

Linear regression

Course of Machine Learning
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- Linear combination of input features

$$y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + w_1x_1 + w_2x_2 + \dots + w_Dx_D$$

with $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_D)$

- Linear function of parameters \mathbf{w}
- Linear function of features \mathbf{x} . Extension to linear combination of *base functions*

$$y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{M-1} w_j \phi_j(\mathbf{x})$$

- Let $\phi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 1$, then $y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})$
- Many types:

- Polynomial (global functions)

$$\phi_j(x) = x^j$$

- Gaussian (local)

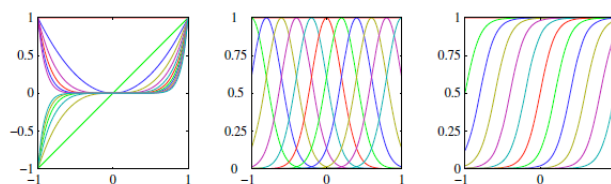
$$\phi_j(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu_j)^2}{2s^2}\right)$$

- Sigmoid (local)

$$\phi_j(x) = \sigma\left(\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}\right) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}}}$$

- Hyperbolic tangent (local)

$$\phi_j(x) = \tanh(x) = 2\sigma(x) - 1 = \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}}}{1 + e^{-\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}}}$$



- Assume an additional gaussian noise

$$t = y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) + \varepsilon$$

with

$$p(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{N}(\varepsilon|0, \beta^{-1})$$

$\beta = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$ is the *precision*.

- Then,

$$p(t|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}), \beta^{-1})$$

and the expectation of the conditional distribution is

$$E[t|\mathbf{x}] = \int t p(t|\mathbf{x}) dt = y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w})$$

- The likelihood of a given training set \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t} is

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \mathcal{N}(t_i|\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i), \beta^{-1})$$

- The corresponding log-likelihood is then

$$\ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \mathcal{N}(t_i|\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i), \beta^{-1}) = \frac{N}{2} \ln \beta - \frac{N}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \beta E_D(\mathbf{w})$$

where

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y})^T (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y})$$

- Maximizing the log-likelihood w.r.t. \mathbf{w} is equivalent to minimizing the error function $E_D(\mathbf{w})$
- Maximization performed by setting the gradient to 0

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{0} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} \ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \sum_{i=1}^N (t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)) \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N t_i \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T - \mathbf{w}^T \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Result

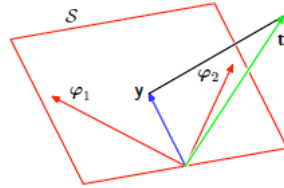
$$\mathbf{w}_{ML} = (\Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T \mathbf{t}$$

normal equations for least squares

$$\beta_{ML}^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (t_i - \mathbf{w}_{ML}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i))^2$$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_N) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_N) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_N)^T$ is a vector in \mathbf{R}^N
- Each basis function ϕ_j applied to $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N$ is a vector $\varphi_j = (\phi_j(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, \phi_j(\mathbf{x}_N))^T \in \mathbf{R}^N$
- If $M < N$, vectors $\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_{M-1}$ define a subspace \mathcal{S} of dimension (at most) M
- $\mathbf{y} = (y(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{w}), \dots, y(\mathbf{x}_N, \mathbf{w}))^T$ is a vector in \mathbf{R}^N : it can be represented as linear combination $\mathbf{y} = \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} w_i \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)$. Hence, it belongs to \mathcal{S}
- Given $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^N$, $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{R}^N$ is the vector in subspace \mathcal{S} at minimal squared distance from \mathbf{t}
- Given $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbf{R}^N$ and vectors $\phi_0, \dots, \phi_{M-1}$, \mathbf{w}_{ML} is such that \mathbf{y} is the vector on \mathcal{S} nearest to \mathbf{t}



- The minimum of $E_D(\mathbf{w})$ may be computed numerically, by means of *gradient descent* methods
- Initial assignment $\mathbf{w}^{(0)} = (w_0^{(0)}, w_1^{(0)}, \dots, w_D^{(0)})$, with a corresponding error value

