_n||_{\mathcal{F}} - \epsilon$ with probability at least $1 - \exp(-cn\epsilon^2)$, for some constant c.

Solution.

Take $X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ to be n i.i.d samples from some distribution P, and take X' to be n samples where $X'_i = X_i$ for every $i \neq j$, and X'_j is another i.i.d sample. Let us denote

$$g(X) = \|\hat{P}_n - P\|_{\mathcal{F}}$$

then we have that g(X) satisfies the bounded difference property, since $f \in [0, 1]$, and since,

by triangle inequality,

$$|g(X) - g(X')| = \left\| \frac{\sum_{i} f(X_i) - \mathbb{E}f(X_i)}{n} \right| - \left| \frac{\sum_{i} f(X_i') - \mathbb{E}f(X_i')}{n} \right|$$

$$\leq \left| \frac{\sum_{i} f(X_i) - \mathbb{E}f(X_i)}{n} - \frac{\sum_{i} f(X_i') - \mathbb{E}f(X_i')}{n} \right|$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \left| (f(X_j) - f(X_j')) \right|$$

$$= \frac{1}{n}$$

Hence, we may apply the one-sided McDiarmid's inequality to conclude that, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\|\hat{P}_n - P\|_{\mathcal{F}} - \mathbb{E}\|\hat{P}_n - P\|_{\mathcal{F}} < -\varepsilon\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(g(X) - \mathbb{E}g(X) < -\varepsilon\right)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(-\frac{2\varepsilon^2}{n\frac{1}{n^2}}\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(-2\varepsilon^2 n\right)$$

Thus, with probability $1 - \exp(-2\varepsilon^2 n)$, $g(X) \ge \mathbb{E}g(X) - \varepsilon$, as desired.

3. Recall the class of all subsets with finite size in [0,1]. Prove that the Rademacher complexity of this class is at least $\frac{1}{2}$. What does this imply?

Solution.

Note: I am a bit uncertain if this question is asking for the Rademacher complexity of the function class of indicator functions on S or of the set of finite subsets of [0,1]. Because of this uncertainty, I will provide a proof of both.

(a) Assuming the question is asking for the Rademacher complexity of the function class of indicators on S

Let $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}} = \{\mathbb{1}_S : S \subset [0,1], |S| < \infty\}$. Let X_1, \ldots, X_n be drawn i.i.d from some distribution P with no atoms. Then, taking $\hat{S} = \{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$, we have that

$$||P - \hat{P}_n||_{\mathcal{F}_S} = \sup_{S \subset [0,1], |S| < \infty} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}_S(X_i) - \mathbb{E} \mathbb{1}_S(X_i) \right|$$

$$= \sup_{S \subset [0,1], |S| < \infty} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}_S(X_i) - \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(X_i \in S)}_{=0 \forall S \text{ since } P \text{ has no atoms}} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\hat{S}}(X_i) - \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(X_i \in S)}_{=0 \forall S \text{ since } P \text{ has no atoms}} \right|$$

$$= 1$$

Now, as we showed in class, $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}} \geq \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}\|P - \hat{P}_n\|_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}}$, and thus by the above result,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}} \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

Therefore, we know that $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}$ is not a Glivenko-Cantelli class for any P with no atoms.

(b) Assuming the question is asking for the Rademacher complexity of the set of finite subsets of [0,1].

Let $\mathcal{T} = \{S \subset [0,1] \mid |S| < \infty\}$. We wish to provide a lower bound on $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{T})$. Beginning with the definition, we observe that, taking ε as a vector of i.i.d Rademacher random variables,

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{T}) = \mathbb{E} \sup_{d < \infty} \sup_{\theta \in [0,1]^d} \langle \theta, \varepsilon \rangle$$

$$\geq \mathbb{E} \sup_{\theta_1 \in [0,1]} \langle \theta_1, \varepsilon_1 \rangle \qquad \text{by def of sup, taking } \theta_i = 0 \text{ for } i > 1$$

$$= \mathbb{E} \varepsilon_1 \mathbb{1} \{ \varepsilon_1 = 1 \}$$

$$= \mathbb{P}(\varepsilon_1 = 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$

as desired.

