CSCI567 Machine Learning (Fall 2024)

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University of Southern California

September 6, 2024

Outline

1 Linear regression

Linear regression with nonlinear basis

Overfitting and preventing overfitting



A Detour of Numerical Optimization Methods

Regression

Predicting a continuous outcome variable using past observations

- Predicting future temperature (last lecture)
- Predicting the amount of rainfall
- Predicting the demand of a product
- Predicting the sale price of a house

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- continuous vs discrete
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- lead to quite different learning algorithms.

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Linear Regression: regression with linear models

Ex: Predicting the sale price of a house

Retrieve historical sales records (training data)



Features used to predict

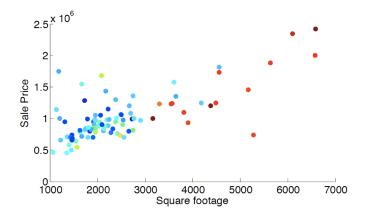


Property Details for 3620 South BUDLONG, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Details provided by i-Tech MLS and may not match the public record. Learn More

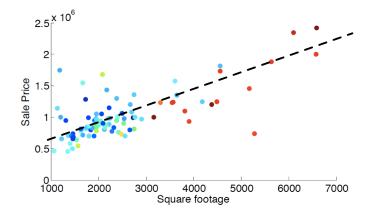
Kitchen Information	Laundry Information	Heating & Cooling
 Remodeled 	 Inside Laundry 	 Well Cooling Unitial
Oven, Range		- management
Multi-Unit Information		
Community Features	Linit 2 Information	 Monthly Rent: \$2,350
 Units in Complex (Total): 5 	 # of Barts: 3 	Unit 5 Information
Multi-Family Information	 # of Beths: 1 	 # of Beds: 3
 # Leased: 5 	 Unfumished 	 # of Baths: 2
 # of Buildings: 1 	 Monthly Bent: \$2,250 	 Unturnished
Owner Pays Water		 Monthly Plant: \$2,325
Tenant Pays Bectricity, Tenant Pays Gas	Unit 3 Information	
Linit 1 Information	 Unfumished 	Unit 6 Information
 If of Beds: 2 	Unit 4 Information	# of Bether 1
 # of Baths; 1 	 # of Beds: 3 	
Infumished	 # of Baths: 1 	 Monthly Rent: \$2,250
Monthly Bent: \$1.700	 Unfumished 	
Property / Lot Details		
Property Features	Automatic Gate, Lawn, Sidewalks	Tax Parcel Number: 5040017019
 Automatic Gate, Card/Code Access 	 Corner Lot, Near Public Transit 	
Lot Information	Property Information	
 Lot Size (Sq. Ft.): 9,649 	 Updated/Remodeled 	
 Lot Size (Acres): 0.2215 	 Square Footage Source: Public Records 	
 Lot Size Source: Public Records 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Parking / Garage, Exterior Features, Utilities &	Financing	
Parking Information	Utility Information	Financial Information
 # of Parking Spaces (Total): 12 	 Green Certification Rating: 0.00 	 Capitalization Rate (%): 6.25
 Parking Space 	 Green Location: Transportation, Walkability 	 Actual Annual Gross Rent: \$128,331
Gated	Gneen Walk Score: 0	 Gross Rent Multiplier: 11.29
Building Information	 Green Year Certified: 0 	
Total Floors: 2		
Location Details, Misc. Information & Listing In	formation	
Location Information	Expense Information	Listing Information
 Cases Streets: W 36th PI 	 Operating: \$37,664 	 Listing Terms: Cash, Cash To Existing L

Correlation between square footage and sale price

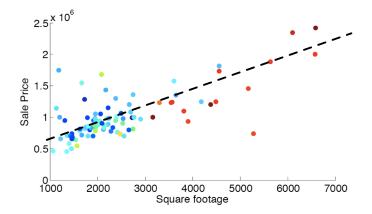


Possibly linear relationship

Sale price \approx price_per_sqft \times square_footage + fixed_expense



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- training set √

Example

 $\label{eq:predicted price} \mathsf{Predicted price} = \mathsf{price_per_sqft} \times \mathsf{square_footage} + \mathsf{fixed_expense}$

one model: price_per_sqft = 0.3K, fixed_expense = 210K

sqft	sale price (K)	prediction (K)	squared error
2000	810	810	0
2100	907	840	67^2
1100	312	540	228^2
5500	2,600	1,860	740^2
•••	•••	•••	
Total			$0 + 67^2 + 228^2 + 740^2 + \cdots$

Adjust price_per_sqft and fixed_expense such that the total squared error is minimized.

