

Machine Learning

Advice for applying  
machine learning

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Deciding what  
to try next

## Debugging a learning algorithm:

Suppose you have implemented regularized linear regression to predict housing prices.

$$\rightarrow J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j^2 \right]$$

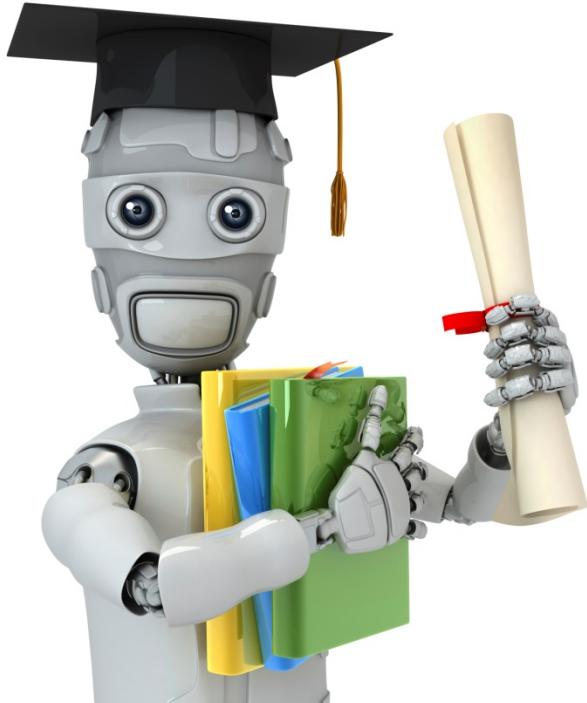
However, when you test your hypothesis on a new set of houses, you find that it makes unacceptably large errors in its predictions. What should you try next?

- - Get more training examples
- Try smaller sets of features  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{100}$
- - Try getting additional features
- Try adding polynomial features  $(x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2, \text{etc.})$
- Try decreasing  $\lambda$
- Try increasing  $\lambda$

## Machine learning diagnostic:

Diagnostic: A test that you can run to gain insight what is/isn't working with a learning algorithm, and gain guidance as to how best to improve its performance.

Diagnostics can take time to implement, but doing so can be a very good use of your time.



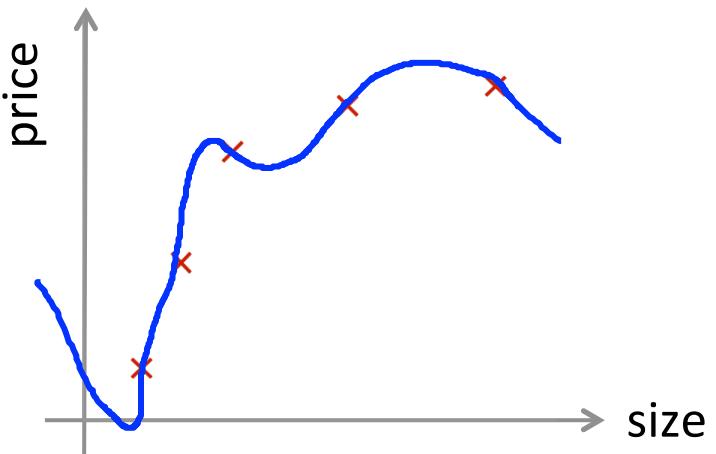
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Evaluating a  
hypothesis

# Evaluating your hypothesis



$$\rightarrow h_\theta(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$$

Fails to generalize to new examples not in training set.

- $x_1$  = size of house
- $x_2$  = no. of bedrooms
- $x_3$  = no. of floors
- $x_4$  = age of house
- $x_5$  = average income in neighborhood
- $x_6$  = kitchen size
- :
- :
- $x_{100}$

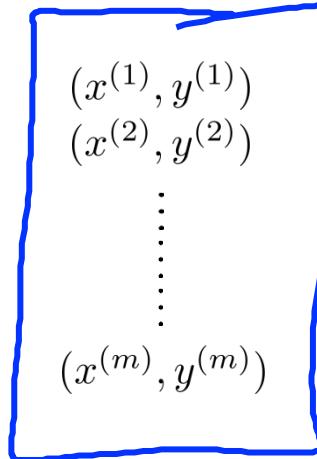
# Evaluating your hypothesis

Dataset:

Size	Price
2104	400
1600	330
2400	369
1416	232
3000	540
1985	300
1534	315
1427	199
1380	212
1494	243

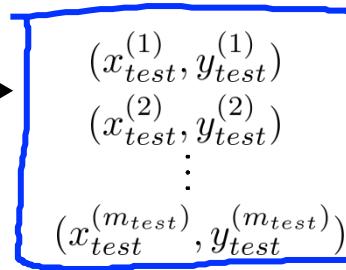
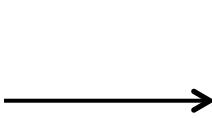
70%

Training set



30%

Test set



$m_{test}$  = no. of test example  
 $(x_{test}^{(1)}, y_{test}^{(1)})$

# Training/testing procedure for linear regression

- - Learn parameter  $\underline{\theta}$  from training data (minimizing training error  $J(\theta)$ )  $\text{70\%}$
- Compute test set error:

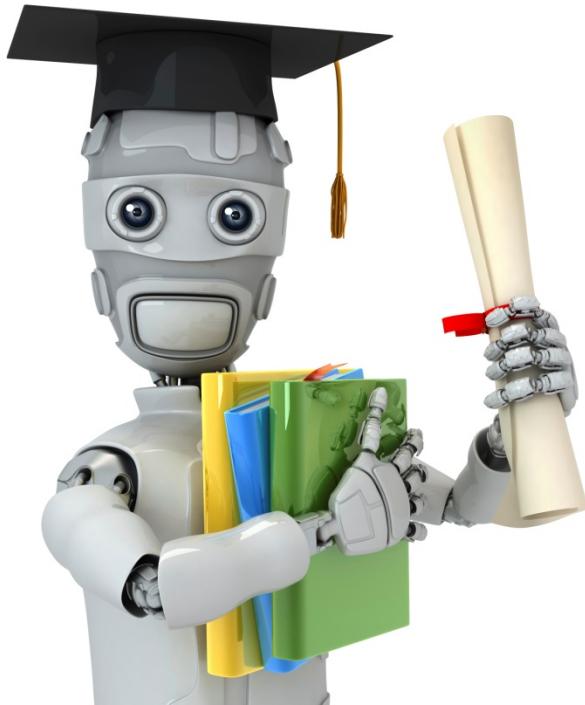
$$J_{\text{test}}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{\text{test}}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{\text{test}}} \left( h_{\theta}(x_{\text{test}}^{(i)}) - y_{\text{test}}^{(i)} \right)^2$$

