# 6.867 Machine Learning 

## Solutions for Problem Set 4

Wednesday, November 12

## Problem 1: Regularized Least-Squares Feature Selection

(1-1) (10pts) First, let's rewrite the least-squares error metric $J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)$ as a function of the $k$-th parameter $w_{k}$ (viewing remaining parameters $\mathbf{w}_{-k}$ as fixed constants).

$$
\begin{align*}
J\left(w_{k} ; 0\right) & =\frac{1}{2 n} \sum_{i}\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}^{\prime} \phi\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)^{2}  \tag{1}\\
& =\frac{1}{2 n} \sum_{i}\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)-w_{k} \phi_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)^{2}  \tag{2}\\
& =\frac{1}{2 n} \sum_{i}\left\{\phi_{k}^{2}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right) w_{k}^{2}+2 \phi_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right) w_{k}+\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)^{2}\right\}(3) \\
& =\frac{1}{2} a_{k} w_{k}^{2}-c_{k} w_{k}+d_{k} \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{align*}
a_{k} & =\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \phi_{k}^{2}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)  \tag{5}\\
c_{k} & =\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \phi_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)  \tag{6}\\
d_{k} & =\frac{1}{2 n} \sum_{i}\left(y_{i}-\mathbf{w}_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)^{2} \tag{7}
\end{align*}
$$

which is a quadratic function of $w_{k}$. Computing the partial derivative w.r.t. $w_{k}$ we obtain a linear function of $w_{k}$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)}{\partial w_{k}}=a_{k} w_{k}-c_{k} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then, taking the subdifferential of $J(\mathbf{w} ; \lambda)$ w.r.t. $w_{k}$, we obtain

$$
\begin{align*}
\partial_{w_{k}} J(\mathbf{w} ; \lambda) & =\partial_{w_{k}}\left\{J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)+\lambda\|w\|_{1}\right\}  \tag{9}\\
& =\partial_{w_{k}} J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)+\lambda \partial_{w_{k}}\|\mathbf{w}\|_{1}  \tag{10}\\
& =\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)}{\partial w_{k}}+\lambda \partial_{w_{k}}\left|w_{k}\right|  \tag{11}\\
& =\left(a_{k} w_{k}-c_{k}\right)+\lambda \partial_{w_{k}}\left|w_{k}\right| \tag{12}
\end{align*}
$$

The subdifferential of the absolute value function is

$$
\partial_{w_{k}}\left|w_{k}\right|= \begin{cases}\{-1\}, & w_{k}<0  \tag{13}\\ {[-1,+1],} & w_{k}=0 \\ \{+1\}, & w_{k}>0\end{cases}
$$

Hence, scaling each element of the subdifferential by $\lambda$ and adding $\frac{\partial J(\mathbf{w} ; 0)}{\partial w_{k}}$ we have

$$
\partial_{w_{k}} J(\mathbf{w} ; \lambda)= \begin{cases}\left\{\left(a_{k} w_{k}-c_{k}\right)-\lambda\right\}, & w_{k}<0  \tag{14}\\ {\left[-c_{k}-\lambda,-c_{k}+\lambda\right],} & w_{k}=0 \\ \left\{\left(a_{k} w_{k}-c_{k}\right)+\lambda\right\}, & w_{k}>0\end{cases}
$$

as was to be shown.
Interpretation of $c_{k}$ : Essentially, $c_{k}$ measures the sample correlation between the $k$-th feature $\phi_{k}(\mathbf{x})$ and the prediction error $e_{-k}=y-w_{-k}^{\prime} \phi_{-k}(\mathbf{x})$ based upon the other features. If this were zero, then feature $k$ is orthogonal to the prediction error and we couldn't reduce the prediction error by including $\phi_{k}$ in our linear predictions. Hence, the magnitude of $c_{k}$ is an indication of how relevant feature $\phi_{k}$ is for predicting $y$ (relative to the other features and corresponding parameter settings).
(1-2) (10pts) Note that the subdifferential $\partial_{w_{k}} J(\mathbf{w} ; \lambda)$ is a monotonically increasing, piecewise linear function of $w_{k}$ with slope $a_{k}>0$ and a "jump" of $+2 \lambda$ at $w_{k}=0$. The value of $c_{k}$ (relative to $\lambda$ ) controls where the subdifferential "crosses" the $w_{k}$-axis (i.e. contains a zero). This zero-intercept $\hat{w}_{k}$ is precisely the global minimum we seek satisfying the optimality condition $0 \in \partial_{w_{k}} J\left(\hat{w}_{k} ; \lambda\right)$. See Figure 1 for illustrative plots of $\partial_{w_{k}} J\left(w_{k} ; \lambda\right)$ for each of the three cases discussed below:
(a) If $c_{k}<-\lambda$, then $-c_{k}-\lambda>0$ so that the zero-intercept is less than zero (see Fig. $1-\mathrm{a})$. Hence, we solve $a_{k} w_{k}-\left(c_{k}+\lambda\right)=0$ for the global minimizer:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{w}_{k}=\frac{c_{k}+\lambda}{a_{k}}<0 \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

