

Regression Tasks

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1 Supervised Learning

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Supervised Learning

Goal of supervised learning

Given training set with known features and labels, produce a prediction function

Supervised Learning

Goal of supervised learning

Given training set with known features and labels, produce a prediction function

- During training: given input data ('**training set**') with **features** and **labels**, learn the relationship ('**prediction function**') between them
- During inference: given a brand new data with **features**, use the **prediction function** to predict the **labels**

Supervised Learning

Terminologies:

- Input / **Training Set** consists of feature and label pairs:

Features: $x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$. $x^{(i)} \in X$.

Labels: $y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}, \dots, y^{(n)}$. $y^{(i)} \in Y$.

for $i = 1, \dots, n$, where n is the total number of training samples.

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- Model / **Prediction Function**:

A function $h_{\theta}(x) : X \rightarrow Y$ that maps the input features X to the output values Y , where θ is the **parameter** or **weight** of the model. In the training process, we *learn* the values of θ that results in good predictions.

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Given an unseen data point $x^{(k)}$, predict the output $y^{(k)}$ based on prediction function h .

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-
- if Y is continuous, it will be a regression task
 - if Y is discrete, it will be a classification task

Supervised Learning

There are two types of supervised learning tasks:

Regression

if Y is continuous

- Estimating the relationships between a dependent variable ('**label**') and one or more independent variables ('**features**').
- Example: X is data of house dimensions and locations, predict Y the price of the house.

Classification

if Y is discrete

- Categorizing a given set of input data into categories ('**classes**') based on one or more variables ('**features**').
- Example: X is an image, predict if Y is a "cat" or a "dog".

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Input

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

1) Input: feature $x = \text{size}$ and label $y = \text{price}$, with $n = 2$ training samples.

	Size
$x^{(1)}$	2104
$x^{(2)}$	2500
$x^{(3)}$	1600

	Price
$y^{(1)}$	400K
$y^{(2)}$	900K
$y^{(3)}$	330K

Input

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2) Model / Prediction Function: a linear model

$$h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1^{(i)}$$

Model

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

2) Model / Prediction Function: a linear model

$$h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1^{(i)}$$

Using the convention of $x_0 = 1$, we can rewrite the prediction function as:

$$h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j^{(i)} x_j^{(i)}$$

A note on notation: the superscript (i) denotes the index of the training sample, and the subscript j denotes index of the feature. For example, $x_3^{(1)}$ means feature 3 from training sample 1.

Model

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

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Goal

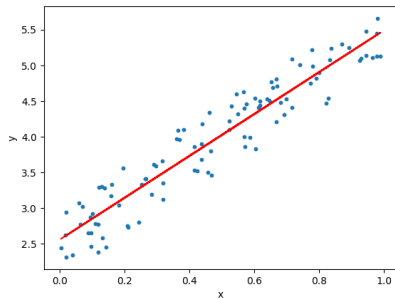
Learn the values of θ that results in **good prediction**.

What is a good prediction?

Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

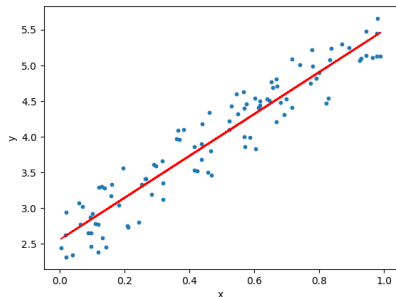
What is a good prediction?



Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

What is a good prediction?



Calculate the distance from each data point (label) $y^{(i)}$ to the regression line (prediction) $h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1^{(i)}$, square it, and sum all of the squared errors together. We call this the **cost function** $J(\theta)$.

Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

What is a good prediction? A good prediction is the one that minimizes the cost function $J(\theta)$.

How do you define a cost function?

Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

What is a good prediction? A good prediction is the one that minimizes the cost function $J(\theta)$.

How do you define a cost function? Case by case basis. In this example, let's choose **sum of squared errors** as our cost function.

Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

What is a good prediction? A good prediction is the one that minimizes the cost function $J(\theta)$.

How do you define a cost function? Case by case basis. In this example, let's choose **sum of squared errors** as our cost function.

