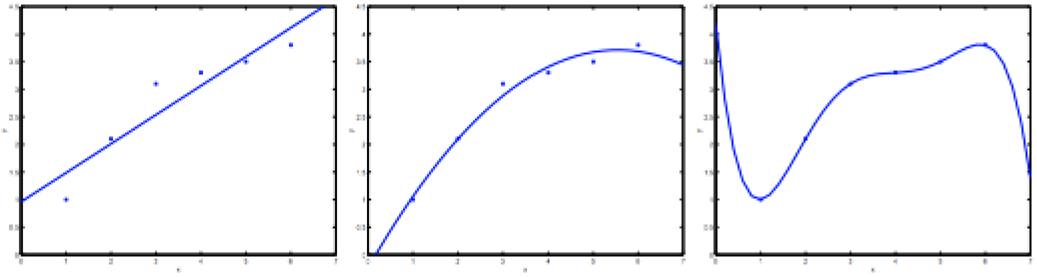
Overfitting

Consider the problem of predicting y from x ∈ R. The leftmost figure below shows the result of fitting a y = $\theta_0+\theta_1x$ to a dataset. We see that the data doesn't really lie on straight line, and so the fit is not very good.



Instead, if we had added an extra feature x^2, and fit $y=\theta_0+\theta_1x+\theta_2x^2$, then we obtain a slightly better fit to the data (See middle figure). Naively, it might seem that the more features we add, the better. However, there is also a danger in adding too many features: The rightmost figure is the result of fitting a 5^{th} order polynomial $y=\sum_{j=0}^{5}\theta_jx^j$. We see that even though the fitted curve passes through the data perfectly, we would not expect this to be a very good predictor of, say, housing prices (y) for different living areas (x). Without formally defining what these terms mean, we'll say the figure on the left shows an instance of **underfitting**—in which the data clearly shows structure not captured by the model—and the figure on the right is an example of **overfitting**.

Underfitting, or high bias, is when the form of our hypothesis function h maps poorly to the trend of the data. It is usually caused by a function that is too simple or uses too few features. At the other extreme, overfitting, or high variance, is caused by a hypothesis function that fits the available data but does not generalize well to predict new data. It is usually caused by a complicated function that creates a lot of unnecessary curves and angles unrelated to the data.

This terminology is applied to both linear and logistic regression. There are two main options to address the issue of overfitting:

1) Reduce the number of features:

- Manually select which features to keep.
- Use a model selection algorithm (studied later in the course).

2) Regularization

- Keep all the features, but reduce the magnitude of parameters θ_j.
- Regularization works well when we have a lot of slightly useful features.

Regularised Linear Regression

We can apply regularization to both linear regression and logistic regression. We will approach linear regression first.

Gradient Descent

We will modify our gradient descent function to separate out θ_0 from the rest of the parameters because we do not want to penalize θ_0.

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Repeat } \{ \\
&\quad \theta_0 := \theta_0 - \alpha \ \frac{1}{m}\ \sum_{i=1}^{m} (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}) x_0^{(i)} \\
&\quad \theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \ \left[\left(\frac{1}{m}\ \sum_{i=1}^{m} (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}) x_j^{(i)} \right) + \frac{\lambda}{m} \theta_j \right] \qquad\qquad j \in \{1, 2...n\} \\
&\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\theta_j := \theta_j(1 - \alpha\frac{\lambda}{m}) - \alpha\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}(h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})x_j^{(i)}$$

