New grading system: As mentioned in class, we will experiment with a new grading system, starting with this homework. When each homework is assigned I will ask for a volunteer grader who will not be required to do the homework (and will be credited with getting a perfect score on it), but will (obviously) have the job of grading everyone else’s homework.

To facilitate blind grading, please do not put your name on your homework. Instead, attach a piece of paper to the front of your homework with nothing but your name on it. You don’t even need to use a whole sheet, just something that can be easily removed. I will remove it before passing it on to the volunteer grader.

Problem 1

This problem explores another general method for bounding the error when the hypothesis space is infinite.

Some algorithms output hypotheses that can be represented by a small number of examples from the training set. For instance, suppose the domain is $\mathbb{R}$ and we are learning a half-line of the form $x \geq a$ where $a$ defines the half-line. A simple algorithm chooses the left most positive training example $a$ and outputs the corresponding half-line, which is clearly consistent with the data. Thus, in this case, the hypothesis can be represented by a single training example.

More formally, let $F$ be a function mapping labeled examples to concepts, and assume that algorithm $A$, when given training examples $(x_1, c(x_1)), \ldots, (x_m, c(x_m))$ labeled by some unknown $c \in C$, chooses some $i_1, \ldots, i_k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ and outputs the consistent hypothesis $F((x_{i_1}, c(x_{i_1})), \ldots, (x_{i_k}, c(x_{i_k})))$. In a sense, the algorithm has “compressed” the sample down to a sequence of just $k$ of the $m$ training examples.

a. [5] Give such an algorithm for axis-aligned hyper-rectangles in $\mathbb{R}^n$ with $k = O(n)$. (An axis-aligned hyper-rectangle is a set of the form $[a_1, b_1] \times \cdots \times [a_n, b_n]$. For $n = 2$, this is the class of rectangles used repeatedly as an example in class.) Your algorithm should run in time polynomial in $m$ and $n$.

b. [15] As usual, assume that the examples are chosen at random from some distribution $D$. Also assume that the size $k$ is fixed. Argue carefully that the error of the output hypothesis $h$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$ satisfies the bound:

$$\text{err}_D(h) \leq O \left( \frac{\ln(1/\delta) + k \ln m}{m - k} \right).$$

Problem 2

[15] Let the domain be $\mathbb{R}^d$, and consider the class $C$ of linear threshold functions passing through the origin. That is, each such function is defined by a vector $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and is equal to 1 on points $x$ for which $w \cdot x \geq 0$, and 0 on all other points. Show that the VC-dimension of $C$ is exactly equal to $d$.

Problem 3

[15] For each $d = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, give an example of a class $C$ for which Sauer’s Lemma is tight, i.e., for which the VC-dimension of $C$ is $d$, and, for each $m$, $\Pi_C(m) = \sum_{i=0}^{d} \binom{m}{i}$. 