

Features and Polynomial Regression

We can improve our features and the form of our hypothesis function in a couple different ways.

We can **combine** multiple features into one. For example, we can combine x_1 and x_2 into a new feature x_3 by taking $x_1 \cdot x_2$.

Polynomial Regression

Our hypothesis function need not be linear (a straight line) if that does not fit the data well.

We can **change the behavior or curve** of our hypothesis function by making it a quadratic, cubic or square root function (or any other form).

For example, if our hypothesis function is $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1$ then we can create additional features based on x_1 , to get the quadratic function $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_1^2$ or the cubic function $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_1^2 + \theta_3 x_1^3$

In the cubic version, we have created new features x_2 and x_3 where $x_2 = x_1^2$ and $x_3 = x_1^3$.

To make it a square root function, we could do: $h_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 \sqrt{x_1}$

One important thing to keep in mind is, if you choose your features this way then feature scaling becomes very important.

eg. if x_1 has range 1 - 1000 then range of x_1^2 becomes 1 - 1000000 and that of x_1^3 becomes 1 - 100