## Training/testing procedure for logistic regression

- Learn parameter  $\theta$  from training data
- Compute test set error:

$$J_{test}(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m_{test}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{test}} y_{test}^{(i)} \log h_\theta(x_{test}^{(i)}) + (1 - y_{test}^{(i)}) \log (1 - h_\theta(x_{test}^{(i)}))$$

- Misclassification error (0/1 misclassification error):



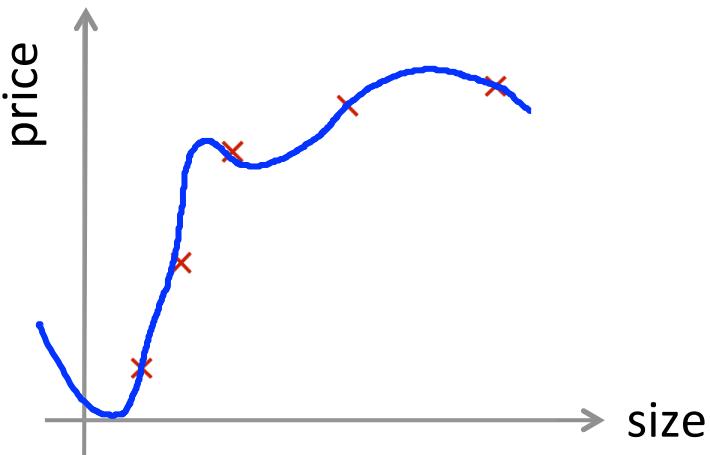
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# Advice for applying machine learning

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Model selection and  
training/validation/test  
sets

## Overfitting example



$$h_{\theta}(x) = \underline{\theta_0} + \underline{\theta_1}x + \underline{\theta_2}x^2 + \underline{\theta_3}x^3 + \underline{\theta_4}x^4$$

Once parameters  $\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_4$  were fit to some set of data (training set), the error of the parameters as measured on that data (the training error  $J(\theta)$ ) is likely to be lower than the actual generalization error.

## Model selection

$$d=1 \quad 1. \quad h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x$$

$$\rightarrow \Theta^{(1)} \rightarrow J_{test}(\Theta^{(1)})$$

$$d=2 \quad 2. \quad h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2$$

$$\rightarrow \Theta^{(2)} \rightarrow J_{test}(\Theta^{(2)})$$

$$d=3 \quad 3. \quad h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \dots + \theta_3 x^3$$

$$\rightarrow \Theta^{(3)} \rightarrow J_{test}(\Theta^{(3)})$$

⋮

⋮

$$d=10 \quad 10. \quad h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \dots + \theta_{10} x^{10}$$

$$\rightarrow \Theta^{(10)} \rightarrow J_{test}(\Theta^{(10)})$$

Choose  $\boxed{\theta_0 + \dots + \theta_5 x^5}$  ↙

How well does the model generalize? Report test set error  $J_{test}(\theta^{(5)})$ .

$\Theta^{(5)}$

$\boxed{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots}$

Problem:  $J_{test}(\theta^{(5)})$  is likely to be an optimistic estimate of generalization error. I.e. our extra parameter (d = degree of polynomial) is fit to test set.

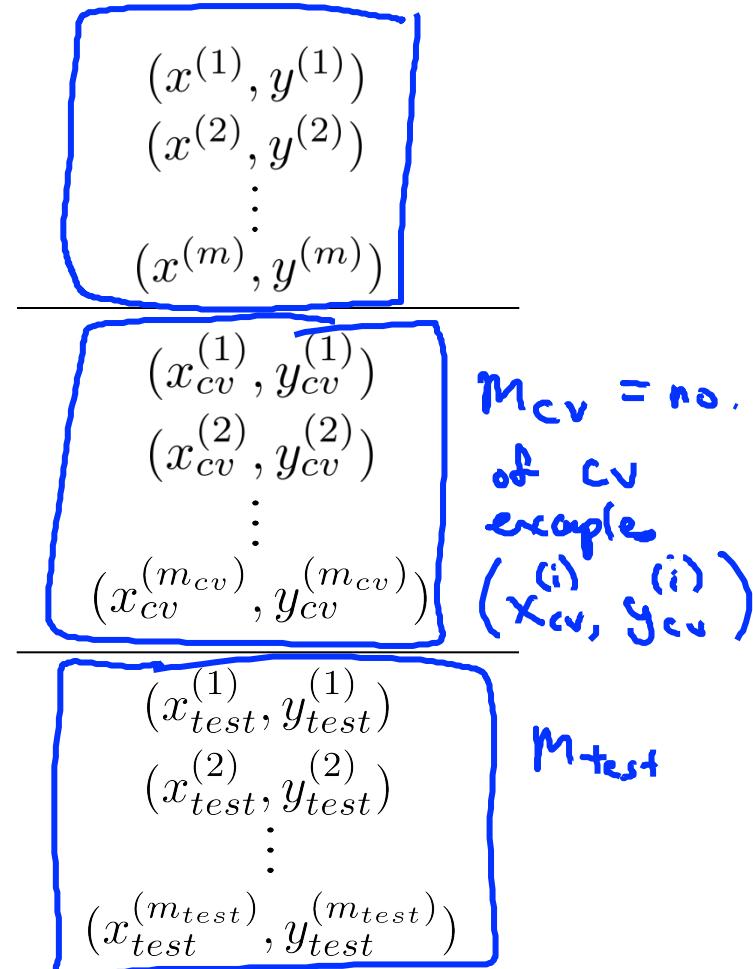
# Evaluating your hypothesis

Dataset:

Size	Price
2104	400
1600	330
2400	369
1416	232
3000	540
1985	300
1534	315
1427	199
1380	212
1494	243

Annotations:

