

# Data X

## Underfitting / Overfitting, Polynomial Regression & Regularization

Alexander Fred-Ojala

# Underfitting

Data X

# Underfitting / High bias

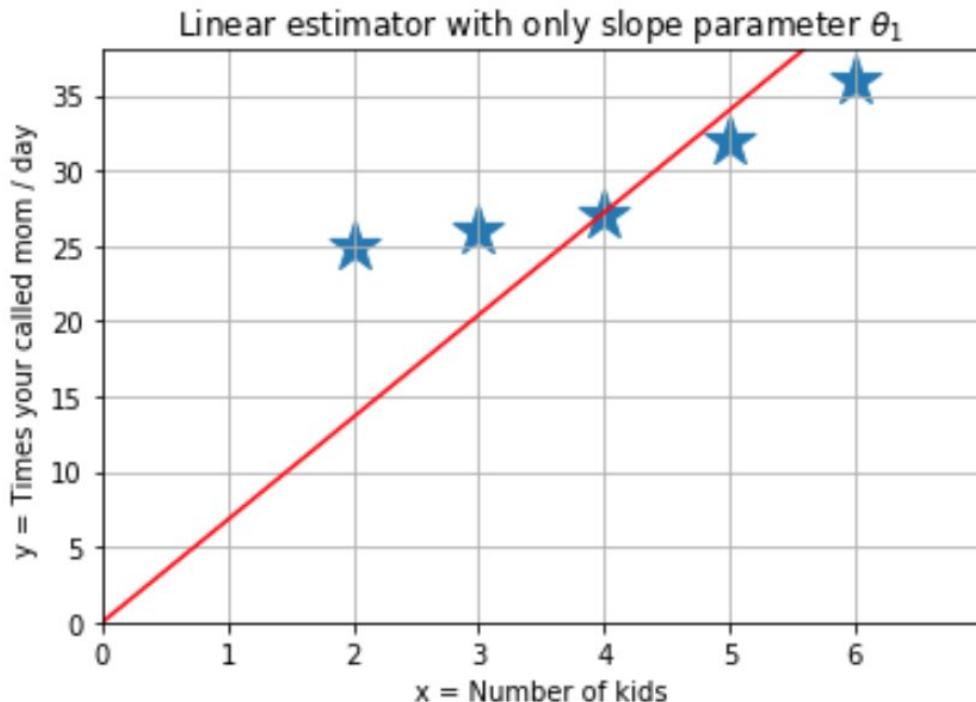
## Characteristics of underfitting:

- The model is too simple (few degrees of freedom)
- Low variance, but high bias
- Strong preconception about model parameters

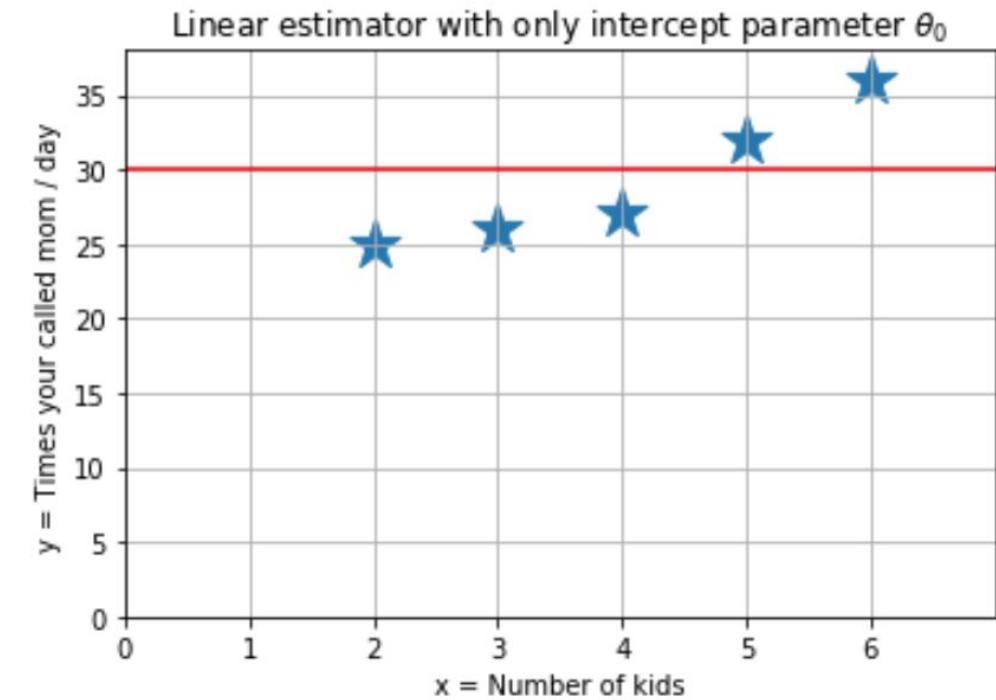


# Underfitting / High bias

Examples of underfitting: One degree of freedom is not enough

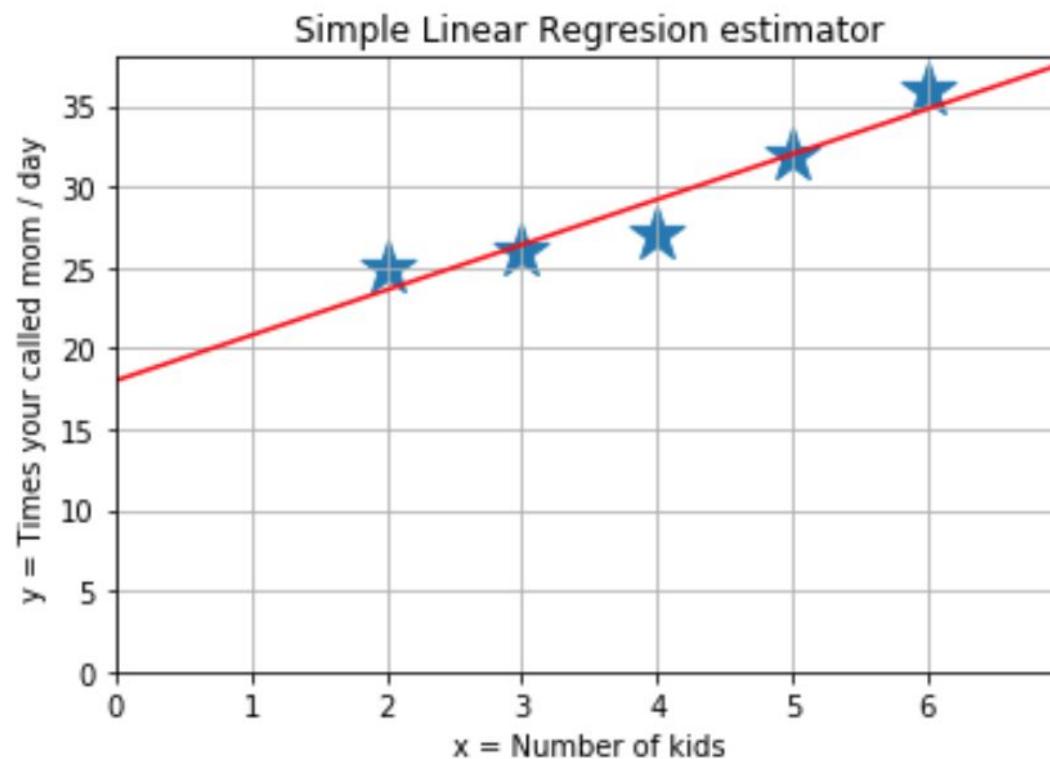


$$\hat{y} = h_\theta(x) = \theta_1 x$$



$$\hat{y} = h_\theta(x) = \theta_0$$

# Good model approximation for our data



$$\hat{y} = h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x$$

# Underfitting / High bias

## How to prevent underfitting:

- Fit a more complex model / algorithm
- Construct features from existing ones
- Transform features to increase complexity of the model



