

# Linear Regression with Laplace prior (on weights)

We assume the data to follow the model:

$$y_n = \vec{w} \vec{x}_n + \varepsilon_n, \quad \text{where } \varepsilon_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2) \text{ is noise } (\varepsilon_n \text{ are i.i.d.})$$

$\varepsilon = y - w \cdot x$

Prior is:  $\vec{w} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_D \end{pmatrix}, \forall d, w_d \sim \frac{1}{2b} e^{-|w_d|/b}$

$$\vec{w}_{MAP} = \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} (P(\vec{w} | X, Y))$$

$$= \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \frac{P(X, Y = \{x_n, y_n\}_n | \vec{w}) \cdot P(\vec{w})}{P(X, Y = \{x_n, y_n\}_n)} \right)$$

evidence: indep. from  $\vec{w} \rightarrow$  goes out

usual trick  $\downarrow$

$$= \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \log \prod_{n=1}^N P((x_n, y_n) = (x_n, y_n) | \vec{w}) + \log \left( \frac{1}{2b} e^{-|w_d|/b} \right) \right)$$

const. II from  $\vec{w}$

$$= \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \sum_n \log \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\vec{w} \vec{x}_n - y_n)^2} \right) + \sum_d -\frac{|w_d|}{b} \right)$$

indep. from  $\vec{w} \rightarrow$  out.

$$= \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left( \sum_n -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\vec{w} \vec{x}_n - y_n)^2 - \sum_d \frac{|w_d|}{b} \right)$$

$\times -\left(\frac{2\sigma^2}{N}\right) \downarrow$

$$= \underset{\vec{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left( \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \sum_n (\vec{w} \vec{x}_n - y_n)^2}_{\mathcal{L}} + \frac{2\sigma^2}{bN} \sum_d |w_d| \right)$$

$\propto |\vec{w}|_1$

This is now very similar to the 3.5 a.

For each  $w_d, d=1 \dots D$ , we have two cases:  $w_d = 0$  or  $w_d \neq 0$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_n \left( \sum_{d=1}^D w_d x_{nd} - y_n \right)^2 + \frac{2\sigma^2}{bN} \cdot \sum_{d=1}^D |w_d|$$



Case 1:  $w_d \neq 0 \Rightarrow \nabla_{w_d} |w_d| = \text{sign } w_d$

$$\nabla_{w_d} \mathcal{L} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \nabla_{w_d} \left( \sum_n \left( w_d x_{nd} + \sum_{d' \neq d} w_{d'} x_{nd'} - y_n \right)^2 + \frac{2\sigma^2}{bN} \left( |w_d| + \sum_{d' \neq d} w_{d'} \right) \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \left( 2 \sum_n \left( \vec{w} \vec{x}_n - y_n \right) \cdot x_{nd} + \frac{2\sigma^2}{bN} \cdot \text{sign}(w_d) + 0 \right) \quad \text{|| from } w_{d'} \text{ ||}$$

(include  $w_d$  also)

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 = \sum_n \left( w_d x_{nd} - y_n \right) x_{nd} + \left( \sum_{d' \neq d} w_{d'} x_{nd'} - y_n \right) x_{nd} + \frac{\sigma^2}{bN} \text{sign}(w_d)$$

let's call this  $A_n$

$$\sum_n w_d x_{nd}^2 = \sum_n -y_n x_{nd} + \sum_n A_n + \frac{\sigma^2}{bN} \text{sign}(w_d) \quad \text{let's assume } \sum_n x_{nd}^2 \neq 0$$

$$w_d = \frac{1}{\sum_n x_{nd}^2} \left[ \sum_n y_n x_{nd} - A_n + \frac{\sigma^2}{bN} \text{sign}(w_d) \right] \quad \text{we divide by } \left( -\sum_n x_{nd} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sum_n (y_n x_{nd} - A_n)}{\sum_n x_{nd}^2} - \frac{\frac{\sigma^2}{bN}}{\sum_n x_{nd}^2} \text{sign}(w_d)$$

let's call this  $B$   $- C$  (note:  $C > 0$ , obviously)

$$w_{d, \text{MAP}} = B - C \cdot \text{sign}(w_d)$$

depends on the  $w_{d'}$ ,  $d' \neq d$ , but not on  $w_d$  itself.

There are 2 sub-cases:  $w_{d, \text{MAP}} > 0$ , and  $< 0$ .

•  $w_{d, \text{MAP}} > 0$ :  $B - C \text{sign}(w_d) > 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow B - C \cdot 1 > 0 \Leftrightarrow B > C (> 0)$$

•  $w_{d, \text{MAP}} < 0 \Leftrightarrow B - C \text{sign}(w_d) < 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow B + C < 0 \Leftrightarrow B < -C (< 0)$$

In both cases,  $|B| > C$ .

In both cases,  $\text{sign}(w_d) = \text{sign}(B)$

Case 2.  $w_d = 0$ :  $\nabla_{w_d} |w_d| \in [-1, 1]$ .

$\nabla_{w_d} \mathcal{L} = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  (similar to previous page)

$$\Leftrightarrow w_d = B - C \cdot \nabla_{w_d} |w_d|, \text{ and } w_d = 0$$

$$B = C \cdot \nabla_{w_d} |w_d|$$

$$\nabla_{w_d} |w_d| = \frac{B}{C} \quad (\text{assume } C \neq 0, \text{ which is true, always})$$

We need to check what it's in  $[-1, 1]$ :

$$\nabla_{w_d} |w_d| \in [-1, 1] \Leftrightarrow -1 \leq B/C \leq 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -C \leq B \leq C$$

$$\Leftrightarrow |B| \leq C.$$

This is complementary to case 1, where  $|B| > C$ .

So,  $w_{d, \text{MAP}}$  solution is summarized as:

$$\text{Compute } B = \frac{1}{\sum_n x_{nd}^2} \left( \sum_n y_n x_{nd} - \sum_{d' \neq d} (w_{d'} x_{nd'} - y_n) x_{nd} \right) \quad (d, \text{ not } d')$$

$$\text{Compute } C = \frac{1}{\sum_{n=1}^N x_{nd}^2} \cdot \frac{\sigma^2}{bN}$$

$$\bullet \text{ If } |B| > C, \quad w_d = B - C \operatorname{sign}(B)$$

( $\operatorname{sign} B$   
 $= \operatorname{sign} w_d$ )

$$\bullet \text{ If } |B| \leq C, \quad w_d = 0$$

At  $|B| = C$ , both solutions match.