- A blue bracket on the left side of the table groups the first six rows and is labeled "60%".
- A blue bracket on the right side of the table groups the last four rows and is labeled "20%".
- A blue bracket on the far right of the table groups the last two rows and is labeled "20%".
- A blue brace on the left side of the table groups the first three rows and is labeled "Training set".
- A blue brace on the left side of the table groups the next two rows and is labeled "Cross validation (CV)".
- A blue brace on the left side of the table groups the last row and is labeled "Test set".
- An arrow points from the "Training set" to the top box containing  $(x^{(1)}, y^{(1)})$  through  $(x^{(m)}, y^{(m)})$ .
- An arrow points from the "Cross validation (CV)" to the middle box containing  $(x_{cv}^{(1)}, y_{cv}^{(1)})$  through  $(x_{cv}^{(m_{cv})}, y_{cv}^{(m_{cv})})$ .
- An arrow points from the "Test set" to the bottom box containing  $(x_{test}^{(1)}, y_{test}^{(1)})$  through  $(x_{test}^{(m_{test})}, y_{test}^{(m_{test})})$ .



# Train/validation/test error

Training error:

$$\rightarrow J_{train}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 \quad J(\theta)$$

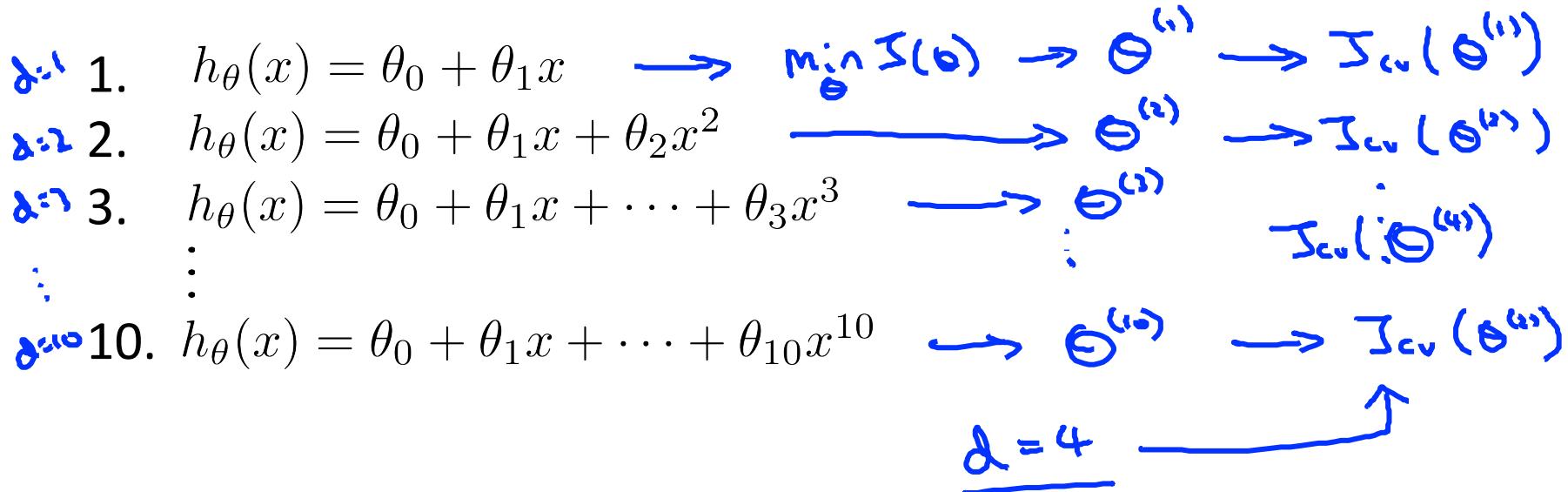
Cross Validation error:

$$\rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{cv}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{cv}} (h_\theta(x_{cv}^{(i)}) - y_{cv}^{(i)})^2$$

Test error:

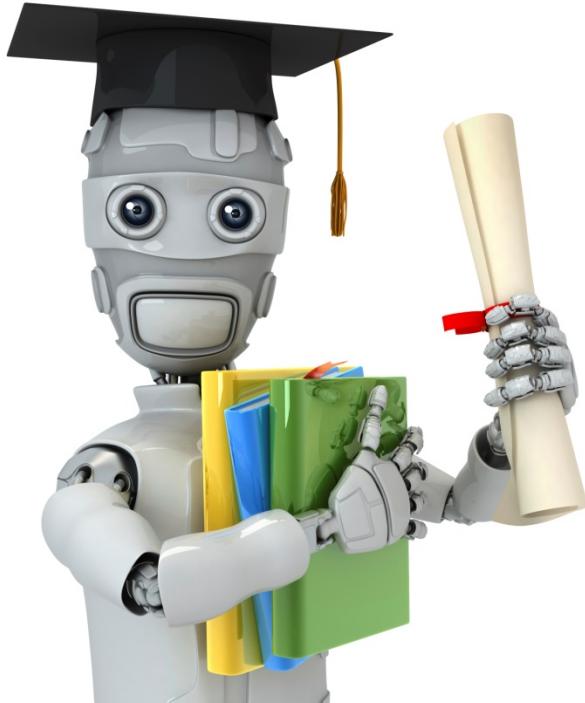
$$\rightarrow J_{test}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{test}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{test}} (h_\theta(x_{test}^{(i)}) - y_{test}^{(i)})^2$$

## Model selection



Pick  $\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \dots + \theta_4 x^4$  ←

Estimate generalization error for test set  $J_{test}(\theta^{(4)})$  ←



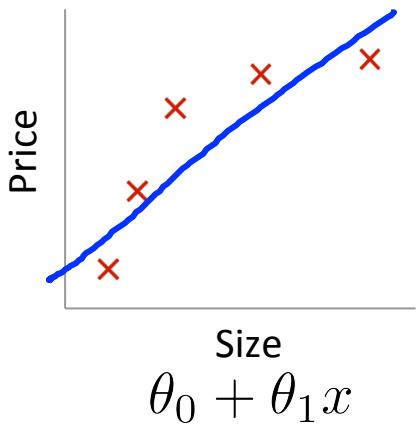
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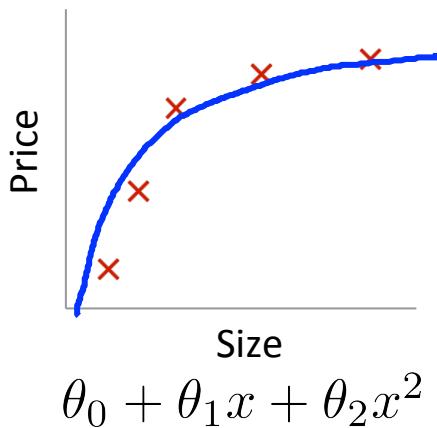
## Diagnosing bias vs. variance