2a) Cost Function:

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

Where n is the total number of training samples. Choose θ such that:

$$\theta = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} J(\theta)$$

Solving the Cost Function

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data

How do we solve for θ that minimizes this cost function?

How do we solve for this minimization / optimization problem?

- ① **Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)**. Analytical solution (closed form).
- ② **Least Mean Squares (LMS)**. Numerical solution (approximation).

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Choose θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$ using OLS solution. This solution provides a closed form solution of θ in terms of the known variables x and y .

$$\text{Cost Function: } J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2 \quad (1)$$

We can simplify the expression of the cost function in matrix form using the rule $z^T z = \sum_i z_i^2$:

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Choose θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$ using OLS solution. This solution provides a closed form solution of θ in terms of the known variables x and y .

$$\text{Cost Function: } J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2 \quad (2)$$

We can simplify the expression of the cost function in matrix form using the rule $z^T z = \sum_i z_i^2$:

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2 \quad (3)$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (H - Y)^T (H - Y) \quad (4)$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define x , y , and $h_{\theta}(x)$ in matrix forms:

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define \mathbf{x} , \mathbf{y} , and $h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ in matrix forms:

	Size
$x^{(1)}$	2104
$x^{(2)}$	2500
$x^{(3)}$	1600

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^{(1)} \\ x_1^{(2)} \\ x_1^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1^{(1)} \\ x_1^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ x_1^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2104 \\ 2500 \\ 1600 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^{(1)} \\ x_1^{(2)} \\ x_1^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1^{(1)} \\ x_1^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ x_1^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define \mathbf{x} , y , and $h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ in matrix forms:

	Size	Bedrooms	Lot Size
$x^{(1)}$	2104	4	4500
$x^{(2)}$	2500	3	3000
$x^{(3)}$	1600	3	3000

$$x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2^{(1)} \\ x_2^{(2)} \\ x_2^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_2^{(1)} \\ x_2^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ x_2^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad x_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4500 \\ 3000 \\ 3000 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_3^{(1)} \\ x_3^{(2)} \\ x_3^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_3^{(1)} \\ x_3^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ x_3^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define \mathbf{x} , y , and $h_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ in matrix forms:

Combining the all the \mathbf{x} vectors:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} | & | & | & | \\ x_0 & x_1 & \dots & x_d \\ | & | & | & | \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{---} & x^{(1)} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & x^{(2)} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \vdots & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & x^{(n)} & \text{---} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

where:

n = number of training samples

d = number of features

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define x , y , and $h_{\theta}(x)$ in matrix forms:

	Price
$y^{(1)}$	400K
$y^{(2)}$	900K
$y^{(3)}$	890K

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y^{(1)} \\ y^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ y^{(n)} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

where:

n = number of training samples

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Let's define x , y , and $\mathbf{h}_\theta(\mathbf{x})$ in matrix forms:

$$h_\theta(x^{(i)}) = \sum_{j=0}^d \theta_j^{(i)} x_j^{(i)}$$

In matrix form, this is equivalent to:

$$h_\theta(x^{(i)}) = (x^{(i)})^T \theta \tag{5}$$

$$H = X\Theta \tag{6}$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Now, let's plug in $H(5)$ into the cost function (3):

Cost Function

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Now, let's plug in H (5) into the cost function (3):

Cost Function

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (H - Y)^T (H - Y)$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (X\Theta - Y)^T (X\Theta - Y)$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Finally, let's find θ that minimizes J . To do this, find the derivative of J with respect to θ , and set it to zero.

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = \nabla_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} (X\Theta - Y)^T (X\Theta - Y)$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Finally, let's find θ that minimizes J . To do this, find the derivative of J with respect to θ , and set it to zero.

$$\nabla_{\theta} J(\theta) = \nabla_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} (X\theta - Y)^T (X\theta - Y)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} ((X\theta)^T - Y^T) (X\theta - Y)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} ((X\theta)^T X\theta - (X\theta)^T Y - Y^T (X\theta) + Y^T Y)$$

$$(ab)^T = b^T a^T \text{ gives us } (X\theta)^T = \theta^T X^T$$

$$a^T b = b^T a \text{ gives us } (X\theta)^T Y = Y^T (X\theta)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T X^T X\theta - Y^T X\theta - Y^T X\theta + Y^T Y)$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

continued...

