

# Project 1 on Machine Learning, deadline October 7 (midnight), 2024

Data Analysis and Machine Learning FYS-STK3155/FYS4155

University of Oslo, Norway

September 2

## Preamble: Note on writing reports, using reference material, AI and other tools

We want you to answer the three different projects by handing in reports written like a standard scientific/technical report. The link at <https://github.com/CompPhysics/MachineLearning/blob/master/doc/Projects/ProjectWriting/projectwriting.ipynb> gives some guidance. See also the grading suggestion at <https://github.com/CompPhysics/MachineLearning/blob/master/doc/Projects/EvaluationGrading/EvaluationForm.md>.

Furthermore, at <https://github.com/CompPhysics/MachineLearning/blob/master/doc/Projects/ReportExample/> you can find examples of previous reports. How to write reports will also be discussed during the various lab sessions. Please do ask us if you are in doubt.

When using codes and material from other sources, you should refer to these in the bibliography of your report, indicating wherefrom you for example got the code, whether this is from the lecture notes, softwares like Scikit-Learn, TensorFlow, PyTorch or other sources. These should always be cited correctly. How to cite some of the libraries is often indicated from their corresponding GitHub sites or websites, see for example how to cite Scikit-Learn at <https://scikit-learn.org/dev/about.html>.

We encourage you to use tools like ChatGPT or similar in writing the report. If you use for example ChatGPT, please do cite it properly and include (if possible) your questions and answers as an addition to the report. This can be uploaded to for example your website, GitHub/GitLab or similar as supplemental material.

## Regression analysis and resampling methods

The main aim of this project is to study in more detail various regression methods, including the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method. In addition to the scientific

part, in this course we want also to give you an experience in writing scientific reports.

**A small recommendation when developing the codes here.** Instead of jumping on to the two-dimensional function described below, we recommend to do the code development and testing with a simpler one-dimensional function, similar to those discussed in the exercises of weeks 35 and 36. A simple test, as discussed during the lectures the first three weeks is to set the design matrix equal to the identity matrix. Then your model should give a mean square error which is exactly equal to zero. When you are sure that your codes function well, you can then replace the one-dimensional test function with the two-dimensional **Franke** function discussed here.

The Franke function serves as a stepping stone towards the analysis of real topographic data. The latter is the last part of this project.

**Description of two-dimensional function.** We will first study how to fit polynomials to a specific two-dimensional function called **Franke's function**. This is a function which has been widely used when testing various interpolation and fitting algorithms. Furthermore, after having established the model and the method, we will employ resampling techniques such as cross-validation and/or bootstrap in order to perform a proper assessment of our models. We will also study in detail the so-called Bias-Variance trade off.

The Franke function, which is a weighted sum of four exponentials reads as follows

$$f(x, y) = \frac{3}{4} \exp \left( -\frac{(9x-2)^2}{4} - \frac{(9y-2)^2}{4} \right) + \frac{3}{4} \exp \left( -\frac{(9x+1)^2}{49} - \frac{(9y+1)}{10} \right) \\ + \frac{1}{2} \exp \left( -\frac{(9x-7)^2}{4} - \frac{(9y-3)^2}{4} \right) - \frac{1}{5} \exp \left( -(9x-4)^2 - (9y-7)^2 \right).$$

The function will be defined for  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ . In a sense, our data are thus scaled to a particular domain for the input values.

Our first step will be to perform an OLS regression analysis of this function, trying out a polynomial fit with an  $x$  and a  $y$  dependence of the form  $[x, y, x^2, y^2, xy, \dots]$ . We will also include bootstrap first as a resampling technique. After that we will include the cross-validation technique.

We can use a uniform distribution to set up the arrays of values for  $x$  and  $y$ , or as in the example below just a set of fixed values for  $x$  and  $y$  with a given step size. We will fit a function (for example a polynomial) of  $x$  and  $y$ . Thereafter we will repeat much of the same procedure using the Ridge and Lasso regression methods, introducing thus a dependence on the bias (penalty)  $\lambda$ .