# Bias/variance

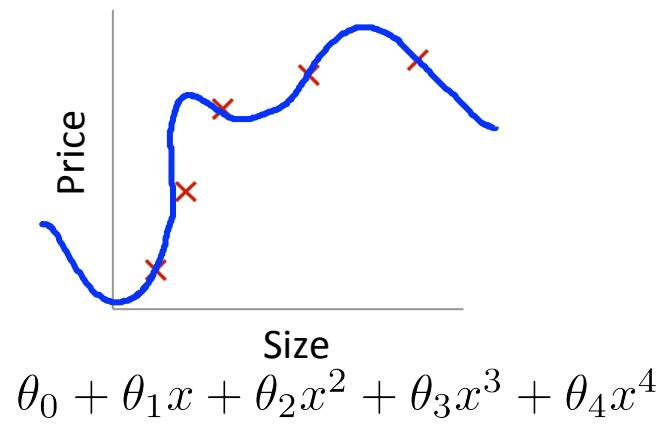


High bias  
(underfit)

$$d=1$$



“Just right”  
 $d=2$

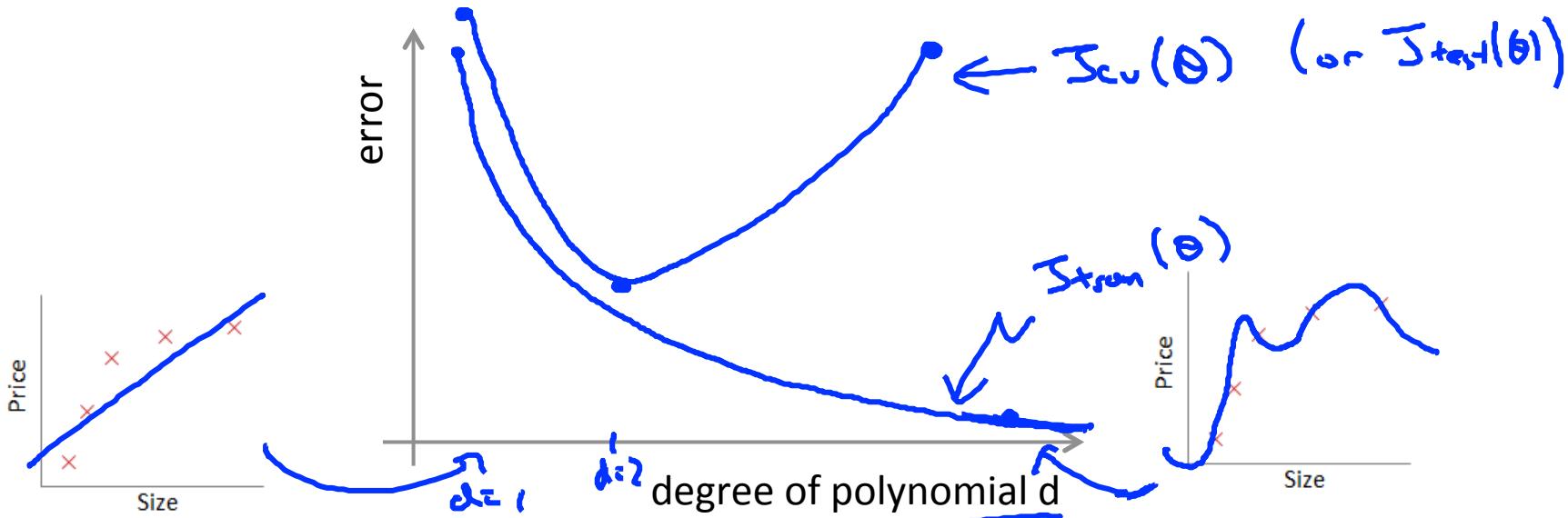


High variance  
(overfit)  
 $d=4$

# Bias/variance

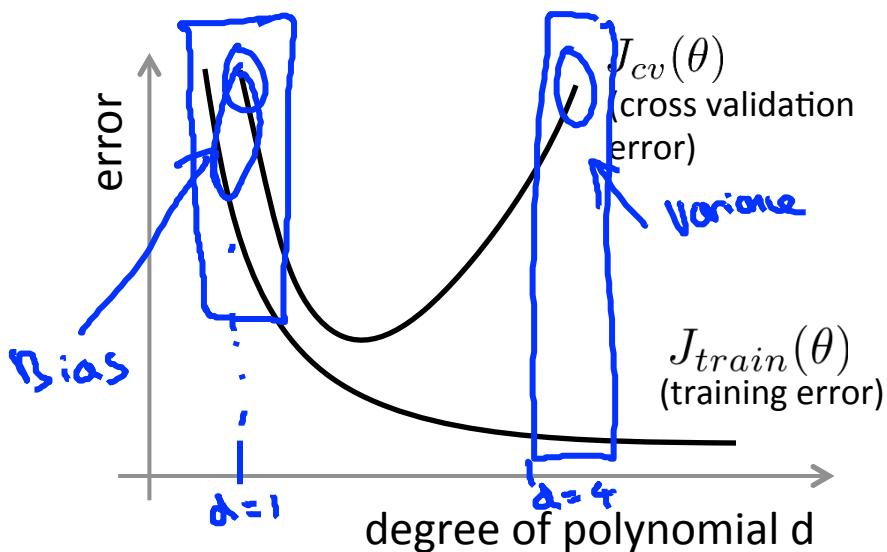
Training error:  $\underline{J_{train}(\theta)} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

Cross validation error:  $\underline{J_{cv}(\theta)} = \frac{1}{2m_{cv}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{cv}} (h_\theta(x_{cv}^{(i)}) - y_{cv}^{(i)})^2$  (or  $J_{test}(\theta)$ )



## Diagnosing bias vs. variance

Suppose your learning algorithm is performing less well than you were hoping. ( $J_{cv}(\theta)$  or  $J_{test}(\theta)$  is high.) Is it a bias problem or a variance problem?