Now, recalling the definition of Rademacher complexity for function classes, this lower bound implies that any function class with functions which can take values in [0,1] for any number of points, the function class is not a Glivenco-Cantelli class.

Exercise 1.2. In this exercise, we explore the connection between VC dimension and metric entropy. Given a set class S with finite VC dimension ν , we show that the function class $\mathcal{F}_S := \mathbb{1}_S, S \in S$ of indicator functions has metric entropy at most

$$N(\delta; \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}, L^{1}(P)) \le \left(\frac{K \log(3e/\delta)}{\delta}\right)^{\nu} \tag{1}$$

for a constant K.

Let $\{\mathbb{1}_{S_1},\ldots,\mathbb{1}_{S^N}\}$ be a maximal delta packing in the $L^1(P)$ norm, so that

$$\|\mathbb{1}_{S_i} - \mathbb{1}_{S_j}\|_1 = \mathbb{E}|\mathbb{1}_{S_i}(X) - \mathbb{1}_{S_j}(X)| > \delta$$

for all $i \neq j$. This is an upper bound on the δ covering number.

1. Suppose that we generate n samples X_i drawn i.i.d from P. Show that the probability that every S_i picks out a different subset $\{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$ is at least $1 - \binom{N}{2}(1-\delta)^n$.

Solution.

We observe that, by a union bound, and applying the above definitions,

$$1 - \mathbb{P}(\text{every } S_i, i \in [N] \text{ picks different subset of } X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

$$= \mathbb{P}(\text{at least two } S_i, S_j, i \neq j \text{ pick same subset})$$

$$= \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{(i,j) \in \binom{[N]}{2}} \{S_i, S_j \text{ pick same subset}\}\right)$$

$$\leq \binom{N}{2} \mathbb{P}\left(S_i, S_j \text{ pick same subset}\right)$$

$$= \binom{N}{2} \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{S_i}(X_k) = \mathbb{1}_{S_j}(X_k)\right)$$

$$= \binom{N}{2} \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbb{1}_{S_i}(X_k) = \mathbb{1}_{S_j}(X_k)\right)^n$$

$$= \binom{N}{2} \left(1 - \|\mathbb{1}_{S_i} - \mathbb{1}_{S_j}\|_1\right)^n$$

$$\leq \binom{N}{2} \left(1 - \delta\right)^n$$

Rearranging terms yields the desired inequality.

2. Using part (a), show that for $N \ge 2$ and $n = \lceil 2\log(N)/\delta \rceil$, there exists a set of n points from which S picks out at least N subsets, and conclude that $N \le \left(\frac{3e\log N}{\nu\delta}\right)^{\nu}$.

Solution.

We proceed by the probabilistic method, showing that, for the stated choices of parameters, $\binom{N}{2} (1-\delta)^n < 1$.

We assume without loss of generality that $0 < \delta < 1$. Thus, we have that

$$\binom{N}{2} (1-\delta)^{\lceil 2\log(N)/\delta \rceil} \le \binom{N}{2} (1-\delta)^{2\log(N)/\delta}$$
want
$$< 1$$

Taking log on both sides, it is sufficient to show that

$$\frac{2\log N}{\delta}\log(1-\delta) < -\log \binom{N}{2}$$

$$\iff \frac{2\log N}{\delta} > \frac{\log(N(N-1)/2)}{\log\frac{1}{1-\delta}}$$

Now, since $N \geq 2$, we have that $N^2 > \binom{N}{2}$ and thus $2\log(N) > \log(N(N-1)/2)$. Finally, using the well-known inequality $\log\frac{1}{1-\delta} > \delta$ when $\delta \in (0,1)$, we conclude that the above inequality is true. Therefore, by the probabilistic method, there exists a set of n points from which $\mathcal S$ picks out at least N subsets.

