

## L1 & L2 Regularization: Making Machine Learning Models Robust

When working with machine learning models, overfitting is a common challenge.  Regularization techniques like L1 and L2 help to combat this by penalizing model complexity. Let's dive in!



### What is Regularization?

Regularization is a technique used to prevent overfitting by adding a penalty to the model's loss function. This penalty discourages the model from fitting the noise in the training data, ensuring better generalization to unseen data

### L1 Regularization (Lasso)

Adds a penalty proportional to the absolute value of coefficients.

$$\text{Loss} = \text{MSE} + \lambda \sum |w_i|$$

#### **Effect:**

Shrinks some coefficients to zero, effectively performing feature selection. 

#### **When to Use:**

When you suspect many features are irrelevant or unnecessary.

### L2 Regularization (Ridge)

Adds a penalty proportional to the square of the coefficients.

$$\text{Loss} = \text{MSE} + \lambda \sum w_i^2$$

#### **Effect:**

Shrinks coefficients towards zero but doesn't eliminate them entirely.

Ensures smooth solutions and reduces model complexity. 

## **When to Use:**

When all features are important but need regularization to prevent overfitting.

### **Takeaway:**

Use L1 when you want to reduce features and perform feature selection.

Use L2 when you want a smooth and stable model that doesn't overfit. 

In practice, try ElasticNet, which combines the benefits of both.

**GitHub Code:** <https://github.com/NafisAnsari786/Machine-Learning-Algorithms/blob/main/15%20L1%20%26%20L2%20%20Regularization/L1%20and%20L2%20Regularization.ipynb>