# Why should we care about overfitting?

Learning Objective: This tutorial illustrates the idea of overfitting and why we should care about it.

Prediction Question: predict movie rating using review sentiment

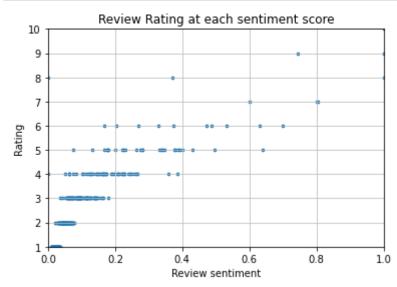
Note: the codes for this notebook is unimportant to the class, just make sure you understand the graphs and the idea of overfitting.

```
In [1]: import pandas as pd
         import numpy as np
         import warnings
         warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
In [2]: # read in the training data
         df = pd.read csv('movie review train 500.csv')
         df.head(2)
Out[2]:
             Unnamed:
                       Index User name
                                           Date
                                                                   Title Rating Spoilers
                                                                                                     Content
                                                                                                                Helpful sentiment
                                        2 January
                                                      The Last Jedi was just
                                                                                        SPOILER: This movie was
                                                                                                             1,137/1,332
                               yupman
                                                                                   yes
                                                                                                                        0.018911
                                                                                         just magical. The Force...
                                           2018
                                                                 magical
                               shoresk-
                                                    I made an account just to
                                                                                         This didn't feel like Star
          1
                                                                                                                529/620
                                                                                                                        0.112811
                                         February
                                                                                   yes
                                 37122
                                                     say how disappointed...
                                                                                          Wars. Now, I know p...
                                           2018
In [3]: # say we have a variable called sentiment that evaluates the sentiment of a review
         # let's say we only use the sentiment value to predict review rating
          # convert both columns to numpy arrays for better graphing
         x = df['sentiment'].to numpy()
         y = df['Rating'].to numpy()
```

```
In [4]: # scatter plot of review sentiment and rating
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline

plt.figure(1)
# plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
plt.scatter(x,y,s=7,)
plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
plt.ylabel("Rating")
plt.autoscale(tight=True)
plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid

ax = plt.gca()
ax.set_ylim([1, 10])
plt.show()
```



We will attempt to fit several polynomials to this set of data. But first let's define a way to measure

i.e. how off are we in our prediction with the polynomial vs. the actuals. The error function below is just the sum of squared differences (SSE).

• the smaller the error is, the better "goodness-of-fit" that our model gets

```
In [5]: def error(f,x,y):
    return np.sum((f(x)-y)**2)
```

### Let's fit a 1st order polynomial (i.e., linear regression)

```
In [6]: fp1, residuals, rank, sv, rcond = np.polyfit(x,y,1, full=True)
# The polyfit() function returns the parameters of the fitted model function, fp1

print("Model parameters: %s" % fp1)
print("Error: %s" %residuals)

Model parameters: [9.53024928 1.36054969]
```

We can see that we fit a polynomial of order 1 with the parameters 9.53 and 1.36; This is a straight line of the form

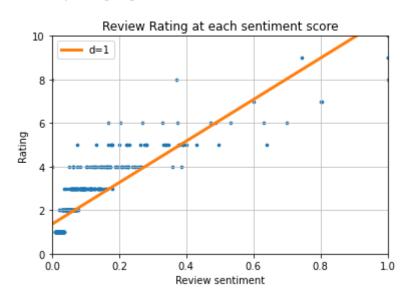
- y = 9.53x + 1.36
- The error is 362.73

Error: [362.73101894]

We can now form this line using generated x values and then plot it on the same graph to observe the fit in the scatter plot

```
In [7]: # graph model f1 onto the graph
        # use poly1d() to create a polynomial function from the model parameters.
        f1 = np.poly1d(fp1)
        print("1st degree polynomial error is ", error(f1,x,y))
        plt.figure(2)
        # plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
        plt.scatter(x,y,s=7,)
        plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
        plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
        plt.ylabel("Rating")
        plt.autoscale(tight=True)
        plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid
        #set y axis
        ax = plt.gca()
        ax.set ylim([0, 10])
        #adding a straight line into figure 2
        fx = np.linspace(0,1,100) #generate x-values for plotting
        plt.plot(fx, f1(fx), linewidth=3, color = 'tab:orange')
        plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order], loc="upper left")
        plt.show()
```

1st degree polynomial error is 362.7310189425334



#### Let's try fitting a second order polynomial

```
In [8]: f2p = np.polyfit(x,y,2)
    print(f2p)
    f2 = np.polyld(f2p)
    print(error(f2,x,y))

[-9.81812004 16.86957061 0.98093818]
```