(b) If $c_{k} \in[-\lambda,+\lambda]$, then $-\lambda<c_{k}<+\lambda$, or $-c_{k}-\lambda<0<-c_{k}+\lambda$, or $0 \in\left[-c_{k}-\right.$ $\left.\lambda,-c_{k}+\lambda\right]=\partial_{w_{k}} J(0 ; \lambda)$ (also see Fig. 1-b). Hence, the global minimum occurs at:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{w}_{k}=0 \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

(c) If $c_{k}>+\lambda$, then $-c_{k}+\lambda<0$ so that the zero-intercept is greater than zero (see Fig. $1-\mathrm{c})$. Hence, we solve $a_{k} w_{k}-\left(c_{k}-\lambda\right)=0$ for the global minimizer:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\hat{w}_{k}=\frac{c_{k}-\lambda}{a_{k}}>0 \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then, putting these results together, $\hat{w}_{k}$ is a continuous, monotonically increasing, piecewise linear function of $c_{k}$ :

$$
\hat{w}_{k}\left(c_{k}\right)= \begin{cases}\left(c_{k}+\lambda\right) / a_{k}, & c_{k}<-\lambda  \tag{18}\\ 0, & c_{k} \in[-\lambda,+\lambda] \\ \left(c_{k}-\lambda\right) / a_{k}, & c_{k}>+\lambda\end{cases}
$$



Figure 1: Plots of $\partial J\left(w_{k} ; \lambda\right)$ vs. $w_{k}$ when $c_{k}<-\lambda$ (top left), $-\lambda<c_{k}<+\lambda$ (top right), $c_{k}>+\lambda$ (bottom left). Plot of $\hat{w}_{k}$ vs. $c_{k}$ (bottom right).

An illustrative plot of $w_{k}$ vs. $c_{k}$ is shown in Figure 1.
Interpretation of $\lambda$ : The regularization parameter $\lambda$ acts as a cut-off threshold relative to the coefficient $c_{k}$ which, as discussed previously, indicates how important feature $\phi_{k}$ is for performing linear prediction of $y$. If $\left|c_{k}\right|<\lambda$, then feature $\phi_{k}$ is deemed irrelevant (or nearly so) and is hence omitted from our regularized predictor by setting $w_{k}$ to zero. (this is the answer we were looking for)

Moreover, when $\left|c_{k}\right|>\lambda$ we do not actually set $w_{k}$ to the (unregularized) least-squares value $c_{k} / a_{k}$, but rather bias the estimate towards zero by an amount $\lambda / a_{k}$. Hence, $\lambda$ also controls by how much we "underestimate" the remaining (non-zero) parameters.
(1-3) (10pts) The code you need to add to reg_least_sq.m is given below.
To compute $c_{k}$ :

```
w_not_k = w;
w_not_k(k) \(=0.0\);
e_not_k = y - X * w_not_k; \% prediction error w/o feature k
\(c_{\mathrm{k}} \mathrm{k}=\mathrm{X}(:, \mathrm{k})\) '*e_diff_k/n; \% inner product of feature \(\mathrm{k} \mathrm{w} / \mathrm{prediction} \mathrm{error}\)
```

To set $\hat{w}_{k}$ :

```
if (c_k < -lambda)
    w_hat_k = (c_k + lambda)/a(k);
elseif (c_k > lambda)
    w_hat_k = (c_k - lambda)/a(k);
else
    w_hat_k = 0.0; % l1-regularization forces wieghts of less informative features to zero
end
```

