# **Classification problem**

### Overfitting and regularization

#### Khiem Nguyen

Email	khiem.nguyen@glasgow.ac.uk						
MS Teams	khiem.nguyen@glasgow.ac.uk						
Whatsapp	+44 7729 532071 (Emergency only)						

May 18, 2025



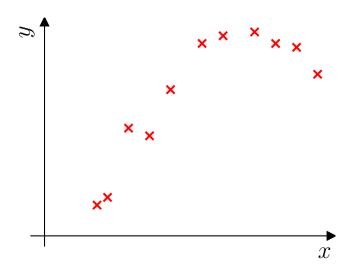
#### **Table of Contents**

1 Underfitting (high bias) versus Overfitting (high varianace)

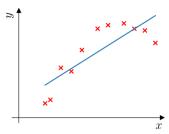
2 Addressing overfitting

Regularization: Intuition and Formulation

# **Underfitting versus overfitting**



## Underfit versus overfit



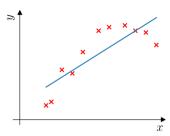
### **Underfitting**

$$w_1x + b$$

Does not fit the training set well

# high bias

### Underfit versus overfit

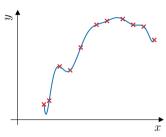


### **Underfitting**

$$w_1x + b$$

Does not fit the training set well

### high bias



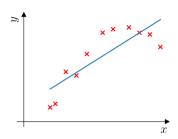
### Overfitting

$$w_1x + w_2x^2 + \dots + w_{10}x^{10} + b$$

Fit the training set extremely well

### high variance

### Underfit versus overfit

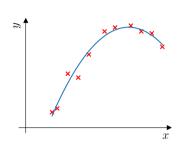


### Underfitting

$$w_1x + b$$

Does not fit the training set well

## high bias

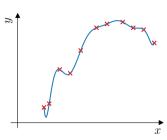


## Just right

$$w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + b$$

Fit training set pretty well

#### generalization



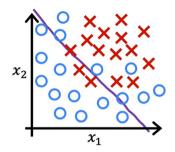
## Overfitting

$$w_1x + w_2x^2 + \dots + w_{10}x^{10} + b$$

Fit the training set extremely well

### high variance

## Underfitting versus overfitting: Classification



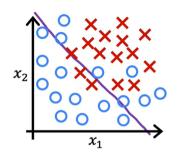
### Underfit – high bias

$$z = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + b$$

$$f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = g(z)$$

 $\boldsymbol{g}$  is the sigmoid function

## Underfitting versus overfitting: Classification

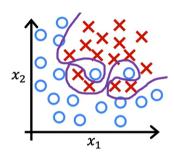


#### Underfit – high bias

$$z = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + b$$

$$f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = g(z)$$

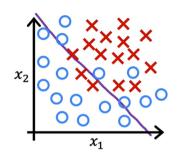
g is the sigmoid function



### Overfit - high variance

$$\begin{split} z &= w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1^2 x_2 \\ &+ w_4 x_1^2 x_2^2 + w_5 x_1^2 x_2^3 \\ &+ w_6 x_1^3 x_2 + \dots + b \end{split}$$

## Underfitting versus overfitting: Classification

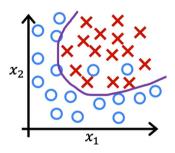


#### Underfit - high bias

$$z = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + b$$

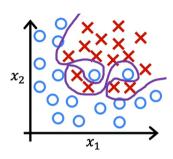
$$f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = g(z)$$

g is the sigmoid function



### Just right

$$z = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1^2 + w_4 x^2 + w_5 x_1 x_2 + b$$



#### Overfit - high variance

$$\begin{split} z &= w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1^2 x_2 \\ &+ w_4 x_1^2 x_2^2 + w_5 x_1^2 x_2^3 \\ &+ w_6 x_1^3 x_2 + \dots + b \end{split}$$

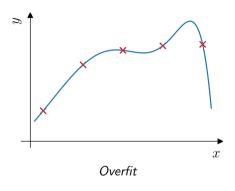
#### **Table of Contents**

① Underfitting (high bias) versus Overfitting (high varianace)

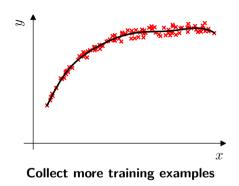
Addressing overfitting

3 Regularization: Intuition and Formulation

## Addressing overfitting: Collect more training examples



Maybe reduce the order of fitting?



