

Sapienza University of Rome

Master in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

Machine Learning

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8. Linear models for regression

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Sapienza University of Rome, Italy - Machine Learning (2024/2025)

8. Linear models for regression

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Overview

- Linear models for regression
- Maximum likelihood and Least squares
- Sequential learning
- Regularization

References

C. Bishop. Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning. Sect. 3.1

Linear Models for Regression

Learning a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$, with

- $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$
- $Y = \mathbb{R}$

from data set $D = \{(\mathbf{x}_n, t_n)_{n=1}^N\}$

Linear Models for Regression

Define a model $y(x; w)$ with parameters w to approximate the target function f .

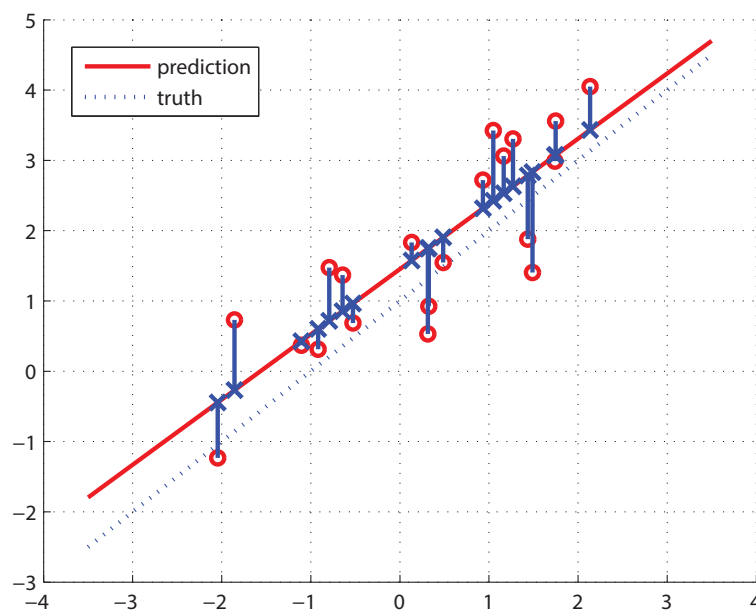
Linear model for linear functions

$$y(x; w) = w_0 + w_1 x_1 + \dots + w_d x_d = w^T x$$

$$\text{with } x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } w = \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_d \end{bmatrix}$$

Example: 2D line fitting

$$y = w_0 + w_1 x_1$$



Linear Models for Regression

Linear Basis Function Models

Using nonlinear functions of input variables:

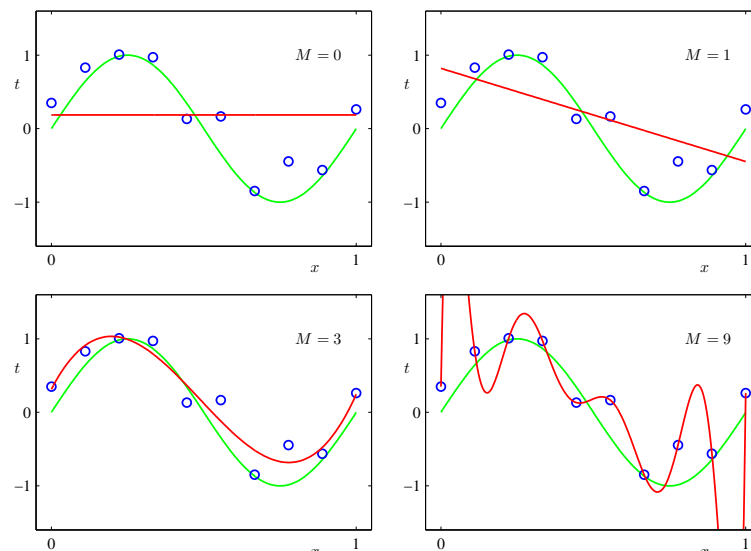
$$y(x; w) = \sum_{j=0}^M w_j \phi_j(x) = w^T \phi(x),$$

$$\text{with } w = \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ \vdots \\ w_M \end{bmatrix}, \phi(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_0(x) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_M(x) \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \phi_0(x) = 1.$$

- Still linear in the parameters w !