The quadratic that we fit is

259.65646775874427

- $y = -9.82x^2 + 16.87x + 0.98$
- Note The error here is 259.65, which is smaller than the error of linear regression (362.73), indicating that f2 is a better model than f1 in our training data

```
In [9]: plt.figure(3)
        print("1st degree polynomial error is ", error(f1,x,y))
        print("2nd degree polynomial error is ", error(f2,x,y))
        # plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
       plt.scatter(x,y,s=7,)
        plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
        plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
        plt.ylabel("Rating")
        plt.autoscale(tight=True)
        plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid
        ax = plt.gca()
        ax.set ylim([0, 10])
        #adding a straight line into figure 2
        fx = np.linspace(0,1,100) #generate x-values for plotting
        plt.plot(fx, f1(fx), linewidth=3)
        plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order], loc="upper left")
        #adding the quadratic function into figure 2
        plt.plot(fx, f2(fx), linewidth=3)
        plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order, "d=%i" % f2.order], loc="upper left")
```

1st degree polynomial error is 362.7310189425334 2nd degree polynomial error is 259.65646775874427

Out[9]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7fb6f79b3850>



Indeed, visually we see that f2 seems to fit the data better than f1

What if we were to try more complex model by fitting polynomials functions higher orders let's try 3 and 10 in this case:

```
In [10]: # plot f3 and f10 on the graph
         f3p = np.polyfit(x,y,3)
         f3 = np.poly1d(f3p)
         f10p = np.polyfit(x,y,10)
         f10 = np.poly1d(f10p)
         print("Error order 1: ", error(f1,x,y))
         print("Error order 2: ",error(f2,x,y))
         print("Error order 3: ",error(f3,x,y))
         print("Error order 10: ",error(f10,x,y))
         #plotting the initial scatter plot
         plt.figure(4)
         # plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
         plt.scatter(x,y,s=7,)
         plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
         plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
         plt.ylabel("Rating")
         plt.autoscale(tight=True)
         plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid
         ax = plt.gca()
         ax.set ylim([0, 10])
         #adding a straight line into figure 2
         fx = np.linspace(0,1,100) #generate x-values for plotting
         plt.plot(fx, f1(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order], loc="upper left")
         #adding the polynomials of order 2, 3 and 10
         plt.plot(fx, f2(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.plot(fx, f3(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.plot(fx, f10(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order, "d=%i" % f2.order, "d=%i" % f3.order, "d=%i" % f10.order], loc="upper left")
```

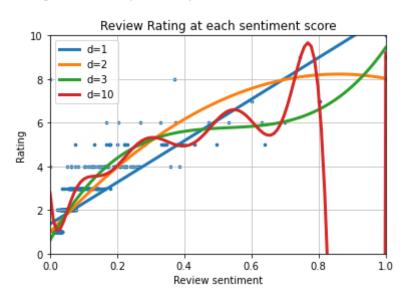
```
Error order 1: 362.7310189425334

Error order 2: 259.65646775874427

Error order 3: 196.41606734571735

Error order 10: 143.51596744908235
```

Out[10]: <matplotlib.legend.Legend at 0x7fb6f5f03bb0>



- We can see that the fit is getting better mathematically. The calculated errors are decreasing as well.
- This could only be a good thing right? Even though the model is mathematically better, we see that visually the 10th degree polynomial looks a bit crazy.

What happens when we keep increasing our polynomial order. Let's go all the way up to order 99.

```
In [11]: f99p = np.polyfit(x,y,99)
         f99 = np.poly1d(f99p)
         #plotting the initial scatter plot
         plt.figure(5)
         # plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
         plt.scatter(x,y,s=7,)
         plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
         plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
         plt.ylabel("Rating")
         plt.autoscale(tight=True)
         plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid
         ax = plt.gca()
         ax.set ylim([0, 10])
         #adding a straight line into figure 2
         fx = np.linspace(0,1,100) #generate x-values for plotting
         plt.plot(fx, f1(fx), linewidth=3)
         #plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order], loc="upper left")
         #adding the polynomials of order 2, 3 and 10
         plt.plot(fx, f99(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order,"d=%i" % f99.order], loc="upper left")
         print("Error of order 1: ",error(f1,x,y))
         print("Error of order 99: ",error(f99,x,y))
```

Error of order 1: 362.7310189425334 Error of order 99: 105.21530177295622



#### Judging from the error, it seems like f99 is way better than f1.

- Just from the training data, it seems that the more complicated our model is, the better performance it gets.
- If this is true, we should use the "f99" model for the rating prediction.
- but what happens when we fit our models onto the test data?

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	Unnamed: 0	Index	User_name	Date	Title	Rating	Spoilers	Content	Helpful	sentiment
(	0	3901	stephanebenyamin	4 January 2018	So bad I made a video with explanations	2	no	The characters and the plot lines have many is	1/2	0.173107
	1	3902	drharding	4 January 2018	NO IDEALS OR CHARACTER! NO INTEGRITY PERIOD!	1	no	Go to hell D(sney. I am boycotting this film a	1/2	0.000000

• Note that in the "Rating" variable is the ground truth, that we don't observe when training

```
In [13]: x_test = test['sentiment'].to_numpy()
y_test = test['Rating'].to_numpy()
```