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}^{(0)}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(t_i - (\mathbf{w}^{(0)})^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)^2$$

- Iteratively, the current value $\mathbf{w}^{(i-1)}$ is modified in the direction of *steepest descent* of $E_D(\mathbf{w})$
- At step i , $w_j^{(i-1)}$ is updated as follows:

$$w_j^{(i)} := w_j^{(i-1)} - \eta \left. \frac{\partial E_D(\mathbf{w})}{\partial w_j} \right|_{\mathbf{w}^{(i-1)}}$$

- In matrix notation:

$$\mathbf{w}^{(i)} := \mathbf{w}^{(i-1)} - \eta \left. \frac{\partial E_D(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}} \right|_{\mathbf{w}^{(i-1)}}$$

- By definition of $E_D(\mathbf{w})$:

$$\mathbf{w}^{(i)} := \mathbf{w}^{(i-1)} - \eta (t_i - \mathbf{w}^{(i-1)} \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)) \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

- Regularization term in the cost function

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda E_W(\mathbf{w})$$

$E_D(\mathbf{w})$ dependent from the dataset (and the parameters), $E_W(\mathbf{w})$ dependent from the parameters alone.

- The *regularization coefficient* controls the relative importance of the two terms.
- Simple form

$$E_W(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} w_i^2$$

- Sum-of squares cost function: *weight decay*

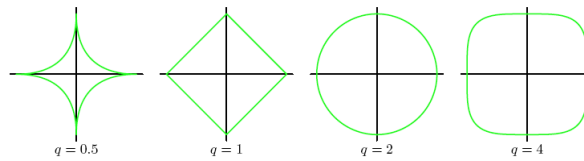
$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \{t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)\}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y})^T (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{y}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

with solution

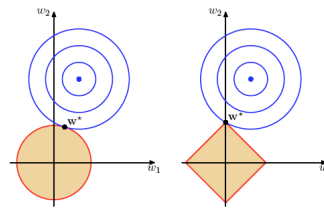
$$\mathbf{w} = (\lambda \mathbf{I} + \Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T \mathbf{t}$$

- A more general form

$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \{t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i)\}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} |w_j|^q$$

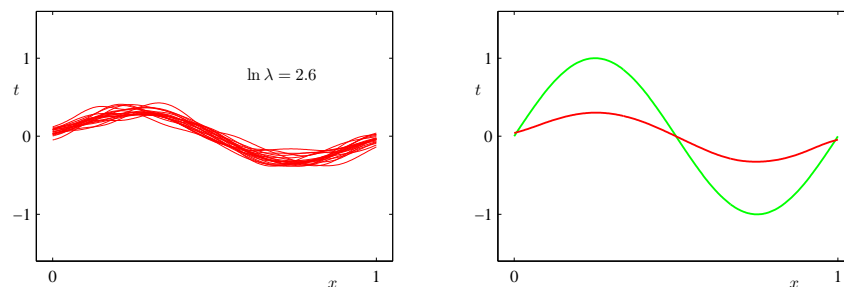


- The case $q = 1$ is denoted as *lasso*: sparse models are favored (in blue, level curves of the cost function)



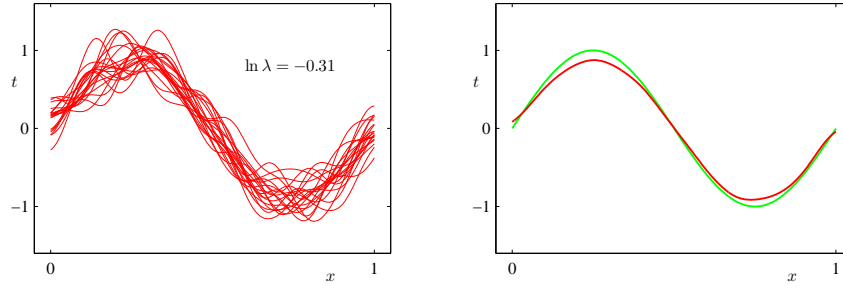
- Consider the case of function $y = \sin 2\pi x$ and assume $L = 100$ training sets $\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_L$ are available, each of size $n = 25$.
- Given $M = 24$ gaussian basis functions $\phi_1(x), \dots, \phi_M(x)$, from each training set \mathcal{T}_i a prediction function $y_i(x)$ is derived by minimizing the regularized cost function

