UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

The Primacy of Applied Privacy

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by

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The Dissertation of Casey Meehan is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically.

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DEDICATION

The fact that I have made something I can write a dedication for is owed all to my parents. I cannot imagine following my heart these past few years without their unrelenting support and encouragement.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

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As data collection for machine learning (ML) tasks has become more pervasive, it has also become more heterogeneous: we share our writing, images, voices, and location online every day. Naturally, the associated privacy risks are just as complex and variable. My research advances practical data privacy through two avenues: 1) drafting provable privacy definitions and mechanisms for safely sharing data in different ML domains, and 2) empirically quantifying how ML models memorize their sensitive training data and thereby risk disclosing it. This dissertation details the various data domains/tasks considered, and the corresponding privacy methods proposed.

Chapter 1

When are Non-Parametric Methods Robust?

1.1 Introduction

Recent work has shown that many classifiers tend to be highly non-robust and that small strategic modifications to regular test inputs can cause them to misclassify [3, 4, 5]. Motivated by the use of machine learning in safety-critical applications, this phenomenon has recently received considerable interest; however, what exactly causes this phenomenon – known in the literature as *adversarial examples* – still remains a mystery.

Prior work has looked at three plausible reasons why adversarial examples might exist. The first, of course, is the possibility that in real data distributions, different classes are very close together in space – which does not seem plausible in practice. Another possibility is that classification algorithms may require more data to be robust than to be merely accurate; some prior work [6, 7, 8] suggests that this might be true for certain classifiers or algorithms. Finally, others [9, 10, 7] have suggested that better training algorithms may give rise to more robust classifiers – and that in some cases, finding robust classifiers may even be computationally challenging.

In this work, we consider this problem in the context of general non-parametric classifiers. Contrary to parametrics, non-parametric methods are a form of local classifiers, and include a large number of pattern recognition methods such as nearest neighbors, decision trees, random

forests and kernel classifiers. There is a richly developed statistical theory of non-parametric methods [11], which focuses on accuracy, and provides very general conditions under which these methods converge to the Bayes optimal with growing number of samples. We, in contrast, analyze robustness properties of these methods, and ask instead when they converge to the classifier with the highest astuteness at a desired radius r. Recall that the astuteness of a classifier at radius r is the fraction of points from the distribution on which it is accurate and has the same prediction up to a distance r [7, 6].

We begin by looking at the very simple case when data from different classes is well-separated – by at least a distance $2r$. Although achieving astuteness in this case may appear trivial, we show that even in this highly favorable case, not all non-parametric methods provide robust classifiers – and this even holds for methods that converge to the Bayes optimal in the large sample limit.

This raises the natural question – when do non-parametric methods produce astute classifiers? We next provide conditions under which a non-parametric method converges to the most astute classifier in the large sample limit under well-separated data. Our conditions are analogous to the classical conditions for convergence to the Bayes optimal [11, 12], but a little stronger. We show that nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers whose kernel functions decay fast enough, satisfy these conditions, and hence converge to astute classifiers in the large sample limit. In constrast, histogram classifiers, which do converge to the Bayes optimal in the large sample limit, may not converge to the most astute classifier. This indicates that there may be some non-parametric methods, such as nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers, that are more naturally robust when trained on well-separated data, and some that are not.

What happens when different classes in the data are not as well-separated? For this case, [13] proposes a method called Adversarial Pruning that preprocesses the training data by retaining the maximal set of points such that different classes are distance $\geq 2r$ apart, and then trains a non-parametric method on the pruned data. We next prove that if a non-parametric method has certain properties, then the classifier produced by Adversarial Pruning followed by

the method does converges to the most astute classifier in the large sample limit. We show that again nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers whose kernel functions decay faster than inverse polynomials satisfy these properties. Our results thus complement and build upon the empirical results of [13] by providing a performance guarantee.

What can we conclude about the cause for adversarial examples? Our results seem to indicate that at least for non-parametrics, it is mostly the training algorithms that are responsible. With a few exceptions, decades of prior work in machine learning and pattern recognition has largely focussed on designing training methods that provide increasingly accurate classifiers – perhaps to the detriment of other aspects such as robustness. In this context, our results serve to (a) provide a set of guidelines that can be used for designing non-parametric methods that are robust and accurate on well-separated data and (b) demonstrate that when data is not well-separated, preprocessing through adversarial pruning [13] may be used to ensure convergence to optimally astute solutions in the large sample limit.

1.1.1 Related Work

There is a large body of work on adversarial attacks [14, 15, 16, 17, 3] and defenses [18, 19, 2, 20, 21, 22] in the parametric setting, specifically focusing on neural networks. On the other hand, adversarial examples for nonparametric classifiers have mostly been studied in a much more ad-hoc manner, and to our knowledge, there has been no theoretical investigation into general properties of algorithms that promote robustness in non-parametric classifiers.

For nearest neighbors, there has been some prior work on adversarial attacks [23, 24, 7, 13] as well as defenses. Wang et. al. [7] proposes a defense for 1-NN by pruning the input sample. However, their defense learns a classifier whose robustness regions converge towards those of the Bayes optimal classifier, which itself may potentially have poor robustness properties. Yang et. al. [13] accounts for this problem by proposing the notion of the r-optimal classifier, and propose an algorithm called Adversarial Pruning which can be interpreted as a finite sample approximation to the r-optimal. However, they do not provide formal performance guarantees

for Adversarial Pruning, which we do.

For Kernel methods, Hein and Andriushchenko [18] study lower bounds on the norm of the adversarial manipulation that is required for changing a classifiers output. They specifically study bounds for Kernel Classifiers, and propose an empirically based regularization idea that improves robustness. In this work, we improve the robustness properties of kernel classification through adversarial pruning, and show formal guarantees regarding convergence towards the r-optimal classifier.

For decision trees and random forests, attacks and defenses have been provided by [25, 26, 27]. Again, most of the work here is empirical in nature, and convergence guarantees are not provided.

Pruning has a long history of being applied for improving nearest neighbors [28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33], but this has been entirely done in the context of generalization, without accounting for robustness. In their work, Yang et. al. empirically show that adversarial pruning can improve robustness for nearest neighbor classifiers. However, they do not provide any formal guarantees for their algorithms. In this work, we prove formal guarantees for *adversarial pruning* in the large sample limit, both for nearest neighbors as well as for more general *weight functions.*

There is a long history of literature for understanding the consistency of Kernel classifiers [34, 12], but this has only been done for accuracy and generalization. In this work, we find different conditions are needed to ensure that a Kernel classifier converges in robustness in addition to accuracy.

1.2 Preliminaries

1.2.1 Setting

We consider binary classification where instances are drawn from a totally bounded metric space $\mathscr{X}$ that is equipped with distance metric denoted by d, and the label space is $\{\pm 1\} = \{-1, +1\}$. The classical goal of classification is to build a highly *accurate* classifier,

which we define as follows.

Definition 1. *(Accuracy) Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let $f \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathscr{X}}$ be a classifier. Then the* ***accuracy*** *of f over $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $A(f, \mathscr{D})$, is the fraction of examples $(x, y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ for which $f(x) = y$. Thus*

$$A(f, \mathscr{D}) = P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[f(x) = y].$$

In this work, we consider *robustness* in addition to accuracy. Let $B(x, r)$ denoted the closed ball of radius r centered at x.

Definition 2. *(Robustness) A classifier $f \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathscr{X}}$ is said to be* ***robust*** *at x with radius r if $f(x) = f(x')$ for all $x' \in B(x, r)$.*

Our goal is to find non-parametric algorithms that output classifiers that are robust, in addition to being accurate. To account for both criteria, we combine them into a notion of *astuteness* [7, 6].

Definition 3. *(Astuteness) A classifier $f \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathscr{X}}$ is said to be* ***astute*** *at (x, y) with radius r if f is robust at x with radius r and $f(x) = y$. The* ***astuteness*** *of f over $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $A_r(f, \mathscr{D})$, is the fraction of examples $(x, y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ for which f is astute at (x, y) with radius r. Thus*

$$A_r(f, \mathscr{D}) = P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[f(x') = y, \forall x' \in B(x, r)].$$

It is worth noting that $A_0(f, \mathscr{D}) = A(f, \mathscr{D})$, since astuteness with radius 0 is simply the accuracy. For this reason, we will use $A_0(f, \mathscr{D})$ to denote accuracy from this point forwards.

1.2.2 Notions of Consistency

Traditionally, a classification algorithm is said to be consistent if as the sample size grows to infinity, the accuracy of the classifier it learns converges towards the best possible accuracy on the underlying data distribution. We next introduce and formalize an alternative form of consistency, called r-consistency, that applies to robust classifiers.

We begin with a formal definition of the Bayes Optimal Classifier – the most accurate classifier on a distribution – and consistency.

Definition 4. *(Bayes Optimal Classifier) The* ***Bayes Optimal Classifier*** *on a distribution $\mathscr{D}$, denoted by g^*, is defined as follows. Let $\eta(x) = p_{\mathscr{D}}(+1|x)$. Then*

$$g^*(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \eta(x) \geq 0.5 \\ -1 & \eta(x) < 0.5 \end{cases}$$

It can be shown that g^* achieves the highest accuracy over $\mathscr{D}$ over all classifiers.

Definition 5. *(Consistency) Let M be a classification algorithm over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. M is said to be* ***consistent*** *if for any $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, and any ε, δ over $(0,1)$, there exists N such that for $n \geq N$, with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, we have:*

$$A(M(S), \mathscr{D}) \geq A(g^*, \mathscr{D}) - \varepsilon,$$

where g^* is the Bayes optimal classifier for $\mathscr{D}$.

How can we incorporate robustness in addition to accuracy in this notion? A plausible way, as used in [7], is that the classifier should converge towards being astute where the Bayes Optimal classifier is astute. However, the Bayes Optimal classifier is not necessarily the most astute classifier and may even have poor astuteness. To see this, consider the following example.

Example 1

Consider $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathscr{X} = [0,1]$ such that $\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}$ is the uniform distribution and

$$p(y=1|x) = \frac{1}{2} + \sin\frac{4\pi x}{r}.$$

For any point x, there exists $x_1, x_2 \in ([x-r, x+r] \cap [0,1])$ such that $p(y=1|x_1) > \frac{1}{2}$ and $p(y=1|x_2) < \frac{1}{2}$. $A_r(g^*, r) = 0$. However, the classifier that always predicts $f(x) = +1$ does

better. It is robust everywhere, and since $P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[y=+1]=\frac{1}{2}$, it follows that $A_r(f,\mathscr{D})=\frac{1}{2}$.

This motivates the notion of the r-optimal classifier, introduced by [13], which is the classifier with maximum astuteness.

Definition 6. *(r-optimal classifier) The* ***r-optimal classifier*** *of a distribution G denoted by g_r^* is the classifier with maximum astuteness. Thus*

$$g_r^* = \underset{f\in\{\pm1\}^{\mathscr{X}}}{\arg\max}\, A_r(f,\mathscr{D}).$$

We let $A_r^*(\mathscr{D})$ denote $A_r(g_r^*,\mathscr{D})$.

Observe that g_r^* is not necessarily unique. To account for this, we use $A_r^*(\mathscr{D})$ in our definition for r-consistency.

Definition 7. *(r-consistent) Let M be a classification algorithm over $\mathscr{X}\times\{\pm1\}$. M is said to be* ***r-consistent*** *if for any $\mathscr{D}$, any $\varepsilon,\delta\in(0,1)$, and $0<\gamma<r$, there exists N such that for $n\geq N$, with probability $1-\delta$ over $S\sim\mathscr{D}^n$,*

$$A_{r-\gamma}(M(S),\mathscr{D})\geq A_r^*(\mathscr{D})-\varepsilon.$$

if the above conditions hold for a specific distribution $\mathscr{D}$, we say that M is r-consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.

Observe that in addition to the usual ε and δ, there is an extra parameter γ which measures the gap in the robustness radius. We may need this parameter as when classes are exactly $2r$ apart, we may not be able to find the exact robust boundary with only finite samples.

Our analysis will be centered around understanding what kinds of algorithms M provide highly astute classifiers for a given radius r. We begin by first considering the special case of

r-separated distributions.

Definition 8. *(r-separated distributions) A distribution $\mathscr{D}$ is said to be* ***r-separated*** *if there exist subsets $T^+, T^- \subset \mathscr{X}$ such that*

1. $\mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in T^y] = 1$.
2. $\forall x_1 \in T^+, \forall x_2 \in T^-$, $d(x_1, x_2) > 2r$.

Observe that if $\mathscr{D}$ is r-separated, $A_r(g_r^*, \mathscr{D}) = 1$.

1.2.3 Non-parametric Classifiers

Many non-parametric algorithms classify points by averaging labels over a local neighborhood from their training data. A very general form of this idea is encapsulated in *weight functions* – which is the general form we will use.

Definition 9. *[11] A* ***weight function*** *W is a non-parametric classifier with the following properties.*

1. *Given input $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2,), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, W constructs functions $w_1^S, \ldots, w_n^S : \mathscr{X} \to [0,1]$ such that for all $x \in \mathscr{X}$, $\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) = 1$. The functions w_i^S are allowed to depend on $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_n$ but must be independent of $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$.*
2. *W has output W_S defined as*

$$W_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

As a result, $w_i^S(x)$ can be thought of as the weight that (x_i, y_i) has in classifying x.

Weight functions encompass a fairly extensive set of common non-parametric classifiers, which is the motivation for considering them. We now define several common non-parametric algorithms that can be construed as weight functions.

Definition 10. *A **histogram classifier**, H, is a non-parametric classification algorithm over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ that works as follows. For a distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R} \times \{\pm 1\}$, H takes $S = \{(x_i, y_i) : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ as input. Let k_i be a sequence with $\lim_{i\to\infty} k_i = \infty$ and $\lim_{i\to\infty} \frac{k_i}{i} = 0$. H constructs a set of hypercubes $C = \{c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_m\}$ as follows:*

1. *Initially $C = \{c\}$, where $S \subset c$.*
2. *For $c \in C$, if c contains more than k_n points of S, then partition c into 2^d equally sized hypercubes, and insert them into C.*
3. *Repeat step 2 until all cubes in C have at most k_n points.*

For $x \in \mathbb{R}$ let $c(x)$ denote the unique cell in C containing x. If $c(x)$ doesn't exist, then $H_S(x) = -1$ by default. Otherwise,

$$H_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_{x_i \in c(x)} y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_{x_i \in c(x)} y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Histogram classifiers are weight functions in which all x_i contained within the same cell as x are given the same weight $w_i^S(x)$ in predicting x, while all other x_i are given weight 0.

Definition 11. *A **kernel classifier** is a weight function W over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$ constructed from function $K : \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\} \to \mathbb{R}^+$ and some sequence $\{h_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^+$ in the following manner. Given $S = \{(x_i, y_i)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, we have*

$$w_i^S(x) = \frac{K(\frac{d(x,x_i)}{h_n})}{\sum_{j=1}^n K(\frac{d(x,x_j)}{h_n})}.$$

Then, as above, W has output

$$W_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Finally, we note that k_n-nearest neighbors is also a weight function; $w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{k_n}$ if x_i is one of the k_n closest neighbors of x and 0 otherwise.

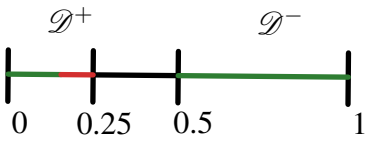


Figure 1.1. H_S is astute in the green region, but not robust in the red region.

1.3 Warm Up: r-separated distributions

We begin by considering the case when the data distribution is r-separated; the more general case is considered in Section 1.4. While classifying r-separated distributions robustly may appear almost trivial, learning an arbitrary classifier does not necessarily produce an astute result. To see this, consider the following example of a histogram classifier – which is known to be consistent.

We let H denote the histogram classifier over $\mathbb{R}$.

Example 2

Consider the data distribution $\mathscr{D} = \mathscr{D}^+ \cup \mathscr{D}^-$ where D^+ is the uniform distribution over $[0, \frac{1}{4})$ and D^- is the uniform distribution over $(\frac{1}{2}, 1]$, $p(+1|x) = 1$ for $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$, and $p(-1|x) = 1$ for $x \in \mathscr{D}^-$.

We make the following observations (refer to Figure 1.1).

1. $\mathscr{D}$ is 0.1-separated, since the supports of $\mathscr{D}^+$ and $\mathscr{D}^-$ have distance $0.25 > 0.2$.

2. If n is sufficiently large, H will construct the cell $[0.25, 0.5)$, which will not be split because it will never contain any points.

3. $H_S(x) = -1$ for $x \in [0.25, 0.5)$.

4. H_S is not astute at $(x, 1)$ for $x \in (0.15, 0.25)$. Thus $A_{0.1}(H_S, \mathscr{D}) = 0.8$.

Example 2 shows that histogram classifiers do not always learn astute classifiers even

when run on r-separated distributions. This motivates the question: which non-parametric classifiers do?

We answer this question in the following theorem, which gives sufficient conditions for a weight function (definition 9) to be r-consistent over an r-separated distribution.

Theorem 12. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let W be a weight function. Let X be a random variable with distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}$, and $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. Suppose that for any $0 < a < b$,*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{X,S}\big[\sup_{x' \in B(X,a)} \sum_{1}^{n} w_i^S(x') I_{||x_i - x'|| > b}\big] = 0.$$

Then if $\mathscr{D}$ is r-separated, W is r-consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.

First, we compare Theorem 12 to Stone's theorem [12], which gives sufficient conditions for a weight function to be consistent (i.e. converge in accuracy towards the Bayes optimal). For convenience, we include a statement of Stone's theorem.

Theorem 13. *[12] Let W be weight function over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. Suppose the following conditions hold for any distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let X be a random variable with distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}$, and $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. All expectations are taken over X and S.*

1. *There is a constant c such that, for every nonnegative measurable function f satisfying $\mathbb{E}[f(X)] < \infty$,*

$$\mathbb{E}[\sum_{1}^{n} w_i^S(X) f(x_i)] \leq c\mathbb{E}[f(x)].$$

2. *For all $a > 0$,*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}[\sum_{1}^{n} w_i^S(x) I_{||x_i - X|| > a}] = 0,$$

   where $I_{||x_i - X|| > a}$ is an indicator variable.

3.

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}[\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} w_i^S(X)] = 0.$$

Then W is consistent.

There are two main differences between Theorem 12 and Stone's theorem.

1. Conditions 1. and 3. of Stone's theorem are no longer necessary. This is because r-separated distributions are well-separated and thus have simpler conditions for consistency. In fact, a slight modification of the arguments of [12] shows that for r-separated distributions, condition 2. alone is sufficient for consistency.

2. Condition 2. is strengthened. Instead of requiring the weight of x_i's outside of a given radius to go to 0 for $X \sim \mathscr{D}$, we require the same to *uniformly* hold over a ball centered at X.

Theorem 12 provides a general condition that allows us to verify the r-consistency of non-parametric methods. We now show below that two common non-parametric algorithms – k_n-nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers with rapidly decaying kernel functions – satisfy the conditions of Theorem 12.

Corollary 14. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be any r-separated distribution. Let k_n be any sequence such that $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{k_n}{n} = 0$, and let M be the k_n-nearest neighbors classifier on a sample $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. Then M is r-consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.*

Remarks:

1. Because the data distribution is r-separated, $k_n = 1$ will be r-consistent. Also observe that for r-separated distributions, $k_n = 1$ will converge towards the Bayes Optimal classifier.

2. In general, M converges towards the Bayes Optimal classifier provided that $k_n \to \infty$ in addition to $k_n/n \to 0$. This condition is not necessary for r-consistency– because the distribution is r-separated.

We next show that kernel classifiers are also r-consistent on r-separated data distributions, provided the kernel function decreases rapidly enough.

Corollary 15. *Let W be a kernel classifier over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$ constructed from K and h_n. Suppose the following properties hold for K and h_n.*

1. *For any $c > 1$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{K(cx)}{K(x)} = 0$.*
2. *$\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$.*

If $\mathscr{D}$ is an r-separated distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, then W is r-consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.

Observe that Condition 1. is satisfied for any $K(x)$ that decreases more rapidly than an inverse polynomial – and is hence satisfied by most popular kernels like the Gaussian kernel. Is the condition on K in Corollary 15 necessary? The following example illustrates that a kernel classifier with any arbitrary K is not necessarily r-consistent. This indicates that some sort of condition needs to be imposed on K to ensure r-consistency; finding a tight necessary condition however is left for future work.

Example 3

Let $\mathscr{X} = [-1,1]$ and let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution with $p_{\mathscr{D}}(-1,-1) = 0.1$ and $p_{\mathscr{D}}(1,1) = 0.9$. Clearly, $\mathscr{D}$ is 0.3-separated. Let $K(x) = e^{-\min(|x|,0.2)^2}$. Let h_n be any sequence with $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$ and $\lim_{n\to\infty} nh_n = \infty$. Let W be the weight classifier with input $S = \{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\}$ such that

$$w_i^S(x) = \frac{K(\frac{|x-x_i|}{h_n})}{\sum_{j=1}^n K(\frac{|x-x_j|}{h_n})}.$$

W can be shown to satisfy all the conditions of Theorem 13 (the proof is analogous to the case for a Gaussian Classifier), and is therefore consistent. However, W does not learn a robust classifier on $\mathscr{D}$ for $r = 0.3$.

Consider $x = -0.7$. For any $\{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, all x_i will either be -1 or 1. Therefore, since $K(|x-(-1)|) = K(|x-1|)$, it follows that $w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{n}$ for all $1 \le i \le n$. Since $x_i = 1$ with probability 0.9, it follows that with high probability x will be classified as 1 which means that f, the output of W, is not robust at $x = -1$. Thus f has astuteness at most 0.9 which means that W is *not* r-consistent for $r = 0.3$.

1.4 General Distributions

We next consider more general data distributions, where data from different classes may be close together in space, and may even overlap. Observe that unlike the r-separated case, here there may be no classifier with astuteness one. Thus, a natural question is: what does the optimally astute classifier look like, and how can we build non-parametric classifiers to this limit?

1.4.1 The r-Optimal Classifier and Adversarial Pruning

[13] propose a large-sample limit – called the r-optimal – and show that it is analogous to the Bayes Optimal classifier for robustness. More specifically, given a data distribution D, to find the r-optimal classifier, we solve the following optimization problem.

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{S_{+1},S_{-1}} & \int_{x\in S_{+1}} p(y=+1|x)d\mu_{\mathscr{D}}(x)+ \\ & \int_{x\in S_{-1}} p(y=-1|x)d\mu_{\mathscr{D}}(x) \\ & \text{subject to } d(S_{+1},S_{-1})>2r \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Then, the r-optimal classifier is defined as follows.

Definition 16. *[13] Fix $r,\mathscr{D}$. Let S^*_{+1} and S^*_{-1} be any optimizers of (1.1). Then the r-optimal classifier, g^*_r is any classifier such that $g^*_r(x)=j$ whenever $d(S^*_j,x)\leq r$.*

[13] show that the r-optimal classifier achieves the optimal astuteness – out of all classifiers on the data distribution $\mathscr{D}$; hence, it is a robustness analogue to the Bayes Optimal Classifier. Therefore, for general distributions, the goal in robust classification is to find non-parametric algorithms that output classifiers that converge towards g^*_r.

To find robust classifiers, [13] propose Adversarial Pruning – a defense method that preprocesses the training data by making it better separated. More specifically, Adversarial

Pruning takes as input a training dataset S and a radius r, and finds the largest subset of the training set where differently labeled points are at least distance $2r$ apart.

Definition 17. *A set $S_r \subset \mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$ is said to be **r-separated** if for all $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in S_r$, if $y_1 \neq y_2$, then $d(x_1, x_2) > 2r$. To **adversarially prune** a set S is to return its largest r-separated subset. We let $AdvPrun(S, r)$ denote the result of adversarially pruning S.*

Once an r-separated subset S_r of the training set is found, a standard non-parametric method is trained on S_r. While [13] show good empirical performance of such algorithms, no formal guarantees are provided. We next formally characterize when adversarial pruning followed by a non-parametric method results in a classifier that is provably r-consistent.

Specifically, we consider analyzing the general algorithm provided in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: RobustNonPar

1 **Input:** $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, weight function W, robustness radius r;

2 $S_r \leftarrow AdvPrun(S, r)$;

3 **Output:** W_{S_r};

1.4.2 Convergence Guarantees

We begin with some notation. For any weight function W and radius $r > 0$, we let $RobustNonPar(W, r)$ represent the weight function that outputs weights for $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ according to $RobustNonPar(S, W, r)$. In particular, this can be used to convert any weight function algorithm into a new weight function which takes robustness into account. A natural question is, for which weight functions W is $RobustNonPar(W, r)$ r-consistent? Our next theorem provides sufficient conditions for this.

Theorem 18. *Let W be a weight function over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. Fix $r > 0$. Let $S_r = AdvPrun(S, r)$. For convenience, relabel x_i, y_i so that $S_r =$*

$\{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2),\ldots,(x_m,y_m)\}$. *Suppose that for any* $0<a<b$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\Big[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\sup_{x\in B(x_i,a)}\sum_{j=1}^{m}w_j^{S_r}(x)I_{||x_j-x||>b}\Big]=0.$$

Then RobustNonPar(W,r) *is r-consistent with respect to* $\mathscr{D}$.

Remark:

There are two important differences between the conditions in Theorem 18 and Theorem 12.

1. We replace S with S_r.

2. The expectation over $X\sim\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}$ is replaced with an average over $\{x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_m\}$. The intuition here is that we are replacing $\mathscr{D}$ with a uniform distribution over S_r. While $\mathscr{D}$ may not be r-separated, the uniform distribution over S_r is, and represents the region of points where our classifier is astute.

A natural question is what satisfies the conditions in Theorem 18. We next show that k_n-nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers with rapidly decaying kernel functions continue to satisfy the conditions in Theorem 18; this means that these classifiers, when combined with Adversarial Pruning, will converge to r-optimal classifiers in the large sample limit.

Corollary 19. *Let* k_n *be a sequence with* $\lim_{n\to\infty}\frac{k_n}{n}=0$*, and let M denote the* k_n*-nearest neighbor algorithm. Then for any* $r>0$*, RobustNonPar*(M,r) *is r-consistent.*

Remark:

Corollary 19 gives a formal guarantee in the large sample limit for the modified nearest-neighbor algorithm proposed by [13].

Corollary 20. *Let W be a kernel classifier over* $\mathscr{X}\times\{\pm1\}$ *constructed from K and* h_n*. Suppose the following properties hold for K and* h_n*.*

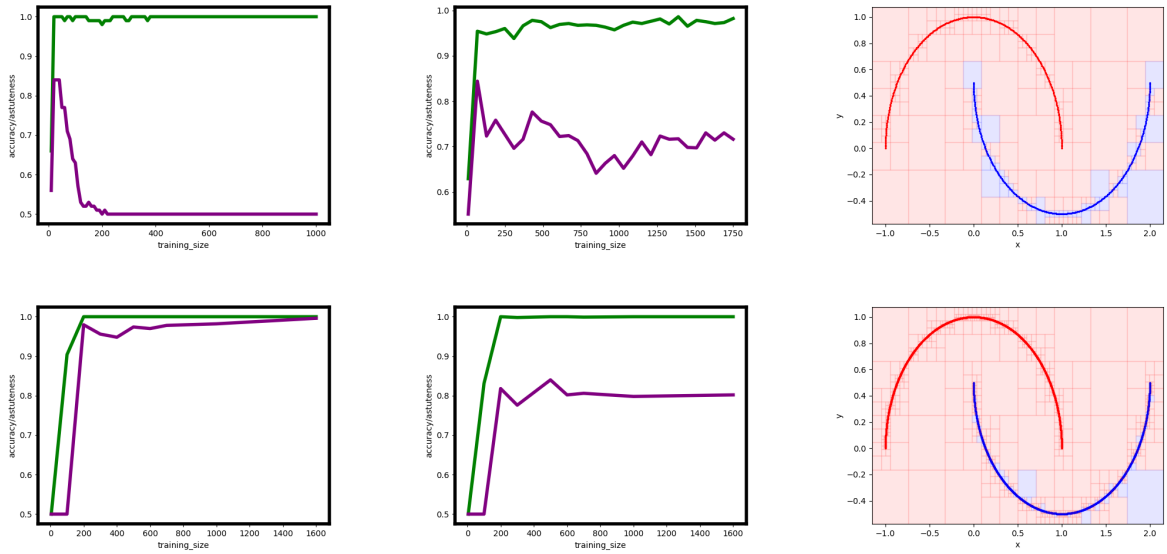


Figure 1.2. Empirical accuracy/astuteness of different classifiers as a function of training sample size. Accuracy is shown in green, astuteness in purple. Left : Noiseless Setting. Right: Noisy Setting. Top Row: Histogram Classifier, Bottom Row: 1-Nearest Neighbor

1. *For any* $c > 1$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{K(cx)}{K(x)} = 0$.

2. $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$.

Then for any $r > 0$, $RobustNonPar(W, r)$ *is r-consistent.*

Observe again that Condition 1. is satisfied by any K that decreases more rapidly than an inverse polynomial kernel; it is thus satisfied by most popular kernels, such as the Gaussian kernel.

1.5 Validation

Our theoretical results are, by nature, large sample; we next validate how well they apply to the finite sample case by trying them out on a simple example. In particular, we ask the following question:

> How does the robustness of non-parametric classifiers change with increasing sample size?

This question is considered in the context of two simple non-parametric classifiers – one nearest neighbor (which is guaranteed to be r-consistent) and histograms (which is not). To be able to measure performance with increasing data size, we look at a simple synthetic dataset – the Half Moons.

1.5.1 Experimental Setup

Classifiers and Dataset.

We consider two different classification algorithms – one nearest neighbor (NN) and a Histogram Classifier (HC). We use the Halfmoon dataset with two settings of the gaussian noise parameter σ, $\sigma = 0$ (Noiseless) and $\sigma = 0.08$ (Noisy). For the Noiseless setting, observe that the data is already 0.1-separated; for the Noisy setting, we use Adversarial Pruning (Algorithm 1) with parameter $r = 0.1$ for both classification methods.

Performance Measure.

We evaluate robustness with respect to the ℓ_∞ metric, that is commonly used in the adversarial examples literature. Specifically, for each classifier, we calculate the *empirical astuteness*, which is the fraction of test examples on which it is astute.

Observe that computing the empirical astuteness of a classifier around an input x amounts to finding the adversarial example that is *closest to* x according to the ℓ_∞ norm. For the 1-nearest neighbor, we do this using the optimal attack algorithm proposed by Yang et. al. [13]. For the histogram classifier, we use the optimal attack framework proposed by [13], and show that the structure of the classifier can be exploited to solve the convex program efficiently. Details are in Appendix C.

We use an attack radius of $r = 0.1$ for the Noiseless setting, and $r = 0.09$ for the Noisy setting. For all classification algorithms, we plot the empirical astuteness as a function of the training set size. As a baseline, we also plot their standard accuracy on the test set.

1.5.2 Results

The results are presented in Figure 1.2; the left two panels are for the Noiseless setting while the two center ones are for the Noisy setting.

The results show that as predicted by our theory, for the Noiseless setting, the empirical astuteness of nearest neighbors converges to 1 as the training set grows. For Histogram Classifiers, the astuteness converges to 0.5 – indicating that the classifier may grow less and less astute with higher sample size even for well-separated data. This is plausibly because the cell size induced by the histogram grows smaller with growing training data; thus, the classifier that outputs the default label -1 in empty cells is incorrect on adversarial examples that are close to a point with $+1$ label, but belongs to a different, empty cell. The rightmost panels in Figure 1.2 provide a visual illustration of this process.

For the Noisy setting, the empirical astuteness of adversarial pruning followed by nearest neighbors converges to 0.8. For histograms with adversarial pruning, the astuteness converges to 0.7, which is higher than the noiseless case but still clearly sub-optimal.

1.5.3 Discussion

Our results show that even though our theory is asymptotic, our predictions continue to be relevant in finite sample regimes. In particular, on well-separated data, nearest neighbors that we theoretically predict to be intrinsically robust is robust; histogram classifiers, which do not satisfy the conditions in Theorem 12 are not. Our predictions continue to hold for data that is not well-separated. Nearest neighbors coupled with Adversarial Pruning continues to be robust with growing sample size, while histograms continue to be non-robust. Thus our theory is confirmed by practice.

1.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, we rigorously analyze when non-parametric methods provide classifiers that are robust in the large sample limit. We provide a general condition that characterizes when non-parametric methods are robust on well-separated data, and show that Adversarial Pruning of [13] works on data that is not well-separated.

Our results serve to provide a set of guidelines that can be used for designing non-parametric methods that are robust and accurate on well-separated data; additionally, we demonstrate that when data is not well-separated, preprocessing by adversarial pruning [13] does lead to optimally astute solutions in the large sample limit.

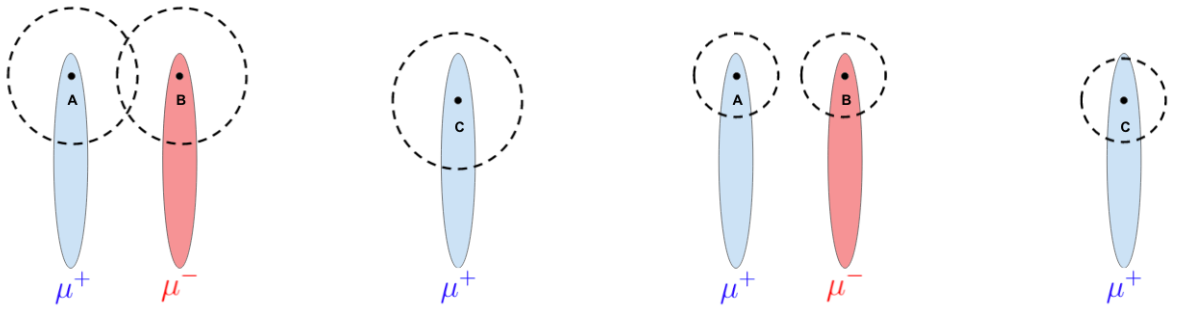
Chapter 2

Consistent Non-Parametric Methods for Maximizing Robustness

2.1 Introduction

Adversarially robust classification, that has been of much recent interest, is typically formulated as follows. We are given data drawn from an underlying distribution D, a metric d, as well as a pre-specified robustness radius r. We say that a classifier c is r-robust at an input x if it predicts the same label on a ball of radius r around x. Our goal in robust classification is to find a classifier c that maximizes astuteness, which is defined as accuracy on those examples where c is also r-robust.