Now, by definition of the growth function, $\Pi_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}}(n) \geq N$. By Sauer's Lemma, we have the following bound on the growth function:

$$N \leq \Pi_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}}}(n)$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=0}^{\nu} \binom{n}{i}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{en}{\nu}\right)^{\nu} \qquad \text{assuming } n \geq \nu$$

$$= \left(\frac{e\lceil 2\log(N)/\delta \rceil}{\nu}\right)^{\nu}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{3e\log(N)}{\nu\delta}\right)^{\nu}$$

as desired. \Box

3. Use part (b) to show that Equation 1 holds with $K = 3e^2/(e-1)$. Hint: Note that you have $\frac{N^{1/\nu}}{\log N} \leq \frac{3e}{\nu\delta}$. Let $g(x) = x/\log x$. We are solving for $g(m^{1/\nu}) \leq 3e/\delta$. Prove that $g(x) \leq y$ implies $x \leq \frac{e}{e-1}y\log y$.

Solution.

Following the hint, let us suppose that $\frac{x}{\log x} \leq y$. Assume that y > e and x > 1. Therefore,

$$\frac{e}{e-1}y\log y \ge \frac{e}{e-1}\frac{x}{\log x}\left(\log x - \log\log x\right)$$

$$= \frac{e}{e-1}x - \frac{e}{e-1}\frac{x\log\log x}{\log x}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{want}}{\ge} x$$

Now, the final inequality above is equivalent to

$$\frac{x}{1-e} \geq \frac{e}{e-1} \frac{x \log \log x}{\log x}$$

Now, for $x \in (1, e)$ the above inequality (and thus the claim) is always true, since $\log \log x < 0$. Thus, we may assume that $x \ge e$. In this case, the above is equivalent to

$$\log x \ge e \log \log x$$

Now, since this inequality is satisfied for $x \geq e$, the claim is established.

Given the claim, the desired result is immediate. Indeed, from the previous problem, we have that

$$\frac{N^{1/\nu}}{\frac{1}{\nu}\log N} = g(N^{1/\nu})$$

$$\leq \frac{3e}{\delta}$$

and thus, by the claim we just proved,

$$N^{1/\nu} \le \frac{e}{e-1} \frac{3e}{\delta} \log \frac{3e}{\delta}$$

$$\implies N \le \left(\frac{3e^2}{\delta(e-1)} \log \frac{3e}{\delta}\right)^{\nu}$$

and thus, Equation 1 holds with $K = \frac{3e^2}{e-1}$, as desired.

Exercise 1.3. We will find the covering number of ellipses in this problem. Given a collection of positive numbers $\{\mu_j\}_{j=1}^d$, consider the ellipse

$$\mathcal{E} = \{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^d : \sum_i \theta_i^2 / \mu_i^2 \le 1 \}$$

1. Show that

$$\log N(\epsilon; \mathcal{E}, \|\cdot\|_2) \ge d \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \sum_{j=1}^{d} \log \mu_j$$

Solution.

Suppose that $\{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N\}$ is an ϵ -cover of \mathcal{E} . Then, by definition, $\mathcal{E} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^N \mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\theta_i)$, where $\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\theta_i) = \{\|\theta - \theta_i\|_2 \leq \epsilon : \theta \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$. Thus, we have that

$$Vol(\mathcal{E}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{N} Vol(\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\theta_i))$$
$$= NVol(\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0}))$$

Now, let us consider the change of coordinates from points in the ellipsoid to points in the ball. Given coordinates $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^d$ from the ϵ -ball, we may map these coordinates in a one-to-one manner to points $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^d$ in \mathcal{E} by the formula:

$$x_i = \frac{\mu_i}{\epsilon} u_i$$

Indeed, since by definition $\sum_i u_i^2 \le \epsilon^2$, and so

$$\epsilon^2 \ge \sum_i u_i^2 = \sum_i \frac{\epsilon^2}{\mu_i^2} x_i^2$$

$$\implies \sum_i \frac{x_i^2}{\mu_i^2} \le 1$$

as desired. Therefore, we may compute the volume of \mathcal{E} using the change of variable formula

$$\operatorname{Vol}(\mathcal{E}) = \int_{\mathcal{E}} dx_1, \dots, x_n$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0})} \left| \frac{\partial (x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial (u_1, \dots, u_n)} \right| du_1, \dots, u_n$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0})} \left(\prod_{i=1}^d \frac{\mu_i}{\epsilon} \right) du_1, \dots, u_n$$

$$= \left(\prod_{i=1}^d \frac{\mu_i}{\epsilon} \right) \operatorname{Vol}(\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0}))$$

Hence,

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^{d} \frac{\mu_i}{\epsilon}\right) \operatorname{Vol}(B_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0})) = \operatorname{Vol}(\mathcal{E})$$

$$\leq N \operatorname{Vol}(\mathcal{B}_{\epsilon}(\mathbf{0}))$$

and thus,

$$N \ge \prod_{i=1}^{d} \frac{\mu_i}{\epsilon}$$

$$\implies \log N \ge d \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \sum_{i=1}^{d} \log \mu_i$$

as desired.

