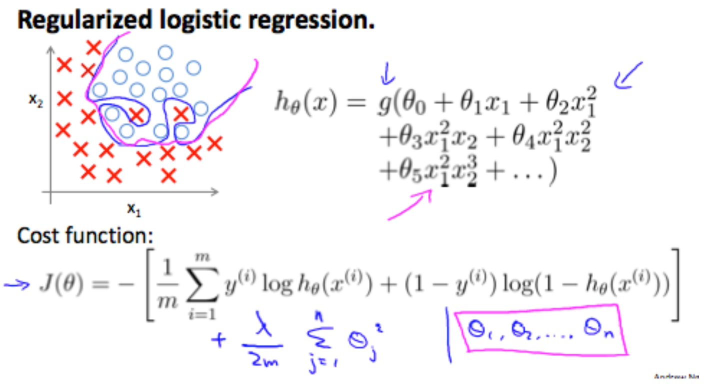
Regularized Logistic Regression

We can regularize logistic regression in a similar way that we regularize linear regression. As a result, we can avoid overfitting. The following image shows how the regularized function, displayed by the pink line, is less likely to overfit than the non-regularized function represented by the blue line:



Cost Function

Recall that our cost function for logistic regression was:

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[y^{(i)}\ \log(h_\theta(x^{(i)})) + (1-y^{(i)})\ \log(1-h_\theta(x^{(i)}))\right]$$

We can regularize this equation by adding a term to the end:

$$J(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\left[y^{(i)}\ \log(h_\theta(x^{(i)})) + (1-y^{(i)})\ \log(1-h_\theta(x^{(i)}))\right] + \frac{\lambda}{2m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}\theta_j^2$$

The second sum, $\sum_{j=1}^{n}\theta_j^2$ **means to explicitly exclude** the bias term, θ_0. I.e. the θ vector is indexed from 0 to n (holding n+1 values, θ_0 through θ_n), and this sum explicitly skips θ_0, by running from 1 to n, skipping 0. Thus, when computing the equation, we should continuously update the two following equations: