

We are given the following cost function:

$$J(w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum (w^T x - y)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (Xw - y)^T (Xw - y)$$

Using the formula given in class¹, we find:

$$\nabla_w J = \frac{1}{2} * 2X^T(Xw - y) = X^T Xw - X^T y \quad (1)$$

We take the gradient of this function to find the Hessian:

$$H(J)(w) = X^T X \quad (2)$$

Finally, given equations (1) and (2), we can compute Newton's method and find w^* in a single iteration:

$$\begin{aligned} w^* &= w^{(0)} - [H(J)(w^{(0)})]^{-1} \nabla_w J(w^{(0)}) \\ &= w^{(0)} - (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T Xw^{(0)} - X^T y) \\ &= w^{(0)} - (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T X)w^{(0)} + (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T y) \\ &= w^{(0)} - Iw^{(0)} + (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T y) \\ &= (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T y) \end{aligned}$$

We have derived the correct expression for w^* , and clearly it is not dependent on our choice of $w^{(0)}$.

¹If $f(x) = [Ax + b]^T [Ax + b]$ then $\nabla_x f = 2A^T(Ax + b)$