While this formulation has inspired a great deal of recent work, both theoretical and empirical [14, 15, 16, 17, 3, 18, 2, 20, 21, 22, 35], a major limitation is that enforcing a pre-specified robustness radius r may lead to sub-optimal accuracy *and* robustness. To see this, consider what would be an ideally robust classifier the example in Figure 2.1. For simplicity, suppose that we know the data distribution. In this case, a classifier that has an uniformly large robustness radius r will misclassify some points from the blue cluster on the left, leading to lower accuracy. This is illustrated in panel (a), in which large robustness radius leads to intersecting robustness regions. On the other hand, in panel (b), the blue cluster on the right is highly separated from the red cluster, and could be accurately classified with a high margin. But this will not happen if the robustness radius is set small enough to avoid the problems posed in



(a) Large robustness radii

(b) Small robustness radii

Figure 2.1. A data distribution demonstrating the difficulties with fixed radius balls for robustness regions. The red represents negatively labeled points, and the blue positive. If the robustness radius is set too large (panel (a)), then the regions of A and B intersect leading to a loss of accuracy. If the radius is set too small (panel (b)), this leads to a loss of robustness at point C where in principle it should be possible to defend against a larger amount of adversarial attacks.

panel (a). Thus, enforcing a fixed robustness radius that applies to the entire dataset may lead to lower accuracy and lower robustness.

In this work, we propose an alternative formulation of robust classification that ensures that in the large sample limit, there is no robustness-accuracy trade off, and that regions of space with higher separation are classified more robustly. An extra advantage is that our formulation is achievable by existing methods. In particular, we show that two very common non-parametric algorithms – nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers – achieve these properties in the large sample limit.

Our formulation is built on the notion of a new large-sample limit. In the standard statistical learning framework, the large-sample ideal is the Bayes optimal classifier that maximizes accuracy on the data distribution, and is undefined outside. Since this is not always robust with radius r, prior work introduces the notion of an r-optimal classifier [13] that maximizes accuracy on points where it is also r-robust. However, this classifier also suffers from the same challenges as the example in Figure 2.1.

We depart from both by introducing a new limit that we call the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier, described as follows. Given an input x that lies in the support of the data distribution D, it predicts the same label as the Bayes optimal. On an x outside the support,

it outputs the prediction of the Bayes Optimal on the nearest neighbor of x *within* the support of D. The first property ensures that there is no loss of accuracy – since it always agrees with the Bayes Optimal within the data distribution. The second ensures higher robustness in regions that are better separated. Our goal is now to design classifiers that converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal in the large sample limit; this ensures that with enough data, the classifier will have accuracy approaching that of the Bayes optimal, as well as higher robustness where possible without sacrificing accuracy.

We next investigate how to design classifiers with this convergence property. Our starting point is classical statistical theory [12] that shows that a class of methods known as weight functions will converge to a Bayes optimal in the large sample limit provided certain conditions hold; these include k-nearest neighbors under certain conditions on k and n, certain kinds of decision trees as well as kernel classifiers. Through an analysis of weight functions, we next establish precise conditions under which they converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal in the large sample limit. As expected, these are stronger than standard convergence to the Bayes optimal. In the large sample limit, we show that k_n-nearest neighbors converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal provided $k_n = \omega(\log n)$, and kernel classifiers converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal provided certain technical conditions (such as the bandwidth shrinking sufficiently slowly). By contrast, certain types of histograms do not converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal, even if they do converge to the Bayes optimal. We round these off with a lower bound that shows that for nearest neighbor, the condition that $k_n = \omega(\log n)$ is tight. In particular, for $k_n = O(\log n)$, there exist distributions for which k_n-nearest neighbors provably fails to converge towards the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal (despite converging towards the standard Bayes optimal).

In summary, the contributions of the paper are as follows. First, we propose a new large sample limit the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal and a new formulation for robust classification. We then establish conditions under which weight functions, a class of non-parametric methods, converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal in the large sample

limit. Using these conditions, we show that k_n-nearest neighbors satisfy these conditions when $k_n = \omega(\log n)$, and kernel classifiers satisfy these conditions provided the kernel function K has faster than polynomial decay, and the bandwidth parameter h_n decreases sufficiently slowly.

To complement these results, we also include negative examples of non-parametric classifiers that do not converge. We provide an example where histograms do not converge to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal with increasing n. We also show a lower bound for nearest neighbors, indicating that $k_n = \omega(\log n)$ is both necessary and sufficient for convergence towards the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal.

Our results indicate that the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal formulation shows promise and has some interesting theoretical properties. We leave open the question of coming up with other alternative formulations that can better balance both robustness and accuracy for all kinds of data distributions, as well as are achievable algorithmically. We believe that addressing this would greatly help address the challenges in adversarial robustness.

2.2 Preliminaries

We consider binary classification over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let ρ denote any distance metric on $\mathbb{R}^d$. We let μ denote the measure over $\mathbb{R}^d$ corresponding to the probability distribution over which instances $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ are drawn. Each instance x is then labeled as $+1$ with probability $\eta(x)$ and -1 with probability $1 - \eta(x)$. Together, μ and η comprise our data distribution $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$.

For comparison to the robust case, for a classifier $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$ and a distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, it will be instructive to consider its **accuracy**, denoted $A(f, \mathscr{D})$, which is defined as the fraction of examples from $\mathscr{D}$ that f labels correctly. Accuracy is maximized by the **Bayes Optimal classifier**: which we denote by g. It can be shown that for any $x \in supp(\mu)$, $g(x) = 1$ if $\eta(x) \geq \frac{1}{2}$, and $g(x) = -1$ otherwise.

Our goal is to build classifiers $\mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$ that are both accurate and robust to small

perturbations. For any example x, perturbations to it are constrained to taking place in the **robustness region** of x, denoted U_x. We will let $\mathscr{U} = \{U_x : x \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$ denote the collections of all robustness regions.

We say that a classifier $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$ is **robust** at x if for all $x' \in U_x$, $f(x') = f(x)$. Combining robustness and accuracy, we say that classifier is **astute** at a point x if it is both accurate and robust. Formally, we have the following definition.

Definition 21. *A classifier $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$ is said to be **astute** at (x,y) with respect to robustness collection $\mathscr{U}$ if $f(x) = y$ and f is robust at x with respect to $\mathscr{U}$. If $\mathscr{D}$ is a data distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, the **astuteness** of f over $\mathscr{D}$ with respect to $\mathscr{U}$, denoted $A_{\mathscr{U}}(f,\mathscr{D})$, is the fraction of examples $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ for which f is astute at (x,y) with respect to $\mathscr{U}$. Thus*

$$A_{\mathscr{U}}(f,\mathscr{D}) = P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[f(x') = y, \forall x' \in \mathscr{U}_x].$$

Non-parametric Classifiers

We now briefly review several kinds of non-parametric classifiers that we will consider throughout this paper. We begin with *weight functions*, which are a general class of non-parametric algorithms that encompass many classic algorithms, including nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers.

Weight functions are built from training sets, $S = \{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2,),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\}$ by assigning a function $w_i^S : \mathbb{R}^d \to [0,1]$ that essentially scores how relevant the training point (x_i,y_i) is to the example being classified. The functions w_i^S are allowed to depend on $x_1,\ldots,x_n$ but must be independent of the labels $y_1,\ldots,y_n$. Given these functions, a point x is classified by just checking whether $\sum y_i w_i^S(x) \geq 0$ or not. If it is nonnegative, we output $+1$ and otherwise -1. A complete description of weight functions is included in the appendix.

Next, we enumerate several common Non-parametric classifiers that can be construed as weight functions. Details can be found in the appendix.

Histogram classifiers partition the domain $\mathbb{R}^d$ into cells recursively by splitting cells

that contain a sufficiently large number of points x_i. This corresponds to a weight function in which $w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{k_x}$ if x_i is in the same cell as x, where k_x denotes the number of points in the cell containing x.

k_n-**nearest neighbors** corresponds to a weight function in which $w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{k_n}$ if x_i is one of the k_n nearest neighbors of x, and $w_i^S(x) = 0$ otherwise.

Kernel-Similarity classifiers are weight functions built from a kernel function $K : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and a window size $(h_n)_1^\infty$ such that $w_i^S(x) \propto K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n)$ (we normalize by dividing by $\sum_1^n K((\rho(x,x_i)/h_n)))$.

2.3 The Neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier

Robust classification is typically studied by setting the robustness regions, $\mathscr{U} = \{U_x\}_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d}$, to be balls of radius r centered at x, $U_x = \{x' : \rho(x,x') \leq r\}$. The quantity r is the robustness radius, and is typically set by the practitioner (before any training has occurred).

This method has a limitation with regards to trade-offs between accuracy and robustness. To increase the margin or robustness, we must have a large robustness radius (thus allowing us to defend from larger adversarial attacks). However, with large robustness radii, this can come at a cost of accuracy, as it is not possible to robustly give different labels to points with intersecting robustness regions.

For an illustration, consider Figure 2.1. Here we consider a data distribution $D = (\mu, \eta)$ in which the blue regions denote all points with $\eta(x) > 0.5$ (and thus should be labeled $+$), and the red regions denote all points with $\eta(x) < 0.5$ (and thus should be labeled $-$). Observe that it is not possible to be simultaneously accurate and robust at points A, B while enforcing a large robustness radius, as demonstrated by the intersecting balls. While this can be resolved by using a smaller radius, this results in losing out on potential robustness at point C. In principal, we should be able to afford a large margin of robustness about C due to its relatively far distance from the red regions.

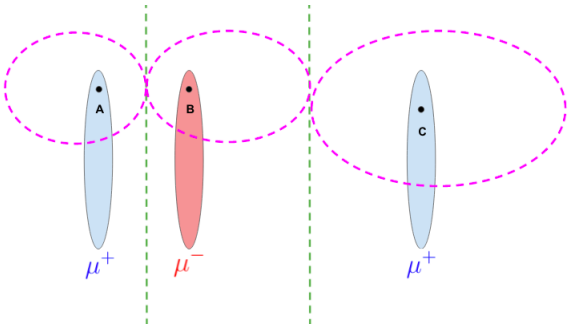


Figure 2.2. The decision boundary of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier is shown in green, and the neighborhood preserving robust region of x is shown in pink. The former consists of points equidistant from μ^+, μ^-, and the latter consists of points equidistant from x, μ^+.

Motivated by this issue, we seek to find a formalism for robustness that allows us to simultaneously avoid paying for any accuracy-robustness trade-offs and *adaptively* size robustness regions (thus allowing us to defend against a larger range of adversarial attacks at points that are located in more homogenous zones of the distribution support). To approach this, we will first provide an ideal limit object: a classifier that has the same accuracy as the Bayes optimal (thus meeting our first criteria) that has good robustness properties. We call this the the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier, defined as follows.

Definition 22. *Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Then the **neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier of** $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $g_{neighbor}$, is the classifier defined as follows. Let $\mu^+ = \{x : \eta(x) \geq \frac{1}{2}\}$ and $\mu^- = \{x : \eta(x) < \frac{1}{2}\}$. Then for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $g_{neighbor}(x) = +1$ if $\rho(x, \mu^+) \leq \rho(x, \mu^-)$, and $g_{neighbor}(x) = -1$ otherwise.*

This classifier can be thought of as the most robust classifier that matches the accuracy of the Bayes optimal. We call it *neighborhood preserving* because it extends the Bayes optimal classifier into a local neighborhood about every point in the support. For an illustration, refer to Figure 2.2, which plots the decision boundary of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal for an example distribution.

Next, we turn our attention towards measuring its robustness, which must be done with respect to some set of robustness regions $\mathscr{U} = \{U_x\}$. While these regions U_x can be nearly

arbitrary, we seek regions U_x such that $A_{\mathscr{U}}(g_{max}, \mathscr{D}) = A(g_{bayes}, \mathscr{D})$ (our astuteness equals the maximum possible accuracy) and U_x are "as large as possible" (representing large robustness). To this end, we propose the following regions.

Definition 23. *Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be a data distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let $\mu^+ = \{x : \eta(x) > \frac{1}{2}\}$, $\mu^- = \{x : \eta(x) < \frac{1}{2}\}$, and $\mu^{1/2} = \{x : \eta(x) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. For $x \in \mu^+$, we define the **neighborhood preserving robustness region**, denoted V_x, as*

$$V_x = \{x' : \rho(x, x') < \rho(\mu^- \cup \mu^{\frac{1}{2}}, x')\}.$$

It consists of all points that are closer to x than they are to $\mu^- \cup \mu^{1/2}$ (points oppositely labeled from x). We can use a similar definition for $x \in \mu^-$. Finally, if $x \in \mu^{1/2}$, we simply set $V_x = \{x\}$.

These robustness regions take advantage of the structure of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal. They can essentially be thought of as regions that maximally extend from any point x in the support of $\mathscr{D}$ to the decision boundary of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal. We include an illustration of the regions V_x for an example distribution in Figure 2.2.

As a technical note, for $x \in supp(\mathscr{D})$ with $\eta(x) = 0.5$, we give them a trivial robustness region. The rational for doing this is that $\eta(x) = 0.5$ is an edge case that is arbitrary to classify, and consequently enforcing a robustness region at that point is arbitrary and difficult to enforce.

We now formalize the robustness and accuracy guarantees of the max-margin Bayes optimal classifier with the following two results.

Theorem 24. *(Accuracy) Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a data distribution. Let $\mathscr{V}$ denote the collection of neighborhood preserving robustness regions, and let g denote the Bayes optimal classifier. Then the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier, $g_{neighbor}$, satisfies $A_{\mathscr{V}}(g_{neighbor}, \mathscr{D}) = A(g, \mathscr{D})$, where $A(g, \mathscr{D})$ denotes the accuracy of the Bayes optimal. Thus, $g_{neighbor}$ maximizes accuracy.*

Theorem 25. *(Robustness) Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a data distribution, let f be a classifier, and let $\mathscr{U}$ be a set of robustness regions. Suppose that $A_{\mathscr{U}}(f, \mathscr{D}) = A(g, \mathscr{D})$, where g denotes the Bayes optimal*

classifier. Then there exists $x \in supp(\mathscr{D})$ such that $V_x \not\subset U_x$, where V_x denotes the neighborhood preserving robustness region about x. In particular, we cannot have V_x be a strict subset of U_x for all x.

Theorem 24 shows that the neighborhood preserving Bayes classifier achieves maximal accuracy, while Theorem 25 shows that achieving a strictly higher robustness (while maintaining accuracy) is not possible; while it is possible to make accurate classifiers which have higher robustness than $g_{neighbor}$ in some regions of space, it is not possible for this to hold across all regions. Thus, the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier can be thought of as a local maximum to the constrained optimization problem of maximizing robustness subject to having maximum (equal to the Bayes optimal) accuracy.

2.3.1 Neighborhood Consistency

Having defined the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier, we now turn our attention towards building classifiers that converge towards it. Before doing this, we must precisely define what it means to converge. Intuitively, this consists of building classifiers whose robustness regions "approach" the robustness regions of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier. This motivates the definition of *partial neighborhood preserving robustness regions*.

Definition 26. *Let $0 < \kappa < 1$ be a real number, and let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be a data distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let $\mu^+ = \{x : \eta(x) > \frac{1}{2}\}$, $\mu^- = \{x : \eta(x) < \frac{1}{2}\}$, and $\mu^{1/2} = \{x : \eta(x) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. For $x \in \mu^+$, we define the **neighborhood preserving robustness region**, denoted V_x, as*

$$V_x = \{x' : \rho(x,x') < \kappa\rho(\mu^- \cup \mu^{\frac{1}{2}}, x')\}.$$

It consists of all points that are closer to x than they are to $\mu^- \cup \mu^{1/2}$ (points oppositely labeled from x) by a factor of κ. We can use a similar definition for $x \in \mu^-$. Finally, if $\eta(x) = \frac{1}{2}$, we simply set $V_x^\kappa = \{x\}$.

Observe that $V_x^\kappa \subset V_x$ for all $0 < \kappa < 1$, and thus being robust with respect to V_x^κ is a milder condition than V_x. Using this notion, we can now define margin consistency.

Definition 27. *A learning algorithm A is said to be* ***neighborhood consistent*** *if the following holds for any data distribution $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ where η is continuous on its support. For any $0 < \varepsilon, \delta, \kappa < 1$, there exists N such that for all $n \geq N$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,*

$$A_{\mathscr{V}^\kappa}(A_S, D) \geq A(g, \mathscr{D}) - \varepsilon,$$

where g denotes the Bayes optimal classifier and A_S denotes the classifier learned by algorithm A from dataset S.

This condition essentially says that the astuteness of the classifier learned by the algorithm converges towards the accuracy of the Bayes optimal classifier. Furthermore, we stipulate that this holds as long as the astuteness is measured with respect to some $\mathscr{V}^\kappa$. Observe that as $\kappa \to 1$, these regions converge towards the neighborhood preserving robustness regions, thus giving us a classifier with robustness effectively equal to that of the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier.

2.4 Neighborhood Consistent Non-Parametric Classifiers

Having defined neighborhood consistency, we turn to the following question: which non-parametric algorithms are neighborhood consistent? Our starting point will be the standard literature for the convergence of non-parametric classifiers with regard to accuracy. We begin by considering the standard conditions for k_n-nearest neighbors to converge (in accuracy) towards the Bayes optimal.

k_n-nearest neighbors is *consistent* if and only if the following two conditions are met: $\lim_{n\to\infty} k_n = \infty$, and $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{k_n}{n} = 0$. The first condition guarantees that each point is classified by using an increasing number of nearest neighbors (thus making the probability of a misclassification small), and the second condition guarantees that each point is classified using only points

very close to it. We will refer to the first condition as *precision*, and the second condition as *locality.* A natural question is whether the same principles suffice for neighborhood consistency as well. We began by showing that without any additional constraints, the answer is no.

Theorem 28. *Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be the data distribution where μ denotes the uniform distribution over $[0,1]$ and η is defined as: $\eta(x) = x$. Over this space, let ρ be the euclidean distance metric. Suppose $k_n = O(\log n)$ for $1 \leq n < \infty$. Then k_n-nearest neighbors is not neighborhood consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.*

The issue in the example above is that for smaller k_n, k_n-nearest neighbors lacks sufficient precision. For neighborhood consistnecy, points must be labeled using even more training points than are needed accuracy. This is because the classifier must be uniformly correct across the entirety of V_x^κ. Thus, to build neighborhood consistent classifiers, we must bolster the precision from the standard amount used for standard consistency. To do this, we begin by introducing *splitting numbers*, a useful tool for bolstering the precision of weight functions.

2.4.1 Splitting Numbers

We will now generalize beyond nearest neighbors to consider weight functions. Doing so will allow us to simultaneously analyze nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers. To do so, we must first rigorously substantiate our intuitions about increasing precision into concrete requirements. This will require several technical definitions.

Definition 29. *Let μ be a probability measure over $\mathbb{R}^d$. For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the **probability radius** $r_p(x)$ is the smallest radius for which $B(x, r_p(x))$ has probability mass at least p. More precisely, $r_p(x) = \inf\{r : \mu(B(x,r)) \geq p\}$.*

Definition 30. *Let W be a weight function and let $S = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\}$ be any finite subset of $\mathbb{R}^d$. For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\alpha \geq 0$, and $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$, let $W_{x,\alpha,\beta} = \{i : \rho(x,x_i) \leq \alpha, w_i^S(x) \geq \beta\}$. Then the **splitting number** of W with respect to S, denoted as $T(W,S)$ is the number of distinct subsets*

generated by $W_{x,\alpha\beta}$ as x ranges over $\mathbb{R}^d$, α ranges over $[0,\infty)$, and β ranges over $[0,1]$. Thus $T(W,S) = |\{W_{x,\alpha,\beta} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, 0 \leq \alpha, 0 \leq \beta \leq 1\}|$.

Splitting numbers allow us to ensure high amounts of precision over a weight function. To prove neighborhood consistency, it is necessary for a classifier to be correct at *all* points in a given region. Consequently, techniques that consider a single point will be insufficient. The splitting number provides a mechanism for studying entire regions simultaneously. For more details on splitting numbers, we include several examples in the appendix.

2.4.2 Sufficient Conditions for Neighborhood Consistency

We now state our main result.

Theorem 31. *Let W be a weight function, $\mathscr{D}$ a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, $\mathscr{U}$ a neighborhood preserving collection, and $(t_n)_1^\infty$ be a sequence of positive integers such that the following four conditions hold.*

1. W is consistent (with resp. to accuracy) with resp. to $\mathscr{D}$.

2. For any $0 < p < 1$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)}] = 0$.

3. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x)] = 0$.

4. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = 0$.

Then W is neighborhood consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.

Remarks: Condition 1 is necessary because neighborhood consistency implies standard consistency – or, convergence in accuracy to the Bayes Optimal. Standard consistency has been well studied for non-parametric classifiers, and there are a variety of results that can be used to ensure it – for example, Stone's Theorem (included in the appendix).

Conditions 2. and 3. are stronger version of conditions 2. and 3. of Stone's theorem. In particular, both include a supremum taken over all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ as opposed to simply considering a random point $x \sim \mathscr{D}$. This is necessary for ensuring correct labels on entire regions of points simultaneously. We also note that the dependence on $r_p(x)$ (as opposed to some fixed r) is a key

property used for adaptive robustness. This allows the algorithm to adjust to potential differing distance scales over different regions in $\mathbb{R}^d$. This idea is reminiscent of the analysis given in [36], which also considers probability radii.

Condition 4. is an entirely new condition which allows us to simultaneously consider all $T(W,S)$ subsets of S. This is needed for analyzing weighted sums with arbitrary weights.

Next, we apply Theorem 31 to get specific examples of margin consistent non-parametric algorithms.

2.4.3 Nearest Neighbors and Kernel Classifiers

We now provide sufficient conditions for k_n-nearest neighbors to be neighborhood consistent.

Corollary 32. *Suppose $(k_n)_1^\infty$ satisfies (1) $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{k_n}{n} = 0$, and (2) $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\log n}{k_n} = 0$. Then k_n-nearest neighbors is neighborhood consistent.*

As a result of Theorem 28, corollary 32 is tight for nearest neighbors. Thus k_n nearest neighbors is neighborhood consistent if and only if $k_n = \omega(\log n)$.

Next, we give sufficient conditions for a kernel-similarity classifier.

Corollary 33. *Let W be a kernel classifier over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ constructed from $K : \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}^+$ and h_n. Suppose the following properties hold.*

1. K is decreasing, and satisfies $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(||x||)dx < \infty$.

2. $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$ and $\lim_{n\to\infty} nh_n^d = \infty$.

3. For any $c > 1$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{K(cx)}{K(x)} = 0$.

4. For any $x \geq 0$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{\log n} K(\frac{x}{h_n}) = \infty$.

Then W is neighborhood consistent.

Observe that conditions 1. 2. and 3. are satisfied by many common Kernel functions such as the Gaussian or Exponential kernel ($K(x) = \exp(-x^2)$/ $K(x) = \exp(-x)$). Condition 4. can be

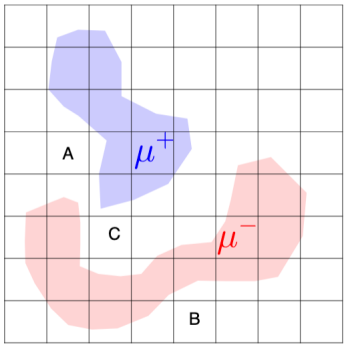


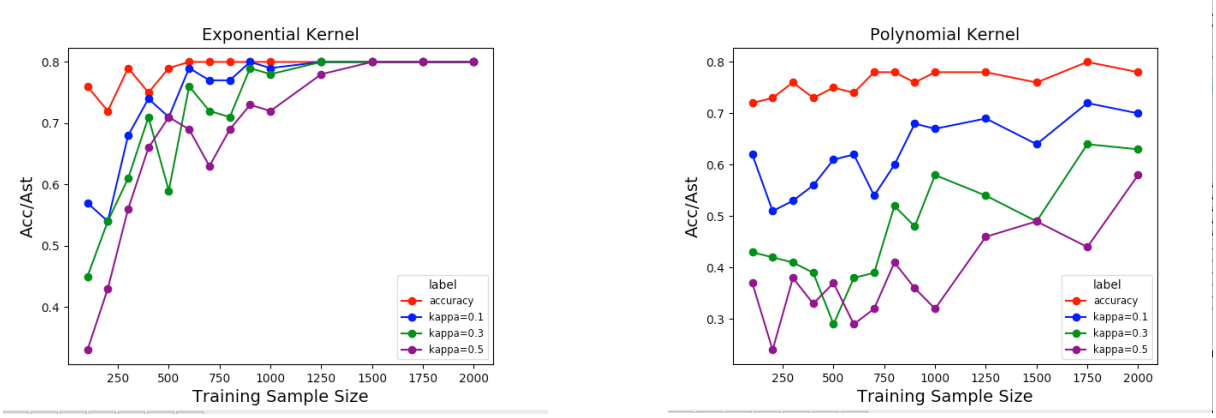
Figure 2.3. we have a histogram classifier being applied to the blue and red regions. The classifier will be unable to construct good labels in the cells labeled A, B, C, and consequently will not be robust with respect to V_x^κ for sufficiently large κ.

similarly satisfied by just increasing h_n to be sufficiently large. Overall, this theorem states that Kernel classification is neighborhood consistent as long as the bandwidth shrinks slowly enough.

2.4.4 Histogram Classifiers

Having discussed neighborhood consistent nearest-neighbors and kernel classifier, we now turn our attention towards another popular weight function, histogram classifiers. Recall that histogram classifiers operate by partitioning their input space into increasingly small cells, and then classifying each cell by using a majority vote from the training examples within that cell (a detailed description can be found in the appendix). We seek to answer the following question: is increasing precision sufficient for making histogram classifiers neighborhood consistent? Unfortunately, the answer this turns out not to be no. The main issue is that histogram classifiers have no mechanism for performing classification outside the support of the data distribution.

For an example of this, refer to Figure 2.3. Here we see a distribution being classified by a histogram classifier. Observe that the cell labeled A contains points that are strictly closer to μ^+ than μ^-, and consequently, for sufficiently large κ, V_x^κ will intersect A for some point $x \in \mu^+$. A similar argument holds for the cells labeled B and C.. However, since A, B, C are all in cells that will never contain any data, they will never be labeled in a meaningful way. Because of this, histogram classifiers are not neighborhood consistent.



(a) exponential kernel

(b) polynomial kernel

Figure 2.4. Plots of astuteness against the training sample size. In both panels, accuracy is plotted in red, and the varying levels of robustness regions ($\kappa = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5$) are givne in blue, green and purple. In panel (a), observe that as sample size increases, every measure of astuteness converges towards 0.8 which is as predicted by Corollary 33. In panel (b), although the accuracy appears to converge, none of the robustness measure. In fact, they get progressively worse the larger κ gets.

2.5 Validation

To complement our theoretical large sample results for non-parametric classifiers, we now include several experiments to understand their behavior for finite samples. We seek to understand how quickly non-parametic classifiers converge towards the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal.

We focus our attention on kernel classifiers and use two different kernel similarity functions: the first, an exponential kernel, and the second, a polynomial kernel. These classifiers were chosen so that the former meets the conditions of Corollary 33, and the latter does not. Full details on these classifiers can be found in the appendix.

To be able to measure performance with increasing data size, we look at a simple synthetic dataset over overlayed circles (see Figure B.1 for an illustration) with support designed so that the data is intrinsically multiscaled. In particular, this calls for different levels of robustness in different regions. For simplicity, we use a global label noise parameter of 0.2, meaning that any sample drawn from this distribution is labeled differently than its support with probability 0.2.

Further details about our dataset are given in section B.4.

Performance Measure. For a given classifier, we evaluate its astuteness at a test point x with respect to the robustness region V_x^κ (Definition 26). While these regions are not computable in practice due to their dependency on the support of the data distribution, we are able to approximate them for this synthetic example due to our explicit knowledge of the data distribution. Details for doing this can be found in the appendix. To compute the empirical astuteness of a kernel classifier W_K about test point x, we perform a grid search over all points in V_x^κ to ensure that all points in the robustness region are labeled correctly.

For each classifier, we measure the empirical astuteness by using three trials of 20 test points and taking the average. While this is a relatively small amount of test data, it suffices as our purpose is to just verify that the algorithm roughly converges towards the optimal possible astuteness. Recall that for any neighborhood consistent algorithm, as $n \to \infty$, $A_{\gamma\kappa}$ should converge towards A^*, the accuracy of the Bayes optimal classifier, for *any* $0 < \kappa < 1$. Thus, to verify this holds, we use $\kappa = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5$. For each of these values, we plot the empirical astuteness as the training sample size n gets larger and larger. As a baseline, we also plot their standard accuracy on the test set.

Results and Discussion: The results are presented in Figure 2.4; the left panel is for the exponential kernel, while the right one is for the polynomial kernel. As predicted by our theory, we see that in all cases, the exponential kernel converges towards the maximum astuteness regardless of the value of κ: the only difference is that the rate of convergence is slower for larger values of κ. This is, of course, expected because larger values of κ entail larger robustness regions.

By contrast, the polynomial kernel performs progressively worse for larger values of κ. This kernel was selected specifically to violate the conditions of Corollary 33, and in particular fails criteria 3. However, note that the polynomial kernel nevertheless performs will with respect to accuracy thus giving another example demonstrating the added difficulty of neighborhood consistency.

Our results bridge the gap between our asymptotic theoretical results and finite sample regimes. In particular, we see that kernel classifiers that meet the conditions of Corollary 33 are able to converge in astuteness towards the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier, while classifiers that do not meet these conditions fail.

2.6 Related Work

There is a wealth of literature on robust classification, most of which impose the same robustness radius r on the entire data. [14, 15, 16, 17, 3, 18, 19, 2, 20, 21, 22], among others, focus primarily on neural networks, and robustness regions that are ℓ_1, ℓ_2, or ℓ_∞ norm balls of a given radius r.

[37] and [38] show how to train neural networks with different robustness radii at different points by trading off robustness and accuracy; their work differ from ours in that they focus on neural networks, their robustness regions are still norm balls, and that their work is largely empirical.

Our framework is also related to large margin classification – in the sense that the robustness regions $\mathscr{U}$ induce a *margin constraint* on the decision boundary. The most popular large margin classifier is the Support Vector Machine[39, 40, 41] – a large margin linear classifier that minimizes the worst-case margin over the training data. Similar ideas have also been used to design classifiers that are more flexible than linear; for example, [42] shows how to build large margin Lipschitz classifiers by rounding globally Lipschitz functions. Finally, there has also been purely empirical work on achieving large margins for more complex classifiers – such as [43] for deep neural networks that minimizes the worst case margin, and [44] for metric learning to find large margin nearest neighbors. Our work differs from these in that our goal is to ensure a high enough local margin at each x, (by considering the neighborhood preserving regions V_x) as opposed to optimizing a global margin.

Finally, our analysis builds on prior work on robust classification for non-parametric

methods in the standard framework. [23, 24, 7, 13] provide adversarial attacks on non-parametric methods. Wang et. al. [7] develops a defense for 1-NN that removes a subset of the training set to ensure higher robustness. Yang et. al [13] proposes the r-optimal classifier – which is the maximally astute classifier in the standard robustness framework – and proposes a defense called Adversarial Pruning.

Theoretically, [45] provide conditions under which weight functions converge towards the r-optimal classifier in the large sample limit. They show that for r-separated distributions, where points from different classes are at least distance $2r$ or more apart, nearest neighbors and kernel classifiers satisfy these conditions. In the more general case, they use Adversarial Pruning as a preprocessing step to ensure that the training data is r-separated, and show that this preprocessing step followed by nearest neighbors or kernel classifiers leads to solutions that are robust and accurate in the large sample limit. Our result fundamentally differs from theirs in that we analyze a different algorithm, and our proof techniques are quite different. In particular, the fundamental differences between the r-optimal classifier and the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal classifier call for different algorithms and different analysis techniques.

In concurrent work, [46] proposes a similar limit to the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal which they refer to as the margin canonical Bayes. However, their work then focuses on a data augmentation technique that leads to convergence whereas we focus on proving the neighborhood consistency of classical non-parametric classifiers.

Chapter 3

Sample Complexity of Robust Linear Classification on Separated Data

3.1 Introduction

Motivated by the use of machine learning in safety-critical settings, adversarially robust classification has been of much recent interest. Formally, the problem is as follows. A learner is given training data drawn from an underlying distribution D, a hypothesis class $\mathscr{H}$, a robustness metric d, and a radius r. The learner's goal is to find a classifier $h \in \mathscr{H}$ which has the lowest robust loss at radius r. The robust loss of a classifier is the expected fraction of examples where either $f(x) \neq y$ or where there exists an x' at distance $d(x,x') \leq r$ such that $f(x) \neq f(x')$. Robust classification thus aims to find a classifier that maximizes accuracy on examples that are distance r or more from the decision boundary, where distances are measured according to the metric d.

In this work, we ask: how many samples are needed to learn a classifier with low robust loss when $\mathscr{H}$ is the class of linear classifiers, and d is an ℓ_p-metric? Prior work has provided both upper [47, 1] as well as lower bounds [2, 1] on the sample complexity of the problem. However, almost all look at settings where the data distribution itself is not separated – data from different classes overlap or are close together in space. In this case, the classifier that minimizes robust loss is quite different from the one that minimizes error, which often leads to strong sample complexity gaps. Many real tasks where robust solutions are desired however tend to involve well-separated data [35], and hence it is instructive to look at what happens in these

cases.

With this motivation, we consider in this work robust classification of data that is linearly r-separable. Specifically, there exists a linear classifier which has zero robust loss at robustness radius r. This case is thus the analog of the realizable case for robust classification, and we consider both upper and lower bounds in this setting.

For lower bounds, prior work [48] shows that both standard and robust linear classification have VC-dimension $O(d)$, and consequently have similar bounds on the expected loss in the worst case. However, these results do not apply to this setting since we are specifically considering well-separated data, which greatly restricts the set of possible worst-case distributions. For our lower bound, we provide a family of distributions that are linearly r-separable and where the maximum margin classifier, given n independent samples, has error $O(1/n)$. In contrast, any algorithm for finding the minimum robust loss classifier has robust loss at least $\Omega(d/n)$, where d is the data dimension. These bounds hold for all ℓ_p-norms provided $p > 1$, including $p = 2$ and $p = \infty$. Unlike prior work, our bounds do not rely on the difference in loss between the solutions with optimal robust loss and error, and hence cannot be obtained by prior techniques. Instead, we introduce a new geometric construction that exploits the fact that learning a classifier with low robust loss when data is linearly r-separated requires seeing a certain number of samples close to the margin.