(1-4) (10pts) The code you needed to modify in hw4_prob1.m is shown below (compute training error, l1-norm, penalized objective and training error):

```
% generate additional plots requested in the problem...
l = length(Lambda);
D = zeros(l,5);
for k = 1:l
    W = W(:,k);
    % half avg. squared training error
    D(k,1) = 0.5 * mean((train.y - train.X * w). ^2);
    % l1 regularization penalty
    D(k,2) = sum(abs(w));
    % objective
```

```
D(k,3) = D(k,1) + Lambda(k) * D(k,2);
% test error
D(k,4) = 0.5 * mean((test.y - test. X * w). ` 2);
% 10 norm
D(k,5) = length(find(w));
end
```

The requested plots are shown in Figure 2.
Observations;

- As we increase $\lambda$, more weight is placed keeping the $\|\mathbf{w}\|_{1}$ small, less weight is placed on minimizing the mean-squared error. Consequently, the training error is monotonically decreasing while the regularization penalty is monotonically decreasing.
- The minimized objective function, combining the mean-squared error and $\lambda$ times the penalty, is apparently a smooth, concave, monotonically increasing function of $\lambda$ (in fact, this follows as this is the "dual function" of a constrained optimization function). Note that this function can't be used to select preferable value of $\lambda . J(\mathbf{w} ; \lambda)$ is only meant for comparing different values of $\mathbf{w}$ for a given $\lambda$.
- The test error, on the other hand, tends to exhibit a minimum for a certain critical value of $\lambda$. The location of this minima, for this data set atleast, appears to approach zero as we increase the size of the training set. We would expect this, i.e. that the more training data we have, the less regularization we should use.
- In practice, we could select the value of $\lambda$ by computing the leave-one-out cross validation metric for all $\lambda$ and seeking the value of $\lambda$ which minimizes this estimate of generalization error. This should exhibit similar behavior as we see here for the test error.
- Overall, increasing $\lambda$ drives parameters $w_{k}$ to zero. The larger we set $\lambda$, the more parameters are forced to zero so that the $l_{0}$ norm tends to decrease with $\lambda$. This is in contrast to using $l_{2}$ regularization which also forces parameters towards zero, but only causes parameters to approach zero asympototically rather then suddenly as we observe here.
- It is also interesting to note that, while the overall trend is of decreasing parameter values as we increase $\lambda$, in some cases a few of the parameters can actually increase temporarily as we increase $\lambda$ but eventually begin to decrease. This, apparently, has to do with the interaction of the features (the importance of each feature is relative to the other feature present and the weight placed on those other features).


Figure 2: Results for 3 training sets: small ( ${ }^{6}$ st column), medium ( 2 nd column) and large (3rd column). Plots of $w_{k}(\lambda)$ vs. $\lambda$ for all $k$ (1st row), training error vs. $\lambda$ (2nd row), $l_{1}$ norm vs. $\lambda$ (3rd row), minimized objective vs. $\lambda$ (4th row), test error vs. $\lambda$ (5th row), $l_{0}$ norm vs. $\lambda$ (6th row).

## Problem 2: Boosting

(2-1) (10pts) First, we show that the minimization in Step 2 of the general algorithm (LHS below), with $\operatorname{Loss}(z)=e^{-z}$, is the same as the minimization performed by AdaBoost (RHS below), e.g. that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\arg \min _{\alpha} \sum_{i} \operatorname{Loss}\left(y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)+\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right)=\arg \min _{\alpha} \sum_{i} \tilde{W}_{i}^{(k-1)} \exp \left\{-\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right\}\right. \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

with (from AdaBoost)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{W}_{i}^{(k-1)}=c \cdot \exp \left\{-y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right\} \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $c$ is a normalization constant (weights sum to 1 ). Evaluating the objective in LHS gives;

$$
\begin{align*}
\sum_{i} \operatorname{Loss}\left(y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)+\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right) & =\sum_{i} \exp \left\{-y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right\} \exp \left\{-\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right\}(  \tag{21}\\
& =\frac{1}{c} \sum_{i} \tilde{W}_{i}^{(k-1)} \exp \left\{-\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right\}\right. \tag{22}
\end{align*}
$$

which is proportional to the objective minimized by AdaBoost so that minimizing value of $\alpha$ is the same for both algorithms.
Second, we show that the weight assignments in Step 3 of the general algorithm (for stage $k$ ) are the same as in given by AdaBoost (written for stage $k-1$ above).

$$
\begin{align*}
\tilde{W}_{i}^{(k)} & =-c \cdot d L\left(y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)  \tag{23}\\
& =c \cdot \exp \left\{-y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right\} \tag{24}
\end{align*}
$$

which is the same as in AdaBoost.
(2-2) (10pts) With the $\operatorname{logistic} \operatorname{loss} \operatorname{Loss}(z)=\log \left(1+e^{-z}\right)$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
d L(z)=-\frac{e^{-z}}{1+e^{-z}} \tag{25}
\end{equation*}
$$

