

Homework 1

Machine Learning: Foundations and Applications
MATH CS 120

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1. Show that the concept class of hyper-rectangles $[a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2] \times [a_n, b_n] \in \mathbb{R}^n$ in PAC learnable. Hint: Start by considering $n = 2$ and showing this is learnable and then work from there.
2. Consider the concept class of concentric circles of the form $\{(x, y) | x^2 + y^2 \leq r^2\}$ for $r > 0, r \in \mathbb{R}$. Show this is (ϵ, δ) -PAC-learnable from a training data set of size $m \geq (1/\epsilon) \log(1/\delta)$.
3. Consider a data collection (x, y) with $x \in \mathcal{X}$ a discrete set and $y \in \{0, 1\}$ with distribution $\mathcal{D}_{x,y}$ when for x the assigned labels y are stochastic (non-deterministic). Show in this case of learning that the Bayes classifier given by $h_{\text{Bayes}}(x) = \operatorname{argmax}_y \Pr[y|x]$ has for the Generalization error $R(\cdot)$ the property that $R^* = R(h_{\text{Bayes}}) \leq R(h)$ for any hypothesis.
4. Show that the strategy of *Empirical Risk Minimization* (ERM) for a discrete hypothesis space \mathcal{H} satisfies the bound

$$R(h^{\text{ERM}}) - R(h^*) \leq 2 \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}} |R(h) - \hat{R}(h)|. \quad (1)$$

Here, $h^{\text{ERM}} = \operatorname{argmin}_h \hat{R}(h)$ and $h^* = \operatorname{argmin}_h R(h)$. State why this result is potentially useful.

5. Consider a collection of i.i.d. random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N with finite mean μ and variance σ^2 . From the Law of Large Numbers we know that $S_N = \sum_{k=1}^n X_k$ will have $\mu_N = \frac{1}{N} S_N \rightarrow \mu$. Using the Cheyshev inequality derive an estimate for at least how many samples N are required so that for the estimate of the mean $\mu_N = \frac{1}{N} S_N$ satisfies for a given $\epsilon > 0$ and $\delta > 0$

$$\Pr\{|\mu_N - \mu| > \epsilon\} \leq \delta. \quad (2)$$

In the case we make the special choice of $\epsilon = m\sigma$ state the lower bound on N .

6. Suppose we observe a collection of flips of a coin with the unknown probability of heads p^* . We make an estimate $\tilde{p} = \mu_N$ of this probability where $X = 1$ for heads and $X = 0$ for tails. To be confident that our estimate \tilde{p} is within 0.1 of the true probability p^* would occur 99% of the time we use this approach, how many samples N do we need to make sure to observe?