Data X

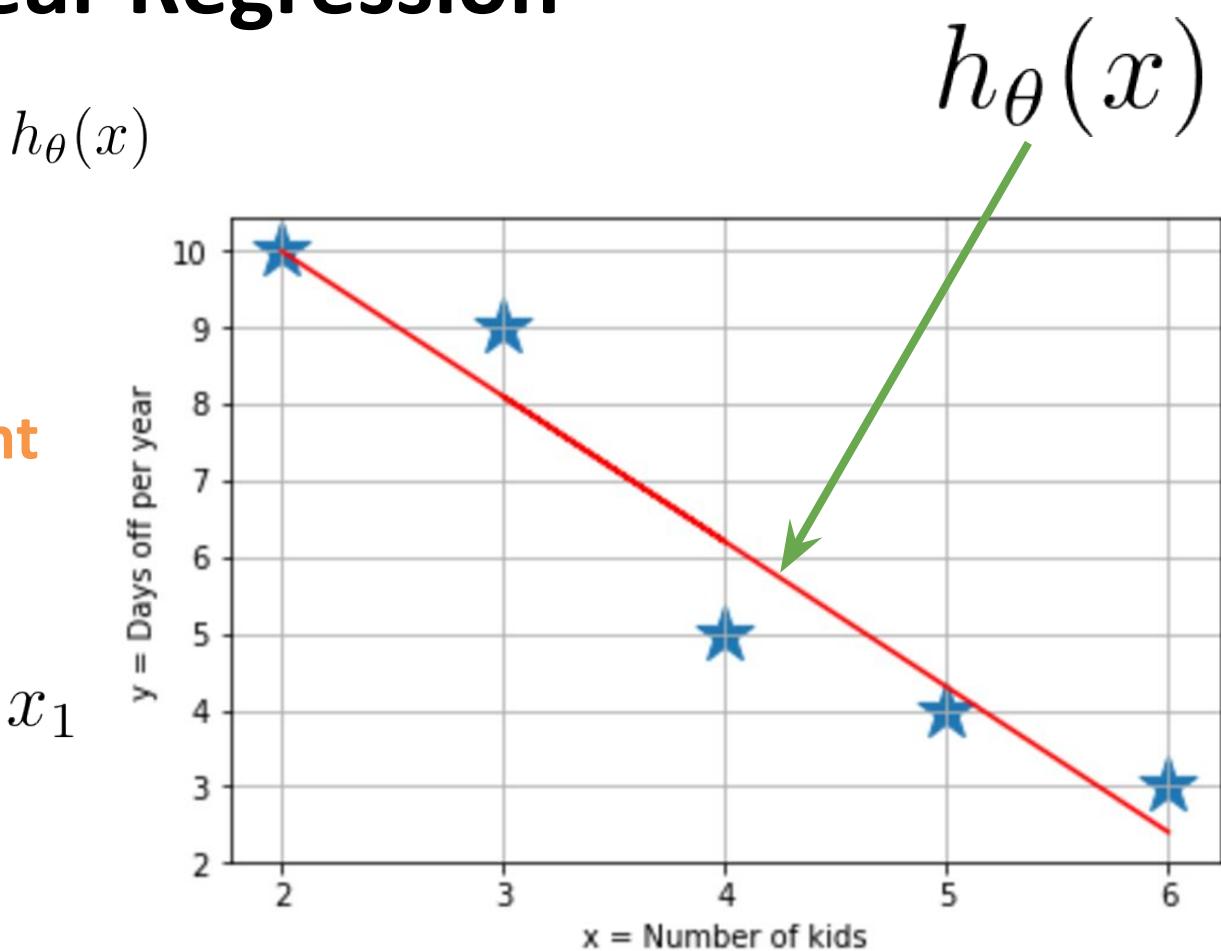
# Polynomial Regression



# (Simple) Linear Regression

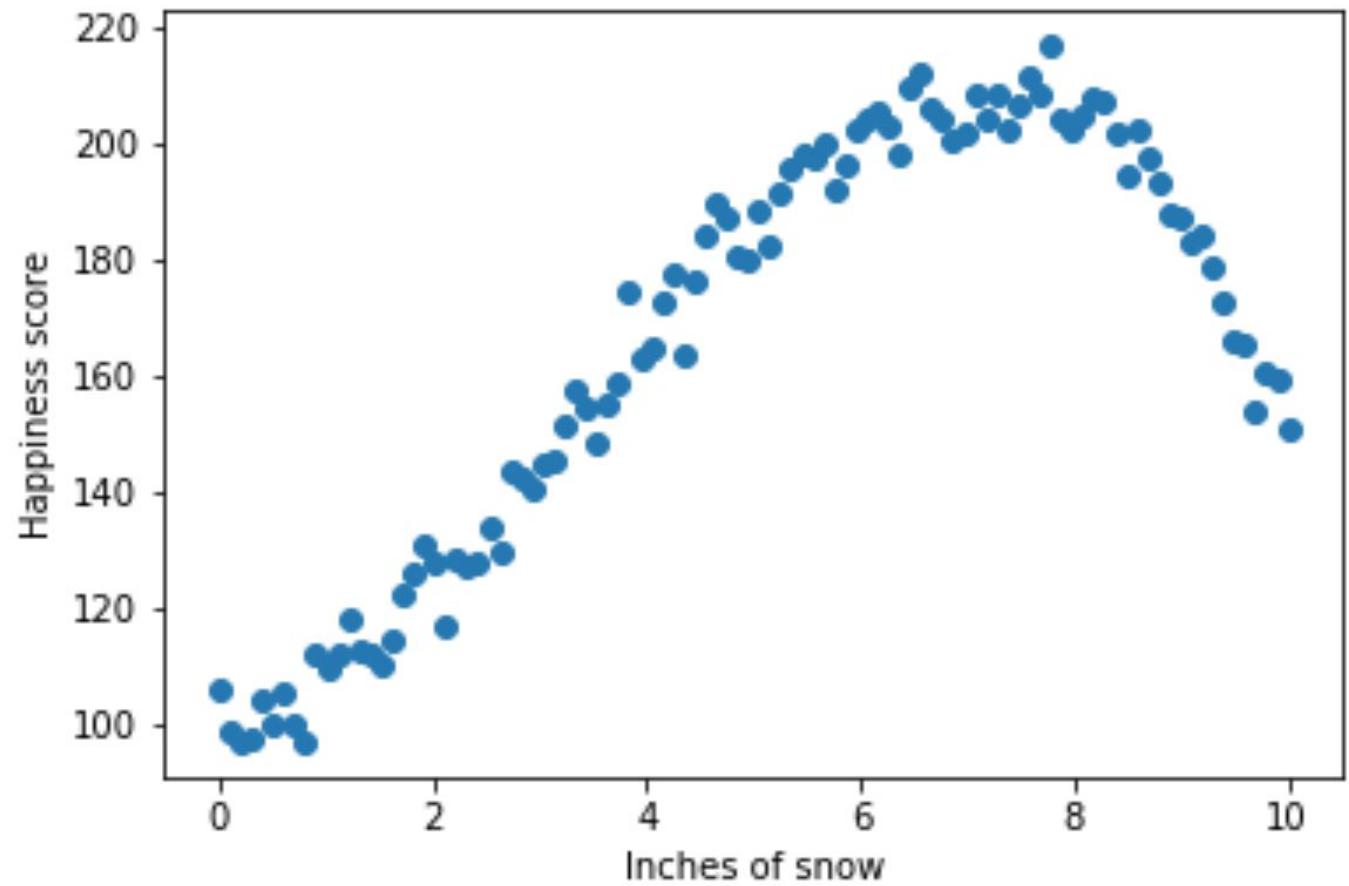
**Works when have a  
Linear relationship between the dependent  
and the independent variables**