It is not always easier to harvest more data

# Select features to include/exculde

size	bedrooms	floors	age	avg. income	 distance to center	price
$\overline{x}_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$\overline{x}_4$	$x_5$	$x_{100}$	$\overline{y}$

# Select features to include/exculde

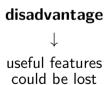
size	bedrooms	floors	age	avg. income	 distance to center	price
$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_{100}$	y

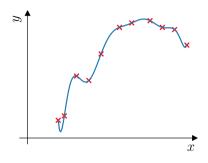


## Select features to include/exculde

size	bedrooms	floors	age	avg. income	 distance to center	price
$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_{100}$	y



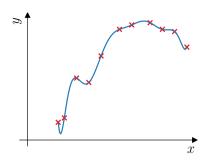


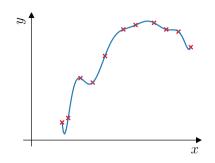


$$f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}) = \\ -8246.12x + 0.1351x^2 - \cdots + 33781x^8 - 542x^9 + \\ 33.92x^{10} + 974.89$$

large values for model parameters  $\overrightarrow{w}, b$ 

Produced by by using hand-written code with regularization on  $w_3,\dots,w_{10}$ 

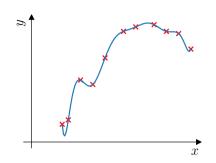




$$f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}) = \\ -8246.12x + 0.1351x^2 - \dots + 33781x^8 - 542x^9 + \\ 33.92x^{10} + 974.89$$

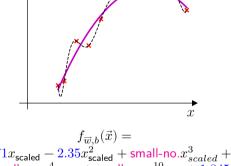
large values for model parameters  $\overrightarrow{w}, b$ 

Produced by by using hand-written code with regularization on  $w_3,\dots,w_{10}$ 



$$f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}) = \\ -8246.12x + 0.1351x^2 - \cdots + 33781x^8 - 542x^9 + \\ 33.92x^{10} + 974.89$$

large values for model parameters  $\vec{w}, b$ 



$$\begin{split} f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = \\ 2.971x_{\text{scaled}} - 2.35x_{\text{scaled}}^2 + \text{small-no.}x_{scaled}^3 + \\ \cdots \text{small-no.}x_{scaled}^4 + \text{small-no.}x_{scaled}^{10} + 1.845 \end{split}$$

*smaller values* for model parameters  $\vec{w}, b$ 

Produced by by using hand-written code with regularization on  $w_3, \dots, w_{10}$ 

## **Address overfitting: Summary**

#### **Options**

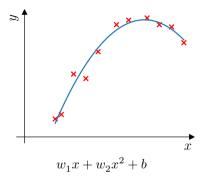
- Collect more data
- Select features (feature selection)

#### **Table of Contents**

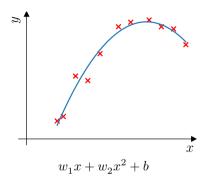
1 Underfitting (high bias) versus Overfitting (high varianace)

2 Addressing overfitting

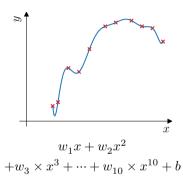
3 Regularization: Intuition and Formulation



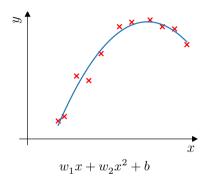
 $\underline{\mathbf{Idea}} : \ \mathsf{Make} \ w_3, w_4, \dots, w_{10} \ \mathsf{really} \ \mathsf{small} \ (\approx 0)$ 



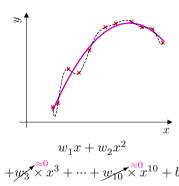
**Idea**: Make  $w_3, w_4, \dots, w_{10}$  really small ( $\approx 0$ )



