

Statistical Foundations of Data Science

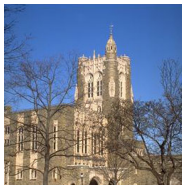
Jianqing Fan

Princeton University

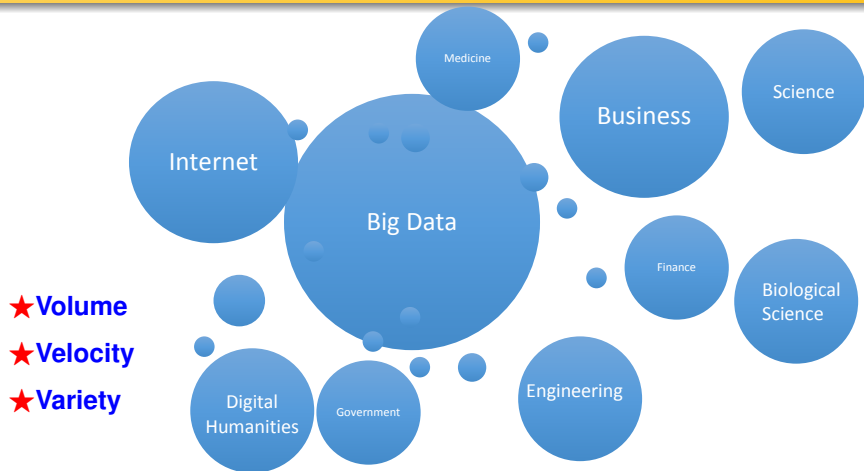
<https://fan.princeton.edu>

ZOOM ID Lectures: [970 4936 8998](#) Office Hours: [996 4030 7631](#)

[Annotated Lecture Notes: web view](#)



Big Data are ubiquitous



2003 5EB

2010 1.2ZB

2012 2.7ZB

2015 8ZB

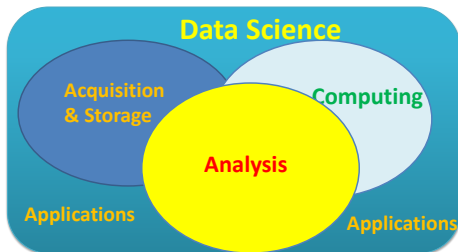
2020 40ZB

“There were 5 exabytes of information created between the dawn of civilization through 2003, but that much information is now created every 2 days” — Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google

Deep Impact of Data Tsunami

System: storage, communication, computation architectures

Analysis: statistics, computation, optimization, privacy



Big Data \Rightarrow **Smart Data**

What can big data do?

Hold great promises for understanding

★ Heterogeneity: personalized medicine or services

★ Commonality: in presence of large variations (noises)

from large pools of variables, factors, genes, environments and their interactions as well as **latent factors**.

Aims of Data Science:

- **Prediction**: To construct as effective a method as possible to predict future observations. (**correlation**)
- **Inference and Prediction**: To gain insight into relationship between features and response for scientific purposes and to construct an improved prediction method. (**causation**)

Common Features and Techniques

Common Features of Big Data:

- ★ Dependence, heavy tails, endogeneity, spurious corr, heterogeneity,
- ♠ Missing data, measurement errors, survivor, sampling biases
- ♣ Computation, communication, privacy, ownership



Common Techniques for Data Science:

- ★ Statistical Techniques: Least-Squares, MLE, M-estimation
- ♠ Regression: Parametric, Nonparametric, Sparse, Factor(PCR)
- ♣ Principal Component Analysis: Supervised, unsupervised.

1. Multiple and Nonparametric Regression

1.1. Least-Square Theory

1.2. Model Building

1.3. Ridge Regression

1.4. Regression in RKHS

1.5. Cross-validation

1.1. Multiple Regression

■ Read materials and R-implementations here

<https://fan.princeton.edu/fan/classes/245/chap11.pdf>

Purpose of Multiple regression

- ★ Study associations between dependent & independent variables
- ★ Screen irrelevant and select useful variables
- ★ Prediction

Example: Zillow is an online real estate database company founded in 2006. An important task for Zillow is to predict the house price. (Training data: 15129 cases, testing data: 6484 cases)

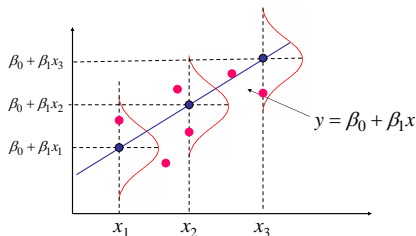
Interest: Associations between **housing** and its **attributes**.