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\theta} (\theta^T X^T X \theta - 2 Y^T X \theta + Y^T Y)$$

$\nabla_x b^T x = b$ gives us $\nabla_x 2 Y^T X \theta = 2 (Y^T X)^T$

$\nabla_x x^T A x = 2 A x$ for symmetric matrix A gives us $\nabla_x \theta^T (X^T X) \theta = 2 (X^T X) \theta$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} (2 X^T X \theta - 2 (Y^T X)^T)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} (2 X^T X \theta - 2 X Y^T)$$

$$0 = X^T X \theta - X^T Y$$

Solving for Θ :

$$\begin{aligned} X^T X \Theta &= X^T Y \\ \Theta &= (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y \end{aligned}$$

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS)

Optimization

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Solution

The value of θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$ is given in closed form by the equation:

$$\Theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$
$$\Theta \in \mathbb{R}^{(1 \times d)}$$

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent Optimization

Choose θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$ using LMS algorithm. This is a search algorithm in which:

- 1 We start with an “initial guess” θ
- 2 Repeatedly change θ to make $J(\theta)$ smaller
- 3 Converge to a value of θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$

This is called the **Gradient Descent** algorithm.

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent

Optimization

Choose θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$ using LMS algorithm. This is a search algorithm in which:

① We start with an “initial guess” θ

② Repeatedly performs an update:

$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta)$$

- α is the **learning rate**
- The update is simultaneously performed $\forall j = 0, \dots, d$, where j is the number of training samples.
- Repeatedly takes a step in the direction of steepest decrease of J .

③ Converge to a value of θ that minimizes $J(\theta)$

This is called the **Gradient Descent** algorithm.

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent Optimization

Least Mean Squares (LMS) / Widrow-Hoff Learning Rule:

$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta)$$

Let's solve for this rule by expanding the partial derivative, considering the case of only one training sample (x, y) , thereby neglecting the sum notation in the cost function $J(\theta)$.

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(h_{\theta} \left(x^{(i)} \right) - y^{(i)} \right)^2$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left(h_{\theta} (x) - y \right)^2$$

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent Optimization

continued...

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{1}{2} (h_{\theta}(x) - y)^2$$

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent

Optimization

continued...

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \frac{1}{2} (h_{\theta}(x) - y)^2 \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \\ &= (h_{\theta}(x) - y) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \left(\sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i x_i - y \right) \\ &= (h_{\theta}(x) - y) x_j\end{aligned}$$

Substituting this into the Learning Rule results in:

$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \left(y^{(i)} - h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \right) x_j^{(i)}$$

Least Mean Squares (LMS) and Gradient Descent Optimization

Least Mean Squares (LMS) / Widrow-Hoff Learning Rule for one training sample

$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} J(\theta)$$
$$\theta_j := \theta_j - \alpha \left(y^{(i)} - h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \right) x_j^{(i)}$$

A couple interesting notes:

- The magnitude of the update is proportional to the error term $(y^{(i)} - h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}))$.
- If our prediction $h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})$ nearly matches the label $y^{(i)}$, there is little need to change the parameters θ .
- If the prediction $h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})$ has a larger error from the label $y^{(i)}$, then a larger change to the parameters θ is needed.

Batch Gradient Descent

Optimization

Stochastic Gradient Descent

Optimization

More Complex Data

Regression Sample Case: Predicting House Data, Revisited

Input / Training Set: In the previous example, we only had 1 feature $x_1 = \text{price}$. Now we are adding 2 more features $x_2 = \text{bedrooms}$ and $x_3 = \text{lotsize}$.

	Size	Bedrooms	Lot Size
$x^{(1)}$	2104	4	45K
$x^{(2)}$	2500	3	30K

	Price
$y^{(1)}$	400K
$y^{(2)}$	900K

Model / Prediction Function: a linear model

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \theta_3 x_3$$

Output / Prediction: Given a new house with size $x_1^{(k)} = 2250$, bedrooms $x_2^{(k)} = 3$, and lot size $x_3^{(k)} = 39K$, predict the price $y^{(k)}$ of this house.

References



Chris Re, Andrew Ng, and Tengyu Ma (2023)

CSE229 Machine Learning

Stanford University