Sample compression unleashed : New generalization bounds for real valued losses

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Summary

We present new sample-compression guarantees for any bounded losses and validate empirically their tightness when applied to DNNs.

Background and notation

1. **A dataset** $S = \{(\boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ sampled *i.i.d.* from an unknown distribution $\mathcal{D}$ over $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$.
2. **A family of predictor** $\mathcal{H}$ of the form $h : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$.
3. **A learning algorithm** A that returns a predictor $A(S) \in \mathcal{H}$.
4. **A loss function** $\ell : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \to \mathbb{R}$.
5. **The generalization loss of a predictor** $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h) = \mathbb{E}_{(\boldsymbol{x},y)\sim\mathcal{D}}\, \ell(h, \boldsymbol{x}, y)$.
6. **The empirical loss of a predictor** $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S(h) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \ell(h, \boldsymbol{x}_i, y_i)$.

Sample compression theory

A predictor is called a sample-compressed predictor if it can be expressed as a function of a subset of S. To do so, we need :

1. **A compression set** $S_{\mathbf{i}} \subseteq S$, defined by a vector of indices $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \ldots, i_{|\mathbf{i}|})$ such that $1 \leq i_1 \leq \ldots i_{|\mathbf{i}|} \leq n$. Each $\mathbf{i}$ are contained in the powerset $\mathcal{P}(n)$ of the numbers 1 to n. We denote its complement $S_{\mathbf{i}^c} = S \setminus S_{\mathbf{i}}$.
2. **A reconstruction function** $\mathcal{R}$ that takes a compression set and a message to output a predictor.

We denote a sample-compressed predictor $\mathcal{R}(S_{\mathbf{i}})$.

Example of sample compression : the SVM

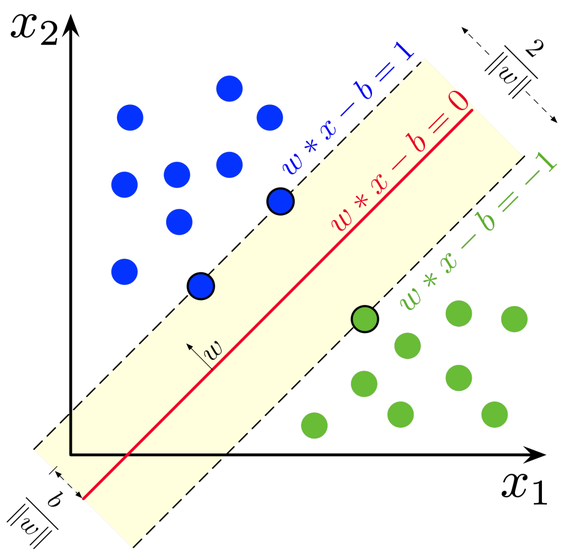


Figure 1. By Larhmam - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73710028.

Main results

We present **new sample-compression generalization results** that

- hold for **any bounded losses** and some unbounded losses,
- **do not depend on the number of parameters** of the neural network,
- are **tight and easily computable**.

These new results can be applied

1. to **classification** problems, **regression** problems and more,
2. on a variety of models, such as **MLPs and transformers** (with the help of the meta-algorithm Pick-To-Learn [4]),

and still give **tight and non-vacuous guarantees** in practice.

Theorem 1 : New General Sample Compression bound

For any distribution $\mathcal{D}$ over $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$, with $\mathcal{P}(n)$ the powersets of 1 to n, for any distribution $P_{\mathcal{P}(n)}$ over $\mathcal{P}(n)$, for any comparator function $\Delta : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ and for any $\delta \in (0, 1]$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$ over the draw of $S \sim \mathcal{D}^n$, we have

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{P}(n) :$$

$$\Delta\Big(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_{S_{\mathbf{i}^c}}(\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{i})), \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{i}))\Big) \leq \frac{1}{n - |\mathbf{i}|}\left[\log \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}_\Delta(n, \mathbf{i})} + \log\left(\frac{1}{\boldsymbol{P_{\mathcal{P}(n)}(\mathbf{i})}\delta}\right)\right]$$

with

$$\mathcal{E}_\Delta(n, \mathbf{i}) = \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{T_{\mathbf{i}}\sim\mathcal{D}^{|\mathbf{i}|}} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{T_{\mathbf{i}^c}\sim\mathcal{D}^{n-|\mathbf{i}|}} e^{(n-|\mathbf{i}|)\Delta\left(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_{T_{\mathbf{i}^c}}(\mathcal{R}(T_{\mathbf{i}})), \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{R}(T_{\mathbf{i}}))\right)}.$$

In particular, this bound holds for the binary Kullback-Leibler divergence kl, which is **known to be optimal** for losses in the range $[0, 1]$, as per the results of [3].

