

Weekly exercise, 38.

Show that:

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

where:

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

and

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

We have our model

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

and

$$\tilde{y} = X\beta \quad \text{Model prediction}$$

\uparrow
design matrix

So how to decompose $\mathbb{E}[(y - \tilde{y})^2]$?

Start by expanding the squared error term:

$$(y - \tilde{y})^2 = (f(x) + \epsilon - \tilde{y})^2$$

can be rewritten as:

$$(f(x) - \tilde{y} + \epsilon)^2 = (f(x) - \tilde{y})^2 + 2(f(x) - \tilde{y})\epsilon + \epsilon^2$$

Now we take the expectation of this:

$$\mathbb{E}[(y - \tilde{y})^2] = \mathbb{E}[(f(x) - \tilde{y})^2] + \mathbb{E}[2(f(x) - \tilde{y})\epsilon] + \mathbb{E}[\epsilon^2]$$

We can now simplify:

- $E[2(f(x) - \tilde{y})\epsilon] = 0$ because $E[\epsilon] = 0$ and independent of \tilde{y}
- $E[\epsilon^2] = \sigma^2$, since $\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

Simplifies to:

$$E[y - \tilde{y}]^2 = E[(f(x) - \tilde{y})^2] + \overset{\text{Noise}}{\sigma^2}$$

We now decompose the first expression $E[(f(x) - \tilde{y})^2]$

$$E[(f(x) - \tilde{y})^2] = E[(f(x) - E[\tilde{y}] + E[\tilde{y}] - \tilde{y})^2]$$

Expand this:

$$= E[(f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])^2] + E[(E[\tilde{y}] - \tilde{y})^2] + \underbrace{2E[(f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])(E[\tilde{y}] - \tilde{y})]}_0$$

The last term vanishes because

$E[\tilde{y}] - \tilde{y}$ has zero expectation.

We are left with:

$$= (f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])^2 + E[(E[\tilde{y}] - \tilde{y})^2]$$

The term $(f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])^2$ is the Bias

$$\text{Bias}[\tilde{y}] = (f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])^2 = E[(f(x) - E[\tilde{y}])^2]$$

The term $E[(\tilde{y} - E[\tilde{y}])^2]$ is the variance.

$$\text{Var}[\tilde{y}] = E[(\tilde{y} - E[\tilde{y}])^2]$$

Putting it all together:

$$E[y - \tilde{y}]^2 = \underbrace{\text{Bias}[\tilde{y}]}_{\text{bias term}} + \underbrace{\text{Var}[\tilde{y}]}_{\text{variance term}} + \underbrace{\sigma^2}_{\text{Noise}}$$