Lecture 9

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Convex Functions

Convex Functions are defined mathematically, as follows-

$$\alpha L(w_1) + (1 - \alpha)L(w_2) \ge L(\alpha w_1 + (1 - \alpha)w_2),$$

where, α is between 0 and 1.

In L2 regularization, we work under the assumption that L(w) is convex.

Adding two convex functions, with a positive multiplier for each, the resulting function is also a convex function. (Jensen's Inequality).

Gradient Descent Algorithm

A very important technique in all of modern AI-ML tasks.

Basic intuition - Even if we can't calculate the exact minimum, we can still get closer to the minimum iteratively in small steps.

Randomly initialize w

Until we reach terminal condition.

$$egin{aligned} w_{ ext{new}} \leftarrow w_{ ext{old}} - \eta
abla L_w \ w_{ ext{old}} \leftarrow w_{ ext{new}} \end{aligned}$$

 η is the learning rate (or step size) and needs to be tuned properly in real-world systems.

Perform this in all components of w (dimension of w).

Now, the terminal conditions could be one (or a combination) of the following -

- 1. max_iter has been reached
- 2. $L(w_0) L(w_n) < \epsilon$

3.
$$(w_o - w_n)^T (w_o - w_n) < \delta$$

Since, from the last lecture Lecture 8, we has the expressions for E_D and E_W , hence we can compute the gradient for those expressions and we would get the update-iterate step.