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{t})^T (\Phi \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{t}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

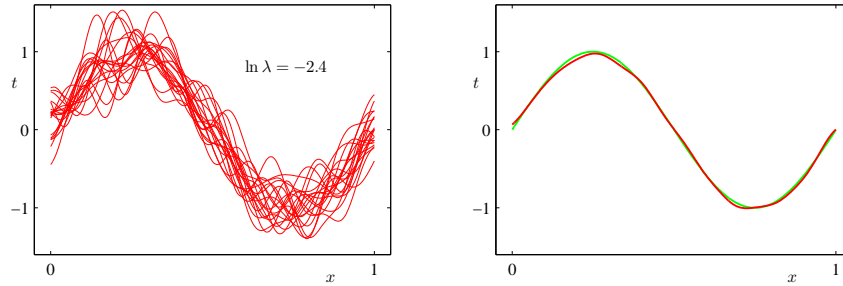


Left, a possible plot of prediction functions $y_i(\mathbf{x})$ ($i = 1, \dots, 100$), as derived, respectively, by training sets $\mathcal{T}_i, i = 1, \dots, 100$ setting $\ln \lambda = 2.6$. Right, their expectation, with the unknown function $y = \sin 2\pi x$.

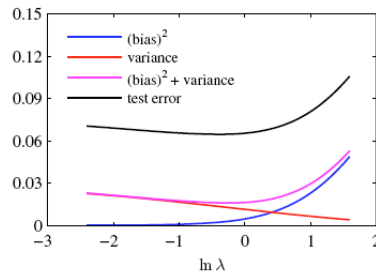
The prediction functions $y_i(\mathbf{x})$ do not differ much between them (small variance), but their expectation is a bad approximation of the unknown function (large bias).



Plot of the prediction functions obtained with $\ln \lambda = -0.31$.



Plot of the prediction functions obtained with $\ln \lambda = -2.4$. As λ decreases, the variance increases (prediction functions $y_i(\mathbf{x})$ are more different each other), while bias decreases (their expectation is a better approximation of $y = \sin 2\pi x$).



- Plot of $(\text{bias})^2$, variance and their sum as functions of λ : as λ increases, bias increases and variance decreases. Their sum has a minimum in correspondence to the optimal value of λ .
- The term $E_{\mathbf{x}}[\sigma_{y|\mathbf{x}}^2]$ shows an inherent limit to the approximability of $y = \sin 2\pi x$.
- Applying maximum likelihood to determine the values of model parameters is prone to overfitting: need of a regularization term $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{w})$.
- In order control model complexity, a bayesian approach assumes a prior distribution of parameter values.

Posterior proportional to prior times likelihood: likelihood is gaussian (gaussian noise).

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}(t_i | \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i), \beta^{-1})$$

Conjugate of gaussian is gaussian: choosing a gaussian prior distribution of \mathbf{w}

$$p(\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{S}_0)$$

results into a gaussian posterior distribution

$$p(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{t}, \Phi) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{m}_N, \mathbf{S}_N) \propto p(\mathbf{t}, \Phi | \mathbf{w}) p(\mathbf{w})$$

where

$$\mathbf{m}_N = \mathbf{S}_N(\mathbf{S}_0^{-1}\mathbf{m}_0 + \beta\Phi^T\mathbf{t})$$

$$\mathbf{S}_N^{-1} = \mathbf{S}_0^{-1} + \beta\Phi^T\Phi$$

A common approach: zero-mean isotropic gaussian prior distribution of \mathbf{w}

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha) = \prod_{i=0}^{M-1} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2\pi}\right)^{1/2} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}w_i^2}$$

- Parameters in \mathbf{w} are assumed independent e identically distributed, according to a gaussian with mean $\mathbf{0}$, uniform variance $\sigma^2 = \alpha^{-1}$ and null covariance.
- Prior distribution defined with a *hyper-parameter* α , inversely proportional to the variance.