For upper bounds, prior work [47] provides a bound on the Rademacher complexity of adversarially robust learning, and show that it can be worse than the standard Rademacher complexity by a factor of $d^{1/q}$ for ℓ_p-norm robustness where $1/p + 1/q = 1$. Thus, an interesting question is whether dimension-independent bounds, such as those for the accuracy under large margin classification, can be obtained for robust classification as well. Perhaps surprisingly, we show that when data is really well-separated, the answer is yes. Specifically, if the data distribution is linearly $r + \gamma$-separable, then there exists an algorithm that will find a classifier with robust loss $O(\Delta^2/\gamma^2 n)$ at radius r where Δ is the diameter of the instance space. Observe that much like the usual sample complexity results on SVM and perceptron, this upper bound

is independent of the data dimension and depends only on the excess margin (over r). This establishes that when data is really well-separated, finding robust linear classifiers does not require a very large number of samples.

While the main focus of this work is on linear classifiers, we also show how to generalize our upper bounds to Kernel Classification, where we find a similar dynamic with the loss being governed by the excess margin in the embedded kernel space. However, we defer a thorough investigation of robust kernel classification as an avenue for future work.

Our results imply that while adversarially robust classification may be more challenging than simply accurate classification when the classes overlap, the story is different when data is well-separated. Specifically, when data is linearly (exactly) r-separable, finding an r-separated solution to robust loss ε may require $\Omega(d/\varepsilon)$ samples for some distribution families where finding an accurate solution is easier. Thus in this case, there is a gap between the sample complexities of robust and simply accurate solutions, and this is true regardless of the ℓ_p norm in which robustness is measured. In contrast, if data is even more separated – linearly $r+\gamma$-separable – then we can obtain a dimension-independent upper bound on the sample complexity, much like the sample complexity of SVMs and perceptron. Thus, how separable the data is matters for adversarially robust classification, and future works in the area should consider separability while discussing the sample complexity.

3.1.1 Related Work

There is a large body of work [14, 15, 16, 17, 3, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22] empirically studying adversarial examples primarily in the context of neural networks. Several works [2, 49, 50] have empirically investigated trade-offs between robust and standard classification.

On the theoretical side, this phenomenon has been studied in both the parametric and non-parametric settings. On the parametric side, several works [51, 52, 8, 47, 53] have focused on finding distribution agnostic bounds of the sample complexity for robust classification. In [8], Srebro et. al. showed through an example that the VC dimension of robust learning may be

much larger than standard or accurate learning indicating that the sample complexity bounds may be higher. However, their example did not apply to linear classifiers.

[54] considers learning linear classifiers robustly, but is primarily focused on computational complexity as opposed to sample complexity.

In [47], Bartlett et. al. investigated the Rademacher complexity of robustly learning linear classifiers as well as neural networks. They showed that in both cases, the robust Rademacher complexity can be bounded in terms of the dimension of the input space – thus indicating a possible gap between standard and robust learning. However, as with the works considering VC dimension, this work is fundamentally focused on upper bounds – they do not show true lower bounds on data requirements.

Because of it's simplicity and elegance, the case where the data distribution is a mixture of Gaussians has been particularly well-studied. The first such work was [2], in which Schmidt et. al. showed an $\Omega(\sqrt{d})$ gap between the standard and robust sample complexity for a mixture of two Gaussians using the ℓ_∞ norm. This was subsequently expanded upon in [55], [56] and [1]. [55] introduces a notion of "optimal transport," which they subsequently apply to the Gaussian case, deriving a closed form expression for the optimally robust linear classifier. Their results apply to any ℓ_p norm. [56] applies expands upon [2] by consider mixtures of three Gaussians in both the ℓ_2 and ℓ_∞ norms. Finally, [1] fully generalizes the results of [2] providing tight upper and lower bounds on the standard and robust sample complexities of a mixture of two Gaussians, in any norm (including ℓ_p for $p \in [1, \infty]$). [2] and [1] bear the most relevance with our work, and we consequently carefully compare our results in section 3.3.1.

Another approach for lower and upper bounds on sample complexities for linear classifiers can be found in [48], which examines the robust VC dimension of learning linear classifiers. They show that the VC dimension is $d+1$, just as it is in the standard case. This implies that the bounds in the robust case match the bounds in the standard case and in particular shows a lower bound of $\Omega(d/n)$ on the expected loss of learning a robust linear classifier from n samples.

While this result appears to match our lower bound, there is a crucial distinction between

the bounds. Our bound implies that there exists some distribution with a large ℓ_2 margin for which the expected robust loss must be $\Omega(d/n)$. On the other hand, standard results about learning linear classifiers on large margin data implies that the expected standard loss will be $O(1/n)$ (when running the max-margin algorithm). For this reason, our paper provides a case in the well-separated setting in which learning linear classifiers is provably more difficult (in terms of sample complexity) in the robust setting than in the standard setting. By contrast, [48] does not show this. Their paper only implies (through standard VC constructions) the existence of *some* distribution that is difficult to learn, and the standard PAC bounds cannot ensure that such a distribution also has a large ℓ_2 margin.

In the non-parametric setting, there are several works which contrast standard learning with robust learning. [7] considers the nearest neighbors algorithm, and shows how to adapt it for converging towards a robust classifier. In [13], Yang et. al. propose the *r-optimal classifier*, which is the robust analog of the Bayes optimal classifier. Through several examples they show that it is often a fundamentally different classifier - which can lead to different convergence behavior in the standard and robust settings. [45] unified these approaches by specifying conditions under which non-parametric algorithms can be adapted to converge towards the *r*-optimal classifier, thus introducing *r*-consistency, the robust analog of consistency.

3.2 Preliminaries

We consider binary classification over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Our metric of choice is the ℓ_p norm, where $p > 1$ (including $p = \infty$) is arbitrary. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we will use $||x||_p$ to denote the ℓ_p norm of x, and consequently will use $||x-y||_p$ to denote the ℓ_p distance between x and y. We will also let ℓ_q denote the dual norm to ℓ_p - that is, $\frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{p} = 1$.

We use $B_p(x,r)$ to denote the closed ℓ_p ball with center x and radius r. For any $S \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we let $diam_p(S)$ denote its diameter: that is, $diam_p(S) = \sup_{x,y \in S} ||x-y||_p$.

3.2.1 Standard and Robust Loss

In classical statistical learning, the goal is to learn an accurate classifier, which is defined as follows:

Definition 34. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let $f \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathbb{R}^d}$ be a classifier. Then the **standard loss** of f over $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $\mathscr{L}(f, \mathscr{D})$, is the fraction of examples $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ for which f is not accurate. Thus*

$$\mathscr{L}(f, \mathscr{D}) = P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[f(x) \neq y].$$

Next, we define robustness, and the corresponding robust loss.

Definition 35. *A classifier $f \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathbb{R}^d}$ is said to be **robust** at x with radius r if $f(x) = f(x')$ for all $x' \in B_p(x,r)$.*

Definition 36. *The **robust loss** of f over $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $\mathscr{L}_r(f, \mathscr{D})$, is the fraction of examples $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ for which f is either inaccurate at (x,y), or f is not robust at (x,y) with radius r. Observe that this occurs if and only if there is some $x' \in B_p(x,r)$ such that $f(x') \neq y$. Thus*

$$\mathscr{L}_r(f, \mathscr{D}) = P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[\exists x' \in B_p(x,r) \text{ s.t. } f(x') \neq y].$$

3.2.2 Expected Loss and Sample Complexity

The most common way to characterize the performance of a learning algorithm is through an (ε, δ) guarantee, which computes ε_n, δ_n such that an algorithm trained over n samples has loss at most ε_n with probability at least $1 - \delta_n$.

In this work, we use the simpler notion of *expected loss*, which is defined as follows:

Definition 37. *Let A be a learning algorithm and let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. For any $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, we let A_S denote the classifier learned by A from training data S. Then the **expected***

standard loss *of A with respect to $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $EL^n(A,\mathscr{D})$ where n is the number of training samples, is defined as*

$$E\mathscr{L}^n(A,\mathscr{D}) = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\mathscr{L}(A_S,\mathscr{D}).$$

Similarly, we define the ***expected robust loss*** *of A with respect to $\mathscr{D}$ as*

$$E\mathscr{L}_r^n(A,\mathscr{D}) = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D}).$$

Our main motivation for using this criteria is simplicity. Our primary goal is to compare and contrast the performances of algorithms in the standard and robust cases, and this contrast clearest when the performances are summarized as a single number (namely the expected loss) rather than an (ε,δ) pair.

Next, we address the notion of sample complexity. As above, sample complexity is typically defined as the minimum number of samples needed to guarantee (ε,δ) performance. In this work, we will instead define it solely with respect to ε, the expected loss.

Definition 38. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d\times\{\pm1\}$ and A be a learning algorithm. Then the* ***standard sample complexity*** *of A with respect to $\mathscr{D}$, denoted $m^\varepsilon(A,\mathscr{D})$, is the minimum number of training samples needed such that A has expected standard loss at most ε. Formally,*

$$m^\varepsilon(A,\mathscr{D}) = \min(\{n : E\mathscr{L}^n(A,D)\le\varepsilon\}).$$

Similarly, we can define the ***robust sample complexity*** *as*

$$m_r^\varepsilon(A,\mathscr{D}) = \min(\{n : E\mathscr{L}^n(A,D)\le\varepsilon\}).$$

3.2.3 Linear classifiers

In this work, we consider linear classifiers, formally defined as follows:

Definition 39. *Let $w\in\mathbb{R}^d$ be a vector. Then the* ***linear classifier*** *with parameters $w\in\mathbb{R}^d$ and*

$b \in \mathbb{R}$ *over* $\mathbb{R}^d \times \pm 1$*, denoted* $f_{w,b}$*, is defined as ,*

$$f_{w,b}(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \langle w, x \rangle \geq b \\ -1 & \langle w, x \rangle < b \end{cases}.$$

Learning linear classifiers is well understood in the standard classification setting. We now consider the linearly *separable* case, in which some linear classifier has perfect accuracy. We will later define linear r-separability as the robust analog of separability.

Definition 40. *A distribution* $\mathscr{D}$ *over* $\mathbb{R}^d \times Y$ *is* ***linearly separable*** *if its support can be partitioned into sets* S^+ *and* S^- *such that:*

1. S^+ *and* S^- *correspond to the positively and negatively labeled subsets of* $\mathbb{R}^d$*. In particular,* $P_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in S^y] = 1$*.*

2. There exists a linear classifier, $f_{w,b}$*, that has perfect accuracy. That is,* $\mathscr{L}(f_{w,b}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$*.*

The standard sample complexity for linearly separable distributions can be characterized through their margin, which is defined as follows.

Definition 41. *Let* $\mathscr{D}$ *be a linearly separable distribution over* $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$*. Let* S^+ *and* S^- *be as above. Then* $\mathscr{D}$ *has* ***margin*** γ *if* γ *is the largest real number such that there exists a linear classifier* $f_{w,b}$ *with the following properties:*

1. $f_{w,b}$ *has perfect accuracy. That is,* $\mathscr{L}(f_{w,b}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$*.*

2. Let $H_{w,b} = \{x : \langle x, w \rangle = b\}$ *denote the decision boundary of* $f_{w,b}$*. Then for all* $x \in (S^+ \cup S^-)$*,* x *has* ℓ_2 *distance at least* γ *from* $H_{w,b}$*. That is,*

$$\inf_{x \in S^+ \cup S^-, z \in H_{w,b}} ||x - z||_2 \geq \gamma.$$

We let $\gamma(\mathscr{D})$ *denote the margin of* $\mathscr{D}$*.*

Observe that although we use a general norm, ℓ_p, to measure robustness, the margin is

always measured in ℓ_2. This is because the ℓ_2 norm plays a fundamental role in bounding the number of samples needed to learn a linear classifier.

The basic idea is that when the ℓ_2 margin is large relative to the ℓ_2 diameter of the distribution, the max margin algorithm requires fewer samples needed to learn a linear classifier. In particular, the ratio between the ℓ_2 margin and the ℓ_2 diameter fully characterizes the standard sample complexity of the max margin algorithm. To further simplify our notation, we define this ratio as the aspect ratio.

Definition 42. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a linearly separable distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Then the **aspect ratio** of $\mathscr{D}$, $\rho(\mathscr{D})$ is defined as,*

$$\rho(\mathscr{D}) = \frac{diam_2(S^+ \cup S^-)}{\gamma(\mathscr{D})},$$

where $diam_2(S^+ \cup S^-)$ denotes its diameter in the ℓ_2 norm.

We now have the following well-known result, which characterizes the expected standard loss with the aspect ratio.

Theorem 43. (Chapter 10 in [57]) *Let M denote the hard margin SVM algorithm. If $\mathscr{D}$ is a distribution with aspect ratio $\rho = \rho(\mathscr{D})$, then for any $n > 0$ we have $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\mathscr{L}(M_S, \mathscr{D}) \leq O(\frac{\rho^2}{n})$, where M_S denotes the classifier learned by M from training data S.*

We can also express this result in terms of standard sample complexity.

Corollary 44. *Let M denote the hard margin SVM algorithm. If $\mathscr{D}$ is a distribution with aspect ratio $\rho = \rho(\mathscr{D})$, then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ we have $m^{\varepsilon}(M_S, \mathscr{D}) \leq O(\frac{\rho^2}{\varepsilon})$, where M_S denotes the classifier learned by M from training data S.*

Theorem 43 and Corollary 44 will serve as a benchmark for comparison with the robust sample complexity.

3.2.4 Linear r-separability

Finally, we introduce linear r-separability, which is the key characteristic of distributions considered in this paper. This can be thought of as the robust analog of linear separability.

Definition 45. *For any $r > 0$, a distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ is **linearly r-separable** if there exists a linear classifier $f_{w,b}$ such that $\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w,b}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$.*

This definition is the fundamental property considered in this paper. Our goal is to understand the sample complexity required for learning robust linear classifiers on linearly r-separable distributions, and compare it with the standard sample complexity given in Theorem 43.

3.3 Lower Bounds

In this section, we consider r-separated distributions whose aspect ratio is constant. By Theorem 43, the standard sample complexity for learning them is independent of d. We will show that in contrast, the robust sample complexity has a linear dependence on d, and consequently establish a substantial gap between the standard and robust cases.

We begin by defining the family of such distributions.

Definition 46. *For any ρ, r, the set $\mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ is defined as the set of all distributions $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ such that $\mathscr{D}$ is r-separated and has aspect ratio at most ρ.*

We now state our main result.

Theorem 47. *Let $r > 0$ and $\rho > 20$. Then the following hold.*

1. *For every learning algorithm A, and any $n > 0$, there exists $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ such that the expected robust loss when A is trained on a sample of size n from $\mathscr{D}$ is at least $\Omega(\frac{d}{n})$. Formally, there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})] \geq \frac{cd}{n}$.*

2. *In contrast, by Theorem 43, for any $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,D}$, the max margin algorithm has expected standard loss $O(\frac{\rho^2}{n})$, when trained on a sample of size n from $\mathscr{D}$. Formally, there exists a constant $c' > 0$ such that $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}(A_S, \mathscr{D})] \leq \frac{c'\rho^2}{n}$.*

The condition $\rho > 20$ is required to rule out degenerate cases. This is because for small values of ρ, the ℓ_2 diameter of $\mathscr{D}$ is not much larger than the ℓ_2 margin of $\mathscr{D}$. This forces $\mathscr{D}$ to be mostly clustered around a line which leads to more complicated behavior.

Observe that when ρ is a constant independent of d, the expected standard loss is $O(\frac{1}{n})$ while the expected robust loss is $\Omega(\frac{d}{n})$. Thus, the ratio between the expected robust loss and the expected standard loss is $\Omega(d)$, leading to a dimensional dependent gap between the robust and standard cases.

We also note that these bounds hold regardless of which ℓ_p ($p \in (1,\infty]$) norm is being used. This is because our construction of $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ for which the lower bound holds is given in terms of the norm p. More generally, the family $\mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ is implicitly defined with respect to p.

Furthermore, our lower bound differs from the lower bound of $\Omega(\frac{d}{n})$ shown in prior work [48] because it specifically holds for $\mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$, a linearly r-separated family of distributions with constant aspect ratio. Thus, while [48] has shown the existence of distributions satisfying the first condition of Theorem 47, our result is the first to exhibit a distribution satisfying both conditions.

Finally, we note that Theorem 47 can also be expressed in terms of sample complexities. We include this in the following corollary.

Corollary 48. *Let $r > 0$ and $\rho > 20$. Then the following hold.*

1. For every learning algorithm A, and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ such that the robust sample complexity of A with respect to $\mathscr{D}$ is at least $\Omega(\frac{d}{\varepsilon})$. Formally, there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $m_r^{\varepsilon}(A, \mathscr{D}) \geq \frac{cd}{\varepsilon}$.

2. In contrast, by Theorem 43, for any $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,D}$, the max margin algorithm has standard sample complexity $O(\frac{\rho^2}{\varepsilon})$. Formally, there exists a constant $c' > 0$ such that $m^{\varepsilon}(A, \mathscr{D}) \leq \frac{c'\rho^2}{\varepsilon}$.

3.3.1 Comparison with [1] and [2]

The first work to provide a robust sample complexity lower bound that applied to linear classifiers is [2]; they showed a gap of $\Omega(\sqrt{d})$ between the robust and accuracy loss for a specific mixture of two Gaussians. This was later generalized to mixtures of any two Gaussians by [1], who also established more general lower bounds for any ℓ_p norm. Since [1] is a strict generalization of [2], we next explain how our lower bounds differ from [1], and why their techniques do not lead to our results. We begin by summarizing their results.

Summary of [1]

[1] considers data distributions $\mathscr{D}$ that are parametrized by $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d\times d}$, $\Sigma \succcurlyeq 0$. $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ is the mixture of two Gaussians, $\mathscr{N}(\mu,\Sigma)$ and $\mathscr{N}(-\mu,\Sigma)$, with equal mass, where instances drawn from $\mathscr{N}(\mu,\Sigma)$ are labeled as $+$, and instances drawn from $\mathscr{N}(-\mu,\Sigma)$ are labeled as $-$. They consider robustness measured in any normed metric in $\mathbb{R}^d$, including the ℓ_p norm for $p \in (1,\infty]$. Although their bounds apply to any classifier, this effectively deals with linear classifiers since it can be shown that the optimally robust and accurate classifiers are both linear.

For any distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$, let L_{rob} denote the optimal robust loss of any classifier on $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$, and let L_{std} denote the optimal standard loss. Then the bounds shown in [1] can restated as follows (a detailed derivation from [1] appears in Appendix C.1).

Theorem 49. *[1]*

1. *For any learning algorithm A and any $n > 0$, there exists some mixture of Gaussians, $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ such that the expected excess robust loss is at least $\Omega(L_{rob}\frac{d}{n})$, when A is trained on a sample of size n from $\mathscr{D}$.*

2. *For any distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$, it is possible to learn a classifier with expected excess standard loss at most $O(L_{std}\frac{d}{n})$.*

3. *By (1.) and (2.), the ratio between the expected excess loss and expected excess standard loss can be expressed as* $ratio \geq \Omega(\frac{L_{rob}}{L_{std}})$.

Observe that their bounds are given through *excess* losses, which is the amount by which the loss exceeds to the optimal loss. This is necessary because in their setting, the optimal classifiers do not have 0 loss.

Comparison with our bounds

Recall that in our work, we are concerned with the *linearly r-separated case*, which occurs precisely when the optimal robust and standard losses both equal 0. However, from Theorem 49, we see that although [1] proves a gap between standard and robust sample complexity, this gap is predicated on distributions for which the optimal robust loss, L_{rob} and optimal standard loss, L_{std} differ. Furthermore, in the case where they obtain a gap of $\Omega(d)$, we see that this requires $\frac{L_{rob}}{L_{std}} = \Omega(d)$ which is a substantial difference. By contrast, our results characterize a gap exclusively in the case that this does not occur.

Finally, in the limiting case where the Gaussians they consider are sufficiently far apart, their data will begin to appear linearly r-separated, meaning both L_{rob} and L_{std} are close to 0. However, even in this case, it can be shown that the ratio $\frac{L_{rob}}{L_{std}}$ diverges towards infinity, meaning that their lower bound characterizes a very different dynamic from ours. Precise details on this comparison can be found in appendix C.1.

3.3.2 Intuition behind Theorem 47

The proof idea for Theorem 47 can be summarized with a simple example (Figure 3.1). In this example, we seek to learn a linear classifier for a linearly r-separated distribution in $\mathbb{R}^2$. The key idea is to contrast the necessary conditions for learning a robust classifier, and the necessary conditions for learning an accurate classifier.

Observe that the distribution is *precisely* linearly r-separated, that is, it is not possible to achieve robustness for radii larger than r. Because of this, there is a unique linear classifier f_{rob}

that has perfect robustness. In order to learn this classifier, we must see examples from $S^+ \cup S^-$ that are close to the "boundary" of $S^+ \cup S^-$. In our figure, this consists of points that are close to the dotted blue and red lines. Moreover, it can be shown that the number of such examples we must see is related to d, the dimension.

By contrast, any classifier that separates S^+ from S^- has perfect accuracy (take for example f_{std} shown in the figure). It is possible to exploit this by using margin based algorithms for learning linear classifiers. In particular, we no longer need to see points that are extremely close to the boundary of $S^+ \cup S^-$.

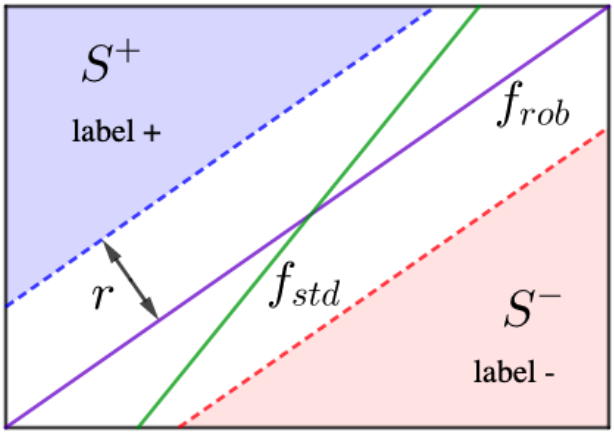


Figure 3.1. An example of a linearly r-separated distribution, with positively and negatively labeled examples in S^+ and S^- respectively. The optimally robust classifier, f_{rob} is shown in purple, while the (not necessarily unique) optimally accurate classifier, f_{std}, is shown in green.

General Hypothesis Classes:

We now briefly consider how to extend our methods to other hypothesis classes. For any hypothesis class $\mathscr{H}$ and distribution $\mathscr{D}$ let

$$\mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha} = \{h : h \in \mathscr{H}, \mathscr{L}(h, \mathscr{D}) \leq \alpha\}$$

and let

$$\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha} = \{h : h \in \mathscr{H}, \mathscr{L}_r(h, \mathscr{D}) \leq \alpha\}.$$

$\mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ can be thought of as the set of accurate classifiers while $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ can be thought of as the set of astute classifiers. By their definitions, it is clear that $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha} \subseteq \mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$. However, in the case when $\mathscr{H}$ is the set of linear classifiers, we see that for small α, $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ is a much "smaller" set than $\mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$. By exploiting the geometric structure inherent to $\mathscr{H}$, we can much more efficiently search for some $h \in \mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ than we can in $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$. This dynamic is the crux of our lower bound: as we essentially show that there are far more critical points (i.e. points near the decision boundary) that we must see for learning $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ that aren't required for $\mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$.

Thus, for our methods to extend to an arbitrary hypothesis class, we would require a similar dynamic. We need two properties to hold: (1) $\mathscr{H}^r_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ must be a very strict subset of $\mathscr{H}_{\mathscr{D},\alpha}$ for sufficiently small alpha. (2) We must have some kind of exploitable geometric structure about $\mathscr{H}$ which allows us to exploit this gap. For the case of linear classifiers, this was the ℓ_2 measured aspect ratio, $\gamma(\mathscr{D})$.

Kernel Classifiers:

A natural choice of a more general hypothesis class would be Kernel Classifiers, which are linear classifiers that operate in an embedded space, H. The main difficulty in expanding our lower bound to this more general setting comes from the behavior near the margin: the effects of the robustness radius in the embedded space are considerably less behaved than they are in the

standard linear case. Nevertheless, we leave this as an important avenue for future work.

Algorithm 2: Adversarial-Perceptron

Input: $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,;

$w \leftarrow 0$;

for $i = 1 \ldots n$ **do**

  $z = \arg\min_{||z - x_i||_p \leq r} y_i \langle w, z \rangle$ finds adversarial example;

  if $\langle w, y_i z \rangle \leq 0$ *checks label* **then**

    $w \leftarrow w + y_i z$ perceptron update;

  end if

end for

Return: $f_{w,0}$;

In the previous section, we showed that for any algorithm, there is some distribution $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ that is difficult (i.e. requires high sample complexity) to learn robustly. A natural follow-up question is: what about distributions for which the margin, γ is very large compared to r.

Observe that in Figure 3.1 the robustness radius r is very close to the margin. In particular, we can find adversarial examples from S^+ and S^- that are very close to the decision boundary f_{rob}. By contrast, if $\gamma >> r$, then this no longer holds which suggests that better robust sample complexities might be possible.

In this section, we will describe a subset of $\mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ that can be learned with expected loss $O(\frac{1}{n})$, thus matching the standard sample complexity up to a constant factor. To do so, we will introduce a novel concept: the *robust margin*. The basic intuition is that distributions for which the margin greatly exceeds the robustness radius are precisely distributions with a large robust margin. We use the following notation.

Observe that if $\mathscr{D}$ is a linearly r-separated distribution, then $\mathscr{D}$ must also be linearly separable. As earlier, let $S^+, S^- \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ denote the positively and negatively labeled examples

from $\mathscr{D}$. We now define

$$S_r^+ = \cup_{s \in S^+} B_p(s,r) \text{ and } S_r^- = \cup_{s \in S^-} B_p(s,r). \tag{3.1}$$

It follows that the decision boundary of any linear classifier with perfect robustness over $\mathscr{D}$ must separate S_r^+ and S_r^-. We now define the robust margin as a measurement of this separation.

Definition 50. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a linearly r-separable distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let S_r^+ and S_r^- be as above. Then $\mathscr{D}$ has **robust margin** γ_r if γ_r is the largest real number such that there exists a linear classifier $f_{w,b}$ with the following properties:*

1. *$f_{w,b}$ has perfect astuteness. That is, $\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w,b}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$.*
2. *Let $H_{w,b} = \{x : \langle x, w \rangle = b\}$ denote the decision boundary of $f_{w,b}$. Then for all $x \in (S_r^+ \cup S_r^-)$, x has ℓ_2 distance at least γ from $H_{w,b}$. That is,*

$$\inf_{x \in S_r^+ \cup S_r^-} \inf_{z \in H_{w,b}} ||x - z||_2 \geq \gamma.$$

We let $\gamma_r(\mathscr{D})$ denote the margin of $\mathscr{D}$, and say that such a distribution is r, γ_r-separated.

It is crucial to note that although adversarial perturbations are measured in ℓ_p, the robust margin is measured in ℓ_2. This is because while the metric ℓ_p plays a role in constructing $B(x,r)$, it can be completely disregarded once the sets S_r^+ and S_r^- are considered, as any hyperplane separating S_r^+ and S_r^- will have perfect robustness.

We now define the robust aspect ratio, which is the robust analog of standard aspect ratio.

Definition 51. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Then the **robust aspect ratio** of $\mathscr{D}$, $\rho_r(\mathscr{D})$ is defined as*

$$\rho_r(\mathscr{D}) = \frac{diam_2(S_r^+ \cup S_r^-)}{\gamma_r(\mathscr{D})},$$

where as before, $diam_2(S_r^+ \cup S_r^-)$ denotes its diameter in the ℓ_2 norm.

We will now show that just as the aspect ratio, $\rho(\mathscr{D})$, characterized the sample complexity

for standard classification, the robust aspect ratio, $\rho_r(\mathscr{D})$ will characterize the sample complexity for robust learning. To do so, we present a perceptron-inspired algorithm (Algorithm 2) for learning a robust classifier on r-separated data with robust aspect ratio ρ_r.

The basic idea behind Algorithm 2 is to combine the standard perceptron algorithm with adversarial training. In particular, we iterate through the training set and do the following on each point (refer to Algorithm 2 for precise details).

1. Find an adversarial example (z, y_i) by attacking our classifier, $f_{w,0}$, at (x_i, y_i) (line 4). This is a straightforward convex optimization problem for linear classifiers.

2. If $f_{w,0}(z) \neq y_i$, we update our weight vector with (z, y_i) by using the standard perceptron update (lines 5-6).

We have the following upper bound on the expected robust loss of our algorithm.

Theorem 52. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution with robust aspect ratio $\rho_r(\mathscr{D})$. Then for any $n > 0$, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})] \leq O(\frac{\rho_r(\mathscr{D})^2}{n}),$$

where A_S denotes the classifier learned by Algorithm 2 from training data S.

Observe that this expected loss is still larger than the expected standard loss in Theorem 43 as $\rho_r(\mathscr{D}) > \rho(\mathscr{D})$ for any $\mathscr{D}$. We also note that this result is not contradictory with our lower bound; there exist distributions $\mathscr{D} \in \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ such that $\gamma_r(\mathscr{D}) = 0$, and these are precisely the distributions for which our lower bounds hold.

3.3.3 Generalization to Kernel Classifiers

Algorithm 2 can be thought of as the robust analog to the perceptron algorithm. We now generalize this algorithm to obtain a robust variant of the *kernel perceptron algorithm*. We first briefly review kernel classifiers. A detailed explanation of our generalized algorithm along with requisite background material can be found in Appendix C.4

Definition 53. *Let $K : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ be a kernel similarity function, $T = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_m, y_m)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ be a set of labeled points, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be a vector of m real numbers. Then the* ***kernel classifier*** *with similarity function K, parameters T, α, and denoted by $f^{\alpha}_{T,K}$ is defined as*

$$f^K_{T,\alpha}(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_1^m \alpha_i y_i K(x_i, x) \geq 0 \\ -1 & \sum_1^m \alpha_i y_i K(x_i, x) < 0 \end{cases}.$$

Conceptually, kernel classifiers are linear classifiers operating in embedded space. With each kernel similarity function K, there is a map $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to H$ (where H is some Hilbert space) such that $K(x, x') = \langle \phi(x), \phi(x') \rangle$. Thus we can think of kernel classifiers as having a linear decision boundary in H.

We now present an analog of Algorithm 2 that we call the Adversarial Kernel-Perceptron. The essence of this algorithm has not changed. For each (x_t, y_t) in our training set, we do the following.

1. Find an adversarial example (z, y_i) by attacking our classifier, $f^K_{T,\alpha}$, at (x_i, y_i) (line 4).
2. If $f^K_{T,\alpha}(z) \neq y_i$, we update our weight vector with (z, y_i) by appending (z, y_i) to T lines

(5-6). This corresponds to a kernel-perceptron update that uses (z, y_i) instead of (x_i, y_i).

Algorithm 3: Adversarial-Kernel-Perceptron

Input: $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, Similarity function, K
$T \leftarrow \emptyset$, $\alpha \leftarrow 0$
for $i = 1 \ldots n$ **do**
  $z = \arg\min_{||z-x||_p \leq r} y_i f^K_{T,\alpha}(z)$ finds adv. ex.
  if $f^k_{T,\alpha}(z) \leq 0$ *checks label* **then**
    $T = T \cup \{(z, y_i)\}$ kern. percep. update
    $\alpha = (1, \ldots, 1)_{|T|}$
  end if
end for
Return $f^K_{T,\alpha}$

One challenging aspect of this algorithm is minimizing $f^k_{T,\alpha}(z)$. For linear classifiers, this has a closed form solution that utilizes the dual norm. For arbitrary Kernel classifiers, this is a somewhat more challenging problem. However, we note that this can be solved using standard optimization techniques, and in some cases (when K is particularly simple), it can be solved with basic gradient descent.

Finally, we show that this Algorithm has similar performance to the linear case. Instead of using the robust aspect ratio, $\rho_r(\mathscr{D})$, to bound the performance, we will require the **robust K-aspect ratio**, which is the kernel analog of this quantity. It can be thought of as the robust aspect ratio in the embedded space H. Details about this quantity (along with the proof of the theorem) can be found in Appendix C.4.

Theorem 54. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution with robust K-aspect ratio $\rho^K_r(\mathscr{D})$. Then for any $n > 0$, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})] \leq O(\frac{\rho^K_r(\mathscr{D})^2}{n}),$$

where A_S denotes the classifier learned by Algorithm 3 from training data S.

This result indicates that for small values of $\rho_r^k(\mathscr{D})$, we can achieve a very good robust sample complexity for kernel classifiers. However, as the size of the perturbations approach this margin, this quantity goes to infinity. This phenomenon mirrors the linearly separable case, and suggests that a similar overall dynamic holds for kernel classification. We leave finding a full generalization (including our lower bound) for a direction in future work.

Appendix A

Appendix for Chapter 1

A.1 Proofs for r-separated distributions

For any distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathscr{X} \times Y$, it will be convenient to use the following notation: for any measurable $S \subset \mathscr{X}$, let $\mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}[S] = \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in S]$. The following definition will be central to our proofs.

Definition 55. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times Y$. An $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$-**decomposition** of $\mathscr{D}$ is a finite set of closed balls $B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_s \subset \mathscr{X}$ each with radius γ such that*

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}[\cup_1^s B_i] > 1 - \varepsilon,$$

and such that $\mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}[B_i] \geq \alpha > 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq s$.

Lemma 56. *Let $\mathscr{X}$ be a totally bounded metric space. For any distribution $\mathscr{D}$, and $\varepsilon, \gamma > 0$, there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that $\mathscr{D}$ admits a $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$-decomposition.*

Proof. Fix any $x \in \mathscr{X}$ and $\varepsilon, \gamma > 0$. Then the sequence of balls $\{S_i = B(x, i)\}$ has union equal to $\mathscr{X}$. Therefore, there exists j such that $P_{\mathscr{D}}(S_j) > 1 - \varepsilon$. Since S_j is totally bounded and complete, it is compact. Let $B^o(x, a)$ denote the open ball centered at x with radius a. Therefore, taking an open cover of S_j, $\{B^o(x, \gamma) : x \in S_j\}$, we can take a finite subcover $\{B_1^o, B_2,^o, \ldots, B_t^o\}$ that cover S_j. Discarding balls such that $\mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}(B_i^o) = 0$ and taking the closure of each ball gives the desired result, with $\alpha = \min_i P_{\mathscr{D}}(B_i)$. □

To prove Theorem 12, we use the following lemma.