Example: Polynomial curve fitting

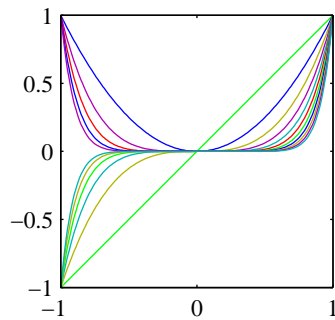
$$y = w_0 + w_1x + w_2x^2 + \dots + w_Mx^M = \sum_{j=0}^M w_j x^j$$



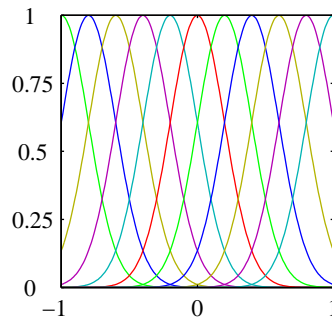
Warning: overfitting!!!

Linear Regression Basis Functions

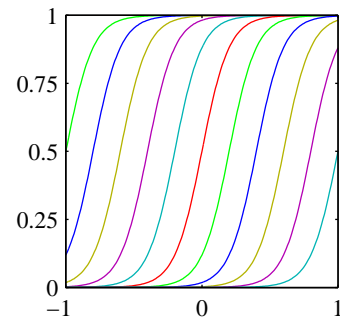
Examples of basis functions



Polynomial



Radial



Sigmoid / Tanh

Linear Regression - Algorithms

Maximum likelihood and least squares

Target value t is given by $y(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w})$ affected by additive noise ϵ

$$t = y(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}) + \epsilon$$

Assume Gaussian noise $P(\epsilon|\beta) = \mathcal{N}(\epsilon|0, \beta^{-1})$, with precision (inverse variance) β .

We have:

$$P(t|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{w}), \beta^{-1})$$

Linear Regression - Algorithms

Assume observations independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.)

We seek the maximum of the likelihood function:

$$P(\{t_1, \dots, t_N\} | x_1, \dots, x_N, w, \beta) = \prod_{n=1}^N \mathcal{N}(t_n | w^T \phi(x_n), \beta^{-1}).$$

or equivalently:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln P(\{t_1, \dots, t_N\} | x_1, \dots, x_N, w, \beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \ln \mathcal{N}(t_n | w^T \phi(x_n), \beta^{-1}) \\ &= -\beta \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N [t_n - w^T \phi(x_n)]^2}_{E_D(w)} - \frac{N}{2} \ln(2\pi\beta^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Linear Regression - Algorithms

Maximum likelihood (zero-mean Gaussian noise assumption)

$$\operatorname{argmax}_w P(\{t_1, \dots, t_N\} | x_1, \dots, x_N, w, \beta)$$

corresponds to least square error minimization

$$\operatorname{argmin}_w E_D(w) = \operatorname{argmin}_w \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N [t_n - w^T \phi(x_n)]^2$$

Linear Regression - Algorithms

Note:

$$E_D(w) = \frac{1}{2}(t - \Phi w)^T(t - \Phi w),$$

$$\text{with } t = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 \\ \vdots \\ t_N \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \Phi = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_0(x_1) & \phi_1(x_1) & \cdots & \phi_M(x_1) \\ \phi_0(x_2) & \phi_1(x_2) & \cdots & \phi_M(x_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_0(x_N) & \phi_1(x_N) & \cdots & \phi_M(x_N) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Optimality condition:

$$\nabla E_D = 0 \iff \Phi^T \Phi w = \Phi^T t.$$

Hence:

$$w_{ML} = \underbrace{(\Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T}_{\Phi^\dagger: \text{pseudo-inverse}} t.$$

Linear Regression - Algorithms

Sequential Learning

Stochastic gradient descent algorithm:

$$\hat{w} \leftarrow \hat{w} - \eta \nabla E_S$$

η : learning rate parameter

∇E_S : estimation of the gradient of E wrt w on a random subset $S \subset D$.

