Class 16: Agenda/Questions

1 Announcements

- Hope y’all had a nice break!
- HW7 due Friday!

2 Questions?

Any questions from the minilectures and/or the quiz? (Martingales, the Doob martingale, Azuma-Hoeffding)

3 Chromatic numbers

In this exercise we’ll practice using Azuma-Hoeffding

**Group Work**

Let $G \sim G_{n,p}$ be a Erdos-Renyi random graph (so there are $n$ vertices, and each edge is present independently with probability $p$). Let $A = \chi(G)$ be the chromatic number of $G$. That is, $A$ is the minimum number of colors necessary to properly color $G$ (ie color the nodes of the graph such that no pair of neighboring nodes are assigned the same color).

1. Consider the Doob vertex exposure martingale. That is:
   - For $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, let $X_i$ denote the the status of the edges between vertex $i$ and vertices $\{1, \ldots, i-1\}$.
   - $Z_i = \mathbb{E}[A|X_1, \ldots, X_i]$  

   [Note: this is a slightly different definition of the vertex exposure martingale than was in the lecture notes. Both work fine for this example.]

   Use the Azuma-Hoeffding inequality to show that
   $$
   \Pr[|A - \mathbb{E}[A]| > c\sqrt{n}] \leq 2 \exp(-c^2/2).
   $$

   (Notice that you may not know what $\mathbb{E}[A]$ is—that’s okay!)

   **Hint:** To use Azuma-Hoeffding, you need to bound $|Z_i - Z_{i-1}|$. How much can your expectation of the chromatic color change if I tell you additional information about a single vertex?
**Hint:** Bounding $|Z_i - Z_{i-1}|$ really formally is actually a bit tricky. Try to come up with an intuitive bound, and if you have time try to work it out formally.

2. Repeat the same exercise with the *edge exposure* martingale:
   - Let $X_i$ denote the the status of the $i$'th edge, for $i \in \{1, \ldots, \binom{n}{2}\}$.
   - $Z_i = \mathbb{E}[A|X_1, \ldots, X_i]$

   Do you get the same thing? Do you get something better? Worse?

3. (**CHALLENGING**, but something to think about if you finish early.) What can you say about $\mathbb{E}[A]$?

   **Note:** If you’re interested, check out [https://arxiv.org/abs/0706.1725](https://arxiv.org/abs/0706.1725) for a surprisingly strong statement about the chromatic number of random graphs!!.

---

## 4 Gambling

In this exercise, we’ll get yet more practice applying Azuma-Hoeffding.

**Group Work**

Consider the following gambling game:

- At time $t$, you can choose to bet *any* amount you like in $[0, B]$, where $B$ is a house limit.
- A fair coin is flipped. If it’s heads, you win the amount that you bet; if tails, you lose the amount that you bet.

You’re allowed to be in debt; you don’t stop when you run out of money.

1. Suppose that the amount you bet is a deterministic function of everything that’s happened so far. Set up a martingale $\{Z_t\}$ (with respect some sequence $\{X_t\}$ that you have to define) so that $Z_t$ is the amount of money you have at time $t$.

2. Use the Azuma-Hoeffding inequality to bound

   $$\Pr[|Z_n| \geq cB\sqrt{n}].$$

3. Now suppose that you can use *any* betting strategy you like, even a randomized one. Is your martingale from part 1 still a martingale? If not, repeat parts 1 and 2 when your betting strategy can be randomized.