The weights are then given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\tilde{W}_{k}^{(k)}=c \cdot \frac{\exp \left(-y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right.}{1+\exp \left(-y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)} \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

with normalization constant

$$
\begin{equation*}
c=\left(\sum_{i} \frac{\exp \left(-y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right.}{1+\exp \left(-y_{i} h_{k}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)\right)}\right)^{-1} \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

(2-3) (10pts) At stage $k, \hat{\alpha}$ is chosen to minimize $J\left(\alpha, \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)$, e.g. to solve $\frac{\partial J\left(\alpha ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)}{\partial \alpha}=0$. In general,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial J\left(\alpha ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)}{\partial \alpha}=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} L\left(y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)+\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right) \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
& =\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i} d L\left(y_{i} h_{k-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}\right)+\alpha y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right) y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)  \tag{29}\\
& \propto \sum_{i} \tilde{W}_{i}^{(k)} y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right) \tag{30}
\end{align*}
$$

so that we must have

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i} \tilde{W}_{i}^{(k)} y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)=0 \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then, the weighted training error for $h\left(\mathbf{x} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)$ (relative to the updated weights $\tilde{W}_{i}^{(k)}$ determined by $\hat{\alpha}$ ) is

$$
\begin{align*}
e_{k} & =\frac{1}{2}\left\{1-\sum_{i} \tilde{W}_{i}^{(k)} y_{i} h\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \hat{\theta}_{k}\right)\right\}  \tag{32}\\
& =\frac{1}{2}(1-0)  \tag{33}\\
& =\frac{1}{2} \tag{34}
\end{align*}
$$

(2-4) (5pts) The following excerpt from boost_logistic.m computes the weights.

```
% insert weight update here
W = exp(-H.*y)./(1+exp(-H.*y));
W = W/sum(W);
```

(2-5) (10pts) See the following script hw4_prob2.m:

```
clear all;
close all;
data = loaddata;
err = zeros(50,1);
for k = 1:50
    % train -- run boosting algorithm for k iterations
    model = boost_logistic(data.xtrain,data.ytrain,k);
    % test
    y_est = sign(eval_boost(model,data.xtest));
    err(k) = sum(y_est ~= data.ytest);
end
plot(err,'o-');
xlabel('Number test examples misclassified');
ylabel('Number of Boosting Iterations');
refresh;
print -deps boost_plot.eps;
```



Figure 3: Plot of number of misclassified test cases (out of 483 cases) vs. number of boosting iterations.

## Problem 3: VC-Dimension

## Part I: Linear Classifiers

In this part we consider the set of linear classifiers $\mathcal{H}_{d}=\left\{h_{\mathbf{w}}: \mathcal{R}^{d} \rightarrow\{-1,+1\} \mid \mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{R}^{d}\right\}$ comprised of classifiers of the form:

$$
h_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x})=\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
+1, & \mathbf{w}^{\prime} \mathbf{x}>0  \tag{35}\\
-1, & \mathbf{w}^{\prime} \mathbf{x} \leq 0
\end{array}\right.
$$

(3-1) (10pts) We wish to show the existence of a set of $d$ points $\mathbf{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{d} \in \mathcal{R}^{d}$ such that for any arbitrary choice of labels $y^{1}, \ldots, y^{d} \in\{-1,+1\}$ there exists a $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{R}^{d}$ s.t. $h_{\mathbf{w}}\left(\mathbf{x}^{k}\right)=y^{k}$ for $k=1, \ldots, d$. Then, by definition, $\mathcal{H}_{d}$ shatters the set $X=\left\{\mathbf{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{d}\right\}$. Let's define the $k$-th point $\mathbf{x}^{k}$ to have all zero entries except for a one in entry $k$.

$$
\mathbf{x}_{i}^{k}= \begin{cases}1, & i=k  \tag{36}\\ 0, & i \neq k\end{cases}
$$

Given an arbitrary set of labels $Y=\left(y^{1}, \ldots, y^{d}\right)$ let's define the corresponding $\mathbf{w}$ by $\mathbf{w}_{k}(Y)=y^{k}$. Then,

$$
\begin{equation*}
h_{\mathbf{w}(Y)}\left(\mathbf{x}^{k}\right)=\operatorname{sign}\left(\mathbf{w}^{\prime}(Y) \mathbf{x}^{k}\right)=\operatorname{sign}\left(\mathbf{x}_{k}(Y)\right)=y^{k} \tag{37}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is precisely what we wished to show. Hence, we have exhibited a set $X$ with $d$ points which is shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$.