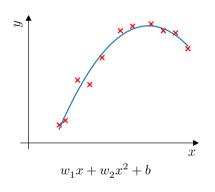
$$+w_3 \times x^3 + \dots + w_{10} \times x^{10} + \dots$$

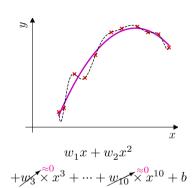


**Idea**: Make  $w_3, w_4, \dots, w_{10}$  really small ( $\approx 0$ )



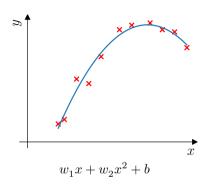
$$+ \underline{w_3} \times x^3 + \dots + \underline{w_{10}} \times x^{10} + b$$

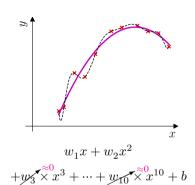




<u>Idea</u>: Make  $w_3, w_4, \dots, w_{10}$  really small ( $\approx 0$ )

$$\min_{\overrightarrow{w},b} \left\{ \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 \right\}$$





 $\underline{\textbf{Idea}} \text{: Make } w_3, w_4, \dots, w_{10} \text{ really small } (\approx 0)$ 

$$\min_{\overline{w},b} \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \mathsf{Large-number} \times w_3^2 + \dots + \mathsf{Large-number} \times w_{10}^2$$

To make the cost function small,  $w_3, \dots, w_{10}$  should become smaller  $(\to 0)$ .

## **Regularization: Cost function**

size	bedrooms	floors	age	avg. income	 distance to center	price
$\overline{x_1}$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_{100}$	y

Smaller values  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n, b \quad o \quad \text{simpler model} \quad o \quad \text{less likely to overfit}$ 

$$J(\overrightarrow{w},b) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2 + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^n w_j^2}_{\text{regularization term}}$$

 $\lambda$  – regularization parameter Remember:  $\lambda > 0$ 

$$\min_{\vec{w},b} J(\vec{w},b) = \min_{\vec{w},b} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\vec{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2}_{\text{mean squared error}} + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^n w_j^2}_{\text{regularization term}} \right\}$$

 $\lambda$  balances both goals

- fit the data
- ${f 2}$  keep  $w_j$  small (if needed)

#### But

choosing large  $\lambda$  may lead to simple fit. For example, with  $\lambda=10^{10}$ 

$$f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = y_{1} \xrightarrow{\approx} 0 x + y_{2} \xrightarrow{\approx} 0 x^{2} + \dots + y_{10} \xrightarrow{\approx} 0 x^{10} + b \quad \rightarrow \quad f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = 0$$

# Regularized linear regression

$$\min_{\overrightarrow{w},b} J(\overrightarrow{w},b) = \min_{\overrightarrow{w},b} \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)^2}_{1/2 \text{ xMSE}} + \underbrace{\frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^n w_j^2}_{\text{regularization term}} \right\}$$

Gradient descent

Repeat

$$\begin{cases} w_1 = w_1 - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_1}(\overrightarrow{w}, b) \\ \vdots \\ w_n = w_n - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_n}(\overrightarrow{w}, b) \\ b = b - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial b}(\overrightarrow{w}, b) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_j} &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) x_j^{(i)}}_{\text{from } 1/2 \text{ ×MSE}} + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_j}_{\text{from } 1/2 \text{ ×MSE}} \\ j &= 1, \dots, n \end{split}$$
 
$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial b} &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right)$$
 Don't have to regularize  $b$ 

Don't have to regularize b

# Implementing gradient descent

Repeat

$$\begin{cases} w_j = w_j - \alpha \bigg\{ \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[ \left( f_{\overline{w},b}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) x_j^{(i)} \right] + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_j \bigg\} \\ \\ b = b - \alpha \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overline{w},b}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) \end{cases} \label{eq:w_j}$$

$$w_j = \underbrace{w_j - \alpha \frac{\lambda}{m} w_j}_{y \left(1 - \alpha \frac{\lambda}{m}\right)} - \underbrace{\alpha \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left(f_{\overrightarrow{w}, b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}\right) x_j^{(i)}}_{\text{usual update as without regularization}}$$