- Response Y = Housing prices
- Covariates
 - ▶ No. of bathrooms X_1 ; No. of bedrooms X_2
 - ▶ sqft-living room X_3 ; sqft-lot X_4
 - ▶ zipcode X_5 (70 zipcodes); view X_6 (5 categories)
 - ▶ ...

Multiple linear regression model

$$Y = \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \cdots + \beta_p X_p + \varepsilon$$

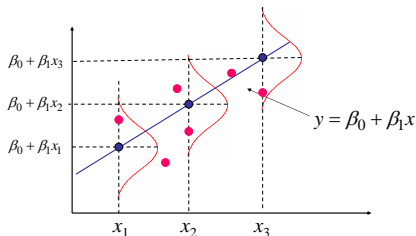
- Y : response / dependent variable
- X_j 's: explanatory / independent variables or covariates
- ε : random error not explained / predicted by covariates
- include intercept by setting $X_1 = 1$



Method of least-squares

Data: $\{(x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{ip}, y_i)\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$

Model: $y_i = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j x_{ij} + \varepsilon_i$



Method of Least-Squares:

$$\text{minimize}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \quad \text{RSS}(\beta) \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \sum_{j=1}^p x_{ij} \beta_j)^2$$

- RSS stands for **residual sum-of-squares**
- When $\varepsilon_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, least-squares estimator is MLE

Regression in matrix notation

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \cdots & x_{np} \end{pmatrix}, \boldsymbol{\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \beta_p \end{pmatrix}, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 \\ \vdots \\ \varepsilon_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Model becomes

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

RSS becomes

$$\text{RSS}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2$$

Closed-form solution

Least-squares: Minimize wrt $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p$

$$\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|^2 = (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta)^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta)$$

Setting gradients to zero yields **normal equations**:

$$\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \beta$$

Least-squares estimator: (assume \mathbf{X} has full column rank)

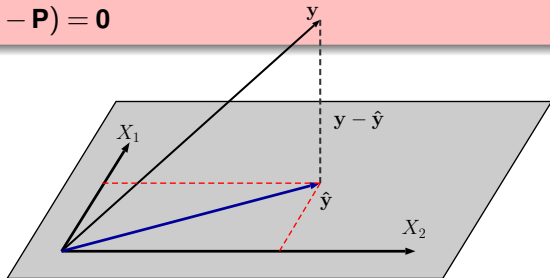
$$\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

Geometric interpretation of least-squares

Fitted value: $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^T}_{\triangleq \mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}} \mathbf{y}$

Theorem 1.1 [Property of projection matrix]

- ★ $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{x}_j = \mathbf{x}_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, p$
- ★ $\mathbf{P}^2 = \mathbf{P} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{I}_n - \mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{0}$




■ project response vector \mathbf{y} onto linear space spanned by \mathbf{X}

Statistical properties of least-squares estimator

Assumption:

- Exogeneity: $\mathbb{E}(\varepsilon|\mathbf{X}) = 0$;
- Homoscedasticity: $\text{var}(\varepsilon|\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2$.

Statistical Properties:

- ★ bias: $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\beta}|\mathbf{X}) = \beta$
- ★ variance: $\text{var}(\hat{\beta}|\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{X})^{-1}$
 often dropped

■ Recall $\text{cov}(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) = E(\mathbf{U} - \mu_U)(\mathbf{V} - \mu_V)^T$ and $\text{var}(\mathbf{U}) = \text{cov}(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{U})$

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{A} \text{cov}(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}) \mathbf{B}^T, \quad \text{var}(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{a}^T \text{var}(\mathbf{U}) \mathbf{a};$$

Gauss-Markov Theorem

■ How large is variance?