Finally we are going to use (real) digital terrain data and try to reproduce these data using the same methods. We will also try to go beyond the second-order polynomials mentioned above and explore which polynomial fits the data best.

The Python code for the Franke function is included here (it performs also a three-dimensional plot of it)

```

from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from matplotlib import cm
from matplotlib.ticker import LinearLocator, FormatStrFormatter
import numpy as np
from random import random, seed

fig = plt.figure()
ax = fig.gca(projection='3d')

# Make data.
x = np.arange(0, 1, 0.05)
y = np.arange(0, 1, 0.05)
x, y = np.meshgrid(x,y)

def FrankeFunction(x,y):
    term1 = 0.75*np.exp(-(0.25*(9*x-2)**2) - 0.25*((9*y-2)**2))
    term2 = 0.75*np.exp(-((9*x+1)**2)/49.0 - 0.1*(9*y+1))
    term3 = 0.5*np.exp(-(9*x-7)**2/4.0 - 0.25*((9*y-3)**2))
    term4 = -0.2*np.exp(-(9*x-4)**2 - (9*y-7)**2)
    return term1 + term2 + term3 + term4

z = FrankeFunction(x, y)

# Plot the surface.
surf = ax.plot_surface(x, y, z, cmap=cm.coolwarm,
                      linewidth=0, antialiased=False)

# Customize the z axis.
ax.set_zlim(-0.10, 1.40)
ax.zaxis.set_major_locator(LinearLocator(10))
ax.zaxis.set_major_formatter(FormatStrFormatter('%.02f'))

# Add a color bar which maps values to colors.
fig.colorbar(surf, shrink=0.5, aspect=5)

plt.show()

```

If you wish to compare your results with other on the Franke function or other popular functions tested with linear regression, see the list in Figure 1 of the article by Cook et al at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.11694>.

**Part a) : Ordinary Least Square (OLS) on the Franke function.** We will generate our own dataset for a function  $\text{FrankeFunction}(x, y)$  with  $x, y \in [0, 1]$ . The function  $f(x, y)$  is the Franke function. You should explore also the addition of an added stochastic noise to this function using the normal distribution  $N(0, 1)$ .

*Write your own code* (using either a matrix inversion or a singular value decomposition from e.g., **numpy** ) and perform a standard **ordinary least square regression** analysis using polynomials in  $x$  and  $y$  up to fifth order.

Evaluate the mean Squared error (MSE)

$$MSE(\mathbf{y}, \tilde{\mathbf{y}}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (y_i - \tilde{y}_i)^2,$$

and the  $R^2$  score function. If  $\tilde{y}_i$  is the predicted value of the  $i$ -th sample and  $y_i$  is the corresponding true value, then the score  $R^2$  is defined as

$$R^2(\mathbf{y}, \tilde{\mathbf{y}}) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (y_i - \tilde{y}_i)^2}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (y_i - \bar{y})^2},$$

where we have defined the mean value of  $\mathbf{y}$  as

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} y_i.$$

Plot the resulting scores (MSE and  $R^2$ ) as functions of the polynomial degree (here up to polynomial degree five). Plot also the parameters  $\beta$  as you increase the order of the polynomial. Comment your results.

Your code has to include a scaling/centering of the data (for example by subtracting the mean value), and a split of the data in training and test data. For this exercise you can either write your own code or use for example the function for splitting training data provided by the library **Scikit-Learn** (make sure you have installed it). This function is called *train\_test\_split*. **You should present a critical discussion of why and how you have scaled or not scaled the data.**

It is normal in essentially all Machine Learning studies to split the data in a training set and a test set (eventually also an additional validation set). There is no explicit recipe for how much data should be included as training data and say test data. An accepted rule of thumb is to use approximately 2/3 to 4/5 of the data as training data.

You can easily reuse the solutions to your exercises from week 35 and week 36. See also the lecture slides from week 35 and week 36.

On scaling, we recommend reading the following section from the scikit-learn software description, see [https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto\\_examples/preprocessing/plot\\_all\\_scaling.html#plot-all-scaling-standard-scaler-section](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/preprocessing/plot_all_scaling.html#plot-all-scaling-standard-scaler-section).