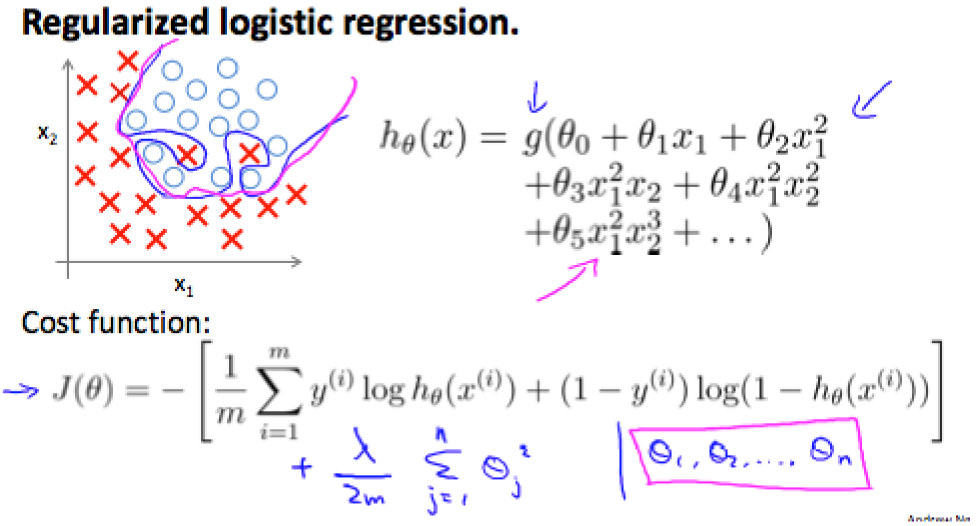
Normal Equation

To add in regularization, the equation is the same as our original, except that we add another term inside the parentheses:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\theta = \left(X^T X + \lambda \cdot L \right)^{-1} X^T y \\
&\text{where } \ L = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 1 & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

Regularized Logistic Regression

We can regularize logistic regression in a similar way that we regularize linear regression. As a result, we can avoid overfitting. The following image shows how the regularized function, displayed by the pink line, is less likely to overfit than the non-regularized function represented by the blue line:



Regularized logistic regression.

$$h_\theta(x) = g(\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_1^2 + \theta_3 x_1^2 x_2 + \theta_4 x_1^2 x_2^2 + \theta_5 x_1^2 x_2^3 + \dots)$$

Cost function:

$$J(\theta) = -\left[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m} y^{(i)} \log h_\theta(x^{(i)}) + (1-y^{(i)}) \log(1-h_\theta(x^{(i)}))\right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}\theta_j^2$$

$\boxed{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n}$

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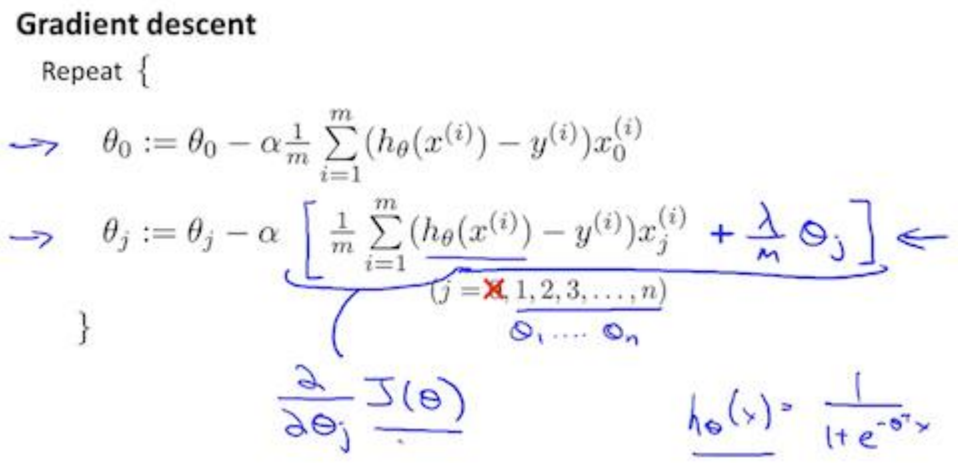
Cost Function

We can regularize the cost function equation by adding a term to the end:

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}[y^{(i)}\ \log(h_\theta(x^{(i)})) + (1-y^{(i)})\ \log(1-h_\theta(x^{(i)}))] + \frac{\lambda}{2m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}\theta_j^2$$



Gradient descent

Repeat {

$$\theta_0 := \theta_0 - \alpha\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}(h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})x_0^{(i)}$$

$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha\underbrace{\left[\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}(h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})x_j^{(i)} + \frac{\lambda}{m}\theta_j\right]}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta_j}J(\theta)}$$

$(j = \cancel{0}, 1, 2, 3, \dots, n)$

$\theta_1 \dots \theta_n$

}

$$h_\theta(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-\theta^T x}}$$