

Introduction to Statistical Machine Learning

Problem set 1

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Assume that there are n given training examples $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$, where each input data point x_i has m real valued features, $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The goal of regression is to learn to predict y from x . The linear regression model assumes that the output y is a linear combination of the input features x plus noise terms $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ with weights given by β as shown in equation 1.

$$Y = X\beta + \epsilon \quad (1)$$

where

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}, X = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \dots & x_{1m} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & \dots & x_{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{n2} & \dots & x_{nm} \end{pmatrix}, \epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_n \end{pmatrix}, \beta = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \beta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_m \end{pmatrix}.$$

Linear regression seeks to find the parameter vector β that provides the best fit of the above regression model. One criteria to measure fitness, is to find that minimizes a given loss function $J(\beta)$. In class, we have shown that if we take the loss function to be the square-error, i.e.:

$$J(\beta) = (X\beta - Y)^T(X\beta - Y) \quad (2)$$

then,

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y \quad (3)$$

Moreover, we have also shown that if we assume that $\epsilon_1 \dots \epsilon_n$ are IID and sampled from the same zero mean Gaussian that is, $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$, then the MSE is also the MLE estimate for $P(Y|X; \beta)$.

In this assignment you will need to create your own data as following:

1. Produce your own X matrix using `rand(n,m)` command.
2. Determine your β parameters.
3. Produce your noise vector ϵ using `randn(n,1)` command.
4. Compute the Y vector using equation 1.
5. Use equation 3 to solve the β parameters.
6. Compare your solution to the β parameters you determined in 2.
7. Increase the σ of your noise vector and check how this influence the estimation of the parameters.