$$\hat{y} = f(x, \theta) = h_{\theta}(x) = \theta^T x = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1$$



# Modeling Non-linear relationships

What if we want to model  
this relation?



# Modeling Non-linear relationships

The best Simple Linear Regression Model

Obtained by solving the Normal Equation

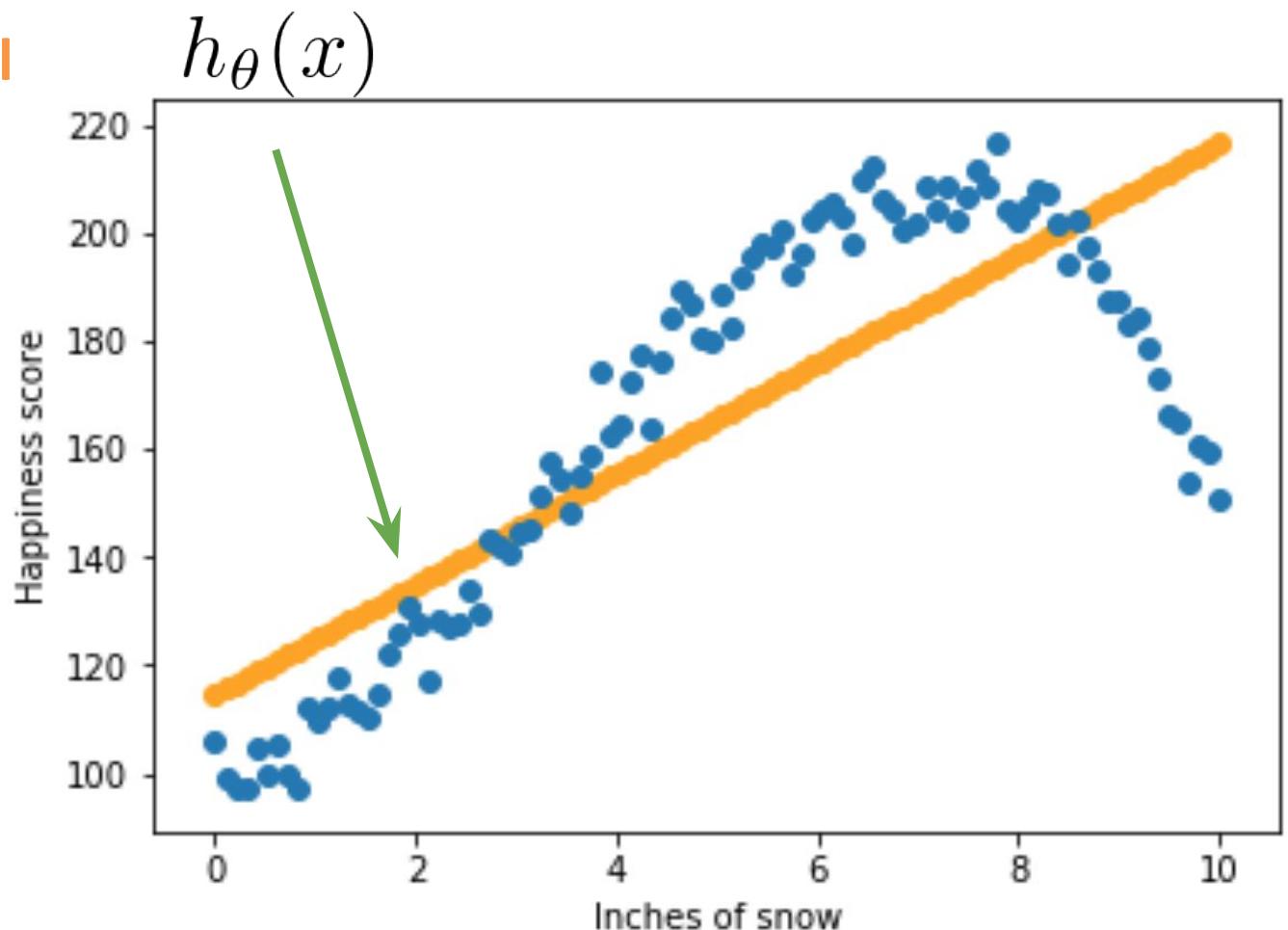
$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$$

gives us:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y} &= h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 \\ &\approx 117 + 10x_1\end{aligned}$$

We are clearly underfitting!

(Our model has high bias)



# Polynomial Regression

$$\hat{y} = h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \dots + \theta_n x^n$$

It is still a Linear Regression model, we have just transformed some of the predictors.

$$x \rightarrow x_1$$

$$x^2 \rightarrow x_2$$

Rewrite the predictors, as:

⋮

to see that it's still a Linear function for the parameters.

$$x^n \rightarrow x_n$$

# Exponential / Logarithmic / Square root ... Regression

$$\hat{y} = h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 \sqrt{x} + \theta_2 \log(x) + \theta_3 e^x$$

You can also transform the logarithmic, exponential, the square root of predictors etc.

$$\sqrt{x} \rightarrow x_1$$

$$\log(x) \rightarrow x_2$$

$$e^x \rightarrow x_3$$

⋮

Since it still can be cast as a multiple linear regression problem we can *find the optimal parameters by using the Normal Equations or Gradient Descent!*

# Polynomial Regression

Find the best polynomial function (of degree 3)

