

An Unknown Signal Report

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Abstract

This report demonstrates my understanding of the methods I have used, the results results I have obtained and my understanding of issues such as overfitting for the ‘An Unknown Signal’ coursework.

1 Equations for linear regression

For a set of points that lie along a line with Gaussian noise $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} + \epsilon$ where $\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, the maximum likelihood estimation is equivalent to the least square error estimation and is given by the equation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}.$$

I’ve implemented this equation in my code as the following to calculate the maximum likelihood estimation for my training data:

```
ws = np.linalg.inv(X.T @ X) @ X.T @ self.yTraining.
```

2 Choice of polynomial order

3 Choice of unknown function

4 Procedure for determining function

5 Overfitting

Overfitting occurs when an algorithm produces a model that has learnt the noise in the data as if it represents the structure of the underlying model.

In the case of linear regression, overfitting typically occurs when the model produced contains too complex a function class, such that it would fail to predict future observations.

6 Testing