# A NOTE ON TALAGRAND'S CONVEX HULL CONCENTRATION INEQUALITY

## DAVID POLLARD

ABSTRACT. The paper reexamines an argument by Talagrand that leads to a remarkable exponential tail bound for the concentration of probability near a set. The main novelty is the replacement of a mysterious calculus inequality by an application of Jensen's inequality.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a set equipped with a sigma-field  $\mathcal{A}$ . For each vector  $w = (w_1, \ldots, w_n)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n_+$ , the weighted Hamming distance between two vectors  $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  and  $y = (y_1, \ldots, y_n)$ , in  $\mathcal{X}^n$  is defined as

Talagrand (1995, Section 4.1) proved a remarkable concentration inequality for

such as those based on the tensorization, as in Ledoux (1996), Boucheron, Lugosi, and Massart (2000), Massart (2003), and Lugosi (2003).

### REFERENCES

- Boucheron, S., G. Lugosi, and P. Massart (2000). A sharp concentration inequality with applications. *Random Structures and Algorithms 16*, 277–292.
- Ledoux, M. (1996). On Talagrand's deviation inequalities for product measures. *ESAIM: Probability and Statistics 1*, 63–87.
- Lugosi, G. (2003). Concentration-of-measure inequalities. Notes from the Summer School on Machine Learning, Australian National University. Available at http://www.econ.upf.es/~lugosi/.
- Massart, P. (2003, July). Saint-Flour Lecture Notes. Available at http://www.math.u-psud.fr/~massart/.

Date: 13 January 2007.

<sup>2000</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 62E20. Secondary: 60F05, 62G08, 62G20.

Key words and phrases. Concentration of measure; convex hull; convexity.

#### References

Talagrand, M. (1995). Concentration of measure and isoperimetric inequalities in product spaces. *Publications Mathématiques de l'1.H.E.S.* 81, 73–205.

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, YALE UNIVERSITY, BOX 208290 YALE STATION, NEW HAVEN, CT 06520-8290.

*E-mail address*: david.pollard@yale.edu *URL*: http://www.stat.yale.edu/~pollard/