Input: $x \in \mathbb{R}^{D}$ (features, covariates, context, predictors, etc) Output: $y \in \mathbb{R}$ (responses, targets, outcomes, etc)

Training data: $\mathcal{D} = \{(\boldsymbol{x}_n, y_n), n = 1, 2, \dots, \mathsf{N}\}$

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- sometimes just use ${m w},{m x},{\sf D}$ for ${m ilde w},{m ilde x},{\sf D}+1!$

Minimize total squared error

$$\sum_{n} (f(\boldsymbol{x}_n) - y_n)^2 = \sum_{n} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_n^{\mathrm{T}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{w}} - y_n)^2$$

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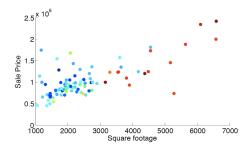
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- reduce machine learning to optimization
- in principle can apply any optimization algorithm, but linear regression admits a *closed-form solution*

Only one parameter w_0 : constant prediction $f(x) = w_0$



f is a horizontal line, where should it be?

Optimization objective becomes

$$\operatorname{RSS}(w_0) = \sum_n (w_0 - y_n)^2$$

(it's a *quadratic*
$$aw_0^2 + bw_0 + c$$
)

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$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{RSS}(w_0) &= \sum_n (w_0 - y_n)^2 \qquad \text{(it's a quadratic } aw_0^2 + bw_0 + c)} \\ &= Nw_0^2 - 2\left(\sum_n y_n\right)w_0 + \operatorname{cnt.} \end{aligned}$$

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Exercise: what if we use absolute error instead of squared error?

Optimization objective becomes

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General approach: find stationary points, i.e., points with zero gradient

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$$\Rightarrow \begin{array}{ll} Nw_0 + w_1 \sum_n x_n &= \sum_n y_n \\ w_0 \sum_n x_n + w_1 \sum_n x_n^2 &= \sum_n y_n x_n \end{array} \quad (a \text{ linear system})$$

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$$\Rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{c} w_0^* \\ w_1^* \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{cc} N & \sum_n x_n \\ \sum_n x_n & \sum_n x_n^2 \end{array}\right)^{-1} \left(\begin{array}{c} \sum_n y_n \\ \sum_n x_n y_n \end{array}\right)$$

(assuming the matrix is invertible)

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• not true in general

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Again, find stationary points (multivariate calculus)

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assuming $ilde{m{X}}^{\mathrm{T}} ilde{m{X}}$ (covariance matrix) is invertible for now.

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Again by convexity $ilde{w}^*$ is the minimizer of RSS.

Setup and Algorithm

General least square solution

$$(\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}})\tilde{\boldsymbol{w}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{y} = \boldsymbol{0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tilde{\boldsymbol{w}}^{*} = (\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}})^{-1}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{y}$$

assuming $ilde{m{X}}^{\mathrm{T}} ilde{m{X}}$ (covariance matrix) is invertible for now.

Again by convexity $ilde{w}^*$ is the minimizer of RSS.

Verify the solution when D = 1:

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_{\mathsf{N}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \\ \cdots & \cdots \\ 1 & x_{\mathsf{N}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} N & \sum_n x_n \\ \sum_n x_n & \sum_n x_n^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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when $\mathsf{D}=0$: $(\tilde{m{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{m{X}})^{-1}=\frac{1}{N}$, $\tilde{m{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}m{y}=\sum_n y_n$

$$\operatorname{RSS}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{w}}) = \sum_{n} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{w}}^{\mathrm{T}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{n} - y_{n})^{2} = \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{w}} - \boldsymbol{y}\|_{2}^{2}$$

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So $\tilde{\boldsymbol{w}}^{*} = (\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}})^{-1}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{y}$ is the minimizer.