Lemma 57. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let $B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_s$ be a $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$-decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$, and let $r > 3\gamma$. If W is a weight function satisfying the conditions of Theorem 12, then for any $\delta > 0$ there exists N such that for $n \geq N$, with probability $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, and $w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_n$ learned by W from S,*

$$\sup_{\{x : d(x, \cup_1^s B_i) \leq r - 3\gamma\}} \sum_1^n w_i(x) I_{d(x_i, x) > r} < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Proof. Fix $\delta > 0$, and let Y be the indicator variable defined as

$$Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sup_{\{x : d(x, \cup_1^s B_i) \leq r - 3\gamma\}} \sum_1^n w_i(x) I_{d(x_i, x) > r} \geq \frac{1}{3} \\ 0 & \text{if } \sup_{\{x : d(x, \cup_1^s B_i) \leq r - 3\gamma\}} \sum_1^n w_i(x) I_{d(x_i, x) > r} < \frac{1}{3} \end{cases}.$$

It suffices to show that there exists N such that for all $n \geq N$, $E_{S \sim \mathscr{D}}[Y] \leq \delta$.

Fix $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ and suppose that $Y = 1$. Then there exists x^*, B_i^* such that $d(x^*, B_i^*) \leq r - 3\gamma$ and such that

$$\sum_1^n w_i(x^*) I_{d(x_i, x^*) > r} \geq \frac{1}{3}.$$

By definition, B_i has radius γ, so by the triangle inequality, for any $x \in B_i^*$, $d(x, x^*) \leq 2\gamma + r - 3\gamma = r - \gamma$. This implies $x^* \in B(x, r - \gamma)$. Therefore, for any $x \in B_i^*$,

$$\sup_{x' \in B(x, r-\gamma)} \sum_1^n w_i(x') I_{d(x', x_i) > r} \geq \sum_1^n w_i(x^*) I_{d(x^*, x_i) > r} \geq \frac{1}{3}.$$

By the definition of an $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$-decomposition, we have that $P_{\mathscr{D}}(B_i^*) \geq \alpha$. As a consequence, we have that

$$\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}} \Big[\sup_{x' \in B(X, r-\gamma)} \sum_1^n w_i(x') I_{||x_i - x'|| > r} \Big] \geq P_{\mathscr{D}}[B_i^*] \frac{1}{3} \geq \frac{\alpha}{3}.$$

Since the previous inequality is guaranteed to hold if $Y = 1$, taking the expectation over S yields

that

$$\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}}\Big[\sup_{x'\in B(X,r-\gamma)}\sum_1^n w_i(x')I_{||x_i-x'||>r}\Big]\geq\frac{\alpha E[Y]}{3}.$$

By the conditions of Theorem 12, the left side of the equation must tend to 0 as $n\to\infty$. This implies that the same must hold for the right side. Therefore, $E[Y]$ tends to 0 as $n\to\infty$, and we can select N such that $E[Y]<\delta$ for $n\geq n$, which completes the proof. □

Proof. (**Theorem 12**) Let W be a weight function that satisfies the condition of Theorem 12. Fix $\varepsilon,\delta>0$, and $\gamma<r/3$. Applying Lemma 56, let $B_1,B_2,\ldots,B_s$ be an $(\varepsilon,\gamma,\alpha)$-decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$. Let T^+ and T^- be subsets of $\mathscr{X}$ corresponding to the definition of r-separation for $\mathscr{D}$.

For $S\sim\mathscr{D}^n$, let A denote the event that

$$\sup_{\{x:d(x,\cup_1^s B_i)\leq r-3\gamma\}}\sum_1^n w_i(x)I_{d(x_i,x)>r}<\frac{1}{3}.$$

Suppose A holds. Pick a B_i. Since T^+ and T^- have distance greater than $2r$, and $diam(B_i)\leq 2\gamma<r$, either $B_i\cap T^+=\emptyset$ or $B_i\cap T^-=\emptyset$. Note that for n sufficiently large, both cannot be empty since $P_{\mathscr{D}}(B_i)\geq\alpha>0$ and each x in the support of $\mathscr{D}$ is either in T^+ or T^-.

Without loss of generality, $B_i\cap T^-=\emptyset$. Then $B_i\cap T^+\neq\emptyset$. B_i has diameter 2γ. Thus $d(B_i,T^-)>2r-2\gamma$. Let $x\in B(B_i,r-3\gamma)$. Then if $(x_j,-)\in S$, by the triangle inequality, $d(x,x_j)>2r-2\gamma-(r-3\gamma)=r+\gamma$.

Substituting this and using event A, we have that

$$\sum_1^n w_i^S(x)I_{(x_i,-)\in S}\leq\sum_1^n w_i^S(x)I_{d(x_i,x)>r}<\frac{1}{3}.$$

It follows that $W_S(x)=+1$. An analogous argument holds for $B_i\cap T^+=\emptyset$. This implies that W_S is astute with radius $r-3\gamma$ over all B_i.

$\cup B_i$ has measure at least $1-\varepsilon$. By Lemma 57, for any $\delta>0$ event A holds with probability $1-\delta$ for n sufficiently large. Therefore, for n sufficiently large, we see that $A_{r-3\gamma}(W_S,\mathscr{D})\geq 1-\varepsilon$

with probabiltiy $1-\delta$. Because ε, δ and γ were arbitrary, it follows that W is r-consistent, as desired.

□

Proof. (**Corollary 14**) For any $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \subset \mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, let $w_i^S(x)$ be 1 if and only if x_i is one of the k_n nearest neighbors of x in the set $S_{\mathscr{X}} = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots x_n\}$. Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. By Theorem 12, it suffices to show that for any $0 < a < b$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathscr{D}_{\mathscr{X}}}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x'\in B(x,a)} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x') I_{d(x_i,x')>b}]] = 0.$$

Fix $0 < a < b$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Pick $\gamma > 0$ such that $a + 2\gamma < b$. This is possible for any $a < b$. Let $B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_s$ be an $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$-decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$. By applying a Chernoff bound followed by a union bound, for any $\delta > 0$ there exists n such that with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, each B_i satisfies $|B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{n\alpha}{2}$. Furthermore, if n is sufficiently large, then $\frac{n\alpha}{2} > k_n$ holds as well.

Consider any $x \in B_i$, and$x' \in B(x,a)$. B_i has radius γ and also satisfies $|B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| > k_n$. Therefore, there are at least k_n points within distance $a + 2\gamma$ of x. Because $a + 2\gamma < b$, it follows that none of the k_n nearest neighbors of x' can have distance more than b from x'. In particular,

$$\sum_1^n w_i^S(x') I_{d(x_i,x')>b} = 0.$$

Since B_i, x and x' were arbitrary, we have that for all $x \in \cup B_i$,

$$\sup_{x'\in B(x,a)} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x') I_{d(x_i,x')>b} \leq \begin{cases} 0 & |B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{n\alpha}{2}, 1 \leq i \leq s \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since $X \in \cup_1^s B_i$ with probability at least $1-\varepsilon$, and since $|B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{n\alpha}{2}, 1 \leq i \leq s$ with

probability at least $1-\delta$, it follows that

$$\mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathscr{D}}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x'\in B(x,a)}\sum_1^n w_i^S(x')I_{d(x_i,x')>b}]] \leq (1-\delta-\varepsilon)0+\delta+\varepsilon = \delta+\varepsilon,$$

which can be made arbitrarily small as ε and δ were arbitrary. Therefore, the limit as n approaches infinity is 0, as desired. □

Proof. (**Corollary 15**) Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X}\times\{\pm 1\}$. By Theorem 12, it suffices to show that for any $0<a<b$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathscr{D}}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x'\in B(x,a)}\sum_1^n w_i^S(x')I_{d(x_i,x')>b}]] = 0.$$

Fix $0<a<b$, and let $\varepsilon>0$.

Pick $\gamma>0$ be such that $a+2\gamma<b$. Let $B_1,B_2,\ldots,B_s$ be an $(\varepsilon,\gamma,\alpha)$-decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$. By applying a Chernoff bound, for any $\delta>0$ there exists n such that with probability $1-\delta$ over $S\sim\mathscr{D}^n$, each B_i satisfies $|B_i\cap S_{\mathscr{X}}|\geq\frac{n\alpha}{2}$.

Next, consider any $x_i,x_j\in S_{\mathscr{X}}$, and let x be a point such that $d(x_i,x)\leq a+2\gamma$ and $d(x_j,x)>b$. Then we have that

$$\frac{w_j^S(x)}{w_i^S(x)} = \frac{K(\frac{d(x_j,x)}{h_n})}{K(\frac{d(x_i,x)}{h_n})}.$$

Because $b>a+2\gamma$, $\frac{d(x_j,x)}{d(x_i,x)}>1$. Therefore, since $\lim_{n\to\infty}h_n=0$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{K(cx)}{K(x)}=0$ for $c>1$, it follows that for any $\beta>0$, there exists N such that for $n\geq N$,

$$\frac{w_j^S(x)}{w_i^S(x)}\leq\frac{\alpha\beta}{2}.$$

Fix any such β, and consider any x with $d(x,B_i)\leq a$. Then $d(x,x')\leq a+2\gamma<b$ for any $x'\in B_i$. Recall that B_i contains at least $\frac{n\alpha}{2}$ points, and let $c=\min_{i,d(x_i,x)\leq a+2\gamma}w_i(x)$. Then it

follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b} &\overset{(a)}{=} \frac{\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}}{\sum_1^n w_i^S(x)} \\ &\overset{(b)}{\leq} \frac{\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}}{\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) I_{d(x_i,x)\leq a+2\gamma}} \\ &\overset{(c)}{\leq} \frac{nc\frac{\alpha\beta}{2}}{\frac{n\alpha}{2}c} \\ &= \beta\end{aligned}$$

(a) holds because the weights always sum to 1. (b) holds because we are reducing the denominator. (c) holds because there are at least $\frac{n\alpha}{2}$ points in B_i, with c being the minimum weight (stated above). The numerator is a result of the inequality shown above in which $w_j^S(x)/w_i^S(x) \leq \alpha\beta/2$ if $d(x_j,x) > b$ and $d(x_i,x) \leq a+2\gamma$.

Using this, we get the following bound:

$$\sup_{x' \in B(X,a)} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x') I_{d(x_i,x')>b} \leq \begin{cases} \beta & x \in \cup_1^s B_i, |B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{n\alpha}{2}, 1 \leq i \leq s \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Since $x \in \cup_1^s B_i$ with probability $1-\varepsilon$, and since $|B_i \cap S_{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{n\alpha}{2}, 1 \leq i \leq s$ with probability $1-\delta$, it follows that

$$\mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathscr{D}}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x' \in B(x,a)} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x') I_{d(x_i,x')>b}]] \leq (1-\delta-\varepsilon)\beta + \delta + \varepsilon.$$

which can be made arbitrarily small as ε, β, and δ were arbitrary. Therefore, the limit as n approaches infinity is 0, as desired. □

A.2 Proofs for general distributions

Lemma 58. *Let $B_1, \ldots, B_s$ be a $(\varepsilon, \alpha, \gamma)$ decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let $U \subseteq [s]$. Then if $n \geq O(\frac{s2^{2s}\log(1/\delta)}{\varepsilon^2})$, then with probability at least $1-\delta$, for all U we have:*

$$|\mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +] - \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}_S}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +]| \leq \varepsilon,$$

$$|\mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = -] - \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}_S}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = -]| \leq \varepsilon.$$

Proof. For any given $U \subseteq [s]$, by a Chernoff bound we have that

$$|\mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +] - \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}_S}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +]| > \varepsilon$$

with probability at most $\frac{\delta}{2^{s+1}}$. Taking a union bound over all U, we see that with probability $1-\frac{\delta}{2}$,

$$|\mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +] - \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}_S}[x \in \cup_{i\in U} B_i, y = +]| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all $U \subseteq [m]$. Applying the same to $y = -1$ and taking a union bound implies the result. □

Lemma 59. *Let M be a classification algorithm over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$, $r > 0$ be a radius, and $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. Then for any ε, δ over $(0,1)$, and for all γ over $(0, r/2)$, there exists N such that for $n \geq N$, with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,*

$$A_{r-\gamma}(M_S, \mathscr{D}) \geq A_r(M_S, \mathscr{D}_S) - \varepsilon,$$

where $\mathscr{D}_S$ denotes the uniform distribution over S.

Proof. (**Lemma 59**) Fix $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$ and $\gamma < r/2$. Applying Lemma 56, let $B_1, \ldots, B_s$ be a $(\varepsilon, \alpha, \gamma)$ decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$.

Let T be the subset of S such that M_S is astute at T with radius r. Define:

$$I_T^+ = \{i | (x_j, +) \in T, x_j \in B_i\}$$

$$I_T^- = \{i | (x_j, -) \in T, x_j \in B_i\}.$$

Observe that $I_T^+ \cap I_T^- = \emptyset$. To see this, notice that B_i has radius $\gamma < r/2$. This implies that any $(x_j, +), (x_k, -) \in B_i$ would force M_S to not be astute at either of those points. Thus we an think of I_T^+ being the set of positively labeled balls, and I_T^- being the set of negatively labeled balls.

Let $B^+ = \cup_{i \in I_T^+} B_i$ and $B^- = \cup_{i \in I_T^-} B_i$. Our strategy will be to argue that M_S must be robust with radius $r - 2\gamma$ at $B^+ \cup B^-$, and then to observe that $\mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}[(B^+, +)] + \mathbb{P}_{\mathscr{D}}[(B^-, -)]$ must be close to $A_r(M_S, \mathscr{D}_S)$.

Let $T_{\mathscr{X}} \subset \mathscr{X}$ denote the set of all x_i such that $(x_i, y_i) \in T$. By the definitions of $\mathscr{D}_S$ and T, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} A_r(M_S, \mathscr{D}_S) &= \frac{|T|}{n} \\ &= \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \cap B^+|}{n} + \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \cap B^-|}{n} + \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \setminus (B^+ \cup B^-)|}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

If $x_i \in \cup_1^s B_j$ and $x_i \in T_{\mathscr{X}}$, then by definition, $x \in (B^+ \cup B^-)$. Therefore, $T_{\mathscr{X}} \setminus (B^+ \cup B^-)$ consists of $x_i \notin \cup_1^s B_j$. Using this, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} A_r(M_S, \mathscr{D}_S) &= \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \cap B^+|}{n} + \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \cap B^-|}{n} + \frac{|T_{\mathscr{X}} \setminus (B^+ \cup B^-)|}{n} \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}_{(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}_S}[x \in B^+, y = +] + \mathbb{P}_{(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}_S}[x \in B^-, y = -] + \mathbb{P}_{(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}_S}[x \notin \cup_1^s B_j]. \end{aligned}$$

If n is sufficiently large, then by Lemma 58, each term on the right is within ε of its corresponding probability over $\mathscr{D}$. Thus we see that with probability $1 - \delta$,

$$A_r(M_S, \mathscr{D}_S) \leq \mathbb{P}_{(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i \in I_T^+} B_i, y = +] + \mathbb{P}_{(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i \in I_T^-}, y = -] + 4\varepsilon. \tag{A.1}$$

Observe that if M_S is robust with radius r at $x_j \in B_i$, then it is robust with radius $r-2\gamma$ at all $x \in B_i$. Furthermore, for $x_j \in \cup_{i\in I_T^+} B_i$, M_S is astute at $(x_j,+1)$ with radius r. Therefore $M_S(x) = +1$ for all $x \in \cup_{i\in I_T^+} B_i$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{r-2\gamma}(M_S,\mathscr{D}) &\geq \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in I_T^+} B_i, y = +] + \mathbb{P}_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \cup_{i\in I_T^-} B_i, y = -] \\ &\geq A_r(M_S,\mathscr{D}_S) - 4\varepsilon \text{ (by equation } A.1). \end{aligned}$$

Since this equation holds with probability $1-\delta$, and since ε and γ were arbitrary, the result follows. □

Proof. (**Theorem 18**) For convenience, we let W' represent the weight function described by $RobustNonPar(S,W,r)$. In particular, W'_S and W_{S_r} are the same classifier, where S_r denotes the largest r-separated subset of S.

Fix $\varepsilon,\delta > 0$, and let $0 < \gamma < r$. For convenience, let

$$Z_i = \sup_{x\in B(x_i,r-\gamma)} \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{||x_j-x||>r}.$$

Because W fulfills the conditions of Theorem 18, there exists N such that for $n > N$, with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, $\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^m Z_i < \varepsilon$. Therefore, there exist at most $3m\varepsilon$ values of i for which $Z_i > \frac{1}{3}$.

Since S_r is r-separated, it follows that

$$\sup_{x\in B(x_i,r-\gamma)} \sum_{1}^{m} w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{y_j\neq y_i} \leq Z_i.$$

Consequently, if $Z_i \leq \frac{1}{3}$, then $W_{S_r}(x) = y_i$ for all $x \in B(x_i, r-\gamma)$. Let $\mathscr{D}_S$ denote the uniform distribution over S. Then we have that

$$A_{r-\gamma}(W'_S,\mathscr{D}_S) = A_{r-\gamma}(W_{S_r},\mathscr{D}_S) \geq \frac{|S_r|}{n} - 3\varepsilon.$$

Observe that for n sufficiently large, with probability $1-\delta$, $|A_r(g_r^*, \mathscr{D}) - A_r(g_r^*, \mathscr{D}_S)| \leq \varepsilon$. The maximum possible astuteness over $\mathscr{D}_S$ is $\frac{|S_r|}{n}$ since no classifier can be astute at 2 oppositely labeled points with distance at most $2r$. Therefore, with probability $1-2\delta$,

$$A_{r-\gamma}(W_S', \mathscr{D}_S) \geq A_r(g_r^*, \mathscr{D}) - 4\varepsilon.$$

By Lemma 59, for n sufficiently large, with probability $1-\delta$

$$A_{r-2\gamma}(W_S', \mathscr{D}) \geq A_{r-\gamma}(W_S', \mathscr{D}_S) - \varepsilon.$$

Therefore, for n sufficiently large, with probability $1-3\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}$,

$$A_{r-2\gamma}(W_S', \mathscr{D}) \geq A_r(g_r^*, \mathscr{D}) - 5\varepsilon.$$

Since ε, δ, and γ were arbitrary, we are done. □

The following two quick lemmas are used for the proofs of Corollaries 19 and 20.

Lemma 60. *Let $B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_s \subset \mathscr{X}$ denote s balls. Let $T \subset \mathscr{X}$ satisfy $|T \cap \cup_1^s B_i| = m$. Let*

$$I_k \subseteq [s] = \{i : |B_i \cap T| \geq k\}.$$

Then $|\cup_{i \in I_k} B_i \cap T| \geq m - ks$.

Proof. For any $j \notin I_k$, $|B_j \cap T| < k$. Since there are at most s such j, it follows that $|\cup_{i \notin I_k} B_i \cap T| < ks$. Taking the complement implies the result. □

Lemma 61. *Let S be a finite subset of $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$. For any $r > 0$, let S_r denote the largest r-separated subset of S. Then $|S_r| \geq \frac{|S|}{2}$.*

Proof. Let $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots (x_n, y_n)\}$. Define:

$$S_+ = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = +1\}$$

$$S_- = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = -1\}.$$

Observe that S_+ and S_- are both r-separated and have union S. Therefore one must have cardinality at least $\frac{|S|}{2}$, which implies the same about $|S_r|$. □

Proof. (**Corollary 19**) For convenience, we let W' represent the weight function described by $RobustNonPar(S, W, r)$. In particular, W'_S and W_{S_r} are the same classifier, where S_r denotes the largest r-separated subset of S.

Relabel the points in S so that

$$S_r = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_m, y_m)\},$$

with $m \leq n$. We will also let $S_r^{\mathscr{X}} = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m\}$.

By Theorem 18, it suffices to show that for any $0 < a < b$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sup_{x\in B(x_i,a)} \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}] = 0,$$

where w_j denote the weight functions corresponding to W. Fix $0 < a < b$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Pick $\gamma > 0$ be such that $a + 2\gamma < b$. Let $B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_s$ be a $(\varepsilon, \gamma, \alpha)$ decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$. By applying a Chernoff bound, for any $\delta > 0$ there exists n_0 such that for $n \geq n_0$, with probability $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,

$$|S_{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_1^s B_i| \geq (1 - 2\varepsilon)n.$$

By Lemma 61, $\frac{m}{n} \geq \frac{1}{2}$. It follows that $|S_r^{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_1^s B_i| \geq m(1 - 4\varepsilon)$.

Let

$$J = \{i : |B_i \cap S_r^{\mathscr{X}}| \geq m\frac{\varepsilon}{s}\}.$$

By Lemma 60 it follows that $|S_r^{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_{i\in J} B_i| \geq m(1-4\varepsilon) - m\varepsilon = m(1-5\varepsilon)$.

Next, observe that if n is sufficiently large, then

$$\frac{k_n}{m} \leq \frac{2k_n}{n} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{s}.$$

Therefore, $|B_i \cap S_r^X|_r \geq k_n$ for $i \in J$.

Fix any B_j with $j \in J$, and consider x with $d(x,B_j) \leq a$. Then $d(x,x') \leq a+2\gamma < b$ for any $x' \in B_j$. Therefore, since $|S_r^X \cap B_i| \geq k_n$, all k_n-nearest neighbors of x have distance at most b to x. This implies that

$$\sum_1^m w_i^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b} = 0.$$

For convenience, let

$$f(x_i) = \sup_{x\in B(x_i,a)} \sum_{j=1}^m w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x,x_j)>b}.$$

For $x_i \in \cup_{j\in J} B_j$, any $x \in B(x_i,a)$ trivially satisfies $d(x,B_i) \leq a$. Therefore, $f(x_i) = 0$ Since $|S_r^{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_{j\in J} B_j| \geq m(1-5\varepsilon)$, and $f(x_i) \leq 1$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{m}\sum_1^m f(x_i) &= \frac{1}{m}\Big(\sum_{x_i\in\cup_{i\in J}B_i} f(x_i) + \sum_{x_i\notin\cup_{i\in J}B_i} f(x_i)\Big) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{m}(0 + 5\varepsilon m(1)) \\
&= 5\varepsilon.
\end{aligned}$$

Since all of our equations hold with probability $1-\delta$ over S for sufficiently large n, this last one does as well. Since this entirely expression is always at most 1 (regardless of S), and since δ, ε

were arbitrary, we have that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{1}^{m} f(x_i)] = 0,$$

which completes the proof. □

Proof. (**Corollary 20**) For convenience, we let W' represent the weight function described by $RobustNonPar(S,W,r)$. In particular, W'_S and W_{S_r} are the same classifier, where S_r denotes the largest r-separated subset of S.

Relabel the points in S so that

$$S_r = \{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2),\ldots,(x_m,y_m)\},$$

with $m \leq n$. We will also let $S_r^{\mathscr{X}} = \{x_1,x_2,\ldots,x_m\}$.

By Theorem 18, it suffices to show that for any $0 < a < b$,

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sup_{x\in B(x_i,a)} \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}] = 0,$$

where w_j are the weight functions corresponding to W. Fix $0 < a < b$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Pick $\gamma > 0$ be such that $a + 2\gamma < b$. Let $B_1,B_2,\ldots,B_s$ be a $(\varepsilon,\gamma,\alpha)$ decomposition of $\mathscr{D}$. By applying a Chernoff bound, for any $\delta > 0$ there exists n_0 such that for $n \geq n_0$, with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,

$$|S_{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_1^s B_i| \geq (1-2\varepsilon)n.$$

By Lemma 61, $\frac{m}{n} \geq \frac{1}{2}$. It follows that $|S_r^{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_1^s B_i| \geq m(1-4\varepsilon)$.

Let

$$J = \{i : |B_i \cap S_r^{\mathscr{X}}| \geq \frac{m\varepsilon}{s}\}.$$

By Lemma 60, $|S_r^{\mathscr{X}} \cap \cup_{i\in J} B_i| \geq m(1-4\varepsilon) - m\varepsilon = m(1-5\varepsilon)$.

Next, consider any $x_i,x_j \in S_r^{\mathscr{X}}$, and let x be a point such that $d(x_i,x) \leq a+2\gamma$ and $d(x_j,x) > b$. Recall that W is constructed from kernel function K and window parameter h_n. We

then have that

$$\frac{w_j^S(x)}{w_i^S(x)} = \frac{K(\frac{d(x_j,x)}{h_n})}{K(\frac{d(x_i,x)}{h_n})}. \tag{A.2}$$

Because $b > a + 2\gamma$, $\frac{d(x_j,x)}{d(x_i,x)} > 1$. Fix any $\beta > 0$. Because $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{K(cx)}{K(x)} = 0$ for $c > 1$, there exists N such that for $n \geq N$,

$$\frac{w_j^S(x)}{w_i^S(x)} \leq \frac{\beta\varepsilon}{s}.$$

Fix B_j with $j \in J$, and consider x with $d(x, B_j) \leq a$. By the triangle inequality, $d(x,x') \leq a + 2\gamma$ for all $x' \in B_j$. Then we have the following,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_1^m w_i^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b} &\overset{(a)}{=} \frac{\sum_1^m w_i^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}}{\sum_1^m w_i^{S_r}(x)} \\
&\overset{(b)}{\leq} \frac{\sum_1^m w_i^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x_i,x)>b}}{\sum_{x_i\in B_j} w_i^{S_r}(x)} \\
&\overset{(c)}{\leq} \frac{m \sup_{x_i: d(x_i,x)>b} w_i^{S_r}(x)}{m\varepsilon/s \inf_{x_i\in B_j} w_i^{S_r}(x)} \\
&\overset{(d)}{\leq} \frac{\beta\varepsilon/s}{\varepsilon/s} = \beta.
\end{aligned} \tag{A.3}$$

Equation (a) holds because the total sum of weights is always 1, (b) because all weights are nonnegative, (c) because $|B_j \cap S_r^{\mathscr{X}}| \geq m\varepsilon/s$, and (d) because of equation A.2.

Let

$$Z_i = \sup_{x\in B(x_i,a)} \sum_{j=1}^m w_j^{S_r}(x) I_{d(x,x_j)>b}.$$

For $x_i \in \cup_1^t B_j$, any $x \in B(x_i, a)$ trivially satisfies $d(x, B_i) \leq a$. By equation A.3, it follows that

$Z_i \leq \beta$. Since $|\cup_{j\in J} B_j \cap S_r^{\mathscr{X}}| \geq m(1-5\varepsilon)$ and $Z_i \leq 1$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{m}\sum_1^m Z_i &= \frac{1}{m}\Big(\sum_{x_i\in\cup_{j\in J}B_j} Z_i + \sum_{x_i\notin\cup_{j\in J}B_j} Z_i\Big)\\ &\leq (1-5\varepsilon)\beta + 5\varepsilon.\end{aligned}$$

Since all of our equations hold with probability $1-\delta$ over S for sufficiently large n, this last one does as well. Since this entire expression is always at most 1 (regardless of S), and since $\delta, \varepsilon, \beta$ were arbitrary, we have that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\frac{1}{m}\sum_1^m Z_i] = 0,$$

which completes the proof.

□

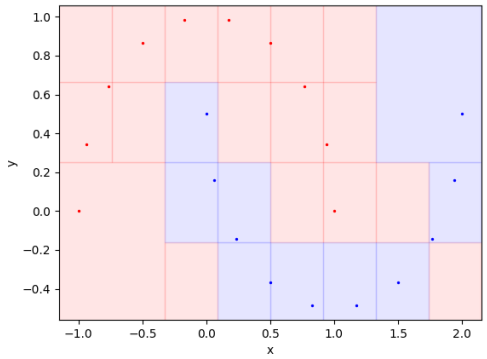
A.3 Experimental Details

A.3.1 Optimal attacks against histogram classifiers

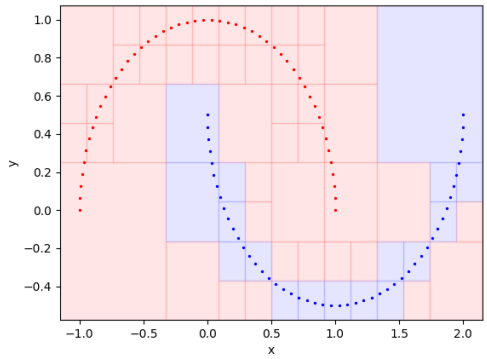
Let H be a histogram classifier, and let (x,y) be any labeled example. Let $r > 0$ be some fixed robustness radius. Recall that an *adversarial example* against H at (x,y) is any x' such that $x' \in B(x,r)$ and $H(x') \neq y$. Note that if $H(x) \neq y$, then x itself is an adversarial example. Conversely, if H is astute at (x,y) with radius r, then no adversarial example exists.

For arbitrary classifiers, finding adversarial examples at a given point can be challenging. However, recent work (Yang et. al. 2019) has shown that for non-parametric classifiers, there are tractable methods for doing so. The key insight is that non-parametric classifiers can be construed as a partitioning of input space into convex cells, with each cell having a given label. For example, Figure A.1 gives a visualization for these cells in a histogram classifier.

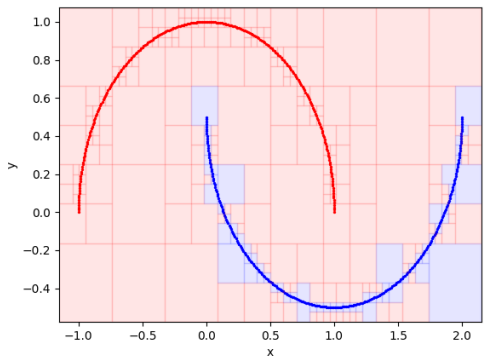
Because these cells are convex, finding an adversarial example for H at (x,y) (here x is a point in $\mathbb{R}^2$, and y is a label) amounts to finding the closest cell $c \in H$ to x such that $H(c) \neq y$.



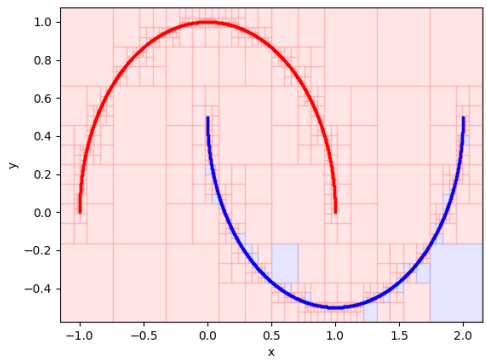
(a) Training Size = 20



(b) Training Size = 50



(c) Training Size = 500



(d) Training Size = 3000

Figure A.1. Empirical accuracy/astuteness of different classifiers as a function of training sample size. Accuracy is shown in green, astuteness in purple. Left : Noiseless Setting. Right: Noisy Setting. Top Row: Histogram Classifier, Bottom Row: 1-Nearest Neighbor

While Yang et. al. (Yang et. al. 2019) presents convex programming algorithms for doing this, the case of histograms in the ℓ_∞ metric is much simpler.

As stated in definition 10, a histogram partitions the input space into hypercubes by iteratively splitting each cube into 2^d cubes with half the length. Therefore, the cells of a histogram are all hypercubes of varying sizes. For cell c, let $s(c)$ denote the length of the cube that c corresponds to, and let $H(c)$ denote the label H assigns to c. The key observation is that c contains an adversarial example for (x,y) if and only if $d(c,x) \leq s(c)/2 + r$, and $H(c) \neq y$. This yields the following algorithm:

Algorithm 4 was further optimized by utilizing nearest-neighbor type algorithms to find the "closest" cells to x. This was done by grouping cells by their radii, and utilizing a separate nearest-neighbor data structure for all cells of a given radius.

Although this algorithm doesn't have the same performance metrics as those presented in (Yang et. al. 2019), it was easily sufficient for computing the empirical astuteness for our experiments.

Algorithm 4: Optimal attack algorithm for Histogram Classifiers

```
Input: Histogram H, labeled point (x,y) ∈ ℝ^2 × {±1}, robustness radius r;
for cell c ∈ H do
    if d(c,x) ≤ s(c)/2 + r and H(c) ≠ y then
        Return c
    end if
end for
```

Appendix B

Appendix for Chapter 2

B.1 Further Details of Definitions and Theorems

B.1.1 Non-Parametric Classifiers

In this section, we precisely define weight functions, histogram classifiers and kernel classifiers.

Definition 62. *[11] A **weight function** W is a non-parametric classifier with the following properties.*

1. *Given input $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2,), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, W constructs functions $w_1^S, w_2^S, \ldots, w_n^S$: $\mathbb{R}^d \to [0,1]$ such that for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) = 1$. The functions w_i^S are allowed to depend on $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_n$ but must be independent of $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$.*

2. *W has output W_S defined as*

$$W_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

As a result, $w_i^S(x)$ can be thought of as the weight that (x_i, y_i) has in classifying x.

Definition 63. *A **histogram classifier**, H, is a non-parametric classification algorithm over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ that works as follows. For a distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R} \times \{\pm 1\}$, H takes $S = \{(x_i, y_i) :$*

$1 \leq i \leq n\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ *as input. Let* k_i *be a sequence with* $\lim_{i\to\infty} k_i = \infty$ *and* $\lim_{i\to\infty} \frac{k_i}{i} = 0$. *H constructs a set of hypercubes* $C = \{c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_m\}$ *as follows:*

1. *Initially* $C = \{c\}$, *where* $S \subset c$.
2. *For* $c \in C$, *if c contains more than* k_n *points of S, then partition c into* 2^d *equally sized hypercubes, and insert them into C.*
3. *Repeat step* 2 *until all cubes in C have at most* k_n *points.*

For $x \in \mathbb{R}$ *let* $c(x)$ *denote the unique cell in C containing x. If* $c(x)$ *doesn't exist, then* $H_S(x) = -1$ *by default. Otherwise,*

$$H_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_{x_i \in c(x)} y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_{x_i \in c(x)} y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Definition 64. *A* ***partitioning rule*** *is a weight function W over* $\mathscr{X} \times \{\pm 1\}$ *constructed in the following manner. Given* $S = \{(x_i, y_i)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, *as a function of* $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$, *we partition* $\mathbb{R}^d$ *into regions with* $A(x)$ *denoting the region containing x. Then, for any* $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ *we have*

$$w_i^S(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_i \in A(x) \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}.$$

To achieve $\sum w_i^S(x) = 1$, *we can simply normalize weights for any x by* $\sum_1^n w_i^S(X)$.

