

# Transformations of Input or Output

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Introduction to Machine Learning

# Table of Contents

## 1. Feature Engineering

## 2. Data Cleaning

## 3. Transformations of the Output

# Feature Representation

Idea: Instead of fitting linear regression on  $p$  predictors, fit linear regression on  $q$  features of the original predictors.

$$\hat{Y} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 H_1 + \theta_2 H_2 + \cdots + \theta_q H_q$$

with  $H_i = f_i(X)$ .

# Polynomial Regression

Make a method more flexible by adding features.

With one-dimensional input  $X$  ( $p = 1$ ), Polynomial Regression can be written as

$$\hat{Y} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 H_1 + \theta_2 H_2 + \cdots + \theta_q H_q$$

where  $H_i = f_i(X) = X^i$

# Splines

A **degree- $d$  spline** is a piecewise degree- $d$  polynomial, with continuity in derivatives up to degree  $d - 1$ .

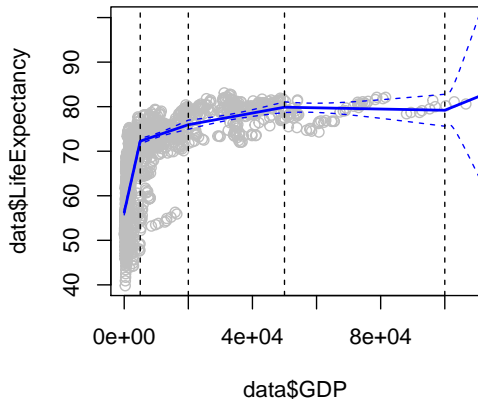
$$H_1 = X, H_2 = X^2, \dots, H_d = X^d$$

$$H_{1+d} = h(X, c_1), \dots, H_{K+d} = h(X, c_K)$$

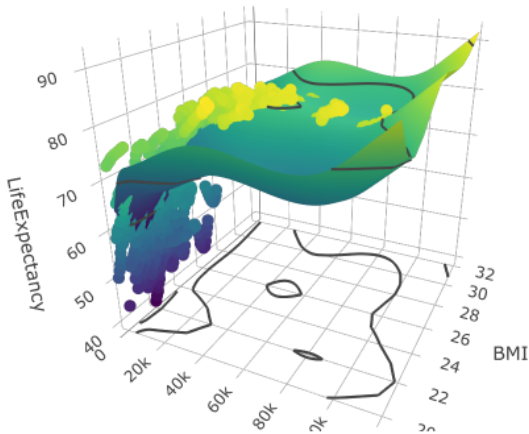
with knots  $c_1, \dots, c_K$  and truncated power basis function:

$$h(x, c) = \begin{cases} (x - c)^d & x > c \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

There are also other possibilities for the basis of a degree- $d$  spline. E.g. the B-spline basis (not discussed here) has better numerical properties.



# Generalized Additive Model (GAM)



$$\hat{Y} = s_1(X_1) + s_2(X_2) + \dots + s_p(X_p)$$

with splines  $s_i(X_i) = \sum_j \beta_{ij} H_{ij}$ .

# Categorical Predictors: Dummy Variables/One-Hot-Coding

Chicken weight as a function of time and diet.

Encode diet as  $X_1 \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ? No.

$H_i = 1$  if diet  $X_1 = i$ , otherwise  $H_i = 0$ .

For example, if  $x_{11} = 2$



$(h_{11}, h_{12}, h_{13}, h_{14}) = (0, 1, 0, 0)$

Time	Diet1	Diet2	Diet3	Diet4	Weight
0	1	0	0	0	134
2	1	0	0	0	145
4	1	0	0	0	160
0	0	1	0	0	124
2	0	1	0	0	139

When fitting with an intercept, one level (an arbitrarily selected “standard” level) can be dropped; the coefficients are interpreted as change relative to the standard level.

E.g. gender (female or male),  
treatment (1, 2 or 3)

Intercept	Female	Treat1	Treat2
1	1	0	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0

# Respecting Neighbourhood Relationships

Suppose some predictor  $X_1$  is an angle between  $0^\circ$  and  $360^\circ$ .

If the values are taken as such,  $2^\circ$  looks more different from  $359^\circ$  than from  $90^\circ$  in the sense that  $|2 - 359| > |2 - 90|$ .

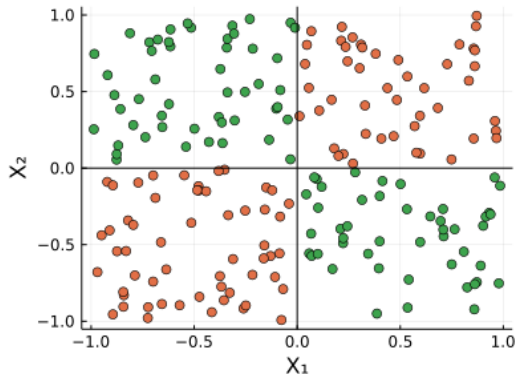
Alternative:  $H_1 = \sin(X_1)$ ,  $H_2 = \cos(X_1)$

In this representation  $2^\circ$  is much closer to  $359^\circ$  than to  $90^\circ$  in the sense that  $\|(\sin(2), \cos(2)) - (\sin(359), \cos(359))\| < \|(\sin(2), \cos(2)) - (\sin(90), \cos(90))\|$ .



