CSE 575: Statistical Machine Learning

Jingrui He

CIDSE, ASU

Boosting

Fighting the bias-variance tradeoff

- **Simple (a.k.a. weak) learners are good**
  - e.g., naïve Bayes, logistic regression, decision stumps (or shallow decision trees)
  - Low variance, don't usually overfit
- **Simple (a.k.a. weak) learners are bad**
  - High bias, can't solve hard learning problems

- Can we make weak learners always good???
  - **No!!!**
  - **But often yes…**

Voting (Ensemble Methods)

- Instead of learning a single (weak) classifier, learn **many weak classifiers** that are **good at different parts of the input space**
- **Output class:** (Weighted) vote of each classifier
  - Classifiers that are most "sure" will vote with more conviction
  - Classifiers will be most "sure" about a particular part of the space
  - On average, do better than single classifier!

- **But how do you ???**
  - force classifiers to learn about different parts of the input space?
  - weigh the votes of different classifiers?

Boosting: [Schapire, 1989]

- Idea: given a weak learner, run it multiple times on (reweighted) training data, then let learned classifiers vote

- On each iteration *t*:
  - Weigh each training example by how incorrectly it was classified
  - Learn a hypothesis – h_t
  - A strength for this hypothesis – α_t

- Final classifier:

- **Practically useful**
- **Theoretically interesting**

Learning from weighted data

- **Sometimes not all data points are equal**
  - Some data points are more important than others
- **Consider a weighted dataset**
  - D(i) – weight of *i* th training example ($\mathbf{x}^i$,y^i)
  - Interpretations:
    - *i* th training example counts as D(i) examples
    - If I were to "resample" data, I would get more samples of "heavier" data points

- **Now, in all calculations, whenever used, *i* th training example counts as D(i) "examples"**
  - e.g., MLE for Naïve Bayes, redefine *Count(Y=y)* to be weighted count

Given: $(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_m, y_m)$ where $x_i \in X, y_i \in Y = \{-1, +1\}$
Initialize $D_1(i) = 1/m$.
For $t = 1, \ldots, T$:

- Train base learner using distribution D_t.
- Get base classifier $h_t : X \to \{-1, +1\}$.
- Choose $\alpha_t \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Update:

$$D_{t+1}(i) = \frac{D_t(i) \exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))}{Z_t}$$

where Z_t is a normalization factor

$$Z_t = \sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i) \exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))$$

Output the final classifier:

$$H(x) = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t h_t(x)\right).$$

Figure 1: The boosting algorithm AdaBoost.

Given: $(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_m, y_m)$ where $x_i \in X, y_i \in Y = \{-1, +1\}$
Initialize $D_1(i) = 1/m$.
For $t = 1, \ldots, T$:

- Train base learner using distribution D_t.
- Get base classifier $h_t : X \to \{-1, +1\}$.
- Choose $\alpha_t \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Update:

$$\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$$

$$D_{t+1}(i) = \frac{D_t(i) \exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))}{Z_t}$$

$$\epsilon_t = P_{i \sim D_i}[\mathbf{x}^i \neq y^i]$$

$$\epsilon_t = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i)} \sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i) \delta(h_t(x_i) \neq y_i)$$

What α_t to choose for hypothesis h_t?

[Schapire, 1989]

Training error of final classifier is bounded by:

$$\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\delta(H(x_i)\neq y_i) \leq \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\exp(-y_i f(x_i))$$

Where $f(x) = \sum_t \alpha_t h_t(x)$; $H(x) = sign(f(x))$

What α_t to choose for hypothesis h_t?

[Schapire, 1989]

Training error of final classifier is bounded by:

$$\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\delta(H(x_i)\neq y_i) \leq \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\exp(-y_i f(x_i)) = \prod_t Z_t$$

Where $f(x) = \sum_t \alpha_t h_t(x); H(x) = sign(f(x))$

$$Z_t = \sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i)\exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))$$

What α_t to choose for hypothesis h_t?

[Schapire, 1989]

Training error of final classifier is bounded by:

$$\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\delta(H(x_i)\neq y_i) \leq \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}\exp(-y_i f(x_i)) = \prod_t Z_t$$

Where $f(x) = \sum_t \alpha_t h_t(x)$; $H(x) = sign(f(x))$

If we minimize $\prod_t Z_t$, we minimize our training error

We can tighten this bound greedily, by choosing α_t and h_t on each iteration to minimize Z_t.

$$Z_t = \sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i)\exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))$$

What α_t to choose for hypothesis h_t?