Corollary 1 : Unbounded losses with the linear distance

In the setting of Theorem 1, for any $\lambda > 0$, with $\Delta_\lambda(q, p) = \lambda(p - q)$, with a σ^2-sub-Gaussian loss function $\ell : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \to \mathbb{R}$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$ over the draw of $S \sim \mathcal{D}^n$, we have

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{P}(n) :$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{R}(S_{\mathbf{i}})) \leq \widehat{\mathcal{L}}_{S_{\mathbf{i}^c}}(\mathcal{R}(S_{\mathbf{i}})) + \frac{\boldsymbol{\lambda\sigma^2}}{\mathbf{2}} + \frac{1}{\lambda(n - |\mathbf{i}|)}\log\left(\frac{1}{\boldsymbol{P_{\mathcal{P}(n)}(\mathbf{i})}\delta}\right).$$

Experiments

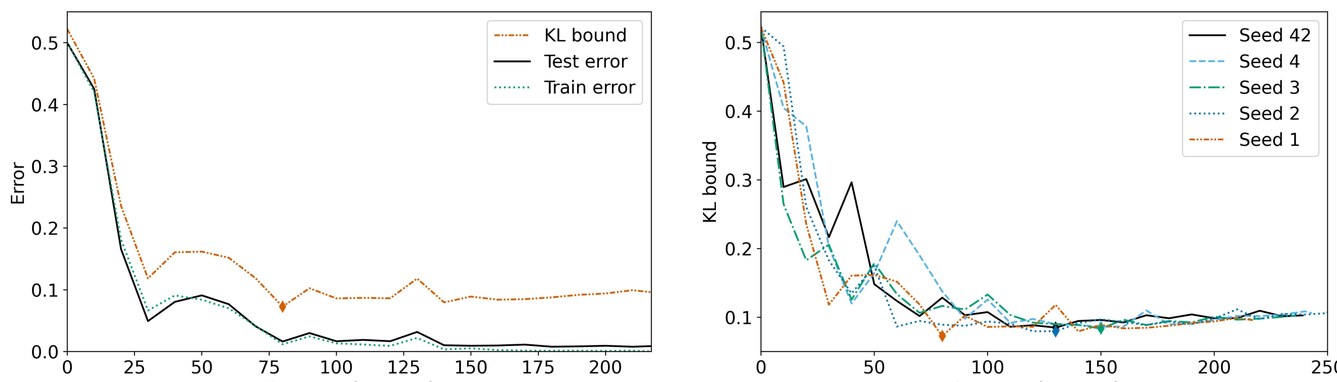
Amazon Polarity with DistilBERT

1. Dataset : **Binary classification problems** on Amazon Polarity dataset (we use 10%, 360000 datapoints)
2. Model type : DistilBERT [6] with **66 million parameters**
3. Training algorithm : **Pre-training** on 50% of the dataset, then **Pick-To-Learn** on the other half.

Train method	Train error	Validation error	Test error	kl bound
Pick-To-Learn	4.73±1.09	5.41±1.05	5.60±1.19	13.91±2.73
Baseline	3.11±0.02	4.08±0.04	4.19±0.00	-

Table 1. All metrics present are in percent (%).

Binary MNIST with a CNN



(a) Behavior of the metrics for seed 1 (b) Behavior of the kl bound for all seeds

Figure 2. Illustration of the behavior of the metrics throughout Pick-To-Learn iterations for the five seeds that achieved the minimal Pick-To-Learn bound on MNIST49. We mark the minimal kl bound for each seed with a diamond (⧫).

Further extensions and conclusion

In the future, we will extend our work to :

1. **Any unbounded losses** under the hypothesis-dependent range condition [2]
2. **Any unbounded losses** under model-dependent assumptions [1]
3. Distributions with **more general tail behaviors** [5]

In conclusion, we presented a new general sample-compression theorem for real-valued losses and empirically verified its tightness for DNNs. In future experiments, we wish to tackle regression problems with the help of Corollary 1 and multi-class classification problems.

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