



Statistical Learning II

Lecture 7 - Ridge regression

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Marvels and pitfalls of OLS

Recall that:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{OLS}(X, y) &= \boldsymbol{\theta}_{\star} + \frac{1}{n} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_n^{-1} X^{\top} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ &= \boldsymbol{\theta}_{\star} + \sum_{j=1}^d \frac{1}{\sigma_j} \langle \mathbf{u}_j, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \rangle \mathbf{v}_j\end{aligned}$$

- Hence:
- **signal** is stronger in directions with larger s.v.
 - **noise** dominates directions with smaller s.v.

OLS has larger variance for data with small “**effective dimension**”.

What to do?

Classical strategies to mitigate variance:

- Dimensionality reduction: PCA, random projections (sketching), etc.
- Variable subset selection: Stepwise selection, best Subset Selection, etc.
- Regularisation: ridge, LASSO, etc.

Ridge regression

Ridge regression

Note the averaged norm of the OLS is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} \left[||\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{OLS}||_2^2 \right] = ||\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\star}||_2^2 + \sigma^2 \sum_{j=1}^d \frac{1}{\sigma_j^2}$$

Therefore, small s.v.s lead to larger expected norm.

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Key idea: penalise the norm.

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2n} ||\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}||_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||\boldsymbol{\theta}||_2^2$$

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Least squares
empirical risk

Regularisation or
“ridge” penalty

Ridge regression

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$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n^\lambda(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \frac{1}{2n} ||\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}||_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||\boldsymbol{\theta}||_2^2$$

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Remarks:

- The regularised empirical risk is a **strongly convex function** of $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n^\lambda(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \lambda \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^2 \hat{\mathcal{R}}_n^\lambda(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_d \succ 0$$

$$(= \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_n + \lambda \mathbf{I}_n)$$

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In other words, **minimiser** always **exist** and is **unique**.

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$$\Leftrightarrow$$

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$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_\lambda(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{n} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_d \right)^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

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The unique solution is given by:

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For $\lambda \rightarrow 0^+$, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_\lambda \rightarrow \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\text{OLS}}$

Ridge regression

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\lambda}(X, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{n} X^{\top} X + \lambda \mathbf{I}_d \right)^{-1} X^{\top} \mathbf{y}$$

Remarks: • As before, consider s.v.d. of $X = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{rank}(X)} \sigma_j \mathbf{u}_j \mathbf{v}_j^{\top}$

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$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{\lambda}(X, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{rank}(X)} \frac{\sigma_j}{\sigma_j^2 + n\lambda} \langle \mathbf{u}_j, \mathbf{y} \rangle \mathbf{v}_j$$

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Ridge performs **shrinkage**:
small s.v.s are suppressed!

