

## Weekly Exercise 12

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### Parameter Learning

(5 Points)

**Exercise 1 (loss minimizing parameter learning, 2 Points).** Calculate the expected loss  $\mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \sim d(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})} [\Delta_H(\mathbf{y}, f(\mathbf{x}))]$  of the Hamming loss:

$$\Delta_H(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}') = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \llbracket \mathbf{y}_i \neq \mathbf{y}'_i \rrbracket,$$

where  $d(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$  denotes the true data distribution and  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  is a prediction function.

**Solution.**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y} \sim d(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})} [\Delta_H(\mathbf{y}, f(\mathbf{x}))] &= \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} d(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) \Delta_H(\mathbf{y}, f(\mathbf{x})) \approx \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \Delta_H(\mathbf{y}, f(\mathbf{x})) \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \llbracket \mathbf{y}_i \neq f(\mathbf{x}_i) \rrbracket \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} 1 - \llbracket \mathbf{y}_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i) \rrbracket \right) \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) - \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} \llbracket \mathbf{y}_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i) \rrbracket \right) \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} p(\mathbf{y}_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i) | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}). \end{aligned}$$

**Exercise 2 (parameter learning 3 Points).** Compute the *sub-differential* at a point  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\partial f(\mathbf{x}) = \{ \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x} \rangle \leq f(\mathbf{y}), \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n \},$$

of the following convex functions  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

a)  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$ , where  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a constant

b)  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}$

c)  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$

**Solution.**

a) By definition of  $\partial f(\mathbf{x})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x} \rangle &\leq \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{y} \rangle, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \Leftrightarrow \langle \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \rangle &\leq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} &= \mathbf{c}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\partial f(\mathbf{x}) = \{\mathbf{c}\}$ . Note that if  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is differentiable at  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  we have that  $\partial f(\mathbf{x}) = \{\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\}$ .

b) If  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y} \rangle - \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 &\leq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y} \rangle - \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 &\leq \|\mathbf{w}\|_2 \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 - \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 = (\|\mathbf{w}\|_2 - 1) \|\mathbf{y}\|_2 \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\partial f(\mathbf{0}) = \{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|\mathbf{w}\|_2 \leq 1\}$ .

For  $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$ ,  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is differentiable, hence:

$$\partial f(\mathbf{x}) = \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2} \right\}.$$

c) Before we calculate the subgradient of the  $\ell_1$ -norm, let's first notice that the subgradient of the maximum of convex subdifferentiable functions, *i.e.*,

$$f(x) = \max_{i=1,2,\dots,n} f_i(x),$$

is the convex hull of all  $f_i(x)$  that the maximum at  $x$ . For example, consider the absolute function  $f(x) = |x|$ . This function can be written as  $f(x) = \max(x, -x)$ . For the later max representation, at  $x = 0$ , both  $f(x) = x$ , and  $f(x) = -x$  are maximum. The subgradient at  $x = 0$  is the convex hull of subgradient of the two functions, hence  $[-1, 1]$ . Now we can construct the  $\ell_1$ -norm as a maximum of  $2^n$  linear functions,

$$\|x\|_1 = \max \{ \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{x} \mid s_i \in \{-1, 1\} \}.$$

The function  $\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{x}$  is differentiable and has a unique subgradient, where

$$g_i = \begin{cases} 1 & x_i > 0 \\ -1 & x_i < 0 \\ 1 \text{ or } -1 & x_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

The subgradient of  $\ell_1$ -norm is the convex hull of all the subgradients, therefore,

$$\partial f(\mathbf{x}) = \{ \mathbf{g} \mid \|\mathbf{g}\|_\infty \leq 1, \mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \}$$

**Programming****(12 Points)**

**Exercise 3 (Probabilistic and loss minimizing parameter learning, 12 Points).** In Exercise 11, we have considered the problem of binary image segmentation and have solved it by performing probabilistic inference via Gibbs sampling. In particular, we have developed a cow detector for the images in Figure 1. For this sake, we have defined the following energy function for  $\mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathcal{V}}$  such that 0 and 1 denote the background and the foreground, respectively:

$$E(\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{V}} E_i(y_i) + w \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}} E_{ij}(y_i, y_j) ,$$

where  $w \in \mathbb{R}^+$  is a parameter, and  $\mathcal{V}$  stands for the set of pixels and  $\mathcal{E}$  includes all pairs of 4-neighboring pixels. In Exercise 11, we chose the parameter  $w$  arbitrarily. In this exercise, we are going to learn the optimal  $w$  by applying both *probabilistic parameter learning* and *loss minimizing parameter learning*.

Again, the unary energy functions  $E_i$  is provided in \*.yml files. Each image has its own data file, specified by the same filename. In each data file, you can read out a  $H \times W$  array of float numbers. The  $H$  and  $W$  are the image height and width, and each float value  $p_i$  corresponds to the probability of that the given pixel belongs to the foreground. We provide the `cow_detector.cpp` to demonstrate how to load a data file and read out the corresponding probability values. The unary energy functions  $E_i$  for all  $i \in \mathcal{V}$  are then defined as,

$$\begin{aligned} E_i(y_i = 0) &= -\log(1 - p_i) \\ E_i(y_i = 1) &= -\log(p_i) . \end{aligned}$$

The pairwise energy is defined as the *contrast-sensitive Potts-model* for all  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$ ,

$$E_{ij}(y_i, y_j; x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\lambda \|x_i - x_j\|^2) \mathbb{I}[y_i \neq y_j] .$$

where  $\lambda = 0.5$ .

To learn the parameters, we provide 42 images (under sub-folder `rgb-training`). You should use all of them in training. Once you learned the parameters, you can use the learned  $w$  to test on images in Figure 1 (see sub-folder `rgb-test`). Do not use any images from the test set during training.

Use your previous implementations to get MAP inference by applying `graph cuts` (see Exercise 6) and to get probabilistic inference by applying `Gibbs sampling algorithm` (see Exercise 11). Implement **both** *probabilistic parameter learning* and *loss minimizing parameter learning* to estimate the optimal value for parameter  $w$ . Compare the optimal  $w$  you have learned.



Figure 1: The test images for binary image segmentation to detect cows.