The term  $w_j \left(1 - \alpha \frac{\lambda}{m}\right)$  shrinks  $w_j$  a bit in each iteration

Example:

$$\alpha \frac{\lambda}{m} = 0.1 \times \frac{1}{1000} = 0.0001$$

$$\rightarrow w_j \underbrace{(1 - 0.0001)}_{0.9999}$$

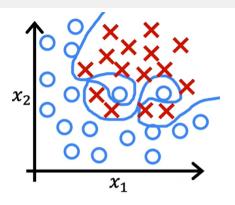
# Derivation of gradient of the cost function $J(\overrightarrow{w},b)$ (optional)

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_{\mathbf{1}}} J(\overrightarrow{w},b) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{\mathbf{1}}} \bigg\{ \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \Big( \underbrace{\overrightarrow{w} \cdot \overrightarrow{x}^{(i)} + b - y^{(i)}}_{w_{\mathbf{1}} x_{\mathbf{1}}^{(i)} + \cdots + w_{n} x_{n}^{(i)} + b - y^{(i)}} \Big)^{2} + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{j}^{2} \Big\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} 2 \Big[ \Big( \overrightarrow{w} \cdot \overrightarrow{x}^{(i)} + b - y^{(i)} \Big) x_{\mathbf{1}}^{(i)} \Big] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} 2 w_{\mathbf{1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \Big[ \Big( \underbrace{\overrightarrow{w} \cdot \overrightarrow{x}^{(i)} + b}_{f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)})} - y^{(i)} \Big) x_{\mathbf{1}}^{(i)} \Big] + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_{\mathbf{1}} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \Big[ \Big( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \Big) x_{\mathbf{1}}^{(i)} \Big] + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_{\mathbf{1}} \end{split}$$

Generalization ( $\partial J/\partial b$  the same as before):

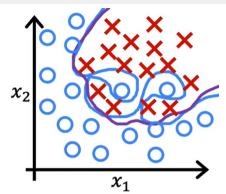
$$\frac{\partial J}{\partial w_j} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[ \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) x_j^{(i)} \right] + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_j$$

# Regularized logistic regression



$$z = w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1^2 x_2$$
 
$$+ w_4 x_1^2 x_2^2 + w_5 x_1^2 x_2^3 + \dots + b$$
 
$$f_{\overline{w},b} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}$$

# Regularized logistic regression



$$\begin{split} z &= w_1 x_1 + w_2 x_2 + w_3 x_1^2 x_2 \\ &+ w_4 x_1^2 x_2^2 + w_5 x_1^2 x_2^3 + \dots + b \\ f_{\overline{w},b} &= \frac{1}{1 + \mathrm{e}^{-z}} \end{split}$$

#### **Cost function**

$$J(\overrightarrow{w},b) = -\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ y^{(i)} \log \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) \right) + (1-y^{(i)}) \log \left( 1 - f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) \right) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_j^2 \\ \underset{\overrightarrow{w},b}{\min} J(\overrightarrow{w},b) \quad \rightarrow \quad w_j \downarrow$$

# Regularized logistic regression:

$$J(\overrightarrow{w},b) = -\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ y^{(i)} \log \left( f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) \right) + (1-y^{(i)}) \log \left( 1 - f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}^{(i)}) \right) \right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_j^2$$

#### **Gradient descent**

Repeat

$$\begin{cases} w_j = w_j - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_j}(\overrightarrow{w}, b) \\ \\ j = 1, \dots, n \\ \\ b = b - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial b}(\overrightarrow{w}, b) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial J}{\partial w_j} &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) x_j^{(i)} + \frac{\lambda}{m} w_j \\ & j = 1, \dots, n \\ \frac{\partial J}{\partial b} &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left( f_{\overline{w},b}(\vec{x}^{(i)}) - y^{(i)} \right) \end{split}$$

Looks same as for linear regression! BUT

 $f_{\overrightarrow{w},b}(\overrightarrow{x}) = g(z(\overrightarrow{x};\overrightarrow{w},b))$  is logistic regression function model