Let's apply our "worst" and "best" models, f1 and f99, on to the test data

```
In [14]: # plot the (x,y) points with dots of size 7
         plt.scatter(x test,y test,s=7,)
         plt.title("Review Rating at each sentiment score")
         plt.xlabel("Review sentiment")
         plt.ylabel("Rating")
         plt.autoscale(tight=True)
         plt.grid(True, linestyle='-', color='0.75') #draw a slightly opaque, dashed grid
         ax = plt.gca()
         ax.set ylim([0, 10])
         #adding a straight line into figure 2
         fx = np.linspace(0,1,100) #generate x-values for plotting
         plt.plot(fx, f1(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order], loc="upper left")
         #adding the polynomials of order 2, 3 and 10
         plt.plot(fx, f99(fx), linewidth=3)
         plt.legend(["d=%i" % f1.order,"d=%i" % f99.order], loc="upper left")
         print("Error of order 1: ",error(f1,x test,y test))
         print("Error of order 99: ",error(f99,x test,y test))
```

Error of order 1: 252.9163429565317 Error of order 99: 1078.7484853710052



#### Here we see that model f99 is performing way worse than model f1!

- Why? Because model f99 tries to account for the outliers in the training data, and these specific outliers don't exist in the test data
- On the other hand, model f1, albeit simple, does better in predicting the overall trend of the data
- Here we have a typical case of overfitting.

```
In [ ]:
```

## How can we test for overfitting?

split our data into training set and validation set, and see if our model is consistent across different splits

```
In [15]: from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
    from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
    # prepare data: turn data to dataframe or matrix
    X = x.reshape(-1, 1) #
    y = y.reshape(-1, 1)
```

#### let's split the training data into 80% train and 20% validation

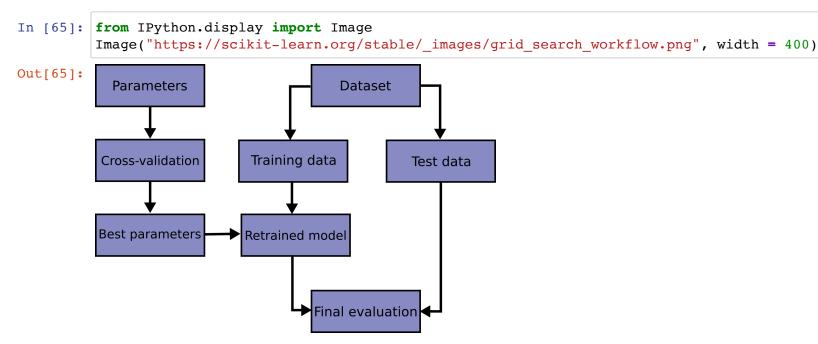
- we train the model on X\_train and y\_train
- then validate the model on X\_test and y\_test and calculate the accuracy

```
In [17]: from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=0)
In [55]: # let's try to fit a linear regression model
    reg = LinearRegression().fit(X_train, y_train)
    reg.score(X_test, y_test)
Out[55]: 0.6280703825965999
```

#### by changing the random\_state option, we randomly sample data again

```
In [56]: X train, X test, y train, y test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=1)
         reg = LinearRegression().fit(X train, y train)
         reg.score(X_test, y_test)
Out[56]: 0.7381105328372455
In [57]: X train, X test, y train, y test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=2)
         reg = LinearRegression().fit(X train, y train)
         reg.score(X_test, y_test)
Out[57]: 0.7411472509940018
In [58]: X train, X test, y train, y test = train test split(X, y, test size=0.2, random state=3)
         reg = LinearRegression().fit(X train, y train)
         reg.score(X test, y test)
Out[58]: 0.5707009731977994
In [59]: X train, X test, y train, y test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=4)
         reg = LinearRegression().fit(X_train, y_train)
         reg.score(X_test, y_test)
Out[59]: 0.7701400781699572
```

by randomly splitting a bunch of times, we ensure that our model has ~ 60-70% accuracy



#### **Cross validation**

- · corss validation is a common technique to test for overfitting
- it does the above step for us by splitting the training data into k folds, and each time using k-1 of the folds as the training data, and 1 fold as the test data, repeating this k times. This is called "k-fold-cross-validation"
- all we have to specify is the number of cross-validation
- here let's try a 5-fold-cv

# Here we see that the f2 is a better model than linear regression, even after testing for overfitting

```
In [92]: # cross validation on f2
scores2 = cross_val_score(reg2, X, y, cv=5)
print("%0.2f accuracy with a standard deviation of %0.2f" % (scores2.mean(), scores2.std()))
0.77 accuracy with a standard deviation of 0.07
```

#### Here we see that f99 drastically overfits the model:

• i.e., the standard deviation high, indicating the f99 model is not stable

```
In [93]: reg99 = make_pipeline(PolynomialFeatures(99), LinearRegression())
    reg99.fit(X_train, y_train)
    scores99 = cross_val_score(reg99, X, y, cv=5)
    print("%0.2f accuracy with a standard deviation of %0.2f" % (scores99.mean(), scores99.std()))
    -3136239950446.21 accuracy with a standard deviation of 6240750674088.55
In []:
In []:
```