Definition 65. *A* ***kernel classifier*** *is a weight function W over* $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ *constructed from function* $K : \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\} \to \mathbb{R}^+$ *and some sequence* $\{h_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^+$ *in the following manner. Given* $S = \{(x_i, y_i)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, *we have*

$$w_i^S(x) = \frac{K(\frac{\rho(x,x_i)}{h_n})}{\sum_{j=1}^n K(\frac{\rho(x,x_j)}{h_n})}.$$

Then, as above, W has output

$$W_S(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i > 0 \\ -1 & \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) y_i \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

B.1.2 Splitting Numbers

We refer to definitions 29 and 30.

The main idea behind splitting numbers is that they allow us to ensure uniform convergence properties over a weight function. To prove neighborhood consistency, it is necessary for a classifier to be correct at *all* points in a given region. Consequently, techniques that consider a single point will be insufficient. The splitting number provides a mechanism for studying entire regions simultaneously. For clarity, we include a quick example in which we bound the splitting number for a given weight function.

Example:

Let W denote any kernel classifier corresponding such that $K : \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a decreasing function. For any $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, observe that the condition $w_i^S(x) \geq \beta$ precisely corresponds to $\rho(x, x_i) \leq \gamma$ for some value of γ. This is because $w_i^S(x) > w_j^S(x)$ if and only if $\rho(x, x_i) < \rho(x, x_j)$. Thus, the regions $W_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ correspond to $\{i : \rho(x, x_i) \leq \gamma\}$, where γ is a positive real number that depends on x, α, β. These sets precisely correspond to subsets of S that are contained within $B(x, \gamma)$. Since balls have VC dimension at most $d+2$, by Sauer's lemma, the number of subsets of S that can be obtained in this manner is $O(n^{d+2})$. Therefore, we have that $T(W, S) = O(n^{d+2})$ for all $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$.

B.1.3 Stone's Theorem

Theorem 66. *[12] Let W be weight function over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Suppose the following conditions hold for any distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Let X be a random variable with distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$,*

and $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. *All expectations are taken over* X *and* S.

1. There is a constant c *such that, for every nonnegative measurable function* f *satisfying* $\mathbb{E}[f(X)] < \infty$, *and* $\mathbb{E}[\sum_1^n w_i^S(X) f(x_i)] \leq c\mathbb{E}[f(x)]$.

2. $\forall a > 0$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}[\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) I_{||x_i - X|| > a||}] = 0$.

3. $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}[\max_{1\leq i\leq n} w_i^S(X)] = 0$.

Then W *is consistent.*

B.2 Proofs

Notation:

- We let ρ denote our distance metric over $\mathbb{R}^d$. For sets $X_1, X_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we let $\rho(X_1, X_2) = \inf_{x_1 \in X_1, x_2 \in X_2} \rho(x_1, x_2)$.
- For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $B(x,a) = \{x : \rho(x,x') \leq a\}$.
- For any measure over $\mathbb{R}^d$, μ, we let $supp(\mu) = \{x : \mu(B(x,a)) > 0 \text{ for all } a > 0\}$.
- Given some measure μ over $\mathbb{R}^d$ and some $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we let $r_p(x)$ denote the probability radius (Definition 29) of x with probability p. that is, $r_p(x) = \inf\{r : \mu(B(x,r)) \geq p\}$.
- For weight function W and training sample S, we let W_S denote the weight function learned by W from S.

B.2.1 Proofs of Theorems 24 and 25

Proof. (Theorem 24) Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be a data distribution, and let μ^+, μ^- be as described in Definition 22. Observe that for any $x \in \mu^+$, the Bayes optimal classifier and the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal both have the same output, and furthermore the neighborhood preserving Bayes gives this output (by definition) throughout the entirety of V_x, the neighborhood preserving robustness region of x. It follows that the neighborhood preserving Bayes optimal has optimal astuteness, as desired. □

Proof. (Theorem 25) Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be a data distribution, and assume towards a contradiction that there exists classifier f which has maximal astuteness with respect towards some set of robustness regions $\mathbb{U} = \{U_x\}$ such that $V_x \subseteq U_x$ for all x. The key observation is that because f has maximal astuteness, we must have $f(x) = g(x)$ for almost all points $x \sim \mu$ (where g is the Bayes optimal classifier). Furthermore, for those values of x, we must have g be robust at x (meaning it uniformly outputs the same output through U_x).

In order for U_x to be strictly larger than V_x for some x, it *necessarily* must intersect with $U_{x'}$ for some x' with $g(x') \neq g(x)$, and this is what causes the contradiction: f cannot be astute at both x and x' if they are differently labeled and their robustness regions intersect. □

B.2.2 Proof of Theorem 28

Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ be the distribution with μ being the uniform distribution over $[0,1]$ and $\eta : [0,1] \to [0,1]$ be $\eta(x) = x$. For example, if $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$, then $\Pr[y = 1 | x = 0.3] = 0.3$.

We desire to show that k_n-nearest neighbors is not neighborhood consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$. We begin with the following key lemma.

Lemma 67. *For any $n > 0$, let f_n denote the k_n-nearest neighbor classifier learned from $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. There exists some constant $\Delta > 0$ such that for all sufficiently large n, with probability at least $\frac{1}{2}$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, there exists $x \in [0,1]$ with $\frac{1}{2} - \Delta \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}$ and $f_n(x) = +1$.*

Proof. Let C be a constant such that $k_n \leq C \log n$ for all $2 \leq n < \infty$. Set Δ as

$$\frac{1}{2} \log_2 \frac{1}{1-2\Delta} + \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \frac{1}{1+2\Delta} < \frac{1}{C}. \tag{B.1}$$

Let $A \subset [0,1]$ denote the interval $[\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}]$. For $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, with high probability, there exist at least $\frac{\Delta n}{8}$ instances x_i that are in A. Let us relabel these x_i as $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m$ as

$$\frac{1}{2} - \Delta \leq x_1 < x_2 < \cdots < x_m \leq \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}.$$

Next, suppose that for some i, at least half of $y_i, y_{i+1}, \ldots, y_{i+k_n-1}$ are $+1$. Then it follows that $f_n(x) = +1$ for $x = \frac{x_{i+k_n}+x_i}{2}$ because the k_n nearest neighbors of x are precisely $x_i, x_{i+1}, \ldots x_{i+k_n-1}$ (as a technical note we make x just slightly smaller to break the tie between x_i and x_{i+k_n}). To lower bound the probability that this occurs for some i, we partition $y_1, y_2, \ldots y_m$ into at least $\frac{m}{2k_n}$ disjoint groups each containing k_n consecutive values of y_i. We then bound the probability that each group will have at least $k_n/2$ +1s.

Consider any group of k_n y_is. We have that $\Pr[y_i] = +1 = \eta(x_i) = x_i \geq \frac{1}{2} - \Delta$. Since the variables y_i are independent (even conditioning on x_i), it follows that the probability that at least half of them are $+1$ is at least $\Pr[\text{Bin}(k_n, \frac{1}{2} - \Delta) \geq \frac{k_n}{2}]$. For simplicity, assume that k_n is even. Then using a standard lower bound for the tail of a binomial distribution (see, for example, Lemma 4.7.2 of [58]), we have that

$$\Pr[\text{Bin}(k_n, \frac{1}{2} - \Delta) \geq \frac{k_n}{2}] \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k_n}} \exp(-k_n D(\frac{1}{2}||(\frac{1}{2} - \Delta)),$$

where $D(\frac{1}{2}||(\frac{1}{2} - \Delta)) = \frac{1}{2}\log_2 \frac{1}{1-2\Delta} + \frac{1}{2}\log_2 \frac{1}{1+2\Delta}$.

To simplify notation, let $D_\Delta = D(\frac{1}{2}||(\frac{1}{2} - \Delta))$. Then because we have $\frac{m}{2k_n}$ independent groups of y_is, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pr_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\exists x \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}] \text{ s.t. } f_n(x) = +1] &\geq 1 - (1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k_n}} \exp(-k_n D_\Delta))^{\frac{m}{2k_n}} \\
&\geq 1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{2k_n\sqrt{2k_n}} e^{-k_n D_\Delta}) \\
&\geq 1 - \exp(-\frac{n\Delta}{(16C\log n)^{3/2}} e^{-CD_\Delta \log n}),
\end{aligned}$$

with the inequalities holding because $m \geq \frac{n\Delta}{8}$ and $k_n \leq C\log n$. By equation B.1, $CD_\Delta < 1$. Therefore, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{(2C\log n)^{3/2}} e^{-CD_\Delta \log n} = \infty$, which implies that for n sufficiently large,

$$\Pr_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\exists x \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}] \text{ s.t. } f_n(x) = +1] \geq \frac{1}{2},$$

as desired. □

We now complete the proof of Theorem 28.

Proof. (Theorem 28) Let Δ be as described in Lemma 67, and let $\kappa = \frac{1}{2}$. For all $x < \frac{1}{2}$, we have that $[x, \frac{2x}{3} + \frac{1}{6}] \subseteq V_x^\kappa$. This is because we can easily verify that all points inside that interval are closer to x than they are to $\frac{1}{2}$ (and consequently all points in $\mu^+ \cup \mu^{1/2}$) by factor of 2. It follows that for all $x \in [\frac{1}{2} - \frac{7\Delta}{8}, \frac{1}{2} - \Delta]$,

$$[\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}] \subseteq V_x^\kappa.$$

However, applying Lemma 67, we know that with probability at least $\frac{1}{2}$, there exists some point $x' \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\Delta}{4}]$ such that $f_n(x') = +1$. It follows that with probability at least $\frac{1}{2}$, f_n lacks astuteness at *all* $x \in [\frac{1}{2} - \frac{7\Delta}{8}, \frac{1}{2} - \Delta]$. Since this set of points has total probability mass $\Delta/8$, it follows that with probability at least $\frac{1}{2}$, there is a fixed gap between $A_{\mathscr{V}^\kappa}(f_n, \mathscr{D})$ and $A(g, \mathscr{D})$ (as they differ in a region of probability mass at least $\Delta/8$). This implies that k_n-nearest neighbors is not neighborhood consistent. □

B.2.3 Proof of Theorem 31

Let $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ is a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. We will use the following notation: let $\mathscr{D}^+ = \{x : \eta(x) > \frac{1}{2}\}$, $\mathscr{D}^- = \{x : \eta(x) < \frac{1}{2}$ and $\mathscr{D}_{1/2} = \{x : \eta(x) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. In particular, we have that $\mathscr{D}^+ = \mu^+, \mathscr{D}^- = \mu^-$ and $\mathscr{D}_{1/2} = \mu^{1/2}$. This notation serve will be convenient throughout this section since it allows us to avoid overloading the symbol μ.

To show that an algorithm is neighborhood consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$, we must show that for any $0 < \kappa < 1$, the astuteness with respect to $\mathscr{V}^\kappa$ converges towards the accuracy of the Bayes optimal. To this end, we fix any $0 < \kappa < 1$ and consider $\mathscr{V}^\kappa$.

For our proofs, it will be useful to have the additional assumption that the robustness regions, V_x^κ are *closed*. To obtain this, we let $\mathbb{U} = \{U_x\}$ where $U_x = \overline{V_x^\kappa}$. Each U_x is the closure of the corresponding V_x^κ, and in particular we have $V_x^\kappa \subset U_x$. Because of this, it will suffice for us to consider $A_{\mathbb{U}}$ as opposed to $A_{\mathscr{V}^\kappa}$ since $A_{\mathbb{U}}(f, \mathscr{D}) \leq A_{\mathscr{V}^\kappa}(f, \mathscr{D})$ for all classifiers f.

We now begin by first proving several useful properties of $\mathbb{U}$ that we will use throughout this entire section.

Lemma 68. *The collection of sets $\mathbb{U} = \{U_x\}$ defined as $U_x = \overline{V_x^\kappa}$ satisfies the following properties.*

1. *U_x is closed for all x.*
2. *if $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$, for all $x' \in U_x$, $\rho(x,x') < \rho(\mathscr{D}^+ \cup \mathscr{D}_{1/2}, x')$.*
3. *if $x \in \mathscr{D}^-$, for all $x' \in U_x$, $\rho(x,x') < \rho(\mathscr{D}^- \cup \mathscr{D}_{1/2}, x')$.*
4. *$U_x = \{x\}$ for all $x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}$.*
5. *U_x is bounded for all x.*

Here $\mu^+, \mu^-, \mu^{1/2}$ are as described in Definition 22.

Proof. Property (1) is given the by definition, and properties (2), (3) follow from the fact that κ is strictly less than 1. In particular, the distance function ρ is continuous and consequently all limit points of a set have distances that are limits of distances within the set. Property (4) is since $V_x^\kappa = \{x\}$ for all $x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}$.

Finally, property (5) follows from the fact that $\kappa < 1$. As x gets arbitrarily far away from x the ratio of its distance to x with its distance to μ^- gets arbitrarily close to 1, and consequently there is some maximum radius R so that $V_x^\kappa \subset B(x,R)$. Since $B(x,R)$ is closed, it follows that $U_x \subset B(x,R)$ as well. □

Next, fix W as a weight function and t_n is a sequence of positive integers such that the conditions of Theorem 31 hold, that is:

1. W is consistent (with resp. to accuracy) with resp. to $\mathscr{D}$.
2. For any $0 < p < 1$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)}] = 0$.
3. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x)] = 0$.

4. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = 0$.

Finally, we will also make the additional assumption that $\mathscr{D}$ has infinite support. Cases where $\mathscr{D}$ has finite support can be somewhat trivially handled: when the sample size goes to infinity, we will have perfect labels for every point in the support, and consequently condition 2. will ensure that any $x' \in V_x^\kappa$ is labeled according to the label of x.

We also use the following notation. For any classifier $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$, we let

$$\mathscr{D}_f^+ = \{x : f(x' = +1 \text{ for all } x' \in U_x\}, \text{ and } \mathscr{D}_f^- = \{x : f(x' = -1 \text{ for all } x' \in U_x\}. \tag{B.2}$$

These sets represent the examples that f robustly labels as $+1$ and -1 respectively. These sets are useful since they allows us to characterize the astuteness of f, which we do with the following lemma.

Lemma 69. *For any classifier $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \{\pm 1\}$, we have*

$$A_{\mathbb{U}}(f, \mathscr{D}) \geq A(g, \mathscr{D}) - \mu(\mathscr{D}^+ \setminus \mathscr{D}_f^+) - \mu(D^- \setminus \mathscr{D}_f^-),$$

where g denotes the Bayes optimal classifier.

Proof. By property 4 of Lemma 68, $U_x = \{x\}$ for all $x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}$. Consequently, if $x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}$, there is a $\frac{1}{2}$ chance that any classifier is astute at (x, y). Using this along with the definition of astuteness, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mathbb{U}}(f, \mathscr{D}) &= \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[f(x') = y \text{ for all } x' \in U_x] \\ &= \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[y = +1 \text{ and } x \in (D^+ \cap D_f^+)] + \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[y = -1 \text{ and } x \in (D^- \cap D_f^-)] + \frac{1}{2}\Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}] \end{aligned}$$

However, observe by the definitions of $\mathscr{D}^+, \mathscr{D}^-$ and $\mathscr{D}_{1/2}$ that

$$A(g, \mathscr{D}) = \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[y = +1 \text{ and } x \in D^+] + \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[y = -1 \text{ and } x \in D^-] + \frac{1}{2}\Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in \mathscr{D}_{1/2}].$$

Substituting this, we find that

$$A_{\mathbb{U}}(f,\mathscr{D}) \geq A(g,\mathscr{D}) - \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in (D^+ \setminus D_f^+)] - \Pr_{(x,y)\sim\mathscr{D}}[x \in (D^- \setminus D_f^-)]$$
$$= A(g,\mathscr{D}) - \mu(\mathscr{D}^+ \setminus \mathscr{D}_f^+) - \mu(D^- \setminus \mathscr{D}_f^-),$$

as desired. □

Lemma 69 shows that to understand how W_S converges in astuteness, it suffices to understand how the regions $\mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$ and $\mathscr{D}^-_{W_S}$ converge towards D^+ and D^- respectively. This will be our main approach for proving Theorem 31. Due to the inherent symmetry between $+$ and $-$, we will focus on showing how the region $\mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$ converges towards D^+. The case for $-$ will be analogous. To that end, we have the following key definition.

Definition 70. *Let $p,\Delta > 0$. We say $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$ is (p,Δ)-**covered** if for all $x' \in U_x$ and for all $x'' \in B(x', r_p(x')) \cap supp(\mu)$, $\eta(x'') > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta$. Here r_p denotes the probability radius (Definition 29). We also let $\mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta}$ denote the set of all $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$ that are (p,Δ)-covered.*

If x is (p,Δ)-covered, it means that for all $x' \in U_x$, there is a set of points with measure p around x' that are both close to x', and likely (with at least probability $\frac{1}{2}+\Delta$) to be labeled as $+1$. Our main idea will be to show that if x is (p,Δ) covered and n is sufficiently large, x is likely to be in $\mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$.

We begin this process by first showing that all x are (p,Δ)-covered for some p,Δ. To do so, it will be useful to have one more piece of notation which we will also use throughout the rest of the section. We let

$$\mathscr{D}^-_{1/2} = \mathscr{D}^- \cup \mathscr{D}_{1/2} = supp(\mu) \setminus \mathscr{D}^+.$$

This set will be useful, since Lemma 68 implies that for all $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$ and for all $x' \in U_x$, $\rho(x,x') < \rho(\mathscr{D}^-_{1/2}, x')$. We now return to showing that all x are $(p,\Delta$-covered for some p,Δ.

Lemma 71. *For any $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$, there exists $p, \Delta > 0$ such that x is (p,Δ)-covered.*

Proof. Fix any x. Let $f : U_x \to \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined as $f(x') = \rho(x', \mathscr{D}^-_{1/2}) - \rho(x', x)$. Observe that f is continuous. By assumption, U_x is closed and bounded, and consequently must attain its minimum. However, by Lemma 68, we have that $f(x') > 0$ for all $x' \in U_x$. it follows that $\min_{x' \in U_x} f(x') = \gamma$ where $\gamma > 0$.

Next, let $p = \mu(B(x, \gamma/2))$. $p > 0$ since $x \in supp(\mu)$. Observe that for any $x' \in U_x$, $r_p(x') \leq \rho(x,x') + \gamma/2$, where, $r_p(x')$ denotes the probability radius of x'. This is because $B(x', (\rho(x,x') + \gamma/2))$ contains $B(x, \gamma/2)$ which has probability mass p. It follows that for any $x' \in U_x$, $\rho(x', \mathscr{D}^-_{1/2}) \geq r_p(x') + \gamma/2$. Motivated by this observation, let A be the region defined as

$$A = \bigcup_{x' \in U_x} B(x', r_p(x')).$$

Then by our earlier observation, we have that $\rho(A, \mathscr{D}^-_{1/2}) \geq \frac{\gamma}{2}$. Since distance is continuous, it follows that $\rho(\overline{A}, \mathscr{D}^-_{1/2}) \geq \frac{\gamma}{2}$ as well, where $\overline{A}$ denotes the closure of A.

This means that for any $x'' \in \overline{A} \cap supp(\mu)$, $\eta(x'') > \frac{1}{2}$, since otherwise $\rho(\overline{A}, \mathscr{D}^-_{1/2})$ would equal 0 (as the two sets would literally intersect). Finally, $supp(\mu)$ is a closed set (see Appendix B.3.1), and thus $\overline{A} \cap supp(\mu)$ is closed as well. Since η is continuous (by assumption from Definition 27), it follows that η must maintain its minimum value over $\overline{A} \cap supp(\mu)$. It follows that there exists $2\Delta > 0$ such that $\eta(x'') \geq \frac{1}{2} + 2\Delta > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta$ for all $x'' \in \overline{A} \cap supp(\mu)$.

Finally, by the definition of A, for all $x' \in U_x$, $B(x', r_p(x')) \subset A$. It consequently follows from the definition that x is (p,Δ)-covered, as desired. □

While the previous lemma show that some p, Δ cover any $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$, this does not necessarily mean that there are some fixed p, Δ that cover *all* $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$. Nevertheless, we can show that this is almost true, meaning that there are some p, Δ that cover *most* $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$. Formally, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 72. *For any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists p, Δ such that $\mu(\mathscr{D}^+ \setminus \mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta}) < \varepsilon$, where $\mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta}$ is as defined in Definition 70.*

Proof. Observe that if x is (p,Δ)-covered, then it is also (p',Δ')-covered for any $p' < p$ and $\Delta' < \Delta$. This is because $B(x', r_{p'}(x')) \subset B(x', r_p(x))$ and $\frac{1}{2} + \Delta > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta'$. Keeping this in mind, define

$$\mathscr{A} = \{\mathscr{D}^+_{1/i,1/j} : i, j \in \mathscr{N}\}.$$

For any $x \in \mathscr{D}^+$, by Lemma 71 and our earlier observation, there exists $A \in \mathscr{A}$ such that $x \in A$. It follows that $\cup_{A \in \mathscr{A}} A = \mathscr{D}^+$. By applying Lemma 89, we see that there exists a finite subset of $\mathscr{A}$, $\{A_1, \ldots, A_m\}$ such that

$$\mu(A_1 \cup \cdots \cup A_m\}) > \mu(\mathscr{D}^+) - \varepsilon.$$

Let $A_k = \mathscr{D}^+_{1/i_k,1/j_k}$ for $1 \leq k \leq m$. From our previous observation once again, we see that $\cup A_i \subset \mathscr{D}^+_{1/I,1/J}$ where $I = \max(i_k)$ and $J = \max(j_k)$. It follows that setting $p = 1/I$ and $\Delta = 1/J$ suffices. □

Recall that our overall goal is to show that if x is (p,Δ)-covered, n is sufficiently large, then x is very likely to be in $\mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$ (defined in equation B.2). To do this, we will need to find sufficient conditions on S for x to be in W_S. This requires the following definitions, that are related to *splitting numbers* (Definition 30).

Definition 73. *Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be a point, and let $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ be a training set sampled from $\mathscr{D}^n$. For $0 \leq \alpha$, $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$, and $0 < \Delta < \frac{1}{2}$, we define*

$$W^{\Delta,S}_{x,\alpha,\beta} = \{i : \rho(x, x_i) \leq \alpha, w^S_i(x) \geq \beta, \eta(x_i) > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta\}.$$

Definition 74. *Let $0 < \Delta < \frac{1}{2}$, and let $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ be a training set sampled from*

$\mathscr{D}^n$. *Then we let*

$$W^{\Delta,S} = \{W^{\Delta,S}_{x,\alpha,\beta} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, 0 \leq \alpha, 0 \leq \beta \leq 1\}.$$

These convoluted looking sets will be useful for determining the behavior of W_s at some $x \in \mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta}$. Broadly speaking, the idea is that if every set of indices $R \subset W^{\Delta,S}$ is relatively well behaved (i.e. the number of y_is that are $+1$ is close to $(|R|(\frac{1}{2}+\Delta)$, the expected amount), then $W_s(x') = +1$ for all $x' \in U_x$. Before showing this, we will need a few more lemmas.

Lemma 75. *Fix any $\delta > 0$ and let $0 < \Delta < \frac{1}{2}$. There exists N such that for all $n > N$ the following holds. With probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, for all $R \in W^{\Delta,S}$ with $|R| > t_n$, $\frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{i\in R} y_i \geq \Delta$*

Proof. The key idea is to observe that the set $W^{\Delta,S}$ and the value $T(W,S)$ are completely determined by $\{x_1,\ldots,x_n\}$. This is because weight functions choose their weights only through dependence on $x_1,\ldots,x_n$. Consequently, we can take the equivalent formulation of first drawing $x_1,\ldots,x_n \sim \mu^n$, and then drawing y_i independently according to $y_i = 1$ with probability $\eta(x_1)$ and 0 with probability $1-\eta(x_i)$. In particular, we can treat $y_1,\ldots,y_n$ as independent from $W^{\Delta,S}$ and $T(W,S)$ conditioning on $x_1,\ldots,x_n$.

Fix any $x_1,\ldots,x_n$. First, we see that $|W^{\Delta,S}| \leq T(W,S)$. This is because $W^{\Delta,S}_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ is a subset that is uniquely defined by $W_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ (see Definitions 73 and 30). Second, for any $R \in W^{\Delta,S}$, observe that for all $i \in R$, y_i is a binary variable in $[-1,1]$ with expected value at least $(\frac{1}{2}+\Delta)-(\frac{1}{2}-\Delta) = 2\Delta$ (again by the definition). It follows that if $|R| \geq t_n$, by Hoeffding's inequality

$$\Pr_{y_1\ldots y_n}[\sum_{i\in R} y_i < \Delta] \leq \exp\left(-\frac{2|R|^2\Delta^2}{4|R|}\right) \leq \exp\left(-\frac{t_n\Delta^2}{2}\right).$$

Since there at most $T(W,S)$ sets R, it follows that

$$\Pr_{y_1\ldots y_n}[\sum_{i\in R} y_i < \Delta \text{ for some } R \in W^{\Delta,S} \text{ with } |R| > t_n] \leq T(W,S)\exp\left(-\frac{t_n\Delta^2}{2}\right).$$

However, by condition 4. of Theorem 31, it is not difficult to see that this quantity has expectation

that tends to 0 as $n \to \infty$ (unless $T(W,S)$ uniformly equals 1, but this degenerate case can easily be handled on its own). Thus, for any $\delta > 0$, it follows that there exists N such that for all $n > N$, with probability at least $1 - \frac{\delta}{2}$, $T(W,S)\exp\left(-\frac{t_n\Delta^2}{2}\right) \leq \frac{\delta}{2}$. This value of N consequently suffices for our lemma. □

We now relate $\mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$ (Equation B.2) to $W^{\Delta,S}$ as well as the conditions of Theorem 31.

Lemma 76. *Let $S = \{(x_1,y_1),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\}$ and let $0 < \Delta \leq \frac{1}{2}$ and $0 < p < 1$ such that the following conditions hold.*

1. *For all $R \in W^{\Delta,S}$ with $|R| > t_n$, $\frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{i\in R} y_i \geq \Delta$.*
2. $\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)} < \frac{\Delta}{5}$.
3. $t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x) < \frac{\Delta}{5}$.

Then $\mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta} \subseteq \mathscr{D}^+_{W_S}$.

Proof. Let $x \in \mathscr{D}^+_{p,\Delta}$, and let $x' \in U_x$ be arbitrary. It suffices to show that $W_S(x') = +1$ (as x, x' were arbitrarily chosen). From the definition of W_S, this is equivalent to showing that $\sum_1^n w_i^S(x') y_i > 0$. Thus, our strategy will be to lower bound this sum using the conditions given in the lemma statement.

We first begin by simplifying notation. Since S and x' are both fixed, we use w_i to denote $w_i^S(x')$. Since n is fixed, we will also use t to denote t_n. Next, suppose that $|\{x_1,\ldots,x_n\} \cap B(x', r_p(x'))| = k$. Without loss of generality, we can rename indices such that $\{x_1,\ldots,x_n\} \cap B(x', r_p(x')) \cap B(x', r_p(x')) = \{x_1,\ldots,x_k\}$, and $w_1 \geq w_2 \geq \cdots \geq w_k$.

Let $Y_j = \sum_{i=1}^j y_i$. Our main idea will be to express the sum in terms of these Y_js as

follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_1^n w_i y_i &= \sum_1^k w_i y_i + \sum_{k+1}^n w_i y_i \\ &= w_k Y_k + (w_{k-1} - w_k) Y_{k-1} + \cdots + (w_{t+1} - w_{t+2}) Y_{t+1} + \sum_{i=1}^t (w_i - w_{t+1}) y_i + \sum_{k+1}^n w_i y_i \\ &= \underbrace{w_k Y_k + \sum_{i=t+1}^{k-1} (w_i - w_{i+1}) Y_i}_{\alpha} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^t (w_i - w_{t+1}) y_i}_{\beta} + \underbrace{\sum_{k+1}^n w_i y_i}_{\tau}.\end{aligned}$$

We now bound α, β and τ in terms of Δ by using the conditions given in the lemma. We begin with β and τ, which are considerably easier to handle.

For β, we have that

$$\beta = \sum_{i=1}^t (w_i - w_{t+1}) y_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^t (w_i - w_{t+1})(-1) \geq -t w_1.$$

By condition 2 of the lemma, we see that $t w_1 < \frac{\Delta}{5}$, which implies that $\beta \geq -\frac{\Delta}{5}$.

For γ, we have that $\gamma = \sum_{k+1}^n w_i y_i \geq -\sum_{k+1}^n w_i$. However, for all $k+1 \leq i \leq n$, by definition of k, $\rho(x', x_i) > r_p(x')$. It follows from condition 3 of the lemma that $\gamma \geq -\frac{\Delta}{5}$.

Finally, we handle α. Recall that x is (p, Δ)-covered. It follows that for all $x'' \in supp(\mu) \cap B(x', r_p(x'))$, $\eta(x'') > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta$. Thus, by the definition of k, $\eta(x_i) > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. It follows that if $w_i > w_{i+1}$ or $i = k$, then

$$\begin{aligned}W^{\Delta,S}_{x', r_p(x'), w_i} &= \{j : \rho(x', x_j) \leq r_p(x'), w_j \geq w_i, \eta(x_j) > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta\} \\ &= \{1, \ldots, i\}.\end{aligned}$$

This implies that $\{1, \ldots, i\} \in W^{\Delta,S}$, and consequently that $Y_i \geq i\Delta$, from condition 1 of the lemma. It follows that for all $t < i \leq k$, $(w_i - w_{i+1}) Y_i \geq i(w_i - w_{i+1})\Delta$, and that $w_k Y_k \geq k w_k \Delta$.

Substituting these, we find that

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha &= w_k Y_k + \sum_{i=t+1}^{k-1} (w_i - w_{i+1}) Y_i \\
&\geq k w_k \Delta + \sum_{i=t+1}^{k-1} i(w_i - w_{i+1})\Delta \\
&= w_k\Delta + w_{k-1}\Delta + \cdots + w_{t+1}\Delta + (t+1)w_{t+1}\Delta. \\
&\geq (1 - \sum_{1}^{t} w_i - \sum_{k+1}^{n} w_i)\Delta \\
&\geq (1 - \frac{2\Delta}{5})\Delta \\
&\geq (\frac{4\Delta}{5}),
\end{aligned}$$

with the last inequalities holding from the arguments given for β and γ along with the fact that $0 < \Delta \leq \frac{1}{2}$. Finally, substituting these, we find that $\alpha + \beta + \gamma \geq \frac{4\Delta}{5} - \frac{2\Delta}{5} = \frac{2\Delta}{5} > 0$, as desired. □

We are now ready to prove the key lemma that forms one half of the main theorem (the other half corresponding to $\mathscr{D}^{-}_{W_S}$).

Lemma 77. *Let $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$. There exists N such that for all $n > N$, with probability $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, $\mu(\mathscr{D}^{+} \setminus \mathscr{D}^{+}_{W_S}) < \varepsilon$.*

Proof. First, by Lemma 72, let $0 < p$ and $0 < \Delta$ be such that $\mu(\mathscr{D}^{+} \setminus \mathscr{D}^{+}_{p,\Delta}) < \varepsilon$. By combining Lemma 75, condition 3 of Theorem 31, and condition 2 of Theorem 31 respectively, we see that there exists N such that for all $n > N$, the following hold:

1. With probability at least $1 - \frac{\delta}{3}$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, for all $R \in W^{\Delta,S}$ with $|R| > t_n$, $\frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{i \in R} y_i \geq \Delta$.
2. With probability at least $1 - \frac{\delta}{3}$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)} < \frac{\Delta}{5}$.
3. With probability at least $1 - \frac{\delta}{3}$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, $t_n \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x) < \frac{\Delta}{5}$.

By a union bound, this implies that p, Δ, S satisfy the conditions of Lemma 76 with probability at least $1 - \delta$. Thus, applying the Lemma, we see that with probability $1 - \delta$, $\mathscr{D}^{+}_{p,\Delta} \subset \mathscr{D}^{+}_{W_S}$. This

immediately implies our claim. □

By replicating all of the work in this section for $\mathscr{D}^-$ and $\mathscr{D}^-_{p,\Delta}$, we can similarly show the following:

Lemma 78. *Let $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$. There exists N such that for all $n > N$, with probability $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, $\mu(\mathscr{D}^- \setminus \mathscr{D}^-_{W_S}) < \varepsilon$.*

Combining these two lemmas with Lemma 69 immediately implies that for all $\delta, \varepsilon > 0$, there exists N such that for all $n > N$, with probability $1 - \delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,

$$A_{\mathbb{U}}(W_S, \mathscr{D}) \geq A(g, \mathscr{D}) - \varepsilon.$$

Since $V_x^\kappa \subset U_x$ and since κ was arbitrary, this implies Theorem 31, which completes our proof.

B.2.4 Proof of Corollary 32

Recall that k_n-nearest neighbors can be interpreted as a weight function, in which $w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{k_n}$ if x_i is one of the k_n closest points to x, and 0 otherwise. Therefore, it suffices to show that the conditions of Theorem 31 are met.

We let W denote the weight function associated with k_n-nearest neighbors.

Lemma 79. *W is consistent.*

Proof. It is well known (for example [36]) that k_n-nearest neighbors is consistent for $\lim_{n\to\infty} k_n = \infty$ and $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{k_n}{n} = 0$. These can easily be verified for our case. □

Lemma 80. *For any $0 < p < 1$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)}] = 0$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that for n sufficiently large, all k_n-nearest neighbors of x are located inside $B(x, r_p(x))$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We do this by using a VC-dimension type argument to show that all balls $B(x,r)$ contain a number of points from $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ that is close to their expectation.

For $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $r \geq 0$, let $f_{x,r}$ denote the $0-1$ function defined as $f_{x,r}(x') = 1_{x' \in B(x,r)}$. Let $F = \{f_{x,r} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, r \geq 0\}$ denote the class of all such functions. It is well known that the VC dimension of F is at most $d+2$.

For $f \in F$, let $\mathbb{E}f$ denote $\mathbb{E}_{(x',y)\sim\mathscr{D}} f(x')$ and $\mathbb{E}_n f$ denote $\frac{1}{n}\sum_1^n f(x_i)$, where $\mathbb{E}_n f$ is defined with respect to some sample $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. By the standard generalization result of Vapnik and Chervonenkis (see [59] for a proof), we have that with probability $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,

$$-\beta_n \sqrt{\mathbb{E}f} \leq \mathbb{E}f - \mathbb{E}_n f \leq \beta_n \sqrt{\mathbb{E}f} \tag{B.3}$$

holds for all $f \in F$, where $\beta_n = \sqrt{(4/n)((d+2)\ln 2n + \ln(8/\delta)}$.