[Schapire, 1989]

We can minimize this bound by choosing α_t on each iteration to minimize Z_t.

$$Z_t = \sum_{i=1}^{m} D_t(i) \exp(-\alpha_t y_i h_t(x_i))$$

For binary weak classifiers, this is accomplished by [Freund & Schapire '97]:

$$\alpha_t = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1 - \epsilon_t}{\epsilon_t} \right)$$

Sample Test Question: How to prove it?

Strong, weak classifiers

- If each classifier is (at least slightly) better than random
  - $\varepsilon_t < 0.5$

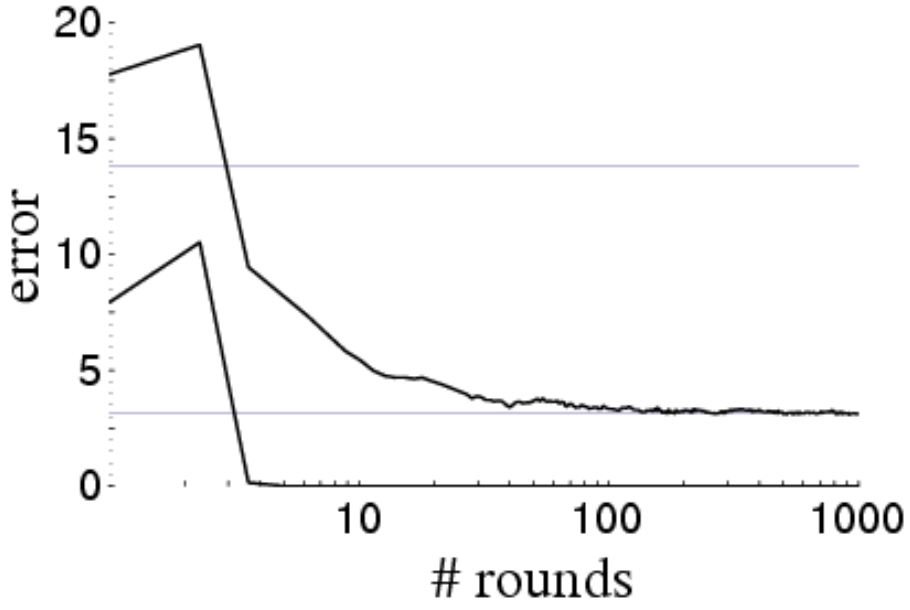
- AdaBoost will achieve zero *training error* (exponentially fast):

$$\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\delta(H(x_i)\neq y_i) \leq \prod_t Z_t \leq \exp\left(-2\sum_{t=1}^{T}(1/2-\epsilon_t)^2\right)$$

- Is it hard to achieve better than random training error?

Boosting results – Digit recognition

[Schapire, 1989]