# Vector Features

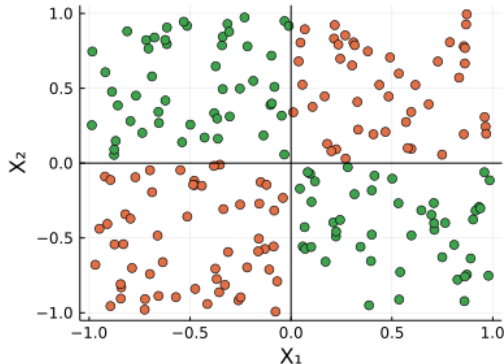
XOR-Problem  
Training Data



Logistic Regression fails:  
There is no linear decision boundary.

# Vector Features

Project data to a higher dimensional space by computing the scalar products between feature vectors  $w_1, \dots, w_q$  and input vectors  $x_i$  and thresholding.



For example  $h_{21} = \max(0, w_1^T x_2)$ .

Logistic Regression on the features works.

# Gmail Priority Inbox in 2010

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## The Learning Behind Gmail Priority Inbox

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Douglas Aberdeen

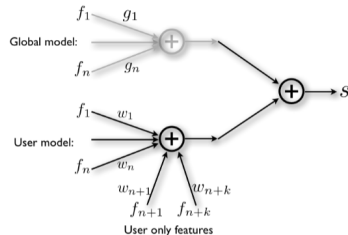
Ondrej Pacovsky

Andrew Slater

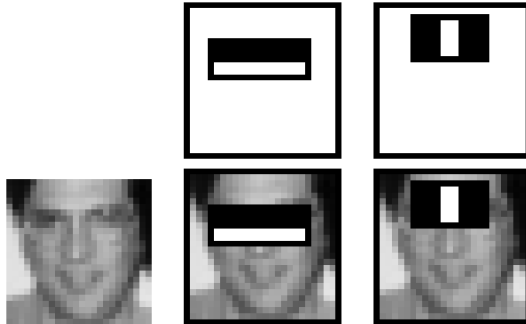
Google Inc.  
Zurich, Switzerland

### 2.1 Features

There are many hundred features falling into a few categories. *Social features* are based on the degree of interaction between sender and recipient, e.g. the percentage of a sender's mail that is read by the recipient. *Content features* attempt to identify headers and recent terms that are highly correlated with the recipient acting (or not) on the mail, e.g. the presence of a recent term in the subject. Recent user terms are discovered as a pre-processing step prior to learning. *Thread features* note the user's interaction with the thread so far, e.g. if a user began a thread. *Label features* examine the labels that the user applies to mail using filters. We calculate feature values during ranking and we temporarily store those values for later learning. Continuous features are automatically partitioned into binary features using a simple ID3 style algorithm on the histogram of the feature values.



# Face Detection with Rectangle Features



The two most important features for face detection are shown. The first one is a 2-rectangles feature, the second one a 3-rectangles feature. The sum of the pixels which lie within the white rectangles are subtracted from the sum of pixels in the black rectangles.

Rapid object detection using a boosted cascade of simple features

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/CVPR.2001.990517>

# Table of Contents

1. Feature Engineering

**2. Data Cleaning**

3. Transformations of the Output

# Dealing with Missing Data

We can either

- ▶ drop all data points that contain missing data.  
Disadvantage: fewer data points.
- ▶ impute missing data with e.g. the mean or the median of that predictor.  
Disadvantage: “wrong” data points.
- ▶ impute missing data with unsupervised learning tools, like matrix completion (see later in the course).

# Removing Predictors

- ▶ Constant predictors should be removed.
- ▶ If multiple predictors are perfectly correlated, keep only one of them.
- ▶ If the response  $Y$  is known to be independent of a predictor  $X$ , i.e.  $P(Y, X) = P(Y)P(X)$ , it should be removed. In praxis, it is usually not known if the response is really independent of a given predictor.

# Standardization

Standardization is a transformation that shifts the data such that its mean is 0 and scales it such that its standard deviation is 1.

Formally: for data  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  with mean  $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$  and standard deviation  $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$  the standardized data is given by

$$\tilde{x}_i = \frac{x_i - \bar{x}}{\sigma}$$



# Table of Contents

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# Transformations of the Output: Changing the Noise Model

Applying linear regression to log-transformed outputs is equivalent to assuming a log-normal distribution for the conditional data generator  $Y|X$ .

Instead of thinking about suitable transformations of the output, it is preferable to think about which distribution is most reasonable for the conditional data generator  $Y|X$ .

# Quiz

1. For every classification problem with (non-linear) decision boundary and zero irreducible noise there exists a feature representation such that logistic regression on the features solves the classification problem without errors.
2. To fit a degree- $d$  spline with  $K$  knots we use a feature representation and linear regression with  $d + K + 1$  parameters.
3. We want to predict the number of rented bicycles based on weather condition (sunny, cloudy, foggy, rainy), wind speed, week day (Monday, Tuesday, etc.). After one-hot coding relative to a standard level there are

**A** 3

**B** 10

**C** 12

**D** 13 predictors

# Suggested Reading

## ► 3.3.1 Qualitative Predictors