Multiple Features

Note: [7:25 - θ^T is a 1 by (n+1) matrix and not an (n+1) by 1 matrix]

Linear regression with multiple variables is also known as "multivariate linear regression".

We now introduce notation for equations where we can have any number of input variables.

$$\begin{aligned} x_j^{(i)} &= \text{value of feature } j \text{ in the } i^{th} \text{ training example} \\ x^{(i)} &= \text{the input (features) of the } i^{th} \text{ training example} \\ m &= \text{the number of training examples} \\ n &= \text{the number of features} \end{aligned}$$

The multivariable form of the hypothesis function accommodating these multiple features is as follows:

$$h_\theta(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \theta_3 x_3 + \cdots + \theta_n x_n$$

In order to develop intuition about this function, we can think about θ_0 as the basic price of a house, θ_1 as the price per square meter, θ_2 as the price per floor, etc. x_1 will be the number of square meters in the house, x_2 the number of floors, etc.

Using the definition of matrix multiplication, our multivariable hypothesis function can be concisely represented as:

$$h_\theta(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \theta^T x$$

This is a vectorization of our hypothesis function for one training example; see the lessons on vectorization to learn more.

Remark: Note that for convenience reasons in this course we assume $x_0^{(i)} = 1 \text{ for } (i \in 1, \dots, m)$. This allows us to do matrix operations with theta and x. Hence making the two vectors 'θ' and $x^{(i)}$ match each other element-wise (that is, have the same number of elements: n+1).]