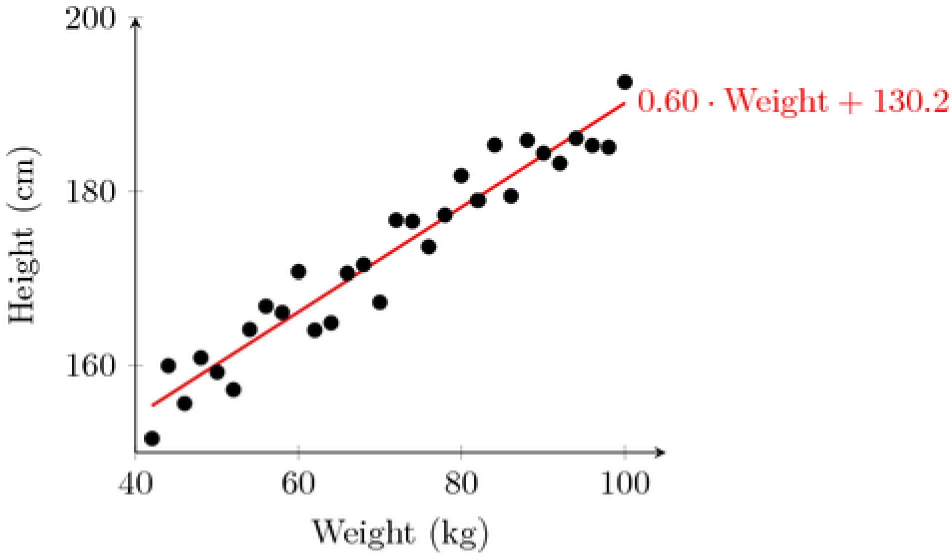
1 Linear regression (for regression)

Model a scalar target with one or more quantitative features.
Although regression computes a linear combination, features can be transformed by nonlinear functions if relationships are known or can be guessed.



Example of prediction using a linear regression model

1.1 Univariate linear regression

- Description

  Simple linear regression is a statistical method that studies the relationship between two variables:
  - x: the predictor, explanatory, independent variable,
  - y: the response, outcome, dependent variable.

- Model's hypothesis

  $h(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * x = \hat{y}$

- Model's parameters (# 2)
  - θ_0
  - θ_1

- Cost function (in this case, the squared error function)

  $J(\theta_0, \theta_1) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)}\right)^2$

- Goal

  $minimize_{\theta_0, \theta_1} J(\theta_0, \theta_1)$

- Algorithm

  - gradient descent

    - start with some initial values for θ_0 and θ_1 (usually zero)

- keep changing θ_0 and θ_1 to reduce $J(\theta_0, \theta_1)$
    - $\theta_0 = \theta_0 - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_0} J(\theta_0, \theta_1) = \theta_0 - \alpha \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)} \right) \right)$
    - $\theta_1 = \theta_1 - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_1} J(\theta_0, \theta_1) = \theta_1 - \alpha \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)} \right) \cdot x^{(i)} \right)$

- directly use the following **formulas**
    - $\theta_1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (x^{(i)} - \bar{x})(y^{(i)} - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (x^{(i)} - \bar{x})^2}$
    - $\theta_0 = \bar{y} - \theta_1 \bar{x}$

- Notations
    - x: the independent variable
    - y: the dependent variable
    - m: the number of training examples
    - $x^{(i)}$: the input value of the i^{th} training example
    - $y^{(i)}$: the target value of the i^{th} training example
    - $\hat{y}^{(i)}$: the prediction made on the i^{th} training example by the current hypothesis function
    - α: the learning rate; determines how big steps we take when updating the θ parameters

- Hyperparameters:
    - α: if too small, slow gradient descent; if too large, gradient descent may fail to converge

- Problems:
    - gradient descent may converge to a local minimum

1.2 Multivariate linear regression

- Description

  Multivariate linear regression is a statistical method that studies the relationship between multiple variables:
    - n variables $x = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\}$: the predictor, explanatory, independent variables,
    - one y variable: the response, outcome, dependent variable.

- Model's hypothesis

  $h(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * x_1 + \theta_2 * x_2 + \ldots + \theta_n * x_n = \hat{y}$

- Model's parameters (# $n + 1$)

  $\theta = \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \ldots, \theta_n\}$

- Cost function (in this case, the squared error function)

  $J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^{(i)} - y^{(i)} \right)^2$

- Goal

  $minimize_{\theta} J(\theta)$

- Algorithm

- gradient descent
    - start with some initial values for θ_0, θ_1, ..., θ_n (usually 0)
    - keep changing θs to reduce $J(\theta)$
        - $\theta_0 = \theta_0 - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_0} = \theta_0 - \alpha \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)} \right) \right)$
        - $\theta_1 = \theta_1 - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_1} = \theta_1 - \alpha \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)} \right) \cdot x_1^{(i)} \right)$
        - ...
        - $\theta_n = \theta_n - \alpha \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_n} = \theta_n - \alpha \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(\hat{y}^i - y^{(i)} \right) \cdot x_n^{(i)} \right)$

- Notations
    - x: the independent variables
    - y: the dependent variable
    - m: the number of training examples
    - n: the number of features representing each training example
    - $x^{(i)}$: the input values of the i^{th} training example
    - $x_j^{(i)}$: the value of the j^{th} feature of the i^{th} training example
    - $y^{(i)}$: the target value of the i^{th} training example
    - $\hat{y}^{(i)}$: the prediction made on the i^{th} training example by the current hypothesis function
    - α: the learning rate; determines how big steps we take when updating the θ parameters

- Hyperparameters:
    - α

- Problems:
    - make sure features are on similar scales; gradient descent may be slow otherwise
        - rescaling: $x' = \frac{x - min(x)}{max(x) - min(x)}$
        - mean normalization: $x' = \frac{x - mean(x)}{max(x) - min(x)}$
        - standardization: $x' = \frac{x - mean(x)}{std(x)}$
    - make sure the gradient descent is working correctly
        - plot the value of the cost function J over the number of iterations (# $epochs$)
        - for a sufficiently small α, $J(\theta)$ should decrease on every iteration
        - if α is too small, the gradient descent can be slow to converge
        - if α is too large, $J(\theta)$ may not decrease on every iteration; may not converge
        - try values $\alpha \in \{\ldots, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1, \ldots\}$
    - try adding new features if the model doesn't perform well
        - e.g, use a polynomial regression

        $$\theta_0 + \theta_1 * x \quad \Rightarrow \quad \theta_0 + \theta_1 * x + \theta_2 * x^2 + \theta_3 * x^3$$