

CSC 588: Homework 1

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- This homework is due on Mar 23 on gradescope.
- This homework is intentionally made short (and due on a late date) to give you more time to think about your project, which is due on Mar 16.
- You are encouraged to discuss the homework questions with your classmates, but the discussions should only be at a high level, and you should write your solutions in your own words. For every question you have had discussions on, please mention explicitly whom you have discussed with; otherwise it may be counted as academic integrity violation.
- Feel free to use existing theorems from the course notes / the textbook.

Problem 1

In this exercise, we conduct experiments on AdaBoost using a simple benchmark dataset `diabetes` in `openml.org`. You may use any programming languages you like. Please submit your source code by emailing to `chichengz@cs.arizona.edu`. Some preparations:

1. Go to <https://www.openml.org/d/37> and download the dataset.
2. The last column of the dataset gives the classes of the examples - use +1 to denote class 'tested_positive' and -1 to denote class 'tested_negative'.
3. Choose a random subset of size 100 as the train set, and use the remaining 668 examples as the test set.

Answer the following questions:

1. Define base hypothesis class $\mathcal{B} = \{\sigma \cdot (2I(x_i \leq t) - 1) : \sigma \in \{\pm 1\}, i \in \{1, \dots, d\}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ as the set of bi-directional decision stumps. Let the weak learner \mathcal{A} be: given a weighted dataset, return the classifier $h \in \mathcal{B}$ that has the smallest weighted error. Implement AdaBoost with \mathcal{A} , and run it for 3000 iterations. At time t , suppose the following cumulative voting classifier

$$H_t(x) = \text{sign}(f_t(x)), \quad f_t(x) = \sum_{s=1}^t \alpha_s h_s(x)$$

is produced. Plot AdaBoost's learning curves: the training error of H_t , the test error of H_t , and the training exponential loss of f_t , as functions of iteration t . What do you see?

2. Given voting classifier f_t , define its normalization as

$$\bar{f}_t(x) = \frac{f_t(x)}{\sum_{s=1}^t \alpha_s} = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^t \alpha_s h_s(x)}{\sum_{s=1}^t \alpha_s}$$

Now, given an example (x, y) , define its normalized margin at time step t as $y\bar{f}_t(x)$. At iterations 3, 10, 30, 100, 300, 1000, 3000, plot histograms of normalized margins of training examples. Do you see any trend as t increases?

Problem 2

Show that for AdaBoost, at iteration t , the updated distribution D_{t+1} satisfies that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m D_{t+1}(i) I(h_t(x_i) \neq y_i) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Intuitively, why is this formula reasonable?

Problem 3

Most of the problems we have seen in class so far are about classification. Consider instead a regression problem, where we have a distribution over $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$, where the feature space $\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x\|_\infty \leq R\}$ and the label space $\mathcal{Y} = [-Y, Y]$. Consider the hypothesis class $\mathcal{H} = \{h_w(x) := \langle w, x \rangle : \|w\|_1 \leq B\}$, and define the loss function to be the square loss $\ell_{\text{sq}}(\hat{y}, y) = (\hat{y} - y)^2$. For any predictor $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define $L_D(h) = \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim D} \ell_{\text{sq}}(h(x), y)$ its generalization loss. Now, given a set of examples $S = ((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m))$ drawn iid from D , define the ERM $\hat{h} = \arg \min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_S \ell_{\text{sq}}(h(x), y)$. For any $\delta > 0$, can you show a tight upper bound on

$$L_D(\hat{h}) - \min_{h' \in \mathcal{H}} L_D(h')$$

that holds with probability $1 - \delta$? (You might want to use the contraction inequality of Rademacher complexity to solve this problem.)

Problem 4

How much time did it take you to complete this homework?