■ Compared with other estimators?

Theorem 1.2 [Gauss-Markov Theorem]

LSE $\hat{\beta}$ is best linear unbiased estimator (BLUE):

- $\mathbf{a}^T \hat{\beta}$ is a linear unbiased estimator of parameter $\theta = \mathbf{a}^T \beta$
- for any linear unbiased estimator $\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}$ of θ ,

$$\text{var}(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} | \mathbf{X}) \geq \text{var}(\mathbf{a}^T \hat{\beta} | \mathbf{X})$$

Estimation of σ^2 : $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{\text{RSS}}{n-p} = \frac{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\beta}\|^2}{n-p}$

$\hat{\sigma}^2$ is an unbiased estimator of σ^2

Statistical inference

Additional assumption: $\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)$

Under fixed design or conditioning on \mathbf{X} ,

$$\hat{\beta} = \beta + (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \varepsilon \implies \hat{\beta} \sim \mathcal{N}(\beta, (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \sigma^2)$$

★ $\hat{\beta}_j \sim \mathcal{N}(\beta_j, v_j \sigma^2)$ where v_j is j th diag of $(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$

★ $(n-p)\hat{\sigma}^2 \sim \sigma^2 \chi_{n-p}^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is indep. of $\hat{\beta}$.

★ $1 - \alpha$ CI for β_j : $\hat{\beta}_j \pm t_{n-p}(1 - \alpha/2) \sqrt{v_j} \hat{\sigma}$ (homework)

★ $H_0 : \beta_j = 0$: test statistics $t_j = \frac{\hat{\beta}_j}{\sqrt{v_j} \hat{\sigma}} \sim_{H_0} t_{n-p}$.

Non-normal error

Appeal to asymptotic theory:

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\beta} - \beta) = \underbrace{(n^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}}_{\substack{n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ \text{LLN}}} \underbrace{n^{-1/2} \mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{\substack{n^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \varepsilon_i \\ \text{CLT}}}$$

Using Slutsky's theorem,

(homework)

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\beta} - \beta) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}) \quad \text{or} \quad \hat{\beta} \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\beta, (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \sigma^2)$$

Holds approx. for large n

Correlated errors

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \quad \text{where} \quad \text{var}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}|\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2 \mathbf{W}$$

Transform data: $\mathbf{y}^* = \mathbf{W}^{-1/2}\mathbf{y}$, $\mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{W}^{-1/2}\mathbf{X}$, $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^* = \mathbf{W}^{-1/2}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$. Then

$$\mathbf{y}^* = \mathbf{X}^*\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^*, \quad \text{with} \quad \text{var}(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^*|\mathbf{X}) = \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}.$$

General Least-Squares:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|\mathbf{y}^* - \mathbf{X}^*\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 = (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \mathbf{W}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

Heteroscedastic errors: $\mathbf{W}_i = \sigma^2 \text{diag}(v_1, \dots, v_n)$

Weighted Least-squares: $\min_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta})^2 / v_i$.

1.2. Model Building

Nonlinear and nonparametric regression

Nonlinear regression

Univariate: $Y = f(X) + \varepsilon$,

■ $f(\cdot)$ has structural property: smooth, monotone, convex ...

Weierstrass theorem: any continuous $f(X)$ on $[0, 1]$ can be uniformly approximated by a polynomial function.

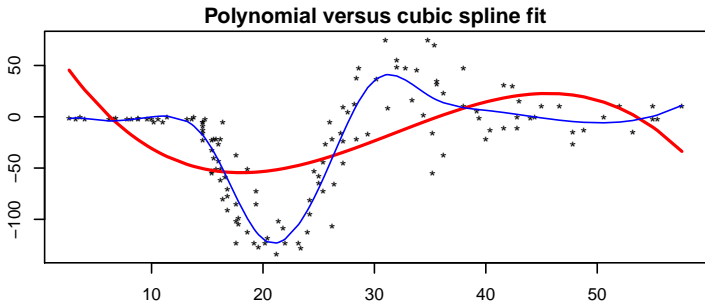
Polynomial regression:

$$Y = \overbrace{\beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \cdots + \beta_d X^d}^{\approx f(X)} + \varepsilon$$