Given the likelihood

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \prod_{i=1}^n e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}(t_i - \mathbf{w}^T\phi(x_i))^2}$$

the posterior distribution for \mathbf{w} derives from Bayes' rule

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \sigma) = \frac{p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \mathbf{w}, \sigma)p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)}{p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \alpha, \sigma)} \propto p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \mathbf{w}, \sigma)p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)$$

It is possible to show that, assuming

$$p(\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{0}, \alpha^{-1}\mathbf{I})$$

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \Phi) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}^T\Phi, \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I})$$

the posterior distribution is itself a gaussian

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \sigma) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{m}_N, \mathbf{S}_N)$$

with

$$\mathbf{S}_N = (\alpha\mathbf{I} + \beta\Phi^T\Phi)^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{m}_N = \beta\mathbf{S}_N\Phi^T\mathbf{t}$$

Note that if $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ the prior tends to have infinite variance, and we have minimum information on \mathbf{w} before the training set is considered. In this case,

$$\mathbf{m}_N \rightarrow (\Phi^T\beta\mathbf{I}\Phi)^{-1}(\Phi^T\beta\mathbf{I}\mathbf{t}) = (\Phi^T\Phi)^{-1}(\Phi^T\mathbf{t})$$

that is \mathbf{w}_{ML} , the ML estimation of \mathbf{w} .

- Given the posterior distribution $p(\mathbf{w}|\Phi, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta)$, we may derive the value of \mathbf{w}_{MAP} which makes it maximum (the *mode* of the distribution)
- This is equivalent to maximizing its logarithm

$$\log p(\mathbf{w}|\Phi, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta) = \log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \Phi, \beta) + \log p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha) - \log p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \beta)$$

and, since $p(\mathbf{t}|\Phi, \beta)$ is a constant wrt \mathbf{w}

$$\mathbf{w}_{MAP} = \underset{\mathbf{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \log p(\mathbf{w}|\Phi, \mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta) = \underset{\mathbf{w}}{\operatorname{argmax}} (\log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \Phi, \beta) + \log p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha))$$

that is,

$$\mathbf{w}_{MAP} = \underset{\mathbf{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} (-\log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \Phi, \beta) - \log p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha))$$

By considering the assumptions on prior and likelihood,

$$\begin{aligned} w_{MAP} &= \underset{\mathbf{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left(\frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} w_i^2 + \text{constants} \right) \\ &= \underset{\mathbf{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 + \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} w_i^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

this is equivalent to considering a cost function

$$E_{MAP}(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{w}^T \phi(x_i))^2 + \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}$$

that is to a regularized min square function with $\lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

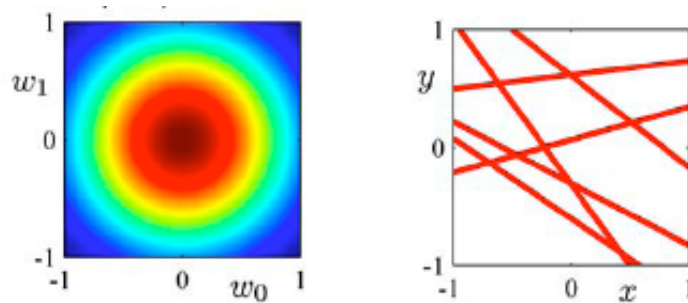
- The bayesian approach can be applied when the training set is acquired incrementally (*sequential learning*).
- Fundamental property: if prior and likelihood are gaussians, the posterior is gaussian too.
- Let T_1, T_2 be two independent training sets, acquired one after the other. Then

$$p(\mathbf{w}|T_1, T_2) \propto p(T_1, T_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}) = p(T_2|\mathbf{w})p(T_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}) \propto p(T_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|T_1)p(\mathbf{w})$$