**Part b): Adding Ridge regression for the Franke function.** Write your own code for the Ridge method, either using matrix inversion or the singular value decomposition as done in the previous exercise. The lecture notes from week 35 and 36 contain more information. Furthermore, the numerical exercise from week 36 is something you can reuse here.

Perform the same analysis as you did in the previous exercise but now for different values of  $\lambda$ . Compare and analyze your results with those obtained in part a) with the ordinary least squares method. Study the dependence on  $\lambda$ .

**Part c): Adding Lasso for the Franke function.** This exercise is essentially a repeat of the previous two ones, but now with Lasso regression. Write either your own code (difficult and optional) or, in this case, you can also use the functionalities of **Scikit-Learn** (recommended). Keep in mind that the library **Scikit-Learn** excludes the intercept by default. Give a critical discussion of the three methods and a judgement of which model fits the data best.

**Part d): Paper and pencil part.** This exercise deals with various mean values and variances in linear regression method (here it may be useful to look up chapter 3, equation (3.8) of [Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani, Jerome H. Friedman, The Elements of Statistical Learning, Springer](#)). The exercise is also part of the weekly exercises for week 37.

The assumption we have made is that there exists a continuous function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  and a normal distributed error  $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$  which describes our data

$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}) + \varepsilon$$

We then approximate this function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  with our model  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}$  from the solution of the linear regression equations (ordinary least squares OLS), that is our function  $f$  is approximated by  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}$  where we minimized  $(\mathbf{y} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}})^2$ , with

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}.$$

The matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  is the so-called design or feature matrix.

Show that the expectation value of  $\mathbf{y}$  for a given element  $i$

$$\mathbb{E}(y_i) = \sum_j x_{ij} \beta_j = \mathbf{X}_{i,*} \boldsymbol{\beta},$$

and that its variance is

$$\text{Var}(y_i) = \sigma^2.$$

Hence,  $y_i \sim N(\mathbf{X}_{i,*} \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$ , that is  $\mathbf{y}$  follows a normal distribution with mean value  $\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ .

With the OLS expressions for the optimal parameters  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$  show that

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \boldsymbol{\beta}.$$

Show finally that the variance of  $\beta$  is

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}) = \sigma^2 (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}.$$

We can use the last expression when we define a so-called confidence interval for the parameters  $\beta$ . A given parameter  $\beta_j$  is given by the diagonal matrix element of the above matrix.

**Part e): Bias-variance trade-off and resampling techniques.** Our aim here is to study the bias-variance trade-off by implementing the **bootstrap** resampling technique. **We will only use the simpler ordinary least squares here.**

With a code which does OLS and includes resampling techniques, we will now discuss the bias-variance trade-off in the context of continuous predictions such as regression. However, many of the intuitions and ideas discussed here also carry over to classification tasks and basically all Machine Learning algorithms.

Before you perform an analysis of the bias-variance trade-off on your test data, make first a figure similar to Fig. 2.11 of Hastie, Tibshirani, and Friedman. Figure 2.11 of this reference displays only the test and training MSEs. The test MSE can be used to indicate possible regions of low/high bias and variance. You will most likely not get an equally smooth curve!

With this result we move on to the bias-variance trade-off analysis.

Consider a dataset  $\mathcal{L}$  consisting of the data  $\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{L}} = \{(y_j, \mathbf{x}_j), j = 0 \dots n-1\}$ .

As in part d), we assume that the true data is generated from a noisy model

$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon.$$

Here  $\epsilon$  is normally distributed with mean zero and standard deviation  $\sigma^2$ .

In our derivation of the ordinary least squares method we defined then an approximation to the function  $f$  in terms of the parameters  $\beta$  and the design matrix  $\mathbf{X}$  which embody our model, that is  $\tilde{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}\beta$ .

The parameters  $\beta$  are in turn found by optimizing the mean squared error via the so-called cost function

$$C(\mathbf{X}, \beta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (y_i - \tilde{y}_i)^2 = \mathbb{E} [(\mathbf{y} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}})^2].$$

Here the expected value  $\mathbb{E}$  is the sample value.