2. Now consider the infinite-dimensional ellipse, specified by the sequence $\mu_j = j^{-2\beta}$ for some parameter $\beta > \frac{1}{2}$. Show that

$$\log N(\epsilon; \mathcal{E}, \|\cdot\|_2) \ge C \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{1/2\beta}$$

where
$$\|\theta - \theta'\|_{\ell_2}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\theta(i) - \theta(i)')^2$$
.

Solution.

Let us denote the ellipse truncated to d dimensions as:

$$\mathcal{E}_d = \{ \tilde{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \theta \in \mathcal{E}, \tilde{\theta}(i) = \theta(i) \forall i \in [d] \}$$

Let $S = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N\}$ be an ϵ -covering of \mathcal{E} . Define S_d as the elements of S truncated to d dimensions, that is, the set of N elements $\tilde{\theta}_i$ such that $\tilde{\theta}_i(j) = \theta_i(j)$ for $j \in [d]$.

Now, we will show that S_d is an ϵ -covering of \mathcal{E}_d . Indeed, fix any $\tilde{\theta} \in \mathcal{E}_d$. By definition, there is some θ such that $\tilde{\theta}(j) = \theta(j)$ for every $j \in [d]$. By definition of S, there exists some θ_i satisfying $\|\theta - \theta_i\|_{\ell_2} \leq \epsilon$. Therefore,

$$\epsilon^{2} \geq \|\theta - \theta_{i}\|_{\ell_{2}}^{2}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{d} (\theta(i) - \theta_{i}(j))^{2} + \sum_{j=d+1}^{\infty} (\theta(i) - \theta_{i}(j))^{2}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{d} (\tilde{\theta}(i) - \tilde{\theta}_{i}(j))^{2} + \sum_{j=d+1}^{\infty} (\theta(i) - \theta_{i}(j))^{2}$$

$$\geq \sum_{j=1}^{d} (\tilde{\theta}(i) - \tilde{\theta}_{i}(j))^{2} + \sum_{j=d+1}^{\infty} (0 - 0)^{2}$$

$$= \|\tilde{\theta} - \tilde{\theta}_{i}\|_{2}^{2}$$

and thus S_d is also an ϵ -cover of \mathcal{E}_d . Therefore, we have that

$$\begin{split} \log N(\epsilon;\mathcal{E},\|\cdot\|_2) & \geq \log N(\epsilon,\mathcal{E}_d,\|\cdot\|_2) \\ & \geq d\log\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \sum_{i=1}^d \log \mu_i \qquad \qquad \text{by the previous problem} \\ & \geq d\log\frac{1}{\epsilon} - 2\beta \log d! \\ & \geq d\log\frac{1}{\epsilon} - 2\beta \log(d^{d+1/2}e^{-d+1}) \qquad \qquad \text{by Sterling's approximation} \\ & = d\log\frac{1}{\epsilon} - 2\beta d\log d + 2\beta \left(d - 1 + \frac{1}{2}\log d\right) \end{split}$$

Now, choose $d = \left\lceil \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{1/2\beta} \right\rceil$. Then the above inequality becomes

$$\log N(\epsilon; \mathcal{E}, \|\cdot\|_2) \ge d \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} - 2\beta d \underbrace{\log \left(\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{1/2\beta} + 1\right)}_{\le \frac{1}{2\beta} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) + \frac{1}{2}} + 2\beta \left(d - 1 + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\log d}_{\ge 0}\right)$$

$$\ge \beta (d - 2)$$

$$\ge C\beta d$$

$$\ge C\beta \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{1/2\beta}$$
for $C < 1$ small enough

as desired. \Box