★ multiple regression with $X_1 = X, \dots, X_d = X^d$

Drawback: not suitable for functions with **varying** degrees of smoothness

Polynomial versus cubic spline regressions



- ★ **Red**: polynomial regression with degree 3
- **Blue**: spline regression with with degree 3

Spline regression

★ piecewise polynomials with degree d , with continuous derivatives up to order $d - 1$.

★ **Knots**: $\{\tau_j\}_{j=1}^K$ where discontinuity occurs.

Example: Linear splines on $[0, 1]$ with knots $\tau_1 < \tau_2$

- Linearity on $[0, \tau_1]$ yields $l(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$, $x \in [0, \tau_1]$.
- Linearity on $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$ + continuity at τ_1 gives

$$l(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2(x - \tau_1)_+, \quad x \in [\tau_1, \tau_2]$$

- Linearity on $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$ + continuity at τ_1 gives $[\tau_2, 1]$

$$l(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2(x - \tau_1)_+ + \beta_3(x - \tau_2)_+, \quad x \in [\tau_2, 1] \text{ and}$$

Basis functions for Linear Splines

Basis functions for the linear splines:

$$B_0(x) = 1, B_1(x) = x, B_2(x) = (x - \tau_1)_+, B_3(x) = (x - \tau_2)_+$$

Spline regression:

$$Y = \underbrace{\beta_0 B_0(X) + \beta_1 B_1(X) + \beta_2 B_2(X) + \beta_3 B_3(X)}_{\approx f(X)} + \varepsilon$$

■ Multiple regression with $X_0 = B_0(X), X_1 = B_1(X), X_2 = B_2(X), X_3 = B_3(X)$

General case: $\{1, x, (x - \tau_j)_+, \quad j = 1, \dots, K\}$

Nonparametric: When K is large, $K_n \rightarrow \infty$

Cubic splines

Piecewise cubic polynomial with cont. 1st and 2nd derivatives:

$$c(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3, \quad x \leq \tau_1,$$

$$c(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3 + \beta_4 (x - \tau_1)_+^3, \quad x \in [\tau_1, \tau_2],$$

$$c(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \beta_3 x^3 + \beta_4 (x - \tau_1)_+^3 + \beta_5 (x - \tau_2)_+^3, \quad x \in [\tau_2, 1].$$

Basis functions:

$$B_0(x) = 1, B_1(x) = x, B_2(x) = x^2, B_3(x) = x^3$$

$$B_4(x) = (x - \tau_1)_+^3, \quad B_5(x) = (x - \tau_2)_+^3.$$

★ widely used; ★ multiple regression

Extension to multiple covariates

■ Bivariate quadratic regression model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_1^2 + \beta_4 \underbrace{X_1 X_2}_{\text{interaction}} + \beta_5 X_2^2 + \varepsilon$$

■ Multivariate quadratic regression:

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j X_j + \sum_{\mathbf{j} \leq \mathbf{k}} \beta_{jk} X_j X_k + \varepsilon$$

■ Multivariate quadratic regression with main effect and interactions

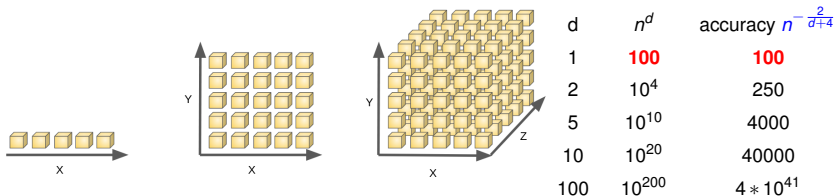
$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j X_j + \sum_{\mathbf{j} < \mathbf{k}} \beta_{jk} X_j X_k + \varepsilon$$

