Brac University
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
EEE282/ECE282 (V3)
Numerical Techniques
Experiment-05: Curve Fitting: Linear & Polynomial Regression

Introduction:

Data is often given for discrete values along a continuum. However we may require estimates at points between the discrete values. Then we have to fit curves to such data to obtain intermediate estimates. In addition, we may require a simplified version of a complicated function. One way to do this is to compute values of the function at a number of discrete values along the range of interest. Then a simpler function may be derived to fit these values. Both of these applications are known as **curve fitting**.

There are two general approaches of curve fitting that are distinguished from each other on the basis of the amount of error associated with the data. First, where the data exhibits a significant degree of error, the strategy is to derive a single curve that represents the general trend of the data. Because any individual data may be incorrect, we make no effort to intersect every point. Rather, the curve is designed to follow the pattern of the points taken as a group. One approach of this nature is called ***least squares regression***.

Second, where the data is known to be very precise, the basic approach is to fit a curve that passes directly through each of the points. The estimation of values between well-known discrete points from the fitted exact curve is called ***interpolation***.

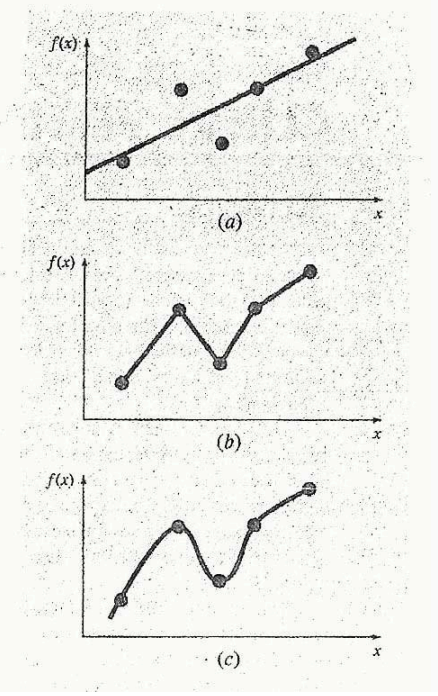


Figure 1: (a) Least squares linear regression (b) linear interpolation (c) curvilinear interpolation

Least squares Regression:

Where substantial error is associated with data, polynomial interpolation is inappropriate and may yield unsatisfactory results when used to predict intermediate values. A more appropriate strategy for such cases is to derive an approximating function that fits the shape or general trend of the data without necessarily matching the individual points. Now some criterion must be devised to establish a basis for the fit. One way to do this is to derive a curve that minimizes the discrepancy between the data points and the curve. A technique for accomplishing this objective is called least squares regression, where the goal is to minimize the sum of the square errors between the data points and the curve. Now depending on whether we want to fit a straight line or other higher order polynomial, regression may be linear or polynomial. They are described below.

Linear regression:

The simplest example of least squares regression is fitting a straight line to a set of paired observations: (x1, y1), (x2, y2), , , ,(xn, yn). The mathematical expression for straight line is

$y_m=a_0+a_1x$

Where a_0 and a_1 are coefficients representing the intercept and slope and y_m is the model value. If y_0 is the observed value and e is error or residual between the model and observation then

$e=y_0-y_m=y_0 - a_0 - a_1x$

Now we need some criteria such that the error e is minimum and also we can arrive at a unique solution (for this case a unique straight line). One such strategy is to minimize the sum of the square errors. So sum of square errors

$$S_r = \sum_{i=1}^{n} e_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i,observed} - y_{i,\mathrm{model}})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i)^2 \quad \text{.....1}$$

To determine the values of a_0 and a_1, equation (1) is differentiated with respect to each coefficient.

$$\frac{\partial S_r}{\partial a_0} = -2\sum (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i)$$

$$\frac{\partial S_r}{\partial a_1} = -2\sum (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i) x_i$$

Setting these derivatives equal to zero will result in a minimum Sr. If this is done, the equations can be expressed as

$$0 = \sum y_i - \sum a_0 - \sum a_1 x_i$$
$$0 = \sum y_i x_i - \sum a_0 x_i - \sum a_1 x_i^2$$

Now realizing that $\sum a_0 = n a_0$, we can express the above equations as a set of two simultaneous linear equations with two unknowns a_0 and a_1.

$$n a_0 + (\sum x_i) a_1 = \sum y_i$$
$$(\sum x_i) a_0 + (\sum x_i^2) a_1 = \sum x_i y_i$$

from where

$$a_1 = \frac{n\sum x_i y_i - \sum x_i \sum y_i}{n\sum x_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2}$$
$$a_0 = \bar{y} - a_1 \bar{x}$$

Where $\bar{y}$ and $\bar{x}$ are the means of y and x respectively

Lab Task 1:

