

# Lecture 13 Online Learning

Recap: Convex Optimization

	Convex	+ Smooth	+ Strong Conv	$M$ + Hess/Lipschitz	f Constraints
GD	$\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}$	$\frac{1}{\epsilon} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{1}{\epsilon}}$	$\frac{L}{m} \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{L}{m} \log \frac{1}{\epsilon}}$		
Prox-Gradient	$\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}$	$\frac{1}{\epsilon}$	same as GD	not used	<del>not used</del> N.A.
(Project) SAG	$\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}$	$\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}$	$\frac{1}{m\epsilon}$ even if smooth		
Newton	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	$k_0(m, L, M)$ $\alpha, \beta \in (m, M, \alpha, \beta)$ $k_0(\alpha, \beta) + c \cdot \log \log \frac{1}{\epsilon}$	Affine
IPM (Barrier Method) PD-IPM	Reformulate	Reformulate	Reformulate	$O(\log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$ # of Newton steps $O(\log \frac{1}{\epsilon})$	Same as left.

# Online Learning

Setting of Statistical Learning (Brecht Learning, PAC Learning) <sup>(Vapnik, Vapnik)</sup>  
 $(x_1, y_1) \dots (x_N, y_N) \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{D}$      $x \in \mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$  or  $\{0, 1\}^d$   
 $y \in \mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}$

Hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$ . Realizable:  $\exists h^* \in \mathcal{H}, P_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} (h^*(x) = y) = 1$

Goal of learning find  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ , s.t.  $err_{\mathcal{D}}(h) = E_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}} [\mathbb{1}(h^*(x) \neq h(x))] \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0$

Online Learning: You observe one data point at a time

$h_1 \leftarrow x_1$ , predict  $\hat{y}_1 = h_1(x_1)$ ,  $y_1$  is revealed

$h_2 \leftarrow (x_1, y_1); x_2$

⋮

$h_t \leftarrow (x_1, y_1) \dots (x_{t-1}, y_{t-1}), x_t$  predict  $h_t(x_t)$ , reveal  $y_t$

Data can be adversarially chosen  
 Not iid.

Mistake bound  $M$

If Alg. A satisfy that A makes  $\leq M$  mistakes for all sequences of  $(x_t)$

$(x_1, h^*(x_1)) \dots (x_t, h^*(x_t)) \dots$

then Alg. A has a mistake bound of  $M$ .

Alg A: "Consistency" Follow-the-leader or ERM

1.  $V_1 = H$
2. for  $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ 
  - Receive  $x_t$ , pick any  $h \in V_t$
  - predict  $\hat{y}_t = h(x_t)$
  - Receive  $y_t = h^*(x_t)$
  - Update  $V_{t+1} = \{h \in V_t \mid h(x_t) = y_t\}$
  - any  $h \in V_{t+1}$ ,  $h^*(x_i) = h(x_i) \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, t$

Each mistake, we can eliminate at least 1 hypothesis

Universal Upper bound

$$M[\text{consistency}] \leq |H| - 1$$

Example:  $X = \{1, 2, \dots, |H|\}$

$\mathcal{H} = \{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_{|H|}\}$

$h_i(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < i \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 2, \dots, x_{|H|} = |H|$

$y_1 = 0, y_2 = 0, \dots, y_i = 0, y_{|H|} = 1$

pick  $h = h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots$

remove  $\downarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\downarrow$   $\dots$   $h^* = h_{|H|}$

Alg B. "Majority"

1.  $V_1 = H$
2. for  $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ 
  - Receive  $x_t$
  - different  $\rightarrow$  predict  $\hat{y}_t = \text{Vote}(h(x_t)) = \text{argmax}_{r \in \{0, 1\}} \left| \{h \in V_t \mid h(x_t) = r\} \right|$
  - Receive  $y_t = h^*(x_t)$
  - Update  $V_{t+1} = \{h \in V_t \mid h(x_t) = y_t\}$

Thm. (Majority)  $M \leq \log_2(|H|)$

Proof: For each mistake, at least  $\frac{|V_t|}{2}$  hypotheses are removed.

$$1 \leq |V_{t+1}| \leq |H| / 2^{-M}$$

$$2^M \leq |H| \quad M \leq \log_2(|H|) \quad \square$$

"~~Realizability~~", agnostic learning

Compare v.s. the best  $h \in H$  is the hindsight

$$\text{Regret} = \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{1}(h_t(x_t) \neq y_t) - \min_{h \in H} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{1}(h(x_t) \neq y_t)$$

$(x_t, y_t)$  chosen by an adversary.  $\text{as } T \rightarrow \infty$   
 if  $\text{Regret} = o(T)$

Example: Stock Forecasting

	Exp 1 (Alex)	Exp 2 (Esther)	Exp 3 (Bayuan)	Exp 4 (Raffles the Cat)	Outcome
Day 1:	Down	UP	UP	Down	Down
Day 2:	UP	UP	Down	Down	Down
Day 3:	UP	Down	UP	UP	UP

Weighted Majority

Day 1	1	1	1	1
Day 2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Day 3	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$

Alg C (Weighted Majority)

$$\text{predict } \hat{y}_t = \mathbb{1} \left( \underbrace{\sum_{h \in H} W_h^t \cdot h(x_t)}_{\text{total weight on } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{UP} \\ \text{DOWN} \end{array} \right\}} > \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{h \in H} W_h^t}_W \right)$$

receive  $y_t$ , discount  $W_h^{t+1} \leftarrow W_h^t \cdot \frac{1}{2}$  for all  $h$  that made a mistake.