Multivariate spline regression

Idea: Tensor products of univariate basis functions

$$\{B_{i_1}(x_1)B_{i_2}(x_2)\cdots B_{i_p}(x_p)\}_{i_1=1}^{b_1}\cdots_{i_p=1}^{b_p}$$

Drawbacks: **curse of dimensionality**, namely, number of basis functions scales exponentially with p



Structured multivariate regressions

Remedy: Add additional structure to $f(\cdot)$

Example: Additive model

$$Y = f_1(X_1) + \cdots + f_p(X_p) + \varepsilon$$

■ Number of basis functions scales **linearly** with p

Example: Bivariate interaction models:

$$Y = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} f_{ij}(X_i, X_j) + \varepsilon$$

■ Number of basis functions scales **quadratically** with p

■ Implementation: Bivariate tensors

Best predictor and nonparametric regression

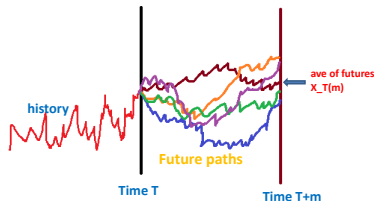
Double Expectation: $EZ = E\{E(Z|\mathbf{X})\}$, for any \mathbf{X}

Bias-var in prediction: Letting $f^*(\mathbf{X}) = E(Y|\mathbf{X})$, then

$$E(Y - f(\mathbf{X}))^2 = \underbrace{E(Y - f^*(\mathbf{X}))^2}_{\text{var} = E\sigma^2(\mathbf{X})} + \underbrace{E(f^*(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{X}))^2}_{\text{bias}}.$$

Best prediction: $E(Y|\mathbf{X}) = \operatorname{argmin}_f E(Y - f(\mathbf{X}))^2$

Nonparametric reg.: Estimating $f^*(\cdot)$ directly



Bias variance decomposition

Bias-var in estimation: letting $\bar{f}(\mathbf{x}) = E\hat{f}_n(\mathbf{x})$, then

$$E(\hat{f}_n(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{X}))^2 = \underbrace{E(\hat{f}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \bar{f}(\mathbf{X}))^2}_{\text{var}} + \underbrace{E(\bar{f}(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{X}))^2}_{\text{bias}}.$$

Role of Modeling:

- ★ variance is small when n large, big when no. of parameters is big
- ★ biases are small when model is complex (no. of parameters is big)

1.3. Ridge Regression

Ridge Regression

Drawbacks of OLS: ★ $n > p$; ★ large variance when collinearity

Remedy: Ridge regression (Hoerl and Kennard, 1970)

$$\hat{\beta}_{\lambda} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}$$

★ $\lambda > 0$ is a regularization parameter.

Interpretation: Penalized LS $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|^2$.

— Setting the gradient to zero, we get $\mathbf{X}^T(\mathbf{X}\beta - \mathbf{y}) + \lambda\beta = \mathbf{0}$.

Bias-Variance Tradeoff

Smaller variances:

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_\lambda) = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \sigma^2 \prec \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}).$$

Larger biases:

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{\beta}_\lambda) - \beta = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \beta - \beta = -\lambda (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \beta.$$

Overall error: $\text{MSE}(\hat{\beta}_\lambda) =$

$$\mathbb{E} \|\hat{\beta}_\lambda - \beta\|^2 = \text{tr}\{(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-2} [\lambda^2 \beta \beta^T + \sigma^2 \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}]\}.$$

$$\frac{d}{d\lambda} \text{MSE}(\hat{\beta}_\lambda)|_{\lambda=0} < 0 \Rightarrow \exists \text{ a } \lambda > 0 \text{ outperforms OLS.}$$

Generalization: ℓ_q Penalized Least Squares

ℓ_q penalized least-squares estimate:

$$\min_{\beta} = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_q^q, \quad q \geq 0.$$

- λ tuning parameter, $\|\beta\|_q^q = |\beta_1|^q + \dots + |\beta_p|^q$
- $q = 0$ is the best subset selection $\|\beta\|_0 = \#\{j : \beta_j \neq 0\}$
- Only $q = 2$ admits a closed-form solution.
- Known as Bridge estimator (Frank and Friedman, 1993);
- When $q = 1$, called Lasso estimator (Tibshirani, 1996);
- Folded concave when $0 < q < 1$ and convex when $q > 1$;

Prediction by similarity

Theorem 1.3. Alternative expression $\hat{\beta}_\lambda = \mathbf{X}^T(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T + \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{y}$

Prediction at \mathbf{x} is $\hat{y} = \mathbf{x}^T \hat{\beta}_\lambda = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T + \lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y}$.