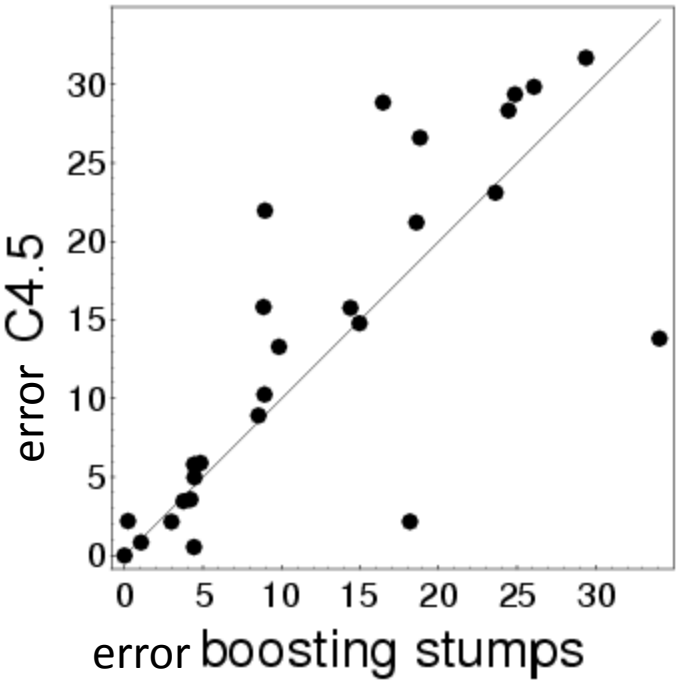


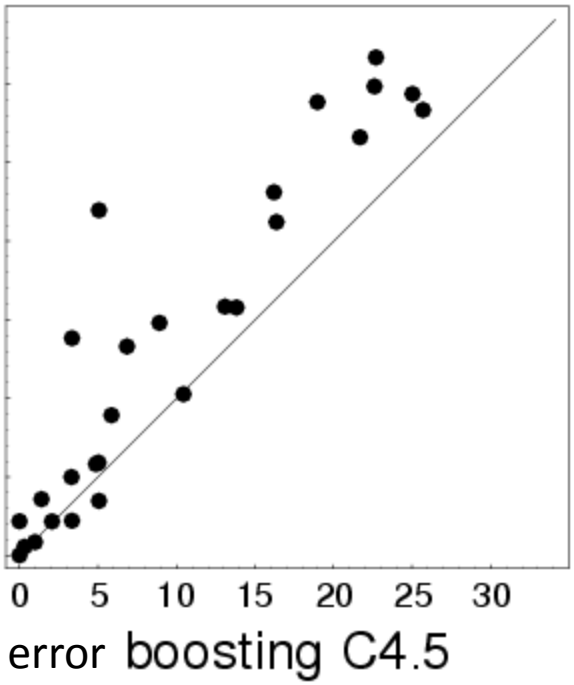
- Boosting often
  - Robust to overfitting
  - Test set error decreases even after training error is zero

Boosting: Experimental Results

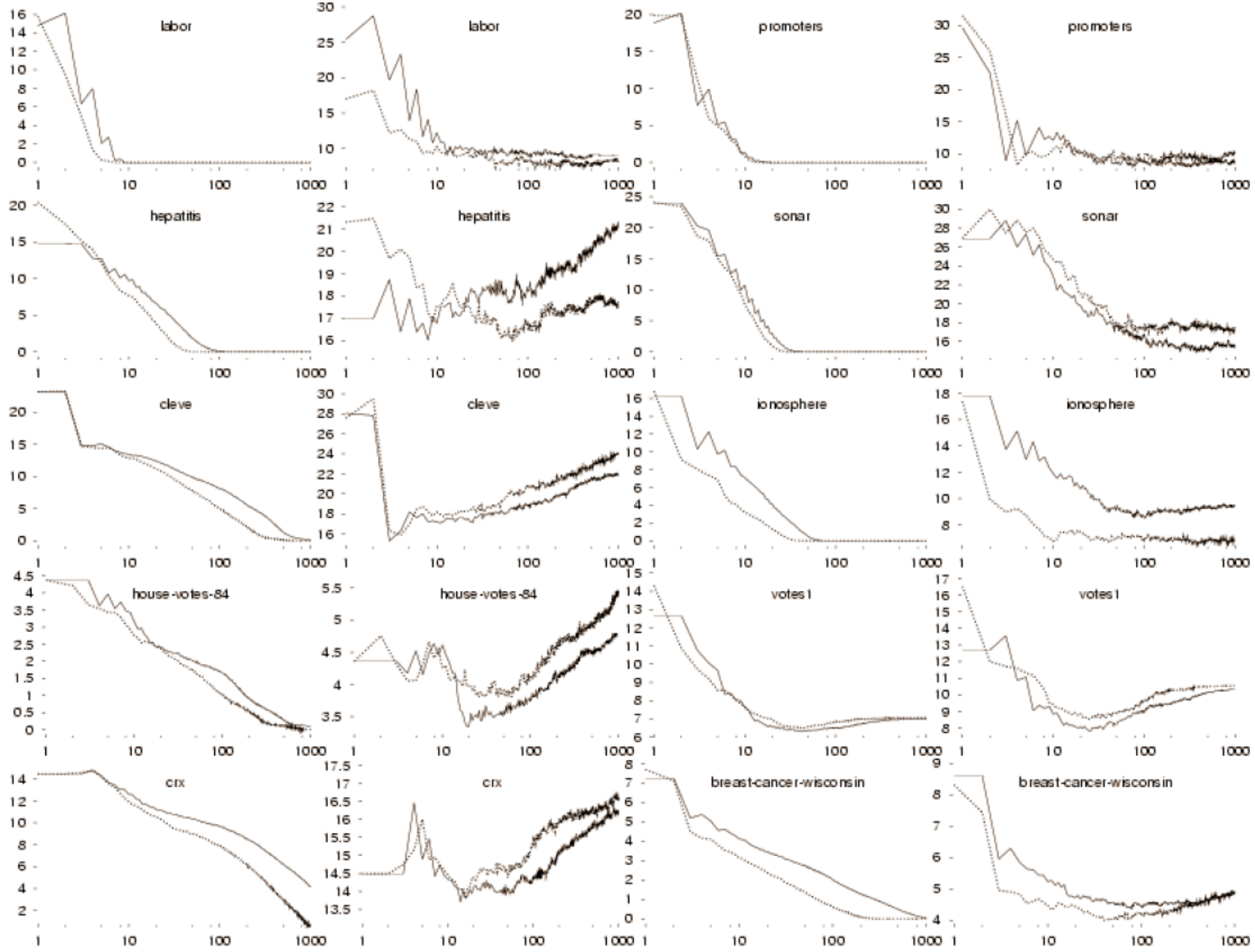
[Freund & Schapire, 1996]

