

# Foundations of Machine Learning

## AI2000 and AI5000

FoML-16

Least Squares for Regression

Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri

Department of AI, IIT Hyderabad

July-Nov 2025



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद  
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



# So far in FoML

- Intro to ML and Probability refresher
- MLE, MAP, and fully Bayesian treatment
- Supervised learning
  - a. Linear Regression with basis functions (regularization, model selection)
  - b. Bias-Variance Decomposition (Bayesian Regression)
  - c. Decision Theory - three broad classification strategies
    - Probabilistic Generative Models - Continuous & discrete data
    - Discriminant Functions

# Least Squares for Classification



# Least Squares for Classification

- Consider K classes

- Each class 'k' has its own linear model  $y_k(\mathbf{x}) = w_k^T \mathbf{x} + w_{k0}$



targets one-hot encoded

# Least Squares for Classification

- Shorter notation  $y(\mathbf{x}) = \widetilde{\mathbf{W}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$

$$\underline{\mathbf{T}} = \begin{bmatrix} -t_1^T \\ \vdots \\ -t_N^T \end{bmatrix}_{N \times K}$$

$$t_\eta = (00 \dots 100)^T_{1 \times K}$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{W}} = \begin{bmatrix} w_{10} & w_{11} & \dots & w_{1K} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_{K0} & w_{K1} & \dots & w_{KK} \end{bmatrix}_{K \times M}$$

Assign  $x$  to  $C_k$ , where

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (1, \underline{x})^T_{1 \times M} \quad \underline{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_N \end{bmatrix}_{N \times 1}$$

$$k = \underset{j}{\operatorname{argmax}} y_j(\underline{x})$$

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(\underline{x}) \\ \vdots \\ y_K(\underline{x}) \end{bmatrix}_{K \times 1}$$

on single sample

$$E(\underline{x}_\eta) = \left\| y(\underline{x}_\eta) - t_\eta \right\|_2^2$$



# Least Squares for Classification

- Data matrix  $X_{N \times M}$  [row is a sample]
- Target matrix  $T_{N \times K}$

parameter matrix  $\tilde{W}_{M \times K}$  [column is per class discriminant]

Use regression (sum of squares) error function

$$E_D(\tilde{W}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{m=1}^M (t_{nk} - x_{nm} \tilde{w}_{mk})^2$$

# Least Squares for Classification

The error function can be conveniently written as

$$E_D(\tilde{\mathbf{W}}) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \{ (\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \tilde{\mathbf{W}} - \mathbf{T})^T (\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \tilde{\mathbf{W}} - \mathbf{T}) \}$$

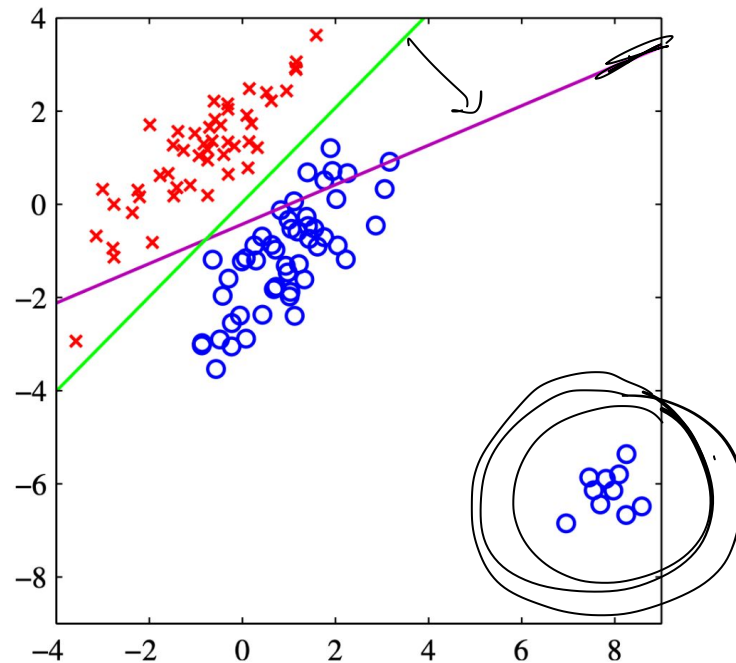
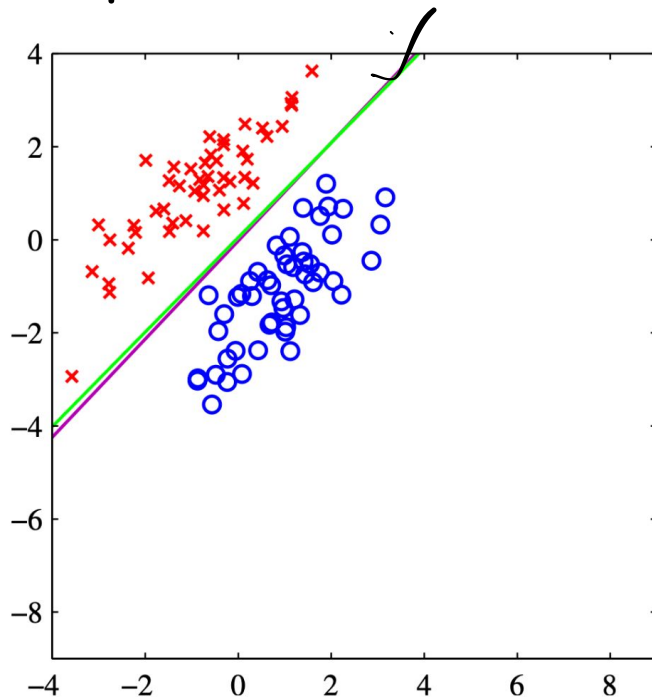
Minimize  $E_D(\tilde{\mathbf{W}})$  as a function of  $\tilde{\mathbf{W}}$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{W}}} (\cdot) = 0$$

