Hedging Structured Concepts

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à la Carte

- Prediction With Expert Advice

  Hedge algorithm

- Structured Concepts

  SC + Hedge $\Rightarrow$ range factor problem

- Component Hedge

  SC + CH $\Rightarrow$ range factor problem solved

- Conclusion

Prediction with Expert Advice

- Setting
  - Several sources of predictions (experts)
  - Choose an expert each trial (randomised)
  - Incur loss of the selected expert $(0/1)$
  - Observe loss of all experts (full information)
- Goal
  - Cumulative loss close to the best expert
  - Efficient algorithm

The Hedge Algorithm (Freund & Schapire 1997)

- Maintains uncertainty as a distribution w_t on n experts
  w_1 is uniform

- For each trial $t = 1, 2, \ldots$

  - Select expert i with probability $w_{t,i}$
  - Receive loss vector $\ell_t \in [0,1]^n$, incur loss $\ell_{t,i}$
  - Expected loss $w_t \cdot \ell_t$
  - Update $w_{t+1,i} \propto w_{t,i} \beta^{\ell_{t,i}}$

- With $\ell^{\mathsf{H}} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} w_t \cdot \ell_t$ and $\ell^\star = \min_i \sum_{t=1}^{T} \ell_{t,i}$,

$$\ell^{\mathsf{H}} - \ell^\star \;\leq\; \sqrt{2\ell^\star \ln n} + \ln n$$

Structured Concepts

- Concepts composed of components

concept	component
set	element
permutation	assignment
bipartite matchings	edges
spanning trees	edges
paths	edges

Prediction with Structured Concepts

- Goal: on-line prediction with “combinatorial experts”
  - Route planning: shortest path
  - Media multicasting: directed spanning trees
- Loss of concept is sum of losses of its components
- Helps: losses of concepts highly related
- Hurts: combinatorial explosion (many concepts)

Expanded Hedge (EH)

- Treat each structured concept as an expert
- Run Hedge algorithm
- Consider size k subsets of n elements
  - Component loss in $[0, 1]$, so concept loss in $[0, k]$.
  - Number of concepts $\binom{n}{k} \approx n^k$.
  - Regret bound

$$\ell^{\mathsf{EH}} - \ell^\star \;\leq\; \sqrt{2\ell^\star k k \ln n} + k k \ln n$$

  - But lower bound has $k \ln n$. Range factor problem

Usages

- Identify concepts with incidence vectors
- Loss of C is $C \cdot \ell$ (with ℓ component losses)
- Randomly select a concept C with probability W_C
- Expected loss is

$$\sum_C W_C(C \cdot \ell) \;=\; \underbrace{\Big(\sum_C W_C C\Big)}_{\text{usage of } W} \cdot \ell$$

- Only the *usage* (i.e. mean concept) matters
- Set of usages is the convex hull of concepts

Usages Example

- Sets of 2 out of 4 elements

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix}1\\1\\0\\0\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\1\\0\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}0\\1\\1\\0\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}0\\1\\0\\1\end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\\1\end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

- The usage of the distribution $(.3, .3, .2, .1, .1, 0)$ on sets

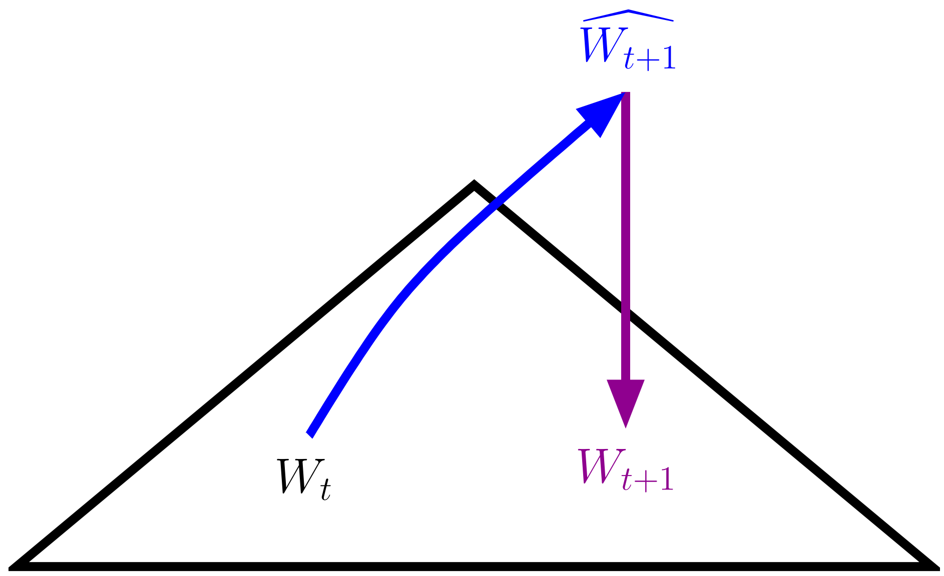
$$.3 \begin{pmatrix}1\\1\\0\\0\end{pmatrix} + .3 \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\1\\0\end{pmatrix} + .2 \begin{pmatrix}1\\0\\0\\1\end{pmatrix} + .1 \begin{pmatrix}0\\1\\1\\0\end{pmatrix} + .1 \begin{pmatrix}0\\1\\0\\1\end{pmatrix} + 0 \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\1\\1\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}.8\\.5\\.4\\.3\end{pmatrix}$$