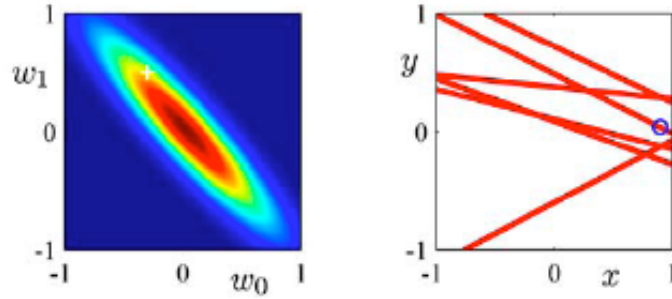
- The posterior after observing T_1 can be used as a prior for the next training set acquired.
- In general, for a sequence T_1, \dots, T_n of training sets,

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{w}|T_1, \dots, T_n) &\propto p(T_n|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|T_1, \dots, T_{n-1}) \\ p(\mathbf{w}|T_1, \dots, T_{n-1}) &\propto p(T_{n-1}|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|T_1, \dots, T_{n-2}) \\ &\dots \\ p(\mathbf{w}|T_1) &\propto p(T_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}) \end{aligned}$$

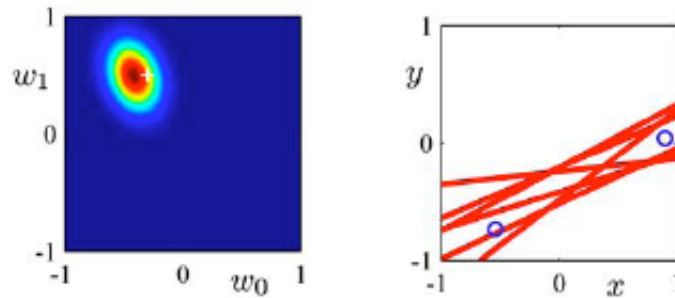
- Input variable x , target variable t , linear regression $y(x, w_0, w_1) = w_0 + w_1 x$.
- Dataset generated by applying function $y = a_0 + a_1 x$ (with $a_0 = -0.3$, $a_1 = 0.5$) to values uniformly sampled in $[-1, 1]$, with added gaussian noise ($\mu = 0$, $\sigma = 0.2$).
- Assume the prior distribution $p(w_0, w_1)$ is a bivariate gaussian with $\mu = \mathbf{0}$ and $\Sigma = \sigma^2 \mathbf{I} = 0.04 \mathbf{I}$



Left, prior distribution of w_0, w_1 ; right, 6 lines sampled from the distribution. After observing item (x_1, y_1) (circle in right figure).

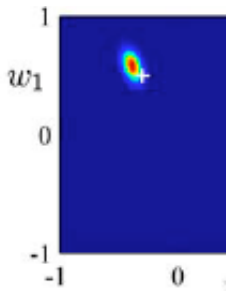


Left, posterior distribution $p(w_0, w_1 | x_1, y_1)$; right, 6 lines sampled from the distribution. After observing items $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)$ (circles in right figure).



Left, posterior distribution $p(w_0, w_1 | x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2)$; right, 6 lines sampled from the distribution.

After observing a set of n items $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ (circles in right figure).



Left, posterior distribution $p(w_0, w_1 | x_i, y_i, i = 1, \dots, n)$; right, 6 lines sampled from the distribution.

- As the number of observed items increases, the distribution of parameters w_0, w_1 tends to concentrate (variance decreases to 0) around a mean point a_0, a_1 .
- As a consequence, sampled lines are concentrated around $y = a_0 + a_1 x$.

Classical

- A value \mathbf{w}_{LS} for \mathbf{w} is learned through a point estimate, performed by minimizing a quadratic cost function, or equivalently by maximizing likelihood (ML) under the hypothesis of gaussian noise; regularization can be applied to modify the cost function to limit overfitting
- Given any \mathbf{x} , the obtained value \mathbf{w}_{LS} is used to predict the corresponding t as $y = \bar{\mathbf{x}}^T \mathbf{w}_{LS}$, where $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^T = (1, \mathbf{x})^T$, or, in general, as $y = \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{w}_{LS}$

Bayesian point estimation

- The posterior distribution $p(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$ is derived and a point estimate is performed from it, computing the mode \mathbf{w}_{MAP} of the distribution (MAP)
- Equivalent to the classical approach, as \mathbf{w}_{MAP} corresponds to \mathbf{w}_{LS} if $\lambda = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$

- The prediction, for a value \mathbf{x} , is a gaussian distribution $p(y|\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{w}_{MAP}, \beta)$ for y , with mean $\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{w}_{MAP}$ and variance β^{-1}
- The distribution is not derived directly from the posterior $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$: it is built, instead, as a gaussian with mean depending from the expectation of the posterior, and variance given by the assumed noise.