Fit a straight line to the x and y values of table 1

Table 1

x	y
1	0.5
2	2.5
3	2.0
4	4.0
5	3.5
6	6.0
7	5.5

Ans: a_0=0.071142857, a_1=0.8392857

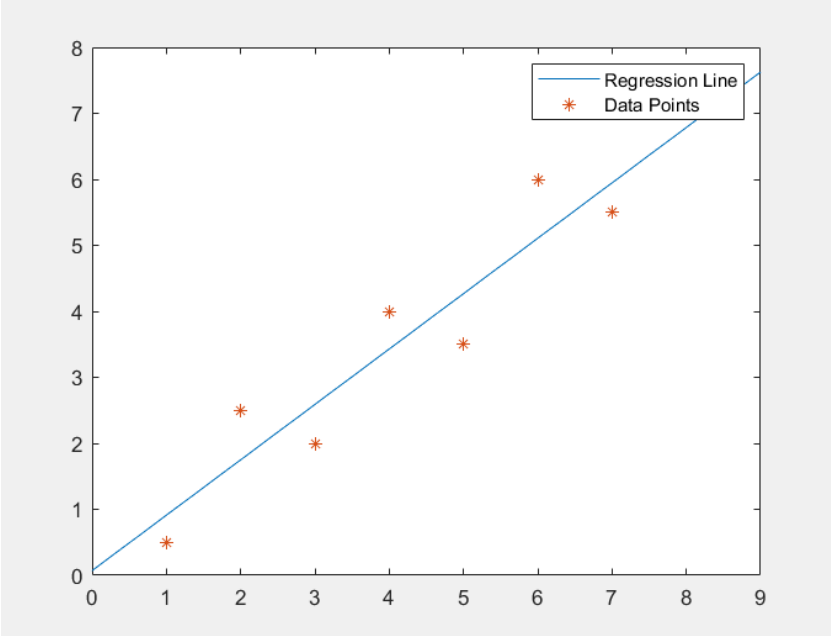
Code-

```
clear all
close all
clc

%Define the data
xa = [1,2,3,4,5,6,7];
ya = [.5,2.5,2.0,4,3.5,6,5.5];

[a1,a0] = linear_regression(xa,ya);%Implements simple least square linear regression
% [a,b1] = linear_regression_using_log(xa,ya);%Implements a linearized version of the regression line y=b1*[x^(a)]
%Find the approximated values for all the data points

% Y = [];
% for i = 1:0.1:20
%     c = a0 + a1 * i;
%     Y = [Y c];
% end

%y = contains true function poinsts
%Y = contains approximated function points using the regression line
xp = 0:0.1:9;

yp=a0 + a1 * xp;
plot(xp,yp,xa,ya,'*');
legend('Regression Line', 'Data Points');
```

Code for linear regression function-

```
function  [a1, a0]= linear_regression(x,y)

   n = length(x);
   sum_x = sum(x);
   sum_y = sum(y);
   square_x = sum(x.^2);
   sum_xy = sum(x.*y);

   a1 = ((n * sum_xy) - (sum_x * sum_y)) / ((n * square_x) - (sum_x*sum_x));
%     a1=((n*sum_xy)-(sum_x*sum_y))/((n*square_x)-(sum_x*sum_x));
   mean_y = sum_y / n;
   mean_x = sum_x / n;
   a0 = mean_y - a1 * mean_x;

end
```

Output-



Polynomial Regression:

In some cases, we have some engineering data that cannot be properly represented by a straight line. We can fit a polynomial to these data using polynomial regression.

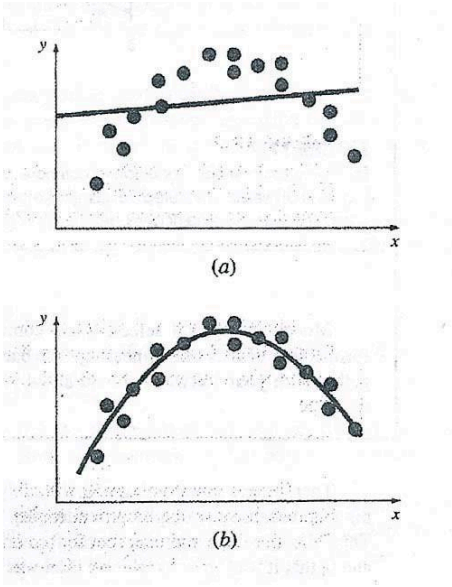


Figure 2: (a) Data that is ill-suited for linear least squares regression (b) indication that a parabola is preferable

The least squares procedure can be readily extended to fit the data to a higher order polynomial. For example, we want to fit a second order polynomial

$y_m=a_0 + a_1x+ a_2x^2$

For this case the sum of the squares of residuals is

$$S_r = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i - a_2 x_i^2)^2 \quad \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots 2$$

Taking derivative of equation (2) with respect to unknown coefficients a_0, a_1 and a_2

$$\frac{\partial S_r}{\partial a_0} = -2\sum (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i - a_2 x_i^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial S_r}{\partial a_1} = -2\sum x_i (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i - a_2 x_i^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial S_r}{\partial a_2} = -2\sum x_i^2 (y_i - a_0 - a_1 x_i - a_2 x_i^2)$$

These equations can be set equal to zero and rearranged to develop the following set of normal equations:

$$na_0 + (\sum x_i)a_1 + (\sum x_i^2)a_2 = \sum y_i$$
$$(\sum x_i)a_0 + (\sum x_i^2)a_1 + (\sum x_i^3)a_2 = \sum x_i y_i$$
$$(\sum x_i^2)a_0 + (\sum x_i^3)a_1 + (\sum x_i^4)a_2 = \sum x_i^2 y_i$$

Now a_0, a_1 and a_2 can be calculated using matrix inversion.