Suppose n is sufficiently large so that $\beta_n \leq \frac{p}{2}$ and $\frac{k_n}{n} < \frac{p}{2}$, and suppose that equation B.3 holds. Pick any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and consider $f_{x,r}$ where $r > r_p(x)$. This implies $\mathbb{E}f_{x,r} \geq p$. Then by equation B.3, we see that $\mathbb{E}_n f \geq \frac{p}{2}$. This implies that all k_n nearest neighbors of x are in the ball $B(x,r)$, and that consequently $\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r} = 0$. Because this holds for all x, r with $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $r > r_p(x)$, it follows that equation 2 implies that

$$\sup_{x \in X} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)} = 0.$$

Because equation B.3 holds with probability at least $1-\delta$, and δ can be made arbitrarily small, the desired claim follows. □

Let $t_n = \sqrt{dk_n \log n}$.

Lemma 81. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x)] = 0$.

Proof. Let $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. By the definition of k_n nearest neighbors, $\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x) = \frac{1}{k_n}$. Therefore, $t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x) = \sqrt{\frac{d\log n}{k_n}}$. By assumption 2. of corollary 32, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{d\log n}{k_n} = 0$, which implies that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}^d} w_i^S(x)] = \lim_{n\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{d\log n}{k_n}} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{d\log n}{k_n} = 0,$$

as desired. □

Lemma 82. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = 0.$

Proof. For $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, recall that $T(W,S)$ was defined as

$$T(W,S)|\{W_{x,\alpha,\beta} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, 0 \leq \alpha, 0 \leq \beta \leq 1\}|,$$

where $W_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ denotes

$$W_{x,\alpha,\beta} = \{i : \rho(x,x_i) \leq \alpha, w_i^S(x) \geq \beta\}.$$

Our goal will to be upper bound $\log T(W,S)$.

To do so, we first need a tie-breaking mechanism for k_n-nearest neighbors. For each $x_i \in S$, we independently sample $z_i \in [0,1]$ from the uniform distribution. We then tie break based upon the value of z_i, i.e. if $\rho(x,x_i) = \rho(x,x_j)$, we say that x_i is closer to x than x_j if $z_i < z_j$. With probability 1, no two values z_i, z_j will be equal, so this ensures that this method always works.

Let $A_{x,\alpha} = \{i : \rho(x,x_i) \leq \alpha\}$ and let $B_{x,c} = \{i : z_i \leq c\}$. The key observation is that for any α, β, $W_{x,\alpha,\beta} = A_{x,\alpha} \cap B_{x,c}$ for some value of c. This can be seen by noting that the nearest neighbors of x are uniquely determined by $\rho(x,x_i)$ and z_i. Therefore, it suffices to bound $|A = A_{x,\alpha} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \alpha \geq 0\}|$ and $|B = \{B_{x,c} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d, c \geq 0\}|$.

To bound $|A|$, observe that the set of closed balls in $\mathbb{R}^d$ has VC-dimension at most $d+2$. Thus by Sauer's lemma, there are at most $O(n^{d+2}$ subsets of $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\}$ that can be obtained from closed balls. Thus $|A| \leq O(n^{d+2}$.

To bound $|B|$, we simply note that $B_{x,c}$ consists of all i for which $z_i \leq c$. Since the z_i can be sorted, there are at most $n+1$ such sets. Thus $|B| \leq n+1$.

Combining this, we see that $T(W,S) \leq |A||B| \leq O(n^{d+3})$. Finally, we see that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{O(d\log n)}{\sqrt{k_n d \log n}} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{O(d\log n)}{k_n}} = 0,$$

with the last inequality holding by condition 2. of Corollary 32.

□

Finally, we note that Corollary 32 is an immediate consequence of the previous 4 lemmas as we can simply apply Theorem 31.

B.2.5 Proof of Corollary 33

Let W be a kernel classifier constructed from K and h_n such that the conditions of Corollary 33 hold: that is,

1. $K : [0,\infty) \to [0,\infty)$ is decreasing and satisfies $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} K(x)dx < \infty$.
2. $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = 0$ and $\lim_{n\to\infty} nh_n^d = \infty$.
3. For any $c > 1$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{K(cx)}{K(x)} = 0$.
4. For any $x \geq 0$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{\log n} K(\frac{x}{h_n}) = \infty$.

It suffices to show that the conditions of Theorem 31 are met for W. Before doing this, we will describe one additional assumption we make for this case.

Additional Assumption:

We assume that $\mathscr{D}, \mathbb{U}$ are such that there exists some compact set $\mathscr{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ such that for all $x \in supp(\mu)$, $U_x \subset \mathscr{X}$. This is primarily for convenience: observe that any distribution can be approximated arbitrarily closely by distributions satisfying these properties (as each U_x is bounded by assumption). Importantly, because of this, we will note that it is possible for conditions 2. and 3. of Theorem 31 to be relaxed to taking supremums over $\mathscr{X}$ rather than $\mathbb{R}^d$. This is because in our proof, we only ever used these conditions in their restriction to $\bigcup_{x\in supp(\mu)} \bigcup x' \in U_x B(x', r_p(x'))$.

Using this assumption, we return to proving the corollary.

Lemma 83. *W is consistent with respect to $\mathscr{D}$.*

Proof. Condition 1. of Corollary 33 imply that K is a regular kernel. This together with Condition 2. implies that W is consistent: a proof can be found in [11]. □

To verify the second condition, it will be useful to have the following definition.

Definition 84. *For any $p, \varepsilon > 0$ and $x \in \mathscr{X}$, define r_p^ε as*

$$r_p^\varepsilon(x) = \sup\{r : \mu(B(x,r)) - \mu(B(x, r_p(x)) \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

Lemma 85. *For any $p, \varepsilon > 0$, there exists a constant $c_p^\varepsilon > 1$ such that $\frac{r_p^\varepsilon(x)}{r_p(x)} \geq c_p^\varepsilon$ for all $x \in \mathscr{X}$, where we set $\frac{r_p^\varepsilon(x)}{r_p(x)} = \infty$ if $r_p(x) = 0$.*

Proof. The basic idea is to use the fact that $\mathscr{X}$ is compact. Our strategy will be to analyze the behavior of $\frac{r_p^\varepsilon(x)}{r_p(x)}$ over small balls $B(x_0, r)$ centered around some fixed x_0, and then use compactness to pick some finite set of balls $B(x_0, r)$. This must be done carefully because the function $x \to \frac{r_p^\varepsilon(x)}{r_p(x)}$ is not necessarily continuous.

Fix any $x_0 \in \mathscr{X}$. First, observe that $r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) > r_p(x_0)$. This is because $B(x_0, r_p(x_0)) = \cap_{r > r_p(x_0)} B(x_0, r)$, and consequently $\lim_{r \downarrow r_p(x_0)} \mu(B(x_0, r)) = \mu(B(x_0, r_p(x_)))$.

Next, define

$$s_p^\varepsilon(x) = \inf\{r : \mu(B(x, r_p(x)) - \mu(B(x,r)) \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

We can similarly show that $r_p(x_0) > s_p^\varepsilon(x_0)$.

Finally, define

$$r_0 = \frac{1}{3} \min(r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) - r_p(x_0), r_p(x_0) - s_p^\varepsilon(x_0)).$$

Consider any $x \in B^o(x_0, r_0)$ where B^o denotes the open ball, and let $\alpha = \rho(x_0, x)$. Then we have the following.

1. $r_p(x) \leq r_p(x_0) + \alpha$. This holds because $B(x, r_p(x_0) + \alpha)$ contains $B(x_0, r_p(x_0))$, which has probability mass at least p.

2. $r_p(x) \geq r_p(x_0) - \alpha$. This holds because if $r_p(x) < r_p(x_0) - \alpha$, then there would exists $r < r_p(x_0)$ such that $\mu(B(x_0, r)) \geq p$ which is a contradiction.

3. $B(x_0, s_p^\varepsilon(x_0)) \subset B(x, r_p(x))$. This is just a consequence of the definition of r_0 and the previous observation.

By the definitions of r_p^ε and s_p^ε, we see that $\mu(B(x_0, r_p^\varepsilon(x_0)) - \mu(B(x_0, s_p^\varepsilon(x_0)) \leq 2\varepsilon$. By the triangle inequality, $B(x, r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) - \alpha) \subset B(x_0, r_p^\varepsilon(x_0))$ and $B(x_0, s_p^\varepsilon(x_0)) \subset B(x, r_p(x))$. it follows that

$$\mu(B(x, r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) - \alpha)) - \mu(B(x, r_p(x))) \leq 2\varepsilon,$$

which implies that $r_p^{2\varepsilon}(x) \geq r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) - \alpha$. Therefore we have the for all $x \in B(x_0, r_0)$,

$$\frac{r_p^{2\varepsilon}(x)}{r_p(x)} \geq \frac{r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) - \alpha}{r_p(x_0) + \alpha} \geq \frac{2r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) + r_p(x_0)}{r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) + 2r_p(x_0)}.$$

Notice that the last expression is a constant that depends only on x_0, and moreover, since $r_p^\varepsilon(x_0) > r_p(x_0)$, this constant is strictly larger than 1. Let us denote this as $c(x_0)$. Then we see that $\frac{r_p^{2\varepsilon}(x)}{r_p(x)} \geq c(x_0)$ for all $x \in B^o(x_0, r_0)$.

Finally, observe that $\{B^o(x_0, r_0) : x_0 \in \mathscr{X}\}$ forms an open cover of $\mathscr{X}$ and therefore has a finite sub-cover C. Therefore, taking $c = \min_{B^o(x_0, r_0) \in C} c(x_0)$, we see that $\frac{r_p^{2\varepsilon}(x)}{r_p(x)} \geq c > 1$ for all $x \in \mathscr{X}$. Because ε was arbitrary, the claim holds. □

Lemma 86. *For any* $0 < p < 1$, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x\in\mathscr{X}} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i) > r_p(x)}] = 0$.

Proof. Fix $p > 0$, and fix any $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$. Pick n sufficiently large so that the following hold.

1. Let c_p^ε be as defined from Lemma 85.

$$\sup_{x\in\mathscr{X}} \frac{K(c_p^\varepsilon r_p(x)/h_n)}{K(r_p(x)/h_n)} < \delta. \tag{B.4}$$

This is possible because of conditions 2. and 3. of Corollary 33, and because the function $x \to r_p(x)$ is continuous.

2. With probability at least $1-\delta$ over $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, for all $r > 0$, and $x \in \mathscr{X}$,

$$|\mu(B(x,r)) - \frac{1}{n}\sum_1^n 1_{x_i \in B(x,r)}| \leq \varepsilon. \tag{B.5}$$

This is possible because the set of balls $B(x,r)$ has VC dimension at most $d+2$.

We now bound $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\sup_{x\in\mathscr{X}} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)}]$ by dividing into cases where S satisfies and doesn't satisfy equation B.5.

Suppose S satisfies equation B.5. By condition 1. of Corollary 33, K is decreasing, and by Lemma 85, $r_p^\varepsilon(x) \geq c_p^\varepsilon r_p(x)$. Therefore, we have that for any $x \in \mathscr{X}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)\geq r_p^\varepsilon(x)} &\leq \sum_1^n K(c_p^\varepsilon r_p(x)/h_n) \\ &\leq n\delta K(r_p(x)/h_n)),\end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality comes from equation B.4.

Next, by the definition of $r_p^\varepsilon(x)$, we have that $\mu(B(x,r_p^\varepsilon(x)) - \mu(B(x,r_p(x))) \leq \varepsilon$. Therefore, by applying equation B.5 two times, we see that for any $x \in \mathscr{X}$

$$\sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n) 1_{r_p(x)<\rho(x,x_i)\leq r_p^\varepsilon(x)} \leq 3n\varepsilon K(r_p(x)/h_n).$$

Finally, we have that

$$\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) \geq \sum_1^n K(r_p(x)/h_n) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)\leq r_p(x)} \geq n(p-\varepsilon)K(r_p(x)/h_n).$$

Therefore, using all three of our inequalities, we have that for any $x \in \mathscr{X}$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)} &= \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p^\varepsilon(x)} + \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{r_p^\varepsilon \geq \rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)} \\
&= \frac{\sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p^\varepsilon(x)} + \sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n) 1_{r_p^\varepsilon \geq \rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)}}{\sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n)} \\
&\leq \frac{n\delta K(r_p(x)/h_n)) + 3n\varepsilon K(r_p(x)/h_n)}{n(p-\varepsilon)K(r_p(x)/h_n).} \\
&= \frac{\delta + 3\varepsilon}{p-\varepsilon}.
\end{aligned}$$

If S does *not* satisfy equation B.5, then we simply have $\sup_{x\in\mathscr{X}} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)} \leq 1$. Combining all of this, we have that

$$E_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n} \sum_1^n w_i^S(x) 1_{\rho(x,x_i)>r_p(x)} \leq \delta(1) + (1-\delta)\frac{\delta+3\varepsilon}{p-\varepsilon}.$$

Since δ, ε can be made arbitrarily small, the result follows. □

By assumption, $\mathscr{X}$ is compact and therefore has diameter $D < \infty$. Define

$$t_n = \sqrt{n \log n K(\frac{D}{h_n})} \text{ for } 1 \leq n < \infty.$$

Lemma 87. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x\in\mathscr{X}} w_i^S(x)] = 0.$

Proof. Because K is a decreasing function, we have that $K(D/h_n) \leq K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n) \leq K(0)$. As

a result, we have that for any $x \in \mathscr{X}$,

$$\begin{aligned} t_n \sup_{1 \le i \le n} w_i^S(x) &= \frac{t_n \sup_{1 \le i \le n} K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n)}{\sum_1^n K(\rho(x,x_i)/h_n)} \\ &\le \frac{t_n K(0)}{nK(D/h_n)} \\ &= K(0)\sqrt{\frac{n \log nK(D/h_n)}{n^2 K(D/h_n)^2}} \\ &= K(0)\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{nK(D/h_n)}}. \end{aligned}$$

However, by condition 4. of Corollary 33, $\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{\log n} K(D/h_n) = \infty$. Therefore, since the above inequality holds for all $x \in \mathscr{X}$, we have that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n}[t_n \sup_{x \in \mathscr{X}} w_i^S(x)] \le \lim_{n\to\infty} K(0)\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{nK(D/h_n)}} = 0.$$

□

Lemma 88. $\lim_{n\to\infty} E_{S\sim D^n} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = 0.$

Proof. For $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, recall that $T(W,S)$ was defined as

$$T(W,S)|\{W_{x,\alpha,\beta} : x \in \mathscr{X}, 0 \le \alpha, 0 \le \beta \le 1\}|,$$

where $W_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ denotes

$$W_{x,\alpha,\beta} = \{i : \rho(x,x_i) \le \alpha, w_i^S(x) \ge \beta\}.$$

Our goal will to be upper bound $\log T(W,S)$.

The key observation is that $W_{x,\alpha,\beta}$ is precisely the set of x_i for which $\rho(x,x_i) \le r$ where r is some threshold. This is because the restriction that $w_i^S(x) \ge \beta$ can be directly translated into $\rho(x,x_i) \le r$ for some value of r, as K is a monotonically decreasing function. Thus, $T(W,S)$ is the number of subsets of S that can be obtained by considering the interior of some ball $B(x,r)$

centered at x with radius r.

We now observe that the set of closed balls in $\mathbb{R}^d$ has VC-dimension at most $d+2$. Thus by Sauer's lemma, there are at most $O(n^{d+2}$ subsets of $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\}$ that can be obtained from closed balls. Thus $T(W,S) \leq O(n^{d+2}$.

Finally, we see that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{\log T(W,S)}{t_n} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{O(d\log n)}{\sqrt{n\log nK(\frac{D}{h_n})}} \leq \lim_{n\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{O(d\log n)}{nK(\frac{D}{h_n})}} = 0,$$

with the last equality holding by condition 4. of Corollary 33. □

Finally, we note that Corollary 33 is an immediate consequences of Lemmas 83, 86, 87, and 88, as we can simply apply Theorem 31.

B.3 Useful Technical Definitions and Lemmas

Lemma 89. *Let μ be a measure over $\mathbb{R}^d$, and let $\mathscr{A}$ denote a countable collections of measurable sets A_i such that $\mu(\bigcup_{A\in\mathscr{A}} A) < \infty$. Then for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a finite subset of $\mathscr{A}$, $\{A_1, \ldots, A_m\}$ such that*

$$\mu(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \cdots \cup A_m) > \mu(\bigcup_{A\in\mathscr{A}} A) - \varepsilon.$$

Proof. Follows directly from the definition of a measure. □

B.3.1 The support of a distribution

Let μ be a probability measure over $\mathbb{R}^d$.

Definition 90. *The **support** of μ, $supp(\mu)$, is defined as all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that for all $r > 0$, $\mu(B(x,r)) > 0$.*

From this definition, we can show that $supp(\mu)$ is closed.

Lemma 91. *$supp(\mu)$ is closed.*

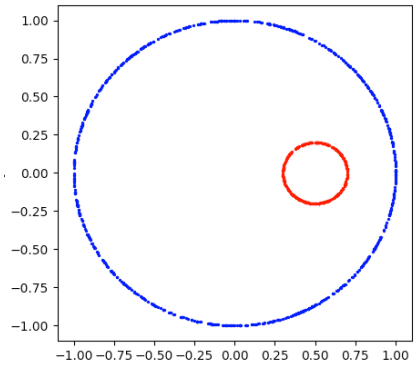


Figure B.1. Our data distribution $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ with μ^+ shown in blue and μ^- shown in red. Observe that this simple distribution captures varying distances between the red and blue regions, which necessitates having varying sizes for robustness regions.

Proof. Let x be a point such that $B(x,r) \cap supp(\mu) \neq \emptyset$ for all $r > 0$. It suffices to show that $x \in supp(\mu)$, as this will imply closure.

Let x be such a point, and fix $r > 0$. Then there exists $x' \in B(x, r/2)$ such that $x' \in supp(\mu)$. By definition, we see that $\mu(B(x', r/3)) > 0$. However, $B(x', r/3) \subset B(x,r)$ by the triangle inequality. it follows that $\mu(B(x,r)) > 0$. Since r was arbitrary, it follows that $x \in supp(\mu)$. □

B.4 Experiment Details

Data Distribution

Our data distribution $\mathscr{D} = (\mu, \eta)$ is over $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \{\pm 1\}$, and is defined as follows. We let μ^+ consist of a uniform distribution over the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, and μ^- consist of the uniform distribution over the circle $(x-0.5)^2 + y^2 = 0.04$. The two distributions are weighted so that we draw a point from μ^+ with probability 0.7, and μ^- with probability 0.3. Finally, we utilize label noise 0.2 meaning that the label y matches that given by the Bayes optimal with probability 0.2. In summary, $\mathscr{D}$ can be described with the following 4 cases:

1. With probability 0.7×0.8, we select (x,y) with $x \in \mu^+$ and $y = +1$.

2. With probability 0.7×0.2, we select (x,y) with $x \in \mu^+$ and $y = -1$.

3. With probability 0.3×0.8, we select (x, y) with $x \in \mu^-$ and $y = -1$.

4. With probability 0.3×0.2, we select (x, y) with $x \in \mu^-$ and $y = +1$.

We also include a drawing (Figure B.1) of the support of $\mathscr{D}$, with the positive portion μ^+ shown in blue and the negative portion, μ^- shown in red.

Computing Robustness Regions

Recall that in order to measure robustness, we utilize the so-called partial neighborhood preserving regions V_x^κ (Definition 26) for varying values of κ. In the case of our data distribution $\mathscr{D}$, V_x^κ consists of points closer to x by a factor of κ than they are to μ^- (resp. μ^+) when $x \in \mu^+$ (resp. μ^-). To represent a region V_x^κ, we simply use a function f that verifies whether a given point $x' \in V_x^\kappa$. While this methodology is not sufficient for training general classifiers (for a whole litany of reasons: to begin with it assumes full knowledge of the distribution), it will suffice for our toy synthetic experiments.

Trained Classifiers

We train two classifiers, both of which are kernel classifiers.

The first classifier is an exponential kernel classifier with bandwidth function $h_n = \frac{1}{10\sqrt{\log n}}$ and kernel function $K(x) = e^{-x}$.

The second classifier is a polynomial kernel classifier with bandwidth function $h_n = \frac{1}{10n^{1/3}}$ and kernel function $K(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$.

Both of these kernels are regular kernels, and both bandwidths satisfy sufficient conditions for consistency with respect to accuracy. In other words, both of these classifiers will converge towards the accuracy of the Bayes optimal.

However, the first classifier is selected to satisfy the criterion of Corollary 33, whereas the second is not. This distinction is reflected in our experiments.

Verifying Robustness

To verify the robustness of classifier f at point x (with respect to V_x^K), we simply do a grid search with grid parameter 0.01. We grid the entire regions into points with distance at most 0.01 between them, and then verify that f has the desired value at all of those points. To ensure proper robustness, we also simply verify that f cannot change enough within a distance of 0.01 by constructing an upper bound on how much f can possibly change. For kernel classifiers, this is simple to do as there is a relatively straightforward upper bound on the gradient of a Kernel classifier.

Appendix C

Appendix for Chapter 3

C.1 Expanded summary of [1]

In this section, we derive the formulation of Theorem 49 directly from their results. In particular, their results are not stated in terms of L_{rob} and L_{std}, and are instead framed in terms of different parameters. To account for this, we first review these alternative parameters, and then show how the statements in Theorem 49 can be

Recall, that [1] consider the setting in which the data distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ can be characterized as a pair of Gaussians in $\mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathscr{N}(\mu,\Sigma)$ and $\mathscr{N}(-\mu,\Sigma)$, that are symmetric about the origin with each of them representing one label class. They consider robustness measured in any normed metric in $\mathbb{R}^d$, including the ℓ_p norm for $p \in [1,\infty]$.

For any such distribution (and robustness radius r), they introduce parameters $s_{rob}(\mu,\Sigma)$ and $s_{std}(\mu,\Sigma)$, which they refer to as the robust and standard signal-to-noise ratios respectively, that are defined as follows:

$$s_{std}(\mu,\Sigma) = 2\sqrt{\mu^t\Sigma^{-1}\mu},$$

$$s_{rob}(\mu,\Sigma) = \min_{||z||_p \leq r} 2\sqrt{(\mu-z)^t\Sigma^{-1}(\mu-z)},$$

where r represents the robustness radius and ℓ_p is the distance norm under which adversarial perturbations are measured.

They then show that these parameters fully characterize the sample complexity for robust and standard learning respectively. They express this through the following results:

1. Let Φ denote the cumulative density function of the standard normal distribution, and let $\overline{\Phi}(x) = 1 - \Phi(x)$. Then for any $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$,

   - the optimally accurate classifier has standard loss $\overline{\Phi}(\frac{1}{2}s_{std})$.
   - the optimally robust classifier has robust loss $\overline{\Phi}(\frac{1}{2}s_{rob})$.

2. For any learning algorithm, there exists some mixture of $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ such that the expected robust loss is at least $\Omega(e^{(-\frac{1}{8}+o(1))s_{rob}^2}\frac{d}{n})$.

3. By contrast, for any distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$, it is possible to learn a classifier with expected standard loss at most $O(s_{std}e^{-\frac{1}{8}s_{std}^2}\frac{d}{n})$.

4. Thus, by (2.) and (3.), the gap between the robust sample complexity and the standard complexity can be bounded as

$$gap \geq \Omega\left(\frac{e^{(-\frac{1}{8}+o(1))s_{rob}^2}\frac{d}{n}}{s_{std}e^{-\frac{1}{8}s_{std}^2}\frac{d}{n}}\right) \simeq \Omega(e^{\frac{-1}{8}(s_{std}^2 - s_{rob}^2)}).$$

   They then qualitatively analyze this gap, and observe that for large values of μ and large values of r, this gap can be arbitrarily large, even as a function of d, the dimension.

We now show how to convert (2.), (3.), and (4.) into the statements appearing in Theorem 49. As before, let us define L_{std} and L_{rob} as the best possible standard and robust losses for $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ respectively. In particular, by (1.), we have

$$L_{std} = \overline{\Phi}(\frac{1}{2}s_{std}^2), \text{ and } L_{rob} = \overline{\Phi}(\frac{1}{2}s_{rob}^2).$$

We now express the bounds in (2.) and (4.) in terms of L_{std} and L_{rob}. To do so, we use the well

known inequality bounding $\overline{\Phi}(x)$ as

$$\Omega(\frac{x}{x^2+1}e^{-x^2/2}) < \Phi(x) < O(\frac{e^{-x^2/2}}{x}).$$

Substituting this into (2.) through (4.) imply the following, alternative forms.

2. For any learning algorithm, there exists some mixture of Gaussians, $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$ such that the expected robust loss is at least $\Omega(L_{rob}\frac{d}{n})$.

3. For any distribution $\mathscr{D}_{\mu,\Sigma}$, it is possible to learn a classifier with expected standard loss at most $O(L_{std}\frac{d}{n})$.

4. By (2.) and (3.), the gap between robust sample complexity and standard sample complexity can be expressed as

$$gap \geq \Omega(\frac{L_{rob}}{L_{std}}).$$

Together, these three statements comprise Theorem 49.

C.1.1 The limiting case

While a core difference between our works is that we consider separated distributions whereas Gaussians are non-separated, we now consider the limiting case in which a pair of Gaussians *appear* separated. To do this, we will consider a case in which L_{rob} is small, and $n \sim O(\frac{1}{L_{rob}})$. In this case, with high probability, a sample of size n will *appear* linearly r-separated. Examining the bound in part 1 of Theorem 49, we see that their lower bound on the expected robust loss reduces to $O(\frac{1}{n}\frac{d}{n}) = O(\frac{d}{n^2})$, which is significantly weaker than ours (Theorem 47). Thus, considering Gaussians that appear linearly r-separated does not generalize to the general, linearly r-separated case.

C.2 Proof of Theorem 47

We begin by broadly outlining our proof of Theorem 47. Let Π be a probability distribution over $\mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$, and let A be a learning algorithm that returns a linear classifier.

1. Sample $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$.
2. Sample $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$.
3. Learn the classifier A_S using algorithm A and training sample S.
4. Evaluate A_S on $\mathscr{D}$. That is, compute $\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})$.

The basic idea of our proof is to show that for an appropriate choice of Π, the overall expected loss of this procedure, $\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})$, satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}_{D\sim\Pi}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})]] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n}).$$

Our primary method for doing this is switching expectations. In particular, observe that

$$\mathbb{E}_{D\sim\Pi}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})]] = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\Sigma}[\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi|S}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})]],$$

where Σ denotes the distribution over all S obtained from first sampling $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$ and then sampling $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, and $\Pi|S$ denotes the posterior distribution of $\mathscr{D}$ after observing S. It then suffices to bound the quantity $\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi|S}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})]$, which is a significantly more tractable problem since we no longer need to deal with any specifics of the Algorithm A. In particular, S is fixed in this expectation and consequently A_S is just a fixed linear classifier. This bound subsequently follows from the distribution $\Pi|S$ having enough "variation" for this expectation to be sufficient large.

Our proof will have the following main steps, each of which is given its own subsection.

1. In section C.2.1, we construct the distribution Π, and prove several important properties about it.

2. In section C.2.2, we show that the desired property of Π holds, by bounding $\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi|S}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D})]$. ∎

C.2.1 Constructing Π

We let r be a fixed robustness radius, and ℓ_p be our norm with which we measure robustness. Our construction of Π is a somewhat technical and lengthy process. We will organize this construction into 4 subsections, outlined here:

- In section C.2.1, we define the distribution $\mathscr{D}_a$, characterized by parameter $a \in [0,1]^d$. This forms the basis for constructing Π, which will comprise of distributions $\mathscr{D}_a$ for certain choices of a. We also show that $\mathscr{D}_a$ is linearly r-separated.
- In section C.2.1, we define the constant Δ, which will be essential for specifying which values of parameter a are permissible.
- In section C.2.1, we define functions $g_1, g_2 : [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}] \to [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ that will be used to construct Π.
- In section C.2.1, we finally put together the previous 3 sections and construct Π. We also show that any $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$ satisfies $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a) \leq C$.

Defining $\mathscr{D}_a$

Let $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_d$ denote the standard normal basis in $\mathbb{R}^d$. Define $v_i = Re_i$ and $u = \frac{R}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_1^d e_i$, where $R = \frac{9rd^{1/q}}{2\sqrt{d}}$. It will also be convenient to define the following function, which we will frequently use throughout the entirety of the appendix.

Definition 92. *For $1 \leq l \leq \infty$, let $f_l : [0,1]^d \to \mathbb{R}^+$ be the function defined as*

$$f_l(a) = \sqrt[l]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{a} - a_i|^l},$$

where $\overline{a} = \frac{1}{d}\sum_1^d a_i$. For $l = \infty$, we take the convention that $\sqrt[\infty]{\sum_1^d |x_i|^\infty} = \max_{1\leq i\leq d} |x_i|$.

To define $\mathscr{D}_a$, we first define the concept of a line segment in $\mathbb{R}^d$.

Definition 93. *Let $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be two points. A **line segment** joining x_1, x_2 is defined as one of the following four sets.*

- $(x_1, x_2) = \{tx_1 + (1-t)x_t : 0 < t < 1\}$.
- $[x_1, x_2) = \{tx_1 + (1-t)x_t : 0 \leq t < 1\}$.
- $(x_1, x_2] = \{tx_1 + (1-t)x_t : 0 < t \leq 1\}$.
- $[x_1, x_2] = \{tx_1 + (1-t)x_t : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$.

We will always distinguish which set we mean by using the notation above. In all cases, x_1, x_2 are said to be the endpoints of the line segment.

We now define $\mathscr{D}_a$.

Definition 94. *Let $a \in [0,1]^d$ be a vector, and let $\overline{a} = \frac{1}{d}\sum_1^d a_i$. Set $\lambda_a = \frac{r}{R} f_q(a)$, where q is the dual norm of p. Assume that for all $1 \leq i \leq d$, $a_i > \lambda_a$ (i.e. we only $\mathscr{D}_a$ for a for which this holds). Let S^- and S^+ be two sets of d disjoint line segments (as defined in Definition 93) defined as*

$$S^- = \{[v_i, v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u) : 1 \leq i \leq d\},$$

$$S^+ = \{(v_i + (a_i + \lambda_a)u, v_i + u] : 1 \leq i \leq d\}.$$

Then D_a is defined as the probability distribution of random variables (X, Y) where

- *X is chosen by the following random procedure. First, sample an arbitrary segment from $S^+ \cup S^-$ with each segment chosen with probability proportional to its ℓ_2 length. Next, X is selected from the uniform distribution over the chosen line segment. In particular, the probability that X lies on any interval on any line segment contained within $S^+ \cup S^-$ is directly proportional to the length of the interval.*

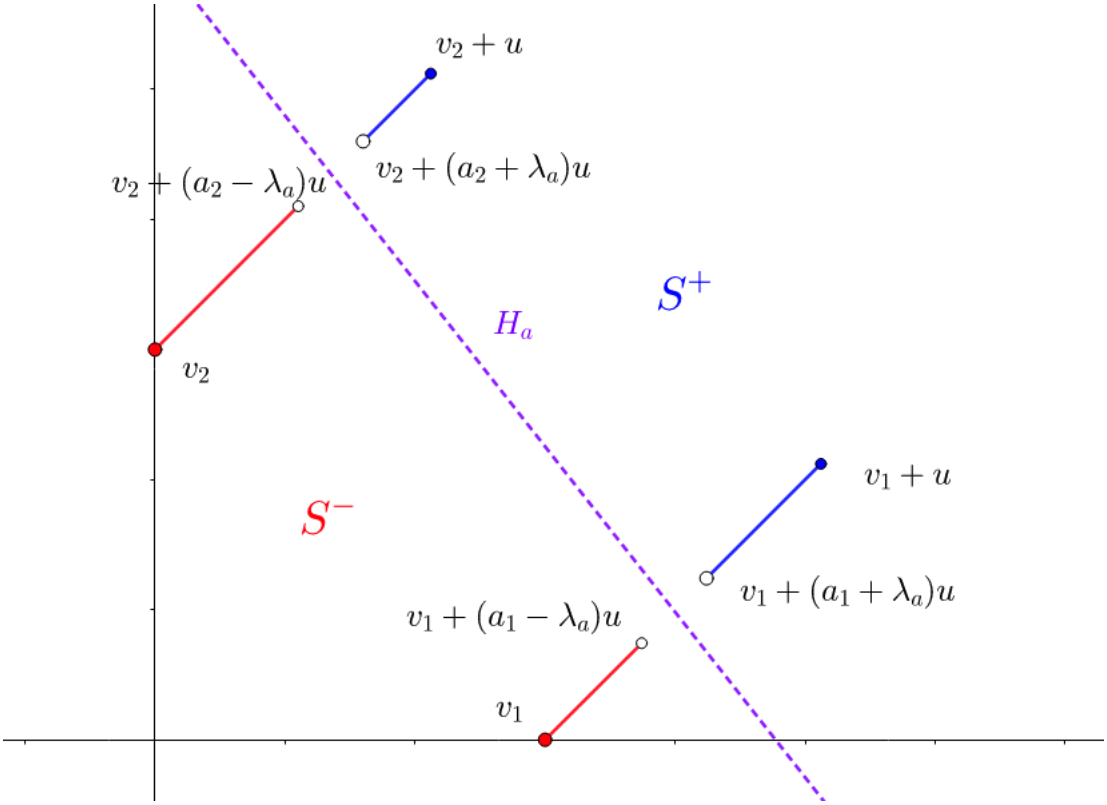


Figure C.1. An illustration of $\mathscr{D}_a$ in two dimensions. S^- is shown in red, and S^+ is shown in blue. The decision boundary, H_a, of the optimal linear classifier, $f_{w^a,1}$, is shown in purple.

- *Y is -1 if $X \in \cup S^-$ and $+1$ if $X \in \cup S^+$.*

We include an example of such a distribution in Figure C.1. Next, we explicitly compute a linear classifier that linearly r-separates $\mathscr{D}_a$.

Definition 95. *Let $a \in [0,1]^d$, and let $\overline{a} = \sum_{i=1}^d a_i$. Then let w^a be defined as*

$$w_i^a = \frac{1}{R} - \frac{da_i}{R\sqrt{d} + dR\overline{a}}.$$

Lemma 96. *w^a satisfies $\langle w^a, u \rangle = \frac{d}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}$ and $\langle w^a, v_i + a_i u \rangle = 1$, for all $1 \leq i \leq d$.*

Proof. By the definitions of v_i, u, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle w^a, u\rangle &= \langle w^a, \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\sum_1^d v_i\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\sum_1^d Rw_i^a \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\sum_1^d 1 - \frac{da_i}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\sum_1^d \frac{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}-da_i}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}\frac{d\sqrt{d}}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}},
\end{aligned}$$

Which proves the first claim. Next, we also have that $\langle w^a, v_i\rangle = Rw_i^a$. Summing these, we get

$$Rw_i^a + \frac{da_i}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} = 1 - \frac{da_i}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} + \frac{da_i}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}} = 1,$$

as desired. □

We now prove that $\mathscr{D}_a$ is linearly r-separated.