Fully bayesian

- The real interest is not in estimating \mathbf{w} or its distribution $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$, but in deriving the predictive distribution $p(y|\mathbf{x})$. This can be done through expectation of the probability $p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta)$ predicted by a model instance wrt model instance distribution $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$, that is

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta) = \int p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta) d\mathbf{w}$$

- $p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta)$ is assumed gaussian, and $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$ is gaussian by the assumption that the likelihood $p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \Phi, \beta)$ and the prior $p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)$ are gaussian themselves and by their being conjugate

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(y|\mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}), \beta)$$

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\beta \mathbf{S}_N \Phi^T \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{S}_N)$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{S}_N = (\alpha \mathbf{I} + \beta \Phi^T \Phi)^{-1}$$

Fully bayesian

Under such hypothesis, $p(y|\mathbf{x})$ is gaussian

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(y|m(\mathbf{x}), \sigma^2(\mathbf{x}))$$

with mean

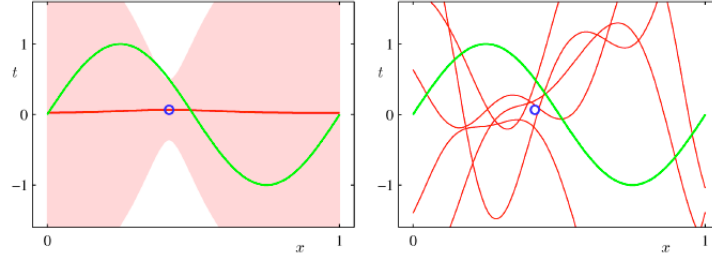
$$m(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \Phi^T \mathbf{t}$$

and variance

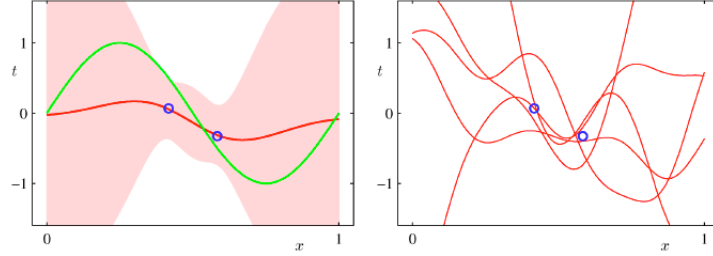
$$\sigma^2(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\beta} + \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x})$$

- $\frac{1}{\beta}$ is a measure of the uncertainty intrinsic to observed data (noise)
- $\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x})$ is the uncertainty wrt the values derived for the parameters \mathbf{w}
- as the noise distribution and the distribution of \mathbf{w} are independent gaussians, their variances add
- $\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, and the only uncertainty remaining is the one intrinsic into data observation
- predictive distribution for $y = \sin 2\pi x$, applying a model with 9 gaussian base functions and training sets of 1, 2, 4, 25 items, respectively
- left: items in training sets (sampled uniformly, with added gaussian noise); expectation of the predictive distribution (red), as function of x ; variance of such distribution (pink shade within 1 standard deviation from mean), as a function of x
- right: items in training sets, 5 possible curves approximating $y = \sin 2\pi x$, derived through sampling from the posterior distribution $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \Phi, \alpha, \beta)$