Bias (underfit):

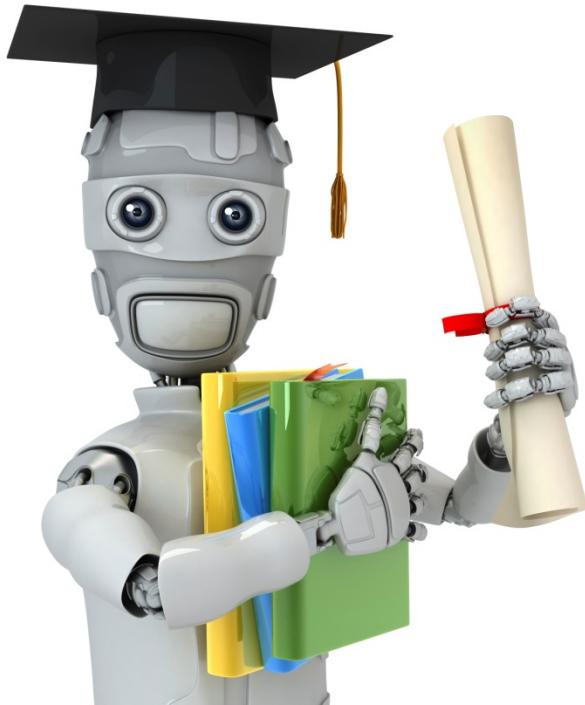
$\rightarrow J_{train}(\theta)$  will be high }  
 $J_{cv}(\theta) \approx J_{train}(\theta)$

Variance (overfit):

$\rightarrow J_{train}(\theta)$  will be low }

$J_{cv}(\theta) \gg J_{train}(\theta)$

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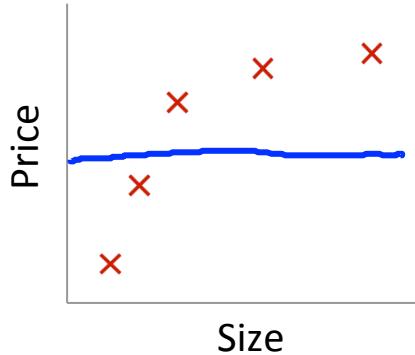
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## Regularization and bias/variance

# Linear regression with regularization

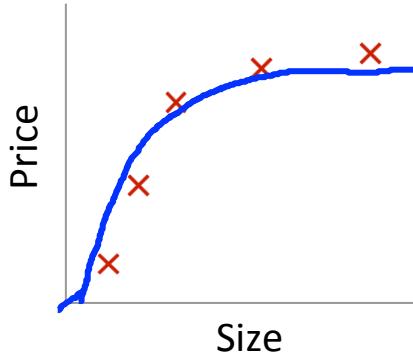
Model: 
$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j^2$$

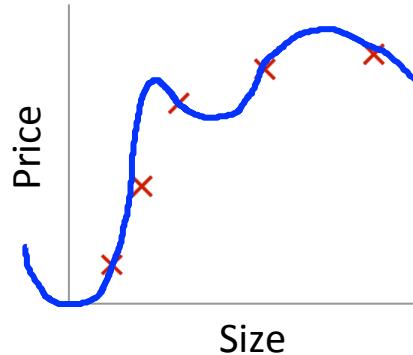


Large  $\lambda$  ←

→ High bias (underfit)  
→  $\lambda = 10000$ .  $\theta_1 \approx 0, \theta_2 \approx 0, \dots$   
 $h_{\theta}(x) \approx \theta_0$



Intermediate  $\lambda$  ←  
"Just right"



→ Small  $\lambda$   
High variance (overfit)  
→  $\lambda = 0$

## Choosing the regularization parameter $\lambda$

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j^2 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\rightarrow J_{train}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 \quad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{J(\theta)}$$
$$J_{cv}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{cv}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{cv}} (h_{\theta}(x_{cv}^{(i)}) - y_{cv}^{(i)})^2 \quad \begin{matrix} J_{train} \\ J_{cv} \\ J_{test} \end{matrix}$$
$$J_{test}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{test}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{test}} (h_{\theta}(x_{test}^{(i)}) - y_{test}^{(i)})^2$$