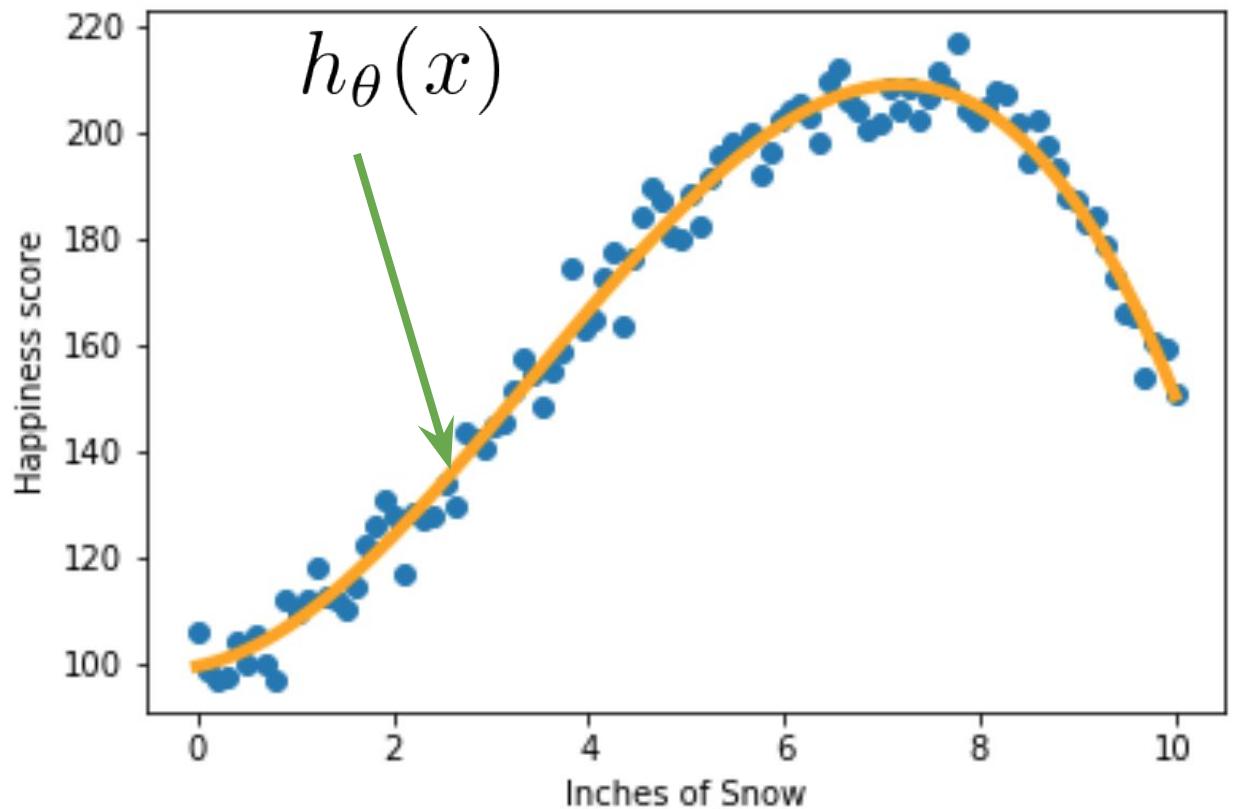
Obtained by solving the Normal Equation

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$$

is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y} &= h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \theta_3 x^3 \\ &\approx 98 + 7x + 4.6x^2 - 0.5x^3\end{aligned}$$

*This model is a much better fit to our data!*



# Overfitting

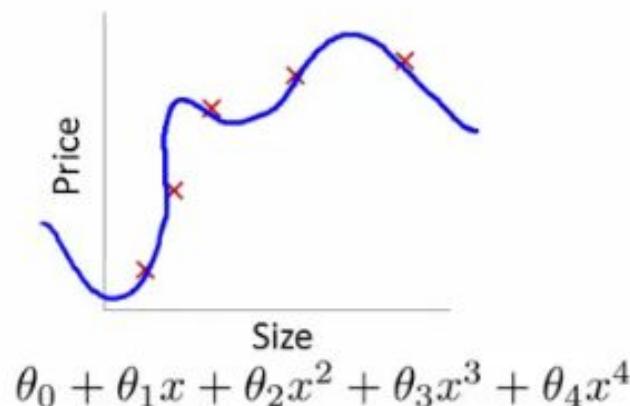
Data X

# Overfitting

*Why don't we fit polynomial functions of very high degrees that always fit our data perfectly so that we get an error that approaches zero?*

$$\hat{y} = h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x + \theta_2 x^2 + \dots + \theta_{\infty} x^{\infty}$$
$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 \rightarrow 0$$

It leads to **overfitting** (we won't predict well on new data that our model hasn't seen)



High variance  
(overfit)

# Overfitting / High variance

## Characteristics of overfitting:

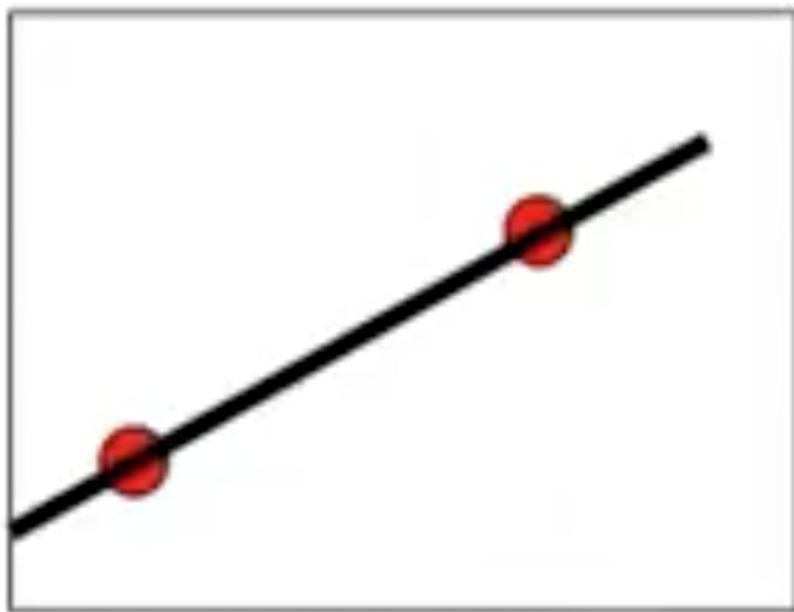
- Our model is too complex (picks up patterns in noise / outliers)
- High variance, but low bias
- The model has too many features, and the parameters are too big
- We are able to *perfectly predict training data, but not test data*
- Small changes in the training data, leads to big change in model parameters



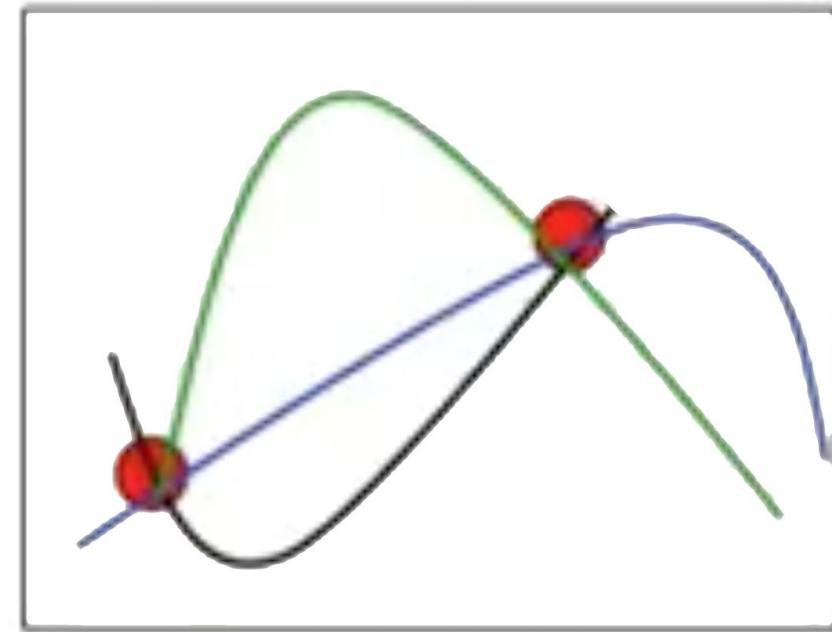
# Overfitting / High variance

What model to choose? The simplest one!