Comparison of C4.5, Boosting C4.5, Boosting decision stumps (depth 1 trees), 27 benchmark datasets





AdaBoost and AdaBoost.MH on Train (left) and Test (right) data from Irvine repository. [Schapire and Singer, ML 1999]



Boosting and Logistic Regression

Logistic regression assumes:

$$P(Y = 1|X) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-f(x))}$$

And tries to maximize data likelihood:

$$P(\mathcal{D}|H) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y_i f(x_i))}$$

Equivalent to minimizing log loss

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(1 + \exp(-y_i f(x_i)))$$

Boosting and Logistic Regression

Logistic regression equivalent to minimizing log loss

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(1 + \exp(-y_i f(x_i)))$$

Boosting minimizes similar loss function!!

$$\frac{1}{m}\sum_i \exp(-y_i f(x_i)) = \prod_t Z_t$$

Both smooth approximations of 0/1 loss!

Logistic regression and Boosting

Logistic regression:

- Minimize loss fn

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \ln(1 + \exp(-y_i f(x_i)))$$

- Define

$$f(x) = \sum_j w_j x_j$$

where x_j predefined

Boosting:

- Minimize loss fn

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m} \exp(-y_i f(x_i))$$

- Define

$$f(x) = \sum_t \alpha_t h_t(x)$$

where $h_t(x_i)$ defined dynamically to fit data

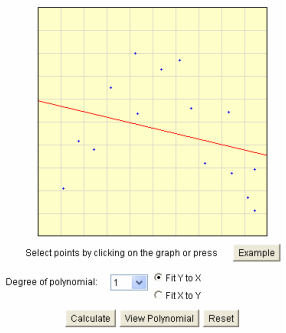
(not a linear classifier)

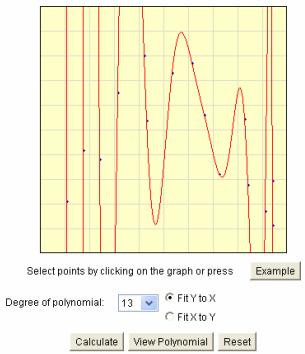
- Weights α_t learned incrementally

OK… now we'll learn to pick those darned parameters…

- **Selecting features (or basis functions)**
  - Linear regression
  - Naïve Bayes
  - Logistic regression
- **Selecting parameter value**
  - Prior strength
    - Naïve Bayes, linear and logistic regression
  - Regularization strength
    - Naïve Bayes, linear and logistic regression
  - Decision trees
    - MaxpChance, depth, number of leaves
  - Boosting
    - Number of rounds
- These are called **Model Selection** Problems

Test set error as a function of model complexity





Simple greedy model selection algorithm

- Pick a dictionary of features
  - e.g., polynomials for linear regression
- Greedy heuristic:
  - Start from empty (or simple) set of features $F_0 = \varnothing$
  - Run learning algorithm for current set of features F_t
    - Obtain h_t
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with $F_t \cup \{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t \cup \{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

Greedy model selection

- Applicable in many settings:
  - Linear regression: Selecting basis functions
  - Naïve Bayes: Selecting (independent) features $P(X_i|Y)$
  - Logistic regression: Selecting features (basis functions)
- Only a heuristic!
- There are many more elaborate methods out there

Simple greedy model selection algorithm

- Greedy heuristic:
  - …
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with F_t U $\{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t$ U $\{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

When do you stop???

- When training error is low enough?

Simple greedy model selection algorithm

- Greedy heuristic:
  - …
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with F_t U $\{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t$ U $\{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

When do you stop???

- ~~When training error is low enough?~~
- When test set error is low enough?

Validation set

- Thus far: Given a dataset, **randomly** split it into two parts:
  - Training data – $\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots, \mathbf{x}_{\text{Ntrain}}\}$
  - Test data – $\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots, \mathbf{x}_{\text{Ntest}}\}$
- But **Test data must always remain independent**!
  - Never ever ever ever learn on test data, including for model selection
- Given a dataset, **randomly** split it into three parts:
  - Training data – $\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots, \mathbf{x}_{\text{Ntrain}}\}$
  - Validation data – $\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots, \mathbf{x}_{\text{Nvalid}}\}$
  - Test data – $\{\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots, \mathbf{x}_{\text{Ntest}}\}$
- Use validation data for tuning learning algorithm, e.g., model selection
  - Save test data for very final evaluation

Simple greedy model selection algorithm

- Greedy heuristic:
  - …
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with F_t U $\{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t$ U $\{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

When do you stop???