## Choosing the regularization parameter $\lambda$

Model:  $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 + \theta_4 x^4$

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j^2$$

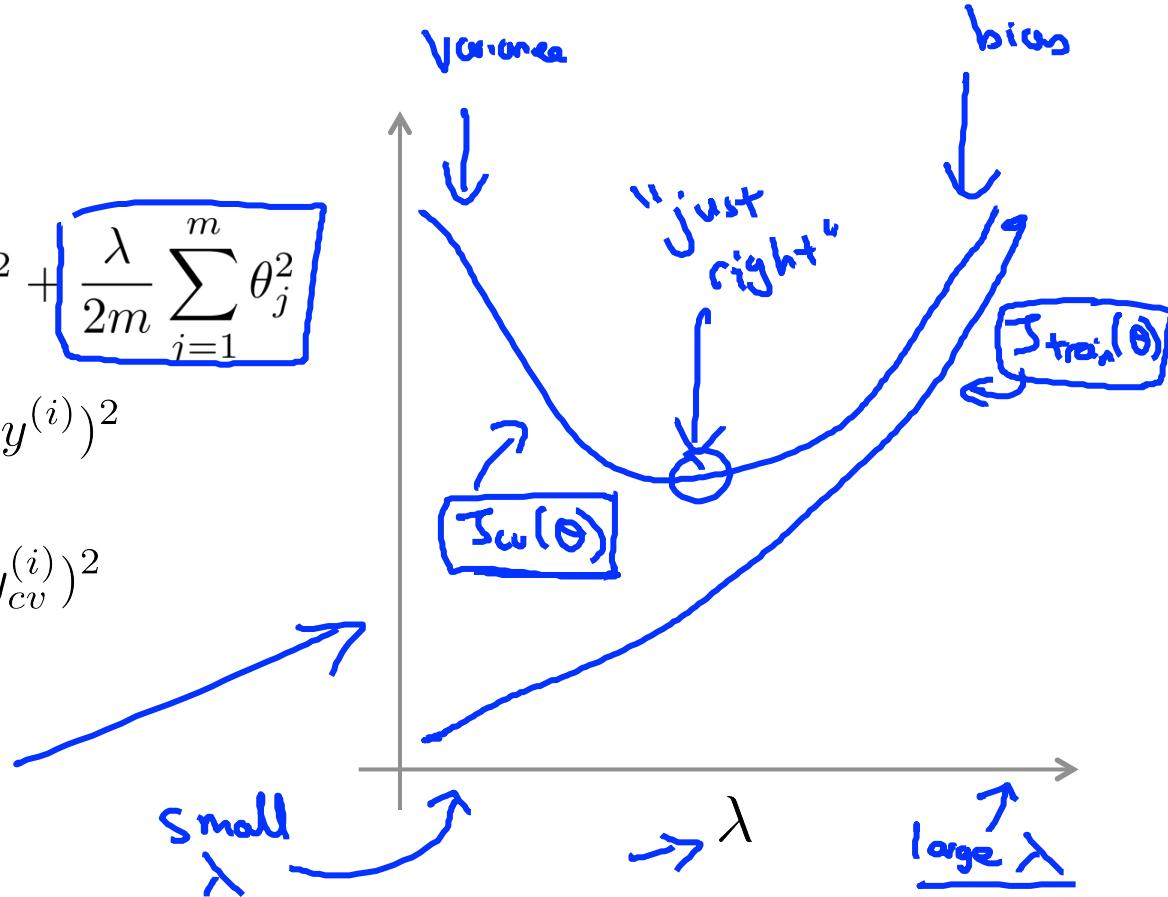
1. Try  $\lambda = 0$    $\rightarrow \min_{\theta} J(\theta) \rightarrow \theta^{(0)} \rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta^{(0)})$
  2. Try  $\lambda = 0.01$    $\rightarrow \min_{\theta} J(\theta) \rightarrow \theta^{(1)} \rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta^{(1)})$
  3. Try  $\lambda = 0.02$    $\rightarrow \theta^{(2)} \rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta^{(2)})$
  4. Try  $\lambda = 0.04$  
  5. Try  $\lambda = 0.08$    $\vdots \rightarrow \theta^{(5)} \rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta^{(5)})$
  - ⋮
  12. Try  $\lambda = 10$    $\rightarrow \theta^{(12)} \rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta^{(12)})$
- Pick (say)  $\theta^{(5)}$ . Test error:  $J_{test}(\theta^{(5)})$

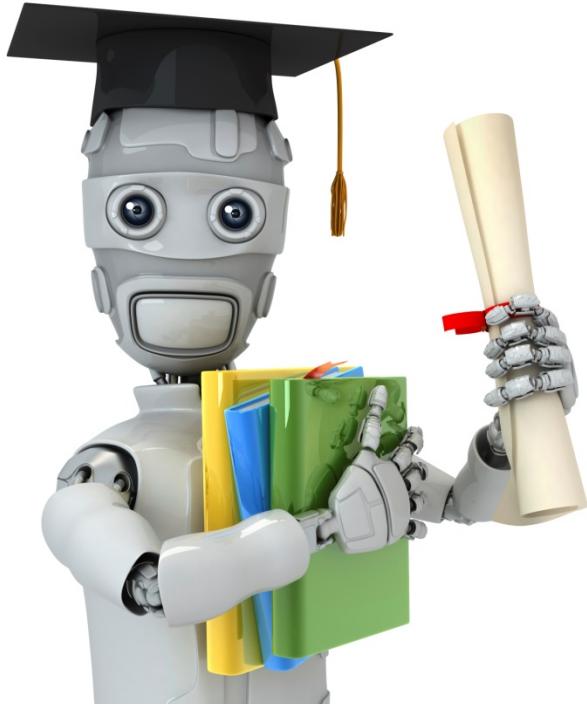
# Bias/variance as a function of the regularization parameter $\lambda$

$$\rightarrow J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \boxed{\frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j^2}$$

$$\rightarrow \underline{J_{train}(\theta)} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{J_{cv}(\theta)} = \frac{1}{2m_{cv}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{cv}} (h_\theta(x_{cv}^{(i)}) - y_{cv}^{(i)})^2$$





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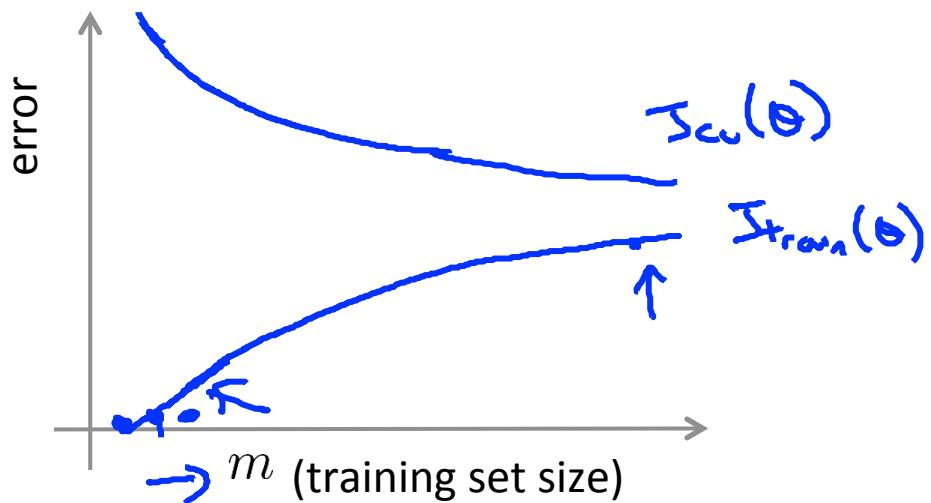
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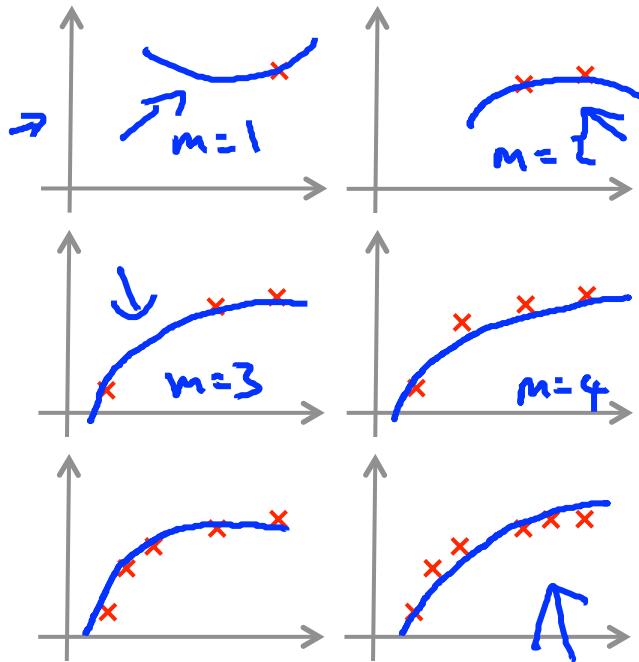
## Learning curves