The VC-dimension of $\mathcal{H}_{d}$ is defined as

$$
\begin{equation*}
V C\left(\mathcal{H}_{d}\right)=\max \left\{|X|: \mathcal{H}_{d} \text { shatters } X\right\} \tag{38}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since our $X$ is shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$, we must have that $V C\left(\mathcal{H}_{d}\right) \geq|X|=d$.
(3-2) (10pts) We now wish to show that no set of $d+1$ points can be shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$.
Proof by contradiction. Suppose there exists such a set $X=\left\{\mathbf{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{d+1}\right\}$ which can be shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$. We wish to show that this leads to a logical contradiction.
Without any loss of generality, assume that $X$ does not contain the origin (if it did, it couldn't possible be shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$ because any labeling which assigns a $y=+1$ to the $x=0$ element can't be produced by the $h_{\mathbf{w}}$ decision rule which always decides $h_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{0})=-1$ for any choice of $\mathbf{w}$ ).
Consider the set $\hat{X}=\{\mathbf{0}\} \cup X$. By Radon's theorem, we can partition $\hat{X}$ into subsets $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$ s.t. the convex hulls of $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$ intersect (contain a common point). Let $S_{1}$ be the set containing $\mathbf{x}^{0}=\mathbf{0}$. Then, let $\hat{Y}=\left(y^{0}, y^{1}, \ldots, y^{d+1}\right)$ be the labeling of these points where $y^{k}=-1$ for each point $\mathbf{x}^{k} \in S_{1}$ and $y^{k}=+1$ for each point $x^{k} \in S_{2}$. By assumption, there exists a w s.t. $h_{\mathbf{w}}\left(x^{k}\right)=y^{k}$ for $k=0,1, \ldots, d+1$ (since we can shatter $X$ and this holds by construction for $\mathbf{x}^{0}$ ). This means that all the points $S_{1}$ are contained in the open positive half-space

$$
\begin{equation*}
H_{\mathbf{w}}^{+}=\left\{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{w}^{\prime} \mathbf{x}>0\right\} \tag{39}
\end{equation*}
$$

while all the points $S_{2}$ are contained in the closed negative half-space $H_{\mathbf{w}}^{-}=\mathcal{R} \backslash H_{\mathbf{w}}^{+}$. Likewise the convex hulls of these two sets are contained by their respective half-spaces (due to the convexity of half-spaces). However, this contradicts the claim that the convex hulls of $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$ intersect since any point $\mathbf{x}$ in both convex hulls must then lie in both $H_{\mathrm{w}}^{+}$and $H_{\mathrm{w}}^{-}=\mathcal{R} \backslash H_{\mathrm{w}}^{+}$which is nonsense (these sets are by definition disjoint).
Hence, there does not exist a set of $d+1$ points shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$. Of coarse, this implies that there does not exist any set of $n \geq d+1$ points which can be shattered by $\mathcal{H}_{d}$ (otherwise, any $d+1$ of these points could also be shattered). Consequently, $\operatorname{VC}\left(\mathcal{H}_{d}\right)<d+1$.
Combining this result with the earlier result from (3-1) gives $d \leq V C\left(\mathcal{H}_{d}\right)<d+1 \Rightarrow$ $V C\left(\mathcal{H}_{d}\right)=d$.
(3-3) (5pts) Suppose that there existed $n>d$ points $X=\left(\mathrm{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathrm{x}^{n}\right)$ such that we could shatter the set $\Phi=\left(\phi\left(\mathbf{x}^{1}\right), \ldots, \phi\left(\mathbf{x}^{n}\right)\right) \subset \mathcal{R}^{d}$ with a decision rule of the form

$$
h_{\alpha}(\phi)=\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
+1, & \alpha^{\prime} \phi>0  \tag{40}\\
-1, & \alpha^{\prime} \phi \leq 0
\end{array}\right.
$$

for some $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}^{d}$. This would contradict the result just shown in (3-2). Hence, there does not exist such a set and the VC-dimension of the set of these classifiers, based upon features $\phi: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^{d}$, is at most $d$.