$$\underbrace{(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{X}})^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^T \mathbf{T}}_{\text{the familiar pseudo inverse formulation}} \quad P(y|x)$$



# Least Squares Issues - Outliers



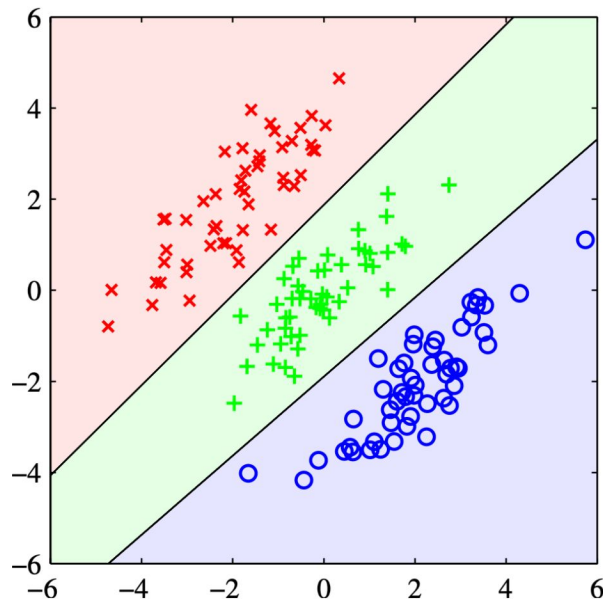
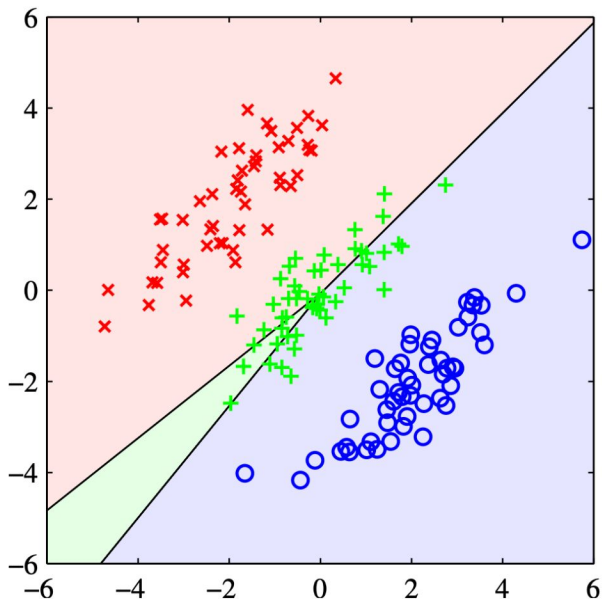


# Least Squares Issues - Masking

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \star \\ 1 \end{array} \right]$$

prediction  
for the  
correct class  
is  
expected to be  
close to 1

if  $x_2$   
I will



Left - LS classifier

Right - Logistic Regression classifier



# Least Squares Issues - Predictions ≠ Probabilities

$y_{LS}(\mathbf{x})$  are not probabilities

$$\text{If } \underline{a}^T \underline{x}_n + b = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{a}^T y(\underline{x}_n) + b_n = 0$$

with

$$\underline{a} = [1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1]$$
$$b = -1$$

we know that

$$\underline{a}^T \underline{x}_n + b = 0$$

holds  $\forall n$

this implies

$$\sum_{i=1}^K y(\underline{x}_n)_i = 1 \quad \forall n$$



# Rough



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद  
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



# Next The Perceptron