Computational complexity

Bottleneck of computing

$$ilde{oldsymbol{w}}^* = \left(ilde{oldsymbol{X}}^{ ext{T}} ilde{oldsymbol{X}}
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is to invert the matrix $ilde{m{X}}^{\mathrm{T}} ilde{m{X}} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\mathsf{D}+1) imes (\mathsf{D}+1)}$

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- there are many faster approaches (such as conjugate gradient)

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Recall
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sqft	sale price
1000	500K

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Example: D = N = 1

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1000	500K

Any line passing this single point is a minimizer of RSS.

How about the following?

$\mathsf{D}=1,\mathsf{N}=2$

sqft	sale price
1000	500K
1000	600K

How about the following?

D = 1, N = 2

sqft	sale price	
1000	500K	
1000	600K	

Any line passing the average is a minimizer of RSS.

How about the following?

D = 1, N = 2

sqft	sale price	
1000	500K	
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Any line passing the average is a minimizer of RSS.

D = 2, N = 3?

sqft	#bedroom	sale price
1000	2	500K
1500	3	700K
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D = 2, N = 3?

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Again infinitely many minimizers.

How to resolve this issue?

Intuition: what does inverting $ilde{X}^{\mathrm{T}} ilde{X}$ do?

eigendecomposition:
$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}} = \boldsymbol{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{2} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_{\mathrm{D}} & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda_{\mathrm{D}+1} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{U}$$

where $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \lambda_{D+1} \geq 0$ are eigenvalues.

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inverse:
$$(\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}})^{-1} = \boldsymbol{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_{1}} & 0 & \cdots & 0\\ 0 & \frac{1}{\lambda_{2}} & \cdots & 0\\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots\\ 0 & \cdots & \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathrm{D}}} & 0\\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathrm{D}+1}} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{U}$$

i.e. just invert the eigenvalues

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One natural fix: add something positive

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where $\lambda > 0$ and I is the identity matrix.

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where $\lambda > 0$ and I is the identity matrix. Now it is invertible:

$$(\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}}^{\mathrm{T}}\tilde{\boldsymbol{X}} + \lambda \boldsymbol{I})^{-1} = \boldsymbol{U}^{\mathrm{T}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_{1}+\lambda} & 0 & \cdots & 0\\ 0 & \frac{1}{\lambda_{2}+\lambda} & \cdots & 0\\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots\\ 0 & \cdots & \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathsf{D}}+\lambda} & 0\\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathsf{D}+1}+\lambda} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{U}$$

The solution becomes

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- not a minimizer of the original RSS
- more than an arbitrary hack (as we will see soon)
- λ is a hyper-parameter, can be tuned by cross-validation.

Comparison to NNC

Non-parametric versus Parametric

- **Non-parametric methods**: the size of the model *grows* with the size of the training set.
 - e.g. NNC, the training set itself needs to be kept in order to predict. Thus, the size of the model is the size of the training set.

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 - e.g. NNC, the training set itself needs to be kept in order to predict. Thus, the size of the model is the size of the training set.
- **Parametric methods**: the size of the model does *not grow* with the size of the training set N.
 - $\bullet\,$ e.g. linear regression, $\mathsf{D}+1$ parameters, independent of N.

Outline



2 Linear regression with nonlinear basis

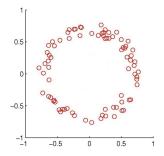
Overfitting and preventing overfitting



A Detour of Numerical Optimization Methods

What if linear model is not a good fit?

Example: a straight line is a bad fit for the following data



Solution: nonlinearly transformed features

1. Use a nonlinear mapping

$$oldsymbol{\phi}(oldsymbol{x}):oldsymbol{x}\in\mathbb{R}^{D} ooldsymbol{z}\in\mathbb{R}^{M}$$

to transform the data to a more complicated feature space

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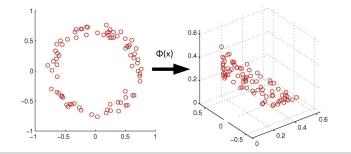
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Similar least square solution:

$$oldsymbol{w}^* = ig(oldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} oldsymbol{\Phi} ig)^{-1} oldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} oldsymbol{y} \;\;\;\; extsf{where} \;\;\; oldsymbol{\Phi} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{\phi}(oldsymbol{x}_2)^{\mathrm{T}} \ oldsymbol{\phi}(oldsymbol{x}_2)^{\mathrm{T}} \ dots \ oldsymbol{\phi}(oldsymbol{x}_N)^{\mathrm{T}} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{N imes M}$$