Note that $(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T)_{ij} = \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle$ and $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{X}^T = (\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n \rangle)$.

- Prediction depends only **pairwise inner products**; similarity
- Generalize to other **similarity measures** $K(\cdot, \cdot)$, called **kernel** trick.

$$K\left(\text{cat}, \text{cat}\right) = +10 \quad \mathcal{K}\left(\text{cat}, \text{dog}\right) = -10$$

Kernel regression

Kernel: $\mathbf{K} = (K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j))_{n \times n}$ is PSD, for any $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$.

Commonly used kernels: $K(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$

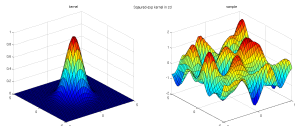
- ★ linear $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$
- ★ polynomial $(1 + \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle)^d$, $d = 2, 3, \dots$;
- ★ Gaussian $e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2}$
- ★ Laplacian $e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|}$

Basis: $\{K(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)\}_{j=1}^n$ and express $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_j)$

■ Fit the model $y_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i) + \varepsilon_i$ by

$$\min_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{K}\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \alpha^T \mathbf{K} \alpha \right\}$$

■ No curse-of-dim in implementation!



Kernel ridge regression

Kernel ridge regression

With $\mathbf{K} = (K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, prediction at \mathbf{x} is

$$\hat{y} = (K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))(\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y},$$

★ $\hat{y} = \overbrace{\hat{f}(\mathbf{x})}^{\text{pred}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \overbrace{\alpha_i}^{\text{weight}} K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_i),$

testing → testing → training

$$\hat{\alpha} = (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y};$$

★ tune the parameter λ to minimize prediction errors.

1.4 Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces

Justification of Kernel Tricks by Representer Theorem

Hilbert Space

Hilbert space: a space endowed with an inner product.

■ \mathcal{X} = set, \mathcal{H} = a space of functions on \mathcal{X} with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$.

Kernel function $K(\cdot, \cdot)$: Matrix $(K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j))_{n \times n}$ is PSD, for all $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$,

Eigen-decomposition:

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \gamma_j \psi_j(\mathbf{x}) \psi_j(\mathbf{x}'), \quad \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \gamma_j^2 < \infty$$

— $\{\gamma_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$ are **eigenvalues**, and $\{\psi_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$ are **eigen-functions**.

Reproducing Hilbert Space

Hilbert space: $\mathcal{H}_K = \{g = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta_j \psi_j\}$, endowed with inner product

$$\langle g, g' \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_K} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \gamma_j^{-1} \beta_j \beta'_j; \quad \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}_K} = \sqrt{\langle g, g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_K}},$$

for any $g, g' \in \mathcal{H}_K$ with $g = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta_j \psi_j, g' = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta'_j \psi_j$.

Reproducibility: $\langle K(\cdot, \mathbf{x}'), g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_K} = \sum_j \gamma_j^{-1} \{\gamma_j \psi_j(\mathbf{x}')\} \beta_j = g(\mathbf{x}')$.

Representer Theorem

Theorem 1.4

For a loss $L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))$ and increasing function $P_\lambda(\cdot)$, let

$$\hat{f} = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathcal{H}_K} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, f(\mathbf{x}_i)) + P_\lambda(\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}) \right\}, \quad \lambda > 0,$$

Then

(homework)

$$\hat{f}(\cdot) = \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{\alpha}_j K(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j),$$

where $\hat{\alpha} = (\hat{\alpha}_1, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_n)^T$ solves

$$\min_{\alpha} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n L\left(y_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)\right) + P_\lambda(\sqrt{\alpha^T \mathbf{K} \alpha}) \right\}.$$

★ **Infinite-dimensional** regression problem;

★ **Finite-dimensional** representation for the solution.