Show that you can rewrite this in terms of a term which contains the variance of the model itself (the so-called variance term), a term which measures the deviation from the true data and the mean value of the model (the bias term) and finally the variance of the noise. That is, show that

$$\mathbb{E} [(\mathbf{y} - \tilde{\mathbf{y}})^2] = \text{Bias}[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}] + \text{var}[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}] + \sigma^2,$$

with

$$\text{Bias}[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}] = \mathbb{E} [(\mathbf{y} - \mathbb{E}[\tilde{\mathbf{y}}])^2],$$

and

$$\text{var}[\tilde{y}] = \mathbb{E} \left[ (\tilde{y} - \mathbb{E}[\tilde{y}])^2 \right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (\tilde{y}_i - \mathbb{E}[\tilde{y}])^2.$$

The answer to this exercise should be included in the theory part of the report. This exercise is also part of the weekly exercises of week 38. Explain what the terms mean and discuss their interpretations.

Perform then a bias-variance analysis of the Franke function by studying the MSE value as function of the complexity of your model.

Discuss the bias and variance trade-off as function of your model complexity (the degree of the polynomial) and the number of data points, and possibly also your training and test data using the **bootstrap** resampling method. You can follow the code example in the jupyter-book at [https://compphysics.github.io/MachineLearning/doc/LectureNotes/\\_build/html/chapter3.html#the-bias-variance-tradeoff](https://compphysics.github.io/MachineLearning/doc/LectureNotes/_build/html/chapter3.html#the-bias-variance-tradeoff).

**Part f): Cross-validation as resampling techniques, adding more complexity.** The aim here is to implement another widely popular resampling technique, the so-called cross-validation method.

Implement the  $k$ -fold cross-validation algorithm (write your own code or use the functionality of **Scikit-Learn**) and evaluate again the MSE function resulting from the test folds.

Compare the MSE you get from your cross-validation code with the one you got from your **bootstrap** code. Comment your results. Try 5 – 10 folds.

In addition to using the ordinary least squares method, you should include both Ridge and Lasso regression.

**Part g): Analysis of real data.** With our codes functioning and having been tested properly on a simpler function we are now ready to look at real data. We will essentially repeat in this exercise what was done in exercises a-f. However, we need first to download the data and prepare properly the inputs to our codes. We are going to download digital terrain data from the website <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>,

Or, if you prefer, we have placed selected datafiles at <https://github.com/CompPhysics/MachineLearning/tree/master/doc/Projects/2023/Project1/DataFiles>

In order to obtain data for a specific region, you need to register as a user (free) at this website and then decide upon which area you want to fetch the digital terrain data from. In order to be able to read the data properly, you need to specify that the format should be **SRTM Arc-Second Global** and download the data as a **GeoTIF** file. The files are then stored in *tif* format which can be imported into a Python program using

```
scipy.misc.imread
```

Here is a simple part of a Python code which reads and plots the data from such files

```

import numpy as np
from imageio import imread
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
from matplotlib import cm

# Load the terrain
terrain1 = imread('SRTM_data_Norway_1.tif')
# Show the terrain
plt.figure()
plt.title('Terrain over Norway 1')
plt.imshow(terrain1, cmap='gray')
plt.xlabel('X')
plt.ylabel('Y')
plt.show()

```

If you should have problems in downloading the digital terrain data, we provide two examples under the data folder of project 1. One is from a region close to Stavanger in Norway and the other Møsvatn Austfjell, again in Norway. Feel free to produce your own terrain data.

Alternatively, if you would like to use another data set, feel free to do so. This could be data close to your research area or simply a data set you found interesting. See for example [kaggle.com](https://www.kaggle.com) for examples.

Our final part deals with the parameterization of your digital terrain data (or your own data). We will apply all three methods for linear regression, the same type (or higher order) of polynomial approximation and cross-validation as resampling technique to evaluate which model fits the data best.

At the end, you should present a critical evaluation of your results and discuss the applicability of these regression methods to the type of data presented here (either the terrain data we propose or other data sets).