Lemma 97. *$\mathscr{D}_a$ is linearly r-separated by the classifier $f_{w_a,1}$.*

Proof. Let H_a denote the hyperplane passing through $\{v_i + a_i u : 1 \le i \le d\}$. By Lemma 96, H_a is the decision boundary of $f_{w_a,1}$. Referring to Figure C.1, we see that $\cup S^+$ lies entirely above H_a while the set $\cup S^-$ lies entirely below the hyperplane H_a, which the classifier $f_{w^a,1}$ has accuracy 1 with respect to $\mathscr{D}_a$. It suffices to show that $f_{w^a,1}$ is robust everywhere. In order to do this, we must show that all points in the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$ have ℓ_p distance at least r from H_a.

Fix any $1 \le i \le d$. Since the ℓ_p distance metric is invariant under translation and scales linearly with dilations, it follows that the point $x_i = v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u$ is the closest point on the segment $[v_i, v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u)$ to H_a. Suppose x_i has distance D under the ℓ_p norm to H_a. Then the key observation is that the ℓ_p ball, $B_p(x_i, D)$, must be tangent to H_a. Expressing this as an

equation, we have $\max_{z \in B_p(x_i,D)} \langle z, w^a \rangle = 1$, which can be re-written as

$$\max_{||z-x_i||_p \leq D} \langle z - x_i, w^a \rangle = 1 - \langle x_i, w^a \rangle.$$

By Lemma 96 , $\langle w^a, u \rangle = \frac{d}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}$ and $\langle w^a, v_i + a_i u \rangle = 1$. Substituting this, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
1 - \langle x_i, w^a \rangle &= 1 - \langle v_i + a_i u - \lambda_a u, w^a \rangle \\
&= 1 - \langle v_i + a_i u, w^a \rangle + \langle \lambda_a u, w^a \rangle \\
&= \langle \lambda_a u, w^a \rangle \\
&= \frac{d\lambda_a}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}.
\end{aligned}$$

However, by using the dual norm, we see that $\max_{||z-x_i||_p \leq D} \langle z - x_i, w^a \rangle = D||w^a||_q$. Thus it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
D &= \frac{d\lambda_a}{(\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a})||w^a||_q} \\
&= \frac{d\frac{r}{R} f_q(a)}{(\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a})||w^a||_q} \\
&= \frac{d\frac{r}{R} \sqrt[q]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{a} - a_i|^q}}{(\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a})||w^a||_q} \\
&= \frac{r\sqrt[q]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{R}\frac{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}-da_i}{(\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a})}|^q}}{||w^a||_q} \\
&= \frac{r||w^a||_q}{||w^a||_q} = r.
\end{aligned}$$

We can use an analogous argument holds for $v_i + (a_i + r_a)u$, the closest point to H_a in S^+. Thus each point in the support of D^a has distance strictly larger than r (as the endpoints were not included) to H_a. Consequently $f_{w^a,1}$ linearly r-separates D^a, as desired. □

Defining Δ

Now that we have defined $\mathscr{D}_a$, we turn our attention to defining Π, which requires us to specify a distribution over valid choices of a. In particular, although $\mathscr{D}_a$ is defined for $a \in [0,1]^d$, we will require a more stringent condition on a for our construction to work. To this end, we begin by defining Δ, a key parameter that characterizes the domain of a. To define Δ, we use the following lemma.

Lemma 98. *There exists a real number $\Delta > 0$ such that for all $l \in \{2,q\}$, and for all $a \in [\frac{1}{2}-\Delta, \frac{1}{2}+\Delta]^d$,*

$$||\nabla f_l(a)||_2 \leq \frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}},$$

where f_l is as defined in Definition 92.

Proof. Since $1 \leq q < \infty$, we see that for both choices of l, the function $h_l(x) = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} - x)^l$ is a convex function for $x \in [-\frac{1}{2\sqrt{d}}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{d}}]$. Thus, if $\sum_1^d x_i = 0$, then by Jensen's inequality, $\sum_1^d h_l(x_i) \geq \sum_1^d h_l(0)$. Applying this, we see that for all $l \in \{2,q\}$ and for all $a \in [\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4\sqrt{d}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4\sqrt{d}}]^d$,

$$\begin{aligned}
f_l(a) &= \sqrt[l]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{a} - a_i|^l} \\
&= \sqrt[l]{\sum_1^d \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{a} - a_i\right)^l} \\
&= \sqrt[l]{\sum_1^d h_l(a_i - \overline{a})} \\
&\geq \sqrt[l]{\sum_1^d h_l(0)} \\
&= f_l((\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2})),
\end{aligned}$$

with the first equality holding since $\overline{a} - a_i < \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$ and the first inequality holding since $\sum_1^d a_i - \overline{a} = 0$.

Thus $f_l(a)$ must be locally minimized when $a = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2})$, and it follows that

$$||\nabla f_l(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2})||_2 = 0, \text{ for } l = 2, q.$$

Now observe that the map $H(a) = \max_{l \in \{2,q\}} ||\nabla f_l(a)||_2$ is a continuous map as long as $|a_i - \overline{a}| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq d$. Thus there exists an open neighborhood U about $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2})$ such that $H(a) \leq \frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}}$ for all $a \in U$. Taking Δ so that $[\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d \subseteq U$ suffices. □

Definition 99. *Let Δ be any constant for which Lemma 98 holds. In particular, Δ only depends on ℓ_p, the robustness norm, and d, the dimension.*

Defining g_1 and g_2

In this section, we define functions $g_1, g_2 : [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}] \to [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ which we will use to specify Π. Before defining g_1 and g_2, we will first prove several technical lemmas.

Lemma 100. *Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval, and $\Phi : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be a strictly convex function. For any $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $t \geq 0$, let $\Phi_s(t) = \Phi(s-t) + \Phi(s+t)$. Then Φ_s is a strictly increasing function.*

Proof. Fix s, and let $0 \leq t_1 < t_2$. Then we see that by Jensen's inequality (for strictly convex functions),

$$\Phi(s+t_1) < \frac{(t_2 - t_1)\Phi(s+t_2)}{t_1 + t_2} + \frac{2t_1\Phi(s-t_1)}{t_1 + t_2},$$

and

$$\Phi(s-t_1) < \frac{(t_2 - t_1)\Phi(s-t_2)}{t_1 + t_2} + \frac{2t_1\Phi(s+t_1)}{t_1 + t_2}.$$

Summing these inequalities, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_s(t_1) &= \Phi(s-t_1)+\Phi(s+t_1)\\ &< \frac{(t_2-t_1)\Phi(s+t_2)}{t_1+t_2}+\frac{2t_1\Phi(s-t_1)}{t_1+t_2}+\frac{(t_2-t_1)\Phi(s-t_2)}{t_1+t_2}+\frac{2t_1\Phi(s+t_1)}{t_1+t_2}\\ &= \frac{t_2-t_1}{t_1+t_2}(\Phi(s+t_2)+\Phi(s-t_2))+\frac{2t_1}{t_1+t_2}(\Phi(s-t_1)+\Phi(s+t_1))\\ &= \frac{t_2-t_1}{t_1+t_2}\Phi_s(t_2)+\frac{2t_1}{t_1+t_2}\Phi_s(t_1).\end{aligned}$$

Rearranging this yields $\Phi_s(t_1) < \Phi_s(t_2)$, as desired. □

Lemma 101. *Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval, $\Phi : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be a strictly convex continuous function, and $x,y,z \in I$ be real numbers with $x < y < z$. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be such that $x-\varepsilon \in I$ and $y+\varepsilon \leq z-\varepsilon$. Then there exist unique $\delta,\gamma > 0$ such that the following hold:*

$$\delta+\gamma = \varepsilon,$$

$$\Phi(x-\delta)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z-\gamma) = \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z)$$

Proof. Fix any ε satisfying the desired conditions, and define $\Theta : [0,\varepsilon] \to \mathbb{R}$ as $\Theta(t) = \Phi(x-t)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z+t-\varepsilon)$. Then, utilizing the definition of Φ_s from Lemma 100, we see that

$$\Theta(t) = \Phi_{\frac{x+z-\varepsilon}{2}}(\frac{z-x-\varepsilon}{2}+t)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon).$$

By Lemma 100, it follows that Θ is strictly increasing in t, and since Φ is continuous, so is Θ. Next, we bound $\Theta(0)$ and $\Theta(\varepsilon)$ to put us in the configuration to apply the intermediate value

theorem. To bound $\Theta(0)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta(0) &= \Phi(x)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z-\varepsilon)\\ &= \Phi(x)+\Phi_{\frac{y+z}{2}}(\frac{z-y}{2}-\varepsilon)\\ &< \Phi(x)+\Phi_{\frac{y+z}{2}}(\frac{z-y}{2})\\ &= \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z),\end{aligned}$$

and to bound $\Theta(\varepsilon)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Theta(\varepsilon) &= \Phi(x-\varepsilon)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z)\\ &= \Phi_{\frac{x+y}{2}}(\frac{y-x}{2}+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z)\\ &> \Phi_{\frac{x+y}{2}}(\frac{y-x}{2})+\Phi(z)\\ &= \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z).\end{aligned}$$

Together, these equations imply $\Theta(0) < \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z) < \Theta(\varepsilon)$. Since Θ is strictly increasing and continuous, there exists a unique $\delta \in [0,\varepsilon]$ such that $\Theta(\delta) = \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z)$. Setting $\gamma = \varepsilon - \delta$, we see that

$$\Theta(\delta) = \Phi(x-\delta)+\Phi(y+\varepsilon)+\Phi(z-\gamma) = \Phi(x)+\Phi(y)+\Phi(z),$$

as desired.

□

Next, we define a function that will be useful for simplifying notation, both in this section and subsequent ones.

Definition 102. *Let Δ be as in definition 99. For $x,y,z \in [0,\frac{\Delta}{3}]$, let*

$$F(x,y,z) = \sqrt[q]{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}-x\right)^q+\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}-\frac{2\Delta}{3}+y\right)^q+\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\frac{2\Delta}{3}+z\right)^q}.$$

We now define g_1, g_2.

Corollary 103. *Let Δ be as in definition 99. There exist 1-Lipshitz, monotonically non-decreasing functions $g_1, g_2 : [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}] \to [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ such that for all $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$, $g_1(t) + g_2(t) = t$ and $F(t, g_1(t), g_2(t)) = F(0,0,0)$.*

Proof. We have two cases.

Case 1: $1 < q < \infty$**:**

Let $\Phi : [-\Delta, \Delta] \to \mathbb{R}$ be defined as $\Phi(x) = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} - x)^q$. Since $q > 1$, and $\Delta < \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$, Φ is strictly convex. Observe that

$$F(x,y,z)^q = \Phi(x) + \Phi(2\frac{\Delta}{3} - y) + \Phi(-2\frac{\Delta}{3} - z).$$

Next, fix any $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$. Then observe that $-\frac{2\Delta}{3} \geq -\Delta$ and that $\frac{2\Delta}{3} - t \geq 0 + t$. This puts us in the configuration to apply Lemma 101. In particular, there exist unique reals $\delta_t, \gamma_t > 0$ such that

$$\delta_t + \gamma_t = t,$$

$$\Phi(-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - \delta_t) + \Phi(t) + \Phi(\frac{2\Delta}{3} - \gamma_t) = \Phi(-\frac{2\Delta}{3}) + \Phi(0) + \Phi(\frac{2\Delta}{3}).$$

We now define $g_1, g_2 : [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}] \to [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ as

$$g_1(t) = \gamma_t \text{ and } g_2(t) = \delta_t.$$

Then it is clear that $F(0,0,0) = F(t, g_1(t), g_2(t))$ and $g_1(t) + g_2(t)$ (by directly substituting into the equations above). All that remains is to show that g_1 and g_2 are 1-Lipschitz.

Fix any $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq \frac{\Delta}{3}$, and let $t_2 - t_1 = \varepsilon$. The key idea is to apply Lemma 101 to $-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_1) < t_1 < \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_1)$ and ε. To do so, we first check the conditions of the lemma.

We have that

$$-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_1) - \varepsilon \geq -\frac{2\Delta}{3} - t_1 - \varepsilon = -\frac{2\Delta}{3} - t_2 \geq -\Delta,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} t_1 + \varepsilon &= t_2 \\ &\leq \frac{\Delta}{3} \\ &\leq \frac{2\Delta}{3} - t_2 \\ &= \frac{2\Delta}{3} - t_1 - \varepsilon \\ &\leq \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_1) - \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus ε satisfies the necessary conditions for Lemma 101. Since Φ is strictly convex, by Lemma 101, there exist unique $\delta, \gamma > 0$ with $\delta + \gamma = \varepsilon$ such that

$$\Phi(-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_1) - \delta) + \Phi(t_1 + \varepsilon) + \Phi(\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_1) - \gamma) = \Phi(-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_1)) + \Phi(t_1) + \Phi(\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_1)).$$

However, by the definition of g_1, g_2, we see that both of these quantities are equal to $F(0,0,0)^q$. Moreover, again by the definition of g_1, g_2, we also have that $g_1(t_2)$ and $g_2(t_2)$ are the unique real numbers in $[0, \frac{\Delta}{3}$ that satisfy

$$\Phi(-\frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_2)) + \Phi(t_2) + \Phi(\frac{2\Delta}{3} + g_1(t_2)) = F(0,0,0)^q.$$

Thus, it follows that $g_2(t_2) = g_2(t_1) + \delta$ and $g_1(t_2) = g_1(t_1) + \gamma$. However, $t_2 - t_1 = \varepsilon$, and $\delta, \gamma < \varepsilon$ (since they sum to ε). Thus, we see that $|g_1(t_2) - g_1(t_1)| \leq |t_2 - t_1|$ and $|g_2(t_2) - g_2(t_1)| \leq |t_2 - t_1|$. Since t_1 and t_2 were arbitrary, it follows that g_1 and g_2 are both 1-Lipschitz, as desired.

Finally, since $\delta, \gamma > 0$, it follows that $g_2(t_2) > g_2(t_1)$ and $g_1(t_2) > g_1(t_1)$. Since t_1, t_2 were arbitrary, it follows that g_1, g_2 are monotonically non-decreasing.

Case 2: $q = 1$

In this case, since $\Delta < \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}$ (Lemma 98), we see that $F(x,y,z) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{d}} + y + z - x$. Setting $g_1(t) = g_2(t) = \frac{t}{2}$ suffices, and clearly satisfies the desired properties. □

Definition 104. *Let Δ be as defined in Definition 99. We let $g_1, g_2 : [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}] \to [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ be defined as any function satisfying the conditions of Corollary 103.*

Putting it all together: defining Π

We are now ready to define Π. For convenience, we assume d is a multiple of 3.

Definition 105. *Let Δ, g_1, and g_2 be as defined in Definitions 99 and 104. Then Π is defined as the distribution of distributions $\mathscr{D}_a$ where a is a random vector constructed as follows. Let $t_1, t_2, \ldots t_{d/3}$ be drawn i.i.d from the uniform distribution over $[0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$. Then for $1 \leq i \leq d/3$, we let*

- $a_i = \frac{1}{2} + t_i$.
- $a_{i+d/3} = \frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_i)$.
- $a_{i+2d/3} = \frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_i)$.

Together the variables $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_d$ compose a. Thus a random distribution $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$ can be constructed by sampling a as above and setting $\mathscr{D} = \mathscr{D}_a$.

We now show that for all $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$, λ_a (Definition 94) is constant.

Lemma 106. *There exists a constant Λ such that for all $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$, $\lambda_a = \Lambda$.*

Proof. Let $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$ be arbitrary. By Lemma 103, for all $1 \leq i \leq d$, $g_1(t_i) + g_2(t_i) = t_i$. Substituting

this, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{a} &= \frac{1}{d}\sum_{1}^{d} a_i \\
&= \frac{1}{d}\sum_{1}^{d/3}(\frac{1}{2}+t_i)+(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{2\Delta}{3}-g_1(t_i))+(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{2\Delta}{3}-g_2(t_i)) \\
&= \frac{1}{d}\sum_{1}^{d/3}\frac{3}{2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Recall that $\lambda_a = \frac{r}{R} f_q(a) = \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\overline{a}-a_i|^q}$. By substituting that $\overline{a}=\frac{1}{2}$ and expressing each a_i in terms of t_i, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_a &= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_{1}^{d}|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\overline{a}-a_i|^q} \\
&= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_{i=1}^{d/3}\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\frac{1}{2}-(\frac{1}{2}+t_i)\right|^q+\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\frac{1}{2}-\left(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{2\Delta}{3}-g_1(t_i)\right)\right|^q+\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+\frac{1}{2}-\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{2\Delta}{3}-g_2(t_i)\right)\right|^q} \\
&= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_{1}^{d/3}\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}-t_i\right|^q+\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+g_1(t_i)-\frac{2\Delta}{3}\right|^q+\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}+g_2(t_i)+\frac{2\Delta}{3}\right|^q} \\
&= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_{1}^{d/3}F(t_i,g_1(t_i),g_2(t_i))^q},
\end{aligned}$$

where F is defined as in Definition 102. Next, by Corollary 103, $F(t_i,g_1(t_i),g_2(t_i)) = F(0,0,0)$

for all $1 \leq i \leq \frac{d}{3}$. Thus, if we set $\Lambda = \frac{r}{R}(\frac{d}{3})^{1/q}F(0,0,0)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_a &= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_1^{d/3} F(t_i, g_1(t_i), g_2(t_i))^q} \\ &= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\sum_1^{d/3} F(0,0,0)^q} \\ &= \frac{r}{R}\sqrt[q]{\frac{d}{3}F(0,0,0)^q} \\ &= \frac{r}{R}(\frac{d}{3})^{1/q}F(0,0,0) = \Lambda,\end{aligned}$$

proving the claim. □

Definition 107. *We define $\Lambda = \frac{r}{R}(\frac{d}{3})^{1/q}F(0,0,0)$, where F is defined as in Definition 102.*

Next, we compute upper and lower bounds on Λ, both of which will be useful for subsequent lemmas.

Lemma 108. $\frac{1}{9} < \Lambda < \frac{1}{3}$.

Proof. By definition, $\Lambda = \frac{d}{3}^{1/q}F(0,0,0)$. Substituting the definition of f, we see that $F(0,0,0) = \sqrt[q]{|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}|^q + |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} - \frac{2\Delta}{3}|^q + |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{2\Delta}{3}|^q}$, and consequently,

$$3^{1/q}|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} - \frac{2\Delta}{3}| \leq F(0,0,0) \leq 3^{1/q}|\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \frac{2\Delta}{3}|.$$

By definition, $\frac{2\Delta}{3} < \frac{1}{2\sqrt{d}}$. It follows that

$$\frac{r}{R}\frac{d^{1/q}}{2\sqrt{d}} < \Lambda < \frac{r}{R}\frac{3d^{1/q}}{2\sqrt{d}}.$$

Finally, since $\frac{r}{R} = \frac{2\sqrt{d}}{9d^{1/q}}$, substituting this yields $\frac{1}{9} < \Lambda < \frac{1}{3}$, as desired. □

Next, we show that for all $\mathscr{D}_a \in \Pi$, the aspect ratio (Definition 42), $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a)$, is bounded by a constant.

Lemma 109. *For all $\mathscr{D}_a \in \Pi$, we have $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a) \leq 18\sqrt{3}$.*

Proof. We first bound the ℓ_2 margin, $\gamma(\mathscr{D}_a)$ (Definition 41). Recall that the margin, $\gamma(\mathscr{D}_a)$ is described as the largest possible ℓ_2 distance from the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$ to the decision boundary of a linear classifier. Thus, we can lower bound $\gamma(\mathscr{D}_a)$ by computing the distance from the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$ to H_a, the decision boundary of $f_{w^a,1}$ (Definition 95).

By referring to Figure C.1 (in Section C.2.1), it becomes clear that the closest point (under the ℓ_2 margin) from S^- to H_a is the point $v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u$, for some value of i. Thus it suffices to compute the ℓ_2 distance from this point to the plane H_a.

Recall that by Lemma 96, the point $v_i + a_i u$ satisfies $\langle w^a, v_i + a_i u\rangle = 1$, and consequently must lie on the hyperplane H_a. Let D denote the ℓ_2 distance from $v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u$ to H_a. Since w^a is the normal vector to H_a, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
D &= \langle v_i + a_i u - (v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u), \frac{w^a}{||w^a||_2}\rangle \\
&= \frac{\langle \lambda_a u, w^a\rangle}{||w^a||_2} \\
&\overset{(1)}{=} \frac{\langle \Lambda u, w^a\rangle}{||w^a||_2} \\
&\overset{(2)}{=} \frac{\Lambda \frac{d}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}}{||w^a||_2} \\
&\overset{(3)}{=} \frac{\Lambda \frac{d}{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}}{\sqrt{\sum_1^d \left(\frac{\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}-da_i}{R(\sqrt{d}+d\overline{a}}\right)^2}} \\
&= \frac{R\Lambda}{\sqrt{\sum_1^d (\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{a} - a_i)^2}} \\
&\overset{(4)}{=} \frac{R\Lambda}{f_2(a)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Here, (1) holds by Lemma 106, (2) holds by Lemma 96, (3) holds by Definition 95, and (4) holds by Definition 92.

Next, observe that since $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$, we must have $a \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$. Thus it follows

that $||a - (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2})||_2 \leq \Delta\sqrt{d}$. However, by applying Lemma 98, we also see that f_2 is $\frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}}$-Lipschitz over $[\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$. Thus, it follows that

$$f_2(a) \leq f_2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}) + \Delta\sqrt{d}\frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}} \leq 2,$$

with the latter inequality holding from the definition of Δ.

Substituting this and applying Lemma 108, we see that

$$\gamma(\mathscr{D}_a) \geq \frac{R\Lambda}{2} \geq \frac{R}{18}.$$

Next, to bound the aspect ratio, $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a)$, we must also bound the ℓ_2 diameter of $\mathscr{D}_a$. However, the ℓ_s diameter of $\mathscr{D}_a$ is $R\sqrt{3}$, since it is the distance from $v_i + u$ to v_j for $i \neq j$. Thus, it follows that

$$\rho(\mathscr{D}_a) = \frac{diam_2(\mathscr{D}_a)}{\gamma(\mathscr{D}_a)} \leq \frac{R\sqrt{3}}{R/18} = 18\sqrt{3},$$

as desired. □

Note that a tighter analysis (and selection of Δ) can give a smaller bound for $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a)$, but the most important fact is that $\rho(\mathscr{D}_a) = O(1)$.

C.2.2 Bounding the expected robust loss

In this section, we finally prove our lower bound, Theorem 47. This will require a few important steps, which we have separated into the following subsections.

- In section C.2.2, we give a useful lower bound for the loss $\mathscr{L}_r(f, \mathscr{D}_a)$ where f is an arbitrary linear classifier.
- In section C.2.2, we give an explicit computation for the posterior distribution $\Pi|S$ where $S \sim \mathscr{D}_a^n$ is the observed training sample.
- Finally, in section C.2.2, we present the proof of Theorem 47.

Bounding the loss $\mathscr{L}_r(f, \mathscr{D}_a)$

In this section, we find a lower bound on the loss $\mathscr{L}_r(f, \mathscr{D}_a)$ where f is a linear classifier. We begin by first restricting f to be in the set of classifiers

$$f \in \{f_{w^b,1} : b \in [0,1]^d\},$$

where w^b is as defined in Definition 95. These are precisely the classifiers that have a decision boundary that passes through some point on every line segment in $\{[v_i, v_i + u] : 1 \leq i \leq d\}$. We are able to only consider these classifiers since all other linear classifiers clearly have a very high loss with respect to $\mathscr{D}_a$ as they necessarily misclassify at least half the points on the line segment $[v_i, v_i + u]$ for some value of i.

We now find an initial lower bound on $\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w^b,1}, \mathscr{D}_a)$.

Lemma 110. *Fix any $\mathscr{D}_a \in \Pi$, and let $b \in [0,1]^d$ be arbitrary. Let w^b be the vector defined as in Definition 95, and $\lambda_b = \frac{r}{R} f_q(b)$ where f is as defined in Definition 92. Then*

$$\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w^b,1}, \mathscr{D}_a) \geq \frac{d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|}{d - 2d\Lambda}.$$

Proof. By Lemma 97, $f_{w^b,1}$ precisely r-separates $\mathscr{D}_b$. This implies that for all $1 \leq i \leq d$,

$$f_{w^b,1}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in (v_i + (b_i + \lambda_b)u, v_i + u] \\ -1 & x \in [v_i, v_i + (b_i - \lambda_b)u) \\ \text{not robust} & x \in [v_i + (b_i - \lambda_b)u, v_i + (b_i + \lambda_b)u] \end{cases}.$$

Without loss of generality, suppose that $b_i \geq a_i$. The key observation is that for all $1 \leq i \leq d$, if $x \in [v_i + (a_i + \lambda_a)u, v_i + (b_i + \lambda_b)u]$, then $f_{w^b,1}(x) = -1$ for $f_{w^b,1}$ is not robust at x. In both cases, we see that $f_{w^b,1}$ is either inaccurate or not robust for all points in $[v_i + (a_i + \lambda_a)u, v_i + (b_i + \lambda_b)u]$.

This interval has ℓ_2 length at least $(|a_i - b_i| + (\lambda_b - \lambda_a))||u||_2$. Note that in the case that

$a_i \leq b_i$ we can get an identical expression. Thus, combining this for all i, we see that $f_{w^b,1}$ is either inaccurate or not robust for a total length of $[d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|]||u||_2$. Dividing by the total length of the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w^b,1}, \mathscr{D}_a) &\geq \frac{[d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|]||u||_2}{\sum_1^d |||[v_i, v_i + (a_i - \lambda_a)u) + (v_i + (a_i + \lambda_a)u, v_i + u]||_2} \\
&= \frac{[d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|]||u||_2}{\sum_1^d ||u_2||(1 - 2\lambda_a)} \\
&= \frac{d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|}{d(1 - 2\lambda_a)} \\
&= \frac{d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|}{d - 2d\Lambda},
\end{aligned}$$

with the last equality holding since by Lemma 106, $\lambda_a = \Lambda$. □

Lemma 111. *For all $\mathscr{D}_a \in \Pi$ and $b \in [0,1]^d$, $d(\lambda_a - \lambda_b) \leq \frac{1}{2}\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|$.*

Proof. We have two cases.

Case 1:

$b \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$.

Observe that $\lambda_b = \frac{r}{R} f_q(b)$ and $\lambda_a = \frac{r}{R} f_q(a)$. By Lemma 98, we see that f_q is $\frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}}$-Lipschitz over the domain $[\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_a - \lambda_b &= \frac{r}{R}(f_q(a) - f_q(b)) \\
&\leq \frac{r}{R}||a - b||_2 \frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}} \\
&= \frac{2\sqrt{d}}{9d^{1/q}}||a - b||_2 \frac{1}{d^2\sqrt{d}} \\
&< \frac{||a - b||_1}{2d},
\end{aligned}$$

with the last inequality following since the ℓ_2 norm is smaller than the ℓ_1 norm. Rearranging this gives the statement of the Lemma as desired.

Case 2:

$b \notin [\frac{1}{2}-\Delta, \frac{1}{2}+\Delta]^d$.

The main idea in this case will be to find $b' \in [\frac{1}{2}-\Delta, \frac{1}{2}+\Delta]^d$ such that $\lambda_b \geq \lambda_{b'}$ and such that $||b'-a||_1 \leq ||b-a||_1$. We will then apply Case 1 to get the desired result.

Without loss of generality, assume that $b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \cdots \geq b_d$, and that $b_1, b_2, \ldots b_k > \frac{1}{2}+\Delta$, $b_{k+1}, \ldots, b_l \in [\frac{1}{2}-\Delta, \frac{1}{2}+\Delta]$, and $b_{l+1}, \ldots b_d < \frac{1}{2}-\Delta$ for some values of k and l.

We will construct b' in four steps. In each of these steps, we will change the values of b_i such that neither $||a-b||_1$ nor λ_b are increased. At each step, we let b_i refer to its value at the end of the previous step.

Finally, for reference, recall that

$$\lambda_b = \frac{r}{R} f_q(b) = \frac{r}{R} \sqrt[q]{\sum_1^d |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{b} - b_i|^q}.$$

Step 1:

We set

$$b_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{k}\sum_{j=1}^k b_j & 1 \leq i \leq k \\ b_i & k+1 \leq i \leq l \\ \frac{1}{d-l}\sum_{j=l+1}^d b_j & l+1 \leq i \leq d \end{cases}.$$

Since $a \in [\frac{1}{2}-\Delta, \frac{1}{2}+\Delta]^d$, we see that these operations do not change $||a-b||_1$, as $\sum_1^k |b_i - a_i| = \sum_1^k b_i - a_i$ and $\sum_{l+1}^d |b_i - a_i| = \sum_1^k a_i - b_i$. Also, observe that this operation preserves $\overline{b}$, and consequently since the function $f(x) = |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{b} - x|^q$ is convex, we see that by Jensen's inequality that λ_b is not increased by this operation.

Step 2:

Let $\beta = \sum_1^k (b_i - \frac{1}{2} - \Delta) - \sum_{l+1}^d (\frac{1}{2} - \Delta - b_i)$. Then we set

$$b_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} + \Delta + \frac{\beta}{k} & 1 \le i \le k \\ b_i & k+1 \le i \le l \\ \frac{1}{2} - \Delta & l+1 \le i \le d \end{cases} & \beta \ge 0 \\ \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} + \Delta & 1 \le i \le k \\ b_i & k+1 \le i \le l \\ \frac{1}{2} - \Delta + \frac{\beta}{d-l} & l+1 \le i \le d \end{cases} & \beta < 0 \end{cases}.$$

Observe that this operation cannot increase $||a-b||_1$, since it doesn't increase $|a_i - b_i|$ for any value of i. Furthermore, this operation also does not change $\overline{b}$, and a similar convexity argument on the function $f(x) = |\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} + \overline{b} - x|^q$ can show that this does not increase λ_b.

Finally, if $\beta = 0$, we set $b' = b$, since we have reached a state such that $b \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$.

Step 3a:

We run this step if $\beta > 0$. Let $\alpha = \frac{\sum_{k+1}^d (\frac{1}{2} + \Delta - b_i)}{\beta}$. We then set

$$b_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} + \Delta & 1 \le i \le k \\ (\frac{1}{2} + \Delta)(\frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha}) + \frac{b_i}{\alpha} & k+1 \le i \le d \end{cases} & \alpha \ge 1 \\ \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} + \Delta + \frac{\beta}{k}(1-\alpha) & 1 \le i \le k \\ \frac{1}{2} + \Delta & k+1 \le i \le d \end{cases} & \alpha < 1 \end{cases}.$$

In this step, we can similarly verify that $||a-b||_1$ does not increase (as $|a_i - b_i|$ is strictly reduced for $1 \le i \le k$ by an exact amount to offset the possible increases in $|a_i - b_i|$ for $k+1 \le i \le d$). We also see by the same convexity argument as usual that this operation reduces λ_b.

Step 3b:

We run this step if $\beta < 0$. Let $\alpha = \frac{\sum_{k+1}^{d}(b_i - \frac{1}{2} + \Delta)}{\beta}$. We then set

$$b_i \leftarrow \begin{cases} \begin{cases} (\frac{1}{2} - \Delta)(\frac{\alpha - 1}{\alpha}) + \frac{b_i}{\alpha} & 1 \leq i \leq l \\ \frac{1}{2} - \Delta & k+1 \leq i \leq d \end{cases} & \alpha \geq 1 \\ \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} - \Delta & 1 \leq i \leq l \\ \frac{1}{2} - \Delta + \frac{\beta}{d-l}(1-\alpha) & l+1 \leq i \leq d \end{cases} & \alpha < 1 \end{cases}.$$

The justification for this step is analogous to 3a.

Step 4:

We only run this step if $\alpha < 1$. Observe that if $\alpha \geq 1$, then both Step 3a and Step 3b result with $b \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$, which we set as b'. Observe that in this case, either $b_i \geq a_i$ for all i, or $b_i \leq a_i$ for all i. Thus we simply set

$$b_i \leftarrow \overline{b}.$$

This operation does not change $||a - b||_1$, and it also reduces λ_b (by a convexity argument).

Step 5:

Finally, for all $1 \leq i \leq d\Delta$, we set $b_i = \frac{1}{2} - \Delta$ if $\overline{b} < \frac{1}{2} - \Delta$ and otherwise set $b_i = \frac{1}{2} - \Delta$ if $\overline{b} > \frac{1}{2} + \Delta$. In both cases, λ_b is not changed, and $||a - b||_1$ is strictly reduced. In this step, we finally set $b' = b$. Note that we do not always reach this step, as it was possible in any of the previous steps to reach some $b \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$, at which point we would have simply terminated.

Conclusion:

Through steps 1 through 5, we have found $b' \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$ such that $\lambda_{b'} \leq \lambda_b$ and $||a - b'||_1 \leq ||a - b||_1$. By applying Case 1 to b', we see that $d(\lambda_a - \lambda_{b'}) \leq \frac{1}{2}||a - b'||_1$. Thus,

we have that

$$\frac{1}{2}||a-b||_1 \geq \frac{1}{2}||a-b'||_1 \geq d(\lambda_a - \lambda_{b'}) \geq d(\lambda_a - \lambda_b),$$

which implies the result by the transitive property.

□

From the previous two lemmas, we immediately have the following:

Corollary 112. *For all $\mathscr{D}_a \in \Pi$ and $b \in [0,1]^d$,*

$$\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w^b,1}, \mathscr{D}_a) \geq \frac{1}{2d}\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|.$$

Proof. We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathscr{L}_r(f_{w^b,1}, \mathscr{D}_a) &\overset{(a)}{\geq} \frac{d(\lambda_b - \lambda_a) + \sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|}{d - 2d\Lambda} \\
&\geq \frac{\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i| - d(\lambda_a - \lambda_b) +}{d} \\
&\overset{(b)}{\geq} \frac{\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i| - \frac{1}{2}\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|}{d} \\
&= \frac{1}{2d}\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i|,
\end{aligned}$$

where (a) holds by Lemma 110 and (b) holds by Lemma 111. □

Computing the posterior distribution, $\Pi|S$

Recall that our ultimate goal is to show that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S, \mathscr{D})]] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n}),$$

where A denotes any learning algorithm returning a linear classifier. The main idea for showing this is to "switch expectations" and realize that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}[\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D})]] = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\Sigma}[\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi|S}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D})]],$$

where $\Pi|S$ denotes the posterior distribution over Π after observing S. In this section, we fully characterize the distribution $\Pi|S$, and prove several important properties about it.