Polynomial basis functions for $\mathsf{D}=1$

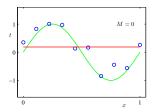
$$\boldsymbol{\phi}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ x\\ x^2\\ \vdots\\ x^M \end{bmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad f(x) = w_0 + \sum_{m=1}^M w_m x^m$$

Polynomial basis functions for D = 1

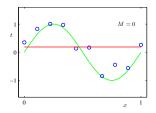
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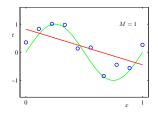
Learning a linear model in the new space = learning an *M*-degree polynomial model in the original space

Fitting a noisy sine function with a polynomial (M = 0, 1, or 3):

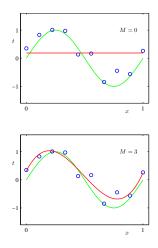


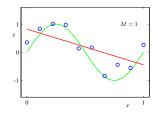
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Why nonlinear?

Can I use a fancy linear feature map?

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_2 \\ 3x_4 - x_3 \\ 2x_1 + x_4 + x_5 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} \quad \text{for some } \boldsymbol{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathsf{M} \times \mathsf{D}}$$

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No, it basically *does nothing* since

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We will see more nonlinear mappings soon.

Outline

Linear regression

Linear regression with nonlinear basis

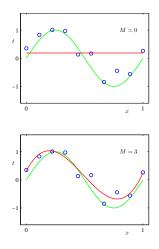
Overfitting and preventing overfitting

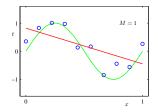


A Detour of Numerical Optimization Methods

Should we use a very complicated mapping?

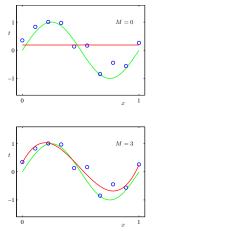
Ex: fitting a noisy sine function with a polynomial:

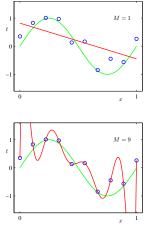




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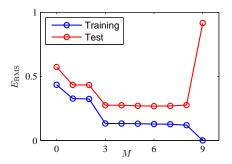
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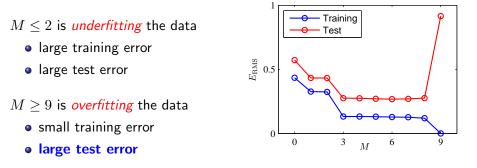


Underfitting and Overfitting

- $M \leq 2$ is underfitting the data
 - large training error
 - large test error
- $M\geq 9$ is overfitting the data
 - small training error
 - large test error

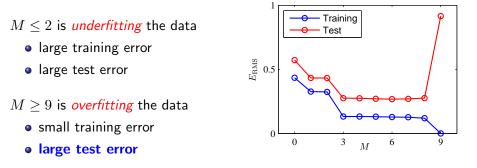


Underfitting and Overfitting



More complicated models \Rightarrow larger gap between training and test error

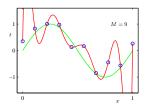
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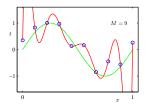
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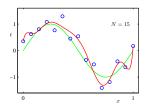
How to prevent overfitting?

The more, the merrier

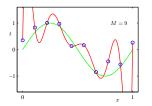


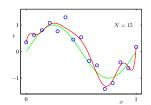
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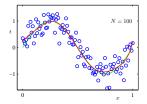




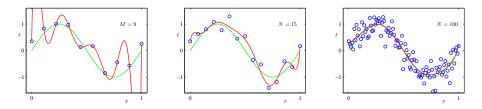
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The more, the merrier



More data \Rightarrow smaller gap between training and test error

Method 2: control the model complexity

For polynomial basis, the degree M clearly controls the complexity

• use cross-validation to pick hyper-parameter M

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When M or in general Φ is fixed, are there still other ways to control complexity?