## Learning curves

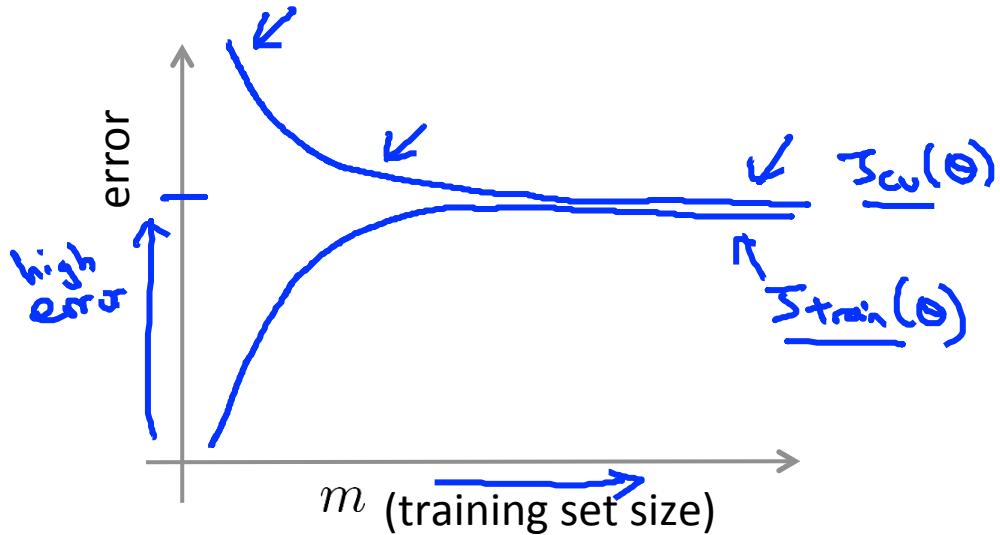
$$\rightarrow \underline{J_{train}(\theta)} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$$
$$\rightarrow J_{cv}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m_{cv}} \sum_{i=1}^{m_{cv}} (h_\theta(x_{cv}^{(i)}) - y_{cv}^{(i)})^2$$



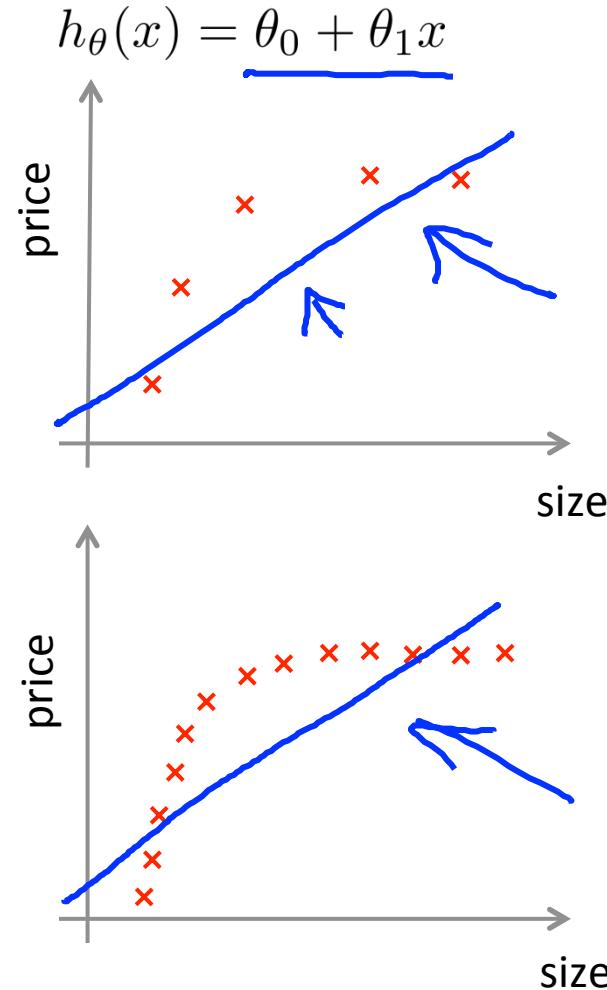
$$h_\theta(x) = \underline{\theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2}$$



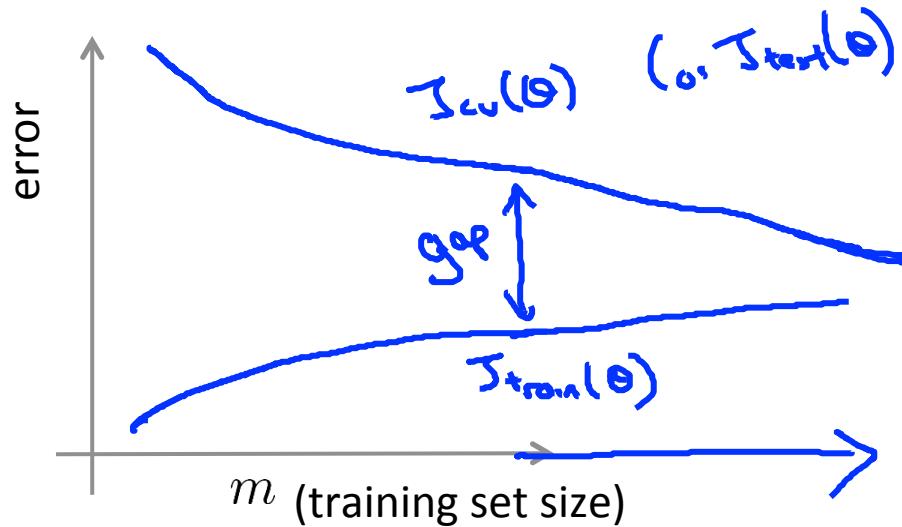
## High bias



If a learning algorithm is suffering from high bias, getting more training data will not (by itself) help much.



