

Segmented Least Squares

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How does this compare to greedy?

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Cost = weight of the minimum weight subset.

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How do we balance the goals of having a small number of pieces and yet achieving a close fit?

Warmup: Fitting the best single segment

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Solution: Set derivatives w.r.t. a, b to 0 and solve, giving

$$a = \frac{n \sum_i x_i y_i - (\sum_i x_i)(\sum_i y_i)}{n \sum_i x_i^2 - (\sum_i x_i)^2}, \quad b = \frac{\sum_i y_i - a \sum_i x_i}{n}$$

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Exercise: Find $LSE(\{(0, 0), (10, 1), (20, 0)\})$

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Exercise: Find $LSE(\{(0, 0), (10, 1), (20, 0)\}) = 2/3, a = 0, b = 1/3$

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$$Cost(L, s_2, \dots, s_L) = cL + \sum_{j=1}^L LSE(p_{s_j}, \dots, p_{s_{j+1}-1})$$

where c is a suitable constant, and $s_1 = 1, s_{L+1} = n + 1$.

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Hope: An intermediate value will give us a good partition.

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Note: c to be fixed first; not decided by the algorithm.

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$$\text{Cost}(\text{Optimal partitioning of } p_1, \dots, p_n) = \min_s \{ \text{Cost}(\text{optimal partitioning of } p_1, \dots, p_n, \text{ last segment from } p_s) \}$$

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As usual, we will concentrate on finding the optimal cost; the actual partitioning can then be found out easily.

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Note that optimal partitioning of p_1, \dots, p_{s-1} need not have $L-1$ segments.

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Total: $O(n^3)$. By precomputing $LSE(p_s, \dots, p_i) : O(n^2)$

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But even for this cost function you will be able to find the optimal solution in polytime via a different dynamic programming strategy.