Magnitude of weights

Least square solution for the polynomial example:

	M = 0	M = 1	M=3	M = 9
w_0	0.19	0.82	0.31	0.35
w_1		-1.27	7.99	232.37
w_2			-25.43	-5321.83
w_3			17.37	48568.31
w_4				-231639.30
w_5				640042.26
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Intuitively, large weights \Rightarrow more complex model

How to make w small?

Regularized linear regression: new objective

 $\mathcal{E}(\boldsymbol{w}) = \text{RSS}(\boldsymbol{w}) + \lambda R(\boldsymbol{w})$

Goal: find $w^* = \operatorname{argmin}_w \mathcal{E}(w)$

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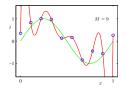
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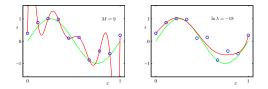
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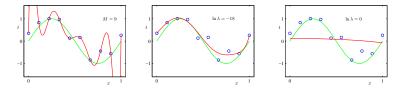
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- $\lambda > 0$ is the *regularization coefficient*
 - $\lambda = 0$, no regularization
 - $\lambda \to +\infty$, $\boldsymbol{w} \to \operatorname{argmin}_w R(\boldsymbol{w})$
 - i.e. control trade-off between training error and complexity

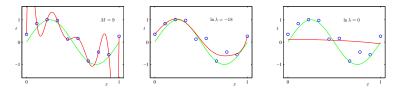
The effect of λ

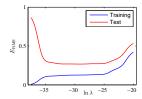
	$\ln \lambda = -\infty$	$\ln \lambda = -18$	$\ln \lambda = 0$
w_0	0.35	0.35	0.13
w_1	232.37	4.74	-0.05
w_2	-5321.83	-0.77	-0.06
w_3	48568.31	-31.97	-0.06
w_4	-231639.30	-3.89	-0.03
w_5	640042.26	55.28	-0.02
w_6	-1061800.52	41.32	-0.01
w_7	1042400.18	-45.95	-0.00
w_8	-557682.99	-91.53	0.00
w_9	125201.43	72.68	0.01











Simple for $R(\boldsymbol{w}) = \|\boldsymbol{w}\|_2^2$:

$$\mathcal{E}(\boldsymbol{w}) = \mathrm{RSS}(\boldsymbol{w}) + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{w}\|_2^2 = \|\boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{w}\|_2^2$$

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For other regularizers, as long as it's **convex**, standard optimization algorithms can be applied.

Equivalent form

Regularization is also sometimes formulated as

 $\underset{\boldsymbol{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \operatorname{RSS}(w) \quad \text{ subject to } R(\boldsymbol{w}) \leq \beta$

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Choosing either λ or β can be done by cross-validation.

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Overfitting: small training error but large test error

Preventing Overfitting: more data + regularization

Recall the question

Typical steps of developing a machine learning system:

- Collect data, split into training, development, and test sets.
- *Train a model with a machine learning algorithm.* Most often we apply cross-validation to tune hyper-parameters.
- Evaluate using the test data and report performance.
- Use the model to predict future/make decisions.

How to do the *red part* exactly?

1. Pick a set of models \mathcal{F}

• e.g.
$$\mathcal{F} = \{f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{x} \mid \boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathsf{D}}\}$$

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ML becomes optimization

Outline



4 A Detour of Numerical Optimization Methods

Numerical optimization

Problem setup

- Given: a function F(w)
- Goal: minimize F(w) (approximately)

First-order optimization methods

Two simple yet extremely popular methods

- Gradient Descent (GD): simple and fundamental
- Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD): faster, effective for large-scale problems

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Gradient is sometimes referred to as *first-order* information of a function. Therefore, these methods are called *first-order methods*.

First-order methods

Gradient Descent (GD)

GD: keep moving in the negative gradient direction

GD: keep moving in the *negative gradient direction* Start from some $w^{(0)}$. For t = 0, 1, 2, ...