Algorithm converges for suitable small values of η .

Linear Regression - Regularization

Regularization is a technique to control over-fitting.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_w E_D(w) + \lambda E_W(w)$$

with $\lambda > 0$ being the regularization factor

A common choice:

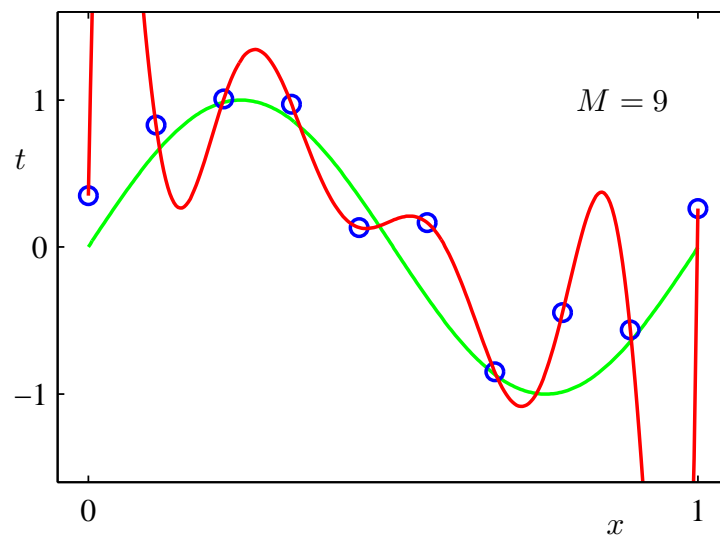
$$E_W(w) = \frac{1}{2} w^T w.$$

Other choices:

$$E_W(w) = \sum_{j=0}^M |w_j|^q.$$

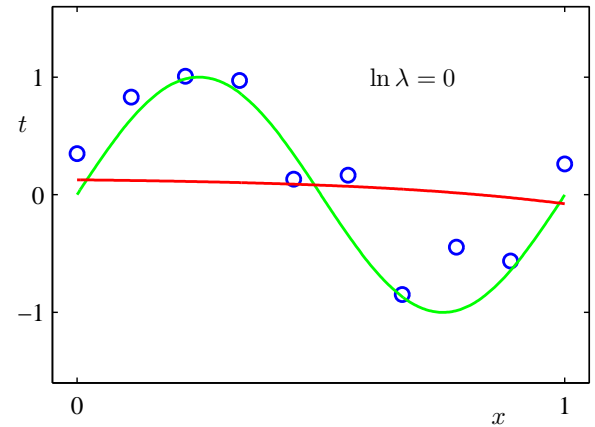
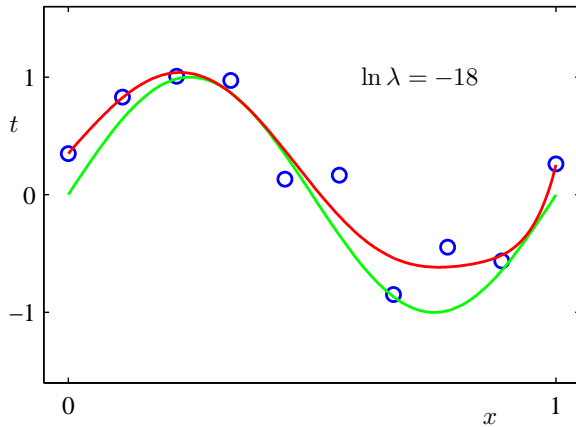
Linear Regression - Regularization

$$\operatorname{argmin}_w E_D(w)$$



Linear Regression - Regularization

$$\operatorname{argmin}_w E_D(w) + \lambda \frac{1}{2} w^T w$$



Linear Regression - Multiple outputs

y : vector with K components

$$y(x; W) = W^T \phi(x)$$

Target variable T , with t_n vector of K output values for input x_n

$$\ln P(T|X, W, \beta) = \sum_{n=1}^N \ln \mathcal{N}(t_n | W^T \phi(x_n), \beta^{-1} I)$$

Similarly as before we obtain:

$$W_{ML} = (\Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T T.$$