Thm. (WM)  $M \leq 2.4 (m + \log n)$

$M$ : total # of mistakes WM makes

$m$ : # of mistakes of the best expert in the hindsight

$n$ : # of hypotheses / experts

Proof: claim: Each mistake  $\Rightarrow$   $W$  drops at least by 25% (why?)

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^M \leq W \leq n \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^M$$

best expert  
is part of the pool

$$M \log \frac{1}{2} \leq \log n + M \log \frac{3}{4}$$

$$M \log \frac{4}{3} \leq \log n + M \log 2$$

$$M \leq \frac{\log 2 \cdot M + \log n}{\log \frac{4}{3}} \leq \underline{2.4} (m + \log n) \quad \square$$

Not 1

Idea 1: discount by  $1-\epsilon$ , choose  $\epsilon$  appropriate.

$$(1-\epsilon)^M \leq W \leq n \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot (1-\epsilon)\right)^M = n \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)^M$$

$$M \log(1-\epsilon) \leq \log n + M \log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)$$

$$M \leq \frac{\log n - M \log(1-\epsilon)}{-\log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)} = \frac{-\log(1-\epsilon)}{-\log\left(\frac{1}{2}(1+\epsilon)\right)} M - \frac{\log n}{\log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)}$$

$$\leq \frac{\epsilon + \epsilon^2}{\frac{1}{2}(1-\epsilon)} M - o(\log n)$$

$$= 2 \frac{1}{1+o(\epsilon)} M - o(\log n)$$

lem:  $0 \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2}$

$$-x - x^2 \leq \log(1-x) \leq -x$$

Idea 2: Randomize. Weighted Majority (RWM)

Alg 2 1. Set  $W_h^1 = 1$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{H}$

2. at time  $t$ , we choose  $\begin{cases} 1 & \text{w.p. } \frac{\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} W_h^t}{\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} W_h^t} \cdot \frac{1}{|\mathcal{H}|} \text{ (if } \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} W_h^t = 1) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

3.  $W_h^{(t+1)} \leftarrow W_h^t (1-\epsilon)$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  that has made a mistake.

Analysis of RWM: At time  $t$ ,  $F_t$  the fraction of the weights of the experts that make mistakes,

$$W = N \cdot \underbrace{(1 - \epsilon F_1)(1 - \epsilon F_2) \cdots (1 - \epsilon F_t) \cdots (1 - \epsilon F_T)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} W_{t+1} &= (1 - F_t) \cdot W_t + F_t W_t (1 - \epsilon) \\ &= W_t - F_t W_t \cdot \epsilon = (1 - F_t \epsilon) W_t \end{aligned}$$

$\epsilon m \log(1 - \lambda) \leq -X$

$$\begin{aligned} \log W &= \log N + \sum_{t=1}^T \log(1 - \epsilon F_t) \\ &\leq \log N + (-\epsilon \sum_{t=1}^T F_t) \\ &= \log N - \epsilon M \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{t=1}^T F_t = E[\# \text{ of mistakes}]$$

!!  
M

best expert made  $M$  mistakes

$$(1 - \epsilon)^m \leq W$$

*weight of the best expert*  $\leq W$

*total weights*

$(1 - \epsilon)^m \leq (1 - \epsilon F_1) \cdots (1 - \epsilon F_m) = W_{m+1}$

$\epsilon m \leq \log(1 - \lambda) \quad \forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$\log((1 - \epsilon)^m) \leq \log N - \epsilon M$$

$$\text{Regret} \leq \epsilon M + \frac{\log N}{\epsilon}$$

$$m \log(1 - \epsilon) \leq \log N - \epsilon M$$

$$M \leq m \cdot \left( \frac{-\log(1 - \epsilon)}{\epsilon} \right) + \frac{\log N}{\epsilon} \leq m \cdot \left( \frac{\epsilon + \epsilon^2}{\epsilon} \right) + \frac{\log N}{\epsilon} = (1 + \epsilon) m + \frac{\log N}{\epsilon}$$

each expert  $h$ , incur  $\ell_t(h)$ .

$$\text{Regret} = \sum_t \ell_t(h_t) - \min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \sum_t \ell_t(h)$$

Hedge alg

- ① Pick expert  $h_t$  w. p.  $\propto \frac{w_t(h)}{\sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}} w_t(h)}$
- ② incur loss  $\ell_t(h_t)$
- ③  $w_h^{t+1} = w_h^t e^{-\eta \ell_t(h)}$  for all  $h \in \mathcal{H}$

analysis: exercise...  
the same as RWM.

Optimization View:

Min  $\sum_i f_i(\theta)$  online

$\theta \in \mathcal{H}$

probability simplex

$$f_i(\theta) = x_i^T \theta = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \ell_i^1 \\ \vdots \\ \ell_i^{|H|} \end{pmatrix}, \theta \right\rangle = \left\langle P(h|i), \theta \right\rangle$$

Generalizations

①  $f_i$  is convex + smooth + strongly convex

②  $\mathcal{H}$  affine constraint, general convex set,  $\mathbb{H}$  norm, second order cone

Online Convex Optimization. Marrying Online Learning with Convex optimization.

Robustness to adversarial nature

flexible modeling language