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- might need to be changing over iterations (think F(w) = |w|)
- adaptive and automatic step size tuning is an active research area

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• until $F(w^{(t)})$ does not change much or t reaches a fixed number

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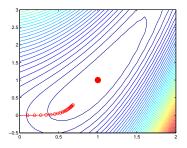
$$F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t+1)}) \approx F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)}) - \eta \|\nabla F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)})\|_2^2 \le F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)})$$

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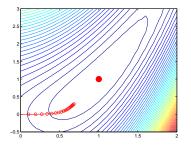
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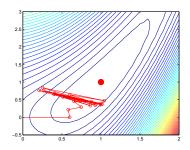
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but large η is unstable

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where $\tilde{\nabla} F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)})$ is a random variable (called **stochastic gradient**) s.t.

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\tilde{\nabla}F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)})\right] = \nabla F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)}) \qquad \text{(unbiasedness)}$$

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Key point: it could be *much faster to obtain a stochastic gradient!* (examples coming soon)

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- usually SGD needs more iterations
- but then again each iteration takes less time

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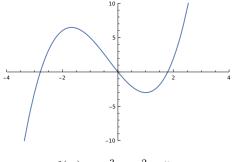
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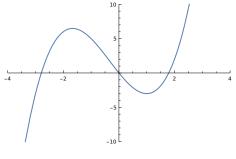
- that is, how close $m{w}^{(t)}$ is as an approximate stationary point
- for convex objectives, stationary point \Rightarrow global minimizer
- for nonconvex objectives, what does it mean?

A stationary point can be a local minimizer



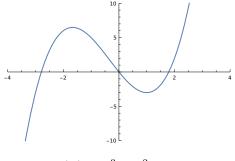
 $f(w) = w^3 + w^2 - 5w$

A stationary point can be a **local minimizer** or even a **local/global maximizer**



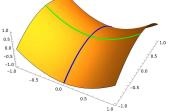
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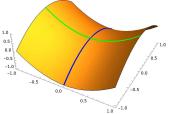
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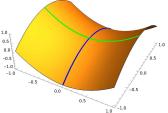


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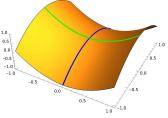


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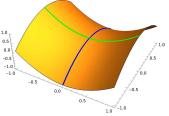
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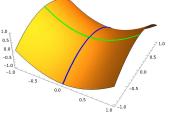
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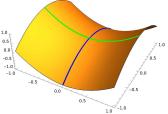
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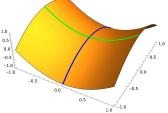
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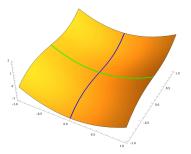
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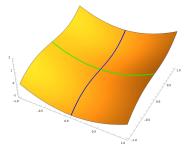


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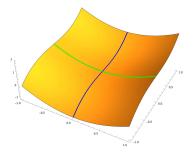
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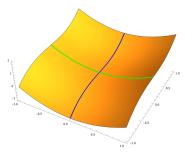
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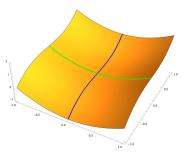
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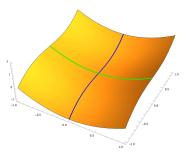


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Even worse, distinguishing local min and saddle point is generally NP-hard.

Summary:

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- justify the practical effectiveness of GD/SGD (default method to try)

Recall the intuition of GD: we look at first-order Taylor approximation

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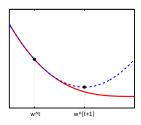
$$H_{t,ij} = \frac{\partial^2 F(\boldsymbol{w})}{\partial w_i \partial w_j} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{w}^{(t)}}$$

(think "second derivative" when D = 1)

Newton method

If we minimize the second-order approximation (via "complete the square")

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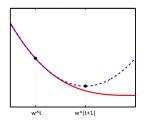
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for convex F (so H_t is *positive semidefinite*) we obtain **Newton method**:

$$\boldsymbol{w}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{w}^{(t)} - \boldsymbol{H}_t^{-1} \nabla F(\boldsymbol{w}^{(t)})$$



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- does not really make sense for *nonconvex objectives* (but generally Hessian can be useful for escaping saddle points)