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From Generalization Bounds to Meta-Learning

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## Contributions

- We generalize sample compression bounds to continuous messages;
- **2** We present an original approach to sample compression by learning the reconstruction function, seeing it as a hypernetwork;
- <sup>3</sup> We propose an algorithm to meta-learn the generation of predictors with sample compression generalization guarantees.

# Sample compression

#### The setting

 $\bigcirc$  A data-generating distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over an instance space  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ ;  $\bigcirc$  A dataset  $S = \{(\mathbf{x}_j, y_j)\}_{j=1}^m \sim \mathcal{D}^m;$ 

# From sample compression to meta-learning

#### The setting

 $\bigcirc$  A meta-distribution **D**, such that  $\mathcal{D}_i \sim \mathbf{D}$ ; • A meta-dataset  $\mathbf{S} = \{S_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , where  $S_i \sim \mathcal{D}_i^m$ ;  $\bigcirc$  Each  $S_i$  is split into support set  $\hat{S}_i \subset S_i$  and query set  $\hat{T}_i = S_i \setminus \hat{S}_i$ .

#### The proposed meta-learning algorithm

**③** Let  $\mathcal{C}_{\phi}$  be a sample compressor and  $\mathcal{M}_{\psi}$  a message compressor. Given a query set  $\hat{S}$ , these respectively yield the compression set and the message used by the reconstruction hypernetwork to obtain the parameters  $\gamma$  of a downstream predictor:

$$\gamma = \mathcal{R}_{\theta} \left( \mathcal{C}_{\phi}(\hat{S}), \mathcal{M}_{\psi}(\hat{S}) \right).$$

 $\bigcirc$  A predictor  $h : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  and a learning algorithm  $A(S) \mapsto h$ ; • The empirical loss  $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_S(h) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \ell(h(\mathbf{x}_j), y_j)$ , with  $\ell : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \to \mathbb{R}$ ; • The generalization loss  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h) = \mathbb{E}_{(\mathbf{x},y)\sim\mathcal{D}} [\ell(h(\mathbf{x}), y)].$ 

#### The reconstruction function

In the sample compression framework, a learned predictor A(S) can be fully defined by a reconstruction function  $\mathcal{R}$ , a compression set  $S_{i}$ and a message  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ , such that  $\mathcal{R}(S_{\mathbf{i}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) = A(S)$ .

– Compression set – Message  $S_{\mathbf{j}} \subseteq S$ , with train indexes  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a the set  $\mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{m})$ , chosen from the power set of  $\mathbf{m} = \{i\}_{i=1}^{m}$ 

of all possible messages.

#### First sample compression bound for uncountable sets $\Sigma$

The theorem below bounds the generalization loss  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(h)$  from the empirical loss  $\mathcal{L}_{S}(h)$  and two complexity terms: the compression set size  $|\mathbf{j}|$  and the KL divergence between a prior  $P_{\Sigma}$  and a posterior  $Q_{\Sigma}$ distributions over messages.

**Theorem 1** For any distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ , for any set  $J \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{m})$ , for any distribution  $P_J$  over J, for any distribution  $P_{\Sigma}$  over  $\Sigma$ , for any reconstruction function  $\mathcal{R}$ , for any loss  $\ell: \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \to [0,1]$ , for any convex function  $\Delta: [0,1] \times [0,1] \to \mathbb{R}$  and for any  $\delta \in (0,1]$ , with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  over the draw of  $S \sim \mathcal{D}^m$ , we have that for all  $\mathbf{j} \in J$  and  $Q_{\Sigma}$  over  $\Sigma$ :

 $\Delta \left( \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \sim Q_{\Sigma}} \widehat{\mathcal{L}}_{S_{\overline{\mathbf{j}}}}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{R}}(S_{\mathbf{j}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma})), \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \sim Q_{\Sigma}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{R}}(S_{\mathbf{j}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma})) \right) \leq \frac{1}{m - |\mathbf{j}|} \left[ \mathrm{KL}(Q_{\Sigma} || P_{\Sigma}) + \ln \left( \frac{\mathcal{J}_{\Delta}(m - |\mathbf{j}|)}{P_{J}(\mathbf{j}) \cdot \delta} \right) \right],$ 

We propose to optimize the following meta-learning objective:





### Numerical experiments

We generated 300 tasks of 200 examples using the following pipeline:



The generated predictor is a single-hidden-layer (of 5 neurons) ReLU MLP. Decision boundaries on three test tasks below  $\checkmark$  (stars  $\star$ indicate the compression set examples).

# $\mathcal{J}_{\Delta}(m - |\mathbf{j}|) = \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma} \sim P_{\Sigma}} \mathbb{E}_{T_{\mathbf{j}} \sim \mathcal{D}^{|\mathbf{j}|}} \mathbb{E}_{T_{\mathbf{j}} \sim \mathcal{D}^{m-|\mathbf{j}|}} e^{(m - |\mathbf{j}|) \cdot \Delta \left(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}_{T_{\mathbf{j}}}(\mathcal{R}(T_{\mathbf{j}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma})), \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{R}(T_{\mathbf{j}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}))\right)}$

# Sample compression hypernetworks

**2** We propose learning the reconstruction function.

Our reconstruction hypernetwork  $\gamma = \mathcal{R}_{\theta}(S_{j}, \sigma)$  takes two inputs:

• A compression set  $S_i$  containing a fixed number c examples;

• A message  $\sigma$  taking the form of a vector of fixed size b, either real-valued ( $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in [-1, 1]^b$ ), or discrete ( $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \in \{-1, 1\}^b$ ).

The output  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^{|\gamma|}$  is the parameters of a *downstream network*:

$$h_{\gamma}: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$$

**Objective function:** Minimize the empirical loss of the downstream predictor  $h_{\gamma}$  on the complement set  $S \setminus S_i$ :

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left\{ \frac{1}{m - |\mathbf{j}|} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \in S \setminus S_{\mathbf{j}}} \ell(h_{\gamma}(\mathbf{x}), y) \mid \gamma = \mathcal{R}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(S_{\mathbf{j}}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) \right\}.$$



The obtained zero-one loss on 100 test tasks and sample-compressed loss bounds show promising results  $\mathcal{P}$ .



 $\Rightarrow$  test loss  $\downarrow$ , generalization bound  $\searrow$   $\nearrow$ ✓ Message size  $\uparrow$ ✓ Compression set size  $\uparrow \Rightarrow$  test loss  $\downarrow$ , generalization bound  $\searrow$   $\nearrow$ 

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