Occam's razor theorem



Best (Simple) Model!

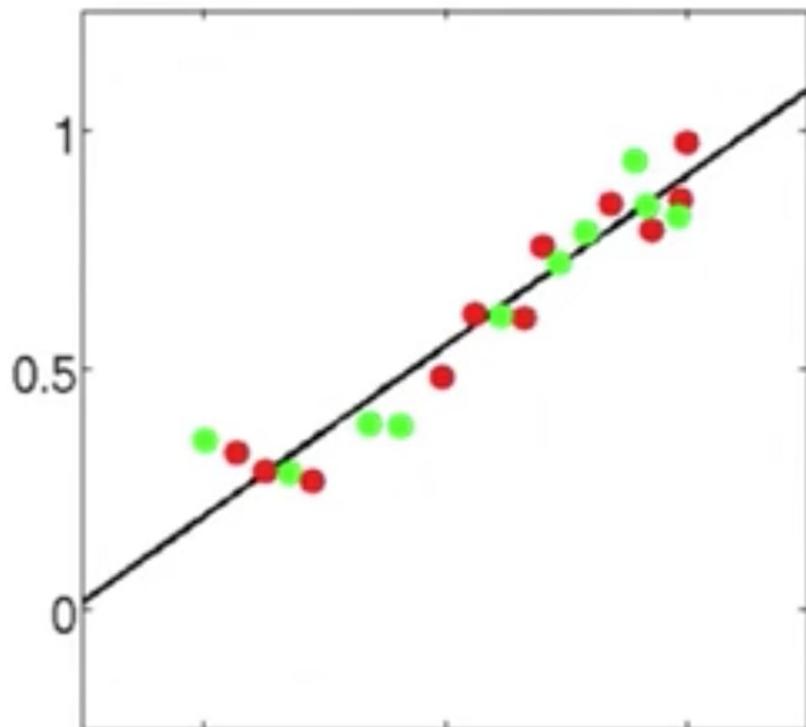


Worse (too complex) models!



# Overfitting / High variance

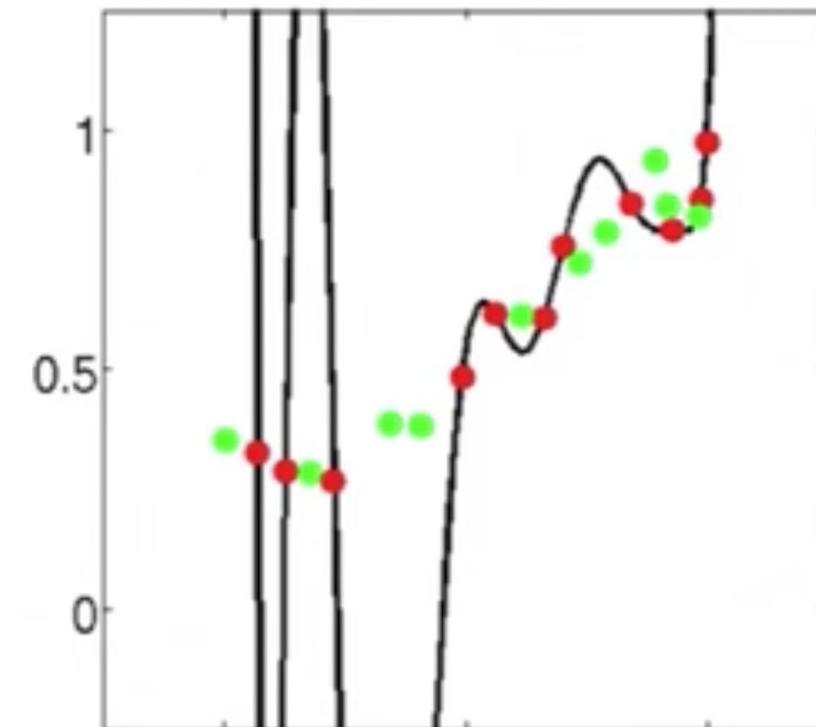
Examples of overfitting:



Best (Simple) Model!