Recall (Definition 105) that $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$ is generated by first choosing $t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_{d/3} \sim \mathbb{U}[0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ i.i.d, and then letting $a = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_d)$ be a function of $t = (t_1, \ldots, t_{d/3})$. Thus, to compute the posterior $\Pi|S$, it suffices to focus on the posterior distribution of $t|S$ for any $1 \leq i \leq \frac{d}{3}$. We begin by first defining the likelihood of observing S given that it is generated from parameter t.

Definition 113. *Let $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$ be any set of n points in $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$, and let $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$ be a vector. Let $a \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$ be defined as in Definition 105. That is, let*

- $a_i = \frac{1}{2} + t_i$.
- $a_{i+d/3} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_i)$.
- $a_{i+2d/3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_i)$.

Then we define $L(S|t)$ as the likelihood of observing the set S from $\mathscr{D}_a^n$. In particular, for any measurable region of points $R \subseteq (\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\})^n$, we have that

$$\mathbb{P}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}_a^n}[S \in R] = \int_{x\in R} L(x|t)dx.$$

Lemma 114. *Let $S \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ be a set with n points. Then for all $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$,*

$$L(S|t) \in \left\{0, \left(\frac{1}{(d-2\Lambda)||u||_2}\right)^n\right\},$$

where Λ is as defined in Definition 107 and $L(S|t)$ is as defined in Definition 113.

Proof. Let $\mathscr{D}_a$ be an arbitrary distribution in Π. Observe that $\mathscr{D}_a$ is uniform over the set of all points in its support. Thus for every point in its support, we have that the likelihood $L(x|t)$ satisfies $L(x|t) = \frac{1}{(d-2\Lambda)||u||_2}$.

Taking the product of this over all points in S, we get the desired result. Note that if S contains some point not in the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$, then the likelihood becomes 0, since the likelihood of observing some point not in the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$ is 0. □

Definition 115. *For any dataset S, let P_S denote the set of all "permissible" t, that is $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^d$ such that $L(S|t) \neq 0$. Formally,*

$$P_S = \{t : L(S|t) > 0\}.$$

We now fully characterize P_S when S is drawn from some $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$.

Lemma 116. *Fix $n > 0$. For all $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$ and $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, there exist intervals (possibly open, closed, half open) $I_1^S, I_2^S, \ldots, I_{d/3}^S \subseteq [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$ such that $P_S = \prod_1^{d/3} I_i^S$.*

Proof. Let $S = \{(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\}$. Since $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, we see that for $1 \leq j \leq n$, x_j must satisfy $x_j \in [v_i, v_i + u]$ for some $1 \leq j \leq d$. Using this, for $1 \leq i \leq d$ let

$$s_i^- = \underset{\{x_j : x_j \in [v_i, v_i+u], y_j = -1\}}{\arg\max} ||x_j - v_i||_2,$$

and

$$s_i^+ = \underset{\{x_j : x_j \in [v_i, v_i+u], y_j = +1\}}{\arg\max} ||x_j - (v_i + u)||_2.$$

s_i^- and s_i^+ can be thought of as the points from S on segment $[v_i, v_i + u]$ that are closest to each other and labeled as $-$ and $+$ respectively. As a default, if no such points exist, we set $s_i^- = v_i$ and $s_i^+ = v_i + u$.

Next, consider any $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$, let $a \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$ be defined as in Definition 105. That is, let

- $a_i = \frac{1}{2} + t_i$.

- $a_{i+d/3} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_i)$.
- $a_{i+2d/3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_i)$.

The key idea of this lemma is that $t \in P_S$ (i.e. $L(S|t) > 0$) if and only if for all $1 \leq i \leq d$,

$$[v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u, v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_i^-, s_i^+).$$

To see this, observe that if the claim above holds, then we must have that $s_i^- \in [v_i, v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u)$ and $s_i^+ \in (v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u, v_i + u]$, and it consequently follows that all points in S are elements of the support of $\mathscr{D}_a$ (Definition 94), as all other points in S are "further" from the interval $[v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u, v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u]$ than the points s_i^+ and s_i^-. Conversely, if $L(S|t) > 0$, we must have that $S \subseteq supp(\mathscr{D}_a)$, which immediately translates to the statement above. Thus, it suffices to find all t such that this condition holds.

To do this, observe that the interval $[v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u, v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u]$ is a line segment of length $2\Lambda||u||_2$ that is centered at the point $v_i + a_i u$. Thus, in order for this to be a sub-segment of (s_i^-, s_i^+), we only need that a_i satisfy $v_i + a_i u \in (s_i^- + \Lambda u, s_i^- - \Lambda u)$. This condition is equivalent to the condition that $a_i \in J_i^S$ for some open interval $J_i^S \subseteq [0,1]$, where J_i^S is only dependent on s_i^-, s_i^+ and Λ (which is a constant). In summary, there exist interval $J_1^S, J_2^S, \ldots, J_d^S$ such that $t \in P_S$ if and only if $a_i \in J_i^S$ for $1 \leq i \leq d$.

Finally, note that for $1 \leq i \leq d/3$, $a_i, a_{i+d/3}, a_{i+2d/3}$ are all functions of t_i, and moreover these functions are 1-lipschitz, and monotonic. As a consequence, by taking the intersections of the pre-images of these functions, we find that this condition holds if and only if $t_i \in I_i^S$ where I_i^S is some interval that is a subset of $[0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$. This proves the claim. □

Corollary 117. *For any $S \sim \mathscr{D}$ where $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$, let I_i^S be defined as in Lemma 116 for $1 \leq i \leq d/3$. Then the posterior distribution $t|S$ is equal to the uniform distribution over the set $\prod_{1 \leq i \leq d/3} I_i^S$, where t_i is sampled from I_i^S.*

Proof. First, recall that our prior on t is $\mathbb{U}([0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^d)$, where $\mathbb{U}$ denotes the uniform distribution.

By Lemma 114, we see that for all $t \in P_S$, $L(S|t) = \left(\frac{1}{(d-2\Lambda)||u||_2}\right)^n$, and for all other t, $L(S|t) = 0$. Furthermore, by Lemma 116, we see that $P_S = \prod_1^{1\le i\le d/3} I_i^S$. Thus, applying Bayes rules gives the desired result. □

We conclude this section by lower bounding the expected length of the interval I_i^S, denoted $\ell(I_i^S)$.

Lemma 118. *For an interval $(c,d) \subset \mathbb{R}$, we let its length, denoted $\ell((c,d))$ be defined as $\ell((c,d)) = d - c$. Then for $1 \le k \le d/3$, the expected length (taken over $\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi$ and $S \sim \mathscr{D}_a^n$) of the interval I_k^S is at least $\Omega(\frac{d}{n})$. That is,*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}_a \sim \Pi} \mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathscr{D}_a^n}[\ell(I_k^S)]] \ge \Omega(\frac{d}{n}).$$

Proof. Fix any $\mathscr{D}_{a^*} \sim \Pi$, and let t^* denote the value of t used to generate a (as in Definition 105). We will show that $\mathbb{E}_{S \sim \mathscr{D}_{a^*}^n}[\ell(I_k^S)]] \ge \Omega(\frac{d}{n})$, for all $1 \le k \le d/3$. We begin by explicitly computing the interval I_k^S.

Fix $1 \le k \le d/3$. Then $t_k* \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]$. Assume that $t_k^* > 0$; we will handle the case $t_k^* = 0$ separately. Recall from the proof of Lemma 116 that for $1 \le i \le d$, we defined

$$s_i^- = \underset{\{x_j : x_j \in [v_i, v_i+u], y_j = -1\}}{\arg\max} ||x_j - v_i||_2,$$

and

$$s_i^+ = \underset{\{x_j : x_j \in [v_i, v_i+u], y_j = +1\}}{\arg\max} ||x_j - (v_i+u)||_2.$$

for $1 \le i \le d$.

Next let $t \in [0, \frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$ be a vector, and let $a \in [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]^d$ be defined as $a_k = \frac{1}{2} + t_k$, $a_{k+d/3} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_1(t_k)$ and $a_{k+2d/3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2\Delta}{3} - g_2(t_k)$, for $1 \le k \le d/3$. Note that g_1, g_2 are the functions defined in Definition 104.

As we argued in the proof of Lemma 116, it then follows that $t_k \in I_k^S$ if and only if

$$[v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u, v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_i^-, s_i^+),$$

for $i = k, k + d/3, k + 2d/3$. Finally, as we did in Lemma 116, for each $1 \leq i \leq d$, we define intervals $J_i^S \subseteq [\frac{1}{2} - \Delta, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta]$ such that $a_i \in J_i^S$ if and only if $[v_i + (a_i - \Lambda)u, v_i + (a_i + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_i^-, s_i^+)$.

We now have the following three claims.

Claim 1:

Let $\alpha = \min\left(\frac{||s_k^- - (v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u)||_2}{||u||_2}, t_k^*\right)$. If $t_k \in (t_k^* - \alpha, t_k^*]$, then

$$[v_k + (a_k - \Lambda)u, v_k + (a_k + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_k^-, s_k^+).$$

Proof: First, observe that since s_k^+ and s_k^- were sampled from $\mathscr{D}_{a^*}$, it follows that

$$[v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u, v_k + (a_k^* + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_i^-, s_i^+).$$

Consider any $t_k \in [t_k^* - \alpha, t_k^*]$. Then substituting the definitions of a_k, a_k^* imply that $a_k \in [a_k^* - \alpha, a_k^*]$. Because of this, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} ||(v_k + (a_k - \Lambda)u) - (v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u)||_2 &= ||(a_k - a_k^*)u||_2 \\ &< \alpha ||u||_2 \\ &\leq ||s_k^- - (v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u)||_2, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $v_k + (a_k - \Lambda)u \in (s_i^-, v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u]$. Furthermore, the fact that $a_k \leq a_k^*$ implies that $v_k + (a_k + \Lambda)u \in (v_k + (a_k - \Lambda)u, v_k + (a_k^* + \Lambda)u]$.

Together, these observations imply the desired result, as it follows that

$$[v_k + (a_k - \Lambda)u, v_k + (a_k + \Lambda)u] \subset (s_k^-, v_k + (a_k^* + \Lambda)u] \subset (s_k^-, s_k^+).$$

■

Claim 2:

Let $\beta = \min\left(\frac{||s_{k+d/3}^+ - (v_{k+d/3} + (a_{k+d/3}^* + \Lambda)u)||_2}{||u||_2}, g_1(t_k^*)\right)$. If $t_k \in (g_1^{-1}(g_1(t_k^*) - \beta), t_k^*]$, then

$$[v_{k+d/3} + (a_{k+d/3} - \Lambda)u, v_k + (a_{k+d/3} + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_{k+d/3}^-, s_{k+d/3}^+).$$

Proof: First, we observe that β is well defined since g_1 is a monotonic 1-Lipschitz function, and consequently has an inverse. Next, we also see that $0 \leq g_1(t_k^*) - g_1(t_k) \leq \beta$. Substituting the definitions of a_k^*, a_k, it follows that $0 \leq a_k - a_k^* \leq \beta$ (notice the order switch). At this point, we can apply the same argument as in Claim 1 to get the desired result. ■.

Claim 3:

Let $\tau = \min\left(\frac{||s_{k+2d/3}^+ - (v_{k+2d/3} + (a_{k+2d/3}^* + \Lambda)u)||_2}{||u||_2}, g_2(t_k^*)\right)$. If $t_k \in (g_2^{-1}(g_2(t_k^*) - \tau), t_k^*]$, then

$$[v_{k+2d/3} + (a_{k+2d/3} - \Lambda)u, v_{k+2d/3} + (a_{k+2d/3} + \Lambda)u] \subseteq (s_{k+2d/3}^-, s_{k+2d/3}^+).$$

Proof: Completely analogous to Claim 2. ■.

Combining these claims, we see that if $t_k \in (t_k^* - \alpha, t_k^*] \cap (g_1^{-1}(g_1(t_k^*) - \beta), t_k^*] \cap (g_2^{-1}(g_2(t_k^*) - \tau), t_k^*]$, then $t_k \in I_k^S$. Since these three intervals all have an endpoint in t_k^*, it follows that there is an interval with length η that is a subset of I_k^S, where

$$\eta = \min(\ell((t_k^* - \alpha, t_k^*])), \ell((g_1^{-1}(g_1(t_k^*) - \beta), t_k^*]), \ell((g_2^{-1}(g_2(t_k^*) - \tau), t_k^*])).$$

However, by substituting that g_1, g_2 are 1-Lipschitz, we see that $\ell((g_1^{-1}(g_1(t_k^*) - \beta), t_k^*]) \geq \beta$

and $\ell((g_2^{-1}(g_2(t_k^*)-\tau), t_k^*])) \geq \tau$. Thus, it follows that

$$\ell(I_k^S) \geq \eta \geq \min(\alpha, \beta, \tau).$$

Thus it suffices to show that $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}_{a^*}}[\min(\alpha,\beta,\tau)] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n})$.

To do this, observe that

- $\alpha||u||_2$ is the distance from the closest point labeled $-$ on the segment $[v_k, v_k+u]$ to the point $v_k + (a_k^* - \Lambda)u$
- $\beta||u||_2$ is the distance from the closest point labeled $+$ on the segment $[v_{k+d/3}, v_{k+d/3}+u]$ to the point $v_{k+d/3} + (\Lambda + a_{k+d/3}^*)u$
- $\tau||u||_2$is the distance from the closest point labeled $+$ on the segment $[v_{k+2d/3}, v_{k+2d/3}+u]$ to the point $v_{k+2d/3} + (\Lambda + a_{k+2d/3}^*)u$.

Finally, it is not difficult to see that for sufficiently large n, with high probability each of these distances will be $\Omega(\frac{d}{n})$. This is because with high probability there will be $\Theta(\frac{n}{d})$ points on each of the respective line segments, and we are considering the closest point among them to some reference point. Thus, it follows that with high probability $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}_{a^*}}[\min(\alpha,\beta,tau)] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n})$, as desired. □

Putting it all together, the proof

We prove the following key lemma, which directly implies Theorem 47.

Lemma 119. *Let M be any learning algorithm that outputs a linear classifier. For any training sample of points $S = \{(x_1,y_1),(x_2,y_2),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\}$, we let M_S denote the classifier learned by M from $S \sim \mathscr{D}$. Then it follows that*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})]] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n}).$$

Proof. Let $\mathscr{F}_n$ denote the distribution over $(\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\})^n$ defined as the composition $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$ and $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. That is, $S \sim \mathscr{F}_n$ follows the same distribution as $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi, S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$. Then we can write the expectation above as

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D})]] = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{F}_n}\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim(\Pi|S)}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})]],$$

where $\Pi|S$ denotes the posterior distribution of $\mathscr{D}$ conditioned on observing S. First, fix any such S. We will bound $\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim(\Pi|S)}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})]$. First, by reparametrizing in terms of $t \in [0,\frac{\Delta}{3}]^{d/3}$ and applying Corollary 117, we have that

$$\mathbb{E}_{D\sim(\Pi|S)}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})] = \mathbb{E}_{t_1\sim\mathbb{U}(I_1^S)}[\dots[\mathbb{E}_{t_n\sim\mathbb{U}(I_{d/3})}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D}_a)]\dots],$$

where $I_1^S, I_2^S, \dots, I_{d/3}^S \subset [0,\frac{\Delta}{3}]$ are the intervals defined in Lemma 116, and a is defined as in Definition 105.

Next, let $b \in [0,1]^d$ be such that $M_S = f_{w^b,1}$, where w^b is defined as in Definition 95. Then it follows from Corollary 112 that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D}_a)] &\geq \frac{1}{20d}\sum_1^d |a_i - b_i| \\ &\geq \frac{1}{20d}\sum_1^{d/3} |\frac{1}{2} + t_i - b_i|\end{aligned}$$

with the last inequality coming from substituting the definition of a_i and (and ignoring a_i for $i > d/3$). We now take the expectation of this inequality over $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{d/3}$. To do so, observe that by simple algebra, $\mathbb{E}_{t_i\sim\mathbb{U}(I_i^S)}|\frac{1}{2} + t_i - b_i| \geq \frac{\ell(I_i^S)}{4}$. Substituting this, we see that

$$E_{t_1\sim\mathbb{U}(I_1^S)}[\dots[\mathbb{E}_{t_n\sim\mathbb{U}(I_{d/3}^S)}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D}_a)]\dots] \geq \frac{1}{80d}\sum_{i=1}^{d/3}\ell(I_i^S).$$

Finally, by taking expectations over $S \sim \mathscr{F}_n$, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(A_S,\mathscr{D})]] &= \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{F}_n}\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim(\Pi|S)}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})]] \\
&\geq \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{F}_n}\frac{1}{80d}\sum_{i=1}^{d/3}\ell(I_i^S) \\
&= \frac{1}{80d}\sum_{1}^{d/3}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{F}}[\ell(I_i^S)] \\
&= \frac{1}{80d}\sum_{1}^{d/3}\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{D}\sim\Pi}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\ell(I_i^S)] \\
&\geq \frac{1}{80d}\sum_{1}^{d/3}\Omega(\frac{d}{n}) = \Omega(\frac{d}{n}),
\end{aligned}$$

where the last step follows from Lemma 118. □

Finally, we can prove Theorem 47.

Proof. (Theorem 47). First, by Lemmas 97 and 109, we see that $\Pi \subseteq \mathscr{F}_{r,\rho}$ (provided $\rho > 10$). Next, by Lemma 119, for any n there must exists some $\mathscr{D} \sim \Pi$ such that $\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(M_S,\mathscr{D})] \geq \Omega(\frac{d}{n})$. Thus selecting this distribution suffices. This concludes the proof. □

C.3 Proofs for Algorithm 2

This section is divided into 2 parts. In section C.3.1, we show that for the case in which our data distribution $\mathscr{D}$ is linearly r-separated by some hyperplane through the origin, the desired error bound holds. That is, we prove Theorem 52 under this assumption.

Next, in section C.3.2, we show how to generalize Algorithm 2 to arbitrary linearly r-separated distributions, and subsequently prove Theorem 52 in the general case.

C.3.1 Origin Case

We begin by precisely stating the conditions required in the "origin" case. We assume the following properties hold for our data distribution $\mathscr{D}$. We let S_r^+ and S_r^- be defined as in section

??.

1. There exists $R > 0$ such that for all $x \in S_r^+ \cup S_r^-$, $||x||_2 \leq R$.

2. There exists a unit vector $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\gamma_r > 0$ such that

   - $\mathscr{L}_r(f_{u,0}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$, where $f_{u,0}$ denotes the linear classifier with decision boundary $\langle u, x \rangle = 0$.
   - $S_r^+ \cup S_r^-$ has distance at least γ_r from the decision boundary of f_w. That is, $||S_r^+ \cup S_r^- - H_{u,0}||_2 \geq \gamma_r$.

3. By the previous conditions, it follows that $\langle u, yx' \rangle \geq \gamma_r$ for all $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$, and $x' \in B_p(x,r)$. This is because u is a unit vector.

Next, before analyzing Algorithm 2, we will first give a slight modification of the algorithm that lends itself to better analysis. The only difference is that in this new algorithm, we first randomly sample $k \sim \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, and then only train on the first r data-points of our training sample.

Algorithm 5: Modified-Adversarial-Perceptron

Input: $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,
$w \leftarrow 0$
$k \sim \mathbb{U}(\{0, 1, 2, \ldots, n\})$
for $i = 1 \ldots k$ **do**
    $z = \arg\min_{||z - x_i||_p \leq r} y_i \langle w, z \rangle$ **if** $\langle w, y_i z \rangle \leq 0$ **then**
        $w \leftarrow w + y_i z$
    end if
end for
return $f_{w,0}$

We will show that Algorithm 5 satisfies the guarantees of Theorem 121. We begin with the following, key lemma.

Lemma 120. *Under the assumptions above about $\mathscr{D}$, Algorithm 5 makes at most $\frac{R^2}{\gamma_r^2}$ updates to w.*

Proof. Let w_t denote our weight vector after we make t updates. Observe that $w_t = w_{t-1} + y_t x_t + z'$ where (x_t, y_t) denotes the point we made a mistake on, and $z' = \arg\min_{|z|_p \leq r} \langle w, z \rangle$. Letting $x_t' = x_t + y_t z'$, we see that $w_t = w_{t-1} + y_t x_t'$. Now the key observation is that $(x_t', y_t) \in S_r^+ \cup S_r^-$, and as a result, it follows that $\langle u, y_t x_t' \rangle \geq \gamma_r$. Using this, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle u, w_t \rangle &= \langle u, w_{t-1} + y_t x_t' \rangle \\
&= \langle u, w_{t-1} \rangle + \langle u, y_t x_t' \rangle \\
&\geq \langle u, w_{t-1} \rangle + \gamma_r.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, by a simple proof by induction, we see that $\langle w_t, u \rangle \geq t\gamma_r$.

Next, observe that we must have $\langle w_{t-1}, y_t x_t' \rangle \leq 0$. This is because w_{t-1} must missclassify (x_t', y_t) (thus failing to be astute at (x_t, y_t)) in order for it to be updated. Substituting this, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
||w_t||_2 &= \sqrt{\langle w_t, w_t \rangle} \\
&= \sqrt{\langle w_{t-1} + x_t' y_t, w_{t-1} + x_t' y_\rangle} \\
&= \sqrt{\langle w_{t-1}, w_{t-1} \rangle + 2\langle w_{t-1}, x_t' y_t \rangle + \langle x_t', x_t' \rangle} \\
&\leq \sqrt{||w_{t-1}||_2^2 + 0 + R^2},
\end{aligned}$$

with the last inequality holding since $|x_t'|_2 \leq R$. Thus, by a simple proof by induction, we see that $||w_t||_2 \leq R\sqrt{t}$.

Finally, since u is a unit vector, it follows that $||w_t||_2 \geq \langle w_t, u$. Substituting our inequalities, we find that $R\sqrt{t} \geq \gamma_r t$ which implies that $t \leq \frac{R^2}{\gamma_r^2}$. Since t is the number of mistakes we make, the result follows. □

Lemma 121. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution with the assumptions above. For any $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, let f_S denote*

the classifier learned by Algorithm 5. Then

$$\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}\mathscr{L}_r(f_S,\mathscr{D}) \leq \frac{R^2}{\gamma_r^2(n+1)}.$$

This Theorem directly follows from the classic online to offline result (Theorem 3 of [41]). For completeness, we include a proof in our context.

Proof. Fix any n and consider running Algorithm 5 on $S\sim\mathscr{D}^n$. Let L_t denote the expected robust loss of our classifier conditioning on $k=t$, and let L^* denote the expected overall loss of our classifier. It follows that

$$\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}L^* = \frac{1}{n+1}\sum_{t=0}^{n}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[L^*|k=t] = \frac{1}{n+1}\sum_{t=0}^{n}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[L_t].$$

Next, let $T\sim\mathscr{D}^{n+1}$ be a separate i.i.d drawn sample, and suppose we run the adversarial perceptron algorithm on the entirety of T (i.e. rung Algorithm 5 on T by setting $k=n+1$). For $1\leq t\leq n+1$, let X_t be the indicator variable for whether the tth point in T requires an update on w (i.e. the classifier is not astute at w). There are two important observations to make.

First, we have that $\mathbb{E}_{T\sim\mathscr{D}^{n+1}}[X_t] = \mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[L_{t-1}]$. This is because X_t is an indicator variable for a classifier trained on precisely $t-1$ i.i.d training examples lacking astuteness for a randomly drawn point from $\mathscr{D}$. Second, we have that $\sum_{t=1}^{n+1}X_t \leq \frac{R^2}{\gamma_r^2}$. This is because each $\sum X_t$ is precisely the number of updates that perceptron makes on T, which is bounded by Lemma 120. By

combining these two observations, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[L^*] &= \frac{1}{n+1}\sum_{t=0}^{n}\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[L_t] \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1}\sum_{t=0}^{n}\mathbb{E}_{T\sim\mathscr{D}^{n+1}}[X_{t+1}] \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1}\mathbb{E}_{T\sim\mathscr{D}^{n+1}}[\sum_{t=1}^{n+1}X_t] \\ &\leq \frac{R^2}{\gamma_r^2(n+1)},\end{aligned}$$

as desired. □

C.3.2 General Case

In general case, we no longer assume that the optimal classifier $f_{u,b}$ passes through the origin. To account for this, we will need to first adapt our algorithm. The basic idea is to simply append a 1 to the vectors x and increase the dimension d by 1. We are then left with solving a $d+1$ dimensional problem in which the data is once-again separated by a hyperplane passing through the origin.

We begin with two useful sets of notation.

Definition 122. *We use the following notation:*

- *For any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $R \in \mathbb{R}$, we let $x|R \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ denote the $d+1$ dimensional vector obtained by appending the value R to x.*
- *For $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$, let $||w||_q^*$ denote the ℓ_q norm of the first d coordinates of w.*
- *For $x \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$, let $B_p^*(x,r)$ denote all $z \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ such that $||z-x||_p \leq r$ and such that z and x both share the same last coordinate.*
- *For $S = \{(x_1,y_1),\ldots,(x_n,y_n)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \times \{\pm 1\}$, let R_S denote $\max_{i\neq j}||x_i - x_j||_2$.*

We now propose the following modified version of Algorithm 2, that is capable of handling any dataset, including ones that aren't separated by a hyperplane through the origin.

Algorithm 6: General-Adversarial-Perceptron

Input: $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$,

$x_i' \leftarrow x_i - x_1$.

$R_S = diam_2(S)$

$w \leftarrow 0 \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$

Randomly permute S

Randomly choose $k \in \{1, 2, 3, \ldots, n\}$.

for $t = 1 \ldots k$ **do**

  if $\langle w, y_t(x_t|R_S)\rangle \leq r||w||_q^*$ **then**

    $z' = \arg\min_{|z|_p \leq r} \langle w, z|0\rangle$

    $w \leftarrow w + y_t(x_t|R_S) + z'|0$

  end if

end for

$w^* \leftarrow$ first d coordinates of w

$b \leftarrow$ the last element of w

Return $f_{w^*, \langle w^*, x_1\rangle - bR_S}$

The basic idea of the algorithm is to first translate S so that one point is the origin, and then append R_S to every vector in S so that each vector is now $d+1$ dimensional. After doing this, we apply Algorithm 2 as before with one important difference: for our adversarial attacks, we make sure to not change the last coordinate.

We now show that this algorithm has a similar performance to our old algorithm. We first prove a helpful lemma.

Lemma 123. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be any linearly r-separated distribution, and let $S \sim \mathscr{D}^n$ such that S has positively and negatively labeled examples. Let $x_i' = x_i - x_1$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then the following hold.*

- *There exists a unit vector* $u \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ *such that for all* $(x_i, y_i) \in S$, $\min_{z \in B_p^*(x_i')} \langle u, y_i(z|R_S) \rangle \geq \frac{\gamma_r(\mathscr{D})}{\sqrt{2}}$.
- *For all* $(x_i, y_i) \in S$, $||x_i'|R_S||_2 \leq \sqrt{2} diam_2(\mathscr{D})$.

Proof. Without loss of generality, we will assume $x_1 = 0$ so that we can safely ignore the differences between x_i' and x_i. Since $\mathscr{D}$ is r-separated, there exist w, b (with w a unit vector) such that

$$\langle w, zy \rangle \geq by + \gamma_r(\mathscr{D}),$$

for all $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$ and $z \in B_p(x,r)$. Furthermore, since $x_1 = 0$, it follows that $||x||_2 \leq \text{diam}_2(\mathscr{D})$ for all $(x,y) \sim \mathscr{D}$. This immediately implies that $||x_i|R_S||_2 \leq \sqrt{\text{diam}_2(\mathscr{D})^2 + R_S^2} \leq \sqrt{2}\text{diam}_2(\mathscr{D})$, yielding the second part of the lemma.

For the first part, observe that we can rearrange the equation above, we see that

$$\langle w| - \frac{b}{R_S}, zy|R_S \rangle \geq \gamma_r(\mathscr{D}).$$

The key observation is that the first equation implies that $b \leq R_S$. This is because S contains positively and negatively labeled examples, and consequently $\langle w, x_i \rangle \geq b + \gamma_r(\mathscr{D}) > b$ for some x_i such that $|x_i| = R_S$. Thus, it follows that the unit vector $u = \frac{w|\frac{-b}{R_S}}{\sqrt{1+b^2/R_S^2}}$ has the desired property, by observing that $\sqrt{1+b^2/R_S^2} \leq \sqrt{2}$. □

Lemma 123 allows us to analyze the performance of Algorithm 6. The basic idea is that our performance on the transformed data in $\mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ is isomorphic to its performance on the data in $\mathbb{R}^d$. As a consequence, we can apply the same argument as in Theorem 121 to get a bound on the error estimate. However, this bound must be given in terms of the diameter and robust margin of the *transformed data*: quantities that have been bounded in Lemma 123. Thus, putting this all together, Theorem 52 follows.

C.4 Details for Kernel Algorithm

Next, we find analogs of linear r-separability and the robust margin when considering kernels. First, we define an embedding function.

Definition 124. *Let $K : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^+$ be a kernel similarity function. Then there exists a Hilbert space H and map $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to H$ such that for all $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we have*

$$K(x_1, x_2) = \langle \phi(x_1), \phi(x_2) \rangle.$$

*We call ϕ the **embedding function** and H the **embedding space**.*

The key idea of this section is that Kenrel classifiers correspond to linear classifiers in embedded space. This is the essence of the "kernel trick." Formally, we have the following, well-known theorem.

Theorem 125. *Let $K : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^+$ be a kernel similarity function. Let $T = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_m, y_m)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ be a set of labeled points, and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^m$ be a vector of m real numbers. Then for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we have that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i y_i K(x_i, x) = \Big\langle \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i y_i \phi(x_i), \phi(x) \Big\rangle.$$

Because of this, if we let $w = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i y_i \phi(x_i)$, then the kernel classifier $f^k_{T,\alpha}$ satisfies $f^k_{T,\alpha}(x) = f_{w,0}(\phi(x))$, where the latter classifier is the linear classifier in H with weight vector w.

The main idea behind Algorithm 3, is that it corresponds to running Algorithm 2 inside the embedded space of the kernel K. In particular, the kernel-perceptron update step precisely corresponds to the dual-form of the perceptron-update step inside embedded space. It follows

from Theorem 125 that the following algorithm is identical to Algorithm 3.

Algorithm 7: Adversarial-Kernel-Perceptron

Input: $S = \{(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)\} \sim \mathscr{D}^n$, Similarity function, K,
$w \leftarrow 0$
for $i = 1 \ldots n$ **do**
  $z = \arg\min_{||z-x||_p \leq r} y_i \langle w, \phi(z) \rangle$
  if $\langle y_i w, \phi(z) \rangle \leq 0$ **then**
    $w = w + y_i \phi(z)$
  end if
end for
return $f_{w,0} \circ \phi$

In particular, by comparing Algorithms 3 and 7, we have by Theorem 125 that for all time steps t,

$$w = \sum_{(z,y) \in T} y \phi(z).$$

Therefore, to analyze the performance of Algorithm 3, it suffices to analyze Algorithm 7. However, we already have built to the tools for doing this: all of the results from Section C.3.1 apply to Algorithm 7 since the only difference is replacing $\mathbb{R}^d$ with H, the embedding space of K.

We now proceed by giving the corresponding assumptions on $\mathscr{D}$ needed for Theorem 54. We begin by first defining (K, r)-separability and K-robust margin, $\gamma_{r,K}$, the Kernel analogs of linear r-separability (Definition 45) and the robust margin (Definition 50).

Definition 126. *For any $r > 0$, a distribution $\mathscr{D}$ over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ is (K, r)-**separable** if there exists a kernel classifier $f^K_{S,\alpha}$ such that $\mathscr{L}_r(f^K_{S,\alpha}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$.*

To define the K-robust margin, we will once again need the sets S_r^+ and S_r^- defined in equation 3.1 (top right of page 7). Recall that these sets denote the positively and negatively labeled elements from $supp(\mathscr{D})$ *including* all adversarial perturbations of those points.

Definition 127. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a (K,r)-separable distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$. Then $\mathscr{D}$ has K-robust margin γ_r if γ_r is the largest real number such that there exists a kernel classifier $f^K_{T,\alpha}$, such that the following conditions hold.*

1. $\mathscr{L}_r(f^K_{T,\alpha}, \mathscr{D}) = 0$.
2. *Let ϕ, H be the embedding function/space of K, let $w = \sum_{(z,y)\in T} y\phi(z)$, and let $H_w = \{z \in H, \langle z, w\rangle = 0\}$ be the decision boundary in H of $f^K_{T,\alpha}$. Then for all $x \in S_r^+ \cup S_r^-$, $\phi(x)$ has ℓ_2 distance at least γ_r^K from H_w inside H. That is,*

$$\inf_{x\in S_r^+\cup S_r^-} \inf_{z\in H_w} \sqrt{\langle \phi(x) - z, \phi(x) - z\rangle} = \gamma_r^K.$$

We now state the main theorem giving the performance of Algorithm 3.

Theorem 128. *Let $\mathscr{D}$ be a distribution over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \{\pm 1\}$ such that the following conditions hold.*

1. *There exists $R > 0$ such that for all $x \in S_r^+ \cup S_r^-$, $\langle \phi(x), \phi(x)\rangle \leq R^2$.*
2. *$\mathscr{D}$ is K, r-separable, and has K-robust margin $\gamma_r^K > 0$.*

Then for any $S \sim D^n$, if $f^k_{T,\alpha}$ denotes the classifier learned by Algorithm 3, then

$$\mathbb{E}_{S\sim\mathscr{D}^n}[\mathscr{L}_r(f^k_{T,\alpha}, \mathscr{D})] = O\left(\frac{(\gamma_r^K)^2}{R^2(n+1)}\right).$$

Proof. The key idea is to observe that Lemmas 120 and 121 both directly translate from Algorithm 6 to Algorithm 7. In particular, neither proof used the dimension, d, of $\mathbb{R}^d$, and consequently would equally apply to even an infinite dimensional Hilbet Space, H. Thus, the proof is completely analogous to the proof of Theorem 121. □

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