## Background literature

1. For a discussion and derivation of the variances and mean squared errors using linear regression, see the [Lecture notes on ridge regression by Wessel N. van Wieringen](#)
2. The textbook of [Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani, Jerome H. Friedman, The Elements of Statistical Learning, Springer](#), chapters 3 and 7 are the most relevant ones for the analysis here.

## Introduction to numerical projects

Here follows a brief recipe and recommendation on how to answer the various questions when preparing your answers.



- Give a short description of the nature of the problem and the eventual numerical methods you have used.
- Describe the algorithm you have used and/or developed. Here you may find it convenient to use pseudocoding. In many cases you can describe the algorithm in the program itself.
- Include the source code of your program. Comment your program properly. You should have the code at your GitHub/GitLab link. You can also place the code in an appendix of your report.
- If possible, try to find analytic solutions, or known limits in order to test your program when developing the code.
- Include your results either in figure form or in a table. Remember to label your results. All tables and figures should have relevant captions and labels on the axes.
- Try to evaluate the reliability and numerical stability/precision of your results. If possible, include a qualitative and/or quantitative discussion of the numerical stability, eventual loss of precision etc.
- Try to give an interpretation of your results in your answers to the problems.
- Critique: if possible include your comments and reflections about the exercise, whether you felt you learnt something, ideas for improvements and other thoughts you've made when solving the exercise. We wish to keep this course at the interactive level and your comments can help us improve it.
- Try to establish a practice where you log your work at the computerlab. You may find such a logbook very handy at later stages in your work, especially when you don't properly remember what a previous test version of your program did. Here you could also record the time spent on solving the exercise, various algorithms you may have tested or other topics which you feel worthy of mentioning.

## Format for electronic delivery of report and programs

The preferred format for the report is a PDF file. You can also use DOC or postscript formats or as an ipython notebook file. As programming language we prefer that you choose between C/C++, Fortran2008, Julia or Python. The following prescription should be followed when preparing the report:

- Use Canvas to hand in your projects, log in at <https://www.uio.no/english/services/it/education/canvas/> with your normal UiO username and password.

- Upload **only** the report file or the link to your GitHub/GitLab or similar type of repos! For the source code file(s) you have developed please provide us with your link to your GitHub/GitLab or similar domain. The report file should include all of your discussions and a list of the codes you have developed. Do not include library files which are available at the course homepage, unless you have made specific changes to them.
- In your GitHub/GitLab or similar repository, please include a folder which contains selected results. These can be in the form of output from your code for a selected set of runs and input parameters.

Finally, we encourage you to collaborate. Optimal working groups consist of 2-3 students. You can then hand in a common report.

## Software and needed installations

If you have Python installed (we recommend Python3) and you feel pretty familiar with installing different packages, we recommend that you install the following Python packages via **pip** as

1. pip install numpy scipy matplotlib ipython scikit-learn tensorflow sympy pandas pillow

For Python3, replace **pip** with **pip3**.

See below for a discussion of **tensorflow** and **scikit-learn**.

For OSX users we recommend also, after having installed Xcode, to install **brew**. Brew allows for a seamless installation of additional software via for example

1. brew install python3

For Linux users, with its variety of distributions like for example the widely popular Ubuntu distribution you can use **pip** as well and simply install Python as

1. sudo apt-get install python3 (or python for python2.7)

etc etc.

If you don't want to install various Python packages with their dependencies separately, we recommend two widely used distributions which set up all relevant dependencies for Python, namely

1. [Anaconda](#) Anaconda is an open source distribution of the Python and R programming languages for large-scale data processing, predictive analytics, and scientific computing, that aims to simplify package management and deployment. Package versions are managed by the package management system **conda**
2. [Enthought canopy](#) is a Python distribution for scientific and analytic computing distribution and analysis environment, available for free and under a commercial license.

Popular software packages written in Python for ML are

- [Scikit-learn](#),
- [Tensorflow](#),
- [PyTorch](#) and
- [Keras](#).

These are all freely available at their respective GitHub sites. They encompass communities of developers in the thousands or more. And the number of code developers and contributors keeps increasing.