## Part II: Decision Stumps

In this part, we consider the set of classifiers $\mathcal{H}$ on $\mathcal{R}^{d}$ comprised of decision stumps, e.g. decision rules of the form

$$
h_{i, a, b}(\mathbf{x})= \begin{cases}+1, & a x_{i}-b \geq 0  \tag{41}\\ -1, & a x_{i}-b<0\end{cases}
$$

where $i \in\{1, \ldots, d\}, a \in\{-1,+1\}$ and $b \in \mathcal{R}$.
(3-4) (5pts) Let $X=\left(x^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{n}\right) \subset \mathcal{R}^{d}$. Show that these $n$ points can be labeled in at most $2 d n$ different ways using decision stumps. For each choice of $i \in\{1, \ldots, d\}$ and $a \in\{-1,+1\}$, we can sweep $b$ from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$ to generate (at most) $n$ different labelings of $X$. Since there are $2 d$ possible choices of $i$ and $a$, this generates at most $2 d n$ possible labelings of $X$.
(3-5) (5pts) Suppose that the VC-dimension of $\mathcal{H}$ is $n$. This means there exists a set $X$ comprised of $n$ points which $\mathcal{H}$ can shatter. For this set $X$ we can generate any of the $2^{n}$ possible $+1 /-1$ labelings of the $n$ points in $X$. But, by the result of (3-4), we must have that $2^{n} \leq 2 d n \Rightarrow n \leq \log _{2} 2 d n$ (this holds for all $X$ having $n$ points including the $X$ that we can shatter). To use the hint, write this as $n-\log _{2} n \leq 1+\log _{2} d$. For $n \geq 3$, we have that $n / 2 \leq n-\log _{2} n \leq 1+\log _{2} d \Rightarrow n \leq 2\left(1+\log _{2} d\right)$ which bounds the growth of the VC-dimension $n(d)$ as the dimension of the input space $d$ becomes large.
(3-6) (optional) Solution omitted.
The last part of the problem is concerned with the set of classifiers

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{H}_{m}=\left\{h_{\alpha}(x)=\operatorname{sign}\left(\sum_{k=1}^{m} \alpha_{k} h\left(\mathbf{x} ; \theta_{k}\right)\right) \mid \alpha \in \mathcal{R}^{m}\right\} \tag{42}
\end{equation*}
$$

comprised of decision rules formed by weighted combinations of $m$ decision stumps where $\theta_{k}$ are the parameters of the $k$-th decision stump.
(3-7) (10pts) We compute an upper bound on the number of labelings of $n$ points $X=$ $\left\{\mathbf{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{n}\right\} \subset \mathcal{R}^{d}$ we can generate with the set $\mathcal{H}_{m}$.
First, observe that choosing the parameters $\theta_{1}, \ldots, \theta_{m}$ of the $m$ decisions stumps essentially just allows us to generate some number $K$ of distinct feature specifications $\Phi=$ $\left(\phi\left(\mathrm{x}^{1}\right), \ldots, \phi\left(\mathrm{x}^{n}\right)\right)$ where each column $\phi\left(\mathrm{x}^{k}\right)=\left(h\left(\mathrm{x}^{k} ; \theta_{1}\right), \ldots, h\left(\mathrm{x}^{k} ; \theta_{m}\right)\right)^{\prime}$. As was shown in (3-4), by varying $\theta_{k}$ we can generate at most $2 d n$ possible labelings corresponding to row $k$ of $\Phi$. Since we can choose $\theta_{k}$ independently for each row, we can generate at most ( $\left.2 d n\right)^{m}$ different $+1 /-1$ matrices $\Phi$. Hence, we can decompose

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{H}_{m}=\cup_{k=1}^{K} \mathcal{H}_{\Phi^{k}} \tag{43}
\end{equation*}
$$

with $K \leq(2 d n)^{m}$ and where $\mathcal{H}_{\Phi^{k}}$ is a linear decision rule of the form described in (3-3). For each $\mathcal{H}_{\Phi^{k}}$ we have that the VC-dimension is at most $m$. By the lemma, the number of possible labelings we can generate with $\mathcal{H}_{\Phi^{k}}$ (by varying $\alpha$ ) for $n$ points is bounded above by $(2 n / m)^{m}$. Hence, we can generate at most $K(2 n / m)^{m} \leq(2 d n)^{m}(2 n / m)^{m}$ labelings with the set of classifiers $\mathcal{H}_{m}$.