Training data = Red

Test data = green

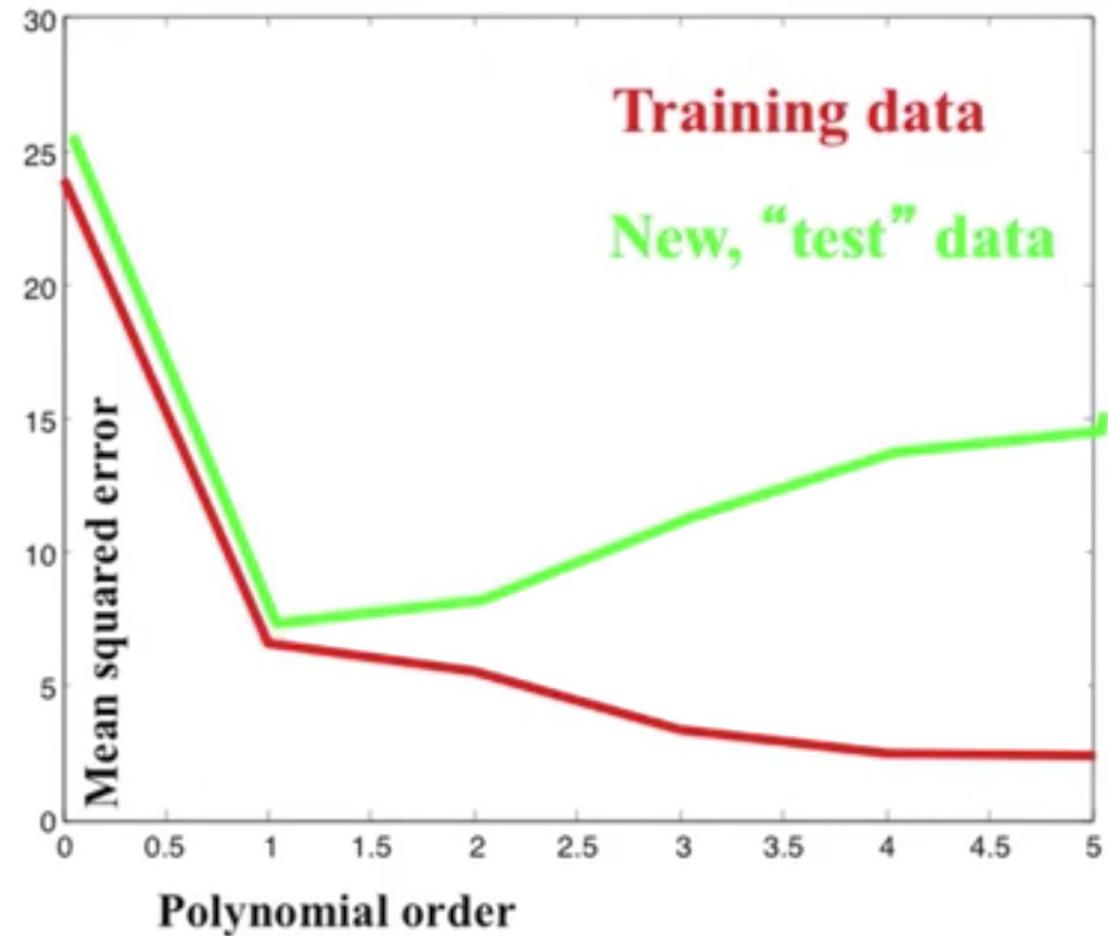


Extremely high variance, bad model!

# How to check if you are overfitting

## Plot MSE against model complexity

When MSE starts to increase for the test data, that is the point where we are starting to overfit.



# Overfitting / High variance

## Check if you're overfitting:

- Use cross-validation / train-test-split and predict on test data
- Plot MSE against model complexity for training and test set, see how the error changes.

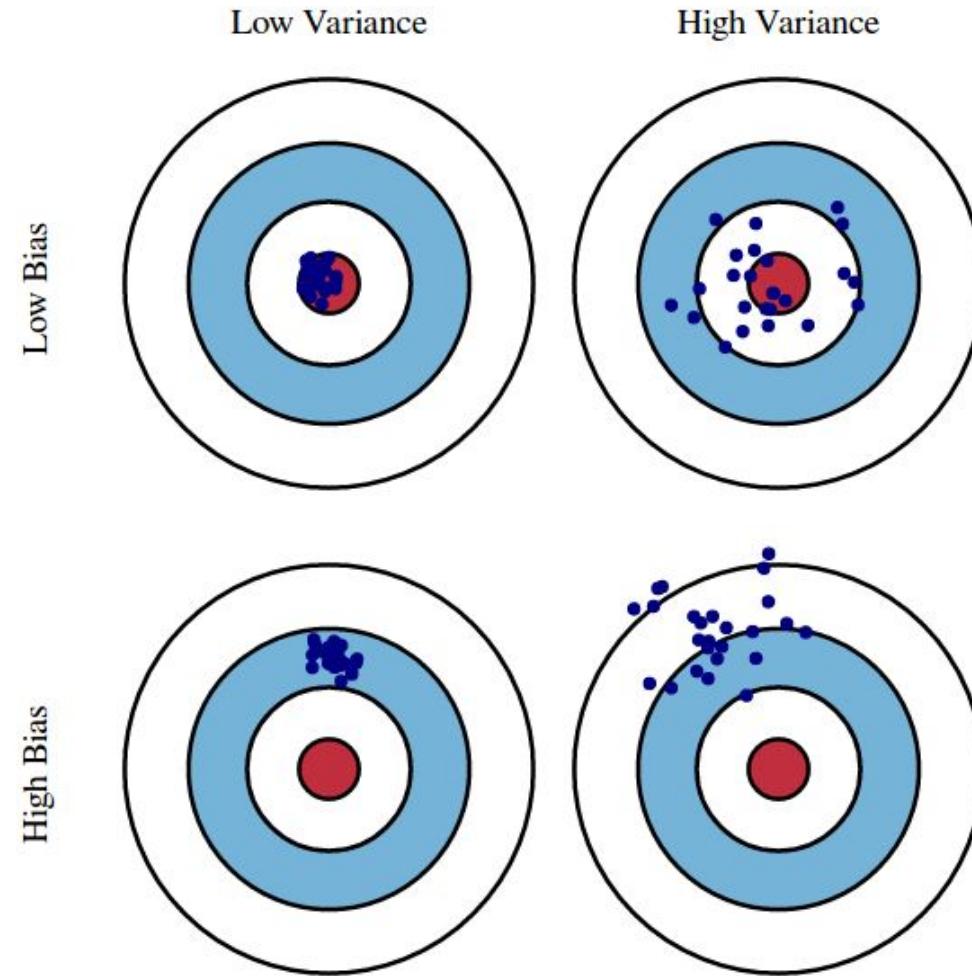
## Prevent overfitting:

- Exclude some features from the model (feature engineering)
- Introduce a stopping criteria in the optimization algorithm
- ***Regularization!***