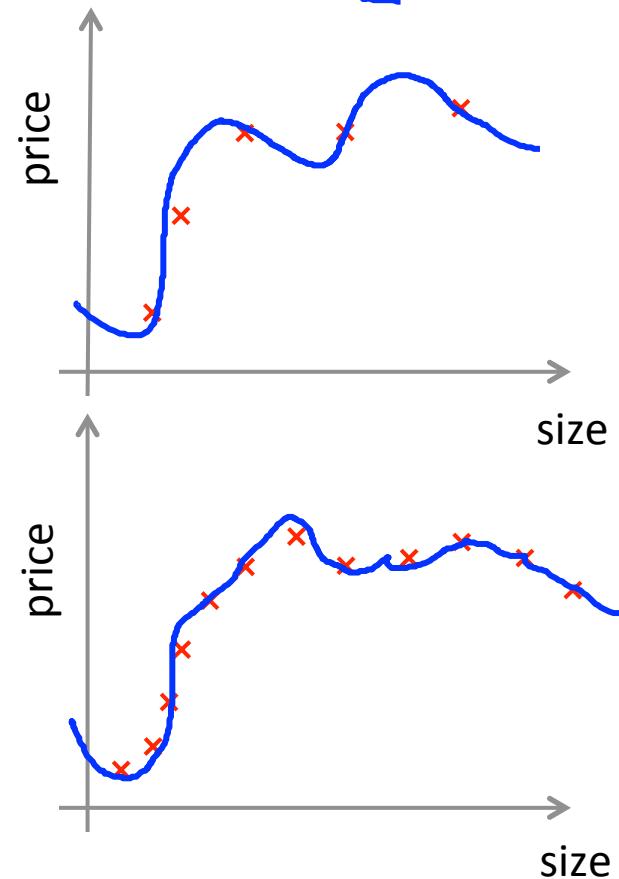
## High variance

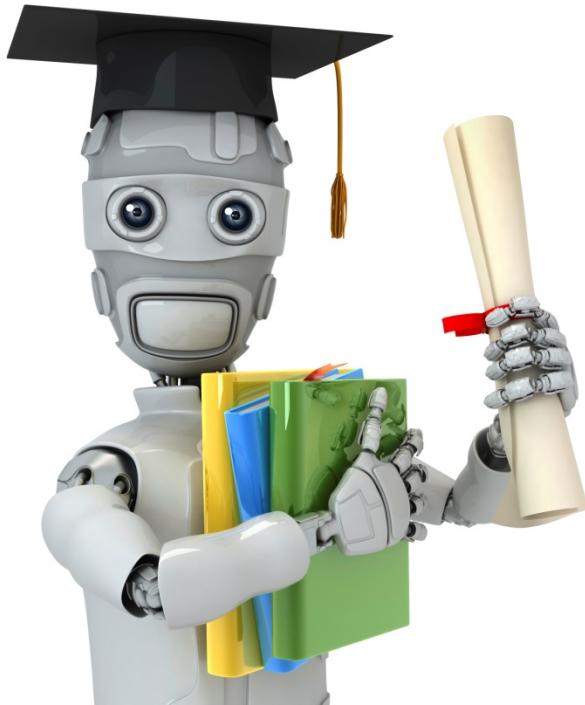


If a learning algorithm is suffering from high variance, getting more training data is likely to help. ↫

$$h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \cdots + \theta_{100} x^{100}$$

(and small  $\lambda$ ) ↗





Machine Learning

## Advice for applying machine learning

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### Deciding what to try next (revisited)

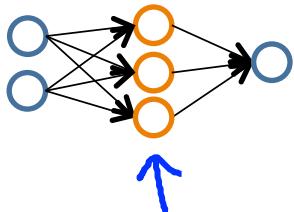
## Debugging a learning algorithm:

Suppose you have implemented regularized linear regression to predict housing prices. However, when you test your hypothesis in a new set of houses, you find that it makes unacceptably large errors in its prediction. What should you try next?

- Get more training examples → fixes high variance
- Try smaller sets of features → fixes high variance
- Try getting additional features → fixes high bias
- Try adding polynomial features ( $x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2$ , etc) → fixes high bias.
- Try decreasing  $\lambda$  → fixes high bias
- Try increasing  $\lambda$  → fixes high variance

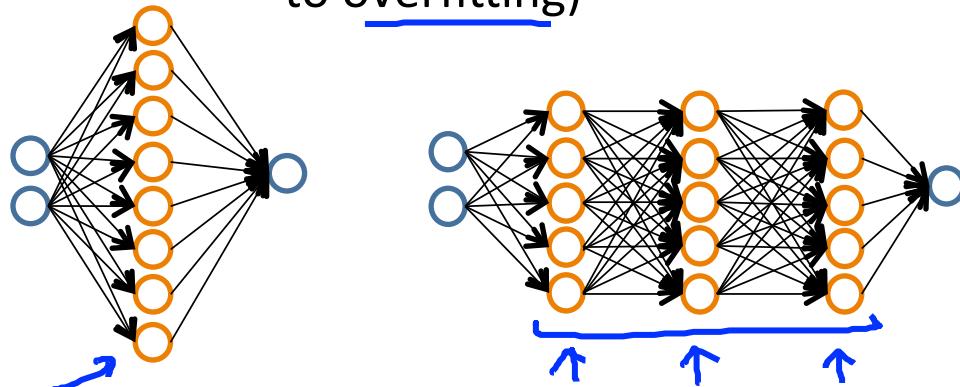
# Neural networks and overfitting

→ “Small” neural network  
(fewer parameters; more  
prone to underfitting)



Computationally cheaper

→ “Large” neural network  
(more parameters; more prone  
to overfitting)



Computationally more expensive.

Use regularization ( $\lambda$ ) to address overfitting.

$$\mathcal{J}_{\text{reg}}(\Theta)$$