Outline of Proof

- 1 Any f can be written as $f = f_K + r$, where $f_K(\cdot) = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j K(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_j)$ (projection) and r is in its orthogonal complement.
- 2 Orthogonality entails $0 = \langle K(\cdot, x_j), r \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_K} = r(x_j)$ by reproducibility. Hence, $f(x_i) = f_K(x_i)$ (the same loss).
- 3 But $\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 = \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 + \|r\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 \geq \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2$.
- 4 Optimality reaches only if $r = 0$.

Applications of Representer Theorem

Apply representer theorem to **kernel ridge regression**

$$\hat{f} = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathcal{H}_K} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 + \lambda \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 \right\}.$$

We must have $\hat{f} = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{\alpha}_i K(\cdot, \mathbf{x}_i)$ with $\hat{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ solving

$$\min_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{K}\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \alpha^T \mathbf{K}\alpha \right\}.$$

It is easily seen that

$$\hat{\alpha} = (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y}.$$

1.5 Cross-Validation

k -fold Cross-Validation

Purpose: To estimate **Prediction Error** for a procedure; to select tuning parameters and compare multiple methods

k -fold Cross-Validation (CV)

- ★ Divide data randomly and evenly into k subsets;
- ★ Use one fold as **testing set** and remaining as **training set** to compute testing errors;
- ★ Repeat for each of k subsets and average testing errors.



Choice of k : $k = n$ (best, but expensive; leave-one out), 10 or 5 (5-fold).

Leave-one-out: $CV = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [y_i - \hat{f}^{-i}(\mathbf{x}_i)]^2$, $\hat{f}^{-i}(\mathbf{x}_i)$ = predicted value based on $\{(\mathbf{x}_j, y_j)\}_{j \neq i}$

Linear smoother

■ $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{y}$ for data $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$,

\mathbf{S} depends only on \mathbf{X} .

Self-stable if $\bar{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \hat{f}(\mathbf{x})$, where \bar{f} is estimated function based on data $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ and $(\mathbf{x}, \hat{f}(\mathbf{x}))$, and \hat{f} based on $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$

Theorem 1.5. For a self-stable linear smoother $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{y}$,

$$y_i - \hat{f}^{-i}(\mathbf{x}_i) = \frac{y_i - \hat{y}_i}{1 - S_{ii}}, \quad \forall i \in [n], \quad \text{CV} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{y_i - \hat{y}_i}{1 - S_{ii}} \right)^2.$$

Proof: By self-stability, $\{(\mathbf{x}_j, y_j), j \neq i\}$ and $\{(\mathbf{x}_j, y_j), j \neq i, (\mathbf{x}_i, \hat{f}^{(-i)}(\mathbf{x}_i))\}$ have the same fit: $\hat{f}^{(-i)}(\mathbf{x}_i) = S_{ii}\hat{f}^{(-i)}(\mathbf{x}_i) + \sum_{j \neq i} S_{ij}y_j$

Generalized Cross-Validation

GCV (Golub et al., 1979): $\text{GCV} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{[1 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{S})/n]^2}$.

■ $\text{tr}(\mathbf{S})$ is called **effective degrees of freedom**.

GCV chooses λ by minimizing

$$\text{GCV}(\lambda) = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \mathbf{y}^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{S}_\lambda) \mathbf{y}}{[1 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}_\lambda)/n]^2}.$$

Self-stable Method	\mathbf{S}	$\text{tr}(\mathbf{S})$
Multiple Linear Regression	$\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T$	p
Ridge Regression	$\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T$	$\sum_{j=1}^p \frac{d_j^2}{d_j^2 + \lambda}$
Kernel Ridge Regression in RKHS	$\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$	$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\gamma_j}{\gamma_j + \lambda}$

★ $\{d_j\}$ and $\{\gamma_j\}$ are singular values of \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{K} .