Bias (underfitting) - Variance (Overfitting) tradeoff

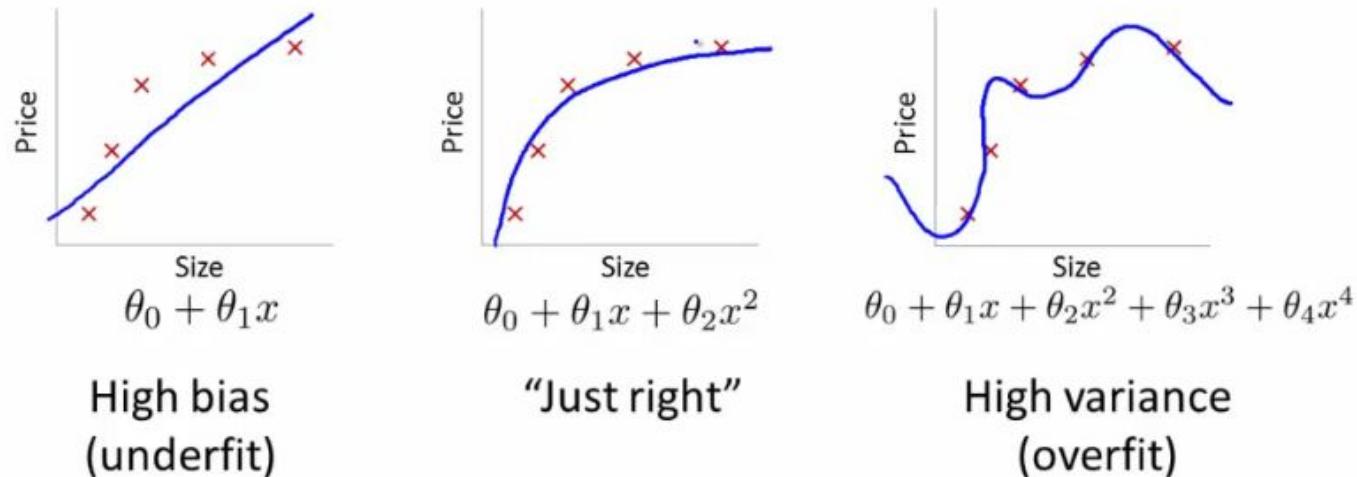


# Bias-Variance Tradeoff:

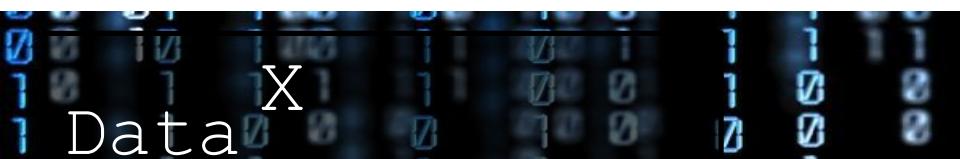
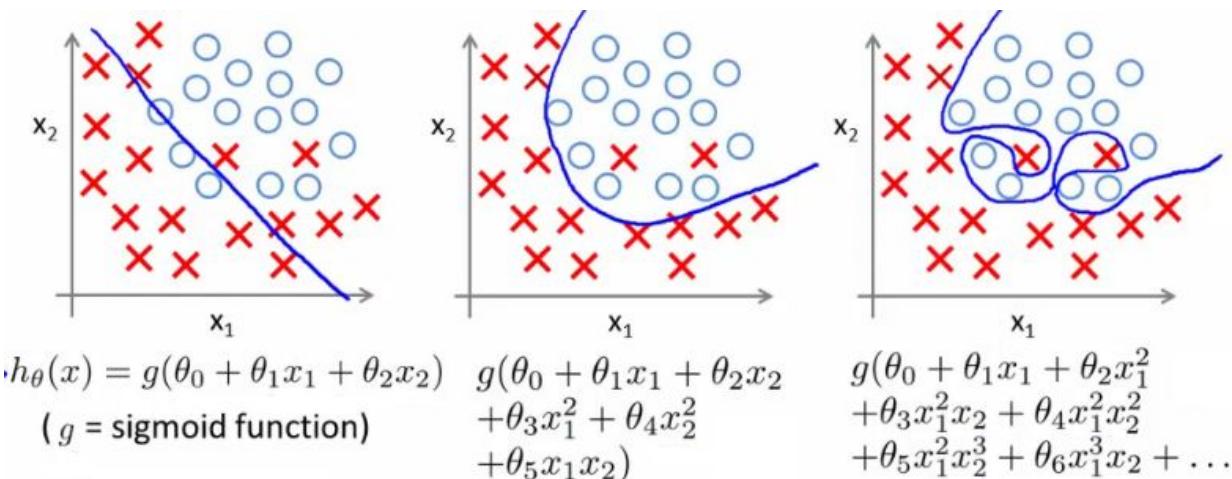


# Bias-Variance Tradeoff:

## REGRESSION CASE:



## CLASSIFICATION CASE:



# Mathematical Derivation

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon$$

Our goal is to model:  
 $\hat{f}(x) \approx f(x)$

where  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

- $f(x)$  is the “true” function our data is generated from
- $\epsilon$  is zero-mean Gaussian noise that affects our samples

## Bias-Variance Decomposition

$$\mathbb{E} [(y - \hat{f}(x))^2] = \text{Bias} [\hat{f}(x)]^2 + \text{Var} [\hat{f}(x)] + \sigma^2$$

where  $\text{Var} [\hat{f}(x)] = \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)^2] - \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)]^2$

$$\text{Bias} [\hat{f}(x)] = \mathbb{E} [\hat{f}(x) - f(x)]$$

$\sigma^2$  Irreducible error (variance of the noise),  
lower bound for the model MSE



# Mathematical Derivation

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon$$

Our goal is to model:  
 $\hat{f}(x) \approx f(x)$

where  $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

- $f(x)$  is the “true” function our data is generated from
- $\epsilon$  is zero-mean Gaussian noise that affects our samples

Proof of the Bias-Variance Decomposition?

$$\mathbb{E}[(y - \hat{f}(x))^2] = \text{Bias}[\hat{f}(x)]^2 + \text{Var}[\hat{f}(x)] + \sigma^2$$

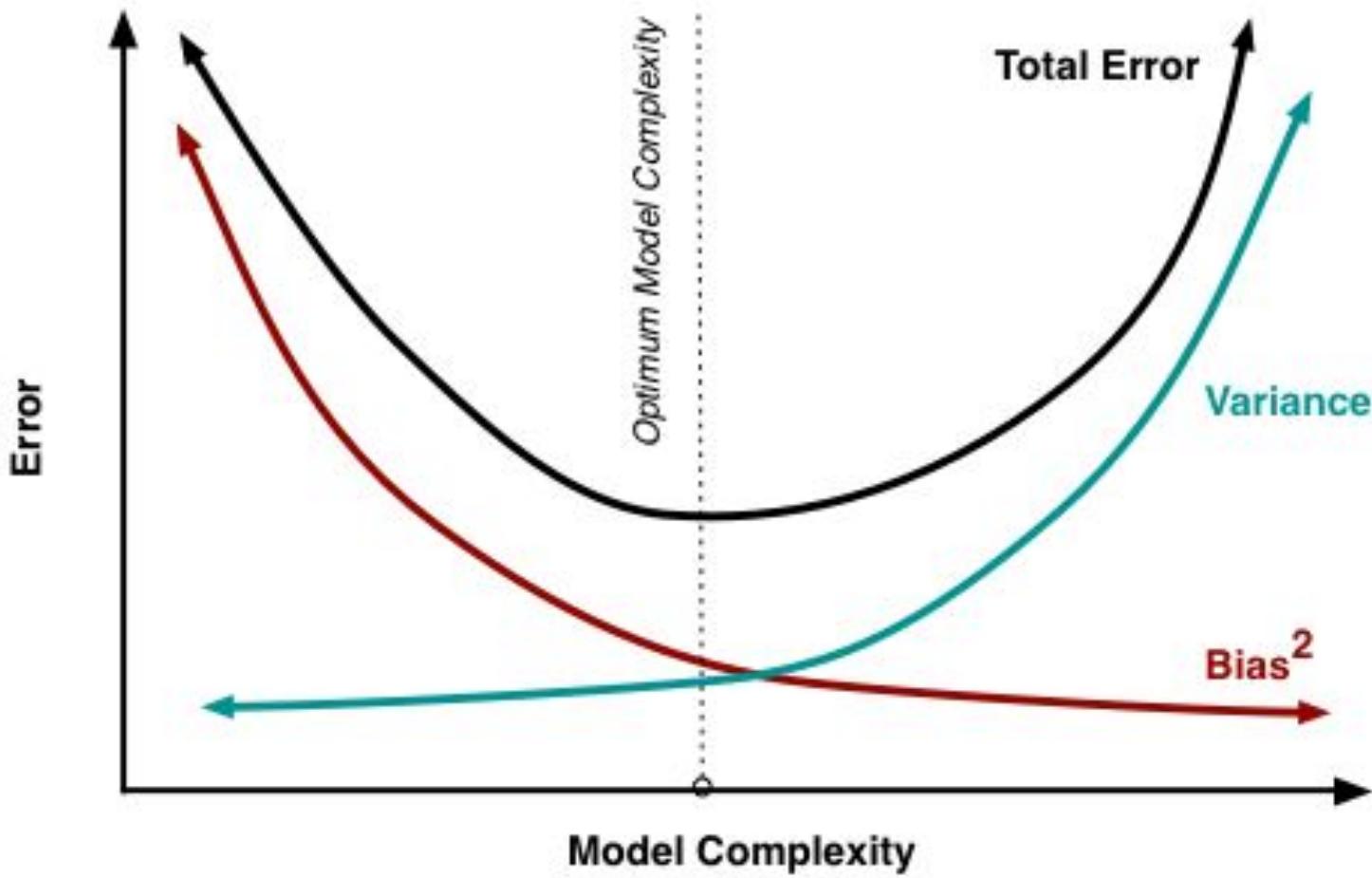
where  $\text{Var}[\hat{f}(x)] = \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)^2] - \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x)]^2$

$$\text{Bias}[\hat{f}(x)] = \mathbb{E}[\hat{f}(x) - f(x)]$$

$\sigma^2$  Irreducible error (variance of the noise),  
lower bound for the model MSE