- ~~When training error is low enough?~~
- ~~When test set error is low enough?~~
- When validation set error is low enough?

Simple greedy model selection algorithm

- Greedy heuristic:
  - …
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with F_t U $\{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t$ U $\{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

When do you stop???

- ~~When training error is low enough?~~
- ~~When test set error is low enough?~~
- ~~When validation set error is low enough?~~
- Man!!! OK, should I just repeat until I get tired???
  - I am tired now…
  - **No, "There is a better way!"**

(LOO) Leave-one-out cross validation

- Consider a **validation set with 1 example**:
  - D – training data
  - $D\backslash i$ – training data with i th data point moved to validation set
- **Learn classifier $h_{D\backslash i}$ with $D\backslash i$ dataset**
- **Estimate true error** as:
  - 0 if $h_{D\backslash i}$ classifies i th data point correctly
  - 1 if $h_{D\backslash i}$ is wrong about i th data point
  - Seems really bad estimator, but wait!
- **LOO cross validation**: Average over all data points i:
  - **For each data point you leave out, learn a new classifier $h_{D\backslash i}$**
  - **Estimate error** as:

$$error_{LOO} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \mathbb{1}\left(h_{D\backslash i}(\mathbf{x}^i) \neq y^i\right)$$

LOO cross validation is (almost) unbiased estimate of true error!

- When computing **LOOCV error, we only use *m-1* data points**
  - So it's not estimate of true error of learning with *m* data points!
  - Usually pessimistic, though – learning with less data typically gives worse answer

- **LOO is almost unbiased**!
  - Let $error_{true,m-1}$ be true error of learner when you only get *m-1* data points
  - LOO is unbiased estimate of $error_{true,m-1}$:

$$E_{\mathcal{D}}[error_{LOO}] = error_{true,m-1}$$

- **Great news!**
  - **Use LOO error for model selection!!!**

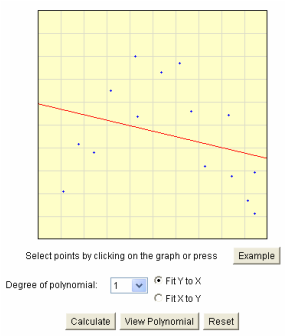
Simple greedy model selection algorithm

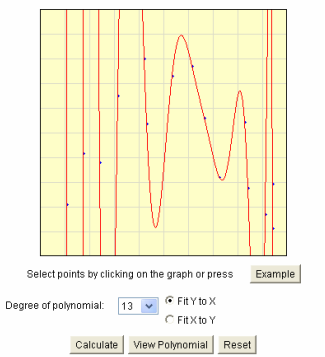
- Greedy heuristic:
  - …
  - Select **next best feature X_i**
    - e.g., X_j that results in lowest training error learner when learning with F_t U $\{X_j\}$
  - $F_{t+1} \leftarrow F_t$ U $\{X_j\}$
  - Recurse

When do you stop???

- ~~When training error is low enough?~~
- ~~When test set error is low enough?~~
- ~~When validation set error is low enough?~~
- **STOP WHEN $error_{LOO}$ IS LOW!!!**

Using LOO error for model selection





Computational cost of LOO

- Suppose you have 100,000 data points
- You implemented a great version of your learning algorithm
  - Learns in only 1 second
- Computing LOO will take about 1 day!!!
  - If you have to do so for each choice of basis functions, it will take fooooooreeeever!!!
- Solution 1: Preferred, but not usually possible
  - Find a cool trick to compute LOO

Solution to complexity of computing LOO:

(More typical) **Use *k*-fold cross validation**

- Randomly **divide training data into *k* equal parts**
  - $D_1,\ldots,D_k$
- For each *i*
  - **Learn classifier $h_{D\setminus Di}$ using data point not in D_i**
  - **Estimate error of $h_{D\setminus Di}$ on validation set D_i:**

$$error_{\mathcal{D}_i} = \frac{k}{m} \sum_{(\mathbf{x}^j, y^j) \in \mathcal{D}_i} 1\left(h_{\mathcal{D}\setminus\mathcal{D}_i}(\mathbf{x}^j) \neq y^j\right)$$

- ***k*-fold cross validation error is average** over data splits:

$$error_{k-fold} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k} error_{\mathcal{D}_i}$$

- *k*-fold cross validation properties:
  - **Much faster to compute** than LOO
  - **More (pessimistically) biased** – using much less data, only *m(k-1)/k*
  - Usually, **k = 10** ☺