

Let $\mathcal{F} \subset \{f \in [0, 1]\}$ be a class of $[0, 1]$ valued functions, $Z = \sup_f (\mathbb{E}f - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i))$, and $R = \sup_f \sum_f \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i f(x_i)$ for any given x_i, \dots, x_n where $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n$ are Rademacher random variables. For any $f \in \mathcal{F}$ unknown and to be estimated, the empirical error Z can be probabilistically bounded by R in the following way. Using the fact that $Z \leq 2R$ and by Martingale inequality, $\mathbb{P}(Z \leq \mathbb{E}Z + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}}) \geq 1 - e^{-u}$, and $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{E}R \leq R + 2\sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}}) \geq 1 - e^{-u}$. Taking union bound, $\mathbb{P}(Z \leq R + 5\sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}}) \geq 1 - 2e^{-u}$. Taking union bound again over all $(n_k)_{k \geq 1}$ and let $\epsilon = 5\sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}}$, $\mathbb{P}(\forall n \in (n_k)_{k \geq 1} \forall f \in \mathcal{F}, Z \leq 2R + \epsilon) \geq 1 - \exp(-\sum_k \frac{n_k \epsilon^2}{50}) \stackrel{\text{set}}{\geq} 1 - \delta$. Using big O notation, $n_k = \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \log \frac{1}{\delta^2})$.

For voting algorithms, the candidate function to be estimated is a symmetric convex combination of some base functions $\mathcal{F} = \text{conv}\mathcal{H}$, where $\mathcal{H} \subset \{h \in [0, 1]\}$. The trained classifier is $\text{sign}(yf(x))$ where $f \in \mathcal{F}$ is our estimation, and the training error is $\mathbb{P}(yf(x))$. The training error can be bounded as the following,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}(yf(x) < 0) &\leq \mathbb{E}\phi_\delta(yf(x)) \\
 &\leq \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_n \phi_\delta(yf(x)) + \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} (\mathbb{E}\phi_\delta(yf(x)) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_\delta(y_i f(x_i)))}_Z \\
 &\stackrel{\text{with probability } 1-e^{-u}}{\leq} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_n \phi_\delta(yf(x)) + 2 \cdot \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} (\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i \phi_\delta(y_i f(x_i)))}_R + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}} \\
 &\stackrel{\text{contraction}}{\leq} \mathbb{E}_n \phi_\delta(yf(x)) + \frac{2}{\delta} \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i y_i f(x_i) + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}} \\
 &= \mathbb{E}_n \phi_\delta(yf(x)) + \frac{2}{\delta} \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i f(x_i) + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}} \\
 &\leq \mathbb{P}_n(yf(x) < 0) + \frac{2}{\delta} \mathbb{E} \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i h(x_i) + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

To bound the second term $(\mathbb{E} \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i h(x_i))$ above, we will use the following fact.

Fact 27.1. *If $\mathbb{P}(\xi \geq a + b \cdot t) \leq \exp(-t^2)$, then $\mathbb{E}\xi \leq K \cdot (a + b)$ for some constant K .*

If \mathcal{H} is a VC-subgraph class and V is its VC dimension, $D(\mathcal{H}, \epsilon, d_x) \leq K(\frac{1}{\epsilon})^{2 \cdot V}$ by D. Haussler. By Kolmogorov's chaining method (Lecture 14),

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_h \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i h(x_i) \leq K \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_0^1 \log^{1/2} D(\mathcal{H}, \epsilon, d_x) d\epsilon + \sqrt{\frac{u}{n}}\right)\right) \\
 &= \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_h \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i h(x_i) \leq K \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_0^1 \sqrt{V \log \frac{1}{\epsilon}} d\epsilon + \sqrt{\frac{u}{n}}\right)\right) \\
 &\geq 1 - e^{-u}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\mathbb{E} \sup \frac{1}{n} \sum \epsilon_i h(x_i) \leq K \left(\sqrt{\frac{V}{n}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}} \right) \leq K \sqrt{\frac{V}{n}}$, and