# Bias-Variance against model complexity



**Prediction Error =**  
**Bias<sup>2</sup> + Variance**

**Optimum** when increase in  
bias equals decrease in variance:

$$\frac{dBias}{dComplexity} = -\frac{dVariance}{dComplexity}$$

# How to detect: Bias / Variance

## Plot error (e.g. MSE)

- Overfitting results in high test error, low training error
- Underfitting results in high train and test errors

## Use k-fold Cross validation

- To get a good approximation of the error when there are few samples

## Find the right tradeoff

- Combat underfitting with more complex model
- Combat overfitting by reducing model complexity, add samples (error asymptotically  $\rightarrow 0$ ), or even better use **Regularization**

# Regularization



# Regularization

**Why:**

Avoid overfitting

(and LASSO - *Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator* - can perform auto feature selection)

**How:**

Increase bias by penalizing the model for many and large model parameters.

Add a multiple of an L1 (LASSO) or an L2 (Ridge) norm of the model parameters  $\theta$  to the cost function

**Regularized cost function:**

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \cdot \|\theta\|_p^p$$

- $\lambda$  is the regularization parameter, basically a tuning parameter
- $\|\theta\|_p^p$  is the  $p$ :th matrix norm on the parameters

# Regularization

(increase error if we have too many or too big parameters)

**Non-regularized COST FUNCTION:**  $J_{old}(\theta) = MSE(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^m (h_\theta(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)})^2$

**RIDGE REGRESSION (L2 NORM):**  $J(\theta) = MSE(\theta) + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \theta_j^2$

**LASSO (L1 NORM):**  $J(\theta) = MSE(\theta) + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n |\theta_j|$

Find optimal regularization term  $\lambda$  by tuning it and using Cross-validation:

- Divide your training data,
- Train your model for a fixed value of  $\lambda$ , test it on the remaining subset (unregularized cost function for testing)
- Repeat this procedure while varying  $\lambda$ .

Then choose the  $\lambda$  that performed best on the test set.

# Regularization

(increase error if we use many and large model parameters)

The optimal estimates of the model parameters,  $\beta$ , could be denoted as shown below.

This shows us the difference between Ridge and Lasso Regression

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{lasso}} = \operatorname{argmin} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_1$$

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{ridge}} = \operatorname{argmin} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_2^2$$

which is equivalent to:

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{lasso}} = \operatorname{argmin} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\beta\|_1 \leq t$$

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{ridge}} = \operatorname{argmin} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\beta\|_2^2 \leq t$$

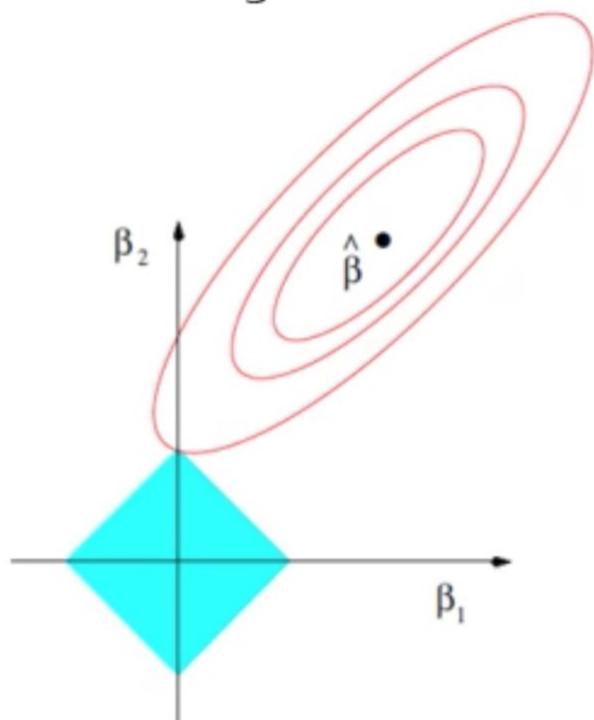


# Regularization

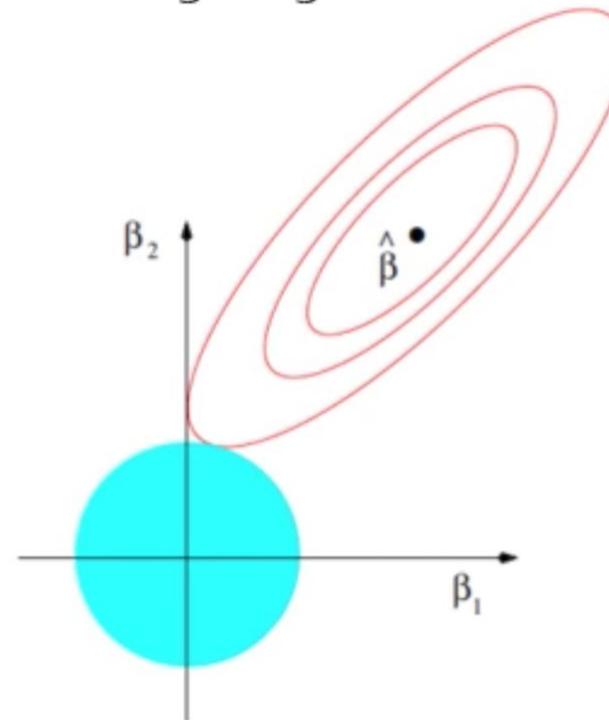
(increase error if we use many and large model parameters)

We can visualize the difference between Ridge and Lasso Regression for two parameters. Note, there is a trade-off between the Least Square error and the size of the parameters (which are constrained, to the blue areas).

Lasso Regression



Ridge Regression



$$t \propto \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{lasso}} = \underset{\beta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\beta\|_1 \leq t$$

$$\hat{\beta}^{\text{ridge}} = \underset{\beta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\beta\|_2^2 \leq t$$

Data X

## **Example Code:** Regularization



**End**

Data X

# References

- The material presented in this lecture references lecture material draws on the materials the following courses:
- Derek Kane's Data Science Tutorials:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC33qFpcu7eHFtpZ6dp3FFXw>
- Stanford – CS229 (Machine Learning) & Andrew Ng's Machine Learning at Coursera: <http://cs229.stanford.edu/> &  
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/machine-learning>
- Professor Alexander Ihler, UC Davis: [youtube.com/watch?v=sO4ZirJh9ds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO4ZirJh9ds)

