MCS 548 – Mathematical Theory of Artificial Intelligence
Fall 2014
Problem Set 1

Lev Reyzin

Due: 9/30/14 at the beginning of class

Instructions: Atop your problem set, please write your name and list your collaborators.

Problems

1. Let the domain be $\mathcal{R}$ and the concept $\mathcal{C}_s$ be the class of concepts defined by unions of s intervals: i.e. c is defined by $a_1 \le a_2 \le \ldots \le a_{2s-1} \le a_{2s} \in \mathcal{R}$ and $c(x) = 1$ if $x \in [a_1, a_2] \cup [a_3, a_4] \cup \ldots \cup [a_{2s-1}, a_{2s}]$. Describe an efficient PAC learner for C_s (assume the learner knows s) and can choose a sample size m as a function of s, ϵ, and δ. Make sure to argue your learner runs in time polynomial in $s, 1/\epsilon$, and $1/\delta$.

2. Recall that a Boolean literal is either a variable $x_i, i \in [1 \ldots n]$ or its negation $\bar{x}_i$.

i. Give a membership and equivalence query algorithm for efficient exact learning of conjunctions of at most n Boolean literals. Are both equivalents and membership queries necessary for efficient exact learning? If not, which query alone suffices?

ii. Are conjunctions of at most n Boolean literals learnable in the limit from informant? From text?

3. Consider the following variant of the PAC model. Given a target function $f : \mathcal{X} \to \{0, 1\}$, let $\mathcal{D}^+$ be the distribution over $\mathcal{X}^+ = \{x \in \mathcal{X} : f(x) = 1\}$ defined as $\mathcal{D}^+(a) = \mathcal{D}(a)/\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}^+)$ for $a \in \mathcal{X}^+$. And D^- is the distribution over $\mathcal{X}^-$ (defined analogously). In this model, the learner does not have access to D but is able to draw examples from both $\mathcal{D}^+$ and $\mathcal{D}^-$. A class is learnable in this model if a learner can produce a hypothesis h whose risk is $\le \epsilon$ on both D^- and D^+ simultaneously. Show that if $\mathcal{H}$ is efficiently learnable in the standard PAC model then $\mathcal{H}$ is also efficiently learnable in this variant.

4. A k-fold union of hypotheses from a class $\mathcal{C}$ is a collection $c_1, \ldots, c_k \in \mathcal{C}$ that assigns the label $c_1(x) \vee \ldots \vee c_k(x)$ to example x. Give an explicit class $\mathcal{C}$ of (any) VC dimension d such that the class of k-fold unions of hypotheses from $\mathcal{C}$ has VC dimension greater than $(1 + \epsilon)kd$ for sufficiently large values of k. Extra credit will be given for exhibiting a class with growth rate of $\omega(kd)$.
Note: an upper bound on the VC-dimension of $2kd \log_2(3k)$ is given by Blumer et al. [1989].

References

Anselm Blumer, Andrzej Ehrenfeucht, David Haussler, and Manfred K. Warmuth. Learnability and the vapnik-chervonenkis dimension. *J. ACM*, 36(4):929–965, 1989. doi: 10.1145/76359.76371. URL `http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/76359.76371`.