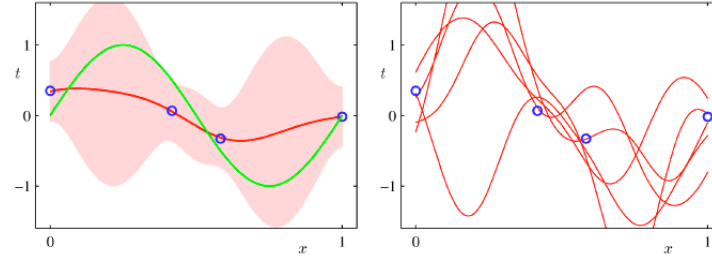
$n = 1$



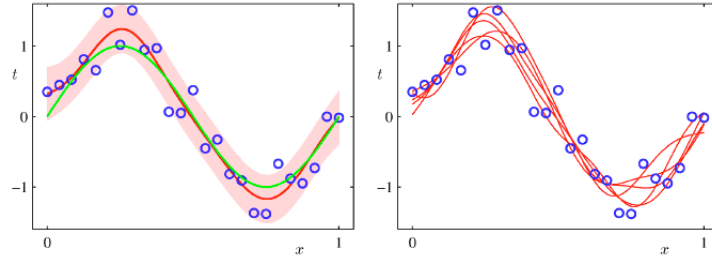
$n = 2$



$n = 4$



$n = 25$



- The expectation of the predictive distribution can be written also as

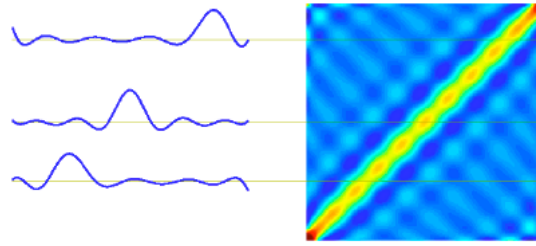
$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \Phi^T \mathbf{t} = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x}_i) t_i$$

- The prediction can then be seen as a linear combination of the target values t_i of items in the training set, with weights dependent from the item values \mathbf{x}_i (and from \mathbf{x})

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_i) t_i$$

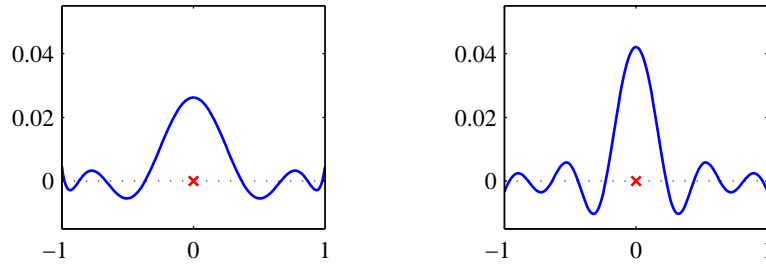
The weight function $\kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \beta \phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x}')$ is said *equivalent kernel* or *linear smoother*

Right: plot on the plane (x, x_i) of a sample equivalent kernel, in the case of gaussian basis functions.
Left: plot as a function of x_i for three different values of x



In deriving y , the equivalent kernel tends to assign greater relevance to the target values t_i corresponding to items x_i near to x .

The same localization property holds also for different base functions.



Left, $\kappa(0, x')$ in the case of polynomial basis functions.

Right, $\kappa(0, x')$ in the case of gaussian basis functions.

Some properties:

- It is possible to prove that $\sum_{i=1}^n \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_i) = 1$ for any \mathbf{x}
- The covariance between $y(\mathbf{x})$ and $y(\mathbf{x}')$ is given by

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \text{cov}(\phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}^T \phi(\mathbf{x}')) = \Phi(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{S}_N \phi(\mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{\beta} \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$$

predicted values are highly correlated at nearby points.

- Instead of introducing base functions which results into a kernel, we may define a localized kernel directly and use it to make predictions (*gaussian processes*)
- The equivalent kernel can be expressed as inner product $\kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \psi(\mathbf{x})^T \psi(\mathbf{x}')$ of a suitable set of functions

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \beta^{1/2} \mathbf{S}_N^{1/2} \phi(\mathbf{x})$$

- First approach: define a set of base functions
 - used to derive \mathbf{w}
 - or (by means of the resulting equivalent kernel) to directly computing $y(\mathbf{x})$ as a linear combination of training set items
- New approach: a suitable kernel is defined and used to compute $y(\mathbf{x})$