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# Lecture 5: SoS and Robust Regression

$(x_i, y_i)_{i=1}^N$  : corrupted dataset  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$   
 $(x_i^c, y_i^c)_{i=1}^N$  : uncorrupted dataset  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $a_i^* = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is clean} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$   $y_i^c = \langle w^c, x_i^c \rangle + \xi_i$   
 $\xi_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$   
 so when  $a_i^c = 1$ ,  $(x_i^c, y_i^c) = (x_i, y_i)$

## SoS Program

Variables:  $w$  (d-dimensional)  
 $a_1, \dots, a_N$  (1-dimensional)

Constraints: 1)  $a_i^2 = a_i$  (Boolean indicators)  
 2)  $\frac{1}{N} \sum a_i \geq 1 - \gamma$  ( $\gamma$  fraction corruptions)

Obj:  $\min \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N a_i (y_i - \langle w, x_i \rangle)^2 \right]$

Clean MSE:

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N a_i^c (y_i^c - \langle w, x_i^c \rangle)^2 \leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^c - \langle w, x_i^c \rangle)^2 \quad (*)$$

Note:

$$1 = \underbrace{a_i a_i^c}_{\text{points we correctly identified as clean}} + \underbrace{a_i (1 - a_i^c)}_{\text{points we incorrectly identified as clean}} + \underbrace{(1 - a_i)}_{\text{points we identified as corrupted}}$$

So

$$(6) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i a_i^e (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^2 \quad (1)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i (1 - a_i^e) (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^2 \quad (2)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (1 - a_i) (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^2 \quad (3)$$

(1): When  $a_i^e = 1$ ,  $y_i = y_i^e$  and  $x_i = x_i^e$

$$(1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i a_i^e (y_i - \langle w, x_i \rangle)^2$$

$$\stackrel{(a_i^e \leq 1)}{\leq} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i (y_i - \langle w, x_i \rangle)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{objective value}$$

$$\leq \boxed{\text{OPT}} \quad (\text{objective value achieved by } w^e, \text{ i.e. clean MSE})$$

Note:  $\{a_i^e\}, w^e$  is feasible solution to SoS program  
 $\{x_i^e\}, \{y_i^e\}$

$$(2): \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i (1 - a_i^e) (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^2$$

(Cauchy-Schwarz)

$$\leq \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (1 - a_i^e)^2 \right)^{1/2} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_i a_i^2 (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4 \right)^{1/2}$$

$\leq 3^{1/2}$        $\leq 1$

$$\leq \gamma^{1/2} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4 \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\textcircled{3}: \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \underbrace{(1-a_i)}_{\text{red}} \underbrace{(y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^2}_{\text{green}}$$

(Cauchy-Schwarz)

$$\leq \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (1-a_i)^2 \right)^{1/2}}_{\text{red}} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4 \right)^{1/2}$$

Note:  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_i (1-a_i)^2 \stackrel{\text{(Booleanity)}}{=} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (1-a_i) \stackrel{\text{(\eta fraction corruptions)}}{=} \gamma$

$$\leq \gamma^{1/2} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4 \right)^{1/2}$$

How to bound  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4$ ?

Recall  $y_i^e = \langle w^e, x_i^e \rangle + \zeta_i$ ,  $\zeta_i \leftarrow N(0, \sigma^2)$  so

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle)^4 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\langle w^e - w, x_i^e \rangle + \zeta_i)^4$$

Note elementary inequality  $(a+b)^4 \leq 8(a^4+b^4)$ ,  
 So the above

$$\leq \frac{8}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4 + \frac{8}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i^4$$

$$\leq 8 \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim N(0, \sigma^2)} [\xi^4]$$

$$= 24 \sigma^4 = O(\sigma^4)$$


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To summarize:

$$\text{clean MSE} \leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (y_i^o - \langle w, x_i^o \rangle)^2$$

$$= \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2} + \textcircled{3}$$

$$= \text{OPT} + 2\gamma^{1/2} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^o - \langle w, x_i^o \rangle)^4 \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\leq \text{OPT} + 2\gamma^{1/2} \cdot \left( \frac{8}{N} \sum_i \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4 + O(\sigma^4) \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\leq \text{OPT} + O(\gamma^{1/2}) \cdot \left[ \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4 \right)^{1/2} + \sigma^2 \right]$$

• Technically not legit in SoS b/c of fractional power (1/2),  
 but this step can be made rigorous by writing as  
 $(\text{clean MSE} - \text{OPT})^2 \leq O(\gamma) \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4 + \sigma^4 \right]$

To bound  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_i \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4$ , need assumption on distribution:

Def:  $q$  is -hypercontractive if

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \sim q} [\langle v, x \rangle^4] \leq \left( C \cdot \mathbb{E}_{x \sim q} [\langle v, x \rangle^2] \right)^2 \quad (**)$$

for all  $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , for some  $C = O(1)$ .

$q$  is certifiably 4-hypercontractive if **(\*\*)** has an SoS proof.

Example: Any rotation of a product distribution (e.g.  $N(\mu, \Sigma)$ ) is certifiably 4-hypercontractive.

So for  $v = w^o - w$ , we get

$$\left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^4 \right)^{1/2} \leq C \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \langle w^o - w, x_i^o \rangle^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{C}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle - \zeta_i \right)^2 \\
&\stackrel{(a+b)^2 \leq 2a^2 + 2b^2}{\leq} \frac{2C}{N} \sum_i \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle \right)^2 + \frac{2C}{N} \sum_i \zeta_i^2 \\
&\leq \frac{2C}{N} \sum_i \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle \right)^2 + O(C\sigma^2)
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{clean MSE} &\leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle \right)^2 \\
&\leq \text{OPT} + O(\eta^{1/2}) \left[ \frac{2C}{N} \sum_i \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle \right)^2 + O(C\sigma^2) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Rearranging, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left( 1 - O(C\eta^{1/2}) \right) \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left( y_i^e - \langle w, x_i^e \rangle \right)^2 \\
&\leq \text{OPT} + O(C\eta^{1/2}\sigma^2),
\end{aligned}$$

So if  $C\eta^{1/2}$  sufficiently small,

$$\text{clean MSE} \leq (1 + O(C\eta^{1/2})) (\text{OPT} + O(C\eta^{1/2}\sigma^2))$$