Lab Task 2: Fit a second order polynomial to the data given in table 2

Table 2

x	y
0	2.1
1	7.7
2	13.6
3	27.2
4	40.9
5	61.1

Ans: a_0=2.47857, a_1=2.35929, a_2=1.86071

Code-

```
clear all
close all
clc

 %Define Data Points

 xa = [0,1,2,3,4,5];

 ya = [2.1,7.7,13.6,27.2,40.9,61.1];

 xp = 0:0.1:7;


[a0,a1,a2] = second_order_regression(xa,ya);%Call second order regression function

Y = a0 + a1 * xp + a2 * xp.*xp;

%Get the approximated function values using linear regression
```

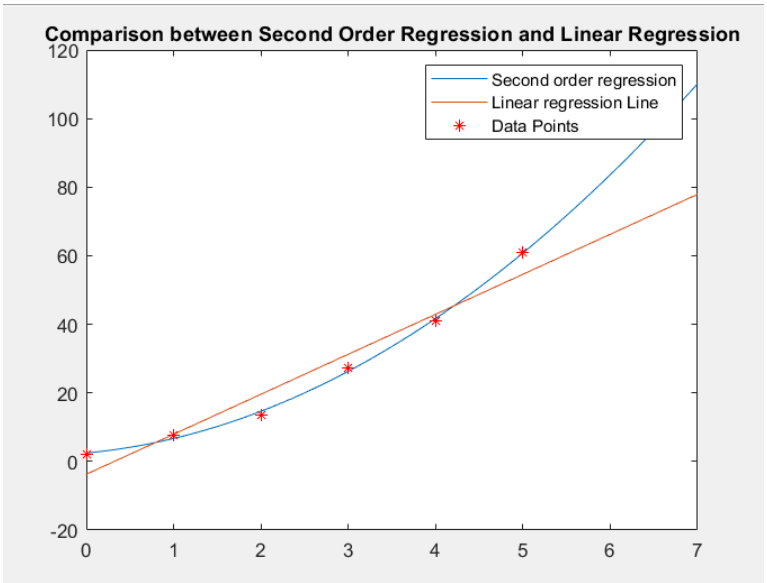
```
[A1,A0] = linear_regression(xa,ya);

 Y1 = A0 + A1 * xp;

%Plot the results

 plot(xp,Y,xp,Y1,xa,ya,'*r');

legend('Second order regression','Linear regression Line','Data Points');

title('Comparison between Second Order Regression and Linear Regression');
```

Function generating code for second order regression-

```
  function [a0,a1,a2] = second_order_regression(x,y)
   n = length(x);
   sum_x = sum(x);
   sum_y = sum(y);
   square_x = sum(x.*x);
   cube_x = sum(x.^3);
   sum_xy = sum(x.*y);
   sum_x2y = sum(x.*x.*y);
   x_4 = sum(x.^4);


   A = zeros(3,3);
   A(1,1) = n;
   A(1,2) = sum_x;
   A(1,3) = square_x;
   A(2,1) = sum_x;
   A(2,2) = square_x;
   A(2,3) = cube_x;
   A(3,1) = square_x;
   A(3,2) = cube_x;
   A(3,3) = x_4;

   C = inv(A);
   b = [sum_y; sum_xy; sum_x2y];
```

```
    P = (C*b);

    a0 = P(1);
    a1 = P(2);
    a2 = P(3);
end
```

Output-



Practice Problem (Experiment 05)

Problem-1: The following data shows the relationship between the viscosity of SAE 70 oil and temperature.

Temperature (℃)	26.67	93.33	148.89	315.56
Viscosity (N.s/*m*2)	1.35	0.085	0.012	0.00075

(a) Plot the data-points in MATLAB and decide whether a straight line could fit them.

(b) After taking the log of the data, use linear regression to find the equation of the line that best fits the data.

Problem-2: The data below represents the bacterial growth in a liquid culture over a number of days:

Day	0	4	8	12	16	20
Amount (x 106)	67	84	98	125	149	185

Find a best-fit equation to the data trend. Try several possibilities:

(a) linear (1st order),

(a) parabolic (2nd order),

(b) predict the number of bacteria after 40 days for both of the fitted equations.

Problem-3: Consider the following data table:

x	0.4	0.8	1.2	1.6	2	2.3
y	800	975	1500	1950	2900	3600

To fit these data points, which type of equation do you think would be suitable?

Find the equation accordingly.