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\mathbb{P}(yf(x) < 0) \leq \mathbb{P}_n(yf(x) < 0) + K \frac{1}{\delta} \sqrt{\frac{V}{n}} + \sqrt{\frac{2u}{n}} \right) \geq 1 - e^{-u}.$$

Recall our set up for Martingale inequalities. Let $Z = Z(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ where x_1, \dots, x_n are independent random variables. We need to bound $Z - \mathbb{E}Z$. Since Z is not a sum of independent random variables, certain classical concentration inequalities is not applicable. But we can try to bound $Z - \mathbb{E}Z$ with certain form of Martingale inequalities.

$$\begin{aligned} Z - \mathbb{E}Z &= \underbrace{Z - \mathbb{E}_{x_1}(Z|x_2, \dots, x_n)}_{d_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_1}(Z|x_2, \dots, x_n) - \mathbb{E}_{x_1, x_2}(Z|x_3, \dots, x_n)}_{d_2(x_2, \dots, x_n)} + \\ &\dots + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}}(Z|x_n) - \mathbb{E}_{x_1, \dots, x_n}(Z)}_{d_n(x_n)} \end{aligned}$$

with the assumptions that $\mathbb{E}_{x_i} d_i = 0$, and $\|d_i\|_\infty \leq c_i$.

We will give a generalized martingale inequality below. $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i = Z - \mathbb{E}Z$ where $d_i = d_i(x_i, \dots, x_n)$, $\max_i \|d_i\|_\infty \leq C$, $\sigma_i^2 = \sigma_i^2(x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) = \text{var}(d_i)$, and $\mathbb{E}d_i = 0$. Take $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{P} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i - \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2 \geq t \right) \\ &\leq e^{-\lambda t} \mathbb{E} \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda (d_i - \epsilon \sigma_i^2) \right) \\ &= e^{-\lambda t} \mathbb{E} \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \lambda (d_i - \epsilon \sigma_i^2) \right) \cdot \mathbb{E} \exp(\lambda d_n) \cdot \exp(\lambda \epsilon \sigma_n^2) \end{aligned}$$

The term $\exp(\lambda d_n)$ can be bounded in the following way.

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E} \exp(\lambda d_n) \\ &\stackrel{\text{Taylor expansion}}{=} \mathbb{E} \left(1 + \lambda d_n + \frac{\lambda^2}{2!} d_n^2 + \frac{\lambda^3}{3!} d_n^3 + \dots \right) \\ &\leq 1 + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sigma_n^2 \cdot \left(1 + \frac{\lambda C}{3} + \frac{\lambda^2 C^2}{3 \cdot 4} + \dots \right) \\ &\leq \exp \left(\frac{\lambda^2 \cdot \sigma_n^2}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{(1 - \lambda C)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Choose λ such that $\frac{\lambda^2}{2 \cdot (1 - \lambda C)} \leq \lambda \epsilon$, we get $\lambda \leq \frac{2\epsilon}{1 + 2\epsilon C}$, and $\mathbb{E}_{d_n} \exp(\lambda d_n) \cdot \exp(\lambda \epsilon \sigma_n^2) \leq 1$. Iterate over $i = n, \dots, 1$, we get

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i - \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2 \geq t \right) \leq \exp(-\lambda \cdot t)$$

. Take $t = u/\lambda$, we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n d_i \geq \epsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2 + \frac{u}{2\epsilon}(1 + 2\epsilon C)\right) \leq \exp(-u)$$

To minimize the sum $\epsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2 + \frac{u}{2\epsilon}(1 + 2\epsilon C)$, we set its derivative to 0, and get $\epsilon = \sqrt{\frac{u}{2\sum \sigma_i^2}}$. Thus

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sum d_i \geq 3\sqrt{u \sum_i \sigma_i^2/2} + Cu\right) \leq e^{-u}$$

. This inequality takes the form of the Bernstein's inequality.