Expanded Hedge (EH)

Two-step EH update

$$\widehat{W_{t+1}} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{W} \triangle(W \| W_t) + \textstyle\sum_C W_C (C \cdot \ell_t)$$

$$W_{t+1} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{W \text{ a p.d.}} \triangle(W \| \widehat{W_{t+1}})$$



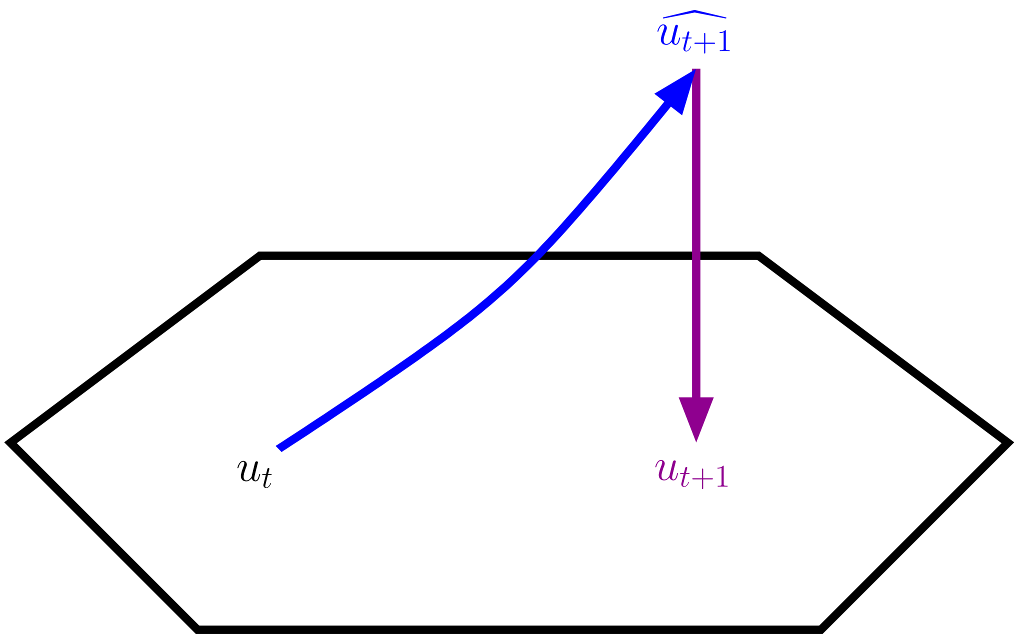
$$\triangle(x\|y) = \textstyle\sum_i x_i \ln \frac{x_i}{y_i} - x_i + y_i$$

Component Hedge(CH)

Idea: do the same trick on the level of usages

$$\widehat{u_{t+1}} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{u} \triangle(u \| u_t) + u \cdot \ell_t$$

$$u_{t+1} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{u \text{ a usage}} \triangle(u \| \widehat{u_{t+1}})$$



Component Hedge II

- Let u_1 be the usage of the uniform distribution
- For trial $t = 1, 2, \ldots$
  - Decompose $u_t = \sum_i \alpha_i C_i$
  - Sample C_i with probability α_i
  - Expected loss $u_t \cdot \ell_t$
  - Update and relative entropy projection
- Regret has no range factor. E.g. for k-of-n sets

$$\ell^{\mathsf{CH}} - \ell^\star \;\le\; \sqrt{2\ell^\star k \ln n} + k \ln n$$

Implementation

- Usage vectors u_t are small
- No closed form for relative entropy projection

$$u_{t+1} = \operatorname*{argmin}_{u \text{ a usage}} \triangle(u \| \widehat{u_{t+1}})$$

- The usage polytope is the convex hull of exponentially many concepts. Fortunately, it can often be represented by polynomially many linear inequalities. E.g. Birkhoff and flow polytope.
- Idea: iteratively reestablish most violated constraint
- Known as Sinkhorn balancing for permutations

Lower Bounds

- CH is optimal: we have matching lower bounds for sets, permutations, bipartite matchings, spanning trees and paths.
- In each case, reduction from the basic expert case.

Philosophy

- Uncertainty
  - EH: Probability distribution on concepts
  - CH: Convex combination of concepts
- Relative entropy regularisation seems universal
  - Possible to incorporate constraints into divergence
  - But RE works in all cases